APRIL 2025



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Great Point Capital's April Markets Letter

Whether it be unique alternative investments, creative tax savings, regular income or growth potential that you are considering, the Great Point Capital <u>Alternatives</u> platform has it.

NOTE: Information & content compiled as of 11:00AM CST April 8th.

THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS BELOW

- At times like this, it's best to remember Rudyard Kipling's first line; "If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs...", and read Morningstar's article; How to Keep Your Cool in a Volatile Market.
- Equity corrections accompanied with large volatility spikes (as measured by the the VIX), have proven to be excellent opportunities for long-term investors.
- This well needed correction was long over due. Tariffs were simply the catalyst. Stay tuned and expect <u>more volatility ahead</u>.
- **This month,** the author believes there are numerous charts, graphs and visuals that do a good job of showing where things currently stand please see throughout.

MARKET REVIEW & SUMMARY

- Attention has turned to the Fed. Investors have piled into the safety of US bonds, driving the <u>US 10 year % yield</u> through the important 4.00% psychological level.
 Market bets now show the FED will <u>cut rates multiple times</u> this year.
 <u>Read here</u> why the 10-year yield % matters.
- Over the years, the author has emphasized the importance of AWC "always watch credit". Credit is best reflected in the <u>US 10Year (TNX)</u> & <u>KBW Bank ETF</u>.
 Also watch <u>Crude Oil</u>, as gas at the pump is getting cheaper.
- Note Thursday's release of the <u>US CPI and Friday's PPI and Univ. of Mich.</u>

 <u>Consumer Sentiment Index</u> all take on great meaning this month.

On The Radar - "The road to hell is paved with positive carry."

The unwind of the <u>Yen Carry trade</u> and Bond Basis <u>(Cash/Futures) trade</u>. Both these trades have recently been unwound, causing outsized reactions among & across all asset classes due to deleveraging.

- FX carry trades are where investors are -short funding currencies (i.e. the Japanese Yen), and are +long high-carry currencies (i.e. US Dollar). Investing the proceeds into momentum stocks like the Mag 7 and/or doing the +long cash, short futures Bond Basis trade.
- The Bond Basis trade is a strategy that hedge funds use to wager on the difference between prices of cash Treasuries and futures. The basis trade is approx. \$800Bil today.

What if Japan, China and the UK decided; "we're not going to keep buying your debt"? In reality, the US is exporting its debt to other countries. **Review here.**

Major Foreign Holders of U.S. Public Debt

Japan is the largest holder of U.S. debt.

 Japan
 \$1.08T

 China
 \$870B

 United Kingdom
 \$645.8B

Did you know?

<u>Larry Fink</u>, the CEO of BlackRock, the largest asset manager in the world @ \$11.6 trillion, recently suggested the classic 60/40 portfolio may no longer fully represent true diversification. The future standard portfolio may look more like 50/30/20—stocks, bonds, and private alternative assets like real estate, infrastructure, and private credit.

WHAT WE'RE WATCHING - Keep Things in Perspective.

A massive shift in stock market ownership accompanied the violent downdraft seen late last week. Hedge funds staged their largest single-day net sales of global equities on Thursday per Goldman Sach's prime brokerage desk. 75% of that record net selling taking place in North America.

Asset class performance:

| € | CREATIVE PLANNING | | | As | set Cla | ss Tot | al Retu | rns Sin | ce 201 | 1 (Data | via YC | harts a | s of 4/4 | 1/25) | | | @Charli | eBilello |
|-----|--------------------------|--------|-------|--------|---------|--------|---------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|----------|-------|-------|--------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| ETF | Asset Class | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2011-25 Cumulative | 2011-25 Annualized |
| GLD | Gold | 9.6% | 6.6% | -28.3% | -2.2% | -10.7% | 8.0% | 12.8% | -1.9% | 17.9% | 24.8% | -4.2% | -0.8% | 12.7% | 26.7% | 15.5% | 102% | 5.0% |
| TLT | Long Duration Treasuries | 34.0% | 2.6% | -13.4% | 27.3% | -1.8% | 1.2% | 9.2% | -1.6% | 14.1% | 18.2% | -4.6% | -31.2% | 2.8% | -8.1% | 7.4% | 45% | 2.7% |
| TIP | TIPS | 13.3% | 6.4% | -8.5% | 3.6% | -1.8% | 4.7% | 2.9% | -1.4% | 8.3% | 10.8% | 5.7% | -12.2% | 3.8% | 1.7% | 4.5% | 46% | 2.7% |
| BND | US Total Bond Market | 7.7% | 3.9% | -2.1% | 5.8% | 0.6% | 2.5% | 3.6% | -0.1% | 8.8% | 7.7% | -1.9% | -13.1% | 5.7% | 1.4% | 3.6% | 37% | 2.2% |
| LQD | Investment Grade Bonds | 9.7% | 10.6% | -2.0% | 8.2% | -1.3% | 6.2% | 7.1% | -3.8% | 17.4% | 11.0% | -1.8% | -17.9% | 9.4% | 0.9% | 3.0% | 66% | 3.6% |
| BIL | US Cash | 0.0% | 0.0% | -0.1% | -0.1% | -0.1% | 0.1% | 0.7% | 1.7% | 2.2% | 0.4% | -0.1% | 1.4% | 4.9% | 5.2% | 1.1% | 18% | 1.2% |
| EMB | EM Bonds (USD) | 7.7% | 16.9% | -7.8% | 6.1% | 1.0% | 9.3% | 10.3% | -5.5% | 15.5% | 5.4% | -2.2% | -18.6% | 10.6% | 5.5% | 0.8% | 61% | 3.4% |
| EFA | EAFE Stocks | -12.2% | 18.8% | 21.4% | -6.2% | -1.0% | 1.4% | 25.1% | -13.8% | 22.0% | 7.6% | 11.5% | -14.4% | 18.4% | 3.5% | -0.8% | 96% | 4.8% |
| HYG | High Yield Bonds | 6.8% | 11.7% | 5.8% | 1.9% | -5.0% | 13.4% | 6.1% | -2.0% | 14.1% | 4.5% | 3.8% | -11.0% | 11.5% | 8.0% | -1.0% | 89% | 4.6% |
| DBC | Commodities | -2.6% | 3.5% | -7.6% | -28.1% | -27.6% | 18.6% | 4.9% | -11.6% | 11.8% | -7.8% | 41.4% | 19.3% | -6.2% | 2.2% | -2.0% | -13% | -1.0% |
