

July 28, 2019



## 401K PORTFOLIO AUGUST 2019 UPDATE & NEWSLETTER

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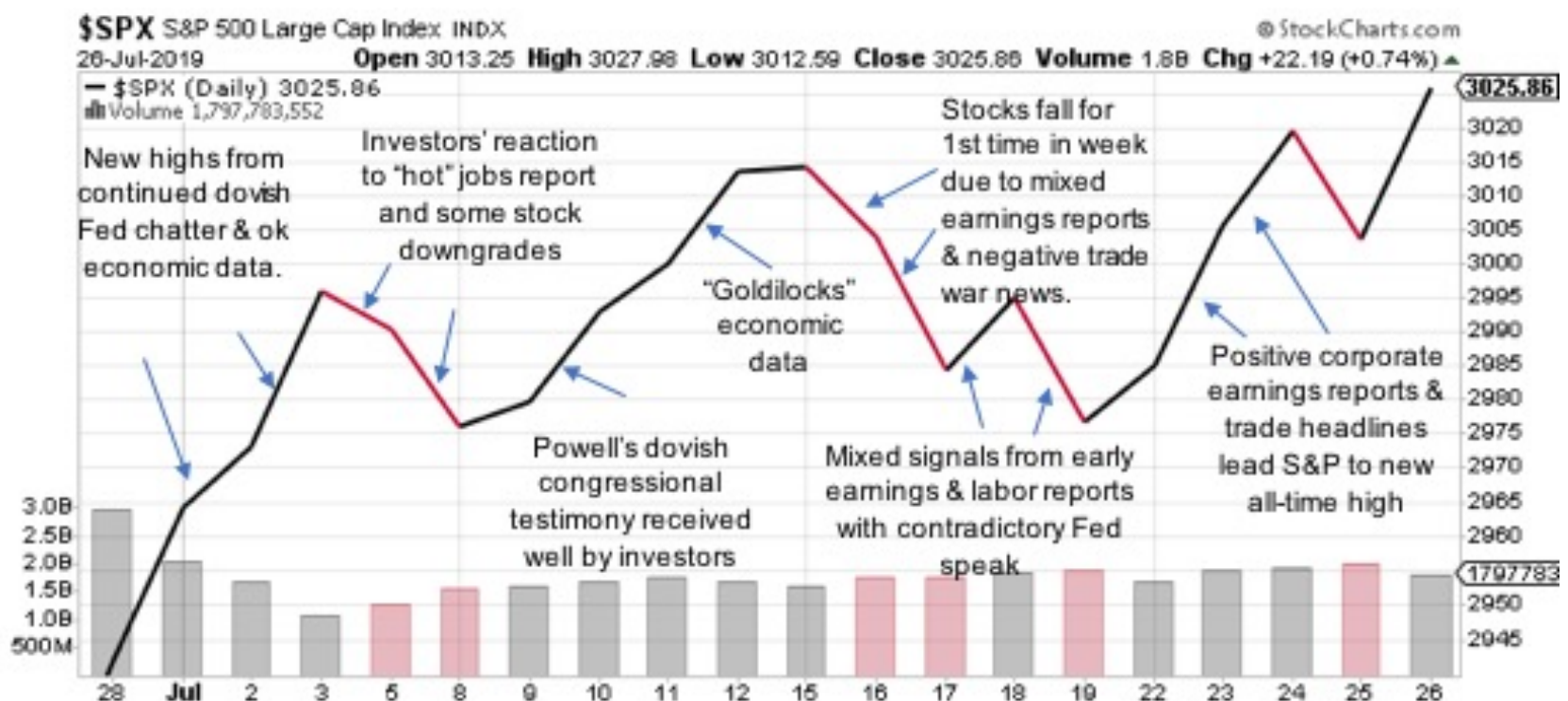
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## August 2019 Newsletter

### Market Resilience Continues for Another Month

On Friday, the S&P 500 index and Nasdaq composite both rose to a record close. Since our last newsletter, DJII +2.2% (YTD+16.6%), S&P 500 +2.9% (YTD + 20.7%) and NASDAQ +4.0% (YTD +25.5%).

