

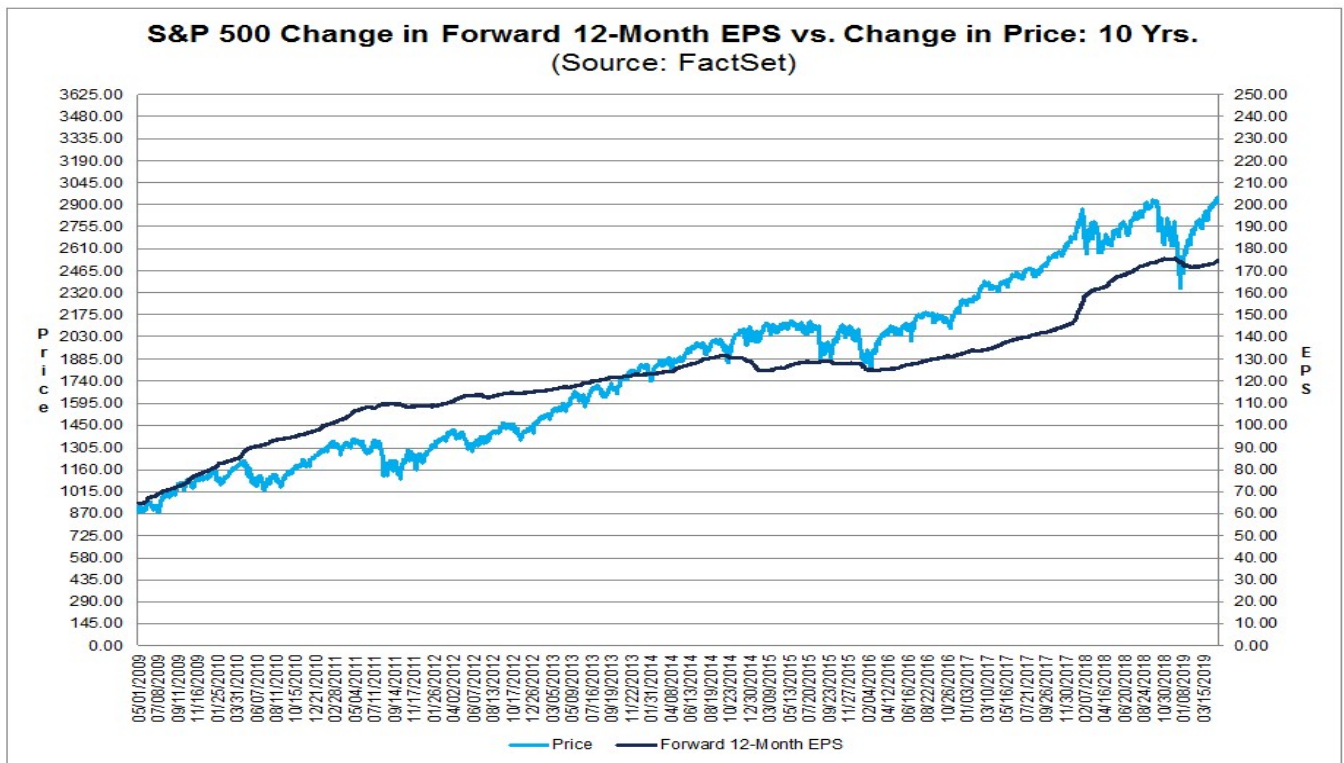
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Key Metrics

- **Earnings Scorecard:** For Q1 2019 (with 78% of the companies in the S&P 500 reporting actual results for the quarter), 76% of S&P 500 companies have reported a positive EPS surprise and 60% have reported a positive revenue surprise.
- **Earnings Growth:** For Q1 2019, the blended earnings decline for the S&P 500 is -0.8%. If -0.8% is the actual decline for the quarter, it will mark the first year-over-year decline in earnings for the index since Q2 2016 (-3.2%).
- **Earnings Revisions:** On March 31, the estimated earnings decline for Q1 2019 was -4.0%. Nine sectors have higher growth rates today (compared to March 31) due to upward revisions to EPS estimates and positive EPS surprises.
- **Earnings Guidance:** For Q2 2019, 56 S&P 500 companies have issued negative EPS guidance and 14 S&P 500 companies have issued positive EPS guidance.
- **Valuation:** The forward 12-month P/E ratio for the S&P 500 is 16.8. This P/E ratio is above the 5-year average (16.4) and above the 10-year average (14.7).



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Topic of the Week:

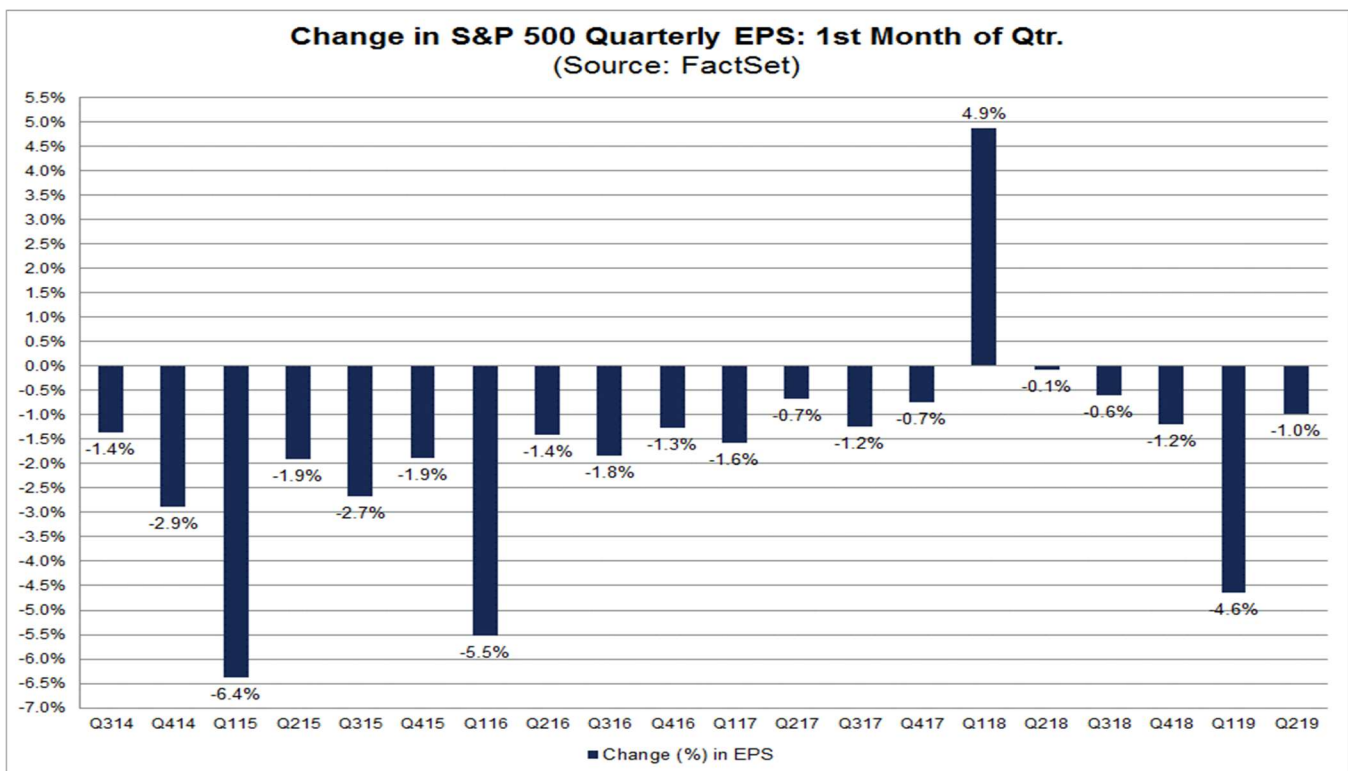
Below Average Cuts to S&P 500 EPS Estimates for Q2 as Energy Estimates Rise

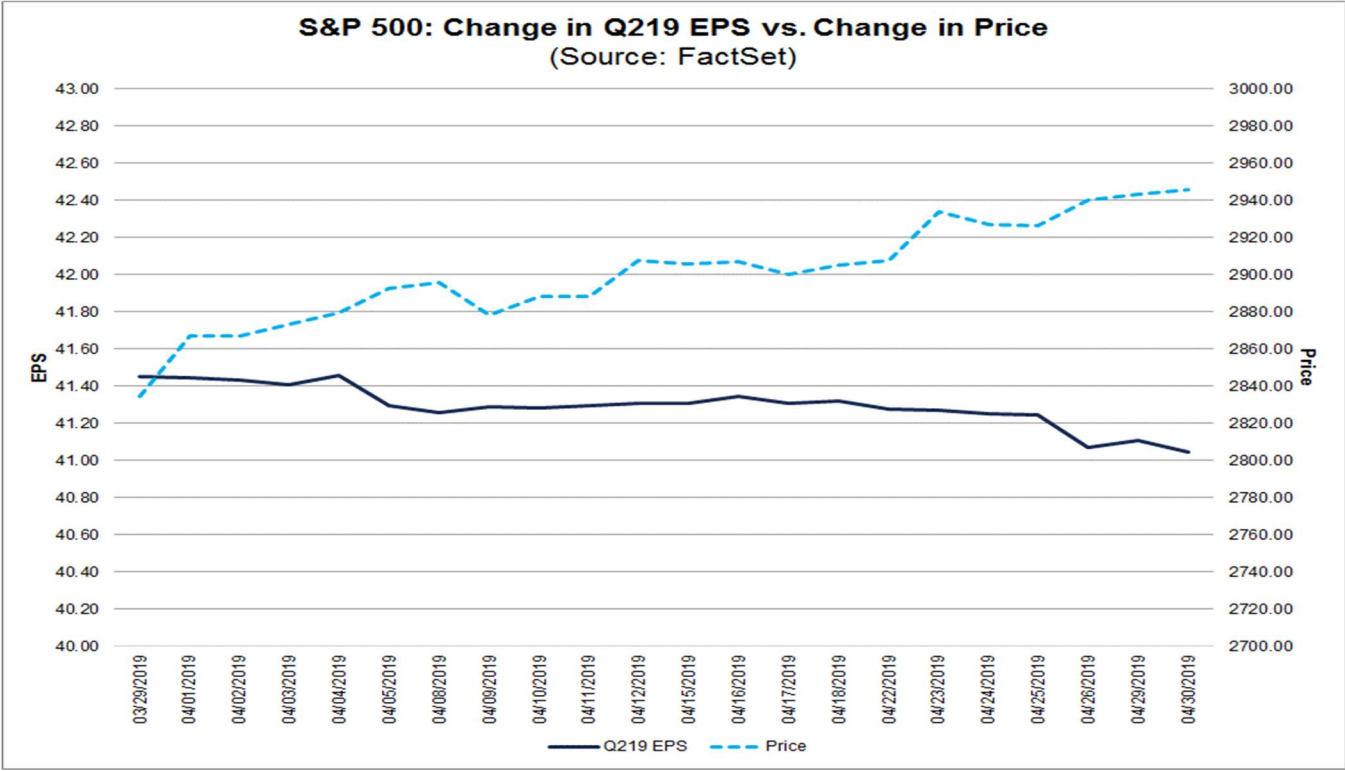
During the month of April, analysts lowered earnings estimates for companies in the S&P 500 for the second quarter. The Q2 bottom-up EPS estimate (which is an aggregation of the median EPS estimates for all the companies in the index) dropped by 1.0% (to \$41.04 from \$41.45) during this period. How significant is a 1.0% decline in the bottom-up EPS estimate during the first month of a quarter? How does this decrease compare to recent quarters?

During the past five years (20 quarters), the average decline in the bottom-up EPS estimate during the first month of a quarter has been 1.7%. During the past ten years, (40 quarters), the average decline in the bottom-up EPS estimate during the first month of a quarter has been 1.4%. During the past fifteen years, (60 quarters), the average decline in the bottom-up EPS estimate during the first month of a quarter has been 1.8%. Thus, the decline in the bottom-up EPS estimate recorded during the first month of the second quarter was smaller than the 5-year, 10-year, and 15-year averages.

At the sector level, eight sectors recorded a decline in their bottom-up EPS estimate during the first month of the quarter, led by the Industrials (-6.2%) sector. Within the Industrial sector, Boeing was a significant contributor to the decrease in earnings during the month of April. On the other hand, three sectors recorded an increase in their bottom-up EPS estimate during the first month of the quarter, led by the Energy (+11.1%) sector. Within the Energy sector, Chevron was a substantial contributor to the increase in earnings over this period. In addition, the price of oil (WTI) rose by 6.3% during the month of April. Overall, five sectors recorded a smaller decrease (or an increase) in their bottom-up EPS estimate relative to their 5-year average, four sectors recorded a smaller decrease (or an increase) in their bottom-up EPS estimate relative to their 10-year average, and seven sectors recorded a smaller decrease (or an increase) in their bottom-up EPS estimate relative to their 15-year average.

As the bottom-up EPS estimate for the index declined during the first month of the quarter, the value of the S&P 500 increased during this same period. From March 31 through April 30, the value of the index increased by 3.9% (to 2945.83 from 2834.40). The second quarter marked the 14th time in the past 20 quarters in which the bottom-up EPS estimate decreased during the first month of the quarter while the value of the index increased over this same period.





Q1 Earnings Season: By The Numbers

Overview

To date, 78% of the companies in the S&P 500 have reported actual results for Q1 2019. In terms of earnings, the percentage of companies reporting actual EPS above estimates (76%) is above the 5-year average. In aggregate, companies are reporting earnings that are 5.6% above the estimates, which is also above the 5-year average. In terms of sales, the percentage of companies (60%) reporting actual sales above estimates is slightly above the 5-year average. In aggregate, companies are reporting sales that are 0.3% above estimates, which is below the 5-year average.

The blended (combines actual results for companies that have reported and estimated results for companies that have yet to report) earnings decline for the first quarter is -0.8% today, which is smaller than the earnings decline of -2.3% last week. Positive earnings surprises reported by companies in multiple sectors (led by the Health Care sector) were responsible for the decrease in the overall earnings decline during the week. If -0.8% is the actual decline for the quarter, it will mark the first time the index has reported a year-over-year decline in earnings since Q2 2016 (-3.2%). Six of the eleven sectors are reporting year-over-year growth in earnings, led by the Health Care and Utilities sectors. Five sectors are reporting a year-over-year decline in earnings, led by the Energy, Information Technology, and Communication Services sectors.

The blended revenue growth rate for Q1 2019 is 5.2% today, which is slightly above the revenue growth rate of 5.1% last week. Positive revenue surprises reported by companies in multiple sectors were responsible for the slight increase in the overall revenue growth rate during the week. If 5.2% is the final growth rate for the quarter, it will mark the lowest revenue growth rate for the index since Q2 2017 (5.3%). Nine of the eleven sectors are reporting year-over-year growth in revenues, led by the Health Care and Communication Services sectors. Two sectors are reporting a year-over-year decline in revenues, led by the Information Technology sector.

Looking at future quarters, analysts expect a decline in earnings in the second quarter, low single-digit earnings growth in the third quarter, and high single-digit earnings growth in the fourth quarter.

The forward 12-month P/E ratio is 16.8, which is above the 5-year average and above the 10-year average.

During the upcoming week, 59 S&P 500 companies (including 1 Dow 30 component) are scheduled to report results for the first quarter.

Scorecard: More Companies Beating EPS Estimates than Average

Percentage of Companies Beating EPS Estimates (76%) is Above 5-Year Average

Overall, 78% of the companies in the S&P 500 have reported earnings to date for the first quarter. Of these companies, 76% have reported actual EPS above the mean EPS estimate, 5% have reported actual EPS equal to the mean EPS estimate, and 19% 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 (76%) average but above the 5-year (72%) average.

At the sector level, the Information Technology (89%) and Health Care (85%) sectors have the highest percentages of companies reporting earnings above estimates, while the Utilities (48%) sector has the lowest percentage of companies reporting earnings above estimates.

Earnings Surprise Percentage (+5.6%) is Above 5-Year Average

In aggregate, companies are reporting earnings that are 5.6% above expectations. This surprise percentage is below the 1-year (+5.7%) average but above the 5-year (+4.8%) average.

The Consumer Discretionary (+22.4%) sector is reporting the largest positive (aggregate) difference between actual earnings and estimated earnings. Within this sector, Newell Brands (\$0.14 vs. \$0.06), Ford Motor (\$0.44 vs. \$0.25) and Amazon.com (\$7.09 vs. \$4.71) have reported the largest positive EPS surprises.

The Communication Services (-6.3%) sector is reporting the largest negative (aggregate) difference between actual earnings and estimated earnings. Within this sector, Facebook (\$0.85 vs. \$1.62), Charter Communications (\$1.11 vs. \$1.36), and Alphabet (\$9.50 vs. \$10.60) have reported the largest negative EPS surprises.

Market Punishing Negative Earnings Surprises

To date, the market is rewarding positive earnings surprises at average levels but punishing negative earnings surprises more than average.

Companies that have reported positive earnings surprises for Q1 2019 have seen an average price increase of +1.0% two days before the earnings release through two days after the earnings release. This percentage increase is equal to 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 2019 have seen an average price decrease of -3.3% two days before the earnings release through two days after the earnings release. This percentage decrease is larger than the 5-year average price decrease of -2.5% during this same window for companies reporting negative earnings surprises.

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

In terms of revenues, 60% of companies have reported actual sales above estimated sales and 40% have reported actual sales below estimated sales. The percentage of companies reporting sales above estimates is below the 1-year average (67%) but above the 5-year average (59%).

At the sector level, the Health Care (77%) and Information Technology (74%) sectors have the highest percentages of companies reporting revenues above estimates, while the Materials (20%) sector has the lowest percentage of companies reporting revenues above estimates.

Revenue Surprise Percentage (+0.3%) is Below 5-Year Average

In aggregate, companies are reporting revenues that are 0.3% above expectations. This surprise percentage is below the 1-year (+1.4%) average and below the 5-year (+0.8%) average.

Revisions: Decrease in Blended Earnings Decline this Week

Decrease in Blended Earnings Decline This Week

The blended (year-over-year) earnings decline for the first quarter is -0.8% today, which is smaller than the earnings decline of -2.3% last week. Positive earnings surprises reported by companies in multiple sectors (led by the Health Care sector) were responsible for the decrease in the overall earnings decline during the week.

In the Health Care sector, the positive EPS surprises reported by Pfizer (\$0.85 vs. \$0.75), Merck (\$1.22 vs. \$1.05), and HCA Healthcare (\$2.97 vs. \$2.32) were significant contributors to the overall decrease in the earnings decline for the index during the week. As a result, the blended earnings growth rate for the Health Care sector improved to 9.2% from 5.3% over this period.

Slight Increase in Blended Revenue Growth This Week

The blended (year-over-year) revenue growth rate for the first quarter is 5.2% today, which is slightly above the revenue growth rate of 5.1% last week. Positive revenue surprises reported by companies in multiple sectors were responsible for the slight increase in the overall revenue growth rate during the week.

Consumer Discretionary Sector Has Seen Largest Increase in Earnings since March 31

The blended (year-over-year) earnings decline for Q1 2019 of -0.8% is smaller than the estimate of -4.0% at the end of the first quarter (March 31). Nine sectors have recorded an improvement in earnings growth since the end of the quarter due to upward revisions to earnings estimates and positive earnings surprises, led by the Consumer Discretionary (to 4.6% from -6.4%) and Materials (to -1.7% from -11.9%) sectors. Two sectors have recorded a

decrease in earnings growth during this time due to downward revisions to earnings estimates and negative earnings surprises: Energy (to -26.2% from -18.8%) and Communication Services (to -7.0% from -1.9%).

