

Weekly Market Perspectives

April 20, 2026



Anthony Saglimbene

Chief Market Strategist
Ameriprise Financial

“The S&P 500 and NASDAQ have posted one of the fastest recoveries from a significant drawdown in modern market history. Notably, the AI bull market has been reconfirmed with recent stock gains, and the economic and profit backdrop remains supportive of equities, in our view. Nevertheless, near-term caution is warranted given the market’s narrow breadth, light volume and unresolved risks stemming from the conflict in Iran.”

Stocks Are Back at Record Highs. The AI Bull Gets Another Shot in the Arm.

U.S. stocks climbed for a third consecutive week, with the S&P 500 Index notching its first record close since late January. The NASDAQ Composite logged a 13-session winning streak, and Iran ceasefire momentum drove oil prices sharply lower. This week, Kevin Warsh’s Fed Chair nomination hearing, a busy Q1 earnings calendar, and key economic releases, including retail sales and flash April PMIs, will be in focus.

Last week in review:

- The S&P 500 gained +4.5% and closed at a fresh all-time high. The NASDAQ climbed +6.8%, extending its winning streak to 13 consecutive sessions, tying it for the fifth-longest in the Index’s history. The Dow Jones Industrial Average and Russell 2000 Index also advanced, with all four major averages posting record closes by week’s end.
- Technology led all S&P 500 sectors for the week, gaining over +8.1%. Consumer Discretionary and Communication Services also outperformed. Energy was the clear laggard, falling by more than 3.5%.
- U.S. Treasury yields dipped modestly. The U.S. Dollar Index declined 0.6%. Gold moved higher. And West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude fell sharply, settling at \$84.22 per barrel, its largest weekly decline in weeks, as ceasefire optimism eased near-term energy supply fears.
- Progress in the conflict between the U.S. and Iran was the primary driver of last week’s gains. Both sides signaled openness to talks following a naval blockade of Iranian ports, Iran confirmed the Strait of Hormuz remained open, and negotiations over Iran’s enriched uranium stockpile were advancing. However, over the weekend, Iran said the Strait was once again closed.
- Mechanical buying amplified last week’s move. *Goldman Sachs* estimated that trading strategies purchased \$86 billion in global equities last week, a top-five record pace, with additional buying potentially on tap.
- Bank earnings provided a constructive read on the U.S. consumer. JPMorgan, Bank of America, and Citigroup reported firm card spending, stable labor conditions, and downplayed private credit risks. Per *FactSet*, S&P 500 EPS growth is now expected at +13.2% year-over-year in Q1, on pace for a sixth straight quarter of double-digit growth.
- March core PPI rose just +0.1%, well below the +0.5% consensus. The Philadelphia Fed and Empire State indexes both beat expectations, and initial jobless claims held steady.

Stocks are back at record highs. The AI Bull gets another shot in the arm.

Roughly three weeks ago, the S&P 500 Index was sitting more than 9% below its January peak, the NASDAQ Composite was trading well into correction territory, and investor sentiment was near its most pessimistic level in nearly a year. But that was three weeks ago, which can feel like a lifetime in this headline-driven market environment. So, in case you haven’t been glued to markets, both indexes hit fresh new all-time highs last week, likely stunning the more bearish investors who have had a laundry list of concerns to rattle off since the start of the year. At present, a fragile but holding ceasefire between the U.S. and Iran, now in its third week, has progressively unwound the geopolitical risk premium that drove the late-

March selloff across stocks. As the probability of a more durable peace agreement has risen, so too has investors' appetite for risk assets, like stocks.

In our view, the stock market has decided the Iran conflict is likely to end sooner rather than later, at least for the moment. Falling oil prices, cooler-than-expected March inflation data, a resilient labor market, and a positive start to the Q1 earnings season have quickly reinforced a bullish tone in the market. For example, the latest weekly look at initial jobless claims came in well below the consensus estimate, while March core producer inflation posted its largest downside miss in recent months. In addition, regional manufacturing surveys also surprised to the upside last week, with the April Philadelphia Fed index hitting its highest reading since January 2025. And the April Empire State Index hit its best level in five months.

