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Dow future index charts

The Dow Futures provide an indication of where the stock market is headed before it opens. stock market image by Sydney Alvares from Fotolia.com If you've ever listened to an early morning financial news broadcast, you've heard a reference to "futures" and how they affect the stock market before it opens. Investors follow the futures because it provides an indication of where stocks are headed at the opening bell. One of the most widely followed futures is the Dow Futures, whose underlying value is based on the Dow Jones Industrial Average, an index of 30 major U.S. companies. The Dow Future is a contract which is based on 30 specific stocks. Investors in Dow Futures make money when the DJIA declines.The Basics of FuturesBefore getting into the Dow Futures, it is important to understand the definition of a future. A future can generally be defined as a contract which stipulates the buying or selling of a specified commodity for a certain price at a specific point of time in the future. There are futures contracts based on oil, corn and currencies and more. Futures trade on a futures exchange like the Chicago Board of Trade. You don't have to own the actual commodity to enter into a futures contract. For example, you can sell a corn future without having to store or deliver bushels of corn to the contract buyer. Dow Futures ContractsA Dow Future is a contract based on the widely followed Dow Jones Industrial Average. There are 30 stocks that make up the DJIA. The value of one Dow Future contract is 10 times the value of the DJIA. For example, if the DJIA is trading at 12,000, the price of one Dow Future is \$120,000. If the DJIA rises by one point, the value of a Dow Future will increase by \$10. A futures buyer makes money when the DJIA rises. The seller makes money if the DJIA declines. Let's say the DJIA rises from 12,000 to 12,065. The futures buyer receives a deposit in his brokerage account of \$650 from the seller. If instead of rising, the DJIA fell from 12,000 to 11,984, the futures buyer would settle the transaction by paying the futures seller \$160. The Impact of Dow FuturesDow Futures begin trading on the Chicago Board of Trade at 7:20 a.m. Central Time. Because the Dow Futures trade a full hour and ten minutes before the stock market opens, the investment community and financial reporters get a sense of the general market sentiment. If the Dow Futures are trading lower, chances are the stock market will open lower. The opposite is true if the Dow Futures trade higher before the market opens. Traders use this information to take positions in not just the futures market, but also on individual securities. Risks of TradingTrading Dow Futures is risky. A leverage factor of 10 is good when it works in your favor. However, you'll owe a lot of money if you're at the wrong end of futures contract. The DJIA fluctuates daily based on a number of unexpected factors, such as geopolitical events, making futures a risky investment. If you're interested in trading futures, your broker is required to give you information regarding the risks of futures and options trading. Loading.. Date Open Close Daily High Daily Low Price change over selected period: 0% 0 Add instrument to watchlist 530.79 536.26 04:20 PM 07/21/21 IPG 11.31% Interpublic Grou 34.84 CMG 11.16% Chipotle Mexican 1,752.45 NCLH 10.69% Norw Crs Line 26.15 OXY 7.13% Occid.Petrol Cor 27.41 NFLX -3.28% Netflix 513.31 ES -2.50% Eversource Energy 83.78 MKC -2.42% McCormic Non Vtg 85.53 CHD -2.41% Church & Dwight 84.95 OXY 7.13% Occid.Petrol Cor 27.41 Note: This list shows the constituents of the iShares Dow Jones Industrial Average UCITS ETF Loading.. Date Open Close Daily High Daily Low Price change over selected period: 0% 0 Add instrument to watchlist 34,511.99 33,981.79 34,556.96 34,820.24 25,992.28 35,091.56 05:08 PM 07/21/21 IPG 11.31% Interpublic Grou 34.84 CMG 11.16% Chipotle Mexican 1,752.45 NCLH 10.69% Norw Crs Line 26.15 OXY 7.13% Occid.Petrol Cor 27.41 NFLX -3.28% Netflix 513.31 ES -2.50% Eversource Energy 83.78 MKC -2.42% McCormic Non Vtg 85.53 CHD -2.41% Church & Dwight 84.95 OXY 7.13% Occid.Petrol Cor 27.41 The Dow Jones Industrial Average is the most well-known share index in the USA. The Dow Jones was developed by Charles Henry Dow and originally contained just 12 American companies. It was published for the first time in May 1896 and opened at a level of 40.94 points. Today, the Dow Jones Industrial Average consists of the 30 most important market-leading companies on the American stock exchange and reflects their growth. (read more) Loading.. 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Date Open Close Daily High Daily Low Price change over selected period: 0% 0 Add instrument to watchlist 1,532.07 1,536.73 1,535.75 1,547.22 1,088.03 1,604.09 08:09 AM 07/22/21 IPG 11.31% Interpublic Grou 34.84 CMG 11.16% Chipotle Mexican 1,752.45 NCLH 10.69% Norw Crs Line 26.15 OXY 7.13% Occid.Petrol Cor 27.41 NFLX -3.28% Netflix 513.31 ES -2.50% Eversource Energy 83.78 MKC -2.42% McCormic Non Vtg 85.53 CHD -2.41% Church & Dwight 84.95 OXY 7.13% Occid.Petrol Cor 27.41 Photo Courtesy: [Anton Petrus/Getty Images] The art of reading financial charts is a skill that's crucial for every investor, regardless of the types of assets they trade. But as helpful as they can be, charts can appear a bit overwhelming at first, especially if you're new to investing in general. Charts are beneficial for a variety of reasons, from helping you better navigate the stock market to assisting you in making more prudent financial decisions. If you're considering investing in commodity futures, charts can play a big role in your