WEEKLY MARKET COMMENTARY

March 16, 2026

WEEK IN REVIEW

Last week delivered a concentrated set of U.S. economic data that helped refine expectations around growth, inflation, and the Federal Reserve's policy path. While housing data showed tentative improvement, inflation measures and revised growth figures reinforced a cautious macro backdrop.

Housing activity provided one of the brighter spots. February Existing Home Sales rose to an annualized pace of 4.09 million, exceeding expectations and improving modestly from January. The improvement suggests that demand may be stabilizing despite elevated mortgage rates, supported by limited inventory and steady household formation. While affordability constraints remain, the data points to reduced downside risk in the housing sector in the near term.

Inflation readings were largely in line with consensus but continued to highlight persistence beneath the surface. The February Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 0.3% month-over-month, while core CPI increased 0.2%. On a year-over-year basis, headline inflation held at 2.4%. While these readings did not materially shift inflation expectations, they reinforced the view that progress toward the Federal Reserve's target is occurring gradually, particularly as services inflation remains firm.

The GDP report was a notable development. Q4 GDP growth was revised down to 0.7% on a quarter-over-quarter basis, a meaningful reduction from prior estimates. The revision points to softer underlying momentum entering 2026 and underscores the impact of restrictive financial conditions on growth, even as consumer spending has remained relatively resilient.

Labor market indicators remained stable. Initial Jobless Claims came in at 213,000, consistent with recent levels and signaling limited signs of labor market stress. Inflation pressures remained evident in the Fed's preferred measure, with core Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) inflation holding at 0.4% month-over-month and 3.1% year-over-year. Meanwhile, durable goods orders were flat, suggesting subdued momentum in business investment.

ECONOMIC AND CAPITAL MARKETS DASHBOARD

Broad Market Indices	1-week	1-month	3-month	YTD
Stock Market (Total Return)				
S&P 500	-1.56%	-2.86%	-2.55%	-2.86%
Dow Jones 30	-1.91%	-5.72%	-3.52%	-2.75%
NASDAQ	-1.23%	-1.88%	-4.56%	-4.77%
Russell 1000 Growth	-1.95%	-2.00%	-6.88%	-7.33%
Russell 1000 Value	-1.39%	-4.02%	1.95%	2.15%
Russell 2000	-1.75%	-6.17%	-2.49%	0.14%
Wilshire 5000	0.00%	0.64%	1.19%	1.13%
MSCI EAFE Index	-0.93%	-3.66%	3.24%	1.96%
MSCI Emerging Market Index	-1.34%	-3.75%	7.25%	6.40%
VIX	-7.80%	31.99%	72.74%	81.87%
FTSE NAREIT All Equity REITs	-1.36%	-2.45%	6.74%	6.75%
S&P U.S. Aggregate Bond Index	-0.81%	-1.24%	0.44%	-0.01%
Interest Rates	**3/13/2026**	**3/6/2026**	**2/27/2026**	**2/20/2026**
3-month T-bill Yield (%)	3.69	3.66	3.66	3.68
10-year Treasury Yield (%)	4.28	4.15	3.96	4.08
10Y-2Y Treasury Spread (%)	0.55	0.58	0.57	0.60
30-year Fixed Mortgage Rate (%)	6.18	6.11	6.12	6.20
Commodities				
WTI Crude ($/bl)	95.72	90.77	66.96	66.69
Gold ($/Troy Oz)	5,044.60	5,127.55	5,222.30	5,053.20
Bitcoin	70,806.05	68,288.90	65,939.19	67,886.50

Weekly Indicators	3/13/2026	3/6/2026	2/27/2026	2/20/2026
Employment				
Initial Unemployment Claims (000's)	-	213.00	214.00	213.00

Quarterly Data	12/31/2025	9/30/2025	6/30/2025	3/31/2025
Output				
Real GDP Growth (%q/q, saar)	0.70	4.40	3.80	-0.60
Private Consumption (%q/q, saar)	2.00	3.50	2.50	0.60

