



OLYMPUS
— WEALTH STRATEGIES —

NEWSLETTER

The Peak Perspective

FEBRUARY EDITION

Dear Olympus Clients,

February's markets were shaped by three forces: inflation and rate expectations, political headlines, and a major geopolitical escalation in the Middle East. U.S. equity benchmarks finished the month under pressure as inflation remained above the Fed's 2% target and investors dialed back expectations for near-term rate cuts. Treasury yields climbed, growth stocks lagged, and defensive sectors held up — all classic risk-off behavior.

At month's end, President Trump delivered his State of the Union, painting an optimistic picture of the economy with lower inflation, record stock market references, job growth, and increased domestic energy production. Markets initially reacted favorably, but mixed details on tariffs, trade policy, and inflation caused analysts to re-evaluate the outlook for growth and global trade.

Days later, coordinated U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran escalated tensions further, including the confirmed killing of Iran's Supreme Leader. Iran retaliated with missile and drone attacks, impacting global trade routes and sending crude oil and natural gas prices higher amid concerns over disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital passage for roughly 20% of the world's oil supply.

While short-term headlines can drive market reactions, they rarely alter long-term fundamentals on their own. Periods like this are exactly why portfolios are built with diversification and risk management in mind before volatility arrives. We remain focused on your portfolio's positioning, and making thoughtful adjustments only when the data justifies it.

Sincerely,
John Sidery, CFP® , CPWA

What we are watching for in March

Looking into March, we're watching three core factors closely: (1) energy price trends and how sustained volatility impacts inflation data, (2) Federal Reserve communications on interest rate timing, and (3) incoming economic releases on employment and consumer spending. Geopolitical events create volatility, but disciplined diversification and long-term positioning remain foundational in navigating these environments.

New Retirement Savings Options

President Trump also announced a new retirement-savings plan that would provide workers **without employer-sponsored plans** access to a federal-style program. This would include up to a \$1,000 annual government match.

If implemented, this could:

- Increase retirement participation
- Encourage consistent saving
- Strengthen long-term financial independence

Trump signaled this could roll out next year. We'll continue monitoring developments and share updates as details evolve.