

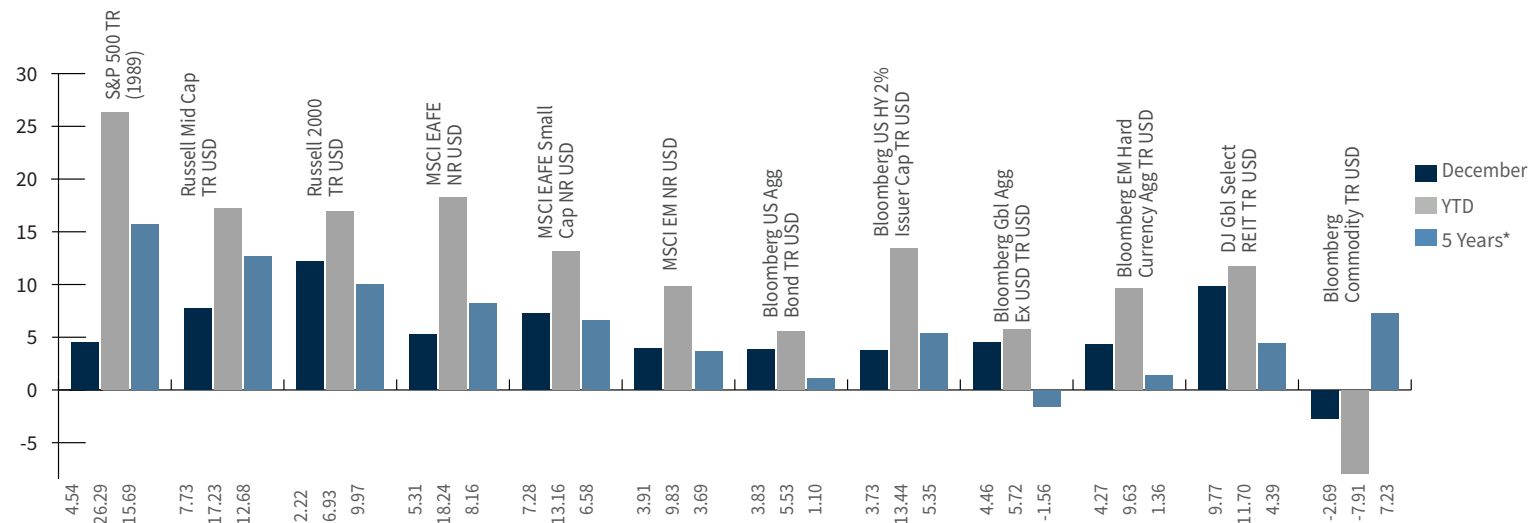
MONTHLY CAPITAL MARKETS REVIEW

News from Asset Management Services Institutional Research

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- Despite a year which certainly had its fair share of ups and downs, 2023 ended on a pleasant note, as markets were generally up across the board in the month of December. Investors in both equities and fixed income products likely found themselves having a little extra holiday cheer, and some of the largest beneficiaries were those which had found themselves to be much maligned at various points during the year. As such, pundits who had already released their market forecasts prior to the beginning of the third quarter in 2023 may have already second-guessed themselves in the face of a late-year comeback story.
- Much of the market exuberance was driven by prospects for central bank easing in 2024, both from the US Federal Reserve (Fed), as well as its global peers. In the US, there were signs of a Goldilocks scenario of sorts: an economy just robust enough to withstand the prospect of a recession, in tandem with a Fed, whose idea of hawkish monetary policy may have already been achieved. The former was fortified through both a persistently tight labor market (November unemployment fell to 3.7%) as well as moderating headline inflation which dipped lower to 3.1%; while the latter was achieved through Fed Chair Powell implying that the central bank would be cutting rates in 2024. Expectations and reality are two very different stories, but the expectations being baked into the end of 2023 certainly look promising for the times to come.
- Equity market investors were likely pleased by the results that accompanied December. International developed large cap companies, as measured by the MSCI EAFE index, led the way, generating 5.31% in returns. The S&P 500, which tracks US large cap companies, returned a sound 4.54%. The MSCI EM index – which represents the performance of emerging market equities – were right in the mix, returning 3.91%. The US Dollar, which tends to correlate well with emerging market performance, largely weakened in December, facilitating healthier gains.
- Yields took another nosedive in December as the Fed challenged its own higher-for-longer narrative. US Treasury bonds – as exemplified by the Bloomberg US Treasury index – returned 3.36% in December, as the 10-year yield fell by a considerable 45 bps in the month to 3.88%. US corporate bonds, as tracked by the Bloomberg Corp Bond index, were even better off, as they returned 4.34%. These products, of course, tend to follow trends in domestic equity performance. Municipal bonds, as tracked by the Bloomberg Municipal TR index, fell a step behind after a meteoric November, generating 2.32% in returns.
- Oil fell again in December, despite ever-persistent geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. It closed at a price of \$71.65 on the final day of the month, thereby returning -5.67%. The US dollar lost against both the Japanese Yen and Euro, returning -4.83% and -1.39%, respectively.

