

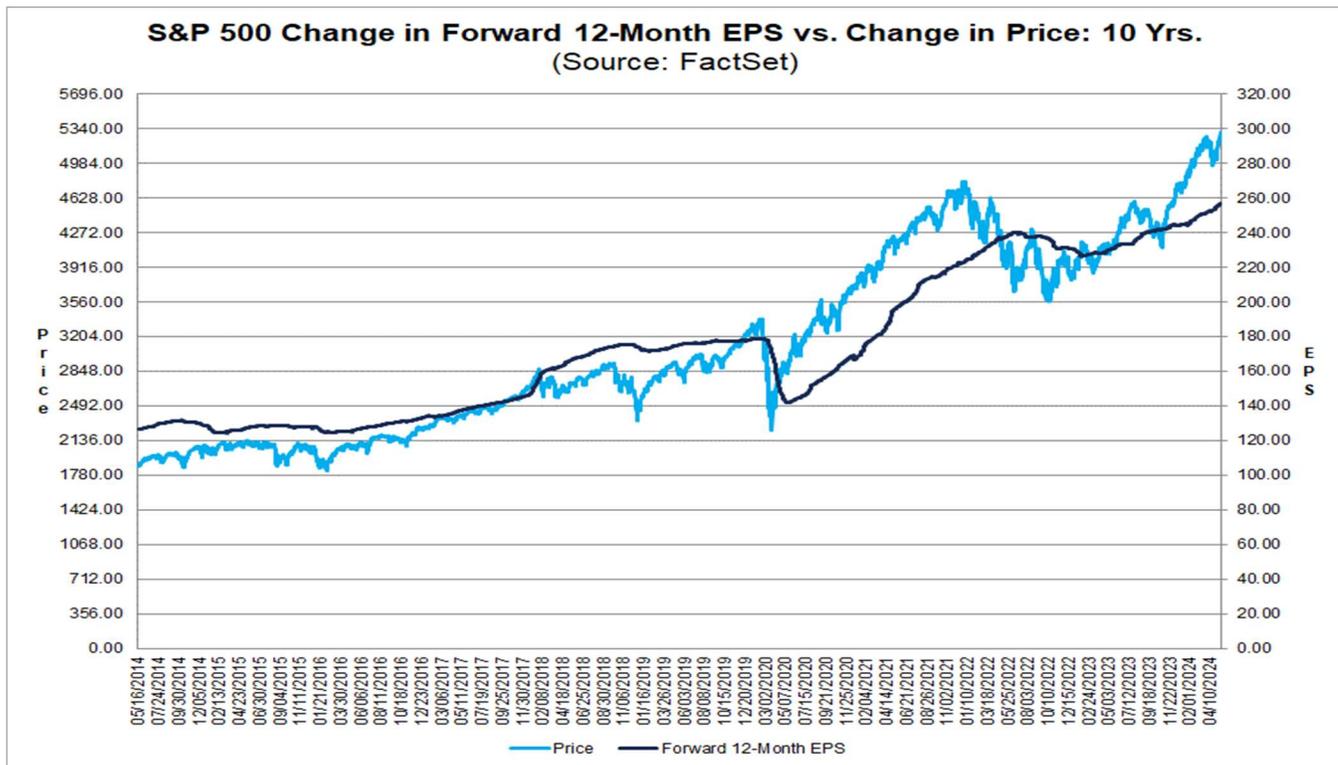
John Butters  
 VP, Senior Earnings Analyst  
[jbutters@factset.com](mailto:jbutters@factset.com)

Media Questions/Requests  
[media\\_request@factset.com](mailto:media_request@factset.com)

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## Key Metrics

- **Earnings Scorecard:** For Q1 2024 (with 93% of S&P 500 companies reporting actual results), 78% of S&P 500 companies have reported a positive EPS surprise and 60% of S&P 500 companies have reported a positive revenue surprise.
- **Earnings Growth:** For Q1 2024, the blended (year-over-year) earnings growth rate for the S&P 500 is 5.7%. If 5.7% is the actual growth rate for the quarter, it will mark the highest year-over-year earnings growth rate reported by the index since Q2 2022 (5.8%).
- **Earnings Revisions:** On March 31, the estimated (year-over-year) earnings growth rate for the S&P 500 for Q1 2024 was 3.4%. Ten sectors are reporting (or have reported) higher earnings today (compared to March 31) due to positive EPS surprises.
- **Earnings Guidance:** For Q2 2024, 54 S&P 500 companies have issued negative EPS guidance and 37 S&P 500 companies have issued positive EPS guidance.
- **Valuation:** The forward 12-month P/E ratio for the S&P 500 is 20.7. This P/E ratio is above the 5-year average (19.2) and above the 10-year average (17.8).



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## Topic of the Week

### Fewer S&P 500 Companies Discussing “Inflation” on Earnings Calls for 7<sup>th</sup> Straight Quarter

With the year-over-year CPI number falling back to the 3.1% to 3.5% level in recent months, did fewer S&P 500 companies comment on inflation during their earnings conference calls for the first quarter relative to recent quarters?

The answer is yes. FactSet Document Search (which allows users to search for key words or phrases across multiple document types) was used to answer this question. Through Document Search, FactSet searched for the term “inflation” in the conference call transcripts of all the S&P 500 companies that conducted earnings conference calls from March 15 through May 17.

Of these companies, 219 cited the term “inflation” during their earnings calls for the first quarter. This is the lowest number of S&P 500 companies citing “inflation” on earnings calls going back to Q2 2021 (218). It also marks the seventh consecutive quarter in which the number of S&P 500 companies citing the term “inflation” has declined quarter-over-quarter.

However, it should be noted that the number of S&P 500 companies citing “inflation” on earnings calls for Q1 2024 is still well above the 10-year average of 180. It should also be noted that there are still about 30 S&P 500 companies that have not reported earnings for the first quarter. Thus, the final number of companies citing “inflation” will likely be higher than the current 219. However, the final number will not finish above the previous quarter’s number of 285.

For these 219 companies, the average number of times “inflation” was mentioned on their earnings calls was 4, while the median number of times “inflation” was mentioned on their earnings calls was 2. The term “inflation” was mentioned at least 10 times on the earnings calls of 24 S&P 500 companies, led by Darden Restaurants (23) and General Mills (21).

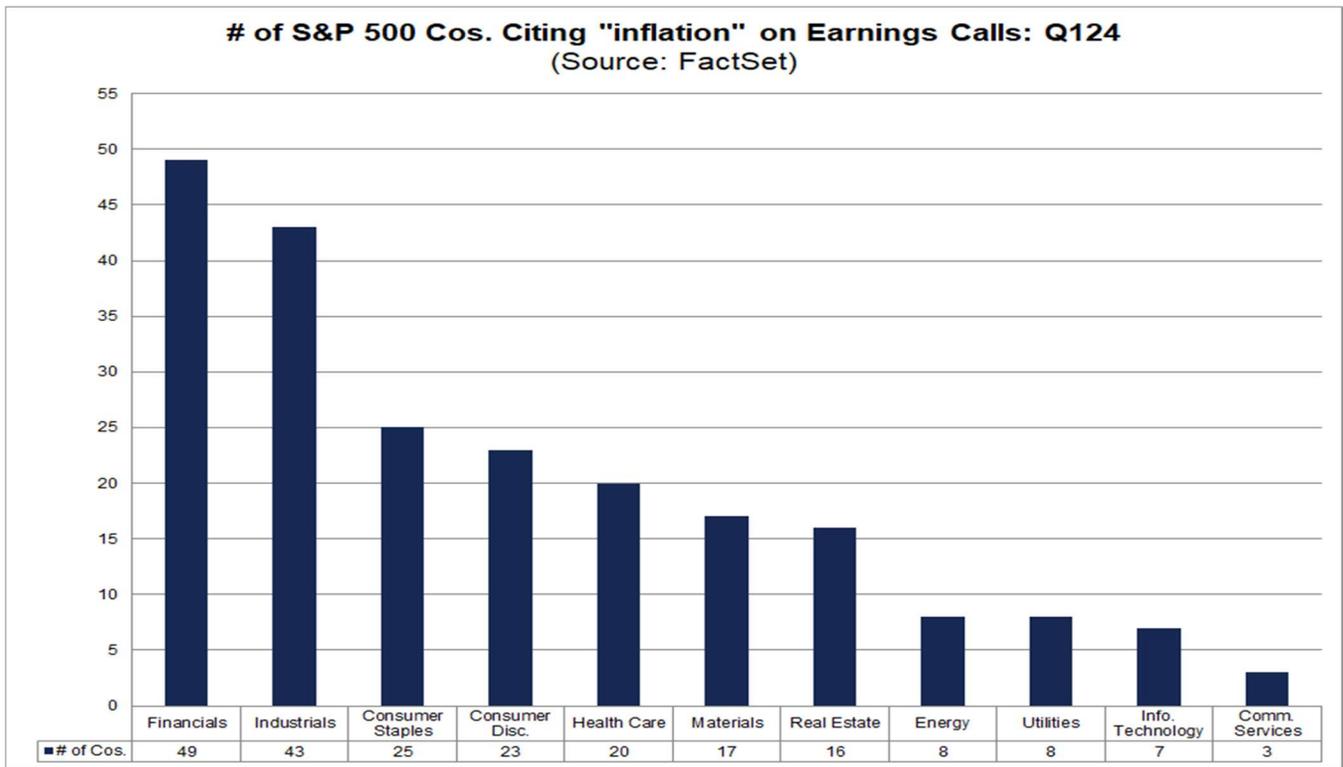
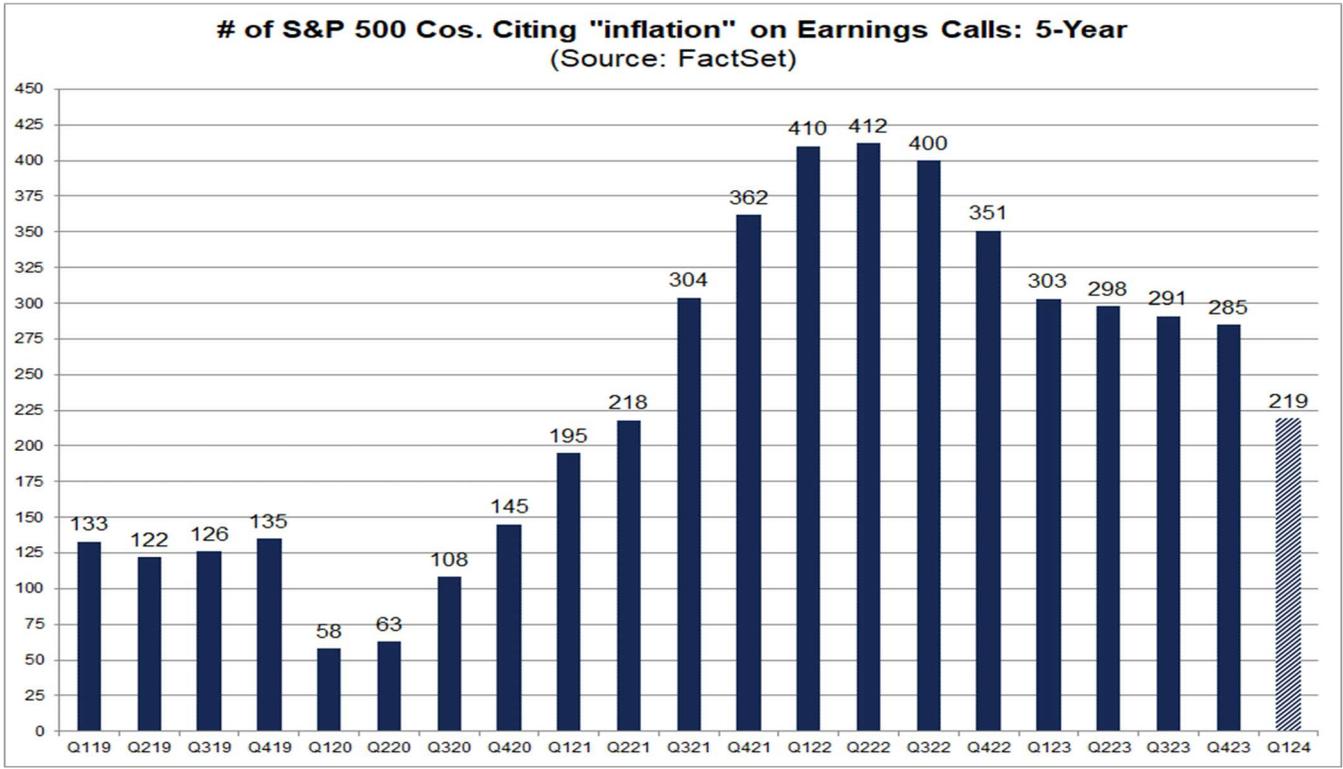
At the sector level, the Financials (49) and Industrials (43) sectors have the highest number of companies that cited “inflation” on earnings calls for Q1. However, the Consumer Staples (86%) and Financials (72%) sectors have the highest percentages of companies that cited “inflation” on their Q1 earnings calls during this period.

What are these companies saying about inflation on their earnings calls? Transcript Assistant (FactSet’s interactive generative AI solution that extracts the most salient points from earnings call transcripts with questions from users and pre-populated prompts) can be used to answer this question. For more information on Transcript Assistant, please go to: <https://insight.factset.com/how-to-drive-faster-earnings-analysis-and-research-with-a-generative-ai-assistant>

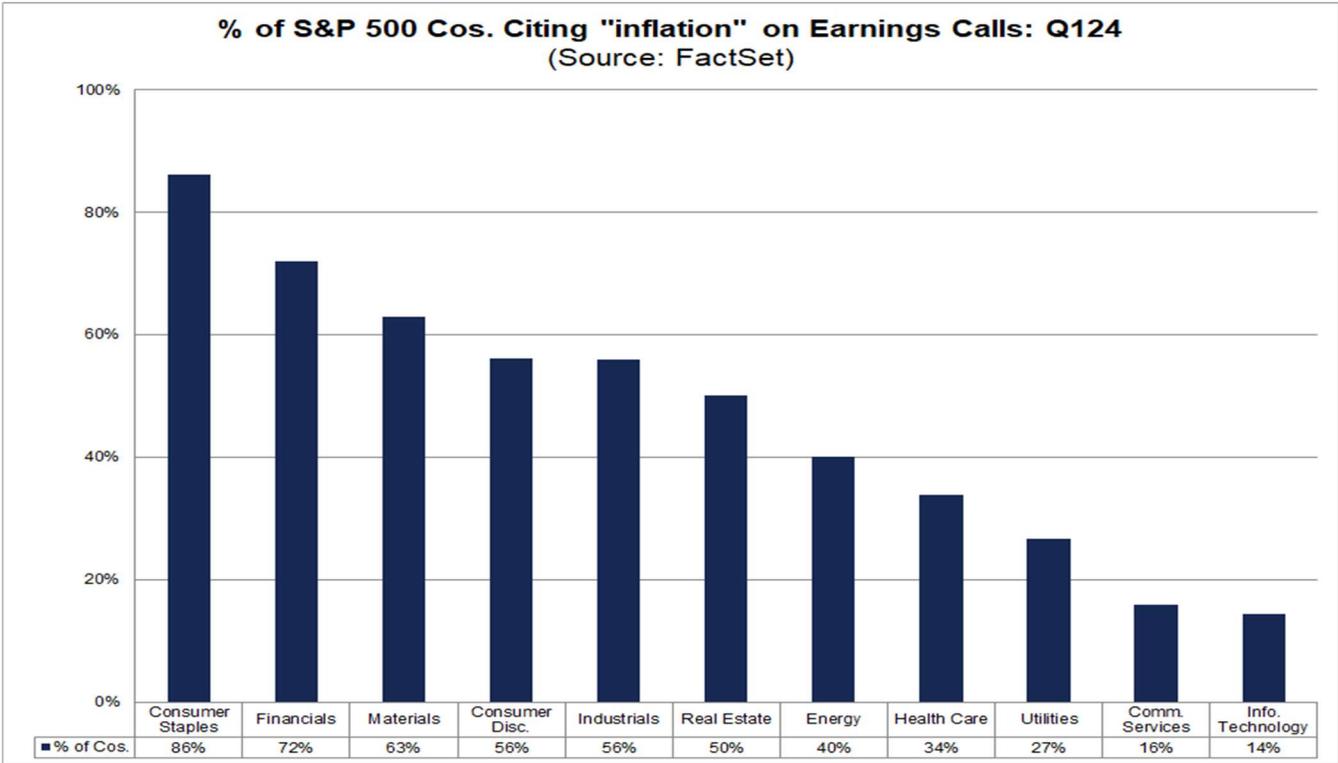
For example, Transcript Assistant generated the following summary of all the statements about “inflation” from the earnings call transcript of McDonald’s on April 30:

*The document mentions inflation in several contexts. Firstly, it discusses how consumers are becoming more discriminating with their spending due to elevated prices in their day-to-day spending, which is putting pressure on the Quick Service Restaurant (QSR) industry. This is attributed to significant inflation creating challenging consumer dynamics. Secondly, it mentions that McDonald's has navigated through the elevated cost environment of the past couple of years, with average franchisee cash flow and corresponding margins remaining strong. Thirdly, it discusses the impact of inflation on labor costs, with high single-digit labor inflation expected in the US, largely due to changes in California. Lastly, it mentions that food and paper inflation has returned to more historical levels.\**

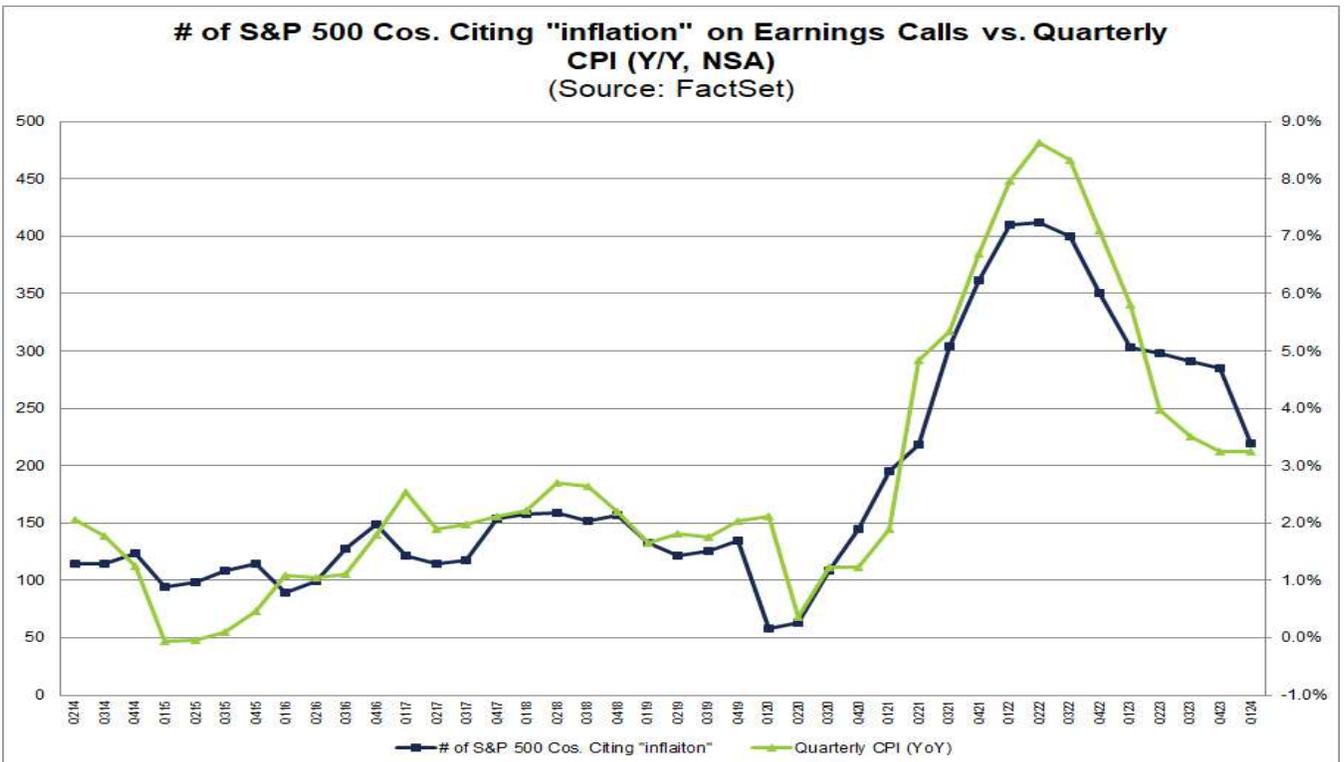
\*Results may vary based on prompts used



**% of S&P 500 Cos. Citing "inflation" on Earnings Calls: Q124**  
(Source: FactSet)



**# of S&P 500 Cos. Citing "inflation" on Earnings Calls vs. Quarterly CPI (Y/Y, NSA)**  
(Source: FactSet)



## Q1 Earnings Season: By The Numbers

### Overview

At this late stage of the Q1 earnings season, S&P 500 companies continue to perform well compared to expectations. Both the percentage of S&P 500 companies reporting positive earnings surprises and the magnitude of earnings surprises are above their 10-year averages. As a result, the index is reporting higher earnings for the first quarter today relative to the end of the quarter. On a year-over-year basis, the S&P 500 is reporting its highest earnings growth rate since Q2 2022.

Overall, 93% of the companies in the S&P 500 have reported actual results for Q1 2024 to date. Of these companies, 78% have reported actual EPS above estimates, which is above the 5-year average of 77% and above the 10-year average of 74%. In aggregate, companies are reporting earnings that are 7.5% above estimates, which is below the 5-year average of 8.5% but above the 10-year average of 6.7%. Historical averages reflect actual results from all 500 companies, not the actual results from the percentage of companies that have reported through this point in time.

Since March 31, positive earnings surprises reported by companies in the Communication Services, Financials, Information Technology and Consumer Discretionary sectors, partially offset by downward revisions to EPS estimates for two companies in the Health Care sector, have been the largest contributors to the increase in the earnings growth rate for the index during this period.

As a result, the index is reporting higher earnings for the first quarter today relative to the end of the quarter. The blended (combines actual results for companies that have reported and estimated results for companies that have yet to report) earnings growth rate for the first quarter is 5.7% today, compared to an earnings growth rate of 3.4% at the end of the first quarter (March 31).

