

# Before the Bell

*An Ameriprise Investment Research Group Publication*

January 24, 2025

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## Starting the Day

- U.S. equity Index futures look for a slightly lower open.
- European markets are mostly higher at midday.
- Markets across the Asia /Pacific were mixed overnight.
- Sentiment and Existing Home Sales on deck.
- Earnings season – so far, pretty good.
- 10-year Treasury yield at 4.64%.
- West Texas Intermediate (WTI) oil is trading at \$75.05.
- Gold is trading at \$2,785.70

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## Market Perspectives

**Russell T. Price, CFA - Chief Economist**

**“Worst-case” tariff threats ease...for now.** Markets have been moving higher most of the week. The S&P 500 closed at another new all-time high yesterday of 6118.17, leaving the Index a solid 2.0% higher relative to last Friday’s close.

We believe a partial reason for the positive sentiment of the last few days has been a lack of worst-case scenarios developing as related to threatened tariff actions. Although market participants seemed skeptical all along, the magnitude and scope of proposed tariffs were significant enough to necessitate taking the issue very seriously. As a candidate and then President-elect, Mr. Trump had been quite vocal about the prospect of significant, widespread tariffs being imposed on ‘day one.’

Fortunately, that’s not been the case, and, in fact, we see the President as having moderated his tone relative to potential tariff actions over the intermediate-term, significantly. Tariffs, to the degree implemented, could offer material upside to inflation, reduce consumer purchasing power, and directly subtract from the U.S. economy’s rate of expansion.

We believe some tariffs will eventually emerge over the next few weeks or months, but this week’s developments and tone around the issue lead us to believe that any actions taken are most likely to be ramped-up over time and mostly, short-lived. As we’ve believed for some time, we see President Trump as likely to use the threat of tariffs primarily as a negotiating tactic rather than a legitimate, lasting change in U.S. trade policy. Conversely, however, lower tariff revenues would imply a reduction in the offset value they could offer to the furthering of the personal income tax rates as implemented under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 during Mr. Trump’s first administration.

Undoubtedly, the tariff threat has not gone away. In recent days, the President has suggested that 25% tariffs on imports from Mexico and Canada could begin as soon as February 1<sup>st</sup>. Additionally, rather than an immediate hike in tariffs on imports from China, the President has called for an investigation into U.S. /China trade policy. Further, the President’s statements relative to tariffs on Mexico and Canada have long been consistent with seeking social policy objectives, namely, plans to stem the flow of immigrants and drugs over North American borders. We believe any tariffs ultimately implemented with our North American neighbors should be short-lived given the potential for serious economic disruption, particularly in the domestic manufacturing sector.

In executive actions signed by the President on Monday, Mr. Trump approved investigations into trade relationships, bilateral trade deficits, currency manipulation, the initiation of an External Revenue Service to collect tariffs, and a review of the policy on duty-free importation of packages worth \$800 or less.

NOTE: FOR IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES, INCLUDING POSSIBLE CONFLICTS, PLEASE SEE THE DISCLOSURE PAGES AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT.

Overall, the scope, magnitude and timing of President Trump's proposed trade tariffs have been a major uncertainty overhanging the economic outlook over the last few months. Although detailed plans remain fuzzy, we believe the lack of clear announcements speaks volumes. Specifically, that many of the trade proposals are likely negotiation starters rather than hard, unbending plans.

Given the continuing uncertainty of the situation, however, estimates as to the potential impact of tariffs are nearly impossible. Nevertheless, many forecasters had put the impact of worst-case tariff scenarios (~25% on Mexico /Canada, about 30% on China, and potentially 10% on everyone else) as likely to generate incremental government tariff revenue of approximately \$350B to \$400B. Much of this would very likely translate into higher costs, in our view. Directly, such costs would be about 1.3% to 1.4% of nominal US GDP. The full effect would likely be tempered by partially offsetting influences, such as a stronger dollar, exporters lowering costs, importers sacrificing some profit margin, etc. We'd estimate consumer prices would see added upward inflation of 0.5% to 1.0% based on a worst-case situation. Real GDP would be lower by a similar amount, thus taking our real GDP estimate for the year from a current +2.0% down to about +1.0% to +1.5%, all else remaining equal. Further, we believe tariffs on items such as fresh food, medicines, or energy commodities – products that would hurt middle and lower class households the most, are less likely.

