



MORNING BRIEFING

April 20, 2023

Health Care, Financials & Hydrogen

Check out the accompanying [chart collection](#).

Executive Summary: Two of the S&P 500's 11 sectors have staged impressive comebacks in recent weeks, Financials and Health Care. Jackie tells their laggards-to-leaders stories. ... Also: Large banks' sharp y/y increases in net interest income are making up for weaker areas of their business, enabling happy Q1 earnings surprises for some. NII gains likely peaked in Q4, but a reopening of the capital markets could help the industry as 2023 progresses. ... And in our Disruptive Technologies segment: EVs have been heralded as the cars of the future, but it might be hydrogen powered cars that go the distance.

Strategy: April Brings Rotation. April showers are supposed to bring May's flowers, but April in New York has been relatively dry, forcing us to water our wilting flowers. April did bring fortifying rotation to the stock market. The S&P 500 Financials and Health Care sectors, which are among the worst performing S&P 500 sectors on a ytd basis, have suddenly sprung up in recent weeks, outperforming every other S&P 500 sector except Energy.

Here's the performance derby for the S&P 500 and its sectors for April to date, through Tuesday's close: Energy (4.7%), Financials (3.7), Health Care (3.0), Utilities (1.8), Consumer Staples (1.6), Materials (1.3), S&P 500 (1.1), Communication Services (1.0), Industrials (-0.1), Real Estate (-0.2), Information Technology (-0.7), and Consumer Discretionary (-0.9) ([Fig. 1](#)).

That's quite a turnaround for Financials and Health Care, which land dead last and third to last, respectively, viewed through a wider ytd lens: Communication Services (21.4%), Information Technology (20.6), Consumer Discretionary (14.7), S&P 500 (8.2), Materials (5.1), Industrials (2.9), Consumer Staples (1.7), Real Estate (0.9), Energy (-1.1), Health Care (-1.8), Utilities (-2.3), and Financials (-2.6) ([Fig. 2](#)).

Boosting the Health Care sector this month have been its Managed Health Care (6.5%), Pharmaceuticals (4.1), and Health Care Facilities (3.5) industries. Financials has been getting a hand from its Diversified Banks (7.1%), Insurance Brokers (5.4), and Life & Health Insurance (4.1) industries.

Let's take a look at some of the recent news flow that may be breathing life into these two sectors.

(1) *Pharma making deals*. There's been a raft of recent M&A deals driven by large pharmaceutical companies looking to refill their pipelines by buying biotechnology companies. Merck announced on Sunday that it will buy Prometheus Biosciences, an autoimmune drug developer, for \$10.8 billion. Merck is looking to boost its pipeline to prepare for Keytruda's patent expiration around 2028. Prometheus has drugs for ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease that soon should enter late-stage trials.

Other recent drug deals include Pfizer's plan to buy Seagen, a biotechnology company developing cancer drugs, for \$43 billion. Amgen acquired autoimmune drug developer Horizon Therapeutics in December for \$27.8 billion. Merck also bought blood-cancer drug developer Imago BioSciences for \$1.4 billion in January.

The iShares Biotechnology ETF (IBB) had been down 7.1% ytd back on March 10 but after a rebound is now (as of Tuesday's close) up 1.0% ytd. The S&P 500 Biotechnology stock price index, which has larger constituents, is down 0.9% ytd through Tuesday's close ([Fig. 3](#)). The industry's earnings are expected to fall 21.8% this year and increase only 4.0% in 2024 ([Fig. 4](#)). The industry's forward P/E has risen to 16.5, up from its 2019 low of 9.6 ([Fig. 5](#)).

The S&P Pharmaceuticals stock price index is down 5.2% ytd through Tuesday's close ([Fig. 6](#)). Its earnings are expected to fall 15.8% this year before leaping 11.0% next year ([Fig. 7](#)). The industry's forward P/E is a below-market 15.1 ([Fig. 8](#)).

(2) *DC news helps Managed Health Care*. The S&P 500 Managed Health Care industry had a tough start to the year, with its price index falling 13.0% through March 10. But it since has rebounded and is now down only 5.5% ytd.

The turnaround owes much to a March 31 announcement that the "Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will reimburse private insurers that administer Medicare plans at a higher rate in 2024 than analysts expected," an April 11 *WSJ* [article](#) reported. "Additionally, new rules that could eventually reduce payments from the government to insurance companies will be phased in more slowly than originally planned."

