

3/18/2024

## THE WEEK AHEAD



**TRUST & ESTATE**  
FIDUCIARY SERVICES

### THINGS TO WATCH

–NVIDIA GTC CONFERENCE: The world's foremost semiconductor company hosts its annual GPU Technology Conference (GTC) this week. CEO Jensen Huang will kick things off with a keynote presentation at 4pm eastern today titled "This Transformative Moment in AI." Huang is expected to announce the company's new Blackwell architecture B100 GPU chips which could be used for AI inferencing (as opposed to training) workloads. Huang could also provide updates on the company's efforts in AI processors for edge computing in robotics, automobiles, and PCs.

–BANK OF JAPAN AND WAGE GROWTH: Late tonight, we will see if the BOJ, the world's last ultra-accommodative monetary policy holdout, delivers its first interest rate hike since 2007 in response to the highest inflation and wage growth seen in over a generation. Late last week, Japan's largest federation of unions announced it secured a deal that would provide its members average wage growth of 5.28% in 2024, the largest annual increase since 1991.

–THE FED'S DOT PLOT: On Wednesday afternoon, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) is widely expected to hold its policy rate in a range of 5.25%-5.50% for a fifth straight meeting. Investors and the financial media will be focused on any changes to the median forecast of Fed officials for the policy rate at year end (which is currently 4.6% and implies 0.75% worth of rate cuts by December). These forecasts (more commonly known as the "dot plot") are part of the FOMC's quarterly Summary of Economic Projections (SEP).

–OIL PRICES: West Texas Intermediate (WTI) U.S. crude oil futures broke above a key resistance level late last week to close above \$80 per barrel for the first time since November 6. Upward revisions to global oil demand in 2024 from the IEA and OPEC, combined with a Ukrainian drone attack on a major Russian refinery and an unexpected drawdown in U.S. inventories drove a nearly 4% weekly gain for WTI.

LAST WEEK'S ECONOMIC DATA	LATEST	3MO PRIOR	CHANGE
Consumer Price Index (Y/Y)	3.2%	3.1%	▲
Core Consumer Price Index (Y/Y)	3.8%	4.0%	▼
Producer Price Index (Y/Y)	1.6%	0.8%	▲
Retail Sales (M/M)	0.6%	0.0%	▲
U. of Mich. Consumer Sentiment	76.5	69.7	▲
U. of Mich. 1-year Inflation Expectations	3.0%	3.1%	▼

INDEX	LEVEL	WEEK	YTD	12 MO
DJ Industrial Average	38714.77	0.01%	3.22%	24.07%
NASDAQ	15973.18	-0.68%	6.58%	40.88%
S&P 500	5117.09	-0.09%	7.63%	33.57%
MSCI EAFE	2334.23	-0.45%	4.70%	21.53%
BB U.S. Aggregate	2126.34	-1.19%	-1.59%	1.09%

KEY BOND RATES	WEEK	1MO AGO	1YR AGO
3-Month T-Bill	5.39%	5.37%	4.61%
10-Year Treasury	4.31%	4.23%	3.45%

REPORTS DUE THIS WEEK	LATEST
Building Permits (Millions Annualized)	1.47
Housing Starts (Millions Annualized)	1.33
Existing Home Sales (Millions Annualized)	4.00
S&P Global U.S. Manufacturing PMI	52.2
S&P Global U.S. Services PMI	52.3

Total returns are as of 3/15/24. Source data: Bloomberg and Morningstar are believed to be correct but not verified.

### NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

29%

The year-over-year growth rate in Oracle's (ORCL) "remaining performance obligations," a measure of future revenue reported last Monday as part of the company's fiscal 3Q24 results. ORCL, which has positioned itself as a more affordable option for enterprise customers than the three large cloud hyper-scalers, said strong demand for its generative AI computing infrastructure has driven the order backlog. ORCL was the third-best S&P 500 performer last week, with shares up 11.67%.

\$602 billion

According to a recent Janus Henderson report, total dividend payments made by U.S. companies in 2023, an increase of 5.1% from 2022 and up 37% from \$438.2 billion in 2017. Payout increases of 10% and 14% from technology giants Microsoft (MSFT) and Broadcom (AVGO), respectively, contributed more than one-tenth of total U.S. dividend growth last year. Intel (INTC) made the biggest dividend cut by a U.S. company in dollar terms last year, reducing its projected annual payout by roughly \$1 billion.

## DISCLOSURES



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