

What's New(s)?

As we step into 2024, we are surrounded by a world brimming with both challenges and opportunities. Our Q1 newsletter aims to provide you with insights and guidance for the year ahead.

–A Promising Start–

2023 was a year marked by resilience and recovery, and this momentum has carried into the new year. The US economy has continued to show remarkable strength, defying many of the previous year's uncertainties. As we reflect on the first quarter, a few key themes emerge.

Sustained Bull Market. The S&P 500's declaration of a new bull market in mid-2023 was not just a fleeting moment. This positive trend has continued into 2024 with last week's historic Dow Jones record, offering opportunities for growth-oriented investments.

Tech Sector's Vital Role. Tech stocks, which were instrumental in last year's recovery, continue to play a pivotal role. Their performance is a barometer for broader market health and investor confidence.

Federal Reserve's Stance. The Fed has maintained a cautious approach. Interest rates, held steady in the recent past, may see adjustments based on economic indicators. We're closely monitoring these developments to understand their implications for your investments.



–Looking Ahead–

As we navigate through 2024, there are several areas we are focusing on:

Inflation and Consumer Demand. While the cooling of inflation is welcome, it brings a potential slowdown in consumer demand.

Wage Growth and Spending Power. The 2023 increase in wages is likely to continue supporting consumer spending power, which can have diverse effects on different market sectors.

Growth Expectations. While the pace may be slower, we still anticipate growth in 2024. Our strategies will capitalize on this trend, ensuring your portfolio is well-positioned to benefit from emerging opportunities.

Your Financial Journey. Remember, successful investing is not just about reacting to the latest trends, but about staying true to a well-crafted financial plan. We encourage you to:

- *Review your financial plan* – Regular reviews ensure the plan aligns with your current goals and life changes.
- *Stay diversified* – Diversification is crucial in navigating uncertain markets.
- *Keep a long-term perspective* – Patience and persistence are key in realizing the potential of your investments.

Gratitude and Commitment. Our commitment to your well-being remains steadfast. We thank you for continuing to entrust us with your financial journey. As we journey through 2024, let's embrace the opportunities and navigate the challenges together.

WINTER CALENDAR

Here are some dates for the remainder of Q1 2024 (and into spring!) to keep in mind...

- **February 8-25** San Antonio Rodeo
- **February 10** Coffee Festival at Travis Park
- **February 11** Super Bowl LVIII
- **February 14** Valentine's Day / Ash Wednesday
- **February 19** President's Day
- **February 22** Washington's Birthday
- **March 10** Daylight Saving Time begins
- **March 17** St. Patrick's Day
- **March 19** First day of spring
- **March 29** Good Friday
- **March 31** Easter
- **April 8** 1:30 p.m. Total Solar Eclipse
- **April 15** Tax Day
- **April 18-28** Fiesta!

Milestones of Note for 2024

Turning 50 in 2024? Are you contributing the maximum to your retirement accounts? You can now add the catch-up amount to your contributions.

Turning 59½ in 2024? Does your 401(k) offer in-service rollovers to your IRA? We can evaluate whether this would be a beneficial opportunity for your long-term financial plan.

Turning 60 in 2024? If you are the surviving spouse of someone who paid into Social Security, you can collect survivor benefits now.

Turning 62 in 2024? Will you take Social Security early at a reduced rate or wait as long as age 70 for the maximum benefit? We will work with you to evaluate what is in your best interest.

Turning 65 in 2024? Do you understand all the Medicare options? You have a 7-month window to enroll.

Turning 73 in 2024? It is time to start planning for your Required Minimum Distribution from your IRAs and 401(k)s. We will evaluate when to start taking your RMDs. You have until April 2025 to take your first one, but it is essential that you do not miss this window.

Contribution Limits Increased

Traditional and Roth IRA contribution:
\$7,000 (+\$1,000 for over 50)

SIMPLE IRA contribution:
\$16,000 (+\$3,500 for over 50)

401(k) contributions:
\$24,000 (+\$7,500 for over 50)

Do you need to consider a **Back Door Roth contribution** this year? If you are single and your income is over \$161,000 or you are married and your household income is over \$240,000, we will need to review how you can contribute to your IRA, following IRS guidelines.

Tying it all up...

February 1 is the unofficial start of tax season. *Are you prepared?*

It's not too late to get organized and set yourself some target dates – for assembling needed forms, enlisting a CPA if you don't already have one, filing last year's paperwork and making room for this year's receipts and documentation, and scheduling time to get everything submitted. And remember – any organizing or streamlining you can do this month gives you a kickstart for next year as well!