WEEKLY UPDATE | August 21, 2026

U.S. & World News

On Wednesday, the U.S. Treasury announced that it would double the size of its long-dated Treasury buyback operations to at least $4 billion per operation, up from $2 billion. The move comes as U.S. Treasury yields have climbed, with the 30-year yield recently reaching a 19-year high of 5.337%. George Saravelos, global head of FX research at Deutsche Bank, said the unexpected announcement signals "increasing administration unease" over the continued rise in long-end U.S. yields. The Treasury's decision to increase long term buybacks briefly pushed yields lower, but the effect faded quickly as markets remained focused on high debt levels and government spending. With U.S. debt approaching $40 trillion and roughly $9 trillion needing to be rolled over this year, the Treasury faces a significant challenge in managing its borrowing needs. Elevated long-term rates have pushed the Treasury to rely more heavily on short-term bill issuance, which helps reduce immediate pressure on the long end of the curve but increases refinancing risk at shorter maturities. If the U.S. struggles to roll over its debt smoothly, the consequences could include a weaker dollar, reduced foreign demand for Treasurys, and tighter financial conditions.

Markets

- Equity markets fell this week with the S&P 500 down -1.39% and closing at of 7,674. The Dow was down -0.78% and closed at 53,277. The year to date returns for the S &P 500 and the Dow are 12.92% and 11.95%, respectively.
- Bond markets dipped as yields rose, resulting in a -0.11% decline for the US Aggregate Bond Index. The year to date return for the US Aggregate Bond Index is -0.22%.
- The yield on 2-year treasuries rose to 4.23% and the yield on 10-year treasuries increased this week to 4.73%.
- The spot price of WTI Crude Oil rose 5.44% this week and closed at $86.88/barrel. Oil prices this year have risen 51.31%
- The spot price of Gold rose 5.66% this week to close at $4,622/ounce. So far this year, gold has risen 6.97%.

Economic Data

- Initial jobless claims declined to 206,000, below the median forecast of 210,000 and last week's figure of 212,000.
- Housing starts fell -12.4% for July vs. median forecast of -5.9%. Housing starts have been particularly volatile this year, with starts increasing or decreasing by an average of 14% each month over the last five months.

Fact of the Week

MILLION-DOLLAR HOMES. 8.3% of existing US homes sold in July were over $1 million compared to just 2.65% for sub-$100k home sales. 10 years ago in July 2016, 13% of homes sold were below $100k, while million-dollar homes were just 2.2% of the total.

(Source: National Association of REALTORS)

Questions?

Your Wealth Management team is here to answer.

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