If 5.7% is the actual growth rate for the quarter, it will mark the highest year-over-year earnings growth rate reported by the index since Q2 2022 (5.8%).

Eight of the eleven sectors are reporting (or have reported) year-over-year earnings growth, led by the Communication Services, Utilities, Consumer Discretionary, and Information Technology sectors. On the other hand, three sectors are reporting (or have reported) a year-over-year decline in earnings: Energy, Health Care, and Materials.

In terms of revenues, 60% of S&P 500 companies have reported actual revenues above estimates, which is below the 5-year average of 69% and below the 10-year average of 64%. In aggregate, companies are reporting revenues that are 0.8% above the estimates, which is also below the 5-year average of 2.0% and below the 10-year average of 1.4%. Again, historical averages reflect actual results from all 500 companies, not the actual results from the percentage of companies that have reported through this point in time.

Since March 31, positive revenue surprises reported by companies in the Financials sector have been the largest contributor to the increase in the revenue growth rate for the index during this period.

As a result, the index is reporting higher revenues for the first quarter today relative to the end of the quarter. The blended revenue growth rate for the first quarter is 4.2% today, compared to a revenue growth rate of 3.5% at the end of the first quarter (March 31).

If 4.2% is the actual revenue growth rate for the quarter, it will mark the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive quarter of revenue growth for the index.

Eight sectors are reporting (or have reported) year-over-year growth in revenues, led by the Communication Services and Information Technology sectors. On the other hand, three sectors reported a year-over-year decline in revenues, led by the Utilities sector.

Looking ahead, analysts expect (year-over-year) earnings growth rates of 9.2%, 8.2%, and 17.4% for Q2 2024, Q3 2024, and Q4 2024, respectively. For CY 2024, analysts are calling for (year-over-year) earnings growth of 11.1%.

The forward 12-month P/E ratio is 20.7, which is above the 5-year average (19.2) and above the 10-year average (17.8). However, it is below the forward P/E ratio of 21.0 recorded at the end of the first quarter (March 31).

During the upcoming week, 17 S&P 500 companies are scheduled to report results for the first quarter.

## Scorecard: Number & Magnitude of Positive EPS Surprises Are Above 10-Year Averages

### Percentage of Companies Beating EPS Estimates (78%) is Above 5-Year Average

Overall, 93% of the companies in the S&P 500 have reported earnings to date for the first quarter. Of these companies, 78% have reported actual EPS above the mean EPS estimate, 7% have reported actual EPS equal to the mean EPS estimate, and 15% have reported actual EPS below the mean EPS estimate. The percentage of companies reporting EPS above the mean EPS estimate is equal to the 1-year average (78%), above the 5-year average (77%), and above the 10-year average (74%). Historical averages reflect actual results from all 500 companies, not the actual results from the percentage of companies that have reported through this point in time.

At the sector level, the Health Care (87%), Consumer Staples (87%), and Information Technology (87%) sectors have the highest percentages of companies reporting earnings above estimates, while the Energy (61%) sector has the lowest percentage of companies reporting earnings above estimates.

### Earnings Surprise Percentage (+7.5%) is Below 5-Year Average

In aggregate, companies are reporting earnings that are 7.5% above expectations. This surprise percentage is above the 1-year average (+6.4%), below the 5-year average (+8.5%), and above the 10-year average (+6.7%). Historical averages reflect actual results from all 500 companies, not the actual results from the percentage of companies that have reported through this point in time.

The Communication Services (+12.5%) sector reported the largest positive (aggregate) difference between actual earnings and estimated earnings. Within this sector, Take-Two Interactive (\$0.28 vs. \$0.09), Paramount Global (\$0.62 vs. \$0.26), Alphabet (\$1.89 vs. \$1.51), and Netflix (\$5.28 vs. \$4.52) reported the largest positive EPS surprises.

The Consumer Discretionary (+11.9%) sector is reporting the second-largest positive (aggregate) difference between actual earnings and estimated earnings. Within this sector, Hasbro (\$0.61 vs. \$0.27), Airbnb (\$0.41 vs. \$0.23), Booking Holdings (\$20.39 vs. \$13.98), Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings (\$0.16 vs. \$0.11), and Garmin (\$1.42 vs. \$1.01) have reported the largest positive EPS surprises.

The Utilities (+10.5%) sector reported the third-largest positive (aggregate) difference between actual earnings and estimated earnings. Within this sector, Pinnacle West Corporation (\$0.15 vs. -\$0.02), NRG Energy (\$3.40 vs. \$0.66), AES Corporation (\$0.50 vs. \$0.34), and Constellation Energy (\$1.82 vs. \$1.30) reported the largest positive EPS surprises.

The Health Care (+9.3%) sector is reporting the fourth-largest positive (aggregate) difference between actual earnings and estimated earnings. Within this sector, Illumina (\$0.09 vs. \$0.04), Insulet Corporation (\$0.73 vs. \$0.40) and Pfizer (\$0.82 vs. \$0.52) have reported the largest positive EPS surprises.

The Consumer Staples (+8.9%) sector is reporting the fifth-largest positive (aggregate) difference between actual earnings and estimated earnings. Within this sector, Estee Lauder Companies (\$0.97 vs. \$0.50), Tyson Foods (\$0.62 vs. \$0.39) and Walgreens Boots Alliance (\$1.20 vs. \$0.82) have reported the largest positive EPS surprises.

### Market Punishing Negative EPS Surprises More Than Average

To date, the market is rewarding positive earnings surprises reported by S&P 500 companies slightly less than average while punishing negative earnings surprises reported by S&P 500 companies more than average.

Companies that have reported positive earnings surprises for Q1 2024 have seen an average price increase of +0.9% two days before the earnings release through two days after the earnings release. This percentage increase is smaller than the 5-year average price increase of +1.0% during this same window for companies reporting positive earnings surprises.

Companies that have reported negative earnings surprises for Q1 2024 have seen an average price decrease of -2.8% two days before the earnings release through two days after the earnings. This percentage decrease is larger than the 5-year average price decrease of -2.3% during this same window for companies reporting negative earnings surprises.

### Percentage of Companies Beating Revenue Estimates (60%) is Below 5-Year Average

In terms of revenues, 60% of companies have reported actual revenues above estimated revenues and 40% have reported actual revenues below estimated revenues. The percentage of companies reporting revenues above estimates is below the 1-year average (67%), below the 5-year average (69%), and below the 10-year average (64%). Historical averages reflect actual results from all 500 companies, not the actual results from the percentage of companies that have reported through this point in time.

At the sector level, the Real Estate (74%) and Health Care (70%) sectors have the highest percentages of companies reporting revenues above estimates, while the Utilities (33%) sector has the lowest percentage of companies reporting revenues above estimates.

### Revenue Surprise Percentage (+0.8%) is Below 5-Year Average

In aggregate, companies are reporting revenues that are 0.8% above expectations. This surprise percentage is below the 1-year average (+1.4%), below the 5-year average (+2.0%), and below the 10-year average (+1.4%). Historical averages reflect actual results from all 500 companies, not the actual results from the percentage of companies that have reported through this point in time.

At the sector level, the Financials (+3.7%) sector reported the largest positive (aggregate) difference between actual revenues and estimated revenues, while the Utilities (-5.6%) sector reported the largest negative (aggregate) differences between actual revenues and estimated revenues.

### Revisions: Communication Services Sector Has Seen Largest Increase in Earnings since March 31

#### Communication Services Sector Has Seen Largest Increase in Earnings since March 31

The blended (year-over-year) earnings growth rate for Q1 2024 of 5.7% is above the estimate of 3.4% at the end of the first quarter (March 31). Ten sectors have recorded an increase in their earnings growth rate or a decrease in their earnings decline since the end of the quarter due to upward revisions to earnings estimates and positive earnings surprises, led by the Communication Services (to 34.2% from 19.2%), Utilities (to 33.4% from 24.2%), and Consumer Discretionary (to 24.5% from 16.3%) sectors. The Communication Services, Financials, Information Technology, and Consumer Discretionary sectors have been the largest contributors to the increase in earnings for the index since March 31. On the other hand, the Health Care (to -25.4% from -7.1%) sector is the only sector that has recorded a decrease in its earnings growth rate or an increase in its earnings decline since the end of the quarter due to downward revisions to EPS estimates or negative earnings surprises. The Health Care sector has also been the largest detractor to the increase in earnings for the index since March 31.

In the Communication Services sector, the positive EPS surprises reported by Alphabet (\$1.89 vs. \$1.51) and Meta Platforms (\$4.71 vs. \$4.32) have been substantial contributors to the increase earnings for the index since March 31. As a result, the blended earnings growth rate for the Communication Services sector has improved to 34.2% from 19.2% over this period.

In the Financials sector, the positive EPS surprises reported by Berkshire Hathaway (\$5.19 vs. \$4.47), Goldman Sachs (\$11.58 vs. \$8.73), JPMorgan Chase (\$4.44 vs. \$4.17), and Morgan Stanley (\$2.02 vs. \$1.67) have been significant contributors to the increase in earnings for the index since March 31. As a result, the blended earnings growth rate for the Financials sector has improved to 7.7% from 1.7% over this period.

In the Information Technology sector, the positive EPS surprise reported by Microsoft (\$2.94 vs. \$2.82) has been a significant contributor to the increase in earnings for the index since March 31. As a result, the blended earnings growth rate for the Information Technology sector improved to 23.6% from 20.4% over this period.

In the Consumer Discretionary sector, the positive EPS surprises reported by Amazon.com (\$0.98 vs. \$0.84) and General Motors (\$2.62 vs. \$2.13) have been substantial contributors to the increase in earnings for the index since March 31. As a result, the blended earnings growth rate for the Consumer Discretionary sector improved to 24.5% from 16.3% over this period.

In the Health Care sector, downward revisions to EPS estimates for Bristol Myers Squibb and Gilead Sciences have been the largest detractors to the increase in the earnings growth rate for the index since March 31. During the week of April 8, the majority of analysts covering Bristol Myers Squibb lowered their non-GAAP EPS estimates to reflect IPR&D charges related to the acquisition of Karuna Therapeutics. As a result, the mean EPS estimate for Bristol Myers Squibb for Q1 dropped to -\$4.41 from \$1.60 (on April 5). The company reported actual EPS of -\$4.40. During the week of April 15, the majority of analysts covering Gilead Sciences lowered their non-GAAP EPS estimates to reflect the acquisition of CymaBay. As a result, the mean EPS estimate for Gilead Sciences for Q1 dropped to -\$1.49 from \$1.58 (on April 12). The company reported actual EPS of -\$1.32. Mainly due to the decrease in the mean EPS estimates for Bristol Myers Squibb and Gilead Sciences, the blended earnings decline for the Health Care sector has increased to -25.4% from -7.1% over this period.

### **Financials Sector Has Seen Largest Increase in Revenues since March 31**

The blended (year-over-year) revenue growth rate for Q1 2024 of 4.2% is above the estimate of 3.5% at the end of the first quarter (March 31). Eight sectors have recorded an increase in their revenue growth rate or a decrease in their revenue decline since the end of the quarter due to upward revisions to revenue estimates and positive revenue surprises, led by the Financials (to 7.2% from 3.2%) sector. The Financials sectors has also been the largest contributor to the increase in revenues for the index since the end of the quarter. On the other hand, three sectors have recorded a decrease in their revenue growth rate or an increase in their revenue decline since the end of the quarter due to downward revisions to revenue estimates and negative revenue surprises, led by the Utilities (to -7.3% from -3.3%) sector.

In the Financials sector, the positive revenue surprises reported by Prudential (\$18.05 billion vs. \$14.50 billion), Berkshire Hathaway (\$89.89 billion vs. \$87.04 billion), Progressive (\$18.96 billion vs. \$17.00 billion), Aflac (\$5.44 billion vs. \$4.14 billion), Goldman Sachs (\$14.21 billion vs. \$12.94 billion), and Synchrony Financial (\$4.80 billion vs. \$3.89 billion) have been substantial contributors to the increase in revenues for the index since March 31. As a result, the blended revenue growth rate for the Financials sector has increased to 7.2% from 3.2% over this period.

## Earnings Growth: 5.7%

The blended (combines actual results for companies that have reported and estimated results for companies that have yet to report), year-over-year earnings growth rate for Q1 2024 is 5.7%, which is below the 5-year average earnings growth rate of 9.1% and below the 10-year average earnings growth rate of 8.3%. If 5.7% is the actual growth rate for the quarter, it will mark the highest year-over-year earnings growth rate reported by the index since Q2 2022 (5.8%).

Eight of the eleven sectors are reporting (or have reported) year-over-year earnings growth, led by the Communication Services, Utilities, Consumer Discretionary, and Information Technology sectors. On the other hand, three sectors are reporting (or have reported) a year-over-year decline in earnings: Energy, Health Care, and Materials sectors.

### **Communication Services: Alphabet and Meta Platforms Led Year-Over-Year Growth**

The Communication Services sector reported the highest (year-over-year) earnings growth rate of all eleven sectors at 34.2%. At the industry level, 3 of the 5 industries in the sector reported year-over-year earnings growth. All three of these industries reported double-digit growth: Interactive Media & Services (70%), Wireless Telecommunication Services (22%), and Media (12%). On the other hand, two industries reported a year-over-year decline in earnings: Diversified Telecommunication Services (-6%) and Entertainment (-4%).

At the company level, Alphabet (\$1.89 vs. \$1.17) and Meta Platforms (\$4.71 vs. \$2.20) were the largest contributors to earnings growth for the sector. If these two companies were excluded, the blended (year-over-year) earnings growth rate for the Communication Services sector would fall to 1.8% from 34.2%.

### **Utilities: Electric Utilities Industry Was Largest Contributor to Year-Over-Year Growth**

The Utilities sector reported the second-highest (year-over-year) earnings growth rate of all eleven sectors at 33.4%. At the industry level, 4 of 5 industries in this sector reported year-over-year earnings growth. Three of these four industries reported double-digit growth: Independent Power and Renewable Electricity Producers (142%), Electric Utilities (58%), and Gas Utilities (21%). The Multi-Utilities industry (less than -1%) is the only industry that reported a year-over-year decline in earnings.

At the industry level, the Electric Utilities industry was the largest contributor to earnings growth for the sector. If this industry were excluded, the blended (year-over-year) earnings growth rate for the Utilities sector would fall to 4.9% from 33.4%.

### **Consumer Discretionary: Amazon.com Is Largest Contributor to Year-Over-Year Growth**

The Consumer Discretionary sector is reporting the third-highest (year-over-year) earnings growth rate of all eleven sectors at 24.5%. At the industry level, 6 of the 9 industries in the sector are reporting (or have reported) year-over-year earnings growth. All six industries are reporting (or have reported) double-digit growth: Leisure Products (6,025%), Broadline Retail (183%), Hotels, Restaurants, & Leisure (48%), Household Durables (23%), Automobile Components (17%), and Textiles, Apparel, & Luxury Goods (12%). On the other hand, three industries are reporting (or have reported) a year-over-year decline in earnings. Two of these three industries reported a double-digit decrease: Automobiles (-23%) and Distributors (-11%).

At the company level, Amazon.com (\$0.98 vs. \$0.31) is the largest contributor to earnings growth for the sector. If this company were excluded, the blended (year-over-year) earnings growth rate for the Consumer Discretionary sector would fall to 2.4% from 24.5%.

**Information Technology: NVIDIA Is Largest Contributor to Year-Over-Year Growth**

The Information Technology sector is reporting the fourth-highest (year-over-year) earnings growth rate of all eleven sectors at 23.6%. At the industry level, 4 of the 6 industries in the sector are reporting (or have reported) year-over-year earnings growth. Three of these four industries are reporting (or have reported) double-digit growth: Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment (79%), Software (19%), and IT Services (12%). On the other hand, two industries are reporting (or have reported) a year-over-year decline in earnings: Electronic Equipment, Instruments, & Components (-6%) and Communications Equipment (-6%).

At the company level, NVIDIA (\$5.59 vs. \$1.09) is the largest contributor to earnings growth for the sector. If this company were excluded, the blended (year-over-year) earnings growth rate for the Information Technology sector would fall to 10.8% from 23.6%.

NVIDIA is also the largest contributor to earnings growth for the entire S&P 500. If this company were excluded, the blended earnings growth rate for the index would fall to 3.2% from 5.7%.

**Energy: 2 of 5 Sub-Industries Reported Year-Over-Year Decline of 25% or More**

The Energy sector (along with the Health Care sector) reported the largest (year-over-year) earnings decline of all eleven sectors at -25.4%. At the sub-industry level, four of the five sub-industries in the sector reported a year-over-year decrease in earnings: Oil & Gas Refining & Marketing (-61%), Integrated Oil & Gas (-27%), Oil & Gas Exploration & Production (-9%), and Oil & Gas Storage & Transportation (-1%). On the other hand, the Oil & Gas Equipment & Services (19%) sub-industry is the only sub-industry in the sector that reported year-over-year earnings growth.

**Health Care: Bristol Myers Squibb Is Largest Contributor to Year-Over-Year Decline**

The Health Care sector (along with the Energy sector) is reporting the largest (year-over-year) earnings decline of all eleven sectors at -25.4%. At the industry level, 4 of the 5 industries in the sector are reporting (or have reported) a year-over-year decline in earnings. Two of these four industries reported a double-digit decrease: Pharmaceuticals (-54%) and Biotechnology (-41%). On the other hand, the Health Care Equipment & Supplies (6%) industry is the only industry reporting year-over-year growth in earnings.

At the company level, Bristol Myers Squibb (-\$4.40 vs. \$2.05) is the largest contributor to the earnings decline for the sector. If this company were excluded, the blended (year-over-year) earnings decline for the Health Care sector would improve to -6.9% from -25.4%.

Bristol Myers Squibb is also the largest detractor to earnings growth for the entire S&P 500. If this company were excluded, the blended earnings growth rate for the index would improve to 8.6% from 5.7%.

**Materials: All 4 Industries Reported Year-Over-Year Decline of More Than 10%**

The Materials sector reported the second-largest (year-over-year) earnings decline of all eleven sectors at -20.6%. At the industry level, all four industries in this sector reported a year-over-year decline in earnings of more than 10%: Chemicals (-24%), Containers & Packaging (-19%), Construction Materials (-14%), and Metals & Mining (-13%).

**Revenue Growth: 4.2%**

The blended (year-over-year) revenue growth rate for Q1 2024 is 4.2%, which is below the 5-year average revenue growth rate of 6.7% and below the 10-year average revenue growth rate of 5.1%. If 4.2% is the actual revenue growth rate for the quarter, it will mark the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive quarter of revenue growth for the index.

At the sector level, eight sectors are reporting (or have reported) year-over-year growth in revenues, led by the Communication Services and Information Technology sectors. On the other hand, three sectors reported a year-over-year decline in revenues, led by the Utilities sector.

### **Communication Services: 2 of 5 Industries Reported Year-Over-Year Growth**

The Communication Services sector reported the highest (year-over-year) revenue growth rate of all eleven sectors at 8.2%. At the industry level, two of the five industries in this sector reported year-over-year growth in revenues. However, the Interactive Media & Services (17%) industry is the only industry that reported double-digit growth. On the other hand, the other three industries in the sector reported year-over-year declines in revenue of less than 1%.

### **Information Technology: 3 of 6 Industries Reporting Year-Over-Year Growth**

The Information Technology sector is reporting the second-highest (year-over-year) revenue growth rate of all eleven sectors at 7.6%. At the industry level, 3 of the 6 industries in the sector are reporting (or have reported) year-over-year revenue growth. Two of these three industries are reporting double-digit growth: Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment (27%) and Software (14%). On the other hand, 3 industries are reporting (or have reported) a year-over-year decline in revenues, led by the Communications Equipment (-8%) and Electronic Equipment, Instruments, & Components (-7%) industries.

### **Utilities: 3 of 5 Industries Reported Year-Over-Year Decline**

The Utilities sector reported the largest (year-over-year) revenue decline of all eleven sectors at -7.3%. At the industry level, 3 of 5 industries in this sector reported a year-over-year decline in revenues. However, the Multi-Utilities (-16%) industry is the only industry that reported a double-digit decline. On the other hand, the Water Utilities (8%) and Gas Utilities (7%) industries are the only industries that reported year-over-year growth in revenues.

### **Net Profit Margin: 11.7%**

The blended net profit margin for the S&P 500 for Q1 2024 is 11.7%, which is above the previous quarter's net profit margin of 11.2%, above the 5-year average of 11.5%, and above the year-ago net profit margin of 11.6%.

At the sector level, eight sectors are reporting (or have reported) a year-over-year increase in their net profit margins in Q1 2024 compared to Q1 2023, led by the Utilities (14.8% vs. 10.3%), Information Technology (25.7% vs. 22.4%), and Communication Services (13.5% vs. 10.9%) sectors. On the other hand, three sectors are reporting (or have reported) a year-over-year decrease in their net profit margins in Q1 2024 compared to Q1 2023: Energy (9.7% vs. 12.5%), Health Care (6.5% vs. 9.3%), and Materials (9.4% vs. 11.2%).

Eight sectors are reporting (or have reported) net profit margins in Q1 2024 that are above their 5-year averages, led by the Information Technology (25.7% vs. 23.4%) and Communication Services (13.5% vs. 11.5%) sectors. On the other hand, three sectors are reporting (or have reported) net profit margins in Q1 2024 that are below their 5-year averages, led by the Health Care (6.5% vs. 10.0%) and Materials (9.4% vs. 10.9%) sectors.

## Forward Estimates and Valuation

### Quarterly Guidance: % of S&P 500 Companies Issuing Negative Guidance for Q2 Equals 5-Year Average

At this point in time, 91 companies in the index have issued EPS guidance for Q2 2024. Of these 91 companies, 54 have issued negative EPS guidance and 37 have issued positive EPS guidance. The percentage of companies issuing negative EPS guidance for Q2 2024 is 59% (54 out of 91), which is equal to the 5-year average of 59% but below the 10-year average of 63%.

At this point in time, 269 companies in the index have issued EPS guidance for the current fiscal year (FY 2024 or FY 2025). Of these 269 companies, 128 have issued negative EPS guidance and 141 have issued positive EPS guidance. The percentage of companies issuing negative EPS guidance is 48% (128 out of 269).

The term “guidance” (or “preannouncement”) is defined as a projection or estimate for EPS provided by a company in advance of the company reporting actual results. Guidance is classified as negative if the estimate (or mid-point of a range estimates) provided by a company is lower than the mean EPS estimate the day before the guidance was issued. Guidance is classified as positive if the estimate (or mid-point of a range of estimates) provided by the company is higher than the mean EPS estimate the day before the guidance was issued.