Energy Sector Has Seen Largest Increase in Revenues since March 31

The blended (year-over-year) revenue growth rate for Q1 2019 of 5.2% is above the estimate of 4.9% at the end of the first quarter (March 31). Seven sectors have recorded an improvement in revenue growth since the end of the quarter due to upward revisions to revenue estimates and positive revenue surprises, led by the Energy (to -0.3% from -2.3%) sector. Four sectors have recorded a decrease in revenue growth during this time due to downward revisions to revenue estimates and negative revenue surprises, led by the Materials (to 1.6% from 3.8%) and Utilities (to 2.2% from 4.4%) sectors.

Earnings Decline: -0.8%

The blended (combines actual results for companies that have reported and estimated results for companies that have yet to report) earnings decline for Q1 2019 is -0.8%. If -0.8% is the final decline for the quarter, it will mark the first time the index has reported a year-over-year decline in earnings since Q2 2016 (-3.2%). Six of the eleven sectors are reporting year-over-year growth in earnings, led by the Health Care and Utilities sectors. Five sectors are reporting a year-over-year decline in earnings, led by Energy, Information Technology, and Communication Services sectors.

Health Care: Health Care Providers & Services Industry Leads Growth

The Health Care sector is reporting the highest (year-over-year) earnings growth of all eleven sectors at 9.2%. At the industry level, all six industries in this sector are reporting earnings growth for the quarter. Two of these six industries are reporting double-digit earnings growth: Health Care Providers & Services (21%) and Biotechnology (11%).

Utilities: 3 of 5 Industries Reporting Double-Digit Growth

The Utilities sector is reporting the second highest (year-over-year) earnings growth of all eleven sectors at 7.6%. At the industry level, all five industries in this sector are reporting earnings growth for the quarter. Three of these five industries are reporting double-digit growth in earnings: Independent Power & Renewable Electricity Producers (89%), Gas Utilities (13%) and Multi-Utilities (12%).

At the company level, NRG Energy is the largest contributor to earnings growth for the sector. The company reported actual EPS of \$1.80 for the quarter, compared to year-ago EPS of \$0.58. If this company were excluded, the blended earnings growth rate for the Utilities sector would fall to 4.7% from 7.6%.

Energy: 3 of 6 Sub-Industries Reporting Double-Digit Decline

The Energy sector is reporting the largest (year-over-year) earnings decline of all eleven sectors at -26.2%. Lower oil prices are helping to drive the decline in earnings for the sector. Despite an increase in price during the quarter, the average price of oil in Q1 2019 (\$54.90) was 13% lower than the average price of oil in Q1 2018 (\$62.89). At the sub-industry level, three of the six sub-industries in the sector are reporting a decline in earnings for the quarter: Oil & Gas Refining & Marketing (-58%), Integrated Oil & Gas (-40%), and Oil & Gas Equipment & Services (-33%). On the other hand, the other three sub-industries in the sector are reporting earnings growth for the quarter: Oil & Gas Drilling (N/A due to year-ago loss), Oil & Gas Storage & Transportation (29%), and Oil & Gas Exploration & Production (4%).

Information Technology: Apple Leads Decline

The Information Technology sector is reporting the second highest (year-over-year) earnings decline of all eleven sectors at -7.4%. At the industry level, two of the six industries in this sector are reporting a decline in earnings: Technology Hardware, Storage, & Peripherals (-22%) and Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment (-22%). On the other hand, four industries are reporting earnings growth, led by the Software (9%) and Communications Equipment (9%) industries.

At the company level, Apple is the largest contributor to the decline in earnings for the sector. The company reported actual EPS of \$2.46 for the quarter, compared to year-ago EPS of \$2.82. If this company is excluded, the blended earnings decline for the sector would improve to -4.5% from -7.4%.

Communication Services: Alphabet & Facebook Lead Decline

The Communication Service sector is reporting the third highest (year-over-year) earnings decline of all eleven sectors at -7.0%. At the industry level, two of the four industries in this sector are reporting a decline in earnings: Interactive Media & Services (-34%) and Entertainment (-2%). On the other hand, the other two industries in the sector are reporting earnings growth: Media (25%) and Diversified Telecommunication Services (12%).

At the company level, Alphabet and Facebook are the largest contributors to the decline in earnings for the sector. Alphabet reported actual EPS of \$9.50 for Q1 2019, compared to year-ago EPS of \$13.33. The EPS of \$9.50 for Q1 2019 included a negative impact of \$2.40 related to a fine issued by the EC. Facebook reported actual EPS of \$0.85 for Q1 2019, compared to year-ago EPS of \$1.69. The EPS of \$0.85 for Q1 2019 included a negative impact of \$1.04 related to a legal expense for an FTC inquiry. If these two companies were excluded, the blended earnings growth rate for the sector would improve to 12.4% from -7.0%.

Revenue Growth: 5.2%

The blended (year-over-year) revenue growth rate for Q1 2019 is 5.2%. If 5.2% is the final growth rate for the quarter, it will mark the lowest revenue growth rate for the index since Q2 2017 (5.3%). Nine of the eleven sectors are reporting year-over-year growth in revenues, led by the Health Care and Communication Services sectors. Two sectors are reporting a year-over-year decline in revenues, led by Information Technology sector.

Health Care: Cigna and CVS Lead Growth on Easy Comparisons to Year-Ago Pre-Merger Revenues

The Health Care sector is reporting the highest (year-over-year) revenue growth of all eleven sectors at 13.9%. At the industry level, all six industries in this sector are reporting revenue growth for the quarter. One of these six industries is reporting double-digit growth in revenues: Health Care Providers & Services (19%).

At the company level, Cigna and CVS Health are the largest contributors to revenue growth for the sector. However, the revenue growth rates for both companies are being boosted by apples-to-oranges comparisons of post-merger revenues to pre-merger revenues. The actual revenue reported by Cigna for Q1 2019 (\$33.43 billion) reflects the combined revenues of Cigna and Express Scripts, while the actual revenue for Q1 2018 (\$11.38 billion) reflects the standalone revenue for Cigna. The actual revenue reported by CVS Health for Q1 2019 (\$61.65 billion) reflects the combined revenues of CVS Health and Aetna, while the actual revenue for Q1 2018 (\$45.69 billion) reflects the standalone revenue for CVS Health. These apples-to-oranges comparisons are the main reason Cigna and CVS Health are the largest contributors to revenue growth for the sector. If these companies were excluded, the blended revenue growth rate for the sector would fall to 6.5% from 13.9%.

Communication Services: 2 of 4 Industries Reporting Double-Digit Growth

The Communication Services sector is reporting the second highest (year-over-year) revenue growth of all eleven sectors at 12.0%. At the industry level, all four industries in this sector are reporting revenue growth. Two of these four industries are reporting double-digit revenue growth: Interactive Media & Services (18%) and Media (12%).

Information Technology: 2 of 6 Industries Reporting Decline

The Information Technology sector is reporting the largest (year-over-year) decline in revenue at -0.8%. At the industry level, only two of the six industries are reporting a decline in revenue: Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment (-7%) and Technology Hardware, Storage, & Peripherals (-6%). On the other hand, the other four industries are reporting revenue growth, led by the Software (11%) industry.

Looking Ahead: Forward Estimates and Valuation

Guidance: Above-Average Percentage of S&P 500 Companies Issuing Negative Guidance for Q2

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 an estimate range) 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 an estimate range) provided by the company is higher than the mean EPS estimate the day before the guidance was issued.

At this point in time, 70 companies in the index have issued EPS guidance for Q2 2019. Of these 70 companies, 56 have issued negative EPS guidance and 14 have issued positive EPS guidance. The percentage of companies issuing negative EPS guidance is 80% (56 out of 70), which is above the 5-year average of 70%.

Earnings: Single-Digit Earnings Growth Projected for 2019

For the first quarter, S&P 500 companies are reporting a decline in earnings of -0.8% and growth in revenues of 5.2%. For the remainder of 2019, analysts see a decline in earnings in the second quarter, low single-digit growth in earnings in the third quarter, and high single-digit growth in earnings in the fourth quarter.

For Q2 2019, analysts are projecting a decline in earnings of -1.3% and revenue growth of 4.3%.

For Q3 2019, analysts are projecting earnings growth of 0.8% and revenue growth of 4.4%.

For Q4 2019, analysts are projecting earnings growth of 7.5% and revenue growth of 4.8%.

For CY 2019, analysts are projecting earnings growth of 3.4% and revenue growth of 4.7%.

Valuation: Forward P/E Ratio is 16.8, Above the 10-Year Average (14.7)

The forward 12-month P/E ratio is 16.8. This P/E ratio is above the 5-year average of 16.4 and above the 10-year average of 14.7. It is also above the forward 12-month P/E ratio of 16.4 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 2.9%, while the forward 12-month EPS estimate has increased by 1.0%.

At the sector level, the Consumer Discretionary (21.4) sector has the highest forward 12-month P/E ratio, while the Financials (12.1) sector has the lowest forward 12-month P/E ratio.

Targets & Ratings: Analysts Project 10% Increase in Price Over Next 12 Months

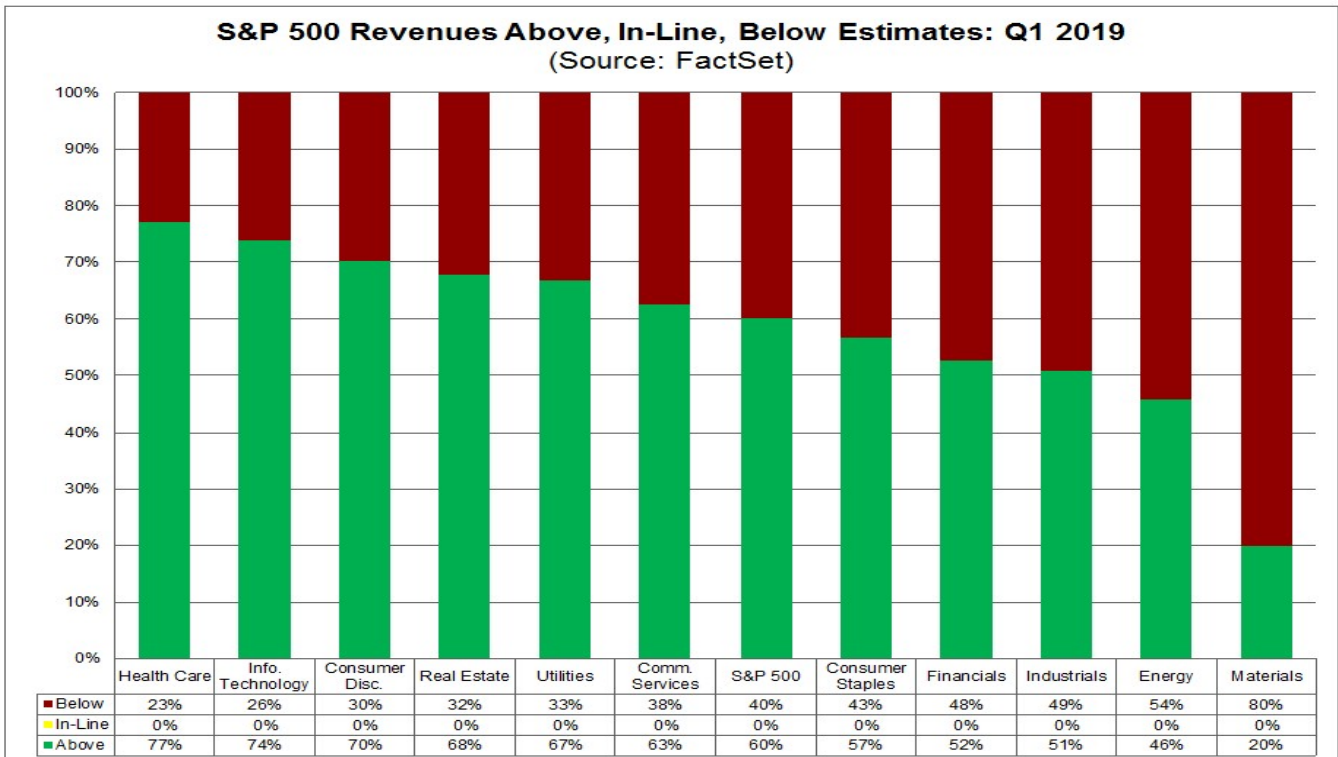
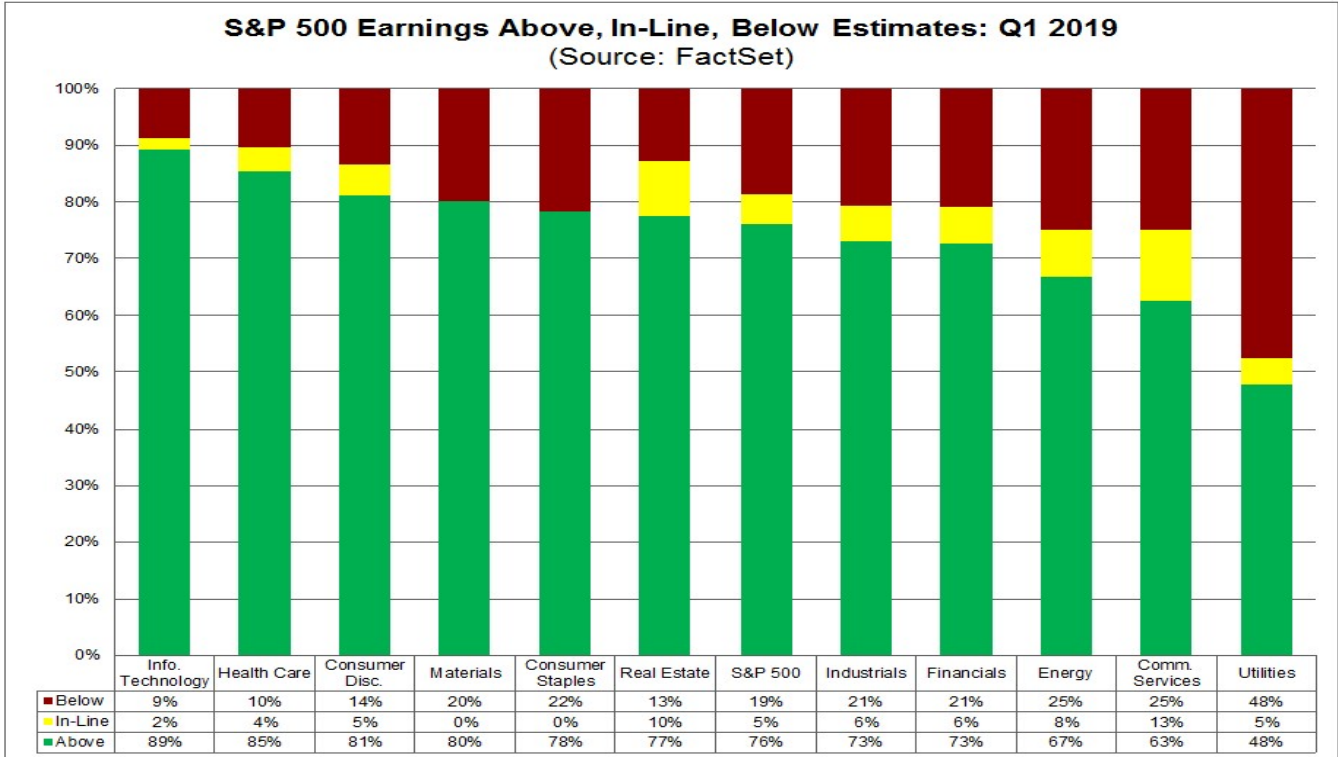
The bottom-up target price for the S&P 500 is 3202.59, which is 9.8% above the closing price of 2917.52. At the sector level, the Energy (+20.5%) and Health Care (+14.0%) sectors are expected to see the largest price increases, as these sectors have the largest upside differences between the bottom-up target price and the closing price. On the other hand, the Real Estate (+3.1%) and Utilities (+3.3%) sectors are expected to see the smallest price increases, as these sectors have the smallest upside differences between the bottom-up target price and the closing price.

Overall, there are 11,045 ratings on stocks in the S&P 500. Of these 11,045 ratings, 51.9% are Buy ratings, 41.8% are Hold ratings, and 6.3% are Sell ratings. At the sector level, the Energy (63%) sector has the highest percentage of Buy ratings, while the Consumer Staples (39%) sector has the lowest percentage of Buy ratings.

