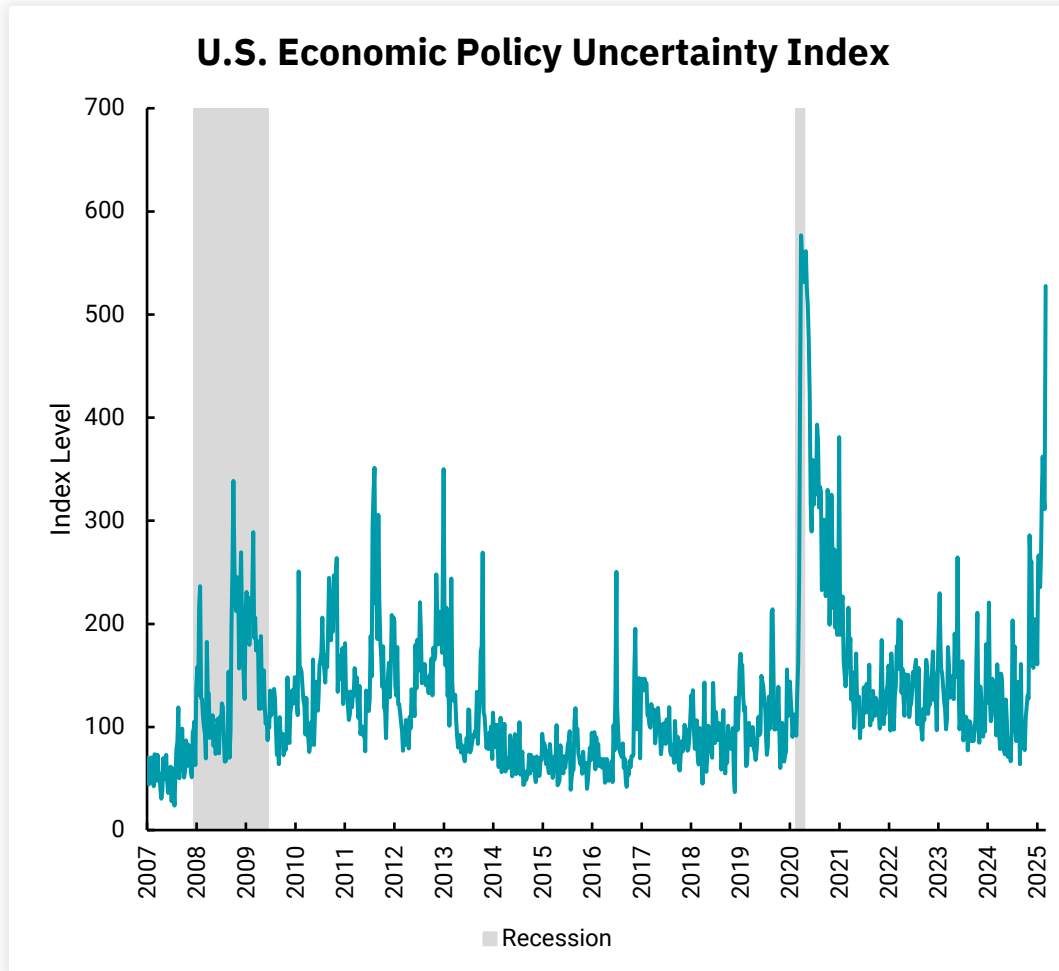


INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

Weekly market update



Chart of the week (Mar. 7, 2025)



"The markets hate uncertainty." This statement has been around since I got in the business in January of 1982...and was around long before that. Even bad "certainty" is better than uncertainty, as at least one knows the basis of the decisions they must make. This week's chart from the Federal Reserve shows policy uncertainty back to 2007. Absent a short period during the pandemic, when we were uncertain about everything, not just the economic policy, we can see we are at historic levels.

It is telling that even during the depths of the Financial Crisis in 2008-2009, when unemployment rose to 10% and the S&P declined by 50%, policy uncertainty was not as high as it is now. Little wonder, then, that we are seeing some increase in the level of volatility as we consider the path of the economy and markets going forward. Indeed, it is not just the number of policies that are changing - trade, energy, fiscal, immigration, regulation - but the speed at which they are moving. One can agree with the need for change and even the direction of the change, but moving faster increases the chances of an implementation error.

The good news is that the economy is entering this period of uncertainty in a relatively strong position overall. We might expect the employment picture to change in the coming months as government job cuts, along with reduced federal spending, are announced and implemented. Still, we begin that process with the headline unemployment rate reported this morning at 4.1% and February job gains of 151,000. We have seen the number of open jobs decline over the last few months, but there are still more open jobs than unemployed persons. Yet, we also know that historically, the jobless rate can increase rapidly, meaning we will have to be cognizant of increasing risks to growth.

