

WEEKLY BULLETIN

March 2024: Issue #2

Quote of the Week.

Investing should be more like watching paint dry or watching grass grow. If you want excitement, take \$800 and go to Las Vegas - Paul Samuelson

Last week unfolded with a blend of anticipation and intrigue, as investors eagerly awaited two pivotal developments shaping market sentiment. The impending Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting on March 20, 2024, stood as a beacon of uncertainty, while the ongoing TikTok saga underscored the complexities of geopolitical relations.

In the realm of monetary policy, Wall Street's response to recent FOMC pronouncements took center stage. Despite the Fed's decision to maintain interest rates, the market's steadfast optimism remained unwavering. With faith in forthcoming rate adjustments, investors weathered minor corrections with resilience, buoyed by robust earnings, particularly from the Tech sector. As the countdown to March 20th continues, anticipation mounts once more, with whispers of another status quo in monetary policy. However, amidst the absence of an imminent earnings season, heightened volatility looms on the horizon. Strategic buying opportunities may emerge amidst the market's tumult, reminiscent of Paul Samuelson's timeless wisdom that "investing should be more like watching paint dry or watching grass grow."

Meanwhile, the TikTok saga unfolded as a captivating subplot in the theater of international relations, blending regulatory scrutiny with global commerce. Proposed legislative maneuvers aimed at coercing the sale of TikTok's Chinese parent company added layers of complexity to the unfolding drama. Against this backdrop of escalating tensions, questions abound regarding the delicate balance between security imperatives and market dynamics. Investors watch with bated breath as the plot thickens, mindful of the potential ripple effects across the geopolitical landscape.



In this narrative, investors are encouraged to navigate the twists and turns with poise and foresight. Beyond the short-term excitement lies the essence of disciplined, long-term investing—a sentiment echoed by Paul Samuelson's sage advice. As markets fluctuate and geopolitical uncertainties persist, it's essential to maintain a steady hand, grounded in patience and prudence. Amidst the noise and drama, a steadfast commitment to a well-defined investment strategy will serve as the guiding light towards long-term success. And diverse dynamics improves risk control and reduces reliance on any single market.

Last Week 's Notable Events.

US Economy/Politics

- Us curbs on China to rise as 'decoupling' is really in full force' expert warns, amid possible TikTok ban – 11th Mar
- US House passes bill to fore ByteDance to divest TikTok or face ban – 14th Mar
- US private funds struggle to cash out from China - 15th Mar
- US economy cooling in first quarter; inflation appears sticky – 15th Mar
- US recession risk may be rising according to these metrics – 15th Mar

Europe Economy/Politics

- More than a fifth of UK adults not looking for work – 12th Mar
- Tight monetary stance needed in many emerging European economies, says IMF – 15th Mar

Asia Pacific Economy/Equity

- Economists raise Singapore 2024 growth forecast on hopes of global demand pickup: MAS survey – 13th Mar
- Chinese FM visit to Australia locked in hours after Beijing signals wine tariff lift – 13th Mar
- Fitch hikes India FY24, FY25 GDP growth estimates, lowers rate cut expectation – 14th Mar
- BlackRock, Man Group reveal big Japan bets before BOJ decision – 15th Mar

Weekly Data Monitor.

Performance

- Global equity correct ahead of FOMC
- Real Estate slipping on high rates on hold

Weekly chart:

- USD firming up.
- Oil prices rising.

Note: The chart shows normalised weekly highs and lows for the Indicator, BLUE being the LATEST.

INDEX	Weekly %	MTD %	YTD %	1YR %	3Y %	5Y %
Global Equity	-0.44	0.93	5.88	26.74	19.83	63.60
Global Real Estate	-3.11	-0.37	-3.49	8.29	2.17	12.62
US Real Estate	-2.90	-0.41	-3.28	11.30	6.21	20.62
APAC Real Estate	0.09	1.44	-3.05	-2.00	-24.74	-23.93
Investment Grade	-0.24	0.48	0.77	12.69	6.90	22.72
High Yield Bonds	-1.31	0.25	-2.38	0.57	-14.24	-5.32
Global HY ETF	-0.25	4.52	2.14	14.48	14.46	30.06
ASIA Real Estate ETF	-0.64	-1.87	-9.02	-13.80	-24.75	-23.05
USD Index	0.70	-0.70	2.07	-1.16	12.63	7.08

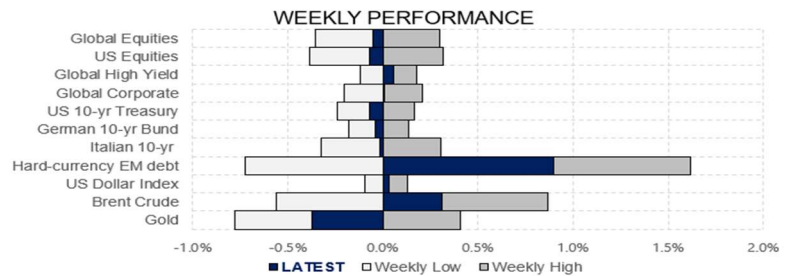
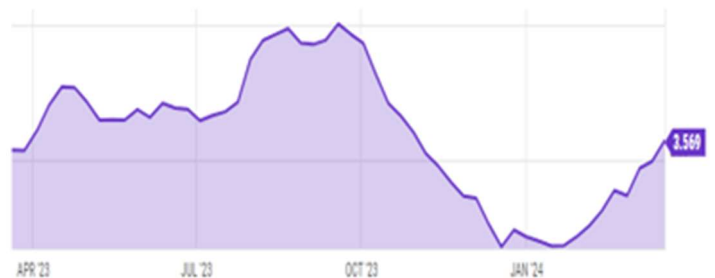


Chart of the Week.

With the upcoming FOMC meeting looming as a pivotal event of the week, the Chart of the Week underscores a notable surge in gas prices across the United States. This surge has triggered concerns regarding inflation and has raised the prospect of a cautious approach by the Federal Reserve in the impending FOMC deliberations. Notably, current gas prices have surpassed year-on-year figures for the first time, thrusting inflation risk back into the forefront of economic discourse. This escalation directly impacts the wallets of American consumers, amplifying economic anxieties. Despite a seemingly modest year-over-year increase of 0.03%, the pronounced 2.21% uptick from the previous week underscores a troubling upward trajectory. Furthermore, geopolitical tensions, particularly in the Red Sea region, exacerbate apprehensions surrounding transportation costs and broader economic stability.

US Retail Gas Price, Mar 18, 2024)



In light of these developments, investors are strongly advised to maintain a vigilant watch over inflation dynamics, leveraging the gas price chart as a reliable tool for risk assessment. Prudent adjustments to portfolios may prove essential to mitigate the potential volatility induced by inflation, emphasizing the paramount importance of proactive risk management in navigating the complexities of today's uncertain market conditions.

DISCLAIMERS: This report (including any enclosures and attachments) has been prepared for the exclusive use and benefit of the addressee(s) and solely for the purpose for which it is provided. Unless we provide express prior written consent, no part of this report should be reproduced, distributed, or communicated to any third party. We do not accept any liability if this report is used for an alternative purpose from which it is intended, nor to any third party in respect of this report.