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## NATIONAL 529 DAY

- May 29<sup>th</sup> is national 529 Day, promoting and celebrating state-sponsored investment plans that enable you to save money for a beneficiary and pay for education expenses.
- 529 plans offer an array of benefits, including:
  - Parents, grandparents, family members and friends can all invest in a child's education.
  - Eligible expenses may include tuition and fees, books, supplies, equipment and certain room and board.
  - The account owner maintains control of the assets until they are distributed.
  - State tax credits or deductions may be available based upon your state laws.
    - You can [contact us](#) for additional information or to start a 529 account today.

May 2024

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As with other investments, there are generally fees and expenses associated with participation in a 529 plan. There is also a risk that these plans may lose money or not perform well enough to cover college costs as anticipated. Most states offer their own 529 programs, which may provide advantages and benefits exclusively for their residents. Investors should consider, before investing, whether the investor's or the designated beneficiary's home state offers any tax or other benefits that are only available for investment in such state's 529 college savings plan. Such benefits include financial aid, scholarship funds, and protection from creditors. The tax implications can vary significantly from state to state.



## MARKET UPDATES & HEADLINES

**SUMMARY** - In April, the S&P 500 experienced its first 5% pullback since October 2023. This wasn't surprising since the market had advanced over 25% from then and investors were brimming with optimism about future stock market gains. With bullish sentiment tempered, attention should focus on earnings results to re-assert the market's upward momentum.

Raymond James Chief Investment Officer Larry Adam is constructive on the market, saying: "While the scope of scenarios for Federal Reserve (Fed) rate cuts has contracted, accelerating earnings and a still healthy economy should support the market going forward."

Bond yields rose to year-to-date highs as expectations for Fed rate cuts have been delayed due to persistent inflation and stronger-than-expected growth. And on the international front, central banks in Europe and the U.K. are looking more likely to cut interest rates if their rising unemployment remains under control, thanks in part to their lower Consumer Price Index (CPI), which doesn't factor in housing costs as heavily as the U.S.

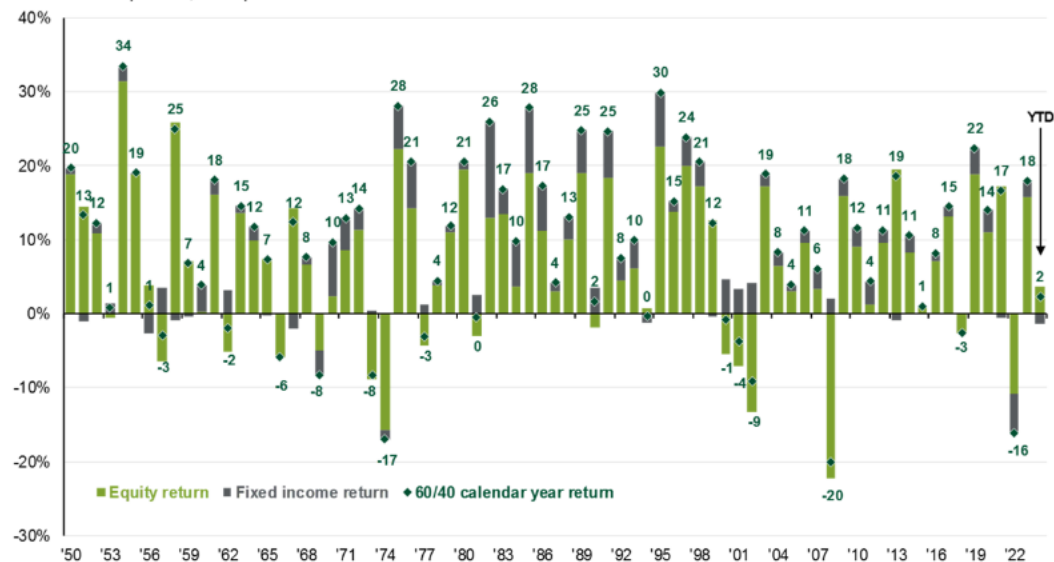
	12/29/23 Close	04/30/24 Close*	Change Year to Date	Gain/Loss Year to Date
DJIA	37,689.54	37,815.92	126.38	0.34%
NASDAQ	15,011.35	15,657.82	646.47	4.31%
S&P 500	4,769.83	5,035.69	265.86	5.57%
MSCI EAFE	2,241.21	2,285.03	43.82	1.96%
Russell 2000	2,027.07	1,973.91	-53.16	-2.62%
Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index	2,162.21	2,099.06	-63.15	-2.92%

\*Performance reflects index values as of market close on April 30, 2024. Bloomberg Aggregate Bond and MSCI EAFE figures reflect April 29, 2024, closing values.

### 60/40 annual returns

#### 60/40 annual return decomposition

Total returns in percent, 1950-present



Source: Bloomberg, FactSet, Ibbotson/Strategas, Standard & Poor's, J.P. Morgan Asset Management. Guide to the Markets – U.S. Data are as of April 30, 2024.

The 60/40 portfolio is 60% invested in the S&P 500 Total Return Index and 40% invested in the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Total Return Index. U.S. fixed income total returns from 1950 to 1975 are estimated using data from Strategas/Ibbotson. The portfolio is rebalanced annually.

