



**Wealth  
Management**

# Market Week: April 23, 2018



## The Markets (as of market close April 20, 2018)

Favorable first-quarter earnings reports helped push stocks higher for the second consecutive week. Led by the small caps of the Russell 2000, each of the benchmark indexes listed here posted gains by the end of last week. The energy sector continued to post strong returns, boosted by rising crude oil prices, which are approaching \$70 per barrel. Treasury yields climbed as prices fell following a sell-off of Treasury bonds.

The price of crude oil (WTI) climbed again last week, closing at \$68.26 per barrel early Friday evening, up from the prior week's closing price of \$67.39 per barrel. The price of gold (COMEX) fell to \$1,337.60 by early Friday evening, down from the prior week's price of \$1,348.60. The national average retail regular gasoline price increased to \$2.747 per gallon on April 16, 2018, \$0.053 higher than the prior week's price and \$0.311 more than a year ago.

Market/Index	2017 Close	Prior Week	As of 4/20	Weekly Change	YTD Change
<b>DJIA</b>	24719.22	24360.14	24462.94	0.42%	-1.04%
<b>Nasdaq</b>	6903.39	7106.65	7146.13	0.56%	3.52%
<b>S&amp;P 500</b>	2673.61	2656.30	2670.14	0.52%	-0.13%
<b>Russell 2000</b>	1535.51	1549.51	1564.12	0.94%	1.86%
<b>Global Dow</b>	3085.41	3057.98	3083.28	0.83%	-0.07%
<b>Fed. Funds target rate</b>	1.25%-1.50%	1.50%-1.75%	1.50%-1.75%	0 bps	25 bps
<b>10-year Treasuries</b>	2.41%	2.82%	2.96%	14 bps	55 bps

Chart reflects price changes, not total return. Because it does not include dividends or splits, it should not be used to benchmark performance of specific investments.

## Last Week's Economic Headlines

- Sales at the retail level grew 0.6% in March from the previous month, and 4.5% above March 2017. Motor vehicle and parts dealers saw a monthly sales increase by 2.0%, while health and personal care sales advanced 1.4% in March over February. Nonstore (internet) retail sales increased 0.8% for the month and are up 9.7% over March 2017.
- New residential construction enjoyed a favorable March as building permits and housing starts surged. Residential building permits were 2.5% above February's rate and are 7.5% ahead of March 2017. Privately owned housing starts in March were 1.9% above February's estimate and 10.9% above the rate a year ago. Housing completions for all types of residential construction slowed in March, falling 5.1% below the prior month. Most of the March strength in the report is attributable to multifamily construction — single-family permits (-5.5%), starts (-3.7%), and completions (-4.7%) each fell off from February. Demand for housing continues to be solid, however a dearth of labor coupled with escalating materials costs may be hampering new construction.
- Industrial production rose 0.5% in March after increasing 1.0% in February. The output of consumer

**April 23, 2018**

Page 1 of 2, see disclaimer on final page



#### Key Dates/Data Releases

4/23: Existing home sales

4/24: New home sales

4/26: Durable goods orders,  
international trade in goods

4/27: GDP

goods advanced 0.5% in March. After having climbed 1.5% in February, manufacturing production edged up 0.1% in March. Mining output rose 1.0%, mostly as a result of gains in oil and gas extraction and in support activities for mining. Total industrial production was 4.3% higher in March than it was a year earlier. Capacity utilization for the industrial sector moved up 0.3 percentage point in March.

- In the week ended April 14, there were 232,000 initial claims for unemployment insurance, a decrease of 1,000 from the previous week's level. The advance insured unemployment rate remained at 1.3%. The advance number of those receiving unemployment insurance benefits during the week ended April 7 was 1,863,000, a decrease of 15,000 from the prior week's level, which was revised up by 7,000.

### Eye on the Week Ahead

Several important economic reports are out this week. Information on new and existing home sales in March is revealed. Last month, existing home sales fared better than sales of new homes. The first look at the gross domestic product for the first quarter comes at week's end. The fourth-quarter GDP grew at a rate of 2.9%.

*Data sources: News items are based on reports from multiple commonly available international news sources (i.e. wire services) and are independently verified when necessary with secondary sources such as government agencies, corporate press releases, or trade organizations. Market data: Based on data reported in WSJ Market Data Center (indexes); U.S. Treasury (Treasury yields); U.S. Energy Information Administration/Bloomberg.com Market Data (oil spot price, WTI Cushing, OK); www.goldprice.org (spot gold/silver); Oanda/FX Street (currency exchange rates). All information is based on sources deemed reliable, but no warranty or guarantee is made as to its accuracy or completeness. Neither the information nor any opinion expressed herein constitutes a solicitation for the purchase or sale of any securities, and should not be relied on as financial advice. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. All investing involves risk, including the potential loss of principal, and there can be no guarantee that any investing strategy will be successful.*

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