



# **Rose Capital Advisors Market Commentary & Outlook**

**Immaculate Disinflation**

Q1 2024

# Keeping Score: What We Got Right and Wrong in Q4

## What we Got Right:



### **“Powerful Seasonality Trends Cannot Be Ignored”**

We mentioned that October-December is historically the strongest 3-month stretch of the year for equities. We expected more volatility in October but that markets would rally in November & December.



### **“Underweight High Dividend Equities”**

Higher bond yields challenged higher yielding equities throughout 2023. This trend continued in Q4, with the S&P 500 (+11.7%) outperforming Utilities (+8.5%) and Staples (5.4%).



### **“US Over Developed Europe”**

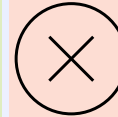
We believed the US economy is more resilient and would have a better chance of avoiding a Recession



### **“Don’t Fight the AI Secular Wave”**

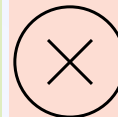
We cautioned investors who were underweight AI, as we believed this secular theme is still in the early innings.

## What We Got Wrong:



### **“Hope for a Soft Landing but Prepare for Hard Landing”**

We correctly called for “higher for longer” rates in 2023 and that inflation would remain stickier between 3.0-4.0%. However, we believed the Fed would maintain “hawkish” language until 2024. The “Powell Pivot” at the December Fed meeting took the market (and us) by surprise and brings rate cuts into play in Q1 2024.



### **“Short-Term Treasuries Still Attractive”**

We believed hawkish Fed language in Q4 would continue to benefit short-term Treasuries. Instead, yields plunged as the Fed pivoted to rate cuts in 2024. Longer duration treasuries (as measured by the iShares 20+ Year Treasury ETF) rallied 12.9% in Q4.

Source: Bloomberg, Morningstar Direct and Dynasty Financial Partners

# 2023 Winners & Losers

## Artificial Intelligence

ChatGPT hit 100 million users in just 5 days and the AI race officially began, with Nvidia & Microsoft among the winners

## Federal Reserve

Could the Fed orchestrate a “soft landing” for the economy after peak inflation of 9.1%? The market believes so

## Japan

Japanese equities rallied roughly 20% on strong economic growth and friendly corporate reform for investors

## “Magnificent 7”

Big Tech rebounded after a dismal 2022, with Nvidia (+239%) and Meta (194%) and Tesla (101%) the best performers

## India

Markets rallied to all-time highs over strong economic growth, with GDP hitting 7.6% in most recent quarter

## Long Duration Treasuries

Long-duration Treasuries (as measured by iShares US 20+ Year Treasury) hit 50%+ drawdowns due to rising rates

## Regional Banks

Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank were the second and third largest bank failures in US history, respectively

## China

A failed Covid re-opening and housing crisis weighed on the second largest economy in the world

## Oil

Oil prices finished negative on the year, in part due to record US production and a weakening Chinese economy

## Congress

A downgrade of the US Credit Rating, an ousted House Speaker, and a looming Government Shutdown early in '24

