City National Rochdale
AN RBC/CITY NATIONAL COMPANY

*April 2025*

# Economic Outlook and Investment Strategy




CAS00012929

# Investment Strategy Committee Highlights

## Economic Outlook

- **Growth Outlook Revised Lower:** Our expectation is that U.S. GDP will fall by as much as -1.0% to -1.5% and corporate profit growth will decline by -4.0% to -6.0%, reflecting the broad economic drag from tariffs on China, Canada, Mexico and 10% tariffs on all other trading partners. Service consumption remains strong, which powers over 70% of the U.S. economy, while early indications show goods spending slowed in Q1.
- **Tariffs Inject Structural Uncertainty:** The scope and bluntness of recent trade policy introduce a new source of persistent risk, with unclear resolution timelines and the potential for both market dislocation and geopolitical friction. Tariff policy is upending the economic outlook with respect to inflation and growth.
- **Sentiment Is Weakening:** Consumer and business confidence are showing early signs of strain — spending has slowed despite income growth, and capital investment expectations have softened across industries.
- **Equity Positioning Requires Discipline:** While valuations are more attractive following recent declines, sharp two-way market moves are likely. We remain constructive but deliberate on equity exposure, focused on risk-aware rebalancing.
- **Fixed Income Offers Clarity and Resilience:** With yields still elevated and credit markets orderly, fixed income remains a reliable ballast in portfolios. We continue to emphasize its role in navigating uncertain policy and economic conditions.

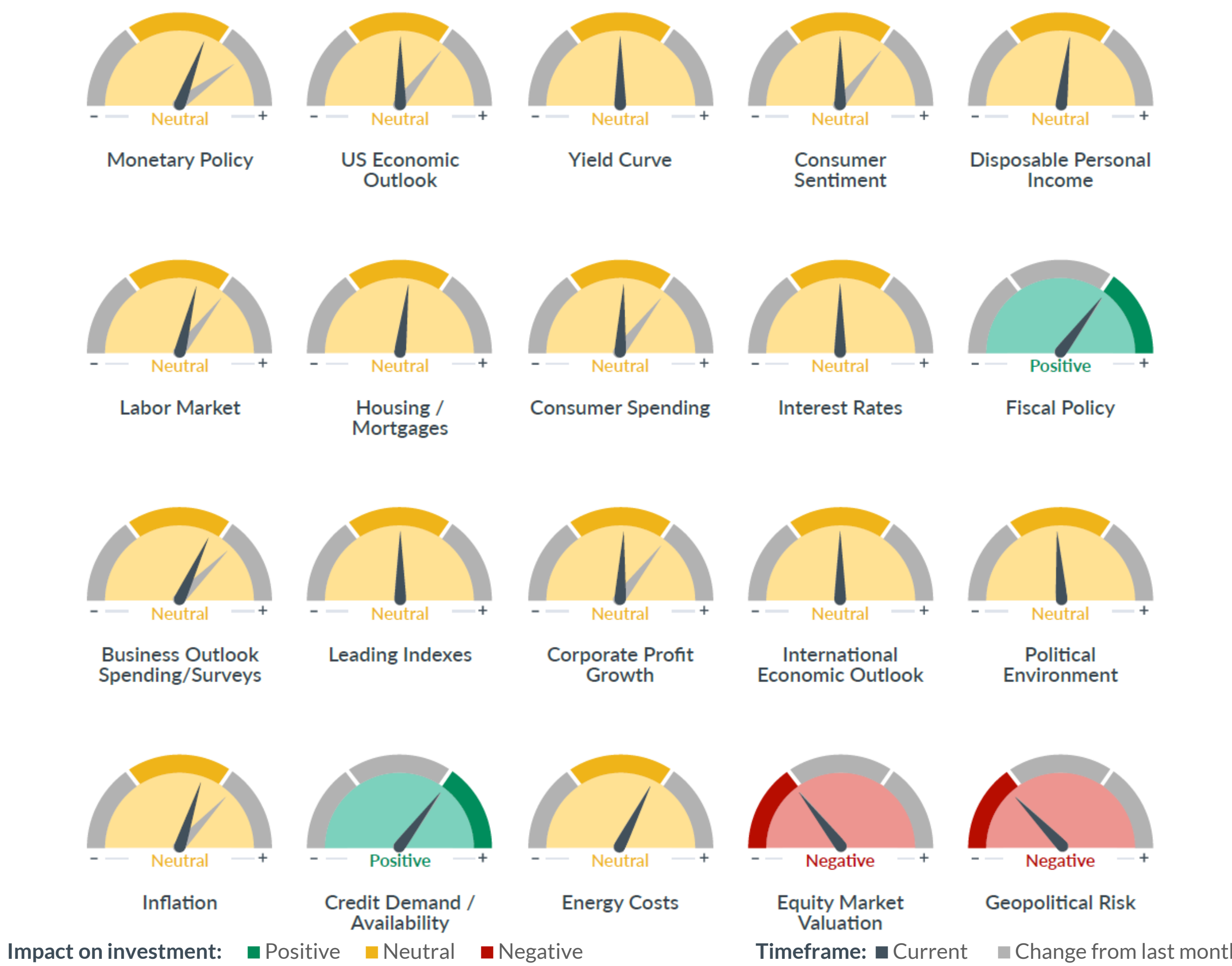
Sources: Bloomberg, CNR Research, as of April 2025.
Information is subject to change and is not a guarantee of future results.

# CNR Speedometers® – April 2025

## Economic and Financial Indicators That Are Forward-Looking Six to Nine Months

- The global outlook for growth has changed significantly due to tariffs.
- The Federal Reserve will remain on hold, unless price impacts are clear or unemployment jumps.
- Consumer financials remain strong, but sentiment has deteriorated, which may impact spending.
- Despite the concern on tariffs, fiscal stimulus through deregulation and tax policy is still on the horizon.
- U.S. equity valuations have fallen but could still move lower in the near-term.
- The 124% tariff rate on China may fuel negative global foreign policy effects.

### Impact on Economy and Financial Markets




Source: Proprietary opinions based on CNR Research, as of April 2025. Information is subject to change and is not a guarantee of future results.





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# Economic Forecasts

- GDP growth is expected to remain positive, but it may be weighed down by policy decisions.
- Corporate profits should be stable in 2025, rising above trend.
- Inflation pressures are likely to stay elevated based on the new administration's policy.
- The Fed may cut rates 1-2 times, which is supportive of continued growth.
- Structural pressure will likely keep 10-year Treasury yields over 4%.

| City National Rochdale Forecasts | | 2024 | Current 2025e | Tariff Drag |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Real Annual GDP Growth** | | 2.5% | 2.0% to 2.5% | -1.0% to -1.5% |
| **Corporate Profit Growth** | | 9.6% | 10.0% to 14.0% | -4.0% to -6.0% |
| **Headline CPI Year End** | | 2.9% | 2.50% to 2.75% | +0.5% to +1.0% |
| **Interest Rates** | Federal Funds Rate | 4.25% to 4.50% | 3.75% to 4.25% | No Change |
| | Treasury Note, 10-Yr. | 4.57% | 4.0% to 4.5% | No Change |

Gross domestic product (GDP) is the total monetary or market value of all the finished goods and services produced within a country's borders in a specific time period.
e: estimate.
The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the monthly change in prices paid by U.S. consumers.
Sources: Bloomberg, FactSet, proprietary opinions based on CNR Research, as of April 2025. Information is subject to change and is not a guarantee of future results.

# 2025 Global Market Themes

## Government Policy

- Tariffs
- Immigration
- Taxes
- Deregulation
- Digital Currencies
- Debt: reduced deficit or fiscal expansion?

