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Market Update & Portfolio Positioning

An Overview of the ROL AI & Technology Thematic Strategy

April 23, 2026

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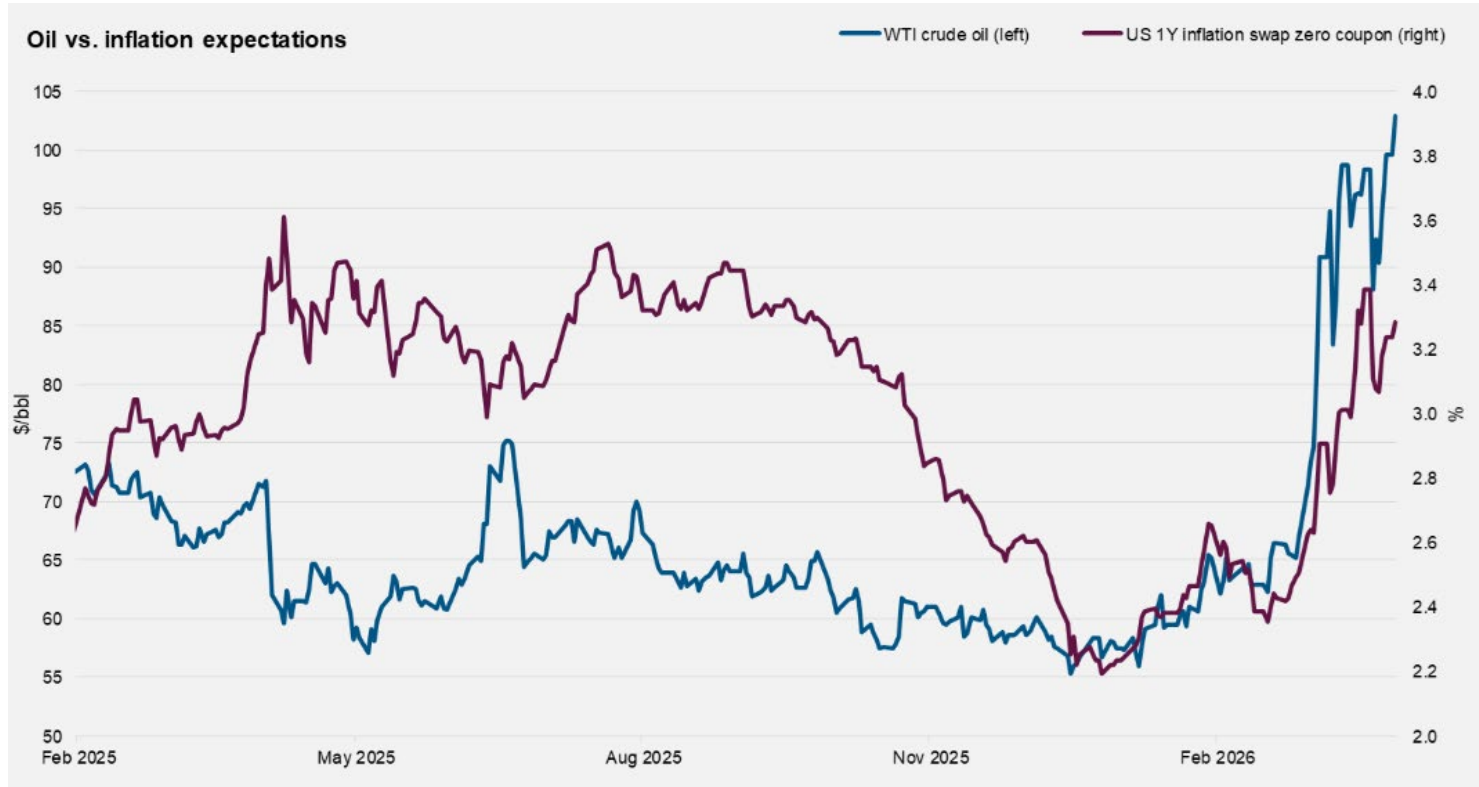
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Key Themes on the Minds of Investors