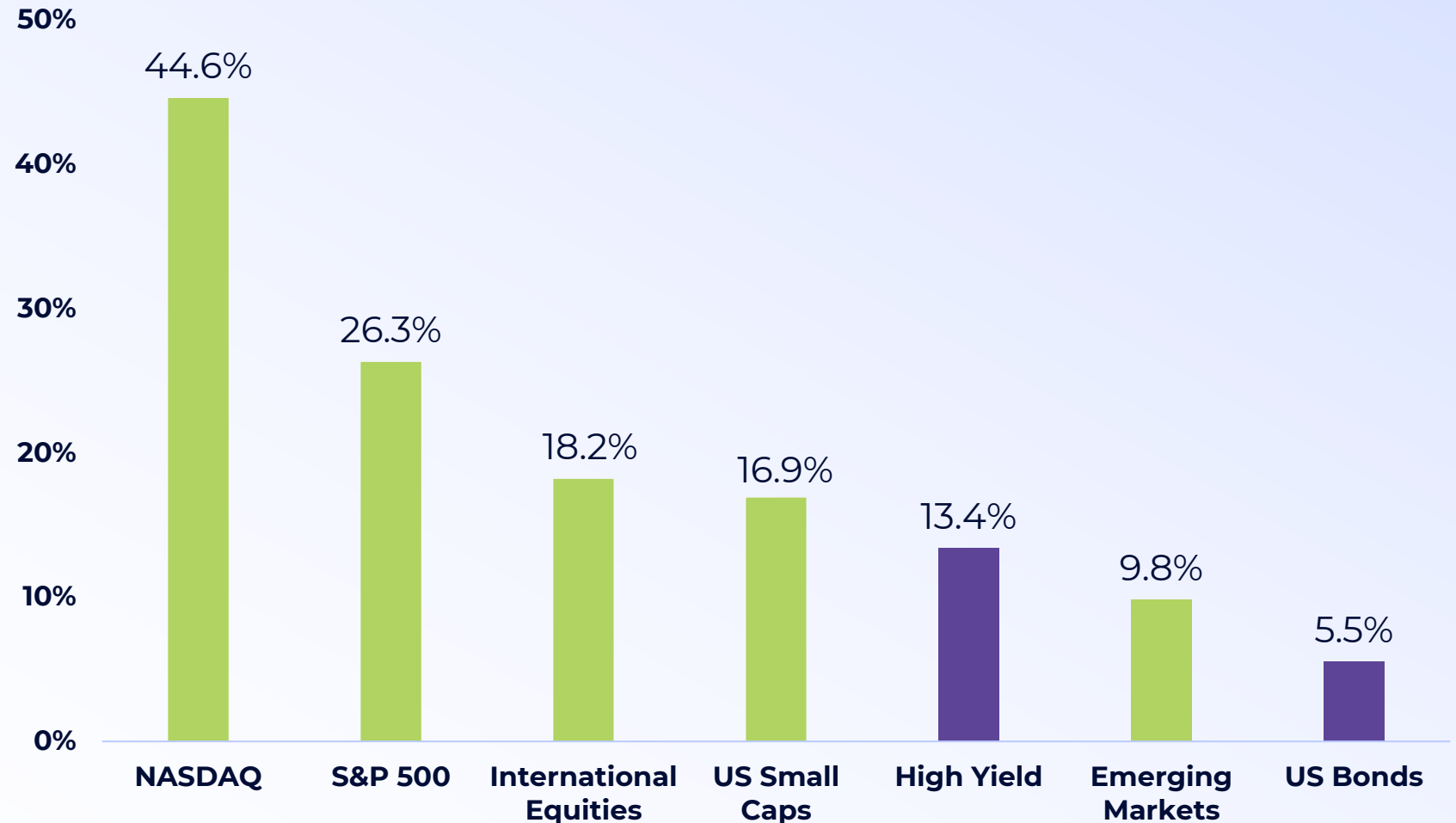
Source: Morningstar Direct, Bloomberg, Bespoke Investment Group and Dynasty Financial Partners

As of 12/31/2023

# S&P 500 Approaching All-Time Highs

- Four themes dominated 2023:
  - Artificial Intelligence
  - “Magnificent 7”
  - Federal Reserve
  - Inflation
- The S&P 500 ended the year on a nine-week winning streak, its longest since 2004.
- US Small Caps and Bonds were both negative YTD though October, but significantly rallied into year-end on the hopes of a “soft landing” and rate cuts.

## 2023 Performance by Asset Class



Source: Bloomberg, Morningstar Direct and Dynasty Financial Partners

As of 12/31/2023

International Equities: MSCI EAFE, US Small Caps: Russell 2000, High Yield: Bloomberg US High Yield 2% Issuer Cap, Emerging Markets: MSCI EM, US Bonds: Bloomberg US Agg Bond

# A Tale of Three Markets in 2023

- **January – July:** Markets rallied to start 2023, in part due to:
  - Lower valuations and buzz around Artificial Intelligence
  - A flight to safety in Big Tech due to the Banking Crisis
- **August – October:** Bad news hit the markets, including:
  - Fitch Downgrade of US Debt Rating
  - Property Crisis in China
  - Surging Treasury Yields, US Dollar and Oil Prices
- **November – December:** Markets Rallied into Year-End due to:
  - Declining Treasury Yields, Inflation, Oil Prices
  - “Powell Pivot” and belief the Fed tightening cycle is over

## Returns by Asset Class

Asset Class	Jan-Jul 2023	Aug-Oct 2023	Nov-Dec 2023
Large Cap	20.6%	(8.2%)	14.1%
Large Growth	33.4%	(7.6%)	15.8%
Large Value	8.8%	(9.7%)	13.5%
Small Cap	14.7%	(16.7%)	22.4%
International	15.3%	(10.9%)	15.1%
Emerging Markets	11.4%	(12.2%)	12.2%
US Bonds	2.0%	(4.7%)	8.5%

Source: Morningstar Direct & Bloomberg

\*As of 12/31/2023

Large Cap: S&P 500, Large Growth: Russell 1000 Growth, Large Value: Russell 1000 Value, Small Cap: Russell 2000, International: MSCI EAFE, Emerging Markets: MSCI EM, US Bonds: Bloomberg US Agg

