

IN THIS ISSUE

Ok, On Average

Key Developments

Market Review

Market Events

From the Managing Director



Ok, On Average

On average, the global economy looks to be "OK" — regional and sectoral areas of weakness being offset by other areas of relative strength; meanwhile, inflation seems contained in some areas albeit still raging in others. On average, the financial system is "OK" — concerns in some regional banks and other "one-off" issues (driven mostly by poor risk management) absorbable by the broader, still-healthy banking industry. And, on average, the global financial market outlook looks "OK" — global equity valuations are near the median valuation level of the past 25 years (~19 times last-twelve-months earnings).

But you are also "OK, on average" if you are six feet tall standing in a lake that averages five feet deep. That is, on average, you have no fear of drowning despite the fact that there are almost assuredly areas in that lake where you would be underwater. The key to successful investing is to appreciate potential financial and economic "deep spots" potentially masking what looks "OK" on the surface.

Growth and Inflation. On average, the global economy has displayed much resiliency in the face of geopolitical disruptions and higher interest rates. Global composite purchasing managers' indices (PMIs) sit at ~ 52 – modestly higher than the ~ 48 mark coming into 2023 and above the 50 mark that separates expansion from contraction. But underneath that modest expansion, we find a notable gap between the fairly hot service industry and the mostly tepid manufacturing industry; most notably the case in the United States, where the manufacturing PMI sits near 46 while the services PMI sits closer to 55. Growth disparities have led to inflation disparities, with core goods

Continued inside



Continued from Cover

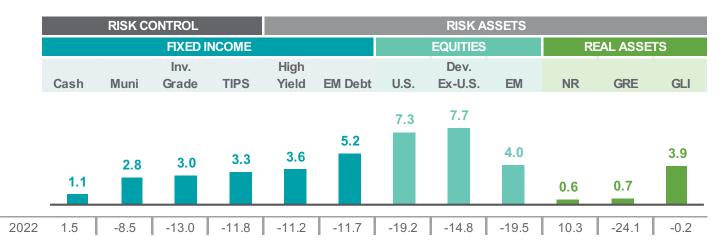
inflation already back below the Federal Reserve's 2% target but with core services inflation still stuck in the 6-7% range.

Central Banks and Credit Markets. Stubborn services inflation kept the Fed focused on rate hikes — until the failure of Silicon Valley Bank and resulting contagion forced one eye over to monitoring financial industry health. As such, on average, markets expect one more 0.25% rate hike before a Fed cutting cycle starts near year end. But that "average" is a combination of a higher rate trajectory should services inflation linger and a lower rate trajectory should bank stresses persist.

Financial Markets. When ostensibly benign average expected outcomes are masking a wide range of potential outcomes underneath, financial markets often respond with outsized volatility. One day, an inflation print below expectations can lead to "risk-on" markets as investors price in the end of the rate hike cycle; the next day, a headline suggesting another bank may be in trouble can mean "risk-off" markets as investors brace for impact. In these environments, it is especially important to keep adequate liquidity for spending needs so as to not be forced into selling "good assets on a bad day" while also maintaining proper diversification — not only among stocks and bonds but also real assets and other diversifiers.

FIRST QUARTER 2023 TOTAL RETURNS (%)

Strong returns across most financial market assets mask a quarter full of volatile swings – especially within bond markets.



Source: Northern Trust Asset Management, Bloomberg. NR: Natural Resources; GRE: Global Real Estate; GLI: Global Listed Infrastructure. Indexes are gross of fees.

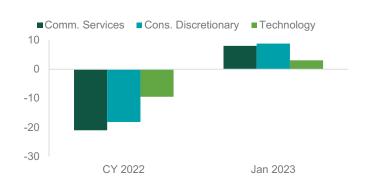


KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Initial Inflation Optimism

Equities firmly rebounded in January with key support from increased investor optimism on the path of inflation and less communication from central bankers on further rate hikes. This led to a strong month of returns in the U.S. and also outside the U.S. with mild weather alleviating energy concerns in Europe and China's rebound from Covid-19 reopening. Equity performance in January was in many ways a reversal of 2022, where many 2022 laggards notably outperformed (see chart) and riskier parts of the market performed well.

RELATIVE RETURNS OF VARIOUS SECTORS (%)



Not So Fast...