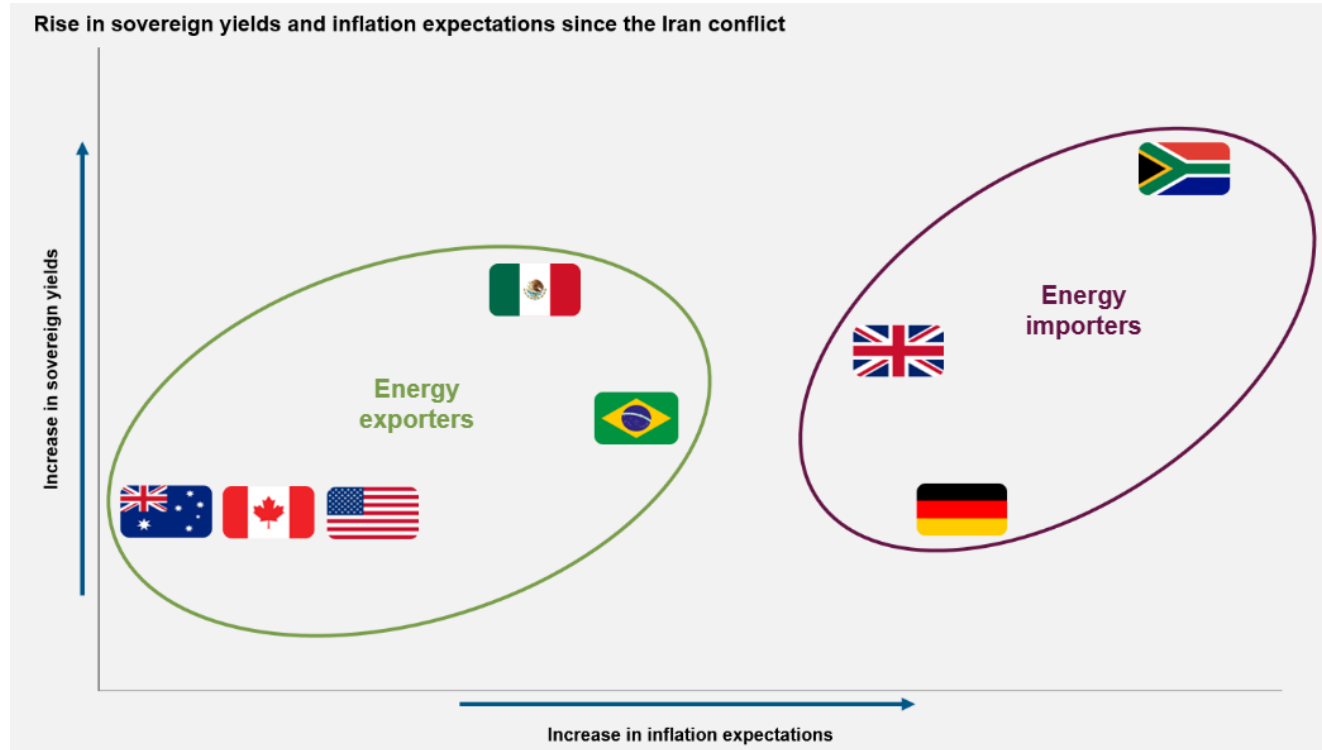
- ◆ **Geopolitical Conflicts and Market Implications**
- ◆ **Key Indicators to Watch**
- ◆ **Market Outlook and Investment Opportunities**

