

*In this week's recap: the major Wall Street equity indices see further June gains, oil investors react to tanker attacks, and retail sales improve.*

# Weekly Economic Update

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*Presented by Pat Baxter, Investment Advisor Representative June 17, 2019*

## THE WEEK ON WALL STREET

Stocks advanced for a second straight week. The S&P 500 benchmark rose 0.47%; the Nasdaq Composite, 0.70%; the Dow Jones Industrial Average, 0.41%. Overseas shares, as tracked by the MSCI EAFE developed markets index, added 0.20%.<sup>1-2</sup>

The market seemed to put its recent preoccupation with trade issues aside, with attention shifting to this week's Federal Reserve monetary policy meeting. Traders in futures markets now believe the Fed will make a rate cut in July, so its June policy statement will be of great interest.<sup>3</sup>

## OIL PRICES ROLLERCOASTER

Attacks on vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, the busy oil shipping channel, helped to push the price of West Texas Intermediate crude 2.2% higher Thursday, just a day after a 4% fall. Even so, WTI crude lost 2.7% in five days, closing Friday at \$52.51 on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Investors wondered at mid-week if tensions in the Persian Gulf region would soon impact oil output and transport. Looking beyond the short term, however, the International Energy Agency reduced its 2020 projection for global oil demand.<sup>4</sup>

## HOUSEHOLDS BOUGHT MORE IN MAY

Retail sales rose 0.5% last month, according to the Department of Commerce. Across the year ending in May, they advanced 3.2%. The previously announced 0.2% April retreat was revised into a 0.3% gain.

These numbers affirm strong household spending this spring. Consumer spending accounts for more than two-thirds of the nation's gross domestic product.<sup>5</sup>

## WHAT'S AHEAD

In terms of news, Wednesday offers what may prove to be the biggest economic event of the week: a Federal Reserve policy statement and press conference.

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#### TIP OF THE WEEK



*Some people take out personal **loans** to pay off high-interest credit card debts. For some, this is a worthwhile financial move – but it has potential **drawbacks**. It can feel like exchanging one debt for another, and the **conditions** or **behaviors** that created the original credit card debt may remain.*

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#### THE WEEK AHEAD: KEY ECONOMIC DATA

**Wednesday:** The Federal Reserve concludes a 2-day policy meeting, with Fed chair Jerome Powell addressing the media afterward.

**Friday:** The National Association of Realtors releases data on May existing home sales.

Source: Econoday / MarketWatch Calendar, June 14, 2019

The Econoday and MarketWatch economic calendars list upcoming U.S. economic data releases (including key economic indicators), Federal Reserve policy meetings, and speaking engagements of Federal Reserve officials. The content is developed from sources believed to be providing accurate information. The forecasts or forward-looking statements are based on assumptions and may not materialize. The forecasts also are subject to revision.

#### THE WEEK AHEAD: COMPANIES REPORTING EARNINGS

**Tuesday:** Jabil (JBL)

**Wednesday:** Kraft Heinz (KHC), Oracle (ORCL)

**Thursday:** Kroger (KR), Red Hat (RHT), Darden Restaurants (DRI)

**Friday:** CarMax (KMX)

Source: Zacks.com, June 14, 2019

Companies mentioned are for informational purposes only. It should not be considered a solicitation for the purchase or sale of the securities. Any investment should be consistent with your objectives, time frame, and risk tolerance. The return and

principal value of investments will fluctuate as market conditions change. When sold, investments may be worth more or less than their original cost. Companies may reschedule when they report earnings without notice.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

