MOOSECALLS

Global Financial News & Analysis

MAY.08.2026 through MAY.17.2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: MAY.08.2026

This weekly global investment newsletter tracks investment strategy performance, including buy-and-hold and market timing using ETFs as proxies for indices.

GLOBAL MARKETS: WEEK'S ACTION— Risk-ON (2)

THIS WEEK saw a 2ND consecutive Risk-ON week. US Stocks UP, Foreign Stocks UP, Bonds UP and Gold UP.

ASIA PLUS JAPAN LEADS EQUITIES HIGHER

A fragile de-escalation in Iran this week sent oil prices (WTI @$94) lower (-6.4%), though high headline risk remains. That and a soaring semiconductor (+11%) sector sent equities flying, especially in tech-heavy Asia-ex-Japan (+6.7%) and Japan (+4.4%). With less tech exposure, Europe (+1.0%) and Latina America (+0.6%) lagged but still advanced. In the US, large-caps (+2.4%) led small-caps (+1.8%) solidly higher. US long bond prices (+0.7%) bounced after last week's death-cross but remain bleak. The US ten-year yield dipped 2 bps to 4.36% and the three-month yield rose 2 ticks to 3.60%, steepening the yield curve to 76 bps. The Dollar fell (-0.3%) for a second week helping Gold (+2.5%) more than offset last week's loss, but not commodities in general (-1.7%). No changes to the models this week.

GLOBAL OUTLOOK POSITIVE (4 of 4). War has the Baltic Dry Index, the 10-year US yield, and oil and copper prices all higher over the last 13 weeks.

INFLATION: Oil off 6% and below $100. Global inflation per Fed Check warrants tightening. Productivity (+0.8%) down more than expected in Q1. Unit labor costs coming down but still up more than 2% in Q1.

US ECONOMIC DATA: Good. Payroll data, home sales, construction solid; confidence waning. Recession chance a year out minimal. Financial system health per SOFR-T spread, sound. GDP Now estimate (Q2) up: 3.7%.

FEDERAL RESERVE: The Fed's balance sheet stands at $6.71 trillion, with the Fed Funds Rate at 3.50-3.75%. Next Fed meeting (6/17). Kevin Warsh to replace Jerome Powell May 15. Iran war has spiked inflation fears. Fed Check (79) remains hawkish as of 1/30/2026 (market price of hard assets going up faster than the market price of paper promises.) No December Fed rate change (80%) outweighs chances of a cut (10%) or a hike (10%).

INVESTMENT STRATEGIES: No change. The TSP model holds International equities (I Fund). USES holds US small caps (IWM), and the GLOBAL Index model holds Emerging Markets (EEM).

GLOBAL OUTLOOK: POSITIVE (4 of 4)

Indications are positive for the global economy.

An international shipping measure and proxy for current global trade, **the Baltic Dry Index rose to 2978 this week, and is 55% up after 13 weeks, a positive signal.** (After opening 2026 at 1882, BDI is still well below its 2010 peak @4640.)

Meanwhile, another proxy for world activity, **WTI oil price fell to 95.42 this week, but is up 50% in the latest quarter, a positive** economic signal. (Oil remains below its 2022 peak ($130), but well above the 2020 Covid low ($10.)

Our proxy for global construction, **copper ($6.30) is up this week, and 7% higher this quarter, a positive** signal.

Domestically, **10Y US bond yields slipped to 4.36% this week but are up 9 bps over the past 13 weeks, a positive** bet on the largest world economy.

GLOBAL RANKING: Latin America Top Region

Index Moose ETF Rankings through MAY.17.2026

THIS WEEK saw a 2ND consecutive Risk-ON week. US Stocks UP, Foreign Stocks UP, Bonds UP and Gold UP.

Latin America leads in regional global momentum since 4/9/2026, having gapped higher and triggered a buy-stop this week.

ILF leads in overall confidence, but not technical strength or PMO. Though Latin equities (ILF) are the #1 regional choice, ILF is very volatile and unsuitable for intermediate term modeling, so we don't follow it formally. The best alternative at the moment is emerging markets (EEM), which includes overbought Asia Pacific ex-Japan with the highest regional technical and PMO scores (and similar volatility).

** Working off a stop-loss. Assets are ranked by CI, the "confidence index". It combines the relative strength (rank), and technical strength (TS). The Trend is based on the TS reading.*

	CI%	FUND	TS+	READ	RSI	PMO	+/-	condition
1	**100%**	**Latin America (ILF)**	78%	bullish	50.6	1.02	positive	deteriorating
2	72%	Gold Bullion (GLD)	43%	neutral	52.1	-0.76	negative	improving
3	64%	Asia Pacific ex-Japan (AAXJ)	**116%**	**very bullish**	**74.0**	**3.72**	**positive**	**improving**
4	48%	Japan (EWJ)	90%	very bullish	64.4	1.34	positive	improving
5	41%	US Small-caps (IWM)	111%	very bullish	66.2	2.81	positive	improving
6	32%	Europe (IEV)	72%	bullish	55.4	0.92	positive	improving
7	22%	US Large-caps (SPY)	101%	very bullish	75.5	2.28	positive	improving
8	5%	Short US Income (SGOV)	88%	very bullish	80.7	0.06	positive	improving
9	-12%	Very Long US Bonds (EDV)	6%	very bearish	49.4	-0.55	negative	deteriorating
		CI%	TS+	READ	RSI		PMO	+/-
		US Dollar	64%	bullish	44.0		negative	deteriorating
		Commodities	116%	very bullish	56.8		positive	deteriorating
		US Oil	144%	very bullish	51.6		positive	deteriorating
		Ryan/CRB	79%	HIKE RATES				
		Volatility	17.2	reduced fear				

AAXJ is the best performing region YTD, and over 2, 13, 26, and 52 weeks. ILF has begun to fade in the last 13 weeks as Asia-Pacific shows renewed signs of life. Emerging markets continue to outperform.

YTD	FUND	05/08/26	05/01/26	13wk	26wk	39wk	52wk	3Y
26.2%	Asia Pacific ex-Japan (AAXJ)	**6.7%**	**1.0%**	**18.1%**	**26.7%**	41.9%	**60.4%**	**77.5%**
19.6%	Latin America (ILF)	0.6%	-1.7%	2.5%	22.1%	**47.8%**	54.5%	50.7%
15.4%	US Small-caps (IWM)	1.8%	1.0%	9.3%	16.9%	30.3%	43.0%	45.3%
14.2%	Japan (EWJ)	4.4%	1.1%	5.4%	18.8%	30.8%	41.2%	56.4%
9.5%	Gold Bullion (GLD)	2.5%	-2.3%	-4.4%	14.2%	38.5%	41.4%	103.5%
8.2%	US Large-caps (SPY)	2.4%	0.9%	7.8%	8.6%	17.7%	32.2%	49.6%
5.5%	Europe (IEV)	1.0%	0.1%	0.2%	9.9%	17.4%	23.7%	42.6%
0.1%	Short US Income (SGOV)	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	1.2%	2.3%	3.4%	8.5%
-1.5%	Very Long US Bonds (EDV)	0.0%	-1.3%	0.4%	-4.9%	0.1%	1.7%	0.6%

Global Economy through MAY.17.2026

GLOBAL RANKING: TECHNICAL OVERVIEW

#1 LATIN AMERICA Again Holds Short-Term Support: ILF rose 0.6% this week, after losing 1.7% last week. That left it bullish and ranked 1 globally and more attractive than cash. The index is up 2.5% for the quarter (13 weeks), and up 54.5% for the year (52 weeks).

#2 GOLD Rebounds Off Prior Stop-Loss: GLD rose 2.5% this week, after losing 2.3% last week. That left it neutral and ranked 2 globally and more attractive than cash. The index is down 4.4% for the quarter (13 weeks), but up 41.4% for the year (52 weeks).

#3 ASIA-PACIFIC Posts Another High: AAXJ rose 6.7% this week, after gaining 1.0% last week. That left it very bullish and ranked 3 globally and more attractive than cash. The index is up 18.1% for the quarter (13 weeks), and up 60.4% for the year (52 weeks).

#4 JAPAN Gaps Toward Previous High: EWJ rose 4.4% this week, after gaining 1.1% last week. That left it very bullish and ranked 4 globally and more attractive than cash. The index is up 5.4% for the quarter (13 weeks), and up 41.2% for the year (52 weeks).

#5 US SMALL-CAPS Post New High: IWM rose 1.8% this week, after gaining 1.0% last week. That left it very bullish and ranked 5 globally and more attractive than cash. The index is up 9.3% for the quarter (13 weeks), and up 43.0% for the year (52 weeks).

#6 EUROPE's Much Ado: IEV rose 1.0% this week, after gaining 0.1% last week. That left it bullish and ranked 6 globally and more attractive than cash. The index is up 0.2% for the quarter (13 weeks), and up 23.7% for the year (52 weeks).

#7 US LARGE-CAPS Post Another New High: SPY rose 2.4% this week, after gaining 0.9% last week. That left it very bullish and ranked 7 globally and more attractive than cash. The index is up 7.8% for the quarter (13 weeks), and up 32.2% for the year (52 weeks).

#8 CASH and Interest Rates: SGOV rose 0.1% this week, after gaining 0.1% last week. That left cash ranked 8 globally. The index is up 0.3% for the quarter (13 weeks), and up 3.4% for the year (52 weeks). The US ten-year yield dipped 2 bps to 4.36% and the three-month yield rose 2 ticks to 3.60%, steepening the yield curve to 76 bps.

#9 LONG US TREASURIES Get Death-Cross Bounce: EDV rose 0.7% this week, after losing 1.3% last week. That left it very bearish and ranked #9 globally and less attractive than cash. Long bonds are up 0.4% for the quarter (13 weeks) and up 1.7% for the year (52 weeks) as yields have risen.

COMMODITIES Fill The Gap: A very bullish CRB fell 1.7% this week after gaining 3.2% last week. That left commodity prices up 24.0% for the quarter (13 weeks), and up 46.4% for the year (52 weeks).