The U.S. economy emerged from the pandemic with a much stronger growth pattern than much of the rest of the world. Part of this was our willingness to borrow money to increase demand and jobs. There has been a price to pay in the form of inflation, and our total debt now over \$36 trillion: a huge sum and a high level as compared to our annual GDP. Annual budget deficits in the 5% to 8% range are just not sustainable over a longer period, requiring some shift in direction towards sustainability. The short-term impact may be slower growth, which will feel somewhat painful and could result in lessened GDP and higher unemployment. However, longer-term, the goal would be to reduce debt levels and move the economy forward on a more sustainable path.

It can be hard to know what to do during periods like this. Having a plan that [considers periods of volatility](#) is an important part of longer-term success. And to be clear, recent levels of market volatility are not outside the norm. We remain committed to our diversified approach, which has been successful during previous periods like this. If you have questions, let's talk.

Weekly market update



Commentary (Mar. 7, 2025)

Domestic Equities

- U.S. stocks continued to decline this week as investors were unnerved by day-to-day changes in tariff policies. Tech stocks sold off heavily, with the Nasdaq Composite Index underperforming the broader market. Rising bond yields this week are weighing heavily on small-cap stocks, as the Russell 2000 Index is in correction territory.
- Chipmakers Marvell and Broadcom reported earnings this week that were in line with or ahead of expectations. Both stocks had surged over the past six months and were priced with high expectations. However, both stocks fell due to projections for slower growth going forward.
- Recession fears have started to re-enter the market due to concerns over tariff-induced inflation and slowing employment. Additionally, in February, the Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index posted its largest monthly drop since 2021. This has led to sector rotation, with investors moving out of cyclical and into more defensive sectors.

Bonds

- U.S. Treasuries were mixed on rising trade policy uncertainty and the jump in long-term yields across Europe. Specifically, short- to intermediate-term yields were lower, while the long-end rose.
- The broad investment grade market, as measured by the Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index, was lower for the week on rising longer-term rates and widening credit spreads.
- High yield credit spreads widened for the third consecutive week following the sell-off in risk assets, with the option-adjusted spread on the Bloomberg US Corporate High Yield Index closing just shy of 3.0%.
- German bond yields exploded higher on the debt brake deal, with the yield on the 10-year bund experiencing its biggest one-day rise in over three decades on Wednesday. The rout in German bunds reverberated across developed bond markets, with yields surging across Europe, Japan and Australia.

International Equities

- As foreign investors continue grappling with the unfolding tariff policies, foreign stocks have captured some momentum as the MSCI ACWI Ex USA Index is outperforming the S&P 500 year-to-date.
- Developed markets rallied this week as most major markets across Europe and the Asia-Pacific region rose in value. Chancellor-in-waiting Friedrich Merz announced that Germany would amend the constitution to exempt defense and security outlays from limits on fiscal spending. Additional plans include creating a \$528 billion fund to improve infrastructure. That news ignited a strong rally in German stocks.
- Emerging markets snapped back after last week's losses as Asian markets posted strong gains. China responded to the new U.S. tariffs by announcing it would impose additional tariffs of up to 15% on a range of U.S. farm products. The new tariffs will take effect on March 10. Beijing also placed 10 more U.S. firms on its unreliable entity list.

Economics

- On Thursday, jobless claims came in at 221,000, which was below the consensus estimate of 244,000 and last week's reading of 242,000. The better-than-expected reading highlighted the overall stability of the labor market. However, recent layoff announcements hit new multi-year highs.
- February's employment report showed the economy added 151,000 jobs. This was slightly below the consensus estimate of 160,000, but above January's reading of 125,000. The unemployment rate ticked up from 4.0% to 4.1%. Economists estimate that the uptick in the unemployment rate resulted from layoffs and hiring freezes at the federal government.
- The monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) will be released on Friday. This is an important indicator to watch as the Federal Reserve balances its dual mandate of full employment and stable prices. Signs of softer inflation could signal future interest rate cuts.

