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BARRON'S

VOL. CIV NO. 19

MAY 6, 2024 \$5.00

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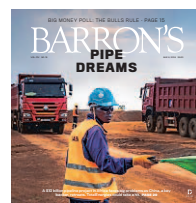
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Cover photograph by Katumba Badru

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BARRON'S (USPS 044-700) (ISSN 1077-8039) Published every Monday. Editorial and Publication Headquarters: 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10036. Periodicals postage paid at Chicopee, MA and other mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Barron's, 200 Burnett Rd., Chicopee, MA 01020

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Duke Energy	DUK	7.68%
Constellation Energy	CEG	6.08%
American Electric Power	AEP	4.66%
Sempra	SRE	4.66%
Dominion Energy	D	4.24%
Exelon	EXC	3.85%
PG&E	PCG	3.68%
Public Service Enterprise	PEG	3.43%

*Components and weightings as of 3/31/24. Please see website for daily updates. Holdings subject to change.



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UP & DOWN WALL STREET

Unusual late-day selloffs on Tuesday and Wednesday could be a sign that investors were preparing for a crisis that isn't likely to occur.

The Market Dodges Another Downfall. Everything's Awesome.

Crisis averted. What crisis, you may ask? The one that investors seemed to be expecting. April had been painful—the

S&P 500 index dropped 4.2%, its worst month since September—and sentiment had soured heading into the last week of the month. The Institutional Investors Bull/Bear ratio slipped to 2.1 from 3.9, the largest week-over-week slide in bullishness since February 2018, according to Oppenheimer's Ari Wald. Despair was in the air, and it hadn't taken much to get it there, just some hotter-than-expected inflation data and the possibility that the Federal Reserve might be forced to raise interest rates.

"We think it's telling how fast bulls ran for the exit against just a whiff of market volatility," Wald writes.

Still, it appeared that the pessimism might be warranted as April eased into May. A strong employment cost index reading on Tuesday sent the S&P 500 to its worst day since Jan. 31, while earnings "disappointments" from **Advanced Micro Devices** and **Super Micro Computer** overshadowed a positive read from **Amazon.com** and got Wednesday started on the back foot. The index snapped back after Fed Chairman Jerome Powell leaned dovish in his news conference following the latest Federal Open Market Committee meeting, but the market was unable to hold on to its gains and finished lower for the day.

Worse still, the S&P 500 dropped 0.6% during the last 10 minutes of the



BY BEN LEVISOHN

trading day on both Tuesday and Wednesday. The selling gave the impression that someone—perhaps someone smarter than you or me—knew something and was using strength as an opportunity to lighten up on stocks.

There might have been less to the selling than met the eye. Those drops occurred on April 30 and May 1, the last day of the old month and the first of the new, days that often feature large orders that need to be filled at the closing price, resulting in what's known as a market-on-close imbalance, explains Mizuho's Daniel O'Regan.

When the imbalance leans bullish, stocks can head higher as market makers seek enough sellers to fill all of the orders. The opposite happens when there's an imbalance of sellers.

The fact that the first and last days of the month also occurred on days when Amazon was releasing earnings and the Fed was releasing its monetary policy statement probably contributed to the moves, as well.

It's rare to see one day end with a decline of 0.5% or more during the last 10 minutes of trading. It's even rarer for that decline to happen for two consecutive days. The last time it occurred was in February 2018, during what became known as Volmageddon, when a sharp rise in market volatility wiped out exchange-traded products that had been short the Cboe Volatility Index, or VIX. Other notable occurrences came in August 2015, when China devalued the yuan, and in October 1987, during the Black Monday selloff. Overall, it has happened just 10 times going back to 1985, according to Bespoke Investment Group data, including this past week—each time during a crisis, some bigger than others.

Before Wednesday, the S&P 500 had been at least 10% away from its 52-week high when each of the drops occurred—meeting the definition of a correction—but usually far more. Indeed, the index was down an average of 28% from its 52-week high when the previous nine events occurred—or 19%, if you include just one of the four times it happened during the 2008-09

financial crisis. That helps explain why the S&P 500 was higher 12 months later in each case, and was lower just once six months later—following the October 2008 collapse of Lehman Brothers.

There was no precipitating event for the two late-day selloffs—no bank collapse, central bank action, or financial product implosion to send everyone running for the exits. What's more, the S&P 500 is off just 4.5% from its record high following the late-day selloffs, less than halfway to a correction. With the market down so little, the strong selling might not be enough to signal the kind of bounce typically seen after such selling, writes Bespoke Investment Group's Paul Hickey. "While forward returns were overwhelmingly positive, the fact that the S&P 500 is in much shallower of a hole this time than it was in any of the other prior periods could be a factor that keeps it from rallying anywhere near that much in the months ahead," he explains.

There's another possible explanation. Between the shift in sentiment and the massive at-the-close selling, investors might have been preparing for a crisis that doesn't seem like it's going to occur. April's payrolls number was weaker than expected but strong enough; the 10-year Treasury yield, which had been threatening to make a run at 5%, has pulled back; even **Apple's** earnings were less bad than expected, leading to a big gain. Combined, all of this suggested that inflation might not be as big a problem as thought and that the granddaddy of all tech stocks isn't dead yet.

We should know soon whether the current downturn is more than just a run-of-the-mill pullback. Warren Pies, founder of 3Fourteen Research, notes that about three-quarters of corrections play out in 60 days or less—the current pullback began 24 trading days ago on March 28—which would coincide with the end of June, when the S&P 500 usually begins to rally in presidential election years.

If the market needs an excuse for a pullback, it has plenty of options to choose from. Pies notes the release of April's consumer price index on May



On the floor of the New York Stock Exchange: If the market needs an excuse for a pullback, it has plenty of options to choose from.

15, **Nvidia's** earnings on May 22, and the release of the personal consumption expenditures price index on May 31 as events with market-moving potential.

For now, though, the S&P 500 is looking set for a two-week winning streak, rather than the resumption of a losing streak. Despite all of the *Sturm und Drang*, it might simply be a reminder that investors should never let a good crisis go to waste—especially one that never materialized.

Just as a falling yen seemed ready to be the next reason cited to prove the sky is falling, Japan's currency is starting to rebound. That may not be great if you're traveling to Japan in a week or two, but it's fantastic news for global markets.

It's hard to overstate just how weak the yen has been against the U.S. dollar this year. Through the end of April, the dollar had gained 11% against the currency, to 157.80 yen, riding a four-month winning streak that was its longest since December 2014. Currency weakness, while initially good for Japan's exporters such as **Toyota Motor**, can be a sign of larger problems if it goes too far, and the recent declines had some investors wondering if the strong dollar might be ready to make things break. It was enough to get Japan's central bank to try to support the yen this past week.

The Bank of Japan's attempt wasn't all that successful. On Monday, the dollar dropped around JPY5 on reported intervention, but it took about JPY6 trillion to generate that move, notes J.P. Morgan strategist Nikolaos Panigirtzoglou. The last time Japan intervened, in September and October 2022, it took far less to generate a move of that size, with an average of JPY3 trillion being spent during the three interventions. "This may imply that Japanese authorities would have to consume a greater amount of foreign currency reserves to have the same impact," he writes.

Thankfully, the BOJ might not need to spend much more. The combination of a softish U.S. payrolls report—the 175,000 jobs added in April were fewer than expected but strong enough that we don't need to worry about the economy—and Chairman Powell's dovish tone at Wednesday's Fed meeting was enough to send U.S. yields down, and the dollar with it. (Currencies often trade on the differences between interest rates and growth between two countries.) "With the impetus toward higher U.S. interest-rate expectations that has driven the greenback's rebound this year now stalling—and potentially going into reverse—there may be space for a new narrative to take hold across markets," writes Jonas Goltermann, deputy chief markets economist at Capital Economics.

Rich Ross, head of technical analysis at Evercore ISI, notes that the reversal in the dollar against the yen is a sign that the risk-on mood that seized the market late this past week should continue. That would be good news for software, utilities, semiconductor, and emerging market stocks. "The yen is your friend if you are bullish,' so stay long/get long in anticipation of a new S&P high above 5,300 in [the first half of the year]," Ross writes.

A stronger yen also means a weaker dollar, which should be a relief for U.S. multinationals, many of which cited currency as a drag on their earnings. **3M**, for instance, said that the strong dollar would shave 1% from sales and 20 cents from full-year earnings per share, while **Coca-Cola** CEO James Quincey cited currency as just one headwind that the company had to navigate during the first quarter of 2024. Even Amazon cited the "unfavorable impact from global currencies weakening against the U.S. dollar." The dollar doesn't have to weaken a lot, but every bit certainly helps.

Farewell to Joe Rosenberg

Joe Rosenberg died this past week. The longtime chief investment officer, and later chief investment strategist, of Loews, the company controlled by the Tisch family, Joe was a savvy investor and brilliant observer of the people and mores of Wall Street. He had a formidable intellect, a wicked sense of humor, and an unfailing ethical compass. He was an occasional contributor to *Barron's*, dating back to a bullish article he wrote in 1963 on Trans World Airlines that caused the stock to rise. He was also featured from time to time in our weekly Q&A, most recently in 2022, in an illuminating interview conducted by Associate Editor Andrew Bary.

Joe was a stock market nonconformist, as Andrew wrote, and he was a nonconformist in life, speaking his mind both in person and in his moving memoir, published in 2015 under the deceptively plain title *Thoughts*. His path to success wasn't smooth; his family fled the Nazis in the 1930s, and he entered the investment business in an era when parts of Wall Street weren't hospitable to Jews. He never forgot where he came from, yet he always knew where he was going, and generously lifted up others along the way.

Joe lived a life in full, measured not only by the number of his 91 years but also by the influence he had in business and finance, and as a beloved mentor. We are grateful for his friendship and association with *Barron's*, and deeply saddened by his passing. — **Lauren R. Rublin**

email: ben.levisohn@barrons.com

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STREETWISE

The key challenge in today's TV business is balancing shrinking but profitable legacy assets with growing but loss-making streaming ones.

Paramount!, the Final Season: Over-the-Top Drama, Subpar Assets

Spoiler alert: The final season of *Paramount!* took a dramatic turn in this past week's episode. Bob Bakish is out as CEO. Replacing him is an executive triumvirate: three managers chosen for their unlikeliness to stand up to Shari Redstone, who's seeking to parlay her modest economic stake and total voting control into a cash-out favoring herself and...well, just herself.

Bakish had tried to find alternatives to Redstone's Shari-the-wealth plan. He's reportedly getting \$50 million on the way out the door, on top of a \$31 million haul last year, after presiding over losses for ordinary shareholders of 48% over the past year and 73% over the past five years. You know you're watching a quality drama when you can't quite tell who the good guys are.

I don't want to give too much away, but a friend of a friend of one of the writers tells me that the next episode involves **Paramount Global** entering a high-stakes standoff with cable provider **Charter Communications** over terms of a television carriage deal. The old one just expired. Historically with these things, the network owner says, "We want x as a percentage increase," and the cable company says, "We'll only pay y," so the network tells the viewing public that it might lose its favorite shows because of the cable company's greed, and in the end, the cable company pays pretty close to x.

But last fall, when **Walt Disney** said, "We want x," Charter said that it would rather exit the subscriber-losing television business and just do



BY JACK HOUGH

broadband than keep getting squeezed by carriage hikes. Disney, which needs cash flows from legacy TV to support its streaming services until they're profitable, folded, and agreed to cut Charter in on selling its streaming services. That outcome is a best-case scenario for Paramount, which unlike Disney doesn't have a thriving parks business on the side—it makes pretty much all of its money from legacy TV. A carriage cave-in could complicate Redstone's deal for the company.

For those new to *Paramount!*, a quick recap: Season 1 introduced Sumner Redstone, son of a Boston linoleum peddler, who turned a family investment in a drive-in movie theater into a media empire valued at its peak at \$80 billion. A tough negotiator and frequent litigator, he brought Viacom and CBS together the first time, meddled well into his 80s, and spent his 90s incapacitated, with girlfriends fighting over his fortune. In Season 2, CBS CEO Leslie Moonves is ousted in 2018 after more than a dozen women publicly accuse him of sexual misconduct; Sumner dies two years later, and daughter

Shari, who won control of the business, brings Viacom and CBS together the second time as Paramount Global, led by Bakish.

In the current Season 3, Paramount, now junk-rated by S&P, rebuffs an initial \$26 billion offer from **Apollo Global**, including assumption of debt, and enters exclusive talks with relative Hollywood newcomer Skydance Media, backed by private equity and tech mogul Larry Ellison, and run by his son, David. Skydance initially proposed paying Redstone a lavish \$2 billion for her supervoting shares, after which Paramount would buy Skydance for \$4 billion to \$5 billion. You don't see that kind of scion-on-scion synergy every day.

Regular shareholders cried foul, Paramount appointed a committee to review any deal for fairness, and Skydance reportedly added a \$3 billion sweetener from one of its backers that would be infused into the new company to pay down debt. Also, Apollo on Thursday renewed its \$26 billion offer, all cash, with **Sony Group** as a bidding partner, sending shares jumping.

How will it end? Is Apollo now the favorite? And just in case, does the triumvirate have a business plan? The key challenge in TV today is balancing shrinking but profitable legacy assets with growing but loss-making streaming ones. But Paramount, as Morgan Stanley wrote this past week, is both "highly exposed to the declining linear TV profit pool and arguably subscale in streaming."

Shares fell 7% on Tuesday after Paramount reported first-quarter financial results, including solid Super Bowl-boosted advertising revenue, and an-

nounced Bakish's departure. It was only the fourth-worst earnings-day price decline of the past three years. A happy ending to the drama seems out of the question at this point, but maybe there's still hope for a fair deal.

Let's turn to basketball. I refuse to endure the heartache of rooting for the New York Knicks, but when they beat Philly and advanced past round one of the playoffs, I briefly suspended my emotional detachment for a single fist pump. The fact that the season opened before Halloween and will end in the middle of June adds to its value for TV networks and streamers. A bidding war has broken out for rights. Current turf holders include Disney, which owns ESPN, and **Warner Bros. Discovery**, with its TNT network. Key newcomers are **Amazon.com** and NBC owner **Comcast**.

Prices for new 10-year deals could double and then some from the last ones. For example, NBC is attempting to pay \$2.5 billion a year on average for a package of games that Warner has been getting for \$1.2 billion, according to BofA Securities. The result could be more rights holders with fewer games each. It's unclear how streaming rights will be sold, and whether the NBA will prioritize reach or profits.

The biggest winner by far in the new rights deals will be the NBA. The biggest loser could be Warner. Best case, it will pay much more for something it's already getting, which could cut into earnings. Worst case, it will sever TNT's 40-year relationship with the NBA, which could hurt earnings and future talks with cable companies, not to mention Warner's new sports streaming pact with Disney and **Fox**. Making out just fine will be TNT's fan-favorite commentator, Charles Barkley. He's two years into a 10-year, nine-figure deal, but can attract competing offers in free agency, thanks to an escape clause he insisted upon ahead of rights renewals. "I wanted to cover my ass," he said this past week. If TNT is no longer covering it, Disney and others could line up for the privilege. **B**



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REVIEW & PREVIEW

38,675.68
Dow Industrials: +436.02581.14
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Preview daily newsletter at
barrons.com/reviewpreview.CVS: Shock
And Fall

CVS Health caught a bad case of the Medicare Advantage blues this past week, blaming the program for its failure to meet quarterly-earnings expectations and slashing its full-year guidance. Shares plunged 19% on Wednesday, their largest decline since 2009. Analysts were shocked. "Did not even believe the CVS numbers when they were released," Mizuho healthcare equity strategist Jared Holz wrote on early Wednesday.

CVS's earnings woes stemmed from the fact that quarterly medical insurance costs came in some \$900 million higher than expected, mostly from its Medicare Advantage plans. CVS then slashed its full-year guidance for earnings per share to at least \$7, from its prior forecast of at least \$8.30.

Medicare Advantage is the privately managed, government-funded insurance plan that's been a growing source of investor angst. A *Barron's* cover story in March described a raft of concerns hitting the program. Seniors covered by the plans are seeking more care than anticipated and regulators plan to pay lower rates next year. Before Wednesday's selloff, CVS stock was off more than 14% this year, while Humana's was off 34%.

CEO Karen Lynch called the 2025 federal rates "insufficient," and said CVS will be "adjusting" benefits. Still, she isn't giving up. "Over the next few years, we are determined to improve our positioning in Medicare Advantage," she said.

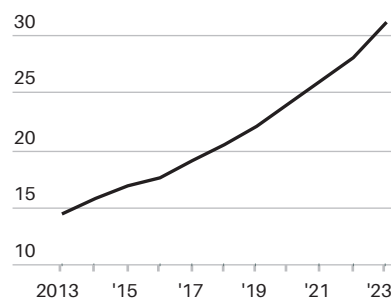
— Josh Nathan-Kazis and Jack Denton

Where the Boomers Go

Medicare Advantage has grown steadily, particularly since baby boomers began retiring.

Medicare Advantage Enrollment

35 million

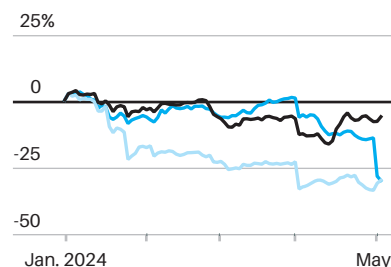


Source: Statista

Too Much of a
Good Thing

Health insurers eagerly embraced Medicare Advantage as growth vehicles. It hasn't helped the stocks.

■ UnitedHealth Group ■ Humana
■ CVS Health



Source: FactSet

LAST WEEK

Markets: The yen came off lows, stirring speculation Japan was intervening to support the currency. The euro zone exited recession. The Federal Reserve made no change in interest rates, and Chair Powell said a rate hike was unlikely soon. Hiring slowed in April. Stocks rallied, with the Dow industrials up 1.14%, the S&P 500 index up 0.55%, and the Nasdaq Composite up 1.43%.

Companies: Tesla agreed to join with Baidu on mapping and navigation technology. Shares of Dutch medical device company Philips rose 30% after it reached a \$1.1 billion settlement in the U.S. over a recalled ventilator. Microsoft agreed to invest in a \$10 billion Brookfield Asset Management renewable electricity project. Amazon.com reported strong sales from its cloud unit. Apple revenue fell, but less than expected, and a \$110 billion stock buyback plan lifted shares.

Deals: Paramount Global fired CEO Bob Bakish after he clashed with Shari Redstone over the Skydance Media offer. Skydance threw in \$3 billion to sweeten the deal and cut debt. Sony Group and Apollo Global then made a \$26 billion all-cash offer... WeWork and its backers, including SoftBank Group, agreed to a \$450 million deal to exit Chapter 11, rejecting a proposal by WeWork founder Adam Neumann... Reinold Geiger, owner of cosmetic company L'Occitane, wants to take the company private for \$6.4 billion... Exxon Mobil won U.S. approval for its \$60 billion Pioneer Natural Resources deal, but Pioneer's former CEO can't join Exxon's board.

THIS WEEK

Monday 5/6

A handful of Federal Open Market Committee members speak this week. Richmond Fed President Thomas Barkin will give a speech at the Columbia Rotary Club in Columbia, S.C., on Monday, while New York Fed President John Williams participates in a fireside chat at the Milken Institute Global Conference in Los Angeles. Federal Reserve Gov. Lisa Cook discusses financial stability at a Brookings Institution event in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, and Chicago Fed President Austan Goolsbee participates in a Q&A at the Economic Club of Minnesota on Friday.

Tuesday 5/7

More than three-quarters of S&P 500 index companies have reported first-quarter results, with 77% having beaten earnings estimates, roughly 10 percentage points better than normal. Nearly 60 more companies are on tap for this week. Arista Networks, Duke Energy, and Walt Disney announce earnings on Tuesday. Airbnb, Emerson Electric, and Uber Technologies release results on Wednesday and Constellation Energy on Thursday.

Friday 5/10

The University of Michigan releases its Consumer Sentiment index for May. Consensus estimate is for a 77 reading, roughly even with April.

THE NUMBERS

\$38 B

MSCI's estimate of the value of commercial real estate threatened by defaults or financial distress.

17%

The decline in Bitcoin prices in April, to around \$60,000. After falling more in May, it rallied on Friday.

10%

The percentage of people living on the margins of subsistence globally, down from 80% in 1820.

6%

The fall in cattle futures prices this past week as the U.S. took steps to contain bird flu in cows.

TECH TRADER

Apple may be seen as a digital business, but most of the cash still comes from selling hardware—and product sales were **down 10% in the quarter**.

Apple's Quarter Was Kind of Lousy. Why Investors Still Loved It.

On Wall Street, everything is an expectations game. You'll never get a clearer example than Apple's earnings report this past week. The numbers were objectively pretty bad. Revenue was down 4% from the year-ago period, the fifth decline in the past six quarters. But Apple shares heading into the report were down 10% on the year, a clear indication that investors were braced for the worst. And while what Apple delivered wasn't especially compelling, it was better than feared.

The stock rallied nearly 7% on the results, but it's likely that the many questions investors have about Apple's future will take more time to resolve.

Buried in the results were a series of fascinating subplots, all of which add up to a company that continues to struggle to produce reliable top-line growth. Here are the key story lines from the quarter, three (modest) positives, and two (substantial) negatives:

China Surprise: Sales in "Greater China," which includes Taiwan and Hong Kong in addition to the mainland, weren't as bad as Wall Street had feared. Heading into the quarter, one of the key talking points for bears was that Apple was losing market share in China to Huawei and others. And while that may be true, CEO Tim Cook made the surprise disclosure on Thursday's earnings call that iPhone sales in China were actually up year over year in the quarter. Here's the expectation game in action—Greater China revenue was down 8%, not ideal, but better



BY ERIC J. SAVITZ

than the 13% drop one quarter earlier.

It's AI Time: Apple is lagging behind other tech giants in generative artificial intelligence software. Over the past couple of analyst calls, Cook has made vague remarks about AI plans, and there's anticipation that AI-related software will be a major focus at Apple's Worldwide Developers Conference in June. Cook wasn't about to scoop himself on an earnings call, but he provided more detailed thinking on the topic than he had in the past.

"We believe in the transformative power and promise of AI," Cook said in his prepared remarks, "and we believe we have advantages that will differentiate us in this new era, including Apple's unique combination of seamless hardware, software, and services integration, groundbreaking Apple silicon with our industry leading neural engines, and our unwavering focus on privacy, which underpins everything we create." Analysts tried to get more from Cook, but he wasn't forthcoming. Either way, expectations are growing for the unveiling of Apple's AI

strategy in a few weeks.

Cash Stash: Apple announced a new \$110 billion stock-repurchase program, the company's single largest authorization ever, and well above the \$90 billion program announced one year earlier. Apple bought back \$23.7 billion in the March quarter alone, the third-highest quarterly total ever, and the most in six quarters. Apple finished the quarter with \$58 billion in net cash and continues to vow that it will eventually get to cash flow break-even.

Hard Times in Hardware: While you might think of Apple as a digital business, the company still makes most of its money selling atoms. Product sales declined nearly 10% in the quarter from a year earlier—the worst quarterly hardware sales decline since 2016. That includes iPhone revenue down 11%, iPads falling 17%, and the catchall category of "wearables, home and accessories" dropping 10%, despite the addition of the new Vision Pro mixed-reality headset to the mix. Mac sales outperformed, with sales up 4% from a year earlier, aided by the launch of new MacBook Air laptops.

Apple's product decline was offset by 14% growth in Services, a broad basket that includes revenue from the company's Google search relationship, the App Store, iCloud, Apple TV+, and lots of other things. In the first half of Apple's fiscal year, services were 22.3% of revenue, up from 19.7% in the comparable period last year. The strong Services business is impressive, with an annualized run rate of close to \$100 billion.

But Apple is primarily a hardware company, and at some point it needs to

get people buying more gizmos.

Guidance Was Squishy: Apple stopped providing detailed financial guidance at the onset of the pandemic, and it hasn't resumed. Instead, every quarter Chief Financial Officer Luca Maestri provides brief forward-looking hints in his remarks on the earnings call. Maestri told investors that June-quarter revenue growth would be in the low-single digits—about what Wall Street had expected—with Services growth consistent with the first half level (around 13%). He said iPad sales should be up double digits, no surprise given that we're days away from the launch of new iPads for the first time since 2022. Maestri cautioned that gross margin could slip a little from the recent quarter due to rising memory chip prices and unfavorable exchange rates. But what's telling is what he didn't talk about: the outlook for iPhone sales. One analyst on the call speculated that the guidance implied an iPhone revenue decline in the mid-single digits. Maestri wouldn't say.

Now What? Amazon.com, Microsoft, Alphabet, and Meta Platforms all posted double-digit March-quarter growth, and not coincidentally, all of them are making big bets on AI and cloud computing. If Apple returned to growth of that variety, the company's market value, about \$2.8 trillion today, could soar to \$4 trillion. Or \$5 trillion.

To be sure, help is on the way. On May 7, Apple will launch new iPads. At WWDC on June 10, Apple will unveil its AI strategy. This fall, we'll get the iPhone 16. As for when we might see more sustained revenue growth, that, alas, remains unclear. **B**



"We believe in the transformative power and promise of AI," Tim Cook said on Thursday, "and we believe we have advantages that will differentiate us in this new era, including Apple's unique combination of seamless hardware, software, and services integration."

How to Invest As Rates Stay 'Higher for Longer'

Consider an approach that includes defensive stocks, cyclicals, and bonds for ballast and income.

BY IAN SALISBURY

Just a few months ago, Wall Street was convinced that the story of 2024 would be all about interest-rate cuts. We're now adjusting to a "higher for longer" world, with prospects for significant cuts all but vanishing.

Fortunately, there are plenty of ways to position your portfolio. And there's a compelling case for building it like a barbell: On one side, own cyclical stocks that do well in a strong economy. On the other, hold some defensive stocks and sectors, in case of economic trouble. Use bonds for income and stability in the middle.

The barbell should work since the economy is both running hot and prone to cooling as the Federal Reserve keeps rates higher for longer than had been expected heading into the year. "The economy is still humming," says Brian Nick, senior investment strategist at research firm Macro Institute. "But there are signs the humming will turn to a low whisper. You need to be prepared."

The stock market is shrugging off elevated rates, up around 6% this year. Bonds have been a pain point: The **iShares Core U.S. Aggregate Bond** exchange-traded fund is down 3% this year on a total return basis. It's even worse in long-bond land, where the **iShares 20+ Year Treasury Bond** ETF is down 10% in total.

One concern about owning a market index fund is the dominance of the "Magnificent Seven" group of tech



Cherry-picker cranes from United Rentals, left; Duke Energy Citrus Combined Cycle Station, right.

stocks. Following blowout years, they represent about 30% of the index, up from about 20% before the pandemic. The craze over artificial intelligence has fueled massive gains for stocks like **Nvidia** and **Microsoft**, but others in the group are faltering. **Apple**, facing a slowdown in China and perceived to have missed opportunities in AI, is down 12% this year; **Tesla**, hit by slowing electric-vehicle demand, has shed 20% of its value, though it has been recovering lately.

Cutting your exposure to Big Tech is like buying some insurance if the market's leadership shifts to value areas and sectors that have trailed during this rally. What's more, there are plenty of stocks beyond headline-making tech names that benefit from today's economic climate.

Consider megabanks and other large-cap financial stocks. Higher-for-longer rates may frustrate borrowers, from small-business owners to home buyers, but they can lift profits on loans. The nation's biggest banks, including **JPMorgan Chase** and **Citigroup**, have seen net interest income surge by double-digits since the Fed began its inflation-fighting campaign.

Wall Street had a mixed reaction to banks' first-quarter earnings, and megabanks face stiffer capital requirements under "Basel III" rules in the works. But James St. Aubin, chief investment officer at Sierra Investment Management, favors the sector, expecting profit margins to remain

strong. Despite competition from money-market funds yielding 5%, the megabanks still offer basically no interest on consumer deposits—Chase's basic savings account yields 0.01%. That should help them keep loan funding costs low and maintain healthy margins on loan portfolios.

At the same time, consumers are paying some of the highest borrowing rates in a generation. The longer rates remain high, the longer big banks will

benefit from the mismatch. "As the prospect of rate cuts continues to get pushed out, that will support net interest margins," St. Aubin says.

The **Financial Select Sector SPDR** ETF is a carve-out of financial stocks in the S&P 500, weighted heavily to the biggest names. It includes JPMorgan Chase, card companies like **Visa**, and perhaps the best conglomerate in America: **Berkshire Hathaway**, at 13% of the fund.

Industrials are another area where investors can find value. Higher rates make it difficult for companies and consumers to finance large-equipment purchases. But the "industrials" moniker covers everything from airplane manufacturers to garbage collectors and payroll companies. Spending in plenty of industrial areas remains strong, especially for new chip plants and green energy projects, says Jeffrey Muhlenkamp, portfolio manager of the \$235 million Muhlenkamp fund.

Investors can target the sector through the **Vanguard Industrials** ETF, which holds stocks like **GE Aerospace**, **Caterpillar**, and **Union Pacific**. One of Muhlenkamp's favorites is construction-services firm **MasTec**. The company has struggled with project delays and a clean-energy business it acquired in 2022, resulting in a pretax loss last year.

MasTec is now reorienting its business around electricity, renewables, and telecommunications, including an expanded relationship with **AT&T**. The company sees a rebound in oil-and-gas projects and says clean-energy projects are ramping up. "I think it's going to get better for everybody as the year goes on," CEO Jose Mas told investors in March.

MasTec's profits are expected to be up 34% this year and 54% in 2025, according to consensus earnings estimates. The stock has been a winner this year, up 18%, but Muhlenkamp sees it posting more gains, as does much of Wall Street; the average price target of \$99 implies gains of 11% from recent prices around \$89.

United Rentals, another Muhlenkamp pick, rents equipment such as dump trucks and backhoes to businesses and consumers. That helps it do well, no matter which corner of the economy is breaking ground. The stock has gained more than 15% this year as a boom in new factories helped keep nonresidential construction spending near record highs. Even after recent gains, United Rental stock

Building the Barbell

Consider this mix of cyclicals, defensive stocks, and bonds as markets adjust to a "higher for longer" rate climate.

Investment / Ticker	YTD Return	Dividend Yield
CYCLICAL		
Financial Select Sector SPDR ETF / XLF	9.0%	1.5%
Vanguard Industrials ETF / VIS	7.6	1.1
MasTec / MTZ	18.0	None
United Rentals / URI	21.0	0.9
DEFENSIVE		
Vanguard Utilities ETF / VPU	5.5%	3.3%
Equinix / EQIX	-8.6	2.3
Ventas / VTR	-10.0	4.1
Entergy / ETR	6.4	4.1
Duke Energy / DUK	1.8	4.2
FIXED INCOME		
iShares 1-3 Year Treasury Bond ETF / SHY	-0.1%	4.8%
Vanguard Intermediate-Term Corporate Bond ETF / VCIT	-2.5	5.6
Invesco Senior Loan ETF / BKLN	2.3	8.1

Note: Yields in the fixed-income category are 30-day SEC yields. Data as of April 29. Sources: Morningstar, Bloomberg

remains inexpensive, with a forward price-to-earnings ratio of 15, compared with an average of 22 for industrials.

On the other side of the barbell, consider some defensive sectors that should hold up in a weak or slowing economy. The market brushed off disappointing first-quarter GDP growth of 1.6%, but that attitude may not last if more signs of weakness settle in.

Utilities have been stung by the high rate environment, which makes it costlier to finance projects like power plants. Yet that dynamic has made these stocks cheaper than any time since the 2008-09 financial crisis, according to Morningstar.

The sector, which tends to be resilient during bear markets, has growth drivers, too, including clean-energy grid upgrades and the knock-on effects of kilowatt-chugging AI data centers. "There's a lot of need for electricity going forward," says Morningstar strategist Andrew Bischof.

The **Vanguard Utilities** ETF covers this market and has a yield of 3.3%. Its biggest holding is **NextEra Energy**—a utility at the leading edge of renewables—along with other big utilities like **Southern Co.** and **Con-**

stellation Energy.

For more targeted exposure, consider **Entergy** and **Duke Energy**. Both are pushing heavily into renewables and grid upgrades. Entergy aims to plow nearly \$7 billion a year, on average, into its grid and clean-energy projects, according to Morningstar. Duke aims to spend \$73 billion on capital projects through 2028, and it has become a steadier income earner as a largely regulated utility.

Real estate investment trusts, or REITs, are another battered area likely to shine as rates come down. The sector is off an average of 7% this year, but that has lifted yields. And some REITs have secular tailwinds, irrespective of the economic cycle.

