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S&P 500 Winners and Losers, Sector Performance, and Unemployment

September 15th, 2025

- **Inching Up –** The August 2025 unemployment rate rose by 0.1% to 4.3%. The healthcare sector gained jobs, while the federal government and the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction sectors showed job losses (source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics).
- **Sector Performance** – The healthcare sector reported the largest gain in August 2025 at 5.37%. The materials sector was close behind at 5.19%. The technology and utilities sectors were the only two sectors with losses at -0.11% and -1.58%, respectively (source: Y Charts).
- **Promising Productivity** – Nonfarm labor productivity increased by 3.3% in Q2 2025. Output increased by 4.4%, while hours worked increased by 1.1%. In Q2 2024, nonfarm labor productivity increased by 2.5% (source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics).
- **S&P 500 Spotlight** – Albemarle Corp, a chemicals company in the materials sector, reported the largest S&P 500 August 2025 share price return at 25.2%. UnitedHealth Group was close behind with an August 2025 share price return of 24.2%. However, both companies are still reporting negative year-to-date returns through August 2025 at -1.3% and -38.7%, respectively (source: Y Charts).
- **S&P 500 Stragglers –** The Trade Desk Inc, a media company, was the S&P 500's biggest loser with a -37.1% August 2025 return. Super Micro Computer, a technology hardware company, came in second with a -29.6% share price return in August 2025 (source: Y Charts).
- **Acquiring Assets** – PNC Financial announced the acquisition of FirstBank Holding in a $4.1 billion cash-and-stock deal. FirstBank will bring PNC Financials total assets to nearly $600 billion (source: Reuters).
- **High Housing** – U.S. housing prices rose 2.9% between Q2 2024 and Q2 2025. The five states with the highest annual appreciation were New York at 8.0%, Connecticut at 7.8%, New Jersey at 7.5%, Mississippi at 7.3%, and Illinois at 6.7% (source: U.S. Federal Housing Agency).
- **Star-Studded Deal** – SpaceX announced plans to buy wireless spectrum licenses from EchoStar for its Starlink satellite network for $17 billion. The deal will also give EchoStar's Boost Mobile subscribers access to Starlink satellite services (source: Reuters).
- **Hi and Bye** – Jalen Carter from the Philadelphia Eagles was ejected from the first game of the season on September 4, 2025, a mere six seconds after kickoff, making it the fastest ejection since Jeremiah Trotter on September 12, 2005 (source: CBS Sports).
- **Comeback Kids** – The Buffalo Bills became the first NFL team to overcome a 15+ point deficit in the final four minutes and win in regulation. This is also the first time that the Buffalo Bills have won a game after trailing by 15+ points in the final quarter since 1967 (source: NBC News).

Definitions and Indexes

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