

# Before the Bell

An Ameriprise Investment Research Group Publication

March 20, 2025

## Starting the Day

- U.S. futures looking to give back yesterday's gains.
- European markets down about 1% at midday.
- Asian markets ended lower overnight.
- U.S. equity markets rise on Fed decision.
- Fed holds the line with soft, tariff-related adjustments.
- 10-year Treasury yield at 4.21%.
- West Texas Intermediate (WTI) oil is trading at \$67.25.
- Gold is trading at \$3,039.00

## Market Perspectives

Russell T. Price, CFA Chief Economist

**Q1 looks weak, but recession talk appears overdone.** Estimates of Q1 real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) have varied widely over recent weeks. A surge of imports and weak consumer activity to start the new year offered considerable downside to some estimates of activity recently. Tariff-related uncertainty could also lead business investment to moderate over the near term until the Trump administration provides greater clarity and detail relative to its tariff plans – hopefully sooner rather than later.

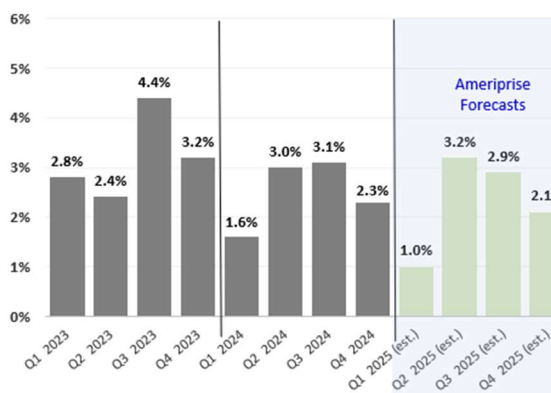
Nevertheless, our model suggests Q1 real GDP should still be solidly positive rather than contract. It's possible, however, that we could see an "event-driven" economic pullback if the Trump administration overplays its hand relative to tariffs. But at this time, we believe most of the adverse influence of tariff uncertainty has likely been factored into forecasts.

Today, we are fine-tuning our growth estimates to reflect these issues, as well as recent economic releases. Most notably, we still see consumers as adding upside to growth. Despite recent declines in Consumer Sentiment and Consumer Confidence, consumer balance sheets remain solidly supportive of spending prospects over the intermediate-term, in our view. As seen in the Federal Reserve's Household Debt Service Ratio (as shown on page two), consumer burdens (required debt payments relative to disposable income) remain near historically low levels. Consumers could still pull back on their outlays if tariff disruptions deteriorate further, but the pull-backs would likely be short-lived.

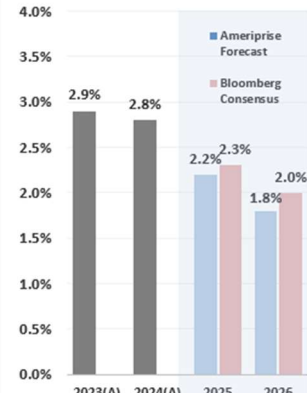
Still, trade is likely to be a significant drag on Q1 GDP results – just not as large of a drag as indicated in some forecasts. **In sum, we are trimming our Q1 real GDP estimate to +1.0% from a prior +1.6%.**

Of course, it wouldn't take much to push real growth into negative territory, but even so, we believe the odds of a temporary lull being labeled a recession are very low.

