



Hi,

Stocks posted solid gains last week, buoyed by robust economic data and constructive comments from Fed officials.

The Standard & Poor's 500 Index rose 3.93 percent, while the Nasdaq Composite gained 5.29 percent. The Dow Jones Industrial Average lagged a bit, picking up 2.94 percent. The MSCI EAFE Index, which tracks developed overseas stock markets, powered ahead by 4.31 percent.^{1,2}

Upbeat Economic News

Three critical economic data points gave investors what they were looking for: wholesale inflation, consumer prices, and retail sales.

Both the Producer Price Index and the Consumer Price Index rose less than expected in July, reinforcing a picture of cooling inflation. The July retail sales report on Thursday was stronger than expected, which added more fuel to the week-long rally.^{3,4,5}

Market action slowed down on the week's final trading day, with positive consumer sentiment gains countered only by a drop in housing starts.

It was the S&P 500's best weekly gain of the year so far and the best since November of 2023. The gains helped erase losses from earlier in the month, when "carry trades" news from Japan unsettled investors.^{6,7}

MARKET INSIGHTS

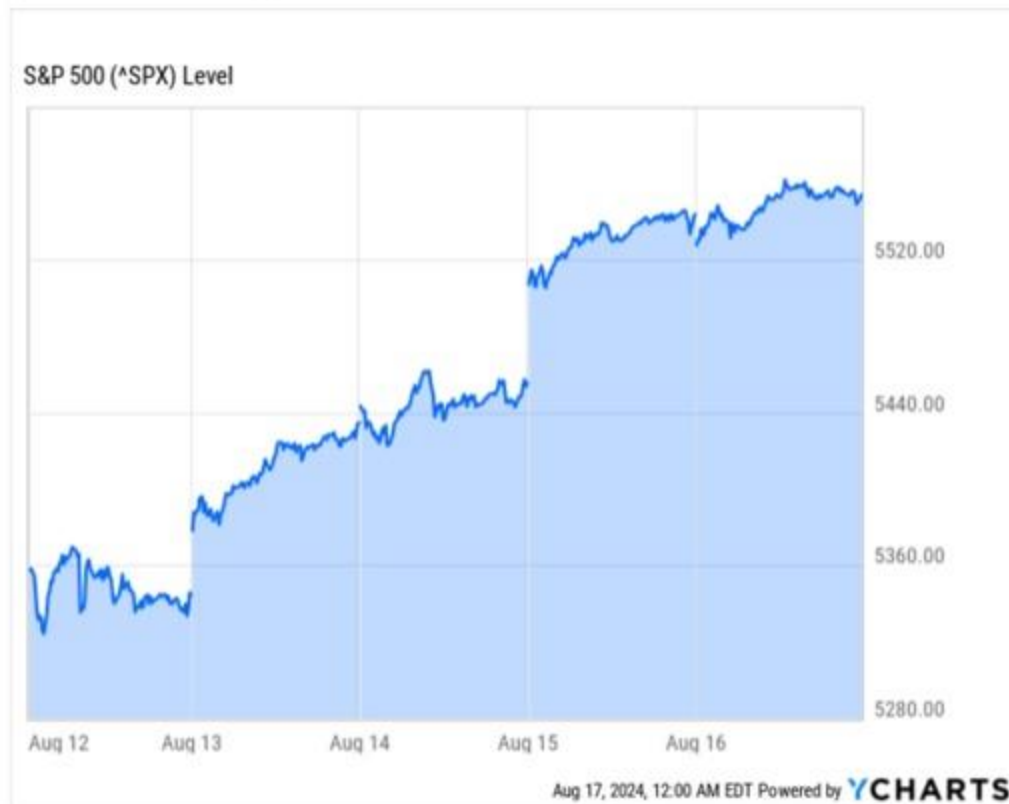


Weekly Market Insights (WMI)

Major Index Return Summary

Name	1M TR	YTD TR	1Y TR	5Yr TR
<u>Dow Jones Industrial Average</u>	0.97%	8.83%	18.44%	75.88%
<u>MSCI EAFE</u>	-2.19%	7.40%	15.03%	51.79%
<u>Nasdaq Composite</u>	-4.69%	17.73%	30.08%	135.9%
<u>S&P 500</u>	-1.46%	17.22%	26.78%	111.1%

S&P 500 Daily Close



10-Year Note Review

Source: YCharts.com, August 17, 2024. Weekly performance is measured from Monday, August 12, to Friday, August 16. TR = total return for the index, which includes any dividends as well as any other cash distributions during the period. Treasury note yield is expressed in basis points.

Double Assist

Last week's market rally saw assists from two places: economic data and constructive Fed comments.