# Key Indicators Signaling a “Soft Landing”

Key Indicator	Signaling Recession?
Nonfarm Payrolls	NO
Consumer Price Index	NO
Oil Prices	NO
Citi Economic Surprise Index	NO
Credit Spreads	NO
US Retail Sales	NO
Home Sales	NO
Inverted Yield Curve	YES
Tighter Credit Conditions	YES
Financial or Geopolitical Shock	YES

The market is pricing in a “soft landing” for the economy, in part due to:

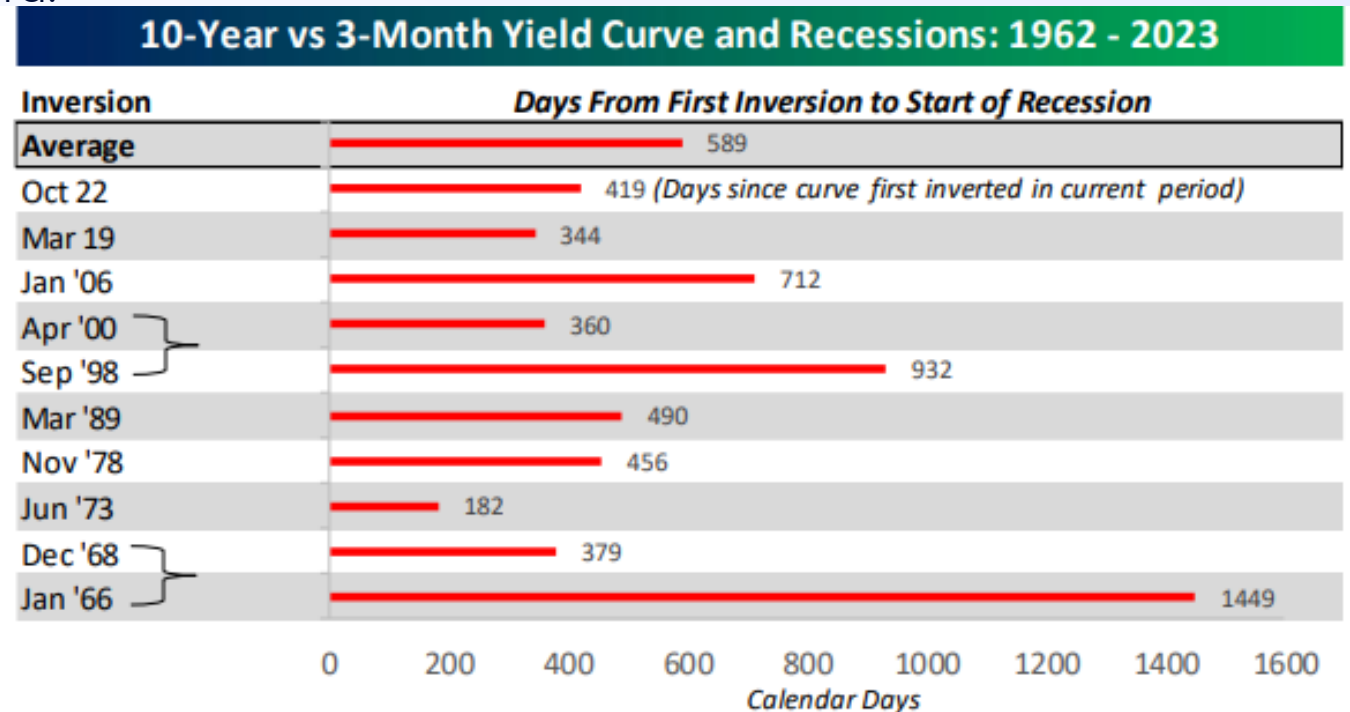
- Strong Labor Market
  - Falling Inflation & Oil Prices
  - Narrow Credit Spreads
  - Resilient Consumer & Housing Market
- Recession risks include:
    - Households Running Out of Excess Savings
    - Student Loan Repayments Restarting
    - Stickier Inflation
    - Rising Consumer Delinquency Rates
    - Slowing Bank Lending
    - Slowing Job Growth

Source: Bloomberg and Dynasty Financial Partners  
As of 12/31/2023

# Inverted Yield Curve Continues to Signal a Recession

Every US Recession since the 1950s has been preceded by an inverted yield curve. The 10-year and 3-month yield curve is closely watched by investors and first inverted 419 days ago. History shows a Recession begins much later after a yield curve initially inverts. In fact, the average number of total days from the first date of inversion to the start of a Recession has been 589 days (dating back to the late-1960s). This leaves the current inversion period well below the historical average of when a Recession would begin.

