This coming Monday marks the eighth anniversary of the Nasdaq Composite (5,048.82). In the 135 weeks following its peak, the index declined approximately 78% before bottoming. At the start of today’s trading session, the Nasdaq Composite stood at 2,220.50, still 56% below its all-time high. While history shows that the process of recovering losses sustained during bear markets can take 2-4 years that has not been the case for the Nasdaq. According to MarketWatch.com, the reason may have to do with the fact that the Nasdaq Composite is less diversified (tech-oriented) than other market indices and its constituents tend to not pay dividends, which have accounted for roughly 42% of the average annual return posted by the S&P 500 since 1926.

A new class of millionaire has been created and these individuals will be referred to as “middle-class millionaires.” The term was coined by Russ Alan Prince and Lewis Schiff during a recent study that will be the foundation for a new book, according to MarketWatch.com. Middle-class millionaires have a net worth between $1 million and $10 million, but the catch is the wealth has to have been earned rather than inherited. Their study found that there are approximately 8.4 million households that fit this definition. The average middle-class millionaire works 70 hours a week and feels they need a net worth of $24 million to feel wealthy.

As of 03/07

Fed Funds 3.00% 5-YR CD 3.39%
LIBOR (1-month) 3.08% 2-YR Note 1.52%
CPI - Headline 4.30% 5-YR Note 2.43%
CPI - Core 2.50% 10-YR Note 3.54%
Money Market Accts. 2.61% 30-YR T-Bond 4.45%
Money Market Funds 2.96% 30-YR Mortgage 5.87%
6-mo. CD 3.03% Prime Rate 6.00%
1-YR CD 3.10% Bond Buyer 40 5.08%

Source: Bankrate.com, iMoneyNet.com and Bloomberg

### FACTOIDS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 3rd — MARCH 7th

Monday, March 3, 2008 — Non-financial multinational companies
The top 150 non-financial multinational companies in the S&P 500 Index account for 84% of total reported foreign sales, according to BusinessWeek. These companies held over $500 billion in cash and equivalents at the end of 2007.

Tuesday, March 4, 2008 — Dividend-payers vs. Non-payers
In February, the dividend-payers (388) in the S&P 500 (equal weight) posted a total return of -3.12%, vs. -2.42% for the non-payers (112), according to Standard & Poor's. Year-to-date, the payers declined 7.06%, vs. a loss of 8.25% for the non-payers. For the 12-month period ended February 08, payers fell 8.32%, vs. a decline of 10.53% for the non-payers. The number of dividend increases (S&P 500) year-to-date totaled 77. That lagged the 81 increases over the same period in 2007 and the 91 increases registered in 2006.

Wednesday, March 5, 2008 — Mortgage Foreclosures
RealtyTrac data shows that mortgage foreclosures increased 79% in 2007, but only to a national rate of 1.033%, according to MSN.com. So 99% of homes in the U.S. are not in foreclosure. While the problem could potentially expand, the data indicates that it is very much a regional problem at this point. Foreclosures are up in those markets that have either appreciated well above the national average over the past 5 years, such as California, or have been economically challenged, such as Michigan. Home prices in several markets in California rose by more than 100% over the last 5 years - over double the national average of 46.92%.

Thursday, March 6, 2008 — “Middle-class millionaires”
A new class of millionaire has been created and these individuals will be referred to as “middle-class millionaires.” The term was coined by Russ Alan Prince and Lewis Schiff during a recent study that will be the foundation for a new book, according to MarketWatch.com. Middle-class millionaires have a net worth between $1 million and $10 million, but the catch is the wealth has to have been earned rather than inherited. Their study found that there are approximately 8.4 million households that fit this definition. The average middle-class millionaire works 70 hours a week and feels they need a net worth of $24 million to feel wealthy.

Friday, March 7, 2008 — Nasdaq Composite
This coming Monday marks the eighth anniversary of the Nasdaq Composite (5,048.82). In the 135 weeks following its peak, the index declined approximately 78% before bottoming. At the start of today’s trading session, the Nasdaq Composite stood at 2,220.50, still 56% below its all-time high. While history shows that the process of recovering losses sustained during bear markets can take 2-4 years that has not been the case for the Nasdaq. According to MarketWatch.com, the reason may have to do with the fact that the Nasdaq Composite is less diversified (tech-oriented) than other market indices and its constituents tend to not pay dividends, which have accounted for roughly 42% of the average annual return posted by the S&P 500 since 1926.