

Economic and Market Update

First Quarter 2026



STevens
VISIONARY STRATEGIES

Market Issues

- US Stock market +16% in 2025
 - Large growth beats large value style, but growth more overvalued
 - All styles overvalued
 - Top ten stocks make up 40% of S&P 500 index
 - Rest of S&P returned closer to 13% after “Magnificent 7” stocks
 - Check composition of index or pseudo index funds
 - Tilt to large growth should be factored into target allocation
 - Counter large growth tilt with small-cap value stocks
- International stocks beat US stocks in 2025
 - Due to declining US dollar, make sure allocation to foreign stocks is on target

Market Issues

- Cash and Bonds
 - Many position traded money markets paying 3-4%, but many sweep money market accounts paying much less
 - Consider locking in rates in individual CDs in bond ladders
 - See how much of your income is taxable. Consider adding in some muni funds if you want to decrease how much is taxable.
 - Keep the term closer to intermediate-
 - Change in Fed leadership implies interest rates will go lower. How quickly that happens is up for debate.

Asset class returns

2011 - 2025																	
Ann.	Vol.	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Large Cap	Small Cap	REITs	REITs	Small Cap	REITs	REITs	Small Cap	EM Equity	Cash	Large Cap	Small Cap	REITs	Comdty.	Large Cap	Large Cap	EM Equity	
14.1%	20.3%	8.3%	19.7%	38.8%	28.0%	2.8%	21.3%	37.8%	1.8%	31.5%	20.0%	41.3%	16.1%	26.3%	25.0%	34.4%	
Small Cap	EM Equity	Fixed Income	High Yield	Large Cap	Large Cap	Large Cap	High Yield	DM Equity	Fixed Income	REITs	EM Equity	Large Cap	Cash	DM Equity	Small Cap	DM Equity	
9.5%	17.5%	7.8%	19.6%	32.4%	13.7%	1.4%	14.3%	25.6%	0.0%	28.7%	18.7%	28.7%	1.5%	18.9%	11.5%	31.9%	
REITs	REITs	High Yield	EM Equity	DM Equity	Fixed Income	Fixed Income	Large Cap	Large Cap	REITs	Small Cap	Large Cap	Comdty.	High Yield	Small Cap	Asset Alloc.	Large Cap	
