



Economic & Market News

This Week:

- U.S. economic reports scheduled to be released this week include Consumer Confidence, GDP data and Consumer Sentiment.
- Non-U.S. economic reports for the week include the Unemployment Rate in Germany, Industrial Production in Japan and GDP data in the United Kingdom.

Week in Review:

- In line with market expectations, the Federal Reserve raised the federal funds rate 0.25%. Recent strength in economic outlook was noted and an upgrade was made to the economic forecast, indicating that the path of rate hikes could be aggressive.
- The U.S. Leading Economic Index increased 0.6% in February following an 0.8% increase in January, and suggests strong economic growth in the near future.
- The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee elected to maintain its Official Bank Rate of 0.5%, leaving the rate unchanged since November of 2017.

Index Returns	1 Week	MTD	3 MO	YTD
Russell Global Equity	-4.23	-3.18	-1.75	-2.21
S&P 500	-5.93	-4.50	-3.07	-2.76
S&P MidCap 400	-4.96	-1.24	-3.06	-2.91
S&P SmallCap 600	-4.76	0.30	-1.42	-1.14
Russell Developed ex U.S.	-2.41	-2.54	-1.57	-2.68
Russell Emerging Markets	-3.23	-2.00	2.96	1.11
Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond	0.03	0.12	-1.47	-1.97
DJ UBS Commodity	0.12	-0.69	2.37	-0.47
DJ Equity All REIT	-3.99	0.06	-8.64	-9.95

Bond Rates	Latest	1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago	6 Months Ago
Fed Funds Target	1.68	1.42	1.42	1.16
2-Year Treasury	2.26	2.24	1.90	1.44
10-Year Treasury	2.83	2.87	2.49	2.26
3-Month LIBOR	2.29	1.96	1.69	1.33
Municipal Bond 10-Year	2.68	2.64	2.35	2.08
U.S. Inv. Grd. Corporate	3.83	3.69	3.32	3.16
U.S. High Yield	6.30	6.18	5.75	5.50

Commodities	Latest	1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago	6 Months Ago
Oil (\$/barrel)	\$65.88	\$63.55	\$58.47	\$50.66
Gold (\$/oz)	\$1,349.90	\$1,330.30	\$1,278.80	\$1,297.50
Gasoline (\$/gallon)	\$2.03	\$1.81	\$1.75	\$1.67

Currencies	Latest	1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago	6 Months Ago
Euro (\$/€)	1.24	1.23	1.18	1.20
Pound (\$/£)	1.42	1.40	1.34	1.35
Yen (¥/\$)	104.87	106.62	113.39	111.93

S&P 500 Sector Returns



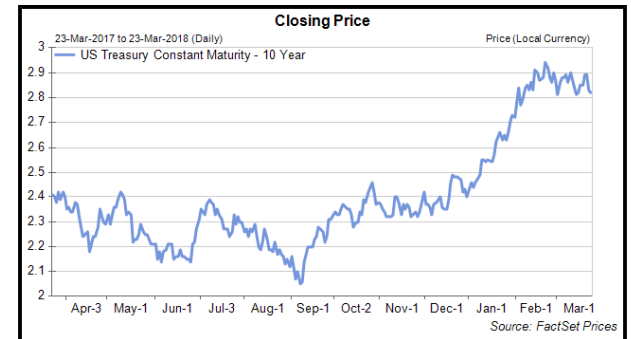
S&P 1500 by Capitalization & Style¹

Value	1-Week		Style	Year-to-Date	
	Blend	Growth		Value	Growth
-5.32%	-5.93%	-6.47%	Large	-5.94%	0.28%
-5.23%	-4.96%	-4.72%		-5.44%	-0.49%
-4.95%	-4.76%	-4.56%	Small	-3.14%	0.83%
				-1.14%	

