

The Dispatch



S&P 500		Dow Jones Industrial Avg.		Nasdaq Composite	
1-Month	+5.4%	1-Month	+2.3%	1-Month	+8.3%
QTD	+14.1%	QTD	+8.5%	QTD	+21.7%
YTD	+8.7%	YTD	+4.6%	YTD	+13.3%

As of 5/21/26*

MARKET SNAPSHOT

The U.S. economy has held its footing in 2026, growing at roughly 2% as consumers continue spending and businesses invest in technology and infrastructure. Inflation has been easing from its post-tariff highs, though it remains modestly above the Federal Reserve's 2% target. The Fed has kept interest rates steady, watching closely for signs that the trend will hold.

Stock markets have had a strong year overall, bouncing back sharply from a brief dip in early spring driven by global uncertainty and bond market volatility. The tech-heavy Nasdaq has led the way, lifted by continued excitement around artificial intelligence. The S&P 500 has recovered well and sits near all-time highs, while the Dow has climbed more modestly, reflecting its mix of traditional industrial and consumer companies.

The biggest headline in recent weeks has been rising bond yields, the 30-year Treasury briefly touched its highest level in nearly two decades. Higher yields can slow borrowing and put some pressure on stock valuations, which is why markets have been a bit choppy. That said, corporate earnings have been solid, and investor sentiment remains constructive heading into summer.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

If you've checked your portfolio recently and noticed some day-to-day ups and downs, that's a normal part of how markets work - especially when bond yields are moving and headlines are loud. Your portfolio is built for the long run, not for any single week or month. The same principles that helped investors weather 2022's rate shock and the 2025 tariff scare are working in your favor right now: diversification, discipline, and a plan tied to your actual goals. If anything is keeping you up at night, or if your circumstances have changed, that's always a good reason to connect with your advisor. We're here for exactly those moments.

ONE THING WORTH KNOWING

The 30-year U.S. Treasury yield recently touched 5.19% - its highest reading in nearly 19 years. For most of the 2010s, that same yield hovered between 2% and 3%. What it means practically is that the U.S. government is now paying significantly more to borrow over the long term, and that ripples into mortgage rates, corporate borrowing costs, and how investors price stocks. It's not necessarily cause for alarm, yields have been rising gradually for years as the economy normalized after historically low rates, but it is a meaningful shift worth understanding.