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| **RESOURCE LOG – FEBRUARY 2023** | | | | |
| **Article Title** | **Detail** | **Publication** | **Date** | **Author** |
| Nasdaq Had Best Start of The Year since 2001 | The Nasdaq composite Index gained 11% in January, its best start to the year since January 2001 when it gained 12%.  All three major stock-market benchmarks rose Tuesday to finish January with strong monthly gains, a reprieve for investors after a bruising 2022. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/01/2023 | Caitlin Ostroff and Eric Wallerstein |
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| China Posts Rebound In Economic Activity | Economic Activity in China shook off a monthslong slump in January following the lifting of Beijing’s zero-Covid-19 , a positive sign for a global economy that faces a litany of challenges this year.  The IMF now forecasts the global economy to grow 2.9% this year, from October’s projection of 2.7%. China’s economy I predicted to expand 5.2% in 2023, against the previous forecast of 4.4%. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/01/2023 | Stella Yifan Xie |
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| Eurozone GDP Growth Improves | The eurozone economy grew faster than China and the U.S. last year, underlining how the fading Covid-19 pandemic continues to scramble traditional patters of global growth.  This translated into 3.5% growth in gross domestic product for 2022 as a whole, a faster rate than seen in either China or the U.S.  This is unusual. For decades, the big three engines of the global economy have had a pretty stable ranking: China grew fastest, followed by the U.S. and then the eurozone.  For this year, the United Nations expects China’s economy to grow by 4.8%. It expects both the U.S. and the eurozone to slow, to 0.4% and 0.2% respectively. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/01/2023 | Paul Hannon |
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| What’s News | ♦ Major U.S. stock indexes climbed, with the Nasdaq, S&P 500 and Dow industrials closing out January with monthly gains of 11%, 6.2% and 2.8%, respectively. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/01/2023 |  |
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| Pay Gains Shrink in New Sign Of Easing Inflation | Worker pay gains cooled at the end of last year, with the new sign of moderating inflation leaving the Federal Reserve on course to slow interest-rate increases again Wednesday and increasing the possibility of a pause in rate rises this spring.  Employers spent 1% more on wages and benefits last quarter versus the prior there months, a slowdown from a 1.2% increase in the third quarter, the Labor Department said Tuesday. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/01/2023 | Gabriel T. Rubin and Nick Timiraos |
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| Stocks Climb After Fed Rate Hike | Stocks jumped Wednesday, erasing earlier losses, after the Federal Reserve said it had approved raising interest rates by a quarter of a percentage point.  All but one of the 11 sectors of the S&P 500 ended higher.  The S&P 500 closed up 42.61 points, or 1%, at 4119.21 after initially falling in reaction to the Fed’s rate decision. The Nasdaq composite Index advanced 231.77 points, or 2%, to 11816.32. The Dow Jones Industrial Average lagged behind its peers, gaining only 6.92 points, or less than 0.1%, to 34092.96.  The Fed appears to be approaching a point at which it can consider pausing interest-rate increases, said Phillip Neuhart, director of market and economic research at First Citizens Bank Wealth Management, in emailed comments. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/02/2023 | Akane Otani and Anna Hirtenstein |
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| Investors Shrug Off Weak Earnings As Equities Start Year With Rebound | Lackluster earnings reports from some of the biggest companies in the U.S. haven’t put a damper on the stock market’s bounceback.  “The market has been all about forgiveness through the early part of the earnings season,” said Yung-Yu Ma, chief investment strategist at BMO Wealth Management.  The stakes increase this week as investors navigate one of the busiest periods of the reporting season.  Fewer companies than usual are beating Wall Street’s earnings expectations as well. With about 8% of companies in the S&P 500 having reported fourth-quarter results, 70% topped analysts’ consensus earnings estimates, according to FactSet. That is below the five-year average of 77%. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/02/2023 | Hannah Miao |
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| Fed Approves Quarter-Point Rate Increase | The decision Wednesday to raise the Fed’s benchmark federal-funds rate by a quarter-point followed six consecutive larger increases – including by a half-point in December and three-quarters of a point in November – to combat inflation.  Officials agreed to slow rate rises to gain more time to study the effects of their moves. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/02/2023 | Nick Timiraos |
