

2023 Year-End Forecasts

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No, that isn't a typo 😊. I figured that we could do some 2023 year-end forecasts for several reasons:

- It is like a Christmas **gift to myself**, because surely I cannot be too wrong with just 4 lightly staffed trading days ahead of us.
- It lets me **procrastinate** on the start of the year outlook report that I feel obligated to produce (and to be honest, kind of enjoy doing, just not this weekend).
- It might highlight the **futility** of "year-end" forecasting in a market and economic environment that is evolving and changing rapidly!

In April I sent out a rate forecast for the end of this year. I had 3.7% as the high end on the 5-year. It is currently 3.87% - so my "forecast" could turn out correct, or we could be back above 4% by January 1st. It is that sort of a year! On top of allowing me to procrastinate this weekend, and hopefully make you smile, I saw a great article about two weeks ago from Bloomberg highlighting the rates forecasters who nailed it! By "nailing it" they meant that the 10-year would end the year above 4%. What a difference a few weeks make!

In a world with so much going on, where there are so many issues to worry about (let alone the issues that we don't know we have to worry about), who would have forecasted the **Wagner Group** marching on **Moscow**, **Hamas** attacking **Israel**, or **Venezuela** claiming part of **Guyana** as its national territory? Some events had minimal impact, some have had **large and ongoing impacts**, and for others, we **don't know where they will lead**.

AI stole the show this year with the launch of ChatGPT, turning AI into something that is seemingly tangible for everyone.

Space is getting more and more interesting from an investor perspective (as well as geopolitically). We plan on getting out a new **X-Report** focused on space for your holiday reading! The X-Report is a way for Academy to highlight the expertise of our **Geopolitical Intelligence Group** in AI, Cyber, and Space.

But enough on the serious or semi-serious side. I need to get back to my family members who are all here, and I suspect that many of you have better things to do than read a T-Report this holiday weekend. We will be back in full force later this week and will start **January running full throttle**.

Yes, we will do our annual outlooks, but the reality is that I think we can have longer-term views (relationships with China is a great example) and actionable views (inflation decreasing, Fed pivot, laggards vs. Magnificent 7, etc.).

We look forward to trying to navigate the geopolitical, economic, and market landscapes next year. As always, we will evolve with the world. We will lay out scenarios and adapt as we need. Navigating, to me, is far more important than forecasting to some arbitrary date. Yes, we want to forecast, but not to some arbitrary date.

In the meantime, I really want to thank everyone who has been part of the growth at Academy Securities. The firm remains true to its mission of not just hiring veterans, but having veterans run the firm and most of the groups within the firm, while at the same time, trying to ensure that we provide capabilities that our clients find useful.

As our CEO Chance Mims says, we are meant to be at the "Intersection of Authenticity and Capability," and I hope that we delivered on that front this year and continue to do so in the future! Your help and

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support mean a lot to us and help us accomplish those goals!

I hope that you enjoy this long weekend with family and friends! I also hope you didn't notice that even with just 4 trading days left, I was too wimpy to pick year-end targets 😊.

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