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Illustration by Nicolas Ortega

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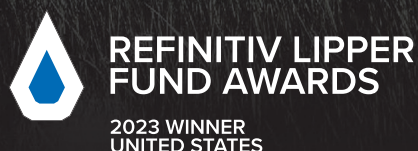
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UP & DOWN WALL STREET

The stock market has never bottomed before the start of a recession since 1950—and never without a “cathartic volatility spike.”

A Stock Market Plunge Would Solve the Debt-Ceiling Standoff

“Sell in May” could be more than a cliché this year. A summer of discontent may lie ahead for the financial markets, in no small part because of yet another fight over raising the federal government’s debt ceiling. But, ironically, a possible market meltdown might be what’s needed to get Congress and the White House to make a deal to stave off the first default on the full faith and credit of the U.S.

“Politicians know the path to raising the debt ceiling lies through the stock market’s floor,” according to Evercore ISI’s equity and derivatives strategy team, led by Julian Emanuel. Indeed, the 2011 debt-ceiling fight, which led to the first-ever downgrade of the U.S. from its top triple-A rating by Standard & Poor’s, produced a huge spike in volatility and ultimately a 19% drop in the S&P 500 index.

Not that there’s a realistic chance that President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R., Calif.) will do a *Thelma and Louise*-style drive into the abyss of default. The recent passage of a debt-ceiling increase by the GOP-led House of Representatives, even if it’s dead on arrival in the Senate, cuts the chances of breaching the so-called X-date, when Uncle Sam runs out of cash-management gimmicks.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen had put that X-date in early June, but it may be staved off until as late as August as a result of an unexpected influx of tax payments made by old-fashioned paper checks as of last Tuesday, according to



BY RANDALL W. FORSYTH

a note by Goldman Sachs economist Alec Phillips. The Strategas Washington policy analysis team, led by Dan Clifton, estimates a 75% probability that a debt-ceiling deal won’t happen until two weeks before the ultimate X-date, and a 65% chance that it will come down to the final week.

That probably means a more drawn-out battle over the debt limit, with ever-increasing levels of anxiety expressed in rising volatility, especially for stocks. Fears of a default already have been felt in the market for what’s supposed to be the safest investment on the planet: U.S. Treasury bills. As our colleague Andrew Bary wrote, yields on the

shortest T-bills maturing before an estimated X-date are in demand. Investors on Thursday accepted a 4.17% yield on a one-month bill, nearly a full percentage point less than the three-month bill, for the assurance of avoiding even a highly improbable default. That’s up from a low of just 3.35% on April 21, however, as the anticipated X-date apparently has been pushed off.

In addition, the cost to ensure against a U.S. government default with credit default swaps has shot up well before any likely X-date, writes the Emanuel team at Evercore in a client note. By contrast, the major stock market averages have been moving sideways for about six months, as they did ahead of the 2011 debt-ceiling episode.

The S&P 500 index is caught in a tug of war, according to the Evercore team, between the recessionary signals from the leading economic indicators and the M2 money supply, which, while receding from its high, is still approximately \$5 trillion above its pre-Covid trend growth line. What’s likely to break the deadlock is the debt-ceiling fight.

“As it was in 2011 when stocks similarly woke from their torpor, equity market volatility (a stock market sell-

off) will help resolve the impasse,” they write. Nothing seems to concentrate the minds on Capitol Hill like chaos on Wall Street. Who can forget the 8.8% nosedive in the S&P 500 on Sept. 29, 2008, when the House voted down the Troubled Asset Relief Program in the midst of the financial crisis? Enough minds were changed by that plunge for Congress to pass TARP later.

Emanuel and his team see the S&P 500 dropping back to 3800, or about an 8% retracement from Thursday’s close. That would be less than half the 18.8% peak-to-trough decline from July 7 to Oct. 3, 2011, however. And it would still leave the big-cap benchmark above its recent Oct. 12, 2022, closing low of 3577.03.

Similarly, seasonal patterns favor a more defensive stance, according to Jeffrey Hirsch, editor in chief of the Stock Trader’s Almanac. “The sweet spot of the four-year [political] cycle from the [fourth quarter] midterm year to the [second quarter] pre-election year appears to have hit a sour patch,” he writes in a client note.

The S&P 500 is following a path similar to that ahead of the 2011 debt-ceiling showdown, which also pitted a GOP-led House against a Democratic White House. And the market also is ending what Hirsch’s data show to be the best six-month period of the four-year election cycle.

Based on that and other technical indicators, he advised followers this past Tuesday to sell their **SPDR S&P 500** exchange-traded fund (ticker: SPY) and their **SPDR Dow Jones Industrial Average** ETF (DIA). But he also advised them on Thursday to stick with **Invesco QQQ** (QQQ)—the ETF tracks the Nasdaq 100 megacaps, which got big lifts from postearnings pops in **Microsoft** (MSFT) and **Meta Platforms** (META).

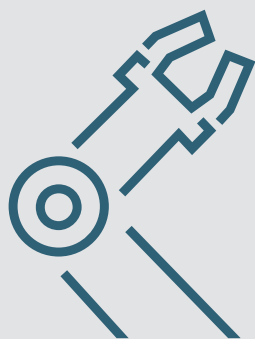
While he pointedly doesn’t say to sell in May and go away, Hirsch adds now is the time to begin moving to a more neutral stance for what he calls the worst six months—May to October.

Evercore further points out that the stock market has never bottomed before the start of a recession since 1950—and never without a “cathartic volatility spike.” While this recession



House Speaker Kevin McCarthy isn’t likely to drive into the abyss of a debt default.

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Up & Down Wall Street (continued)

may be the most anticipated ever, the team counters another market saying: "It isn't different this time."

A possible painful revisit of the major indexes to their October 2022 lows could mark what the Evercore team calls the bear-market finale of the second half of 2023. The good news, they conclude, is that it could be the start of a multiyear buy-and-hold bull market. But, in the immortal lyrics of the Kurt Weill song, it's a long, long while from May to December.

Mayday? You might think so, given stalling U.S. economic growth and turbulence among banks. But the Federal Reserve will ignore those false alarms and raise its key policy interest rate again this coming week, as inflation remains sticky due to a resilient labor market.

That should come as no surprise, however, as the interest-rate futures markets have consistently priced in one more increase of 25 basis points (one-quarter percentage point) in the central bank's federal funds target, from the current 4.75%-5% range, at the meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee that concludes on Wednesday. That would put it in line with the 5.1% median year-end projection set at the last FOMC confab ended on March 22, which suggests the Fed's rate policy should be on autopilot for the rest of 2023.

The markets disagree, however, and see the Fed reversing course as early as autumn. Minutes of the March FOMC meeting show the central bank's own staff forecasting the start of a recession later this year. This is likely to be the main issue addressed by the FOMC's policy statement on Wednesday afternoon and Fed Chairman Jerome Powell's news conference afterward, more so than the rate hike to an expected 5%-5.25% (which had an 84.4% probability as of Friday, according to the CME FedWatch site).

The apparent slowing of the economy and the banking travails might suggest that the monetary authorities would consider forgoing further rate hikes after the 475 basis points over the past year. But inflation, while off its four-decade peak hit last year, remains more than twice the Fed's 2% target, and its progress toward that goal has faltered.

Based on gross domestic product, real growth slowed to a 1.1% seasonally adjusted annual rate in the first quarter, from 2.6% in the fourth quarter of 2022. But that masked an underlying improvement. Most of the slowing reflected a drawdown of inventories. Strong consumer spending

cleared away those excess stocks, resulting in a 3.4% annual rise in real final sales in the first quarter, up sharply from 1.1% in the prior three months.

The FOMC went ahead with its March rate hike after the failure of Silicon Valley Bank, about which the central bank did a partial mea culpa on Friday. **First Republic Bank** (FRC), whose stock shed 75% in the past week and which could be headed for Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. receivership, kept banking worries in the headlines in recent days.

The travails among a few regional banks shouldn't deter the Fed from its primary task of guiding the economy back to price stability, however. The aim of tightening monetary policy was to restrict credit to the private sector, said Vincent Reinhart, chief economist and macro strategist at Mellon and former secretary and economist of the FOMC. Such disruptions are what should be expected. The surprise is that financial conditions haven't tightened more, he added in an interview.

Indeed, much of the dislocation among banks has been concentrated in First Republic, according to Douglas Peta, chief U.S. investment strategist at BCA Research. There is no evidence yet that banks are less willing to lend because of the failures of Silicon Valley and Signature banks, he added.

The banking news was superseded by the bigger-than-expected rise in the Employment Cost Index, the Fed's preferred gauge of compensation expenses, reported on Friday. The ECI increased at a 4.8% annual rate in the first three months of 2022. Powell has indicated something closer to 3.5% wage growth would be consistent with the Fed's 2% inflation target, J.P. Morgan chief U.S. economist Michael Feroli wrote on Friday.

One important piece of information the FOMC will have when it sits down at the conference table will be preliminary results of its Senior Loan Officer Opinion Survey, both Reinhart and Peta pointed out. This should give the latest insight into the impact of the banking turmoil ahead of the survey's public release, expected the following week.

The FOMC faces an economy that continues to grow despite localized bank problems, but with inflation remaining far above the Fed's professed 2% target. Yet the market still looks for rate cuts later this year, despite the Fed's projection of holding steady after the next expected hike. How Powell squares that contradiction will be a key question to be answered this coming week. **B**

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STREETWISE

Chatbot-themed investments added \$1.4 trillion in stock market value this year. Just six tech companies were responsible for 53% of S&P 500 gains.

AI Is Driving the Stock Market. And It Has Some Advice for You.

“I’m the elephant in the room, and I’m not afraid to sparkle,” says a digital replica of former Vice President Mike Pence, dressed in shiny pink with a boa. The video, widely viewed on Twitter this past week, shows prominent figures from the political right dressed in drag. It’s based on an Instagram page called RuPublicans, a nod to reality show celebrity RuPaul, featuring portraits made using the artificial intelligence tools Midjourney and ChatGPT-4.

I’m firmly against this on multiple counts. It’s childish and divisive. Using AI to create so-called deep fake likenesses of politicians sets a dangerous precedent. And Steve Bannon should avoid plunging necklines. But this is one example of AI’s place for now in the public consciousness. There are distant applications of profound importance, like fully self-driving cars, and already-here but frivolous ones, like, well, Rudy Garland, a certain former New York City mayor in a cheetah print coat.

Of course, there are already plenty of commercially significant examples, like search results, facial recognition, and credit card fraud detection. But suddenly, AI seems to be taking over the stock market, too.

Strategists at J.P. Morgan point out that the S&P 500’s year-to-date gain, recently 8%, has been driven by the narrowest stock leadership since the 1990s. “Interest in generative AI and [the] Large Language Model theme appears to be stretched,” they write.



BY JACK HOUGH

Large language models drive conversational bots like ChatGPT—from Microsoft-backed OpenAI—which office workers have been tinkering with since it opened to the public in November. I asked this past week if I should sell in May and go away. “No” seems to have been the answer, only wordier and more meandering, with lots of non-committal phrases like “may not” and “not necessarily” and “generally.” In other words, robots have already cracked the financial advice business.

Chatbot-themed investments have added \$1.4 trillion in stock market value this year. Just six companies were recently responsible for 53% of S&P 500 gains: **Microsoft** (ticker: MSFT), **Alphabet** (GOOGL), **Amazon.com** (AMZN), **Meta Platforms** (META), **Nvidia** (NVDA), and **Salesforce** (CRM). The 10 biggest S&P 500 members have close to their largest index weighting ever.

This would be easier to dismiss as froth if AI wasn’t taking center stage this earnings season. Microsoft, Alphabet, and Meta reported solid results. Microsoft is leading the AI arms

race, writes investment bank Wedbush. At Alphabet, search is becoming even more valuable as Google turns user behavior into language-model training for better results, says Morgan Stanley. At Meta, users who once relied on a limited set of friends and family for posts are increasingly drawn in by a never-ending supply of AI-recommended videos.

And then there are costs. At a recent conference, a top Microsoft executive pointed out that his developers increased productivity by 55% when they used an AI tool called GitHub Copilot, which turns natural language into coding suggestions. Higher productivity means that fewer programmers are needed, along with fewer support workers. That, as much as recent softness in advertising demand and concerns about the economy, is causing a rapid rethink of head count.

Meta is laying off nearly one-quarter of its workforce, and hasn’t ruled out deeper cuts. Morgan Stanley recently laid out what that means for its financial model of the company. It had previously assumed 10% head-count growth in 2024. If it cuts that figure to 2%, the cost reduction would boost earnings by about \$1.20 a share, or 8%. Recent layoffs at Meta, Alphabet, and Amazon are partly a reaction to prior overhiring, Morgan Stanley writes. But there are likely to be lasting changes, too: “Forward hiring levels should arguably be smaller and more targeted due to rapidly emerging AI productivity drivers.”

Meta stock peaked at over \$380 in September 2021, then plunged to under \$90 in November amid rising interest rates and concerns that the company

was blowing too much cash on vague metaverse ambitions. Now that Meta is viewed as a cost-conscious AI play, the stock recently fetched \$238. That’s around 28 times this year’s projected free cash flow, or 20 times the free cash Wall Street sees the company unlocking two years from now. The S&P 500, for comparison, trades at 22 times this year’s estimated free cash flow.

AI winners are making the index look expensive. But I’m not selling—the dividends will come in handy when the chatbot columnists take over.

Ask a Human

For a second opinion on financial markets, I called on an advisor with a pulse: David Kelly, chief global strategist for the asset management side of JPMorgan Chase. Don’t sell, he says. Yes, we might get a recession. But inflation is falling, and the Federal Reserve is likely to cut interest rates by next year and into 2025. Rates won’t go back to zero—levels that low don’t help the economy and lead to financial instability and bubbles, says Kelly. But rates will go low enough to make today’s stock prices look reasonable.

The best stock deals are overseas, including in Europe and Japan, which are 30% cheaper than the U.S. relative to earnings, especially now that a 15-year uptrend in the value of the dollar appears to have reversed, says Kelly. Also, buy bonds while you can. In America, they’re becoming “a little bit like the cicada bug”—attractive yields show up briefly and then disappear for many years. And crypto, despite recent gains, is still “nonsense,” a “vehicle for speculation,” and “very, very vulnerable to some future market downturn.”

ChatGPT, if you’re wondering, took three paragraphs to explain that Bitcoin “could potentially go up,” but also that there’s “the possibility of it going down,” and that I should do my own research and make “informed decisions.” I’ll stick with Kelly, unless the robots are reading, in which case I could maybe but not necessarily go either way. **B**

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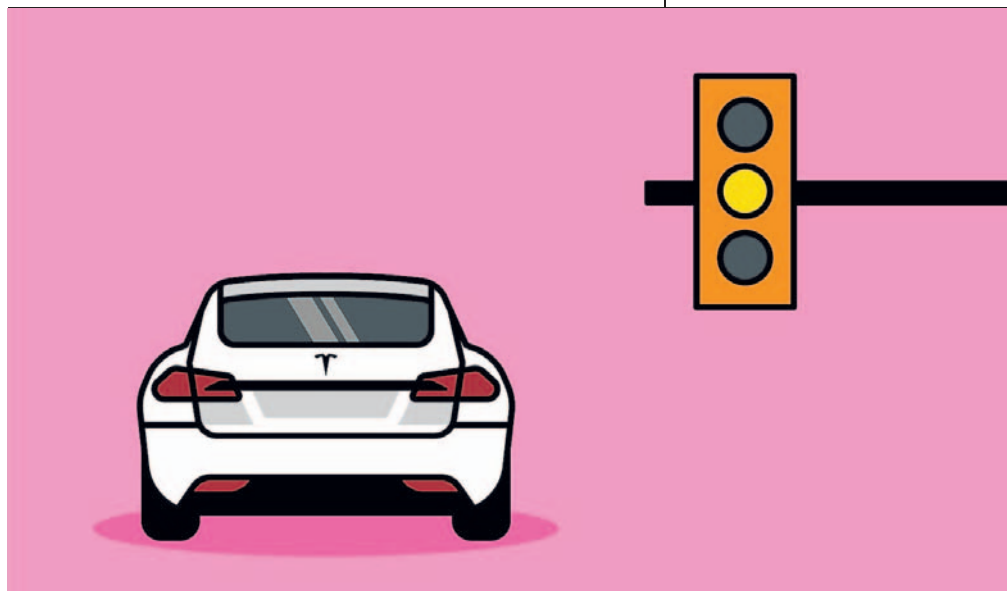


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Dow Global Index: +1.463.45%
10-year Treasury Note: -0.12

PRICING LEADS TO DOWNGRADES

Analysts Bail On Tesla Cuts

Wall Street is losing faith in **Tesla**. This past week, Jefferies analyst Philippe Houchois downgraded Tesla shares to Hold and cut his price target to \$185 from \$230, the seventh downgrade since February, according to FactSet.

The concern: price cuts and price elasticity. Tesla has reduced electric-vehicle prices several times this year to boost growth. The cuts worked: Tesla picked up market share in the first quarter. That's a positive—and *Barron's* has been bullish on Tesla's long-term prospects—but pricing worries investors. "However fascinating the investment case remains, relative price aggression is not supportive of a high-multiple investment case."

There are good reasons to cut prices, Houchois notes, including faster EV penetration and increasing share. But holding a stock in a price war is rough. Then there's pricing elasticity—the change in demand driven by a change in price. If prices drop 10%, and demand rises 10%, elasticity is at one. But elasticity changes over time and at different pricing levels. Eventually, more price cuts have less impact on sales, a dynamic he fears for Tesla.

Analysts praised Tesla's initial price cuts, but concerns grew as cuts kept coming. In March, before earnings, four analysts went from Buy to Hold. After earnings, two more joined them, and then Houchois. The average price target for Tesla slid to \$189 from \$202 over that span. Less than 50% of analysts covering Tesla rate shares Buy, down from about 65% at 2023's start. The average S&P 500 Buy ratio is 58%. Pricing sent shares on a wild ride—starting the year at \$123, down to \$102 in early January, nearly \$218 a few weeks later, and recently \$160. —**Al Root**

THE NUMBERS

\$69 B

The total amount of deposits lost by Credit Suisse in the first quarter, forcing its sale to Swiss rival UBS

\$2.53

The price of diesel in the U.S., down some 50% since last May

\$2.2 T

Global military spending in 2022, a record, and the eighth consecutive year of spending growth

0.2%

The increase in Case-Shiller home prices in February compared with January, the first rise in seven months

To get Numbers by Barron's daily, sign up wherever you listen to podcasts or at Barrons.com/podcasts

Tech Returns

Stocks opened quietly before a big earnings week, then fell on Tuesday after fears of another **First Republic Bank** rescue surfaced, then rose on a spate of good Big Tech earnings. U.S. growth, however, slowed to 1.1% in the first quarter, and Europe to 0.1%. On the week, the Dow industrials edged up 0.86%, to 34,098.95; the S&P 500 rose 0.87%, to 4169.58; and the Nasdaq Composite advanced 1.28%, to 12226.58.

The Earnings Beat

The big guys joined the earnings parade. **General Motors** beat handily, outearning **Tesla**, which again lowered prices on some models. **McDonald's** and **PepsiCo** also beat, helped by price hikes. **Alphabet** and **Microsoft** talked up artificial intelligence, and exceeded reduced expectations. In two surprises, **Meta Platforms** beat, snapping three quarters of sales declines, and so did **Amazon**, despite warning of slowing cloud growth.

Another Rescue?

On its earnings call, First Republic said it lost some \$100 billion in deposits in the first quarter, \$72 billion more than forecast. The bank's shares collapsed—down some 75% for the week—after saying it will explore its options. Maybe not. Regulators pondered yet-another rescue of the bank.

Dancing With Default

Speaker Kevin McCarthy, with a narrow majority, pushed through the House a 320-page debt-default plan on party lines. President Joe Biden, who announced he's running for a second term, said he'll veto the bill if it passes the Senate, which is unlikely.

Exiting the Stage

Comcast fired NBCUniversal chief Jeff Shell after a CNBC anchor accused him of sexual harassment. **Fox** "parted ways" with top cable host Tucker Carlson after the Dominion Voting Systems settlement. And CNN fired morning-show anchor Don Lemon.

Leaving Sudan

Fighting continued in Sudan despite a 72-hour cease-fire. The U.S. and West-

HE SAID:

"The 'R' word that one should use when discussing the economy over the past two years should be resilient, not recession."

RSM chief economist Joseph Brusuelas



ern allies pulled embassy staff out of Khartoum, and is seeking to put together a safe land route for foreign civilians who want to leave.

Waiting for the Offensive

Ukraine established positions on the east side of the Dnipro River, a prelude to a long-awaited counteroffensive. Russia said Ukraine drone ships attacked its Black Sea fleet in Sevastopol, Crimea, and threatened to pull out of the grain deal. The Kremlin "temporarily" seized two foreign energy companies in response to G-7 talks on banning exports to Russia.

Annals of Deal Making

Bed Bath & Beyond filed for bankruptcy protection, saying it will close all 400 stores and liquidate inventory by June if it fails to find a buyer...The U.K. Competition and Markets Authority blocked Microsoft's \$75 billion takeover of **Activision Blizzard** on fears it would limit competition in cloud gaming. Microsoft will appeal...**Walt Disney** sued Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis for a "targeted campaign of governmental retaliation."

PREVIEW

Wednesday The Federal Open Market Committee announces its monetary-policy decision. There is a 85% chance the FOMC raises the federal-funds rate by 25 basis points, to 5%-5.25%, per the CME FedWatch Tool.

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THE STRONG GET STRONGER

Bed Bath Bust: A Boon for TJX

When *Barron's* recently recommended **TJX Cos.** stock, we ticked off multiple reasons: low valuation, strong value reputation, a growing dividend. Now, we have another: **Bed Bath & Beyond's** bankruptcy, which underscores a retail pecking order that increasingly favors the strongest operators.

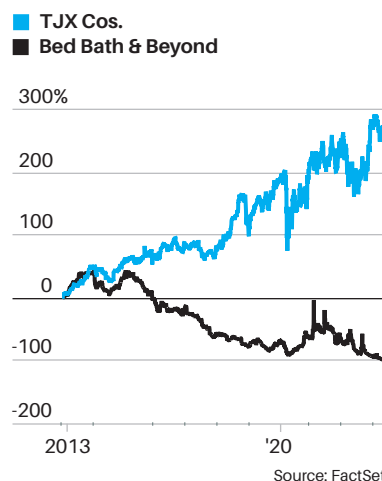
Bed Bath's filing was no surprise. *Barron's* warned of a bankruptcy last summer. For now, Bed Bath stores will stay open as the company explores its options, including selling itself or closing. Rivals in the short term may feel pressure on sales as bargain hunters buy discounted merchandise, though few industry watchers expect a rescue.

One company's demise is another's opportunity. TJX could pick up lots of Bed Bath's former sales, argues Bernstein analyst Aneasha Sherman, who notes that only a fifth of Bed Bath's sales was purely online: the rest involve a store visit, even if just for curbside pickup. She believes that "share will remain offline as consumers maintain their existing shopping habits." Some 80% of Bed Bath stores are within five miles of TJX's T.J. Maxx or HomeGoods outlets. Like Bed Bath, these stores "attract a mainstream/value customer; offer a meaningful mix of home décor, furnishings, and small appliances; and are located in similar off-mall plaza/strip mall sites," she writes. If Bed Bath liquidates, off-price retailers like TJX will scoop up cheap inventory.

Bed Bath's market share has slipped, limiting TJX's gains. Sherman estimates that capturing 10% to 15% of its roughly \$5.5 billion in 2022 sales would boost TJX revenue by some \$700 million. She rates TJX shares at Outperform with an \$88 price target; TJX was trading on Friday at just over \$78, up 0.31% for the week. — **Teresa Rivas**

Retail Rise and Fall

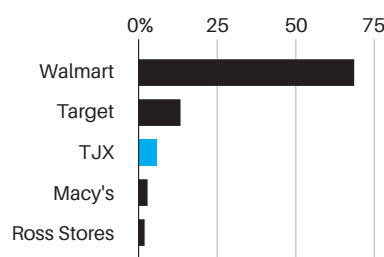
Over the past decade, Bed Bath & Beyond and TJX shares have taken very different paths.



Off-Price Value

In terms of U.S. market share, TJX has steadily risen into the top ranks of U.S. retailers.

Market Share, 4Q 2022



Monday 5/1

Arista Networks, MGM Resorts International, NXP Semiconductors, SBA Communications, Stryker, and Vertex Pharmaceuticals release earnings.

The Institute for Supply Management releases its Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index for April. Consensus estimate is for a 46.7 reading, roughly even with the March data. The index has had five consecutive readings below 50, indicating contraction in the manufacturing sector.

Tuesday 5/2

Advanced Micro Devices, Cummins, DuPont, Eaton, Ecolab, Ford Motor, Marathon Petroleum, Marriott International, Pfizer, Simon Property Group, Starbucks, and Uber Technologies report quarterly results

The Bureau of Labor Statistics releases the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey. Economists forecast 9.5 million job openings on the last business day of March, 431,300 fewer than in February.

Wednesday 5/3

Corteva, CVS Health, Emerson Electric, Equinix, Estée Lauder, Kraft Heinz, Phillips 66, Public Storage, Qualcomm, and Yum! Brands release earnings.

ADP releases its National Employment Report for April. Expectations are for the economy to add 135,000 private-sector jobs, 10,000 fewer than in March.

The ISM releases its Services PMI for April. The consensus call is for a 51.8 reading, slightly higher than the March figure. The services sector continues to hold up better than the manufacturing sector with only one reading below the expansionary level of 50 since May of 2020.

Thursday 5/4

Anheuser-Busch InBev, Apple, Becton Dickinson, Booking Holdings, ConocoPhillips, Expedia Group, Fortinet, Intercontinental Exchange, Kellogg, Moderna, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Sempra Energy, Shopify, and Zoetis hold conference calls to discuss quarterly results.

The European Central Bank announces its monetary-policy decision. The ECB is widely expected to raise its key interest rate by a quarter of a percentage point, to 3.25%. Traders are pricing in two more 25 basis-point-hikes after this meeting as the euro zone's inflation has proved to be more stubborn than in the U.S.

Friday 5/5

Cboe Global Markets, Cigna, Dominion Energy, Johnson Controls International, and Warner Bros. Discovery release earnings.

The BLS releases the jobs report for April. Economists forecast an increase of 185,000 in nonfarm payrolls, following a 236,000 gain in March. The unemployment rate is expected to tick up from 3.5% to 3.6%.

Coming Earnings

	Consensus Estimate	Year ago
M		
Avis Budget (Q1)	\$3.07	\$9.99
ON Semiconductor (Q1)	1.08	1.22
SBA Communications (Q1)	3.08	2.96
Stryker (Q1)	2.01	1.97
Vertex Pharmaceuticals (Q1)	3.03	3.52
WEC Energy (Q1)	1.58	1.79
T		
Advanced Micro Devices (Q1)	0.56	1.13
AmerisourceBergen (Q2)	3.30	3.22

More Earnings on Page 51.

Consensus Estimate

Day		Consensus Est	Last Period
M	March Construction Spending	0.15%	-0.10%
T	March Factory Orders	0.80%	-0.70%
	March JOLTS	9,600,000	9,931,000
TH	March Trade Balance	-\$66.3 bil	-\$70.5 bil
F	April Nonfarm Payrolls	185,000	236,000
	April Unemployment Rate	3.5%	3.5%
	March Consumer Credit	\$115.1 bil	\$15.3 bil

Unless otherwise indicated, times are Eastern. a-Advanced; f-Final; p-Preliminary; r-Revised Source: FactSet

For more information about coming economic reports - and what they mean - go to Barron's free Economic Calendar at www.barrons.com

Kenvue: Just What the IPO Doctor Ordered

Johnson & Johnson's consumer health spinoff should raise some \$3 billion and looks like a rare winner in a moribund 2023 market

BY ANDREW BARY

After months of waiting, investors finally have an initial public offering worth buying. It's no highflying start-up, however. It's Kenvue, the consumer health spinoff from **Johnson & Johnson**, and it looks like a winner.

