

# Morningstar Weekly Market Report

## U.S. Market Overview: March 10–March 17, 2006

### Market Commentary

Positive news across the board propped up the markets as the Morningstar US Market Index posted a gain of 2.15% for the week ending March 17. Markets rallied after large investment banks Goldman Sachs, Lehman Brothers, and Bear Stearns all announced record earnings. Additionally, the consumer price index rose a modest 0.1% in February, easing worries about future interest rate hikes.

Gains among the composite style indexes were relatively even across the board. The Morningstar US Core Index edged up 2.22%, boosted by merger and acquisition announcements. Aztar, operator of the Tropicana in Las Vegas, surged 24.8% on news that Pinnacle Entertainment will acquire the casino firm for \$2.1 billion. North Fork Bancorp, a member of the Morningstar Large Core Index, gained 14.6% on news that it will be acquired by Capital One Financial.

The US Value Index was not far behind on the Morningstar Market Barometer, rising 2.21%. Many oil stocks gained ground, benefiting from the rise in oil prices last week. Exxon Mobil, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, and Marathon Oil all moved higher.

The Morningstar US Growth Index climbed 2.02%, partially because of favorable performances by tech stocks. Oracle jumped 5.4% in anticipation of a positive earnings announcement due out this week. Microsoft gained 1.2% with products such as the Windows Vista operating system and the Office 2007 package coming out soon. The software giant plans on spending \$500 million on advertising the new goods.

### Morningstar Market Barometer (% Return)



### Trailing Returns %

	1-Week	3-Month	YTD	1-Yr	3-Yr	5-Yr
<b>Morningstar Indexes</b>						
US Market	2.15	4.23	5.61	13.95	18.89	5.49
Large Cap	1.95	3.10	4.67	11.37	15.68	3.07
Mid Cap	2.69	6.71	7.35	21.15	26.95	11.66
Small Cap	2.65	9.02	10.43	20.45	29.51	13.50
US Value	2.21	5.72	6.96	13.87	22.72	9.50
US Core	2.22	5.03	6.09	13.44	19.48	6.41
US Growth	2.02	1.80	3.65	14.76	14.51	-0.29
Large Value	2.06	5.60	6.85	12.66	20.37	7.50
Large Core	1.96	3.90	5.11	11.13	16.64	3.76
Large Growth	1.83	-0.48	1.81	10.45	9.97	-3.01
Mid Value	2.61	5.50	6.62	16.98	28.09	14.28
Mid Core	2.80	7.17	7.64	19.51	26.52	13.76
Mid Growth	2.64	7.38	7.73	26.85	25.81	6.24
Small Value	2.88	7.72	9.29	17.82	31.33	17.82
Small Core	3.08	10.44	11.63	20.74	29.93	16.09
Small Growth	1.97	8.78	10.28	23.00	27.38	6.75

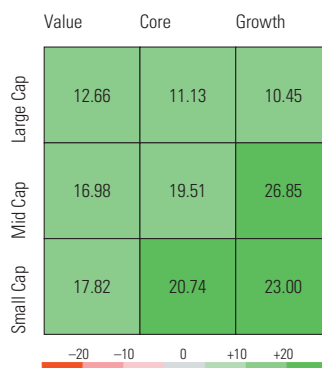
### Biggest Influence on Index Performance

	Weekly Return %	Index Contribution %
<b>Best Performing Index</b>		
Small Core	3.08	
Aztar Corp.	24.76	0.08
Arris Group Inc.	13.64	0.05
Manitowoc Co.	7.24	0.04
Holly Corp.	10.42	0.04
Clarcor Inc.	8.93	0.04
<b>Worst Performing Index</b>		
Large Growth	1.83	
Cisco Systems Inc.	3.84	0.17
Qualcomm Inc.	5.77	0.14
Johnson & Johnson	2.20	0.12
Schlumberger Ltd.	5.46	0.12
Microsoft Corp.	1.22	0.10

### Year-to-Date



### 1-Year



### 3-Year

