



MARKETS

This Bull Market Has Charged Away From a Correction. Wall Street's Betting That Continues.

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U.S. stocks [avoided a technical correction](#), defined as a 10% pullback from a recent high, by the merest of margins this week, and Wall Street is both breathing a sigh of relief and [doubling down on bets](#) that the long bull market will continue charging well into the end of the year and beyond.

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The [S&P 500](#) [↑ SPX +0.11%](#), the broadest measure of U.S. blue-chip stocks, hit its lowest closing level of the year on Monday, and was marked around 9.1% from the record high it reached on Jan. 27. That put the benchmark just a whisker away from correction territory, and firmly south of its 200-day moving average. A combination of both would have likely pushed stocks even deeper into the red at the close of the first quarter.

However, a series of headlines that suggested a near-term end to the U.S. war in Iran, stronger-than-expected [jobs](#) and [activity data](#), and the start of a new trading month—traditionally the strongest of the year, according to the Stock Trader's Almanac—lifted stocks more than 3.77% from their Monday closing to the end of trading on Thursday.