

Investment Perspectives Weekly

For the week ended Apr 17, 2026

Commentary

Weekly summary

Stocks rose as oil prices fell sharply after Iran said the Strait of Hormuz reopened, easing war fears. Inflation stayed high, jobs remained strong, consumers felt squeezed by prices, and housing slowed.

Markets review

- **U.S. equities rose broadly during the week** on positive investor sentiment around the technology sector. Growth stocks beat value stocks and large caps outperformed small caps. U.S. stocks led, while international stocks lagged.
- **U.S. bonds posted modest gains** as Treasury yields moved slightly lower across the yield curve. Intermediate- and long-term yields dipped, supporting core bond returns. Investment-grade bonds edged higher, while high yield and emerging market debt outperformed on steady investor risk appetite.
- **Commodity performance was mixed during the week.** Oil prices fell sharply, while gold and silver rose as investors leaned into defensive assets.
- **The U.S. dollar weakened modestly against the euro, British pound, and Japanese yen,** reflecting lower yields and improved risk sentiment abroad.

Economic review

- **Retail sales rose in March,** led by services and discretionary categories, pointing to resilient household demand despite higher borrowing costs.
- **Industrial production was mixed in March.** Total output rose modestly, driven by gains in manufacturing activity. Utilities production declined due to warmer weather.
- **Housing starts and building permits both declined in March,** reflecting continued pressure from high mortgage rates and elevated home prices. Housing remains a weak spot in the U.S. economy, with affordability limiting new activity even as underlying demand persists.
- **Initial jobless claims for the week ending April 12** fell by 11,000 from the prior week to 207,000, remaining near historic lows. Continuing claims for the week ending April 4 rose by 31,000 to 1.818 million, suggesting some unemployed workers are taking longer to find new jobs.

Earnings review

- **1Q26 earnings season is underway.** With blended results so far, S&P 500 earnings are tracking 14.4% year over year, while revenues are up 10.9%. About 88% of reporting companies have beaten consensus EPS estimates, pointing to broad-based earnings strength.

Market data

Index prices (\$)	04/17/2026	12/31/2025
Dow Jones Industrial Average	49,447	48,063
S&P 500	7,126	6,846

Returns (%)	1wk	QTD	YTD	3mo
Equities				
S&P 500	4.54	9.20	4.47	2.99
S&P Mid Cap 400	3.51	8.04	10.74	4.36
S&P Small Cap 600	4.04	8.99	12.82	5.45
Russell 1000	4.57	9.05	4.49	2.82
Russell MidCap	3.53	7.13	8.52	3.62
Russell 2000	5.56	11.27	12.26	4.02
Dow Jones Industrial Average	3.19	6.76	3.35	0.59
NASDAQ Composite	6.84	13.35	5.46	4.22

Fixed income				
Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate	0.55	0.88	0.84	0.83
Bloomberg Global Aggregate	0.88	2.03	0.94	1.26
Bloomberg High Yield Bond	0.66	1.97	1.47	0.90
S&P / LSTA Senior Loan	0.55	0.94	0.16	-0.32
JPM EMBI+ Emerging Markets Bond	1.28	3.57	3.01	2.51

S&P 500 sectors				
Technology	8.09	15.43	4.89	5.48
Materials	-0.37	4.35	14.51	6.74
Consumer discretionary	6.64	12.18	1.87	-0.61
Health care	0.98	1.49	-3.46	-4.05
Utilities	-1.69	0.59	8.89	7.10
Consumer staples	-0.04	0.54	8.26	2.37
Energy	-3.50	-10.61	23.58	15.70
Financials	3.28	6.20	-3.73	-3.14
Industrials	1.16	7.25	12.20	4.27
Communication services	6.28	14.26	6.33	5.78
Real Estate	3.94	8.98	11.99	7.08

Equity style performance				
Large cap value	2.40	6.28	8.51	4.19
Large cap growth	6.71	11.72	0.80	1.37
Mid cap value	2.92	7.01	10.95	5.48
Mid cap growth	5.73	7.57	0.74	-2.42
Small cap value	3.61	8.90	14.29	6.10
Small cap growth	7.44	13.58	10.39	2.12

International equities				
MSCI EAFE	2.21	9.82	8.60	4.97
MSCI U.K.	1.27	7.62	9.80	7.01
MSCI Europe ex-U.K.	3.10	11.13	6.65	4.14
MSCI Japan	1.66	9.02	10.67	3.74
MSCI AC Asia ex-Japan	3.14	14.54	13.25	7.10
MSCI Emerging Markets	3.23	14.44	14.32	8.07
MSCI ACWI	3.88	9.88	6.47	4.00

Source: FactSet.

U.S. economic calendar

Date	Event
4/21/2026	Advance Retail Sales (March) Business Inventories (Feb)
4/23/2026	Jobless Claims
4/24/2026	Consumer Sentiment (April)

Source: FactSet.

