Investment Weekly: Something Borrowed, Something Blue-Collar

For the week ended July 3, 2026

Commentary

Last week, America's collective attention was divided between two major events: the country's 250th birthday and the wedding of Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce. Both got wall-to-wall media coverage, while the June jobs report—which actually moved markets—settled for a press release and a shrug.

- **U.S. equities finished higher.** The S&P 500 rose 1.76% and the Nasdaq increased 2.12%. Communication services and financials led, with the latter sector benefiting from a softer jobs number, which lowers the odds of a rate hike and takes some pressure off banks. Energy sank with crude prices. Large caps beat small caps. Developed international edged U.S. stocks.
- **Bond prices fell as long-term yields rose.** The Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Index slipped on the week. U.S. Treasury yields climbed across the board, but the long end went higher than the short end after Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh said prices were still too high and reaffirmed the Fed's push to bring inflation down, keeping a September rate hike in play. Thursday's soft jobs report pulled yields down as investors trimmed hike bets, but not enough to undo the earlier climb.
- **Commodities and the dollar:** Gold rose to roughly $4,125. Crude slipped to just under $69 as the Iran situation stayed quiet enough to keep a lid on it. The U.S. dollar slipped against the pound and yen and held flat against the euro.
- **The June jobs report showed non-farm payrolls rose 57,000, well short of the 110,000 forecast and the weakest gain in four months,** with April and May revised down by a combined 74,000. The unemployment rate fell to 4.2%. But check the mechanics before you celebrate: participation dropped 0.3 points to 61.5%, the lowest since March 2021, and the household survey showed 507,000 fewer people saying they had a job. The rate fell not because people found work, but because they stopped looking for it.
- **Job openings hit a two-year high.** May's Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) reported openings at 7.59 million, the most since May 2024 and well above the 7.3 million expected. The openings that grew were the ones in work boots: manufacturing postings jumped to 558,000 from 493,000 and construction to 330,000 from 272,000. Meanwhile, tech and finance postings shrank.
- **Jobless claims were the good kind of boring.** Initial claims fell 1,000 to 215,000 for the week ending June 27, the lowest in five weeks and under the 220,000 expected; the four-week average eased to 222,000. Continuing claims rose 2,000 to 1.814 million for the week ending June 20—a three-month high (although still low by any historical measure), a record with roughly the significance of a Dundie Award.
- **Manufacturing kept growing, just with less enthusiasm.** The Institute for Supply Management's purchasing managers' index (PMI) slipped to 53.3 in June from 54.0, remaining in expansion territory for the sixth straight month. Prices kept rising, but the pace cooled sharply—the index fell to 73.0 from 82.1, the biggest one-month drop since July 2022.
- **Consumer confidence rose 0.6 points in June,** boosted by gas prices easing off the inflation dread. The trick is in the fine print: May's reading was revised downward from 93.1 to 90.6, meaning confidence "improved" in June to a level below where May originally stood. And it's still the worst June reading in over a decade. So, the glass is half full. It's also last month's glass…and someone poured a little out when you weren't looking.

Market data

Index prices ($)	07/02/2026	12/31/2025
Dow Jones Industrial Average	52,900	48,063
S&P 500	7,483	6,846