Monthly Indicators	2/27/2026	1/30/2026	12/31/2025	11/28/2025
Consumption				
Consumer Expenditures (%m/m, sa)	-	0.38	0.44	0.34
Retail Sales (%m/m, sa)	-	-0.15	0.03	0.50
Personal Savings Rate (%)	-	4.50	4.00	4.00
Labor				
Civilian Unemployment Rate (%)	4.40	4.30	4.40	4.50
Nonfarm Employment (Chg, 000's)	-92	126	-17	41
Real Average Hourly Earnings (%y/y)	1.26	1.34	1.16	1.33
JOLTS Job Openings (000's)	-	6946	6550	6846
Inflation				
Consumer Price Index (CPI) (%m/m, sa)	0.27	0.17	0.30	-
Core CPI (%m/m, sa)	0.22	0.30	0.23	-
Producer Price Index (PPI) (%m/m, sa)	-	0.48	0.43	0.25
Core PPI (%m/m, sa)	-	0.68	0.40	0.21
Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE (%m/m, sa)	-	0.28	0.36	0.22
Core PCE (%m/m, sa)	-	0.36	0.36	0.18
Output and Capacity				
Industrial Production (%m/m, sa)	-	0.70	0.25	0.12
Mfg New Orders (%m/m, sa)	-	-	-0.70	2.72
Durable New Orders (%m/m, sa)	-	-0.04	-0.92	5.44
Durable Inventories (%m/m, sa)	-	0.21	0.23	0.23
Survey Data and Composite Indicators				
Consumer Confidence (CB, 1985=100)	91.20	89.00	94.20	92.90
ISM Manufacturing Report (%)	52.40	52.60	47.90	48.00
ISM Non-Manufacturing Report (%)	56.10	53.80	53.80	52.40
Leading Economic Index (%m/m)	-	-	-0.20	-0.31
Housing and Construction				
Building Permits (Mil. of Units, saar)	-	1.38	1.46	1.39
Housing Starts (Mil. of Units, saar)	-	1.49	1.39	1.32
New Home Sales (Mil. of Units, saar)	-	-	0.75	0.76

WEEK AHEAD

The week ahead will be dominated by Federal Reserve policy decisions, along with additional data on inflation, labor, manufacturing, and housing.

Wednesday is the focal point. The February Producer Price Index (PPI) will provide insight into pipeline inflation pressures, particularly across services and core goods categories. This will be followed by the Federal Reserve's interest rate decision, updated economic projections, and Chair Powell's press conference.

While no change in policy is expected, investors will closely scrutinize revisions to inflation and growth forecasts, as well as any shifts in the projected policy-rate path.

Thursday brings another update on labor market conditions with Initial Jobless Claims, which will be monitored for signs of emerging weakness. The Philadelphia Fed Manufacturing Index will offer a timely read on regional manufacturing activity, new orders, and pricing pressures. New Home Sales will also be released, providing a complementary view of housing demand following the improvement seen in existing home sales.

Finally, Chair Powell is scheduled to speak on Saturday. Markets will be attentive to any further clarification on the Fed's reaction function following the policy meeting, particularly regarding the balance between slowing growth and persistent inflation pressures.

DISCLOSURES AND DEFINITIONS

Economic Indicators:

1. CPI: Consumer Price Index measures the average change in prices paid by consumers for goods and services over time. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.
2. Core CPI: Core Consumer Price Index excludes food and energy prices to provide a clearer picture of long-term inflation trends. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.
3. PPI: Producer Price Index measures the average change in selling prices received by domestic producers for their output. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.
4. Core PPI: Core Producer Price Index excludes food and energy prices to provide a clearer picture of long-term inflation trends. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.
5. PCE: Personal Consumption Expenditures measure the average change in prices paid by consumers for goods and services. Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis.
6. Core PCE: Core Personal Consumption Expenditures exclude food and energy prices to provide a clearer picture of long-term inflation trends. Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis.
7. Industrial Production: Measures the output of the industrial sector, including manufacturing, mining, and utilities. Source: Federal Reserve.
8. Mfg New Orders: Measures the value of new orders placed with manufacturers for durable and non-durable goods. Source: Census Bureau.
9. Durable New Orders: Measures the value of new orders placed with manufacturers of durable goods. Source: Census Bureau.
10. Durable Inventories: Measures the value of inventories held by manufacturers for durable goods. Source: Census Bureau.
11. Consumer Confidence (CB, 1985=100): Measures the degree of optimism that consumers feel about the overall state of the economy and their personal financial situation. Source: Conference Board.
12. ISM Manufacturing Report: Measures the economic health of the manufacturing sector based on surveys of purchasing managers. Source: Institute for Supply Management.
13. ISM Non-Manufacturing Report: Measures the economic health of the non-manufacturing sector based on surveys of purchasing managers. Source: Institute for Supply Management.
14. Leading Economic Index: Measures overall economic activity and predicts future economic trends. Source: Conference Board.
15. Building Permits (Mil. of Units, saar): Measures the number of new residential building permits issued. Source: Census Bureau.
16. Housing Starts (Mil. of Units, saar): Measures the number of new residential construction projects that have begun. Source: Census Bureau.
17. New Home Sales (Mil. of Units, saar): Measures the number of newly constructed homes sold. Source: Census Bureau.
18. SA: Seasonally adjusted.
19. SAAR: Seasonally adjusted annual rate.

MARKET INDICES & INDICATORS:

1. S&P 500: A market-capitalization-weighted index of 500 leading publicly traded companies in the U.S., widely regarded as one of the best gauges of large U.S. stocks and the stock market overall.
2. Dow Jones 30: Also known as the Dow Jones Industrial Average, it tracks the share price performance of 30 large, publicly traded U.S. companies, serving as a barometer of the stock market and economy.
3. NASDAQ: The world›s first electronic stock exchange, primarily listing technology giants and operating 29 markets globally.
4. Russell 1000 Growth: Measures the performance of large-cap growth segment of the U.S. equity universe, including companies with higher price-to-book ratios and growth metrics.
5. Russell 1000 Value: Measures the performance of large-cap value segment of the U.S. equity universe, including companies with lower price-to-book ratios and growth metrics.
6. Russell 2000: A market index composed of 2,000 small-cap companies, widely used as a benchmark for small-cap mutual funds.
7. Wilshire 5000: A market-capitalization-weighted index capturing the performance of all American stocks actively traded in the U.S., representing the broadest measure of the U.S. stock market.
8. MSCI EAFE Index: An equity index capturing large and mid-cap representation across developed markets countries around the world, excluding the U.S. and Canada.
9. MSCI Emerging Market Index: Captures large and mid-cap representation across emerging markets countries, covering approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

10. VIX: The CBOE Volatility Index measures the market's expectations for volatility over the coming 30 days, often referred to as the «fear gauge.»
11. FTSE NAREIT All Equity REITs: Measures the performance of all publicly traded equity real estate investment trusts (REITs) listed in the U.S., excluding mortgage REITs.
12. S&P U.S. Aggregate Bond Index: Represents the performance of the U.S. investment-grade bond market, including government, corporate, mortgage-backed, and asset-backed securities.
13. 3-Month T-bill Yield (%): The yield on U.S. Treasury bills with a maturity of three months, reflecting short-term interest rates.
14. 10-Year Treasury Yield (%): The yield on U.S. Treasury bonds with a maturity of ten years, reflecting long-term interest rates.
15. 10Y-2Y Treasury Spread (%): The difference between the yields on 10-year and 2-year U.S. Treasury bonds, often used as an indicator of economic expectations.
16. WTI Crude ($/bl): The price per barrel of West Texas Intermediate crude oil, a benchmark for U.S. oil prices.
17. Gold ($/Troy Oz): The price per troy ounce of gold, a standard measure for gold prices.
18. Bitcoin: A decentralized digital currency without a central bank or single administrator, which can be sent from user to user on the peer-to-peer bitcoin network.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) is a price-weighted index composed of 30 widely traded blue-chip U.S. common stocks. The S&P 500 is a market-cap weighted index composed of the common stocks of 500 leading companies in leading industries of the U.S. economy. The NASDAQ Composite Index is a market-value weighted index of all common stocks listed on the NASDAQ stock exchange.