



WEEKLY UPDATE | April 17, 2026



U.S. & World News

Talks between the US, Iran, and Israel took a major step forward today with the agreement from Iran that the Strait of Hormuz would remain open during the 10-day ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon, which officially started yesterday, Thursday April 16th at 5PM ET. Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said, "In line with the ceasefire in Lebanon, the passage for all commercial vessels through Strait of Hormuz is declared completely open for the remaining period of ceasefire." WTI Crude Oil plunged more than 10% on this news now trading in the low \$80 range, a sharp decline from the \$125 peak reached just a couple of weeks ago. Negotiations held last weekend in Pakistan between US Vice President JD Vance and Iran's Chief of Police Command Mohammad Ghalibaf failed to reach an agreement, but another round of talks is planned for this weekend with the hopes of reaching a long-term agreement. Importantly, the US naval blockade of Iranian ships still remains in effect until an agreement is reached with Iran. This has sparked some mixed messaging with the Iranian Revolutionary Guard media saying that the Strait would not be opened while the blockade was in effect.



Markets

- Equity markets rose this week. The S&P 500 gained 4.55% and closed at 7,126 marking a new all-time high. The Dow rose 3.19% and closed at 49,447. The year to date returns for the S&P 500 and the Dow are 4.45% and 3.35%, respectively.
- Bond markets rose this week as yields moved lower resulting in a 0.53% gain for the US Aggregate Bond Index. The year to date return for the US Aggregate Bond Index is 0.95%.
- The yield on 2-year treasuries fell to 3.70% and the yield on 10-year treasuries fell this week also to 4.25%.
- The spot price of WTI Crude Oil fell -11.71% this week and closed at \$85.26/barrel. Oil this year so far has risen 48.48%
- The spot price of Gold rose 2.02% this week to close at \$4,845.92/ounce. So far this year gold has risen 12.19%.



Economic Data

- Initial Jobless claims were 207,000 this week below the 223,000 expected. Last week's reading was revised slightly downward to 218,000 from 219,000.
- The Core Producer Price Index rose 0.2% in March short of the 0.4% expected increase by analyst. This brings the year over year reading to 3.6%.
- The Philadelphia Fed reading which measures factor-sector growth, rose 26.7 for March well above the median analyst estimate that called for a reading of 12.

Fact of the Week

RECORD HIGH* - Before the US - Iran ceasefire announcement on 4/7, Brent crude closed at a nominal record high, above \$144 per barrel. *In inflation-adjusted terms, however, prices remain well below prior peaks of \$156.70/barrel from March 2022 and the all-time high of \$208.20/barrel in July 2008.

(Source: MFS)

Questions?

Your Wealth Management team is here to answer.

Richard Gartelmann, CFP®
(630) 844-5730
rgartelmann@oldsecond.com

Jacqueline Runnberg, CFP® CDFI®
(630) 966-2462
jrunnberg@oldsecond.com

Steve Meves, CFA
(630) 801-2217
smeves@oldsecond.com

Brad Johnson, CFA, CFP®
(630) 906-5545
bjohnson@oldsecond.com

Chris LaPorta, AFIM, CTFA
(630) 264-3002
claporta@oldsecond.com

Mike Cava, CFA, CFP®
(630) 281-4522
mcava@oldsecond.com

Travis Buoy
(630) 906-5488
tbuoy@oldsecond.com

Yamilet Suarez
(630) 844-8633
ysuarez@oldsecond.com

Amy Lynch
(630) 906-5478
alynch@oldsecond.com

Investment advisory and financial planning services may be offered through River Street Advisors, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Old Second National Bank. River Street Advisors, LLC is a registered investment adviser and only transacts business in states where it is properly registered, or is excluded or exempted from registration requirements. All investment strategies have the potential for profit or loss. Different types of investments involve varying degrees of risk, and there can be no assurance that any specific investment or strategy will be suitable or profitable for a client's investment portfolio. There are no assurances that an investor's portfolio will match or exceed any particular benchmark.

Not insured by the FDIC nor any govt institution; Not a deposit or other obligation of, or guaranteed by, the depository financial institution; Subject to investment risks, including possible loss of principal amount invested.