

Quarterly Economic Report

3rd Quarter 2024

SVB Asset Management views on economic and market factors affecting global markets and business health



Quarterly Economic Report

Published in Q3 2024 | Data for Q2 2024

- 3 Overview
- 4 Domestic Economy
- 10 Foreign Exchange
- 13 Central Banks and Monetary Policy
- **17** Corporate Bond Market
- 21 Markets and Performance



Key Takeaways

- The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) continued to hold the fed funds rate steady at a range of 5.25% to 5.50% at its June meeting. The committee updated its fed funds forecast to one 25-basis point (bps) rate cut in 2024.
- The FOMC noted "modest" progress
 has been made toward its 2% inflation
 objective. Chairman Jerome Powell
 reinforced that they would like to see
 more data to be confident that a
 decline in inflation is sustainable.
- While the labor market and GDP remain solid, there have been indications of weakening from a historically strong position.
- Consumer sentiment reports reflect that consumers remain cautious, and will continue to be influenced by inflation as well as the uncertainty about the strength of the labor market.



Overview



The FOMC maintains the fed funds rate for the seventh consecutive meeting.

At its June meeting, the committee revised its fed funds target expectations to 5.1% from 4.6%, implying only one rate cut for 2024.



The labor market shows early signs of softening.

The unemployment rate increased from 3.8% at the end of March to 4.1% at the end of June. These statistics are higher than a year earlier, when the jobless rate was 3.6%.



Inflation has been on the decline.

Core personal consumption expenditures (PCE) — the Federal Reserve's preferred inflation indicator — rose 2.6% on a year-over-year (YoY) basis, which is down from 4.2% in June 2023.



Lower yields are expected for central banks.

Central banks expectations point to lower yields in late 2024 and into 2025, with the exception of Asia normalizing higher over time.



The USD slides downward after the first half of 2024.

As the Fed provides clarity on its monetary policy and markets price in rate cuts in 2024 and 2025, narrower interest rate differentials will put pressure on the USD.



Fixed income yields have rebounded since the beginning of 2024.

The first half of 2024 saw shorter-duration government bonds benefit from the Fed's action of keeping interest rates higher. Tighter credit spreads have helped corporate bonds, in particular, high yield (HY), which outperformed.

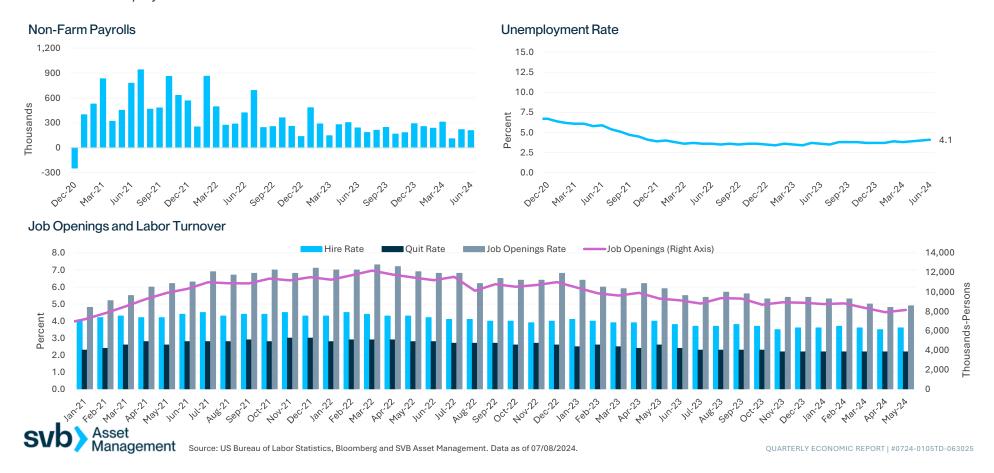


Domestic Economy



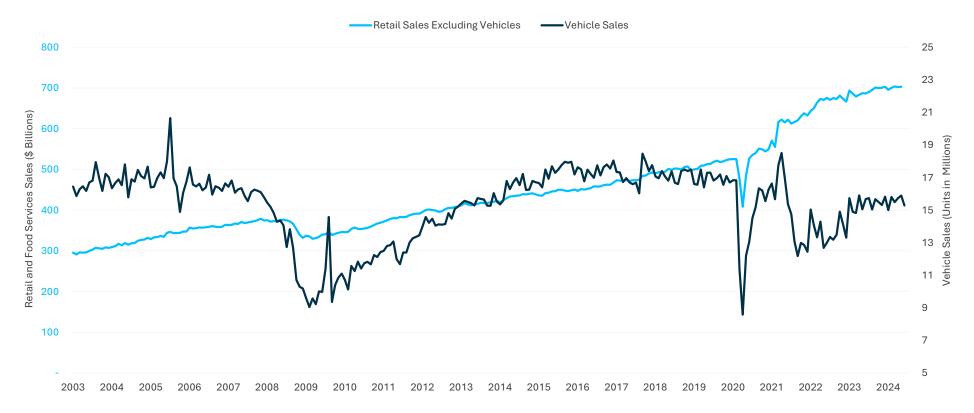
Unemployment: On the Rise Amidst Slowing Job Creation

In Q2 2024, the average number of jobs grew by approximately 177,000 per month. The unemployment rate increased from 3.8% at the end of March to 4.1% at the end of June. As measured in May, there continue to be more jobs available (~8.1 million) than unemployed Americans (~6.6 million). The number of unemployed Americans rose further in June to ~6.8 million.