### Earnings: S&P 500 Expected to Report Earnings Growth of 11% for CY 2024

For the first quarter, S&P 500 companies are reporting year-over-year growth in earnings of 5.7% and year-over-year growth in revenues of 4.2%.

For Q2 2024, analysts are projecting earnings growth of 9.2% and revenue growth of 4.6%.

For Q3 2024, analysts are projecting earnings growth of 8.2% and revenue growth of 4.9%.

For Q4 2024, analysts are projecting earnings growth of 17.4% and revenue growth of 5.5%.

For CY 2024, analysts are projecting earnings growth of 11.1% and revenue growth of 5.0%.

For CY 2025, analysts are projecting earnings growth of 14.1% and revenue growth of 5.8%.

### Valuation: Forward P/E Ratio is 20.7, Above the 10-Year Average (17.8)

The forward 12-month P/E ratio for the S&P 500 is 20.7. This P/E ratio is above the 5-year average of 19.2 and above the 10-year average of 17.8. However, it is below the forward 12-month P/E ratio of 21.0 recorded at the end of the first quarter (March 31). Since the end of the first quarter (March 31), the price of the index has increased by 0.8%, while the forward 12-month EPS estimate has increased by 2.1%. At the sector level, the Information Technology (28.5) and Consumer Discretionary (24.1) sectors have the highest forward 12-month P/E ratios, while the Energy (12.4) sector has the lowest forward 12-month P/E ratio.

The trailing 12-month P/E ratio is 25.5, which is above the 5-year average of 23.2 and above the 10-year average of 21.4.

### Targets & Ratings: Analysts Project 11% Increase in Price Over Next 12 Months

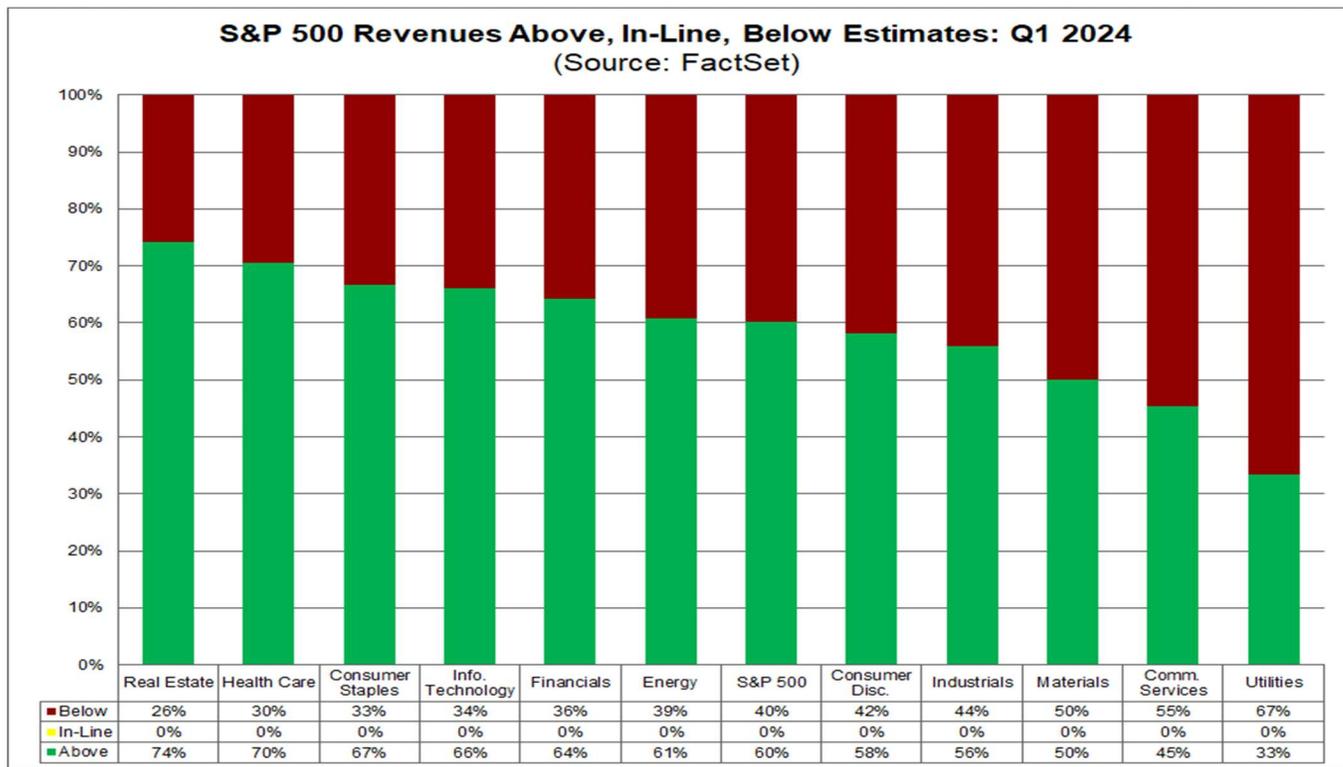
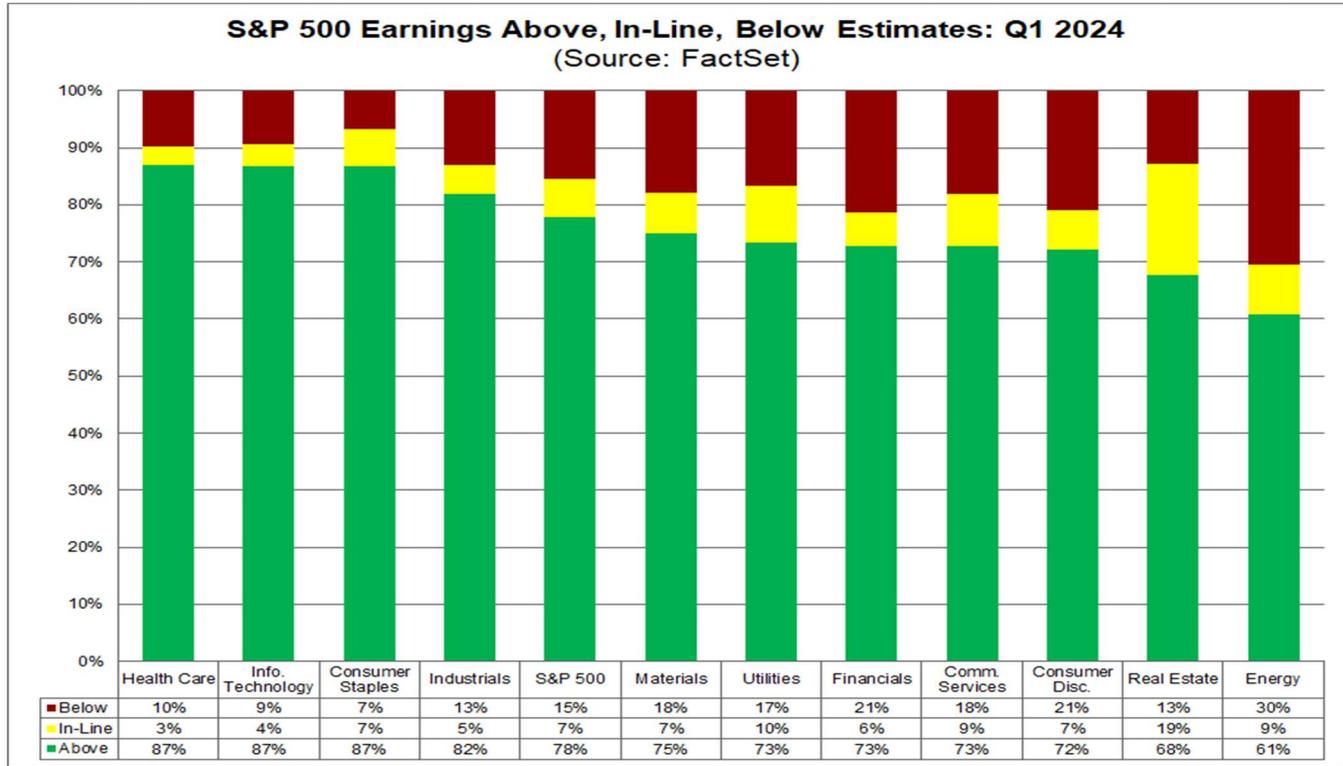
The bottom-up target price for the S&P 500 is 5856.09, which is 10.6% above the closing price of 5297.10. At the sector level, the Consumer Discretionary (+15.5%) and Energy (+14.9%) sectors are expected to see the largest price increases, as these sectors have the largest upside differences between the bottom-up target price and the closing price. On the other hand, the Utilities (+2.5%) sector is expected to see the smallest price increase, as this sector has the smallest upside difference between the bottom-up target price and the closing price.

Overall, there are 11,710 ratings on stocks in the S&P 500. Of these 11,710 ratings, 54.5% are Buy ratings, 40.3% are Hold ratings, and 5.2% are Sell ratings. At the sector level, the Communication Services (65%) and Energy (62%) sectors have the highest percentages of Buy ratings, while the Consumer Staples (45%) and Materials (46%) sectors have the lowest percentages of Buy ratings.

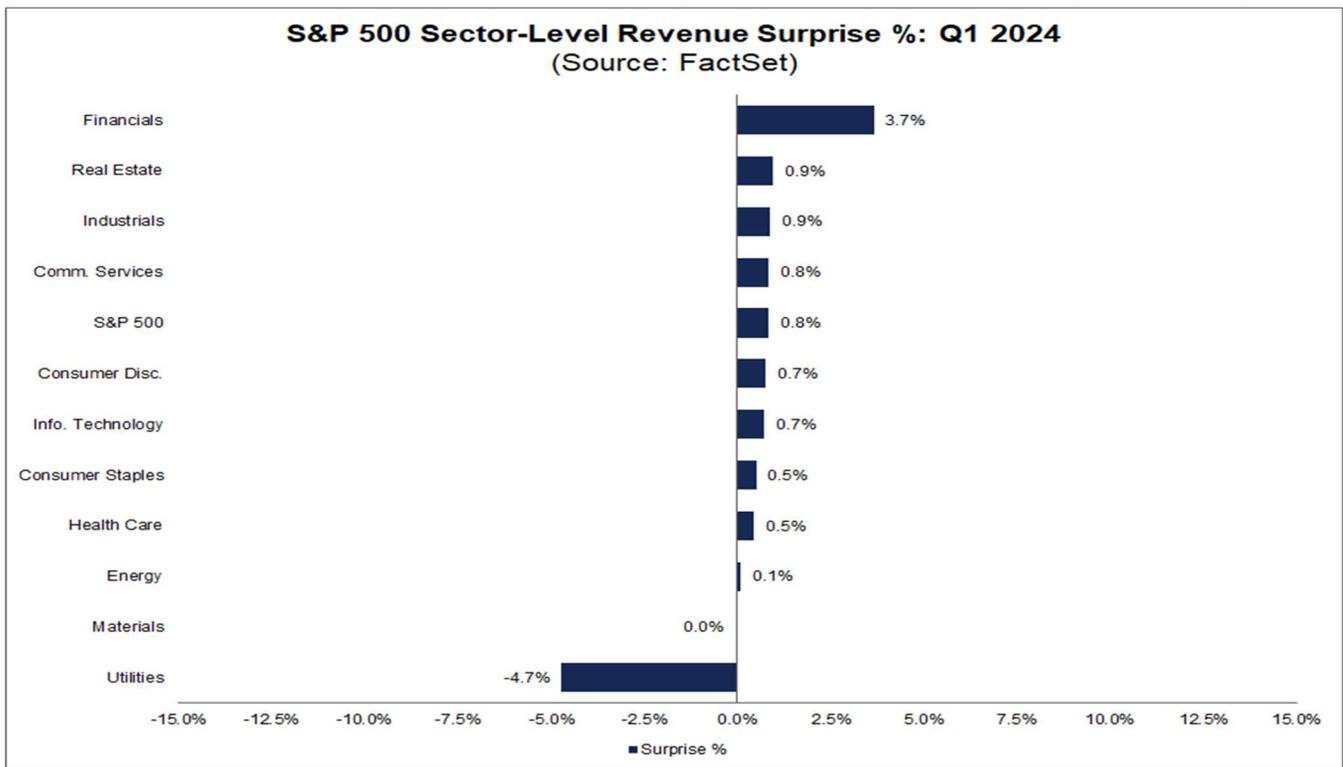
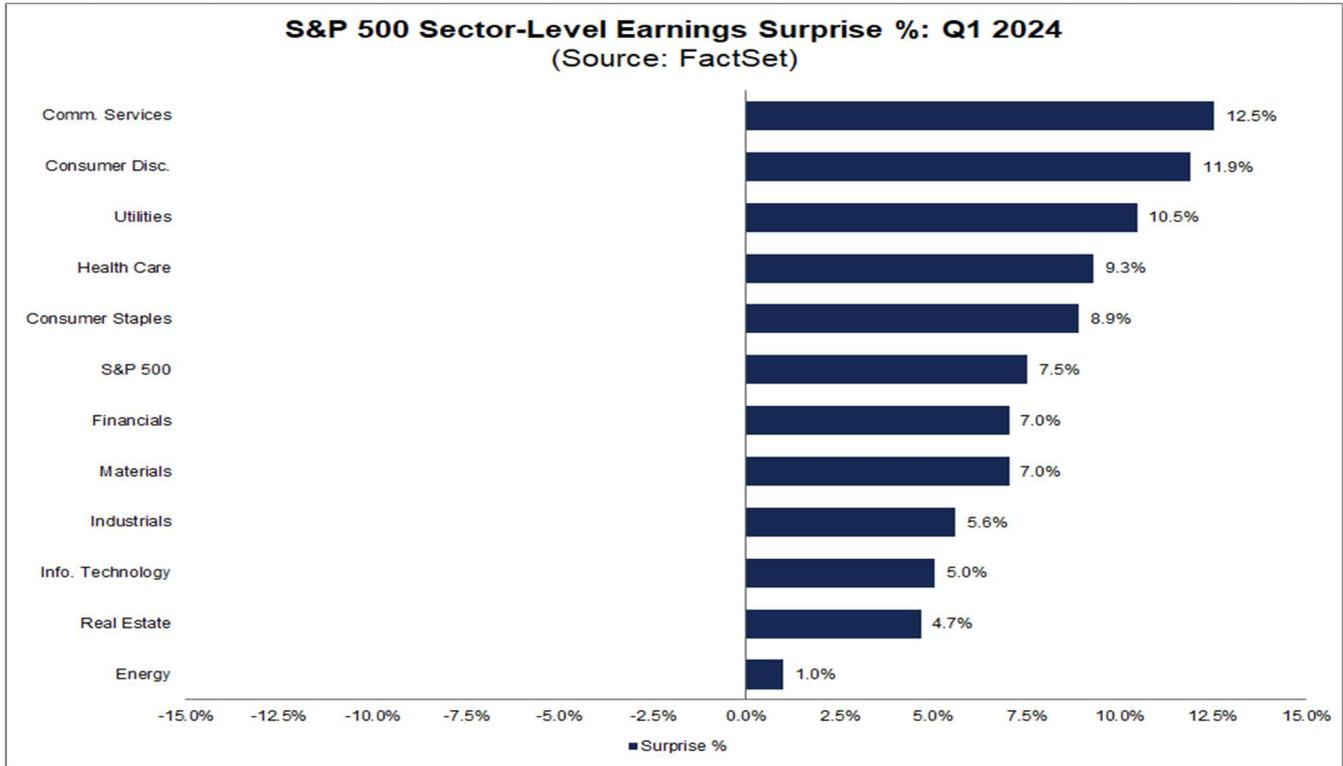
### **Companies Reporting Next Week: 17**

During the upcoming week, 17 S&P 500 companies are scheduled to report results for the first quarter.

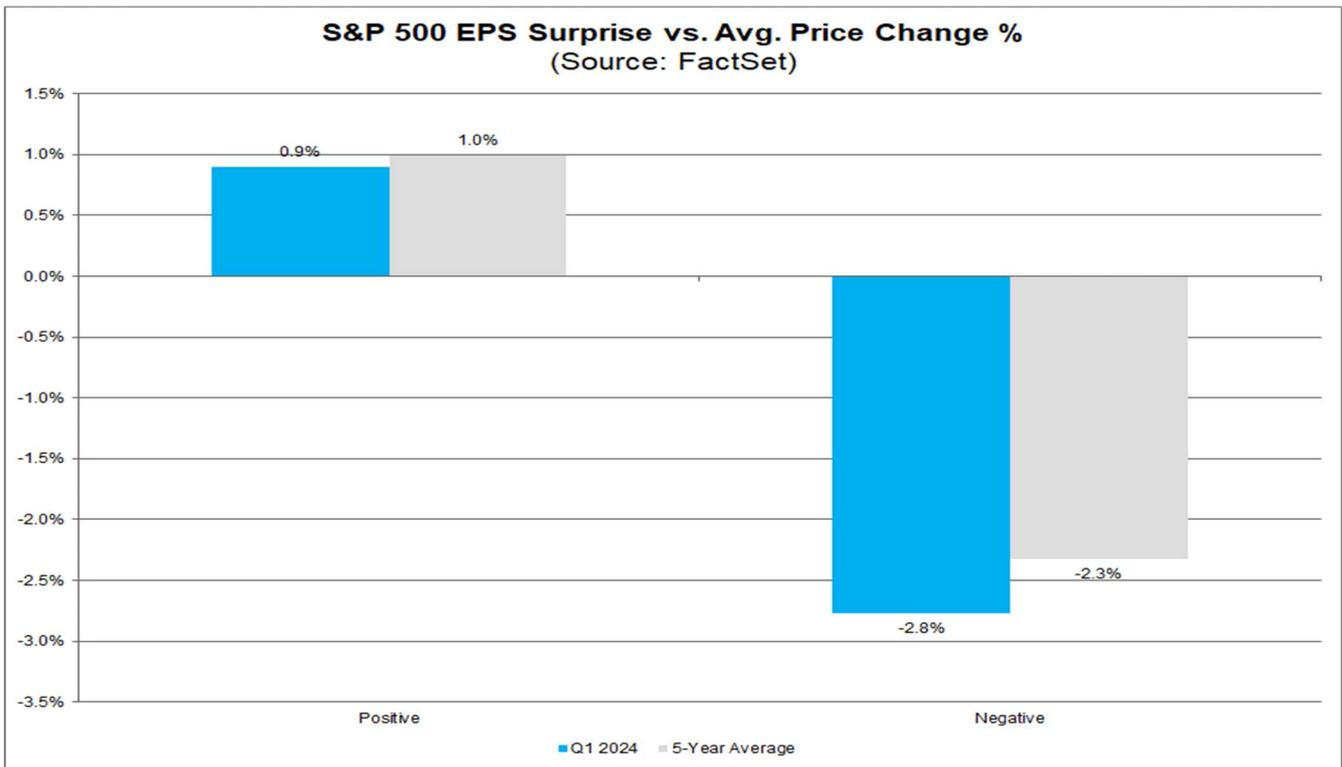
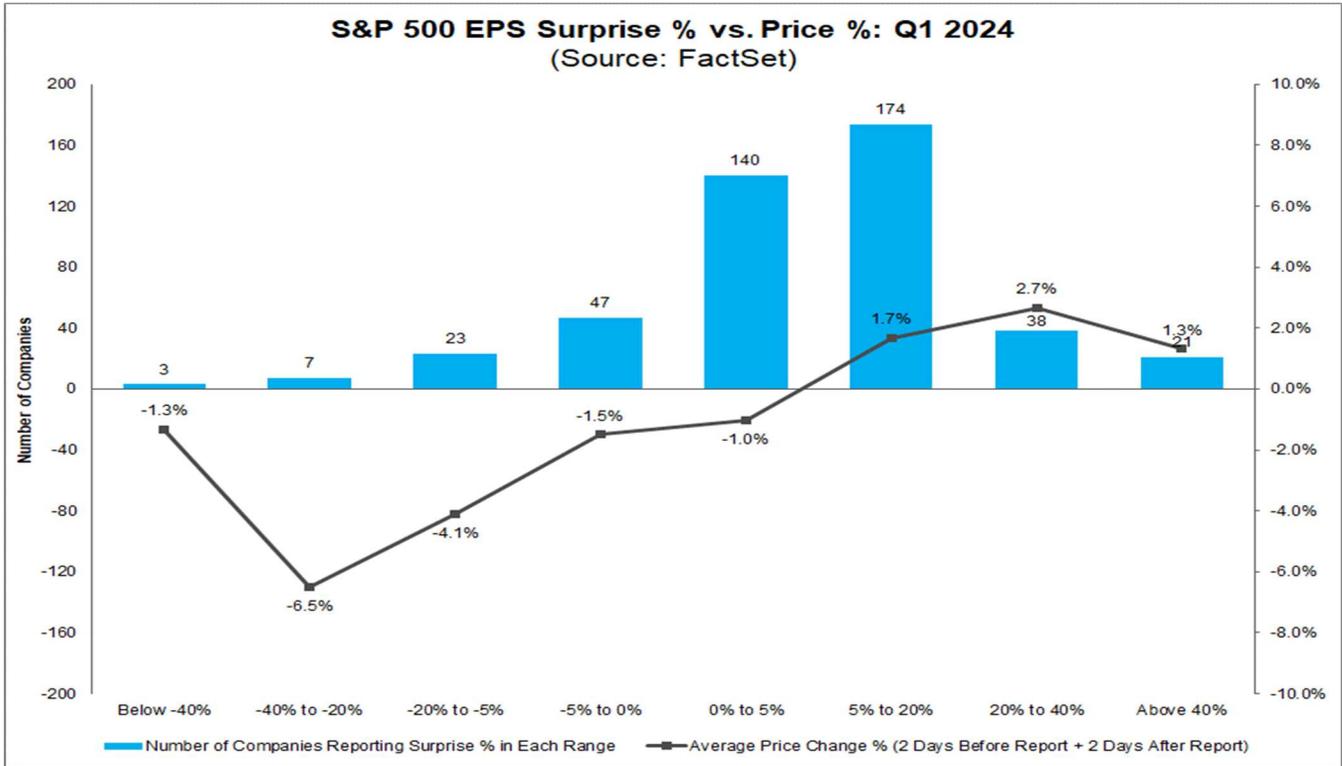
Q1 2024: Scorecard