Crude Oil Below $100: Meanwhile, oil prices (USO) fell 6.4% this week, following last week's gain of 7.9%. Crude is currently very bullish. That leaves US oil prices up 68.0% for the quarter (13 weeks), and up 110.3% for the year (52 weeks).

US DOLLAR Weakens Further: UUP fell 0.3% this week, after losing 0.3% last week. It is currently bullish—up 0.7% for the quarter (13 weeks), but down 0.6% in the last year (52 weeks).

US ECONOMY: GOV'T DATA

PAYROLL, HOME SALES, CONSTRUCTION SOLID

US Economy: week of MAY.08.2026

THIS WEEK: GOOD

THE GOOD: WEEKLY Initial Claims (200K) below expectations. WEEKLY Continuing Claims (1766K) down from prior. April ADP employment change 109K beat expectations and previous. April nonfarm payrolls (115K) lagged prior but beat consensus. Unemployment rate 4.3% low and steady. Average workweek up a tick (34.3 hours). Hourly earnings (+0.2%) up in line. March factory orders (+1.5%) better than expected and previous. March trade deficit (-$60.3B) in line with consensus deeper than previous. February and March new home sales (635K and 682K) both beat previous. February and March construction spending both better than previous.

THE BAD: WEEKLY EIA Crude Oil Inventories (-2.31M) draw lessens as oil prices fall. May Michigan Consumer Sentiment (48.2) below prior and consensus. April S&P Global U.S. Services PMI – Final (51.0) down from previous. April ISM non-manufacturing index (53.6) down from consensus and prior. March JOLTS job openings (6.886M) below previous.

THE UGLY: Nothing.

US ECONOMY: INFLATION DATA

Q2 Productivity Weakens, Q2 Labor Costs Cool

US Inflation: week of MAY.08.2026

MAR CPI (+0.9%) hot month-to-month
MAR Core CPI (+0.2%) cooler than expected month-to-month.
MAR PPI (+0.5%) cooler than forecast, in line with prior. (1yr = 4.0%.)
MAR Core PPI (+0.1%) cooler than forecast and prior. (1yr = 3.4%.)
MAR Import Prices (+0.8%) warm, cooler than prior. (1yr = 2.1%.)
MAR Export Prices (+1.6%) warm, but cooler than previous. (1yr = 5.6%.)
MAR PCE Prices (+0.7%) hotter than forecast and prior. (1yr 3.5% up.)
MAR PCE Prices – Core (+0.3%) warm but down from previous. (1yr 3.2% up.)
Q1 GDP-Adv. (+2.0%) below consensus, above prior.
Q1 Chain Deflator-Adv. (+3.6%) hotter than prior and target.
Q1 Employment Cost Index (0.9%) hotter than expected and previous.
Q1 Productivity – Prelim (+0.8%) weaker than prior and consensus
Q1 Unit Labor Costs – Warm but cooler (+2.3%) than previous and consensus.
Q4 Current Account Balance (-$190.7B) deficit an improvement over previous quarter and forecasts.

US ECONOMY: RECESSION & GDP INDICATORS

NY FED: MINIMAL RECESSION THREAT DOWN SLIGHTLY

US recession chances one year out: 17.62% (APR 2027) per NY Fed. (Recession expected if chance > 30%.) As of May 2025, the Fed model's chance of recession fell below 30%, the threshold signaling a recession one year out. It remains there. The risk of recession was the highest in 40 years in May 2024, but it was avoided amid three years of massive Federal deficit spending and historic data falsification at the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

ATLANTA FED: US Q2 GDP NOW at 3.7%

Atlanta Fed Current GDP Model (5/1/2026): Q2 Annualized 3.7% (Last week: Q2 Annualized +3.5%)

US ECONOMY: FEDERAL RESERVE

FED BALANCE SHEET ($6.71T); FFR @ (3.50-3.75%)

Federal Reserve: week of MAY.08.2026

After over-tightening, in Q1 2020 the Fed took its fed funds rate to zero with two Covid emergency rate cuts, where it remained until March 2022. Simultaneously, the Fed doubled its balance sheet to $9 trillion in monetary stimulus (QE), exceeding measures taken during the global financial crisis in 2008, including commercial paper funding as well as unlimited purchases of treasuries, mortgages, municipals, and junk bonds.

The Fed plan was to roll 95 billion per month in maturing bonds off its 8.965T balance sheet beginning 6/1/22. It had succeeded in reducing it to 8.34T by mid-March 2023, when the bank crisis required an expansion (back to 8.73T). After about two and a half years, the Fed announced it would end quantitative tightening and stop reducing its balance sheet as of December 1, 2025, which it has.

Currently, the Fed's balance sheet is 6.71T, (up +.01T) in the latest week (5/1/2026). The Fed Funds Rate was lowered 25 BPS to 3.50-3.75% at the DEC10 FOMC meeting. No change at the January, March or April FOMC meeting.

The next FOMC meeting is June 17. Jerome Powell will exit as Fed chair next week (May 15) but plans to stay on as governor. Kevin Warsh is expected to replace him now that criminal charges against Powell have been dropped and the case referred to GAO. Warsh is reputedly inclined to reduce the Fed balance sheet and be more hawkish. Meanwhile, futures make a 2026 rate cut unlikely, and despite the recent Iranian oil price spike, odds of a December Fed rate hike are miniscule and fading.

The Fed Check at 79% turned hawkish as of 1/30/2026 (tighter monetary policy needed to combat global inflation pressures.) The US 2-Year yield at 3.889%, however, is now 26 bps HIGHER than the Fed overnight rate (3.625%), implying near-term US domestic conditions make another Fed rate cut increasingly questionable.

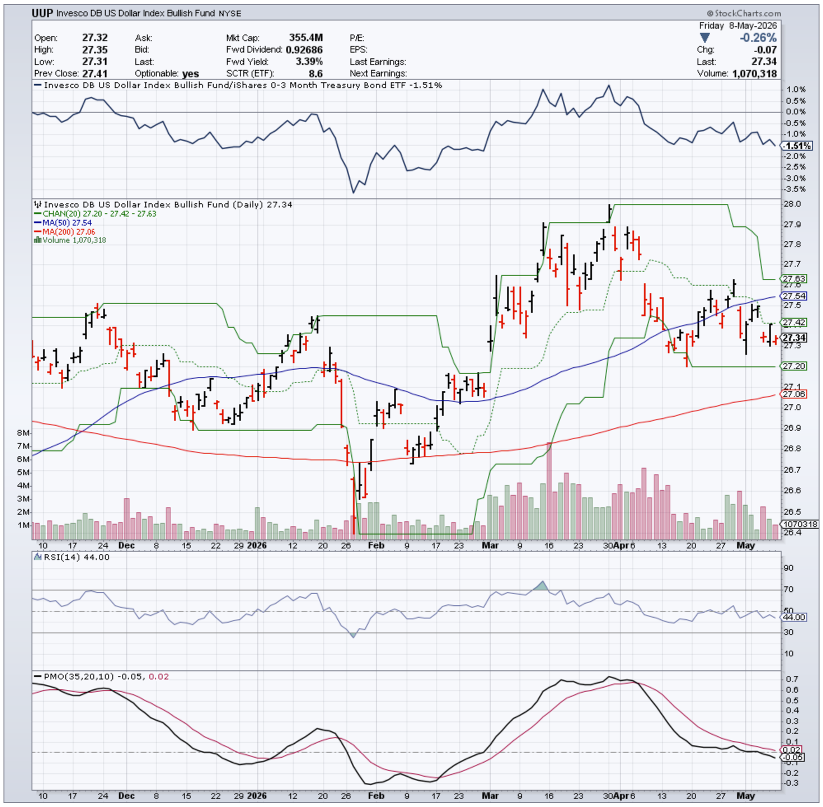
The 3m-10y yield curve steepened to a slope of 76 bps this week, as the 10-year US Treasury yield dipped to 4.36%, and the 3-month cash yield rose to 3.60%. Intermediate term, the curve was inverted from 11/22 through 12/24 but has been positive since. The 30d-10y median yield (3.98%) is just above its 200-day (3.97%) leaving our interest rate signal for stocks neutral.

3-month SOFR yield at 3.60% is down this week, while the 3-month T-bill at 3.60% is up. That puts the SOFR/T-Bill (SOF-T) spread at 0 basis points, below its 200-day average of 19 bps. **A falling SOF-T spread signals a safer, more confident financial system.**

FED OVERALL THIS WEEK: NEUTRAL (0) LW: NEUTRAL (0)
LATEST Rate Posture: (No Change) NEUTRAL (0)
LATEST Balance Sheet (down .01T) NEUTRAL, (0),
Fed Speak NEUTRAL (0),
Fed Check HAWKISH (-1)

Latest FOMC Assessment (2026.4.29) Recent indicators suggest that economic activity has been expanding at a solid pace. Job gains have remained low, on average, and the unemployment rate has been little changed in recent months. Inflation is elevated, in part reflecting the recent increase in global energy prices. The Committee seeks to achieve maximum employment and inflation at the rate of 2 percent over the longer run. Developments in the Middle East are contributing to a high level of uncertainty about the economic outlook. The Committee is attentive to the risks to both sides of its dual mandate. In support of its goals, the Committee decided to maintain the target range for the federal funds rate at 3-1/2 to 3-3/4 percent. In considering the extent and timing of additional adjustments to the target range for the federal funds rate, the Committee will carefully assess incoming data, the evolving outlook, and the balance of risks. The Committee is strongly committed to supporting maximum employment and returning inflation to its 2 percent objective.
In assessing the appropriate stance of monetary policy, the Committee will continue to monitor the implications of incoming information for the economic outlook. The Committee would be prepared to adjust the stance of monetary policy as appropriate if risks emerge that could impede the attainment of the Committee's goals. The Committee's assessments will consider a wide range of information, including readings on labor market conditions, inflation pressures and inflation expectations, and financial and international developments. **(Next FOMC meeting: 2026.6.17)**

US Currency Market:
US DOLLAR Weakens Further



US Dollar: UUP fell 0.3% this week, after losing 0.3% last week. It is currently bullish—up 0.7% for the quarter (13 weeks), but down 0.6% in the last year (52 weeks). At $27.34, UUP is below its short-term (50-day) average and above its intermediate-term (200-day) average. Momentum in the greenback is negative but deteriorating. RSI14 @ 44.0 is neither overbought nor oversold. As for other major currencies vs the Dollar, the Australian $ (FXA) is very bullish, and up 0.6% this week. The British Pound (FXB) is bullish, and up 0.1%. The Canadian Dollar (FXC) is very bullish, and up 0.5%. The Euro Dollar (FXE) is neutral, and down 0.1%. The Swiss Franc (FXF) is bullish, and up 0.4%, and the Japanese Yen (FXY) is neutral and up 1.5%.

