#### Macroeconomic Environment

U.S. Equity Valuations	Increasing dispersion with market rotation elevating mega-cap growth valuations
Corporate Earnings	2023 estimates are beginning to reflect a slowing economy
Policy Backdrop	Delicate balancing act between fighting inflation presssures and protecting banking system
Consumer Sentiment	A step down from prior month, still above 2022 lows
Volatility	Modestly elevated aligning with a perceived increasingly fragile financial foundation

#### Market Outlook

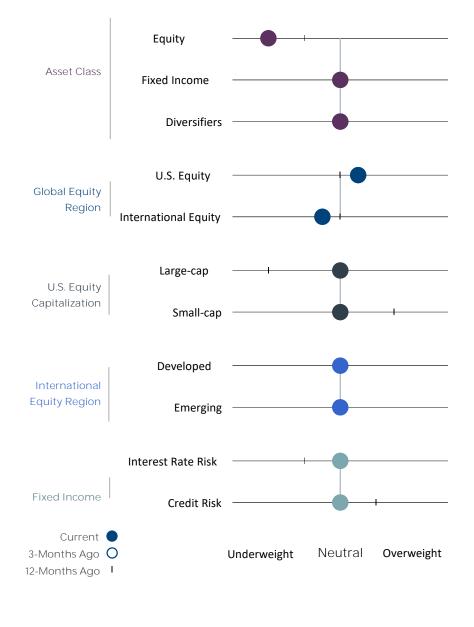
While recent moves in equity markets and bond yields appear to indicate a return of the low-rate, technology-dominated market environment, we remain skeptical

Likely range-bound with elevated volatility until the forward path for economic activity, corporate earnings, and the banking system begins to clear

Political polarization will create an intense debt-ceiling debate, providing financial media with more anxiety-inducing headline material

# Positioning Themes

Asset Class	Recent market gains have dulled our interest to add risk back to portfolios
U.S. Equity	Maintaining a slightly lower overall beta with a modest value tilt in large-cap stocks and a quality growth tilt in small-cap stocks
Int'l Equity	Evaluating options to possibly eliminate underweight exposure and further reduce our growth tilt for a more balanced position
Fixed Income	Short-term, quality bond positions provide flexibility to capitalize on market volatility
Alternatives	Cautious as risks are rising; may present targeted opportunities





# KEY INDICATORS 4.1.2023



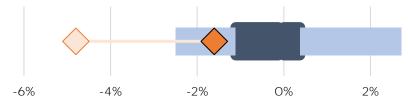
# Policy Environment

#### Fed Funds Rate



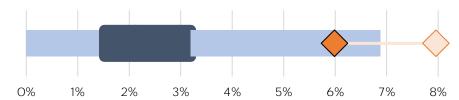
The Fed may soon pause on rate hikes to assess the impact of its policy moves and any disruption from recent banking turmoil.

#### Fiscal Policy GDP Impact



Rising interest expense, inflation-indexed expenses, and a polarized political environment likely to limit fiscal policy support.

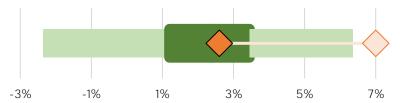
### Inflation (CPI-U, YoY%)



Base effects should continue to support falling inflation, but wage inflation may slow the YoY decline.

# **Economic Fundamentals**

#### Real GDP Growth



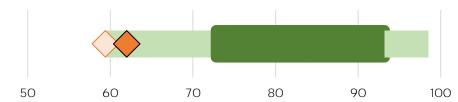
Real GDP growth remains positive due to the strength of the consumer but is losing momentum as businesses cut spending.

#### Employment/Population, 25-54



Official survey statistics remain near all-time highs, but evidence of weaker underlying conditions is mounting.

