Monthly Client Update | September 1, 2026

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

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

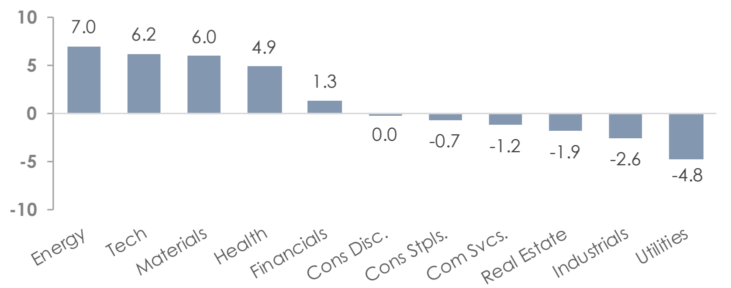
U.S. Style Returns (August in %)

	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

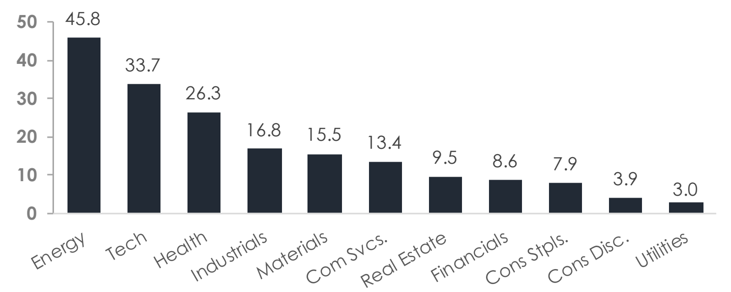
U.S. Style Returns (1-Year in %)

	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	Dividend Yield	NTM P/E	P/B
S&P 500	2.7%	1.7%	12.4%	13.1%	20.4%	77.3%	0.98%	19.6x	5.2x
Dow Jones	2.2%	5.4%	10.2%	12.6%	19.5%	62.5%	1.37%	19.4x	5.5x
Russell 2000	1.5%	2.1%	13.6%	20.6%	27.1%	62.9%	0.90%	24.9x	2.1x
Russell 1000 Growth	3.8%	-3.8%	9.4%	4.1%	10.9%	77.7%	0.35%	22.4x	11.6x
Russell 1000 Value	2.6%	8.9%	15.4%	23.8%	30.5%	72.8%	1.36%	17.7x	3.3x
MSCI EAFE	2.0%	4.1%	3.8%	14.2%	22.2%	67.8%	3.12%	15.4x	2.3x
MSCI EM	3.4%	-1.1%	8.3%	24.4%	39.7%	89.8%	1.66%	10.2x	2.3x
NASDAQ 100	4.2%	-2.7%	18.4%	17.1%	26.6%	94.2%	0.42%	22.3x	8.1x

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%

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%

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

Important Disclosures

PUREfi Wealth, LLC ("PUREfi") is a registered investment adviser with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Any reference to the terms “registered investment adviser” or “registered” does not imply that PUREfi or any person associated with PUREfi has achieved a certain level of skill or training. A copy of PUREfi’s current written disclosure statement discussing our advisory services and fees is available for your review upon request.

The information provided is for informational purposes only and advisers should determine for themselves whether a particular service or product is suitable for their clients’ investment needs.

The information contained herein should not be construed as an attempt to sell or solicit any products or services of PUREfi or any investment strategy, nor should it be construed as legal, accounting, tax or other professional advice. This material is proprietary and may not be reproduced, transferred, modified or distributed in any form without prior written permission from PUREfi. PUREfi reserves the right, at any time and without notice, to amend, or cease publication of the information contained herein.

Certain information contained herein has been obtained from third-party sources and has not been independently verified. It is made available on an "as is" basis without warranty. Any strategies or investment programs described in this presentation are provided for educational purposes only and are not necessarily indicative of securities offered for sale or private placement offerings available to any investor. The views expressed in the referenced materials are subject to change based on market and other conditions. This document contains certain statements that may be deemed forward-looking statements. Please note that any such statements are not guarantees of any future performance; actual results or developments may differ materially from those projected. Any projections, market outlooks, or estimates are based upon certain assumptions and should not be construed as indicative of actual events that will occur.

Historical performance results for investment indices and/or product benchmarks have been provided for general comparison purposes only, and do not include the charges that might be incurred in an actual portfolio, such as transaction and/or custodial charges, investment management fees, or the impact of taxes, the incurrence of which would have the effect of decreasing historical performance results