



ATTACHMENT 1A (REVISED)

Discussion Guide

Toronto Investment Board

2023 Q3



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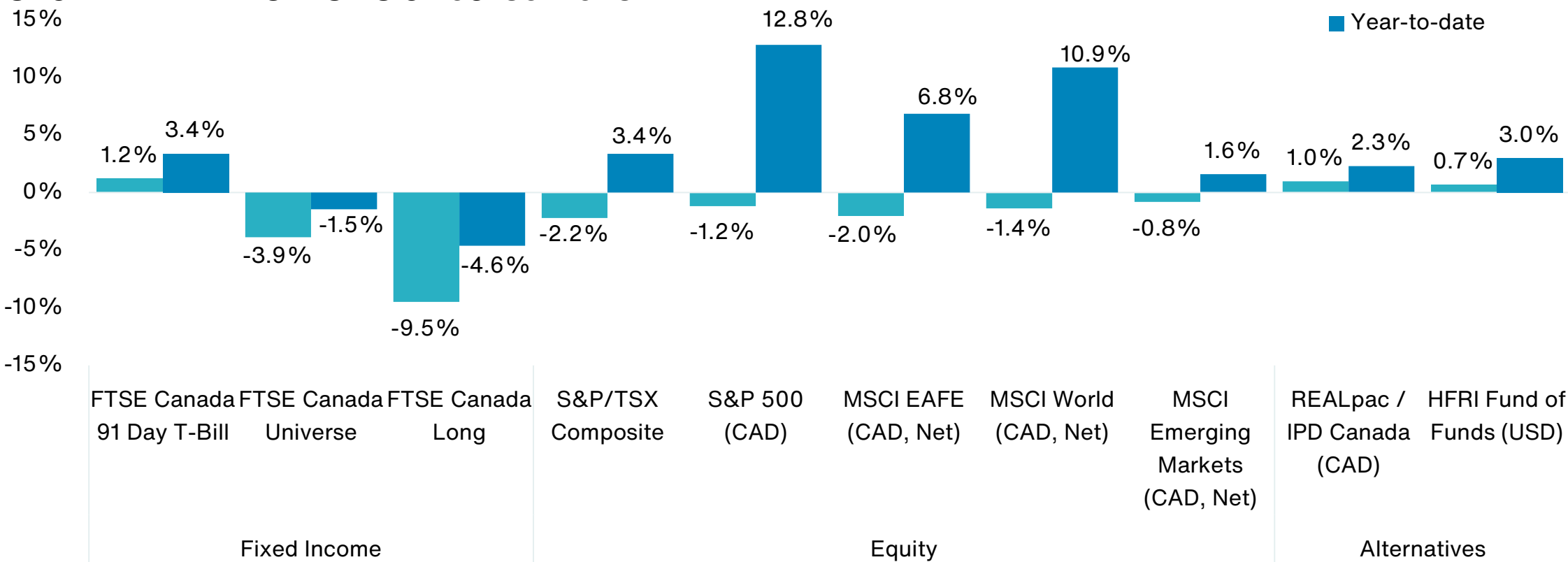
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Thought Leadership



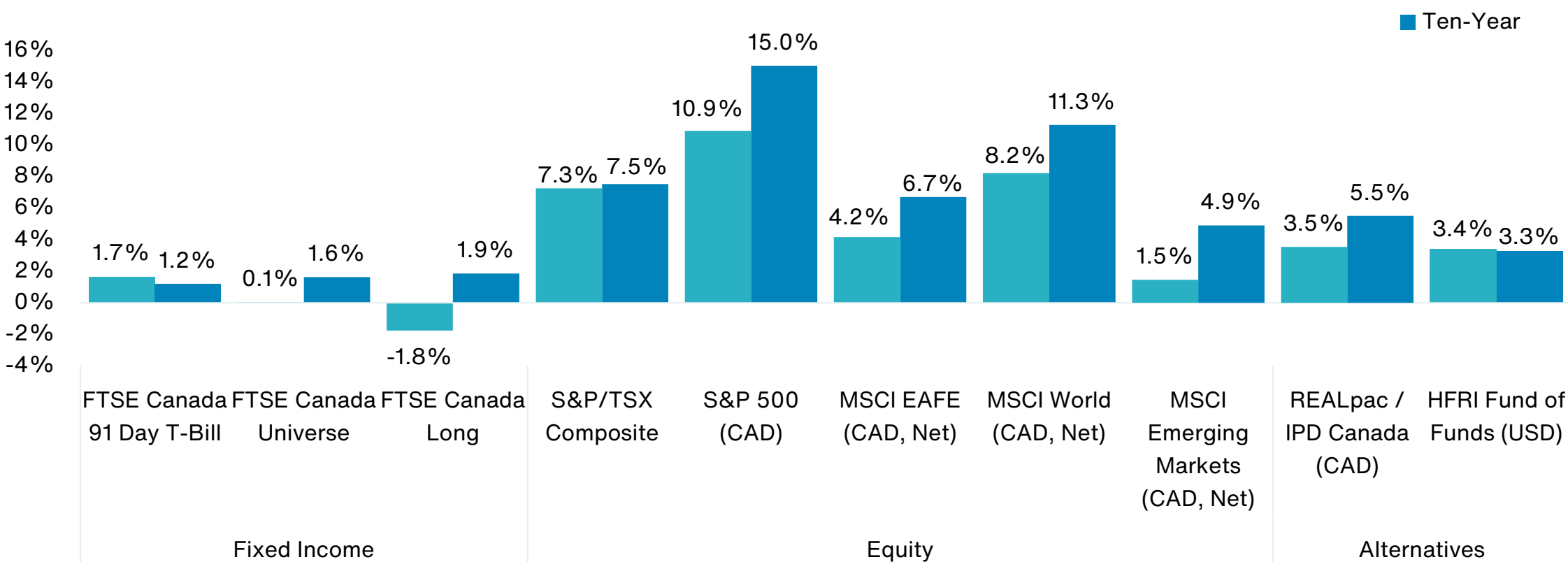
Capital Markets Overview

SHORT TERM RETURNS AS OF 09/30/2023



Sources: S&P, MSCI, FTSE. Unless it's otherwise stated, gross CAD returns are shown in this report.

LONG TERM ANNUALIZED RETURNS AS OF 09/30/2023



Sources: S&P, MSCI, FTSE

- In Q3 2023, global equity markets fell amidst expectations of interest rates staying higher for a longer. The MSCI World Index fell 2.5% in local currency terms and 1.4% in Canadian dollar (CAD) terms.
- The Bank of Canada (BoC) increased its benchmark interest rate by 25bps to 5% and held it at a 22-year high over the quarter. The governing council's main concern is the persistent inflationary pressure, and they will follow a data-dependent approach to guide their future decisions.
- The U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) increased its benchmark interest rate by 25bps to a range of 5.25%-5.5% over the quarter, representing the highest level in more than 22 years. The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) indicated that inflation remained “elevated”, and that the economy was growing at a “moderate pace”. Fed Chair Jerome Powell signaled that future Fed decisions would be based on “careful assessments” on a “meeting by meeting” basis. According to the latest Fed “dot plot”, the FOMC members see a further quarter-point hike this year before a gradual pace of interest rate cuts in 2024 and 2025.
- The Bank of England (BoE) raised its benchmark interest rate by 25bps to 5.25% during the quarter. Andrew Bailey, the BoE governor, indicated that any future interest rate increase would be based on evidence of persistent inflationary pressures. The BoE agreed to increase its current quantitative tightening pace of £80bn to £100bn in 2023-24. Elsewhere, the BoE warned that British companies face a higher risk of corporate default as a result of rising interest rates. The share of non-financial UK companies experiencing debt servicing stress, characterized by a low earning-to-interest expense ratio (defined by the BoE as less than 2.5), will rise to 50% by the end of 2023, up from 45% in 2022.
- The European Central Bank (ECB) raised its deposit rates by 50bps to 4%, touching an all-time high with its tenth consecutive rate increase. The Governing Council signaled that interest rates could have peaked and might be held for a sufficiently longer duration to bring inflation down to the 2% target.

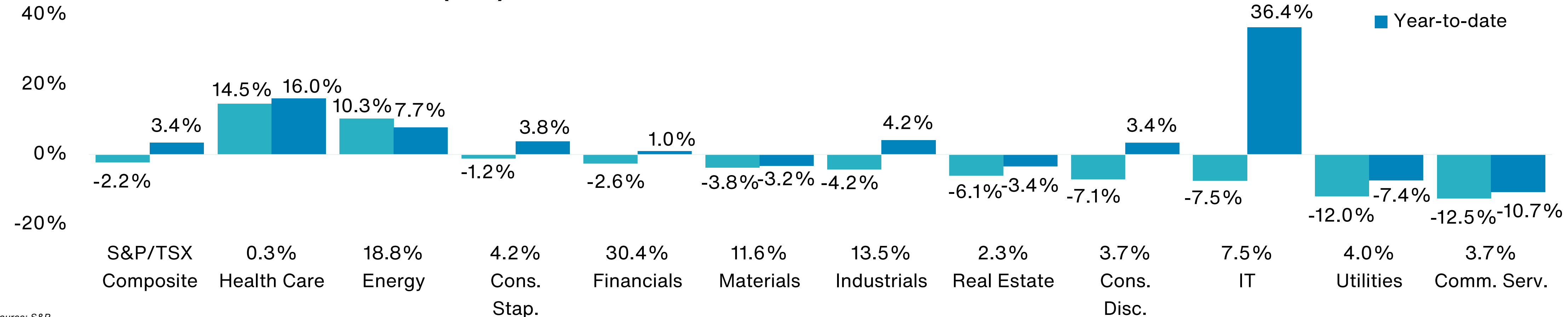


Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Indices cannot be invested in directly. Unmanaged index returns assume reinvestment of any and all distributions and do not reflect fees and expenses.

