



# Capital Markets Snapshot

Courtesy of LWS Financial

Week ending March 8, 2024

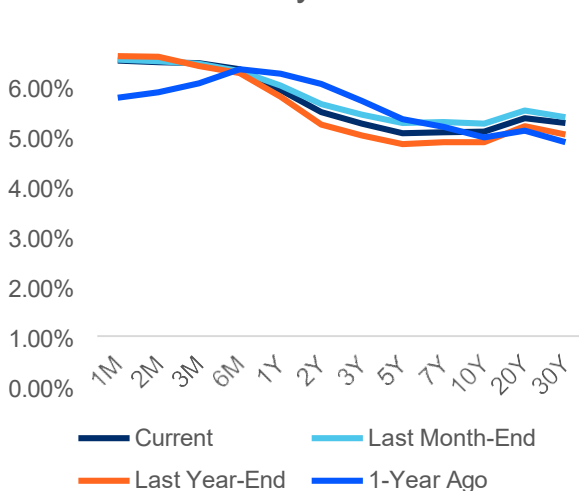
The equity markets could not hold on to their recent rally and closed with a loss this week. Friday's better than expected job report pushed two of the major indices into record territory but then profit-taking brought stocks lower to end the week. The February non-farm payroll report beat expectations with an increase of 275,000 jobs, but December's and January's numbers were revised lower. The unemployment rate rose to 3.9%, the highest level in 2 years while the growth rate for average hourly earnings fell to 0.1%, down from 0.5% in January.

## Fixed Income Markets Overview

- U.S. Treasury yields were under pressure during the week with the continued focus on rate cuts. The yield on the 10-year Treasury reached its lowest level in over a month.
- Fed Chairman Powell gave his semi-annual testimony before Congress this week. He stated that he believes the Fed will cut interest rates this year but stressed the need to see continued evidence of slowing inflation before taking any action. He did acknowledge that inflation has "eased notably over the past year". Expectations for a rate cut in June have increased slightly to 57.4% according to the CME FedWatch tool.

Asset Class	Name	1W	YTD	3Y(Ann.)	5Y(Ann.)
<b>Short</b>	1-3 Year Govt/Credit	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%	1.9%
	<b>Core Plus</b>				
	Intermediate Govt/Credit	0.5%	0.0%	-1.1%	2.0%
	International Aggregate	1.4%	-1.1%	-4.7%	-0.9%
	US Aggregate	0.8%	-0.5%	-2.5%	1.5%
	US Treasury	0.6%	-0.6%	-2.9%	1.0%
	US TIPS	0.5%	-0.1%	-0.5%	3.3%
	US Corporate	0.9%	-0.4%	-1.9%	2.6%
	US Corporate High Yield	0.5%	1.0%	2.2%	5.2%
<b>Other</b>	Emerging Markets Aggregate	0.7%	0.8%	-1.7%	1.8%
<b>Muni</b>	US Municipals	0.4%	0.0%	-0.3%	2.8%
	US Municipals High Yield	0.8%	1.2%	0.6%	4.9%

## U.S. Treasury Yield Curve



Source: Bloomberg and U.S. Treasury as of March 8, 2024

Source: Bloomberg as of March 8, 2024

Interest Rates (%)				
Date	3/8/2024	2/29/2024	12/29/2023	3/8/2023
Federal Funds Rate	5.51%	5.53%	5.60%	4.77%
3 Month Treasury	5.46%	5.45%	5.40%	5.06%
6 Month Treasury	5.34%	5.30%	5.26%	5.34%
2 Year Treasury	4.48%	4.64%	4.23%	5.05%
5 Year Treasury	4.06%	4.26%	3.84%	4.34%
10 Year Treasury	4.09%	4.25%	3.88%	3.98%
30 Year Treasury	4.26%	4.38%	4.03%	3.88%
US Aggregate	4.73%	4.92%	4.53%	4.96%
US Corporate	5.23%	5.41%	5.06%	5.63%
US Corporate High Yield	7.72%	7.86%	7.59%	8.70%
US Municipal	3.35%	3.40%	3.22%	3.61%
US Municipal High Yield	5.49%	5.57%	5.57%	5.80%

