

## Stocks Trade Higher as Market Leadership Broadens



**Michael McDermott**

Financial Advisor

phone: (470) 826-5770

email:

[michael@cuwgroup.com](mailto:michael@cuwgroup.com)

### Connect with your advisor

✓ *Financial Planning*

✓ *Investment*

*Management*

✓ *Wealth Management*

✓ *Retirement / 401(k)*

*Advice*

### Looking for help with your investments?

Visit:

[membersfirstga.com/wealth-management](https://membersfirstga.com/wealth-management)

### Monthly Market Summary

- The S&P 500 Index gained +1.5% in January, setting a new high as it traded above 7,000 for the first time. Large Cap Growth declined -1.5% as tech stocks traded lower, while Large Cap Value rose +4.6%. The Russell 2000 returned +5.4% and set new highs as market leadership rotated toward smaller companies.
- Energy led all S&P 500 sectors with a +14.4% return as oil prices rose nearly +15%. Seven of the eleven S&P 500 sectors outperformed the index, while the Financials, Technology, and Health Care sectors each traded lower.
- Bonds produced modest gains despite rising Treasury yields, with the U.S. Bond Aggregate gaining +0.1%. Corporate bonds outperformed as credit spreads tightened, with investment-grade gaining +0.4% and high-yield returning +0.5%.
- International stocks outperformed the S&P 500 as the U.S. dollar fell to a nearly 4-year low. Developed Markets gained +5.2%, outperforming the S&P 500 but underperforming Emerging Markets' +8.9% return.

### Economic Activity Remains Solid Despite Weak Sentiment

Economic data continues to highlight a widening gap between how people feel and how the economy is performing. Measures of real activity, such as retail sales and industrial production, indicate the economy ended 2025 with solid momentum. In contrast, consumer confidence fell to multi-year lows, driven by concerns about inflation, job security, and geopolitical uncertainty, and an index of manufacturing conditions remained in contraction. The gap between sentiment and behavior has been a recurring theme over the past 12 months. Despite weak consumer and business confidence, data that measures actual spending and economic activity is supportive of continued growth.

### Treasury Yields Rise as the Fed Pauses its Rate-Cutting Cycle Again

Treasury yields rose in January in anticipation that the Federal Reserve would pause its rate-cutting cycle. The shift was driven by better-than-expected economic data and signs of stabilization in the labor market. While job growth continued to slow and the number of job openings fell, unemployment unexpectedly declined and jobless claims remained low. The data points to a continued hiring slowdown, but the lack of widespread layoffs signals underlying stability. Overall, January's economic data offered little new information on inflation or growth, which allows the Fed to remain patient.

As anticipated, the Fed held interest rates steady at its late January meeting, ending a streak of three consecutive 0.25% cuts in late 2025. The policy statement struck a more optimistic tone compared to recent months, describing consumer spending and business activity as solid despite disruptions from the Q4 government shutdown. The Fed's decision and commentary signal a wait-and-see approach as policymakers assess the lagged impact of last year's cuts. Based on pricing in futures markets, the next rate cut isn't expected until June.

### Market Leadership Broadens & Commodity Prices Spike

Two market themes defined the month. First, market leadership shifted away from mega-cap technology stocks. Major indexes traded higher, but the average stock outperformed

the index. The equal-weighted S&P 500 outperformed the traditional market-cap-weighted index, small-cap stocks outperformed the S&P 500 by nearly +4%, and the Value factor outperformed the Growth factor by over +5%. The rotation is a significant change after a small group of mega-cap stocks drove a large portion of the stock market's recent gains. The shift is attributed to an improving economic outlook and a catch-up trade, as expensive mega-cap technology valuations prompt a rotation into more traditional, domestically focused companies that will benefit from lower interest rates and trade at more attractive valuations.

The second theme was a sharp rally in the commodity market. Despite late month volatility, gold rose +10% to a new high, silver surged over +20% to a new high, and oil prices rose to the highest level since last September. Investors turned to commodities as a hedge against global uncertainty, driven by geopolitical tensions, policy uncertainty, and a weaker U.S. dollar. The strength in commodity markets made Energy and Materials the top two performing sectors. This year's start, with the stock market rotation and commodity rally, highlights how portfolio diversification can help smooth results when leadership shifts.

## THIS MONTH IN NUMBERS

FIGURE 1

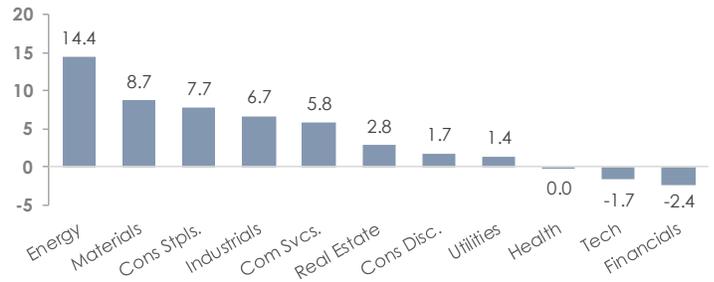
### U.S. Style Returns (January in %)

