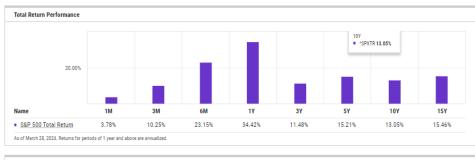
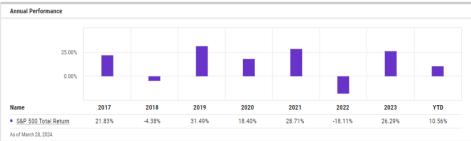
# **Return Documentation**

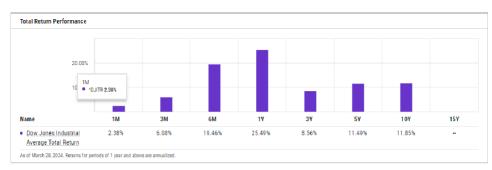
#### S&P 500

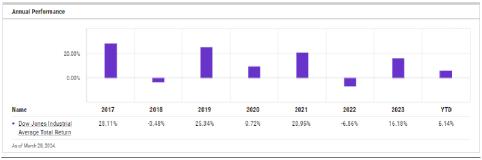




Source YCharts

# DJ Industrial Average





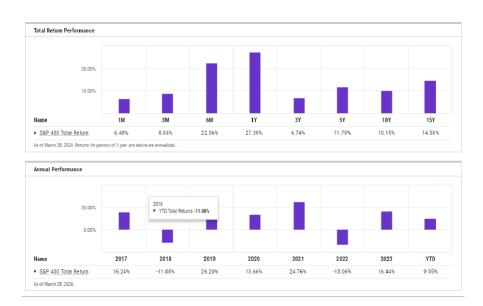
Source YCharts

#### NASDAQ 100



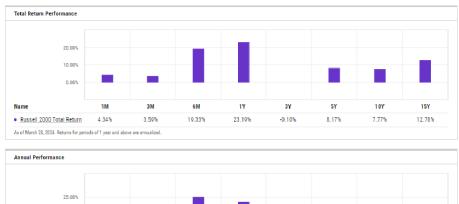
Source YCharts

# S&P MidCap 400



Source YCharts

# Russell 2000



Annual Performance

25.00%

0.00%

Name

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

YTD

Russell 2000 Total Return

14.65%

-11.01%

25.52%

10.96%

14.82%

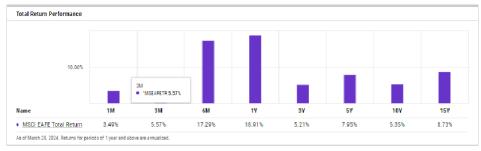
-20.44%

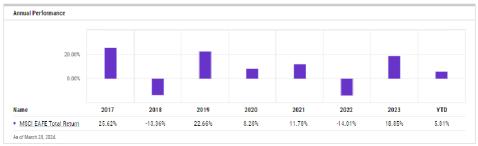
16.93%

5.18%

Source YCharts

# MSCI EAFE TR USD (Foreign Developed)





Source YCharts

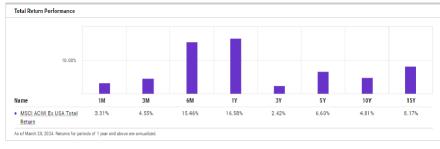
# MSCI EM TR USD (Emerging Markets)

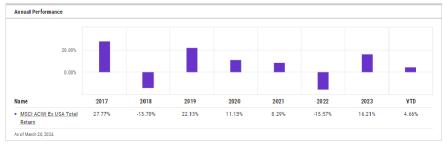




Source YCharts

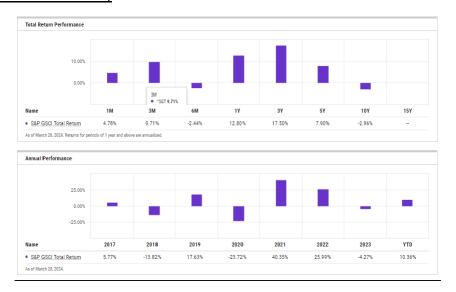
#### MSCI ACWI Ex USA TR USD (Foreign Dev & EM)





