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Your financial future, tailored your way

MPW Market & Strategy Update – May 2025

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The purpose of this presentation is to provide you general advice and insight into MPW's current market outlook and investment philosophy.

Where our presentation provides general advice, we must explain that this advice has been prepared at this time without taking into account your individual personal needs, objectives, or financial situation, and the personal information we hold about you has not specifically been considered in forming our views.

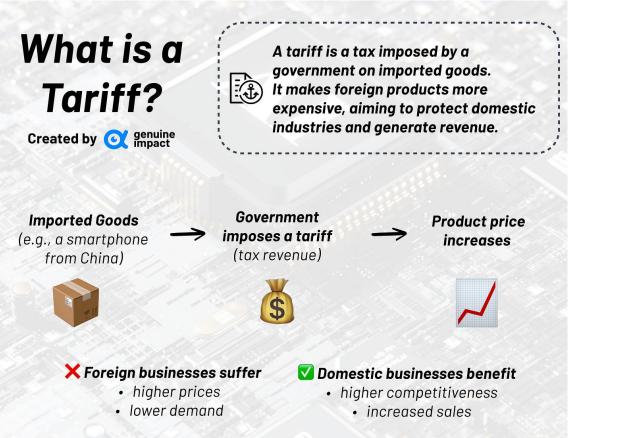
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What Are Global Trade Tariffs?



More charts: genuineimpact.substack.com

How do tariffs work? A quick guide using a \$50 bottle of wine*

A foreign winemaker produces a \$50 bottle of wine to be sold in Australia Tariffs of 10% are due, paid to the government when the wine is imported So the price to the business importing the bottle of wine is \$55 a Б C The company The company The company absorbs the price absorbs part of raises the price of the tariff and the tariff cost of the wine to sells the wine and sells the \$55 to make at **\$50** but has wine for \$52.50 up for the cost lower profits of the tariff

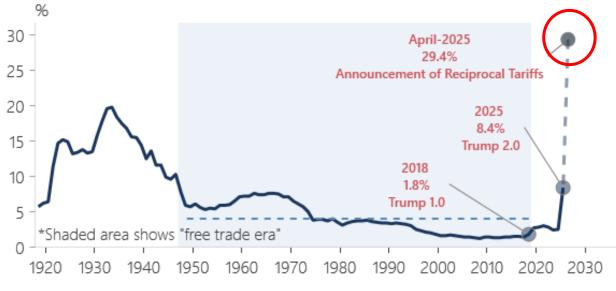
*The above is a fictional example to illustrate how tariffs work.



Trump's Tariffs: There is no Playbook!

The announcement of reciprocal tariffs averaging 29% has sparked fears of a global trade war and recession.

Goldman Sachs estimate the effective US tariff rate will rise by around 16% in 2025, but <u>everyone</u> is guessing!

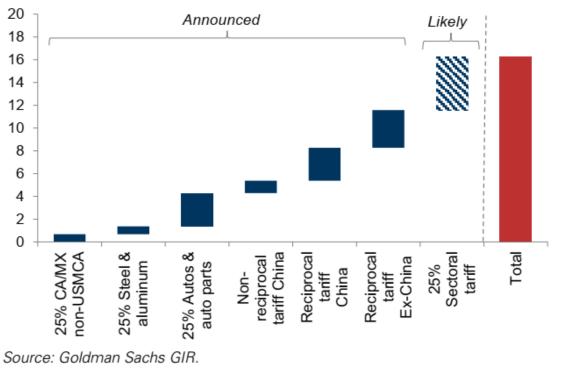


U.S. Historical Average Import Tariff Rates*

- - 1947-2018 mean: The Era of Free Trade

= U.S. Average Tariff Rates on All Imports

Impact of tariff policies on the US effective tariff rate, pp

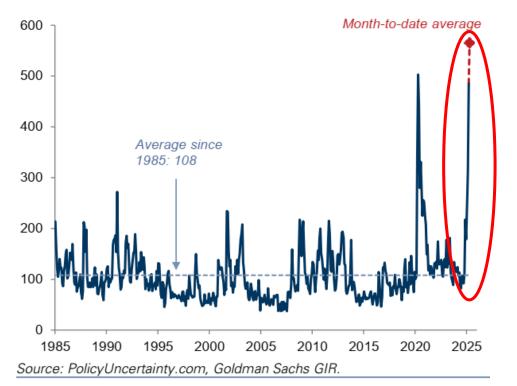


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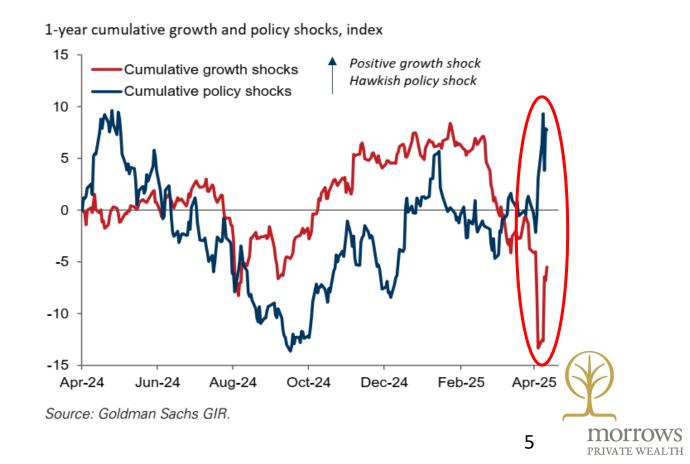
Tariffs Are Causing Policy Uncertainty & Volatility

Trump is implementing large scale 'negative growth' policy changes at the same time, and this increases the chance of policy mistakes being made and recession.



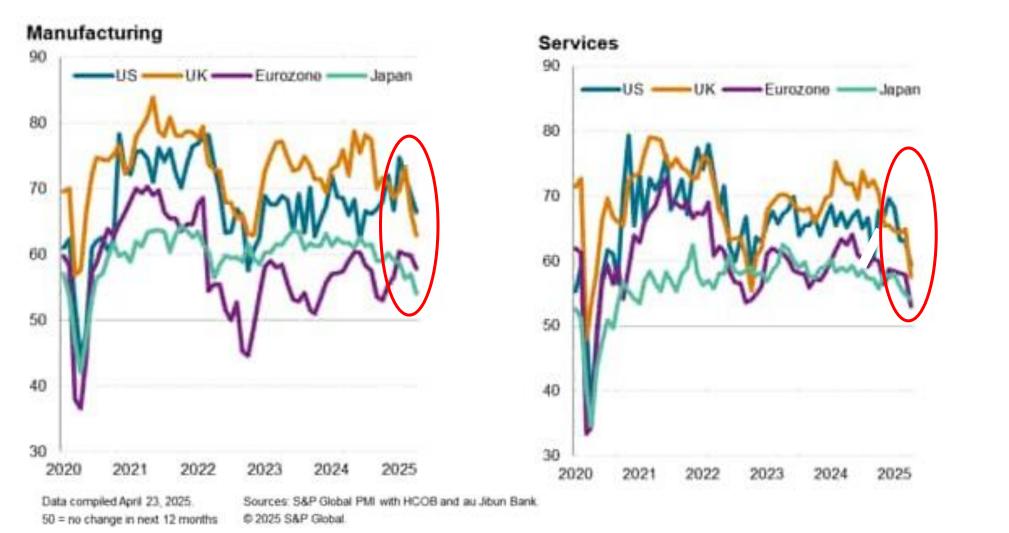
Baker, Bloom, Davis Headline Policy Uncertainty Index

When Trump announced the 90-day tariff pause, the market reversed a growth downgrade shock and higher interest rate shock. But this reprieve seems temporary.



Tariff Impacts on Manufacturing & Services

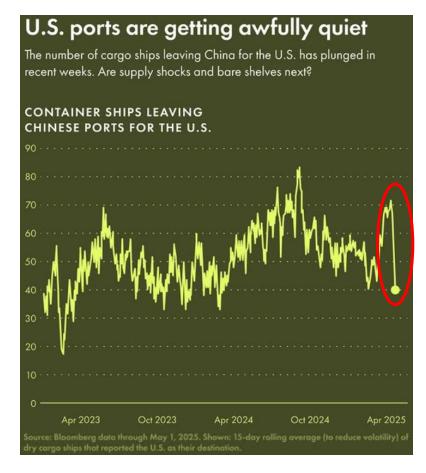
Purchasing Managers Future Output expectations have fallen sharply in both manufacturing and services in all G4 economies.