#### **Consumer Sentiment**



Sentiment has improved modestly as food and gas prices have come down but remains well below longer-term averages

# KEY INDICATORS 4.1.2023



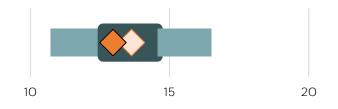
### **Valuations**

# U.S. Price/Earnings (Forward)



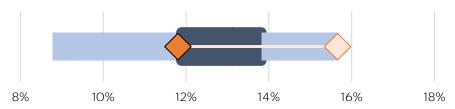
The rotation into mega-cap giants has created valuation dispersion. Investors continue to reconcile earnings uncertainty.

#### International Price/Earnings (Forward)



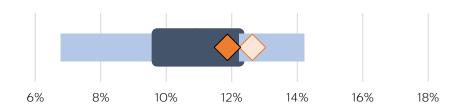
## **Financial Conditions**

## U.S. Operating Margins

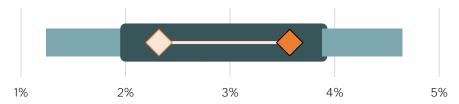


Despite cost-cutting measures, corporate profitability is weakening amid high input costs and reduced overall demand.

# International Operating Margins

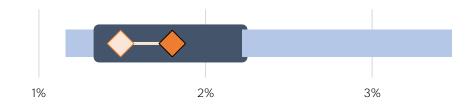


## 10-year Treasury Yield



Yields have pulled back as investors anticipate a reversal in the Fed's monetary policy.

## **Credit Spreads**





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# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

#### Disclaimer

The portfolio positioning guidelines described represent the baseline views of the CAPTRUST Investment Committee. Fulfillment within specific portfolios may vary depending upon operational differences, client circumstances, or other factors. Opinions expressed are subject to change without notice. This is not a solicitation or an offer to buy any security or instrument or to participate in any trading strategy. This presentation is for informational purposes only. CAPTRUST does not render legal, tax or, accounting advice. This information has been compiled using data from sources believed to be reliable but cannot be guaranteed to be accurate or complete.

### **Data Sources**

Page 1:	CAPTRUST Investment Committee				
Slowly			From:	To:	
Page 2:	Fed Funds Rate	Federal Funds Target Range - Upper Limit, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (US), retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis	Jan 2009	Mar 2023	
	Fiscal Policy GDP Impact	Hutchins Center Fiscal Impact Measure, The Brookings Insitution	Apr 2003	Apr 2023	
	Inflation (CPI-U, YoY%)	Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: All Items in U.S. City Average, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis	Mar 2003	Feb 2023	
	Real GDP Growth	Real Gross Domestic Product, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis	Q2-2003	Q4-2022	
	Employment/Population, 25-54	Employment-Population Ratio - 25-54 Yrs., U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis	Mar 2003	Feb 2023	
	Consumer Sentiment	University of Michigan: Consumer Sentiment, University of Michigan, retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis	Mar 2003	Mar 2023	
Page 3:	U.S. Price/Earnings (Forward)	Evaluating options to possibly eliminate underweight exposure and further reduce our growth tilt for a more balanced position	Mar 2003	Mar 2023	
	Int'l Price/Earnings (Forward)	Bloomberg, MSCI ACWI ex-U.S. Forward PE Ratio, monthly	Mar 2006	Mar 2023	
	10-year Treasury Yield	Market Yield on U.S. Treasury Securities at 10-Year Constant Maturity, Quoted on an Investment Basis, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (U.S.), retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis	Mar 2003	Mar 2023	
	U.S. Operating Margins	Bloomberg, S&P 500 Operating Margin(Qtr), monthly	Mar 2003	Mar 2023	
	International Operating Margin	<sub>S</sub> Bloomberg, MSCI ACWI Ex U.S. Operating Margins, monthly	Mar 2003	Mar 2023	
	Credit Spreads	ICE BofA BBB US Corporate Index Option-Adjusted Spread, Ice Data Indices, LLC, retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis	Mar 2003	Mar 2023	

