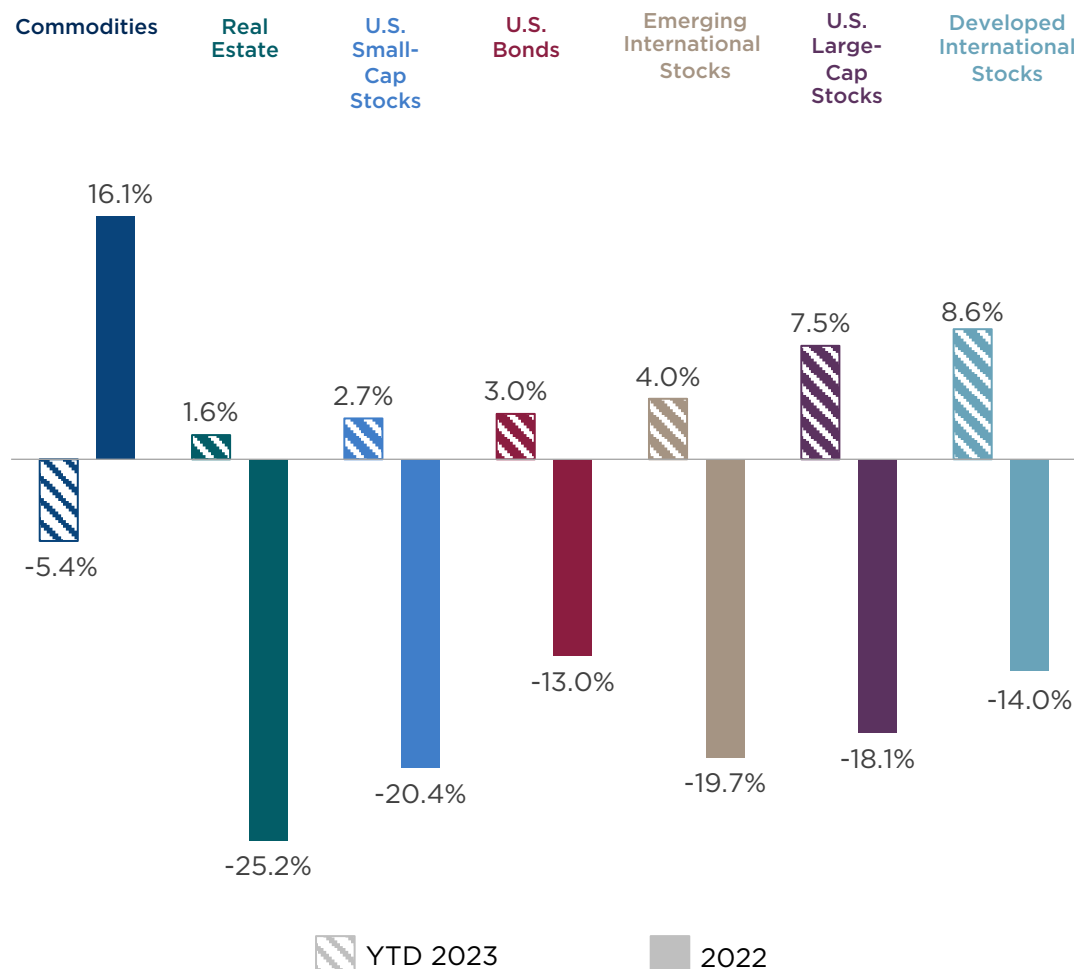


STRONG RETURNS, SHAKY NERVES

After a strong start to 2023, the first quarter ended on a high note despite a rapid-fire array of troubling news. In early March, two large banks failed, and policymakers stepped in to keep isolated problems from becoming a systemic crisis. Despite the headlines, stock and bond markets were surprisingly calm.

