

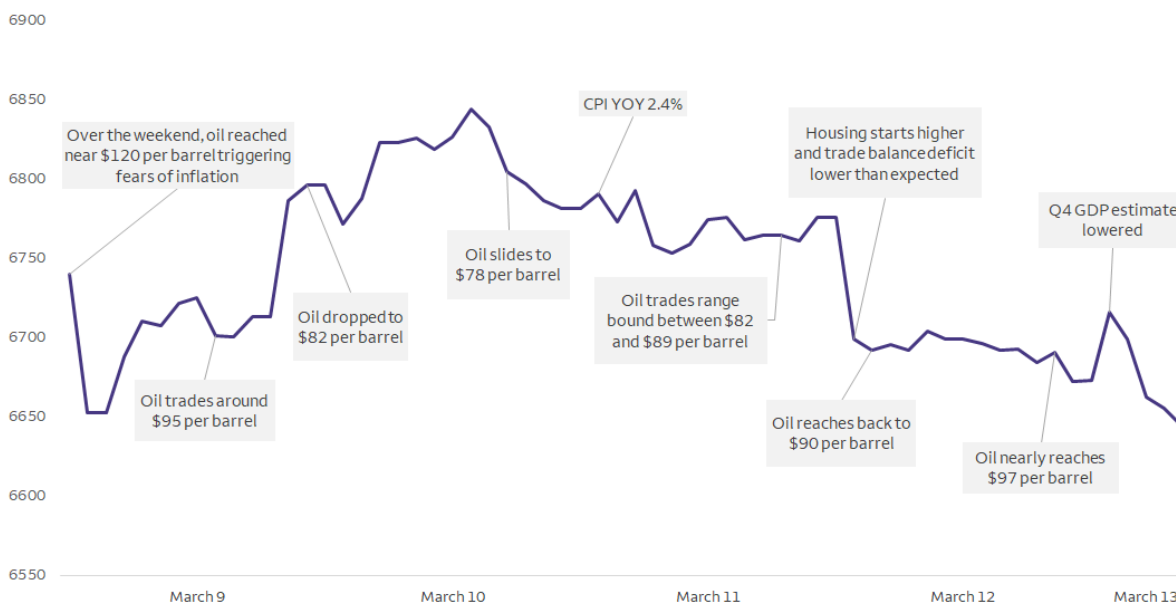
Looking Ahead

March 13, 2026

Oil volatility drives the market

Stocks saw another week of volatility as markets reacted to news of the Iran War and swings in oil prices. February's Consumer Price Index (CPI) data indicated that inflation remained well-behaved overall, and Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) data showed cooling inflation. However, the January report on personal income, spending, and inflation showed inflation-adjusted consumer demand barely keeping pace with the rise in prices. The market impact was limited as the recent spike in oil prices could lead to elevated March prints. For this and other reasons, market expectations for the year-end federal funds rate have increased notably since the start of the Iran War. Elsewhere, the initially soft print of fourth-quarter gross domestic product (GDP) was revised lower; consumer sentiment from the University of Michigan indicated lower sentiment and expectations but better conditions; and the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) data showed lower job turnover and more job openings. Looking ahead to next week, investors will continue to follow developments related to the Iran War as well as the Federal Open Market Committee's policy decision on Wednesday. In the realm of economic releases, key updates will include Producer Price Index (PPI) inflation data, industrial production, factory orders, and a handful of housing-market updates.

S&P 500 Index performance week of March 9 – 13



Sources: Bloomberg, Wells Fargo Investment Institute. Data from March 9, 2026, through March 13, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. ET. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. An index is unmanaged and not available for direct investment.

