

Escalating Israel-Iran Conflict

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Recent Military Actions:

On **June 12**, Israel launched airstrikes targeting Iranian nuclear and military facilities. In response, Iran has carried out retaliatory strikes.

Ongoing Tensions:

Both nations have exchanged strong statements. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has pledged to continue military operations to eliminate the Iranian threat, while Iran's Supreme Leader has warned of severe consequences for Israel.

Impact on Global Financial Markets

Energy Market

- **Oil Prices Surge:** U.S. crude oil prices have jumped by **approximately 8%**, with Brent crude also spiking – driven by fears of supply disruptions from Iran and the broader region.
- **Potential Supply Disruptions:** The Strait of Hormuz, a vital oil shipping corridor, could be affected if the conflict escalates, potentially worsening the oil price rally.

Stock Markets

- **Global Stock Declines:** Major indices, including the S&P 500, Dow Jones, and Nasdaq futures, slipped. Asian and European markets have also registered losses.

- **Sectoral Impact:**

- **Winners:** Energy and defense stocks have gained on rising oil prices and increased geopolitical risk.
- **Losers:** Travel, leisure, and airline sectors have been hit hard amid rising uncertainty.

Currency and Bond Markets

- **Currency Movements:** The Israeli shekel has declined nearly 2% against the U.S. dollar.
- **Flight to Safety:** Traders are flocking to safe-haven assets like gold and government bonds, pushing bond prices higher and yields lower.

Traders Sentiment and Volatility

- **Risk Aversion:** Heightened geopolitical risk has triggered a strong “risk-off” sentiment, with investors pulling back from riskier assets.

Supply Chain Disruptions

- **Industry Impact:** Iran is a key supplier of materials like silicon wafers. Disruptions could affect semiconductor production and downstream industries, pressuring tech and manufacturing stocks.
- **Global Trade:** Airspace closures and potential disruptions to maritime routes are adding costs and uncertainty to global supply chains.

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