## Geopolitical Tension

- US-China relations
- US-Russia relations
- US-Europe trade disputes
- Energy security and supply chains
- Debt crises & capital outflows

## AI Acceleration

- Proof of concept transition to large-scale deployment
- Market size is expected to show an annual growth rate of 28.46% through 2030[1]
- AI adoption could add $7 trillion to global GDP by 2030[2]

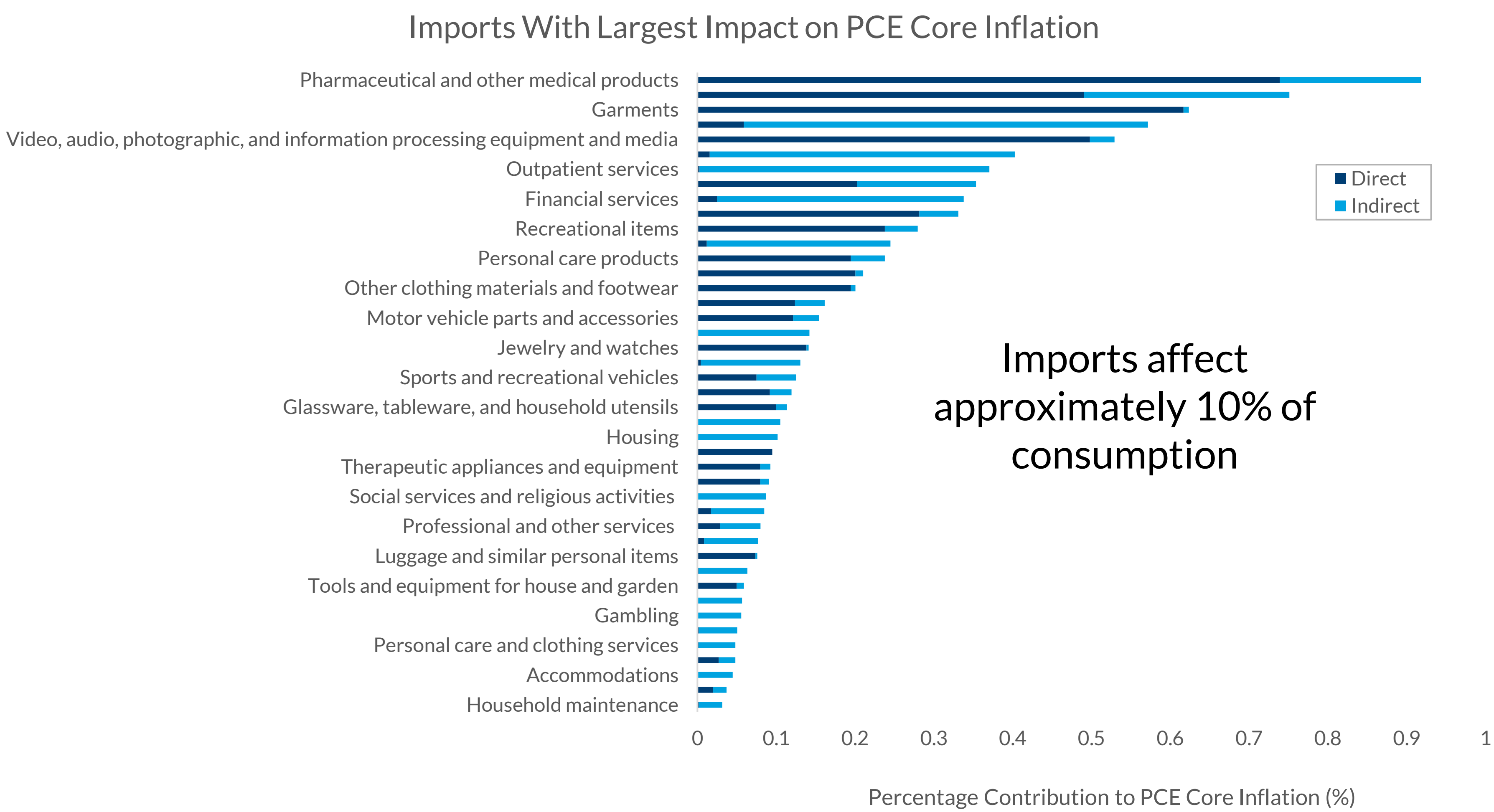
## Equity Market Valuation

- Mega-cap tech stocks account for 20% global market cap[3]
- Elevated valuations with P/E >22x[3]
- Federal Reserve policy impact
- Can earnings continue to advance?

Sources: JPMorgan, FactSet, CNR Research, as of December 2024.
[1] – Statista, as of December 2024.
[2] - McKinsey & Co., as of December 2024.
[3]- FactSet, as of December 2024.
Information is subject to change and is not a guarantee of future results.

# The Impact of Imports on US Inflation

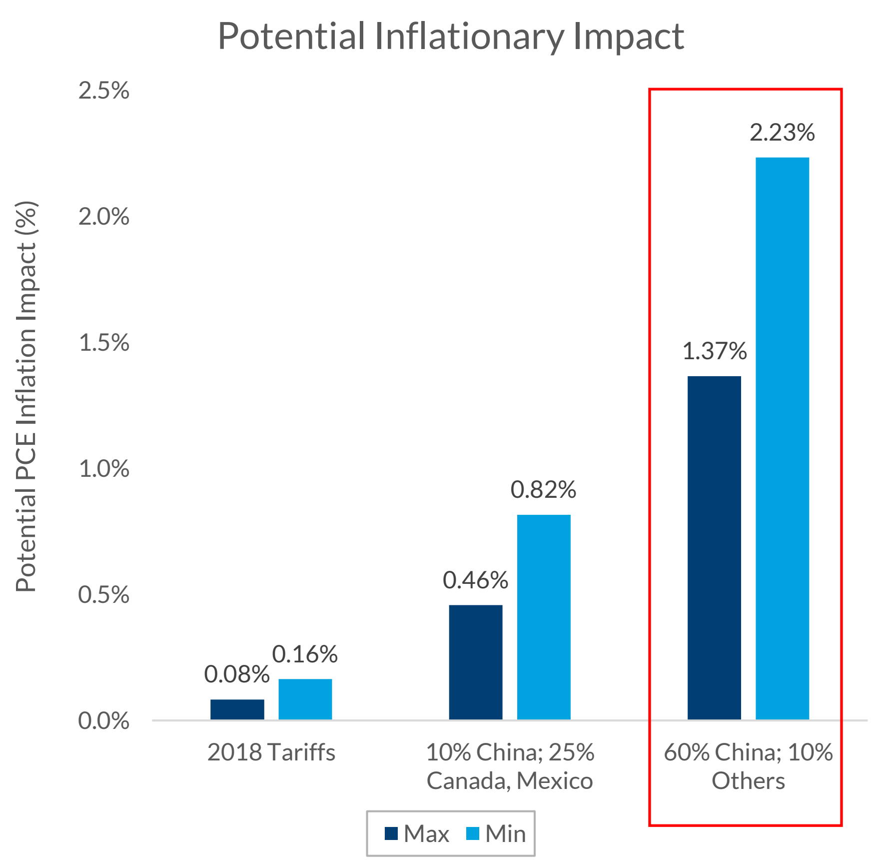
- Imports account for approximately 10% of the influence on personal consumption expenditures (“PCE”).
- Several of the largest categories are not directly impacted by the target countries currently.

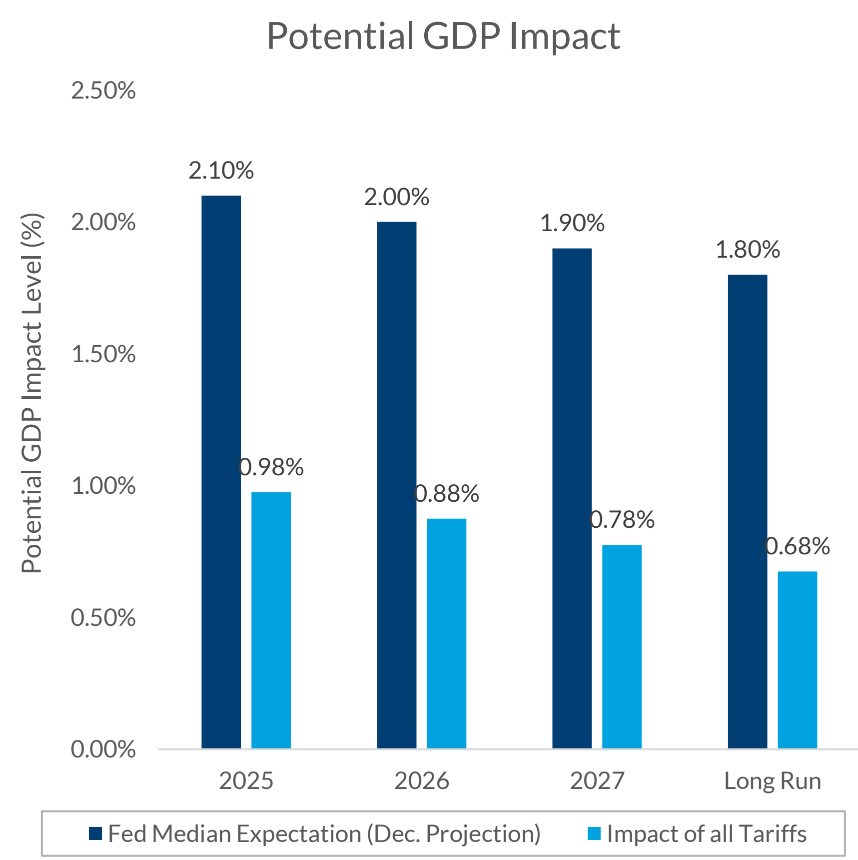



Data current as of February 6, 2025.
Direct imports are pass-through products in the final stage of delivery; indirect imports are intermediary products.
Sources: CNR Research, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.
Information is subject to change and is not a guarantee of future results.

