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Consumer Discretionary Wavers: E-Commerce Shines as Home Improvement Falters

The Consumer Discretionary Select Sector SPDR Fund (XLY) declined by 1.89% this week, bringing its year-to-date performance to +1.6%. The sector faced increased volatility as concerns over inflation and weaker-than-expected retail sales data weighed on investor sentiment. While e-commerce and travel-related stocks showed resilience, home improvement and automotive companies saw declines due to cautious consumer spending trends.

Amazon (AMZN) was a standout performer, rebounding 2.4% after strong AWS revenue projections and improved cost efficiencies. However, Tesla (TSLA) faced a challenging week, dropping 3.39% as concerns over demand and production delays in its German Gigafactory spooked investors. Home Depot (HD) and Lowe's (LOW) also struggled, down 1.64% and 1.95% respectively, amid slowing home renovation spending.

The consumer discretionary sector started February on uncertain footing. The first week saw a slight dip of 0.4%, while this week's broader pullback reflects increasing macroeconomic uncertainties. E-commerce and restaurant stocks remain bright spots, with Chipotle Mexican Grill (CMG) and Starbucks (SBUX) both posting slight gains of 0.09% and 0.45% respectively. Meanwhile, traditional retailers like Nike (NKE) fell sharply, dropping 4.27% due to weak forward guidance.