The equity markets hit all-time highs this month on the back of 1) hopes that the Fed will elect to cut rates next week; 2) stronger than expected corporate earnings; and 3) incremental progress on US-China trade. The 10-year yield, however, continues to signal a poor commentary on future growth, and short-end interest rates are beginning to look less attractive with the prospect of rate cuts. As such, we are taking this opportunity to adjust our fixed income allocation for **EZTracker** Moderate and Conservative portfolios. **Please see page 4 for portfolio changes.**



### Fed Rate Cut Expectations

The Federal Reserve is expected to cut interest rates for the first time in more than a decade at its upcoming meetings on July 30 and 31, a pre-emptive move due to concerns about the impact of the trade war and a slowing global economy. The market has priced in a 25 basis point cut next week, and expects another later this year. Friday's Q2 GDP growth report came in higher than expected at 2.1% (vs. 1.8%), which some fear may tempt the Fed to adopt a less aggressive posture on cutting rates. Although higher than expected, the GDP growth trend is markedly negative-- following 3.1% the previous quarter -- and may be what the Fed needs to truly pull the trigger on a rate cut. Should the Fed signal it may not lower interest rates as much as has been communicated, it will need to say so very delicately. Because the markets expect rate cuts, a signal that the Fed may take less action could have a large impact.

### Corporate Earnings

To date, 44% of the companies that make up the S&P 500 have reported Q2 results, and so far the results have been promising. The percentage of firms beating estimated EPS (77%) and beating predicted Sales (61%) are both above the five-year average for each metric. Looking forward to the second half of the year, analysts predict a relative decline in corporate earnings for Q3 followed by mid-single-digit earnings growth in the fourth quarter. During the upcoming week, 168 companies in the S&P 500 (including seven Dow 30 components) are scheduled to report Q2 results. Some noteworthy individual company activity: **Facebook (FB)** gained 2% after the social media giant reported quarterly revenue that beat estimates, but also announced that new rules and product changes aimed at protecting user privacy would slow its revenue growth into next year. **3M Co. (MMM)** rose 4.5% after the manufacturing conglomerate reiterated its full-year earnings forecast despite slowing sales growth in high-profile markets such as China. **Tesla Inc (TSLA)** tumbled 12.3%, after the electric carmaker pushed back its profit timeline once again after missing its quarterly financial targets. **Texas Instruments (TXN)** hinted that a global slowdown in microchip demand would not be as long as feared, which countered bleak earnings from bellwether companies **Boeing** and **Caterpillar**.



## Economic Data

Economic data is decidedly mixed, as strong reported employment growth was countered by slowing GDP growth. The July 5 **Jobs Report** showed that job growth rebounded sharply, as employers added 224,000 jobs, a larger figure than expected. The unemployment rate rose slightly, although at 3.7% it remains near a multi decade low.

