



VICTORY PARTNERS

MIDDLE MARKET INSIGHT | What Business Owners Need To Know

\$25 BILLION

ALIBABA INCREASED THEIR REPURCHASE PROGRAM BY 2/3

9%

THE U.S. LISTED STOCK ROSE 9% IN PREMARKET TRADING

\$75 BILLION

ALIBABA SAID IT HAD \$75B IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENT IN DEC.

S&P 500

ROSE 50.43 POINTS (OR 1.1%) TO 4,511.61

DOW JONES

ROSE 254.47 POINTS (OR 0.7%) TO 34,807.46

NASDAQ

ROSE 270.36 POINTS (OR 2%) TO 14,108.82

SANCTIONS

BY THE U.S. HAS PUT HEAVY PRESSURE ON RUSSIA

CYBER-SAFETY

- MULTI-AUTHENTICATION
- BACKING UP DATA
- RUNNING DRILLS

WHITE HOUSE

WARNS THAT CYBER ATTACKS MAY FOCUS ON INFRASTRUCTURE

Alibaba Upsizes Share Buyback by Two-Thirds

- Alibaba increased its share repurchase program to \$25 billion on Tuesday, the e-commerce giant's largest-ever repurchase plan, to shore up its bruised stock as it battles regulatory scrutiny and fears about slowing growth.
- "Alibaba's buyback decision makes sense given how Beijing's measures against monopolistic behavior and the "disorderly expansion of capital" will limit its opportunities for new investments, said Rukim Kuang, founder of Beijing-based Lens Company Research."
- Since its billionaire founder, Jack Ma, publicly criticized China's regulatory structure in late 2020, the firm has been under pressure. Authorities then stopped Ant Group's planned blockbuster IPO and fined Alibaba a record \$2.8 billion for anti-competitive behavior, causing its stock to plummet.

Conclusions from Tuesday's Major U.S. Stock Indexes

- As investors remained concerned on the outlook of inflation, stocks finished higher on Wall Street Tuesday and oil prices eased.
- Banks, as well as technology and retailer companies, contributed to the increases. Oil prices decreased, causing energy stocks to fall.
- Bond yields rose a day after Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell suggested the central bank was prepared to raise interest rates more aggressively in the fight against inflation if necessary.

The U.S. Warns Companies of Potential Russian Cyberattacks

- President Biden reaffirmed the message on Monday, saying that "evolving intelligence" showed Russia is "exploring options for potential cyberattacks. The U.S. has previously warned about the Russian government's ability to digitally attack U.S. corporations.
- In recent years, cyber-criminals linked to Russia have carried out multiple attacks in the United States, including the ransomware attack on Colonial Pipeline in May, which resulted in gas shortages on the East Coast, and an attack on the meat processor JBS a few weeks later.
- Through a software update, hackers thought to be directed by Russian intelligence infiltrated about 100 corporations and a dozen government institutions in one of the largest documented attacks. The issue had gone unnoticed for months until being made public in December 2020.

Sources: www.reuters.com | www.apnews.com | www.npr.com