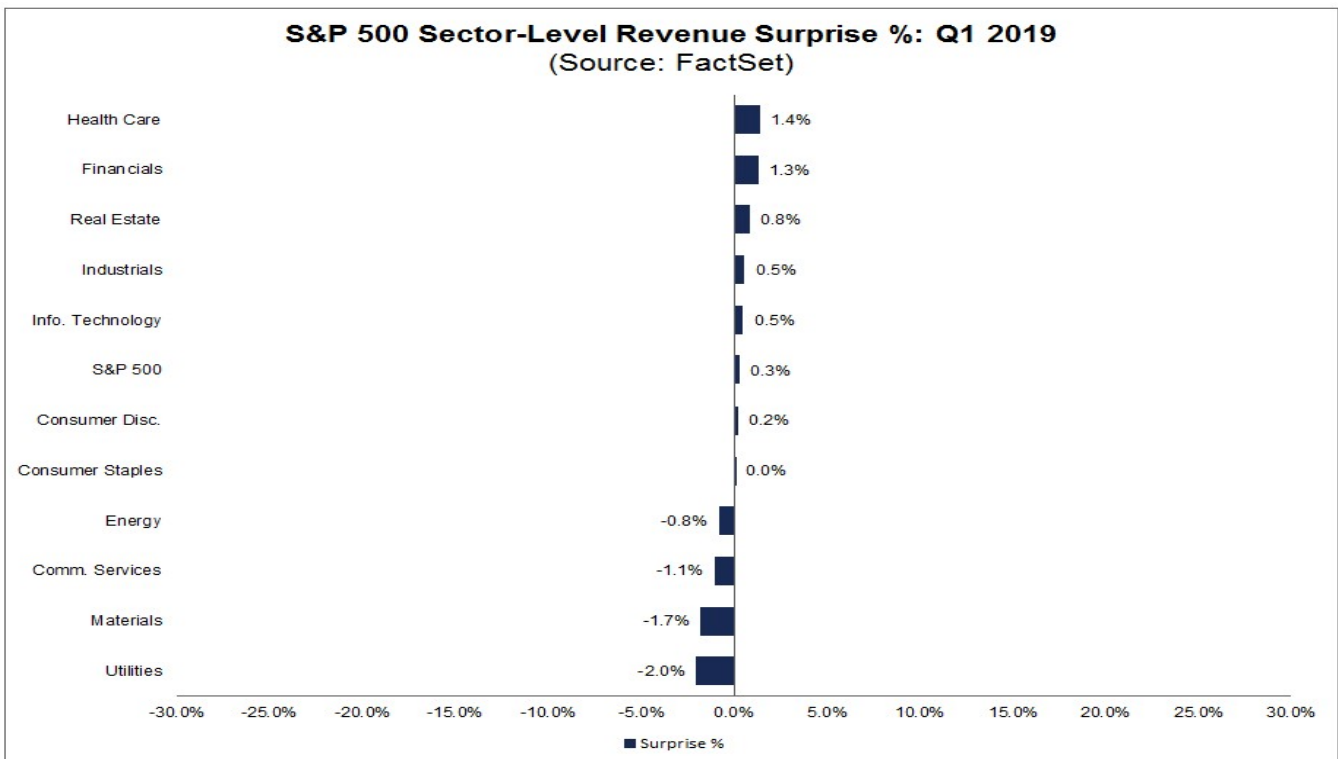
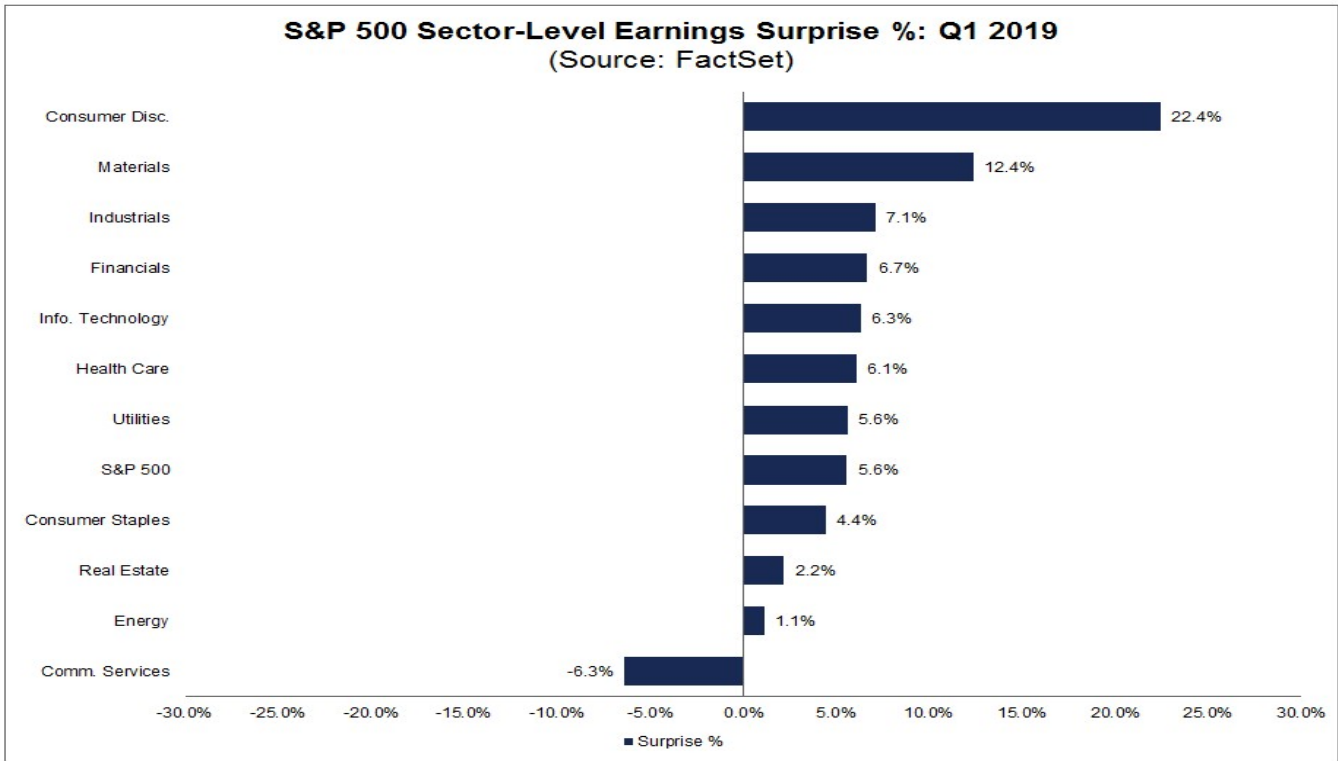
Companies Reporting Next Week: 59

During the upcoming week, 59 S&P 500 companies (including 1 Dow 30 component) are scheduled to report results for the first quarter.

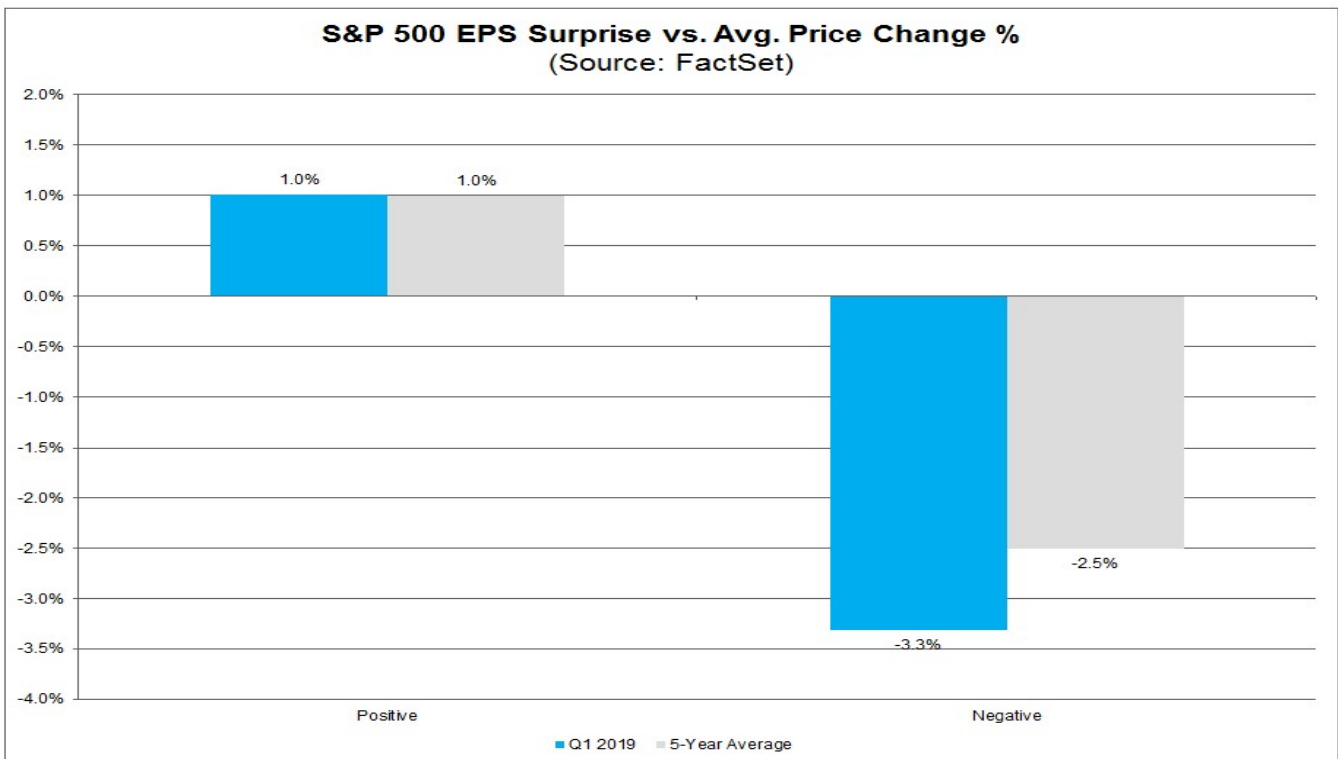
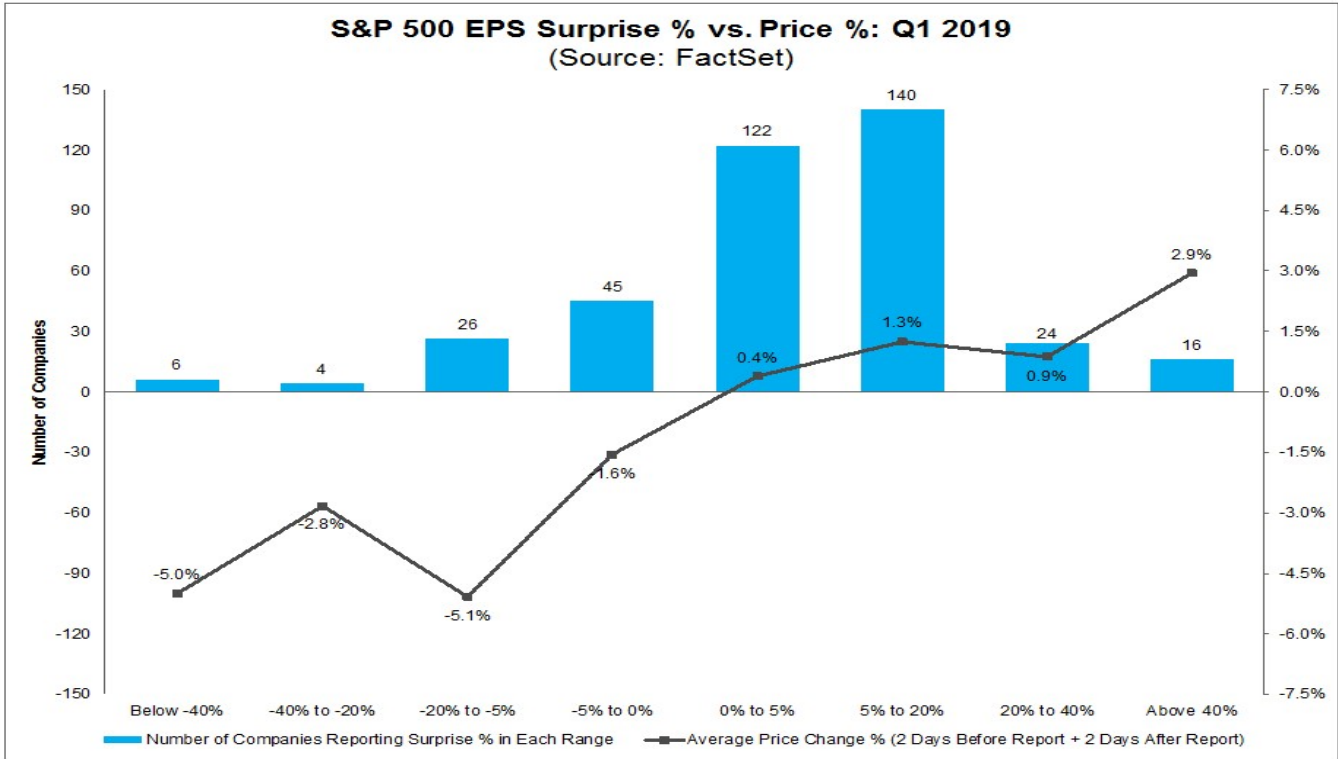
Q1 2019: Scorecard



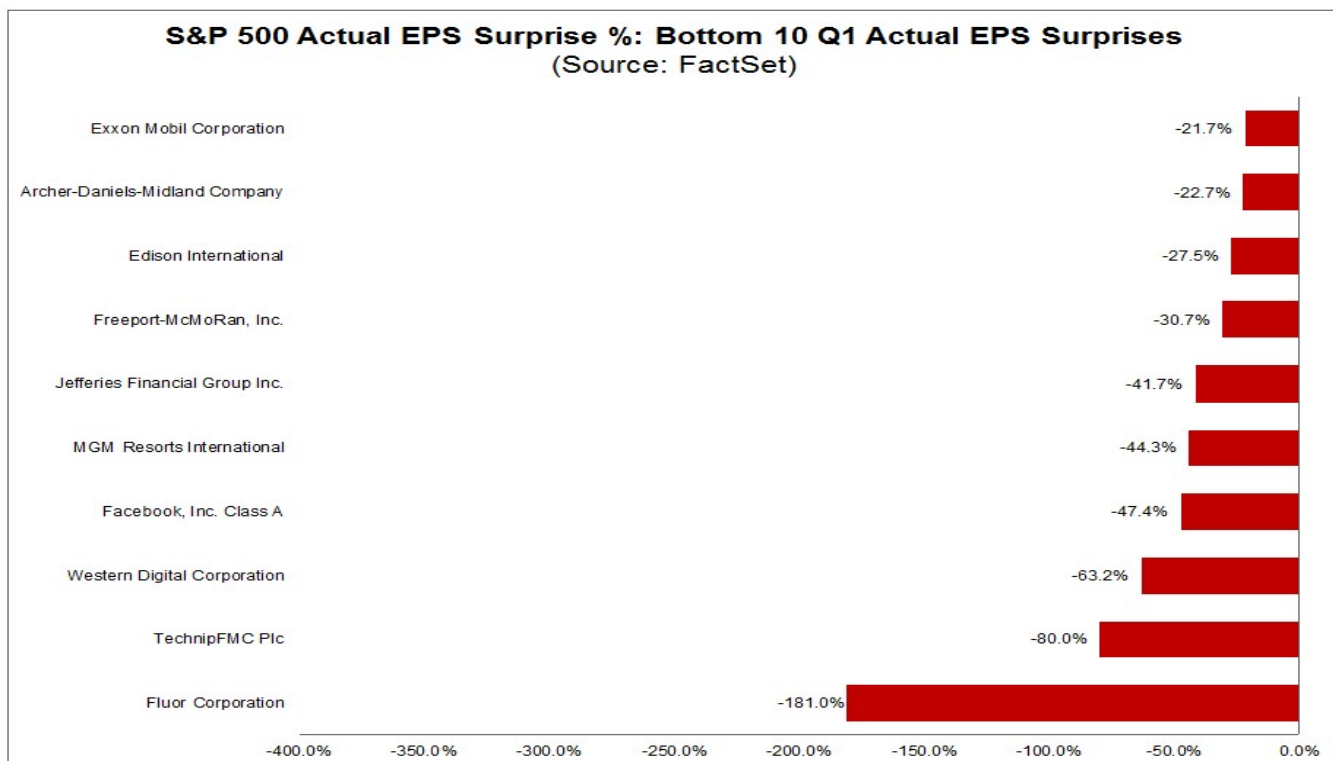
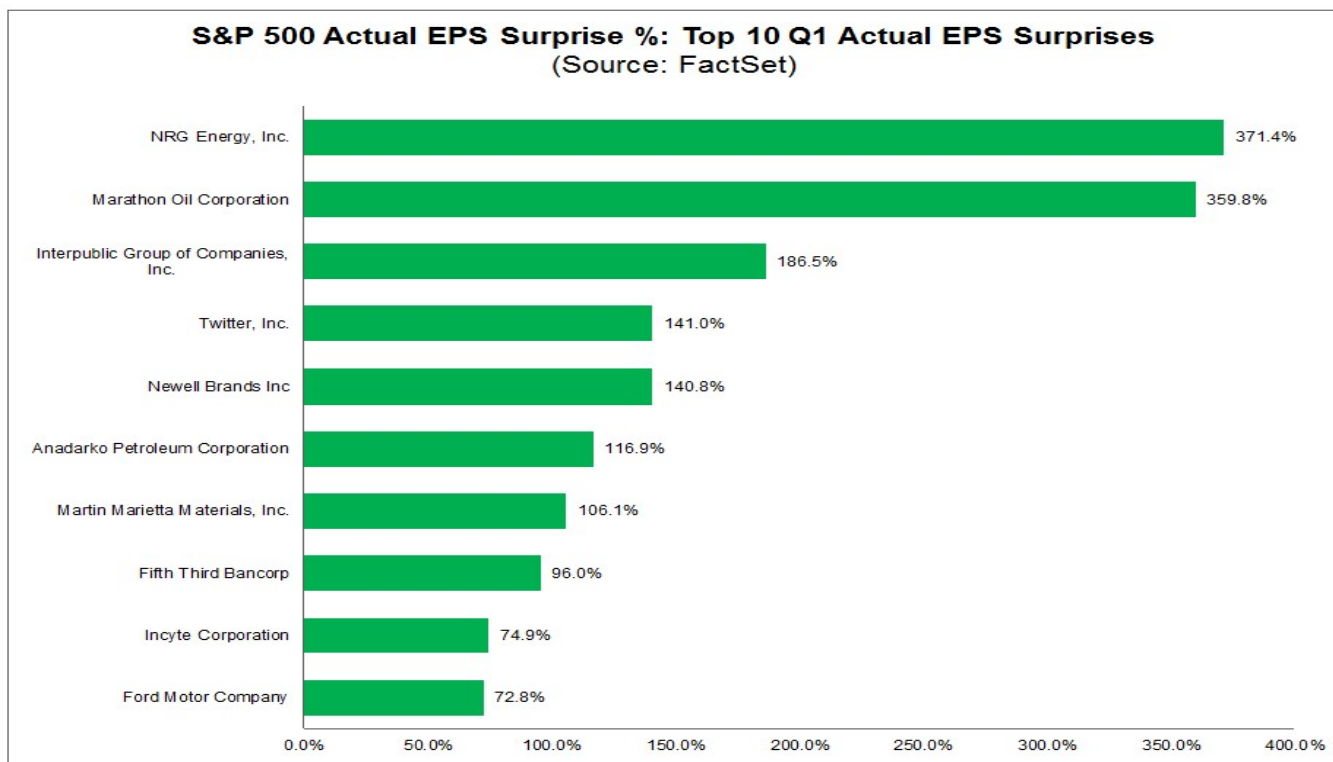
Q1 2019: Scorecard