This news was followed by UnitedHealth Group's announcement that Q1 earnings rose 14% y/y to \$6.26 a share, above analysts' \$6.16 consensus. Revenue climbed as well, by

14.7% to \$91.9 billion. Management increased its 2023 adjusted earnings forecast to \$24.50-\$25.00 per share from \$24.40-\$24.90.

The company's shares have fallen 4.1% since the report hit the tape, giving back some of their gains after the Medicare news, on investor concerns about rising expenses as more people use diabetes drugs for weight loss and as consumers continue to catch up on medical procedures postponed during the pandemic.

The S&P 500 Managed Health Care industry is expected to grow revenue by 6.9% this year and 5.3% in 2024 ([Fig. 9](#)). Earnings are forecast to climb 12.1% in 2023 and 13.2% in 2024 ([Fig. 10](#)). The industry's forward P/E of 17.7 has come down from its recent high of 21.4 during the April 21, 2022 week ([Fig. 11](#)).

Financials: Loans Save the Day. Large banks with sticky deposits and lots of floating-interest-rate loans on their books had a great Q1, as their loans repriced at higher rates than their deposits. Net interest income (NII)—the difference between what banks earn on their loans and investments and what they pay out on their deposits and other funding—has been rising sharply since Q1-2021. That helped both JPMorgan and Bank of America report surprisingly strong Q1 earnings, as their sharp NII increases more than offset drags from their reserve increases and drops in their investment banking activity.

NII jumped to \$179.9 billion in Q4 at FDIC-insured institutions, up 31% y/y and up 40% from its low in Q3-2020 ([Fig. 12](#)). Here are Jackie's takeaways from the recent earnings reports of Bank of America, Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, and Charles Schwab:

(1) *B of A flexes.* Bank of America's huge loan book and fixed-income trading desk allowed it to report strong Q1 revenue and earnings growth that beat analysts' consensus estimates.

B of A's Q1 revenue grew by \$3.1 billion, or 13% y/y, to \$26.3 billion, propelled by the \$2.9 billion, or 25%, y/y jump in NII to \$14.4 billion. An 8.5% y/y jump in sales and trading revenue helped as well. These two areas of strength allowed the bank to offset its \$931 million provision for credit losses in the quarter and 20% drop in investment banking fees to \$1.2 billion. As a result, the bank's net income rose 15% y/y to \$8.2 billion, and its diluted earnings per share of 94 cents beat analysts' 82 cents consensus estimate.

The comparisons to year-ago NII levels will get much tougher during H2, given that NII may have peaked in Q4. Here's B of A's NII progression over the past five quarters: Q1-2023 (\$14.5 billion), Q4-2022 (\$14.7 billion), Q3-2022 (\$13.8 billion), Q2-2022 (\$12.4 billion), and

Q1-2022 (\$11.6 billion). In general, banks may be forced to continue raising the rates they offer on deposits, especially as smaller banks look to keep their depositors from fleeing to larger banks and as upstarts like Apple try to disrupt the industry by luring customers with a 4.15% interest rate on savings accounts. If rates on deposits climb faster than rates on loans, that will pressure NII.

Bank of America's Q1-2023 NII actually fell compared with the Q4-2022 level. Likewise, the bank's revenue fell on a q/q basis in three of its four segments: Consumer Banking, Global Wealth Investment Management, and Global Banking. The only segment that had a jump in revenue q/q was Global Markets. Its revenue was \$5.6 billion in Q1, up from \$3.9 billion in Q4. Behind the gain was a jump in Fixed Income Currencies and Commodities (FICC) sales and trading revenue to \$3.4 billion, up from \$2.3 billion in Q4. Bond traders saved the day.

Bank of America shares were up less than 1.0% on Tuesday, when it reported its earnings, but they had jumped on Friday after JPMorgan reported a strong quarter. For the week through Tuesday's close, the shares are up 6.4%. Ytd through Tuesday's close, the shares have lost 7.7%.

B of A and JPMorgan are both members of the S&P Diversified Banks stock price index, which is down 0.3% ytd ([Fig. 13](#)). Analysts have modest expectations for the industry, forecasting revenue growth of 6.4% this year and 0.7% in 2024 ([Fig. 14](#)). Earnings are expected to grow a touch faster, by 7.2% this year and 4.3% in 2024 ([Fig. 15](#)). At 8.7, the industry's forward P/E hasn't been so low except when some crisis has gripped the market ([Fig. 16](#)).

