NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024-May 1, 2024

Summary

- Economic News The Fed left the Fed funds rate unchanged.
- Market Events The S&P 500 gained 20.82% over the past year.

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Economic News

The US Real GDP increased at an annual rate of 1.6% in the first quarter of 2024.

Inflation measured in the 12-month Consumer Price Index (CPI) percentage change was 3.5% in March 2024. The Personal Consumption Expenditure Price Index (PCE) change was 2.7% in March 2024. The Fed's objective for inflation continues to remain at a 2 percent average and they expect to return to this level over time.

The Fed left the fed funds rate unchanged to a target rate of 5.25 to 5.5 percent in the March 20th FOMC meeting. Ongoing rate changes are undecided, but the Fed will continue restrictive monetary policy. The Fed believes this will assist in lowering inflation.

The US Dollar slightly strengthened with the US Dollar Index at 106.23. Oil prices have increased to \$80.64 a barrel.

Market Events

The S&P 500 today is 20.82% higher from a year ago. The 10-year treasury rate is at 4.66%.