

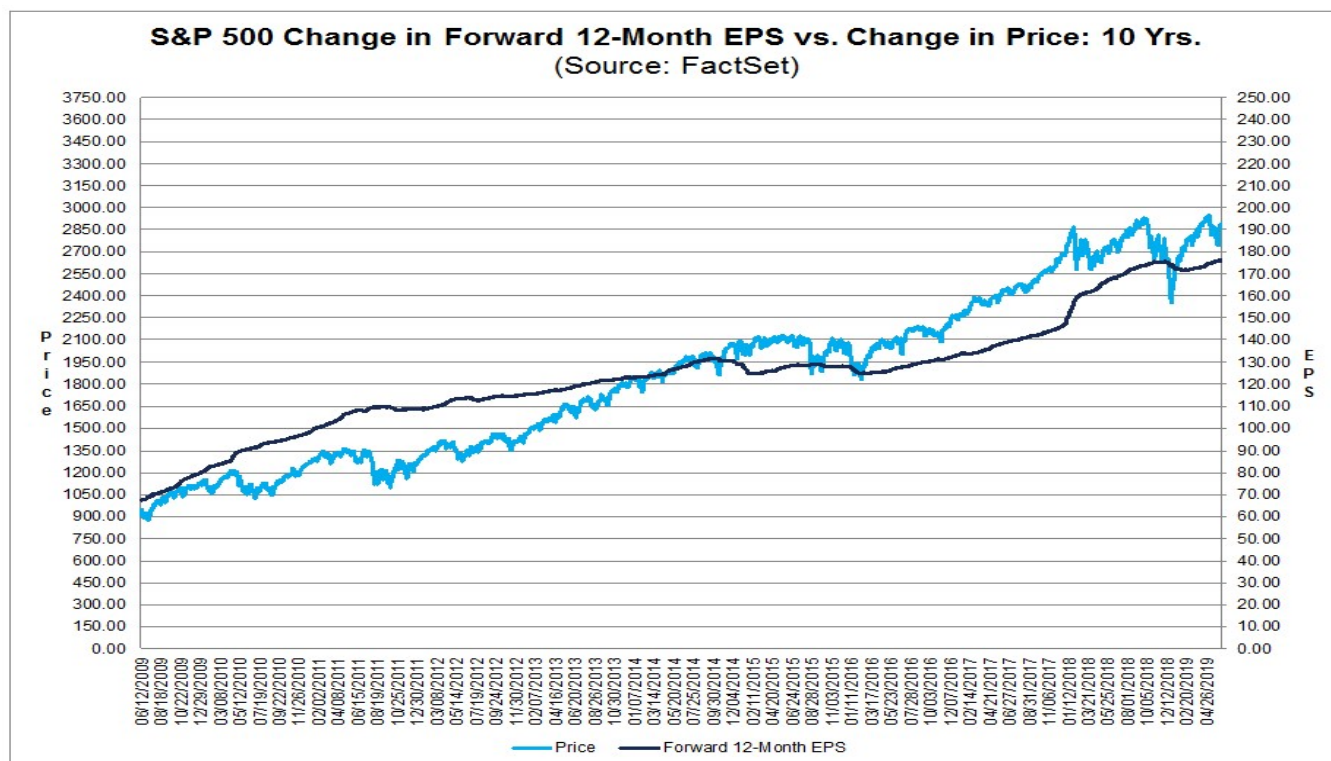
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Key Metrics

- **Earnings Growth:** For Q2 2019, the estimated earnings decline for the S&P 500 is -2.5%. If -2.5% is the actual decline for the quarter, it will mark the first time the index has reported two straight quarters of year-over-year declines in earnings since Q1 2016 and Q2 2016.
- **Earnings Revisions:** On March 31, the estimated earnings decline for Q2 2019 was -0.4%. Nine sectors have lower growth rates today (compared to March 31) due to downward revisions to EPS estimates.
- **Earnings Guidance:** For Q2 2019, 87 S&P 500 companies have issued negative EPS guidance and 25 S&P 500 companies have issued positive EPS guidance.
- **Valuation:** The forward 12-month P/E ratio for the S&P 500 is 16.5. This P/E ratio is equal to the 5-year average (16.5) but above the 10-year average (14.8).
- **Earnings Scorecard:** For Q2 2019 (with 2 of the companies in the S&P 500 reporting actual results for the quarter), 2 companies have reported a positive EPS surprise and 2 companies have reported a positive revenue surprise.



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Topic of the Week:

Where Are Analysts Most Optimistic on Ratings for S&P 500 Companies for Q2 2019?

With the end of the second quarter approaching, where are analysts most optimistic and pessimistic in terms of their ratings on stocks in the S&P 500? How have their views changed over the past few months?

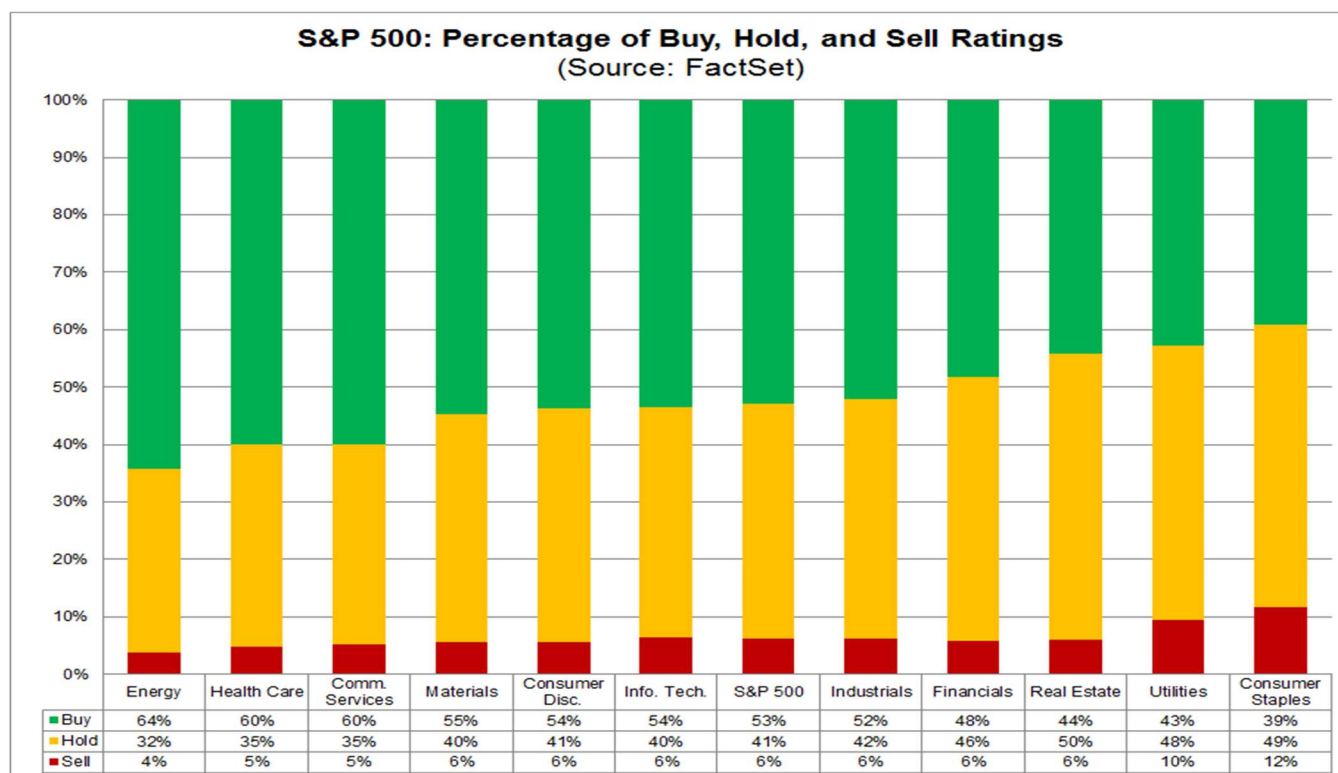
Overall, there are 10,456 ratings on stocks in the S&P 500. Of these 10,456 ratings, 52.9% are Buy ratings, 41.0% are Hold ratings, and 6.1% are Sell ratings.

At the sector level, analysts are most optimistic on the Energy (64%), Health Care (60%), and Communication Services (60%) sectors, as these three sectors have the highest percentages of Buy ratings. It is interesting to note that the Energy sector is projected to report the largest earnings decline (-9.8%) of all eleven sectors in CY 2019 and the largest earnings growth (29.3%) of all eleven sectors in CY 2020.

On the other hand, analysts are most pessimistic about the Consumer Staples (39%), Utilities (43%), and Real Estate (44%) sectors, as these three sectors have the lowest percentages of Buy ratings. The Real Estate sector also has the highest percentage of Hold ratings (50%), while the Consumer Staples sector also has the highest percentage of Sell ratings (12%).

At the company level, the ten stocks in the S&P 500 (with a minimum of three analysts submitting ratings) with the highest percentages of Buy ratings and the highest percentages of Sell ratings are listed on the next page.

Compared to the end of the first quarter (March 31), there has been little change in the overall breakdown of Buy, Hold, and Sell ratings. The percentage of Buy ratings has decreased to 52.9 from 53.2% since March 31. The Energy sector has seen the largest percentage-point decline in Buy ratings (to 64% from 67%) during this time. The percentage of Hold ratings has increased to 41.0% from 40.7% since March 31. The Energy sector has seen the largest percentage-point increase in Hold ratings (to 32% from 30%) during this time. The percentage of Sell ratings is unchanged since March 31 at 6.1%. The Consumer Staples sector has seen the largest percentage-point increase in Sell ratings (to 12% from 11%) during this time, while the Communication Services has seen the largest percentage-point decrease in Sell ratings (to 5% from 6%) during this time.



Highest Buy Ratings % in S&P 500*: Top 10 (Source: FactSet)

Company	Buy	Hold	Sell	Total
Amazon.com, Inc.	100%	0%	0%	100%
Diamondback Energy, Inc.	100%	0%	0%	100%
ABIOMED, Inc.	100%	0%	0%	100%
Assurant, Inc.	100%	0%	0%	100%
UnitedHealth Group Incorporated	96%	4%	0%	100%
Marathon Petroleum Corporation	94%	6%	0%	100%
Lennar Corporation Class A	94%	6%	0%	100%
Microsoft Corporation	94%	3%	3%	100%
AMETEK, Inc.	93%	0%	7%	100%
Agilent Technologies, Inc.	93%	7%	0%	100%

* Minimum of 3 analysts contributing ratings

Highest Sell Ratings % in S&P 500*: Top 10 (Source: FactSet)

Company	Buy	Hold	Sell	Total
Franklin Resources, Inc.	0%	43%	57%	100%
Torchmark Corporation	22%	22%	56%	100%
Campbell Soup Company	12%	35%	53%	100%
Hormel Foods Corporation	8%	54%	38%	100%
News Corporation Class A	38%	25%	38%	100%
Consolidated Edison, Inc.	5%	58%	37%	100%
Robert Half International Inc.	29%	36%	36%	100%
Public Storage	7%	60%	33%	100%
Omnicom Group Inc	17%	50%	33%	100%
Amcor PLC	0%	67%	33%	100%

* Minimum of 3 analysts contributing ratings

Q2 Earnings Season: By The Numbers

Overview

In terms of estimate revisions for companies in the S&P 500, analysts have made smaller cuts than average to EPS estimates for Q2 2019 to date. On a per-share basis, estimated earnings for the second quarter have fallen by 2.3% since March 31. This percentage decline is smaller than the 5-year average (-3.3%), the 10-year average (-3.1%), and the 15-year average (-4.2%) for a quarter.

However, a larger percentage of S&P 500 companies have lowered the bar for earnings for Q2 2019 relative to recent quarters. Of the 112 companies that have issued EPS guidance for the second quarter, 87 have issued negative EPS guidance and 25 have issued positive EPS guidance. The percentage of companies issuing negative EPS guidance is 78% (87 out of 112), which is above the 5-year average of 70%.

Because of the net downward revisions to earnings estimates, the estimated (year-over-year) earnings decline for Q2 2019 is -2.5% today compared to the estimated (year-over-year) earnings decline of -0.4% on March 31. If -2.5% is the actual decline for the quarter, it will mark the first time the index has reported two straight quarters of year-over-year declines in earnings since Q1 2016 and Q2 2016. It will also mark the largest year-over-year decline in earnings reported by the index since Q2 2016 (-3.2%). Six sectors are predicted to report year-over-year earnings growth, led by the Energy and Utilities sectors. Five sectors are projected to report a year-over-year decline in earnings, led by the Information Technology and Materials sectors.

Because of the net downward revisions to revenue estimates, the estimated (year-over-year) revenue growth rate for Q2 2019 is 3.9% today compared to the estimated (year-over-year) revenue growth rate of 4.5% on March 31. If 3.9% is the actual growth rate for the quarter, it will mark the lowest revenue growth rate for the index since Q3 2016 (2.7%). Nine of the eleven sectors are projected to report year-over-year growth in revenues, led by the Communication Services and Health Care sectors. Two sectors are predicted to report a year-over-year decline in revenues: Materials and Information Technology.

Looking at the second half of 2019, analysts see flat earnings for the third quarter followed by high single-digit earnings growth in the fourth quarter.

The forward 12-month P/E ratio is 16.5, which is equal to the 5-year average but above the 10-year average.

During the upcoming week, five S&P 500 companies are scheduled to report results for the second quarter.

Estimate Revisions: Largest Decline in Materials, while Largest Increase in Energy

Slight Increase in Estimated Earnings Decline for Q2 This Week

The estimated earnings decline for the second quarter is -2.5% this week, which is slightly larger than the estimated earnings decline of -2.4% last week.

The estimated earnings decline for Q2 2019 of -2.5% today is larger than the estimated earnings decline of -0.4% at the start of the quarter (March 31). Nine sectors have a recorded a decrease in expected earnings growth due to downward revisions to earnings estimates, led by the Materials and Industrials sectors. On the other hand, two sectors have recorded an increase in expected earnings growth since the start of the quarter, led by the Energy sector.

Materials: DuPont Leads Decrease

The Materials sector has recorded the largest decrease in expected earnings growth since the start of the quarter (to -12.1% from -3.2%). Despite the decline in expected earnings, this sector has witnessed the second largest increase in price of all eleven sectors since March 31 at 4.4%. Overall, 21 of the 28 companies (75%) in the Materials sector have seen a decrease in their mean EPS estimate during this time. Of these 21 companies, 7 have recorded a decrease in their mean EPS estimate of more than 10%, led by Mosaic (to \$0.33 from \$0.58) and DuPont (to \$1.16 from \$1.87). DuPont has also been the largest contributor to the decrease in expected earnings for this sector since the start of the quarter. The stock price of DuPont has decreased by about 2% since March 31.

Industrials: Boeing Leads Decrease

The Industrials sector has recorded the second largest decrease in expected earnings growth since the start of the quarter (to -1.8% from 5.5%). Despite the decline in expected earnings, this sector has witnessed an increase in price of 0.5% since March 31. Overall, 51 of the 69 companies (74%) in the Industrials sector have seen a decrease in their mean EPS estimate during this time. Of these 51 companies, 7 have recorded a decrease in their mean EPS estimate of more than 10%, led by Boeing (to \$1.78 from \$4.63), 3M (to \$2.09 from \$2.64), and American Airlines Group (to 1.68 from \$2.10). Boeing has also been the largest contributor to the decrease in expected earnings for this sector since the start of the quarter. The stock price of Boeing has decreased by about 9% since March 31.

Energy: Chevron Leads Increase

The Energy sector has recorded the largest increase in expected earnings growth since the start of the quarter (to 2.3% from -5.2%). Despite the rise in expected earnings, this sector has witnessed the largest decrease in price of all eleven sectors since March 31 at -7.9%. Overall, 14 of the 29 companies (48%) in the Energy sector have seen an increase in their mean EPS estimate during this time. Of these 14 companies, 10 have recorded an increase in their mean EPS estimate of more than 10%, led by Hess Corporation (to \$0.01 from -\$0.26), Marathon Oil (to \$0.18 from \$0.09), and Anadarko Petroleum (to \$0.56 from \$0.32). However, Chevron (to \$2.00 from \$1.63) and ConocoPhillips (to \$1.10 from \$0.81) have been the largest contributors to the increase in expected earnings for this sector since the start of the quarter. Both companies have witnessed decreases in their stock prices since March 31.

Index-Level (Bottom-Up) EPS Estimate: Below Average Decline to Date

The Q2 bottom-up EPS estimate (which is an aggregation of the median earnings estimates for all 500 companies in the index and can be used as a proxy for the earnings for the index) has decreased by 2.3% (to \$40.49 from \$41.46) since March 31. This percentage decline is smaller than the 5-year average (-3.3%), the 10-year average (-3.1%), and the 15-year average (-4.2%) for a quarter.

Guidance: More S&P 500 Companies Issuing Negative EPS Guidance for Q2 than Average

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

At this point in time, 112 companies in the index have issued EPS guidance for Q2 2019. Of these 112 companies, 87 have issued negative EPS guidance and 25 have issued positive EPS guidance. The percentage of companies issuing negative EPS guidance is 78% (87 out of 112), which is above the 5-year average of 70%.