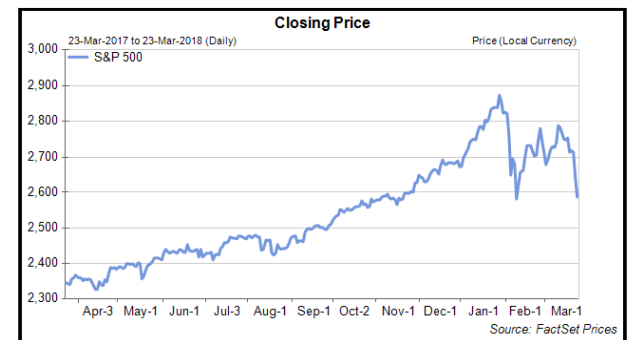
Equity Index Characteristics	P/E Ratio (TTM)	P/B Ratio (TTM)	P/CF Ratio (TTM)	Wtd Avg Mkt Cap (billions)
MSCI ACWI ²	18.55	2.25	11.19	58.29
S&P 500 ²	21.83	3.20	14.01	100.16
S&P MidCap 400 ²	20.34	2.30	12.02	5.28
S&P SmallCap 600 ³	21.45	2.18	11.17	1.71
MSCI World ex US ²	16.53	1.67	9.03	36.62
MSCI EM IMI ²	14.75	1.76	8.74	23.33

Upcoming Economic Events			Forecast		
Date	Locale	Indicator	Period	Consensus	Last ⁴
Tuesday 3-27-18	US	Consumer Confidence	MAR	131	130.8
	US	S&P/Case-Shiller comp.20 HPI M/M	JAN	0.6%	0.64%
Wednesday 3-28-18	US	GDP SAAR Q/Q (Final)	Q4	2.5%	2.5%
	US	Continuing Jobless Claims SA	3/17	1,828K	1,828K
	US	Initial Claims SA	3/24	230K	229K
	US	Michigan Sentiment NSA (Final)	MAR	102	102
Thursday 3-29-18	US	Personal Consumption Expenditure SA M/M	FEB	0.2%	0.2%
	DE	Unemployment Rate	MAR	5.3%	5.4%
	DE	CPI NSA M/M (Preliminary)	MAR	0.5%	0.5%
	JP	Industrial Production SA M/M (Preliminary)	FEB	5%	-6.8%
	UK	GDP SA Q/Q (Final)	Q4	0.4%	0.4%

10-Year Treasury Note Yields



S&P 500 Index Levels





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¹Style boxes are derived from the components of the S&P 1500 Index

²Characteristics as of 02.28.2018

³Characteristics as of 02.28.2018

⁴May include flash/preliminary estimates

Economic & Market News provided by Sterling Capital Management Asset Allocation Committee.

S&P 1500: An investable U.S. equity benchmark, the S&P Composite 1500 combines three leading indices, the S&P 500[®], the S&P MidCap 400, and the S&P SmallCap 600 to cover approximately 90% of the U.S. market capitalization. It is designed for investors seeking to replicate the performance of the U.S. equity market or benchmark against a representative universe of tradable stocks.

Capitalization/Style Returns: Capitalization/Style returns are based on the S&P Indexes. All values are cumulative total return for stated period including the reinvestment of dividends. The indexes used from left to right, top to bottom are as follows: S&P 500 Value Index, S&P 500 Index, S&P 500 Growth Index, S&P Mid Cap 400 Value Index, S&P Mid Cap 400 Index, S&P Mid Cap 400 Growth Index, S&P Small Cap 600 Value Index, S&P Small Cap 600 Index, S&P Small Cap 600 Growth Index. The S&P 500[®] Index is a readily available, carefully constructed, market-value-weighted benchmark of common stock performance. Currently, the S&P[®] Composite includes 500 of the largest stocks (in terms of stock market value) in the United States; prior to March 1957 it consisted of 90 of the largest stocks. The S&P Midcap 400 is designed to measure the performance of the middle capitalization sector of the U.S. equities market. This market capitalization weighted index was created in June of 1991 and consists of 400 domestic stocks from the NYSE, NASDAQ, and AMEX chosen for market size, liquidity and industry group representation. The S&P SmallCap 600 is designed to measure the performance of the small capitalization sector of the U.S. equities market. This index consists of 600 domestic stocks chosen for market size, liquidity, (bid-asked spread, ownership, share turnover and number of no trade days) and industry group representation. The S&P Style indices measure growth and value along two separate dimensions, with three factors each used to measure growth and value. The Growth factors are 3 Year Change in Earnings per Share over Price per Share, 3 Year Sales per Share Growth Rate, and Momentum. The Value factors are Book Value to price Ratio, Earnings to Price Ratio, and Sales to Price Ratio.