Ameriprise Quarterly Real GDP Forecast

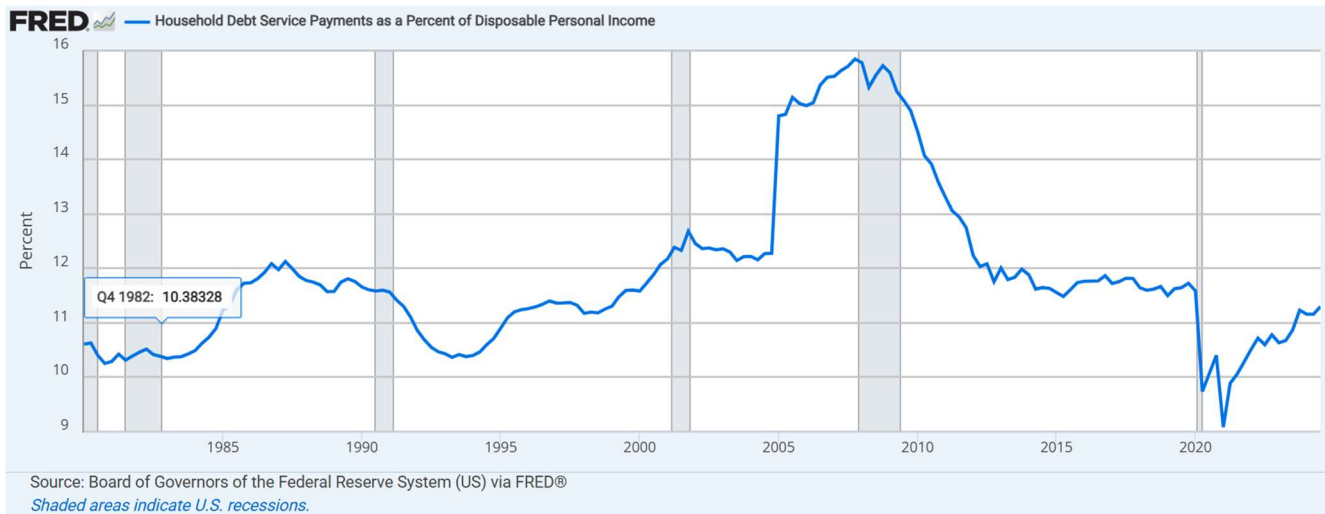


Full Year Estimates



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

## Household Debt Service Ratio:



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

### United States:

Here is a quick news rundown to start your morning:

- **Stocks are looking to give back much of yesterday's gains.** The three major U.S. equity Indexes were higher yesterday after Federal Reserve officials held the line on interest rates but still indicated that they see two interest rate cuts as likely later in the year. Tariff actions remain a significant threat to the overall outlook, but Fed Chair Powell suggested that price hikes related to such could be temporary (or, some would say, transitory).
- In somewhat of a surprise, Fed officials also decided to significantly pare its balance sheet runoff. Starting next month, officials will allow just \$5 billion of Treasury securities to mature without replacement on their balance sheet compared to the prior run-off rate of \$25 billion per month. The announcement pressured Treasury rates modestly, particularly those at the shorter-end of the maturity spectrum as the Fed holds mostly short-maturity securities.
- **The S&P 500 was 1.1%** higher yesterday with most of the gains coming after the Federal Reserve decision and the Fed Chair's press conference. This morning, the S&P 500 is indicated as likely to open about ½ percent lower.
- On the political front, President Trump said he would sign an order today to close the Education Department. Most observers, however, say that closing the Department would require Congressional approval.

### Europe:

Markets are solidly lower across Europe at the time of this writing. Major bourses in the Eurozone were 1.0% to 1.5% lower at the time of this writing. European Central Bank (ECB) Chair Christine Lagarde said that tariffs could have a substantial negative impact on near-term European economic growth.

### Asia-Pacific:

Stocks were mostly lower overnight across Asia. Markets related directly to China were particularly weak as the country's main CSI 300 dropped 0.9% but Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index shed a notable 2.2% on the session. Year-to-date, the CSI is 1% higher while the Hang Seng is still a strong 20.7% higher. Japan's main Nikkei 225, meanwhile, was down a much more muted 0.3% on the day and closed down 5.4% on a year-to date basis.