Earnings Decline: -2.5%

The estimated (year-over-year) earnings decline for Q2 2019 is -2.5%. If -2.5% is the actual decline for the quarter, it will mark the first time the index has reported two straight quarters of year-over-year declines in earnings since Q1 2016 and Q2 2016. It will also mark the largest year-over-year decline in earnings reported by the index since Q2 2016 (-3.2%). Six sectors are predicted to report year-over-year earnings growth, led by the Energy and Utilities sectors. Five sectors are projected to report a year-over-year decline in earnings, led by the Information Technology and Materials sectors.

Energy: 4 of 6 Sub-Industries Expected to Report Growth

The Energy sector (along with the Utilities sector) is expected to report the highest (year-over-year) earnings growth of all eleven sectors at 2.3%. At the sub-industry level, four of the six sub-industries in the sector are expected to report growth in earnings for the quarter: Oil & Gas Drilling (N/A due to year-ago loss), Oil & Gas Storage & Transportation (26%), Integrated Oil & Gas (7%), and Oil & Gas Exploration & Production (6%). On the other hand, the other two sub-industries in the sector are expected to report a decline in earnings for the quarter: Oil & Gas Equipment & Services (-25%) and Oil & Gas Refining & Marketing (-9%).

Utilities: 4 of 5 Industries Expected to Report Growth

The Utilities sector (along with the Energy sector) is expected to report the highest (year-over-year) earnings growth of all eleven sectors at 2.3%. At the industry level, four of the five industries in this sector are predicted to report growth in earnings: Gas Utilities (20%), Water Utilities (14%), Multi-Utilities (3%), and Electric Utilities (2%). The Independent Power & Renewable Electricity Producers (-8%) industry is the only industry expected to report a year-over-year decline in earnings.

Information Technology: Micron Technology Leads Decline

The Information Technology sector is expected to report the highest (year-over-year) earnings decline of all eleven sectors at -12.6%. At the industry level, two of the six industries in this sector are predicted to report a decline in earnings: Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment (-32%) and Technology Hardware, Storage, & Peripherals (-22%). On the other hand, four industries are projected to report earnings growth, led by the Communications Equipment (5%) industry.

At the company level, Micron Technology is projected to be the largest contributor to the decline in earnings for the sector. The mean EPS estimate for Q2 2019 is \$0.82, compared to year-ago EPS of \$3.15. If this company were excluded, the estimated earnings decline for the sector would improve to -9.0% from -12.6%.

Materials: Freeport-McMoRan Leads Decline

The Materials sector is predicted to report the second highest (year-over-year) earnings decline of all eleven sectors at -12.1%. At the industry level, three of the four industries in this sector are expected to report a decline in earnings: Metals & Mining (-49%), Containers & Packaging (-7%), and Chemicals (-5%). On the other hand, the Construction Materials (7%) industry is the only industry in the sector that is expected to report earnings growth.

At the company level, Freeport-McMoRan is projected to be the largest contributor to the decline in earnings for the sector. The mean EPS estimate for Q2 2019 is \$0.11, compared to year-ago EPS of \$0.58. If this company were excluded, the estimated earnings decline for the sector would improve to -5.8% from -12.1%.

Revenue Growth: 3.9%

The estimated (year-over-year) revenue growth rate for Q2 2019 is 3.9%. If 3.9% is the actual growth rate for the quarter, it will mark the lowest revenue growth rate for the index since Q3 2016 (2.7%). Nine of the eleven sectors are expected to report year-over-year growth in revenues, led by the Communication Services and Health Care sectors. Two sectors are expected to report a year-over-year decline in revenues: Materials and Information Technology.

Communication Services: 3 of 4 Industries Expected to Report Double-Digit Growth

The Communication Services sector is expected to report the highest (year-over-year) revenue growth of all eleven sectors at 14.0%. At the industry level, all four industries in this sector are projected to report revenue growth. Three of these four industries are predicted to report double-digit revenue growth: Entertainment (29%), Interactive Media & Services (18%), and Media (11%).

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

The Health Care sector is expected to report the second highest (year-over-year) revenue growth of all eleven sectors at 12.0%. At the industry level, five of the six industries in this sector are predicted to report revenue growth for the quarter. The Health Care Providers & Services is the only industry projected to report double-digit revenue growth (18%). On the other hand, the Pharmaceuticals (-3%) industry is the only industry projected to report a decline in revenue.

At the company level, Cigna and CVS Health are predicted to be 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 revenue estimate for Cigna for Q2 2019 (\$33.17 billion) reflects the combined revenues of Cigna and Express Scripts, while the actual revenue for Q2 2018 (\$11.48 billion) reflects the standalone revenue for Cigna. The revenue estimate for CVS Health for Q2 2019 (\$62.67 billion) reflects the combined revenues of CVS Health and Aetna, while the actual revenue for Q2 2018 (\$46.71 billion) reflects the standalone revenue for CVS Health. These apples-to-oranges comparisons are the main reason Cigna and CVS Health are projected to be the largest contributors to revenue growth for the sector. If these companies were excluded, the estimated revenue growth rate for the sector would fall to 4.7% from 12.0%.

Materials: DuPont Leads Decline on Hard Comparison to Year-Ago Pre-Split Revenues

The Materials sector is expected to report the highest (year-over-year) decline in revenue of all eleven sectors at -13.3%. At the industry level, two of the four industries in this sector are predicted to report a decline in revenue for the quarter: Chemicals (-20%) and Metals & Mining (-7%).

At the company level, DuPont is predicted to be the largest contributor to the decline in revenue for the sector. However, the revenue decline is being boosted by an apples-to-oranges comparison of post-split revenues to pre-split revenues. The revenue estimate for DuPont for Q2 2019 (\$6.91 billion) reflects the standalone revenue for DuPont, while the actual revenue for Q2 2018 (\$24.25 billion) reflects the combined revenue for DowDuPont (DuPont, Dow, and Corteva). This apples-to-oranges comparison is the main reason DuPont is projected to be the largest contributor to the revenue decline for the sector. If this company were excluded, the estimated revenue decline for the sector would improve to 6.2% from -13.3%.

Information Technology: 3 of 6 Industries Expected to Report Decline

The Information Technology sector is expected to report the second highest (year-over-year) decline in revenue at -1.2%. At the industry level, three of the six industries are predicted to report a decline in revenue, led by the Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment (-12%) industry. On the other hand, the other three industries are predicted to report revenue growth, led by the Software (8%) industry.

Looking Ahead: Forward Estimates and Valuation

Earnings: Low Single-Digit Earnings Growth Projected for 2019

For the second quarter, S&P 500 companies are expected to report a decline in earnings of -2.5% and growth in revenues of 3.9%. For the second half of 2019, analysts see no growth in earnings in the third quarter and high single-digit growth in earnings in the fourth quarter. For the first half of 2020, analysts are predicting double-digit earnings growth in both Q1 2020 and Q2 2020.

For Q3 2019, analysts are projecting flat earnings (0%) and revenue growth of 4.0%.

For Q4 2019, analysts are projecting earnings growth of 6.8% and revenue growth of 4.5%.

For CY 2019, analysts are projecting earnings growth of 3.0% and revenue growth of 4.5%.

For Q1 2020, analysts are projecting earnings growth of 10.7% and revenue growth of 6.1%.

For Q2 2020, analysts are projecting earnings growth of 13.3% and revenue growth of 6.8%.

Valuation: Forward P/E Ratio is 16.5, Above the 10-Year Average (14.8)

The forward 12-month P/E ratio is 16.5. This P/E ratio is equal to the 5-year average of 16.5 but above the 10-year average of 14.8. 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 2.0%, while the forward 12-month EPS estimate has increased by 1.9%.

At the sector level, the Consumer Discretionary (21.0) sector has the highest forward 12-month P/E ratio, while the Financials (11.6) sector has the lowest forward 12-month P/E ratio.

Targets & Ratings: Analysts Project 11% Increase in Price Over Next 12 Months

The bottom-up target price for the S&P 500 is 3213.22, which is 11.1% above the closing price of 2891.64. At the sector level, the Energy (+24.2%) sector is expected to see the largest price increase, as this sector has the largest upside difference between the bottom-up target price and the closing price. On the other hand, the Utilities (+1.3%) and Real Estate (+1.9%) 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 10,456 ratings on stocks in the S&P 500. Of these 10,456 ratings, 52.9% are Buy ratings, 41.0% are Hold ratings, and 6.1% are Sell ratings. At the sector level, the Energy (64%) sector has the highest percentage of Buy ratings, while the Consumer Staples (39%) sector has the lowest percentage of Buy ratings.

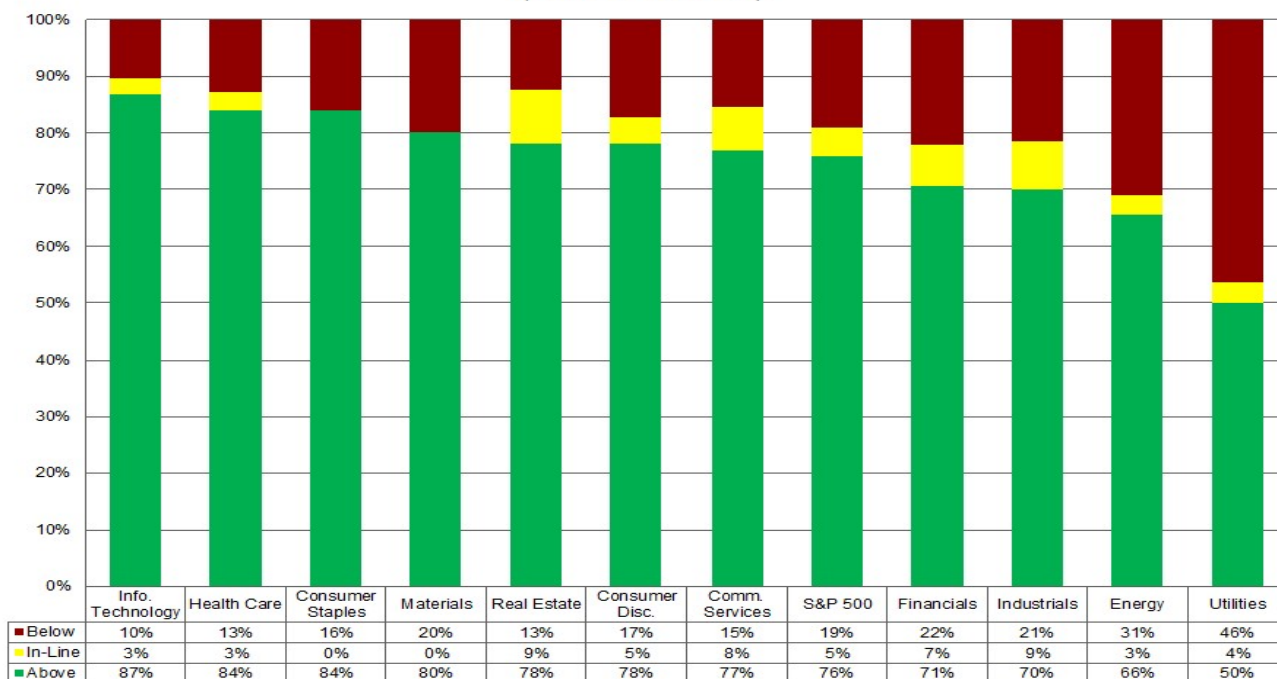
For more details on ratings, please see pages 2 and 3.

Companies Reporting Next Week: 5

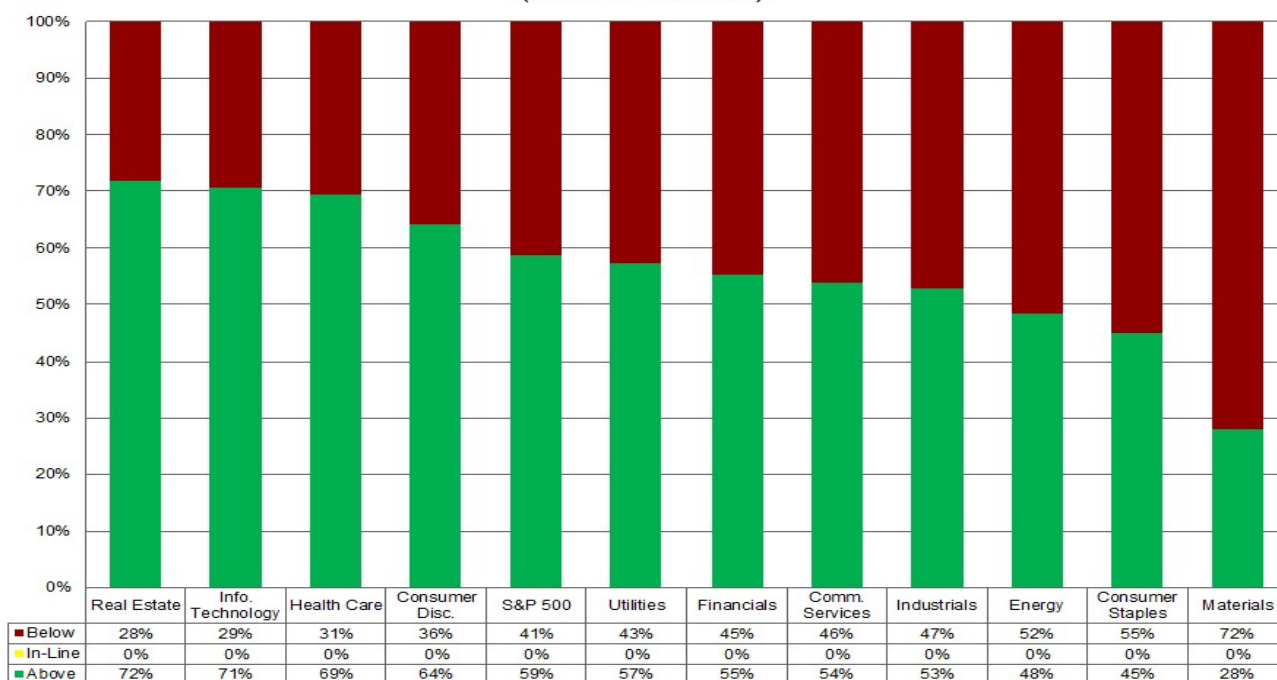
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Q1 2019: Scorecard

