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Weekly Commentary

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With the Federal Reserve (Fed) offering little guidance to the markets in its policy-setting meeting last week, the focus turned to the U.S. government's preliminary assessment of first-quarter gross domestic product (GDP). Turns out, this report supported the Fed's decision to delay raising rates by flashing an anemic 0.50% annualized growth. This marks the third-consecutive time the first quarter of the year has been weak—except this time the disappointment cannot be blamed on poor winter weather. It remains to be seen if this advance GDP measure will be revised upward or if the economy gains momentum again in later quarters, as it has in the last two years.

Other data reports were mixed, but with a majority softer than previous. That included the housing market, consumer sentiment and spending. The job market and personal income were steady.

The London interbank offered rate (Libor) was largely unchanged, with one- and three-month Libor hovering around 44 and 64, respectively.