The Dollar has settled back to where it was when the US/Iran conflict began. The greenback peaked when oil spiked to $120 as war broke has retreated since as oil has dipped below $100 this week. Along with war, which traditionally makes the Dollar a safe haven, US tariffs remain a positive for the greenback despite the last Supreme Court ruling. As the straits of Hormuz reopen oil prices will revert to more normal and lower levels, and the demand for Dollars will fall.

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Carry-trade This Week

Moose guidance is based on US Dollar denominated ETF proxies. Investors seeking to maximize profits when investing in offshore securities may wish to incorporate a "carry-trade" currency strategy into the decision, (Basically, if a foreign currency is weakening (bearish) against the Dollar, using a Dollar-denominated ETF to invest in that country's assets will outperform using a hedged vehicle. If, however, the foreign currency is bullish vs. the Dollar, the Dollar-denominated investment will underperform. In the event of a weak Dollar there may be currency-hedged foreign equity ETFs available at least for Europe (HEDJ) and Japan (DXJ) that will outperform.

Description	READ	US $ investors in Foreign Assets
Australian $ (FXA)	very bullish	US$ Investors underperform hedged
British Pound (FXB)	bullish	US$ Investors underperform hedged
Canadian Dollar (FXC)	very bullish	US$ Investors underperform hedged
Euro Dollar (FXE)	neutral	US$ investors match hedged (IEV>HEDJ)
Swiss Franc (FXF)	bullish	US$ investors underperform hedged
Japanese Yen (FXY)	neutral	US$ investors match hedged (EWJ<DXJ)
US Dollar	bullish	

#9 LONG US TREASURIES Get Death-Cross Bounce

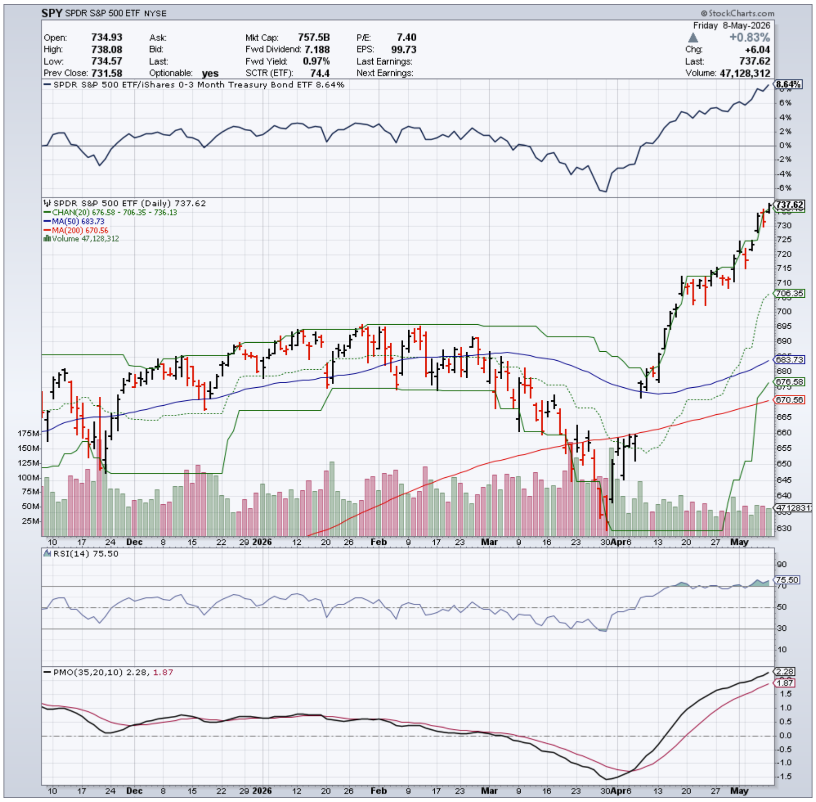
US Long Treasury Bonds: EDV rose 0.7% this week, after losing 1.3% last week. That left it very bearish and ranked #9 globally and less attractive than cash. Long bonds are up 0.4% for the quarter (13 weeks) and up 1.7% for the year (52 weeks) as yields have risen. The US ten-year yield dipped 2 bps to 4.36% and the three-month yield rose 2 ticks to 3.60%, steepening the yield curve to 76 bps. That reduces the odds of a recession in late 2026. At $64.03, EDV is below its short-term (50-day) average and below its intermediate-term (200-day) average. Momentum (PMO) is negative and deteriorating, and its 14-day RSI of 49.4 means EDV is neither overbought nor oversold. As for currency effects, a cheaper Dollar this week makes Dollar-denominated assets less attractive. Over time, a bullish Dollar improves return to Dollar investors in US assets.

Bond prices broke down last week, as EDV's 50-day dipped below its 200-day in a classic "death-cross". It bounced this week but failed to overcome near-term resistance. The bond market bounce came despite decent US economic data and as oil prices dipped to $95 amid shaky optimism in Iran. Still, the once certain odds of a 2026 Fed rate cut by December have morphed into an 80% probability of no change. That despite two extended government shutdowns intended to weaken economic performance prior to midterm elections.

ETF Breakdown: EDV-- A market value-weighted index of high-duration, zero-coupon 25-year US Treasury securities. **Countries:** US (100%). **Top Sectors:** Government (93%), Cash (4%), ETFs (2%), Energy minerals (1%).

(Charts reprinted with permission from stockcharts.com.)

US Equity Market:
#7 US LARGE-CAPS Post Another New High



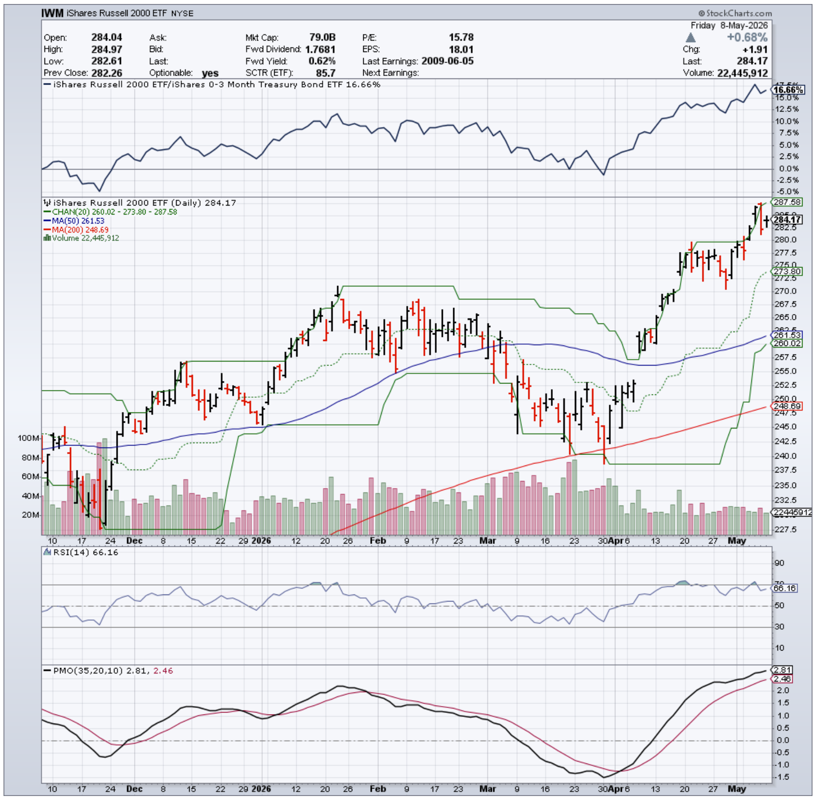
US Large-Cap Stocks: SPY rose 2.4% this week, after gaining 0.9% last week. That left it very bullish and ranked 7 globally and more attractive than cash. The index is up 7.8% for the quarter (13 weeks), and up 32.2% for the year (52 weeks). At $737.62, SPY is above its short-term (50-day) average and above its intermediate-term (200-day) average. Its momentum (PMO) is positive and improving, and its 14-day RSI of 75.5 means SPY is overbought. As for currency effects, a cheaper Dollar this week makes Dollar-denominated assets less attractive. Over time, a bullish Dollar improves return to Dollar investors in US assets.

A fragile de-escalation in Iran this week sent oil prices (WTI @$94) lower (-6.4%), though high headline risk remains. US equities loved it, and assisted by a surge in technology names, the rally continued. SPY is very bullish and its PMO positive and improving. Solid earnings have added to the optimism. In the US, uncertainty over the impact of AI on job growth, and uncertainty over the future (revised) US tariff regime remains. The larger issues of taxation, fiscal spending, and the debt ceiling, however, are settled, and the new tax regime is kicking in now. The Federal deficit remains outsized, although tariffs are reducing it slightly. All of that is bullish for stocks. On the downside, SPY is overbought, and given several gaps up of late, future volatility and weakness appear imminent.

ETF Breakdown: EDV-- A market value-weighted index of high-duration, zero-coupon 25-year US Treasury securities. **Countries:** US (100%). **Top Sectors:** Government (93%), Cash (4%), ETFs (2%), Energy minerals (1%).