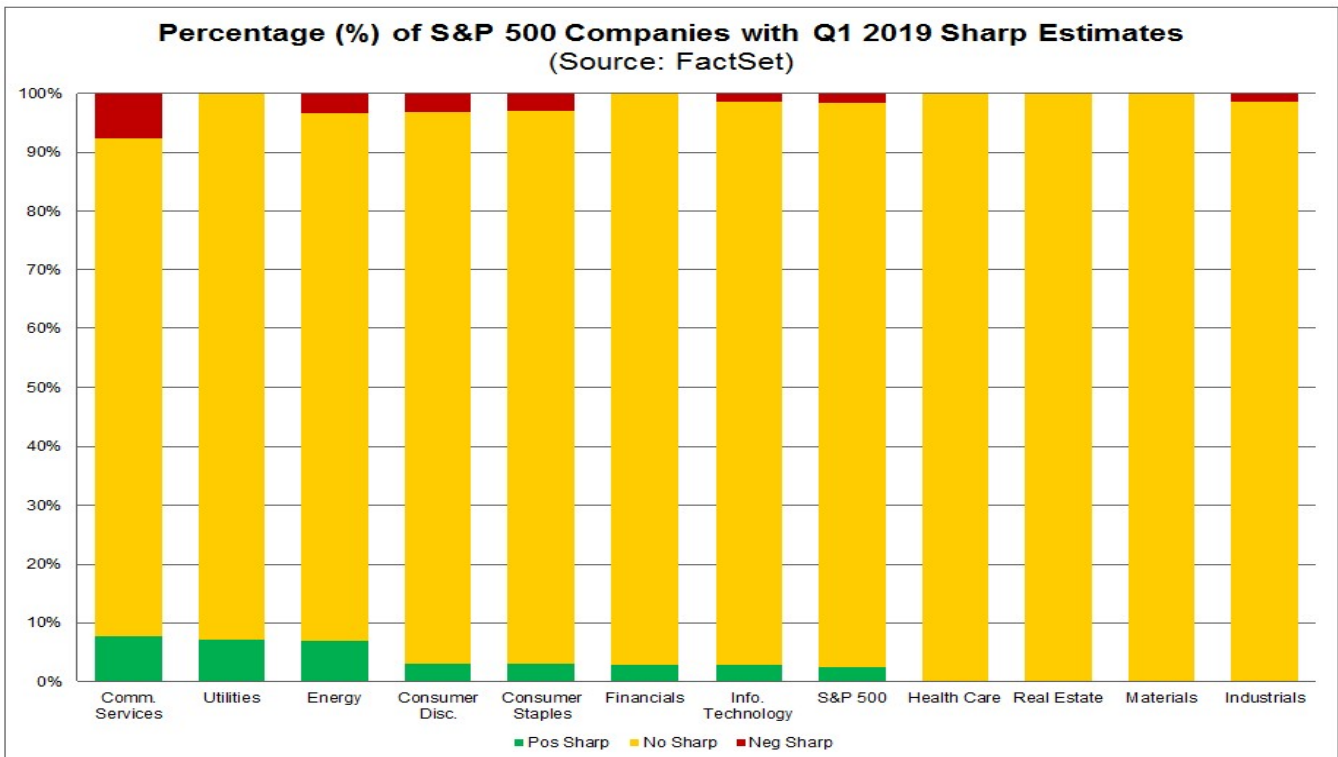
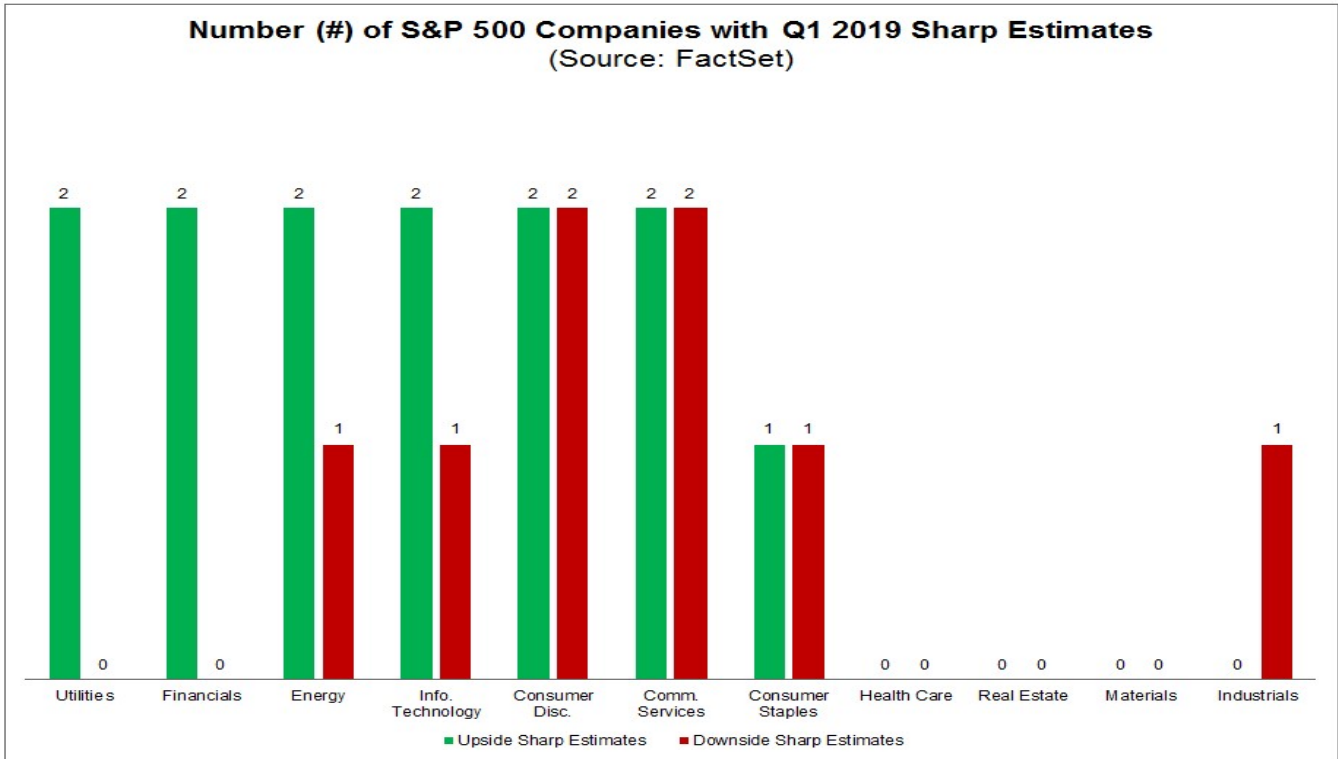
Q1 2019: Scorecard



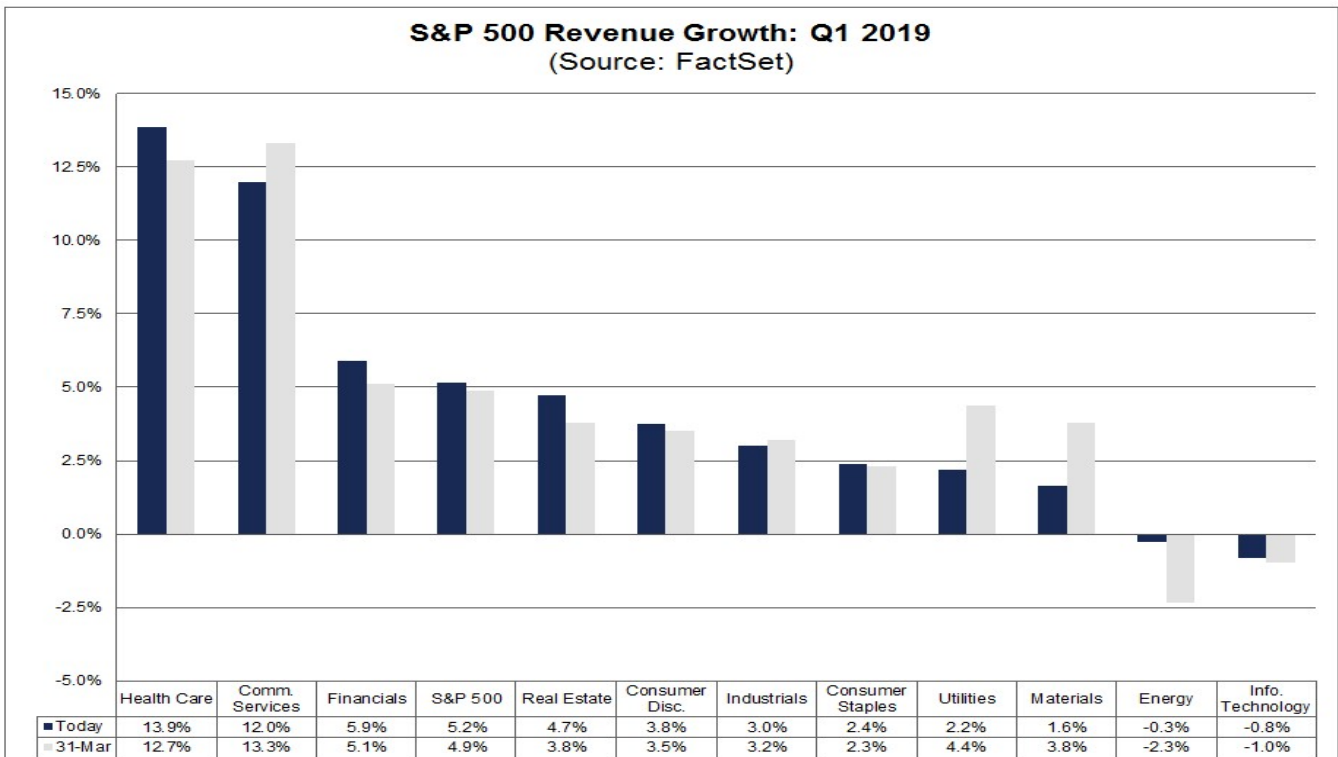
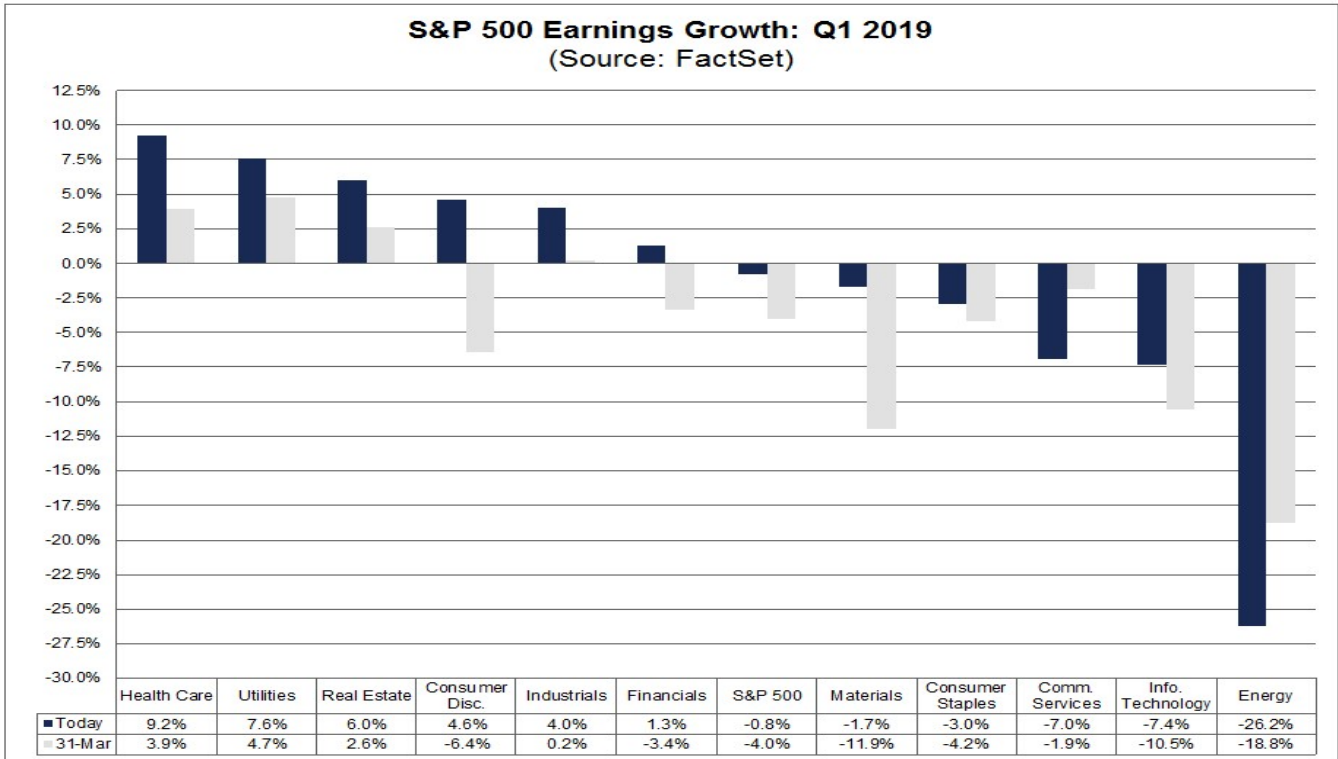
Q1 2019: Scorecard



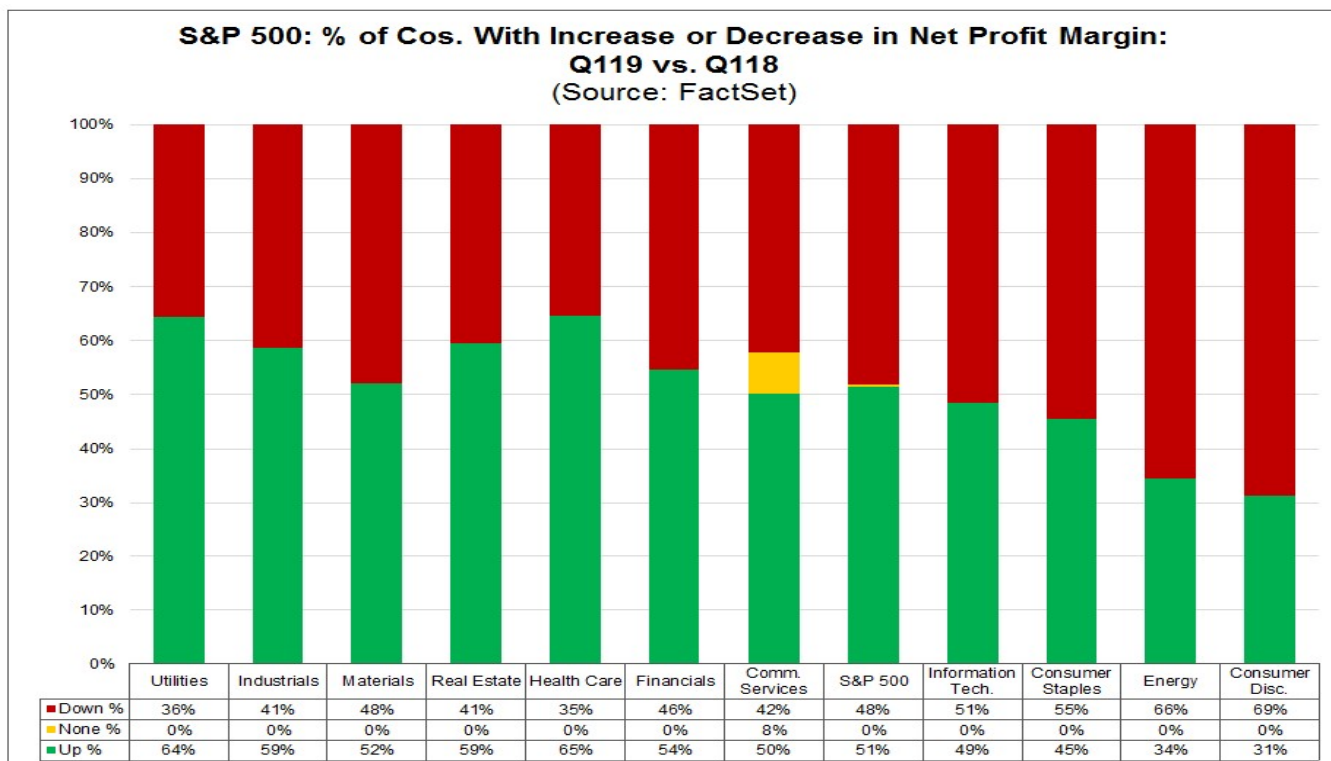
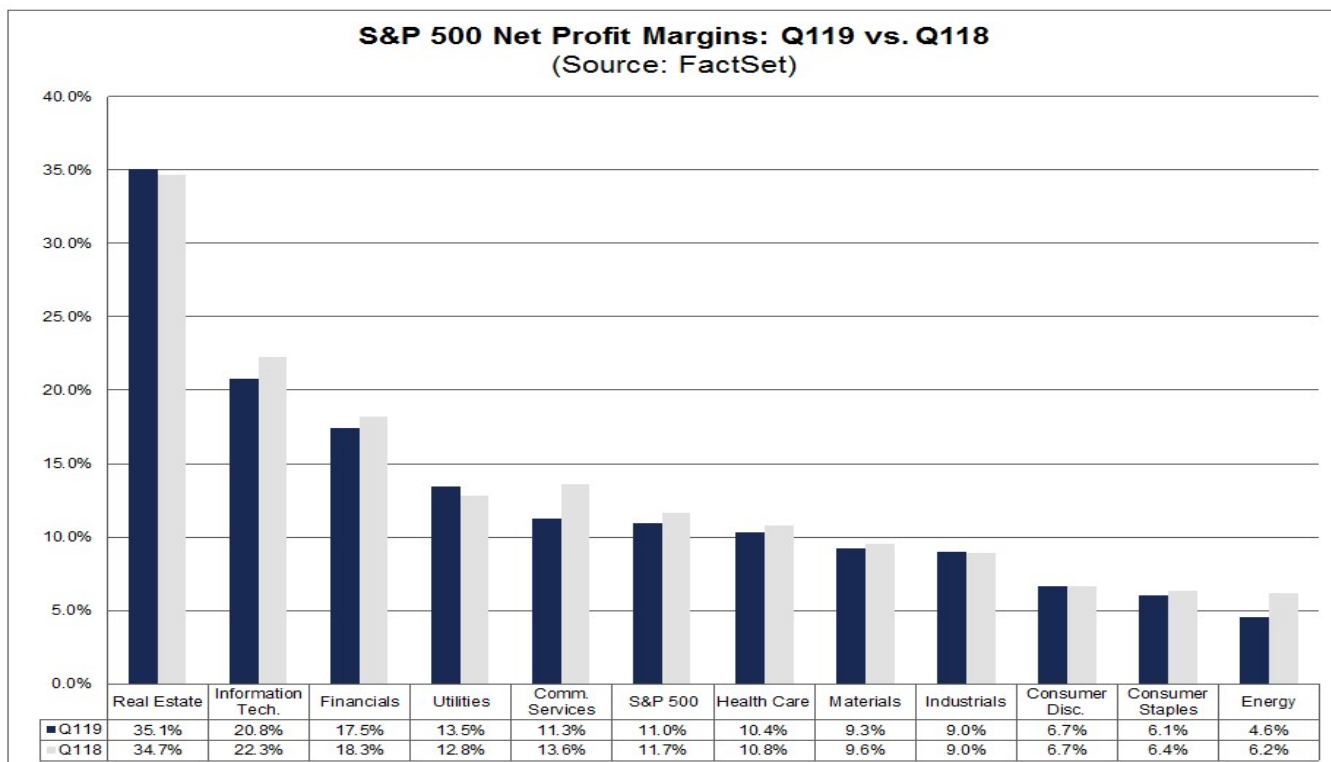
Q1 2019: Projected EPS Surprises (Sharp Estimates)