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| Consumer Woes Press Apple, Google  *iPhone maker’s three-year streak of revenue, profit rises ends amid China covid disruptions*  *Alphabet posts 34% drop in earnings as ad sales fall, announces rollout of Al program* | The results reflect how tech giants continue to struggle with wobbly consumer demand and weakness in business spending on areas like digital advertising – prompting company leaders to emphasize cost cutting and other measures to improve efficiency and stabilize their businesses. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/03/2023 | Aaron Tilley |
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| Hiring Shows Surprising Strength | Job growth accelerated at the start of the year as U.S. employers added a robust 517,000 jobs and pushed unemployment to a 53-year low.  The unexpectedly strong hiring gains raise questions about whether the economy, which had been losing momentum over the past several months, is starting to pick up steam again. If so, that could prompt a more aggressive response by the Federal Reserve…  The unemployment rate was 3.4% last month, its lowest level since May 1969. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/04-05/2023 | David Harrison |
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| What’s News | ♦ U.S. stocks ended lower after the jobs report beat expectations. The S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow lost 1%, 1.6% and 0.4%, respectively, but all three major indexes posted weekly gains. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/04-05/2023 |  |
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| Investors on Edge After Jobs Data | With employers ramping up hiring across industries from hospitality to healthcare to retail, investors say it is difficult to image the U.S. slipping into recession soon – presumably a good thing for risky assets such as stocks.  …some investors took away a different story. They worry that good news for the economy might in fact be bad news for the markets if it pushes the Federal Reserve to tighten monetary policy more than they expect. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/06/2023 | Akane Otani |
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| Oil Industry’s Windfall Fails To Excite Stock Investors | Fifteen of the 20 companies with the best returns in the S&P 500 index last year belonged to the oil industry…  After lagging behind every other sector from 2018 to 2020,energy has supplanted tech to lead the index for the past two years.  Yet many investors are keeping their distance.  The oil industry’s windfall has shown that global thirst for oil and gas remains strong, despite many governments’ and companies’ pledges to make a transition to cleaner-energy sources. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/06/2023 | Collin Eaton and Jenny Strasburg |
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| What’s News | ♦ Powell said the labor market’s surprising strength underscores why the Fed thinks it will face a longer battle to bring down inflation than many investors have been anticipating. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/08/2023 |  |
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| What’s News | ♦ U.S. stocks ended Tuesday’s session higher, with the S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow industrials notching gains of 1.3%, 1.9% and 0.8%, respectively. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/08/2023 |  |
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| Trade Deficit Hits Record | The U.S. posted its largest trade deficit on record for 2022, as imports exceeded exports by $948.1 billion. The gap widened as global demand weakened amid high inflation, climbing interest rates and the impact of the Ukraine war and the pandemic. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/08/2023 | Source: Census Bureau |
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| Stocks Fall as 2023 Runup Loses Steam | Stocks extended recent losses, pausing their year-to-date rebound as investors debated the outlook for interest rates and reviewed another batch of corporate earnings.  The S&P 500 fell 36.36 points, or 0.9%, to4081.50. The Dow Jones Industrial Average eased 249.13 points, or 0.7%, to 33699.88. The technology-heavy Nasdaq Composite Index lost 120.94 points, or 1%, at 11789.58 after being up as much as 1.3% at its intraday high.  The labor market has demonstrated resilience despite rate increases, prompting concerns that the Fed might decide to continue tightening monetary policy further than previously thought. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/10/2023 | Hannah Miao and Will Horner |