(Charts reprinted with permission from stockcharts.com.)

US Equity Market:
#5 US SMALL-CAPS Post New High



US Small-Cap Stocks: IWM rose 1.8% this week, after gaining 1.0% last week. That left it very bullish and ranked 5 globally and more attractive than cash. The index is up 9.3% for the quarter (13 weeks), and up 43.0% for the year (52 weeks). At $284.17, IWM is above its short-term (50-day) average and above its intermediate-term (200-day) average. Its momentum (PMO) is positive and improving, and its 14-day RSI of 66.2 means IWM is neither overbought nor oversold. As for currency effects, a cheaper Dollar this week makes Dollar-denominated assets less attractive. Over time, a bullish Dollar improves return to Dollar investors in US assets.

A fragile de-escalation in Iran this week sent oil prices (WTI @$94) lower (-6.4%), though high headline risk remains. US equities loved it, and assisted by a surge in technology names, the stock rally continued. IWM is very bullish and its PMO positive and improving. Solid earnings have added to the optimism. In the US, uncertainty over the impact of AI on job growth, and uncertainty over the future (revised) US tariff regime remains. The larger issues of taxation, fiscal spending, and the debt ceiling, however, are settled, and the new tax regime is kicking in now. The Federal deficit remains outsized, although tariffs are reducing it slightly. All of that is bullish for stocks. On the downside, IWM is on the verge of overbought, and given several gaps up of late, future volatility and weakness appear imminent.

ETF Breakdown: IWM-- A cap-weighted index fund. **Countries:** US (99%). **Top Sectors:** Finance (22%), Health Technology (12%), Technology Services (12%), Producer manufacturing (8%), Electronic Technology (7%), Industrial Services (4%), Energy Minerals (4%), Commercial services (4%), Consumer services (3%), Process industries (3%).

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US Equity Market Top Sectors:
Semiconductors, Technology, Bitcoin Surge; Energy, Gold Fade

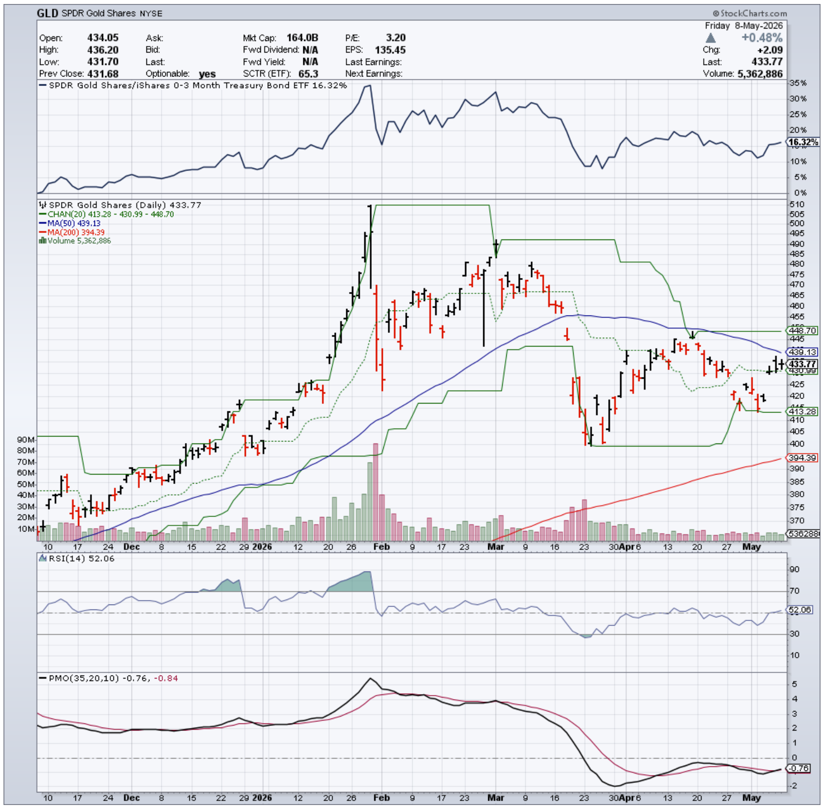
The table below ranks 27 primary US sector ETFs in order of relative momentum this week. Sectors ranked higher than cash are bullish (**buy** or **hold**), and those ranked below cash are bearish (**sell or avoid**). **This week's** US equity sector momentum is improved: positive; broad-- 70% of our sectors are buy or hold (L70%) with **BUYS at 44%** (L44%) and **HOLDS steady at 26% (L26%). Avoids are 30%**. Top candidates this week: Semiconductors, US Tech, Industrials are overbought. Await pull-back.

CI%	Description	ROC	TS	READ	RSI		PMO	+/-	Condition
100%	US Oil Equip & Serv (IEZ)	59%	118%	very bullish	50.2		3.19	positive	deteriorating
100%	Semiconductors (SMH)	65%	137%	very bullish	80.9	**OB**	**8.09**	**positive**	**improving**
54%	Gold Miners (GDX)	22%	35%	bearish	53.6		-1.11	negative	deteriorating
51%	Oil/Gas Expl & Prod (XOP)	28%	105%	very bullish	43.0		1.50	positive	deteriorating
37%	US Pharmaceuticals (IHE)	26%	**73%**	bullish	50.0		0.41	positive	improving
31%	Biotechnology (IBB)	19%	47%	neutral	49.2		0.18	positive	deteriorating
22%	US Technology (IYW)	16%	114%	very bullish	84.3	**OB**	**5.09**	**positive**	**improving**
21%	Transports (IYT)	10%	73%	bullish	54.8		1.41	positive	deteriorating
21%	Industrials (XLI)	12%	87%	very bullish	53.5		1.05	positive	**improving**
21%	Select Materials (XLB)	14%	87%	very bullish	52.5		0.75	positive	deteriorating
19%	US Aerospace & Def (PPA)	8%	42%	neutral	46.9		-1.06	negative	deteriorating
14%	Utilities (XLU)	6%	67%	bullish	37.9		-0.05	negative	deteriorating
13%	**S&P 500 (SPY)**	**9%**	**101%**	**very bullish**	**75.3**	**OB**	**2.25**	**positive**	**improving**
8%	Food & Beverage (PBJ)	6%	85%	very bullish	43.9		0.26	positive	deteriorating
8%	KB Banks (KBE)	5%	82%	very bullish	55.4		1.44	positive	deteriorating
6%	Consumer Staples (XLP)	6%	86%	very bullish	56.7		0.20	positive	improving
5%	REITs (VNQ)	4%	102%	very bullish	60.5		1.37	positive	improving
5%	Telecommunications (FCOM)	2%	79%	bullish	60.3		1.43	positive	improving
-1%	KBW Insurance (IAK)	-2%	18%	very bearish	44.4		0.04	positive	deteriorating
-1%	Media Portfolio (XLC)	-3%	66%	bullish	55.2		0.59	positive	improving
-3%	**CASH**	**-2%**	**11%**	**very bearish**	**44.8**		**-0.10**	**negative**	**deteriorating**
-5%	US Health Providers (IHF)	-1%	95%	very bullish	77.6	**OB**	2.76	positive	improving
-5%	Capital Markets (KCE)	-3%	67%	bullish	64.0		1.93	positive	improving
-6%	Retail (XRT)	-4%	37%	bearish	51.7		0.63	positive	deteriorating
-10%	Bitcoin (BLOK)	-6%	85%	very bullish	66.1		4.61	positive	improving
-14%	DJ Internet Index (FDN)	-7%	76%	bullish	64.2		2.58	positive	improving
-15%	Home Construction (XHB)	-9%	19%	very bearish	45.4		0.02	positive	deteriorating
-27%	US Medical Devices (IHI)	-19%	0%	very bearish	29.1	**OS**	-2.99	negative	deteriorating
-38%	Software (XSW)	-21%	38%	bearish	66.1		1.88	positive	improving

US Sector Top Performers: YTD (5/08/26)

YTD	Description	THIS wk	LAST wk	2 wks	13wk	26wk	39wk	52wk	3Y
57.3%	**Semiconductors (SMH)**	**11.1%**	**0.7%**	**11.8%**	**40.4%**	**54.2%**	**96.0%**	**158.8%**	169.8%
45.2%	US Oil Equip & Serv (IEZ)	**-5.3%**	1.8%	-3.6%	18.9%	47.2%	74.8%	92.5%	41.7%
30.8%	Oil/Gas Expl & Prod (XOP)	**-6.5%**	5.1%	-1.4%	17.8%	31.7%	35.0%	48.8%	15.7%
19.5%	US Technology (IYW)	**8.0%**	1.8%	9.7%	20.3%	13.0%	31.8%	62.8%	85.6%
13.8%	Select Materials (XLB)	0.5%	-1.1%	-0.6%	4.7%	18.8%	18.6%	25.9%	20.5%
13.2%	Bitcoin (BLOK)	**7.1%**	0.0%	7.2%	8.4%	-8.7%	12.1%	55.5%	116.3%
11.7%	Industrials (XLI)	0.1%	0.3%	0.4%	4.7%	12.1%	15.5%	30.6%	45.9%
10.3%	Gold Miners (GDX)	**8.6%**	-7.7%	**0.9%**	0.4%	34.3%	74.2%	92.3%	**190.5%**
9.2%	REITs (VNQ)	0.6%	0.8%	1.4%	6.4%	9.1%	8.6%	10.8%	27.0%
9.0%	Food & Beverage (PBJ)	-2.3%	0.4%	-1.8%	2.0%	11.4%	2.7%	5.1%	5.4%

INTERNATIONAL MARKETS:
#2 GOLD Rebounds Off Stop-Loss



Gold Bullion: GLD rose 2.5% this week, after losing 2.3% last week. That left it neutral and ranked 2 globally and more attractive than cash. The index is down 4.4% for the quarter (13 weeks), but up 41.4% for the year (52 weeks). At $433.77, GLD is below its short-term (50-day) average and above its intermediate-term (200-day) average. Its momentum (PMO) is negative and improving, and its 14-day RSI of 52.1 means GLD is neither overbought nor oversold. As for currency effects, a cheaper Dollar this week makes foreign assets, commodities and gold more attractive. Over time, a bullish Dollar limits return to Dollar investors in foreign equities, commodities and gold, but improves the region's trade competitiveness.

