MAIN
MANAGEMENT, LLC

MAIN MANAGEMENT MARKET NOTE: May 1, 2026

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Our Offerings

MAIN MANAGEMENT, LLC

Our ETFs

BUYW	**TMAT**	**SECT**	**INTL**
Main BuyWrite	Main Thematic Innovation	Main Sector Rotation	Main International

https://www.mainmgtetfs.com/

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CEO/CIO


Dick Fredericks
Founding Partner


Alex Varner
Director of Research


Jim Concidine
Founding Partner


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Managing Partner


James Maxwell
SVP of Research


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Research Analyst

For over 20 years, we've led the way in diversified, top-down portfolio construction – now built to be customizable for each advisor and their clients.

Advisors benefit from our comprehensive due diligence on other asset managers, insightful market commentary, and strategic asset class views.

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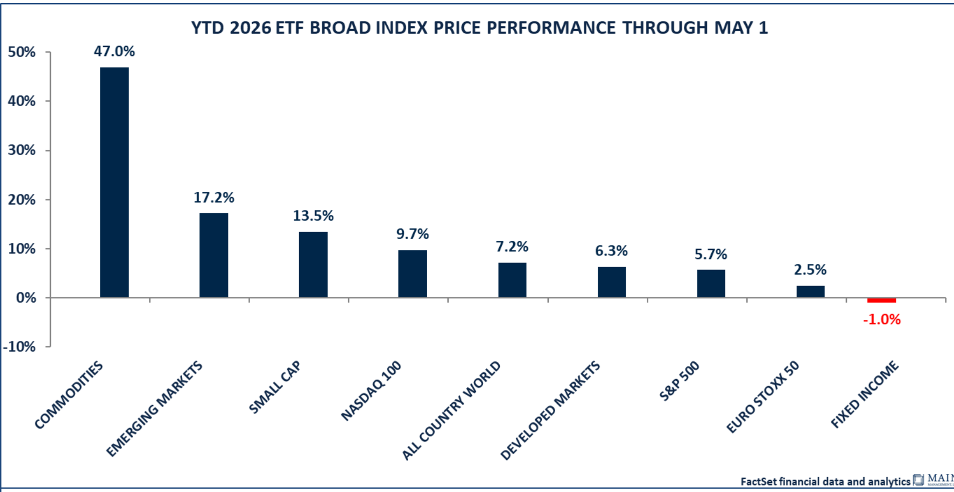
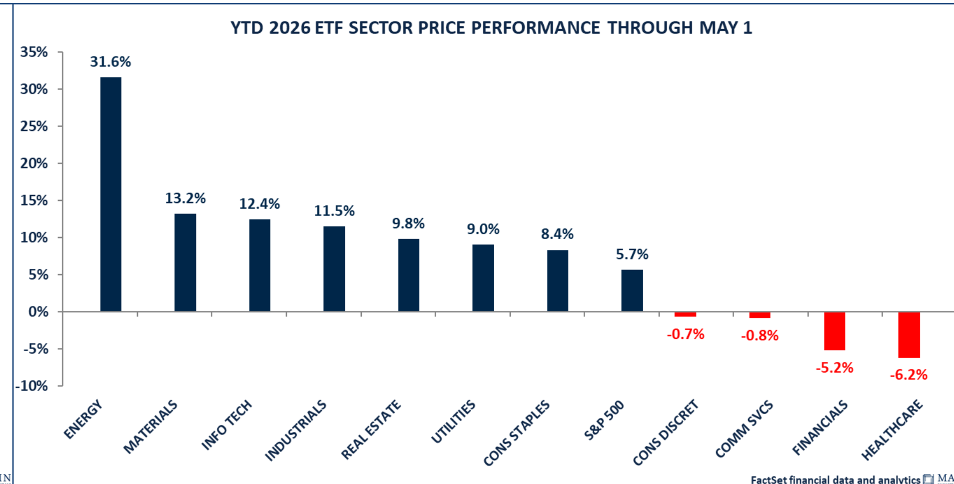
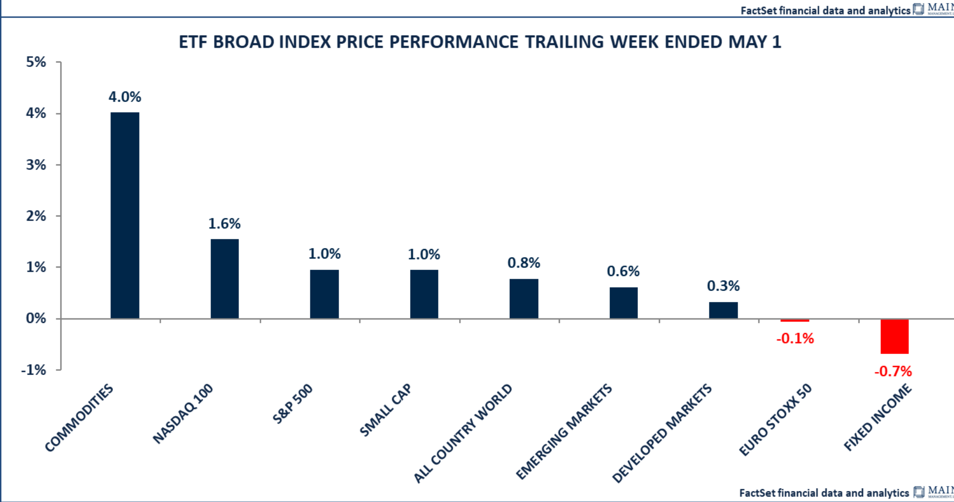
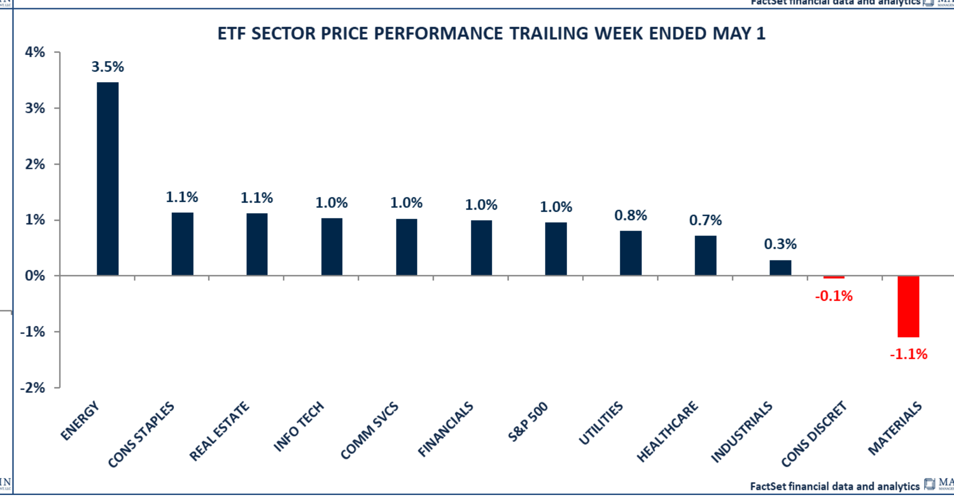
Performance