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| Russia to Cut Oil Production To Strike Back at Sanctions | Russia said it plans to cut oil production by about 5% next month, making good on a threat by Russian President Vladimir Putin to retaliate against Western oil sanctions but also showing the limits of his leverage in global energy markets.  Prices jumped on the move, but pared back some of those gains later in the day. Analysts said the relatively small size of the cuts isn’t likely to lead to sustained higher prices for consumers, especially considering the lackluster economic picture for big chunks of the oil-fueled global economy. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/11-12/2023 | Georgi Kantchev & Paul Hannon |
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| Markets Pull Back As Optimism Fades | The S&P 500 fell in early trading, then inched up before moving in a tight range for the rest of the day.. It rose 8.96 points, or 0.2%, to 4090.46. But the index still turned in a 1.1% weekly decline, it’s first weekly performance so far in 2023.  Markets seemed to be digesting the previous week’s news, which included the Federal Reserve’s 0.25-point increase and a surprisingly strong jobs report. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/11-12/2023 | Charley Grant & Anna Hirtenstein |
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| Investors Exit U.S. Funds Tracking Stocks | U.S. stocks have bounced back to start the year, but investors are fleeing funds tracking them.  Investors have pulled a net $31 billion from U.S. equity mutual funds and exchanged-traded funds in the past six weeks, according to Refinitiv Lipper data through Thursday. That marks the longest streak of weekly net outflows since last summer and the most money pulled in aggregate from domestic equity funds to start a year since 2016.  Over the same period, investors have funneled about $12 billion into international equity funds, about $24 billion into taxable bond funds and nearly $3 billion into municipal-bond funds. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/13/2023 | Hannah Miao |
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| Har or Soft Landing? Some Economists Now Predict Neither | Economists rang in the year debating whether the Federal Reserve’s aggressive interest-rate increases would steer the highflying U.S. economy into a hard or soft landing – forcing inflation down through either a painful recession or a gentler slowdown in growth.  Surprising strength in hiring and consumer spending last month, together with signs that demand for autos and housing might be stabilizing after a decline, now have some economists pointing to a third scenario that seemed improbable just a few weeks ago: an economic growth upturn.  The Fed has raised its benchmark federal-funds rate by 4.5 percentage points since last March, most recently to a range between 4.5% and 4.75%. That is the fastest pace since the early 1980s, and one that many economists anticipated would slam the brakes on investment and hiring.  But hiring has chugged along recently. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/13/2023 | Nick Timiraos |
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| Toyota Pushes EV-First Strategy  *Next chief Sato says Japanese car maker needs change in manufacturing mindset* | Me. Sato said an “EV-first mindset” was needed as Toyota builds out its electrified lineup. Lexus will lead this new strategy, which will ultimately extend beyond just Lexus, he said. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/14/2023 | River Davis |
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| Junk-Loan Market Isn’t Spooked by Economic Jitters | Optimism has burgeoned that highly indebted businesses from consumer manufacturers to software firms will get through the coming quarters relatively unscathed. Loan prices have rallied, defaults remain low and executives say that higher borrowing expenses and weakening demand aren’t significantly altering their plans.  Some investors have worried that the added pressure on already shaky balance sheets could spark a wave of missed payments or bankruptcies.  Executives at many junk-rated companies say they don’t see challenges to paying their debt on time.  When rates rise, loans reward investors with greater income. But higher interest expenses risk stretching a borrower too thin, potentially tipping the company into default.  Defaults might to closer to 3% next year, said Roberts Goss, head of bank loans at Pretium Partners LLC. But the risk is concentrated among a limited group of companies with the worst strategic outlooks, she said. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/14/2023 | Matt Grossman |