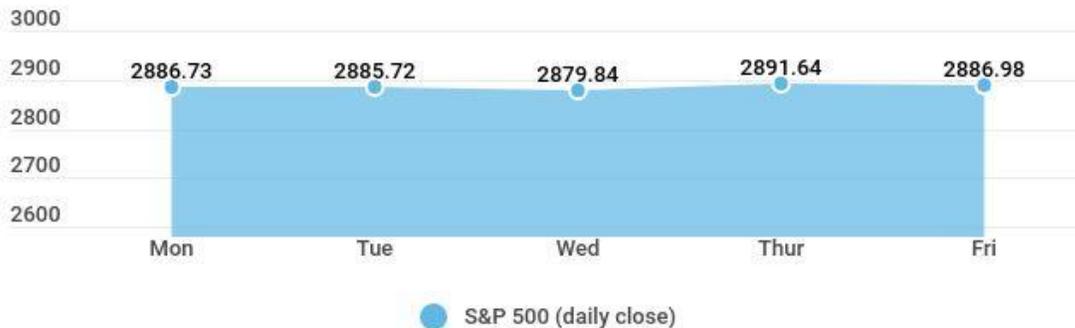


*"It's hard to beat a person who **never gives up.**"*

*BABE RUTH*

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Market Index	Close	Week	Y-T-D
DJIA	26,089.61	+0.41%	+11.84%
NASDAQ	7,796.66	+0.70%	+17.50%
MSCI-EAFE	1,879.37	+0.20%	+9.27%
S&P 500	2,886.98	+0.47%	+15.16%



	Treasury	Close	Week	Y-T-D
	10-Year Note	2.09%	0.00%	-0.60%

Sources: The Wall Street Journal, June 14, 2019, Treasury.gov, June 14, 2019

The market indexes discussed are unmanaged and generally considered representative of their respective markets. Individuals cannot directly invest in unmanaged indexes. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Weekly performance for the Dow Jones Industrial Average, Standard & Poor's 500 index, and NASDAQ Composite is measured from the close of trading on Friday, June 7 to the Friday, June 14 close. Weekly performance for the MSCI-EAFE is measured from the Friday, June 7 open to the Thursday, June 13 close. U.S. Treasury Notes are guaranteed by the federal government as to the timely payment of principal and interest. However, if you sell a Treasury Note prior to maturity, it may be worth more or less than the original price paid. Weekly and year-to-date 10-year Treasury note yield are expressed in basis points. International investments carry additional risks, which include differences in financial reporting standards, currency exchange rates, political risks unique to a specific country, foreign taxes and regulations, and the potential for illiquid markets. These factors may result in greater share price volatility.

THE WEEKLY RIDDLE



## *What is the worst vegetable to have on a ship?*

*LAST WEEK'S RIDDLE: What is taken before you can get it?*

*ANSWER: Your picture.*

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### **Know someone who could use information like this?**

Please feel free to send us their contact information via phone or email. (Don't worry – we'll request their permission before adding them to our mailing list.)

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#### CITATIONS:

1 - [wsj.com/market-data](http://wsj.com/market-data) [6/14/19]

2 - [quotes.wsj.com/index/XX/990300/historical-prices](http://quotes.wsj.com/index/XX/990300/historical-prices) [6/14/19]

3 - [cnbc.com/2019/06/14/stock-market-middle-east-tensions-weigh-china-data-in-focus.html](http://cnbc.com/2019/06/14/stock-market-middle-east-tensions-weigh-china-data-in-focus.html) [6/14/19]

4 - [marketwatch.com/story/oil-prices-steady-as-market-keeps-watch-on-strait-of-hormuz-after-tanker-attacks-2019-06-14](http://marketwatch.com/story/oil-prices-steady-as-market-keeps-watch-on-strait-of-hormuz-after-tanker-attacks-2019-06-14) [6/14/19]

5 - [cnbc.com/2019/06/14/retail-sales-may-2019.html](http://cnbc.com/2019/06/14/retail-sales-may-2019.html) [6/14/19]

#### CHART CITATIONS:

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[treasury.gov/resource-center/data-chart-center/interest-rates/Pages/TextView.aspx?data=yieldAll](http://treasury.gov/resource-center/data-chart-center/interest-rates/Pages/TextView.aspx?data=yieldAll) [6/14/19]