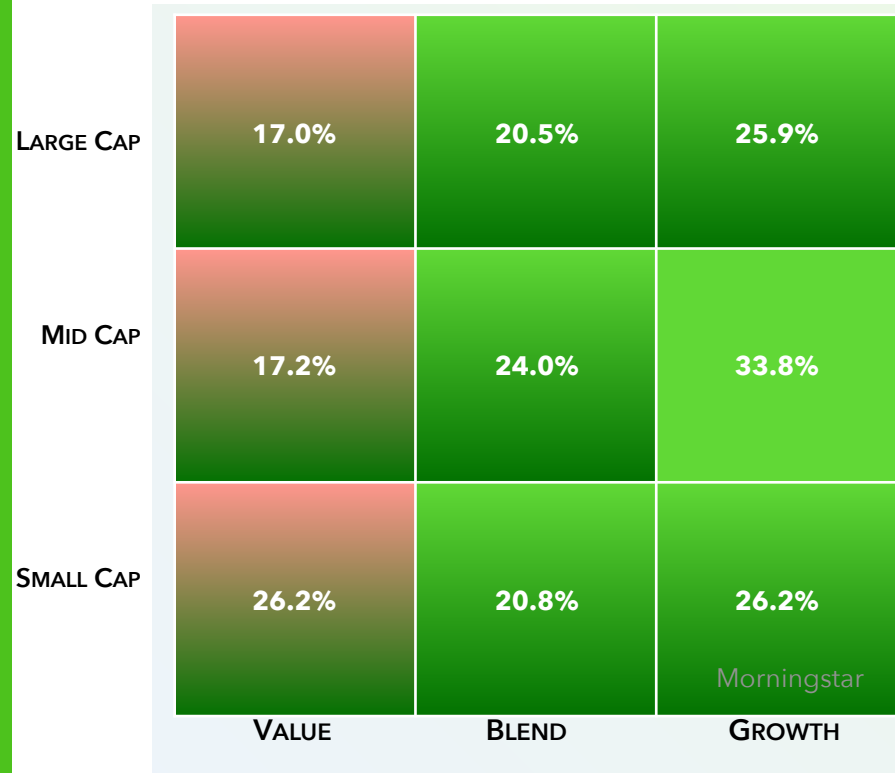
**GDP** growth slowed to 2.1% from 3.1% in the prior quarter, reflecting downturns in inventory investment, exports, and non-residential fixed investments.

## Sector Analysis

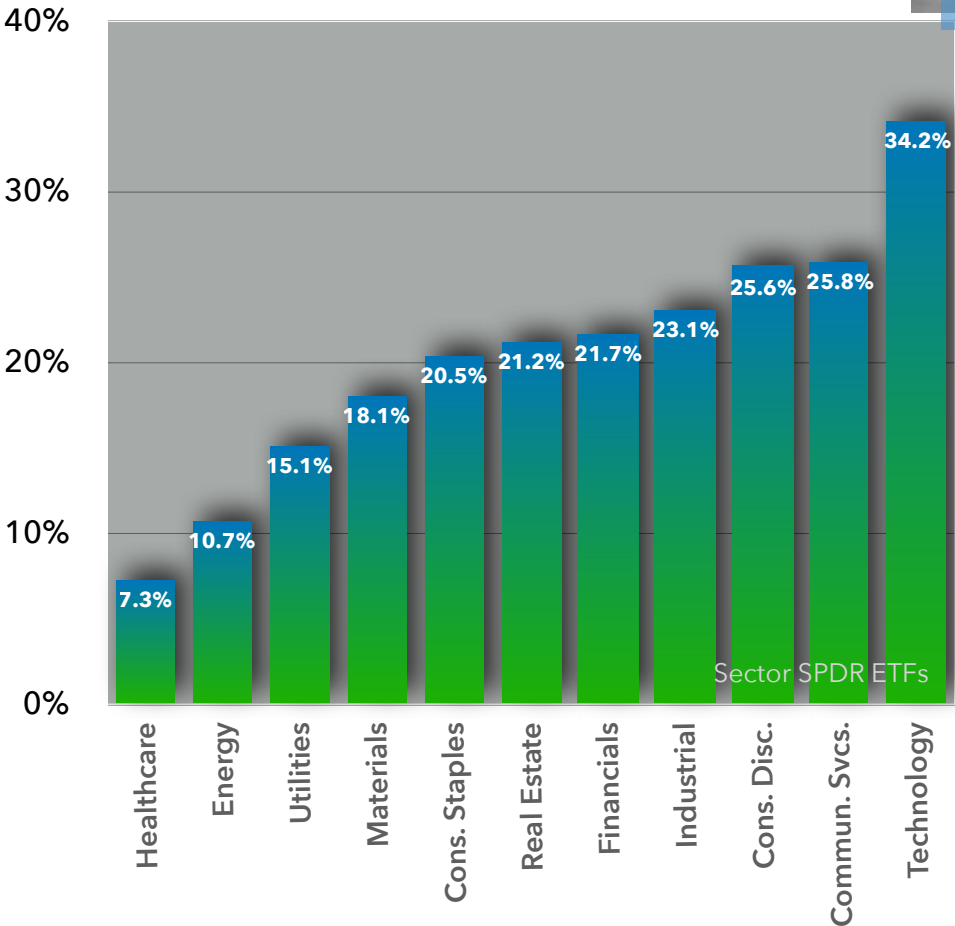
Leaders this month were Communications Services (+6.8%), Technology (+6.1%), Consumer Discretionary (+4.6%), and Consumer Staples (+4.1). Laggards were Energy (-1.6%) and Healthcare (+0.4%).



