

The economy performed well in 2023-24 and is expected to continue strong in 2025. The consensus economic forecast calls for 2% real GDP growth, 2.5% inflation, and a 3.5% federal funds target interest rate.

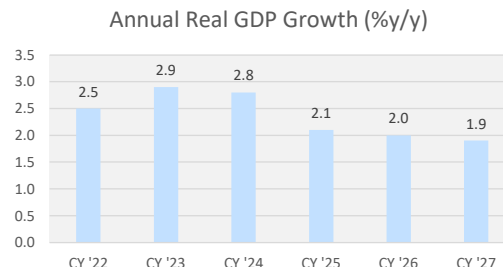
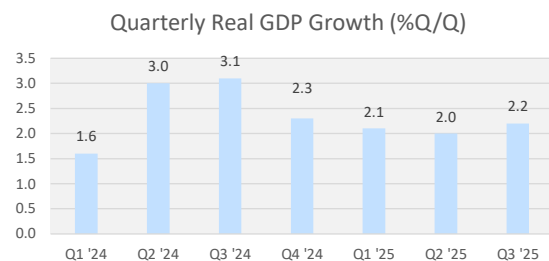
We are at a junction when the election promises start taking effect, but the uncertainty about their implementation is high. Fiscal policy is pro-business and growth-oriented due to deregulation and low taxes. Technological advancements and consumer spending are also expected to support growth.

However, challenges such as labor market adjustments, potential geopolitical tensions, and climate-related impacts could threaten sustained growth. Proposed tariffs and immigration restrictions will likely lead to higher prices and interest rates.

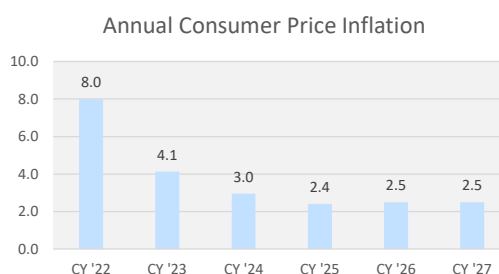
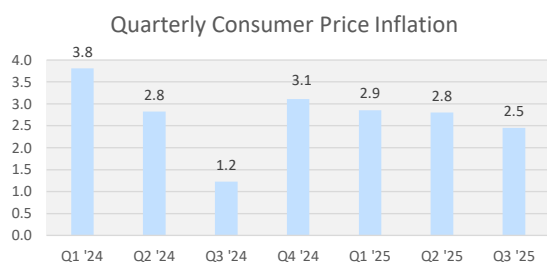
The Federal Reserve will need to balance the desire to stimulate the economy with low interest rates and control inflation. It will be interesting to see how that plays out in the coming months.

GDP and Inflation

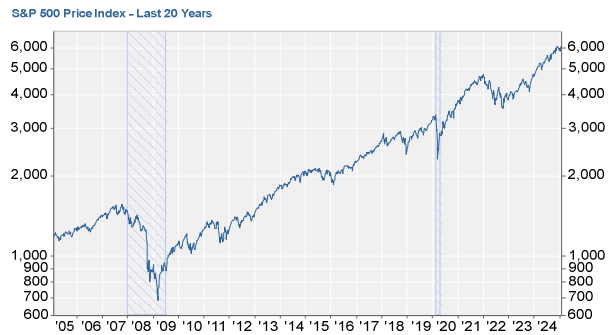
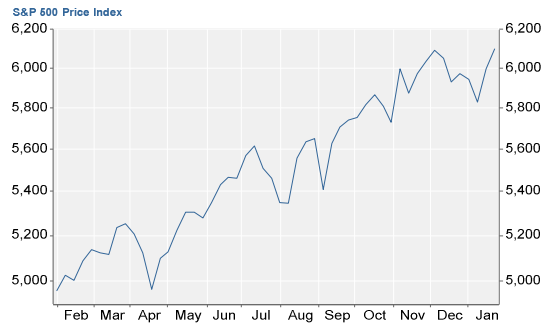
The economy performed well but is expected to soften despite the boost from the new administration



