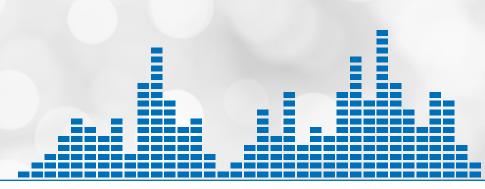


Stocks End quarter at a Record High



JULY 2025

In a volatile first half of 2025, the S&P 500 Index, an index comprised of the 500 largest U.S. companies by market capitalization, increased 6% and ended June at a record high. The Dow Jones Industrial Average, a long-standing index of 30 stocks, and the technology-laden Nasdaq also rose approximately 6% over the same period.

Investor sentiment weakened amid news headlines questioning if tariffs could affect economic growth as well as the sustainability of tech companies' massive artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure spending. After the S&P 500 reached a record high in February, it fell sharply when new tariffs were announced in early April. As many of the stricter tariffs were paused or rolled back, markets swiftly rebounded. In fact, the S&P 500 rallied 24% from its April bottom to its closing high in only 89 days—the quickest recovery ever among past declines of at least 15%.1

However, reflecting investors' nervousness about growth in the turbulent six-month period, some defensive areas of the market gained more than cyclical or growth-oriented areas. For example, Utilities performed strongly, increasing 9% on a year-to-date basis, while the bottom-performing sector was Consumer Discretionary, losing nearly 4%. In general, large stocks outperformed their small-cap counterparts so far this year.

Several factors support a bullish outlook for U.S. stocks and the economy. Many U.S. companies have had robust earnings growth. The Federal Reserve is expected to cut interest rates later in 2025, which should provide favorable borrowing conditions for consumers and spur economic growth. The Consumer Price Index reflects relatively low inflation, at 2.4% over the 12 months ending in May,² and the unemployment rate remains at a low 4.2% as of May 2025, signaling a resilient labor market.³ These dynamics bolster confidence in continued economic and market strength.

As we approach the second half of 2025, stocks may continue to experience volatility. Despite these challenges, fundamentals remain healthy, and staying invested through market fluctuations and maintaining a diversified portfolio is key to achieving your long-term financial goals. As always, your Buska Financial Advisor is available to discuss any changes in your financial situation.

Contact Us

Wausau Office 510 N 17th Avenue Suite A Wausau, WI 54401 (715) 355-4445 Eau Claire Office 3621 E Hamilton Ave. Eau Claire, WI 54701 (715) 318-4540

retirewithbuska.com

1 The Wall Street Journal, 6/27/25. 2 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index. 3 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Situation.

Advisory services are offered through Buska Wealth Management, LLC, an SEC Investment Advisor. Insurance products and services are offered through Buska Retirement Solutions, Inc., an affiliated company. Buska Retirement Solutions, Inc. and Buska Wealth Management, LLC are not affiliated or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any government agency. All written content is for information purposes only. It is not intended to provide any tax or legal advice or provide the basis for any financial decisions. The information contained herein is not an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy the securities, products or services mentioned, and no offers or sales will be made in jurisdictions in which the offer or sale of these securities, products or services is not qualified or otherwise exempt from regulation. The information contained in this material have been derived from sources believed to be reliable, but is not guaranteed as to accuracy and completeness and does not purport to be a complete analysis of the materials discussed.

Tax Services offered through Legacy Tax Solutions, LLC, an affiliated company.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Copyright © 2025 Buska Wealth Management, LLC, All rights reserved.