Geopolitical Conflicts & Market Implications

Iran Conflict, Oil Shock & Market Reaction



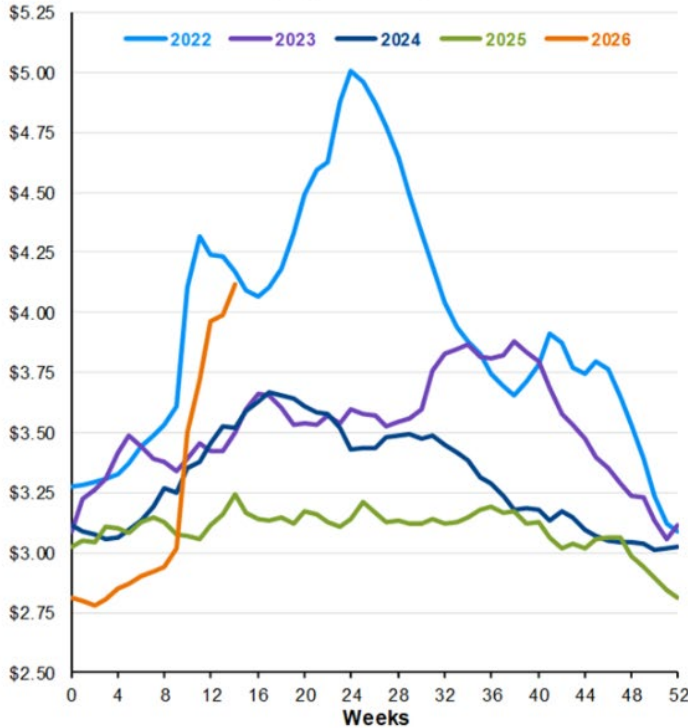
Divergent Paths and Outcomes



Oil & the U.S. Economy

Retail gasoline prices

All regular formulations, USD per gallon, weekly



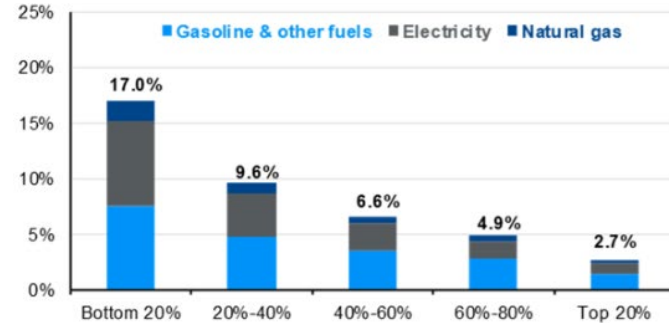
U.S. net imports of petroleum and related products*