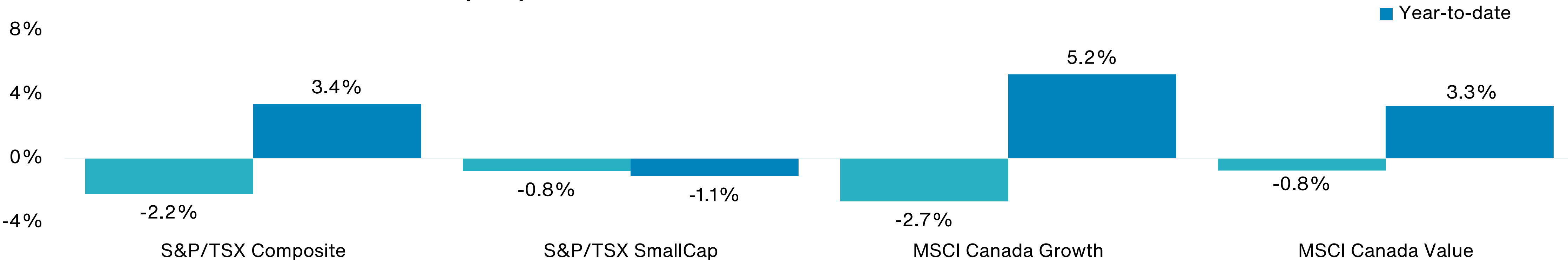
Capital Markets Overview

Canadian Equity

S&P/TSX COMPOSITE SECTOR RETURNS (CAD) AS OF 09/30/2023



CANADIAN EQUITY STYLE/SIZE RETURNS (CAD) AS OF 09/30/2023

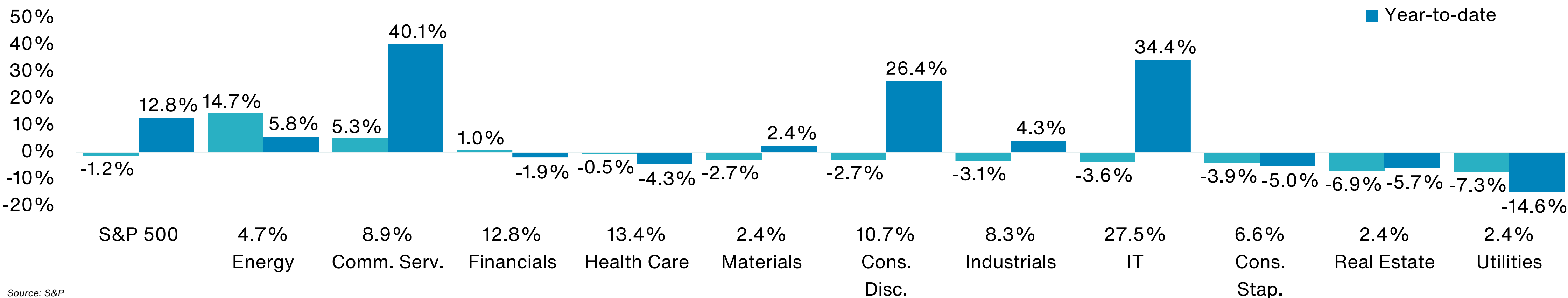


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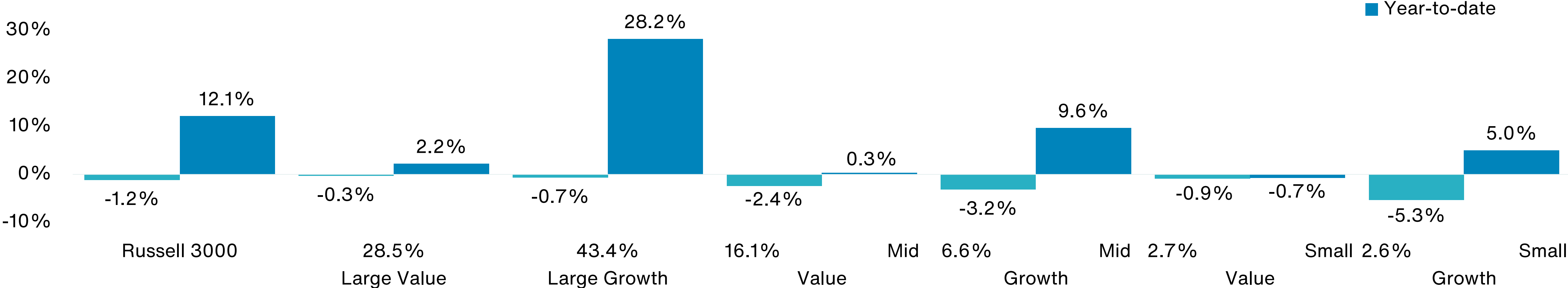
Capital Markets Overview

U.S. Equity

S&P 500 GICS SECTOR RETURNS (CAD) AS OF 09/30/2023



RUSSELL STYLE RETURNS (CAD) AS OF 09/30/2023

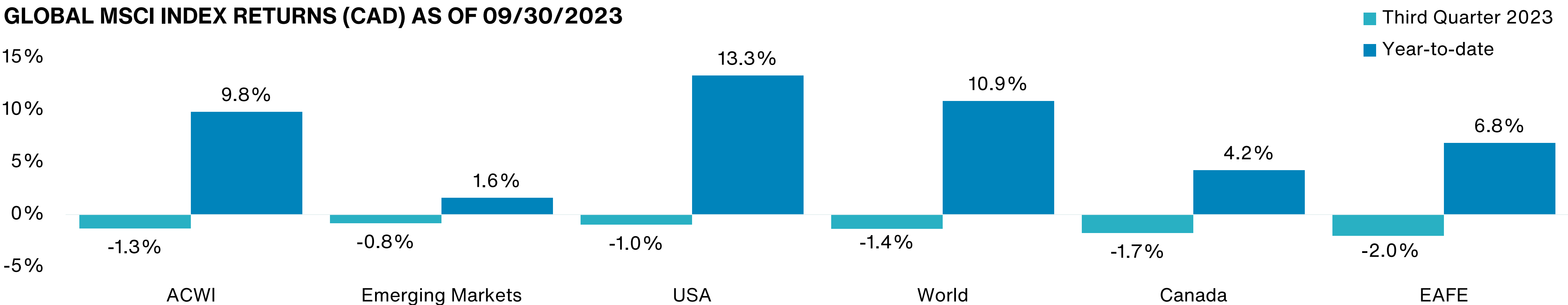


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Capital Markets Overview

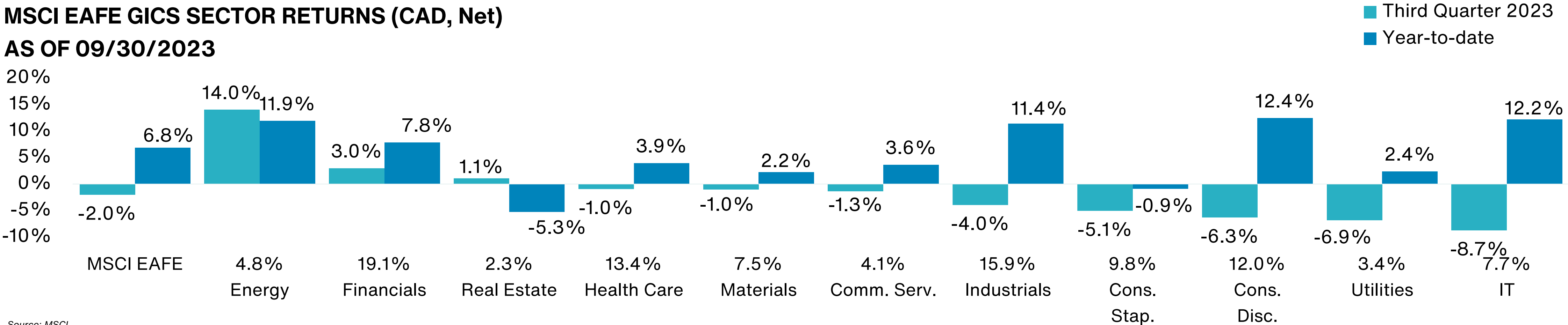
Global Equity

GLOBAL MSCI INDEX RETURNS (CAD) AS OF 09/30/2023



Source: MSCI. Gross returns shown for the MSCI Canada and USA indices, whilst net returns are shown for the other indices.

