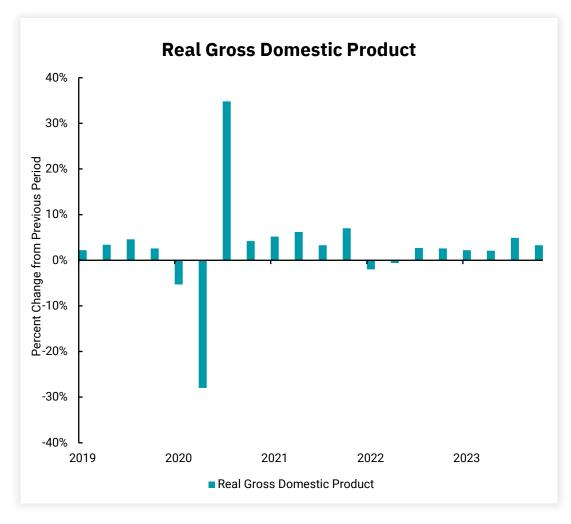
### **INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT**

## Weekly market update

Chart of the week (Jan. 26, 2024)





The U.S. economy was expected to slow in the fourth quarter, after growing by an inflation-adjusted rate of 4.9% in the third quarter of 2023. And while growth did slow, it was still quite a bit higher than expected, with inflation-adjusted growth totaling 3.3% (compared to an anticipated 2%). In addition, the rate of inflation embedded within the number, the "GDP deflator", was lower than expected, which helped produce a near-ideal condition—higher real growth with lower inflation.

After starting the year slowly, the overall expectation for growth in 2023 was around 1.9%. However, this third and fourth-quarter growth means the rate will be closer to 2.5%. I say "closer" because the fourth quarter GDP number will be revised over the next couple of months, which could impact the final score on growth. Suffice it to say, though, that 2023 was a year where the economy's resilience surprised many to the upside. Despite higher rates, which now appear to have peaked in July of 2023 at 5.25-5.5%, the employment market remained firm. In fact, since the Federal Reserve began one of the most aggressive tightening cycles in history in March 2022, the unemployment rate has only moved from 3.6% to 3.7%. The robust nature of the job market has served as a huge support for an economy based primarily on consumer spending.

Looking forward, we think the impact of higher rates will continue to be revealed over the next few months as higher borrowing costs start to bite. Still, the economy has significant momentum as we enter an election year where we expect fiscal spending to remain a tailwind for growth.

Meanwhile, the lower-than-expected GDP deflator figure adds to the overall picture of slowing inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Producer Price Index (PPI) and the Fed's preferred measure of inflation—the Personal Consumption Expenditures Price Index (PCE). The fact that inflation is slowing should provide the Fed room to begin to lower rates as we move through 2024. The Fed has its first meeting of the year next week, and while there is a very low chance of any rate action, the spread between inflation and the overnight Fed Funds rate is widening. Looking at core PCE over the last three to six months, inflation is annualizing at or very near the Fed's 2% target. The year-over-year number is still elevated at 3.2%, down from a peak of 5.1%, but the direction of inflation is lower and calls for the Fed to consider a March cut are rising.

There is much for the Fed to consider when implementing monetary policy, but they are in an advantageous position now as economic growth is positive and unemployment remains low. Operating in a non-crisis environment also is an advantage. They should try to make sure their action, or inaction, doesn't cause one.

## **INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT**

# Weekly market update



**Commentary** (Jan. 26, 2024)

## **Domestic Equities**

- The Dow Jones Industrial Average and the S&P 500 Index hit new all-time highs this week, surpassing levels not seen since the end of 2021. Evidence of cooling inflation without significant economic slowing is helping fuel the rally.
- Core PCE, the Fed's favored inflation gauge, rose less than 3% year-over-year in December. The six-month average annualized rate fell to 1.9%, which could give the Fed confidence that inflation has declined to near its target.
- Consumers continue to spend at a healthy rate. The largest banks reported increased charge-offs for bad loans, but not at alarming or unexpected levels.
- Intel's earnings report released Friday cooled the big-tech rally. Lower-thanexpected sales expectations took the stock down over 11% and weighed on other semiconductor names.

### **Bonds**

- U.S. Treasuries were mixed on conflicting economic data and varied auction results with the six-month to five-year part of the curve moving lower, while yields on most remaining tenors were flat to higher.
- U.S. credit markets were broadly positive, benefitting from lower intermediate-term rates around narrowing spreads. Across the market, hybrid securities and lower-quality credit outperformed, tracking the rally in equities.
- In international markets, the People's Bank of China (PBOC) announced it would be cutting the reserve ratio requirements (RRR) rate on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> to help stabilize the market. Meanwhile, as widely expected, the European Central Bank (ECB) held policy rates unchanged on Thursday. However, in the post-meeting press conference, President Lagarde surprised markets by not pushing back on rate cut expectations. At week-end, the market is pricing an 70% probability that the ECB will begin cutting rates in April.

## **International Equities**

- Global stocks moved higher as investors digested a flurry of economic data releases, corporate earnings announcements and key central bank policy meetings in Japan, Europe and Canada.
- Developed markets rallied after last week's losses as strength across
  European markets drove returns. European technology stocks rose over 9%
  as ASML, one of the world's largest foreign technology stocks, rallied over
  14% for the week. This Netherlands-based company that produces advanced
  semiconductor-manufacturing equipment surprised investors by recording
  strong demand for their products during the fourth quarter.
- Emerging markets found momentum this week, led by solid performance from Asian markets. That's after three consecutive weeks of losses. Chinese stocks rose this week after policymakers promised to take additional measures to boost confidence and stimulate economic growth.

## **Economics**

- The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) reported fourth-quarter GDP increased by 3.3% at an annualized rate. The increase in GDP was broadbased, with consumer spending, exports, government spending, residential and non-residential fixed investment all adding to rising economic growth.
- The BEA also reported personal income increased 0.3% in December as wages and salaries increased in the month. Personal spending increased 0.7% as spending on both goods and services rose. The personal savings rate declined to 3.7%, the lowest level since December 2022.
- Finally, the BEA reported the 12-month inflation rate of personal consumption expenditures (PCE) was 2.6%. Core PCE inflation, which excludes food and energy, declined 0.3%, reaching 2.9% over the prior 12 months.
- The January jobs report will be released on Friday.



#### **Weekly Market Update**

#### For Week Ending January 26, 2024

Markets					Equ	ity Styl	е							Economic Data		
	Last Price	Change From Prior Week	Change From Year End	Change From Year Ago	520	00 ¬		000 500							Last Release	Year Ago
Capital Markets								S&P 500					_	Inflation		
Dow Jones Industrial Avg	38.109.43	0.6%	1.2%	14.7%	470	00 -			·~.				~~	CPI Headline Inflation	3.4%	6.5%
S&P 500 Index	4,890.97	1.1%	2.6%	22.4%	420	20			~~~~~	~~~	my r	4		CPI Core Inflation	3.9%	5.7%
NASDAQ Composite	15,455.36	0.9%	3.0%	35.4%	420	JO - V	~~~~	~~~~~~			. 4			Personal Consumption Exp (PCE) Core	2.9%	4.9%
S&P 400 Midcap Index	2.763.77	0.8%	-0.6%	7.7%	370	nn -	- Con-							i diddina ddinaampalan Exp (i dE) ddid	2.070	1.070
S&P 600 Smallcap Index	1,290.07	1.6%	-2.1%	5.7%	371	50								Jobs		
MSCI EAFE	7.739.97	2.0%	-0.6%	8.6%	320	00 -								Unemployment Rate (U3)	3.7%	3.5%
MSCI Emerging Markets	513.88	1.5%	-3.7%	-4.0%										Broader Unemployment Rate (U6)	7.1%	6.5%
Bloomberg US Agg	2,133.99	0.1%	-1.3%	1.1%	270	00 -								JOLT Survey (in millions)	8.79	10.75
Bloomberg Municipal 5 Yr	485.09	0.1%	-0.8%	1.5%										Jobless Claims (000's)	214	10.75
		0.0%			220		+ - + -			-	+ +					
Bloomberg US Corporate	3,186.35		-1.1%	3.3%		Jan-23	Mar-2	3 May-2	23 Jul-23	S	ep-23	Nov-23	Jan-24	Change in Non-Farm Payroll (000's)	216	239
Bloomberg Glb Agg ex US Hdg	560.44	0.1%	-0.8%	5.3%										Average Hourly Earnings (Y/Y % Change)	4.1%	4.8%
Bloomberg High Yield	2,478.31	0.6%	-0.1%	9.1%			1 Month	*			Ye	ear to Dat	e*			
MSCI US REIT Index	2,085.43	-0.7%	-3.0%	0.6%										Consumer & Spending		
Bloomberg Commodity Index	227.68	2.2%	0.5%	-7.4%		Value	Core	Growth	_		Value	Core	Growth	Consumer Confidence (Conf Board)	110.7	109.0
					<u>a</u>					<u>a</u>				Consumer Spending (\$ Bil)	19,002	17,944
	Last Price/Yield	Prior Week	Year End	Year Ago	Large	0.59	2.53	4.24	> 10%	Large	0.49	2.62	4.48	Consumer Credit (\$ Bil)	5,010	4,875
Key Rates					וב					ت				Retail Sales (\$ Bil)	710	672
Fed Funds Target	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	4.50%												
3-Month Treasury	5.35%	5.34%	5.33%	4.66%	Mid	-2.33	-1.48	-0.65	0% - 10%	Μid	-1.53	-0.59	0.33	Housing		
1-Year Treasury	4.77%	4.84%	4.76%	4.66%	_					~				Housing Starts (000's)	1.460	1.357
2-Year Treasury	4.35%	4.38%	4.25%	4.18%	_					_				Case-Shiller Home Price Index	312.95	298.71
5-Year Treasury	4.04%	4.05%	3.85%	3.59%	Small	-3.97	-3.20	-2.45	<0%	Small	-2.92	-2.07	-1.24	Cass Stimes Florie Files mask		
7-Year Treasury	4.10%	4.09%	3.88%	3.55%	ည်	0.01	0.20	2.40	CO 70	ည်	2.02		1.2-4	U.S. Productivity		
10-Year Treasury	4.14%	4.12%	3.88%	3.49%		*S&P Indice	9							Real Gross Domestic Product (\$ Bil)	22,673	21,990
30-Year Treasury						Our muice	3							Quarter over Quarter Change	,	,
30-Year Treasury	4.37%	4.33%	4.03%	3.64%	Eive	d Incor	me Style							Year Over Year Change	3.3%	2.6%
					rixe	a incoi	ne Style							G .	3.1%	0.7%
Consumer Rates					5.5	% ¬			Yield Curve					ISM Manufacturing	47.40	48.40
30-Year Mortgage	6.99%	7.03%	6.99%	5.83%			<b>\</b>							Capacity Utilization	78.57	78.92
Prime Rate	9.25%	9.25%	8.50%	8.25%		۰,								Markit US Composite PMI	52.30	46.80
SOFR	5.32%	5.31%	5.38%	4.30%	5.0	% -				_						
							_ \		_	—Cu	ırrent			U.S. General		
Commodities					4.5	% -			_	1 \	Year Ago			Leading Economic Indicators	103.1	111.0
Gold	2,018.52	2,029.49	2,062.98	1,929.21						- '	rear Ago		_	Trade Weighted Dollar Index	121.0	119.6
Crude Oil (WTI)	78.01	73.25	71.65	76.66	4.0	0/			<u> </u>					EUR / USD	1.09	1.09
Gasoline	3.10	3.08	3.12	3.51	4.0	% -								JPY / USD	148.15	130.22
Natural Gas	2.71	2.52	2.51	4.28										CAD / USD	0.74	0.75
Copper	3.85	3.79	3.89	4.27	3.5	% -								AUD / USD	0.66	0.71
															0.00	0
					3.0	0/										
	P/E	P/E	Price to	Current Div	3.0		В Мо	2 Yr	5 Yr	7 Yı	- 10	) Yr	30 Yr	S&P 500 Sector Returns		
	Forward	Trailing	Book	Yield		3	O IVIO	2 11	3 11	/ 11	1 10	J 11	30 11	Car out could retain	1 Month	YTD
Index Characteristics	1 01 1/4 10	uiiiig	DOOR	riciu			1 Month	*			V.	ear to Dat	۰*	Communication Services	8.44%	9.13%
Dow Jones Industrial Avg	40.00	04.00	4.00	4.00		Short	Interm.				Short	Interm.	Long			
S&P 500	18.22 20.76	21.60 22.09	4.89 4.59	1.89 1.44		CHOIL	maciiii.	Long	_			mom.	Long	Information Technology	5.82%	5.95%
S&P 500 Value	16.03	19.04	3.03	2.37	Ž	0.25	0.24	4.25	400/	₹	0.00	0.46	4.07	Financials	3.12%	2.74%
					Govt	0.25	-0.21	-4.35	> 10%	Govt	0.09	-0.46	-4.87	Health Care	2.94%	2.17%
S&P 500 Growth	27.64	25.46	7.98	0.65										Consumer Staples	1.80%	1.13%
NASDAQ	28.39	36.76	6.19	0.77	ا م	0.40		4 = 0		٩				Energy	-1.60%	0.63%
S&P Midcap 400	15.59	15.86	2.40	1.96	Corp	0.43	-0.03	-1.79	0% - 10%	Corp	0.23	-0.40	-2.40	Industrials	-0.41%	-0.42%
S&P Smallcap 600	15.13	14.22	1.81	1.72						J				Consumer Discretionary	-3.58%	-2.83%
MSCI EAFE	13.70	13.92	1.74	3.32										Utilities	-2.82%	-3.36%
MSCI Emerging Markets	11.76	14.11	1.56	3.23	눞	0.51	0.22	0.15	<0%	₹	0.28	-0.06	-0.15	Materials	-4.10%	-3.61%
					-					_				Real Estate	-3.81%	-3.85%
Source: Bloomberg					•	1-3 Yrs	1-10 Yrs	+10 Yrs	_		1-3 Yrs	1-10 Yrs	+10 Yrs			

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