Recession Dashboard

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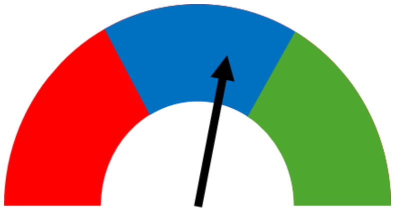
RECESSION START	INFLATION	CONSUMER	YIELD CURVE	HOUSING	SENTIMENT	AUTOS	EMPLOY-MENT	PMI	RETAIL SALES
NOV 1973	↓	—	—	↓	—	—	↓	↓	—
JAN 1980	↓	↓	↓	↓	↔	↓	↓	↓	—
JUL 1981	↓	↓	↓	↓	↔	↓	↓	↓	—
JUL 1990	↓	↓	↓	↓	↔	↓	↓	↔	—
MAR 2001	↔	↓	↓	↔	↔	↔	↓	↓	↔
DEC 2007	↓	↓	↓	↓	↔	↓	↓	↓	↓
DEC 2019	↑	↑	↔	↔	↑	↔	↑	↔	↔
MAY 2026	↔	↔	↑*	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑	↑
LAST CHANGE	GREEN APR '26	GREEN APR '25	BLUE JAN '26	GREEN DEC '24	GREEN APR '25	RED JAN '25	RED JUL '25	BLUE JUL '25	BLUE DEC '24

↑ *Positive* ↔ *Neutral* ↓ *Negative*

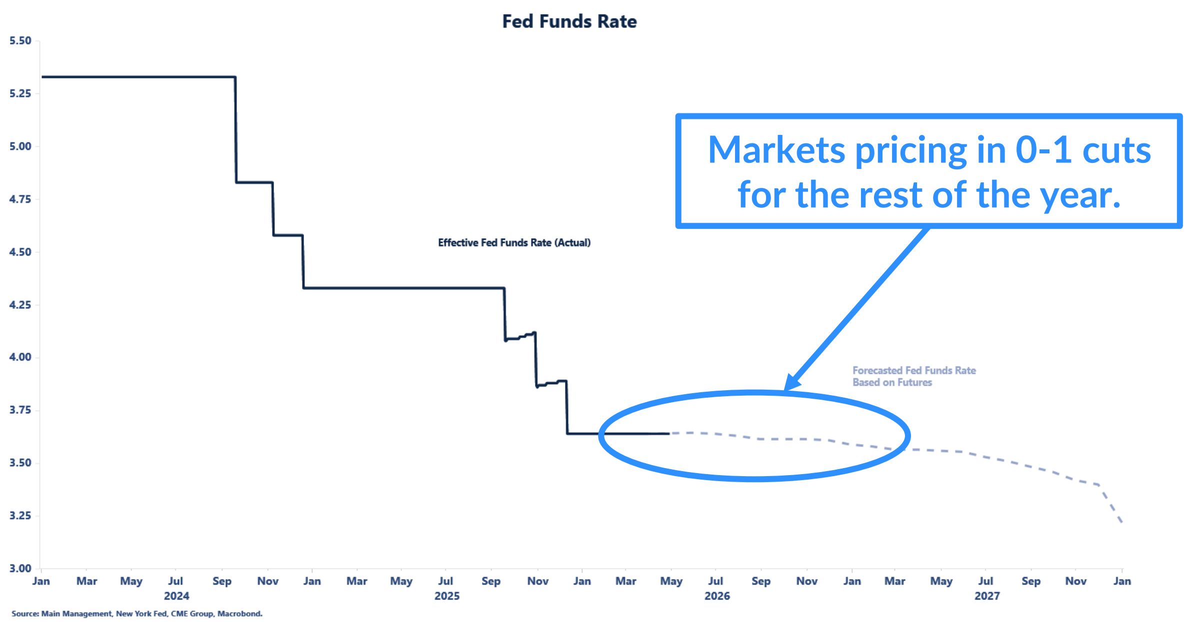
Overall:



Inflation: *Headline CPI. Source: St. Louis Fed.* **Consumer**: *Conference Board Consumer Confidence. Source: The Conference Board.* **Yield Curve**: *10 year – 3 month Treasury spread. Source: FactSet financial data and analytics.* **Housing**: *Housing Starts & Existing Home Sales. Source: St. Louis Fed.* **Sentiment**: *. Conference Board Consumer Confidence, UMich Consumer Sentiment, State Street Investor Confidence, CEO Confidence, VIX, AAII* **Autos**: *Auto Sales. Source: St. Louis Fed.* **Employment**: *Initial Weekly Unemployment Claims & Nonfarm Payrolls. Source: St. Louis Fed.* **PMI**: *Markit US Manufacturing PMI & US ISM Manufacturing PMI & Chicago PMI. Source: Markit, ISM.* **Retail Sales**: *Advance Retail Sales. Source: St. Louis Fed. * 10 year – 3 month Treasury spread inverted on 11/2/22.*