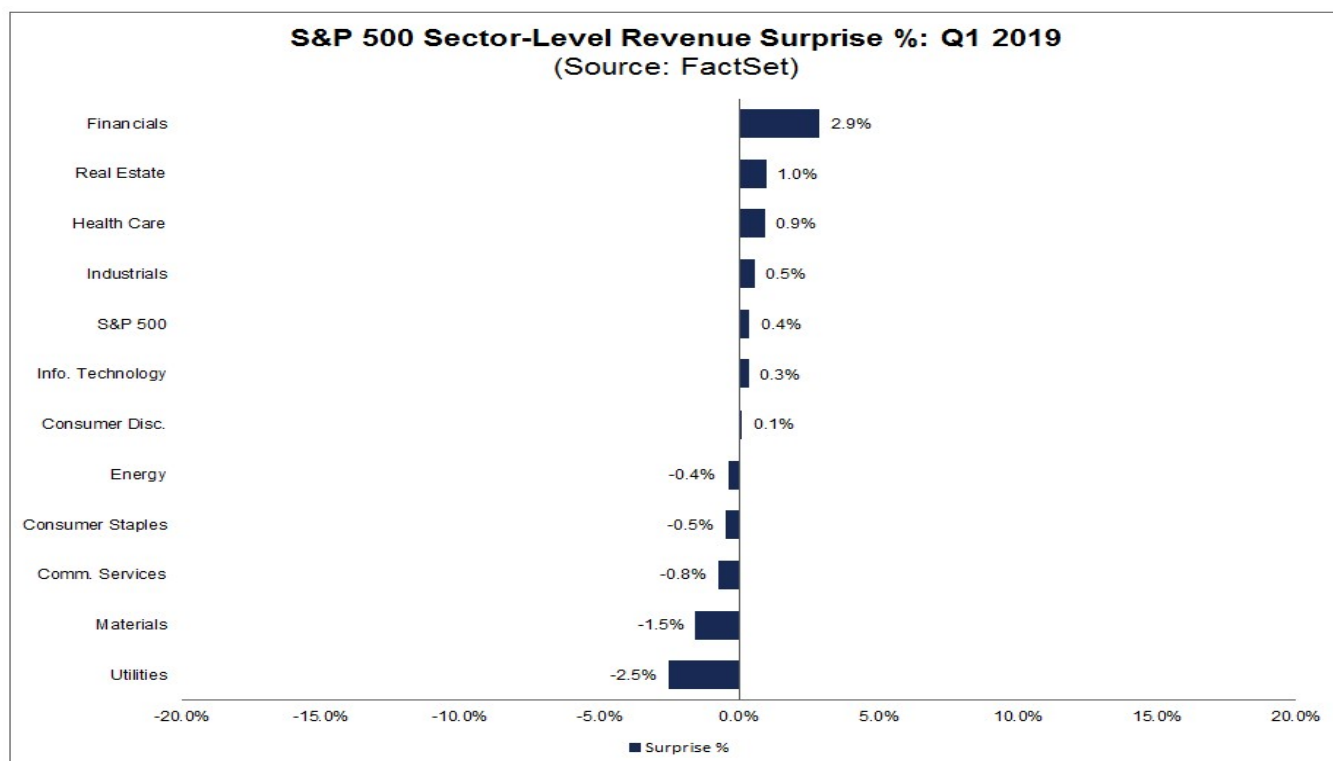
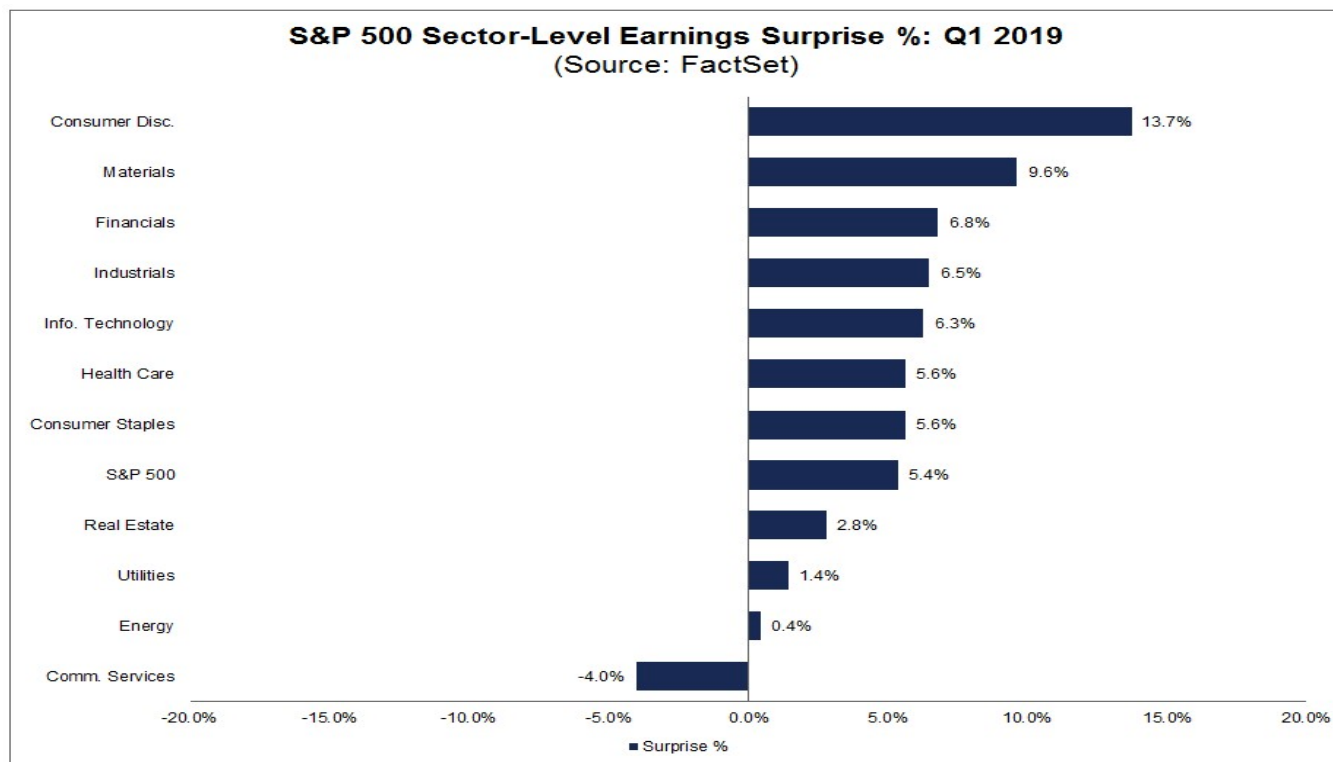
S&P 500 Earnings Above, In-Line, Below Estimates: Q1 2019
(Source: FactSet)



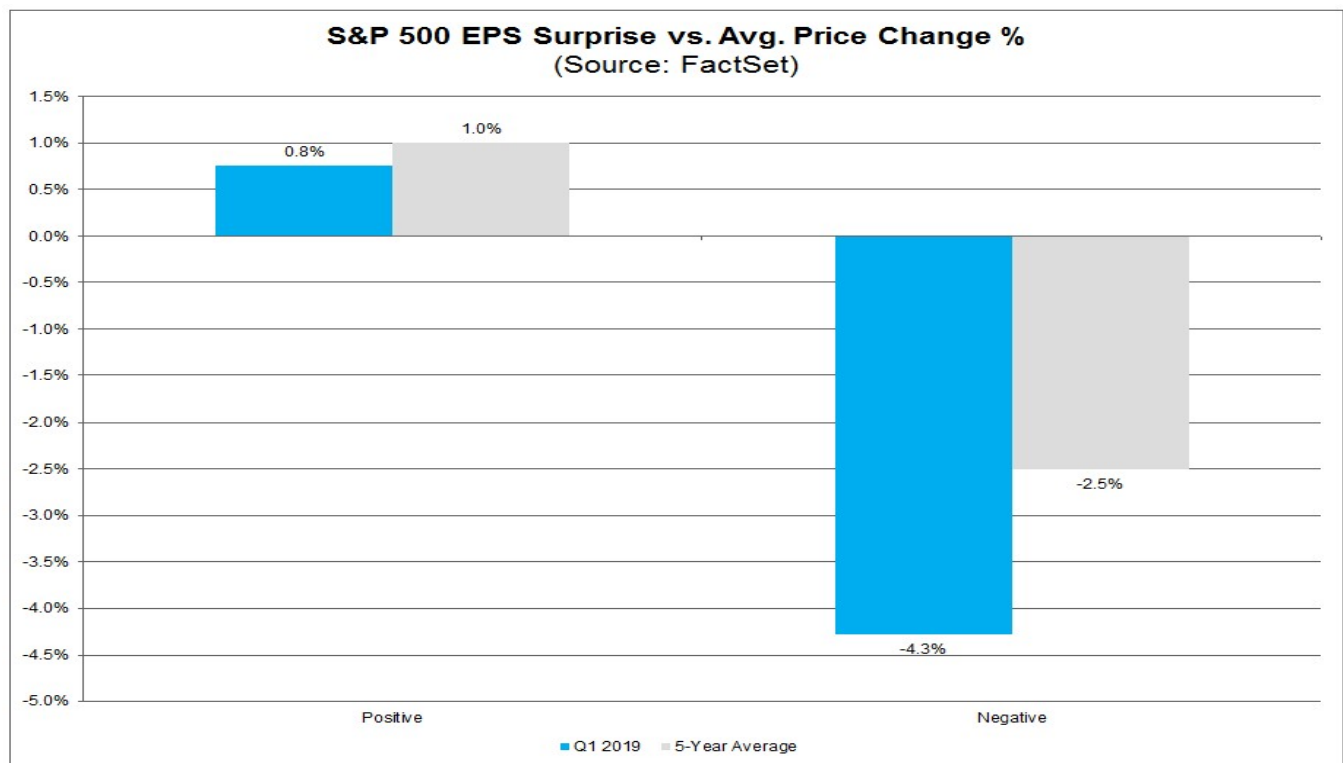
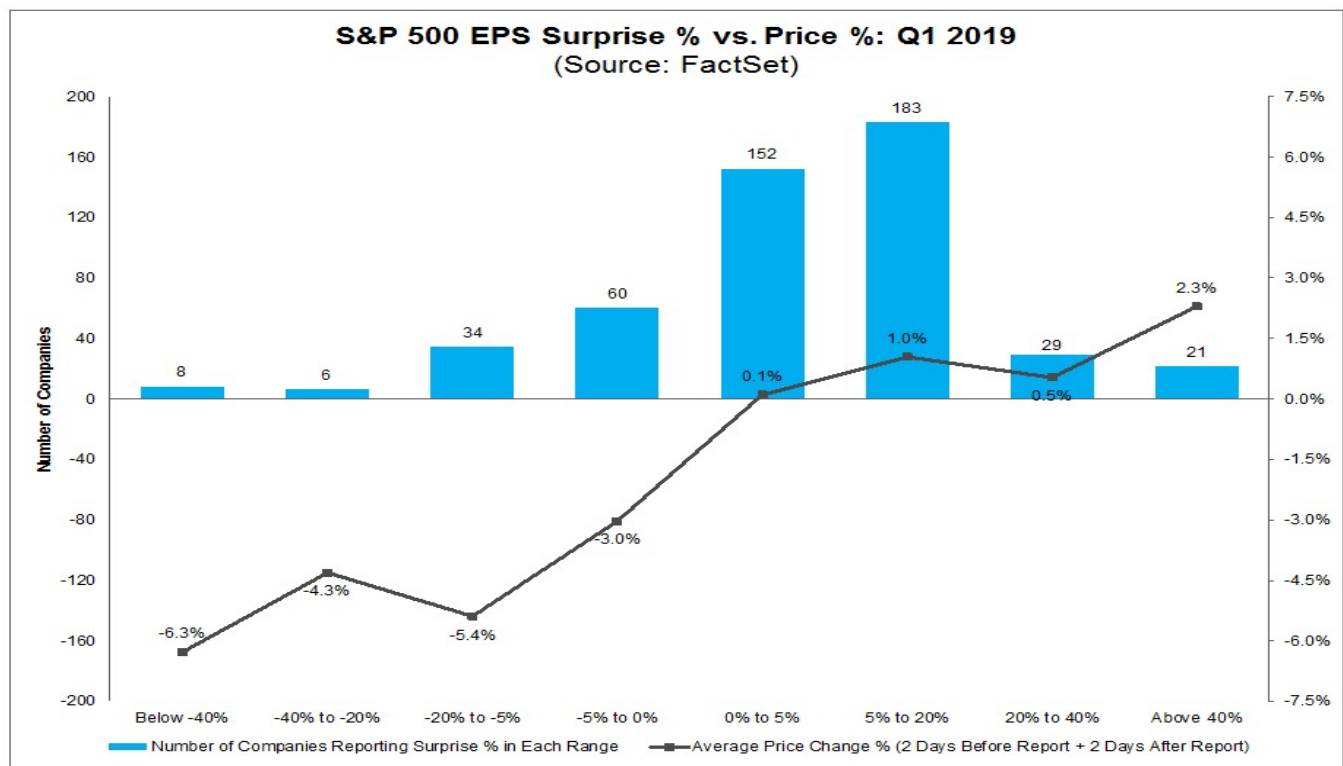
S&P 500 Revenues Above, In-Line, Below Estimates: Q1 2019
(Source: FactSet)



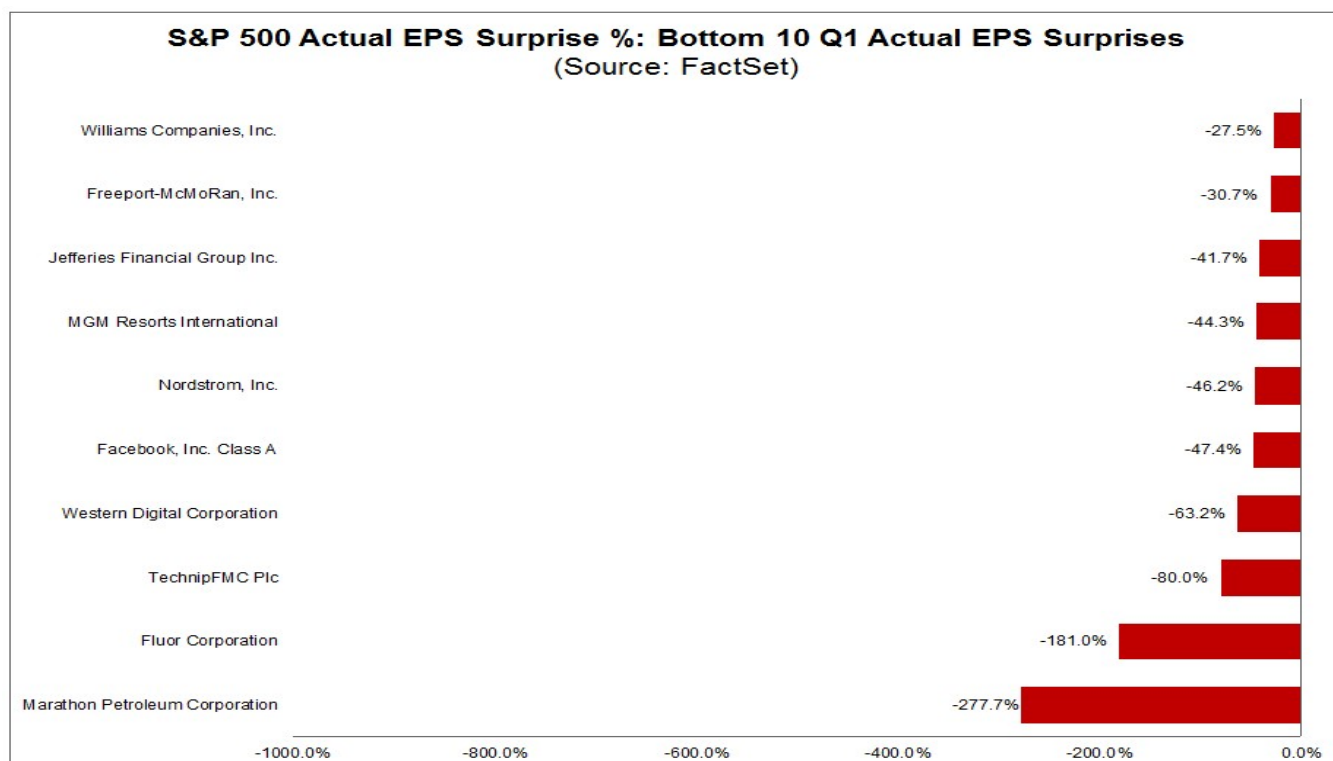
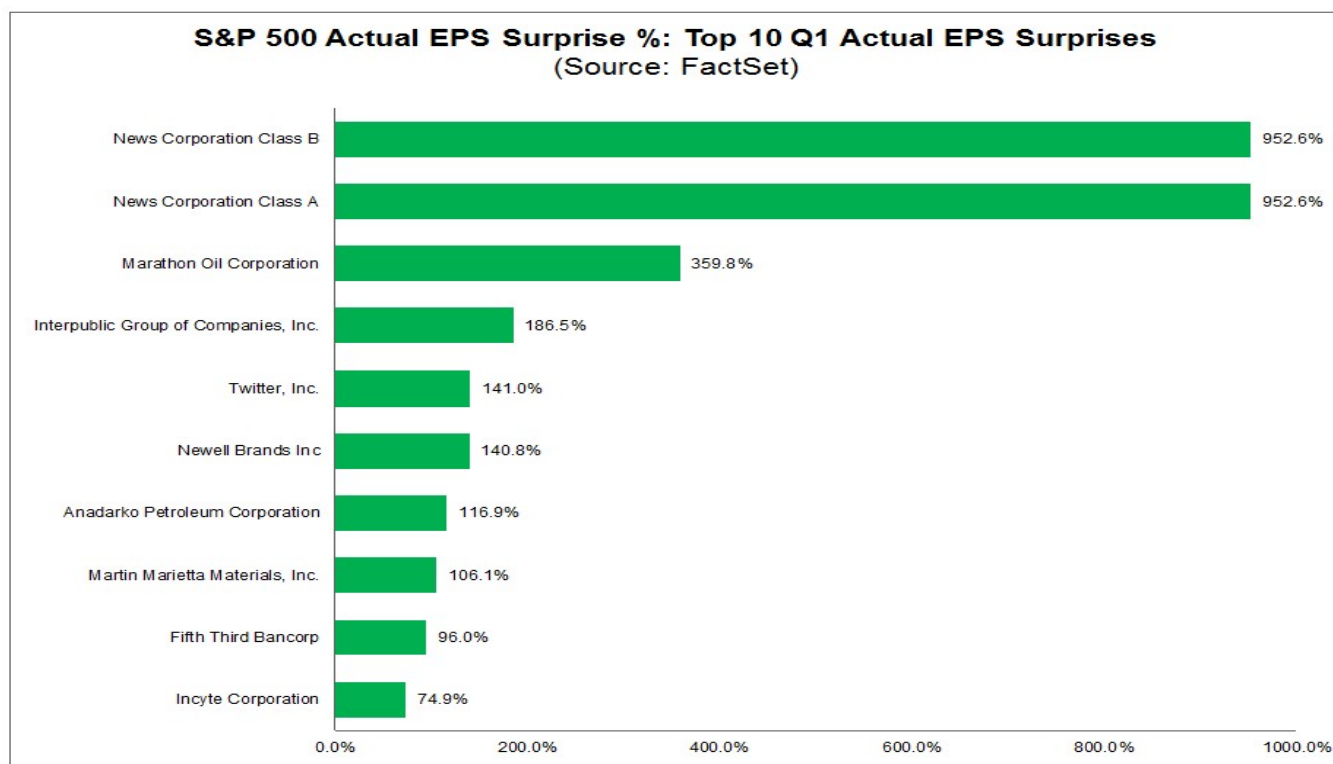
Q1 2019: Scorecard



