



March 31, 2026

“Headlines change daily—your investment strategy shouldn’t.”

Year in Review

- Money Market rates are still very competitive at near 3.5%. If you have cash at your bank, please check your rate and contact us with questions.
- Taxes Due. If you have taxes due and are taking out regular monthly withdrawals, please contact us to discuss adjusting your monthly withholding.
- We do not send money via Wires. We will send funds to your personal checking accounts via a Money link. If you have a change in your local bank account, let us know asap.
- Did you know? Most of our clients have online access to their accounts through www.schwab.com. You can contact Schwab and add a verbal security password for an additional level of security. You can call Schwab at 800-515-2157 to find out more.

BENCHMARKS YTD THROUGH 3/31/2026

FTSE World Gov’t Bond Index 3-7 Yr. Hedged	+0.01%
Russell 2000 (US Small Cap index)	+0.58%
S&P 500 (US Large Cap index)	-4.63%
Wilshire 5000 (US Total Market index)	-4.17%
MSCI EAFE (International Stock index)	-1.87%

GEOPOLITICAL EVENTS AND THE MARKETS

Recent geopolitical events—especially the escalating tensions with Iran—highlight a familiar pattern in markets: sharp short-term reactions, followed by longer-term resilience. In 2026, conflict in the Middle East has pushed oil prices higher and increased volatility, with concerns centered on supply disruptions through critical routes like the Strait of Hormuz. At the same time, central banks warn that such shocks can raise inflation and stress financial systems, even as economies remain broadly stable.

This is not unique. Over the past few years, investors have navigated the COVID-era recovery, the Russia–Ukraine war, inflation spikes, and aggressive interest rate hikes. Each episode triggered fear and market swings, yet markets adapted. Data consistently shows that geopolitical shocks rarely derail long-term returns; historically, markets tend to recover and continue growing in line with long-run averages.

What drives this resilience is that markets are forward-looking. While headlines focus on immediate risks, prices quickly adjust to new information, often before outcomes are clear. In the case of Iran, much of the impact is being expressed through energy prices and short-term sentiment rather than a permanent shift in global growth.

For investors, the lesson is behavioral. Reacting emotionally—selling during uncertainty or waiting for “clarity”—often leads to missing recoveries. Staying invested, diversified, and focused on long-term fundamentals has historically been more effective than trying to time geopolitical events.

In a world of constant uncertainty, successful investing is less about predicting crises and more about enduring them.

QUARTERLY CLIENT WEBINAR

Date: Thursday, April 23rd Starting time: 12:00 pm, Eastern Standard Time

Website link: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/29bf5678-a826-42e3-95fc-6ec40ecc95f8@6e7c39d0-19e0-457a-933e-cb95e31c0b35>

If you cannot join us for this important webinar, we will post a recording of the entire presentation on our website at www.afadvisors.com.