

# ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

As long-time Barron's pundit Randall Forsyth aptly wrote in this weekend's edition, "Which one of these doesn't belong? Inflation above target. Solid labor market. Booming stock market. Federal Reserve interest rate cuts." The obvious answer, Fed interest rate cuts, is also seemingly the one thing supporting risk markets here in 2024. Should Chair Powell and his colleagues decide to postpone policy moves into next year, markets could see unexpected volatility arise.

As for the U.S. consumer and the economy writ large, Goldilocks herself might be envious. The "not too hot, not too cold" metaphor equates to the perfect environment for investors. And, after a decade of paltry bond yields, even fixed income investors can get excited. Whether or not the economy can sustain this equilibrium longer-term is anyone's guess, but for now, it pays to stay invested.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of 2023 Q4 GDP showed the economy grew at a stronger than expected +3.4% rate, with Personal Consumption up +3.3% and the Core PCE Price Index rising +2.0% QoQ. The Atlanta Fed GDPNow Forecast has the economy slowing to a +2.3% growth rate, which may be a welcome occurrence given the Fed's current battle against inflation. Unless, of course, it portends Stagflation, which is an increasingly popular topic in the fixed income arena.

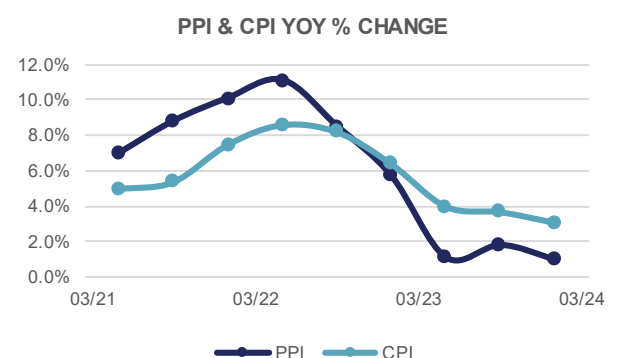
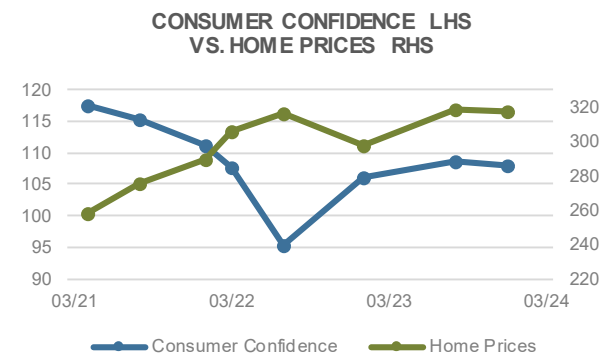
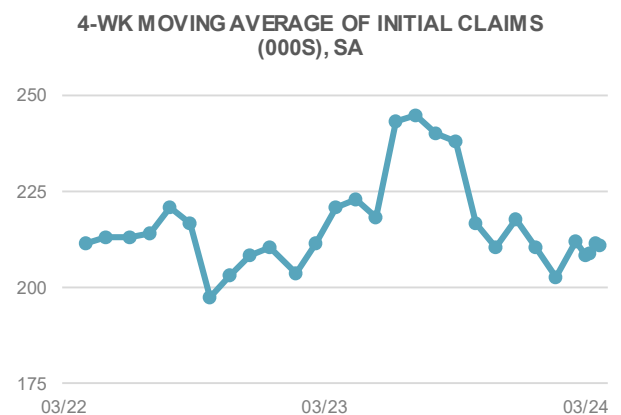
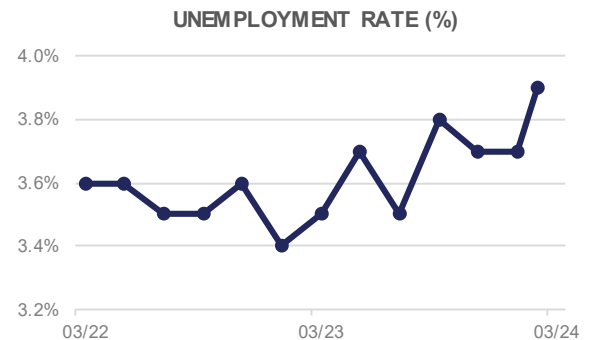
The Fed's favorite inflation indicator, the Personal Consumption Expenditure index, rose +0.3% in February, and is up +2.5% YoY. The Core PCE also gained +0.3% MoM, and shows ex-food & energy prices are higher by +2.8% YoY. Headline CPI was up a hotter than expected +0.4% MoM in February (+3.2% YoY), while Core CPI was up +0.4% MoM and +3.8% YoY. Producer prices surged +0.6% MoM, but have only risen +1.6% YoY.

The Employment picture in the U.S remains stable, with the jobless rate coming in at 3.9% in February, higher than expected, although Nonfarm Payrolls increased by a better than forecast +275k. Average Hourly Earnings have risen +4.3% YoY, and the Labor Force Participation rate edged up to 62.5%. Initial Jobless Claims remain consistent around the 210k level.

