**A few words on yesterday's tariff announcements.** In the 2025 Outlook, I wrote the following about the incoming Administration, whom I described as the Alchemists:

"The Alchemists aim to break something, whether it's globalization, the Federal bureaucracy, the IRS, the FBI, Medicare, US vaccine policy, lax US border policies, its Deep State opponents or something else. Whatever the goals, I take the Alchemists at their word: they are going to break something, I just don't know what. For investors, there's little room for error with valuations this high and since valuations are now driving markets just as much as earnings growth. While US equity markets should end the year higher than they began, I expect a 10%-15% correction at some point in 2025 as the Alchemists apply their elixirs to the US economy".

Since the inauguration, the Administration has upended decades of US trade policy and raised tariffs to the highest levels in ~50 years, it has wiped out billions in market capitalization for diagnostic tool and genomics companies due to NIH funding cuts, it launched a Section 232 investigation to justify higher tariffs on Canadian softwood lumber imports at a time of almost all-time lows in US housing affordability, its policy announcements were followed by a collapse in small business capital spending plans close to the lowest levels since 1976 (other than during the Financial Crisis and Double-Dip 1980 recession), its reconciliation bill will expand budgets deficits given insufficient revenues to offset tax cuts, and during one of the worst measles outbreaks in decades, the HHS Secretary wrote that "good nutrition remains a best defense against most chronic and infectious diseases". After having raised the cost of productive goods through tariffs, it now reportedly plans to lower the cost of unproductive ones by arguing for zero capital gains taxes on crypto. Sounds like my forecast is right on track.

Michael Cembalest

JP Morgan Asset Management



NIH: National Institute of Health; HHS: Health and Human Services

# 2025 Eye on the Market Outlook

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