Consumption: Continued Flattening of Consumer Spending

Retail sales excluding vehicles have remained relatively flat from Q1 2024 to Q2 2024, as consumers slow down on their spending in the current rate and inflation environment. Vehicle sales saw a downturn in June, dipping to January levels. This is in keeping with the oscillating trends seen in 2023.

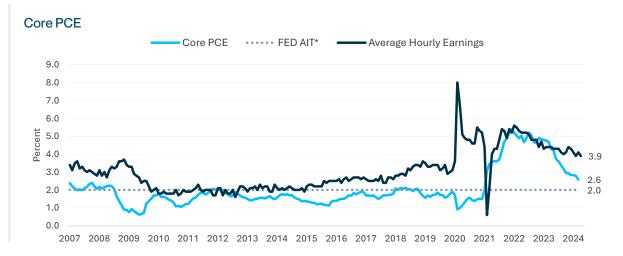




Inflation: On the Decline

Inflation has slowly trended downward with the June 2024 consumer price index (CPI) dipping to 3.0% YoY. Core PCE — the Fed's preferred inflation indicator — rose 2.6% YoY, which is down from 4.2% in June 2023.

In addition to market forecasts, the Fed continues to reiterate that it expects inflation to decline into 2025.



CPI Breakdown (MoM Change)**

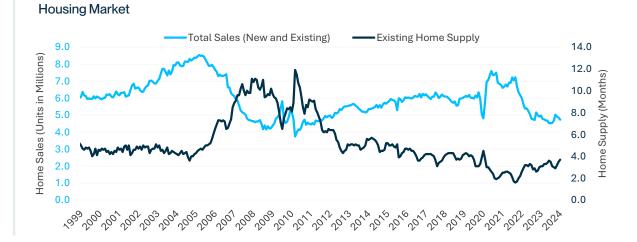
	All items	Food	Food at Home	Food Away from Home	Energy	Gasoline (All Types)	Electricity	Natural Gas (Piped)	All Items Less Food and Energy	Commodities Less Food and Energy	Apparel N	lew Vehicles	Medical Care Commodities	Services Less Energy	Shelter	Medical Care	Education and Communication
Jun-24	3.00%	2.20%	1.10%	4.10%	1.00%	-2.50%	4.40%	3.70%	3.30%	-1.80%	0.80%	-0.90%	3.10%	5.10%	5.20%	3.30%	0.70%
May-24	3.30%	2.10%	1.00%	4.00%	3.70%	2.20%	5.90%	0.20%	3.40%	-1.70%	0.80%	-0.80%	3.10%	5.30%	5.40%	3.10%	0.50%
Apr-24	3.40%	2.20%	1.10%	4.10%	2.60%	1.20%	5.10%	-1.90%	3.60%	-1.30%	1.30%	-0.40%	2.50%	5.30%	5.50%	2.70%	0.40%
Mar-24	3.50%	2.20%	1.20%	4.20%	2.10%	1.30%	5.00%	-3.20%	3.80%	-0.70%	0.40%	-0.10%	2.50%	5.40%	5.70%	2.10%	0.20%
Feb-24	3.20%	2.20%	1.00%	4.50%	-1.90%	-3.90%	3.60%	-8.80%	3.80%	-0.30%	0.00%	0.40%	2.90%	5.20%	5.70%	1.10%	0.40%
Jan-24	3.10%	2.60%	1.20%	5.10%	-4.60%	-6.40%	3.80%	-17.80%	3.90%	-0.30%	0.10%	0.70%	3.00%	5.40%	6.00%	0.60%	0.00%
Dec-23	3.40%	2.70%	1.30%	5.20%	-2.00%	-1.90%	3.30%	-13.80%	3.90%	0.20%	1.00%	1.00%	4.70%	5.30%	6.20%	-0.50%	-0.10%
Nov-23	3.10%	2.90%	1.70%	5.30%	-5.40%	-8.90%	3.40%	-10.40%	4.00%	0.00%	1.10%	1.30%	5.00%	5.50%	6.50%	-0.90%	-0.10%
Oct-23	3.20%	3.30%	2.10%	5.40%	-4.50%	-5.30%	2.40%	-15.80%	4.00%	0.10%	2.60%	1.90%	4.70%	5.50%	6.70%	-2.00%	0.90%
Sep-23	3.70%	3.70%	2.40%	6.00%	-0.50%	3.00%	2.60%	-19.90%	4.10%	0.00%	2.30%	2.50%	4.20%	5.70%	7.20%	-2.60%	1.00%
Aug-23	3.70%	4.30%	3.00%	6.50%	-3.60%	-3.30%	2.10%	-16.50%	4.30%	0.20%	3.10%	2.90%	4.50%	5.90%	7.30%	-2.10%	1.00%
Jul-23	3.20%	4.90%	3.60%	7.10%	-12.50%	-19.90%	3.00%	-13.70%	4.70%	0.80%	3.20%	3.50%	4.10%	6.10%	7.70%	-1.50%	1.20%

