

## **A Short Month of “Indicators”**

January introduces a new year, March comes in like a lion, and April showers bring May flowers. February, on the other hand, the shortest month even when it contains an extra day in years divisible by four, seems to lack a catchy description. Perhaps it should be called the month of “indicators.”

Groundhog Punxsutawney Phil failed to see his shadow, indicating an early spring. A team with history in the original National Football League won the Super Bowl, which some say indicates a strong year for stocks. And it's the president's third year in office, another bullish market indicator (because, historically, a president's third year in office has often been favorable for financial markets). Certainly, indicators of this kind may be more suited to water cooler banter than to real-world decision-making, but some indicators are rooted in our cultural and national history.

Valentine's Day on February 14<sup>th</sup> indicates love – or at least a desire for it – and Presidents' Day on the 21<sup>st</sup> recalls the service of two great presidents (George Washington and Abraham Lincoln). Finally, there is an indicator dating from February 29, 1872, when Congress put the final touches on Senate Bill 392. That created Yellowstone National Park, the nation's first, and an indication that people wanted to preserve the country's magnificent landscapes for future generations.

Should February indicate something special for you and your family, I wish you well.

I appreciate your confidence as I continue to be of service to you and your family.

Past performance may not be indicative of future results.