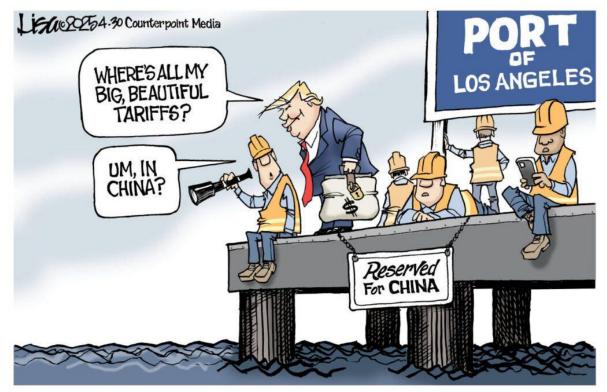




Tariff Impacts on Global Trade

The number of cargo ships sailing from China to the US has dropped dramatically. Will this result in a supply shock?







Tariff Implications for US Growth

survey.

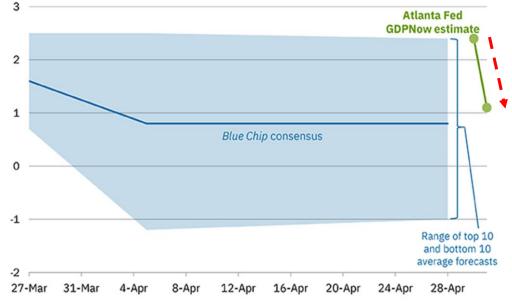
JPM & Goldman's now project US GDP Growth to fall to 0.5% in 2025, with risks of a mild recession rising to 45%.

20y average	1Q25
2.1%	-0.3%
	20y average 2.1%



The Atlanta Fed GDPNow estimate for Q2 2025 has been revised down from 2.5% to 1%. US Growth is slowing.

Evolution of Atlanta Fed GDPNow real GDP estimate for 2025: Q2 Quarterly percent change (SAAR)



Date of forecast

Sources: Blue Chip Economic Indicators and Blue Chip Financial Forecasts Note: The top (bottom) 10 average forecast is an average of the highest (lowest) 10 forecasts in the Blue Chip

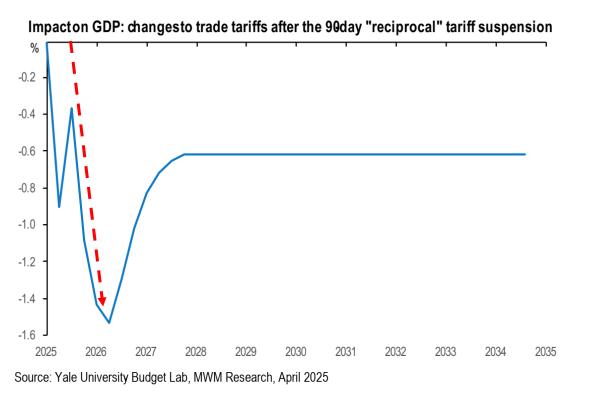


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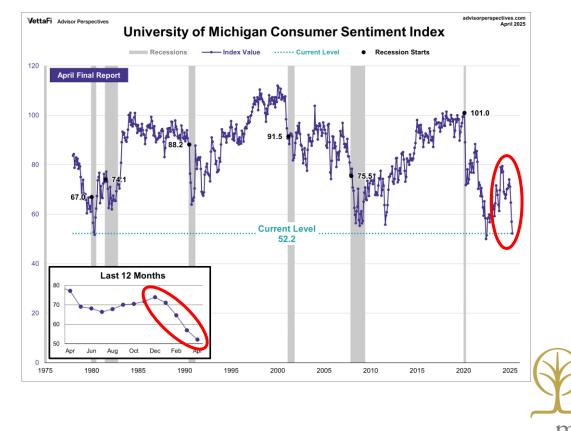
Source: Bloomberg, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, J.P. Morgan Asset Management Multi-Asset Solutions; data as of April 2025.

Tariff Implications & Rising US Recession Risk

Yale University estimates that the hit to US GDP this year would be 1.5% based on the announced tariffs. This would likely see a mild recession unfold.



Consumer sentiment has fallen sharply to historically low levels, and small business optimism is also falling. Consumers need to remain resilient to avoid recession.

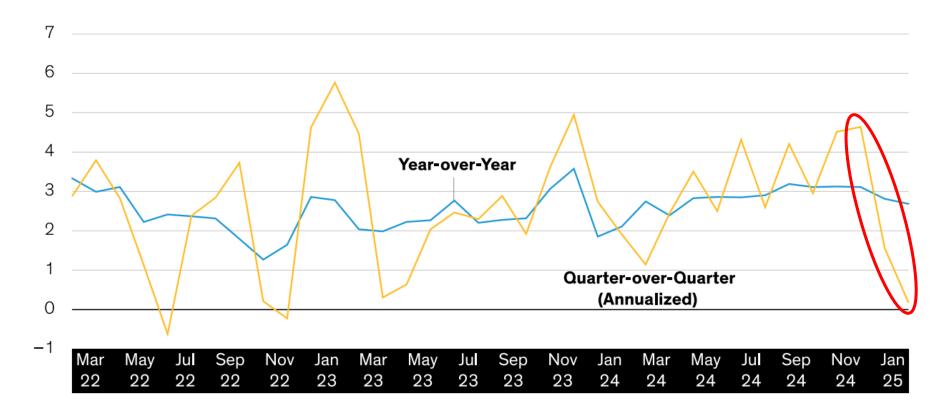


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Tariff Impact on US Household Spending

US household spending is falling and the US consumer is 70% of US GDP, so movements in sentiment towards spending, demand for employment and wages are all important barometers for what lies ahead for the US economy.



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Real Personal Spending (Percent Change)

Source: LSEG Datastream Through February 28, 2025

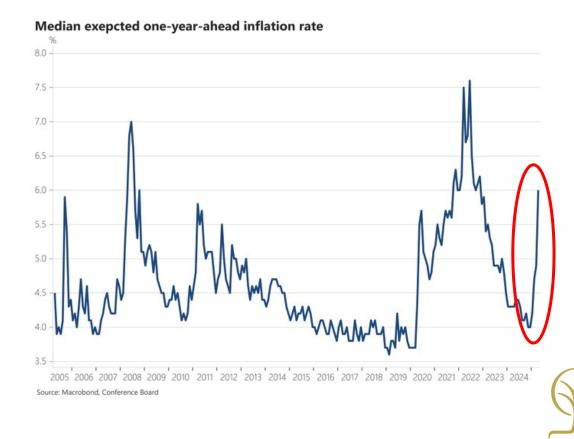
Tariff Implications for US Inflation

JP Morgan now sees **US core inflation** rising to 4.1% by year end, driven by cost-push pressures from tariffs.



Source: Bloomberg, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, J.P. Morgan Asset Management Multi-Asset Solutions; data as of April 2025.

The jump in consumer 1-year-ahead **inflation expectations** over the last 3 months is as swift as the rise seen in 2020.



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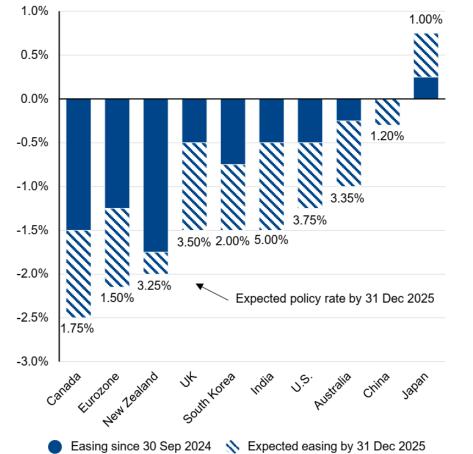
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Tariff Implications for US Fed Interest Rate Cuts

Other than Japan, most countries are expected to **cut interest** rates 3-4 times this year.

