

# Q1

## Quarterly Market Review First Quarter 2024

# Quarterly Market Review

First quarter 2024

The financial markets continued to make strong gains in Q1. Three of the five asset classes\* we follow were higher in Q1; only commodities and Real Estate (REITs) were down, but only mildly; The big winner were US Equities (SP500) - up by double digits. For high net worth investors we believe that equities are the better choice for increasing their wealth after inflation and taxes. Hence our equity bias in our client portfolios.

The financial news remains upbeat most likely due to the continued strong performance. We are also optimistic, but our view is for a more muted performance in 2024 versus 2023 especially in the equity markets. And we also anticipate a more volatile year in the markets due to the elections.

The strong US equity returns were driven by the so-called “**Magnificent 7**”. But we also know that though these are great profit making businesses, they also represent only a handful out of the five hundred S&P500 companies. And, they are predominantly in one sector – technology. So we are also very aware that their dominance reduces broad market diversification.

The legendary investor, Warren Buffett gave the stock market a human avatar – “**Mister Market**”. Loosely paraphrasing him, he said that Mister Market was generally well behaved, but from time to time became excessively pessimistic and at other times excessively optimistic.

Drawing on his avatar, we think that most of the time Mister Market delivers reasonable returns to investors. But from time to time takes away the returns he gave to investors (Bear Markets) and at other times he is generous beyond reasonableness and gives investors more than they should expect (Bull markets).

We believe that in Q1 of 2024 Mr. Market was in a most generous mood; a mood that will undoubtedly reverse and he will take away some of the gains he gave investors. But, experience shows that over time his well-behaved personality will exert itself. Hence, we ask our investors to take his erratic moods in stride by not reacting to them. In plain English: “Take the ups and downs of the market in your stride; over time you will be fairly rewarded as has happened in history”.

Our investment philosophy for high net worth investors with a long-term horizon remains steadfast: we are not seeing any new data or concepts to warrant changes. Our approach is: diversify portfolios over the main asset classes, keep a bias towards Equities, and keep a relentless focus on managing costs. We think this is a very feasible investment strategy to build assets and to ensure a comfortable retirement.

*\* Our Asset classes are: Cash, Fixed income, Equities, Real Estate, and Commodities and we think these pretty much cover the investable investment universe.*

10 Apr 2024

## Our evidence-based Investment Philosophy

*We seek to double clients' wealth every 10-12 years and to do it without exposing portfolios to the risk of a permanent loss of capital. Our objective is to preserve the money you invest with us and to maintain its value over time. Of course, performance cannot be guaranteed, and past performance is not indicative of future results.*

*Our portfolios are sensibly diversified across the five main asset classes, and with markets becoming increasingly global, we seek opportunities regardless of where they are located.*

*We strive to manage investments prudently, using the value-style oriented approach of buying high quality investments when they are available at attractive (inexpensive) prices.*

*We select investments to get better total returns fully recognizing that risk management, cash requirements, tax considerations, social investing demand, etc. may reduce returns of portfolios.*

*We use both active and indexed portfolio management techniques depending on market conditions. When markets offer opportunities, or as we uncover compelling ideas, active portfolio management is useful. At other times our default position is to use evidence-based indexed investments.*

*We believe that market conditions are important, especially when clients add to or withdraw capital. At these times, we pay attention to market trends based on the relative attractiveness of major asset classes and our expectations about their future performance. But normally, we do not attempt to time the market; research suggests it is futile.*

*We use fundamental techniques, quantitative approaches, and behavioral finance to guide us when we buy and sell securities and strive to take the least amount of risk that is consistent with a client's objectives – as distinct from shooting for the highest returns.*

*This article is provided on an informational basis only. It reflects the author's opinions as of the dates cited and these opinions may change at any time. It should not be considered as providing investment advice, nor is there any guarantee that any forecast or opinion will be achieved. The data contained are believed to be reliable but no representation is made concerning their accuracy.*

*Past performance is not a guide to future performance.*

# Quarterly Market Review

First quarter 2024

This report features world capital market performance and a timeline of events for the past quarter. It begins with a global overview, then features the returns of stock and bond asset classes in the US and international markets. The report concludes with a quarterly topic.

## Overview:

Market Summary

World Stock Market Performance

US Stocks

International Developed Stocks

Emerging Markets Stocks

Country Returns

Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)

Commodities







Fixed Income

Global Fixed Income

Quarterly Topic: The Next BlackBerry?

# 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
Q1 2024	STOCKS				BONDS	
	10.02%	5.59%	2.37%	-1.19%	-0.78%	0.58%
						
Since Jan. 2001						
Average Quarterly Return	2.4%	1.6%	2.5%	2.2%	0.9%	0.9%
Best Quarter	22.0%	25.9%	34.7%	32.3%	6.8%	5.4%
	<b>2020 Q2</b>	<b>2009 Q2</b>	<b>2009 Q2</b>	<b>2009 Q3</b>	<b>2023 Q4</b>	<b>2023 Q4</b>
Worst Quarter	-22.8%	-23.3%	-27.6%	-36.1%	-5.9%	-4.1%
	<b>2008 Q4</b>	<b>2020 Q1</b>	<b>2008 Q4</b>	<b>2008 Q4</b>	<b>2022 Q1</b>	<b>2022 Q1</b>

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. Market segment (index representation) as follows: US Stock Market (Russell 3000 Index), International Developed Stocks (MSCI World ex USA Index [net dividends]), Emerging Markets (MSCI Emerging Markets Index [net dividends]), Global Real Estate (S&P Global REIT Index [net dividends]), US Bond Market (Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index), and Global Bond Market ex US (Bloomberg Global Aggregate ex-USD Bond Index [hedged to USD]). S&P data © 2024 S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, a division of S&P Global. All rights reserved. Frank Russell Company is the source and owner of the trademarks, service marks, and copyrights related to the Russell Indexes. MSCI data © MSCI 2024, all rights reserved. Bloomberg data provided by Bloomberg.

