



Don Akridge Presents

WEEKLY ECONOMIC UPDATE

March 5, 2018

WEEKLY QUOTE

“Prejudice is the child of ignorance.”

- William Hazlitt

WEEKLY TIP

If you are on the verge of retiring, you may want to defer some income until you do retire (and presumably find yourself in a lower tax bracket). That choice could lead to tax savings.

WEEKLY RIDDLE

It can hold back cattle, pets, and even people, but never with an order or a command. What is it?

Last week's riddle:

You can crack it, share it, tell it, make it, play it. What is it, can you name it?

Last week's answer:

A joke.

CB: PLENTY OF CONFIDENCE IN THE ECONOMY

The Conference Board's monthly consumer confidence index soared to 130.8 in February – the highest reading seen since November 2000. In January, the gauge was at 124.3. (In the middle of the Great Recession, the index hovered near 25.)¹

SOLID READINGS ON SOME KEY INDICATORS

Further fundamental economic data released last week looked strong. Personal incomes improved 0.4% in January, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis; that matched the December increase. Personal spending advanced 0.2% last month. The Institute for Supply Management's manufacturing purchasing manager index reached 60.8 in February, up 1.7 points from its impressive January level. Lastly, the BEA made its third, concluding estimate of Q4 GDP last week: 2.5%.²

NEW HOME SALES RETREATED 7.8% IN JANUARY

This decline occurred even as new home inventory reached a 9-year high. With mortgage rates reaching 4.4% and the median new home price up 2.5% in a month to \$323,000, prospective buyers were deterred. The Census Bureau says the rate of new home purchases was down 1.0% year-over-year through January.³

MAJOR INDICES TAKE WEEKLY LOSSES

All three of Wall Street's big benchmarks fell as February gave way to March. Losing 1.08% for the week, the Nasdaq Composite settled at 7,257.87 Friday. The S&P 500 retreated 2.04% in five days, ending the week at 2,691.25. Hit hardest, the Dow Jones Industrial Average slumped 3.05% across the week to 24,538.06.⁴

THIS WEEK: ISM releases its latest service sector PMI on Monday. Tuesday, earnings announcements arrive from Autodesk, H&R Block, Ross Stores, Target, and Urban Outfitters. Wednesday, the Street reviews earnings from Abercrombie & Fitch, Caesars Entertainment, Casey's General Stores, Costco, Dollar Tree, Thor Industries, and Vivint Solar; in addition, the Federal Reserve offers a new Beige Book, and ADP provides its February payrolls snapshot. A new Challenger job-cut report comes out Thursday, along with the latest initial jobless claims figures and earnings results from Dell Technologies, Hovnanian, Global Partners, Kroger, Navistar, Stage Stores, and Verifone. Friday, investors will consider the Department of Labor's February jobs report and Q4 results from Revlon.

% CHANGE	Y-T-D	1-YR CHG	5-YR AVG	10-YR AVG
DJIA	-0.73	+16.83	+14.83	+10.02
NASDAQ	+5.13	+23.83	+25.79	+22.13
S&P 500	+0.66	+12.99	+15.45	+10.21
REAL YIELD	3/2 RATE	1 YR AGO	5 YRS AGO	10 YRS AGO
10 YR TIPS	0.74%	0.48%	-0.67%	1.08%

Sources: wsj.com, bigcharts.com, treasury.gov - 3/2/18^{4,5,6,7}

Indices are unmanaged, do not incur fees or expenses, and cannot be invested into directly. These returns do

not include dividends. 10-year TIPS real yield = projected return at maturity given expected inflation.

**Please feel free to forward this article to family, friends or colleagues.
If you would like us to add them to our distribution list, please reply with their address.
We will contact them first and request their permission to add them to our list.**

To unsubscribe from future preferred client communication emails from Citadel - CPA, Financial Planning, & Investments, please click on this link [UNSUBSCRIBE](#)

Don B. Okridge

MBA, CFP®, CPA/PFS

Registered Representatives of Cambridge Investment Research, Inc.

U.S. Marine Corps Veteran

Emory University & Florida Atlantic University

Comprehensive CPA & Wealth Management

Investment & Securities Licenses - 7 & 66

Insurance & Annuity Licenses - Variable, Life & Health

Ravine One • 245 Town Park Drive | Suite 440 | Kennesaw, GA 30144

Telephone: 770-952-6707 | Fax: 678-391-9355

Securities offered through Registered Representatives of Cambridge Investment Research, Inc., a broker-dealer, member FINRA / SIPC. Advisory services through Cambridge Investment Research Advisors, Inc., a Registered Investment Adviser. Cambridge and Citadel / Citadel Professional Services are not affiliated.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The information contained in this email and any attachments are confidential and may also be privileged and is intended for the use of the person(s) named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination or duplication of the email, or taking action in reliance upon this communication is strictly prohibited. Moreover, any such disclosure shall not compromise or waive the accountant-client, attorney-client, or any other privileges as to this communication or otherwise. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the original message