Source YCharts

# **S&P GSCI (Broad-Based Commodities)**



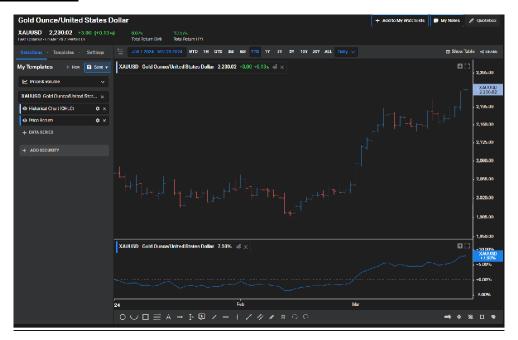
Source YCharts

#### WTI Crude Oil Q1 & YTD Return



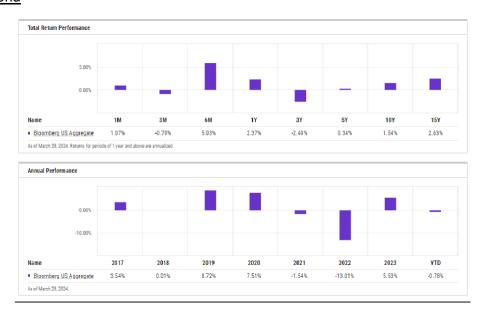
Source Koyfin.com

#### Gold Price Q1 & YTD Return



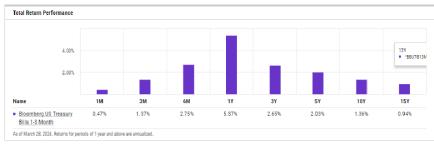
Source Koyfin.com

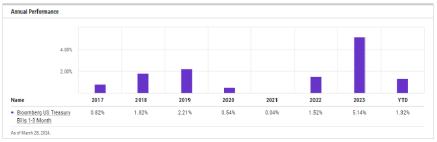
#### **BBgBarc US Agg Bond**



Source YCharts

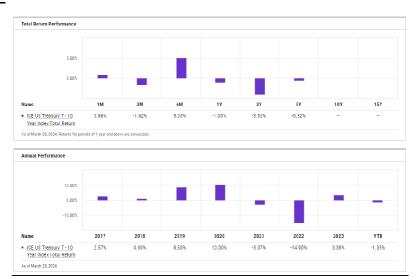
#### BBgBarc US T-Bill 1-3 Mon





Source YCharts

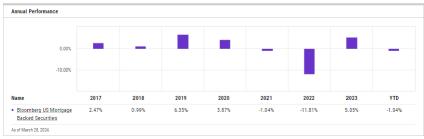
# ICE US T-Bond 7-10 Year



Source YCharts

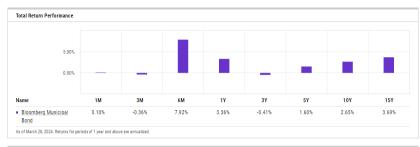
# BBgBarc US MBS (Mortgage-backed)