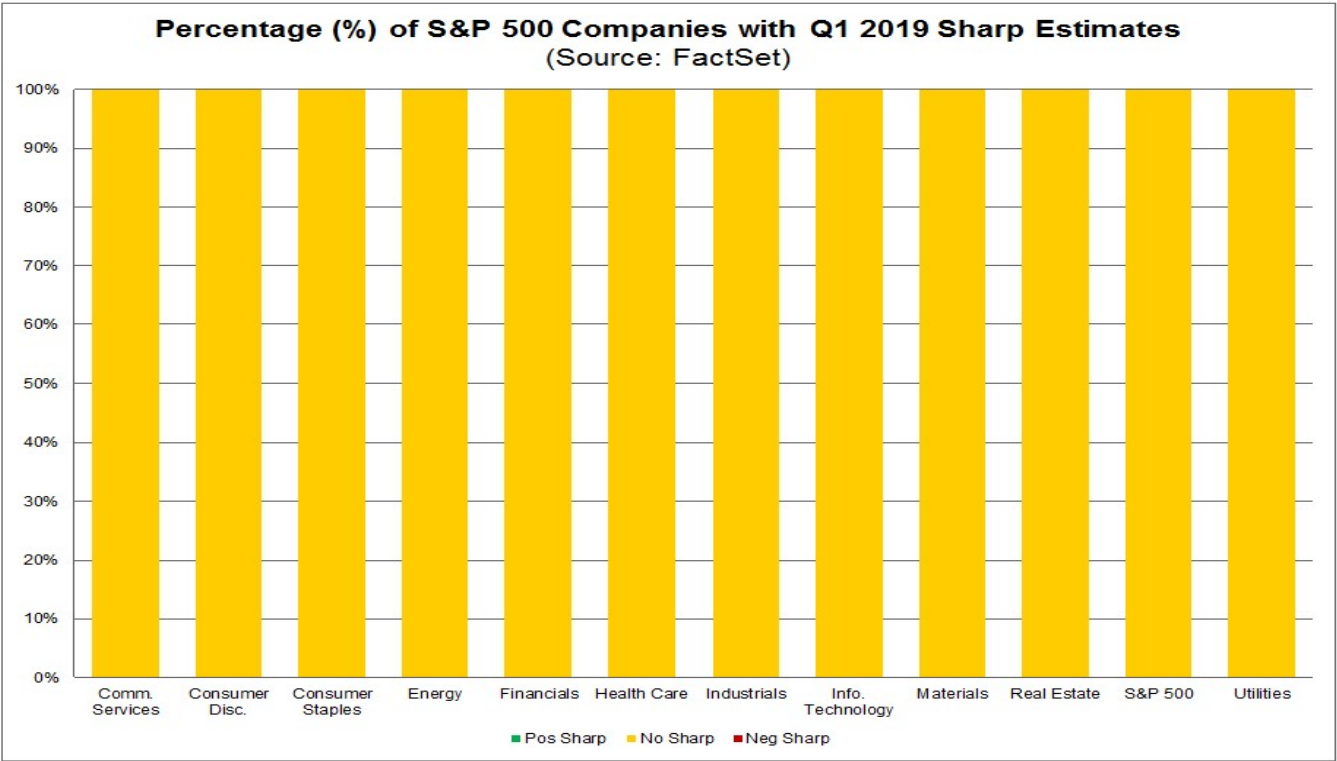
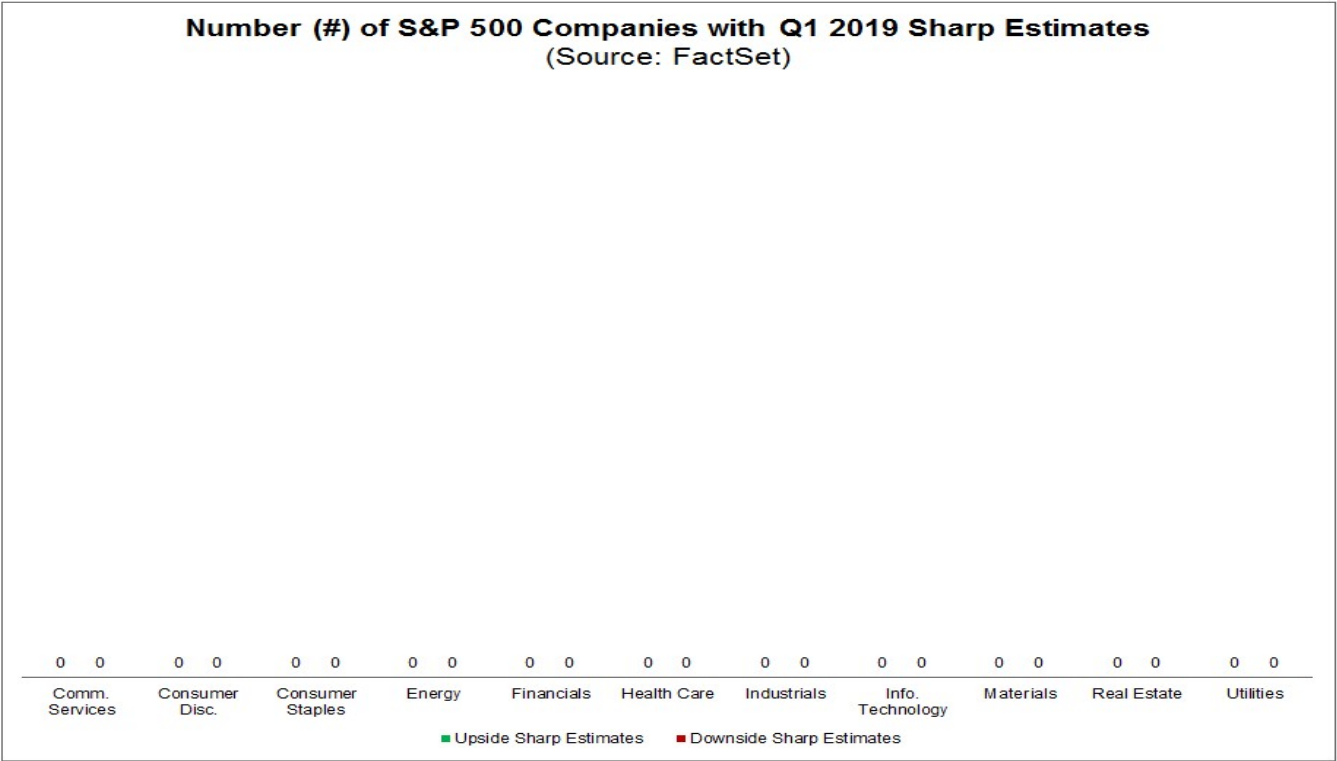
Q1 2019: Scorecard



Q1 2019: Scorecard

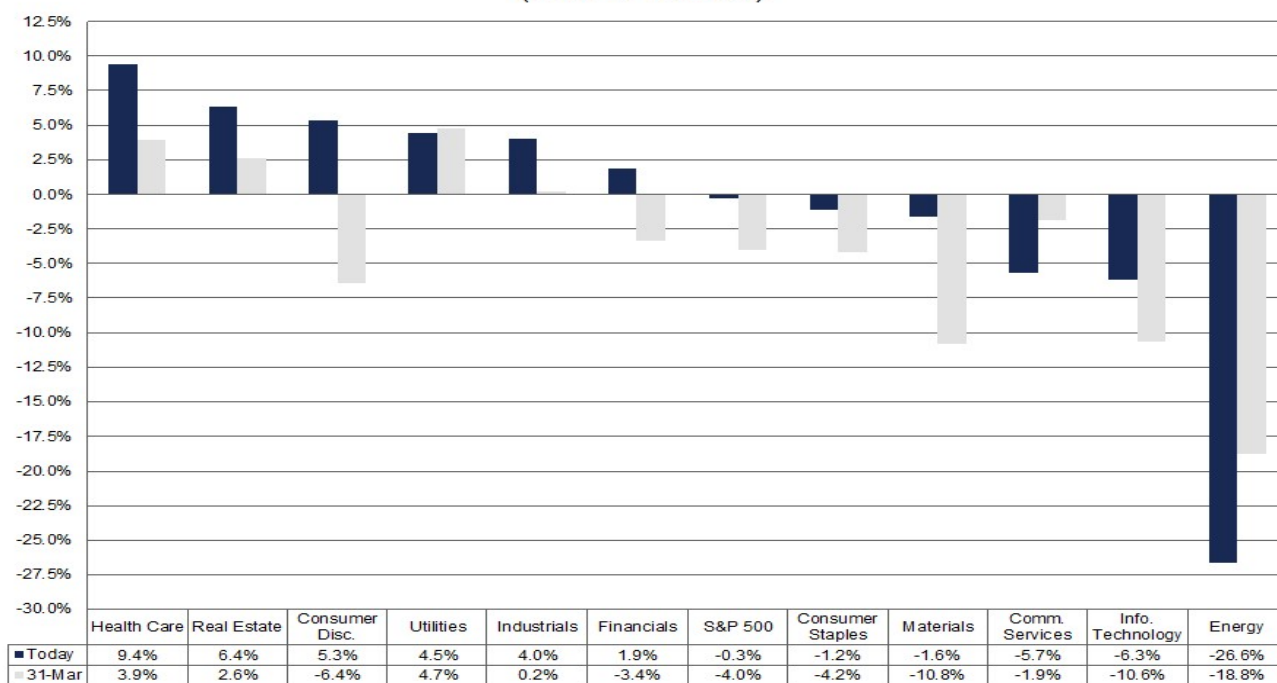


Q1 2019: Projected EPS Surprises (Sharp Estimates)

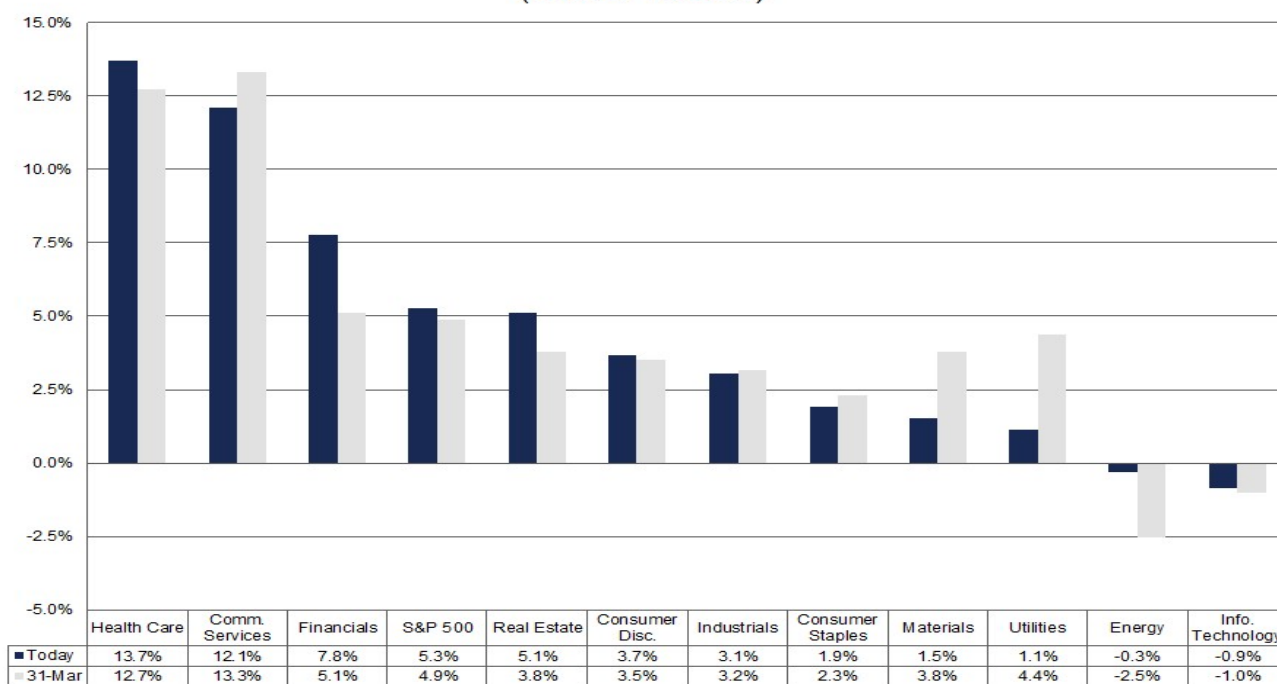


Q1 2019: Growth

S&P 500 Earnings Growth: Q1 2019
(Source: FactSet)



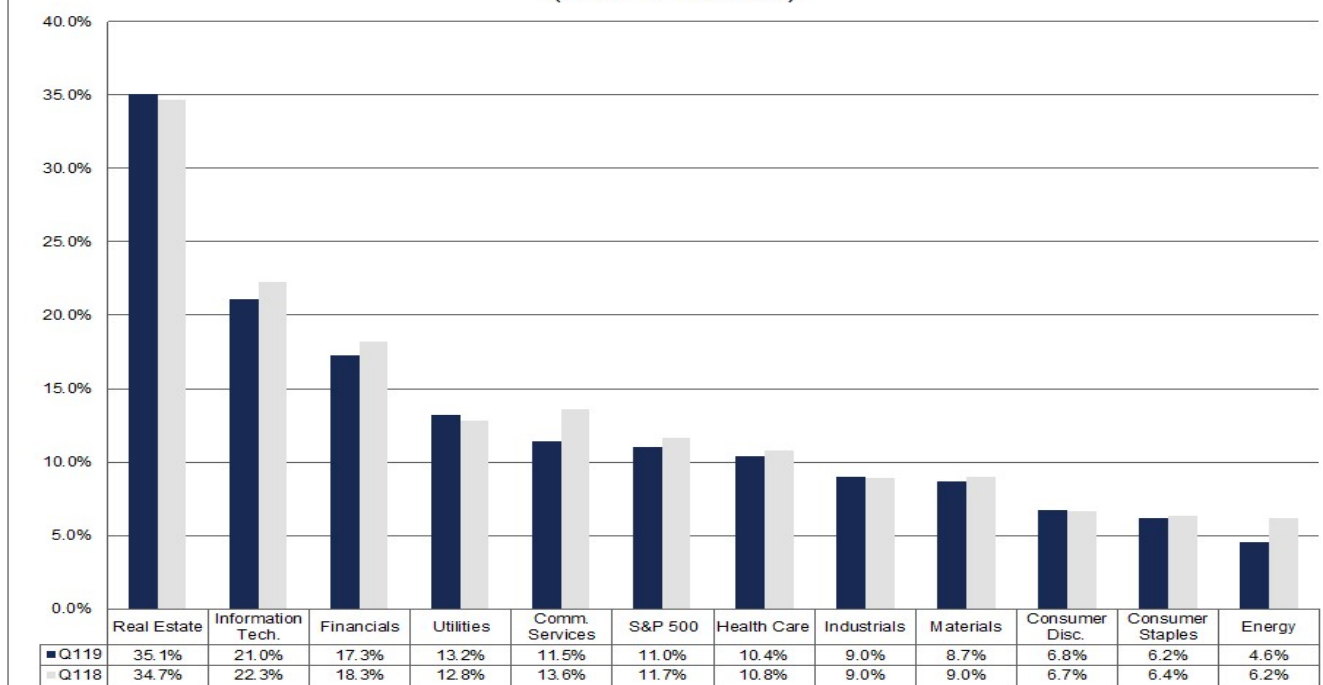
S&P 500 Revenue Growth: Q1 2019
(Source: FactSet)



