

WEEKLY MARKET COMMENTARY

May 26, 2026

WEEK IN REVIEW

Last week's macro releases pointed to a resilient but slightly moderating economic backdrop. U.S. crude oil inventories recorded a sharp draw of -7.86 million barrels, well below expectations of roughly -2.5 million (prior: -4.3 million), indicating stronger demand and providing modest upward pressure on energy prices and inflation expectations. The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting minutes reinforced a cautious, data-dependent stance, with policymakers signaling persistent inflation risks and little urgency to ease policy, supporting a higher-for-longer rate environment.

On activity data, Purchasing Managers' Indexes (PMIs) were mixed but still constructive. Manufacturing surprised to the upside at 55.3 versus 53.8 expected, reflecting strong expansion in the industrial sector. In contrast, the Services PMI came in at 50.9 versus 51.1 expected, indicating continued expansion but modest cooling in momentum rather than outright weakness. This suggests some normalization in services demand while overall activity remains in growth territory.

Labor market conditions remain stable, with jobless claims continuing to track near low levels, consistent with a still-tight labor market and limited signs of deterioration.

Overall, the data reinforces a resilient growth environment with pockets of moderation, where strong manufacturing and firm labor conditions offset softer (but still expanding) services activity. Combined with tighter energy markets and a cautious Fed, this keeps inflation risks tilted to the upside, likely sustaining elevated rate expectations, upward pressure on yields, and a selective equity backdrop.

ECONOMIC AND CAPITAL MARKETS DASHBOARD

Broad Market Indices	1-week	1-month	3-month	YTD
Stock Market (Total Return)				
S&P 500	0.91%	4.81%	8.49%	9.69%
Dow Jones 30	2.18%	2.35%	2.37%	5.89%
NASDAQ	0.48%	6.91%	15.31%	13.62%
Russell 1000 Growth	0.47%	4.41%	10.29%	5.81%
Russell 1000 Value	1.79%	4.31%	5.35%	12.86%
Russell 2000	2.75%	3.10%	8.06%	16.10%
Wilshire 5000	1.12%	4.41%	8.06%	9.76%
MSCI EAFE Index	2.27%	2.65%	1.27%	8.82%
MSCI Emerging Market Index	1.21%	6.07%	10.02%	22.66%
VIX	-9.39%	-11.73%	-12.52%	11.71%
FTSE NAREIT All Equity REITs	3.19%	3.61%	4.56%	14.34%
S&P U.S. Aggregate Bond Index	0.28%	-0.83%	-1.31%	-0.15%
Interest Rates	5/22/2026	5/15/2026	5/8/2026	5/1/2026
3-month T-bill Yield (%)	3.67	3.68	3.68	3.66
10-year Treasury Yield (%)	4.56	4.59	4.37	4.38
10Y-2Y Treasury Spread (%)	0.44	0.52	0.47	0.49
30-year Fixed Mortgage Rate (%)	6.53	6.46	6.44	6.36
Commodities				
WTI Crude (\$/bl)	96.75	108.99	98.87	105.38
Gold (\$/Troy Oz)	4,506.15	4,528.00	4,741.40	4,636.90
Bitcoin	75,522.75	79,042.03	80,159.97	78,283.89

Weekly Indicators	5/22/2026	5/15/2026	5/8/2026	5/1/2026
Employment				
Initial Unemployment Claims (000's)	-	209.00	212.00	199.00

Quarterly Data	3/31/2026	12/31/2025	9/30/2025	6/30/2025
Output				
Real GDP Growth (%q/q, saar)	2.00	0.50	4.40	3.80
Private Consumption (%q/q, saar)	1.60	1.90	3.50	2.50