| VWO | Emerging Market Stocks | -18.7% | 19.2% | -4.9% | 0.0% | -15.8% | 12.2% | 31.5% | -14.8% | 20.8% | 15.2% | 1.3% | -18.0% | 9.3% | 10.6% | -4.2% | 30% | 1.9% |
| VNQ | US REITs | 8.6% | 17.6% | 2.3% | 30.4% | 2.4% | 8.6% | 4.9% | -6.0% | 28.9% | -4.7% | 40.5% | -26.2% | 11.8% | 4.8% | -4.5% | 166% | 7.1% |
| PFF | Preferred Stocks | -2.0% | 17.8% | -1.0% | 14.1% | 4.3% | 1.3% | 8.1% | -4.7% | 15.9% | 7.9% | 7.2% | -18.2% | 9.2% | 7.2% | -4.9% | 73% | 3.9% |
| CWB | Convertible Bonds | -7.7% | 15.9% | 20.5% | 7.7% | -0.8% | 10.6% | 15.7% | -2.0% | 22.4% | 53.4% | 2.2% | -20.8% | 14.5% | 10.1% | -6.1% | 211% | 8.3% |
| IWD | US Value | 0.1% | 17.5% | 32.1% | 13.2% | -4.0% | 17.3% | 13.5% | -8.5% | 26.1% | 2.7% | 25.0% | -7.7% | 11.4% | 14.2% | -7.6% | 261% | 9.4% |
| N/A | Bitcoin (\$BTC) | 1473% | 186% | 5507% | -58% | 35% | 125% | 1331% | -73% | 95% | 301% | 66% | -65% | 156% | 121% | -10.2% | 27951947% | 141.1% |
| SPY | US Large Caps | 1.9% | 16.0% | 32.2% | 13.5% | 1.2% | 12.0% | 21.7% | -4.5% | 31.2% | 18.4% | 28.7% | -18.2% | 26.2% | 24.9% | -13.5% | 421% | 12.3% |
| MDY | US Mid Caps | -2.1% | 17.8% | 33.1% | 9.4% | -2.5% | 20.5% | 15.9% | -11.3% | 25.8% | 13.5% | 24.5% | -13.3% | 16.1% | 13.6% | -14.9% | 251% | 9.2% |
| QQQ | US Nasdaq 100 | 3.4% | 18.1% | 36.6% | 19.2% | 9.5% | 7.1% | 32.7% | -0.1% | 39.0% | 48.6% | 27.4% | -32.6% | 54.9% | 25.6% | -17.2% | 782% | 16.5% |
| IWM | US Small Caps | -4.4% | 16.7% | 38.7% | 5.0% | -4.5% | 21.6% | 14.6% | -11.1% | 25.4% | 20.0% | 14.5% | -20.5% | 16.8% | 11.4% | -17.8% | 182% | 7.5% |
| IWF | US Growth | 2.3% | 15.2% | 33.1% | 12.8% | 5.5% | 7.0% | 30.0% | -1.7% | 35.9% | 38.3% | 27.4% | -29.3% | 42.6% | 33.1% | -18.8% | 566% | 14.2% |
| 8 | Highest Return | | BTC | BTC | VNQ | BTC | BTC | BTC | BIL | BTC | BTC | BTC | DBC | BTC | BTC | GLD | BTC | BTC |
| | Lowest Return | | BIL | GLD | BTC | DBC | BIL | BIL | BTC | BIL | DBC | TLT | BTC | DBC | TLT | IWF | DBC | DBC |
| % o | f Asset Classes Positive | 62% | 95% | 52% | 71% | 38% | 100% | 100% | 5% | 100% | 90% | 71% | 10% | 95% | 95% | 33% | 95% | 95% |

