

# MARKET MONITOR

Month in Review: March 2026

Index	Asset Class	2026		2025
		Mar	YTD	
<b>Equity Indexes</b>		<b>Total Returns</b>		
Russell 3000	U.S. Equity	-4.97	-3.96	17.15
S&P 500	Large Cap U.S. Equity	-4.98	-4.33	17.88
Russell 1000	Large Cap U.S. Equity	-4.97	-4.18	17.37
Russell 2000	Small Cap U.S. Equity	-5.00	0.89	12.81
MSCI All Country World	Global Equity	-6.48	-2.95	21.57
MSCI All Country World (Ex U.S.)	International Equity	-9.86	-0.75	32.94
MSCI Europe, Asia & Far East (EAFE)	International Developed Market Equity	-10.19	-1.12	31.89
MSCI Emerging Markets (EM)	International Emerging Market Equity	-13.03	-0.10	34.36
<b>Fixed Income Indexes</b>				
Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond	U.S. Investment Grade Bond	-1.76	-0.05	7.30
Bloomberg Municipal Bond	U.S. Investment Grade Muni Bond	-2.32	-0.18	4.25
Bloomberg Municipal Bond High Yield	U.S. Muni Bonds (Below Investment Grade)	-1.90	0.71	2.46
Bloomberg U.S. Corp. High Yield	U.S. Corp Bonds (Below Investment Grade)	-1.18	-0.50	8.62
<b>Index Blends: Stock/Bond</b>				
80%/20%: Global Equity (MSCI All Country World) / U.S. Investment Grade Bond (Bloomberg U.S. Agg)		-6.10	-2.55	19.25
60%/40%: Global Equity (MSCI All Country World) / U.S. Investment Grade Bond (Bloomberg U.S. Agg)		-5.01	-1.90	16.21
40%/60%: Global Equity (MSCI All Country World) / U.S. Investment Grade Bond (Bloomberg U.S. Agg)		-3.93	-1.27	13.20
20%/80%: Global Equity (MSCI All Country World) / U.S. Investment Grade Bond (Bloomberg U.S. Agg)		-2.85	-0.65	10.23
Data as of 3/31/2026. Sources are Ycharts for Index returns, and Envestnet Tamarac for Index Blend returns, based on monthly rebalancing.				

Please see important disclosures at end of this report.

## Market Overview

U.S. equities declined in March 2026, with the S&P 500 falling approximately 4–5% amid renewed inflation concerns and a sharp rise in oil prices. Market volatility increased as investors rotated away from mega-cap growth stocks, particularly in the technology sector, toward more defensive and value-oriented areas such as energy, which benefited from higher commodity prices. Despite the pullback, underlying economic resilience and solid corporate earnings expectations helped limit deeper losses, reinforcing the relative strength of U.S. markets compared to global peers.<sup>1</sup>

International equities broadly underperformed U.S. markets in March, with both the MSCI EAFE and MSCI Emerging Markets indices posting larger declines. Developed markets were pressured by rising energy costs and currency headwinds, particularly in Europe and Japan. Emerging markets, while supported by longer-term growth themes and relatively attractive valuations, were more sensitive to global risk-off sentiment and U.S. dollar strength, which weighed on returns during the month.<sup>2</sup>

Fixed income markets experienced notable volatility in March, with negative returns. The 10-year Treasury yield climbed to ~4.28% mid-month, marking one of the largest monthly moves in recent years, while intermediate and long-term yields also increased significantly, pressuring bond prices. The increase in yields, particularly in the intermediate and long end of the curve, marked one of the more notable monthly moves in recent periods. While expectations for Federal Reserve rate cuts later in 2026 remain, the timing and magnitude are less certain due to persistent inflation risks.<sup>3</sup>

Economic data in March continued to reflect a resilient but evolving backdrop. Consumer spending and labor market conditions remained relatively strong, supporting growth, while inflation pressures re-emerged due to rising commodity prices, especially in energy. At the same time, geopolitical tensions contributed to market uncertainty and increased volatility. Investors remain focused on the interplay between inflation trends, central bank policy, and global growth expectations as key drivers of market direction.<sup>4</sup>

## **Reference(s):**

- 1) "6 Charts That Defined Markets in Q1." Morningstar, 1 Apr. 2026,  
<https://www.morningstar.com/markets/6-charts-that-define-first-quarter-markets>
- 2) "03/30/2026 Market Strategy." Oppenheimer & Co. Inc., 30 Mar. 2026,  
<https://www.oppenheimer.com/news-media/2026/market-strategy/03-30-2026>
- 3) "10-Year Treasury Constant Maturity Rate." FRED Economic Data, 2 Apr. 2026,  
<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/DGS10>
- 4) "Global Markets: Stocks Slide as Oil Surge, Geopolitics Rattle Investors." Reuters, 31 Mar. 2026,  
<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/global-markets-global-markets-2026-03-31>

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*Reference to market index information is included for illustrative purposes only, as it is not possible to directly invest in an index. Indexes are unmanaged, hypothetical vehicles that serve as market indicators. Index total return performance data reflects the assumptions of the reinvestment of interest and dividends but does not include the deduction of fees or transaction costs which otherwise reduce performance of an actual portfolio. The blended indexes are shown for informational purposes only and are not representative of any particular investment or plan.*

### **Index Definitions:**

Russell 3000 – Index comprised of 3,000 largest U.S. stocks by market capitalization.

Russell 1000 – Index comprised of 1,000 largest U.S. stocks by market capitalization.

Russell 2000 – Index comprised of 2,000 smaller U.S. stocks by market capitalization within the Russell 3000.

S&P 500 – Compilation of 500 major U.S. stocks meeting certain criteria; market capitalization and float-weighted.

MSCI All Country World – Global equity index across market capitalizations with about 2,800 constituents, representing about 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization across 23 developed and 27 emerging markets.

MSCI All Country World ex USA – Global equity index across market capitalizations, which excludes the U.S., with about 2,300 constituents which represents free float-adjusted market capitalization across 22 developed and 27 emerging markets.

MSCI Europe, Asia & Far East (EAFE) – International equity index across market capitalizations, which excludes North America, with about 840 constituents which represents free float-adjusted market capitalization across 21 developed markets.

MSCI Emerging Markets (EM) – International equity index across market capitalizations with about 1,400 constituents which represents free float-adjusted market capitalization across 27 emerging markets.

Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond – Widely followed bond benchmark comprised of investment grade, U.S. dollar denominated, fixed rate taxable bonds including Treasuries, government-related, corporate, mortgage-backed, and agency.

Bloomberg Municipal Bond – Broad benchmark of the US municipal tax-exempt investment grade bond market.

Bloomberg Municipal High Yield Bond – U.S. index of municipal bonds that are either not rated or rated below investment grade.

Bloomberg U.S. Corporate High Yield Bond – Index of fixed rate U.S. dollar denominated corporate bonds rated BB+ or below by Fitch and S&P.

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