Weekly Market Update

For Week Ending March 07, 2025

Markets

| | Last Price | Change From Prior Week | Change From Year End | Change From Year Ago |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Capital Markets | | | | |
| Dow Jones Industrial Avg | 42,801.72 | -2.3% | 0.9% | 12.3% |
| S&P 500 Index | 5,770.20 | -3.1% | -1.7% | 13.4% |
| NASDAQ Composite | 18,196.22 | -3.4% | -5.7% | 12.6% |
| S&P 400 Midcap Index | 2,987.09 | -3.4% | -4.1% | 2.2% |
| S&P 600 Smallcap Index | 1,315.05 | -3.5% | -6.4% | 1.9% |
| MSCI EAFE | 8,941.36 | 3.1% | 10.6% | 9.2% |
| MSCI Emerging Markets | 603.92 | 2.9% | 5.2% | 12.2% |
| Bloomberg US Agg | 2,236.01 | -0.6% | 2.1% | 4.1% |
| Bloomberg Municipal 5 Yr | 501.27 | -0.1% | 1.4% | 2.5% |
| Bloomberg US Corporate | 3,353.01 | -0.7% | 1.9% | 4.7% |
| Bloomberg Glb Agg ex US Hdq | 588.98 | -1.3% | -0.7% | 4.0% |
| Bloomberg High Yield | 2,730.31 | -0.3% | 1.8% | 9.1% |
| MSCI US REIT Index | 2,368.60 | -2.1% | 2.5% | 11.4% |
| Bloomberg Commodity Index | 255.17 | 2.1% | 6.9% | 12.0% |

| | Last Price/Yield | Prior Week | Year End | Year Ago |
|------------------|------------------|------------|----------|----------|
| Key Rates | | | | |
| Fed Funds Target | 4.50% | 4.50% | 4.50% | 5.50% |
| 3-Month Treasury | 4.30% | 4.29% | 4.31% | 5.38% |
| 1-Year Treasury | 4.04% | 4.08% | 4.14% | 4.93% |
| 2-Year Treasury | 4.00% | 3.99% | 4.24% | 4.50% |
| 5-Year Treasury | 4.09% | 4.02% | 4.38% | 4.07% |
| 7-Year Treasury | 4.20% | 4.11% | 4.48% | 4.08% |
| 10-Year Treasury | 4.30% | 4.21% | 4.57% | 4.08% |
| 30-Year Treasury | 4.60% | 4.49% | 4.78% | 4.24% |

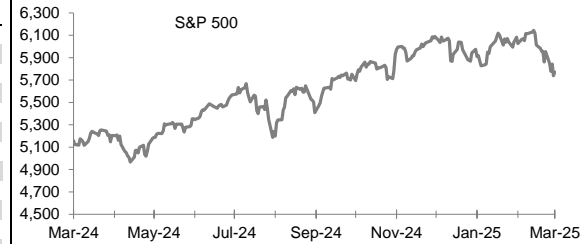
| | Last Price/Yield | Prior Week | Year End | Year Ago |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------|----------|----------|
| Consumer Rates | | | | |
| 30-Year Mortgage | 6.70% | 7.00% | 7.28% | 5.83% |
| Prime Rate | 8.25% | 8.25% | 8.25% | 9.25% |
| SOFR | 4.34% | 4.39% | 4.49% | 5.31% |

| | Last Price | Prior Week | Year End | Year Ago |
|--------------------|------------|------------|----------|----------|
| Commodities | | | | |
| Gold (spot) | 2,909.10 | 2,857.83 | 2,624.50 | 2,159.98 |
| Crude Oil WTI | 67.04 | 69.76 | 71.72 | 78.93 |
| Gasoline | 3.10 | 3.10 | 3.06 | 3.40 |
| Natural Gas | 4.40 | 3.83 | 3.63 | 1.82 |
| Copper | 4.68 | 4.51 | 4.03 | 3.92 |

| | P/E Forward | P/E Trailing | Price to Book | Current Div Yield |
|------------------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Index Characteristics | | | | |
| Dow Jones Industrial Avg | 19.91 | 21.54 | 5.50 | 1.69 |
| S&P 500 | 20.96 | 23.44 | 4.95 | 1.41 |
| S&P 500 Value | 18.00 | 19.65 | 3.41 | 2.10 |
| S&P 500 Growth | 24.96 | 28.99 | 8.99 | 0.73 |
| NASDAQ | 25.77 | 31.76 | 6.57 | 0.72 |
| S&P Midcap 400 | 15.52 | 16.63 | 2.46 | 1.84 |
| S&P Smallcap 600 | 15.23 | 15.88 | 1.80 | 2.50 |
| MSCI EAFE | 14.89 | 16.13 | 2.04 | 3.16 |
| MSCI Emerging Markets | 12.28 | 14.23 | 1.77 | 2.58 |

