



Kirk Abrahamson  
Managing Director  
Abrahamson Wealth Management

## ORGANIZING FINANCIAL RECORDS

In the midst of tax season and with spring (and its companion, cleaning) right around the corner, we receive questions from clients about what financial documents they need to save and for how long. Regarding organizing your financial records, here are a few key points for consideration:

- Recordkeeping should be simple. Whether you use file cabinets, boxes or bins, create a system that you can follow.
- When you save a piece of paper or an email, be sure you know why you need to keep it. This will help you determine how long to keep it.
- Very few of your financial records should be kept “forever.” All other items should be purged at least once per year.

For a complimentary list of financially related documents and our recommended timeline for keeping, please click [here](#).

March 2025

### IN THIS ISSUE

ORGANIZING FINANCIAL RECORDS

CHART OF THE MONTH

THE AVERAGE INVESTOR UNDERPERFORMED

UPCOMING METRO EVENTS

IMPORTANT APRIL DATES

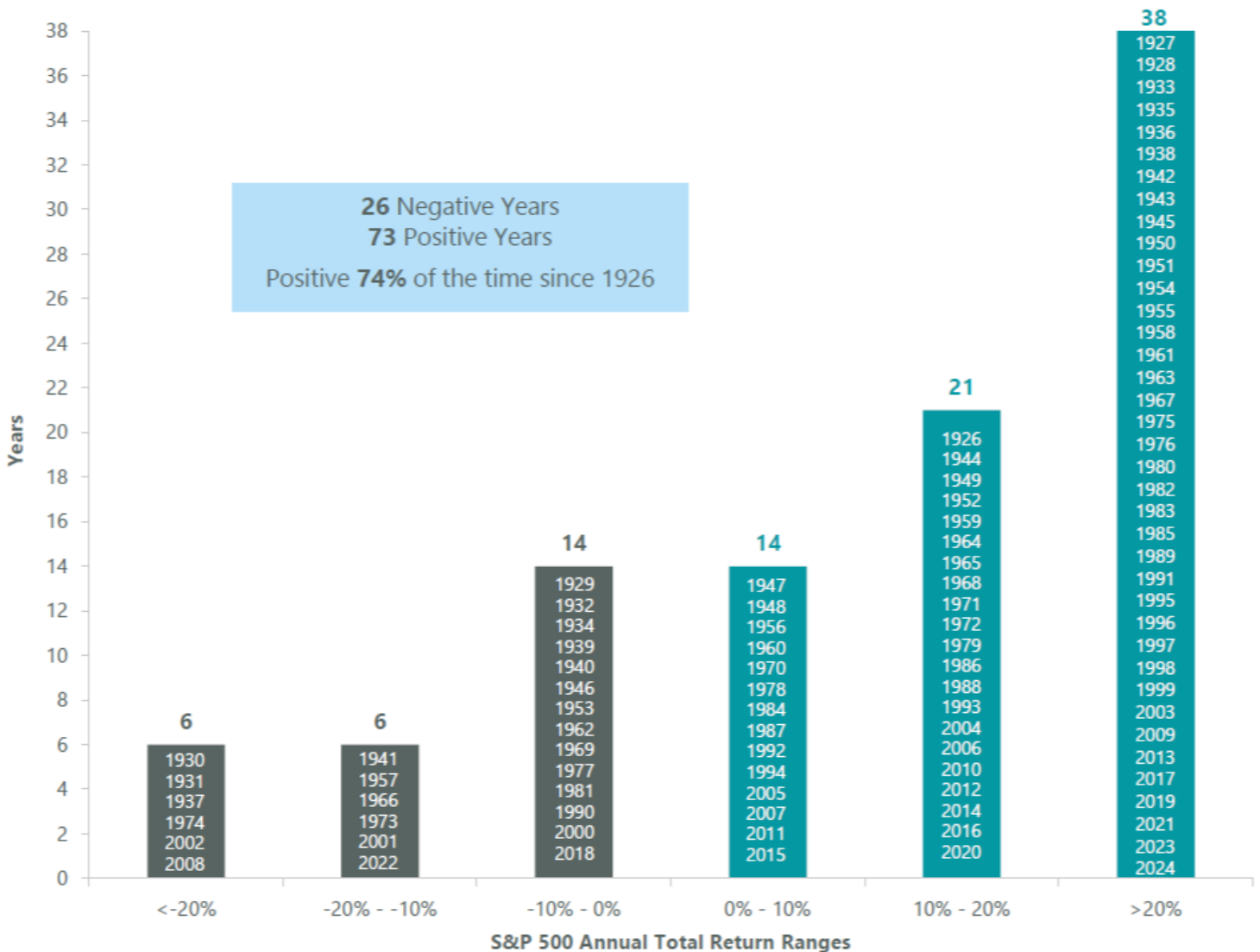
WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU



## CHART OF THE MONTH: S&P 500 MARKET ANNUAL RETURNS

Staying the course can be difficult during times of uncertainty in markets. This chart helps to illustrate that markets are resilient, even when headlines and world events may prove challenging.

### Distribution of S&P 500 Total Returns Since 1926



As of Dec. 31, 2024. Sources: FactSet, S&P. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Investors cannot invest directly in an index, and unmanaged index returns do not reflect any fees, expenses or sales charges.



## MARKET UPDATES & HEADLINES

SUMMARY - A torrent of headlines churned U.S. markets in February, which – bolstered by the underlying strength of the U.S. economy – closed down but still near record highs.

A quick rundown of the ongoing tensions:

- The Trump administration’s threat to enact broad-based tariffs on goods imported from Canada, Mexico and the European Union has created uncertainty for producers. The effect on the market may be muted thus far by investors’ bias toward seeing the threats as primarily a negotiating tactic.
- Federal Reserve policymakers remained in “wait and see” mode following mixed January inflation reports and a number of weak economic growth reports. Until there is more clarity, this combination of factors will likely stay the hand of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) from lowering interest rates.
- The release of an AI model from China at the end of January called into question the U.S.’s AI dominance – and AI-stock valuations – as well as expectations for related capital expenditures.
- Congressional leaders and the White House are eager to pass a significant budget, tax and debt limit package, but with their narrow House majority, Republicans may find achieving consensus difficult, increasing the risk of a government shutdown.

The S&P 500, which tracks large U.S. companies, finished the month down 1.42% while the Russell 2000, tracking U.S. small companies, was down 5.45%.

While the U.S. market churned, European stocks have come out strong in 2025 after lagging far behind the U.S. since 2022. Bolstered by deeply discounted valuations, anticipated peace talks between Russia and Ukraine and talks of fiscal stimulus in Germany, Euro stocks outperformed U.S. equities year-to-date by 8.6%.

