# Newsletter for Week Ending 5/16/25











Disclaimer: I am not a financial advisor, and do not make any recommendations on what to buy or sell.

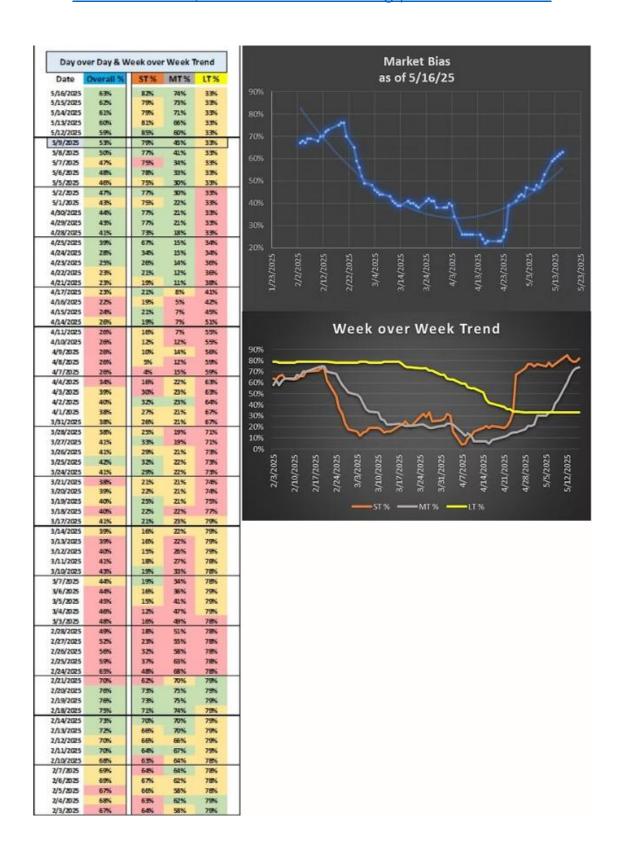
The information offered here is for educational purposes only and does not constitute financial, legal or professional advice. NO ONE, including me, has any idea what the market will do.

Each person must determine their own risk profile, trading/investing style and take responsibility for any trades they make. Always do your own research and due diligence before making any investment decisions.

Past performance does not guarantee future results!

Most of the charts shown in this newsletter are courtesy of StockCharts.com and can be found on the website shown at the top of the page. Here is a link to the StockCharts.com pricing and if you sign up, I would appreciate if you used my email as a referral (danbyrd@comcast.net)

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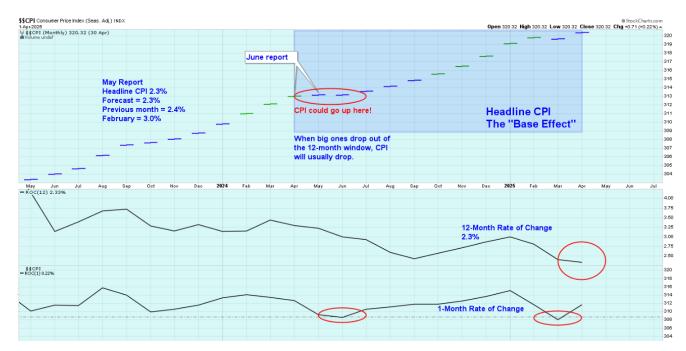
# Economic Calendar for Last Week:

Time	Cur.	Imp.	Event	Actual	Forecast	Previous	
Tuesday, May 13, 2025							
08:30	USD	***	Core CPI (MoM) (Apr)	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%	
08:30	■ USD	***	CPI (YoY) (Apr)	2.3%	2.4%	2.4%	
08:30	■ USD	***	CPI (MoM) (Apr)	0.2%	0.3%	-0.1%	
11:30	<b>■</b> USD	***	U.S. President Trump Speaks   (i)				
			Wednesday, May 14, 20	025			
10:30	USD	***	Crude Oil Inventories	3.454M	-2.000M	-2.032M	
			Thursday, May 15, 202	25			
08:30	■ USD	***	Core Retail Sales (MoM) (Apr)	0.1%	0.3%	0.8%	
08:30	■ USD	***	Initial Jobless Claims	229K	229K	229K	
08:30	■ USD	***	Philadelphia Fed Manufacturing Index (May)	-4.0	-11.3	-26.4	
08:30	■ USD	***	PPI (MoM) (Apr)	-0.5%	0.2%	0.0%	
08:30	■ USD	***	Retail Sales (MoM) (Apr)	0.1%	0.0%	1.7%	
08:40	■ USD	***	Fed Chair Powell Speaks   ()				

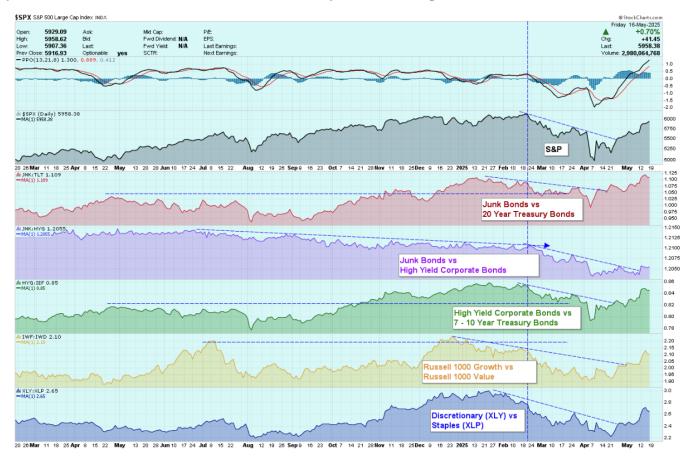
# **Economic Calendar for Next Week:**

Time	Cur.	lmp.	Event	Actual Forecast	Previous			
Wednesday, May 21, 2025								
10:30	USD	***	Crude Oil Inventories		3.454M			
			Thursday, May 22, 20	25				
08:30	■ USD	***	Initial Jobless Claims	232K	229K			
09:45	■ USD	***	S&P Global Manufacturing PMI (May) p		50.2			
09:45	■ USD	***	S&P Global Services PMI (May) P		50.8			
10:00	■ USD	***	Existing Home Sales (Apr)	4.10M	4.02M			
Friday, May 23, 2025								
10:00	www.USD	***	New Home Sales (Apr)	700K	724K			