Gold triggered a stop-loss last week aided by an 8% jump in oil prices, but gold’s breakdown turned into a bounce this week as oil dropped 7%. Rate policy is key to gold’s prospects and gold has faded since the chances of a Fed rate cut later in 2026 have fallen from 100% in late January to about 10% now. A large persistent US deficit, along with geopolitical uncertainty (Venezuela, Iran, Ukraine) continue to influence demand for gold but US interest rates and the Dollar are the key drivers. Traditional threats (global recession or a severe equity market panic) evidenced by equity margin calls are not in evidence.

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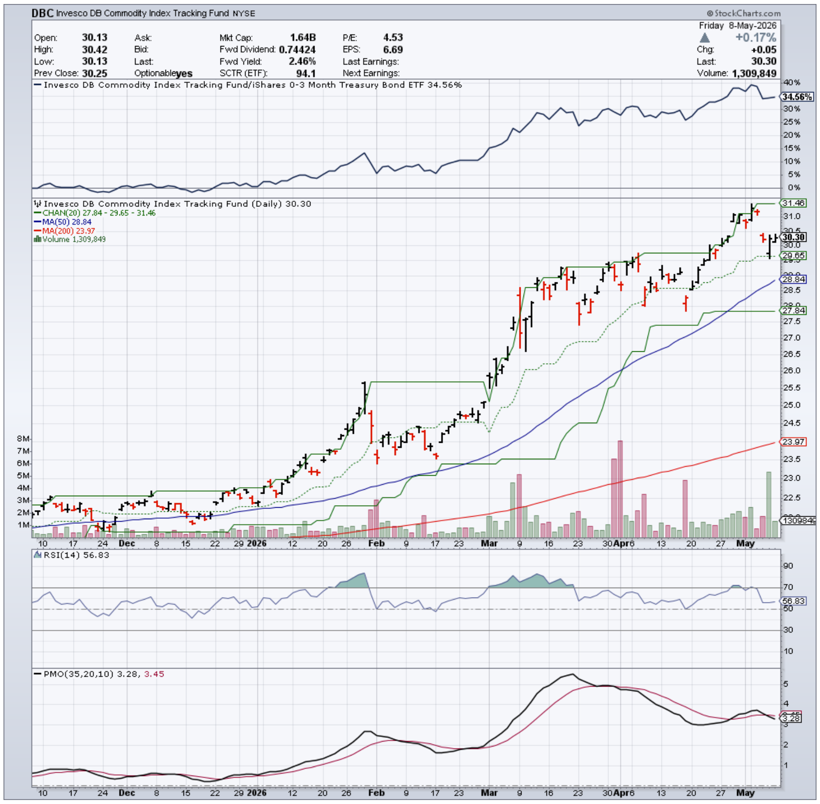
INTERNATIONAL MARKETS:
COMMODITIES Fill The Gap



Commodities: A very bullish CRB fell 1.7% this week after gaining 3.2% last week. That left commodity prices up 24.0% for the quarter (13 weeks), and up 46.4% for the year (52 weeks). At $30.30 the CRB is above its short-term (50-day) average and above its intermediate-term (200-day) average. Its momentum (PMO) is positive but deteriorating, and its 14-day RSI of 56.8 means the CRB is neither overbought nor oversold.

Crude Oil: Meanwhile, oil prices (USO) fell 6.4% this week, following last week's gain of 7.9%. Crude is currently very bullish. That leaves US oil prices up 68.0% for the quarter (13 weeks), and up 110.3% for the year (52 weeks). At $133.59, USO is above its short-term (50-day) average and above its intermediate-term average. A cheaper Dollar this week makes foreign assets, commodities and gold more attractive. Over time, a bullish Dollar limits return to Dollar investors in foreign equities, commodities and gold, but improves the region's trade competitiveness.

WTI oil prices fell to $95 as week 10 of the Iran/US war extended its ceasefire phase. Oil is unlikely to normalize until the straits of Hormuz are fully re-opened to tanker traffic. While Iran’s traditional military is largely destroyed, its asymmetric capabilities still need to be reckoned with. Drones remain a concern in the region but mostly against fixed or visible targets as Iranian command and control has been severely degraded. In addition, a US blockade in and out of Iran has cut tanker traffic to a fraction of normal. While the US takeover of Venezuela’s oil resources will likely increase oil supply and lower prices later in 2026, as “drill, baby, drill” does the same in the US, the prospect for continued violence in Iran and Ukraine will keep prices firm. Meanwhile, the commodity and bond markets are still telling us that inflation should be more of a concern than joblessness.

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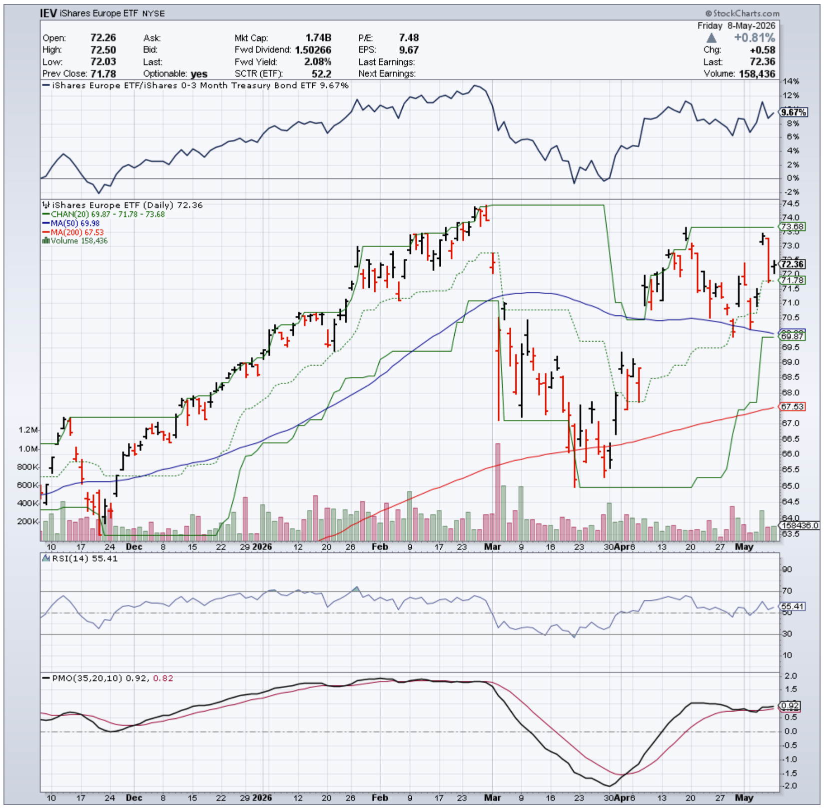
INTERNATIONAL EQUITIES:
#6 EUROPE’s Much Ado



European Large-Cap Stocks: IEV rose 1.0% this week, after gaining 0.1% last week. That left it bullish and ranked 6 globally and more attractive than cash. The index is up 0.2% for the quarter (13 weeks), and up 23.7% for the year (52 weeks). At $72.36, IEV is above its short-term (50-day) average and above its intermediate-term (200-day) average. Its momentum (PMO) is positive and improving, and its 14-day RSI of 55.4 means IEV is neither overbought nor oversold. As for currency effects, a cheaper Dollar this week makes foreign assets, commodities and gold more attractive. Over time, a bullish Dollar limits return to Dollar investors in foreign equities, commodities and gold, but improves the region's trade competitiveness.

This week’s global equity surge was driven by technology, so Europe was up but lagged. Growth concerns due to suddenly higher energy prices and uncertainty about Chinese demand for its exports also played a role. Rising energy cost have made the ECB more cautious, delaying rate cut plans. That leaves Europe potentially exposed to an energy-driven stagflation shock. Lower oil prices this week helped, however. NOTE: A neutral to slightly bearish Euro vs. Dollar keeps Europe (IEV +10) slightly outperforming the hedged version (HEDJ +6) of European equities and is currently stronger than the US (VTI +9). Across the pond, Netherlands (EWN +15), Italy (EWI +14), Spain (EWP +12), and Britain (EWU +10) are best. Switzerland (EWL +10) and Ireland (EIRL +8) comparable to the US, while Denmark (EDEN +5), Germany (EWG +4), and France (EWQ +4) are struggling.

ETF Breakdown: IEV-- A cap-weighted index fund. **Countries:** UK (24%), France (18%), Switzerland (16%), Germany (13%), Netherlands (7%), Denmark (7%), Energy Minerals (6%), Utilities (4%), Consumer durables (4%), Technology Services (5%), Process industries (3%).

