

## WEEKLY MARKETS ROUND-UP

## Executive Summary

15 May 2026

## Crude Surge, Bond Selloff, and a Fractured Risk Tape Define the Week of 15 May 2026

The dominant theme this week was a violent divergence across asset classes: energy rallied hard while duration, credit, and risk assets broadly retreated. Brent crude closed at \$106.11, down -10.3% WoW despite a YTD gain of +71.2% that continues to reshape GCC fiscal arithmetic. US 10Y yields rose to 4.46% (+2.3% WoW), touching the upper bound of their 52-week range, while TLT fell -2.8% WoW to a 52-week low of \$83.63. Equities were mixed: SPY edged +0.2% WoW to \$739.09 but sits slightly overbought; IWM shed -2.4% WoW, a meaningful divergence signalling risk-off rotation within US equities. FEZ dropped -3.2% WoW. GLD retreated -3.8% WoW to \$417.34, unwinding some of its safe-haven premium. Bitcoin fell -3.7% WoW to \$79,099. For GCC allocators, the crude pullback warrants attention: a sustained move below \$100 would compress sovereign revenue assumptions embedded in regional budget models, even as YTD energy gains remain substantial.

Equities: US large-cap held ground — SPY +0.2% WoW to \$739.09, QQQ -0.3% WoW to \$709.06 yet +15.6% YTD — but the tape beneath the surface deteriorated. IWM's -2.4% WoW decline to \$277.49 signals that small-cap credit sensitivity is repricing alongside rising yields. FEZ's -3.2% WoW move to \$64.93 reflects European growth anxiety compounding the bond selloff.

Fixed Income: Duration was the week's clearest casualty. US 10Y yields reached 4.46% (+2.3% WoW); the German Bund hit 3.15% (+3.6% WoW), a 52-week high. TLT fell to its 52-week low of \$83.63. The 10Y-2Y spread at 0.47% remains positive but compressed, and LQD (-1.2% WoW) and HYG (-0.8% WoW) confirm credit spreads are widening in sympathy.

Forex: DXY slipped marginally to 118.04 (-0.3% WoW), remaining near the lower end of its 52-week range. EUR/USD firmed to 1.1773 (+0.15% WoW); GBP/USD held at 1.3625. USD/JPY was essentially flat at 156.64. Dollar softness is modest and not yet directional — the index remains elevated on a YTD basis despite the -1.3% drawdown.

Commodities: The week's sharpest move. Brent fell -10.3% WoW to \$106.11; WTI dropped -7.5% WoW to \$101.56. Both remain in uptrends with substantial YTD gains (+71.2% and +77.5% respectively), so this week's pullback reads as consolidation rather than reversal. Natural gas rose +5.6% WoW to \$2.82, still well below its 52-week high. GLD retreated -3.8% WoW to \$417.34.

Digital Assets: Broad crypto weakness persisted. Bitcoin fell -3.7% WoW to \$79,099, down -10.9% YTD. Ethereum dropped -6.2% WoW to \$2,222.55. BTC dominance held at 57.5%, suggesting altcoin underperformance is more severe. Total crypto market cap stands at \$2.75 trillion with 24-hour volume of \$165 billion — liquidity is present but directional conviction is absent.