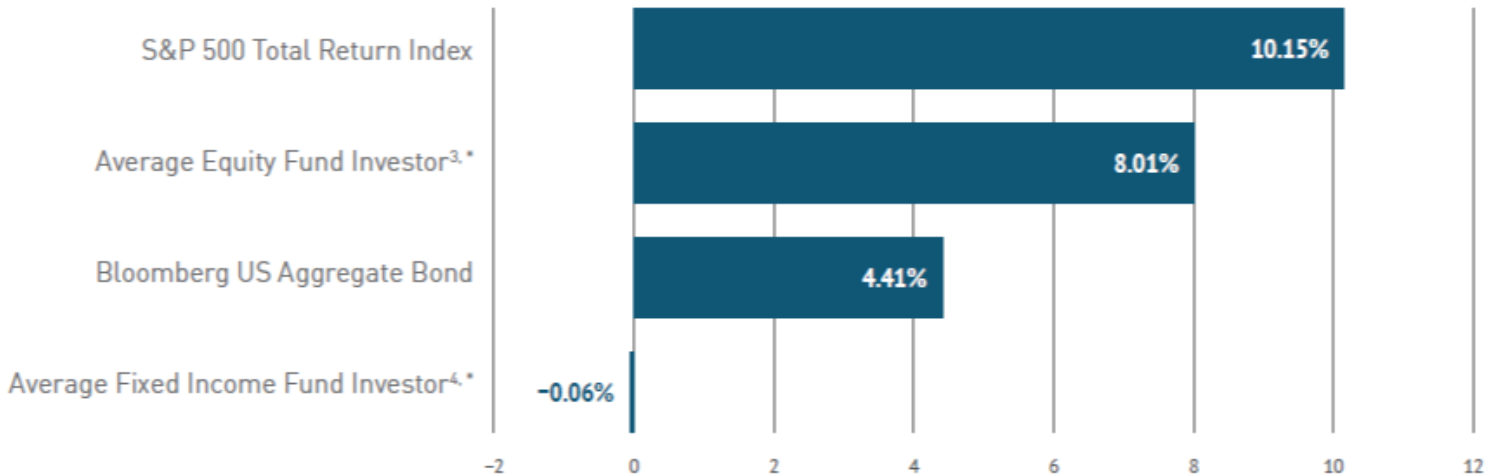
### **The bottom line**

As expected, the newly empowered administration spent its first full month vigorously pursuing its policy ideas and setting an agenda, backed by a friendly, if narrowly so, Congress. The strength of the U.S. economy continues to offer stability, despite the cacophony of daily headlines driving volatility. The market expects this volatility to continue – from inflation, interest rates and policy uncertainty – and has thus far not overreacted.



## THE AVERAGE INVESTOR UNDERPERFORMED<sup>1</sup>

Market returns vs. average investor returns, 30 years, 1994-2023<sup>2</sup>



**Stay Focused on Goals: Choose investments that align with your long-term financial goals and risk tolerances. Our team can help you stay focused and on track, especially during market shifts.**

### Key Takeaways:

- A financial professional can help you determine your overall comfort level with risk
- Allocate, diversify, and rebalance your assets accordingly
- Review your overall investment portfolio at least annually to help keep you focused and on course with your goals
- Choose investment aligned with your goals and risk tolerances and help you stay focused and on track as markets shift

\*Source: Dalbar, 2024 QAIB Report, as of December 31, 2023, latest data available. This example is for illustrative purposes only and is not intended to represent the future performance of any product. Although the data is gathered from sources believed to be reliable, Abrahamson Wealth Management of Raymond James cannot guarantee the accuracy and/or completeness of the information. The S&P 500 Total Return Index measures the broad US stock market. Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index measures the U.S. bond market. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Keep in mind that all investments carry a certain amount of risk, including the possible loss of the principal amount invested. <sup>1</sup>The Average Investor refers to the universe of all mutual funds investors whose actions and financial results are restated to represent a single investor. This approach allows the entire universe of mutual funds investors to be used as the statistical sample, ensuring ultimate reliability. <sup>2</sup>Average investor return performance: Methodology: QAIB calculates investor returns as the change in assets, after excluding sales, redemptions, and exchanges. This method of calculation captures realized and unrealized capital gains, dividends, interest, trading costs, sales charges, fees, expenses and any other costs. After calculating investor returns in dollar terms, two percentages are calculated: total investor rate for the period and annualized investor return rate. Total return rate is determined by calculating the investor return dollars as a percentage of the net assets, sales, redemptions and exchanges for the period. Annualized return rate is calculated as the uniform rate that can be compounded annually for the period under consideration to produce the investor return dollars. <sup>3</sup>The Average Equity Fund Investor comprises a universe of both domestic and world equity mutual funds. It includes growth, sector, alternative strategy, value, blend emerging markets, global equity, international equity and regional equity. <sup>4</sup>The Average Fixed Income Investor is comprised of a universe of fixed income mutual funds, which includes investment-grade, high-yield, government, municipal, multisector, and global bond funds. It does not include money market funds.



