Benefit Financial Services Group

MONDAY MORNING RECAP - August 10, 2026

Last Week

Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA)	54,036.93	+1,551.90	+2.96%
S&P 500 Index	7,757.64	+267.92	+3.58%
NASDAQ Composite Index	26,690.62	+1,316.76	+5.19%
U.S. 10 yr. Treasury Note Yield	4.65%	-10 Basis Points	
Gold ($ per troy oz.)	$4,340.70	+$291.60	+7.20%
WTI Oil ($ per barrel)	$78.18	-$6.49	-7.67%

Market Summary

Global Equities: US equities surged last week, fueled by strong corporate earnings results, a rebound in AI stocks and hopes of a deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. The S&P 500 notched its 26th record high of the year, ending the week up 3.58%. European equities gained 1.80% to reach an all-time high, with corporate profits set to grow at the fastest rate since 2022. In Asia, while Japan's TOPIX also participated in the rally, rising 1.79%, Korea's KOSPI declined by –5.10% as semiconductor stocks fell.

Fixed Income: US Treasury yields slid last week as falling oil prices lowered inflation expectations and weaker-than-expected jobs data reduced market expectations of Fed rate hikes. The 2-Year and 10-Year US Treasury yields ended down at 4.19% and 4.65%, respectively. The 10-Year German Bund yield also declined to 3.13% as lower oil prices tempered expectations of rate hikes.

Commodities: Oil prices fell last week after US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent announced that talks with Iran could result in a deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, easing fears about oil supply. Oil prices rebounded when Iran announced that it would prohibit US and Israeli ships from passing through the Strait of Hormuz, but WTI and Brent Crude still ended down at $78.18 and $83.55/bbl, respectively. Gold rose sharply as lower oil prices and soft US payrolls data drove yields lower, ending the week up at $4,340.70/troy oz.

FX: The US dollar index fell by –0.38% last week. After initially benefiting from safe-haven flows due to ongoing tensions in the Middle East, it fell to its lowest level since May after an unexpected decline in nonfarm payrolls. The dollar weakened against both the euro and the yen, ending the week at $1.16 and ¥157.76, respectively. Bessent said that the US had joined Japan's attempts to support the yen the previous week, though the yen has continued to struggle, highlighting the limitations of currency intervention.

Economic Summary

Labor: Last week's data releases revived concerns about the US labor market. Nonfarm payrolls unexpectedly fell by 23k in July, well below consensus expectations of an 85k increase. June's figure was revised down from 57k to 20k, and May's from 129k to 63k. While the unemployment rate ticked down from 4.2% to 4.1%, labor force participation also fell slightly, down from 61.5% to 61.4%. Meanwhile, average hourly earnings growth slowed from 0.3% MoM to 0.1%. Job openings fell by 178k to 7,359k in June, somewhat below consensus expectations, driven mostly by a decline in openings in the health care category. On a more positive note, US initial jobless claims were little changed at 199k in the week ending August 1, marking the third consecutive week that they came in below 200k, the longest such streak since 1969.

Inflation: Euro area producer price inflation slowed from 5.9% YoY in May to 4.6% in June, though the print largely reflected lower energy prices, with producer prices excluding energy remaining firmer. Japan's labor cash earnings increased by 3.4% YoY in June, in line with consensus expectations and slightly above May's revised 3.3%, suggesting continued progress toward achieving sustained inflation.

Activity: The ISM Manufacturing index increased by 2.3 points to 55.6 in July, above consensus expectations, reaching its highest level since May 2022. The composition of the report was strong, with increases in the new orders, production and employment components. This print marked its seventh consecutive month above 50. The ISM Services index, by contrast, only edged up by 0.1 points to 54.1, below consensus expectations, although this was still its 25th consecutive month in expansionary territory. Euro area retail sales fell 0.3% MoM in June, below consensus expectations of 0.1%, following a 0.4% increase in May. In China, exports remained robust, rising 23.9% YoY in July, above expectations, despite moderating from 27.0% in June.

Key Economic Releases

Monday, August 10: No economic releases	**Thursday, August 13:** US PPI MoM (Cons: 0.2%, Prior: -0.3%) US Initial Jobless Claims (Prior: 199k) UK Q2 GDP QoQ (Cons: 0.4%, Prior: 0.6%)
Tuesday, August 11: No economic releases	**Friday, August 14:** Euro Area Q2 GDP QoQ (Cons: 0.4%, Prior: 0.4%) US Retail Sales MoM (Cons: 0.2%, Prior: 0.2%)
Wednesday, August 12: US CPI YoY (Cons: 3.4%, Prior: 3.5%)	

Source: Goldman Sachs Asset Management: "Market Monitor", 8/7/2026

"AI" refers to Artificial Intelligence. "Fed" refers to Federal Reserve. "WTI" refers to West Texas Intermediate crude oil, a common US benchmark for oil prices. "Brent" refers to a global benchmark for oil prices worldwide. "Bbl" refers to barrel. "Oz" refers to ounce. "FX" refers to foreign exchange. "ISM" refers to Institute for Supply Management. "MoM" refers to month-over-month. "YoY" refers to year-over-year. "Print" refers to a data release.