

## Stock Index Performance

| Index                             | Week   | YTD    | 12-mo. | 2025   | 5-yr.  |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Dow Jones Industrial Avg (51,829) | 0.28%  | 9.13%  | 14.64% | 14.92% | 10.36% |
| S&P 500 (7,743)                   | 1.23%  | 14.09% | 18.62% | 17.88% | 13.30% |
| NASDAQ 100 (30,608)               | 3.26%  | 21.80% | 26.26% | 21.02% | 15.73% |
| S&P 500 Growth                    | 2.19%  | 16.76% | 20.88% | 22.18% | 14.09% |
| S&P 500 Value                     | 0.05%  | 10.88% | 15.88% | 13.19% | 11.60% |
| S&P MidCap 400 Growth             | 0.65%  | 14.62% | 17.16% | 7.46%  | 7.33%  |
| S&P MidCap 400 Value              | -0.79% | 8.12%  | 11.42% | 7.58%  | 8.24%  |
| S&P SmallCap 600 Growth           | -0.22% | 15.99% | 17.43% | 5.37%  | 5.38%  |
| S&P SmallCap 600 Value            | -0.65% | 15.94% | 21.73% | 6.70%  | 7.24%  |
| Russell 2000                      | -0.79% | 15.31% | 19.14% | 12.81% | 6.22%  |
| MSCI EAFE                         | 0.20%  | 10.95% | 18.32% | 31.22% | 8.91%  |
| MSCI World (ex US)                | 0.47%  | 15.35% | 22.61% | 32.39% | 9.35%  |
| MSCI World                        | 0.91%  | 12.96% | 18.03% | 21.09% | 11.44% |
| MSCI Emerging Markets             | 1.29%  | 25.22% | 31.39% | 33.57% | 9.07%  |
| S&P GSCI                          | -1.46% | 56.69% | 55.98% | 7.12%  | 17.89% |

**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 9/25/26. 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 | 2.16%  | 5.87%  | 12.66% | 33.55% | 12.37% |
| Consumer Discretionary | -0.53% | -4.48% | -2.41% | 6.04%  | 5.28%  |
| Consumer Staples       | 0.22%  | 7.90%  | 8.25%  | 3.90%  | 7.23%  |
| Energy                 | -2.99% | 41.26% | 40.53% | 8.67%  | 24.03% |
| Financials             | -1.58% | 1.39%  | 4.21%  | 15.02% | 9.42%  |
| Health Care            | 1.71%  | 11.72% | 29.49% | 14.60% | 7.09%  |
| Industrials            | 0.67%  | 10.84% | 14.07% | 19.42% | 12.84% |
| Information Technology | 3.13%  | 28.87% | 32.75% | 24.04% | 22.44% |
| Materials              | 0.31%  | 11.13% | 14.69% | 10.54% | 6.39%  |
| Real Estate            | -1.35% | 6.90%  | 5.57%  | 3.15%  | 1.87%  |
| Utilities              | -3.12% | -5.43% | -4.79% | 16.04% | 7.20%  |

**Source: FTSE Russell, 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 9/25/26. 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     | -0.28% | -1.25% | 0.05%  | 6.51% | 0.58%  |
| GNMA 30 Year                    | -0.95% | -2.08% | -0.47% | 8.07% | 0.01%  |
| U.S. Aggregate                  | -0.82% | -2.28% | -1.00% | 7.30% | -0.59% |
| U.S. Corporate High Yield       | -0.92% | 0.80%  | 2.26%  | 8.62% | 3.68%  |
| U.S. Corporate Investment Grade | -1.07% | -2.44% | -1.30% | 7.77% | -0.49% |
| Municipal Bond: Long Bond (22+) | -2.28% | -4.05% | -2.29% | 1.95% | -1.58% |
| Global Aggregate                | -0.76% | -2.27% | -1.52% | 8.17% | -1.94% |

**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 9/25/26. An index cannot be purchased directly by investors. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