In February, economic data releases proved firmer than expected — more resilient on the growth front and stickier on the inflation side. A key tenet of the solid economic backdrop was strong labor markets where the unemployment rate fell to its lowest level since the late 1960s. In response, the equity market rally lost steam as investors reconsidered their inflation views and upwardly revised their expected trajectory for central banks. However, March's banking issues (see next section) unwound the increase in Fed expectations.

EXPECTED 2023 PEAK FED FUNDS RATE (%)



March Madness for Banks

In March, investor worries of more Fed rate hikes shifted to financial stability concerns. Initially, Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) suffered major deposit outflows before regulators took control of it (along with Signature Bank). U.S. policymakers quickly stepped in with emergency liquidity measures to help stabilize the banking sector. Credit Suisse (CS) was then under pressure the next week before being acquired by UBS with support from Swiss authorities. Overall, U.S. banks declined 25% in March (versus a 3.5% S&P 500 gain).

% RETURN SINCE ONSET OF SVB ISSUES (3/8/23)



Choppy Rates, Calmer Equities

The banking-related market reaction was more notable in interest rates versus equities. The S&P 500 initially lost only 3%, while interest rates saw historically high volatility. The 2-year Treasury yield dropped over 100 bps as investor Fed expectations reset lower (i.e., lower peak rate, more likely 2023 rate cuts). While systemic risks stabilized to some degree by late March, a number of implications are possible both near-term (tightening in credit conditions) and longer-term (bank regulation, profitability challenges for small-to-midsized banks).

VOLATILITY RELATIVE TO 2022 AVERAGE LEVEL



Source: Bloomberg, U.S. Banks = KBW Bank Index. Volatility: VIX Index for equities, MOVE Index for interest rates. Data as of 3/31/2023. Past performance is not indicative or a guarantee of future results. Index performance returns do not reflect any management fees, transaction costs or expenses. It is not possible to invest directly in any index.



Market Review

Interest Rates

The Fed continued to tighten policy but is moving forward with more caution due to the potential for bank stresses to weigh on credit availability. That said, inflation remains a concern and the Fed's yearend policy rate forecast (5.1%) implies a hold-firm approach. Interest rates seesawed in a volatile manner during the quarter as investors struggled to ascertain the monetary policy outlook in the wake of hot inflation amid risks to financial stability. Interest rates across the curve ended lower with near-term yields declining the most.

Credit Markets

Credit spreads floated up and down for most of the quarter before moving decidedly higher on banking sector strains. The bank shocks ramped up investor uncertainty on the health of corporate credit and drove wider risk premia across investment grade (IG) and high yield (HY). IG and HY credit spreads rose as much as 38 and 128 basis points (bps), respectively, before coming back in as perceived risks abated. IG spreads ended 8 bps wider, while HY finished 13 bps tighter. Current spreads for both are under recessionary levels.

Equities

Global equities brought solid gains (7.4%) as developed ex-U.S. equities (7.7%) and U.S. equities (7.3%) led the way while emerging market equities delivered a lower-but-strong return (4.0%). These gains may appear at odds given two of the largest U.S. bank failures ever, however, declining interest rates led to a reprieve in some of the most sizable areas of the markets (i.e., U.S. tech up 21.8%) which buoyed aggregate returns. Equity volatility paled in comparison to bond volatility, but there were still notable swings beneath the surface.

Real Assets

Real assets bore the brunt of weakness extending from both central bank tightening and banking strains as listed infrastructure (3.9%), global real estate (0.7%) and natural resources (0.6%) all lagged global equities. Listed infrastructure's interest rate sensitivity benefited from the decline in yields. Lower commodity prices hurt equity-based natural resources as demand concerns intensified on signs of global economic vulnerability. Real estate suffered from investor concerns on bank lending — mostly regarding commercial real estate.

U.S. TREASURY YIELD CURVE



CREDIT SPREADS



REGIONAL EQUITY INDICES



REAL ASSET INDICES

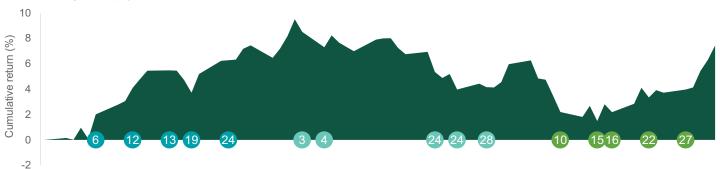


Source: Bloomberg. Returns in U.S. dolla rs. Indexes are gross of fees. Past performance is not indicative or a guarantee of future results. Index performance returns do not reflect any management fees, transaction costs or expenses. It is not possible to invest directly in any index.



