

Will the Fed Be Able to Stick the Landing?

ECONOMY

2 Here we are, on the verge of something that's never been done before: a soft landing for the U.S. economy, where inflation is brought down while growth gradually subsides, but we avoid a recession. After the devastation of the pandemic, it would be a remarkable achievement.

Slight Gain for Bonds; Markets Await Fed

FIXED INCOME

8 The Bloomberg US and Global Aggregate indices both rose 0.1%. Treasury yields were up modestly, to 4.36%. Municipal yields climbed higher than U.S. Treasury yields. Major currencies' weakness against the dollar hurt unhedged returns.

Gains Continue to Top Leveraged Loans

PRIVATE CREDIT

12 Private credit has shown a net IRR of 8.0% over the last 10 years, easily topping a leveraged loan benchmark. Sub-investment grade corporate yields rose sharply at the start of 2022 and peaked in September. Yields continued to drop in 1Q24 and spreads contracted.

Solid Gains Over Trailing One Year

INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS

4 Continued strong U.S. equity gains helped institutional investors show strong gains over the trailing one year ended 6/30/24, but a lagging bond market and lower global ex-U.S. equity performance held them back from matching a 60% stocks/40% bonds index.

Income Positive but Appreciation Falls

REAL ESTATE/REAL ASSETS

10 NPI income returns were positive across sectors and regions but all appreciation returns declined, except for hotels. REITs underperformed equities in the U.S. and globally. ODCE redemption queues have exceeded the levels hit during the Global Financial Crisis.

Managers Capitalizing on Volatility in 2Q24

HEDGE FUNDS/MACs

13 The median Callan Institutional Hedge Fund Peer Group manager rose 1.6%. Within the HFRI Indices, the best-performing strategy was relative value, which was up 1.4%. Equity hedge ended the quarter up 1.0%. Macro strategies ended the quarter slightly negative.

Strong Start to Year in U.S. but Not Globally

EQUITY

6 The U.S. equity markets had an exceptional start with the S&P 500 hitting 31 record highs over the first six months of 2024 and gaining 15.3%. Developed non-U.S. markets struggled with growing uncertainty on future economic growth. Emerging markets rebounded.

Signs of Rebound; Challenges Remain

PRIVATE EQUITY

11 The number of funds raised in 1Q24 dropped 42% vs. 1Q23, but the dollar amount was flat. This year also saw improving buyout conditions. Valuations rose amid mixed signs of recovery for venture capital and growth equity. Short-term returns lag public equity.

DC Index Starts Year with a Big Gain

DEFINED CONTRIBUTION

15 The Callan DC Index™ gained 6.6% in 1Q24. Balances rose by 6.6% after a 9.0% increase in 4Q23, driven exclusively by investment gains. Stable value saw large outflows for the sixth straight quarter. U.S. large cap equity saw large percentage increases in allocation.

Broad Market Quarterly Returns

U.S. Equity Russell 3000



3.2%

Global ex-U.S. Equity MSCI ACWI ex USA



1.0%

U.S. Fixed Income Bloomberg Agg



0.1%

Global ex-U.S. Fixed Income Bloomberg Global Agg ex US



-2.1%

Sources: Bloomberg, FTSE Russell, MSCI

Can the Fed Stick the Landing?

ECONOMY | Jay Kloepfer

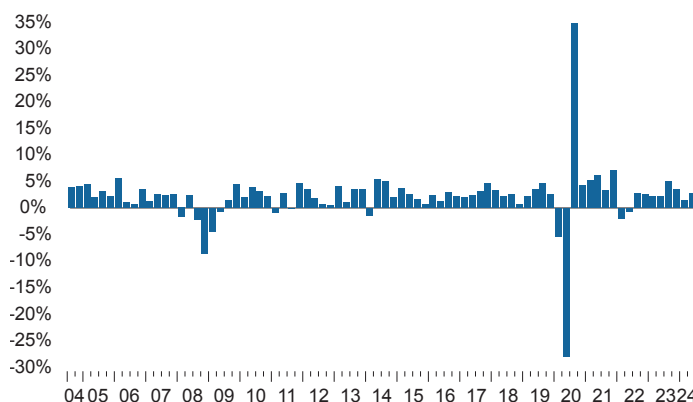
The hunt for signs of the much-anticipated slowdown in the U.S. economy continues to be thwarted. Every data release is scrutinized: Is this the one that is finally the sign of a crack in growth? The economy is clearly set to slow compared to the surprise robust growth in the second half of 2023, but key measures like stubborn inflation, a job market that has yet to sag, and persistent growth in consumption spending have kept surprising to the upside. Inflation eased from the worrisome rise in 1Q24, but still sits at 3.0% compared to a year ago, well above the Fed's target. The job market looked like it finally cracked in April, creating just 108,000 jobs after adding 800,000 in the first three months of the year. Then job growth rebounded to 218,000 in May and 206,000 in June, clearly softer than the average monthly rate of 250,000 in 2023 and the surge in 1Q, but still solid. The unemployment rate remains low at 4.1%, although initial unemployment claims have been rising gradually since the recent low set in January. The labor market is indeed softening, which should reduce pressure on wage inflation at some point.

A softer labor market will likely dampen consumer demand, and therefore provide more relief to inflation pressures. Consumer spending slowed from a robust 3% growth rate in the second half of 2023 to 1.5% in 1Q, another potential crack in the façade. Then spending rebounded to a 2.3% gain in 2Q and drove a surprising 2Q GDP growth rate of 2.8%, about double the rate expected for the quarter. In addition to consumer spending, GDP growth was driven by private inventory investment and business fixed investment, particularly in equipment and intellectual property. 1Q GDP growth came in at just 1.4%, the first sure sign of the anticipated slowdown—or so it seemed.

Interest rates have been higher for a longer period than many expected, including the Fed. There are surprisingly few signs that these higher rates have taken the expected toll on the economy. The economy does appear to be gradually slowing, current contradictory indicators like the strong GDP report aside. The cost of borrowing is sharply higher, and delinquencies in auto loans

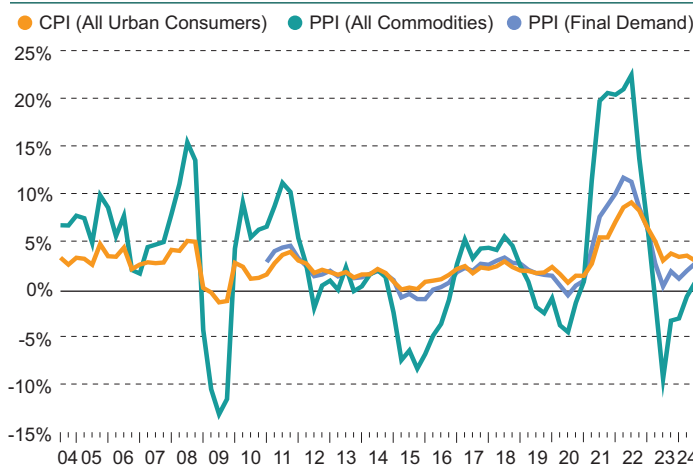
Quarterly Real GDP Growth

(20 Years)



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

Inflation Year-Over-Year



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

and credit cards are rising. The real estate market is grappling with much higher mortgage rates, although the market is showing a few unexpected features. The sale of existing homes in 2023 fell by one-third from the peak set in 2021, and the rate of sales in 2024 is holding steady at the 2023 rate. However, home prices are rising around the country. As interest rates rose, homeowners were supposedly reluctant to sell and buy again with much higher mortgage rates. However, the supply of homes for sale is rising, alongside higher prices and high mortgage rates compared to 2021, a puzzling market dynamic.

