

WHAT TO KNOW:

Markets Fell Last Week

U.S. large cap equities fell last week, but the Russell 2000, a measure of small cap companies, hit a 52-week high. Federal Reserve (Fed) Chairman Jerome Powell testified on Capitol Hill and said that the Fed is “not far” from being able to cut rates. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate rose to 3.9% in February. Following “Super Tuesday’s” results, we’re having a presidential election “2020 rematch,” and the latest [SightLines](#) provides an update on the 2024 election supercycle and insights on the evolving world order.

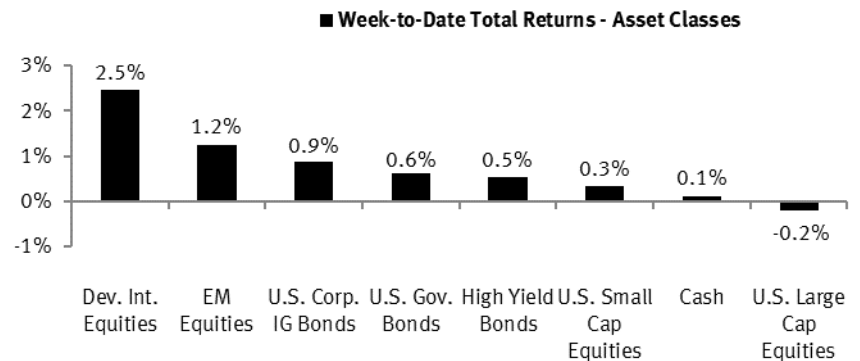
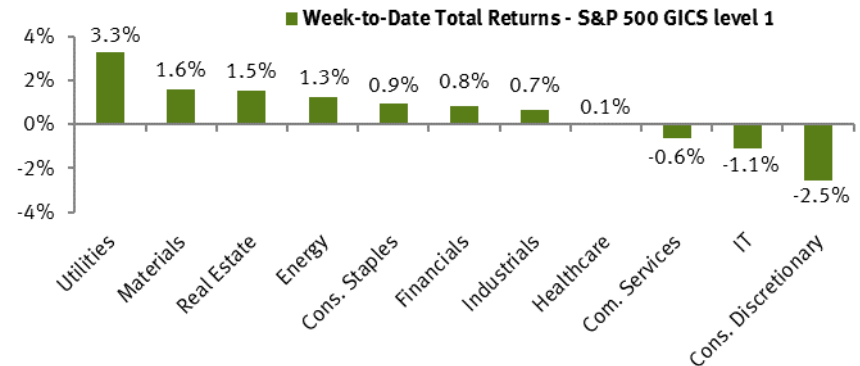
Labor Market Update: New Data Not Likely to Sway Fed

The latest labor market data suggests a potential weakening, though is likely insufficient to alter recent comments from Fed officials. While some indicators hint at easing conditions—such as the rise in the unemployment rate to 3.9% in February and nonfarm payrolls exceeding expectations—these were tempered by downward revisions for the previous two months. Notably, voluntary separations hit a three-year low, yet wage pressures persist with hourly earnings surpassing the Fed's inflation-compatible threshold. Average hourly earnings rose 4.3% year over year, above the Fed's 3.5% target. Additionally, employers continue to grapple with hiring challenges, illustrated by a slight uptick in the job openings/unemployment gap to 1.45 from 1.42 last month.

Fed Update: Powell's Comments Suggest Rate Cuts Are Within Sight

Fed Chairman Powell's prepared testimony echoed the same tone of the January meeting minutes and recent statements by him and other Federal Open Market Committee members. He said that the Fed is “not far” from being able to cut interest rates and suggested it could soon be appropriate to do so. He also doesn't see any elevated risks of the U.S. falling into a recession in the near term and maintained that stress within the commercial real estate sector and the risk it poses for banks is a “manageable” situation at this point. Traders of fed funds futures are pricing in a 57.9% probability of a 0.25% rate cut at the June meeting.

