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Peace, Earnings, and AI Lead Stocks to New Records

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The stock market has now delivered a year's return in about two weeks. While that might not be quite as impressive as all summer in a day, it's been enough to provide a genuine reset for investors.

The "end" of the Iran war spurred a market celebration this week, even if the conflict is nowhere near officially over. The [Dow Jones Industrial Average](#) **↑ DJIA +1.79%** was on track to advance 3.7% for the week, while the [S&P 500 index](#) **↑ SPX +1.20%** was rising 4.5% and the [Nasdaq Composite](#) **↑ COMP +1.52%** was up 6.6%. The latter two hit multiple record closing highs throughout the week.

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But forget the week—the market's April returns are even more impressive. In just 12 trading days this month, the Nasdaq is up double digits, and the S&P 500 has added more than 8%. That might look ho-hum after the past three years' bull run, but 8% is well above the average inflation-adjusted annual return of the index since the 1950s.