Both CPI and PPI declined again this month, although that might be the end of the decline for a few month. As you can see below with the Base Effect (12 month average), inflation may move higher in the next 2 – 3 months. Unfortunately, that is also during the historically weak summer months.



Here you can see that the market is decidedly "risk on" again.



And in this one you can see how overbought things have become, although there is still a little more room to the upside that might close out May near the highs.



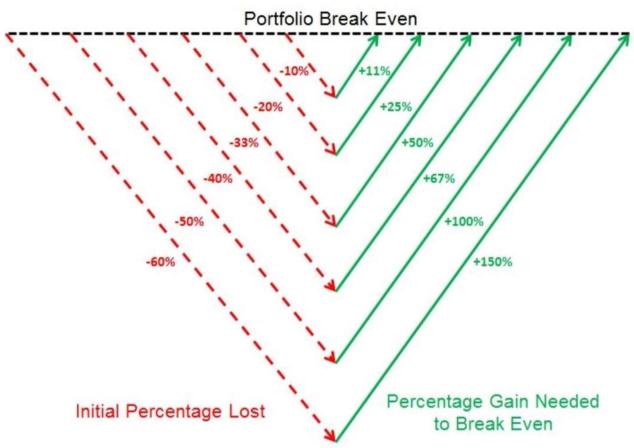
All but the % above the 200 MA are at new highs and in reversal territory above the red line. The RSI in the top panel is also at over-bought levels above 70, although it can stay there longer. And the Put/Call Ratio is almost at a reversal point that often occurs near tops. Notice where all of these were in early February.

And a look at the VIX shows that fear is dissipating. Almost back below 17.



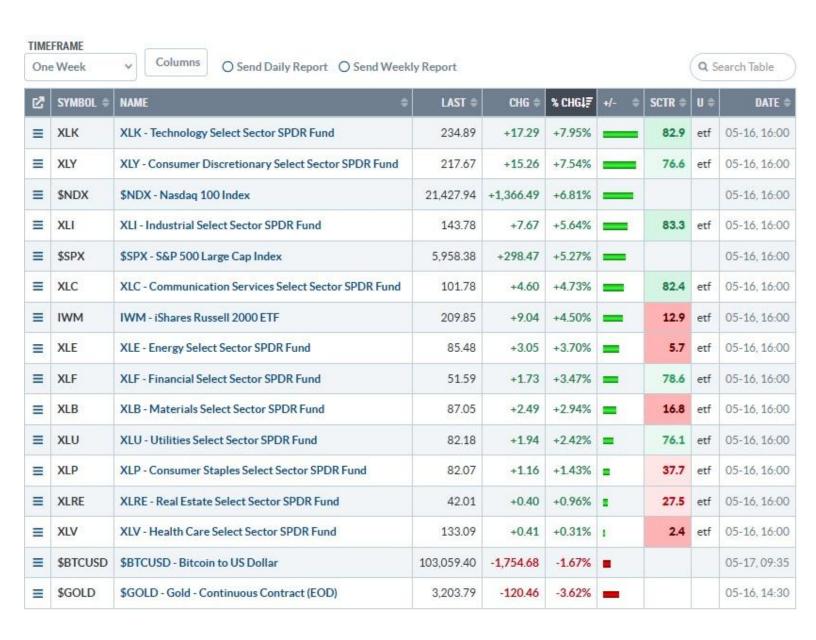
The following image is worth studying and remembering why it's so important to take small losses, rather than holding on for a recovery. As you can see, a 10% loss only needs an 11% gain to get back to even, but a 50% loss needs 100% (double) to do the same.

# Law of Large Losses



# Weekly performance reports:

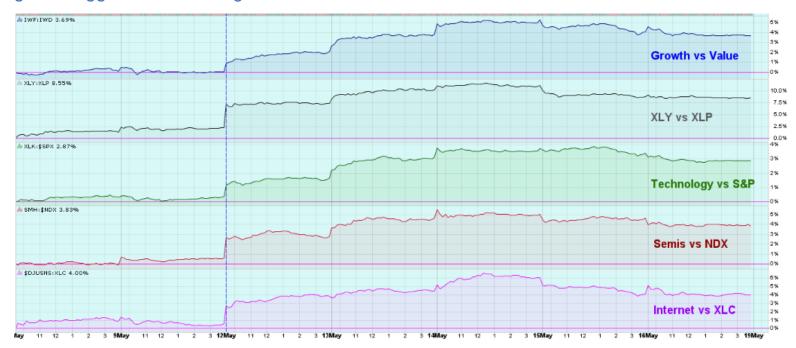




# 10-Minute charts for the week: XLC, XLF & all of the defensive sectors are underperforming



Growth areas are outperforming Value, implying that Wall Street is rotating into growth/aggressive areas again.