On Thursday, Atlanta Fed President Raphael Bostic said he had "a lot more confidence that inflation's sustainably on its way to 2%," citing steady drops in CPI. And St. Louis Fed President Alberto Musalem said, "the time may be nearing when an adjustment (to the Fed Funds Rate) may be appropriate."

This Week: Key Economic Data

Monday: Leading Indicators.

Wednesday: FOMC Meeting Minutes.

Thursday: Jackson Hole Economic Symposium. Jobless Claims. Existing Home Sales.

Friday: Jackson Hole Economic Symposium. New Home Sales. Fed Chair Jerome Powell speaks.

Source: Investors Business Daily - Econoday economic calendar; August 16, 2024

The Econoday economic calendar lists upcoming U.S. economic data releases (including key economic indicators), Federal Reserve policy meetings, and speaking engagements of Federal Reserve officials. The content is developed from sources believed to be providing accurate information. The forecasts or forward-looking statements are based on assumptions and may not materialize. The forecasts also are subject to revision.

This Week: Companies Reporting Earnings

Monday: Palo Alto Networks, Inc. (PANW)

Tuesday: Lowe's Companies, Inc. (LOW)

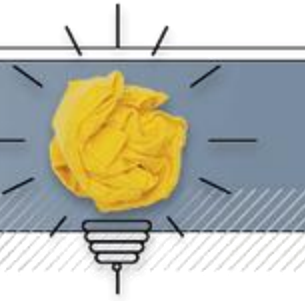
Wednesday: The TJX Companies, Inc. (TJX), Analog Devices, Inc. (ADI)

Thursday: Intuit Inc. (INTU)

Source: Zacks, August 16, 2024

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT



"Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier."

- Mother Teresa

TAX TIP



Who Qualifies for the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit?

Let's outline who the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) defines as a qualifying person under this care credit:

- A taxpayer's dependent who is under the age of 13 when the care is provided.
- A taxpayer's spouse who is physically or mentally unable to care for themselves and lived with the taxpayer for more than half the year.

In addition to spouses and dependents, the credit may also cover someone who is mentally or physically unable to care for themselves and lived with the taxpayer for six months; this is the case if that person was the taxpayer's

dependent or if they would have been the taxpayer's dependent except for one of the following:

- The qualifying person received a gross income of \$4,700 or more.
- The qualifying person filed a joint return.

If filing jointly, the taxpayer or spouse could be claimed as a dependent on someone else's return.

**This information is not intended to be a substitute for specific, individualized tax advice. We suggest that you discuss your specific tax issues with a qualified tax professional.*

Tip adapted from IRS.gov⁹



What Are Essential Oils?

You've likely heard about the many potential benefits of essential oils, but what exactly are essential oils?

Essential oils are compounds extracted from plants, obtained through distillation or cold pressing. The best essential oils are pure, with no other chemicals added. In addition to using essential oils in a diffuser as aromatherapy, you can apply them topically. Inhaling the aromas from essential oils may stimulate areas of your limbic system, which is a part of your brain that plays a role in emotions, behaviors, sense of smell, and long-term memory.

Tip adapted from Healthline¹⁰

WEEKLY RIDDLE



It stands higher than any tree, yet it seemingly takes forever to grow, and you can't see its roots. You won't have to shimmy up any trunk to reach its top. What is it?

Last week's riddle: There are three cups of flour on a counter and you take one away. How many cups of flour do you have now? Answer: You have one cup of flour, as you have taken one away.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK





*Zabriskie Point in Death Valley National Park
Death Valley, California, United States*

Footnotes and Sources

1. The Wall Street Journal, August 16, 2024

2. Investing.com, August 16, 2024

3. The Wall Street Journal, August 13, 2024
4. The Wall Street Journal, August 14, 2024
5. The Wall Street Journal, August 15, 2024
6. The Wall Street Journal, August 16, 2024
7. CNBC.com, August 16, 2024
8. The Wall Street Journal, August 15, 2024
9. IRS.gov, May 8, 2024
10. Healthline, May 8, 2024



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The Dow Jones Industrial Average is an unmanaged index that is generally considered representative of large-capitalization companies on the U.S. stock market. Nasdaq Composite is an index of the common stocks and similar securities listed on the NASDAQ stock market and is considered a broad indicator of the performance of technology and growth companies. The MSCI EAFE Index was created by Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) and serves as a benchmark of the performance of major international equity markets, as represented by 21 major MSCI indexes from Europe, Australia, and Southeast Asia. The S&P 500 Composite Index is an unmanaged group of securities that are considered to be representative of the stock market in general.

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