

Making More Cents

Quarterly Newsletter, Q2' 2023



Expectations for the US economy in the second half of 2023

The Conference Board Consumer Confidence Index® increased in June to 109.7 (1985=100), up from 102.5 in May. The improvement in June to its highest level since January 2022, reflects improved current conditions and optimistic expectations.

The stock market is entering the second half of 2023 with positive momentum, which historically bodes well for returns for the rest of the year. The S&P 500 gained 5% in the first quarter of 2023 and could be on track for its best annual performance since 2019. But much of those gains were concentrated in the technology sector. Artificial intelligence like OpenAI's ChatGPT AI chatbot was a key investment theme that propelled tech stocks in the year's first half.

Investors, however, should remain grounded after such a strong first-half stock market performance and proceed cautiously as elevated interest rates and tighter credit markets may affect economic growth in the second half of 2023.

Inflation, running at 4% a year as measured by the Consumer Price Index, is still too high for the liking of the Federal Reserve. That means the already high borrowing costs for individuals and businesses will likely remain for the remainder of the year.

The U.S. economy has thus far defied estimates that predicted a recession in the year's first half. However, Economists disagree about where the economy is headed for the second half -- whether we're headed for a mild recession or a mild slowdown. This is a good time to take advantage of the [high CD rates](#) and [High Yield Savings accounts](#) offered by leading online banks to boost your savings.

To read more about where the U.S. economy is heading, click [here](#).

[**Amazon Prime Day Deals are Live!**](#)



Starting July 11 at 3 a.m. EDT, Prime members around the world will have 48 hours of exclusive access to shop millions of deals this Prime Day. Amazon will offer more deals than any Prime Day event before, with new deals dropping every 30 minutes during select periods.

Products are updated regularly. Prices and inventory are subject to change.

Customers who are not yet Prime members and want to get the most out of Amazon on Prime Day can join or start a 30-day free trial. Click [here](#) to learn more. Select new members will automatically receive a \$10 shopping credit upon sign-up to use towards Prime Day shopping.

[Click here to explore your Prime Day deals](#)



- Save up to 50% on select Sony headphones, speakers, and home audio
- Save up to 50% on select floorcare from Bissell and iRobot
- Save up to 45% on select Victoria's Secret products
- Save up to 40% on select Bose headphones, speakers, and soundbars
- Save up to 40% on Peloton Bike, Bike+, Guide, accessories, and select apparel
- Save up to 40% on select kitchen appliances from Ninja, Keurig, Vitamix, and Breville

- Save up to 35% on select beauty and skincare products from Anastasia Beverly Hills, Lancôme, IT cosmetics, and Urban Decay

[Explore the back to school/off to college essentials](#)

Save up to 25% off select laptops from Acer, ASUS, Dell, HP, LG, MSI, and Samsung; and 15% off backpacks from Champion; Prime members can also stock up and save 20% off \$30 of select school supplies and everyday essentials.

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