2019 YTD Index Performance: Returns (%)



2019 YTD Sector Performance: Returns (%)



## Fixed Income

The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note has risen about 10 basis points since the last newsletter, closing Friday at 2.074%. As markets are focused on the US Fed, **EZTracker** has been considering the right balances in it's model portfolios taking into an account the general expectation of rate cuts. Bottom line, the bond markets continue to signal medium and long-term economic issues, and while hopes of central bank easing has propelled stocks to new highs, the 10-year yield is signaling a slowdown in future growth. Short-end rates are poised to drop with a rate cut, therefore in certain **EZTracker** model portfolios we are reallocating a portion of our short-term MM/cash/stable value position into longer-dated fixed income securities.

### EZTracker Approach:

- We don't predict where the market is going - we identify the best performers;
- We use a disciplined approach to investing even during market volatility and uncertainty, and we review portfolios monthly;
- We take a long-term perspective of the market;
- We are consistent in our strategy, the **EZTracker** portfolios have consistently outperformed the market in up and down markets.

### The EZTracker Subscriber Approach:

- Avoid emotional extremes. Monitor your risk profile and stick to your plan;
- Stop listening to the talking heads. Not one has demonstrated the ability to predict the market;
- Stay up-to-date and maintain your portfolio on a timely basis.





**EZTracker** provides three model portfolios for Amazon Employees; Aggressive, Moderate and Conservative. Each is designed for different investment needs and styles, as well as level of risk tolerance.

STEP 1: Update Current Investments

Current Subscribers:

 **Aggressive Portfolio:**  
There are **NO CHANGES** this month.

**Moderate & Conservative Portfolios:**  
Exchange 50% Vanguard Retire Savings Trust III for PIMCO Total Return Inst

New Subscribers:

Rebalance your 401k using the chart below for the portfolio you want to follow. If you need assistance, call our free help hotline at 201.503.6445.

**Which Portfolio is Right for You:** Selecting the right portfolio is an individual decision based on your **willingness** and **ability** to take risk. Only you can decide. Planning your retirement is more important than ever. Your portfolio choice will vary based on age, retirement horizon, savings & expenses, pension & social security income, other investment assets, personality, and other factors. We believe you can take control of your 401k and plan for the retirement you envision. We've arranged for advisors at Friedenthal Financial to do a **COMPLIMENTARY RISK ASSESSMENT** for you. Or, you can take this **SHORT QUIZ** on your own that they've provided (no personal information is required for the quiz). Your privacy is protected.

EZTracker Model Portfolios	Aggressive	Moderate	Conservative	Buy Date
Vanguard Instl 500 Index Trust	58%	42%	24%	1/28/19, 4/29/19
Vanguard Retire Savings Trust III			29%	1/28/19
PIMCO Total Return Inst			29%	7/29/19
Vanguard Explorer Fund Admiral			9%	1/28/19
State St Russell Lg Cap Gr Indx NL	21%	15%	9%	1/28/19
	100%	100%	100%	

Your individual percentages may vary somewhat from those indicated above due to rounding, timing of purchases, and performance every month (In many cases even though there may be no changes for a particular month you may notice a small change, due to performance/rounding).