Kenvue has a lot going for it. It owns such leading brands as Tylenol, Band-Aid, and Listerine; has a relatively cheap valuation; and will carry a dividend yield of more than 3.5% based on a planned quarterly payout of about 20 cents a share. Backed by that pedigree, Kenvue (ticker: KVUE) plans to offer 151.2 million shares—and possibly as many as 174 million shares at a price of \$20 to \$23 a share—late in the coming week. The deal should raise over \$3 billion, more than the combined total of new public offerings so far this year in what has been a moribund IPO market, according to Renaissance Capital.

"Kenvue checks a lot of boxes for the type of IPO that should work right now. It's a large company, with a portfolio of market-leading brands, that generates a ton of cash flow," says Matthew Kennedy, a senior strategist at Renaissance. "It'll offer a healthy dividend, and the valuation looks fair."

Kenvue's business might not be as exciting as that of a Silicon Valley unicorn, but it is consistent. Annual sales growth over the next few years is pro-

jected to be modest at about 4%, with skin, baby, and oral care leading the way. Kenvue's organic sales growth—excluding currency—was about 4% in both 2021 and 2022. The company had adjusted earnings of \$630 million, or 33 cents a share, during the first quarter, up 3% year over year.

And unlike many spinoffs, from which parent companies often extract large amounts of cash and burden them with a heavy load of debt, Kenvue will have a solid balance sheet with less than \$8 billion of net debt, or about two times annual pretax cash flow—enough for a single-A credit rating.

The split isn't perfectly clean. Kenvue's financials, as laid out in the prospectus, are complicated, and include separation costs involved with the spinoff. Johnson & Johnson (JNJ) is covering Kenvue's legal liability for sales of Johnson's talcum powder in the U.S. and Canada, while Kenvue is on the hook for liability outside the U.S. In a recent credit report, Moody's wrote that it assumes international litigation "will remain immaterial."

There's also the ownership situation. J&J will control about 90% of Kenvue after the IPO and plans to distribute the remaining shares—roughly 1.7 billion—to its holders, possibly in the second half of this year.

Kenvue's costs will undoubtedly be higher as an independent company. It will have to pay for its own accountants and board, and will also need to pay about 5% interest on the debt. That could mean that 2023's adjusted earnings are lower than the \$2.6 billion, about \$1.37 a share, that it earned in 2022.

Kenvue—whose name is derived from the word "ken," or knowledge—hasn't quantified those additional costs. J&J has said it expects about \$2 billion of one-time costs and \$500 million to \$750 million of annual after-tax "dissnergies" from the split.

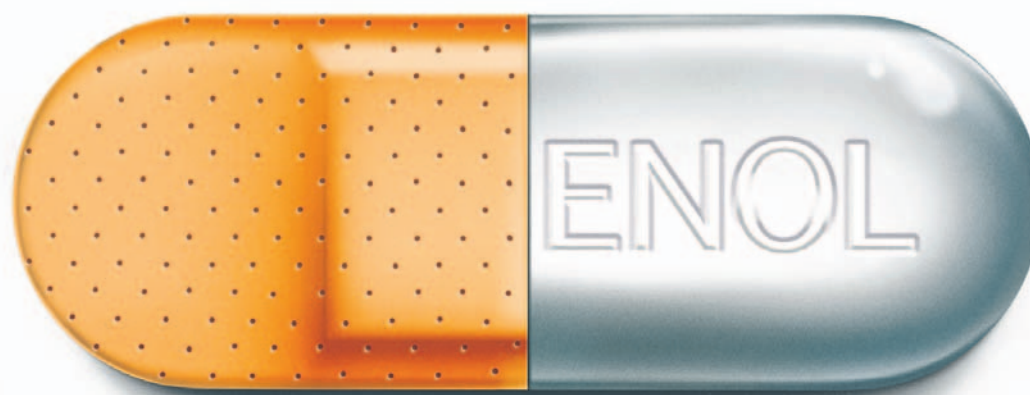
A Better Deal

Kenvue, which is set to be IPOed by J&J, looks like a bargain next to competitor Haleon, which debuted last year.

Company / Ticker	Stock Price	YTD Change	Market Value (bil)	2022 EPS	2022 P/E	2023E P/E	Dividend Yield	2022 Revenue (bil)	Key Brands
Kenvue / KVUE	\$21.50*	N/A	\$40.0	\$1.37	15.7	N/A	3.7%**	\$15.0	Band-Aid, Listerine, Neutrogena, Tylenol
Haleon / HLN	8.89	11.1%	41.0	0.45	19.6	19.3	0.7	13.4	Advil, Centrum, Sensodyne, Tums

E=estimate; N/A=not applicable; *Midpoint of pricing range; **Expected yield

Sources: Bloomberg; company reports



All of these concerns appear to be reflected in Kenvue's valuation, which looks set to come in at a reasonable 16 times trailing adjusted earnings for 2022, based on the midpoint of the current pricing range. That's below the S&P 500 index's 18.5 times and the multiples of leading consumer brands like **Coca-Cola** (KO) and **Procter & Gamble** (PG), which fetch about 25 times earnings. And it's cheap compared with its nearest competitor, **Haleon** (HLN).

Haleon, which debuted in July 2022, was a spinoff from the United Kingdom's **GSK** (GSK), though it was actually an amalgam of **GSK**, **Pfizer** (PFE), and **Novartis** (NVS) consumer operations. Like Kenvue, Haleon is the owner of a collection of well-known consumer brands, including Sensodyne, Advil, ChapStick, and Centrum. Kenvue and Haleon are a similar size, with Kenvue generating an industry-leading \$15 billion of sales in 2022, above Haleon's \$13.4 billion. Haleon is valued at \$41 billion, and Kenvue is likely to have a similar market capitalization.

The big difference between the two companies is their valuations. Haleon trades for about 20 times trailing earnings, higher than Kenvue's likely valuation of 16.

The Kenvue and Haleon deals

have created a new sector—branded consumer health companies—and investors are wrestling with how to value them. Investors have warmed to Haleon stock, which has risen 20% since it began trading and was the subject of a bullish *Barron's* article last summer. With a reasonable valuation, the Kenvue IPO could price near the top of the range and then trade higher. If it's a hot deal, institutions rather than retail investors should get the lion's share.

Given Kenvue's strong fundamentals and the costs of the split, J&J investors may wonder why the spin is even happening at all. J&J management for years rejected the idea, saying that the company was better under one roof. Yet in announcing the split in late 2021, J&J said it would "unlock" value for shareholders, who had watched the stock underperform during the previous five years.

Kenvue accounts for about 15% of J&J's sales and 10% of its market value. The rest of J&J's business is pharmaceuticals and medical devices. Kenvue says in its prospectus that the split will increase the "focus of our management team on our business operations." That's standard spinoff rationale, but there's no evidence that management wasn't focused before. Big companies often do spinoffs to jettison less-appealing businesses or to highlight fast-growing units that may be lost in the larger organization. Neither argument applies to Kenvue. The investment bankers, though, should earn a nice payday of about \$100 million.

J&J's loss is an investor's gain. This is one IPO worth owning. **B**

Josh Nathan-Kazis contributed to this article.



Warren Buffett meets with admirers at Berkshire's 2022 annual meeting.

It's Time to Bet on Buffett's Stock Again

Berkshire Hathaway has been racking up wins ahead of its annual meeting. Why one fan says the stock is trading at 75% of its real value.

BY ANDREW BARY

Warren Buffett has his groove back—and so does **Berkshire Hathaway** stock. As some 30,000 Berkshire Hathaway investors prepare to gather in Omaha, Neb., on May 6 for the company's annual meeting, there is plenty of reason for enthusiasm—and not just because CEO Warren Buffett seems as sharp as ever at 92.

Berkshire Hathaway (ticker: BRK.A, BRK.B) has never been in better shape. Its after-tax operating earnings from a widely diversified group of businesses, including the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad, a huge property-and-casualty insurance business, and one of the country's largest electric utilities, are expected to rise more than 10% this year to \$35 billion despite eco-

nomic headwinds.

Even better, Buffett is acting like Buffett again.

After a period of inactivity following the onset of the pandemic—which disappointed many Berkshire investors—Buffett snapped up P&C insurer Alleghany for \$11.6 billion last year, a cheap price. He spent \$8 billion earlier this year to boost Berkshire's stake to 80% in the parent of Pilot Flying J truck stops, which should benefit from the accelerated rollout of charging stations nationwide in the next decade.

Buffett also has been an active buyer of stocks, particularly in the energy sector. Berkshire now owns \$27 billion of **Chevron** (CVX) and has steadily amassed a 23.6% stake in **Occidental Petroleum** (OXY) worth \$13 billion, which has prompted speculation that Buffett may buy the whole company.

Even after that, Berkshire is sitting on more than \$125 billion of cash that could be deployed in what Buffett has

called an “elephant size” acquisition. Until then, that cash, which Buffett shrewdly kept in short-term Treasury bills, can earn 5% while banks are sitting on over \$600 billion of bond losses. Plus, it's one of the most defensive large-cap stocks due to what Buffett calls its “Fort Knox” balance sheet and durable earnings.

“Berkshire is attractive and defensive in the financial sector,” says Edward Jones analyst James Shanahan, who notes that the company doesn't have the loan, funding, and margin issues confronting banks.

Add it all up and Berkshire stock looks appealing, despite not appearing cheap. The Class A shares, at about \$500,000, are up 6.6% this year and trade for 21.6 times projected 2023 earnings, a premium to the S&P 500 index's 18.9 times. The stock is valued at about 1.4 times book value, using Shanahan's June 30 estimate for book value, in line with its five- and 10-year averages.

The more actively traded Berkshire Class B shares look like a slightly better bet. They trade for \$326 a share, a roughly 2% discount to the A shares. (Each B share is worth 1/1500th of an A share.)

Many investors focus on what Buffett has called Berkshire's “look through” earnings, a calculation that reflects the proportional profits of the companies in the company's investment portfolio, led by **Apple** (AAPL). Based on this measure, which doesn't conform to generally accepted accounting principles, Berkshire is valued at about 14 times projected 2023 earnings.

Chris Bloomstran, a longtime Berkshire investor who runs Semper Augustus, a St. Louis investment firm, valued Berkshire earlier this year based on several measures. They averaged \$421 per Class B share.

“Berkshire is trading at about 75% of intrinsic value,” he says.

Standout Berkshire businesses include its utility, which Bloomstran says is “unrivaled” in the industry due its scale and growth prospects. Berkshire's insurance businesses are benefiting

Squeaking By

Despite Warren Buffett's stock-picking prowess, Berkshire stock has only managed to keep up with the S&P 500.

	1-Yr Return	5-Yr Return	10-Yr Return	20-Yr Return
Berkshire	0.6%	11.0%	12.0%	10.3%
S&P 500	0.5	11.1	12.2	10.1

Note: Five-, 10-, and 20-year returns are annualized

Source: Bloomberg

A Lot to Like

Berkshire Hathaway owns strong businesses and a solid portfolio of stocks, and has the cash to add more.

Recent Price	\$499,700
2023E P/E Ratio	21.6
Book Value*	\$354,000
Price/Book Ratio	1.4
Cash	\$129 billion
Top Shareholder	Warren Buffett 15.6%
Top Equity Holdings	Apple, Bank of America, Chevron
Key Business Units	BNSF, Geico, Electric utility

E=estimate
*Edward Jones June 30, 2023 estimate
Sources: Bloomberg; company reports

from stronger industry pricing, with Geico, its big auto insurer, expected to turn an underwriting profit this year after losing \$1.9 billion last year.

Berkshire's buybacks are tough to predict since Buffett is price sensitive. A figure close to \$15 billion in 2023, double last year's total, looks reasonable based on the repurchase pace so far. That would be 2% of Berkshire's market capitalization. The company pays no dividend and is unlikely to do so as long as Buffett is alive.

And that, of course, is the rub. Buffett is set to turn 93 in August. To say he's irreplaceable, given his management and investment skills, is no understatement. “He's still the best capital allocator,” Bloomstran says. Berkshire has scored with investments in a group of Japanese trading companies now worth about \$12 billion. The Apple stake, now worth \$151 billion, is about five times what Berkshire paid.

Still, Buffett has said Berkshire stock, which has only performed in line with the S&P 500 over the past 5, 10 and 20 years, will go up, not down, as many might presume, when he dies since investors would bet on a breakup of the sprawling company. That's a move he opposes, and board additions in recent years, including Buffett's daughter Susan, could be designed in part to keep Berkshire intact after his death.

It's encouraging, though, that Buffett's likely successor, Greg Abel, 60, who heads Berkshire's noninsurance operations, is taking a more assertive role at the conglomerate in improving operations at subsidiaries, something that the famously hands-off Buffett preferred not to do.

“He's probably tougher than I would be in terms of getting things done and everything,” Buffett said recently in a CNBC interview. “And so, it has already improved dramatically, the management of Berkshire.”

Abel and Ajit Jain, the head of Berkshire's insurance business, will be on hand at the annual meeting to answer shareholder questions along with Buffett and his longtime partner, Vice Chairman Charlie Munger, 99. And there will be plenty of questions. Most of all, Berkshire shareholders will enjoy Buffett's presence, humor, and insights, knowing there won't be many more of these events to come.

That's a worry for another day. With everything running the way it should, it's a great time to bet on Buffett and Berkshire stock. **B**

Thermo Fisher Stock Has Plenty Of Upside

The company makes the devices used by pharma companies, and stands to come out ahead no matter which drugs succeed

BY TERESA RIVAS

Pop quiz: Name a company that doubled its earnings during the pandemic but now trades more cheaply than it did at the start of 2020, even as sales hit new records.

If you didn't say **Thermo Fisher Scientific** (ticker: TMO), it may be because you forgot about this Covid beneficiary. Or because you never knew its name at all, even though its products help researchers create new drugs and tests that save lives. In either case, it's worth getting to know now.

The Waltham, Mass., firm is the global leader in laboratory equipment, analytical instruments and technologies, and specialty diagnostics tools that are used across the healthcare, pharmaceutical, and biotech industries. That positioned Thermo Fisher to reap huge benefits from Covid-19 testing, allowing earnings per share to jump from \$12.35 in 2019 to more than \$25 in 2021.

As the pandemic fades, earnings have dipped, taking the stock with them. But the slump shouldn't last long.

"A lot of investors are too focused on what Thermo Fisher did during Covid and that it's now slowing down, but that's a minute part of the business," says Craig Sarembok, principal at Bartlett Wealth Management, which owns the stock. "It's unimportant to me, given that the company already



provided really good guidance."

In early February, Thermo Fisher offered full-year guidance when it reported better-than-expected fourth-quarter results, saying it expects to earn \$23.70 a share in 2023 on revenue of \$45.3 billion. That was ahead of the average analyst estimates for earnings of \$23.07 a share and revenue of \$43.8 billion. Still, the projected per share profit is below 2021's record \$25.13.

The analysts' consensus calls for Thermo Fisher to surpass that record high again in 2024, with earnings per share of \$26.70. But the two-year decline has spooked investors, with the shares falling 14% since the end of 2021 as the company has faced difficult comparisons to the pandemic boom.

The upshot: The stock now trades at 24 times forward earnings, about its five-year average and below its pandemic high of 26.6 in December of 2021. Yet consensus estimates call for earnings to keep jumping—reaching more than \$30 a share in 2025—while metrics like free cash flow and return on equity remain well above prepandemic levels. The average analyst price target is above \$650, more than 15% higher than Friday's close of \$554.90.

"This is a stock to own for the long term, and in terms of valuation, it certainly looks attractive for new purchasers now," says Sarembok.

The shares also look appealing

in light of recent market turmoil:

Although Thermo Fisher is often classified as a growth stock, it enjoys steady recurring revenue among loyal customers that often are doing intricate research and development.

"It's exposed to the attractive dynamics in healthcare, where the process for creating drugs is more complex, tool intensive, and tool sensitive," says Sarah Kanwal, director and equity analyst at Crestwood Advisors, citing newer products like biologics and larger molecule drugs that are produced differently. "Thermo Fisher is the picks and shovels behind that trend. It's agnostic to specific drugs or who the winners and losers are." Crestwood owns the stock.

Or, as Sarembok puts it, "No mat-

ter what [healthcare] companies are doing, they need Thermo Fisher for their labs."

The confidence that comes with supplying a number of growing healthcare end markets—thanks to an aging population and increasing treatment options—was on display in the company's most recent results. CEO Marc Casper used phrases like "crushed it" and "phenomenal performance." The company also boosted its dividend by nearly 17%, and its guidance implies 7% core organic revenue growth, excluding acquisitions.

Of course, it's hard to talk about Thermo Fisher without mentioning its acquisition strategy, which has helped it expand and diversify its revenue in terms of customers, geographies, and new products and business segments.

"Ten years ago, this was a different business, and much more instrument-focused. If we had a recession then, it could have been a much bigger [problem]," says Douglas Kelly, partner and portfolio manager at Williams Jones Wealth Management, which owns the stock. "Today, it's not that cyclical of a business unless we get into a really nasty downturn."

Thermo Fisher pulled off all of the deal making without running up its debt ratios. In fact, net debt to earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization, or Ebitda, stood at 2.2 times at the end of last year, its second-lowest level since 2013. Total debt to Ebitda, at 2.9 times, is well below the prepandemic period dating back to 2013.

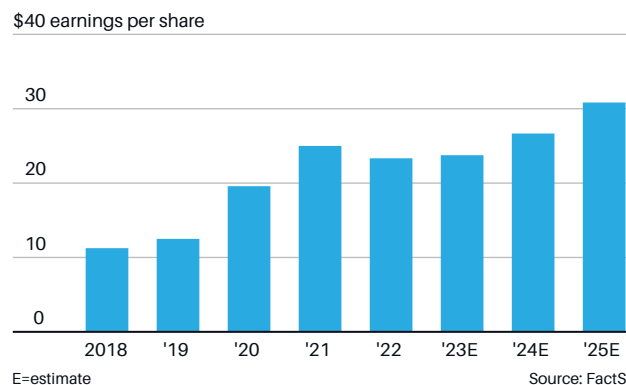
Moreover, free cash flow is expected to reach \$7.2 billion this year, nearly double where it stood in 2018. That gives the company flexibility to pursue other acquisitions, and to increasingly return cash to shareholders in the form of dividends and share buybacks, as it has been doing in recent years.

"This is the kind of business in our sweet spot," says Kelly. "Good returns and a management team that does the right things with that cash. That's the formula."

Sounds simple enough, just like being diligent about diet and exercise, though, of course, both are easier said than done. Until more of us learn to take that advice, and overcome numerous other healthcare hurdles, Thermo Fisher will have plenty of room to grow. **B**

Heading Higher

Analysts see shares of the healthcare instrument maker climbing 15% in the next year.



First Republic's Elite Financial Advisors Head for the Doors

At least 21 financial advisory teams or solo advisors have left the bank since March 17. More are likely to follow.



BY ANDREW WELSCH

First Republic Bank suffered a brutal first quarter as it was swept up in the regional banking crisis. Customers yanked deposits. Its stock cratered.

Now, as investors assess whether the New York bank can recover after bleeding a staggering \$100 billion in deposits, First Republic (ticker: FRC) faces pressure from another corner: Its elite financial advisors are walking out

the door. First Republic shares fell more than 40% Friday over concerns about its future.

In a remarkable loss of talent, at least 21 wealth management practices, either teams or solo advisors, have left First Republic for competitors since March 17—some just months after moving to the bank—according to public registration records. These practices had at least 51 financial advisors. That's a sizable dent in the bank's advisor ranks given that First Republic currently lists about 225 wealth managers on its website.

The recently departed advisors managed at least \$40 billion in assets, a fraction of the \$289.5 billion the bank's wealth management unit had at the end of the first quarter, but more advisors plan to jump ship, industry recruiters and lawyers say. The exodus of talent imperils the bank's elite wealth management unit and the customer referrals that advisors make to First Republic's consumer bank.

"If it goes on this way, I think there will be more defections," says Michael King, a recruiter. "The key is that you can't bring in new clients to First Republic. Who is going to come to First Republic with all the bad press?"

When asked for comment, a First Republic spokesman referred to comments executives made during the first-quarter earnings call. CEO Mike Roffler said executives "anticipate retaining a portion of the wealth management assets associated with departing teams." The company also remains committed to its "integrated banking and wealth management model, and the unique benefits it provides to clients."

End of a Growth Surge

It's a sharp reversal for First Republic, which for years has been able to recruit top advisors. The company was still picking up fresh talent as recently as March, when it hired a six-person team from Morgan Stanley. The bank offered lucrative recruiting deals, but it also lured advisors with its boutique feel and white-glove service model targeting well-heeled customers.

In recent years, First Republic's recruiting efforts helped it grow its wealth management business rapidly. Assets under management or administration ballooned to \$271 billion at the end of 2022 from \$107 billion at the end of 2017.

Advisor David Hou, who worked at First Republic from 2013 to 2019, says the company offered not just competitive rates on loans and mortgages for wealthy clients, but had top-notch customer service. "They could take the pain out of taking out a loan," he says.

First Republic offered "Ritz-Carlton" service, says Steven Sacks, who has banked with the company since 1997. He recalls going to a Manhattan Beach, Calif., branch late in the day to get a cashier's check after the staff had locked up the checks: "They said, 'We'll bring it to you tomorrow. We'll drive it over.' Sure enough, someone drove it over to me in the pouring

rain. You think you'd get that kind of service at any other bank?"

The wealth unit's growth benefited the consumer bank, and vice versa. Last year, the company's bankers referred more than \$11.5 billion of assets under management to the wealth unit, which in turn referred deposit balances totaling more than \$3 billion to their banker colleagues, Bob Thornton, president of private wealth management at First Republic, said during the company's earnings call. Deposits referred by wealth managers and sweep accounts represented more than 13% of the bank's total deposits, he added.

Advisors loved the client referrals and the culture, says Roger Gershman, a recruiter who has placed advisors at First Republic and has bank accounts there. "It had one of the best cultures on the Street."

Ominous Earnings Call

Advisor attrition threatens to squeeze the referral pipeline. For advisors mulling an exit, Monday's earnings call may have proved pivotal. First Republic executives took no questions during the call, which lasted only 12 minutes. Although management said deposit outflows had slowed, the quarterly decline in deposits was far worse than Wall Street expected. Meanwhile, the company said it was making "significant reductions" to executive compensation, reducing office space, and conducting layoffs. First Republic expects to reduce its workforce by 20% to 25% in the second quarter, which could affect its ability to maintain its high-touch service model.

The earnings report and call failed to assuage investors. The stock lost nearly half its value on Tuesday, falling from \$16.00 to \$8.10. It closed Friday at \$3.51, and lost more ground in after-hours trading.

For many advisors, the bank's current woes might seem similar to the 2008-09 financial crisis. But unlike that period, when the survival of many banks and brokerage firms was in doubt, advisors have plenty of healthy options. And they are exercising them, bolting to **Morgan Stanley (MS)**, **JPMorgan Chase (JPM)**, **Royal Bank of Canada (RY)**, and other competitors. "Some advisors believe they have no choice but to leave," says Ross Intelisano, a lawyer who represents financial advisors at law firm Rich, Intelisano & Katz. **B**

The Fed Has No Good Options. The Risk of a Misstep Is Growing.

BY MEGAN CASSELLA

Since the Federal Reserve first kicked off its inflation-fighting campaign 15 months ago, it has raised interest rates nine consecutive times and wound down its pandemic-era bond-buying program, notching the fastest pace of monetary policy tightening in four decades. So far, it has achieved a balance that its critics thought nearly impossible, cutting headline price growth nearly in half while keeping

the U.S. economy humming.

The problem is that the job is far from over, and the most difficult days lie ahead. As the central bank's policy committee gears up for its May 2-3 meeting and what is widely expected to be a 10th rate hike, it will be embarking on a new and more volatile phase in its tightening cycle, marked by far less clarity than what has come before. The risk of a misstep is growing, and the consequences of over- or undershooting would be severe.

The central challenge for the Fed is that the economic outlook is souring at the same time that progress on reining in inflation is stalling out. Economic growth in the first quarter de-

celerated more than expected, data out this past week showed, while the Fed's preferred inflation gauge is down less than a full percentage point from its peak and still more than double the bank's 2% inflation target.

That contradiction will weigh on the Fed as it debates whether and when to pause its rate-hike campaign, forcing officials to decide how much economic pain is acceptable in the service of restoring price stability, and how much would be considered too much for the country to bear.

In a best-case scenario, the Fed will carve a winning path between two losing propositions: giving up the inflation fight too soon, which would risk a severe recession later, or pushing rates too deeply into restrictive territory and sending the economy into a tailspin as soon as the second half of this year. Success will depend on both skill and luck, and is by no means assured.

"They haven't even gotten close to

the hardest mile," says Diane Swonk, chief economist at KPMG. The Fed has lifted the federal-funds rate from near zero to a current range of 4.75%-5%, with more hikes likely from here. In doing so, it has ushered in an end to the easy-money policies that have defined the U.S. economy since the start of the 2008-09 financial crisis.

A continued transition to a more restrictive policy stance will ramp up the pain, further reducing demand for goods and services, weakening the labor market, and greatly increasing the cost of servicing debt—including mortgages, car loans, and the government's more than \$31 trillion in federal borrowings. And it will test the strength of a generation of companies that grew up in an accommodative policy environment and haven't had to function under tighter monetary conditions.

At the same time, the financial sector is on increasingly unsteady footing. Higher rates have wreaked havoc with bank balance sheets; the industry's unrealized losses on securities totaled more than \$620 billion in the

ILLUSTRATION BY
NICOLAS ORTEGA

As the Federal Reserve mulls a tenth interest-rate hike, it is aiming to cool inflation without killing the U.S. economy. That's a tall order, and success is far from assured.

fourth quarter of 2022, according to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. The first quarter of this year saw two high-profile bank failures, which forced the Fed to establish an emergency lending facility. And Wall Street is rife with talk of impending chaos among nonbank lenders and alternative-asset managers, should interest rates move much higher.

Erring in either direction—by raising rates too much or not enough—would risk disrupting a fragile financial system and throwing millions of Americans out of work, erasing years of labor-market gains. Even an ideal outcome, cooling the economy without causing a deep recession, probably will lead to some painful fallout, so long as the Fed remains ironclad in its resolve to keep interest rates elevated even as joblessness rises, growth sputters, and a public backlash ensues.

“They’re walking a tightrope without a net,” Swank says.

The Federal Reserve finds itself fighting inflation today partly because of policy decisions made more than a decade ago, when central banks around the globe grew worried about deflation in the aftermath of the financial crisis. While the U.S. economy recovered, price growth regularly undershot the 2% annual target that the Fed set early in 2012.

In response, Fed officials kept interest rates near zero to try to stoke demand and inflation. They also engaged in quantitative easing, a form of bond buying designed to increase the money supply and encourage lending and spending.

“It was the new abnormal,” says Ed Yardeni, a former Federal Reserve staff member and veteran investment strategist who now leads Yardeni Research.

The Fed had raised interest rates only modestly when Covid-19 hit in 2020, and it followed the same playbook it had written a decade before to cushion the blow from pandemic-related shutdowns. It slashed the federal-funds rate to zero and bought securities to increase liquidity in the financial system.

When inflation began to ramp up early in 2021, Fed Chairman Jerome Powell and other Fed officials, along with many economists, initially dismissed the trend as “transitory,” a temporary consequence of closing and subsequently reopening the global economy. The expectation was that price growth would naturally slow as supply chains healed, employees returned to work, and factories came back online.