MSCI EAFE GICS SECTOR RETURNS (CAD, Net) AS OF 09/30/2023



Source: MSCI

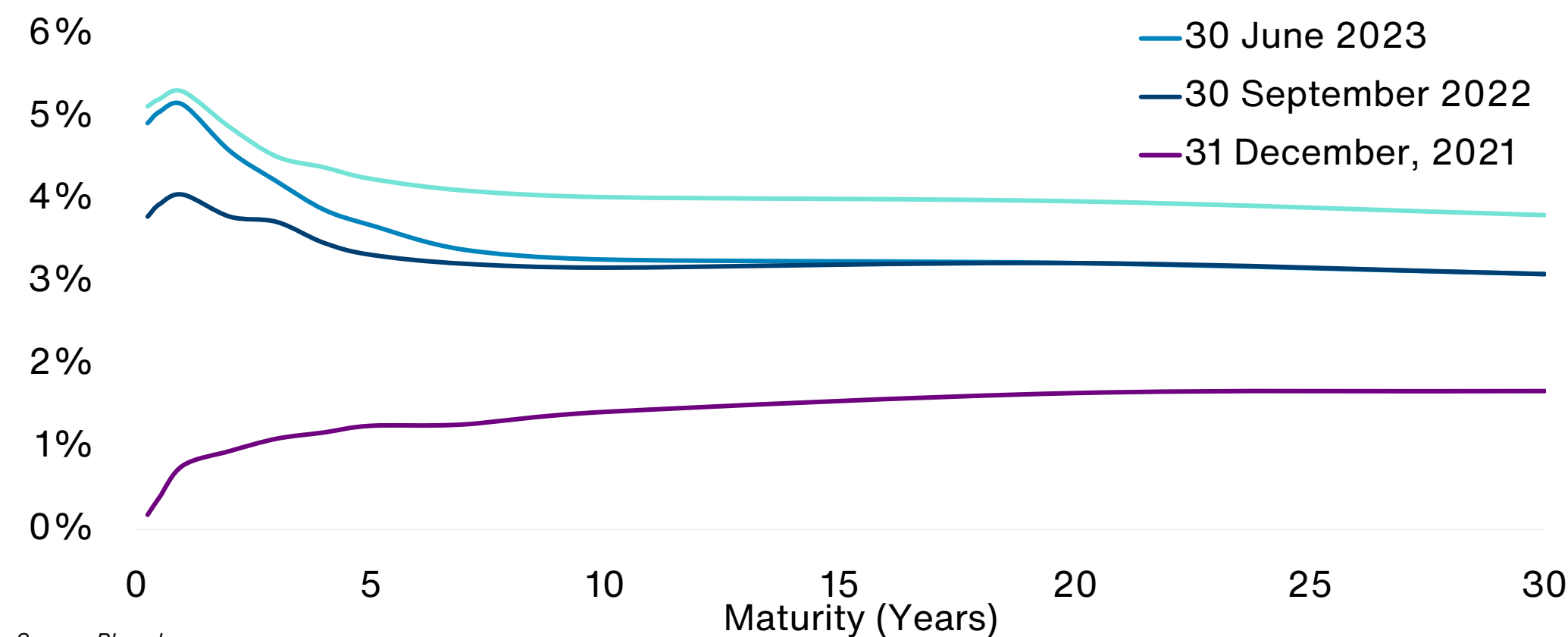


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Capital Markets Overview

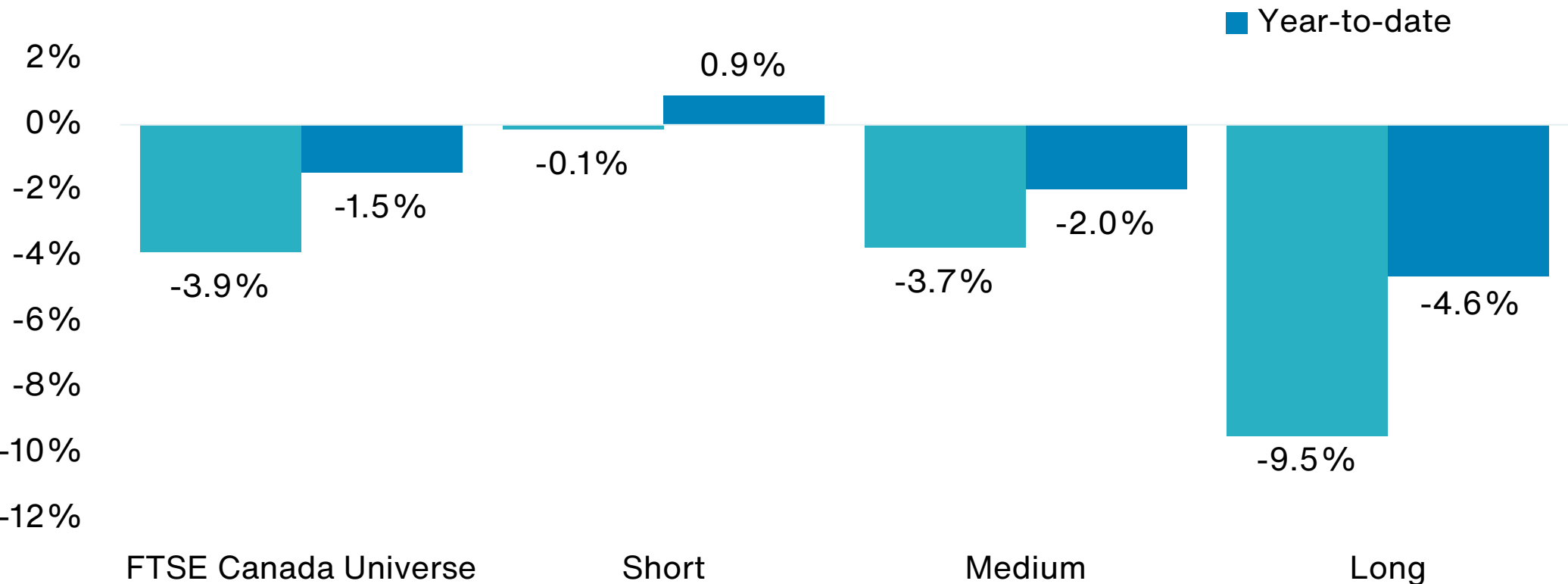
Fixed Income

CANADIAN FEDERAL YIELD CURVE



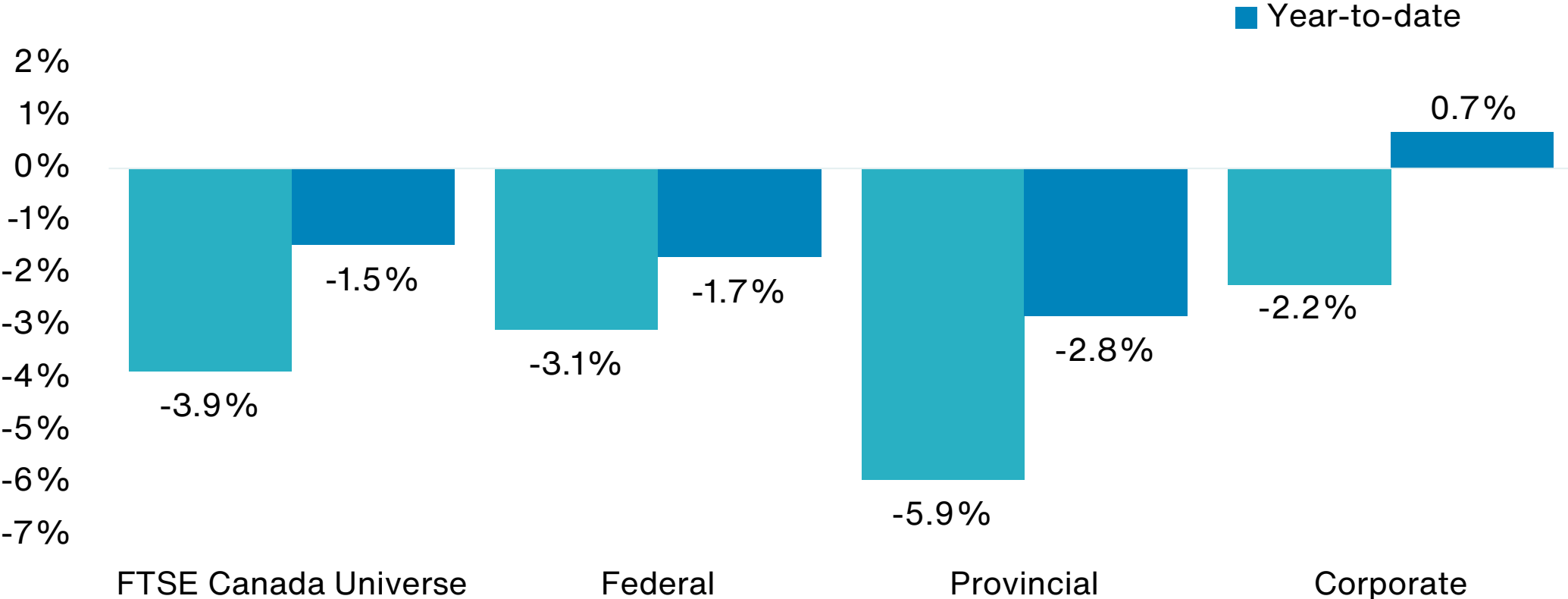
Source: Bloomberg

FTSE CANADA RETURNS BY MATURITY AS OF 09/30/2023



Source: FTSE

FTSE CANADA RETURNS BY SECTOR AS OF 09/30/2023



Source: FTSE

FTSE CANADA RETURNS BY CREDIT QUALITY AS OF 09/30/2023



Source: FTSE



Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Indices cannot be invested in directly. Unmanaged index returns assume reinvestment of any and all distributions and do not reflect fees and expenses.

Executive Summary – Sinking Fund and Long-Term Fund

	Performance (%)			Market value (\$000)	Fees (bps)	Objective Met	Action Required
	Quarter	1 Year	5 Year				
Sinking Fund Return	-6.2	1.3	-	1,628,473	14.2	N/A	No
Sinking Fund Benchmark	-5.4	1.3	-				
Value Added	-0.8	0.0	-				
Long Term Fund Return	-3.4	3.9	-	3,234,293	16.2	N/A	No
Long Term Fund Benchmark	-2.7	3.6	-				
Value Added	-0.7	0.3	-				

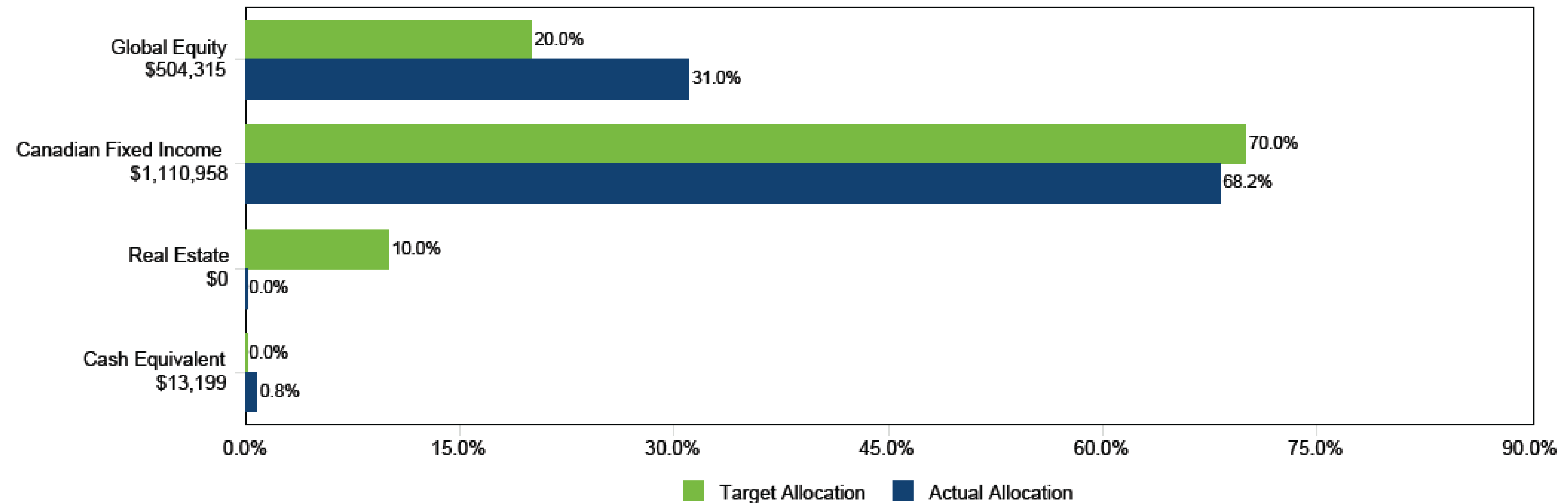
Comment:

- The global equity weight has exceeded the maximum range defined by the SIPP. The increase in the percentage of global equities is due to a large cash outflow from the fixed income funds. Aon recommends rebalancing back to within the defined ranges.

Asset Mix Compliance – Sinking Fund

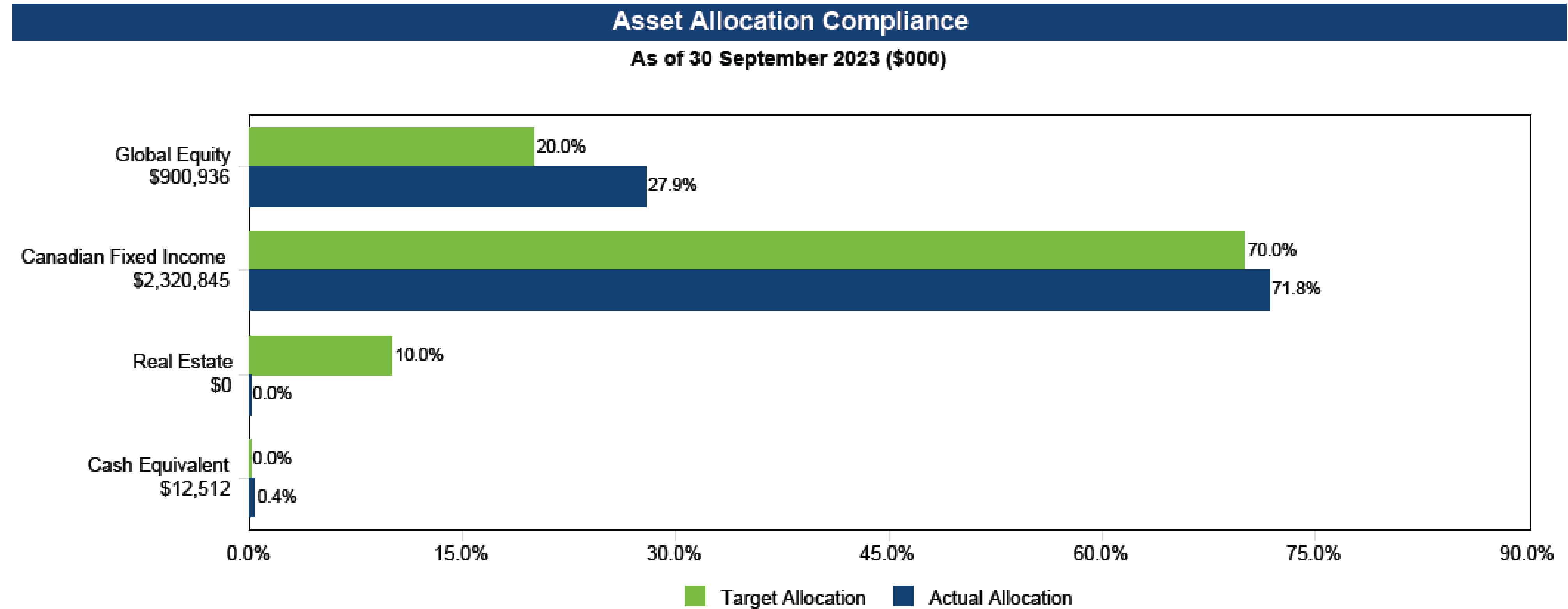
Asset Allocation Compliance

As of 30 September 2023 (\$000)



	Market Value (\$000)	Market Value (%)	Target Allocation (%)	Differences (%)	Minimum Allocation (%)	Maximum Allocation (%)	Within Range
Global Equity	504,315	31.0	20.0	11.0	0.0	30.0	No
Canadian Fixed Income	1,110,958	68.2	70.0	-1.8	50.0	100.0	Yes
Real Estate	-	0.0	10.0	-10.0	0.0	10.0	Yes
Cash Equivalent	13,199	0.8	0.0	0.8	0.0	5.0	Yes
Total Fund	1,628,473	100.0	100.0	0.0			

