



WEEKLY UPDATE | April 3, 2026



U.S. & World News

Wednesday marked the launch of the Artemis II mission, a 10-day NASA space flight sending four astronauts aboard the Orion spacecraft around the Moon and back. This is the first time in 50-years that a crewed mission will conduct a lunar flyby and is a test flight with follow-up missions planned to establish a permanent base on the moon. Orion spent the first two days of the flight orbiting Earth and today is changing trajectory to begin its 4-day journey to the Moon. The lunar flyby will only last a few hours but will take the Astronauts further away from Earth than anyone has been before. Orion will slingshot around the moon where it will then travel back to Earth and drop down in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of California. NASA administrator Jared Isaacman said on Wednesday, “Today’s launch marks a defining moment for our nation and for all who believe in exploration. Artemis II builds on the vision set by President Donald J. Trump, returning humanity to the Moon for the first time in more than 50 years and opening the next chapter of lunar exploration beyond Apollo. Aboard Orion are four remarkable explorers preparing for the first crewed flight of this rocket and spacecraft, a true test mission that will carry them farther and faster than any humans in a generation.”



Markets

- Equity markets rose this week. The S&P 500 gained 3.38% and closed at 6,582. The Dow rose 2.98% and closed at 45,166. The year to date returns for the S&P 500 and the Dow are -3.55% and -2.83%, respectively.
- Bond markets rose this week as yields moved lower resulting in a 1.04% gain for the US Aggregate Bond Index. The year to date return for the US Aggregate Bond Index is 0.33%.
- The yield on 2-year treasuries fell to 3.84% and the yield on 10-year treasuries fell this week also to 4.34%.
- The spot price of WTI Crude Oil rose 11.94% this week and closed at \$111.54/barrel. Oil this year so far has risen 94.25%
- The spot price of Gold rose 4.06% this week to close at \$4,676.76/ounce. So far this year gold has risen 8.27%.



Economic Data

- Initial Jobless claims came in slightly lower than expected at 202,000 compared to a median analyst expectation of 205,000. Last week's reading was revised slightly upward to 211,000 from 210,000.
- Average hourly earnings for March rose 0.2% below the consensus expectation that called for a 0.4% rise. February's reading was a 0.4% rise.
- Unemployment came in lower than expected at 4.3% for the month of March, ticking down from the 4.4% reading we had in February.

Fact of the Week

PORTAL POWER. More than half of the starting players from this year's teams in the NCAA Sweet 16 did not begin their Division 1 basketball careers at their current schools. In fact, Michigan State is the only team where all five starting players have remained at the same college throughout their careers, while each member of the starting five at Michigan, Texas, and St. John's began at another school.

(Source: Sportico)

Questions?

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