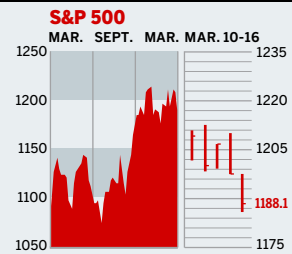


# Personal Business Figures of the Week

## STOCKS



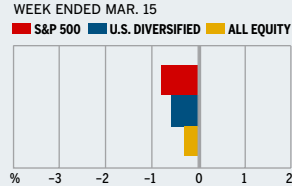
### COMMENTARY

Stocks lost ground for the week, shaken by GM's forecast of a huge loss for the first quarter. Although hardly a shock to most who have followed the carmaker's decline, investors headed to the sidelines ahead of other bad news. And while the S&P 500 is trading at a reasonable 15.6 times estimated '05 earnings, equities are caught in a vise of rising interest rates, commodity prices, and inflation.

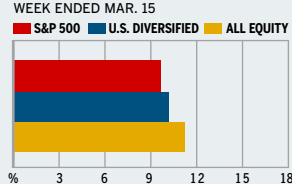
Data: Bloomberg Financial Markets, Reuters

## MUTUAL FUNDS

### 4-WEEK TOTAL RETURN



### 52-WEEK TOTAL RETURN



Data: Standard & Poor's

## U.S. MARKETS

	MAR. 16	WEEK	% CHANGE YEAR TO DATE	LAST 12 MONTHS
S&P 500	1188.1	-1.6	-2.0	7.0
Dow Jones Industrials	10,633.1	-1.6	-1.4	4.4
NASDAQ Composite	2015.8	-2.2	-7.3	3.7
S&P MidCap 400	664.6	-0.8	0.2	13.0
S&P SmallCap 600	325.7	-1.2	-1.0	17.9
DJ Wilshire 5000	11,713.4	-1.4	-2.0	8.0

## SECTORS

	MAR. 15	WEEK AGO	YEAR AGO	LAST 12 MONTHS
BusinessWeek 50*	708.6	-1.9	0.6	14.1
BW Info Tech 100**	353.2	-2.3	-5.4	3.1
S&P/BARRA Growth	570.6	-1.8	-2.0	4.2
S&P/BARRA Value	613.2	-1.3	-2.0	9.7
S&P Energy	337.5	-1.4	16.9	44.2
S&P Financials	393.7	-1.4	-4.2	-0.1
S&P REIT	134.5	-0.3	-6.9	8.4
S&P Transportation	225.7	-2.5	-6.5	22.3
S&P Utilities	147.8	0.4	4.4	21.5
GST Internet	153.5	-2.9	-13.9	12.4
PSE Technology	728.9	-2.0	-6.4	5.1

\*Mar. 19, 1999=1000 \*\*Feb. 7, 2000=1000

## GLOBAL MARKETS

	MAR. 16	WEEK	% CHANGE YEAR TO DATE	LAST 12 MONTHS
S&P Euro Plus (U.S. Dollar)	1422.8	-1.1	1.8	22.1
London (FT-SE 100)	4937.6	-1.2	2.6	11.5
Paris (CAC 40)	4019.4	-1.2	5.2	12.0
Frankfurt (DAX)	4309.1	-1.5	1.2	12.7
Tokyo (NIKKEI 225)	11,873.2	-0.8	3.3	3.8
Hong Kong (Hang Seng)	13,832.5	-0.8	-2.8	6.6
Toronto (S&P/TSX Composite)	9712.6	-0.8	5.0	14.2
Mexico City (IPC)	13,096.6	-4.2	1.4	32.6

## FUNDAMENTALS

	MAR. 15	WEEK AGO	YEAR AGO
S&P 500 Dividend Yield	1.99%	1.95%	1.60%
S&P 500 P/E Ratio (Trailing 12 mos.)	20.0	20.3	22.3
S&P 500 P/E Ratio (Next 12 mos.)*	16.1	16.5	17.7
First Call Earnings Revision*	0.67%	0.47%	0.89%

\*First Call Corp.

