

**Sun City Summerlin Computer Club**

**\$ Internet Investing SIG \$**

**Tom Burt**

**April 16, 2026**

# SIG Meeting Schedule

- The Internet Investing SIG meets every month on the third Thursday morning at **9:30 AM**.
- Investing SIG Chat Line
  - *Subscribe:* [SCSCCInvestingSIG+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:SCSCCInvestingSIG+subscribe@groups.io)
  - *Post:* [SCSCCInvestingSIG@groups.io](mailto:SCSCCInvestingSIG@groups.io)
- The upcoming session dates will be:

May 21, 2026  
June 18, 2026  
July 16, 2026  
August 20, 2026  
September 17, 2026  
October 15, 2026

November 19, 2026  
December 17, 2026  
January 21, 2027  
February 18, 2027  
March 18, 2027  
April 15, 2027

# Fundamentals Review – April 14, 2026

- Dollar slightly stronger against foreign currencies / commodities.
  - Oil (WTI) – still priced in dollars – is around **\$97.71** / barrel.
  - Stock indexes reached all-time highs in early January and have since faded.
  - Dow 30: **48,464** S&P 500: **7,023**, Nasdaq: **24,016** Russell 2000: **2,714**, Gold: **\$4,816**, Silver: **\$79.39**, Bitcoin: **\$75,057**, EUR/USD: **\$1.181**
  - S&P PE ratio (TTM) is **29.9** vs **16.20** long term mean  
([https://www.gurufocus.com/economic\\_indicators/57/pe-ratio-ttm-for-the-sp-500](https://www.gurufocus.com/economic_indicators/57/pe-ratio-ttm-for-the-sp-500)).
- Key interest rates have risen slightly (bond prices have dropped).
  - 1-year Treasury – about **3.68%**; 10-year Treasury - about **4.282**; 30-year Treasury - about **4.89%**.
  - 30-year fixed mortgage – **6.47%**; 15-year fixed mortgage – **5.91%**. ; Prime – **6.75%**
- Q4 2025 GDP growth QoQ (3<sup>rd</sup> revision) was **+0.5%**. GDP is **\$31.4 Trillion**.
- At its 03/17/2026 FOMC meeting, the Fed held FF rate steady at **3.63%** (3.5% – 3.75% range). Next meeting is 04/28/2026.
- Gov't BLS Claims March 2026 US Job Unemployment was **4.3%**.
  - <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf>
- Official Inflation Rates YoY for March 2026: CPI **+3.4%**, PPI **+4.0%**.
  - <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflation/current-inflation-rates/>
  - LV Regular Gasoline **\$4.579** at Costco, **\$5.309** at Chevron.

# Fundamentals Review – March 18, 2026

- Dollar slightly stronger against foreign currencies / commodities.
  - Oil (WTI) – still priced in dollars – is around **\$97.71** / barrel.
  - Stock indexes reached all-time highs in early January and have since faded.
  - Dow 30: **46,225** S&P 500: **6,625**, Nasdaq: **22,152** Russell 2000: **2,479**, Gold: **\$4,824**, Silver: **\$75.42**, Bitcoin: **\$71,359**, EUR/USD: **\$1.146**
  - S&P PE ratio (TTM) is **26.4** vs 16.20 long term mean  
([https://www.gurufocus.com/economic\\_indicators/57/pe-ratio-ttm-for-the-sp-500](https://www.gurufocus.com/economic_indicators/57/pe-ratio-ttm-for-the-sp-500)).
- Key interest rates have risen slightly (bond prices have dropped).
  - 1-year Treasury – about **3.51%**; 10-year Treasury - about **4.26**; 30-year Treasury - about **4.88%**.
  - 30-year fixed mortgage – **6.23%**; 15-year fixed mortgage – **5.53%**. ; Prime – **6.75%**
- At its 03/17/2026 FOMC meeting, the Fed held FF rate steady at 3.63% (3.5% – 3.75% range). Next meeting is 04/28/2026.
- Gov't BLS Claims February 2026 US Job Unemployment was **4.4%**.
  - <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf>
- Official Inflation Rates YoY for February 2026: CPI +2.4%, PPI +3.4%.
  - <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflation/current-inflation-rates/>
  - LV Regular Gasoline (**\$4.219**) at Costco, **\$4.909** at Chevron).

