



Key:  
 — Past year's low — Past year's high  
 Close; color indicates up/down from previous close

**RETAIL EARNINGS DRIVE MARKET GAINS**

The Standard & Poor's 500 index briefly traded at an all-time high Tuesday just as the U.S. stock market's bull run came closer to becoming the longest on record.

The market's benchmark index eked out a slight gain, closing a little below the high mark it set in January. The rally pushed the Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks to a record high.

The current bull market, which began in 2009, is on track to become the longest in history on Wednesday, surpassing the bull run of the 1990s.

Tuesday's gains were driven by strong earnings by home builders, retailers and other companies.

"That we got to these levels in January was a big surprise, more so that we're back there now," said Bob Doll, chief equity strategist at Nuveen Asset Management.

The S&P 500 rose 0.2 percent to 2,862.96. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 63.60 points to close at 25,822.29. The Nasdaq composite added 0.5 percent, ending at 7,859.17.

Shortly before 1 p.m. Eastern Time, the S&P 500 briefly crossed above its latest closing high of 2,872 set on Jan. 26. The market took a steep plunge in early February, and has been mostly clawing higher since then. — AP

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**LI jobless rate at 3.9%**

**Unemployment in July is lowest for the month since '01**

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Long Island's unemployment rate last month was 3.9 percent, down 0.7 percentage points from a year ago, the state Department of Labor reported Tuesday.

The July jobless rate was the lowest for the month since 2001, when the rate was 3.7 percent. The rate was 4.6 percent in July 2017.

The unemployment rate has been trending down for some time, an indication that the region's economy is healthy, said Shital Patel, a labor-market analyst in the department's Hicksville office.

"Labor-market conditions on Long Island are strong," she said Tuesday. "Job growth remains strong, and our unemployment rate is near a record low level. So, things are pretty good here."

However, Patel said some jobs are going unfilled because applicants don't have the work skills employers want.

"Companies still want to hire," she said. "They are looking for people, but they just cannot find people with the right skills."

The number of employed Long Islanders rose last month



Ronald Torres of Dix Hills, right, fills out paperwork at a job expo at Farmingdale State College in June.

by 5,300 to 1.469 million, year over year. That's the highest level for a July since the department began using its current system of measuring employment in 1990.

The number of unemployed fell in July, year over year, by 10,500 to 59,300, the lowest level for the month in 28 years.

The jobless data released Tuesday follow last week's employment report for July, which revealed a slowdown in the pace of hiring compared with a year ago.

The Island had 12,500 more jobs last month than in July

**JULY UNEMPLOYMENT**

Locality	July 2017	July 2018
Long Beach*	3.7%	3.2%
Hempstead Vill.**	5.5%	4.6%
LI overall	4.6%	3.9%

\*Lowest on LI \*\*Highest on LI

Source: State Labor Department

2017. That number slowed from the 15,200 year-over-year job increase in June. And June's increase was revised lower from the department's 15,600 preliminary estimate.

The high for the year so far was posted in April, when the local employment market was growing at an annual rate of 18,500 jobs.

Last month, Long Beach had the lowest unemployment rate, 3.2 percent; Hempstead Village had the highest, 4.6 percent.

Among the state's metropolitan areas, Glens Falls had the lowest jobless rate, 3.5 percent, and Binghamton and Watertown had the highest rate, 4.8 percent.

New York City's unemployment rate was 4.4 percent in July.

**Drug shortage warning in no-deal Brexit**

The Associated Press

A group that represents U.K. hospitals and ambulance services has warned that its members may run out of drugs if Britain leaves the European Union without an agreement on future relations.

In a letter published Tuesday, NHS Providers said a lack of "visible and appropriate communication" from the government is hampering preparations for a so-called no-deal Brexit.

In a letter to National Health Service bosses that was leaked to the Times of London, the group's chief executive said it would be more efficient to develop contingency plans nationally rather than "have to



British Prime Minister Theresa May's government is divided.

reinvent the wheel 229 times." Chris Hopson said "the entire supply chain of pharmaceuticals" could be affected by the failure to reach a deal, adding that it could also "jeopardize" the EU workforce "on which the NHS relies."

Britain is due to leave the EU on March 29, and aims to hammer out an agreement with the bloc on divorce terms and the outlines of future trade in the next few months so that it can be approved by individual EU countries before Brexit day.

But talks have got bogged down amid infighting within Prime Minister Theresa May's divided Conservative government, and fears of a "no-deal" Brexit are growing. Last week Latvian Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkevics put the chances of getting a Brexit deal at 50-50.

British businesses have warned that leaving without a deal could cause mayhem for

trade and travel, bringing higher food prices, logjams around U.K. ports and disruption to everything from aviation to medical supplies.

The United Kingdom government says it remains confident of reaching a deal but is preparing for all outcomes. Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said Tuesday the chance of no deal was "not negligible," and that outcome would be bad both for Britain and for the EU.

On Thursday the U.K. government plans to publish the first in a series of technical reports outlining the effects a no-deal Brexit would have on various sectors and offering advice to businesses and the public on how to prepare.