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NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

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OUR VIEWS ON ECONOMIC AND OTHER EVENTS AND THEIR EXPECTED IMPACT ON INVESTMENTS

APRIL 20, 2026

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OWNER OPERATED COMPANIES



GO TO
PORTLAND 15 OF 15
ALTERNATIVE FUND



PORTLAND 15 OF 15
ALTERNATIVE FUND
COMPANY NEWS

LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE (LVMH) – reported first quarter (Q1) 2026 revenue of €19.1 billion, down 6% reported but up 1% organic, with the divergence primarily driven by foreign exchange (FX). Performance was mixed across segments: the core Fashion & Leather Goods division declined 2% organically, reflecting ongoing volume pressure despite stable pricing, while Watches & Jewelry grew 7% and Wines & Spirits rose 5% organically, the latter supported by a favorable Chinese New Year timing effect. At the brand level, Christian Dior Couture (Dior) is in the early stages of its creative transition under Jonathan Anderson, with initial collections (largely ready-to-wear) well received but with limited near-term commercial impact as more material categories scale over coming quarters. In Watches & Jewelry, Tiffany & Co. (Tiffany's) ongoing repositioning toward higher-end, fine jewelry continues to gain traction, supporting mix and growth. Sephora SA (Sephora) maintained solid momentum, driven by continued market share gains, strong like-for-like (comparable-store) growth, and ongoing store expansion. Geographically, the United States (U.S.) remained a source of strength, while Asia excluding Japan (Asia ex-Japan) improved but continues to reflect stabilization rather than a sustained recovery in China, with part of the uplift driven by seasonal liquor demand. The Middle East emerged as a meaningful headwind late in the quarter, with March demand declining sharply across categories and weighing on both local consumption and tourism flows. Industry peers that reported this past week reinforced similar trends across regions.

Reliance Industries Limited (Reliance) – Reliance is likely to file draft paperwork for the initial public offering (IPO) of Jio Platforms Limited (Jio) in May, incorporating earnings for the full fiscal year, according to people familiar with the matter. The company had earlier aimed to submit the filing by the end of March using figures for the quarter ended December. The timeline was pushed back because of a market downturn stemming from the war in Iran, the people said, asking not to be identified as the information is private. The listing could become India's largest-ever IPO and mark the first public offering by a major Reliance unit in nearly two decades. Reliance is currently in a silent period (a regulatory restriction on public communications ahead of earnings) ahead of its earnings release due next week, making any filing during this time unlikely, the people said. The results for India's fiscal year ending March 31 will present a more up-to-date picture of Jio's performance, including recent subscriber growth and fresh numbers for the key measure of average revenue per user (ARPU), the people added. This could help position the offering more favorably with investors, the people said. Reliance formally kicked off IPO preparations last month, appointing as many as 19 banks to manage the issue. Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited, Morgan Stanley, JM Financial Limited, Goldman Sachs Group Inc., HSBC Holdings Plc, Bank of America Corporation and Citigroup Inc. are among those selected for advisory roles, people familiar with the matter have said. Details including the structure and timing remain under discussion and are subject to change, the people said. Representatives for Reliance and Jio did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Reliance has rejected two Iranian oil cargoes as they failed to meet its compliance requirements, the company said on Friday, just days before the expiry of a United States (U.S.) waiver that has lifted sanctions on Iranian oil exports. Last month, Washington issued 30 day waivers on U.S. sanctions allowing the purchase of Russian and Iranian oil at sea in an attempt to ease prices which soared after United States–Israeli strikes on Iran. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Wednesday said the U.S. would not renew the waivers, with the one on Iranian oil set to lapse on Sunday. India had allowed

RIL to buy Iranian oil that was loaded on to five tankers, including the Aframax Kaviz vessel (Aframax refers to Average Freight Rate Assessment maximum size tanker class), and the supertankers Lenore, Felicity and Hedy, all of which were under U.S. sanctions. RIL was in talks relating to the Iranian flagged Derya, carrying 2 million barrels of crude oil, which was anchored near the port of Sikka on India's west coast, ship tracking data on the Marine Traffic platform showed on Friday. "RIL did not buy cargo in tanker Derya as it did not meet with the company's compliance requirements," Reliance told Reuters in a statement. The company did not give any more details about the compliance requirements. RIL said separately it was not buying the cargo on board the Lenore.



DIVIDEND PAYERS



GO TO
PORTLAND CANADIAN
BALANCED FUND¹

United Parcel Service, Inc. (UPS) - In a press release Tuesday announced the company is rolling out Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) package sensing across its U.S. small package network. Today, RFID sensing technology is in all UPS package delivery vehicles in the U.S., in the company's delivery facilities across the country and on every package shipped through over 5,500 The UPS Store locations, including customer return shipments. UPS is the first major logistics provider to broadly roll out RFID technology across its integrated network. Tuesday's announcement marks a commitment from UPS to continue to invest in RFID, building on the more than US\$ 100 million it has invested to date to develop and implement the technology.