# Long-Term Market Summary

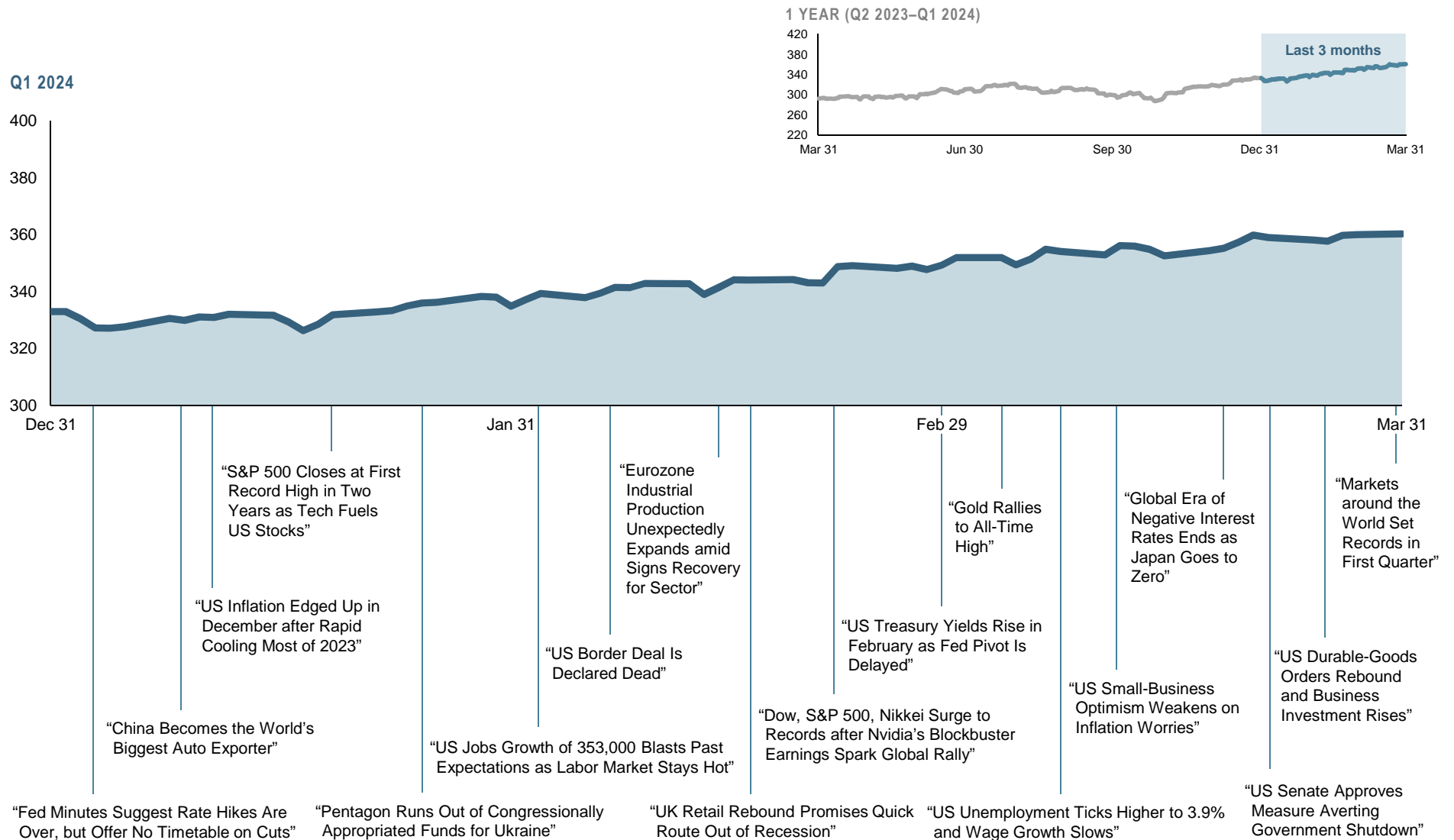
Index returns as of March 31, 2024

	US Stock Market	International Developed Stocks	Emerging Markets Stocks	Global Real Estate	US Bond Market	Global Bond Market ex US
1 Year	STOCKS				BONDS	
	29.29%	15.29%	8.15%	7.44%	1.70%	5.92%
						
5 Years						
	14.34%	7.48%	2.22%	1.21%	0.36%	1.03%
						
10 Years						
	12.33%	4.81%	2.95%	3.89%	1.54%	2.64%
						

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# World Stock Market Performance

