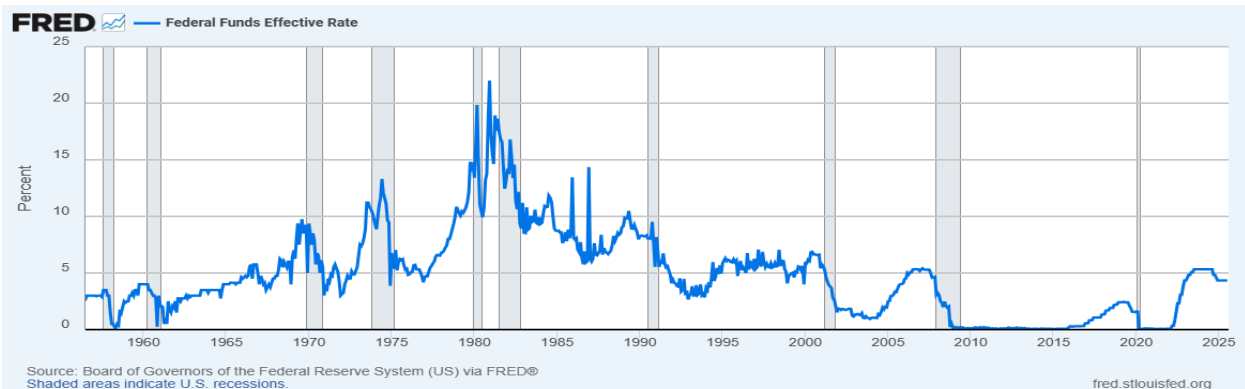


**Update on Your Portfolio:** During the month, client portfolios continued to participate in the broad gains of the U.S. market. International ETF stock holdings were pared to take profits earned in those asset classes. Investment in a gold ETF was trimmed, also to take gains and due to a technical indicator signaling the end of an uptrend (but not the start of a downtrend). Holdings in buffered ETFs, designed to participate in market gains but with guardrails, as well as high-yield corporate bond funds, also contributed gains and are expected to mute volatility in overall returns. We remain confident in client allocations.

**What You Need to Know.** July was a productive month for investors as U.S. stocks extended their rally off the lows recorded in April. Trade deal optimism has broadly propped up investor sentiment while economic data provided a mostly positive backdrop, supporting a view of resilience. Corporations began reporting second quarter results and generally easily beat (low) expectations, while the enthusiasm for the growth prospects generated out of AI is broadening to large stocks outside of big tech.

The Federal Reserve, led by Chair Jay Powell, met again in July and it was another snoozer. The central bank made no change to their interest rates for a fifth meeting in a row. The Fed is wrestling with the question of whether tariffs will lead to a persistent inflation problem and they are taking a “wait-and-see” approach to that issue. The chart below shows the federal funds rate over the past 50 years and you can see that rates are at levels last seen in 2007.



**Thank you.** We reiterate our shared goals of growing wealth and guarding the future. We do this by looking at risk and return both strategically and protectively. Strategically, through good offense, we combine different asset classes to create an allocation with great prospects for delivering the growth you seek while guarding against unnecessary risk. Protectively, through great defense, we incorporate data to flexibly respond to market information and to help guard against losses.



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