Returns (%)	1wk	QTD	YTD	3mo
Equities				
S&P 500	1.76	-0.21	9.98	14.00
S&P Mid Cap 400	-0.35	-1.28	15.84	11.94
S&P Small Cap 600	-0.85	-1.22	22.39	17.16
Russell 1000	1.76	-0.22	10.09	13.92
Russell MidCap	0.64	0.01	15.31	12.59
Russell 2000	-0.46	-0.93	21.43	18.75
Dow Jones Industrial Average	1.97	1.12	10.99	14.22
NASDAQ Composite	2.12	-1.45	11.49	18.24
Fixed income				
Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate	-0.50	-0.14	0.48	0.31
Bloomberg Global Aggregate	-0.16	-0.04	-0.26	0.49
Bloomberg High Yield Bond	0.29	0.09	2.05	2.15
S&P / LSTA Senior Loan	0.42	0.31	0.73	1.43
JPM EMBI+ Emerging Markets Bond	0.02	-0.17	3.43	3.41
S&P 500 sectors				
Technology	0.88	-3.27	15.85	25.13
Materials	1.12	2.46	14.72	3.32
Consumer discretionary	2.76	0.01	-0.77	9.92
Health care	2.09	3.26	6.84	12.16
Utilities	-1.04	0.93	8.69	-0.62
Consumer staples	0.14	2.08	10.28	2.32
Energy	-0.95	0.30	20.01	-10.10
Financials	3.74	3.75	2.53	12.74
Industrials	1.44	-0.74	19.27	12.59
Communication services	4.97	1.78	2.60	8.59
Real Estate	-1.33	1.49	13.18	8.13
Equity style performance				
Large cap value	1.68	1.83	18.38	15.02
Large cap growth	1.84	-2.39	2.81	12.98
Mid cap value	0.54	0.87	18.61	13.06
Mid cap growth	0.94	-2.40	4.70	10.84
Small cap value	-0.45	0.00	22.99	15.59
Small cap growth	-0.48	-1.79	19.99	21.83
International equities				
MSCI EAFE	1.96	0.90	10.83	9.19
MSCI U.K.	2.70	2.28	8.64	3.43
MSCI Europe ex-U.K.	2.35	0.68	9.69	11.51
MSCI Japan	1.22	0.87	16.98	11.70
MSCI AC Asia ex-Japan	-1.29	-2.46	23.23	21.29
MSCI Emerging Markets	-1.16	-2.15	21.35	18.30
MSCI ACWI	1.51	-0.14	11.34	13.24

Source: FactSet.

VOYA® INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

U.S. Economic Release Calendar

Date	Event
7/6/26	ISM Services (June)
7/7/26	Trade Balance (May)
7/8/26	Inventories (May); FOMC Meeting Minutes (June); Consumer Credit (May)
7/9/26	Jobless Claims; Existing Home Sales (June)

Market data, cont'd

As of:	Last close	Prior week	Year end	3 mos ago
U.S. bond rates (%)				
U.S. federal funds target rate	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75
U.S. 2yr Treasury	4.13	4.06	3.48	3.80
U.S. 10yr Treasury	4.47	4.37	4.18	4.30
U.S. 20yr Treasury	4.99	4.86	4.79	4.88
U.S. 30yr Treasury	4.97	4.86	4.86	4.88
High yield (Merrill U.S. Corporates)	6.71	6.69	6.42	6.70
Consumer rates (%)				
30yr mortgage rate	6.56	6.57	6.25	6.50
Prime rate	6.75	6.75	6.75	6.75
Commodities				
Gold (USD/oz)	$4,125	$4,096	$4,341	$4,679
Crude oil (USD/bbl)	$68.69	$69.23	$57.42	$111.54
Copper (LME $/mt)	$13,202	$13,287	$12,504	$12,147
Gasoline (USD/gal)	$4.22	$4.22	$3.10	$4.33
Exchange rates				
$ per €	1.14	1.14	1.17	1.16
$ per £	1.34	1.32	1.35	1.32
¥ per $	161.29	161.94	156.75	159.37
U.S. Dollar Index	100.86	101.36	98.32	100.03

Source: FactSet.

Index definitions

Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index measures a wide range of global government, government-related, corporate and securitized fixed-income investments, all with maturities greater than one year.

Bloomberg High Yield Bond Index tracks the performance of below investment grade U.S. dollar-denominated corporate bonds publicly issued in the U.S. domestic market.

Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Index is a bond market index composed of U.S. securities in Treasury, Government-Related, Corporate, and Securitized sectors that are of investment-grade quality or better, have at least one year to maturity, and have an outstanding par value of at least $250 million.

Dow Jones Industrial Average is a price-weighted average computed from the stock prices of 30 of the largest and most widely held public companies in the U.S., adjusted to reflect stock splits and stock dividends.