With inflation down considerably from its peak, although still above the Fed's professed target of 2.0%, the FOMC must remain on guard against prematurely cutting interest rates. Markets are slowly embracing this go-slow Fed approach, and expectations are moving towards 3 cuts here in 2024, down from the 5-6 moves anticipated at the start of the year.

## KEY DATA POINTS

| DATA POINT                   | CURRENT | FOR     | PREVIOUS | FOR     |
|------------------------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|
| Retail Sales ex. Autos MOM % | 0.3     | Feb     | -0.8     | Jan     |
| Housing Starts               | 1521k   | Feb     | 1374k    | Jan     |
| Factory Orders MOM %         | -3.60   | Jan     | -0.30    | Dec     |
| Leading Indicators MOM %     | 0.10    | Feb     | -0.40    | Jan     |
| Unit Labor Costs             | 0.40    | Q4 2023 | -1.10    | Q3 2023 |
| GDP QOQ (Annualized)         | 3.40    | Q4 2023 | 4.90     | Q3 2023 |
| Wholesale Inventories        | 0.50    | Feb     | -0.20    | Jan     |
| MBA Mortgage Applications    | -0.70   | Mar     | -3.30    | Feb     |



## DOMESTIC EQUITY

US equities wrapped up the first quarter of 2023 with their hottest start to the year since 2019, as the benchmark S&P 500 index gained +10.6% to start the year. The index added solid performance during the month of March, gaining +3.2%. Since the October 2023 low, the S&P 500 index has rallied +28%, or put differently, has added over \$9 trillion in market value, reaching new all-time highs, closing the month at a level of 5,254.

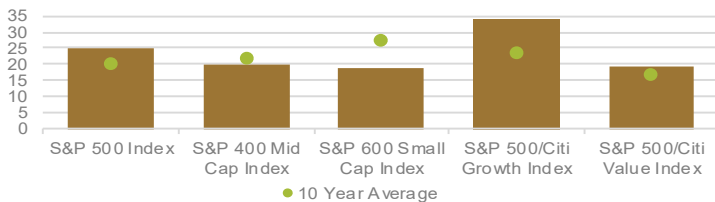
With the S&P equally-weighted index up +7.9% compared to the +10.6% gain in the commonly referenced market cap weighted index, there seems to be hopeful signs that the equity market is broadening out beyond the Magnificent Seven that captivated investors for most of 2023. Following steep pullbacks in Tesla and Apple, the rest of the market remained buoyant. The broadening out of performance was also found in Mid-Cap stocks, as the S&P 400 Mid Cap Index returned +5.6% during the month of March, bringing it's YTD return to +9.9%.

From a factor perspective, Momentum has posted an impressive +22.6% return YTD and a +49.0% 1-year return, highlighting the overall positive inertia seen in the stock market recently. Value finally outperformed growth during the month of March, returning +4.6% compared Growth's +2.1%. However, the delta of Growth's outperformance on the year remains significant at +470bps.

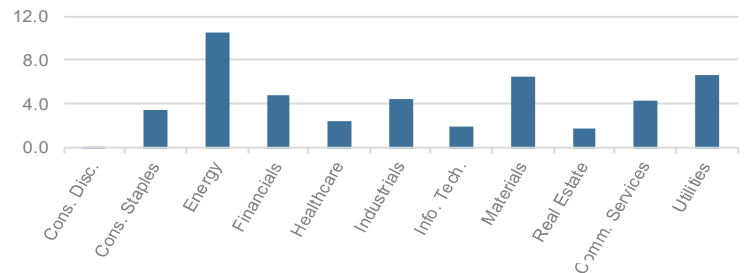
All 11 of the S&P 500 Sectors posted positive returns during the month of March, and all but one (Real Estate) have seen positive returns throughout the first quarter of the year. Energy, driven by rising crude-oil prices, was up +10.6% during the month of March, surpassing all sector returns for the year, except for Communication Services which has posted a +15.8% return to start the year.

Despite the market's overly optimistic rate cut expectations and some higher-than expected inflation numbers in the first quarter, the US equity market has moved higher on the backs of expanded P/E multiples, increased earnings expectations and a resilient labor market.

**DOMESTIC EQUITY MARKET  
P/E RATIOS**



**MTDS&P 500 SECTOR RETURNS**



### S&P 500 SECTOR RETURNS

| SECTOR                  | MTD   | QTD   | YTD   | 1YR   | 3YR   | 5YR   | % Wt. |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Consumer Discretionary  | 0.10  | 4.98  | 4.98  | 28.73 | 4.33  | 11.51 | 11%   |
| Consumer Staples        | 3.49  | 7.52  | 7.52  | 7.19  | 8.02  | 9.96  | 6%    |
| Energy                  | 10.60 | 13.69 | 13.69 | 17.61 | 29.88 | 12.76 | 4%    |
| Financials              | 4.77  | 12.45 | 12.45 | 33.48 | 9.49  | 12.68 | 13%   |
| Healthcare              | 2.38  | 8.85  | 8.85  | 16.09 | 10.03 | 12.05 | 12%   |
| Industrials             | 4.41  | 10.97 | 10.97 | 26.64 | 10.42 | 12.93 | 9%    |
| Information Technology  | 1.97  | 12.69 | 12.69 | 46.01 | 19.03 | 25.37 | 29%   |
| Materials               | 6.50  | 8.95  | 8.95  | 17.57 | 7.88  | 13.29 | 2%    |
| Real Estate             | 1.77  | -0.55 | -0.55 | 9.60  | 3.37  | 5.27  | 2%    |
| Communication Services* | 4.34  | 15.82 | 15.82 | 49.76 | 6.87  | 13.66 | 9%    |
| Utilities               | 6.62  | 4.57  | 4.57  | 0.42  | 4.15  | 5.88  | 2%    |