SP500 Corrections:

| @CharlieBilello | S&P 500 Corrections >5% since March 2009 Low (*as of 4/4/25) | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|----------|---------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Correction Period | # Days | S&P High | S&P Low | % Decline | "Stocks Fall On" | | | | |
| 2025: Feb 19 - Apr 4* | 44 | 6147 | 5070 | -17.5% | Tariffs, Trade Wars and Global Recession Fears | | | | |
| 2024: Jul 16 - Aug 5 | 20 | 5670 | 5119 | -9.7% | Recession Fears, Fed Behind Curve, Nikkei Crash | | | | |
| 2024: Mar 28 - Apr 19 | 22 | 5265 | 4954 | -5.9% | Stubborn Inflation, Fed Pushing Back Rate Cuts, Iran/Israel Conflict | | | | |
| 2022: Jan 4 - Oct 13 | 282 | 4819 | 3492 | -27.5% | Inflation, Rising Rates/Fed Tighening, Russia/Ukraine War, Recession Fears | | | | |
| 2021: Nov 22 - Dec 3 | 11 | 4744 | 4495 | -5.2% | Covid Omicron Variant, Fed Taper Fears | | | | |
| 2021: Sep 2 - Oct 4 | 32 | 4546 | 4279 | -5.9% | China Contagion Fears, Fed Taper Fears, Covid Delta Variant | | | | |
| 2021: Feb 16 - Mar 4 | 16 | 3950 | 3723 | -5.7% | Inflation Fears, Rising Rates | | | | |
| 2020: Sep 2 - Sep 24 | 22 | 3588 | 3209 | -10.6% | Coronavirus, No New Stimulus Deal, Election Fears | | | | |
| 2020: Feb 19 - Mar 23 | 33 | 3394 | 2192 | -35.4% | Coronavirus, Global Depression Fears | | | | |
| 2019: Jul 26 - Aug 5 | 10 | 3028 | 2822 | -6.8% | Trade War, Tariffs, Yuan Devaluation, Recession Fears | | | | |
| 2019: May 1 - Jun 3 | 33 | 2954 | 2729 | -7.6% | Trade War, Tariffs, Inverted Yield Curve, Global Slowdown/Recession Fears | | | | |
| 2018: Sep 21 - Dec 26 | 96 | 2941 | 2347 | -20.2% | Rising Rates, China Slowdown, Trade War/Tariffs, Housing Slowdown | | | | |
| 2018: Jan 26 - Feb 9 | 14 | 2873 | 2533 | -11.8% | Inflation Fears, Rising Rates | | | | |
| 2016: Aug 15 - Nov 4 | 81 | 2194 | 2084 | -5.0% | Election Fears/Concerns/Jitters | | | | |
| 2015/16: May 20 - Feb 11 | 267 | 2135 | 1810 | -15.2% | Greece Default, China Stock Crash, EM Currencies, Falling Oil, North Korea | | | | |
| 2014/15: Dec 29 - Feb 2 | 35 | 2094 | 1981 | -5.4% | Falling Oil, Strong Dollar, Weak Earnings | | | | |
| 2014: Dec 5 - Dec 16 | 11 | 2079 | 1973 | -5.1% | Falling Oil, Strong Dollar | | | | |
| 2014: Sep 19 - Oct 15 | 26 | 2019 | 1821 | -9.8% | Ebola, Global Growth Fears, Falling Oil | | | | |
| 2014: Jan 15 - Feb 5 | 21 | 1851 | 1738 | -6.1% | Fed Taper, European Deflation Fears, EM Currency Turmoil | | | | |
| 2013: May 22 - Jun 24 | 33 | 1687 | 1560 | -7.5% | Fed Taper Fears | | | | |
| 2012: Sep 14 - Nov 16 | 63 | 1475 | 1343 | -8.9% | Fiscal Cliff Concerns, Obama's Re-Election | | | | |
| 2012: Apr 2 - Jun 4 | 63 | 1422 | 1267 | -10.9% | Europe's Debt Crisis | | | | |
| 2011: May 2 - Oct 4 | 155 | 1371 | 1075 | -21.6% | Europe's Debt Crisis, Double-Dip Recession Fears, US Debt Downgrade | | | | |
| 2011: Feb 18 - Mar 16 | 26 | 1344 | 1249 | -7.1% | Libyan Civil War, Japan Earthquake/Nuclear Disaster | | | | |
| 2010: Apr 26 - Jul 1 | 66 | 1220 | 1011 | -17.1% | Europe's Debt Crisis, Flash Crash, Growth Concerns | | | | |
| 2010: Jan 19 - Feb 5 | 17 | 1150 | 1045 | -9.2% | China's Lending Curbs, Obama Bank Regulation Plan | | | | |
| 2009: Oct 21 - Nov 2 | 12 | 1101 | 1029 | -6.5% | Worries About The Recovery | | | | |
| 2009: Sep 23 - Oct 2 | 9 | 1080 | 1020 | -5.6% | Worries About The Recovery | | | | |
| 2009: Jun 11 - Jul 7 | 26 | 956 | 869 | -9.1% | World Bank Neg Growth Forecast; Fears Market Is Ahead Of Recovery | | | | |
| 2009: May 8 - 15 | 7 | 930 | 879 | -5.5% | Worries That Market Has Gotten Ahead Of Itself | | | | |
| Median | 26 | | | -7.6% | C CREATIVE PLANNING | | | | |

Worth Reading - BlackRock 2025 Chairman's Letter to Investors <u>here</u>.

