

# QUARTERLY MARKET GUIDE: Q2 2026

*Our View of What's Most Relevant Now*

April 15, 2026



Traverse Private Wealth is a registered investment advisor in the State of Pennsylvania

**Please see important disclosures at the end of this report.**

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## Data in Focus: Crude Oil Prices



Source: tradingeconomics.com

## Index Performance

Index	Asset Class	2026		2025
		Q1	YTD	
<b>Equity Indexes</b>		<b>Total Returns</b>		
NASDAQ 100	Mega Cap U.S. Growth Equity	(5.8)%	(5.8)%	21.0%
S&P 500	Large Cap U.S. Equity	(4.3)	(4.3)	17.9
S&P 400	Mid Cap U.S. Equity	2.5	2.5	7.5
S&P 600	Small Cap U.S. Equity	3.5	3.5	6.0
MSCI All Country World	Global Equity	(3.1)	(3.1)	22.9
MSCI All Country World (Ex U.S.)	International Equity	(0.6)	(0.6)	33.1
MSCI Europe, Asia & Far East (EAFE)	International Developed Market Equity	(1.1)	(1.1)	31.9
MSCI Emerging Markets (EM)	International Emerging Market Equity	(0.1)	(0.1)	34.4
<b>Fixed Income Indexes</b>				
Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond	U.S. Investment Grade Bond	(0.1)	(0.1)	7.3
S&P National AMT-Free Municipal Bond	U.S. Investment Grade Muni Bond	(0.2)	(0.2)	3.8
S&P Municipal Bond High Yield	U.S. Muni Bonds (Below Investment Grade)	0.3	0.3	3.3
Bloomberg U.S. Corp. High Yield	U.S. Corp Bonds (Below Investment Grade)	(0.5)	(0.5)	8.6
<b>Index Blends: Stock/Bond</b>				
80%/20%: Global Equity (MSCI All Ctry World) / U.S. Investment Grade Bond (Bloomberg U.S. Agg)		(2.5)	(2.5)	19.8
60%/40%: Global Equity (MSCI All Ctry World) / U.S. Investment Grade Bond (Bloomberg U.S. Agg)		(1.8)	(1.8)	16.6
40%/60%: Global Equity (MSCI All Ctry World) / U.S. Investment Grade Bond (Bloomberg U.S. Agg)		(1.2)	(1.2)	13.5
20%/80%: Global Equity (MSCI All Ctry World) / U.S. Investment Grade Bond (Bloomberg U.S. Agg)		(0.6)	(0.6)	10.4
Data as of 3/31/2026				

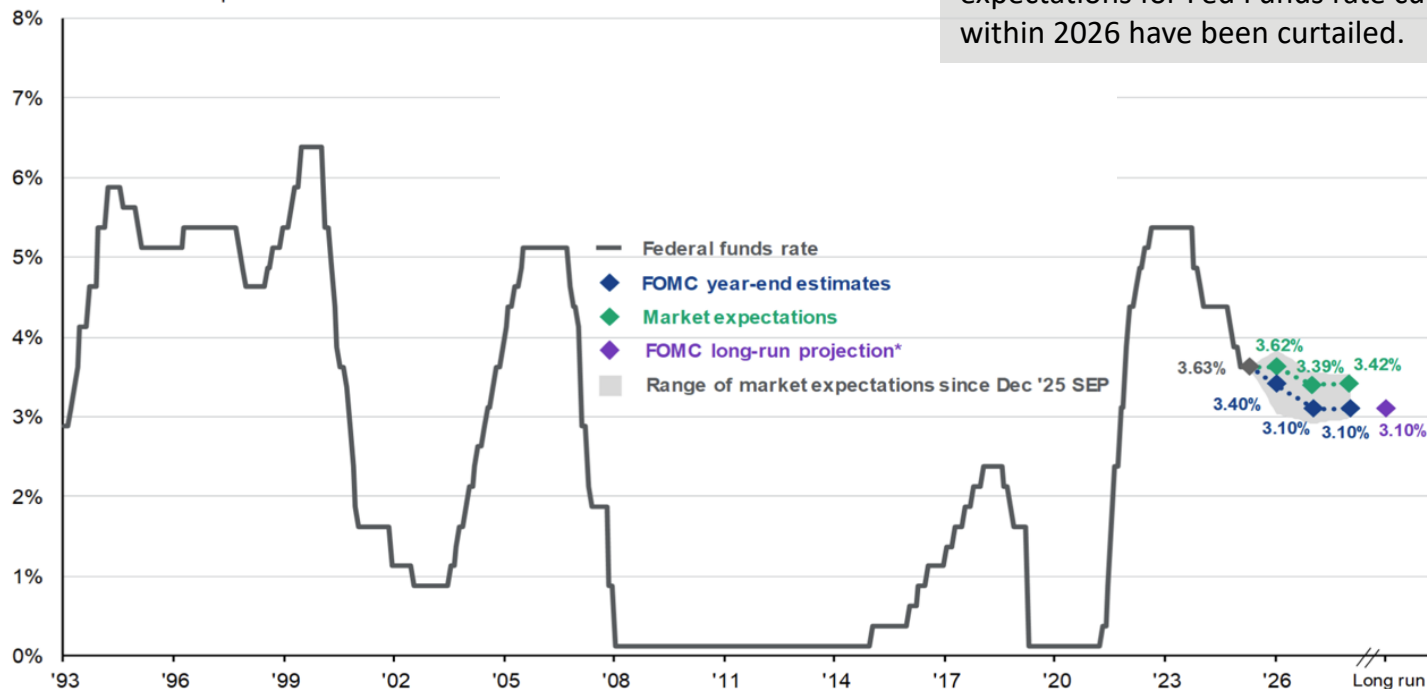
Source: Morningstar, and blended benchmark returns are based on monthly rebalancing.

