

Return Documentation

S&P 500



Source YCharts

DJ Industrial Average



Source YCharts

NASDAQ 100



Source YCharts

S&P MidCap 400



Source YCharts

Russell 2000



Source YCharts

MSCI EAFE TR USD (Foreign Developed)



Source YCharts

MSCI EM TR USD (Emerging Markets)



Source YCharts

MSCI ACWI Ex USA TR USD (Foreign Dev & EM)



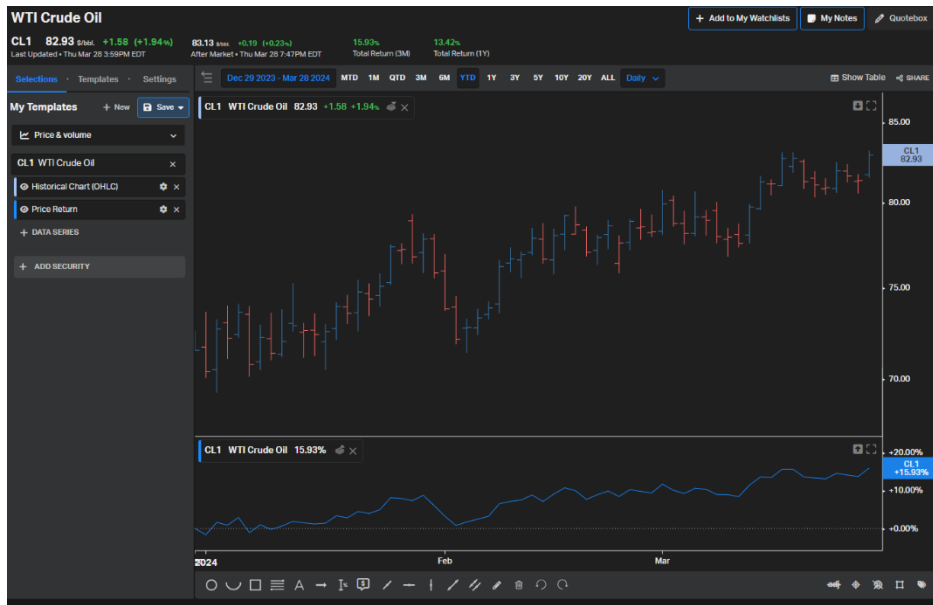
Source YCharts

S&P GSCI (Broad-Based Commodities)



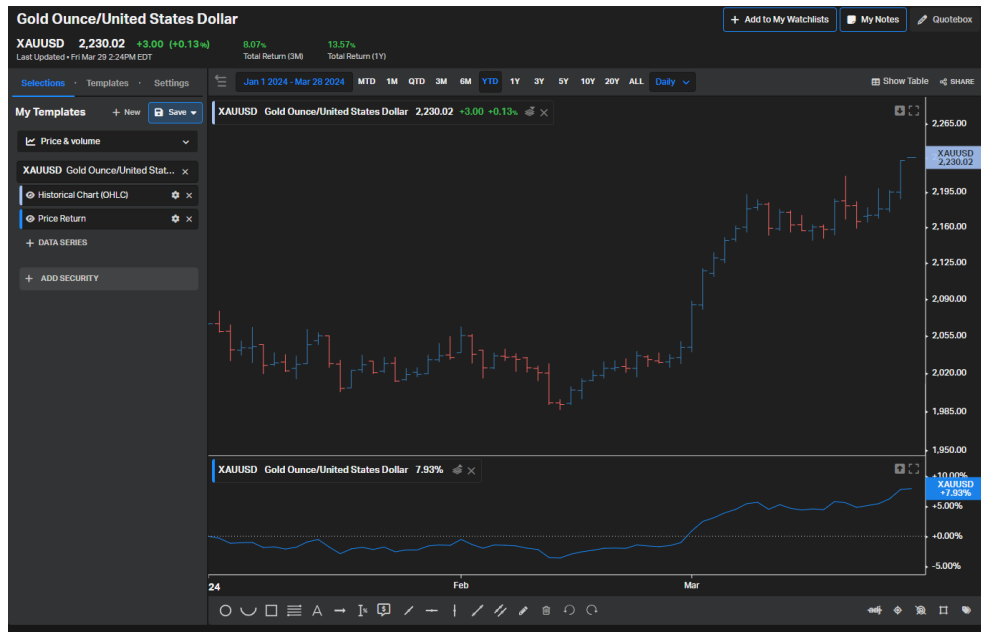
Source YCharts

WTI Crude Oil Q1 & YTD Return



Source Koyfin.com

Gold Price Q1 & YTD Return



Source Koyfin.com

BBgBarc US Agg Bond



Source YCharts

BBgBarc US T-Bill 1-3 Mon



Source YCharts

ICE US T-Bond 7-10 Year



Source YCharts

BBgBarc US MBS (Mortgage-backed)