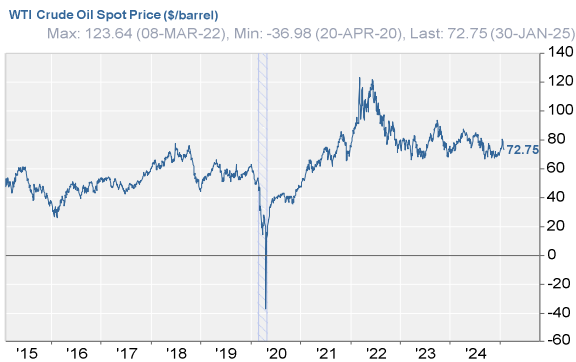
Inflation is expected to continue to moderate despite pressures from potential tariffs



Stock market is a bright spot with S&P500 at historic highs above 6,000



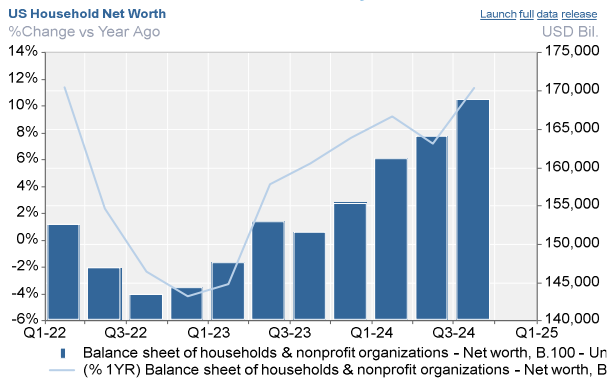
Oil price moderated after a shock in 2022



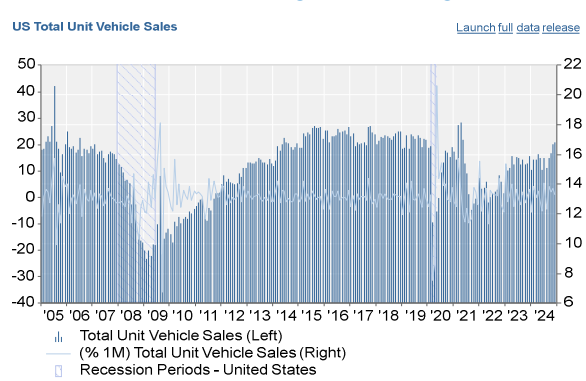
Gold price increased as a reflection of uncertainty



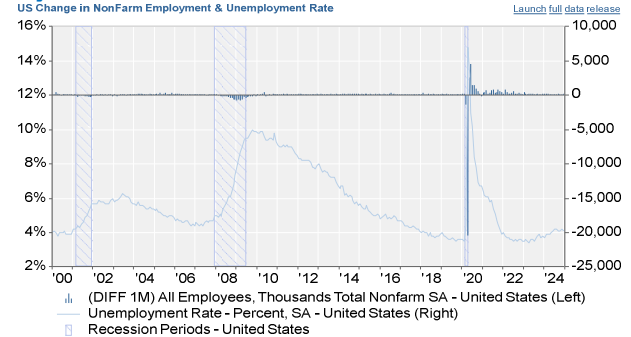
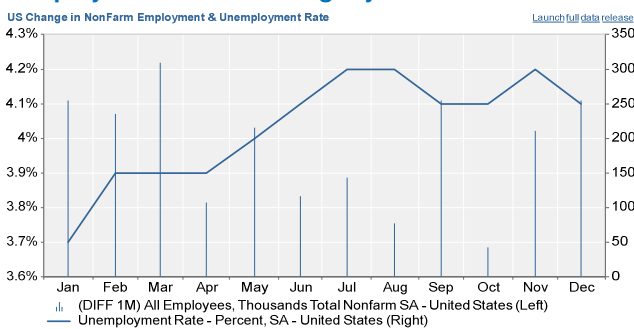
Net worth increased dramatically