Because the previous recovery had taken so long to gain traction, with more than 10 years passing before the labor market came close to what economists consider full employment, the Fed remained on the sidelines, loath to nip the post-Covid recovery in the bud. The central bank stayed put even as Congress passed another \$1.9 trillion in pandemic-related fiscal relief

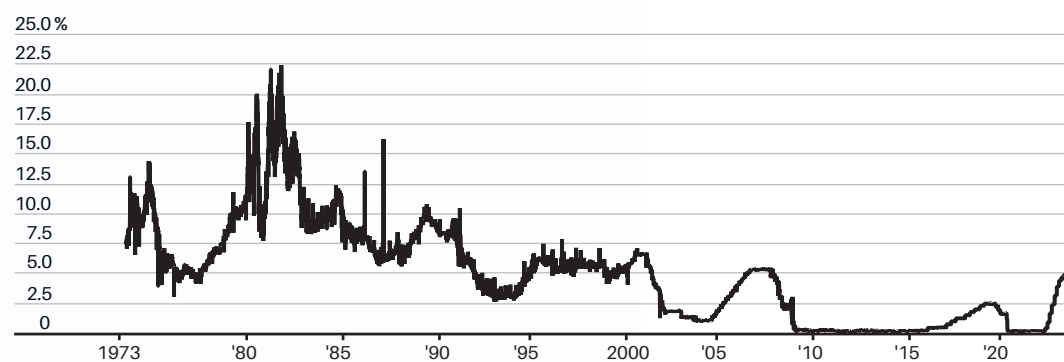
and as state and local governments reported massive budget surpluses. By the time Powell announced the first rate hike in March 2022, the headline consumer price index had already reached 8.5%.

“They were right to gamble on running the economy hot,” says Adam Posen, president of the Peterson Institute for International Economics and a former Bank of England official. But once inflation took off, “what I fought

The Fed's Predicament

Although the Federal Reserve has raised interest rates aggressively in the past 15 months, the job market remains tight and inflation, as measured by the core personal consumption expenditures price index, is still well above the central bank's 2% target.

Effective federal-funds rate



Job openings



Core personal consumption expenditures price index, year-over-year change



Sources: Bloomberg; Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey from the Bureau of Labor Statistics

them on was a failure to pivot.”

The historical context is relevant for two reasons: For one, it offers cause to question whether a Fed that was caught flat-footed by inflation two years ago will be able to recognize when it is time to shift gears again. The fear among Fed critics is that the central bank will be inclined to keep policy restrictive for longer than necessary to compensate for having let price growth get out of hand in the first place.

But the back story also serves as a reminder that the current economy has long grown used to low rates, and some aspects of the economy have become dependent on them. Some economists warn that moving back to a world of tighter policy—or returning to the old normal—would be a major shock to the system.

“Are we going to be able to make this transition...and absorb the shock of having all that happen basically in one year?” Yardeni asks. “That’s the big debate.”

Economists who think the Fed should pause say the economy is already sputtering. Because monetary policy

operates with a lag, their view is that the amount of tightening to date will be sufficient to bring inflation back to target.

Some recent data support this view. Unemployment claims are rising materially, with the share of Americans receiving jobless aid up nearly 45% from a September low. The manufacturing sector is slowing, with factory activity contracting for five straight months. And first-quarter gross domestic product, which rose at an annual rate of 1.1%, fell short of economists' expectations of 1.9% growth.

Credit conditions, meanwhile, are tightening, spelling trouble for the small-business sector, which so far has propped up the labor market and needs access to loans to keep hiring. Some economists expect further chaos in the banking sector as well.

"From my view, another rate hike is dangerous," says Bill Spriggs, chief economist at the AFL-CIO and a Howard University economics professor. "[The Fed] got the yellow card several months ago. Now it's time for the red card."

Still, inflation remains far above the Fed's target. A long-awaited slowdown in shelter costs has been elusive. Services prices, which the Fed is eager to see cool, have barely budged, and goods prices, which had been falling, are now turning upward again. Wage growth, too, remains hot: Compensation costs for all civilian workers climbed 1.2% in the first quarter of 2023, accelerating from the 1.1% pace set during the previous quarter, data released on Friday showed.

The core personal-consumption expenditures, or PCE, deflator, the inflation gauge that the Fed watches most closely, stood at 4.6% in March and slowed less during the month than economists had expected, according to a separate data set released Friday. Viewed on a quarterly basis, which smooths out volatile month-to-month changes, core PCE has more or less been moving sideways since the middle of last year. And that is after the factors that initially had been considered the root causes of inflation—supply-chain snarls, pandemic shutdowns, generous fiscal stimulus—have mostly subsided.

"There was always at least some transitory component to inflation," says Jason Furman, a Harvard University economist and former Obama White House economic adviser. "Getting rid of underlying inflation is a lot harder."



That leaves the Fed, which has vowed to prioritize a return to price stability even at the expense of economic pain, with more work to do. Very few of what economists consider primary indicators of tightening monetary policy are showing significant deceleration, Posen notes. Factors such as wage growth, construction employment, and credit spreads all look fairly strong.

Nor have the risks of an upside inflation surprise disappeared. Labor markets remain tight. Semiconductors are still scarce. And fiscal stimulus continues to flow out to areas such as defense and green infrastructure.

"Inflation could well continue to be stubborn," Furman says. "The Fed could have to raise rates more later this year. The market still isn't fully prepared for that."

Given the cards on the table, the Fed is poised to keep tightening for now. But will officials know when it is time to stop? Perhaps the greatest risk to the economy in the coming months

Fed Chairman Jerome Powell and other top officials have suggested in recent months that they would rather keep interest rates high and weather the economic pain than lower rates only to have to lift them again in relatively short order.

is that they won't.

For one, bank officials are reliant on economic data that are backward-looking and difficult to assess, given the ways in which the pandemic has altered consumer behavior and scrambled seasonal-adjustment calculations. They are also determined to secure a slowdown in services inflation before easing up on rate hikes, and that means waiting for spending categories such as airline travel, daycare, and recreation services to show signs of price deceleration.

Yet those areas are some of the last to feel the impact of interest-rate hikes, which work primarily by making goods, especially homes and cars, more expensive. "By definition, you have to overshoot in other sectors that are more interest-rate sensitive to get at [services] inflation," Swonk says. "The system is rigged to overshoot."

Fed officials have emphasized their fear of repeating history, specifically the painful inflation fight of 40 years ago during which then-Fed Chairman Paul Volcker hiked rates dramatically, slashed them when recession

hit, and then pulled them up again months later when inflation proved more entrenched than anticipated. Public comments from Powell and other top officials in recent months suggest that they would rather keep rates high and weather the economic pain than lower rates only to have to lift them again in relatively short order.

"They've been studying past instances of when the Fed let inflation get out of control, and reached the conclusion that the common mistake was giving up too soon," says Bill Nelson, chief economist at the Bank Policy Institute, who spent more than 20 years at the Fed's Board of Governors. "I worry that is going to leave them somewhat dug in."

There is a more recent historical lesson to learn, too. The Fed's primary policy error in the past two years was misreading the economic situation and thus failing to act quickly enough to change course, a blunder that allowed inflation to spiral out of control.

Now we will see whether they make the same mistake again. **B**

THE ECONOMY

The headwinds facing Parisian bakeries highlight why the European Central Bank is facing a tougher struggle than the Federal Reserve.

Inflation is squeezing Parisian bakeries such as Union Boulangerie, pictured here. Bakers say they have trouble passing the full extent of their higher costs on to their customers.



Inflation Is Stickier In Europe Than in the U.S. Just Ask a Baker.

Photograph by Laura Stevens

A short march from the Gare du Nord station in Paris' 9th Arrondissement, Charles Ye and Maeva Manchon wake early to follow their passion—baking baguettes, croissants, and cakes at the *boulangerie* they started three years ago.

Sipping shots of searing-hot espresso, they say the problem is that runaway inflation means they are no longer able to pay themselves with the bakery's earnings. Since Russia

BY BRIAN SWINT

invaded Ukraine last year, the cost of electricity has jumped almost four times. Flour, butter, and eggs are all about 50% more expensive, according to the bakers.

"Prices for everything went up, and they're still going up," says Ye from the office of his Union Boulangerie. "When it all started, we thought, OK—it's temporary; Ukraine, we accept it. But now it's becoming normal."

There are plenty of complaints about rising prices in the U.S. But for Parisian baguette bakers, it has become an existential crisis. Input costs

are rising much faster than Manchon and Ye can raise prices for their goods. It's a squeeze that is hitting France's 33,000 bakeries particularly hard.

Inflation in the euro zone—the 20 countries in the European Union that share the currency—looks to be harder to tackle than it is in the U.S. The biggest reason: The European Central Bank started raising interest rates later than the Federal Reserve, fueling expectations that inflation will last for longer—which could become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

It's the expectation that prices will probably keep rising that is most dangerous for central bankers, whose job it is to keep the inflation rate at about 2%. While rates are retreating now, there's reason to believe that it will take ECB President Christine Lagarde longer to win the battle against price rises than it will for Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell.

Both were caught a bit off guard by inflation's return after more than a decade of weak price gains. The emergence from the Covid-19 pandemic provided the spark, but it was Russia's invasion of its neighbor in February 2022 that poured fuel on the fire. The euro zone's inflation rate peaked at 10.6% in October and is now at about 7%, compared with about 5% in the U.S.

Policy Parameters

The problem for central banks is they don't have direct control over the cost of all of the things that go in the basket of goods and services measured to calculate inflation. In the short term, there is absolutely nothing the central bank can do to lower the price of electricity or flour.

Broadly speaking, when the central bank wants to rein in price increases, it raises interest rates to limit the amount of money in the economy. With less money around to spend, companies can't charge as much, and thus inflation cools.

That's the theory. In practice, there are multiple channels through which monetary policy works. The key point is that the central bank has influence on inflation only at a very early stage in its pipeline. Academics reckon that

it takes a year or two for rate hikes to do their job.

The other key thing is that monetary policy really only affects the demand side of the economy—how much people can buy. It's powerless to change the supply side—how much is available for sale.

These constraints create a challenge for central banks. When the prices of things such as energy go up suddenly (supply-side issues that policy makers can't control), workers respond by asking for higher pay to maintain their standard of living. Higher pay lifts the demand side of the economy, strengthening inflation for the longer term, ultimately forcing central banks to raise interest rates higher than they would otherwise in an effort to get inflation back under control.

The case of Union Boulangerie makes the point. As well as having higher costs for power and ingredients, Ye and Manchon are raising wages for their employees by about 10% and expect to have to do so again next year and the year after, in no small part because everyone expects inflation to stick around. Before, wages were going up 4% to 5% a year.

The same thing has played out on a larger scale. Wage growth has picked up substantially on both sides of the Atlantic, but might be more likely to stay stronger in Europe than in the U.S. That's down to labor unions, more powerful across the pond, bargaining on workers' behalf.

The Boulangerie Castellane, an artisan bakery that hand-makes pastries, cakes, and tarts using traditional techniques, can be found close to the famous Palais Garnier opera house.

Wiping away the crumbs of meringue and *mille-feuille* from the display case, Castellane's Jonathan Coscas tells *Barron's*, "If prices are going up, we have to pay more if I want to keep my employees. But the bigger worry is that I'll lose my customers."

Energy Sapping

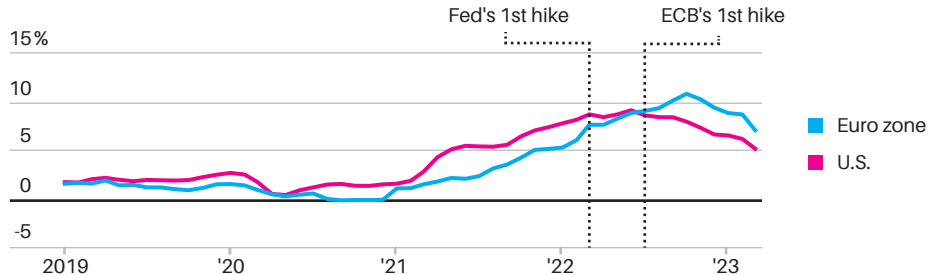
There are other reasons that inflation may prove stickier in Europe. The war in Ukraine is on its doorstep and is still limiting gas supplies, keeping energy prices higher for longer. Governments

THE ECONOMY (continued)

Two Different Approaches

Because the European Central Bank started lifting interest rates after the Fed, economists see Europe's inflation fight lasting longer.

Annual Inflation Rate



Note: Seasonally adjusted.

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; Eurostat via St. Louis Federal Reserve

in France and elsewhere are supporting companies and consumers with subsidies to get through the price spike, but that can also add to inflation pressures by giving people more money to spend.

Across the Seine from Boulangerie Castellane—in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower—is Boulangerie Patisserie Coudrier Geffroy, run by Freddy Coudrier.

“Energy is the big problem,” he says as he prepares lunchtime wine for guests at the bustling cafe attached to his bakery. “I’ve raised my prices by a few cents on some products, but not yet on the baguette. The competition is tough.”

Erik Norland, senior economist at CME Group in London, points out another factor in Europe—countries there are hugely increasing military spending in a way the U.S. isn’t. Military spending is particularly inflationary because the goods produced aren’t directly consumed in the economy.

Rate Expectations

What’s more, the ECB started raising rates later than the Fed, waiting until July last year before starting its campaign, compared with last March for the Fed. While both started with rates around zero, the Fed has also moved them up much further. Given the lags between higher rates and the impact on inflation, it’s reasonable to think that it will take longer for European hikes to kick in.

Moreover, the ECB may not be able to hike as much as the Fed because of how the euro area is set up. The ECB sets interest rates for 20 nations, all with different economic situations and needs. One reason that it started so late might be because the last time it lifted rates, it caused huge

problems for some countries that had trouble rolling over their bonds at higher rates. The ECB has introduced new tools to prevent similar issues from happening again, though it is well aware that there is always a risk of surprises.

“Central banks tend to raise interest rates until something goes wrong,” says CME’s Norland. “But it’s very possible that here in Europe, they haven’t yet done anywhere near enough to contain inflation.”

The good news is that, eventually, higher interest rates will conquer inflation. It’s painful and takes time, but the track record from the 1970s and early ’80s is the evidence. It just might take a little longer to get there in Europe than in the U.S.

Didier Boudy, president of Mademoiselle Desserts, which supplies cakes to bakeries in France, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, said his company is still raising prices as a matter of survival for the business. But he is hopeful that things will change.

“It has been a tsunami of inflation,” he says. “If we were not passing along price increases, we would have gone bankrupt very quickly. Long term, we hope it will ease off and we can reduce prices for some things. But it’s far too early to do it today.”

Meanwhile, bakers in Paris will feel poorer. Manchon and Ye say they’re still happy they are able to make a living from the work that is akin to a vocation, even though inflation is eating up most of their earnings. “We can be like this for one or two years,” Manchon says. “But maybe at some point, I won’t like working for almost nothing.” **B**

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INCOME INVESTING

5 Dividend Growth Stocks For a Slowing Economy

BY LAWRENCE C. STRAUSS

The S&P 500 is up about 6% this year, a nice turnaround from 2022’s double-digit losses. But with economic growth slowing to an annualized pace of 1.1% in the first quarter, concerns of a recession are mounting.

None of this is news to the market, which has rewarded defensive sectors such as consumer staples with recent price gains—up 4.5% in the past three months against a flat return for the S&P 500. But there’s another way to fortify your portfolio: owning stocks with dividends that can grow. A rising payout is usually a sign of business strength—something that becomes even more important in a slowing economy.

S&P Global Market Intelligence recently compiled a list of companies it expects to boost dividends in the next few months, based on factors such as payout histories, revenue estimates, and debt ratios. *Barron’s* condensed the list to five companies expected to hike payouts by double digits.

The five that passed are: **Goldman Sachs Group** (ticker: GS), **Kroger** (KR), **Sherwin-Williams** (SHW), **Target** (TGT), and **UnitedHealth Group** (UNH).

Goldman’s stock has underperformed the market this year, partly due to a cyclical slowdown in deal making and investment banking. At 10 times estimated 2023 earnings, investors aren’t paying much for a recovery. The bank told analysts on its earnings call in April that it intends to “continue to focus on sustainably growing our dividend.”

S&P expects Goldman’s quarterly dividend to increase in July to \$3 a share from \$2.50, up 20%. Shares recently had a 2.9% yield at recent prices around \$340.

Grocery chain Kroger is gearing up for a \$25 billion megamerger with **Albertsons** (ACI), expecting it to close in early 2024. Assuming regulators don’t try to block the deal, the combined grocery giant should be able to compete more efficiently with **Wal-**

mart (WMT) and other big-box chains. In the meantime, “steady execution, sticky inflation, and stable margins mean estimates are moving higher,” Morgan Stanley analyst Simeon Gutman said in a note in March, calling Kroger a “solid staple.”

Kroger is expected to raise its quarterly dividend by 15% to 30 cents a share from 26 cents later this year. Shares only yield 2.2% at recent prices around \$48, but the stock is up 8% this year.

Paint and coatings company Sherwin-Williams has hit a rough patch as the housing market slowed; shares fell nearly 33% last year and are off 3% this year. Yielding just 1.2% at recent prices around \$228, the stock is more of a bet on a housing recovery than an income play. Still, Sherwin-Williams is expected to boost earnings this year on flat sales growth, its margins improved in the first quarter, and the dividend appears to be heading up, expected to rise 16% to 70 cents a share this year, according to S&P.

Target shares also had a brutal 2022, falling 36% as earnings took a huge haircut, down 50%. From here, though, profits are expected to rise more than 23% annually in 2023 and 2024, according to consensus estimates. That should give the retailer plenty of coverage to hike its dividend, continuing a string of 51 annual increases. S&P expects Target, which yields 2.8%, to boost its quarterly dividend by 13% in June to \$1.22 a share.

UnitedHealth is a vertically integrated giant: the largest issuer of Medicare Advantage plans, a big player in pharmacy benefits, and a home health provider through its acquisition of LHC Group. Shares are down 8% this year but profits are chugging higher, expected to increase around 13% in both 2023 and 2024. S&P sees its quarterly payout rising 21% this year to \$2 a share; that would give the stock a 1.6% yield at recent prices around \$488. It may not yield much, but demand for healthcare isn’t going to weaken, even if the economy does. **B**

FUNDS

Closed-End Bond Funds Sell at Steep Discounts

BY LEWIS BRAHAM

Leverage helps on the way up, but hurts on the way down, amplifying both gains and losses. That's what closed-end bond fund investors learned the hard way in 2022.

Last year, *Barron's* warned of the "debt time bomb" inside such funds as interest rates rose. Bond prices move inversely to rates, and leverage made things worse, with the market prices of some levered bond closed-ends such as **Pioneer Municipal High Income Opportunities** (ticker: MIO) falling by almost 40% last year. (The funds typically trade at premiums or discounts to their underlying net asset values.)

Many bond strategists now think we are close to peak interest rates, which should presage an upturn for leveraged closed-end bond funds. Not only will their leveraged portfolios amplify gains as rates stabilize—and fall during a likely recession—but their leverage costs will decline, as well.

Most bond funds borrow on a floating-rate basis, and their short-term borrowing costs increased faster than the yield on the long-term bonds in their portfolios last year. That caused funds to cut dividends.

"The cost of leverage has gone from about 1% in March 2022 to about 4%," says Steve O'Neill, a portfolio manager at RiverNorth Capital Management, which both invests in and runs several closed-end funds. "A year ago, muni closed-end funds were paying out about 4.7% [on average]. Today, they're paying 4.1%."

That has frustrated closed-end investors, who are often income-hungry retirees. Consequently, they have sold their positions, causing bond closed-ends to trade at some of the deepest discounts they have had in the past 25 years, O'Neill says.

That means there are three separate ways to win if interest rates fall: Leverage amplifies bond returns, fund yields rise as the cost of leverage declines, and discounts to NAV narrow as investors buy bond funds that are now rallying.

That said, not every bond closed-end is a slam dunk in a falling-rate environment. Rates generally fall during recessions, and the weakest, most overleveraged companies often struggle to pay their debts. You should buy leveraged closed-end funds that buy bonds with high credit qualities. That eliminates many taxable corporate bond funds.

"When you think about the taxable bond funds, there are really only a couple of funds that I would call high quality," O'Neill says. "Closed-end fund investors like yield. They want to leverage junk bonds."

The same isn't the case, however, with tax-free municipal bonds, as the average muni-bond fund typically holds investment-grade bonds rated BBB or higher. The most obvious choice, O'Neill says, is **Nuveen AMT-Free Quality Muni** (NEA), as it is the largest muni closed-end at \$3.3 billion, easy for institutional money managers to trade and with a deep recent 13% discount to NAV.

Bryn Torkelson of Matisse Capital, another closed-end investment firm, expects an average 22% return for muni closed-ends in the next 12 months, based on his historical analysis of how funds have behaved in falling-rate environments in the past 15 years: "You'd expect bonds to do well in that scenario, but for all those [falling rate] periods, muni bond closed-end funds had a median return of 19.3%."

While institutional investors favor big, liquid funds, individuals buying smaller amounts of shares needn't feel so restricted. **BlackRock MuniYield Quality Fund III** (MYI), **AllianceBernstein National Municipal Income** (AFB), and **RiverNorth Managed Duration Municipal Income Fund II** (RMMZ) all have high-quality portfolios and trade at deep discounts.

Looking for taxable bond funds? There are some high-quality ones at decent discounts, such as **Western Asset Inflation-Linked Opportunities & Income** (WIW), which owns Treasury inflation-protected securities, and the more-diversified **Nuveen Multi-Market Income** (JMM). **E**

Scoreboard: Calm for Now

U.S. stocks treaded water, with the S&P 500 up just 0.13%. India funds rose 1.58% as domestic IT rallied on U.S. big tech earnings. Natural resource funds fell 2.85% on fears of lower global growth.

	One Week	Year-to-Date
U.S. STOCK FUNDS	- 0.88%	4.58%
TOP SECTOR / India Region Funds	1.58	- 0.87
BOTTOM SECTOR / Natural Resources Funds	- 2.85	- 5.07
S&P 500	0.13	7.71
U.S. BOND FUNDS	0.13	2.83
Bloomberg Barclays AGG Bond	0.11	2.90

The Week's Top 25

Fund Investment	Objective	One Week	Year-to-Date
ProfFunds Btcn Str PF Inv / BTCFX	Alt Currency Strat	5.90%	76.2%
Arrow Mgd Fut Str Inst / MFTNX	Alt Mgd Futures	4.15%	- 4.4%
Q3 All-Season SO Ins / QASOX	Specialty & Misc	3.26	3.3
Cboe V Bitcoin SMV Inst / BTCVX	Flexible Portfolio	3.23	46.8
Fidelity Sel Comm Serv / FBMPX	Consumer Services	3.11	23.7
IDXR-M Bitcoin Str Inst / BTIDX	Alt Currency Strat	2.82	0.5
RBB BP EM Dyn Eq Inst / BELSX	Alt Long/Short Eq	2.80	3.4
DWS Comm A / COMAX	Telecommunication	2.61	20.0
Frontier MFG Gl Svc / FMSRX	Global Large-Cap Core	2.53	16.9
Oakmark Intl SC Inst / OANEX	Intl Sm/Mid-Cap Core	2.50	11.4
Quantified STF Inv / QSTFX	Flexible Portfolio	2.33	12.1
Gotham Def Long 500 Inst / GDLFX	Alt Long/Short Eq	2.31	4.4
AQR Mgd Fut Str HV I / QMHIX	Alt Mgd Futures	2.29	- 3.8
Matthews Asia India Inv / MINDX	India Region	2.19	1.6
Timothy Plan Israel CV A / TPAIX	Intl Sm/Mid-Cap Growth	2.03	- 6.0
Nuance Conc Val L/S Inst / NCLSX	Alt Long/Short Eq	2.00	10.8
Eaton Vance Gr India A / ETGIX	India Region	1.86	- 2.1
Invenomic Instl / BIVIX	Alt Long/Short Eq	1.84	13.8
Columbia Acorn Eur A / CAEAX	European Region	1.83	16.1
Fidelity Sel Health Care / FSHCX	Health/Biotech	1.80	- 3.1
Marsico Inv Fd Foc Inv / MFOCX	Large-Cap Growth	1.75	15.4
T Rowe Price LC Gro I / TRLGX	Large-Cap Growth	1.73	16.6
Slk I NH Frontier Inst / FSNHX	GL Sm/Mid-Cap	1.70	- 4.1
ACR Intl Quality Ret I / IQRHX	Intl Multi-Cap Value	1.67	18.5
Homestead Growth / HNASX	Large-Cap Growth	1.67	17.0

The Week's Bottom 10

Fund Investment	Objective	One Week	Year-to-Date
Firsthand Tech Opptys / TEFOX	Science & Tech	- 7.61	- 2.2
Oberweis Global Opp Inv / OBEGX	GL Sm/Mid-Cap	- 5.96%	- 1.0%
Sev Cnyn Strat Gbl Inv / WASIX	GL Sm/Mid-Cap	- 5.94	- 1.5
Perkins Discovery / PDFDX	Small-Cap Core	- 5.45	6.5
Rydex Electronics Inv / RYSIX	Science & Tech	- 4.77	13.7
Hennessy Sm Cp Finl Inv / HSFNX	Financial Services	- 4.68	- 21.7
Rydex Energy Svcs Inv / RYVIX	Natural Resources	- 4.67	- 12.1
Fidelity Adv Semicnd A / FELAX	Science & Tech	- 4.65	25.1
Oberweis Micro-Cap Inv / OBMCX	Small-Cap Core	- 4.60	1.0
Am Beacon ARK T1Y / ADNYX	GL Science/Tech	- 4.59	14.9

The Largest 25

Fund Investment	Assets (billions)	Objective	3-Year ^a Return	1-Week Return	YTD Return
American Funds Gro A / AGTHX	\$104.5	Large-Cap Growth	10.4%	0.00%	11.0%
American Funds Bal A / ABALX	\$92.5	Mix Tgt All Gro	7.7%	- 0.07%	3.4%
Vanguard Wellington Adm / VWENX	91.1	Mix Tgt All Gro	9.1	0.57	4.8
Fidelity Contrafund / FCNTX	89.4	Large-Cap Core	12.4	1.34	14.5
Vanguard Tgt Ret2030 Inv / VTHRX	80.8	Mix-Asst Targ 2030	8.0	- 0.03	6.1
Vanguard Tgt Ret2035 Inv / VTTHX	80.3	Mixed-Asset Target 2035	9.4	- 0.05	6.5
American Funds Inc A / AMECX	75.3	Mix Tgt All Mod	10.4	- 0.31	1.9
Vanguard Tgt Ret2025 Inv / VTTVX	74.4	Mixed-Asset Target 2025	6.8	0	5.6
Fidelity SA US Tot Stk / FCTDX	72.0	Multi-Cap Core	16.5	- 0.08	8.0
American Funds Wash A / AWSHX	70.8	Large-Cap Value	15.3	- 0.36	2.2
PIMCO Income Inst / PIMIX	70.3	Multi-Sector Inc	3.1	0.32	2.9
Vanguard Tgt Ret2040 Inv / VFORX	70.0	Mixed-Asset Target 2040	10.7	- 0.08	6.8
American Funds EuPc R6 / RERGX	69.3	Intl Large-Cap Growth	10.2	- 0.42	10.6
American Funds ICA A / AIVSX	68.2	Large-Cap Core	14.2	0.16	7.8
Vanguard Tgt Ret2045 Inv / VTIVX	65.9	Mixed-Asset Target 2045	12.0	- 0.08	7.1
Dodge & Cox Stck I / DODGX	63.9	Multi-Cap Value	20.5	- 0.66	1.9
Fidelity SA Core Inc / FIWGX	63.2	General Bond	- 1.6	0.07	3.3
American Funds CIB A / CAIBX	61.0	Global Equity Income	9.3	- 0.25	3.4
Vanguard PRIMECAP Adm / VPMAX	58.9	Large-Cap Core	15.6	- 0.78	6.9
American Funds Flv A / ANCFX	57.8	Large-Cap Core	13.7	0	6.9
Dodge & Cox Income I / DODIX	56.0	Core Bond	- 0.8	0	3.2
Vanguard Tgt Ret2050 Inv / VFIFX	53.6	Mix-Asst Targ 2050	12.1	- 0.10	7.3
Vanguard Div Gro Inv / VDIGX	52.3	Equity Income	15.4	- 0.67	1.4
American Funds NPer A / ANWPX	51.6	Global Large-Cap Growth	13.3	- 0.11	10.6
Fidelity Str Adv Cre Inc / FPCIX	50.5	General Bond	- 2.1	0.08	3.4

^aAnnualized 04/23/2020 to 04/27/2023. Through Thursday.

