

The Visual Story of 2025: Trends That Redefined the Year

Francisco Rodríguez-Castro, President & CEO

Welcome Message



“Successful investing is not about predicting the future but rather preparing for it”.

Francisco Rodríguez-Castro
President & CEO

Strategic Adaptation: Navigating an Uncertain World



- The key is to constantly learn, understand the risks, and adjust our strategies to deal with the unexpected.
- Each lesson learned better prepares us for opportunities and mitigates losses in a changing world.
- The importance of learning and adaptability in investing, recognizing that knowledge and preparation are fundamental to success.

Market Leadership Continues to Narrow

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The Big Picture

As of late 2025, the “Magnificent 7” account for over 33% of the S&P 500 Index, over 3% more than just one year ago. This handful of leaders have drastically outperformed the remaining constituents, though it has not been smooth sailing all year long.

Key Takeaway

Concentration risk remains real. Advisors can use this chart to remind clients that even in periods of unrelenting growth, diversification isn't outdated, it's an essential protection.

S&P 500 Total Return



Tech Titans Fuel the AI Arms Race

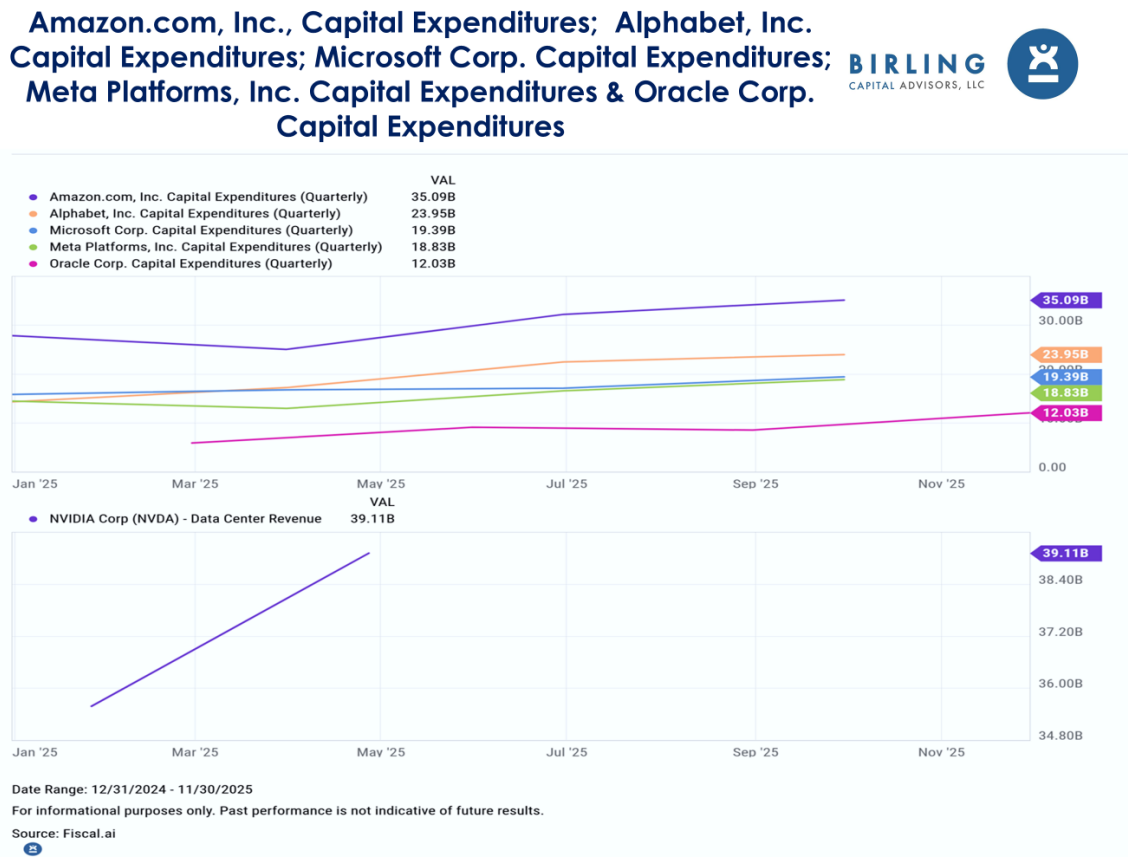
Tech Titans Fuel the AI Arms Race

The Big Picture

The AI boom has ushered in a new era of corporate investment. The so-called “super scalers” collectively invested over \$100 billion in Q3 CapEx. This surge in infrastructure buildout has fueled NVIDIA’s meteoric rise, reflecting the insatiable demand for AI computing power.

Key Takeaway

Relentless investment from the world's largest tech firms has propelled the broader market. The next inflection point for investors will be determining when these outlays begin to deliver tangible returns, as Wall Street’s patience for “spend first, monetize later” eventually runs out.



