



Financial Forecast

## **Alan Bush**

August 17, 2020

#### **STOCK INDEX FUTURES**

U.S. stock index futures advanced despite the stalemate in Washington over a fresh round of economic stimulus, along with ongoing tensions between the U.S. and China.

The August Empire State manufacturing index was 3.7 when 17 was expected.

The 9:00 central time August housing market index is anticipated to be 72.

The September S&P 500 futures are not very far away from the record high at 3396.50.

The technical picture remains constructive for stock index futures.

#### **CURRENCY FUTURES**

The U.S. dollar is lower, as hedge funds are short the greenback for the first time **s**ince May 2018, according to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Some of the bears on the U.S. dollar are speculating that the Federal Reserve may loosen its approach to inflation, which could happen at its next policy meeting in September.

The U.S. dollar is likely to drift lower from current levels.

The British pound is lower after a report showed U.K. household finances took a turn for the worse. The financial health of British households deteriorated in August at a faster pace than in the previous month. The Household Finance Index from data company IHS Markit declined to 40.8 in August from 41.5 in July.

The Japanese yen is higher after a report showed Japan's gross domestic product fell 7.8% in the second quarter of 2020 compared with the previous quarter. The result was in line with expectations.

On an annualized basis, Japan's economy shrank 27.8% in the April-June quarter.

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## **INTEREST RATE MARKET FUTURES**

The yield on 10-year Treasury notes edged lower to 0.696% from 0.708% Friday.

Interest rate market futures, especially at the short end of the curve are likely to be supported by ideas that major central banks, including the Federal Reserve, will keep interest rates low for an extended period.

The next Federal Open Market Committee meeting is scheduled for September 16. Financial futures markets are predicting there is a 92% probability that the FOMC will maintain its fed funds target rate at zero to 25 basis points.

#### **SUPPORT & RESISTANCE**

#### September 20 S&P 500

Support 3360.00 Resistance 3385.00

September 20 U.S. Dollar Index

Support 92.780 Resistance 93.150

**September 20 Euro Currency** 

Support 1.18300 Resistance 1.18870

September 20 Japanese Yen

Support .93730 Resistance .94300

September 20 Canadian Dollar

Support .75380 Resistance .75700

September 20 Australian Dollar

Support .7167 Resistance .7210

**September 20 Thirty-Year Treasury Bonds** 

Support 177^18 Resistance 178^22

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# **Financial Forecast**

**December 20 Gold** 

Support 1937.0 Resistance 1985.0

**December 20 Copper** 

Support 2.8650 Resistance 2.9250

October 20 Crude Oil

Support 42.03 Resistance 43.05

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