

EAGLE FOCUS

weekly

July 7, 2025

MARKET PERFORMANCE RECAP

WEEK ENDING
July 3, 2025

INDEX	LAST FRIDAY'S CLOSE	% CHANGE YTD
S&P 500	6279.35	6.76%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	44828.53	5.37%
Nasdaq Composite	20601.1	6.68%
S&P MidCap 400	3191.31	2.25%
Russell 2000	2253.92	0.85%

Job growth in June beat expectations, signaling a resilient labor market and likely delaying a July rate cut. Nonfarm payrolls rose by 147,000, topping the 110,000 forecast and slightly above May's revised 144,000. April's figure was also revised up to 158,000. The unemployment rate fell to 4.1%, the lowest since February, while the broader jobless rate dipped to 7.7%. However, the drop was mainly due to fewer people in the labor force. (Source: CNBC)



Hedge fund returns rose in June as U.S. stocks hit record highs despite trade uncertainty, according to a Goldman Sachs report. Equity-focused hedge funds gained over 3% for the month and are up more than 6% year-to-date. Systematic equity funds slipped 0.68% in June but remain up 11.91% for the year. Stock pickers benefited from tech strength and volatility trading, while losses were concentrated in health care. (Source: Reuters)

With pandemic-era student loan relief ending, a surge in defaults is expected. TransUnion reports 43 million borrowers owe \$1.6 trillion, with 5 million already in default and another 5 million likely to default by September. The Education Department will begin wage garnishment in late summer for those 270 days or more past due, cutting disposable income by up to 15%. Credit scores could also take a hit. (Source: Barron's)

Global investors are turning to dividend stocks for stability amid market and geopolitical uncertainty.

Utilities and energy have outperformed tech, offering steady returns. Dividend-focused ETFs saw \$23.7 billion in inflows in the first half, the highest level in three years according to Lipper data from LSEG. Energy leads with a 4.75 percent global yield, followed by real estate, as investors favor income-generating assets and companies that show disciplined growth. (Source: Finimize)

The U.S. economy contracted at a 0.5% annual rate in Q1, worse than the previously estimated 0.2% drop, according to the Commerce Department. The decline was driven by a surge in imports as businesses and consumers rushed to buy goods ahead of expected tariffs from President Trump's trade policies. Economists had anticipated no revision. (Source: Associated Press)

U.S. private payrolls fell by 33,000 in June, the first drop in over a year, signaling weaker labor demand. Losses were led by services, while gains in leisure, manufacturing, and construction partly offset the decline. Small businesses cut 60,000 jobs over two months, marking the sharpest back-to-back drop in five years. ADP said reduced hiring and attrition were the main factors. (Source: Ned Davis Research)

Emerging market debt sales surged in the first half of the year, shrugging off tariffs, conflict, and oil volatility, and remain on pace for another record year, bankers told Reuters. Yield-hungry investors continued buying despite geopolitical shocks, while low oil prices are pushing exporters to keep borrowing to fund spending. Signs of a gradual move away from the U.S. dollar are also emerging. (Source: Reuters)

The IRS collected a record \$5.1 trillion in fiscal year 2024, up nearly 9% from the previous year and accounting for 96% of federal funding, according to its latest Data Book. The agency also improved taxpayer support, helping 62.2 million people with a 3.2% increase. Live phone assistance rose 11% to nearly 20 million calls, while in-person help at Taxpayer Assistance Centers jumped 26% to over 2 million visits. (Source: Wealth Management)

June new-vehicle retail sales are expected to hit a 12-month low, marking a slowdown from the spring rush to buy before tariffs. GM, Ford, Toyota, and others reported softer June numbers. Analysts cite high prices, economic uncertainty, rising interest rates, and limited inventory as key challenges. Despite the June dip, many automakers posted strong gains for the first half of the year. (Source: Wall Street Journal)

Major U.S. banks announced dividend hikes Tuesday after passing the Fed's annual stress test. JPMorgan raised its quarterly dividend to \$1.50 from \$1.40 and unveiled a \$50 billion share buyback plan. Bank of America will boost its dividend by 8% to 28 cents, while Wells Fargo raised its payout to 45 cents from 40 cents. (Source: Reuters)



The CFA Level II pass rate jumped to 54% in May, well above the decade average of 46%, according to the CFA Institute. Candidates who stuck to the original exam schedule outperformed those who postponed, with May results topping the 39% pass rate in November and 47% in August. It's the second-highest result since 2020. (Source: Bloomberg)

ETF launches slowed in Q2 2025, with 233 new funds compared to 271 in Q1, according to FactSet. June led with 110 launches, followed by 72 in April and 51 in May. Performance varied widely, as leveraged and single-stock ETFs dominated both top and bottom results. Issuers focused on niche and options-based strategies, but market volatility posed challenges for specialized products. (Source: Yahoo Finance)

Global M&A activity fell short of expectations in the first half of the year, but a surge in Asian deals and renewed U.S. market optimism are fueling hopes for a stronger second half. While trade tensions, high rates, and geopolitical risks slowed activity, top bankers say confidence is returning. Record highs in the S&P 500 and Nasdaq are boosting prospects for a rebound in megadeals. (Source: Reuters)

Gasoline prices hit their lowest level since 2021 ahead of the July Fourth holiday, with the national average at \$3.17 per gallon, which is down 33 cents from last year, according to AAA. Over 61 million travelers were expected on the roads for the long weekend, saving about \$500 million on gas compared to 2024, said GasBuddy analyst Patrick De Haan. The price drop follows lower oil costs after President Trump announced a ceasefire between Israel and Iran, easing supply shock fears. (Source: Yahoo Finance)

On July 7, 1912, Native American athlete Jim Thorpe won the pentathlon at the Stockholm Olympics, showcasing his status as the world's greatest all-around athlete. Competing against top athletes, Thorpe took first in four events and third in the javelin to secure gold. He later won the decathlon, breaking the world record. At the closing ceremony, King Gustaf V reportedly called him "the greatest athlete in the world," to which Thorpe replied, "Thanks, king." (Source: History.com)

July is named after Julius Caesar. Originally, when March was the first month in the Roman calendar, July and August were the fifth and sixth months, called Quintilis and Sextilis. After Caesar's assassination in 44 BCE, Quintilis was renamed Iulius (Julius) to honor his birth month. Later, Emperor Augustus renamed Sextilis after himself. Over time, these Latin names evolved into the modern July and August. (Source: Word Smarts)

The Eiffel Tower actually grows taller when it's hot outside. Made mostly of metal, the tower expands annually in the summer heat, gaining about six inches in height. Even more surprising, the top of the tower can shift up to seven inches away from the sun as one side heats up more than the other. Thermal expansion makes this iconic landmark move with the seasons. (Source: Readers Digest)



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