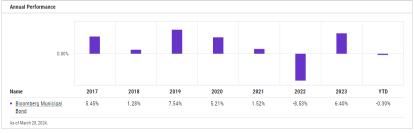




# Source YCharts

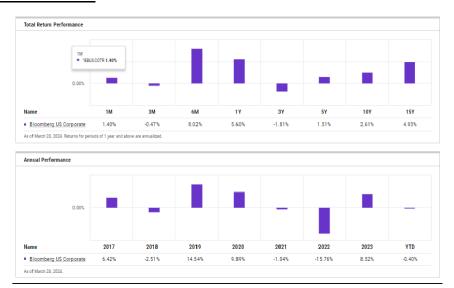
#### **BBgBarc Municipal**





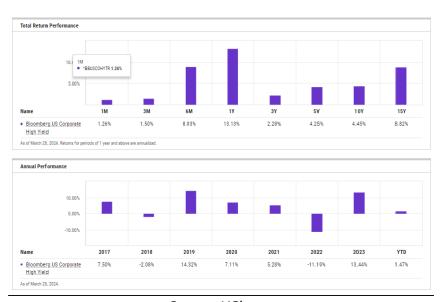
Source YCharts

# **BBgBarc US Corporate Invest Grade**



Source YCharts

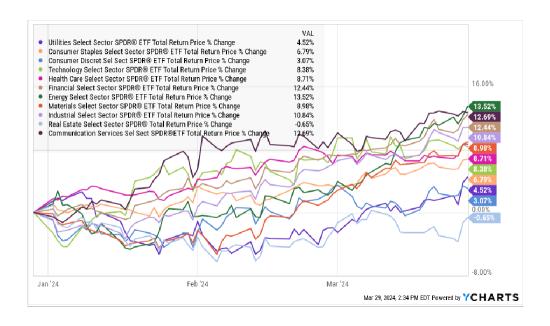
# **BBgBarc US Corporate High Yield**



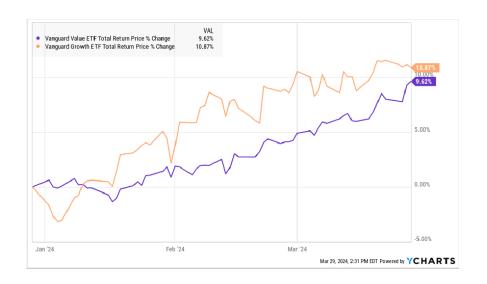
Source YCharts

# **Other Citations**

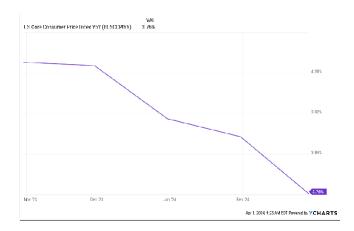
#### Sector Performance Q1 2024



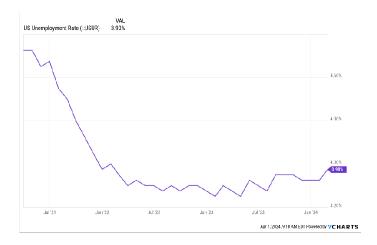
#### Value vs. Growth Q1 2024



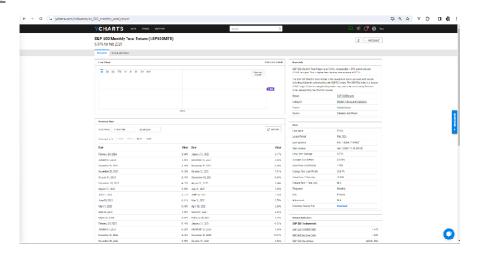
#### Consumer Price Index



# **Unemployment Rate**



#### Monthly Return Data



# **Statements**

However, those initially small declines intensified shortly after the start of the year when the December Consumer Price Index, an important inflation indicator, declined less than expected. That reading challenged the idea that inflation was quickly falling towards the Fed's 2.0% target and caused investors to delay the expected date of the first Fed rate cut, as expectations for that first cut moved from March to June.

https://www.cnbc.com/2024/01/11/cpi-inflation-report-december-2023-consumer-prices-rose-0point3percent-in-december-higher-than-expected-pushing-the-annual-rate-to-3point4percent.html

First, fourth-quarter corporate earnings were again better than feared and that helped stocks recover from those early declines.

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-03-01/us-stocks-amped-up-by-big-tech-better-than-expected-earnings

Then, in late January, the Federal Reserve clearly signaled that rate hikes were over and strongly hinted that rate cuts would occur in the coming months.

https://www.wsj.com/economy/central-banking/fed-leaves-rates-steady-and-opens-door-wider-to-cuts-d10a107d

Then, on February 21<sup>st</sup>, Nvidia, the semiconductor company at the heart of the AI boom, posted much-stronger-than-expected earnings and guidance. Those results further fueled investors' AI enthusiasm and large-cap tech stocks powered the S&P 500 higher into month-end as the index hit a new record high above 5,000.

https://www.cnbc.com/2024/02/21/nvidia-nvda-earnings-report-q4-2024.html

Then, in mid-March, updated Federal Reserve interest rate projections still pointed towards three rate cuts in 2024, further reinforcing investor expectations for a June rate cut.

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-03-20/bonds-rally-after-fed-keeps-2024-median-rate-forecast-at-3-cuts

From an investment style standpoint, growth once again outperformed value in the first quarter but the margin was much closer than last year, as both investment styles logged strong quarterly returns. Continued heightened AI enthusiasm was the main reason for the modest growth outperformance over the past three months, as large-cap tech stocks again saw strong rallies in Q1.

https://www.reuters.com/markets/us/how-us-stock-market-rocketed-through-first-quarter-2024-03-28/

Specifically, terrible quarterly earnings from New York Community Bank reminded investors of the sustained weakness in the commercial real estate market and that weighed on the real estate space.

https://finance.yahoo.com/video/nycbs-commercial-real-estate-exposures-150132305.html

Emerging markets, meanwhile, logged only slightly positive returns in Q1 and solidly underperformed the S&P 500 thanks to mixed Chinese economic data and a lack of substantial Chinese economic stimulus early in the quarter.

https://www.commonfund.org/blog/china-continues-to-drag-emerging-markets-into-2024

Disappointing inflation readings were the primary reason for the weakness in bonds as they delayed the expected start of Fed rate cuts from March until June and caused bond investors to consider that rates may be higher than previously expected over the medium and longer term.

https://www.reuters.com/markets/us/worst-case-inflation-fears-threaten-bond-market-calm-powell-addresses-lawmakers-2024-03-06/

Retail sales missed expectations in January and February while the unemployment rate jumped to the highest level since 2022 during the first quarter.

 $\underline{https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-03-14/us-retail-sales-miss-forecasts-after-steep-drop-in-priormonth}\\$ 

#### **Definitions**

Large-cap: Large cap refers to a company with a market capitalization value of more than \$10 billion.

