

Sun City Summerlin Computer Club

\$ Internet Investing SIG \$

Tom Burt

May 15, 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:

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
May 21, 2026

Fundamentals Review – May 14, 2025

- Dollar slightly weaker against foreign currencies / commodities.
 - Oil (WTI) – still priced in dollars – is around **\$62.79** / barrel.
 - Stock indexes have rebounded from recent dips.
 - Dow 30: **42,051** S&P 500: **5,893**, Nasdaq: **19,147**, Russell 2000: **2,084**, Gold: **\$3,184**, Silver: **\$32.34**, Bitcoin: **\$103,420**, EUR/USD: **\$1.117**
 - S&P PE ratio is **27.99** 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 **4.05%**; 10-year Treasury - about **4.53%**; 30-year Treasury - about **4.96%**.
 - 30-year fixed mortgage – **7.02% Apr**; 15-year fixed mortgage – **6.08% Apr.** ; Prime – **7.50%**
- Fed *held* rate unchanged at 4.37% (4.25% – 4.50% range). Next meeting is 06-17-25.
- Gov't BLS Claims April US Job Unemployment was **4.2%**.
 - <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empst.pdf>
- Official Inflation Rates for April 2025 were:
 - Core CPI: **+2.3% (YoY) +0.2% (MoM)**, PPI: **+2.7% (YoY) -0.4% (MoM)**
 - <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflation/current-inflation-rates/>
 - LV Regular Gasoline (**\$3.39(.9)** at Costco, **\$4.30(.9)** at Chevron).

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).

News Bits & Bytes

- **Bottom Line: Rules for Social Security While Working**
 - <https://www.bottomlineinc.com/money/retirement-planning/social-security/can-you-collect-social-security-and-still-work/>
- **ZeroHedge: Summer Power Shortages – Mid-Atlantic & Mid-west States**
 - <https://www.zerohedge.com/commodities/americas-largest-grid-operator-warns-summer-power-shortages>
- **Yahoo Finance: New ESPN Streaming Channel**
 - <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/espn-dtc-streaming-cost-30-183415071.html>
- **CNBC: April Inflation Breakdown**
 - <https://www.cnbc.com/2025/05/13/cpi-inflation-breakdown-april-2025-in-one-chart.html>
- **ZeroHedge: Microsoft Cutting 3% of Workforce**
 - <https://www.zerohedge.com/markets/microsoft-reportedly-slashing-3-global-workforce>
- **Forbes / YouTube: Toyota Solid-State EV battery 745 Mile Range, 10-Minute Charging**
 - <https://www.forbes.com/sites/peterlyon/2025/05/07/the-ev-holy-grail-a-battery-that-can-travel-745-miles-on-one-charge/>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEOoT5v91Tw>

Tom's Recent (and Future) Financial Moves

- ***Disclaimer: These are not recommendations! Your financial situation and market circumstances are likely different.***
- **Trades**
 - *No moves this month. Waiting for tariffs to settle down. May buy some 30-year Treasuries (~5%)*
- ***Bond yields have eased up (i.e. bond prices Falling). Dollar has risen slightly. 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**

IRA / 401K Withdrawal Planning (1)

- **Articles**

- <https://www.ameriprise.com/financial-goals-priorities/retirement/retirement-distribution>
- <https://investor.vanguard.com/investor-resources-education/article/retirement-withdrawal-strategies>
- <https://www.irs.gov/retirement-plans/retirement-plan-and-ira-required-minimum-distributions-faqs>

- **Considerations:**

- *Your current age (many complex rules; RMDs may be in effect)*
- *Other benefits (pensions, social security, annuities)*
- *income (wages, self employment, interest, dividends)*
- *Income needed to support your desired lifestyle*
- *Size (NAV) of your IRA (and other) account(s)*
- *Type of IRA accounts (regular, Roth) – affects taxability*
- *Marital Status*
- *Estate Planning Considerations*

IRA / 401K Withdrawal Tax Planning (2)

- **Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)**
 - *Must be taken after age 72 (soon 73) or pay penalties*
 - *If have multiple qualified accounts, can satisfy using withdrawals from any mix of those accounts.*
- **Qualified Charitable Donations**
 - *Issue checks payable directly to charity (you can receive and mail them)*
 - *Satisfy RMDs – You can donate more than your RMD amount.*
 - *Are subtracted directly from AGI, even if you use the Standard Deduction*
- **IRA to Roth Conversions**
 - *Amount converted is added to AGI and taxed as ordinary income*
 - *Can also affect amount of social security income subject to tax*
 - *Converting large amounts can push you into higher tax brackets*
 - *Earnings of amounts converted can be withdrawn tax free (5-year rule, over 59½)*
- **Titling and Beneficiaries**
 - *Make sure all accounts are correctly titled and designate beneficiaries*
 - *Be careful naming Trusts as beneficiaries of regular or Roth IRAs; can make settling an estate complicated.*

Open Discussion