WEEKLY SNAPSHOT – ASSET CLASSES & SECTORS:*



WEEKLY ECONOMIC EVENTS IN REVIEW

CURRENT VS. CONSENSUS ▼ Worse ► In Line ▲ Better

MONDAY

No Economic Data

TUESDAY

- ▲ S&P Global U.S. Svcs. PMI
- ▲ S&P Global U.S. Comp. PMI
- ▼ Durable Goods Orders
- ▼ ISM Services Index

WEDNESDAY

- ▼ ADP Employment Change
- ▲ JOLTS Job Openings
- ▼ Wholesale Inventories

THURSDAY

- ▼ Trade Balance
- ▼ Initial Jobless Claims
- ▲ Consumer Credit
- ▲ Unit Labor Costs

FRIDAY

- ▲ Nonfarm Payrolls
- ▼ Unemployment Rate
- ▼ Average Hourly Earnings YoY
- ▼ Labor Force Part. Rate

WEEKLY MARKETS REVIEW

EQUITY MARKETS			
	Current Level	Weekly	YTD
	Price Level	Total Return	Total Return
U.S. EQUITIES			
S&P 500	5,123.69	-0.2%	7.7%
DJIA	38,722.69	-0.8%	3.2%
NASDAQ	16,085.11	-1.1%	7.3%
Russell 1000	2,810.12	-0.2%	7.5%
Russell 2000	2,082.71	0.3%	3.0%
Alerian	278.30	0.8%	11.4%
VIX	14.74	12.4%	18.4%
GLOBAL EQUITIES (USD terms)			
MSCI AC World	771.30	0.6%	6.3%
MSCI EAFE	2,357.74	2.5%	5.8%
MSCI Europe	2,107.73	2.5%	4.7%
MSCI Japan	4,132.99	2.6%	11.8%
MSCI Canada	2,234.51	1.6%	2.4%
MSCI EM	1,037.09	1.2%	1.5%
MSCI China	53.07	-1.8%	-4.3%
MSCI Lat Am	2,490.41	-1.7%	-6.1%
MSCI Asia ex Japan	652.72	1.7%	1.9%
CURRENCY MARKETS			
	Current Level	Weekly	YTD
	Spot Rate	change	change
GLOBAL CURRENCIES			
EUR/USD	1.09	0.9%	-0.9%
GBP/USD	1.29	1.6%	1.0%
USD/JPY	147.06	-2.0%	4.3%

FIXED INCOME MARKETS			
	Current Level	Weekly	YTD
	Yield	Total Return	Total Return
U.S. FIXED INCOME			
U.S. 2-year Treasury*	4.5%	0.3%	0.1%
U.S. 5-year Treasury*	4.0%	0.7%	-0.4%
U.S. 10-year Treasury*	4.1%	0.9%	-0.9%
U.S. 30-year Treasury*	4.3%	1.4%	-2.9%
Bloomberg U.S. Muni	3.4%	0.4%	0.0%
Bloomberg U.S. Investment Grade	5.2%	0.8%	-0.4%
Bloomberg U.S. Corp High Yield	7.7%	0.5%	1.0%
GLOBAL FIXED INCOME (local currency terms)			
EM Government Debt LCL Currency ¹	4.0%	0.8%	-0.1%
Germany 10-year yield*	2.3%	1.1%	-1.5%
Spain 10-year yield*	3.1%	1.7%	0.1%
Italy 10-year yield*	3.1%	2.1%	1.4%
Japan 10-year yield*	0.7%	-0.1%	-0.5%
COMMODITY MARKETS			
	Current Level	Weekly	YTD
	Price Level	Return	Return
GLOBAL COMMODITIES			
Gold	2,178.95	4.6%	5.6%
Oil (WTI)	78.01	-2.5%	8.9%
Oil (Brent)	82.08	-1.8%	6.5%
Copper	389.15	0.8%	-0.4%
Silver	24.31	5.1%	2.2%
Platinum	914.49	3.0%	-7.8%
Natural Gas	1.81	-1.6%	-28.2%

WEEKLY MARKETS DYNAMICS

Issues	NYSE	Nasdaq
Advancing	1,170	1,936
Declining	718	1,373
Unchanged	11	71
Total	1,899	3,380

Issues at	NYSE	Nasdaq
New 52 Week High	923	716
New 52 Week Low	148	497

Source: Bloomberg. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Indexes are unmanaged, do not reflect fees or expenses, and are not available for direct investment.