An important reminder is the current yield curve has remained inverted for 284 consecutive trading days - its longest inversion on record.



As of 12/20/2023

Source: Bespoke Investment Group

Inversions followed by same Recession

Data highlights first inversion with no other inversions in prior twelve months.



# The “Powell Pivot”: Major Change in Fed Language

Monetary policy historically operates with a lagged effect on the economy. This makes it much trickier for Fed officials to determine when to stop raising rates, but it’s clear from the Fed’s most recent meeting that officials are now focusing on rate cuts in 2024. To highlight the “Powell pivot”, we compare key quotes below from Fed Chair Powell’s press conferences in November & December.

## ***Notable Quotes from Fed Chair Powell’s Press Conference:***

### **November 2023**

- ***“We’re not confident yet that we have achieved such a sufficiently restrictive stance”***
- ***“Inflation has been coming down, but it’s still running well above our 2 percent target”***
- ***“The fact is the Committee is not thinking about rate cuts right now at all. We’re not talking about rate cuts.”***

### **December 2023**

- ***“We believe that our policy rate is likely at or near its peak for this tightening cycle...”***
- ***“Want to be reducing restriction on the economy well before 2 percent...so you don’t overshoot...”***
- ***“Question of when it will become appropriate to begin dialing back the amount of policy restraint in place, that begins to come into view...and a discussion for us at our meeting today”***

Source: US Federal Reserve  
As of 12/31/2023



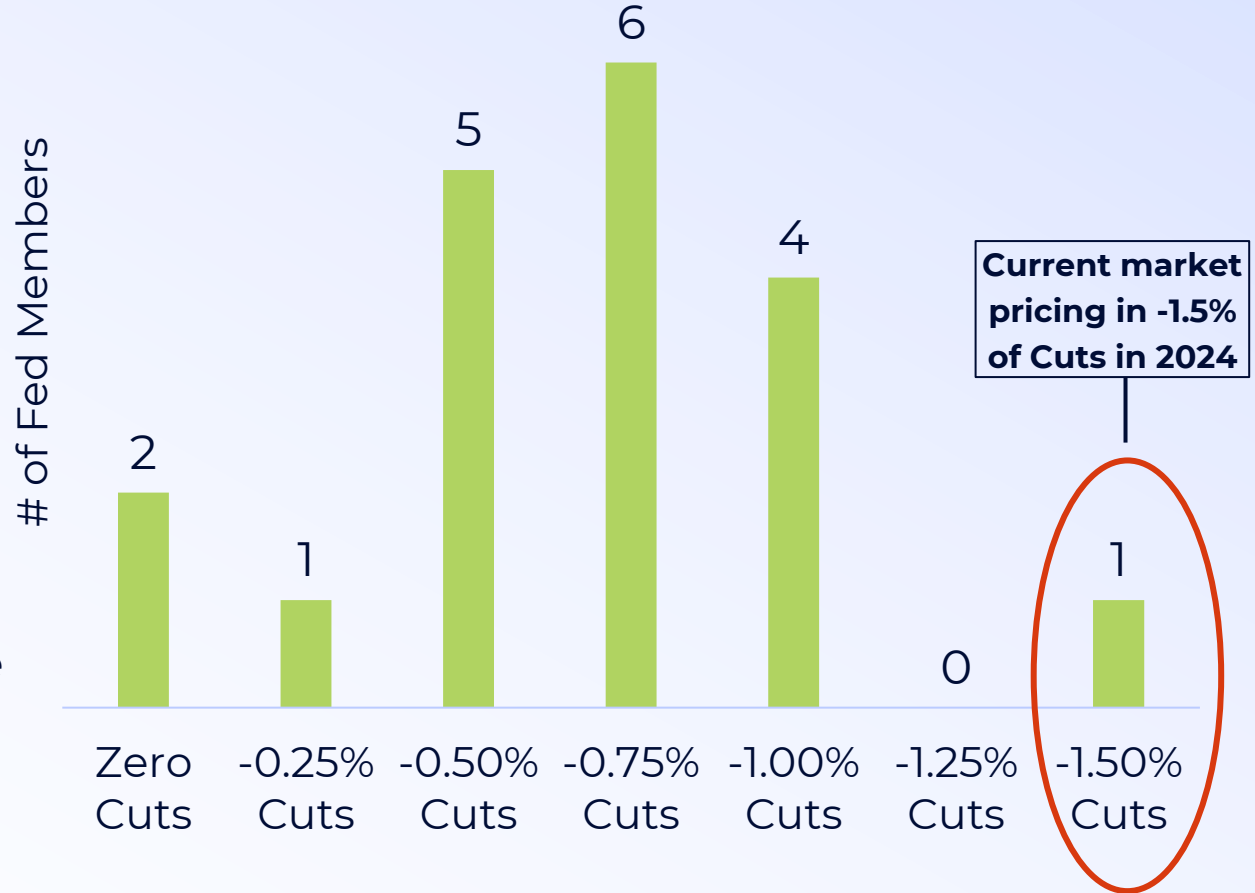
# The “Powell Pivot”: Rate Cuts Expected in 2024