Policy easing and expected rate cuts

Expected rate cuts by 31 December 2025



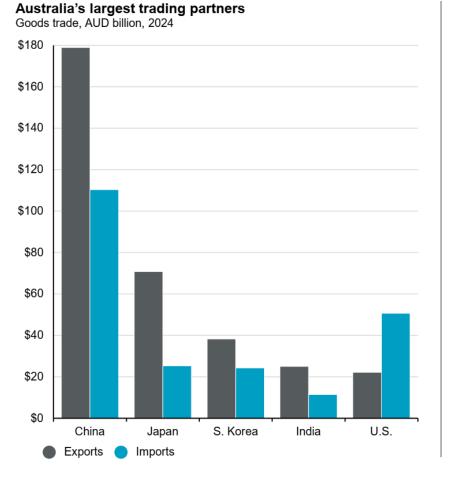
Tariff uncertainty means the **US Fed** will need to balance the risk of a slowing economy and likely rising inflation.

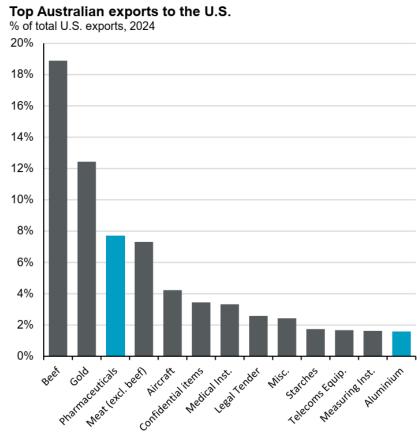


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Tariff Implications for Australia

The **10% US tariff** on our exports is bad news for industries affected and there is likely more to come for pharmaceuticals and aluminium. However, only 5% of Australian exports go to the US.





Source: Australian DFAT, J.P. Morgan Asset Management. *Guide to the Markets – Australia*. Data as of 02/05/25.

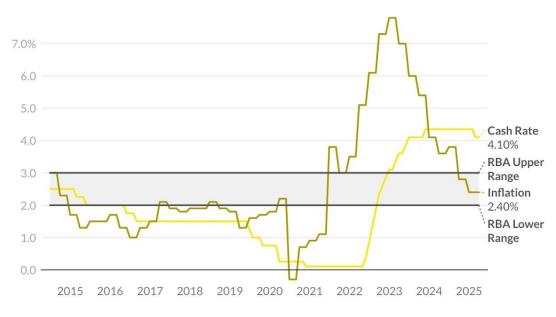


The Bigger Risk to Australia is a Slowing China

The **RBA** will cut interest rates by 0.25% this month as inflation moderates. How far will they go in 2025?

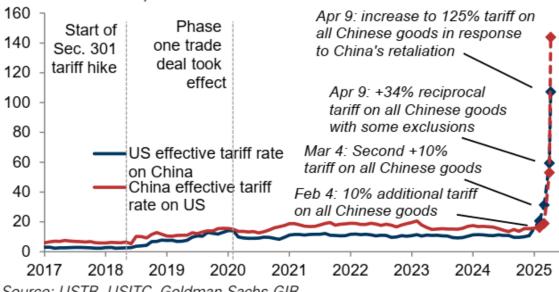
Australia Inflation and RBA Cash Rate

Official cash rate hold at 4.10% vs inflation



If US tariffs slow China's economy, Australia will feel the impact of this, even without reciprocal tariffs from China.

Effective tariff rates between US and China have risen sharply Effective tariff rates, %

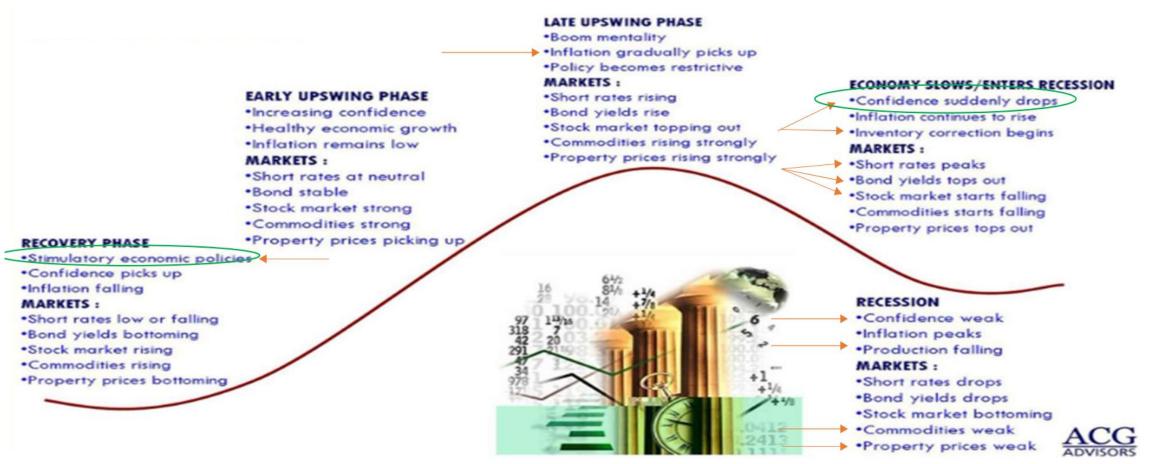


Source: USTR, USITC, Goldman Sachs GIR.



Macro Overlay: The Economic Cycle

Our **economic cycle clock** now moves more firmly into slowing growth and towards recession phase as the negative impacts of Trump policy sharply weakens US growth prospects and elevates inflation risk = **stagflation**.



MPW Outlook: US Recession Risks Are Rising



1. Negative Growth (Recession) MPW Probability = Increasing

- Inflation is sticky and moves higher
- Central banks hold or raise rates
- Unemployment rises 1-2%
- Savings rates evaporate
- Consumer spending slows sharply
- Economic data deteriorates
- Corporate earnings fall
- Geopolitical risks intensify (wars)
- Tariffs create global trade wars

Markets are <u>not priced for this</u>, expect further decline from here (~-20% plus) 2. Low Trend Growth (Current) MPW Probability = Medium

- Inflation is sticky but moderates
- Central banks slowly cut rates
- Unemployment rises marginally
- Savings rates are neutral
- Consumers continue to spend
- Economic data not to hot or cold
- Corporate earnings remain positive
- No further sanctions or conflict

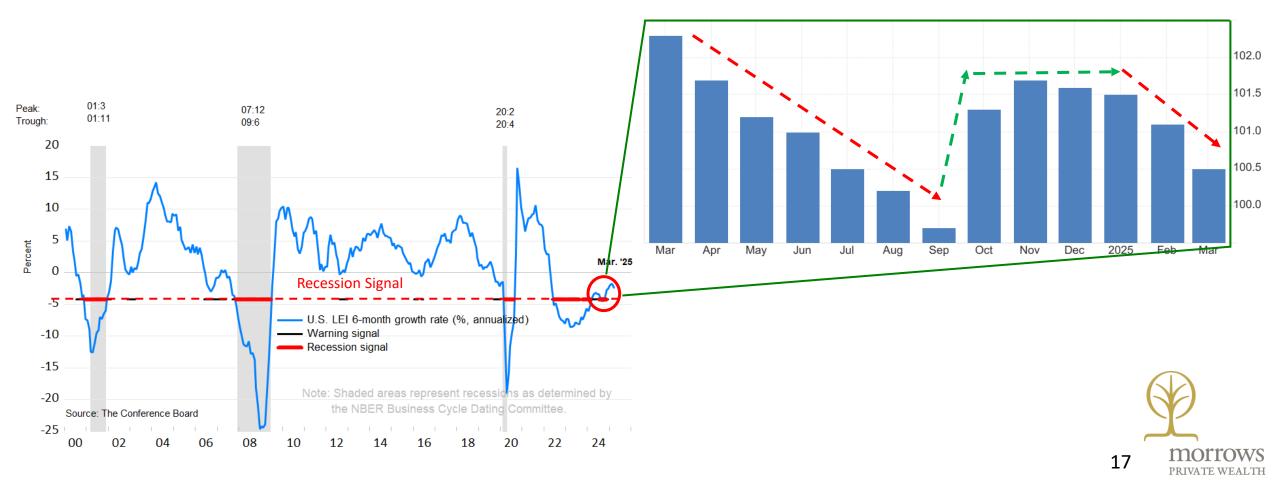
 Tariffs are moderated
 Markets <u>are priced for this, value can</u> be selectively found at current levels 3. Strong Growth (Bull Market) MPW Probability = Low

- Inflation falls to central bank targets
- Central banks are accommodative
- Employment growth remains strong
- Savings rates increase
- Consumer confidence picks up
- Economic data strengthens
- Companies improve productivity
- Geopolitical risks and conflict abates
- No tariffs and global trade picks up

Markets are <u>starting to price this</u>, risky assets will perform very strongly

The Narrative Has Turned Negative In 1H 2025

US **Leading Economic Indicators (LEI's)** were suggesting that recession risk was high in 2024, but there was a sharp rebound in these LEI's through the back half of 2024. They are now falling sharply again which increases the risk of recession in 2025.