**WORLD CAPITAL MARKETS**

3/20/2025

As of: 8:30 AM ET

Americas	% chg.	% YTD	Value
<b>S&amp;P 500</b>	1.1%	-3.2%	5,675.3
<b>Dow Jones</b>	0.9%	-1.0%	41,964.6
<b>NASDAQ Composite</b>	1.4%	-7.9%	17,750.8
<b>Russell 2000</b>	1.6%	-6.4%	2,082.1
<b>Brazil Bovespa</b>	0.8%	10.2%	132,508
<b>S&amp;P/TSX Comp. (Canada)</b>	1.5%	2.0%	25,069.2
<b>Russell 3000</b>	1.2%	-3.4%	3,231.8

Europe (intra-day)	% chg.	%YTD	Value
<b>DJSTOXX 50 (Europe)</b>	-1.0%	11.7%	5,453.0
<b>FTSE 100 (U.K.)</b>	-0.1%	7.4%	8,698.4
<b>DAX Index (Germany)</b>	-1.4%	15.4%	22,971.8
<b>CAC 40 (France)</b>	-1.0%	9.8%	8,093.6
<b>FTSE MIB (Italy)</b>	-1.5%	14.4%	39,104.3
<b>IBEX 35 (Spain)</b>	-0.9%	15.2%	13,289.6
<b>MOEX Index (Russia)</b>	#VALUE!	#VALUE!	#N/A N/A

Asia/Pacific (Last Night)	% chg.	%YTD	Value
<b>Nikkei 225 (Japan)</b>	-0.2%	-5.3%	37,751.9
<b>Hang Seng (Hong Kong)</b>	-2.2%	21.6%	24,220.0
<b>Korea Kospi 100</b>	0.3%	10.5%	2,637.1
<b>Singapore STI</b>	0.6%	4.2%	3,930.5
<b>Shanghai Comp. (China)</b>	-0.5%	1.7%	3,408.9
<b>Bombay Sensex (India)</b>	1.2%	-2.1%	76,348.1
<b>S&amp;P/ASX 200 (Australia)</b>	1.2%	-1.5%	7,918.9

Global	% chg.	% YTD	Value
<b>MSCI All-Country World Idx</b>	0.7%	0.8%	845.4

Developed International	% chg.	%YTD	Value
<b>MSCI EAFE</b>	-0.2%	11.3%	2,507.2

Emerging International	% chg.	%YTD	Value
<b>MSCI Emerging Mkts</b>	-0.2%	6.8%	1,143.3

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
<b>Communication Services</b>	1.3%	-4.0%	327.4
<b>Consumer Discretionary</b>	1.9%	-14.1%	1,570.6
<b>Consumer Staples</b>	0.1%	2.3%	869.4
<b>Energy</b>	1.6%	8.4%	704.2
<b>Financials</b>	1.0%	2.6%	822.2
<b>Health Care</b>	0.0%	6.8%	1,707.2
<b>Industrials</b>	1.3%	1.4%	1,128.0
<b>Materials</b>	0.3%	3.7%	546.9
<b>Real Estate</b>	0.1%	3.2%	262.4
<b>Technology</b>	1.4%	-9.4%	4,171.1
<b>Utilities</b>	0.3%	4.3%	398.4

Equity Income Indices	% chg.	% YTD	Value
<b>JPM Alerian MLP Index</b>	0.6%	11.7%	328.9
<b>FTSE NAREIT Comp. TR</b>	0.0%	2.5%	25,730.6
<b>DJ US Select Dividend</b>	0.6%	2.8%	3,601.0
<b>DJ Global Select Dividend</b>	-1.2%	9.9%	243.6
<b>S&amp;P Div. Aristocrats</b>	0.2%	2.5%	4,687.1

Bond Indices	% chg.	% YTD	Value
<b>Barclays US Agg. Bond</b>	0.3%	2.6%	2,246.0
<b>Barclays HY Bond</b>	0.3%	1.5%	2,722.7

Commodities	% chg.	% YTD	Value
<b>Futures &amp; Spot (intra-day)</b>			
<b>CRB Raw Industrials</b>	0.1%	5.6%	571.5
<b>NYMEX WTI Crude (p/bbl.)</b>	0.1%	-6.3%	67.2
<b>ICE Brent Crude (p/bbl.)</b>	0.1%	-5.1%	70.9
<b>NYMEX Nat Gas (mmBtu)</b>	-1.4%	15.2%	4.2
<b>Spot Gold (troy oz.)</b>	-0.5%	15.5%	3,031.6
<b>Spot Silver (troy oz.)</b>	-1.5%	15.2%	33.3
<b>LME Copper (per ton)</b>	1.0%	15.0%	9,951.8
<b>LME Aluminum (per ton)</b>	0.7%	6.2%	2,684.6
<b>CBOT Corn (cents p/bushel)</b>	0.1%	-0.7%	462.5
<b>CBOT Wheat (cents p/bushel)</b>	-0.9%	-0.7%	558.5

