What is the U.S. Federal Reserve focused on?

Financial markets are currently obsessed with predicting the Federal Reserve’s next move. Will the Fed opt for a 25-basis-point cut, or continue to increase interest rates? Will they remain on hold?

First, some background — the U.S. Federal Reserve owns the world’s largest central bank. That’s because the central bank of any country is also its government.

In Canada, a dual mandate to maintain price stability and support the economy. The Bank of Canada maintains inflation at 2%.

Egality markets have moved higher but rates have experienced some volatility, led by the NASDAQ which is generally considered a barometer of the tech sector. One major stock in focus is Facebook, which has been around since 2012.

CBOE Volatility Index, which measures how much the market might move in the next 30 days, stood at an intraday high of 29.85.

The S&P 500 index, which includes the most actively traded domestic equity investments in the United States, was up 0.21%, or 9.59 points, to 4,549.86.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average, which comprises 30 blue-chip public companies from the manufacturing, transportation, healthcare, and financial services sectors, was up 0.41%, or 150.87 points, to 38,671.93.

The Nasdaq Composite, which includes most of the technology and biotechnology companies in the United States, was up 0.80%, or 236.19 points, to 30,057.14.

The Russell 2000, which includes the smaller companies, was up 0.81%, or 17.78 points, to 2,186.79.

The S&P 500 VIX, an index that reflects expected volatility of the S&P 500, was up 1.42%, or 3.58 points, to 25.37.

The S&P/TSX Composite Index, which is the most commonly quoted index of the Toronto Stock Exchange, was up 0.41%, or 105.19 points, to 26,165.94.

The S&P/TSX 60 Index, which is a subset of the S&P/TSX Composite Index, was up 0.45%, or 12.96 points, to 2,875.16.

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