% of nominal GDP, quarterly



Consumer expenditures on energy

% of total income, by pre-tax income cohort, 2024



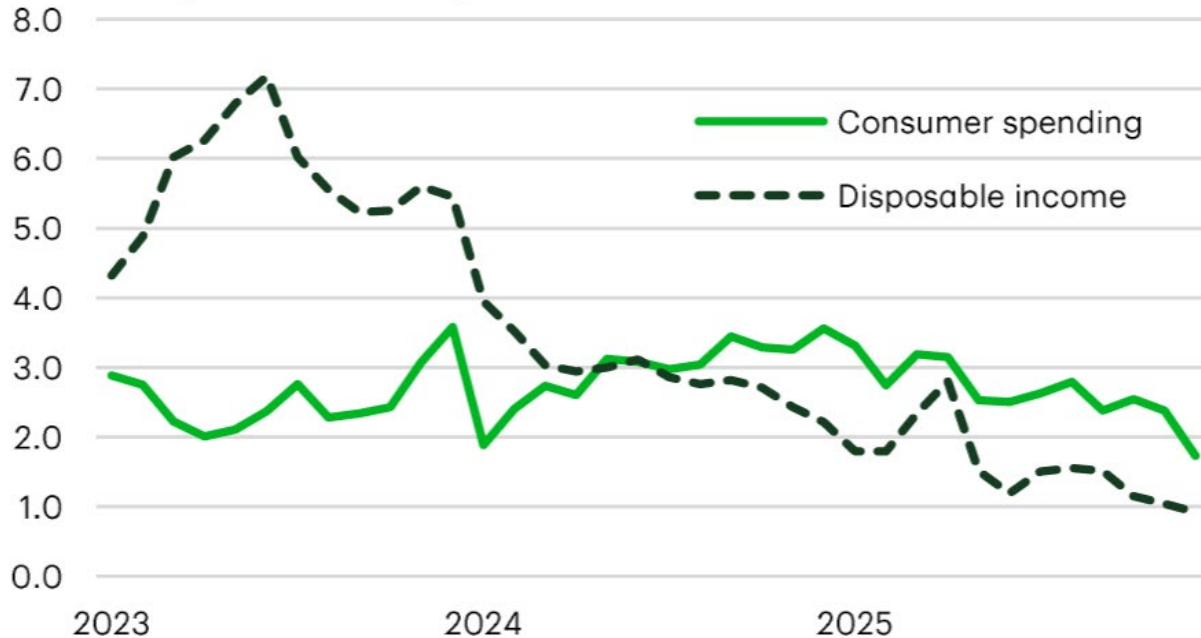
War Times & the Stock Market



Key Indicators to Watch

Consumer Spending

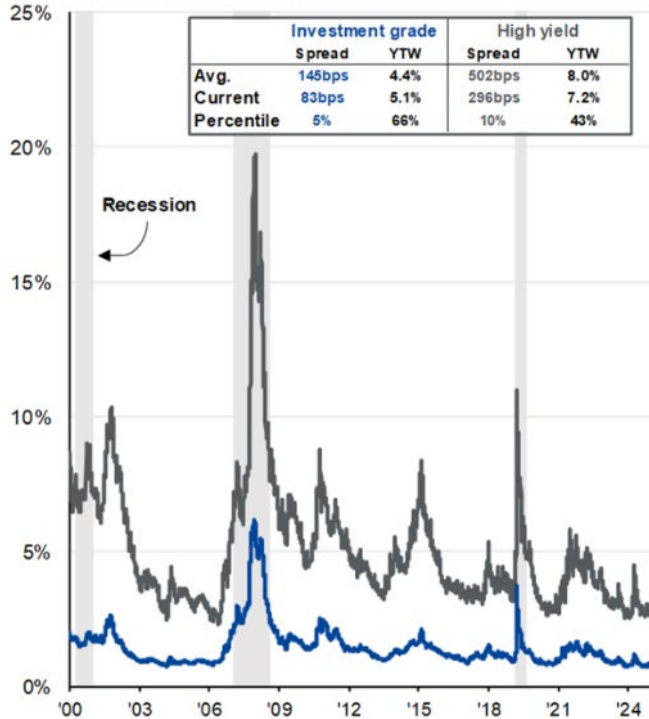
U.S. Real Consumer Spending and Disposable Income,
Year/Year % Change



Credit Defaults

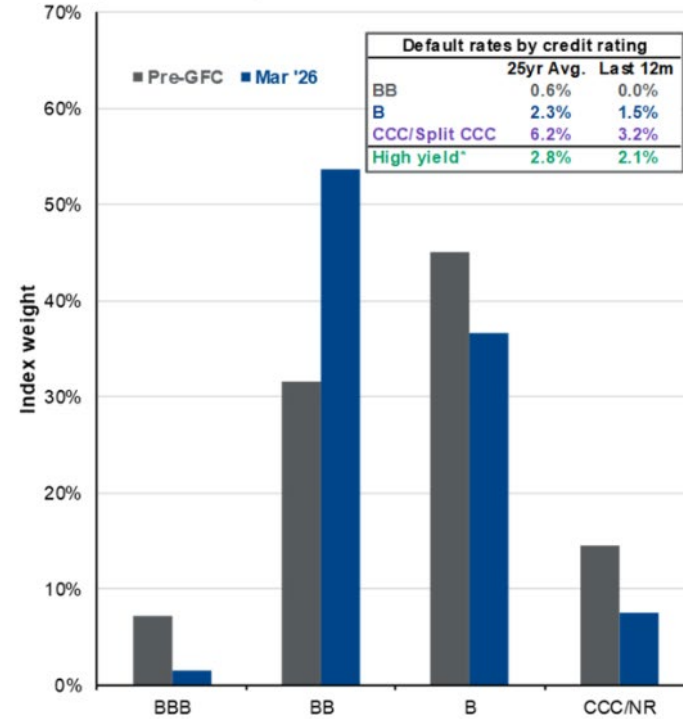
Corporate credit spreads

Option adjusted spread, 2001 - present



Credit rating and default rates in U.S. high yield

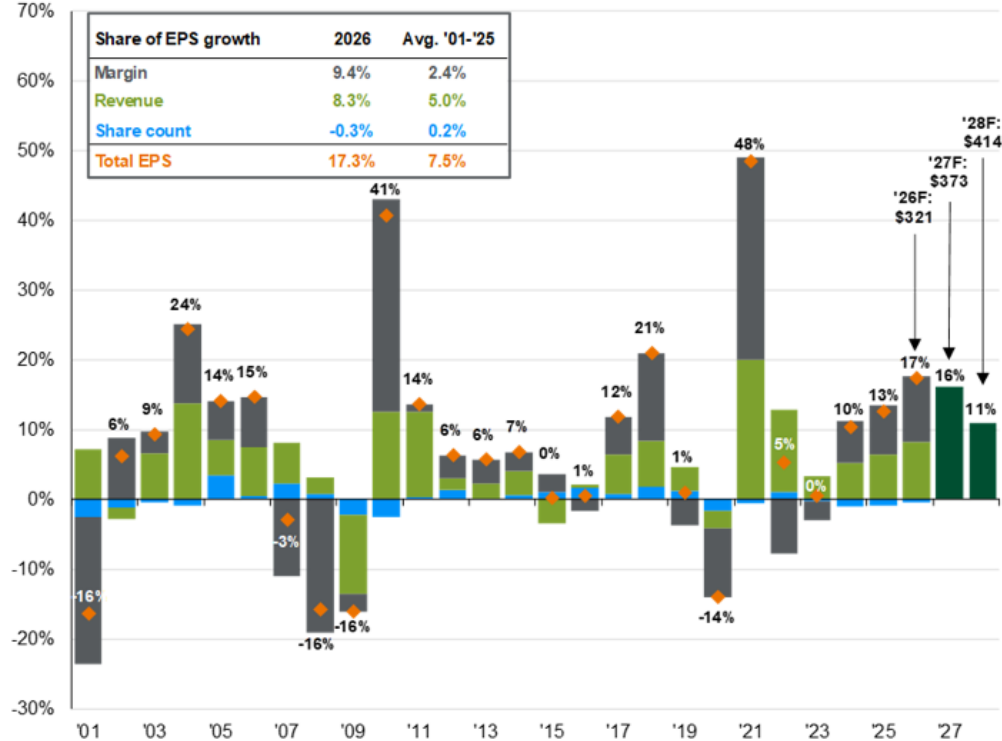
%, J.P. Morgan Domestic High Yield Index