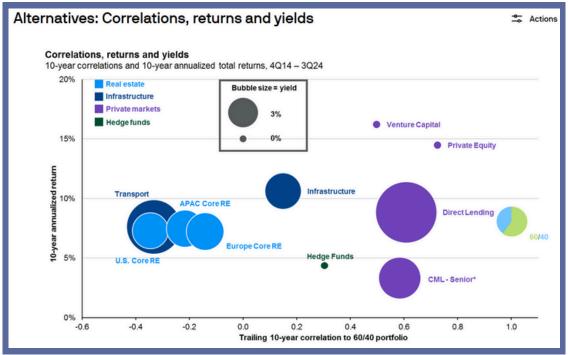
Why read it? 33% Of Americans have no retirement savings. 51% Are more worried about outliving their savings than of death itself. 1/3 Would have a hard time paying an unexpected \$500 bill. A third of the country has no retirement savings at all. No pensions, no 401(k)—nothing. Things have to change!

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER

Investing in diversifying alternative investments.

Your Great Point Capital representative can assist you.

- Alternative investments can be generally defined as investments distinct from traditional portfolio holdings that include stocks, bonds, and cash/cash-like instruments.
- Alternative investment strategies can potentially provide higher yields, lower volatility and returns that are uncorrelated with stocks and bonds.
- Fidelity Alternatives <u>research here</u>, has found 86% of institutional investors invest in alternative strategies, with most exposure in private assets.



This chart shows that adding a diversified sleeve of alternatives (real estate, private equity and hedge funds) to traditional stock/bond portfolios can help manage risk and improve return. (JPMorgan)

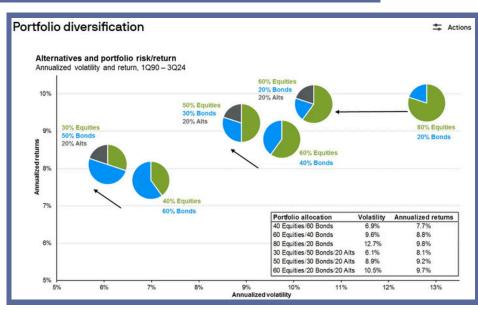


Chart 1 Chart 2

The S&P 500 fell 10.5% on Thursday-Friday, the 5th biggest 2-day decline since 1950. What has happened in the past following the biggest 2-day declines?

S&P 500: Biggest 2-Day % Declines and Forward Total Returns (1950 - 2025) **Biggest 2-Day % Declines** Forward S&P 500 Total Returns End Date Start S&P End S&P 3-Year Rank 2-Day 1-Year 5-Year 10/19/1987 -24.6% 55% 119% 1 298 225 28% 237 -16.2% 24% 47% 108% 2 10/20/1987 283 3 3/12/2020 2882 2481 -13.9% 62% 63% 144% -12.4% 4 11/20/2008 859 752 49% 73% 164% 5 4/4/2025 5671 5074 -10.5%

-10.0%

-9.5%

21%

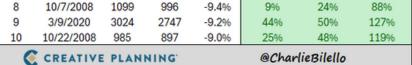
24%

48%

44%

119%

109%



Including dividends, the S&P 500 is down 13.4% thus far in 2025. Since 1990, only two years have had a worse start: 2001 and 2020.

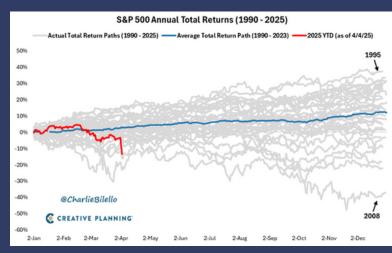


Chart 4

Chart 3

11/6/2008

10/15/2008

1006

1003

905

908

6

7

Crude Oil fell 13.6% on Thursday-Friday of last week, one of the biggest 2-day declines in history.