Foreign Exchange (intra-day)	% chg.	% YTD	Value
<b>Euro (€/€)</b>	-0.5%	4.7%	1.08
<b>British Pound (£/£)</b>	-0.3%	3.5%	1.30

	% chg.	% YTD	Value
<b>Japanese Yen (\$/¥)</b>	0.2%	5.9%	148.45
<b>Australian Dollar (A\$/S)</b>	-1.1%	1.6%	0.63

	% chg.	% YTD	Value
<b>Canadian Dollar (\$/C\$)</b>	-0.4%	0.0%	1.44
<b>Swiss Franc (S\$/CHF)</b>	-0.4%	2.9%	0.88

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
<b>Financials</b>	13.5%	Overweight	2.0%	15.5%	<b>Energy</b>	3.0%	Equalweight	-	3.0%
<b>Consumer Staples</b>	5.5%	Equalweight	-	5.5%	<b>Utilities</b>	2.3%	Equalweight	-	2.3%
<b>Information Technology</b>	32.8%	Equalweight	-	32.8%	<b>Materials</b>	1.9%	Equalweight	-	1.9%
<b>Industrials</b>	8.1%	Equalweight	-	8.1%	<b>Real Estate</b>	2.0%	Equalweight	-	2.0%
<b>Communication Services</b>	9.4%	Equalweight	-	9.4%	<b>Consumer Discretionary</b>	11.5%	Equalweight	-	11.5%
					<b>Health Care</b>	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
<b>United States</b>	66.1%	Overweight	3.2%	69.3%	<b>United Kingdom</b>	3.0%	Equalweight	-	3.0%
<b>Europe ex U.K.</b>	11.3%	Equalweight	-	11.3%	<b>Asia-Pacific ex Japan</b>	10.2%	Underweight	-1.0%	9.2%
<b>Latin America</b>	0.8%	Equalweight	-	0.8%	<b>Canada</b>	2.7%	Underweight	-1.0%	1.7%
<b>Japan</b>	4.7%	Equalweight	-	4.7%	<b>Middle East / Africa</b>	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.

## Fixed Income Market Perspectives

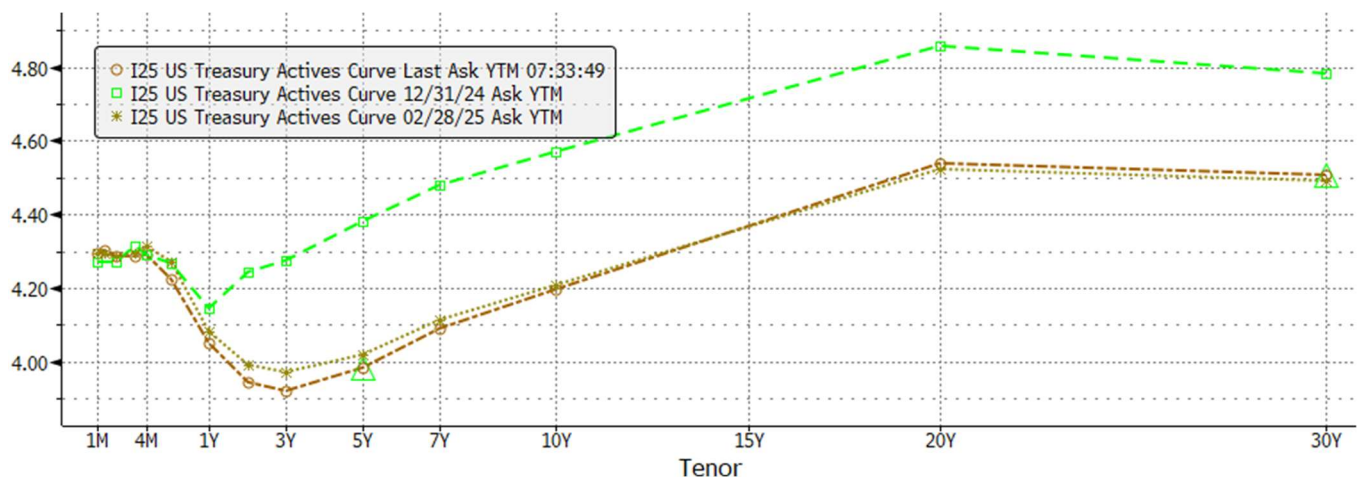
Brian M. Erickson, CFA, VP Fixed Income Research & Strategy