Source: Lipper

Q&A

An Interview With **David Ellison**
Portfolio Manager, Hennessy Funds

Trouble Ahead For Financials. Where to Hide

BY LAWRENCE C. STRAUSS

David Ellison started as a bank-stock portfolio manager at Fidelity nearly 40 years ago, a bygone era. The notion of using an app or a website to do personal banking was unimaginable. Banks back then were only recently allowed to grow their footprint across state lines.

The subsequent changes revolutionized the industry for both better and worse, and Ellison bore witness to it all. He joined Hennessy Funds in 2012, when the firm acquired the two bank-stock funds he has managed since 1997: **Hennessy Small Cap Financial** fund (ticker: HSFNX), which now has \$68 million of assets, and **Hennessy Large Cap Financial** fund (HLFNX), with \$34 million.

Bank stocks, like banks, have been challenged through the years, and the funds' returns reflect those ups and downs. Still, the large-cap fund has a 15-year annual return of 5.4%, compared with 4.9% for its Morningstar category average, although it is trailing its category this year.

In the aftermath of the Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank failures, we sought Ellison's long-term perspective on bank-stock investing. An edited version of our discussions, which took place on April 19 and again this week, follows.

in 1983. What are some of your memories of Peter Lynch, the firm's star manager of that era, who ran the Fidelity Magellan fund [FMAGX]?

David Ellison: He was patient and levelheaded. Peter was an even better people manager than a portfolio manager in the sense that he was able to get people to work together to help him, help the other fund managers, and help the fund managers work with each other. You can always devolve into a competitive environment where the fund managers don't like each other. They are trying to beat each other and, therefore, they don't share information.

On to banks. The 2008-09 financial crisis stemmed from credit problems. The recent failure of Silicon Valley Bank was tied, in part, to the plunging value of bonds on the bank's balance sheet as interest rates rose, and more directly, to depositors' loss of confidence in the bank. What other problems do you see in the banking sector?

We don't have much credit deterioration so far. We do have rates going up and bond prices falling, and there is duration risk. [Duration describes a bond's sensitivity to changes in interest rates.] This relates to the inverted yield curve [yields on short-term bonds are higher than those on longer-term bonds]. That makes things even worse for the banks, as they bor-



Barron's: Dave, you joined Fidelity

Photograph by **SIMON SIMARD**

“You make money in financials when fundamentals go from ugly to OK to good to great. We aren't at ugly yet.” David Ellison

row short and lend long. That model is broken, but it isn't broken forever.

Another worry is how quickly depositors can pull their money from banks, whether because of uncompetitive yields or, as in SVB's case and that of First Republic, concerns about bank safety. How should investors think about that?

I'm hearing that the level of uninsured deposits hasn't changed much. Silicon Valley, remember, was a business bank. A lot of companies had their payrolls there. They would also raise money and deposit it there. The bank helped a lot of start-up companies. When things got tough in early March, depositors fled.

Banks haven't been pricing their deposits to get deposits. They have been trying to keep their deposit rates as low as possible. But many people assume that short-term rates will reach about 5% during this rate-hike cycle, and depositors are asking, “Why am I getting 30 basis points [three-tenths of a percentage point] in interest payments, instead of 5%?” Banks' deposit pricing is lousy, and they are starting to reprice.

There is another factor to consider, however: The yields on banks' assets, notably loans, haven't yet gone up enough to cover higher deposit costs. Eventually, the loan yields will catch up, but the banks are in the worst of it now.

First Republic's stock [FRC] continues to sink as the bank hemorrhages deposits. What is the outlook, and what does this mean for the sector?

This further stirs the pot against any bank that isn't in the big four [JP Morgan Chase (JPM), Bank of America (BAC), Citigroup (C), and Wells Fargo (WFC)]. It could potentially be destabilizing to the whole system. This puts every depository at further risk of having some degree of outflow pressure, pressure on costs, and pressure on earnings.

Uncertainty will persist if the government doesn't come in and do something, or if other banks don't come in and buy it at some price and put it out of its misery. We had a calm period in banking earlier this month, but the

latest developments at First Republic reinforce the notion that it appears the government doesn't have an interest in doing anything to help anybody but the big four. That is bad for financial equities across the board.

Assuming the First Republic situation stabilizes, what else will you be watching in 2023 and into '24?

Over the next six to nine months, banks will be working through the rate issue. So maybe margins will bottom in the next quarter, and then start to improve as asset yields start to catch up with the rise in deposit rates, or cost of funds.

Then the question is: Will there be a noticeable increase in nonperforming loans? You are seeing it a little bit in the numbers, but credit is still good when looked at historically. Nevertheless, the numbers are starting to move higher, but that is an opportunity to take advantage of. So, margins aren't really back to where they should be; credit is deteriorating, albeit slowly; loan growth isn't that good; and earnings aren't growing. All of those issues will create the buying opportunity that is ahead of us in bank stocks.

I'm not sure if the stocks will go down another 30% or another 3%; maybe they have already bottomed. The banks have fundamental headwinds. However, they aren't life-threatening headwinds. They are just earnings-threatening, to some degree, and they are valuation-threatening.

Based on your experience, what are the best markets in which to make money as a bank investor?

You need to have an economic cycle. You make money in financials when fundamentals go from ugly to OK to good to great. We aren't at ugly yet. We're kind of OK, although banks do have some issues. But you can't make money in finance by buying JPMorgan Chase all the time, because there is no cycle there. JPMorgan is a great company with great leadership. Its business is diversified, so you are unlikely to get a big downdraft in the fundamentals.

What have you gleaned so far from the banks' first-quarter earnings?

Margins are flat, which is better than expected. Loan demand is OK. Deposit flows, at least so far, are better than the market expected, but not great. Everybody thought the banks were going to lose all their deposits, and most of the smaller ones are seeing modest inflows of deposits so far.

Credit is still good. Charge-offs are rising a bit. The first-quarter earnings are about in line with expectations. One of the problems with the industry, however, is that earnings aren't growing. If you look at this year and 2024, the earnings estimates are roughly flat compared to 2022 results. The market expects margins to be flat to down a little bit this year. Next year, analysts have provisions for loan losses going up, which offsets the net-interest income improvement.

So, what do you buy, given these contradictions?

You buy the banks that get beat up, and beat up unfairly. We are far enough through the rate cycle; that is, I don't expect rates to double from here. We aren't going to have a six-month Treasury bill yielding 10%. Now it is a question of taking advantage of the market's fear of credit, fear of leverage, and just fear of no growth and being bored to death. I expect you are going to have an opportunity when credit deteriorates further.

How much interest is there in financial stocks these days?

I started managing money in this space at Fidelity in 1985 but there is nobody home today. If you are in the tech sector, the party is in Times Square at midnight on New Year's Eve. Everybody is there. But for the bank stocks today, there isn't the same interest. Long-only investors who don't have to be dedicated to financials aren't in the space. It doesn't mean that is a reason to buy the banks. These companies face headwinds, as I've mentioned. You just have to wait for the banks to work through their issues. But the opportunity will come when credit deteriorates.

Let's hear about a few of your holdings.

At a recent \$28 and change, **Citizens**

Financial Group [CFG] was trading at book value. It is trading around 6.5 times next year's expected earnings of \$4.50 a share. You're basically buying a traditionally safe bank structure at a relatively low multiple and hoping it can take share from the smaller banks that are in trouble, and not lose too much share to the big banks. Citizens' net-interest margin was stable in the first quarter at 3.3% versus the previous quarter, and it has been pretty stable over the past few quarters.

M&T Bank [MTB] looks like a safe play for now. It has strong ties with the communities in which it operates. It has been able to produce excellent returns, and has kept expenses low. This bank is a safe harbor in the big storm. M&T is trading for 1.35 times tangible book value. The price/earnings ratio is about seven times next year's estimated earnings of \$16.50. That's more expensive than I would like, but I'm circling the wagons on a company that has gone through the credit cycle and the rate cycle so far without any significant problems to its capital.

Webster Financial [WBS] is another holding. What is the appeal?

Webster is somewhat unique because it has a pretty big position in the health-savings-account business. That totaled about \$8 billion at the end of the first quarter, or roughly 15% of Webster's deposits. They tend to be fairly low-cost deposits and sticky. The money comes in every month and it goes into the health-savings accounts. So you have flows every month regardless of what's going on in the outside world. For any bank to have that guaranteed deposit flow is positive, and that business is going to grow. Employers increasingly are offering HSAs in tax-advantaged accounts.

Webster is trading for about 1.3 times tangible book and roughly six times next year's earnings of around \$6 a share. Valuation matters but sustainability matters as much now. Deposits were up 2% in the first quarter versus the previous one, and loans grew by about the same. Webster isn't a bad place to hide. That's the operative word.

Thanks, Dave. **B**

TECH TRADER

Big Tech stocks are trading at 20 times to 70 times 2023 earnings while growing at single-digit rates. That isn't a good combination for future returns.



Amazon Delivers a Reminder—Cost Cuts Have Their Limits

The past week started with big cheers for quarterly reports from the most prominent players in technology.

Results from **Microsoft** (ticker: MSFT), Google's **Alphabet** (GOOGL), and **Meta Platforms** (META) all came in better than expected. That was enough to spark a big rally for the sector.

But the excitement came to an abrupt halt late in the day on Thursday, as **Amazon.com** (AMZN) executives briefed investors about trends in its Amazon Web Services cloud unit.



BY TAE KIM

The initial rally in Amazon shares on strong first-quarter results was instantly erased after the company warned about slowing cloud growth. The stock was down 4% on Friday.

The abrupt shift in sentiment may be the most critical takeaway for the week and serves as a warning for investors: Don't get complacent about relief rallies driven by cost cuts—the outlook for growth is more important.

Microsoft and Alphabet started the Big Tech earnings week with solid beats versus the consensus. It didn't matter that revenue growth was meager, at 7% year over year for Microsoft and just 3% for Alphabet. Investors

were relieved that business wasn't getting materially worse, and they found solace in seeing evidence that the software and digital advertising markets had stabilized.

The reaction to Meta's results was even more dramatic. Shares jumped 14% on Thursday, the day after the company posted first-quarter numbers. Once again, investors didn't care that Meta's revenue growth was up just 3% year over year and operating profits were down 15%. The social-media giant has been the most aggressive Big Tech company at announcing multiple rounds of layoffs and significant spending cuts, and its stock has been one of the best performers this year as investors embrace what CEO Mark Zuckerberg has called the "year of efficiency."

On Thursday, it looked as if Amazon would continue the party. Its stock soared by more than 10% after the company reported first-quarter numbers that beat estimates, with overall revenue up 9% and roughly in-line guidance for the current quarter. Amazon Web Services, or AWS, also came in around as expected, with sales up 16% from a year ago.

But during the company's conference call with analysts, Chief Financial Officer Brian Olsavsky said AWS' growth rate had slowed by five percentage points in April versus the first-quarter pace. Olsavsky said customers were still looking at "optimizing their cloud spending" in response to the challenging economic environment.

AWS is the most critical part of Amazon's diverse array of businesses—and the most profitable one. It accounted for more than 100% of operating profits last year because of losses elsewhere at the company. Any change in AWS' growth rate dramatically impacts the company's long-term value. Now, investors fear that growth rate could soften further.

Heading into this earnings season, investors had bid up technology stocks. The tech-laden Nasdaq 100 index is now up about 20% this year. But where do we go from here?

Investors' reaction to Amazon's earnings report calls into question whether the recent gains are sustainable. It shows that if the growth outlook worsens, stocks can fall—even in the face of cost cutting.

Valuations relative to growth remain elevated. Big Tech stocks are trading at 20 times to 70 times 2023 earnings while growing at single-digit rates—not a good combination for future returns. Separately, the decline in interest rates that have fueled stock multiples could quickly reverse if fears over the banking crisis subside or inflation doesn't drop as expected.

Eventually investors have to face another reality: There are downsides to laying off staff and reducing expenditures. When a company slashes its sales force, it limits the ability to generate future revenue.

Finally, tech companies are facing new limits on their ability to grow through mergers and acquisitions. On Wednesday, the U.K.'s Competition and Markets Authority blocked Microsoft's \$69 billion purchase of **Activision Blizzard** (ATVI) on concerns about reduced innovation in the cloud-gaming market. The move suggests that global regulators are now looking to block deals based on theoretical future markets—not just current ones. For decades, acquiring start-ups and other promising companies was a key pillar for Big Tech to extend its dominance and juice growth. Now, significant M&A could be off the table.

This past week was a reminder that companies can't cut their way to prosperity. Tech investors should take note, especially with growth increasingly hard to find. **B**

Eventually investors have to face reality: There are downsides to cutting costs and laying off staff.

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MARKET PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD

Dow Jones Industrials

34,098.16

52-wk: +3.40% YTD: +2.87% Wkly: +0.86%

S&P 500

4169.48

52-wk: +0.91% YTD: +8.59% Wkly: +0.87%

Nasdaq Composite

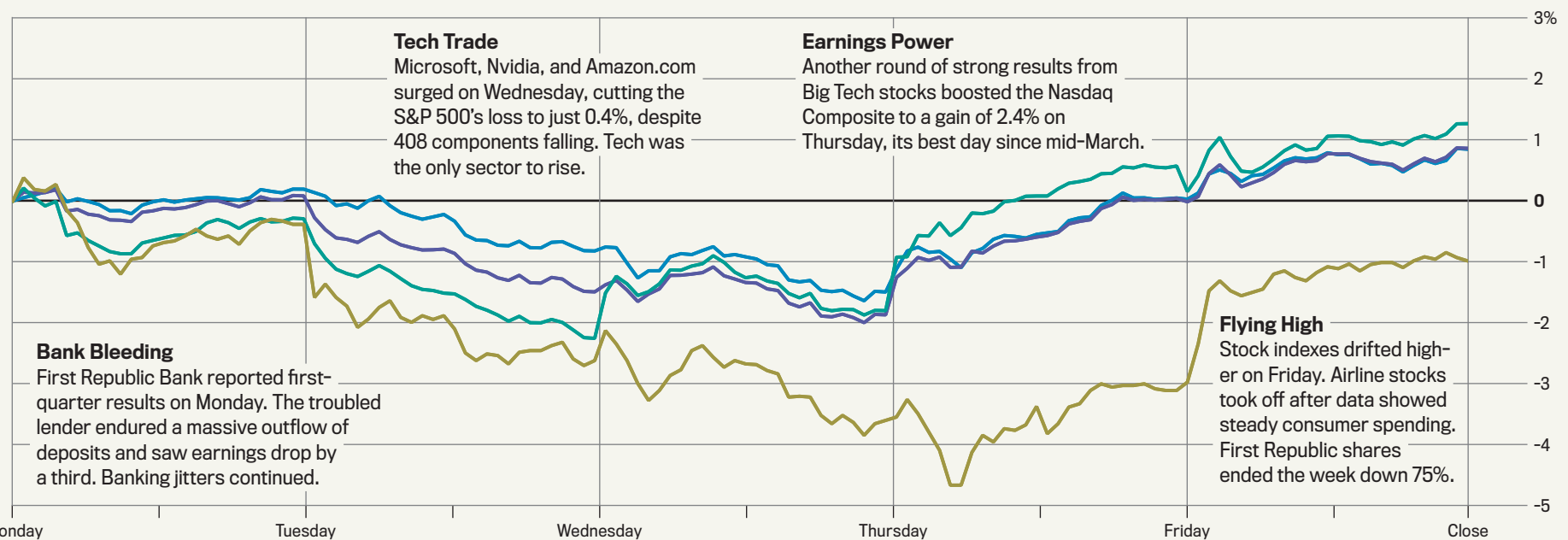
12,226.58

52-wk: -0.88% YTD: +16.82% Wkly: +1.28%

U.S. Global Jets ETF

\$18.07

52-wk: -15.80% YTD: +5.80% Wkly: -0.99%



THE TRADER

Index Investors Won't Like The Market's Next Phase

Get ready for a feeling of déjà vu. Once again, it was a busy week of earnings reports and economic data, and once again, the market's biggest stocks—we're looking at you, **Microsoft** (ticker: MSFT) and **Meta Platforms** (META)—did the best. Data showed a decelerating economy, but nothing to get worked up about. It's a version of the market that investors have seen before and can expect to see again in the coming months.

And once again, the market moved only a little. The Nasdaq Composite gained 1.28% this past week, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average



BY
**NICHOLAS
JASINSKI**

advanced 0.86% and the S&P 500 index rose 0.87%. That stretched the S&P 500's year-to-date gain to 8.59%.

Just because the market is up doesn't mean most stocks are participating. Less than a third of stocks in the S&P 500 have outperformed the index, the fewest at this point in the year since 1999, says Desh Peramunetilleke, head of microstrategy at Jefferies. Five stocks—**Apple** (AAPL), Microsoft, **Nvidia** (NVDA), Meta, and **Amazon.com** (AMZN)—have delivered 60% of the index's return this year.

The recent preference for Big Tech is understandable: A banking shock in March and an uncertain outlook have pushed investors into what they're comfortable with and what has worked for them in the past. That lift to the broader

S&P 500 can't go on forever, however, if only because Microsoft, Meta, and all the rest won't have bullish earnings reports to announce during all 52 weeks of the year. But that doesn't mean the stock market has to crash, either.

A backdrop of slowing-but-not-collapsing economic growth, an on-hold Federal Reserve, and continued progress on lowering inflation should shift investors' focus increasingly from the macro, which has dominated the past few years, to the micro. It won't be a universally good or bad environment, but one where stronger companies can separate themselves from weaker ones. At the index level, that could mean a potentially volatile but largely sideways market.

"In these choppy environments for

risk assets, there's alpha to be had in doing sector rotations or picking individual stocks," says Evan Brown, head of multi-asset strategy at UBS Asset Management, referring to the industry term for outperforming the market.

Still, the macro will be back in focus for at least some of the coming week—the Federal Open Market Committee concludes a two-day meeting on Wednesday, with a monetary-policy decision and press conference with Chairman Jerome Powell—even as the micro-data deluge of earnings season continues with Apple, **Starbucks** (SBUX), and **Pfizer** (PFE), among others, reporting. This summer, the U.S. debt-ceiling showdown could move the entire market.

Still, a steady-rate and slower-growth environment should reward companies that can show the strongest and most consistent sales and profit margins, defensible characteristics, or a competitive moat. Peramunetilleke points to **Visa** (V), **Coca-Cola** (KO), **Caterpillar** (CAT), **Adobe** (ADBE), **Humana** (HUM), and **Activision Blizzard** (ATVI) as examples of stocks that offer just that. "The demand for moats should only grow as the economy slows, and hence quality at a reasonable price and low [volatility] remain key focus areas," he writes.

It beats trying to guess where the market might be heading next.

The Risk of Seeing No Risk

Doom and gloom are everywhere—everywhere, that is, except the stock market. Don't expect the repose to last.

Since March's bout of regional bank-inspired volatility, stocks have been stuck in a tight range, daily trading volumes have tumbled, and the Cboe Volatility Index, or VIX, has slumped. Even renewed concerns about the stability of the banking system following **First Republic Bank's** (FRC) earnings didn't have much of a lasting impact. The VIX spiked 11% on Tuesday, taking Wall Street's so-called fear gauge to

about 18.5 points, before it returned to 16 by Friday—low by historical standards. The New York Stock Exchange saw its lowest full-day trading volume of 2023 on Monday, when the S&P 500 closed practically flat.

The low VIX, which uses options pricing to measure implied future volatility, reflects the relative calm of the overall market. Trailing one-month S&P 500 realized volatility is just 9%, its lowest since 2021, and the S&P 500 itself has had only three daily moves of more than 0.6% in either direction in the month of April, including two this past week.

"Such low realized volatility is reminiscent of an era in which inflation was an afterthought and trust in the Fed put reigned supreme," write BofA strategists.

But there are signs that the calm could soon break. The ICE BofAML MOVE Index—which measures bond volatility—remains near its record high, a sign that bond investors appear to be more concerned about the risk of a recession.

And while the market is calm, the VIX itself is getting more volatile. The Cboe VIX Volatility Index, or VVIX, touched 100 on Tuesday, up 25% in a week. Historically, when the VIX is at multiweek lows and the VVIX is at multiweek highs at the same time, the S&P 500 has had negative short-term returns, according to data from Jason Goepfert, chief research officer at Sentiment-Trader. And the VIX itself tended to spike: "Over the next couple of weeks, the VIX rose after 10 out of 11 signals, and the lone loss was reversed in the weeks ahead," he writes.

Investors looking to avoid seasickness could turn to stocks whose trading historically has been calm. That includes shares of consumer-staples companies and sellers of other goods whose fundamentals are least affected by what is causing the volatility. Healthcare and essential-services companies fit the bill, too.

S&P 500 stocks with the lowest realized volatility over the past year include **PepsiCo** (PEP), **Johnson & Johnson** (JNJ),

Vital Signs

	Friday's Close	Week's Change	Week's % Chg.
DJ Industrials	34098.16	+289.20	+0.86
DJ Transportation	14021.87	-391.71	-2.72
DJ Utilities	959.61	-9.73	-1.00
DJ 65 Stocks	11270.47	-42.25	-0.37
DJ US Market	1014.70	+6.95	+0.69
NYSE Comp.	15545.88	-33.05	-0.21
NYSE Amer Comp.	4199.50	-54.81	-1.29
S&P 500	4169.48	+35.96	+0.87
S&P MidCap	2490.40	-8.43	-0.34
S&P SmallCap	1148.17	-11.94	-1.03
Nasdaq	12226.58	+154.13	+1.28
Value Line (arith.)	8922.76	-51.04	-0.57
Russell 2000	1768.99	-22.52	-1.26
DJ US TSM Float	41511.66	+240.48	+0.58

	Friday's Close	Week's Change	Week's % Chg.
Barron's Future Focus	871.93	-0.99	-0.11
Barron's Next 50	2339.21	-7.97	-0.34
Barron's 400	917.44	-7.70	-0.83
	Last Week	Week Earlier	
NYSE Advances	1,591	1,466	
Declines	1,568	1,702	
Unchanged	67	54	
New Highs	158	169	
New Lows	178	95	
Av Daily Vol (mil)	3,789.0	3,620.8	
Dollar (Finex spot index)	101.67	101.82	
T-Bond (CBT nearby futures)	131-21	129-29	
Crude Oil (NYM light sweet crude)	76.78	77.87	
Inflation KR-CRB (Futures Price Index)	268.16	270.80	
Gold (CMX nearby futures)	1990.10	1979.50	

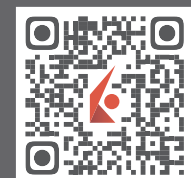
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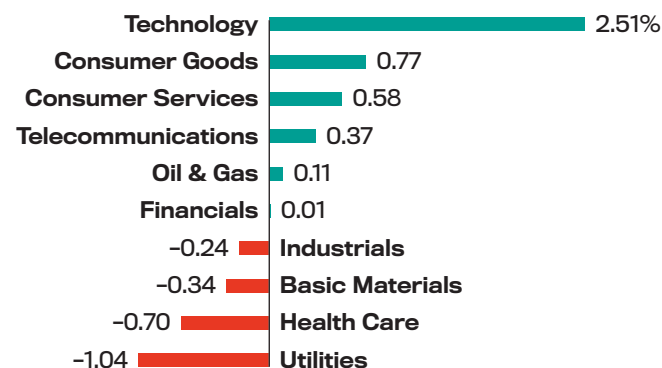
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Industry Action

Performance of the Dow Jones U.S. Industrials, ranked by weekly percent change.*



Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices

McDonald's (MCD), Coca-Cola (KO), Procter & Gamble (PG), Merck (MRK), and Waste Management (WM), according to data from S&P Global. There's also an exchange-traded fund that owns the 100 least-volatile stocks in the index: **Invesco S&P 500 Low Volatility (SPLV)**.

Love volatility or hate it—just don't be surprised when it returns.

2 Other Ways to Play Air Travel

Anybody booking summer travel these days can be excused for feeling a bit of sticker shock. Thankfully, there are ways to capitalize on the demand if you know where to look.

The average domestic airline ticket price in the U.S. at the end of 2022 was \$393.85, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, up from \$327.13 at the end of 2021. Yet the higher prices don't seem to be affecting demand for travel, as some 2.52 million people passed through Transportation Security Administration checkpoints on April 27, up 11% from a year ago.

In fact, travel may be one of the few discretionary areas where consumers are still willing to pay up. Visa, which released earnings on Tuesday, said that consumer spending on travel and entertainment continued to grow steadily in the first quarter—in contrast to other categories, where spending was flat to down compared with a year ago. **Mastercard (MA)** delivered a similar message on Thursday.

The sky-high demand and prices haven't been all good for airline stocks, however. **American Airlines Group (AAL)** reported better-than-expected earnings and raised its second-quarter guidance on Thursday. Yet its stock gained just 1% and is closer to its 52-week low than its 52-week high. **Delta Air Lines (DAL)** and **United Airlines Holdings (UAL)** have been rangebound.

In short, air-travel demand is back with a

vengeance, but so are operators' costs. The bigger problem might be the complexity of restarting a business that relies on precise timing and execution. All of that demand doesn't mean as much if airlines don't have the capacity to put butts in seats.

"We are of the view that 2023 airline profitability will be very much influenced by airlines' prudent deployment of capacity," writes Deutsche Bank analyst Michael Linenberg, who favors American, Delta, and United, citing their attractive markets and diversified revenue streams.

Investors don't have to buy airline stocks to play the rebound in air travel. Pennington Partners' Sumit Handa points to **FTAI Aviation (FTAI)**, a \$2.8 billion company that leases and maintains aircraft engines, including those found in the Boeing 737 and Airbus A320 families. Federal regulators mandate regular servicing and replacement parts for engines—work that goes to FTAI. Handa sees FTAI stock—which boasts a dividend yield of 4.2%—potentially doubling in the coming years as air travel continues to recover and capacity grows.

Another non-airline play is **Air Lease (AL)**, says Bill Hench, head of the small-cap team at First Eagle Investments. The appropriately named company is a big player in the aircraft leasing business, with more than 100 customers across the globe. Its fleet of more than 900 aircraft is meaningfully younger than most competitors', making it more attractive to airlines.

Air Lease stock was dragged down during March's banking turmoil and has yet to recover. It is appealing at just 7.5 times forward earnings and with a 2.1% dividend yield, per Hench. "Our thesis hasn't changed—stress in financial markets is what gives you the opportunity to buy things like Air Lease at these prices," he says.

Just don't expect any bargains on your flight tickets. **B**

INTERNATIONAL TRADER

Chile Stumbles Trying to Exploit Its Lithium Riches

BY CRAIG MELLOW

Many questions loom over the promised epochal transition to electric vehicles. One of the biggest: Where will we get all of the lithium?

This metal, formerly a rounding error for commodities traders, has leapt to center stage as the essential component of EV batteries. Prices have doubled since pre-pandemic days, despite a recent sharp correction. Demand should triple by 2030, estimates Joel Jackson, who follows lithium at BMO Capital Markets.

That should be a godsend for Chile, which has the world's largest proven lithium reserves and ranks second to Australia in production.

Any Chilean lithium rush has been stymied by a 1970s decision to designate the metal as "strategic" because of its then-presumed role in nuclear fission. Chile also rakes in by far the world's highest taxes and royalties on lithium, with a top rate of 40%.

Current Chilean President Gabriel Boric aimed for a new beginning with an April 20 announcement that might be called soft nationalization: Chile will create a state lithium company, which will hold a majority in future concessions.

Markets weren't encouraged. Shares in local lithium miner **Sociedad Química y Minera de Chile** (ticker: SQM) plunged 20%. **Albemarle** (ALB), which splits its assets between Chile and Australia, lost 8%. "This announcement didn't particularly solve the problem of regulatory uncertainty," says Francisco Acuna, a Santiago-based consultant with commodities specialist CRU.