7.8%	16.4%	3.1%	18.6%	23.3%	6.0%	0.5%	12.0%	21.8%	-4.0%	25.5%	18.4%	27.1%	-12.7%	16.9%	10.0%	17.9%	
Asset Alloc.	DM Equity	Large Cap	DM Equity	Asset Alloc.	Asset Alloc.	Cash	Comdty.	Small Cap	High Yield	DM Equity	Asset Alloc.	Small Cap	Fixed Income	Asset Alloc.	High Yield	Asset Alloc.	
7.3%	15.7%	2.1%	17.9%	14.9%	5.2%	0.0%	11.8%	14.6%	-4.1%	22.7%	10.6%	14.8%	-13.0%	14.1%	9.2%	15.8%	
DM Equity	Comdty.	Cash	Small Cap	High Yield	Small Cap	DM Equity	EM Equity	Asset Alloc.	Large Cap	Asset Alloc.	DM Equity	Asset Alloc.	Asset Alloc.	High Yield	EM Equity	Comdty.	
7.1%	15.4%	0.1%	16.3%	7.3%	4.9%	-0.4%	11.6%	14.6%	-4.4%	19.5%	8.3%	13.5%	-13.9%	14.0%	8.1%	15.8%	
High Yield	Large Cap	Asset Alloc.	Large Cap	REITs	Cash	Asset Alloc.	REITs	High Yield	Asset Alloc.	EM Equity	Fixed Income	DM Equity	DM Equity	REITs	Comdty.	Small Cap	
5.7%	14.7%	-0.7%	16.0%	2.9%	0.0%	-2.0%	8.6%	10.4%	-5.8%	18.9%	7.5%	11.8%	-14.0%	11.4%	5.4%	12.8%	
EM Equity	Asset Alloc.	Small Cap	Asset Alloc.	Cash	High Yield	High Yield	Asset Alloc.	REITs	Small Cap	High Yield	High Yield	High Yield	Large Cap	EM Equity	Cash	High Yield	
4.2%	10.1%	-4.2%	12.2%	0.0%	0.0%	-2.7%	8.3%	8.7%	-11.0%	12.6%	7.0%	1.0%	-18.1%	10.3%	5.3%	12.1%	
Fixed Income	High Yield	DM Equity	Fixed Income	Fixed Income	EM Equity	Small Cap	Fixed Income	Fixed Income	Comdty.	Fixed Income	Cash	Cash	EM Equity	Fixed Income	REITs	Fixed Income	
2.4%	9.1%	-11.7%	4.2%	-2.0%	-1.8%	-4.4%	2.6%	3.5%	-11.2%	8.7%	0.5%	0.0%	-19.7%	5.5%	4.9%	7.3%	
Cash	Fixed Income	Comdty.	Cash	EM Equity	DM Equity	EM Equity	DM Equity	Comdty.	DM Equity	Comdty.	Comdty.	Fixed Income	Small Cap	Cash	DM Equity	Cash	
1.5%	4.6%	-13.3%	0.1%	-2.3%	-4.5%	-14.6%	1.5%	1.7%	-13.4%	7.7%	-3.1%	-1.5%	-20.4%	5.1%	4.3%	4.3%	
Comdty.	Cash	EM Equity	Comdty.	Comdty.	Comdty.	Comdty.	Cash	Cash	EM Equity	Cash	REITs	EM Equity	REITs	Comdty.	Fixed Income	REITs	
-1.1%	0.9%	-18.2%	-1.1%	-9.5%	-17.0%	-24.7%	0.3%	0.8%	-14.2%	2.2%	-5.1%	-2.2%	-24.9%	-7.9%	1.3%	2.3%	