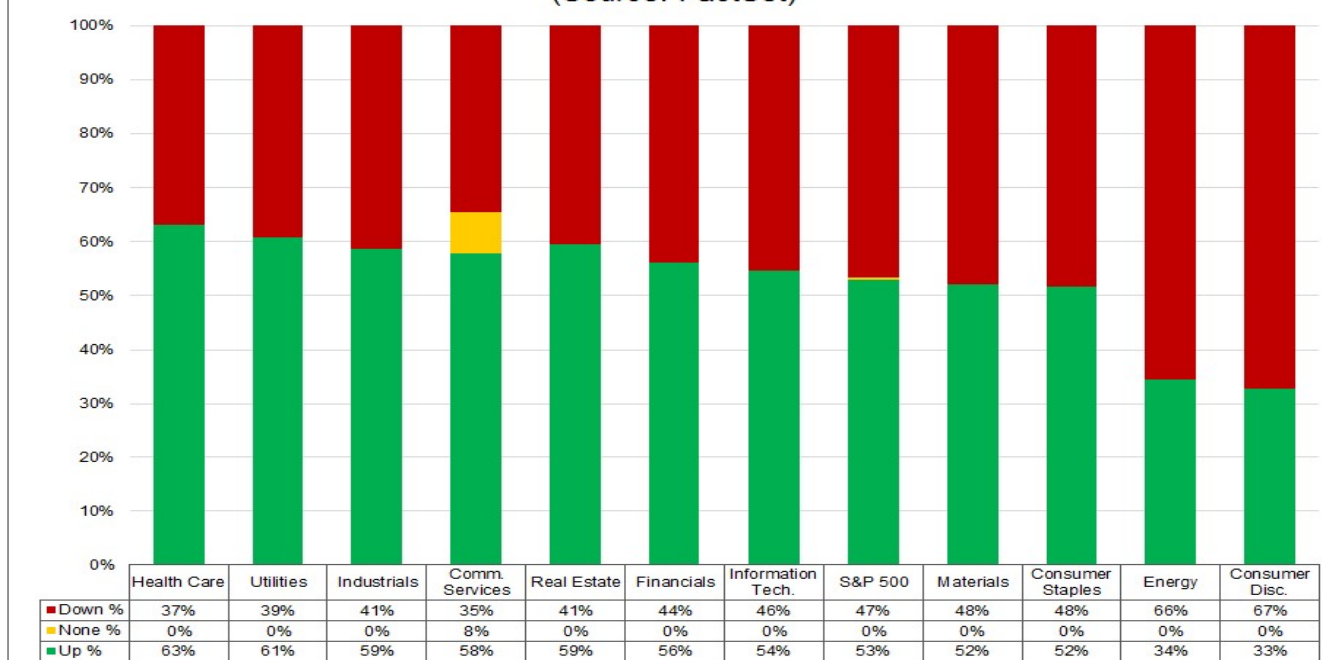
Q1 2019: Net Profit Margin

S&P 500 Net Profit Margins: Q119 vs. Q118

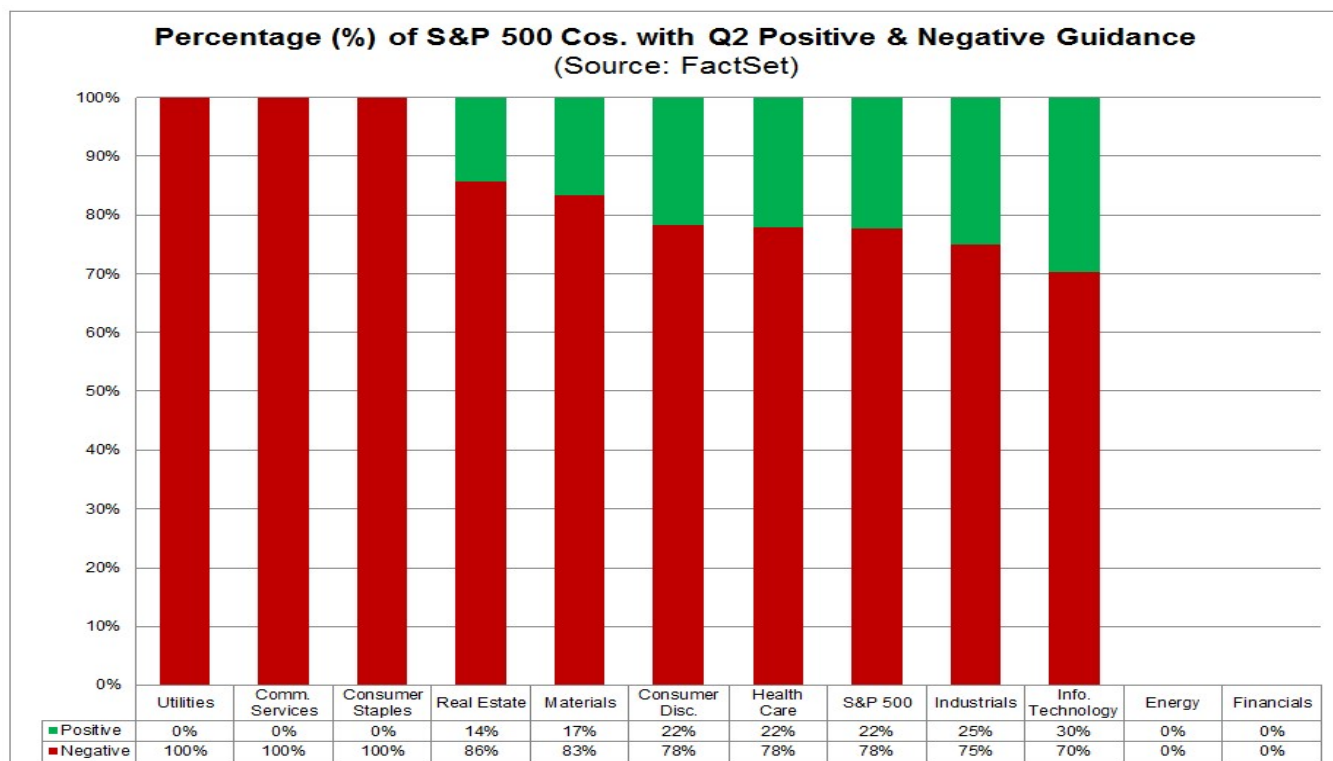
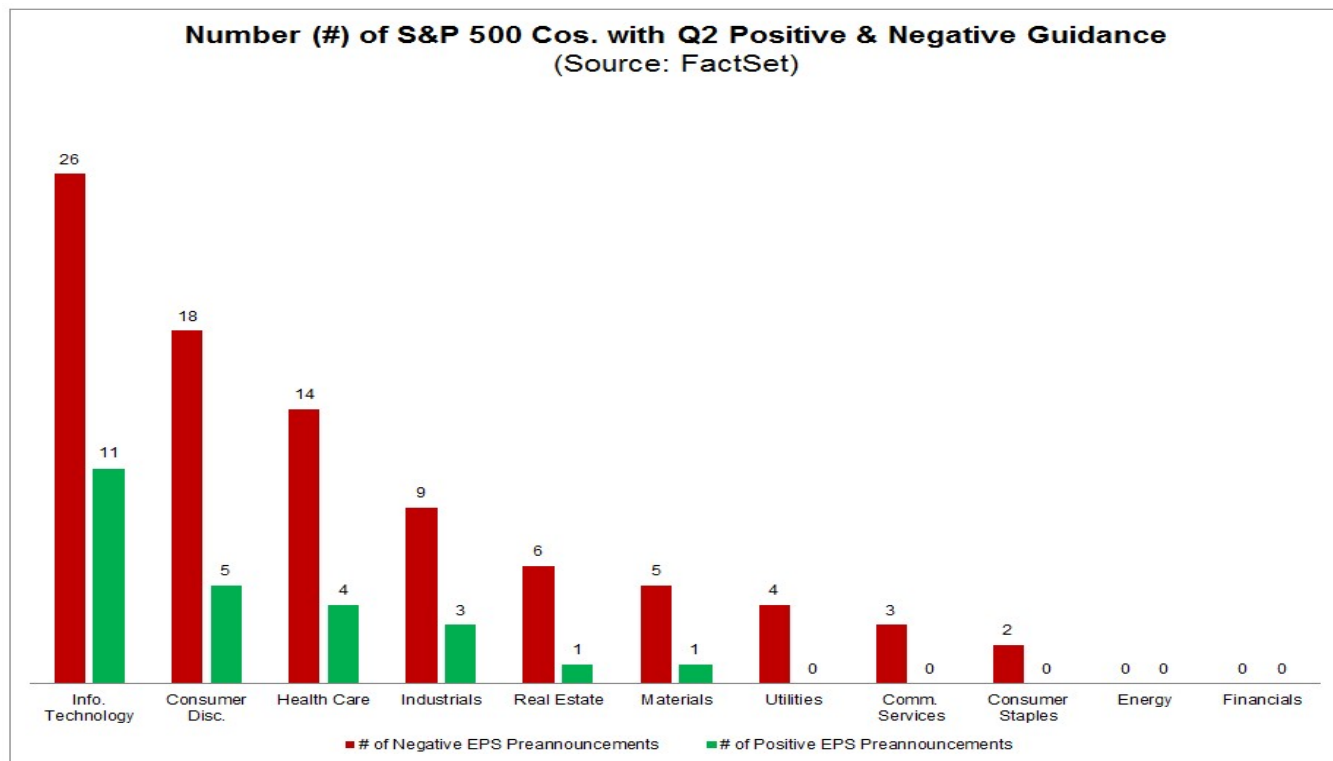
(Source: FactSet)

**S&P 500: % of Cos. With Increase or Decrease in Net Profit Margin:****Q119 vs. Q118**

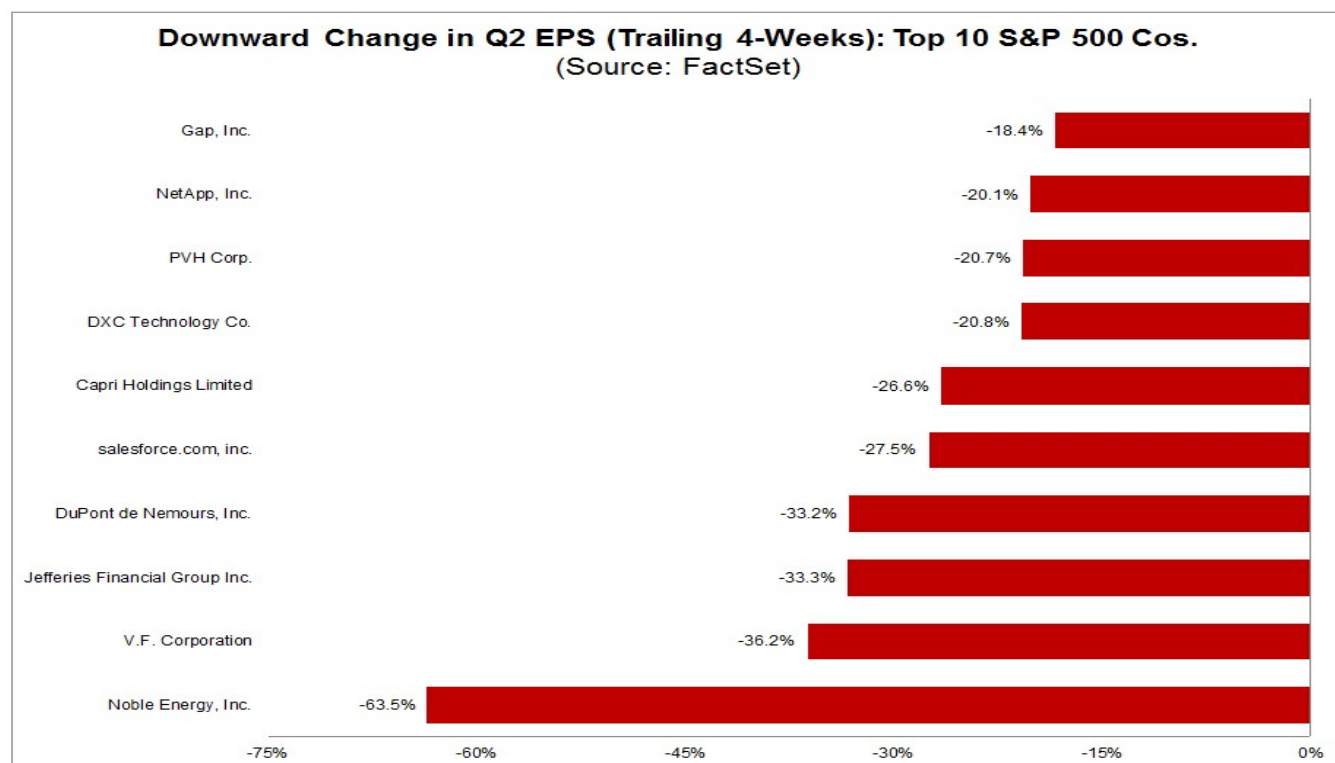
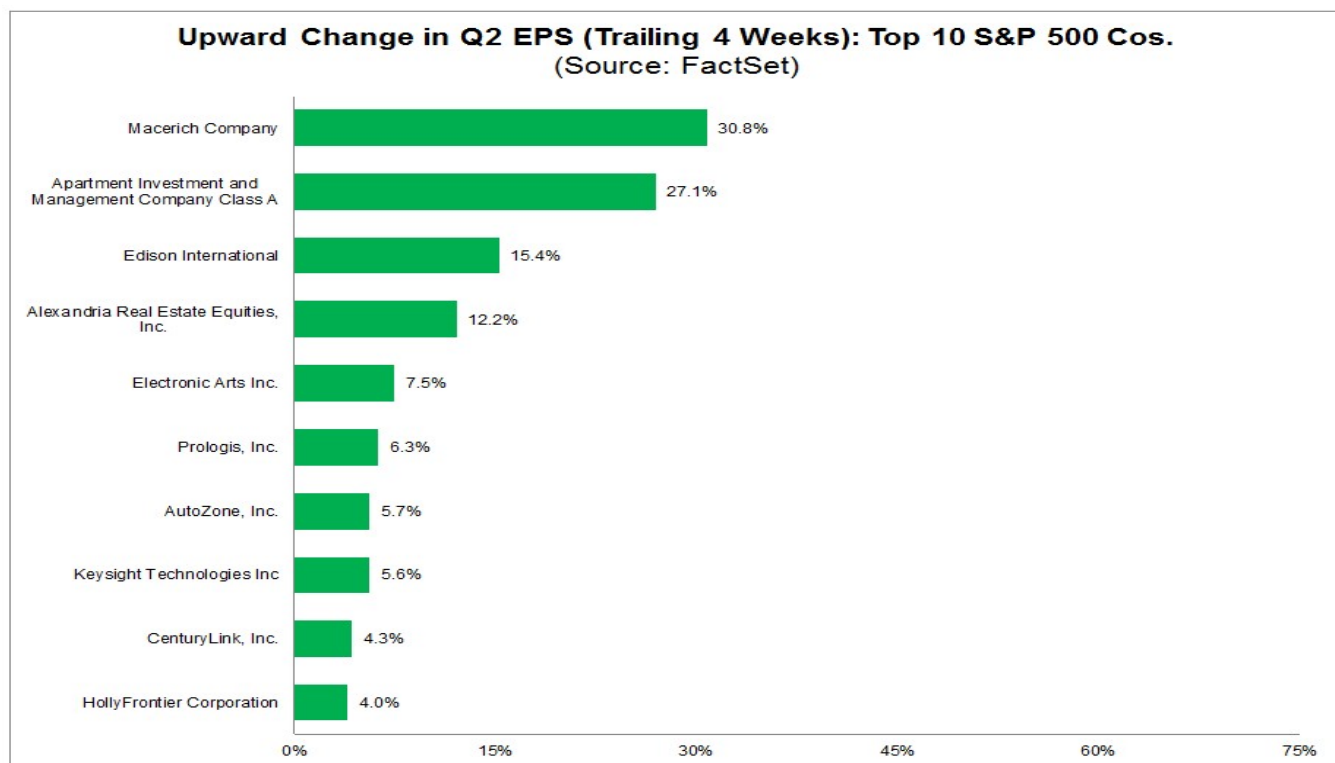
(Source: FactSet)



Q2 2019: EPS Guidance

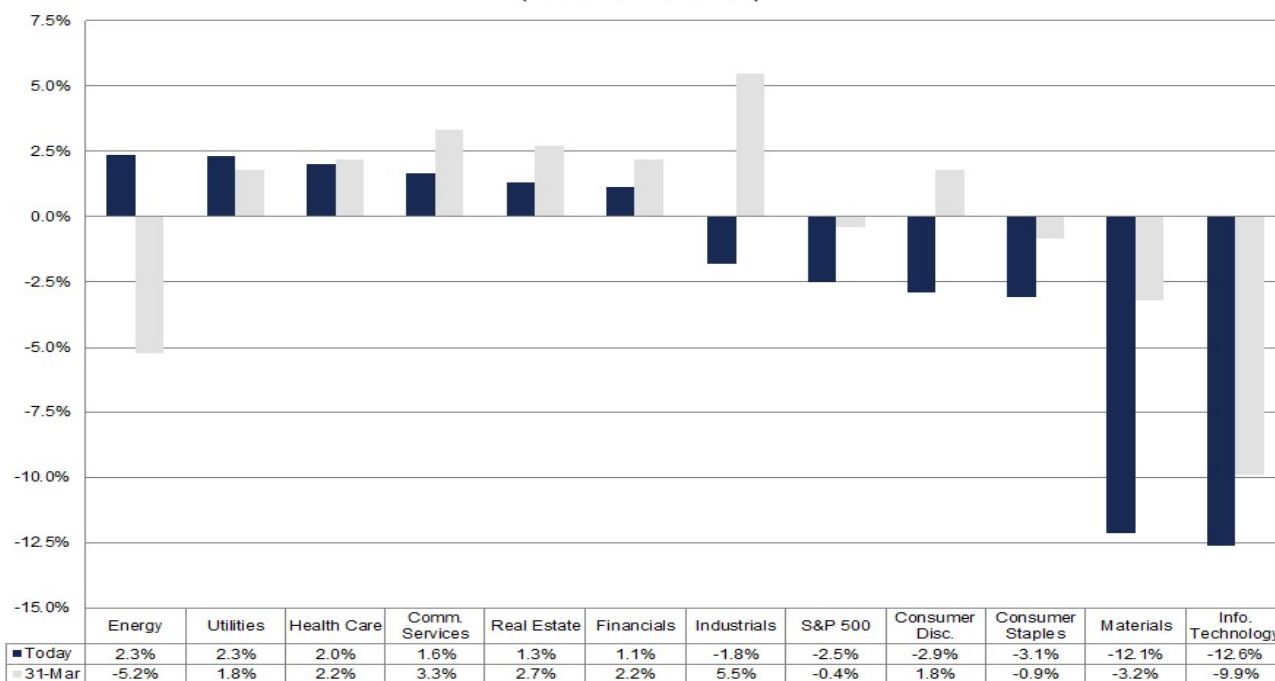


Q2 2019: EPS Revisions

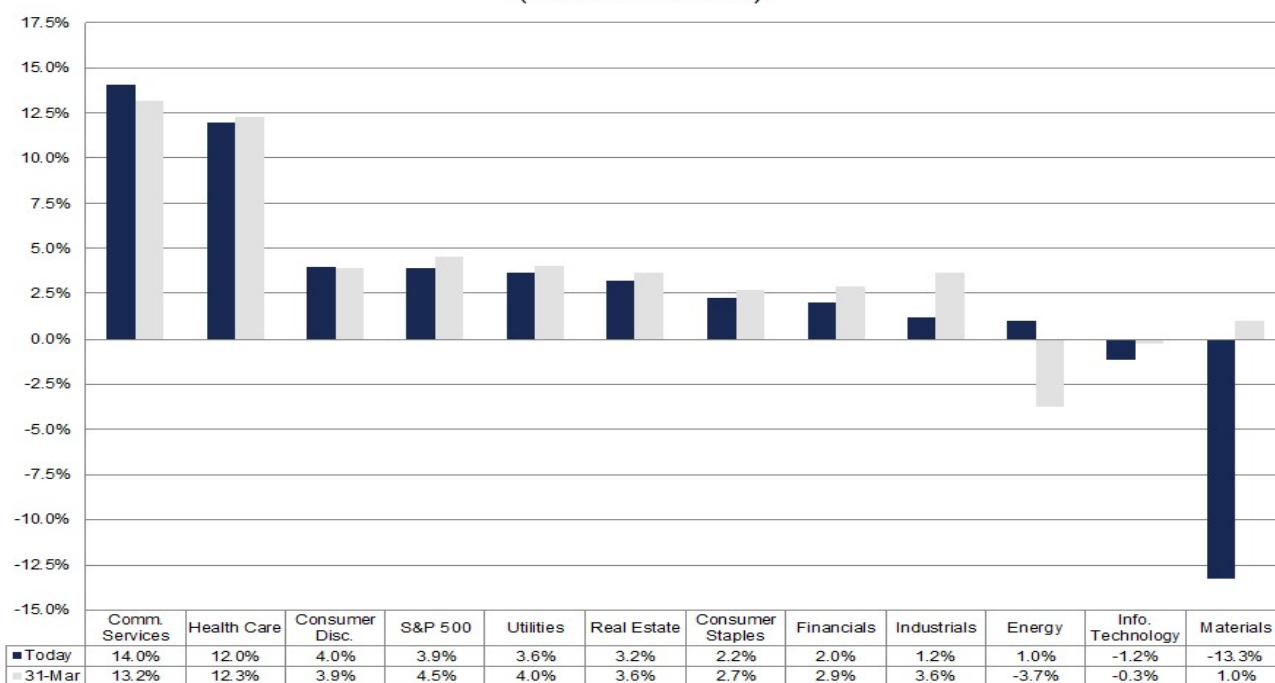


Q2 2019: Growth

S&P 500 Earnings Growth: Q2 2019
(Source: FactSet)



