GLOBAL MARKET SQUARE

BIRLING CAPITAL ADVISORS, LLC

S&P 500 Caps Winning Week as AI Leaders Drive Stocks Higher While Geopolitical Risks Ease

July 10, 2026

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The U.S. and European Stock Markets closed mostly higher Friday, with the S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite extending their advances as investors returned to artificial intelligence and technology leaders while geopolitical concerns eased. Optimism improved after reports indicated diplomatic discussions between the United States and Iran continue despite this week's military exchanges, reducing immediate concerns over energy supply disruptions. Cooling oil prices, stable Treasury yields, and renewed confidence in corporate earnings helped support risk appetite as investors positioned ahead of next week's pivotal inflation reports and the start of second-quarter earnings season. The week's advance once again underscored that artificial intelligence remains the market's dominant investment theme, with semiconductor and mega-cap technology companies continuing to attract capital despite elevated valuations.

U.S. Markets

Wall Street finished the week on a positive note as technology shares led to another broad market advance. The **S&P 500** gained **0.40%**, securing a weekly gain of approximately **1%**, while the **Nasdaq Composite** rose **0.30%**, also posting a weekly advance of more than **1%**. The **Dow Jones Industrial Average** added approximately **175 points**, or **0.30%**, although it still finished the week modestly lower. Artificial intelligence leaders once again drove market performance. **Nvidia** climbed more than **3%**, extending its leadership within the semiconductor sector, while **Meta Platforms** surged **6%** following renewed optimism about the company's improving artificial intelligence cost structure and continued investment discipline. The gains reinforced investor confidence that AI-related capital spending remains one of the strongest earnings drivers across corporate America.

Investor attention also turned to the Nasdaq debut of South Korean memory-chip producer **SK Hynix**, whose American Depositary Receipts opened strongly and traded sharply higher following their listing. The successful debut reflects continued global investor demand for companies leveraged to AI infrastructure, although some analysts noted that additional semiconductor offerings could compete for investment flows currently concentrated in U.S. chipmakers.

Despite periodic profit-taking in semiconductor stocks, the sector remains among the strongest-performing industries of 2026. Companies such as Micron Technology, Lam Research, Marvell Technology, and Intel have produced exceptional year-to-date gains, underscoring investor conviction that artificial intelligence investment continues to reshape technology spending worldwide. Looking ahead, markets will shift their attention toward next week's June CPI and PPI reports and the beginning of second-quarter earnings season, where major financial institutions will provide the first comprehensive assessment of corporate profitability under the current interest rate environment.

European Markets

European equities closed mixed on Friday as investors remained cautious ahead of next week's pivotal U.S. inflation reports and the start of the second-quarter earnings season. Trading was subdued throughout the session as markets weighed resilient economic conditions against persistent geopolitical uncertainty and the prospect of continued restrictive monetary policy. The pan-

European Stoxx 600 edged modestly higher, supported by gains in financials and consumer-related shares, while London's FTSE 100 advanced on strength in energy and defensive sectors. Germany's DAX slipped modestly as investors locked in profits following recent gains. By the close, the Stoxx Europe 600 rose **0.04%** to **641.10**, the FTSE 100 gained **0.24%** to **10,497.29**, and the DAX declined **0.20%** to **25,067.09**, reflecting a market that continues to consolidate while awaiting clearer signals from inflation data, central banks, and the upcoming earnings season.

Energy Markets

Oil prices stabilized after this week's volatility, with West Texas Intermediate crude holding near **$72 per barrel** and Brent crude remaining comfortably below recent highs. Markets continue to monitor developments in the Middle East, but the lack of further military escalation has eased immediate concerns over global energy supplies. Lower oil prices have also helped reduce inflation concerns, supporting expectations that energy costs will not materially disrupt the broader economic expansion.

Economic & Policy Outlook

Next week will provide one of the clearest assessments yet of the U.S. economy during the third quarter. June CPI on Tuesday and PPI on Wednesday will indicate whether inflation continues its gradual moderation, while Thursday's retail sales report will offer another important measure of consumer spending, the largest contributor to U.S. economic growth. Housing data later in the week will also provide insight into the impact of elevated mortgage rates on residential activity. Although higher borrowing costs continue to restrain housing demand, the broader economy remains supported by a resilient labor market, rising real wages, and healthy business investment. Improving affordability through stronger wage growth relative to home prices may gradually stabilize the housing sector, even if mortgage rates remain elevated. For investors, the combination of resilient economic fundamentals and another potentially strong earnings season continues to support a constructive outlook for U.S. equities.

The Final Word

Markets are entering a pivotal week in which inflation data and corporate earnings will likely determine the near-term direction. If inflation continues to moderate while earnings meet expectations, investors could find renewed confidence that the U.S. economy remains on track for continued expansion despite higher interest rates and ongoing geopolitical uncertainty. The focus is shifting from headlines to fundamentals, and those fundamentals continue to favor disciplined, long-term investors.

Economic Data:

- **Canada Employment Net Change:** fell to 18,200, down from 87,800 last month, a change of -79.27%.
- **Canada's unemployment rate:** fell to 6.50%, down from 6.60% last month.
- **Canada's Labor Force Participation Rate**: is unchanged at 65.00%, compared to 65.00% last month.

Eurozone Summary:

- **Stoxx 600:** closed at 641.10, up 0.23 points or 0.04%.
- **FTSE 100:** closed at 10,497.29, up 24.84 points or 0.24%.
- **DAX Index:** closed at 25,067.09, down 51.18 points or 0.20%.