Investing Principles

Source: Bloomberg, FactSet, MSCI, NAREIT, Russell, Standard & Poor's, J.P. Morgan Asset Management.

Large Cap: S&P 500, Small Cap: Russell 2000, EM Equity: MSCI EME, DM Equity: MSCI EAFE, Comdty: Bloomberg Commodity Index, High Yield: Bloomberg Global HY Index, Fixed Income: Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate, REITs: NAREIT Equity REIT Index, Cash: Bloomberg 1-3m Treasury. The "Asset Allocation" portfolio is for illustrative purposes only and assumes annual rebalancing with the following weights: 25% in the S&P 500, 10% in the Russell 2000, 15% in the MSCI EAFE, 5% in the MSCI EME, 25% in the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate, 5% in the Bloomberg 1-3m Treasury, 5% in the Bloomberg Global High Yield Index, 5% in the Bloomberg Commodity Index and 5% in the NAREIT Equity REIT Index. Annualized (Ann.) return and volatility (Vol.) represents the period from 12/31/2010 to 12/31/2025. Please see the disclosure page at the end for index definitions. All data represent total return for stated period. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Guide to the Markets – U.S. Data are as of December 31, 2025.

Returns and valuations by style

Equities

10-year annualized				2025			
	Value	Blend	Growth		Value	Blend	Growth
Large	10.5%	14.8%	18.1%	Large	15.9%	17.9%	18.6%
Mid	9.8%	11.0%	12.5%	Mid	11.0%	10.6%	8.7%
Small	9.3%	9.6%	9.6%	Small	12.6%	12.8%	13.0%
Since market peak (January 2022)				Since market low (October 2022)			
	Value	Blend	Growth		Value	Blend	Growth
Large	36.1%	51.4%	58.7%	Large	64.9%	100.6%	132.7%
Mid	24.4%	24.0%	23.6%	Mid	55.0%	62.4%	78.4%
Small	17.8%	15.7%	12.4%	Small	48.2%	54.1%	59.5%