Source YCharts

BBgBarc Municipal



Source YCharts

BbgBarc US Corporate Invest Grade



Source YCharts

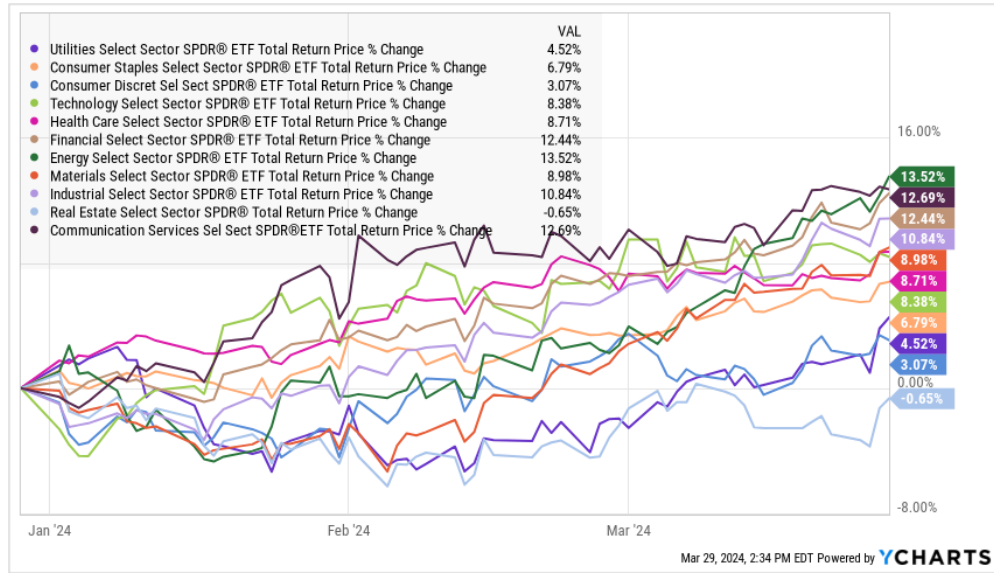
BbgBarc US Corporate High Yield



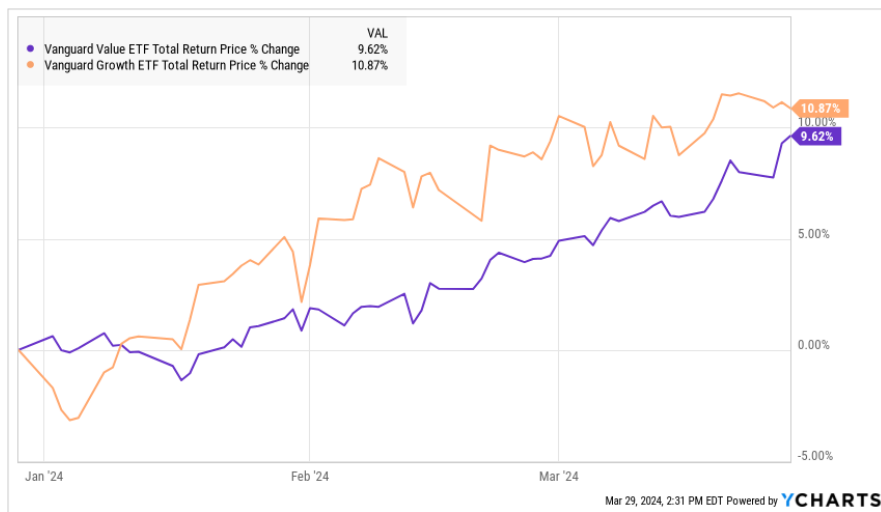
Source YCharts

Other Citations

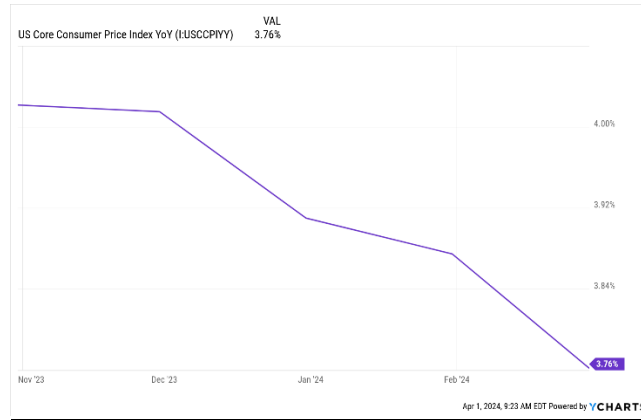
Sector Performance Q1 2024



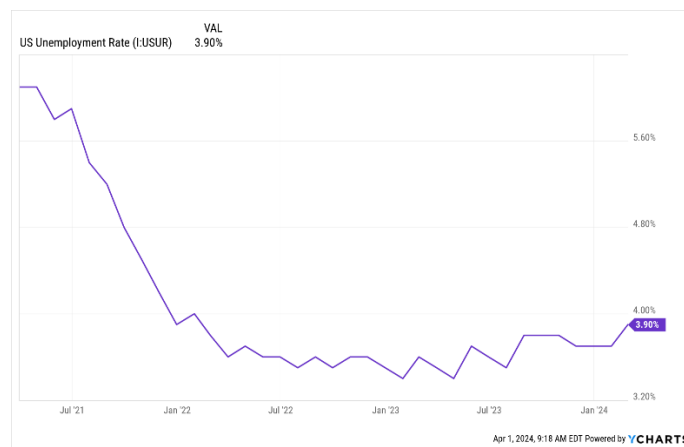
Value vs. Growth Q1 2024



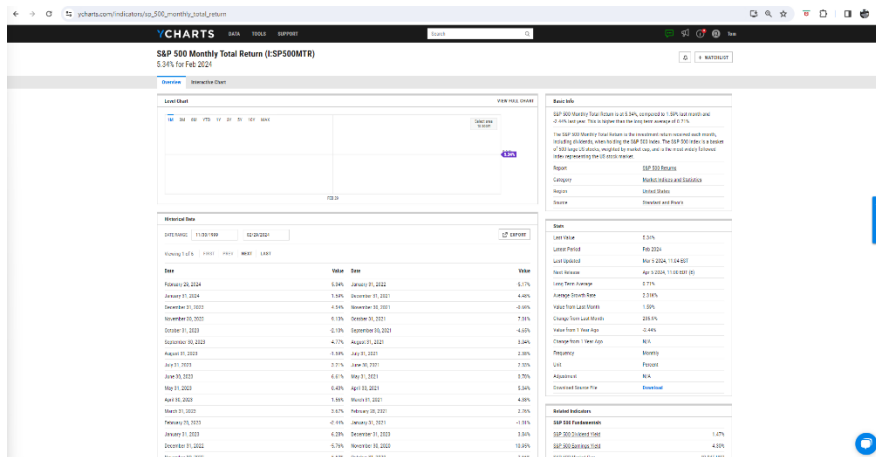
Consumer Price Index



Unemployment Rate



Monthly Return Data



Statements

However, those initially small declines intensified shortly after the start of the year when the December Consumer Price Index, an important inflation indicator, declined less than expected. That reading challenged the idea that inflation was quickly falling towards the Fed's 2.0% target and caused investors to delay the expected date of the first Fed rate cut, as expectations for that first cut moved from March to June.

<https://www.cnbc.com/2024/01/11/cpi-inflation-report-december-2023-consumer-prices-rose-0point3percent-in-december-higher-than-expected-pushing-the-annual-rate-to-3point4percent.html>

First, fourth-quarter corporate earnings were again better than feared and that helped stocks recover from those early declines.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-03-01/us-stocks-amped-up-by-big-tech-better-than-expected-earnings>

Then, in late January, the Federal Reserve clearly signaled that rate hikes were over and strongly hinted that rate cuts would occur in the coming months.

<https://www.wsj.com/economy/central-banking/fed-leaves-rates-steady-and-opens-door-wider-to-cuts-d10a107d>

Then, on February 21st, Nvidia, the semiconductor company at the heart of the AI boom, posted much-stronger-than-expected earnings and guidance. Those results further fueled investors' AI enthusiasm and large-cap tech stocks powered the S&P 500 higher into month-end as the index hit a new record high above 5,000.

<https://www.cnbc.com/2024/02/21/nvidia-nvda-earnings-report-q4-2024.html>