In the past, big short-term declines have often coincided with recessions (see 1990-91, 2020, 2008-09) as investors anticipated a collapse in demand.

| Crud | le Oil: Larg | est 2-Day | % Declin | es (1983 | - 2025) | | | | |
|------|---|-------------|------------------|----------|------------|--|--|--|--|
| Rank | End Date | Start Crude | End Crude | % Change | Recession? | | | | |
| 1 | 4/21/2020 | 25.0 | 11.6 | -53.8% | Yes | | | | |
| 2 | 1/18/1991 | 30.3 | 19.0 | -37.3% | Yes | | | | |
| 3 | 4/22/2020 | 20.4 | 13.8 | -32.6% | Yes | | | | |
| 4 | 3/9/2020 | 45.9 | 31.1 | -32.2% | Yes | | | | |
| 5 | 1/17/1991 | 29.1 | 20.6 | -29.0% | Yes | | | | |
| 6 | 3/18/2020 | 28.7 | 20.8 | -27.4% | Yes | | | | |
| 7 | 4/28/2020 | 16.9 | 12.3 | -27.2% | Yes | | | | |
| 8 | 4/27/2020 | 16.5 | 12.8 | -22.5% | Yes | | | | |
| 9 | 4/20/2020 | 25.5 | 20.4 | -20.0% | Yes | | | | |
| 10 | 2/4/1986 | 18.8 | 15.4 | -18.0% | No | | | | |
| 11 | 11/15/2001 | 21.7 | 17.8 | -17.7% | Yes | | | | |
| 12 | 9/24/2001 | 26.7 | 22.0 | -17.7% | Yes | | | | |
| 13 | 10/22/1990 | 36.8 | 30.4 | -17.4% | Yes | | | | |
| 14 | 3/10/2020 | 41.3 | 34.4 | -16.8% | Yes | | | | |
| 15 | 4/7/2020 | 28.3 | 23.6 | -16.6% | Yes | | | | |
| 16 | 9/25/2001 | 26.0 | 21.8 | -16.0% | Yes | | | | |
| 17 | 2/19/1991 | 22.3 | 18.8 | -15.8% | Yes | | | | |
| 18 | 8/27/1990 | 31.9 | 26.9 | -15.7% | Yes | | | | |
| 19 | 3/17/2020 | 31.7 | 27.0 | -15.1% | Yes | | | | |
| 20 | 3/10/2022 | 123.7 | 106.0 | -14.3% | No | | | | |
| 21 | 1/8/2009 | 48.6 | 41.7 | -14.2% | Yes | | | | |
| 22 | 10/2/1990 | 39.5 | 34.0 | -14.1% | Yes | | | | |
| 23 | 12/6/1990 | 30.7 | 26.4 | -13.9% | Yes | | | | |
| 24 | 11/6/2008 | 70.5 | 60.8 | -13.8% | Yes | | | | |
| 25 | 12/2/2008 | 54.4 | 47.0 | -13.7% | Yes | | | | |
| 26 | 4/4/2025 | 71.7 | 62.0 | -13.6% | ? | | | | |
| 27 | 11/30/1990 | 33.3 | 28.9 | -13.3% | Yes | | | | |
| 28 | 11/26/2021 | 78.5 | 68.2 | -13.2% | No | | | | |
| 29 | 10/23/1990 | 33.8 | 29.4 | -13.1% | Yes | | | | |
| 30 | 12/5/2008 | 46.8 | 40.8 | -12.8% | Yes | | | | |
| - 1 | Note: Continuous Futures Contract (blend of months) | | | | | | | | |

