

2026 MARKET OUTLOOK REPORT

JOSH MARTINEZ'S

TOP 6 PICKS

FOR 2026



AN EDUCATIONAL MARKET OUTLOOK BASED
ON STRUCTURE, HISTORY, AND PROBABILITY

JOSH MARTINEZ, LLC

INTRODUCTION

Hey everyone, **Josh Martinez** here, and welcome to my **Top 6 Picks for 2026**.

In this report, I want to walk you through six markets I'll be focusing on as we head into 2026, explain why these markets matter, and share how I think about them from a higher-timeframe, educational perspective.

These are not short-term trade ideas.

They are not predictions.

And they are not recommendations.

They are markets that have a long history of appreciation, strong liquidity, and structural behavior that makes them easier to study, manage, and understand over time

The Six Markets We're Focusing on for 2026

The six markets covered in this report are:

- NASDAQ 100
- S&P 500
- Russell 2000
- Dow Jones
- Gold Futures
- Light Crude Oil

The reason I focus on these markets is simple. Historically, most of them tend to go up over time. U.S. stock indexes, in particular, have benefited from inflation, population growth, innovation, and long-term economic expansion.

Gold has historically served as a hedge against inflation.

Crude oil reflects supply, demand, and policy shifts.

Together, these markets provide a broad, educational view of how capital moves.

Why I Focus on U.S. Indexes

Let's start with the indexes.

The NASDAQ 100, S&P 500, Russell 2000, and Dow Jones are what I call scoreboard markets.

Instead of picking individual stocks from thousands of choices, these indexes automatically track the strongest companies in the U.S. economy. If companies grow, improve, or innovate, they stay in the index. If they don't, they get replaced.

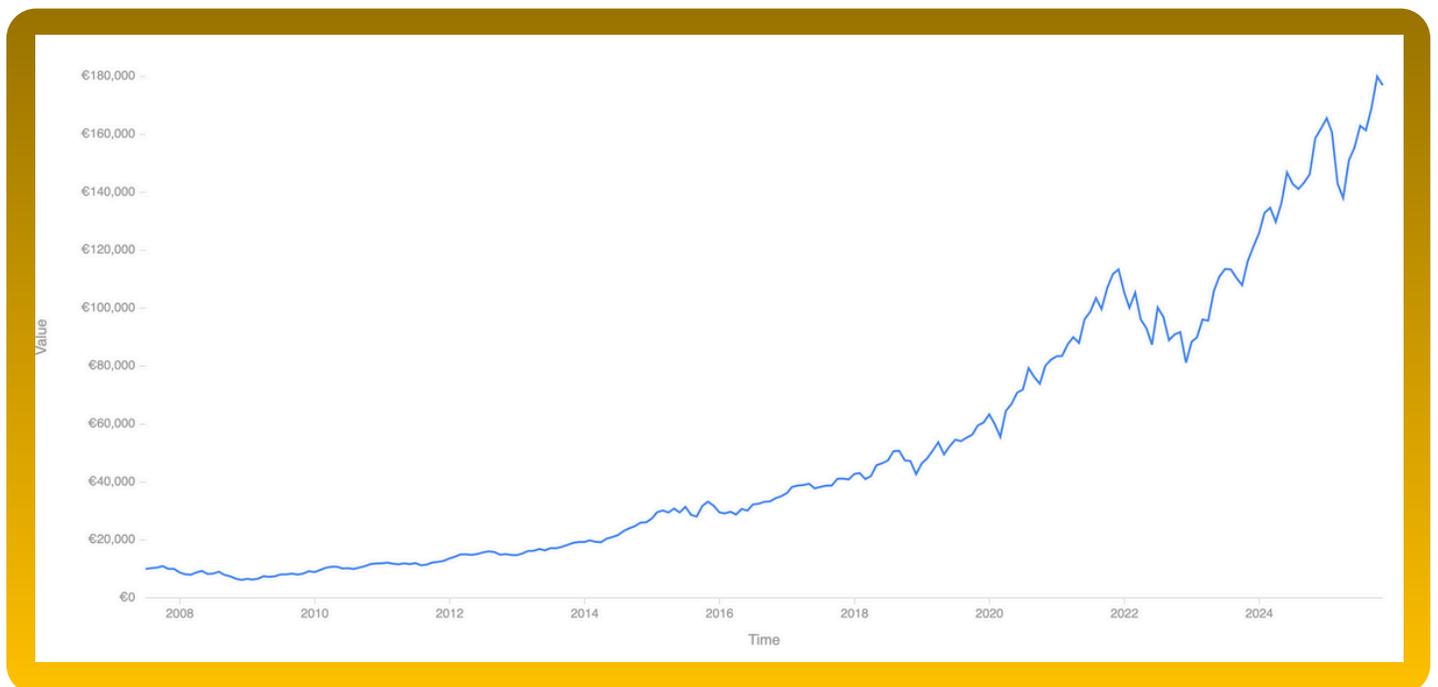
For example:

- The NASDAQ 100 represents the top 100 technology-heavy companies
- The S&P 500 represents the top 500 publicly traded U.S. companies
- The Russell 2000 tracks small-cap growth
- The Dow Jones tracks major industrial leaders

Why I Focus on U.S. Indexes

Historically, the NASDAQ 100 alone has averaged roughly 18 to 20 percent per year over the last decade, depending on the starting point.

When you trade or invest in U.S. indexes, you're essentially betting that America continues to grow.



Nasdaq from 2007-2024

Important Risk Disclosure

Before going further, it's important to be clear.
There is risk involved in trading and investing.
You should never trade money you cannot afford to lose.

Josh Martinez, LLC is not a Commodity Trading Advisor (CTA). Everything shared in this report is research and educational commentary only. Past performance is not indicative of future results, and no outcome is guaranteed.

Think of us like a newspaper. We share information, analysis, and ideas. What you do with that information is entirely your responsibility.



Pick #1: NASDAQ 100

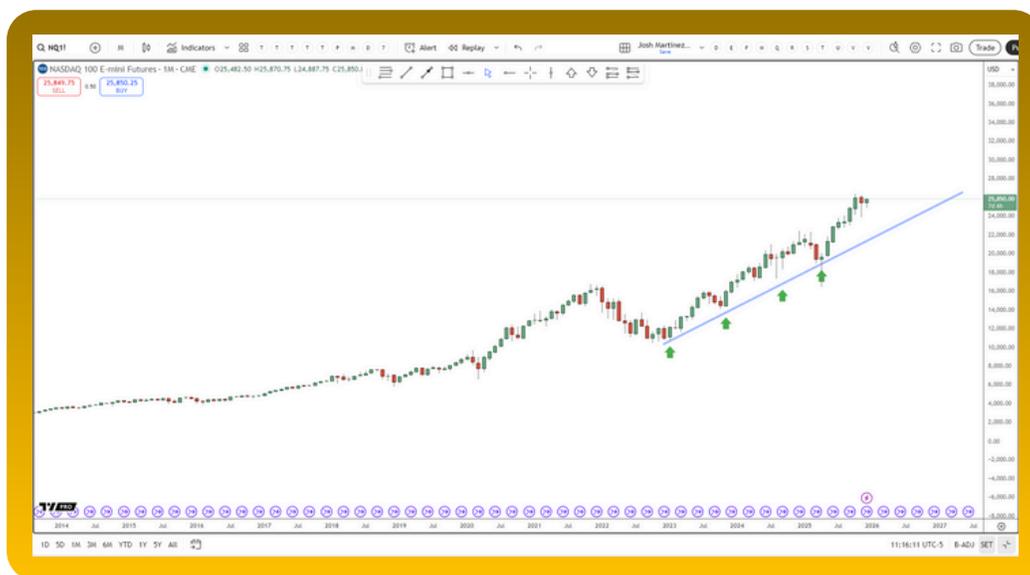
The NASDAQ 100 is one of the most active and widely followed index markets.

On a long-term chart, this market has shown a consistent pattern of higher highs and higher lows. **Even through major events such as:**

- The 2020 pandemic
- The 2022 bear market
- Tariffs and policy shifts in 2025

The market has repeatedly sold off and then recovered to new highs. To date, the NASDAQ has never gone to zero and has shown a consistent ability to recover over time.

From an educational standpoint, this makes it a very readable market. Downward moves tend to be temporary within a broader uptrend, allowing traders to focus on buying pullbacks rather than chasing tops.



Pick #2: S&P 500

The S&P 500 is often considered the standard benchmark for the U.S. market.

When people say they want to “beat the market,” they’re usually referring to the S&P 500.

This market tends to move in clear waves and often respects well-defined support and resistance zones. Previous highs frequently act as future support, creating opportunities to study how markets transition from resistance to structure.