US Lagging Economic Indicators Remain Solid

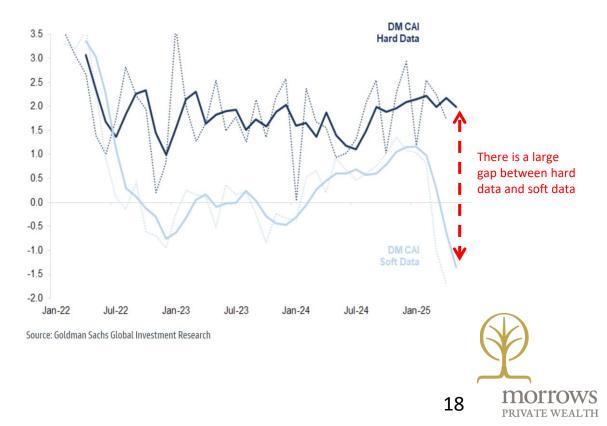
The Leading Indicators divided by Lagging Indicators have dropped to the lowest since the 1980s, with such levels never seen outside of recessions.

The Leading/Lagging Ratio Indicates a Recession



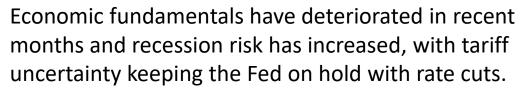
The question from here is whether the 'hard data' or lagging indicators follows the 'soft data' or leading indicators down. If they do, a recession likely unfolds.

Exhibit 8: Soft data has turned strongly negative in 2025 while hard data has remained resilient CAI = Current Activity Indicator. 3m rolling average



Source: Conference Board, Jan. 1959 - March 2025. File #0731

So What Does This Mean For Markets?





Stagflation: Growth assets grind higher

BUT...If tariffs do result in higher inflation and recession, then
the Fed will need to make a call on prioritising growth (rate
cuts) or fighting inflation. This is yet to be decided.



Recession: Growth assets revalue down

MPW Recommended Portfolio Strategy



Asset Class	Tactical Position	Comment
Currency (AUD vs USD)	Hedged	Hedging USD at current levels, AUD may fall further but it is below the long-term average
Cash & Liquidity	Neutral	RBA will cut rates in May, 1-3 more into year end, hold cash for buying opportunities
Government Bond Duration		Long-duration bonds are not pricing in higher for longer inflation. Prefer private debt
	Underweight	
Corporate Credit & Debt	Underweight	Listed credit spreads are very low by historical measures, so higher risk. Prefer private debt
Listed Property & Infrastructure	Underweight	Listed assets have had a strong run on rate cuts, prefer to own selective unlisted assets
Listed Australian Shares	Underweight	Expensive, prefer value over growth, resources over banks, and small caps over large caps
Listed International Shares	Underweight	US expensive, Europe and Emerging Markets cheaper, small caps over large caps
Liquid Alternative Assets	Overweight	Selective hedge funds, private debt and equity, commodities, and niche opportunities
Illiquid Alternative Assets	Overweight	Private debt and equity, niche illiquid strategies can provide a long-term return premium



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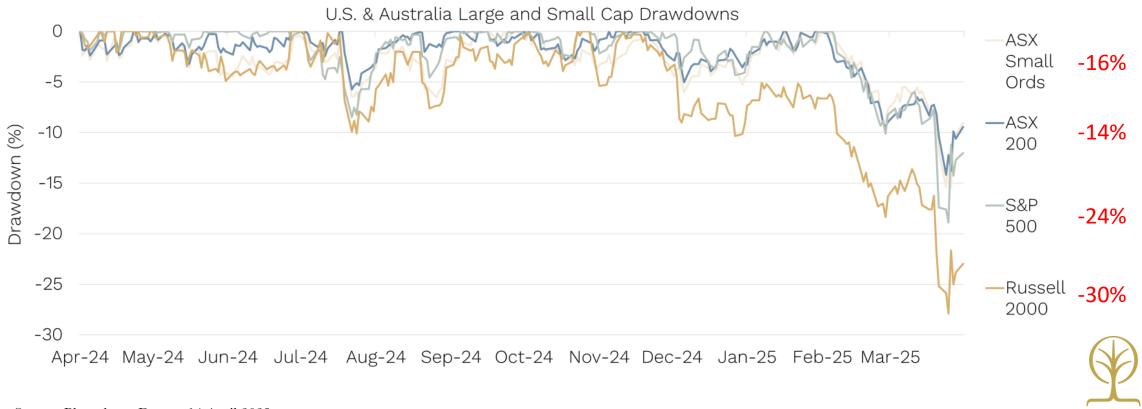
Expect Listed Equity Markets to Remain Volatile

The **drawdown** (peak to trough) for the **US** S&P 500 index was -24% and for the US Russell 2000 (small cap) index was -30%, before the tariff deferment announcement.

The **drawdown** (peak to trough) for the **AS**X 200 index was -14% and for the ASX Small Ords index was -16%, before the tariff deferment announcement.

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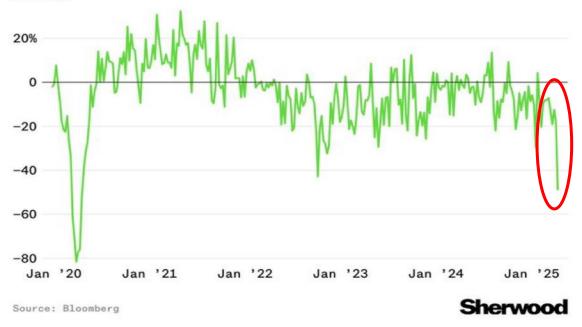


US Corporate Earnings Now Revised Much Lower

US corporate earnings have been revised significantly lower as a result of tariffs, stagflation, and uncertainty. C

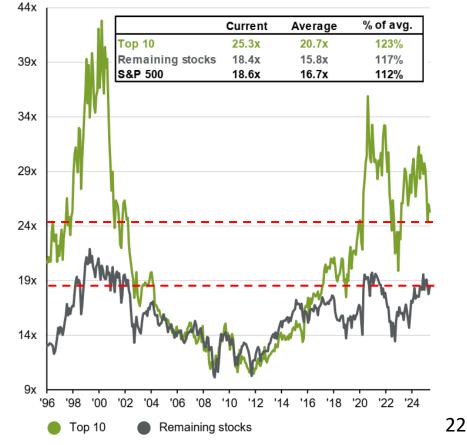
Worst net earnings revisions since 2020

- S&P 500 firms with higher less lower 12M EPS revisions as share of total revisions



Despite this, the US share market remains expensive by most historical measures. Market risk is elevated here.

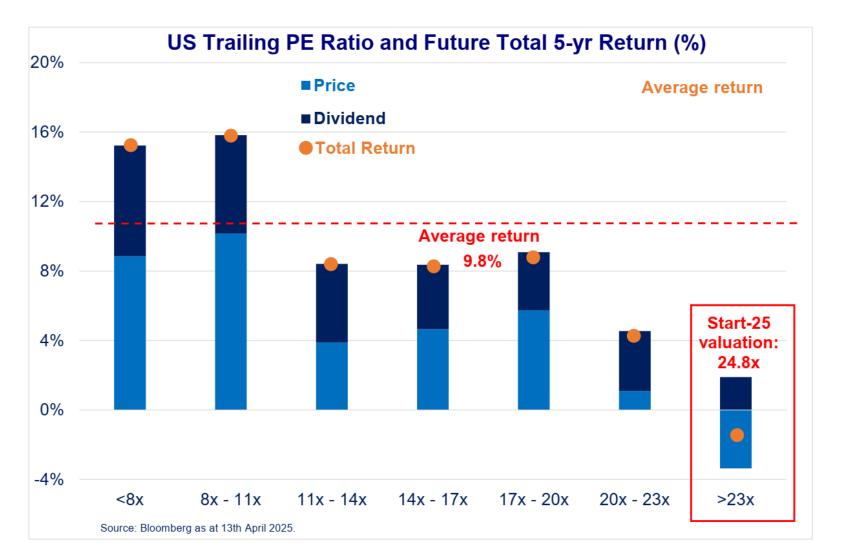
P/E ratio of the top 10 and remaining companies in S&P 500 Next 12 months, 1996 - present



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Valuations Matter To Long-Term Returns

Entering 2025, the S&P 500's 12MT valuation was aligned with negative 5Yr returns







Australian Shares: Expensive & Negative Earnings

ASX 200 earnings revisions

Australian shares are not cheap by historical measures and earnings growth is expected to be negative.



