

In this week's recap: an impressive Q2 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) reading, a consumer sentiment dip, a falloff in home buying, and the end of a long stock market correction.

Weekly Economic Update

Presented by Fulcrum Financial Group July 30, 2018

FIRST ESTIMATE OF Q2 GDP: 4.1%

Not since the third quarter of 2014 has the economy grown at such a pace. In its report released Friday, the Bureau of Economic Analysis noted 4.0% growth in consumer outlays during the quarter, a 7.3% improvement in business spending, and 3.5% more federal government spending. The BEA also revised the first-quarter GDP number up 0.2% to 2.2%.¹

CONSUMER SENTIMENT FALLS TO A 6-MONTH LOW

The University of Michigan's final July consumer sentiment index came in at 97.9, 0.8 points higher than its preliminary reading earlier in the month, but 0.3 points below its final June mark. This minor month-over-month descent left the gauge at its lowest level since January.²

HOME SALES RETREAT

Existing home purchases slowed 0.6% in June, and new home buying weakened 5.3%. June was the third straight month to see a pullback in resales, according to the National Association of Realtors, and existing home sales were down 2.2%, year-over-year, as the first half of 2018 ended. In its monthly report, the Census Bureau noted that new home sales are up 6.9% YTD.³

STOCKS PULL OUT OF CORRECTION MODE

On Wednesday, the S&P 500 – the Wall Street index that the financial media typically uses as shorthand for the broad stock market – exited its longest correction in nearly 34 years by settling at 2,846.07. (A correction is defined as a descent of at least 10% from an index's peak close; an index recovers from a correction when it climbs 10% above a closing low.) S&P 500 gained 0.61% for the week, finishing Friday at 2,818.82. The Dow Industrials bettered that,

adding 1.57% in five days to reach 25,451.06 at Friday's closing bell. Losing 1.06% for the week, the Nasdaq Composite declined to 7,737.42.^{4,5}

TIP OF THE WEEK



*It is better to **create an emergency fund with gradual amounts from your paycheck** than with a lump sum taken from an investment account. Retirement savings will not grow and compound if they are drawn down early.*

THIS WEEK

On Monday, the NAR presents its June pending home sales index, and Acadia Healthcare, AK Steel, Bloomin' Brands, Booz Allen Hamilton, Caterpillar, CNA Financial, Denny's, KBR, Kemper, Loews, Logitech, Nautilus, Nutrisystem, Rent-A-Center, Seagate Technology, and Transocean offer earnings news. | Tuesday, June personal spending data emerges, along with the June PCE price index, the Conference Board's latest consumer confidence index, and earnings from Anadarko Petroleum, Apple, Archer Daniels Midland, Baidu, BP, Charter Communications, Container Store, Credit Suisse, Cummings, Extra Space Storage, Fidelity National, Fortis, Fresh Del Monte Produce, Frontier Communications, Genworth, Huntsman, Hyatt Hotels, Pandora Media, Pfizer, Procter & Gamble, Ralph Lauren, Sony, Unisys, Vulcan Materials, WestJet, and William Lyon Homes. | On Wednesday, the Federal Reserve issues its latest policy statement, ADP puts out its latest payrolls report, the Institute for Supply Management unveils its June manufacturing PMI, and earnings arrive from Alamo Group, Allstate, AMC Entertainment, AmeriGas, Arcelor Mittal, AutoNation, Chesapeake Energy, Cirrus Logic, Diebold Nixdorf, Energizer Holdings, Express Scripts, Fitbit, Garmin, Hanesbrands, Herbalife, Humana, Macerich, Marathon Oil, MetLife, Molson Coors, Pitney Bowes, Prudential Financial, Public Storage, Sprint, Square, Taylor Morrison, Tesla, TripAdvisor, U.S. Steel, Valvoline, Voya Financial, Wyndham Hotels & Resorts, and Zynga. | Thursday's earnings roll call includes Activision Blizzard, Aetna, AMC Networks, AIG, Avon, Blue Apron, CBRE Group, CBS, Cigna, Clorox, DowDuPont, Duke Energy, Fluor, GoDaddy, GoPro, Icahn

Enterprises, Kellogg, MGM Resorts, Motorola Solutions, Parker Hannifin, Pinnacle Foods, RE/MAX Holdings, Shake Shack, Spectra Energy, Symantec, Take-Two Interactive, Teva Pharmaceutical, Western Union, Wingstop, and Yum! Brands. | A new employment report from the Department of Labor appears Friday, plus ISM’s June non-manufacturing PMI and earnings from Kraft Heinz.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”

AESOP

% CHANGE	Y-T-D	1-YR CHG	5-YR AVG	10-YR AVG
DJIA	2.96	16.59	12.72	12.86
NASDAQ	12.08	21.38	22.83	24.17
S&P 500	5.43	14.03	13.33	12.84

REAL YIELD	7/27 RATE	1 YR AGO	5 YRS AGO	10 YRS AGO
10 YR TIPS	0.84	0.49	0.43	1.70

Sources: wsj.com, bigcharts.com, treasury.gov - 7/27/18^{5,6,7,8}

Indices are unmanaged, do not incur fees or expenses, and cannot be invested into directly. These returns do not include dividends.
 10-year TIPS real yield = projected return at maturity given expected inflation.

THE WEEKLY RIDDLE



What can you feel but never touch, hear but never see?

LAST WEEK'S RIDDLE: Scott has math 4 times a week. If he has math at 8:00 Monday, 9:00 on Tuesday and Wednesday, and 8:00 on Friday, when does he have math on Thursday?

ANSWER: Scott does not have math on Thursday, as he already has math at the four other times.

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Sarah



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