INDEX RETURNS (%)



FOCUS ITEMS

	12/29/23	11/30/23	1-Mth Change	12/29/22
U.S. Dollar (\$) / Japanese Yen (¥)	141.04	148.20	-4.83%	131.12
Euro (€) / U.S. Dollar (\$)	1.10	1.09	1.39%	1.07
Gold	2078.40	2035.45	2.11%	1813.75
10-Year Treasury Yield	3.88	4.33	-10.34%	3.87
Light Crude Oil	71.65	75.96	-5.67%	80.26

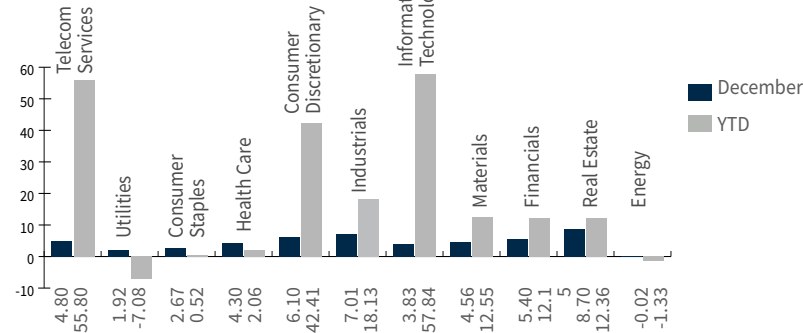
INTERNATIONAL EQUITY RETURNS (%)

	DECEMBER	YTD	5-Years*
MSCI EAFE Growth NR USD	5.72	17.58	8.81
MSCI EAFE NR USD	5.31	18.24	8.16
MSCI EAFE Value NR USD	4.88	18.95	7.08

FIXED INCOME SECTOR RETURNS (%)

	DECEMBER	YTD	5-Years*
Bloomberg U.S. Agg Bond TR USD	3.83	5.53	1.10
Bloomberg U.S. Treasury TR USD (1987)	3.36	4.05	0.53
Bloomberg U.S. Corp Bond TR USD	4.34	8.52	2.63
Bloomberg U.S. Agg Govt Reltd TR USD	3.01	5.83	1.42
Bloomberg U.S. Scrtzd MBS ABS CMBS TR USD	4.20	5.08	0.37
Bloomberg Municipal TR USD	2.32	6.40	2.25

S&P SECTOR RETURNS (%)



EQUITY STYLE RETURNS (%)

		DECEMBER					YTD		
		Value	Core	Growth			Value	Core	Growth
DECEMBER	Large	5.54	4.94	4.43	YTD	Large	11.46	26.53	42.68
	Mid	7.79	7.73	7.58		Mid	12.71	17.23	25.87
	Small	12.45	12.22	11.98		Small	14.65	16.93	18.66

*Five-year performance number is annualized. Please see next page for additional information. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Indexes are not available for direct investment. Any investor who attempts to mimic an index will incur fees and expenses which would reduce returns.

THIS MATERIAL IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE USED OR CONSTRUED AS A RECOMMENDATION REGARDING ANY SECURITY OUTSIDE OF A MANAGED ACCOUNT.

There is no assurance that any investment strategy will be successful or that any securities transaction, holdings, sectors or allocations discussed will be profitable. It should not be assumed that any investment recommendation or decisions made in the future will be profitable or will equal any investment performance discussed herein. Investing involves risk, including loss.

Fixed-income securities pose various risks including credit, market and liquidity, interest rate, reinvestment, legislative, and call risks. Specific sector investing can be subject to different and greater risks than more diversified investments.

Investing in small-cap and mid-cap stocks generally involves greater risks, and, therefore, may not be appropriate for every investor. International investing also involves special risks, including currency fluctuations, different financial accounting standards, and possible political and economic volatility. There is an inverse relationship between interest rate movements and fixed income prices. Generally, when interest rates rise, fixed income prices fall and when interest rates fall, fixed income prices generally rise. Commodities trading is generally considered speculative because of the significant potential for investment loss.

Specific sector investing such as real estate can be subject to different and greater risks than more diversified investments. Declines in the value of real estate, economic conditions, property taxes, tax laws and interest rates all present potential risks to real estate investments.

ASSET CLASS RETURNS: Source: Russell, Bloomberg Barclays, Dow Jones, JP Morgan, Morningstar Direct

S&P 500 SECTOR RETURNS: [Source: Standard & Poor's] Returns are based on the GICS Classification model. Returns are cumulative total return for stated period, including reinvestment of dividends.

STYLE RETURNS: [Source: Russell] Style box returns based on the GICS Classification model. All values are cumulative total return for stated period including reinvestment of dividends. The Indices used from L to R, top to bottom are: Russell 1000 Value Index, Russell 1000 Index, Russell 1000 Growth Index, Russell Mid-cap Value Index, Russell Mid-cap Index, Russell Mid-cap Growth Index, Russell 2000 Value Index, Russell 2000 Index, and Russell 2000 Growth Index.

INTERNATIONAL EQUITY STYLE RETURNS, AND FOCUS ITEMS: Source: Morningstar Direct

FIXED INCOME SECTORS: [Source: Bloomberg Barclays] Returns based on the four sectors of Barclays Global Sector Classification Scheme: Securitized (consisting of U.S. MBS Index, the ERISA-Eligible CMBS Index, and the fixed-rate ABS Index), Government Related (consisting of U.S. Agencies and non-corporate debts with four subsectors: Agencies, Local Authorities, Sovereign, and Supranational), Corporate (dollar denominated debt from U.S. and non-U.S. industrial, utility, and financial institutions issuers), and Treasuries (includes public obligations of the U.S. Treasury that have remaining maturities of one year or more). Please note that all indices are unmanaged and investors cannot invest directly in an index. An investor who purchases an investment product which attempts to mimic the performance of an index will incur expenses that would reduce returns. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

INDEX DESCRIPTIONS:

BBgBarc EM Hard Currency Aggregate: Covers countries and sectors of the emerging markets fixed income investment universe, which includes USD-denominated emerging markets corporate and government-related debt.

BBgBarc Global Agg. ex-U.S. Dollar: Measures changes in global investment-grade, fixed-rate debt markets. It combines non-U.S. dollar-denominated versions of the Pan-European Index and the Japanese, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand components of the Global Treasury Index.

BBgBarc U.S. Aggregate Bond Index: Measures changes in the fixed rate debt issues rated investment grade or higher by Moody's Investors Service, Standard and Poor's, or Fitch Investor's Service, in that order. The Aggregate Index is comprised of the Government/Corporate, the Mortgage-Backed Securities, and the Asset-Backed Securities indices.

BBgBarc U.S. Corporate Investment Grade: A component of the U.S. Credit index. Publicly issued U.S. corporate and specified foreign debentures and secured notes that meet the specified maturity, liquidity, and quality requirements. To qualify, bonds must be SEC-registered.

BBgBarc U.S. Government: The U.S. Government component of the U.S. Government/Credit Index comprised of securities issued by the U.S. Government; also including public obligations of the U.S. Treasury with remaining maturity of one year or more, and publicly issued debt of U.S. Government agencies, quasi-federal corporations, and corporate or foreign debt guaranteed by U.S. Government. Must be a publicly issued, dollar-denominated and non-convertible. Must be rated investment-grade (Baa3/BBB- or higher) by at least two of the following rating agencies: Moody's, S&P or Fitch; regardless of call features, have at least one year to final maturity, and have an outstanding par value amount of at least \$250 million.