Looks like Mid-Cap Growth is in favor this week:

	VALUE	CORE	GROWTH
LARGE	0.78%	0.63%	0.64%
	SPYV	SPY	SPYG
MID	0.90%	1.09%	1.29%
	MDYV	MDY	MDYG
SMALL	0.44%	0.81%	1.00%
	SLYV	SPSM	SLYG

# Best & Worst Large Caps for the Week:

SYMBOL \$	NAME ÷	SECTOR \$	INDUSTRY \$	LAST \$	CHG ≑	% CHG↓₹	+/- \$	SCTR \$	U \$
SMCI	SMCI - Super Micro Computer, Inc	Technology	Computer Hardware	46.15	+14.16	+44.26%		99.4	Irg
NRG	NRG - NRG Energy Inc.	Utilities	Conventional Electricity	159.20	+39.87	+33.41%		99.6	Irg
FSLR	FSLR - First Solar Inc.	Technology	Renewable Energy Equipment	178.46	+37.78	+26.86%		74.4	Irg
DELL	DELL - Dell Technologies, Inc.	Technology	Computer Hardware	114.19	+18.28	+19.06%	_	61.3	Irg
ARM	ARM - Arm Holdings Plc	Technology	Semiconductors	135.96	+20.16	+17.41%		74.0	Irg
TSLA	TSLA - Tesla Inc.	Discretionary	Automobiles	349.98	+51.72	+17.34%	_	89.8	Irg
NVDA	NVDA - NVIDIA Corp.	Technology	Semiconductors	135.40	+18.75	+16.07%	_	73.4	Irg
CCL	CCL - Carnival Corp.	Discretionary	Recreational Services	23.39	+3.20	+15.85%	_	70.2	Irg
VST	VST - Vistra Energy Corp.	Utilities	Conventional Electricity	156.62	+20.87	+15.37%	_	90.7	Irg
LULU	LULU - Lululemon Athletica Inc.	Discretionary	Clothing & Accessories	321.44	+41.67	+14.89%	_	51.0	Irg
SYMBOL \$	NAME ÷	SECTOR \$	INDUSTRY \$	LAST \$	CHG \$	% CHG†₹	+/- =	SCTR \$	U \$
SYMBOL \$	NAME   UNH - Unitedhealth Group, Inc.	SECTOR ÷	INDUSTRY   Health Care Providers	LAST \$ 291.91	CHG <b>\$</b> -88.73	% CHGTF -23.31%	+/- \$	SCTR \$	U \$
							+/- \$	SCTR \$	Irg
UNH	UNH - Unitedhealth Group, Inc.	Health Care	Health Care Providers	291.91	-88.73	-23.31%	-		Irg
UNH FI	UNH - Unitedhealth Group, Inc. FI - Fiserv, Inc.	Health Care Financial	Health Care Providers Financial Administration	291.91 166.66	-88.73 -17.41	-23.31% -9.46%	-	1.1	Irg Irg
UNH FI NEM	UNH - Unitedhealth Group, Inc. FI - Fiserv, Inc. NEM - Newmont Corporation	Health Care Financial Materials	Health Care Providers Financial Administration Gold Mining	291.91 166.66 50.10	-88.73 -17.41 -3.88	-23.31% -9.46% -7.19%	-	1.1	Irg Irg Irg
UNH FI NEM CVS	UNH - Unitedhealth Group, Inc.  FI - Fiserv, Inc.  NEM - Newmont Corporation  CVS - CVS Health Corp.	Health Care Financial Materials Health Care	Health Care Providers Financial Administration Gold Mining Pharmaceuticals	291.91 166.66 50.10 62.53	-88.73 -17.41 -3.88 -4.44	-23.31% -9.46% -7.19% -6.63%		1.1 61.8 47.1	Irg Irg Irg
UNH FI NEM CVS MKTX	UNH - Unitedhealth Group, Inc.  FI - Fiserv, Inc.  NEM - Newmont Corporation  CVS - CVS Health Corp.  MKTX - MarketAxess Holdings Inc.	Health Care Financial Materials Health Care Financial	Health Care Providers Financial Administration Gold Mining Pharmaceuticals Investment Services	291.91 166.66 50.10 62.53 216.01	-88.73 -17.41 -3.88 -4.44 -15.08	-23.31% -9.46% -7.19% -6.63% -6.53%		1.1 61.8 47.1 17.4	Irg Irg Irg Irg mid
UNH FI NEM CVS MKTX HSY	UNH - Unitedhealth Group, Inc.  FI - Fisery, Inc.  NEM - Newmont Corporation  CVS - CVS Health Corp.  MKTX - MarketAxess Holdings Inc.  HSY - Hershey Foods Corp.	Health Care Financial Materials Health Care Financial Staples	Health Care Providers Financial Administration Gold Mining Pharmaceuticals Investment Services Food Products	291.91 166.66 50.10 62.53 216.01 158.49	-88.73 -17.41 -3.88 -4.44 -15.08 -10.98	-23.31% -9.46% -7.19% -6.63% -6.53% -6.48%		1.1 61.8 47.1 17.4 8.0	Irg Irg Irg Irg Irg
UNH FI NEM CVS MKTX HSY CBOE	UNH - Unitedhealth Group, Inc.  FI - Fisery, Inc.  NEM - Newmont Corporation  CVS - CVS Health Corp.  MKTX - MarketAxess Holdings Inc.  HSY - Hershey Foods Corp.  CBOE - CBOE Global Markets Inc.	Health Care Financial Materials Health Care Financial Staples Financial	Health Care Providers Financial Administration Gold Mining Pharmaceuticals Investment Services Food Products Investment Services	291.91 166.66 50.10 62.53 216.01 158.49 220.95	-88.73 -17.41 -3.88 -4.44 -15.08 -10.98 -10.76	-23.31% -9.46% -7.19% -6.63% -6.53% -6.48%	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1.1 61.8 47.1 17.4 8.0 56.2	Irg Irg Irg Irg Irg Irg Irg
UNH FI NEM CVS MKTX HSY CBOE HUM	UNH - Unitedhealth Group, Inc.  FI - Fiserv, Inc.  NEM - Newmont Corporation  CVS - CVS Health Corp.  MKTX - MarketAxess Holdings Inc.  HSY - Hershey Foods Corp.  CBOE - CBOE Global Markets Inc.  HUM - Humana, Inc.	Health Care Financial Materials Health Care Financial Staples Financial Health Care	Health Care Providers Financial Administration Gold Mining Pharmaceuticals Investment Services Food Products Investment Services Health Care Providers	291.91 166.66 50.10 62.53 216.01 158.49 220.95 237.96	-88.73 -17.41 -3.88 -4.44 -15.08 -10.98 -10.76 -11.57	-23.31% -9.46% -7.19% -6.63% -6.53% -6.48% -4.64%		1.1 61.8 47.1 17.4 8.0 56.2	Irg Irg Irg Irg Irg Irg Irg Irg