Inflation cooled in May and June after throwing a scare into both the Fed and the capital markets during the first four months of 2024. CPI had inched up to an annual rate of 3.5% in March from 3.1% in January. Then gasoline prices fell 3.6% in May and 3.8% in June, enough to bring the monthly change in the CPI to zero in May and slightly negative in June. The annual rate eased to 3.0% in June. Broad inflation may now be headed in the right direction for the Fed to act on rates. However, under the hood, inflation weighs heavily on basic items for lower- and middle-income households: shelter, food, motor vehicle insurance, and medical care. The shelter index rose 5.2% from June 2023 to June 2024 and accounted for over 60% of the increase in headline CPI this past year. While the spike in inflation may be past, the impact of prices now “permanently” higher on household budgets is likely to dampen the consumer spending that has driven the economy.

So what to make of all this contrasting economic data? Putting it in context, four years ago U.S. GDP dropped an incredible 28% in one quarter. While it quickly rebounded, the country suffered a pandemic of stunning cost, both economically and, more importantly, in terms of lost lives, severed social connections, missed education, and worsening mental health. And yet here we are, on the verge of something that’s never been done before: a soft landing for the U.S. economy, where inflation is brought down while growth gradually subsides, but we avoid a recession. It would be a remarkable achievement.

The Long-Term View

Index	2Q24	Periods Ended 6/30/24			
		1 Yr	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	25 Yrs
U.S. Equity					
Russell 3000	3.2	23.1	14.1	12.1	7.8
S&P 500	4.3	24.6	15.0	12.9	7.7
Russell 2000	-3.3	10.1	6.9	7.0	7.6
Global ex-U.S. Equity					
MSCI EAFE	-0.4	11.5	6.5	4.3	4.5
MSCI ACWI ex USA	1.0	11.6	5.5	3.8	--
MSCI Emerging Markets	5.0	12.5	3.1	2.8	--
MSCI ACWI ex USA Small Cap	0.7	11.3	6.1	4.4	6.7
Fixed Income					
Bloomberg Agg	0.1	2.6	-0.2	1.3	3.9
90-Day T-Bill	1.3	5.4	2.2	1.5	1.9
Bloomberg Long G/C	-1.7	-1.6	-2.2	1.6	5.3
Bloomberg GI Agg ex US	-2.1	-0.7	-3.6	-1.9	2.5
Real Estate					
NCREIF Property	-0.3	-5.5	3.4	6.1	7.8
FTSE Nareit Equity	0.1	7.8	3.9	5.9	9.1
Alternatives					
Cambridge PE*	1.2	5.2	14.6	13.5	13.4
Cambridge Senior Debt*	4.2	10.0	6.9	6.9	4.2
HFRI Fund Weighted	0.5	9.8	6.7	4.8	6.0
Bloomberg Commodity	2.9	5.0	7.2	-1.3	2.7
Inflation – CPI-U	0.6	3.0	4.2	2.8	2.6

*Data for most recent period lags. Data as of 1Q24.

Sources: Bloomberg, Bureau of Economic Analysis, FTSE Russell, Hedge Fund Research, MSCI, NCREIF, Refinitiv/Cambridge, S&P Dow Jones Indices

Recent Quarterly Economic Indicators

	2Q24	1Q24	4Q23	3Q23	2Q23	1Q23
Employment Cost: Total Compensation Growth	4.1%	4.2%	4.2%	4.3%	4.5%	4.8%
Nonfarm Business: Productivity Growth	2.3%	0.4%	3.5%	4.6%	3.3%	-0.3%
GDP Growth	2.8%	1.4%	3.4%	4.9%	2.1%	2.2%
Manufacturing Capacity Utilization	77.5%	77.1%	77.6%	78.1%	78.4%	78.7%
Consumer Sentiment Index (1966=100)	71.1	78.4	64.9	69.6	62.3	64.6

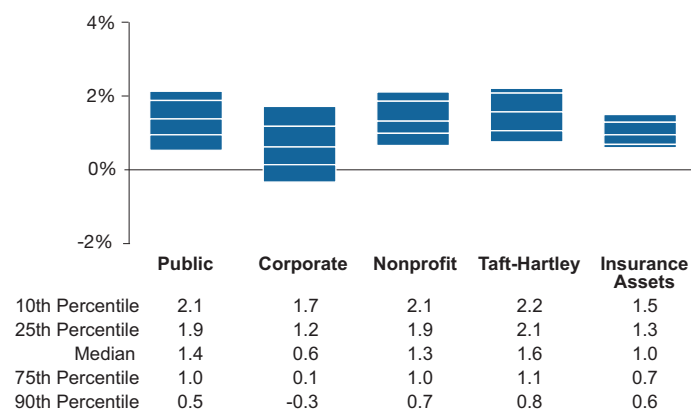
Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Federal Reserve, IHS Economics, Reuters/University of Michigan

Investors Show Gains but Still Lag Benchmark

INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS

- Continued strong U.S. equity gains helped institutional investors show robust gains over the trailing one year ended 6/30/24, but a lagging bond market and lower global ex-U.S. equity performance held them back from matching a 60% stocks/40% bonds benchmark.
- Still, most investor types showed double-digit gains.
- Corporate plans, with their typically bond-heavy portfolios, were the exception.
- Even over longer periods, the gap between institutional investor returns and the 60%/40% benchmark continued.
- Institutional investors are focused on a handful of major macroeconomic issues:
 - Interest rates and inflation
 - The U.S. election
 - Geopolitics
- Public DB plans have reviewed their allocations to fixed income and generally either confirmed the amount or made an increase.
- Plans are starting to review their fixed income structures, specifically the need for risk in a higher-rate environment.
- Plans are also starting to evaluate their exposure to risk assets, with some wondering why invest in anything besides U.S. large cap stocks and others debating whether to take risk off the table.

Quarterly Returns, Callan Database Groups (6/30/24)



Source: Callan

Public defined benefit (DB) plans

- The median discount rate, according to the most recent NASRA survey, is 7.00%.
- A 7.00% return expectation can be achieved with 50% in core fixed income.

Callan Database Median and Index Returns* for Periods Ended 6/30/24

Database Group	Quarter	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	20 Years
Public Database	1.4	11.1	3.2	7.7	7.0	7.1
Corporate Database	0.6	7.5	-0.7	4.6	5.3	6.5
Nonprofit Database	1.3	11.9	3.1	7.6	6.5	7.0
Taft-Hartley Database	1.6	11.0	3.4	7.5	6.9	6.9
Insurance Assets Database	1.0	7.8	1.0	3.5	3.7	4.5
All Institutional Investors	1.2	10.8	2.8	7.2	6.5	6.9
Large (>\$1 billion)	1.1	9.8	2.9	7.5	6.8	7.1
Medium (\$100mm - \$1bn)	1.2	10.9	2.9	7.3	6.6	7.0
Small (<\$100 million)	1.3	11.6	2.6	7.0	6.2	6.7
60% S&P 500/40% Bloomberg Agg	2.6	15.5	4.8	9.2	8.4	7.7

*Returns less than one year are not annualized.