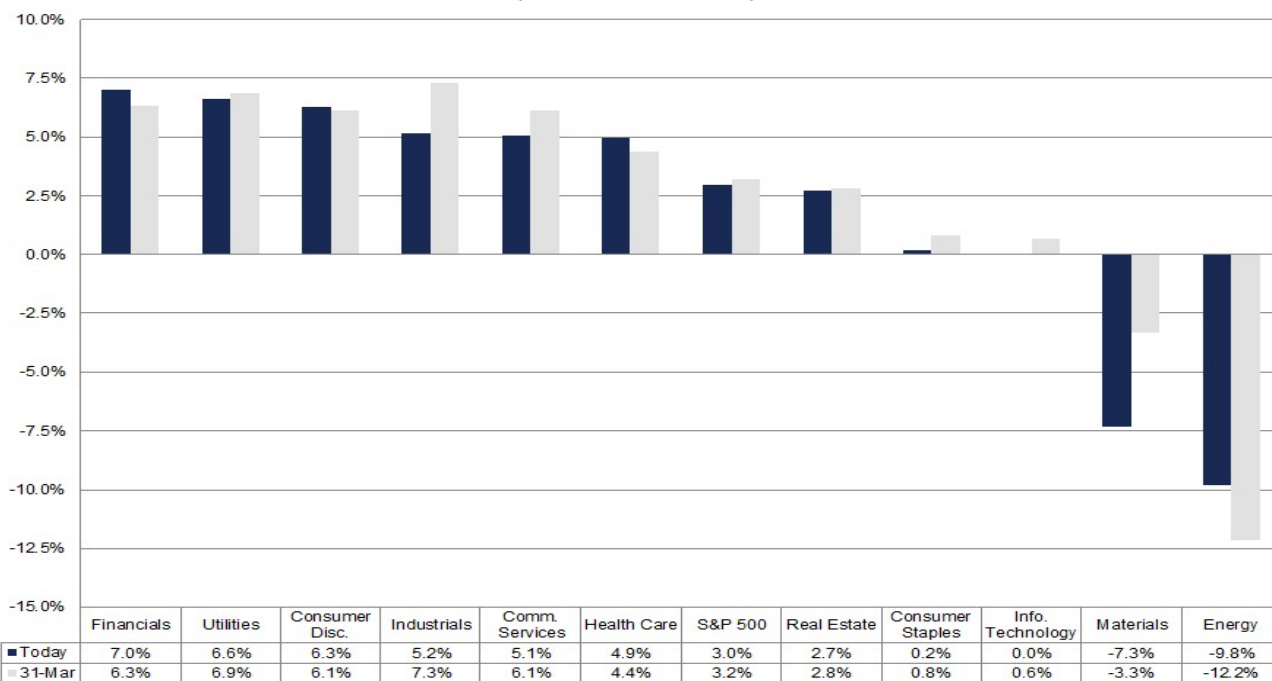
S&P 500 Revenue Growth: Q2 2019
(Source: FactSet)



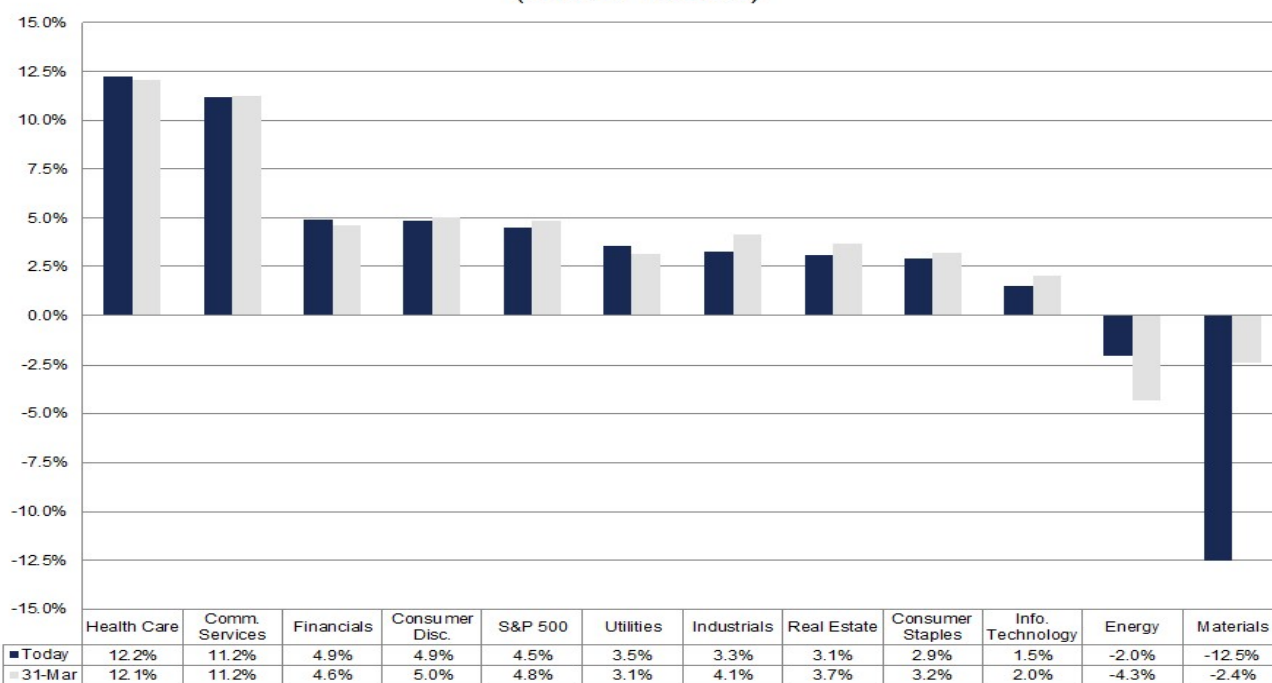
CY 2019: Growth

S&P 500 Earnings Growth: CY 2019

(Source: FactSet)

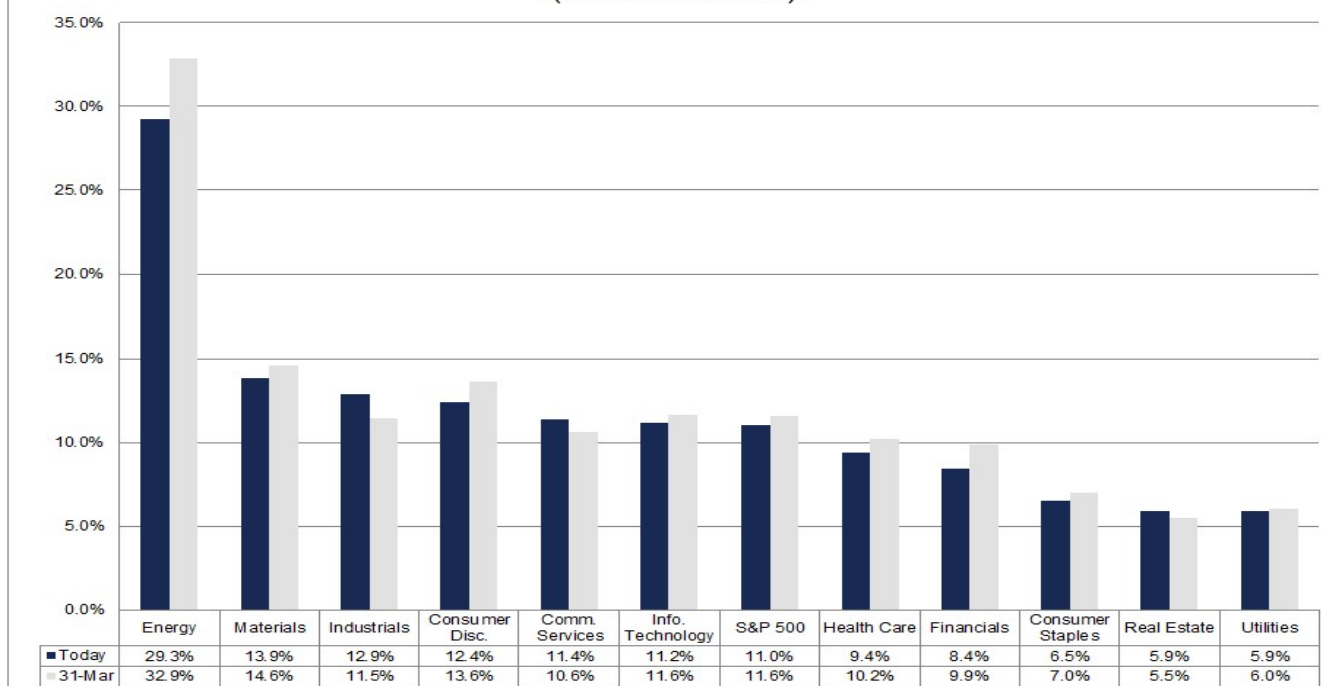
**S&P 500 Revenue Growth: CY 2019**

(Source: FactSet)

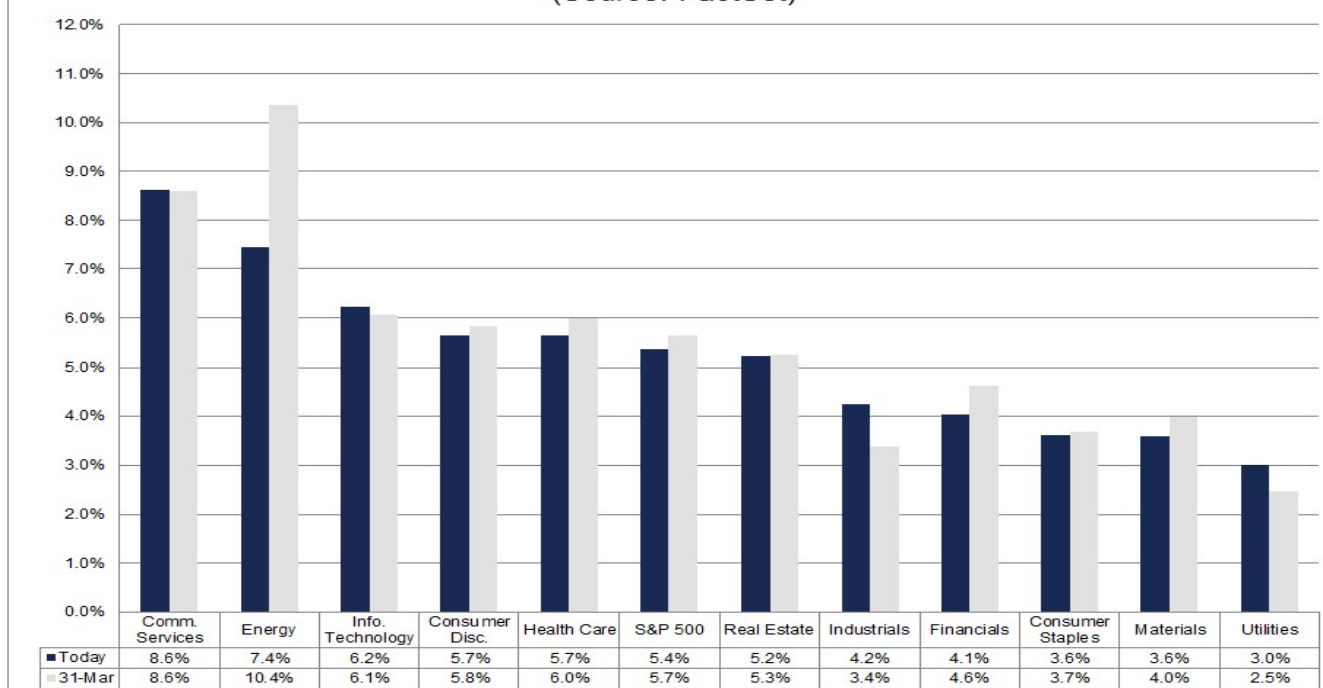


CY 2020: Growth

S&P 500 Earnings Growth: CY 2020
(Source: FactSet)

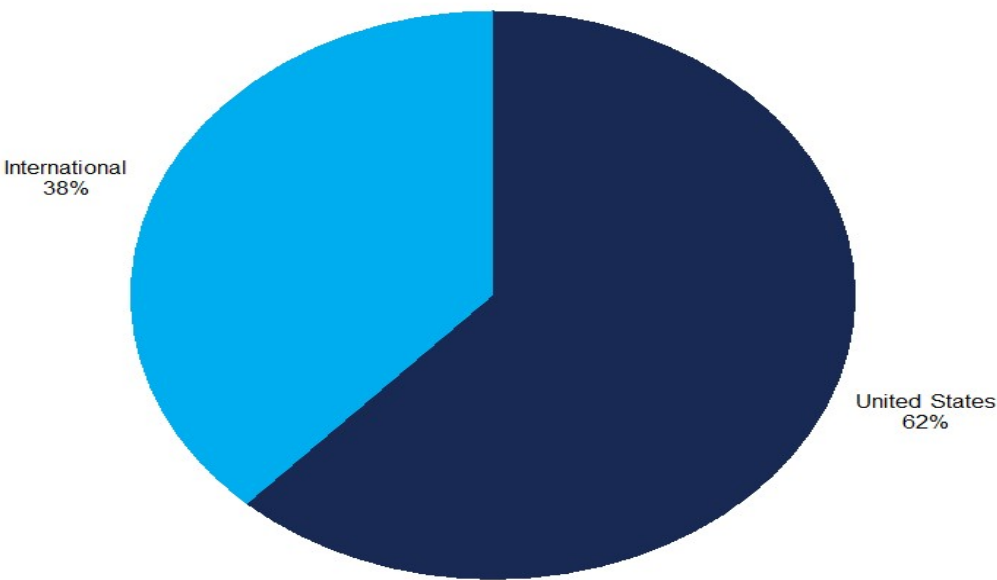


S&P 500 Revenue Growth: CY 2020
(Source: FactSet)

