



Investors Quarterly

UPCOMING CONTRIBUTION BY
KRIS TOWER

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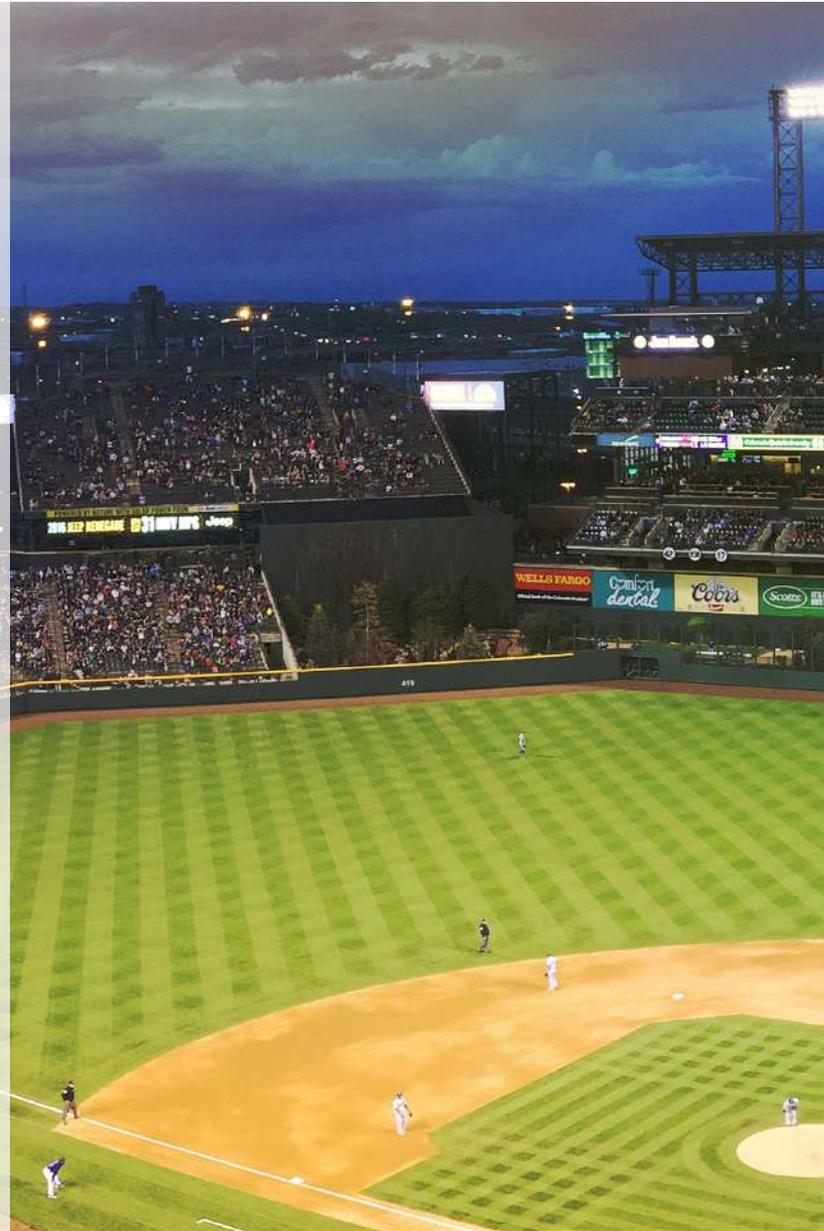
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U.S. vs. CHINA

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What's New With Our Team at American Portfolios Denver



American Portfolios Denver Welcomes Alec Quaid to Our Denver Office

Q1 saw the addition of our new associate Alec Quaid to our Denver office. Mr. Quaid brings four years of experience to our American Portfolios Denver team and is a graduate of Colorado State University where he majored in Financial Planning. Welcome aboard, Mr. Quaid! We're excited to see you bring a fresh perspective and enthusiasm for serving our clients.

Bruce Lear Joins American Portfolios Denver as Affiliate Advisor Based In Kearney

American Portfolios Denver is proud to introduce Bruce Lear as our newest affiliate advisor. Mr. Lear brings a strong pedigree of financial expertise and industry insight. He is already serving clients across the great state of Nebraska and beyond as our new affiliate advisor in Kearney. Welcome to our team!

Managing Director Kris Tower to be Upcoming Contributor for TheStreet.com

American Portfolios Denver has a proven track record of providing extraordinary content and insight on top financial topics across the nation and beyond. The month of May will feature a new contribution by Managing Director Kris Tower to the article feed of TheStreet.com, arguably one of the most widely circulated publications on financial insight for advisors and experienced investors. Stay on the lookout for Mr. Tower's upcoming article on the topic of attribution of ownership for retirement plan sponsors, including the question of whether you can offer different retirement plans if you own two or more companies.