Source: Callan. Callan's database includes the following groups: public defined benefit (DB) plans, corporate DB plans, nonprofits, insurance assets, and Taft-Hartley plans. Approximately 10% to 15% of the database constituents are Callan's clients. All database group returns presented gross of fees. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Reference to or inclusion in this report of any product, service, or entity should not be construed as a recommendation, approval, affiliation, or endorsement of such product, service, or entity by Callan.

Corporate DB plans

- Interest rate hedging continues to work.
- Funded status continues to be a major, if not the major, issue. Funded ratios for some corporate DB plans improved as the equity market increased.
- As closed plans' liabilities shorten, intermediate fixed income will continue to attract interest.
- As credit spreads have tightened, it is important to manage or reduce any overweight to credit.

Nonprofits

- Nonprofits indicated that they had noticeable uncertainty about allocations to private markets in general.
- For plans that had increased the risk in their fixed income sleeves to gain a higher yield (in the lower-rate environment), they too are reviewing the need for risk in a higher-rate environment.
- Others are worried about concentration in their growth portfolios.

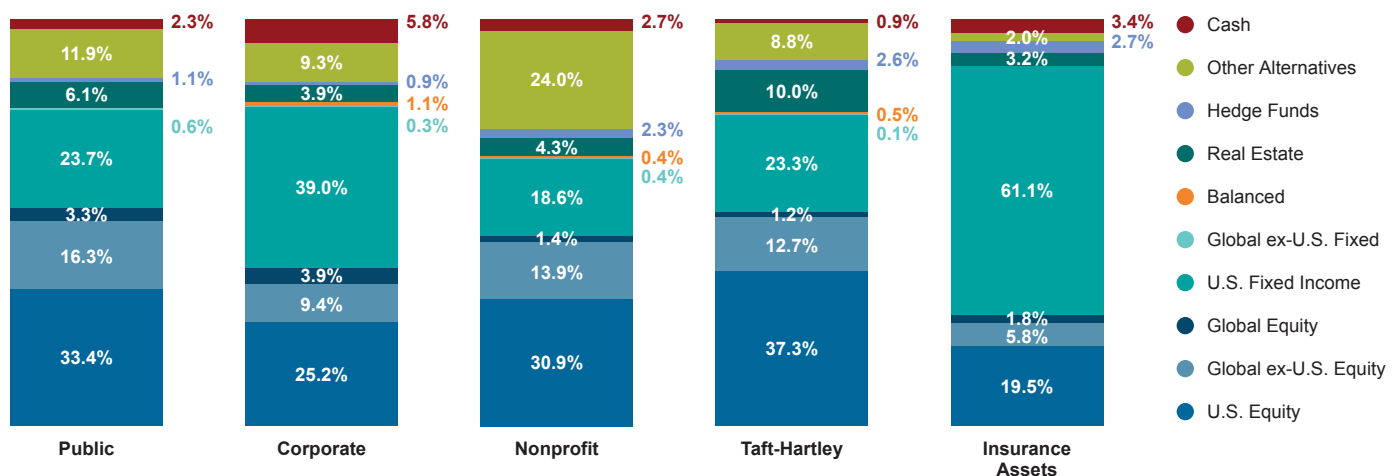
Insurance asset pools

- They are still benefiting from higher yields on short-term fixed income.
- Claims costs are higher from experienced inflation.
- Risk-based capital charges must be considered when investing in alternative investments.

Defined contribution (DC) plans

- The Callan DC Index™ gained 6.6% in 1Q24 due to the strong equity market.
- Turnover (i.e., net transfer activity) increased slightly to 0.44% from the prior quarter's 0.24%. The index's historical average remained at 0.55% and is a good reminder that participants tend to set their allocation and not make many changes.
- Automatic features typically result in target date funds (TDFs) receiving the largest net inflows in the index, as they did in 1Q24, garnering 80% of quarterly net flows. Stable value, money market, and company stock saw the largest outflows during the quarter.
- The gap in returns between money market and stable value funds continues to concern DC plans.
- Discussions are ongoing around how or whether to help participants with retirement income.

Average Asset Allocation, Callan Database Groups



Note: Charts may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Other alternatives include but is not limited to: diversified multi-asset, private credit, private equity, and real assets.
Source: Callan

Equity

U.S. Equities

Broad indices exhibit strong start to 2024

- The U.S. equity markets had an exceptional start with the S&P 500 hitting 31 record highs over the first six months of 2024 and gaining 15.3%.
- Index returns continue to be driven by a handful of stocks, especially the “Magnificent Seven,” which comprised 33% of the S&P 500 as of quarter-end. As a group, the cohort gained 33% in the first six months of the year, far exceeding the S&P 493 gain of only 5%.

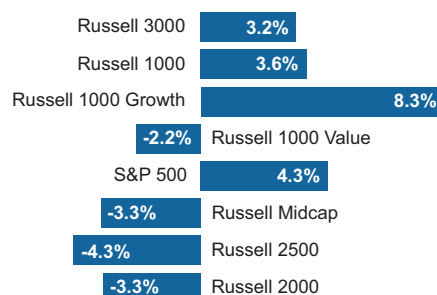
Performance underlying indices is uneven

- 2Q returns for the broad index were modest at 4.3%, but sector performance was quite mixed, ranging from –4.5% (Materials) to +13.8% (Technology), with 6 of the 11 S&P 500 sectors posting negative returns during the period.
- During 2Q, value (R1000V: –2.2%) continued to underperform growth (R1000G: +8.3%) and small cap (R2000: –3.3%) continued to underperform large cap (R1000: +3.6%).
- The “Magnificent Seven” stocks pushed large cap indices to record highs while the rest of the market traded sideways.
- Magnificent Seven stocks accounted for 116% of S&P 500 total return in 2Q24.
- YTD 2024, the bucket of Magnificent Seven stocks handily outperformed the equal weight S&P 500 Index and small cap Russell 2000 Index returns.
- Magnificent Seven returns over the trailing 3½ years (dating back to 2021) drove a large contribution of total index returns relative to the remaining ~493 stocks in the S&P 500.

- Market concentration has hit its highest level since 1972. The top 10 stocks have broken away from stocks #11-#50 to an even greater degree than in the tech bubble in 2000-01.
- The largest and most successful stocks were generating more earnings, earnings growth, and cash relative to the smaller stocks in the index. Price appreciation for the largest stocks is supported by strong earnings growth and robust economic profits.

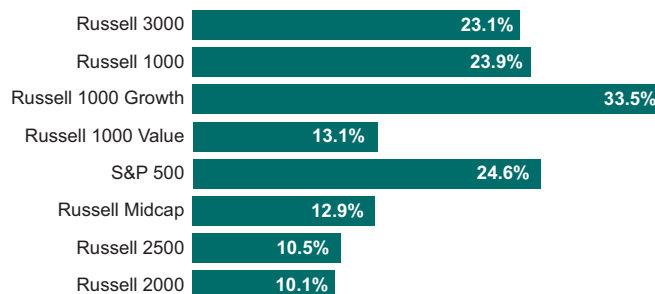
U.S. Equity: Quarterly Returns

(6/30/24)



