First Trust Market Watch

Week of August 24th

Stock Index Performance

Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2025	5-yr.
Dow Jones Industrial Avg (53,277)	-0.78%	11.96%	20.95%	14.92%	10.77%
S&P 500 (7,674)	-1.39%	12.95%	21.90%	17.88%	13.17%
NASDAQ 100 (29,309)	-2.43%	16.55%	27.47%	21.02%	15.08%
S&P 500 Growth	-2.22%	13.00%	23.45%	22.18%	13.56%
S&P 500 Value	-0.40%	12.83%	20.11%	13.19%	11.96%
S&P MidCap 400 Growth	-3.04%	19.47%	25.19%	7.46%	8.61%
S&P MidCap 400 Value	-1.77%	14.13%	19.83%	7.58%	9.48%
S&P SmallCap 600 Growth	-2.58%	23.74%	28.19%	5.37%	7.17%
S&P SmallCap 600 Value	-1.61%	22.48%	33.67%	6.70%	8.83%
Russell 2000	-1.60%	22.48%	34.34%	12.81%	8.32%
MSCI EAFE	-0.54%	14.14%	21.72%	31.22%	9.89%
MSCI World (ex US)	0.09%	17.40%	27.79%	32.39%	10.23%
MSCI World	-1.16%	13.12%	21.76%	21.09%	11.66%
MSCI Emerging Markets	1.24%	24.22%	38.90%	33.57%	9.73%
S&P GSCI	4.56%	48.10%	52.60%	7.12%	19.13%

Source: Bloomberg. Returns are total returns. *5-yr. return is an average annual.* One-week, YTD, 12-mo. and 5-yr. performance returns calculated through 8/21/26. An index cannot be purchased directly by investors. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

S&P Sector Performance

Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2025	5-yr.
Communication Services	-1.45%	0.23%	16.47%	33.55%	11.27%
Consumer Discretionary	-0.22%	0.66%	7.40%	6.04%	7.33%
Consumer Staples	-0.94%	10.46%	6.55%	3.90%	7.29%
Energy	2.94%	44.05%	52.18%	8.67%	27.50%
Financials	-1.17%	5.93%	10.85%	15.02%	10.80%
Health Care	4.33%	13.83%	29.76%	14.60%	6.91%
Industrials	-3.37%	16.86%	21.21%	19.42%	13.71%
Information Technology	-3.18%	20.35%	32.55%	24.04%	20.98%
Materials	2.34%	18.10%	19.01%	10.54%	7.07%
Real Estate	-0.44%	14.51%	13.46%	3.15%	2.90%
Utilities	-3.49%	1.55%	2.77%	16.04%	7.35%

Source: FTSERussell, MSCI, Nasdaq, S&P. Returns are total returns. *5-yr. return is an average annual.* One-week, YTD, 12-mo. and 5-yr. performance returns calculated through 8/21/26. An index cannot be purchased directly by investors. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. On 9/28/18, the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) was reconstituted and the Telecommunications Services sector was renamed Communication Services. GICS sector information for periods prior to 9/28/18 may not necessarily be comparable to the reconstituted sectors.

Bond Index Performance

Index	Week	YTD	12-mo.	2025	5-yr.
U.S. Treasury: Intermediate	-0.11%	0.18%	2.28%	6.51%	0.77%
GNMA 30 Year	-0.10%	0.46%	3.88%	8.07%	0.49%
U.S. Aggregate	-0.10%	-0.34%	2.48%	7.30%	-0.30%
U.S. Corporate High Yield	-0.15%	2.44%	5.50%	8.62%	4.27%
U.S. Corporate Investment Grade	-0.15%	-0.62%	2.17%	7.77%	-0.17%
Municipal Bond: Long Bond (22+)	-0.94%	1.26%	7.71%	1.95%	-0.61%
Global Aggregate	0.18%	-0.04%	1.64%	8.17%	-1.65%

Source: Bloomberg. Returns are total returns. *5-yr. return is an average annual.* One-week, YTD, 12-mo. and 5-yr. performance returns calculated through 8/21/26. An index cannot be purchased directly by investors. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Key Rates