The lithium plan, which needs congressional approval, looks like the latest misfire from Boric, a 37-year-old former student activist who came to power 13 months ago promising ambitious leftist reforms. Voters rejected a new constitution he supported by a 62% to 38% margin in Septem-

ber. Legislators voted down his proposed tax overhaul in March. "Boric and his team jumped straight from university politics into real politics," says Kenneth Bunker, a Chile-based analyst at Politico Tech Global. "They've made so many unforced errors."

An unlikely potential beneficiary is neighboring Argentina, where a federal structure allows governors to ink their own lithium transactions. They've been signing lots of them, at a fraction of Chile's tax/royalty rates.

Yields in Argentina will depend on a largely unproven technology known as direct lithium extraction, which separates metal from the surrounding brine in tanks. Chilean projects pump up ponds full of brine and depend on evaporation. Currency controls also threaten investors' ability to repatriate Argentine profits.

Still, CRU sees Argentina, where current or pending lithium output is 30% of Chile's, catching up over the next five years.

Australia, where lithium is mined out of rock like other metals, may marginalize the entire South American "lithium triangle," says Jane Edmondson, CEO at EQM Indexes, which has created a Lithium and Battery Technology Index. (The third triangle nation, Bolivia, has no production to speak of.) "Hard rock" extraction is more expensive than brine, but ore may be more concentrated, and Australia is much closer to China, which dominates lithium refining.

Boric may be learning from rookie mistakes in ongoing negotiations over Chile's top export, copper, Acuna says. Government and industry are close to agreement on a new regime that would hike effective tax rates from 37% to the mid-40s. Ministers lately approved a \$3 billion expansion of **Anglo American's** (AALUK) Los Bronces mine, rejected last year on environmental grounds. "Industry saw this as a signal that the government is rethinking things," Acuna says.

They will have to think harder on lithium, though. **B**

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THE STRIKING PRICE

How Options Trading Changed the World

BY STEVEN M. SEARS

Fifty years ago, an options trade ignited a multidecade reaction that changed how everyone invests. It is doubtful that any of the 120 or so people who gathered to watch the Chicago Board Options Exchange's opening on April 26, 1973, fully understood what had been unleashed.

The first trade on America's first options exchange was bullish. Someone bought a **Xerox** (ticker: XRX) July \$160 call option contract. Only calls traded and only on 16 stocks, including **AT&T** (T), **Ford Motor** (F), **McDonald's** (MCD), and **Texas Instruments** (TXN). Opening-day volume was a mere 911 contracts, far less than the 45 million contracts that now typically trade daily in the U.S. options market.

It was a modest moment in a provincial market hub that was about to show the world that it was home to some brilliant traders who wanted to be busy when agricultural futures markets idled. They thought equity options were countercyclical to their main business, so they created what is now Cboe Global Markets and effectively did away with brokers who traded options over phones without an exchange.

Cboe grew slowly. Puts were listed in 1977. Regulators were wary, but many investors got it. Options exchanges opened in New York, Philadelphia, and San Francisco.

The Black-Scholes model, unveiled in 1973, standardized options pricing and improved a method that blended historical prices with what brokers thought investors would tolerate. Thomas Peterffy, a Hungarian immigrant, created the first hand-held computer that dynamically priced options. At the time, dealers based their prices on static data printed on paper. Peterffy and his market-making firm, Timber Hill, introduced the technology at New York's American Stock Exchange in 1983.

Cboe's members quickly banned Peterffy's technology to protect their profitability. He prevailed by agreeing with ex-

change executives to support S&P 500 index options trading, which was dying because no one traded it.

Other dealers imitated Peterffy's technology. Proprietary pricing models were created. The world's banks saw what was happening, and that changed how Wall Street traded and managed risk. O'Connor & Associates, one of the first great derivatives firms, is now part of **UBS** (UBS). **Goldman Sachs Group** (GS) bought Hull Trading and Spear, Leeds & Kellogg. Peterffy remained independent. He sold Timber Hill to a hedge fund in 2017 to focus on **Interactive Brokers Group** (IBKR), an electronic brokerage firm he founded in 1977.

The Cboe experiment inspired options exchanges to open in cities such as Amsterdam, Barcelona, Frankfurt, London, Osaka, Paris, and Zurich. They were often independent of the old stock exchanges that usually fought change. (William J. Brodsky, who modernized Cboe, is chairman of my firm, Options Solutions.)

Volatility has always been the essence of options, but it bewildered most everyone until the Cboe Volatility Index's introduction in 1993. The VIX rendered volatility into an understandable number. It was later dubbed the fear gauge, which captured the public's attention and turned it into a global benchmark. The VIX morphed again, into futures and options contracts, formalizing the international volatility market.

Thousands of changes have sparked and converged and spread since that distant spring morning. Technology killed the trading floors while democratizing financial opportunities. The world's exchanges have ceased to be financial fiefdoms united against change. They became electronic cathedrals of capitalism, and much of the credit rests on Cboe's cornerstone. **■**

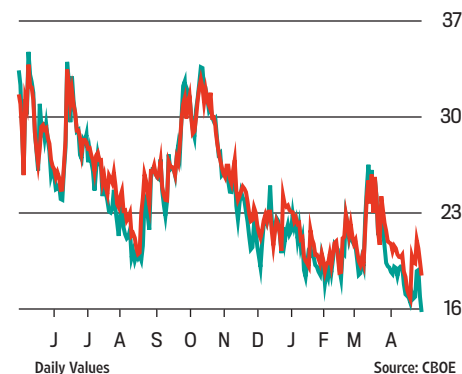
Steven M. Sears is the president and chief operating officer of Options Solutions, a specialized asset-management firm. Neither he nor the firm has a position in the options or underlying securities mentioned in this column.

Opening-day volume on the Chicago Board Options Exchange was a mere 911 contracts, far less than the 45 million that now trade in the U.S.

Equity Options

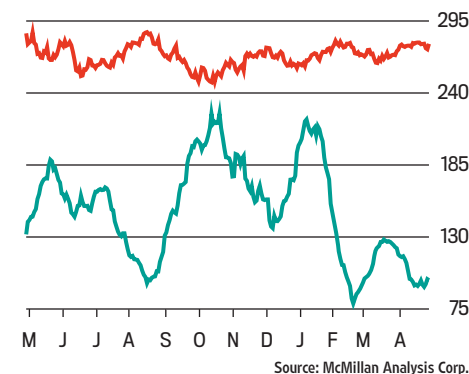
CBOE Volatility Index

● VIX Close ● VIX Futures



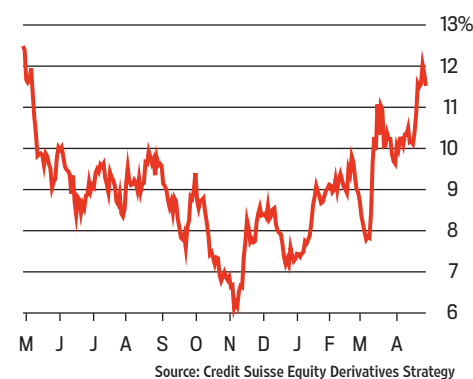
The Equity-Only Put-Call Ratio

● Put-Call Ratio ● S&P 500 Index



SPX Skew

Implied volatility %



NDX Skew

Implied volatility %



Skew indicates whether the options market expects a stock-market advance or decline. It measures the difference between the implied volatility of puts and calls that are 10% out of the money and expire in three months. Higher readings are bearish.

Week's Most Active

Company	Symbol	Tot Vol	Calls	Puts	Avg Tot Vol	IV %ile	Ratio
IDEAYA Biosciences	IDYA	5998	3643	2355	48	45	125.0
Fuel Tech	FTEK	7539	7135	404	84	92	89.8
eHealth	EHTH	33967	1773	32194	848	98	40.1
Ecopetrol	EC	65723	63402	2321	3360	72	19.6
MediaAlpha	MAX	6687	176	6511	380	100	17.6
Fox	FOX	8150	595	7555	504	60	16.2
Petrobras	PBRA	17598	10427	7171	1416	5	12.4
Fibrogen	FGEN	28376	19030	9346	2656	98	10.7
Aaron's	AAN	3471	2683	788	332	29	10.5
Reviva Pharmaceuticals	RVPH	14314	13402	912	1524	15	9.4
Pegasystems	PEGA	2566	347	2219	320	43	8.0
Seres Therapeutics	MCRB	70321	36642	33679	9028	67	7.8
Impinj	PI	8875	5400	3475	1212	45	7.3
Commvault Systems	CVLT	3774	3517	257	532	43	7.1
Valley National Bancorp.	VLV	95640	47753	47887	13544	100	7.1
Syneos Health	SYNH	22920	22496	424	3376	97	6.8
Viastris	VTRS	32573	28956	3617	5100	9	6.4
4D Molecular Therapeutics	FDMT	4059	1495	2564	704	48	5.8
United Parcel Service	UPS	284837	160881	123956	49160	4	5.8
Sunnova Energy	NOVA	83574	44643	38931	15396	48	5.4

This table of the most active options this week, as compared to average weekly activity – not just raw volume. The idea is that the unusually heavy trading in these options might be a predictor of corporate activity – takeovers, earnings surprises, earnings pre-announcements, biotech FDA hearings or drug trial result announcements, and so forth. Dividend arbitrage has been eliminated. In short, this list attempts to identify where heavy speculation is taking place. These options are likely to be expensive in comparison to their usual pricing levels. Furthermore, many of these situations may be rumor-driven. Most rumors do not prove to be true, so one should be aware of these increased risks if trading in these names. Ratio is the Tot Vol divided by Avg Tot Vol. IV %ile is how expensive the options are on a scale from 0 to 100. Source: McMillan Analysis

INSIDE SCOOP

U.S. Bancorp Director Alan Colberg Buys Stock

BY ED LIN

U.S. Bancorp stock continues sliding, and the regional bank's newest director just bought a large block of shares.

U.S. Bancorp shares (ticker: USB) dropped 22% in 2022, a year in which the bank acquired MUFG Union Bank's core retail-banking business to help scale up. Shares continued to fall in the new year. The stock slid 17% in the first quarter of 2023, a period that saw the collapse of SVB Financial and troubles at **Signature Bank** (SBNY) rattle financials in general and regional banks in particular. So far in April, U.S. Bancorp stock is about 5% in the red.

Alan B. Colberg paid \$341,400 on April 21 for 10,000 U.S. Bancorp shares. Colberg now owns 10,050 shares, according to a form he filed

with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Colberg didn't respond to a request for comment. A retired CEO of **Assurant** (AIZ), Colberg joined U.S. Bancorp's board in January of this year.

He is the first U.S. Bancorp insider to buy stock on the open market in nearly a decade. Marc Belton, then a U.S. Bancorp director, paid \$388,500 in October 2013 for 10,250 shares, an average price of \$37.90 each.

In late March, Cheryl Mickel, who oversees money markets, short-term taxable bonds, and stable value for T. Rowe Price, told *Barron's* that U.S. Bancorp and **PNC Financial Services Group** (PNC) are high-quality "super" regionals that are probably gaining deposits flowing out from smaller banks. Earlier this month, U.S. Bancorp itself named a new chief financial officer as part of a broader reshuffling of its management ranks. **B**

U.S. Bancorp stock continues to slide. Director Alan Colberg became the bank's first insider to buy shares on the open market in about a decade.

the purchase of 3,125,195 prefunded warrants, also priced at \$1.60 each. Following the fresh investment, Redmile holds 44.7% of Augmedix's outstanding stock.

Tredegear (TG)

Gamco Investors (GBL) increased its position in the maker of aluminum and plastics products to 4,643,343 shares. A combination of buys and sales from March 22 through April 20 added a net 343,312 Tredegear shares at prices ranging from \$8.56 to \$9.33 each. Gamco now owns 13.7% of Tredegear's tradable stock.

Decreases in Holdings

SunOpta (STKL)

Engaged Capital reduced its interest in the maker of plant-based foods and beverages to 5,500,000 shares. Engaged Capital, without citing a reason, sold 1,059,095 SunOpta shares from March 2 through April 21 at prices ranging from \$7.41 to \$8.59 apiece. Following the sales, Engaged Capital holds a 4.8% interest in SunOpta, below the 5% threshold that would require the disclosure of any further SunOpta stock sales. SunOpta is scheduled to report first-quarter earnings on May 10. SunOpta shares are about flat so far this year, but over the past 12 months, the stock has surged 50%.

Tela Bio (TELA)

OrbiMed Advisors lowered its holding in the soft-tissue-focused biotech to 2,835,542 shares, including 30,725 underlying exercisable warrants. OrbiMed sold 192,000 Tela Bio shares from April 19 through April 21 at per share prices ranging from \$9.30 through \$9.43. OrbiMed now holds an 11.9% stake in the biotech. On April 18, Tela Bio offered 4,750,000 shares in a public offering priced at \$9.50 each, with a 30-day option for underwriters to purchase an additional 712,500 shares at the same offering price. The offering closed on April 21. Tela Bio will report first-quarter results on May 11.

These disclosures are from 13Ds filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. 13Ds are filed within 10 days of an entity's attaining more than 5% in any class of a company's securities. Subsequent changes in holdings or intentions must be reported in amended filings. This material is from April 20 through April 26, 2023. Source: **VerityData** (verityplatform.com)

lic offering was in June 2021. The payments company collected \$617.6 million through the IPO after selling 29,411,765 shares priced at \$21 each, which was above the \$16 to \$18 range it had told investors to expect.

Augmedix (AUGX)

Redmile Group boosted its position in the digital healthcare-services company to 20,246,320 shares, including 4,615,993 shares underlying exercisable warrants. On April 19, Redmile and Augmedix entered into a private-placement agreement through which Redmile purchased 1,250,000 Augmedix shares priced at \$1.60 per share. The placement also included

Increases in Holdings

Dlocal (DLO)

General Atlantic lifted its interest in the Uruguay-based payments processor to 63,096,501 shares. General Atlantic bought a total of 1,796,151 Dlocal shares at per share prices ranging from \$13.65 to \$16.86 from March 24 through April 25. All of the purchases occurred through a 10b5-1 plan adopted on Dec. 22, 2022, and lifted General Atlantic's stake to 38.9% of Dlocal's tradable stock. Dlocal's initial pub-

POWER PLAY

Uncertainty Emboldens Activists

BY CARLETON ENGLISH

The pace of activist campaigns has cooled against the challenging macroeconomic backdrop of 2023, but companies should remain vigilant to avoid ending up in an activist's crosshairs.

That's because market slumps and economic downturns can expose weaknesses at specific companies, handing activists blueprints to plot changes. In more-robust economic times, companies may have an easier time masking their troubles with surging cash flows. When the tide goes out, however, it's harder to hide blemishes—especially if a company fails to keep up with peers.

Typically, activists seize upon companies that are underperforming in four areas: sales growth, valuation, net margin, and two-year stock performance, according to new analysis from Goldman Sachs, which examined component companies in the Russell 3000 index over a 17-year period. In a report, the bank identified 116 companies with market capitalizations of more than \$5 billion that could attract activist attention, including retailer **Best Buy** (ticker: BBY), trading app **Robinhood Markets** (HOOD), and industrial giant **3M** (MMM).

There were 27 campaigns launched during the first quarter of this year, according to Goldman's tally. That marks a 24% drop from the fourth quarter of 2022, and it also lags behind the pace of campaigns for all of last year, which totaled 148.

Despite fewer campaigns this year, activists have certainly been bold, targeting large-cap companies such as **Walt Disney** (DIS) and **Salesforce** (CRM). It's all the more reason for companies to be wary. **B**

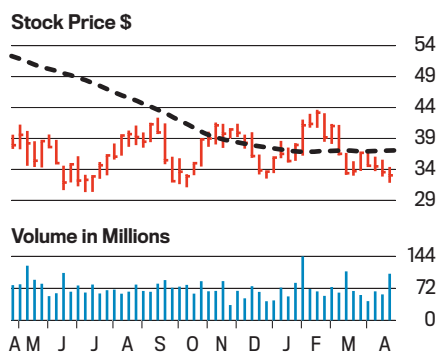
CHARTING THE MARKET

A graphic look at selected stock activity for the week ended on April 28, 2023.
Edited by Bill Alpert.

General Motors

GM (NYSE) • \$33.04 • -0.51

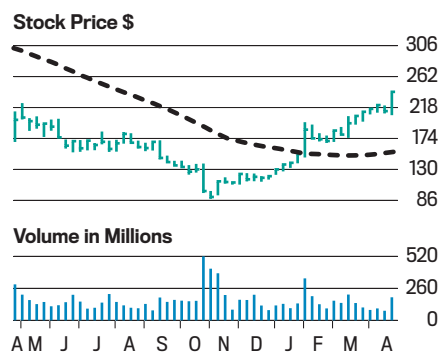
The car maker saw first-quarter revenue rise 11% and \$2.21 in earnings, both far above forecasts. The Detroit icon also raised its full-year guidance.



Meta Platforms

META (NASDAQ) • \$240.32 • 27.43

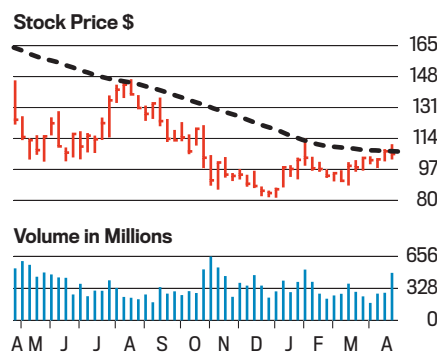
The social-media giant beat on first-quarter earnings and revenue, and offered upbeat guidance. CEO Zuckerberg talked up AI and the metaverse.



Amazon.com

AMZN (NASDAQ) • \$105.45 • -1.51

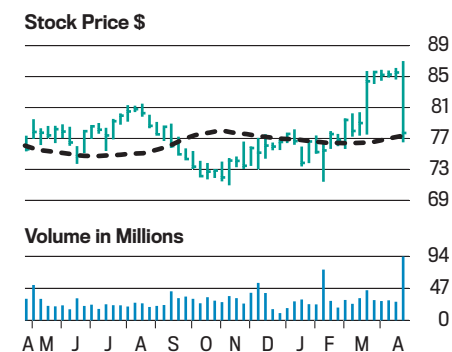
Analysts were surprised as Amazon beat on earnings, driven by its retail unit. Shares rose, but then fell on Amazon's weaker guidance for the cloud.



Activision Blizzard

ATVI (NASDAQ) • \$77.71 • -7.82

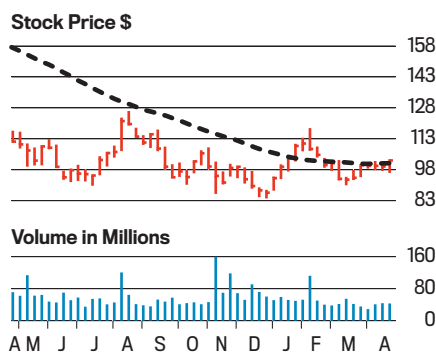
The U.K.'s antitrust regulator blocked the merger of Microsoft and the videogame developer. A day earlier, Activision beat on net bookings and earnings.



Walt Disney

DIS (NYSE) • \$102.50 • 2.93

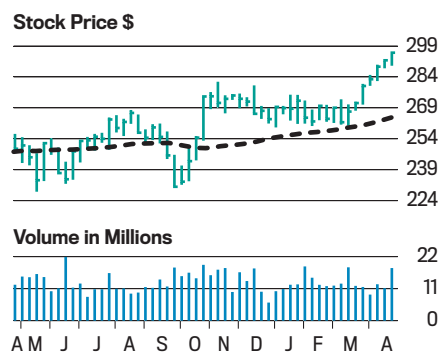
The Mouse House struck back, suing over what it called a retribution campaign by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. The shares flagged, then rallied.



McDonald's

MCD (NYSE) • \$295.75 • 3.69

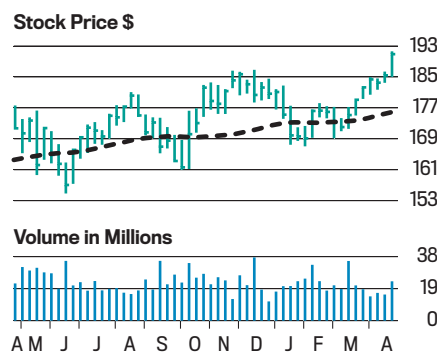
First-quarter earnings rose 63%. The fast-food chain stayed ahead of higher food and labor costs by raising prices. The CEO predicted recession.



PepsiCo

PEP (NASDAQ) • \$190.89 • 5.48

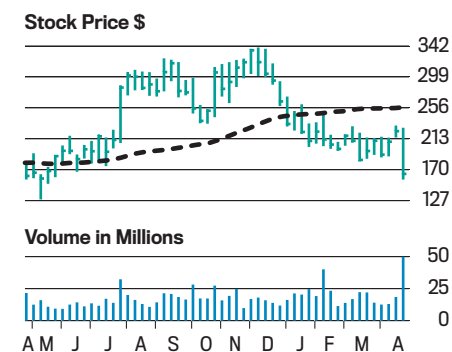
The beverage and snack giant beat with first-quarter earnings of \$1.50. It also raised its guidance for the year to 9% earnings and 8% organic revenue.



Enphase Energy

ENPH (NASDAQ) • \$164.20 • -59.41

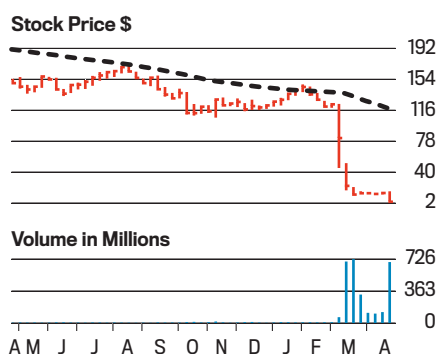
The energy tech company beat on revenue and earnings but offered weak guidance. One snag: changes in how California solar users get paid.



First Republic Bank

FRC (NYSE) • \$3.51 • -10.75

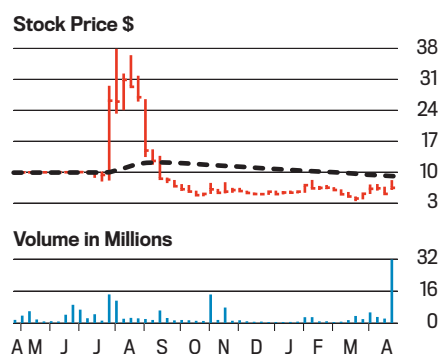
The San Francisco bank said it lost \$100 billion in deposits. The stock then collapsed. Regulators and some banks are considering a rescue.



Getty Images Holdings

GETY (NYSE) • \$6.43 • 1.37

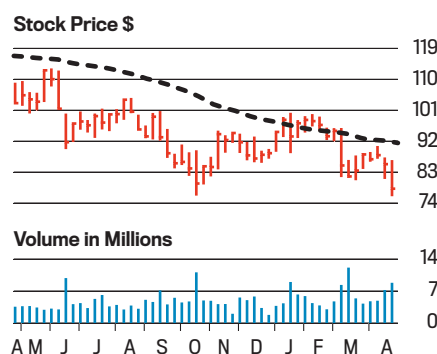
Activist Trillium Capital made a nonbinding proposal to buy the U.S. and U.K. repository of stock images for \$10 a share. Getty rebuffed the offer.



Northern Trust

NTRS (NASDAQ) • \$78.16 • -7.14

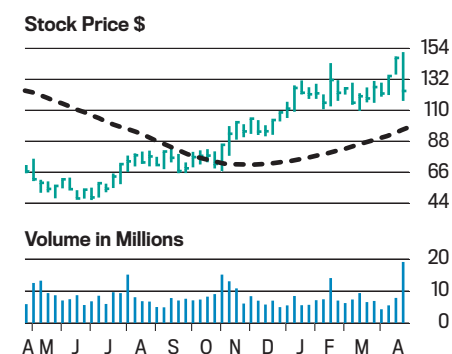
The wealth manager missed on first-quarter profits, blaming a fall in asset-management fees as investors withdrew funds after the bank crisis.



Crocs

CROX (NASDAQ) • \$123.67 • -23.51

First-quarter profits rose 40%, but the footwear maker offered weak guidance. One problem: sales from recently acquired Hey Dude casual shoes.