*Total Returns for the 2-yr Treasury = Bloomberg U.S. Treasury 1-5 yr; 5-yr = Bloomberg U.S. Treasury 5-7 yr; 10-yr = Bloomberg U.S. Treasury 7-10 yr; 30-yr = Bloomberg U.S. Treasury 20+ yr; German 10-year = Bloomberg Germany Govt 7-10 yr; Spanish 10-year = Bloomberg Spain Govt 7-10 yr; Italian 10-year = Bloomberg Italy Govt 7-10 yr; Japan 10-year = Credit Suisse Japan Govt 7-10 yr.

¹Returns in U.S. dollars

DISCLOSURE

Past performance does not guarantee future results. Investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal. Asset allocation and diversification do not ensure a profit or protection against loss.

Led by Stifel Chief Investment Officer Michael O’Keeffe, the Stifel CIO Office is comprised of several investment professionals. The team works collaboratively with other Stifel professionals to develop macroeconomic analysis, market analysis, strategic and tactical asset allocation guidance, applied behavioral finance, and specific investment solutions for advisors and clients.

Alternative Investments or Non-Traditional Assets – Alternative investments may include, but are not limited to: Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), Commodities, Futures, Hedge Funds, Venture Capital, Limited Partnerships, etc.

Real Estate – When investing in real estate companies, property values can fall due to environmental, economic, or other reasons, and changes in interest rates can negatively impact the performance.

Commodities and Futures – The risk of loss in trading commodities and futures can be substantial. You should therefore carefully consider whether such trading is suitable for you in light of your financial condition. The high degree of leverage that is often obtainable in commodity trading can work against you as well as for you. The use of leverage can lead to large losses as well as gains.

Hedge Funds – Investors should be aware that hedge funds often engage in leverage, short-selling, arbitrage, hedging, derivatives, and other speculative investment practices that may increase investment loss. Hedge funds can be highly illiquid, are not required to provide periodic pricing or valuation information to investors, and often charge high fees that can erode performance. Additionally, they may involve complex tax structures and delays in distributing tax information. While hedge funds may appear similar to mutual funds, they are not necessarily subject to the same regulatory requirements as mutual funds.

Venture Capital – Venture capital investments involve substantial risks. The risks associated with investing in companies in the start-up or expansion stages of development are greater than those of companies in later stages, because the companies’ business concepts generally are unproven and the companies have little or no track record.

Limited Partnerships – Generally, limited partnership investments are suitable only for a narrow class of relatively sophisticated investors. Limited partnership investments may be speculative in nature and be subject to resale restrictions or illiquidity. An investment is appropriate only for investors who have the capacity to absorb a loss of some or all of their investment.

Bonds – When investing in bonds, it is important to note that as interest rates rise, bond prices will fall. High-yield bonds have greater credit risk than higher quality bonds.

Duration – Duration is a measure of the sensitivity of the price -- the value of principal -- of a fixed-income investment to a change in interest rates. Duration is expressed as a number of years.

Standard Deviation – Standard deviation is a measure of the dispersion of a set of data from its mean. It is calculated as the square root of variance by determining the variation between each data point relative to the mean. If the data points are further from the mean, there is higher deviation within the data set.

International and Emerging Markets – There are special considerations associated with international investing, including the risk of currency fluctuations and political and economic events. Investing in emerging markets may involve greater risk and volatility than investing in more developed countries.