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| Inflation Is Easing but Still Far From 2% Goal | The end of distressingly high inflation is coming into view. Consumer prices gained 6.5% in December, down from June’s 9.1% annual rate, the highest since 1981. There is good reason to think inflation will keep falling. Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said this month.  Markets seem optimist it will do so of its own accord, and are betting the Fed will cut rates this year. Mr. Powell disagrees.  Prices for core goods rose12.3% from a year earlier in February 2022, and rose just 2.1% from a year earlier in December 2022. These goods represent about 22%of the price index of personal-consumption expenditures, which the Fed prefers.  That surge is over. Supply chains have mostly healed. Core goods prices were up just 2.1% in the year through December…  Lower spending on goods, improvement in supply chains and falling shipping costs should continue to ease price pressures in coming months, said Blerina Uruci, Chief U.S. economist at T. Rowe Price.  Soaring demand for houses and apartments amid low interest rates and remote working caused shelter to contribute more than half of December’s 5.7% core CPI inflation.  Economists agree: they expect this category to continue rising through the spring, but then decelerate. Jake Oubina, senior economist at Piper Sandler…  He expects housing will continue to boost inflation but that its contribution to the 12-month increase in CPI will peak in June and shrink by 0.7 of a percentage point by December, relative to a year earlier. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/14/2023 | Gwynn Guilford |
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| Inflation Cools but at a Slower Pace | Still-elevated inflation could cooled slightly at the start of 2023 to 6.4% in January from a year earlier, with energy, housing, food and other items keeping some pressure on prices.  That marked the seventh straight month of easing inflation since peaking at 9.1% in June , the highest reading since 1981.  But the cooling trend is moderating. On a monthly basis, CPI rose0.5%in January from December , compared with a previous 0.1% increase.  The inflation report is likely to keep Federal Reserve officials on track to raise interest rates at their meeting in March and to signal further increases are likely after that. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/15/2023 | Gwynn Guilford |
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| What’s News | ♦ The consumer roared back last month with a 3% increase in retail spending that was the largest monthly gain in nearly 2 years, adding to evidence that the U.S. economic growth picked up at the start of 2023. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/16/2023 |  |
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| Markets Adjust to Fed’s Firmness | Derivatives markets now show the federal-funds rate peaking near 5.25% in August, according to FactSet. Hopes that the Fed would cut rates several times this year faded: The benchmark rate is forecast to end the year above 5.1%.  Wall Street’s base case at the start of February, via fed-funds futures contracts, was for the Fed to raise rates somewhere between 4.75% and 5% around midyear before cutting them by 0.50 percentage point in the latter half of 2023.  “The market got very much ahead of itself,” said Joseph Lewis, managing director and head of corporate hedging and FX solutions at Jeffries. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/16/2023 | Eric Wallerstein |
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| Emerging-Market Rally Stalls on Rate Woes | A blistering rally that lifted emerging-market stocks and bonds in recent months may be running out of steam as concerns resurface a bout tighter U.S. monetary policy.  The strength of the U.S. economy continues to defy expectations, with data this month showing price pressures remain high and the labor market is still strong. That prompted investors to increase bets that U.S .rates will peak above 5%and stay there for longer, in turn testing demand for investments ranging from Chilean bonds to Thai stocks.  A JPMorgan index of emerging-market bonds has fallen 1.3% this month, while MSCI’s emerging-market stocks benchmark has fallen 1.6%.  Emerging markets are very sensitive to Federal Reserve policy, because higher U.S. rates make riskier assets comparatively less attractive to investors. Higher rates also typically boost the dollar, making it more expensive for emerging countries to buy oil and other goods that are priced in dollars, or to service hard-currency debts. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/16/2023 | Chelsey Dulaney |