Visit [www.eztracker401k.com](http://www.eztracker401k.com) or call 201-503-6445 for more information

STEP 2: Update Future Investment Elections

If you are adding cash to your 401k through payroll deductions, set your Future Contributions identical to your Current Investment in the above **EZTracker** Model Portfolio chart.



All the model portfolios consist of core holdings representing major market segments plus top performers based on current market conditions. Some market conditions may cause us to deviate from the following percentages.



- Aggressive Portfolio:**  
95-100% invested in equities. This is a high risk/high reward portfolio.
- Moderate Portfolio:**  
70% invested in equities and 30% invested in bonds or Stable Value Fund.
- Conservative Portfolio:**  
40% invested in equities and 60% invested in bonds or Stable Value Fund. This is our lowest risk portfolio.

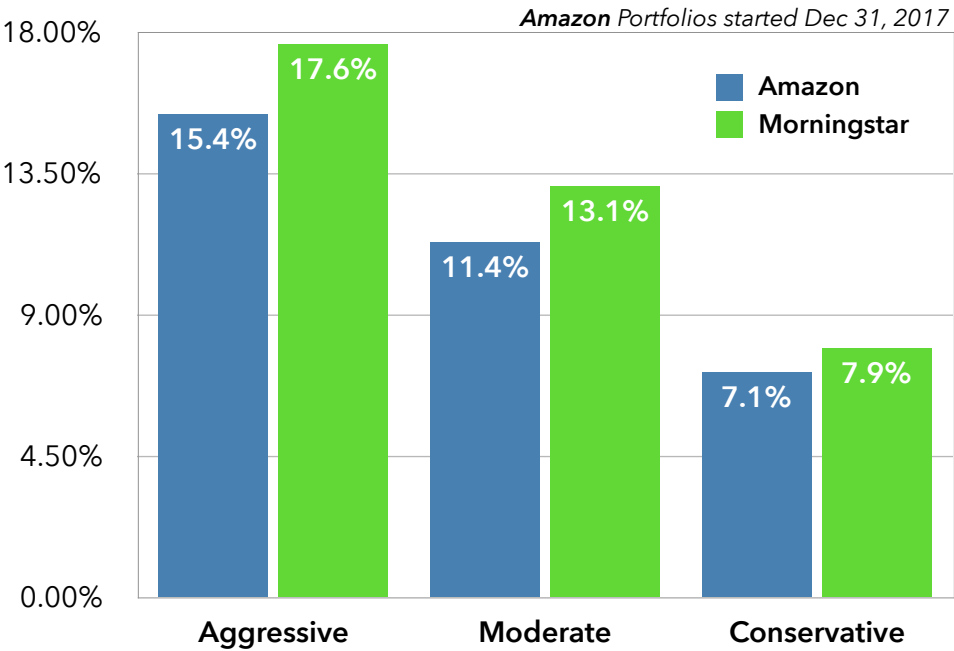
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Performance

Current Performance Through July 28, 2019	July **	YTD
EZTracker Aggressive	3.21%	15.41%
EZTracker Moderate	2.34%	11.38%
EZTracker Conservative	1.43%	7.14%
Morningstar Benchmarks		
Aggressive Target Risk Index	1.37%	17.64%
Moderate Target Risk Index	0.91%	13.10%
Conservative Target Risk Index	0.35%	7.93%
S&P 500	2.86%	20.70%

\* Portfolio backtested to 12/31/17  
\*\* Since last Newsletter

YTD Total Return versus Morningstar Benchmarks



Morningstar Target Risk Index

The Morningstar Target Risk Index series serve as benchmarks to help with investment selections. They cover a global set of stocks, bonds and commodities. While not investable indices, they represent challenging benchmarks for long-term investing plans such as the EZTracker model portfolios.