# Potential GDP & Inflationary Impacts

- Imports represent 10% of consumption and 11% of GDP, limiting the overall impact from tariffs.
- The consequence of large effective tariff rates will be slower growth and higher prices.

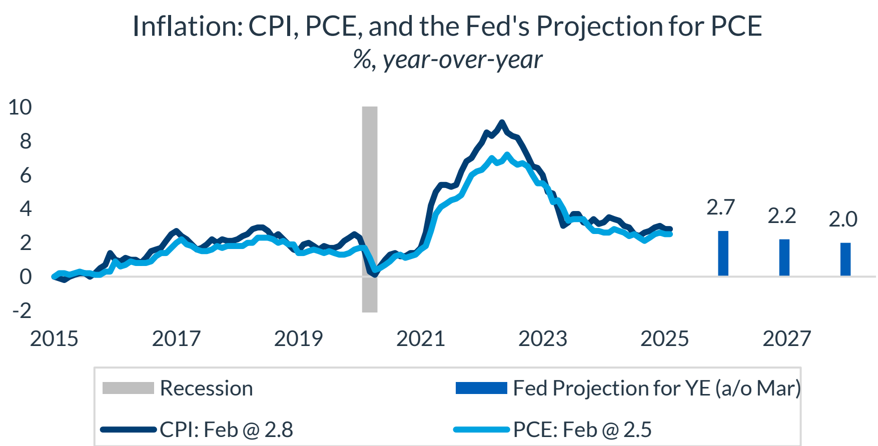


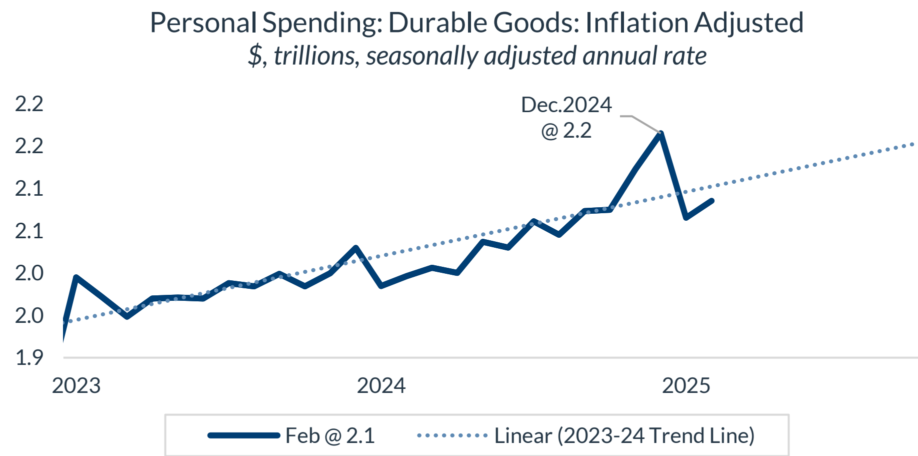



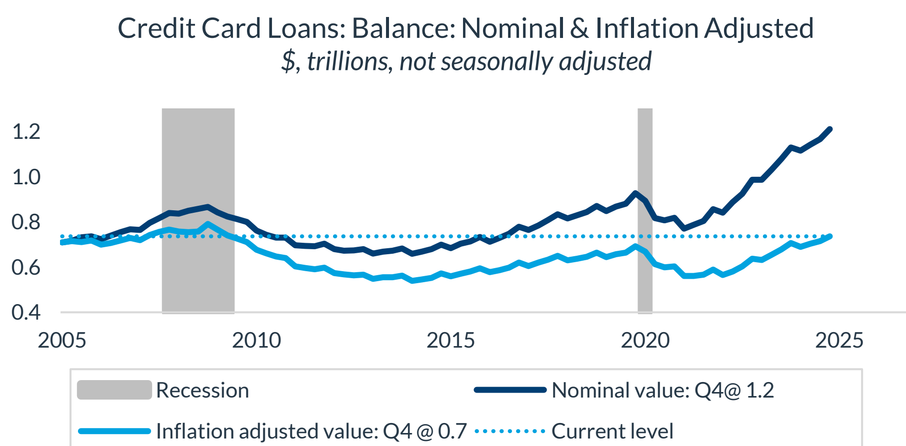

Data current as of January 30, 2025
Sources: CNR Research, Tax Foundation, Federal Reserve, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.
Information is subject to change and is not a guarantee of future results.

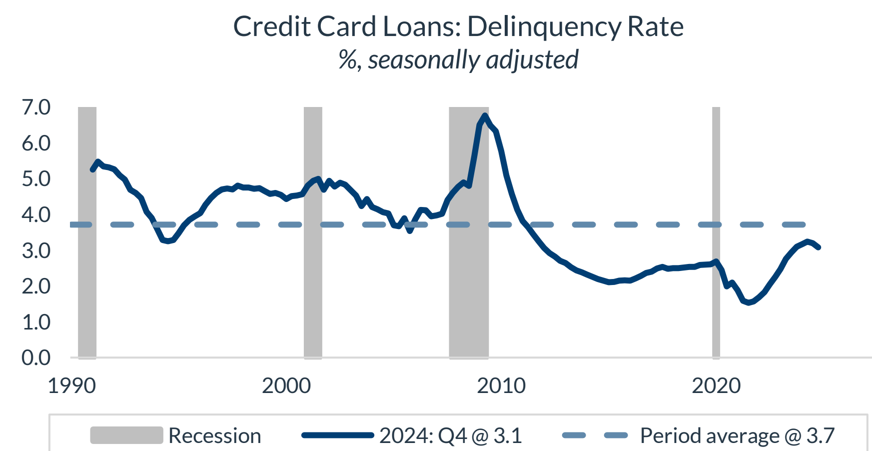
# Consumer Fundamentals Remain Strong

- Although the prices of some items have skyrocketed, the trend is on track with the Fed's plan.
- The news is full of federal government layoffs, but so far, that number is small relative to those who are already looking for work.
- Household balance sheets are strong and income robust, supporting a solid pace of spending.



