



As we turn the page toward 2025, let's take a quick look at where the markets—and a few key faces—are heading this year.

First, the good news: 2024 was an excellent year for the markets and 2025 could be another up year for stocks. Analysts are cautiously optimistic about continued economic growth, stabilized interest rates, and investor confidence returning. Just don't go shouting it from the rooftops yet—markets still like to keep us on our toes.

**Market Summary  
As of 12/31/24**

<b>S&amp;P 500:</b>	<b>5,881.63</b>
<b>Dow Ind.:</b>	<b>42,544.22</b>
<b>Nasdaq:</b>	<b>19,310.79</b>
<b>10 YR Treas.:</b>	<b>4.58%</b>

Speaking of money matters, inflation finally cooled in 2024 (supply chains and a watchful Fed were helpful). However, 2025's outlook is a bit uncertain. Some economists predict modest increases, while others say we're on track for stability.

And speaking of rates that do matter, 2025 might finally bring us some clarity. We believe that short term interest rates could continue to decline, signaling potential relief for some, but long-term rates may stay elevated, meaning mortgage rates may not come down. The Federal Reserve seems set to keep rates steady early on, but prognosticating on long-term interest rates is a complicated task, with many different variables.

On the political front, our newly elected President is moving into the executive suite, which means there will be change on the horizon. While the theme of cutting wasteful spending and extending the 2017 tax bill in some form are the current themes, other topics such as tariffs and international trade will also be on the table.

We are having some exciting changes within our firm! Rick is taking over for Dan as a part-owner of NorthStar Financial Partners as Dan takes his steps towards retirement. Rick brings expertise from having been the practice manager at another firm for over 10 years and at the age of 46 he replaces Dan as the old guy in the partnership. We're excited to have him leading the way with us.

Finally, let's give a warm welcome to Josie, our new paraplanner. Her enthusiasm and energy are clear to see, and we can't wait for you to meet her.

Here's to a promising 2025—may it bring prosperity, stability, and joy. We look forward to visiting with you soon.

Ps. Here is list of New Years Resolutions you are likely to keep going all year!

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/health/wellness/advice/g985/achievable-new-year-resolutions/>

**Warm regards,**

The NorthStar Team



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