- In the U.S., large-cap stocks floated upward, with their small-cap counterparts trailing behind.
- The financial sector faced understandably stiff headwinds, and investors reacted to banking sector news by rotating back to the comfort of mega-cap technology companies with ample cash flows.
- Skeptical of future Fed actions, bond investors drove prices higher as yields slipped lower.
- Outside the U.S., international developed and emerging markets saw modest but steady gains. The post-pandemic reopening of China, stabilizing energy prices across Europe, and a weakening U.S. dollar contributed.
- Real estate posted a modest gain for the quarter, although many of the same challenges of last year remain as headwinds.
- 2022's standout performer, commodities, was the only major asset class in negative territory for the quarter as oil prices slipped.



Asset class returns are represented by the following indexes: Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index (U.S. bonds), S&P 500 Index (U.S. large-cap stocks), Russell 2000® (U.S. small-cap stocks), MSCI EAFE Index (international developed market stocks), MSCI Emerging Market Index (emerging market stocks), Dow Jones U.S. Real Estate Index (real estate), and Bloomberg Commodity Index (commodities).



DIGGING DEEPER: STOCKS AND BONDS

Equities

	Q1 2023	YTD 2023	Last 12 Months
U.S. Stocks	7.5%	7.5%	-7.8%
• Q1 Best Sector: Technology	21.8%	21.8%	-4.6%
• Q1 Worst Sector: Financials	-5.6%	-5.6%	-14.3%
International Stocks	8.6%	8.6%	-0.9%
Emerging Markets Stocks	4.0%	4.0%	-10.3%

Fixed Income

	3.31.23	12.31.22	3.31.22
1-Year U.S. Treasury Yield	4.62%	4.71%	1.61
10-Year U.S. Treasury Yield	3.47%	3.88%	2.34%
	QTD 2023	YTD 2023	Last 12 Months
10-Year U.S. Treasury Total Return	3.76%	3.76%	-6.79%

Equities – Relative Performance by Market Capitalization and Style

Q1 2023				YTD 2023				Last 12 Months			
	Value	Blend	Growth		Value	Blend	Growth		Value	Blend	Growth
Large	1.0%	7.5%	14.4%	Large	1.0%	7.5%	14.4%	Large	-5.9%	-7.8%	-10.9%
Mid	1.3%	4.1%	9.1%	Mid	1.3%	4.1%	9.1%	Mid	-9.2%	-8.8%	-8.5%
Small	-0.7%	2.7%	6.1%	Small	-0.7%	2.7%	6.1%	Small	-13.0%	-11.6%	-10.6%

Sources: Bloomberg, U.S. Treasury. Asset class returns are represented by the following indexes: S&P 500 Index (U.S. stocks), MSCI EAFE Index (international developed market stocks), and MSCI Emerging Markets Index (emerging market stocks). Relative performance by market capitalization and style is based upon the Russell US Style Indexes except for large-cap blend, which is based upon the S&P 500 Index.



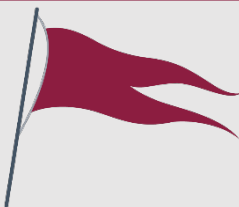
ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

The economy's forward path has become even more complicated with recent high-profile but isolated bank failures accentuating the impact of rising rates. While the Fed remains committed to taming inflation, it must also consider the lagged impact of prior tightening actions. Stricter regulation and tighter lending conditions could compound the effect of its restrictive monetary policy and further slow the economy.

HEADWINDS

The Fed Conflict

- Although inflation remains elevated, prices have descended. The Fed now faces the task of achieving price stability while avoiding strain on the financial system.



Financial System in Turmoil

- Regional and community banks risk losing cash deposits to the perceived safety of larger institutions. Such moves may lead to tighter lending conditions across several economic sectors.

Earnings at Risk

- Despite cost-cutting, certain sectors could see squeezed margins. Financial firms may see tighter regulation and lower net interest margins, while a mild winter and cost inflation could create headwinds for energy companies.

Debt-Ceiling Deadlock

- To avoid the consequences of a default, Congress needs to raise the debt ceiling by mid-summer.
- This debt-ceiling compromise must be struck between polarized parties with thin margins, raising the odds of political fireworks.

