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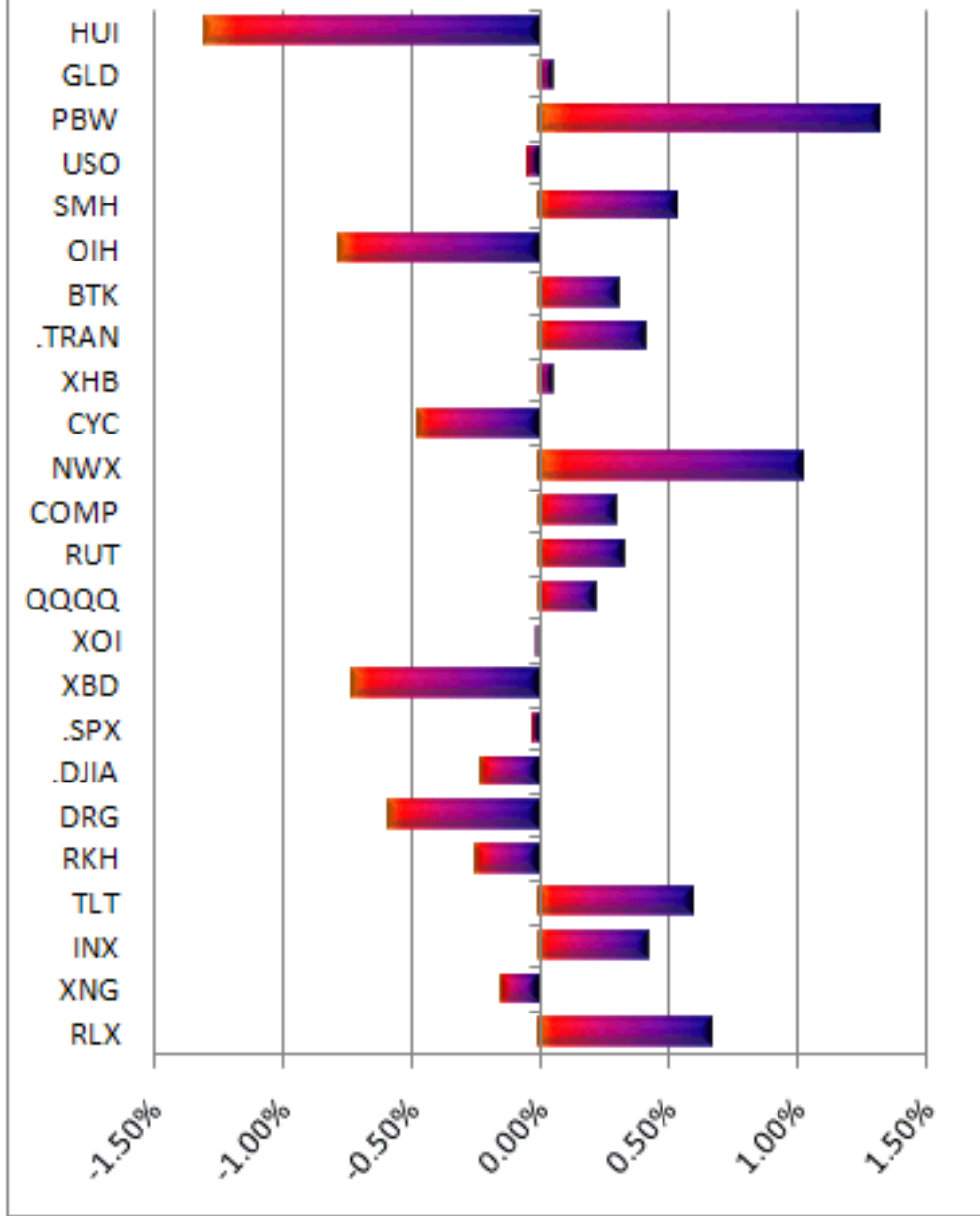
Market Update: U.S. Stocks Struggle as Oil Flirts with \$100 per Barrel

Despite a few valiant attempts to push stocks higher, Wall Street has once again succumbed to selling pressure heading into the latter half of the trading session. At last check, the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) was off about 38 points and the S&P 500 Index (SPX) had shed more than 1 point. The Nasdaq Composite (COMP), however, has managed to eke out a gain of more than 7 points.

Generally positive economic data appeared to lift investor sentiment in the early going, with weekly jobless claims declining by 22,000 to 391,000, and durable goods orders rising 2.7% in January. However, new home sales plunged 12.6% in January, while U.S. petroleum supplies rose by a less-than-expected 800,000 barrels last week. The latter report sent the April crude contract -- up 93 cents at \$99.11 at last check -- skipping higher toward \$100 per barrel.

However, the oil sector appears to have rally fatigue today, with the United States Oil Fund LP (USO) giving up the top spot to the PowerShares WilderHill Clean Energy Fund (PBW), which was last seen higher by 1.14%. Following PBW higher is the NYSE Arca Networking Index (NWX) with a gain of 0.84%. The leading decliner may come as a bit of a surprise, as the NYSE Arca Gold BUGS Index (HUI) is heading up the retreat with a drop of 1.29%. The Securities Broker/Dealer Index (XBD) is also heading lower, shedding 0.73% at last check.

Today's Sector Returns



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