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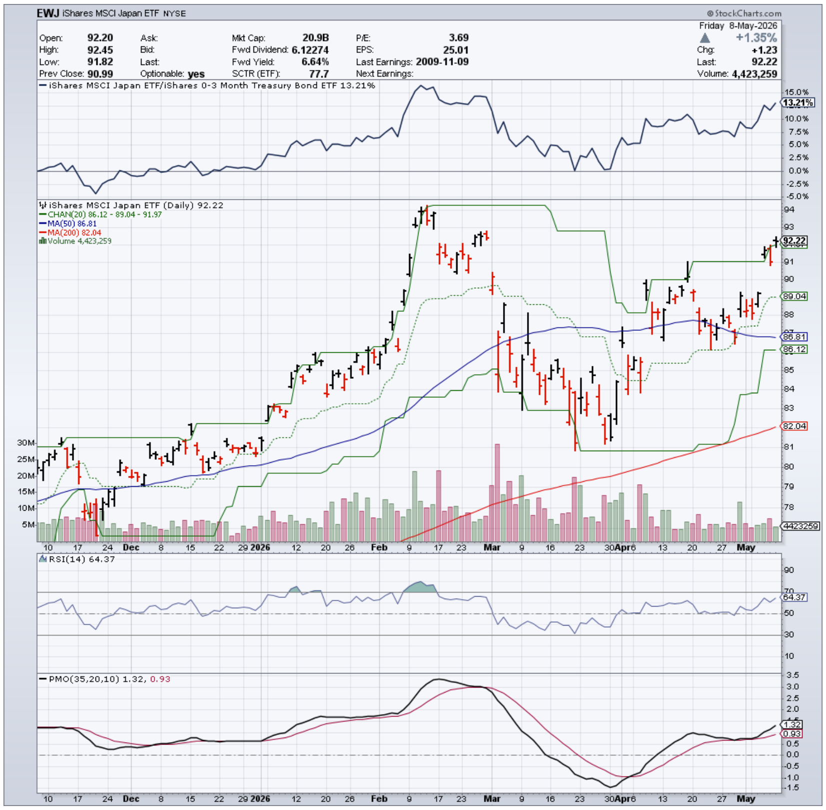
INTERNATIONAL EQUITIES:
#4 JAPAN Gaps Toward Previous High



Japanese Stocks: EWJ rose 4.4% this week, after gaining 1.1% last week. That left it very bullish and ranked 4 globally and more attractive than cash. The index is up 5.4% for the quarter (13 weeks), and up 41.2% for the year (52 weeks). At $92.22, EWJ is above its short-term (50-day) average and above its intermediate-term (200-day) average. Its momentum (PMO) is positive and improving, and its 14-day RSI of 64.4 means EWJ is neither overbought nor oversold. As for currency effects, a cheaper Dollar this week makes foreign assets, commodities and gold more attractive. Over time, a bullish Dollar limits return to Dollar investors in foreign equities, commodities and gold, but improves the region's trade competitiveness.

A fragile de-escalation in Iran this week sent oil prices (WTI @$94) lower (-6.4%), though high headline risk remains. As a major energy importer Japan's equities loved it. Assisted by a surge in technology, the Nikkei rally continued. In addition, pre-emptive stockpiling amid geopolitical risk has led to a manufacturing surge that put manufacturing PMI at a 4-year high (55.1). The activity spike has been a positive for equities near term but medium term the inventory overhang will weigh on margins. On the positive side, strong global demand for AI / semiconductor exposure continues to drive Japanese large caps. NOTE: For Dollar investors, Japan's return to its traditional weak yen policy makes the hedged version (DXJ @18) of Japanese equities preferable to the dollar version we track (EWJ @8).

ETF Breakdown: EWJ-- A cap-weighted index fund. **Countries:** Japan (100%) **Top Sectors:** Finance (15%), Consumer durables (14%), Producer manufacturing (14%), Electronic Technology (12%), Health Technology (9%), Process industries (5%), Technology Services (5%), Consumer non-durables (5%), Communications (5%), Distribution services (4%).

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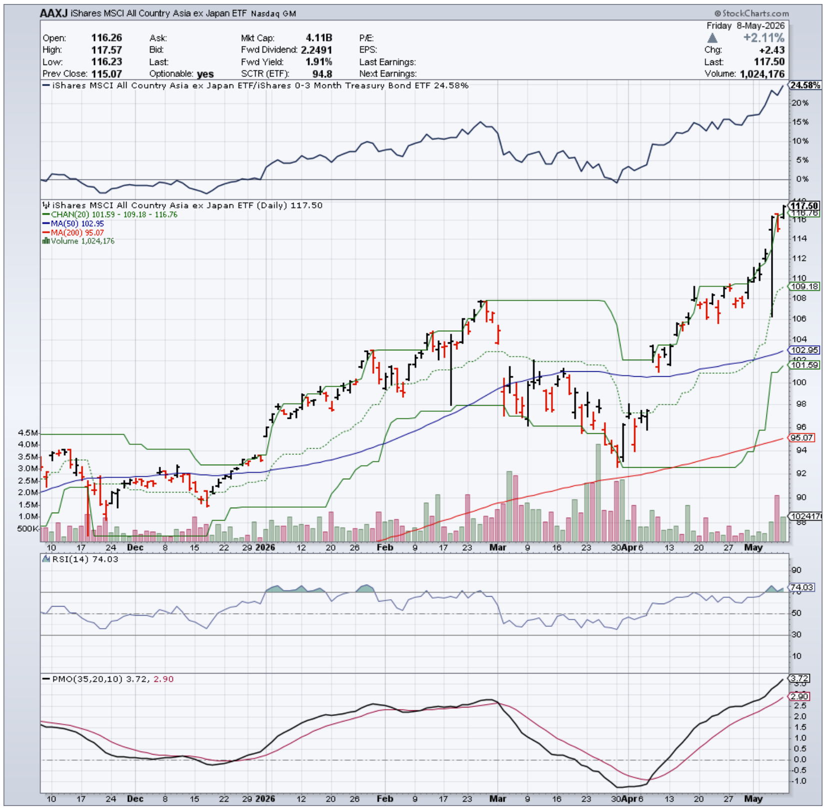
INTERNATIONAL EQUITIES:
#3 ASIA-PACIFIC Posts Another High



Asia-Pacific ex-Japan: AAXJ rose 6.7% this week, after gaining 1.0% last week. That left it very bullish and ranked 3 globally and more attractive than cash. The index is up 18.1% for the quarter (13 weeks), and up 60.4% for the year (52 weeks). At $117.50, AAXJ is above its short-term (50-day) average and above its intermediate-term (200-day) average. Its momentum (PMO) is positive and improving, and its 14-day RSI of 74.0 means AAXJ is overbought. As for currency effects, a cheaper Dollar this week makes foreign assets, commodities and gold more attractive. Over time, a bullish Dollar limits return to Dollar investors in foreign equities, commodities and gold, but improves the region's trade competitiveness.

A fragile de-escalation in Iran this week sent oil prices (WTI @$94) lower (-6.4%), though high headline risk remains. Assisted by a surge in technology and semi-conductors, Asia-Pacific led by Taiwan and South Korea is the only region that has logged equity gains three weeks running, even as oil has swung above and below $100. China has been reliant on discounted Iranian oil since the US sanctioned the mullahs but is falling further behind now. Iran's "shadow fleet" oil got out through the straits initially, but the US blockade changed that. Even so Asian equity markets (AAXJ +25) are no substantially more attractive than US stocks (VTI +9). South Korea (EWY +104) is a standout along with Taiwan (EWT +48). Hong Kong (EWH +11) and Australia (EWA +11) are doing passably. Singapore (EWS +2), India (IMVP -5), and China (FXI -8), lag the US. and are struggling due to energy and US tariff issues.

ETF Breakdown: AAXJ-- A cap-weighted index fund. **Countries:** Hong Kong (36%), Taiwan (17%), India (16%), Korea (14%), Mainland China (4%), Singapore (4%), Thailand (2%), Indonesia (2%), Malaysia (2%), US (1%). **Top Sectors:** Finance (24%), Electronic Technology (20%), Technology Services (10%), Retail (7%), Consumer non-durables (5%), Consumer durables (4%), Producer manufacturing (4%), Transportation (4%), Energy (4%), Health Technology (3%).

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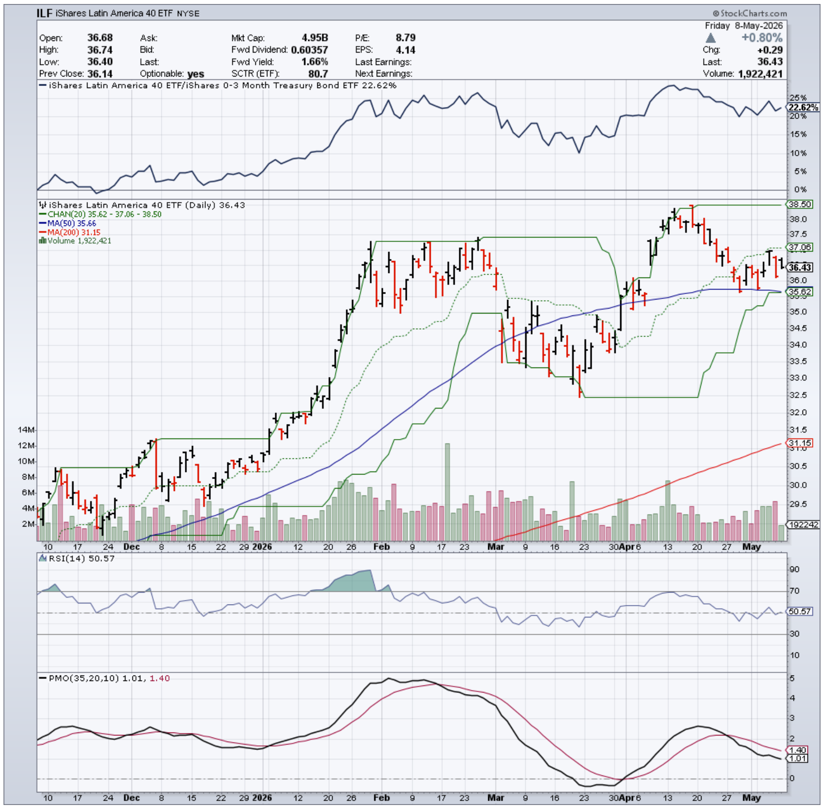
INTERNATIONAL EQUITIES:
#1 LATIN AMERICA Again Holds Short-Term Support



Latin America 40: ILF rose 0.6% this week, after losing 1.7% last week. That left it bullish and ranked 1 globally and more attractive than cash. The index is up 2.5% for the quarter (13 weeks), and up 54.5% for the year (52 weeks). At $36.43, ILF is above its short-term (50-day) average and above its intermediate-term (200-day) average. Its momentum (PMO) is positive but deteriorating, and its 14-day RSI of 50.6 means ILF is neither overbought nor oversold. As for currency effects, a cheaper Dollar this week makes foreign assets, commodities and gold more attractive. Over time, a bullish Dollar limits return to Dollar investors in foreign equities, commodities and gold, but improves the region's trade competitiveness.