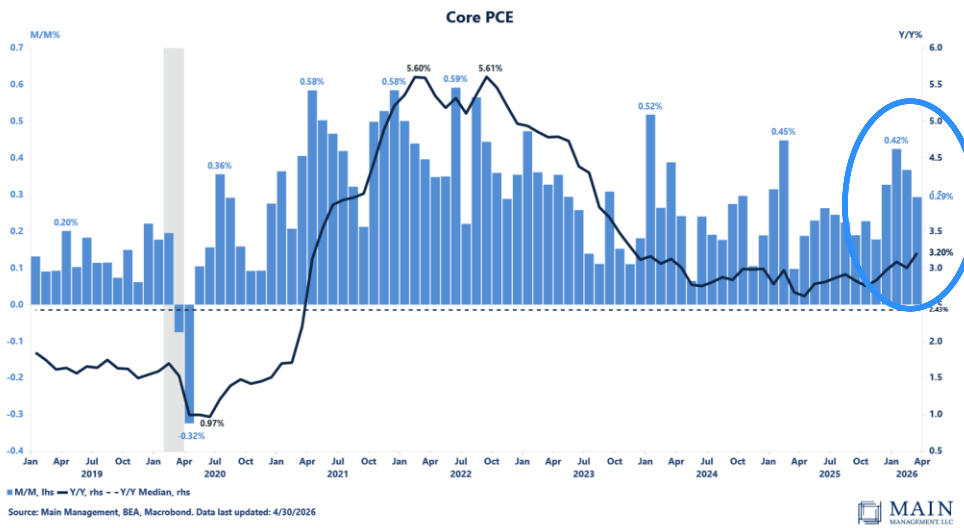
FOMC

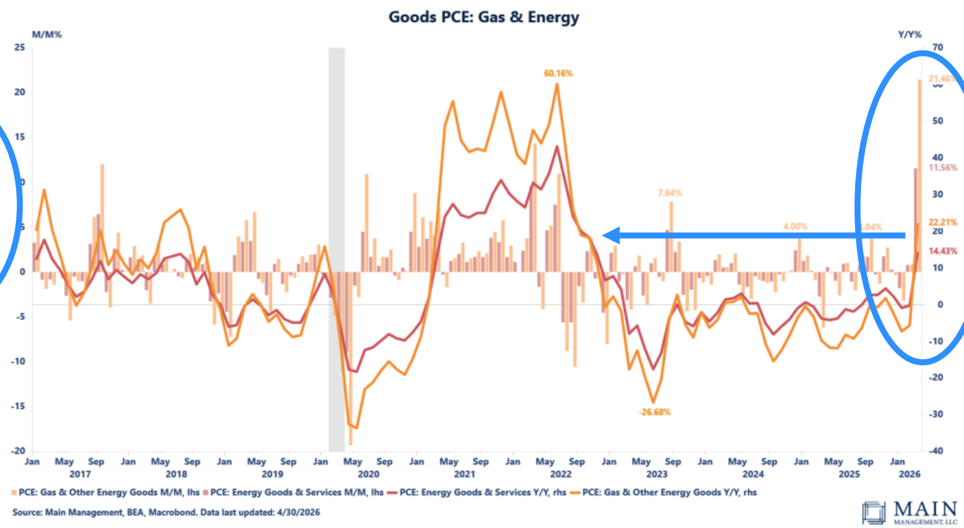
The FOMC met this week and kept rates unchanged, as expected. There were 4 dissenters, with Miran wanting a 25bps cut and the other 3 objecting to the statement language which suggested that the Fed will eventually resume cutting rates (rather than hiking them). This meeting marked the first time since October 1992 that 4 members dissented. To us, these dissensions indicate that Fed independence is alive and well. Powell, who is on his way out, has not yet made up his mind about leaving early.



March Core PCE

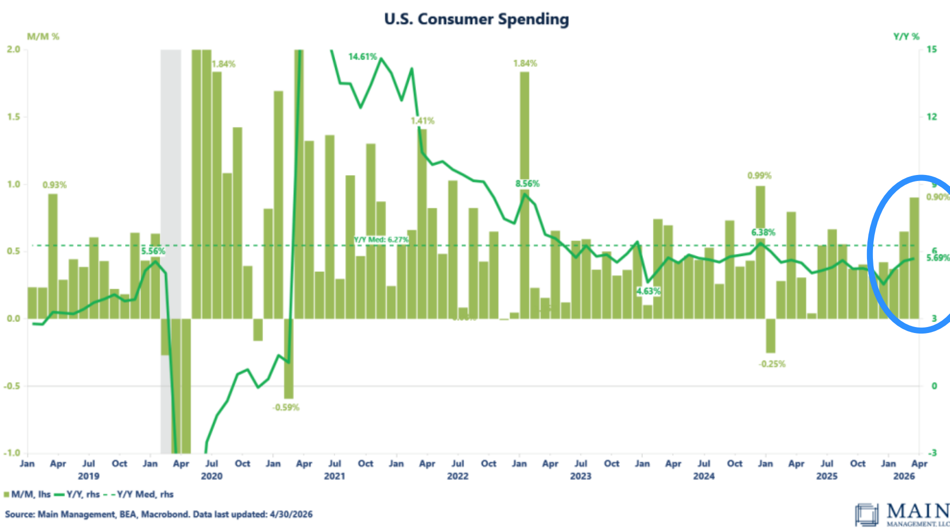
March Core PCE reading (left) slowed to +0.29% M/M, in line with forecasts and the lowest in a couple of months. However, on a Y/Y basis, it accelerated to +3.20%, the highest since November 2023. Keep in mind, this figure excludes energy, so it hasn't been as affected by the oil price surge as the broader indices. You can see the clear difference as the indices for Gas and Energy Goods & Services (right) posted huge increases in March. Gas surged a record +21.5% M/M and broader Energy was up +11.6% M/M. On a Y/Y basis, both are at their highest (Gas: +22.2% & Energy: +14.4%) levels since mid/late 2022!

