

## Back in Business and Pinching Pennies

April 8, 2024

- **Back in Business** – The \*S&P 500 closed out March 2024 with a 3.1% gain. Since January 2024, the S&P 500 has grown 10.2%, marking the best first-quarter performance since 2019 when it gained 13.1% (source: CNBC).
- **Pinching Pennies** – The 2023 Gallup Poll found that only 77% of retirees are currently living comfortably in retirement. This is down from 79% in 2022 and 80% in 2021. However, in 2017, only 71% of retirees were living comfortably (source: Gallup).
- **It's Game Time** – Nvidia, a graphical processing unit manufacturer, rallied in Q1 2024, with an 82.5% increase in stock price, with March 2024 alone seeing 14.2% in gains (source: CNBC).
- **Let's Feast** – The February 2024 \*Consumer Price Index reported no change in the food index, with three of six categories decreasing. The fruits and vegetable and nonalcoholic beverages indexes declined 0.2%, while the dairy index dropped 0.6% (source: U.S. Department of Labor).
- **Mind on the Money** – Disposable personal income (personal income less taxes) slowed in February 2024, increasing by \$50.3 billion. This follows a \$67.6 billion jump in January 2024 (source: Bureau of Economic Analysis).
- **On Island Time** – Rhode Island experienced the highest percent change in single-family housing prices in the fourth quarter of 2023, with a 15.11% increase. Vermont and West Virginia were close behind with 13.26% and 12.39%, respectively (source: Statista).
- **Trade Talk** – The U.S. current account deficit, which tracks trade balances between U.S. residents and residents of other countries, shrunk by \$1.6 billion in Q4 2023. This brings the total deficit to \$194.8 billion, down from \$196.4 billion in Q3 2023 (source: Bureau of Economic Analysis).
- **Out of Work** – The 4-week moving average for unemployment insurance claims was 211,000 for the period ending March 23, 2024. This figure is down from March 2023's 4-week average of 227,000 (source: U.S. Department of Labor).
- **A Quarter In** – A study conducted by Pew Research found that individuals aged 18-29 are most likely to set New Year's Resolutions. Of the 49% that set resolutions, 79% of individuals established health goals and 68% set finance benchmarks (source: Pew Research).
- **King of the Box Office** – Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire grossed \$80 million during the opening week, only \$2.5 million behind the \$82.5 million opening of Legendary's other release, Dune: Part Two (source: Deadline).

### [\\*Definitions and Indexes](#)

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