

Sun City Summerlin Computer Club

\$ Internet Investing SIG \$

Tom Burt

March 20, 2025

SIG Meeting Schedule

- The Internet Investing SIG meets every month on the third Thursday morning at **10 AM**.
- Investing SIG Chat Line
 - **Subscribe:** SCSCCInvestingSIG+subscribe@groups.io
 - **Post:** SCSCCInvestingSIG@groups.io
- The upcoming session dates will be:

April 17, 2025
May 15, 2025
June 19, 2025
July 17, 2025
August 21, 2025
September 18, 2025

October 16, 2025
November 20, 2025
December 18, 2025
January 15, 2026
February 19, 2026
March 19, 2026

Fundamentals Review – March 19, 2025

- Dollar slightly weaker against foreign currencies / commodities.
 - Oil (WTI) – still priced in dollars – is around **\$67.19** / barrel.
 - Stock indexes have rebounded from recent dips and are at or near all-time highs.
 - Dow 30: **41,965** S&P 500: **5,675**, Nasdaq: **17,751**, Russell 2000: **2,082**, Gold: **\$3,058**, Silver: **\$34.42**, Bitcoin: **\$85,752**, EUR/USD: **\$1.090**
 - S&P PE ratio is **26.6** vs 17.4 long term median
(https://www.gurufocus.com/economic_indicators/57/pe-ratio-ttm-for-the-sp-500).
- Key interest rates have eased
 - 1-year Treasury – about **4.09%**; 10-year Treasury - about **4.26%**; 30-year Treasury - about **4.57%**.
 - 30-year fixed mortgage – **6.69% Apr**; 15-year fixed mortgage – **6.00% Apr.** ; Prime – **7.50%**
- Fed *held* rate unchanged at 4.37% (4.25% – 4.50% range). Next meeting is 05-07-25.
- Gov't BLS Claims February US Job Unemployment was **4.1%**.
 - <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empst.pdf>
- Official Inflation Rates for February 2025 were:
 - CPI: **+2.8% (YoY) +0.2% (MoM)**, PPI: **+3.2% (YoY) +0.0% (MoM)**
 - <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflation/current-inflation-rates/>
 - LV Regular Gasoline (**\$3.25(.9)** at Costco, **\$4.10(.9)** at Chevron).

Fundamentals Review – February 19, 2025

- Dollar slightly weaker against foreign currencies / commodities.
 - Oil (WTI) – still priced in dollars – is around **\$72.18** / barrel.
 - Stock indexes have rebounded from recent dips and are at or near all-time highs.
 - Dow 30: **44,628** S&P 500: **6,144**, Nasdaq: **20,056**, Russell 2000: **2,282**, Gold: **\$2,950**, Silver: **\$33.14**, Bitcoin: **\$96,618**, EUR/USD: **\$1.042**
 - S&P PE ratio is **29.2** vs 17.1 long term median, 19.4 average
aver(https://www.gurufocus.com/economic_indicators/57/pe-ratio-ttm-for-the-sp-500).
- Key interest rates have risen; short-term inversion (1 yr vs 10 yr) is still present
 - 1-year Treasury – about **4.23%**; 10-year Treasury - about **4.54%**; 30-year Treasury - about **4.77%**.
 - 30-year fixed mortgage – **7.13% Apr**; 15-year fixed mortgage – **6.63% Apr.** ; Prime – **7.50%**
- Fed *held* rate unchanged at 4.37% (4.25% – 4.50% range). Next meeting is 03-19-25.
- Gov't BLS Claims January US Job Unemployment was **4.0%**.
 - <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empst.pdf>
- Official Inflation Rates for January 2025 were:
 - CPI: **+3.0% (YoY) +0.5% (MoM)**, PPI: **+3.5% (YoY) +0.6% (MoM)**
 - <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflation/current-inflation-rates/>
 - LV Regular Gasoline (**\$3.49(.9)** at Costco, **\$4.20(.9)** at Chevron).