Data-center owner **Equinix** is a play the AI boom. The stock is down nearly 9% this year, partly on accounting concerns raised by a short seller, which the company says it's investigating. It has never been a cheap stock, but it's now trading below its five-year average multiples. CFRA analyst Michael Elliott expects shares to reach \$920 from recent prices around \$720, helped by demand for data infrastructure and moderating energy prices.

Millions of retiring baby boomers should be a long-term growth driver for **Ventas**, one of the largest providers of senior-living facilities, says Elliott. Ventas should benefit from higher room rates amid tightening supply, and uptrends in medical spending. The stock yields 4% and is expected to grow funds from operations 5% this year and 7% in 2025, according to consensus estimates. "No matter what the overall health of the economy, people are going to need senior housing," says Elliott.

Bonds for Ballast and Income

While bonds have posted losses, the consolation is that yields remain generous, with payouts of 5% to 8%. The trick is to take advantage of those yields without risking more losses if long-term rates continue to ratchet up.

One obvious solution is to go short: T-bills maturing in one month to a year pay north of 5%. Two-year notes yield 4.7%, and you can lock that in until mid-2026—long past all but the most conservative forecasts for interest-rate reductions. "You are going to get a higher yield and some protection"

against declining payouts, says Joseph Kalish, chief global macro strategist for Ned Davis Research.

If you'd rather not buy Treasuries, consider an ETF like **iShares 1-3 Year Treasury Bond**, with a yield of 4.8%.

There's more yield in corporate bonds. The **Vanguard Intermediate-Term Corporate Bond** ETF yields 5.6%, though it poses more interest-rate risk than a short-term fund.

As always, the juiciest yields are in lower-credit or "junk" territory. Floating-rate funds own short-term corporate loans typically packaged into bonds rated below investment grade. The **Invesco Senior Loan** ETF yields more than 8%. If the economy doesn't deteriorate, credit metrics should hold up, supporting these securities.

For now, the markets don't see trouble: junk-bond spreads, which measure the extra yield these bonds offer over Treasuries, are narrower than they've been since early 2022. That suggests bond investors aren't worried about a spike in defaults. "Spreads have been well behaved," says St. Aubin. "It underlines that the growth outlook is good." ■

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A French Military Stock Powered by AI

Thales looks like a plain-vanilla military stock, and it trades like one. Its artificial-intelligence component sets it apart—and makes it a buy.

BY BRIAN SWINT

What happens if you take the best parts of **Lockheed Martin** and combine them with artificial-intelligence darling **Palantir Technologies**? You get

French military company **Thales**—and its stock looks like a winner.

Paris-based Thales (pronounced *tal-us*) is far from a household name. The company has three divisions—Defense and Security, Digital Identity and Security, and Aerospace. Of the three, the defense unit, which makes computer systems for airplanes and radar, sonar systems for submarines, and helps John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York defend itself against cyberattacks, produces the most sales—some 2.3 billion euros (\$2.5 billion) in the first quarter, or 52% of Thales' revenue. It also produces the fastest growth—its sales rose 13.1% over the past 12 months, and orders climbed 128%.

In March, Thales said it was aiming for organic sales to increase 4% to 6% this year and for its margins to increase to as high as 12%, guidance that it reiterated this past week.

Since Thales looks like a plain-vanilla military stock, it trades like one, too. At 17.8 times 12-month forward earnings, its multiple isn't all that different from Lockheed Martin, which fetches 17.5 times; **RTX**, which goes for 18.2 times; or **BAE Systems**, which trades for 19.2 times. Thales' AI services business, which it is embedding in products across the company, makes it anything but a run-of-the-mill military contractor. Artificial intelligence is already helping to boost sales across the company. In the fourth quarter, it booked 13 large orders, including a €2 billion contract with the United King-

dom Ministry of Defence to help its navy incorporate AI into its maritime operations. It also signed a deal with the United Arab Emirates for pilot training on French Rafale jet fighters.

Ultimately, the realization that AI can boost growth across the company should justify a higher valuation.

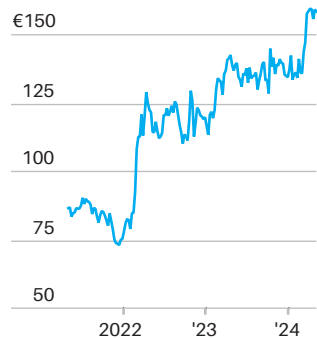
"Thales is at the forefront of Cyber and Artificial Intelligence," writes Deutsche Bank analyst Christophe Menard. "When synergies with the rest of the group become fully apparent, the stock could continue rerating, with tech peers as potential benchmarks."

The most obvious comparison is American tech darling Palantir, which makes AI software for analyzing massive amounts of data and boasts the U.S. government as its biggest customer. Its products can manage deployments and streamline decision-making, among other functions. Caught up in the AI boom, Palantir gained 195% over the past year and trades at 65.8 times 12-month forward earnings.

No one should expect Thales, which is up 14% over the past 12 months, to earn a Palantir-like multiple or even produce the same type of gains. Hardware is more capital-intensive than

Thales

Aerospace and Military Contractor
(HO:France)



Note: E=estimate

Headquarters: Paris

Recent Price: €157.95

YTD Change: 18%

Market Value (billion): \$35.4

2024E Sales (billion): \$21.4

2024E Net Income (billion): \$1.9

2024E EPS: \$9.07

2024E P/E: 18.6

Dividend Yield: 1.9%

Sources: FactSet, Bloomberg

The Thales Gemalto Border Kiosk offers document verification, passenger biometric capture, and verification for travelers.



software, and Thales is neither an AI nor a military pure play. Its smart card business was a drag on the digital identity unit, while its satellite business was coping with project delays and weakening demand. The company, though, said in March that it can improve margins in those areas, while allowing the other businesses to shine.

"With the risk to space and smart card estimates now largely relegated to history and 2024 guidance broadly consistent with expectations, we are now more comfortable with the risks/reward trade-offs," wrote Barclays analyst Milene Kerner in March, though she wasn't comfortable enough to change her Equal Weight rating and €150 price target—5% lower than the stock's current price around €161.

Deutsche Bank's Menard sees more upside. He has a €180 price target on the stock, 12% higher than currently, based on a combination of discounted-cash-flow, sum-of-the-parts, and free-

cash-flow methodologies. Based on free cash flow alone, the stock would be worth €190, up 18%.

Those valuations are based on the view that Thales is a military company, and until recently it hadn't been presenting itself an AI company. That has started to change. At its March 28 media day, Thales announced the creation of a research group called cortAIx that will highlight its artificial-intelligence capabilities. It's so confident of those abilities that when asked on its April 30 conference call about making an acquisition to boost its AI efforts, Chief Financial Officer Pascal Bouchiat responded in the negative.

"We have no interest on M&A on AI, and the reason is quite simple," he explained. "I mean, we've got everything we need from the inside, from Thales' standpoint."

For now, the stock is still flying under the radar. It might not be for long. **B**

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Adobe's AI Pivot Is Going Just Fine

Adobe shares have missed the AI rally—for now. Its own AI-powered tools for consumers and professional designers should eventually pay off.

BY ERIC J. SAVITZ

The debate about Adobe stock boils down to one thing: Artificial intelligence either dramatically expands the market for the dominant provider of content creation software, or it sets the stage for new competition that erodes its business. Recently, investors have bet on erosion—Adobe shares are down 18% this year. Yet there are reasons to think it's the bulls who will ultimately get this one right.

Most people date the start of the AI revolution to OpenAI's November 2022 launch of ChatGPT. But in the realm of content creation, the more important debut came two months earlier, when OpenAI made its Dall-E text-to-image software generally available. Dall-E and similar tools provide the magical ability to generate fantastical or photo-realistic depictions from a simple text prompt. And that's a threat to Adobe, which has long driven innovation in the area of creativity tools.

Adobe's own generative AI journey began in March 2023 with the debut of Firefly, a suite of AI content tools, including its own text-to-image capability. Adobe provides free versions of many products, but the company sees a more significant opportunity to be the trusted, enterprise-safe provider of AI software. For instance, the large-language model powering its text-to-image service is built on content either licensed by Adobe or in the public domain—and the company indemnifies customers against copyright infringement claims from content created with its AI tools.

It's a prudent long-term vision, and yet Adobe shares are missing out on the AI rally. Investors weren't thrilled with the company's last earnings report, which included an outlook for the May quarter that fell a little shy of estimates—without much explanation.

Wall Street wants more evidence that Adobe's AI pivot is paying off.

There's no worry about Adobe's AI pivot from inside the company, though. "It's going fabulously well," Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen recently told *Barron's*.

Narayen's view is that new technologies historically have been "a massive accelerant and tailwind" for his company. He sees AI as a pivotal moment, similar to the emergence of cloud computing, which spurred Adobe to shift to a subscription-based business model. Narayen thinks AI will have an even greater impact. AI is making Adobe's products "easier to use, more powerful, more affordable, and more accessible to average users," the CEO says.

The company is taking a multi-pronged approach to monetizing its AI work. For tools such as Adobe Express and Creative Cloud, the primary goal is new customer acquisition, adding powerful but intuitive natural language interfaces that can be used by nonexperts to create both simple and complex content. The company is also offering add-on AI subscriptions to its existing professional customers.

The bottom line, Narayen says, is that AI sets the stage for a new leg of growth at Adobe. The company recently told investors that it sees its total addressable market reaching \$293 billion in 2027, up from \$205 billion this year. The question, of course, is how much Adobe can capture.

"In the short run, the financial community reacts to announcements," Narayen said when asked about the pressure on Adobe shares. But he notes the long-run picture is getting an AI boost. Generative AI tools are "expanding the available universe of images and video that you want to edit. It's going to require more tools....Generative AI is an incredible catalyst and tailwind for us." **B**

MANSION GLOBAL Boutique



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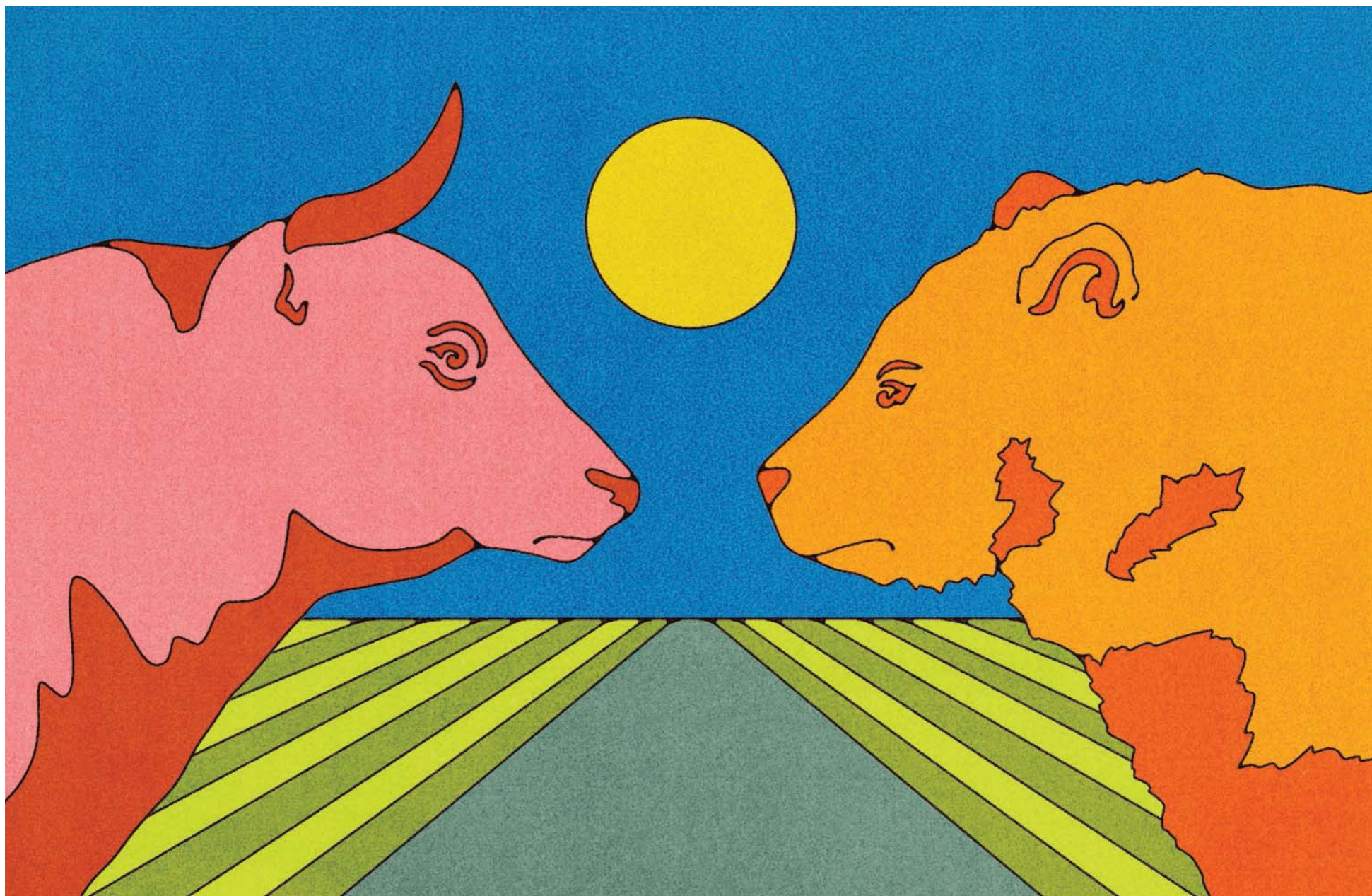
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SCAN TO SHOP

THE BIG MONEY POLL



Our latest Big Money poll of professional investors finds more than half bullish on equities. Inflation is the biggest risk.

BY PAUL R. LA MONICA

ILLUSTRATION BY KATE DEHLER

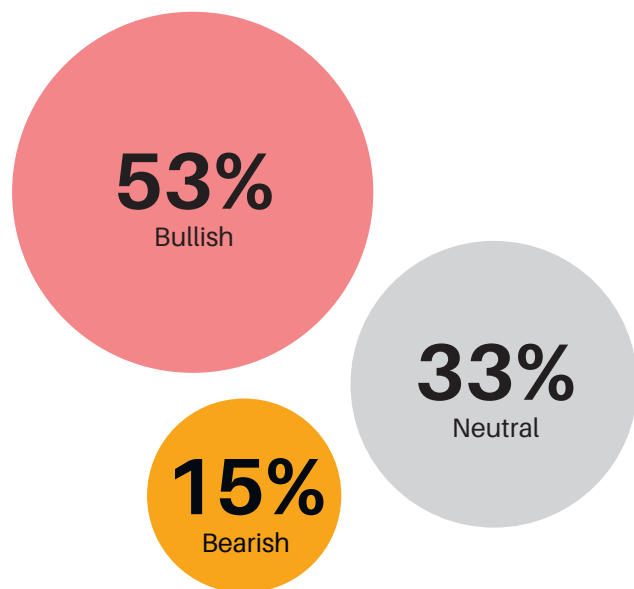
The stock market hit a speed bump in April after a solid first quarter, as stubborn inflation led investors to readjust their outlook for interest-rate cuts by the Federal Reserve. Longer-term bond yields have remained elevated, as well, and as if inflation concerns weren't enough to rattle investors, there are also worries about the turmoil in the Middle East and the coming presidential election in the U.S.

Despite these issues, many money managers and market strategists are optimistic that U.S. equities will continue to climb. They see April's pullback as a healthy pause after several strong quarters, and a prelude to further stock market gains.

"Investors got lulled into complacency," said Mike Bailey, director of research with FBB Capital Partners and a participant in *Barron's* latest Big Money poll. "The market got slapped in the face, and it feels ugly

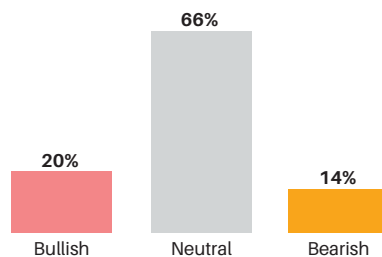
THE MARKET

Describe your investment outlook for U.S. equities in the next 12 months.

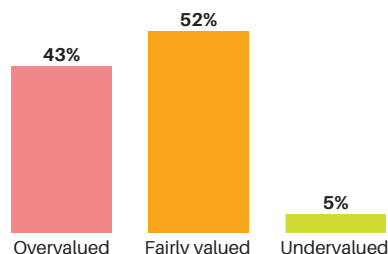


Note: Percentages don't equal 100 due to rounding.

Are your clients bullish, bearish, or neutral about U.S. stocks?



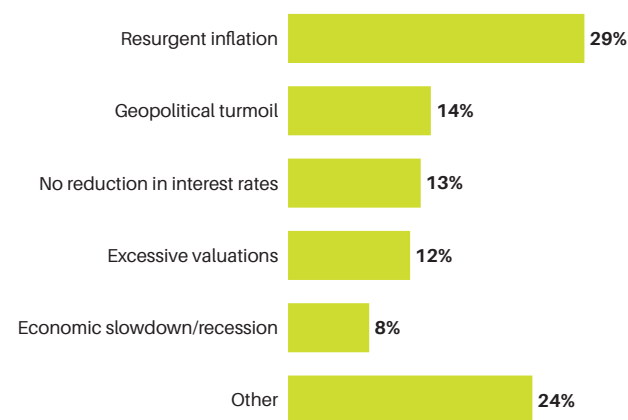
Is the U.S. stock market overvalued, undervalued, or fairly valued at current levels?



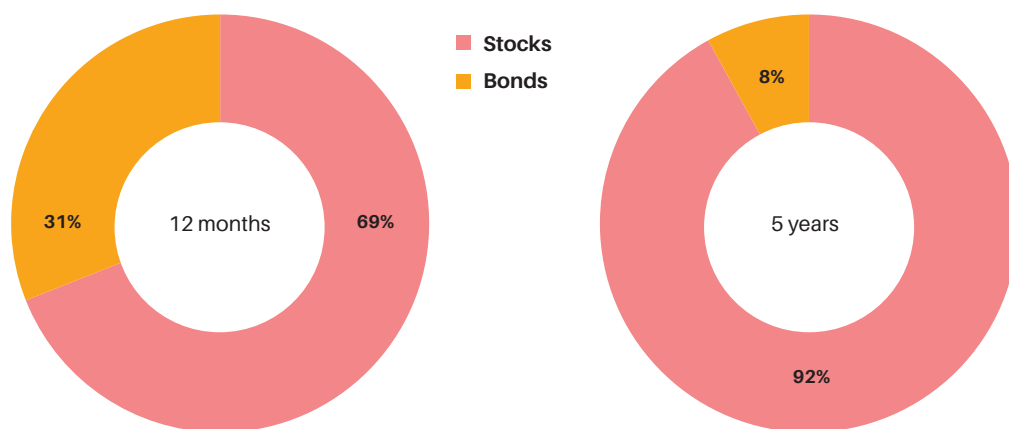
Where do you expect the following market measures to trade as of Dec. 31, 2024, and June 30, 2025...

	12/31/24	6/30/25
BULLISH		
DJIA	41,231	42,952
S&P 500	5461	5649
Nasdaq	17,143	18,020
BEARISH		
DJIA	37,281	36,728
S&P 500	4753	4756
Nasdaq	14,650	14,595

What is the biggest risk the stock market will face in the next six months?



Which asset class will provide a higher return in the next 12 months? The next five years?



and painful, but things are getting back to normal now. Five-percent pullbacks are part of the game. I'm not sensing a major change in the markets and economy."

Neither are many of his peers. Fifty-two percent of poll respondents said they were bullish about the outlook for stocks over the next 12 months, up from 38% last fall, with another 33% describing themselves as neutral. About 15% said they were bearish, down from 24% last fall.

Not coincidentally, perhaps, about 15% of respondents also said they anticipate a recession.

The Big Money bulls forecast that the Dow Jones industrials will end 2024 at about 41,231, 9% higher than current levels. Market optimists had a mean forecast of 5461 for the S&P 500 index and 17,143 for the Nasdaq—up 9% and 10%, respectively, from where the indexes were trading on May 1.

The bears had a mean target of 37,281 for the Dow and predictions of 4753 for the S&P 500 and 14,650 for the Nasdaq.

The spring edition of the Big Money poll closed on April 18 and generated responses from nearly 120 investment professionals across the country. The survey was conducted by *Barron's* with the help of Erdos Media Research in Ramsey, N.J.

In the latest survey, 43% of managers called the market overvalued, down from 48% last fall. Just 5% considered stocks undervalued, with a plurality in the "fairly valued" camp.

While the economy has slowed a bit, with first-quarter gross domestic product growing at a lower-than-forecast 1.6% annualized rate, bulls still find reasons for optimism. Retail sales have held up well so far this year, due in large part to a labor market whose strength has defied almost all expectations. Nonfarm payrolls grew by 175,000 in April, and an average of 233,500 a month over the past 12 months, according to government data.

"We've had this narrative ping-pong about the economy going from a hard landing to a soft landing to no landing to maybe back to a soft landing," said Lori Keith, director of research and a portfolio manager with Parnassus Investments. "There has been a lot of short-term noise, but the economy has been fairly resilient. Consumer spending remains strong."

"Is higher for longer really that bad?" said FBB's Bailey, referring to interest-rate policy. "Historically, the Fed cuts rates to stop the bleeding in the job market. Maybe it's OK to sit around in this steamy economy with all this inflation, but enjoy it with all our fully employed neighbors."

A "steamy" economy should lead to strong profit growth, and healthy earnings will be needed to keep the market rising. Big Money participants forecast a 12% jump in earnings per share for the S&P 500 in 2024, slightly ahead of consensus forecasts for an 11% increase.

Technology and energy were the managers' favorite stock sectors. Both are expected to post solid profit growth this year due in part to artificial intelligence and rising oil prices.

"The economy is better than anyone would have thought," said Eric Green, chief investment officer with Penn Capital Management. "It's the opposite of a year ago, when we were worried about the Fed raising rates into a likely slowdown. Now, they will be potentially lowering rates in a better economic environment. I don't see a big slowdown ahead in the markets."

As with the economy's resilience, the growth of AI applications also bodes well for earnings and stocks.

"AI is a new technological revolution that is unlocking a lot of productivity gains similar to the mid- to late-1990s," said Spencer Shelman, a portfolio manager with Palouse Capital Management. He described himself as "cautiously bullish" and said he "hesitates to call this market a bubble," partly because he expects that AI will help boost the nation's economic output.

A reduction in interest rates, when it occurs, could be interpreted as a sign that the economy is heading into a downturn and that profit

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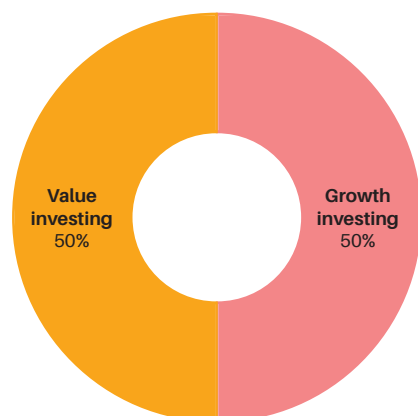


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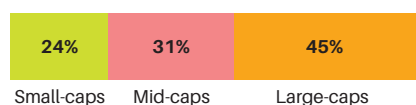
[Schwab.com/Trading](https://www.schwab.com/trading)

INVESTING

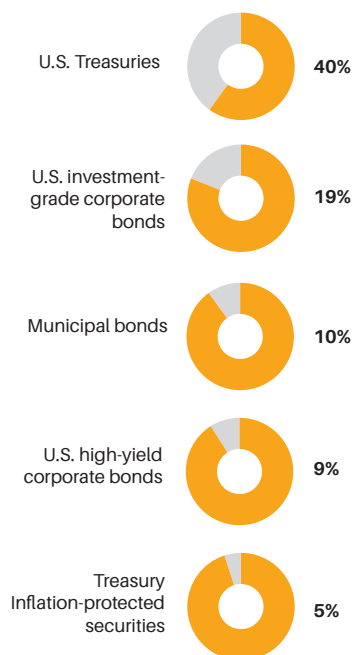
Which investment approach will perform best in the next 12 months?



Which major equity market will perform best in the next 12 months?



Which fixed-income category do you currently favor most?

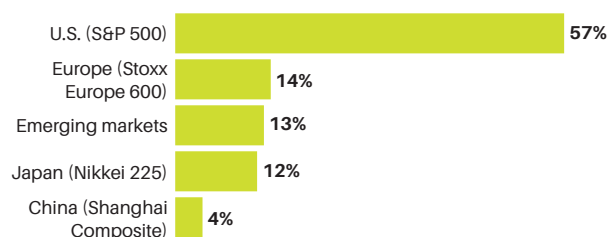


PREDICTIONS

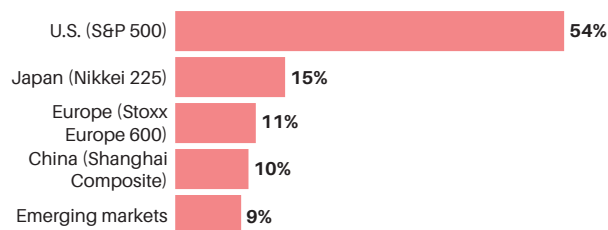
Predict the levels of the following one year from now.

Oil (WTI)	\$89.57 per barrel
Gold	\$2,359 per troy ounce
Bitcoin	\$58,928

Which major equity market looks most attractive now?

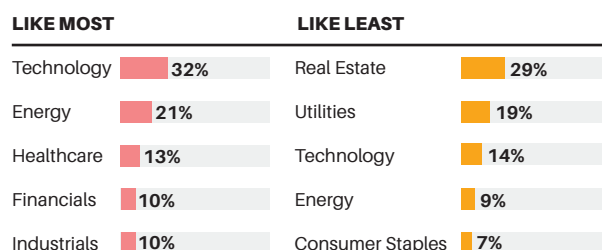


Which major equity market will perform best in the next 12 months?

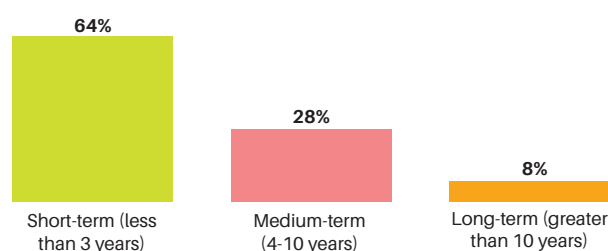


Note: Percentages don't equal 100 due to rounding.

Which equity sector do you currently like most, and which do you like least?

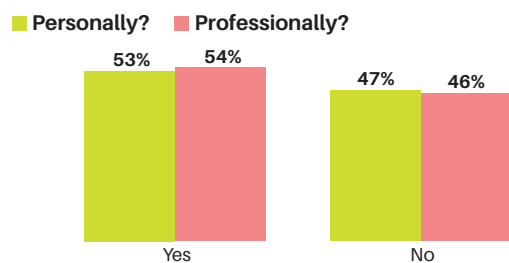


Describe your fixed-income allocation by duration.



PERFORMANCE

Are you beating the S&P 500 this year...



forecasts are too high. This is a concern of the Big Money bears. One investment strategist noted that the inverted yield curve, with short-term interest rates higher than long-term rates for nearly two years now, is typically an accurate predictor of an eventual recession.

"The lowering of rates will mark the beginning of a recession," said Chris Ryan, CEO of Ryan Investments. "The Fed is on pause, waiting to cut. We're fully invested at the moment but nervously so. We encourage investors to have a plan for once the markets and economy slow."

Other skeptics worry that the Fed won't come to the market's rescue. "It's Pollyannaish to think there will be rate cuts this year," said Scott Black, president of Delphi Management. "There is no reason to think that the market will go up from here. Valuations are pretty full, and I don't see interest rates coming down. Current estimates for earnings growth aren't realistic."

Black notes that first-quarter profits are expected to fall 6%, excluding results from the so-called Magnificent Seven stocks—**Amazon.com, Alphabet, Apple, Microsoft, Meta Platforms, Nvidia, and Tesla**. That makes the S&P 500 look even more pricey.

The index is currently trading at about 20 times earnings forecasts, above the five- and 10-year average. That means strong earnings news might not be enough to keep the rally going. Companies are going to have to raise the bar and consistently beat estimates to justify higher stock prices, pessimists say.

"Investors are going to become more demanding. The news can't only be good but surprisingly good," said Mark Luschni, chief investment strategist with Janney. Before the April market pullback, he said, "conditions were overbought" and "valuations were stretched."

Many of the biggest tech stocks are trading at even higher valuations, which is giving some investors pause. The managers said they considered chip giant Nvidia and Elon Musk's Tesla among the market's most overvalued stocks. Nvidia is valued at nearly 35 times this year's earnings forecasts, and Tesla has a price/earnings ratio of more than 70 based on next year's profit estimates.

"Nvidia stock isn't going to grow another 200% this year. There is no way that is going to happen," said Sean Sebold, president of Sebold Capital Management, referring to the stock's nearly 240% gain in 2023. Sebold said he isn't suggesting there is anything wrong with the company's fundamentals. It's just that the valuation is ahead of itself.

He thinks investors looking for opportunities are better off identifying undervalued stocks. To that end, his top pick is oil producer **APA**, formerly Apache, as a broader bet on rising crude-oil prices and solid earnings for the energy sector.

The Big Money managers believe that persistently higher bond yields (and interest rates) will remain in the cards for the rest of the year. None said they expect inflation to return to the 2% annual level that the Fed has targeted, and only 23% forecast an increase of just 2.5% year over year, as measured by the consumer price index. Nearly half said inflation will end 2024 with a 3% year-over-year gain, and nearly 30% forecast an annual CPI increase of at least 3.5%. CPI was up 3.5% over the past 12 months as of March.

As such, nearly 40% of Big Money respondents said they expect the target for the federal-funds rate to be 4.75% to 5% by year's end, down from a current 5.25% to 5.5%, while another quarter of the survey's participants predicted a 5%-to-5.25% target range. That implies just one or two interest rate cuts this year, down from forecasts of five or six cuts at the end of 2023. Fifteen percent of poll respondents indicated that they don't expect the Fed to cut rates at all, and about 3% even suggested that a rate hike could be in the cards.

"There is a tug of war going on between whether inflation is on its way down to 2% or will be stuck at a level closer to 3%. The answer to that question determines if and when we get some Fed interest-rate cuts this year," said Peter Tuz, president of Chase Investment

Counsel.

The interest-rate stasis is affecting expected returns on bonds. Nearly 56% of Big Money managers said that the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury will end the year in a range of 4.25% to 4.75%. The 10-year currently yields about 4.62%. Bond yields have remained elevated this year, hurting fixed-income investors who had been anticipating a fall in yields and a corresponding increase in bond prices (which move inversely to yields).

"There has been a lot more volatility on the bond side over the past few months," said Mark Scalzo, chief investment officer with Validus Growth Investors. "You expect more volatility with stocks."

Approximately 30% of survey respondents cited "resurgent inflation" as the biggest risk facing the market in the next six months, versus 8% who pointed to an economic slowdown or recession. Some worried that the high level of fiscal stimulus from the White House and Congress, even as the Fed is keeping interest rates higher for longer to try to nudge inflation lower, is creating an unusual dynamic for the markets.

The deceleration in economic growth in the first quarter, while not sounding alarm bells, could be a problem for the markets if inflation remains above historical trends at the same time the economy is losing momentum.

"If the government is providing so much liquidity while the Fed is trying to keep monetary policy tight, you will get some wacko things going on," said Sandra S. Martin, managing director of Martin Investment Management.

Martin wrote in that "stagflation"—the dreaded combination of stagnant economic growth and higher prices that crippled the U.S. economy in the 1970s and early 1980s—was the biggest risk facing the market.

With the November elections looming, many investors are hoping that political leaders will finally start to take action to rein in government spending. Nearly half of the Big Money poll's respondents indicated that debt reduction should be the highest priority for policymakers, with another 20% identifying entitlement reform as the top issue to tackle.

"Both parties are pro-spending. I don't think that in the current political climate people are capable of addressing fiscal imbalances. We may have to come closer to breaking things to fix it," Ryan said.

But will Congress be able to get anything meaningful accomplished after November? More gridlock is expected in the nation's capital. Nearly 54% of Big Money participants think Democrats will regain control of the House of Representatives, while 64% said that Republicans will have a majority in the Senate.

As for the race for the White House? It's essentially a toss-up, with 51% saying they think former President Trump will defeat President Biden. That could bode well for investors and consumers. About 60% of the poll's respondents said a second Trump term would be better for both the markets and economy.

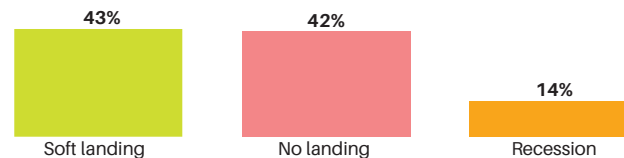
Interestingly, though, many managers aren't bullish about Trump's own company. **Trump Media & Technology Group**, the unprofitable parent of the Truth Social network, went public in March through a merger with a blank-check firm. Sixteen survey respondents chose Trump Media, which trades under the ticker symbol DJT and generated only \$4.1 million in revenue in 2023, as the market's most overvalued stock.