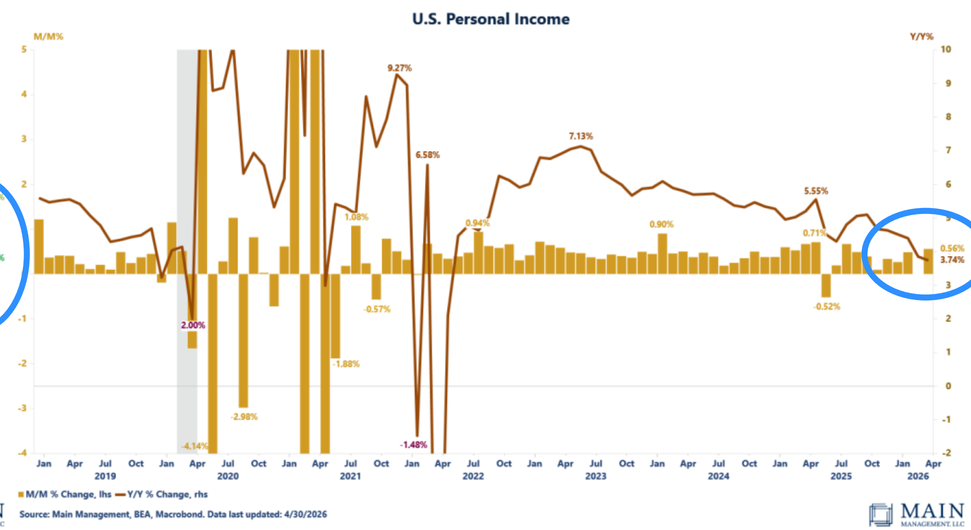




Spending & Income

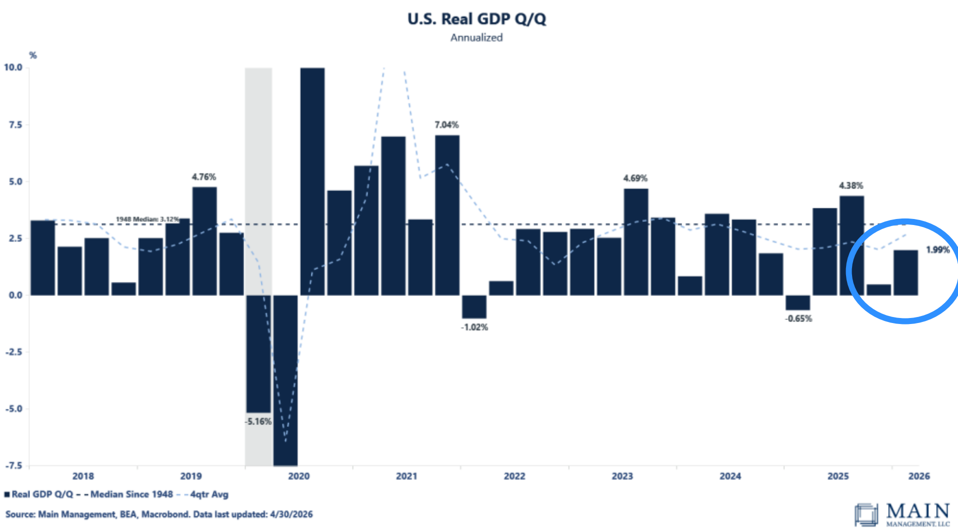
Consumer Spending (left) jumped +0.90% M/M, the biggest rise since December 2024 and in line with expectations. February's figure was revised up to +0.60% as well. Spending is now up +5.69% Y/Y. Incomes (right) rose +0.56% M/M, roughly double forecasts for a +0.3% rise, but did slow on a Y/Y basis to +3.74%. That's the smallest rise since April 2022. The concern here is that as income gains slow, inflation becomes a larger problem (especially given the recent events) but so far that hasn't shown up in the spending figures in any noticeable way...

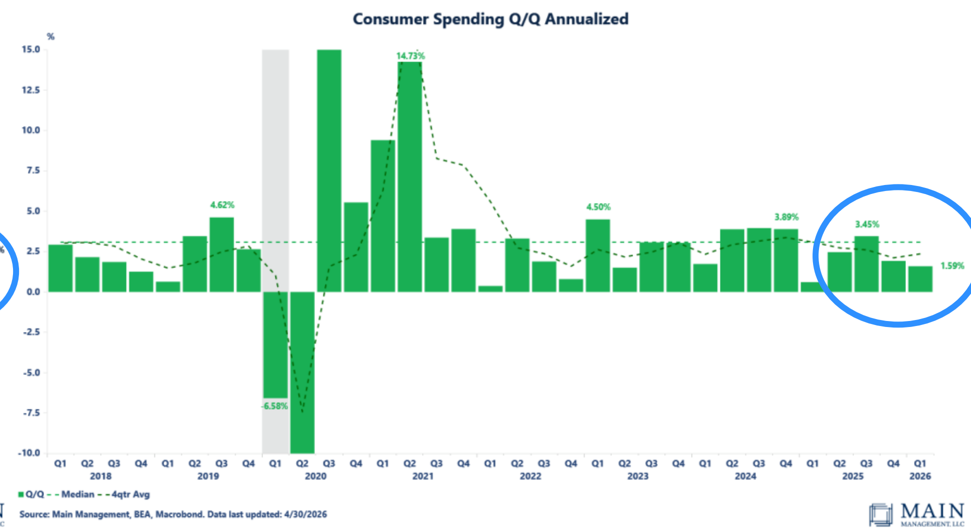




Q1 2026 U.S. GDP

The 1st estimate for Q1 2026 U.S. GDP (left) came in at 1.99% Q/Q annualized, rebounding from Q4's meager +0.48% as the govt shutdown drag reversed. The reading fell a bit short of expectations for a +2.3% gain but we have two more revisions coming, so this number isn't anywhere near finalized. Consumer Spending (right) came in at +1.59%, supported by demand for services.