5 Steps to Better Protect Your Identity

40% of consumers worldwide have been the target of identity theft at least once...

As more and more security breaches occur around the world, the question of identity theft feels like it's a matter of 'when' instead of 'if'. According to recent online fraud statistics from Experian, 40% of all consumers around the world have been the target of identity thieves at least once. Further data shows over 60 million U.S. adults have experienced some form of identity theft, 15 million of which fell victim in 2017 alone. (SafeatLast, March 2019)

The good news is it's still possible to prevent identity theft. Here are five great actions to take to dissuade, even prevent thieves from stealing your identity.

#1: Use a unique password for each login.

Did you know the password "123456" is still used by 23.2 million people today? Choose a unique password for each login credential for websites and apps with sensitive identity information. One of the best choices you may make is generating a randomized password you can securely store and use.

#2: If needed, use an encrypted password manager to house your passwords.

Systems such as LastPass and DashLane are two of the most trustworthy password managers. They encrypt your password credentials for any website and then auto-completes your password credentials when needed in a secure prompt.

#3: Replace your current wallet with an RFID-deterrent wallet.

Identity theft is as simple as walking through a crowd with an RFID scanner. Trade your current wallet for an RFID-deterrent wallet that blocks the RFID signal and keeps your card numbers safe inside your pocket instead of someone else's pocket.

#4: Create backup passcodes and two-step authentication for all important accounts.

What would happen if you were locked out of your primary email address, bank account, medical account, or phone provider? It takes a matter of minutes to implement a two-step authentication where your provider sends a six-digit passcode to your phone for you to confirm your identity before gaining access.

#5: Rely on common sense with your credit.

No, the IRS will never call you, the Nigerian prince will not wire you \$14M, and the free trip to Jamaica does not require your credit card to 'save your reservation'. These are all examples of popular phone scams used by identity thieves, especially when targeting elderly citizens.

We highly recommend you leverage common sense when encountering an unexpected call. The old adage is still true: if it seems too good to be true, it probably is. Be judicious with your trust and your identity will be more secure for the future.

Q1 2019 Rewind and What You May Expect as an Investor In Q2

The S&P 500 registered arguably its best first quarter in almost 10 years. The S&P 500 saw an exciting finish in a 13.1% rebound from Q4. In other economic news, the U.S. GDP rose an extremely impressive 3.2%.

Part of the surge in the market may be a more positive outlook on a U.S./China trade resolution. What looks like a beneficial end to months-long tension between U.S. and Chinese officials is now translating into rising stock values. More recent acquisitions in the form of On Semiconductor's pending acquisition of Quantenna and Nvidia's announced purchase of Mellanox for \$6.8B set the stage for technology to be the strongest sector of Q1 and possibly Q2.

There is still ongoing concern from U.S. officials, as well as foreign market leaders, that the U.S. economy is facing the risk of a micro-recession as indicated by a flattening yield curve (signaled by the late-Q4 yield dropoff for 10-year bonds).

That concern materialized on March 21st when preliminary results for German manufacturing PMI were released with a reading of 44.1, a multi-year low, much lower than the expected reading of 47.8.

This event instigated a significant amount of market volatility to end Q1, but early indications for Q2 show the activity has largely subsided as investors see the stability of the S&P 500 in spite of the European market downturn.

Leading economic indicators have leveled off from towards the beginning of Q4 2018 through Q1 2019. This does not mean a recession is imminent, but rather, it shows the U.S. economy is growing at a slower rate than in more recent quarters. As we are late in the economic cycle, it is important that your portfolio matches your risk tolerance. If you have not reviewed your portfolio with our team at American Portfolios Denver, I invite you to schedule a time to connect with us before the end of Q2.

The first month of each quarter often hold earnings calls for shareholders. This leaves markets caught between incoming data from Q1 reporting and forward-leaning perspectives on how the rest of the year may be shaping up for investors.

This middle ground between facts and futures gives us reason to pause and wait for new evidence that may best inform our investing practices for clients. There's a reason why we use an evidence-based approach to investing - the numbers don't lie.

Here's What We Know:

The Fed may introduce another rate hike in late 2019, but it's likely the Fed would refrain from raising rates in 2020. The general consensus is the Fed likely would not want to be perceived as taking action during a presidential election year. Of course, the Fed still reserves the freedom to adjust rates at their discretion, so we again rely on data to inform some of our perspective on the remaining quarters for 2019 and into the early part of 2020.

Ongoing concern with British economic stability is fueled by pending Brexit uncertainty. How the British navigate their exit from the EU is already affecting U.K.-based corporations and the British reputation in foreign markets, including the U.S.