### DOMESTIC EQUITY RETURNS

| NAME                      | MTD  | QTD   | YTD   | 1YR   | 3YR   | 5YR   |
|---------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| S&P 500 Index             | 3.22 | 10.55 | 10.55 | 29.86 | 11.50 | 15.02 |
| S&P 400 Mid Cap Index     | 5.60 | 9.94  | 9.94  | 23.29 | 6.94  | 11.67 |
| S&P 600 Small Cap Index   | 3.24 | 2.45  | 2.45  | 15.83 | 2.21  | 9.08  |
| S&P 500/Citi Growth Index | 2.13 | 12.75 | 12.75 | 33.72 | 10.20 | 15.76 |
| S&P 500/Citi Value Index  | 4.55 | 8.05  | 8.05  | 25.56 | 12.16 | 13.22 |

### S&P 500 FACTOR RETURNS

| NAME                   | MTD  | QTD   | YTD   | 1YR   | 3YR   | 5YR   |
|------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| S&P 500 Quality        | 3.72 | 12.23 | 12.23 | 29.73 | 12.87 | 15.51 |
| S&P 500 Momentum       | 4.16 | 22.55 | 22.55 | 49.04 | 16.57 | 17.09 |
| S&P 500 Equal Weight   | 4.46 | 7.91  | 7.91  | 19.38 | 8.17  | 12.34 |
| S&P 500 High Beta      | 4.32 | 6.92  | 6.92  | 26.93 | 9.37  | 18.07 |
| S&P 500 Low Volatility | 3.09 | 5.84  | 5.84  | 8.49  | 6.86  | 7.15  |

# INTERNATIONAL EQUITY

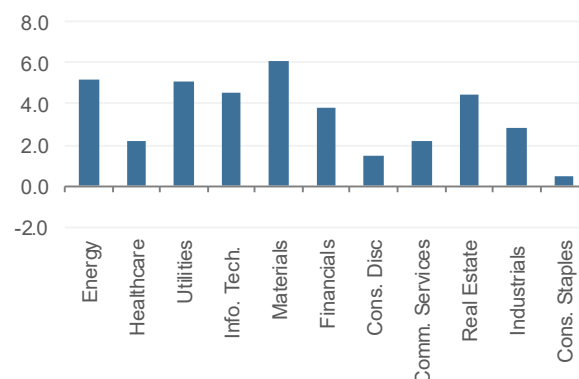
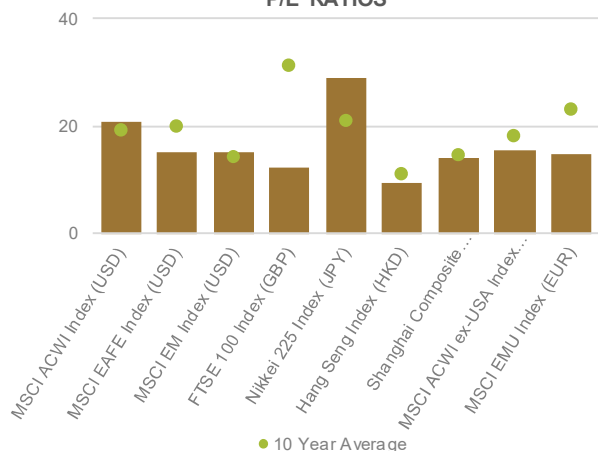
International markets finally found some consistency with most major geographic regions posting positive returns during the month of March. Developed Markets (DM), as measured by the MSCI EAFE Index (USD), posted a +3.4% return on the month. Emerging Markets (EM), as measured by the MSCI EM Index (USD), returned +2.5%. Overall, the risk-on sentiment that was felt in domestic US markets was shared internationally as the MSCI ACWI ex-USA Index (USD) returned +3.2% in March and has now posted a +4.8% return YTD, despite the volatility seen in many major markets.

The MSCI EMU Index (EUR) gained +4.5% in March, its best month since November 2023, and has now posted solid returns of +10.4% YTD. This comes on the news that consumer sentiment has improved in the Eurozone. The European Commission reported at the end of March that consumer confidence had increased to its highest level in two years, perhaps because of the region's easing energy concerns. According to the report, consumers' plans for major purchases has remained stable and industry confidence has increased.