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| Stocks Fall on Strong PPI Report | Stocks fell Thursday after inflation and jobs data came in stronger than expected, increasing concerns that the end of the Federal Reserve’s tightening campaign is nowhere near.  The D&P 500 dropped 57.19 points, or 1.4%, to 4090.41. The Dow Jones Industrial Average slipped 431.20points, or 1.3%, to 33696.85,, while the tech-focused Nasdaq composite lost 214.76 points, or 1.8%, to 11855.83.  “It is increasingly difficult to see a significant U.S. recession on the horizon,” said Christopher Smart, chief global strategist at Barings and head of the Barings Investment Institute. “Much of the labor market continues to be white hot.”  After a blockbuster start to the year, stocks have limped along in recent weeks.  The yield on the benchmark 10-year U.S. Treasury note rose to 3.842% from 3.806% Wednesday. The two-year yield finished at 4.617% from 4.625%. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/17/2023 | Caitlin McCabe and Eric Wallerstein |
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| New Data Spotlight Economic Strength | Fresh figures on jobs and prices drove home the economy’s surprising vigor this year, joining rising household incomes, consumers resilience and other data that have persuaded investors the Federal Reserve’s battle against inflation is likely to be a longer one than they hoped.  Layoffs remained historically low last week while supplier prices rose in the year through January by 6%, faster than expected but down from 6.5% in December, the Labor Department said Thursday. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/17/2023 | Jon Hilsenrath, Harriet Torry and Sam Goldfarb |
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| Rate Worries Put Damper on Investor Mood | The S&P 500 fell Friday as investors amped up bets on how far the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates in the coming months.  The broad-based stock index lost 11.32 points, or 0.3%, to 4079.09, its second down day in a row.  Government-bond yields rose for a fourth consecutive week to 3.827%,…  The S&P 500 and Dow ended the week in the red.  In one sign that some traders are growing more cautious about the stock market, there has been a pickup in activity in wagers tied to the Cboe Volatility Index, which would pay out if volatility jumped. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/18-19/2023 | Joe Wallace and Gunjan Banerji |
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| Growth Stocks Return to the Lead | Shares of the fast-growing companies are leading the 2023 stock rally, but some investors say they don’t have much more room to run.  The Russell 3000 Growth Index has climbed 9.8% this year, outpacing the Russell 3000 Value’s 4.4% advance. The rally marks a sharp reversal from last year when value stocks, or those that trade at low multiples of their book value, or net worth, stood out in a down market.  Lower long-term rates have encouraged many to return to the trade that worked for much of the past decade: growth and technology companies.  Growth stocks are typically companies that promise to deliver faster-than-average profit growth in the future. The last time growth stocks were beating value stocks by a wider margin to start a year was in 2020, when major stock indexes surged in January and February before crashing at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.  Some investors now fear the Fed may have to keep raising interest rates and hold them there for longer than anticipated.  Higher rates would likely lead to more pain for markets – and growth stocks in particular. Plus, valuations are still elevated in many sectors. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/18-19/2023 | Hardika Singh |
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| Investors Worry Too-Hot Growth Is Bad for Stocks | Evidence of the economy’s resilience, coupled with signs that inflation has been moderating, helped bonds and risky assets like stocks take off begin the year.  But a recent string of hot data convinced some investors that there may be “no landing.” Two inflation readings released last week showed consumer prices and producer prices rose more than economists expected in January. Retail sales posted their biggest monthly gain in two years.  And the labor market has remained robust.  …run of strong economic data should be good news for markets as well. Yet investors have been viewing almost everything the past year through the lens of how it might affect the Fed’s interest-rate policy. Their growing fear is that if the U.S. economy remains too hot, it will force the Fed to raise rates higher and hold them there for longer than they anticipate,  A recession would likely be bad news for stocks. The S&P 500declined a median of 24% in recessions going back to 1946, according to research from Deutsche Bank. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/21/2023 | Akane Otani |