**60/40 annual returns** : This page looks at the total return of a 60/40 portfolio, or a portfolio comprised of 60% equities – represented by the S&P 500 – and 40% bonds – represented by the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Total Return Index – rebalanced annually. The chart goes back to 1950, showing over 70 years worth of data. This is a hypothetical example for illustration purposes only.



## RATE REPORT

### CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

- 3 month: 5.20% - 5.35%
- 6 month: 5.20% - 5.30%
- 12 month: 5.05% - 5.20%
- 24 month: 4.80% - 5.00%

Annual percentage yields (APYs) as of 05/08/2024. Rates are subject to change and availability. Minimum quantity may apply.

### MONEY MARKET MUTUAL FUNDS

- Current 7-day average yields ranging 5.16% - 5.22% as of 05/03/2024. Call for specific fund information.

### CORPORATE BONDS

Rates on corporate bonds are typically higher than CDs but will vary based on credit quality and maturity.

### TAILORED SOLUTIONS

If you would like to discuss your cash management needs further, [contact us](#) for a private discussion so that we can tailor a strategy to help you meet your specifications.



## AWM DISCUSSES: A SKILL OR HOBBY YOU WISH YOU POSSESSED

- Anyone who knows Kirk well knows that he has a penchant for great musicians and musicianship. So it comes as no surprise that he wishes he had learned to play the guitar and piano growing up. Besides that, he's working on "becoming a better pickleball partner" for his wife, Dianna.
- Similarly to Kirk, Mike also wishes he were proficient in playing guitar. "I took lessons several years ago," he says, "but I'm nowhere close to where I'd like to be." He did keep the guitar, so perhaps there's still hope for him!



Guitarist Mark Knopfler

- Sensing a theme within the team, Patrick, too, has always wished he'd learned to play the piano. "I played the saxophone throughout high school, but feel a lot of music derives from the piano," he says. He's since traded in his woodwind for fairway irons.
- Colby regrets not learning a foreign language, especially as he and his wife have begun traveling. "I'm taking Italian language lessons now," he says, "but wished I'd started years ago." Pratica! Pratica! Pratica!
- Fran wishes her cursive penmanship were in a better state. "Definitely a skill I could use more practice on," she says. However, she does excel at scrapbooking and giftwrapping for special occasions!

About FDIC Insurance: Currently, the FDIC limits the insured amount (including principal and interest) for all deposits held in the same capacity to \$250,000 per depositor, per insured depository institution and \$250,000 for certain retirement accounts. The FDIC has permanently increased insurance coverage to \$250,000 for deposits held in all ownership categories, including single accounts, joint accounts and trust accounts. Therefore, excess holdings may not be insured. IRAs and certain other retirement accounts will maintain the \$250,000 insurance coverage. About Liquidity: Funds may not be withdrawn until the maturity date Or redemption date. However, the brokered CD, are negotiable, which mean, that although not obligated to do so, Raymond James and other broker/dealers presently maintain an active secondary market at current interest rates, Market value will fluctuate and, if the CD is cashed out prior to maturity, the proceeds may be more or less than the original purchase price. Holding CDs until term assures the holder of par value redemption. CDs are redeemable at par upon death of beneficial holder. FDIC insurance does not protect against market losses due to selling CDs in the secondary market prior to maturity. An investment in a money market fund is neither insured nor guaranteed by the FDIC or any other government agency. Although the fund seeks to preserve the value of your investment at \$1.00 per share, it is possible to lose money by investing in the fund. Investors should consider the investment objective, risks, charges, and expenses carefully before investing. The prospectus, which contains this and other important information, is available from your Financial Advisor and should be read carefully before investing. CDs offer FDIC or FSLIC insurance and a fixed rate of return whereas both principal and yield of investment securities will fluctuate with changes in market conditions. Additional information is also available on the SEC Certificates of Deposit website [here](#).



## T +1 TRADE SETTLEMENT COMING



On May 28, 2024, settlement cycles on U.S. stocks and other securities will shift from two business days to one. For most investors, this shift will have little or no impact. But it will affect some investors and certain types of transactions. It may be helpful to understand the basics of this important change.

- T+1 will have minimal or no impact on most investors, because most brokerage firms require cash or sufficient margin in an account prior to the investor entering any orders to purchase securities in the account.
- However, if your brokerage firm allows you to make a purchase without sufficient funds in the account, under T+1 you will need to deliver a check or initiate a funds transfer so that the funds are deposited in your brokerage account no later than the next business day.
- For some investors, one-day settlement may mean greater convenience. In effect, an investor will fully own a security one day sooner than under the current system. This could be helpful for an investor who wants to trade the security quickly or wants to participate in a proxy vote. However, T+1 will also require some investors to pay closer attention to how the shorter settlement time could affect investment, trading, or tax decisions.

## NEXT MONTH

- In a continuation of our investor behavior series, we'll discuss how human biases can affect our investment decisions and the decision making process.
- With summer right around the corner, we'll highlight some of the biggest events hitting the metro over the next few months.
- 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.



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