Nvidia Defines the Decade of Innovation

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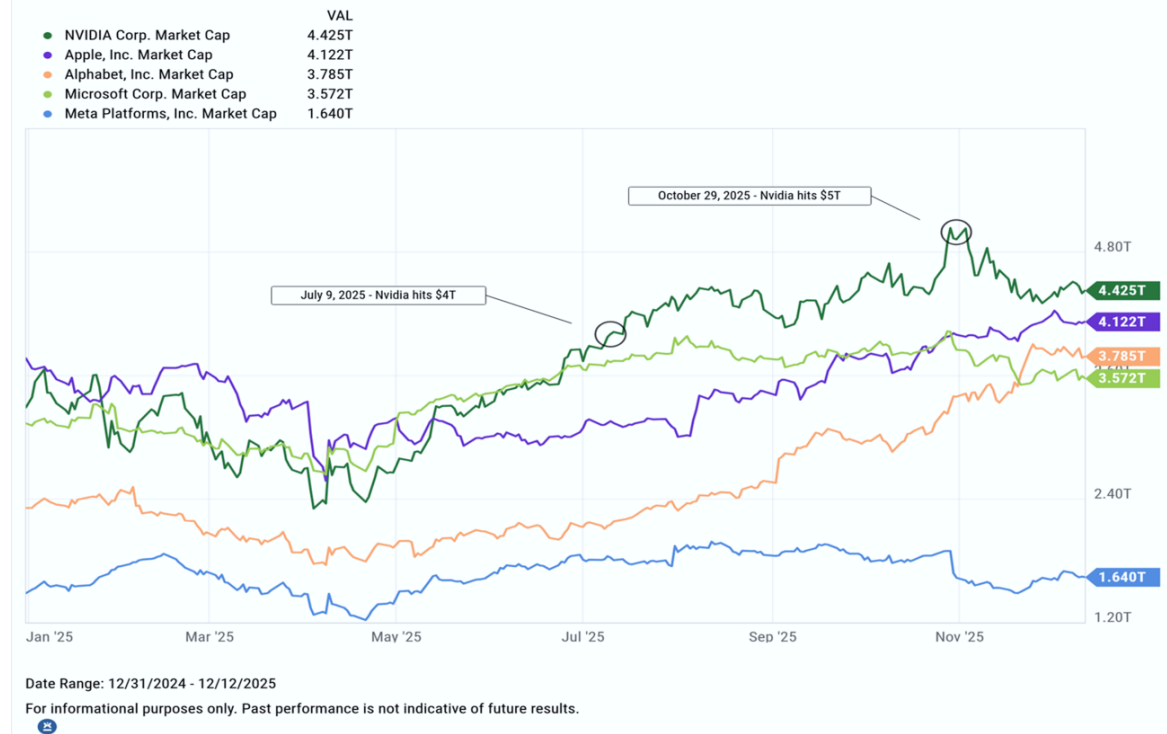
The Big Picture

Nvidia's meteoric rise in 2025 cemented its status as the defining story of the AI era. The company became the first to surpass both \$4 trillion and \$5 trillion in market capitalization within the same year, a move fueled by record-breaking data center revenue and global AI infrastructure demand.

Key Takeaway

Nvidia's ascent highlights the extraordinary concentration of value in a single innovation leader. For advisors, it's a reminder that capturing exposure to transformative themes requires balance: participate in growth while managing concentration risk.

NVIDIA Corp. Market Cap; Apple, Inc. Market Cap; Alphabet, Inc. Market Cap; Microsoft Corp. Market Cap & Meta Platforms, Inc. Market Cap