choices, too. Get started in learning the basics of these tools by taking a look at commodity futures trading charts and the ways you can interpret the details they're conveying. Photo Courtesy: [Monty Rakuson/Getty Images] Before delving into the information you can learn from commodity futures trading charts, it's important to know what commodity trading is and how it works. Commodities trading is a form of derivatives trading. Derivatives are, in essence, financial contracts that grant the buyer the right to buy (or sell) a specific asset by a certain date and at an agreed upon price.When investors purchase this type of contract, they stand a chance of scoring a bargain buy if an asset's value goes up due to volatility. The hope is that, by the time the contract expires, the asset they've claimed the right to buy for a certain price will be worth more than that price. Thus, they'll theoretically be able to buy the asset at a discount. Commodity futures contracts specifically allow you the right to buy or sell a commodity by a certain date and at an agreed-upon price. The three most common assets that commodities cover are food, energy and metals; typical commodities include wheat, gold, silver, corn and natural gas. When you buy a commodity futures contract for one of these assets, it gives you the chance to make a profit. At the same time, it also offsets your risk in case the price rises beyond your agreed upon price. Sellers, on the other hand, can use these contracts to guarantee that they get a certain price for a product, even if the value drops below the agreed price. Buying a commodity future doesn't necessarily mean that you actually want to purchase, say, 1,000 barrels of oil at a particular price. Many traders invest in these types of contracts and then sell them on the market. In this way, commodity futures trading is often more or less betting on whether the price of a particular asset will go up or down within a certain amount of time. Photo Courtesy: [Andrew Brookes/Getty Images] This type of trading can be quite risky and complicated. You may want to reconsider undertaking it until you've gained more experience if you're currently a beginner at investing or unless you're trading under the guidance of someone who's familiar with this process. The safest ways to trade commodities futures are through funds like commodity ETFs or commodity mutual funds.If you do plan to pursue commodity futures investing, it's essential to learn how to read futures charts. Learning to read futures charts is just as important for a commodities trader as learning to read stock charts is for stock investors. Futures charts provide a visual representation of an asset's price movement in response to supply and demand. Just as with stock charts, futures charts can help investors track an asset's price movement over the course of its history. By spotting trends that tend to emerge across charts in general, this information can help reduce risk by giving investors a more informed guess of where an asset's price is likely headed. While there's no guaranteed way to predict the future of any asset, investors learn to read futures charts for the same reasons that meteorologists learn to read weather maps. By analyzing the data and comparing them to similar data from the past, the margin for error is significantly reduced in both cases. Photo Courtesy: [Futures.tradingcharts.com] When you first begin looking at futures charts, such as this example from TradingCharts.com, they may seem a bit confusing. That's why it's helpful to break down the wealth of information they contain to better understand what each detail means. Two of the most important parts of a chart are the date and price ranges.Date: On the horizontal line at the bottom of the chart pictured here, you'll find a selection of dates. In the case of the example, we're looking at a daily chart that tracks an asset's price movement over a short-term basis. You can select the range of dates you'd like to see, however, by choosing whether you want to view a breakdown of the asset's history on a daily, weekly, monthly or historical basis. You can even choose an "interday" view to see the asset's price movement over the course of a given day. Price: In the pictured chart, which tracks the price of coffee commodities, you'll find a vertical column that represents various prices on the left-hand side. Each of the bars on the bar graph in the center of the chart represents that asset's price range during the time period indicated on the date bar below. Notice that each vertical bar has a small horizontal line drawn through it at some point. This represents the price at which the asset closed during that time period. Photo Courtesy: [futures.tradingcharts.com] Several elements of a trading chart can help you determine the prospective performance outlook of a stock. These details aren't hard-and-fast guarantees about how you can expect an investment to continue performing, but they are suggestions that can help shape your expectations somewhat and help you better anticipate the direction values may head in based on patterns.Volume: At the bottom of the chart, right above the date line, you'll see "volume movement," which is represented by a series of short vertical bars. This is where you can track how much volume (buying and selling) the asset experienced during the corresponding time period. Volume can be a good way to gauge the supply and demand of a particular asset. MACD: This stands for "moving average convergence divergence" and visualizes the asset price's changes in momentum, strength and direction. Similar to a moving average in stocks, it's used to indicate trends. When it moves above zero, that's considered a