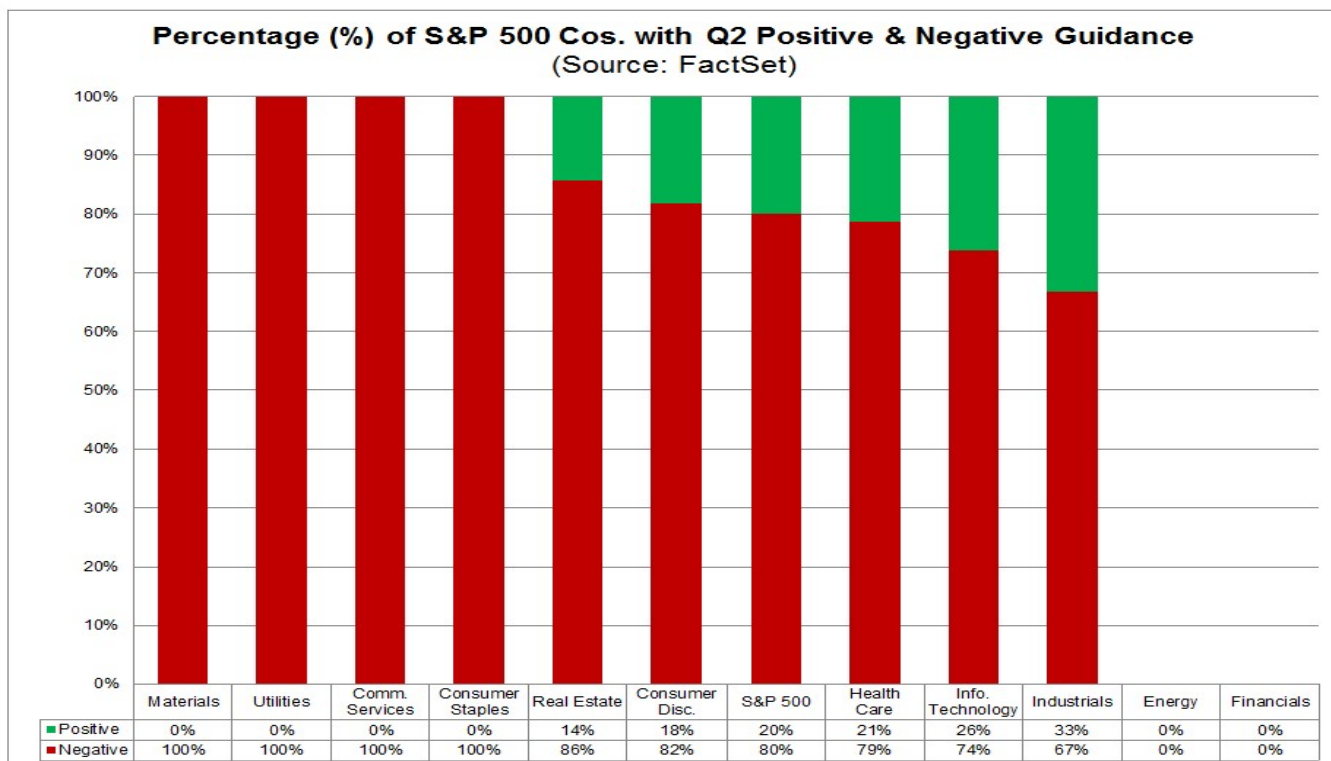
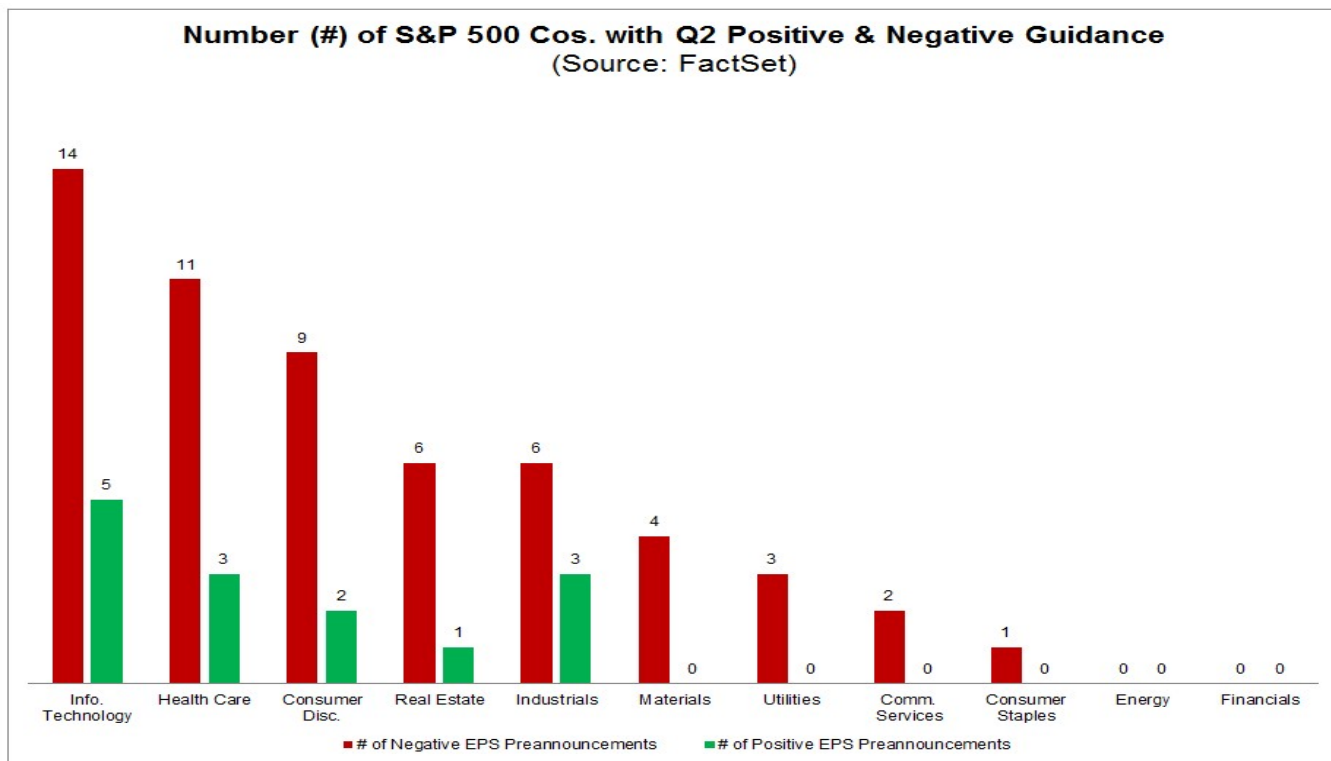
Q1 2019: Growth



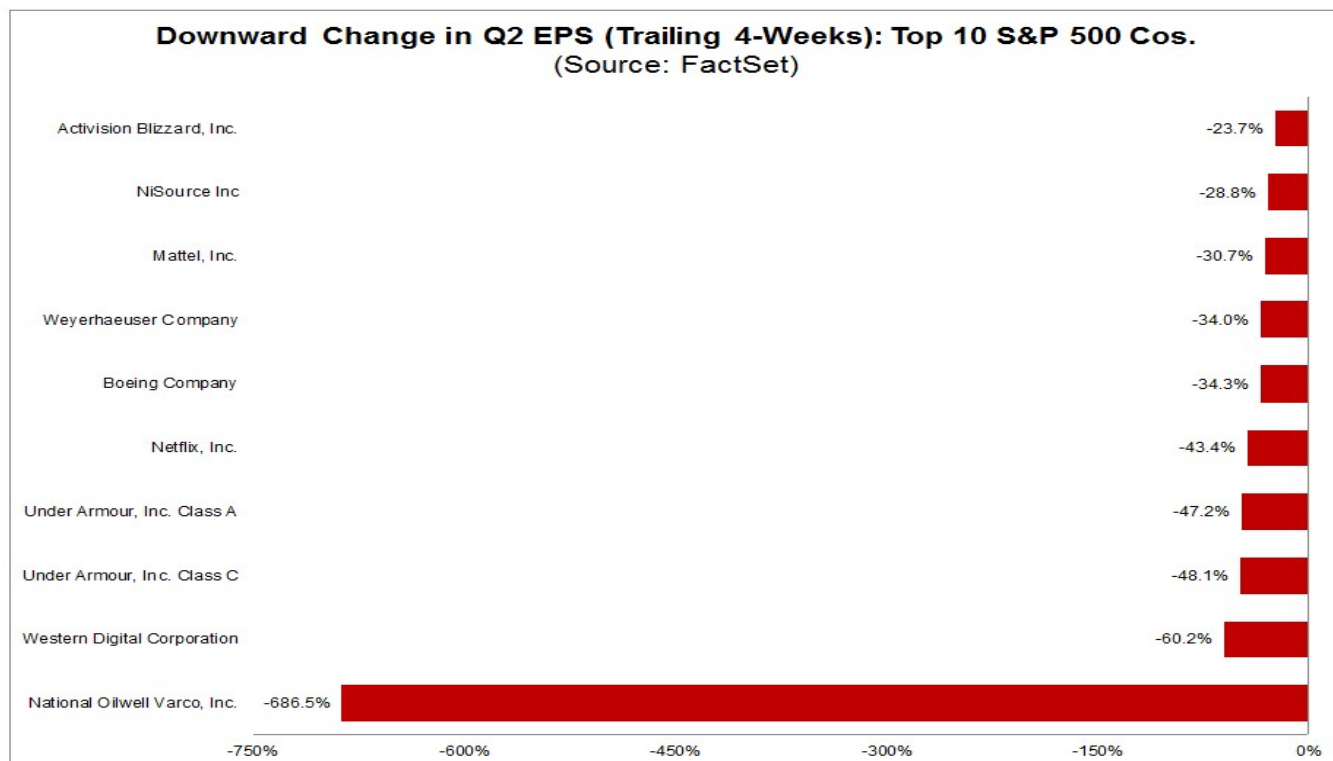
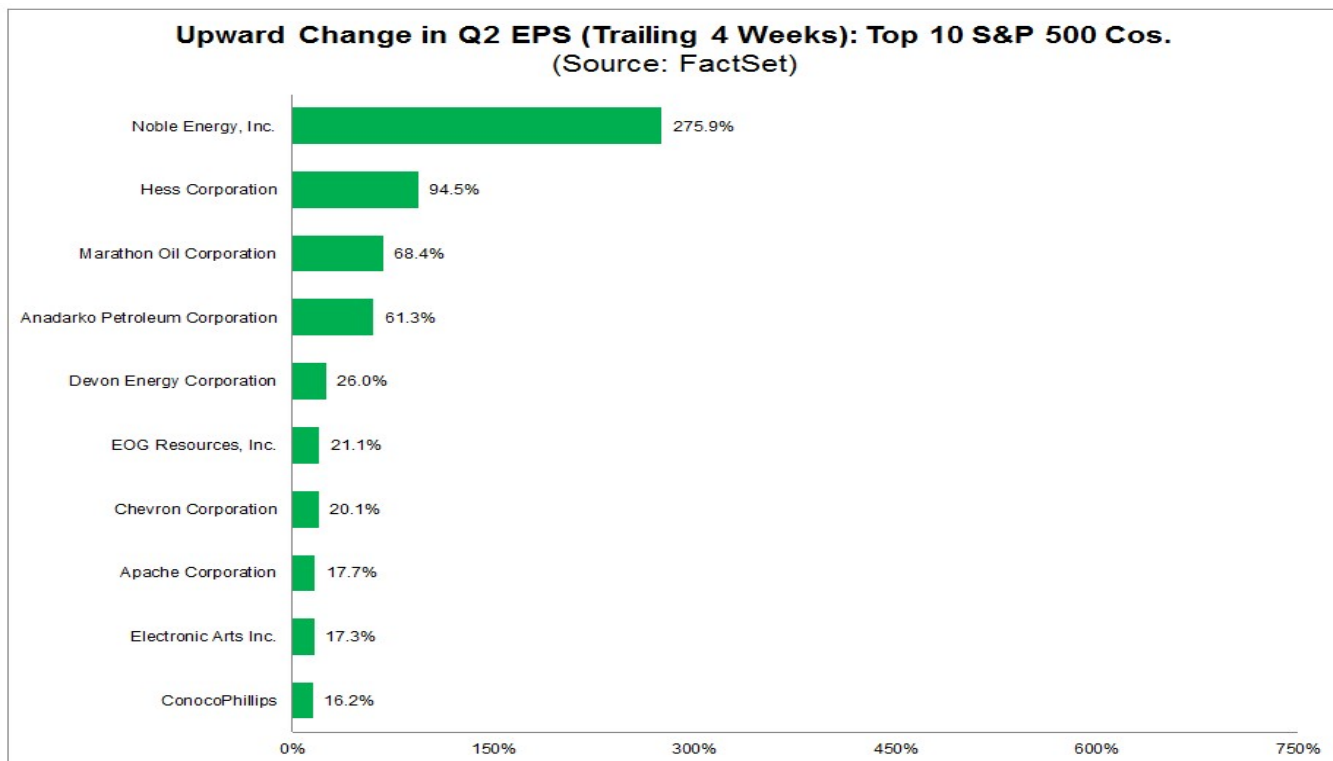
Q1 2019: Net Profit Margin



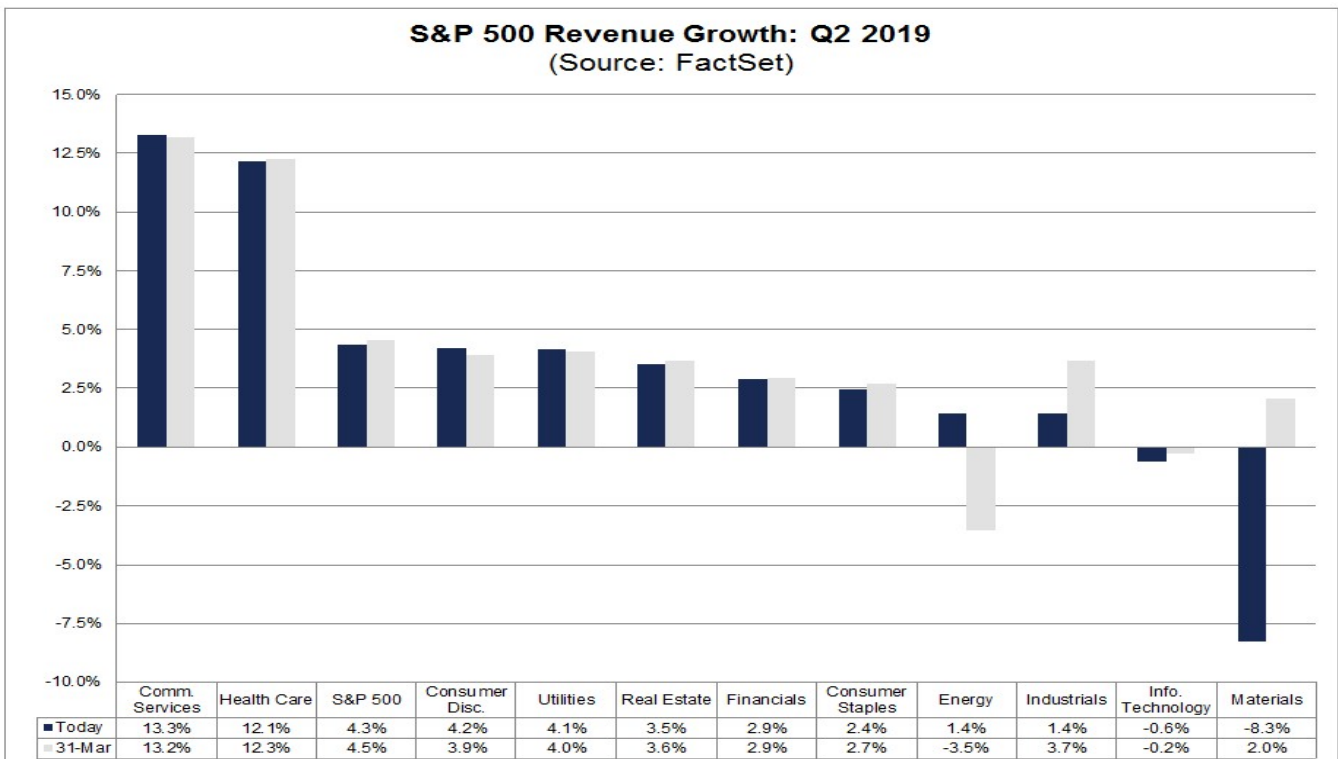
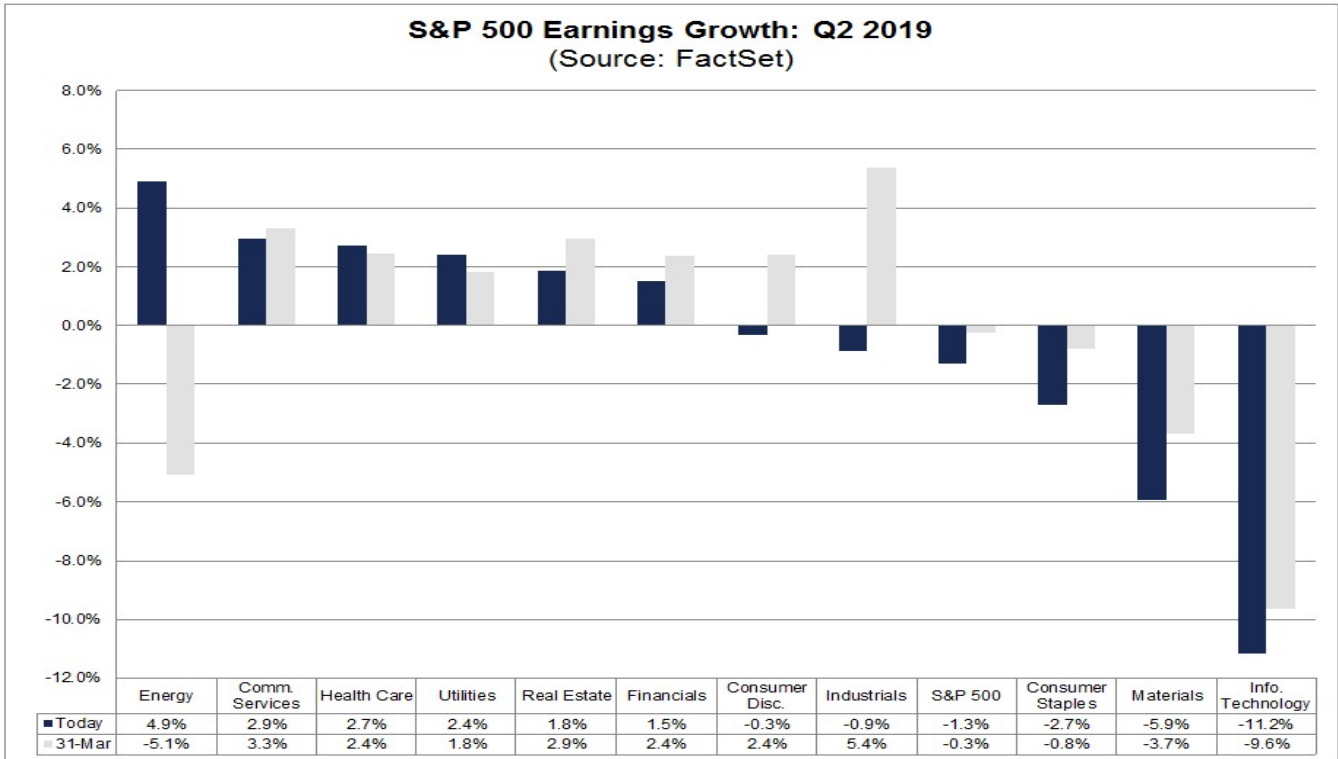
Q2 2019: EPS Guidance



