

4/20/2026

The Week Ahead



THINGS TO WATCH

Tuesday Deadline

Another bout of market volatility could arise early this week as the 14-day US-Iran ceasefire is set to expire tomorrow. While President Trump has indicated in recent days that negotiations are progressing toward a broader agreement, Tehran has issued conflicting warnings that any vessels approaching the Strait of Hormuz will be treated as ceasefire violators. Iranian officials now refuse further negotiations until the U.S. lifts its blockade of the chokepoint. Tensions escalated over the weekend after U.S. Marines seized an Iranian-flagged cargo ship.

March Retail Sales

U.S. Census Bureau data tomorrow morning are expected to show headline retail sales increased 1.3% last month, largely fueled by a 20% seasonally-adjusted surge in gasoline prices. Market watchers will focus on the "control group"—which excludes volatile categories like cars, gas, and food—to determine if higher fuel costs crowded out broader discretionary spending, potentially offsetting the tailwind of larger 2026 tax refunds.

Aerospace and Defense Order Books

RTX Corp. (RTX), Lockheed Martin (LMT), Northrop Grumman (NOC), GE Aerospace (GE), and Boeing (BA) are all scheduled to report first-quarter results. In aggregate, this group is expected to show accelerating backlog growth as Congress evaluates a \$1.5 trillion defense budget request for the upcoming fiscal year. RTX and LMT may offer particularly optimistic commentary, as the U.S. and Israeli militaries seek to rapidly restock missile and interceptor inventories amid the ongoing conflict.

Technology Sector Cross Section

Quarterly results from chipmakers Intel (INTC) and Texas Instruments (TXN), alongside equipment manufacturer Lam Research (LRCX), will provide a health check on semiconductor demand and manufacturing capacity. Reports from software giants IBM (IBM) and ServiceNow (NOW) will offer fresh insight into enterprise IT budgets and the monetization of the AI infrastructure buildout.

LAST WEEK'S ECONOMIC DATA	LATEST	3MO PRIOR	CHANGE
Existing Home Sales (Millions Ann.) - Mar.	3.98	4.27	▼
NFIB Small Business Optimism - Mar.	95.8	99.5	▼
Producer Price Index (Y/Y)	4.0%	3.2%	▲
Core Producer Price Index (Y/Y)	3.8%	3.5%	▲
Cont. Jobless Claims (Thousands) -4/4	1,818	1,875	▼

INDEX	LEVEL	WEEK	YTD	12 MO
DJ Industrial Average	49447.43	3.19%	3.35%	28.49%
NASDAQ	24468.48	6.84%	5.46%	51.22%
S&P 500	7126.06	4.54%	4.45%	36.54%
MSCI EAFE	3076.76	1.03%	8.63%	33.23%
BB U.S. Aggregate	2359.57	0.17%	0.95%	6.11%

KEY BOND RATES	WEEK	1MO AGO	1YR AGO
3-Month T-Bill	3.68%	3.68%	4.31%
10-Year Treasury	4.25%	4.20%	4.32%

REPORTS DUE THIS WEEK	LATEST
Retail Sales (M/M) - Mar.	0.6%
S&P Global U.S. Manufacturing PMI - Apr.	52.3
S&P Global U.S. Services PMI - Apr.	49.8
U. of Mich. Consumer Sentiment - Apr. Final	47.6
U. of Mich. 1-year Inflation Expectations - Apr. Final	4.8%

Total returns are as of 4/17/26. Source data: Bloomberg and Morningstar are believed to be correct but not verified.

NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

16%

Total IRS tax refunds thus far in 2026 are \$274 billion through April 16, a 16% increase over the \$237 billion distributed during the same period in 2025. The year-over-year increase primarily reflects new deductions for tips and overtime that were part of the OBBBA legislation passed in 2025. Although \$274 billion represents less than one week of aggregate U.S. wage income, the extra boost could provide a timely liquidity cushion for some households.

\$128 million

The market capitalization of Allbirds (BIRD) surged \$128 million last Wednesday, a staggering 582% jump. This followed the eco-friendly sneaker maker's announced pivot to AI computing infrastructure and the \$39 million sale of its footwear assets. The company, which debuted in 2021 at a \$4 billion valuation, plans to rename itself NewBird AI as it embarks on a seemingly implausible corporate makeover.

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