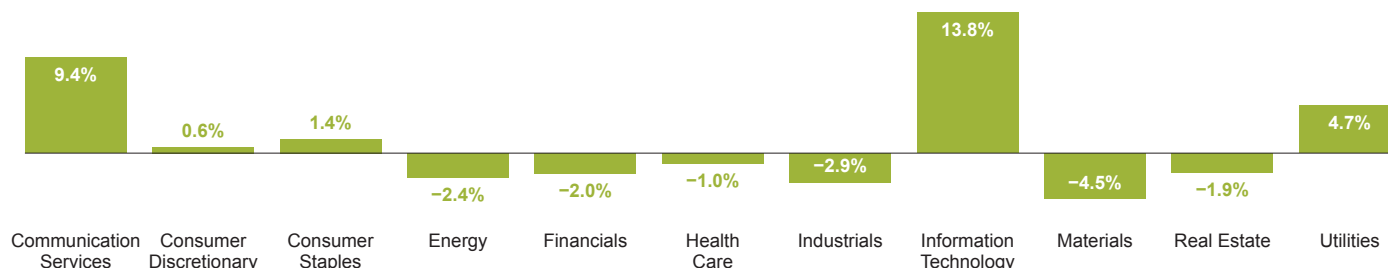
U.S. Equity: One-Year Returns

(6/30/24)



Sources: FTSE Russell and S&P Dow Jones Indices

Quarterly Performance of Industry Sectors (6/30/24)



Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices

Global Equities

Broad market

- The U.S. continued its lead over developed non-U.S. markets resulting in a positive ACWI return.
- Developed non-U.S. markets struggled with growing uncertainty on future economic growth, political instability, and divergent central bank policies.
- Small caps once again trailed large caps in a higher interest rate environment and amid exchange rate volatility.

Emerging markets

- Emerging markets rebounded, snapping a two-quarter losing streak relative to developed markets as both China and India produced strong returns.
- China's GDP growth exceeded expectations with a rebound in industrial production, manufacturing, and exports. Further, the Chinese government implemented several measures to support capital markets.

Growth vs. value

- Growth and value saw little difference, as much of the caution was driven around macro concerns about future growth and a growing risk of a recession.

U.S. dollar strength

- The U.S. Dollar Index (DXY), was relatively flat in 2Q due to a balancing act of increased global uncertainty but a more likely 2024 U.S. central bank rate cut.

China experiences significant decline

- Mainland China's allocation within the MSCI EM Index and active EM equity strategies has steadily declined since peaking in 2020. Sluggish growth with weak home sales and deflationary pressures combined with heightened geopolitical risks have been contributors.

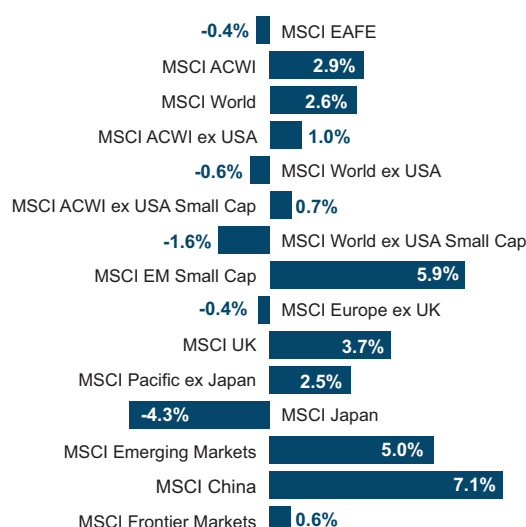
Taiwan increases with Taiwan Semiconductor strength

- Despite Taiwan's related geopolitical concerns to mainland China, Taiwan has seen increasing allocations in the index and across managers. The largest stock in the MSCI Taiwan Index, Taiwan Semiconductor, which accounts for ~50% of the index, continues to exhibit robust growth as the global leader in semiconductor manufacturing.

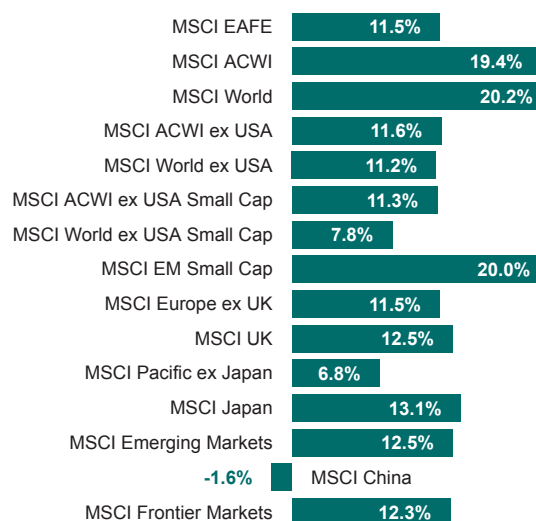
India continues rapid growth

- Benefiting from positive demographics with a large growing working population, India has experienced one of the highest real GDP growth rates globally in recent years when compared to other major countries/regions.
- India's growth within the MSCI EM Index and manager allocations has been nearly the mirror image to China's allocations since 2020.

Global ex-U.S. Equity: Quarterly Returns (U.S. Dollar, 6/30/24)



Global ex-U.S. Equity: One-Year Returns (U.S. Dollar, 6/30/24)



Source: MSCI

Fixed Income

U.S. Fixed Income

Macro environment

- Fed on hold awaiting more evidence that inflation is under control as economy remained resilient
- 10-year U.S. Treasury yield up modestly from 4.21% to 4.36%
- Curve remained inverted

Performance and drivers

- The Bloomberg US Aggregate Index rose 0.1% amid higher rates.
- Corporates and most securitized sectors were roughly flat vs. U.S. Treasuries on a duration-adjusted basis.
- Lower quality outperformed, with high yield corporates and leveraged loans posting the best returns.
- Longer maturity underperformed short and intermediate strategies as curve steepened from 5 years out to 30.

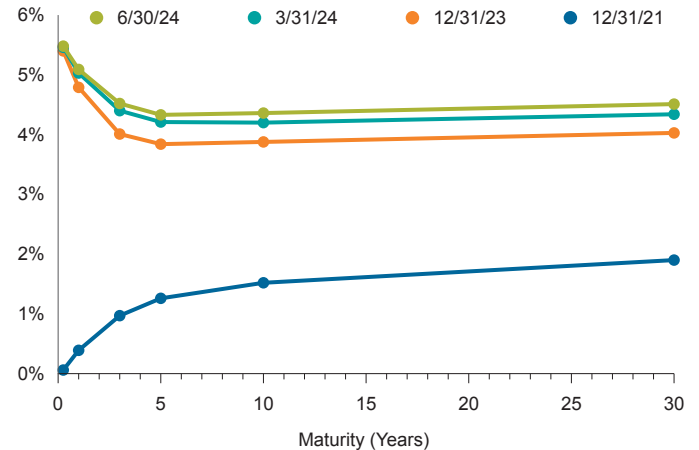
Valuations

- Corporate credit remains rich with spreads near historical tights.
- Default rates fell to just 1.2% for HY and 1.1% for bank loans.
- Corporate bond issuance remained robust
- IG corporate new issuance slowed from record highs in 1Q but remained robust with \$349 billion in new debt, bringing YTD total to \$886 billion.
- HY new issuance in 2Q nearly matched 1Q with \$83 billion, bringing YTD total to \$172 billion.
- Both were met with strong investor demand.

Rate cut expectations

- Strong April jobs reports and sticky inflation readings initially drove intermediate- and long-term rates higher, sending the 10-year Treasury 50 bps higher and reducing the 2s10s inversion to just -24 bps.
- Markets reacted with reduced expectations for Fed rate cuts. Entering 2024, Fed Funds futures priced in at least six cuts for the year; that declined to around one as of April.
- However, subsequent data, including easing inflation, brought rates back close to where they started, with the 10-year Treasury ending the quarter 16 bps higher.

