



A Giant Steps Down: Warren Buffett Ends His 60-Year Berkshire Reign as Trade Talks Advance and Wall Street Pauses.

May 5, 2025

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The U.S. and European stock markets began the week with mixed results, as Wall Street kicked off the week in the red, with the S&P 500 easing after notching a nine-day winning streak.

European markets closed up following stronger-than-expected sentiment data out of the eurozone. Meanwhile, crude oil prices are sliding more than 1%, according to reports that OPEC+ plans to increase production starting in June, adding pressure to commodity markets. Treasury yields began the week with some change, with the 2-year note closing at 3.83% and the 10-year at 4.36%.

Markets Await Clarity on Global Trade Talks

The recent 14% rebound in the S&P 500 from its April 8 low—following a sharp 19% correction—has been fueled by hopes of improving global trade conditions. Ongoing negotiations between the U.S. and key partners, including Japan, South Korea, and India, boosted investor sentiment. Weekend headlines added more fuel, suggesting potential trade agreements could be announced within days.

In a noteworthy diplomatic development, newly elected Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney will meet with President Trump at the White House tomorrow. However, the trajectory of U.S.-China trade relations remains uncertain. Despite assurances from the U.S. administration that tariffs could ease over time, both countries maintain punitive levies exceeding 100% on certain imports. For investors, staying focused on long-term fundamentals and diversification remains essential amid the daily noise of market developments.

All Eyes on the Fed

Attention is also being paid to central bank policy as the Federal Open Market Committee concludes its May meeting this Wednesday. The Fed is widely expected to leave interest rates unchanged at the 4.25%–4.50% range. Instead, market watchers will be parsing Chair Jerome Powell's remarks for clues on future direction.

Powell has recently emphasized that trade-related tariffs may complicate the Fed's dual mandate, potentially fueling both inflation and job market weakness. Following a stronger-than-anticipated jobs report last Friday, Powell will likely underscore the Fed's flexibility and patience in adjusting policy. While rate cuts are still anticipated later this year, they are not expected before the second half. Futures markets are currently pricing three cuts in 2025, with the first move anticipated in July.

A Giant Steps Down: Warren Buffet to Retire

A surprising end to the annual stockholders meeting of Berkshire Hathaway, Warren Buffett, the legendary "Oracle of Omaha", announced he will retire as CEO of Berkshire Hathaway effective December 31, 2025. With that single act, an incredibly successful 60-year run as CEO closes—quietly, respectfully, in the manner of the man himself.

For over six decades, Buffett did more than build wealth. He built trust, turning long-term thinking into a discipline and ethical investing into a philosophy. He became, in a world increasingly addicted to speed and speculation, a living reminder that consistency, humility, and principle are still the cornerstones of greatness.

He spoke in plain words, lived simply, read voraciously, and acted with the wisdom of knowing markets and understanding people. Even breakfast, for Warren Buffett, comes down to disciplined decision-making. Each morning on his way to the office, the Oracle of Omaha stops by McDonald's—but what he orders depends not on hunger but on how the stock market is doing. If the market's looking sluggish, he goes with the cheapest choice: two sausage parties for \$2.61. If it's a middling day, he might treat himself to a sausage, egg, and cheese sandwich for \$2.95. And on mornings when the markets are strong, he spends a "splurge"-worthy \$3.17 on a bacon, egg, and cheese biscuit.

This modest ritual, unchanged by his billions, reflects Buffett's lifelong philosophy: value matters, consistency counts, and even the smallest habits reveal the sharpest minds.

Buffett's greatness was never theatrical. It was deliberate. Where others chased trends, he waited. Where others inflated their image, he let his record speak. He built an empire not on bravado but on integrity, and along the way, inspired generations of investors, business leaders, and thinkers to aim not just for success—but for substance.

We witness a standard's passing as Warren Buffett prepares to end his tenure.

A standard of clarity, patience, stewardship, and wisdom measured in decades, not quarters.

Greatness requires greatness, Not once, Not in part, But every single time.

GDPNow Update:

- The GDPNow for the second quarter was updated on May 1, 2025, to 1.10%, down from 2.40%, a 54.17% decrease.

Economic Update:

- **US ISM Services PMI:** fell to 50.80, down from 53.50 last month, decreasing -5.05%.
- **US ISM Services Employment Index:** fell to 46.20, down from 53.90 last month, decreasing to -14.29%.
- **US ISM Services New Orders Index:** fell to 50.40, down from 52.20 last month, dropped -3.45%.
- **US ISM Services Prices Paid Index:** fell to 60.90, down from 62.60 last month, dropped -2.72%.

Eurozone Summary:

- **Stoxx 600:** Closed at 537.31, up 0.88 points or 0.16%.
- **FTSE 100:** Closed at 8,596.35, up 99.55 or 1.17%.
- **DAX Index:** Closed at 23,344.54, up 257.89 or 1.12%.