Aside from China, the biggest impact of tariffs would be on Canada (US imports from Canada in 2023 were \$420B) and Mexico (2023 imports of \$475B) and the auto industry in general.

## U.S. Premarket Indicators / Overnight International Market Activity

### United States:

Here is a quick news rundown to start your morning:

- **Stocks indicated slightly lower at the open.** After generating a strong 2.0% price-only return over the first three days of the week (recall that U.S. markets were closed on Monday in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. national holiday), stocks appear set to take a breather. Year-to-date, the S&P 500 is 4.1% higher while the Dow Jones Industrial Average is 4.8% higher and the tech-heavy NASDAQ up 3.9%. There has not been much economic data for markets to digest but, as noted in our headline commentary, the lack of harsh tariffs and what have been generally strong corporate earnings reports have buoyed investor sentiment.
- **Earnings Update:** Through Thursday, about 18% of S&P 500 companies had reported their financial results for the fourth quarter. Blended earnings per share (EPS) growth now looks for earnings per share for the Index to be about +12.8% higher year-over-year on revenue growth of +4.6 %.

### Europe:

Stock prices are generally higher at mid-day across Europe. The Euro Stoxx 50 is up about 0.4% on the session, thus building on its record highs. Equity prices are down about 0.4% in London, however, even though a measure of manufacturing activity in the country came-in stronger than expected – but still indicating a slight contraction in activity month-over-month. The reaction likely is being seen as lowering the odds of a loosening of monetary policy by the Bank of England anytime soon. A similar measure, this one covering the European Union, performed similarly (better than expected, but still indicating a modest contraction).

News from the ongoing World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland has also been of high investor interest all week.

### Asia-Pacific:

Markets were mixed overnight across the Asia /Pacific but with an upside bias. The Nikkei Index in Tokyo was less than 0.1% lower, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index jumped a very strong 1.9%. Markets in mainland China were also higher with Shanghai's CSI 300 up a solid 0.8% - but it is still down 2.6% year-to-date.

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**WORLD CAPITAL MARKETS**

1/24/2025

As of: 8:30 AM ET

Americas	% chg.	% YTD	Value
S&P 500	0.5%	4.1%	6,118.7
Dow Jones	0.9%	4.8%	44,565.1
NASDAQ Composite	0.2%	3.9%	20,053.7
Russell 2000	0.5%	3.8%	2,314.6
Brazil Bovespa	-0.4%	1.8%	122,483
S&P/TSX Comp. (Canada)	0.5%	3.0%	25,434.1
Russell 3000	0.5%	4.3%	3,500.5

Europe (Intra-day)	% chg.	%YTD	Value
DJSTOXX 50 (Europe)	0.5%	7.2%	5,241.9
FTSE 100 (U.K.)	-0.3%	4.5%	8,536.8
DAX Index (Germany)	0.2%	7.8%	21,464.5
CAC 40 (France)	0.8%	7.9%	7,954.2
FTSE MIB (Italy)	0.4%	6.0%	36,242.9
IBEX 35 (Spain)	-0.3%	3.6%	11,954.2
MOEX Index (Russia)	#VALUE!	#VALUE!	#N/A N/A

Asia/Pacific (Last Night)	% chg.	%YTD	Value
Nikkei 225 (Japan)	-0.1%	0.1%	39,932.0
Hang Seng (Hong Kong)	1.9%	0.4%	20,066.2
Korea Kospi 100	0.8%	5.7%	2,536.8
Singapore STI	-0.1%	0.4%	3,804.3
Shanghai Comp. (China)	0.7%	-3.0%	3,252.6
Bombay Sensex (India)	-0.4%	-2.4%	76,190.5
S&P/ASX 200 (Australia)	0.4%	3.1%	8,408.9

Global	% chg.	% YTD	Value
MSCI All-Country World Idx	0.4%	3.7%	872.1

Developed International	% chg.	%YTD	Value
MSCI EAFE	0.3%	3.5%	2,339.5

Emerging International	% chg.	%YTD	Value
MSCI Emerging Mkts	-0.1%	0.7%	1,081.3

Note: International market returns shown on a local currency basis. The equity index data shown above is on a total return basis, inclusive of dividends.