### Fed forecasts slower growth and more inflation this year

The Fed kept its rate policy steady at 4.25%-4.50%, which is where it has been since its December policy meeting last year. Fed futures have oscillated between one quarter-point cut and more than three quarter-point cuts.

The Treasury curve returned to levels last seen at the end of February when the potential impact of tariffs on growth suggested the Fed may need to focus more on the growth toward its full employment mandate. As a result, short-term yields have fallen, but long-term yields declined even more, flattening the shape of the curve. Between the end of 2024 and this morning, 2-year Treasury yields dropped 31 basis points compared to a 37 basis point decline on 10-year Treasury yields. We view the flatter curve as reflective of slower growth prospects and when markets had priced in expansive optimism post-election.

### U.S. Treasury Curve Comparison



Source: Bloomberg L.P.

The latest Summary of Economic Projections (SEP) showed committee members anticipating slower growth and prospects for more inflation. Comments by Fed Chair Jerome Powell painted the inflationary effects of tariffs as potentially transitory, noting that it's unknown how tariff and trade policy might settle out. He also said that all committee members are now taking the Trump administration's recent policy moves into account in their forecasts.

**Balance sheet roll-off slows, anticipating the potential for more challenging U.S. Treasury supply and demand ahead:** The Fed announced a reduction in the pace that Treasuries would roll off its balance sheet from \$25 billion per month to \$5 billion per month to take into effect supply and demand dynamics around the debt limit and the need for the U.S. Treasury to restrict new issuance to hold within the current limit. We see this as a prudent move that significantly reduces the variables in play in Treasury markets with budget considerations and supply impacts that could move U.S. Treasury markets until the debt limit is raised. A new continuing resolution is signed into law. The Fed's role in managing liquidity and ensuring that markets are functioning properly becomes more precarious as the supply of U.S. Federal Debt rises and bank capital rules constrain the level of capital banks must manage trading desk capital levels. We noted in our 2025 Fixed Income Outlook (dated December 18, 2024) how supply and demand dynamics could be choppy this year until the smoke clears on trade and spending policy:

"Treasury yields may rise in 2025 as markets contemplate the new administration's plans for spending, tax cuts, and regulatory reforms. Upside pressure may be offset by geopolitical events, demand from global relative value buyers attracted to higher U.S. fixed-income yields, and trade conflicts that lead investors to buy U.S. Treasuries. Time will tell how these factors might intermingle, but we recommend that investors broaden diversity within high-quality bond allocations to chart a steadier course."

In 2023, the pace of Treasury issuance plans ramped up once the debt ceiling was reset and the U.S. Treasury looked to rebuild operating cash levels taken down by the extraordinary measures needed to buy Congress more time to agree on a path forward. This year, we may see a similar pattern and recommend avoiding excessive U.S. Treasury concentrations when diversification is allowed in an investment policy statement. Diversification includes all the likely candidates of agency debentures, mortgage-backed securities, high-quality corporates, and municipal bonds where appropriate.

