

## February Newsletter



February brings fresh perspective, timely insights, and a few thoughtful additions we're excited to share with you. In this month's newsletter, we've curated a blend of Morgan Stanley research, market commentary, and practical resources designed to keep you informed, inspired, and well-positioned for the months ahead.

You'll find a spotlighted episode of Morgan Stanley's On the Market podcast alongside the firm's latest Monthly Market Report, offering valuable context on current conditions and emerging opportunities. We're also sharing articles on what could influence mortgage rates in 2026, how provisions of the SECURE 2.0 Act may affect catch-up contributions for certain high-earning individuals, and how the rapid acceleration of artificial intelligence is shaping thematic investment trends. To balance the financial with the fun, we've included an elevated buffalo chicken dip recipe—perfect for your next football Sunday gathering.

This month, we're also introducing a new section dedicated to highlighting some of the most impactful resources available through Morgan Stanley. We're starting with Morgan Stanley Online, a powerful digital platform that brings your investing, banking, advisor communication, and document signing together in one secure, streamlined experience.

I hope you enjoy exploring what's inside—and as always, please reach out if you'd like to discuss any of these topics in more detail.

Have You Taken Advatage of MSO?

Learn More

## Client Center Resources

### Morgan Stanley On The Markets: The Bullish Signals That Investors May Overlook

Listen Now

## Monthly Market Analytics

Read Report

## Investor Insights



### Will Mortgage Rates Go Down in 2026?

Mortgage rates are forecast to decline in 2026, improving housing affordability, but challenges persist for prospective buyers.

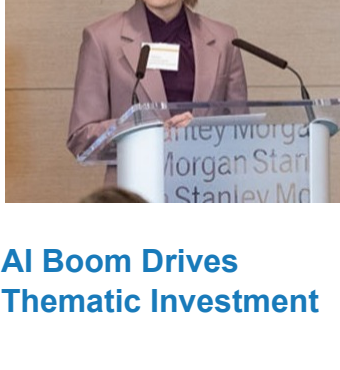
Learn More



### What to Do If You Plan to Make Catch- Up Contributions in 2026

Under new rules, you may lose an up-front deduction but gain tax-free income once you retire.

Learn More



### AI Boom Drives Thematic Investment

At Morgan Stanley's 2025 Thematic Conference, leaders emphasized AI's role in influencing structural changes across industries and in the global economy.

Learn More

## Seasonal Recipes

## Buffalo Chicken Dip

Click to View Recipe

## Morgan Stanley Online

Don't make your financial journey hard than it has to be -

DOWNLOAD TODAY

Available on the  
App Store

GET IT ON  
Google Play

Learn More

NOTICE: Morgan Stanley is not acting as a municipal advisor and the opinions or views contained herein are not intended to be, and do not constitute, advice within the meaning of Section 975 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. If you have received this communication in error, please destroy all electronic and paper copies and notify the sender immediately. Mistransmission is not intended to waive confidentiality or privilege. Morgan Stanley reserves the right, to the extent permitted under applicable law, to monitor electronic communications. This message is subject to terms available at the following <https://www.morganstanley.com/disclosures>. If you cannot access these links, please notify us by reply message and we will send the contents to you. By communicating with Morgan Stanley you acknowledge that you have read, understand and consent, (where applicable), to the foregoing and the Morgan Stanley General Disclaimers.

This material has been prepared for informational purposes only. It does not provide individually tailored investment advice. It has been prepared without regard to the individual financial circumstances and objectives of persons who receive it. Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC ("Morgan Stanley") recommends that investors independently evaluate particular investments and strategies, and encourages investors to seek the advice of a Morgan Stanley Financial Advisor. The appropriateness of a particular investment or strategy will depend on an investor's individual circumstances and objectives. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Residential mortgage loans/home equity lines of credit are offered by Morgan Stanley Private Bank, National Association, an affiliate of Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC. With the exception of the pledged-asset feature, an investment relationship with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC does not have to be established or maintained to obtain the residential mortgage products offered by Morgan Stanley Private Bank, National Association. All residential mortgage loans/home equity lines of credit are subject to the underwriting standards and independent approval of Morgan Stanley Private Bank, National Association. Rates, terms, and programs are subject to change without notice. Residential mortgage loans/home equity lines of credit may not be available in all states; not available in Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Other restrictions may apply. The information contained herein should not be construed as a commitment to lend. Morgan Stanley Private Bank, National Association is an Equal Housing Lender and Member FDIC that is primarily regulated by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System Unique Identifier #663185. The proceeds from a residential mortgage loan (including draws and advances from a home equity line of credit) are not permitted to be used to purchase, trade, or carry eligible margin stock; repay margin debt that was used to purchase, trade, or carry margin stock; or to make payments on any amounts owed under the note, loan agreement, or loan security agreement; and cannot be deposited into a Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC or other brokerage account. Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC is a registered Broker/Dealer, Member SIPC, and not a bank. Where appropriate, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC has entered into arrangements with banks and other third parties to assist in offering certain banking-related products and services. Investment, insurance, and annuity products offered through Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC are: NOT FDIC INSURED | MAY LOSE VALUE | NOT BANK GUARANTEED | NOT A BANK DEPOSIT | NOT INSURED BY ANY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY.