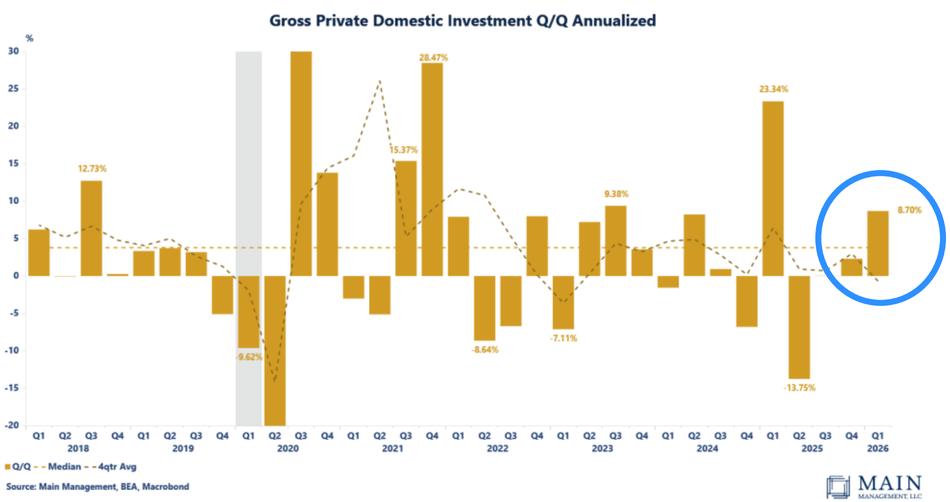


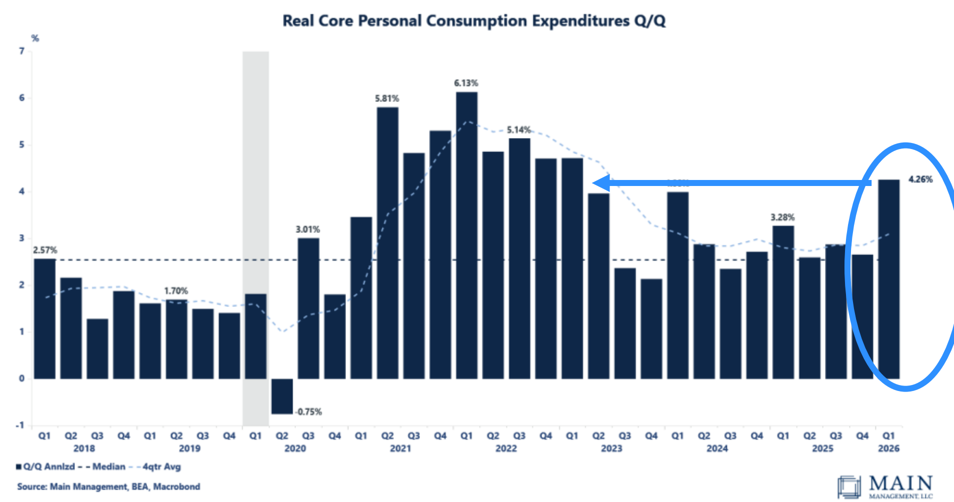


Positive

Investment & Core PCE

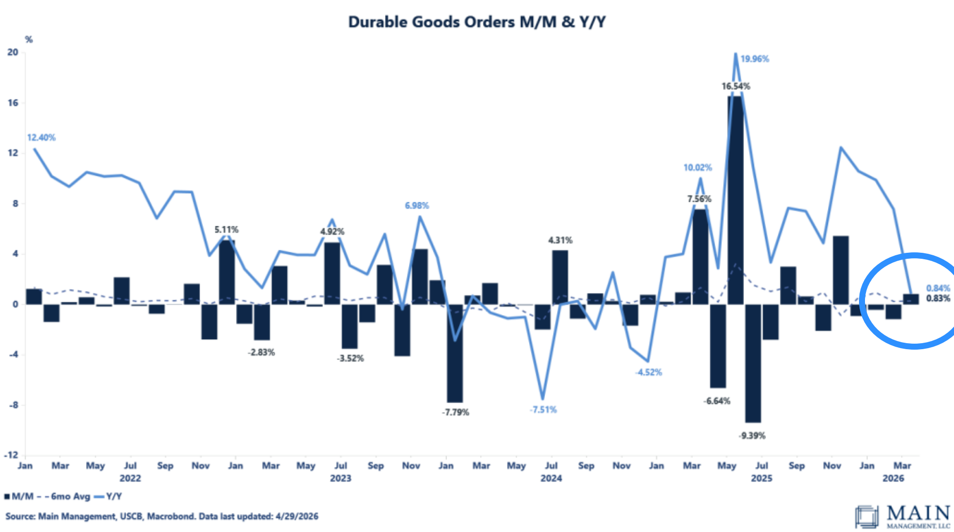
Under the covers, Private Domestic Investment (left) jumped +8.70% Q/Q, the strongest reading in a year, driven by a +10.4% surge in equipment and structures, the best in nearly 3 years. Core PCE (right) also accelerated markedly, hitting +4.26%, the highest since Q1 2023! We expect investment to continue to be a positive contributor to GDP growth as AI-related investment is showing no signs of slowing down...