The World Strikes Back

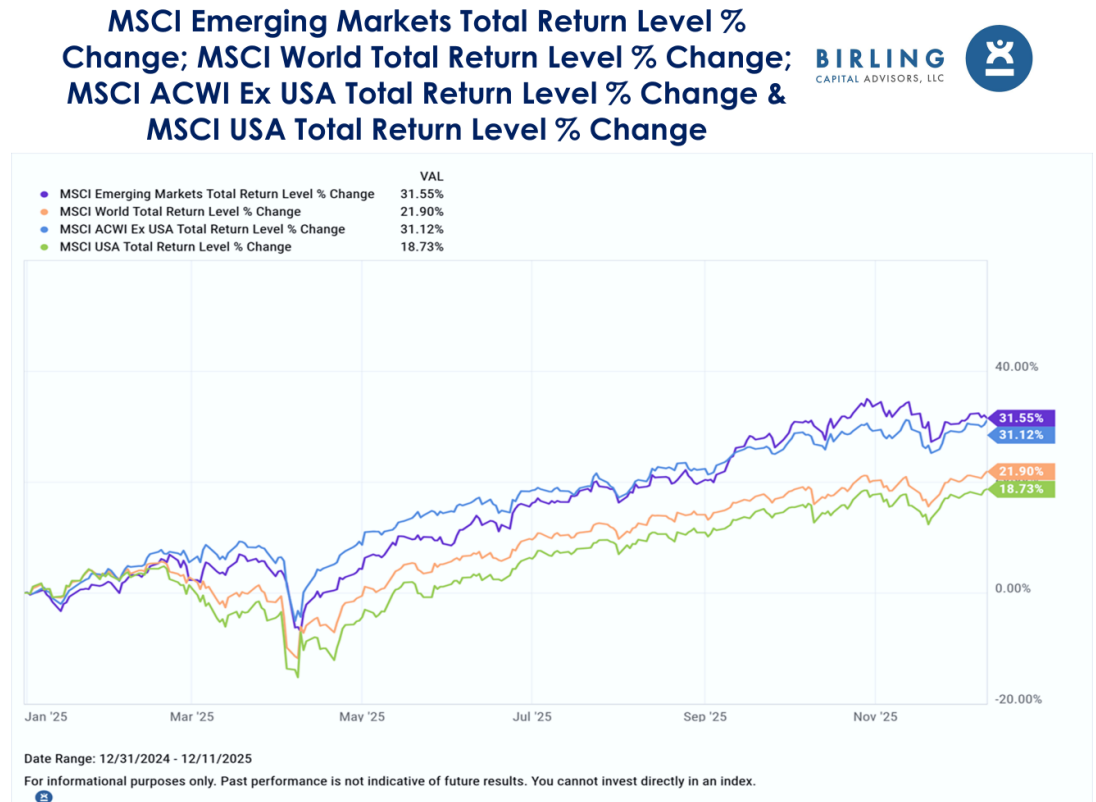
The World Strikes Back

The Big Picture

For more than a decade, United States equities have substantially outperformed international markets. In 2025, however, global and emerging markets have shown renewed strength, narrowing the gap as investors look beyond U.S. mega-cap dominance for diversified growth opportunities.

Key Takeaway

Leadership shifts over time. Advisors can use this turn in performance to revisit global allocations and ensure portfolios capture opportunity across regions, sectors, and currencies.



Eggs: A Symbol for Economic Perception?

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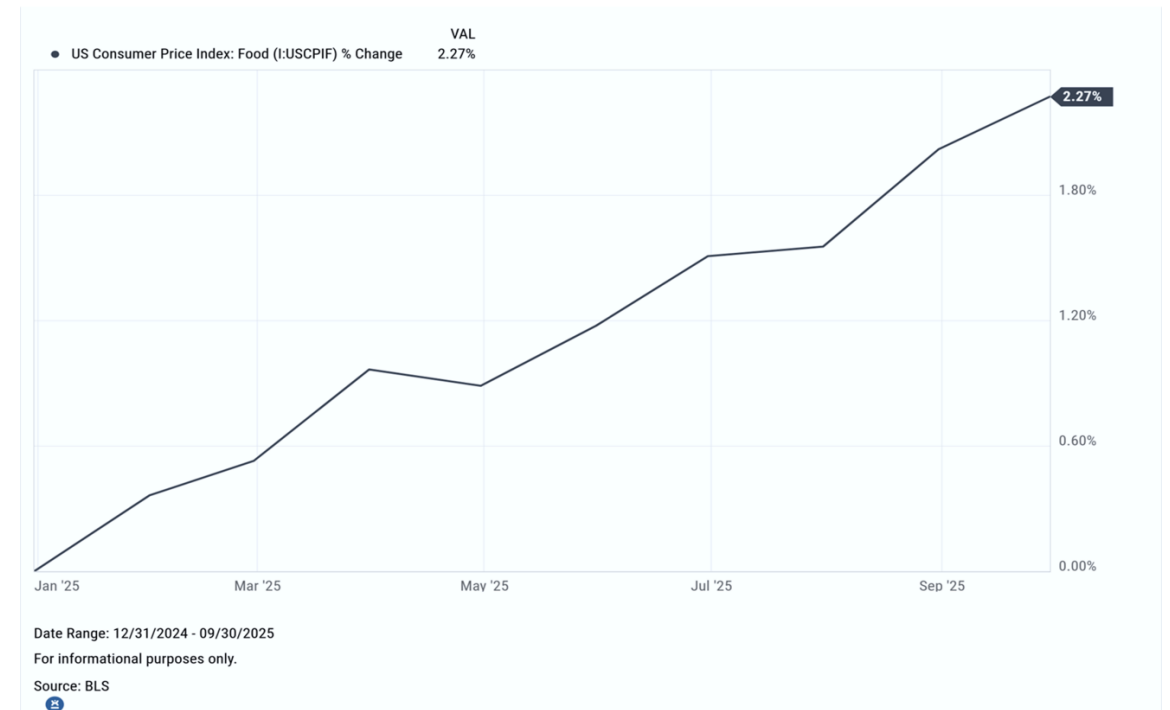
The Big Picture

The price of eggs quickly became a media driven proxy for broader inflation and economic sentiment. Everyday costs often shape consumer perception and can become a benchmark for economic confidence.

Key Takeaway

Visible costs carry outsized influence on how people feel about the economy. Advisors can use these moments to connect market data to real-world experiences and keep conversations focused on long-term financial resilience.