(2) *Brokers have a tougher time.* Without a large banking operation, firms like Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs have been at the mercy of the markets. The M&A business has been painfully quiet in recent months as few CEOs are willing to pull the trigger on large deals during uncertain times. And the Fed's interest rate hikes have put a damper on the bond and stock markets.

At Morgan Stanley, Q1 investment banking revenue fell 24% y/y and trading revenue fell 13%, partially offset by a 10% jump in wealth management revenue. Net net, the firm's earnings per share dropped to \$1.70 from \$2.02 a year ago, but Morgan Stanley shares have risen 5.6% over the past week as results beat expectations.

At Goldman Sachs, investment banking revenue fell 27% y/y, equity underwriting revenue dropped 8%, and debt underwriting declined 32%. The investment bank's FICC business

lost 17%, and its equities trading business dropped 7%. Altogether, the global banking and markets' revenue dropped 16% to \$8.4 billion. The segment's revenue was up 30% compared to Q4 when revenue in equity and fixed-income trading were even weaker.

Goldman's results were also helped by its Asset & Wealth Management division, where revenue jumped 24% to \$3.2 billion. Results would have been even stronger were it not for the \$470 million loss related to the partial sale of the Marcus loans portfolio and the transfer of the remaining portfolio to the held-for-sale category. The loss was partially offset by a \$440 million reserve reduction. Goldman Sachs shares fell 1.7% on Tuesday after the earnings were released, and they're down 2.8% ytd. But at \$339.91, they're well off their lows of \$279.79 hit last June.

Schwab does have a bank, but it hasn't benefited the firm in recent quarters because some depositors have fled for higher interest rates elsewhere. Deposits have fallen 30.1% y/y, from \$465.8 billion in Q1-2022 to \$325.7 billion last quarter. Deposit flight has outpaced the rate that securities held by the bank have been maturing. As a result, Schwab has had to borrow between \$10 billion to \$30 billion a quarter from the Federal Home Loan Bank at an interest rate of about 5%, Michael Wong of Morningstar [wrote](#) on Tuesday. He expects the company's earnings will decrease in the next few quarters until this dynamic changes.

Wall Street analysts are forecasting earnings per share of 78 cents in Q2 and 77 cents in Q3, down from the 93 cents earned in Q1-2023 and \$1.07 in Q4-2022. Three months ago, analysts were much more optimistic, forecasting \$1.14 in Q2 and \$1.22 in Q3.

The positive news is that the firm's active brokerage accounts and banking accounts are at recent highs. All in, Schwab's revenue jumped y/y but fell 7% q/q. Likewise, its net income of \$1.5 billion jumped 20% y/y but fell 16% q/q. Schwab shares rallied 6.4% Monday and Tuesday after the earnings release, after which they were still down a lot ytd, 35.1%.

Goldman, Schwab, and Morgan Stanley are part of the S&P 500 Investment Banking & Brokerage stock price index, which is down 11.5% this year through Tuesday's close ([Fig. 17](#)). Analysts are forecasting strong rebound for the industry next year, with 2024 revenue up 6.5% versus a projected 3.9% in 2023 and earnings up 18.7% next year versus 6.1% this year ([Fig. 18](#) and [Fig. 19](#)). At 11.1, the industry's forward P/E is down from its highs but still above the single-digit levels seen during market crises ([Fig. 20](#)).

Disruptive Technologies: Hydrogen Vehicles Get a Second Look. Electric vehicles (EVs) might have all the buzz, but some believe hydrogen fueled vehicles will dominate the

future of car transportation. Today's H₂-powered cars use fuel cells that convert hydrogen into electricity to propel cars. Proponents say that, compared to EVs, hydrogen powered cars have longer travel range, operate better in extreme temperatures, refuel much faster, and have smaller batteries that use less cobalt, nickel, and lithium. The downsides are that hydrogen fueling stations are limited to a handful in California, and to be truly "green," hydrogen production relies on solar or wind power.

Toyota recently captured industry headlines with a concept car boasting a combustion engine that runs on hydrogen. Let's take a look at what the auto giants are dreaming up:

(1) *Toyota's in the race.* Toyota's concept vehicle, the Corolla Cross H₂, has a V3 hydrogen combustion engine. BMW produced the first such vehicles in 2002 and 2005, but they were highly flammable and emitted nitrous oxide.