## TECHNICAL INDICATORS

	MAR. 15	WEEK AGO	READING
S&P 500 200-day average	1148.5	1146.1	Positive
Stocks above 200-day average	73.0%	76.0%	Negative
Options: Put/call ratio	0.80	0.72	Positive
Insiders: Vickers NYSE Sell/buy ratio	4.81	4.74	Negative

## BEST-PERFORMING GROUPS

	LAST MONTH %	LAST 12 MONTHS %
Department Stores	8.8	83.2
Railroads	8.4	75.1
Oil & Gas Exploration	7.3	71.4
Divfd. Metals & Mining	6.8	60.0
Home Furnishings	6.3	48.2

## WORST-PERFORMING GROUPS

	LAST MONTH %	LAST 12 MONTHS %
Automobiles	-15.6	-48.3
IT Consulting	-15.4	-28.3
Internet Retail	-11.2	-23.2
Biotechnology	-10.8	-23.1
Food Chains	-10.6	-21.8

## EQUITY FUND CATEGORIES

4-WEEK TOTAL RETURN	%	52-WEEK TOTAL RETURN	%
<b>LEADERS</b>			
Precious Metals	6.0	Natural Resources	42.4
Natural Resources	4.9	Latin America	40.1
Europe	2.1	Europe	27.2
Foreign	1.7	Utilities	24.7
<b>LAGGARDS</b>			
Technology	-3.8	Technology	-2.4
Latin America	-2.9	Health	1.5
Health	-2.5	Large-cap Growth	5.4
Communications	-1.8	Precious Metals	6.2

## EQUITY FUNDS

4-WEEK TOTAL RETURN	%	52-WEEK TOTAL RETURN	%
<b>LEADERS</b>			
Oppenheimer Rt. Asst. A	14.0	ProFunds Oil & Gas Inv.	71.1
ProFunds Pr. Mtls. Inv.	10.2	BlackRock Gl. Res. Inv. A	61.7
U.S. Gl. Invs. Prec. Mnls.	9.9	iShares MSCI Austria Idx.	60.4
PIMCO Cmdty. R. R. Instl.	9.9	U.S. Gbl. Invs. Gl. Rscs.	54.8
<b>LAGGARDS</b>			
PIMCO RCM Biotech. D	-11.4	Ameritor Investment	-46.9
ProFunds Biotech. Inv.	-10.8	Apex Mid Cap Growth	-29.2
Ameritor Investment	-10.5	ProFds. USh. Mid Cap Inv	-27.3
Amerindo Technology D	-10.2	ProFunds Semicdr. Inv.	-26.4

## INTEREST RATES

### KEY RATES

	MAR. 16	WEEK AGO	YEAR AGO
Money Market Funds	2.15%	2.09%	0.59%
90-Day Treasury Bills	2.79	2.75	0.94
2-Year Treasury Notes	3.70	3.65	1.48
10-Year Treasury Notes	4.51	4.52	3.68
30-Year Treasury Bonds	4.79	4.82	4.64
30-Year Fixed Mortgage †	5.93	5.80	5.33

†BarxQuote, Inc.

## BLOOMBERG MUNI YIELD EQUIVALENTS

Taxable equivalent yields on AAA-rated, tax-exempt municipal bonds, assuming a 30% federal tax rate.

	10-YR. BOND	30-YR. BOND
General Obligations	3.81%	4.54%
Taxable Equivalent	5.44	6.49
Insured Revenue Bonds	3.91	4.66
Taxable Equivalent	5.59	6.66

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### PRODUCER PRICE INDEX

Tuesday, Mar. 22, 8:30 a.m. EST » February producer prices probably rose 0.3% for a second straight month. That's the median forecast of economists polled by Action Economics. Excluding food and energy, core prices most likely edged up by 0.1%, after a 0.8% jump in January.

### FOMC MEETING

Tuesday, Mar. 22, 9 a.m. EST » The Federal Reserve's Open Market Committee

will gather to set monetary policy. In the Action Economics survey, economists were unanimous in their expectations for a quarter-point hike in the federal funds rate, to 2.75%.

### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Wednesday, Mar. 23, 8:30 a.m. EST » Consumer prices for goods and services most likely increased by 0.3% in February, after a 0.1% gain in January. Excluding food and energy

categories, prices probably rose 0.2% for a fifth consecutive period.

### DURABLE GOODS ORDERS

Thursday, Mar. 24, 8:30 a.m. EST » Orders for durable goods in February are expected to have increased by 0.7%, after a 1.3% fall in January.

### NEW HOME SALES

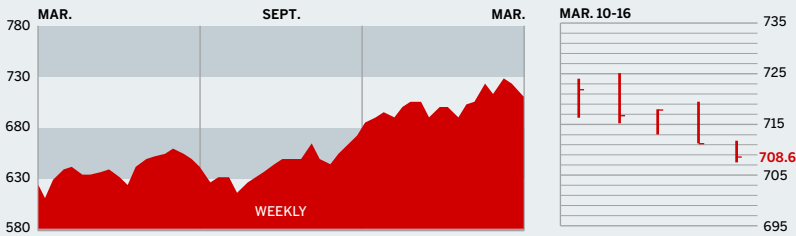
Thursday, Mar. 24, 10 a.m. EST » February new-home sales probably stood at a 1.14 million annual rate, up from 1.11 million in January.