On Wednesday, the S&P 500 Index closed above 7,000, its first all-time high since January 27 and the first close in the index's history above 7,000. The NASDAQ also closed at a record during the same session (surpassing its October high for the first time) and extended its winning streak to 13 consecutive sessions, its longest since 1992. According to *Bespoke Investment Group*, since 1928, this is the first time the S&P 500 has returned to all-time highs in eleven trading days or fewer after declining by 5% to 10%. Notably, the pace and strength of the current rebound are faster than the recoveries following both the COVID-19 crash in 2020 and the tariff-driven selloff in April 2025. Going back to 1953, there have been only 44 prior instances of the S&P 500 moving from deeply oversold territory, defined as more than three standard deviations below its 50-day moving average, back to overbought conditions in under three months. At 18 calendar days, this rebound ranked as the seventh-fastest of the 44 occurrences, per *Bespoke*.

Importantly, last week's strong gains also reconfirmed the AI Bull market, which began on October 12, 2022. As of April 17, it is 1,283 calendar days old, making it the tenth-longest bull market in S&P 500 history. For perspective, the longest bull market in S&P 500 history ran 4,494 calendar days, from December 1987 to March 2000. Interestingly, the Magnificent Seven (i.e., Apple, Amazon, Alphabet, Meta Platforms, Microsoft, NVIDIA, and Tesla) have risen nearly +20.0% from the March 30 low, compared to roughly +12.3% for the S&P 500. We believe renewed focus on the AI space has been a clear driver of the recent lift in stocks, with compute deals, hyperscaler capital expenditure commitments, and early semiconductor earnings reinforcing confidence in the theme's structural growth durability ahead of key Mag Seven earnings. For example, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company reported Q1 net income up +58.0% year-over-year last week, raised its full-year 2026 revenue growth outlook to above +30.0%, and described AI demand as "extremely robust". Also, the company noted a structural shift from generative to agentic AI, which is lifting chip orders and should play well for NVIDIA's earnings and outlook report next month. And software and private credit, two areas of significant market scrutiny and stress in recent months, have also posted meaningful recoveries since the March lows.

However, market breadth remains narrow. As of last Thursday, *Bespoke* data showed that only about half of S&P 500 components were trading above their 50-day moving averages, and only about one in five were in overbought territory. In January, when the S&P 500 last set an all-time high, nearly two-thirds of components were above their 50-day moving averages. At the same time, trading volume last week was light by historical standards, suggesting the recent move higher in stock prices has been driven, at least in part, by short covering and forced positioning adjustments rather than by fresh capital entering the market, per *Bloomberg*. That said, history shows longer-term returns following recoveries of this speed have generally been positive over the next six-month and one-year time frames. On the sentiment side and likely adding fuel to the current stock recovery, is *Bank of America's* latest Global Fund Manager Survey, conducted April 3-9, which showed that 75% of responses came before the April 8 ceasefire announcement and that sentiment was at its most bearish level in ten months. Growth expectations among professional money managers showed their sharpest monthly decline since March 2022, yet 70% of managers still viewed a recession as unlikely, 52% maintained a soft landing as their base case, and 58% still expected Federal Reserve rate cuts this year. The survey's bearish readings largely reflect conditions at the peak of war-fear, prior to the ceasefire, which implies there was ample room for sentiment to improve sharply last week, and that there was likely dry powder on hand to help fuel a stock rally. Nevertheless, after such a powerful rally and a likely more positive-to-neutral reset among professional investors last week, we suspect that the fundamental justification for current stock prices could start to carry more weight in setting the overall market tone.

Lastly, an important factor fueling the recent rally has been the positive messages from America's largest banks. Q1 results last week from the big banks offered a broadly constructive view of the U.S. economy. Consumer spending remained healthy, credit quality held firm, and trading revenues benefited from elevated market activity in the January-March period. JPMorgan's Jamie Dimon described the U.S. economy as holding up, while Bank of America's Brian Moynihan said consumers are spending and credit quality is "very good and improving." However, areas of caution

remained among the banks, including prolonged geopolitical instability, with Dimon flagging an "increasingly complex" macro environment and several banks noting that uncertainty could weigh on merger and acquisition sentiment and business investment decisions in the quarters ahead.

