

US stocks face volatile week

US stocks are expected to face a volatile week as Wall Street awaits a key government job report expected to show unemployment at elevated levels.

The government will release the July employment report on Friday with most analysts expecting non-farm payrolls to fall by 87,000 in July and the unemployment rate to edge up to 9.6 percent from 9.5 percent at present.

"With a lot of expectations riding on the employment data, it would not be a surprise to see the market trade in a choppy manner leading up to its release," analysts at Briefing.com said in a report.

Unemployment remains the biggest concern of President Barack Obama, who is facing an uphill battle to lift the fortunes of his Democratic Party in congressional elections in November.

Latest government data Friday showed economic growth rate easing to 2.4 percent

in the second quarter from a revised 3.7 percent in the first three months of the year, stoking fears that recovery from recession is losing steam.

Over the week, the blue-chip Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.4 percent to end Friday at 10,465.94.

The tech-rich Nasdaq composite index fell 0.7 percent to 2,254.70 while the broader S&P 500 index slipped 0.1 percent to 1,101.60.

But the indexes put up a superb performance in July, with the Dow skyrocketing 7.1 percent -- its heftiest monthly gain in a year, the Nasdaq up 6.9 percent and the S&P 500 also adding 6.9 percent -- its best monthly rally since July 2009.

Second quarter company earnings and economic data are expected to continue moving the market in the week ahead.

"Indicators next week will confirm that the economy started the third quarter with further diminished momentum," IHS Global Insight economists said in a report.



Syed Manzur Elahi, founding chairman of Mutual Trust Bank, attends the bank's half yearly business conference at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka yesterday. Anis A Khan, managing director, is also seen.

Oil up

World oil prices climbed Friday as investors shrugged off concerns that the US economic recovery could stall following a slower economic growth rate in the second quarter.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for delivery in September, rose 59 cents to \$78.95 per barrel.

London's Brent North Sea crude for September also gained 59 cents to \$78.18 per barrel.

Prices fell below the 77-dollor level in the second quarter as the US government announced early Friday that growth slowed dramatically to 2.4 percent in the second quarter.

Historically, gold is viewed as a hedge in times of economic uncertainty. It has almost quadrupled from just \$250 an ounce in 2001. Adjusted for inflation, analysts said gold is still far below its record high at above \$2,300 an ounce.

Asians more likely to buy gold in next 6 months

Asian investors are more likely to buy gold in the next six months than their North American and European counterparts, a global survey found.

Research company Ipsos said a quarter of the 18,594 investors interviewed for its inaugural monthly survey said they were "somewhat or very likely" to invest in gold as a security or physical metal as opposed to jewelry in the next six months.

Gold's price has retreated from the all-time high it hit in late June amid fears that a European debt crisis might spread, but it remains more than 7 percent higher year to date.

Among investors who said they would buy gold in the next six months, 47 percent said they would invest gold to protect their wealth, and 53 percent said they intended to profit from gold investments.

"When you have half of the people deciding to put forward their gold as speculation, and the other half deciding to put it in a defensive position, maybe that is just mirroring what's going on out there," said John Wright, Ipsos' senior vice president who wrote the report.

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Managing Director of Syngenta Bangladesh Ltd Sarwar Ahmed hands over a dividend cheque to BCIC and Syngenta Bangladesh Chairman KH Masud Siddiqui as the company declared 12 percent dividend for 2009 in its 10th annual general meeting at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka on Thursday. Siddiqui presided over the meeting.

Weekly Market Highlights July 25 - 29 2010

Table with 4 main sections: Weekly Market Highlights, Weekly Turnover Leaders, Weekly Capital Gainers/Losers, and Weekly News Highlights from Trade Servers. Each section contains detailed market data and news snippets.

Weekly Traded Issues July 25 - 29, 10

Large table listing weekly traded issues with columns for Company, Price Chn. (%), Close, Turnover, and other financial metrics. Includes sub-sections for FUEL & POWER, JUTE, TEXTILE, and FOOD & ALLIED.

Source: Capital Gains/Losers figures are prepared on the basis of the close price change of the traded issues. EPS-Earnings Per Share, BV-Book Value per Share, ...