Global macro risks, whether stemming from the Middle East, the Ukraine-Russia theater, or China, are a particular concern of late for the markets and the Big Money pros. "These geopolitical concerns are one or two turns away from metastasizing into something that will no longer be considered localized. That could create some consternation in the market," Luschini said.

But Jay Willoughby, chief investment officer with TIFF Investment Management, plans to overweight stocks unless the economy turns down. "We have a wall of worry that is climbable," he said. **B**

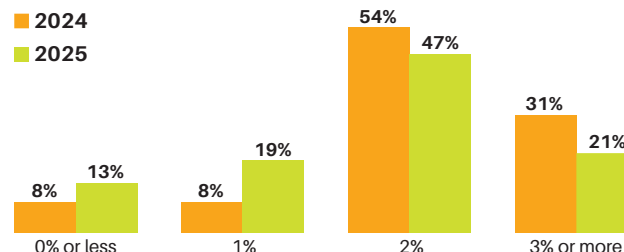
THE ECONOMY

Which best describes your outlook for the U.S. economy in the next 12 months?



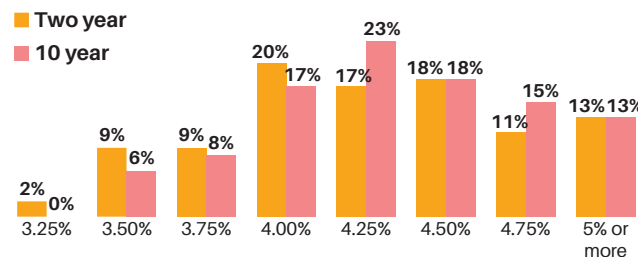
Note: Percentages don't equal 100 due to rounding.

Predict the growth rate of real U.S. GDP in 2024 and 2025.



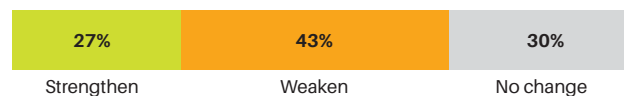
Note: Percentages for 2024 don't add up to 100 due to rounding.

What will the two-year Treasury note and the 10-year Treasury note yield one year from now?



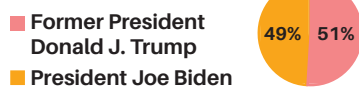
Note: Percentages don't equal 100 due to rounding.

Will the U.S. Dollar Index (DXY) strengthen, weaken, or stay the same in the next 12 months?



POLITICS

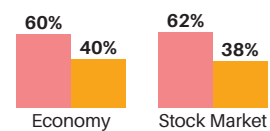
Whom do you expect to win the November presidential election?



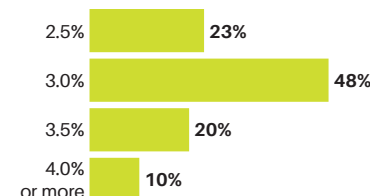
Which party will control the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate after the November election?



Which candidate, as president, would be best for the economy and the stock market?

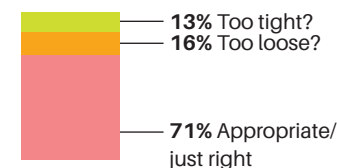


Predict the year-over-year U.S. inflation rate (consumer price index) at the end of 2024.

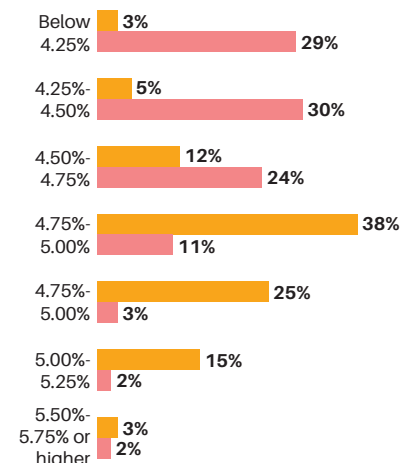


Note: Percentages don't equal 100 due to rounding.

Is the Federal Reserve's current policy stance...

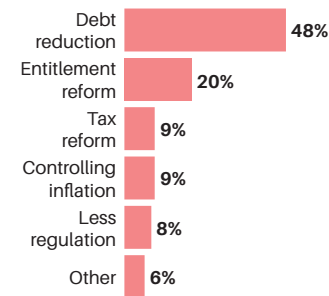


Where will the federal-funds rate be at the end of 2024 and the end of 2025?



Note: Percentages don't equal 100 due to rounding.

Which economic issue should be the highest priority for policymakers in the next administration?



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The \$10 Billion Oil Pipeline Bet

The East African Crude Oil Pipeline faces big funding questions. What that means for TotalEnergies, Uganda, and world oil supplies.

BY JACK DENTON

Photographs by Katumba Badru

HOIMA DISTRICT, WESTERN UGANDA—Lightning forks overhead as rain from the Congo rolls in across Lake Albert. A foreman on the East African Crude Oil Pipeline, or EACOP, ushers workers under a corrugated steel roof that becomes percussion for the downpour. “Bush music,” he says.

This team, working on the world’s longest heated oil pipeline, faces challenges from forest fires to deadly snakes as it clears land from the heart of Africa to the Indian Ocean. Each day of heavy rain brings four days of disruption—and in Uganda about half of the year is the rainy season.

Yet the most worrisome delaying force at Pump Station One, the start of EACOP near the small city of Hoima, isn’t weather, fire, or snakes. It’s money. A megaproject that has drawn together the fortunes of French energy giant **TotalEnergies**, unpredictable Chinese backers, and big Persian Gulf investors still doesn’t have its funding entirely in place.

If completed, EACOP will meander almost 900 miles and carry up to 246,000 barrels of crude a day to the Tanzanian port of Tanga, about half as much as the Keystone pipeline carries into the U.S. from Canada. It will transport a type of waxy oil that isn’t normally liquid at surface temperature, and needs to be heated to keep flowing.

Heating a pipeline in Africa, where electricity can be scarce, is one reason that EACOP is among the most ambi-

tious and technically difficult energy projects on the continent. It is a jagged, \$10 billion steppingstone that could transform Uganda’s economy—and provide the world with a new source of oil at a time when conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East have raised supply fears. Western lenders have shunned EACOP amid environmental and human-rights concerns, however, leaving Beijing, long a reliable lender to the developing world and already involved in Uganda’s oil fields, as EACOP’s obvious savior.

But China, which is dealing with slowing economic growth and other problems back home, appears to be getting cold feet about the massive project, and Ugandan officials expect China to contribute only part of what they originally expected. China’s decision on the pipeline will shed light on whether it still wants to regularly fund legacy megaprojects in the developing world.

China’s deliberation and years of delay put the future of the project in jeopardy as construction continues to burn cash. TotalEnergies, EACOP’s biggest corporate backer, faces lawsuits from activists and pressure from shareholders on climate goals after years of delay on the pipeline. In a worst-case scenario, Total may face a multibillion-dollar write-down on its investment in East Africa, which would hit its earnings and probably the stock.

In Uganda, EACOP has sparked domestic unrest, but the government remains reluctant to abandon a generational chance to transform one of the world’s poorest countries.

“We are at a point of no return,” says Irene Batebe, Uganda’s most senior energy civil servant. But even workers at Pump Station One know that EACOP is in trouble; they grumble about delays in between showing videos of a cobra they caught the day before. The first oil hitting Tanga “will be a dream,” one worker says.

Officials were more optimistic as recently as September, when Batebe told the South China Morning Post that Beijing, through its Export-Import Bank, or EXIM, and Export & Credit Insurance Corp. (Sinosure), would provide more than half of the \$3.05 billion in debt financing needed, with smaller lenders taking up the slack.

The goal posts have since shifted. Batebe told *Barron’s* in an interview that China is now expected to provide just \$1.2 billion. Negotiations continue, and public targets to lock up debt financing for the project have been pushed back repeatedly.

Uganda is “absolutely” looking to partners in the Persian Gulf as an alternative source of financing, according to Odrek Rwabwogo, chairman of Uganda’s Presidential Advisory Committee on Exports and Industrial Development, or PACEID.

Persian Gulf money may already be in play. Of the \$3.05 billion in debt financing that EACOP needs, some \$2 billion has been committed by parties besides China, according to Batebe, who declined to give further details. Other confirmed lenders to the project are the African Export-Import Bank and the Saudi-based Islamic Development Bank, which have disclosed loans of \$200 million and \$100 million, respectively.

Crude Oil in the Pearl of Africa

It has been known for at least 100 years that oil lies near Lake Albert, a 99-mile-long body of water in the upper River Nile system over which Congo’s Blue Mountains loom. Serious exploration began in the 1980s, after Yoweri Museveni—Uganda’s current president—emerged in 1986 as victor in the Ugandan Bush War.

Tullow Oil led much of the exploration that created Uganda’s nascent petroleum industry, discovering about 1.4 billion barrels of recoverable oil around Lake Albert. Tullow sold the oil rights to TotalEnergies and China National Offshore Oil Corp., or Cnooc, in deals from 2012 onward, though it



Displaced from their former home by the EACOP project, a family outside their new digs in Uganda.



A farmer and livestock walk beside an EACOP feeder pipeline in Kikuube, Uganda.



EACOP workers at Pump Station One, near Hoima, Uganda.

maintains an interest in the pipeline through agreed payments that would come after oil starts flowing.

EACOP will be fed from upstream facilities near Hoima operated by Total and Cnooc in co-ownership with Uganda National Oil Co., all three of which are partners in the pipeline alongside Tanzania’s national oil firm.

In the works since 2013, the project arose out of investors’ hesitation to spend billions of dollars getting oil out of the ground without a clear route to global markets. But EACOP was quickly bogged down by delays. First oil was initially projected for 2017, but even the most ambitious estimates suggest that crude won’t start flowing until 2025.

Things may have been different had EACOP plowed ahead earlier, when Beijing’s lending to Africa was peaking and China was emerging as the world’s largest marginal consumer of energy. In 2024, what once looked like a French bet on selling crude to the



Chinese has yet to find an off-taker—or agreed buyer of oil—though negotiations are continuing, says Batebe.

While environmental, social, and governance factors are now at the heart of financing decisions, a decade ago they weren't a big consideration. EACOP and its feeder oilfields will touch critical sources of freshwater in Africa, including the Nile, a river relied on by some 300 million people from Uganda to Egypt. Pipes will also skirt the shores of Lake Victoria, one of the world's largest lakes.

"We have to protect these resources," says Dickens Kamugisha, the executive director of the Africa Institute for Energy Governance, one of the main local organizations leading activism against EACOP.

The scale of the pipeline required land appropriation. "The project has already devastated thousands of people's livelihoods," says Myrto Tili-anaki, a senior advocate for Human Rights Watch, adding that activists

face harassment and arbitrary arrests.

EACOP, Total, and the Ugandan government dispute this. Officials describe mitigation measures to protect biodiversity, a land acquisition process that was transparent and fair, and respect for civil society. They add that while land belonging to thousands of people in Uganda and Tanzania has been impacted, less than 1,000 people have been physically displaced, and of those the vast majority opted for replacement houses provided by EACOP.

"There is what we call an oil-spill contingency plan," says Bashir Hangi, chief spokesperson for the Uganda Wildlife Authority. "NGOs—they don't want oil and gas activities, and I think that is unacceptable."

A Big Risk

The long road between the capital of Kampala and the boomtown of Hoima is dotted with TotalEnergies gas stations, where longhorn Ankole

cattle cross paths with riders of motorcycle taxis.

Total has the most to gain or lose from EACOP as the majority shareholder in the pipeline, with a 62% stake and 57% of the upstream activities. Total values its investments linked to EACOP in both Uganda and Tanzania at \$10 billion, the company confirmed to *Barron's*.

The oilfields in Uganda represent a "very important project," said Total's Chairman and CEO Patrick Pouyanné during an earnings call in February. The company is a key partner to Uganda, providing most of the \$2 billion in equity financing that has bankrolled EACOP so far—and is now mostly spent.

If debt financing isn't secured soon, work will grind to a halt or EACOP will need to raise more equity. The Ugandan government is in talks with Total about contributing more equity to the project, says Batebe, a civil servant who must face balancing the long-term goal of finishing EACOP with more pressing matters. Excusing her lateness to an interview, she said the source of the delay was a crisis at the capital's main power plant, where a failure threatened to plunge Kampala into darkness.

Total didn't comment on the prospect of committing more equity financing to EACOP.

Wall Street, for its part, seems confident that EACOP will be pulled off—but analysts are aware of the risks to Total.

The Tilenga project, which includes the development of six oilfields in the Lake Albert region, is key for the company to reach its 2% to 3% production growth targets by 2026, says Ahmed Ben Salem, an oil-and-gas analyst at European financial services firm ODDO BHF, who doesn't rule out further delays to EACOP.

"This project is going to happen eventually, simply because it's in all parties' economic interest," says John Gerdes, who runs a boutique energy research firm. But if Tilenga were to be eliminated from Total's business plan, it would have a negative economic implication of about \$3 a share, Gerdes estimates.

Total has previously told analysts that its Uganda project would generate cash flow from operations of \$800 million a year with oil at \$50 a barrel, according to Jason Gabelman, an energy analyst at TD Cowen, which is the amount of cash flow at risk if the

project were canceled.

"At some point, though, Total might have enough and walk away, given the issues as well as outside pressure from environmental groups on this specific project," says Allen Good, an oil-and-gas analyst at Morningstar.

Despite having the backing of one of the world's biggest energy companies, more than 25 banks have rejected the opportunity to finance EACOP, according to StopEACOP, an activist organization applying pressure against the pipeline's backers.

"It's virtually unprecedented," says Ryan Brightwell, a director at BankTrack, an organization that tracks and lobbies banks over the activities they finance.

"EACOP project is actively progressing discussions with various lenders," Total said in a statement.

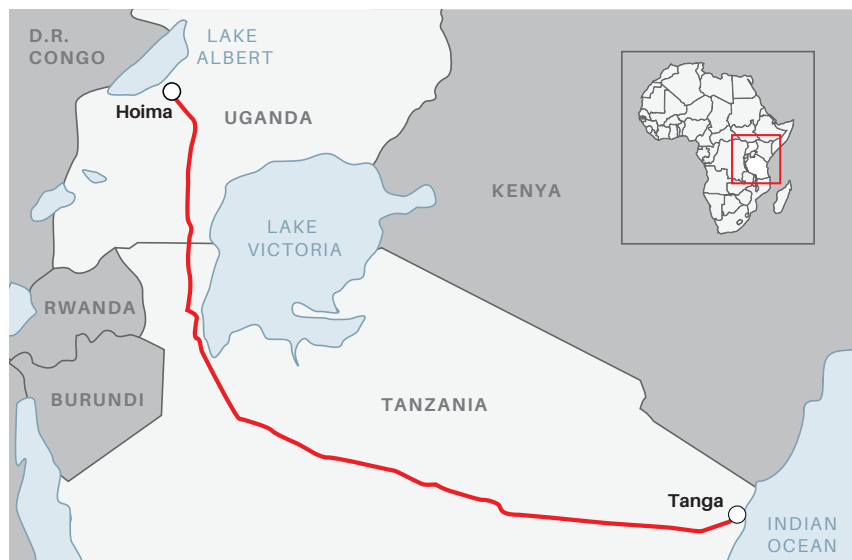
BankTrack is lobbying Chinese lenders and potential insurers of the pipeline, which has yet to secure sufficient insurance. Brightwell is hopeful that Chinese banks may still feel pressured by new rules from Beijing calling for foreign investments to follow global environmental standards.

The risk to Total doesn't stop at funding EACOP. Total is in the midst of a second legal challenge mounted in Paris by activists who allege that the company broke "duty of vigilance" laws.

Total declined to comment on ongoing legal cases, but noted in a prior challenge dismissed on procedural grounds that a judge had reviewed the company's plans and found them to be compliant with the criteria for summary proceedings.

Some shareholders, too, have turned against Total's expansion of its upstream business. At Total's shareholder meeting last year, a resolution filed by activist group Follow This and 17 institutional investors called for the company to reduce emissions by 2030 in line with the Paris Agreement. The commitment, which would effectively require Total to step back from oil production in Uganda, received 30% of the vote.

Total's CEO has maintained the credibility of its climate transition plan, and the company noted that in 2020 it set itself an ambition to get to net zero carbon emissions across worldwide operations by 2050. New investments in oil projects are still required in the short term, Total added, but the focus is on low-cost, low-emissions projects.



China's Retreat From Africa

Uganda isn't the only country facing funding delays from China. The country's largess has faded since lending to Africa peaked at almost \$30 billion in 2016, a few years after One Belt, One Road was launched. A hallmark of President Xi Jinping's foreign policy, this trade initiative was defined by funding major infrastructure projects, many in the developing world. In 2022, Chinese loans to Africa had fallen below \$1 billion, according to tracking from Boston University, including no funding for energy projects.

China's economic issues at home, prioritization of green investment, and exposure to several sovereign-debt defaults across Africa have tightened lenders' purse strings when it comes to projects like EACOP, says Oyintarelado Moses, an analyst at Boston University's Global China Initiative.

As Chinese lenders have matured, so has the burden to find commercially viable and high-quality growth opportunities, says Geoffrey Yu, a strategist at BNY Mellon. It remains to be seen whether EACOP meets that definition. It is a capital-intensive pipeline in a frontier market expected to operate for just 20 years, with most of that life cycle coming after peak oil demand, based on International Energy Agency forecasts.

In Uganda, there is recognition of why China has delayed EACOP—namely, the faltering economic growth in China that has rattled global markets over the past year. “China has been trying to fix domestic consumption issues,” says Rwabwogo, who

along with leading Uganda's PACEID is the son-in-law of President Museveni.

China also is exhibiting heightened caution, perhaps understandable after its lenders got caught up in distressed debt quagmires from Angola to Zambia. A sticking point since 2021 is Beijing's demand that loans to Uganda flow through a Chinese escrow account, which would position Chinese lenders as preferential creditors in the case of default, says Henry Musasizi, Uganda's minister of state for finance, planning, and economic development.

A growth slowdown and reduced risk appetite have led China to re-trench financing activities across sub-Saharan Africa, the IMF detailed in October, which is likely to negatively affect African trading partners over the medium term.

“The Chinese have learned that development lending is quite easy, but it's very risky, and it's quite hard to collect. It may be what you're seeing [in EACOP],” says Michael Pettis, a professor of finance at Peking University in Beijing.

Beyond Hoima

Pump Station One is near other construction sites, for Uganda's second international airport and a refinery project linked to EACOP. An hour's drive east lies Hoima, a city whose future may rest with Beijing but lacks evidence of China's footprint beyond a faded billboard on a roundabout with Chinese lettering.

There are no Chinese people living in Hoima, according to Badru Mugabi, the resident city commissioner for

Hoima, who said there was one Chinese-owned restaurant here that closed down. “With or without the financing and the pipeline, we will be producing and refining oil for the [African] Great Lakes region,” he says. “Is this about impressing Total or Cnooc, or taking advantage of our resources?”

Uganda needs the dollars that a flowing pipeline will provide. Its government debt in 2024 will approach 50% of gross domestic product, according to International Monetary Fund estimates, the result of spending ramping up since Tullow farmed off oil rights to Total and Cnooc. In 2012, a year before those deals, government debt stood at less than 20% of GDP.

Uganda's ministry of finance estimates that taxes and dividends from its EACOP stake will net \$410 million, though EACOP and associated investments are expected to add some \$10 billion to Uganda's GDP, which the IMF estimates at \$57.9 billion for 2024.

But EACOP represents far more to Rwabwogo. The advisor to President Museveni delayed his interview with *Barron's* for hours as he darted among meeting rooms in Kampala's luxurious Sheraton Hotel. When he found time, it was in what appeared to be a wedding tent hours before nuptials.

Uganda hopes to build a railroad, improve roads, develop its mining sector—including in critical minerals—and even nurture a nascent tech industry. “We were asked to do the pipeline because that was the only way we could get investment,” says Rwabwogo. “It's a bridge to be able to exploit the rest.”

Ugandan officials remain assured

that EACOP's financing will come through. And there has been some progress on the Chinese front. Uganda's energy minister was invited to China to hash out financing in April, with President Museveni's office declaring that President Xi has expressed support for EACOP. Niger, in the Sahel region, last month received a \$400 million advance payment from one of China's state-owned petroleum companies for crude soon expected to begin flowing from a pipeline through Benin, local media reported—a sign that Beijing may not have abandoned its African oil strategy.

Amid the uncertainty, Rwabwogo has entertained other options. These include turning to markets and borrowing money, he says, or seeking alternative foreign investment. “There are several [in the Persian Gulf] we are speaking to, and a few now committed,” Rwabwogo says, adding that possible financiers are some of the region's largest crude producers and refiners.

A Persian Gulf rescue for EACOP would dovetail with a shift in geopolitical dynamics in Africa. China made a splash with lavish lending a decade ago, but today, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar all vie for influence.

Uganda has already had success with a Persian Gulf partner. After failures to find backers for a \$4.5 billion refinery project linked to EACOP, Uganda inked a deal in December with a consortium led by Alpha MBM, the family office of the minister of finance for the U.A.E.

While Persian Gulf countries have stepped into the breach to finance African projects, it may not match the scale of China's past lending, as Saudi Arabia already looks stretched for cash as a result of financing its own large projects.

“We want to evolve our relationship with Africa from foreign aid and assistance to investments, trade, and technical assistance,” says Faisal Alibrahim, Saudi Arabia's minister of economy and planning.

Back at Pump Station One, work will resume when the weather clears, just as work rolls on along EACOP's route, burning through diminishing cash and bringing closer the day when a lack of financing reaches crisis point. Under the drumming of the corrugated steel roof, it isn't just the rain that's dampening the mood. **E**

Above left, EACOP will run almost 900 miles from Lake Albert to the Indian Ocean. Below, a Total gas station under construction in Busunju, Uganda.



FUNDS

The Goldman Sachs Dynamic Municipal Bond fund likes to seize on market dislocations. It bought Illinois general obligation bonds five years ago.

This Top-Rated Muni-Bond Fund Is Betting Big on Puerto Rico

The municipal-bond market is often driven by retail investors, who can be spooked into selling by negative headlines. Scott

Diamond finds opportunity there.

The co-manager of the \$9.3 billion **Goldman Sachs Dynamic Municipal Bond** fund has the flexibility to snap up beaten-up issues wherever he spots inefficiencies in the muni-bond market, as the go-anywhere approach allows him to deviate from the fund's benchmark duration and credit.

That flexibility—and Diamond's two decades-plus experience managing Dynamic Muni—allowed the fund to beat 93% of its muni-bond peers over a 10-year period, with a 2.6% annualized return versus 1.9% for its peers, according to Morningstar. It has also outperformed its benchmark Bloomberg Municipal Bond 1-10 Year index, which also returned 1.9% over that time.

Dynamic Muni is rated four stars by Morningstar, and its 0.72% expense ratio is considered below average by the firm. The A shares have a 3.75% front load that some broker-dealers waive.

The New York-based manager stresses that “go anywhere” doesn't mean unconstrained. “At our core, we are muni investors, and we know the muni clients tend to like guardrails, and this one is set up specifically with guardrails to make sure that we don't get over our skis in really any way, shape, or form,” Diamond says.

Go-anywhere is more about taking

BY DEBBIE CARLSON

advantage of market dislocations, a strategy the fund has pursued for the past 10 years, says the 57-year-old Diamond, who has managed the fund since 2002 and is also co-head of Goldman Sachs Asset Management municipal fixed income. Dynamic Muni's duration can range from two to eight years, but it usually stays between four and six years, and is currently at 5.79 years. Duration measures interest-rate risk tied to a bond's or bond fund's maturity, yield, and other factors.

The fund typically owns 15% in high-yield credit, but the portfolio weight can be as high as 30% in junk bonds if market conditions warrant, or lower. For now, Dynamic Muni pre-

fers higher-quality assets, so high-yield comprises only 7% of holdings.

Diamond co-manages the fund with Joe Wenzel and Sylvia Yeh, who joined the fund in 2019 and 2021, respectively; both have 20-years-plus investment experience. The three managers are supported by a 10-member credit research team. Each analyst is responsible for specific states and are specialists in different sectors, such as hospitals or universities, and focus on a range of credit quality. The managers and analysts collaborate closely, reviewing new issues and topical items daily, judging the relative value of a position they hold versus what's available on the market.

Being a tightknit group overseeing such breadth of coverage gives the team an edge to respond to market-moving events, Diamond says.

“We have a group of research analysts that can tell when a credit is on the upswing or downswing regardless of whether it's high yield or not. We have a group of analysts that can take a SWAT team approach when needed, due to some market-moving events,” he says.

The team's ability to seize on market dislocations was on display over five years ago when Dynamic Muni bought State of Illinois general obligation bonds. Negative outlooks from the ratings firms had the Land of Lincoln teetering on junk status due to a backlog of accounts payable and large unfunded pension liabilities.

The team saw that the bonds were trading at attractive spreads relative to other segments of the high-yield market, such as long-term-care facilities that had significantly higher default rates. At one point, State of Illinois bonds were nearly 5% of the fund's position, but Diamond has since cut the position to 1.9% as spreads tightened and ratings firms have upgraded their outlooks on the state.

Currently, Dynamic Muni holds about 70% investment-grade credit, while 22% of its holdings are non-rated. Average deal sizes in munis are small, Diamond explains, and some project developments are one-offs,

such as building a hospital. As such, a developer may issue debt only once, so it's common that those deals are non-rated. In that case, the fund's research analysts assign an internal rating.

The fund owns credits on nonrated land-backed projects, such as infrastructure improvements in new single-family home communities. These are often special assessment bonds issued by developers. “Given a shortage of homes, particularly in places like Florida and Texas, which continue to see very powerful in-migration, these projects have done really pretty well,” Diamond says, noting the fund has been a long-term investor in various projects at The Villages in Florida, the sprawling retirement community.

The fund's No. 1 holding, Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing, the on-island sales-tax-backed credit, is also nonrated. It was one of the first issuances after the island emerged from bankruptcy in 2022. Diamond is optimistic about Puerto Rico's future as it continues to recover economically from damage caused by hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017 and from the pandemic. He says eventually, if Puerto Rico wants to access the muni market, it could apply for a credit rating for these bonds, “and we think that will work out pretty well,” Diamond says.

With the market now expecting that the Federal Reserve won't cut rates until the end of the year, that has put a little pressure on bond funds. Yet Diamond and his team feel that the muni market might be more resilient than taxable bonds. He expects new issuance overall in 2024 to be about average, but investor demand may start to pick up as buyers see value in munis' tax-equivalent yield.

“It feels like there's a lot of cash on the sidelines,” he says.

Budget-wise, most municipalities are also in good shape, with many sitting on hefty rainy-day funds. If economic growth starts to moderate, the key is how politicians respond, whether it's to tap those funds, raise taxes, or cut spending. “As long as it's a balanced approach, they should be OK,” Diamond says. **B**

Goldman Sachs Dynamic Municipal Income

	Total Return		
	1-Yr	5-Yr	10-Yr
CBLDX			
Multisector Bond	3.9%	1.3%	2.6%
	2.3	1.1	1.9
Top 10 Sub-Sector Allocation	Weighting		
Special Assessment	10.9%		
Hospital	9.3		
Airport	6.7		
Corp	6.7		
Special Sales Tax	6.1		
State General Obligation	5.7		
Water/Sewage	5.4		
School District General Obligation	5.2		
State Appropriation	3.7		
Local General Obligation	3.5		
Total	63.2%		

Note: Allocation as of March 31. Returns through April 29; five- and 10-year returns are annualized. Sources: Morningstar, Goldman Sachs Asset Management

TAP INTO
100
years of experience

ANSWER
5
simple questions

ACHIEVE
1
simple goal

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BARRON'S
ADVISOR

INCOME

3 Investing Pros and Their Diverse Dividend Plays

BY LAWRENCE C. STRAUSS

Although it's entirely possible to pick good dividend stocks on your own, it always pays to keep an eye on what the pros are doing. *Barron's* recently checked in with three good ones.

"It's been a challenging market for dividend investing," says one of those managers, Peter Santoro, lead manager of the **Invesco Diversified Dividend** fund. "People forget the importance of dividends when the market is so strong."

While looking for attractive dividends, Santoro leans toward stocks he thinks can also notch price gains. But many dividend stocks have been trailing the market.

The S&P 500, helped by strong showings in technology, communications services, and a few other sectors, has returned some 25% over the past year, including dividends. That's well ahead of the 7% result for the **ProShares S&P 500 Dividend Aristocrats** exchange-traded fund, a group of companies considered a proxy for consistent dividend growers.

One of Santoro's holdings is **Walmart**, which is also a dividend aristocrat, having increased its annual payout for 51 straight years. The retailer has a strong balance sheet, "very sustainable cash flow," says Santoro, and "the ability to balance long-term investments with near-term returns."

The stock yields 1.4%, in line with the S&P 500's average, but Santoro expects the company to keep growing its payout with the help of strong cash flow. In February, Walmart announced a 9% dividend increase, its largest in more than a decade.

Another of Santoro's holdings is big pharma **Merck**, which yields 2.4%. He cites Merck's Keytruda, a cancer drug that generated \$25 billion in sales last year, as an important foundation for the payout. Keytruda's patent protections will begin expiring in 2028, but the drugmaker's "late-stage pipeline looks increasingly well positioned to mitigate the eventual patent loss

on Keytruda," says a research note from Morningstar's Damien Conover.

Peter Fisher, portfolio manager of the **Vanguard Dividend Growth** fund, likes companies that have the financial wherewithal to invest in their own businesses to spur growth and to responsibly return capital to shareholders, including dividends.

That includes **McDonald's**, the global fast-food chain. The stock yields 2.4%. The company pays a quarterly disbursement of \$1.67 a share, up about 10% from its previous level. "McDonald's has a long history of growing its business and investing to make its business more valuable every day—and also a long history of getting excess cash back to us in the form of a dividend," says Fisher.

His other holdings include **Diageo**, the beverage company whose brands include Smirnoff vodka and Johnnie Walker Black whisky, and **TJX Cos.**, parent of discount retailer T.J. Maxx. Their stocks yield 2.9% and 1.6%, respectively.

Grace Lee, lead manager of the **Columbia Dividend Opportunity** fund, says there's a wide spectrum of dividend stocks, from tech companies yielding less than 1% to high-yielding names like **AT&T** and **Philip Morris International** at 6.6% and 5.5%, respectively.

"You really have to figure out where you want to play and what your ultimate goal is," says Lee, whose fund combines higher yields with capital appreciation.

Her holdings include **Citigroup**, which yields 3.4%—a lot higher than around 2.4% for **JPMorgan Chase** and **Wells Fargo**. "There's still a lot of value to be had there," Lee says, adding that Citi's higher yield points to a "lower valuation and potentially greater price appreciation" for that stock. Other holdings in the fund include **Darden Restaurants**, which yields 3.4%, and **United Parcel Service** at 4.4%.

One avenue of growth for UPS is health-care, she says: "It's a much more complex supply chain, and I think that's something they are pretty well suited for." **B**

THE ECONOMY

The Fed says it has little interest in raising rates, and the latest jobs report makes it even more unlikely. Now the question is [how many cuts](#).

The Economy Slows at A Perfect Speed. The Bulls Could Still Lose.

You can't always get what you want—but according to a onetime student at the London School of Economics, Sir Michael Philip Jagger, sometimes you'll find you get what you need.

Financial markets got what they needed from fresh economic data and policy pronouncements to end this past week on a high note. In the middle of the week, the Federal Reserve indicated that interest-rate increases are increasingly unlikely. Then on Friday, a softer-than-expected April employment report sent stocks and bonds rallying on the hope that the Fed might actually cut more than once by the end of the year.

As universally expected, the Federal Open Market Committee said Wednesday that it continues to maintain its federal-funds target policy band at 5.25% to 5.50%. But the statement from the central bank's policy arm pointedly noted the "lack of further progress toward the Committee's 2% inflation objective," precluding any near-term cuts.

Despite the FOMC's hawkish tone, Fed Chairman Jerome Powell took a more dovish tack in his postmeeting press conference. To James McCann, deputy chief economist at abrdn, the U.K.-based asset manager, the takeaway was that Powell was eager to loosen, especially if the labor market weakened.

At his presser, Powell at least took rate increases out of the picture. "I think it's unlikely that the next policy rate move will be a hike," he said in



BY RANDALL W. FORSYTH

response to a reporter's question.

