MARKETS THE TRADER

The Stock Market Storm Is Far From Over

By Nicholas Jasinski Follow



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confidence among investors. Michael M. Santiago/Getty Images

The volatile trading reflects a crisis of confidence among investors—both about troubled lenders' ability to withstand customer deposit outflows and about the outlook for the stock market and the economy. Strangely, though, the S&P 500 index SPX -1.10% ▼ finished the week up 1.4%, while the Nasdaq Composite COMP -0.74% ▼ gained 4.4%, as stocks like Apple AAPL -0.55% ▼ (ticker: AAPL) and Microsoft (MSFT) benefited from a flight to safety and falling bond yields boosted growth stocks. Only the Dow Jones Industrial Average DJIA -1.19% ▼, which fell 0.15%, finished the week lower. It was the first week the Nasdaq rose at least 4% and the Dow fell since 2001.

"For much of last year, volatility was elevated, but the risks were somewhat 'known' (chiefly inflation and recession)," wrote Christopher Jacobson, a strategist at Susquehanna International Group. "Now, the introduction of the banking crisis has created a new unknown, which could ultimately mean a sharper increase in volatility (if worse than expected) or a quick reprieve (if fears prove unfounded)."