Market Events





JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH

- December U.S. jobs report shows continued strength but gradual cooling with slower job gains, increased participation and slower wage growth.
 - A much stronger than expected U.S. jobs report triggers upward revisions in investor policy expectations (later intensified by the 2/14 CPI data).
- The second-biggest U.S. bank failure (Silicon Valley Bank, aka SVB) triggers a run on regional bank deposits and elevates financial stability risks.

- Investors price in less central bank tightening after U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI) cools year-over-year (y/y).
- Geopolitical frictions deepen after the U.S. shoots down a China surveillance balloon in U.S. airspace, though the market impact is contained.
- Bank turmoil continues after Credit Suisse (CS) shares plunge on perceived weakness and its ensuing deposit outflows force a rescue sale to UBS.

- Q422 earnings season unofficially begins; earnings proceed to contract with broad-based weakness (ex-energy) and disappointing forward quidance.
- One-vear anniversary of the Ukraine war; little progress has been made toward a peaceful resolve and escalation risks remain present.
- The European Central Bank moves ahead with a 50-bp rate hike, but aims to verbally assuage financial stability worries and removes forward guidance.

- U.S. government reaches its \$31.4 trillion borrowing limit and invokes extraordinary funding measures estimated to last until ~June-September.
- Core Personal Consumption Expenditures – the Fed's preferred inflation measure - unexpectedly accelerates to 4.7% from 4.3%.
- Amid bank turmoil but elevated inflation the Fed hikes its policy rate by 25 bps, softens language on future hikes and leaves its 2023 year-end Fed funds rate forecast unchanged at 5.1%.

- U.S. and Europe flash Purchasing Managers' Indexes (PMIs) come in better than expected while 4Q U.S. Gross Domestic Product is solid at 2.9%.
- China PMIs top expectations and the expansionary threshold (50) as its reopening supports domestic growth.
- First Citizens Bank purchases SVB at a \$16.5B discount, helping ease investor concern after a period of no new developments on further bank contagion.

Prepared by Northern Trust Asset Management for Enterprise Wealth Management.

Indexes used: Bloomberg (BBG) 1-3 Month UST (Cash); BBG Municipal (Muni); BBG Aggregate (Inv. Grade); BBG TIPS (TIPS); BBG High Yield 2% Capped (High Yield); JP Morgan GBI-EM Global Diversified (Em. Markets Fixed Income); MSCI U.S. Equities IMI (U.S. Equities); MSCI World ex-U.S. IMI (Dev. ex-U.S. Equities); MSCI Emerging Market Equities IMI (Em. Markets Equities); S&P Global Natural Resources (Natural Resources); MSCI ACWI IMI Core Real Estate (Global Real Estate); S&P Global Infrastructure (Global Listed Infrastructure).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION. For Asia-Pacific and Europe markets, this information is directed to institutional, professional and wholesale clients or investors only and should not be relied upon by retail clients or investors. The information is not intended for distribution or use by any person in any jurisdiction where such distribution would be contrary to local law or regulation. Northern Trust and its affiliates may have positions in and may effect transactions in the markets, contracts and related investments different than described in this information. This information is obtained from sources believed to be reliable, and its accuracy and completeness are not guaranteed. Information does not constitute a recommendation of any investment strategy, is not intended as investment advice and does not take into account all the circumstances of each investor. Opinions and forecasts discussed are those of the author, do not necessarily reflect the views of Northern Trust and are subject to change without notice.

This report is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended to be, and should not be construed as, an offer, solicitation or recommendation with respect to any transaction and should not be treated as legal advice, investment advice or tax advice. Recipients should not rely upon this information as a substitute for obtaining specific legal or tax advice from their own professional legal or tax advisors.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Performance returns and the principal value of an investment will fluctuate. Performance returns contained herein are subject to revision by Northern Trust. Comparative indices shown are provided as an indication of the performance of a particular segment of the capital markets and/or alternative strategies in general. Index performance returns do not reflect any management fees, transaction costs or expenses. It is not possible to invest directly in any index.

From the Managing Director

Dear Clients and Friends.