Toyota's Corolla Cross H₂ has thick armored fuel tanks to store the H₂ to prevent fire, explains this [video](#) from Car Maniacs. Toyota has also brought down the vehicle's cost of production. While the Corolla Cross H₂ isn't currently available for sale, Toyota does offer the Mirai, a hydrogen fuel cell powered vehicle that can travel 402 miles on a tank of hydrogen.

(2) *BMW's in the race.* BMW is also experimenting with cars powered by hydrogen fuel cells, planning to produce roughly 100 of them this year. These iX5 FCVs will be used as a "demonstration fleet for various regulatory bodies and marketing endeavors," a February 27 [article](#) in *Car and Driver* reported. The model is expected to travel 260 miles on a tank of hydrogen, and refueling takes just minutes as for a gasoline-fueled car. Many of the core fuel cell elements come from its fuel cell partner Toyota.

(3) *Hyundai's in the race.* Hyundai introduced its hydrogen fuel cell powered concept car, the N 74 Vision, in 2022. The snazzy two-door sports car can accelerate from zero to 62 mph in just four seconds and can travel as fast as 155 mph. An April 8 Top Speed [article](#) speculated that the model may roll off factory assembly lines in three to four years. The company does sell the more mundane Nexu hydrogen fuel cell crossover in California.

(4) *Honda's in the race.* Honda plans to introduce a hydrogen fuel cell powered version of the CR-V next year in North America and Japan, a February 8 [article](#) in *Car and Driver* reported. The H₂ CR-V's fuel cell system is co-developed with GM, and the car can be plugged in and run for short distances on electricity.

(5) *GM's in the race*. General Motors is developing medium-duty trucks equipped with GM hydrogen fuel cell technology, but they aren't expected to launch until after 2025, a December 2, 2022 [article](#) in GM Authority reported. The trucks may also contain a large electric battery pack, allowing them to run on either energy source or to supply electricity to an external piece of equipment.

Calendars

US: Thurs: Leading Index -0.6%; Philadelphia Manufacturing Index -19.2; Exiting Home Sales +5.0% to 4.5mu; Initial & Continuous Jobless Claims 240k/1.82m. **Fri:** C-PMI, M-PMI & NM-PMI Flash Estimates 52.8/49.0/51.5; Baker-Hughes Rig Count; Cook. (Bloomberg estimates)

Global: Thurs: Eurozone Trade Balance; Germany ZEW Economic Sentiment 15.1; UK Average Earnings Index Including & Excluding Bonus 5.1%/6.2%; UK Employment Change 3m/3m 52k; UK Unemployment Rate 3.7%; UK Claimant Count Change 10.2k; UK Labor Productivity 0.3%; Canada Headline & Core CPI 4.3%/4.8% y/y; Macklem; Rogers. **Fri:** Eurozone, Germany, and France C-PMI Flash Estimates 53.7/52.7/52.7; Eurozone, Germany, and France M-PMI Flash Estimates 48.0/45.7/47.8; Eurozone, Germany, and France NM-PMI Flash Estimates 54.5/53.3/53.4; UK C-PMI, M-PMI, and NM-PMI Flash Estimates 52.6/48.5/53.0; UK Headline & Core Retail Sales -0.5%*m/m*/-3.1%*y/y* & -0.7%*m/m*/-3.1%*y/y*; Canada Headline & Core Retail Sales -0.6%*m/m*/-0.1%*y/y*; DeGuindos; Elderson. (Bloomberg estimates)

Strategy Indicators

Stock Market Sentiment Indicators ([link](#)): The *Bull-Bear Ratio* climbed for the fourth week to 2.11 this week—the highest reading since the January 4 week last year—after falling the prior two weeks from 1.83 to 1.38. *Bullish* sentiment increased for the fourth week, jumping to 50.7% this week, the most since November 2021 when it peaked at 57.2%. Bulls outnumbered bears for the 22nd consecutive week. Bearish sentiment fell for the fourth successive week to 24.0% this week—the fewest bears since early January 2022—after a two-week climb from 24.7% to 28.8%. Recent readings are well below the 44.1% of early October 2022. The *correction count* fell to 25.3% after rising from 26.4% to 27.0% the prior week, remaining well below its late September 2022 peak of 40.3%. Turning to the *AAII*