As for cuts, Powell held to the stance that easier policy would depend on inflation coming down on a sustainable path toward the Fed's 2% target, which he conceded has hit a bump with the higher readings in the first three months of the year.

He further added it would take "an unexpected weakening" in the labor market for the Fed to react by lowering rates, but declined to comment on the specifics.

"I'm not going to try to define exactly what I mean by that," he said. "But it would have to be meaningful. And get our attention."

It would seem the latest jobs release

was just the sort the Fed chief was crossing his fingers for at midweek. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported a 175,000 rise in nonfarm payrolls in April, which would be considered a solid gain in most months. But the actual number was short of economists' consensus estimate of 240,000, which itself was the highest forecast in a year. Revisions in the two preceding months' reports also deducted a net 22,000.

"The April jobs data confirm that the economy is slowing into normal, not a recession," writes Steven Blitz, chief U.S. economist at TS Lombard. When unemployment is under 4%, the private sector produces a median of 170,000 jobs per month, in line with April's 167,000 private total.

The unemployment rate did tick up, to 3.9% last month from 3.8% in March. That was partially the result of rounding, however. Taken to two decimal places, April's jobless rate was 3.86% versus March's 3.83%. More substantively, the rise in unemployment hasn't been enough to trigger the so-called Sahm Rule that indicates a recession.

Originated by former Fed economist Claudia Sahm, it says a rise of 0.5 percentage point in the three-month

average unemployment rate signals a contraction. The latest reading is a 0.37 rise from the cyclical trough, according to the St. Louis Fed.

A more relevant weak feature of the latest number was a 0.1 hour dip in the average workweek, to 34.3 hours. At the same time, average hourly earnings rose 0.2% in April, below economists' forecast for a 0.3% gain. Measured over three- and 12-month spans, average hourly earnings grew at respective 2.8% and 3.9% annual rates, which Michael Feroli, J.P. Morgan chief U.S. economist, noted were the softest gains in some time.

By Friday's close, markets had priced in two one-quarter percentage-point cuts in the Fed's key policy rate this year, up from just a single reduction by the end of the year previously. Federal-funds futures put a 91.2% probability of an initial cut at the mid-September FOMC meeting, according to the CME FedWatch tool. A second quarter-point reduction in December has an 82.9% chance.

More broadly, financial conditions remain accommodative, as measured by various gauges such as the Bloomberg U.S. Financial Conditions Index and the Fed's own Financial Conditions Index. By contrast, Powell and other Fed officials contend their policy is restrictive, mainly based on where they set the overnight fed-funds rate relative to inflation.

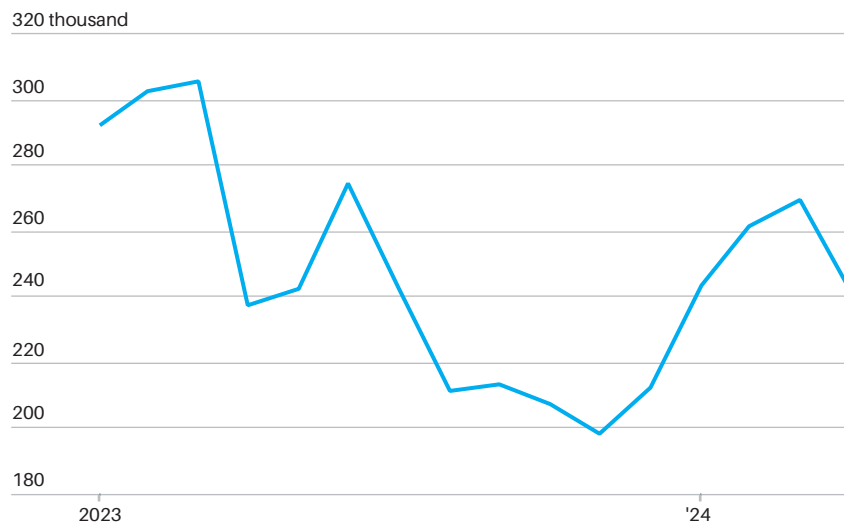
Either way, current financial conditions remain supportive of economic growth, writes former Wells Fargo chief economist John Silvia, who now runs the Dynamic Economic Strategy advisory. Contrary to commentaries, financial conditions as measured by the Fed's own index are on the "easy side of neutral," he wrote.

The latest jobs data won't yet spur the Fed to cut its policy rate. But markets are betting on easing moves, as early as September. The irony is that resulting rallies in bond and stock markets may loosen financial conditions, mitigating the need for cuts and leading to disappointment for the bulls. **B**

Job Growth Remains Steady

Monthly payroll growth slowed in April, but has stayed in the mid-200,000 range.

Change in Nonfarm Payrolls, 3-Month Moving Average



Source: Bloomberg

email: randall.forsyth@barrons.com

Q&A

An Interview With **Dev Kantesaria**
Founder, Valley Forge Capital Management

Moody's, ASML, S&P, and Other Quality Stocks

BY JACOB SONENSHINE

Valley Forge Capital Management currently owns eight stocks, and rarely holds more than 20. The concentrated strategy, devised by founder and managing partner Dev Kantesaria, has worked well for the firm, originally based in Wayne, Pa., and now headquartered in Miami.

Kantesaria takes mostly long positions in U.S. stocks that he expects to outperform the S&P 500 over a number of years. The money manager looks for companies with ample operating leverage and minimal capital-spending needs, in industries with secular growth trends.

So far, so good. Valley Forge's hedge fund has returned nearly 15% annually since inception in 2007, beating the S&P 500 by more than five percentage points a year, according to a person familiar with the performance. Assets under management have grown to more than \$3 billion from \$500 million in 2019.

Barron's recently checked in with Kantesaria, who provided an update on his investment strategy and four of the fund's holdings: **S&P Global**, **Moody's**, **Fair Isaac**, and **ASML**. The other four are **Intuit**, **Aspen Technology**, **Mastercard**, and **Visa**.

An edited version of the interview

follows.

Barron's: How did you wind up in the money management business?

Dev Kantesaria: I've been thinking about businesses since I was a child. It's something that has always interested me. Even today, I can't go out into the world without thinking about how companies operate, and what separates a good company from a bad one. Initially, I wanted to be a surgeon. I attended MIT and majored in biology, and then went to Harvard Medical School. I realized in my third year of medical school that although I loved the intellectual aspects of medicine, practicing medicine wasn't something I could see myself doing for the next 30 or 40 years.

After I finished medical school, I joined McKinsey & Co. as a management consultant. Then I became a venture capitalist for about 18 years, working in the healthcare area. As a VC, I gained a tremendous amount of experience on the operational side of businesses, which is an important background to have as a public equity investor. Building businesses, being a director, working with CEOs, serving on committees—all of that is helpful in assessing public companies.

Eventually, I wanted to create a vehicle to formalize my track record as an equity investor, so I launched Valley Forge Capital in 2007 with

Photograph by **JAMES JACKMAN**



“The companies we invest in have many levers to pull, because not all of our assumptions will always be right.”

\$300,000 and no specific plan. I expected to run a small fund for family and friends. Today we run close to \$3.8 billion and have grown organically, mainly through word-of-mouth. We try to invest in high-quality businesses. Typically, they are large-caps.

How do you define a high-quality business?

We are focused on companies that are monopolies or oligopolies in their respective industries and have very few reinvestment needs. When companies have high capital expenditures or high levels of research and development expenses, the return on investment is difficult to predict. Our companies still have a tremendous amount of operating leverage, so profit margins can continue to grow over time with additional revenue and volume growth.

We also like to invest in industries with secular growth trends. When you combine pricing power with long-term organic volume growth, it is a very powerful combination.

S&P Global, Moody's, and Fair Isaac are longtime holdings. What, if anything, has changed in your assessment of these three companies?

When you buy compounding machines that can grow organically at high rates for decades, there is low turnover in your portfolio. We first bought S&P Global in 2008-09, when the credit-rating services were under a lot of pressure. They were blamed for the financial crisis, and were the subject of almost 70 lawsuits. Congress was considering altering how the industry operated. The stocks traded at single-digit price/earnings ratios.

Beyond the noise, these companies had among the best business models in the world: rating debt. An issuer could try to use another rating service, but would have to pay 30 or 50 basis points more in interest rates. [A basis point is a hundredth of a percentage point.] Effectively, there is no

way to undercut Moody's or S&P on price.

Can S&P Global lift its price over time?

Sure. We like to invest in companies where the cost of the service is small, so there is a lot of room for pricing power. S&P and Moody's both raise their prices every year at a rate above inflation. There was a lot of concern in the past few years about inflation as a macroeconomic risk. If inflation goes up to 10%, you want to know that your company can raise its prices 13%. They could double their prices tomorrow if they want to.

S&P Global is expected to earn \$4.3 billion this year on \$13.3 billion of sales. That puts the net profit margin at 32%. How much more margin upside is there?

All our companies can meaningfully grow their margins from what they are today. AI [artificial intelligence] will accelerate that trend because labor is the most expensive line item for most of the businesses we own. AI is slowly replacing labor. You could imagine that if you had 100 analysts at Moody's working in a certain area of ratings, you might need only 50 five or seven years from now, or maybe only 10. The bulk of the work could be automated and interpreted by AI. Operating margins could be 20% higher than the margins we were targeting before. You could see margins of 70% or 75% someday.

Let's go back to Fair Isaac. What do you like about the stock?

We have owned FICO since 2018. Its core business is consumer credit scores. When you apply for a mortgage, an auto loan, a credit card, the bank will run a credit background check. You'll receive a FICO score and that determines the interest rate you'll get. FICO operates as a natural monopoly. The entire ecosystem of consumer debt is centered around these scores. The company has a lot of pricing power.

Much of the world doesn't have developed credit markets. There is international growth potential.

What is the profit outlook for the company?

We think of free cash flow per share growth as the primary metric, correlated with intrinsic value growth. We expect free cash flow to grow more than 20% annually over the next decade. There is a lot of operating leverage in the scores business. We imagine revenue can grow in the low- to mid-teens, at least. The company is buying back 2% to 3% of its shares outstanding every year.

What else defines quality for you?

We want the companies in our portfolio to deliver high-teens growth in free cash flow per share annually on a weighted-average basis. If they do so, intrinsic value and ultimately share prices will roughly follow that growth rate. In last year's fourth quarter, the companies in our portfolio grew earnings by about 20% more than the S&P 500.

Most of our companies buy back stock every year. You don't have to assume crazy movements in sales or margins to triple earnings over a 10-year period. That works out to an average annual gain of roughly 12% a year.

The companies we invest in have many levers to pull, because not all of our assumptions will always be right. Maybe top-line growth for S&P or Moody's is lower than expected because debt issuance is down or interest rates went up. These companies can use their pricing power, or play with their cost structure. A cyclical company might have 30% or 40% earnings growth in a typical year, but then have negative growth. We like predictable companies. We try to look at growth rates over a period of 10-plus years.

Interest rates are the highest they have been in many years, even though the Fed is planning to lower them, probably later this year.

What does that mean for S&P Global and Moody's?

Moody's and S&P had a strong year in 2020. As people worried about the economy shutting down during the Covid pandemic, many companies went to the market to raise debt to stabilize or increase the quality of their balance sheets. This year has started with record corporate-bond issuance. That creates a nice setup for Moody's and S&P over the next 12 to 24 months. As interest rates come down, we should see a resurgence in debt issuance.

Do the rating services still face regulatory risk?

Coming out of 2008, there were some learning lessons for these companies. Today the legal and regulatory risks are quite low. There are other approved firms to rate debt. Fitch is No. 3. Companies issuing debt can use any of the competitors. But a natural duopoly exists between Moody's and S&P.

Regulators talked about rotating ratings across different firms, and changing the business model so that the investors, rather than the issuing companies, would pay for ratings. Those are nice ideas, but in reality, none can be put into action.

What have you been buying lately?

We recently became owners of ASML, the semiconductor equipment company. AI is a strong growth story for the coming decade. Most AI technology will quickly become commoditized, and it is hard to know who the winners will be in 10 years. ASML seems the most exciting and predictable way to invest in AI.

The company makes machines that are about the size of a bus. They sell them for about \$300 million apiece. They are the only machines in the world that can be used to make the cutting-edge semiconductors needed to power the servers for AI. Other competitors are probably 20 to 30 years behind ASML.

Thanks, Dev. B

MARKET WEEK



April 29 through May 3, 2024

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MARKET PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD

Dow Jones Industrials

38,675.68

52-wk: +14.85% YTD: +2.62% Wkly: +1.14%

S&P 500

5127.79

52-wk: +23.97% YTD: +7.50% Wkly: +0.55%

Nasdaq Composite

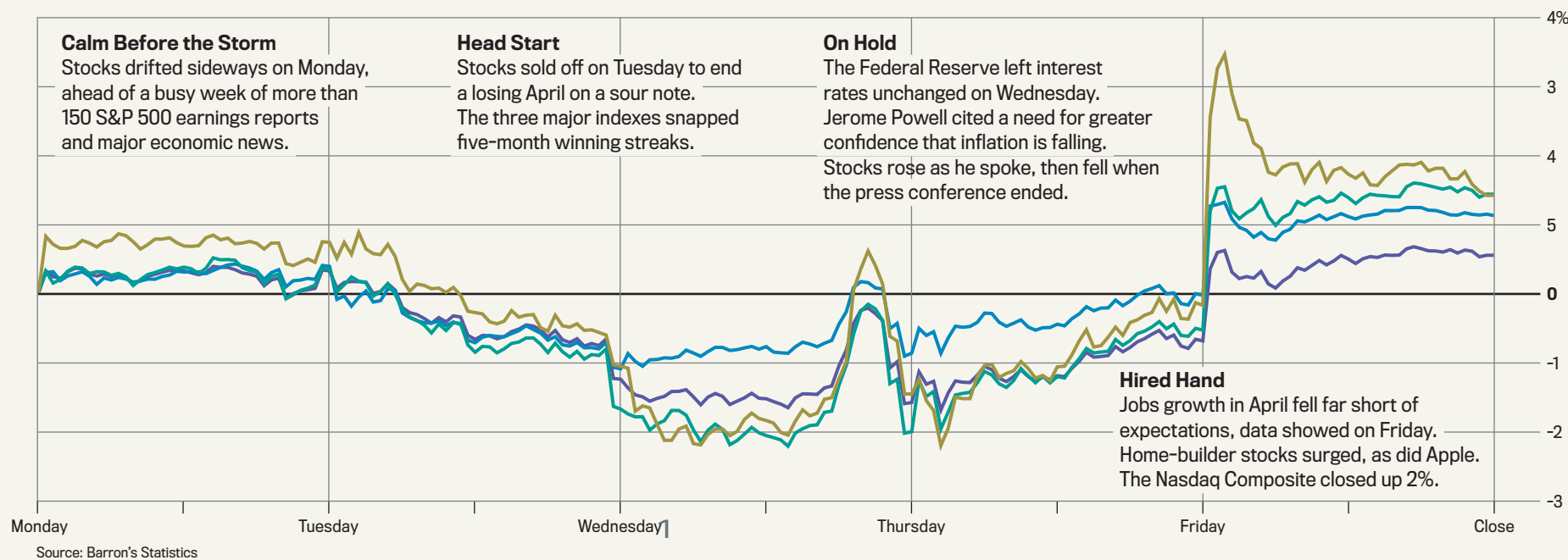
16,156.33

52-wk: +32.05% YTD: +7.63% Wkly: +1.43%

SPDR S&P Homebuilders ETF

\$105.22

52-wk: +48.68% YTD: +9.99% Wkly: +1.45%



THE TRADER

Don't Be Fooled. The Fed Isn't the Market's Friend.

Stocks are getting a boost after the market viewed Friday's jobs report positively. Don't expect the gains to last. This past week, the S&P 500 index gained 0.5%, to 5127, after a Friday pop, while the Nasdaq Composite ended 1.4% higher and the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 1.1%. The indexes bounced back from early-week lows after the employment report revealed that the U.S. added fewer jobs than expected in April—but enough to indicate a still-growing economy. For now, that could help keep a lid on inflation, prevent the Federal Reserve from needing to raise interest rates again, and maybe even allow it to cut them.



BY JACOB SONENSHINE

Investors responded as if they'd finally gotten the signal to jump back in the market. Not quite. The reality is that there isn't enough evidence that the central bank is about to cut rates. On Wednesday, Fed Chairman Jerome Powell kept the federal-funds rate unchanged, and while he signaled that he would like to lower rates, conditions weren't right yet. Friday's payrolls report didn't even increase the odds that the Fed will act in July all that much—there's just a 62.9% chance that it will remain on hold, down from 66.2%.

"The Fed just told you, 'We're not hiking but we don't have the confidence to cut yet,'" says Seaport Research Partners macro strategist Victor Cossel.

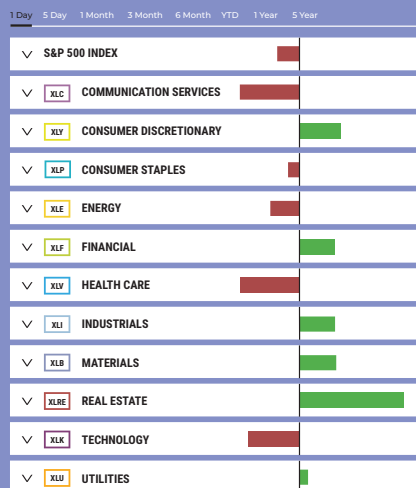
That makes the stock market vulnerable to declines. While Friday's rally felt encouraging in the moment, it wasn't all that convincing. The S&P 500 is still 2.7% below its record high of 5265, and it hasn't been able to re-take its 50-day moving average near 5130. Until it convincingly climbs above that important technical level, buyers should think twice about betting on a continued rally.

If it can't breach 5130, "that's not a good thing," says Matthew Tuttle of Tuttle Capital Management. "There are a lot of money managers that have hard and fast rules—they will not buy the market under the 50-day."

The S&P 500 has support near 5000, but if it breaks, the next stop would be the 200-day moving average

WHAT'S MOVING THE MARKET?

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SPDRs

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BARRON'S

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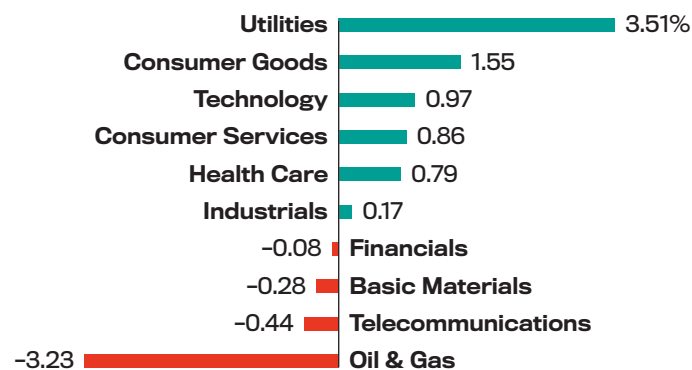


SCAN TO SET UP



Industry Action

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



Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices

stock an interesting place for investors to set up home.

Watching Paint Rise

There's nothing like a little pain to pretty up your portfolio—particularly following an ugly month for **Sherwin-Williams** stock.

Shares of Sherwin have had a tough go of it since peaking at the end of March, with shares off 10%, to \$311. Higher inflation readings suggest that the Fed is unlikely to cut rates soon, which dims the outlook for new-home sales and home-related spending. Plus, first-quarter earnings in late April narrowly missed expectations, as units of paints sold declined slightly year over year.

But there's plenty of good news for Sherwin. For starters, it continues to be able to raise prices. The company said in its earnings release that it raised prices in February at Paint Stores Group, its largest and most profitable business, a move that the company expects to ramp up throughout this year. Management expects total sales to range from flat to up in the low-single digits in percentage terms for the full year. That would bring full-year revenue to at least \$23.1 billion, which is reflected in analyst estimates.

"We see Sherwin as having the strongest pricing power in coatings," writes KeyBanc Capital Markets analyst Aleksey Yefremov, who upgraded the stock to Overweight from Sector Weight with a \$400 price target.

Price hikes, though, shouldn't keep people from buying paint, and evidence suggests that the volume of paint sold will recover fairly soon. Mortgage rates are nearing levels where they had peaked several months ago, so they can stabilize as long as the Fed isn't raising interest rates.

It isn't just about new homes. Evercore ISI's "home improvement leading indica-

tor" shows that broader home-improvement revenue dropped year over year at the end of 2023, but has recently flattened out and could rise into the low-single digits, where it has been historically. Evercore analyst Greg Melich's \$350 price target on the stock assumes that "volume growth returns in [the] second half [of] 2024 and continues to expand into 2025."

On top of that, Sherwin is firmly protecting, and potentially growing, its market share. Management said it expects growth in its architectural paints business, part of the Consumer Brands Group, this year, and said it has been winning new customers who had been buying Kelly-Moore products. (That brand is now filing for bankruptcy.) Sherwin also plans to open about 100 new stores in its architectural business, yet another reason that the company could continue to take market share, according to Yefremov.

Margins are improving, too, as raw-material costs, which surged following the pandemic, should increase at a slower rate than sales in the years ahead. And since the company generates enough cash flow to buy back stock—it repurchased \$546 million of stock last quarter—per share profits should be able to grow almost 12% annually for the next two years.

"It's a very high-quality business," says Rob Hansen, senior research analyst at Vontobel Asset Management. "I think they can hit a double-digit earnings [growth] target over the medium to longer term."

That performance would boost the stock, which trades at a tolerable 26 times expected earnings for the coming 12 months, down from 29.5 at the end of March. And while its price/earnings ratio is 30% higher than the S&P 500's 20, that's only half of its typical 60% premium.

Now is the time to remodel your portfolio with some Sherwin-Williams stock. **B**

INTERNATIONAL TRADER

China Leads Renewable Energy Storage Boom

BY CRAIG MELLOW

Most roads in the green energy transition lead through China. The latest is no exception. Environment ministers from the G-7 Western economies have targeted a sixfold increase in storage for renewable energy by 2030. Most of that will come from battery energy storage systems, BESS for short, which can hold solar- or wind-generated power, then release it when the sun doesn't shine or the wind stops blowing.

The announcement is good news for the planet. The cost of storage batteries has plummeted by 90% over the past 15 years, the **International Energy Agency** reports, making the G-7 target realistic. Storage is something of a missing link to a lower-carbon future, as solar generation increasingly matches fossil fuels on cost, but remains unreliable for obvious reasons.

"It cannot be overstated how important storage will be for the energy transition," says Eva Zimmermann, an analyst at Aurora Energy Research.

The news is more mixed for the Western policymakers themselves. If Chinese producers are ahead in the race for electric vehicle batteries, they outright dominate utility-scale storage batteries so far. Both battery families depend on lithium. For electricity storage, that's mixed with iron and phosphate (LFP), which are cheaper but heavier than the nickel-manganese-cobalt (NMC) alloy used in higher-performing EVs.

Chinese champion **Contemporary Amperex Technology**, or CATL, supplies two-thirds of the world's larger LFP batteries, says Eric Fogarty, portfolio manager for global clean energy at **Duff & Phelps Investment Management**. South Korea's **Samsung SDI** and privately owned, Stockholm-based **Northvolt** are distant runners-up.

CATL shares have bounced 30% this year after a dismal 2023, but Fogarty isn't

biting. Geopolitics is one reason. The **European Union** looks open to CATL producing on its turf. The company has multi-billion-dollar investments in progress in Germany and Hungary. The furthest it's gotten in the U.S. is licensing battery technology to **Ford Motor**, and that project has drawn ire on Capitol Hill.

Fogarty also fears "commoditization" of LFP battery cells, a process well under way in solar panels as technology matures and competition shifts to price. He is looking instead at companies that make the inverters to transform DC solar current to AC grid current. Leading names in this space are U.S.-based Power Electronics and **SMA Solar** in Germany.

He also likes systems integrators that actually put green power and storage projects together, like **Fluence Energy**, a joint venture between U.S. utility **AES** and German manufacturing giant **Siemens**.

Will Riley, portfolio manager of the Guinness Atkinson Alternative Energy fund, is also looking "downstream" for battery storage plays. He is partial to Florida-based power generator **NextEra Energy**, which already leads North America in battery storage and is poised to benefit from new Inflation Reduction Act incentives.

The global market for electric vehicle batteries last year was 20 times the size of power storage on a gigawatt basis, Riley notes. No matter how much storage grows, EVs will remain the main playing field for battery makers.

Green stocks in general are in a prolonged slump following some postpandemic irrational exuberance. The **iShares Global Clean Energy** exchange-traded fund has lost more than half its value from a peak in 2021.

The IRA's sweeteners and Brussels' RePowerEU plan haven't made up for soaring interest rates, which shelved or delayed capital-intensive power projects. Action at the G-7 and elsewhere shows that the energy transition continues nonetheless. China will loom large.



BARRON'S



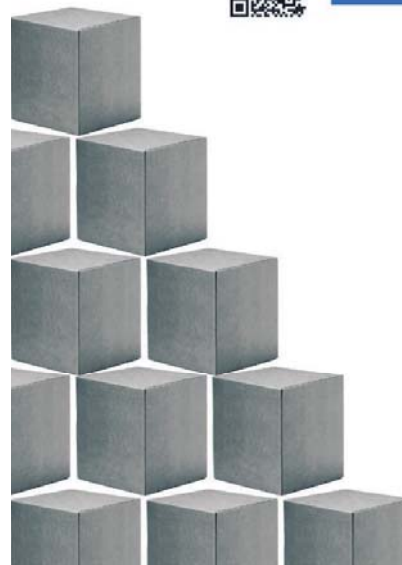
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THE STRIKING PRICE

An Options Strategy That Takes the Long View

BY STEVEN M. SEARS

There are certain financial facts made truer by time. Never let transitory market drama make you forget that.

Compound interest, which some have called the eighth wonder of the world, helps portfolios to exponentially increase in value. Dividends, which account for about 40% of historical stock returns, are a humble miracle worker that injects some certainty into an uncertain process.

When compounding and dividends are combined and enhanced with conservative options strategies, investors harness some of the most powerful financial forces in the world.

Yet many investors are distracted from these time-tested facts by issues that are beyond their control.

Hardly a day passes without some strategist, pundit, investor, or central banker opining about when the Federal Reserve might lower interest rates, or if inflation is dissipating or increasing. Other known unknowns range from concerns that wars in the Middle East and Eastern Europe will spark World War III to the deep political divisions back home.

All of this is interesting to debate, though difficult for most to use when analyzing investments. Rather than embracing paralysis by analysis, it's better to remember that time, volatility, and markets are forever. We recommend what we call a "time arbitrage" strategy designed to take advantage of short-term market volatility for the benefit of long-term investments.

It consists of embracing dividends, compounding, and options-selling strategies—and applying them to strong, investible themes.

The approach works on just about any blue-chip stock that has an investible rationale—even if it doesn't pay a dividend—and that can be held for a minimum of three to five years and ideally longer.

Some great themes to consider include

weight-loss drugs; the artificial-intelligence ecosystem, including chips and data centers; the privatization of finance; the rise of streaming media; electric vehicles; and demands on the power grid. Pick the ones that resonate the most with you and research the many companies that are involved to find the ones that are best positioned, or most intriguing.

Consider **Eli Lilly**, which just reported solid earnings—helped by weight-loss drugs Zepbound and Mounjaro—and enhanced financial guidance.

With the Big Pharma stock at \$734.97, investors could sell the June \$700 put option for about \$11.60. The put sale obligates the seller to buy shares at an effective price of \$688.40 if the stock is below the put strike price at expiration. Should the stock price exceed the put strike, sellers can keep the premium, which represents a 1.7% return on the cash-secured put premium.

(To determine the investment return on cash-secured put sales, divide the options premium by the strike price minus the premium and multiply by 100.)

Bond yields have recently been racing higher. If the 10-year Treasury yields 5% or more, it would likely pressure stocks, as such a high return might prompt some investors to rotate from stocks to the relative safety of bonds. This would likely increase options' implied volatility for a few weeks to a few months—benefiting investors who sell options.

Long-term investors should welcome any short-term stock weakness because it will reset valuations to more attractive levels.

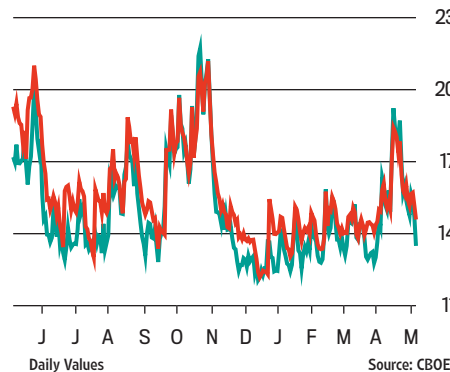
The time-arbitrage approach monetizes some of the uncertainty that is always present in markets, while helping investors discipline their emotions and inject discipline into their decision-making. Such modest tweaks—coupled with the aforementioned financial facts made truer by time—can work wonders. **B**

Harness some of the world's most powerful financial forces by combining compounding and dividends with conservative options strategies.

Equity Options

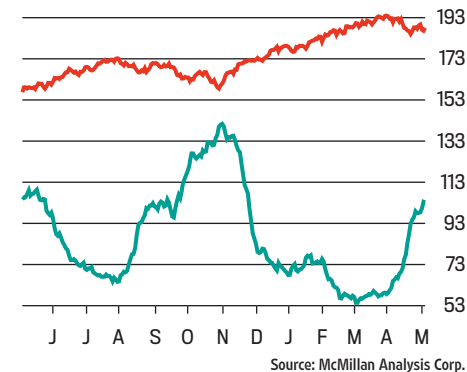
CBOE Volatility Index

● VIX Close ● VIX Futures



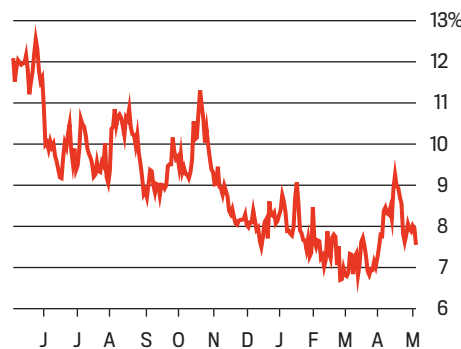
The Equity-Only Put-Call Ratio

● 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
Deciphera Pharmaceuticals	DCPH	14512	4862	9650	108	16	134.4
CytomX Therapeutics	CTMX	39284	30588	8696	488	100	80.5
Akili Inc.	AKLI	6547	3732	2815	108	30	60.6
GeneDx Holdings	WGS	4753	2669	2084	176	69	27.0
Sensata Technologies	ST	13768	12662	1106	596	6	23.1
Black Diamond Therapeutics	BDTX	5408	5350	58	280	69	19.3
Emergent BioSolutions	EBS	33779	16944	16835	1752	81	19.3
Coursera Corp.	COUR	16573	6617	9956	984	39	16.8
Driven Brands Holdings	DRVN	5302	4787	515	356	66	14.9
Accuray Corp.	ARAY	2153	1775	378	156	46	13.8
Baxter International	BAX	53303	28888	24415	5460	16	9.8
Chegg Inc.	CHGG	47169	25577	21592	4940	38	9.5
Neonode Corp.	NEON	2386	2331	55	284	86	8.4
Phathom Pharmaceuticals	PHAT	5484	5358	126	864	27	6.3
Melco Resorts & Entertainment	MLCO	42044	39342	2702	6772	24	6.2
Global Payments	GPN	32903	15242	17661	5428	8	6.1
GE Healthcare Technologies	GEHC	56901	29224	27677	10156	15	5.6
TETRA Technologies	TTI	8034	5628	2406	1436	33	5.6
Netgear Inc.	NTGR	12554	3852	8702	2300	92	5.5
LendingTree	TREE	7065	4940	2125	1288	24	5.5

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.

INSIDE SCOOP

Regions Financial Director Bought Up Stock

BY ED LIN

Regions Financial stock is roughly flat so far in 2024, and the bank's newest director bought a large block of shares on the open market.

As one of the larger regional banks, Regions Financial has had a better time than many smaller peers, who have been pressured by elevated rates. And yet the bank's net interest income, a key profitability metric, has taken a hit.

Director Bill Rhodes paid \$968,500 on April 23 for 50,000 Regions Financial shares. He made the purchase through a trust, according to a form he filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Rhodes also

owns 1,279 Regions Financial shares in a personal account.

Regions Financial didn't respond to a request to make Rhodes available for comment on his stock purchase. Rhodes, a former president and CEO of **AutoZone**, joined Regions Financial's board on March 1.

Rhodes wasn't required to buy this much Regions Financial stock this quickly. The company's rules for stock ownership require nonemployee directors to own at least five years' worth of their annual cash retainer in Regions Financial shares, and they have a grace period of a few years to come into full compliance. The current annual cash retainer is \$100,000, so Rhodes has already bought about twice the number of shares the guidelines call for. **B**

Large Pension Bets Big On AMD, Walmart, Peloton

One of the largest pensions in the U.S. made major changes in its stock investments in the first quarter, including cutting a stake in one of the most iconic companies in its state.

