



STRATEGIC CLIENT NEWSLETTER

FIRST QUARTER 2024

FIRST QUARTER 2024

Market Performance www.bloomberg.com

Dow Jones Industrial Average

This Quarter	+5.56%
Year-to-Date	+5.56%

S&P 500

This Quarter	+10.18%
Year-to-Date	+10.18%

Nasdaq Composite

This Quarter	+9.03%
Year-to-Date	+9.03%

Indices are unmanaged and you cannot invest directly in an index

CONTENTS

Market Overview	pg. 1
Disclosure Package	pg. 2
Inflation Update	pg. 2
Estate Planning Strategies	pg. 2
Scams/Phishing	pg. 3
CHB Group News	pg. 4

Markets Continue Recovery in 2024

Inflation has been decreasing over the past year, as the Federal Reserve maintains interest rates. We believe there will be 2-3 interest rate cuts this year as we continue seeing lower inflation rates throughout 2024.

We believe the economy has transitioned into a new growth phase, following positive economic and market data in 2023:

- Gross Domestic Product in 2023 finished the fourth quarter at an adjusted annual rate of 3.4%. The third quarter GDP was revised to also show an increase of 4.9%. (Source: www.bea.gov)
- The National unemployment remains at low levels: 3.7% for November 2023; 3.7% December 2023 as additional jobs were added to the economy. The beginning of 2024 continued with unemployment rates under 4.0%, with rates of 3.7% for January 2024 and 3.9% for February 2024. (Source: www.bls.gov)
- Nonfarm productivity increased at a rate of 1.7% in the fourth quarter of 2022. From the fourth quarter of 2021 to the fourth quarter of 2022, nonfarm productivity decreased 1.8%. (Source: www.bls.gov)
- The Consumer Price Index (CPI), which measures changes in the price level (inflation) of consumer goods and services, increased 0.2% in December 2023, increased .3% in January 2024 and increased .4% in February 2024. From February 2023 to February 2024, the unadjusted CPI was 3.2%, a decrease from 6.0% a year ago. (Source: www.bls.gov)
- Personal Income increased in January 2024, at a rate of 1.0% (\$233.7 billion). This was followed by a December 2023 increase of 0.3% and an increase in November 2023 of 0.3% (Source: www.bea.gov)
- Corporate profits decreased in the fourth quarter of 2023 by \$133.5 billion, following a third quarter increase of \$108.7 billion. (Source: www.bea.gov)

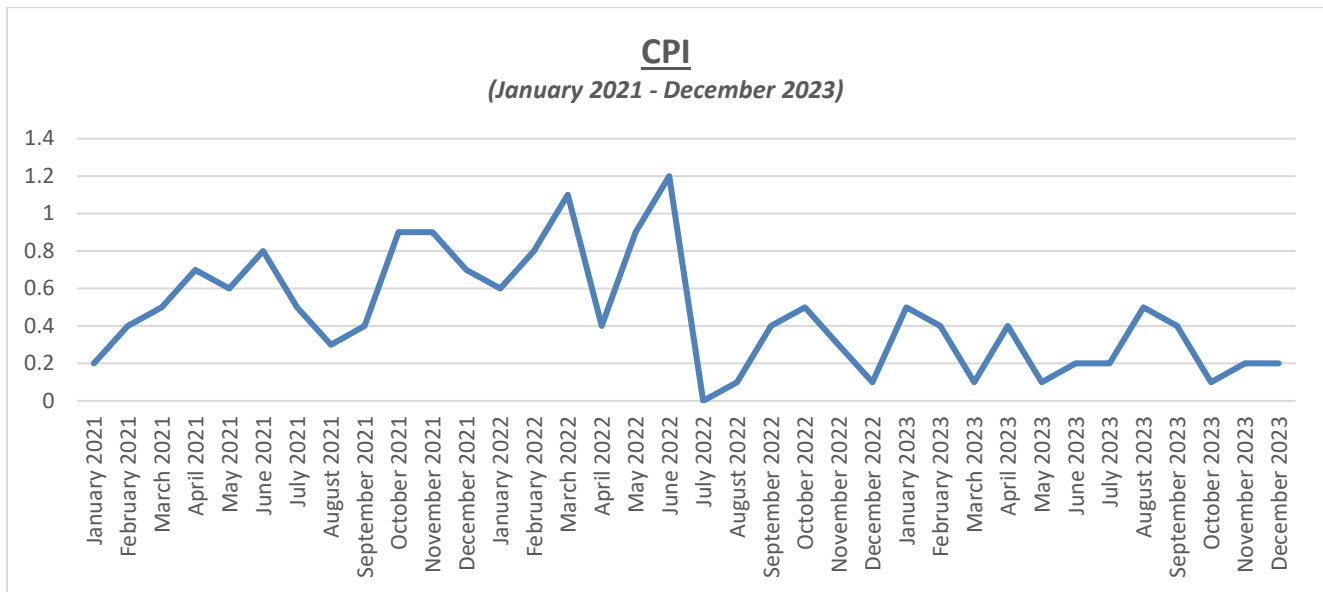
Annual Client Disclosure Package

As a Registered Investment Adviser (RIA), CHB Investment Group, LLC is required to send updated disclosure packages to all clients of the firm every year. These were sent out in the beginning of March 2024, and include the following sections:

1. **Client Relationship Summary:** This provides clients with the types of services our firm offers, along with fees, costs and any potential conflicts of interest.
2. **ADV Form Part 2A:** Information about the qualifications and business practices of our firm are included in this section of your disclosure package. There's also additional information on fee structures, investment discretion, portfolio management and any material changes from the previous year.
3. **Privacy Policy:** How we use our client information is included in our Privacy Policy. We **do not** share any personal, confidential client information. There is a section where clients can sign that will allow us to share personal information, but we recommend not sharing your personal information unless necessary in the normal course of conducting business with us.

Inflation Update

With the interest rate increases that have been made by the Federal Reserve in the past 24 months, there has clearly been a decrease of the inflation rate. We believe we'll continue to see decreases in the inflation rate for 2024, with 2-3 expected interest rate cuts in the second half of the year (for a total of .75-1.00%).



Estate Planning Strategies for 2024

When reviewing your Will and Estate Planning, there are some important notes to take into consideration for 2024:

- The Unified Estate and Gift Tax Exclusion amount has increased to \$13,610,000 for 2024. This will continue to be indexed for inflation until 2026, when the exclusion is scheduled to revert back to inflation-adjusted 2006 exclusion levels (\$5 million base).
- The annual gift tax exclusion for gifts made to any individual is \$18,000 in 2024
- Estate, Gift and GST tax rate: 40%

***** RECOGNIZING AND AVOIDING SCAMS *****

Over the past several years, as technology has made our daily lives easier and provided additional convenience, our industry has seen an ever-increasing number of scams and fraudulent attempts to access client funds.

It is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT to notify our office immediately if you suspect any unauthorized attempts to access your account or personal information. Your investment accounts with CHB Investment Group can only be accessed by our staff and we will NEVER execute orders that are made through e-mail, text or voicemail. We will ALWAYS call to confirm any transaction requests that are received, and further confirm client identities as needed.

Some of the most common scams that have recently become more popular are:

1. **Tech Support Scams** – Fraudulent parties will attempt to access your computer through a phone call or a screen pop up on your computer. The scammers will identify themselves as from a reputable company like Microsoft or Apple, and tell you they can fix an error or virus issue. **DO NOT GIVE ANY THIRD PARTY ACCESS TO YOUR COMPUTER.** They will have access to any information you store on your computer, including financial records, e-mails and saved password information.
2. **Family Emergency Scams** – These are calls or e-mails where the scammer disguises the caller ID/email address as a familiar one to you, and attempt to have money sent to them through a dire story of need. They will use known names that can be found on the internet, and ask that the story not be verified by other family members since it's either embarrassing or they are scared. **CONFIRM ANY IDENTITIES BY ASKING SPECIFIC, PERSONAL QUESTIONS THAT WOULDN'T BE EASILY FOUND ONLINE.** Always take the time to verify any stories before giving money away.
3. **IRS Scam** – The scammers will claim they are representatives from the IRS and that you owe back taxes that are owed immediately or they will send the police and send you to jail. They will almost always request to be paid immediately through a wire transfer or gift cards. They will typically even stay on the phone through the entire payment process – including you driving to a store to purchase the gift cards. **DO NOT EVER MAKE PAYMENTS TO ANY PARTY USING GIFT CARDS. THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE WILL NEVER CONTACT YOU BY PHONE.**
4. **Counterfeit Cashier's Checks** – You receive a cashier's check drawn from a reputable bank for an overpayment from a job, sweepstakes fees, online transactions, etc. You are asked to deposit the check, keep some of the funds and wire back the rest of the "overpayment" you received. **ALWAYS BE AWARE OF CHECKS RECEIVED FROM STRANGERS.** If you deposit a counterfeit check, even if it's part of a scam that you're a victim of, you can be charged with a crime.

Scammers are constantly trying new methods and tactics, and there are some signs to be aware of:

1. **They contacted you** – When someone is contacting you, you can't be certain who's on the other end of the call or email. Remember that phone numbers and email addresses can be faked.
2. **They dangle bait – usually money** – People don't typically give away large sums of money easily. If someone is dangling large prizes, shopping sprees or easy loans for free, they're probably lying.
3. **They want your personal information** – Anytime anyone asks for your personal information, you should be alert. Don't give away any of this information away easily, especially to someone you don't know.
4. **You have to pay them first** – If you're being offered a prize, debt relief, personal loans or employment, but there are upfront fees to pay first, you're most likely being scammed.