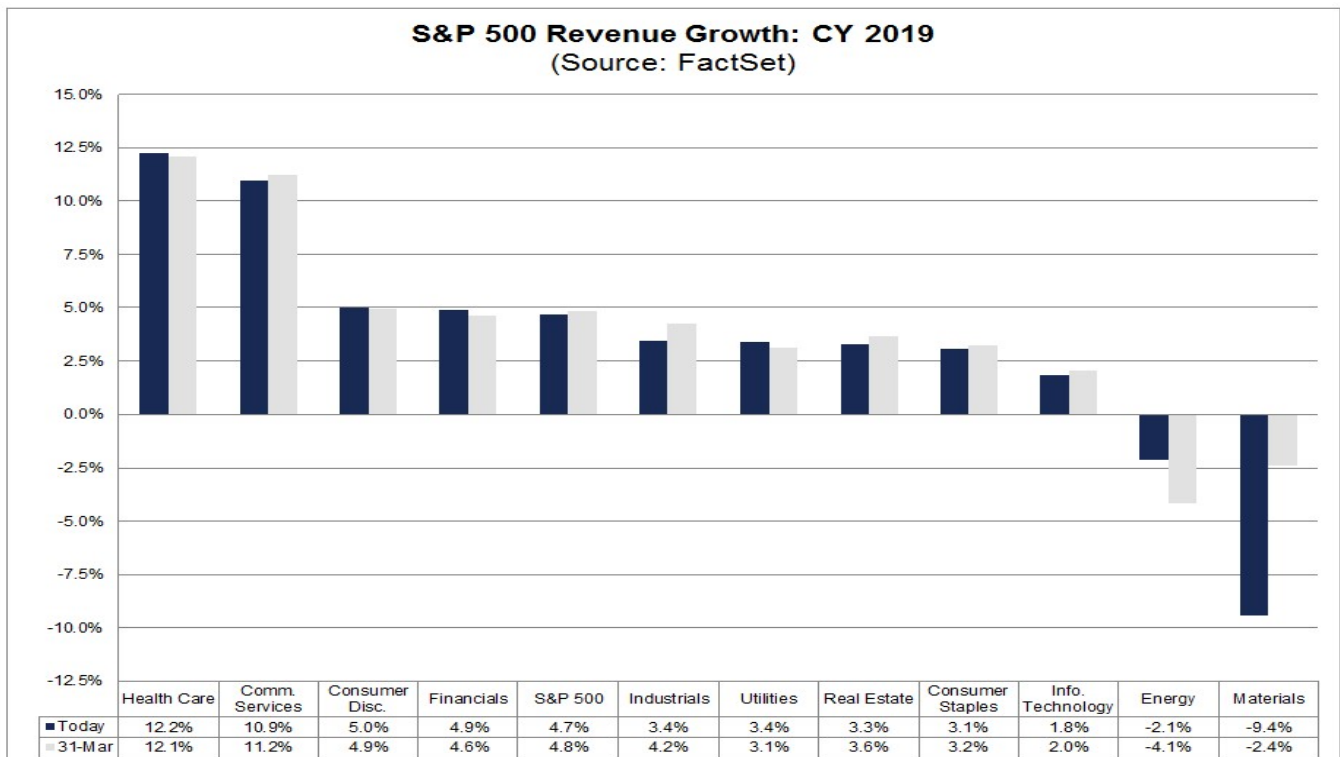
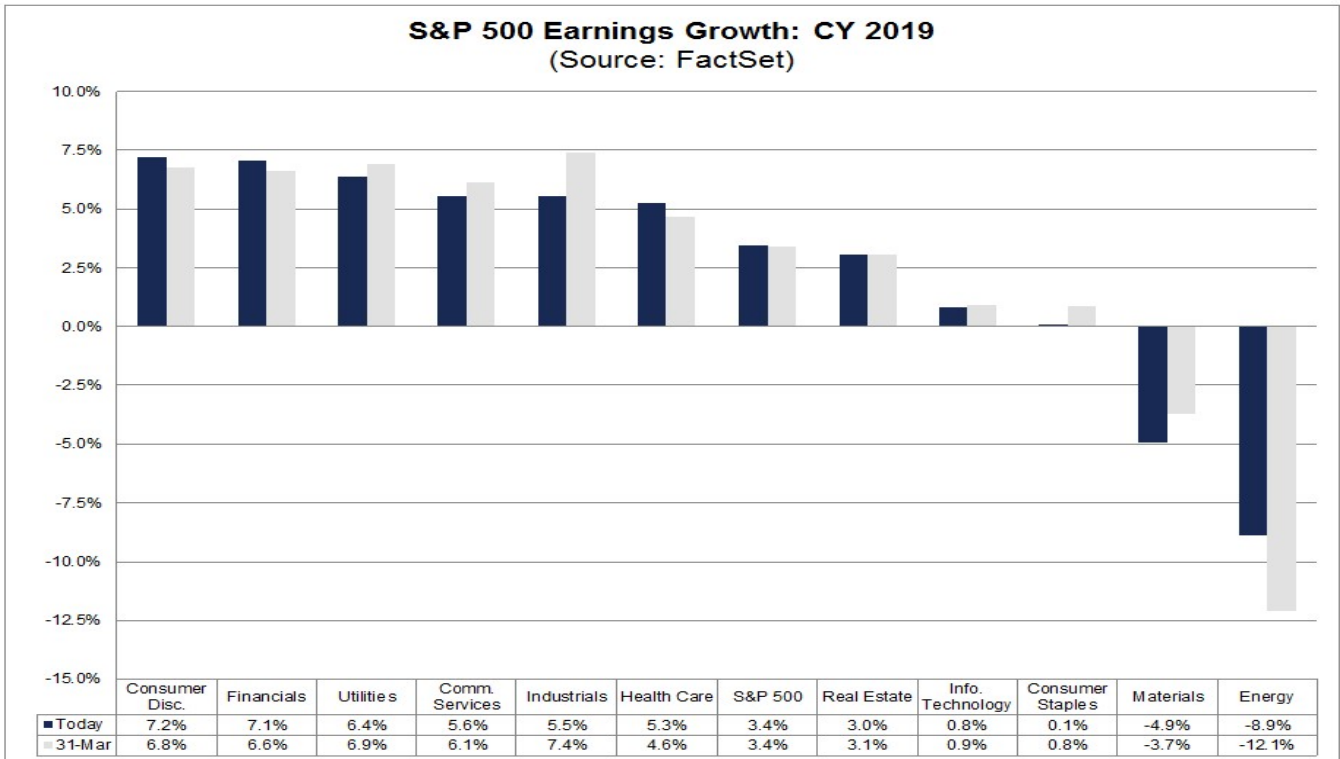
Q2 2019: EPS Revisions



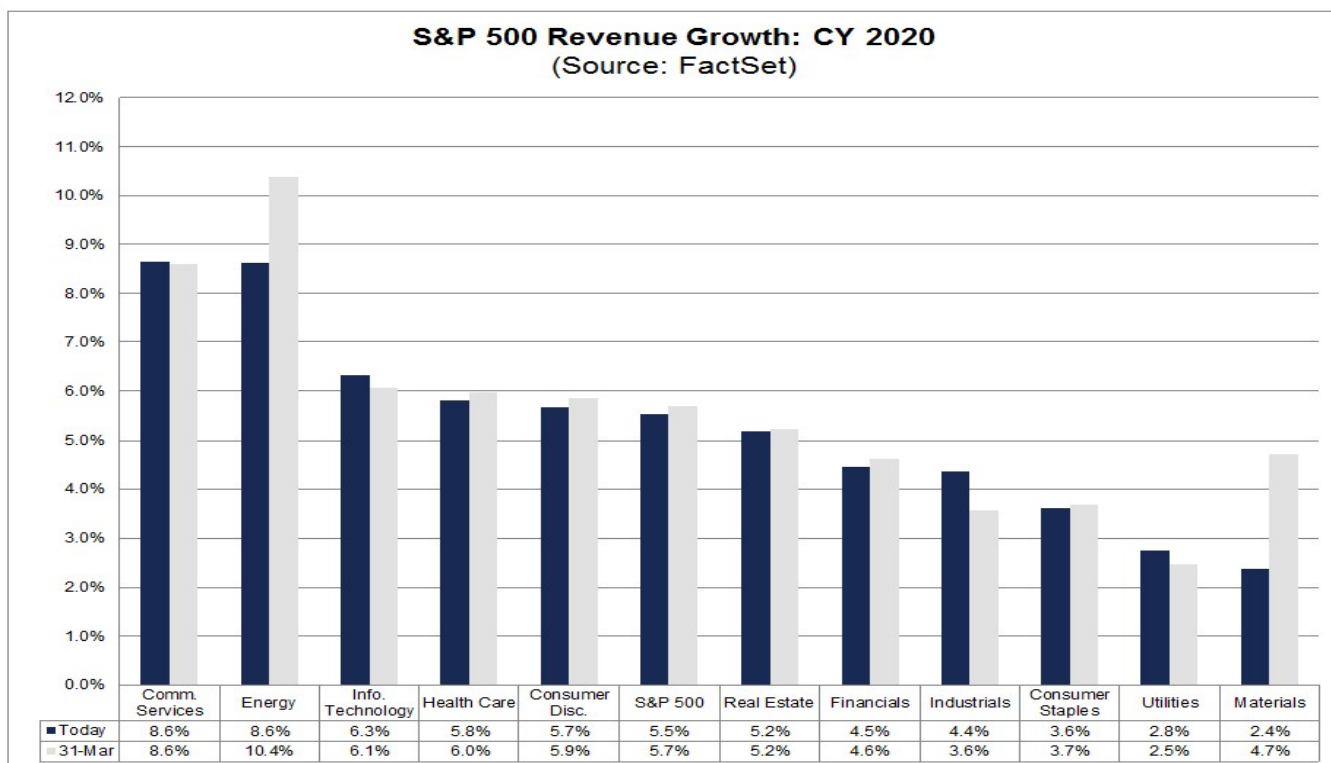
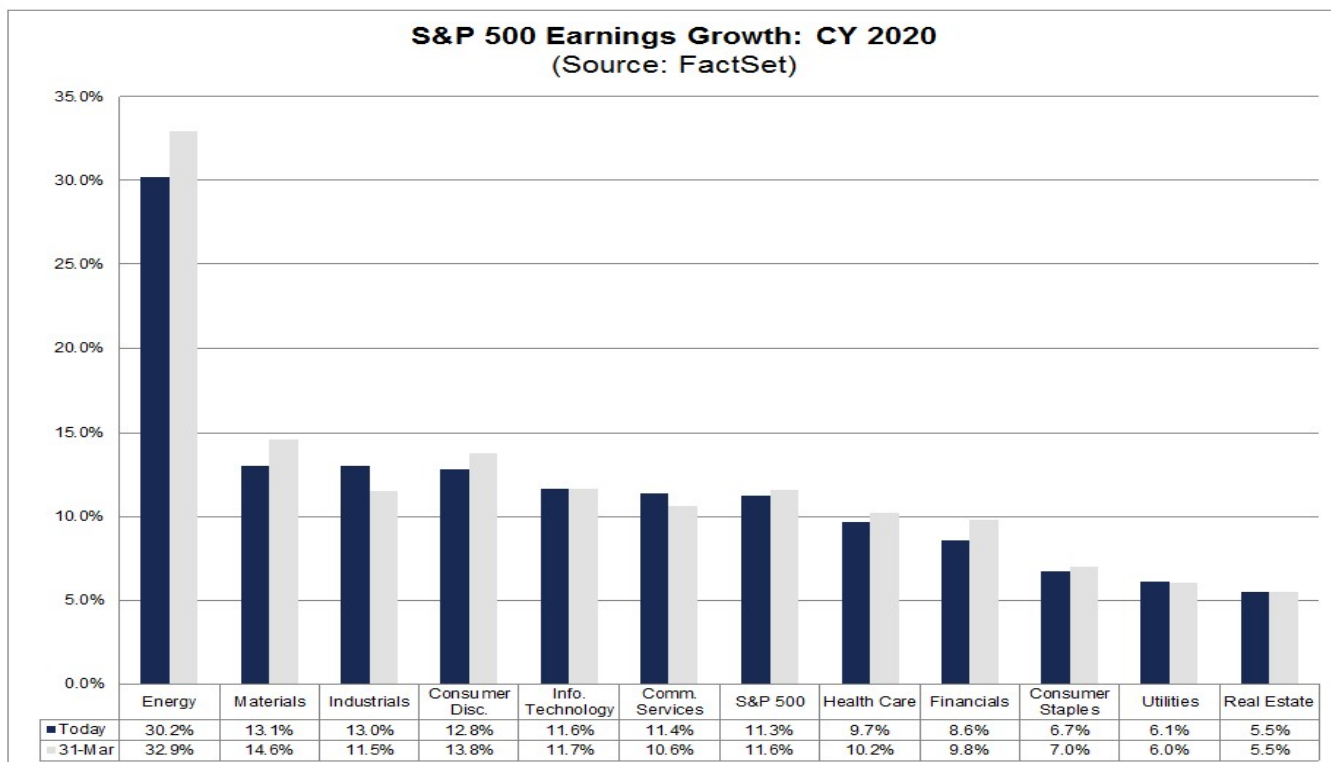
Q2 2019: Growth



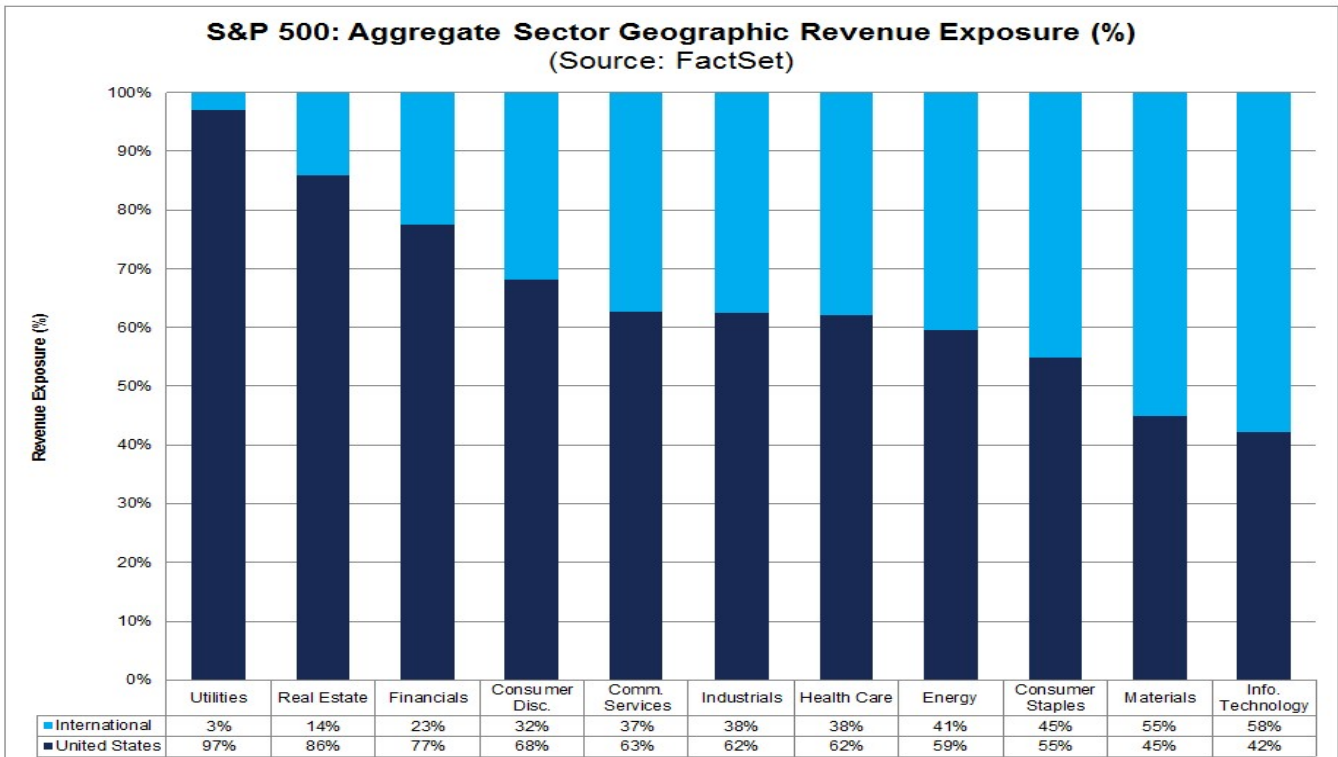
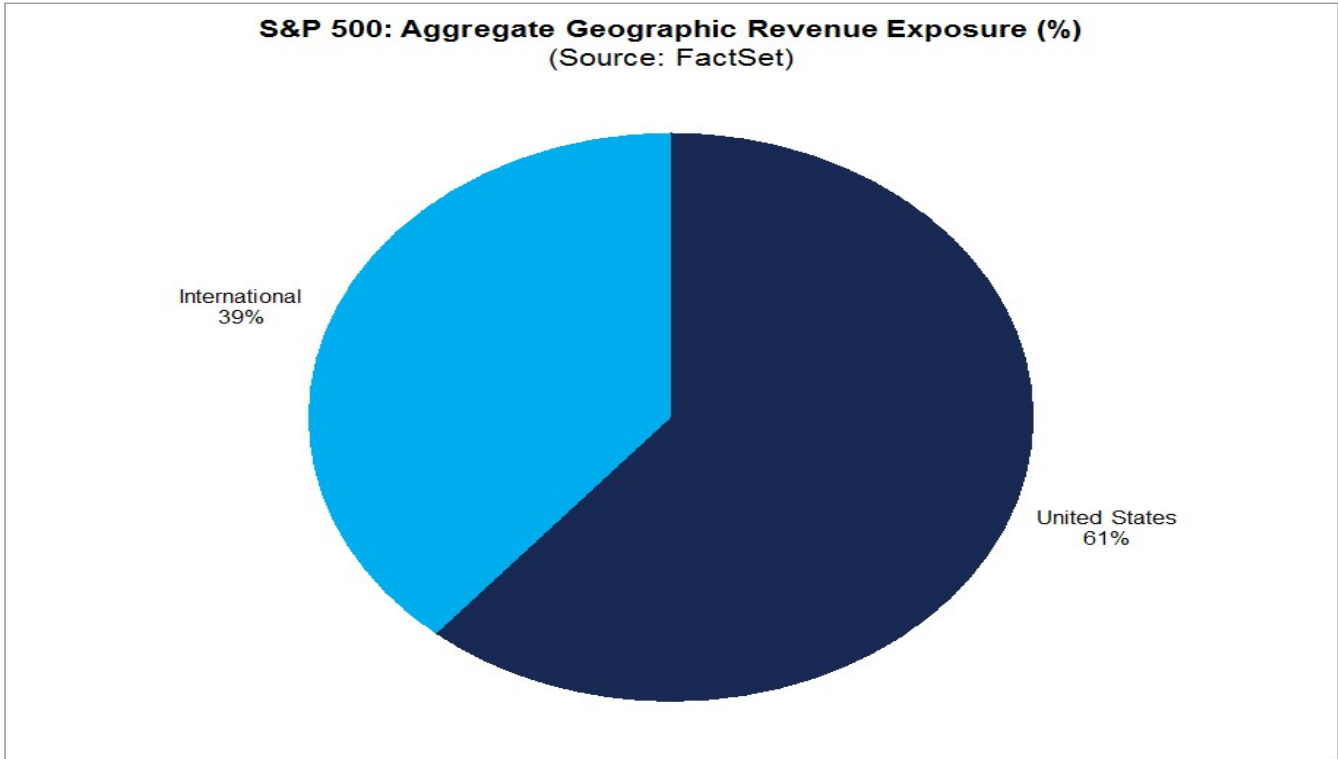
CY 2019: Growth