Short Positions – The investor should note that when a short position moves in an unfavorable way, the losses are theoretically unlimited. The broker will demand more collateral and the manager might have to close out that short position at an inopportune time to limit any further losses.

Small Company Securities – Small company securities are typically more volatile and carry additional risks, since smaller companies generally are not as well established as larger companies.

Private Equity – Private equity funds are not appropriate for all investors. Investors should be aware that private equity funds may contain speculative investment practices that can lead to a loss of the entire investment. Private equity funds may invest in entities in which no secondary market exists and, as such, may be highly illiquid. The funds are not required to provide periodic pricing or valuation information to investors and often charge high fees that can erode performance. Additionally, they may involve complex tax structures and delays in distributing tax information.

INDEX DESCRIPTIONS

Alerian is the leading gauge of energy Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs). The capped, float-adjusted, capitalization-weighted index, whose constituents represent approximately 85% of total float-adjusted market capitalization.

Bloomberg U.S. Treasury 1-5 yr – this index includes fixed income securities issued by the U.S. Treasury guaranteed by the U.S. government, all with maturities between 1 and 5 years.

Bloomberg U.S. Treasury 5-7 yr – this index includes fixed income securities issued by the U.S. Treasury guaranteed by the U.S. government, all with maturities between 5 and 7 years.

Bloomberg U.S. Treasury 7-10 yr – this index includes fixed income securities issued by the U.S. Treasury guaranteed by the U.S. government, all with maturities between 7 and 10 years.

Bloomberg U.S. Treasury 20+ yr – this index includes fixed income securities issued by the U.S. Treasury guaranteed by the U.S. government, all with maturities over 20 years.

Bloomberg Germany Govt 7-10 yr – this index includes fixed income securities issued by Germany guaranteed by German government, all with maturities between 7 and 10 years.

Bloomberg Spain Govt 7-10 yr – this index includes fixed income securities issued by Italy guaranteed by Spanish government, all with maturities between 7 and 10 years.

Bloomberg Italy Govt 7-10 yr – this index includes fixed income securities issued by Spain guaranteed by Italian government, all with maturities between 7 and 10 years.

Credit Suisse Japan Govt 7-10 yr – this index includes fixed income securities issued by Japan guaranteed by Japanese government, all with maturities between 7 and 10 years.

Bloomberg U.S. Treasury Bills 1-3 Months Index includes all publicly issued zero-coupon U.S. Treasury Bills that have a remaining maturity of less than 3 months and more than 1 month, are rated investment grade, and have \$250 million or more of outstanding face value.

Bloomberg U.S. Corporate IG Index is an index considered representative of fixed-rate investment-grade taxable bond debt.

Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Corporate Index is an index considered representative of fixed-rate investment-grade taxable bond debt.

Bloomberg U.S. Corporate High Yield is an index considered representative of fixed-rate, noninvestment-grade debt.

Bloomberg U.S. Government Bond Index is an index considered representative of fixed-rate, investment-grade US Government debt.

Bloomberg Global Aggregate provides a broad-based measure of the global investment-grade, fixed-rate debt market.

DJIA – The Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) is a price-weighted average of 30 significant stocks traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and the NASDAQ. The DJIA was invented by Charles Dow back in 1896.

NASDAQ Composite Index – The NASDAQ Composite Index is a capitalization-weighted index that is comprised of all stocks listed on the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation System stock market, which includes both domestic and foreign companies.

S&P 500 Index is a capitalization-weighted index of 500 stocks. The index is designed to measure performance of the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries.

S&P GSCI Index is a benchmark for investment in the commodity markets and as a measure of commodity performance over time. The index was originally developed by Goldman Sachs. In 2007, ownership transferred to Standard & Poor's, which currently owns and publishes it. Futures of the S&P GSCI use a multiple of 250. The S&P GSCI contains as many commodities as possible, with rules excluding certain commodities to maintain liquidity and investability in the underlying futures markets. The index currently comprises 24 commodities from all commodity sectors.