Then, in mid-March, updated Federal Reserve interest rate projections still pointed towards three rate cuts in 2024, further reinforcing investor expectations for a June rate cut.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-03-20/bonds-rally-after-fed-keeps-2024-median-rate-forecast-at-3-cuts>

From an investment style standpoint, growth once again outperformed value in the first quarter but the margin was much closer than last year, as both investment styles logged strong quarterly returns. Continued heightened AI enthusiasm was the main reason for the modest growth outperformance over the past three months, as large-cap tech stocks again saw strong rallies in Q1.

<https://www.reuters.com/markets/us/how-us-stock-market-rocketed-through-first-quarter-2024-03-28/>

Specifically, terrible quarterly earnings from New York Community Bank reminded investors of the sustained weakness in the commercial real estate market and that weighed on the real estate space.

<https://finance.yahoo.com/video/nycbs-commercial-real-estate-exposures-150132305.html>

Emerging markets, meanwhile, logged only slightly positive returns in Q1 and solidly underperformed the S&P 500 thanks to mixed Chinese economic data and a lack of substantial Chinese economic stimulus early in the quarter.

<https://www.commonfund.org/blog/china-continues-to-drag-emerging-markets-into-2024>

Disappointing inflation readings were the primary reason for the weakness in bonds as they delayed the expected start of Fed rate cuts from March until June and caused bond investors to consider that rates may be higher than previously expected over the medium and longer term.

<https://www.reuters.com/markets/us/worst-case-inflation-fears-threaten-bond-market-calm-powell-addresses-lawmakers-2024-03-06/>

Retail sales missed expectations in January and February while the unemployment rate jumped to the highest level since 2022 during the first quarter.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-03-14/us-retail-sales-miss-forecasts-after-steep-drop-in-prior-month>