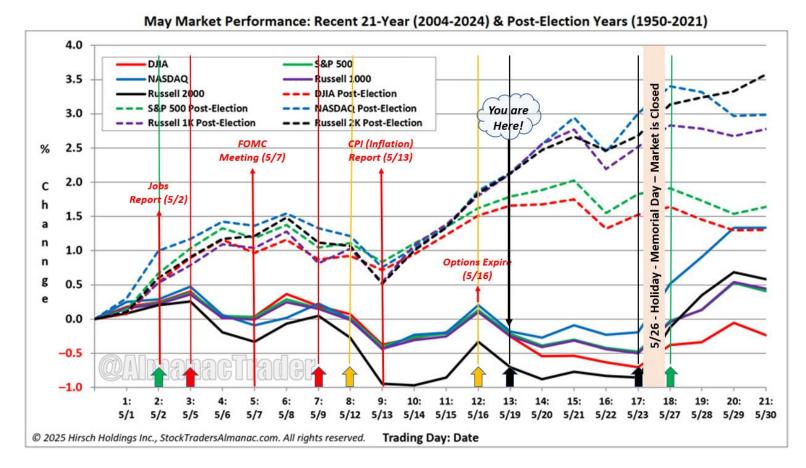
# Best & Worst Small/Mid-Caps for the Week:

SYMBOL \$	NAME \$	SECTOR \$	INDUSTRY \$	LAST \$	CHG \$	% CHG↓₹	+/- =	SCTR \$	U \$
FL	FL - Foot Locker, Inc.	Discretionary	Apparel Retailers	23.85	+11.84	+98.58%		94.7	sml
BOOT	BOOT - Boot Barn Holdings Inc.	Discretionary	Apparel Retailers	156.71	+39.07	+33.21%	_	95.6	mid
RUN	RUN - Sunrun Inc.	Technology	Renewable Energy Equipment	12.25	+2.87	+30.60%	_	94.1	sml
GPRE	GPRE - Green Plains Inc	Materials	Specialty Chemicals	5.23	+1.16	+28.50%	_	24.0	sml
KSS	KSS - Kohls Corp.	Discretionary	Apparel Retailers	8.56	+1.85	+27.57%	_	3.6	mid
NXT	NXT - Nextracker Inc.	Technology	Renewable Energy Equipment	59.31	+12.77	+27.44%	_	98.6	mid
EXEL	EXEL - Exelixis, Inc.	Health Care	Biotechnology	45.40	+9.23	+25.52%	_	96.5	Irg
PI	PI - Impinj, Inc.	Technology	Telecom Equipment	125.05	+25.05	+25.05%	-	69.3	mid
FIVE	FIVE - Five Below, Inc.	Discretionary	Specialty Retailers	106.52	+21.27	+24.95%	_	92.7	mid
	HAIN - Hain Celestial Group, Inc.	Staples	Food Products	1.97	+0.39	+24.68%		5.3	sml
HAIN	TIAIN - Hain Celestial Group, Inc.	Stapics	1 ood 1 roddes						
SYMBOL \$	NAME	SECTOR \$	INDUSTRY \$	LAST \$	CHG \$	% CHGTF	+/- \$	SCTR \$	U \$
					CHG <b>\$</b>		+/- \$	SCTR \$	U ¢
SYMBOL \$	NAME \$	SECTOR \$	INDUSTRY \$	LAST \$		% CHGTF			
SYMBOL \$	NAME   FTRE - Fortrea Holdings Inc.	SECTOR   Health Care	INDUSTRY   Biotechnology	LAST \$	-1.71	% CHGTF -27.80%	-	3.7	sml
SYMBOL \$ FTRE HALO	NAME   FTRE - Fortrea Holdings Inc.  HALO - Halozyme Therapeutics Inc.	SECTOR   Health Care  Health Care	INDUSTRY   Biotechnology  Biotechnology	LAST \$ 4.44 52.02	-1.71 -13.85	% CHGTF -27.80% -21.03%	•	3.7 12.4	sml mid
SYMBOL \$ FTRE HALO IRWD	NAME   FTRE - Fortrea Holdings Inc.  HALO - Halozyme Therapeutics Inc.  IRWD - Ironwood Pharmaceuticals Inc.	SECTOR  Health Care Health Care Health Care	Biotechnology Biotechnology Pharmaceuticals	4.44 52.02 0.57	-1.71 -13.85 -0.14	% CHGT= -27.80% -21.03% -19.63%	•	3.7 12.4 2.2	sml mid sml
SYMBOL  FTRE HALO IRWD GDOT	NAME   FTRE - Fortrea Holdings Inc.  HALO - Halozyme Therapeutics Inc.  IRWD - Ironwood Pharmaceuticals Inc.  GDOT - Green Dot Corp.	SECTOR  Health Care Health Care Health Care Financial	Biotechnology Biotechnology Pharmaceuticals Consumer Finance	LAST \$ 4.44 52.02 0.57 9.44	-1.71 -13.85 -0.14 -1.50	% CHGTF -27.80% -21.03% -19.63% -13.71%	- - - -	3.7 12.4 2.2 55.8	sml mid sml
SYMBOL DEFINE HALO IRWD GDOT JACK	NAME  FTRE - Fortrea Holdings Inc.  HALO - Halozyme Therapeutics Inc.  IRWD - Ironwood Pharmaceuticals Inc.  GDOT - Green Dot Corp.  JACK - Jack In The Box, Inc.	SECTOR  Health Care Health Care Health Care Financial Discretionary	Biotechnology Biotechnology Pharmaceuticals Consumer Finance Restaurants & Bars	4.44 52.02 0.57 9.44 23.75	-1.71 -13.85 -0.14 -1.50 -3.17	% CHGTF -27.80% -21.03% -19.63% -13.71% -11.78%	•	3.7 12.4 2.2 55.8	sml mid sml sml
SYMBOL DEFTRE HALO IRWD GDOT JACK DOCS	FTRE - Fortrea Holdings Inc.  HALO - Halozyme Therapeutics Inc.  IRWD - Ironwood Pharmaceuticals Inc.  GDOT - Green Dot Corp.  JACK - Jack In The Box, Inc.  DOCS - Doximity Inc.	SECTOR  Health Care Health Care Health Care Financial Discretionary Technology	Biotechnology Biotechnology Pharmaceuticals Consumer Finance Restaurants & Bars Software	4.44 52.02 0.57 9.44 23.75 52.56	-1.71 -13.85 -0.14 -1.50 -3.17 -6.63	% CHGTF -27.80% -21.03% -19.63% -13.71% -11.78% -11.20%		3.7 12.4 2.2 55.8 0.8 15.7	sml mid sml sml mid
SYMBOL DEFINE HALO IRWD GDOT JACK DOCS VIR	NAME  FTRE - Fortrea Holdings Inc.  HALO - Halozyme Therapeutics Inc.  IRWD - Ironwood Pharmaceuticals Inc.  GDOT - Green Dot Corp.  JACK - Jack In The Box, Inc.  DOCS - Doximity Inc.  VIR - Vir Biotechnology Inc.	SECTOR  Health Care Health Care Health Care Financial Discretionary Technology Health Care	Biotechnology Biotechnology Pharmaceuticals Consumer Finance Restaurants & Bars Software Biotechnology	LAST \$ 4.44 52.02 0.57 9.44 23.75 52.56 4.60	-1.71 -13.85 -0.14 -1.50 -3.17 -6.63 -0.48	% CHGTF -27.80% -21.03% -19.63% -13.71% -11.78% -11.20% -9.54%	• • • • •	3.7 12.4 2.2 55.8 0.8 15.7	sml mid sml sml mid lrg





Let's take a look at where we are so far in May, from Stock Trader's Almanac. As you can see, May still has Bullish tendencies for the next 9 trading days.



And how about the comparison with 2018?



# From Real Investment Advice (RIA):

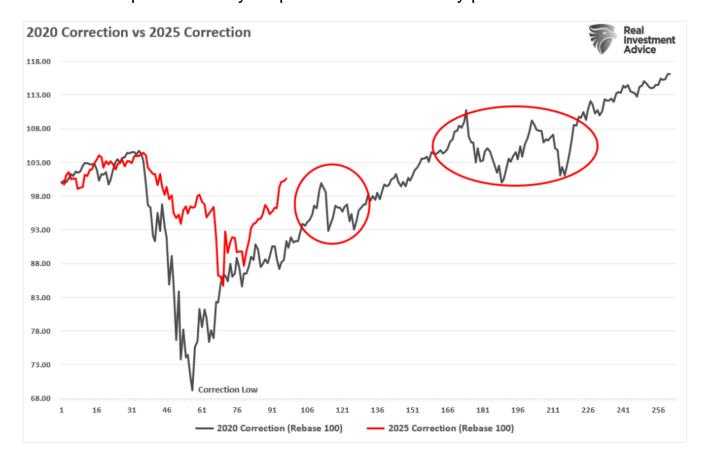
## Recession Probabilities Decline - RIA

## 2020 vs 2025

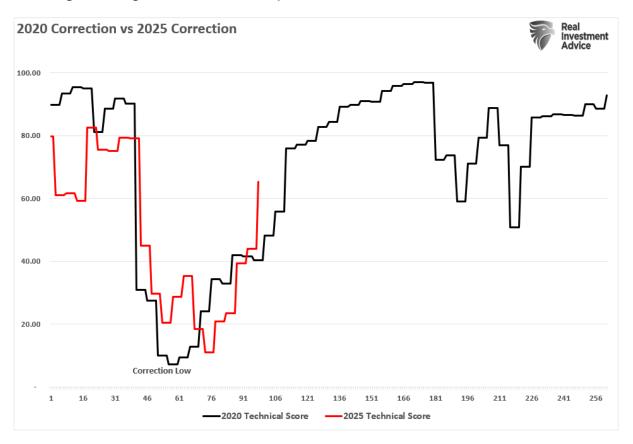
As shown, there is an analogy between the current market recovery and that seen in 2020 following the pandemic. However, it is worth remembering that there are many competing differences between the current macroeconomic backdrop and that of 2020.