	Ccy	Price	Perf. since 52 Week Low			Perf. since 52 Week High			Perf. YTD	Trend 6m	Signal OB / OS
			Date	Low	Rise %	Date	High	Decl. %			
<b>Cross-Asset</b>											
US Dollar Index (Broad)		118.0	Jan-26	117.4	+0.5%	May-25	123.5	-4.4%	-1.3%	neutral	neutral
<b>Equities (ETF proxy)*</b>											
S&P; 500 (SPY ETF)	USD	739.1	May-25	579.1	+27.6%	May-26	748.2	-1.2%	+8.2%	neutral	sl. OB
Nasdaq-100 (QQQ ETF)	USD	708.9	May-25	509.2	+39.2%	May-26	719.8	-1.5%	+15.6%	up	OB
Dow Jones (DIA ETF)	USD	495.4	May-25	416.3	+19.0%	Feb-26	501.9	-1.3%	+2.4%	neutral	neutral
Russell 2000 (IWM ETF)	USD	277.6	May-25	202.6	+37.1%	May-26	286.8	-3.2%	+11.6%	up	sl. OB
EuroStoxx 50 (FEZ ETF)	USD	64.95	Aug-25	57.15	+13.6%	Feb-26	69.34	-6.3%	-0.6%	neutral	neutral
Nikkei 225 (EWJ ETF)	USD	91.07	Jul-25	71.69	+27.0%	Feb-26	93.97	-3.1%	+12.0%	neutral	sl. OB
<b>Fixed Income</b>											
US 10Y Treasury Yield	%	4.46	Oct-25	3.97	+12.3%	May-25	4.58	-2.6%	+6.4%	up	sl. OB
US 2Y Treasury Yield	%	3.98	Feb-26	3.38	+17.8%	May-25	4.05	-1.7%	+14.7%	up	sl. OB
German 10Y Bund Yield	%	3.15	Jun-25	2.51	+25.5%	Mar-26	3.15	+0.0%	+8.2%	up	sl. OB
<b>Fixed Income (ETF proxy)*</b>											
US 20Y Treasuries (TLT ETF)	USD	83.66	May-26	83.66	+0.0%	Oct-25	92.06	-9.1%	-3.9%	neutral	sl. OS
US IG Credit (LQD ETF)	USD	107.9	May-25	105.7	+2.1%	Oct-25	112.9	-4.5%	-2.1%	neutral	sl. OS
US High Yield (HYG ETF)	USD	79.49	Mar-26	78.72	+1.0%	Sep-25	81.32	-2.3%	-1.5%	neutral	sl. OS
EM USD Sovereigns (EMB ETF)	USD	94.71	May-25	89.54	+5.8%	Feb-26	97.74	-3.1%	-1.7%	neutral	neutral
<b>Forex</b>											
EUR/USD		1.18	May-25	1.11	+6.0%	Jan-26	1.20	-1.7%	+0.3%	neutral	neutral
GBP/USD		1.36	Nov-25	1.30	+4.5%	Jan-26	1.38	-1.2%	+1.1%	neutral	sl. OB
USD/JPY		156.6	May-25	142.6	+9.8%	Apr-26	160.2	-2.2%	-0.1%	neutral	neutral
USD/CHF		0.7773	Jan-26	0.7666	+1.4%	May-25	0.8427	-7.8%	-1.8%	neutral	neutral
<b>Commodities</b>											
Brent Crude	USD	106.1	Dec-25	59.93	+77.1%	Apr-26	138.2	-23.2%	+71.2%	up	neutral
WTI Crude	USD	101.6	Dec-25	55.44	+83.2%	Apr-26	114.6	-11.4%	+77.5%	up	sl. OB
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)	USD	2.82	Apr-26	2.54	+11.0%	Jan-26	30.72	-90.8%	+0.0%	down	neutral
<b>Commodities (ETF proxy)*</b>											
Gold (GLD ETF)	USD	417.3	May-25	294.2	+41.8%	Jan-26	495.9	-15.9%	+4.8%	neutral	neutral
<b>Digital Assets</b>											
Bitcoin	USD	79,101	Feb-26	62,873	+25.8%	Oct-25	124,744	-36.6%	-10.9%	neutral	neutral
Ethereum	USD	2,222	Feb-26	1,825	+21.8%	Sep-25	4,712	-52.8%	-26.0%	neutral	neutral
Solana	USD	89.26	Feb-26	77.86	+14.6%	Sep-25	247.5	-63.9%	-29.6%	down	neutral
XRP	USD	1.43	Feb-26	1.21	+18.1%	Sep-25	3.12	-54.1%	-23.7%	down	neutral
BNB	USD	672.8	Feb-26	582.9	+15.4%	Oct-25	1,307	-48.5%	-22.1%	down	neutral

\* Large fixed income ETFs used as proxies to assess duration trades and credit markets.