Historical Performance

Any investment strategy should be measured one way: Results over time. Not one-week, one-month, or even one-year. While past performance is not a guarantee of future performance, our record has been excellent in delivering long-term returns. As with any long-term investing strategy, you should not expect dramatic short-term results to offset past losses.

# Monthly Fund Data



Below is the current fund performance for the alternatives in the **Amazon** 401k plan. The “Tracker Average” is a weighted average of performance over the past year and is a key factor in selecting funds for inclusion in the model portfolios.

Fund	Total Returns					Tracker Average
	1 MO	3 MO	6 MO	12 MO	YTD	
State St Russell Lg Cap Gr Indx NL	4.98%	3.88%	17.99%	10.56%	26.35%	20.41%
Vanguard FTSE Social Index Inst	4.59%	3.80%	15.52%	9.91%	23.10%	18.44%
Vanguard Instl 500 Index Trust	3.98%	3.44%	14.72%	8.81%	22.07%	16.88%
Vanguard Explorer Fund Admiral	5.85%	3.32%	14.73%	5.48%	26.19%	16.02%
Invesco International Growth CL I	2.10%	3.14%	14.11%	6.83%	21.39%	14.28%
Amazon Co. Stock Fund	2.38%	-0.39%	16.31%	7.47%	29.37%	14.06%
State St Russell Lg Cap Val Indx NL	3.39%	3.04%	11.47%	6.74%	18.59%	13.44%
Vanguard Target Ret 2065 Tr Sel	2.59%	2.18%	10.48%	4.32%	17.19%	10.67%
Vanguard Target Ret 2050 Tr Sel	2.58%	2.17%	10.46%	4.31%	17.19%	10.65%
Vanguard Target Ret 2045 Tr Sel	2.60%	2.16%	10.45%	4.30%	17.17%	10.64%
Vanguard Target Ret 2060 Tr Sel	2.58%	2.15%	10.46%	4.30%	17.20%	10.63%
Vanguard Target Ret 2055 Tr Sel	2.58%	2.15%	10.44%	4.31%	17.17%	10.62%
Vanguard Target Ret 2035 Tr Sel	2.30%	2.35%	9.85%	4.92%	15.57%	10.60%
Vanguard Target Ret 2040 Tr Sel	2.45%	2.25%	10.19%	4.52%	16.50%	10.59%
Vanguard Target Ret 2030 Tr Sel	2.11%	2.46%	9.48%	5.29%	14.70%	10.55%
Vanguard Target Ret 2025 Tr Sel	1.95%	2.54%	9.08%	5.61%	13.76%	10.46%
Vanguard Target Ret 2020 Tr Sel	1.71%	2.55%	8.46%	5.72%	12.43%	10.05%
Vanguard Target Ret 2015 Tr Sel	1.39%	2.54%	7.58%	5.94%	10.61%	9.52%
Vanguard Inst Tot Bd Mkt Ix Tr	0.34%	3.07%	5.82%	8.00%	6.15%	9.40%
Vanguard Target Ret Income Tr Sel	1.15%	2.57%	6.99%	6.29%	9.34%	9.28%
PIMCO Total Return Inst	0.10%	2.70%	5.47%	7.41%	5.83%	8.55%
Vanguard Inst Tot Intl St Mt Ix Tr	0.71%	0.24%	6.34%	-1.73%	13.13%	3.04%
Vanguard Retire Savings Trust III	0.21%	0.63%	1.27%	2.42%	1.47%	2.47%
WF Treasury PI MMkt Inst	0.18%	0.54%	1.15%	2.25%	1.34%	2.25%
American Beacon Small Cap Value R6	4.55%	-1.74%	4.31%	-8.25%	15.75%	-0.61%
Oakmark International Institutional	1.98%	-2.81%	4.00%	-7.77%	13.26%	-2.51%



## Questions, Comments, Problems?

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