Source: Bloomberg

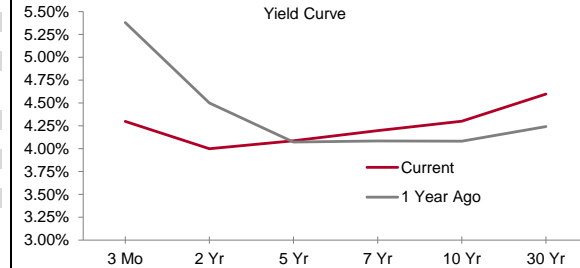
Equity Style



| 1 Month* | | | Year to Date* | | |
|--------------|-------|--------|---------------|-------|--------|
| Value | Core | Growth | Value | Core | Growth |
| Large | | | | | |
| -0.13 | -4.11 | -7.75 | 1.75 | -1.67 | -4.82 |
| Mid | | | | | |
| -4.18 | -6.72 | -9.09 | -2.00 | -4.09 | -6.06 |
| Small | | | | | |
| -6.42 | -7.97 | -9.41 | -6.54 | -6.38 | -6.23 |

*S&P Indices

Fixed Income Style



| 1 Month* | | | Year to Date* | | |
|-------------|---------|------|---------------|---------|------|
| Short | Interm. | Long | Short | Interm. | Long |
| Govt | | | | | |
| 0.80 | 1.16 | 1.30 | 1.18 | 1.75 | 3.52 |
| Corp | | | | | |
| 0.77 | 1.05 | 0.90 | 1.23 | 1.74 | 2.33 |
| HY | | | | | |
| 0.60 | 0.38 | 1.18 | 1.86 | 1.74 | 2.68 |

1-3 Yrs 1-10 Yrs +10 Yrs

Economic Data

| | Last Release | Year Ago |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| Inflation | | |
| CPI Headline Inflation | 3.0% | 3.1% |
| CPI Core Inflation | 3.3% | 3.9% |
| Personal Consumption Exp (PCE) Core | 2.6% | 3.1% |

| | Last Release | Year Ago |
|--|--------------|----------|
| Jobs | | |
| Unemployment Rate (U3) | 4.1% | 3.9% |
| Broader Unemployment Rate (U6) | 8.0% | 7.3% |
| JOLT Survey (in millions) | 7.60 | 8.89 |
| Jobless Claims (000's) | 221 | 210 |
| Change in Non-Farm Payroll (000's) | 151 | 222 |
| Average Hourly Earnings (Y/Y % Change) | 4.0% | 4.2% |

| | Last Release | Year Ago |
|----------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| Consumer & Spending | | |
| Consumer Confidence (Conf Board) | 98.3 | 104.8 |
| Consumer Spending (\$ Bil) | 20,382 | 19,308 |
| Consumer Credit (\$ Bil) | 5,007 | 5,039 |
| Retail Sales (\$ Bil) | 724 | 695 |

| | Last Release | Year Ago |
|-------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| Housing | | |
| Housing Starts (000's) | 1,366 | 1,376 |
| Case-Shiller Home Price Index | 323.22 | 311.02 |

| | Last Release | Year Ago |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| U.S. Productivity | | |
| Real Gross Domestic Product (\$ Bil) | 23,536 | 22,961 |
| Quarter over Quarter Change | 2.3% | 3.2% |
| Year Over Year Change | 2.5% | 3.2% |
| ISM Manufacturing | 50.30 | 47.60 |
| Capacity Utilization | 77.77 | 77.19 |
| Markit US Composite PMI | 51.60 | 52.50 |

| | Last Release | Year Ago |
|-----------------------------|--------------|----------|
| U.S. General | | |
| Leading Economic Indicators | 101.5 | 104.2 |
| Trade Weighted Dollar Index | 128.5 | 121.5 |
| EUR / USD | 1.08 | 1.09 |
| JPY / USD | 148.04 | 148.05 |
| CAD / USD | 0.70 | 0.74 |
| AUD / USD | 0.63 | 0.66 |

S&P 500 Sector Returns

| | 1 Month | YTD |
|------------------------|---------|---------|
| Health Care | 1.99% | 8.58% |
| Consumer Staples | 2.63% | 6.37% |
| Real Estate | 1.25% | 4.44% |
| Materials | -0.53% | 4.44% |
| Energy | -1.00% | 2.16% |
| Utilities | -1.05% | 2.16% |
| Industrials | -2.20% | 1.92% |
| Financials | -5.15% | 1.73% |
| Communication Services | -6.13% | 0.25% |
| Information Technology | -5.45% | -7.43% |
| Consumer Discretionary | -11.05% | -10.45% |

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