Fundamentals Review – January 15, 2025

- Dollar slightly weaker against foreign currencies / commodities.
 - Oil (WTI) – still priced in dollars – is around **\$80.34** / barrel.
 - Stock indexes have rebounded from recent dips and are at or near all-time highs.
 - Dow 30: **43,222** S&P 500: **5,950**, Nasdaq: **19,511**, Russell 2000: **2,263**, Gold: **\$2,725**, Silver: **\$31.60**, Bitcoin: **\$100,175**, EUR/USD: **\$1.029**
 - S&P PE ratio is **29.2** vs 17.1 long term median, 19.4 average
aver(https://www.gurufocus.com/economic_indicators/57/pe-ratio-ttm-for-the-sp-500).
- Key interest rates have risen; short-term inversion (1 yr vs 10 yr) is still present
 - 1-year Treasury – about **4.24%**; 10-year Treasury - about **4.65%**; 30-year Treasury - about **4.96%**.
 - 30-year fixed mortgage – **7.18% Apr**; 15-year fixed mortgage – **6.37% Apr.** ; Prime – **7.50%**
- Federal Reserve cut Fed Funds rate by .25% to 4.5% (4.25% – 4.75% range).
Next meeting is 01-28-25.
- Gov't BLS Claims December US Job Unemployment was **4.1%**.
 - <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf>
 - This number has been improving, but many workers are still on government payments.
- Official Inflation Rates (YoY) for December 2024 were: Core CPI **3.2%**, PPI **3.5%**
 - <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflation/current-inflation-rates/>
 - LV Regular Gasoline (**\$3.19(.9)** at Costco, **\$3.50(.9)** at Chevron).

News Bits & Bytes

- **Bottom Line: Four Common Investment Terms - Explanation**
 - <https://www.bottomlineinc.com/money/investing/investment-terms-you-should-know>
- **Bottom Line: What is Non-taxable Income?**
 - <https://www.bottomlineinc.com/money/taxes/what-is-nontaxable-income>
- **Investopedia: How Worried Should You be About a Recession**
 - <https://www.investopedia.com/how-worried-should-you-actually-be-about-a-recession-11696638>
- **NY Federal Reserve: Household Debt Hits \$18.04 trillion**
 - <https://www.newyorkfed.org/microeconomics/hhdc>
- **Yahoo Finance: Changes to Social Security Policy - Clawbacks and Anti-Fraud**
 - <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/two-big-changes-coming-to-social-security-you-need-to-know-about-150020216.html>
- **Bottom Line: How Much Social Security Will I get?**
 - <https://www.bottomlineinc.com/money/social-security/average-social-security-check-by-age>
- **Tech Republic: What is a Digital Wallet?**
 - <https://www.techrepublic.com/article/what-is-digital-wallet/>
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Tom's Recent (and Future) Financial Moves

- ***Disclaimer: These are not recommendations! Your financial situation and market circumstances are likely different.***
- **Trades**
 - *None! Keeping my powder dry. Waiting for signs the latest correction is over.*
 - *Some tech stocks looking more attractive.*
- ***Bond yields have been easing (i.e. bond prices rising). Dollar has fallen. Yields on preferred stock ETFs, bank CDs, money market funds still fairly good. Fixed income assets prices holding. May want to lock in yields.***
- ***EV car makers' problems are apparent. Batteries & range improving. Profits hard to earn.***
 - *May see the Federal EV subsidies discontinued in 2025.*
- ***Still Looking at Utilities, Uranium miners, Copper, Robotics / Automation / AI***
 - *No way to meet future power demand with renewables (wind, solar); nuclear seeing a resurgence.*
 - *Flight from high-tax northern blue states to the south will increase demand for power there. Recent hurricanes may dissuade some from moving.*
 - *Electric vehicles and utility transmission lines require lots of copper, rare earth metals, lithium.*
- **Boomers are Getting Older – Need More Health Care**

Market Drops – What to Do? (1)

- Major indexes were down 10% or More; some tech stocks (e.g. TSLA) down a lot more
 - *Tech / AI bubble has deflated*
 - *Market is now favoring value stocks*
 - *Trump's tariff policies are adding to uncertainty*
 - *Senate Republicans seem to not get the need to quickly extend the 2017 cuts*
 - *Stop loss orders and margin calls amplified the selling*
 - *Concerns about a major recession due to heavy consumer debt*
- Your actions depend a lot on your situation
 - *Don't panic and sell good stocks; they tend to come back quickly*
 - *If your portfolio is solid and you don't need to sell to raise cash for living expenses, you can usually just sit tight and ride it out.*
 - *May want to sell some stinkers to harvest the tax loss and raise cash*
 - *There are starting to be some good bargains, but they won't last long*

Market Drops – What to Do? (2)

- If you want to “buy the dip”, what stocks or funds should you buy?
- Depends on your situation
 - *If you need income, may want to favor solid “value” companies or funds*
 - *If relatively younger, may want to pursue “growth” companies or funds*
- Let’s try the Yahoo Finance stock screener
 - *Various pre-built screeners you can try*
 - *You can customize any built-in screener to narrow down the list of results*
 - *You can also build a screener from scratch*
 - *As you review the screener’s list of results, you can right-click a result’s symbol and open in a new browser tab to see all the details about that equity.*
 - *If you see one you like, add the symbol to a watch list so you can track it.*

Open Discussion