

U.S. stock futures point lower amid Trump tariffs

U.S. stock futures edged down on Thursday, as investors gauged President Donald Trump's tariff plans and looked ahead to the release of fresh producer price data.

By 08:00 ET (12:00 GMT), the S&P 500 futures contract had slid by 18 points or 0.3%, Nasdaq 100 futures had dropped by 101 points or 0.5%, and Dow futures had dipped by 96 points or 0.2%.

The main indices were mixed at the close of trading on Wednesday, with the benchmark S&P 500 and tech-heavy Nasdaq 100 rising due in large part to surge in technology and tech-related stocks. The blue-chip Dow Jones Industrial Average ended lower following a choppy session.

Markets are due to be keeping close tabs on a monthly measure of producer price growth, which could help flesh out the state of U.S. inflation.

Economists expect the Labor Department's producer price index for final demand to cool to 3.3% in the twelve months to February from a prior level of 3.5%. Month-on-month, it is tipped to slow to 0.3% from 0.4%.

The report is set to come after a separate metric on Wednesday showed that consumer prices increased at a slower-than-anticipated pace last month, possibly presenting an upbeat piece of news for Trump as he pushes ahead with his plans to overhaul the U.S. trading relationship with friends and adversaries alike. Hopes that the Federal Reserve will slash interest rates later this year were also buoyed.

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