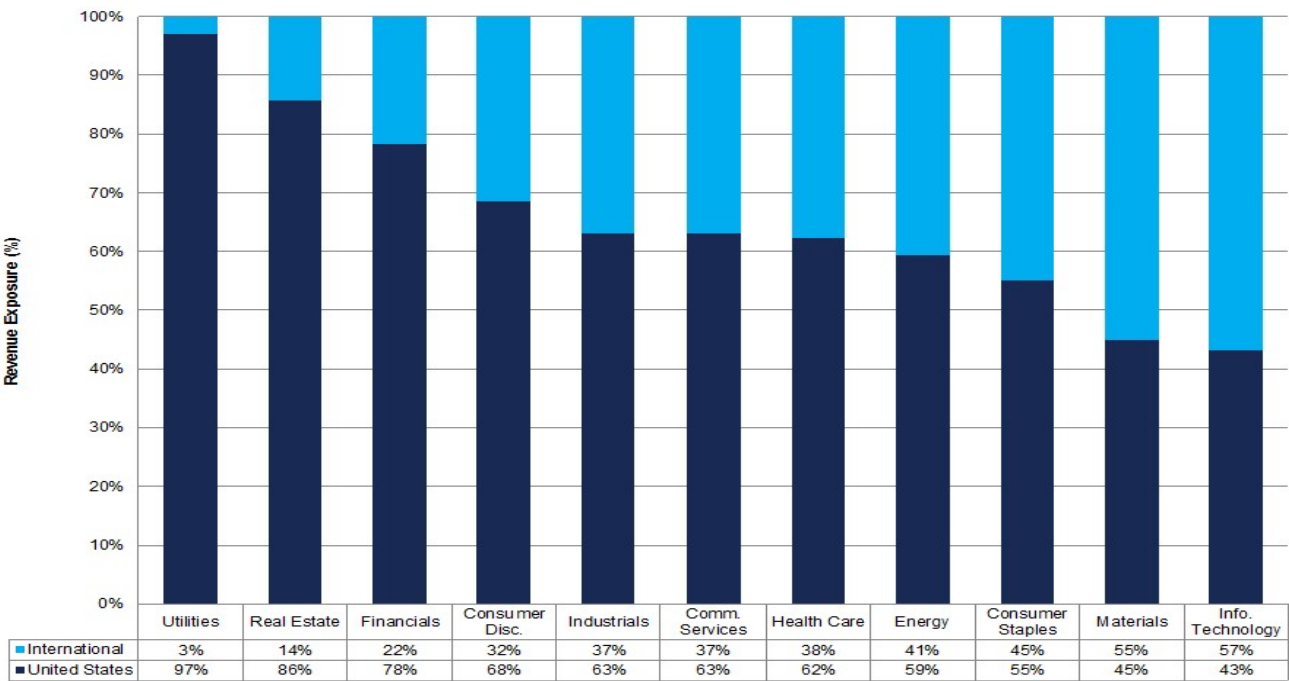


Geographic Revenue Exposure

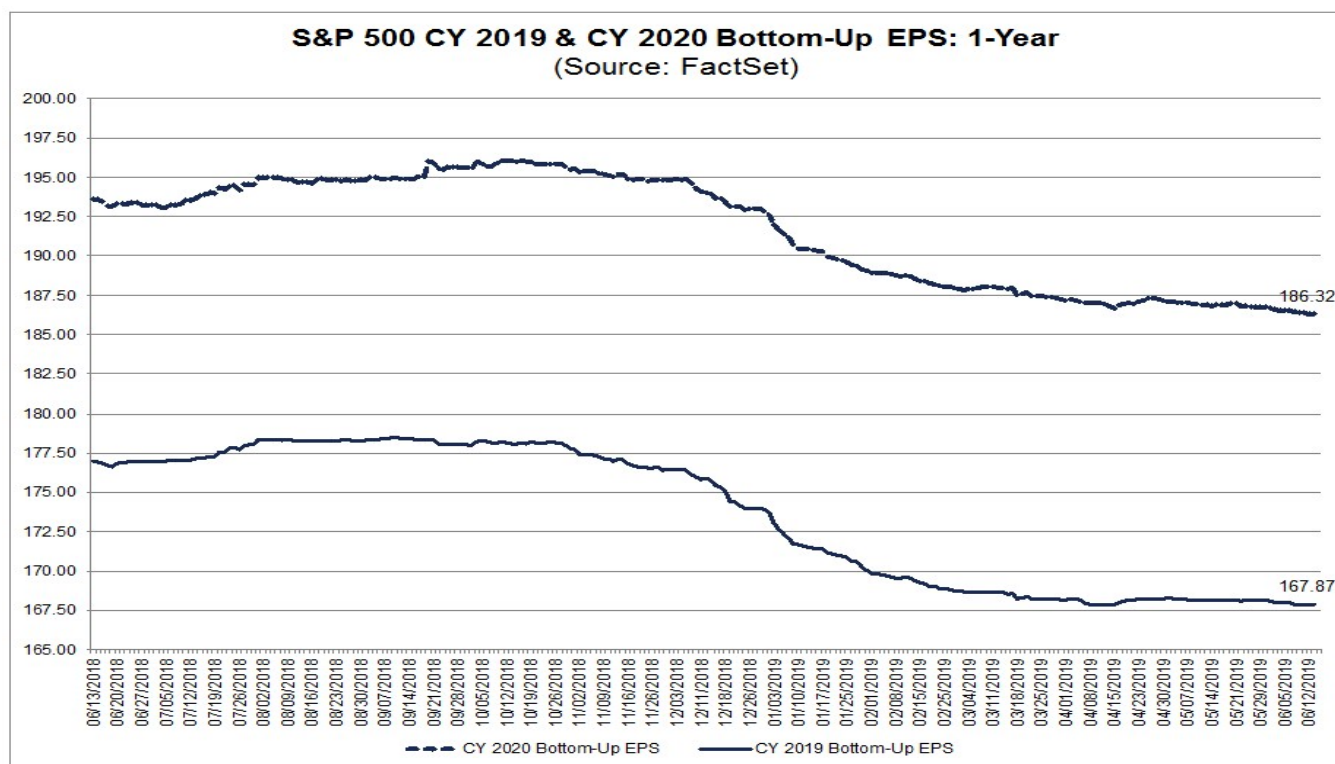
S&P 500: Aggregate Geographic Revenue Exposure (%)
(Source: FactSet)



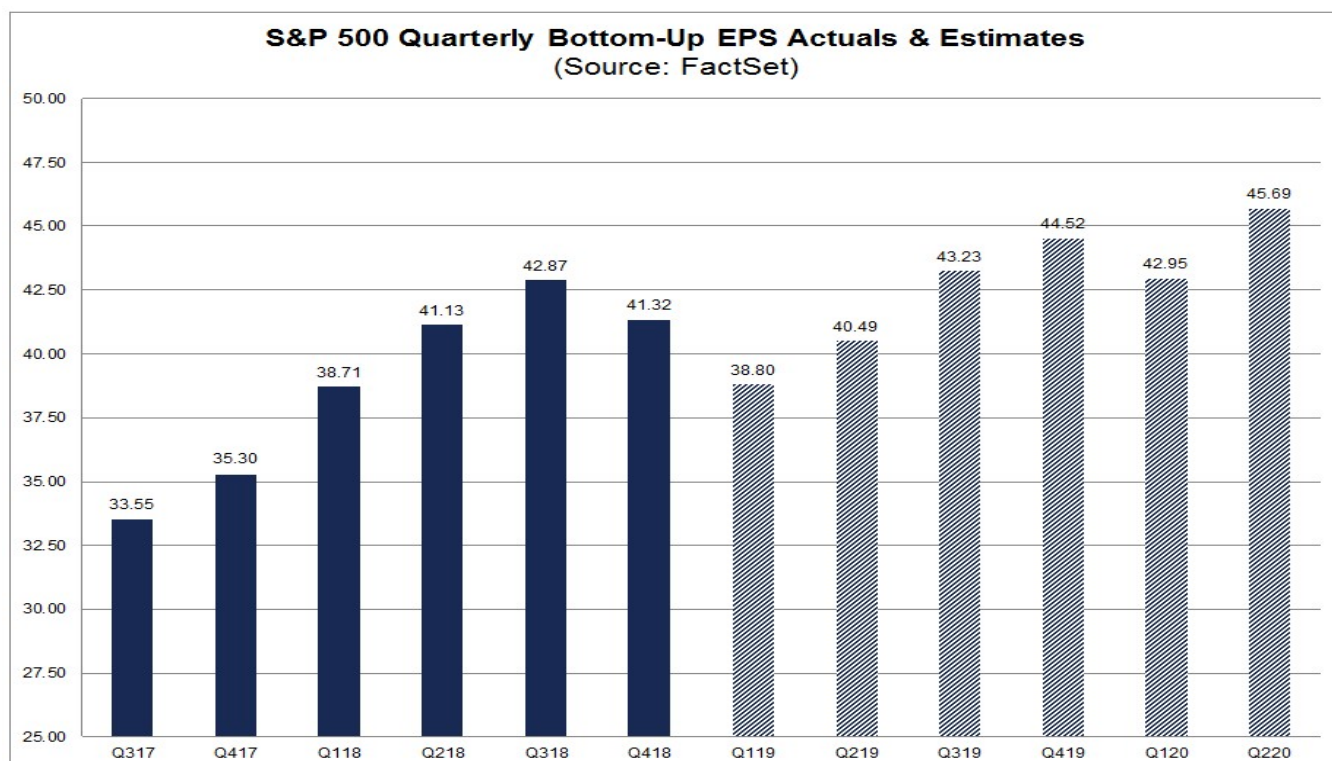
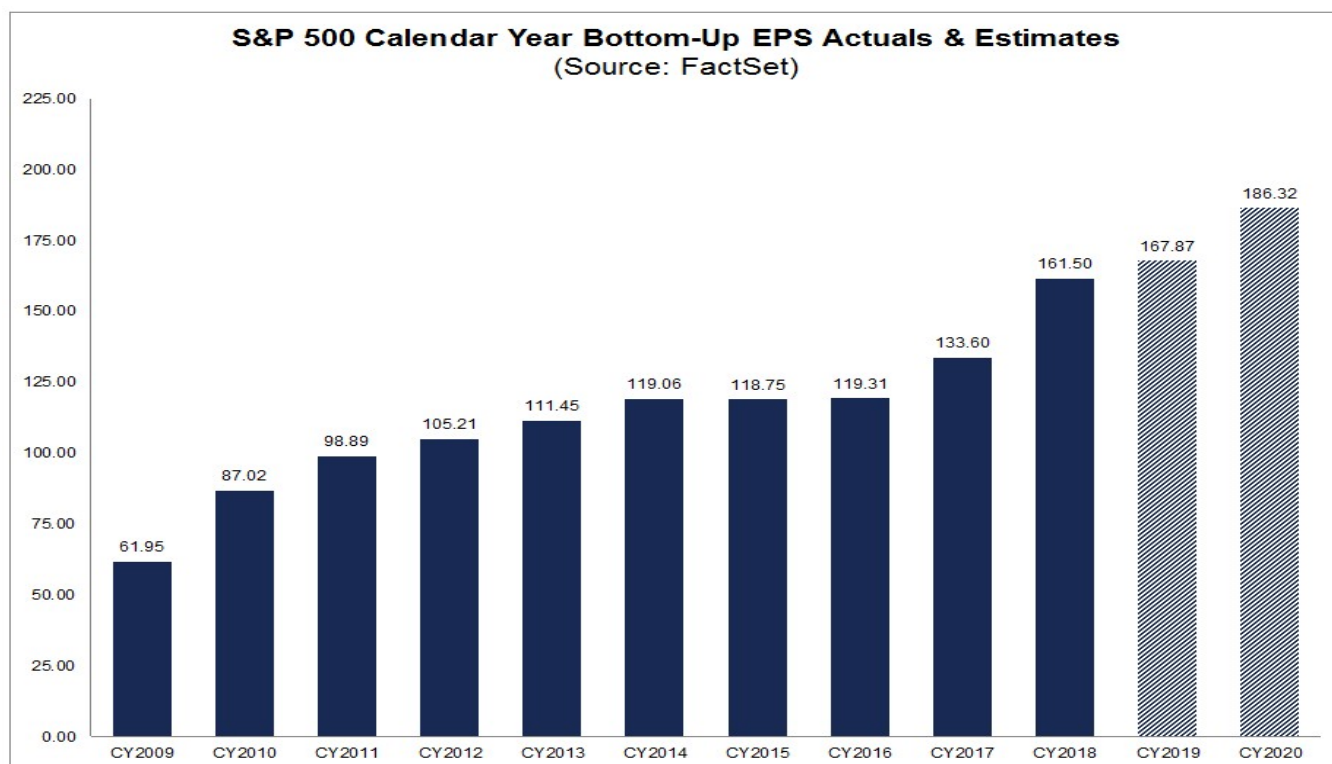
S&P 500: Aggregate Sector Geographic Revenue Exposure (%)
(Source: FactSet)



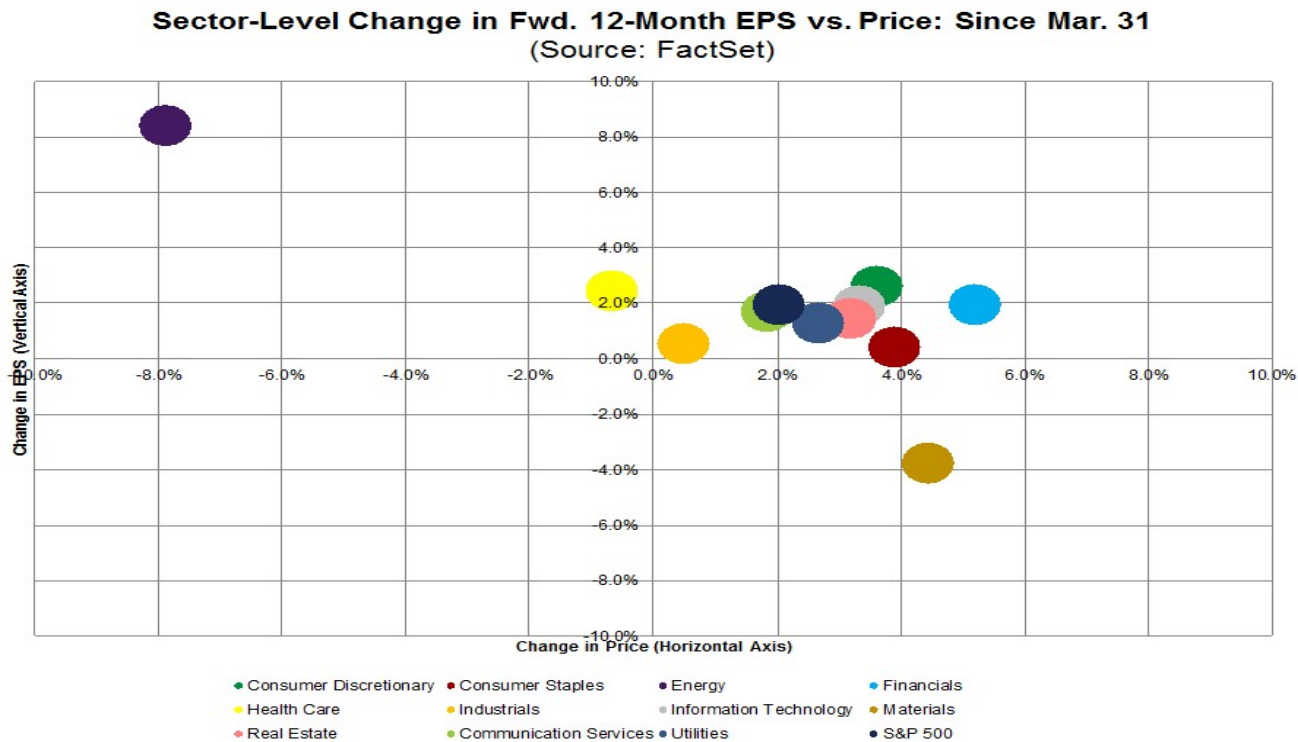
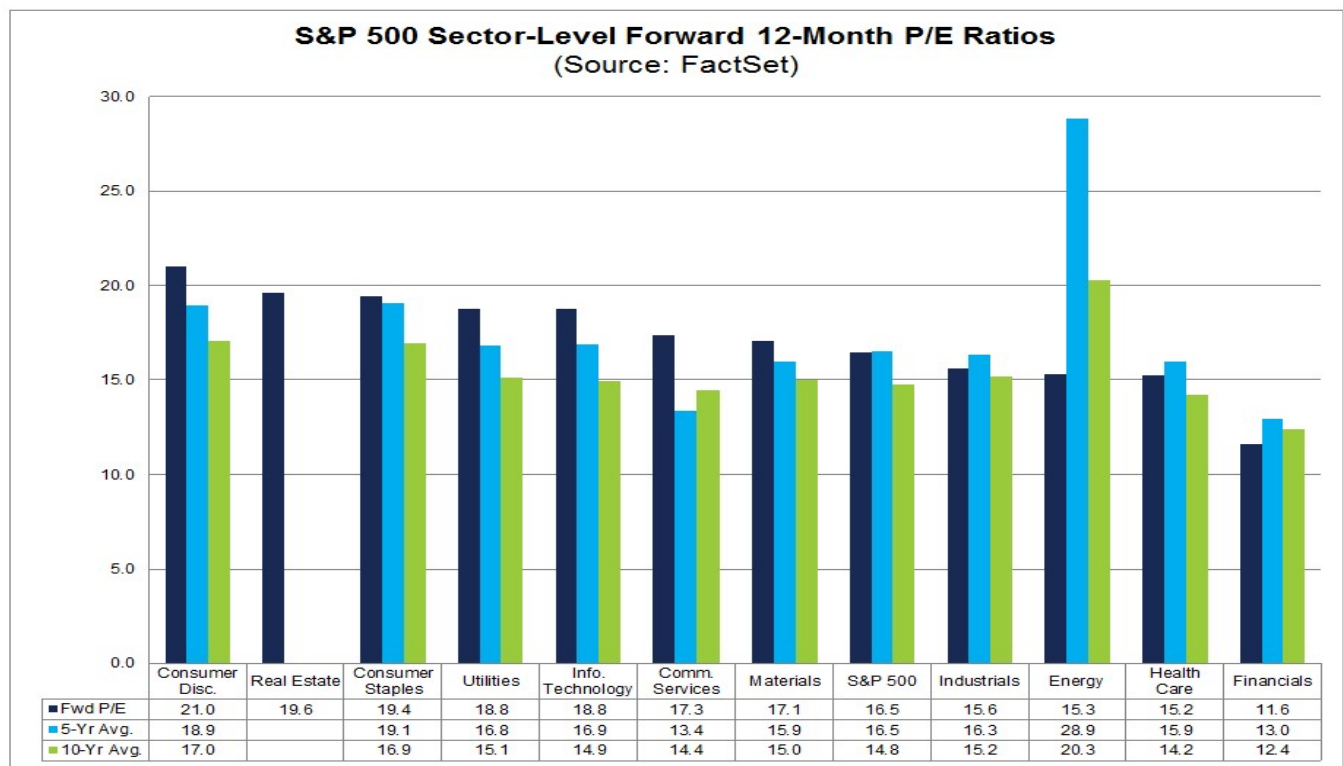
Bottom-up EPS Estimates: Revisions



