

# Apple's Stocks soar, driving markets up, GDPNow Set to Surpass Forecasts at 2.40%.

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by Francisco Rodríguez-Castro  
[frc@birlingcapital.com](mailto:frc@birlingcapital.com)

The U.S. and European stock markets rose, powered by a surge in Apple stocks following a Bank of America Securities upgrade in its rating on Apple from neutral to buy and revised its price target to \$225 from \$208.

The basis of the upgrade states that Apple will experience a more robust multiyear iPhone upgrade cycle due to increased demand for more capable hardware driven by artificial intelligence features. Apple's shares rose \$5.95 or 3.26% to close at \$188.63.

Today, the latest GDPNow was updated and remains at 2.40%, which would exceed forecasts; investors will get a first look at fourth-quarter 2023 U.S. GDP growth next Thursday. The current forecasts call for growth to fall from 4.9% annualized in the third quarter to 1.1% in the fourth quarter; however, as mentioned before, GDPNow indicates growth is on route to exceeding these forecasts, to 2.4% GDP for 4Q23.

As the upcoming Fed FOMC meeting on January 31 quickly approaches, the Fed expects to maintain interest rates on hold at 5.25% - 5.5%. However, investors will look for clues on whether the Fed is considering an interest-rate cut as early as the March meeting.

In political news, the U.S. Senate easily passed a short-term spending bill in a 77-18 vote. The bill is needed to avoid a partial government shutdown at the end of this week as lawmakers look toward the exits ahead of another winter storm. The approval sets the stage for the House to vote later today.

The legislation extends funding for agencies covered under the four appropriations bills set to lapse after Friday to March 1.

## GDPNow Update:

- The GDPNow for the fourth quarter was updated today and is unchanged at 2.40% GDP.

## Key Economic Data:

- **U.S. Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance:** fell to 187,000, down from 203,000 last week, decreasing -7.88%.
- **U.S. Housing Starts:** fell to 1.46 million, down from 1.525 million last month, decreasing -4.26%.
- **U.S. Building Permits:** rose to 1.495 million, up from 1.467 million last month, increasing 1.91%.
- **30-Year Mortgage Rate:** fell to 6.60%, compared to 6.66% last week.
- **Japan Consumer Price Index YoY:** fell to 2.80%, compared to 3.30% last month.

### Eurozone Summary:

- **Stoxx 600** closed at 470.45, up 2.79 points or 0.59%.
- **FTSE 100** closed at 7,459.09, up 12.80 points or 0.17%.
- **Dax Index** closed at 16,587.35, up 135.66 points or 0.83%.

### Wall Street Summary:

- **Dow Jones Industrial Average** closed at 37,469.61, up 201.94 points or 0.54%.
- **S&P 500** closed at 4,790.54, up 41.73 points or 0.88%.
- **Nasdaq Composite** closed at 15,055.65, up 200.03 points or 1.35%.
- **Birling Capital Puerto Rico Stock Index** closed at 3,161.95, down 11.90 points or 0.37%.
- **Birling Capital U.S. Bank Stock Index** closed at 4,183.23, down 38.50 points or 0.91%.
- **U.S. Treasury 10-year note** closed at 4.14%.
- **U.S. Treasury 2-year note** closed at 4.34%.