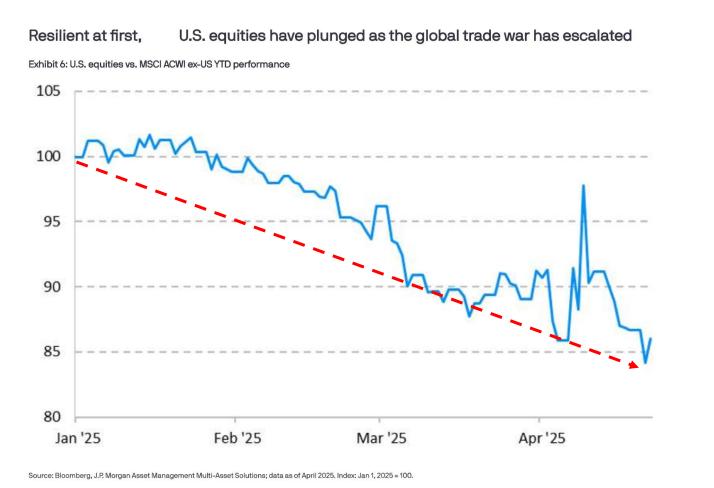
ASX 200 Index: Forward P/E ratio

24

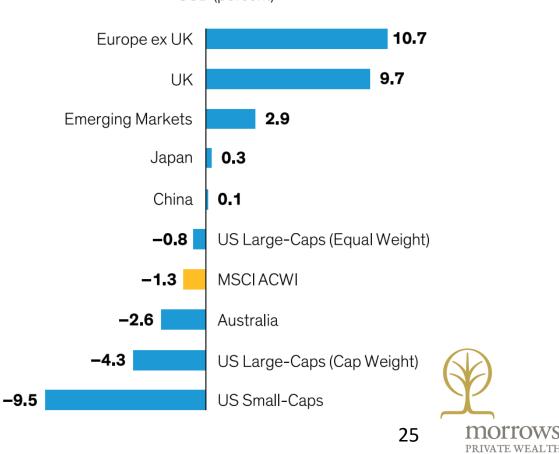
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There Has Been a Rotation Out of US Stocks

Global equities have significantly outperformed US equities in 2025 as uncertainty in the US increases.



Regional Returns: January–March 2025* USD (percent)

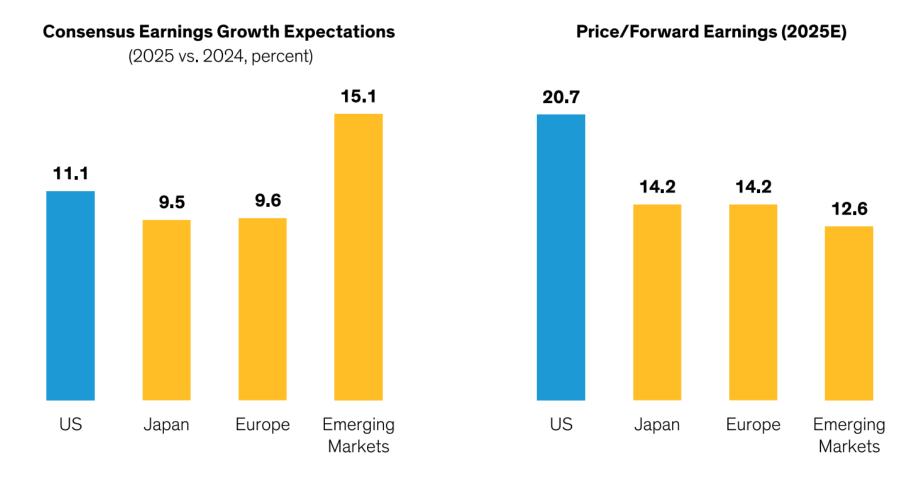


orrows



We Remain Positive on Emerging Markets

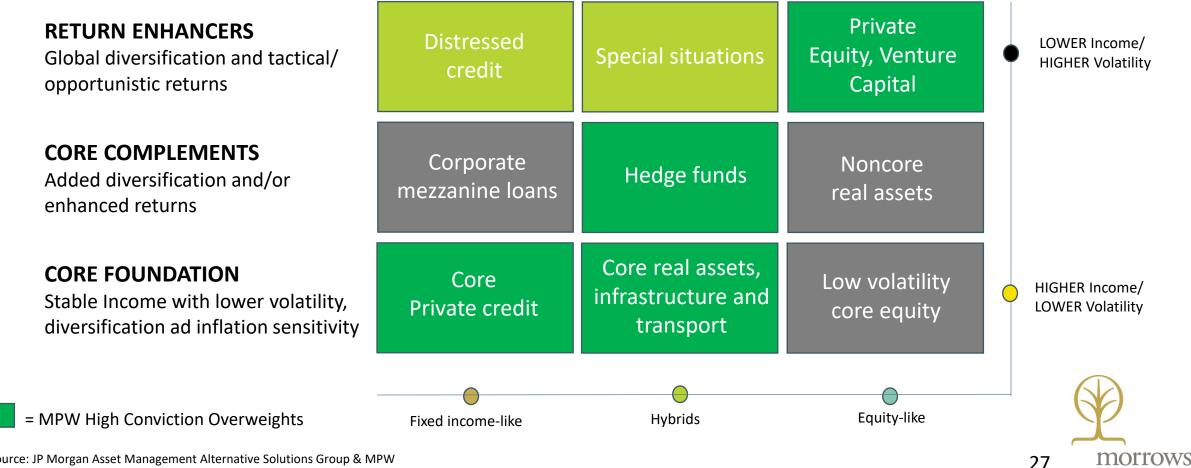
Emerging Market earnings growth is expected to be higher than other regions and they are also cheaper on a relative basis.





The Role of Alternative Assets In Portfolios

Framework-driven portfolio construction: What role do different categories play in the portfolio?



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Source: JP Morgan Asset Management Alternative Solutions Group & MPW

Alternative Asset Class Returns – 10 Years

2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 Sep-24 Ann. Vol Venture Capital 26.0% Infra. 15.5% Infra. 14.2% Infra. 22.9% Infra. 22.9% Venture Capital 21.2% Capital 22.4% Venture Capital 23.3% Transport 49.8% 60/40 Portfolio 12.1% 60/40 Portfolio 15.5% 60/40 Portfolio 15.5% 60/40 Portfolio 15.2% 50/30/20 50/30/20 Private Equity 21.2% Venture Capital 21.4% Venture Capital 22.4% Venture Capital 24.1% Transport 37.6% 60/40 Portfolio 15.2% 50/30/20 50/30/20 Private Equity 14.5% Venture Capital 11.6% Venture Capital 24.1% Private Equity 37.6% Private Equity 9.6% Private Equity 15.5% Private Equity 14.5% Private Equity 20.3% Private Equity 22.3% Private Equity 7.5% Private Equity 11.2% Private Equity 14.5% Private Equity 22.3% Private Equity 22.3% Private Equity 22.3% Private Equity 7.5% Private Equity 22.3% Private Equity 7.5% Private Equity 22.3% Private Equity 7.5% Private Equity 8.8% Private Equity 8.0% Private Equity 7.5% Private Equity 8.0% Private Equity 8.8% Private Equity 8.8% </th
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Source: Bloomberg, Burgiss, Cliffwater, FactSet, HFRI, MSCI, NCREIF, J.P. Morgan Asset Management.

2014 2022

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Why We Like Private Debt Over Listed Debt



• What: Non-banking institutions making Loans directly to private companies



Specialty •

Finance

Examples: Middle Market companies, lending to distresses companies, special situations

borrowers that are secured by

What: Loans issued to

future cash flows

future cash flows +

tangible collateral tied to

Examples: Music royalties,

receivables, litigation finance.