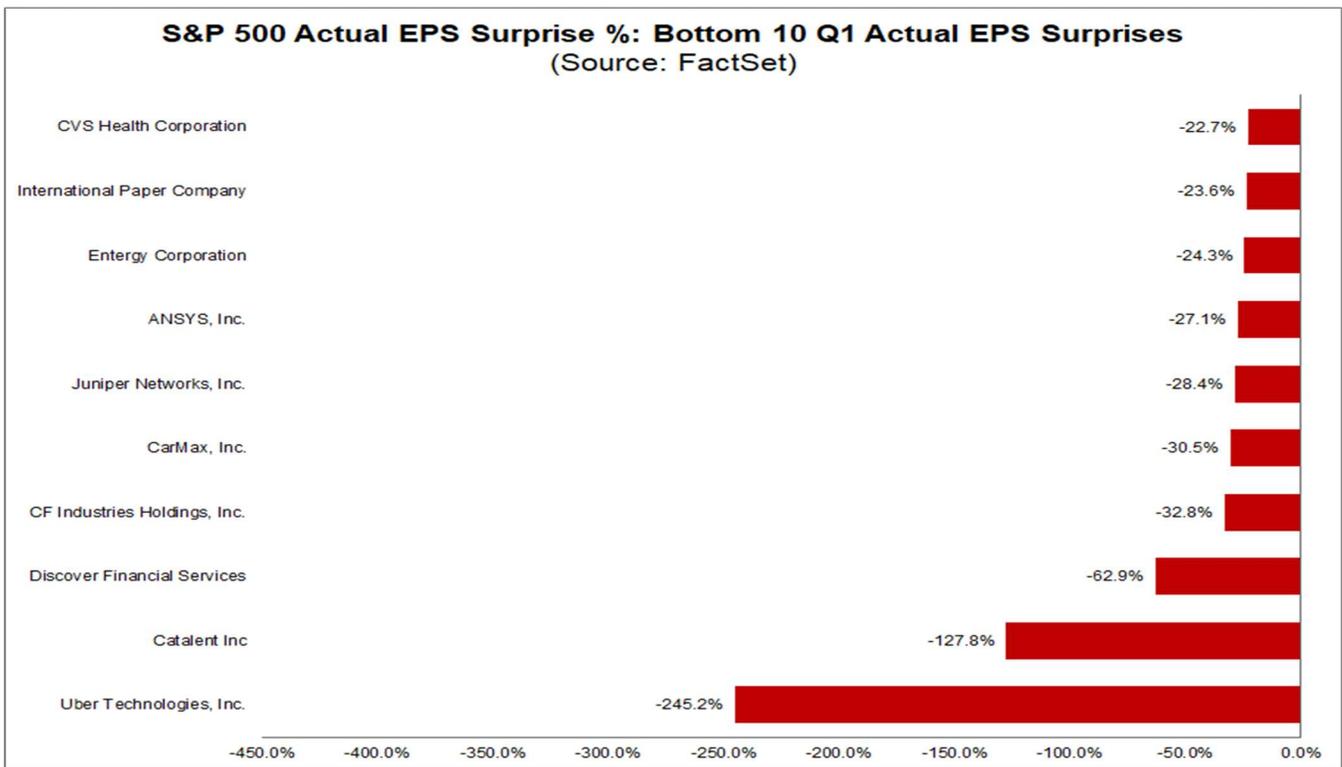
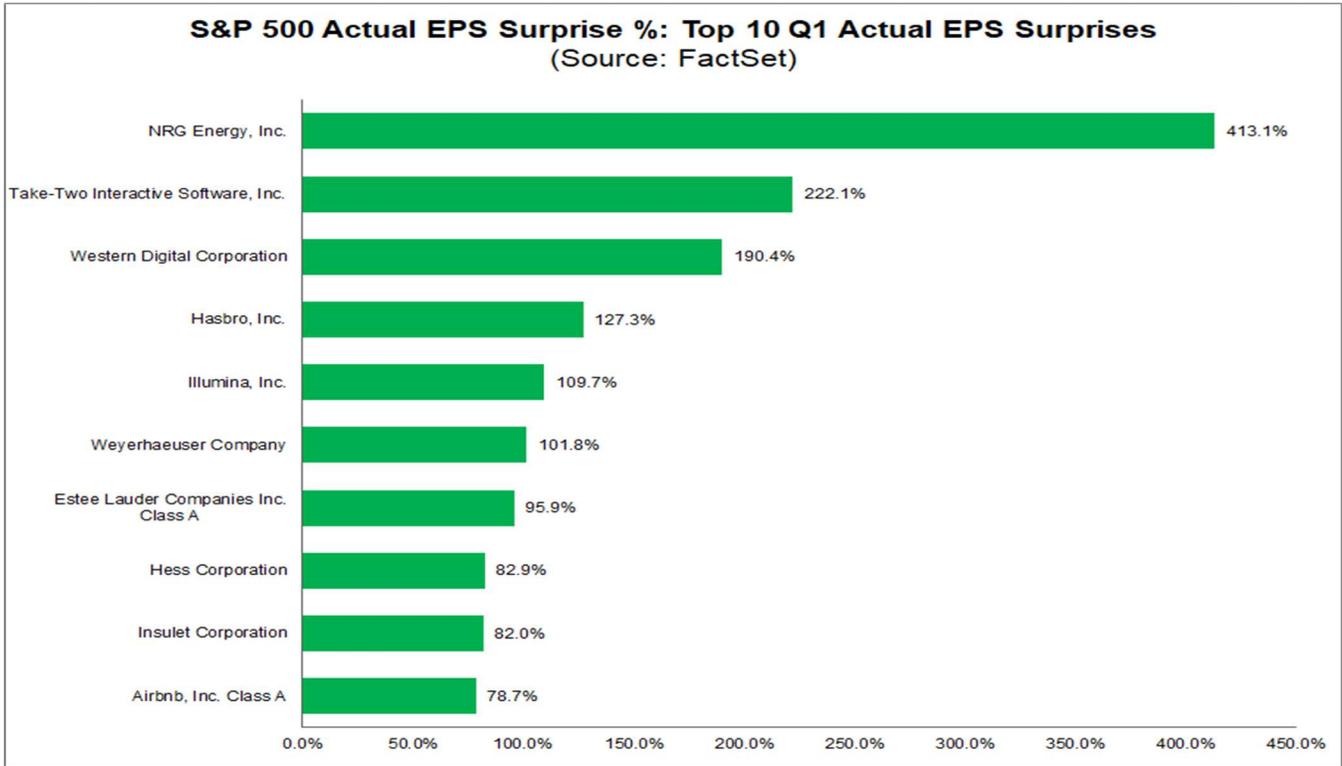
Q1 2024: Surprise



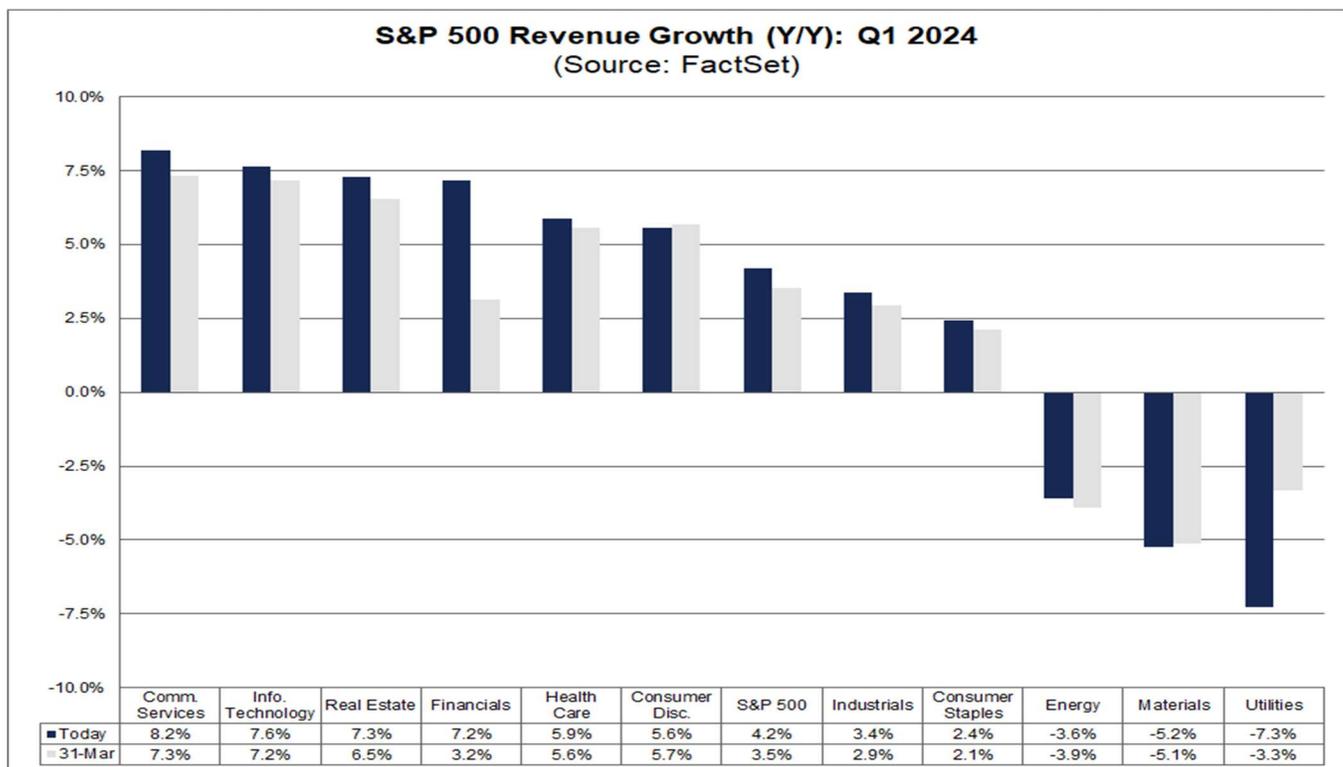
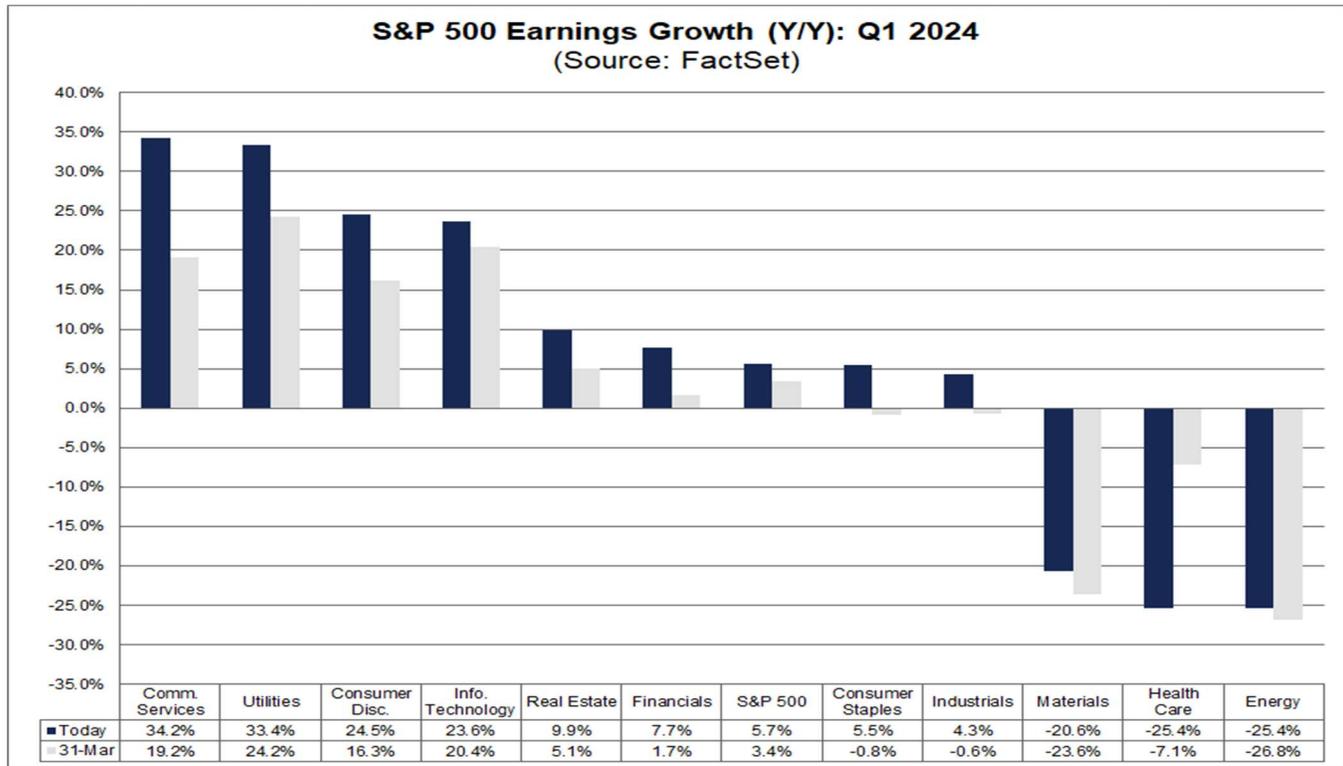
Q1 2024: Surprise



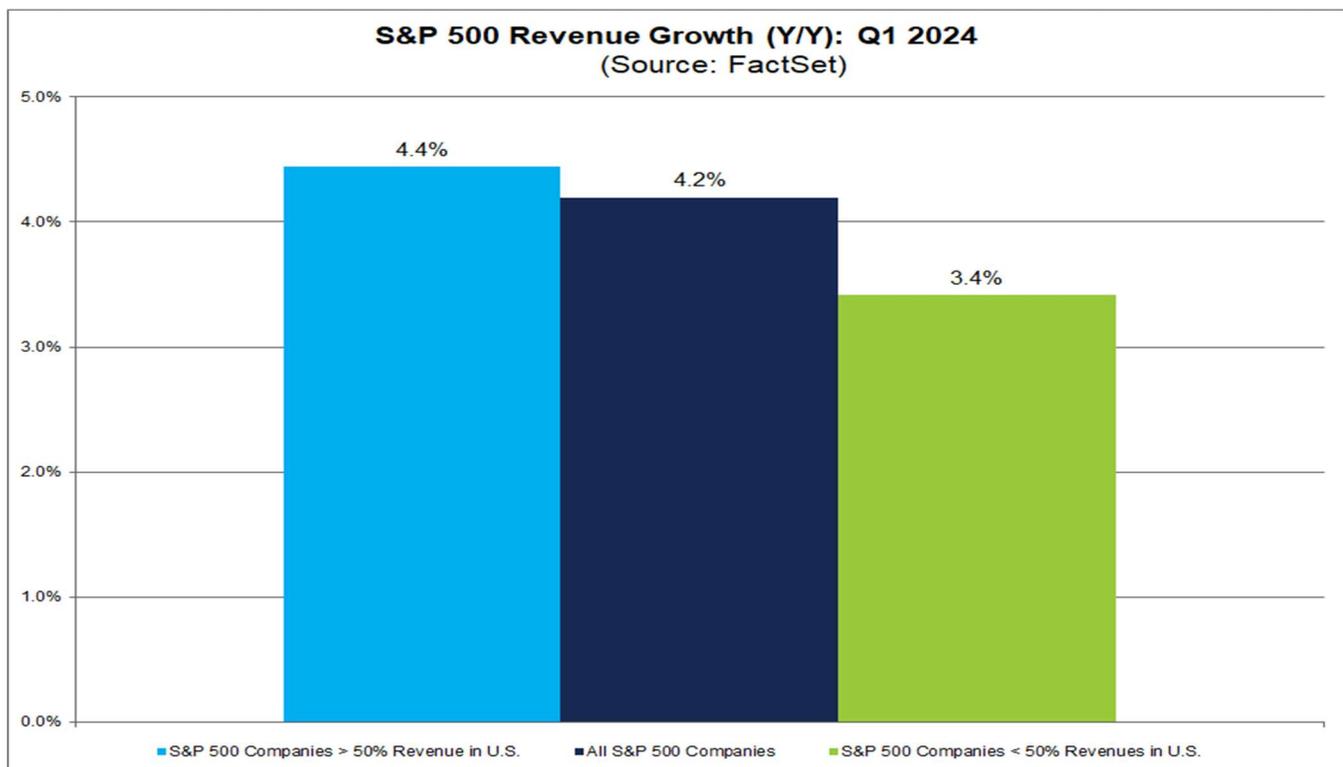
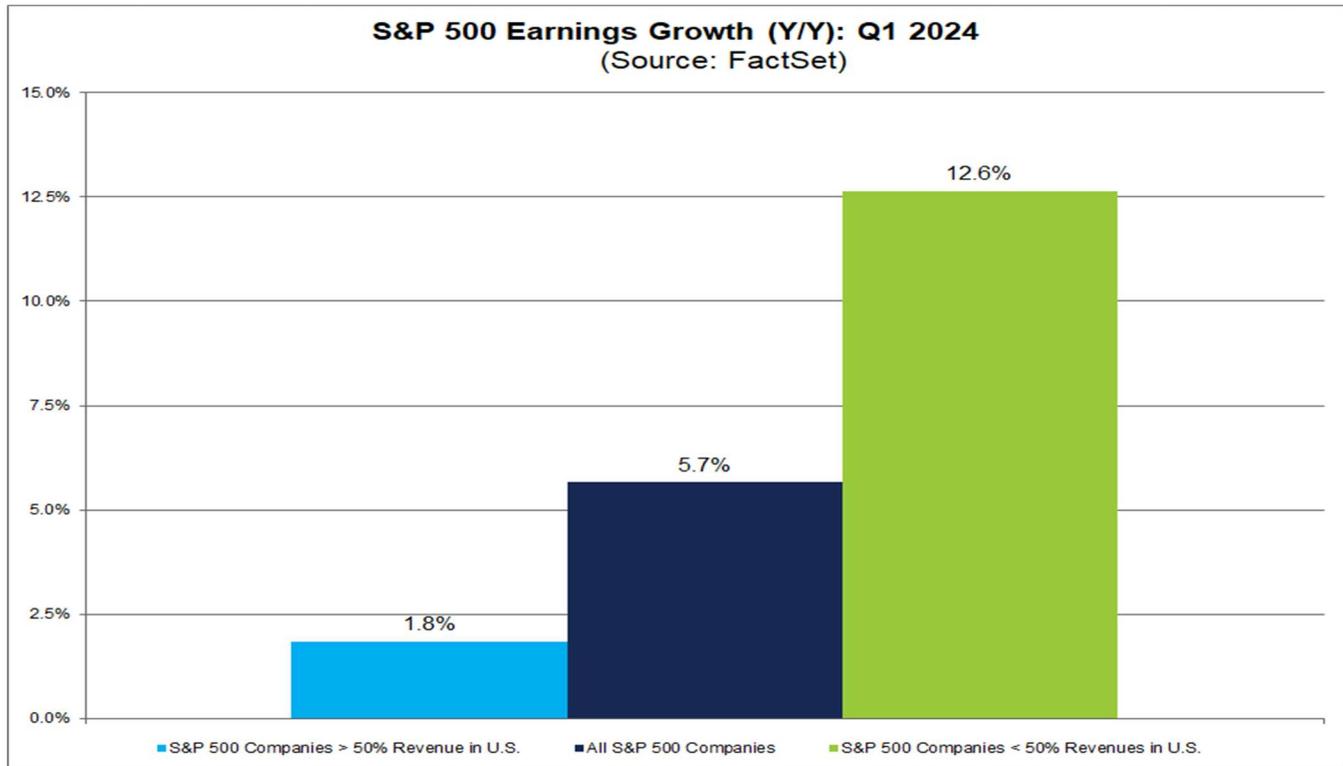
Q1 2024: Surprise