MSCI All Country World Index with selected headlines from Q1 2024



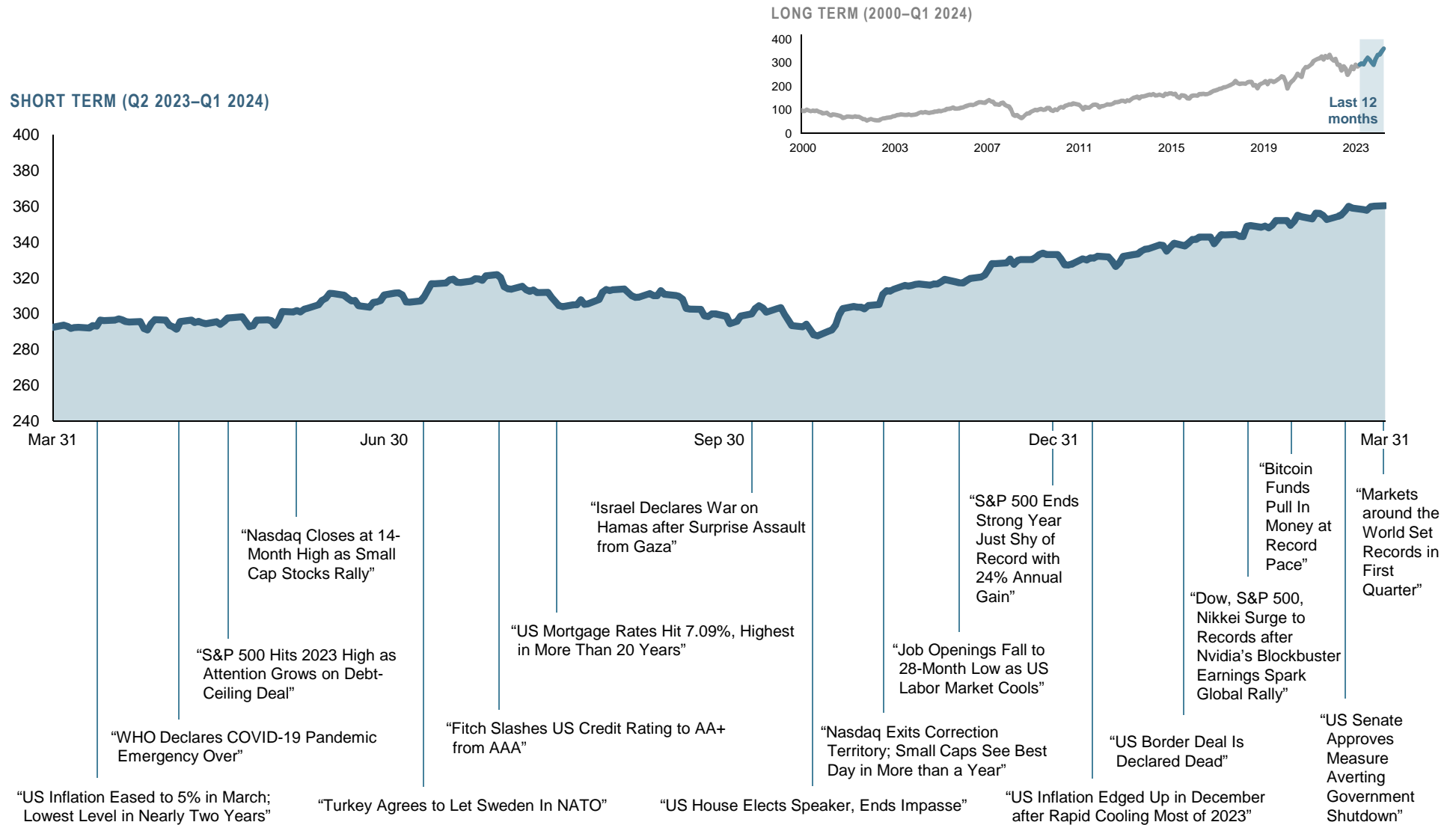
*These headlines are not offered to explain market returns. Instead, they serve as a reminder that investors should view daily events from a long-term perspective and avoid making investment decisions based solely on the news.*

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

## First quarter 2024 index returns

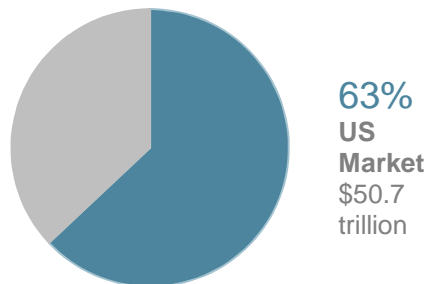
The US equity market posted positive returns for the quarter and outperformed both non-US developed and emerging markets.

Value underperformed growth.

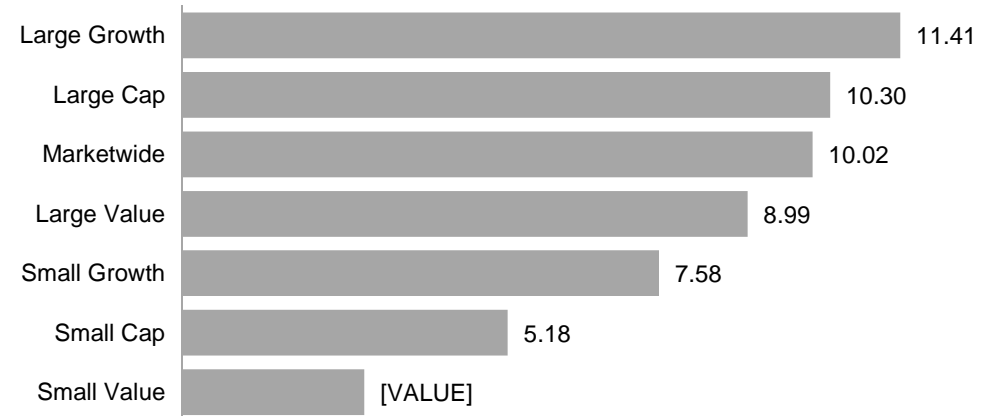
Small caps underperformed large caps.

REIT indices underperformed equity market indices.

### World Market Capitalization—US



### Ranked Returns (%)



### Period Returns (%)

Asset Class	QTR	1 Year	Annualized		
			3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Large Growth	11.41	39.00	12.50	18.52	15.98
Large Cap	10.30	29.87	10.45	14.76	12.68
Marketwide	10.02	29.29	9.78	14.34	12.33
Large Value	8.99	20.27	8.11	10.32	9.01
Small Growth	7.58	20.35	-2.68	7.38	7.89
Small Cap	5.18	19.71	-0.10	8.10	7.58
Small Value	2.90	18.75	2.22	8.17	6.87

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. Market segment (index representation) as follows: Marketwide (Russell 3000 Index), Large Cap (Russell 1000 Index), Large Value (Russell 1000 Value Index), Large Growth (Russell 1000 Growth Index), Small Cap (Russell 2000 Index), Small Value (Russell 2000 Value Index), and Small Growth (Russell 2000 Growth Index). World Market Cap represented by Russell 3000 Index, MSCI World ex USA IMI Index, and MSCI Emerging Markets IMI Index. Russell 3000 Index is used as the proxy for the US market. Dow Jones US Select REIT Index used as proxy for the US REIT market. MSCI data © MSCI 2024, all rights reserved. Frank Russell Company is the source and owner of the trademarks, service marks, and copyrights related to the Russell Indexes.

# International Developed Stocks

## First quarter 2024 index returns

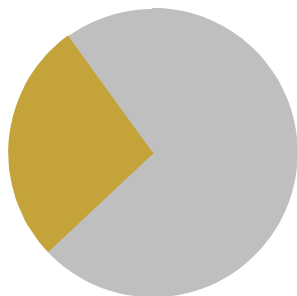
Developed markets outside of the US posted positive returns for the quarter and underperformed the US market, but outperformed emerging markets.

Value underperformed growth.

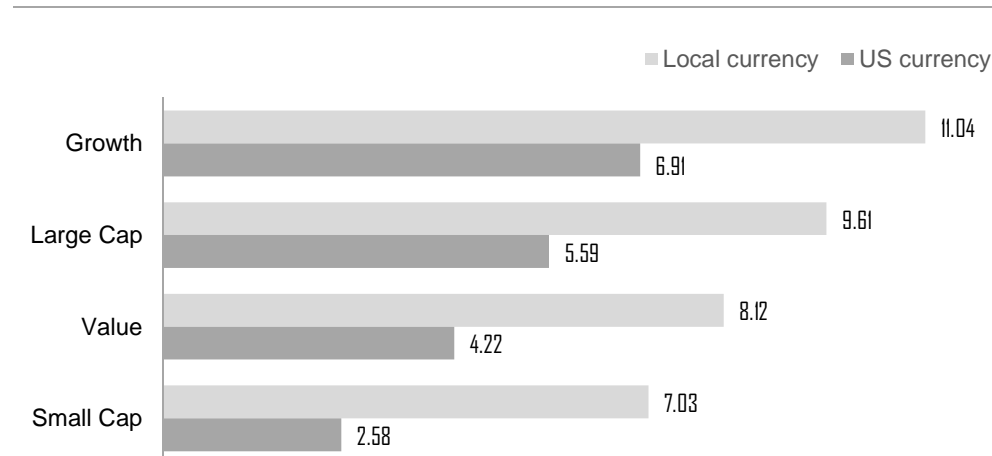
Small caps underperformed large caps.

### World Market Capitalization—International Developed

27%  
International  
Developed  
Market  
\$21.9 trillion



### Ranked Returns (%)



### Period Returns (%)

Asset Class	QTR	1 Year	Annualized		
			3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Growth	6.91	13.66	2.83	7.86	5.74
Large Cap	5.59	15.29	4.93	7.48	4.81
Value	4.22	16.90	6.80	6.62	3.61
Small Cap	2.58	10.04	-0.93	5.39	4.54

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# Emerging Markets Stocks

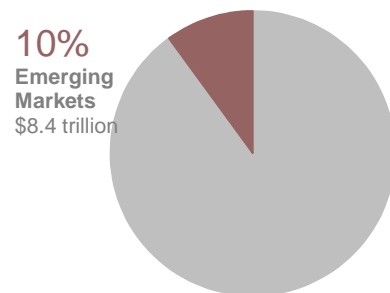
## First quarter 2024 index returns

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

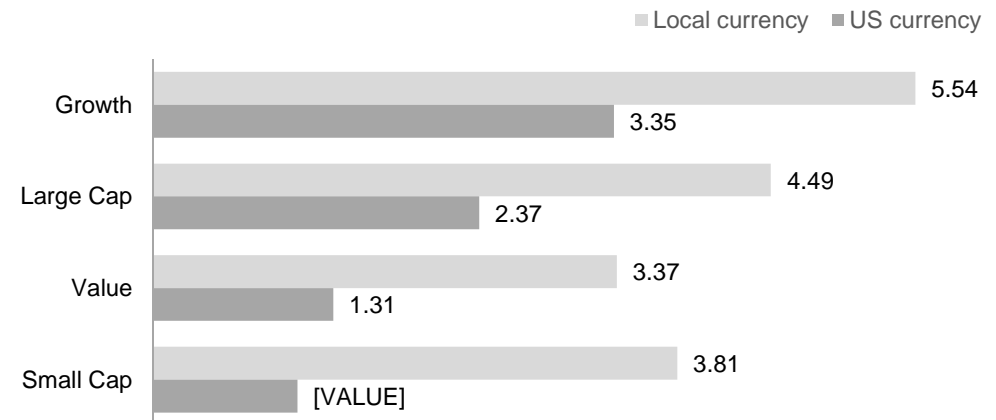
Value underperformed growth.

Small caps underperformed large caps.