US Consumer Price Index: Food



Long Anticipated Rate Cuts Take Effect

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The Big Picture

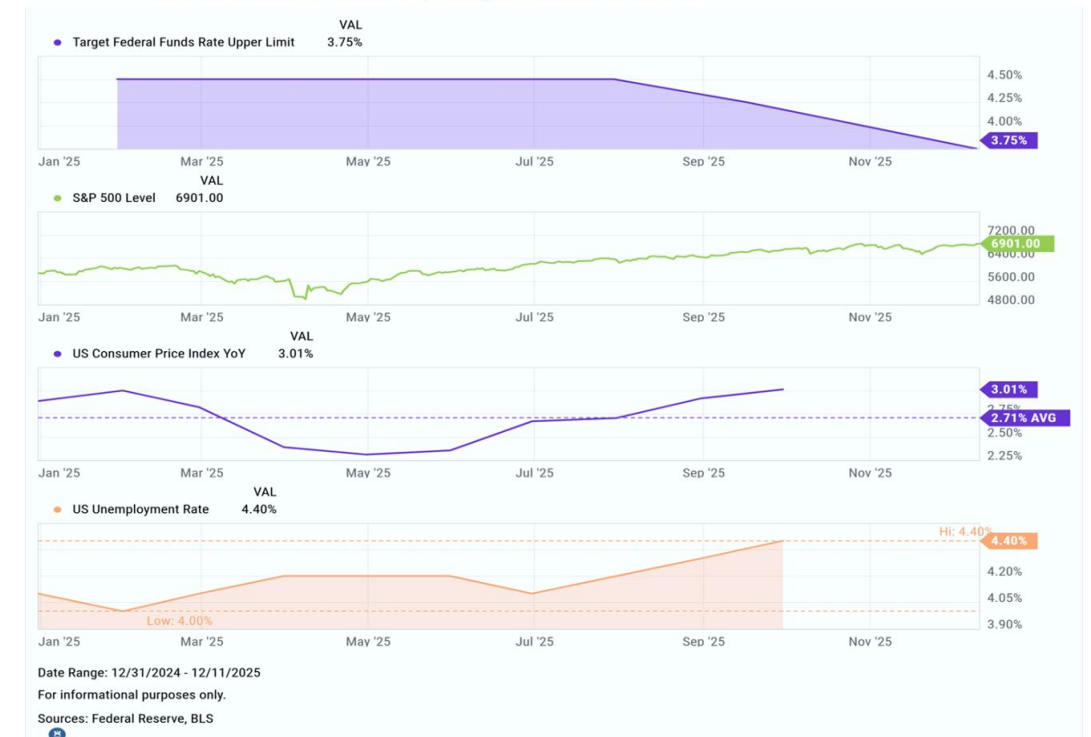
After two years of tightening, 2025 marked a turning point as the Federal Reserve began cutting rates.

Markets showed little reaction, reflecting uncertainty as policymakers navigate between supporting growth and managing cooling labor conditions.

Key Takeaway

Rate transitions are less about timing markets and more about maintaining balance. Advisors can use this period to reassess duration exposure and client risk tolerance.

Target Federal Funds Rate Upper Limit;
S&P 500 Level; US Consumer Price Index
YoY & US Unemployment Rate



Gold Sought After as the Dollar Declines

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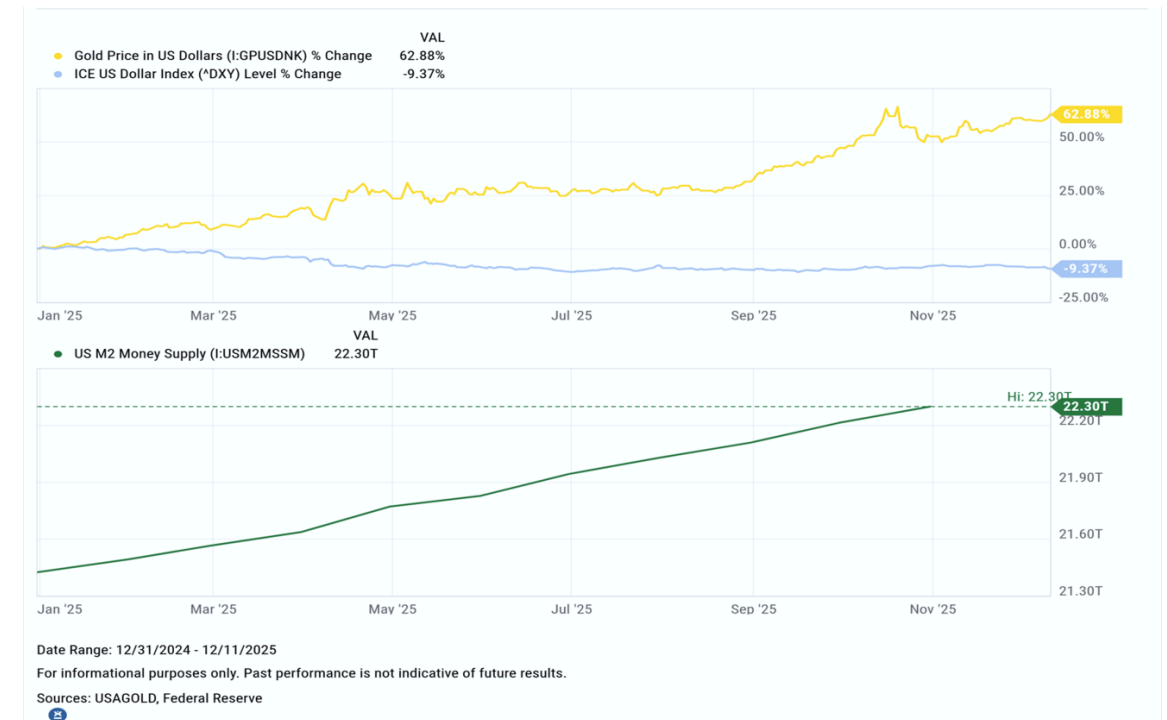
The Big Picture

Expanding liquidity and a weakening dollar fueled renewed demand for traditional safe havens in 2025. Gold surged to multiple new all-time highs as investors sought stability amid rising money supply and a shifting monetary backdrop.