Forward P/E vs. 20-year avg. P/E			
	Value	Blend	Growth
Large	17.1 / 14.0	22.0 / 16.2	28.8 / 19.8
Mid	15.6 / 14.6	17.3 / 16.5	26.8 / 21.3
Small	17.2 / 16.9	23.4 / 23.0	34.5 / 31.3
Forward P/E as % of 20-year avg. P/E			
	Value	Blend	Growth
Large	122.5%	135.8%	144.9%
Mid	107.1%	105.2%	125.9%
Small	102.1%	101.6%	110.1%

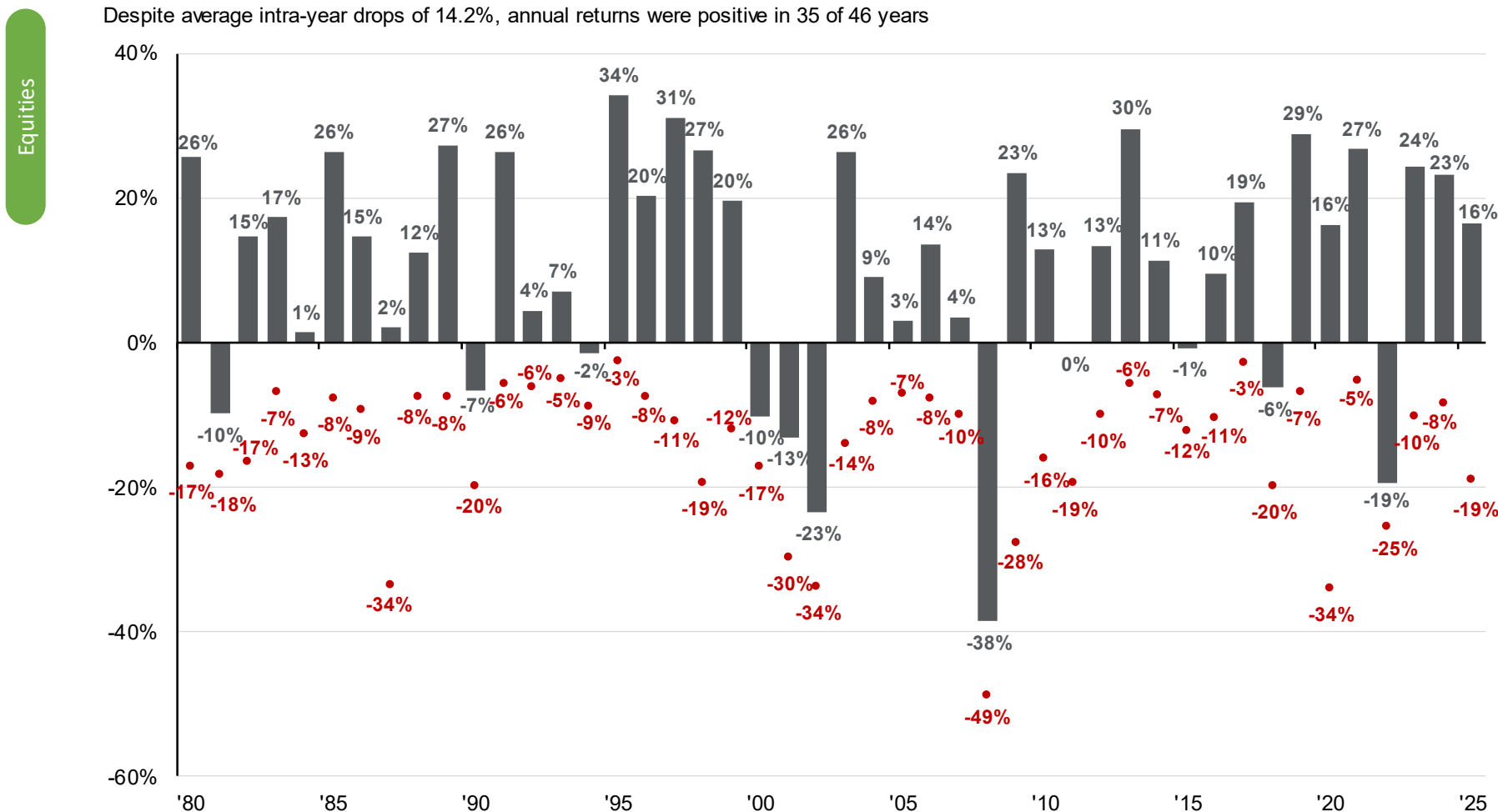
Source: FactSet, FTSE Russell, Standard & Poor's, J.P. Morgan Asset Management.