### World Market Capitalization—Emerging Markets



### Ranked Returns (%)



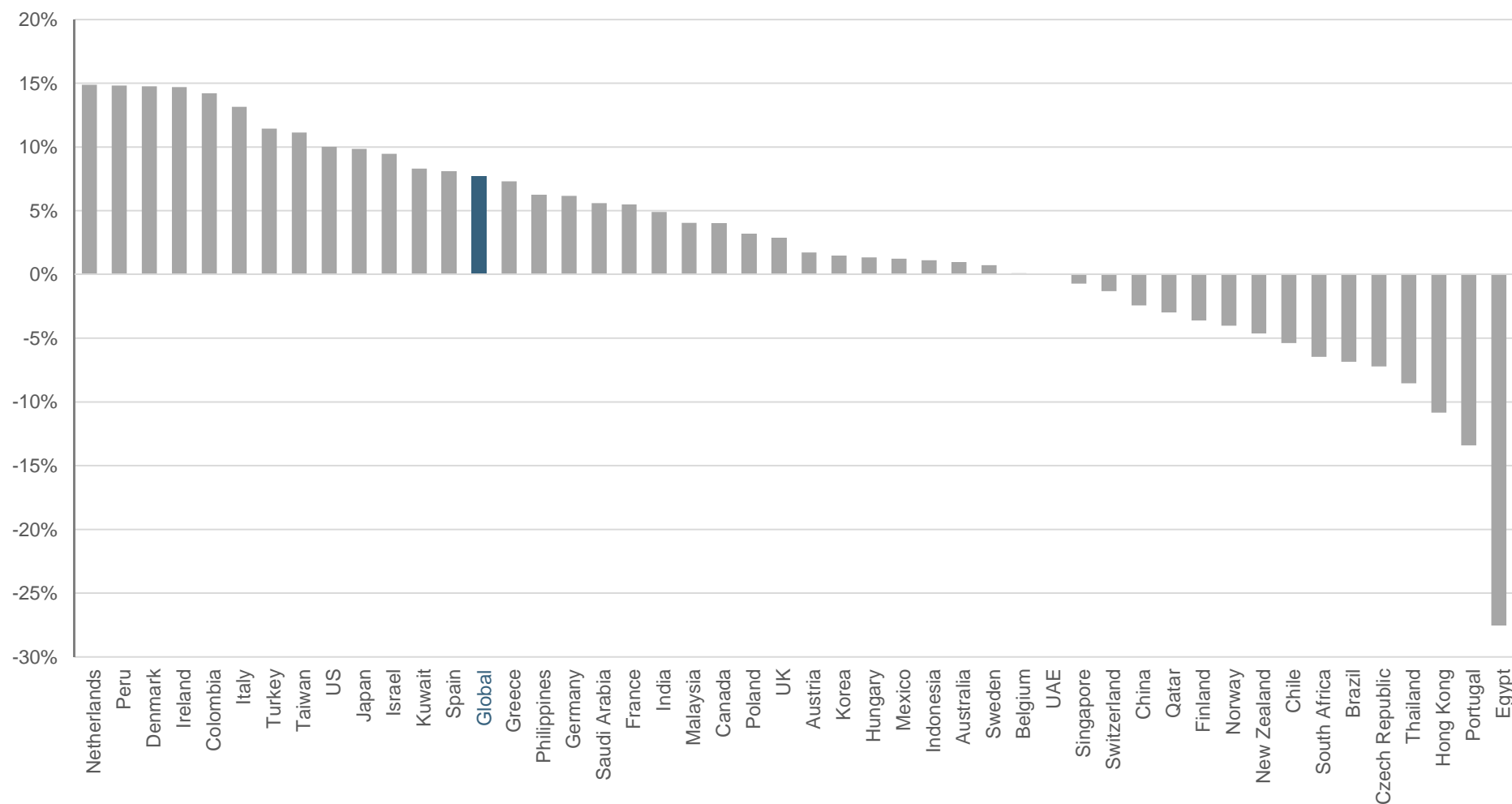
### Period Returns (%)

Asset Class	QTR	1 Year	Annualized		
			3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Growth	3.35	5.16	-8.85	2.24	3.63
Large Cap	2.37	8.15	-5.05	2.22	2.95
Value	1.31	11.36	-0.91	2.09	2.15
Small Cap	1.05	20.56	4.23	8.51	5.09

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# Country Returns

First quarter 2024 index returns



**Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**

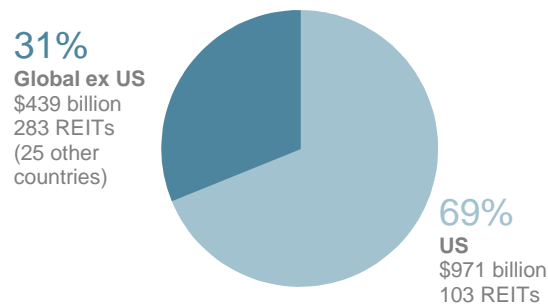
Country returns are the country component indices of the MSCI All Country World IMI Index for all countries except the United States, where the Russell 3000 Index is used instead. Global is the return of the MSCI All Country World IMI Index. MSCI index returns are net dividend. Indices are not available for direct investment. Their performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio. Frank Russell Company is the source and owner of the trademarks, service marks and copyrights related to the Russell Indexes. MSCI data © MSCI 2024, all rights reserved.

# Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)

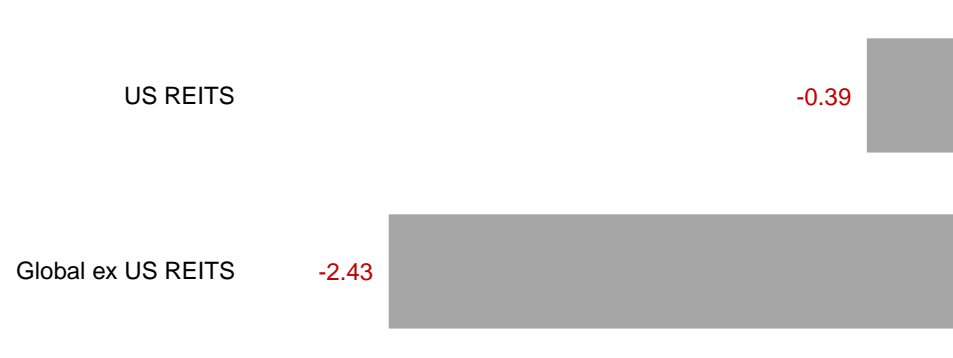
## First quarter 2024 index returns

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

### Total Value of REIT Stocks



### Ranked Returns (%)



### Period Returns (%)

Asset Class	QTR	1 Year	Annualized		
			3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
US REITS	-0.39	10.45	3.69	2.99	5.91
Global ex US REITS	-2.43	3.96	-4.19	-2.21	1.35

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. Number of REIT stocks and total value based on the two indices. All index returns are net of withholding tax on dividends. Total value of REIT stocks represented by Dow Jones US Select REIT Index and the S&P Global ex US REIT Index. Dow Jones US Select REIT Index used as proxy for the US market, and S&P Global ex US REIT Index used as proxy for the World ex US market. Dow Jones and S&P data © 2024 S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, a division of S&P Global. All rights reserved.