Index Returns: Prices reflect closing price level for each stated date.

The Russell Global Equity Index measures the performance of the global equity market based on all investable equity securities. All securities in the Russell Global Index are classified according to size, region, country, and sector. As a result the Index can be segmented into thousands of distinct benchmarks. The Russell Global Index is constructed to provide a comprehensive and unbiased barometer for the global segment and is completely reconstituted annually to accurately reflect the changes in the market over time.

S&P 500: The S&P 500[®] Index is a readily available, carefully constructed, market-value-weighted benchmark of common stock performance. Currently, the S&P[®] Composite includes 500 of the largest stocks (in terms of stock market value) in the United States; prior to March 1957 it consisted of 90 of the largest stocks.

S&P Small Cap 600: The S&P SmallCap 600 is designed to measure the performance of the small capitalization sector of the U.S. equities market. This index consists of 600 domestic stocks chosen for market size, liquidity, (bid-asked spread, ownership, share turnover and number of no trade days) and industry group representation.

S&P Mid Cap 400: The S&P MidCap 400 is designed to measure the performance of the mid capitalization sector of the U.S. equities market. This index consists of 400 domestic stocks chosen for market size, liquidity, (bid-asked spread, ownership, share turnover and number of no trade days) and industry group representation.

The Russell Developed ex U.S. Index captures the opportunity set for equity investing in developed markets outside the United States.

Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index: The Barclays Capital U.S. Aggregate Bond Index is an unmanaged, market-value-weighted index of taxable investment-grade fixed-rate debt issues, including government, corporate, asset-backed, and mortgage backed securities, with maturities of one year or more.

The Russell Emerging Markets Index measures the performance of the largest investable securities in emerging countries globally, based on market capitalization. The index covers approximately 20% of the investable global market.

The MSCI ACWI Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed and emerging markets. The MSCI ACWI consists of 46 country indexes comprising 23 developed and 23 emerging market country indexes.

The **MSCI World ex USA Index** captures large and mid cap representation across 22 of 23 Developed Markets (DM) countries excluding the United States. The index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

The **MSCI Emerging Markets Investable Market Index (IMI)** captures large, mid and small cap representation across 23 Emerging Markets (EM) countries. The index covers approximately 99% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

DJ UBS Commodity: The DJ-UBSCI is composed of futures contracts on physical commodities. Unlike equities, which typically entitle the holder to a continuing stake in a corporation, commodity futures contracts normally specify a certain date for the delivery of the underlying physical commodity. In order to avoid the delivery process and maintain a long futures position, nearby contracts must be sold and contracts that have not yet reached the delivery period must be purchased. This process is known as "rolling" a futures position. The DJ-UBSCI is composed of commodities traded on U.S. exchanges, with the exception of aluminum, nickel and zinc, which trade on the London Metal Exchange (LME).

The DJ Equity ALL REIT Index represents all publicly traded real estate investment trusts in the Dow Jones U.S. stock universe classified as Equity REITs according to the Dow Jones REIT Industry Classification Hierarchy. These companies are REITs that primarily own and operate income-producing real estate.

Bond Rates: Fed Funds Target, FactSet; 2-Year Treasury, FactSet; 10-Year Treasury, FactSet; 10-Year Municipal, FactSet; High Yield, FactSet

Commodities: Oil, FactSet; Gold, FactSet; Gasoline, FactSet

Sector Returns: Sectors are based on the GICS Classification model. Return data are calculated by Morningstar Direct using constituents and weights as provided by Standard and Poor's. Returns are cumulative total return for the stated period, including reinvestment of dividends.

Equity Index Characteristics: Price-to-earnings ratio, price-to-book ratio, and price-to-cash flow ratio for S&P 500, S&P MidCap 400, and S&P Small Cap 600 taken from Morningstar Direct and based on a trailing 12-month period. Price-to-earnings ratio, price-to-book ratio, and price-to-cash flow ratio for MSCI ACWI, MSCI World ex USA, and MSCI Emerging Markets Investable Market taken from Morningstar Direct and based on a trailing 12-month period.

Currencies: Dollar per Pound, FactSet; Dollar per Euro, FactSet; Yen per Dollar, FactSet

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