Asset Mix Compliance – Long Term Fund



	Market Value (\$000)	Market Value (%)	Target Allocation (%)	Differences (%)	Minimum Allocation (%)	Maximum Allocation (%)	Within Range
Global Equity	900,936	27.9	20.0	7.9	0.0	30.0	Yes
Canadian Fixed Income	2,320,845	71.8	70.0	1.8	50.0	100.0	Yes
Real Estate	-	0.0	10.0	-10.0	0.0	10.0	Yes
Cash Equivalent	12,512	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0	5.0	Yes
Total Fund	3,234,293	100.0	100.0	0.0			

Strategy Performance

Strategy	Rating	Value Added (%)		Objective Met	Above Median 5 Years	Action Required
		Quarter	SI*			
Addenda LDI	Buy	-0.1	-0.1	n/a	n/a	No
Fiera LDI	Buy	0.1	0.2	n/a	n/a	No
CC&L Core Fixed Income	Buy	0.1	0.5	n/a	n/a	No
Leith Wheeler Core Fixed Income	Buy	0.1	0.6	n/a	n/a	No
Pier 21 Global Equity	Buy	-2.8	-0.4	n/a	n/a	No
Oakmark Global Equity	Buy	-2.0	-2.0	n/a	n/a	No
Fiera Global Focused Equity	Buy	-2.2	1.2	n/a	n/a	No
LGIM Multi-Factor Global Equity	Buy	-0.1	-2.1	n/a	n/a	No

*Since Inception Dates:

- Addenda LDI: 7/1/2019
- Fiera LDI: 7/1/2019
- CC&L Core Fixed Income: 7/1/2019
- Leith Wheeler Core Fixed Income: 7/1/2019
- Pier 21 Global Equity: 11/1/2019
- Oakmark Global Equity: 11/1/2019
- Fiera Global Focused Equity: 2/19/2020
- LGIM Multi-Factor Global Equity: 12/14/2020

Manager Updates

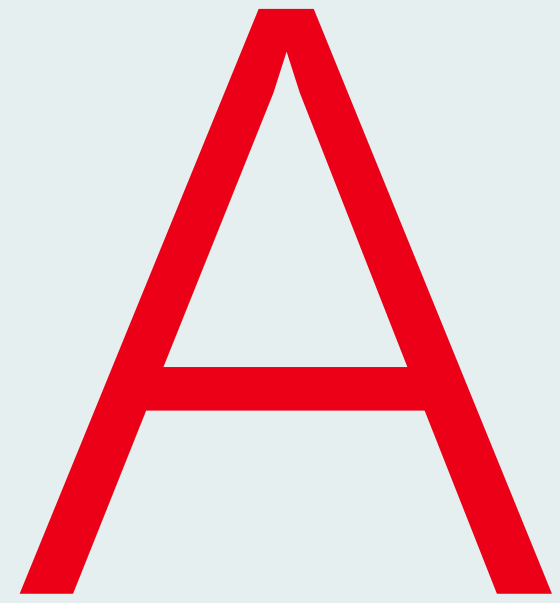
Manager Name	Quarterly Update	ESG Rating
Addenda	Diane Young, Vice President, Fixed Income and Co-Head, Corporate Bonds left Addenda after more than 25 years. Ian McKinnon, Executive Vice-President, Core Fixed Income, will continue to oversee all activities for the Core Fixed Income team. Carl Pelland will oversee the leadership role for the Corporate Bonds strategies, as Vice-President, Fixed Income and Head, Corporate Bonds and will take on the lead portfolio manager role for the Impact Fixed Income strategy	Integrated
CC&L	No significant updates impacting City of Toronto	Integrated
Leith Wheeler	No significant updates impacting City of Toronto	Advanced
Pier 21 (C. Worldwide)	No significant updates impacting City of Toronto	Integrated
LGIM	No significant updates impacting City of Toronto	Advanced
Fiera	There were several personnel changes in Q3 2023, no significant updates impacting City of Toronto	Integrated

ESG Rating Scale

The rating assesses the integration of financially material ESG risk factors into the investment decision-making process.

The ESG factor is assigned a rating and can be interpreted as follows:

ESG Rating	Description
Advanced	The fund management team demonstrates an advanced awareness of potential ESG risks in the investment strategy. The fund management team can demonstrate advanced processes to identify, evaluate and potentially mitigate these risks across the entire portfolio.
Integrated	The fund management team has taken appropriate steps to identify, evaluate and mitigate potential financially material ESG risks within the portfolio.
Limited	The fund management team has taken limited steps to address ESG considerations in the portfolio.
Not Applicable (N/A)	ESG risks and considerations are not applicable to this strategy, for example, on the grounds of materiality or asset class relevance.

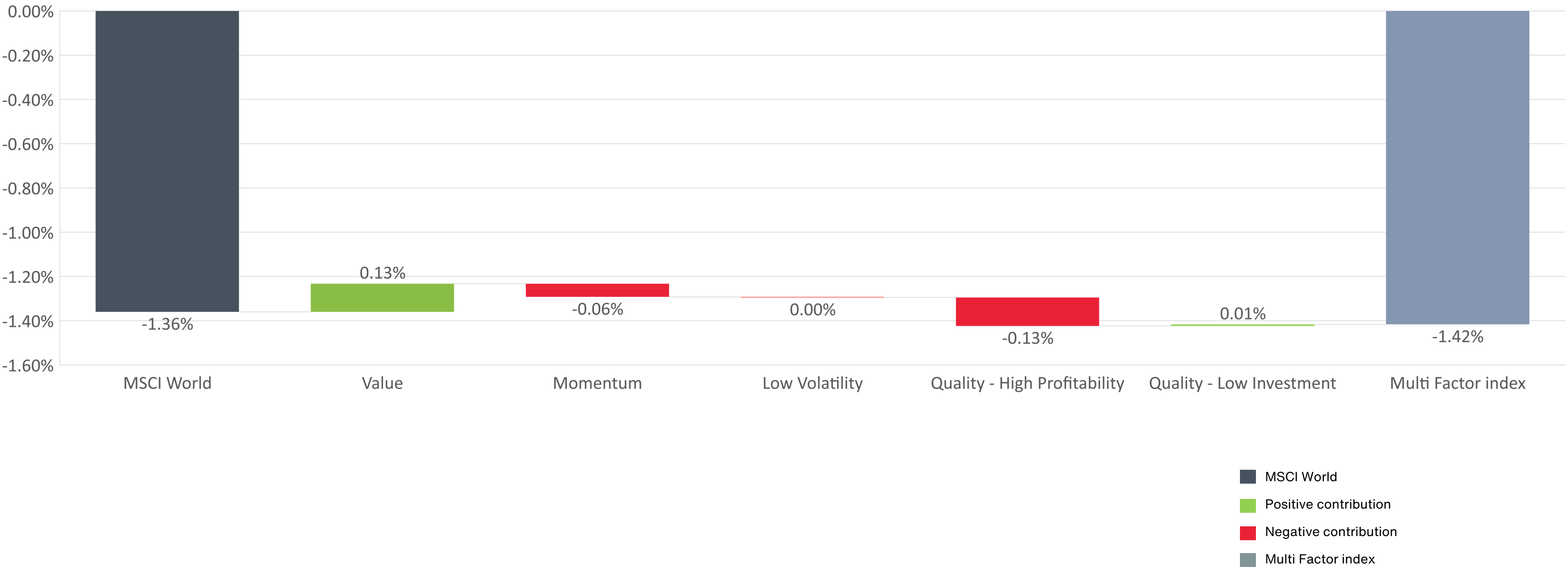


Appendix SciBeta Multifactor Benchmark Performance Attribution



Performance attribution – Scibeta Multi-factor benchmark

1 Quarter – As of September 30, 2023



Performance attribution – Scibeta Multi-factor benchmark

Year to Date – As of September 30, 2023



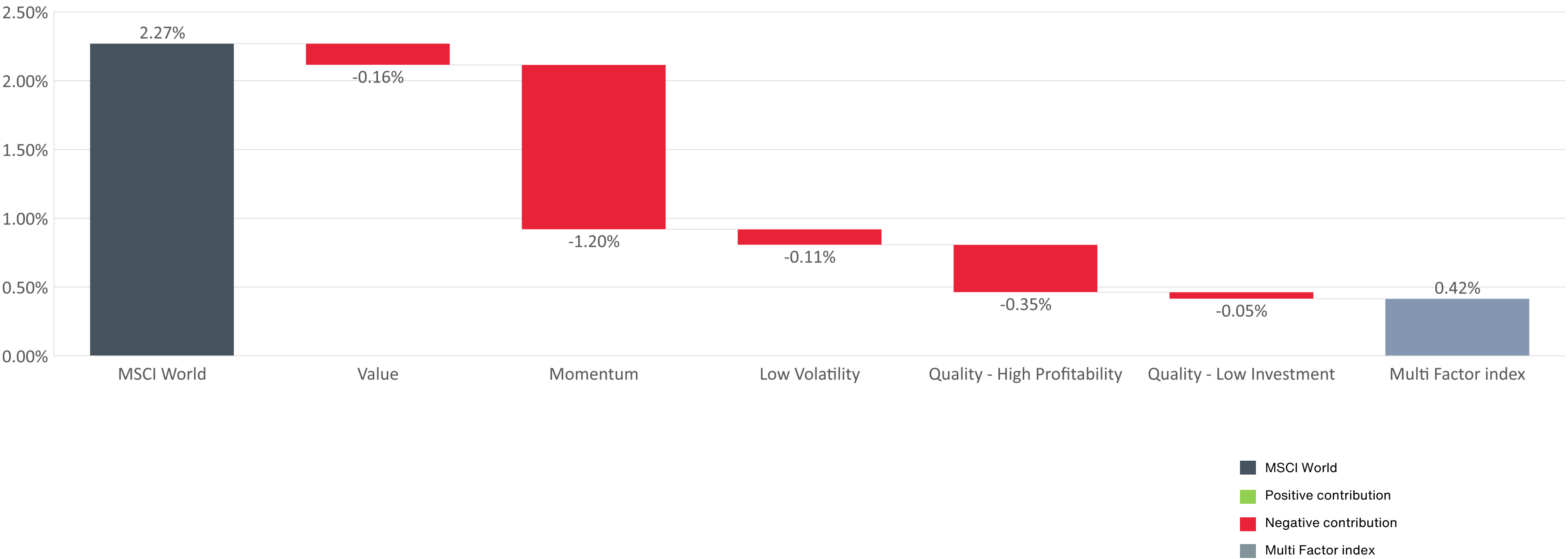
Performance attribution – Scibeta Multi-factor benchmark

1 Year – As of September 30, 2023



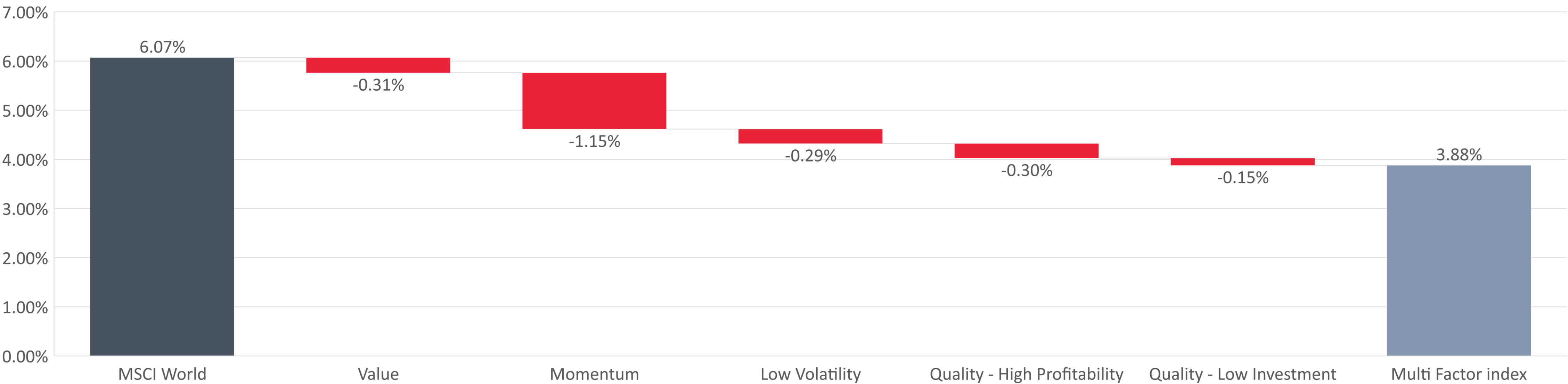
Performance attribution – Scibeta Multi-factor benchmark

2 Year – As of September 30, 2023



Performance attribution – Scibeta Multi-factor benchmark

Since Inception* – As of September 30, 2023



- MSCI World
- Positive contribution
- Negative contribution
- Multi Factor index

The since inception date is Jan.06, 2021

B

Appendix Asset Allocation Views



Key Market Issues

How long will the Treasury rout continue?