Despite historic weakness in the Yen compared to the US Dollar, Japanese equities posted gains during March, with the Nikkei 225 Index (JPY) returning +3.7% and an impressive +21.4% return YTD. Much of the positive performance found in Japan can be attributed to the numbers of inbound tourism that reportedly have exceeded pre-pandemic levels. Additionally, many of Japan's large cap exporters have benefitted from increased demand that has picked up given the currency weakness compared to their trading partners. During the last week of the month, many monetary authorities in Japan signaled that they would be ready to intervene in foreign exchange markets to prop up the currency, should continued weakness be found.

In China, mixed economic results continue to leave investors perplexed. Profits at industrial firms grew +10.2% in February compared to one year ago. However, the YoY increase was supported by a low base for comparison from last year when the country began its initial recovery from COVID related lockdowns. Despite the industrial profits, the ongoing property market slump and deflationary pressures felt throughout their economy has many investors proceeding with caution. The MSCI China Index (USD) grew by +0.9% in March but has fallen by -2.0% since the start of the year.

Similar to the domestic US experience, all eleven MSCI ACWI-ex US sectors posted positive returns during the month of March. The sector returns were led by Materials (+6.0%), Energy (+5.2%) and Utilities (+5.2%) while Consumer Staples (+0.5%) and Consumer Discretionary (+1.4%) were the laggards.

**MTDMSCI ACWI SECTOR RETURNS**

**INTERNATIONAL EQUITY MARKET P/E RATIOS**

**MSCI ACWI EX U.S. SECTOR RETURNS**
**INTERNATIONAL EQUITY RETURNS**

| SECTOR                  | MTD  | QTD   | YTD   | 1YR   | 3YR   | 5YR   | %   | NAME                           | MTD  | QTD   | YTD   | 1YR    | 3YR    | 5YR   |
|-------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|--------------------------------|------|-------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| Energy                  | 5.16 | 5.50  | 5.50  | 22.48 | 15.66 | 6.19  | 10% | MSCI ACWI Index (USD)          | 3.19 | 8.32  | 8.32  | 23.80  | 7.48   | 11.46 |
| Healthcare              | 2.23 | 3.97  | 3.97  | 8.01  | 2.18  | 6.63  | 7%  | MSCI EAFE Index (USD)          | 3.40 | 5.94  | 5.94  | 15.94  | 5.40   | 7.94  |
| Utilities               | 5.13 | 1.78  | 1.78  | 3.81  | 3.12  | 5.24  | 6%  | MSCI EM Index (USD)            | 2.50 | 2.41  | 2.41  | 8.50   | -4.73  | 2.56  |
| Information Technology  | 4.50 | 11.39 | 11.39 | 29.80 | 3.80  | 15.77 | 11% | FTSE 100 Index (GBP)           | 4.84 | 3.98  | 3.98  | 8.12   | 9.73   | 5.61  |
| Materials               | 6.05 | -1.44 | -1.44 | 4.46  | 1.26  | 7.37  | 7%  | Nikkei 225 Index (JPY)         | 3.69 | 21.43 | 21.43 | 46.50  | 13.67  | 15.96 |
| Financials              | 3.81 | 6.08  | 6.08  | 22.39 | 7.85  | 7.43  | 20% | Hang Seng Index (HKD)          | 0.64 | -2.52 | -2.52 | -15.68 | -13.68 | -7.63 |
| Consumer Discretionary  | 1.43 | 7.20  | 7.20  | 8.91  | -4.24 | 4.96  | 11% | Shanghai Composite Index (CNY) | 0.86 | 2.24  | 2.24  | -4.50  | -1.60  | 2.16  |
| Communication Services* | 2.22 | 2.20  | 2.20  | -2.77 | -8.69 | 0.08  | 5%  | MSCI ACWI ex-USA Index (USD)   | 3.21 | 4.82  | 4.82  | 13.83  | 2.48   | 6.51  |
| Real Estate             | 4.44 | -0.20 | -0.20 | 7.19  | -7.38 | -5.25 | 2%  | MSCI EMU Index (EUR)           | 4.49 | 10.39 | 10.39 | 17.65  | 9.60   | 10.08 |
| Industrials             | 2.80 | 7.07  | 7.07  | 20.33 | 5.40  | 9.11  | 13% | MSCI China Index (USD)         | 0.92 | -1.97 | -1.97 | -17.16 | -18.64 | -6.26 |
| Consumer Staples        | 0.47 | -3.11 | -3.11 | -4.26 | -0.75 | 1.63  | 8%  | MSCI Canada Index (USD)        | 3.95 | 6.92  | 6.92  | 16.02  | 9.87   | 10.08 |
|                         |      |       |       |       |       |       |     | MSCI EM ex-China (USD)         | 3.00 | 4.01  | 4.01  | 20.51  | 2.16   | 6.37  |

# FIXED INCOME

Federal Reserve Chairperson Jerome Powell's recent commentary has remained dovish, dismissing the less accommodating inflation data that has recently been experienced. Although the Chairperson has been steadfast in his support of the accommodating pivot that has provided fuel for the risk markets, other Fed board members have shared less dovish expectations. Some members have talked down the likelihood of three rates cuts this year, and instead are leaning towards one or none. While the bond market has dialed back its expectation of dramatic rate cuts in 2024, the equity market has continued to push higher.