S&P 500 Sectors	% chg.	% YTD	Value
Communication Services	0.8%	5.1%	358.8
Consumer Discretionary	0.4%	4.1%	1,906.1
Consumer Staples	0.4%	-0.3%	850.3
Energy	0.4%	7.1%	701.1
Financials	0.6%	5.0%	843.7
Health Care	1.3%	4.8%	1,679.2
Industrials	1.0%	7.5%	1,199.2
Materials	0.5%	6.1%	561.6
Real Estate	0.8%	1.9%	260.4
Technology	0.1%	2.8%	4,739.2
Utilities	0.5%	4.0%	400.0

Equity Income Indices	% chg.	% YTD	Value
JPM Alerian MLP Index	0.3%	9.6%	322.8
FTSE NAREIT Comp. TR	0.7%	1.0%	25,352.4
DJ US Select Dividend	0.2%	2.4%	3,585.5
DJ Global Select Dividend	0.4%	2.2%	228.3
S&P Div. Aristocrats	0.5%	2.2%	4,674.4

Bond Indices	% chg.	% YTD	Value
Barclays US Agg. Bond	-0.2%	-0.1%	2,187.6
Barclays HY Bond	0.0%	1.1%	2,712.4

Commodities	% chg.	% YTD	Value
CRB Raw Industrials	-0.1%	1.0%	546.5
NYMEX WTI Crude (p/bbl.)	0.6%	4.7%	75.1
ICE Brent Crude (p/bbl.)	0.6%	5.6%	78.8
NYMEX Nat Gas (mmBtu)	-2.8%	5.6%	3.8
Spot Gold (troy oz.)	0.8%	5.9%	2,778.0
Spot Silver (troy oz.)	1.4%	6.9%	30.9
LME Copper (per ton)	0.1%	5.4%	9,117.8
LME Aluminum (per ton)	0.1%	3.5%	2,615.2
CBOT Corn (cents p/bushel)	-1.1%	5.6%	484.3
CBOT Wheat (cents p/bushel)	-1.2%	-0.7%	547.5

Foreign Exchange (Intra-day)	% chg.	% YTD	Value
Euro (€/ \$)	0.6%	1.2%	1.05
British Pound (£/\$)	0.5%	-0.8%	1.24

	% chg.	% YTD	Value
Japanese Yen (\$/¥)	-0.2%	0.6%	156.32
Australian Dollar (A\$/ \$)	0.4%	2.0%	0.63

	% chg.	% YTD	Value
Canadian Dollar (\$/C\$)	0.2%	0.2%	1.43
Swiss Franc (\$/CHF)	0.1%	0.1%	0.91

Data/Price Source: Bloomberg. Equity Index data is total return, inclusive of dividends, where applicable.

**Ameriprise Global Asset Allocation Committee (GAAC)**

**U.S. Equity Sector - Tactical Views**

	S&P 500 Index Weight	GAAC Tactical View	GAAC Tactical Overlay	GAAC Recommended Weight		S&P 500 Index Weight	GAAC Tactical View	GAAC Tactical Overlay	GAAC Recommended Weight
Financials	13.5%	Overweight	2.0%	15.5%	Energy	3.0%	Equalweight	-	3.0%
Consumer Staples	5.5%	Equalweight	-	5.5%	Utilities	2.3%	Equalweight	-	2.3%
Information Technology	32.8%	Equalweight	-	32.8%	Materials	1.9%	Equalweight	-	1.9%
Industrials	8.1%	Equalweight	-	8.1%	Real Estate	2.0%	Equalweight	-	2.0%
Communication Services	9.4%	Equalweight	-	9.4%	Consumer Discretionary	11.5%	Equalweight	-	11.5%
					Health Care	10.0%	Underweight	-2.0%	8.0%

As of: January 2, 2025

Index weightings represent the respective market capitalization of each sector in the S&P 500 as of 12/19/2024. The GAAC Tactical Overlay, as well as Recommended Tactical Weights, is derived from the Ameriprise Global Asset Allocation Committee (GAAC). Views are expressed relative to the Index and are provided to represent investment conviction in each region. Tactical Allocations are designed to augment Index returns over a 6-12 month time horizon. Numbers may not add due to rounding.