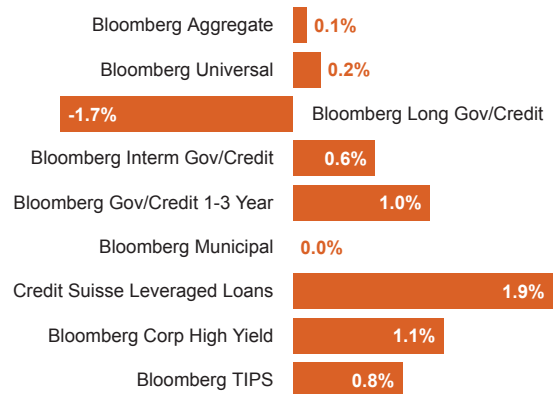
U.S. Treasury Yield Curves



Source: Bloomberg

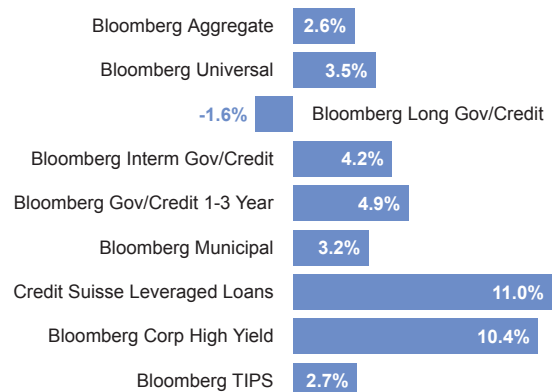
U.S. Fixed Income: Quarterly Returns

(6/30/24)



U.S. Fixed Income: One-Year Returns

(6/30/24)



Sources: Bloomberg and Credit Suisse

Municipal Bonds

Higher quality municipal bonds post flat returns in 2Q

- Muni bond yields climbed more than U.S. Treasury yields.
- 10-year AAA municipal bond yield rose 33 bps to 2.84%.
- 10-year U.S. Treasury yield ended 2Q at 4.36% from 4.21%.
- YTD issuance (\$235 billion, up 37% YOY) has been met by strong demand with \$11.4 billion in positive flows to municipal bond funds.

BBB performs best for the quarter and year

- AAA: -0.28%
- AA: -0.11%
- A: +0.22%
- BBB: +0.68%

Muni valuations vs. U.S. Treasuries remain rich

- 10-year AAA Muni/10-year U.S. Treasury yield ratio increased to 65%, but remains below the 10-year median
- Fundamentals for state and local governments remain sound as upgrades continue to surpass downgrades.
- The need for increased infrastructure spending could benefit municipal bond issuance in years to come.

Global Fixed Income

Macro environment

- Developed market rates rose further in 2Q.
- In June, the Bank of Canada lowered its overnight rate, and the European Central bank cut rates for the first time in five years as growth and inflation moderated.
- Japan's 10-year government bond yield rose above 1% for the first time since 2013.

U.S. dollar continues to strengthen

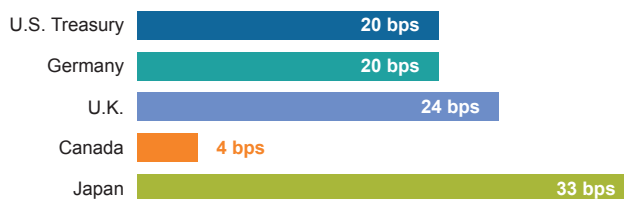
- Major currencies generally continued to weaken relative to the U.S. dollar, albeit at a slower pace from 2Q, detracting from unhedged returns.
- Hedged investors were flat for the quarter following the increase in yields.

Emerging market debt is similarly lackluster

- India was added to the JPM GBI-EM suite of indices in June.

Change in 10-Year Global Government Bond Yields

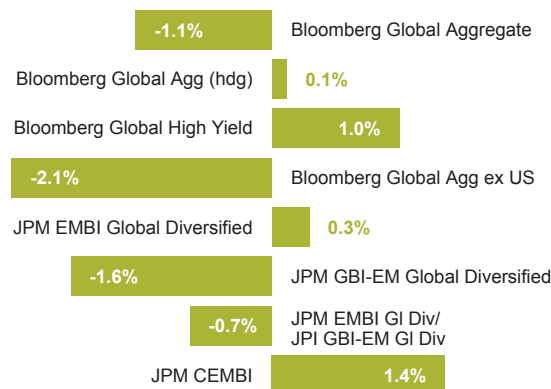
1Q24 to 2Q24



Source: Bloomberg

Global Fixed Income: Quarterly Returns

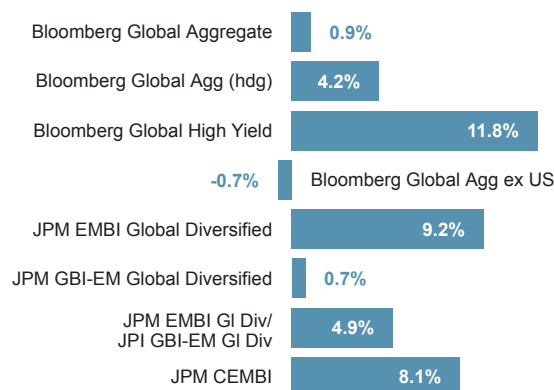
(6/30/24)



Sources: Bloomberg and JPMorgan Chase

Global Fixed Income: One-Year Returns

(6/30/24)



Sources: Bloomberg and JPMorgan Chase

- EM hard currency rose 0.3% while the local currency JPM EMBI Global Diversified Index declined 1.6% as the U.S. dollar generally if modestly strengthened relative to local currencies.

Income Positive but Appreciation Falls

REAL ESTATE/REAL ASSETS | Munir Iman

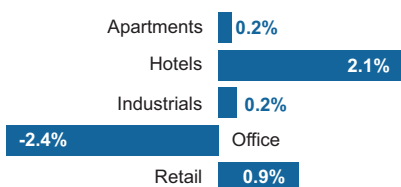
Valuations reflect higher interest rates

- NCREIF Property Index income returns were positive across sectors and regions.
- All property sectors and regions experienced negative appreciation, except for hotels.
- Valuations are reflective of higher interest rates, which have put upward pressure on capitalization rate and discount rate assumptions.
- Both the NPI and the NCREIF ODCE Index fell in the quarter and have produced negative returns over the last year.

Observations

- Global REITs underperformed in 2Q24, declining 2.4% compared to a 2.6% increase for global equities (MSCI World).
- U.S. REITs gained 0.1% in 2Q24, in contrast with the S&P 500 Index, which rose 4.3%.

Sector Quarterly Returns by Property Type (6/30/24)



Source: NCREIF

- REITs continue to trade at a discount to NAV (-4.2%) and offer some relative value given this spread.
- Historically, global REITS have traded at a -4.0% discount to NAV.

Redemption queues

- Current ODCE redemption queues are approximately 17.3% of net asset value, with a median queue of 13.9%. This compares to the GFC when queues peaked at approximately 15% of NAV.
- Outstanding redemption requests for most large ODCE funds are approximately 11% to 20% of net asset value.
- For a large proportion of funds, these redemptions are partial redemptions, due to portfolio rebalancing and liquidity needs. For a smaller underperforming subset, redemption requests are full redemptions indicative of manager termination.