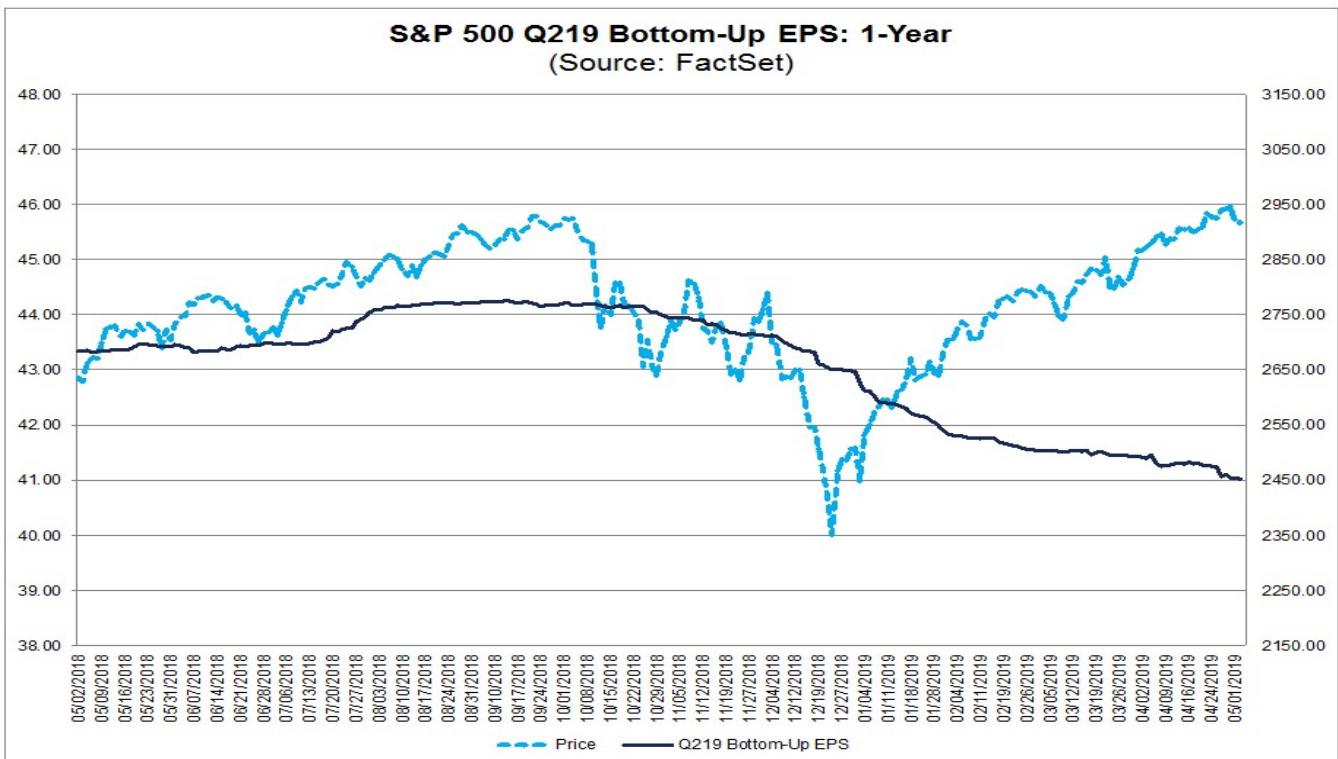
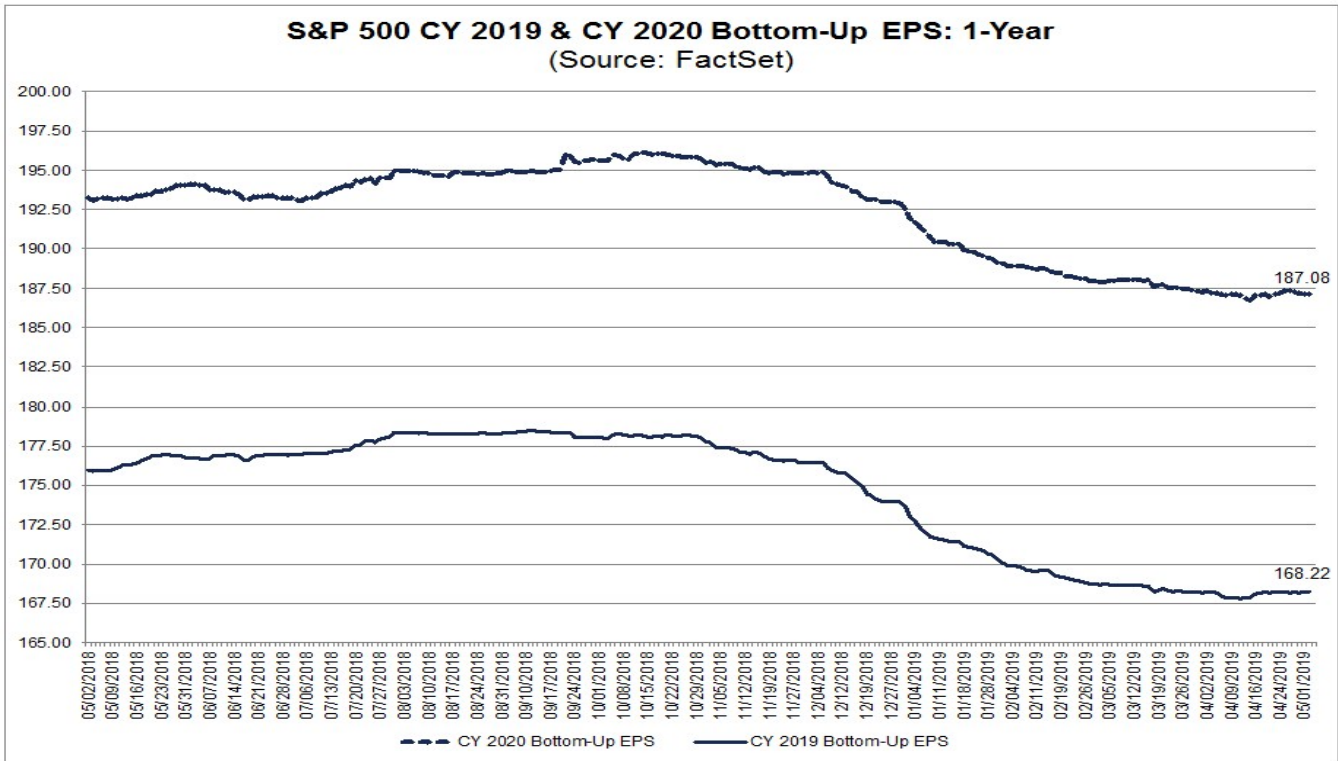
CY 2020: Growth



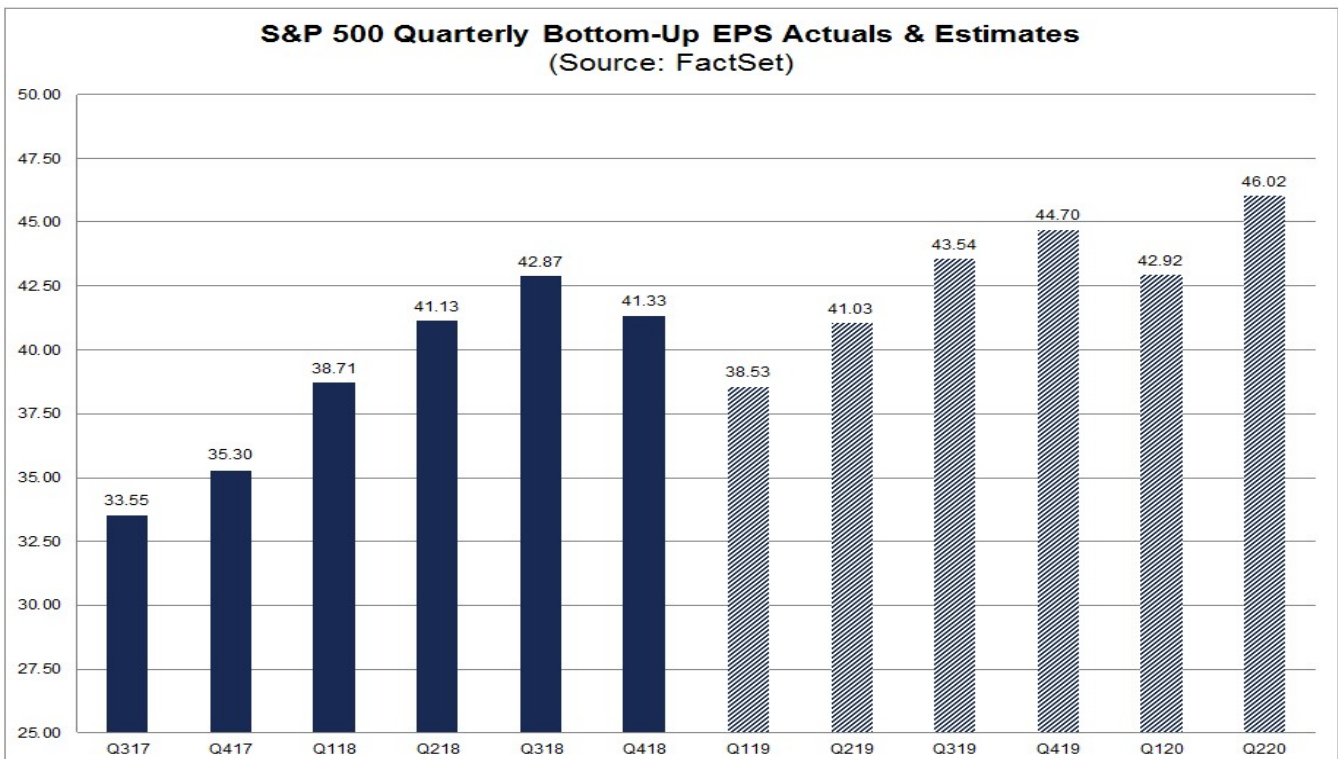
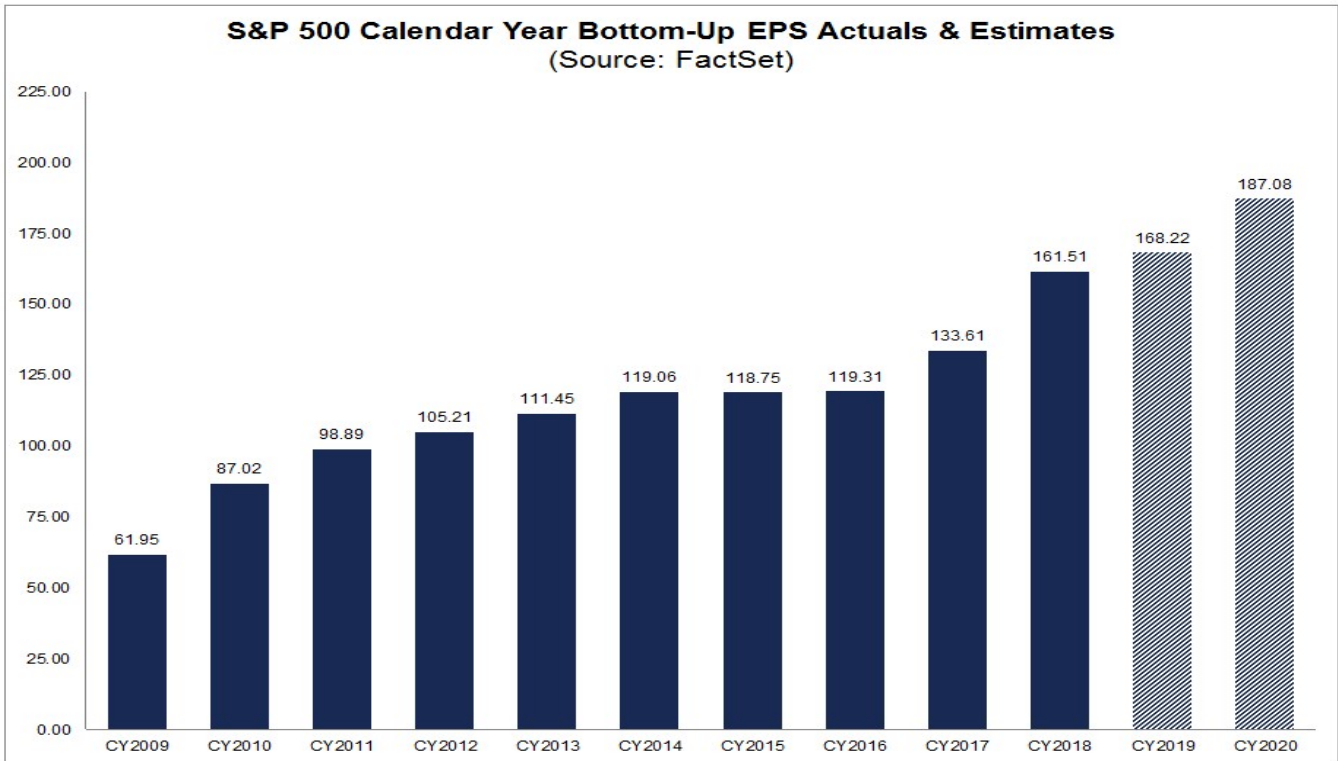
Geographic Revenue Exposure



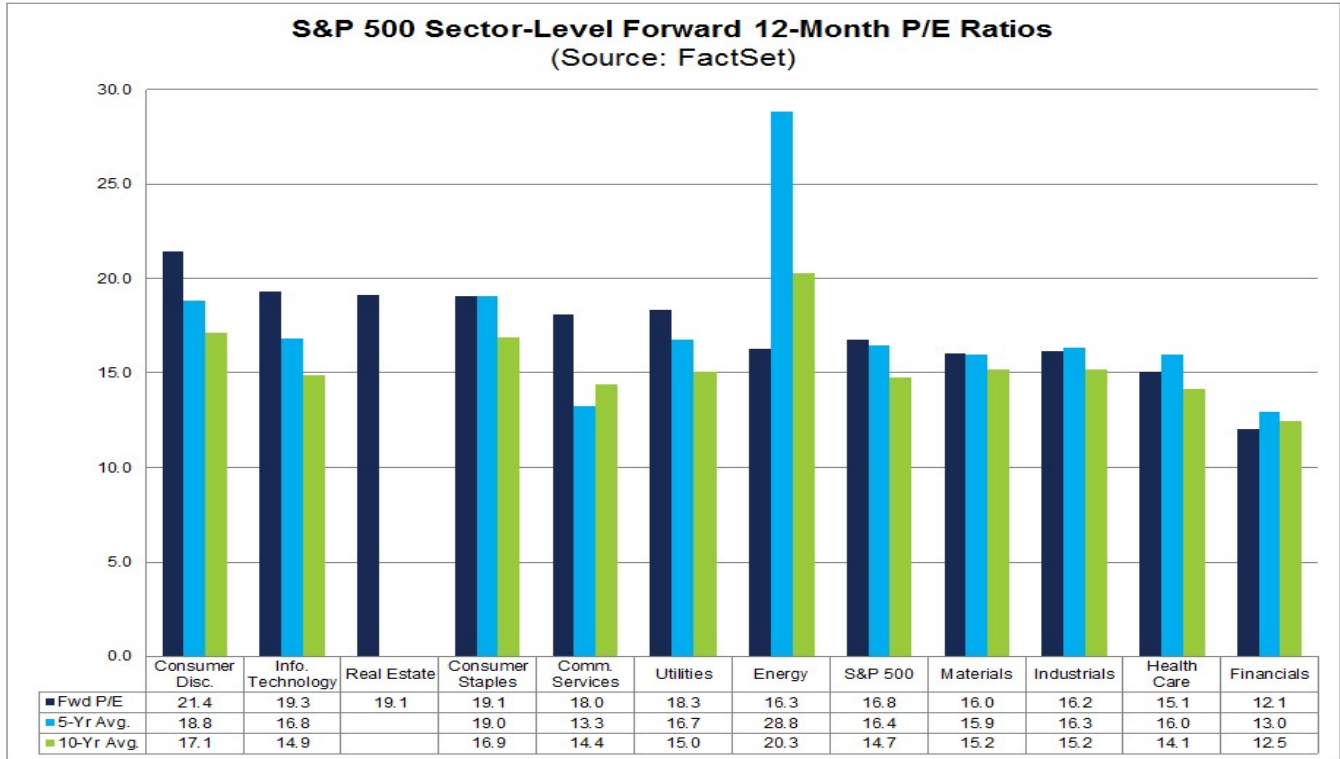
Bottom-up EPS Estimates: Revisions



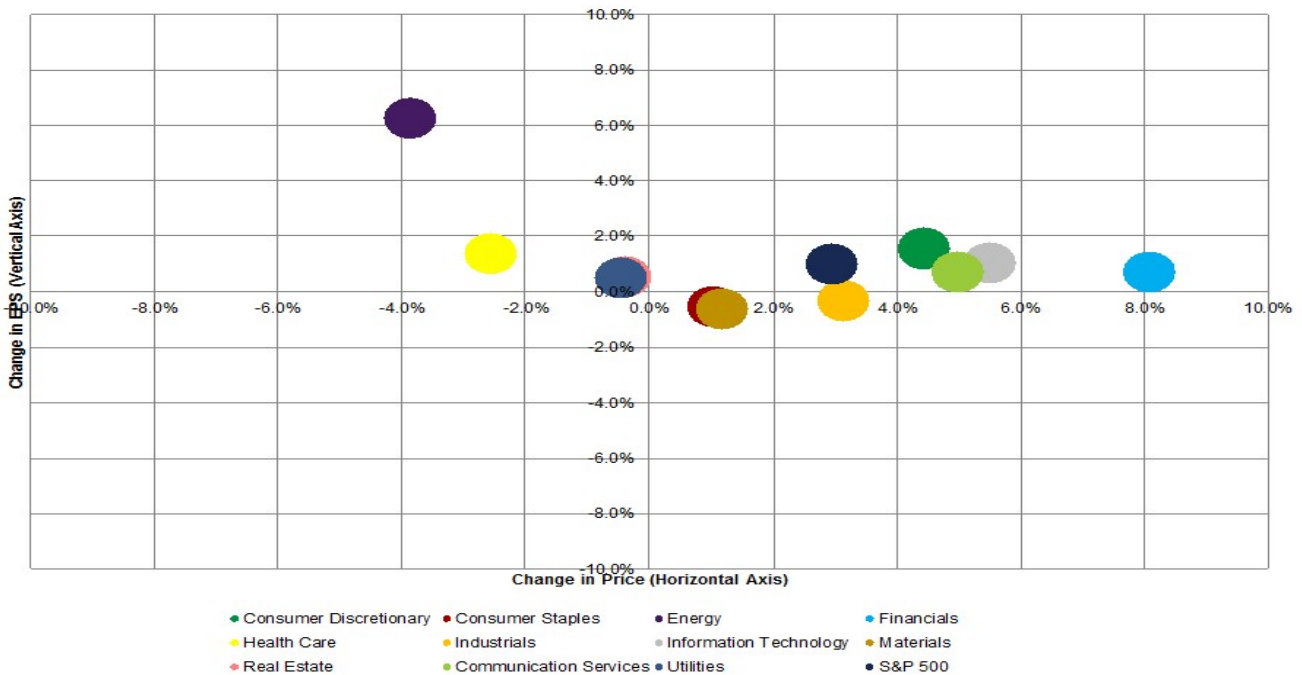
Bottom-up EPS Estimates: Current & Historical