## Economy

### Federal Funds Rate

#### Federal funds rate expectations

FOMC and market expectations for the federal funds rate

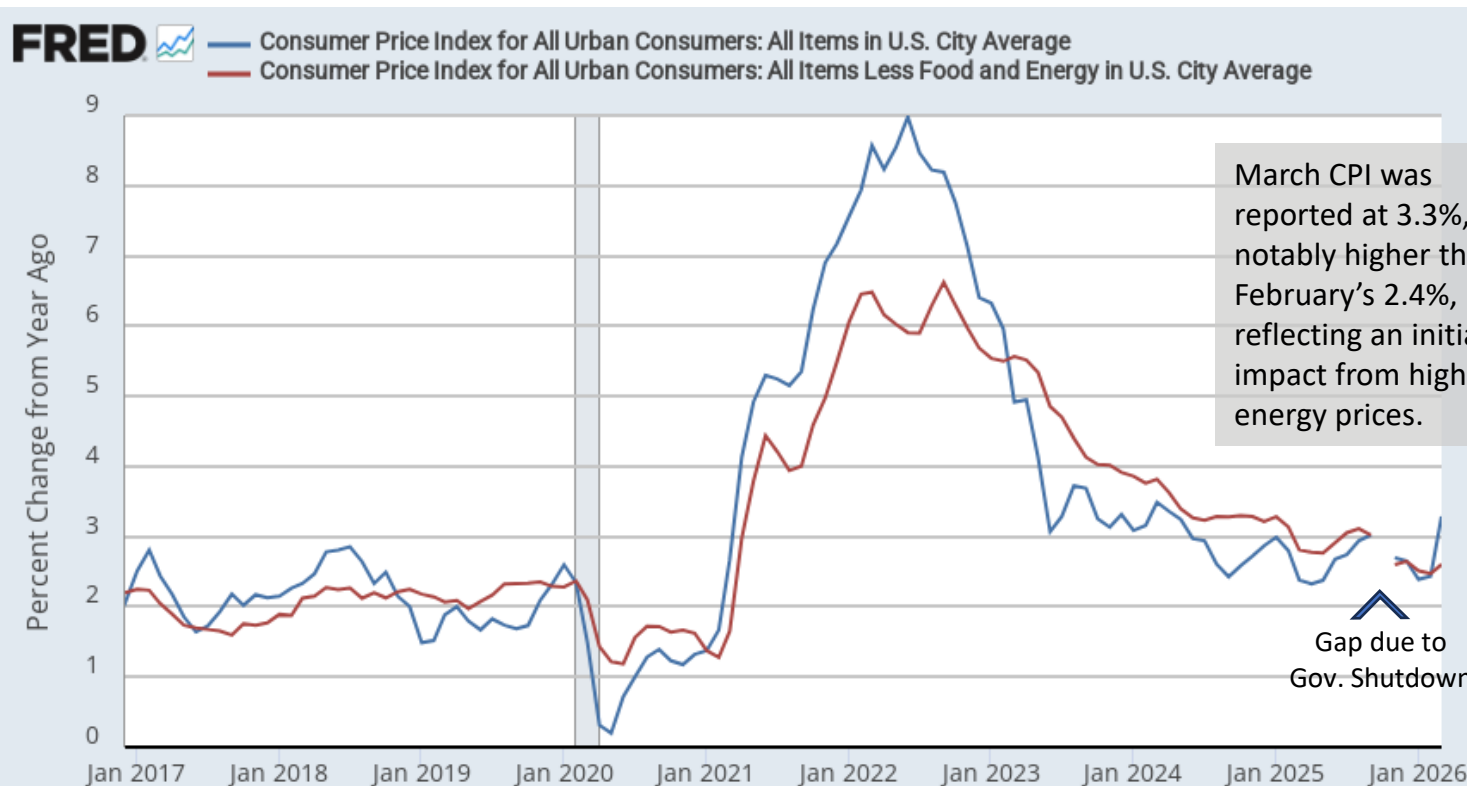


Inflation risks have elevated due to increased crude oil prices. And, as such, expectations for Fed Funds rate cut(s) within 2026 have been curtailed.

Source: Bloomberg, FactSet, Federal Reserve, J.P. Morgan Asset Management. Market expectations are based off of USD Overnight Index Swaps. \*Long-run projections are the rates of growth, unemployment and inflation to which a policymaker expects the economy to converge over the next five to six years in absence of further shocks and under appropriate monetary policy. Forecasts, projections and other forward-looking statements are based upon current beliefs and expectations. They are for illustrative purposes only and serve as an indication of what may occur. Given the inherent uncertainties and risks associated with forecasts, projections or other forward-looking statements, actual events, results or performance may differ materially from those reflected or contemplated. *Guide to the Markets* – U.S. Data are as of March 31, 2026.