Key Takeaway

When liquidity rises, real assets often reassert their role as portfolio stabilizers. Advisors can use periods of policy easing to revisit diversification and highlight the value of tangible stores of wealth.

Gold Price in US Dollars & ICE US Dollar Index



Tariff Woes Lead to Historic Market Recovery

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The Big Picture

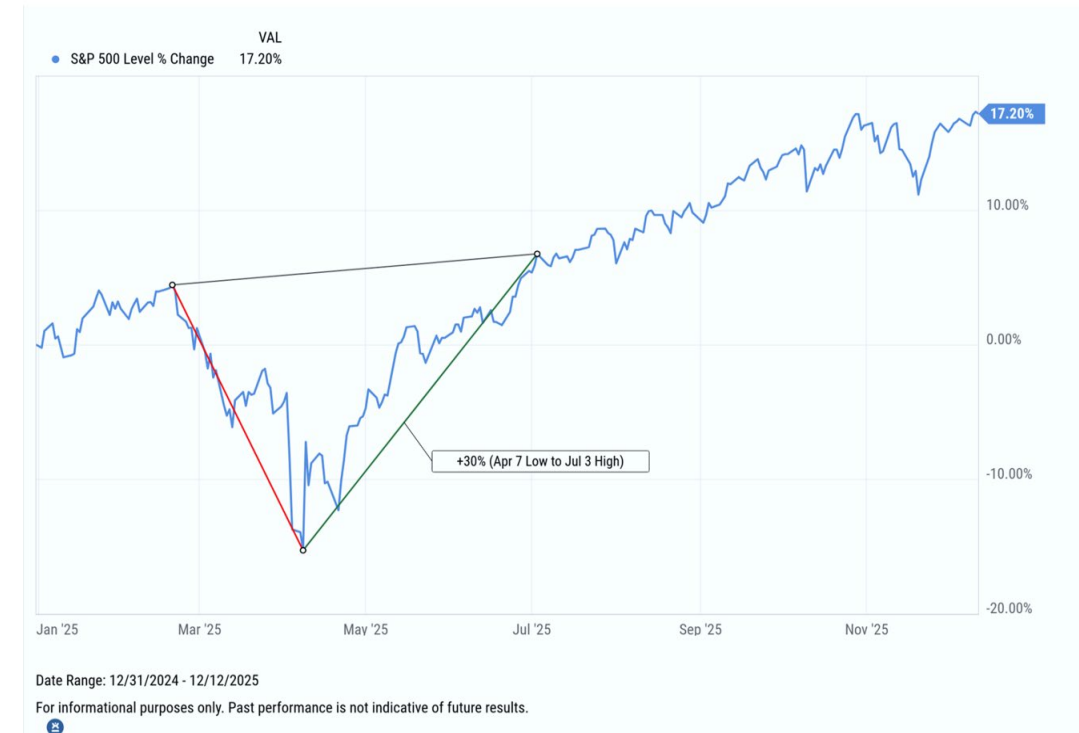
Liberation Day tariff fears sent markets tumbling more than 20% as investors braced for economic fallout.

Yet within three months, equities staged the second-fastest bear market recovery in history, marking a powerful return of investor confidence.

Key Takeaway

Short-term shocks often give way to long-term resilience. Advisors can use episodes like this to remind clients that staying disciplined through volatility is key to capturing full-market recoveries.

S&P 500 Level % Change



Markets Rise Above Washington Gridlock

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The Big Picture

Markets largely ignored the political noise surrounding the 2025 shutdown, the now longest in

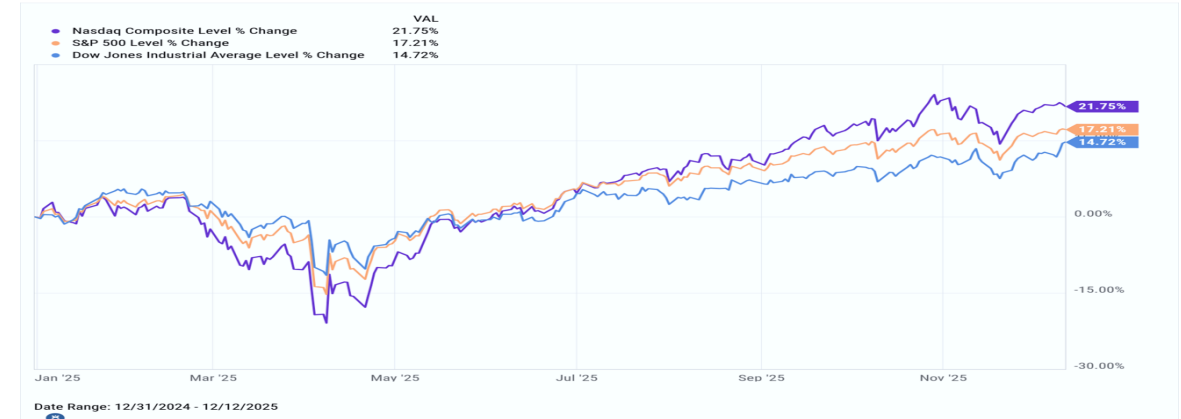
U.S. history. Historical trends show that equities tend to remain resilient through these periods of fiscal uncertainty.