WINNERS & LOSERS

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NYSE Biggest % Movers

Winners

Name (Sym)	Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
Fisker(FSR)	66786	6.44	+1.99	+44.7
Aaron's(AAN)	3374	13.35	+3.20	+31.5
GettyImages(GETY)	31738	6.43	+1.37	+27.1
BeazerHomes(BZH)	2081	21.31	+4.15	+24.2
Vertiv(VRT)	39811	14.92	+2.74	+22.5
ProgHoldings(PRG)	5099	30.23	+5.51	+22.3
AMTD Digital(HKD)	17853	8.40	+1.51	+21.9
AlticeUSA(ATUS)	33974	3.50	+0.60	+20.7

Losers

Name (Sym)	Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
FirstRepBank(FRC)	706229	3.51	-10.75	-75.4
Lightn eMotors(ZEV)	557	4.45	-1.88	-29.7
MoneyLion(ML)	900	9.30	-3.29	-26.1
Cloudflare(NET)	53822	47.05	-15.75	-25.1
Compass(COMP)	19063	2.34	-0.74	-24.0
UnivInsurance(UVE)	1541	15.42	-4.37	-22.1
Wolfspeed(WOLF)	27395	46.55	-12.83	-21.6
Alteryx(AYX)	14959	41.13	-11.00	-21.1

NYSE American Biggest % Movers

Winners

Name (Sym)	Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
Cryo-Cell(CCEL)	74	6.25	+2.54	+68.3
ProtalixBio(PLX)	8889	2.78	+0.42	+17.8
EVI Industries(EVI)	80	19.93	+2.37	+13.5
EnergyFuels(UUUU)	9020	5.71	+0.65	+12.8
InfuSystems(INFU)	196	9.37	+0.59	+6.7
DeltaApparel(DLA)	104	11.39	+0.63	+5.9
DecisionPointSys(DPSI)	68	7.03	+0.36	+5.4
Servotronics(SVT)	3	12.11	+0.57	+5.0

Losers

Name (Sym)	Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
MultiWays(MWG)	5747	2.01	-3.88	-65.9
cbdMD(YCBD)	401	3.28	-1.92	-36.9
Sifcolnd(SIF)	44	2.29	-0.51	-18.2
MaiaBiotech(MAIA)	1260	2.46	-0.49	-16.6
Cel-Sci(CVM)	3236	2.11	-0.41	-16.3
Triopetroleum(TPET)	1003	2.05	-0.35	-14.6
Oragenics(OGEN)	33	2.80	-0.43	-13.3
CaledoniaMining(CMCL)	436	14.24	-1.86	-11.6

Nasdaq Biggest % Movers

Winners

Name (Sym)	Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
Nexters(GDEV)	117	7.60	+1.90	+33.3
Travelzoo(TZOO)	1089	7.45	+1.64	+28.2
bluebirdbio(BLUE)	29917	4.35	+0.92	+26.8
Immunogen(IMGN)	30810	5.39	+1.13	+26.5
SilenceTherap(SLN)	530	6.70	+1.37	+25.7
TwinDisc(TWIN)	141	11.45	+2.30	+25.1
9F(JFU)	219	3.48	+0.69	+24.5
BelFuse B(BELFB)	990	40.63	+7.87	+24.0

Losers

Name (Sym)	Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
HomeStreet(HMST)	2328	9.76	-7.78	-44.4
Nanobiotix(NBTX)	64	2.14	-1.60	-42.8
Impinj(PI)	11124	88.41	-51.58	-36.8
ParatekPharm(PRTK)	4194	1.59	-0.90	-36.1
EyePointPharm(EYPT)	10495	6.28	-2.72	-30.2
eHealth(EHTH)	6206	6.00	-2.56	-29.9
AddusHomeCare(ADUS)	1899	81.74	-30.73	-27.3
EnphaseEnergy(ENPH)	49995	164.20	-59.41	-26.6

NYSE Most Active

Volume Percentage Leaders

Name (Sym)	Volume	%Chg.	Close	Change
GettyImages(GETY)	31738	1426.2	6.43	+1.37
MoneyLion(ML)	900	933.8	9.30	-3.29
JuniperII(AJUN)	6558	740.4	10.30	-0.14
ConcordAcqnlA(CNDA)	4630	648.7	10.23	+0.07
JacksonAcqna(RJAC)	1013	583.0	10.34	+0.01
SouthportAcqna(PORT)	2291	514.7	10.40	0.00
HamiltonBeach(HBB)	278	465.7	10.01	+0.28
PontemA(PNTM)	825	355.7	10.38	+0.01
ConstellationA(CSTA)	299	319.4	10.31	+0.03
FirstRepBank(FRC)	706229	316.1	3.51	-10.75
KensingtonCapV A(KCGI)	3455	315.4	10.49	+0.02
ProofAcqnlA(PACI)	1091	269.8	10.44	+0.05
HimalayaShipping(HSHP)	268	255.3	5.79	-0.01
InfiniteAcqna(NFNT)	1930	247.8	10.59	+0.14
CommBkSys(CBU)	5092	236.0	49.96	+2.66
51TalkOnlineEd(COE)	93	228.5	5.75	+0.61
SphereEnt(SPHR)	3115	186.0	28.14	+2.53
NaturalGasSvcs(NGS)	451	174.5	10.30	-0.37
AP Acqna(APCA)	1220	174.1	10.63	+0.07
Mytheresa(MYTE)	1454	168.7	4.91	-0.39

By Share Volume

Name (Sym)	Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
FirstRepBank(FRC)	706229	3.51	-10.75	-75.4
FordMotor(F)	287233	11.88	+0.07	+0.6
Snap(SNAP)	274922	8.71	-1.30	-13.0
NIO(NIO)	250159	7.87	-0.46	-5.5
AT&T(T)	226746	17.67	-0.55	-3.0
BankofAmerica(BAC)	201703	29.28	-0.59	-2.0
Carnival(CCL)	144016	9.21	-0.17	-1.8
CreditSuisse(CS)	142962	0.89	+0.00	+0.4
PetroleoBrasil(PBR)	138794	10.62	-0.98	-8.4
Vale(VALE)	134646	14.41	+0.14	+1.0
Alibaba(BABA)	126977	84.69	-4.44	-5.0
LumenTech(LUMN)	122813	2.37	+0.14	+6.3
NY CmntyBcp(NYCB)	120844	10.69	+1.67	+18.5
KeyCorp(KEY)	118759	11.26	-0.33	-2.8
SouthwesternEner(SWN)	116458	5.19	+0.21	+4.2
Verizon(VZ)	114851	38.83	+1.51	+4.0
Pinterest(PINS)	114445	23.00	-4.39	-16.0
PalantirTech(PLTR)	109960	7.75	-0.43	-5.3
AMC Ent(AMC)	109487	5.50	+0.51	+10.2
Pfizer(PFE)	107941	38.89	-1.32	-3.3

By Dollar Volume

Name (Sym)	\$ Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
BerkHathwy A(BRK.A)	12669132502879.97	+6474.98	+1.3	
Alibaba(BABA)	10666746	84.69	-4.44	-5.0
ExxonMobil(XOM)	9911895	118.34	+2.33	+2.0
Visa(V)	9773176	232.73	-1.32	-0.6
Danaher(DHR)	7457763	236.91	-15.90	-6.3
JPMorganChase(JPM)	7082375	138.24	-2.30	-1.6
EllieLilly(LLY)	7058100	395.86	+10.62	+2.8
UnitedHealth(UNH)	6359859	492.09	+8.27	+1.7
Chipotle(CMG)	6319141	2067.62	+267.62	+14.9
ThermoFisher(TMO)	6316004	554.90	-16.78	-2.9
ServiceNow(NOW)	6022111	459.42	-13.89	-2.9
Chevron(CVX)	6004744	168.58	-0.54	-0.3
AbbVie(ABBV)	5911682	151.12	-11.29	-7.0
BankofAmerica(BAC)	5840053	29.28	-0.59	-2.0
FirstRepBank(FRC)	5413689	3.51	-10.75	-75.4
HomeDepot(HD)	5410333	300.54	+0.50	+0.2
UPS B(UPS)	5348184	179.81	-15.40	-7.9
NewDonald's(MCD)	5287787	295.75	+3.69	+1.3
Boeing(BA)	5280546	206.78	+1.63	+0.8
Mastercard(MA)	5102255	380.03	+4.79	+1.3

NYSE American Most Active

Volume Percentage Leaders

Name (Sym)	Volume	%Chg.	Close	Change
cbdMD(YCBD)	401	1449.8	3.28	-1.92
HNR Acqn(HNRA)	87	204.3	10.53	+0.05
MastechDigital(MHH)	435	113.2	8.83	-0.64
AultDisruptive(ADRT)	224	75.2	10.50	+0.01
BlueRidgeBkshs(BRBS)	231	74.7	9.67	-0.36
LoopMedia(LPTV)	315	70.9	5.19	+0.17
RileyExpln(REPX)	376	51.5	42.01	-4.46
inTEST(INTT)	895	28.3	19.00	-2.16
MultiWays(MWG)	5747	23.0	2.01	-3.88
CaledoniaMining(CMCL)	436	15.7	14.24	-1.86
IssuerDirect(ISDR)	49	9.2	18.83	+0.58
DeltaApparel(DLA)	104	7.8	11.39	+0.63
CoreMoldingTech(CMT)	323	6.3	18.75	-0.39
ImperialOil(IMO)	2241	4.7	50.93	-2.16
IdahoStratRscs(IDR)	74	4.4	6.26	+0.29
RadianLogistics(RLGT)	757	0.5	6.60	+0.11
EnergyFuels(UUUU)	9020	-1.5	5.71	+0.65
GencorInds(GENC)	162	-2.3	13.20	-1.32
Electromed(ELMD)	74	-5.7	10.95	+0.36
BarHarborBkshs(BHB)	128	-7.9	24.80	+0.08

By Share Volume

Name (Sym)	Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
DunxinFin(DXF)	98189	0.37	+0.24	+179.6
B2Gold(BTG)	43979	3.94	-0.16	-3.9
Tellurian(TELL)	40580	1.42	+0.06	+4.4
UraniumEner(UEC)	26969	2.61	0.00	0.0
NorthernDynasty(NAK)	22571	0.21	-0.02	-7.2
UniqueFabricating(UFAB)	22129	0.16	-0.01	-5.9
Globalstar(GSAT)	21479	0.91	-0.11	-11.2
AultAlliance(AULT)	17876	0.09	-0.01	-9.2
Zenith(ZOM)	16687	0.20	-0.01	-4.6
DenisonMines(DNN)	15995	1.10	+0.08	+7.8
NewGold(NGD)	14482	1.28	-0.01	-0.8
Senseonics(SENS)	14221	0.60	-0.05	-7.6
GranTierraEner(GTE)	10201	0.80	-0.06	-6.8
GeniusGroup(GNS)	9725	0.84	-0.23	-21.5
EnergyFuels(UUUU)	9020	5.71	+0.65	+12.8
ProtalixBio(PLX)	8889	2.78	+0.42	+17.8
RingEnergy(REI)	8828	1.81	+0.05	+2.8
AgEagleAerial(UAVS)	8077	0.39	+0.01	+1.5
UR-Energy(URC)	7967	0.93	+0.05	+6.0
SatixFyComms(SATX)	7350	0.46	-0.99	-68.4

By Dollar Volume

Name (Sym)	\$ Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
ChemiereEnergy(LNG)	1018611	153.00	+2.59	+1.7
B2Gold(BTG)	176166	3.94	-0.16	-3.9
ImperialOil(IMO)	114916	50.93	-2.16	-4.1
UraniumEner(UEC)	68599	2.61	0.00	0.0
Tellurian(TELL)	56041	1.42	+0.06	+4.4
EnergyFuels(UUUU)	47860	5.71	+0.65	+12.8
DunxinFin(DXF)	45879	0.37	+0.24	+179.6
EquinoxGold(EQX)	33468	4.98	-0.02	-0.4
MultiWays(MWG)	29454	2.01	-3.88	-65.9
MAG Silver(MAG)	28760	12.98	+0.14	+1.1
ChemiereEnerPrts(CQP)	24183	45.61	-0.38	-0.8
SilverCrestMetals(SILV)	24085	6.54	-0.10	-1.5
SilvercorpMetals(SVM)	23950	3.65	+0.03	+0.8
ProtalixBio(PLX)	23151	2.78	+0.42	+17.8
NovaGoldRscs(NG)	21321	5.44	-0.12	-2.2
Globalstar(GSAT)	20067	0.91	-0.11	-11.2
ParkNational(PRK)	19304	108.32	-0.86	-0.8
NewGold(NGD)	18711	1.28	-0.01	-0.8
inTEST(INTT)	17606	19.00	-2.16	-10.2
DenisonMines(DNN)	16667	1.10	+0.08	+7.8

Nasdaq Most Active

Volume Percentage Leaders

Name (Sym)	Volume	%Chg.	Close	Change
CIIGCapPtrsII(CIIG)	11655	1940.4	8.75	-0.78
Integral				

MARKET VIEW

This commentary was issued recently by money managers, research firms, and market newsletter writers. Edited by Barron's staff.

GDP's Mixed Signals

Daily Insights
BCA Research
bcaresearch.com

April 28: The advance gross-domestic-product estimate showed a slowdown in the pace of U.S. economic growth from 2.6% to 1.1% in first-quarter 2023, below expectations of 1.9%. However, the details of the report painted a mixed picture of economic conditions.

On the one hand, consumption growth accelerated sharply from 1.0% to 3.7%, albeit slightly weaker than consensus estimates calling for a 4.0% increase. A pickup in spending on both goods (which increased by 6.5% following a 0.1% decline) and services (which rose by 2.3% following 1.6%) contributed to this dynamic. Moreover, final sales to private domestic purchasers, which strips out the misleading components of inventories and imports and therefore is a good indicator of underlying growth, increased by 2.9% following 0% growth in the final quarter of 2022.

On the other hand, nonresidential fixed investment growth slowed sharply from 4.0% to 0.7%. Moreover, a 4.2% contraction in residential fixed investment (the eighth consecutive quarterly decrease) and a decline in private inventory investment had a negative impact on GDP, partially offsetting the positive contribution from increased consumption.

—*Rouyaka Ibramhim*

Real Estate Distress

Market Commentary
Cresset
cressetcapital.com

April 27: The commercial real estate sector is already feeling the impact of two converging trends: tighter liquidity and weaker fundamentals. The Covid lockdown altered the way Americans work and spend, particularly in metropolitan areas. At the same time, small and midsize banks have reduced the availability of credit, particularly for commercial real estate. The proliferation of

To be considered for this section, material, with the author's name and address, should be sent to MarketWatch@barrons.com.

remote work has had a profound impact on the office sector and on supporting real estate in the downtown business districts, like retail and convention hotels. We believe that fundamentals in the office market will bifurcate as tenants upgrade their office space, leaving class "A" product fully occupied and class "B" and below bearing the brunt of vacancies....

The segment of CRE most vulnerable to retrenchment in the banking sector would be smaller, local projects with loan values below \$20 million, including multifamily, retail, office, and hotel, whose loan balances are too small for money-center banks, and whose loans don't qualify for inclusion in commercial mortgage-backed securities. Distress will emerge among recently originated, highly leveraged projects whose loans need to be refinanced. We anticipate a swath of insolvency creating rescue opportunities at attractive capitalization rates for equity buyers over the next 12 to 18 months.

—*Jack Ablin*

Gold Wrestles with \$2,000

The Weekly Speculator
Marketfield Asset Management
marketfield.com

April 27: Gold continues to dance around the \$2,000 level but hasn't yet been able to take the decisive step through this level to challenge its all-time high. [Last] week saw gold top \$2,012 on Thursday, then fall back to \$1,971 on Friday morning before hitting \$2,009 on Wednesday morning and then dropping back to close at \$1,989.22. Meanwhile support at the 50-day moving average has moved up to \$1,927 and should start to become a factor in short-term prices over the next couple of weeks. We still view the environment as bullish for gold, but the metal needs to take advantage of this to bring sufficient new capital into the market to establish a durable foothold above \$2,000.

—*Michael Shaoul, Timothy Brackett*

Bear-Market Finale

Equity and Derivatives Strategy
Evercore ISI
evercoreisi.com

April 25: While a line of thought goes

"The economy and markets are addicted to the Fed's elixir, always needing more. To avoid bad outcomes, the Fed accommodates (what else can a committee do?) but the direction doesn't feel good."

Amy Abbey Robinson, Charles W. Robinson III, Robinson Value Management

"the market may have already bottomed in October, given that this is the most anticipated recession of all time," we think that "it isn't different this time." No bear market has ever ended before the recession began, and no bear market has ended without a cathartic volatility spike. In this respect, 2011 is a blueprint for the likely stock market path to a second-half 2023 bear-market finale and the start of a multiyear buy-and-hold bull market.

—*Julian Emanuel, Michael Chu, Barak Hurvitz*

are addicted to the Fed's elixir, always needing more. To avoid bad outcomes, the Fed accommodates (what else can a committee do?) but the direction doesn't feel good.

—*Amy Abbey Robinson, Charles W. Robinson III*

Broker/Dealer Stocks

Momentum Strategies Report
Clif Droke Market Analysis
clifdroke.com

April 25: One of my favorite leading indicators, the broker/dealer stocks, are hanging tough despite an uncertain financial-sector outlook (in view of First Republic). The NYSE Securities Broker/Dealer Index (ticker: XBD) is also within reach of its 50-day moving average and could manage to pierce above this trend line with a relatively small effort. Consequently, I'd view a breakout above the 50-day line in XBD as bullish—especially if it accompanies an upside break in the **Financial Select Sector SPDR** exchange-traded fund (XLF).

—*Clif Droke*

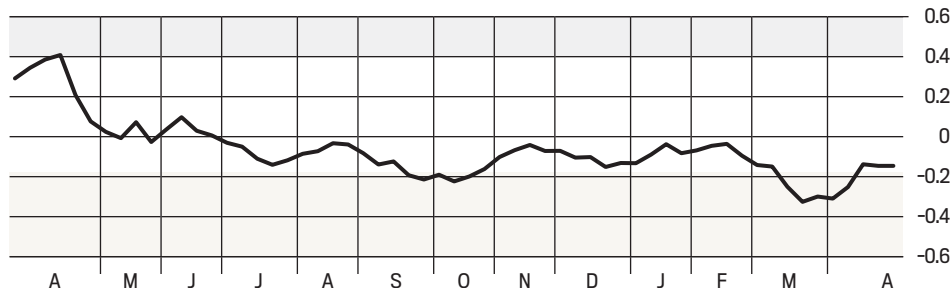
Too Dependent on the Fed

The passage below is excerpted from Robinson Value Management's first-quarter letter.
robinsonvalue.com

April 25: Recent innovations in monetary policy such as the "facilities" announced after each [bank] blowup appear to fall short of the benign goal of lasting stability. Most unsettling is the Federal Reserve's growing inability to reduce/normalize its balance sheet without another financial crisis erupting. The economy and markets

Market Sentiment

Citigroup Panic/Euphoria Model Last -0.17 ● Euphoria ○ Neutral ● Panic



The panic/euphoria model is a gauge of investor sentiment. It identifies "Panic" and "Euphoria" levels which are statistically driven buy and sell signals for the broader market. Historically, a reading below panic supports a better than 95% likelihood that stock prices will be higher one year later, while euphoria levels generate a better than 80% probability of stock prices being lower one year later.

Source: Citigroup Investment Research - US Equity Strategy

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MarketWatch

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE COMPOSITE LIST

BARRONS.COM/DATA

Table with columns: High, Low, Name, Div, P/E, Last, Chg., Amt. Includes entries like 10.70 5.91 C5AcqNA, 10.25 72.23 CGI, 17.28 3.85 CIGT, etc.

Table with columns: High, Low, Name, Div, P/E, Last, Chg., Amt. Includes entries like 16.16 7.85 ClariVate, 21.09 10.85 ClarosMty, 146.05 81.56 CleanHarbors, etc.

Table with columns: High, Low, Name, Div, P/E, Last, Chg., Amt. Includes entries like 5.92 1.57 DanimerScientific, 77.18 36.03 DaqoNewEnergy, 155.90 110.96 Darden, etc.

Table with columns: High, Low, Name, Div, P/E, Last, Chg., Amt. Includes entries like 99.65 72.41 EmersonElec, 9.10 5.39 EmpireStateRealty, 46.73 32.58 EmployersHdgs, etc.

Table with columns: High, Low, Name, Div, P/E, Last, Chg., Amt. Includes entries like 11.59 4.26 Fisker, 6.05 1.88 FivePoint, 58.19 26.16 FiverrIntl, etc.

DATA

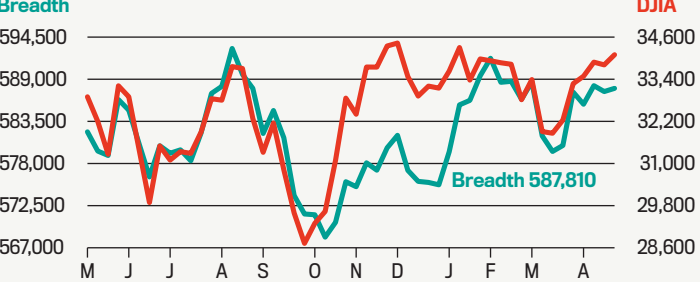
NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE COMPOSITE LIST

BARRONS.COM/DATA

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Lists various stocks like GraniteConstr, GranitePointMtg, GraniteRidge, etc.

NYSE Cumulative Daily Breadth vs DJIA

The Real World: NYSE Composite breadth fell last week even as the S&P 500 rose 0.9% on strong earnings from Microsoft and Meta Platforms. Winning NYSE stocks narrowly outpaced losers.



In generating this chart, we subtract each day's NYSE composite declines from that day's advances. The resultant total is added to the next day's total, and so on. When all five days' numbers are added together, this produces the weekly figure we plot. Dec. 31, 1985 = 1000.

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Lists various stocks like HCA Healthcare, HCL Group, HFCB Bank, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Lists various stocks like ICI Bank, ICL Group, IDACORP, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Lists various stocks like KAR Auction, KB Financial, KB Home, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Lists various stocks like Lazard, LearnCwInvtA, Leidos, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Lists various stocks like M&T Bank, MBI, MDC Holdings, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Lists various stocks like MaxarTech, Maximus, MayvilleEngg, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Lists various stocks like NACCO Inds, NABL, NCR, etc.

DATA

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE COMPOSITE LIST

BARRONS.COM/DATA

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries for Nike, NikeEnergy, NiSource, etc.

O

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries for OFGBancorp, OGE Energy, OI, etc.

P

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries for PBF Energy, PG&E, PGT Innovations, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries for ParPacific, ParTechnology, Paragon28, etc.

R

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries for RBC Bearings, RCF AcqN A, RELX, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries for RadianGroup, RDN, RFL, etc.

S

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries for SAP, S&P Global, SEDA, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries for SensientTech, SXT, SentinelOne, etc.

T

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries for TALEducation, TAL, TRX, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries for SuperGroup, SGHC, SuperIndSnt, etc.

U

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries for UAL, UAW, UGI, etc.

DATA NYSE

Table with columns: -52-Week High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes stocks like Triseo, TripleFlag, TPV, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes stocks like UBS, UDR, UGI, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes stocks like UBS, UDR, UGI, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes stocks like VF, VIAQ, Vici, etc.

NYSE

Table with columns: -52-Week High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes stocks like Visa, Vishay, VishayPrecision, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes stocks like W&T Offshore, WEC, WEX, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes stocks like W&T Offshore, WEC, WEX, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes stocks like XFinancial, XPO, XHR, etc.

NASDAQ ISSUES

Table with columns: 52-Week High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes stocks like AAON, AcadiaPharm, ACI Worldwide, etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes stocks like AAON, AcadiaPharm, ACI Worldwide, etc.

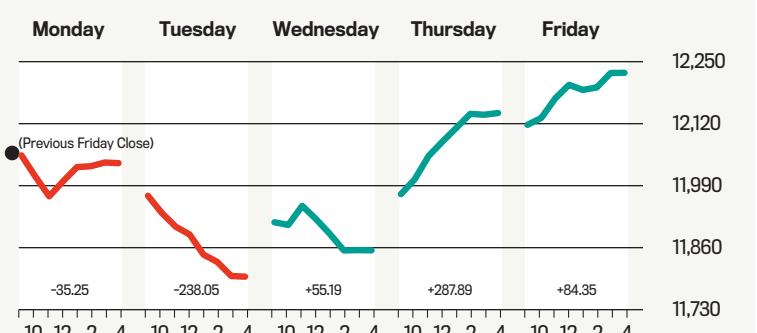
Table with columns: 52-Week High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes stocks like AAON, AcadiaPharm, ACI Worldwide, etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes stocks like XFinancial, XPO, XHR, etc.

BARRONS.COM/DATA

Five-Day Nasdaq Composite

The Tech Beat: Earnings were better than expected at big tech firms like Microsoft, Facebook parent Meta, and Google parent Alphabet. The Nasdaq Composite Index finished Friday at 12,227—up 1.3% for the week.



Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

(Previous Friday Close)

12,250 12,120 11,990 11,860 11,730

-35.25 -238.05 +55.19 +287.89 +84.35

10 12 2 4 10 12 2 4 10 12 2 4 10 12 2 4

Table with columns: 52-Week High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes stocks like AlphaOmega, Arcimoto, ArcoPlatform, etc.

Nasdaq Issues includes stocks traded on the Nasdaq Global Select and Nasdaq Global Market tiers. They are eligible for inclusion on the basis of SEC-approved market value of publicly-held shares, trading volume, price and number of market-makers.

DATA

NASDAQ ISSUES

BARRONS.COM/DATA

Table with columns: 52-Week High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like Funko (FNKO), FusionFuelGreen (HTOO), GEHealthCare (GEHC), etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like HamiltonLane (HLNE), HancockWhitney (HWC), HamFinFinancial (HFWC), etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like IndependentBank (IBTX), InLogistics (ILPT), Infirna (INFN), etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like KezarLifeSci (KZR), Kforce (KFC), KinableElec (KEC), etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like Lyft (LYFT), LyraTherap (LYRA), Macom Tech (MTSI), etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like H&E Equipment (HEES), HBT Fin (HBT), HCM Acq (HCMA), etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like IAC (IAC), IBEX (IBEX), ICF Intl (ICFI), etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like JakksPacific (JAKK), J&J Snacks (JJSF), JD.com (JD), etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like LibertyGlobal (LBGI), LavaMedTech (LVAC), LavaTherap (LVTH), etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like LyellImmuno (LYEL), LyellImmuno (LYEL), LyellImmuno (LYEL), etc.

DATA

NASDAQ ISSUES

BARRONS.COM/DATA

Main table containing NASDAQ stock data with columns for 52-Week High/Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg, Div, Amt, and multiple columns of stock entries.

DATA

NASDAQ ISSUES

FOREIGN MARKETS

Table with columns: 52-Week High, Low, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like Starbucks, StealhGas, StockDynamics, etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High, Low, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like TowerSemi, TowneBank, TractorSupply, etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High, Low, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like VersaBank, Vertex, VerterPharm, etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High, Low, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like WW Intl, WalgreensBoots, WalkMe, etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High, Low, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like XIAO-I, XOMA, XP, etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High, Low, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like TCR2 Therap, TELA, TFF Pharm, etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High, Low, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like UFP Inds, UMBF Fin, UFP Intech, etc.

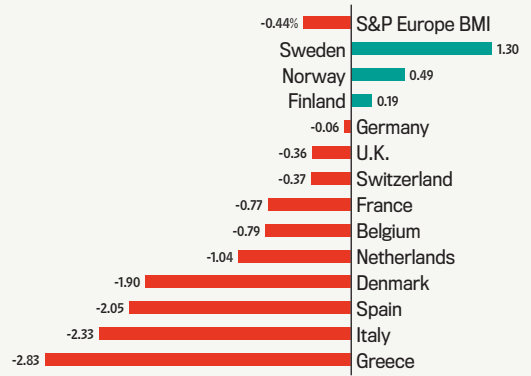
Table with columns: 52-Week High, Low, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like WaveLifeSci, WDFC, WSFS Financial, etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High, Low, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like S&P Europe BMI, Sweden, Norway, etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High, Low, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like S&P Pan Asia BMI, India, Philippines, etc.

Europe

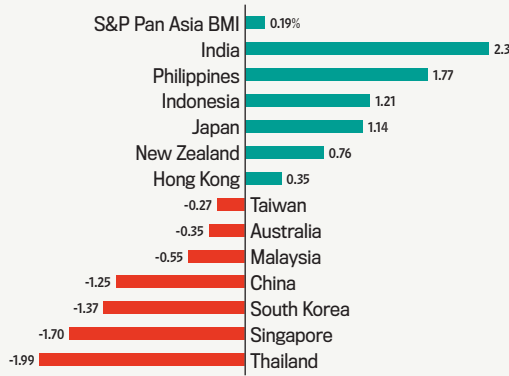
Good Bank: Many banks in the U.S. had rough first quarters -- but Deutsche Bank profits rose 9%.



Indexes based on S&P Global Broad Market Indices

Asia

Accommodating Banker: While promising a policy review, the Bank of Japan kept its rates at their low levels.



Source: S&P DJ Indices

Key Foreign Stock Market Indexes

Table with columns: Index Name, Most Recent Close, Week's %Chg., Year-to-Date Chg., % Chg. Includes entries like Amsterdam AEX, Athens General, Bangkok SET, etc.

Table with columns: Index Name, Most Recent Close, Week's %Chg., Year-to-Date Chg., % Chg. Includes entries like Milan FTSE All Share, Oslo Composite, Paris CAC, etc.

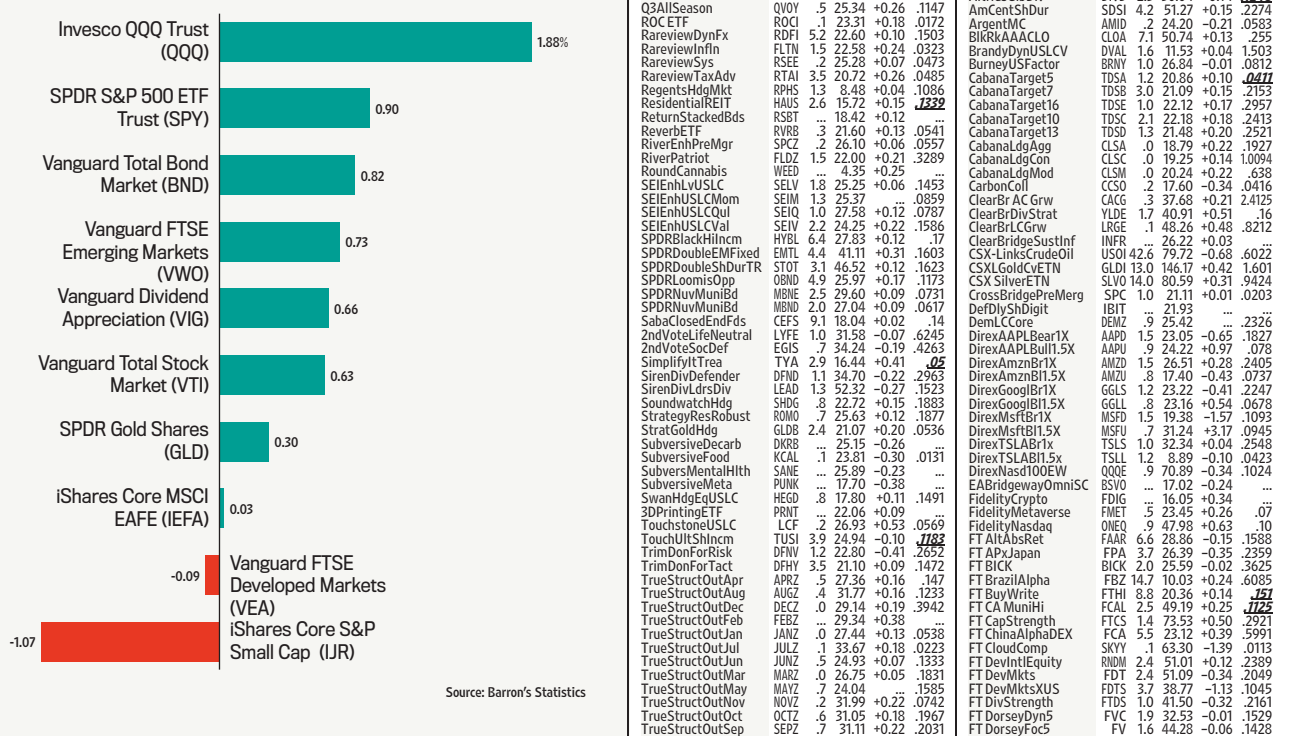
Indexes are based on local currencies. Because of various holidays and other market closings, the most recent close is not necessarily that of the week of publication.