Bottom line: The S&P 500 and NASDAQ have posted one of the fastest recoveries from a significant drawdown in modern market history. Notably, the AI bull market has been reconfirmed with recent stock gains, and the economic and profit backdrop remains supportive of equities, in our view. Nevertheless, near-term caution is warranted given the market's narrow breadth, light volume and unresolved risks stemming from the conflict in Iran. Whether this advance can broaden and sustain itself over the coming weeks and months will largely depend on whether the Strait of Hormuz remains open without interruption and whether fundamental conditions in the U.S. continue to support corporate profit growth this year.

The week ahead:

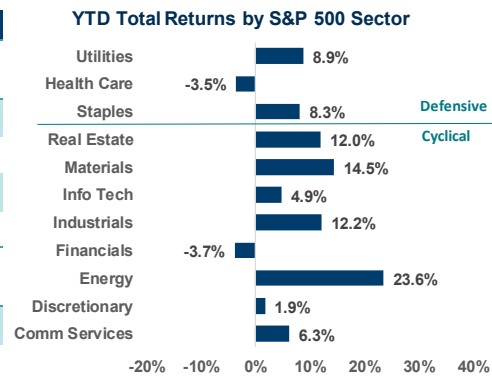
- 93 S&P 500 companies will report Q1 results this week, including Tesla, on Wednesday.
- March retail sales hit on Tuesday, and a first look at April S&P Global manufacturing and services activity hit on Thursday.

Stock Market Recap							
Benchmark	Total Returns			LTM PE		Yield %	
	Weekly	MTD	YTD	Current	5-Year Median	Current	5-Year Median
S&P 500 Index: 7,126	4.5%	9.2%	4.5%	28.2	25.6	1.1	1.3
Dow Jones Industrial Average: 49,447	3.2%	6.8%	3.4%	23.4	22.3	1.5	1.8
Russell 2000 Index: 6,901	5.6%	11.3%	12.3%	68.8	44.7	1.0	1.3
NASDAQ Composite: 24,468	6.8%	13.3%	5.5%	39.4	37.9	0.5	0.7
Best Performing Sector (weekly): Info Tech	8.1%	15.4%	4.9%	37.4	35.2	0.5	0.8
Worst Performing Sector (weekly): Energy	-3.5%	-10.6%	23.6%	20.1	13.4	2.8	3.5

Source: Factset. Data as of 04/17/2026

Bond/Commodity/Currency Recap			
Benchmark	Total Returns		
	Weekly	MTD	YTD
Bloomberg U.S. Universal	0.6%	1.0%	0.9%
West Texas Intermediate (WTI) Oil: \$84.22	-14.4%	-18.1%	47.1%
Spot Gold: \$4,831.61	1.7%	3.5%	11.8%
U.S. Dollar Index: 98.10	-0.6%	-1.9%	-0.2%
Government Bond Yields	Yield Chg		
	Weekly	MTD	YTD
2-year U.S. Treasury Yield: 3.70%	-10 bps chg	-10 bps chg	22 bps chg
10-year U.S. Treasury Yield: 4.24%	-7 bps chg	-8 bps chg	7 bps chg

Source: Factset. Data as of 04/17/2026. bps = basis points



Source: S&P Global, Factset. Data as of 04/17/2026

These figures are shown for illustrative purposes only and are not guaranteed. They do not reflect taxes or investment/product fees or expenses, which would reduce the figures shown here. An index is a statistical composite that is not managed. It is not possible to invest directly in an index. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

Important Disclosures

Sources: FactSet and Bloomberg. FactSet and Bloomberg are independent investment research companies that compile and provide financial data and analytics to firms and investment professionals such as Ameriprise Financial and its analysts. They are not affiliated with Ameriprise Financial, Inc.

The views expressed are as of the date given, may change as market or other conditions change, and may differ from views expressed by other Ameriprise Financial associates or affiliates. Actual investments or investment decisions made by Ameriprise Financial and its affiliates, whether for its own account or on behalf of clients, will not necessarily reflect the views expressed. This information is not intended to provide investment advice and does not account for individual investor circumstances.

