

# April 17, 2026



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**Unemployment:** Jobs data were mixed this week. Initial Jobless claims decreased from 218K to 207K. Continuing Claims rose from 1,787K to 1,818K.

**Consumer Goods & Materials:** Producer Price Index (PPI) held steady in March at 0.5% (MoM), which was lower than expected. The annual measure increased 4.0%, up from February but below the forecast. PPI is a leading indicator of consumer price inflation.

**Consumer Goods & Materials (cont):** Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 0.9% (MoM)(Mar), which followed a 0.3% increase in February. The annual measure increased 3.3%, up from a 2.4% reading in February.

**Housing and Building:** Existing Home Sales fell 3.6% in March (MoM). The annualized number of homes sold was 3.98M, which was fewer than expected.

**Yield Curve:** The yield curve steepened this week. The 2-year yield fell from 3.81% to 3.71%. The benchmark 10-year yield decreased from 4.31% to 4.26%.

**GDP:** Final GDP numbers for Q4 confirm a slowdown from 4.4% (QoQ)(Q3) to 0.5%, a larger decline than expected.

**Manufacturing & Services:** ISM Non-Manufacturing PMI slowed from 56.1 (Feb) to 54.0 (MoM)(Mar) but remained in expansion territory. 50 is the contraction / expansion line.

**S&P 500:** The index rose 309.17 points to close at 7,126.06 (up 4.10% YTD). The CBOE Volatility Index (VIX) remained steady at 20.

**U. of Michigan Consumer Sentiment:** Preliminary Consumer Sentiment projects a decline from 53.3 (Mar) to 47.6 (Apr), which would be the lowest on record.

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