



# STIFEL *Bits*

May 14, 2025

## The Appetizer

***“What has happened in the last 30, 45 days ... is really nothing.”***

– Warren Buffett on **recent market volatility** at Berkshire Hathaway’s annual meeting on May 3.

***Now, on to the numbers. Drum roll, please ...***

- 3.9%: The S&P 500’s total return since April 2.
- 555: The number of U.S. **mergers and acquisitions deals** made in April, the lowest since May 2009.
- \$470 million: The amount of money Americans reported losing to **text scams** in 2024.
- 70,000: The **number of Dum Dums lollipops** (about \$4,000 worth) an 8-year-old Kentucky boy ordered on Amazon from his mother’s phone.
- 60: The number of years **Warren Buffett** was CEO of Berkshire Hathaway. He announced last week he will be stepping down at the start of 2026.

## Dig In

### The College Grad

You just graduated – now comes the big decision: spend your last free summer at the beach or get a job? Or maybe ... land a job at the beach? Just a thought.

First, the fun stuff: This year’s commencement speaker lineup is stacked. We’ve got Snoop Dogg, Steve Carell (who once said, “I knew exactly what to do. But in a much more real sense, I had no idea what to do.”), Christina Yang (Sandra Oh), Simone Biles, and **plenty more** delivering life advice from the podium.

Now for the reality check: Since 1990, the average unemployment rate for recent graduates has been 4.5%; today it’s **5.8%**. But it varies a lot – from 0.4% for nutrition sciences majors to 9.4% for anthropology. **New York City** led the pack in job applications last year, followed by Chicago, Washington, D.C., Boston, and Dallas. I think I see a theme here. Interestingly, 77% of applicants were looking out of state. Sorry, mom’s cooking.!

So yes, job hunting can be overwhelming. That’s exactly why we built the **NextGen Investor Handbook** – a guide for navigating real-world finances. Think resume building, first paychecks, budgeting, and yes, investing too!

Congratulations, class of 2025!

# Weekly Specials

High-speed rail, universal healthcare, hypersonic tech... all things the United States is a little late to! But hey, better late than never. The **U.S. just broke past Mach 5** – flying at speeds five times faster than the speed of sound – and is finally catching up to China and Russia in hypersonic military technology. I thought Tom Cruise already did this in Top Gun ...

“I was born to be champion of the world,” said Roberto Durán. But “No Mas!” – he’s old news. You know what really came to win? **Dubai chocolate!** A gooey, pistachio-packed bar born from a pregnancy craving, it went viral on TikTok and took over the world, sparking copycats, sellouts, and even a global pistachio shortage.

As baby boomers retire, employers are turning to high schoolers to fill skilled trade jobs, offering up to **\$70,000 right out of school**. Teens juggling welding classes and job offers are in high demand. Companies now recruit early, offering part-time work, credit, and big paychecks – all for students ready to shape the future. These kids are almost making as much as me – and they haven’t even picked up their diplomas yet.

An **incredible semifinal** over **two matches**, highlighted by 13 goals, 210 minutes, and pouring rain, saw Inter Milan beat FC Barcelona to advance to the Champions League final, where they will face Paris Saint-Germain. With multiple late goals, spectacular saves, and the emergence of 17-year-old prodigy Lamine Yamal, the two matches were reminiscent of the 2022 World Cup.

# Corporate Lunch

**WW International** (formerly WeightWatchers) will be watching from the sideline for a while, as competition from drugs like **Ozempic** has led the company to file for bankruptcy.

**Waymo** and **Toyota** are hitting the road together, bringing **self-driving** tech to your driveway!

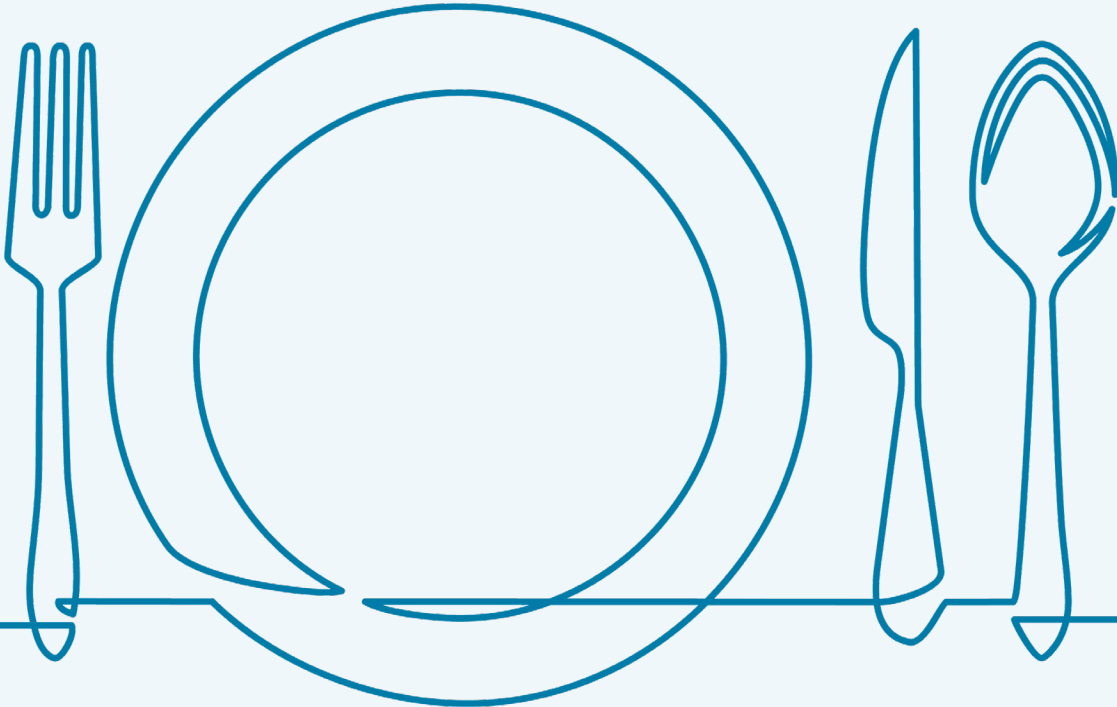
For its seventh global theme park, **Disney** has chosen **Abu Dhabi** as its location. With the United Arab Emirates capital already boasting Ferrari World and Warner Bros. World, it might start giving Orlando a run for its money.

In the midst of a **trade war**, popular shoemaker **Skechers** will be “stepping” out of the public eye as it’s being acquired for \$9 billion to be taken private.

Where’s the beef? It’s in aisle 12! **Wendy’s** beef patties will now be available in certain **grocery stores** in Columbus, Ohio, and Denver, Colorado.

**Amazon’s** new warehouse robot has a “soft touch” and can actually **feel packages**. But don’t worry, it’s not here to take your job!

Strong Q1 earnings from **Microsoft** put the company back on top, surpassing **Apple** to become the world’s **most valuable company**.



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