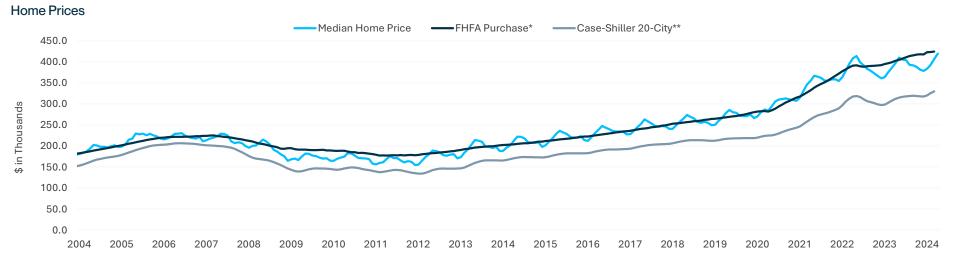


Housing: Sales Slump as Prices Rise

In spite of existing home supply increasing during Q2 2024, rising median home prices have pushed down total home sales.

Meanwhile, mortgage rates had steadily fallen since peaking in April, but appear to be bouncing back up since mid-June. This is expected to further reduce home affordability for buyers.



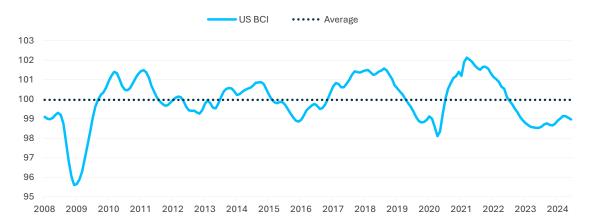




Business Outlook: Moderating

Business sentiment continued to hover below average in Q2 2024, flattening after months of slowly improving. Institute for Supply Management (ISM) data has indicated that US manufacturing has been contracting throughout Q2, due to weak demand and subsequently declining output in a high inflation environment.

Business Confidence Index (BCI)



Business Sentiment

	Dallas Fed Manufacturing Survey	Philly Fed Manufacturing Survey	New York Fed Empire Manufacturing Survey	Kansas City Fed Manufacturing Survey	Richmond Fed Manufacturing Survey
Jun-24	-15.1	1.3	-6.0	-8.0	-10.0
May-24	-19.4	4.5	-15.6	-2.0	0.0
Apr-24	-14.5	15.5	-14.3	-8.0	-7.0
Mar-24	-14.4	3.2	-20.9	-7.0	-11.0
Feb-24	-11.3	5.2	-2.4	-4.0	-5.0
Jan-24	-27.4	-10.6	-43.7	-9.0	-15.0
Dec-23	-10.4	-12.8	-14.5	-1.0	-11.0
Nov-23	-21.4	-8.0	9.1	-2.0	-5.0
Oct-23	-20.6	-12.1	-4.6	-6.0	3.0
Sep-23	-19.2	-13.4	1.9	-7.0	5.0
Aug-23	-18.5	7.7	-19.0	0.0	-7.0
Jul-23	-21.2	-14.2	1.1	-9.0	-9.0
Jun-23	-24.4	-13.6	6.6	-11.0	-8.0
May-23	-30.1	-10.0	-31.8	-2.0	-10.0
Apr-23	-24.1	-26.3	10.8	-9.0	-12.0
Mar-23	-16.7	-22.4	-24.6	-1.0	-8.0
Feb-23	-14.5	-17.8	-5.8	-2.0	-14.0
Jan-23	-8.5	-9.8	-32.9	-2.0	-7.0
Dec-22	-20.9	-15.2	-11.2	-5.0	-4.0
Nov-22	-16.0	-17.0	4.5	-2.0	-7.0
Oct-22	-20.8	-9.9	-9.1	-1.0	-9.0

ISM Manufacturing PMI SA	ISM Non-Manufacturing
48.5	48.8
48.7	53.8
49.2	49.4
50.3	51.4
47.8	52.6
49.1	53.4
47.1	50.5
46.6	52.5
46.9	51.9
48.6	53.4
47.6	54.1
46.5	52.8
46.4	53.6
46.6	51.0
47.0	52.3
46.5	51.2
47.7	55.0
47.4	54.7
48.1	49.0
48.9	55.2
50.0	54.7



Source: Bloomberg, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD, 2022) and BCI (indicator). Updated 07/08/2024. Heatmap colors Asset

Management

Asset

are based on the indices and time periods shown and summarize business plans for economic activities. For the Fed surveys, the number representing higher business sentiment. For ISM indices, the neutral number is usually 50. >50, the are based on the indices and time periods shown and summarize business plans for economic activities. For the Fed surveys, the number represents economy is likely to expand; <50, the economy is likely to contract.