PLEASE NOTE: We cannot accept trade orders through email. Important letters, email, or fax messages should be confirmed by calling 770-952-6707. This email service may not be monitored every day, or after normal business hours

This material was prepared by MarketingPro, Inc., and does not necessarily represent the views of the presenting party, nor their affiliates. The information herein has been derived from sources believed to be accurate. Please note - investing involves risk, and past performance is no guarantee of future results. Investments will fluctuate and when redeemed may be worth more or less than when originally invested. This information should not be construed as investment, tax or legal advice and may not be relied on for the purpose of avoiding any Federal tax penalty. This is neither a solicitation nor recommendation to purchase or sell any investment or insurance product or service, and should not be relied upon as such. All market indices discussed are unmanaged and are not illustrative of any particular investment. Indices do not incur management fees, costs and expenses, and cannot be invested into directly. All economic and performance data is historical and not indicative of future results. The Dow Jones Industrial Average is a price-weighted index of 30 actively traded blue-chip stocks. The NASDAQ Composite Index is a market-weighted index of all over-the-counter common stocks traded on the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation System. The Standard & Poor's 500 (S&P 500) is a market-cap weighted index composed of the common stocks of 500 leading companies in leading industries of the U.S. economy. NYSE Group, Inc. (NYSE:NYX) operates two securities exchanges: the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE") and NYSE Arca (formerly known as the Archipelago Exchange, or ArcaEx®, and the Pacific Exchange). NYSE Group is a leading provider of securities listing, trading and market data products and services. The New York Mercantile Exchange, Inc. (NYMEX) is the world's largest physical commodity futures exchange and the preeminent trading forum for energy and precious metals, with trading conducted through two divisions - the NYMEX Division, home to the energy, platinum, and palladium markets, and the COMEX Division, on which all other metals trade. Additional risks are associated with international investing, such as currency fluctuations, political and economic instability and differences in accounting standards. This material represents an assessment of the market environment at a specific point in time and is not intended to be a forecast of future events, or a guarantee of future results. MarketingPro, Inc. is not affiliated with any person or firm that may be providing this information to you. The publisher is not engaged in rendering legal, accounting or other professional services. If assistance is needed, the reader is advised to engage the services of a competent professional.

Citations.

- 1 - marketwatch.com/story/consumer-confidence-in-us-hits-highest-level-since-november-2000-2018-02-27 [2/27/18]
- 2 - investing.com/economic-calendar/ [3/2/18]
- 3 - reuters.com/article/us-usa-economy/u-s-new-home-sales-hit-5-month-low-supply-highest-since-2009-idUSKCN1GAIx9 [2/26/18]
- 4 - markets.wsj.com/us [3/2/18]
- 5 - bigcharts.marketwatch.com/historical/default.asp?symb=DJIA&closeDate=3%2F2%2F17&x=0&y=0 [3/2/18]
- 5 - bigcharts.marketwatch.com/historical/default.asp?symb=COMP&closeDate=3%2F2%2F17&x=0&y=0 [3/2/18]
- 5 - bigcharts.marketwatch.com/historical/default.asp?symb=SPX&closeDate=3%2F2%2F17&x=0&y=0 [3/2/18]
- 5 - bigcharts.marketwatch.com/historical/default.asp?symb=DJIA&closeDate=3%2F1%2F13&x=0&y=0 [3/2/18]
- 5 - bigcharts.marketwatch.com/historical/default.asp?symb=COMP&closeDate=3%2F1%2F13&x=0&y=0 [3/2/18]
- 5 - bigcharts.marketwatch.com/historical/default.asp?symb=SPX&closeDate=3%2F1%2F13&x=0&y=0 [3/2/18]
- 5 - bigcharts.marketwatch.com/historical/default.asp?symb=DJIA&closeDate=3%2F3%2F08&x=0&y=0 [3/2/18]
- 5 - bigcharts.marketwatch.com/historical/default.asp?symb=COMP&closeDate=3%2F3%2F08&x=0&y=0 [3/2/18]
- 5 - bigcharts.marketwatch.com/historical/default.asp?symb=SPX&closeDate=3%2F3%2F08&x=0&y=0 [3/2/18]
- 6 - treasury.gov/resource-center/data-chart-center/interest-rates/Pages/TextView.aspx?data=realyield [3/2/18]
- 7 - treasury.gov/resource-center/data-chart-center/interest-rates/Pages/TextView.aspx?data=realyieldAll [3/2/18]