Spreads Over 10-Year US Treasuries				
Date	3/8/2024	2/29/2024	12/29/2023	3/8/2023
30 Year Treasury	0.17%	0.13%	0.15%	-0.10%
US Aggregate	0.64%	0.67%	0.65%	0.98%
US Corporate	1.14%	1.16%	1.18%	1.65%
US Corporate High Yield	3.63%	3.61%	3.71%	4.72%
US Municipal	-0.74%	-0.85%	-0.66%	-0.37%
US Municipal High Yield	1.40%	1.32%	1.69%	1.82%

Source: Bloomberg and U.S. Treasury as of March 8, 2024

## Equity Markets Overview

- As mentioned, the three major indices fell into negative territory by the end of the week, led by the Nasdaq which was down 1.2%. Utilities was the leading sector of the week with a gain of 3.3%, while Consumer Discretionary saw the largest decline with a loss of 2.5%.
- Stocks in the news this week included retailers Gap and Abercrombie & Fitch, which both reported fourth quarter results that beat analyst estimates. Several other retailers, including Target and Nordstrom, were able to beat expectations but lowered their outlook for 2024 sales growth.
- As earnings season winds down, look for a few remaining quarterly reports this week from Oracle, Kohls, Lennar, and Adobe among others.

Asset Class	Name	1W	YTD	3Y(Ann.)	5Y(Ann.)
<b>All-Cap</b>	S&P 1500	-0.1%	7.4%	10.9%	14.9%
<b>Large-Cap</b>	S&P 500	-0.2%	7.7%	11.5%	15.3%
	S&P 500 Growth	-1.2%	10.4%	10.5%	16.6%
	S&P 500 Value	1.0%	4.7%	11.8%	12.9%
<b>Mid-Cap</b>	S&P Midcap 400	1.5%	6.4%	6.7%	10.8%
	S&P Midcap 400 Growth	1.5%	11.9%	6.3%	10.9%
	S&P Midcap 400 Value	1.5%	0.7%	6.8%	10.2%
<b>Small-Cap</b>	S&P Smallcap 600	0.0%	-0.3%	0.9%	8.2%
	S&P Smallcap 600 Growth	-0.5%	1.8%	0.7%	8.6%
	S&P Smallcap 600 Value	0.5%	-2.4%	1.0%	7.5%
<b>Int'l.</b>	MSCI ACWI ex-USA	2.1%	4.3%	2.1%	4.6%
	MSCI EM	1.2%	1.5%	-5.3%	-0.1%

Source: Bloomberg as of March 8, 2024

## Alternative Markets Overview

- Gold continues to move higher, up by more than 6% for the week. The price rose after Friday's job report on expectations of a Fed Rate cut in the near future.
- The price of bitcoin continues to move higher amid continued inflows into the spot bitcoin ETFs. Bitcoin briefly rose above \$70,000 on Friday but pulled back slightly to end the week.
- After a recent rally, the price of oil pulled back by over 2.5% this week on concerns of slowing demand from China.

Name	1W	YTD	3Y (Ann.)	5Y (Ann.)
S&P GSCI	-0.8%	5.8%	15.0%	6.7%
Gold	5.9%	4.5%	8.1%	10.5%
FTSE All Equity NAREIT	1.6%	-0.5%	4.4%	8.3%
Bitcoin	10.0%	64.8%	8.4%	50.4%
Ethereum	14.5%	71.0%	29.0%	41.4%

Source: Bloomberg as of March 8, 2024



### Upcoming Week

- The key economic report of the week will be the Consumer Price Index (CPI) on Tuesday. Current expectations for this inflationary metric are looking for a slight decrease in the core CPI.
- Other data this week includes Retail Sales, the Producer Price Index (PPI), Industrial Production, and Capacity Utilization.

## Glossary and Disclosures

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S&P 1500 Index combines three leading indices, the S&P 500, the S&P Midcap 400, and the S&P Smallcap 600, to cover approximately 90% of U.S. equity market capitalization.

S&P 500 Index includes approximately 500 leading companies that covers approximately 80% of available U.S. equity market capitalization.

S&P 500 Growth Index is a stock index that represents the fastest-growing companies in the S&P 500 based on three factors: sales growth, ratio of earnings change to price, and momentum.

S&P 500 Value Index is a stock index that represents the companies in the S&P 500 with the most attractive valuations based on three factors: book value, earnings, and sales to price.

S&P Midcap 400 Index is distinct from the large-cap S&P 500 and designed to measure the performance of 400 U.S. mid-sized companies, which have differing liquidity and growth potential than large and small cap companies.