This communication contains links to third-party websites that are not affiliated with Morgan Stanley. These links are provided only as a convenience. The inclusion of any link is not and does not imply an affiliation, sponsorship, endorsement, approval, investigation, verification, or monitoring by Morgan Stanley of any information contained on that third-party website. In no event shall Morgan Stanley be responsible for the information contained in any site or your use of or inability to use such site. Furthermore, no information contained in the site constitutes a recommendation by Morgan Stanley to buy, sell, or hold any security, financial product, particular account, or instrument discussed therein. You should also be aware that the terms and conditions of such site and the site's privacy policy may be different from those applicable to your use of any Morgan Stanley website.

Please see our [Privacy Pledge](#) for details about how Morgan Stanley handles personal information.

If you would like to update your email preferences or unsubscribe from marketing emails from Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, you may do so [here](#). Please note, you will still receive service emails from Morgan Stanley Wealth Management.

Not all products and services may be available to persons living outside of the United States.

Morgan Stanley Wealth Management  
2000 Westchester Avenue, Purchase, NY 10577-2530 USA

©2023 Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC. Member SIPC.

Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC ("Morgan Stanley"), its affiliates and Morgan Stanley Financial Advisors or Private Wealth Advisors do not provide tax or legal advice. Individuals should consult their tax advisor for matters involving taxation and tax planning and their attorney for matters involving trusts, estate planning, charitable giving, philanthropic planning or other legal matters.

This material has been prepared for informational purposes only. It does not provide individually tailored investment advice. It has been prepared without regard to the individual financial circumstances and objectives of persons who receive it. Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC ("Morgan Stanley") recommends that investors independently evaluate particular investments and strategies, and encourages investors to seek the advice of a Morgan Stanley Financial Advisor. The appropriateness of a particular investment or strategy will depend on an investor's individual circumstances and objectives.

The views expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of Morgan Stanley Wealth Management or its affiliates. All opinions are subject to change without notice. Neither the information provided nor any opinion expressed constitutes a solicitation for the purchase or sale of any security. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**

The investments listed may not be appropriate for all investors. Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC recommends that investors independently evaluate particular investments, and encourages investors to seek the advice of a financial advisor. The appropriateness of a particular investment will depend upon an investor's individual circumstances and objectives.

Because of their narrow focus, sector investments tend to be more volatile than investments that diversify across many sectors and companies.

**Indices are unmanaged. An investor cannot invest directly in an index.**

For index, indicator and survey definitions referenced in this report please visit the following:

<https://www.morganstanley.com/wealth-investmentsolutions/wmir-definitions>

Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC ("Morgan Stanley"), its affiliates and Morgan Stanley Financial Advisors or Private Wealth Advisors do not provide tax or legal advice. Individuals should consult their tax advisor for matters involving taxation and tax planning and their attorney for matters involving trusts, estate planning, charitable giving, philanthropic planning or other legal matters.

The views expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of Morgan Stanley Wealth Management or its affiliates. All opinions are subject to change without notice. Neither the information provided nor any opinion expressed constitutes a solicitation for the purchase or sale of any security. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Information related to your external accounts is provided for informational purposes only. It is provided by third parties, including the financial institutions where your external accounts are held. Morgan Stanley does not verify that the information is accurate and makes no representation or warranty as to its accuracy, timeliness or completeness.

Financial Advisor(s) may not provide advice on any external account. Additional information about the services described above and offered on Morgan Stanley Online are in the applicable Terms and Conditions of Use. Not all documents can be accepted into Digital Vault.

Typically, a retirement plan participant leaving an employer's plan has the following four options (and may be able to use a combination of these options depending on their employment status, age, and the availability of the particular option):

1. Cash out the account value and take a lump sum distribution from the current plan subject to mandatory 20% federal income tax withholding, as well as potential income taxes and 10% early withdrawal penalty tax, or continue tax-deferred growth potential by doing one of the following:
2. Leave the assets in the former employer's plan (if permitted)
3. Roll over the retirement assets into the new employer's qualified plan, if one is available and rollovers are permitted, or
4. Roll over the retirement savings into an IRA Other factors to consider when making a rollover decision include (among other things) the differences in: (1) investment options, (2) fees and expenses, (3) services, (4) penalty-free withdrawals, (5) creditor protection in bankruptcy and from legal judgments, (6) required minimum distributions or "RMDs," (7) the Tax Treatment of Employer Stock, and (8) borrowing privileges. The decision of which option to select is a complicated one and must take into consideration your total financial picture. To reach an informed decision, you should discuss the matter with your own independent legal and tax advisor and carefully consider and compare the differences in your options.

This material has been prepared for informational purposes only. It does not provide individually tailored investment advice. It has been prepared without regard to the individual financial circumstances and objectives of persons who receive it. Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC ("Morgan Stanley") recommends that investors independently evaluate particular investments and strategies, and encourages investors to seek the advice of a Morgan Stanley Financial Advisor. The appropriateness of a particular investment or strategy will depend on an investor's individual circumstances and objectives. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

This communication contains links to third party websites that are not affiliated with Morgan Stanley. These links are provided only as a convenience. The inclusion of any link is not and does not imply an affiliation, sponsorship, endorsement, approval, investigation, verification or monitoring by Morgan Stanley of any information contained in any third party website. In no event shall Morgan Stanley be responsible for the information contained on that site or your use of or inability to use such site. Furthermore, no information contained in the site constitutes a recommendation by Morgan Stanley to buy, sell, or hold any security, financial product, particular account or instrument discussed therein. You should also be aware that the terms and conditions of such site and the site's privacy policy may be different from those applicable to your use of any Morgan Stanley website.