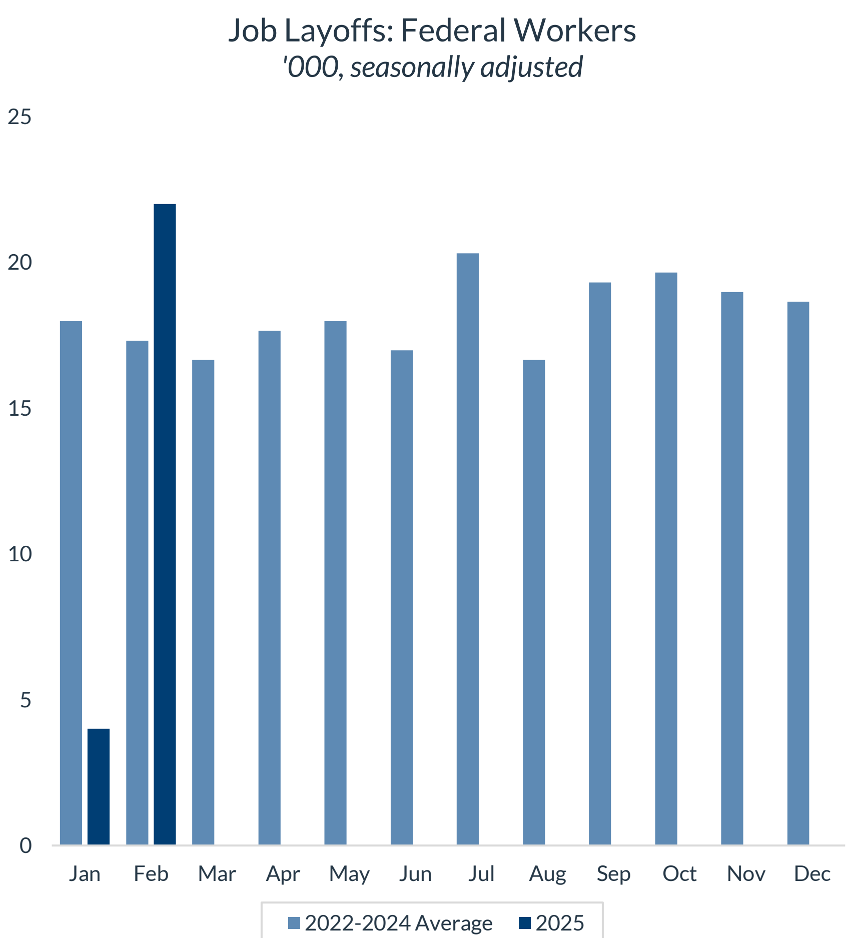



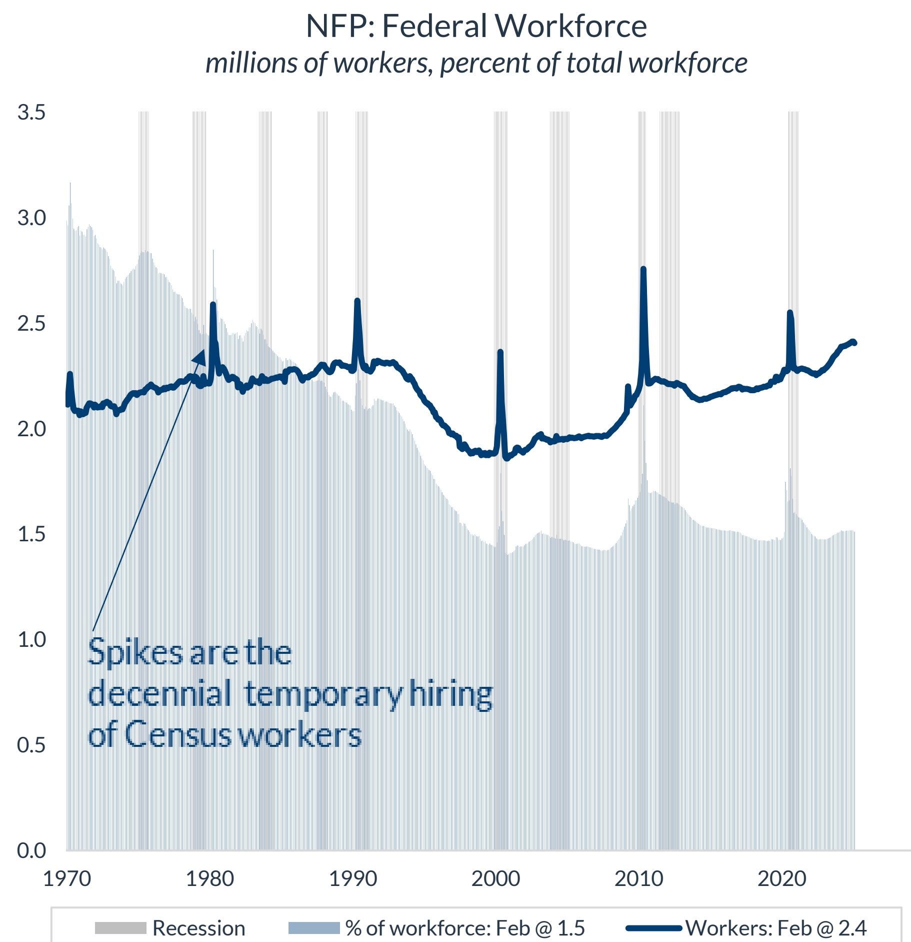




Sources: Chart 1: Federal Reserve Bank, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of February 2025. Chart 2: Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of February 2025. Chart 3: Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Consumer Credit Panel/Equifax, as of Q4 2024. Chart 4: Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Consumer Credit Panel/Equifax, as of Q4 2024. Information is subject to change and is not a guarantee of future results.

# Government Job Cuts Will Sting but by How Much?

- News articles referencing layoffs surged in February as DOGE began its review of government agencies.
- Despite concerns over government jobs, federal employment was only 12% of post-pandemic job growth.

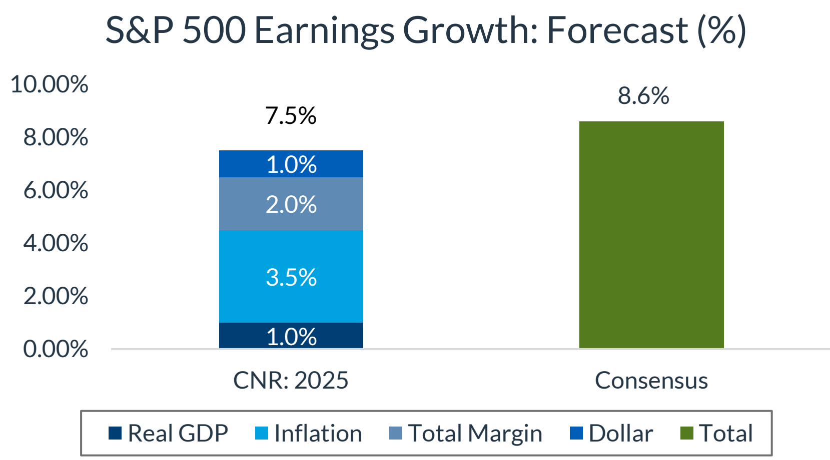


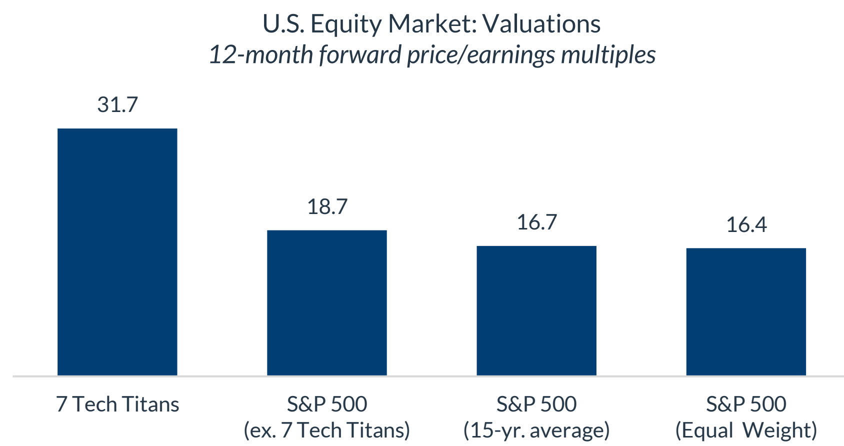



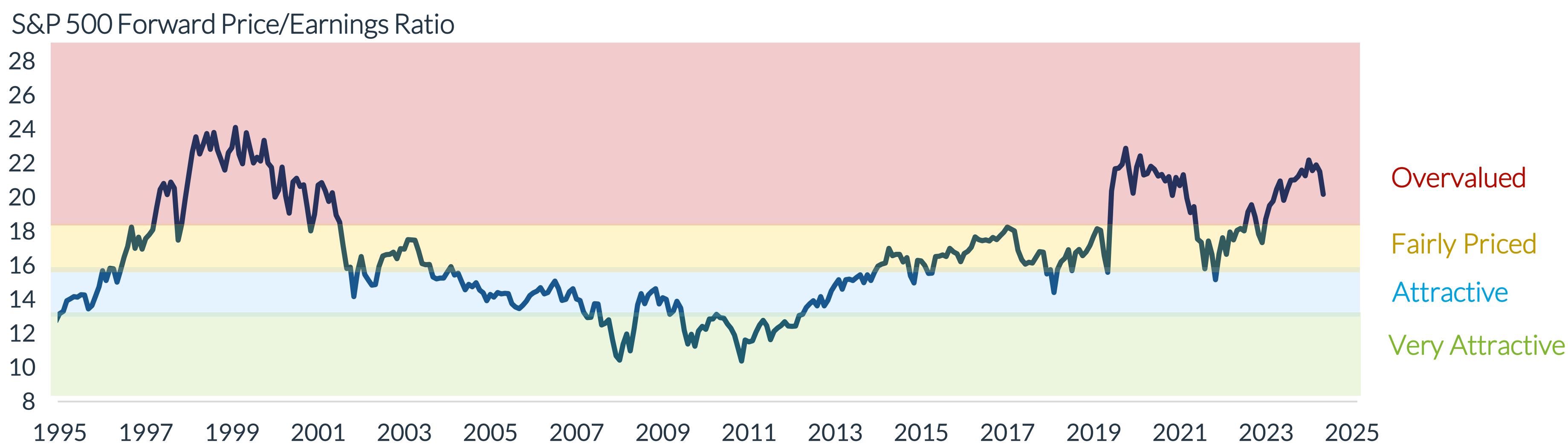

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of February 2025.
DOGE: Department of Government Efficiency. NFP: Nonfarm payroll measures the number of workers in the U.S. economy, excluding farm employees, self-employed individuals, volunteers, private household workers, and sole proprietors.
Information is subject to change and is not a guarantee of future results.

# Equity Risk/Reward Conditions Appear Modestly Positive

- Focusing on fundamentals is key.
- Improving non-tech earnings is expected to support corporate profit growth, but the 2025 expectations bar is high.
- Equity valuations appear more reasonable for the broader market.