TAILWINDS

Consumer Goods Inflation Easing

- The cost of key consumer goods, like food, gas, and housing, is gradually abating.
- Reduced logistic pressures and the Chinese economic reopening have improved supply-side capacity.
- Warmer weather, conservation, and the use of energy reserves have benefited oil and gas prices.
- A wave of new supply has tempered rent growth.



Resilient Labor Market and Consumer Spending

- While wage pressures have eased, job growth remains robust. A stronger labor market provides greater household confidence, supporting consumer spending across goods and services.

Traditional Diversification Benefits

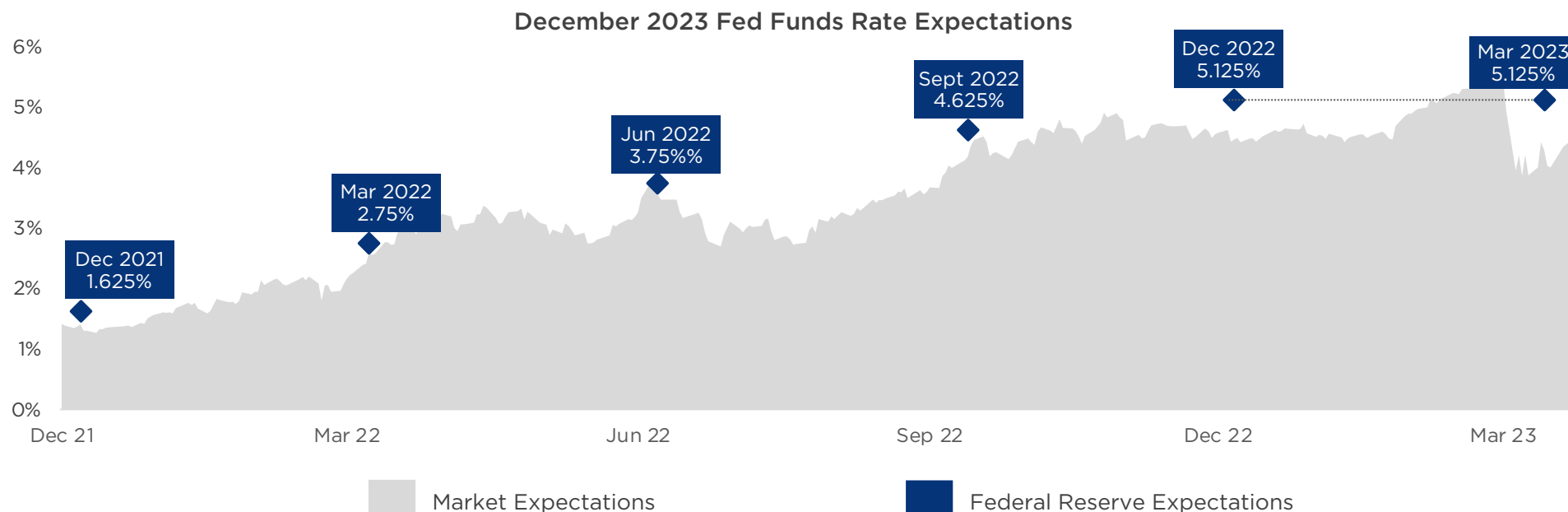
- 2022's highly unusual environment made diversification an ineffective tool.
- Supported by a higher risk-free rate, the new year has shown hints of more normal diversification relationships between asset classes, with stock and bond prices reacting differently to economic data.

The wide range of potential outcomes and an uncertain policy environment limit the ability to create a singular forecast with confidence. Investors should remain vigilant, diversified, and prepared for ongoing volatility.



A FED IN CONFLICT

Before the banking system stresses that emerged in March, the Fed was prepared to maintain higher-for-longer interest rates in the face of labor market strength and inflation that remains above target. Now, the Fed must balance its goal of lowering inflation while maintaining stability in the financial system. With so much uncertainty surrounding the forward path, expectations are diverging.