Backdrop	2020	2025
Economy	Recession	Slow Growth
Interest Rates	Falling	Stable
Inflation	Falling	Stabilizing
Fed Rate Policy	0%	4.30%
<b>Monetary Policy</b>	QE \$120 Bil (Mth)	QT -\$5 Bil (Mth)
Gov't Policy	Massive Stimulus	No Stimulus

However, as we discussed in that previous analysis, even a "can't stop, won't stop bull market" gives those who can be patient better risk/reward opportunities to increase equity exposures. For example, after the initial rally off the March 2020 lows, the market pulled back and consolidated briefly before rallying further. Then, another longer consolidation process that year provided another entry point for bullish investors.



The weekly Technical Gauge we produce each week in this newsletter below follows the same path as 2020. While not yet back to bullish technical extremes, it is moving quickly higher to more elevated levels. When those readings reached 80, the market went through a longer consolidation process in 2020.



So, is this 2022 where the recent rally will fail and test lower levels? Maybe. Or, is it more like 2020, where the rally continues with only mild pullbacks along the way? Possibly. **The true answer is that I don't know.** However, it is worth considering that there are many macroeconomic differences today compared to 2020. That lack of fiscal and monetary support, slowing economic growth, and tighter monetary policy are headwinds to higher stock prices. But, it is logical that the latest bullish market action has investors questioning a more cautious approach to the markets.

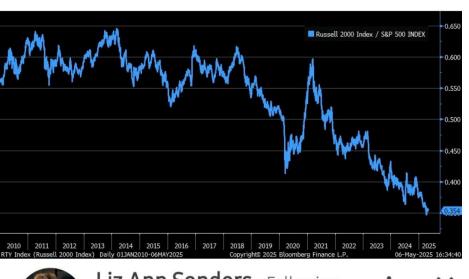
The same is true for us. We are currently underweight equities and hedged. However, the need for hedges is quickly declining, and the need for equity exposure is increasing. It's a tough battle between creating portfolio performance and risk management. We are sticking with risk management until things become more certain, at least for now.

This week, we will discuss why another bearish case is fading – *recession probabilities are falling.* 



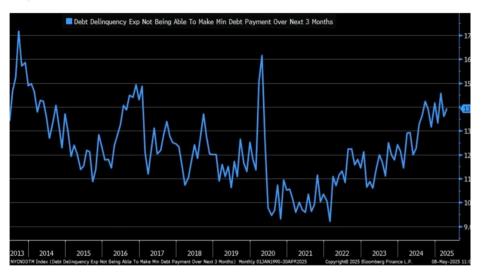


Despite a recent bounce, Russell 2000 has not rallied strongly relative to S&P 500 ... ratio still hovering near a multidecade low [Past performance is no guarantee of future results]



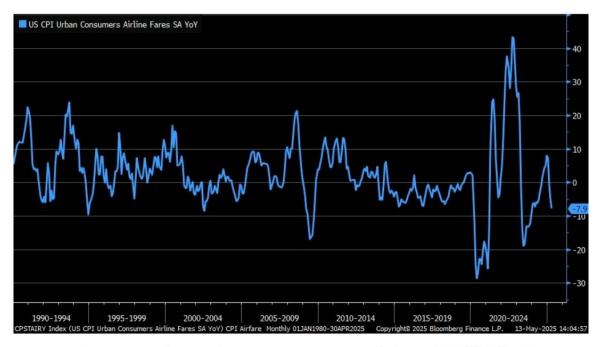


As of April, % of consumers saying they don't expect to be able to make a minimum debt payment over next 3 months moved up to 13.94% per NY Fed

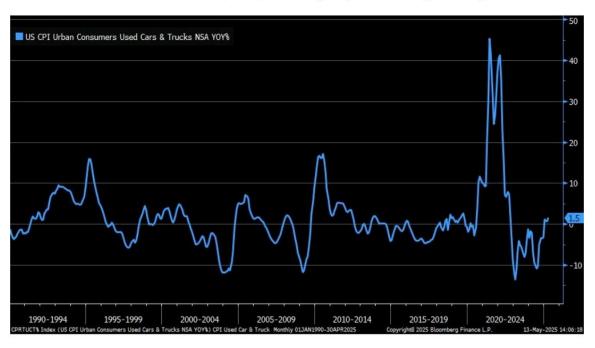




Big swings in airfare component of CPI continue ... down by 7.9% year/year in April

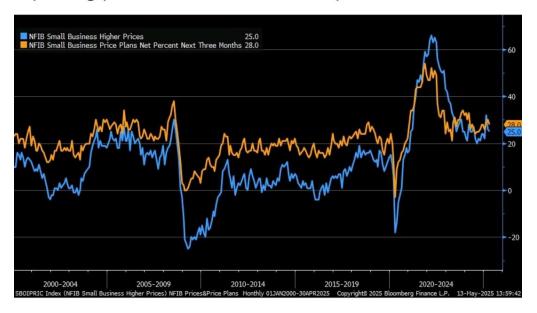


Used car and truck component of CPI #inflation reaccelerated in April, rising by 1.5% year/year





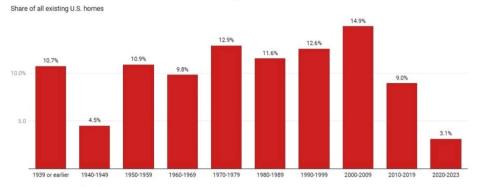
Small businesses' plans to raise prices in next three months (orange) ticked lower in April, as did pricing pressure concerns (blue) per NFIB





U.S. has been building fewer homes since global financial crisis ... looking at share of all existing U.S. homes, only 9% were build in 2010s (lowest share of any decade since 1940s) per **Redfin** 

#### Smaller Share of Homes Built in 2010s Than Any Decade Since 1940s



Source: U.S. Census Bureau • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper

# China to US shipment bookings plunge

Year on year percent change of twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) booked from China to the US.





