

Total Investment Returns—01.31.2024

	January	Last 12 Mos.
Dow Jones Industrial Average	1.3%	14.4%
Nasdaq Composite	1.0%	32.0%
S&P 500 Composite	1.7%	20.8%
S&P MidCap 400	-1.7%	4.8%
S&P SmallCap 600	-3.9%	1.8%
MSCI World (\$)	1.2%	17.0%
MSCI World ex U.S. (\$)	0.4%	9.5%
Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate	-0.3%	2.1%
90-Day Treasury Bills (Yield)	5.4%	4.7%
CPI ex-Food & Energy SA* (Dec 2023)	0.3%	3.9%

*SA: Seasonally Adjusted
Sources: Bloomberg LP & Wright Investors' Service, Inc.

experienced a significant jump to 52.3, up from the previous month's 50.9 level, marking the fastest growth in business activity since June 2023. The service sector saw the swiftest expansion in business activity since June 2023, while manufacturing firms showed a slight decrease in output. Despite a consecutive monthly fall in new export orders, new business grew for the third month in a row. On the pricing front, the inflation of input costs decelerated, marking the second lowest level since October 2020, while average prices for goods and services increased at the slowest pace since May 2020. Business confidence soared to its highest point since May 2022. The US Manufacturing PMI for January 2024 advanced to 50.7 from an initial estimate of 50.3, indicating a more substantial improvement in manufacturing conditions than initially expected. Overall growth was fueled by a resurgence in new orders and a slower growth in output. However, production was reportedly hindered by a decline in supplier performance and extended input deliveries. Increased transportation costs contributed to a rise in input prices for the month, leading to cost inflation reaching a nine-month high.

Consumer confidence continued to strengthen as inflation showed signs of softening. In January, U.S. consumer confidence saw a significant increase as inflationary pressures continued to diminish. According to the

Conference Board, the consumer confidence index rose to 114.8, up from a downwardly revised 108.0 in December, marking the third consecutive month of increasing consumer confidence. Household spending is expected to persist on the back of improved inflation expectations and a robust job market. 30-year mortgages averaged around 6.6%, and new home sales improved to 664,000 from 615,000 in the previous month. However, existing home sales fell -1.0% month-over-month as the inventory of houses available for sale remains very low. As mortgage rates have moderated in the recent months, there is a possibility that an increase in inventory could occur, potentially strengthening housing market activity.

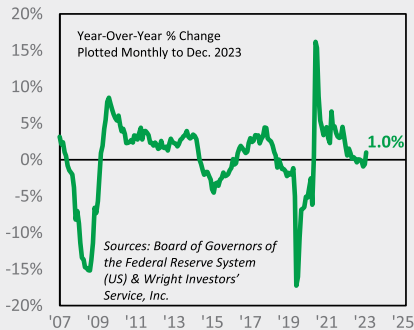
The Fed maintained unchanged policy interest rates during its January 31 meeting. In December, the Core Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE), the preferred inflation gauge for the Fed, increased by +2.9% year-over-year, a slight decrease from the +3.2% reported last month and the lowest rate since February 2021. The month-over-month growth in Core PCE was +0.2%, in line with market expectations and a small rise from the +0.1% growth in November. Over a two-week period ending January 27th, the number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits rose for consecutive weeks, reaching 224,000. Furthermore, continuing claims increased to 1.9 million in the week ending January 20.

Investment Outlook

Fed Chief Jerome Powell expressed cautious satisfaction with the current state of the economy, acknowledging the challenges ahead in achieving the 'last mile' of the inflation target. Despite several high-profile layoffs announced by major corporations, and a slight softening in the labor market evidenced by recent claims data, the situation remains precarious. The consensus in the market is leaning towards the Fed lowering its key rate in the near future, although there's debate over the timing of such a move. Odds of a rate cut in March were quashed at the January 30-31 Fed meeting, and sights are now set for a cut in May. If the current economic trends persist, the long-awaited and elusive soft-landing may materialize. However, until these positive trends demonstrate sustained progress over an extended period, we believe it's advisable to invest in a well-diversified portfolio of high-quality assets as a prudent approach to navigating market uncertainties and volatility.

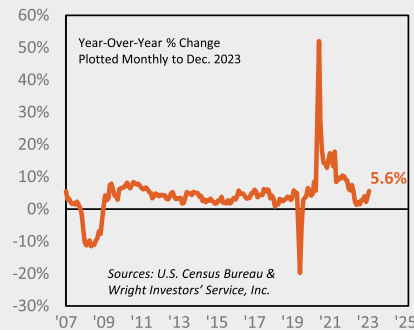
Manufacturing: Reaccelerating

Industrial Production



Consumer Spending: Showing Strength

Total Retail Sales



Core Inflation: Moderating

Consumer Price Index - Excluding Food & Energy



Source: Bloomberg Index Services Limited. "Bloomberg®", "Bloomberg Commodity Index" and the Bloomberg Bond Indices are service marks of Bloomberg Finance L.P. and its affiliates, including Bloomberg Index Services Limited ("BISL"), the administrator of the index (collectively, "Bloomberg") and have been licensed for use for certain purposes by Wright Investors' Service, Inc. Bloomberg is not affiliated with Wright Investors' Service, Inc. and Bloomberg does not approve, endorse, review, or recommend Wright Products. Bloomberg does not guarantee the timeliness, accurateness, or completeness of any data or information relating to Wright Products.

Copyright © 2024 by Wright Investors' Service, Inc., 2 Corporate Dr. Suite 770, Shelton, CT 06484-6238. This commentary does not constitute an offer to sell any securities or the solicitation of an offer to purchase any securities. All Rights Reserved. Except for quotations by established news media, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without prior written permission. Statements, opinions, general market performance and related commentary are based on sources of information believed to be accurate and reliable, but Wright makes no representations or guarantees as to the accuracy or completeness thereof. Certain information contained in this letter constitutes "forward-looking statements" which includes, but is not limited to, terminology such as "may," "should," "expect," "project," or "estimate" or the negatives thereof or other variations thereon. Forward-looking statements are based upon speculation, expectations, estimates and assumptions that are inherently unreliable and subject to significant business, economic and competitive uncertainties and contingencies. Forward-looking statements are not a promise or guaranty of future events. While Wright believes that the index comparative information herein is relevant to evaluating an investment with Wright, it is for illustration and discussion purposes only. Indexes are unmanaged and have no fees or expenses and it is not possible to invest directly in an index. Wright managed portfolios may consist of securities which vary significantly from those in the benchmark indexes herein. Wright employees may purchase and sell securities subject to certain pre-clearance and reporting requirements. Wright's Brochure, Brochure Supplements, and Form CRS are available upon a written request. **Past performance is not indicative of future results.**

Investment and Insurance Products Are: Not a Deposit | Not FDIC Insured | Not Insured By Any Federal Government Agency | Not Bank Guaranteed | May Lose Value