## Economy

### Inflation



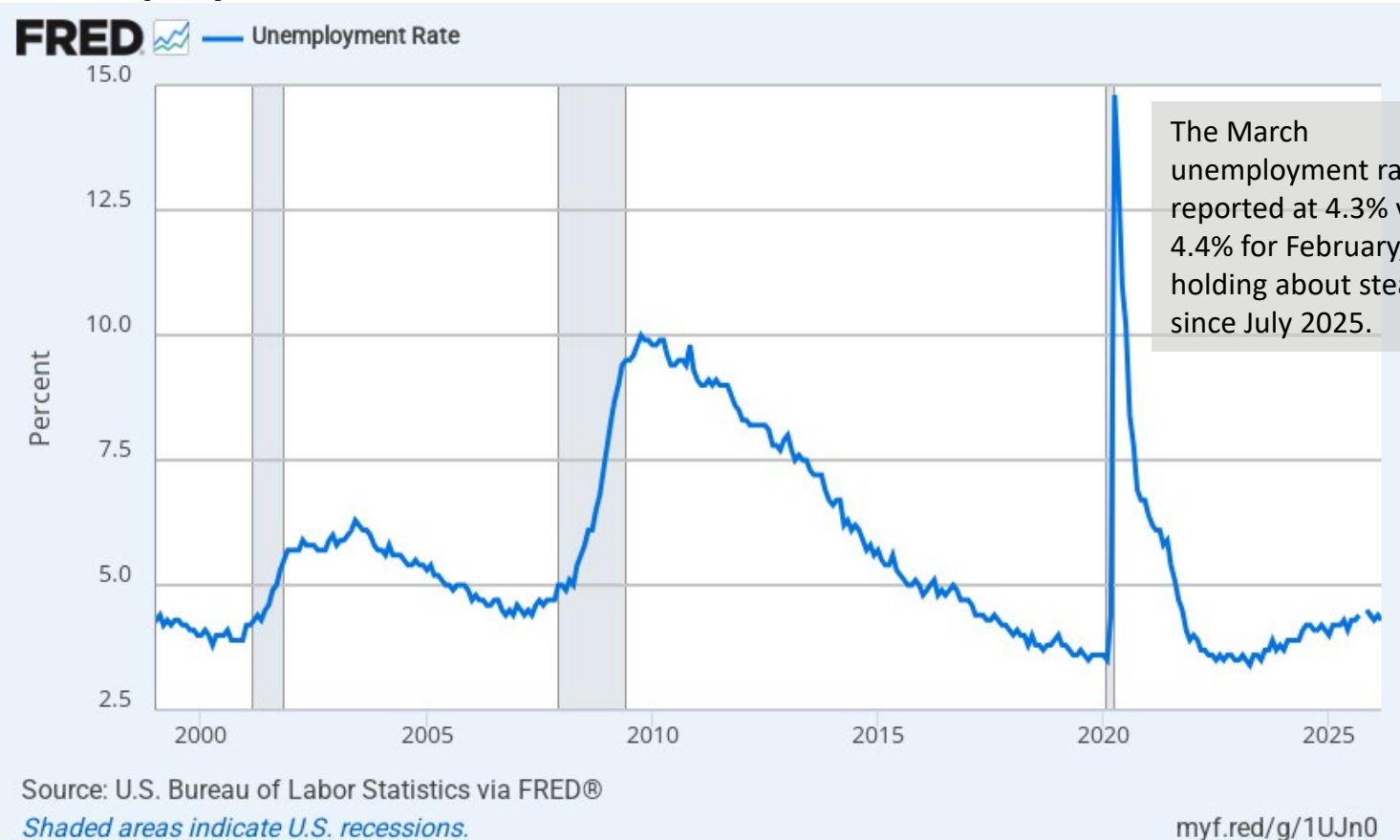
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics via FRED®

*Shaded areas indicate U.S. recessions.*

[myf.red/g/1UJm0](https://myf.red/g/1UJm0)