## Economic News and Views:

Russell T. Price, CFA – Chief Economist

### Releases for Thursday, March 20, 2025

All times Eastern. Consensus estimates via Bloomberg

Time	Period	Release	Consensus Est.	Actual	Prior	Revised to
8:30 AM	Mar. 15	Initial Jobless Claims	225k	<b>223k</b>	220k	
8:30 AM	Mar. 8	Continuing Claims	1888k	<b>1892k</b>	1870k	
8:30 AM	MAR	Philly Fed Manufacturing Index	9.0	<b>12.5</b>	18.1	
10:00 AM	FEB	Leading Econ. Index	-0.2%		-0.3%	
10:00 AM	FEB	Existing Home Sales (annualized)	3.94m		4.08m	
10:00 AM	FEB	Existing Home Sales (MoM)	-3.4%		-4.9%	

### Ameriprise Economic Projections

Forecast:	Full-year				Quarterly				Est.	Est.	Est.
	Actual	Actual	Est.	Est.	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual			
	2023	2024	2025	2026	Q1-2024	Q2-2024	Q3-2024	Q4-2024	Q1-2025	Q2-2025	Q3-2025
<b>Real GDP (annualized)</b>	2.9%	2.8%	2.4%	2.1%	1.6%	3.0%	2.8%	2.3%	1.6%	2.7%	3.1%
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	3.7%	4.1%	4.2%	4.2%	3.8%	4.1%	4.1%	4.1%	4.2%	4.2%	4.2%
<b>CPI (YoY)</b>	3.4%	2.9%	2.5%	2.2%	3.5%	3.0%	2.4%	2.9%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%
<b>Core PCE (YoY)</b>	2.9%	2.8%	2.3%	2.1%	2.8%	2.6%	2.7%	2.8%	2.5%	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: March 3, 2025

## Ameriprise Global Asset Allocation Committee Targets and Views

### Targets

	Favorable Scenario	Base-Case Scenario	Adverse Scenario
<b>2025 Year-end Targets:</b>			
<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

With Ameriprise Financial, you can benefit from our dedicated team of experienced investment research and due diligence professionals. Our objective market insight, strategies and guidance are designed to provide you with insight into investment strategies and solutions to help you feel more confident about your financial future. It's the higher level of sophistication and service you've come to expect from Ameriprise.

## Investment Research Leader

John C. Simmons, CFA  
*Vice President*

## Strategists

### 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. Manager*

Amit Tiwari, CFA  
*Sr. Associate I*

### Chief Economist

Russell T. Price, CFA  
*Vice President*

## Equity Research

Justin H. Burgin  
*Vice President*

Patrick S. Diedrickson, CFA  
*Director – Consumer goods and services*

William Foley, ASIP  
*Director – Energy and utilities*

Lori Wilking-Przekop  
*Sr. Director – Financial services and REITs*

Chris Macino  
*Director – Health care*

Frederick M. Schultz  
*Sr. Director – Industrials and materials*

Andrew R. Heaney, CFA  
*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*

## Manager Research

Michael V. Jastrow, CFA  
*Vice President*

**ETFs, CEFs, UITs**  
Jeffrey R. Lindell, CFA  
*Sr Director*

Alex Narum  
*Analyst II*

Sagar Batra  
*Sr Associate I*

**Alternatives**  
Justin E. Bell, CFA  
*Vice President*

Kay S. Nachampassak  
*Director*

**Quantitative research**  
Kurt J. Merkle, CFA, CFP®, CAIA  
*Vice President*

Peter W. LaFontaine  
*Sr Analyst*

Gaurav Sawhney  
*Analyst II*

Ryan Elvidge, CFA  
*Sr Analyst*

Matthew Burandt  
*Analyst II*

Parveen Vedi  
*Sr. Associate I*

Harish Chauhan  
*Sr. Associate I*

Ankit Srivastav  
*Lead Business Analyst*

Pulkit Kumar  
*Associate I*

Sameer Asif  
*Associate II*

**Equities**  
Benjamin L. Becker, CFA  
*Sr Director – International and global equity*

Cynthia Tupy, CFA  
*Director – Value and equity income equity*

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

Teneshia Butler  
*Analyst II – Growth equity*

Kuldeep Rawat  
*Sr Associate I*

**Multi-Asset and Fixed Income**  
Mark Phelps, CFA  
*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

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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