# Commodities

## First quarter 2024 index returns

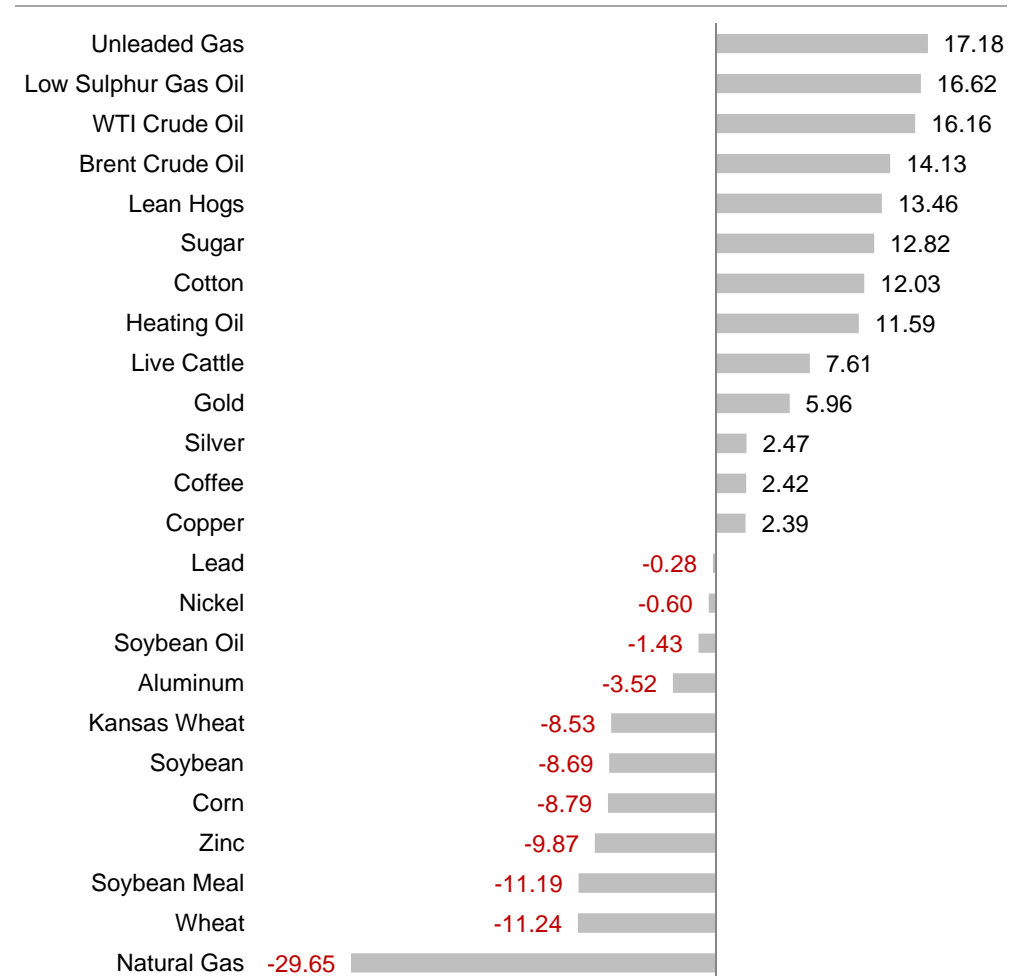
The Bloomberg Commodity Total Return Index returned +2.19% for the first quarter of 2024.

Unleaded Gas and Low Sulfur Gas Oil were the best performers, returning +17.18% and +16.62% during the quarter, respectively. Natural Gas and Wheat were the worst performers, returning -29.65% and -11.24% during the quarter, respectively.

### Period Returns (%)

Asset Class	QTR	Annualized			
		1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Commodities	2.19	-0.56	9.11	6.38	-1.56

### Ranked Returns (%)



# Fixed Income

## First quarter 2024 index returns

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

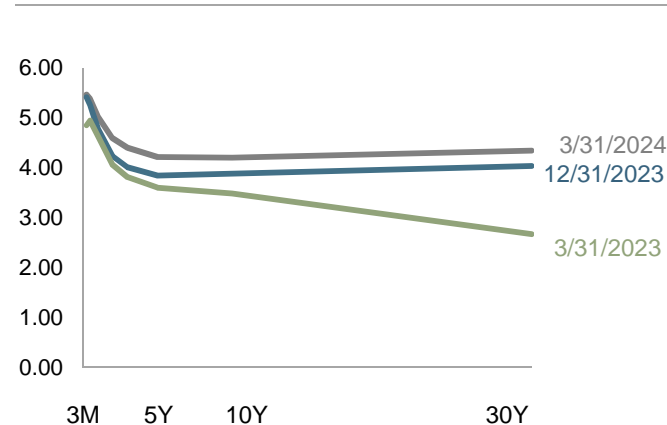
On the short end of the yield curve, the 1-Month US Treasury Bill yield decreased 11 basis points (bps) to 5.49%, while the 1-Year US Treasury Bill yield increased 24 bps to 5.03%. The yield on the 2-Year US Treasury Note increased 36 bps to 4.59%.

The yield on the 5-Year US Treasury Note increased 37 bps to 4.21%. The yield on the 10-Year US Treasury Note increased 32 bps to 4.20%. The yield on the 30-Year US Treasury Bond increased 31 bps to 4.34%.