Source: Growth Capital analysis. Data as of market close, 15 May 2026.

# WEEKLY MARKETS ROUND-UP

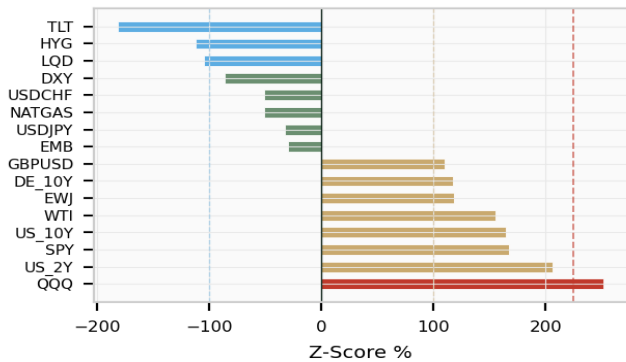
## Yields Climb, Crude Corrects, and the Fed Holds Its Line at 3.64%

The macro backdrop this week is defined by a bond market that refuses to rally despite a Fed funds rate of 3.64% and an unemployment rate of 4.3%. US 10Y yields at 4.46% imply a real rate environment that is meaningfully restrictive relative to the GDP advance print of +2.0% QoQ from Q1 2026. The 10Y–2Y spread at 0.47% is positive but thin, and the direction of travel — both yields rising, short end faster — suggests markets are repricing the terminal rate path rather than pricing in imminent cuts. The CPI index level of 332.4 confirms that the inflation fight is not over; the Fed has limited room to pivot without risking a credibility loss that would steepen the curve further.

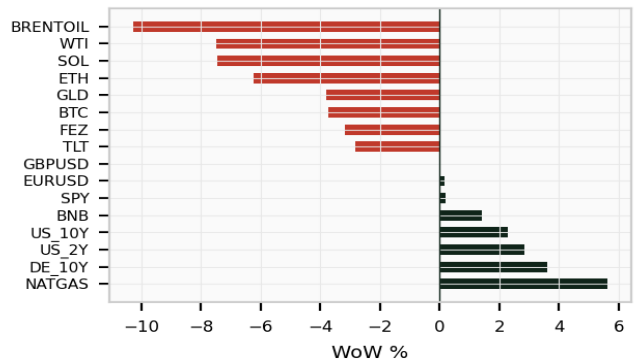
The snapshot signals a regime of higher-for-longer rates intersecting with an energy complex that has run far and fast. Brent's -10.3% WoW correction, even after a +71.2% YTD move, introduces uncertainty about whether the commodity impulse that has supported nominal growth and GCC revenues is beginning to fade. TLT at its 52-week low and LQD and HYG both slightly oversold suggest fixed income is approaching a technical level where buyers may re-emerge — but fundamental pressure from supply and sticky inflation argues against a durable rally. IWM's underperformance relative to SPY is a reliable leading indicator of tightening financial conditions filtering into smaller, more leveraged balance sheets. Equity markets are not broken, but the breadth is narrowing.

For GCC-based allocators, two dynamics demand attention. First, Brent at \$106.11 remains well above most Gulf sovereign breakeven assumptions, but a continuation of the weekly drawdown pace would compress the fiscal surplus buffer that has underpinned regional credit quality and sovereign wealth deployment capacity. Second, the DXY at 118.04 — despite its modest weekly decline — keeps USD-pegged currencies in a structurally tight monetary posture that mirrors Fed policy with no domestic discretion. Regional fixed income allocators holding duration in USD sovereigns face the same mark-to-market pressure as global peers. The constructive case for GCC equities rests on oil stabilising above \$95–100 and domestic non-oil growth sustaining momentum; this week's data does not invalidate that case, but it narrows the margin for error.

