NovaPoint CAPITAL LLC

# Weekly Market Commentary

April 20, 2026

## Higher

Equities rose to new highs on the back of positive news in the Middle East. That may be tested this week as the conflict remains unsettled heading into the expiration of the two-week ceasefire. For the week, the S&P 500 Index was +4.5%, the Dow Jones Industrials +3.2%, and the NASDAQ +6.2%. The Technology, Consumer Discretionary, and Communication Services sectors led the S&P 500 Index for the week, while the Energy, Utility, and Materials sectors lagged. The 10-year U.S. Treasury note yield was 4.244% at Friday's close versus 4.319% the previous week.

The March Producer Price Index (PPI) showed headline inflation +0.5% month/month and core CPI (ex food and energy) was +0.2% month/month. On a year/year comparison, PPI was +4.0% and core CPI was +3.6%.The main item causing the steep monthly rise was energy which was 8.5% higher month/month.

Confirmation hearings for the next Federal Reserve chairman begin this week. The Federal Reserve is likely to take no action on interest rates at its April policy meeting, but the policy path for the year could be shaped once a new chairman takes the helm. Current CME Fed funds futures show no changes to short-term interest rates for the remainder of the year.

The quarterly earnings reporting period begins this week with 93 companies in the S&P 500 Index scheduled to report earnings results. First quarter earnings are expected to grow by 13.2% and quarterly revenue growth is expected at 9.9%. Full-year 2026 earnings are expected to grow by 18.0% with revenue growth of 9.2%.

In our Dissecting Headlines section, we look at the forecasts for global economic growth

## Financial Market Update

| MARKET DATA | Weekly Return | YTD Return | | Weekly Return | YTD Return |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S&P 500 Index | 4.5% | 4.5% | Aggregate Bond Index | 0.5% | 0.9% |
| Dow Jones Industrial Average | 3.2% | 3.4% | U.S. Dollar Index | -0.6% | -0.2% |
| NASDAQ 100 | 6.2% | 5.8% | WTI Crude Oil | -13.2% | 46.0% |
| Russell 2000 (Small Cap Index) | 5.6% | 12.3% | Gold | 1.8% | 12.0% |
| International Stocks (MSCI ex-US) | 2.6% | 10.4% | Real Estate (US REIT Index) | 3.8% | 14.2% |

*Sources: S&P Global, FactSet*

## Dissecting Headlines: Global Economic Growth

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) recently cut its 2026 global growth forecast to 3.1% from 3.3% primarily due to the ongoing U.S. – Iran conflict and resulting energy price spikes and supply disruptions on global markets.

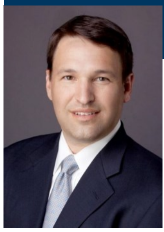
The current 3.1% baseline growth forecast assumes a short-lived, limited-scope conflict with moderate (approx. 19%) rise in energy prices and disruptions fading by mid-year. It expects global headline inflation to rise modestly to 4.4% in 2026 before declining in 2027.

A more adverse scenario with a sharper energy price surge, rising inflation expectations, and some tightening of financial conditions would reduce growth to 2.5% and raise inflation to 5.4%. A severe scenario with energy dislocations persisting into 2027, unanchored inflation expectations, and a resulting sharp financial tightening would drop growth to 2.0% in both 2026 and 2027 and inflation exceeding 6.0%. The IMF noted that every additional day of energy supply disruptions moves the outlook closer to the weaker 2.5% growth path.

While the outlook remains uncertain, neither the current baseline scenario nor the more adverse potential outcomes put the global economy at risk of extreme contraction as seen during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic's 3.1% economic contraction or the 0.1% contraction in 2009 from the global financial crisis.

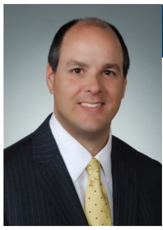
Current major country and regional outlooks for economic growth are the U.S. at 2.3%, Europe at 1.1%, Japan at 0.7%, China at 4.4%, India at 6.5%, Russia at 1.1%, Brazil at 1.9%, and Saudi Arabia at 3.1%. Perhaps some of the underlying strength in the U.S. equity market can be attributed to strong underlying growth despite the current headline risk of the U.S. – Iran conflict.

## The NovaPoint Team



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

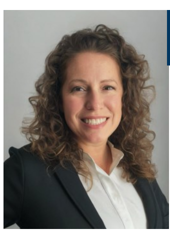
Alan has over 20 years of experience in the investment management industry. Prior to founding NovaPoint, he was a fixed income manager at both Spectrum Advisory Services and a private family office. Alan was also with the Bank Group division of Countrywide Capital Markets where he developed balance sheet 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@novapointgroup.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).

### Larry Dixon, EA / Tax Managing Partner / ldixon@novapointgroup.com

Larry leads NovaPoint's accounting, tax and outsourced CFO business. He built his previous company, Atlas Solutions, as a solo entrepreneur before merging into NovaPoint CFO. Larry began his career as a Field Artillery officer in the United States Army. Larry earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he was a four-year letterman on the football team. Larry is a certified Enrolled Agent, recognized by the U.S. Department of the Treasury to represent taxpayers before the Internal Revenue Service.



### Meghan Hoover, FRC℠ / Investment Associate / mhoover@novapointgroup.com

Meghan is an Investment Associate focusing on financial planning. Prior to joining NovaPoint, Meghan spent 18 years in government service as an Operations Officer in military intelligence. She holds two Bachelor of Science degrees from the University of Maryland and a Master of Science from the Joint Military Intelligence College. Meghan has additional education specializing in financial planning and currently holds the Federal Retirement Consultant designation.