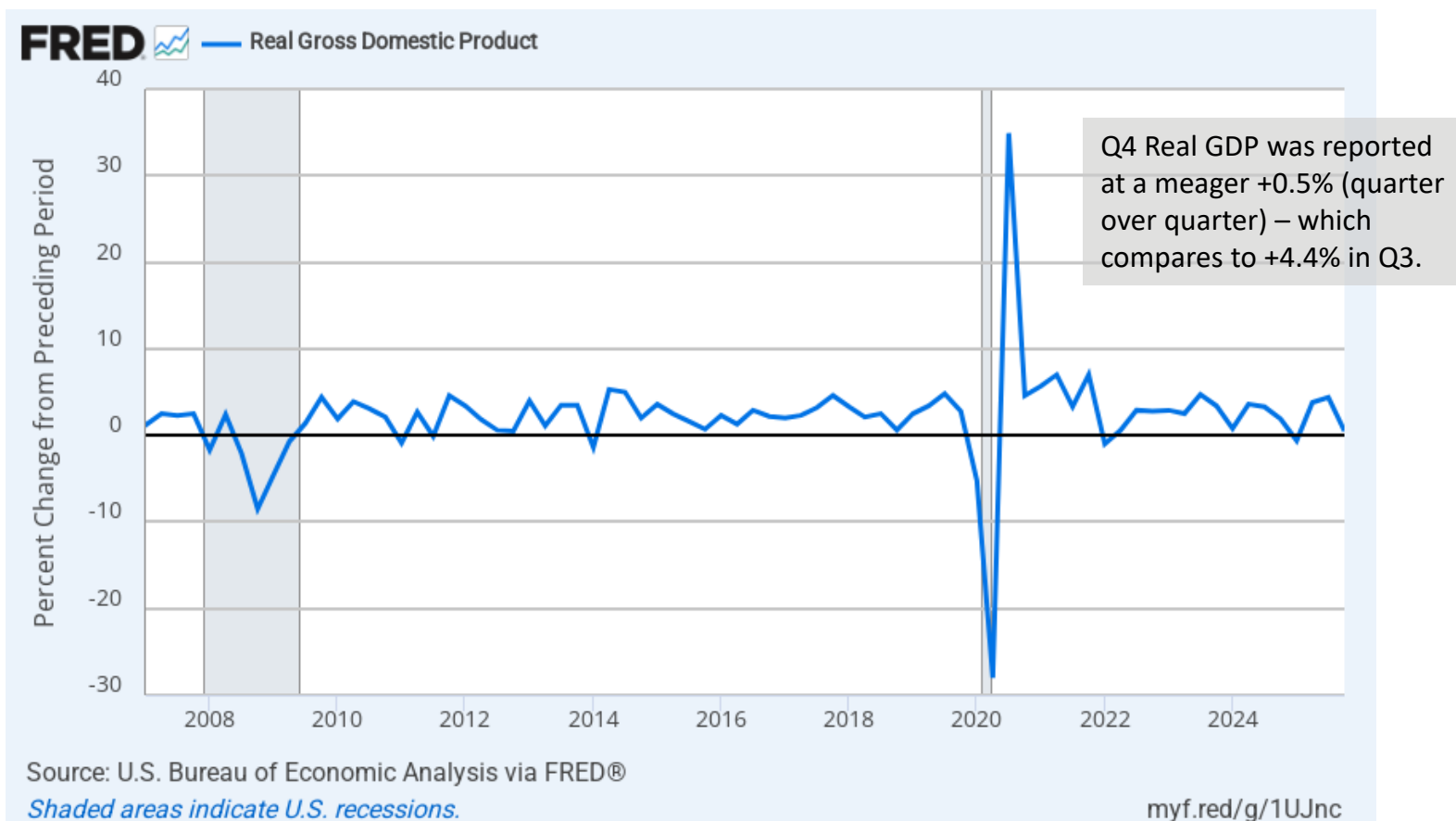
## Economy

### Unemployment Rate



## Economy

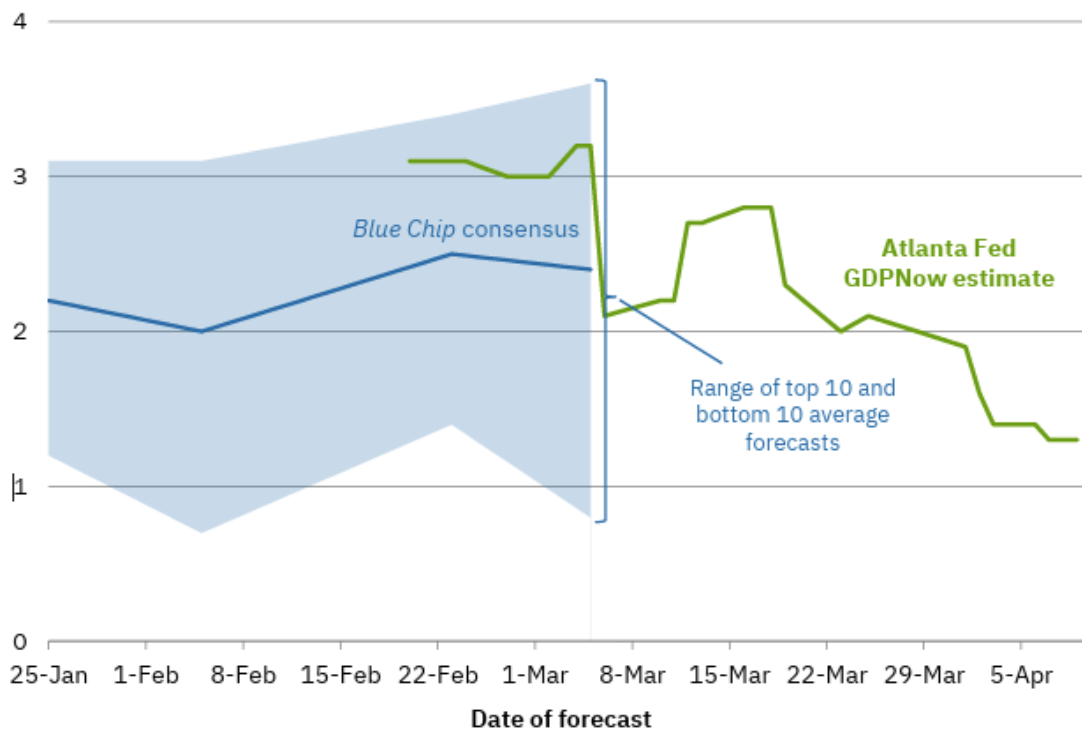
### Real GDP



## Economy

### Real GDP Estimate – Atlanta Fed GDPNow

Evolution of Atlanta Fed GDPNow real GDP estimate for 2026: Q1  
Quarterly percent change (SAAR)