Sentiment Survey (as of April 13), bearish sentiment fell again but remained above average for the eighth successive week, while bullish sentiment fell and neutral sentiment jumped. The percentage expecting stock prices to rise over the next six months slipped to 26.1% after moving higher the previous three weeks, by 14.1ppts to 33.3%; it had dropped the prior two weeks from 24.8% to 19.2%—which was the lowest since the September 22, 2022 week’s 17.7% reading. After moving closer to its average last week, optimism fell back down to an unusually low level, remaining below its historical average of 37.5% during 71 of the last 73 weeks. The percentage expecting stocks to fall over the next six months sank for the third week, by 14.4ppts to an eight-week low of 34.5%. Still, pessimism remained above its historical average of 31.0% for 68 of the past 73 weeks. The percentage expecting stock prices will stay essentially unchanged over the next six months climbed 7.9ppts to 39.5%—with neutral sentiment above its historical average during 14 out of the past 15 weeks.

S&P 500 Earnings, Revenues, Valuation & Margins ([link](#)): The S&P 500’s forward profit margin was unchanged w/w at a 24-month low of 12.3% during the April 14 week. That’s down 1.1ppts from its record high of 13.4% achieved intermittently in 2022 from March to June. It’s now 2.0pts above its seven-year low of 10.3% during April 2020. Forward revenues edged down 0.1% w/w from its record high during the April 7 week. Forward earnings dropped 0.3% w/w to 5.3% below its record high during the June 16, 2022 week. Both had been steadily making new highs from the beginning of March 2021 to mid-June; prior to that, they peaked just before Covid-19 in February 2020. The consensus expectations for forward revenues growth fell 0.1pt w/w to 2.7% and is now 0.4pt above its 33-month low of 2.3% during the February 23 week. That’s down from a record high of 9.6% growth at the end of May 2021 and compares to 0.2% forward revenues growth during April 2020, which was the lowest reading since June 2009. Forward earnings growth dropped 0.2pt w/w to 4.7% and is now 1.2pts above its 31-month low of 3.5% in mid-February. That’s down from its 23.9% reading at the end of April 2021, which was its highest since June 2010 and up substantially from its record low of -5.6% at the end of April 2020. Analysts expect revenues to rise 1.5% in 2023 (unchanged w/w) and 4.9% in 2024 (unchanged w/w) compared to a revenues gain of 12.2% in 2022. They expect an earnings decline of 0.6% in 2023 (down 0.2pts w/w) and a 12.2% rise in 2024 (up 0.1pt w/w) compared to an earnings gain of 7.2% in 2022. Analysts expect the profit margin to drop 0.2ppt y/y to 12.0% in 2023 (unchanged w/w) compared to 12.2% in 2022 and to rise 0.8ppt y/y to 12.8% in 2024 (unchanged w/w). The S&P 500’s weekly reading of its forward P/E rose 0.1pt w/w to 18.2, and is just 0.3pt below its 43-week high of 18.5 during the February 16 week. That’s up from a 30-month low of 15.3 in mid-October. It also compares to 23.1 in early September 2020, which was the highest level since July 2000 and up from a 77-month low of 14.0 in March 2020. The S&P 500 weekly price-to-sales ratio was unchanged w/w at

2.23, but is down from a 24-week high of 2.29 during the February 16 week. That's up from a 31-month low of 1.98 in mid-October and down from a four-month high of 2.38 in mid-August, and also compares to a record high of 2.88 at the end of 2021 and a 49-month low of 1.65 in March 2020.