The BusinessWeek production index moved up to 238.3 for the week ended Mar. 5 and 11.3% from a year ago. Before calculation of the four-week moving average, the index improved to 239.6.

## BusinessWeek online

For the BW50, more investment data, and the components of the production index visit [www.businessweek.com/magazine/extra.htm](http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/extra.htm)

## THE BUSINESSWEEK FIFTY



The BW50 lost 1.9% for the week ended Mar. 16, in line with the broader indexes. Forest Laboratories fell 10.6%, while onetime market favorite eBay slipped 8.6%. Energy companies were sluggish despite soaring oil prices. On the plus side, Sears climbed 7.4% on arbitrage action, and Qualcomm rose 2.8% after raising its profit forecast for the coming quarter.

### COMPANY PERFORMANCE

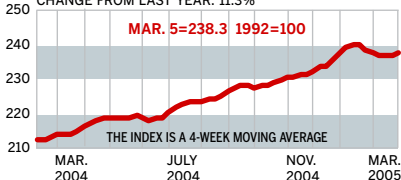
RANK	COMPANY	% CHANGE		RANK	COMPANY	% CHANGE	
		WEEK	SINCE 3/1/04			WEEK	SINCE 3/1/04
1	Progressive	2.3	9.0	26	Procter & Gamble	-0.4	3.0
2	Cendant	-3.8	-2.6	27	Yahoo	-2.3	42.4
3	WellPoint Health Networks	-4.0	39.1	28	Apache	-2.2	49.3
4	UnitedHealth Group	-0.2	45.3	29	Sears, Roebuck	7.4	21.7
5	Forest Laboratories	-10.6	-50.6	30	Stryker	-2.4	5.4
6	ACE	-1.8	-0.8	31	Sysco	-1.9	-16.3
7	Best Buy	-2.8	-3.0	32	Dollar General	1.5	0.5
8	ConocoPhillips	-0.1	54.7	33	Bed Bath & Beyond	-4.4	-10.0
9	Lowe's	0.3	2.4	34	Quest Diagnostics	-0.7	19.1
10	Electronic Arts	-5.1	39.8	35	Nike	0.2	18.0
11	Pulte Homes	-2.4	39.5	36	Devon Energy	-2.5	64.0
12	Centex	-2.0	11.9	37	Intel	-5.2	-19.4
13	eBay	-8.6	6.2	38	Johnson Controls	-0.2	-1.4
14	ChevronTexaco	-1.9	32.7	39	Staples	-5.6	17.9
15	Symantec	-3.0	0.3	40	American International Group	-4.1	-15.0
16	Dell	-3.6	18.5	41	Ambac Financial Group	-0.6	-0.4
17	Qualcomm	2.8	19.7	42	Express Scripts	-3.0	13.3
18	International Game Technology	-5.1	-29.6	43	Harley-Davidson	0.6	13.9
19	MBNA	-4.9	-8.9	44	PepsiCo	-1.5	0.5
20	Marathon Oil	-2.0	30.5	45	Burlington Resources	-3.3	67.9
21	St. Jude Medical	-5.2	1.2	46	Carnival	3.3	24.4
22	Home Depot	-1.5	7.1	47	3M	-0.1	10.2
23	Exxon Mobil	-0.8	43.0	48	Apollo Group	-2.1	-2.5
24	Johnson & Johnson	-1.0	24.4	49	KB Home	-1.4	59.1
25	Starbucks	-4.6	39.2	50	Humana	1.2	54.0

Data: Reuters

## BW PRODUCTION INDEX

### INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT

CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK: 0.3%  
CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR: 11.3%



The production index improved for a second straight week. Before calculation of the four-week moving average, the index climbed to 239.6, from 237.9. On a seasonally adjusted basis, only one component posted a decline. Among the gainers, electric-power production had the largest increase, followed closely by truck assemblies, lumber, and rail-freight traffic. Steel and autos showed modest rises. Crude-oil refining was unchanged for the week, and coal output was lower.

Information on each of the index components is at [www.businessweek.com](http://www.businessweek.com).  
BW production index Copyright 2005 by The McGraw-Hill Companies

## ONLINE RESOURCES

**BW50** Track the index and the companies in it all day long. Plus: our exclusive Info Tech 100 index.

**BUSINESSWEEK INVESTING** Real-time market coverage and investment tools in partnership with Standard & Poor's.

**MUTUAL FUNDS** Search for funds, view BW ratings, and read Q&As with fund managers.

**COLUMNS** Hot stocks, takeover plays, and the latest strategies for managing your money.

**BusinessWeek** online

For the BW50, more investment data, and the components of the production index visit [www.businessweek.com/magazine/extra.htm](http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/extra.htm)