Some of the opinions, conclusions and forward-looking statements are based on an analysis of information compiled from third-party sources. This information has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but accuracy and completeness cannot be guaranteed by Ameriprise Financial. It is given for informational purposes only and is not a solicitation to buy or sell the securities mentioned. The information is not intended to be used as the sole basis for investment decisions, nor should it be construed as advice designed to meet the specific needs of an individual investor.

Diversification does not assure a profit or protect against loss.

Commodity investments may be affected by the overall market and industry- and commodity-specific factors, and may be more volatile and less liquid than other investments.

There are risks associated with **fixed-income** investments, including credit (issuer default) risk, interest rate risk, and prepayment and extension risk. In general, bond prices rise when interest rates fall and vice versa. This effect is usually more pronounced for longer term securities.

Stock investments involve risk, including loss of principal. High-quality stocks may be appropriate for some investment strategies. Ensure that your investment objectives, time horizon and risk tolerance are aligned with investing in stocks, as they can lose value.

Investments in **small cap companies** involve risks and volatility greater than investments in larger, more established companies.

Generally, **large-cap** companies are more mature and have limited growth potential compared to smaller companies. In addition, large companies may not be able to adapt as easily to changing market conditions, potentially resulting in lower overall performance compared to the broader securities markets during different market cycles

The products of **technology** companies may be subject to severe competition and rapid obsolescence, and their stocks may be subject to greater price fluctuations.

Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

An index is a statistical composite that is not managed. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

Definitions of individual indices and sectors mentioned in this article are available on our website at ameriprise.com/legal/disclosures in the Additional Ameriprise research disclosures section.

The **S&P 500 Index** is a basket of 500 stocks that are considered to be widely held. The S&P 500 index is weighted by market value (shares outstanding times share price), and its performance is thought to be representative of the stock market as a whole. The S&P 500 index was created in 1957 although it has been extrapolated backwards to several decades earlier for performance comparison purposes. This index provides a broad snapshot of the overall US equity market. Over 70% of all US equity value is tracked by the S&P 500. Inclusion in the index is determined by Standard & Poor's and is based upon their market size, liquidity, and sector.

The **NASDAQ Composite** index measures all NASDAQ domestic and international based common type stocks listed on the Nasdaq Stock Market.

The **Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA)** is an index containing stocks of 30 Large-Cap corporations in the United States. The index is owned and maintained by Dow Jones & Company.

The **Russell 2000 Index** measures the performance of the small-cap segment of the US equity universe. The Russell 2000 is constructed to provide a comprehensive and unbiased small-cap barometer and is completely reconstituted annually to ensure larger stocks do not distort the performance and characteristics of the true small-cap opportunity set. The Russell 2000 includes the largest 2000 securities in the Russell 3000.

The **US Dollar Index (USDIX)** indicates the general international value of the USD. The USDIX does this by averaging the exchange rates between the USD and major world currencies. This is computed by using rates supplied by approximately 500 banks.

West Texas Intermediate (WTI) is a grade of crude oil commonly used as a benchmark for oil prices. WTI is a light grade with low density and sulfur content.

Core PPI Core Producer Price Index measures changes in prices received by domestic producers excluding food and energy, providing a clearer view of underlying inflation trends by removing volatile components.

Philadelphia Fed Index is a monthly survey-based indicator from the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia that measures changes in manufacturing activity in the Mid-Atlantic region, with values above zero indicating expansion and below zero indicating contraction.

Empire State Manufacturing Index is a monthly survey-based indicator published by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York that measures changes in manufacturing activity in New York State, with readings above zero signaling expansion and below zero indicating contraction.

Bank of America Global Fund Manager Survey is a monthly survey of global institutional investors conducted by Bank of America that gauges investor sentiment, asset allocation, risk appetite, and macroeconomic expectations across global financial markets.

Third party companies mentioned are not affiliated with Ameriprise Financial, Inc.

Investment products are not insured by the FDIC, NCUA or any federal agency, are not deposits or obligations of, or guaranteed by any financial institution, and involve investment risks including possible loss of principal and fluctuation in value.

Securities offered by Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. Member FINRA and SIPC.

© 2026 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.