Mid-cap: Mid-cap stocks are shares of companies with total market capitalization in the range of about \$2 billion to \$10 billion.

Small-cap: A small cap company is a company whose market capitalization is small, under \$1 billion.

CPI: A consumer price index is a price index, the price of a weighted average market basket of consumer goods and services purchased by households. Changes in measured CPI track changes in prices over time.

Market Capitalization: Market capitalization, commonly called market cap, is the market value of a publicly traded company's outstanding shares.

Growth style: Growth investing is an investment style and strategy that is focused on increasing an investor's capital.

Value style: Value investing is an investment strategy that involves picking stocks that appear to be trading for less than their intrinsic or book value.

S&P 500: The S&P 500 Index is widely regarded as the best single gauge of the U.S. equities market. This world-renowned index includes a representative sample of 500 leading companies in leading industries of the U.S. economy. Although the S&P 500 Index focuses on the large-cap segment of the market, with approximately 75% coverage of U.S. equities, it is also an ideal proxy for the total market. An investor cannot invest directly in an index.

Dow Jones Industrial Average: The Dow Jones Industrial Average, Dow Jones, or simply the Dow, is a stock market index of 30 prominent companies listed on stock exchanges in the United States

NASDAQ 100: The Nasdaq 100 Index is a collection of the 100 largest, most actively traded companies listed on the Nasdaq stock exchange.

S&P Midcap 400: The S&P MidCap 400 Index, more commonly known as the S&P 400, is a stock market index from S&P Dow Jones Indices. The index serves as a gauge for the U.S. mid-cap equities sector and is the most widely followed midcap index.

Russell 2000: The Russell 2000 Index® measures the performance of the 2,000 smallest companies in the Russell 3000 Index.

MSCI EAFE TR USD: The MSCI® EAFE (Europe, Australia, Far East) Net Index is recognized as the pre-eminent benchmark in the United States to measure international equity performance. It comprises 21 MSCI country indexes, representing the developed markets outside of North America.

MSCI EM TR USD: The MSCI Emerging Markets IndexSM is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure equity market performance in the global emerging markets. As of June 2007, the MSCI Emerging Markets Index consisted of the following 25 emerging market country indices: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jordan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, and Turkey.

MSCI ACWI EX US (FOREIGN DEVELOPED & EM): MSCI World ex USA Index - The MSCI World ex USA Index captures large and mid-cap representation across 22 of 23 Developed Markets DM countries\*-- excluding the United States. With 918 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

BBgBar US Agg bond: Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index - The Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index is a broad-based flagship benchmark that measures the investment grade, US dollar-denominated, fixed-rate taxable bond market. The index includes Treasuries, government-related and corporate securities, MBS (agency fixed-rate pass-throughs), ABS and CMBS (agency and non-agency)

BBgBar US T-BILL 1-3 Mo: The Bloomberg Barclays 1-3 Month U.S. Treasury Bill Index (^BBUTB13MTR) is designed to measure the performance of public obligations of the U.S. Treasury that have a remaining maturity of greater than or equal to 1 month and less than 3 months. The Index includes all publicly issued zero coupons.

BBgBar MBS: The Bloomberg Barclays US Mortgage-Backed Securities (MBS) Index tracks fixed-rate agency mortgage-backed pass-through securities guaranteed by Ginnie Mae (GNMA), Fannie Mae (FNMA), and Freddie Mac (FHLMC). T

BBgBar Municipal: The Bloomberg U.S. Municipal Index covers the USD-denominated long-term tax-exempt bond market. The index has four main sectors: state and local general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, insured bonds, and prefunded bonds.

BBgBar US Corporate Investment Grade: The Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate Bond Index measures the investment grade, fixed-rate, taxable corporate bond market.

BBgBar US Corporate High Yield: The Bloomberg US Corporate High Yield Bond Index measures the USD-denominated, high-yield, fixed-rate corporate bond market.

ICE US T-bond 7-10yr: The ICE U.S. Treasury 7-10 Year Bond Index is part of a series of indices intended to assess the U.S. Treasury market. The Index is market value-weighted and is designed to measure the performance of U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed-rate securities with minimum term to maturity greater than seven years and less than or equal to ten years.

S&P GSCI (Broad-Based Commodities): The S&P GSCI is the first major investable commodity index. It is one of the most widely recognized benchmarks that is broad-based, and production weighted to represent the global commodity market beta. The index is designed to be investable by including the most liquid commodity futures and provides diversification with low correlations to other asset classes.

S&P GSCI Crude Oil: The S&P GSCI Crude Oil index provides investors with a reliable and publicly available benchmark for investment performance in the crude oil market.

GLD Gold Price: The GLD Gold Price is the price of gold per ounce.