Like the NASDAQ, the S&P 500 has never gone to zero and has historically recovered from downturns.



Pick #3: Russel 2000

The Russell 2000 tracks small-cap stocks and often behaves differently than large-cap indexes. Small caps tend to lag during uncertainty and accelerate during periods of confidence. When this market consolidates tightly and breaks out, the follow-through can be significant.

From a structural perspective, the Russell often respects upward trend angles and forms recognizable “U-shaped” turning points. These characteristics make it a valuable educational market for understanding breakouts and trend continuation.

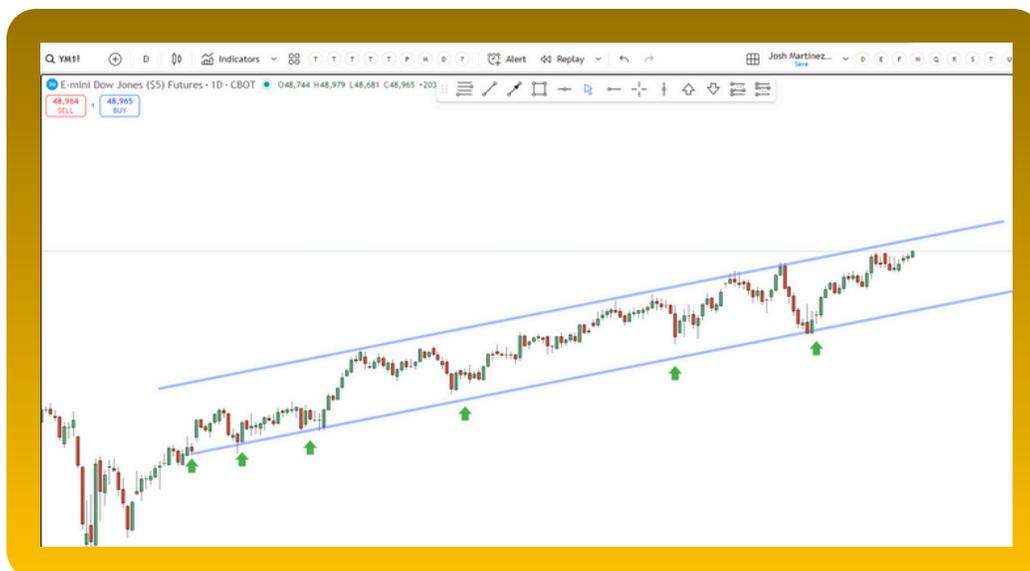


Pick #4: DOW Jones

The Dow Jones is slower and more deliberate than the NASDAQ or Russell.

It reflects capital rotation and industrial strength rather than speculation. Because of this, it often provides early clues about broader market participation and economic confidence.

For long-term analysis, the Dow is a useful tool for studying stability, structure, and patience.



Pick #5: Gold Futures

Gold plays a very different role.

When interest rates are cut and money supply expands, inflation becomes a concern. Historically, gold has been used as a hedge against inflation and a way to preserve purchasing power.

As of this outlook, gold has been in a strong upward trend. While it does go through consolidation phases, over long periods of time it has tended to appreciate. Rather than trying to call tops, I focus on understanding gold's long-term behavior and role within the broader financial system.



Pick #6: Light Crude Oil

Crude oil is included for a different reason.

Unlike the other markets in this report, crude oil is currently trending bearish. Policy direction, increased supply, and structural weakness have resulted in lower highs and lower lows.

From an educational standpoint, crude oil is useful for studying downtrends, supply dynamics, and selling pressure. While it is unlikely to go to zero, its structure makes it a market where selling opportunities tend to dominate when price remains below key levels.

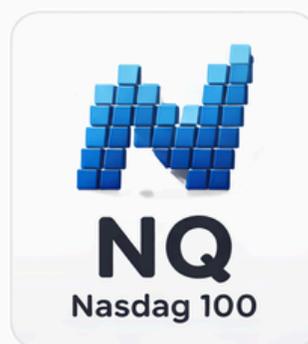


Contract Symbols and Accessibility

For reference, **the primary futures symbols are:**

- NASDAQ 100: NQ
- S&P 500: ES
- Russell 2000: RTY
- Dow Jones: YM
- Gold Futures: GC
- Light Crude Oil: CL

These markets also offer micro contracts, which can help traders manage risk more effectively.