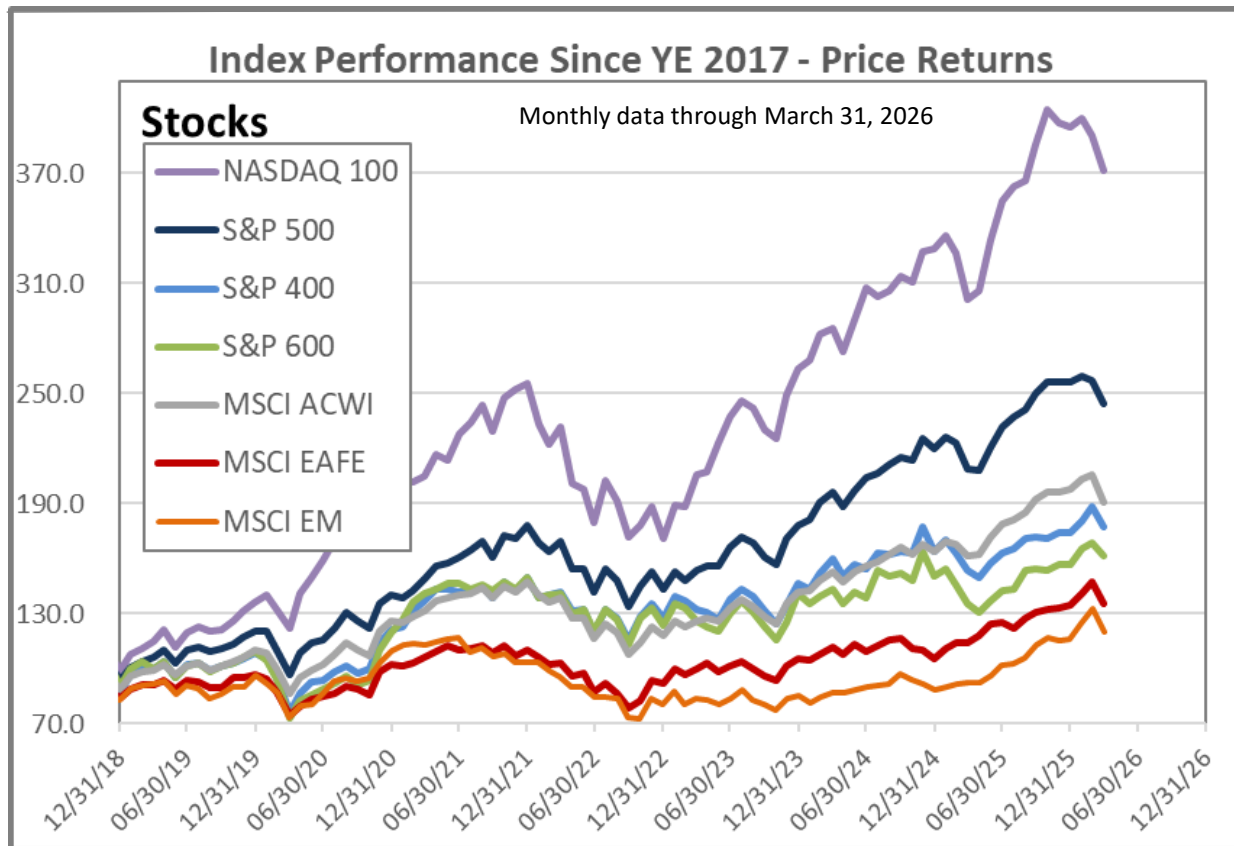
As we've previously conveyed, very little color is offered regarding the Atlanta Fed GDPNow estimate, which is based on a mathematical model. We can surmise that the recent steady downward revisions for the Q1 estimate is attributable to the late quarter impact of higher energy prices.

Sources: Blue Chip Economic Indicators and Blue Chip Financial Forecasts

Note: The top (bottom) 10 average forecast is an average of the highest (lowest) 10 forecasts in the Blue Chip survey.

