

Talks Continue

The S&P 500 Index ended the week -0.2%, the Dow was -1.0%, and the NASDAQ was +0.7%. The 10-year U.S. Treasury note yield increased to 3.463% at Friday's close versus 3.446% the previous week. Debt ceiling discussions continue, and some optimism has been expressed by the White House that a deal can be reached.

The April Consumer Price Index (CPI) showed levels of core inflation still above the Federal Reserve's target of a 2.0% annual rate, but year-over-year comparisons continue to improve. For April, the CPI was +0.4% month-to-month and core CPI, which excludes food and energy, was also +0.4% month-to-month. On a year-over-year basis, CPI is +4.9% and core CPI is +5.5%.

Several major retail companies report earnings this week and should provide some insight on the state of the consumer. To date, 457 companies in the S&P 500 Index have reported first quarter earnings and an additional 15 companies scheduled for this week. For the first quarter, the S&P 500 Index is expected to see earnings decline 0.6% on revenue growth of 3.5%. The outlook for the quarter has improved since the start of earnings season several weeks ago when consensus was a 5.2% earnings decline on revenue growth of 1.6%. Of the 457 companies that have reported so far, 76.6% have reported earnings above consensus. For full year 2023, S&P 500 Index earnings are expected to grow 1.2% on revenue growth of 1.7%.

In our *Dissecting Headlines* section, we look at the start of the summer travel season.

Financial Market Update

	Weekly Return	YTD Return		Weekly Return	YTD Return
S&P 500 Index	-0.2%	8.1%	Aggregate Bond Index	-0.1%	3.4%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	-1.0%	1.2%	U.S. Dollar Index	1.4%	-0.8%
NASDAQ 100	0.7%	22.3%	WTI Crude Oil	-1.8%	-12.7%
Russell 2000 (Small Cap Index)	-1.0%	-0.6%	Gold	-0.3%	10.2%
International Stocks (MSCI ex-US)	-0.8%	8.2%	Real Estate (US REIT Index)	-1.5%	1.2%

Sources: S&P Global, Thomson Reuters

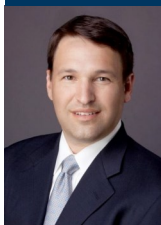
Dissecting Headlines: Memorial Day Travel

Despite persistent inflation, Americans are planning to live their best life this summer. For the upcoming Memorial Day Weekend, May 26th to 29th, the Automobile Club of America (AAA) forecasts 42.3 million Americans will travel more than 50 miles from their homes. This is a 7.0% increase year-over-year and within one-percent of the 42.8 million that traveled Memorial Day Weekend 2019.

Auto travel is the most prevalent, with 37.1 Americans expected to travel by car, a 6.0% increase year-over-year. The average price for regular gasoline is \$3.535 per gallon, down 20.9% from last year. While core consumer prices have continued to rise, the falloff in gasoline prices can ease the burden of both car travel and other expenses. The U.S. Travel Association data shows lodging prices are 3.5% higher year-over-year, food and beverage prices are 8.4% higher, and recreation expenses are 5.8% higher.

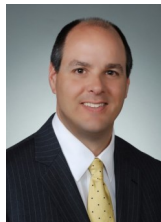
Post-pandemic airline travel continues to be popular even though ticket prices remain high. Airlines should carry 3.39 million travelers for the holiday weekend, an 11% year-over-year increase. This also exceeds the 2019 level by 5.4%. Other modes of travel, to include trains and buses, are expected to carry 1.85 million passengers, an increase of 20.6% year-over-year.

The NovaPoint Capital Team



Joseph Sroka, CFA, CMT / Chief Investment Officer / jsroka@novapointcapital.com

Joe has over 20 years of experience in the investment management industry. Prior to founding NovaPoint, he was a portfolio manager at Spectrum Advisory Services and GMT Capital in Atlanta, and Epoch Investment Partners in New York. He has also worked as an equity research analyst at Merrill Lynch and ABN Amro. Before beginning his investment career, Joe was an Infantry officer in the U.S. Army. Joe holds a BS from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and an MBA from the University of Chicago. He is both a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and a Chartered Market Technician (CMT).