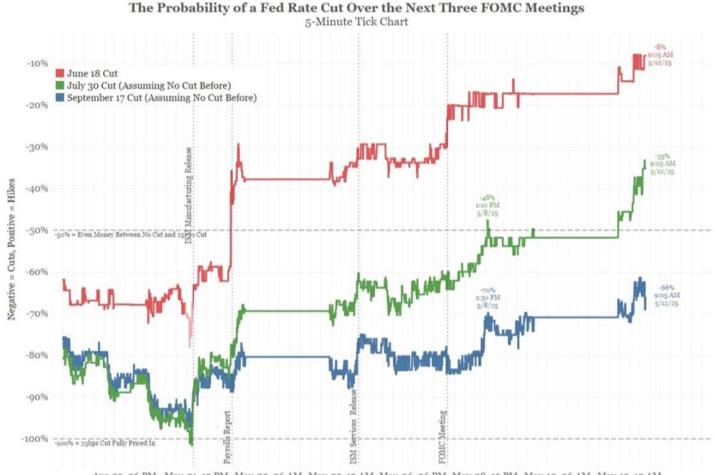
# James Bianco • 2nd President at Bianco Research ... 1d • 🕟

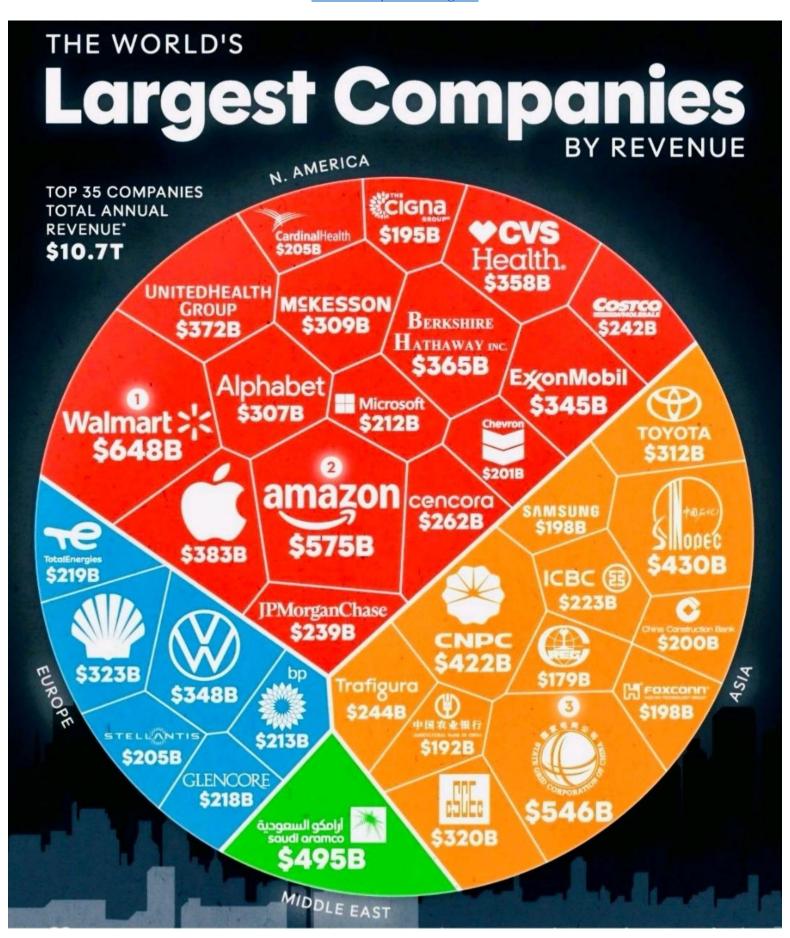


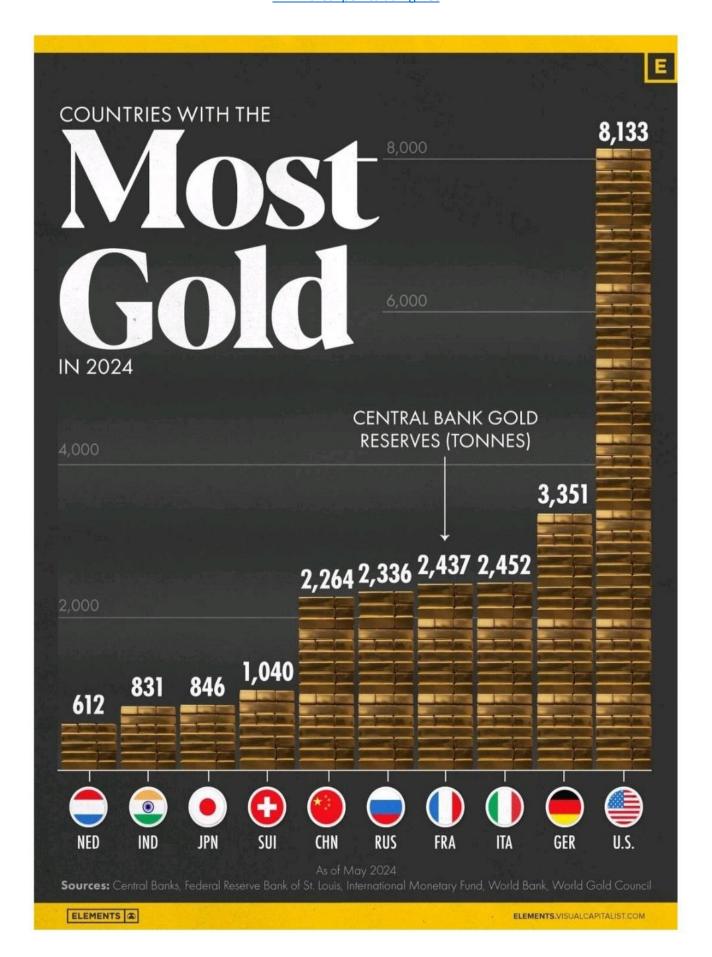
Rate cuts continue to disappear.