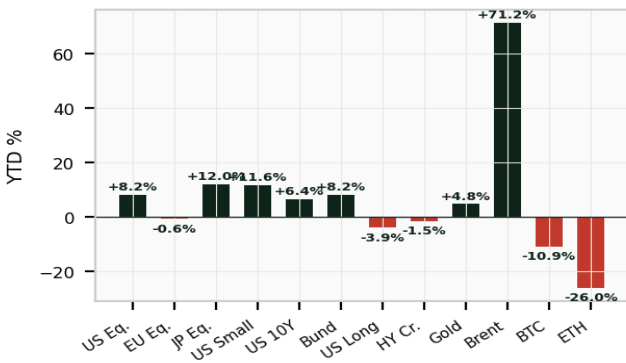
**GC Proprietary OB/OS Dashboard**



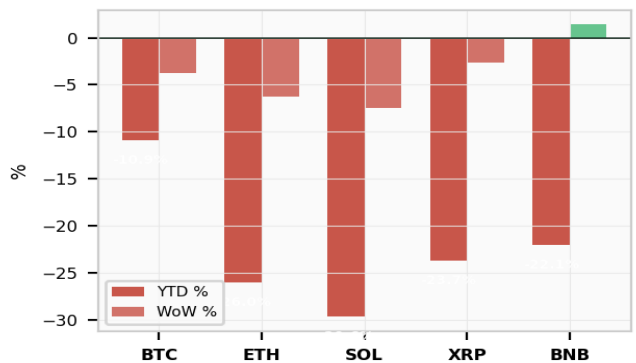
**Week-on-Week Performance %**



**YTD Performance by Asset**



**Digital Assets: YTD vs Week-on-Week**



---

## Algorithm notes & methodology

### Notes:

1. Trend (6 months): Growth Capital proprietary algorithm weighing the slope of the 6-month trend vs the 3-month trend, factorised by the Fibonacci retracement ratio (0.618). Values normalised using average price over each period. Combined slope above +0.08% = 'up', below -0.08% = 'down', otherwise 'neutral'.

2. OB / OS measures: Growth Capital proprietary algorithm comparing the difference between the 8-day and 100-day moving averages combined with the 3-day vs 15-day, normalised by the 1-year standard deviation (~260 trading days). Values above 225% = 'OB', above 100% = 'slightly OB'; below -225% = 'OS', below -100% = 'slightly OS'; otherwise 'neutral'.

Disclaimer: The information in this document is provided for general market commentary and information purposes only. This document does not constitute a solicitation or offer, or recommendation to acquire or dispose of any investment or to engage in any other transaction. Any reference to a transaction, trade, position, holding, security, market, or level is purely meant to educate readers about possible opportunities and risks in the marketplace. If a person or entity does not believe they are qualified to make such decisions, they should seek professional advice. This information is not a substitute for professional advice of any nature. While we believe the information contained herein to be accurate, all numbers should be verified by the reader through independent sources. Growth Capital assumes no responsibility for errors or omissions. Trading securities, options, or any other security involves risk and can result in the substantial loss of capital invested. Growth Capital is a licensed wealth management firm operating in the UAE.

### About Growth Capital

Growth Capital L.L.C-FZ is a UAE-licensed wealth manager based at Emirates Towers, Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC). We serve family offices, institutional investors, and high-net-worth individuals across the GCC. Our Weekly Markets Roundup tracks a curated cross-asset universe spanning global equities (via liquid US ETF proxies for commercial-clean licensing), sovereign yields (Fed + Bundesbank primary sources), foreign exchange, commodities, and digital assets. Equity exposure is tracked via liquid US ETFs (SPY, QQQ, DIA, IWM, FEZ, EWJ) and gold via GLD to maintain a commercial-clean licensing posture.

---

### Growth Capital

growthcapital.ae | team@growthcapital.ae | Emirates Towers, DIFC, Dubai, UAE

LinkedIn: /company/growthcapital-ae | X: @growthcapital\_ae

@Copyright 2026 Growth Capital L.L.C-FZ. All rights reserved.