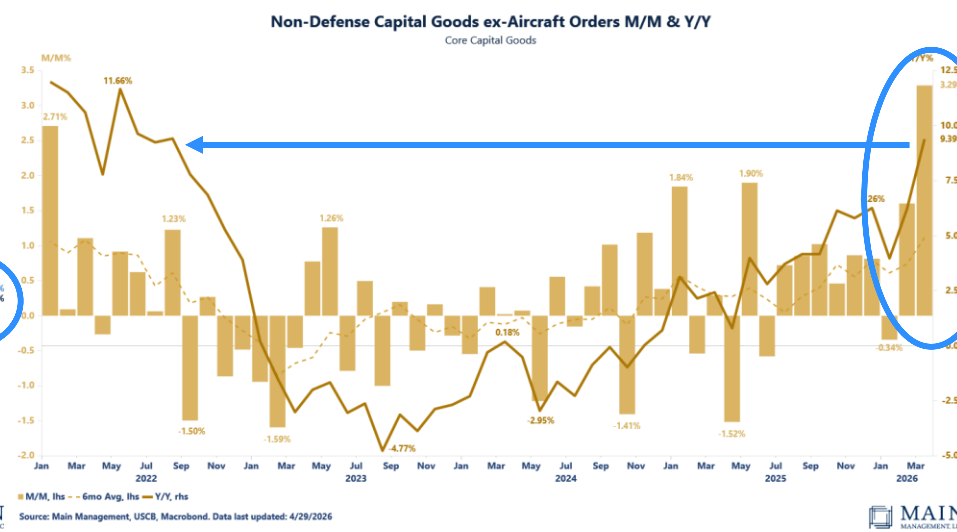




Durable Goods Orders

Total Durable Goods Orders (left) posted their first gain in 3 months, rising +0.83% M/M, slightly ahead of forecasts for a +0.5% increase. The Y/Y figure has fallen back to earth at +0.84% as the massive tariff-induced swings from a year ago are rolling off. Orders for Non-Defense Capital Goods ex-Aircraft (right, aka Core Capital Goods) posted a massive +3.29% M/M gain, far above forecasts for a +0.5% reading and the biggest increase since June 2020!! They're now up +9.39% Y/Y, the highest since August 2022! This figure was driven by AI-related spending, which isn't really showing signs of slowing down, especially when you take into consideration the tech earnings calls this week...

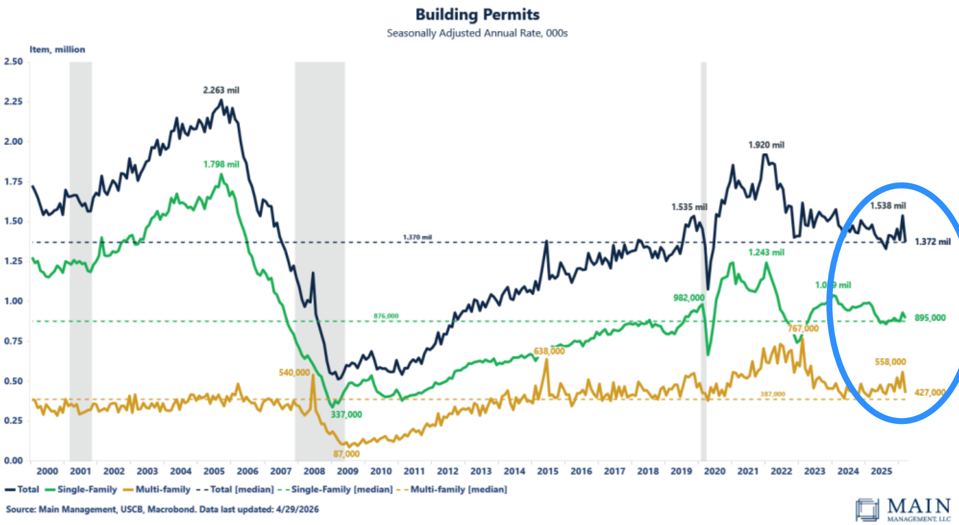


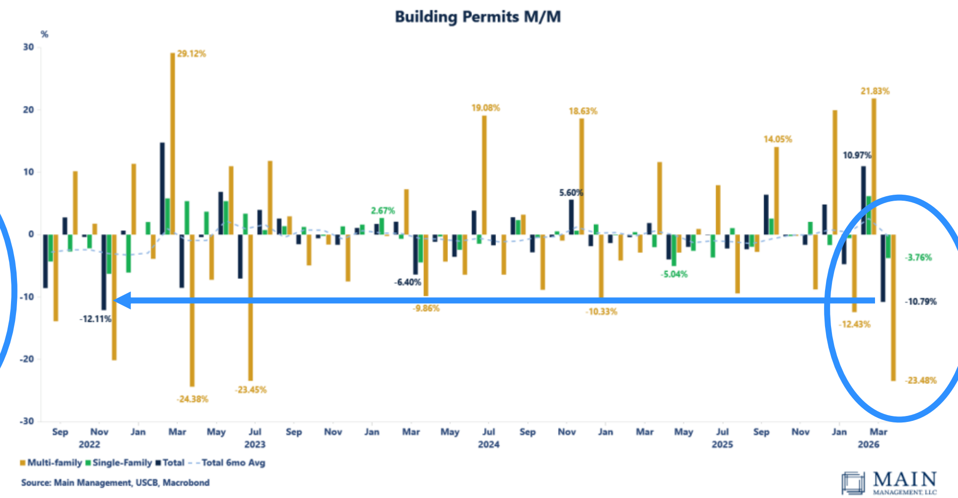


Positive

Building Permits

Building Permits (left) had been trending higher until March, which brought declines that reversed several months of gains. Total Permits fell back to 1.372mil units, the lowest since August 2025. The M/M declines (right) were the biggest in years, with Total Permits falling -10.8%, the most since November 2022. The -23.5% drop in Multi-Family was the most since March 2023.





