



Weekly Economic News & Updates

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FOMC

Investors will learn more about what the FOMC's dealing with when the minutes of its most recent meeting are released on Wednesday. Many observers expect to receive further assurances that the Committee is serious about the nature of its suspension of rate hikes and also signs of rational recognition that contemporaneous economic fundamentals do not support higher rates. And while they're at it, they might even slip in some rational recognition that future economic fundamentals will unlikely support higher rates, either.

THE WEEK ON WALL STREET

Stocks posted their second straight weekly gain. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 1.17% in five trading days; the S&P 500, 1.27%; the Nasdaq Composite, 1.72%. The MSCI EAFE index of international stocks rose 1.84%.¹⁻⁴

Investors got some good news last week: an encouraging employment report and indications that a new U.S.-China trade deal might be near.

A Solid Hiring Report

The economy generated 196,000 net new jobs in March, according to the Department of Labor. Monthly job growth averaged 180,000 in the first quarter. The March hiring recovery eased Wall Street concerns about a near-term economic downturn. If payroll growth is this strong in April and May, the Federal Reserve may be motivated to rethink its pause of interest rate hikes.⁵

Another Step in the Trade Talks

Chinese Vice Premier Liu He said last week that the U.S. and China have come to a consensus on the basics of a new trade accord. President Trump commented Thursday that "the next four weeks" of negotiations will be critical.⁶

What's Next

The first-quarter earnings season kicks off this week with three of the biggest banks in the country reporting results. The question is whether stocks in the S&P 500 will post earnings that beat analyst expectations to the degree that they have in the past few quarters.

WEEKLY QUOTE

"If you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain."
DOLLY PARTON

WEEKLY TIP

A **new business owner** should have some **cash available** for **professional services**, such as legal or accounting help. Those services will probably be necessary before the business receives any funding.

WEEKLY RIDDLE

What is the **timepiece** with the **most moving parts**? (It has been around for centuries.)

Last week's answer:

Venus.

Sources: MarekingPro, Financial Strategies Group, The Baker Group, w.sj.com, bigcharts.com, treasury.gov, Randy Baker and Chris Low and Rebecca Kooshak FTN Financial

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