**Global Equity Regions - Tactical Views**

	MSCI All-Country World Index Weight	GAAC Tactical View	GAAC Tactical Overlay	GAAC Recommended Weight		MSCI All-Country World Index Weight	GAAC Tactical View	GAAC Tactical Overlay	GAAC Recommended Weight
United States	66.1%	Overweight	3.2%	69.3%	United Kingdom	3.0%	Equalweight	-	3.0%
Europe ex U.K.	11.3%	Equalweight	-	11.3%	Asia-Pacific ex Japan	10.2%	Underweight	-1.0%	9.2%
Latin America	0.8%	Equalweight	-	0.8%	Canada	2.7%	Underweight	-1.0%	1.7%
Japan	4.7%	Equalweight	-	4.7%	Middle East / Africa	1.2%	Underweight	-1.2%	0.0%

as of: January 2, 2025

Index weightings are based on the regional market capitalizations of the MSCI All-Country World Index as of 12/26/2024. The GAAC Tactical Overlay, as well as the Recommended Tactical Weights, are derived from the Ameriprise Global Asset Allocation Committee (GAAC). Views are expressed relative to the Index and are provided to represent investment conviction in each region. Tactical Allocations are designed to augment Index returns over a 6-12 month time horizon. Numbers may not add due to rounding.

## Economic News and Views:

Russell T. Price, CFA – Chief Economist

Releases for Friday, January 24, 2025

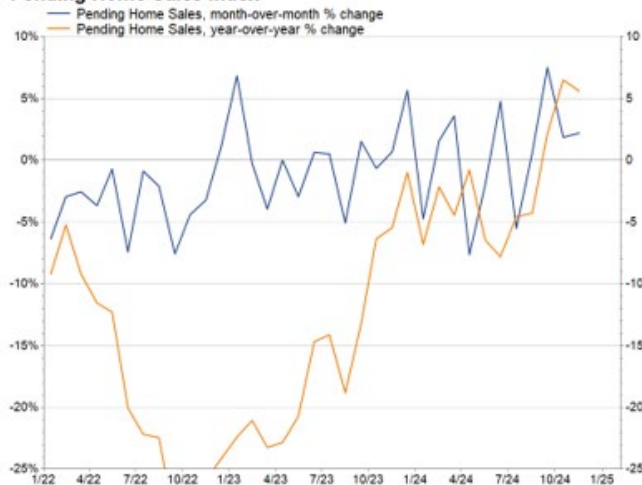
All times Eastern. Consensus estimates via Bloomberg

Time	Period	Release	Consensus Est.	Actual	Prior	Revised to
10:00 AM	DEC	Existing Home Sales (annualized)	4.10m		3.96m	
10:00 AM	DEC	Existing Home Sales (MoM)	+3.5%		+3.4%	
10:00 AM	Jan. F	U. of M. Consumer Sentiment	73.2		73.2	
10:00 AM	Jan. F	U. of M. Sentiment Current Conditions	78.0		77.9	
10:00 AM	Jan. F	U. of M. Sentiment Expectations	71.0		70.2	

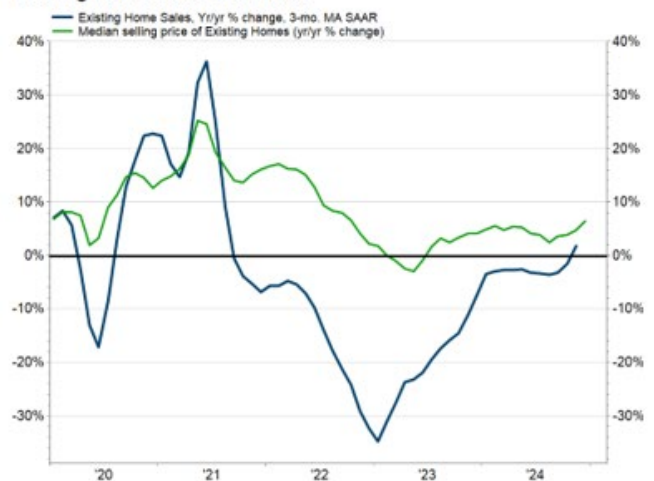
### Commentary:

- A consensus of forecasters as surveyed by Bloomberg look for existing home sales to have been about 1.0% to 1.5% higher on a m/m basis last month. If so, it would leave transactions as being about 8% higher than year-ago levels.
- Despite mortgage rates recently at or near multi-year highs, pending sales have been surprisingly strong. In September, pending home sales rose +7.5% month-over-month (m/m), October they were an additional 1.8% higher, and November pending sales were an additional 2.2% m/m (leaving the Index 5.6% above year-ago levels).
- The Pending Home Sales Index (PHSI): The PHSI is published monthly by realtor.com. It reflects the number of contracts signed for the purchase of an existing home. Existing home sales, which are measured at the time of a sale closing typically occur about a month or two after the contract is signed. Though a very good leading indicator for existing home sales, contracts to purchase a home are often stronger than actual sales given that a portion of contracts signed always fail to make it to completion.
- *All charts associated with this commentary are sourced from FactSet.*

**Pending Home Sales Index**



**Existing Home Sales and Prices**



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Ameriprise Economic Projections											
Forecast:	Full-year				Quarterly						
	Actual	Actual	Est.	Est.	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Est.	Est.	Est.
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>Q4-2023</u>	<u>Q1-2024</u>	<u>Q2-2024</u>	<u>Q3-2024</u>	<u>Q4-2024</u>	<u>Q1-2025</u>	<u>Q2-2025</u>
<b>Real GDP (annualized)</b>	2.5%	2.9%	2.8%	2.0%	3.2%	1.6%	3.0%	2.8%	2.7%	1.8%	2.3%
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	3.6%	3.7%	4.1%	4.2%	3.7%	3.8%	4.1%	4.1%	4.1%	4.2%	4.2%
<b>CPI (YoY)</b>	8.0%	3.4%	2.5%	2.0%	3.4%	3.5%	3.0%	2.4%	2.9%	2.4%	2.2%
<b>Core PCE (YoY)</b>	5.2%	2.9%	2.7%	2.0%	2.9%	2.8%	2.6%	2.7%	2.7%	2.3%	2.2%

Sources: Historical data via FactSet. Estimates (Est.) via American Enterprise Investment Services Inc.

YoY = Year-over-year, Unemployment numbers are period ending. GDP: Gross Domestic Product; CPI: Consumer Price Index

PCE: Personal Consumption Expenditures Price Index. Core excludes food and energy.

All estimates other than GDP are period ending.

Last Updated: January 15, 2025

## Ameriprise Global Asset Allocation Committee Targets and Views

### Targets

<u>2025 Year-end Targets:</u>	<u>Favorable Scenario</u>	<u>Base-Case Scenario</u>	<u>Adverse Scenario</u>
<b>S&amp;P 500 Index:</b>	7,000	6,500	5,500
<b>10-Year U.S. Treasury Yield:</b>	5.00%	4.25%	3.00%
<b>Fed Funds Target Range:</b>	4.25% to 4.50%	3.75% to 4.00%	3.25% to 3.50%

Estimates (Est.) via American Enterprise Investment Services Inc.

Please see latest *Quarterly Capital Market Digest* for more information.

Last Updated: January 2, 2025

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## Global Asset Allocation Committee Views

### AMERIPRISE GLOBAL ASSET ALLOCATION COMMITTEE TACTICAL ASSET CLASS VIEWS

2025 Year-end S&P 500 Target: 6,500  
2025 Year-End 10-year Treasury Target: 4.25%

as of 12/30/2024

	Overweight	Equalweight	Underweight
<b>Equity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. Large Cap Growth</li> <li>U.S. Large Cap Value</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. Mid Cap Value</li> <li>U.S. Mid Cap Growth</li> <li>U.S. Small Cap Value</li> <li>U.S. Small Cap Growth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed Foreign Equity</li> <li>Emerging Foreign Equity</li> </ul>
<b>S&amp;P 500 Sectors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication Services</li> <li>Consumer Discretionary</li> <li>Consumer Staples</li> <li>Energy</li> <li>Industrials</li> <li>Information Technology</li> <li>Materials</li> <li>Real Estate</li> <li>Utilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health Care</li> </ul>
<b>Global Equity Regions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>United States</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Europe ex U.K.</li> <li>Japan</li> <li>Latin America</li> <li>United Kingdom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Middle East/Africa</li> <li>Asia-Pacific ex Japan</li> <li>Canada</li> </ul>
<b>Fixed Income</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. High Yield Bonds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. Government</li> <li>U.S. Inv. Grade Corporates</li> <li>Developed Foreign Bonds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emerging Foreign Bonds</li> <li>Municipal Bonds</li> </ul>
<b>Alternatives</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Real Assets</li> <li>Alternative Strategies</li> </ul>	
<b>Cash</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cash</li> <li>Cash Investments</li> </ul>	