@CharlieBilello

CREATIVE PLANNING

| Highest Weekly \$VIX Closes and Forward S&P 500 Total Returns |
|---|
| (January 1990 - April 2025) |

| (Sandary 1550 April 2025) | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--|--|
| Highest Wee | kly \$VIX | Forward S&P 500 Total Returns | | | | | | |
| Date | \$VIX | 1-Year | 2-Year | 3-Year | 4-Year | 5-Year | | |
| 10/24/2008 | 79.1 | 26% | 41% | 51% | 79% | 122% | | |
| 11/21/2008 | 11/21/2008 72.7 | | 57% | 62% | 86% | 151% | | |
| 10/17/2008 | 10/17/2008 70.3 | | 31% | 39% | 66% | 102% | | |
| 10/10/2008 | 70.0 | 22% | 36% | 37% | 78% | 110% | | |
| 11/14/2008 | 66.3 | 28% | 44% | 55% | 73% | 126% | | |
| 3/20/2020 | 66.0 | 73% | 100% | 78% | 137% | 164% | | |
| 3/27/2020 | 65.5 | 59% | 84% | 64% | 120% | 141% | | |
| 12/5/2008 | 59.9 | 29% | 46% | 52% | 76% | 130% | | |
| 10/31/2008 | 59.9 | 10% | 28% | 42% | 59% | 103% | | |
| 3/13/2020 | 57.8 | 48% | 60% | 49% | 101% | 130% | | |
| 11/7/2008 | 56.1 | 18% | 38% | 44% | 66% | 111% | | |
| 11/28/2008 | 55.3 | 25% | 39% | 38% | 72% | 125% | | |
| 12/12/2008 | 54.3 | 29% | 47% | 52% | 76% | 129% | | |
| 3/6/2009 | 49.3 | 70% | 102% | 113% | 142% | 203% | | |
| 2/20/2009 | 49.3 | 47% | 82% | 88% | 115% | 166% | | |
| 1/23/2009 | 47.8 | 34% | 61% | 69% | 95% | 146% | | |
| 4/3/2020 | 46.8 | 64% | 88% | 73% | 125% | 142% | | |
| 2/27/2009 | 46.4 | 54% | 87% | 98% | 125% | 178% | | |
| 1/16/2009 | 46.1 | 37% | 59% | 62% | 89% | 142% | | |
| 3/20/2009 | 45.9 | 54% | 73% | 95% | 121% | 167% | | |
| 4/4/2025 | | | | | | | | |
| Average (21 Hig | hest \$VIX) | 39% | 60% | 63% | 95% | 139% | | |
| Average All Oth | er Periods | 12% | 21% | 31% | 42% | 53% | | |
| Differen | tial | 28% | 39% | 32% | 53% | 86% | | |
| | | | | | | | | |



@CharlieBilello

NEED TO KNOW - It's tax time!

<u>Here are ten often overlooked</u> tax deductions & credits - take 10 minutes to review. Here are <u>The Top 10</u> Most Overlooked Tax Deductions.

Deduct your gambling losses.

Gambling winnings, which include lottery winnings from Mega Millions and Powerball, are considered taxable income. However, winners can reduce their tax liability by deducting gambling losses. Lottery losses aren't the only types of losses that qualify. Losses for scratch-off tickets are deductible. Losses from gambling at a casino are deductible. Even losses from betting on the Super Bowl or races qualify as deductible expenses. Taxpayers can only deduct gambling losses if they itemize.

TERM OF THE MONTH

from **1** Investopedia

Term Structure of Interest Rates explained here.

(Decoding the Yield Curve and What It Means for Investors and the US Economy) From predicting recessions to guiding monetary policy, the yield curve's shape has become a crucial barometer of economic health and market sentiment.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The term structure of interest rates, commonly known as the yield curve, depicts the interest rates of similar quality bonds at different maturities.
- This reflects the expectations of market participants about future changes in interest rates and their assessment of monetary policy conditions.
- The most common yield curve compares the three-month, two-year, five-year, 10-year, and 30-year U.S. Treasury debt.
- Normal yield curves slope upward, indicating higher yields for longer-term bonds, while inverted yield curves can signal potential economic downturns.

