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KAREN BROWN TISDALE

Financial News

1ST QUARTER 2024

2023 STOCK RALLY GREETING BY BOO BIRDS IN 2024

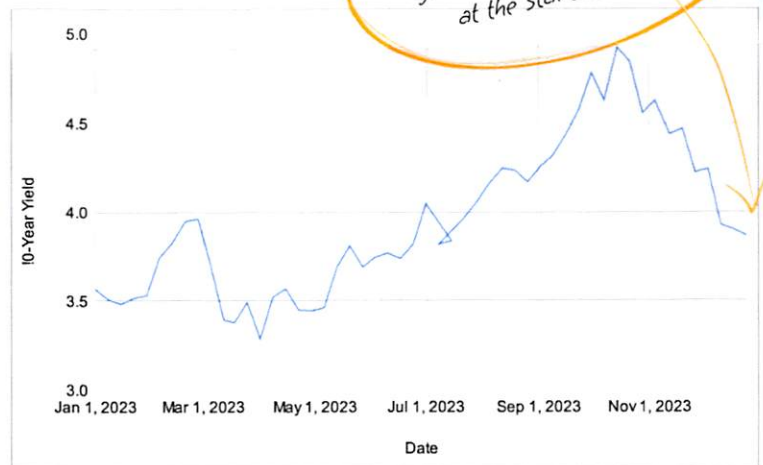
In a year like 2023, when the markets rallied with the Standard & Poor’s 500 index finishing up 24%, it can be hard to keep a clear perspective. As we step into 2024, whispers of uncertainty are already surfacing, but remember—it’s crucial to stay the course. Take a moment to study the accompanying chart. It’s a testament to the fact that despite the roller coaster ride of the 10-year Treasury throughout the year, by year-end, it almost returned to its starting point. It’s a vivid reminder that the financial markets move in cycles, which can be difficult to predict. So, as we navigate through the complexities of 2024, let’s stay focused on the bigger picture. Let’s remember our goals, our time horizon, and our risk tolerance. Let’s continue to make portfolio decisions based on careful guidance and insight rather than knee-jerk reactions to daily headlines or market cycles. Here’s to a disciplined, carefully constructed approach to investing in 2024.

#StayTheCourse #InvestingWisdom

A Roundtrip in 2023

Yield on the 10-year Treasury

Hard to believe but the yield on the 10-year ended the year very close to the yield at the start of 2023!



Finance.Yahoo.com, January 22, 2024

The market value of a bond will fluctuate with changes in interest rates. As rates rise, the value of any existing bond typically falls. If an investor sells a bond before maturity, it may be worth more or less than the initial purchase price. By holding a bond to maturity, an investor will receive the interest payments due plus the original principal, barring default by the issuer. Investments seeking to achieve higher yields also involve a higher degree of risk.

GET READY FOR TAXES

It's everyone's favorite time of year: the rush and bustle of the holidays are over, the winter chill is beginning to retreat, birds are returning to sweetly chirp, and taxes are due (come on! Three out of four's not bad!). While we know tax season can feel like a drag, we're here to help you prepare. The lists below highlight the important information and items you should pull together before you meet with your tax professional.

Personal Information

The following may seem obvious, but you'd be surprised how many thousands of tax returns are held up each year because of mistakes or missing items concerning basic details. You'll need:

- Your prior year's individual income tax return
- Your Social Security Number (SSN) and the SSN for each family member
- Birthdate for every family member
- Photo identification such as a driver's license for you and any joint filer
- Bank account details
- Childcare provider Employer Identification Number (EIN)

Personal Income

In addition to income from your regular paycheck, you'll need documentation of any unemployment compensation, non-employee compensation, interest income, dividend income and retirement income.

- W-2 forms from employers
- IRS 1099 forms (This includes income from non-qualified accounts, form G for unemployment, NEC for non-employee, INT for interest, DIV for dividends and R for retirement income.)
- IRS Schedule K-1 for partnership income
- Any income from rental properties

Personal Expenses for Deductions

You'll need receipts for any:

- Medical expenses
- Childcare expenses
- Charitable donations
- Rental property expenses

For your primary residence you'll need:

- Form 1098 Mortgage
- Interest Statement
- Property tax records
- Expenses related to energy saving improvements

Business Information

If you own a business, you'll need to provide:

- Last year's corporate tax return Your EIN (if different from your SSN)
- Any partnership agreements Change in ownership information
- Business bank account details Profit and loss statement
- Balance sheet

Business Expenses

- Log detailing your business vehicle usage
- Home office details including square footage and prorated utility costs
- Receipts for any capital asset purchases
- Paid estimated tax payments (Form 1040-ES)

Organizing your tax prep documents, receipts, and other information well before April 18 will make filing your taxes easier, potentially less expensive, and help you be more prepared for the coming year. As you prepare for tax season, let us know if you'd like to get together so we can ensure your financial plan and tax circumstances are appropriately aligned.

