

Stocks Set New Highs as Investors Look Past Headlines & Focus on Fundamentals



Michael McDermott

Financial Advisor

phone: (838) 237-7206

email:

michael@cuwgroup.com

Connect with your advisor

- ✓ *Financial Planning*
- ✓ *Investment Management*
- ✓ *Annuities*
- ✓ *Retirement / 401(k) Advice*

Looking for help with your investments?

Visit:

trailnorth.com/resources/invest-

Monthly Market Summary

- The S&P 500 Index returned +2.7% in August and set a new high. Five of the eleven S&P 500 sectors traded higher, with four outperforming the broad index. Energy (+7.0%) led all sectors, followed by Technology (+6.2%) as the sector rebounded from a July selloff and Materials (+6.0%) as gold gained nearly +10%. Utilities (-4.8%) led to the downside, followed by Industrials (-2.6%) and Real Estate (-1.9%).
- Bonds traded higher despite Treasury yields rising throughout the month, with the U.S. Bond Aggregate returning +0.4%. Investment-grade corporate bonds modestly outperformed with a +0.5% total return, while high-yield gained +1.0%.
- International stocks traded higher in August. Developed markets gained +2.0% and underperformed the S&P 500, while emerging markets returned +3.4% and outperformed as international tech stocks rebounded alongside U.S. tech stocks.

Stocks Set New Highs Despite Interest Rates Rising Throughout the Month

Equity markets traded higher in August, with strength extending across most broad stock market indexes. The S&P 500, Dow Jones, Russell 2000, and equal-weight S&P 500 all set new all-time highs during the month, and the Nasdaq 100 approached its all-time high from June. The breadth of records was notable because the indexes capture very different parts of the stock market, from mega-cap tech stocks to small-cap stocks and the average S&P 500 company. Market leadership has shifted multiple times this year, alternating between periods of broad participation and concentration. August looked different, with strength spread across a wide range of companies and equity market segments.

The bond market offered a counterpoint to the strength in stocks. Treasury yields experienced broad upward pressure during August, with the 10-year yield climbing above 4.75%, the highest since January 2025, and the 30-year approaching 5.30%, its highest level since 2007. The rise in longer-term yields reflected several concerns, including persistent inflation, elevated government borrowing, and renewed uncertainty around energy prices. Near the end of the month, Fed Chair Kevin Warsh's Jackson Hole speech signaled that the Fed's next move could be a rate hike rather than a rate cut, which put further upward pressure on Treasury yields. Despite the rate volatility, corporate credit spreads remained relatively calm and sit near record lows, suggesting investors are more concerned about the path of interest rates than companies' ability to repay their debt.

Markets Learn to Live with Headline Volatility

Geopolitics have dominated headlines this year, but their impact has changed as the year progresses. Oil prices continue to move when Middle East developments alter the outlook for global energy supply. The difference is that investors appear less willing to treat each new headline as an economic shock. Earlier this year, the start of the conflict and disruption in the Strait of Hormuz caused oil prices to surge and contributed to a broad stock market selloff. Since then, investors have experienced several rounds of escalation and de-escalation. Oil still jumps on new developments, but markets are increasingly waiting for evidence that a headline will affect energy supply, inflation, and economic growth before reacting as dramatically as they did in March.

Artificial intelligence is the second dominant market theme. Investors continue to debate whether the large sums being spent on data centers, computer chips, power generation, and networking equipment will ultimately generate adequate returns, but the companies making those investments continue to move ahead. Nvidia's earnings report provided another indication that demand for AI infrastructure remains strong, with quarterly revenue more than doubling from a year ago. Spending plans across the industry continue to rise as companies race to add computing capacity and build the infrastructure needed to support AI. There are still questions about the eventual return on the hundreds of billions being spent, but the debate in financial markets has done little to slow the companies making the investments.

THIS MONTH IN NUMBERS

FIGURE 1

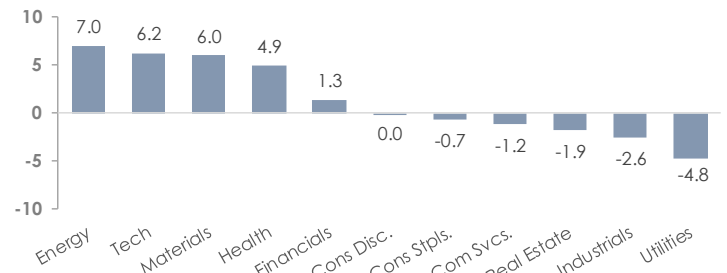
U.S. Style Returns (August in %)

	Value	Blend	Growth
Large	2.6	2.7	3.8
Mid	2.2	2.4	2.8
Small	0.9	1.5	2.1

Data Reflects Most Recently Available As of 8/31/2026

FIGURE 2

U.S. Sector Returns (August in %)