State of Michigan Retirement System bought more **Advanced Micro Devices** stock, quintupled an investment in **Peloton Interactive**, tripled its **Walmart** stake, and sold **General Motors** stock. The pension disclosed the stock trades, among others, in a form it filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

SMRS, as the pension is known, said it "doesn't discuss active investments or investment strategies." It has

net assets of more than \$108 billion and is the 21st-largest public pension in the U.S. by assets.

The pension bought 142,400 more AMD shares in the first quarter to lift its investment to 913,100 shares. The chip maker's stock soared 22% in the first quarter, compared with a 10% rise in the S&P 500.

SMRS bought 480,000 additional Peloton shares to end the first quarter with 596,500 shares. Shares of the fitness company dived 30% in the first quarter.

The pension bought 782,280 Walmart shares in the first quarter, lifting its stake to 1,172,800 shares. Walmart's stock gained 15% in the first quarter.

SMRS sold 58,700 GM shares in the first quarter to end the period with 489,200 shares. Shares of the auto maker surged 26% in the first three months of 2024. **B**

Regions Financial director Bill Rhodes bought \$1 million in shares of the regional bank.

A former AutoZone CEO, Rhodes joined Regions' board in March.

Increases in Holdings

Harmonic

Scopia Management increased its stake in the video-infrastructure company to 6,084,068 shares. Scopia purchased 2,273,823 Harmonic shares from March 1 through April 25 at per share prices ranging from \$9.19 to \$13.60. Additionally, Scopia entered into a cash-settled total return swap agreement with Morgan Stanley, which gives Scopia economic exposure to an additional 309,922 notional shares at a reference price of \$10.28, expiring on Aug. 6, 2025. Scopia now has economic exposure to 6,393,990 Harmonic shares, representing 5.7% of the outstanding, of which Scopia directly owns 5.4%. This once again places Scopia above the 5% threshold requiring them to report further Harmonic purchases. Shares have dropped roughly 30% so far this year.

Reservoir Media

Irenic Capital Management increased its stake in the independent music company to 4,736,307 shares. Irenic Capital did so through the purchase of 743,640 Reservoir Media shares from March 6 through April 25 at per share prices ranging from \$7.23 to \$8.30. Irenic Capital initially revealed its Reservoir Media stake in December 2023 after buying 365,615 shares at prices ranging from \$5.64 to \$6.09 apiece. Following the latest purchases, Irenic Capital now owns 7.3% of Reservoir Media's outstanding stock, which have gained roughly 27% year to date.

Citi Trends

Fund 1 Investments raised its holdings in the apparel retailer to 1,878,167 shares. Fund 1 Investments did so through the purchase of 114,521 Citi Trends shares from

April 15 through April 25 at per share prices ranging from \$21.74 to \$22.58. Following the purchases, Fund 1 now holds 22% of Citi Trends' outstanding stock. Shares have lost about 23% so far this year.

Decreases in Holdings

Ashland

Eminence Capital lowered its stake in the specialty-materials company to 3,212,068 shares. Eminence Capital did so through the net sale of 271,065 Ashland shares from Feb. 26 through April 23 at prices ranging from \$93.40 to \$97.36 apiece. Following the sales, Eminence Capital now owns 6.4% of Ashland's outstanding stock. Ashland reported a mixed fiscal-second-quarter report at the end of April; earnings beat Wall Street estimates, while sales missed. Shares have gained roughly 15% so far this year.

DHT Holdings

BW Group cut its stake in the crude-oil tanker company to 23,969,469 shares. BW Group did so through the sale of 1,873,806 DHT Holdings shares from March 11 through April 24, at prices ranging from \$11 to \$11.90 apiece. Following the sales, BW Group continues to hold 14.9% of DHT Holdings' outstanding stock. Shares have gained roughly 15% year to date. In February, DHT ordered four large very large crude carriers, or VLCCs, for delivery from April to December 2026. DHT reports first-quarter results on May 14.

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 25 through May 1, 2024. Source: **Verity-Data (verityplatform.com)**

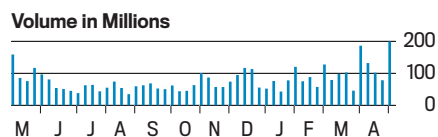
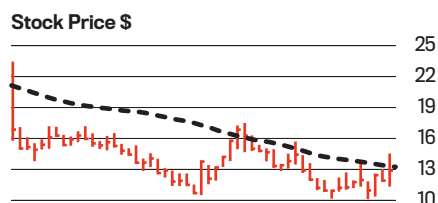
CHARTING THE MARKET

A graphic look at selected stock activity
for the week ended May 3, 2024
Edited by Barron's Staff

Paramount Global

PARA (NASDAQ) • \$12.89 • 0.98

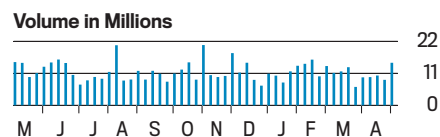
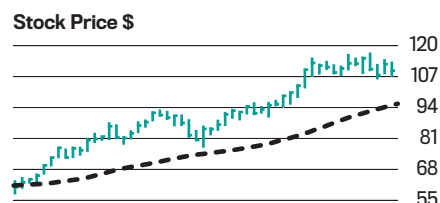
CEO Bob Bakish was fired and Skydance sweetened its bid for the media company. But a Sony, Apollo Global \$26 billion offer sent shares up 13%.



Apollo Global Management

APO (NYSE) • \$109.46 • -2.76

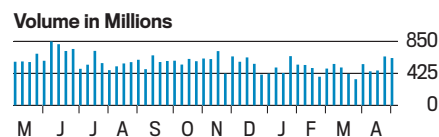
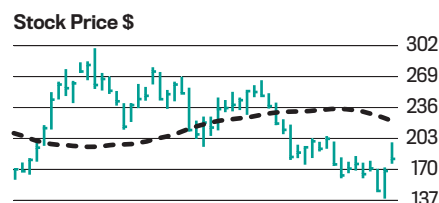
The private-equity investor reported sharply higher earnings on rising assets under management. Then came its bid with Sony for Paramount.



Tesla

TSLA (NASDAQ) • \$181.19 • 12.90

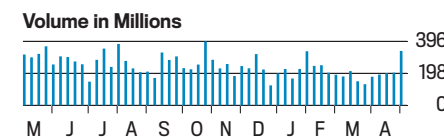
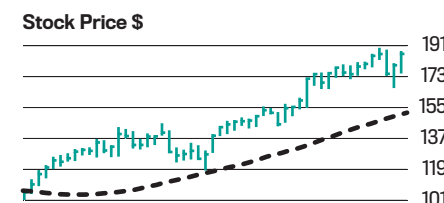
CEO Elon Musk flew to China and made a deal with Baidu for car navigation systems. At home, Tesla fired its electric-vehicle charging-station team.



Amazon.com

AMZN (NASDAQ) • \$186.21 • 6.59

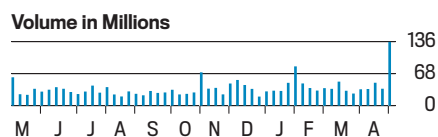
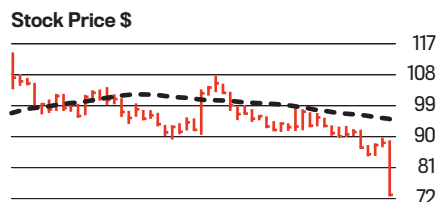
The big online retailer and cloud power beat on earnings, driven by Amazon Web Services. The company warned of high AI spending.



Starbucks

SBUX (NASDAQ) • \$73.11 • -15.14

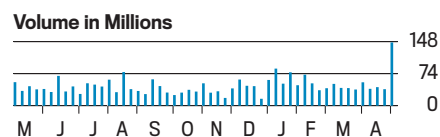
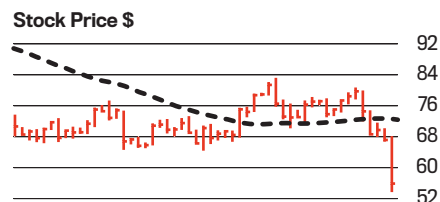
The coffee giant whiffed on nearly everything, from earnings and revenue to foot-traffic. Shares fell 16%, its worst fall since March 2020.



CVS Health

CVS (NYSE) • \$55.90 • -11.28

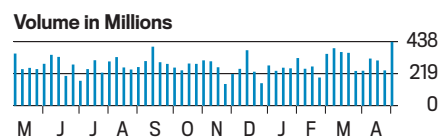
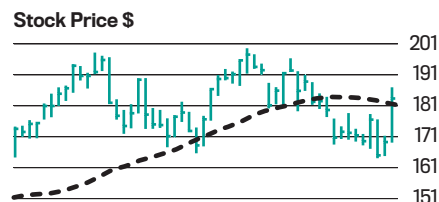
The drug chain and health insurer missed on earnings and slashed guidance. The reason: costs from Medicare Advantage plans.



Apple

AAPL (NASDAQ) • \$183.38 • 14.08

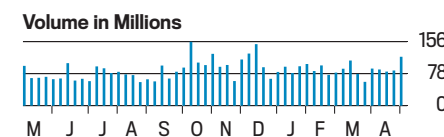
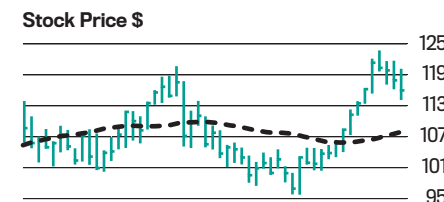
The computer giant reported product sales off 10%, but earnings beat expectations. CEO Cook talked up AI and a \$110 billion stock buyback plan.



Exxon Mobil

XOM (NYSE) • \$116.00 • -1.96

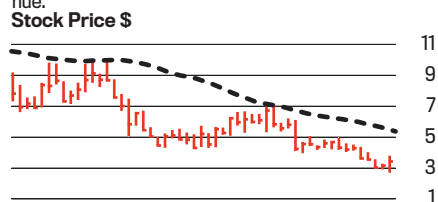
The oil major won approval for its \$60 billion Pioneer Natural Resources deal. The caveat: Pioneer's former CEO can't serve on the Exxon board.



Peloton Interactive

PTON (NASDAQ) • \$3.43 • 0.27

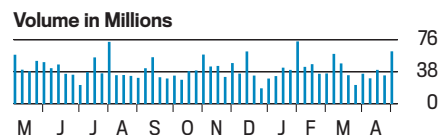
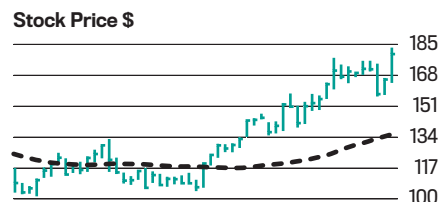
Shares of the exercise equipment maker fell 13% after it said it would lay off 15% of its workers and the CEO quit. It also missed on earnings and revenue.



Qualcomm

QCOM (NASDAQ) • \$179.64 • 13.98

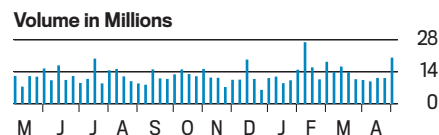
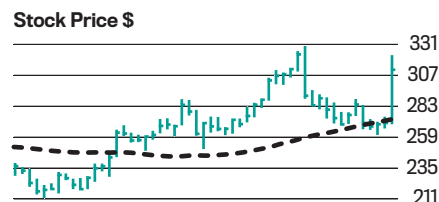
The chip maker reported a 40% jump in revenue and \$2.24 a share in earnings, and raised guidance on demand for AI-enabled smartphones.



Amgen

AMGN (NASDAQ) • \$311.29 • 41.31

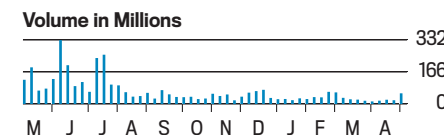
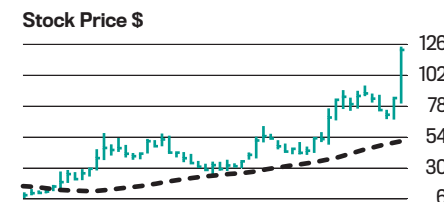
The biopharma beat on earnings, but the real excitement came from company's optimistic outlook on its experimental anti-obesity drug.



Carvana

CVNA (NYSE) • \$121.67 • 37.36

After a restructuring, the online used-car dealer reported record results and turned its first quarterly profit. The stock surged some 30%.



WINNERS & LOSERS

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NYSE Biggest % Movers

Winners

Name (Sym)	Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
a.k.a.Brands(AKA)	78	21.27	+8.52	+66.8
AspenAerogels(ASPEN)	17508	25.11	+9.01	+56.0
Carvana(CVNA)	55406	121.67	+37.36	+44.3
WideOpenWest(WOW)	7612	4.86	+1.39	+40.1
GameStop(GME)	53741	16.47	+4.57	+38.4
RushStreetInt(RSI)	14414	7.86	+1.80	+29.7
PitneyBowes(PBI)	13400	5.27	+1.14	+27.6
GCT Semiconductor(GCTS)	1383	6.09	+1.31	+27.4

Losers

Name (Sym)	Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
AnnovisBio(ANVS)	14130	5.18	-12.83	-71.2
Vestis(VSTS)	56446	9.41	-9.49	-50.2
Bakkt(BKKT)	3243	6.50	-3.49	-35.0
Fastly(FSLY)	52511	8.48	-4.47	-34.5
DestinyTech100(DXYZ)	8062	13.00	-5.83	-31.0
Owens&Minor(OMI)	5888	18.21	-6.88	-27.4
WeaveComms(WEAV)	4863	8.32	-3.01	-26.6
Chegg(CHGG)	40129	5.24	-1.86	-26.2

NYSE American Biggest % Movers

Winners

Name (Sym)	Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
NFT(MI)	2389	6.02	+2.49	+70.5
RydeGroup(RYDE)	1352	4.34	+1.02	+30.7
ActiniumPharm(ATNM)	1966	8.96	+2.09	+30.4
DecisionPointSys(DPSI)	536	10.01	+1.88	+23.1
Electromed(ELMD)	193	18.50	+2.73	+17.3
EmpirePetrol(EP)	334	5.73	+0.77	+15.5
SkyHarbour(SKYH)	159	10.36	+1.39	+15.5
AltaGlobal(MMA)	23	3.55	+0.47	+15.3

Losers

Name (Sym)	Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
AeonBiopharma(AEON)	1223	1.70	-3.37	-66.5
BetterChoice(BTTR)	209	4.88	-1.47	-23.1
BiteAcqn(BITE)	249	8.38	-2.34	-21.8
IdahoStratRscs(IDR)	158	7.61	-1.39	-15.4
CatchalntvA(CHAA)	24	9.63	-1.66	-14.7
GoldRoyalty(GROY)	2813	1.90	-0.25	-11.6
MetallaRoyalty(MTA)	2496	2.84	-0.34	-10.7
ContangoOre(CTGO)	369	19.18	-2.17	-10.2

Nasdaq Biggest % Movers

Winners

Name (Sym)	Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
EliemTherap(ELYM)	8391	10.15	+6.18	+155.2
GeneDx(WGS)	11437	19.66	+8.58	+77.4
DecipheraPharm(DCPH)	64597	25.38	+10.73	+73.2
Enovix(ENOVX)	54378	10.09	+3.63	+56.2
Codexis(CDXS)	3765	3.92	+1.26	+47.4
CandelTherap(CADL)	4843	9.02	+2.63	+41.2
TransMedics(TMDX)	10384	127.99	+35.91	+39.0
JanuxTherap(JANX)	5260	64.78	+17.39	+36.7

Losers

Name (Sym)	Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
HoldcoNuvo(NUVO)	1233	2.04	-4.76	-70.0
Schmid(SHMD)	833	4.04	-6.95	-63.2
BinahCapital(BCG)	4	5.50	-7.80	-58.6
CVRx(CVRX)	3341	9.22	-5.47	-37.2
ZappEV(ZAPP)	3249	1.91	-0.95	-33.2
Accuray(ARRAY)	8373	1.62	-0.57	-26.0
AstecIndustries(ASTE)	1868	32.38	-10.26	-24.1
Freshworks(FRSH)	38210	14.03	-4.41	-23.9

NYSE Most Active

Volume Percentage Leaders

Name (Sym)	Volume	%Chg.	Close	Change
BW LPG(BWLP)	764	1070.2	15.10	+1.10
AnnovisBio(ANVS)	14130	1057.7	5.18	-12.83
Vestis(VSTS)	56446	576.7	9.41	-9.49
MetalsAcqn(MTAL)	3084	531.1	12.85	-1.04
BrookfieldReinsur(BNRE)	140	405.9	42.61	+1.80
AresAcqnII(AAACT)	3584	371.3	10.62	+0.00
Philips(PHG)	21488	309.3	26.82	+5.75
AZZ(AZZ)	4318	301.5	75.02	+3.53
BrookfieldAsset(BAM)	23387	293.7	39.13	-0.57
GiblBusTravel(GBTG)	2935	257.7	6.17	+0.17
AspenAerogels(ASPEN)	17508	256.2	25.11	+9.01
Leggett&Platt(LEG)	29109	240.1	13.95	-4.04
ALTC Acqn(ALCC)	10164	236.3	14.83	+2.02
FathomDigital(FATH)	195	235.6	5.10	+0.05
Chegg(CHGG)	40129	204.6	5.24	-1.86
CVS Health(CVS)	147307	204.4	55.90	-11.28
SensataTech(ST)	28083	192.5	40.07	+5.09
ColombierAcqnIIA(CLBR)	624	183.2	10.35	-0.02
AssetMarkFin(AMK)	4147	175.7	33.96	+0.03
Sunoco(SUN)	6107	174.1	55.91	-0.73

By Share Volume

Name (Sym)	Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
NIO(NIO)	411305	5.57	+1.08	+24.1
GinkgoBioworks(DNA)	332189	0.95	+0.09	+11.0
Pfizer(PFE)	292260	27.81	+2.41	+9.5
FordMotor(F)	269330	12.43	-0.36	-2.8
Snap(SNAP)	209583	16.25	+1.70	+11.7
NY CmntyBcp(NYCB)	187009	3.53	+0.56	+18.9
PalantirTech(PLTR)	181323	23.33	+0.81	+3.6
EmergentBiosol(EBS)	175184	3.89	+1.97	+102.6
AT&T(T)	170960	16.85	+0.10	+0.6
BankofAmerica(BAC)	158040	37.25	-0.58	-1.5
CVS Health(CVS)	147307	55.90	-11.28	-16.8
Transocean(RIG)	134023	5.57	-0.30	-5.1
VirginGalactic(SPECE)	131636	0.95	+0.06	+6.8
BarrickGold(GOLD)	120895	16.46	-0.63	-3.7
NorwegCruise(NCLH)	120398	15.99	-3.05	-16.0
Carnival(CCL)	119622	14.44	-0.64	-4.2
ExxonMobil(XOM)	119364	116.00	-1.96	-1.7
Vale(VALE)	113892	12.61	+0.33	+2.7
NuHoldings(NU)	106377	11.68	+0.63	+5.7
PetroleoBrasil(PBR)	100962	16.43	-0.62	-3.6

By Dollar Volume

Name (Sym)	\$ Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
BerkHathwy A(BRKA)	41233788603000.00	3920.00	-0.6	
Eli Lilly(LLY)	15670978	734.97	+1.46	+0.2
ExxonMobil(XOM)	13939084	116.00	-1.96	-1.7
CVS Health(CVS)	8385614	55.90	-11.28	-16.8
Mastercard(MA)	7741460	443.58	-18.84	-4.1
TaiwanSemi(TSM)	7701835	141.56	+3.26	+2.4
Pfizer(PFE)	7309748	27.81	+2.41	+9.5
Alibaba(BABA)	7162473	81.33	+5.78	+7.7
JPMorganChase(JPM)	6985059	190.51	-2.98	-1.5
Chevron(CVX)	6865348	160.25	-5.64	-3.4
Visa(V)	6852603	268.49	-6.03	-2.2
UnitedHealth(UNH)	6825780	492.45	-2.90	-0.6
Uber(UBER)	6715510	69.23	+0.18	+0.3
Boeing(BA)	6566674	179.79	+12.57	+7.5
J&J(JNJ)	6499743	149.27	+3.13	+2.1
BankofAmerica(BAC)	5876622	37.25	-0.58	-1.5
BerkHathwy B(BRK.B)	5852085	400.87	-1.23	-0.3
Carvana(CVNA)	5794707	121.67	+37.36	+44.3
Block(SQ)	5712683	69.47	-5.01	-6.7
McDonald's(MCD)	5603727	270.32	-2.77	-1.0

NYSE American Most Active

Volume Percentage Leaders

Name (Sym)	Volume	%Chg.	Close	Change
DecisionPointSys(DPSI)	536	917.0	10.01	+1.88
AirIndustries(AIRI)	737	724.5	6.63	+0.48
AeonBiopharma(AEON)	1223	282.2	1.70	-3.37
BK Tech(BKTI)	254	248.8	14.91	+0.76
ContangoOre(CTGO)	369	203.0	19.18	-2.17
BiteAcqn(BITE)	249	154.2	8.38	-2.34
EvansBancorp(EVBN)	194	108.4	25.55	-0.52
Espey(ESP)	115	89.7	25.30	+2.75
TrioTech(TRT)	52	84.8	6.35	-0.30
JawsMustangA(JWSM)	53	57.8	11.02	+0.02
EveMobility(AEVE)	315	53.7	11.00	+0.02
LegatoMergerIII(LEGT)	842	51.2	10.10	+0.01
GranTierraEner(GTE)	2977	45.6	8.64	+0.27
CentrusEnergy(LEU)	1349	45.4	45.05	+3.48
EquinoxGold(EQX)	22060	45.3	5.38	-0.15
SkyHarbour(SKYH)	159	35.3	10.36	+1.39
EnergyFuels(UUUU)	18341	26.7	5.54	+0.14
RileyExpln(REPX)	853	23.0	24.94	-1.82
Electromed(ELMD)	193	17.3	18.50	+2.73
EvolutionPetrol(EPM)	1689	16.4	5.53	-0.26

By Share Volume

Name (Sym)	Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
Tellurian(TELL)	126695	0.43	-0.04	-7.9
DenisonMines(DNN)	110261	2.13	+0.10	+4.9
B2Gold(BTG)	45374	2.48	-0.14	-5.3
NewGold(NGD)	41606	1.81	-0.01	-0.5
UraniumEner(UEC)	37236	7.21	+0.30	+4.3
Zomedica(ZOM)	31848	0.15	+0.01	+9.2
TrioPetroleum(TPET)	28246	0.37	+0.01	+1.6
PerspectiveTherap(CATX)	24697	1.81	+0.23	+14.6
EquinoxGold(EQX)	22060	5.38	-0.15	-2.7
CalidiBiotherap(CLDI)	21267	0.20	+0.04	+22.6
KulrTech(KULR)	20192	0.46	-0.01	-1.6
CamberEnergy(CEI)	19899	0.17	-0.00	-1.1
EnergyFuels(UUUU)	18341	5.54	+0.14	+2.6
TasekoMines(TGB)	16990	2.41	-0.19	-7.3
Ur-Energy(URG)	15176	1.81	+0.12	+7.1
Cybin(CYBIN)	13632	0.35	0.00	0.0
GalianoGold(GAU)	13590	1.65	+0.07	+4.4
i-80Gold(IAUX)	13086	1.23	-0.08	-6.1
Senseonics(SENS)	12417	0.50	+0.09	+21.5
Globalstar(GSAT)	11205	1.30	+0.01	+0.8

By Dollar Volume

Name (Sym)	\$ Volume	Close	Change	%Chg.
UraniumEner(UEC)	262640	7.21	+0.30	+4.3
DenisonMines(DNN)	227944	2.13	+0.10	+4.9
EquinoxGold(EQX)	121432	5.38	-0.15	-2.7
B2Gold(BTG)	113444	2.48	-0.14	-5.3
ImperialOil(IMO)	111617	68.05	-2.65	-3.7
EnergyFuels(UUUU)	99785	5.54	+0.14	+2.6
NewGold(NGD)	76683	1.81	-0.01	-0.5
SilverCrestMetals(SILV)	62008	8.31	-0.22	-2.6
CentrusEnergy(LEU)	58610	45.05	+3.48	+8.4
Tellurian(TELL)	56289	0.43	-0.04	-7.9
Seaboard(SEB)	53283	3220.01	+12.79	+0.4
PerspectiveTherap(CATX)	42728	1.81	+0.23	+14.6
MAG Silver(MAG)	42303	12.28	-0.68	-5.2
TasekoMines(TGB)	42133	2.41	-0.19	-7.3
SilvercorpMetals(SVM)	29129	3.30	-0.01	-0.3
IvanhoeElectric(IE)	28642	10.76	+0.08	+0.7
Ur-Energy(URG)	26577	1.81	+0.12	+7.1
IndonesiaEnergy(INDO)	26165	4.21	-0.14	-3.2
GranTierraEner(GTE)	25633	8.64	+0.27	+3.2
ParkNational(PRK)	24118	136.79	+2.46	+1.8

Nasdaq Most Active

Volume Percentage Leaders

Name (Sym)	Volume
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RESEARCH REPORTS

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Amazon.com • AMZN-Nasdaq

Outperform • Price \$175 on May 1 by Wedbush

Amazon reported strong first-quarter results with revenue and operating income ahead of expectations. The company delivered operating income of \$15.3 billion, above consensus of \$11.3 billion, while reporting better-than-expected growth in both Amazon Web Services (+17.2% year over year versus Street +15%) and advertising (+24.3% Y/Y versus Street +23.5%). Amazon has now reported operating income above the high end of its guidance range for five consecutive quarters, and the company has a number of drivers for further margin expansion in place, including continued cost efficiencies within its fulfillment network as well as the ongoing mix shift toward higher-margin AWS and advertising revenue. Commentary on the call was also incrementally positive in our view, with management highlighting drivers of further retail margin expansion as well as emerging success in monetizing generative artificial intelligence, which is already on a multibillion dollar revenue run rate and should contribute more meaningfully to AWS growth in 2024. Amazon remains on our Best Ideas List, and we reiterate our Outperform rating and \$225 target price.

Boeing • BA-NYSE

Overweight • Price \$171.46 on May 1 by J.P. Morgan

We hosted Boeing Chief Financial Officer Brian West for a meeting with investors yesterday. West expressed confidence in ramping 737 production in the second half of 2024 and made the case for why Boeing is working toward the acquisition of Spirit AeroSystems. He also discussed qualities for the company's next CEO and offered color on 787 and on cash flow expectations for later this year. Overall, there are many challenges facing Boeing, but we think the most important thing for the stock by far is to improve the 737 production process so Boeing can deliver increasing numbers of these aircraft with greater predictability. The second half of 2024 will be an important proof

point on this front. We reiterate our Overweight rating and our year-end price target of \$210.

TJX Cos. • TJX-NYSE

Buy • Price \$93.82 on May 1 by UBS

We upgrade TJX to Buy from Neutral for four reasons. 1) We believe off-price retailers like TJX will take more share from department stores than previously thought. 2) Not only can TJX continue opening stores in its core markets, but also we think TJX's newer businesses such as HomeSense and Sierra Trading Post have big potential, as does its Europe operation. 3) We now expect a higher long-term earnings before interest and taxes margin, 12.6% versus 11.9% prior, due to better fixed cost leverage on our more bullish same-store sales growth outlook. 4) New UBS Evidence Lab 2024 survey data suggests potential e-commerce disruption isn't the existential threat we thought it was. We predict e-com growth rates will slow over the next two years. As this happens, our view is the market will see higher growth potential for TJX, and this will lead to its price/earnings ratio expanding. Price target: \$132.

Eli Lilly & Co. • LLY-NYSE

Overweight • Price \$781 on April 30 by Morgan Stanley

We reiterate our Overweight rating following first-quarter results. We expect Zepbound/Mounjaro (obesity and Type 2 diabetes drugs) to drive upward revisions to revenue estimates and margin expansion, and the company continues to have the strongest growth profile within our coverage universe. (2024-30 revenue and earnings-per-share compound annual growth of 14% and 23%, respectively.) Revenue guidance was raised due to the strong performance of Mounjaro/Zepbound and greater visibility into the company's production expansion for the remainder of the year. Lilly reiterated prior guidance for production of "salable doses" in the second half of 2024 to be at least 1.5 times the levels of second-half 2023. Shares are

Insider Transactions

Purchases

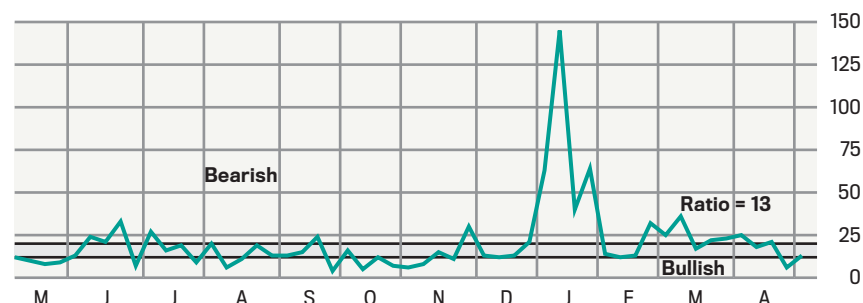
Company	Symbol	Insiders	Shares	\$ Val (000's)
Msci	MSCI	2	20,500	9,503
Centuri	CTRI	7	132,150	2,775
Hexcel	HXL	4	34,000	2,185
Heartland Express	HTLD	2	192,696	1,950
Cleveland-Cliffs	CLF	2	85,000	1,431
Hertz Global	HTZ	1	250,000	1,114
Intrusion	INTZ	2	595,748	1,013
J B Hunt Transport Services	JBHT	1	6,200	999
Goosehead Insurance	GSHD	1	10,000	581
Globe Life	GL	4	6,819	531
Zura Bio Ltd	ZURA	1	159,744	500
Churchill Downs	CHDN	1	3,800	495
Maia Biotechnology	MAIA	2	167,157	448
Cincinnati Financial	CINF	2	3,000	337
Nb Bancorp	NBBK	2	21,900	319
Hawthorn Bancshares	HWBK	3	13,900	263
Penns Woods Bancorp	PWOD	7	14,619	254
Uscb Financial	USCB	1	20,276	226
Universal Health Realty Income Trust	UHT	1	6,000	208
Atn International	ATNI	1	10,000	199

Sales

Company	Symbol	Insiders	Shares	\$ Val (000's)
Ibotta	IBTA	7	556,354	48,959
Texas Instruments	TXN	2	217,990	38,884
Danaher	DHR	3	73,608	18,375
Elf Beauty	ELF	2	110,476	18,370
General Dynamics	GD	2	63,417	18,097
Trade Desk	TTD	1	213,936	18,096
Salesforce	CRM	3	64,200	17,524
Snap	SNAP	2	1,150,000	16,428
Equifax	EFX	2	72,397	16,322
Pinnacle Financial Partners	PNFP	3	201,172	16,305
Zurn Elkay Water Solutions	ZWS	2	473,456	15,359
Carrier Global	CARR	1	198,773	12,302
Costar Group	CSGP	2	126,536	11,719
American Express	AXP	1	38,873	9,276
Rtx	RTX	1	89,762	9,106
Cme Group	CME	1	40,000	8,436
Carvana	CVNA	1	100,000	8,274
Impinj	PI	4	48,136	7,091
Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd	RCL	1	50,000	6,981
Medpace	MEDP	1	16,930	6,783

An insider is any officer, director or owner of 10% or more of a class of a company's securities. In most cases, an insider must report any trade to the SEC within two business days. The tables highlight companies that filed with the SEC through last Wednesday. The tables do not include pension-plan or employee stock-option activity, trades by beneficial owners of 10% or more, trades under \$2 per share or trades under 100 shares. The "Purchases" column includes only open-market and private purchases; the "Sales" column includes only open-market and private sales, and excludes trades preceded by option exercise in the 12 months prior to the reported event. Source: Thomson Reuters

Insider Transactions Ratio



Ratio of Insiders Sales to Buys. Readings under 12:1 are Bullish. Those over 20:1 are Bearish. The total top 20 sales and buys are 322,686,068 and 25,328,608 respectively; Source: Thomson Reuters

trading at 37 times our new 2025 EPS estimate. Price target: \$1,023.