Market data, cont'd

As of:	Last close	Prior week	Year end	3 mos ago
U.S. bond rates (%)				
U.S. federal funds target rate	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75
U.S. 2yr Treasury	3.70	3.78	3.48	3.60
U.S. 10yr Treasury	4.24	4.29	4.18	4.23
U.S. 20yr Treasury	4.85	4.88	4.79	4.79
U.S. 30yr Treasury	4.88	4.90	4.86	4.84
High yield (Merrill U.S. Corporates)	6.44	6.55	6.42	6.36
Consumer rates (%)				
30yr mortgage rate	6.41	6.47	6.25	6.20
Prime rate	6.75	6.75	6.75	6.75
Commodities				
Gold (USD/oz)	\$4,879	\$4,767	\$4,341	\$4,595
Crude oil (USD/bbl)	\$82.59	\$99.08	\$57.42	\$59.34
Copper (LME \$/mt)	\$13,149	\$12,820	\$12,504	\$13,000
Gasoline (USD/gal)	\$4.46	\$4.48	\$3.10	\$3.03
Exchange rates				
\$ per €	1.18	1.17	1.17	1.16
\$ per £	1.36	1.35	1.35	1.34
¥ per \$	157.86	159.58	156.75	158.06
U.S. Dollar Index	98.10	98.37	98.32	99.39

Source: FactSet.

Index definitions

Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index measures a wide range of global government, government-related, corporate and securitized fixed-income investments, all with maturities greater than one year.

Bloomberg High Yield Bond Index tracks the performance of below investment grade U.S. dollar-denominated corporate bonds publicly issued in the U.S. domestic market.

Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Index is a bond market index composed of U.S. securities in Treasury, Government-Related, Corporate, and Securitized sectors that are of investment-grade quality or better, have at least one year to maturity, and have an outstanding par value of at least \$250 million.

Dow Jones Industrial Average is a price-weighted average computed from the stock prices of 30 of the largest and most widely held public companies in the U.S., adjusted to reflect stock splits and stock dividends.

FTSE EPRA / NAREIT Global Real Estate Index represents general performance trends of the equity securities of real estate companies involved in the ownership, disposition and development of income-producing properties worldwide.

JPMorgan Emerging Markets Bond Index Plus (EMBI+) tracks total returns for traded foreign currency denominated debt instruments in the emerging markets which meet minimum criteria for face value outstanding and market trading liquidity.

MSCI ACWI Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index designed to provide a broad measure of equity-market performance throughout the world, capturing large and mid cap representation across 23 Developed Markets (DM) and 26 Emerging Markets (EM) countries.

MSCI EAFE Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index designed to measure developed markets' equity performance, excluding the U.S. & Canada, for 21 countries.

MSCI Europe ex-U.K. Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index designed to measure equity performance of the 15 developed European markets except the U.K..

MSCI U.K. Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index designed to measure equity performance of listed common stocks in the U.K..

MSCI Asia ex-Japan Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index designed to measure equity performance of the 15 developed Asian markets except Japan.

MSCI Japan Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index designed to measure equity performance of listed common stocks in Japan.

MSCI Emerging Markets Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that measures emerging market equity performance of 23 countries.

Municipal Bond Index is a bond index that includes investment-grade, tax-exempt fixed-rate bonds with long-term maturities (greater than two years) selected from issues larger than \$50 million.

NASDAQ Composite Index is a market capitalization weighted index of the performance of domestic and international common stocks listed on the Nasdaq Stock Market including over 2,800 securities.

Large Growth: Russell 1000 Growth Index measures the large-cap growth segment of the U.S. equity market including Russell 1000 companies with higher price-to-book ratios and forecasted growth.

Large Value: Russell 1000 Value Index measures the large-cap value segment of the U.S. equity market including Russell 1000 companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower expected growth.

Midcap Growth: Russell MidCap Growth Index measures the performance of the mid-cap growth segment of the U.S. equity market including Russell Midcap Index companies with higher price-to-book ratios and forecasted growth.

Midcap Value: Russell MidCap Value Index measures the performance of the mid-cap growth segment of the U.S. equity market including Russell Midcap Index companies with lower price-to-book ratios and forecasted growth.

Small Cap Growth: Russell 2000 Growth Index measures the performance of small-cap growth stocks in the U.S. equity market including Russell 2000 companies with higher price-to-value ratios and forecasted growth.

Small Cap Value: Russell 2000 Value Index measures the performance of small-cap growth stocks in the U.S. equity market including Russell 2000 companies with lower price-to-value ratios and forecasted growth.

S&P 500 Index is a widely regarded as the best single gauge of the U.S. equities market, including 500 leading companies in major industries of the U.S. economy.

S&P 500 Sectors are defined as the GICS (Global Industry Classification Standard) sectors which provide standardized industry definitions consisting of 10 sectors, 24 industry groups, and 67 industries.

The S&P MidCap 400 includes 400 companies and represents almost 6% of the U.S. markets. To be eligible for inclusion in the index, a company should be a U.S. company, have a market cap between USD 3.3 billion to USD 11.8 billion, maintain a public float of at least 10% of its shares outstanding, and its most recent quarter's earnings and the sum of its trailing four consecutive quarters' earnings must be positive. The index implements changes on an as-needed basis.

The S&P SmallCap 600 includes 600 companies and represents almost 3% of the U.S. market. To be eligible for inclusion in the index, a company should be a U.S. company, have a market cap between USD 750 million to USD 3.3 billion, maintain a public float of at least 10% of its shares outstanding, and its most recent quarter's earnings and the sum of its trailing four consecutive quarters' earnings must be positive. The index implements changes on an as-needed basis.

The Russell 1000 Index measures the performance of the large-cap segment of the U.S. equity market and includes approximately 1,000 of the largest securities based on market capitalization and representing approximately 92% of the U.S. market.

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