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Week in review: March 9 – 13

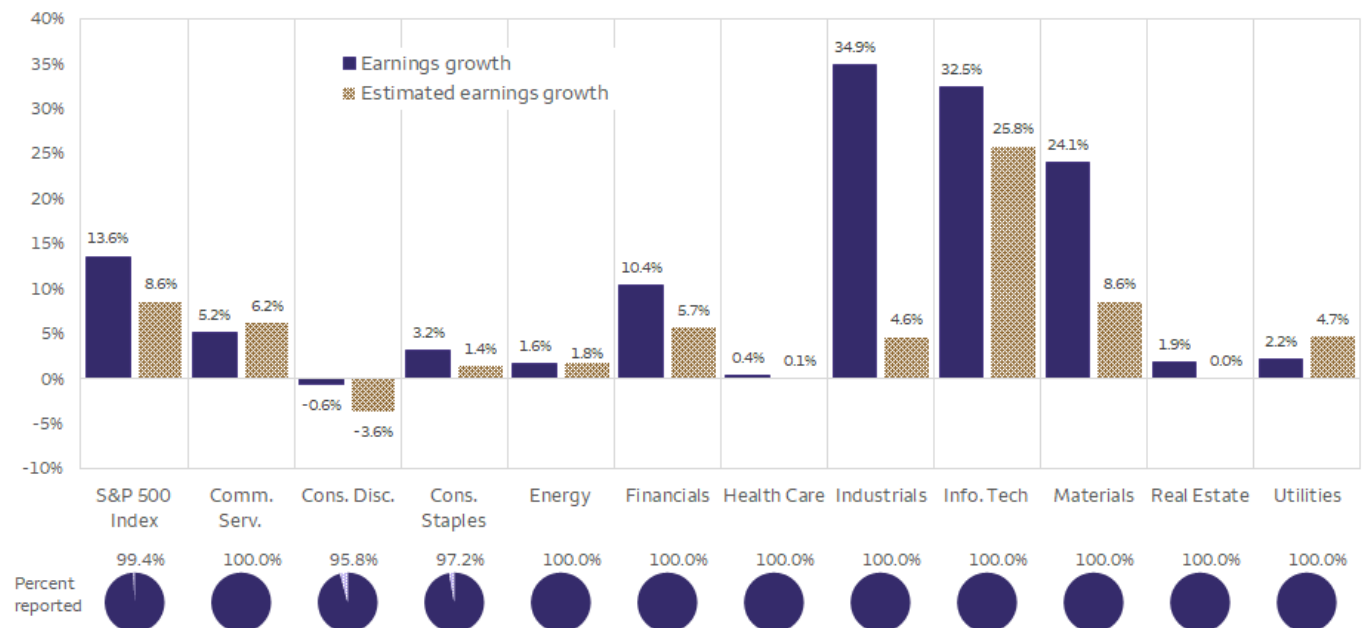
Economic data

- Ahead of the spike in oil prices related to the Iran War, February CPI data aligned with expectations and indicated that inflation remained well controlled.
 - On a month-over-month (MOM) basis, headline and core CPI inflation gained 0.3% and 0.2%, respectively. Year over year (YOY), the headline rate of 2.4% and the core rate of 2.5% remained unchanged from the prior month. Notably, this 2.5% core rate represented the slowest pace in nearly five years.
 - A key component of housing costs, rent of primary residence, slowed to a subdued 0.1% rate. While goods prices saw a marginal increase, the report showed upticks in grocery and gasoline prices.
- January PCE data was also released this week. It indicated that personal income, spending, and inflation showed inflation-adjusted consumer demand barely keeping pace with the rise in prices.
 - Headline PCE inflation came in at 0.3% MOM and 2.8% YOY rates. Meanwhile, core PCE printed at 0.4% MOM and 3.1% YOY.
 - During the period, consumer spending shifted away from goods but remained strong in essential services such as healthcare.
- The second print of fourth-quarter GDP was revised lower to 0.7%, with the print reflecting subdued economic activity related to the government shutdown, slower consumer spending, and a tariff-related drag on exports.
 - The drop was the result of downward revisions to consumer spending, business investment, and government outlays, along with a widening of the U.S. trade deficit during the opening months of 2026.
- Small-business optimism declined to 98.8 in February, driven by a downshift in capital expenditures and hiring plans. However, sales improved, and respondents' outlooks fell slightly but remained constructive.
- In the realm of housing-market data, existing home sales for February improved but remained subdued. Housing starts for January saw a significant jump that was driven entirely by multifamily starts, and building permits for January fell. Ultimately, affordability remains a substantial headwind to the housing market.

