

MARKET INSIGHTS

WEEKLY REVIEW

FOR THE WEEK ENDED ON 8 May 2026

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OVERVIEW

Markets extended their rally last week, with the S&P 500 posting a sixth weekly gain and reaching record highs. Strong U.S. jobs data and robust earnings— with 82% of companies beating estimates—supported sentiment, led by semiconductors and AI-driven stocks. Oil settled near \$96/bbl and gold rose to around \$4,713/oz, highlighting market resilience despite ongoing geopolitical risks.

MARKETS

US stocks gained last week, with the S&P 500 rising 2.3% WoW and the Nasdaq 100 up 5.5%, as the market extended its rally to a sixth straight week and approached record highs. Sentiment was supported by solid U.S. labor data, with payrolls rising 115K and unemployment steady at 4.3%, alongside strong earnings with 82% of companies beating estimates. Gains were led by semiconductors, which surged on renewed AI momentum, reinforcing the market's resilience.

In Asia: equities advanced, led by South Korea as the KOSPI surged 12.1% WoW, while the Nikkei 225 gained 3.6%, Shanghai rose 2.5%, and the Hang Seng added 2.4%, driven by strong AI and semiconductor momentum. However, gains remain highly concentrated in a few large tech names, with fading foreign inflows and stretched valuations signaling rising risks of near-term consolidation despite solid underlying fundamentals.

In Europe: equities were mixed after a volatile week, with the Euro Stoxx 50 rising 0.5% WoW while the FTSE 100 fell 1.4%, driven by sharp sector divergence. Gains in resources and tech were offset by weakness in energy as oil declined, while uneven earnings kept sentiment fragile and tied to broader growth beyond commodities.

In Bahrain: The All-Share Index -1.5% WoW, dragged by ALBH -11.36%, ESTERAD -2.38%, SEEF -2.07%, While GFH +2.17%, BBK +1.11%, SALAM +0.91% provided support.

Fixed Income: Yields mixed: US 2Y up to 3.91% +3bps, 10Y up to 4.39% +2bps, with 10Y breakeven on 2.46% -4bps. UK 10Y down to 4.91% -5bps, German 10Y -3bps at 3.01%, while EM 5Y spreads down to 155.230 -4bps.

News: Apollo, Blackstone, and other private credit firms are in talks to provide around \$35 billion in financing to Broadcom, potentially marking the largest private credit deal ever and highlighting growing demand for funding AI infrastructure, with the company targeting over \$100 billion in AI chip sales by 2027.

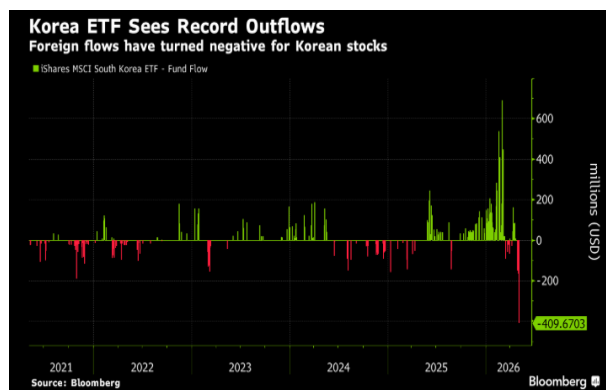
MARKET INDICES

G10		WoW	YtD
SPX	7,398.93 ▲	+ 2.3% ▲	+ 8.1%
Nasdaq 100	29,234.99 ▲	+ 5.5% ▲	+ 15.8%
Euro Stoxx 50	5,911.53 ▲	+ 0.5% ▲	+ 2.1%
Nikkei 225	62,713.65 ▲	+ 3.6% ▲	+ 24.6%
FTSE 100	10,233.07 ▼	- 1.4% ▲	+ 3.0%
GCC			
KSA	11,031.32 ▼	- 1.4% ▲	+ 5.2%
ADX	9,839.74 ▲	+ 0.5% ▼	- 1.5%
DFM	5,902.21 ▲	+ 2.3% ▼	- 2.4%
BHR	1,941.69 ▼	- 1.5% ▼	- 6.0%
MSX 30	8,352.60 ▼	- 0.1% ▲	+ 42.4%
ASIA			
KOSPI	7,498.00 ▲	+ 12.1% ▲	+ 77.9%
Shanghai	4,179.95 ▲	+ 2.5% ▲	+ 5.3%
Hang Seng	26,393.71 ▲	+ 2.4% ▲	+ 3.0%
LATAM			
BOVESPA	184,108.29 ▼	- 1.7% ▲	+ 14.3%
MERVAL	2,769,127.00 ▼	- 2.2% ▼	- 9.3%

Rates

Ticker		WoW	YtD
GT2	3.91% ▲	+ 3 bps ▲	+ 44 bps
GT10	4.39% ▲	+ 2 bps ▲	+ 22 bps
USGGBE10	2.46% ▼	- 4 bps ▲	+ 21 bps
GUKG10	4.91% ▼	- 5 bps ▲	+ 43 bps
GDBR10	3.01% ▼	- 3 bps ▲	+ 16 bps
EM (5Y SPRD)	155.230 ▼	- 4 bps ▲	+ 31 bps

Chart: Korean equities are showing early signs of consolidation as foreign flows turn negative, with overseas investors selling about \$4.48 billion in stocks and the largest Korea ETF recording over \$409 million in single-day outflows. The shift marks the first crack in the rally's momentum after a ~75% surge, highlighting how fading foreign participation could slow near-term performance despite solid fundamentals.