The spike in yields has tightened financial conditions further and hence we think that the Fed can now end its hiking cycle. We think that most yield curves will be lower than they are today on a 2-year view.

Will we see a clear deceleration in global growth?

The U.S. economy is currently running hot. However, Europe looks to be rolling over and we suspect the U.S. will slow too. Whether this will be just a downturn or something more serious remains unknown, but we cannot rule out further slowdown in global growth.

Do equities have further to adjust?

Global equity markets are down over 10% from their peak at the start of 2022 but this is still above the October 2022 lows: could these be rechallenged?

For more information on Aon's Views
[Market outlook \(aon.com\)](https://aon.com)



Core Views

Upgrading core fixed income view

Global developed yields have risen substantially this quarter, including in Canada. Indeed, longer-duration U.S. Treasury yields, which are key Canadian and global drivers, have moved above our fair value ranges, whilst the scale of expected rate cuts has been scaled back. The market now anticipates the first cut in March 2024 and a shallower pace of cuts thereafter. Whilst we still think this is too soon, the increased term premium should compensate investors for any shorter-term disappointment on the timing and pace of rate hikes.

2024 downturn likely

Assuming that an extended shut down of the U.S. government is avoided, we think that U.S. momentum will continue into Q4, but that growth will be much weaker through 2024. Growth across the world is also weak, with the Chinese recovery from lockdown having disappointed many analysts. Canadian growth is likely to struggle from higher yields and weaker global growth too.

Risky assets headwinds remain

A much-awaited Fed pivot will require much lower inflation and the U.S. labour market to be substantially weaker than it is now. The latter will only happen if the economy is also weak, which will likely further squeeze profits that remain below 2021 highs on a reported basis.

Actions

View Shifts



Upgraded our core fixed income view to single +, whilst maintaining our preference for Federal bonds. We believe that yields are close to a peak, driven by the U.S. and a slowdown/moderate recession is still possible next year.



Adjusted our return-seeking fixed income relative views. We have upgraded our **U.S. High Yield** view to neutral, as it tends to perform better as a Fed rate hiking cycle comes to an end, especially if a deep recession is avoided, as we expect. We have also downgraded our **Local EMD** view to neutral.



Upgraded our **Commodity** view to single positive, with an emphasis on **active exposures**. This is due to tight inventories, the impending Northern hemisphere winter and ongoing geopolitical uncertainty.

Cross Asset Views

---	--	-	=	+	++	+++
		Equities				
			→	Core fixed income		
		Return- seeking fixed income				
				Alts*		
				Cash		

- Actual reported earnings have struggled since the end of 2021, with Q2 reported earnings for the S&P 500 down by 10% relative to Q4 2021, for example. This earnings pressure, coupled with a weaker economic outlook and headwinds from higher yields, keep us cautious on equities overall.
- We are upgrading our core fixed income view to single +. We suspect that yields have overshot fair values and will be lower in a year’s time although supply-demand imbalances may mean that the peak in yields has not yet arrived.
- We are keeping our preference for government bonds and less risky credit over return-seeking fixed income whilst there is upward pressure on credit spreads. We consider that there will be a better buying opportunity once spreads widen despite currently attractive yield levels.
- Cash rates continue to be attractive relative to the uncertain outlook of traditional asset classes, so a small cash allocation makes sense. We continue to recommend alternative diversifiers as they should provide resilience to portfolios.

Relative Asset Class Views*

Regional views

---	--	-	=	+	++	+++
			USA			
			Canada			
			EAFE			
				Emerging		

Core Fixed Income

---	--	-	=	+	++	+++
				Federal		
			Corporate			
			Provincial			

Alternatives

---	--	-	=	+	++	+++
			→	Active commodities		
				Alternative Risk Premia		
						Insurance-linked securities
					Diversifying hedge funds	
			Return seeking hedge funds			

Factor views

---	--	-	=	+	++	+++
				Low Vol.		
			Quality			
			Value			
			Growth			

Credit

---	--	-	=	+	++	+++
			USD EMD			
			Local EMD	←		
		Bank Loans				
				Selected ABS		
			→	U.S. High Yield		

Currency views vs CAD

---	--	-	=	+	++	+++
				EUR		
				USD		
					JPY	
				EM		

*Asset class views are relative to others within the asset class and not relative to other asset types. There should be no read-across from equities to credit, for example.

Equities

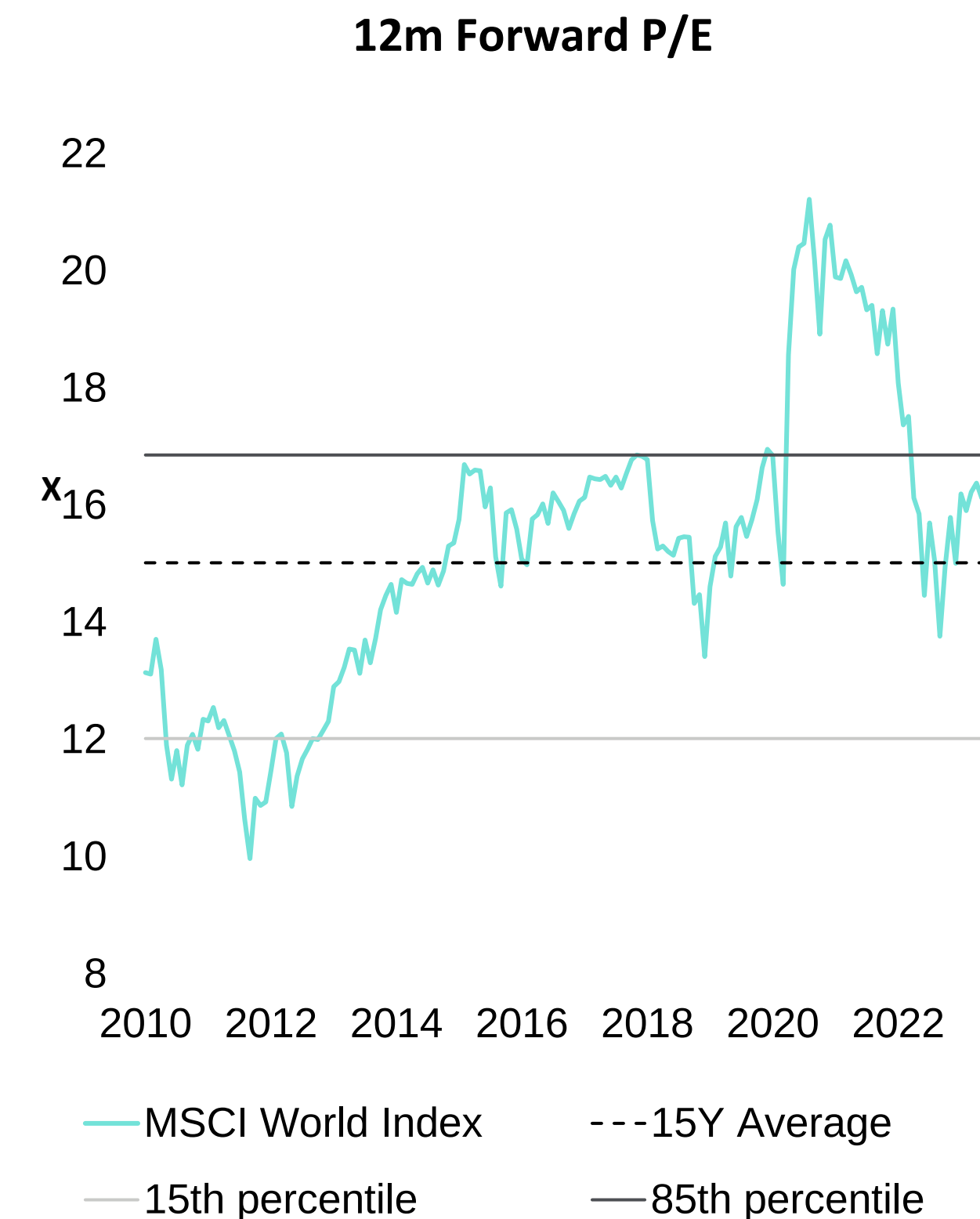
Valuations less expensive as markets struggle but high interest rates and recession risk remain key headwinds

The equity market rally since the start of the year lost momentum over the summer months despite still resilient economic data and the continued fall of inflation figures in the major economies. One major cause for the weaker performance was the sharp rise in yields as markets adjusted their expectations to a scenario of tighter monetary policy, persistently higher yields and sticky core inflation measures.

The impact on valuations, however, has been to move the common metrics away from historically expensive territory as earnings expectations remain near 10% growth for next year and 2025. For this scenario to be realised, one would need to assume that the U.S. and the developed world avoids a recession and demand remains healthy.