The one area already experiencing slowdown is housing and owned transportation, namely automobiles, for U.K. consumers. Will that change with a smoother Brexit? Time will tell, but what we do know is that the new projected exit date of Halloween doesn't seem to be a good omen for the British economy.

In the Asia-Pacific market region, the improved trade talks between the U.S. and China have kickstarted a stimulus from the Chinese government for other Asian markets, namely Japan and Australia. This may be a great sign for U.S.-based investors looking to take advantage of Asia-Pacific market conditions in the latter half of 2019.

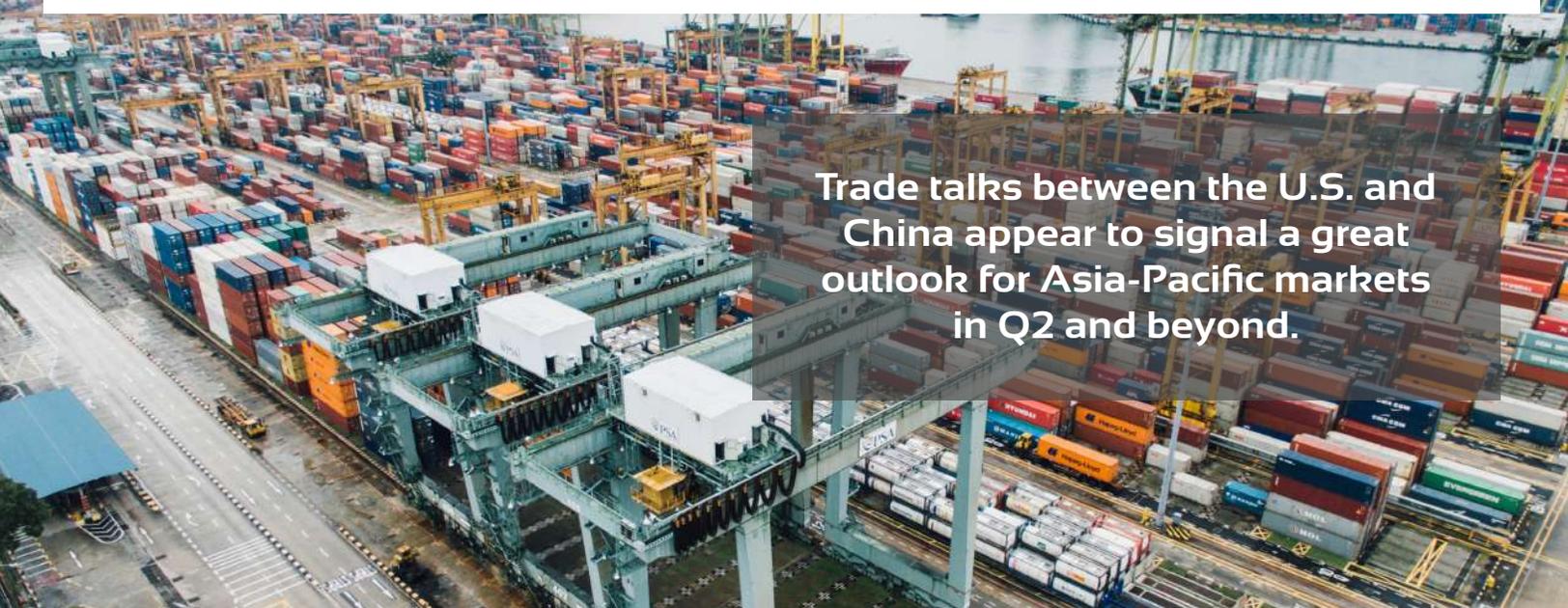
The International Monetary Fund (IMF) already reduced its global growth forecast for 2019 down to 3.3%, a sizable decrease from its projection of 4.0% from a year ago.

The guiding principle we continue to follow for Q2 2019 and beyond is the same as for every previous year: we lean into the evidence to help us make informed decisions about what kind of opportunities are available to our investors.

Whether a possible economic downturn comes in 2020 or beyond, we will be here to answer your questions, rely on market data, and give you the peace of mind and confidence you need to keep pursuing your financial goals with the support of our team.

If you haven't already, I recommend connecting with our team to review your written financial plan to ensure your goals are aligned with the right investment opportunities for the rest of this year. Reach out to our team at any point to schedule your consultation and see how we may best serve you in the coming months.

- Kris Tower, Managing Director



Trade talks between the U.S. and China appear to signal a great outlook for Asia-Pacific markets in Q2 and beyond.

Start a Conversation

Our team with American Portfolios Denver serves clients across the Rocky Mountain region and beyond through our main office and affiliated advisors. Reach out to our team to start a conversation today about your financial goals.



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