## Key Rates

|                     |               |                      |       |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------------|-------|
| Fed Funds           | 3.75% - 4.00% | 2-yr T-Note          | 4.85% |
| CPI - Headline      | 3.40%         | 5-yr T-Note          | 4.99% |
| CPI - Core          | 2.40%         | 10-yr T-Note         | 5.16% |
| Money Market Accts. | 0.46%         | 30-yr T-Bond         | 5.49% |
| 1-yr CD             | 2.08%         | 30-yr Fixed Mortgage | 7.18% |
| 3-yr CD             | 1.71%         | Prime Rate           | 7.00% |
| 5-yr CD             | 1.77%         | Bond Buyer 40        | 5.33% |

**Sources: Bankrate.com, Federal Reserve Bank NY, & US Bureau of Labor Statistics.** Prime rate as of 9/22/26. All other data as of 9/25/26. National average banking rates are displayed for the Money Market Accts, 1-yr CD, 3-yr CD and 5-yr CD.

The information presented is not intended to constitute an investment recommendation for, or advice to, any specific person. By providing this information, First Trust is not undertaking to give advice in any fiduciary capacity within the meaning of ERISA, the Internal Revenue Code or any other regulatory framework. Financial professionals are responsible for evaluating investment risks independently and for exercising independent judgment in determining whether investments are appropriate for their clients.

**This information is provided by First Trust Advisors L.P. • 1-800-222-6822 • 9/28/26**

## Market Indicators

|                                                 |         |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Investment Grade Spread (A2)                    | 100 bps |
| ICE BofA US High Yield Constrained Index Spread | 293 bps |

**Source: Intercontinental Exchange, Inc. (ICE).** As of 9/25/26.

## Weekly Fund Flows

### Estimated Flows to Long-Term Mutual Funds for the Week Ended 9/16/26

|                 | Current Week      | Previous          |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Domestic Equity | -\$12.147 Billion | -\$13.376 Billion |
| Foreign Equity  | -\$1.150 Billion  | \$1.603 Billion   |
| Taxable Bond    | \$3.796 Billion   | \$10.268 Billion  |
| Municipal Bond  | -\$552 Million    | \$1.276 Billion   |

### Change in Money Market Fund Assets for the Week Ended 9/23/26

|               | Current Week    | Previous         |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Retail        | -\$0.26 Billion | -\$2.09 Billion  |
| Institutional | \$15.26 Billion | -\$49.88 Billion |

**Source: Investment Company Institute.**

## Factoids for the Week of September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026

### Monday, September 21, 2026

Fidelity Investments reported that the average 401(k) balance for accounts it services was \$155,800 in Q2'26, an increase of 13% year-over-year. The average value of assets held in individual retirement accounts increased 10% over the same period to \$144,523. Record-high savings rates and equity market performance contributed to the increase in 401(k) balances. Fidelity noted that the average 401(k) savings rate was 14.4% in Q2'26, unchanged from the previous quarter's record level.

### Tuesday, September 22, 2026

A Bloomberg survey of 20 equity strategists published on September 22, 2026, found that the average 2026 year-end price target for the S&P 500 Index was 7,970. The highest and lowest estimates were 8,410 and 7,400, respectively. For comparison, the S&P 500 Index closed at 7,764.70 on September 21, 2026, down from a record 7,798.99 on August 13, 2026.

### Wednesday, September 23, 2026

PitchBook reported that there were 112 private equity deals in the aerospace and defense sector globally in Q2'26, up from 53 deals over the same period last year. Despite the increase in volume, total deal value declined by nearly 58%, from \$15.3 billion in Q2'25 to \$6.5 billion in Q2'26. Notably, the defense segment accounted for 44 of those deals in Q2'26, up from just nine deals during the same quarter a year earlier.

### Thursday, September 24, 2026

Child Care Aware of America reported that the average annual price of child care was \$13,184 in the U.S. in 2025, an increase of 23% from \$10,681 in 2021. Annual prices vary widely by state and age group receiving care. At \$27,067, Massachusetts had the highest annual price of care for an infant in a child care center, while Mississippi had the lowest at \$6,492.

### Friday, September 25, 2026

Americans' data use is surging amid increased adoption of digital streaming services, wearables, and AI. According to CTIA, U.S. wireless data usage increased 20% year-over-year to a record 159.3 trillion megabytes in 2025. Data demand is expected to quadruple by 2032, and AI is projected to account for nearly one-third of all broadband traffic by 2034.