EXCHANGE-TRADED PORTFOLIOS

BARRONS.COM/DATA

Table with columns: Name, Tick Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt, and multiple columns of data for various ETFs and funds.

Selected ETF Leaders



Source: Barron's Statistics

EXCHANGE-TRADED PORTFOLIOS

BARRONS.COM/DATA

Table with columns: Name, Tck Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt, Name, Tck Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt, Name, Tck Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt, Name, Tck Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt. Lists various exchange-traded portfolios and their performance metrics.

DATA

EXCHANGE-TRADED PORTFOLIOS

BARRONS.COM/DATA

Table with 15 columns: Name, Tick Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt. Contains financial data for various exchange-traded portfolios.

DATA

EXCHANGE-TRADED PORTFOLIOS

BARRONS.COM/DATA

Table with columns: Name, Tck Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt, Name, Tck Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt, Name, Tck Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt, Name, Tck Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt, Name, Tck Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt. Lists various exchange-traded portfolios and their performance metrics.

DATA

MUTUAL FUNDS

DATA PROVIDED BY LIPPER

BARRONS.COM/DATA

About Our Funds
 The listings include the top 1250 open-end funds by assets. These funds value their portfolios daily and report net asset values (the dollar amount of their holdings divided by the number of shares outstanding) to the National Association of Securities Dealers. Total returns reflect both price changes and dividends; these figures assume that all distributions are reinvested in the fund. Because Lipper is constantly updating its database, these returns may differ from those previously published or calculated by others. 3 year returns are cumulative. The NAV is the last reported closing price for the week. Footnotes: NA: not available; NE: performance excluded by Lipper editor; NN: fund not tracked; NS: fund not in existence for whole period; e: ex capital gains distributions; f: previous day's quote; n: no front- or back-end sales charge; p: fund assets are used to pay marketing and distribution costs (12b-1 fees); r: fund levies redemption fee or back-end load; s: stock dividend or split of 25% or more; t: fund charges 12b-1 fees (for marketing and distribution) and a back-end load; w: capital-gains distribution may be a return of capital; x: ex cash dividend.

NOTICE TO READERS: Closed End Fund listings have moved to barrons.com/cefund. They will no longer appear in print. The Herzfeld chart has moved to the Market Lab Newsletter. To sign up for the newsletter, go to barrons.com/newletters.

	NAV	Chg.	%Ret.	3-Yr. %Ret.
LtdTEBDA	15.18	0.01	1.4	1.2
N PerA	52.71	0.13	11.4	44.9
NECoA	48.07	0.05	10.5	26.9
NwWrIdA	71.71	0.22	7.9	30.5
SmCpA	60.06	0.09	7.1	30.5
STBFA	9.53	0.01	1.7	-1.9
STTxExBdA	9.86	0.00	0.9	0.3
TECAA	16.45	0.03	2.3	1.6
TxEaA	12.24	0.03	2.5	2.1
WShA	53.38	0.24	3.1	50.7

AMG Managers Funds:

YachtmanFocFdI	19.23	0.06	6.6	57.3
YactkFocFd N	19.30	0.06	6.6	56.4
YactkmanFdl	22.32	0.04	5.6	59.0

Angel Oak Funds Trst:

AgIOkMtlStFACln	8.50	NA	NA	NA
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AQR Funds:

LgCapDefStylE	25.95	0.10	3.8	39.1
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Ariel Investments:

Ariel Inv n	66.11	0.61	6.1	67.2
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Artisan Funds:

GblOppInst	28.58	-0.04	8.2	25.5
Intl Inv n	26.07	-0.36	9.0	23.7
IntlInst	26.22	-0.26	9.1	24.6
IntlValInst	43.40	0.27	12.5	73.7
IntlInv n	43.24	0.26	12.4	72.4
MidCapInst	36.00	-0.43	7.6	18.9
MidCapInv n	30.16	-0.36	7.5	18.1

Baird Funds:

AggBdInst	9.86	0.05	3.8	-7.6
CorBdInst	10.13	0.05	3.7	-5.5
IntlBdInst	10.29	0.04	3.0	-3.3
STBdInst	9.31	0.00	2.0	0.9

Barron Instl Shares:

AssetInst	90.47	-0.77	4.2	25.7
Growth n	91.94	-1.90	8.2	56.0
Partners n	127.12	-0.46	13.9	126.2

Bear Steer:

AssetInst	95.61	-0.80	4.3	26.7
EmergingMktsInst	13.29	0.01	1.9	12.5
GrowthInst	96.88	-2.00	8.3	57.2
PartnersInst	132.14	-0.46	14.1	127.9
SmallCapInst	28.69	-0.29	8.3	39.3

Bernstein Fds:

DivrMunIn	13.80	0.02	2.0	4.2
IntM Durrn	11.52	0.08	3.5	-7.2
NY Mun n	13.33	0.01	2.0	4.4

BlackRock Funds:

CoreBdInst	8.48	0.06	4.3	-7.1
HiVlBdInst	6.83	0.03	5.1	17.7
HiYlBdInst	6.82	0.02	4.9	17.4
IntlPortBdInst	10.04	0.03	3.9	3.7
LowDurtInst	8.95	0.01	2.2	1.7

BlackRock Funds A:

AdVLgCapCore	16.41	0.11	7.7	47.2
CapAppr	26.33	0.28	18.3	27.3
EqDivid	18.95	0.14	4.6	50.7
GblAlloC	17.22	0.05	4.6	20.1
HlHsScOp	66.22	-0.42	0.9	27.7
MdCpGrA	27.65	-0.47	8.3	17.2
MultiAstIncom	9.81	0.04	4.6	13.4
NatIMuni	10.09	0.02	2.5	1.8
ScTechOppA	39.74	-0.12	16.3	28.6
TotRet	10.19	0.07	4.3	-6.0

BlackRock Funds I:

iShS&P500iXk489.14	4.30	9.2	52.6	
iShUSAggBdIXk	9.15	0.07	3.3	-9.7

BlackRock Funds Inst:

AdVLgCapCore	17.36	0.11	7.8	48.3
CAlInMun	11.81	0.01	1.5	6.6
EmgMkts	23.10	-0.01	3.7	15.6
EqDivid	19.04	0.14	4.7	51.8
FloRateInclPorIns	9.54	-0.01	4.2	20.5
GblAlloC	17.41	0.05	4.7	21.1
HiEqIncl	27.79	0.20	4.5	54.9
HlHsScOp	70.70	-0.45	1.0	28.6
MdCpGrEg	32.55	-0.55	8.4	18.1
MultiAstIncom	9.83	0.04	4.8	14.4
NatIMuni	10.09	0.02	2.7	2.6
ScTechOppInst	43.74	-0.12	16.4	29.6
StratInclOptYlIns	9.25	0.03	2.0	8.0
StratMuniOppI	10.43	0.00	1.8	5.9
TotRet	10.18	0.06	4.3	-5.2

BNY Mellon Funds:

ApreCn	38.94	0.31	10.0	55.0
Dr500Inn	47.55	0.42	9.0	50.5
Dreyfn	14.59	0.12	10.1	58.0
GreyMidr Inv n	27.32	-0.09	2.8	57.5
DfYXIncl	19.38	0.11	3.3	-0.6
InstS&PStkIXd	17.74	0.50	9.1	51.8
InstStkIXd	23.43	-0.12	14.2	28.4
InstISIX	23.14	-0.11	14.3	28.6
SmMidCpGrI	23.60	-0.24	3.7	11.8
StrgValI	39.68	0.02	2.6	90.6

BNY Mellon Funds Tru:

MCMultiStrM	16.48	-0.03	4.0	44.9
NtInclMuni	12.92	0.02	2.4	2.8

Bridge Builder Trust:

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	NAV	Chg.	%Ret.	3-Yr. %Ret.
CoreBond	9.06	0.06	3.6	-6.5
CorePlusBond	8.93	0.06	3.7	-3.7
IntlEq	11.98	0.01	11.8	28.8
LargeCapGrowth	19.04	0.07	11.4	42.2
LargeCapValue	15.46	0.09	3.5	66.3
MunicipalBond	9.83	0.01	2.2	3.6
S/MCapGrowth	12.37	-0.17	5.3	29.3
S/MCapValue	12.43	-0.04	0.5	60.8

Brown Advisory Funds:

GrwthEquityInst24.09	-0.10	11.2	19.8
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C

Calamos Funds:	14.27	0.04	3.9	11.4
MktNeutI	9.48	0.06	4.8	-6.7
ITEXQual	16.75	0.03	9.7	20.0
ITEXQual	9.48	0.06	4.8	-6.7
LgCo	28.44	0.25	9.2	52.5

Calvert Investments:

Eq A	69.73	0.12	5.4	44.4
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Carillon Reams:

CorePIBd I	30.64	0.27	4.8	-2.4
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Carillon Scout:

MidCap I	19.75	-0.04	2.0	47.2
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Causeway Inst :

CausewayInst	18.95	0.11	19.0	73.3
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CIBC Atlas:

DispEq Inst	25.57	0.17	6.1	41.8
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ClearBridge:

AggressGrowthA102.08	-0.60	5.9	13.6	
AllCapValueA	12.24	0.05	0.5	53.0
AppreciationA	28.76	0.28	7.0	50.4
DividendStratA	27.84	0.27	4.6	52.9
DividendStratA	27.82	0.27	4.5	51.6
LargeCapGrowthA	47.06	0.40	17.7	33.6
LargeCapGrowthInst54.84	0.46	17.8	34.7	
SmallCapGrowthInst38.76	-1.05	3.9	37.3	

Cohen & Steers:

GblRtlyI	50.41	0.93	4.2	22.7
InstRtlyI	43.82	0.61	3.7	31.1
PreSecInclnI	11.25	-0.08	-2.9	0.7
RtlyInclnI	15.65	0.22	4.0	31.1
RtlyShs n	60.18	0.83	3.7	30.1

Colorado BndShares:

ColoradoBdShs	8.68	0.01	2.8	12.0
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Columbia Class A:

BalancedA	43.74	0.41	8.2	28.1
ContCoreA	26.97	0.28	11.1	50.2
DisplCoreA	11.91	0.06	8.9	49.4
DivlnvA	29.06	0.03	1.0	47.1
DivlOpplyA	34.46	-0.03	10.3	46.2
LgCapGWA	48.11	0.52	15.3	39.6
LgCPVIA	14.91	0.07	0.9	51.7
LgGBlAlloC	10.46	0.07	6.8	23.7
SelfComInflA	90.89	0.90	11.2	71.3
TelX	11.72	0.05	2.9	1.3

Columbia Class Adv:

DivlnvCom	29.64	0.03	1.1	48.2
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Columbia Class C:

Divlnv	28.04	0.02	0.7	43.8
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Columbia Class I:

Acorn I	9.76	-0.05	8.8	14.0
Balanced I	43.63	0.41	8.3	29.1
ContCore I	27.29	0.28	11.2	51.3
DivlnvCom I	29.09	0.03	1.1	48.2
LgCPdIXd	48.75	0.42	9.1	59.9
SelfComInfl I	105.30	-1.03	11.3	72.5
SelfCVal	30.89	-0.03	-1.1	64.4
StratIncl	20.98	0.02	4.0	9.3
TotRetBd I	30.72	0.23	4.5	-3.2

F

FAM Value:

FAMValue n	84.64	0.69	2.6	39.9
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Federated Hermes A:

StrValDivA p	5.65	0.00	-1.2	45.2
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Federated Hermes Inst:

InshYld	8.52	0.04	4.6	13.3
TIRnTbdl	9.68	0.07	3.4	-3.2

Federated Hermes IS:

KaufmnsC I	43.74	-0.57	5.2	13.7
StrValDivIS	5.69	-0.01	-1.2	46.3
UltraShort	9.04	0.01	1.8	4.6

Federated Hermes R:

DATA MUTUAL FUNDS DATA PROVIDED BY LIPPER BARRONS.COM/DATA

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV, YTD, 3-Yr, %Ret, %Ret. Rows include Growth Adv, Income Adv, RiskDv Adv, etc.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV, YTD, 3-Yr, %Ret, %Ret. Rows include DevMktA, DiscFdA p, RiskDv Adv, etc.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV, YTD, 3-Yr, %Ret, %Ret. Rows include ValiAdv, JPMorgan L Class, JPMorgan R Class, etc.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV, YTD, 3-Yr, %Ret, %Ret. Rows include InvGradeBdY, LSGrowthY, Neuberger Berman Fds, etc.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV, YTD, 3-Yr, %Ret, %Ret. Rows include LowDurlnc, SHtTm, ToTRt, etc.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV, YTD, 3-Yr, %Ret, %Ret. Rows include Royce Funds, PAMUL Inr, Russell Funds, etc.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV, YTD, 3-Yr, %Ret, %Ret. Rows include 500Admln, BalAdmln, CAITAdmln, etc.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV, YTD, 3-Yr, %Ret, %Ret. Rows include TgtRetInc n, USGro n, WellsIn, etc.

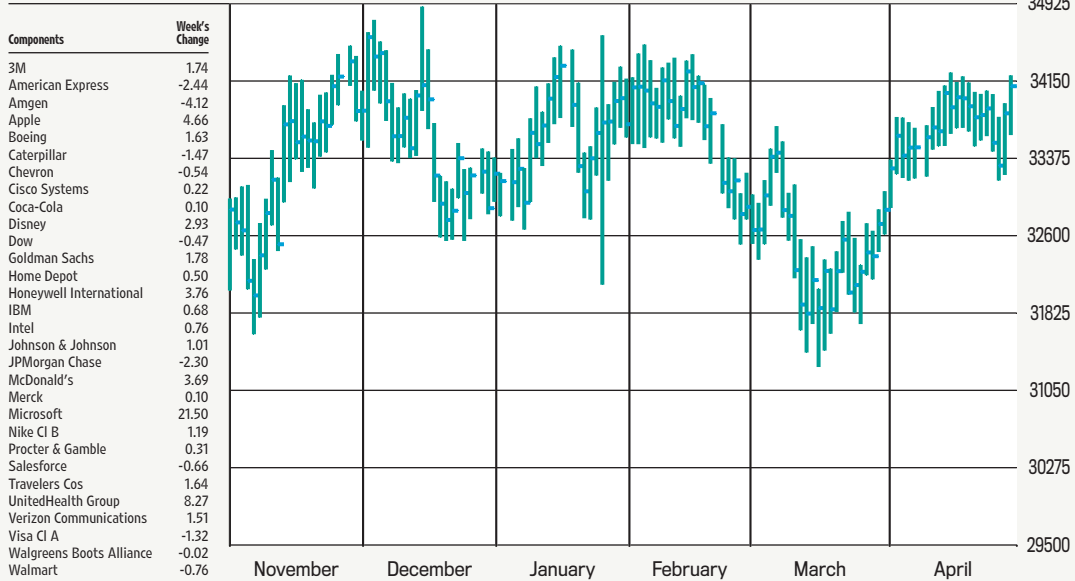
DATA

MARKET LABORATORY

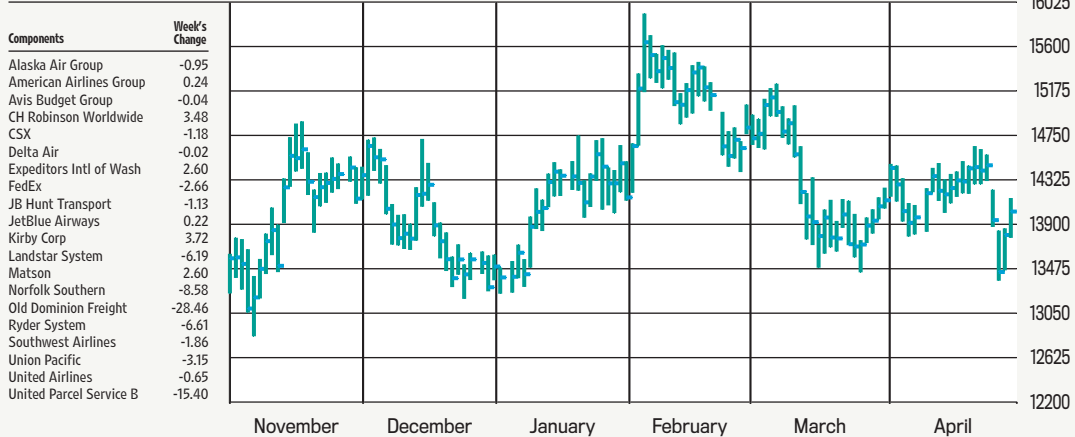
BARRONS.COM/DATA

The Dow Jones Averages

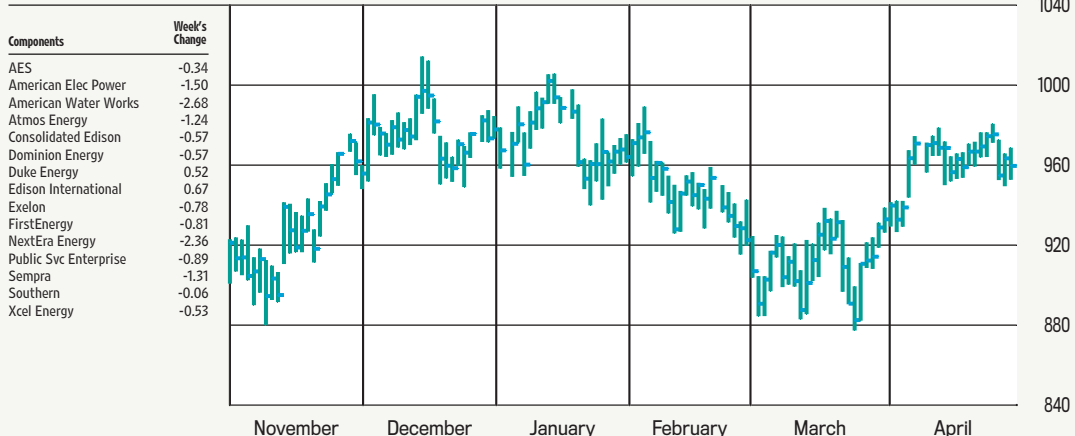
Industrials



Transportation



Utilities



Note: Theoretical highs and lows are shown. A red chart indicates a lower price than the starting period. Green means it's higher than the starting period.

DJ Half-Hourly Averages

Dow Jones 30 Industrial (divisor: 0.15172752595384)

Daily	Apr 24	25	26	27	28
Open (t)	33802.24	33842.11	33559.37	33409.17	33721.90
Open (a)	33805.04	33828.34	33596.34	33381.66	33797.43
10:00	33848.85	33831.85	33539.25	33532.85	33853.65
10:30	33887.67	33790.59	33833.69	33526.24	33985.95
11:00	33821.03	33811.89	33424.03	33491.64	33919.78
11:30	33787.88	33777.30	33517.26	33525.43	33966.36
12:00	33754.20	33721.61	33533.96	33595.41	34036.99
12:30	33786.29	33720.08	33501.75	33614.82	34045.27
1:00	33815.98	33696.80	33498.35	33628.17	34076.98
1:30	33816.04	33590.54	33455.11	33642.84	34068.53
2:00	33831.12	33562.30	33368.14	33715.01	34016.04
2:30	33821.76	33582.57	33366.04	33785.87	34014.27
3:00	33832.49	33543.40	33301.59	33853.01	34008.70
3:30	33862.11	33583.99	33284.22	33821.25	34019.55
Close	33875.40	33530.83	33301.87	33826.16	34098.16
High (t)	34053.97	34019.34	33791.36	33928.02	34207.21
Low (t)	33597.23	33442.91	33152.49	33208.34	33608.07
High (a)	33891.15	33875.49	33645.83	33859.75	34104.56
Low (a)	33726.09	33525.39	33235.85	33374.65	33728.40
Change	+66.44	-344.57	-228.96	+524.29	+272.00

Theoretical (t): High 34207.21 Low 33152.49
Actual (a): High 34104.56 Low 33235.85

Dow Jones 20 Transport (divisor: 0.16343894576034)

Daily	Apr 24	25	26	27	28
Open (t)	14404.71	14202.18	13727.88	13538.14	13809.68
Open (a)	14420.25	14374.98	13894.30	13513.03	13805.25
10:00	14465.20	14041.35	13741.40	13607.56	13932.30
10:30	14483.15	14069.93	13691.25	13671.00	14046.17
11:00	14450.65	14018.83	13558.24	13593.87	14003.24
11:30	14407.43	14052.21	13613.26	13608.11	13997.27
12:00	14405.79	14021.24	13556.70	13656.18	14065.42
12:30	14388.79	14007.71	13602.08	13732.73	14077.67
1:00	14408.47	13996.76	13591.43	13721.38	14081.52
1:30	14422.17	13961.36	13609.03	13748.07	14085.87
2:00	14441.86	13946.37	13492.41	13757.04	14062.10
2:30	14448.99	13927.07	13471.17	13772.59	14023.88
3:00	14439.00	13944.20	13446.11	13783.16	13995.02
3:30	14485.90	13955.21	13456.63	13807.31	14019.06
Close	14464.30	13940.01	13444.01	13997.69	14021.87
High (t)	14566.75	14230.82	13840.31	13861.81	14151.31
Low (t)	14313.60	13874.63	13360.37	13459.67	13770.13
High (a)	14524.54	14374.98	13894.30	13831.82	14099.45
Low (a)	14375.84	13919.12	13400.45	13510.30	13805.25
Change	+50.72	-524.29	-496.00	+353.68	+224.18

Theoretical (t): High 14566.75 Low 13360.37
Actual (a): High 14524.54 Low 13400.45

Dow Jones 15 Utilities (divisor: 1.27924906167720)

Daily	Apr 24	25	26	27	28
Open (t)	969.76	974.09	966.93	956.50	962.12
Open (a)	969.76	974.53	969.09	955.41	962.09
10:00	964.59	975.93	964.96	956.13	966.73
10:30	969.67	974.23	956.70	959.79	961.87
11:00	971.24	975.59	961.44	957.31	962.60
11:30	971.41	977.06	963.08	956.19	962.66
12:00	972.66	976.31	962.62	953.99	962.41
12:30	971.82	978.12	960.04	960.18	962.51
1:00	973.32	979.65	960.93	959.37	961.59
1:30	972.36	978.16	960.14	957.70	960.05
2:00	974.63	976.32	958.98	957.71	958.86
2:30	972.68	973.64	954.73	957.21	958.78
3:00	970.74	973.52	957.56	961.24	954.63
3:30	972.43	976.40	958.66	961.85	958.20
Close	974.46	975.39	954.82	963.39	959.61
High (t)	976.42	980.67	972.69	965.84	968.72
Low (t)	964.05	971.16	952.52	949.45	952.66
High (a)	975.81	979.98	972.76	963.88	967.50
Low (a)	964.36	972.67	953.66	952.70	953.68
Change	+5.12	+9.3	-20.57	+8.57	-3.78

Theoretical (t): High 980.67 Low 949.45
Actual (a): High 979.98 Low 952.70

Dow Jones 65 Composite (divisor: 0.77130165331605)

Daily	Apr 24	25	26	27	28
Open (t)	11310.21	11282.32	11114.32	11027.27	11155.65
Open (a)	11314.05	11316.95	11160.45	11014.73	11169.52
10:00	11334.20	11243.59	11097.78	11081.59	11213.65
10:30	11348.23	11236.41	11038.09	11074.57	11251.54
11:00	11321.91	11247.63	11055.64	11057.88	11222.50
11:30	11311.06	11238.11	11072.08	11074.23	11252.58
12:00	11300.73	11224.52	11064.39	11101.07	11277.83
12:30	11314.63	11223.22	11059.20	11113.88	11275.30
1:00	11323.82	11212.29	11064.31	11120.08	11284.42
1:30	11325.57	11181.98	11044.46	11117.19	11277.62
2:00	11333.89	11172.83	11009.82	11135.87	11255.49
2:30	11326.82	11179.33	11008.68	11163.68	11247.63
3:00	11330.80	11168.27	10987.06	11184.20	11243.05
3:30	11338.40	11187.00	10978.74	11168.93	11249.22
Close	11345.03	11167.69	10983.43	11175.72	11270.47
High (t)	11405.11	11334.16	11193.33	11213.42	11334.45
Low (t)	11241.11	11129.52	10932.51	10959.45	11109.19
High (a)	11353.00	11316.95	11160.45	11189.19	11285.93
Low (a)	11292.34	11162.78	10965.44	11014.73	11160.24
Change	+32.31	-177.34	-184.26	+192.29	+94.75

Theoretical (t): High 11405.11 Low 10932.51
Actual (a): High 11353.00 Low 10965.44

Trading Diary

Market Advance/Decline/Volumes

Daily	Apr 24	25	26	27	28
Market Advance	407,289	107,267	192,387	688,574	783,703
NYSE Off	326,099	740,475	633,876	120,309	260,528
NYSE Up - Comp.	1,766,513	501,910	954,860	3,149,525	2,940,946
NYSE Off - Comp.	1,466,683	3,426,600	2,787,901	577,372	1,096,861
NYSE Amer Off	3,480	7,679	4,756	1,963	14,998
NYSE Amer Up	3,780	1,013	3,177	4,711	8,924
NASD Off	1,424,122	1,395,497	2,107,020	3,401,536	3,844,475
NASD Off - Comp.	3,383,118	3,394,708	3,134,407	1,806,410	1,452,848
NYSE Arca Off	114,065	57,518	93,850	215,602	222,339
NYSE Arca Off - Comp.	81,243	217,566	195,847	49,907	51,917
% (QCHA)	+0.4	-1.94	-1.71	+1.18	+9.3
% (QACH)	-1.5	-2.14	+5.2	+2.9	+1.7
% (QCHAQ)	-4.0	-2.22	-3.7	+1.05	+1.38

Market Advance/Decline/Totals

Weekly Comp.	NYSE	NYSE Amer	Nasdaq	NYSE Arca
Total Issues	3,226	337	5,087	1,972
Advances	1,591	127	2,065	1,133
Declines	1,568	198	2,874	814
Unchanged	67	12	148	25
New Highs	158	11	209	121
New Lows	178	37	683	59

Week ended last Friday compared to previous Friday

NYSE Composite Daily Breadth

Daily	Apr 24	25	26	27	28
Issues Traded	3,076	3,116	3,111	3,079	3,111
Advances	1,635	496	1,011	2,342	2,206
Declines	1,331	2,538	1,969	636	798
Unchanged	110	82	131	101	107
New Highs	53	43	31	37	72
New Lows	40	103	101	55	37
Blocks - primary	3,818	4,563	4,051	3,769	4,606
Total (000) - primary	746,085	856,252	846,352	813,709	1,052,320
Total (000)	3,290,940	3,978,647	3,837,034	3,750,554	4,087,801

NYSE American Composite

Daily	Apr 24	25	26	27	28
Issues Traded	312	311	307	308	312
Advances	134	79	136	165	172
Declines	159	218	151	121	120
Unchanged	19	14	20	22	20
New Highs	2	3	4	3	4
New Lows	13	19	17	14	13
Blocks - primary	71	93	95	98	111
Total (000) - primary	7,836	8,783	7,997	7,019	24,085
Total (000)	93,687	111,078	115,651	92,505	210,823

