**US stocks end slightly higher than expected**

On Wednesday, US stocks ended on a slightly higher note as investors waited for a Federal Reserve hike. There was a Federal Reserve meeting involving members who seemed divided on the hiking of interest rates. Up to now, the members of the Fed are still not certain as to whether they should raise the interest rates or not. This follows a continued weakening of the US economy caused by low non-farm productivity and high inflation. Minutes from the recent Fed meeting shows that the members of the Reserve body have mixed feelings on the issue.

**Division among Fed members**

Despite the mixture of feelings concerning the hiking of the interest rates, most members of the Fed clearly believe that more data is required before a decision can be made. A smaller fraction of the members believe that a hike would be necessary soon. This information came from the recent US central Bank meeting. It is also the fourth last policy meeting the Fed Reserve is expected to hold before the year. Three more other meetings are expected to be held prior to the end of the year.

**The aftermath of the news**

Meanwhile, a Tuesday slip of stocks was witnessed after investors learned that an interest rate hike was possible in September following wage gains. The news was received with mixed feelings by most investors. Retailers slipped in performance following the news. A gloomy forecast of the market caused Lowe and Target to incur losses.

In the past weeks, Wall Street had been trading at very high rates. Although many reasons account for this, it is partly due to the fact that the Fed is likely to continue keeping the rates as low as they are. Dow Jones and S&P both registered gains on Wednesday.