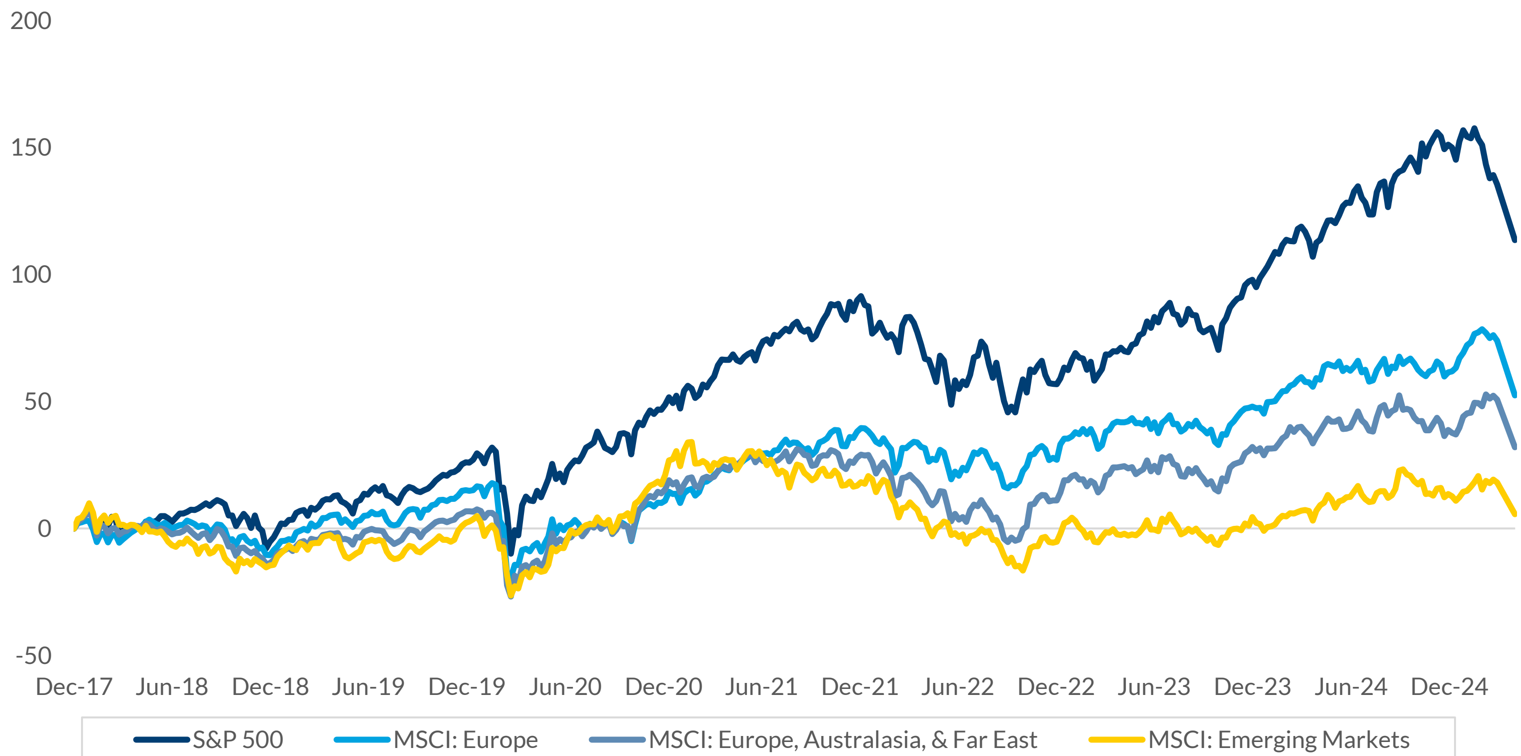

Sources: FactSet, CNR Research, as of March 2025.
Indices are unmanaged, and one cannot invest directly in an index. Information is subject to change and is not a guarantee of future results.

# Global Markets Have Underperformed US

- The US market continues to climb compared to international markets.
- At times, international investments have appeared attractive this year, but the opportunities have been fleeting.

Global Market: Total Returns

*% Indexed at 0.0 on Dec 31, 2017, as of Apr 8, 2025*



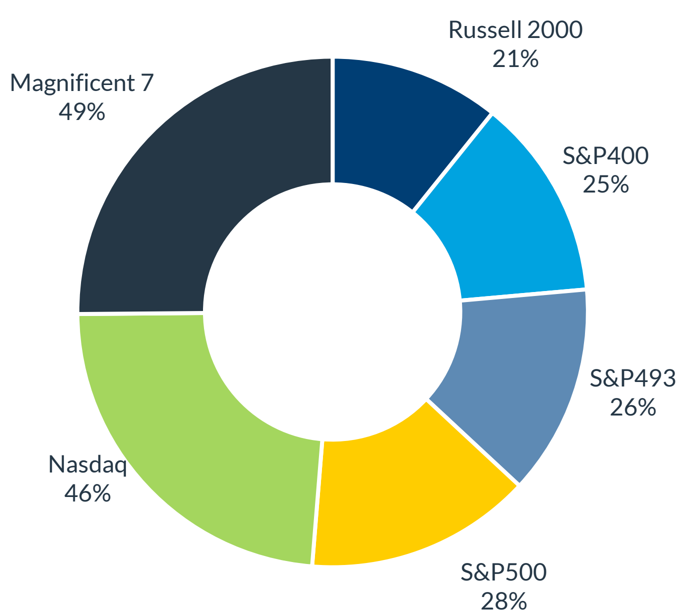

Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices, MSCI, as of March 31, 2025. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

# Small-Cap Exposure Has Become More Attractive

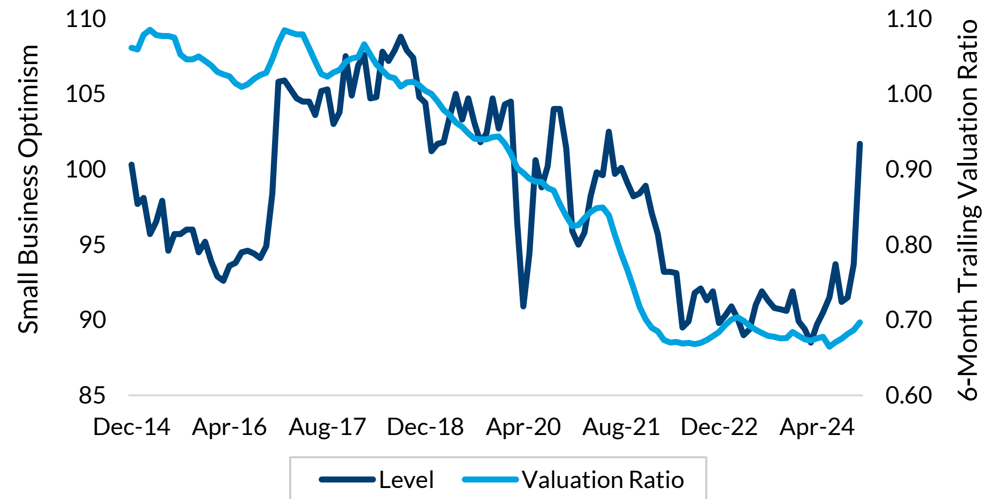
- Small-cap stocks have valuation discounts relative to large-cap stocks and more cyclical exposure.
- Small-cap sector positioning and exposure to domestic revenue generation are also positive.