Final Thoughts

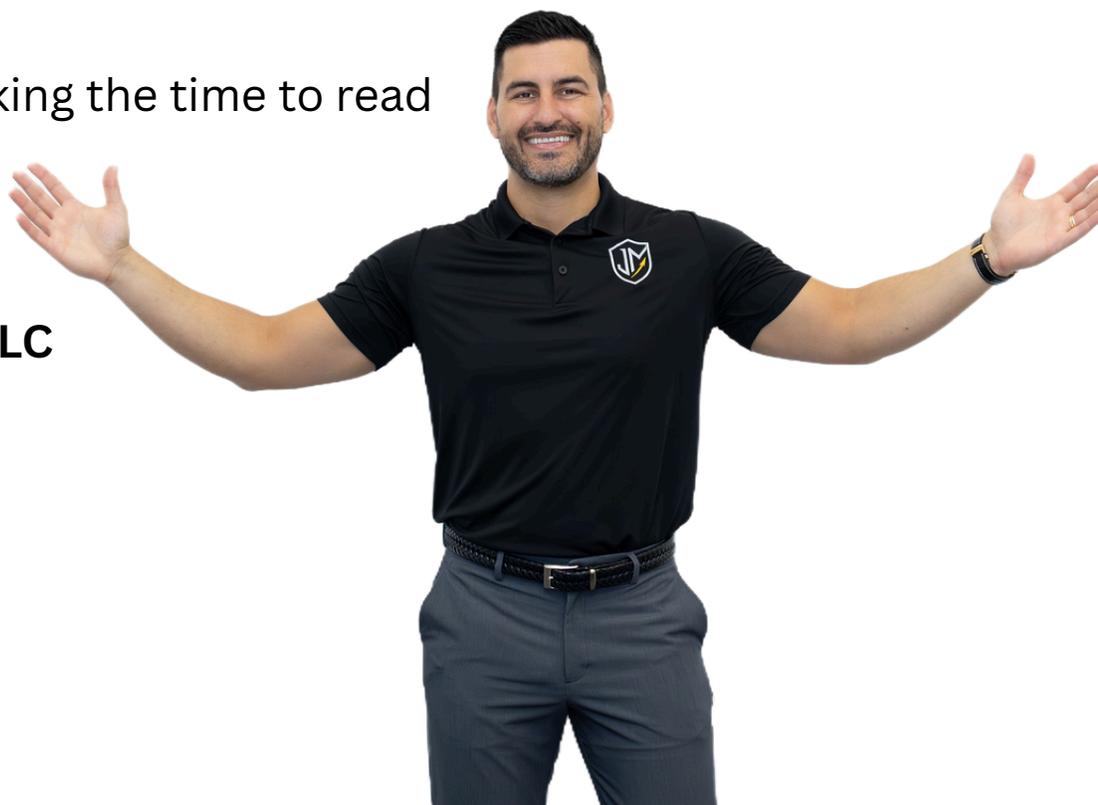
These six markets provide a structured, educational framework for understanding how markets move over time.

If you believe the U.S. economy will continue to grow, studying index markets makes sense. If you want to understand inflation and capital preservation, gold matters. If you want to understand supply and demand dynamics, crude oil offers insight.

If you're brand new, focus on the foundations. Learn risk management. Learn structure. Learn patience. My goal is to help people find clarity and confidence in the markets through education.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report.

Josh Martinez
Josh Martinez, LLC



About the Author

Joshua Martinez is a seasoned market educator and trader with **over a decade of experience** across the Forex and Futures markets. Known for his disciplined, **rules-based approach**, Josh focuses on teaching people how to think in terms of structure, probability, and risk.

In his early 20s, Josh made a decisive shift away from a low-paying personal training career and immersed himself in the study of market behavior and strategy development. Rather than chasing shortcuts, **he committed to building repeatable systems rooted in discipline.** A principle that continues to guide his work today.



About the Author

Notable personal trading and professional milestones include:

- Generated **\$37,723.54 over a 51-Trading days** inside the Futures Market
- Grew an initial deposit investment of \$500 into over **\$39,000 over a multi-year period** through incremental capital additions and disciplined execution
- Captured **50,000+ net pips** across multiple calendar years
- Achieved a **20-month consecutive positive performance streak**
- Publicly traded a live account and **donated all profits** from a one-month trading challenge to **breast cancer research** (+\$10,000.00 Donated)
- Regularly hosts live educational trade rooms, demonstrating real-time analysis, execution, and risk management **in front of students**



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