LIFE SCIENCES



GO TO
PORTLAND LIFE
SCIENCES
ALTERNATIVE FUND¹

Clarity Pharmaceuticals Limited (Clarity) – signed a manufacturing agreement with Nucleus RadioPharma, Inc. (Nucleus) securing approximately 650,000 annual dose capacity for Copper 64 (64Cu) SAR bisPSMA (where PSMA refers to Prostate Specific Membrane Antigen) across two United States of America (U.S.) sites: Rochester, Minnesota with around 50,000 doses per year, and Spring House, Pennsylvania with up to about 600,000 doses expected by 2028. The network is designed to provide full U.S. coverage with select international reach, including Europe, and builds on a 2024 agreement, reinforcing a tiered, multi site supply strategy with partners such as SpectronRx, Inc. (SpectronRx), Nusano, Inc. (Nusano), and Theragenics Corporation (Theragenics) to ensure scalability and redundancy ahead of a potential launch.

Janux Therapeutics, Inc. (Janux) – announced the first patient dosed in its Phase 1 (first in human clinical study phase) trial of JANX014, a PSMA targeted Tumor Activated T Cell Receptor Construct (TRACTr) therapy for metastatic castration resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC, a form of advanced prostate cancer that no longer responds to hormone lowering therapy). JANX014

is a tumor activated T cell (a type of immune cell involved in killing cancer cells) engager, designed to redirect T cells to kill cancer cells while remaining inactive in circulation and activating only in the tumor, with the goal of improving efficacy and reducing systemic toxicity compared to earlier T cell engager approaches. The study will assess safety, pharmacokinetics (how the drug is absorbed, distributed, metabolized, and eliminated in the body), and early efficacy with dose escalation underway.



NUCLEAR ENERGY

Bloom Energy Corporation (Bloom) – expanded its partnership with Oracle Corporation (Oracle) under a master services agreement for up to 2.8 gigawatts (GW) of Bloom fuel cell capacity to support Oracle's United States (U.S.) artificial intelligence (AI) and cloud infrastructure buildout. An initial 1.2 GW has already been contracted, with deployment underway and continuing into next year. Bloom said its systems are intended to provide fast, load following onsite power for high density AI workloads, and noted that a prior Oracle installation was completed in 55 days, ahead of the original 90 day target. Bloom also noted that the deployment is its Bloom Energy Server, a solid oxide fuel cell system that generates electricity electrochemically (through chemical reactions rather than burning fuel) rather than through combustion and can run on natural gas, blended hydrogen, biogas, or hydrogen

PRIVATE CREDIT

Regulatory scrutiny intensified across North America over the past week as authorities moved to better map systemic linkages between banks and the rapidly growing private credit market. In Canada, the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI) formally flagged banks' exposure to private credit and other non bank financial institutions as a top risk in its 2026–27 outlook, launching supervisory reviews focused on lending relationships, risk transfers, and synthetic risk sharing structures. OSFI noted that Canadian banks have "considerably" increased exposure to private capital managers in recent years, echoing global concerns around opacity and leverage in the sector. In parallel, U.S. oversight widened beyond banking regulators: on April 15, the U.S. Treasury Department began requesting detailed information directly from private credit firms regarding performance, business models, and ties to banks and insurers, signaling a more comprehensive, cross agency approach to monitoring the U.S. \$2 trillion market.

Policy developments in the U.S. were more nuanced, combining heightened monitoring with potential regulatory relief. While the Treasury's data requests underscored concerns around liquidity, transparency, and interconnectedness, regulators also moved to recalibrate compliance burdens. On April 20, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission

(CFTC) jointly proposed rolling back elements of Biden era private fund reporting rules, aiming to "restore balance" and reduce compliance costs for private funds, including credit vehicles. Taken together, last week's U.S. developments suggest regulators are less focused on curbing private credit growth outright and more concerned with understanding where risks reside—particularly as redemptions, valuation pressure, and bank fund linkages come under closer examination.

In Europe, the long anticipated regulatory shift became reality as Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive II (AIFMD II) entered into force on April 16, materially reshaping the operating environment for private credit managers. The revised directive introduces harmonized rules on loan origination, including leverage caps, mandatory risk retention when loans are sold, and tighter liquidity management standards, with the greatest impact expected for open ended and evergreen credit funds. While transitional relief applies for certain legacy vehicles, managers now face higher compliance costs and more prescriptive structuring requirements, reinforcing the scale advantage of larger platforms. Notably, delays to nonessential Level 2 measures mean national regulators retain discretion in implementation, raising the prospect of uneven enforcement across European Union (EU) jurisdictions in the near term. Overall, the week highlighted a clear global theme: private credit remains systemically important, politically scrutinized, and increasingly regulated—yet still viewed by policymakers as a permanent fixture rather than a transient risk to be eliminated.



ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Canadian housing starts decreased to 235.9k annualized units in March, down 6% month-on-month (m/m). March's decline was concentrated in the multi-family sector, with urban starts down 7% m/m to 184.9 thousand (k) units. Urban single-detached starts dropped 2% m/m to 39.1k units. Declines were broad-based regionally, with urban starts down in 8 of 10 provinces, with only Quebec and New Brunswick seeing increases. Canadian existing home sales were down 0.1% m/m in March, while new listings were flat during the month. With new listings and sales both slow, the sales-to-new listings ratio stayed at 47.8% in March, below the long run average of 54.8%. Average home prices were also flat in March.

The Canadian Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased 2.4% year-over-year (y/y) in March, up from an increase of 1.8% in February. Driving faster price growth in headline inflation were higher prices for energy, especially gasoline, due to the conflict in the Middle East. Energy prices rose 13.1% m/m (3.9% y/y) in March, after decreasing 9.3% in February. Higher prices for gasoline were the primary driver of the y/y acceleration in the CPI, as consumers paid 5.9% more for gasoline in March than they did in the same month the previous year. Gasoline prices surged 21.2% m/m, the largest price increase for gasoline on record. Excluding gasoline, the CPI rose at a slower pace year over year in March (+2.2%) compared with February (+2.4%). The Bank of Canada's preferred inflation measures of CPI-median and CPI trim came in at 2.3% and 2.2% respectively. CPI Trim undershot expectations of 2.3%, while CPI-Median matched the consensus expectation.

U.S. Existing home sales fell 3.6% m/m to 3.98 million units (annualized) in March, below the market consensus forecast calling for a decline of 0.7%. Sales in the single-family segment fell 3.5% (m/m), while sales in the smaller condo/co-op segment fell 5.4%. Unadjusted inventory levels stood at 1.36 million, equal to 4.1 months' supply, up 3.0% from February and 2.3% from March 2025. The median home price was up 1.4% year-on-year, an acceleration from around 0.4% in the two months prior.

The U.S. National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)'s Small Business Optimism Index fell 3 points to 95.8 in March, below market expectations for a pullback to 97.9. The last time the Optimism Index fell below its 98-point historical average was at the time of the Liberation

Day tariffs in April 2025. The drop came alongside a surge in the uncertainty index, which rose 4 points from 88 to 92, well above its historical average of 68. Eight out of the ten index subcomponents deteriorated during the month, two remained unchanged and none improved. The largest decline came from earnings trends (-11 points to -25%), expectations for the economy to improve (-7 points to 11%), and the belief that now is a good time to expand (-4 points to 11%). The net share of firms currently increasing employee compensation fell 1 point to 33%, while the net share planning to do so over the next three months fell 4 points to 18%. The share of businesses 'raising' average selling prices rose one point to 25% while the share of those 'planning' to raise average selling prices ahead fell 4 points to 24%. Inflation concerns ticked up 2 points to 14%. The net share of businesses planning to increase employment held steady at 12%, while unfilled job openings fell one point to 32%.

China's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reported, for the first quarter 2026 a 5.0% increase in Gross Domestic Product from the same period last year. It marked an acceleration from the 4.5% growth reported in the final quarter of last year. Export activity moderated in March following a strong start to the year, with exports rising 21.8% year-over-year over the combined January–February period before slowing to 2.5% year-over-year growth in March alone. Industrial output, although slowed from previous two months, rose more-than-expected to 5.7% from a year ago. Retail sales reported by the NBS on Thursday showed a decline to a 1.7% year-on-year growth in March from 2.8% in the first two months of the year.



FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

The U.S. 2 year/10 year treasury spread is now 0.54% and the U.K.'s 2 year/10 year treasury spread is 0.65%. A narrowing gap between yields on the 2 year and 10 year Treasuries is of concern given its historical track record that when shorter term rates exceed longer dated ones, such inversion is usually an early warning of an economic slowdown.

The U.S. 30 year mortgage market rate is now 6.3%. Existing U.S. housing inventory is at 4.1 months supply of existing houses as of April 20, 2026 - well off its peak during the Great Recession of 11.1 months and we consider a more normal range of 4-7 months.

The Cboe Volatility Index (VIX) is a 19.43 and while, by its characteristics, the VIX will remain volatile, we believe a VIX level below 25 bodes well for quality equities.




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Glossary of Terms: ‘CET’ core equity tier, ‘EBITDA’ earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, ‘EPS’ earnings per share, ‘FCF’ free cash flow, ‘GDP’ gross domestic product, ‘GAAP’ Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, ‘ROE’ return on equity, ‘ROTE’ return on common equity, ‘ROTCE’ return on tangible common equity, ‘conjugate’ a substance formed by the reversible combination of two or more others, ‘SG&A’ Selling, General, and Administrative expense ratio.

1. Not all of the funds shown are necessarily invested in the companies listed.

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