Weekly Market Pulse

Week ending March 13, 2026

Market developments

Equities: Global equities came under pressure as escalating tensions involving Iran pushed oil prices above $100 per barrel and revived concerns around stagflation. In the U.S., the S&P 500 declined 0.6% to 6,632.19 on Friday, marking its weakest close since November 21, while the Nasdaq 100 lost 0.5%, with notable weakness in names such as Adobe and Meta. Canadian equities also moved lower, with the S&P/TSX Composite falling 0.9% to $32,541.93, extending its losing streak to three sessions and bringing the cumulative decline to more than 700 points.

Fixed Income: Bond markets were shaped by competing inflation and growth signals over the week. In the U.S., the 10-year Treasury yield started the week lower on Monday but moved higher over the following days to finish at 4.3% on Friday as the rise in oil prices renewed inflation concerns. Long-end yields also moved higher, with the 30-year Treasury yield ending at 4.9%. In Canada, government bond yields eased on Friday, with the 10-year Government of Canada yield closing at 3.5% and the 30-year yield at 3.9%.

Commodities: Markets were dominated by the sharp rise in energy prices as the conflict involving Iran disrupted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. Brent crude rose to $103.69 per barrel posting a weekly gain of about 11.87% and closing above $100 for the first time since August 2022. Gold was weaker, with spot prices near $5,019 per ounce on Friday, heading for a second straight weekly decline as a stronger U.S. dollar and reduced rate-cut expectations offset safe-haven demand.

Performance (price return)

SECURITY	PRICE	WEEK	1 MONTH	3 MONTH	YTD
Equities ($Local)					
S&P/TSX Composite	32,541.93	-1.64%	-1.61%	3.22%	2.62%
S&P 500	6,632.19	-1.60%	-2.98%	-2.86%	-3.12%
NASDAQ	22,105.36	-1.26%	-1.96%	-4.70%	-4.89%
DAX	23,447.29	-0.61%	-5.89%	-3.06%	-4.26%
NIKKEI 225	53,819.61	-3.24%	-5.48%	5.87%	6.91%
Shanghai Composite	4,095.45	-0.70%	0.33%	5.30%	3.19%
Fixed Income					
Canada Aggregate Bond	240.36	-0.74%	-1.79%	0.20%	-0.24%
US Aggregate Bond	2348.19	-0.79%	-1.29%	0.51%	-0.03%
Europe Aggregate Bond	246.03	-0.71%	-1.60%	-0.02%	-0.31%
US High Yield Bond	29.11	-0.39%	-0.86%	0.44%	-0.13%
Commodities					
Oil	98.59	8.46%	56.77%	71.64%	71.70%
Gold	5019.71	-2.94%	-0.44%	16.75%	16.21%
Copper	566.00	-1.68%	-2.46%	7.13%	-0.39%
Currencies					
US Dollar Index	100.48	1.51%	3.68%	2.11%	2.19%
Bitcoin (CAD)	97,862.31	5.63%	4.32%	-21.17%	-18.43%

Loonie	1.3728	-1.17%	-0.81%	0.32%	-0.03%
Euro	0.8759	-1.74%	-3.80%	-2.75%	-2.80%
Yen	159.68	-1.19%	-4.37%	-2.42%	-1.86%

Source: Bloomberg, as of March 13, 2026

Central Bank Interest Rates

Central Bank	Current Rate	June 2026 Expected Rate*
Bank of Canada	2.25%	2.30%
U.S. Federal Reserve	3.75%	3.58%
European Central Bank	2.00%	2.13%
Bank of England	3.75%	3.79%
Bank of Japan	0.75%	0.96%

Source: Bloomberg, as of March 13, 2026
*Expected rates are based on bond futures pricing

Macro developments

Canada – Canadian Economy Shows Signs of Labour Market Weakness

Canada's labour market weakened sharply in February, with employment falling 83.9k versus expectations for a 10.0k gain. The unemployment rate rose to 6.7%, above both the 6.6% consensus and January's 6.5% reading.

U.S. – Economy Remains Resilient as Inflation Stays Contained

Headline inflation held at 2.4% in February, in line with expectations. Core inflation remained at 2.5% in February, matching forecasts and the prior month. While underlying price pressure has eased to its slowest pace in years, the data still supports the Fed's cautious stance on further rate cuts.

U.S. fourth-quarter GDP growth was revised down to 0.7% annualized, well below the 1.4% forecast and prior estimate. The revision reinforces the slowdown in activity from the stronger pace seen earlier in 2025.

U.S. job openings rose to 6.946 million in January, above the 6.750 million consensus and 6.542 million prior reading. The report suggests labour demand remains reasonably resilient despite a broader cooling in hiring momentum.

International – Global Activity Signals Remain Mixed Across Regions

China's CPI increased 1.3% year over year in February, topping the 0.9% forecast and accelerating from 0.2% previously. The stronger print suggests firmer inflation momentum after a subdued start to the year.

Japan's final fourth-quarter GDP growth was revised up to 1.3% annualized, above the 1.0% forecast and 0.2% preliminary estimate. The revision was supported by stronger private consumption and capital spending.

UK GDP was flat in January, missing the 0.2% forecast and slowing from 0.1% in the prior month. The result points to softer near-term momentum after modest improvement late last year.

Quick look ahead

DATE	COUNTRY / REGION	EVENT		SURVEY	PRIOR
15-Mar-26	China	Retail Sales YTD YoY	Feb	2.50	
16-Mar-26	Canada	CPI NSA MoM	Feb	0.60	
16-Mar-26	Canada	CPI YoY	Feb	1.90	2.3
18-Mar-26	Eurozone Aggregate	CPI YoY	Feb F	1.90	1.9
18-Mar-26	Eurozone Aggregate	CPI MoM	Feb F	0.70	0.7
18-Mar-26	Eurozone Aggregate	CPI Core YoY	Feb F	2.40	2.4
18-Mar-26	United States	PPI Final Demand YoY	Feb		2.9
18-Mar-26	United States	PPI Ex Food and Energy YoY	Feb		3.6
18-Mar-26	Canada	Bank of Canada Rate Decision		2.25	2.25
18-Mar-26	United States	FOMC Rate Decision		3.75	3.75
19-Mar-26	Japan	BOJ Target Rate		0.75	0.75
19-Mar-26	United Kingdom	ILO Unemployment Rate 3Mths	Jan	5.25	5.20
19-Mar-26	United Kingdom	Bank of England Bank Rate		3.75	3.75
19-Mar-26	Eurozone Aggregate	ECB Deposit Facility Rate		2.00	2.00
19-Mar-26	China	5-Year Loan Prime Rate		3.50	3.50
19-Mar-26	China	1-Year Loan Prime Rate		3.00	3.00
20-Mar-26	Canada	Retail Sales MoM	Jan	1.30	-0.4
20-Mar-26	Canada	Retail Sales Ex Auto MoM	Jan	1.40	0.1

F = Final

The Asset Allocation Team at NEI Investments

Judith Chan, CFA – Vice President, Head of Asset Allocation

Mateo Marks, CFA – Director, Asset Allocation

Adam Ludwick, CFA – Director, Asset Allocation

Anthony Rago, B.A.Sc. – Senior Asset Allocation Analyst