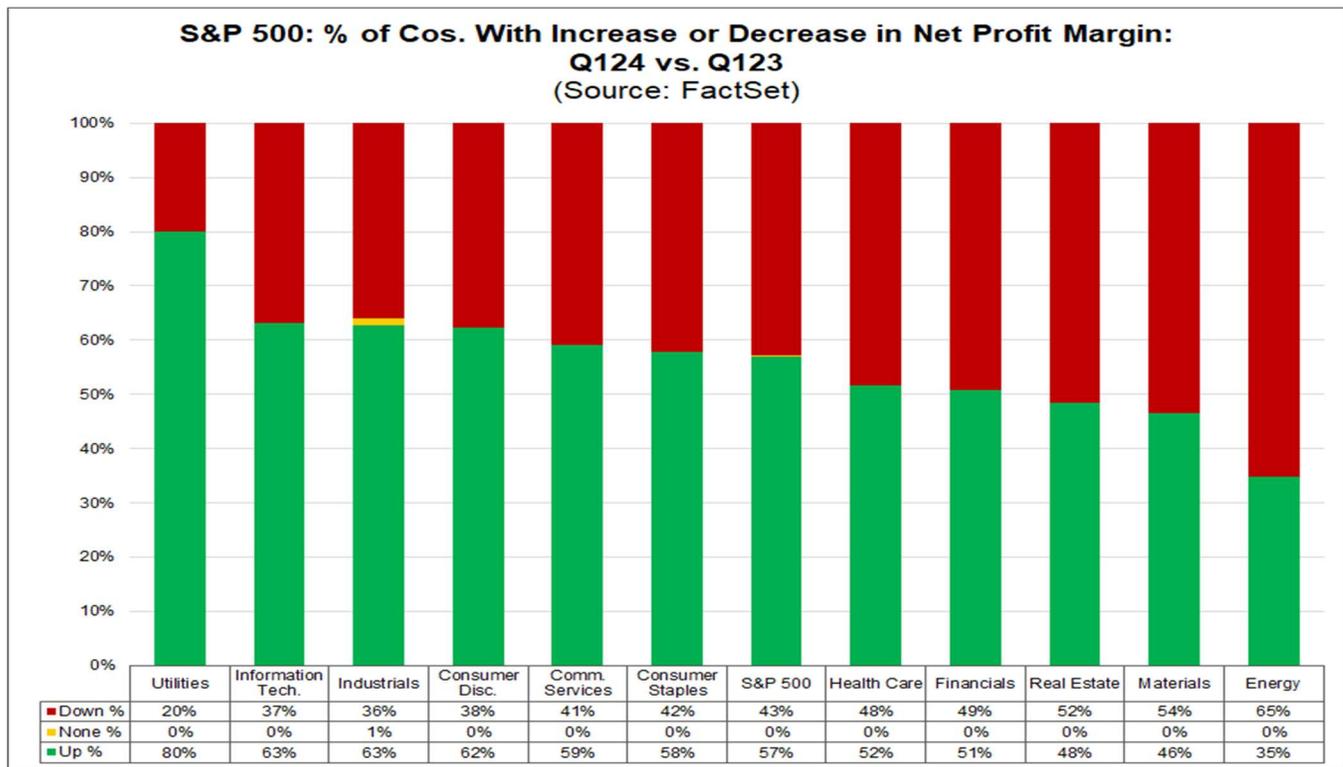
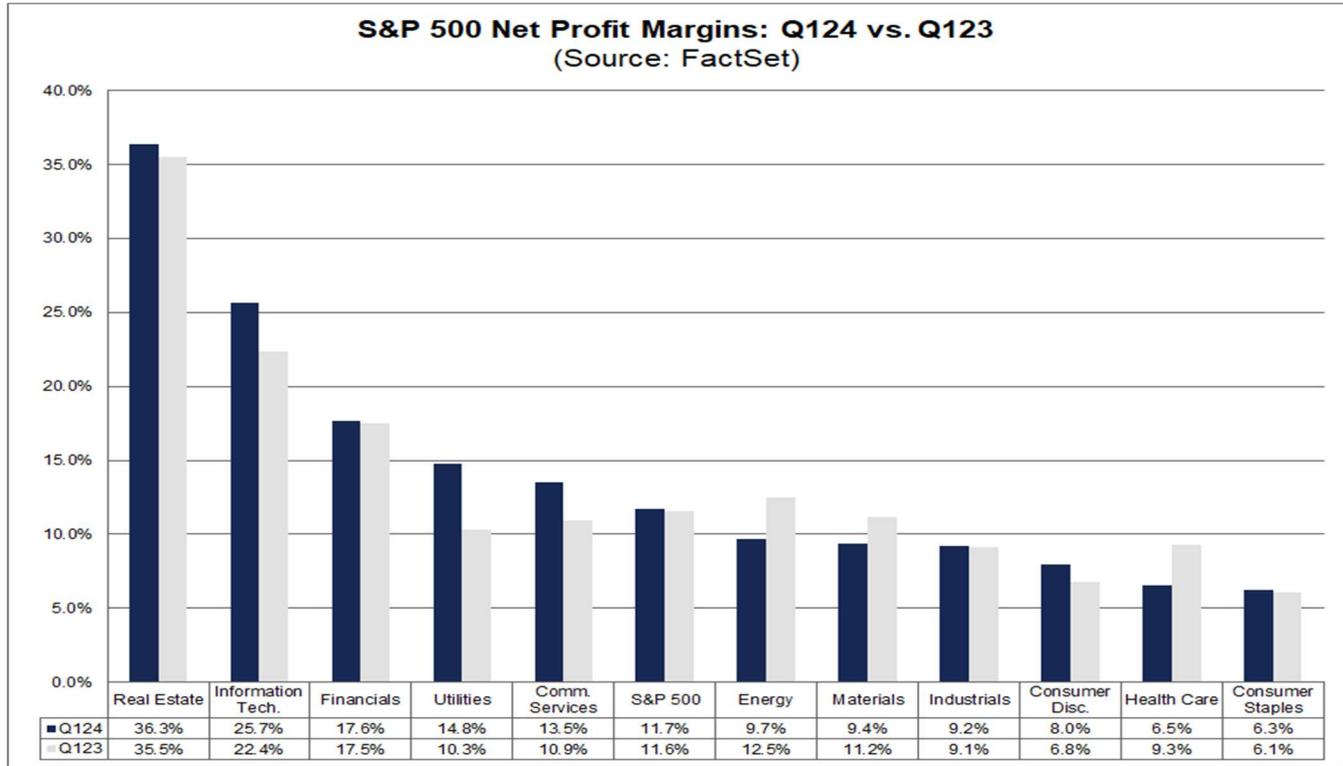
Q1 2024: Growth



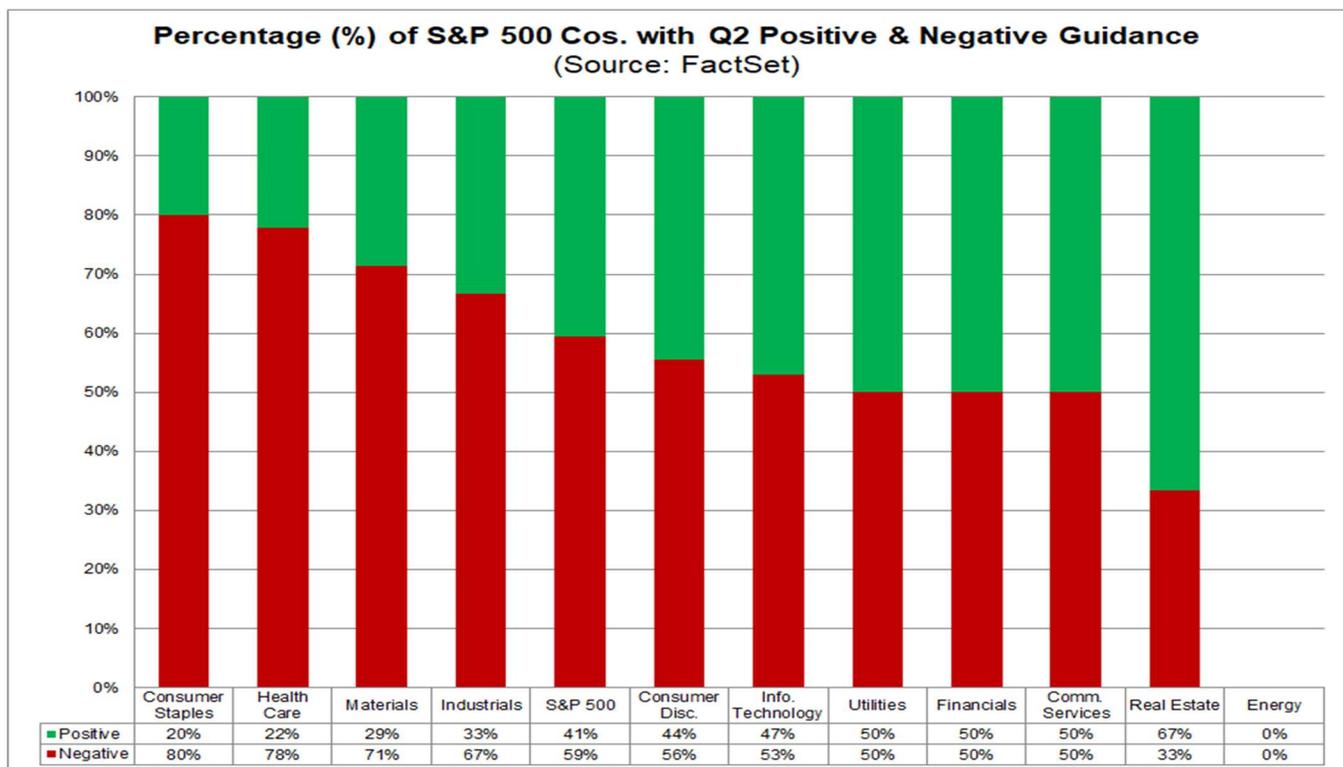
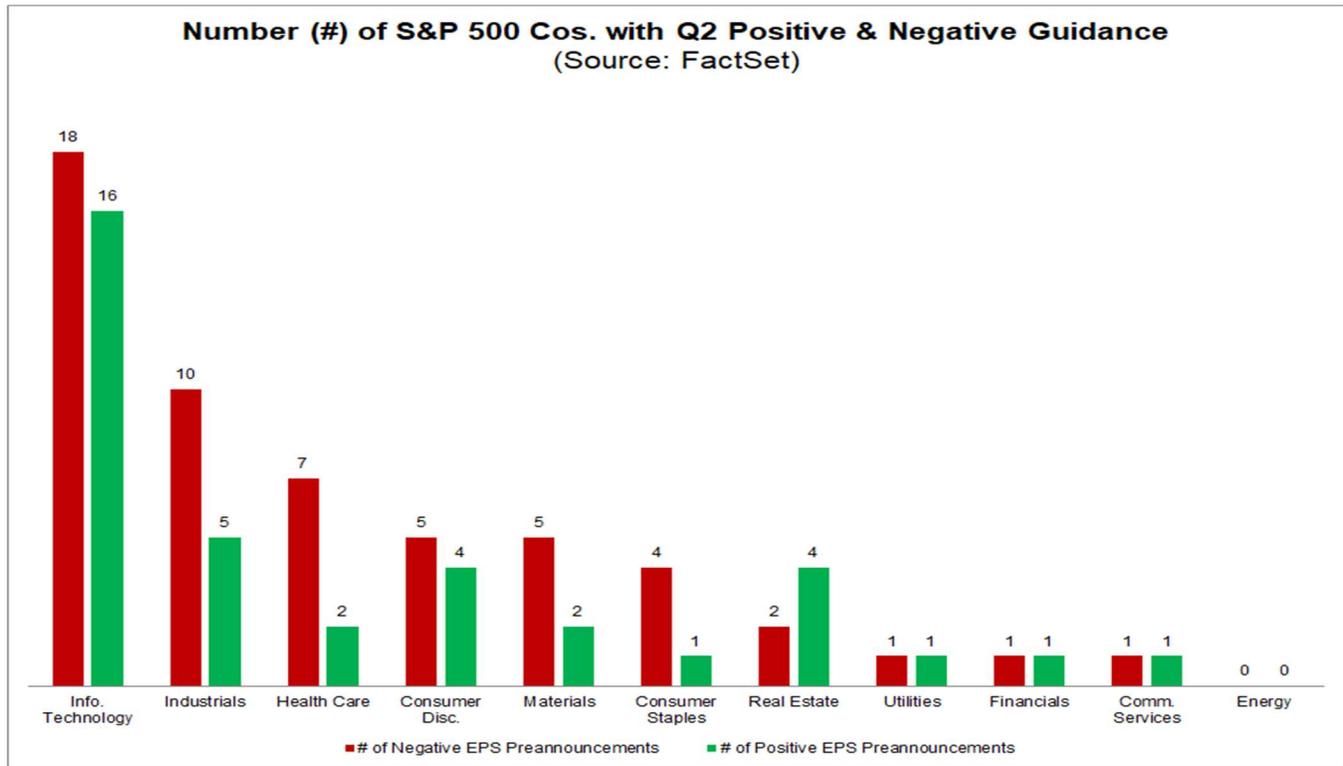
Q1 2024: Growth



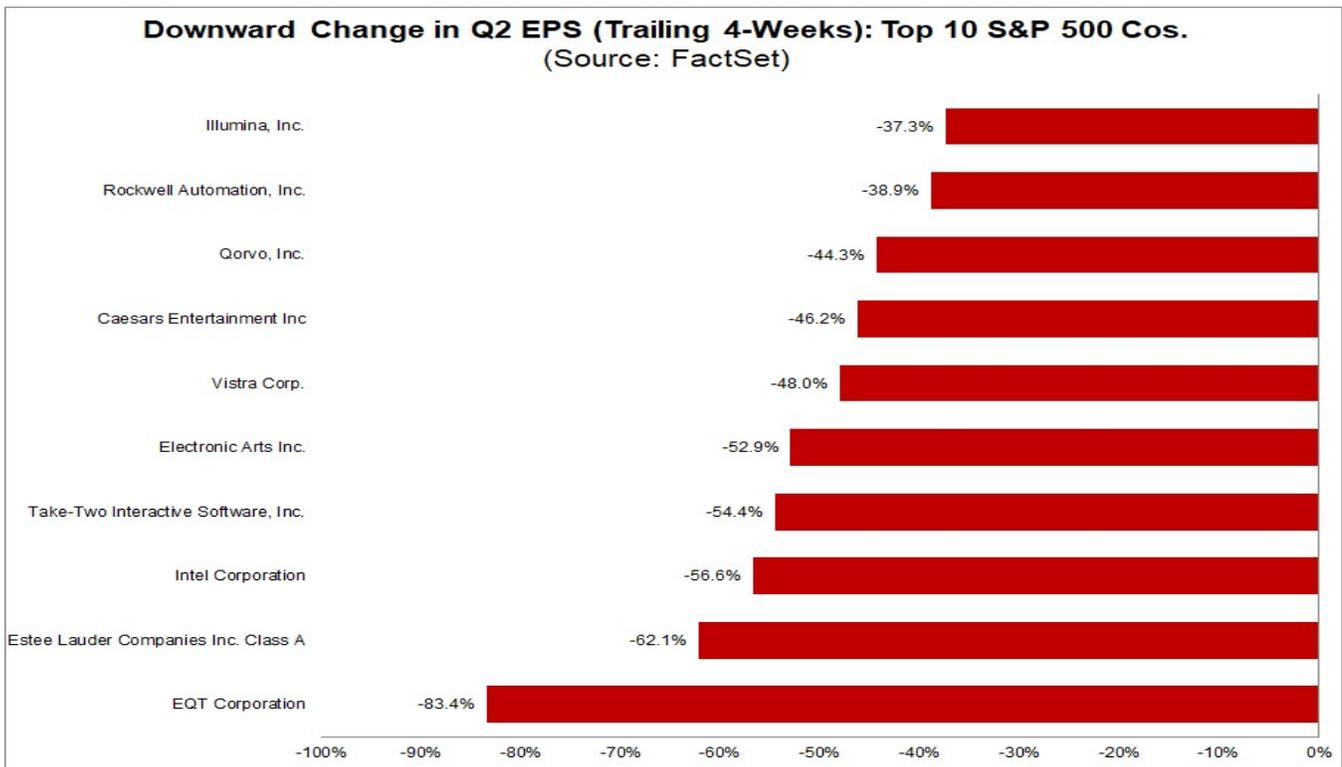
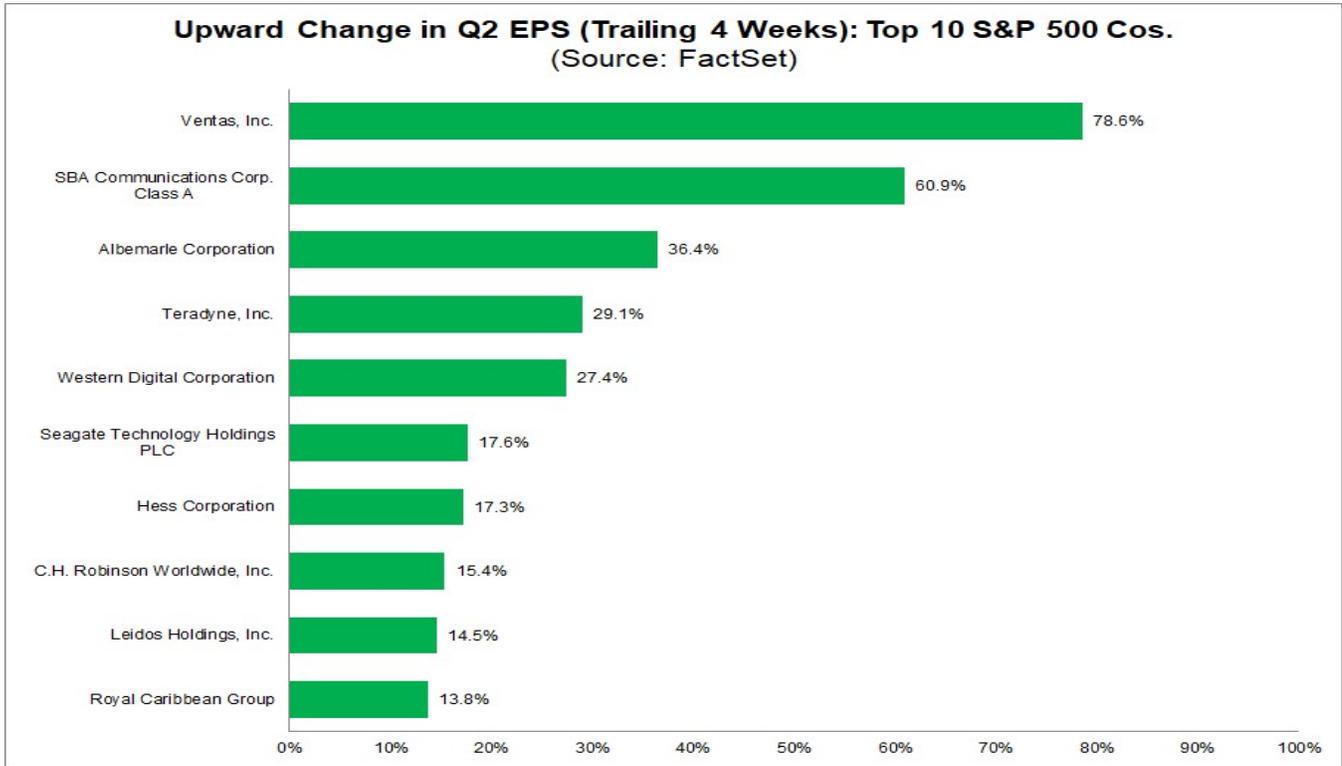
Q1 2024: Net Profit Margin



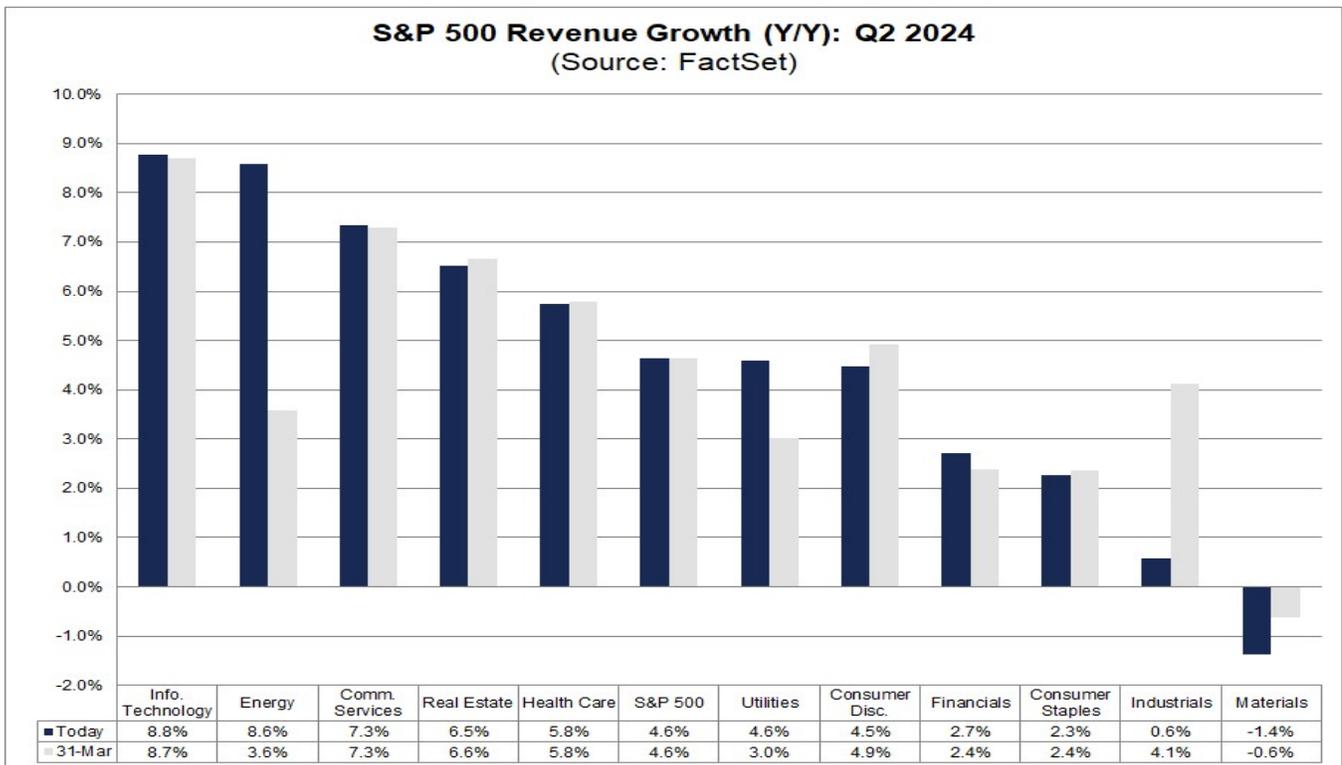
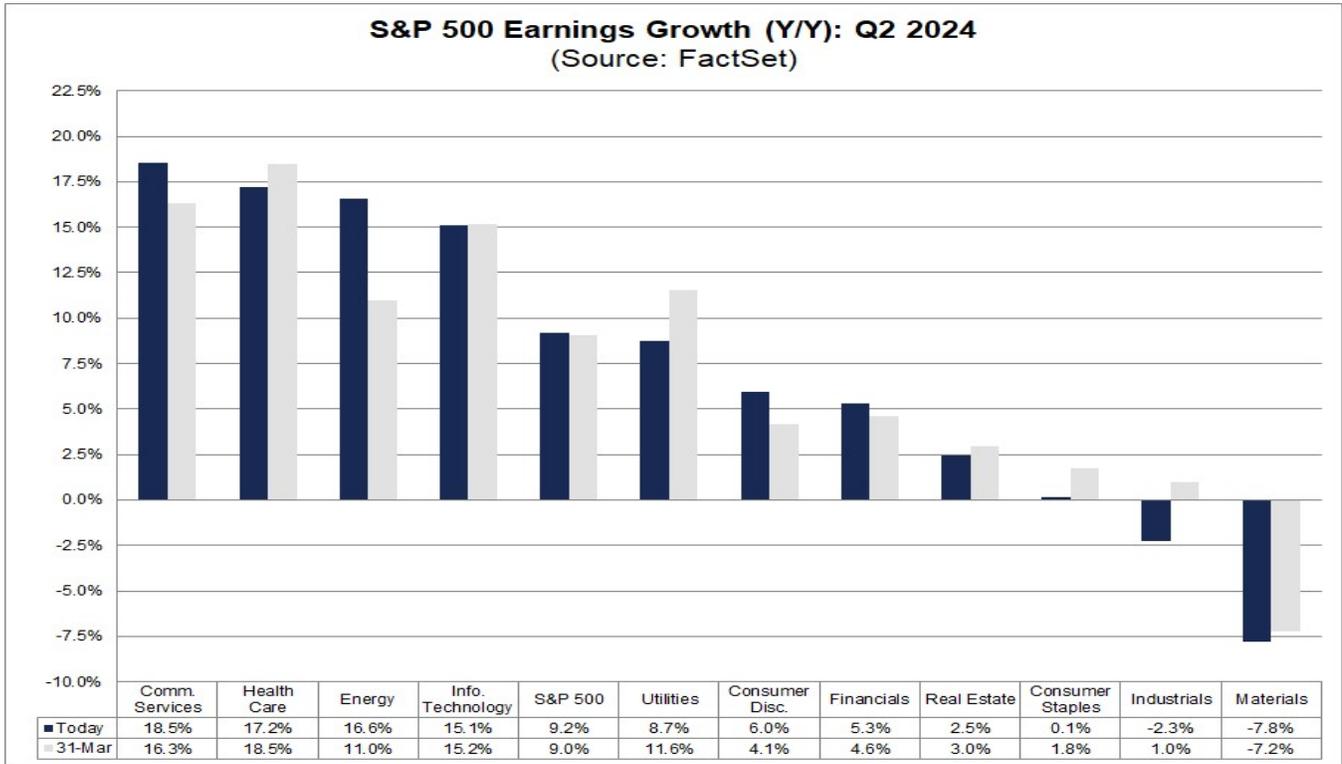
Q2 2024: Guidance



