



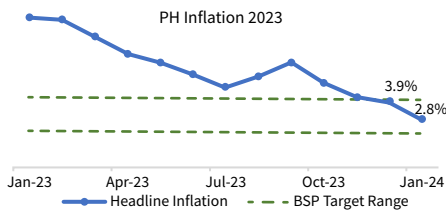
MARKET BITE

Bite-sized insights to keep you up-to-date on the financial markets

FEBRUARY 2024

FED remains cautious as economies show resiliency

The strong economic performance at the beginning of the year suggests the resiliency of both global and local economies, which prompted the FED (Federal Reserve) to plan holding interest rates steady. As the January US consumer price index (CPI) is slightly higher than expected at 3.1%, cutting rates too early could risk reigniting inflation. Analysts now predict a rate cut might be delayed to Q2 or even later in 2024.



Local market shines

The Philippine stock market enjoyed a positive January, gaining 3.04% due to upbeat investor sentiment following better-than-expected GDP and inflation releases. Philippine GDP for Q4 2023 surpassed expectations, reaching 5.6%, driven by investment inflows and private consumption. Encouragingly, inflation continued to ease, with January figures dropping to 2.8% year-on-year, comfortably within the BSP target range.

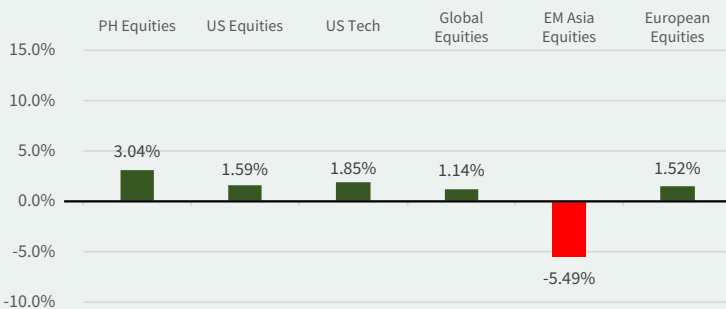
Global markets on the upswing

This positive economic performance fueled optimistic investor sentiment, leading to favorable outcomes for both US and global markets. This is despite ongoing conflicts in the Middle East and Europe that continue to affect supply chains and input prices in the region.

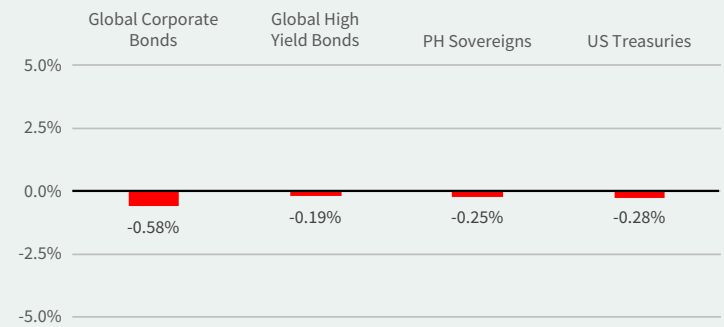
In the U.S., performance in both the services and manufacturing sectors indicates a healthy economy. Labor market reports show the economy's continued strength with rising wages and low unemployment in spite of the high-rate environment. Additionally, earnings for S&P 500 companies are forecasted to grow by 2.9% for Q4 2023, reversing previous expectations of a decline.

FINANCIAL MARKETS SNAPSHOT

Equity Markets (YTD as of Jan. 31, 2024)



Fixed Income Markets (YTD as of Jan. 31, 2024)

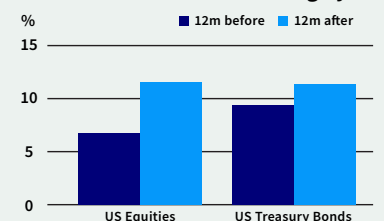


AXA FUNDS OVERVIEW

Peso Equity Funds			AXA Global Dynamic Allocation Funds		
	MTD	YTD		MTD	YTD
Wealth Equity	2.95%	2.95%	GDAF-Stable	-0.44%	-0.44%
Chinese Tycoon	3.15%	3.15%	GDAF-Multi Asset	-0.37%	-0.37%
Spanish-American	0.77%	0.77%	GDAF-Growth	0.13%	0.13%
Opportunity	2.83%	2.83%			
Peso Fixed Income and Balanced Funds			Dollar Fixed Income Funds		
	MTD	YTD		MTD	YTD
Peso Liquidity	0.38%	0.38%	Capital Investment	-5.44%	-5.44%
Wealth Bond	-0.39%	-0.39%	Premium Bond	-0.13%	-0.13%
Wealth Balanced	1.11%	1.11%			
Peso-Denominated Dollar Funds			Retire Smart Funds		
	MTD	YTD		MTD	YTD
Peso GAF	3.82%	3.82%	RS30	2.11%	2.11%
Peso GDAF-Stable	1.15%	1.15%	RS35	1.75%	1.75%
Peso GDAF-Multi Asset	1.27%	1.27%	RS40	1.93%	1.93%
Peso GDAF-Growth	1.79%	1.79%	RS45	2.03%	2.03%
Dollar Equity Funds			AXA Income Paying Funds		
	MTD	YTD		MTD	YTD
Asia Growth	-5.44%	-5.44%	Dollar GAIN	0.45%	0.45%
European Wealth	-0.13%	-0.13%	Peso GAIN	2.05%	2.05%
Global Advantage	2.06%	2.06%	Dollar REIT IPF	-5.76%	-5.76%
			Peso REIT IPF	-4.16%	-4.16%

Performance as of Jan. 31, 2024 (valuation date)

Average Total Returns before & after the first cut in a Fed Loosening Cycle



DID YOU KNOW?
Historically, when the FED nears a rate cut cycle, the effect on the market is positive. Returns on both equities and fixed income securities are typically better.