Earnings Growth

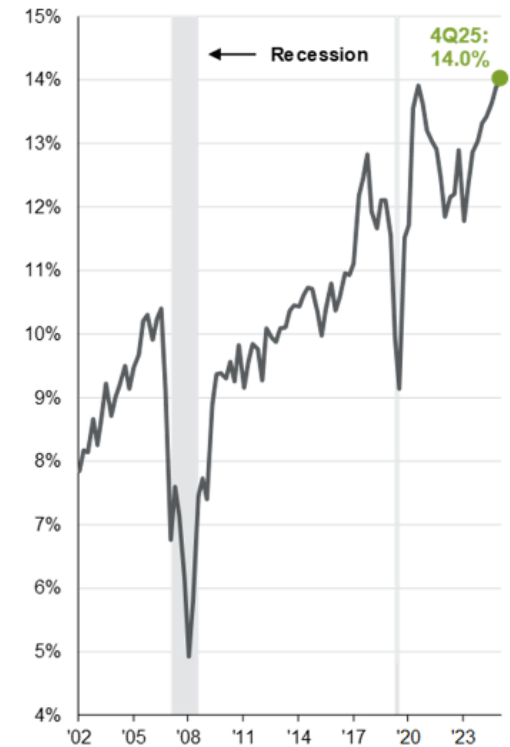
S&P 500 EPS growth

Year-over-year growth broken into changes in revenue, profit margin and share count



