

The Market Week in Review

For Week Ending May 19, 2018

THE MARKETS

Major stock indices finished the week lower as uncertainty over trade negotiations between the U.S. and China have investors cautious. However, small-cap stocks posted weekly gains with the Russell 2000 rising over 1.00%. Interest rates jumped higher with the 10-year treasury yield rising 10 basis points to 3.07%. The spread between the 10-year treasury yield and the 2-year treasury yield widened by 11 basis points to 0.54%, yet still remains historically low. Gold prices dropped over 2.00% to \$1,292.70 per ounce, while crude oil prices increased over 1.00% to \$71.35 per barrel. The U.S. Dollar index rose to 93.67 from 92.56 the week prior.

Index	Started Week	Ended Week	Change	% Change	YTD %
DJIA	24,831.17	24,715.09	-116.08	-0.47%	-0.02%
Nasdaq	7,402.88	7,354.34	-48.54	-0.66%	6.53%
S&P 500	2,727.72	2,712.97	-14.75	-0.54%	1.47%
Russell 2000	1,606.79	1,626.63	19.84	1.23%	5.93%

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

- U.S. retail sales saw a moderate 0.3% increase in April, in line with expectations. This is the second straight rise in consumer spending, evidence that the economy has picked up after an underwhelming first quarter.
- Housing starts dropped 3.70% in April to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.29 million units. Building permits also dropped to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.35 million units, 1.80% lower than the month prior. However, single-family homes (which accounts for the majority of the housing market) had a 0.1% increase in starts and a 0.9% increase in permits.

Contact Us

• Our Website:
www.estatecounselors.com

• Our Email:
firm@estatecounselors.com

• Our Phone Number:
(262) 238-6996

• Our Address:
414 N. Main Street
Thiensville, WI 53092

- U.S. industrial production rose a solid 0.7% in April, slightly higher than expectations. The rise was largely attributed to a 1.0% increase in mining output and a 1.9% increase in utility output.
- Initial unemployment claims for the week ending May 12th dropped 11,000 to a total of 222,000. However, continuing unemployment claims for the week ending May 5th fell by a significant 87,000 to a total of 1.71 million.
- The Philly Fed Business Conditions Index rose to 34.4 in May, its highest level in a year. The index was mostly supported by a 22 point surge in new orders, allowing it to reach its 45-year high of 40.6.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“If the nation's economists were laid end to end, they would point in all directions.”

– Arthur H. Motley

We hope you have found the information in this week's market summary informative. If you would like to comment on any of the information found in this week's Market Week in Review please email us at firm@estatecounselors.com. If you would like to discuss how current market conditions could impact your investments, please feel free to call us at the number listed below.

Best regards,

Estate Counselors, LLC
414 N. Main Street
Thiensville, WI 53092
Phone (262) 238-6996
Fax (262) 238-6999
www.estatecounselors.com

Important Disclosures: The information and statistics in The Market Week in Review have been obtained from sources we believe to be reliable but are not guaranteed by us to be accurate or complete. Any and all earnings, projections, and estimates assume certain conditions and industry developments, which are subject to change. The opinions stated are those of Estate Counselors, LLC, but are not intended to be a substitute for personal investment advice. Services provided by Estate Counselors, LLC do not constitute legal services and are not being provided by Willms, S.C. law firm. Communications between Estate Counselors, LLC and its clients are therefore not covered by the attorney-client privilege, and as a result may be discoverable by third parties. All such communications are, however, covered by Estate Counselors, LLC's privacy policy, a copy of which is available on request. Please let us know if you would like to discontinue receiving it. Thank you.