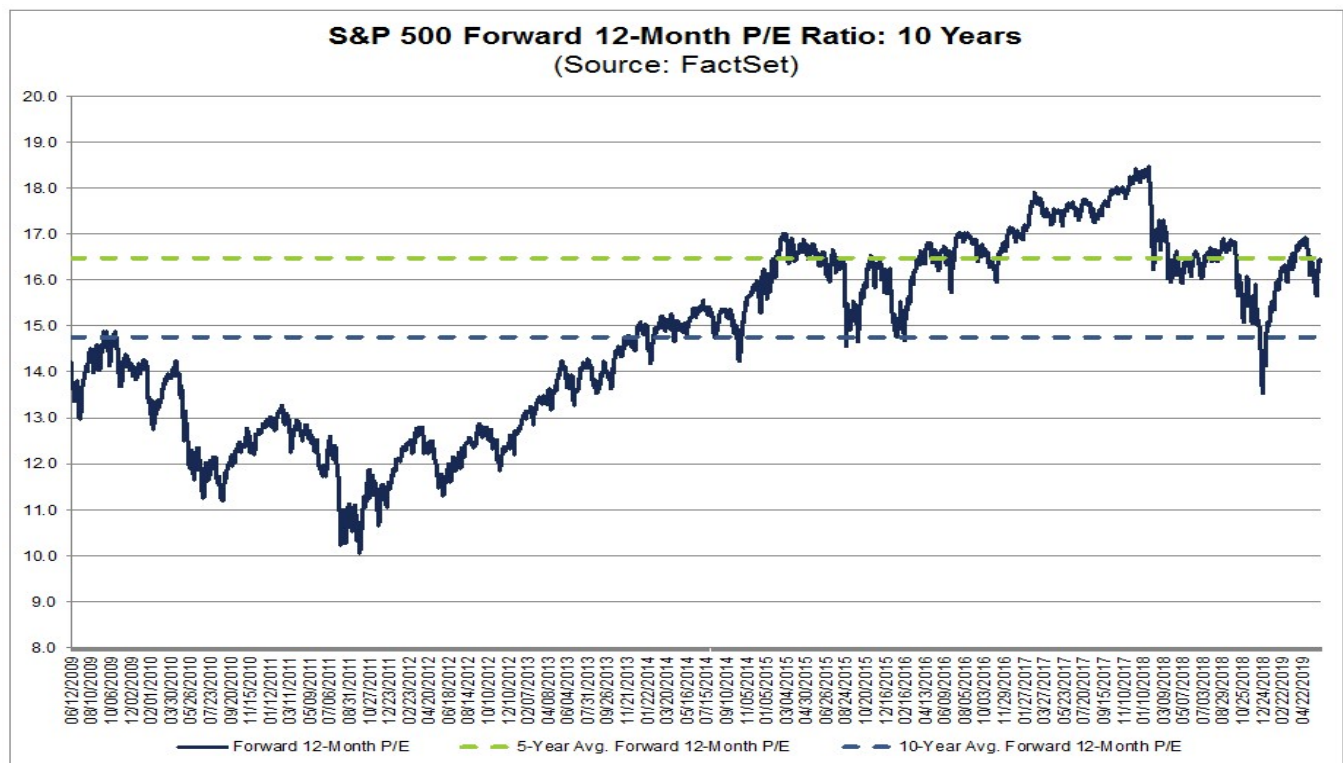
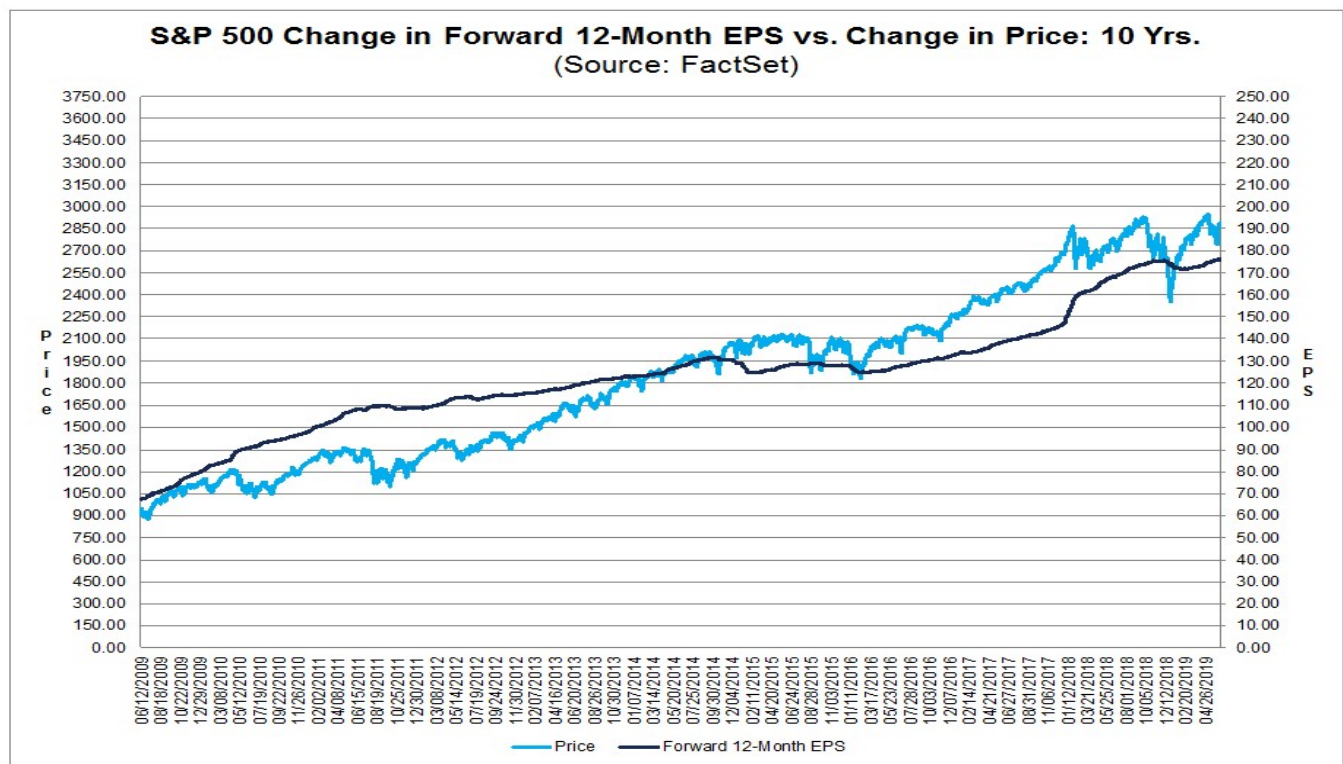
Bottom-up EPS Estimates: Current & Historical



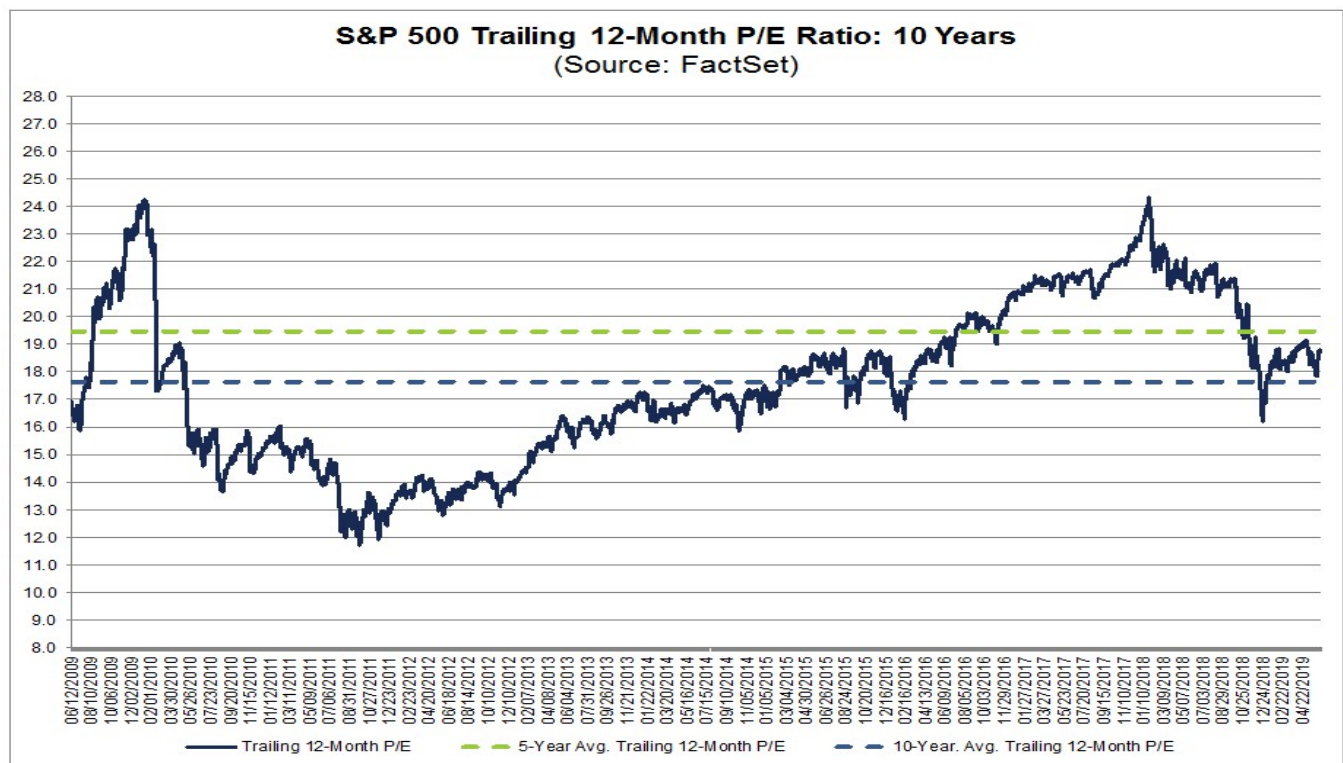
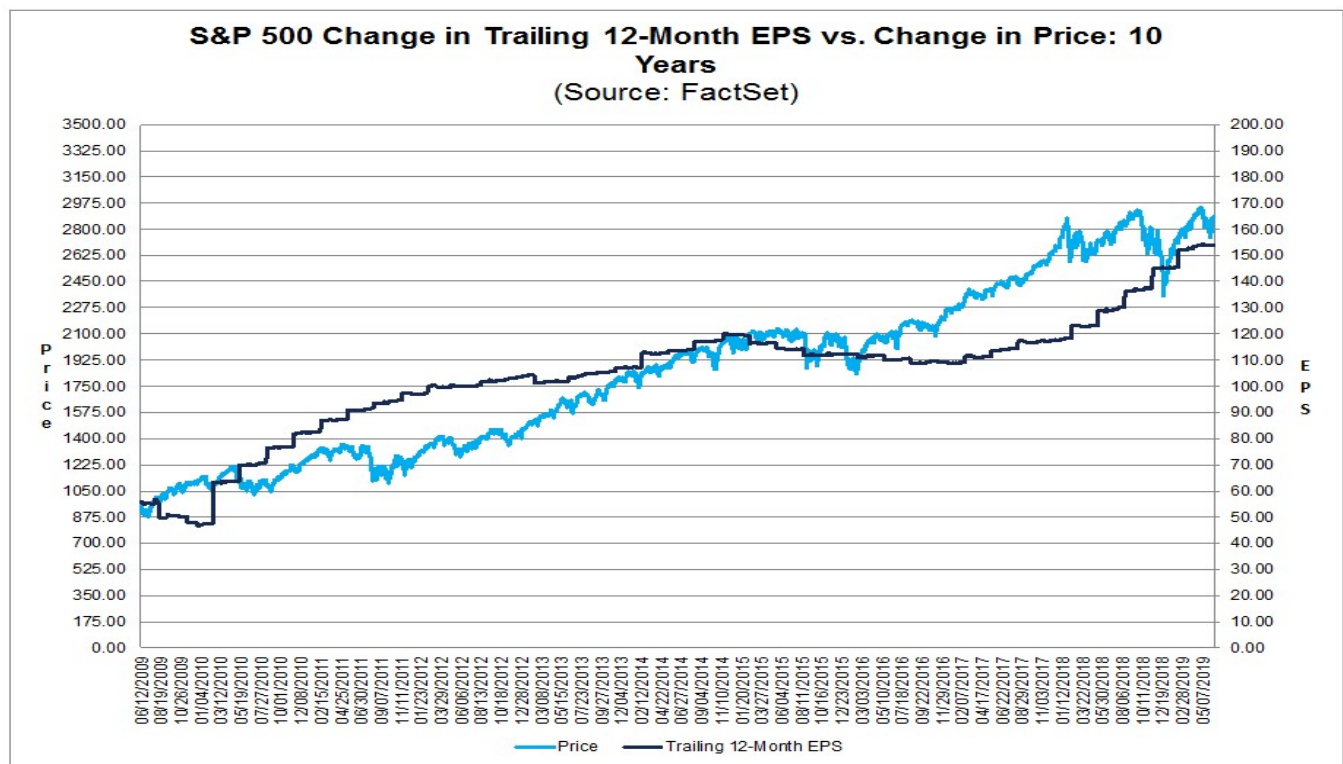
Forward 12M P/E Ratio: Sector Level



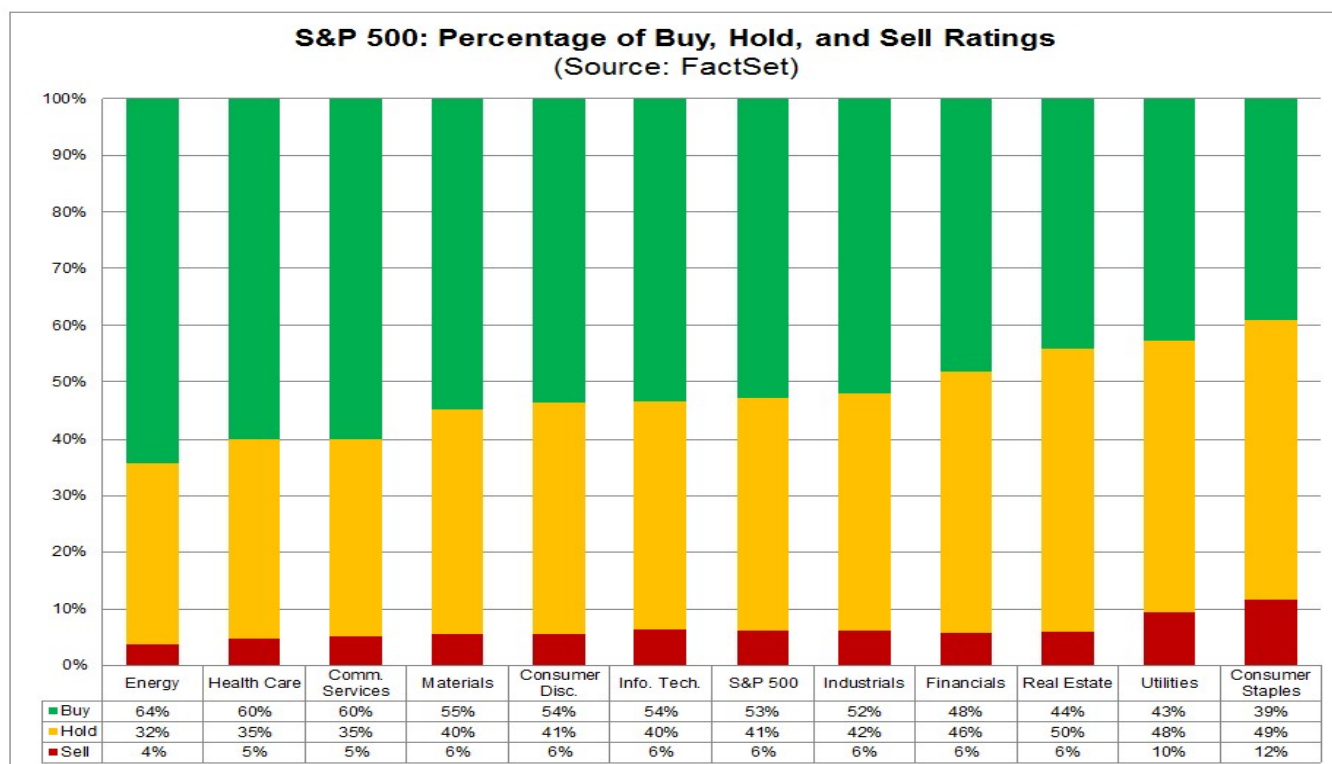
Forward 12M P/E Ratio: 10-Years



Trailing 12M P/E Ratio: 10-Years



Targets & Ratings



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