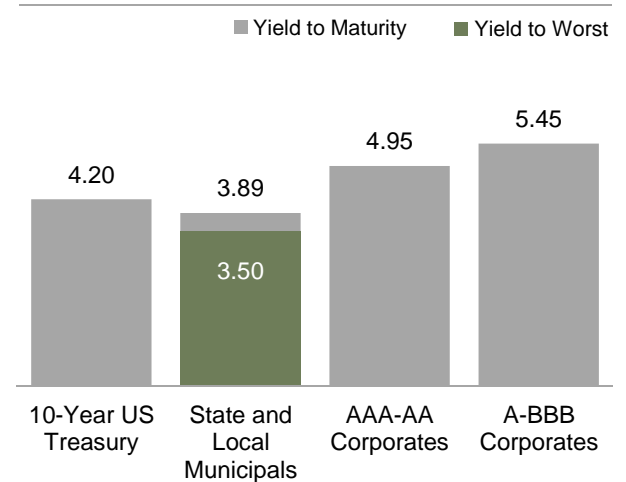
In terms of total returns, short-term US treasury bonds returned -0.05% while intermediate-term US treasury bonds returned -0.36%. Short-term corporate bonds returned +0.60% and intermediate-term corporate bonds returned +0.26%.<sup>1</sup>

The total returns for short- and intermediate-term municipal bonds were -0.19% and -0.52%, respectively. Within the municipal fixed income market, general obligation bonds returned -0.70% while revenue bonds returned -0.27%.<sup>2</sup>

### 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. High Yield Corporate Bond Index	1.47	11.15	2.19	4.21	4.44
ICE BofA US 3-Month Treasury Bill Index	1.29	5.24	2.58	2.02	1.38
ICE BofA 1-Year US Treasury Note Index	0.83	4.30	1.44	1.66	1.25
FTSE World Government Bond Index 1-5 Years (hedged to USD)	0.26	3.66	0.11	1.16	1.41
Bloomberg U.S. TIPS Index	-0.08	0.45	-0.53	2.49	2.21
Bloomberg Municipal Bond Index	-0.39	3.13	-0.41	1.59	2.66
Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index	-0.78	1.70	-2.46	0.36	1.54
FTSE World Government Bond Index 1-5 Years	-1.35	1.27	-2.61	-0.40	-0.68
Bloomberg U.S. Government Bond Index Long	-3.24	-6.03	-8.01	-2.77	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

## First quarter 2024 yield curves

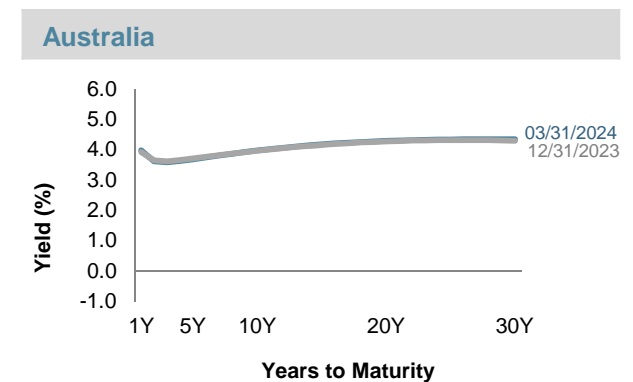
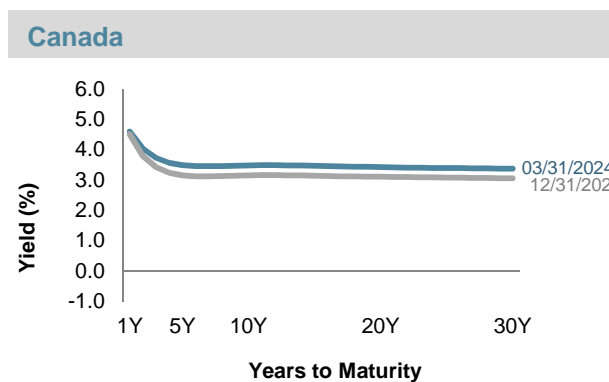
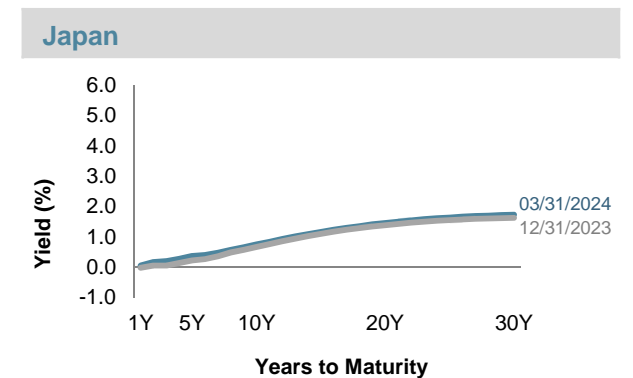
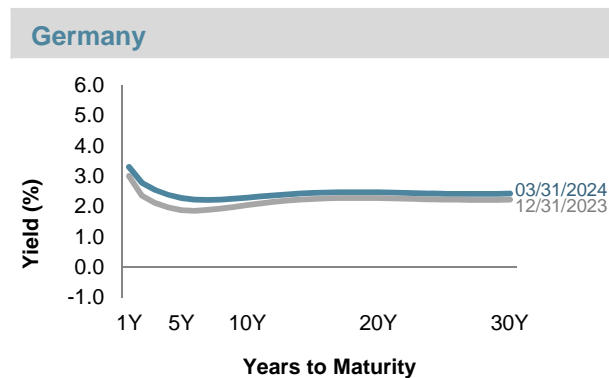
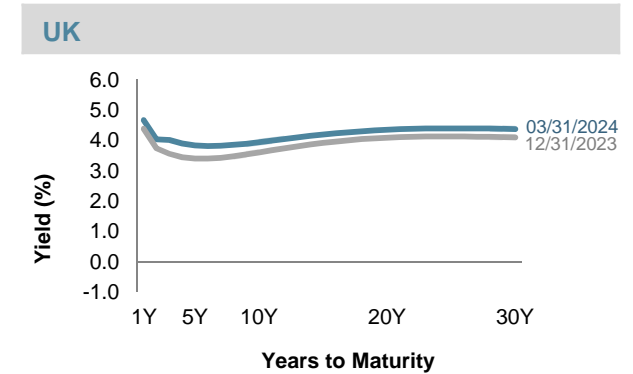
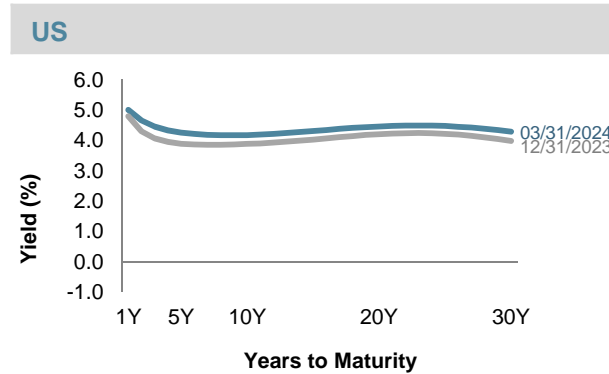
Interest rates generally increased across global developed markets for the quarter. Short-term rates in Japan turned positive.