Alan J. Conner / President and Chief Compliance Officer / aconner@novapointcapital.com

Alan has over 20 years of experience in the investment management industry. Prior to founding NovaPoint, he was a fixed income manager at both Spectrum Advisory Services and a private family office. Alan was also with the Bank Group division of Countrywide Capital Markets where he developed balance sheet strategies for depository institutions. He holds a BS in Banking and an MBA in Finance from Nova Southeastern University. Alan is an endurance athlete and three-time IRONMAN finisher.



Frederick Wright, CFA / Managing Director & Portfolio Manager / fwright@novapointcapital.com

Frederick has over 30 years of experience in the investment management industry. Prior to joining NovaPoint, Frederick was a Partner and Investment Advisor at Brightworth where he advised high net worth investors. Frederick began his investment career in 1991 at Balentine & Co where he rose to Partner. He also co-founded and served as Chief Investment Officer at Wright Investment Management and at Smith & Howard Wealth Management. Prior to beginning his investment career, Frederick served as an Engineer officer in the U.S. Army. He holds a BS from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and an MBA from Emory University. Frederick is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).



Timothy Benbow, CFP / Managing Director & Portfolio Manager / tbenbow@novapointcapital.com

Tim has over 15 years of experience in the investment management industry. Prior to joining NovaPoint, Tim was the managing partner of Bull's Eye Wealth Management. Tim began his investment career at Raymond James & Associates and was a co-founder of Black Diamond Investment Partners. Following Black Diamond's merger with Waterloo Capital Management, Tim left to found Bull's Eye. He holds a BS from the University of South Carolina and an MBA from the University of Rochester. Tim is a Certified Financial Planner (CFP).



Allan Duncan / Investment Adviser / aduncan@novapointcapital.com

Allan has over 7 years of investment industry experience. Prior to joining NovaPoint, he worked at an independent RIA firm. Allan began his investment advisory career with Edward Jones. He earned his BA from the University of West Georgia.

NovaPoint Capital LLC (referred to herein as "NovaPoint" or "the Company") is registered with the SEC as an investment adviser, but registration does not imply any certain level of skill or training. The information contained in this document has not been filed with, reviewed by or approved by any regulatory or self-regulatory authority.

Not an offer of advisory services or securities: This document is limited to the dissemination of general information about the services provided by the Company and is provided for informational purposes only. This document is intended for residents of the United States only and the information contained herein does not constitute and should not be construed as an offering of advisory services or an offer to sell or solicitation to buy any securities or other financial instruments in any jurisdiction in which such offer or solicitation, purchase or sale would be unlawful under the securities, or other applicable laws of such jurisdiction. Nothing contained in this document constitutes tax, legal or investment advice. Responses to any inquiry which may involve the rendering of personalized investment advice for compensation or effecting or attempting to effect transactions in securities will not be made absent compliance with state broker-dealer, investment adviser, broker-dealer agent or investment adviser representative registration requirements, or applicable exemptions or exclusions from such requirements.

Investment risk: The Company makes no representation, and it should not be assumed, that past investment performance is any indication of future results. Moreover, wherever there is the potential for profit there also is the possibility of loss. Certain of the Company's strategies may involve investments that are illiquid, are subject to a substantial risk of loss and are not suitable for certain investors.

Limitation of liability: While the Company uses reasonable efforts to include accurate and up-to-date information in this document, errors or omissions sometimes occur. The Company makes no warranties or representations as to the accuracy of this document. Opinions expressed herein are subject to change without notice. Under no circumstances shall the Company or any party involved in creating, producing, or delivering this document be liable for any direct, incidental, consequential, indirect, or punitive damages that result from the use of the information contained in this document, even if the Company's authorized representative has been advised of the possibility of such damages. Applicable law may not allow the limitation or exclusion of liability or incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you.

Trademarks and copyrights: All trademarks, service marks, trade names, logos, and icons are proprietary to the Company. Nothing contained in this document should be construed as granting, by implication, estoppel, or otherwise, any license or right to use any trademark displayed in this document without the prior written permission of the Company or such third party that may own the trademarks displayed in this document. Your use of the trademarks displayed in this document, or any other content in this document, except as provided herein, is strictly prohibited.