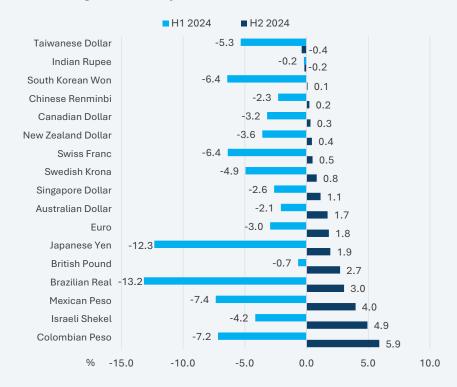


Foreign Exchange



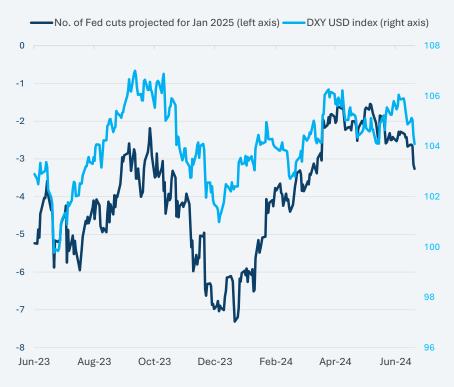
USD Resumes Its Downward Slide as the Fed Provides Clarity on Monetary Policy

After a strong half of the year, the USD reverses.



Currency performance vs. the USD (percent) through 07/12/2024.

The USD has closely tracked Fed rate cut expectations.



Projected US rate cuts determined from fed fund futures market pricing.



Narrower Interest Rate Differentials Will Weigh on the USD

With markets pricing in two full rate cuts in 2024 and up to four more in 2025, the US interest rate advantage is projected to narrow or disappear altogether, putting downward pressure on the USD.

	Cu	rrent	Projected 2024 Year-End				
Country	Policy Rate	US Policy Rate Advantage	Policy Rate	US Policy Rate Advantage			
United States	5.50%		4.47%				
Australia	4.35%	1.15%	4.38%	0.09%			
Canada	4.75%	0.75%	4.10%	0.37%			
Eurozone	3.75%	1.75%	3.20%	1.27%			
Japan	0.10%	5.40%	0.29%	4.18%			
New Zealand	5.50%	0.00%	4.60%	-0.13%			
Switzerland	1.25%	4.25%	0.95%	3.52%			
UK	5.25%	0.25%	4.69%	-0.22%			

Projected policy rates according to futures markets for US and Australia, and overnight indexed swap (OIS) markets for all other currencies.



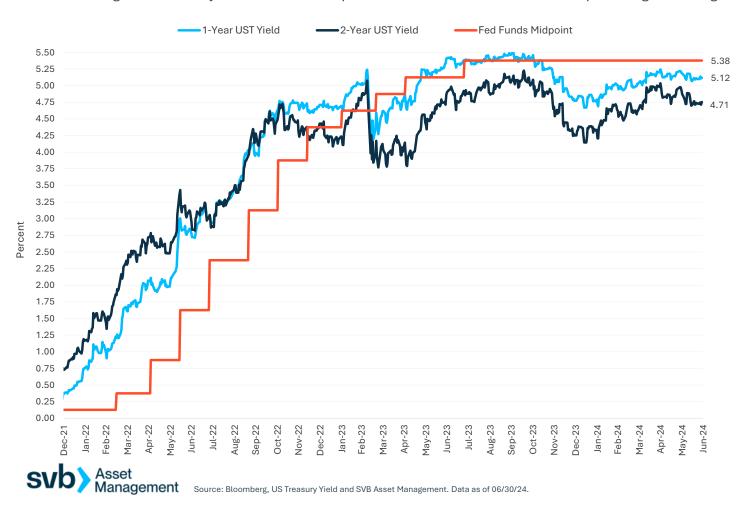


Central Banks and Monetary Policy



Short-End Interest Rates

Rate cut timing has been delayed until late 2024 as persistent inflation forces the Fed to keep rates higher for longer.



Q4 2022: The Fed reduced the pace of rate hikes from 75 bps to 50 bps in December, as inflation showed signs of abating and the market expected a fairly stable fed funds rate in 2023.

Q2 2023: The Fed delivered its first pause in rate hikes for the cycle. Inflation materially improved, and the Fed cited the "lag effect" of the rate hikes' impact on the economy.

Q3 2023: The Fed paused again in September as economic projections improved for 2023 and 2024. The Fed stated that it expected one more hike in 2023, but market odds reflected that it may be done.

Q4 2023: Any expectations for further rate hikes were eliminated as the Fed pointed to accelerating disinflation. Rate cut timing was pulled forward, with the Fed potentially delivering the first cut during the first half of 2024.

Q1 2024: Persistent, higher-than-expected inflation pushed the timing of Fed rate cuts into mid-2024 as market pricing reduced rate cuts from six to less than three for the year. The dot plot reiterated the Fed stance for three cuts in 2024.

Q2 2024: Elevated growth and stubborn inflation forced the Fed to revise rate cut timing to late 2024 and drop the cut count to 1 for this year. The holding pattern persists, but the quantity of easing expected through 2026 remains unchanged.