S&P Midcap 400 Growth Index is a stock index that represents the fastest-growing companies in the S&P Midcap 400 based on three factors: sales growth, ratio of earnings change to price, and momentum.

S&P Midcap 400 Value Index is a stock index that represents the companies in the S&P Midcap 400 with the most attractive valuations based on three factors: book value, earnings, and sales to price.

S&P Smallcap 600 Index measures the performance of 600 small-sized U.S. companies to reflect the small-cap segment of the U.S. equity market, which is typically known for less liquidity than large cap stocks.

S&P Smallcap 600 Growth Index is a stock index that represents the fastest-growing companies in the S&P Smallcap 600 based on three factors: sales growth, ratio of earnings change to price, and momentum.

S&P Smallcap 600 Value Index is a stock index that represents the companies in the S&P Smallcap 600 with the most attractive valuations based on three factors: book value, earnings, and sales to price.

MSCI ACWI ex-US Index captures large and mid-cap representation across 22 of 23 Developed Markets (DM) countries (excluding the US) and 24 Emerging Markets (EM) countries.

MSCI Emerging Markets Index captures large and mid-cap representation across 24 Emerging Markets (EM) countries.

S&P GSCI is broad-based and production weighted to represent the global commodity market beta. The index is designed to be investable by including the most liquid commodity futures.

S&P GSCI Gold a sub-index of the S&P GSCI, provides investors with a reliable and publicly available benchmark tracking the COMEX gold future.

FTSE All Equity NAREIT Index contains all tax-qualified REITs with more than 50 percent of total assets in qualifying real estate assets other than mortgages secured by real property that also meet minimum size and liquidity criteria.

Bitcoin USD Spot Exchange Rate measures the last price of 1 Bitcoin in USD.

Bloomberg Galaxy Bitcoin Index is designed to measure the performance of a single bitcoin traded in USD.

Ethereum USD Spot Exchange Rate measure the last price of 1 Ethereum in USD.

Bloomberg Galaxy Ethereum Index is designed to measure the performance of a single Ethereum traded in USD.

Bloomberg Barclays 1-3 Year Govt/Credit Index is the 1-3 Yr. component of the U.S. Government/Credit index, which includes securities in the Government, which includes treasuries and agencies debt securities, and Credit Indices, which includes publicly issued U.S. corporate and foreign debt that meet specified maturity, liquidity, and quality requirements.

Bloomberg Intermediate US Government/Credit Bond Index is a broad-based flagship benchmark that measures the non-securitized component of the US Aggregate Index with less than 10 years to maturity; this includes investment grade, US dollar-denominated, fixed-rate treasuries, government-related and corporate securities

Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Bond Index provides a broad-based measure of the global investment-grade fixed income markets, with three major components of this index are the U.S. Aggregate, the Pan-European Aggregate, and the Asian-Pacific Aggregate Indices.

Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index represents securities that are SEC-registered, taxable, and dollar denominated. The index covers the U.S. investment grade fixed rate bond market, with index components for government and corporate securities, mortgage pass-through securities, and asset-backed securities.

Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Treasury Aggregate Bond Index is the U.S. Treasury component of the U.S. Government index and represents public obligations of the U.S. Treasury with a remaining maturity of one year or more.

Bloomberg US TIPS Index consists of Inflation-Protection securities issued by the U.S. Treasury.

Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate Bond Index is the Corporate component of the U.S. Credit index and represents publicly issued U.S. corporate and specified foreign debentures and secured notes that meet the specified maturity, liquidity, and quality requirements.

Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate High Yield Index covers the universe of fixed rate, non-investment grade debt.

Bloomberg Barclays Emerging Markets Bond Index is broad-based with country eligibility and classification as an Emerging Market being rules-based and reviewed on an annual basis using World Bank income group and International Monetary Fund (IMF) country classifications.

Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Municipal Index is a rules-based, market-value-weighted index engineered for the long-term tax-exempt bond market.

Bloomberg Barclays US High Yield Municipal Index is an unmanaged index of noninvestment-grade municipal debt securities, which provides a representation of the performance of US high-yield tax-exempt bonds.

Federal Funds Rate is the interest rate at which depository institutions trade federal funds (balances held at Federal Reserve Banks) with each other overnight.

U.S. Treasury Securities are issued by the federal government and are considered to be among the safest investments you can make, because all Treasury securities are backed by the "full faith and credit" of the U.S. government.

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