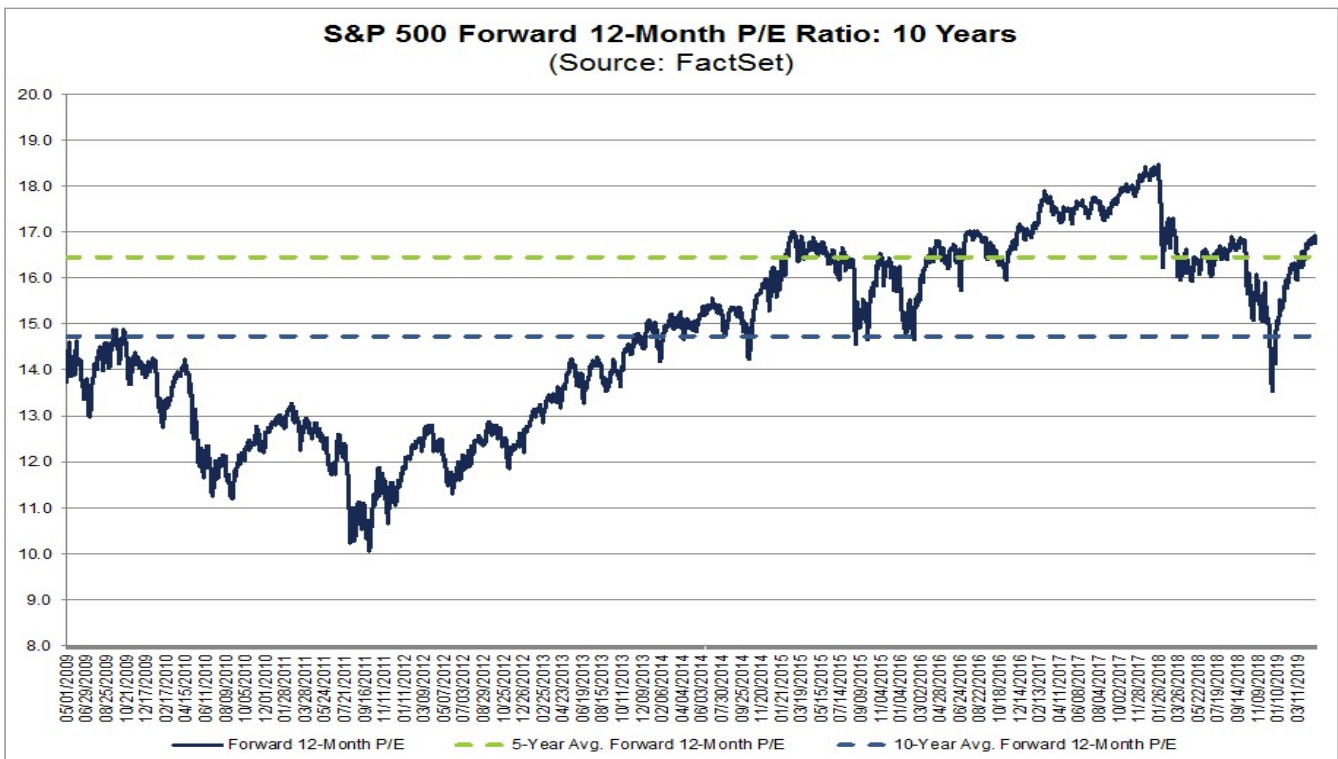
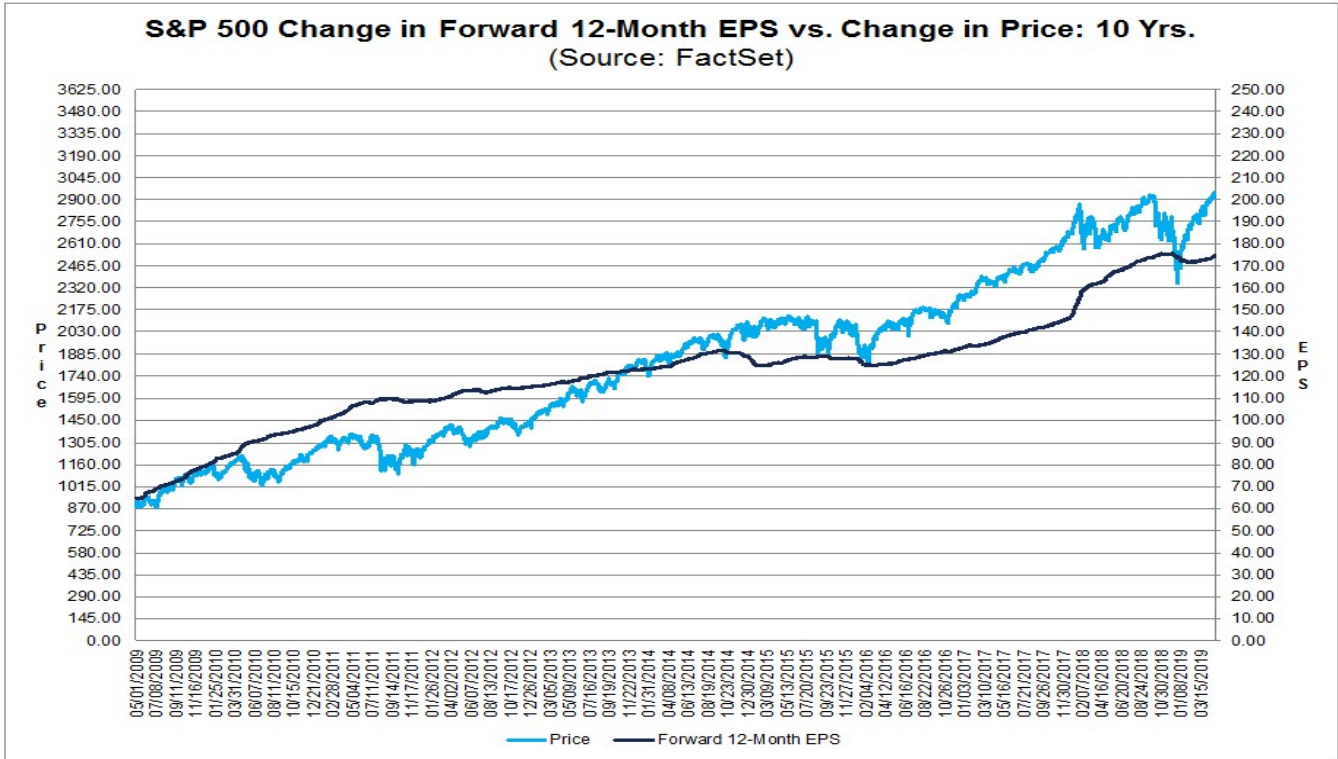
Forward 12M P/E Ratio: Sector Level



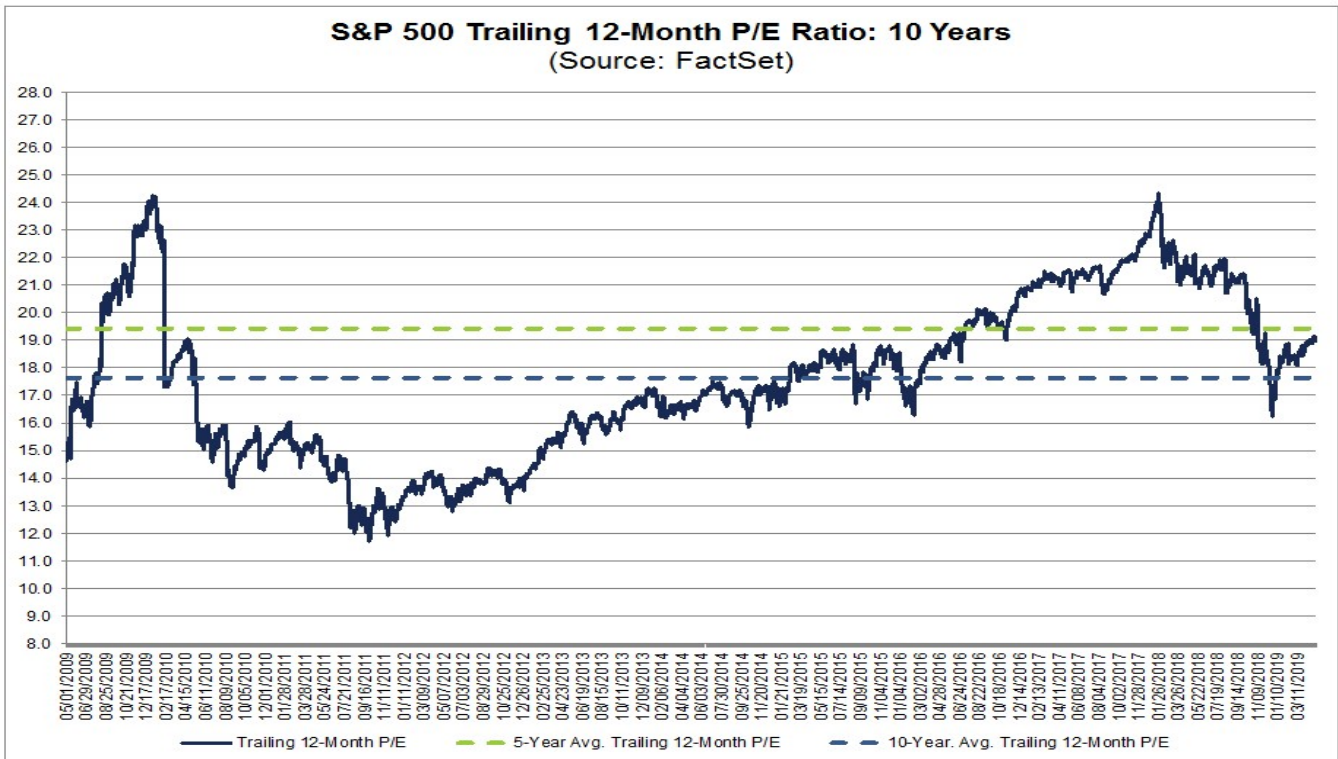
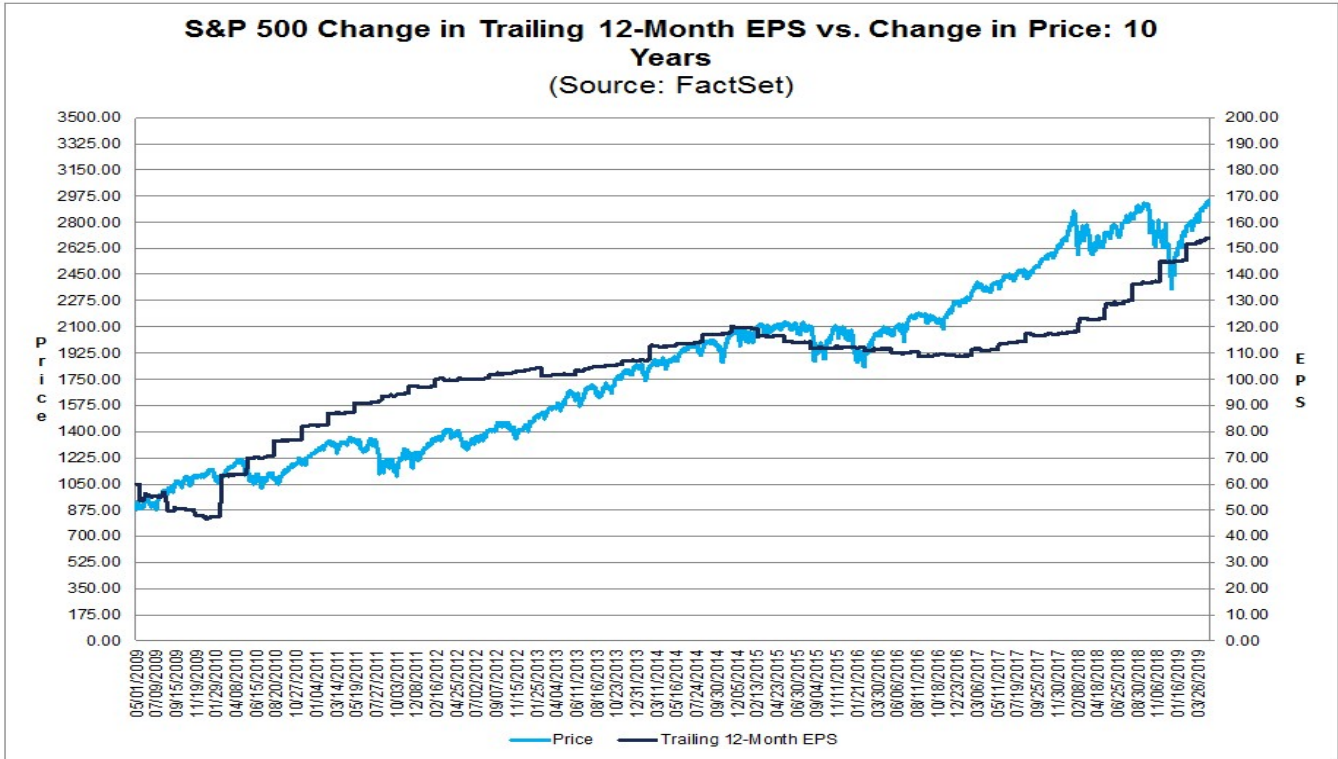
Sector-Level Change in Fwd. 12-Month EPS vs. Price: Since Mar. 31
(Source: FactSet)



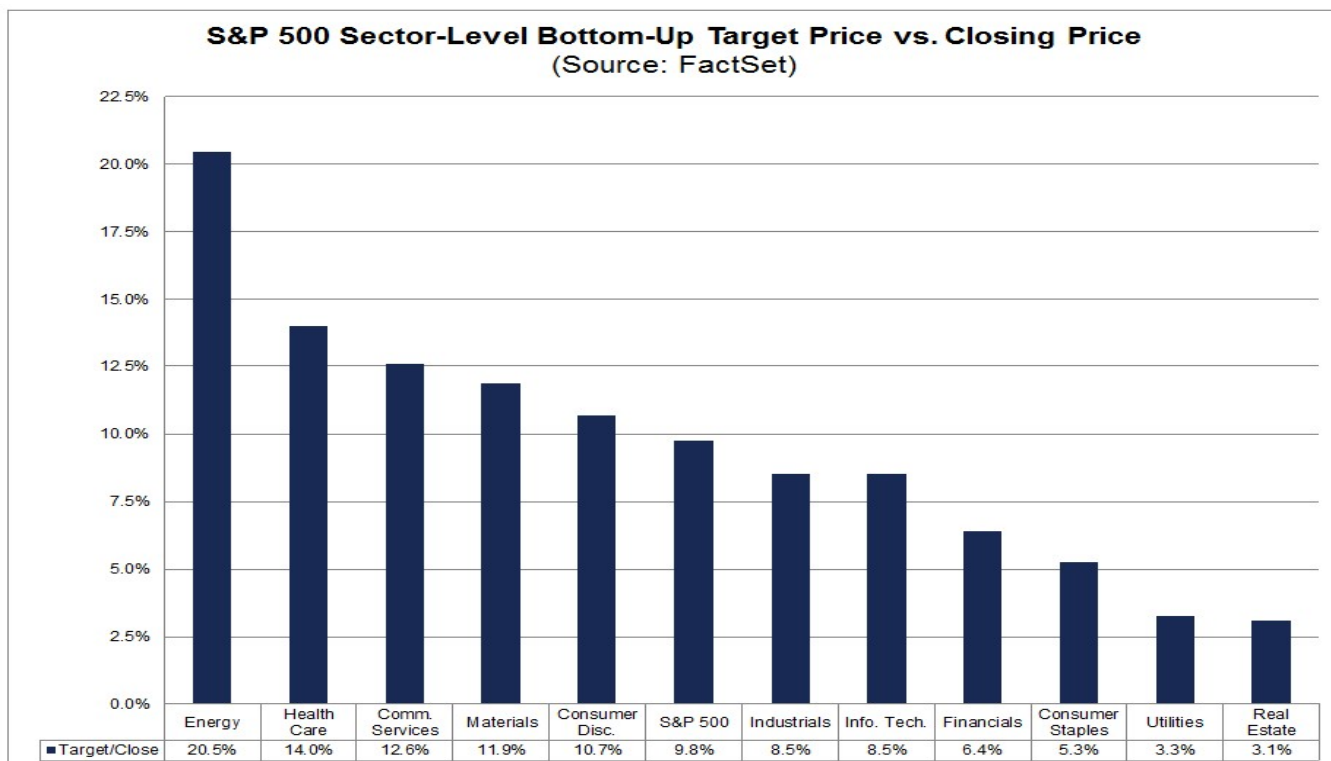
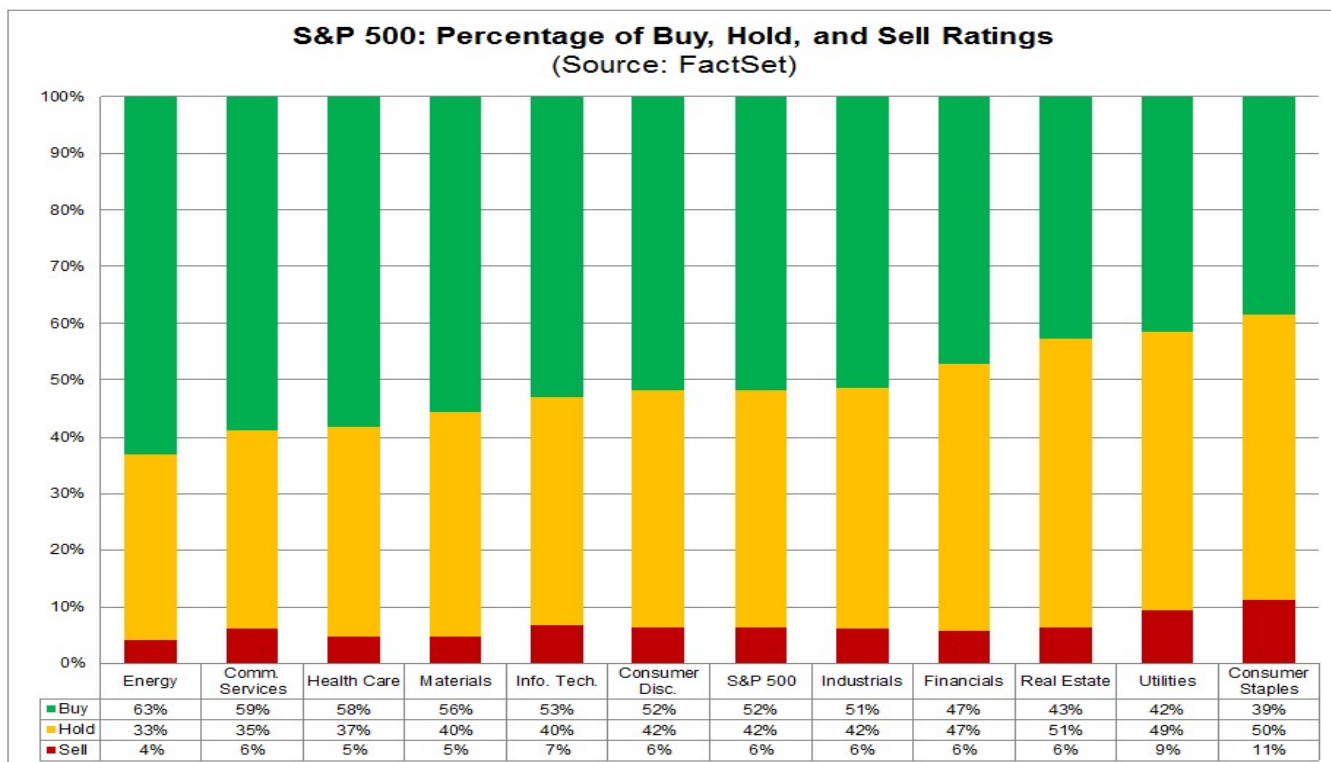
Forward 12M P/E Ratio: 10-Years



Trailing 12M P/E Ratio: 10-Years



Targets & Ratings



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