OBSERVATIONS

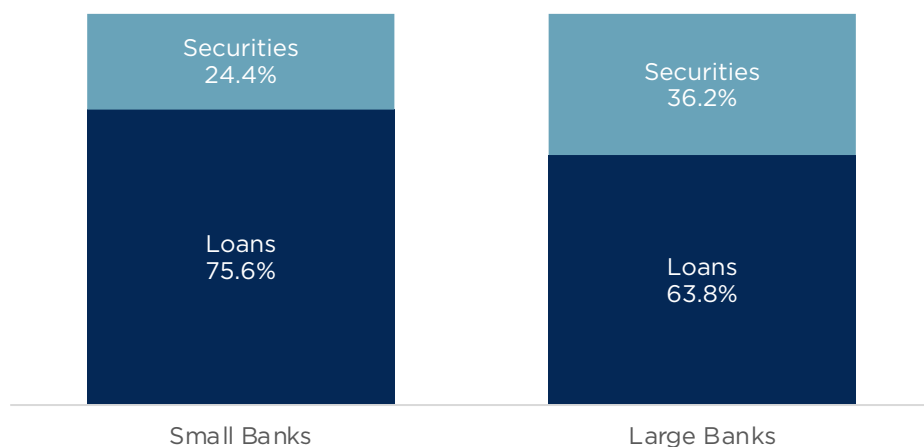
- For much of 2022, both the market's expectations and the Fed's forecasts were aligned about where the fed funds rate would land at the end of 2023. However, the two began to diverge in late 2022, with the Fed maintaining its higher-for-longer stance, while markets envisioned a quicker Fed pivot.
- Both sides remain data-dependent. A stronger-than-expected January jobs report sent market expectations above Fed targets. However, the bank collapses in March sent expectations sharply lower as the market anticipated rate cuts before 2024. How this difference of opinion reconciles will be a critical contributor to market conditions and investor sentiment for the remainder of the year.

Sources: Bloomberg, CAPTRUST Research. Data as of 3.31.2023.

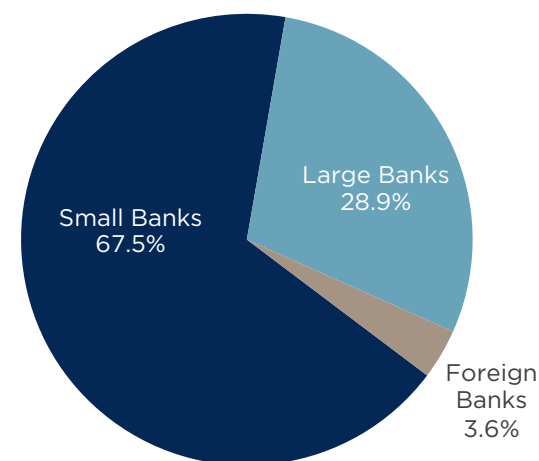
BANK STRESS IMPACTS MAY PERSIST

After the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank in early March, regional and community banks have come under pressure. The week after these disruptions, savers withdrew more than \$180 billion from small banks, the largest weekly deposit decline of the last 20 years. Large banks were the primary beneficiaries, as investors flocked to their perceived safety. Continued declines in deposit balances could ultimately leave small and midsize banks vulnerable, leading to tighter lending conditions across several economic sectors.