Monthly Indicators	4/30/2026	3/31/2026	2/27/2026	1/30/2026
Consumption				
Consumer Expenditures (%m/m, sa)	-	0.90	0.65	0.37
Retail Sales (%m/m, sa)	0.47	1.87	0.96	0.02
Personal Savings Rate (%)	-	3.60	3.90	4.50
Labor				
Civilian Unemployment Rate (%)	4.30	4.30	4.40	4.30
Nonfarm Employment (Chg, 000's)	115	185	-156	160
Real Average Hourly Earnings (%y/y)	-0.11	0.26	1.29	1.34
JOLTS Job Openings (000's)	-	6866	6922	7240
Inflation				
Consumer Price Index (CPI) (%m/m, sa)	0.64	0.87	0.27	0.17
Core CPI (%m/m, sa)	0.38	0.20	0.22	0.30
Producer Price Index (PPI) (%m/m, sa)	1.38	0.70	0.57	0.56
Core PPI (%m/m, sa)	0.65	0.31	0.34	0.69
Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) (%m/m, sa)	-	0.66	0.38	0.33
Core PCE (%m/m, sa)	-	0.29	0.37	0.42
Output and Capacity				
Industrial Production (%m/m, sa)	0.68	-0.29	0.62	-0.05
Mfg New Orders (%m/m, sa)	-	1.47	0.32	0.03
Durable New Orders (%m/m, sa)	-	0.85	-1.17	-0.43
Durable Inventories (%m/m, sa)	-	0.27	0.08	0.25
Survey Data and Composite Indicators				
Consumer Confidence (CB, 1985=100)	92.80	92.20	91.00	89.00
ISM Manufacturing Report (%)	52.70	52.70	52.40	52.60
ISM Non-Manufacturing Report (%)	53.60	54.00	56.10	53.80
Leading Economic Index (%m/m)	0.10	-0.61	0.31	0.00
Housing and Construction				
Building Permits (Mil. of Units, saar)	1.44	1.36	1.54	1.39
Housing Starts (Mil. of Units, saar)	1.47	1.51	1.35	1.39
New Home Sales (Mil. of Units, saar)	-	0.68	0.64	0.58

WEEK AHEAD

Looking ahead, the upcoming week is shortened due to the Memorial Day holiday but still features several key data releases that will help shape the near-term economic narrative.

Tuesday brings Consumer Confidence, which previously came in around 92.8, providing a benchmark for household sentiment and spending resilience. A stable or improving reading would reinforce the strength of the consumer as a key growth driver.

Wednesday features New Home Sales, following a prior release that showed a moderate pace of activity. This will be important in assessing how housing demand is holding up amid elevated rates and affordability pressures.

Thursday is the busiest day, with GDP (second estimate) and Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) inflation both released. The initial GDP reading showed softer growth, so this update will help confirm whether that weakness persists or stabilizes. At the same time, PCE will provide an updated read on inflation trends, which remain central to the Fed's policy outlook.

Friday includes the Chicago PMI, which previously reflected modest business activity conditions. This release will serve as a timely check on manufacturing momentum and broader economic activity.

Meanwhile, crude oil inventories, which recently posted a sizable draw, will remain important for gauging supply-demand dynamics and their implications for energy prices and inflation.

Overall, these releases will help refine the market's view on growth durability and inflation persistence, both of which remain key drivers of the rate outlook.

DISCLOSURES AND DEFINITIONS

Economic Indicators:

1. CPI: Consumer Price Index measures the average change in prices paid by consumers for goods and services over time. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.
2. Core CPI: Core Consumer Price Index excludes food and energy prices to provide a clearer picture of long-term inflation trends. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.
3. PPI: Producer Price Index measures the average change in selling prices received by domestic producers for their output. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.
4. Core PPI: Core Producer Price Index excludes food and energy prices to provide a clearer picture of long-term inflation trends. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.
5. PCE: Personal Consumption Expenditures measure the average change in prices paid by consumers for goods and services. Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis.
6. Core PCE: Core Personal Consumption Expenditures exclude food and energy prices to provide a clearer picture of long-term inflation trends. Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis.
7. Industrial Production: Measures the output of the industrial sector, including manufacturing, mining, and utilities. Source: Federal Reserve.
8. Mfg New Orders: Measures the value of new orders placed with manufacturers for durable and non-durable goods. Source: Census Bureau.
9. Durable New Orders: Measures the value of new orders placed with manufacturers of durable goods. Source: Census Bureau.
10. Durable Inventories: Measures the value of inventories held by manufacturers for durable goods. Source: Census Bureau.
11. Consumer Confidence (CB, 1985=100): Measures the degree of optimism that consumers feel about the overall state of the economy and their personal financial situation. Source: Conference Board.
12. ISM Manufacturing Report: Measures the economic health of the manufacturing sector based on surveys of purchasing managers. Source: Institute for Supply Management.
13. ISM Non-Manufacturing Report: Measures the economic health of the non-manufacturing sector based on surveys of purchasing managers. Source: Institute for Supply Management.
14. Leading Economic Index: Measures overall economic activity and predicts future economic trends. Source: Conference Board.
15. Building Permits (Mil. of Units, saar): Measures the number of new residential building permits issued. Source: Census Bureau.
16. Housing Starts (Mil. of Units, saar): Measures the number of new residential construction projects that have begun. Source: Census Bureau.
17. New Home Sales (Mil. of Units, saar): Measures the number of newly constructed homes sold. Source: Census Bureau.
18. SA: Seasonally adjusted.
19. SAAR: Seasonally adjusted annual rate.

Market Indices & Indicators:

1. S&P 500: A market-capitalization-weighted index of 500 leading publicly traded companies in the U.S., widely regarded as one of the best gauges of large U.S. stocks and the stock market overall.
2. Dow Jones 30: Also known as the Dow Jones Industrial Average, it tracks the share price performance of 30 large, publicly traded U.S. companies, serving as a barometer of the stock market and economy.
3. NASDAQ: The world's first electronic stock exchange, primarily listing technology giants and operating 29 markets globally.
4. Russell 1000 Growth: Measures the performance of large-cap growth segment of the U.S. equity universe, including companies with higher price-to-book ratios and growth metrics.
5. Russell 1000 Value: Measures the performance of large-cap value segment of the U.S. equity universe, including companies with lower price-to-book ratios and growth metrics.
6. Russell 2000: A market index composed of 2,000 small-cap companies, widely used as a benchmark for small-cap mutual funds.
7. Wilshire 5000: A market-capitalization-weighted index capturing the performance of all American stocks actively traded in the U.S., representing the broadest measure of the U.S. stock market.
8. MSCI EAFE Index: An equity index capturing large and mid-cap representation across developed markets countries around the world, excluding the U.S. and Canada.
9. MSCI Emerging Market Index: Captures large and mid-cap representation across emerging markets countries, covering approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.
10. VIX: The CBOE Volatility Index measures the market's expectations for volatility over the coming 30 days,

often referred to as the «fear gauge.»

11. FTSE NAREIT All Equity REITs: Measures the performance of all publicly traded equity real estate investment trusts (REITs) listed in the U.S., excluding mortgage REITs.
12. S&P U.S. Aggregate Bond Index: Represents the performance of the U.S. investment-grade bond market, including government, corporate, mortgage-backed, and asset-backed securities.
13. 3-Month T-bill Yield (%): The yield on U.S. Treasury bills with a maturity of three months, reflecting short-term interest rates.
14. 10-Year Treasury Yield (%): The yield on U.S. Treasury bonds with a maturity of ten years, reflecting long-term interest rates.
15. 10Y-2Y Treasury Spread (%): The difference between the yields on 10-year and 2-year U.S. Treasury bonds, often used as an indicator of economic expectations.
16. WTI Crude (\$/bbl): The price per barrel of West Texas Intermediate crude oil, a benchmark for U.S. oil prices.
17. Gold (\$/Troy Oz): The price per troy ounce of gold, a standard measure for gold prices.
18. Bitcoin: A decentralized digital currency without a central bank or single administrator, which can be sent from user to user on the peer-to-peer bitcoin network.

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The Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) is a price-weighted index composed of 30 widely traded blue-chip U.S. common stocks. The S&P 500 is a market-cap weighted index composed of the common stocks of 500 leading companies in leading industries of the U.S. economy. The NASDAQ Composite Index is a market-value weighted index of all common stocks listed on the NASDAQ stock exchange.

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