

Lack of Iran Plan Creates Volatility

Markets endured another turbulent period, dominated by the ongoing U.S.-Iran conflict now in its sixth week. U.S. equities rode a volatile week higher and snapped a five-week losing streak—its longest since early 2022—while the Nasdaq experienced more volatility yet higher gains. Technology, communication services, and consumer staples led with gains while energy experienced profit-taking.

The S&P 500 rose roughly 3.4% for the holiday-shortened week, while the Nasdaq climbed approximately 4.4%. U.S. crude oil settled above \$110/barrel for the first time since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, stoking fresh inflation fears.

A spark on March 31 offered relief: stocks surged on unconfirmed reports that Iranian President Pezeshkian was open to ending the war, with the Dow jumping over 1,100 points and the S&P 500 gaining 2.9%—each index's best day since May 2025. The bounce proved short-lived, however. Markets slipped in volatile trading on April 2 as oil prices surged following President Trump's remarks that the Iran war would continue and set an April 6 diplomatic deadline for Iran, making that date a consequential near-term variable in the global macro outlook.

Overall, the persistence of geopolitical risk and elevated energy prices argues for continued market volatility. For investors, maintaining disciplined risk management and diversification may be prudent until greater clarity around an Iran exit plan emerges.

S&P 500 Index Price 3/30/26 – 4/2/26



Chart source: Bloomberg

Economy

Last Week	This Week
- Conf. Board Consumer Confidence (Mar): 3/31 91.8 vs. 91.2 prior	- ISM Services: 4/6
- JOLTS (Feb): 3/31 6882k vs. 6946k prior	- PCE Price Index (Feb): 4/9
- Retail Sales (Feb): 4/1 0.6% vs. -0.2% prior	- CPI (Mar): 4/10
- Nonfarm Payrolls (Mar): 4/3 178k vs. -92k prior	- U. of Michigan Sentiment (April): 4/10

Equities

Index	Level	Returns (%)					
		1 Week	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3-Year Ann.	5-Year Ann.
S&P 500	6583	1.65	0.84	-3.55	17.52	18.80	11.76
Russell 1000 Growth	4330	1.84	0.87	-9.00	17.79	21.92	12.28
Russell 1000 Value	2121	1.43	0.81	2.89	16.05	14.72	9.27
FTSE High Dividend Yield*	544	1.66	0.02	3.84	22.46	15.10	10.96
S&P Small and Mid Cap	18978	1.36	0.94	3.82	17.09	12.92	5.90
MSCI EAFE	2919	3.07	2.88	1.76	24.85	15.22	8.85
MSCI EM	1441	0.33	3.17	3.04	34.16	16.77	4.30

Index	NTM P/E	NTM P/E (20Y med)	Div Yield	S&P Sector Returns YTD													
				Energy	Materials	Industrials	Staples	Utilities	Real Estate	Health Care	Comm. Serv.	IT	Cons. Discr.	Financials			
S&P 500	17.7	15.7	1.3	40													
Russell 1000 Growth	21.0	18.2	0.6	30													
Russell 1000 Value	15.1	13.6	2.0	20													
FTSE High Dividend Yield*	13.6	13.1	3.8	10													
S&P Small and Mid Cap	13.6	15.4	1.9	0													
MSCI EAFE	14.5	13.5	3.1	-10													
MSCI EM	10.3	11.2	2.6	-20													

* Bloomberg U.S Large Cap Dividend Yield Total Return Index used as substitute for index characteristics.

Fixed Income

Index	Yield	Returns (%)					
		1 Week	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3-Year Ann.	5-Year Ann.
U.S. Aggregate	4.59	0.75	0.00	-0.04	3.54	3.25	0.22
U.S. Int. Gov/Credit	4.24	0.69	0.10	-0.08	3.67	3.93	1.27
U.S. Corporates	5.14	1.10	0.19	-0.35	4.45	4.39	0.65
High Yield	7.27	0.71	0.40	-0.09	8.11	8.71	4.19
Municipals (1-10)	3.14	0.44	0.20	-0.03	3.78	2.65	1.23

Key Rates	Last	1 Wk Ago	Last Qtr	Prev YE	Levels (%)		
					1 Yr Ago	3 Yrs Ago	5 Yrs Ago
2-yr Treasury	3.84	3.83	3.48	3.48	3.77	3.78	0.16
10-yr Treasury	4.35	4.35	4.17	4.17	4.19	3.31	1.66
30-yr Treasury	4.91	4.91	4.85	4.85	4.62	3.57	2.33
SOFR	3.66	3.63	3.87	3.87	4.33	4.81	
6-mo. CD rate	3.81	3.88	3.62	3.62	4.16	5.03	0.12
Prime Rate	6.75	6.75	6.75	6.75	7.50	8.00	3.25
30-yr fixed mortgage	6.52	6.47	6.25	6.25	6.71	6.73	3.26

Data as of 4:30 PM ET, March 31, 2026. Returns through March 30, 2026.