ONE GREAT POINT

"Today, we're standing at the edge of an opportunity so vast it's almost hard to grasp. By 2040, the global demand for new infrastructure investment is \$68 trillion. To put that price tag in perspective, it's roughly the equivalent of building the entire Interstate Highway System and the Transcontinental Railroad, start to finish, every six weeks—for the next 15 years." (BlackRock.)

QUICK TAKE - BEFORE YOU GO

Kiplinger Magazine is an excellent resource for tax information including invaluable tax tips and deductions often not used.

See Taxes - News, insights and expert analysis on taxes from the team at Kiplinger.

Summary

Welcome to Kiplinger's <u>2025 tax season</u> live blog. As <u>Tax Day</u> approaches on Tuesday, April 15, we're here to provide essential updates, tips, and analysis to help you file with confidence — whether you're tackling <u>tax deductions and credits</u> or navigating IRS changes.

FREE RESOURCES & INSIGHTS - WORTH VISITING!

- Advisor Perspectives An excellent resource.
- <u>Advisorpedia</u> Powerful strategies and ideas to help financial advisors optimize and create efficiencies within their businesses.



CALL TO ACTION CALENDAR:

APRIL 2025

For most people, Tax Day will fall on April 15, 2025. State holidays may delay that deadline.

April - 20 Ways to Clean Up Your Finances This Spring

- April 15: Tax Day
 - **Individual Tax Returns Due for Tax Year 2024:** You must file your individual tax return using Form 1040 or 1040-SR and pay any tax due unless you file for an extension.
 - **Individual Tax Return Extension Form Due for Tax Year 2024:** You may use Form 4868 to file for an automatic six-month extension of time to file your tax return. However, you must still pay whatever taxes you estimate you owe in order to avoid interest and penalties.
 - **First Quarter 2024 Estimated Tax Payment Due:** If you are self-employed or otherwise do not have income tax withheld (or you won't pay enough income tax through withholding), you must pay the first installment of your estimated tax for 2024.
 - Last Day to Make a 2024 IRA Contribution: Contributions to an IRA must be made by this date unless you have a SEP IRA and a six-month extension is applied, pushing the deadline to Oct. 15, 2025.
 - Last Day to Make a 2024 HSA Contribution: The 2024 HSA contribution limits are \$4,150 (self) and \$8,300 (family). Those 55 and older can also contribute a \$1,000 catch-up contribution.
- April 18: NYSE Holiday (Good Friday)
- April 20: Major Spending Holiday (Easter)

| Filling Status | 2024 Standard Deduction |
|---|-------------------------|
| Single; Married Filing Separately | \$14,600 |
| Married Filing Jointly; Qualifying Widow(er) | \$29,200 |
| Head of Household | \$21,900 |

GPC Etcetera

See the visual below of Cross-border supply chain for car engine pistons in North America. The cost for new vehicles is expected to jump 20%, due to tariffs, according to analysts at Cox Automotive.

Watch the Manheim Used Vehicle Value Index which is showing a seasonal decline in March despite strong market demand.

CARTOONS



THIS MONTH'S THANK-YOU

Charlie Bilello - the Chief Market Strategist at Creative Planning - and his excellent work.

To subscribe to our email distribution & future newsletters!



GPC is incredibly lucky to have added <u>Wayne Wagner</u>, CIMA to our team. Wayne will be leading our increased educational efforts as it pertains to product offerings and will be a resource to our advisors for product-related inquiries. As we scale our consulting business with sponsors, Wayne will be intimately involved in the launch of new products. We welcome all advisors to get to know Wayne and use his extensive knowledge of the Alternative Investment Space.



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