Index Level of Global Sales as a % of Revenue

*Small & Mid-Cap Has the Highest Domestic Exposure*




Small-Cap vs. S&P 500 Valuation Ratio and Small Business Optimism

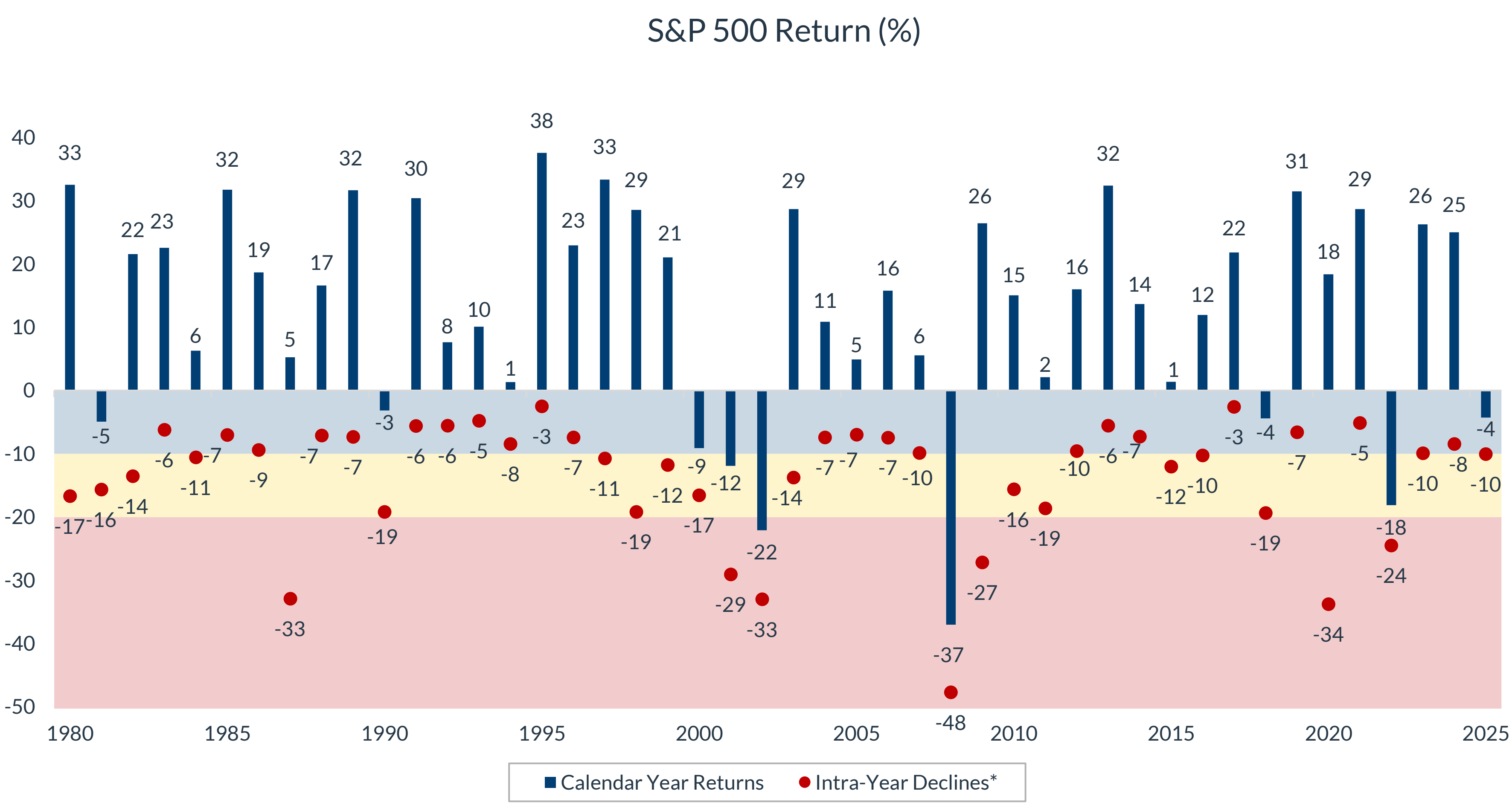



| Top 5 Sector Exposures | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sector | S&P 600 | S&P 500 | Difference |
| Financials | 19.7% | 13.4% | +6.3% |
| Industrials | 17.8% | 8.3% | +9.5% |
| Consumer Discretionary | 14.3% | 11.2% | +3.1% |
| Information Technology | 11.4% | 32.1% | -20.7% |
| Health Care | 11.2% | 10.3% | +0.90% |

Sources: Goldman Sachs Research, Bloomberg, CNR Research, as of December 2024. Russell 2000 used for the Small-Cap Index.
Information is subject to change and is not a guarantee of future results.

# Short-Term Volatility Is Normal

- Corrections are a normal part of market movements.

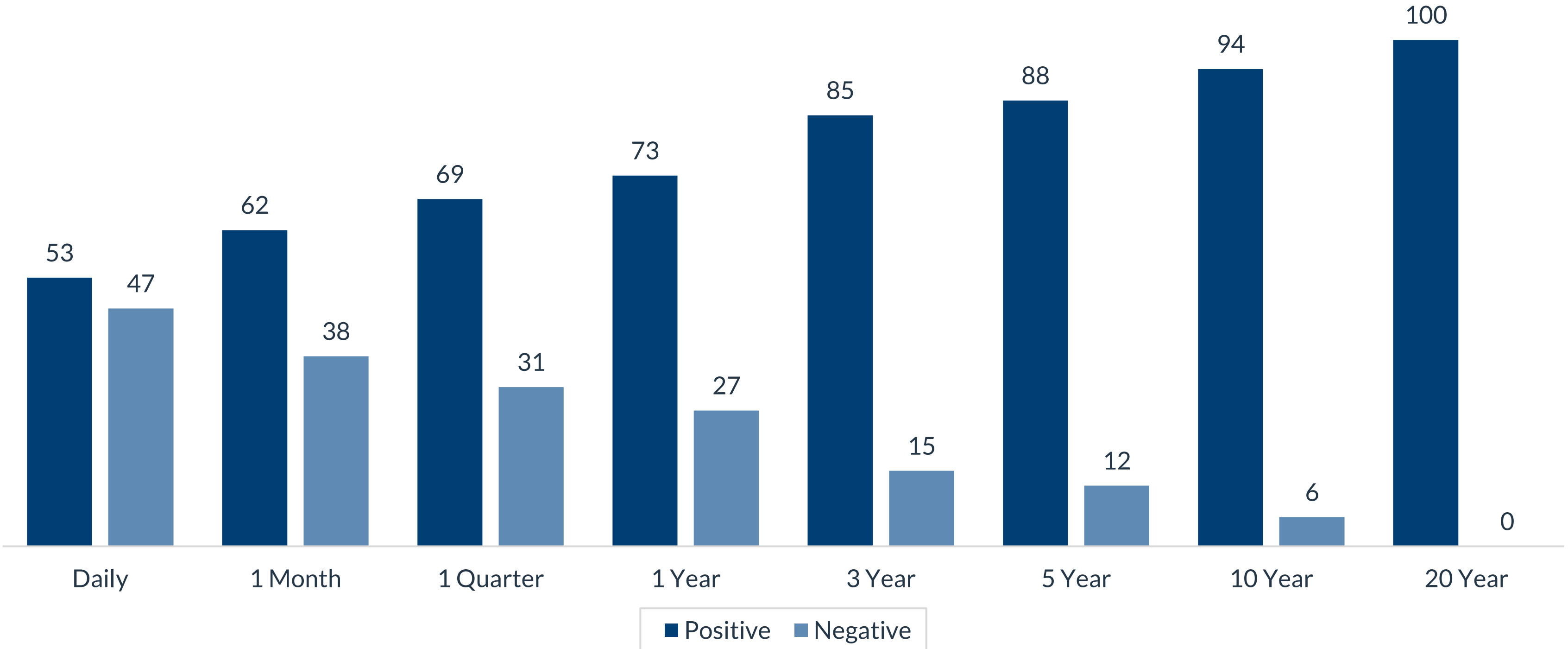



Sources: Bloomberg, CNR Research, as of March 28, 2025.
*Intra-year declines are the largest declines within the calendar year.
Indices are unmanaged, and one cannot invest directly in an index. Index returns do not reflect a deduction for fees or expenses.
Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

# Volatility ≠ Risk of Loss Given Appropriate Time Horizon

- While stocks are volatile in the shorter term, the risk of loss has been low over long time horizons.
- Focusing on goals rather than short term volatility can increase the probability of success.

Probability of Positive and Negative Stock Performance
*%, across various time horizons*



