
The Rolling Report



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Welcome to *The Rolling Report*, your monthly guide to the dynamic world of investing and the latest updates from our firm. Each edition brings you a concise overview of the stock market, highlighting key trends, opportunities, and challenges shaping the financial landscape. In addition, we'll keep you

informed about important developments within our firm, including strategic initiatives, new offerings, and insights from our team. Whether you're a seasoned investor or just starting your financial journey, *The Rolling Report* is here to keep you informed and empowered. Let's roll forward together toward informed decision-making and financial success!



Estate Planning

Family Traditions

by: Christian Hutchins

As we close out April, it's hard for me to reflect on the past month without thinking about family traditions. Every year, April kicks off with the Masters golf tournament in Augusta, Georgia, which to me, a poor golfer with no affinity for the Golf Channel, has always stood as the pinnacle of tradition in sports. Like many

American children, I grew up glued to the TV, watching Tiger Woods stride through blooming azaleas, crowds of families walking the hallowed grounds of Augusta National, and, at the end, a victor donning the green jacket. Back then, those things didn't mean as much to me as they do today, but I watched anyway because they meant a lot to my dad and his dad.

The same can be said for the celebrations of Easter and Passover. As children, we cherish our Easter egg hunts and the dramatizations of Elijah visiting the Passover table. But once the final egg is found and we say our last goodbye to Elijah and close the front door, we come to realize that these spring holidays are about much more than the games we play and the songs we sing. They are the traditions of our mothers and fathers, and their mothers and fathers passed down through the generations.

If you've ever read the copy on our website, you know that traditions like these are important to us at Rolling Hills Advisors because they represent a person's, and a family's, legacy. The world today is moving faster than ever, and distractions are growing exponentially, which is why we must be vigilant and proactive to protect the things we hold most dear. One of the best ways to do so is through proper estate planning.

At its core, we view estate planning as essentially the five W's (Who, What, When, Where, and Why) with a comprehensive understanding of what matters most to you and your family. At the outset, we focus on ensuring your family's assets are private and protected at death from probate, minor children have guardians in place in the event something happens to mom and dad, assets and healthcare decisions are in the hands of people you trust, and loved ones are cared for according to your wishes at the timing you specify. This can be accomplished by creating what we call an essential estate plan. It includes a revocable living trust, last will and testament, advance healthcare directive, and durable power of attorney.

But estate planning is not a one-time event. Laws change, net worths fluctuate, and family values evolve over time. For example, individuals and families with taxable estates (net worths in excess of \$13,990,000 for individuals or \$27,980,000 for married couples) require more advanced planning to ensure their assets pass to the people and charities of their choosing, and not to Uncle Sam. Charitable planning is also an important segment of estate and tax planning, and can be looked at individually and cohesively to maximize a family's legacy for decades.

When we formed Rolling Hills Advisors, we did so with the singular goal of working with families to elevate and protect the traditions and values they hold dear, and we count ourselves lucky to be able to do so every day. If you or your loved ones are looking to review your estate plan to ensure your legacy is protected or create your first estate plan, please feel free to access our [free estate health check](#) or contact our team to get started.



April Market Review

How did the Markets Perform Last Month?

By: Kaleb Fontenot

S&P 500

-0.67%

NASDAQ

0.88%

DOW 30

-3.08%

All economic numbers and information discussed in this article are provided by our research partners Bespoke and YCharts.

If there's one word to describe the stock market over the past few months, it's *volatile*. Within this year, we have experienced a 15% market pull back, repeated spikes of the VIX (volatility index), and even found a way to rally at the end of April with a 9-day winning streak. Accounting for all the volatility, the S&P 500 ended the month with a modest decline of -0.67% obscuring the turbulent ride of the last thirty days. The Dow Jones Industrial Average on the other hand saw a steeper decline of -3.08%, due in part by 21 of the 30 index components posting losses, but none more significant than Chevron (-18%) and UnitedHealth Group (-21%), which together make up roughly 8% of the index.

Fortunately, there were some bright spots, and the benefits of asset diversification continued to pay off. The Nasdaq Composite gained 0.88%, thanks to a rebound in tech stocks that had been under pressure earlier this year. International markets also fared well with the MSCI EAFE index rising approximately 4%. Fixed income provided further stability, with the Bloomberg Aggregate US Index increasing by 0.43%.

As investors looked for economic data to resolve some of the uncertainty, the best they could obtain was mixed signals. Inflation dropped to its lowest year-over-year level since February 2021, due in part to WTI crude oil prices tumbling -11.9%, dragging the S&P 500 Energy sector (SPXNRGS on YCharts) down -14.23%. Employment data remained resilient but fears over the impact of tariffs paralyzed many corporations. This uncertainty has led many companies in their Q1 earnings calls to issue dual guidance forecasts—or forego guidance entirely—to navigate the unpredictable landscape and manage expectations. Looking ahead, the economic outlook remains uncertain, with risk factors spanning interest rates, global conflicts, shifting consumer behaviors, and tariff pressures.

In times like these, we're reminded why our strategy remains grounded in discipline: staying well-diversified across asset classes and never taking on more risk than necessary. This approach continues to serve our clients well through volatile markets and reinforces our commitment to long-term financial resilience.

If you are interested in reading more about each asset class's performance during the month of April, [click here](#).

Tell Us What You Want to Hear?

As markets shift and economic headlines evolve, we want to make sure our newsletters continue to deliver the insights you care about most. What financial topics, updates, or guidance would you find most valuable in the coming months?

Feel free to reach out to us with thoughts and ideas for future newsletters!

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trusting us at
Rolling Hills
Advisors.**



Sources:

1. <https://am.jpmorgan.com/gb/en/asset-management/per/insights/market-insights/market-updates/monthly-market-review/>
2. <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/stocks-are-rallying-hard-as-the-economy-refuses-to-buckle-will-it-last-in-2025>
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The S&P 500 is a stock index considered to be representative of the U.S. stock market in general. The NASDAQ Composite Index is an unmanaged composite index of over 2,500 common equities listed on the NASDAQ stock exchange. The Dow Jones Industrial Average is a price-weighted index that tracks 30 large, publicly traded American companies. The MSCI EAFE Index tracks large cap and mid cap companies in developed countries around the world. The index primarily covers the Europe, Australasia, and the Far East regions. The Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index is a benchmark index composed of US securities in Treasury, Government-Related, Corporate, and Securitized sectors. The S&P 500 Energy comprises those companies included in the S&P 500 that are classified as members of the GICS energy sector. All index returns exclude reinvested dividends and interest. Indices are unmanaged and cannot be invested into directly.

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