## Equities

### Sub-Asset Class Relative Performance



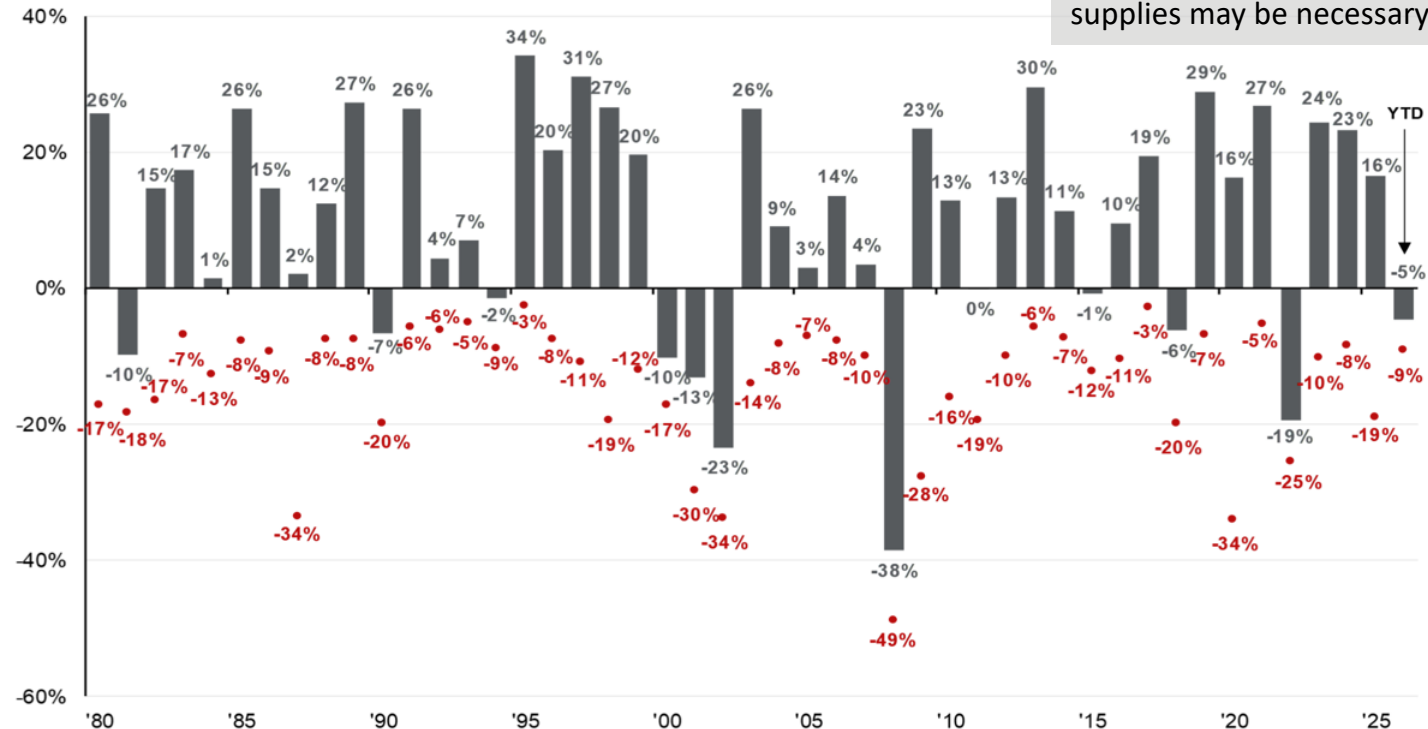
Source: Bloomberg and Yahoo Finance data, with analysis by Genesia Investments LLC

## Equities

### S&P 500 Annual Returns & Intra-Year Declines

#### S&P 500 intra-year declines vs. calendar year returns

Despite average intra-year drops of 14.2%, annual returns were positive in 35 of 46 years



We've heard some leading Wall Street strategists suggest that the intra-year "lows are in" for this year. Sounds great... but we wonder if a quick restoration of Middle East oil supplies may be necessary.

Source: FactSet, Standard & Poor's, J.P. Morgan Asset Management. Returns are based on price index only and do not include dividends. Intra-year drops refers to the largest peak-to-trough decline during the year. Returns shown are calendar year returns from 1980 to 2025, over which the average annual return was 10.7%. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Guide to the Markets - U.S. Data are as of March 31, 2026.

## Equities

### S&P 500 Forward P/E Valuation History



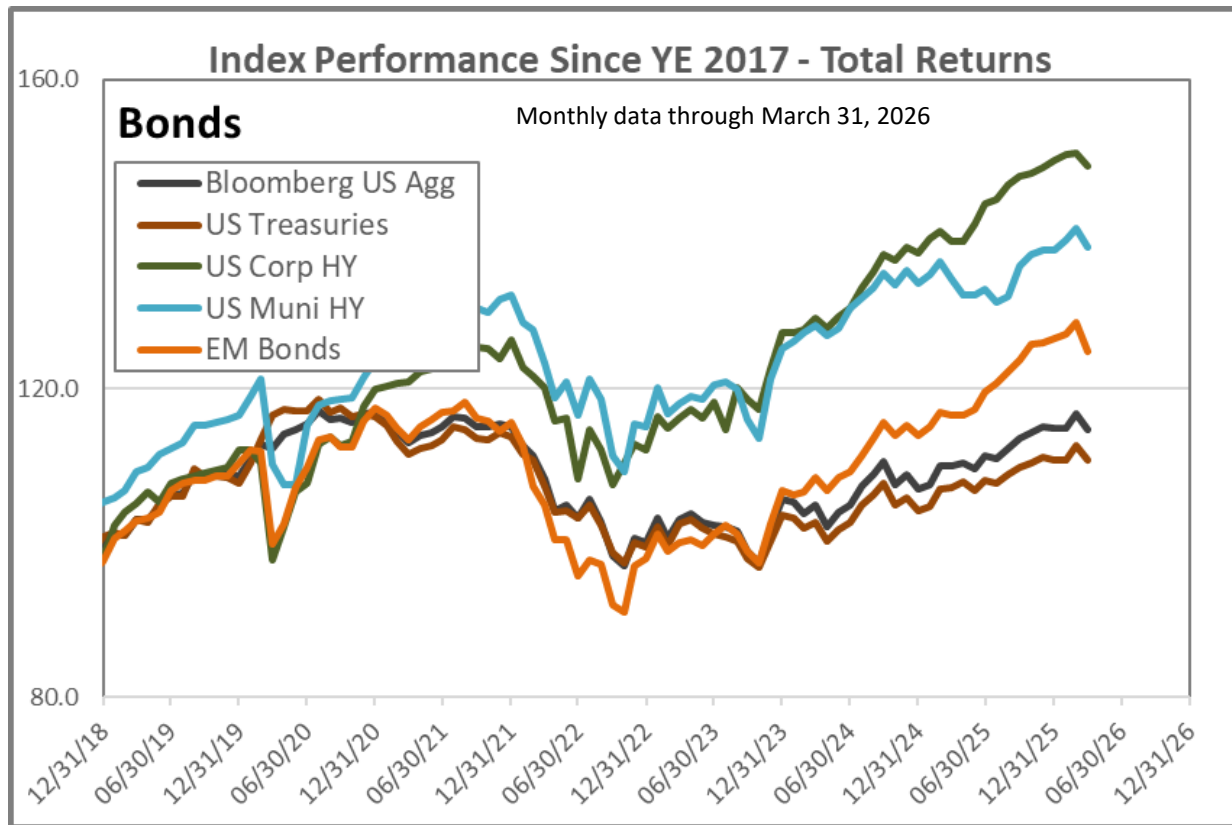
S&P 500 forward P/E valuations have pulled-back recently from levels which have historically proven to be unsustainable. We view this as constructive for the prospects of U.S. equities in the intermediate-term.