Stock market recap

By Friday morning, the major averages were lower than at the start of the week. As of 12:00 p.m. ET, the S&P 500 Index decreased by 1.4%, the Nasdaq shrank by 1.1%, while the Dow was lower by 1.8%.

Fourth Quarter earnings are mostly complete



Sources: Bloomberg, Wells Fargo Investment Institute. Chart shows actual versus projected S&P 500 Index earnings growth by sector. Actual earnings growth as of March 13, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. ET. Bloomberg consensus estimated earnings growth as of December 26, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. ET. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. An index is unmanaged and not available for direct investment.

Looking ahead to next week: March 16 – 20

U.S.

- The highlight of the week will be the Federal Reserve (Fed) March 17 – 18 meeting, with markets anticipating no change in the Fed's policy rate and looking forward to both the updated Summary of Economic Projections and Fed Chair Jerome Powell's comments during the post-meeting press conference.
- Other reports capturing attention include February's PPI, leading index, industrial production, and measures of March economic activity from the New York and Philadelphia regional Fed banks.
- Also on tap: January factory orders, wholesale trade sales, and a flurry of housing market data, including March homebuilder sentiment, February pending home sales, and January new home sales.
- Investors will also be watching for any developments in the Iran War and its impact on the global oil market.

Asia

- In China, the focus will be on February's industrial production, retail sales, fixed asset investment, and surveyed jobless rate, along with March's one- and five-year loan prime rates.
- The Bank of Japan will hold a policy meeting, while economic data out from the country includes February's trade balance and January's Tertiary (service) Industry Index, core machine orders, and finalized industrial production.
- The Reserve Bank of Australia's meeting early in the week will accompany February labor market data and leading index. South Korea's February unemployment rate and Export Price Index will also hit the tape.

Europe

- The highlight will be Thursday's European Central Bank policy meeting. Meanwhile, economic updates will include the eurozone's March ZEW expectations for economic growth, finalized February CPI, and January trade balance.
- The central banks of England, Sweden, and Switzerland will also hold policy meetings on Thursday, while the U.K. is set to release the latest labor market data and March house price data.
- Also, be on the lookout for France's February retail sales, while German releases include March's ZEW index of current conditions and the February PPI.

Scheduled economic releases for week of March 16, 2026

Date	Time	Country	Release	For	Consensus	Prior
Monday, 3/16	9:15 AM	U.S.	Industrial Production MoM	February	0.1%	0.7%
Monday, 3/16	10:00 AM	U.S.	NAHB Housing Market Index	March	37	36
Monday, 3/16	11:30 PM	Australia	RBA Cash Rate Target	March 17	4.10%	3.85%
Tuesday, 3/17	6:00 AM	Germany	ZEW Survey Expectations	March	39.2	58.3
Tuesday, 3/17	10:00 AM	U.S.	Leading Index	February		-0.2%
Tuesday, 3/17	10:00 AM	U.S.	Pending Home Sales MoM	February	-1.00%	-0.84%
Tuesday, 3/17	7:00 PM	South Korea	Unemployment rate SA	February	3.0%	3.0%
Wednesday, 3/18	8:30 AM	U.S.	PPI Final Demand YoY	February		2.9%
Wednesday, 3/18	8:30 AM	U.S.	PPI Ex Food and Energy YoY	February		3.6%
Wednesday, 3/18	9:45 AM	Canada	Bank of Canada Rate Decision	March 18	2.25%	2.25%
Wednesday, 3/18	10:00 AM	U.S.	Factory Orders	January		-0.7%
Wednesday, 3/18	2:00 PM	U.S.	FOMC Rate Decision (Upper Bound)	March 18	3.75%	3.75%
Wednesday, 3/18	8:30 PM	Australia	Unemployment Rate	February	4.1%	4.1%
Wednesday, 3/18	11:00 PM	Japan	BOJ Target Rate	March 19	0.75%	0.75%
Thursday, 3/19	3:00 AM	U.K.	Jobless Claims Change	February		28.6k
Thursday, 3/19	8:00 AM	U.K.	Bank of England Bank Rate	March 19	3.75%	3.75%
Thursday, 3/19	9:15 AM	Eurozone	ECB Main Refinancing Rate	March 19	2.15%	2.15%
Thursday, 3/19	10:00 AM	U.S.	New Home Sales	January	725k	745k
Friday, 3/20	3:00 AM	Germany	PPI YoY	February	-2.7%	-3.0%