Transaction activity

- Transaction volume has flattened on a rolling four-quarter basis and remains well below five-year averages.
- In 2Q24, transaction volume increased slightly on a quarter-over-quarter basis. Transaction volume remains significantly lower compared to 2022.
- The volatile rise in interest rates is the driving force behind the slowdown in transactions.

Callan Database Median and Index Returns* for Periods Ended 6/30/24

Private Real Assets	Quarter	Year to Date	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	20 Years
Real Estate ODCE Style	-0.4	-2.8	-9.6	1.6	2.8	6.0	5.4
NFI-ODCE (value-weighted, net)	-0.7	-3.2	-10.0	1.0	2.3	5.5	5.8
NCREIF Property	-0.3	-1.2	-5.5	2.3	3.4	6.1	7.3
NCREIF Farmland	-0.2	0.5	2.5	6.8	5.8	6.9	12.1
NCREIF Timberland	1.7	3.9	9.8	11.0	7.2	5.9	7.1
Public Real Estate							
Global Real Estate Style	-1.7	-2.1	6.6	-3.1	2.0	4.5	7.1
FTSE EPRA Nareit Developed	0.5	1.2	2.7	1.8	2.6	4.7	--
Global ex-U.S. Real Estate Style	-3.3	-4.9	6.4	-7.5	-0.2	3.0	--
FTSE EPRA Nareit Dev ex US	-5.6	-7.6	3.1	-9.6	-4.4	-0.5	--
U.S. REIT Style	-0.2	-0.6	7.1	-0.1	4.9	6.6	8.6
FTSE EPRA Nareit Equity REITs	0.1	-0.1	7.8	0.3	3.9	5.9	7.7

*Returns less than one year are not annualized. Sources: Callan, FTSE Russell, NCREIF

Some Early Signs of a Rebound, but Challenges Remain

PRIVATE EQUITY | Ashley Kahn

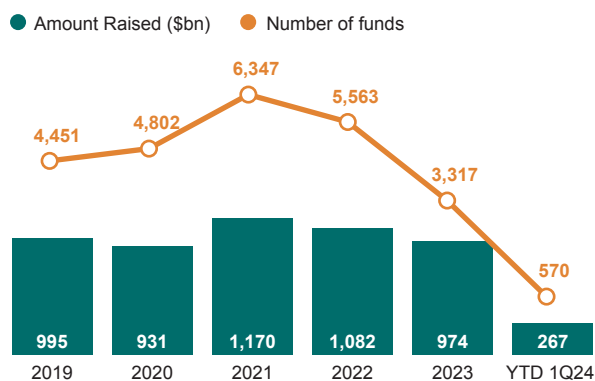
Fundraising ► The 2023 vintage year experienced the full impact of the denominator effect, with sharp declines in fundraising for the year. The number of funds raised dropped by ~50% from the highs of 2021–22. Heading into 2024, fundraising continues to fall. The number of funds raised in 1Q24 was down by 42% compared to 1Q23, although the dollar amount raised is consistent.

Buyouts ► 2023 represented the trough in buyout dealmaking, with early 2024 seeing improved liquidity conditions and higher public markets comps. Buyout activity was up by 7% in 1Q24 compared to 4Q23. Lower valuations, reflecting higher interest rates and a narrowing of the bid-ask spread, have led to greater activity.

Venture Capital and Growth Equity ► Venture capital and growth equity have shown mixed signs of recovery but no large snapback, yet. 1Q24 deal activity was down by 9% from 4Q23. While venture capital activity was steady, there was a significant slowdown in growth equity, with no large growth equity deals during the quarter. 1Q24 exhibited a notable recovery in late-stage valuations. Similarly, early-stage valuations in 2024 also increased by 21% from the prior year.

Annual Fundraising

(3/31/24)



Source: Pitchbook

Exits ► In 2023, private equity exits declined dramatically by over 50% compared to their all-time record in 2021. Exit activity is up so far in 2024, by 15% compared to early 2023. IPO activity remains depressed, and the public offerings that do occur tend to be smaller in scale.

Returns ► Public equity's exceptional start to 2024 (led by the "Magnificent Seven" technology stocks) has left private equity in its wake. Over the long-term, private equity has outperformed public equity by 1%-3%.

Private Equity Performance (%) (Pooled Horizon IRRs through 3/31/24*)

Strategy	Quarter	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	20 Years
All Venture	1.4	-1.5	0.6	16.1	15.3	12.5
Growth Equity	1.0	3.9	3.5	14.2	13.3	13.4
All Buyouts	1.1	7.6	10.8	15.4	13.8	14.1
Mezzanine	1.8	10.4	11.1	11.5	10.9	11.3
Credit Opportunities	1.9	8.2	8.8	8.4	7.3	9.2
Control Distressed	0.8	4.5	12.9	13.8	11.0	11.3
All Private Equity	1.2	5.1	7.3	14.7	13.4	13.2

Note: Private equity returns are net of fees. Sources: LSEG/Cambridge and S&P Dow Jones Indices

*Most recent data available at time of publication

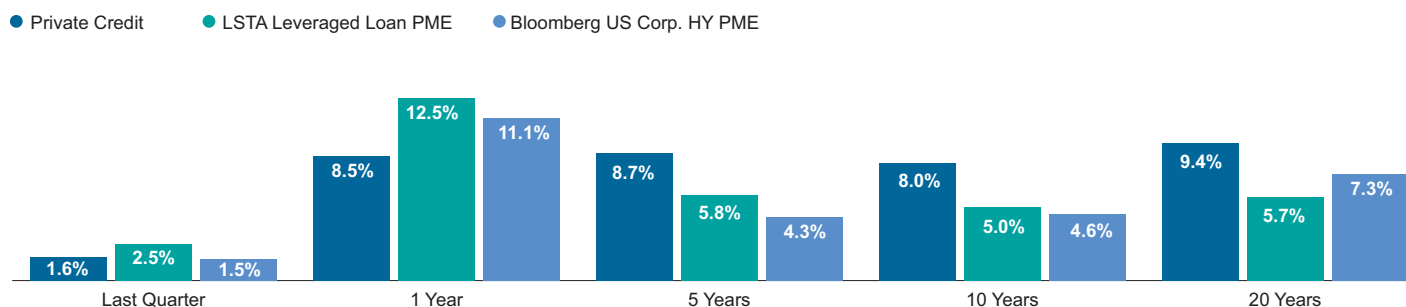
Note: Transaction count and dollar volume figures across all private equity measures are preliminary figures and are subject to update in subsequent versions of the *Capital Markets Review* and other Callan publications.

Gains Outpace Leveraged Loans Over Time; Spreads Contract

PRIVATE CREDIT | Cos Braswell and Daniel Brown

- Over the past 10 years private credit has generated a net IRR of 8.0%, outperforming leveraged loans as of 1Q24.
- Higher-risk strategies have performed better than lower-risk strategies.
- U.S. sub-investment grade corporate yields rose dramatically at the beginning of 2022 with yields peaking in September. This was a combination of higher interest rates due to tighter Fed policy and a widening of high yield spreads. Effective yields continued to drop in 1Q24.
- Spreads contracted during 1Q24, a continuation from late 2023, due to stronger credit conditions as the U.S. economic outlook improved.
- Default rates for U.S. corporate bonds and loans in 2024 continued to slightly rise but remained in the historical average of 3% – 4%.
- The Corporate Bond Market Distress Index (CMDI) rose rapidly during 2022, especially for investment grade bonds, but has fallen since then. In 2024, both the investment grade distress and high yield bond indicator continued to fall, a trend that has proceeded since last year.
- Private credit assets under management (AUM) stood at over \$1.5 trillion at the end of 2023, with Preqin forecasting the asset class will grow to over \$2.5 trillion by 2028 at a 11.13% compound annual growth rate from 2023 to 2028.
- Direct lending is expected to grow steadily through 2028 as investors increase their private credit allocations. Distressed exposure should grow a bit more slowly with other strategies such as opportunistic, special situations, and other niche diversifiers growing more quickly.