S&P 500 Sectors Earnings, Revenues, Valuation & Margins ([link](#)): Looking at the 11 S&P 500 sectors, the April 14 week saw consensus forward revenues rise for four sectors and forward earnings rise for two. The forward profit margin rose w/w for four sectors and fell for two. Three sectors have forward revenues at a record high this week: Consumer Staples, Health Care, and Utilities. Among the remaining eight sectors, only three have forward revenues more than 4.9% below their post-pandemic highs: Consumer Discretionary, Energy, and Financials. Consumer Staples and Utilities are the only sectors with forward earnings at a record high. Among the remaining nine sectors, just five have forward earnings that remain relatively strong, down less than 10.0% from their post-pandemic highs: Health Care, Industrials, Information Technology, Real Estate, and Utilities. Since mid-August, all sectors have seen forward profit margins retreat from their record highs. Those of Financials, Industrials, and Tech remain closest to their post-pandemic highs. Energy and Industrials were the only two sectors to have their profit margins improve y/y for full-year 2022, and these five sectors are expected to see them improve y/y in 2023: Communication Services, Consumer Discretionary, Financials, Industrials, and Utilities. Here's how the sectors rank based on their current forward profit margin forecasts along with their record highs: Information Technology (23.5%, down from its 25.4% record high in June 2022), Financials (18.2, down from its 19.8 record high in August 2021), Real Estate (16.6, down from its 19.2 record high in 2016), Communication Services (14.6, down from its 17.0 record high in October 2021), Utilities (13.2, down from its 14.8 record high in April 2021), S&P 500 (12.3, down from its record high of 13.4 achieved intermittently in 2022 from March to June 2022), Energy (11.7, down from its 12.8 record high in November), Materials (11.0, down from its 13.6 record high in June), Industrials (10.4, down from its 10.5 record high in December 2019), Health Care (9.6, down from its 11.5 record high in March 2022), Consumer Discretionary (7.4, down from its 8.3 record high in 2018), and Consumer Staples (6.7, down from its 7.7 record high in June 2020).

S&P 500 Sectors & Industries Forward Profit Margin Since Peak ([link](#)): Since the S&P 500's forward profit margin peaked at a record-high 13.4% during the June 9 week, it has fallen 8.3% to 12.3% through the April 13 week. All sectors' margins are down since the peak, with the S&P 500's drop paced by three of the 11 sectors. Here's the sector performance since the June 9, 2022 forward profit margin peak: Industrials (down 0.3% to

10.4%), Energy (down 2.2% to 11.7%), Financials (down 4.4% to 18.2%), Utilities (down 4.9% to 13.2%), Consumer Discretionary (down 5.1% to 7.4%), Real Estate (down 7.2% to 16.6%), Information Technology (down 7.8% to 23.5%), Consumer Staples (down 8.2% to 6.7%), S&P 500 (down 8.5% to 12.3%), Communication Services (down 9.4% to 14.6%), Health Care (down 12.3% to 9.6%), and Materials (down 18.8% to 11.0%). These are the best performing industries since the June 9, 2022 peak: Human Resource & Employment Services (up 102.7% to 18.6%), Casinos & Gaming (up 84.1% to 4.1%), Wireless Telecommunication Services (up 75.1% to 11.8%), Oil & Gas Refining & Marketing (up 62.7% to 5.5%), Passenger Airlines (up 37.1% to 5.6%), Oil & Gas Equipment & Services (up 19.8% to 11.0%), and Reinsurance (up 19.5% to 14.0%). The worst performing industries since the June 9, 2022 peak: Commodity Chemicals (down 40.9% to 6.0%), Home Furnishings (down 37.9% to 5.5%), Copper (down 34.6% to 12.6%), Housewares & Specialties (down 34.3% to 5.5%), Publishing (down 31.1% to 2.5%), Broadcasting (down 30.4% to 3.9%), and Homebuilding (down 28.9% to 10.7%).

Global Economic Indicators

Eurozone CPI ([link](#)): The CPI rate for March slowed for the fifth month to 6.9% y/y, after accelerating to a record-high 10.6% last October. For perspective, the rate was as low as -0.3% at the end of 2020. Looking at the main components' March readings, energy declined 0.9% y/y after posting double-digit yearly gains from April 2021 through February 2023; energy peaked at a record high of 44.1% last March. This March's rate was the first negative reading since February 2021. The rate for food, alcohol & tobacco soared to yet another new record high of 15.5% in March—accelerating steadily from June 2021's 0.5%—while the rate for non-energy industrial goods eased a bit to 6.6% y/y from February's record-high 6.8%. The services rate climbed to a new record high of 5.1% y/y in March. Of the top four Eurozone economies, rates in both Italy (8.1% y/y) and Germany (7.8) were above the Eurozone's rate of 6.9%, while rates in France (6.7) and Spain (3.1) were below. Here are the record-high inflation rates and the months in which they were achieved for the four countries: Italy (12.6%, October & November 2022), Germany (11.6%, October 2022), France (7.3%, February 2023), and Spain (10.7%, July 2022).

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