



# by Alan Bush, Senior Financial Economist

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## STOCK INDEX FUTURES

Stock index futures are higher.

Traders have been encouraged by the Federal Reserve, which said it doesn't plan to pull back on supportive policies in the near term.

Retail sales in June increased 0.6% when a decline of 0.4% was expected.

The 9:00 May business inventories report is anticipated to show a 0.4% increase and the 9:00 July consumer sentiment index is predicted to be 87.0.

The technical aspects remain positive for stock index futures.

### **CURRENCY FUTURES**

The U.S. dollar index was supported by the stronger than estimated U.S. retail sales report.

The euro currency is a little lower on news that euro zone exports fell in May for the fifth consecutive month. The European Union's statistics agency said the currency area's exports fell by 1.5% in May compared with April, while imports increased 0.7%.

The Bank of Japan left its key short-term interest rate unchanged at -0.1% and kept the target for the 10-year Japanese government bond yield at near 0% during its July policy meeting by an 8-1 vote, as widely predicted. In a quarterly outlook report, the central bank lowered its projected rate of GDP growth for the current fiscal year to 3.8% from earlier forecasts of 4.0% made in April.

The Canadian dollar is higher on news that monthly housing starts increased more than expected. Housing starts for all areas in Canada were 282,070 units in June 2021, beating market expectations of 270,000 units.

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### **INTEREST RATE MARKET FUTURES**

Futures are mostly lower in response to the stronger than estimated U.S. retail sales report.

The U.S. Treasury yield curve has been flattening since May with shorter-dated yields increasing to reflect higher rate expectations, while longer-dated yields fell because higher interest rates in the near term would likely mean a slower rate of growth in the future.

The interest rate futures markets have been telegraphing for several months clues about the state of the global economy.

#### SUPPORT & RESISTANCE

September 21 S&P 500			
Support	4335.00	Resistance	4370.0
September 21 U.S. Dollar Index			
Support	92.500	Resistance	92.780
September 21 Euro Currency			
Support	1.18000	Resistance	1.18420
September 21 Japanese Yen			
Support	.90600	Resistance	.91220
September 21 Canadian Dollar			
Support	.79320	Resistance	.79660
September 21 Australian Dollar			
Support	.74040	Resistance	.74500
September 21 Thirty-Year Treasury Bonds			
Support	163^0	Resistance	163^30
August 21 Gold			
Support	1813.0	Resistance	1836.0
September 21 Copper			
Support	4.3000	Resistance	4.3450
September 21 Crude Oil			
Support	70.75	Resistance	72.13

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