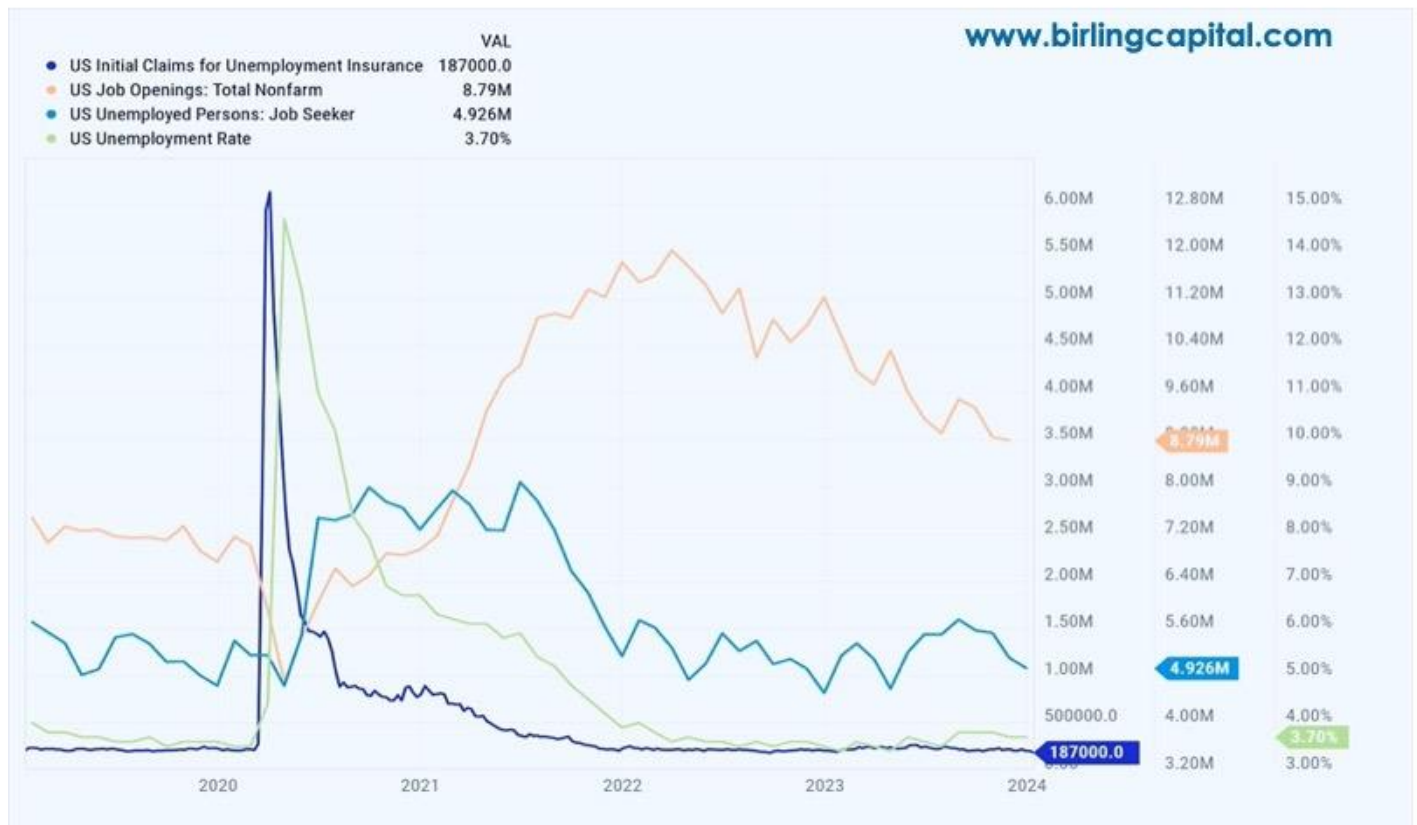


## GDPNow 4Q23

Date	GDPNow 4Q23	Change
10/27/23	2.30%	Initial Forecast
11/1/23	1.20%	-47.83%
11/7/23	2.10%	42.86%
11/8/23	2.10%	0.00%
11/15/23	2.20%	4.55%
11/17/23	2.00%	-9.09%
11/22/23	2.10%	4.76%
11/30/23	1.80%	-16.67%
12/1/23	1.20%	-50.00%
12/6/23	1.30%	7.69%
12/7/23	1.20%	-8.33%
12/14/23	2.60%	53.85%
12/19/23	2.70%	3.70%
12/22/23	2.30%	-17.39%
1/2/24	2.00%	-15.00%
1/3/24	2.50%	20.0%
1/9/24	2.20%	-13.64%
1/10/24	2.20%	0.0%
1/17/24	2.40%	8.33%
1/18/24	2.40%	0.00%



# US Intitial Claims for Unemployment fell -7.88%





# US Housing Starts, US Building Permits and 30-Year Mortgage Rate



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