Real Estate • Lending

Asset based •

Lending



What: Loans issued to borrowers that are secured by commercial and residential properties.

What: Loans issued to

by hard collateral.

borrowers that are secured

Examples: Manufacturing

equipment, shipping

containers, airplanes.

Examples: Commercial, residential real estate lending.

Benefits of private credit: 1 Enhanced Yield 2 Low Correlation 3 Diversification

4 Inflation and Interest Rate Risk Protection



Who Are The Borrowers of Private Credit?

Non-Bank Private Debt Funds lend money to quality Australian businesses (below), just like banks do.





Seniority in the Capital Structure Is Critical



(For Interests/Distributions & Capital Returns)

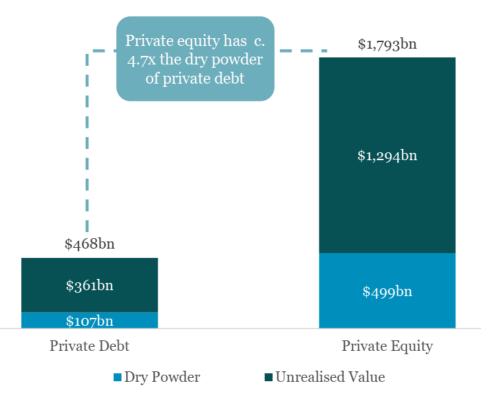


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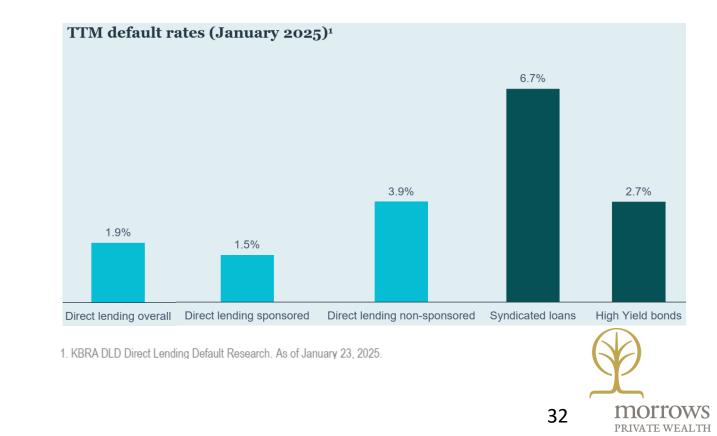
Private Credit Demand & Default Rates

Private equity dry powder is driving long-term supply of deals for the private debt market.

Private equity and private debt dry powder¹



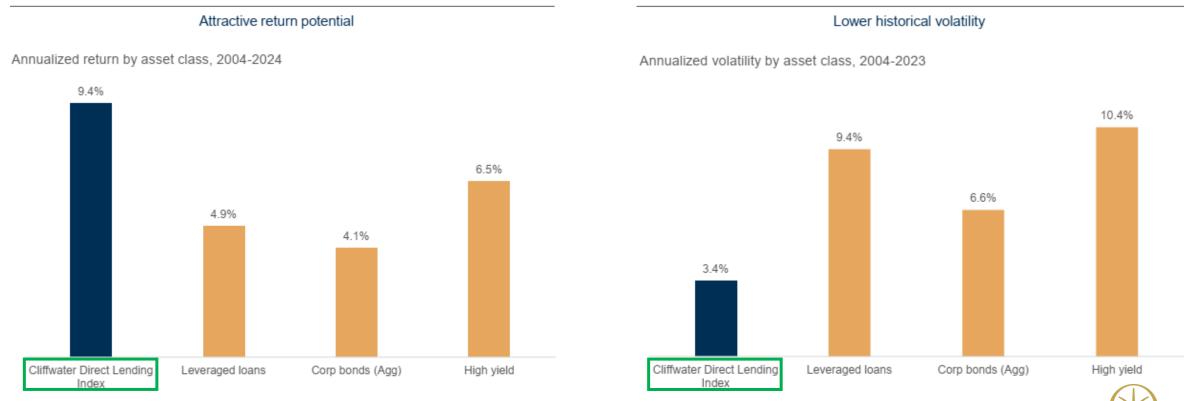
Private debt default rates are much lower compared to public market syndicated loans or high yield debt.



. Source: Preqin. Data downloaded December 2024;.

Private Debt Has Outperformed With Lower Risk

Private direct lending strategies are yielding ~9% pa (equity-like returns) with less volatility than public market debt.



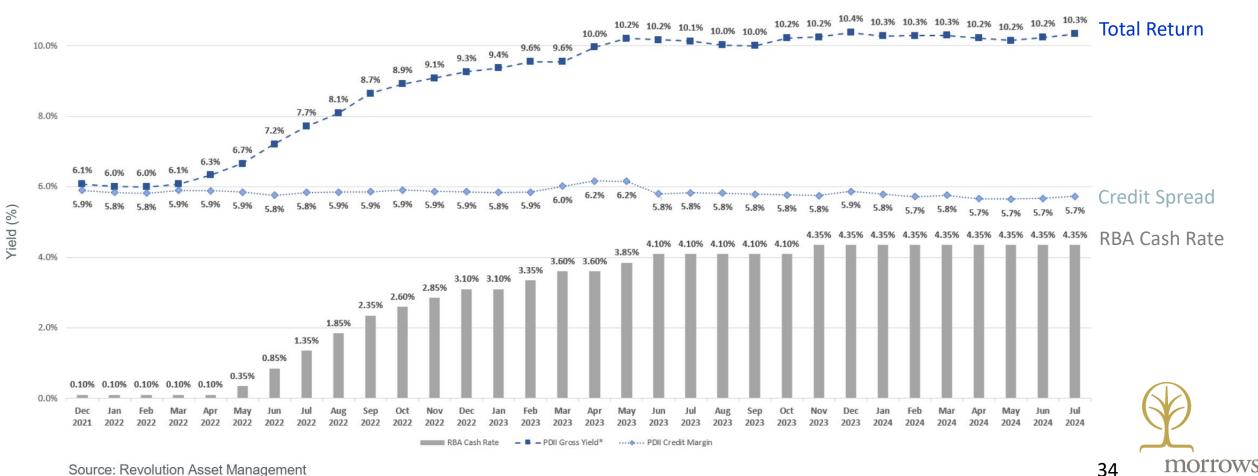
Sources for both charts: Apogem analysis. Direct lending returns are sourced from Cliffwater Direct Lending Index. Source for public credit returns (leveraged loan, corporate bonds, and high yield bonds) is Bloomberg. Data through December 31, 2024.



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Private Debt Yields & Interest Rates

Private Debt is floating rate and rises and falls with cash rates, but always offers a superior yield.



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Source: Revolution Asset Management

Private Debt: Equity - Like Returns With Lower Risk

Adding private debt to a portfolio improves your risk-adjusted returns.



Direct Lending Risk & Returns Compared to Public Markets

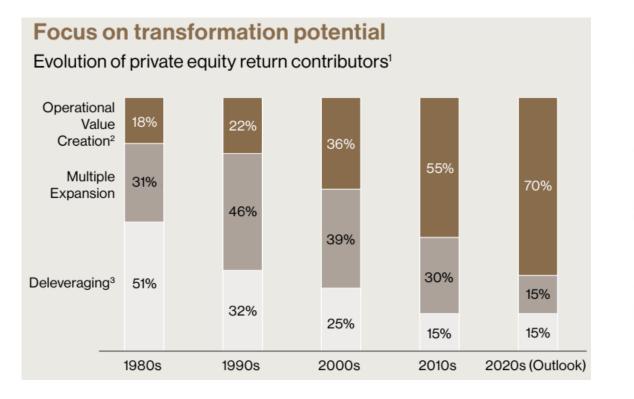
Source: Bloomberg, as of March 2024; Cliffwater Direct Lending Index, as of December 2023.