Key Takeaway

Policy headlines may rattle sentiment, but fundamentals and broader economic health drive market performance. Staying invested through turbulence remains one of the most powerful forms of discipline.

**Nasdaq Composite Level % Change;
S&P 500 Level % Change & Dow Jones
Industrial Average Level % Change**

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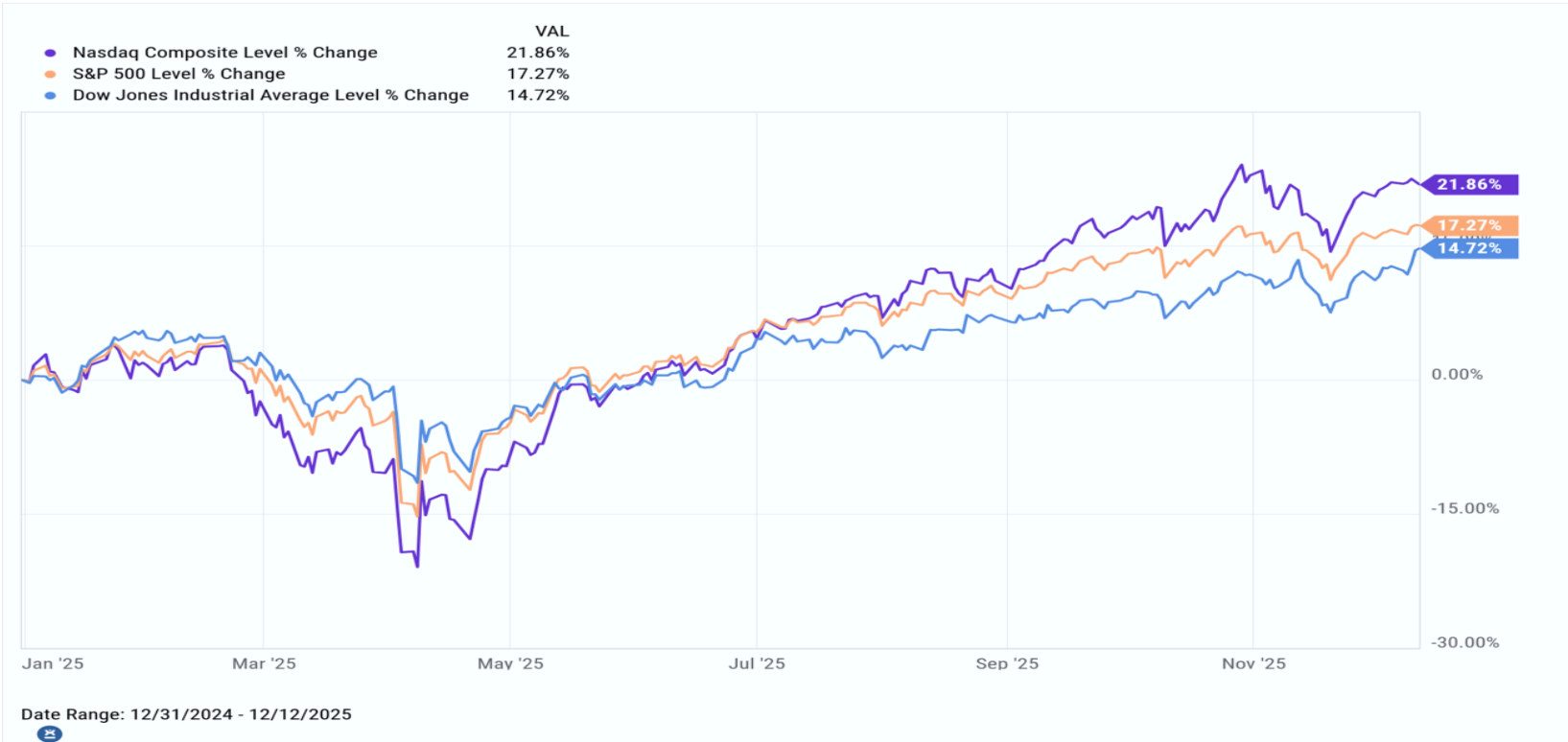
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Markets Rise Above Washington Gridlock

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Crypto Enters New Regulatory Era