Percent of Bank Credit



Issuers of Commercial Real Estate Loans



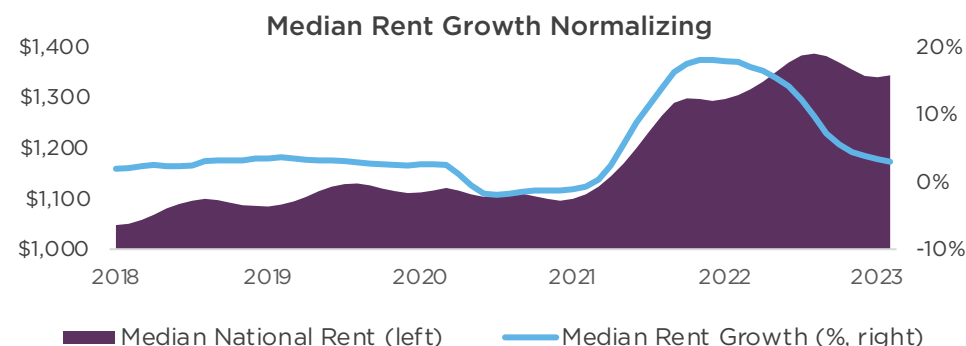
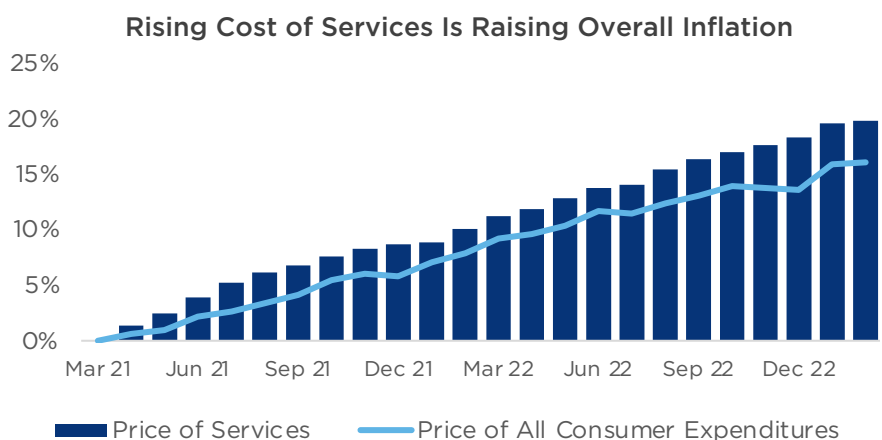
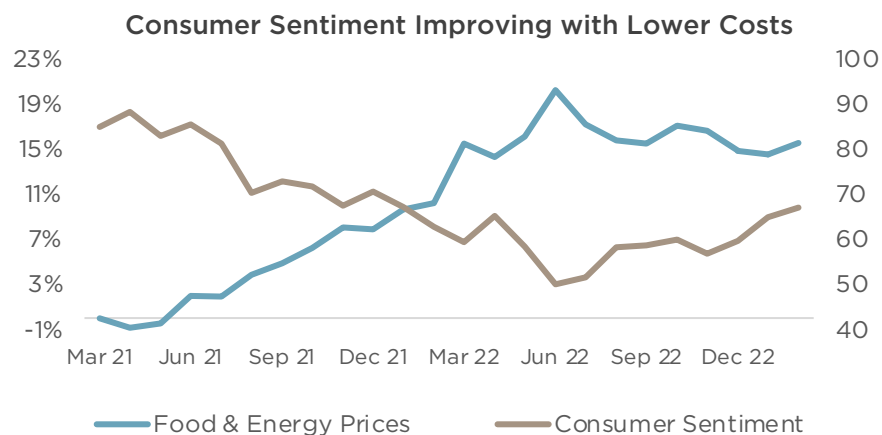
OBSERVATIONS

- Generally, large banks maintain a higher percentage of their bank credit—or a portion of total assets—in securities and lend approximately 65% of available credit. Conversely, loans make up approximately 75% of smaller banks' available bank credit. Consequently, a deposit shift from small banks to larger ones will likely restrict the amount of credit available across the overall economy.
- Most vulnerable is the commercial real estate market, where small banks provide nearly 70% of all commercial real estate loans. Restrictive credit conditions could create challenges for these markets that are already facing valuation pressure from rising interest rates.

Sources: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, CAPTRUST Research. Large banks are defined as the largest 25 U.S. chartered commercial banks. Small banks are defined all chartered U.S. commercial banks excluding the top 25.

RELIEF FOR CONSUMERS AS PRICES FALL

Consumer purchasing power has improved as the prices of key items such as groceries and gasoline have receded from their 2022 peaks. The robust labor market has also contributed to a more confident consumer by driving wages higher. However, these same high labor costs are adversely impacting the price of worker-dependent services, like home repair, travel, and entertainment, contributing to higher overall inflation.