*The Equities chart on this page will rotate through the year based on perceived relevance.*

Source: Bloomberg, FactSet, Moody's, Refinitiv Datastream, Robert Shiller, Standard & Poor's, J.P. Morgan Asset Management. Forward P/E ratio is the most recent S&P 500 index price divided by consensus analyst estimates for earnings in the next 12 months, provided by IBES since March 1994 and FactSet since January 2022. Shiller's P/E uses trailing 10-years of inflation-adjusted earnings as reported by companies. Dividend yield is calculated as consensus estimates of dividends in the next 12 months, provided by FactSet, divided by the most recent S&P 500 index price. EY minus Baa yield is the forward earnings yield (the inverse of the forward P/E ratio) minus the Bloomberg U.S. corporate Baa yield since December 2008 and interpolated using the Moody's Baa seasoned corporate bond yield for values beforehand. Guide to the Markets - U.S. Data are as of March 31, 2026.

## Fixed Income

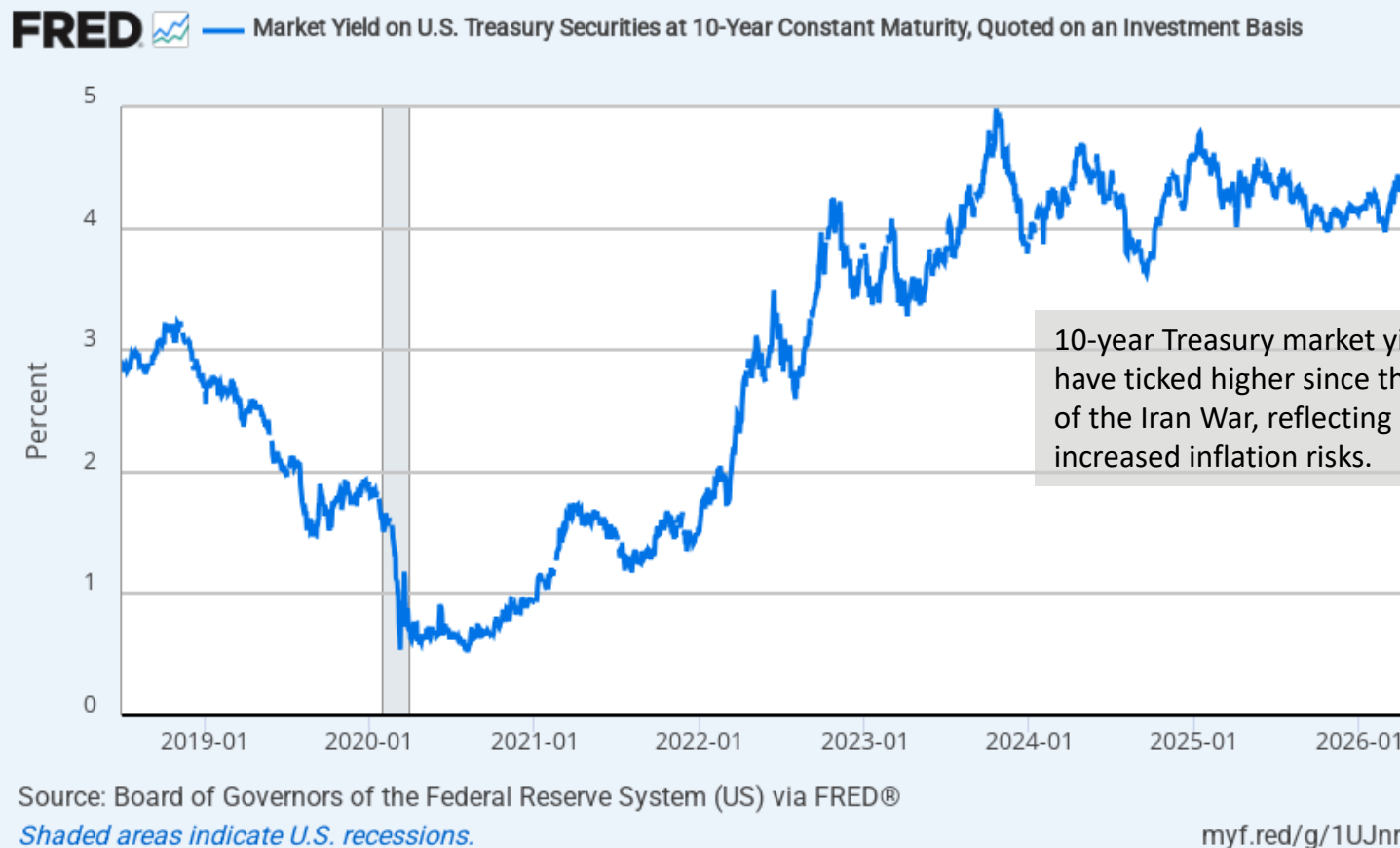
### Sub-Asset Class Relative Performance