Source: Bloomberg. Data as of March 13, 2026, as of 12:00 P.M. ET. Times in table are in Eastern Time.

Scheduled earnings releases for week of March 16, 2026

Ticker	Company	Report date	Call time	Revenue est. (billions)	EPS est.	EPS year ago
DLTR	Dollar Tree, Inc.	Monday, 3/16	8:00 AM	\$5.46	\$2.53	\$2.11
LULU	lululemon athletica inc.	Tuesday, 3/17	4:30 PM	\$3.58	\$4.78	\$6.14
WSM	Williams-Sonoma, Inc.	Wednesday, 3/18	10:00 AM	\$2.41	\$2.90	\$3.28
MU	Micron Technology, Inc.	Wednesday, 3/18	4:30 PM	\$19.23	\$8.82	\$1.56
JBL	Jabil Inc.	Wednesday, 3/18	8:30 AM	\$7.78	\$2.51	\$1.94
GIS	General Mills, Inc.	Wednesday, 3/18	Unspecified	\$4.41	\$0.73	\$1.00
FDX	FedEx Corporation	Thursday, 3/19	5:30 PM	\$23.48	\$4.12	\$4.51
ACN	Accenture Plc Class A	Thursday, 3/19	8:00 AM	\$17.84	\$2.85	\$2.82
DRI	Darden Restaurants, Inc.	Thursday, 3/19	8:30 AM	\$3.33	\$2.95	\$2.80

Source: FactSet. Data as of March 13, 2026, as of 8:30 A.M. ET. Times shown in table are in Eastern Time. EPS = earnings per share.

Risk Considerations

Different investments offer different levels of potential return and market risk. The level of risk associated with a particular investment or asset class generally correlates with the level of return the investment or asset class might achieve. **Stock markets**, especially foreign markets, are volatile. Stock values may fluctuate in response to general economic and market conditions, the prospects of individual companies, and industry sectors. **Foreign investing** has additional risks including those associated with currency fluctuation, political and economic instability, and different accounting standards. These risks are heightened in emerging markets. **Bonds** are subject to market, interest rate, price, credit/default, liquidity, inflation and other risks. Prices tend to be inversely affected by changes in interest rates. **Real estate** has special risks including the possible illiquidity of underlying properties, credit risk, interest rate fluctuations and the impact of varied economic condition.

Sector investing can be more volatile than investments that are broadly diversified over numerous sectors of the economy and will increase a portfolio's vulnerability to any single economic, political, or regulatory development affecting the sector. This can result in greater price volatility.

Additional information available upon request. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The material contained herein has been prepared from sources and data we believe to be reliable, but we make no guarantee as to its accuracy or completeness. This material is published solely for informational purposes and is not an offer to buy or sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy or sell any security or investment product. Opinions and estimates are as of a certain date and subject to change without notice.

Definitions

An index is unmanaged and not available for direct investment.

The S&P 500 Index is a market capitalization-weighted index composed of 500 widely held common stocks that is generally considered representative of the US stock market.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average is a price-weighted average of 30 blue-chip stocks that are generally the leaders in their industry. It has been a widely followed indicator of the stock market since October 1, 1928.