FTSE EPRA / NAREIT Global Real Estate Index represents general performance trends of the equity securities of real estate companies involved in the ownership, disposition and development of income-producing properties worldwide.

JPMorgan Emerging Markets Bond Index Plus (EMBI+) tracks total returns for traded foreign currency denominated debt instruments in the emerging markets which meet minimum criteria for face value outstanding and market trading liquidity.

MSCI ACWI Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index designed to provide a broad measure of equity-market performance throughout the world, capturing large and mid cap representation across 23 Developed Markets (DM) and 26 Emerging Markets (EM) countries.

MSCI EAFE Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index designed to measure developed markets' equity performance, excluding the U.S. & Canada, for 21 countries.

MSCI Europe ex-U.K. Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index designed to measure equity performance of the 15 developed European markets except the U.K..

MSCI U.K. Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index designed to measure equity performance of listed common stocks in the U.K..

MSCI Asia ex-Japan Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index designed to measure equity performance of the 15 developed Asian markets except Japan.

MSCI Japan Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index designed to measure equity performance of listed common stocks in Japan.

MSCI Emerging Markets Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that measures emerging market equity performance of 23 countries.

Municipal Bond Index is a bond index that includes investment-grade, tax-exempt fixed-rate bonds with long-term maturities (greater than two years) selected from issues larger than $50 million.

NASDAQ Composite Index is a market capitalization weighted index of the performance of domestic and international common stocks listed on the Nasdaq Stock Market including over 2,800 securities.

Large Growth: Russell 1000 Growth Index measures the large-cap growth segment of the U.S. equity market including Russell 1000 companies with higher price-to-book ratios and forecasted growth.

Large Value: Russell 1000 Value Index measures the large-cap value segment of the U.S. equity market including Russell 1000 companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower expected growth.

Midcap Growth: Russell MidCap Growth Index measures the performance of the mid-cap growth segment of the U.S. equity market including Russell Midcap Index companies with higher price-to-book ratios and forecasted growth.

Midcap Value: Russell MidCap Value Index measures the performance of the mid-cap growth segment of the U.S. equity market including Russell Midcap Index companies with lower price-to-book ratios and forecasted growth.

Small Cap Growth: Russell 2000 Growth Index measures the performance of small-cap growth stocks in the U.S. equity market including Russell 2000 companies with higher price-to-value ratios and forecasted growth.

Small Cap Value: Russell 2000 Value Index measures the performance of small-cap growth stocks in the U.S. equity market including Russell 2000 companies with lower price-to-value ratios and forecasted growth.

S&P 500 Index is a widely regarded as the best single gauge of the U.S. equities market, including 500 leading companies in major industries of the U.S. economy.

S&P 500 Sectors are defined as the GICS (Global Industry Classification Standard) sectors which provide standardized industry definitions consisting of 10 sectors, 24 industry groups, and 67 industries.

The S&P MidCap 400 includes 400 companies and represents almost 6% of the U.S. markets. To be eligible for inclusion in the index, a company should be a U.S. company, have a market cap between USD 3.3 billion to USD 11.8 billion, maintain a public float of at least 10% of its shares outstanding, and its most recent quarter's earnings and the sum of its trailing four consecutive quarters' earnings must be positive. The index implements changes on an as-needed basis.

The S&P SmallCap 600 includes 600 companies and represents almost 3% of the U.S. market. To be eligible for inclusion in the index, a company should be a U.S. company, have a market cap between USD 750 million to USD 3.3 billion, maintain a public float of at least 10% of its shares outstanding, and its most recent quarter's earnings and the sum of its trailing four consecutive quarters' earnings must be positive. The index implements changes on an as-needed basis.

The Russell 1000 Index measures the performance of the large-cap segment of the U.S. equity market and includes approximately 1,000 of the largest securities based on market capitalization and representing approximately 92% of the U.S. market.

GP-WEEKLY-5545411

VOYA INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT