



QUARTERLY MARKET REVIEW

FOURTH QUARTER 2023

Quarterly Market Review

Fourth quarter 2023

2023 ended with surging returns for both stock and bond markets, fueled by a belief that the Fed is done raising rates, and could begin cutting them in 2024. Robust consumer spending and continued strength in the labor market helped to spur economic growth, which also helped the investment markets.

As the page turns to 2024, though, it's hard to imagine this year being anything other than tumultuous, at best. The war in Ukraine rages on, and with wavering support for continued US funding of Ukraine's efforts, the prospects for Russian gains, and what that might mean for the world order, are potentially unsettling. The Israeli-Palestinian war shows no signs of abating, and while there is ample reason for all parties to avoid having what is already a terrible conflict spread into a wider battle in the region, there is no assurance that will not happen.

And then there is the bubbling cauldron that is the upcoming US presidential campaign. As divisive and toxic as the political discourse has been over the past 8 years, I'm not sure any of us are prepared for what is about to unfold over the next few months.

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Quarterly Topic: Country Debt and Stock Returns

Quarterly Market Review

Fourth quarter 2023



As we make our way through these troubling societal times, though, try to keep in mind that investment markets ultimately tend to shrug off such things, preferring instead to focus on the economy and corporate profits. Certainly, wars and political uncertainty can have an impact on such things, but historically speaking, that impact has been short-lived.

It could get bouncy along the way, but if the economy continues to grow and the Fed begins reducing rates this year, as we believe they will, that would bode well for the investment markets.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tony Reed'.

Tony Reed, CPA, CFP
President

Quarterly Market Summary

Index returns



	US Stock Market	International Developed Stocks	Emerging Markets Stocks	Global Real Estate	US Bond Market	Global Bond Market ex US
Q4 2023	STOCKS				BONDS	
	12.07%	10.51%	7.86%	15.47%	6.82%	5.36%
Since Jan. 2001						
Average Quarterly Return	2.3%	1.6%	2.5%	2.3%	0.9%	0.9%
Best Quarter	22.0%	25.9%	34.7%	32.3%	6.8%	5.4%
	2020 Q2	2009 Q2	2009 Q2	2009 Q3	2023 Q4	2023 Q4
Worst Quarter	-22.8%	-23.3%	-27.6%	-36.1%	-5.9%	-4.1%
	2008 Q4	2020 Q1	2008 Q4	2008 Q4	2022 Q1	2022 Q1

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Long-Term Market Summary

Index returns as of December 31, 2023

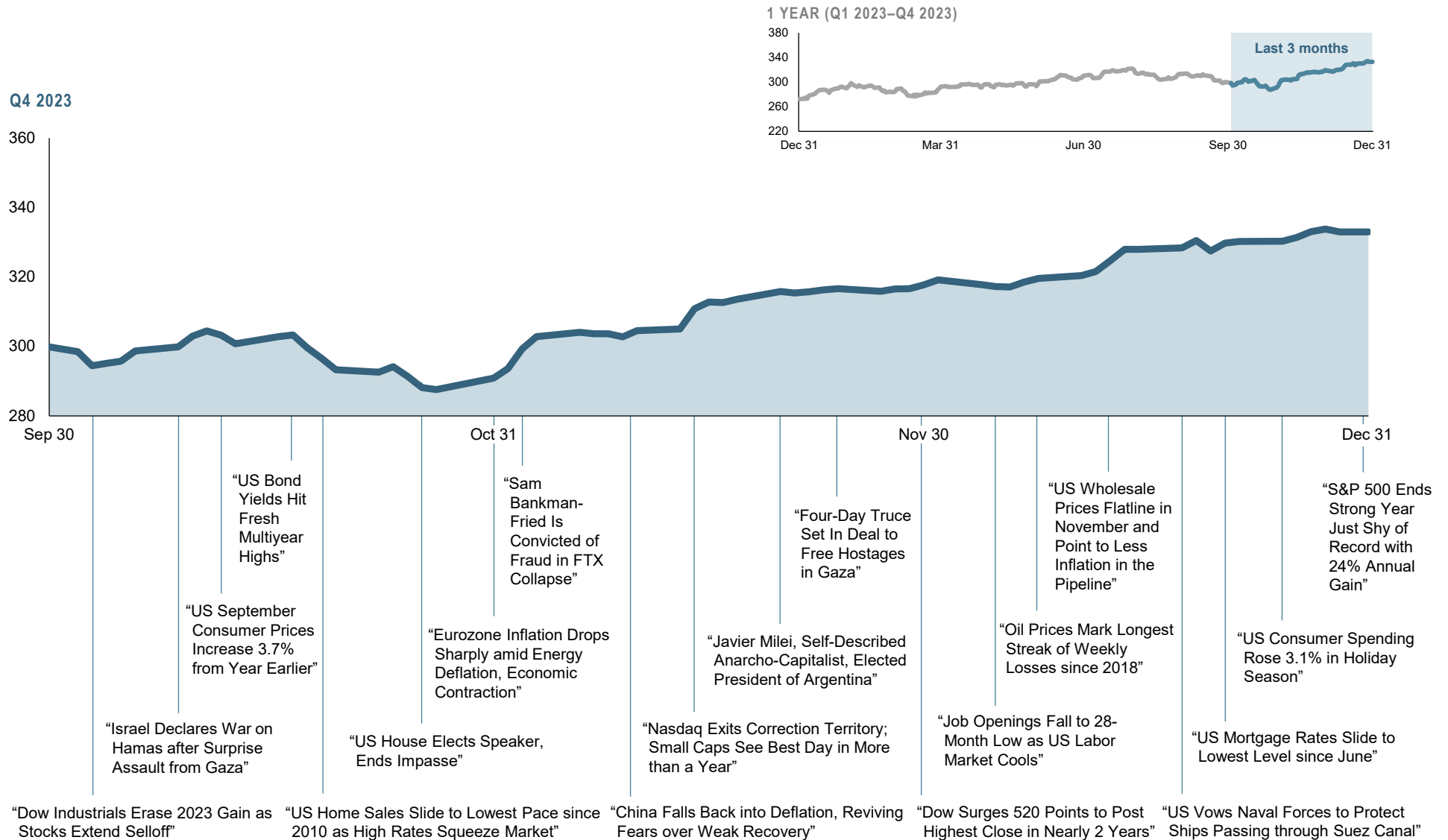


	US Stock Market	International Developed Stocks	Emerging Markets Stocks	Global Real Estate	US Bond Market	Global Bond Market ex US
1 Year	STOCKS				BONDS	
	25.96%	17.94%	9.83%	10.23%	5.53%	8.32%
5 Years						
	15.16%	8.45%	3.68%	4.16%	1.10%	1.50%
10 Years						
	11.48%	4.32%	2.66%	4.72%	1.81%	2.80%

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World Stock Market Performance

MSCI All Country World Index with selected headlines from Q4 2023



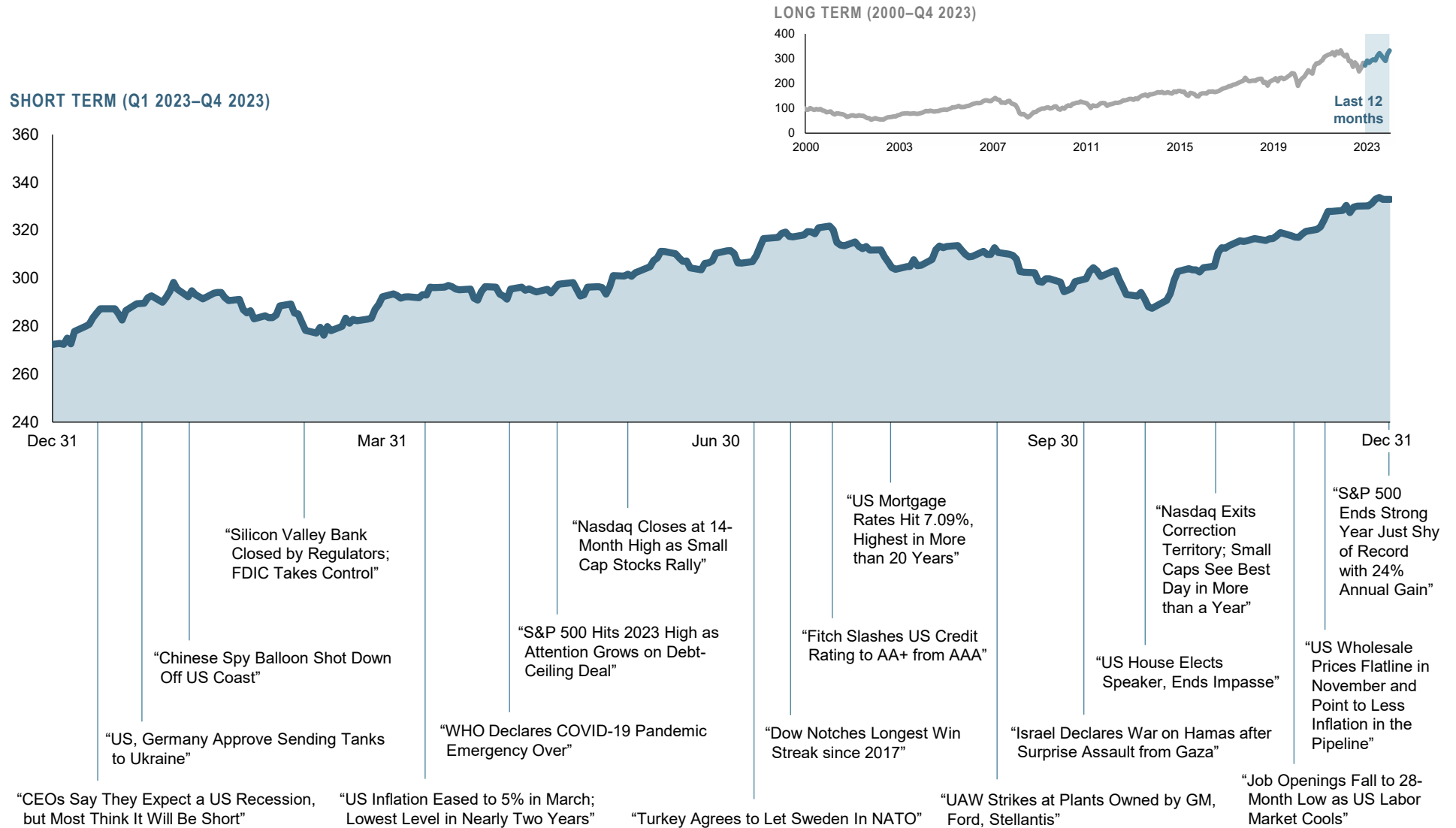
These headlines are not offered to explain market returns. Instead, they serve as a reminder that investors should view daily events from a long-term perspective and avoid making investment decisions based solely on the news.

Graph Source: MSCI ACWI Index (net dividends). MSCI data © MSCI 2024, all rights reserved. Index level based at 100 starting January 2000.

It is not possible to invest directly in an index. Performance does not reflect the expenses associated with management of an actual portfolio. **Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.**

World Stock Market Performance

MSCI All Country World Index with selected headlines from past 12 months



These headlines are not offered to explain market returns. Instead, they serve as a reminder that investors should view daily events from a long-term perspective and avoid making investment decisions based solely on the news.

Graph Source: MSCI ACWI Index (net dividends). MSCI data © MSCI 2024, all rights reserved. Index level based at 100 starting January 2000.

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US Stocks

Fourth quarter 2023 index returns

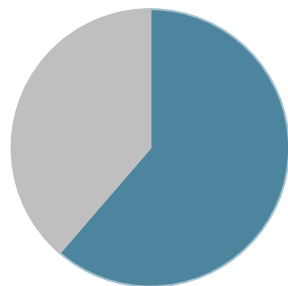
The US equity market posted positive returns for the quarter and outperformed both non-US developed and emerging markets.

Value underperformed growth within large caps and outperformed within small caps.

Small caps outperformed large caps.

REIT indices outperformed equity market indices.

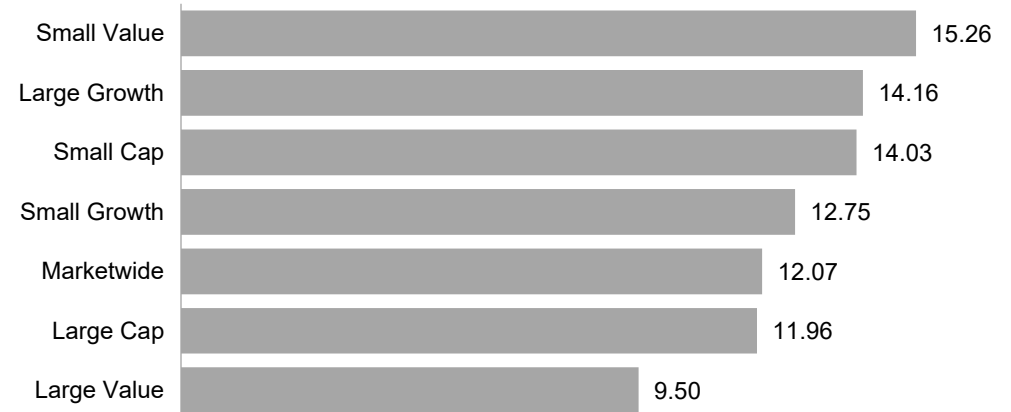
World Market Capitalization—US



61%

US Market
\$46.4 trillion

Ranked Returns (%)



Period Returns (%)

Asset Class	QTR	1 Year	Annualized		
			3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Small Value	15.26	14.65	7.94	10.00	6.76
Large Growth	14.16	42.68	8.86	19.50	14.86
Small Cap	14.03	16.93	2.22	9.97	7.16
Small Growth	12.75	18.66	-3.50	9.22	7.16
Marketwide	12.07	25.96	8.54	15.16	11.48
Large Cap	11.96	26.53	8.97	15.52	11.80
Large Value	9.50	11.46	8.86	10.91	8.40

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International Developed Stocks

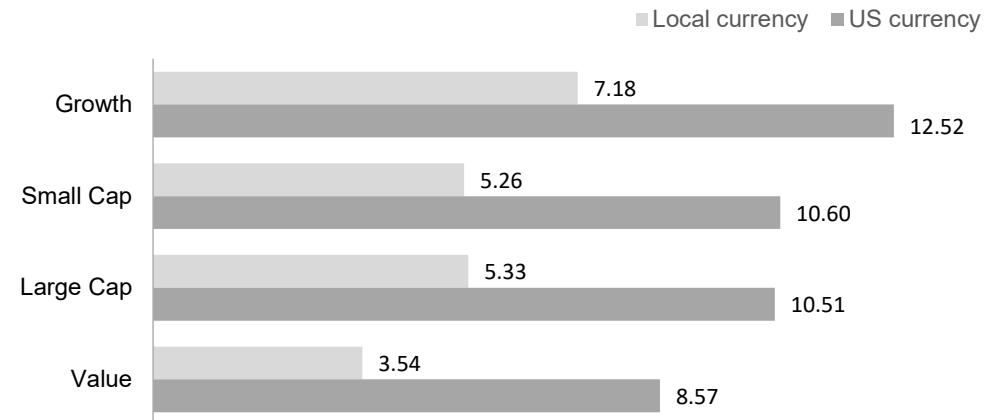
Fourth quarter 2023 index returns

Developed markets outside of the US posted positive returns for the quarter and underperformed the US market, but outperformed emerging markets.

Value underperformed growth.

Small caps outperformed large caps.

Ranked Returns (%)



World Market Capitalization—International Developed

28%

International
Developed Market
\$21.0 trillion



Period Returns (%)

Asset Class	QTR	1 Year	Annualized		
			3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Growth	12.52	17.45	0.44	8.94	5.08
Small Cap	10.60	12.62	-0.20	7.05	4.63
Large Cap	10.51	17.94	4.42	8.45	4.32
Value	8.57	18.48	8.19	7.48	3.29

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Emerging Markets Stocks

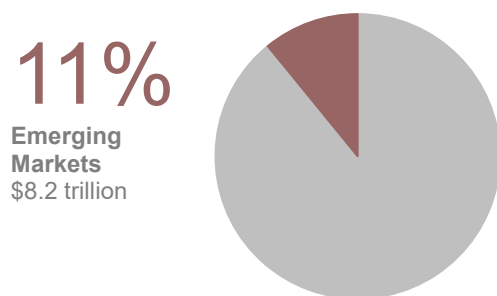
Fourth quarter 2023 index returns

Emerging markets posted positive returns for the quarter and underperformed both US and non-US developed markets.

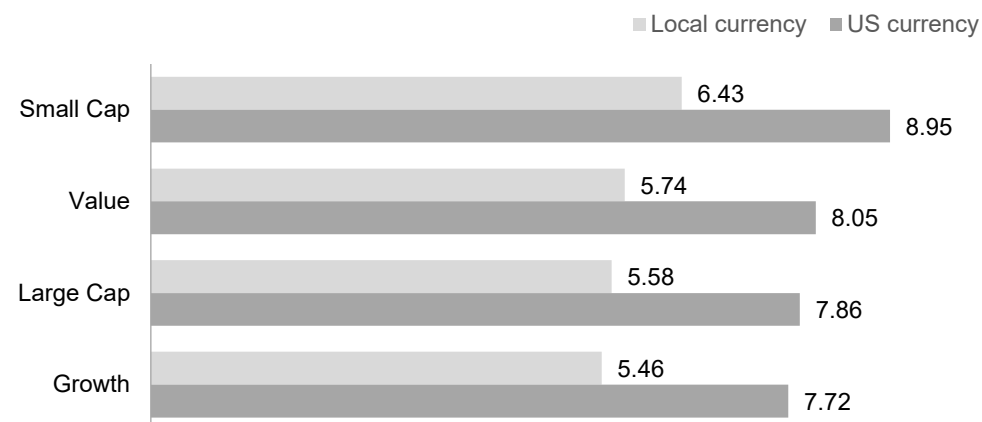
Value outperformed growth.

Small caps outperformed large caps.

World Market Capitalization—Emerging Markets



Ranked Returns (%)



Period Returns (%)

Asset Class	QTR	1 Year	Annualized		
			3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Small Cap	8.95	23.92	6.45	9.92	5.34
Value	8.05	14.21	-0.01	3.37	1.94
Large Cap	7.86	9.83	-5.08	3.68	2.66
Growth	7.72	5.83	-9.67	3.90	3.28

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Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)

Fourth quarter 2023 index returns

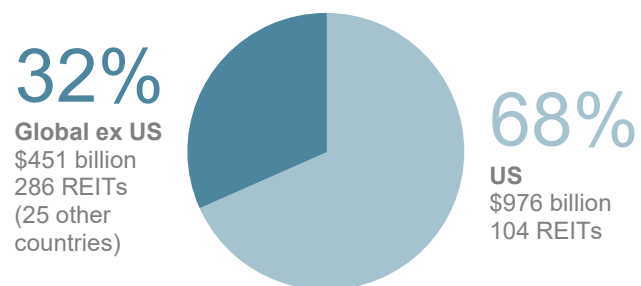


US real estate investment trusts outperformed non-US REITs during the quarter.

Ranked Returns (%)



Total Value of REIT Stocks



Period Returns (%)

Asset Class	QTR	1 Year	Annualized		
			3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
US REITS	16.35	13.96	7.18	6.12	7.00
Global ex US REITS	14.98	5.59	-2.69	0.48	1.92

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Commodities

Fourth quarter 2023 index returns

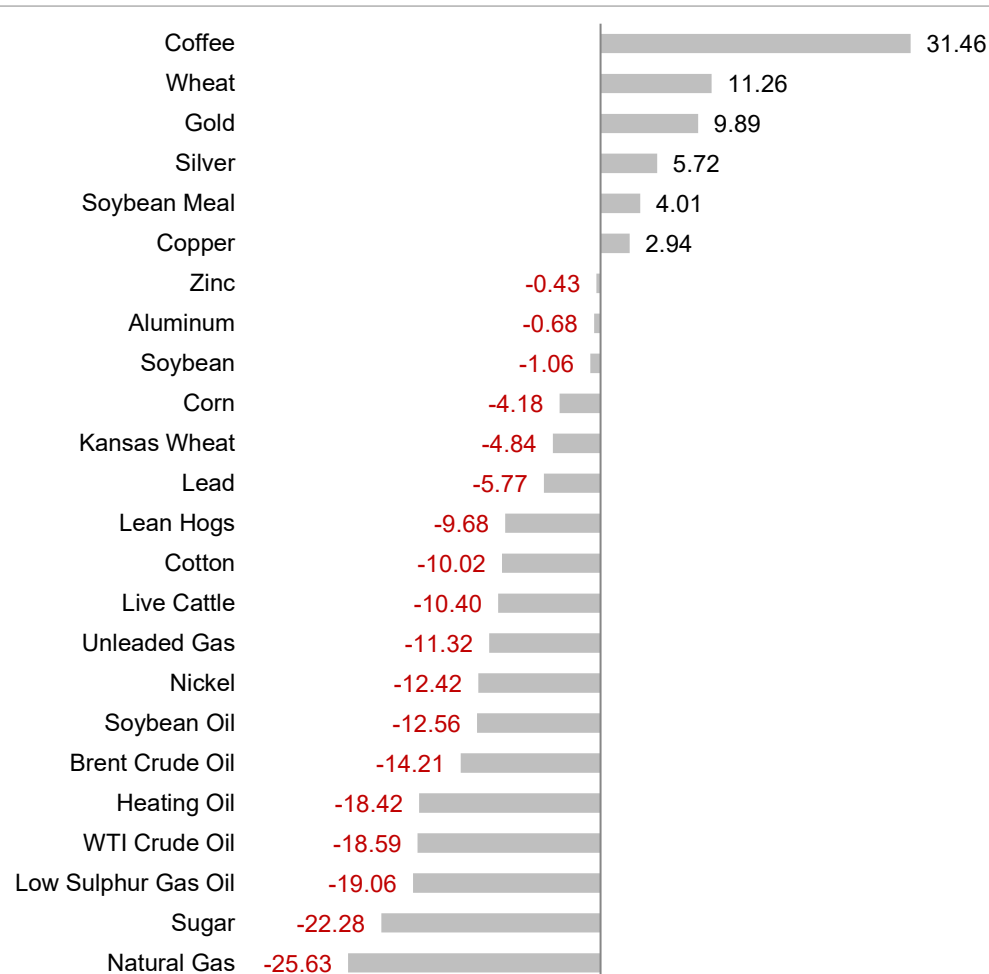
The Bloomberg Commodity Total Return Index returned -4.63% for the fourth quarter of 2023.

Natural Gas and Sugar were the worst performers, returning -25.63% and -22.28% during the quarter, respectively. Coffee and Wheat were the best performers, returning +31.46% and +11.26% during the quarter, respectively.

Period Returns (%)

Asset Class	QTR	1 Year	Annualized		
			3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Commodities	-4.63	-7.91	10.76	7.23	-1.11

Ranked Returns (%)



Fixed Income

Fourth quarter 2023 index returns

Interest rates generally decreased in the US Treasury market for the quarter.

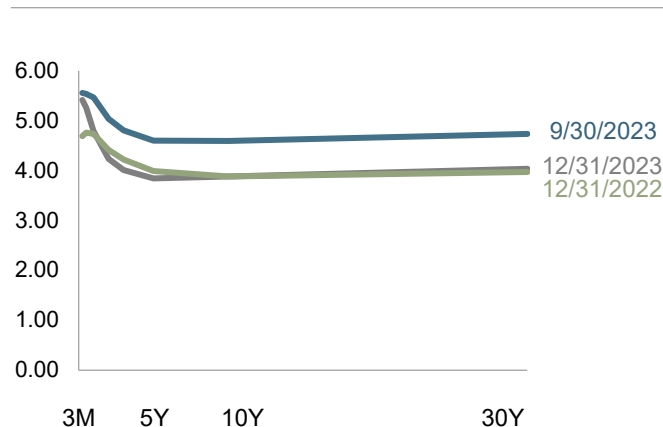
On the short end of the yield curve, the 1-Month US Treasury Bill yield increased 5 basis points (bps) to 5.60%, while the 1-Year US Treasury Bill yield decreased 67 bps to 4.79%. The yield on the 2-Year US Treasury Note decreased 80 bps to 4.23%.

The yield on the 5-Year US Treasury Note decreased 76 bps to 3.84%. The yield on the 10-Year US Treasury Note decreased 71 bps to 3.88%. The yield on the 30-Year US Treasury Bond decreased 70 bps to 4.03%.

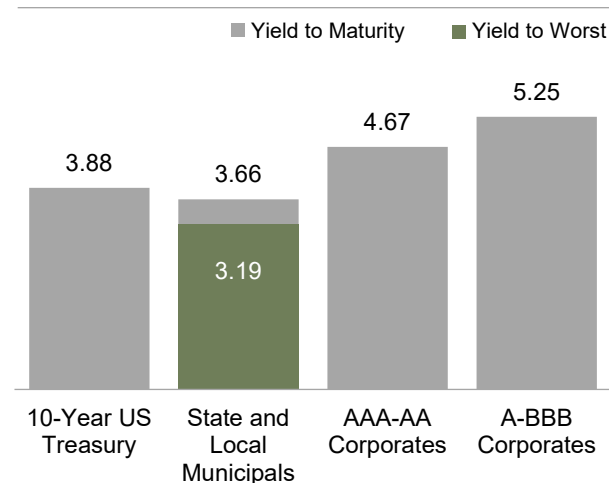
In terms of total returns, short-term US treasury bonds returned +3.21% while intermediate-term US treasury bonds returned +3.99%. Short-term corporate bonds returned +4.12% and intermediate-term corporate bonds returned +5.86%.¹

The total returns for short- and intermediate-term municipal bonds were +3.53% and +6.53%, respectively. Within the municipal fixed income market, general obligation bonds returned +7.79% while revenue bonds returned +8.15%.²

US Treasury Yield Curve (%)



Bond Yield Across Issuers (%)



Period Returns (%)

Asset Class	QTR	1 Year	Annualized		
			3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Bloomberg U.S. Government Bond Index Long	12.69	3.11	-11.35	-1.23	2.27
Bloomberg Municipal Bond Index	7.89	6.40	-0.40	2.25	3.03
Bloomberg U.S. High Yield Corporate Bond Index	7.16	13.44	1.98	5.37	4.60
Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index	6.82	5.53	-3.31	1.10	1.81
FTSE World Government Bond Index 1-5 Years	4.95	4.79	-2.95	-0.07	-0.44
Bloomberg U.S. TIPS Index	4.71	3.90	-1.00	3.15	2.42
FTSE World Government Bond Index 1-5 Years (hedged to USD)	3.09	5.26	-0.09	1.34	1.44
ICE BofA 1-Year US Treasury Note Index	1.79	4.74	1.18	1.66	1.18
ICE BofA US 3-Month Treasury Bill Index	1.37	5.01	2.15	1.88	1.25

1. Bloomberg US Treasury and US Corporate Bond Indices.

2. Bloomberg Municipal Bond Index.

One basis point (bps) equals 0.01%. **Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Indices are not available for direct investment. Index performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio.** Yield curve data from Federal Reserve. State and local bonds and the Yield to Worst are from the S&P National AMT-Free Municipal Bond Index. AAA-AA Corporates represent the ICE BofA US Corporates, AA-AAA rated. A-BBB Corporates represent the ICE BofA Corporates, BBB-A rated. Bloomberg data provided by Bloomberg. US long-term bonds, bills, inflation, and fixed income factor data © Stocks, Bonds, Bills, and Inflation (S&BBI) Yearbook™, Ibbotson Associates, Chicago (annually updated work by Roger G. Ibbotson and Rex A. Sinquefeld). FTSE fixed income indices © 2024 FTSE Fixed Income LLC, all rights reserved. ICE BofA index data © 2024 ICE Data Indices, LLC. S&P data © 2024 S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, a division of S&P Global. All rights reserved. Bloomberg data provided by Bloomberg.

Global Fixed Income

Fourth quarter 2023 yield curves

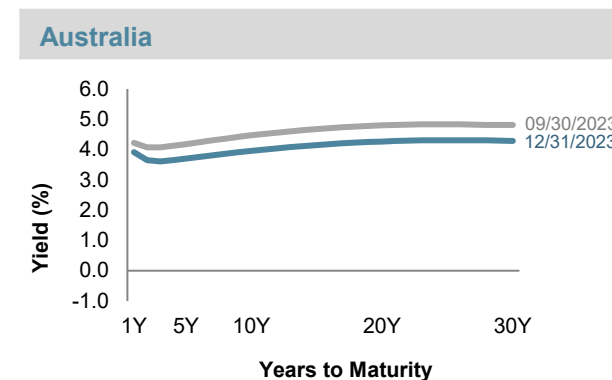
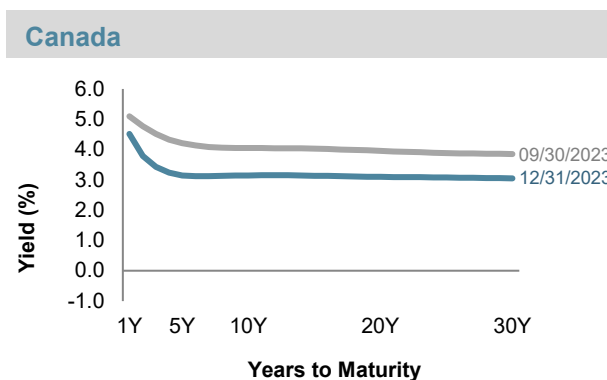
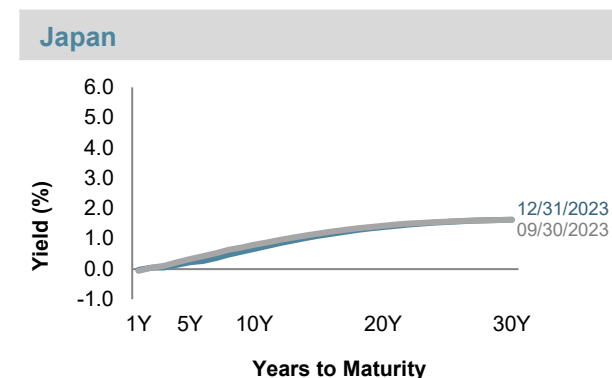
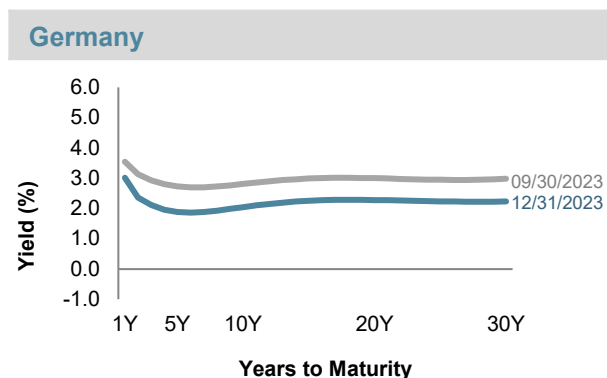
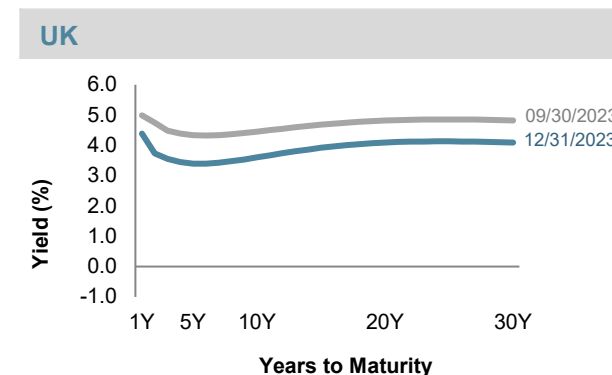
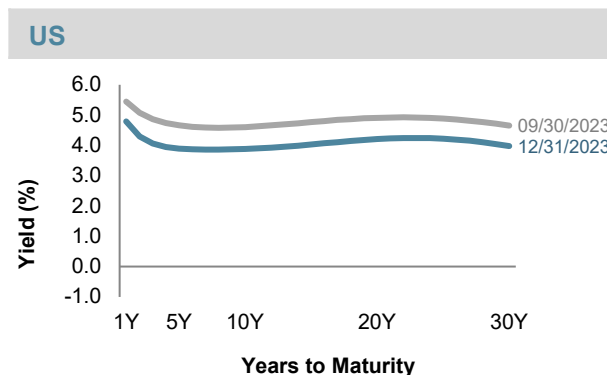
Interest rates generally decreased across global developed markets for the quarter.

Realized term premiums were generally positive across global developed markets, as longer-term bonds generally outperformed shorter-term bonds.

In Japan, ultrashort-term nominal interest rates were negative. In the UK, Germany, Canada, and Australia, the short-term segment of the yield curve was inverted.

Changes in Yields (bps) since 09/30/2023

	1Y	5Y	10Y	20Y	30Y
US	-65.2	-76.9	-72.2	-70.3	-67.8
UK	-59.7	-93.9	-84.8	-72.8	-73.1
Germany	-52.7	-84.6	-76.3	-72.1	-74.9
Japan	3.9	-10.3	-13.3	-4.1	0.8
Canada	-58.0	-106.2	-90.0	-85.7	-80.5
Australia	-30.6	-48.0	-51.1	-53.2	-52.9



Country Debt and Stock Returns

Fourth quarter 2023

Wes Crill, PhD, Senior Investment Director and Vice President, Dimensional Fund Advisors

US government debt reached 121% of the value of the country’s gross domestic product (GDP) last year.¹ Many investors have expressed concern over the impact that servicing this level of debt could have on the stock market. But the historical data show little relation between the two. Since 1975, there have been 153 observations of a country exceeding 100% debt/GDP for a year. Stocks were up for that country/year in 104 of the 153, or about two-thirds of the time.

There are numerous examples of countries carrying high debt for extended periods. Italy and Belgium have both been over 100% debt/GDP in more than 30 of the past 48 years. Meanwhile, their stock markets have returned an average of 10.8% and 12.0% per year, respectively. Japan has been over 200% since 2010 while its market averaged close to 6% per year over that period.

Stock markets set prices to the point where investors have a positive expected return given current information. Country debt is a slow-moving variable, so it’s sensible that current prices reflect expectations about the effect of government debt. And it’s unsurprising to see stock performance has generally been positive even amid high-debt conditions.

INDEBTED

General government debt, percent of GDP vs. stock market return for developed markets, 1975–2022



1. “General Government Debt,” Global Debt Database, International Monetary Fund, September 2023. See following page for important disclosure.

Country Debt and Stock Returns

(continued from page 15)



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Debt figures are based on General Government Debt data from the Global Debt Database published by the International Monetary Fund. MSCI index returns are net dividends, in USD. MSCI data © MSCI 2024, all rights reserved.

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Index Descriptions

Bloomberg Commodity Total Return Index - The Bloomberg Commodity Index measures the performance of future contracts on physical commodities which traded on U.S. exchanges and London Metal Exchange.

Bloomberg Global Aggregate ex-USD Bond Index - The Bloomberg Global Aggregate ex-USD Index measures the performance of global investment grade fixed-rate debt markets that excludes USD-dominated securities.

Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index - The Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index measures the performance of investment grade, U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed rate taxable bond market, including Treasuries, government-related and corporate securities.

MBS (agency fixed-rate and hybrid ARM pass-throughs), ABS, and CMBS.

Bloomberg US Corporate Bond Index - The Bloomberg US Corporate 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 issuer.

Bloomberg US Treasury Index - The Bloomberg U.S. Treasury Index measures the performance of public obligations of the U.S. Treasury, including securities that roll up to the U.S. Aggregate, U.S. Universal, and Global Aggregate Indices.

Dow Jones US Select REIT Index - The Dow Jones U.S. Select REIT Index tracks the performance of publicly traded REITs and REIT-like securities and is designed to serve as a proxy for direct real estate investment, in part by excluding companies whose performance may be driven by factors other than the value of real estate.

MSCI ACWI Index - The MSCI ACWI captures large and mid cap representation across 23 Developed Markets (DM) and 24 Emerging Markets (EM) countries.

MSCI Emerging Markets Growth Index - The MSCI Emerging Markets Growth Index captures large and mid cap securities exhibiting overall growth style characteristics across 24 Emerging Markets (EM) countries.

MSCI Emerging Markets Index - The MSCI Emerging Markets Index captures large and mid cap representation across 24 Emerging Markets (EM) countries.

MSCI Emerging Markets Small Cap Index - The MSCI Emerging Markets Small Cap Index includes small cap representation across 24 Emerging Markets countries.

MSCI Emerging Markets Value Index - The MSCI Emerging Markets Value Index captures large and mid cap securities exhibiting overall value style characteristics across 24 Emerging Markets (EM) countries.

MSCI World ex USA Growth Index - The MSCI World ex USA Growth Index captures large and mid cap securities exhibiting overall growth style characteristics across 22 of 23 Developed Markets (DM) countries*—excluding the United States.

MSCI World ex USA Index - The MSCI World ex USA Index captures large and mid cap representation across 22 of 23 Developed Markets (DM) countries*—excluding the United States.

MSCI World ex USA Small Cap Index - The MSCI World ex USA Small Cap Index captures small cap representation across 22 of 23 Developed Markets (DM) countries* (excluding the United States).

MSCI World ex USA Value Index - The MSCI World ex USA Value Index captures large and mid cap securities exhibiting overall value style characteristics across 22 of 23 Developed Markets countries.

Index Descriptions

Russell 1000 Growth Index - The Russell 1000® Growth Index measures the performance of the largecap growth segment of the US equity universe. It includes those Russell 1000 companies with relatively higher price-to-book ratios, higher I/B/E/S forecast medium term (2 year) growth and higher sales per share historical growth (5 years).

Russell 1000 Index - The Russell 1000® Index measures the performance of the large-cap segment of the US equity universe. It is a subset of the Russell 3000® Index and includes approximately 1,000 of the largest securities based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership.

Russell 1000 Value Index - The Russell 1000® Value Index measures the performance of the largecap value segment of the US equity universe. It includes those Russell 1000 companies with relatively lower price-to-book ratios, lower I/B/E/S forecast medium term (2 year) growth and lower sales per share historical growth (5 years).

Russell 2000 Growth Index - The Russell 2000® Growth Index measures the performance of the smallcap growth segment of the US equity universe. It includes those Russell 2000 companies with relatively higher price-to-book ratios, higher I/B/E/S forecast medium term (2 year) growth and higher sales per share historical growth (5 years).

Russell 2000 Index - The Russell 2000 index tracks the 2,000 smallest public companies by market cap in its parent Russell 3000 stock index. Because small-cap companies make up a much smaller share of the U.S. stock market than large caps, the companies in the Russell 2000 represent approximately 10% of the U.S. stock market's total market capitalization.

Russell 2000 Value Index - The Russell 2000® Value Index measures the performance of the smallcap value segment of the US equity universe. It includes those Russell 2000 companies with relatively lower price-to-book ratios, lower I/B/E/S forecast medium term (2 year) growth and lower sales per share historical growth (5 years).

Russell 3000 Index - The Russell 3000® Index measures the performance of the largest 3,000 US companies representing approximately 96% of the investable US equity market, as of the most recent reconstitution.

S&P Global ex US REIT Index - A member of the S&P Global Property Index Series, the S&P Global ex US REIT serves as a comprehensive benchmark of publicly traded equity REITs listed in both developed and emerging markets, excluding the United States.

S&P Global REIT Index - A member of the S&P Global Property Index Series, the S&P Global REIT serves as a comprehensive benchmark of publicly traded equity REITs listed in both developed and emerging markets.

S&P National AMT-Free Municipal Bond Index - The S&P National AMT-Free Municipal Bond Index is a broad, comprehensive, market value-weighted index designed to measure the performance of the investment-grade tax-exempt U.S. municipal bond market.