bullish sign. When it crosses below zero, that's a sign that things are getting bearish. RSI: The relative strength index is used to evaluate whether recent price changes indicate that an asset is being overbought or undervalued. The RSI moves between two lines, which represent the two extremes of 0 and 100. Traditionally, if the RSI moves above 70, that indicates that the asset is being overbought and overvalued. If it dips below 30, however, this may indicate that the asset is undervalued and being oversold. In the case of the example pictured, you can see that gold has been experiencing heavy volume and is dipping down into the 30s, which indicates that it may be in danger of becoming oversold. Stock index futures are legal agreements to buy or sell stocks on a future date and at a specific price. Learn how stock index futures work, their pros and cons, and what they mean for you. The crystal ball of the financial markets, stock index futures are bets on the direction the equities will take that track with key stock market indexes. Stock index futures trade at different times of the day, even after the traditional markets have closed. They can be very active, which can lead to fast-moving price changes and sales. Typically, stock index futures are traded with the help of a futures broker, who facilitates the trade on both buy and sell orders. Just like traditional stock market securities trading, "buy" positions let investors profit from a rising stock market while "sell" orders enable investors to benefit from a declining stock market. The National Futures Association is a good place to vet any potential brokers you're considering to help you invest in stock index futures. It's vital to check fees linked to futures trading, complaints lodged against brokers, and their track records in generating clean, fair stock index futures trades. While traders like the prospect of cashing in on big investment returns, with little money down, there are risks because investors can also bet too much on future market outcomes. Pros Ability to speculate on future prices without having to own the index covered by the futures Could potentially make a large amount of money with little capital Cons Leverage can cause investors to lose their entire investment if the trade goes south Cash is required in margin accounts to fulfill potential margin calls The chief advantages of futures comes down to cost and speculation potential: Speculation possibilities: Investors can speculate on future stock price performance, giving them more leverage, plus access to 24/7 securities trading in highly regulated markets—without actually owning the stock market index that the futures contract covers. Costs to trade: When buying stock index futures contracts linked to the above indices, you're paying much less than the listed price for the actual stock market index tracked by the futures contract. For example, a \$2,480 per-share investment for 100 shares of the S&P 500 Index would cost \$248,000. By purchasing a single S&P 500 futures contract (or 100 shares of the index), however, futures investors pay significantly less. The disadvantages of trading in futures are all about high risk and the necessity of holding cash: Leverage risks: One downside of index futures investing is the high level of risk inherent in buying and selling such contracts. It's easy to wind up highly leveraged and lose your entire investment when market conditions go against you. Cash and margins: There is one important distinction when investing in stock index futures. To participate, futures investors are required to keep cash in a margin account at a brokerage firm, which is required to cover steep losses on a futures trade. This occurrence is known as a margin call. Futures trading in the United States dates back to the 1800s in the form of commodities futures where regional farmers convened in Chicago to sell wheat to dealers. That scenario evolved to include trades for future bushels of wheat, livestock, and butter, among other items. Sellers could lock in prices ahead of time, while buyers knew the costs they would eventually pay. A century later, the stock index future began trading on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange in 1997 and it still offers robust trading opportunities for buyers and sellers with a long-term view of stock-related financial investments. Online stock brokerages permit futures trading if you're approved for a margin and options privileges in your account. You can also consider stock index exchange-traded funds (ETFs), which offer access to stock futures without the relatively high risk of standalone stock market index vehicles. If you're determined to invest in stock index futures, consult with an investment advisor or another experienced financial professional before inking any deals. You'll benefit from objective investment advice that may help steer you toward more measured and responsible investment decisions. Stock index futures are legal agreements to buy or sell stocks on a future date and at a specific price. They can allow investors to speculate on future prices, but are also risky if prices change too quickly. ETFs are one way to invest in stock index futures. It's advisable to consult with a professional first. The Balance does not provide tax, investment, or financial services and advice. The information is being presented without consideration of the investment objectives, risk tolerance, or financial circumstances of any specific investor and might not be suitable for all investors. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Investing involves risk including the possible loss of principal.

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