OBSERVATIONS

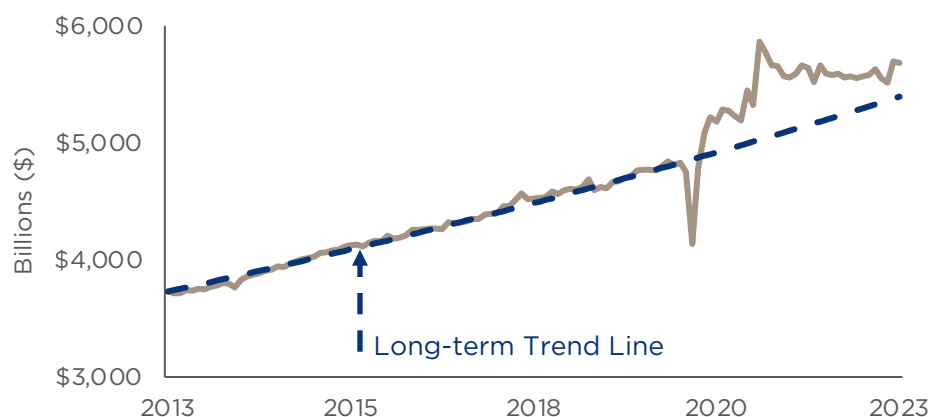
- Consumer sentiment reached an all-time low in June 2022, just as food and energy prices peaked. Sentiment has improved as prices have come down.
- Landlords are holding rents steady in anticipation of competition, as the market is expected to see the largest delivery of new unit supply since 1986. Much of this supply comes from real estate developers seeking to capitalize on pent-up housing demand.
- The cost of services has risen 20% in just two years as workers return to the office and in-person activities. This increase is driving persistently high headline inflation even as the cost of goods has ebbed.

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment Index, CAPTRUST Research. Data as of March 31, 2023.

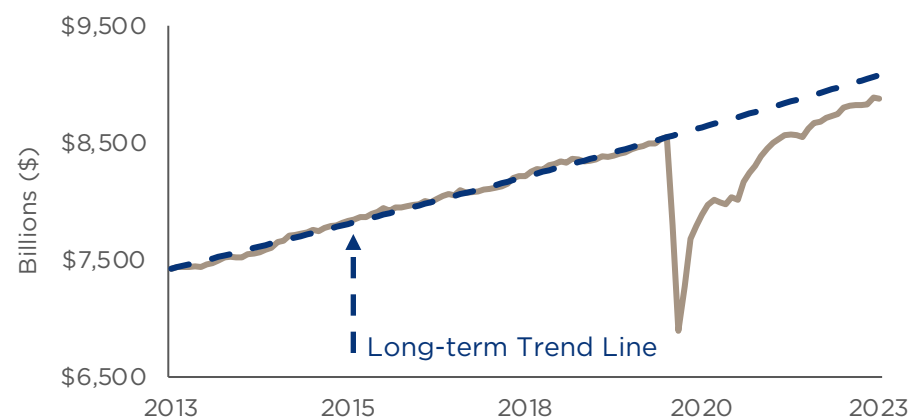
REGISTERS KEEP RINGING WITH JOBS, SAVINGS

While the strong labor market is proving to be a thorn in the Fed's side, it continues to support economic activity, giving consumers greater confidence to maintain spending. While personal savings rates have recently fallen below long-term averages, this additional spending has been supported by excess savings accumulated during the pandemic. Based on the February 2020 savings level, economists estimate approximately \$1 trillion in excess savings remains in the system.

U.S. Real Consumer Spending - Goods



U.S. Real Consumer Spending - Services



OBSERVATIONS: GOODS

- Spending on goods continues to run above pre-pandemic levels. At the end of February 2023, spending on goods was approximately \$285 billion above the long-term trend line.
- The easing of inflation across goods sectors has supported real spending.
- As supply chains have reopened, supply-demand imbalances have quickly cleared.

OBSERVATIONS: SERVICES

- While spending on services has not fully returned to long-term trends, the recovery across the industry has been robust.
- Continued inflation pressures, especially wage inflation, across the services sector have restricted real spending.
- While higher wages support nominal spending, higher real wages are also driving up the cost of services, limiting the impact of spending.

Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis-SAAR, Bloomberg, CAPTRUST Research

ASSET CLASS RETURNS

Period Ending 3.31.23 | Q1 23

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Q1 2023
Real Estate 28.48%	Real Estate 8.69%	Real Estate 17.77%	Small-Cap Stocks 38.82%	Real Estate 30.38%	Strategic Opportunities 2.86%	Small-Cap Stocks 21.31%	International Equities 27.77%	Cash 1.87%	Large-Cap Stocks 31.43%	Large-Cap Stocks 20.96%	Real Estate 38.99%	Cash 1.46%	Large-Cap Stocks 7.46%
Small-Cap Stocks 26.85%	Fixed Income 7.84%	International Equities 17.39%	Mid-Cap Stocks 34.76%	Large-Cap Stocks 13.24%	Real Estate 2.14%	Mid-Cap Stocks 13.80%	Large-Cap Stocks 21.69%	Fixed Income 0.01%	Mid-Cap Stocks 30.54%	Small-Cap Stocks 19.96%	Large-Cap Stocks 26.45%	Strategic Opportunities 0.85%	International Equities 7.00%
Mid-Cap Stocks 25.48%	Large-Cap Stocks 1.50%	Mid-Cap Stocks 17.28%	Large-Cap Stocks 33.11%	Mid-Cap Stocks 13.22%	Large-Cap Stocks 0.92%	Large-Cap Stocks 12.05%	Mid-Cap Stocks 18.52%	Strategic Opportunities -0.49%	Real Estate 28.92%	Mid-Cap Stocks 17.10%	Mid-Cap Stocks 22.58%	Fixed Income -13.01%	Mid-Cap Stocks 4.06%
Large-Cap Stocks 16.10%	Cash 0.10%	Large-Cap Stocks 16.42%	International Equities 15.78%	Fixed Income 5.97%	Fixed Income 0.55%	Real Estate 7.56%	Small-Cap Stocks 14.65%	Real Estate -4.03%	Small-Cap Stocks 25.52%	International Equities 11.13%	Small-Cap Stocks 14.82%	International Equities -15.57%	Fixed Income 2.96%
International Equities 11.60%	Mid-Cap Stocks -1.55%	Small-Cap Stocks 16.35%	Strategic Opportunities 3.58%	Small-Cap Stocks 4.89%	Cash 0.05%	International Equities 5.01%	Real Estate 9.84%	Large-Cap Stocks -4.78%	International Equities 22.13%	Fixed Income 7.51%	International Equities 8.29%	Mid-Cap Stocks -17.32%	Small-Cap Stocks 2.74%
Fixed Income 6.54%	Strategic Opportunities -3.71%	Fixed Income 4.22%	Real Estate 2.47%	Strategic Opportunities 0.79%	Mid-Cap Stocks -2.44%	Fixed Income 2.65%	Fixed Income 3.54%	Mid-Cap Stocks -9.06%	Fixed Income 8.72%	Strategic Opportunities 2.72%	Strategic Opportunities 2.10%	Large-Cap Stocks -19.13%	Real Estate 1.57%
Cash 0.13%	Small-Cap Stocks -4.18%	Strategic Opportunities 0.88%	Cash 0.07%	Cash 0.03%	Small-Cap Stocks -4.41%	Cash 0.33%	Strategic Opportunities 3.40%	Small-Cap Stocks -11.01%	Strategic Opportunities 4.37%	Cash 0.67%	Cash 0.05%	Small-Cap Stocks -20.44%	Cash 1.07%
Strategic Opportunities -0.12%	International Equities -13.33%	Cash 0.11%	Fixed Income -2.02%	International Equities -3.44%	International Equities -5.25%	Strategic Opportunities 0.31%	Cash 0.86%	International Equities -13.78%	Cash 2.28%	Real Estate -5.29%	Fixed Income -1.54%	Real Estate -25.17%	Strategic Opportunities -0.20%