Economic Forecasts









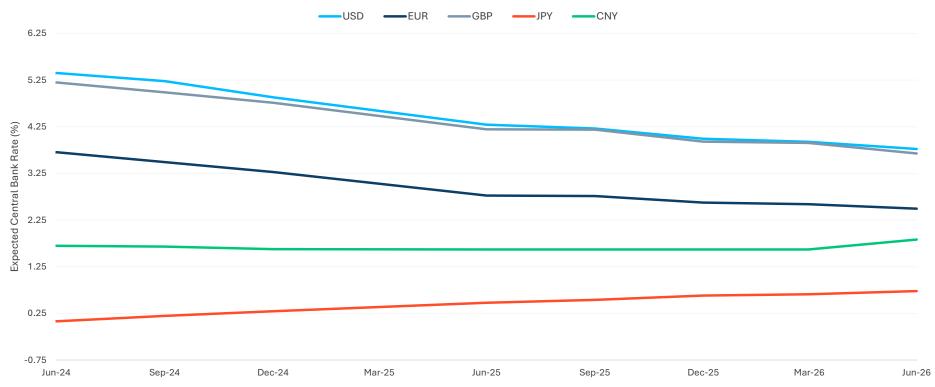
Economic Projections	2024	2025	2026		
United States					
Change in Real GDP	2.3%	1.8%	2.0%		
Core PCE	2.8%	2.2%	2.1%		
Unemployment Rate	4.0%	4.1%	4.0%		
United Kingdom					
Change in Real GDP	0.7%	1.2%	1.5%		
CPI	2.6%	2.2%	2.0%		
Unemployment Rate	4.4%	4.5%	4.7%		
Eurozone					
Change in Real GDP	0.7%	1.4%	1.3%		
CPI	2.4%	2.1%	2.0%		
Unemployment Rate	6.5%	6.5%	6.5%		
Japan					
Change in Real GDP	0.4%	1.1%	0.9%		
CPI	2.4%	1.8%	1.7%		
Unemployment Rate	2.5%	2.4%	2.3%		
China					
Change in Real GDP	5.0%	4.5%	4.2%		
CPI	0.6%	1.5%	1.9%		
Unemployment Rate	5.1%	5.1%	5.0%		



Global Central Bank Expectations

Central bank expectations point to lower yields in late 2024 and into 2025, with Asia normalizing higher over time.

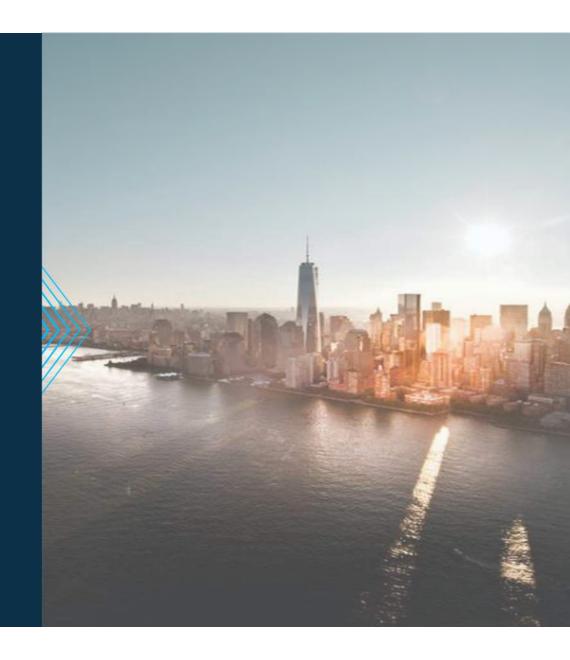








Corporate Bond Market



Corporates: New Issue Update

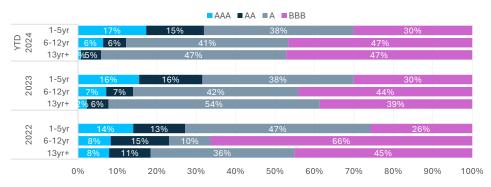
New issuance of investment grade (IG) corporate bonds saw a strong start in 2024. While primary issuance has moderated over the past few months, it continues growing at a healthy clip. Several factors have been driving the robust issuance so far this year. Earnings have been relatively strong on the whole, and there has been no recession, despite interest rates that have remained higher for longer. While financials represent approximately ~40% of IG bond issuance, non-financial sector issuance has been gaining momentum as well, thanks in part to significant M&A activity in the healthcare sector, which has been driving new issuance. Expectations are rising for additional deals in 2024, which could push overall new issuance forecasts even higher, particularly when combined with the need to refinance pending debt maturities.



IG Corporate New-Issue Supply (Sector/Maturity)



IG Corporate New-Issue Supply (Rating/Maturity)





Source: Bloomberg Fixed Income Indices and Barclays Research, Data as of 06/30/2024, Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Management Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

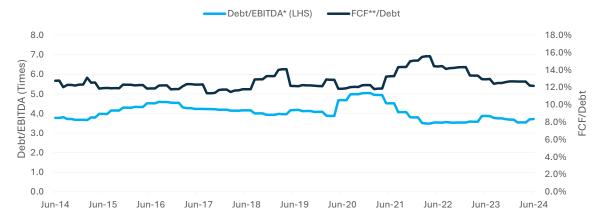
Credit Metrics Remain Stable, Despite Higher for Longer Interest Rates

Industrial corporate credit metrics remain healthy, despite the ongoing impact of higher interest rates. Leverage continues to remain at historically low levels, while debt coverage has stabilized after mild deterioration during 2022 and 2023.