Housing Starts

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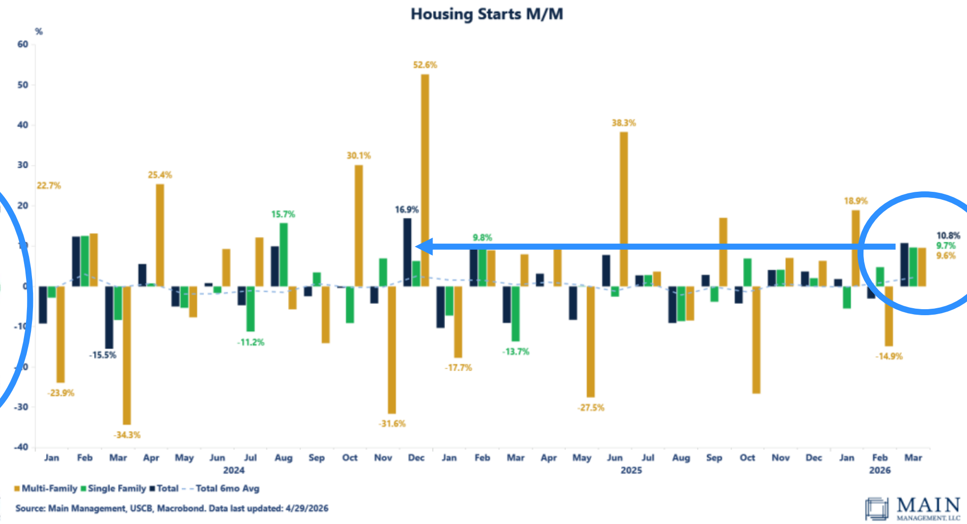
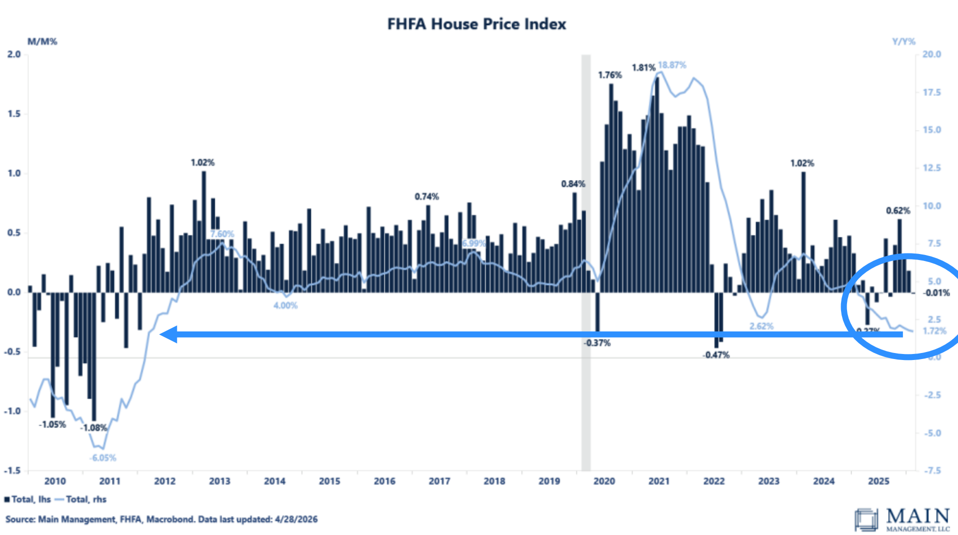
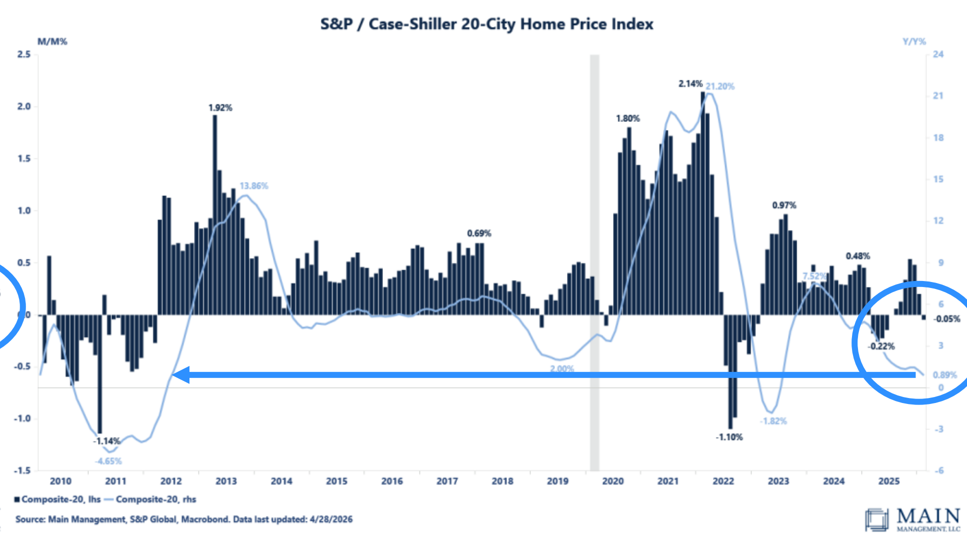
Housing Starts, on the other hand, posted solid gains in March with Total Starts jumping to 1.502mil units, the most since December 2024 and well above forecasts for 1.40mil. Single Family Starts accelerated to 1.032mil and Multi-Family ticked up to 446k units. The +10.8% M/M gain in Total Starts (right) was the biggest since December 2024 as well, while the +9.7% gain for Single Family Starts was the biggest since February 2025. While this is encouraging, we might see a slowdown next month as permits tend to precede starts…



Home Price Indices

Both the FHFA (left) and S&P Case-Shiller (right) Home Price Indices declined on a M/M basis in February for the first time in several months. They both also continued to slow on a Y/Y basis, with the FHFA Index now up just +1.72%, the smallest rise since March 2012 and the SPCS20 Index up just +0.89%, the slowest (excepting the covid distortion) since June 2012!! While this trend is good for buyers looking to enter the market, the price indices themselves are still basically at all-time highs which is reflected in the ongoing stagnation in the housing market in general and exacerbated by stubborn mortgage rates.





Positive

Summary

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- The FOMC left rates unchanged as expected at its April meeting, but there were 4 dissenters, the most since 1992.

- March Core PCE was up +0.29% M/M and accelerated to +3.20% Y/Y in March, the most since Nov. 2023. Gas prices surged over 20%, a record increase. Consumer Spending and Incomes both accelerated on a M/M basis.

- The preliminary estimate for Q1 2026 U.S. GDP came in slightly below forecasts at +1.99% but was driven by investment spending which should continue.

- Core Capital Goods surged +3.3% M/M as AI-related spending drove orders while Total Durable Goods Orders are seeing the unwind of the 2025 tariff-induced distortions.

- Building Permits fell markedly in March while Housing Starts posted solid gains. Prices remain elevated, per both the FHFA and S&P Case-Shiller, but continue to decelerate.