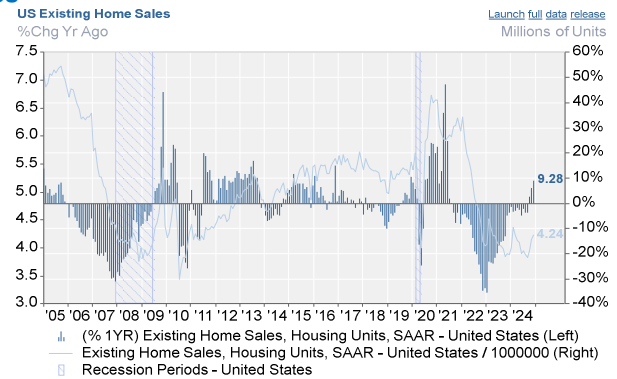
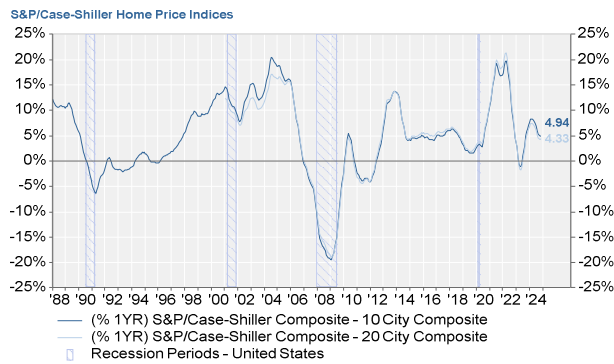
Vehicle sales are close to long-term average



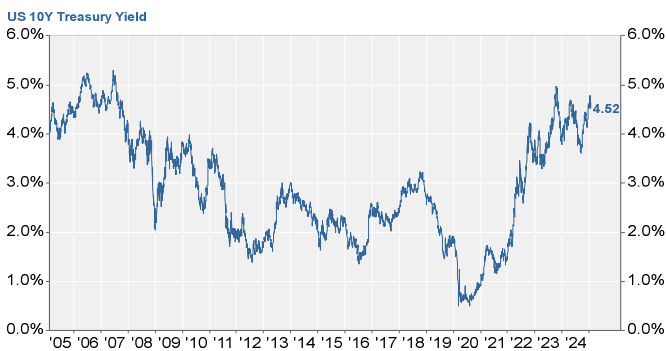
Unemployment increased slightly to 4.1% from 3.5% low in July 2023



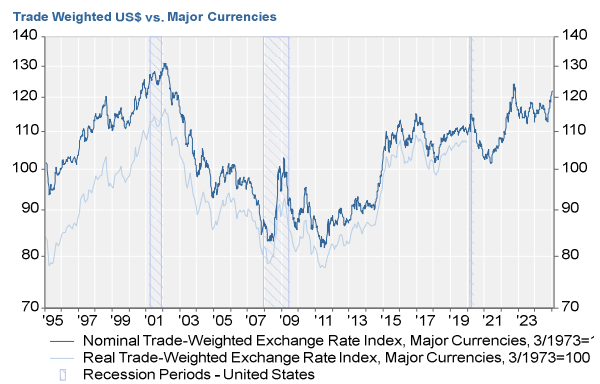
House price growth is solid at 4% despite high mortgage rates