# Fundamentals Review – February 18, 2026

- Dollar slightly stronger against foreign currencies / commodities.
  - Oil (WTI) – still priced in dollars – is around **\$65.23** / barrel.
  - Stock indexes reached all-time highs in early January and have since faded slightly.
  - Dow 30: **49,704** S&P 500: **6,888**, Nasdaq: **22,754** Russell 2000: **2,659**, Gold: **\$5,004**, Silver: **\$77.19**, Bitcoin: **\$66,294**, EUR/USD: **\$1.179**
  - S&P PE ratio is **28.6** vs 16.20 long term mean  
([https://www.gurufocus.com/economic\\_indicators/57/pe-ratio-ttm-for-the-sp-500](https://www.gurufocus.com/economic_indicators/57/pe-ratio-ttm-for-the-sp-500)).
- Key interest rates have eased slightly (bond prices have risen).
  - 1-year Treasury – about **3.48%**; 10-year Treasury - about **4.08**; 30-year Treasury - about **4.71%**.
  - 30-year fixed mortgage – **6.03%**; 15-year fixed mortgage – **5.51%**. ; Prime – **6.75%**
- At 01/27/2026 FOMC meeting, the Fed held FF rate steady at 3.63% (3.5% – 3.75% range). Next meeting is 03/17/2026.
- Gov't BLS Claims January 2026 US Job Unemployment was **4.3%**.
  - <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf>
- Official Inflation Rates YoY for January 2026: CPI +2.4%, PPI +3.0%.
  - <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflation/current-inflation-rates/>
  - LV Regular Gasoline (**\$3.239**) at Costco, **\$3.909** at Chevron).

# News Bits & Bytes

- **Investopedia: BBBA Tax Savings May Hasten Onset of Reduced Social Security Benefits**
  - <https://www.investopedia.com/you-may-see-big-tax-savings-this-year-but-it-s-coming-out-of-your-social-security-benefits-11932268>
- **ZeroHedge: Negative Equity on Car Trade-ins; 7-year Car Loans**
  - <https://www.zerohedge.com/personal-finance/negative-equity-leaves-30-car-buyers-underwater-trade-ins>
- **Yahoo Finance: Will Social Security Go Broke in 2035?**
  - <https://finance.yahoo.com/personal-finance/banking/article/will-social-security-really-go-broke-in-2035-here-is-exactly-whats-happening-130000599.html>
- **Bottom Line: Investing – How to Get Started**
  - <https://www.bottomlineinc.com/money/investing/investing-for-beginners-how-to-get-started/>
- **Armstrong Economics: Possible Banking Crisis Coming as Treasury Rates Rise?**
  - <https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/banking/the-next-banking-crisis-and-withdrawal-restrictions/>
- **ZeroHedge: SEC Removes Pattern Day Trading Rule**
  - <https://www.zerohedge.com/markets/good-riddance-pattern-day-trade-rule>
- **ZeroHedge: Nvidia Using AI Models to Control Quantum Computers**
  - <https://www.zerohedge.com/technology/nvidia-unveils-new-ai-open-model-sparking-rally-quantum-stocks>
- **Yahoo Finance: D-Wave CEO Says Quantum Computing Past Its ChatGPT Moment**
  - <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/d-wave-ceo-says-quantum-computing-is-already-past-its-chatgpt-moment-214253705.html>