During the past month there was some interest rate volatility, up and down, but at the end of the month it netted out to a yield curve that was roughly flat (~5 basis points lower). This stability allowed the fixed income indices to earn their coupons with little price movement.

The Government index has a lower yield due to its lack of credit risk. In March, the index produced a return of +0.64% with rates relatively flat.

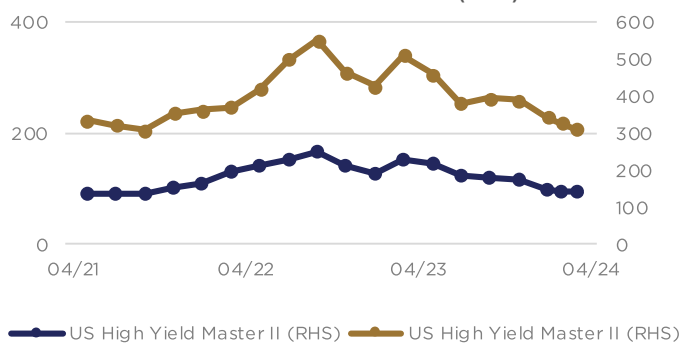
The Investment Grade (IG) Corporate bond index has some credit risk and pays a higher yield. During the month, Single A credit spreads were stable, and BBB credit spreads contracted slightly (price upside). These effects combined to create a monthly return of +1.29%.

High Yield (HY) Corporate bonds have significantly more credit risk, requiring a higher yield than IG Corporate bonds. High Yield bonds also posted a strong monthly return of 1.18% in March.

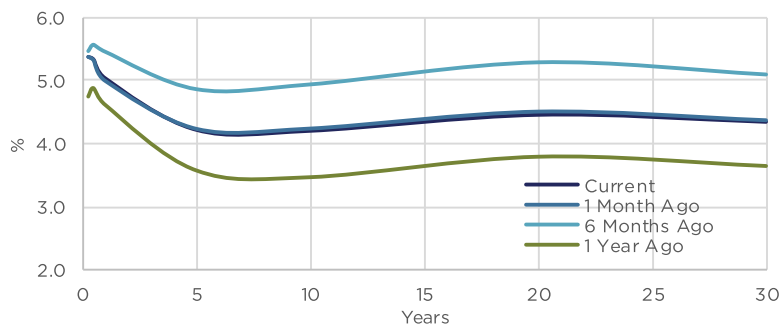
Tax-free municipal bonds remain pricey, even after underperforming the other bond indices in March with a flat return. It is important to work with an expert that knows how to search offerings for value. Value can still be found, but does require some work to reveal it. For those in high tax-rates (which may revert higher when the TJCA expires), tax-free bonds remain an attractive allocation. A custom built portfolio is the best solution.

Year-to-date, the top performing allocation has been HY Corporate bonds, followed by IG Corporate bonds. As mainstream allocations have become more expensive, it has become more important to look beyond the most traditional allocations. There may be value to be found in securitized fixed income (CLO/ABS/MBS).

**OPTION-ADJUSTED SPREAD (OAS)**



**TREASURY YIELD CURVE**



## U.S. TREASURY YIELDS

| PERIOD       | 3MOS | 1YR  | 5YR  | 10YR | 20YR | 30YR |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Current      | 5.37 | 5.03 | 4.21 | 4.20 | 4.45 | 4.34 |
| 1 Month Ago  | 5.38 | 5.00 | 4.25 | 4.25 | 4.52 | 4.38 |
| 6 Months Ago | 5.47 | 5.46 | 4.86 | 4.93 | 5.29 | 5.10 |
| 1 Year Ago   | 4.75 | 4.62 | 3.58 | 3.47 | 3.80 | 3.65 |

## CENTRAL BANK ACTIVITY

| NAME                       | CURRENT | 1 MTH AGO | 6 MTH AGO | 1YR AGO |
|----------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Fed Funds Rate             | 5.50    | 5.50      | 5.50      | 5.00    |
| Bank of Japan Target Rate  | 0.10    | -0.10     | -0.10     | -0.10   |
| European Central Bank Rate | 4.50    | 4.50      | 4.25      | 3.00    |
| Bank of England Base Rate  | 5.25    | 5.25      | 5.25      | 4.25    |

## FIXED INCOME RETURNS

| NAME   | MTD  | QTD   | YTD   | 1YR   | 3YR   | 5YR   |
|--|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Bloomberg Barclays US Government Index             | 0.64 | -0.93 | -0.93 | 0.13  | -2.68 | -0.04 |
| Bloomberg Barclays US Agg Index                    | 0.92 | -0.78 | -0.78 | 1.70  | -2.46 | 0.36  |
| Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate Index              | 1.29 | -0.40 | -0.40 | 4.43  | -1.87 | 1.52  |
| Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate High Yield Index   | 1.18 | 1.47  | 1.47  | 11.15 | 2.20  | 4.20  |
| Bloomberg Barclays EM USD Agg Index                | 1.72 | 1.53  | 1.53  | 8.43  | -1.48 | 1.07  |
| Bloomberg Barclays Global Agg Treasuries USD Index | 0.75 | -0.01 | -0.01 | 3.48  | -1.37 | 0.52  |
| Bloomberg Barclays Municipal Index                 | 0.00 | -0.39 | -0.39 | 3.13  | -0.41 | 1.59  |



