

EAGLE FOCUS

weekly

April 6, 2026

MARKET PERFORMANCE RECAP

WEEK ENDING
April 3, 2026

INDEX	LAST FRIDAY'S CLOSE	% CHANGE YTD
S&P 500	6582.69	-3.84%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	46504.67	-3.24%
Nasdaq Composite	21879.18	-5.86%
S&P MidCap 400	3408.16	3.12%
Russell 2000	2535.54	1.94%

Global dealmaking is off to a record start this year, driven by major mergers and acquisitions, though momentum has been tempered by geopolitical tensions. Total transaction value has risen nearly 20% to about \$1.3 trillion in the first quarter, boosted by big deals like Sysco's \$29.1 billion acquisition of Jetro Restaurant Depot and Unilever's \$44.8 billion sale of its food business to McCormick. (Source: Bloomberg)



U.S. home price growth slowed in January, with the Case-Shiller index rising just 0.2% and annual gains easing to 0.9%, the weakest pace since mid-2012 outside pandemic effects. The FHFA index showed a similar trend, with monthly growth of 0.1% and annual increases slowing to 1.6%, the lowest since 2012. While cooling prices may improve affordability over time, higher mortgage rates continue to weigh on near-term conditions. (Source: Ned Davis Research)

U.S. equity funds saw a strong \$37.2 billion inflow in the week to March 25, the largest since November 2024, as easing Middle East tensions briefly lifted sentiment. Large-cap funds led gains, while mid- and small-cap funds continued to see outflows. Despite the inflows, tech stocks declined and sector funds saw withdrawals, reflecting ongoing uncertainty around the conflict. (Source: Reuters)

U.S. job openings declined in February, while hiring dropped to its lowest level since April 2020, according to the Labor Department. Open positions fell to 6.9 million from 7.2 million in January, and the hiring rate eased to 3.1%. Layoffs were steady at 1.7 million, though the layoff rate edged up slightly. Meanwhile, the quit rate dipped to 1.9%, signaling slightly reduced worker confidence, even as quits rose in nondurable goods manufacturing. (Source: Wall Street Journal)

U.S. banks are increasing loan costs for private credit funds as concerns grow over the valuation of some investments. Rates on key funding sources, including for business development companies, have risen since late last year. The shift follows mounting doubts about lending standards and the performance of software companies backed by these funds. (Source: Reuters)

U.S. retail sales rose in February at the fastest pace in seven months, driven by stronger auto sales and warmer weather. However, the U.S.-Israeli conflict with Iran has pushed oil prices up over 50%, sending gas above \$4 a gallon for the first time in three years. Economists

warn that higher fuel costs and a prolonged war could slow consumer spending and weigh on second-quarter growth. (Source: Yahoo Finance)

The Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index rose 0.8 points to 91.8 in March, a three-month high, driven by improved views of current conditions. Expectations declined, and while sentiment remains lower than a year ago, it still points to continued near-term economic growth. Consumers were more positive on business conditions, but concerns about the labor market increased, with more people saying jobs are hard to find. (Source: Ned Davis Research)

Despite its "cruellest month" reputation, April has historically been strong for U.S. stocks, with the S&P 500 gaining an average of 1.3%, nearly double the all-month average of 0.7%. Other months, like July, have posted similar or higher returns, but April's early gains are often linked to factors such as Federal Reserve liquidity support and pre-April 15 IRA contributions. Over the past century, this pattern has made April one of the more favorable months for market performance. (Source: MarketWatch)

A PYMNTS Intelligence report finds that credit unions can win Gen Z by acting as trusted financial guides rather than just offering digital access. Gen Z members are more likely to switch providers (36% vs. 14% of all consumers) and face unique financial hurdles (72%), highlighting a need for practical tools. While 62% are open to AI for financial planning, 46% still value in-person

advice, showing a mix of digital and human guidance is key. (Source: PYMNTS)

Gen Xers approaching retirement show higher financial anxiety than Boomers, with 28% of those aged 55–60 extremely concerned about having enough money, compared to 14% of Boomers. Healthcare costs are the top worry, and many lack a clear plan to turn savings into steady income, with 56% of Gen Xers expressing “pension envy.” As a result, nearly half of Gen Xers anticipate returning to work after retirement, versus just 21% of Boomers. (Source: Barron’s)

Rising gas prices have pushed the average daily commuting cost to \$17.17, according to new data cited by USA Today. Prices climbed above \$4 per gallon this week, driven by the Iran war, with costs expected to rise further if prices hit \$5. This increase is hitting hardest for workers who rely on their own vehicles for their jobs. (Source: LinkedIn News)

Despite rapid headlines about AI, a new MIT study finds it has yet to impact most work, with 92% of job activities seeing no AI use. A small share of tasks, mainly content generation and information retrieval, captures the majority of AI’s market value. In fact, just 0.1% of activities account for over 35% of global AI software deployment. (Source: PYMNTS)

Parent PLUS borrowers must act quickly to preserve access to income-driven repayment (IDR) plans and student loan forgiveness. By consolidating their loans into a Direct Consolidation Loan in April, they can maintain eligibility

for IDR options, which cap payments based on income and lead to forgiveness. After July, Parent PLUS loans will no longer qualify for these plans due to changes in federal law. (Source: CNBC)

On April 6, 1896, the Olympic Games were revived in Athens, 1,500 years after being banned by Roman Emperor Theodosius I. The modern opening welcomed athletes from 13 nations before 60,000 spectators. Originally held every four years to honor Zeus, the ancient Olympics featured foot races, wrestling, boxing, chariot racing, and the pentathlon, but declined under Roman rule and were abolished in 393 A.D. (Source: History.com)

The idiom “Tom, Dick, and Harry” dates back to 1592, originally including Mary, and was later adapted by Shakespeare as “Tom, Dick, and Francis.” By the mid-17th century, it came to symbolize the everyman, popularized by Oxford Vice-Chancellor John Owen as a reference to ordinary men discussing affairs beyond their knowledge. The names stuck partly because Thomas, Richard, and Henry were among the most common male names of the time. (Source: Word Smarts)

Thanks to its far-flung territories, France spans 12 time zones—and even 13 for part of the year. From Tahiti (UTC-10) to Wallis & Futuna (UTC+12), French time stretches across the globe, meaning it can be tomorrow in one territory while still today in another. (Source: Guinness Book of World Records)



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