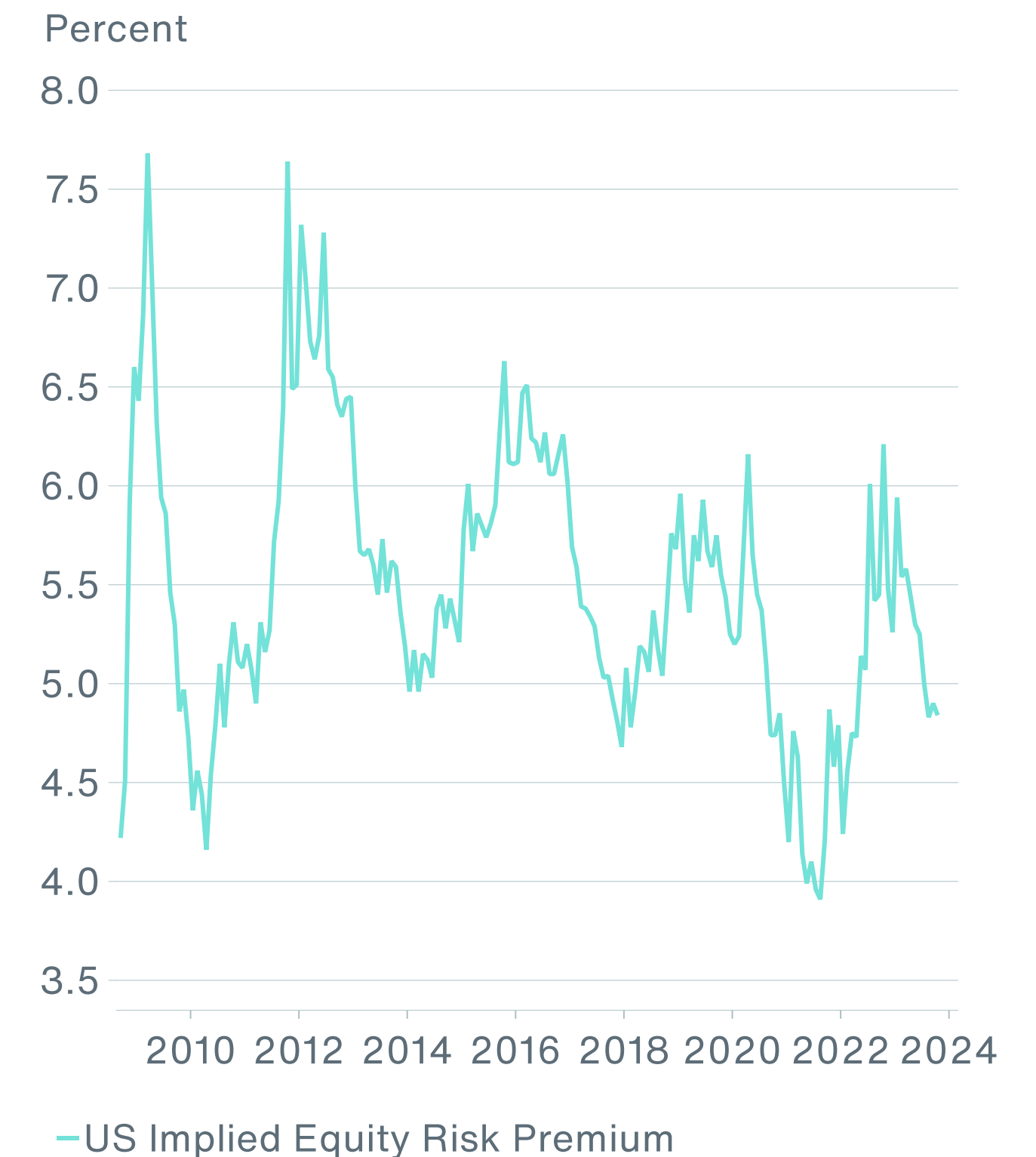
Our view is that the risk of a recession has not gone away completely, although we are assuming that any recession would be shallow and short-lived. At the same time, higher yields compared with the 2010s are likely to present a persistent headwind to equity markets over the coming year. Overall, therefore, we are maintaining our caution on global equities.

In a reversal from last quarter, valuations moved into less expensive territory in Q3



Source: Factset

Higher interest rates are an important headwind to equities



Source: FactSet

Equities

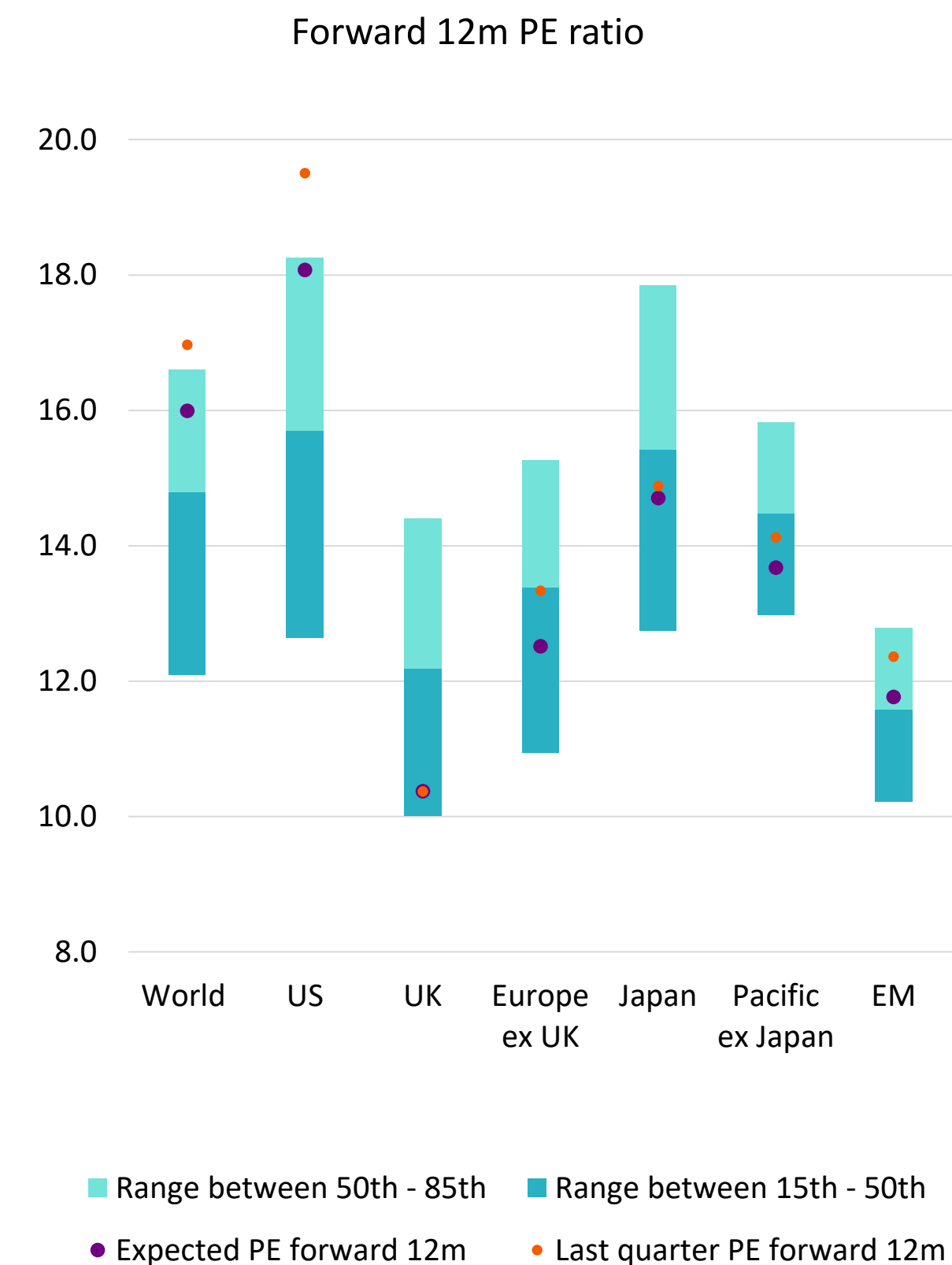
Remaining neutral on U.S. vs. non-U.S. regions and leaning towards low volatility equities

There were clear changes in this year's trends over Q3 – equity market weakness as bond yields surged to multi-decade highs, with reversals in the outperformance of AI-related stocks and a strengthening U.S. dollar. As a result, the gap in valuations between the U.S. and EAFE regions narrowed somewhat, and most regions are no longer expensive relative to their long-term histories.

Looking ahead over the coming 12 months, we think that yields will peak but remain relatively elevated, even as economic growth slows in developed countries. Consequently, it remains difficult to take a strong differential view across the key markets and we are neutral on the U.S. versus EAFE and Canada. Canadian equities have underperformed this year and could continue to struggle if yields remain high and global economic activity continues to slow. However, rising commodity prices could provide some offset, hence our neutral view versus the U.S. We remain more positive on the Emerging Markets view, given better valuations and strong company fundamentals in some regions. However, we must highlight the increased near-term risks from a sluggish Chinese recovery and higher U.S. yields.

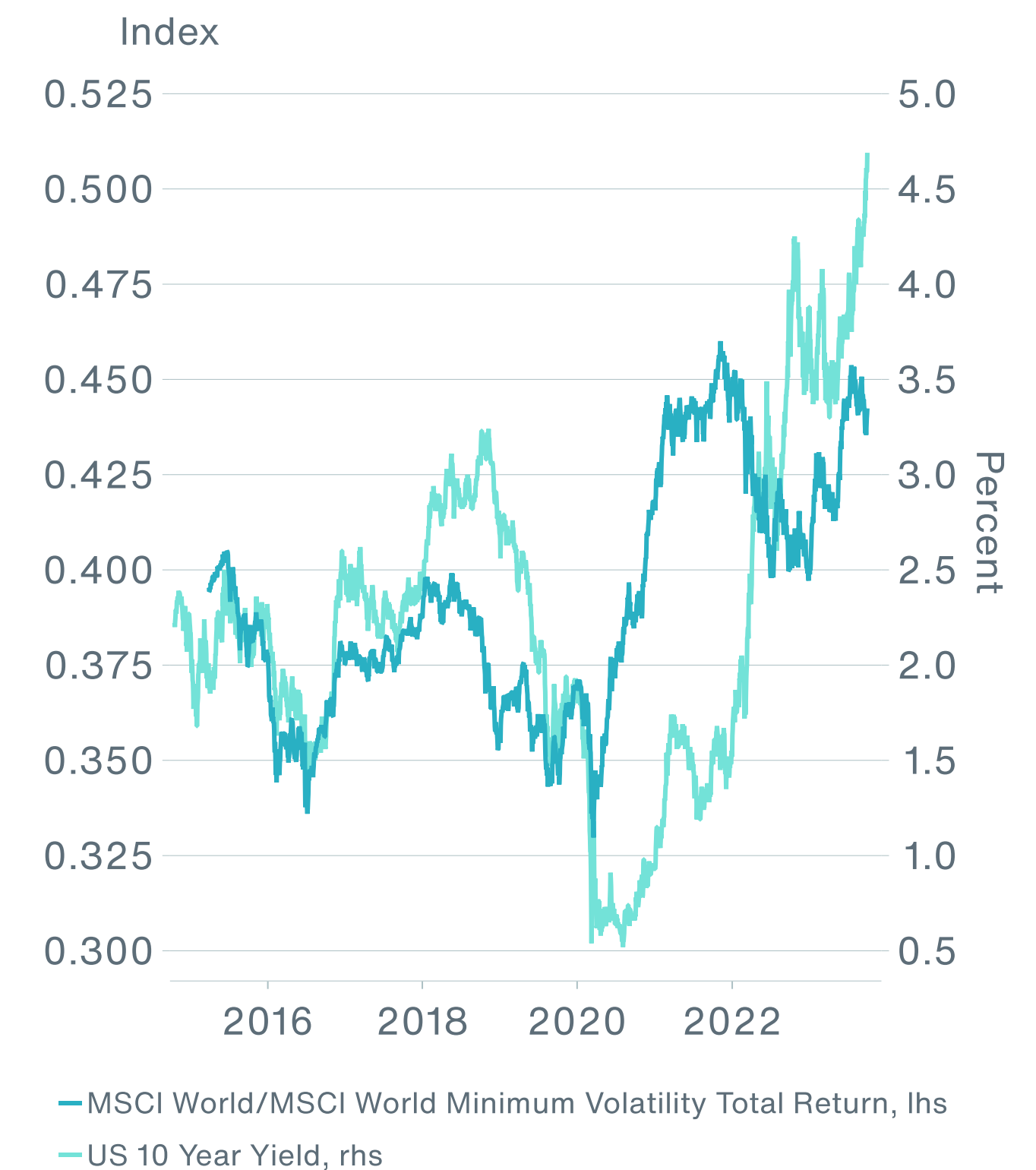
In terms of the factors, low volatility stocks have reflected their bond-proxy characteristics by underperforming as yields have risen this year and Q3 was no exception. However, a recession scenario may bring yields lower and support low volatility equities, hence our moderate preference for this style.

The biggest valuation adjustment has been in the U.S.



