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The Department of Labor reported that new applications for employment insurance for the week ended March 5 were the lowest they had been since October of last year at 259,000. This is a strong number for initial jobless claims—an 18,000 decline from the prior week—with the smoother four-week average coming in also at its lowest level since October (down to 267,500). Continuing claims also fell.

This data likely would have been a highlight of any week, but it certainly was for this past one that had scant economic reports. The other most notable one was the Energy Information Administration's Petroleum Status Report, which said that the U.S. oil inventory rose to a new record of 521.9 million barrels.

The London interbank offered rate (Libor) did not move from the previous week, with one-month Libor at 44 basis points and 3-month at 63 basis points.