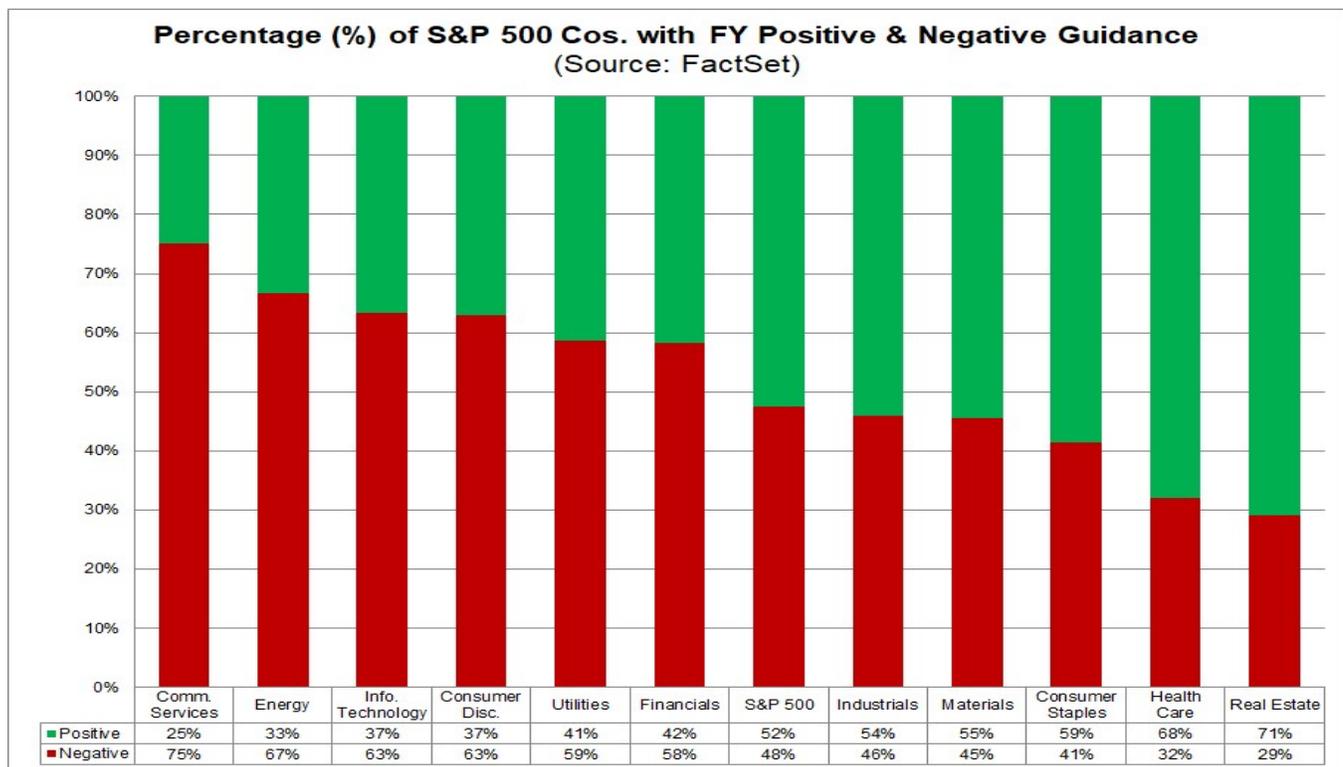
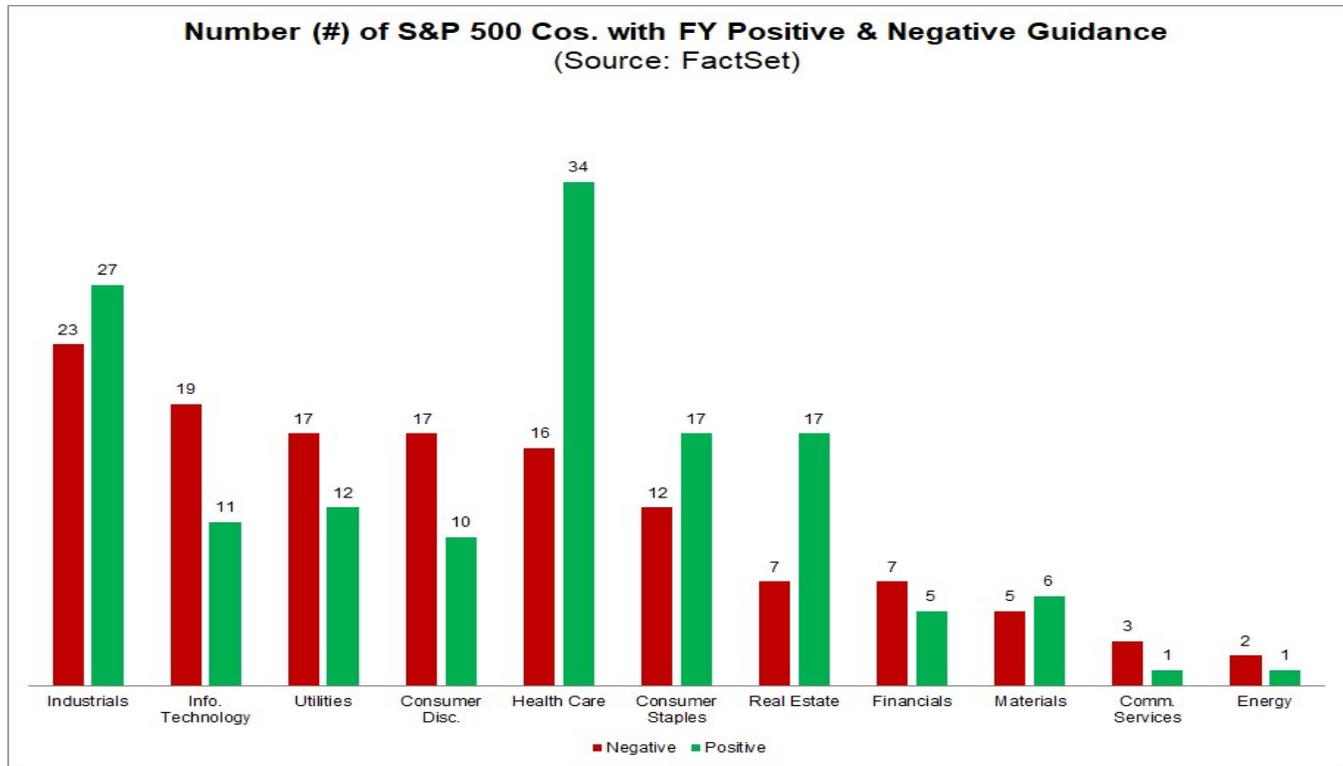
Q2 2024: EPS Revisions



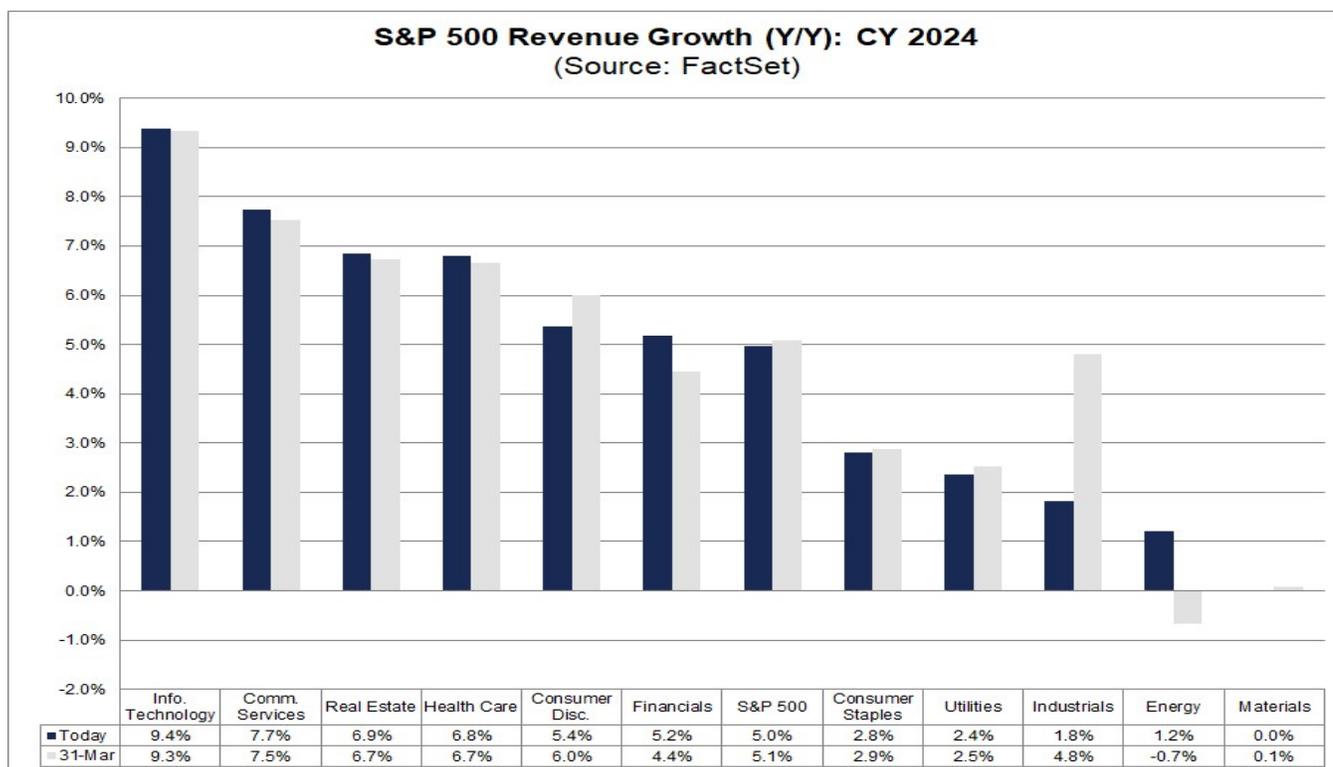
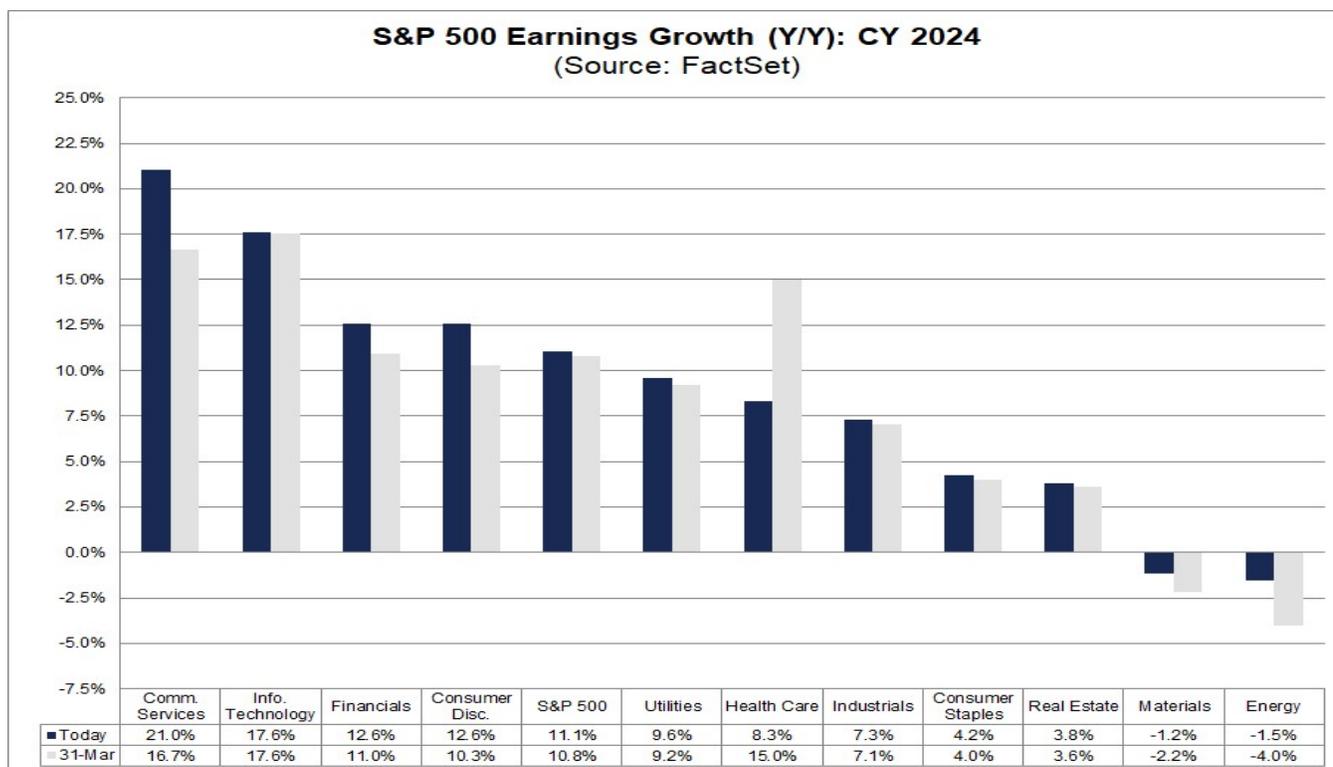
Q2 2024: Growth



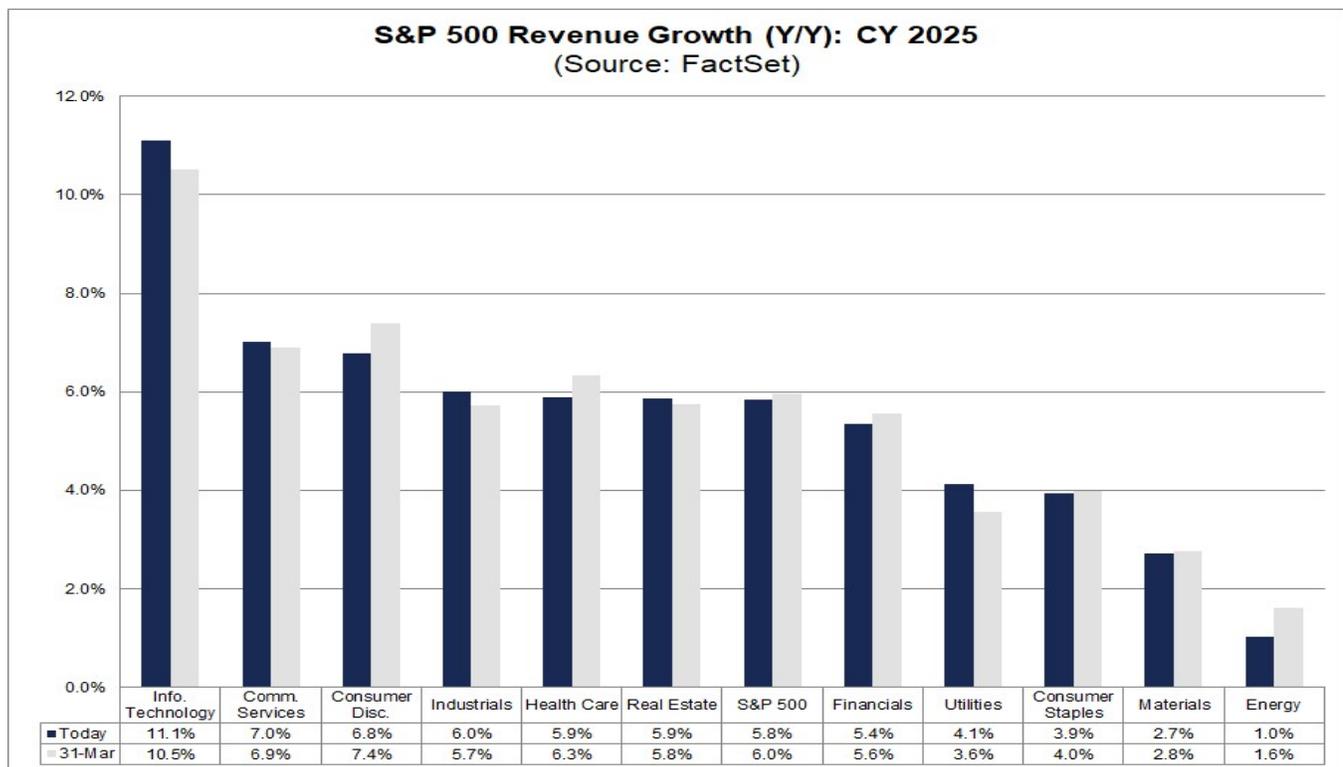
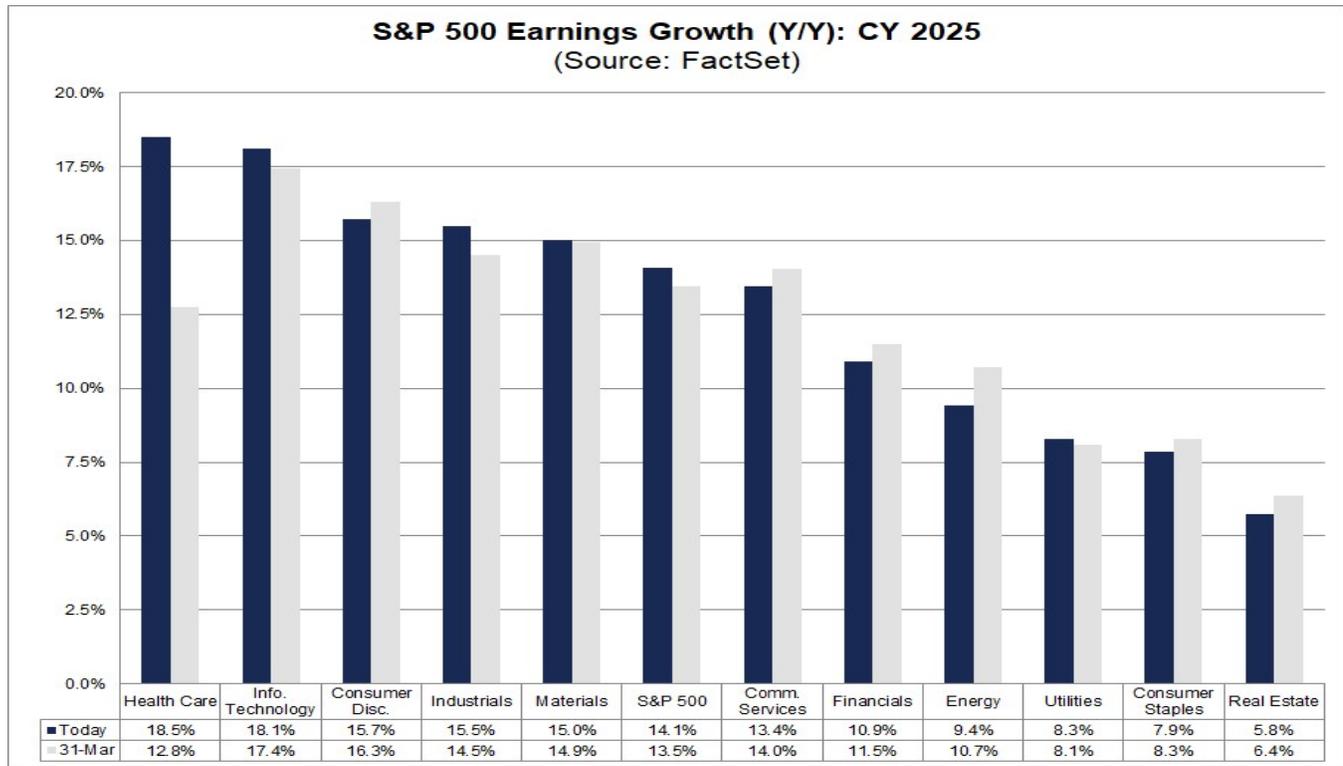
FY 2024 / 2025: EPS Guidance