Source: Factset and Aon

How much higher for yields? If a recession does occur, lower yields should support low volatility stocks



Source: Macrobond

Core Fixed Income

Continue to prefer the Universe index on surging near-term yields. Prefer Federal to Corporate Bonds

Canadian Federal yields continued to surge over the summer months, as markets moved towards expecting higher for longer interest rates. Whilst domestic drivers, such as slow declines in core inflation mattered, the biggest driver was a change in expectations in the U.S., where the Federal Reserve emphasized that the fight to bring down inflation was not done yet.

As for the Bank of Canada, despite a pause to its rate hiking policy over Q3, Governor Tiff Macklem also indicated that members remained concerned about the stickiness of inflation and that tighter monetary conditions caused by higher global bond yields would not do the job of monetary policy. Meanwhile, economic growth has struggled for much of this year without falling into outright recession and we expect continued weakness going into 2024, especially if we are correct that the U.S. slows too.

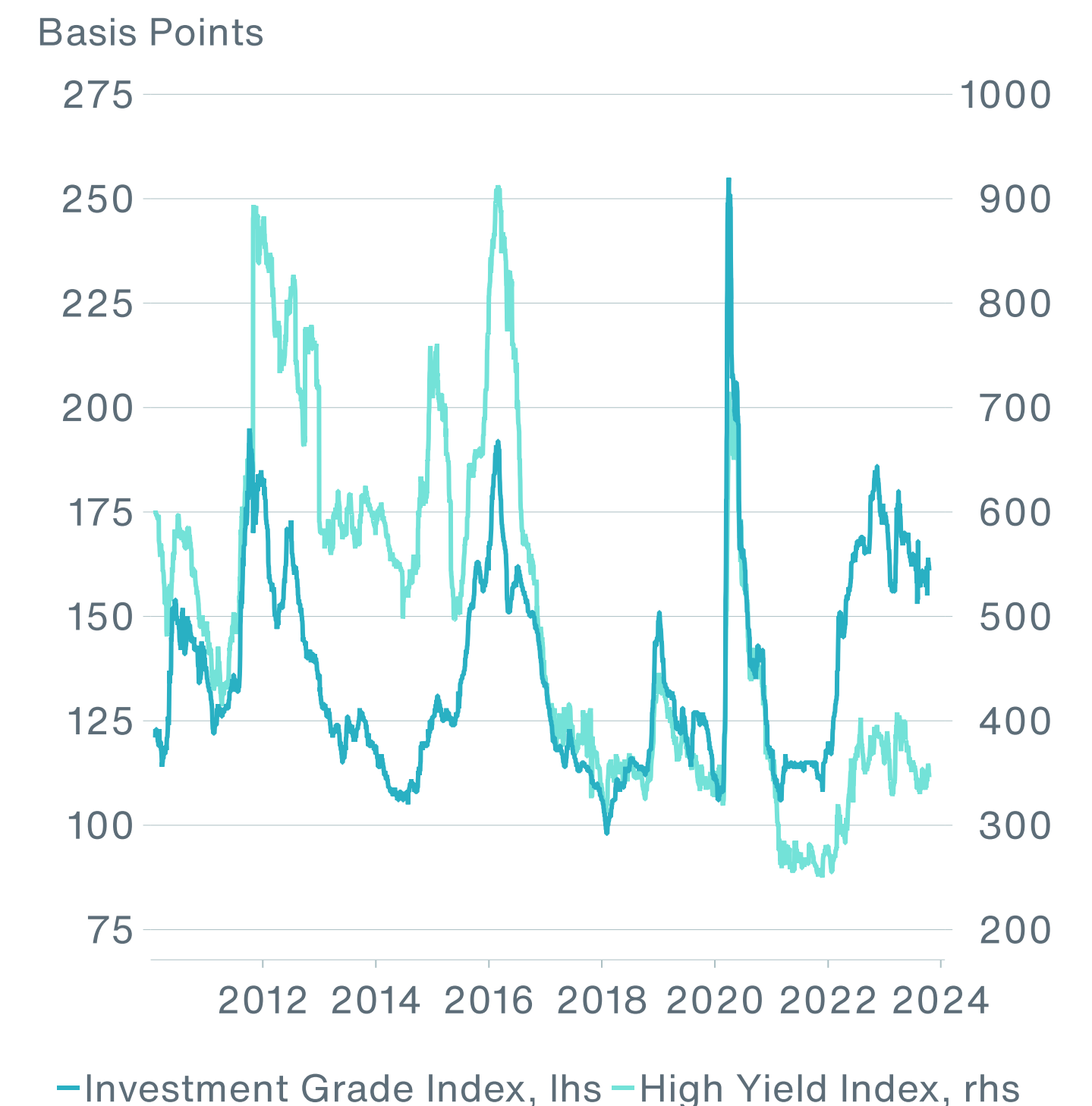
As a result, we have **upgraded our overall view on core fixed income, whilst maintaining a preference for Federal bonds** over domestic corporate and provincial bonds. We also maintain our **preference for the Universe index to the Long Bond index**, given the stickiness of inflation and the higher for longer scenario prevailing in markets.

Canadian yields surge in Q2 on global trends and local economic strength



Source: Macrobond

Corporate spreads tighten somewhat but remain wide, especially in investment grade



Source: Macrobond

Global Investment Grade Credit

Attractive yields, mediocre spreads

Although overall yield levels for corporate IG are attractive, we think that the spread over government bonds is not particularly compelling. Consequently, IG has now become the least preferred area of U.S. core fixed income.

That said, whilst 130 bps is low, it should be seen in the context of (i) a relatively low equity risk premium, so reward for taking risk is compressed in other asset classes too (ii) relatively robust balance sheets with a shift towards higher quality sectors. For buy and maintain investors, IG is therefore reasonable, but we would not suggest being overweight strategic targets at this point. Our base case is that economic growth will deteriorate in 2024 but we don't anticipate a recession sufficiently deep to cause large credit losses within the IG space.

However, investors should consider 'going global' when allocating to fixed income given higher spreads being available in Europe.

Spreads are at reasonable levels for the position in the cycle



Source: Macrobond, ICE BofA.

U.S. IG has less exposure to risky sectors, such as banking, but more in less risky sectors, like Healthcare, Utilities and Tech

Source: ICE BofA.

Return-Seeking Credit

Yields have risen but economic and rates uncertainty keeps us cautious

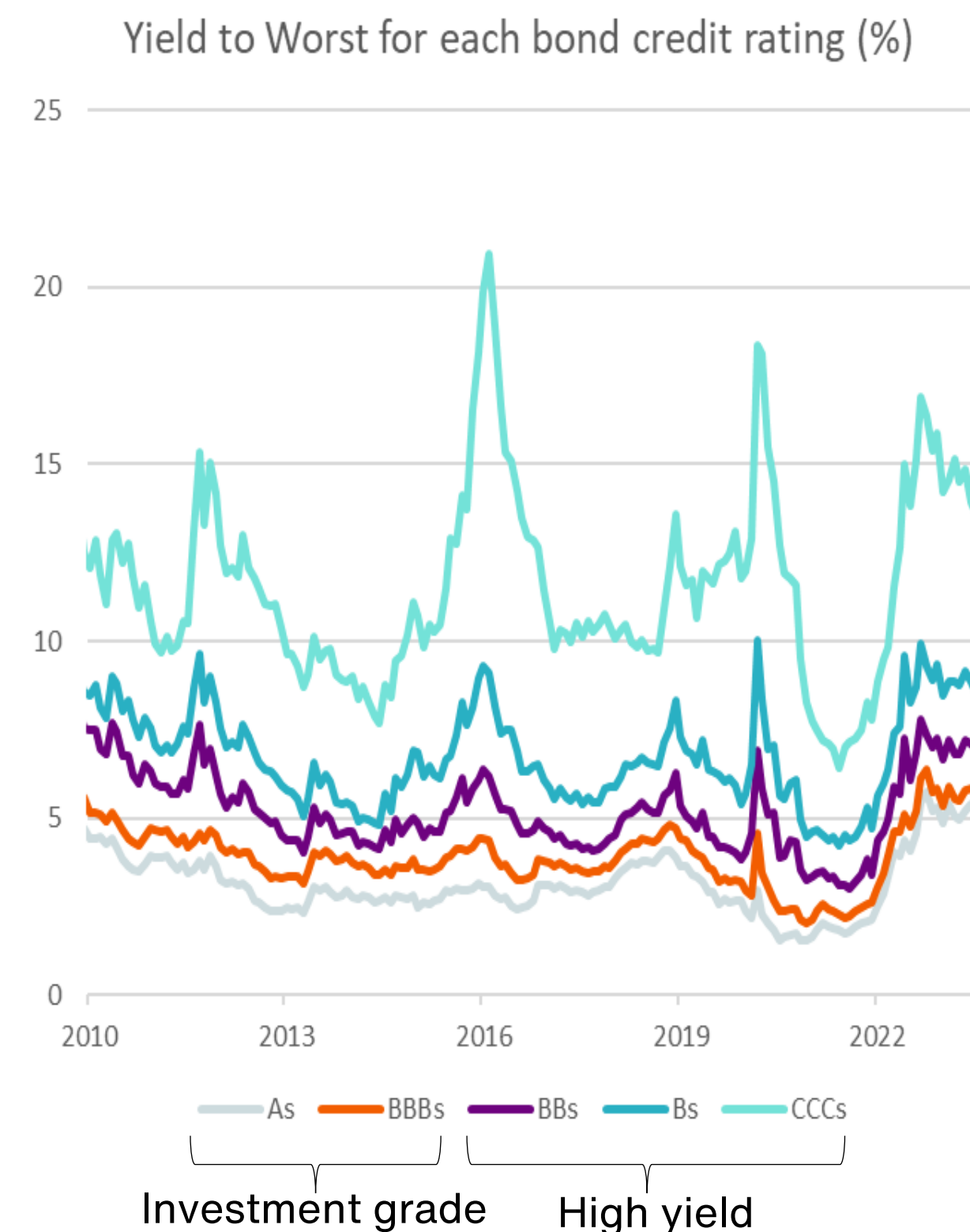
Rising yields may have increased the attractiveness of some areas within return-seeking bonds, but we remain relatively cautious overall as there is still uncertainty related to the economic outlook.

We still expect credit spreads to widen as global growth deteriorates and default rates rise but yield levels and duration will likely offset at least some of the losses from spread expansion. Given the strong move up in U.S. yields, we are upgrading our U.S. HY bond view.