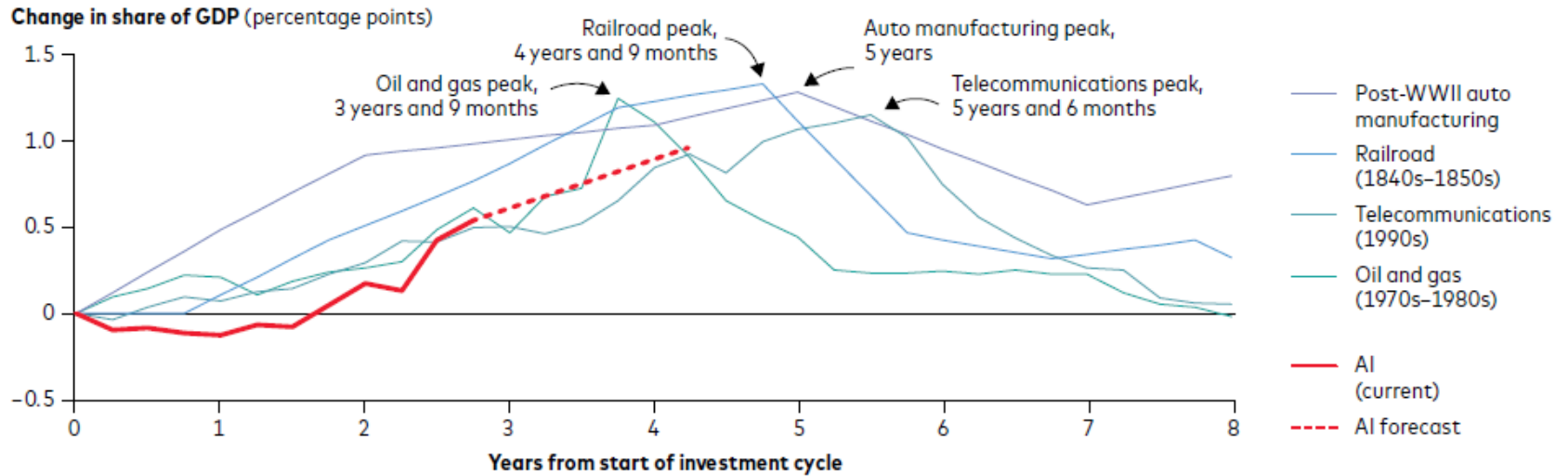
S&P 500 profit margins

Quarterly earnings/sales



Productivity

The investment cycle is tracking historic capital buildouts

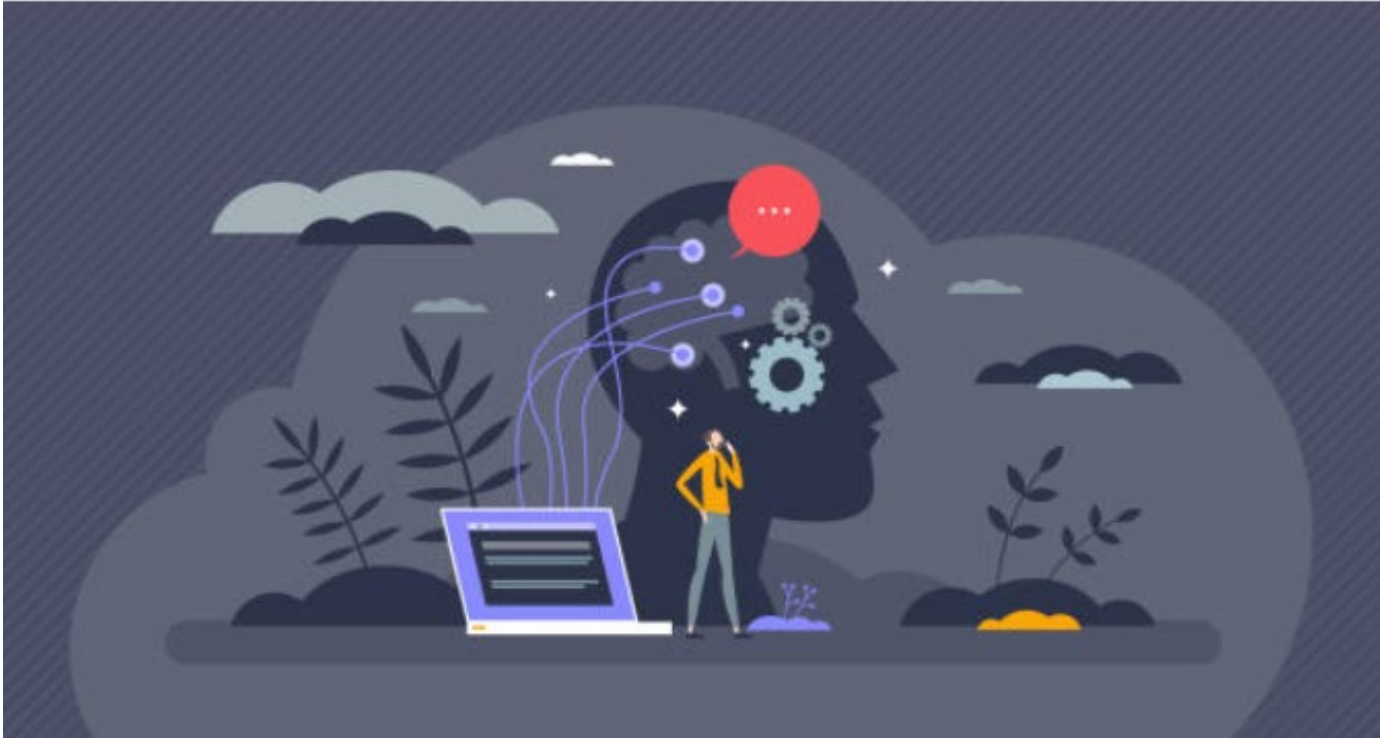


Investment Opportunities

ROL AI & Technology Thematic Strategy

- ◆ 70% Domestic / 30% International & Emerging Markets
- ◆ Limited mega-cap concentration
- ◆ Broad sector exposure including healthcare, defense, energy, commodities, financials, infrastructure, and industrials
- ◆ Focus on companies benefiting from productivity gains and cost efficiencies enabled by AI adoption

Brain Computer Interface



CRISPR



Key Takeaways

- ◆ Markets are primarily driven by fundamentals, despite short-term geopolitical volatility
- ◆ Balanced economic outlook reinforces the need for diversification and selectivity
- ◆ AI is emerging as a defining theme, with potential opportunities extending beyond mega-cap tech
- ◆ A disciplined, diversified approach may help capture AI opportunities while managing risk

Questions?

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Call us at 440.740.0130 to schedule time to talk,
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