The NASDAQ Composite Index is a broad-based capitalization-weighted index of stocks in all three NASDAQ tiers: Global Select, Global Market and Capital Market.

Building permits (or building approvals) track the number of permits that have been issued for new construction, additions to pre-existing structures or major renovations. These statistics are based on the number of construction permits approved.

Consumer confidence (or consumer sentiment) tracks sentiment among households or consumers.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of prices paid by consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services. The yearly (or monthly) growth rates represent the inflation rate.

Core machine orders tracks the value of new orders received during the reference period. Orders are typically based on a legal agreement between two parties in which the producer will deliver goods or services to the purchaser at a future date.

Existing home sales tracks the sales of previously owned homes during the reference period.

Export price indexes track changes in the prices of goods produced domestically and sold abroad (exports).

Factory orders track the value of new orders received during the reference period. Orders are typically based on a legal agreement between two parties in which the producer will deliver goods or services to the purchaser at a future date.

Fixed asset investment tracks investment in or capital expenditures on fixed assets such as buildings, plant, equipment, machinery, etc.

The German ZEW index of current conditions (or business conditions) tracks the general state of the economy as it relates to businesses. It can include broad economy-wide conditions or specific economic conditions of a particular industry.

Gross domestic product (GDP) measures the final market value of all goods and services produced within a country. It is the most frequently used indicator of economic activity. The GDP by industry approach (or output-based GDP) is the sum of the gross value added (output less intermediate consumption) of all industry and services sectors of the economy (at basic prices), plus all taxes less subsidies on products. This concept is adjusted for inflation.

Homebuilder sentiment tracks sentiment among participants in the housing industry.

Housing (or building) starts track the number of new housing units (or buildings) that have been started during the reference period.

House prices track changes in residential property prices.

Industrial production measures the output of industrial establishments in the following industries: mining and quarrying, manufacturing and public utilities (electricity, gas and water supply). Production is based on the volume of the output.

The international trade balance (or foreign trade) measures the difference between the movement of merchandise trade and/or services leaving a country (exports) and entering a country (imports). This measure tracks the value of the merchandise trade balance.

The Job Openings by Industry Total Survey (JOLTS) tracks the number of specific job openings in an economy.

Leading indicators (leading indexes) include economic variables that tend to move before changes in the overall economy.

New home sales tracks sales of newly constructed homes during the reference period.

PCE deflators (or personal consumption expenditure deflators) track overall price changes for goods and services purchased by consumers. Deflators are calculated by dividing the appropriate nominal series by the corresponding real series and multiplying by 100.

Pending home sales tracks signed real estate contracts for existing single-family homes, condos and co-ops that have not yet closed. As such it is a leading indicator for existing home sales.

Personal income or consumer/household income tracks all income received by households including such things as wages and salaries, investment income, rental income, transfer payments, etc. This concept is not adjusted for inflation.

Personal spending or consumer/household spending (also referred to as consumption) tracks consumer expenditures on goods and services. This concept is not adjusted for inflation.

The Producer Price Index (PPI) is a measure of the change in the price of goods as they leave their place of production (i.e. prices received by domestic producers for their outputs either on the domestic or foreign market).

Retail sales (also referred to as retail trade) tracks the resale of new and used goods to the general public, for personal or household consumption. This concept is based on the value of goods sold.

Small business optimism tracks the general state of the economy as it relates to businesses. It can include broad economy-wide conditions or specific economic conditions of a particular industry.

The Tertiary Industry Index measures the change in the total value of services purchased by businesses.

The unemployment (or jobless) rate tracks the number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the labor force (the total number of employed plus unemployed).

These figures generally come from a household labor force survey.

Wholesale sales (also referred to as wholesale trade) is a form of trade in which goods are purchased and stored in large quantities and sold to resellers, professional users or groups, but not to final consumers. This concept is based on the value of goods sold.

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