



A Message From Mary Sterk

Happy Summer from Sterk Financial! While 2023 got off to a volatile start, we were happy to see Q2 markets bring modest gains. Here are a few economic observations:

- The Dow* finished the quarter just over 1100 points in the positive direction.
- Debt ceiling headlines dominated the news but ended up being uneventful for the broader markets.
- Inflation and the corresponding interest rate hikes have both slowed, and we are beginning to hear discussion about when they will start to go back down.
- New housing starts were unexpectedly high in Q2, and application numbers suggest that residential construction could fuel economic growth. Homebuilder confidence turned positive for the first time in 11 months, though it is still too early to validate a trend. **
- Conference Board Consumer Confidence rose by 7.6 points to 109.7. **This blew past expectations of 104.0 as confidence in the economy continues to rise.

Our best outlook - we will continue to see volatility in the markets but anticipate a slowdown in rates being raised and hope for continued positive quarters to finish out the year.

On the home front, I am proud to announce that early in Q2 we were awarded a spot on a second Forbes list - Best in State. We are truly honored to be recognized in this way.

In other news, our Broker Dealer, Woodbury Financial Services, is being renamed. As the transition happens, you will start to see the name Osaic on documents or messages etc. This does not change anything for you or your accounts.

Also, Sterk Financial recently launched an exciting new video shorts series called Money in A Minute. These will be released weekly and are bite sized tidbits about a wide array of financial topics. We hope you love them! You can find and subscribe to us [here on YouTube](#) or [here on our brand new Instagram channel!](#)

As always, we remain committed to our client's financial well-being. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out!

*Sources – *MarketWatch Investing involves risk. **Osaic Wealth Market Review Weekly Loss, including loss of principal, may occur. No investment strategy can guarantee positive results. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. The S&P is a stock market index that tracks five hundred large, publicly owned companies trading on the New York Stock Exchange and the NASDAQ. Forbes Best in State Wealth Advisors list includes ten recipients per state. The award is based on qualitative and quantitative data, rating thousands of wealth advisors with a minimum of seven years of experience and weighing factors like revenue trends, assets under management, compliance records, industry experience and best practices. The award is not based on portfolio performance or client reviews. There is no fee in exchange for rankings. Third-party rankings and recognitions are no guarantee of future investment success and do not ensure that a client or prospective client will*