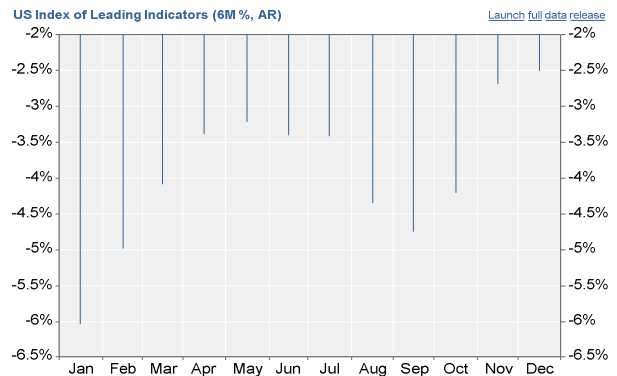
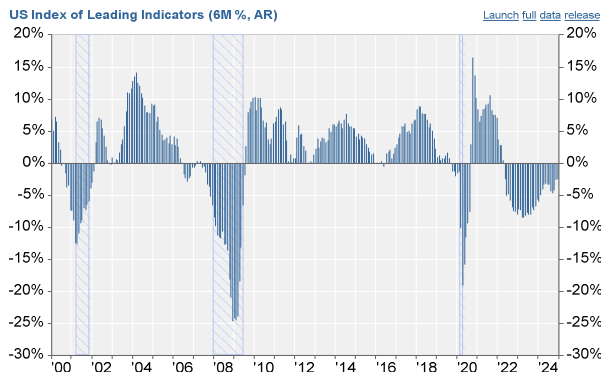
Interest rates have risen driven by Fed decisions



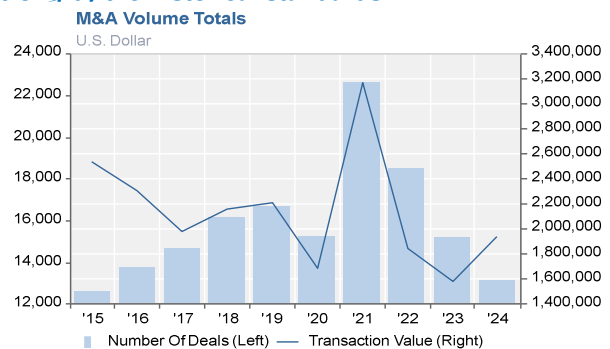
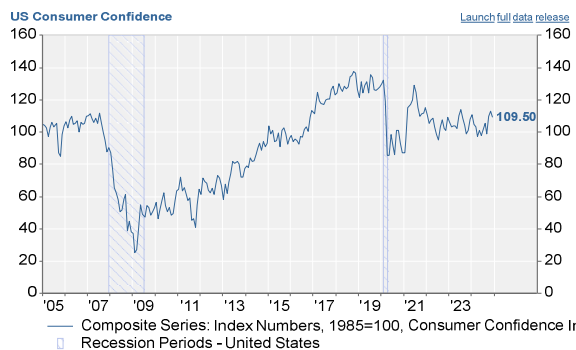
US Dollar exchange rate strengthened



Leading indicators have been negative but improving in 2023-2024



Consumer confidence declined after 2021 but still remains strong by the historical standards



Source: FactSet

Strategic Finance | Corporate Development | Mergers & Acquisitions

Experience

Tri-Valley Partners - Managing Partner (Current)

UC Berkeley Haas and UNC Kenan-Flagler - Professor of Finance (Current)

General Motors, AAA and Private equity - Finance and Corporate development positions (6 years)

RBC - Vice President and Associate, Investment Banking, Toronto, Canada (7 years)

Education

MBA, University of Toronto, 2006

Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA), 2006

PhD in Economics, Moscow State University, 2001

Bachelors of Science in Business, Oklahoma City University, 1998

Consulting Projects

Raised \$26m for late stage healthcare IT startup (financial model, due diligence, dataroom)

Financial modelling for insurtech, cleantech and biotech companies

Fractional CFO at two mobility ventures (reporting, budgeting, cost management)

Sale of a manufacturing asset in Germany for a publicly traded US company

Contact

abaker@trivalleypartners.com

925-997-5733

www.trivalleypartners.com