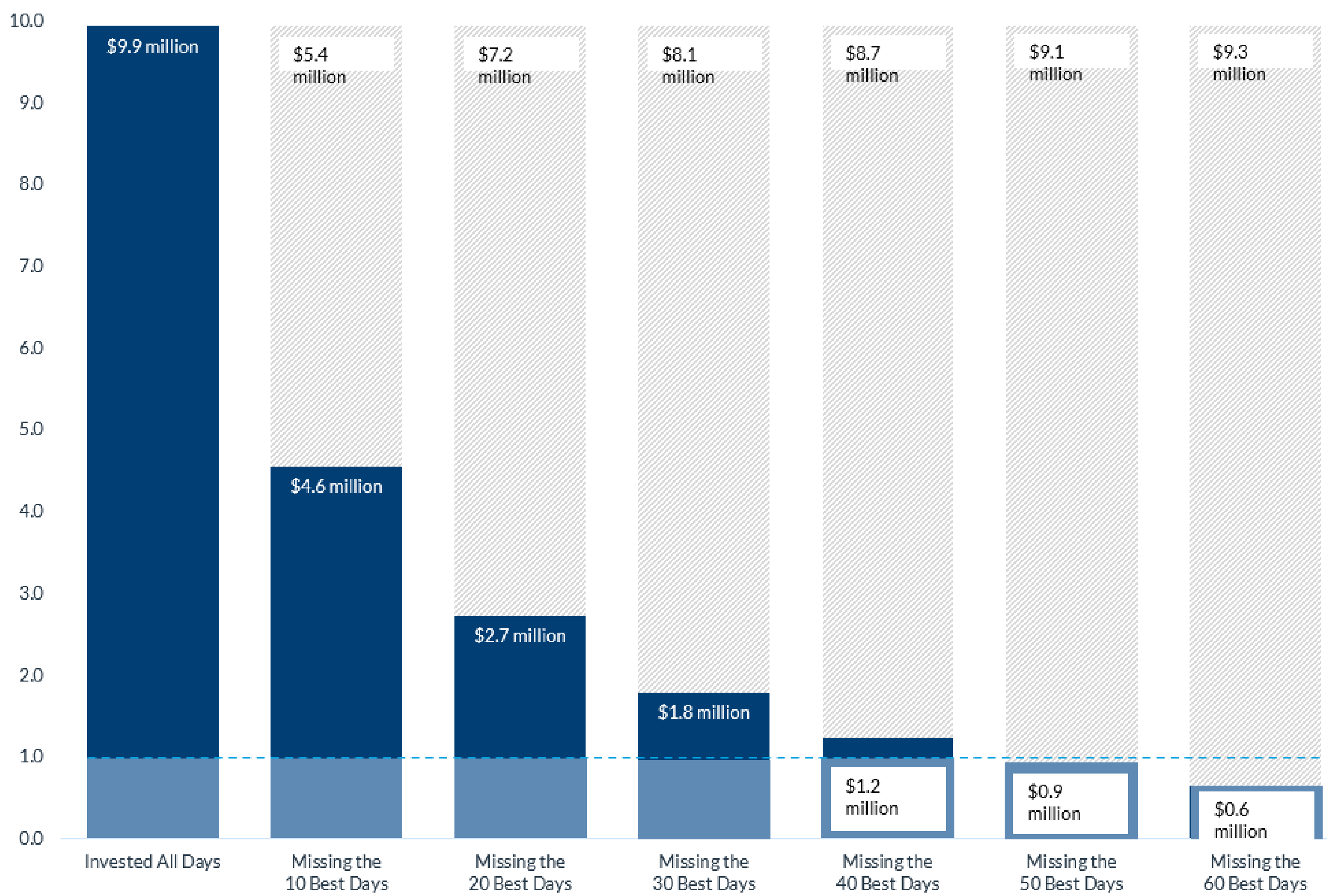

Sources: FactSet, CNR Research. Data reflects S&P 500 performance January 1928-December 2024.
Daily returns were calculated for the periods shown above, with the number of positive and negative days counted. The number of positive and negative days respectively was then divided by the total number of days to calculate the percentages.
Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

# Frequent Changes to Avoid Risk Can Hurt Returns

- The impact of missing large, single-day advances in the market can be devastating for long-term returns.
- Over the past 20 years, the top-10 largest days have all come during recessionary periods.

| Date | Return |
|---|---|
| Oct. 13, 2008 | +11.6% |
| Oct. 28, 2008 | +10.8% |
| Mar. 24, 2020 | +9.4% |
| Mar. 13, 2020 | +9.3% |
| Mar. 23, 2009 | +7.1% |
| Apr. 6, 2020 | +7.0% |
| Nov. 13, 2008 | +6.9% |
| Nov. 24, 2008 | +6.5% |
| Mar. 10, 2009 | +6.4% |
| Nov. 21, 2008 | +6.3% |

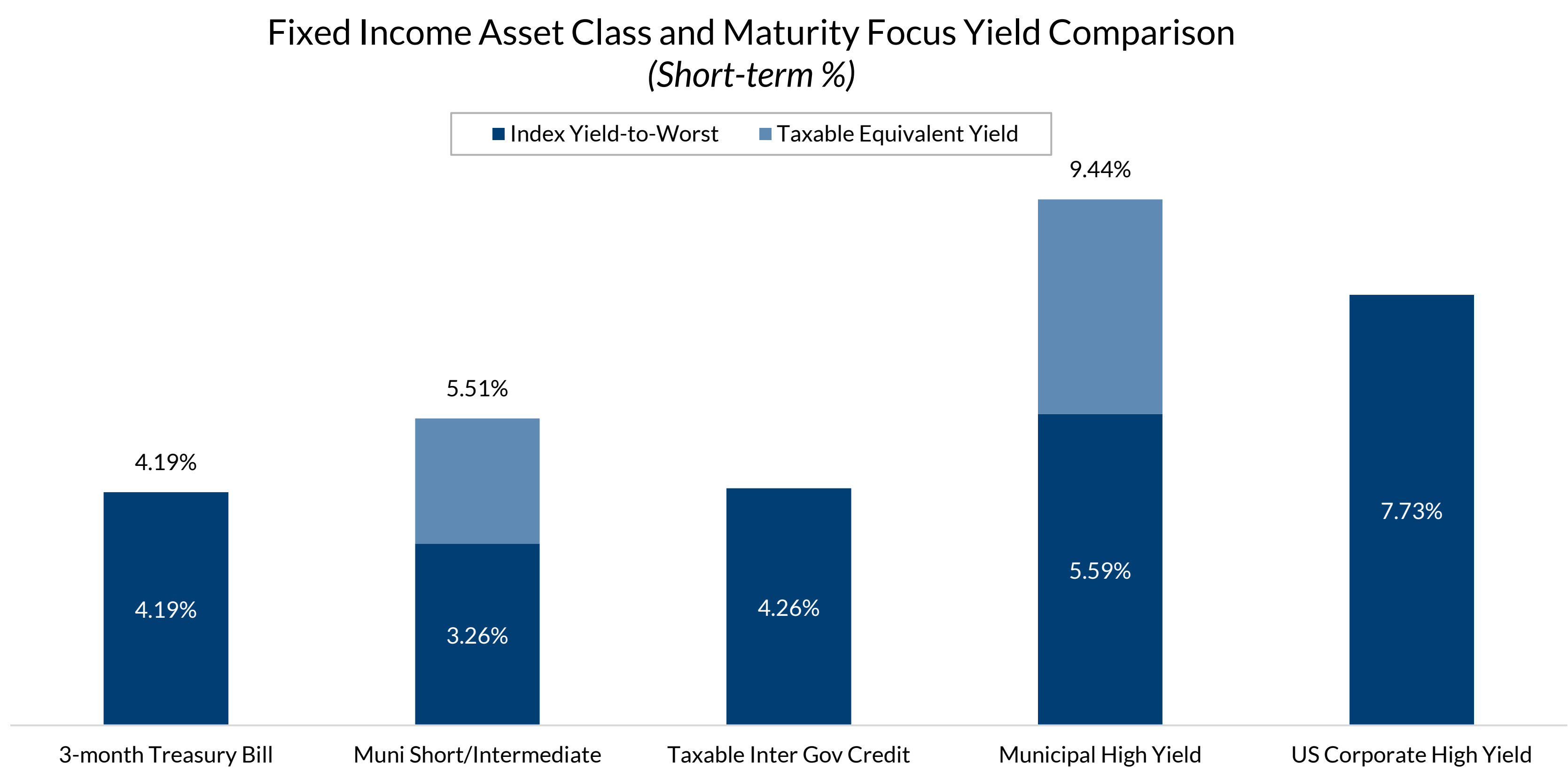
The Impact of Timing on Equity Returns
*Value of $1M Invested in the S&P 500 (Jan 2003 - March 2025)*




Data current as of April 3, 2025.
Sources: JP Morgan, S&P 500 index total returns from January 1, 2003 to March 25, 2025
Information is subject to change and is not a guarantee of future results.

# Fixed Income Yields Remain Attractive

- Absolute yields across fixed income asset classes may provide a buffer for rate volatility while seeking to generate income.
- For municipal investors, the tax-adjusted yields available exceed most other taxable sectors.




Sources: Bloomberg US Treasury 3-month Bill, Bloomberg Municipal Bond Inter-Short 1-10-year Index, Bloomberg Intermediate US Government/Credit, Bloomberg Municipal High Yield Index and Bloomberg US Corporate High Yield Index. As of March 31, 2025. Information is subject to change and is not a guarantee of returns.
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# Investment Strategy Committee Summary

- Equity positioning remains steady but selective, as tariff-related headwinds lead us to drop growth and earnings expectations; we continue to emphasize valuation discipline within U.S. markets.
- Our focus remains on U.S. domestic equities, where fundamentals are comparatively stronger; international allocations remain in flux, and we are actively evaluating regional exposures as trade dynamics evolve.
- Volatility may persist given uncertainty around policy direction; we see opportunity in dislocation, but patience and selectivity are key.
- Tariffs have introduced a new structural risk, clouding the near-term outlook; businesses and consumers are adjusting, and market pricing is likely to remain reactive to shifting trade signals.
- Fed policy remains on hold, not easing aggressively, and with inflation still elevated, we see limited scope for near-term cuts — underscoring the importance of careful rate sensitivity management.
- Municipal bonds have sold off substantially and now offer compelling tax-exempt yields, both in investment grade and high-yield segments.
- High Yield corporate bond spreads have increased; we prefer a credit barbell, where absolute yields will provide high long-term return while rotating into selective lower quality will drive total return.
- Select alternatives may provide valuable diversification, particularly for clients who can tolerate illiquidity and are seeking exposure to private market opportunities in a more complex macro environment.