S&P Consumer Discretionary Select Index includes all companies in the S&P 500 Index classified under the GICS® Consumer Discretionary sector.

S&P Information Technology Index includes all companies in the S&P 500 Index classified under the GICS® Information Technology sector.

S&P Financial Select Index includes all companies in the S&P 500 Index classified under the GICS® Financial sector.

S&P Utility Select Index includes all companies in the S&P 500 Index classified under the GICS® Utility sector.

S&P Real Estate Select Index includes all companies in the S&P 500 Index classified under the GICS® Real Estate sector.

Indices are unmanaged, do not reflect fees and expenses, and are not available for direct investment.

INDEX DESCRIPTIONS

S&P Health Care Select Index includes all companies in the S&P 500 Index classified under the GICS® Health Care sector.

S&P Communication Services Select Index includes all companies in the S&P 500 Index classified under the GICS® Communication Services sector.

S&P Materials Select Index includes all companies in the S&P 500 Index classified under the GICS® Materials sector.

S&P Industrial Select Index includes all companies in the S&P 500 Index classified under the GICS® Industrial sector.

S&P Construction Select Index includes all companies in the S&P 500 Index classified under the GICS® Construction sector.

S&P Energy Select Index includes all companies in the S&P 500 Index classified under the GICS® Energy sector

The **S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller 20-City Composite Home Price NSA Index** is a value-weighted average that seeks to measure the value of residential real estate in 20 major U.S. metropolitan areas. The index is a composite of single-family home price indices for the nine U.S. Census divisions.

Russell 1000 Index represents approximately 1,000 of the largest companies in the U.S. equity markets, the Russell 1000 is a subset of the Russell 3000 Index. The Russell 1000 (maintained by the Russell Investment Group) comprises over 90% of the total market capitalization of all listed U.S. stocks and is considered a bellwether index for large cap investing.

Russell 2000 Index measures the performance of the 2,000 smallest companies in the Russell 3000 index.

MSCI AC World Index captures large and mid cap representation across 23 Developed Markets (DM) and 24 Emerging Markets (EM) countries.

MSCI Asia ex Japan captures large and mid cap representation across two of three Developed Markets (DM) countries (excluding Japan) and nine Emerging Markets (EM) countries in Asia. With 647 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

MSCI EAFE Index captures large and mid cap representation across Developed Markets countries around the world, excluding the U.S. and Canada. With 914 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each

country.

MSCI Europe Index captures large and mid cap representation across 15 Developed Markets (DM) countries in Europe.

MSCI Emerging Markets (EM) Index captures large and mid cap representation across 23 Emerging Markets (EM) countries. With 837 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

MSCI Japan is designed to measure the performance of the large and mid cap segments of the Japanese market. With 321 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in Japan.

MSCI Canada is designed to measure the performance of the large and mid cap segments of the Canada market. With 91 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in Canada.

MSCI China captures large and mid cap representation across China H shares, B shares, Red chips, P chips and foreign listings (e.g. ADRs). With 153 constituents, the index covers about 85% of this China equity universe.

MSCI World Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization-weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed markets.

MSCI Lat Am captures large and mid cap representation across 5 Emerging Markets (EM) countries in Latin America. With 109 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

Morgan Stanley Market – implied pace of hikes index (MSPOKE) is the number of Fed rate hikes in the 12 months following the first rate hike implied by the Eurodollar interest rate futures market.

VIX – this measure shows the market's expectation of 30-day volatility. It is constructed using the implied volatilities of a wide range of S&P 500 index options. This volatility is meant to be forward looking, is calculated from both calls and puts, and is a widely used measure of market risk, often referred to as the "investor fear gauge."

ISM Non-Manufacturing Index is an index based on surveys of more than 400 non-manufacturing firms' purchasing and supply executives, within 60 sectors across the nation, by the Institute of Supply Management (ISM).

Indices are unmanaged, do not reflect fees and expenses, and are not available for direct investment.