Source: Bloomberg monthly index data, with analysis by Genesis Investments LLC

## Fixed Income

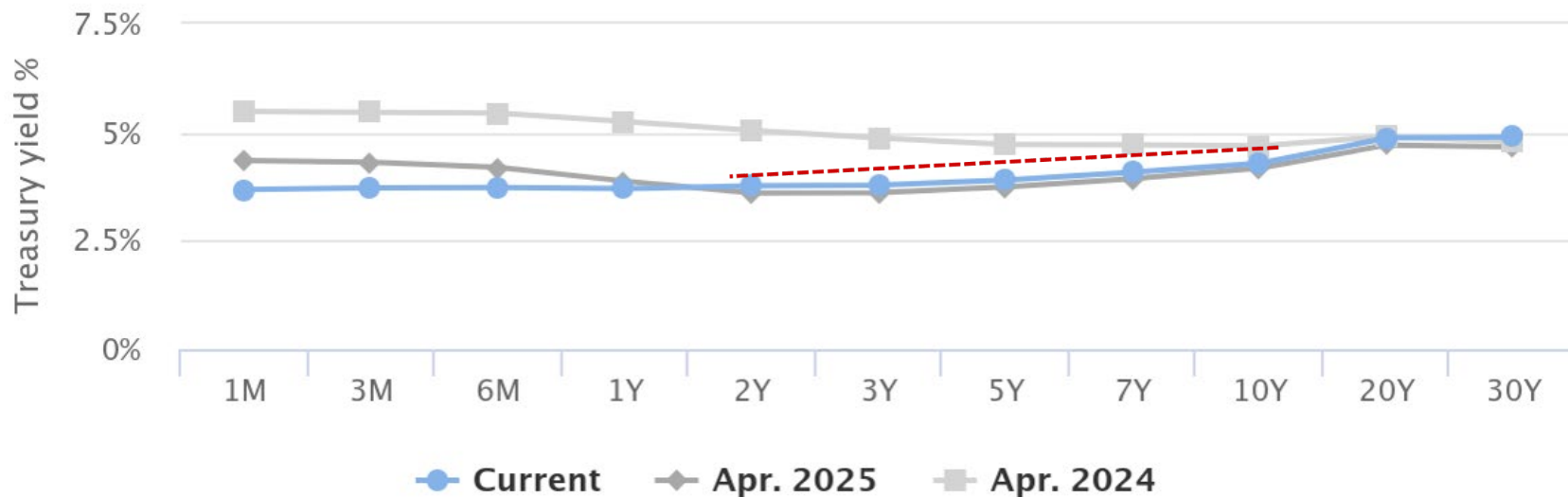
### Market Yield - U.S. Treasury 10-Year Bond



## Fixed Income

### Treasury Yield Curve

As of April 14, 2026



Source: GuruFocus.com

## Fixed Income

### Treasury Yield Spreads – 10-Year vs. 2-Year



## Fixed Income

### Credit Spreads – U.S. Corp High Yield vs U.S. Treasuries



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## **About the Author:**

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## **Sources Include:**

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Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta Research & Data – <https://www.atlantafed.org/cqer/research/gdpnow>

GuruFocus.com LLC, U.S. Treasury Yield Curve Data & Charts -- [https://www.gurufocus.com/yield\\_curve.php](https://www.gurufocus.com/yield_curve.php)

JP Morgan, Quarterly Guide to the Markets -- <https://am.ipmorgan.com/us/en/asset-management/adv/insights/market-insights/guide-to-the-markets/>

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*Reference to market index information is included for illustrative purposes only, as it is not possible to directly invest in an index. Indexes are unmanaged, hypothetical vehicles that serve as market indicators. Index total return performance data reflects the assumptions of the reinvestment of interest and dividends but does not include the deduction of fees or transaction costs which otherwise reduce performance of an actual portfolio. The blended indexes are shown for informational purposes only and are not representative of any particular investment or plan.*

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