LEAVE ON A JET PLANE – THE THRIFTY WAY!

When you picture yourself on vacation free from everyday stress, money is the last thing you want to worry about. Airfare is one of the largest vacation expenses, particularly for families or long distance destinations. When searching for flights, here are tips that will save you some green:

Plan in advance. Since most travelers buy tickets three to six months in advance, airlines raise fares in that timeframe. Once inside the seven-week mark, airlines will increase or discount fares based on seat availability, leaving you at the mercy of the remaining supply. Start looking nine months out to get ahead of these automatic price adjustments and snag the best fares.

Clear your cookies. If you've been searching and are coming back later to book your ticket, clear your cookies on your computer first. Most airline websites use browser cookies to record which destinations and dates you've previously looked into. Then, they nudge rates higher when you revisit the site. Beat them at their own game! Next time, clear your browser's cookies. That way, you'll see the airline's best deals!

Set price alerts. You can set price alerts that will notify you of any changes to your desired flights so you can scoop them up at the best price. You can pick specific airlines or see what comes available based on route and dates.

Flexible travel days. Since the cost of airfare is based on supply and demand, sometimes flying a day earlier or later can yield better prices! When subscribing to newsletters or setting price alerts, make sure to utilize the "flexible dates tools."

Bundle, bundle, bundle. One of the best ways to shave costs on every part of your vacation is to bundle your airfare with other expenses. Look for packages that include cruise tickets, lodging, excursions, rental car, or dinner reservations. Most travel booking sites will give you a heavily discounted option to purchase them together.

Avoid extra fees. Many companies neglect to include all fees and taxes in the dollar amount they're advertising. Know what is and what is *NOT* included in the airfare price. Before you book, be aware of any costs that could be tacked on later. Common charges include ticketing and flight change fees, checked and carry-on bag fees, preferred seating costs, and extra fees for items like car seats, strollers, or other bulky items.

Planning for your next vacation can be simultaneously very exciting and stressful! But the extra legwork will absolutely pay off!

PROTECTING YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION: WHAT NOT TO SHARE OVER THE PHONE

In our continuous effort to raise awareness of your safety and online security, we're sharing important information about protecting your personal details. Today's topic is: what information should you never share over the phone?

You might receive phone calls from individuals claiming to represent a company or an organization, asking for your personal information. This is a common method used by fraudsters. It's essential never to disclose the following information over the phone:

- Social Security Number
- Bank account or credit card details
- Personal Identification Numbers (PINs)
- Passwords

Remember, legitimate organizations will never ask for these details over the phone. If you suspect a fraudulent call, hang up immediately. Stay safe and secure.

BRUCE & KAREN'S NOTES

We hope this newsletter finds you all well, enjoying these first several weeks of 2024, and looking forward to the days gradually becoming longer and warmer as we inch towards Spring.

This update is to provide our continued perspective on the stock market situation. 2023 ended up being a wonderful recovery year which you will clearly see looking at your year-end statements. After a difficult third quarter, accounts across the board enjoyed a very positive fourth quarter and January. As of this writing (02/13/24), the Federal Reserve Board has had three meetings without an interest rate hike, and rate cuts are widely expected to take place during 2024. That expectation for lower interest rates means it should be less expensive to borrow money, thereby improving the overall economy and also potentially positively impacting business profitability. The markets having been focused on that expectation for improved business profitability has been some of the catalyst for the improvement we have seen. Unemployment numbers have continued to remain low, real wages have improved, consumer demand has thus far remained strong, and fourth quarter company profit announcements have been excellent. The end-of-year rally we were hoping for did, in fact, happen and has continued in January and February.

Making sure we adequately communicate with you and ensuring appropriate construction of your portfolio allow you to successfully handle volatility such as that encountered in 2022 as well as enjoy market upside like we encountered in 2023. As stated in our last newsletter, we still strongly believe staying the course is the most prudent course of action. Do not hesitate to call if you have questions or concerns. We appreciate you allowing us to be a part of your life.

Bruce

Karen