Commodities were mixed, with strong gains in precious and industrial metals—led by silver, copper, and lithium—offset by declines in energy prices and broader weakness across most agricultural commodities.

Industrial Metals: Copper rose 5.3%, aluminum gained 0.8%, and zinc added 1.7%, while nickel fell 3.1% and lithium surged 8.8%, as supply constraints and rising geopolitical competition for critical minerals supported prices, reinforcing the strategic importance of resource security in global supply chains. **Energy:** Crude and Brent both fell 6.4%, while natural gas slipped 0.8%, as limited flows through the Strait of Hormuz and early signs of resumed shipments eased immediate supply fears. However, global inventories remain under pressure, with disruptions exposing structural fragility in energy markets and keeping volatility elevated. **Precious Metals:** Gold rose 2.2%, silver gained 6.6%, and platinum advanced 3.4%, while palladium fell 2.4%, as a two-week U.S.–Iran ceasefire and easing oil prices supported a rebound in bullion. The move reflects a recalibration of geopolitical risk, with metals remaining sensitive to developments despite ongoing uncertainty. **Agriculture:** Wheat fell 2.7% and corn declined 2.6%, while soybeans rose 0.5%, as war-driven increases in fuel and fertilizer costs continue to support global food prices, highlighting rising risks of sustained agricultural inflation and supply chain disruptions.

FX market was mixed: The DXY down -0.3% WoW to 97.90. EUR/USD up 0.6% to 1.18, USD/CNY up +0.4%, and USD/JPY up +0.2% to 156.68.

Cryptocurrencies: Bitcoin fell 1.2% WoW to \$80,685, while Ether declined 2.0% to \$2,314, as markets consolidated despite ongoing institutional adoption and continued volatility.

Crypto News: ECB President Christine Lagarde warned that even euro-denominated stablecoins could threaten financial stability and weaken monetary policy, reinforcing the push for a digital euro to preserve monetary sovereignty. Meanwhile, Hut 8 surged after pivoting toward AI infrastructure, securing a \$9.8 billion, 15-year data center lease in Texas—expandable to \$25.1 billion—marking a strategic shift from bitcoin mining to large-scale compute and energy-backed AI hosting, while maintaining over 16,000 BTC on its balance sheet. At the same time, Morgan Stanley expanded into digital assets via E*Trade crypto trading, signaling deeper institutional integration into the sector.

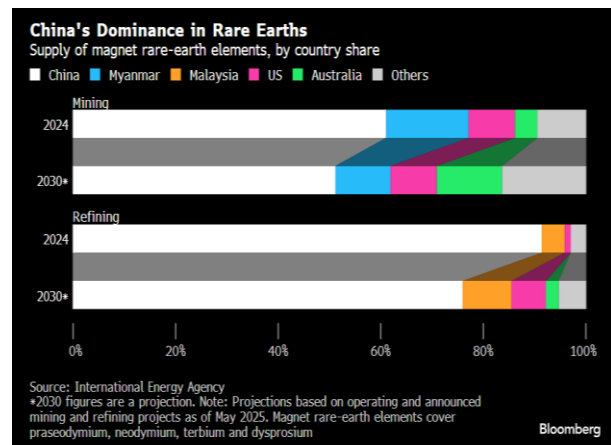
Commodities

Precious Metals		WoW	YtD
Gold	4,715.25 ▲	+ 2.2% ▲	+ 9.2%
Silver	80.34 ▲	+ 6.6% ▲	+ 12.1%
Platinum	2,058.68 ▲	+ 3.4% ▼	- 0.1%
Palladium	1,490.62 ▼	- 2.4% ▼	- 8.0%
Industrial Metals			
Copper	624.90 ▲	+ 5.3% ▲	+ 8.9%
Aluminum	3,562.86 ▲	+ 0.8% ▲	+ 19.6%
Nickel	18,713.59 ▼	- 3.1% ▲	+ 13.1%
Zinc	3,422.72 ▲	+ 1.7% ▲	+ 10.6%
Lithium	22,310.00 ▲	+ 8.8% ▲	+ 98.8%
Energy			
Crude Oil	95.42 ▼	- 6.4% ▲	+ 67.4%
Brent	101.29 ▼	- 6.4% ▲	+ 68.2%
Natural Gas	2.76 ▼	- 0.8% ▼	- 19.6%
Agriculture			
Wheat	607.50 ▼	- 2.7% ▲	+ 17.2%
Corn	456.25 ▼	- 2.6% ▲	+ 1.8%
Soybeans	1,194.25 ▲	+ 0.5% ▲	+ 12.6%