Note: Our Tactical Allocations are designed to augment a Strategic portfolio over a 6-12-month time horizon. **Asset Allocation and diversification do not ensure or guarantee better performance and do not eliminate the risk of investment losses. Investors should note that rising interest rates could have a detrimental effect on bond prices. Please consult with your financial advisor.** Cash generally refers to assets, securities and/or products low in risk and highly liquid. For asset allocation purposes, instruments can include Treasury bills, certificates of deposit, money market funds and high quality bonds whose maturities are less than 3 months. Outside of asset allocation purposes, cash investments can also include illiquid cash held in a mutual fund or pledged as collateral for derivatives. You can only access this cash by redeeming the fund using it, subject to fees or time constraints associated with redemptions.

As of December 31, 2024

Major Market Indices	Rolling Returns			
	QTD	1-year	3-years	5-years
Russell 3000 <sup>®</sup> Index (U.S. Equity)	2.63%	23.81%	8.01%	13.86%
MSCI ACWI Ex USA Index – net (Foreign Equity)	-7.60%	5.53%	0.82%	4.10%
Bloomberg U.S. Universal Bond Index (Fixed Income)	-2.73%	2.04%	-1.95%	0.06%
Wilshire Liquid Alternative Index (Alternatives)	-1.87%	4.33%	1.50%	2.48%
FTSE Three-Month Treasury Bill Index (Cash)	1.23%	5.45%	4.05%	2.54%

Past performance is not a guarantee of future performance. Performance calculations use FactSet data and are as of Date.



# The Ameriprise Investment Research Group

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John C. Simmons, CFA  
*Vice President*

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**Chief Market Strategist**  
Anthony M. Saglimbene  
*Vice President*

Thomas Crandall, CFA, CFP®, CMT, CAIA  
*Vice President – Asset allocation*

Jun Zhu, CFA, CAIA  
*Sr Analyst – Quantitative, Asset allocation*

Sumit Chugh, CFA  
*Sr Analyst*

Amit Tiwari, CFA  
*Sr Associate I*

**Chief Economist**  
Russell T. Price, CFA  
*Vice President*

## Equity Research

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Patrick S. Diedrickson, CFA  
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*Sr Director – Financial services and REITs*

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*Sr Director – Industrials and materials*

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*Director – Technology and Communication Services*

Bishnu Dhar  
*Sr Analyst – Quantitative strategies and international*

## Research Support

Jillian Willis  
*Sr Administrative Assistant*

Kimberly K. Shores  
*Investment Research Coordinator*

Jeff Carlson, CLU®, ChFC®, RICP®  
CRPC™  
*Business Risk Manager*

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*Analyst II*

Matt Burandt  
*Analyst II*

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*Sr Associate I*

Harish Chauhan  
*Sr Associate I*

Ankit Srivastav  
*Sr Associate I*

Pulkit Kumar  
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*Associate II*

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*Director – Value equity and equity income*

Andrew S. Murphy, CFA  
*Analyst II – Core equity*

Teneshia Butler  
*Analyst II – Growth equity*

Kuldeep Rawat  
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*Sr Director – Multi-asset solutions*

Josh Whitmore, CFA  
*Director – Fixed income*

Lukas Leijon  
*Sr Associate II – Fixed income*

Diptendu Lahiri  
*Sr Associate I – Fixed income*

## Fixed Income Research and Strategy

Brian M. Erickson, CFA  
*Vice President*

Jon Kyle Cartwright  
*Sr Director – High yield and investment grade credit*

Stephen Tufo  
*Director – High yield and investment grade credit*

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Matt Morgan  
*Director*

Will Ikola  
*Sr Manager*

Keyur Mathur  
*Sr Manager*

Shringarika Saxena  
*Business Analyst*

Abhishek Anand  
*Principal Lead - Quality Engineering*

Karan Prakash  
*Technical Lead - Quality Engineering*

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