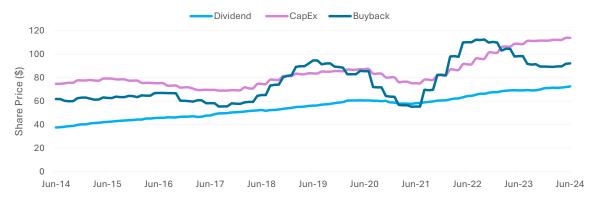
Shareholder spending remains modest overall and generally well below free cash-flow levels. While dividends continue to rise modestly, shareholder repurchases have been significantly curtailed, helping corporate issuers maintain their strong credit profiles.

Increased capital spending has begun to level off from recent peaks, given elevated borrowing costs and ongoing economic uncertainty. Capital expenditures and long-term investments are expected to continue moderating throughout 2024, which will further bolster corporate credit metrics.

S&P 500 Leverage and Debt Coverage



S&P 500 Capital Spending and Distribution

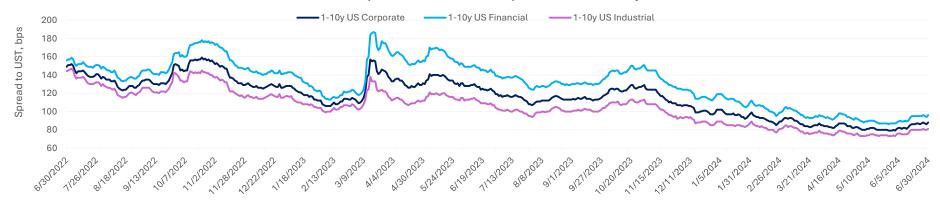




Corporates: Spread and Sector Performance

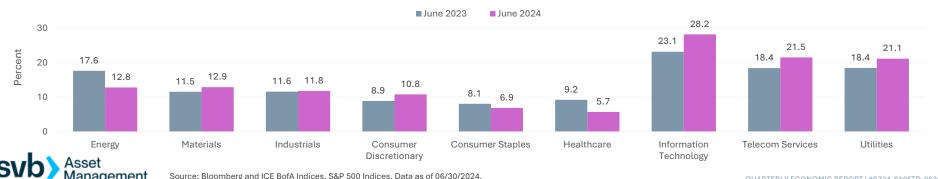
The risk premium between US Treasuries and US corporate bonds remains at some of the tightest levels in over two years. Investor demand remains strong given the positive impact of higher yields, which has been driving spreads increasingly tighter, despite relatively heavy new supply during the first half of 2024.

US IG Corporate Bond Indices — Spreads to US Treasury



Operating profitability, as measured by EBITDA margin, saw significant growth YoY in the technology and telecom/media sectors as the AI revolution continues to drive increased profitability. Utilities also saw an increase in operating profitability due in part to record high levels of rate increases during 2023, which continue to flow through margins. Margins across the energy sector fell YoY due to lower profitability when compared to the sector's record overall year in 2022 and early 2023.

S&P 500 EBITDA Margin (%)





Markets and Performance



Market Sector Performance

Despite concerns about higher interest rates, equity markets performed impressively in the first half of 2024. This was led by a rally in technology stocks, especially those benefitting from the artificial intelligence (AI) boom. Some volatility in interest rates led to modest negative returns in longer-term bonds.

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 YTD
Biotech	Biotech	Crude Oil	Biotech	US Treasury	Tech	IPO Index	Crude Oil	Crude Oil	Tech	Tech
43.24%	13.09%	45.03%	43.85%	0.86%	45.97%	109.60%	55.01%	6.71%	52.75%	26.50%
Tech	Tech	High Yield	Tech	US Aggregate	Crude Oil	Biotech	Tech	High Yield	IPO Index	S&P 500
14.23%	3.23%	17.13%	39.65%	0.01%	34.46%	48.10%	28.73%	-11.19%	50.90%	15.29%
S&P 500	S&P 500	Tech	IPO Index	High Yield	IPO Index	Tech	S&P 500	US Treasury	S&P 500	Crude Oil
13.69%	1.38%	12.27%	35.75%	-2.08%	33.87%	42.64%	28.71%	-12.46%	26.29%	13.80%
US IG Corporate	US Treasury	S&P 500	S&P 500		Biotech	S&P 500	High Yield	US Aggregate	High Yield	IPO Index
7.46%	0.84%	11.96%	21.83%		32.34%	18.40%	5.28%	-13.01%	13.45%	7.06%
IPO Index 7.17%	US Aggregate 0.55%		Crude Oil 12.47%	S&P 500 -4.38%	S&P 500 31.49%		US IG Corporate -1.04%			Biotech 3.95%
US Aggregate	US IG Corporate	US Aggregate	High Yield	Tech		US Treasury	US Aggregate	S&P 500	Biotech	High Yield
5.97%	-0.68%	2.65%	7.50%	-6.02%		8.00%	-1.54%	-18.11%	7.76%	2.58%
US Treasury	High Yield	US Treasury	US IG Corporate	Biotech	High Yield	US Aggregate	US Treasury	Biotech	US Aggregate	
5.05%	-4.47%	1.04%	6.42%	-14.99%	14.32%	7.51%	-2.32%	-25.62%	5.53%	
High Yield	IPO Index	IPO Index	US Aggregate	IPO Index	US Aggregate	High Yield	IPO Index	Tech	US Treasury	US Aggregate
2.45%	-7.98%	-0.51%	3.54%	-17.53%	8.72%	7.11%	-9.89%	-30.29%	4.05%	-0.71%
Crude Oil	Crude Oil	Biotech	US Treasury	Crude Oil	US Treasury	Crude Oil	Biotech	IPO Index	Crude Oil	US Treasury
-45.87%	-30.47%	-15.61%	2.31%	-24.84%	6.86%	-20.54%	-20.38%	-57.06%	-10.73%	-0.86%