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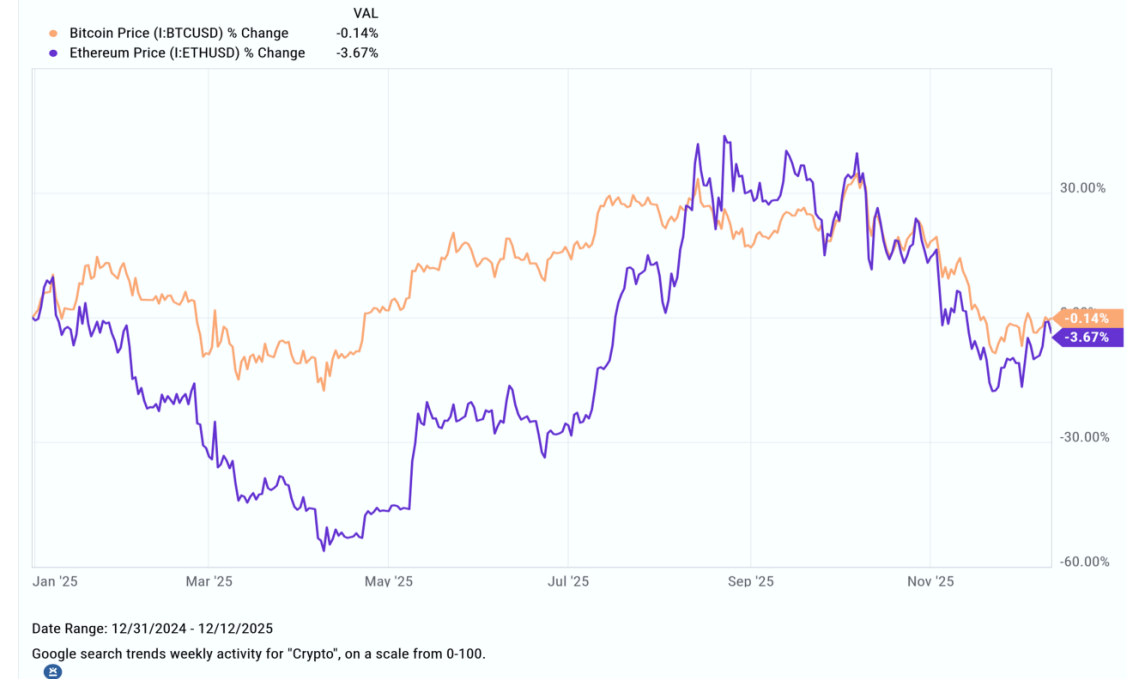
The Big Picture

Crypto trading surged in the second half of 2025 as new landmark bills were signed including the GENIUS Act, a first of its kind law, establishing a regulatory framework for stablecoins. This renewed governmental focus on digital assets reignited retail enthusiasm and institutional debate alike.

Key Takeaway

Crypto may be volatile but can no longer be ignored. Advisors can contextualize crypto adoption within alternative allocations, emphasizing risk management and client suitability.

Bitcoin Price & Ethereum Price



Birling Capital Overview

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Birling Capital is a leading corporate advisory & consulting firm that offers broad corporate finance & advisory services to institutional, government, corporate, middle-market companies, family corporations and their owners, in identifying and resolving organizational finance-related issues. We use a holistic approach both assets and liabilities sides with integrated business, personal, family needs and objectives.

Over the past two decades, our firm's principals have advised on more than \$10 Billion in transactions in the corporate, healthcare, retail, education, insurance, banking and government markets.

Our value proposition has been implemented with three critical ingredients for success:

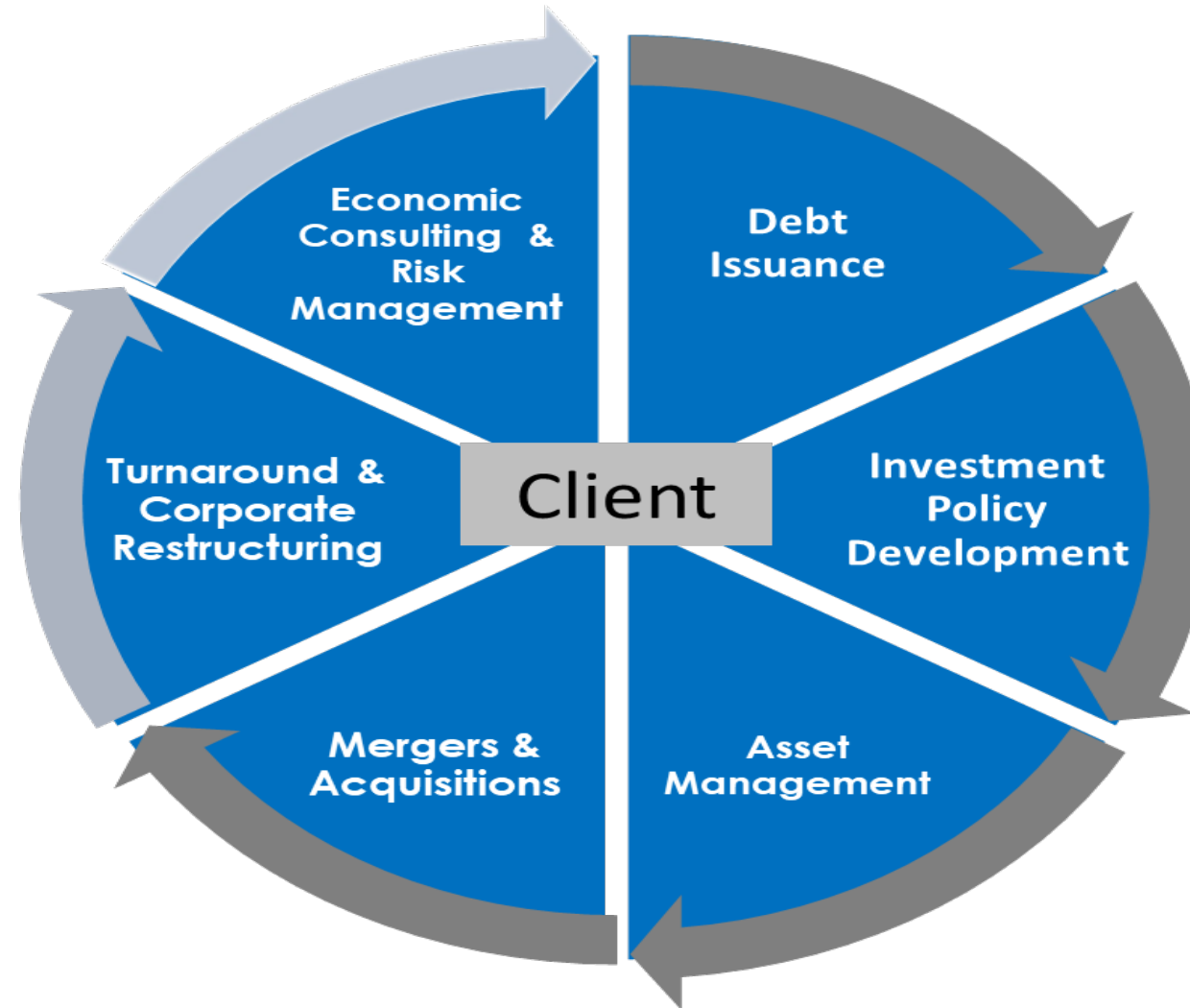
- Unwavering Commitment to Client Service
- Unparalleled Degree of Professionalism and Senior-Level Attention
- Extraordinary Level of Industry Expertise