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| Stocks Slump In Worst Session Of Year | U.S. stock indexes suffered their worst session of the year Tuesday, Dragged down by a disappointing forecast from Home Depot and growing concerns that the Federal Reserve will keep interest rates higher for longer.  Although inflation has fallen from its recent peak, it remains high. The unemployment rate has fallen to a 53-year low and retail sales are growing at a healthy clip. That combination has led investors to expect the Fed to continue raising interest rates… | The Wall Street Journal | 02/22/2023 | Caitlin McCabe and Bob Henderson |
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| Walmart, Home Depot Sound Alarm  *Retailers indicate inflation is causing consumers to shift spending to basics* | Consumers are spending more on food and less on electronics, apparel and home improvements as inflation and changing habits zap demand for many goods, two of the country’s largest retailers reported Tuesday. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/22/2023 | Sarah Nassauer |
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| What’s News | ♦ Minutes from the Fed’s latest meeting showed that most officials thought a slower pace of rate increases provided the best way to manage the risk of raising them too much or too little, but revealed that some were concerned about stopping or slowing their inflation-fighting campaign too soon. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/23/2023 |  |
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| Rising Yields Threaten Stock Rally | U.S. government debt has reversed its early-year rally, sending Treasury yields higher than where they finished 2022.  That is threatening to end a brief reprieve for stocks and riskier types of bonds, which both languished last year as yields climbed rapidly.  The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note has raced back toward 4% over the past month, a level it his last year for the first time since 2008. It finished Wednesday at 3.922%, well above its 3.374%. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/23/2023 | Matt Grossman |
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| Bear Market (Probably) Isn’t Over Yet | Bond yields are rising and the 10-year Treasury is once again heading to 4%. Yet stocks, notwithstanding Tuesday’s swoon, have surged this year, none more so than the most speculative technology stocks…  Put simply, last year higher bond yields were bad for stocks. This year they’ve been fine, at least until very recently. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/23/2023 | James Mackintosh |
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| GDP Gain Is Revised Modestly Lower | The U.S. economy appears to be exhibiting strength early this year after posting solid, but slightly weaker , growth at the end of 2022.  Gross domestic products, a broad measure of the goods and services produced across the U.S., rose at a 2.7% annual rate in the fourth quarter, adjusted for seasonality and inflation, the Commerce Department said Thursday. That was down from a previous estimate of 2.9% growth, and slower than the third quarter’s 3.2% growth.  The downward revision primarily reflected slower consumer spending late last year than previously estimated.  Entering this year, forecasters had projected the economy to cool, but recent data shows a strong labor market and improved spending.  Fed officials expect to keep raising rates this year, according to the minutes of their most recent gathering, released Wednesday. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/24/2023 | Harriet Torry |
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| Stocks End Higher After Earlier Selloff  *Concerns about interest have stoked volatility across asset classes* | The S&P 500 climbed 21.27 points, or 0.5%, to 4012.32, breaking its longest losing streak this year. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 108.82 points, or 0.3%, to 33153.91 after initial declines. The Nasdaq composite gained 83.33 points, or 0.7%, to 11590.40. Nvidia, one of the index’s biggest constituents, surged $29.10, or 14%, to $236.64. the semiconductor company said late Wednesday that it is expecting ab artificial-intelligence-driven boom and a recovery in its video-game business.  The release Wednesday of minutes from the Fed’s most recent meeting did little to offer investors clarity. While the minutes showed that central bankers unanimously backed lifting rates by q quarter-percentage point at their last meeting, they also showed that a few officials favored or would have also agreed to a larger half-point increase.  The minutes broadly reinforced the impression that interest-rate policy is moderating after aggressive action by the Fed last year, said Florian Ielpo, head of macro at Lombard Odier Investment Managers.  The two-year yield which more closely reflects short-term interest-rate expectations, fell to 4.691%, from 4.697%. Yields rise when bond prices fall. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/24/2023 | Caitlin McCabe and Gina Heeb |