*Alternative investments are speculative, may entail substantial risks and may not be suitable for all investors.
Diversification does not ensure a gain or protect against a loss.
Sources: Bloomberg, CNR Research, as of April 2025.
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# Index Definitions

The Standard & Poor's 500 Index (S&P 500) is a market capitalization-weighted index of 500 common stocks chosen for market size, liquidity and industry group representation to represent US equity performance.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the monthly change in prices paid by US consumers. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) calculates the CPI as a weighted average of prices for a basket of goods and services representative of aggregate US consumer spending.

Gross domestic product (GDP) is the total monetary or market value of all the finished goods and services produced within a country's borders in a specific time period.

The Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate High Yield Index is an unmanaged, US-dollar-denominated, nonconvertible, non-investment-grade debt index. The index consists of domestic and corporate bonds rated Ba and below with a minimum outstanding amount of $150 million.

The MSCI Europe Index captures large and mid cap representation across Developed Markets (DM) countries in Europe. The index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization across the European Developed Markets equity universe.

The MSCI EAFE (Europe, Australasia, Far East) Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure developed equity market results, excluding the US and Canada.

MSCI Emerging Markets (EM) Index The MSCI Emerging Markets Index captures large and mid cap representation across Emerging Markets countries. The index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country. The MSCI Europe Index captures large and mid cap representation across Developed Markets (DM) countries in Europe. The index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization across the European Developed Markets equity universe.

The S&P 500® Equal Weight Index (EWI) is the equal-weight version of the widely-used S&P 500. The index includes the same constituents as the capitalization weighted S&P 500, but each company in the S&P 500 EWI is allocated a fixed weight - or 0.2% of the index total at each quarterly rebalance.

The Bloomberg 1-3 Month US Treasury Bill Index includes all publicly issued zero-coupon US Treasury Bills that have a remaining maturity of less than 3 months and more than 1 month, are rated investment grade, and have $250 million or more of outstanding face value.

The Bloomberg Municipal Short/Intermediate Index is a measure of the US municipal tax-exempt investment grade bond market.

The Bloomberg Taxable Intermediate Government Credit Index measures investment grade, US dollar-denominated, fixed-rate, taxable corporate and government-related bond markets with a maturity greater than 1 year and less than 10 years.

The Bloomberg Municipal High Index is a measure of the US municipal tax-exempt non-investment grade bond market.

The Bloomberg 1-3 Month U.S. Treasury Bill Index includes all publicly issued zero-coupon U.S. Treasury Bills that have a remaining maturity of less than 3 months and more than 1 month, are rated investment grade, and have $250 million or more of outstanding face value.

High Yield Corporate Bond Yield is derived from the Bloomberg High Yield Corporate Bond Index (LF98), Yield Spread Is the U.S. Corporate High Yield Bond Yield minus the 12-Month Yield of BKLN.

The S&P 600 is an index of small-cap stocks managed by Standard & Poor's. It tracks a broad range of small-sized companies that meet specific liquidity and stability requirements.

MSCI EAFE Index. The MSCI EAFE (Europe, Australasia, Far East) Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure developed equity market results, excluding the US and Canada.

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The S&P 500 Value index measures constituents from the S&P 500 that are classified as value stocks based on three factors: the ratios of book value, earnings, and sales to price

The Russell 2000 Index is a small-cap US stock market index that makes up the smallest 2,000 stocks in the Russell Index.

The seven tech titan stocks are a group of high-performing and influential companies in the US stock market: Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, Meta Platforms, Microsoft, NVIDIA, and Tesla.

The S&P MidCap 400 is a benchmark index published by Standard & Poor's (S&P). The index comprises 400 companies that broadly represent companies with midrange market capitalization.

The S&P 493 is a market-weighted index that excludes the Magnificent Seven companies from the S&P 500.

Nasdaq is an online global marketplace for buying and trading securities—the world's first electronic exchange.

The S&P Equal Weight Index (EWI) is an equal-weight version of the S&P 500, which is a widely-used index that measures 500 leading companies in leading U.S. industries.

The S&P Composite 1500® combines three leading indices, the S&P 500®, the S&P MidCap 400®, and the S&P SmallCap 600®, to cover approximately 90% of U.S. market capitalization. It is designed for investors seeking to replicate the performance of the U.S. equity market or benchmark against a representative universe of tradable stocks.

# Definitions

Employment Index: US jobs with the exception of farmwork; unincorporated self-employment; and employment by private households, the military, and intelligence agencies.

A leveraged loan is a type of loan that is extended to companies or individuals that already have considerable amounts of debt or poor credit history.

Muni Bond: A municipal bond is a debt security issued by a state, municipality or county to finance its capital expenditures, including the construction of highways, bridges or schools. These bonds can be thought of as loans that investors make to local governments.

Investment Grade Municipal Bonds: Investment-grade municipal bonds are debt securities, issued by state and local governments carrying the lowest credit risk that a bond issuer may default. Investment Grade Municipal Bonds: Bloomberg Municipal Bond Inter-Short 1-10 Year Total Return Index.

Investment Grade Corporate Bonds: Investment grade corporate bonds are low-risk bonds. Because they are bonds, they are not tied to equity. Instead, they are like debt notes issued by a corporation. Investment Grade Corporate Bonds: Bloomberg Intermediate Corporate Bond Index.

The "core" Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) price index is defined as prices excluding food and energy prices. The core PCE price index measures the prices paid by consumers for goods and services without the volatility caused by movements in food and energy prices to reveal underlying inflation.

CNR Speedometers® are indicators that reflect forecasts of a 6 to 9 month time horizon. The colors of each indicator, as well as the direction of the arrows represent our positive/negative/neutral view for each indicator. Thus, arrows directed towards the (+) sign represents a positive view which in turn makes it green. Arrows directed towards the (-) sign represents a negative view which in turn makes it red. Arrows that land in the middle of the indicator, in line with the (0), represents a neutral view which in turn makes it yellow. All of these indicators combined affect City National Rochdale's overall outlook of the economy.

# Important Information

The views expressed represent the opinions of City National Rochdale, LLC (CNR) which are subject to change and are not intended as a forecast or guarantee of future results. Stated information is provided for informational purposes only, and should not be perceived as personalized investment, financial, legal or tax advice or a recommendation for any security. It is derived from proprietary and non-proprietary sources which have not been independently verified for accuracy or completeness. While CNR believes the information to be accurate and reliable, we do not claim or have responsibility for its completeness, accuracy, or reliability. Statements of future expectations, estimates, projections, and other forward-looking statements are based on available information and management's view as of the time of these statements. Accordingly, such statements are inherently speculative as they are based-on assumptions which may involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties. Actual results, performance or events may differ materially from those expressed or implied in such statements.

All investing is subject to risk, including the possible loss of the money you invest. As with any investment strategy, there is no guarantee that investment objectives will be met, and investors may lose money. Diversification may not protect against market risk or loss. Past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

Indices are unmanaged, and one cannot invest directly in an index. Index returns do not reflect a deduction for fees or expenses.

CNR is free from any political affiliation and does not support any political party or group over another.

Bonds are subject to interest rate risks and will decline in value as interest rates rise.

HY: Investing in securities that are not investment grade offers a higher yield but also carries a greater degree of risk of default or downgrade and are more volatile than investment grade securities, due to the speculative nature of their investments.

Equity investing strategies & products. There are inherent risks with equity investing. These risks include, but are not limited to stock market, manager or investment style. Stock markets tend to move in cycles, with periods of rising prices and periods of falling prices.

Fixed Income investing strategies & products. There are inherent risks with fixed income investing. These risks include, but are not limited to, interest rate, call, credit, market, inflation, government policy, liquidity or junk bond risks. When interest rates rise, bond prices fall. This risk is heightened with investments in longer-duration fixed income securities and during periods when prevailing interest rates are low or negative.

High yield securities. Investments in below-investment-grade debt securities, which are usually called “high yield” or “junk bonds,” are typically in weaker financial health. Such securities can be harder to value and sell, and their prices can be more volatile than more highly rated securities. While these securities generally have higher rates of interest, they also involve greater risk of default than do securities of a higher-quality rating.

Municipal securities. The yields and market values of municipal securities may be more affected by changes in tax rates and policies than similar income-bearing taxable securities. Certain investors' incomes may be subject to the Federal Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT), and taxable gains are also possible. Investments in the municipal securities of a particular state or territory may be subject to the risk that changes in the economic conditions of that state or territory will negatively impact performance. These events may include severe financial difficulties and continued budget deficits, economic or political policy changes, tax base erosion, state constitutional limits on tax increases and changes in the credit ratings.

Alternative Investments such as derivatives, hedge funds, private equity funds, and funds of funds can result in higher return potential but also higher loss potential. Changes in economic conditions or other circumstances may adversely affect investments. Alternative investments are speculative and involve a high degree of risk.

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