BBgBarc U.S. High Yield 2% Issuer Cap index: Issuer-constrained version of the flagship U.S. Corporate High Yield Index, which measures the USD-denominated, high yield, fixed-rate corporate bond market. The index follows the same rules as the uncapped version, but limits the exposure of each issuer to 2% of the total market value and redistributes any excess market value index wide on a pro rata basis.

BBgBarc U.S. 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 prerefunded bonds local general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, insured bonds, and prerefunded bonds.

BBgBarc U.S. Securitized: The index is a composite of asset-backed securities, collateralized mortgage-backed securities (ERISA-eligible) and fixed rate mortgage-backed securities.

BBgBarc U.S. Treasury: A component of the U.S. Government Index. Must be publicly issued, dollar-denominated and non-convertible, fixed rate (although it may carry a coupon that steps up or changes according to a predetermined schedule) U.S. Treasury security. Must be rated investment-grade (Baa3/BBB- or higher) by at least two of the following rating agencies: Moody's, S&P or Fitch; regardless of call features, have at least one year to final maturity, and have an outstanding par value amount of at least \$250 million.

Bloomberg Commodities Index: Provides a diversified representation of commodity markets as an asset class. The index is comprised of exchanged-traded futures on physical commodities; representing 20 commodities which are weighted for economic significance and market liquidity. To promote diversification, weighting restrictions are placed on individual commodities and commodity groups.

MSCI EAFE (Europe, Australasia, Far East): A free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure developed market equity performance, excluding the United States and Canada. The EAFE consists of the country indices of 21 developed nations.

MSCI EAFE Growth: Represents approximately 50% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization of the MSCI EAFE index, and consists of those securities classified by MSCI as most representing the growth style.

MSCI EAFE Small Cap: Offer an exhaustive representation of this size segment by targeting companies that are in the Investable Market Index but not in the Standard Index in a particular developed market. The indices include Value and Growth style indices and industry indices based on the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS).

MSCI EAFE Value: Represents approximately 50% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization of the MSCI EAFE index, and consists of those securities classified by MSCI as most representing the value style.

MSCI Emerging Markets: A free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure equity market performance of emerging markets. As of July 2, 2014, the index consists of the following 23 emerging market country indices: Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Russia, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates.

Russell 2000: Measures the performance of the 2,000 smallest companies in the Russell 3000 Index, which represent approximately 10% of the total market capitalization of the Russell 3000 Index.

Russell Mid-cap: Measures the performance of the 800 smallest companies of the Russell 1000 Index, which represent approximately 31% of the total market capitalization of the Russell 1000 Index.

Standard & Poor's 500 (S&P 500): Measures changes in stock market conditions based on the average performance of 500 widely held common stocks. Represents approximately 68% of the investable U.S. equity market.

The Dow Jones Global Select REIT Index: Intends to measure the performance of publicly traded real estate securities. The indices are designed to serve as proxies for direct real estate investment, in part by excluding companies whose performance may be driven by factors other than the value of real estate. This index represents equity real estate investment trusts (REITs) and real estate operating companies (REOCs) traded globally.

DEFINITIONS:

Small-cap stocks refers to a company's capitalization as determined by the total market value of its publicly traded shares.

Large-cap stocks are generally defined as those with market capitalizations of more than \$10 billion.

Energy sector is a category of stocks that relate to producing or supplying energy.

Commodity is a basic good used in commerce that is interchangeable with other commodities of the same type.

Commodities are most often used as inputs in the production of other goods or services.

Fixed income is a type of investment in which real return rates or periodic income is received at regular intervals and at reasonably predictable levels.

High-yield bond is a high paying bond with a lower credit rating than investment-grade corporate bonds, Treasury bonds and municipal bonds.

International: This asset class represents managers that seek long term capital appreciation by investing primarily in companies outside of the United States, including emerging markets in some instances. Companies of all cap sizes may be considered. Investments are primarily ADR equities and may be subject to additional risks such as currency fluctuations, differing financial accounting standards by country, and possible political and economic risks.

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