## UPCOMING METRO EVENTS:



### MARCH

- 14<sup>th</sup>: [Dome After Dark](#) – Greater DSM Botanical Garden
- 22<sup>nd</sup>: [Matt Woods Band](#) – Prairie Meadows
- 29<sup>th</sup>: [Spring seed starting workshop](#): Middlebrook Farm

### APRIL

- 5<sup>th</sup>: [Iowa Barnstormers Home Opener](#) – Wells Fargo Arena
- 13<sup>th</sup>: [Donot Stop Half Marathon](#) – Altoona
- 18<sup>th</sup>: [Iowa Cubs vs St. Paul Saints](#) – Principal Park
- 25<sup>th</sup>: [Maria Bamford](#) – Hoyt Sherman Place

### MAY

- 2<sup>nd</sup>: [First Fridays](#) – Mainframe Studios
- 9<sup>th</sup>: [Alice In Wonderland](#) – The Playhouse
- 16<sup>th</sup>: [Greenbelt Music Festival](#) – Clive Greenbelt
- 23<sup>rd</sup>: [Downtown Farmers Market](#) – Downtown Des Moines
- 31<sup>st</sup>: [Redbull Soapbox Race](#) – State Capitol Grounds

## IMPORTANT APRIL DEADLINES:

- Deadline to make a 2024 IRA or Roth IRA contribution
- Deadline file individual tax returns (Form 1040) for tax year 2024
- Deadline for household employers who paid \$2,700 or more in wages in 2024 to file Schedule H for form 1040
- Deadline for first quarter estimated tax payments for the 2025 tax year

We would love to hear from you! If there's an item or topic you'd like for us to discuss in greater detail, [drop us a note](#) and we'll be sure to address it in future editions of the newsletter.

Our goal is to make this publication educational, while providing entertaining material for all to enjoy.



**RAYMOND JAMES**

13137 University Avenue, Suite 200 // Clive, IA 50325

D: 515.224.5785 // F: 515.440.0818 // [www.abrahamsonwealthmanagement.com](http://www.abrahamsonwealthmanagement.com)

Raymond James & Associates, Inc., member New York Stock Exchange/SIPC

Any opinions are those of the author and not necessarily those of Raymond James. All opinions are as of this date and are subject to change without notice. The foregoing information has been obtained from sources considered to be reliable, but we do not guarantee that it is accurate or complete, it is not a statement of all available data necessary for making an investment decision, and it does not constitute a recommendation. Investing involves risk and you may incur a profit or loss regardless of strategy selected. Past performance does not guarantee future results. The Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA), commonly known as "The Dow" is an index representing 30 stock of companies maintained and reviewed by the editors of the Wall Street Journal. The S&P 500 is an unmanaged index of 500 widely held stocks that is generally considered representative of the U.S. stock market. The NASDAQ composite is an unmanaged index of securities traded on the NASDAQ system. The Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index is a broad-based flagship benchmark that measures the investment grade, U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed-rate taxable bond market. Indices are not available for direct investment. Any investor who attempts to mimic the performance of an index would incur fees and expenses which would reduce returns. The Russell 2000 index measures the performance of the 2,000 smallest companies in the Russell 3000 index, which represent approximately 8% of the total market capitalization of the Russell 3000 Index. The MSCI EAFE (Europe, Australasia, and Far East) is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure developed market equity performance, excluding the United States & Canada. The EAFE consists of the country indices of 22 developed nations. This material is being provided for information purposes only and is not a complete description, nor is it a recommendation. You cannot invest directly in any index. Raymond James and its advisors do not offer tax or legal advice. You should discuss any tax or legal matters with the appropriate professional. A portion of this material was created by Raymond James for use by its advisors.