



JBC Companies

E M P O W E R I N G O P P O R T U N I T Y

EMPOWERING INSIGHTS

A SEASON FOR PERSPECTIVE

MAY 2026



As your clients move further into the second quarter of the year, many continue to navigate a market environment shaped by uncertainty, shifting economic data, and changing interest rate expectations. While headlines can create anxiety, history often reminds investors that long-term success is typically built through discipline, perspective, and a clear strategy rather than reactionary decisions.

At JBC Companies, we believe one of the greatest advantages your clients can have is clarity. Financial planning is not simply about reacting to the markets of the moment—it is about aligning clients' resources with their long-term goals, values, and vision for the future.

This season serves as an important reminder that wealth is rarely built overnight. Intentional decisions, consistency, patience, and thoughtful stewardship can help clients build wealth steadily over time.



MARKET PERSPECTIVE

Recent market activity has reflected ongoing conversations surrounding inflation, interest rates, consumer spending, and economic growth. Periods like this often create short-term volatility, but volatility remains a normal part of investing.

The most successful long-term investors are rarely those who perfectly predict every market movement. Instead, they are often those who remain committed to a well-designed plan through both strong and challenging seasons. A few important reminders during uncertain markets:

- ✓ *Diversification still matters.*
- ✓ *Emotional decision-making can create long-term damage.*
- ✓ *Time in the market is often more valuable than timing the market.*
- ✓ *Financial goals should guide investment decisions—not headlines.*



The team at JBC Companies continues to actively monitor market conditions and evaluate opportunities while remaining focused on long-term strategies for you and your clients.

MID-YEAR FINANCIAL CHECKUP

As the midpoint of the year approaches, now may be an excellent time for your clients to revisit key areas of their financial lives.

QUESTIONS WORTH ASKING

- ✓ *Are your clients still on track toward their retirement goals?*
- ✓ *Have there been major life changes that require planning updates?*
- ✓ *Are their estate documents current?*
- ✓ *Are they maximizing retirement account contributions?*
- ✓ *Do their investments still align with their risk tolerance and objectives?*
- ✓ *Have beneficiary designations been reviewed recently?*

Small adjustments made consistently over time can help create significant long-term impact for your clients.



PLANNING BEYOND INVESTMENTS

True financial planning goes beyond portfolio performance. At JBC Companies, financial confidence is built through a comprehensive approach that considers:

- ✓ *Retirement income planning*
- ✓ *Estate planning coordination*
- ✓ *Generational wealth transfer*
- ✓ *Legacy and charitable giving strategies*
- ✓ *Tax-efficient strategies*
- ✓ *Risk management*
- ✓ *Business succession planning*

Financial planning is ultimately about helping individuals and families live with greater clarity, confidence, and purpose.

A THOUGHT ON LEADERSHIP AND GROWTH

Growth rarely happens by accident. Whether in business, finances, relationships, or personal development, intentionality matters. The habits your clients practice consistently often shape the futures they eventually experience.

One of the most valuable disciplines in both leadership and investing is maintaining perspective during seasons of uncertainty. Patience, wisdom, and consistency are often quieter virtues, but they frequently help produce lasting results over time.



WE'RE HERE TO HELP

If your clients have experienced changes in their lives, goals, retirement timelines, businesses, or family situations, now may be a good time to encourage a planning conversation. Financial planning tends to work best when it evolves alongside clients' lives.

Thank you for the continued trust placed in JBC Companies.
It is a privilege to help serve your clients and their families with you.

With appreciation,

The JBC Companies Team

MARKET RECAP & COMMENTARY

April 2026 was a historic month for U.S. equities, as major indices staged their strongest monthly rallies in years. The S&P 500 surged 10.4%, its best performance since November 2020. The primary catalyst was an exceptional Q1 earnings season. Approximately 84% of S&P 500 companies exceeded EPS estimates, with earnings on track to grow over 27% year-over-year. Information Technology and Communication Services led the charge, fueled by a "Neocloud" revolution and historic returns in semiconductor ETFs. Energy and Utilities underperformed as oil prices receded following a mid-month ceasefire agreement between the U.S. and Iran. Markets successfully navigated extreme volatility. Fears of a broader Middle East conflict and a naval blockade of the Strait of Hormuz initially spiked oil prices to nearly \$100 per barrel. However, easing tensions and cooler-than-expected Producer Price Index (PPI) data, rising just 0.5% against a 1.1% forecast, sparked a rapid 16-day recovery. In May, investors will be watching momentum, with a few key events including:

- Fragile Iran ceasefire and naval security missions remain critical for global oil and market stability.
- The May 15 Fed leadership transition from Powell to Warsh. Markets seek clarity on rate-cut timelines as "sticky" inflation persists alongside potential shifts in central bank policy.
- Labor Market Stability: Focus will remain on the "low-hire, low-fire" environment and the May unemployment data.

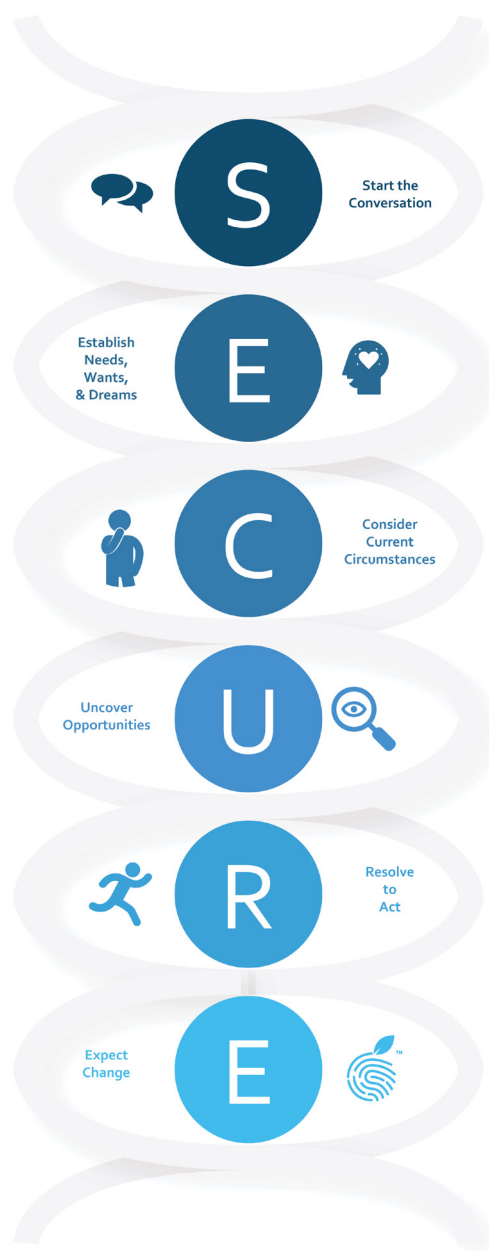
DISCLOSURES:

The S&P 500 is a capitalization-weighted index of 500 stocks designed to measure performance of the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries..

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