Fed Funds	3.50% - 3.75%	2-yr T-Note	4.24%
CPI - Headline	3.40%	5-yr T-Note	4.42%
CPI - Core	2.50%	10-yr T-Note	4.73%
Money Market Accts.	0.45%	30-yr T-Bond	5.27%
1-yr CD	2.03%	30-yr Fixed Mortgage	6.70%
3-yr CD	1.69%	Prime Rate	6.75%
5-yr CD	1.74%	Bond Buyer 40	4.82%

Sources: Bankrate.com, Federal Reserve Bank NY, & US Bureau of Labor Statistics. Prime rate as of 8/18/26. All other data as of 8/21/26. National average banking rates are displayed for the Money Market Accts, 1-yr CD, 3-yr CD and 5-yr CD.

Market Indicators

Investment Grade Spread (A2)	99 bps
ICE BofA US High Yield Constrained Index Spread	270 bps

Source: Intercontinental Exchange, Inc. (ICE). As of 8/21/26.

Weekly Fund Flows

Estimated Flows to Long-Term Mutual Funds for the Week Ended 8/12/26

	Current Week		Previous	
Domestic Equity	-$8.097	Billion	$1.507	Billion
Foreign Equity	$3.691	Billion	$7.017	Billion
Taxable Bond	$17.630	Billion	$18.186	Billion
Municipal Bond	$2.017	Billion	$1.492	Billion

Change in Money Market Fund Assets for the Week Ended 8/19/26

	Current Week		Previous	
Retail	$2.72	Billion	$4.40	Billion
Institutional	-$1.82	Billion	$13.86	Billion

Source: Investment Company Institute.

Factoids for the Week of August 17th, 2026

Monday, August 17, 2026
Data from the U.S. Department of Energy shows that 6.1 million barrels of crude oil were withdrawn from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) during the week ended August 7, 2026, reducing total reserves to 298.7 million barrels, according to CNBC. The latest withdrawal, which puts the reserve at its lowest level since January 1983, is part of a larger 172-million-barrel release designed to offset supply disruption from the ongoing closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Approximately 243 million barrels are expected to remain in the SPR once the full release is complete.

Tuesday, August 18, 2026
Adobe data covering more than one trillion visits to U.S. retail websites shows that human traffic directed from AI sources increased by 393% year-over-year in Q1'26, continuing the momentum from the holiday season (November and December 2025), when traffic increased by 693% year-over-year. Of those who have used AI for shopping, 85% reported that it resulted in an improved experience. AI-driven traffic is resulting in higher engagement, with consumers spending 48% longer on retail websites and browsing 13% more pages compared to non-AI-driven traffic.

Wednesday, August 19, 2026
FactSet reported that the Q2'26 blended net profit margin for the S&P 500 Index ("Index") stood at 16.9% as of August 7, 2026, up from 12.9% in the year-ago quarter and above the 5-year average of 12.4%. Should this hold, it would mark the Index's highest net profit margin in FactSet data going back to 2009, surpassing the previous record of 14.8% set last quarter. Notably, the figure is inflated by unrealized investment gains at two Index constituents. Excluding them, the margin falls to 15.0%, which would still be a record.

Thursday, August 20, 2026
Moody's reported that its trailing 12-month global speculative-grade default rate stood at 4.4% at the end of July 2026 (preliminary results), up from 4.1% in December 2025. Its baseline scenario sees the global default rate declining to 3.2% in December 2026. For comparison, Moody's puts the global historical average default rate at 4.2%. The U.S. speculative-grade default rate stood at 5.0% in July. Moody's baseline scenario sees the U.S. default rate falling to 3.7% in December 2026.

Friday, August 21, 2026
In its 2025 Year-End Recorded Music Revenue Report, the RIAA reported that U.S. recorded music revenue totaled a record $11.5 billion on a wholesale basis in calendar year 2025, an increase of 3.1% year-over-year. Revenue from digital formats was driven entirely by premium paid subscriptions, which increased by 6.8% year-over-year. Vinyl revenue was the largest contributor among physical formats, increasing by 9.3% over the period to $1.0 billion.

This information is provided by First Trust Advisors L.P. • 1-800-222-6822 • 8/24/26