



The Week in Brief

Markets rallied across the board this week, with Russell 2000 leading at +2.77% and USD Index lagging at +0.79%. On the safe-haven front, Gold climbing 2.68% to \$2,942.10 while the 10-year yield rising to 4.53% while the dollar strengthening 0.79% to 109.05.

The macro picture was busy. Housing Starts came in below expectations (1.37M vs. 1.42M). S&P Global Flash Services PMI came in below expectations (49.7 vs. 53.0).

Looking ahead, the key events to watch are: Q4 GDP (Second Estimate), PCE Price Index. Position sizing and hedges should reflect the potential for volatility around these releases.

Index Snapshot

LARGE CAP

S&P 500	+1.12%
Dow Jones	+1.07%
Nasdaq	+1.66%

BROAD MARKET

Russell 2000	+2.77%
Gold	+2.68%

FIXED INCOME

10Y Treasury	+5 bps
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Market Snapshot

INDEX	CLOSE	WEEKLY %	WEEK RANGE
Russell 2000	2,343.20	+2.77%	2,270.00 – 2,365.00
Gold	2,942.10	+2.68%	2,858.20 – 2,948.20
Nasdaq	20,005.80	+1.66%	19,620.50 – 20,080.50
S&P 500	6,106.40	+1.12%	6,020.10 – 6,130.50
10Y Treasury	4.53	+5 bps	4.46 – 4.60

INDEX	CLOSE	WEEKLY %	WEEK RANGE
Dow Jones	44,795.10	+1.07%	44,250.00 – 44,800.00
USD Index	109.05	+0.79%	107.90 – 109.40

▲ Best: Russell 2000 (+2.77%)

▼ Worst: USD Index (+0.79%)

Last Week's Economic Events

DATE	EVENT	ACTUAL	EXPECTED	PREVIOUS	SURPRISE
2026-02-18	FOMC Meeting Minutes	--	--	--	Inline
2026-02-19	Housing Starts	1.37M	1.42M	1.5M	Below
2026-02-20	S&P Global Flash Manufacturing PMI	51.6	51.5	51.2	Inline
2026-02-20	S&P Global Flash Services PMI	49.7	53.0	52.9	Below

FOMC MEETING MINUTES

Minutes reaffirmed the Fed's data-dependent stance with no imminent rate cuts. Officials noted progress on inflation but flagged uncertainty around tariffs and labor market resilience.

HOUSING STARTS

Weaker housing starts signal affordability pressure and builder caution. Rate-sensitive homebuilder ETFs (ITB, XHB) may face headwinds until mortgage rates ease.

S&P GLOBAL FLASH MANUFACTURING PMI

Manufacturing activity continues to expand modestly. Neutral to mildly positive for industrials (XLI). No major change to the macro narrative.

S&P GLOBAL FLASH SERVICES PMI

Services sector unexpectedly contracted -- a notable miss. Consumer-facing and discretionary sectors (XLY, XLP) may see volatility. Watch for confirmation in ISM Services next week.

Upcoming Week

DATE	EVENT	IMPORTANCE
2026-02-24	Consumer Confidence	Medium
2026-02-25	Durable Goods Orders	Medium
2026-02-26	Q4 GDP (Second Estimate)	High
2026-02-27	PCE Price Index	High

DATE	EVENT	IMPORTANCE
2026-02-27	Personal Income & Spending	Medium

Positioning Tips

SIGNAL	SUGGESTED ACTION
USD Index strengthened +0.79% this week	A stronger dollar weighs on multinational earnings and commodities. Consider reducing exposure to export-heavy sectors and commodity ETFs (GLD, DJP).
Housing Starts missed at 1.37M vs. 1.42M	Affordability pressure weighs on homebuilders (ITB, XHB). Watch mortgage rate trajectory before adding real estate exposure.
Services PMI missed at 49.7 vs. 53.0 expected	Services sector contraction is a caution signal. Consider trimming consumer discretionary (XLY) and adding defensives (XLP, XLU).
GDP release on 2026-02-26	A weak print could shift sentiment toward defensives (XLU, XLP); a strong beat supports risk-on positioning in cyclicals (XLY, XLI).
PCE Price Index on 2026-02-27	The Fed's preferred inflation gauge. A hot print could reprice rate-cut expectations; consider hedging bond duration (TLT) and adding inflation protection (TIPS, GLD).