5. You have to wire money or send gift cards – Do not wire money or send gift cards in order to receive a gift, prize or to pay off a debt collector that contacts you.

Always call us first if you suspect or question anything.

CHB Investment Group Recommendations

Recommendations made by CHB Investment Group, LLC may not be suitable for all clients, and we suggest calling our office to review any recommendations that may meet clients' specific financial needs and risk tolerance.

We continue to recommend that clients maintain their long-term investment plan, and proper asset allocation of their investment portfolios. We advise that clients review any changes in risk tolerance with us, so that we can continue investment strategies and retirement planning models that meet the needs of each client.

CHB Investment Group News

- Please note we have separately mailed our updated 2024 Client Relationship Summary (CRS) and disclosure package earlier this year. If you haven't received this, or if you have any questions, please contact our office.
- Please **DO NOT** click on any suspicious links or give out any personal information to unverified sources. **Call our office if you're unsure of whether or not you're receiving scam or phishing notices and we will verify the validity of them.**
- The IRS Federal tax filing deadline is **April 15, 2024.**

For clients who would like to receive non-confidential information regarding general market conditions and CHB Investment Group updates, please send your preferred e-mail address to chris.lindenthal@chbinvestmentgroup.com

Reminder: We do not accept orders over email or through messages left on our voicemail system. We will always require verbal authorization for any transaction or liquidation request.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Indices are unmanaged and you cannot invest directly in an index.

The S&P 500 Index consists of 500 stocks chosen for market size, liquidity, and industry group representation. It is a market value weighted index with each stock's weight in the index proportionate to its market value.

Generally, CDs may not be withdrawn prior to maturity. CDs are FDIC insured up to \$250,000 per depositor per insured depository institution for each account ownership category. CDs may be issued by out of state institutions.

Stocks offer long-term growth potential, but may fluctuate more and provide less current income than other investments. An investment in the stock market should be made with an understanding of the risks associated with common stocks, including market fluctuations. The prices of mid-cap company stocks are generally more volatile than large company stocks. The often involve higher risks because mid-cap companies may lack the management expertise, financial resources, product diversification and competitive strengths to endure adverse economic conditions.

Investing in fixed income securities involves certain risks such as market risk if sold prior to maturity and credit risk especially if investing in high yield bonds, which have lower ratings and are subject to greater volatility. Bond prices fluctuate inversely to changes in interest rates. Therefore, a general rise in interest rates can result in the decline of the value of your investment. All fixed income investments may be worth less than original cost upon redemption or maturity.

Investing in foreign securities presents certain risks not associated with domestic investments, such as currency fluctuation, political and economic instability, and different accounting standards. This may result in greater share price volatility. Diversification does not guarantee profit or protect against loss in declining markets.

This newsletter is designed to provide accurate, authoritative information. CHB Investment Group, LLC is not engaged in rendering legal, accounting or tax advice. If legal, accounting, or tax assistance is required, the services of a competent professional should be sought. The hiring of a professional is an important decision and should not be based on advertising. Ask for written information stating qualifications, experience and Firm association before making a decision.

This report is provided courtesy of your Financial Advisor, Christopher H. Brashier, who can be contacted at 215-862-6900. The opinions expressed in this report are those of the author(s). The material has been prepared or is solely distributed for information purposes and is not a solicitation or an offer to buy any security or instrument or to participate in any trading strategy. Additional information is available upon request.

You should be receiving statements at least quarterly from Charles Schwab & Co., LLC. If you are not receiving these statements, or you need another copy of a statement, please call us and we will provide one to you. Clients are encouraged to review the information on the statements, especially the amount of fees deducted, and compare that information with any information provided by CHB Investment Group, LLC. If there are any questions or discrepancies, please contact us as soon as possible

CHB Investment Group
A Limited Liability Corporation

Christopher H. Brashier
Managing Director
chb@chbinvestmentgroup.com

Debra T. Jones
Director of Client Services
debra.jones@chbinvestmentgroup.com

Christopher Lindenthal
Director of Planning &
Investment Analysis
Certified Financial Planner™
chris.lindenthal@chbinvestmentgroup.com

31 North Main Street
New Hope, PA 18938
Phone: 215-862-6900
Fax: 215-862-5700
Toll Free: 855-862-6900

www.chbinvestmentgroup.com
Investment products and services are offered through Charles Schwab and Co. CHB Investment Group, LLC is a separate entity from Charles Schwab and Co.