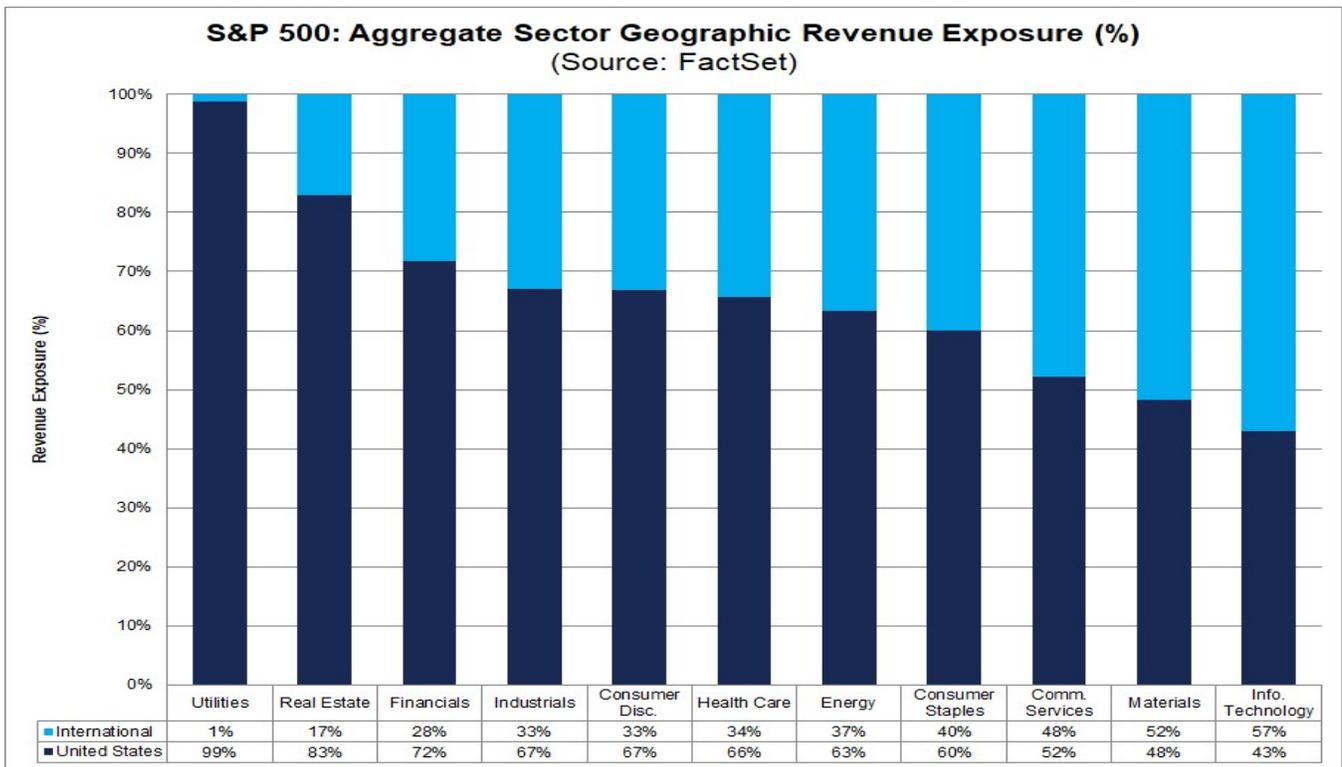
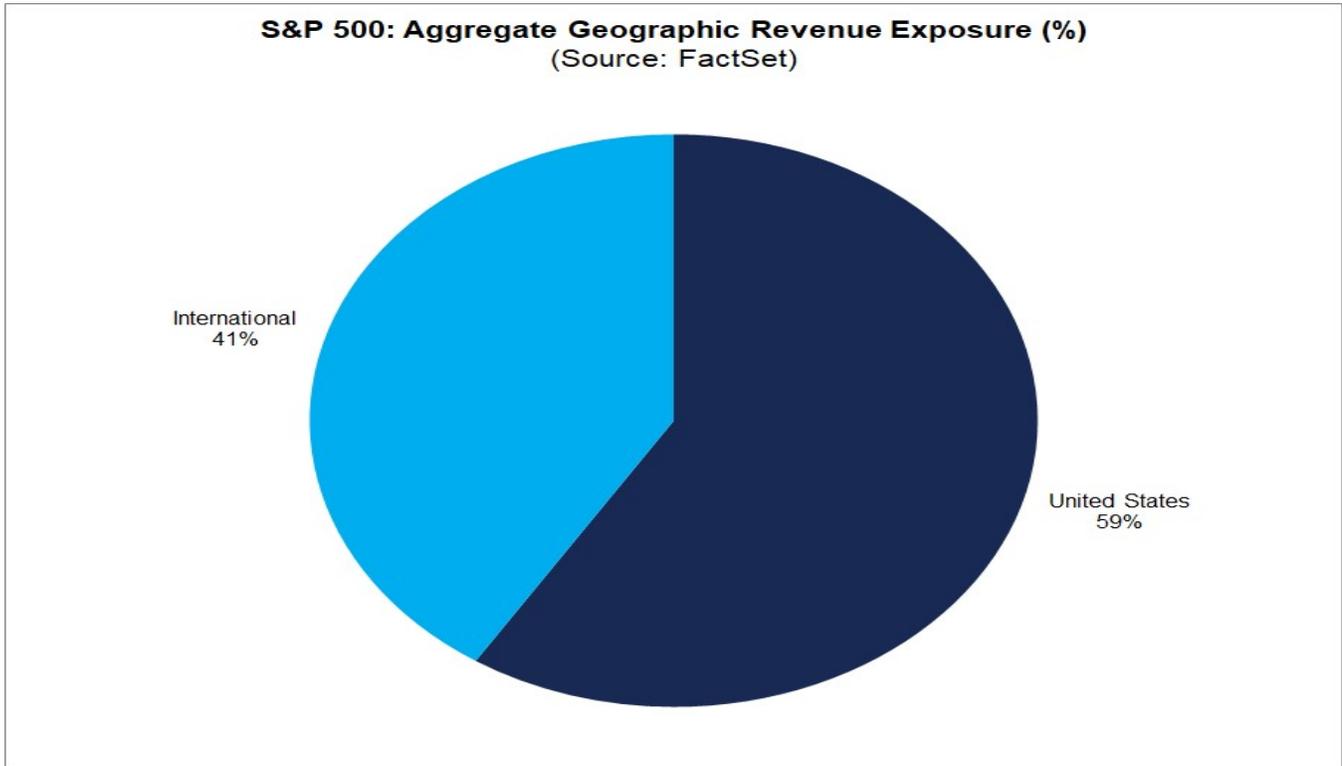
CY 2024: Growth



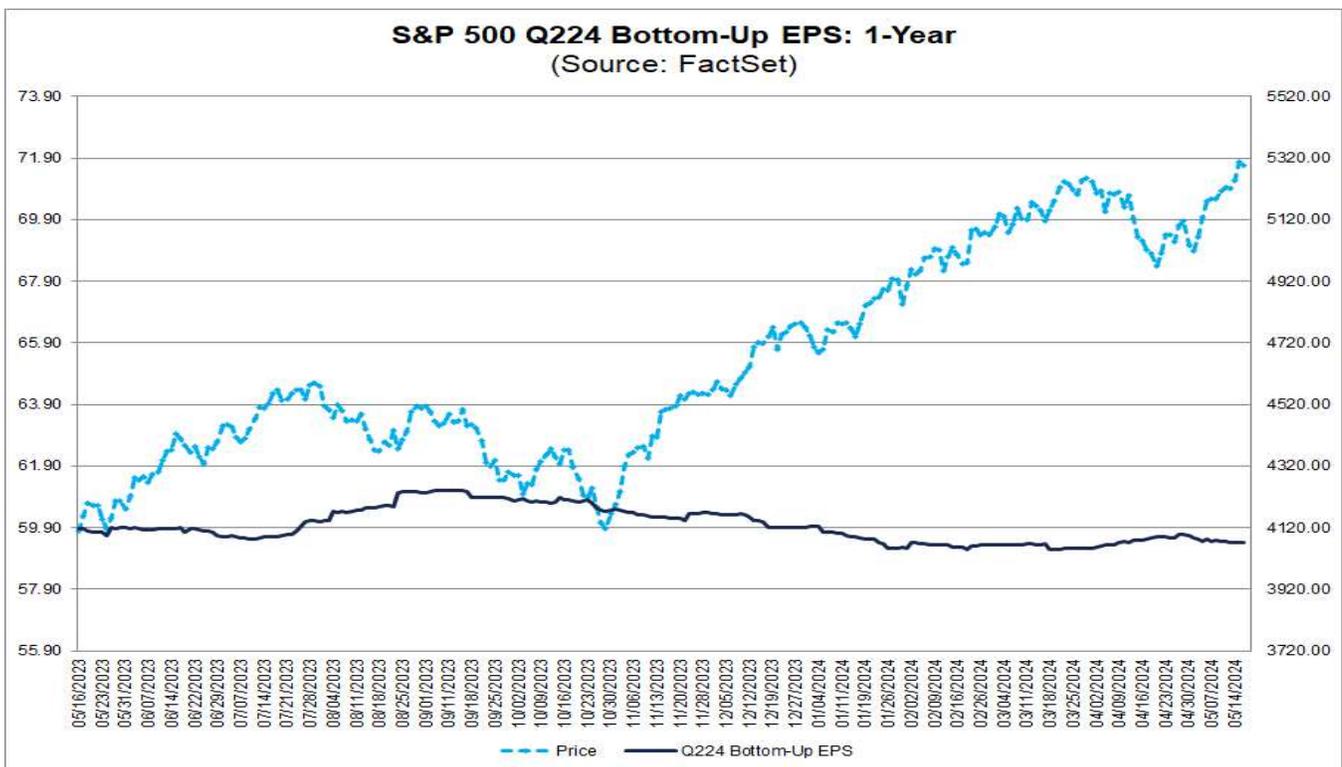
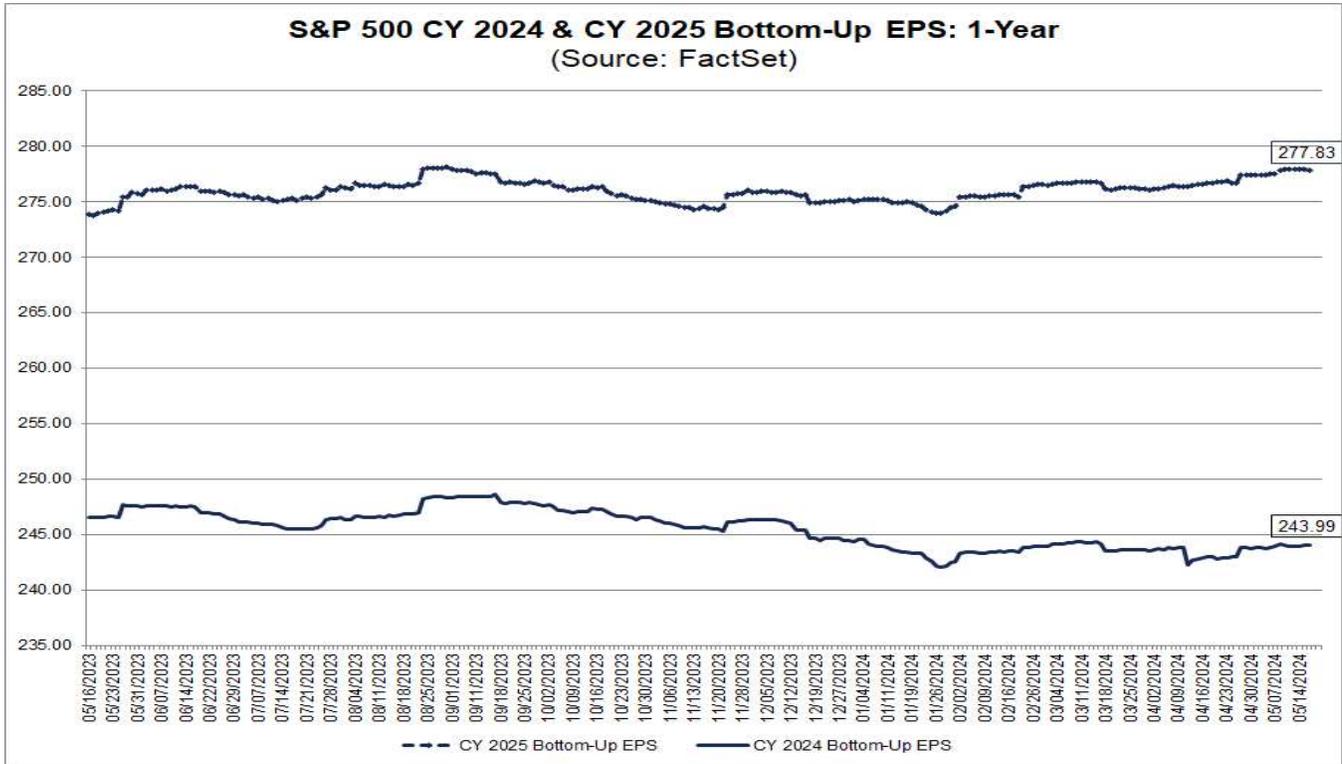
CY 2025: Growth



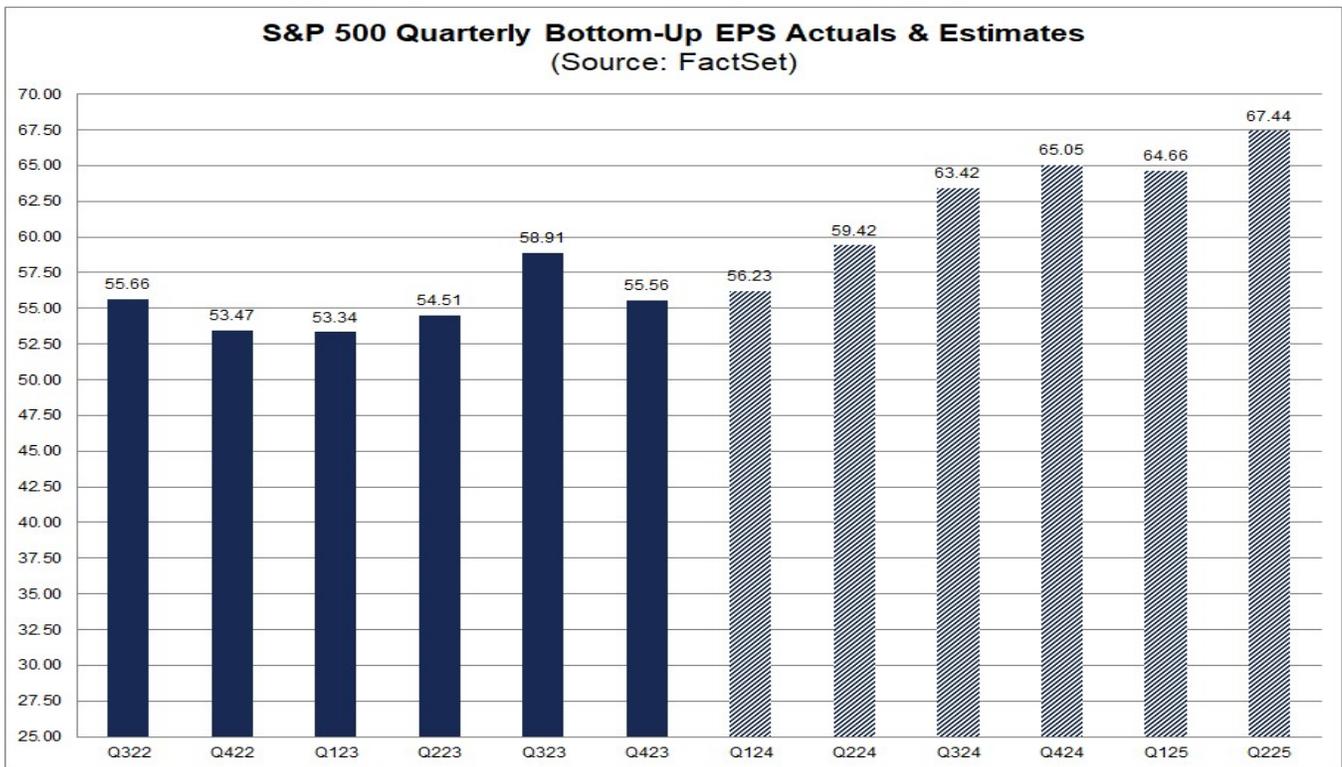
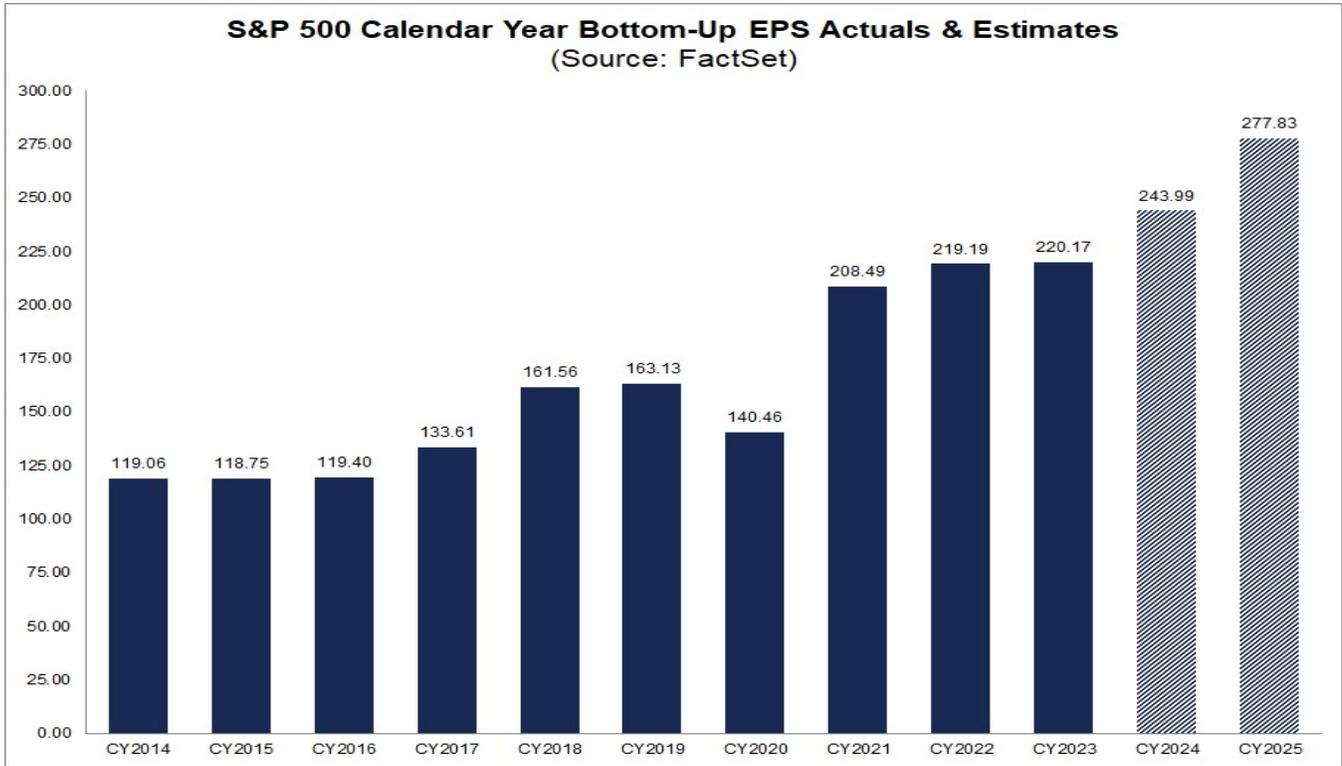
Geographic Revenue Exposure



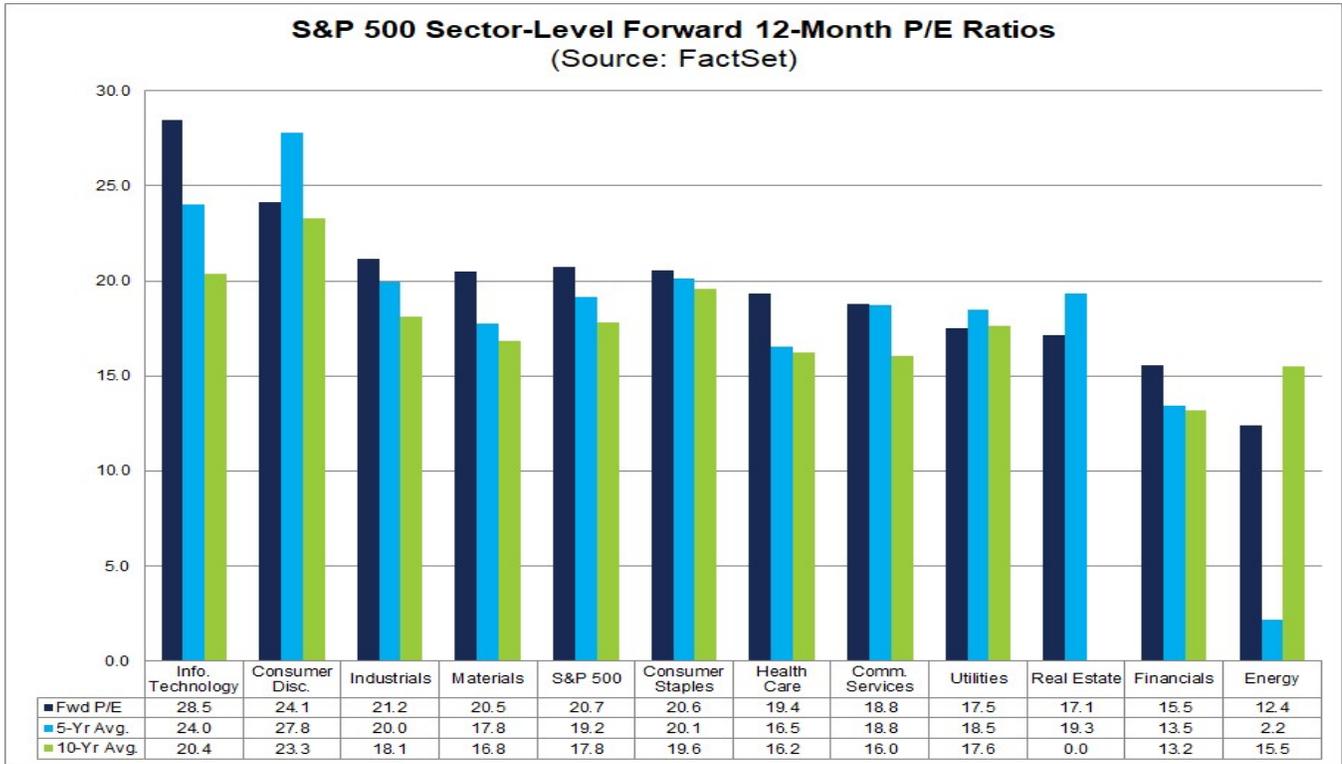
Bottom-Up EPS Estimates



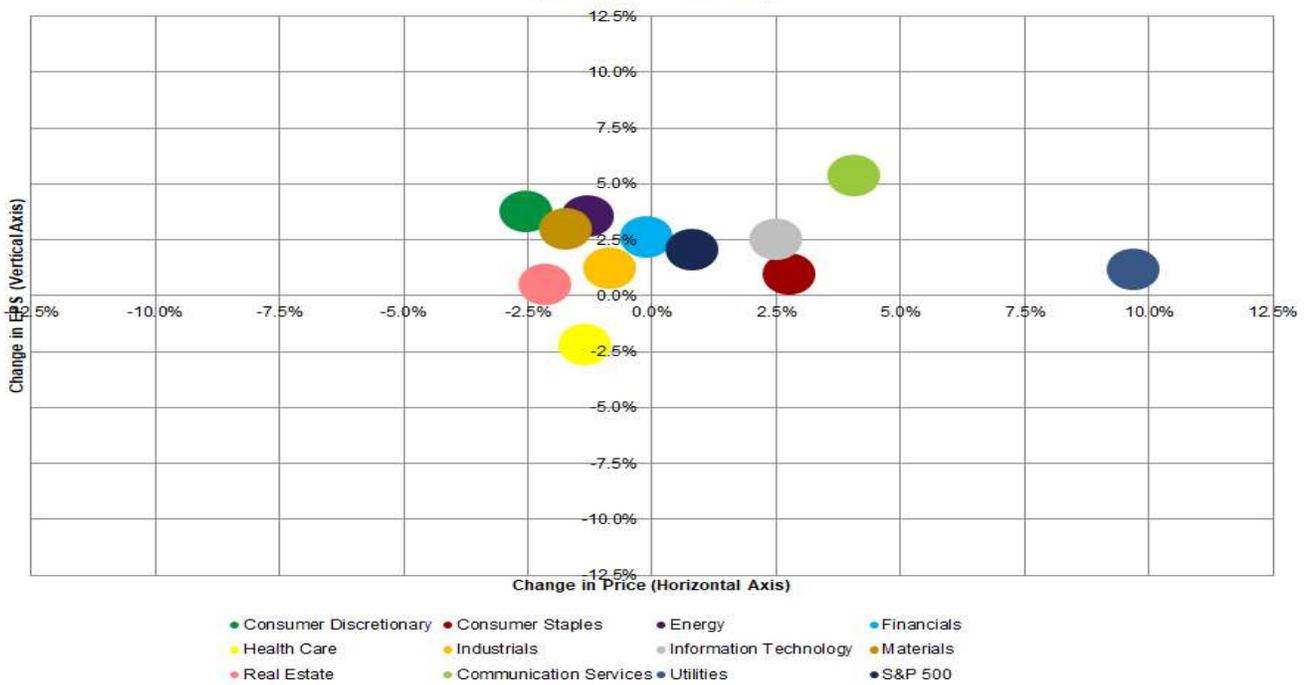
Bottom-Up EPS Estimates: Current & Historical