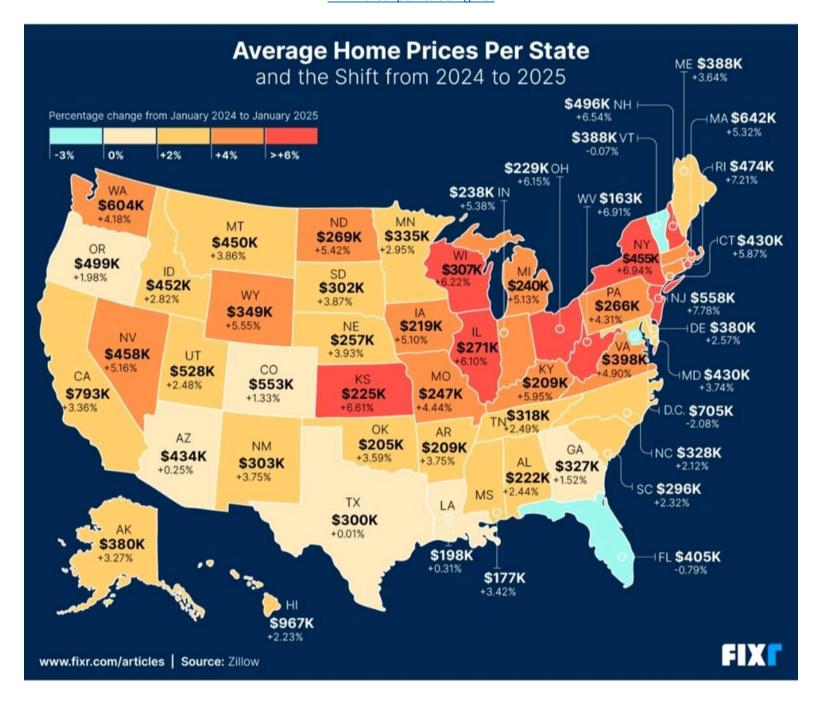
- \* June 18 (red) now 8% (92% no move)
- \* July 30 (green) now 35% (65% no move)

No cut is priced until September 17. And even that cut (blue) is disappearing. It was more than 100% ~10 days ago and is now 66% (34% no move) and continuing to fall.





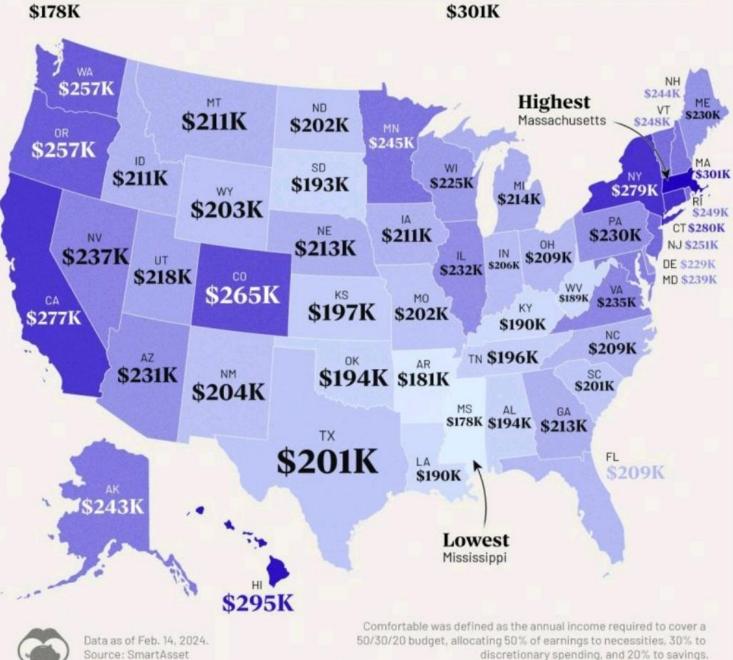




# The Income a Family Needs

TO LIVE COMFORTABLY IN THE U.S.





#### The Most Taxed States in America Based on total tax burden (property, income, and sales taxes) as a percentage of personal income. WA 🏠 8.6% ME 10.6 7.9% VT 11.5% 6.6% MN 9.7% 9.1% 8.3% 9.6% 7.5% WY 🏦 6.5% 13.6% 8.3% 5.8% RI10.1% CT9.9% 9.2% 8.6% NV OH NJ10.3% 8.8% 8.6% UT 9.4% 10.2% 9.1% DE 6.5% 9.5% CO MD10.0% 8.7% 8.9% MO 1.0% 9.3% 7.8% 8.9% 8.2% AR NM 8.2% 7.0% 9.6% 8.6% 8.0% 8.5% 1 LA (9.1% 7.8% 8.9% 6.5% Least Taxed Most Taxed NO INCOME TAX 13.9%