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| U.S Watch  Jobless Claims Fall In Tight Job Market | Workers claim for unemployment benefits ticked down last week, a sign the labor market remains historically tight.  Initial claims have held at low levels in recent months, despite the recent wave of layoffs in technology, finance and other industries. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/24/2023 | Sarah Chaney Cambon |
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| Stocks Post Worst Week Of 2023  *Strong inflation data reinforce concerns that Fed will need to stiffen its policy stance* | “Inflation is too high,” Cleveland Fed President Loretta Mester said in an interview Friday. “My view of the economy hasn’t changed that much. We have inflation pressures that are pretty ‘in there.’”  The S&P 500 fell 42.28 points, or 1.1%, to 3970.04. The Nasdaq composite dropped 195.46 points, or 1.7%, to 11394.94. The blue-chip Dow Jones Industrial Average shed 336.99 points, or 1%, tat 32816.92. the three indexes all dropped more than 2% in the holiday-shortened week… | The Wall Street Journal | 02/25-26/2023 | Hannah Miao, Will Horner and Nick Timiraos |
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| Inflation Ticks Up as Americans Spend, Earn More | Inflation firmed and Americans’ spending and income surged in January, which could prompt the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates higher than previously anticipated this year to cool price pressures.  The Fed’s preferred inflation gauge – the personal-consumption expenditures price index- rose 5.4% in January from a year earlier, the Commerce Department said Friday.  U.S. consumers’ spending jumped a seasonally adjusted 1.8% in January from the prior month, the largest increase in nearly two years…  The report followed others showing hiring surged in January, while the unemployment rate touched a 53-year low, service providers expanded their activities and initial jobless claims, a proxy for layoffs, remained near historical lows.  Thursday, the Commerce said the economy grew at a 2.7% annual rate in the fourth quarter, adjusted for seasonality and inflation. It’s a strong pace but slower than in the third quarter. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/25-26/2023 | Austen Hufford |
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| Technology Stocks Spark Market Rebound | A rebound in shares of fast growing technology firms helped stock indexes eke out gains Monday after logging their worst week of the year.  The S&P 500gained 12.20 points, or 0.3%, to 3982.24, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average added 72.17 points, or 0.2%, to 32889.09. The Nasdaq Composite increased 72.04 points, or 0.6%, to 11466.98.  Stocks have come under pressure this month, as economic data have forced investors to rethink expectations that softening inflation pressures will allow the Federal Reserve to soon wrap up its aggressive interest-rate increases.  Treasury yields eased Monday, with the yield on the 10-year U.S. note falling to 3.921%, from 3.948% Friday. The yield on the two-year note, which is more sensitive to expectations around Fed policies, traded at 4.791% after settling Friday at 4.803%, its highest level since July 2007.  Monday added more mixed signals for investors. U.S. durable-goods orders fell a sharper-than-expected 4.5% in January, though new orders for nondefense capital goods excluding aircraft increased 0.8% from the prior month.  Meanwhile, the housing market showed another sign it is thawing…  In commodities Brent crude futures, the global oil-price gauge, shed 0.9%, or 71 cents a barrel, to settle at $82.45. The U.S. benchmark slid to $75.68 a barrel. | The Wall Street Journal | 02/28/2023 | Ryan Dezember and Chelsey Dulaney |

NOT A GREAT RETURN – A high-income American couple who retired in 202 is projected to pay $828,000 (stated as a 2021 present value number) in lifetime Social Security payroll taxes and is projected to receive $849,000 (stated as a 2021 present value number) in lifetime social Security benefits, i.e., for every $1 paid in taxes, the couple will receive $1.03 in benefits (source: Tax Policy Center).

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Market Indexes are commonly accepted benchmarks for certain classes of securities.  Market indexes are comprised of individual stocks or bonds which are not actively managed and cannot be purchased directly by investors.

Because investors’ situations and objectives vary, this material is not intended to indicate suitability for any particular investor.

Investments are not FDIC-insured, nor are they deposits of or guaranteed by a bank or any other entity.

We believe the sources to be reliable, however, the accuracy and completeness of the information is not guaranteed. In the event of any discrepancy, the sponsor’s valuation shall prevail.

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Prepared by James M. Juengling.

Juengling & Associates