- Upcoming key data:
  - Factory Orders (Mon 5/4)
  - JOLTS, Trade Balance, New Home Sales (Tues 5/5)
  - Q1 Productivity, ULCs, Construction Spending (Thurs 5/7)
  - NonFarm Payrolls, UMich prelim Sentiment (Fri 5/8)

Appendix

Yields & Futures

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FED FUNDS FUTURES & 2-YEAR TREASURY YIELD

Source: Main Management, CME Group, U.S. Treasury, Macrobond. Data last updated: 5/1/2026

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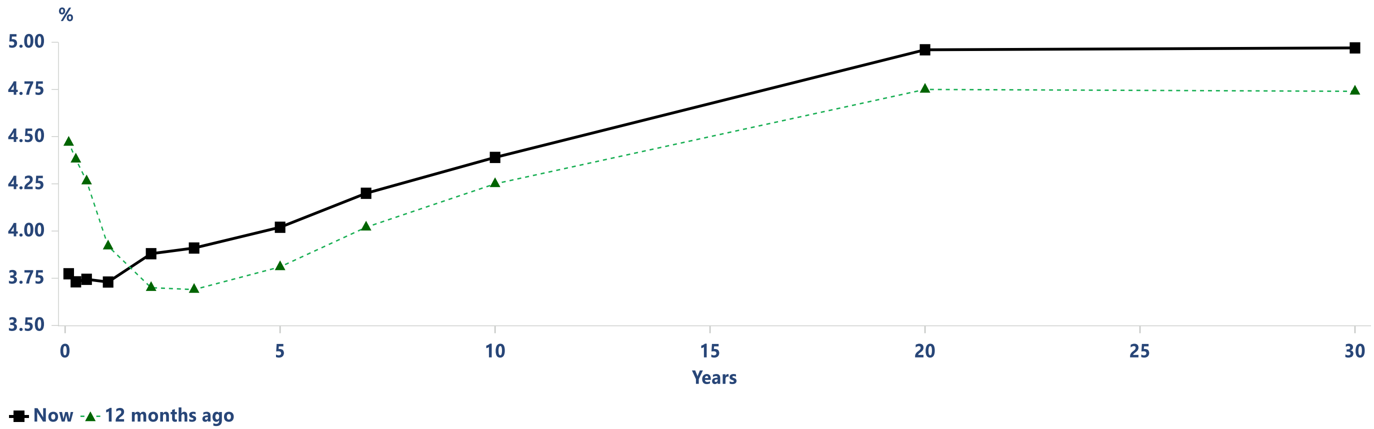
US TREASURY YIELD CURVE



Source: Main Management, U.S. Treasury, Macrobond. Data last updated: 5/1/2026

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Inflation Watch

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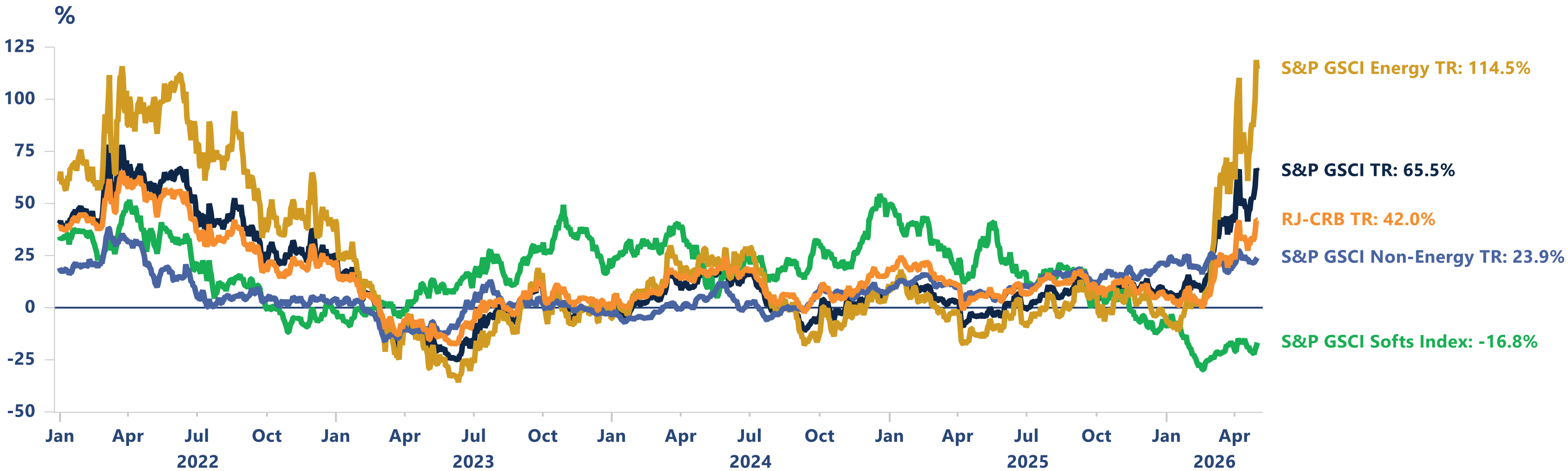
MAJOR COMMODITY INDICES Y/Y



Source: Main Management, S&P Global, CoreCommodity Management, LME, EIA, LBMA, Macrobond, LPPM, NRCan, ICCO, ICO, USDA, MIAX, TREA, TMX, Macrobond. Data last updated: 5/1/2026

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Commodity	1 Month	3 Months	YTD ↓	1 Year
Gasoline	16.0	96.4	121.2	82.1
Crude Oil	4.5	65.1	88.2	79.8
S&P GSCI	7.3	33.0	49.0	62.9
BBG Commodity Index	4.7	12.8	28.1	37.2
Cotton	15.0	25.8	24.3	20.4
Soybeans	2.0	10.2	14.7	13.5
Gold	2.8	-14.0	6.9	39.3
Lumber	-4.2	-4.8	6.0	1.2
Corn	0.6	7.9	5.5	0.9
Silver	5.7	-35.5	4.8	121.0
Copper	6.5	-4.5	3.8	36.8
US Dollar (DXY)	-2.1	1.8	-0.3	-1.2
Bitcoin	15.0%	-9.8%	-12.8%	-19.1%
Coffee	-0.3	-12.9	-13.7	-27.1
Natural Gas	-10.6	-29.4	-24.9	-18.3

Source: Main Management, S&P Global, CME Group, ICE, LME, Macrobond. Data last updated: 5/1/2026

Disclosures

Main Management, LLC ("Main Management", or the "Firm") is an investment adviser registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended. The Firm was founded in 2002 and provides investment management services primarily to high net worth, family groups, foundations/endowments, and serves as a sub-adviser to third-party investment advisers & broker-dealers.

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