Latin equities (ILF) posted a new 52-week high three weeks ago and have retrenched about 4% since. It remains the #1 regional index choice and is testing short-term support. As noted previously, ILF is very volatile and unsuitable for intermediate term modeling, so we don't follow it formally, but it does have advantages. Higher oil prices and a strengthening Dollar favor Mexico and Brazil which have large oil reserves. Latin nations also have better US trade relations and shorter supply routes to the US than most. Latin stocks (ILF +23) have significantly outperformed their US cousins (VTI +9) in Price-Performance vs cash since the tariff announcement 4/25. Brazil (EWZ +24), Mexico (EWW +19), Chile (ECH +16) are strongest. Colombia (COLO +5) and Argentina (ARGT -2) are the only laggards to the US. Canada (EWC +16) which is not in ILF, but a key player in the Americas also continues to beat the US thanks to 35% US tariffs on the 60% of its exports not covered by USMCA.

ETF Breakdown: ILF-- A cap-weighted index fund. **Countries:** Brazil (58%), Mexico (26%), US (8%), Chile (6%), Colombia (2%) **Top Sectors:** Finance (31%), Non-energy minerals (20%), Energy Minerals (14%), Consumer non-durables (10%), Retail (7%), Communications (5%), Technology Services (4%), Utilities (3%), Process Industries (2%), Producer manufacturing (2%).

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INVESTMENT STRATEGIES:
PASSIVE DIVERSIFIED: BUY-AND-HOLD

This site compares passive and active investment strategies. The passive strategy is represented by two diversified ETFs, moderate growth (AOM) and aggressive growth (AOA). AOM is comprised of 60% income instruments and 40% equity assets. AOA is 80% equity and 20% income. AOA (mostly stocks) outperforms in bull market scenarios and AOM (mostly bonds) works better when equities are weak.

Passive Buy-and-Hold Strategies

TOP Buy and Hold Strategy: Aggressive Growth (AOA)

2026 has been difficult. US stocks have lagged globally and bonds have been lackluster. Buy & Hold strategies have positive but still relatively modest returns year-to-date. Bond returns out-paced equity returns early on making moderate growth and income (bond-heavy) portfolios the more profitable buy-and-hold choice, but that changed from April on as Aggressive Growth (equity-heavy) became more profitable.

THIS WEEK saw a 2ND consecutive Risk-ON week. US Stocks UP, Foreign Stocks UP, Bonds UP and Gold UP.

Technical readings are very bullish among both moderate (40-60) portfolios (AOM) and (80-20) aggressive portfolios (AOA). The differences are still minor and could reverse quickly, as new exogenous variables come into play. Cash is a good option.

CI%	Description	ROC	TS	READ	RSI	PMO	+/-	Condition
57%	**(AOA) Aggressive Growth**	**9%**	**97%**	**very bullish**	**68.1**	**1.64**	**positive**	**improving**
28%	(AOM) Moderate Growth & Inc	4%	86%	very bullish	65.8	0.84	positive	improving

YTD	Description	this wk	last wk	13wk	26wk	39wk	52wk	3Y
8.0%	**(AOA) Aggressive Growth**	**2.1%**	**0.5%**	**5.6%**	**9.1%**	**17.3%**	**27.9%**	**41.7%**
3.8%	(AOM) Moderate Growth & Inc	1.2%	0.1%	3.0%	4.9%	10.2%	16.3%	26.4%

PR/HI	Description	SL	PRICE	BS	52w HI	52w LO	50d avg	210d avg
100.0%	(AOA) Aggressive Growth	91.14	96.74	96.74	96.74	77.06	91.40	88.40
99.9%	(AOM) Moderate Growth & Inc	47.97	49.54	49.57	49.57	43.81	48.05	47.05

Market Timing v. Diversified Buy & Hold: Performance*

Strategy	**2026**	**2025**	**2024**	**2023**	**2022**	**2021**	**2020**	**2019**	**2018**	**2017**
Index Moose	**25.2%**	58.7%	5.5%	3.6%	-16.3%	11.7%	13.2%	-6.5%	5.1%	9.0%
Aggressive G&I (AOA)	8.0%	19.3%	11.5%	15.6%	-17.9%	13.5%	10.7%	12.5%	-6.2%	8.0%
Moderate G&I (AOM)	3.8%	11.0%	4.9%	9.2%	-16.4%	5.3%	7.7%	19.5%	-9.9%	14.1%
Strategy	**2026**	**2025**	**2024**	**2023**	**2022**	**2021**	**2020**	**2019**	**2018**	**2017**
S&P Benchmark	**8.2%**	14.5%	24.5%	24.3%	-19.5%					
US Strategy Moose	5.2%	16.7%	26.1%	12.3%	-7.0%	22.2%	20.9%	23.6%	1.2%	28.5%

The Index Model crushed all competitors in 2025 and is excelling again in 2026. It has outperformed in three of the last ten years. **US Strategy Moose** has outperformed in six of the last 10 years. **In total,** one of our two momentum models has outperformed buy-and-hold in nine of the last ten years. **For buy and hold investors:** Aggressive (AOA) is outperforming more moderate (AOM) diversifications.

This performance data may not reflect total return. Dividends and interest are not included, and the numbers may understate true model, ETF, and benchmark performance by 2-3%. The table above covers the last decade, the period since the models went from weekly to daily and since stop-losses were incorporated. It illustrates several points: (1) Success of any one strategy can be highly variable year-to-year. Just because it worked last year doesn't mean it will next year. (2) Buy-and-hold is preferable in years with few lasting or deep corrections, i.e., trendless volatility. (3) When stocks are trending strong, in either direction, timing is safer. (4) Market timing is most profitable when there is one predominant asset choice, or in extended bear market scenarios. When stocks turn bearish buy-and-hold can be a huge loser. (5) To avoid substantial losses, buy-and-hold investors should have a separate exit plan, whereas such plans are implicit in index targeting (a loss-minimization strategy).

INVESTMENT STRATEGIES:
THE US EQUITY STRATEGY TIMING MODEL

USE Strategy: HOLD US Small-Caps (IWM) since 4/13/2026.

The USES Model began as an equity-only construct for determining the optimum equity strategy for the US large cap stock portion of one's portfolio. It monitored and ranked US equity strategies (as represented by the most popular smart-beta ETFs based on volume and capitalization) using our momentum methodology. The 7 US equity strategies included US momentum, US growth, US value, US low volatility, US high dividend, US fundamentals, and US equal weight. As of 4/8/2026 US Small-caps were added into the mix.

THIS WEEK saw a 2ND consecutive Risk-ON week. US Stocks UP, Foreign Stocks UP, Bonds UP and Gold UP.

The US Equity Strategy (USES) Model HOLDS IWM since 4/13/2026.

IWM leads in CI, and ROC. PMO is positive and improving. It is however, verging on overbought.

Volatility Alert: It is likely both SPY and IWM will fill their latest downside gaps and retest their 200-day before the US/Iran war is put to bed. Both are overbought.

Best Alternative: Large caps are volatile and under-performing **small-caps**. Among large-caps, however momentum has made the biggest move in the last three weeks and quarter, but it remains overbought.

	CI%	Description	ROC	TS	READ	RSI	PMO	+/-	Condition
1	**100%**	**US Small-Caps (IWM)**	**15%**	111%	**very bullish**	66	2.81	positive	improving
2	69%	US Momentum (MTUM)	13%	**117%**	very bullish	**76**	**4.36**	positive	improving
3	56%	US Value (IUSV)	8%	98%	very bullish	65	1.19	positive	improving
4	55%	US Growth (IUSG)	9%	103%	very bullish	**76**	3.22	positive	improving
5	54%	US Large-caps (SPY)	9%	101%	very bullish	**75**	2.28	positive	improving
6	49%	US Fundamentals (QUAL)	7%	94%	very bullish	68	1.52	positive	improving
7	47%	S&P Equal Weight (RSP)	7%	93%	very bullish	61	1.05	positive	improving
8	42%	US High Dividend (SPYD)	8%	98%	very bullish	56	0.66	positive	improving
9	12%	Cash (SGOV)	2%	88%	very bullish	81	0.06	positive	improving
10	8%	US Low Volatility (SPLV)	1%	55%	neutral	39	-0.17	negative	deteriorating

NOTE: All of the strategies in this model are derivative of and highly correlated to the S&P. When SPY's TS and/or CI is bearish, when it hits a stop-loss, is overbought, or gives some other sell signal, adopting any sub-strategy that is highly correlated to it is not recommended. To initiate a switch both SPY and the strategy ETF must have TS>50% and CI>0 or better, not be overbought, and be working off a buy-stop.

Performance-wise, IWM is second year-to-date and first over 26, 39 & 52 weeks. Momentum is showing strength recently, but it is lagging over 26 weeks, the traditional key to investor confidence.

Best Alternatives: MTUM is a top performer over the last two weeks and 13 weeks.

	YTD	Description	This Wk	Last Wk	13wk	26wk	39wk	52wk	3Y
1	**21%**	**US Momentum (MTUM)**	**5.9%**	**1.5%**	**18.0%**	**17.4%**	25.3%	41.1%	**73.3%**
2	15%	US Small-Caps (IWM)	1.8%	1.0%	9.6%	15.7%	**30.4%**	**45.5%**	45.3%
3	11%	US Growth (IUSG)	4.0%	0.6%	9.8%	8.3%	19.8%	41.1%	65.6%
4	8%	US Large-caps (SPY)	2.4%	0.9%	6.9%	7.9%	17.9%	33.0%	49.6%
5	8%	US High Dividend (SPYD)	-0.4%	1.8%	4.2%	11.6%	12.8%	15.8%	28.5%
6	7%	S&P Equal Weight (RSP)	0.6%	0.4%	3.5%	9.3%	12.5%	21.2%	30.5%
7	6%	US Value (IUSV)	0.3%	1.2%	3.7%	8.4%	15.8%	23.9%	30.1%
8	6%	US Fundamentals (QUAL)	1.6%	-0.1%	4.2%	6.7%	14.3%	24.3%	36.4%
9	2%	US Low Volatility (SPLV)	-2.1%	0.5%	-0.8%	4.4%	1.0%	1.8%	18.5%
10	0%	Cash (SGOV)	0.1%	0.1%	0.4%	1.4%	2.4%	3.4%	8.5%

INVESTMENT STRATEGIES: THE GLOBAL INDEX TIMING MODEL

TOP Index Model Move: HOLD Emerging Markets (EEM)

THIS WEEK saw a 2ND consecutive Risk-ON week. US Stocks UP, Foreign Stocks UP, Bonds UP and Gold UP.