The “Powell Pivot” was also on full display when the Fed released their quarterly “Dot Plot” at the December meeting. The “Dot Plot” summarizes where FOMC members expect the Fed Funds Rate to finish in future years.

As shown to the right, a majority (6) of FOMC members expect 75 basis points of cuts in 2024. However, the market is currently pricing in 150 basis points of cuts in 2024. Once again, market expectations differ from the Fed.

The markets are also pricing in a 78% chance the first rate cut will occur at the March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. **Given the runup in equity prices and loosening financial conditions, we believe the Fed will do its best to hold off cutting rates until the second quarter.**

### Fed Projections: Rate Cuts in 2024 (basis points)



Source: US Federal Reserve & CME FedWatch Tool  
As of 12/31/2023  
Fed Projections are from December 2023 meeting

# Historically How Long Until the Fed Cuts?

As the market turns its attention to rate cuts, the next question is when will the Fed begin cutting interest rates? In looking back over the past 30 years, **the Fed has averaged roughly 10 months between the last hike and first cut.** Given the last rate hike in this cycle occurred in July 2023, this would put the Fed on pace to beginning cutting in May 2024. It's important to note the Fed historically has cut as early as 5 months after the last hike, and as late as 18 months (dating back to 1995).

Last Fed Hike	First Fed Cut	Time Between Last Hike & First Cut	Reason for Cut
Feb 1995	Jul 1995	5 Months	Soft Landing
Mar 1997	Sep 1998	18 Months	Asian Financial Crisis
May 2000	Jan 2001	7.5 Months	Tech Bubble
Jun 2006	Sep 2007	14.5 Months	Housing Bubble
Dec 2018	Jul 2019	7 Months	Slowing Global Economy
Jul 2023	<i>May 2024?</i>	-	?
<b>Average</b>		<b>10.5 Months</b>	

Source: US Federal Reserve & Bloomberg

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Projection for May 2024 Rate Cut is based on historical average between last Fed hike & first cut

# History Points to the Bull Market Continuing

Despite volatility in 2023, US Stocks remain in a bull market that technically started on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

As shown on the right, Bull Markets can last many years and typically are much longer than Bear Markets. Excluding the current Bull Market, the US has seen 11 different Bull Markets dating back to the early 1960s – with a median return of 96%. The current Bull market has only returned 28%.

If the current Bull Market were to end, it would be one of the weakest and shortest bull markets. Since the early 1960s there have only been two shorter bull markets (2001-2002 and 2008-2009).

History of S&P 500 Bull Markets (Post 1960)			
Start Date	End Date	Return	# of Days
6/26/1962	2/9/1966	79.8%	1,324
10/7/1966	11/29/1968	48.0%	784
5/26/1970	1/11/1973	73.5%	961
10/3/1974	11/28/1980	125.6%	2,248
8/12/1982	8/25/1987	228.8%	1,839
12/4/1987	3/24/2000	582.1%	4,494
9/21/2001	1/4/2002	21.4%	105
7/23/2002	10/9/2007	96.2%	1,904
11/20/2008	1/6/2009	24.2%	47
3/9/2009	2/19/2020	400.5%	3,999
3/23/2020	1/3/2022	114.4%	651
10/12/2022	???	28.4%	445
<b>Median</b>		<b>96.2%</b>	<b>1,324</b>