	Value	Blend	Growth
Large	4.6	1.5	-1.5
Mid	4.3	3.1	-0.9
Small	6.9	5.4	4.0

Data Reflects Most Recently Available As of 1/31/2026

FIGURE 2

### U.S. Sector Returns (January in %)



Data Reflects Most Recently Available As of 1/31/2026

FIGURE 3

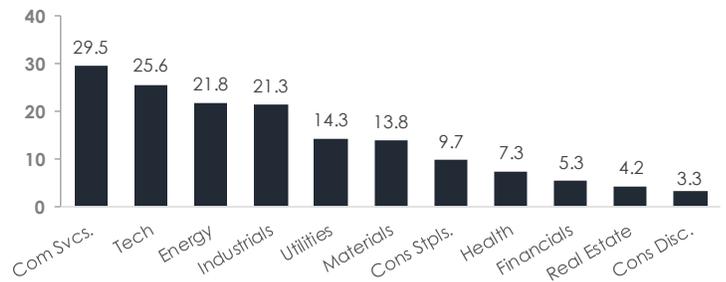
### U.S. Style Returns (1-Year in %)

	Value	Blend	Growth
Large	15.8	16.3	14.5
Mid	11.9	9.3	1.3
Small	17.9	15.8	13.9

Data Reflects Most Recently Available As of 1/31/2026

FIGURE 4

### U.S. Sector Returns (1-Year in %)



Data Reflects Most Recently Available As of 1/31/2026

FIGURE 5

### Market Data Center

Stocks	1 month	3 months	6 months	YTD	1 year	3 years
S&P 500	1.5%	1.8%	10.1%	1.5%	16.3%	77.7%
Dow Jones	1.8%	3.2%	11.7%	1.8%	11.7%	51.9%
Russell 2000	5.4%	5.7%	18.9%	5.4%	15.8%	41.2%
Russell 1000 Growth	-1.5%	-3.9%	6.1%	-1.5%	14.5%	105.1%
Russell 1000 Value	4.6%	8.1%	13.7%	4.6%	15.8%	46.9%
MSCI EAFE	5.2%	9.1%	17.4%	5.2%	31.8%	59.2%
MSCI EM	8.9%	9.5%	24.1%	8.9%	43.7%	61.5%
NASDAQ 100	1.2%	-1.0%	10.4%	1.2%	19.8%	116.2%

	Dividend Yield	NTM P/E	P/B
S&P 500	1.05%	22.2x	5.3x
Dow Jones	1.41%	20.6x	5.5x
Russell 2000	0.98%	23.9x	2.2x
Russell 1000 Growth	0.36%	27.6x	13.1x
Russell 1000 Value	1.61%	17.6x	3.1x
MSCI EAFE	3.22%	15.8x	2.2x
MSCI EM	2.06%	13.2x	2.3x
NASDAQ 100	0.45%	25.7x	8.4x

Fixed Income	Yield	1 month	3 months	YTD	1 year	3 years
U.S. Aggregate	4.36%	0.1%	0.6%	0.1%	6.8%	11.3%
U.S. Corporates	4.82%	0.4%	0.7%	0.4%	7.5%	16.0%
Municipal Bonds	3.42%	0.7%	1.1%	0.7%	4.6%	9.8%
High Yield Bonds	6.54%	0.5%	1.6%	0.5%	7.5%	28.8%

Commodities	Level	1 month	YTD
Oil (WTI)	65.74	14.5%	14.5%
Gasoline	2.08	19.7%	19.7%
Natural Gas	4.42	41.1%	41.1%
Propane	0.63	-0.5%	-0.5%
Ethanol	1.52	-8.2%	-8.2%
Gold	4,909	13.1%	13.1%
Silver	85.25	20.7%	20.7%
Copper	5.90	4.7%	4.7%
Steel	972	1.8%	1.8%
Corn	4.28	-2.7%	-2.7%
Soybeans	10.54	3.3%	3.3%

Key Rates	1/31/2026	12/31/2025	10/31/2025	7/31/2025	1/31/2025	1/31/2023
2 yr Treasury	3.53%	3.48%	3.60%	3.94%	4.20%	4.21%
10 yr Treasury	4.26%	4.17%	4.09%	4.36%	4.55%	3.53%
30 yr Treasury	4.89%	4.84%	4.66%	4.89%	4.80%	3.66%
30 yr Mortgage	6.21%	6.25%	6.26%	6.78%	7.01%	6.21%
Prime Rate	6.75%	6.75%	7.00%	7.50%	7.50%	7.50%

Data Reflects Most Recently Available As of 1/31/2026

## Important Disclosures

Wealth management products and services are offered independently through Credit Union Wealth Group, LLC, an SEC registered investment advisor. Credit Union Wealth Group and MembersFirst Credit Union are not affiliated. Products and services made available through Credit Union Wealth Group are not insured by NCUA or any other agency of the United States and are not deposits or obligations of nor guaranteed or insured by any credit union, credit union service organization, or credit union affiliate. These products are subject to investment risk, including the possible loss of the principal amount invested.

The information and opinions provided herein are provided as general market commentary only and are subject to change at any time without notice. This commentary may contain forward-looking statements that are subject to various risks and uncertainties. None of the events or outcomes mentioned here may come to pass, and actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied in these statements. No mention of a particular security, index, or other instrument in this report constitutes a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold that or any other security, nor does it constitute an opinion on the suitability of any security or index. The report is strictly an informational publication and has been prepared without regard to the particular investments and circumstances of the recipient.

Past performance does not guarantee or indicate future results. Any index performance mentioned is for illustrative purposes only and does not reflect any management fees, transaction costs, or expenses. Indexes are unmanaged, and one cannot invest directly in an index. Index performance does not represent the actual performance that would be achieved by investing in a fund.