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Data was mixed last week, but a crucial metric about inflation was positive, as it beat expectations to ascend nearly to the Federal Reserve's desired level of 2%.

Other releases showed that home prices in January and housing sales in February were strong. However, March manufacturing data varied regionally, with the Dallas Fed measure coming in below expectations and that of the Richmond Fed improving. One reading of consumer confidence surged to a multiyear high, while another dipped slightly but was still robust. Both reflected continued anticipation of pro-business policies from Washington. Fourth-quarter U.S. GDP was revised slightly higher to 2.1%. Perhaps most importantly, core personal consumption expenditure—the Fed's preferred measure of inflation—arrived above expectations, lending further support to the Fed's rate tightening.

The short end of the London interbank offered rate (Libor) was essentially unchanged last week from the week prior, with 1-month Libor remaining at 0.98%, 3-month at 1.15% and 6-month moving down a basis point to 1.43%.