



WEEKLY ECONOMIC UPDATE

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The Week on Wall Street

Stock benchmarks retreated during the first week of the second-quarter earnings season. As some big names shared quarterly results, investors seemed more interested in what might happen at the Federal Reserve's upcoming policy meeting.

For the week, the S&P 500 declined 1.23%. The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 0.65%, and the Nasdaq Composite, 1.18%. International stocks, measured by the week-over-week performance of the MSCI EAFE index, were down 0.79%.

Weekly Tip

Beware of altering your investment mix in response to anxieties or short-term market fluctuations.

Remember your time horizon and big-picture goals.

Weekly Quote

"If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we should find in each man's life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility."

-HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

Weekly Riddle

I'm a word that's hardly there. Take away my start, and I'm an herbal flair. What am I?

LAST WEEK'S RIDDLE:
Marking mortal privation,
when firmly in place. An
enduring summation,
inscribed on my face. What
am I?

ANSWER: A tombstone.



WILL WALL STREET'S EXPECTATIONS BE MET?

Thursday, Federal Reserve Bank of New York President John Williams noted that Fed policymakers could proactively adjust interest rates and take "preventative measures" to ward off a potential slowdown. A New York Fed spokesperson later said that Williams' comments were "academic" and did not concern "potential policy actions." Still, Fed Vice President Richard Clarida made similar comments last week, expressing the view that Fed officials "don't have to wait until things get bad to have a dramatic series of rate cuts."

Two other Fed officials – Esther George and Eric Rosengren – have publicly stated that they are not in favor of a cut.



	Treasury	Close	Week	Y-T-D
USA	10-Year Note	2.05%	-0.07%	-0.64%

Sources: The Wall Street Journal, July 19, 2019; Treasury.gov, July 19, 2019
The market indexes discussed are unmanaged and generally considered representative of their respective markets. Individuals cannot directly invest in unmanaged indexes. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Weekly performance for the Dow Jones Industrial Average, Standard & Poor's 500 index, and NASDAQ Composite is measured from the close of trading on Friday, July 12 to the Friday, July 19 close. Weekly performance for the MSCI-EAFE is measured from the Friday, July 12 open to the Thursday, July 18

HOUSEHOLDS BOUGHT MORE LAST MONTH

Retail sales were up 0.4% in June, according to the Department of Commerce. Consumer purchases account for more than two-thirds of America's gross domestic product, and data like this may rebut some assertions that the economy is losing steam.

Traders still expect the Federal Reserve to make a rate cut at the end of this month, even with low unemployment, solid consumer spending, and stocks near record peaks. Ordinarily, the Fed lowers interest rates to try to stimulate business growth and investment when the economy lags. After ten years without a recession, its new challenge is to make appropriate moves to ward off such a slowdown.



FINAL THOUGHT

About 25% of S&P 500 companies report earnings this week. In addition, the federal government will present its first snapshot of the economy's second-quarter performance.