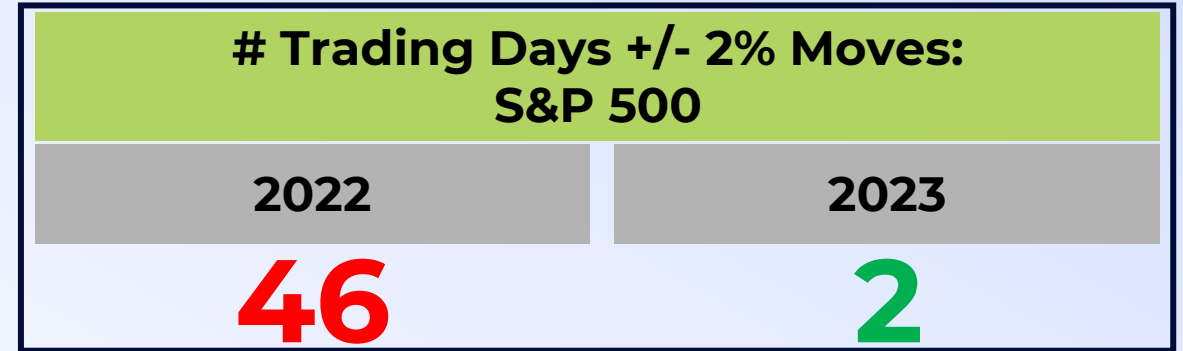
Source: Bespoke Investment Group  
As of 12/31/2023



# Investment Implications

## 1. Expect Volatility to Return Early in 2024:

Volatility was historically low in 2023 despite major geopolitical events and a hawkish Fed. In 2023 there were only **two** trading days where the S&P 500 saw +/- 2% moves compared to **46** trading days in 2022. We expect volatility to return early in 2024.



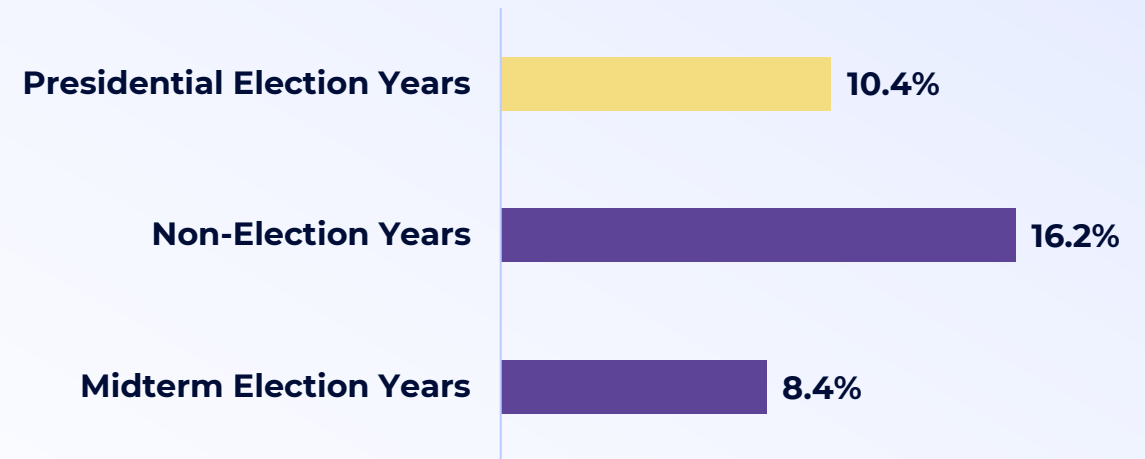
As of 12/31/2023  
Source: Morningstar

## 2. Presidential Election Years Historically Strong for Equities:

The strongest equity returns during a 4-year Presidential cycle have historically occurred during Non-Election Years, averaging 16.2% dating back to 1948. We witnessed this in 2023 with the S&P 500 rallying roughly 26%. Looking to 2024, Presidential Election years have averaged returns of 10.4%.

In next year's Presidential Election, we expect a rematch of 2020. President Trump may all but lock up the Republican Nomination by "Super Tuesday" (March 5<sup>th</sup>) if he performs strongly in the first four primaries (Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada, and South Carolina). We also expect President Biden to re-run barring any health concerns.