# Tom's Recent (and Future) Financial Moves

- **Disclaimer: These are not recommendations! Your financial situation and market circumstances are likely different.**
- **Trades:**
  - *None in past 30 days.*
  - *Still looking at longer term Treasuries (30-year yield ~4.89%)*
- **Bond yields up (prices down). Dollar has strengthened slightly. Yields on preferred stock ETFs, bank CDs, money market funds are still fairly good. Fixed income assets prices holding. May want to lock in yields.**
- **Defense Contractors May Do Well as U.S. Replenishes Spent Missiles, Ammo, Supplies.**
- **Still Looking at Utilities, Uranium miners, Copper, Robotics / Automation / AI**
  - *No way to meet future power demand with renewables (wind, solar); nuclear seeing a resurgence.*
  - *Flight from high-tax northern blue states to the south will increase demand for power there. May see more flight from NYC as Mayor Zohran Mamdani wants to lower estate tax exemption to \$750,000.*
  - *Electric vehicles and utility transmission lines require lots of copper, rare earth metals, lithium.*
- **Boomers are Getting Older – Need More Health Care**
  - *Weight loss drugs in high demand. Doctors are pushing them. Oral forms becoming available. Costs should come down.*

# Buying the Dip - Redux

- **Did Anyone Buy the Dip?**
  - *Let's look at the major index charts – especially the RSI lines.*
  - *Bottom came on a*
  - *Indexes have rallied back to 20-day moving average.*
- **Is it Too Late?**
  - *Might we see a retest of the lows?*
  - *Looks like the Iranians may not come to terms.*
- **Decide whether you want to buy or not**
  - *“Sometimes the best trade is the one you don't make”.*
  - *When making any investment, consider potential ROI vs opportunity cost.*

# Stocks vs ETFs as Investments (1)

- **Pros of Buying Stocks**

- *When you buy a stock, you own a tiny piece of the actual company.*
- *Relatively simple to understand the company's business and financials.*
- *Information is public; virtually every stock is tracked by the financial press.*
- *Well-chosen stocks of solid companies tend to rise in value over time.*
- *Often pay part of profits as dividends which also tend to increase over time.*
- *About 6000 publicly-traded stocks to choose from.*
- *Price is always easy to find out; most stocks are very liquid.*

- **Cons of Stocks**

- *A single stock doesn't offer much diversification; you need to own a portfolio*
- *Even good companies can run into trouble*
- *Sometimes a good company gets bought out and shareholders may incur losses*
- *Sometimes top management changes and the company is no longer well-run*
- *Sometimes technology changes or consumer demand evolves, and the company's products become obsolete.*

# ETFs as Investments (2)

- An Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF) is a type of mutual fund that trades openly on the stock exchanges very much like a stock. There are two major types:
- Indexed ETFs
  - *Track some independently-managed public index like the Dow 30, S&P 500, Nasdaq 100.*
  - *Some ETFs track various sector indexes like the S&P Utilities or Financials.*
  - *Fees are generally very low because all the daily trading can be handled by computers.*
  - *Trading volumes are large, so liquidity is good.*
- Managed ETFS
  - *Managed by a fund manager who decides what assets the fund will own.*
  - *Usually, the fund has some stated objective.*
  - *Fees are higher.*
  - *There's more risk because performance depends on the skill of the fund manager.*
- ETFs may invest in stocks, bonds, real estate or a mix of these.
- ETFs differ from stocks in how they handle buyers and sellers
  - *When you buy shares (units) of an ETF, the fund manager may issue new units.*
  - *When you sell shares (units) of an ETF, the fund manager may redeem those units.*

# Stocks vs Indexed ETFs as Investments (3)

- Gemini prompt: Give me a list, with brief descriptions, of indexed sector ETFs
- Pros of Buying Indexed ETFs
  - *Relatively simple to understand – especially indexed ETFs*
  - *Information is public; virtually every ETF is tracked by the financial press*
  - *ETFs offer diversification – many stocks, many sectors*
  - *Broadly indexed ETFs have very low fees and are tax efficient*
  - *Price is always easy to find out; most ETFs are very liquid.*
  - *Usually you only need a few ETF holdings to achieve a safe level of diversification.*
- Cons of Buying Indexed ETFs
  - *Fees are low, but not zero.*
  - *When you buy an indexed ETF, you're buying ALL the companies in that index: strong, average and weak performers.*
  - *With a big index like the Russell 3000, you're effectively tracking the entire stock market, the performance of individual companies may not have much effect.*
  - *Some indexes based on market capitalization like the S&P 500 may not be as diversified as you would expect.*

# Open Discussion