

NEWS You Can Use

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Volume 13, Issue 3, March 2025

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Powell, Fed Await 'Greater Clarity' on Economic Outlook

Federal Reserve Jerome Powell recently signaled that the central bank intends to hold interest rates steady and wants to see greater certainty about where the economy is headed before making a move.

While Powell acknowledged the hints that consumer spending might be moderating in the first quarter after a strong performance late last year, he also mentioned the heightened uncertainty that businesses and consumers have expressed. **He said it was too soon to know if these developments would slow the economy.**



"We do not need to be in a hurry and are well positioned to wait for greater clarity," Powell said in a Friday, March 7th speech to the 2025 U.S. Monetary Policy Forum at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

Powell said he and his colleagues would try to separate "the signal from the noise" as the outlook evolves.

<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/powell-says-fed-can-wait-for-greater-clarity-on-economic-outlook-f43025fd>

Little Known Facts about Saint Patrick's Day



Since around the ninth or 10th century, the Irish have been observing the Roman Catholic feast day of St. Patrick on March 17th.

More than 100 St. Patrick's Day parades are held across the United States, with New York City and Boston home to the largest.

Leprechauns are the only faerie to have a trade which is that of shoe-making. W.B. Yeats is quoted as saying because they dance so much, leprechauns are always in need of new shoes.

Chicago's annual dyeing of the Chicago River green started in 1962. That year, they released 100 pounds of green vegetable dye into the river—enough to keep it green for a week! To minimize environmental impact these days, only 40 pounds of dye are used, and the river turns green for only several hours.

<http://www.history.com/topics/saint-patricks-day/history-of-saint-patricks-day>

Reciprocal Tariffs Take Effect, Sparking Economic Uncertainty

On March 4, 2025, the U.S. imposed a 25% tariff on most imports from Canada and Mexico, with a 10% tariff specifically on Canadian crude oil and energy products. Canada enacted 25% retaliatory tariffs on \$30 billion worth of U.S. goods, effective the same day.

On March 3, 2025, President Trump confirmed the tariffs would take effect. Afterward, the S&P 500 index fell by 1.8%, and the Nasdaq-100 index decreased by 2.6%. By March 6, 2025, the S&P 500 had lost nearly all gains accumulated since November 2024, indicating heightened investor concern over



Mexico's President, Claudia Sheinbaum, secured a one-month delay in U.S. tariffs after committing to increased border security measures. Mexico celebrated with tens of thousands rallying in support. Tariffs on Mexican goods are delayed until April 2, 2025, contingent upon Mexico's continued efforts to enhance border security and address U.S. concerns.

escalating trade tensions.

The aerospace industry has been notably affected. Boeing's stock declined by 11.7% in March, reaching its lowest point since November. Boeing relies heavily on parts from these countries.

<https://www.investors.com/news/trump-tariffs-boeing-stock-dives-archival-airbus-soars>



The word “buck” as a reference to money dates back to days before paper when Americans traded animal and elk bucks for goods and services.

Not only do money engravers work with incredible precision, but they also have to illustrate backwards. The design they cut into the plates is the mirror image of what it will look like when it is printed. It takes 12-15 years of training to become an engraver.

During the Middle Ages, knights did not want to carry cash around because of robbers. Instead, knights wore special rings. When a knight stayed at an inn, for example, he would stamp the bill with his ring. The innkeeper later took the stamped bill to the knight’s castle to be paid.

The oldest “money” ever found are small pieces of obsidian that were used in Turkey as far back as 12,000 B.C.

<https://www.factretriever.com/money-facts>

Multi-Year Guaranteed Annuities

Get a guaranteed interest rate with this tax-deferred investment strategy.

Multi-year Guaranteed Annuities (MYGAs) are fixed annuities that promise a set rate of return for a period of years. When the time is up, you can either cash in the accumulated value or roll it over into a new MYGA tax-free if you don't yet need the funds.

MYGAs are sometimes called CD-type annuities because they are structured similarly to bank Certificates of Deposit (CDs). Both products offer compounding interest at a guaranteed rate for a number of years. They are considered low-risk, as your principal is protected from any market downturn. If you have designated a beneficiary, both can bypass probate and transfer directly to that beneficiary on your death.

In the unlikely event that your provider became unable to fulfill your contract, both types of investment are guaranteed up to a certain amount. A MYGA is covered by the State Insurance Guarantee Association (SIGA) for the state in which the contract was issued. The amount of this

coverage varies by state, but typically ranges between \$100,000 and \$500,000 per contract. A CD issued by a traditional bank is backed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) up to \$250,000 per account.

But MYGAs and CDs have key differences tax-wise. MYGAs are considered a retirement vehicle by the IRS, so whether they are funded with pre-tax or after-tax dollars, they offer tax-deferred growth and are only taxed as the money is distributed. CD income, in comparison, is taxed every year.

A MYGA can include an option to be paid out as a lifetime regular income stream, providing a secure retirement income and the peace of mind that comes with it.



www.blueprintincome.com/resources/fix-ed-annuities/

ameriprise.com/financial-goals-priorities/taxes/how-are-annuities-taxed/ssa.gov/OACT/TRSUM/index.html

thestreet.com/annuityman/annuity-man-articles/what-is-a-multi-year-guarantee-annuity-myga

It Happened In ...



March 3rd 1831 – Railroad car builder George Pullman was born in Brocton, New York. His company refined railroad sleeping cars, developing the folding upper berth and lower berth and went on to become the biggest railroad car building organization in the world.

March 10th 1880 – The Salvation Army was founded in the United States. The social service organization was first founded in England by William Booth and operates today in 90 countries.

March 24th 1934 – The Philippine Islands in the South Pacific were granted independence by President Franklin D. Roosevelt after nearly 50 years of American control.

March 27th 1977 – The worst accident in civil aviation history occurred as two Boeing 747 jets collided on the ground in the Canary Islands, resulting in 570 deaths.

<http://www.historyplace.com/specials/calendar/march.htm>

Emergency Funds In Retirement

Unanticipated costs can upend even careful financial planning.

In retirement on a fixed income, it can be difficult to cover unexpected emergency costs: natural disasters like fire or flooding, new appliances, repairing a leaky roof and other maintenance on a house, or thousands of dollars in dental work which traditional Medicare doesn't cover. Friends or family members may need financial help.

Those who now handle home maintenance tasks may someday have to start paying for jobs they used to do themselves.

If funds are tied up in tax-deferred retirement accounts, a tax bill can eat into any money used for an emergency. An emergency fund can reduce the risk of these additional costs in an already bad situation.

Many experts suggest retirees should have a cash cushion of three to five years' worth of living expenses to cover their regular bills PLUS replacement

costs of big-ticket items, such as appliances, and estimated amounts for unexpected events, such as car repairs.

To start building an emergency fund, even near or in retirement, use tax refunds, work bonuses, extra money from a part-time or side gig, or required minimum distributions.

Those who are still working can address expensive projects before retirement. Replace old appliances or windows or upgrade to a newer vehicle now, if they will be needed within a year or two after retirement.



kiplinger.com/article/retirement/t047-c000-s004-retirees-need-emergency-funds-too.html