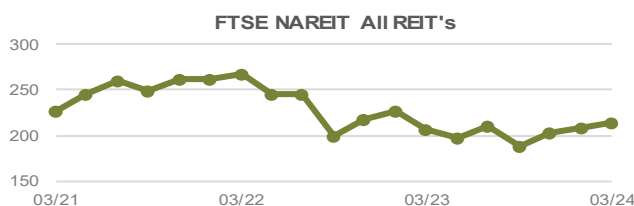
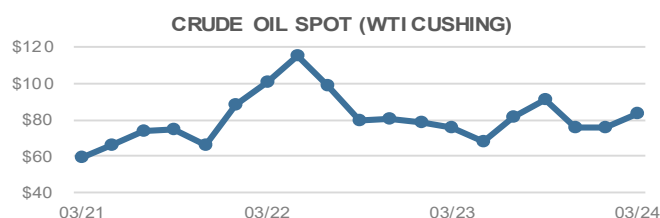
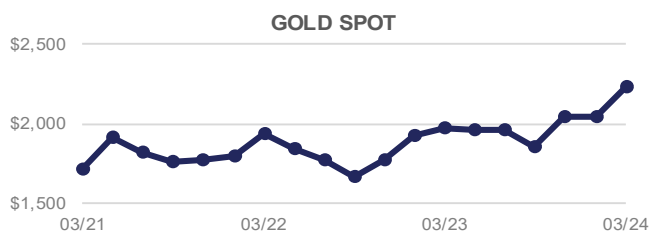
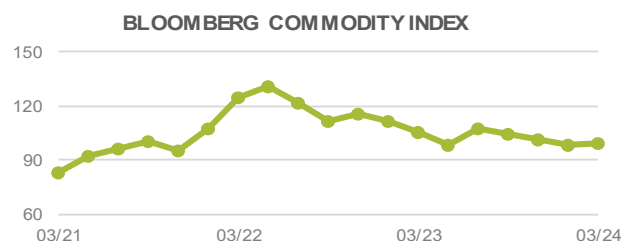
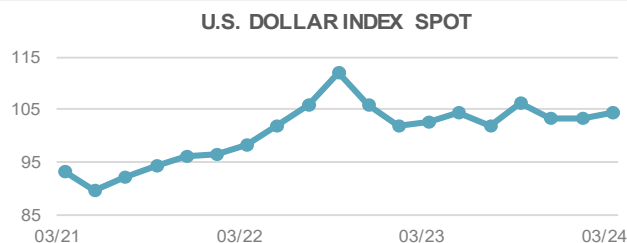
## ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS

Alternative investments had mainly positive returns in March. Broad Commodities, as measured by the Bloomberg Commodity Index, were up +2.9% on the month.

U.S. Dollar strength continued in Q1, with the DXY Index rising +2.7% during the period. The Dollar rose as investors have pared back their expectations on the number of rate cuts by the Fed this year due to a stronger than expected U.S. economy. One interesting currency pair to observe is the Japanese Yen to the U.S. Dollar. The dollar reached its strongest level against the Yen in over 30 years before closing the month at 151.38 JPY/USD. A widening gap between U.S. and Japanese government bond yields has led to the weakening of Japan's currency. This has occurred despite the Bank of Japan shifting away from an ultra easy monetary policy and introducing a small interest rate hike in March.

Gold rallied substantially during the month, rising +9.1% in March. The precious metal reached an all-time high of \$2,229 intra-month and looks to set another all time high as we go to press. As mentioned in previous market wraps, gold can be useful as a portfolio diversifier as it moves in an uncorrelated way relative to equities and fixed income.

Although gold is traditionally viewed as an inflation hedge, its recent rally may have been driven by uncertainty around the global economy due to geopolitical tensions and political polarization. The commodity can be an alternative store of value that isn't contingent on any given government or corporation. Central banks and Chinese investors have also been increasing their net purchases, pushing up demand and supporting the price.



### SPOT RATES

| DESCRIPTION | CURRENT | 1 MTH AGO | 3 MTHS AGO | 6 MTHS AGO | 1 YR AGO |
|-------------|---------|-----------|------------|------------|----------|
| CAD / USD   | 1.35    | 1.36      | 1.32       | 1.36       | 1.35     |
| JPY / USD   | 151.38  | 150.12    | 140.89     | 149.62     | 132.86   |
| USD / GBP   | 1.26    | 1.27      | 1.27       | 1.22       | 1.23     |
| USD / EUR   | 1.08    | 1.08      | 1.10       | 1.06       | 1.08     |

### HEDGE FUNDS

| NAME                  | MTD    | QTD    | YTD    | 1YR   | 3YR   | 5YR   |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| Global Hedge          | 2.46%  | 2.69%  | 2.69%  | 8.55% | 2.71% | 5.19% |
| Convertible Arbitrage | 1.46%  | 2.30%  | 2.30%  | 7.93% | 3.47% | 6.98% |
| Event Driven          | 0.92%  | 0.95%  | 0.95%  | 6.81% | 3.77% | 5.79% |
| Macro Hedge           | 2.54%  | 2.64%  | 2.64%  | 5.72% | 3.07% | 4.58% |
| Merger Arbitrage      | -0.27% | -1.03% | -1.03% | 3.82% | 4.11% | 5.60% |