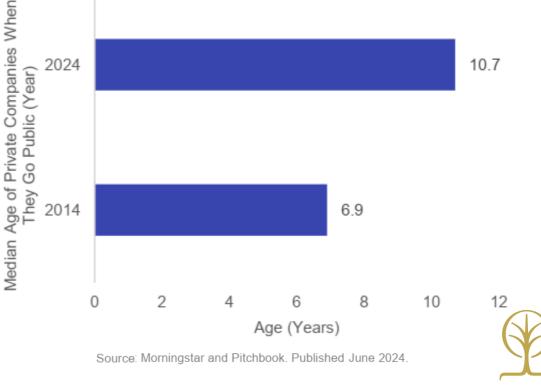


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Private Equity Has Evolved

Private Equity has evolved and is now more focused on 'value-creation' for businesses rather than leverage and multiple expansion. This is what we want to own. Companies are staying private for longer, so many of the best opportunities are being missed by investors who only focus on public listed markets.





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Why We Like Private Equity Over Listed Equity

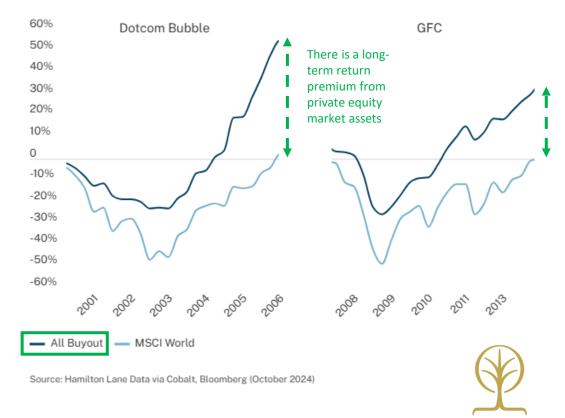
Private Equity has outperformed listed share markets across all regions over the long-term.



All Private Equity 10-Year Rolling Time-Weighted Returns

Private Equity has provided strong downside protection in falling markets and has long-term compounding benefits.

Cumulative Returns During Equity Market Drawdowns



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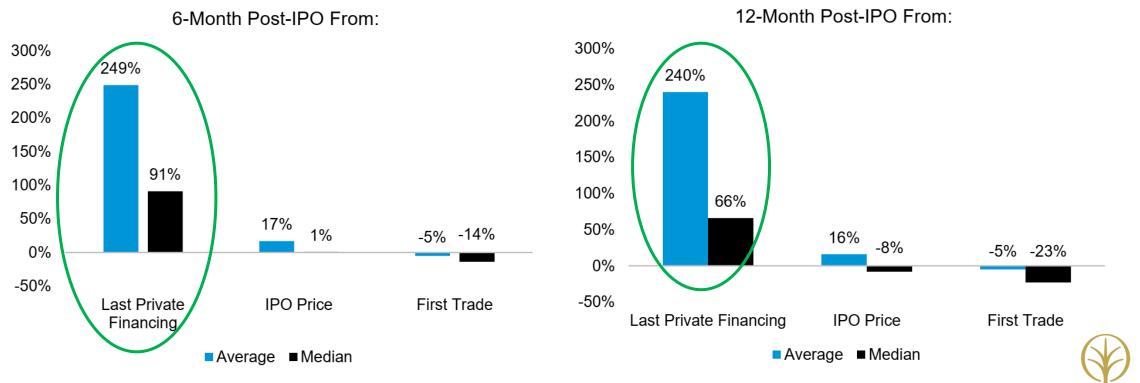
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Private Equity Investors Capture Most of the Gains

Investing early into private companies can provide investors with the best returns.

Performance of U.S. VC-Backed Companies with an IPO Exit (01/01/2010 - 12/31/2024)



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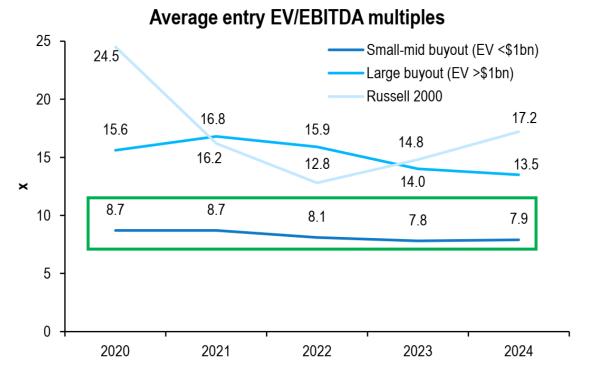
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Source: The Private Shares Fund, Pitchbook, Y-Charts, Nasdaq, SEC Edgar. Total 790 U.S. Venture-Capital-Back Private Companies that executed an IPO from January 01, 2010 through December 31, 2024. Last private financing prices adjusted for subsequent stock splits to allow for appropriate comparisons. Only includes formerly VC-backed, U.S. companies listing on the NYSE or NASDAQ. Analysis tracks the change in price for an individual share at last private financing, and therefore does not factor in potential tax implications or management and performance fees that may be associated with investments in private markets

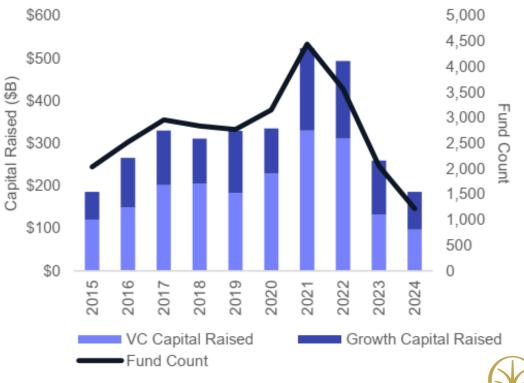
Valuations Are Better & The Market Is Compelling

Private Equity valuation multiples are lower than listed markets.



Source: Capital IQ, Bloomberg, Global M&A Outlook 2025, Robert W. Baird & Co., Schroders Capital, 2025. North America and Europe M&A. Completed deals. Russell 2000 EV/EBITDA is calculated using EBITDA from the latest trailing twelve months.

Less capital pursuing opportunities makes for a less competitive environment.

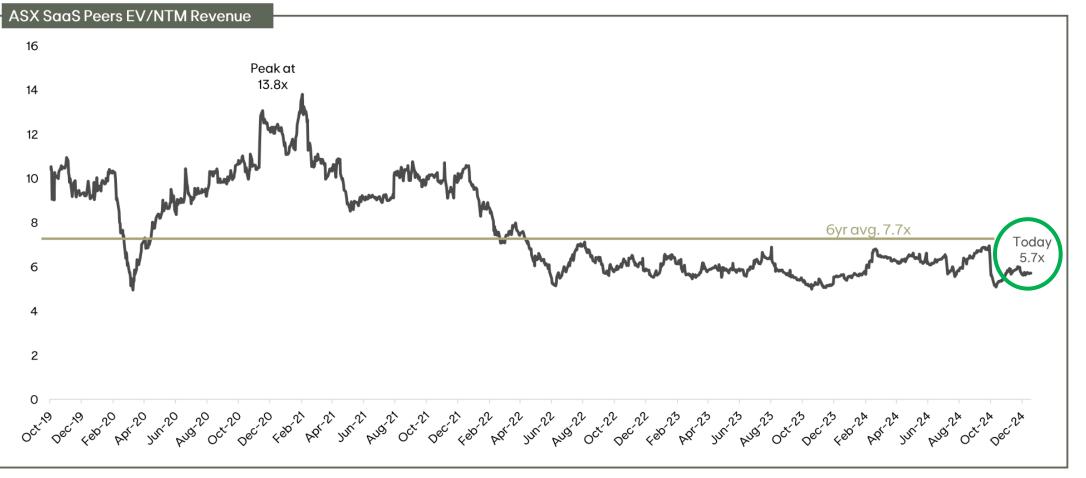


Source: Morningstar and Pitchbook. Published June 2024. Pregin, as of November 2024.

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Australian PE Technology Valuations

Valuations in the Australian Software-As-A-Service (SAAS) sector are not expensive – Entry levels are compelling.



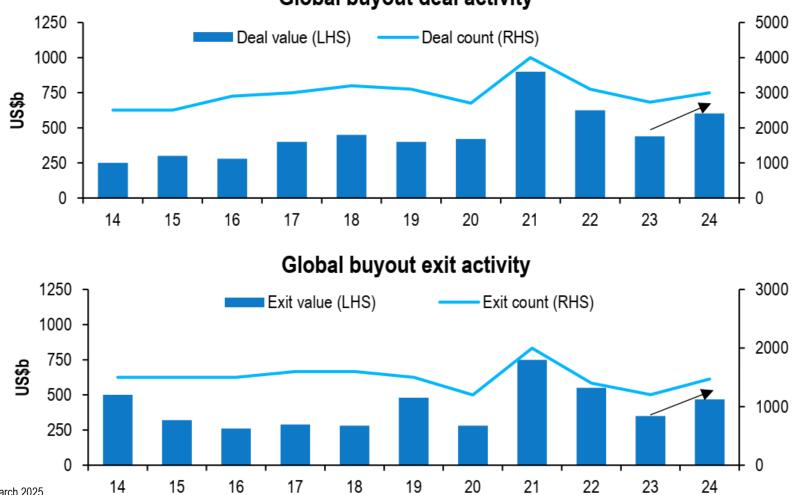
Source: Ellerston Capital, CapitalQ.

