GLOBAL MARKET SQUARE

BIRLING CAPITAL ADVISORS, LLC

The U.S. unemployment rate falls to 3.60%, and the economy is headed for a full recovery, driving Wall Street closed higher.

April 1, 2022

by Francisco Rodríguez-Castro
frc@birlingcapital.com

The U.S. and European stock markets closed mostly higher. Investors welcomed the second quarter with gains as the news that the U.S. economy added 431,000 new jobs, with the unemployment rate falling to 3.60%, drove markets to begin the second quarter with gains.

The U.S. economy added 1.686 million during the first quarter of 2022. The U.S. economy averaged 562,000 per month, similarly to the first quarter of 2021. These results further evidence that the U.S. economy is close to a full recovery.

Looking for opportunities: we evaluate the first quarter returns for our banking portfolio of stocks:

- Wells Fargo (WFC): had a first quarter return of 1%.
- OFG Bancorp. (OFG); had a first quarter return of 0.30%.
- Popular Inc. (BPOP): had a first quarter return of -0.37%.
- First Bancorp. (FBP): had a first quarter return of -4.79%.
- Bank of America (BAC): had a first quarter return of -7.35%.
- Morgan Stanley (MS): had a first quarter return of -10.96%.
- Citigroup (C): had a first quarter return of -11.57%.
- Goldman Sachs (GS): had a first quarter return of -13.57%.
- JP Morgan Chase (JPM): had a first quarter return of -13.91%.

Key economic data:

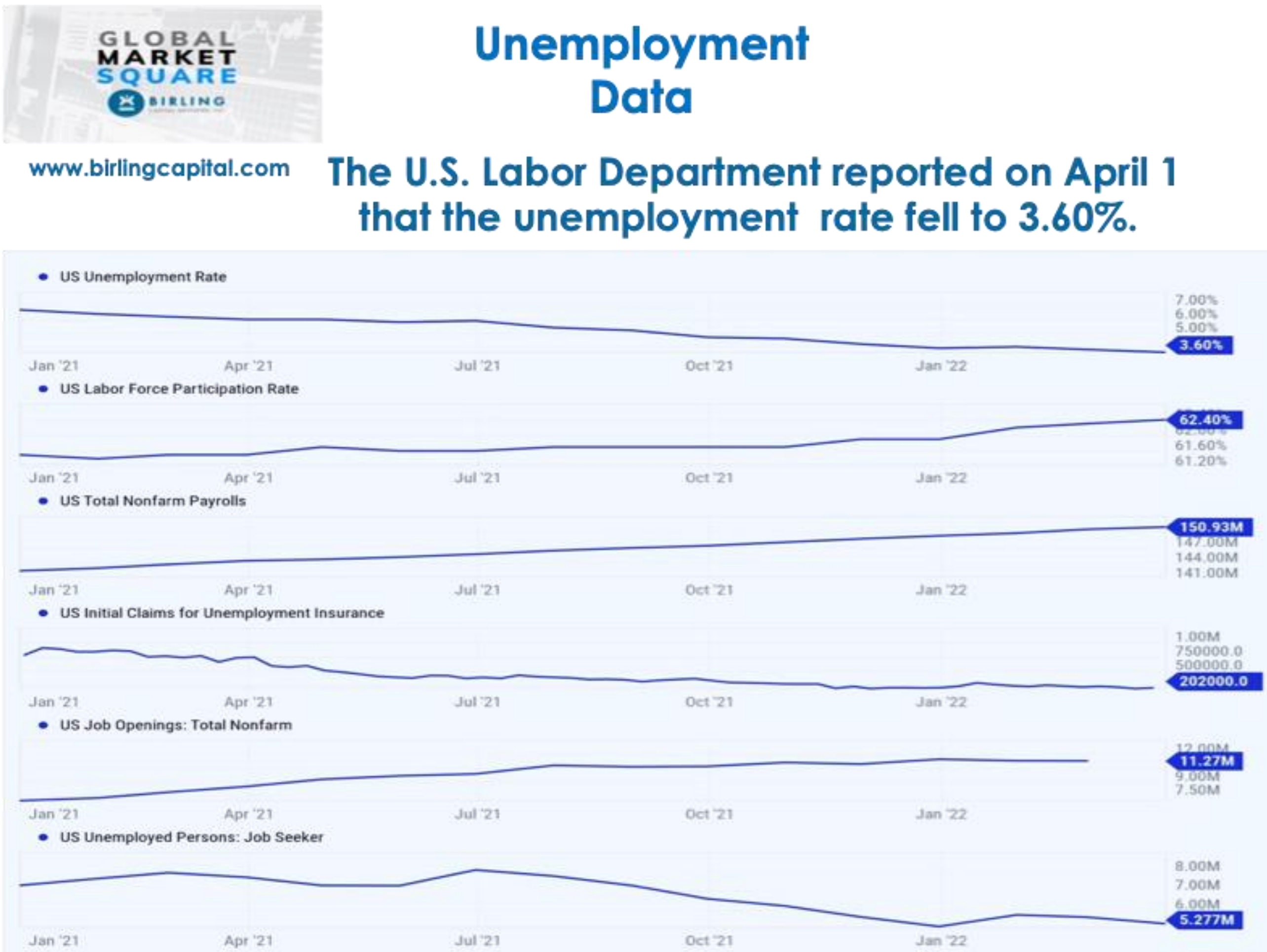
- U.S. Unemployment Rate: fell to 3.60%, compared to 3.80% last month.
- U.S. Labor Force Participation Rate: rose to 62.40%, compared to 62.30% last month.
- U.S. Nonfarm Payrolls MoM: fell to 431,000, down from 750,000 last month a decrease of -42.53%.
- U.S. Construction Spending MoM: fell to 0.52%, compared to 1.61% last month.
- U.S. ISM Manufacturing PMI: fell to 57.10, down from 58.60 last month a change of -2.56%.

Eurozone Summary for April 1:

- Stoxx 600 closed at 458.36, up 2.50 points or 0.55%.
- FTSE 100 closed at 7,537.90, up 22.22 points or 0.30%.
- Dax Index closed at 14,446.48, up 31.73 points or 0.22%.

Wall Street Summary for April 1:

- Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at 34,818.27, up 139.92 points or 0.40%.
- Standard & Poor's 500 closed at 4,545.86, up 15.45 points or 0.34%.
- Nasdaq Composite Index closed at 14,261.50, up 40.98 points or 0.29%.
- Birling Capital Puerto Rico Stock index closed at 2,728.57, down 26.64 points or 0.97%.
- The U.S. Treasury 10-year note closed at 2.38%.
- The U.S. Treasury 2-year note closed at 2.44%.




Birling Capital Banking Stock Portfolio Returns
1/1 to 3/31/2022
Wells Fargo & Co Price % Change
OFG Bancorp Price % Change
Popular Inc Price % Change
First BanCorp Price % Change
Bank of America Corp Price % Change
Morgan Stanley Price % Change
Citigroup Inc Price % Change
Goldman Sachs Group Inc Price % Change
JPMorgan Chase & Co Price % Change
24.00%
12.00%
1.00%
0.30%
-0.37%
-4.79%
-7.35%
-10.96%
-11.57%
-13.71%
-13.91%
Jan '22
Feb '22
Mar '22

Wall Street April 1, 2022