Source: Markov Processes, Inc., Bloomberg, Mobius

Small-Cap Stocks (Russell 2000 Index)
Mid-Cap Stocks (Russell Mid-Cap Index)
Large-Cap Stocks (Russell 1000 Index)

Real Estate (Dow Jones U.S. Real Estate Index)
Strategic Opportunities (HFRX Absolute Return Index)
Cash (Merrill Lynch 3-Month Treasury Bill)

International Equities (ACWI Ex-U.S. Index)
Fixed Income (Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index)

The information contained in this report is from sources believed to be reliable but is not warranted by CAPTRUST to be accurate or complete.



ESTATE PLANNING PITFALLS TO AVOID

Death and taxes are inevitable. A proper estate plan will ensure your assets are distributed according to your wishes. However, implementing an estate plan is often avoided or delayed due to its emotional nature. Prioritize this part of your planning to avoid these common pitfalls:

1

MISSING KEY DOCUMENTS

Wills and powers of attorney allow you to make your wishes clear, legally protect your assets, and save your family time and money.

6

NOT TAKING ADVANTAGE OF TRUSTS

Trusts can help avoid probate costs and delays, may receive tax benefits, provide beneficiaries with protection, and govern the private transfer of your assets.

2

NOT UPDATING KEY DOCUMENTS

Update your documents if your state of residency changes, you have a child, your marital status changes, you inherit assets, or your goals change.

7

KEEPING LIFE INSURANCE IN YOUR ESTATE

Owning life insurance in an irrevocable trust can avoid adding to the taxable value of an estate.

3

IMPROPER BENEFICIARIES

Make sure retirement accounts and insurance policies have primary and contingent beneficiaries that accurately reflect your current situation and intentions.

8

FAILURE TO CONSIDER LIFETIME GIFTS

Gift and estate tax legislation changes. You may wish to take advantage of exemptions while you are living.

4

INSUFFICIENT LIFE INSURANCE

Make sure your spouse and family can meet their financial obligations with appropriate life insurance coverage.

9

FAILURE TO CONSIDER YOUR SPOUSE'S ESTATE

Depending on your situation, leaving too much to your spouse or holding too much joint property may not be best.

5

INSUFFICIENT ESTATE LIQUIDITY

Ensure your real estate, business interests, and illiquid assets aren't sold hastily to cover estate costs.

10

NOT HOLDING BUSINESS KEY PERSON INSURANCE

Key person insurance protects your business and the value of your estate by providing liquidity at a critical time.

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LEGACY PLANNING STRATEGIES

When it comes to legacy planning, the first question to ask yourself is who do you want to impact and when? Financially planning for your legacy helps ensure that your assets are distributed smoothly and in line with your wishes, while also minimizing income, gift, and estate taxes. The strategies below can be valuable regardless of your financial situation—but range in complexity. Contact your CAPTRUST financial advisor to discuss the best strategies to achieve your legacy planning goals.

<div>LESS COMPLEX</div> <div>MORE COMPLEX</div>	FAMILY/INDIVIDUALS		PHILANTHROPY	
	NOW	FUTURE	NOW	FUTURE
	Annual exclusion gifting	Beneficiary and payable on death (POD)/transfer on death (TOD) designations	Annual gifting (cash, securities, etc.)	Beneficiary and payable on death (POD)/transfer on death (TOD) designations
	Lifetime exclusion gifting	Irrevocable life insurance trusts (ILIT)	Donor-advised funds (DAF)	Charitable remainder trusts (CRT)
	Intrafamily lending	Grantor retained annuity trusts (GRAT)	Qualified charitable distributions (QCD)	
	Installment sales	Spousal lifetime access trusts (SLAT)	Charitable lead trusts (CLT)	
	Family limited partnerships (FLP)	Intentionally defective grantor trusts (IDGT)	Private foundation	

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