Cinemark Holdings • CNK-NYSE

Buy • Price \$18.42 on May 2 by Benchmark

Cinemark reported its fiscal first-quarter results, which surpassed consensus expectations in terms of both revenue and profitability. The 2024 box office has faced challenges stemming from last year's Hollywood labor strikes, which caused a reduction in the volume film product. These disruptions have posed significant obstacles for the industry as it strives to sustain its recovery growth from the pandemic. Despite facing a challenging comparison from the previous year for the current second-quarter period, we anticipate that the box office will experience sequential growth

from the first quarter, potentially marking the lowest points of the year. Price target: \$23.

Shopify • SHOP-NYSE

Buy • Price \$72.55 on April 29 by Citi

We're upgrading Shopify to Buy/High-Risk and raising our target price to \$105. Our deep-dive analysis into Shopify's Merchant Solutions business gives us confidence in Shopify's long-term growth as take-rate expansion accelerates in 2025 and beyond, fueled by new product/feature adoption going mainstream. This leads us to take up our top/bottom line estimates for 2025-28 by five and eight points, respectively. With shares off 20%-plus from February highs, and trading at a discount on growth-adjusted valuation, we see an attractive entry point.

DATA

Statistics from April 29-May 3, 2024

Table with 2 columns: Metric and Value. Includes Barron's 50-Stock Average (53), Cash Track (47), Charting the Market (34), etc.

Table with 2 columns: Metric and Value. Includes Dow Jones Averages (49), Money Rates, U.S. & Foreign (51), Mutual Funds (47), etc.

Table with 2 columns: Metric and Value. Includes Vital Signs (29), Week In Stocks (50), Weekly Bond Statistics (52), etc.

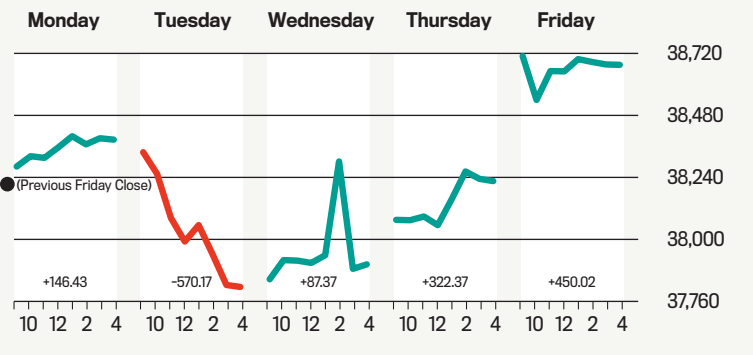
Contact Us For queries, email us at memberservices@dojones.com

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE COMPOSITE LIST - NEW HIGHS - NEW LOWS

Main stock market listing table with columns for -52-Week High/Low, Name, Tick, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt., and Div Yld. Includes various stock symbols and their corresponding data.

Five-Day Dow Composite

No More Tears: The Dow rose 1.1% last week after a weaker-than-expected—but still strong—payrolls report helped boost the blue-chip benchmark. Amgen gained 15% after reporting earnings, while Chevron fell 3.4%.



Continuation of the stock market listing table, including various stock symbols and their corresponding data.

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NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE COMPOSITE LIST

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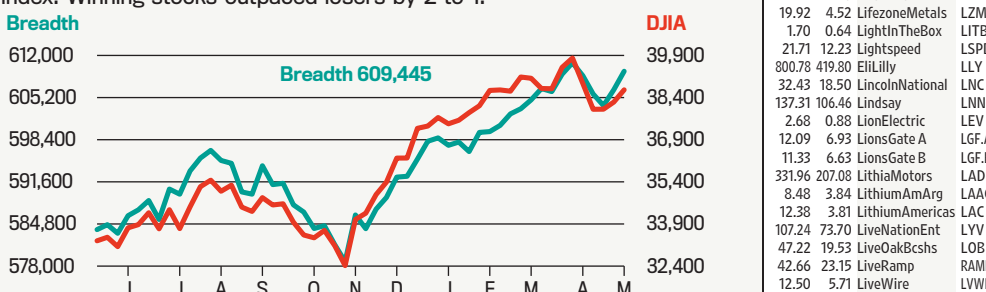
Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like Gray Television A, GreatAjax, GreenBrickPrters, etc.

HI

Table with columns: Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like HCA Healthcare, HCL Group, HDFC Bank, etc.

NYSE Cumulative Daily Breadth vs DJIA

Flying High Again: NYSE Composite breadth rose for a second week after Apple's big stock buyback announcement helped buoy the index. Winning stocks outpaced losers by 2 to 1.



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, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like IDACORP, IDT, INH, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like JBG SMITH Prop, JELD-WEN, JPMorgan Chase, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like KB Financial, KB Home, KBR, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like LCI Inds, LG Display, LFL, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like LendingClub, Lennar A, Lennar B, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like Loyal, LocalBounti, LockheedMartin, etc.

M

Table with columns: Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like M&T Bank, MBIA, MDU Rscs, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like M&M, M&L, M&M, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like Medifast, Medtronic, Merck, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like MotorolaSol, Movado, MuellerIndustries, etc.

N

Table with columns: Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like NACCO Inds, NABL, NCR Atleos, etc.

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NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE COMPOSITE LIST

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Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like Nordstrom, NorfolkSouthern, NorthAmConstr.

O

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like OFGBancorp, OGE Energy, O-I Glass.

PQ

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like PACS Group, PBF Energy, PG&E.

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like ParkHotels, ParkerHannifin, Parsons.

R

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like RBC Bearings, RBA, RCFA.

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like RaymondJames, Rayonier, RealtyCapital.

S

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

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like SharkNinja, Shell, SherwinWilliams.

T

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like TALEducation, TC Energy, TDCX.

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like Sweetgreen, Sylvamo, SynchroFin.

U

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, Low, Name, Ticker, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div. Amt. Includes entries like UAL, United Therapeutics, Umicore.

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NYSE

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, -52-Week-Low, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes stocks like TristarAcqnl, TriumphGroup, Tronox, etc.

U

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, -52-Week-Low, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes UBS Group, UDR, UGI, U-Haul, etc.

V

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, -52-Week-Low, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes VF, VICI Prop, Vio, etc.

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, -52-Week-Low, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes VistaOutdoor, Vistra, VitalEnergy, etc.

W

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

X Y Z

Table with columns: -52-Week-High, -52-Week-Low, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes XFinancial, XPO, XeniaHotels, etc.

NASDAQ ISSUES

Table with columns: 52-Week-High, 52-Week-Low, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes AAOON, ACAD, ACELVYRN, etc.

Five-Day Nasdaq Composite

Feeling Good: The index struggled after the Fed left rates unchanged. But slower-than-expected April hiring gave hope for rate cuts this year, and tech earnings from Amazon, Qualcomm, and Apple lifted shares.

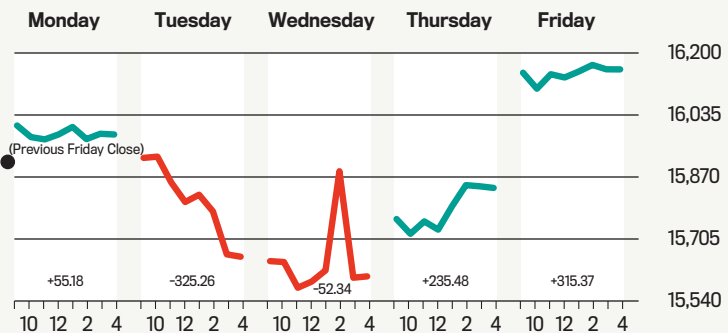


Table with columns: 52-Week-High, 52-Week-Low, Name, Tick Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes Arhaus, ARM, ArriVentoBio, etc.

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NASDAQ ISSUES

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Table with columns: 52-Week High/Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like 5.68 2.42 BallardPower, 104.00 71.37 BancFirst, etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High/Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like 29.93 4.91 CSP, 243.65 132.66 CSW Industrials, etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High/Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like 961.91 614.22 CocaColaCon, 72.67 56.28 Coca-ColaEuro, etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High/Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like 12.46 5.53 DefinitiveHlthcr, 14.10 4.05 DenaliCapAcqna, etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High/Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like 6.48 1.65 Evgo, 15.43 7.07 Evotex, etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High/Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like 5.80 2.12 Cadiz, 33.92 13.14 CARGOTherapeutics, etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High/Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like 100.01 42.84 Cimpress, 124.35 95.01 CincinnatiFinl, etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High/Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like 2.37 0.65 DBV Tech, 3.29 0.72 DHU, etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High/Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like 6.35 4.70 EpsilonEnergy, 914.93 672.88 EQIX, etc.

Table with columns: 52-Week High/Low, Name, Ticker, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg., Div Amt. Includes entries like 121.38 20.95 ForwardAir, 3.30 0.75 Fossil, etc.

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NASDAQ ISSUES

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Table with 4 columns of stock data: High, Low, Name, and various metrics (Tick, Sym, Yld, P/E, Last, Chg, Div Amt). The table is organized into four main sections labeled G, H, I, and J, each containing multiple rows of stock information.

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NASDAQ ISSUES

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Main table containing NASDAQ stock issues with columns for 52-Week High/Low, Ticker, Name, and various financial metrics. Includes sub-sections for 'O', 'PQR', and 'S'.

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DATA

NASDAQ ISSUES

52-Week		Tick	Sym	Yld	P/E	Last	Chg.	Div	Amt.
High	Low								
17.07	10.76	Star	STHO	...	dd	12.63	+0.91
108.12	72.67	Starbucks	SBUX	3.1	20	73.11	-15.14	57	...
7.98	2.70	StealthGas	GASX	...	4	6.18	+0.11	...	...
151.34	90.55	SteelDynamics	STLD	1.4	9	135.47	+1.43	46	...
38.25	19.83	StepStone	STEP	2.3	4.2	36.93	+0.48	21	...
57.06	37.78	Stericycle	SRCL	...	dd	46.18	-0.13	...	...
16.68	10.00	SterlingCheck	STER	...	dd	15.46	+0.16	...	...
116.36	41.26	StetlerInfr	STRL	...	23	101.15	-4.74	...	...
45.63	29.92	StevenMadden	SHOO	2.1	16	39.59	-0.89	21	...
5.20	2.06	StitchFix	SFIX	...	dd	2.29	+0.13	...	...
53.15	36.93	StockYardsBncp	SVBT	2.6	13	46.97	-0.82	30	...
16.40	3.35	StokeTherap	STOK	...	dd	12.02	-0.39	...	...
19.46	9.34	StoneCo	SNEX	...	18	16.73	+0.38	...	...
74.73	52.93	StoneX	SNEX	...	10	73.93	+2.38	...	...
21.72	9.43	Stratays	SSYS	...	dd	9.72	-0.30	...	...
121.29	64.53	StrategicEd	STRA	2.0	28	120.65	-0.41	60	...
30.34	16.06	Strattec	STRT	...	cc	22.86	-0.14	...	...
29.99	16.55	StratusProp	STRS	...	dd	23.40	+0.64	...	...
11.56	1.85	StrongholdDig	SDIG	...	dd	3.36	-0.13	...	...
75.02	21.79	StructureTherap	GPCR	...	dd	39.29	+0.35	...	...
31.49	17.06	SummitFin	SMFF	3.4	7	25.70	-1.75	22	...
18.67	8.91	SummitStateBk	SSBI	5.2	8	9.18	-0.62	12	...
15.22	1.50	SummitTherap	SMMT	...	dd	4.39	+0.53	...	...
23.80	11.96	SunCountryAir	SNCY	...	11	13.85	+0.20	...	...
8.22	2.79	SunOpta	STKL	...	dd	5.61	-1.09	...	...
12.18	1.77	SunPower	SPWR	...	dd	2.34	+0.35	...	...
23.85	8.43	SunRun	RUN	...	dd	11.90	+1.61	...	...
1229.00	131.06	SuperMicroComp	SMCI	...	44	782.70	-74.74	...	...
17.70	7.23	SuperiorGroup	SGC	3.4	31	16.65	-0.22	14	...
38.08	21.99	SupernusPharm	SUPN	...	...	30.83	-0.76	...	...
45.99	22.05	SurgeryPartners	SGRY	...	dd	24.53	-0.02	...	...
39.41	16.79	Surmodics	SRDX	...	34	32.49	+6.32	...	...
6.13	2.01	SutroBioph	STRO	...	dd	3.83	+0.41	...	...
64.14	23.58	Symbotic	SYM	...	dd	41.13	+0.94	...	...
121.37	72.65	Synaptics	SYNA	...	dd	90.31	+1.05	...	...
25.34	11.22	SyndaxPharm	SNDX	...	dd	22.05	+0.99	...	...
62.38	365.46	Synopsys	SNPS	...	59	536.94	-6.72	...	...
2.30	1.27	SyprisSolutions	SYPR	...	dd	1.34	-0.06
8.17	2.09	SyrosPharm	SYRS	...	dd	5.13	+0.09

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T

11.26	4.23	TelaBio	TELA	...	dd	4.72	+0.27	
15.25	10.97	TFS Finl	TFSL	8.5	48	13.28	+1.08	2825	...	
11.41	10.42	TLGY Acqn A	TLGY	...	31	11.38	-0.02	...	...
3.20	0.65	TMChemetals	TMC	...	dd	1.50	-0.07	...	...
10.94	10.17	TMT Acqn	TMTC	...	56	10.84	...	...	...
1.88	0.14	TMT Acqn Rt	TMCR	...	...	2.9	+0.04	...	...
168.64	124.92	T-MobileUS	TMUS	1.6	22	164.60	+0.64	65	...	
47.20	24.74	TPG	TPG	3.0	dd	44.17	+0.30	44	...	
12.24	1.63	TPIComposites	TPIC	...	dd	3.74	+0.96	...	...
132.76	87.43	T.RowePrice	TROW	4.4	13	111.50	-2.52	124	...	
36.27	7.17	TTEC	TTEC	7.6	43	7.66	-0.06	06	...	
17.32	11.14	TTM Tech	TTMI	...	dd	17.31	+2.18	...	...
5.00	2.17	Taboola	TBLA	...	dd	4.43	+0.20	...	...
26.11	9.70	TactileSystems	TCMD	...	12	14.28	-0.03	...	...
171.59	119.91	TakeTwoSoftware	TTWO	...	dd	145.88	+1.41	...	...
1.61	0.43	Talpera	TLPH	...	dd	1.02	-0.03	...	...
47.00	13.82	TandemDiabetes	TNDM	...	dd	44.72	+9.48	...	...
13.03	2.47	TangoTherap	TNGX	...	dd	7.61	+0.17	...	...
12.19	10.48	TargetGlbl I A	TGAA	...	77	11.25	+0.05	...	...
40.40	12.57	TarsusPharm	TARS	...	dd	36.85	+4.81	...	...
14.67	7.95	TaskUs	TASK	...	25	12.08	+0.49	...	...
13.75	5.41	TatTechnologies	TATT	...	23	11.92	+0.03	...	...
3.89	0.50	TaysahaGene	TSHA	...	dd	2.57	+0.18	...	...
12.25	10.63	Tech&TelecomA	TETE	...	dd	11.88	+0.01	...	...
41.93	23.43	TechTarget	TTGT	...	cc	28.00	+0.50	...	...
6.36	4.33	Ericscon	ERIC	3.2	dd	5.21	+0.03	1275	...	
22.75	6.90	Telesat	TSAT	...	1	7.48	+0.15	...	...
3.01	0.30	TelesisBio	TBIO	...	dd	3.3	+0.01	...	...
5.00	1.61	Telos	TL	...	dd	3.50	-0.07	...	...
63.57	24.60	10xGenomics	TXG	...	dd	27.48	-0.11	...	...
53.50	33.85	Tenable	TENB	...	dd	44.60	-1.39	...	...
8.09	1.66	TenayaTherap	TNYA	...	dd	4.68	+0.37	...	...
12.03	10.42	TenXKeaneAcqn	TENK	...	41	11.16	+0.04	...	...
8.83	0.13	TenXKeaneAcqnRt	TENKR	...	...	2.4	+0.01	...	...
121.86	81.08	Teradyne	TER	4	46	120.44	+6.31	12	...	
13.51	3.26	TermsPharm	TERN	...	dd	5.44	+0.53	...	...
14.50	6.85	TerritorialBncp	TBNK	2.5	14	8.09	-1.02	05	...	
299.29	138.80	Tesla	TSLA	...	46	181.19	+12.90	...	...
208.76	132.29	TetraTech	TTEK	...	6	42	207.75	+15.25	22	...
21.09	0.80	TevogenBio	TVGN	...	dd	0.97	+0.03	...	...
66.18	42.79	TexasCapBchsh	TCBI	...	18	60.58	+2.77	...	...
188.12	139.48	TexasInstruments	TXN	2.9	28	178.91	+1.43	130	...	
170.39	91.06	TexasRoadhouse	TXRH	1.5	33	163.61	+6.15	61	...	
47.11	28.41	TheBancorp	TBKK	...	9	31.92	+1.12	...	...
4.72	1.84	TherapeuticsMD	TXMD	...	dd	1.88	+0.02	...	...
11.98	8.21	TheravanceBio	TBPH	...	dd	9.46	+3.34	...	...
21.50	12.60	ThirdCoastBchsh	TCBCH	...	11	20.93	+1.03	...	...
12.42	4.31	ThirdHarmonic	THRD	...	dd	11.70	+0.87	...	...
8.41	2.19	Thoughtworks	TWKS	...	dd	2.25	-0.14	...	...
4.39	1.52	ThredUp	TDUP	...	dd	1.80	+0.19	...	...
10.99	10.07	ThunderBridgelV A	THLV	...	72	10.50	-0.01	...	...
3.40	1.50	TilrayBrands	TLRY	...	dd	2.10	+0.32	...	...
32.20	22.11	TimberlandBncp	TBCK	3.7	9	26.10	+0.85	24	...	
35.88	21.44	TitanMachinery	TITN	...	5	22.82	+0.12	...	...
37.11	22.31	Torm	TRMD	16.6	5	34.78	+1.13	136	...	
43.92	21.43	TowerSemi	TSEM	...	7	33.04	+0.68	...	...
31.08	21.22	TowneBank	TOWN	3.7	14	27.30	+0.38	25	...	
279.38	185.00	TractorSupply	TSCO	1.6	26	270.21	-3.69	110	...	
94.00	60.23	TradeDesk	TTD	...	cc	88.59	+3.86	...	...
108.04	64.83	Tradeweb	TW	4	56	104.54	+2.70	10	...	
0.44	0.06	TrailblazerRt	TBMR	...	...	1.1	-0.04	...	...
11.00	10.08	TrailblazerA	TBMC	...	72	10.76	+0.01	...	...

V

3.88	1.39	VNET	VNET	...	dd	1.91	+0.33	...	...
13.23	5.76	VOXX Intl	VOXX	...	dd	6.15	-0.27	...	...
83.14	45.37	VSE	VSEC	5	30	82.90	+6.89	10	...	
17.80	5.62	Vacasa	VCSA	...	dd	7.65	+0.15	...	...
11.22	6.39	ValleyNatlBncp	VLV	5.7	9	7.73	+0.41	11	...	
17.05	6.58	Valveva	VALN	...	dd	7.71	+0.07	...	...
11.85	10.59	Valuencel A	VMCA	...	45	11.44	+0.02	...	...
7.00	3.30	VandaPharm	VNDA	...	cc	4.88	+0.26	...	...
23.90	14.56	VarexImaging	VREX	...	17	15.59	-1.20	...	...
52.88	22.75	VaronisSystems	VRSN	...	dd	43.77	-1.56	...	...
14.00	1.63	VastRenewables	VSTE	...	cc	3.52	-0.54	...	...
4.55	3.10	VastaPlatform	VSTA	...	dd	3.80	...	...	...
82.04	44.20	Vaxcye	PCVX	...	dd	65.96	+5.24	...	...
3.10	0.10	Vaxxinity	VAXX	...	dd	1.4	+0.02	...	...
37.75	17.94	VeevaInstr	VVVO	...	dd	36.37	+1.21	...	...
40.58	1.87	VentyxBiosciences	VTYX	...	dd	4.85	+0.92	...	...
8.35	4.60	VeraBradley	VRA	...	28	6.84	+0.09	...	...
50.78	7.10	VeraTherap	VERA	...	dd	43.44	+3.79	...	...
30.52	18.61	Veracyste	VCEL	...	dd	20.35	-1.04	...	...
53.05	30.18	Vericel	VCYT	...	dd	47.33	+1.78	...	...
40.28	18.41	VerintSystems	VRNT	...	cc	31.25	+0.32	...	...
229.72	167.05	Verisign	VRNS	...	21	168.32	-7.16	...	...
251.98	206.38	VeriskAnalytics	VRSK	...	7	44	237.33	+16.19	32	...
24.46	14.88	Veritex	VBTX	3.9	12	20.49	+0.32	20	...	
7.76	1.48	Veritox	VERI	...	dd	3.36	-0.15	...	...
23.81	11.83	VeronaPharma	VRNA	...	dd	15.69	+0.22	...	...
7.76	2.86	VerricaPharm	VRCA	...	dd	7.26	+0.39	...	...
12.19	6.37	VersaBank	VBNK	8	8	9.80	-0.18	0187	...	

FOREIGN MARKETS

52-Week		Tick	Sym	Yld	P/E	Last	Chg.	Div	Amt.
High	Low								
35.38	17.59	Vertex	VRTX	...	dd	29.26	-0.27	...	...
448.40	320.01	VertexPharm	VRTX	...	29	401.08	+3.60	...	...
21.42	5.84	VerveTherap	VERV	...	dd	6.41	+0.25	...	...
13.31	5.22	ViantRenewables	VIA	...	3	10.93	+0.05	...	...
11.63	3.85	ViantTech	VSP	...	dd	8.40	+0.07	...	...
47.35	15.02	ViaSat	VSAT	...	dd	17.21	+1.20	...	...
13.62	8.74	Viatrix	VTRS	4.1	cc	11.78	+0.21	12	...
11.65	7.10	ViaviSolutions	VIAM	...	dd	7.56	-0.45	...	...
98.38	30.90	Vicor	VICR	...	55	33.96	-0.45	...	...
52.76	28.66	VictoryCapital	VCTR	2.5	17	52.19	+0.61	335	...
11.11	2.50	VigilNeurosci	VIGL	...	dd	3.03	+0.32	...	...
99.41	8.28	VikingTherap	VKTX	...	dd	76.97	+2.66	...	...
29.38	20.25	VillageSuper A	VLGEA	3.5	8	28.75	+1.35	25	...
5.77	3.02	Vimeo	VMEQ	...	28				

DATA

TOP 500 EXCHANGE-TRADED PORTFOLIOS

BARRONS.COM/DATA

NOTICE TO READERS: Listed are the top 500 ETFs based on weekly volume.

Table with columns: Name, Tck Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt. Lists various ETFs including ARK Genomic Rev, ARK 21Shares Bitcoin, Alpha Arch 1-3M, BIKR KUI ShBd, DimenIntlCore2, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Tck Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt. Lists NYSE ETFs including Pimco Active Bond, Vanguard Total Bond, Vanguard Total Stock, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Tck Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt. Lists NASDAQ ETFs including ARK Innovation, abrdn Phys Gold, abrdn Phys Silver, AdvShMSOS2x, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Tck Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt. Lists various international and global ETFs including Direx DJ Bear 3X, Direx Jr Bull 3X, Direx EnerBt2x, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Tck Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt. Lists NYSE ARCA ETFs including ARK Innovation, abrdn Phys Gold, abrdn Phys Silver, etc.

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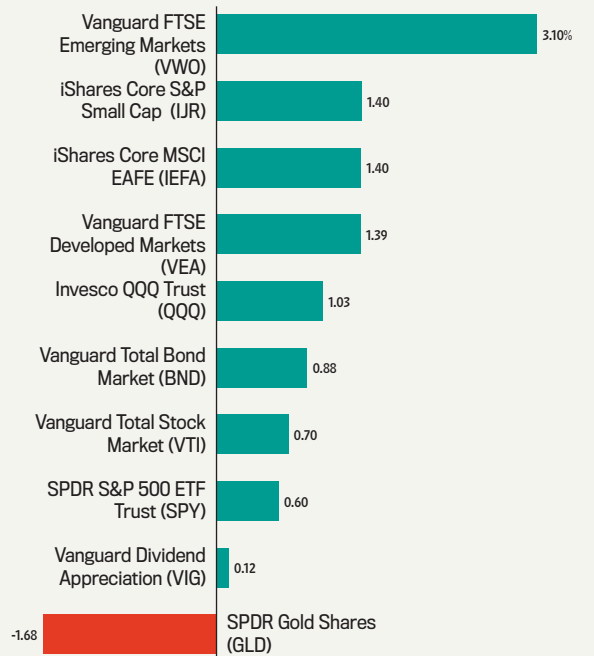
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Table with columns: Name, Tck Sym, Yld, Last, Chg, Div Amt. Lists various international and global ETFs including Direx DJ Bear 3X, Direx Jr Bull 3X, Direx EnerBt2x, etc.

Selected ETF Leaders



Source: Barron's Statistics

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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, v: capital-gains distribution may be a return of capital, x: ex cash dividend.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV Chg., %Ret., %Ret., %Ret. Lists various fund categories including AAMM, AB Funds, AB Funds - A, AB Funds - ADV, Akre Funds, Amanagrowth, Amer Beacon Instl, American Century G, American Century I, American Century R6, American Century Y, American Funds CI A, BNY Mellon Funds, Calamos Funds, and Calvert Investments.

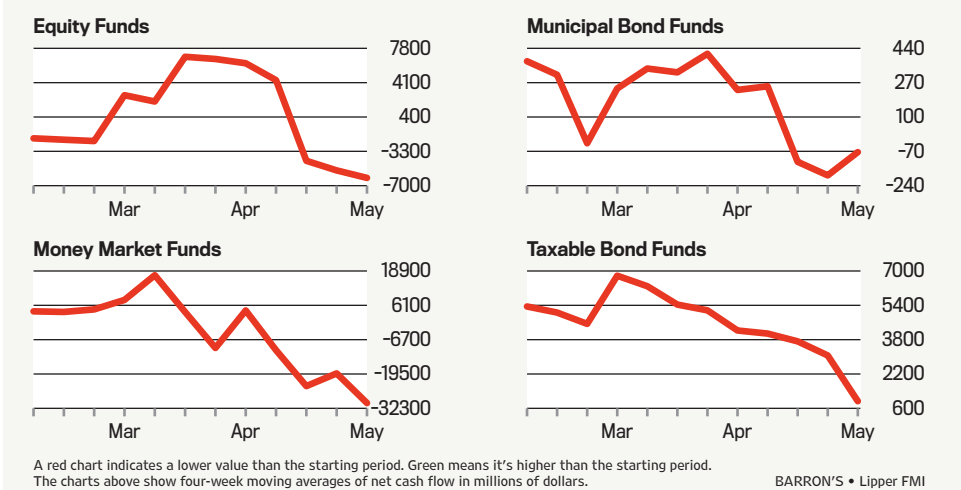
Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV Chg., %Ret., %Ret., %Ret. Lists various fund categories including Artisan Funds, Baird Funds, Baron Funds, BlackRock Funds, BlackRock Funds III, BlackRock Funds Inst, BlackRock Funds Int, Dimensional Fds, Fidelity Funds, Fidelity Funds II, Fidelity Funds III, Fidelity Funds IV, Fidelity Funds V, Fidelity Funds VI, Fidelity Funds VII, Fidelity Funds VIII, Fidelity Funds IX, Fidelity Funds X, Fidelity Funds XI, Fidelity Funds XII, Fidelity Funds XIII, Fidelity Funds XIV, Fidelity Funds XV, Fidelity Funds XVI, Fidelity Funds XVII, Fidelity Funds XVIII, Fidelity Funds XIX, Fidelity Funds XX, Fidelity Funds XXI, Fidelity Funds XXII, Fidelity Funds XXIII, Fidelity Funds XXIV, Fidelity Funds XXV, Fidelity Funds XXVI, Fidelity Funds XXVII, Fidelity Funds XXVIII, Fidelity Funds XXIX, Fidelity Funds XXX.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV Chg., %Ret., %Ret., %Ret. Lists various fund categories including Fidelity Funds XXXI, Fidelity Funds XXXII, Fidelity Funds XXXIII, Fidelity Funds XXXIV, Fidelity Funds XXXV, Fidelity Funds XXXVI, Fidelity Funds XXXVII, Fidelity Funds XXXVIII, Fidelity Funds XXXIX, Fidelity Funds XL, Fidelity Funds XLI, Fidelity Funds XLII, Fidelity Funds XLIII, Fidelity Funds XLIV, Fidelity Funds XLV, Fidelity Funds XLVI, Fidelity Funds XLVII, Fidelity Funds XLVIII, Fidelity Funds XLIX, Fidelity Funds L, Fidelity Funds LI, Fidelity Funds LII, Fidelity Funds LIII, Fidelity Funds LIV, Fidelity Funds LV, Fidelity Funds LVI, Fidelity Funds LVII, Fidelity Funds LVIII, Fidelity Funds LIX, Fidelity Funds LX.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV Chg., %Ret., %Ret., %Ret. Lists various fund categories including Fidelity Funds LXI, Fidelity Funds LXII, Fidelity Funds LXIII, Fidelity Funds LXIV, Fidelity Funds LXV, Fidelity Funds LXVI, Fidelity Funds LXVII, Fidelity Funds LXVIII, Fidelity Funds LXIX, Fidelity Funds LXX, Fidelity Funds LXXI, Fidelity Funds LXXII, Fidelity Funds LXXIII, Fidelity Funds LXXIV, Fidelity Funds LXXV, Fidelity Funds LXXVI, Fidelity Funds LXXVII, Fidelity Funds LXXVIII, Fidelity Funds LXXIX, Fidelity Funds LXXX, Fidelity Funds LXXXI, Fidelity Funds LXXXII, Fidelity Funds LXXXIII, Fidelity Funds LXXXIV, Fidelity Funds LXXXV, Fidelity Funds LXXXVI, Fidelity Funds LXXXVII, Fidelity Funds LXXXVIII, Fidelity Funds LXXXIX, Fidelity Funds LXXXX.

Cash Track

Cash, Out: More cash drained from equity funds, widening the past month's average weekly outflow to \$6.2 billion. Outflows from money-market funds grew to \$30.3 billion a week. Cash continued to leave taxable-bond funds, trimming their average weekly inflow to \$930 million. Muni-bond fund outflows eased a bit, to a weekly average of \$70 million.



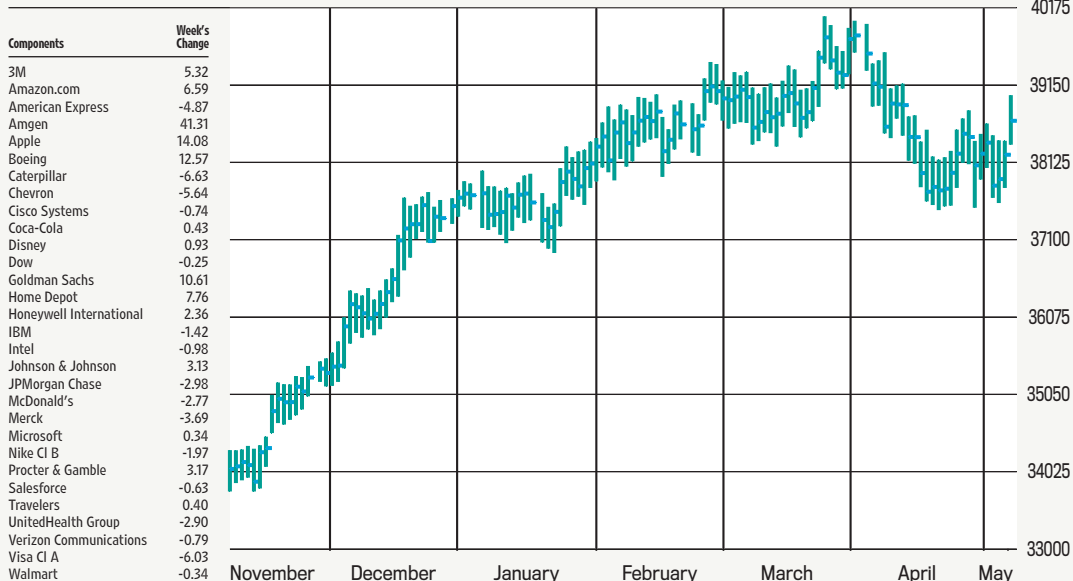
A red chart indicates a lower value than the starting period. Green means it's higher than the starting period. The charts above show four-week moving averages of net cash flow in millions of dollars.