Data Reflects Most Recently Available As of 8/31/2026

FIGURE 3

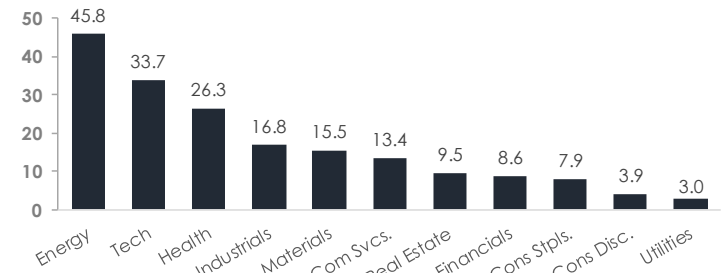
U.S. Style Returns (1-Year in %)

	Value	Blend	Growth
Large	30.5	20.4	10.9
Mid	25.3	18.5	-0.9
Small	30.7	27.1	23.8

Data Reflects Most Recently Available As of 8/31/2026

FIGURE 4

U.S. Sector Returns (1-Year in %)



Data Reflects Most Recently Available As of 8/31/2026

FIGURE 5

Market Data Center

Stocks	1 month	3 months	6 months	YTD	1 year	3 years
S&P 500	2.7%	1.7%	12.4%	13.1%	20.4%	77.3%
Dow Jones	2.2%	5.4%	10.2%	12.6%	19.5%	62.5%
Russell 2000	1.5%	2.1%	13.6%	20.6%	27.1%	62.9%
Russell 1000 Growth	3.8%	-3.8%	9.4%	4.1%	10.9%	77.7%
Russell 1000 Value	2.6%	8.9%	15.4%	23.8%	30.5%	72.8%
MSCI EAFE	2.0%	4.1%	3.8%	14.2%	22.2%	67.8%
MSCI EM	3.4%	-1.1%	8.3%	24.4%	39.7%	89.8%
NASDAQ 100	4.2%	-2.7%	18.4%	17.1%	26.6%	94.2%

Fixed Income	Yield	1 month	3 months	YTD	1 year	3 years
U.S. Aggregate	5.01%	0.4%	-0.7%	-0.3%	1.9%	12.8%
U.S. Corporates	5.44%	0.5%	-0.9%	-0.1%	2.2%	16.5%
Municipal Bonds	3.67%	0.0%	-0.9%	0.4%	4.2%	10.7%
High Yield Bonds	7.02%	1.0%	1.0%	2.6%	4.8%	27.5%

Key Rates	8/31/2026	7/31/2026	5/31/2026	2/28/2026	8/31/2025	8/31/2023
2 yr Treasury	4.34%	4.27%	4.00%	3.39%	3.61%	4.84%
10 yr Treasury	4.75%	4.71%	4.44%	3.96%	4.22%	4.09%
30 yr Treasury	5.24%	5.25%	4.98%	4.63%	4.92%	4.21%
30 yr Mortgage	6.71%	6.73%	6.63%	6.12%	6.62%	6.71%
Prime Rate	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	7.50%	8.50%

Data Reflects Most Recently Available As of 8/31/2026

	Dividend Yield	NTM P/E	P/B
S&P 500	0.98%	19.6x	5.2x
Dow Jones	1.37%	19.4x	5.5x
Russell 2000	0.90%	24.9x	2.1x
Russell 1000 Growth	0.35%	22.4x	11.6x
Russell 1000 Value	1.36%	17.7x	3.3x
MSCI EAFE	3.12%	15.4x	2.3x
MSCI EM	1.66%	10.2x	2.3x
NASDAQ 100	0.42%	22.3x	8.1x

Commodities	Level	1 month	YTD
Oil (WTI)	86.38	2.0%	50.4%
Gasoline	3.43	2.3%	97.4%
Natural Gas	2.93	6.7%	-6.3%
Propane	0.75	2.1%	17.1%
Ethanol	1.85	2.8%	11.8%
Gold	4,494	9.4%	3.5%
Silver	67.18	16.2%	-4.9%
Copper	6.56	2.0%	16.6%
Steel	1,207	1.3%	26.4%
Corn	5.38	15.8%	22.1%
Soybeans	13.06	10.2%	27.9%

Important Disclosures

Wealth management products and services are offered independently through Credit Union Wealth Group, LLC, an SEC registered investment advisor. Credit Union Wealth Group and TrailNorth Federal Credit Union are not affiliated. Products and services made available through Credit Union Wealth Group are not insured by NCUA or any other agency of the United States and are not deposits or obligations of nor guaranteed or insured by any credit union, credit union service organization, or credit union affiliate. These products are subject to investment risk, including the possible loss of the principal amount invested.

The information and opinions provided herein are provided as general market commentary only and are subject to change at any time without notice. This commentary may contain forward-looking statements that are subject to various risks and uncertainties. None of the events or outcomes mentioned here may come to pass, and actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied in these statements. No mention of a particular security, index, or other instrument in this report constitutes a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold that or any other security, nor does it constitute an opinion on the suitability of any security or index. The report is strictly an informational publication and has been prepared without regard to the particular investments and circumstances of the recipient.

Past performance does not guarantee or indicate future results. Any index performance mentioned is for illustrative purposes only and does not reflect any management fees, transaction costs, or expenses. Indexes are unmanaged, and one cannot invest directly in an index. Index performance does not represent the actual performance that would be achieved by investing in a fund.