Wall Street Summary:

- **Dow Jones Industrial Average:** closed at 52,637.01, up 149.60 points or 0.29%.
- **S&P 500:** closed at 7,575.39, up 31.75 points or 0.42%.
- **Nasdaq Composite:** closed at 26,281.60, up 74.71 points or 0.29%.
- **Birling Capital Puerto Rico Stock Index:** closed at 4,862.39, up 104.57 points or 2.20%.
- **Birling Capital U.S. Bank Index:** closed at 10,497.29, up 180.87 points or 1.78%.
- **U.S. Treasury 10-year note:** closed at 4.56%.
- **U.S. Treasury 2-year note:** closed at 4.21%.

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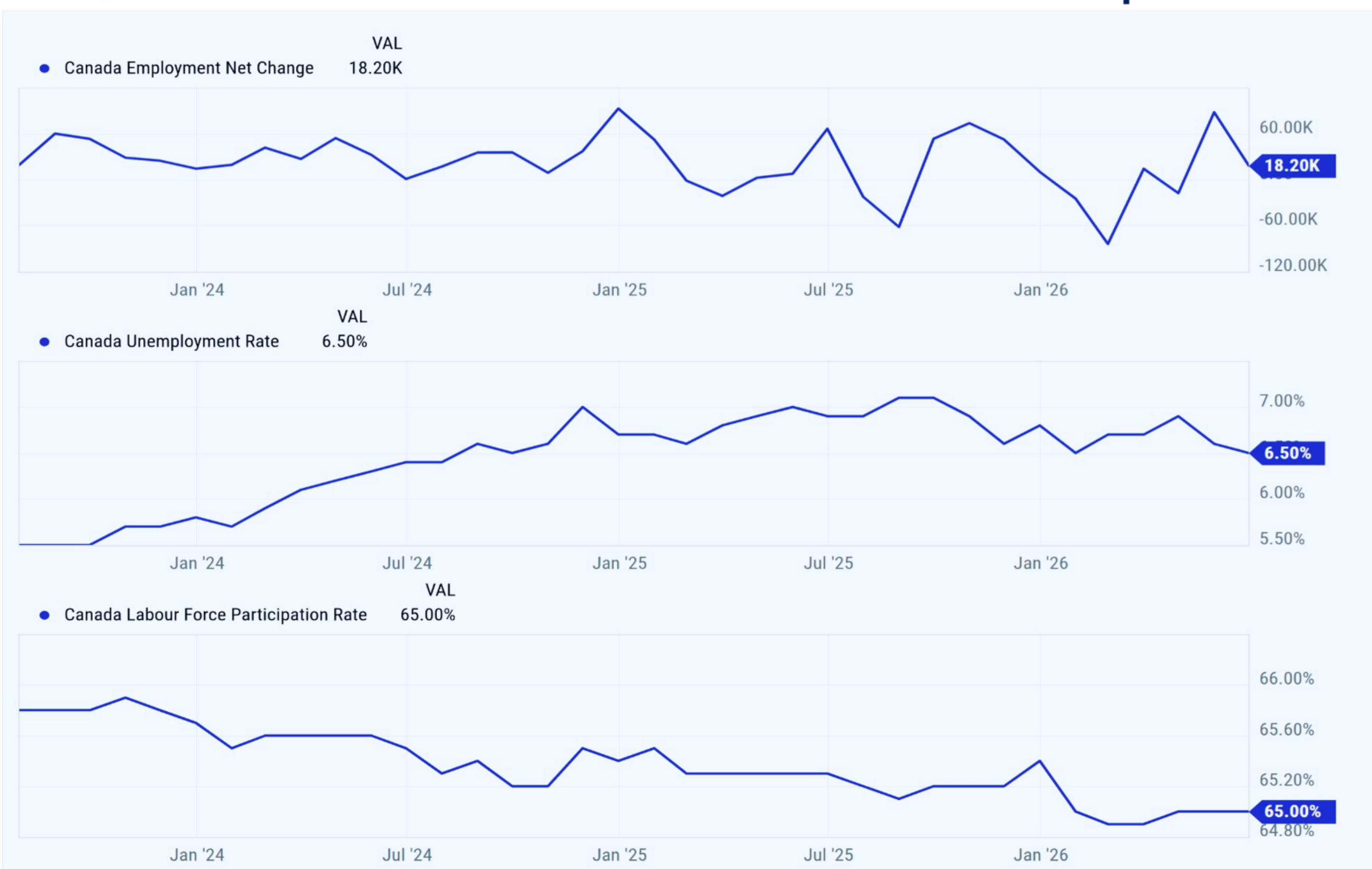
Canada Employment Net Change; Canada Unemployment Rate & Canada Labour Force Participation Rate



Eurozone market close

European market close as of July 10, 2026

Stoxx 600	FTSE 100	DAX index
Closing price	Closing price	Closing price
641.10	**10,497.29**	**25,067.09**
▲ +0.23 pts	▲ +24.84 pts	▼ -51.18 pts
+0.04%	+0.24%	-0.20%

Source: Bloomberg

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Wall Street and Birling Capital Indexes Close

Market close summary — July 10, 2026

	Dow Jones Industrial Average	S&P 500	Nasdaq Composite	Birling Capital Puerto Rico Stock Index	Birling Capital U.S. Bank Index
Closing Price	52,637.01	7,575.39	26,281.60	4,862.39	10,497.29
	▲ +149.60 pts	▲ +31.75 pts	▲ +74.71 pts	▲ +104.57 pts	▲ +180.87 pts
	+0.29%	+0.42%	+0.29%	+2.20%	+1.78%

U.S. Treasury 10-Year Note	U.S. Treasury 2-Year Note
4.56%	4.21%

Spread
35 bps

Source: NYSE, Nasdaq, Birling Capital Advisors

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