We hope you are enjoying the blooming trees and flowers and other signs of growth this spring. At Enterprise Wealth Management, we too, are growing and are taking actions to ensure our client relationships flourish now and in the future.

I am very pleased to share a leadership advancement that will support the ongoing client-focus and growth of our wealth business. Mary Beth Haut is the new Managing Director of Enterprise Wealth Management. About five years ago, at the introduction of an Enterprise Bank executive, I first met Mary Beth and began discussions about our client experience and the strategy and future of Enterprise Wealth Management. She joined Enterprise in 2018 and immediately had an impact on bringing our client service and engagement to a new and consistently higher level. We have promoted her numerous times into positions of advancing and expanded responsibilities. Mary Beth has 30 years of wealth management experience advising clients and leading teams, including serving as the head of wealth at Acadia Trust, Camden National Bank's wealth management subsidiary, and Citizens Bank. She also worked in wealth management roles at Bank of America and its predecessors, Bank of Boston, and FleetBoston, most recently as a Managing Director at Bank of America. She is a graduate of Colby College and holds the CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ certification.

I continue my close involvement with Enterprise Wealth Management and Enterprise Bank and am focusing my efforts on technology and operational stability to enhance our client experience, now serving as Senior Managing Director of Enterprise Wealth Management and Chief Operating Officer of Enterprise Bank. While I am no longer involved in the day-to-day management of our wealth business, I remain closely connected as a committed and engaged executive — and as a personal wealth client, too. I am enthusiastic about the progress and positive momentum within wealth management and the entire bank.

The first quarter of 2023 produced modestly positive investment returns and was a welcome difference from the broadly negative markets we experienced last year. The economic outlook is not clear and there are both positive and negative indicators clouding the view. Employment remains strong and consumer spending has been consistently above expectations in recent months. Credit quality for corporate debt issuers is also strong. We are still struggling with higher-than-sustainable inflation levels and the outlook for corporate earnings later in 2023 has been reduced.

The failures of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank and the forced sale of Swiss bank Credit Suisse rocked investment markets in March. Silicon Valley Bank was the second





largest US bank ever to fail. Depositors, creditors, and shareholders in these banks were all put at risk almost overnight. Although the FDIC guaranteed all depositors in the two failed US banks, debt holders and equity investors will likely receive very little from the receivership. The post-mortems will be written from many perspectives. Initial analyses have pointed to the narrow business model for these banks (focusing almost entirely on technology start-up companies), a lack of internal controls and risk management, and the failure of regulators to identify or escalate concerns before it was too late. As investors evaluate the financial services sector in general, banks with strong and diverse balance sheets, high liquidity, and solid business practices are faring quite well. Enterprise Bank and Trust is strong in all of these ways.

As long-term investors striving to meet your individual goals, our investment approach is unchanged and our strategy refinements during this recent volatility have been minor. The benefits of a diversified investment approach and a strong process for evaluating individual investments are time-tested ways to optimize goal attainment. The entire team at Enterprise Wealth Management remains committed to knowing you and understanding your goals and aspirations. We dedicate ourselves to being of service to you in all facets of your financial affairs.

Best wishes for a wonderful spring. We look forward to growing with you into the future. Sincerely,

Stephen J. Irish Senior Managing Director, Enterprise Wealth Management Chief Operating Officer, Enterprise Bank



222 Merrimack Street Lowell, MA 01852

877-325-3778

At Enterprise Wealth Management, our mission is to help clients achieve their financial goals by providing professional investment management, extensive resources, and independent, objective advice that you can trust. Enterprise Wealth Management was established in 1992.

Our clients are successful executives, professionals, entrepreneurs, non-profit organizations, private foundations, and retirees who desire a financial partnership that can provide access to investment opportunities and alternative strategies.

EnterpriseWealth.com

The information provided is general in nature and is not intended to be, and should not be construed as, investment, legal or tax advice. Enterprise Wealth Management makes no warranties with regard to the information or results obtained by its use and disclaims

any liability arising out of your use of, or reliance on, the information. The information is subject to change and, although based upon information that Enterprise Wealth Management considers reliable, is not guaranteed as to accuracy or completeness. Enterprise Wealth Management

expresses its appreciation to Northern Trust for providing the information contained in this newsletter.

Investment products are not a Deposit, not guaranteed by Enterprise Bank, not FDIC Insured, not Insured by any government agency, and may lose value.

