

## RAYMOND JAMES

# WEEKLY MARKETSNAPSHOT

CURRENT ECONOMIC OUTLOOK FOR TIMELY FINANCIAL PLANNING

**MARCH 26, 2021**

### **Market Commentary**

**by Scott J. Brown, Ph.D., Chief Economist**

February's bad weather continued to affect the economic data reports, with declines in new and existing home sales, as well as durable goods orders and shipments. Personal income fell 7.1% in February, reflecting January's direct deposits (which have also gone out in March). Personal spending fell 1.0%, following a 3.4% gain in January. Even with the bad weather, consumer spending on durable goods was up 17.2% from a year ago, while spending on services (which is roughly six times the spending in durables) remains down 5.2%.

Treasury Secretary Yellen and Fed Chair Powell covered no new ground in their congressional testimony, but bond yields edged down (before rising again on Friday).

Next week, the stock market will be closed for the Good Friday holiday, but SIFMA recommends that the bond market be open until noon that day. Good Friday is not a federal holiday, so the Bureau of Labor Statistics will release the March Employment Report (which explains why the bond market will be on a half day). Nonfarm payrolls are expected to post a strong gain, partly reflecting a rebound from February's bad weather. The other March data reports (consumer confidence, ISM manufacturing) should also reflect improvement.

### **Indices**

	Last	Last Week	YTD return %
DJIA	32619.48	32862.3	6.58%
NASDAQ	12977.68	13116.17	0.69%

S&P 500	3909.52	3915.46	4.09%
MSCI EAFE	2194.08	2246.82	2.17%
Russell 2000	2183.12	2267.59	10.55%

## Consumer Money Rates

	Last	1 year ago
Prime Rate	3.25	3.25
Fed Funds	0.07	0.05
30-year mortgage	3.31	3.62

## Currencies

	Last	1 year ago
Dollars per British Pound	1.3734	1.220
Dollars per Euro	1.1764	1.032
Japanese Yen per Dollar	109.19	109.58
Canadian Dollars per Dollar	1.261	1.402
Mexican Peso per Dollar	20.677	22.945

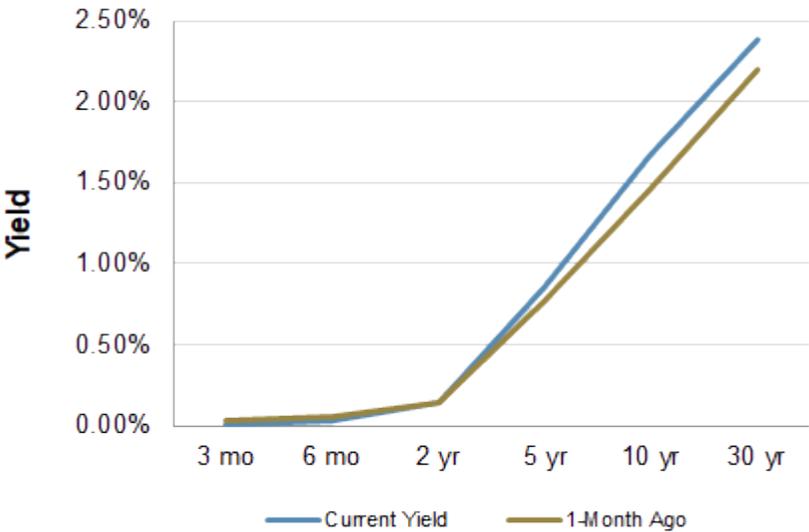
## Commodities

	Last	1 year ago
Crude Oil	58.56	21.51
Gold	1727.30	1654.10

**Bond Rates**

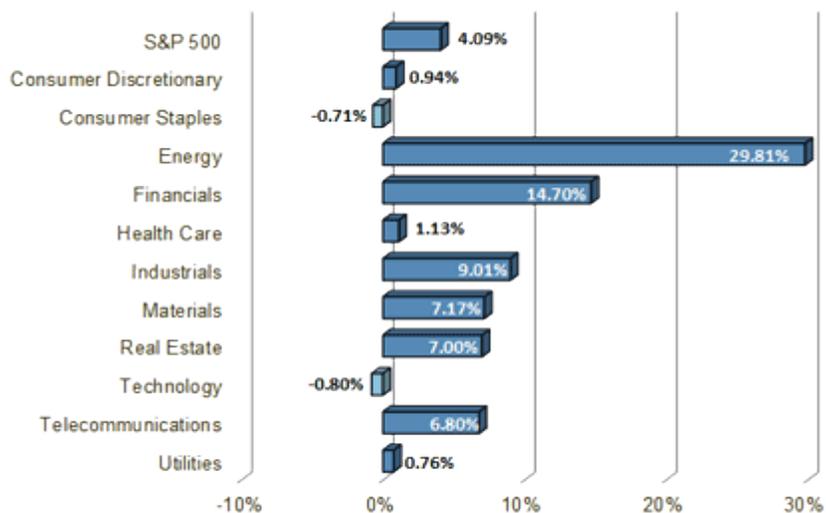
	Last	1 month ago
2-year treasury	0.14	0.14
10-year treasury	1.67	1.46
10-year municipal (TEY)	1.65	1.72

**Treasury Yield Curve – 03/26/2021**



As of close of business 03/25/2021

## S&P Sector Performance (YTD) – 03/26/2021



As of close of business 03/25/2021

## Economic Calendar

- March 30** — CB Consumer Confidence (March)
  
- March 31** — ADP Payroll Estimate (March)  
— Chicago Business Barometer (March)  
— Pending Home Sales Index (February)
  
- April 1** — Jobless Claims (week ending March 27)

- ISM Manufacturing (March)
- April 2** — Good Friday Holiday (stock market closed, half day for bonds)
- Employment Report (March)
- April 5** — ISM Services Index (March)
- April 7** — Trade Balance (February)
- FOMC Minutes (March 16-17)
- April 27** — Real GDP (2Q20, advance estimate)
- April 28** — FOMC Policy Decision

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The Dow Jones Industrial Average is an unmanaged index of 30 widely held stocks. The NASDAQ Composite Index is an unmanaged index of all common stocks listed on the NASDAQ National Stock Market. The S&P 500 is an unmanaged index of 500 widely held stocks. The MSCI EAFE (Europe, Australia, Far East) index is an unmanaged index that is generally considered representative of the international stock market. The Russell 2000 index is an unmanaged index of small cap securities which generally involve greater risks. An investment cannot be made directly in these indexes. The performance noted does not include fees or charges, which would reduce an investor's returns. U.S. government bonds and treasury bills are guaranteed by the US government and, if held to maturity, offer a fixed rate of return and guaranteed principal value. U.S. government bonds are issued and guaranteed as to the timely payment of principal and interest by the federal government. Treasury bills are certificates reflecting short-term (less than one year) obligations of the U.S. government.

Commodities trading is generally considered speculative because of the significant potential for investment loss. Markets for commodities are likely to be volatile and there may be sharp price fluctuations even during periods when prices overall are rising. Specific sector investing can be subject to different and greater risks than more diversified investments. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the annual total market value of all final goods and services produced domestically by the U.S. The federal funds rate ("Fed Funds") is the interest rate at which banks and credit unions lend reserve balances to other depository institutions overnight. The prime rate is the underlying index for most credit cards, home equity loans and lines of credit, auto loans, and personal loans. Material prepared by Raymond James for use by financial advisors. Data source: Bloomberg, as of close of business March 25, 2021 .