All calculations are cumulative total return, including dividends reinvested for the stated period. Returns are not annualized. Since market peak represents the period from 1/3/2022 to the present. Since market low represents the period from 10/12/2022 to the present. For all time periods, total return is based on Russell style indices except for the large blend category, which is based on the S&P 500 index. Forward P/E ratio is the most recent S&P 500 index price divided by consensus analyst estimates for earnings in the next 12 months, provided by FactSet. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Annual returns and intra-year declines

S&P 500 intra-year declines vs. calendar year returns

Despite average intra-year drops of 14.2%, annual returns were positive in 35 of 46 years



Source: FactSet, Standard & Poor's, J.P. Morgan Asset Management.

Returns are based on price index only and do not include dividends. Intra-year drops refers to the largest peak-to-trough decline during the year. Returns shown are calendar year returns from 1980 to 2025, over which the average annual return was 10.7%. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Guide to the Markets – U.S. Data are as of December 31, 2025.

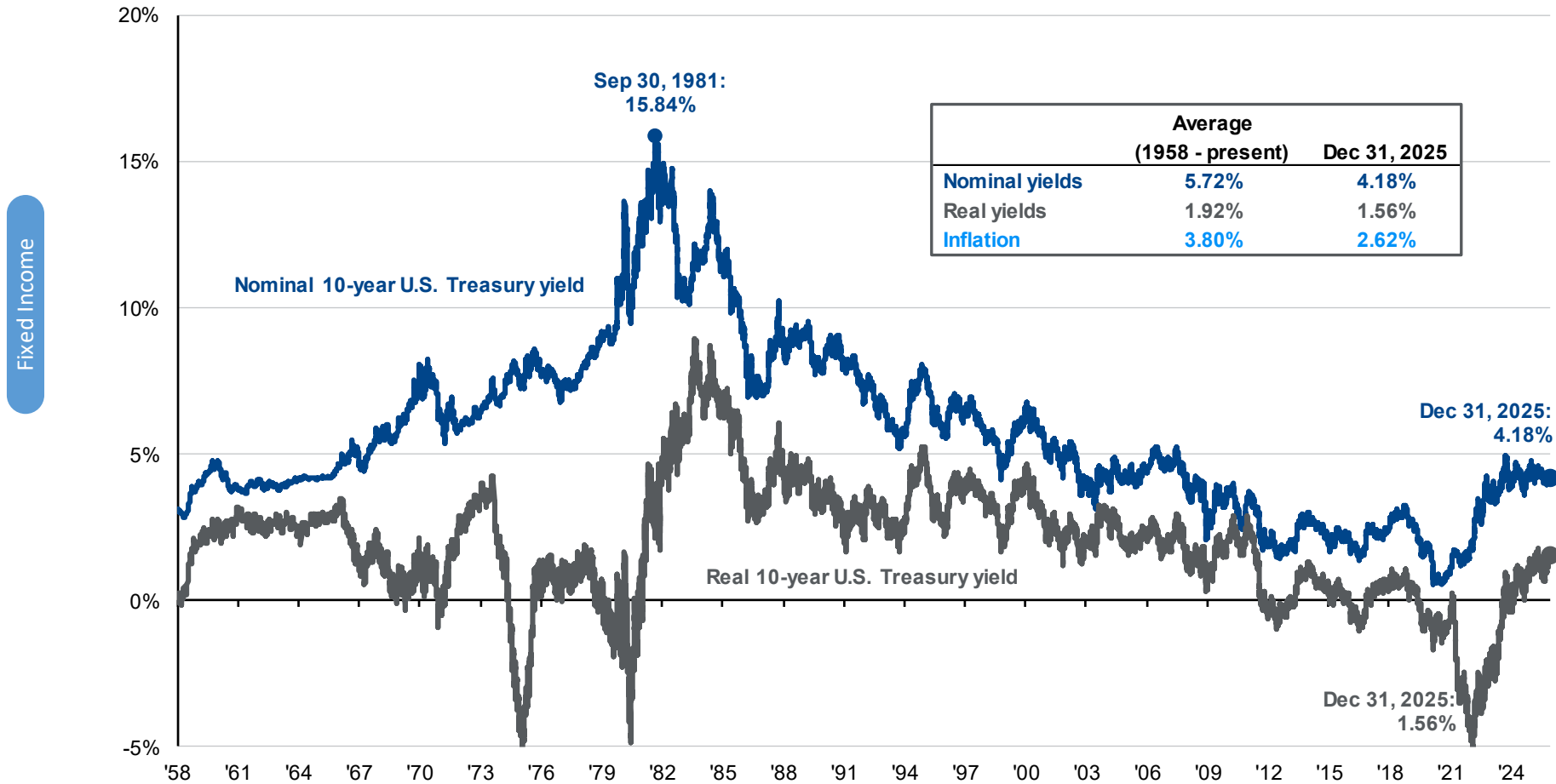
Economic Issues

- Inflation
 - Inflation has dwindled from fifty-year high of 9.1% in June 2022 to 2.62% in December 2025.
 - Ten-year Treasury yielding 4.18% is really only yielding 1.56% after inflation
- Risks
 - US political uncertainty casts a large shadow; loss of checks and balances
 - Midterm elections may have significant impact; a tilt of electoral redistricting?
 - Immigration policy and National Guard deployments revolutionary; cracks in the MAGA coalition?
 - Geopolitical world reordering – unexpected consequences
 - Weaker EU – End of NATO?
 - Stronger China, Russia
 - US imperialism plays out: Venezuela, Greenland
 - Drugs or oil? Is Mexico next?
- Outlook for economic growth is still OK, but could become weaker depending on so many wild cards around the world