The Global Index Model ***HOLDS Emerging Markets (EEM) since 4/13/2026.***

Gold leads in overall confidence and rate of change, but not in technical strength or positive PMO. GLD reversed out of its last stop-loss (4/17/26) but triggered another 5/1/26. Prior to that, Emerging markets became index model's top performer.

Best Alternative: Emerging Markets triggered a buy-stop 4/8/26 but gapped higher to do so. **Volatility Alert:** It is likely EEM will fill its latest downside gaps and retest its 50-day before the US/Iran war is put to bed.

The Global Index Model continues to outperform the S&P, all Buy-and-Hold allocations, and the USES and TSP models in a major way.

	CI%	FUND	TS+	READ	RSI	PMO	+/-	condition
1	**72%**	**Gold Bullion (GLD)**	43%	neutral	52.1	-0.76	negative	improving
1	68%	**Emerging Markets (EEM)**	**115%**	**very bullish**	71.4	**3.40**	**positive**	**improving**
3	41%	US Small-caps (IWM)	111%	very bullish	66.2	2.81	positive	improving
4	29%	Developed Markets (EFA)	78%	bullish	57.8	1.01	positive	improving
5	22%	US Large-caps (SPY)	101%	very bullish	75.5	2.28	positive	improving
6	5%	Short US Income (SGOV)	88%	very bullish	80.7	0.06	positive	improving
7	-12%	Very Long US Bonds (EDV)	6%	very bearish	49.4	-0.55	negative	deteriorating

Performance-wise, EEM leads year-to-date and the past two weeks, over 13, 26, 39 and 52 weeks. IWM is a close second YTD outperforming in the past two weeks as GLD fades. The last quarter has been volatile, with Foreign equities besting US equities due to a weaker Dollar from tariffs and US small caps showing occasional rotational strength domestically.

	YTD	FUND	05/08/26	05/01/26	13wk	26wk	39wk	52wk
1	**24.2%**	**Emerging Markets (EEM)**	**5.9%**	0.6%	**15.5%**	**24.0%**	**39.3%**	**54.9%**
2	15.4%	US Small-caps (IWM)	1.8%	**1.0%**	9.3%	16.9%	30.3%	43.0%
3	9.5%	Gold Bullion (GLD)	2.5%	-2.3%	-4.4%	14.2%	38.5%	41.4%
4	8.3%	Developed Markets (EFA)	1.8%	0.3%	3.6%	9.6%	17.1%	24.6%
5	8.2%	US Large-caps (SPY)	2.4%	0.9%	7.8%	8.6%	17.7%	32.2%
6	0.1%	Short US Income (SGOV)	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	1.2%	2.3%	3.4%
7	-1.5%	Very Long US Bonds (EDV)	0.0%	-1.3%	0.4%	-4.9%	0.1%	1.7%

Strategy	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Index Moose	**25.2%**	58.7%	5.5%	3.6%	-16.3%	11.7%	13.2%	-6.5%	5.1%	9.0%
Aggressive G&I (AOA)	8.0%	19.3%	11.5%	15.6%	-17.9%	13.5%	10.7%	12.5%	-6.2%	8.0%
Moderate G&I (AOM)	3.8%	11.0%	4.9%	9.2%	-16.4%	5.3%	7.7%	19.5%	-9.9%	14.1%

INVESTMENT STRATEGIES:
THE THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN TIMING MODEL

TSP Momentum & Performance

The Thrift Savings Plan, or TSP, is the government's 401K-style retirement plan. Beginning 12/21/2018, the revised TSP model began incorporating actual fund data and monitoring ten TSP funds instead of five index fund proxies alone. While having ten asset choices offers myriad possibilities, our primary concern involves the overall strategic decision: Should TSP investors use index targeting (market timing) to manage their portfolio or rely on a diversified buy-and-hold approach. **Answer:** it depends on the investor and on what's working.

The TSP Model: HOLD International Equities (Fund I)

THIS WEEK saw a 2ND consecutive Risk-ON week. US Stocks UP, Foreign Stocks UP, Bonds UP and Gold UP.

This week: *The TSP Model *holds International equities (Fund I)* via buy-stop since 4/8/26 @60.20.)

International Equities (Fund I) lead in overall confidence, technical strength, and rate of change. Technical strength is very bullish. PMO is positive and improving.

Best Alternative: Aggressive Lifetime Portfolios outperform the TSP Model and more moderate B&H portfolios.

	CI%	Fund	ROC	TS+	READ	RSI	PMO	+/-	condition
1	**100%**	**International Fund (I)**	**18%**	**107%**	**very bullish**	66.6	1.94	**positive**	**improving**
2	63%	Lifetime 2060	12%	106%	very bullish	70.5	2.14	positive	improving
3	53%	Lifetime 2050	10%	106%	very bullish	70.4	1.78	positive	improving
4	47%	Lifetime 2040	9%	106%	very bullish	70.5	1.58	positive	improving
5	45%	US Large-caps (C)	9%	101%	very bullish	74.8	**2.28**	positive	improving
6	41%	US Small-caps (S)	8%	101%	very bullish	63.5	2.26	positive	improving
7	38%	Lifetime 2030	7%	105%	very bullish	70.7	1.26	positive	improving
8	21%	Long-term Inc (L)	4%	103%	very bullish	72.1	0.71	positive	improving
9	5%	Short-term Inc (G)	1%	101%	very bullish	100.0	0.17	positive	deteriorating
10	-2%	Fixed Income (F)	**0%**	46%	neutral	52.7	-0.01	negative	deteriorating

TSP Lifetime & Index Funds: Performance Progression

Performance leader Fund I not only leads YTD but over 13, 26, 39 and 52 weeks. It also outperforms over three-years. Near term US large-caps have garnered more interest over the last two weeks.

	Fund	THIS	LAST	13wk	26wk	39wk	52wk	YTD	3Y
1	**International Fund (I)**	**3.0%**	**0.6%**	**6.4%**	**18.5%**	**27.2%**	**36.7%**	**14.3%**	**49.1%**
2	Lifetime 2030	2.4%	0.7%	6.2%	13.0%	20.9%	33.5%	10.7%	46.2%
3	US Small-caps (S)	1.0%	0.7%	4.9%	9.2%	17.5%	31.1%	10.2%	38.0%
4	Lifetime 2040	2.0%	0.6%	5.3%	11.0%	17.7%	28.1%	9.0%	39.6%
5	US Large-caps (C)	2.4%	0.9%	**6.4%**	10.5%	17.7%	32.3%	8.5%	46.3%
6	Lifetime 2060	1.8%	0.5%	4.8%	10.0%	15.9%	25.0%	8.1%	35.7%
7	Lifetime 2050	1.4%	0.4%	3.9%	8.2%	13.2%	20.9%	6.6%	30.5%
8	Long-term Inc (L)	0.7%	0.2%	2.6%	5.2%	8.0%	11.9%	4.0%	18.8%
9	Short-term Inc (G)	0.1%	0.1%	1.2%	2.3%	3.3%	4.4%	1.5%	9.1%
10	Fixed Income (F)	0.3%	-0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	2.9%	5.5%	0.6%	11.1%

****Stop-loss hit,** no buy-stop since—default to highest ranked alternative. **overbought*

TSP Moose v. TSP Lifetime Funds: Long-Term Performance

Strategy	2026 YTD	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
L2060	**10.7%**	22.6%	16.3%	23.3%	-15.9%	19.9%	new	--	--	--
TSP Moose	9.2%	15.3%	11.8%	16.5%	-3.4%	13.3%	21.8%	14.9%	6.5%	21.0%
L2050	9.0%	19.7%	14.0%	20.0%	-13.4%	16.3%	14.8%	23.3%	-6.0%	18.8%
L2040	8.1%	17.8%	12.9%	18.1%	-11.4%	14.5%	13.2%	20.7%	-4.9%	16.8%
L2030	6.6%	15.6%	11.5%	16.6%	-9.0%	12.4%	11.3%	17.6%	-3.6%	14.5%

OBSERVATION: The most aggressive Lifetime Funds have been the best performers since Covid (2020) thanks to the trillions in Federal deficit spending under Trump and Biden. An added bonus: Lifetime funds are a lot less work than timing the markets. The drawback is that buying and holding a Lifetime fund can be a disaster in a cyclical bear market (2022). The risk-reward is better with timing. Fortunately (or unfortunately as one's politics may dictate) the likelihood of a cyclical bear market occurring diminishes as government becomes an ever-larger portion of the US economy and as Fed market manipulation becomes more prevalent. The likelihood of a permanent bear market, however, becomes greater and when that reckoning does eventually come, however, it will be far worse, shaking our national institutions as well as the economy.

Moospeak

Mother’s Day

If you are one of those grumps who claims that celebratory occasions like Mother’s Day and Valentine’s Day are the evil spawn of capitalist greeting card and floral interests, I’d suggest you put aside your proletarian outrage this weekend and acquire some perspective. If it weren’t for mothers, none of us would be here.

The gift of existence alone should more than merit a celebratory thank-you once a year. So altogether now, "Thank you, Mom!"

Take an old man's advice: Keep your mother in your life as long as possible. You will find that she will be in your heart long after she has departed this earth, Even with the occasional disagreements, having the real thing to talk to is so much better than having a fading memory in your prayers.