



WEEKLY UPDATE | February 27, 2026



U.S. & World News

Iran is once again at the forefront of the news with possible United States military intervention amongst comments from President Trump as well as a US military build-up across the country and in the middle-east. After the US air strikes back in June of 2025 on Iranian nuclear facilities the US and Iran entered into negotiations. The US goal is dismantlement of the Iranian nuclear program and Iran is pushing back against US intervention. Those failed negotiations, a collapsing economy, and poor handling of recent protest in Iran has resulted in a shift in sentiment against leadership in Tehran. President Trump today said, "It'd be wonderful if they negotiate, really, in good conscience, good faith...They are not getting there so far." The US embassy today in Jerusalem authorized non-emergency US government personnel and their families to leave Israel and the USS Gerald Ford has moved to the Middle East as well. The United States and Iran are still in open dialogue with Secretary of State Marco Rubio visiting Israel next Monday and Tuesday to discuss relations in the Middle East.



Markets

- Equity markets fell this week. The S&P 500 lost -0.42% and closed at 6,878. The Dow fell -1.28% and closed at 48,977. The year to date returns for the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones are 0.67% and 2.12%, respectively.
- Bond markets rose this week as yields moved lower resulting in a 0.50% gain for the US Aggregate Bond Index. The year to date return for the US Aggregate Bond Index is 1.85%.
- The yield on 2-year treasuries fell to 3.39% and the yield on 10-year treasuries fell this week also to 3.95%.
- The spot price of WTI Crude Oil rose 1.05% this week and closed at \$67.04/barrel. Oil this year so far has risen 16.81%
- The spot price of Gold rose 2.97% this week to close at \$5,258.86/ounce. So far this year gold has risen 21.75%.



Economic Data

- Initial Jobless claims came in lower than expected at 212,000 compared to a median estimate of 218,000. Last weeks reading was upward to 208,000 from 206,000.
- The December Trade Balance came in at a greater deficit than what was expected at -70.3 billion compared to the consensus forecast of -58.4 billion. November's deficit was revised lower to -53 billion from -56.8 billion
- Personal Income for December rose 0.3% which was greater than the 0.2% median analyst forecast. November's Income number was revised upward to 0.4% from 0.3%.

Fact of the Week

THE PANCAKE MARKET. Through 2/18, the spread between the S&P 500's highest and lowest daily closing price so far in 2026 was just 2.67%. That's the narrowest trading range for the US stock market to start a year in 60 years, dating back to 1966 when the spread hit a record low of 2.06%.

(Source: MFS)

Questions?

Your Wealth Management team is here to answer.

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