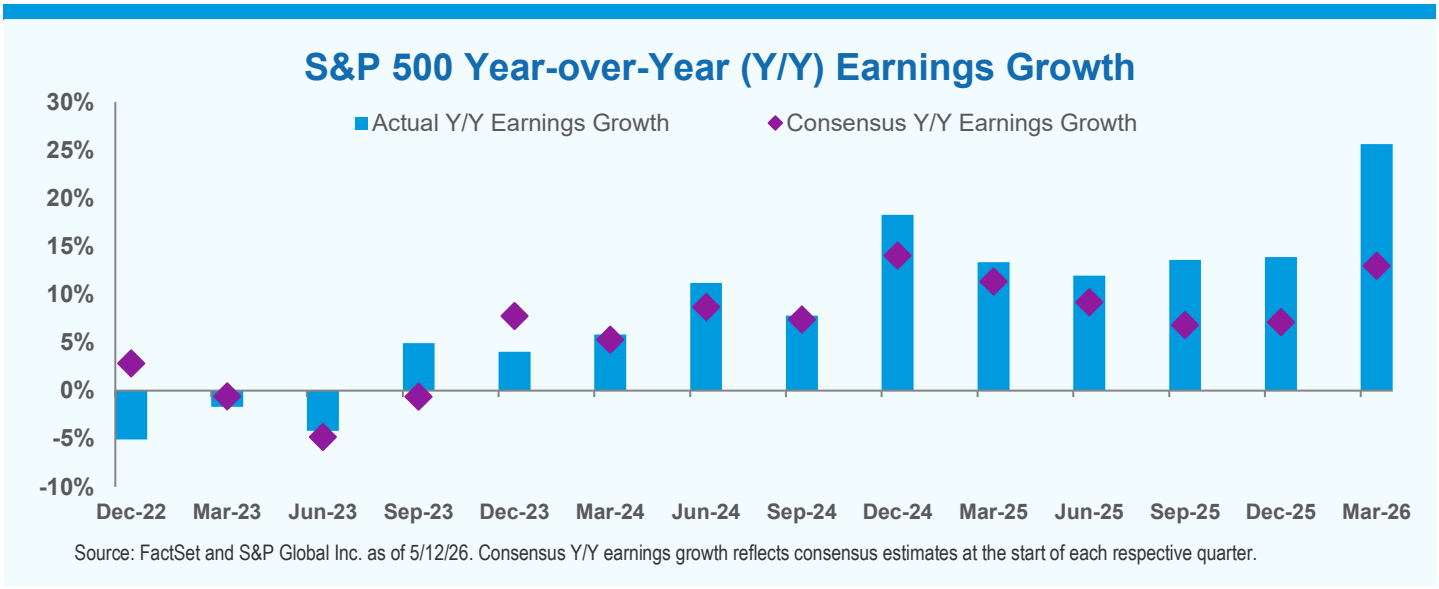
ALGER

Alger On The Money

Are Earnings Driving the Market Higher?

The S&P 500's earnings story has shifted meaningfully since ChatGPT launched in late 2022. After a difficult 2023, earnings have steadily recovered as enthusiasm around generative artificial intelligence (AI) turned into real AI infrastructure spending on data centers, chips, networking, and power. With most S&P 500 companies having reported their 1Q26 results, can earnings continue to surprise to the upside?[1]



Source: FactSet and S&P Global Inc. as of 5/12/26. Consensus Y/Y earnings growth reflects consensus estimates at the start of each respective quarter.

- The market's advance since 2022 has often been debated through the lens of valuations, interest rates, and investor sentiment. Earnings growth, however, has been the real driver in our view. As shown in the chart above, S&P 500 earnings growth has increasingly outpaced analyst estimates, indicating that corporate America has delivered a stronger profit cycle than many expected. Additionally, despite the S&P 500 returning ~9% year to date through May 12, 2026, its forward price-to-earnings ratio (P/E) has fallen from 22x at the start of the year to roughly 21x – a sign that earnings rather than investor sentiment have driven the market higher.[2] In our view, this is evidence of a real business spending boom, with capital from large technology companies translating into revenue and profit for the businesses supplying the AI buildout.
- We believe that dynamic was on full display in the first quarter of 2026, as S&P 500 earnings came in at roughly twice the pace analysts had forecast at the start of the quarter.[3] Importantly, companies most directly tied to the AI infrastructure buildout saw meaningful earnings growth. Within Information Technology, semiconductor companies posted standout results as data center buildouts drove rising demand for chips, memory, and networking. Within Industrials, electrical equipment providers, which supply the transformers, switchgear, and power management systems that data centers require (see also The AI Power Problem), also saw earnings climb.
- A narrow group of stocks leading the market higher is a fair reason for caution, but we believe the foundation matters. In our view, stock prices ultimately follow earnings, and earnings have been doing real work rather than leaving P/E multiples to do all the heavy lifting. The AI investment cycle is also showing up in places that take years to build out, including chip fabrication capacity, data center construction pipelines, and power grid upgrades. With the buildout still in early innings, we believe the conditions for continued earnings growth remain in place.

[1] FactSet and S&P Global Inc. Approximately 90% of companies within the S&P 500 Index reported their calendar year 1Q26 earnings as of 5/12/26.
[2] FactSet and S&P Global Inc. The S&P 500's total return from 12/31/25 through 5/12/26 was 8.6%. **Past performance is not indicative of future performance.**
[3] FactSet and S&P Global Inc. as of 5/12/26.