Table with columns: Fund Name, NAV Chg., %Ret., %Ret., %Ret. Lists various fund categories including Fidelity Advisor, Fidelity Advisor II, Fidelity Advisor III, Fidelity Advisor IV, Fidelity Advisor V, Fidelity Advisor VI, Fidelity Advisor VII, Fidelity Advisor VIII, Fidelity Advisor IX, Fidelity Advisor X, Fidelity Advisor XI, Fidelity Advisor XII, Fidelity Advisor XIII, Fidelity Advisor XIV, Fidelity Advisor XV, Fidelity Advisor XVI, Fidelity Advisor XVII, Fidelity Advisor XVIII, Fidelity Advisor XIX, Fidelity Advisor XX, Fidelity Advisor XXI, Fidelity Advisor XXII, Fidelity Advisor XXIII, Fidelity Advisor XXIV, Fidelity Advisor XXV, Fidelity Advisor XXVI, Fidelity Advisor XXVII, Fidelity Advisor XXVIII, Fidelity Advisor XXIX, Fidelity Advisor XXX.

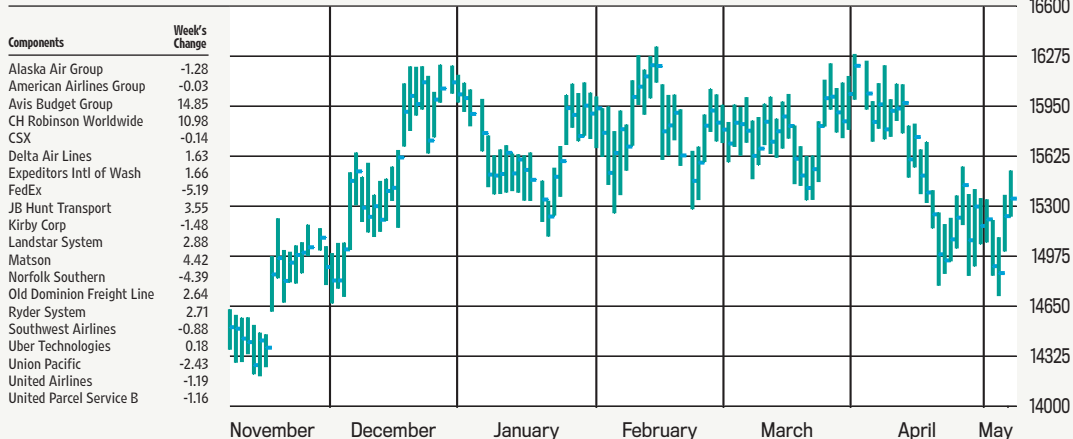
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The Dow Jones Averages

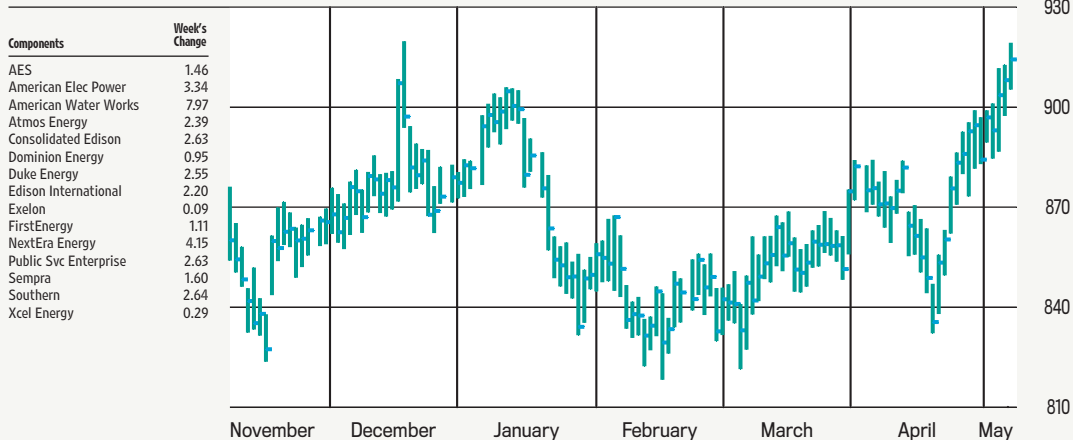
Industrials



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: 0.15221633137872)

Daily	Apr 29	30	May 1	2	3
Open (t)	38292.01	38237.95	37835.36	38131.52	38714.31
Open (a)	38282.16	38337.40	37845.56	38075.65	38709.36
10:00	38311.52	38167.79	37856.20	38022.12	38792.24
10:30	38354.96	38188.74	37874.39	38053.47	38593.50
11:00	38320.54	38249.47	37918.47	38077.82	38548.42
11:30	38311.10	38083.73	37912.66	38076.76	38595.05
12:00	38313.05	38083.31	37915.91	38094.10	38654.23
12:30	38338.77	38063.64	37936.33	38064.64	38664.29
1:00	38355.51	37991.03	37907.39	38057.32	38653.37
1:30	38365.62	37994.90	37938.64	38170.62	38676.42
2:00	38398.04	38054.46	37933.53	38157.84	38696.67
2:30	38359.18	37976.68	38064.92	38191.48	38713.63
3:00	38336.92	37941.18	38328.38	38263.88	38686.50
3:30	38312.96	37936.26	38245.09	38229.87	38680.75
Close	38386.09	37815.92	37903.29	38225.66	38675.68
High (t)	38640.17	38484.21	38417.33	38410.50	39015.66
Low (t)	38050.68	37653.84	37585.62	37785.56	38358.53
High (a)	38406.20	38337.40	38349.20	38295.29	38808.52
Low (a)	38215.47	37810.12	37780.54	37895.66	38518.28
Change	+146.43	-570.17	+87.37	+322.37	+450.02

Theoretical (t): High 39015.66 Low 37585.62
Actual (a): High 38808.52 Low 37780.54

Dow Jones 20 Transport (divisor: 0.15395808703479)

Daily	Apr 29	30	May 1	2	3
Open (t)	15188.09	15132.11	14834.95	15155.68	15396.01
Open (a)	15184.88	15167.31	14840.50	15106.45	15385.23
10:00	15271.23	15123.26	14820.68	15083.61	15438.44
10:30	15209.11	15023.96	14839.03	15124.01	15362.46
11:00	15178.98	15019.79	14809.68	15133.43	15364.08
11:30	15207.16	14974.61	14867.78	15222.14	15333.82
12:00	15212.81	15002.49	14889.08	15199.95	15327.95
12:30	15199.85	15009.83	14891.03	15198.81	15343.30
1:00	15219.27	14956.65	14914.83	15228.08	15345.75
1:30	15196.79	14955.02	14887.04	15239.67	15345.47
2:00	15219.79	14948.92	14898.63	15254.81	15360.67
2:30	15200.71	14967.40	14899.86	15267.51	15362.88
3:00	15163.86	14953.13	15041.22	15287.50	15371.54
3:30	15146.05	14939.62	15053.59	15267.56	15364.34
Close	15213.56	14909.51	14864.63	15234.60	15348.40
High (t)	15344.11	15209.50	15097.71	15373.24	15531.34
Low (t)	15063.58	14847.19	14714.69	15004.80	15230.93
High (a)	15299.83	15167.31	15079.48	15291.81	15456.17
Low (a)	15109.76	14907.43	14795.44	15082.04	15311.16
Change	+42.68	-304.05	-44.88	+369.97	+113.80

Theoretical (t): High 15531.34 Low 14714.69
Actual (a): High 15456.17 Low 14795.44

Dow Jones 15 Utilities (divisor: 1.19780346554510)

Daily	Apr 29	30	May 1	2	3
Open (t)	889.70	891.35	890.40	906.13	915.91
Open (a)	888.85	889.91	890.92	906.00	914.22
10:00	895.89	889.66	889.49	903.30	914.21
10:30	893.22	892.18	894.25	906.51	911.02
11:00	895.07	892.23	893.21	902.62	908.57
11:30	894.57	891.41	899.13	902.87	907.04
12:00	894.50	893.74	899.70	899.80	908.60
12:30	895.56	898.60	902.09	901.17	910.02
1:00	897.13	897.61	903.84	902.26	909.50
1:30	896.48	897.81	904.19	901.75	910.80
2:00	895.82	898.22	904.51	903.85	910.76
2:30	896.39	897.68	902.71	905.26	911.36
3:00	895.37	895.85	908.86	907.74	911.94
3:30	895.09	896.39	907.21	908.47	911.98
Close	896.92	893.03	903.59	908.09	914.31
High (t)	899.06	901.12	911.71	912.68	919.32
Low (t)	889.37	884.55	886.62	897.35	905.25
High (a)	897.45	899.53	911.49	909.14	917.75
Low (a)	888.85	886.44	888.36	898.93	905.98
Change	+12.67	-3.89	+10.56	+4.50	+6.22

Theoretical (t): High 919.32 Low 884.55
Actual (a): High 917.75 Low 886.44

Dow Jones 65 Composite (divisor: 0.75472580699091)

Daily	Apr 29	30	May 1	2	3
Open (t)	12233.16	12213.46	12070.15	12220.27	12402.35
Open (a)	12230.16	12238.41	12074.15	12198.74	12396.47
10:00	12249.83	12174.75	12077.38	12196.39	12425.87
10:30	12252.05	12175.42	12081.21	12203.06	12366.97
11:00	12245.17	12193.10	12104.83	12214.63	12342.86
11:30	12252.65	12160.74	12108.07	12207.77	12357.11
12:00	12248.91	12164.38	12112.50	12210.12	12367.88
12:30	12259.93	12162.19	12125.17	12207.00	12373.45
1:00	12257.20	12136.84	12118.98	12212.64	12368.68
1:30	12261.11	12136.65	12125.48	12245.08	12373.84
2:00	12266.69	12156.83	12120.66	12245.70	12384.05
2:30	12255.75	12130.59	12161.14	12255.19	12389.00
3:00	12245.68	12123.60	12246.44	12274.84	12385.22
3:30	12239.13	12120.21	12213.54	12261.72	12382.48
Close	12268.79	12085.61	12110.82	12258.45	12382.30
High (t)	12350.06	12294.43	12274.93	12331.30	12496.13
Low (t)	12158.57	12026.75	11989.24	12105.77	12280.00
High (a)	12280.77	12238.41	12251.06	12284.62	12429.51
Low (a)	12208.81	12084.58	12056.61	12158.95	12334.40
Change	+58.34	-183.18	+25.21	+147.63	+123.85

Theoretical (t): High 12496.13 Low 11989.24
Actual (a): High 12429.51 Low 12056.61

Trading Diary

Market Advance/Decline Volumes

Daily	Apr 29	30	May 1	2	3
NY Up	603,921	133,148	563,063	807,012	657,336
NY Off	249,221	1,024,754	494,385	251,620	283,704
NY Up - Comp.	2,387,332	501,179	2,458,839	3,292,645	2,676,747
NY Off - Comp.	1,016,654	3,543,860	2,039,464	1,017,984	1,211,165
NYSE Amer Off	9,200	2,558	8,540	5,586	6,416
NYSE Amer Off	1,995	11,798	3,758	3,619	3,434
NASD Up	3,217,920	1,756,183	3,081,825	3,483,839	3,548,574
NASD Off	1,677,084	3,391,213	2,161,252	1,355,860	1,273,920
NYSE Arca Up	166,589	61,517	246,663	279,601	260,706
NYSE Arca Off	77,085	281,662	169,140	61,314	78,754
% (QCHA)	+58	-1.42	+24	+1.07	+8.20
% (QACH)	+33	-1.21	+48	+1.25	+2.22
% (QCHAQ)	+79	-7.7	+78	+1.20	+8.7

Market Advance/Decline Totals

Weekly Comp.	NYSE	NYSE Amer	Nasdaq	NYSE Arca
Total Issues	2,938	328	4,668	2,120
Advances	1,949	172	2,964	1,641
Declines	949	148	1,629	473
Unchanged	40	8	75	6
New Highs	225	20	258	124
New Lows	84	22	297	32

Week ended last Friday compared to previous Friday

NYSE Composite Daily Breadth

Daily	Apr 29	30	May 1	2	3
Issues Traded	2,885	2,897	2,876	2,866	2,879
Advances	1,997	495	1,700	2,189	2,154
Declines	811	2,333	1,102	603	690
Unchanged	77	69	74	74	55
New Highs	77	64	56	60	122
New Lows	9	35	26	25	16
Blocks - primary	4,037	4,589	4,625	4,670	4,482
Total (000) - primary	861,884	1,165,397	1,066,409	1,070,480	949,079
Total (000)	3,447,458	4,082,478	4,544,179	4,381,663	3,924,994

NYSE American Composite

Daily	Apr 29	30	May 1	2	3
Issues Traded	304	310	307	304	305
Advances	166	96	160	188	163
Declines	130	202	132	106	127
Unchanged	8	12	15	10	15
New Highs	11	5	5	5	7
New Lows	8	10	6	7	5
Blocks - primary	144	168	168	127	157
Total (000) - primary	11,605	14,731	12,992	9,987	10,288
Total (000)	198,218	195,821	201,023	152,003	158,452

Nasdaq

Daily	Apr 29	30	May 1	2	3
Issues Traded	4,366	4,356	4,314	4,326	4,356
Advances	2,614	1,181	2,499	2,915	2,807
Declines	1,602	3,029	1,664	1,269	1,406
Unchanged	15				

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.	12/29	% Chg.	
Dow Jones Indexes											
39807.37	32417.59	30 Indus	38675.68	37815.92	38675.68	436.02	1.14	5001.30	14.85	986.14	2.62
16695.32	13556.07	20 Transp	15348.40	14864.63	15348.40	177.52	1.17	1225.27	8.68	-550.45	-3.46
966.64	783.08	15 Utilities	914.31	893.03	914.31	30.06	3.40	-47.96	-4.98	32.64	3.70
12735.74	10596.53	65 Comp	12382.30	12085.61	12382.30	171.85	1.41	1169.33	10.43	132.33	1.08
Dow Jones Indexes											
52402.86	40847.04	US TSM Float	51029.78	49929.39	51029.78	318.59	0.63	9836.02	23.88	3242.31	6.78
1284.21	1000.26	US Market	1251.19	1224.36	1251.19	7.07	0.57	244.39	24.27	83.47	7.15
949.22	637.71	Internet	917.80	890.65	917.80	4.48	0.49	280.09	43.92	66.31	7.79
New York Stock Exchange											
18312.67	14675.78	Comp-z	17831.07	17576.39	17797.89	34.62	0.19	2417.02	15.71	945.00	5.61
10702.54	8154.87	Financial-z	10350.09	10212.57	10350.09	18.80	0.18	1825.45	21.41	468.31	4.74
26551.78	22022.96	Health Care-z	25519.59	25302.34	25302.34	-11.76	-0.05	1846.74	7.87	1135.20	4.70
14952.83	11635.80	Energy-z	14815.23	14208.27	14359.86	-385.95	-2.62	2009.90	16.27	1100.31	8.30
NYSE American Stock Exchange											
5076.22	3871.21	NYSE Amer Comp	4938.97	4751.90	4793.28	-114.44	-2.33	769.63	19.13	198.96	4.33
3668.76	2958.35	Major Mkt	3600.20	3553.13	3593.38	2.46	0.07	499.25	16.14	205.30	6.06
Standard & Poor's Indexes											
2479.42	1894.97	100 Index	2438.86	2378.97	2438.86	20.55	0.85	536.48	28.20	202.67	9.06
5254.35	4109.90	500 Index	5127.79	5018.39	5127.79	27.83	0.55	991.54	23.97	357.96	7.50
7545.07	5842.73	Indus	7381.56	7202.97	7381.56	47.52	0.65	1513.77	25.80	552.60	8.09
3046.36	2326.82	MidCap	2929.04	2861.11	2929.04	33.80	1.17	467.94	19.01	147.50	5.30
1344.66	1068.80	SmallCap	1301.48	1267.94	1301.48	17.45	1.36	162.51	14.27	-16.78	-1.27
Nasdaq Stock Market											
16442.20	12179.55	Comp	16156.33	15605.48	16156.33	228.43	1.43	3920.92	32.05	1144.98	7.63
18339.44	13201.11	100 Index	17890.80	17318.55	17890.80	172.50	0.97	4631.67	34.93	1064.86	6.33
9867.56	7981.76	Indus	9762.72	9525.59	9762.72	183.60	1.92	1584.30	19.37	289.01	3.05
14491.11	10885.14	Insur	13902.16	13641.44	13868.26	319.94	2.36	2326.29	20.16	1265.74	10.04
3842.86	2673.77	Banks	3721.74	3577.85	3721.74	75.05	2.06	940.40	33.81	-53.37	-1.41
14942.81	9911.19	Computer	14608.07	13985.34	14608.07	153.11	1.06	4645.67	46.63	1611.85	12.40
427.98	377.20	Telecom	381.83	377.20	381.81	1.11	0.29	-2.84	-0.74	-35.79	-8.58
Russell Indexes											
2881.91	2246.77	1000	2809.00	2749.69	2809.00	15.53	0.56	547.74	24.22	186.86	7.13
2124.55	1636.94	2000	2035.72	1973.91	2035.72	33.72	1.68	275.84	15.67	8.65	0.43
3012.90	2351.42	3000	2934.08	2871.20	2934.08	17.88	0.61	563.19	23.75	185.87	6.76
1765.86	1415.59	Value-v	1712.37	1685.35	1704.07	-0.16	-0.01	206.58	13.79	74.65	4.58
3414.18	2479.93	Growth-v	3335.35	3237.34	3335.35	33.76	1.02	847.92	34.09	283.67	9.30
3366.31	2594.10	MidCap	3238.48	3179.91	3229.34	10.71	0.33	481.04	17.50	117.47	3.77
Others											
10551.11	8310.43	Value Line-a	10159.64	9952.55	10159.64	92.81	0.92	1343.22	15.24	141.47	1.41
615.81	498.09	Value Line-g	589.81	578.49	589.81	4.40	0.75	47.45	8.75	-4.06	-0.68
14640.66	11320.09	DJ US Small TSM	14058.60	13658.10	14058.60	219.58	1.59	1923.69	15.85	6.13	0.04
1106.47	831.60	Barron's Future Focus	1066.90	1049.44	1065.76	2.66	0.25	196.86	22.66	37.40	3.64
1166.53	891.86	Barron's 400	1126.18	1102.75	1126.18	6.70	0.60	222.60	24.64	53.78	5.02

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.sp500.com. DJ latest available book values for FY 2022 and 2021, and S&P latest for 2023 and 2022. r-Revised data

	Last Week	Prev. Week	Last Year
DJ Ind Avg	38675.68	38239.66	33674.38
P/E Ratio	27.10	26.23	22.08
Earnings Yield %	3.69	3.81	4.53
Earns \$	1427.25	1457.79	1525.04
Divs Yield %	1.88	1.90	2.08
Divs \$	725.41	725.41	700.37
Mkt to Book	5.05	4.99	4.53
Book Value \$	7664.40	7664.40	7439.45
DJ Trans Avg	15348.40	15170.88	14123.13
P/E Ratio	17.51	15.99	11.47
Earnings Yield %	5.71	6.25	8.72
Earns \$	876.73	948.89	1231.22
Divs Yield %	1.53	1.55	1.43
Divs \$	234.74	234.74	201.36
Mkt to Book	4.37	4.32	4.39
Book Value \$	3514.52	3514.52	3214.72
DJ Utility Avg	914.31	884.25	962.27
P/E Ratio	20.35	18.66	23.29
Earnings Yield %	4.91	5.36	4.29
Earns \$	44.93	47.38	41.32
Divs Yield %	3.44	3.56	3.11
Divs \$	31.46	31.45	29.90
Mkt to Book	2.03	1.96	2.21
Book Value \$	450.45	450.45	435.47
S&P 500 Index	5127.79	5099.96	4136.25
P/E Ratio	26.65	26.50	23.94
Earnings Yield %	3.75	3.77	4.18
Earns \$	192.44	192.44	172.75
Divs Yield %	1.45	1.44	1.68
Divs \$	74.35	73.44	69.49
Mkt to Book	4.64	4.61	4.04
Book Value \$	1106.21	1106.21	1024.56
S&P Ind Index	7381.56	7334.04	5867.79
P/E Ratio	29.94	29.75	25.27
Earnings Yield %	3.34	3.36	3.96
Earns \$	246.55	246.55	232.18
Divs Yield %	1.28	1.28	1.51
Divs \$	94.48	93.88	88.60
Mkt to Book	6.17	6.14	5.35
Book Value \$	1195.42	1195.42	1095.83

Stock Volume

	Last Week	Prev. Week	Year Ago	YOY % Chg
NYSE(a)	5,113,248	4,609,187	4,314,727	18.51
30 Dow Inds (b)	1,983,506	1,851,093	1,594,062	24.43
20 Dow Trans (b)	534,246	681,345	542,091	-1.45
15 Dow Utilis (b)	318,430	289,911	217,025	46.72
65 Dow Stks (b)	2,836,181	2,832,349	2,535,178	20.53
NYSE American (a)	59,604	60,658	55,720	6.97
Nasdaq(d)	25,268,657	23,742,333	25,772,588	-1.96

NYSE 15 Most Active	Last Week	Prev. Week	Year Ago	YOY % Chg
Average Price	16.18	20.42	20.53	-21.19
% Tot Vol	14.92	15.59	14.46	3.18
Stock Offerings \$(z,v)	2,176,000	1,776,700	7,130,300	-69.48

Daily Stock Volume	4/29	4/30	5/1	5/2	5/3
NYSE(a)	861,884	1,165,397	1,066,409	1,070,480	949,079
30 Inds (b)	345,679.6	448,530.2	417,319.7	355,936.2	416,040.2
20 Trans (b)	108,925.6	118,656.5	113,062.7	104,918.2	88,693.1
15 Utilis (b)	51,988.6	67,799.4	74,725.2	61,184.0	62,728.4
65 Stks (b)	506,593.7	634,986.1	605,111.5	522,038.4	567,451.7
NYSE Amer(a)	11,605	14,731	12,992	9,987	10,288
Nasdaq(d)	4,972,525	5,229,408	5,277,796	4,901,613	4,887,315

NYSE 15 Most Active	Last Week	Prev. Week	Year Ago	YOY % Chg
Avg. Price	21.27	13.35	18.04	21.26
% Tot Vol	15.17	14.36	19.99	16.36

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: LSEG.

NYSE HALF-HOURLY VOLUME

Daily	4/29	4/30	5/01	5/02	5/03
9:30-10:00	83,215	85,278	93,338	98,017	102,703
10:00-10:30	32,297	38,060	40,228	47,371	47,815
10:30-11:00	31,645	33,842	38,426	43,010	37,718
11:00-11:30	29,635	34,678	38,879	37,071	33,335
11:30-12:00	25,707	28,800	31,558	33,993	30,257
12:00-12:30	22,082	25,264	27,536	29,799	22,985
12:30-1:00	22,382	27,371	35,645	26,466	23,044
1:00-1:30	20,792	26,372	26,649	27,495	23,510
1:30-2:00	21,750	26,821	29,897	28,975	23,305
2:00-2:30	23,355	27,905	36,792	31,839	25,513
2:30-3:00	27,729	29,090	70,057	32,628	28,979
3:00-3:30	38,276	37,178	58,886	44,134	36,181
3:30-4:00	483,018	744,737	538,518	589,743	513,735

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. Bolded numbers indicate new values. Sources: Barron's Stats and FactSet.

Industrial Stocks			Transportation Stocks				
	Earns	Divs.	Book Value	Earns	Divs.	Book Value	
Am Exp	12.14	2.50	33.26	Johnson & Johnson	8.39	4.76	29.39
Amgen	7.00	8.64	6.86	JPMorganChase	16.56	4.25	90.29
Apple	6.43	0.96	3.18	McDonalds	11.78	6.38	(6.08)
Boeing	(3.55)	Nil	(26.58)	Merck Co	0.90	3.00	18.12
Caterpillar	22.15						

DATA

MARKET LABORATORY

BARRONS.COM/DATA

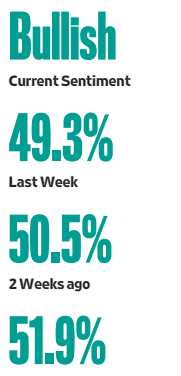
Dow Jones U.S. Total Market Industry Groups

Top 20 Weekly Ranked	IG-Sym	Close	Net Change		% Change and Ranking					52 Week			
			Wkly	YTD	Week	Rank	Yr Ago	Rank	YTD	Rank	3 Yr	High	Low
Computer Hardware	DJUSCR	9303.06	+635.79	-278.97	+7.34	[1]	+12.55	[78]	-2.91	[104]	+11.41	9,840.88	8,291.37
Water	DJUSWU	2671.70	+152.78	-40.42	+6.07	[2]	-11.67	[130]	-1.49	[98]	-6.32	3,087.20	2,371.24
Automobiles	DJUSAU	679.95	+37.42	-198.95	+5.82	[3]	+12.82	[77]	-22.64	[137]	-8.39	1,028.71	560.40
Automobiles & Parts	DJUSAP	797.43	+41.69	-207.95	+5.52	[4]	+9.75	[82]	-20.68	[134]	-8.80	1,175.55	670.33
Media Agencies	DJUSAV	589.77	+27.42	55.41	+4.88	[5]	+27.52	[35]	+10.37	[32]	-8.76	605.98	442.65
Full Line Insurance	DJUSIF	75.74	+3.47	9.34	+4.79	[6]	+45.48	[9]	+14.07	[11]	+14.97	76.32	52.71
Real Estate Holding & Dev	DJUSEH	53.10	+2.05	-14.69	+4.02	[7]	-10.49	[125]	-21.67	[136]	-14.75	68.58	47.06
Electricity	DJUSEU	332.13	+12.53	33.69	+3.92	[8]	+3.43	[99]	+11.29	[28]	+1.84	332.13	262.66
Conventional Electricity	DJUSVE	333.06	+12.55	34.07	+3.92	[9]	+3.53	[98]	+11.39	[26]	+1.89	333.06	263.37
Biotechnology	DJUSBT	2780.20	+89.55	53.98	+3.33	[10]	+7.29	[88]	+1.98	[77]	+9.0	2,889.97	2,313.23
Auto Parts	DJUSAT	458.60	+14.56	-10.02	+3.28	[11]	-8.12	[124]	-2.14	[101]	-9.99	548.59	410.59
Containers & Packaging	DJUSCP	466.71	+14.47	30.31	+3.20	[12]	+17.46	[66]	+6.94	[45]	-4.43	471.78	369.42
Aerospace	DJUSAS	1963.05	+59.59	140.59	+3.13	[13]	+19.60	[57]	+7.71	[43]	+7.81	1,963.05	1,445.43
Diversified REITs	DJUSDT	48.73	+1.42	-6.99	+3.00	[14]	-19.86	[136]	-12.54	[132]	-11.06	62.18	44.33
Specialty Chemicals	DJUSCX	1149.27	+32.99	15.69	+2.96	[15]	+2.41	[101]	+1.38	[84]	-3.34	1,193.45	978.27
General Industrials	DJUSGI	647.69	+17.77	62.26	+2.82	[16]	+27.98	[33]	+10.64	[30]	+3.78	662.41	491.41
Reinsurance	DJUSIU	518.98	+13.46	52.77	+2.66	[17]	+27.19	[39]	+11.32	[27]	+13.87	539.43	402.34
Technology Hardware & Equip	DJUSTQ	5970.72	+152.17	793.66	+2.62	[18]	+52.46	[5]	+15.33	[8]	+20.46	6,102.73	3,990.30
Diversified Industrials	DJUSID	749.12	+18.43	80.26	+2.52	[19]	+31.98	[25]	+12.00	[22]	+7.09	770.91	552.23
Multitiilities	DJUSMU	235.65	+5.79	10.03	+2.52	[20]	-1.73	[114]	+4.45	[61]	+0.2	244.32	202.13

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.

Delta Market Sentiment Indicator

The Delta MSI measures the position of representative set of stocks relative to an intermediate-term moving average crossover (MACD) point. When greater than 50% of the stocks followed are above this MACD 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%.



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

Pulse of the Economy

Only includes new reports. Economic Growth and Investment	Latest Date	Latest Data	Preceding Period	Year Ago	Yr/Yr % Chg
No Activity for This Week					
Production					
Electric power, (mil. kw hrs) (EEI)	Apr 27	69,594	71,072	68,356	1.81
Petroleum, related capacity, %	Apr 26	87.5	88.5	90.7	-3.53
Rotary rigs running, U.S. & Can., (Hughes)	May 3	725	731	841	-13.79
Steel, (thous. tons)	Apr 27	1,701	1,716	1,716	-0.87
Steel, rated capacity, % (AISI)	Apr 27	76.6	77.3	76.3	0.39
Consumption and Distribution					
Factory shipments, (bil. \$)	Mar	583.30	581.78	574.74	1.49
Instinet Research Redbook Avg. (monthly %)	Apr 27	-0.42	-2.54	-1.28	....
Baltic Dry Index	May 3	1,876	1,721	1,558	20.41
Inventories					
Domestic crude oil, (thous. bbls) Comm. (Excl. Lease Stock)	Apr 26	460,890	453,625	459,633	0.27
Factory inventories, (bil. \$)	Mar	857.68	857.31	852.57	0.60
Gasoline, (thous. bbls)	Apr 26	227,087	226,743	222,878	1.89
Orders					
Factory orders, backlog (bil. \$)	Mar	1,397.36	1,391.27	1,280.94	9.09
New factory orders, (bil. \$)	Mar	584.52	575.39	574.92	1.67
Nondurable goods orders, (bil. \$)	Mar	301.24	299.37	295.10	2.08
Purchasing management index	Apr	49.2	50.3	47.0	4.68
Trade					
Merchandise trade balance (bil. \$)	Mar	-92.51	-91.68	-81.09	14.08
Inflation					
ECRI Industrial Price Index f	May 3	116.98	118.53	115.39	1.38

American Debt and Deficits

	Latest Report	Preceding Report	Year Ago Report	Yr over Yr % Chg
Federal Budget Deficit (bil. \$)-a	1,521FY'26	1,671FY'25	1,846FY'24	....
Budget Surplus/Deficit (bil. \$)-b, March	-236.46	-296.28	-378.44	-37.52
Trade Deficit (bil. \$)-c, March	-69.37	-69.46	-59.58	16.43
Treasury Gross Public Debt, (bil. \$)-d	34,558.3	34,571.6	31,457.5	9.86
Treasury Statutory Debt Limit (bil. \$)-e	5,051.1	31,381.5	....	....
Consumer Installment Debt (bil. \$)-e, February	5,051.1	5,037.0	4,824.2	4.70

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. *Statutory debt limit temporarily suspended through January 1, 2025.

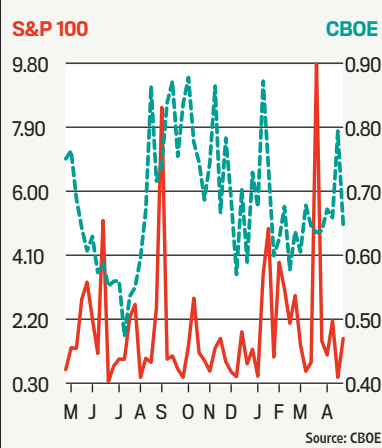
Adjustable Mortgage Rates

	May 3	Apr 26	Yr. Ago	YOY % Chg
1 Year Treas Bills	5.18	5.17	4.72	9.75
2 Year Treas Notes	4.93	4.96	4.40	23.25
3 Year Treas Notes	4.81	4.80	3.70	28.61
5 Year Treas Notes	4.66	4.66	3.52	32.39
10 Year Treas Notes	4.65	4.63	3.46	34.39
20 Year Treas Bds	4.88	4.84	3.82	27.75
FHFA PPMMS + Apr	6.63	6.63	6.11	8.51

Fed annualized yields adjusted for constant maturity.

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.



