

**DOW JONES**

7.05 to 25,709.94

Over the past year:



**CRUDE OIL**

\$0.35 to \$58.61

Over the past year:



Key:   
 L — Past year's low   
 H — Past year's high

Close; color indicates up/down from previous close

**STOCK INDEXES STALL, END MOSTLY LOWER**

U.S. stocks indexes barely budged Thursday as their three-day winning streak stalled.

The benchmark S&P 500 index finished essentially flat as losses in communications, industrial and health care stocks outweighed gains in financial and technology companies. Several retailers and home builders also declined.

Reports of a criminal investigation into Facebook's data-sharing practices weighed on the social media giant's shares.

Investors are still waiting for some more news on U.S.-China trade negotiations before they feel comfortable pushing the market much higher. Media reports had stoked hopes for a summit this month, but no concrete announcement has been made.

Despite some softness over the past few weeks, U.S. stocks are still considered a safe haven relative to the rest of the world, said Scott Wren, senior global equity strategist for Wells Fargo Investment Institute.

"We're still the lead sled dogs here; we're pulling the global economy along," he said.

The S&P 500 index slipped or 0.1 percent to 2,808.48. The Dow Jones Industrial Average inched up 7.05 points to 25,709.94. The Nasdaq composite fell 0.2 percent to 7,630.91. The S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow are showing double-digit gains for the year so far. — AP

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**Price 'value' in Suffolk**

Median on homes jumps in county, but flat in Nassau

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Home prices jumped in Suffolk County and held steady in Nassau County last month, as bargain-seeking buyers looked for more affordable properties.

The median home price in Suffolk rose to \$380,000 in February, up 7 percent from a year earlier, the Multiple Listing Service of Long Island reported Thursday. Nassau's median home price was \$505,000, unchanged from the same period in 2018, the listing service reported.

"Right now, buyers are going to get value in Suffolk County, so that's where many of them go," said Joe Moshé, broker/owner of Plainview-based Charles Rutenberg Realty Inc. "A \$700,000 home in Nassau could be \$400,000 in Suffolk."

In both counties, declining sales and growing inventory gave buyers a bit more leverage in negotiations.

The number of closed home sales fell, year over year, by almost 3 percent in Suffolk and 2.4 percent in Nassau, listing service figures show. At the same time, the number of homes listed for sale increased by 1.5 percent in Suffolk and nearly 13 percent in Nassau, compared with a year earlier.

One local broker said the market has slowed slightly because buyers and sellers are wary of what will happen when they file their taxes.



PHOTO BY SHELBY KNOWLES

**HOME SALE TRENDS**

|         | Median price, Feb. 2018 | Median price, Feb. 2019 | Percent change | Number of sales, Feb. 2018 | Number of sales, Feb. 2019 | Percent change |
|---------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Nassau  | \$505,000               | \$505,000               | 0%             | 783                        | 764                        | -2.4%          |
| Suffolk | \$355,000               | \$380,000               | 7.0%           | 1,005                      | 976                        | -2.9%          |

SOURCE: Multiple Listing Service of Long Island

A broker says bargain buyers are drawn east. As inventory grows they have more leverage.

**DATABASE**  
 LI home prices in February 2019  
 newsday.com/data

cause buyers and sellers are wary of what will happen when they file their taxes.

"A lot of people depend on tax refunds, and they're not getting it this year," said Barbara Wanamaker, owner of Prime Properties Long Island in Huntington. "Everyone is being careful. But I'm optimistic that as the weather gets nicer, and we

get past April 15, the market will pick up further."

In both counties, it would take a little more than six months to sell all the listed homes at the current pace of sales. Over the previous two years, inventory had often dipped as low as a three- to four-month supply of homes. Brokers say a balanced market

has a six- to eight-month supply.

Looking at the number of sale contracts signed last month, buyers seem to be flocking to Suffolk County. The number of pending sales increased year over year by 12.3 percent in Suffolk, while the number of pending sales in Nassau held steady from a year earlier, the listing service reported.

**Facebook data deals reported target in U.S. probe**

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The New York Times reported that federal prosecutors are conducting a criminal investigation into Facebook's data deals with major electronics manufacturers.

The newspaper said Thursday a grand jury in New York has subpoenaed information from at least two companies known for making smartphones and other devices, cit-

ing two unnamed people familiar with the request. It reports that both companies had data partnerships with Facebook that gave them access to the personal information of hundreds of millions of users.

Facebook describes those data deals as innocuous efforts to help smartphone makers provide Facebook features to users before the social network had its own app.

According to the Times report, Facebook was already

being investigated by the Federal Trade Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission. And the Justice Department's securities fraud unit began looking into the company after reports that Cambridge Analytica, a political consulting firm, had improperly obtained the Facebook data of 87 million people and used it to build tools that helped President Donald Trump's election campaign. The Justice Department and the Eastern District declined to

comment for the Times' report. The Times report said Facebook has aggressively defended its partnerships, saying they were permitted under a provision in a Federal Trade Commission agreement that covered service providers — companies that acted as extensions of the social network.

The Times reported that it is not clear when the inquiry began or exactly what it is focusing on. Facebook did not respond to a request for comment.