FX & Crypto

FX & Crypto		WoW	YtD
DXY	97.90 ▼	- 0.3% ▼	- 0.4%
EUR/USD	1.18 ▲	+ 0.6% ▲	+ 0.3%
USD/CNY	6.80 ▲	+ 0.4% ▼	- 2.7%
USD/JPY	156.68 ▲	+ 0.2% ▲	+ 8.1%
BTC	80,685.34 ▼	- 1.2% ▼	- 7.9%
ETH	2,314.06 ▼	- 2.0% ▼	- 22.1%

Chart: China dominates the supply of magnet rare-earth elements across both mining and refining, maintaining a commanding share relative to other countries. This concentration underscores global dependence on Chinese capacity, highlighting structural supply risks and the strategic importance of diversification efforts by the US and its allies.



ECONOMIC CALENDAR

11 May 2026

AGC
Arabian Gulf Capital

Key Events Ahead. The week ahead is centered on inflation, consumer spending, and growth data. In the U.S., focus will be on CPI, Core CPI, PPI, retail sales, jobless claims, industrial production, and housing data, all of which will shape expectations for Fed policy and economic momentum. Globally, China's CPI and PPI releases, Eurozone GDP and industrial production, German CPI, UK GDP and housing indicators, and Japan's household spending data will provide insight into global demand conditions. Overall, with a heavy U.S. inflation calendar alongside key growth releases from Europe and Asia, markets are likely to remain highly sensitive to inflation trends, consumer strength, and rate expectations.

	Day	Time	Region	Event	Forecast (cons.)	Previous	Market relevance
11-May-26	Monday	04:30	CN	CPI (MoM) (Apr)	-0.1%	-0.7%	Medium
11-May-26	Monday	04:30	CN	CPI (YoY) (Apr)	0.9%	1.0%	Medium
11-May-26	Monday	04:30	CN	PPI (YoY) (Apr)	1.7%	0.5%	Medium
11-May-26	Monday	17:00	US	Existing Home Sales (Apr)	4.05M	3.98M	High
12-May-26	Tuesday	02:01	UK	BRC Retail Sales Monitor (YoY) (Apr)	0.7%	3.10%	Medium
12-May-26	Tuesday	02:30	JP	Household Spending (YoY) (Mar)	-1.4%	-1.8%	Medium
12-May-26	Tuesday	09:00	DE	German CPI (YoY) (Apr)	2.9%	2.9%	Medium
12-May-26	Tuesday	12:00	EU	ZEW Economic Sentiment (May)	-20.0	-20.4	Medium
12-May-26	Tuesday	15:30	US	CPI (MoM) (Apr)	0.6%	0.9%	High
12-May-26	Tuesday	15:30	US	CPI (YoY) (Apr)	3.7%	3.3%	High
12-May-26	Tuesday	15:30	US	Core CPI (MoM) (Apr)	0.3%	0.2%	High
12-May-26	Tuesday	15:30	US	Core CPI (YoY) (Apr)	-	2.6%	High
13-May-26	Wednesday	02:50	JP	Adjusted Current Account (Mar)	2.94T	270.90T	Medium
13-May-26	Wednesday	12:00	EU	GDP (YoY) (Q1)	0.8%	0.8%	Medium
13-May-26	Wednesday	12:00	EU	GDP (QoQ) (Q1)	0.1%	0.1%	Medium
13-May-26	Wednesday	12:00	EU	Industrial Production (MoM) (Mar)	0.3%	0.4%	Medium
13-May-26	Wednesday	15:30	US	PPI (MoM) (Apr)	0.5%	0.5%	High
13-May-26	Wednesday	15:30	US	Core PPI (MoM) (Apr)	0.3%	0.1%	High
14-May-26	Thursday	09:00	UK	GDP (YoY) (Q1)	-	1.0%	High
14-May-26	Thursday	09:00	UK	GDP (QoQ) (Q1)	0.6%	0.1%	High
14-May-26	Thursday	09:00	UK	GDP (MoM) (Mar)	-0.2%	0.5%	High
14-May-26	Thursday	15:30	US	Retail Sales (MoM) (Apr)	0.6%	1.7%	High
14-May-26	Thursday	15:30	US	Core Retail Sales (MoM) (Apr)	0.6%	1.9%	High
14-May-26	Thursday	15:30	US	Initial Jobless Claims	206K	200K	High
15-May-26	Friday	02:01	UK	RICS House Price Balance (Apr)	-	-23.0%	Medium
15-May-26	Friday	15:30	US	NY Empire State Manufacturing Index (May)	7.30	11.00	Medium
15-May-26	Friday	16:15	US	Industrial Production (YoY) (Apr)	-	0.74%	Medium
15-May-26	Friday	16:15	US	Industrial Production (MoM) (Apr)	0.2%	-0.5%	Medium

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