Interest rates and inflation

31

Nominal and real U.S. 10-year Treasury yields



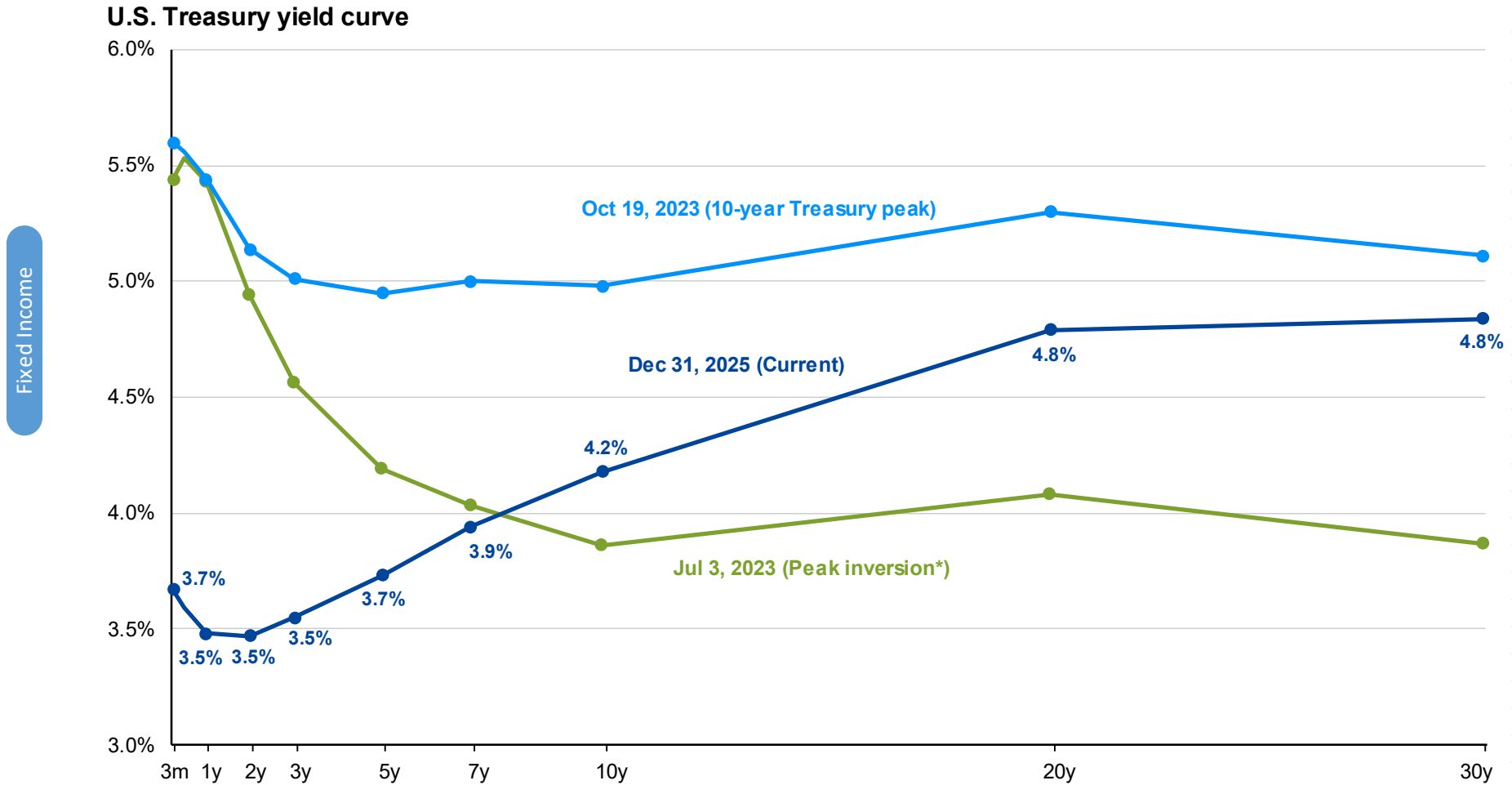
Source: BLS, FactSet, Federal Reserve, J.P. Morgan Asset Management.

Real 10-year Treasury yields are calculated as the daily Treasury yield less y/y core CPI inflation for that month. For the current month, we use the prior month's core CPI figures until the latest data are available.

Guide to the Markets – U.S. Data are as of December 31, 2025.

Yield curve

33



Source: FactSet, Federal Reserve, J.P. Morgan Asset Management.
Analysis references data back to 2020. *Peak inversion is measured by the spread between the yield on a 10-year Treasury and 2-year Treasury.
Guide to the Markets – U.S. Data are as of December 31, 2025.

Considerations

- Review cash holdings
 - Deploy excess cash (beyond emergency fund levels)
 - Watch interest rates on money market accounts throughout the year
- Review fixed income holdings
 - Consider locking in higher rates on individual fixed income securities
 - Consider shifting out to intermediate-term fixed income funds
- Review stock holdings
 - Look at composition of index funds and stock allocations across styles
 - Small value stocks are cheaper than large growth stocks
 - Make sure international stock allocations are on target

Disclosures

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