Private Credit Performance (%) (Pooled Horizon IRRs through 3/31/24*)



Private Credit Performance (%) (Pooled Horizon IRRs by Strategy through 3/31/24*)

Strategy	Quarter	1 Year	5 Years	10 Years	20 Years
Senior Debt	0.7	7.7	7.0	7.0	7.2
Mezzanine	1.8	10.4	11.6	10.9	11.3
Credit Opportunities	1.9	8.2	8.4	7.3	9.2
Total Private Credit	1.6	8.5	8.7	8.0	9.4

Source: LSEG/Cambridge

*Most recent data available at time of publication

Hedge Funds Gain, Capitalizing on Volatility

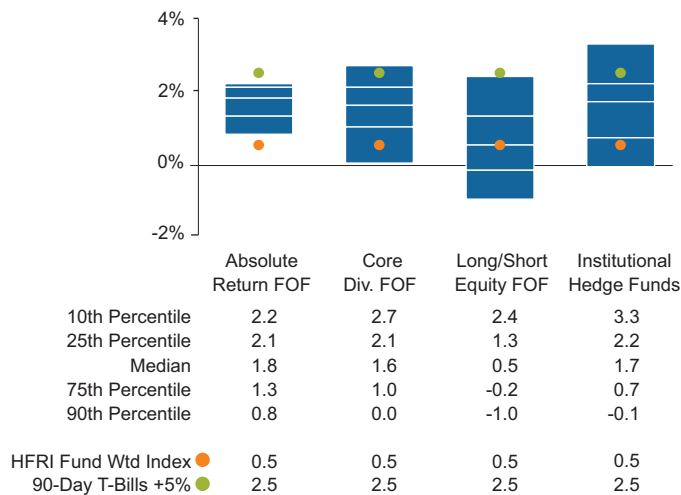
HEDGE FUNDS/MACs | Sean Lee and Joe McGuane

U.S. equity markets moved higher during 2Q24, driven by a few large technology and AI-related companies along with generally healthy corporate earnings. Interest rates were volatile during the quarter, as signs of sticky inflation drove bond yields sharply higher, but as the quarter wore on, softer macroeconomic data points and lower inflation readings reversed much of the move. The 10-year U.S. Treasury rose from 4.21% to 4.36%, and the 30-year from 4.34% to 4.51%, as Fed minutes indicate an eagerness to cut rates in September, driven primarily by concerns about the employment outlook despite reasonably good current data.

The S&P 500 rose 4.3% during 2Q, as Technology, Communication Services, and Utilities were the best sectors. Materials, Energy, and Real Estate were down on concerns of higher rates for longer and the slowing economy. Highlighting the AI theme during 2Q, the top six technology stocks in the S&P 500 rose 17% on average primarily due to EPS revisions and multiple expansion, while the remaining 494 S&P 500 stocks saw a slight upward earnings-per-share revision and larger multiple compression driving a 1% decline on average.

Hedge Fund Style Group Returns

(6/30/24)



Sources: Callan, Credit Suisse, Federal Reserve

Hedge funds ended 2Q higher, as strategies with a higher correlation and a material beta to equities were successfully able to capitalize on volatility in markets. Equity hedge funds again saw positive performance, as managers that focused on technology saw the biggest gains. Managers with more

Callan Peer Group Median and Index Returns* for Periods Ended 6/30/24

Hedge Fund Universe	Quarter	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	15 Years
Callan Institutional Hedge Fund Peer Group	1.7	10.1	5.7	7.3	6.3	7.4
Callan Fund-of-Funds Peer Group	1.3	9.8	3.8	5.7	4.4	5.4
Callan Absolute Return FOF Style	1.8	8.8	5.1	5.4	4.0	5.1
Callan Core Diversified FOF Style	1.6	10.0	4.2	5.9	4.5	5.6
Callan Long/Short Equity FOF Style	0.5	11.1	0.8	5.6	5.3	5.6
HFRI Fund Weighted Index	0.5	9.8	2.9	6.7	4.8	5.3
HFRI Fixed Convertible Arbitrage	1.2	7.5	4.1	6.6	5.0	6.5
HFRI Distressed/Restructuring	2.1	10.5	2.9	6.5	4.1	6.4
HFRI Emerging Markets	1.8	8.6	-1.3	4.1	3.3	4.2
HFRI Equity Market Neutral	2.0	11.2	5.1	4.2	3.4	3.1
HFRI Event-Driven	0.2	10.5	2.7	6.2	4.5	6.1
HFRI Relative Value	1.4	8.4	3.7	4.6	3.9	5.6
HFRI Macro	-0.8	5.9	4.4	5.7	3.5	2.8
HFRI Equity Hedge	1.0	11.8	1.9	7.8	5.6	6.2
HFRI Multi-Strategy	1.1	11.0	-0.3	5.0	2.9	4.5
HFRI Merger Arbitrage	0.0	8.3	3.4	5.5	4.5	4.4
90-Day T-Bill + 5%	2.5	10.4	8.0	7.2	6.5	6.0

*Net of fees. Sources: Callan, Credit Suisse, Hedge Fund Research

directional equity exposure and those with more of a market-neutral focus also had a solid quarter. Relative value strategies also gained, as credit relative value and merger arbitrage strategies added to that performance. Macro strategies ended the quarter lower, as long positioning in developed market front-end rates detracted from performance, along with shorts in U.S. equities and long Japanese yen exposure.

Serving as a proxy for large, broadly diversified hedge funds with low-beta exposure to equity markets, the median Callan Institutional Hedge Fund Peer Group rose 1.7%. Within this style group of 50 peers, the average hedged credit manager gained 1.6%, driven by interest rate volatility. Meanwhile, the average hedged equity manager added 2.4%, as those focused on the Technology, Energy, and Health Care sectors drove performance. The median Callan Institutional hedged rates manager rose 1.6%, largely driven by relative value fixed income trades.

Within the HFRI Indices, the best-performing strategy was relative value, which was up 1.4%, as managers were positioned to profit off interest rate volatility during the quarter. Equity hedge gained 1.0%, as managers that were focused on tech, media, and telecom drove performance. Macro strategies ended the quarter slightly negative, as rates trading and long U.S. equities drove performance lower.