## Average Return for US Stocks (1948-2023)



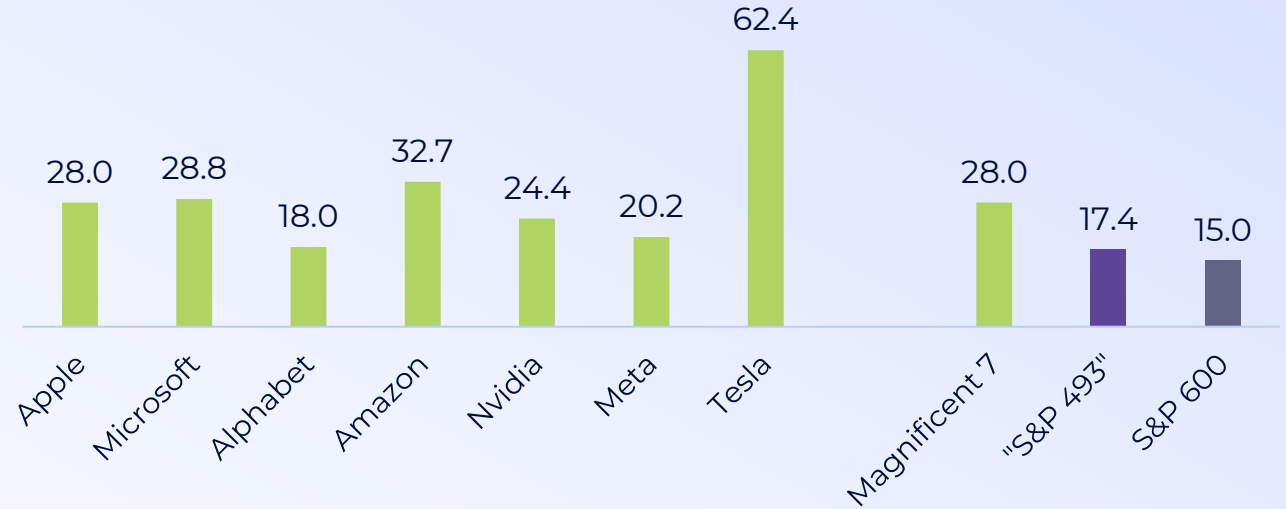
As of 12/31/2023  
Source: Dynasty Financial Partners  
US Stocks represented by S&P 500 index

# Investment Implications (continued)

### 3. Small Caps Have Attractive Valuations:

The outperformance in Big Tech and Large Caps in 2023 has led to higher valuations. The Magnificent 7 have forward P/E ratios between 18x and 62x earnings. If we strip out these seven names, the remaining stocks in the S&P 500 have a median forward P/E of 17.4x. Despite the rally in Small Caps to end the year, the S&P 600 trades at just 15.0x. If the Fed can navigate a “soft landing,” we could see Small Caps continue to outperform.

Forward 12-Month P/E Ratio



### 4. Upside Risk to Yields:

The bond market panicked into year-end and priced in a Recession and six rate cuts in 2024. We believe the chances of both happening are low. We especially feel a 10-year yield below 4% is too low compared to inflation expectations and real interest rates. Upside risks to yields also include large budget deficits and increasing treasury issuance.

10-Year Treasury Yield (%)



Source: Bloomberg, YCharts, Bespoke, US Treasury Department and Dynasty Financial Partners

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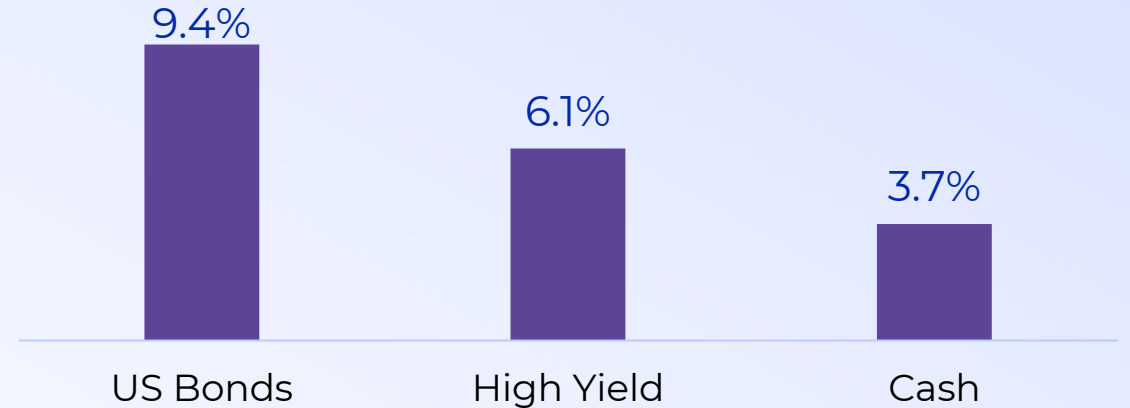
Median 12-Month Forward P/E is used for "Magnificent 7" and "Rest of S&P 493"

# Investment Implications (continued)

## 5. Core Bonds Outperform During a Fed Pause:

A Fed “pause” is historically a positive environment for fixed income, with Core Bonds (as measured by the Bloomberg US Agg Bond) outperforming High Yield and Cash. In fact, core bonds were positive during every “Fed Pause,” including the Dot-Com Bubble (dating back to 1995). Given the surge of assets in Money Market Funds, it’s important to note Cash underperformed in every “Fed pause” dating back to 1995.

