SRC Wealth Matters

SRC Wealth Management

Monthly Financial Briefing – Edition #4

April 2026

Introduction

Recent weeks have seen continued discussion around inflation, interest rates, and global developments, alongside the start of a new UK tax year. For those approaching or in retirement, this combination of economic change and planning opportunity makes April a particularly important point in the financial calendar.

This monthly update steps back from the headlines to focus on what matters most for long-term financial planning and income sustainability.

Key Takeaway

A new tax year brings fresh allowances and opportunities. Taking advantage of them early can make a meaningful difference over time—without needing to react to short-term market movements.

Market Facts – Key Metrics

(Latest available data as at 15 April 2026)

Interest Rates & Inflation

- **Bank of England Base Rate:** 3.75%
- **UK CPI Inflation:** ~3.0% (latest published reading)

Equity Markets

- **FTSE 100:** ~9,850
- **S&P 500:** ~6,620

Exchange Rates

- **£1 = €1.16**
- **£1 = $1.34**

Precious Metals (spot prices, USD)

- **Gold:** ~ $4,350 per troy ounce
- **Silver:** ~ $68 per troy ounce

Figures rounded for clarity. Markets move daily and are shown for general context.

A New Tax Year – A Fresh Planning Opportunity

The start of the new tax year provides a natural opportunity to review your financial arrangements and make use of available allowances.

While it can be tempting to leave planning until later in the year, there are advantages to acting early:

- Investments have more time to grow within tax-efficient wrappers
- It reduces the risk of missing allowances later on
- It allows for a more measured, less rushed approach

For those in retirement, this is less about maximising contributions and more about ensuring your existing assets are structured as efficiently as possible.

Geopolitical Developments – A Note of Perspective

Geopolitical tensions, particularly relating to the situation involving Iran and the wider Middle East, have remained a prominent feature in recent weeks.

There are ongoing diplomatic efforts and discussions aimed at stabilising the situation, although progress has at times appeared uncertain, with ceasefire arrangements and negotiations still evolving.

While these developments are serious and understandably concerning, it is also important to recognise that markets have historically navigated similar periods of geopolitical tension.

Encouragingly, there remains a clear focus from international actors on reaching a more stable and lasting resolution. While the path may not be straightforward, there is reason to hope that tensions will ease over time.

From an investment perspective:

- Markets typically react to uncertainty in the short term
- They tend to stabilise as clarity improves
- Long-term outcomes are rarely driven by a single geopolitical event

Maintaining perspective during these periods is key.

Markets and Interest Rates – A Brief Update

Markets continue to respond to expectations around interest rates and inflation. The recent trend of moderating inflation has led to ongoing discussion about potential rate cuts in the coming months.

While this may influence short-term market direction, it's worth remembering:

- Markets often move ahead of confirmed policy changes
- Expectations can change quickly
- Long-term plans should not rely on short-term predictions

For investors, maintaining a balanced and diversified approach remains the most reliable strategy.

Staying Focused on What Matters

It's easy for financial decisions to become influenced by current headlines—whether that's interest rates, market movements, or global events.

However, the most important factors for retirement planning remain unchanged:

- Having a sustainable income plan
- Managing risk appropriately
- Maintaining flexibility as circumstances evolve

Short-term developments may influence the journey, but they rarely change the destination.

Planning Considerations This Month

Use allowances early where appropriate
Starting the tax year proactively can simplify planning and improve long-term outcomes.

Maintain balance between income and growth
Even in retirement, a degree of growth is usually necessary to protect against inflation over time.

Keep decisions aligned with your plan
Avoid making changes purely in response to market conditions or forecasts.

A Steady Perspective

A new tax year is a useful reminder that financial planning is an ongoing process rather than a one-off event. Small, consistent decisions—made thoughtfully over time—often have the greatest impact.

If You’d Like to Talk

If you’d like to review your position for the new tax year, or discuss how best to use your allowances, please feel free to get in touch.

A short conversation can often highlight simple opportunities to improve efficiency and clarity.