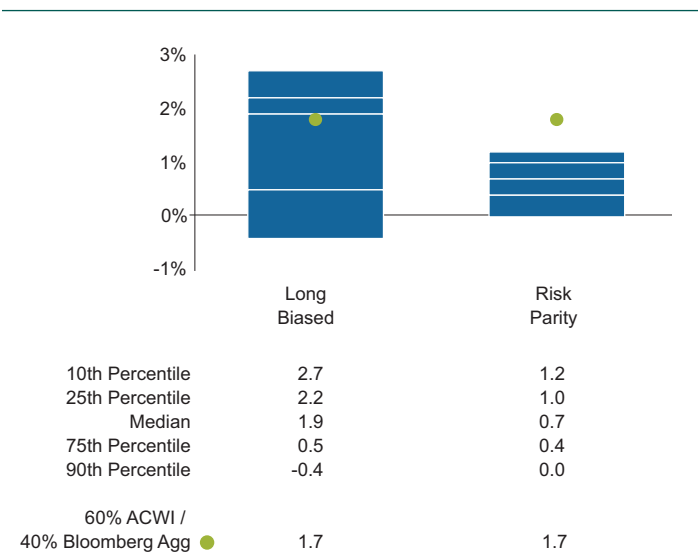
Across the Callan Hedge FOF database, the median Callan Long-Short Equity FOF ended 0.5% higher, as managers with a focus on the Technology sector drove performance. Meanwhile, the median Callan Core Diversified FOF rose 1.6%, driven by equity and event-driven strategies. The Callan Absolute Return FOF ended up 1.8%; equity beta strategies were behind this move.

Since the Global Financial Crisis, liquid alternatives to hedge funds have become popular among investors for their attractive risk-adjusted returns that are similarly uncorrelated with traditional stock and bond investments but offered at a lower cost. Much of that interest is focused on rules-based, long-short strategies that isolate known risk premia such as value, momentum, and carry found across the various capital markets. These alternative risk

premia are often embedded, to varying degrees, in hedge funds as well as other actively managed investment products.

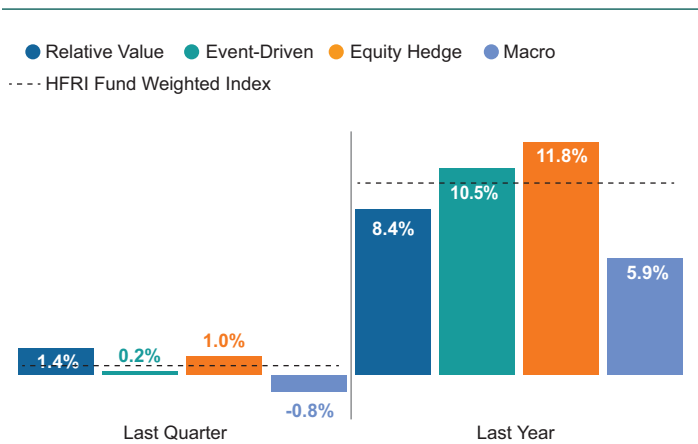
Within Callan's database of liquid alternative solutions, the median Callan MAC Long Biased manager rose 1.9%, as the strong equity rally pushed performance higher. The Callan MAC Risk Parity peer group rose 0.7%, as equities and fixed income drove the gains.

MAC Style Group Returns (6/30/24)



Sources: Bloomberg, Callan, Eurekahedge, S&P Dow Jones Indices

HFRI Hedge Fund-Weighted Strategy Returns (6/30/24)



Source: HFRI

DC Index Starts Year with a Big Gain

DEFINED CONTRIBUTION | **Scotty Lee**

Performance: Index kicks off 2024 with a gain

- The Callan DC Index™ gained 6.6% in 1Q24, which brought the Index’s trailing one-year gain to 18.8%.

Growth Sources: Investment gains lead to rise in balances

- Balances within the DC Index rose by 6.6% after a 9.0% increase in the previous quarter.
- Investment gains (6.6%) were the sole driver of the gain, while net flows (0.03%) had a negligible effect.

Turnover: Net transfers increase

- Turnover (i.e., net transfer activity levels within DC plans) in the DC Index increased to 0.44% from the previous quarter’s measure of 0.24%.

Net cash flow analysis: Stable value declines sharply

- Automatic features and their appeal to “do-it-for-me” investors typically result in target date funds (TDFs) receiving the largest net inflows in the DC Index, which was the case in 1Q24 as the asset allocation funds garnered 79.5% of quarterly net flows.
- Within equities, investors withdrew assets from U.S. small/mid-cap equity (-12.7%) and company stock (-15.6%).
- Notably, stable value (-50.9%) saw relatively large outflows for the sixth consecutive quarter.

Equity allocation: Exposure rises

- The Index’s overall allocation to equity (73.5%) rose slightly from the previous quarter’s level (72.5%). The current equity allocation continues to sit above the Index’s historical average (68.6%).

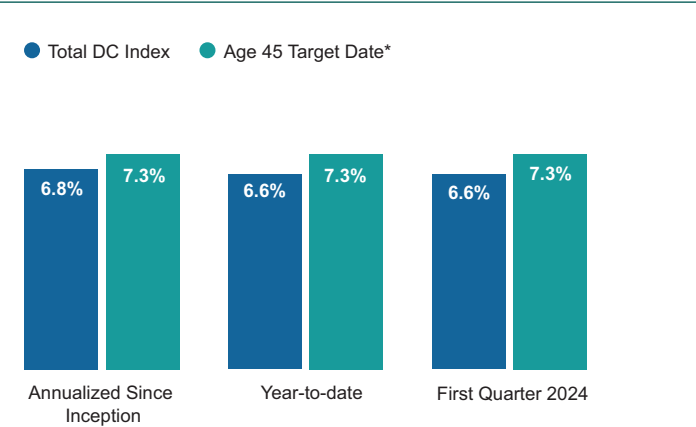
Asset allocation: Fixed income exposure falls

- U.S. large cap equity (27.8%) and target date funds (35.3%) were among the asset classes with the largest percentage increases in allocation.
- Stable value (6.6%) had the largest decrease in allocation from the previous quarter due to net outflows.

Underlying fund performance, asset allocation, and cash flows of more than 100 large defined contribution plans representing approximately \$400 billion in assets are tracked in the Callan DC Index.

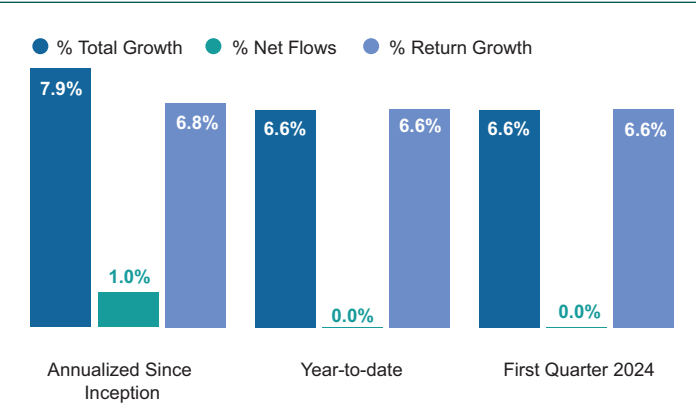
Investment Performance

(3/31/24)



Growth Sources

(3/31/24)



Net Cash Flow Analysis 1Q24)

(Top Two and Bottom Two Asset Gatherers)

Asset Class	Flows as % of Total Net Flows
Target Date Funds	79.5%
U.S. Large Cap	10.5%
Company Stock	-15.6%
Stable Value	-50.9%
Total Turnover**	0.4%

Data provided here is the most recent available at time of publication.

Source: Callan DC Index

Note: DC Index inception date is January 2006.

* The Age 45 Fund transitioned from the average 2035 TDF to the 2040 TDF in June 2018.

** Total Index “turnover” measures the percentage of total invested assets (transfers only, excluding contributions and withdrawals) that moved between asset classes.

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The *Capital Markets Review* is a quarterly macroeconomic indicator newsletter that provides thoughtful insights on the economy and recent performance in the equity, fixed income, alternatives, real estate, and other capital markets.

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