All returns above are on a total return basis. 2024 returns are on an aggregate basis through 06/30/2024. US Aggregate refers to Bloomberg Barclays Aggregate Bond Index. US Treasury refers to the US Treasury allocation of the Bloomberg Barclays Aggregate Bond Index. US IG Corporate refers to the IG Corporate allocation of the Bloomberg Barclays Aggregate Bond Index. High Yield refers to the US Corporate High Yield Bloomberg Index. Crude Oil refers to the Spot West Texas Intermediate Crude Oil — Bloomberg-sourced. S&P 500 refers to the S&P 500 Total Return Index. Tech refers to the S&P Global 1200 Information Technology Index. Biotech refers to the S&P Biotechnology Select Industry Index. IPO Index refers to the Renaissance IPO Index.



Asset Class Returns

Bond Market Performance

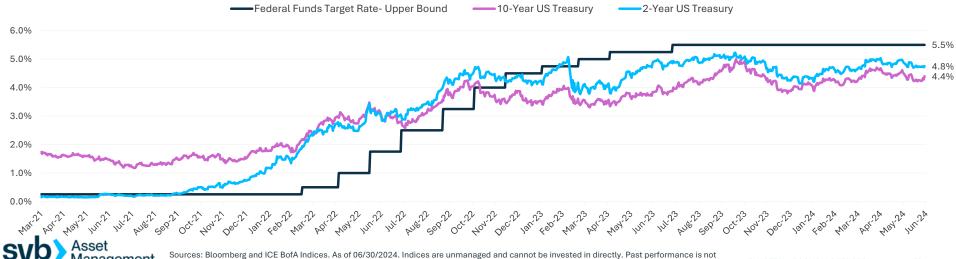
The Fed's action of keeping interest rates higher has contributed to the outperformance of short-term US Treasury bills in the first half of 2024. Meanwhile, tighter credit spreads have helped the corporate bond markets. In particular, high yield (HY) has outperformed both longer-term government and IG bonds and has enjoyed consecutive quarters of positive returns.

a guarantee of future results.

2024 YTD Bond Performance



Bond Yields



Global and Domestic Yields

Fixed income yields have rebounded after a challenging start to the year, and have stabilized within their respective ranges. Investors have embraced the Fed's assertive monetary policy stance, leading to enhanced fixed income yields. Anticipation of rate cuts by the Fed has led investors to capitalize on extended periods of higher yields in fixed income to secure attractive income.

Broad Fixed Income Yields



^{*}US Treasuries pertain to on-the-run sovereign 10-year securities.

Yields Across the Globe



Short-Duration Yields





Quarterly Credit and Duration Performance Stratification

The Fed's decision to maintain higher rates in the first half of 2024, coupled with expectations of rate cuts later in the year, led to the outperformance of short-duration fixed income across the entire credit spectrum.