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

In Australia, short- and intermediate-term rates decreased. However, in Australia, UK, Germany, and Canada, the short-term segment of the yield curve remained inverted.

### Changes in Yields (bps) since 12/31/2023

	1Y	5Y	10Y	20Y	30Y
US	21.7	36.7	29.4	25.5	31.5
UK	27.7	43.7	33.7	25.8	28.2
Germany	29.6	40.0	24.8	19.0	20.2
Japan	8.1	14.0	7.9	7.1	10.1
Canada	8.4	33.3	32.8	31.9	31.9
Australia	5.7	-2.9	0.9	1.7	4.9





# The Next BlackBerry?

First quarter 2024

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

Some investors attribute the Magnificent 7 stocks' dominance to a "winner-take-all" environment in which a handful of companies achieve sufficient market share to hinder competition.<sup>1</sup> In businesses where gaining users drives success, establishing a strong market share may be like building a moat around profitability. But that doesn't guarantee these companies can stay on top.

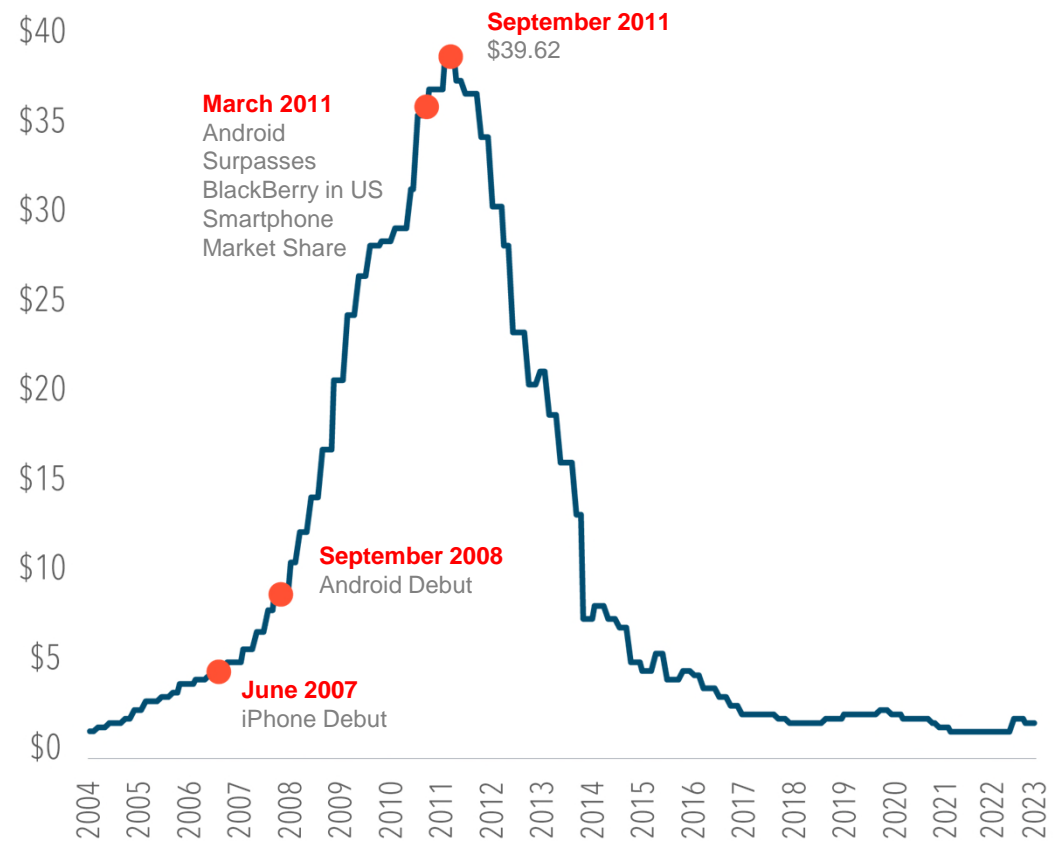
Think about the state of mobile phones 15 years ago. In all likelihood, you would have been reading this on a BlackBerry, such as that device's entrenchment for mobile business communication. Then, along came iPhones and Androids and suddenly BlackBerry's foothold was eroded.

History is littered with examples of household names that were usurped by the Next Big Thing. Remember, Sears was a Top 10-sized stock in the US once upon a time. AOL was synonymous with internet access in the 1990s. And in 2003, the most popular social media network starting with the letter F was Friendster.

Even the biggest companies have uncertain futures, highlighting the need for broadly diversified investments. And even if these companies stay at the top of the market, that's no assurance higher returns will continue if their success is expected.

## BLACKBERRY TRAILING 12-MONTH SALES PER SHARE

February 2004–January 2024



1. Magnificent 7 include Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, Meta, Microsoft, Nvidia, and Tesla. Named securities may be held in accounts managed by Dimensional. See following page for important disclosure.

# The Next BlackBerry?

(continued from page 15)

## **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**

In USD. Source: FactSet.

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## **RISKS**

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