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Private Equity Deal & Exit Activity Is Improving

After two years of declines PE dealmaking activity increased 14% in 2024 and exit values jumped 34%.



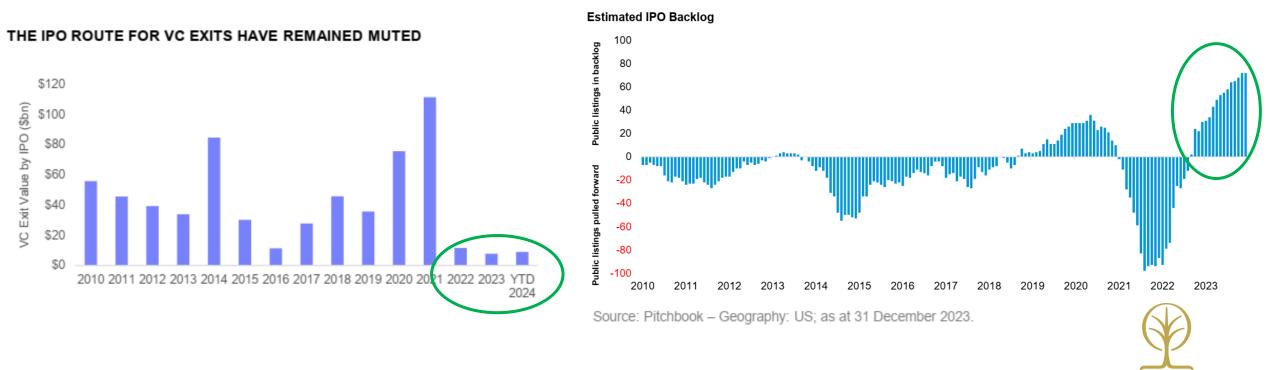
Global buyout deal activity



Source: Dealogic, Preqin, Bain and Company, March 2025.

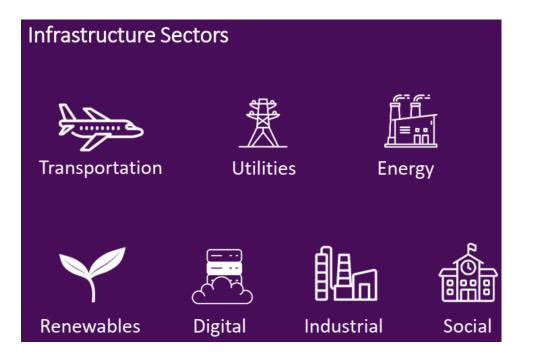
PE & VC: There Is A Lot More To Come

The US Venture Capital Market has effectively been shut out of exits given that listings on public markets (IPO's) have been non-existent. But that will eventually change. There is a significant backlog of private companies that are waiting to IPO on listed markets in the US when the environment and opportunity presents.



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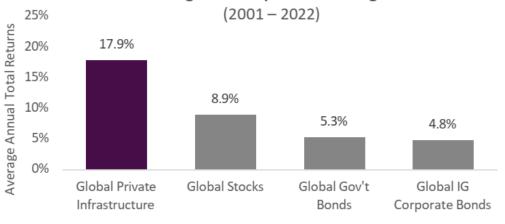
Private Infrastructure Benefits & Performance



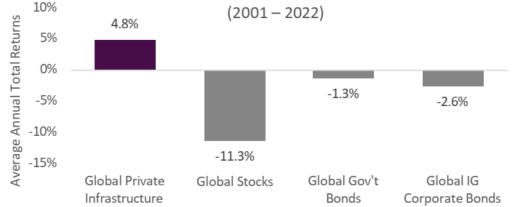
Capital Preservation Consistent Cash Distribution Inflation Hedging Diversification

Upside Potential

Infrastructure Has Historically Delivered High Returns in Inflationary Environments⁽²⁾ Above Average Growth / Above Average Inflation



Below Average Growth / Above Average Inflation



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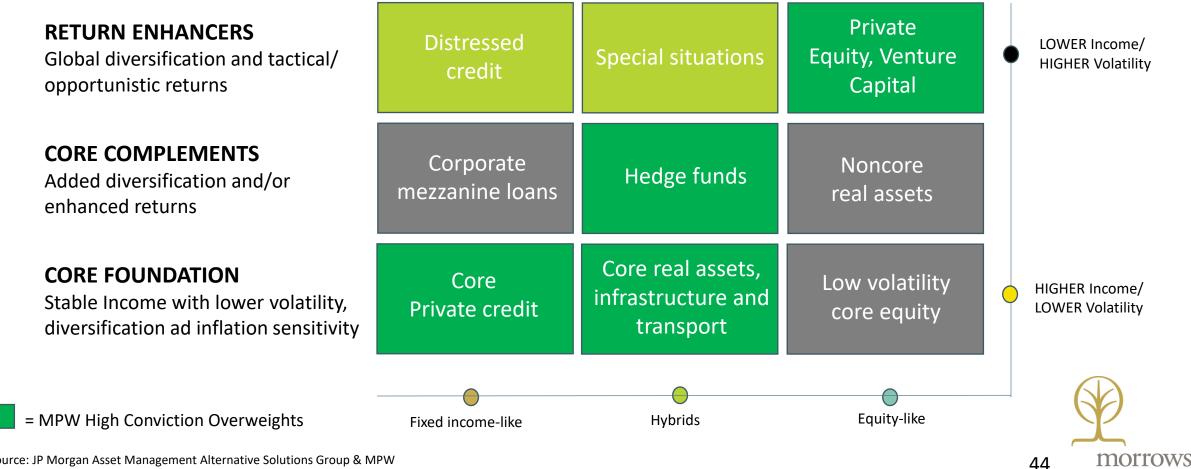
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Source: Bloomberg, Standard & Poor's, Burgiss, KKR GBR Analysis, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

MPW High Conviction Alternative Assets

Framework-driven portfolio construction: What role do different categories play in the portfolio?

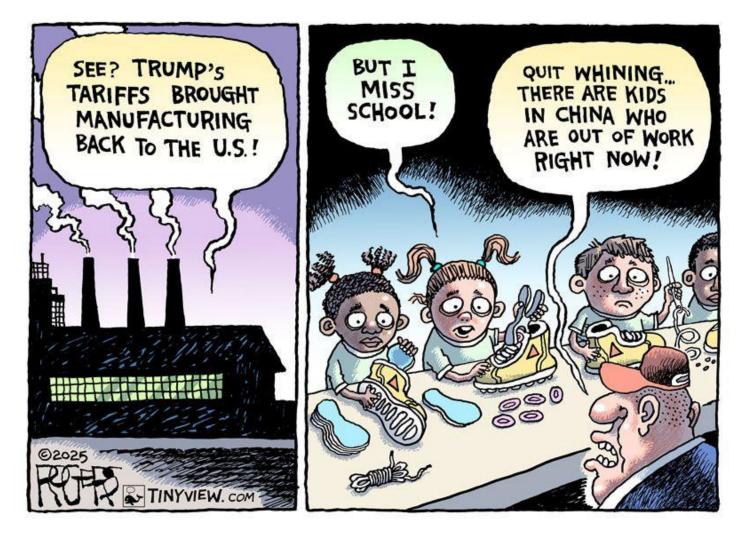


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Source: JP Morgan Asset Management Alternative Solutions Group & MPW

MPW Concluding Summary

MPW Outlook: Recession risk has increased, noting the outlook is very uncertain and there is no playbook.



Careful what you wish for!

MPW Recommended Portfolio Strategy:

- Listed markets are still expensive
- Expect higher market volatility
- Private debt over public listed debt
- Private equity over public listed equity
- Alternative assets for diversification
- Be ready for opportunities that arise





Your financial future, tailored your way