Corporate Credit

Duration	0-0.25	0.25-0.5	0.5-1.0	1.0-1.5	1.5-2.0	2.0-2.5	2.5-3.0	3.0-4.0	4.0-5.0	5.0-6.0	6.0-7.0	7.0-8.0	8.0-9.0	9.0-10.0	10.0-11.0	11.0-12.0	Over 12.0
AAA	1.41%	1.34%	1.13%	1.09%	0.99%	0.88%	0.66%	0.77%	1.01%	0.53%	0.96%	0.08%	-0.89%	-0.92%	-1.00%	-0.71%	-2.73%
AA1		1.31%	1.22%	1.26%	0.90%	0.69%	0.79%	0.60%	0.69%	0.46%	0.09%	-0.01%	-0.61%	-2.36%	0.82%	-0.64%	-2.45%
AA2	1.41%	1.36%	1.26%	1.14%	1.07%	0.98%	0.87%	0.70%	0.45%	0.52%	0.42%	0.18%	-0.14%	-0.47%	0.05%	-0.34%	-1.89%
AA3	1.41%	1.37%	1.20%	1.10%	0.97%	1.00%	0.77%	0.62%	0.67%	0.29%	0.15%	-0.15%	-0.37%	-0.79%	-1.54%	-1.69%	-2.51%
A1	1.41%	1.41%	1.27%	1.16%	1.07%	1.04%	0.98%	0.87%	0.72%	0.70%	0.45%	0.28%	0.80%	-0.01%	-0.41%	-0.55%	-2.09%
A2	1.45%	1.42%	1.29%	1.19%	1.04%	0.98%	0.96%	0.83%	0.66%	0.59%	0.33%	0.13%	0.15%	-0.50%	-0.83%	-1.05%	-2.29%
А3	1.50%	1.42%	1.33%	1.23%	1.05%	1.02%	1.00%	0.80%	0.74%	0.76%	0.42%	0.09%	-0.13%	-0.19%	-0.94%	-1.32%	-2.19%
BBB1	1.44%	1.48%	1.35%	1.26%	1.08%	1.11%	1.02%	0.84%	0.72%	0.72%	0.35%	0.18%	0.04%	0.00%	-0.34%	-1.03%	-1.85%
BBB2	1.46%	1.46%	1.34%	1.31%	1.10%	1.11%	0.99%	0.92%	0.85%	0.78%	0.44%	0.33%	0.22%	0.02%	-0.58%	-0.62%	-1.74%
BBB3	1.48%	1.52%	1.33%	1.44%	1.34%	1.33%	1.29%	1.18%	0.96%	1.08%	0.74%	0.45%	1.00%	0.26%	-0.21%	-0.34%	-0.98%

US Treasuries

Duration	0-0.25	0.25-0.5	0.5-1.0	1.0-1.5	1.5-2.0	2.0-2.5	2.5-3.0	3.0-4.0	4.0-5.0	5.0-6.0	6.0-7.0	7.0-8.0	8.0-9.0	9.0-10.0	10.0-11.0	11.0-12.0	Over 12.0
Treasury	1.32%	1.30%	1.20%	1.06%	0.95%	0.87%	0.79%	0.67%	0.54%	0.40%	0.13%	-0.06%	-0.42%	-1.10%	-0.89%	-0.75%	-1.66%

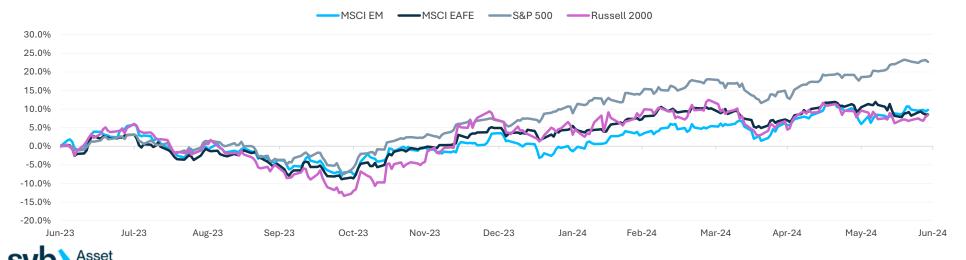
Percentages in table represent total return. Red cells indicate the lowest returns, and green cells indicate the highest returns. Gray cells indicate there were no securities within the specific duration range for the evaluation period.



Global Equity Performance

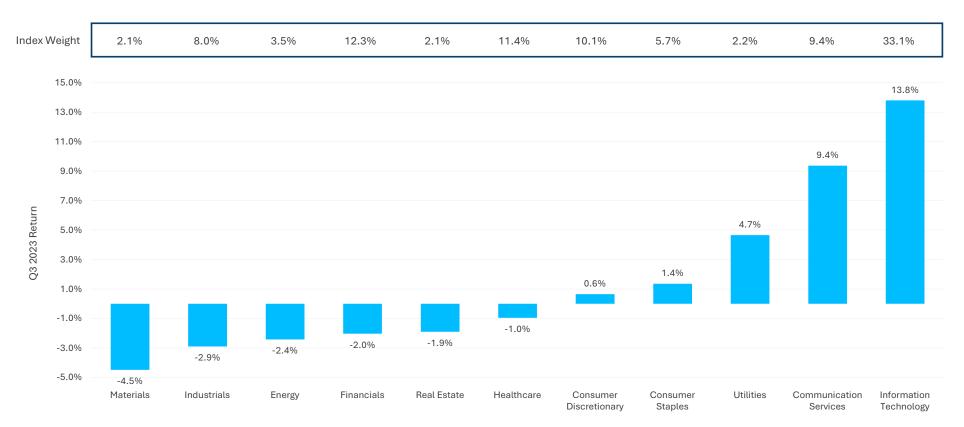
The strong performance in both domestic and international markets has driven valuations upward since the beginning of 2024, thanks to better earnings expectations and a more favorable economic environment.





US Equity Sector Performance

The S&P 500 index achieved a YTD return of 15.29%, driven by technology stocks. This growth was fueled by ongoing enthusiasm around AI, which boosted related companies due to strong earnings and positive outlooks on future performance.





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