

Sun City Summerlin Computer Club

\$ Internet Investing SIG \$

Tom Burt

April 17, 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:

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
April 16, 2026

Fundamentals Review – April 16, 2025

- Dollar slightly weaker against foreign currencies / commodities.
 - Oil (WTI) – still priced in dollars – is around **\$62.60** / barrel.
 - Stock indexes have rebounded from recent dips and are at or near all-time highs.
 - Dow 30: **39,669** S&P 500: **5,276**, Nasdaq: **16,307**, Russell 2000: **1,863**, Gold: **\$3,358**, Silver: **\$32.76**, Bitcoin: **\$84,572**, EUR/USD: **\$1.140**
 - S&P PE ratio is **26.25** vs 16.1 long term mean
(https://www.gurufocus.com/economic_indicators/57/pe-ratio-ttm-for-the-sp-500).
- Key interest rates have eased
 - 1-year Treasury – about **3.99%**; 10-year Treasury - about **4.28%**; 30-year Treasury - about **4.75%**.
 - 30-year fixed mortgage – **7.00% Apr**; 15-year fixed mortgage – **6.13% 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 March US Job Unemployment was **4.2%**.
 - <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empst.pdf>
- Official Inflation Rates for March 2025 were:
 - Core CPI: **+2.8% (YoY) +0.1% (MoM)**, PPI: **+2.7% (YoY) -0.4% (MoM)**
 - <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflation/current-inflation-rates/>
 - LV Regular Gasoline (**\$3.49(.9)** at Costco, **\$4.26(.9)** at Chevron).

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).

News Bits & Bytes

- **Bottom Line: What are APY and APR?**
 - <https://www.bottomlineinc.com/money/credit-debt/what-is-apy>
- **Martin Armstrong: Article - History of Tariffs**
 - <https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/international-news/trade-war/why-is-trump-using-tariffs-the-truth-that-has-misled-the-world-on-tariffs/>
- **Bottom Line: Retirement Planning – the \$1000 a Month Rule**
 - <https://www.bottomlineinc.com/money/retirement-planning/the-1000-a-month-rule-for-retirement-savings/>
- **Bottom Line: Factors Affecting Gasoline Prices**
 - <https://www.bottomlineinc.com/life/automotive/who-controls-gas-prices-what-causes-prices-to-rise-or-drop/>
- **High Cost of Home Ownership vs Renting**
 - <https://www.zerohedge.com/personal-finance/us-homeowners-must-earn-50000-more-renters-cover-shelter-payments-report>
- **Bottom Line: March Retail Sales Soared**
 - <https://www.zerohedge.com/personal-finance/us-retail-sales-soared-most-2-years-march-auto-spending-spiked-ahead-tariffs>

Tom's Recent (and Future) Financial Moves

- ***Disclaimer: These are not recommendations! Your financial situation and market circumstances are likely different.***
- **Trades**
 - *Bought 200 NVDA @ \$103.36 4/3/25. Dropped to \$93 next day. Now at \$101.*
- ***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**

Alternatives to Quicken Deluxe (1)

- <https://www.creditdonkey.com/quicken-alternatives.html>
- Quicken Deluxe Annual Fee is now \$71.88 (may be cheaper at other retailers)
- Intuit Credit Karma (Successor to Mint)
 - <https://www.creditkarma.com/wealth>
 - *Free asset and financial transaction tracking (link to all your accounts)*
 - *Wide range of other financial offerings*
 - *Extensive financial information and planning resources*
- Empower [Formerly Personal Capital]
 - <https://www.empower.com/>
 - *Free asset and financial transaction tracking (link to all your accounts)*
 - *Secure cloud-based account*
 - *Also offers paid wealth management services, financial accounts*

Alternatives to Quicken Deluxe (2)

- **GnuCash (Free comprehensive book-keeping system)**
 - <https://gnucash.org/>
 - *Full double-entry book-keeping*
 - *Runs locally on your PC, nothing is in the cloud (make your own backups)*
 - *Open source*
 - *Versions for Windows, MacOS, Linux*
 - *Can import QIF files (migrate from Quicken)*
 - *Has a variety of small business features*
 - *Is able to download transactions from financial institutions (if supported).*
 - *Features similar to QuickBooks.*

Open Discussion