Note: Price Return, Returns as of 2/29/2024

### COMMODITIES

|            | MTD   | QTD    | YTD    | 1YR    | 3YR    | 5YR    |
|------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Dollar     | 0.13% | 2.68%  | 2.68%  | 1.23%  | 2.63%  | 0.77%  |
| BCOM       | 2.89% | 0.85%  | 0.85%  | -5.70% | 6.05%  | 4.17%  |
| Gold       | 9.08% | 8.09%  | 8.09%  | 13.23% | 9.32%  | 11.52% |
| WTI        | 7.32% | 21.61% | 21.61% | 16.25% | 24.20% | 12.07% |
| FTSENAREIT | 1.78% | -1.30% | -1.30% | 11.79% | 3.22%  | 4.35%  |

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact any member of our investment team:

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**S&P 500 Index (SPX)** – Standard and Poor's 500 Index is a capitalization-weighted index of 500 stocks. The index is designed to measure performance of the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries.

**S&P 500 Sector Indices (S5COND, S5CONS, S5ENRS, S5FINL, S5HLTH, S5INDU, S5INF, S5MATR, S5TELS, S5UTIL, S5RLST)** – The S&P 500 is broken down into eleven sub-indices according to the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) sectors. These eleven sectors include Consumer Discretionary, Consumer Staples, Energy, Financials, Health Care, Industrials, Information Technology, Materials, Communication Services, Utilities, and Real Estate.

**S&P 400 Mid Cap Index (MID)** – Standard and Poor's Mid Cap 400 Index is a capitalization-weighted index, which measures the performance of the mid-range sector of the U.S. stock market.

**S&P 600 Small Cap Index (SML)** – Standard & Poor's Small Cap 600 Index is a capitalization-weighted index that measures the performance of selected U.S. stocks with a small market capitalization.

**S&P 500/Citigroup Growth Index (SGX)** – The S&P 500/Citigroup Growth Index is a market capitalization weighted index. All the stocks in the underlying parent index are allocated into value or growth. Stocks that do not have pure value or pure growth characteristics have their market caps distributed between the value & growth indices.

**S&P 500/Citigroup Value Index (SVX)** – The S&P 500/Citigroup Value Index is a market capitalization-weighted index. All the stocks in the underlying parent index are allocated into value or growth. Stocks that do not have pure value or pure growth characteristics have their market caps distributed between the value & growth indices.

**MSCI AC World Index (MXWD)** – The MSCI AC World Index is a free float-weighted equity index. The index includes both emerging and developed world markets.

**MSCI EAFE Index (MXEA)** – The MSCI EAFE Index is a capitalization-weighted index that monitors the performance of stocks from developed markets in Europe, Australia-Asia, and the Far East.

**MSCI Emerging Market Index (MXEF)** – The MSCI Emerging Market Index is a free-float weighted index that is designed to measure the equity performance of international emerging markets.

**FTSE 100 Index (UKX)** – The FTSE 100 Index is a capitalization weighted index of the 100 most highly capitalized companies traded on the London Stock Exchange. The equities use an investability quotient weighting in the index calculation.

**Nikkei 225 Stock Average Index (NKY)** – The Nikkei-225 Stock Average is a price-weighted average of 225 top-rated Japanese companies listed in the First Section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

**Hang Seng Index (HSI)** – The Hang Seng is a free-float capitalization-weighted index of selected companies from the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong. The components of the index are divided into four sub-indices: Commerce and Industry, Finance, Utilities, and Properties.

**Shanghai Stock Exchange Composite Index (SHCOMP)** – The Shanghai Stock Exchange Composite Index is a capitalization weighted index. The index tracks the daily price performance of all A-shares and B-shares listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange.

**MSCI USA Extended ESG Focus Index** - The Index is designed to maximize exposure to positive environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors while exhibiting risk and return characteristics similar to those of the MSCI USA Index.

**MSCI EAFE Extended ESG Focus Index** - The Index is designed to maximize exposure to positive environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors while exhibiting risk and return characteristics similar to those of the MSCI EAFE Index.

**MSCI Emerging Markets Extended ESG Focus Index** - The Index is designed to maximize exposure to positive environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors while exhibiting risk and return characteristics similar to those of the MSCI Emerging Markets Index.

**MSCI ACWI ex USA Index (MXWDU)** – The MSCI ACWI ex USA Index is a free-float weighted index.

**MSCI ACWI ex USA Sector Indices** – The MSCI ACWI ex USA Index is broken down into eleven sub-indices according to the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) sectors. These eleven sectors include Consumer Discretionary, Consumer Staples, Energy, Financials, Health Care, Industrials, Information Technology, Materials, Communication Services, Utilities, and Real Estate.