Birling Capital's Corporate Financial Planning



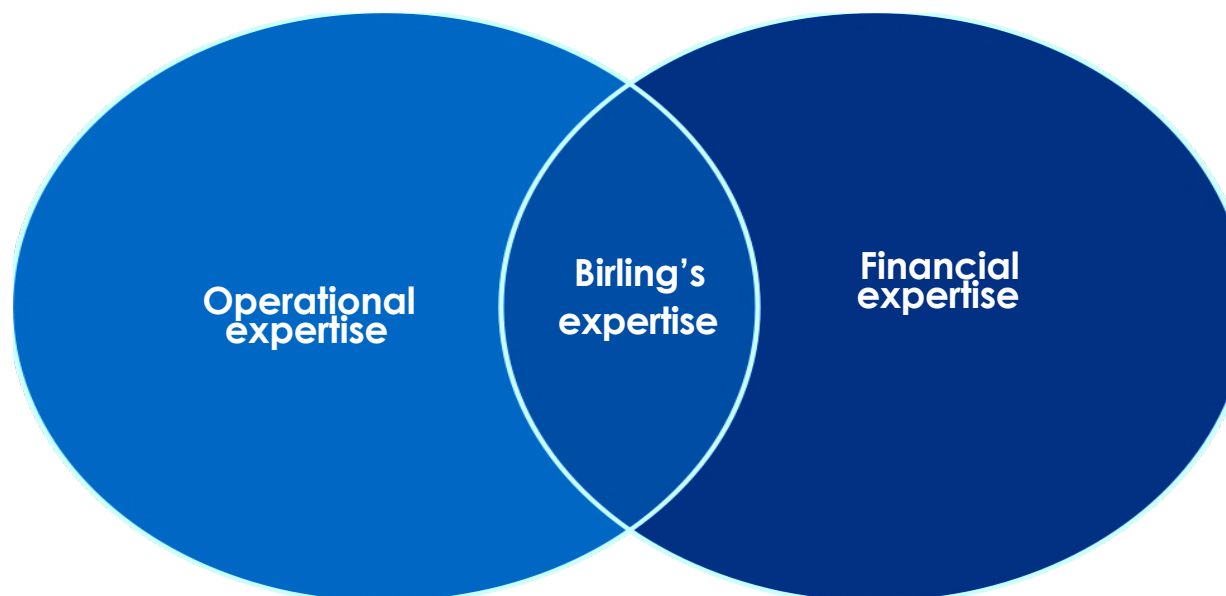
Birling Capital's holistic service approach



Birling Capital's Integrated Approach



- Revenue and profit improvement
- SG&A and cost reduction strategies
- Asset base analysis and optimization
- Corporate simplification
- Finance function transformation
- Interim management including CEO, CFO, COO and CRO



- Project management and delivery
- Lead advisor to creditor groups, management teams, and other stakeholders

- Crisis management stabilization
- Working capital improvement
- Business review and business planning
- Cashflow management, liquidity review, stabilization, and optimization
- Stakeholder negotiation involving covenant resets, refinancing, and debt restructuring

Birling Capital Overview: Products and Services



Consulting and Advisory Practice Approach

- ☐ Financial institutions and Credit Unions
- ☐ Family Business & Family Offices
- ☐ Healthcare and Pharma
- ☐ Higher education Hotels & Commercial real estate
- ☐ Government
- ☐ Tax Credits Monetization and Consulting
- ☐ Investment Policies Development & Portfolio Design
- ☐ Media and Advertising Companies
- ☐ Insurance companies
- ☐ Manufacturing and industrial operations
- ☐ Retail & Consumer Products
- ☐ Distribution and services
- ☐ Act 60 Advice
- ☐ Technology & FinTech Practice







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