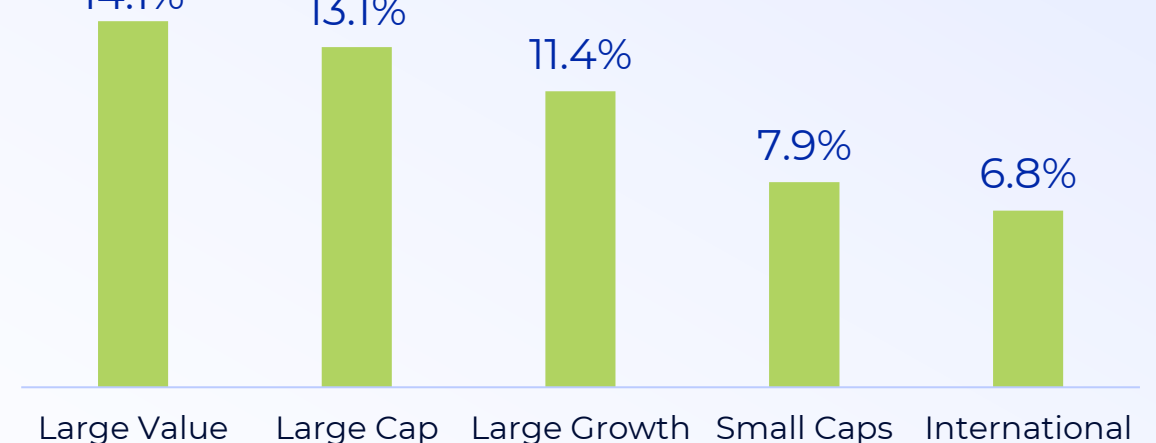
### Bond Returns Between Last Fed Hike & First Cut (Since 1995)



## 6. US Large Caps Outperform During a Fed Pause:

A Fed Pause is also historically a positive environment for equities, with Large Caps outperforming Small Caps and International equities. Large Value was the best performer and was positive during every “Fed Pause,” including the Dot-Com Bubble (dating back to 1995).

### Equity Returns Between Last Fed Hike & First Cut (Since 1995)



Source: US Federal Reserve & Bloomberg  
Large Value: Russell 1000 Value, Large Cap: S&P 500, Large Growth: Russell 1000 Growth, US Bonds: Bloomberg US Agg, Small Cap: Russell 2000, International: MSCI EAFE, US High Yield: Bloomberg US HY 2% Issuer Cap, Cash: Bloomberg US TBill 1-3 Month  
Fed Pause Dates: 2/2/1995 – 7/5/1995, 3/26/1997-9/28/1998, 5/17/2000-1/2/2001, 6/30/2006-9/17/2007, 12/20/2018-7/30/2019



# Historical Performance During a Fed “Pause”

## Asset Class Performance Between the Last Fed Hike & First Cut (1995-2023)

Asset Class	Feb 2, 1995 – July 5, 1995	Mar 26, 1997 – Sep 28, 1998	May 17, 2000 – Jan 2, 2001	Jun 30, 2006 – Sep 17, 2007	Dec 20, 2018 – Jul 30, 2019	Average	July 27, 2023 – Dec 31, 2023
Large Value	16.3%	18.0%	3.3%	14.6%	18.2%	14.1%	2.3%
Large Cap	17.7%	22.7%	(11.8%)	15.1%	21.6%	13.1%	5.2%
Large Growth	18.3%	25.2%	(27.6%)	15.2%	26.0%	11.4%	8.2%
US Bonds	9.7%	11.5%	11.7%	7.6%	6.5%	9.4%	3.1%
Small Cap	16.0%	4.5%	(7.8%)	8.3%	18.5%	7.9%	3.1%
International	6.7%	4.2%	(8.9%)	20.7%	11.5%	6.8%	3.4%
US High Yield	10.9%	6.0%	(3.7%)	8.4%	9.1%	6.1%	6.4%
Cash	2.5%	5.6%	3.9%	5.1%	1.5%	3.7%	2.4%

<b>Time Between Last Hike &amp; First Cut</b>	<b>5 Months</b>	<b>18 Months</b>	<b>7.5 Months</b>	<b>14.5 Months</b>	<b>7 Months</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>?</b>
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Source: US Federal Reserve & Bloomberg

As of 12/31/2023

Large Value: Russell 1000 Value, Large Cap: S&P 500, Large Growth: Russell 1000 Growth, US Bonds: Bloomberg US Agg, Small Cap: Russell 2000, International: MSCI EAFE, US High Yield: Bloomberg US High Yield 2% Issuer Cap, Cash: Bloomberg US Treasury Bill 1-3 Month

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