**MSCI EMU Index (MXEM)** – The MSCI EMU (European Economic and Monetary Union) Index is a free-float weighted equity index.

**Bloomberg Barclays Global Treasuries USD Hedged Index (LGTTRUH)** – The Bloomberg Barclays Global Treasury Index tracks fixed-rate, local currency government debt of investment grade countries. The index represents the treasury sector of the Global Aggregate Index and contains issues from 37 countries denominated in 24 currencies.

**Bloomberg Barclays Municipal Bond Index (LMBITR)** – The Bloomberg Barclays Municipal Bond Index covers the USD denominated long-term tax exempt bond market. The index has four main sectors: state and local general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, insured bonds, and pre-refunded bonds.

**Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Government Index** – Bloomberg Barclays US Government Bond Index is comprised of the US Treasury and US Agency Indices. The index includes US dollar-denominated, fixed-rate, nominal US Treasuries and US agency debentures (securities issued by US government owned or government sponsored entities, and debt explicitly guaranteed by the US government).

**Bloomberg Barclays EM Hard Currency Aggregate Index (LG2OTRUU)** – The Bloomberg Barclays Emerging Markets Hard Currency Aggregate Index is a hard currency Emerging Markets debt benchmark that includes USD-denominated debt from sovereign, quasi-sovereign, and corporate EM issuers.

**Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index (LBSTRUU)** – The Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index is a broad-based benchmark that measures the investment grade, US dollar-denominated, fixed-rate taxable bond market. The index includes Treasuries, government-related and corporate securities, MBS (agency fixed-rate and hybrid ARM pass-through), ABS and CMBS (agency and non-agency).

**Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate Index (LUACTRUU)** – The Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate Bond Index measures the investment grade, fixed-rate, taxable corporate bond market. It includes USD denominated securities publicly issued by US and non-US industrial, utility and financial issuers.

**Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corp High Yield Index (LFTR ML U.S. Corporate Index (COAO))** – The Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate High Yield Bond Index measures the USD denominated, high yield, below-investment grade fixed-rate corporate bond market.

**S&P Green Bond Select Index (SPGRSLT)** – The S&P Green Bond Select Index is a market value-weighted subset of the S&P Green Bond Index that seeks to measure the performance of green-labeled bonds issued globally, subject to stringent financial and extra-financial eligibility criteria.

**ML U.S. Corporate Index (COAO)** – The Merrill Lynch U.S. Corporate Index tracks the performance of U.S. dollar denominated investment grade corporate debt publicly issued in the U.S. domestic market.

**ML U.S. High Yield Index (HOAO)** – The Merrill Lynch U.S. High Yield Index tracks the performance of U.S. dollar denominated below investment grade corporate debt publicly issued in the U.S. domestic market.

**FTSE NAREIT All REITs Index (FNAR)** – The FTSE NAREIT All REITs Index is a free float adjusted market capitalization-weighted index that includes all tax qualified REITs listed in the NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ National Market.

**Bloomberg Commodity Index (BCOM)** – Bloomberg Commodity Index (BCOM) is calculated on an excess return basis and reflects commodity futures price movements. The index rebalances annually weighted 2/3 by trading volume and 1/3 by world production and weight-caps are applied at the commodity, sector and group level for diversification. Roll period typically occurs from 6th-10th business day based on the roll schedule.

**U.S. Dollar Index (DXY)** – The U.S. Dollar Index (USDIX) indicates the general int'l value of the USD. The USDIX does this by averaging the exchange rates between the USD and 6 major world currencies. The ICE US computes this by using the rates supplied by some 500 banks.

The Bloomberg All Hedge Index represents the average performance of hedge funds, as defined by the Bloomberg Hedge Fund Classifications.

The Bloomberg Convertible Bond Arbitrage Hedge Fund Index represents the average performance of hedge funds with a convertible bond arbitrage strategy, as defined by the Bloomberg Hedge Fund Classifications.

The Bloomberg Event Driven Hedge Fund Index represents the average performance of hedge funds with an event driven strategy, as defined by the Bloomberg Hedge Fund Classifications.

The Bloomberg Macro Hedge Fund Index represents the average performance of hedge funds with a macro strategy, as defined by the Bloomberg Hedge Fund Classifications.

The Bloomberg Merger Arbitrage Hedge Fund Index represents the average performance of hedge funds with a merger arbitrage strategy, as defined by the Bloomberg Hedge Fund Classifications.

**Economic Data Sources:**

PPI & CPI – Bureau of Labor Statistics

Unemployment Rate – Bureau of Labor Statistics

Consumer Confidence – Conference Board

SP/Case-Shiller Composite 20 – Case-Shiller

Industrial Production – Federal Reserve

Capacity Utilization – Federal Reserve

Retail Sales – U.S. Census Bureau

Housing Starts – U.S. Department of Commerce

Factory Orders – U.S. Census Bureau

Leading Indicators – Conference Board

Unit Labor Costs – Bureau of Labor Statistics

GDP – Bureau of Economic Analysis

Wholesale Inventories – U.S. Census Bureau

MBA Mortgage Applications – Mortgage Bankers Association

4-Week Moving Average of Initial Claims, SA – Bureau of Labor Statistics

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