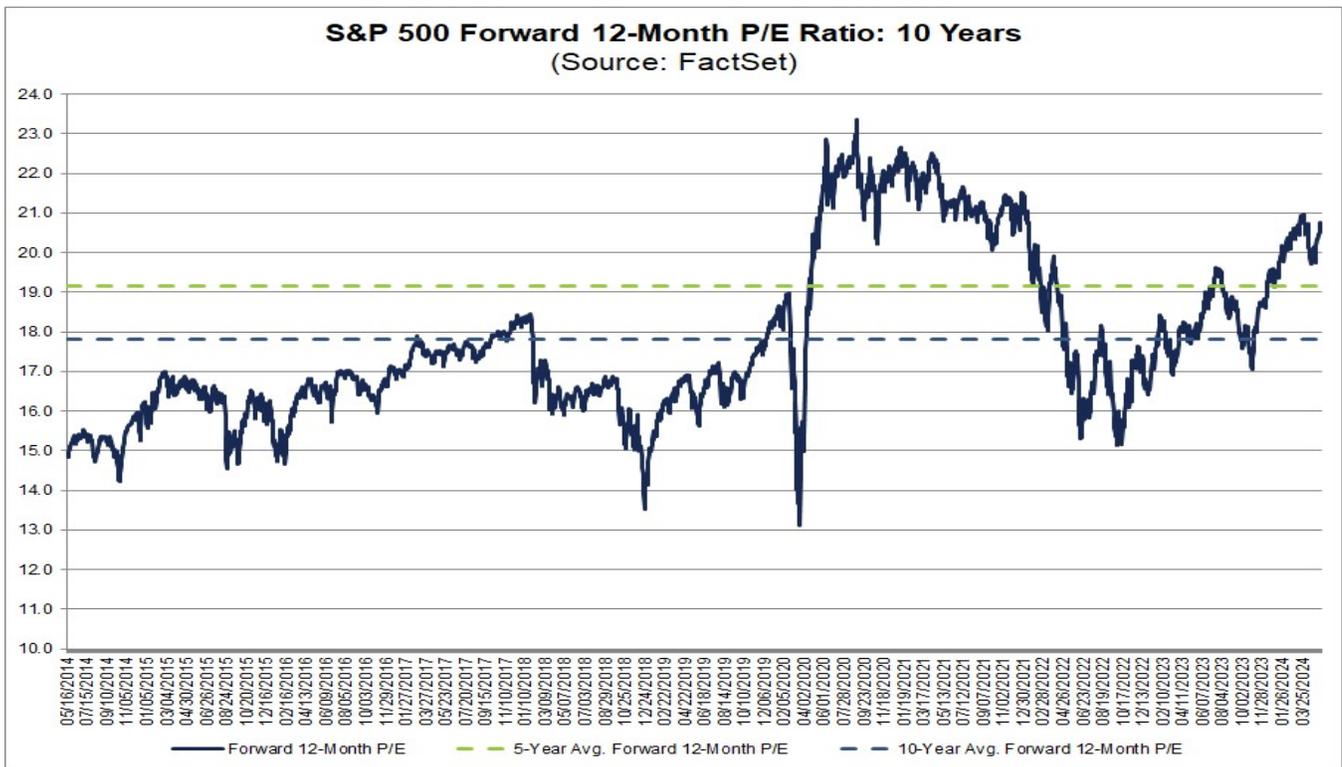
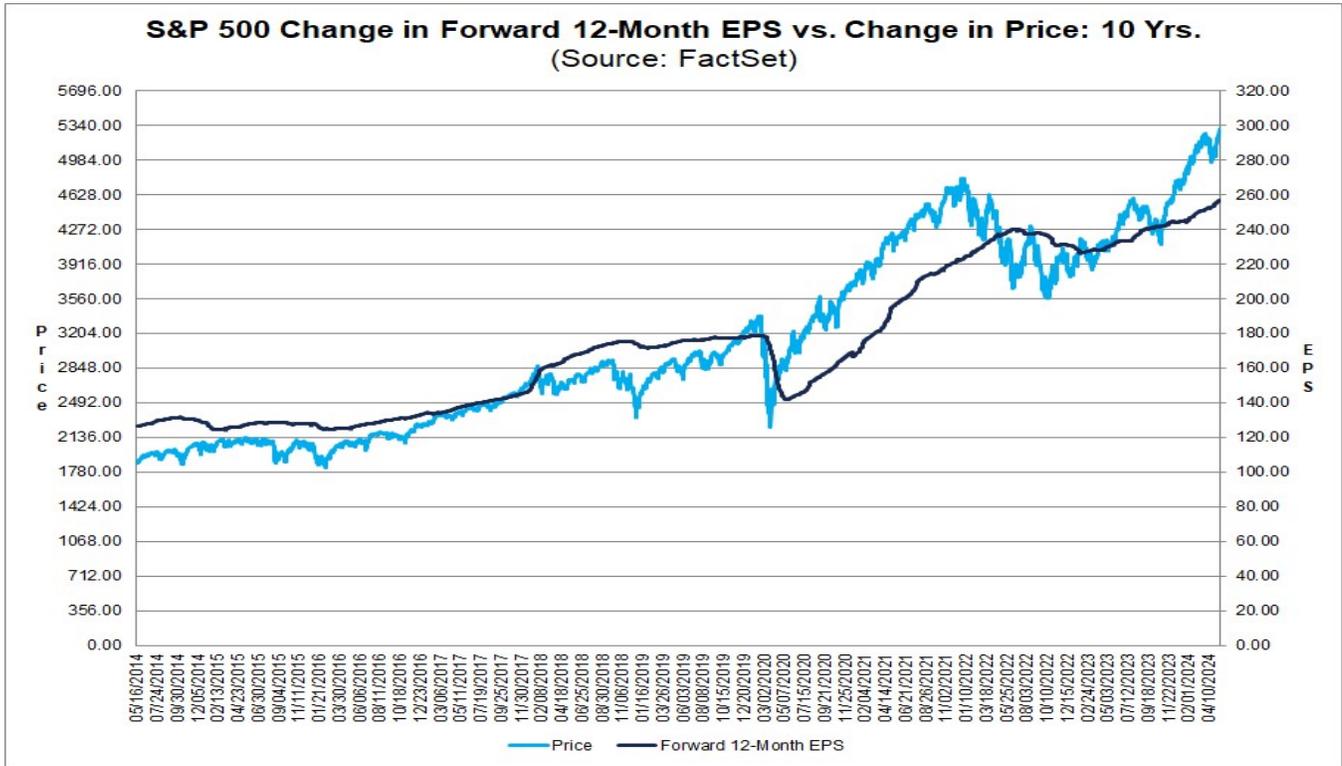
Forward 12M P/E Ratio: Sector Level



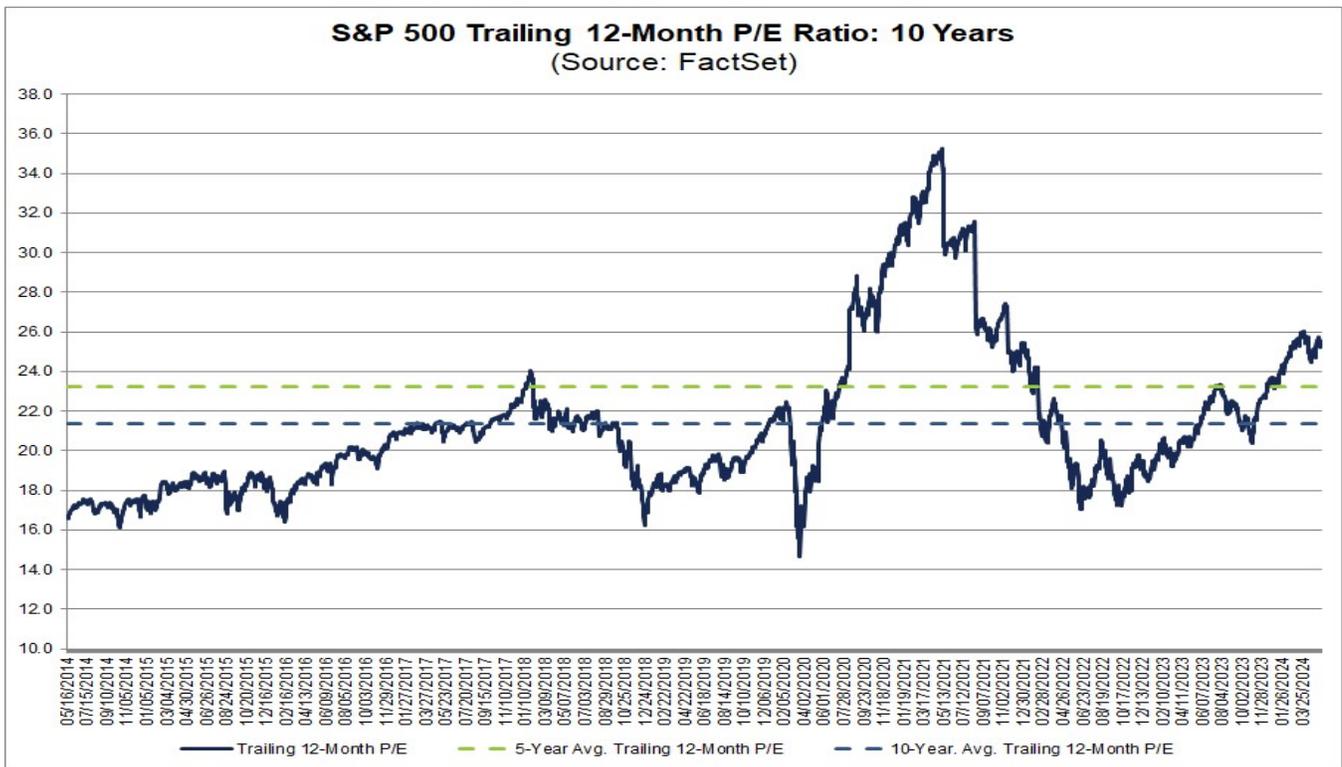
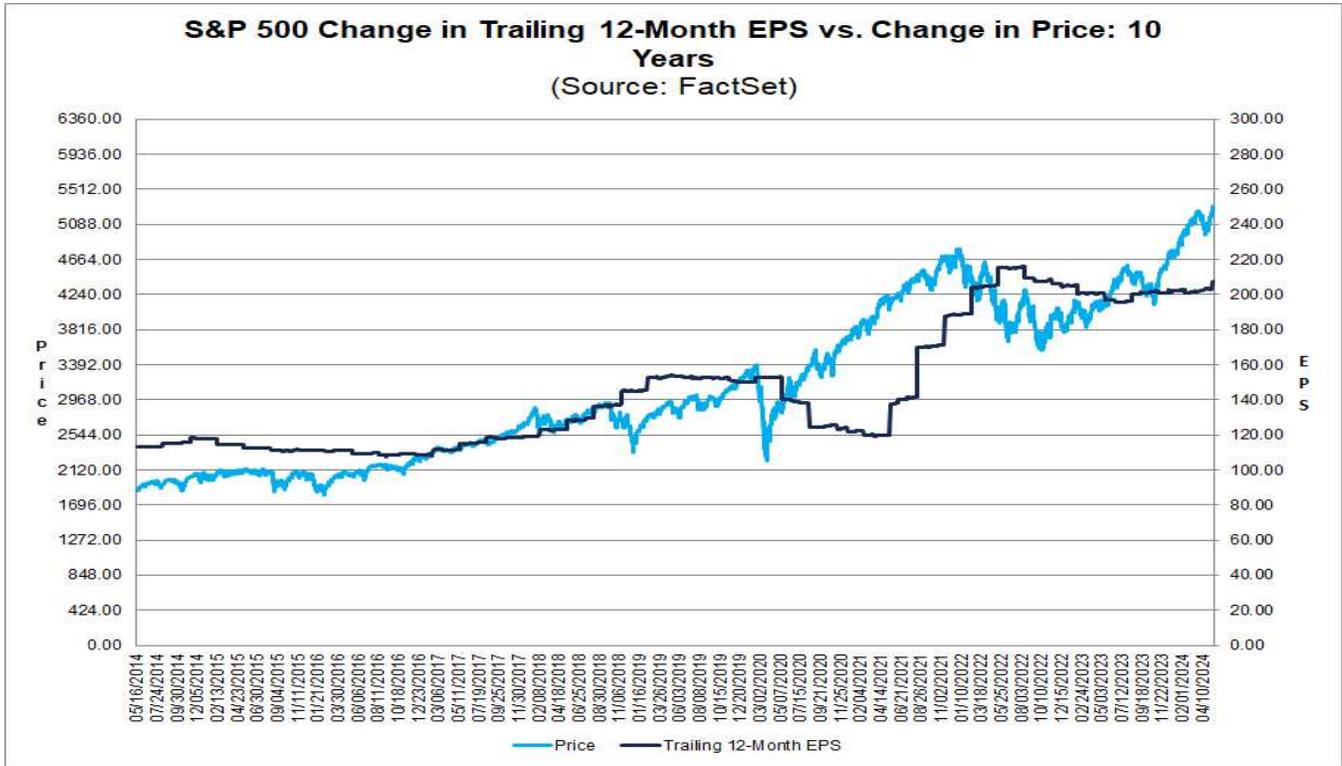
### Sector-Level Change in Fwd. 12-Month EPS vs. Price: Since Mar. 31 (Source: FactSet)



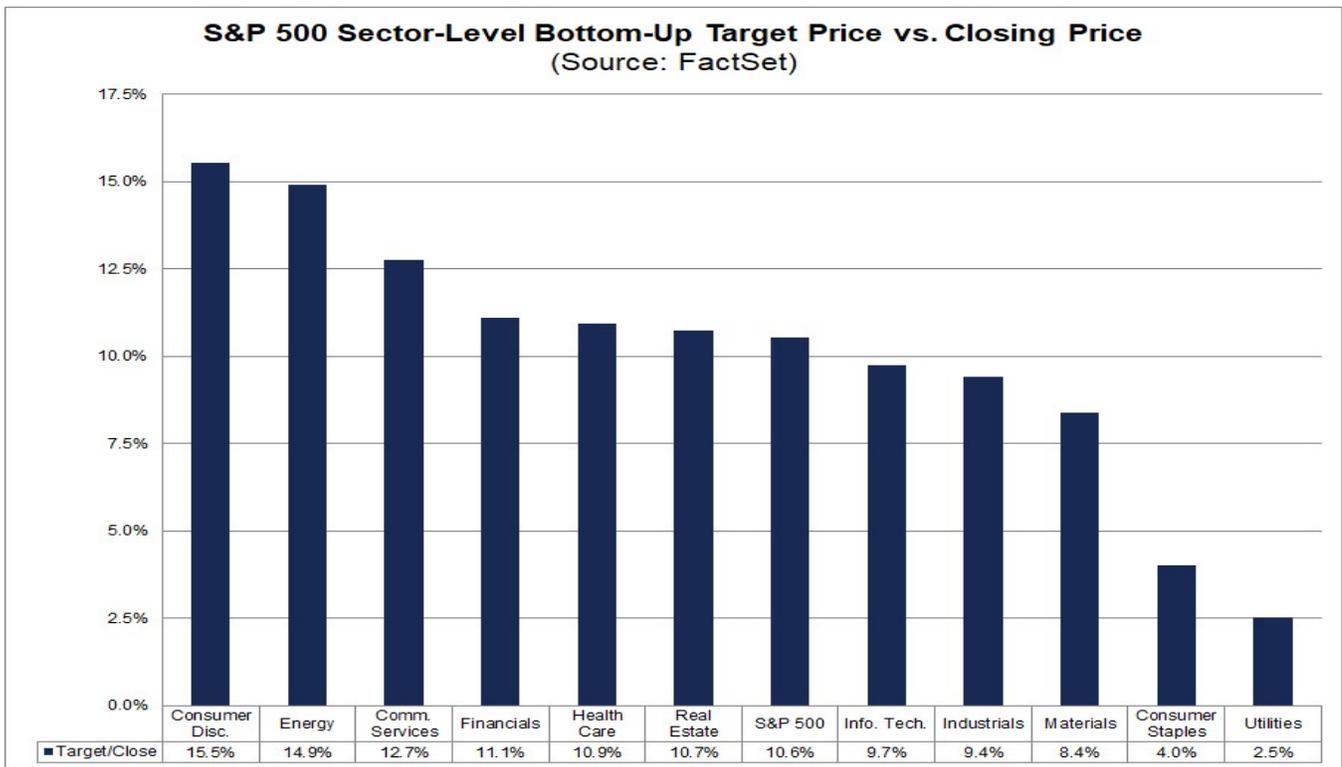
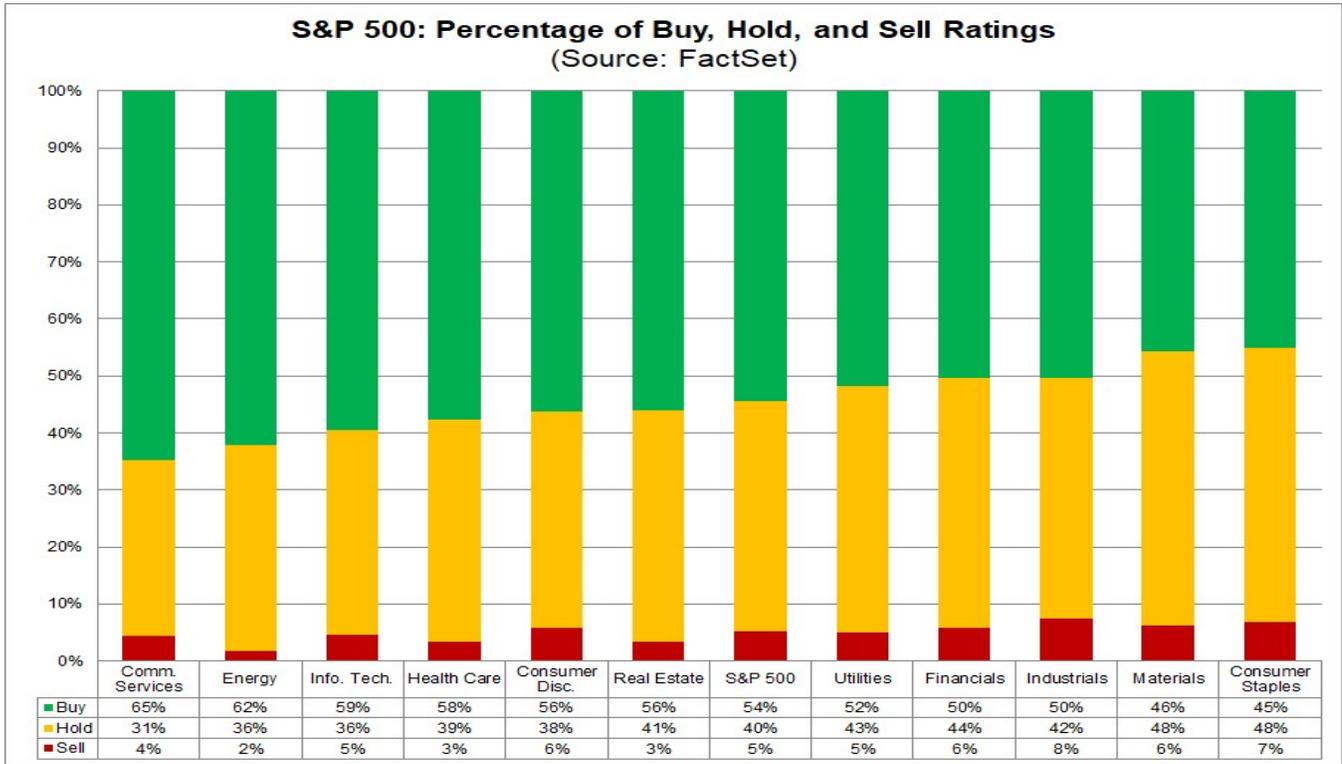
Forward 12M P/E Ratio: 10-Years



Trailing 12M P/E Ratio: 10-Years



Targets & Ratings



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