Wall Street Summary:

- **Dow Jones Industrial Average:** closed at 41,218.83, down 98.60 points or 0.24%.
- **S&P 500:** closed at 5,650.38, down 36.29 points or 0.64%.
- **Nasdaq Composite:** closed at 17,844.24, down 133.49 points or 0.74%.
- **Birling Capital Puerto Rico Stock Index:** closed at 3,783.66, up 79.81 points or 2.15%.
- **Birling Capital U.S. Bank Index:** closed at 6,304.89, up 164.28 points or 2.68%.
- **U.S. Treasury 10-year note:** closed at 4.36%.
- **U.S. Treasury 2-year note:** closed at 3.83%.



GDPNow 1Q25

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Date	GDPNow 2Q25	Change
4/30/25	2.40%	Initial Forecast
5/1/25	1.10%	-54.17%

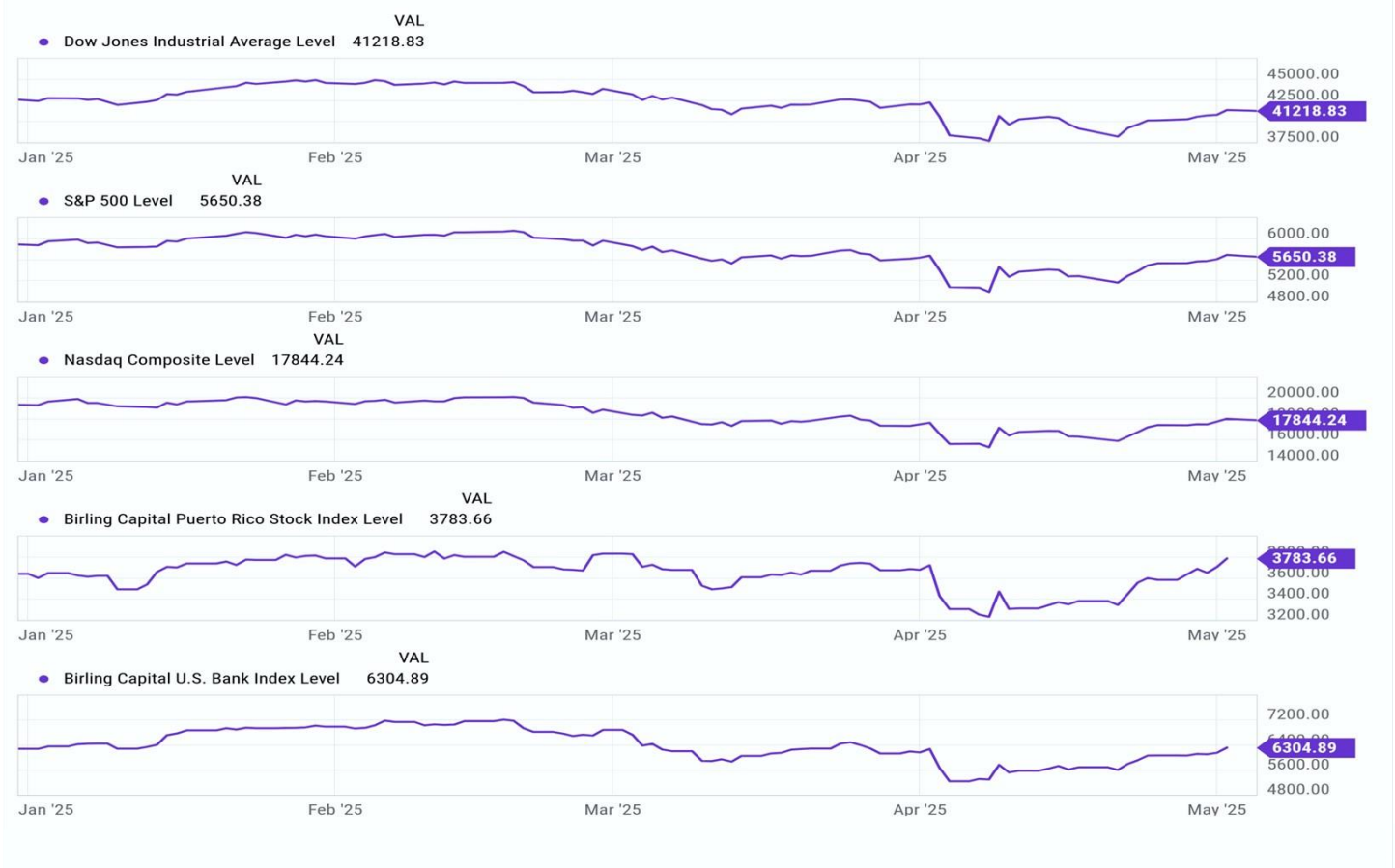


US ISM Services PMI, US ISM Services New Orders, US ISM Services Employment Index & US ISM Services Prices Paid





Wall Street Recap May 5, 2025



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