Nasdaq

Daily	Apr 24	25	26	27	28
Issues Traded	4,630	4,643	4,680	4,609	4,640
Advances	1,817	998	1,785	2,864	2,891
Declines	2,614	3,455	2,662	1,533	1,533
Unchanged	199	190	233	212	216
New Highs	79	39	51	53	70
New Lows	211	385	408	219	153

The Week In Stocks For the Major Indexes

12-Month		Weekly		Friday		Weekly		12-Month		Change From	
High	Low	High	Low	Close	Chg.	% Chg.	% Chg.	Chg.	% Chg.	12/30	% Chg.
Dow Jones Indexes											
34589.77	28725.51	30 Indus	34098.16	33301.87	34098.16	289.20	0.86	1120.95	3.40	950.91	2.87
15640.70	11999.40	20 Transp	14464.30	13444.01	14021.87	-391.71	-2.72	-843.19	-5.67	629.96	4.70
1061.77	838.99	15 Utilities	975.39	954.82	959.61	-9.73	-1.00	-40.29	-4.03	-7.79	-0.81
11689.14	9679.49	65 Comp	11345.03	12665.54	11270.47	-42.25	-0.37	-24.98	-0.22	307.64	2.81
Dow Jones Indexes											
43441.80	36056.21	US TSM Float	41511.66	40414.80	41511.66	240.48	0.58	-167.50	-0.40	2991.06	7.76
1056.61	876.95	US Market	1014.70	987.66	1014.70	6.95	0.69	-0.13	-0.01	76.87	8.20
737.92	528.30	Internet	653.12	629.96	648.43	-3.05	-0.47	-55.44	-7.88	87.70	15.64
New York Stock Exchange											
16122.58	13472.18	Comp-z	15606.71	15228.58	15545.88	-33.05	-0.21	-69.38	-0.44	361.57	2.38
9504.73	7655.99	Financial-z	8699.82	8471.92	8699.82	-10.01	-0.11	-439.83	-4.81	31.05	0.36
23941.25	20936.55	Health Care-z	23604.56	23093.45	23395.71	-90.78	-0.39	450.86	1.96	-44.12	-0.19
14030.84	10452.57	Energy-z	13059.22	12895.28	12895.28	24.67	0.19	1104.01	9.36	-156.60	-1.20
NYSE American Stock Exchange											
4688.00	3582.25	NYSE Amer Comp	4283.88	4174.15	4199.50	-54.81	-1.29	99.29	2.42	64.16	1.55
3142.38	2510.61	Major Mkt	3142.38	3074.30	3142.38	29.40	0.94	210.17	7.17	204.34	6.96
Standard & Poor's Indexes											
1966.75	1615.09	100 Index	1913.12	1858.58	1913.12	24.82	1.31	33.55	1.79	203.95	11.93
4305.20	3577.03	500 Index	4169.48	4055.99	4169.48	35.96	0.87	37.55	0.91	329.98	8.59
5998.87	4996.32	Indus	5900.75	5738.28	5900.75	69.27	1.19	151.69	2.64	588.44	11.08
2726.61	2200.75	MidCap	2499.45	2430.17	2490.40	-8.43	-0.34	-9.86	-0.39	60.02	2.47
1315.82	1064.45	SmallCap	1160.02	1119.76	1148.17	-11.94	-1.03	-66.55	-5.48	-9.36	-0.81
Nasdaq Stock Market											
13128.05	10213.29	Comp	12226.58	11799.16	12226.58	154.13	1.28	-108.06	-0.88	1760.10	16.82
13667.18	10679.34	100 Index	13245.99	12725.11	13245.99	245.22	1.89	391.19	3.04	2306.22	21.08
9741.81	7178.71	Indus	8196.51	7990.33	8194.71	-10.35	-0.13	-813.71	-9.03	847.04	11.53
12643.69	9622.71	Insur	11632.63	11377.73	11608.14	-19.30	-0.17	1146.16	10.96	-33.75	-0.29
4613.89	2926.69	Banks	3039.48	2926.69	3000.11	-67.76	-2.21	-1250.60	-29.42	-1044.85	-25.83
10092.06	7416.59	Computer	9916.28	9393.20	9916.28	267.43	2.77	404.58	4.25	2109.32	27.02
418.04	329.24	Telecom	392.23	375.82	392.23	11.35	2.98	-4.31	-1.09	20.78	5.59
Russell Indexes											
2371.04	1969.25	1000	2279.16	2218.13	2279.16	16.34	0.72	2.71	0.12	173.26	8.23
2021.35	1649.84	2000	1788.87	1730.41	1768.99	-22.52	-1.26	-95.12	-5.10	7.74	0.44
2499.11	2076.07	3000	2389.30	2325.98	2389.30	14.48	0.61	-4.32	-0.18	172.16	7.76
1595.46	1339.62	Value-v	1523.90	1483.51	1523.90	4.40	0.29	-17.12	-1.11	26.78	1.79
2588.53	2082.30	Growth-v	2484.67	2408.30	2484.67	27.89	1.14	31.43	1.28	326.48	15.13
3001.83	2481.47	MidCap	2793.71	2714.46	2781.89	-9.73	-0.35	-96.45	-3.35	81.22	3.01
Others											
9697.62	7679.59	Value Line-a	8978.75	8709.35	8922.76	-51.04	-0.57	73.23	0.83	392.73	4.60
6087.4	491.56	Value Line-g	554.45	537.48	550.24	-3.98	-0.72	-34.44	-5.89	13.89	2.59
13782.03	11195.10	DJ US Small TSM	12354.65	11962.63	12238.40	-137.49	-1.11	-574.41	-4.48	187.29	1.55
933.75	760.10	Barron's Future Focus	872.10	849.09	871.93	-0.99	-0.11	-13.04	-1.47	59.76	7.36
1023.20	825.73	Barron's 400	927.59	893.68	917.44	-7.70	-0.83	-26.40	-2.80	-2.95	-0.32

High/Low's are based upon the daily closing index. a-Arithmetic Index. G-Geometric Index. V-Value 1000 and Growth 1000 y-Dec. 31,1965=50 z-Dec. 31,2002=5000

Indexes' P/Es & Yields

DJ latest 52-week earnings and dividends adjusted by Dow Divisors at Friday's close. S&P Dec. 4-quarter's GAAP earnings as reported and indicated dividends based on Friday close. S&P 500 P/E ratios based on GAAP earnings as reported. For additional earnings series, please refer to www.spglobal.com. DJ latest available book values for FY 2021 and 2020, and S&P latest for 2022 and 2021. r-Revised data.

	Last Week	Prev. Week	Last Year
DJ Ind Avg	34098.16	33808.96	32977.21
P/E Ratio	22.36	22.20	18.88
Earnings Yield %	4.47	4.50	5.30
Earns \$	1525.04	1522.86	1746.57
Divs Yield %	2.06	2.08	1.96
Divs \$	701.89	701.89	647.07
Mkt to Book	4.58	4.54	5.04
Book Value \$	7439.45	7439.45	6543.35
DJ Trans Avg	14021.87	14413.58	14865.06
P/E Ratio	10.86	11.10	16.81
Earnings Yield %	9.21	9.01	5.95
Earns \$	1291.61	1298.16	884.55
Divs Yield %	1.43	1.39	1.10
Divs \$	201.05	201.05	163.60
Mkt to Book	4.36	4.48	5.03
Book Value \$	3214.72	3214.72	2957.33
DJ Utility Avg	959.61	969.34	999.90
P/E Ratio	25.78	26.71	29.16
Earnings Yield %	3.88	3.74	3.43
Earns \$	37.22	36.29	34.29
Divs Yield %	3.12	3.08	2.86
Divs \$	29.90	29.89	28.64
Mkt to Book	2.20	2.23	2.55
Book Value \$	435.47	435.47	392.45
S&P 500 Index	4169.48	4133.52	4131.93
P/E Ratio	24.14	23.93	20.88
Earnings Yield %	4.14	4.18	4.79
Earns \$	172.75	172.75	197.87
Divs Yield %	1.67	1.68	1.53
Divs \$	69.63	69.44	63.22
Mkt to Book	4.07	4.03	4.10
Book Value \$	1024.56	1024.56	1008.02
S&P Ind Index	5900.75	5831.48	5749.06
P/E Ratio	25.41	25.12	23.93
Earnings Yield %	3.93	3.98	4.18
Earns \$	232.18	232.18	240.29
Divs Yield %	1.50	1.51	1.38
Divs \$	88.51	88.06	79.34
Mkt to Book	5.38	5.32	5.52
Book Value \$	1095.83	1095.83	1042.07

Stock Volume

	Last Week	Prev. Week	Year Ago	YOY % Chg
NYSE(a)	4,314,727	4,063,703	5,477,178	-21.22
30 Dow Inds (b)	1,594,062	1,351,063	2,215,241	-28.04
20 Dow Trans (b)	542,091	491,102	580,851	-6.67
15 Dow Utils (b)	217,025	188,165	305,996	-29.08
65 Dow Stks (b)	2,353,178	2,030,330	3,102,089	-24.14
NYSE American (a)	55,720	43,822	92,339	-39.66
Nasdaq(d)	25,527,141	24,106,295	24,333,134	4.91

NYSE 15 Most Active				
Average Price	15.22	19.48	23.88	-36.26
% Tot Vol	16.43	14.92	14.75	11.39
Stock Offerings \$(z,v)	221,300	1,047,500	1,034,500	-78.61

Daily Stock Volume	4/24	4/25	4/26	4/27	4/28
NYSE(a)	746,085	856,252	846,352	813,709	1,052,330
30 Inds (b)	260,215.2	302,746.5	325,371.4	347,460.1	358,268.6
20 Trans (b)	84,943.6	110,712.0	102,961.1	129,623.8	115,850.4
15 Utils (b)	36,452.1	34,821.4	48,243.0	43,839.9	53,668.8
65 Stks (b)	381,610.9	448,279.9	476,575.6	520,923.7	525,787.7
NYSE Amer(a)	7,836	8,783	7,997	7,019	24,085
Nasdaq(d)	4,854,055	4,806,021	5,281,974	5,253,710	5,331,381

NYSE 15 Most Active					
Avg. Price	15.71	20.47	11.87	19.95	16.73
% Tot Vol	14.94	18.53	16.92	15.15	18.49

Numbers in thousands save price and percentages. (a) Primary volume. (b) Composite volume. (d) as of 4:10 pm. (r) Revised. (v) W/E Thursday. (z) Source: Refinitiv.

NYSE Half Hour Volume

Daily	4/24	4/25	4/26	4/27	4/28
9:30-10:00	85,688	100,342	94,554	94,118	92,392
10:00-10:30	37,857	44,634	46,403	41,473	45,893
10:30-11:00	36,121	36,622	39,868	34,925	51,578
11:00-11:30	29,931	32,655	35,145	33,083	40,131
11:30-12:00	27,266	29,353	29,728	28,907	34,808
12:00-12:30	22,897	24,421	26,610	27,922	28,527
12:30-1:00	19,583	26,370	21,756	24,714	23,219
1:00-1:30	19,584	39,800	23,700	24,279	22,521
1:30-2:00	20,904	27,247	25,661	26,267	26,509
2:00-2:30	23,041	30,514	27,399	25,261	27,021
2:30-3:00	21,921	29,221	35,640	28,270	27,549
3:00-3:30	31,550	36,221	38,008	34,151	33,542
3:30-4:00	369,741	398,853	401,879	390,339	598,430

Per Share Values of Stocks in the Dow Jones Averages

This is a list of the Dow Jones trailing 52-week diluted share earnings, dividends and book values as reported by the company. Bold numbers indicate new values. Sources Barron's Stats and FactSet.

Industrial Stocks	Earns	Divs.	Book Value	Earns	Divs.	Book Value	
Am Exp	9.51	2.16	29.14	Johanson/John	4.78	4.52	28.16
Amgen	14.71	7.95	12.00	JPMorgChase	13.55	4.00	88.07
Apple	5.89	0.92	3.84	McDonalds	9.44	5.80	(6.17)
Boeing	(6.92) Suspended	(25.47)		Merck Co	5.12	2.84	15.11
Caterpillar	13.53	4.80	30.76	Microsoft	9.23	2.60	22.31
Chevron Corp	18.52	5.77	72.06	Nike Inc	3.47	1.29	9.73
Cisco Sys	2.73	1.53	9.79				

DATA

MARKET LABORATORY

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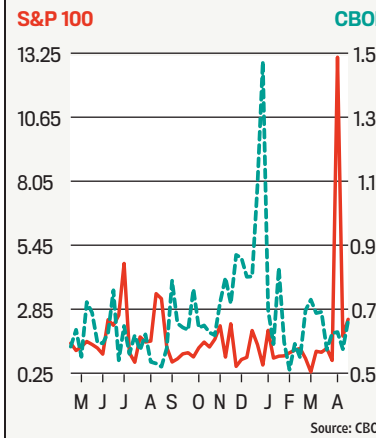
Dow Jones U.S. Total Market Industry Groups

Table with 15 columns: Top 20 Weekly Ranked, IG-Sym, Close, Net Change (Wkly, YTD), Week, Rank, % Change and Ranking (Yr Ago, Rank, YTD, Rank, 3 Yr, 52 Week High, Low). Includes sections for Top 20 Weekly Ranked, Top 20 Yr Ago Ranked, and a continuation of the Top 20 Yr Ago Ranked table.

Groups are weighted by capitalization. 52-week highs and lows are based on daily closes. Dec. 31, 1991=100. In the U.S. listings, % vol chg column shows the change from previous 65-day moving average. Volume figures do not reflect extended trading hours.

CBOE Put / Call Ratio vs. S&P 100

Readings in the CBOE equity put-call ratio of 60:100 and in the S&P 100 of 125:100 are considered bullish, for instance. Bearish signals flash when the equity put-call level reaches the vicinity of 30:100 and the index ratio hits 75:100.



Foreign Exchange

Table with 5 columns: Country, Foreign Currency in U.S.\$ Fri., Foreign Currency in U.S.\$ Last Fri., U.S.\$ in Foreign Currency Fri., U.S.\$ in Foreign Currency Last Fri. Lists various countries and their exchange rates.

Coming Earnings

Table with 3 columns: Day, Consensus Estimate, Year Ago. Lists companies and their earnings data. Includes a section for Continued from page 9.

Money Rates

Table with 4 columns: Latest Week, Prev. Week, Yr Ago. Lists various financial rates including Discount Rate (NY), Prime Rate (base), Fed Funds Rate, T-Bills Rate, Bankers Acceptances, Libor Interbank Rate, and Foreign Prime Rates.

Delta Market Sentiment Indicator

The Delta MSI measures the position of representative set of stocks relative to an intermediate-term moving average crossover (MAC) point. When the indicator is above this MAC point, the market is bullish. When the indicator is below 50%, risk is elevated and stock exposures should be reduced. Manager uses discretion on asset allocation when MSI is at 50% +/- 3%.

Bearish

Current Sentiment

43.1%

54.1%

2 Weeks ago

50.7%

3 Weeks ago

Current Market Exposure: 0% Equities, 0% Bonds, 100% Cash. Source: Delta Investment Management. www.deltainv.com, (415) 249-6337

Pulse of the Economy

Table with 5 columns: Latest Date, Latest Data, Preceding Period, Year Ago, Yr/Yr % Chg. Includes sections for Economic Growth and Investment, Orders, Trade, Inflation, Employment, Construction, and Inventories.

American Debt and Deficits

Table with 5 columns: Latest Report, Preceding Report, Year Ago Report, Yr over Yr % Chg. Lists Federal Budget Deficit, Budget Surplus/Deficit, Treasury Gross Public Debt, Treasury Statutory Debt Limit, and Consumer Installment Debt.

Sources: a-Office of Management and Budget, b-Monthly Treasury Statement, c-Monthly Commerce Dept. Report, d-Daily Treasury Statement, e-Monthly Federal Reserve Release.

Adjustable Mortgage Rates

Table with 5 columns: Apr 28, Apr 21, Yr. Ago, YOY % Chg. Lists 1 Year Treas Bills, 2 Year Treas Notes, 5 Year Treas Notes, 10 Year Treas Notes, and FHHF PMM5+ Apr.

Fed annualized yields adjusted for constant maturity.

Source: FactSet

OTHER VOICES

The decoupling of debt issuance and spending coincided with U.S. Treasuries becoming the world's most important and liquid market.

Debt-Limit Gimmicks Have an Awkward Political History

The U.S. Congress began imposing debt limits in 1776. When the Continental Congress authorized its very first loan from France, it instructed U.S. commissioners to borrow a “sum not exceeding two million sterling.” Congress continued to permit the Treasury to borrow only up to bond-by-bond specific limits until 1917. Prior to then, U.S. Treasury secretaries actually operated under multiple debt limits, authorized bond by authorized bond. The single, aggregate debt limit we’re more familiar with today was first adopted by the U.S. in 1939.

The multiple debt limits of that earlier era occasionally constrained the actions of presidents and their Treasury secretaries. Presidents at times tried to circumvent the limits, and usually suffered consequences for subverting congressional intent. One such episode provides a cautionary tale for advocates of various gimmicks to confront the current debt-limit crisis, such as minting a \$1 trillion platinum coin. But first, it’s important to understand how Congress authorized spending and managed U.S. Treasury debts before World War I, and how those multiple debt limits worked.

From 1776 to 1917, whenever Congress authorized a secretary of the Treasury to spend, it gave the secretary detailed bond-by-bond instructions about how to fund newly authorized spending. Laws raised particular taxes and authorized the Treasury to issue new securities. A congressional committee designed each new security. Congress specified the coupon rate, the term to maturity, possible tax exemp-

BY GEORGE J. HALL AND THOMAS J. SARGENT

Hall is a professor in the department of economics and the International Business School at Brandeis University. Sargent is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, professor of economics at New York University, and a 2011 Nobel laureate in economics.

tions and call features, and whether principal and coupons would be paid in gold, silver, or paper currency. Congress also specified particular purposes for which the proceeds of a bond sale could be spent.

Congress usually specified the maximum amount of a security that could be issued; after a security had been redeemed, it could not be reissued. Occasionally during wars, Congress allowed the Treasury to roll over its short-term debt but placed limits on quantities of short-term notes outstanding. Longstanding misgivings about fiat currencies caused Congress to keep a tight rein on the Treasury’s authority to create short-term money-like liabilities.

After Congress had issued particular securities to finance unusual expenditure surges associated mostly with wars, subsequent Congresses and Treasury secretaries faced “debt echoes” that required them to refinance large principal payments that came due at a few discrete dates. That confronted those future Congresses and Treasury secretaries with liquidity and rollover risks. It usually was not feasible to repay all maturing obligations as they came due out of tax revenue, so Congress had to pass new legislation in order to design and issue new securities to redeem maturing debts.

With the Second Liberty Bond Act of 1917, Congress began allowing the Treasury to issue securities not tied to specific projects. By 1939, Congress had delegated nearly all decisions about security design and debt management to the Treasury. Since then, Congress has confined itself to limiting the aggregate quantity of debt outstanding. Congress’ decoupling of debt issuance and spending coincided with the transformation of the market for U.S. Treasuries into the most important and liquid market in the world.

Despite the tighter, more micro-managed congressional controls before

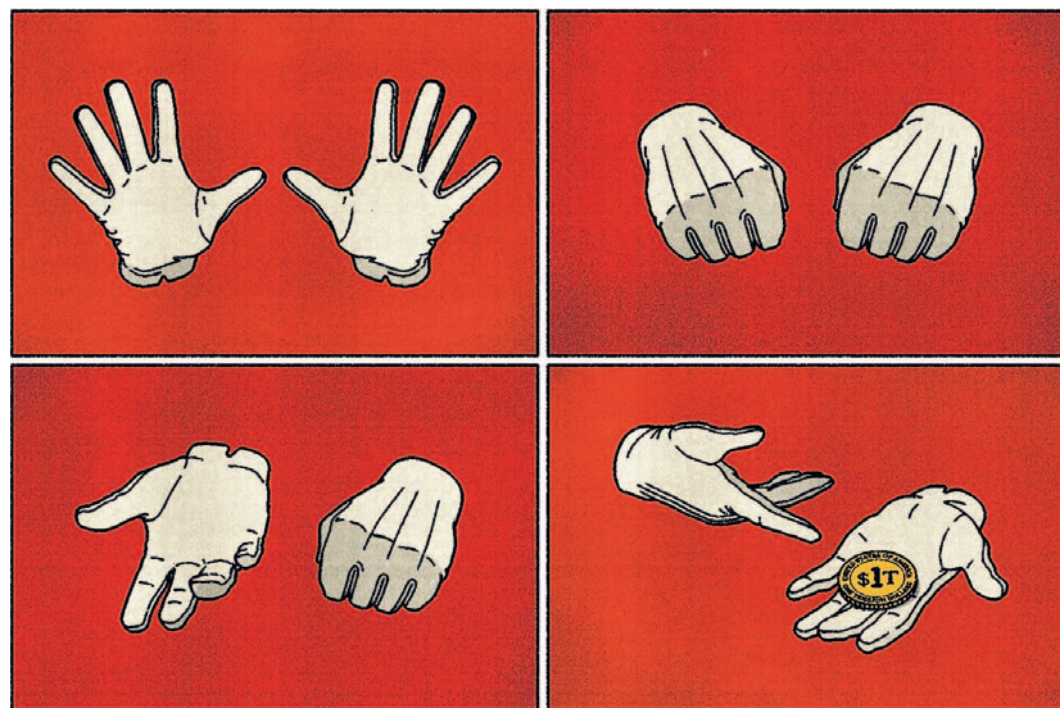
1917, debt-limit crises did occur. One such crisis had long-lasting political consequences. In the 1890s, the U.S. Treasury backed the dollar with gold. The U.S. Treasury kept in its vaults at least \$100 million in gold reserves. Backing the dollar with gold anchored the price level. But important political constituencies wanted to engineer inflation by cutting the link to gold and instead backing the dollar with silver, a cheaper metal.

In 1895, a run reduced the Treasury’s gold reserves to \$45 million and threatened to push the U.S. off gold. The Cleveland administration sought congressional authority to issue new bonds to buy gold in order to defend the dollar, but proponents of silver in Congress blocked authorization.

Banker J.P. Morgan saw President Grover Cleveland at the White House and pointed out to him and the attorney general that laws passed in 1862, 1870, and 1875 had granted the Treasury the authority to issue bonds, though at higher coupon rates than the current market rate. Morgan urged the president to issue and sell such bonds for gold, and to employ Morgan to organize a syndicate to underwrite them. The president agreed, and his administration issued high-coupon U.S. bonds that Morgan and other members of the underwriting syndicate quickly resold for substantially higher prices.

That special-purpose financing staved off the run on U.S. Treasury gold reserves but created a political firestorm. The 1896 Democratic presidential nominee, William Jennings Bryan, ran on leaving the gold standard. Bryan lost the election. When Congress passed the Gold Standard Act, the gold versus silver debate was put to rest, at least until 1933, when diehard Bryanites brought it back to life and convinced President Franklin D. Roosevelt to “do something for silver.”

In other words, past shenanigans with the debt limit have had lasting political ramifications. This history may be one reason that Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen is reluctant to circumvent today’s congressional limit on U.S. aggregate debt by resorting to a gimmick. **B**



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When Your Automobile Is a Phone

To the Editor:

Your articles on the car of the future (“Battle for the Dashboard,” Cover Stories, April 19-21), interesting as they were, omitted the most important half of the story—the people who have to drive them. Contrary to the claims of Arms Holdings’ Dipti Vachani that “consumers want their cars to provide the look and feel they experience on their mobile phone,” professionals who drive and review vehicles have decried the increasing use of screens not only as inconvenient but also downright dangerous to operate while the vehicle is in motion. Safety officials have led campaigns telling people to put their phones down while driving. How do you do that when your car itself is a phone?

Richard G. Simon
New Milford, N.J.

Manufacturer Beware

To the Editor:

The article by Eric J. Savitz paints quite the rosy

picture for the chip companies and others. However, the added cost of this hardware and software, which the article fails to mention, may put the cost of acquiring the car of the future beyond the ability of consumers to afford the price tag. This could be an example not of buyer beware but rather, car manufacturer beware.

Daniel Green
Los Angeles

To the Editor:

Working for IBM in an independent business unit, or IBU, called Automotive Systems in 1985, our unit was elated when one of our machines was on the cover of that year’s annual report. Our mission was to work with General Motors in using computer technology for diagnostic testing of their vehicles.

The engineers in that group had bigger ideas and expectations than doing diagnostic testing. Your recent cover story was informative, to say the least, since IBM had all the plans for future technological advances that included our vision for the dashboard as well as heads-up window display. Some of the engineers were working on an emergency braking system as well as incorporating our “brick” (the forerunner of the iPhone).

Even in the early 1990s, IBM was known for innovation and foresight. Unfortunately, upper management was too involved with business and commercial applications to be bothered with personal computers, phone devices similar to today’s iPhone, and taking over the dashboard of millions of vehicles. In 1992, the IBU was closed down.

Ira Gross
Boca Raton, Fla.

Business Insight

To the Editor:

In addition to clearly delivering the important and relevant information when covering topics for *Barron's*, Andy Serwer has the knack of providing the reader with both a sense of insidership and a touch of the

personal that often adds to the reader’s insight and understanding (“Inside Barry Diller’s Plan to Stop ChatGPT From Destroying the News Business,” April 21).

Nothing wrong with jazzing up the business news with one’s own observations.

James Wiedenhorn
New York

Fed Delusions

To the Editor:

In my opinion, if people like Claudia Sahm ran the Federal Reserve, we’d be in a perpetual state of inflation. That said, I agree with her that the Fed needs to be cautious here (“After 9 Rate Hikes, This Economist Says It’s Time to Pause,” Interview, April 20).

The people at the Fed aren’t stupid, but they are subject to delusions like the rest of us. In 2021, the delusion was that inflation was transitory. Fed officials wanted it to be transitory, so they saw it as such. The delusion now may be that aggressively raising interest rates in a world long accustomed to low rates can be done without precipitating something dire, akin to withholding heroin from a junkie and expecting that to go smoothly.

The final delusion may be reflected in Fed Chairman Jerome Powell’s claim that he has the tools to pull us out of whatever calamity ensues. I would remind him that every available tool was used in Ok. They didn’t work.

Gene Sweet
Chicago
To the Editor:

Esteemed economist Claudia Sahm, when describing historical, proven rules and metrics of recessions and our present financial condition, is quoted as saying that “the world doesn’t make sense.” Mind you, this is from the creator of the “Sahm rule.”

Most economists will agree that in the U.S. it is much easier to rein in inflation from 9% to 5% than to reduce it from 5% to 2%. We are all bearing witness to this now. So what’s the average investor to do? Pause or no pause, investors should allocate and reallocate according to one’s risk tolerance and age—nothing fancy, nothing desperate. This seems prudent, especially until Congress agrees on the debt ceiling. If the U.S. defaults on its debt (which would be a first), then we will have serious financial problems—all because our elected officials would be lacking in common sense.

Tom Verdi
Providence, R.I.

Touting Tesla

To the Editor:

Tesla went public 13 years ago, and the Chevy Bolt made its debut seven years ago (“Ignore the Noise Around Tesla. The Stock Is a Buy at the Right Price,” Follow-Up, April 21). Tesla had a 19% automotive gross profit margin in the first quarter. General Motors hopes to be profitable in electric vehicles within the next four years. Tesla took EVs seriously, and it shows. For GM and Ford Motor, EVs are an afterthought. No contest, in my opinion.

Ralph Keller
On Barrons.com

“Every available tool was used in the deflationary downturn of the early 1930s. They didn’t work.”

Gene Sweet, Chicago

Barron's Level Up

Decoding the College Search, Financing Puzzle

May 12, 2023 | 1:00 pm ET

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Navigating the search for colleges and figuring out how to pay for it has gotten much more complicated in recent years. Join the conversation to discuss:



Funding college - 529's, financial aid qualifications, federal loans and more



What to look for on college visits to find the right fit



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