The views expressed are the views of Fred Alger Management, LLC ("FAM") and its affiliates as of May 2026. These views are subject to change at any time and may not represent the views of all portfolio management teams. These views should not be interpreted as a guarantee of the future performance of the markets, any security or any funds managed by FAM. These views are not meant to provide investment advice and should not be considered a recommendation to purchase or sell securities.

Risk Disclosures: Investing in the stock market involves risks, including the potential loss of principal. Growth stocks may be more volatile than other stocks as their prices tend to be higher in relation to their companies' earnings and may be more sensitive to market, political, and economic developments. **Past performance is not indicative of future performance.** Investors whose reference currency differs from that in which the underlying assets are invested may be subject to exchange rate movements that alter the value of their investments. **Companies involved in, or exposed to, AI-related businesses may have limited product lines, markets, financial resources or personnel as they face intense competition and potentially rapid product obsolescence, and many depend significantly on retaining and growing their consumer base.** These companies may be substantially exposed to the market and business risks of other industries or sectors, and may be adversely affected by negative developments impacting those companies, industries or sectors, as well as by loss or impairment of intellectual property rights or misappropriation of their technology. Companies that utilize AI could face reputational harm, competitive harm, and legal liability, and/or an adverse effect on business operations as content, analyses, or recommendations that AI applications produce may be deficient, inaccurate, biased, misleading or incomplete, may lead to errors, and may be used in negligent or criminal ways. AI companies, especially smaller companies, tend to be more volatile than companies that do not rely heavily on technology.

Important Information for US Investors: This material must be accompanied by the most recent fund fact sheet(s) if used in connection with the sale of mutual fund and ETF shares. Fred Alger & Company, LLC serves as distributor of the Alger mutual funds and ETFs.

Important Information for UK and EU Investors: This material is directed at investment professionals and qualified investors (as defined by MiFID/FCA regulations). It is for information purposes only and has been prepared and is made available for the benefit investors. This material does not constitute an offer or solicitation to any person in any jurisdiction in which it is not authorized or permitted, or to anyone who would be an unlawful recipient, and is only intended for use by original recipients and addressees. The original recipient is solely responsible for any actions in further distributing this material and should be satisfied in doing so that there is no breach of local legislation or regulation.
Certain products may be subject to restrictions with regard to certain persons or in certain countries under national regulations applicable to such persons or countries.

Alger Management, Ltd. (company house number 8634056, domiciled at 85 Gresham Street, Suite 308, London EC2V 7NQ, UK) is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, for the distribution of regulated financial products and services. FAM, Weatherbie Capital, LLC, and/or Redwood Investments, LLC, U.S. registered investment advisors, serve as sub-portfolio manager to financial products distributed by Alger Management, Ltd.

Alger Group Holdings, LLC (parent company of FAM and Alger Management, Ltd.), FAM, and Fred Alger & Company, LLC are not authorized persons for the purposes of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 of the United Kingdom ("FSMA") and this material has not been approved by an authorized person for the purposes of Section 21(2)(b) of the FSMA.

Important information for Investors in Israel: Fred Alger Management, LLC is neither licensed nor insured under the Israeli Regulation of Investment Advice, of Investment Marketing, and of Portfolio Management Law, 1995 (the "Investment Advice Law"). This document is for information purposes only and should not be construed as an offering of Investment Advisory, Investment Marketing or Portfolio Management services (As defined in the Investment Advice Law). Services regulated under the Investment Advice Law are only available to investors that fall within the First Schedule of Investment Advice Law ("Qualified Clients"). It is hereby noted that with respect to Qualified Clients, Fred Alger Management, LLC is not obliged to comply with the following requirements of the Investment Advice Law: (1) ensuring the compatibility of service to the needs of client; (2) engaging in a written agreement with the client, the content of which is as described in section 13 of the Investment Advice Law; (3) providing the client with appropriate disclosure regarding all matters that are material to a proposed transaction or to the advice given; (4) a prohibition on preferring certain Securities or other Financial Assets; (5) providing disclosure about "extraordinary risks" entailed in a transaction (and obtaining the client's approval of such transactions, if applicable); (6) a prohibition on making Portfolio Management fees conditional upon profits or number of transactions; (7) maintaining records of advisory/discretionary actions. This document is directed at and intended for Qualified Clients only.

S&P 500® Index: An index of large company stocks considered to be representative of the U.S. stock market. Index performance does not reflect deductions for fees, expenses, or taxes. The S&P indexes are a product of S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC and/or its affiliates and has been licensed for use by Fred Alger Management, LLC and its affiliates. Copyright 2026 S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, a subsidiary of S&P Global Inc. and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved. Redistribution or reproduction in whole or in part are prohibited without written permission of S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC. S&P® is a registered trademark of Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC and Dow Jones® is a registered trademark of Dow Jones Trademark Holdings LLC. Neither S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, Dow Jones Trademark Holdings LLC, their affiliates nor their third party licensors make any representation or warranty, express or implied, as to the ability of any index to accurately represent the asset class or market sector that it purports to represent and neither S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, Dow Jones Trademark Holdings LLC, their affiliates nor their third party licensors shall have any liability for any errors, omissions, or interruptions of any index or the data included therein. Investors cannot invest directly in any index. **The performance data quoted represents past performance, which is not an indication or a guarantee of future results.**

Alger pays compensation to third party marketers to sell various strategies to prospective investors.