Conference Call Calendar

Company	Date	Time	Earnings-Related Period
Airbnb	May 8	4:30PM	Q1
Akamai Technologies	May 9	4:30PM	Q1
Alpha Metallurgical Resources	May 6	10:00AM	Q1
Arista Networks	May 7	4:30PM	Q1
Assurant	May 8	8:00AM	Q1
Atmos Energy	May 9	10:00AM	Q2
Bio Rad Laboratories	May 7	5:00PM	Q1
Broadridge Financial Solutions	May 8	8:30AM	Q3
Builders FirstSource	May 7	9:00AM	Q1
Charles River Laboratories International	May 9	8:30AM	Q1
Constellation Energy	May 9	10:00AM	Q1
Electronic Arts	May 7	5:00PM	Q4
Emerson Electric	May 8	9:00AM	Q2
Epam Systems	May 9	8:00AM	Q1
Everspy	May 9	9:00AM	Q1
Fidelity National Information Services	May 6	4:30PM	Q1
Fox	May 8	8:30AM	Q3
Gen Digital	May 9	5:00PM	Q4
Henry Schein	May 7	10:00AM	Q1
International Flavors & Fragrances	May 7	9:00AM	Q1
Jack Henry & Associates	May 8	8:45AM	Q3
Kenvue	May 7	8:30AM	Q1
Marketaxess Holdings	May 7	10:00AM	Q1
Match Group	May 8	8:30AM	Q1
Mckesson	May 7	4:30PM	Q4
Mettler-Toledo International	May 10	8:30AM	Q1
Microchip Technology	May 6	5:00PM	Q4
News	May 8	5:00PM	Q3
NiSource	May 8	11:00AM	Q1
NRG Energy	May 7	9:00AM	Q1
Progressive	May 7	9:30AM	Q1
Realty Income	May 7	2:00PM	Q1
Rockwell Automation	May 7	8:30AM	Q2
Sempra	May 7	12:00PM	Q1
Tapestry	May 9	8:00AM	Q3
TransDigm Group	May 7	11:00AM	Q2
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	May 6	4:30PM	Q1
Viatis	May 9	8:30AM	Q1
Warner Bros Discovery	May 9	8:00AM	Q1
Williams Companies	May 7	9:30AM	Q1

Barron's 50-Stock Average

This index is a weighted average of 50 leading issues. Useful in security valuation. Source: Barron's Stats

	May 2 2024	Apr 25 2024	May 2023	Yr-to-Yr % Chg
S&P 500 Index	5064.20	5048.42	4135.29	22.46
Barron's 50 Index	13068.38	13034.46	11171.60	16.98
Projected quarterly earn	131.02	120.92	164.70	-20.45
Annualized projected earn	524.06	483.67	658.79	-20.45
Annualized projected P/E	24.94	26.95	17.0	47.04
Five-year average earn	526.58	522.54	486.93	8.14
Five-year average P/E	24.82	24.94	22.9	8.17
Year-end earn	613.91	603.81	619.08	-0.84
Year-end P/E	21.29	21.59	18.0	17.96
Year-end earn yield, %	4.70	4.63	5.5	-15.24
Best grade bond yields, %	4.12	4.15	4.35	-5.29
Bond yields/stock ylds, %	0.88	0.90	0.78	11.71
Actual year-end divs	257.22	257.48	243.79	5.52
Actual yr-end divs yld, %	1.97	1.98	2.18	-9.82

Foreign Exchange

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.
Argentina (Peso)-y	.0011	.0011	878.7296	874.7379
Australia (Dollar)	.6610	.6532	1.5129	1.5309
Bahrain (Dinar)	2.6525	2.6532	.3770	.3769
Brazil (Real)	.1971	.1955	5.0724	5.1161
Bulgaria (Lev)	.5505	.5470	1.8165	1.8283
Canada (Dollar)	.7306	.7316	1.3687	1.3670
Chile (Peso)	.001054	.001054	938.81	948.36
China (Renminbi)	.1382	.1380	7.2373	7.2461
Colombia (Peso)	.0002558	.0002566	3909.05	3896.71
Czech Rep. (Koruna)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Commercial rate	.04298	.04253	23.264	23.513
Denmark (Krone)	.1443	.1434	6.9299	6.9720
Ecuador/US Dollar	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Egypt (Pound)-y	.0209	.0209	47.9564	47.8980
Hong Kong (Dollar)	.1280	.1277	7.8119	7.8280
Hungary (Forint)	.002763	.002722	361.93	367.44
Iceland (Krona)	.007162	.007115	139.63	140.55
India (Rupee)	.01199	.01199	83.382	83.404
Indonesia (Rupiah)	.0000622	.0000617	16084	16210
Israel (Shekel)	.2694	.2617	3.7125	3.8207
Japan (Yen)	.006533	.006315	153.06	158.34
Kazakhstan (Tenge)	.002253	.002257	443.90	442.99
Kuwait (Dinar)	3.2538	3.2451	.3073	.3082
Macau (Pataca)	.1242	.1240	8.0500	8.0670
Malaysia (Ringgit)-b	.2110	.2098	4.7400	4.7675
Mexico (Peso)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Floating rate	.0589	.0583	16.9735	17.1623
New Zealand (Dollar)	.6011	.5941	1.6636	1.6832
Norway (Krone)	.0920	.0906	10.8707	11.0342
Oman (Rial)	2.5978	2.5976	.3849	.3850
Pakistan (Rupee)	.00359	.00359	278.500	278.475
Philippines (Peso)	.01750	.01733	57.139	57.710
Poland (Zloty)	.2489	.2477	4.0182	4.0380
Qatar (Rial)	.2746	.2742	3.6410	3.6470

DATA

MARKET LABORATORY

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Week's New Highs and Lows

NYSE	
225 New Highs	84 New Lows
Nasdaq	
258 New Highs	297 New Lows
NYSE American	
20 New Highs	22 New Lows
Only includes COMMON and REIT stocks	

NYSE American

NEW HIGHS	BayviewAcqNA BeaconRoofing BenitecBiopharm BlackDiamond BlueprintMed BOK Fin BowenAcqN CactusAcqN1A CECO Env ChesapeakeEner CloverLeafA CommerceBcshrs CommvaultSystems Conduent ContextTherap ContineumTherap CornerGrowthAcqN CRA Intl Criteo CSW Industrials CullinanTherap CytomXTherap Dave DayOneBiopharm DecipheraPharm DescartesSystems DTCloudAcqN EdgewiseTherap EliemTherap ElPolloLoco EmbraceChange enCoreEnergy EverQuote ExcelFinAcqNA Fenbo FifthThirdBncp FintechEcoA FirstWatchRest FormFactor FrontierComms FTAI Aviation FultonFin FusionPharm Futu Gaia GCM Grosvenor GeneDx AAON ACI Worldwide ADMA Biologics AGBA Agric&NatSolnsA AlarumTech AlkamiTech AlphaVestAcqN AlpineImmune AlxOncology AmnealPharm AnalogDevices AnikaTherap ApogeeEnt ArchCapital Arq Arteris AstraZeneca AudioEye AvadelPharm Aware
NEW LOWS	AeonBiopharma AltisourceAsset AtlasClear Birks BiteAcqN CleanCore Comstock DDC Enterprise DeltaApparel EnergyFuels InfuSystems IssuerDirect Mynd.ai NFT Northann Oragenics SerinaTherap Silynxcom SplashBeverage UnusualMachines Volato

JanOne JanuxTherap JVSAC AcqN A KairousAcqN KaiserAlum Kingstone Lands'End LaureateEduc LendingTree LifeMD LifewayFoods Limoneira LincolnEduc LivaNova LPL Financial Mama'sCreations MediWound MercerIntl MetalSkyStar MillicomIntl MingtengIntl MountainA NektarTherap NextNav NicholasFin NMI Holdings NortechSystems NorthernTechsIntl OakWoodsAcqNA OCA AcqN A PactivEvergreen ParamountA Paysign Pennant PeoplesBncpNC PerdoceoEduc PhibroAnimal Pilgrim'sPride PlutonianAcqN PonoCapTwoA Popular PreferredBankLA ProceptBio Qualcomm QuestResource QuinStreet RadNet RedCat RevolutionMed RockyBrands Root RxSight ScreamingEagleA SeanergyMaritime Semtech SenecaFoods A SenecaFoods B SenseiBiotherap SeraPrognostics ShattuckLabs SIGA Tech SilverSpikelnvt SpringValleyII A SproutsFarmers SteelConnect StoneX TandemDiabetes TandyLeather Teradyne TetraTech TexasRoadhouse Thryv TLGY AcqN A TMT AcqN TractorSupply TrailblazerI A TransMedics Trip.com Trustmark TScanTherap TTM Tech UFP Tech Ultralife UnitedTherap UnivestFin UnvIStainless US Lime&Min VerifyMe VerraMobility VictoryCapital VillageFarms VitalFarms VSE Willdan WillisLease Wingstop Woodward ZebraTech	
NEW LOWS	10xGenomics

60DegreesPharm AbleViewGlobal AcadiaHealthcare Accury ACELYRIN ActelisNtwks AcutusMedical AdamasOne Adtran AdventTech AethlonMedical Akanda AllarityTherap AllegiantTravel Alset Amerisafe AmOncology APA ApollomicsA Applan AppliedDNA AquaMetals Arko ArtWayMfg AtriCure Augmedix AvalonGloboCare AvenueTherap Ayro BAIYU Beneficient BeyondAir BinahCapital Bionomics bluebirdbio BluejayDiag BlueStarFoods BonNaturalLife BorealisFoods BoundlessBio BrandEngagement BrenmillerEner BridgerAerospace BridgfordFoods BrightMindsBio BroadwayFin BroogeEnergy BT Brands Bumble CaesarsEnt Cantaloupe CarismaTherap CarParts.com Centrex Centogene Cerence ChijetMotor Children'sPlace ChinaJoDrug ChinaSXTPharm Chuy's CitizensFinSvc ClearSignTech CleverLeaves ColumbiaFinl Concentrix ConsensusCloud ContineumTherap CONX CreativeMedia CSG Systems CueHealth CumberlandPharm CVRx CyclacelPharm DallasNews DataIO DestinationXL DMC Global DrivenBrands DuluthHoldings DZS E-HomeHousehold EaglePharm EnergyRecovery EosEnergy Etsy EverspinTech EvokePharma FangddNetwork Fanhua FaradayFuture FirstLongIsland FiveBelow FLJ ForresterRes ForwardAir Fossil

FoxFactory FreightTech FSD Pharma Galapagos Genelux GeoVaxLabs GilatSatellite GileadSciences GlenBurnieBncp GlobalGas GoldenSunHlth GreenwaveTech GRI Bio GRIID Infr GromSocialEnts GT Biopharma Gyrodyne HealthcrTriangle HeartlandExp HeartTestLabs HeliusMedical HiveDigitalTech HoldcoNuvo HomeFedBncpLA Hurco Hyperfine Hywin iLearningEngines Ayro InfoSvcs InglesMarkets InMode InnovAge InnovativeEyewr InnovSolSuprt IntelligentGrp InteractStrength InterlinkElec InterParfums IPG Photonics JackintheBox JayudGblLogistics Jiuzi JohnsonOutdoors KearnyFinancial KLX Energy KY FirstFedBncp KyvernaTherap LegendBiotech Leslie's LionGroup Locafy LogicMark Longeveron LucyScientific MainStreetBcshs MainzBiomed MalibuBoats MammothEnergy Marex MarketAxess MEI Pharma Metagenomi mF Intl MiddlefieldBanc MiraPharm Mobile-health MustangBio NanoVibronix NationalBeverage Thryv NatureWood Neo-Concept NioCorpDevs NRX Pharm NuvectisPharma NuvveHolding Denny's NY Mortgage OldPointFinl OneWaterMarine OpenText PapaJohn's Patrilnvt PatriotNatBncp PayeroHCM Peloton PENNTentm PetMedExpress PhoenixMotor PierisPharm PlutonianAcqN PotlatcDelt PrestigeHealth QualigenTherap Quanterix RadiusRecycling Regis RelianceGlobal RemitlyGlobal
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RiverviewBncp RomaGreenFin RoyaltyMgmt Safe&Green SBA Comm Schmid ScreamingEagleA SeelosTherap SelectivInvs ServeRobotics ServiceProperties Shapeways SharpsTech ShenandoahTel SI-BONE SigmaAdditive SiriusXM SolGelTech SpectralAI SproutSocial Srivaru Starbucks SummitStateBk SunriseNewEner SylaTech Tantech TFF Pharm TherapeuticsMD TivicHealth TopKingWin TopWealth TrinityBiotech TTEC UcommunIntl uniQure Upexi UplandSoftware UrbanOneA VarexImaging Vaxxinity VeriSign VerveTherap ViaviSolutions VintageWineEstates ViraxBiolabs VirpaxPharm VivosTherap VOXX Intl Waldencast WalgreensBoots WarnerBrosA WernerEnterprises WetouchTechnology WillametteValley WindtreeTherap Workhorse XIAO-I XPEL XyloTech Yoshiitsu YY Group ZapataComputing ZappEV ZeoEnergy ZiffDavis
NYSE
NEW HIGHS
a.k.a.Brands ATI AXIS Capital AcadiaRealty AerCap Alcoa Allestate Allstate Alig Amphenol AnteroResources ArdaghMetalPkg ArdmoreShipping Ashland AspenAerogels AssociatedBanc Avient AxaltaCoating BadgerMeter Ball BancoBBVA BancoMacro BankofButterfield BenchmarkElec BootBarn BrightView BrinkerIntl BrookdaleSLiving Buenaventura Build-A-Bear CACI Intl CAVA CTS

CareTrustREIT CarpenterTech CarrierGlobal Carvana Centerspace Centuri Chipotle Church&Dwight CleanHarbors ClearwaterPaper ColgatePalm CorebridgeFin Costamare CrescentPoint Curtiss-Wright DaVita DeltaAir Deluxe DieboldNixdorf Domino's Dover DukeEnergy DuPont DynagasLNG Eaton EmbotellAndinaB EnergyTransfer EnerpacTool EnphysAcqNA Equitable EquitransMdstm EssentialProp EssexProp FidelisInsurance FirstBanCorp FirstHorizon Flowserve FreeportMcM FullTruck GE Aerospace GE Vernova Garmin GatesIndustrial GencoShipping GenesisEnergy Glaukos GlobalShipLease GoDaddy GoldmanSachs GraniteConstr GpoAeroportSur GpoSupervielle GulfportEnergy HSBC HaymakerAcqNCorp.4 Heico Heico A HighwoodsProp HowmetAerospace HudbayMinerals ICICI Bank ING Groep InnovativeIndProp IntlSeaways JacksonFinl KBR Phillips KontoorBrands KukeMusic Leidos Loar MLPX MachNaturalRscs MSG Ent Alcoa Markel MasoniteIntl MediaAlpha MeritageHomes Moog B MotorolaSol NRG Energy NatlHealthInlv NatlPrestolnvs NorthernOil&Gas Openlane

Oil-Dri OneLiberty OneMain OntoInnovation OscarHealth OwensCorning PACS Group PHINIA PiperSandler PitneyBowes PostHoldings CorebridgeFin PrimorisSvcs Procter&Gamble PublicServiceEnt Q2 ReinsGrp RepublicSvcs RithmCapital RoyalCaribbean RushStreetIntl RyderSystem SPX Tech SafeBulkers SchwabC SharkNinja Southern SoCopper SouthwesternEner Starrett A StifelFinancial Stride SummitMidstream SuncorEnergy Sylvamo SynchronyFinl TPG RE Fin TectResourcesB Telefonica TencentMusic TenetHealthcare ThomsonReuters 3M Tidewater TortoiseEcolli A TraneTech TransDigm TriPointe TrinityIndustries TristarAcqNl Tronox Turckelletism TurningPoint TutorPerini TylerTech TysonFoods Expeditors Intern of Wash. (Q1) iRobot (Q1) MarketAccess (Q1) New Jersey Resources (Q2) Reddit (Q1) Sempra (Q1) Walt Disney (Q2)
NEW LOWS
Aaron's Akamai Technologies (Q1) Constellation Energy (Q1) Roblox (Q1) Yelp (Q1) YETI (Q1)

Bausch+Lomb BorrDrilling BristolMyers Brown-Forman A Brown-Forman B CVS Health CableOne Chegg CommunityHlthcr ContainerStore Coursera CustomTruck Dayforce Dril-Quip DuckhornPtf Endava Envista EnzoBiochem EquityLife Everi Fastly Humana IntlGameTech JohnBeanTech Klaviyo Knight-Swift Leggett&Platt MagnaIntl Manitowoc Marcus

Medifast MetaData Mosaic NaborsIndustries Nevro NuSkinEnts O-I Glass OilStatesIntl OsiskoDevelopment P10 PlanetLabs Rubrik RyersonHolding SOS SpiritAirlines Stem SunnovaEnergy TeladocHealth TitanIntl TorontoDomBk Trinseo UsanaHealth VailResorts VectorGroup Vestis W&T Offshore Knight-Swift Leggett&Platt MagnaIntl Manitowoc Marcus ZipRecruiter
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Coming Earnings

	Consensus Estimate	Year ago
M		
Boise Cascade (Q1)	\$2.29	\$2.43
Goodyear Tire & Rubber (Q1)	-\$0.01	-0.29
Lucid (Q1)	-0.25	-0.43
Saratoga Investment (Q4)	0.96	0.98
Tyson Foods (Q2)	0.39	-0.04
Williams Cos (Q1)	0.49	0.56
T		
Arista Networks (Q1)	1.74	1.43
BrightHouse Financial (Q1)	3.87	2.86
Consensus Energy (Q1)	2.37	6.51
Crocs (Q1)	2.25	2.61
Datadog (Q1)	0.34	0.28
Duke Energy (Q1)	1.38	1.20
Expeditors Intern of Wash. (Q1)	1.09	1.45
iRobot (Q1)	-2.01	-1.67
MarketAccess (Q1)	1.87	1.96
New Jersey Resources (Q2)	1.25	1.16
Reddit (Q1)	-8.75	....
Sempra (Q1)	1.33	1.46
Walt Disney (Q2)	1.10	0.93
W		
Atmos Energy (Q2)	2.56	2.48
Chesapeake Utilities (Q1)	2.12	2.04
Emerson Electric (Q2)	1.25	1.09
Fox (Q3)	0.96	0.94
News Corp (Q3)	0.11	0.09
NiSource (Q1)	0.83	0.77
The Trade Desk (Q1)	0.22	0.23
Uber Technologies (Q1)	0.22	-0.08
TH		
Akamai Technologies (Q1)	1.61	1.40
Constellation Energy (Q1)	1.43	0.29
Roblox (Q1)	-0.53	-0.44
Yelp (Q1)	0.06	-0.02
YETI (Q1)	0.06	0.18
F		
Amc Networks (Q1)	1.66	2.62

Consensus Estimate

Day	Consensus Est	Last Period
T March Consumer Credit	\$16.3 bil	\$14.1 bil
W March Wholesale Inventories	-0.40%	-0.40%
F May Michigan Sentiment - p	76.0	77.2
April Treasury Budget	\$244.0 bil	-\$236.5 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

Distributions & Offerings

Secondary Distributions of common stocks				
Abeona Therapeutics	18,427,712	\$4.07	\$75,000,174	
Aileron Therapeutics	4,273,505	\$4.68	\$20,000,003	
Centrex	11,764,705	\$0.85	\$9,999,999	
Fulton Financial	19,666,667	\$15.00	\$287,500,005	
NexGen Energy Ltd	20,161,290	\$12.40	\$162,776,310	
Soleno Therapeutics	3,000,000	\$46.00	\$138,000,000	
Sow Good	1,200,000	\$10.00	\$12,000,000	
UMB Financial	3,220,000	\$75.00	\$241,500,000	

Source: Dealogic LLC, New York City; (212) 577-4400.

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OTHER VOICES

Asia's late-1990s financial crash was a result of aggressive tightening by the Federal Reserve.



Bank Indonesia headquarters in Jakarta. The central bank raised interest rates to 6.25% on April 24.

A Strong Dollar Is Rattling Asia. The 1990s Are Back.

Global markets rarely turn on interest-rate decisions in Jakarta. But Bank Indonesia's surprising tightening move is a terrible omen for investors from New York to Tokyo.

The Indonesian central bank's quarter-point rate increase on April 24 wasn't about events in Southeast Asia's biggest economy, but instead those 10,000 miles away in Washington, D.C. A runaway dollar is pulling capital from emerging economies

BY WILLIAM PESEK

The writer is a longtime Asia opinion writer, based in Tokyo. He is a former columnist for Barron's and Bloomberg and the author of Japanization: What the World Can Learn From Japan's Lost Decades.

everywhere.

"These conditions," Bank Indonesia Gov. Perry Warjiyo told reporters, "require a strong policy response to mitigate the negative impact of global uncertainty on the economies of developing countries, including Indonesia."

It's but the latest example of the 1997-like vibes in Asia as the dollar surges. The rally has Indonesia once again scrambling to stabilize the rupiah, the Philippines and Thailand delaying rate cuts, South Korea's central bank obsessing over won levels, China fretting about worsening deflation, and the Japanese yen disappear-

ing in real time.

Déjà vu abounds. Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, who was finance minister in the late 1990s, is having to reassure traders that the "concerning" ringgit exchange rate is "under control" as it tests 1998 lows.

Episodes of extreme dollar strength don't tend to end well for Asia. The most traumatic example is the 1997 Asian financial crisis, a reckoning precipitated by the same dynamic behind the dollar's latest surge: aggressive Federal Reserve tightening.

Asia's late-'90s crash was a result of the Fed's 1994-95 tightening cycle, when policymakers doubled short-term interest rates in 12 months. As the dollar skyrocketed, currency pegs in Asia became impossible to defend.

Thailand devalued first in July 1997, followed in short order by Indonesia and Korea. The Philippines found itself on the precipice of financial chaos; Malaysia, too, where officials resorted to capital controls.

Echoes of that period are also impossible to miss as the Japanese yen tests 160 to the dollar, the lowest since the '90s. The yen's rapid moves have prompted speculation that Japanese officials are intervening in the market.

Meanwhile, worries are growing that China might enter the race to the bottom in currency markets.

After all, if you're Chinese President Xi Jinping and battling deflation, why wouldn't you pivot to a more-advantageous exchange rate? Particularly as the beggar-thy-neighbor ways of U.S. ally Japan provide cover.

That would trigger a currency war on a scale that markets have never seen before. But even if Beijing opts to prop up the yuan, Asia's year may be going off the rails in ways beyond anything it has experienced since the 1990s.

This includes the 2008 Lehman Brothers reckoning. Asia avoided the worst of the global financial crisis because its two main economic engines stood their ground. Demand from China and Japan helped Asia navigate around Wall Street's mess.

Neither engine is in peak service today. For all of China's claims that it's growing 5%, things under the hood are deeply troubling. The vital prop-

erty sector remains in turmoil. Youth unemployment is at record highs. China is grappling with falling consumer prices and, as a result, chatter about a Japan-like funk.

The Fed's reluctance to cut rates is complicating China's debt management options. Any plans that the People's Bank of China had to cut rates are delayed until Fed Chairman Jerome Powell's team makes its move. While the "higher for longer" era for U.S. Treasury yields stretches on, Beijing will find it harder to maintain financial calm and prop up growth.

The calculus is equally difficult at Bank of Japan headquarters in Tokyo. As 2024 began, traders were just as convinced the BOJ would be tightening as they were that the Fed would be easing. The Fed's about-face, and the dollar's stubborn strength, have Gov. Kazuo Ueda's BOJ in a state of policy paralysis.

Japanese inflation is trending lower. In 2023, the highest price pressures since the early 1980s justified an end to quantitative easing. In April, though, Tokyo-region consumer prices rose just 1.6% year on year, below the BOJ's 2% target.

From Japan to Thailand, the feedback effects of falling Chinese prices are altering economic trajectories.

The dollar's growing magnetic force leaves the region less prepared to weather big capital outflows and bond and stock markets starved of liquidity. That means less capital to finance infrastructure and invest in technology, education, and healthcare to build more innovative and productive futures.

Asia has come a long way in the quarter-century since the Asian financial crisis. Economies are more dynamic and transparent. Banks are stronger and markets more resilient. Private sectors play a bigger role in driving growth. Foreign-exchange reserves have been rebuilt.

But Asia is still too reliant on exports for comfort. And the appeal of its economies from Indonesia to Korea is little match for a turbocharged dollar hoovering up more and more global capital. If Asian policymakers haven't buckled their seat belts yet, now is the time. **B**

RETIREMENT

How to Be Smart About Your Bond Strategy

BY ELIZABETH O'BRIEN

Bonds have disappointed in recent years, burning investors with losses and leading some to wonder if they should bother with them at all. Short answer: Yes, but it pays to be strategic.

"We've been getting questions about allocations to fixed income because it provided limited returns over the past three years," says Kurt Spieler, chief investment officer of wealth management at First National Bank of Omaha. "Anytime that happens, people say, 'Why do we have it?'"

Amplifying that concern is the fact that cash remains an attractive alternative. Why risk losing money on bonds when you can get risk-free yields of 5% in money-market funds?

The reason, says Dustin Thackeray, chief investment officer at Crewe Advisors in Salt Lake City, is that you can't lock in those cash yields. Once the Federal Reserve begins to cut interest rates, cash and bond yields will fall, and bond prices, which move inversely to yields, will rise.

Bonds will also reward patience, experts say. The market is emerging from a painful transition from ultralow interest rates to the moderate-rate environment we have today. Many pros predicted that bonds would break out of their funk this year, but the "higher for longer" rate scenario has hurt them in the short term.

On Wednesday, the Fed left rates unchanged and cited a "lack of further progress" on the committee's 2% inflation target. Bond yields fell, with the 10-year Treasury declining 0.09 percentage point to 4.59%. Still, it is up from 3.95% at the end of 2023. The benchmark U.S. bond index is down about 3% this year.

While it takes a bit more legwork, it's an excellent time to lock in yields in individual bonds. If you hold a Treasury note or other highly rated bond to maturity, you needn't concern yourself with price fluctuations, since you'll get your principal back

when the bond matures. Kathleen Grace, CEO of Fiduciary Family Office in Boca Raton, Fla., has been buying municipal bonds for clients with yields of about 4.5% to 5%. "It has been a long time since we've seen rates this high," she says.

Bond mutual funds and exchange-traded funds may be more volatile, but they offer more liquidity and a much more affordable entry point for investors.

Moderating inflation could also help bonds provide some stability and income when stocks falter. Fixed income has historically provided that ballast, rising as stocks fall or declining less precipitously. That relationship was tested in 2022, when U.S. bonds tanked 13% and stocks dropped 19%. The disruption was caused by high inflation and the Fed's rapid-fire rate hikes; as those forces recede, bonds should once again provide a cushion.

With yields now higher and the big inflation spike over, some experts like the long-term outlook. "If you're able to look out three to five years, there's a good total return opportunity," says Adam Abbas, portfolio manager and head of fixed income at fund manager Harris Associates.

Abbas and other bond pros see opportunity in intermediate durations of about five to seven years. The Bloomberg Intermediate Government/Credit Index yields 4.8%, providing enough cushion for a slightly positive total return even if rates rise by a percentage point, Spieler says.

If rates fall, the more likely scenario, then investors will get a bigger total return. The **iShares Intermediate Government/Credit Bond ETF** (ticker: GVI), which tracks that index, yields 4.8%. Investors willing to venture beyond the U.S. can lock in higher yields—albeit with more volatility. The **iShares J.P. Morgan USD Emerging Markets Bond ETF** (EMB) yields 7%. But it's best to stick largely with Treasuries and other high-grade U.S. bonds, which should get back to their traditional role: providing income and stability when you really need it. **B**

MAILBAG

Thank Liquidity for Recession's Absence

To the Editor:

This was an interesting report regarding productivity improvements ("How a Chicken Sandwich Shows a Hidden Power in the U.S. Economy," April 26). My view is that it isn't productivity that should get the credit for the absence of a recession. It's liquidity.

For the first time ever, the Federal Reserve pushed up short interest rates without inducing a liquidity crisis.

Good businesses weren't forced to close randomly for lack of financing, which instead just cost more. So, only those truly insolvent were affected. The massive suffering engendered by the previous methods, cheered on by the gold bugs, may have been mostly unnecessary.

R. Paul Drake
On Barrons.com

Full-Self-Driving Boost

To the Editor:

Regarding "AI's Next Big Winners Aren't Just Tech Companies. Watch These Stocks" (April 26), here's another great example of how artificial intelligence can boost earnings, namely electric-vehicle maker Tesla.

In its recent full self-driving, or FSD, software update, Tesla notes that its AI-driven end-to-end neural network has replaced "over 300K lines of explicit C++ code."

This has made the FSD work much better and more intuitively. Simultaneously, Tesla gave a free month of FSD to all of its customers, and then cut the price in half to \$99 a month.

Given that Tesla buyers are self-selected to like cutting-edge features, FSD could give a big boost to earnings very soon. Let's say 25% of the five million Tesla owners opt in. At \$99 a month, that's about \$495 million per quarter. Assuming a 90% gross margin,

that's \$333 million after tax, or an additional 20% of its first-quarter adjusted earnings.

With Telsa stock being out of favor lately, this seems like a little-noticed change that could have a huge positive effect on Tesla's earnings.

Frank Kenna
Branford, Conn.

Inflation's Legacy

To the Editor:

Harley Bassman, creator of the MOVE index, the standard measure of interest-rate volatility, predicts that the next Fed rate cut will be politically motivated ("Bonds Have Had a Wild Ride. The Roller Coaster Is Coming to a Stop," Other Voices, April 26).

His view is buttressed by Cantor Fitzgerald CEO Howard Lutnick, who sees a September Fed rate cut just before the election to help "the guy who is employing you."

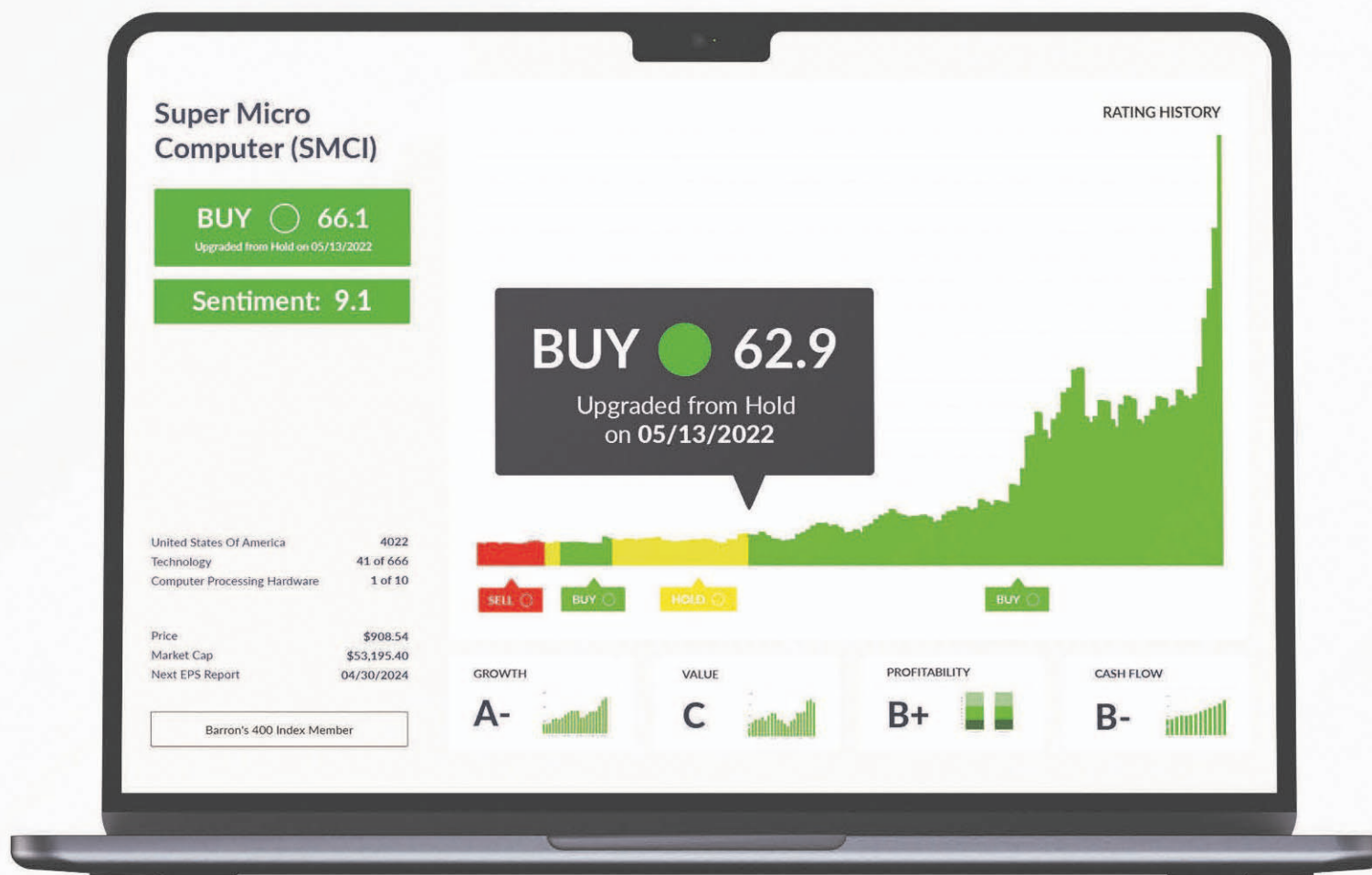
Bassman compares the legacy of the Ronald Reagan/Paul Volcker administration with the Joe Biden/Jerome Powell regime. They differ starkly, since Reagan and Volcker were cleaning up the inflation mess caused by Jimmy Carter and Arthur Burns, whereas Biden and Powell own the legacy of 18% inflation since 2021.

William J. Doyle
Atlanta

Send letters to Mail@Barrons.com.

To be considered for publication, correspondence must bear the writer's name, address, and phone number. Letters are subject to editing.

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