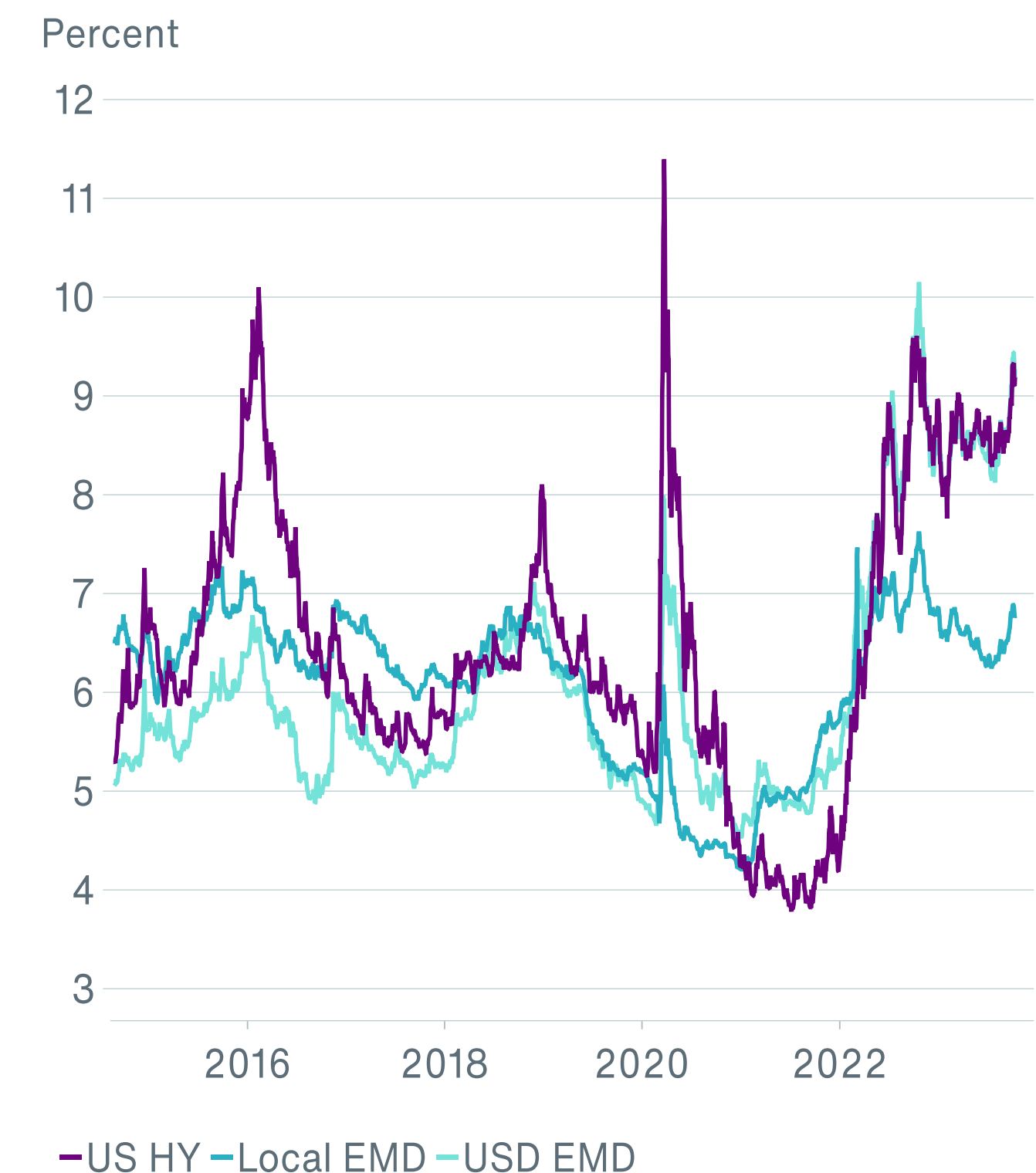
U.S. loans have outperformed HY bonds over the last quarter, benefiting from their floating rates and the U.S. recession delay. Loans should start to underperform HY bonds when there are more signs that U.S. growth is deteriorating so we have decided to keep the view here relatively cautious.

U.S. EMD yields have risen much more than local EMD yields and are now above 9%. Inflation has also been falling in many EM countries, so for these two reasons, local EMD has outperformed this year. We now think that it is a good time to remove our local EMD preference, especially given USD EMD's higher yield and longer duration. EM debt has limited Middle Eastern exposure, but the geopolitical risks could have a negative impact on investor risk appetite.

U.S. yields are at post GFC highs (except for bonds with the lowest HY credit ratings)

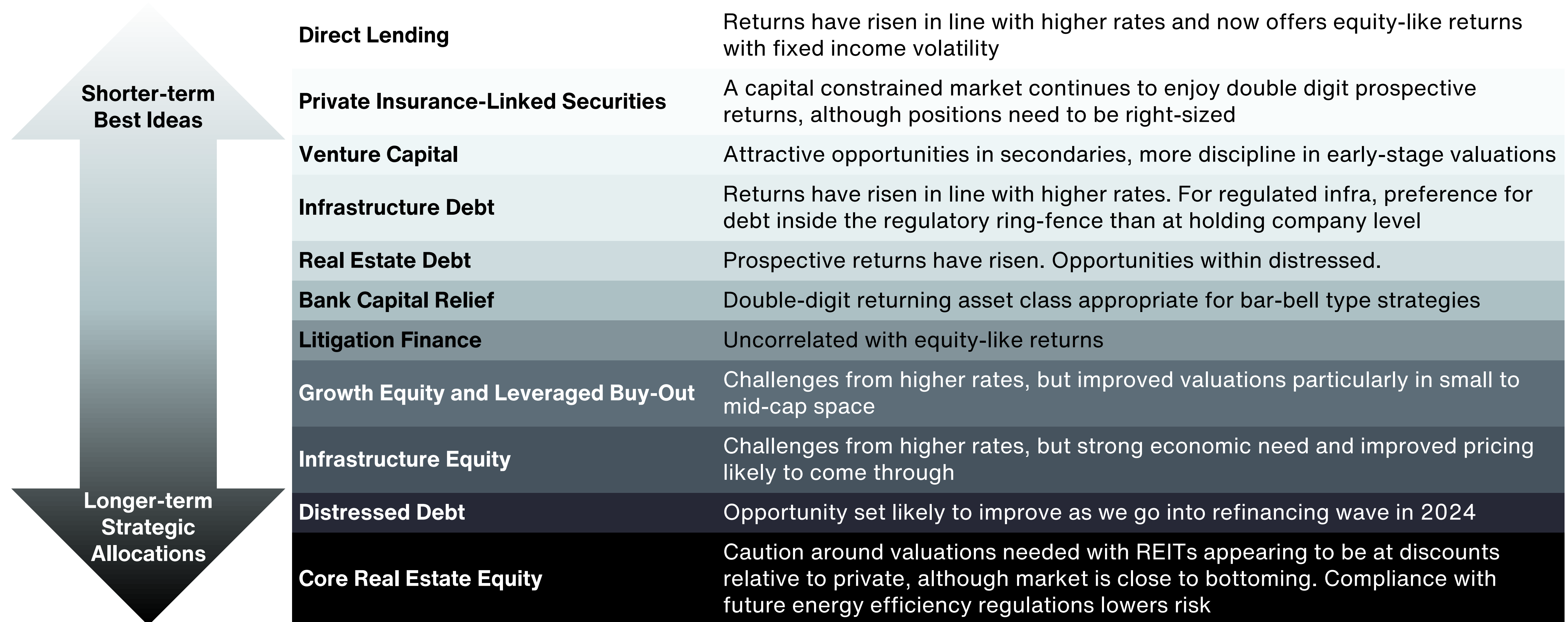


U.S. EMD yields have tracked U.S. HY yields higher whilst local EMD has been quite resilient to higher real U.S. yields



Illiquid Alternatives: Priority of Investment

Private assets do not lend themselves to medium-term tilts as typically allocations will be locked in for many years, and exit-points are not discretionary. Private asset programs are best determined by your consultant, using our capital market assumptions, and both stochastic and deterministic risk analysis, in order to best achieve investment objectives. That said, market conditions do vary, and investors may want to prioritise areas where we think opportunities may not be as long-lived and postpone deployment to asset classes where better entry points may be available over the next few years.



Currencies

Unchanged cautious Canadian dollar view

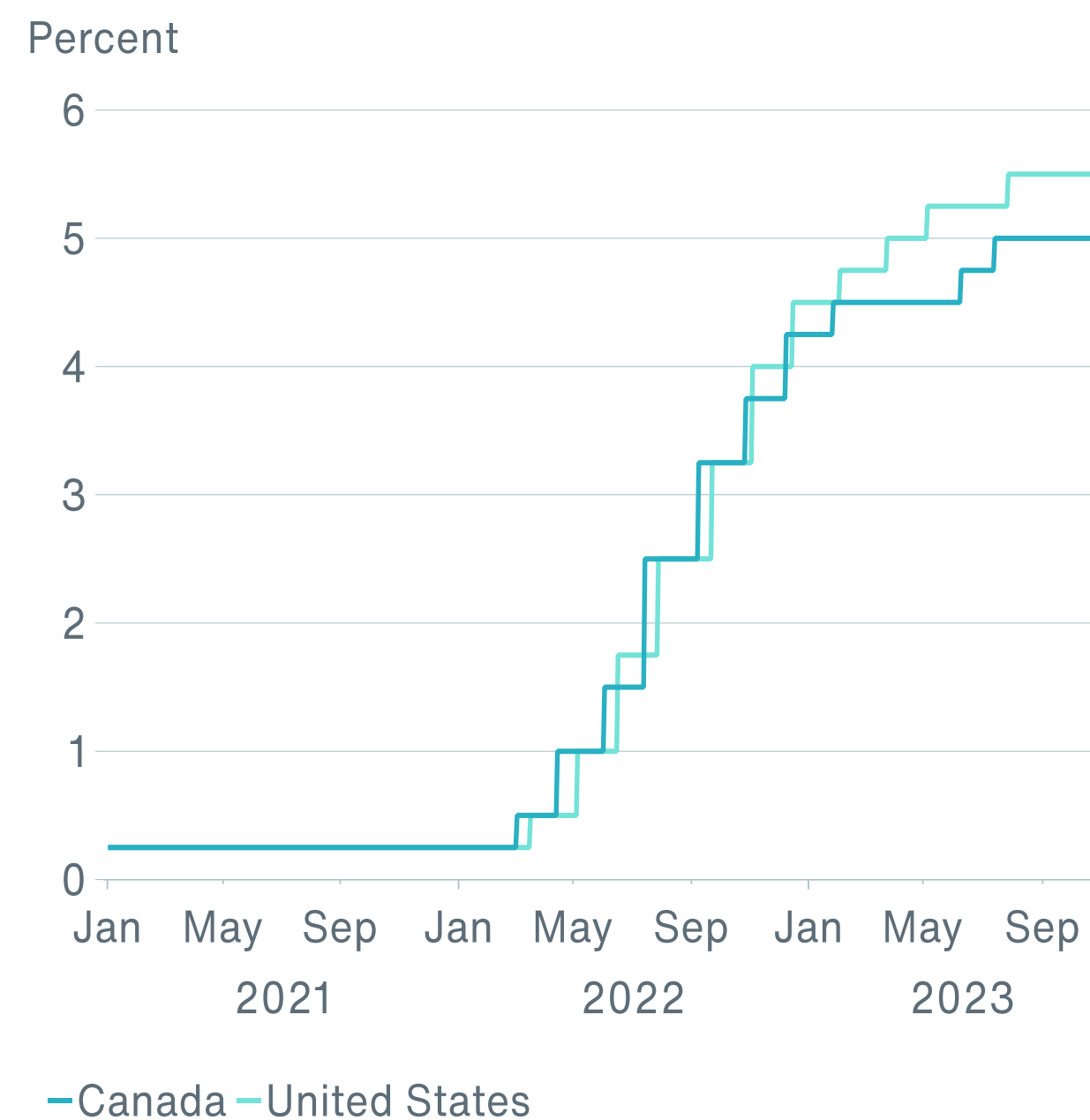
The Canadian dollar fell back against the U.S. dollar over the last quarter and remains in the 0.72 to 0.76 range maintained over the last year. Increasing evidence of slowing global growth is a headwind for the loonie against the U.S. dollar given that it tends to be a pro-cyclical currency.

It is highly uncertain whether there will be any further interest rate hikes in Canada and U.S. but a strong jobs market in both countries is keeping the chance alive. The market is expecting that this is slightly more likely in Canada.

Commodity prices may become more of a support to the Canadian dollar against non-U.S. dollar currencies than we had expected at this stage of the cycle. The extension of Russian and Saudi production cuts moved oil prices up over the last quarter.

All in all, we are maintaining our views on the Canadian dollar against non-U.S. currencies as geopolitical risk events tend to have only a short-term impact on markets and the Canadian dollar remains expensive (based on purchasing power parity) – most markedly against the yen.

U.S. policy rates are higher than Canadian rates But...

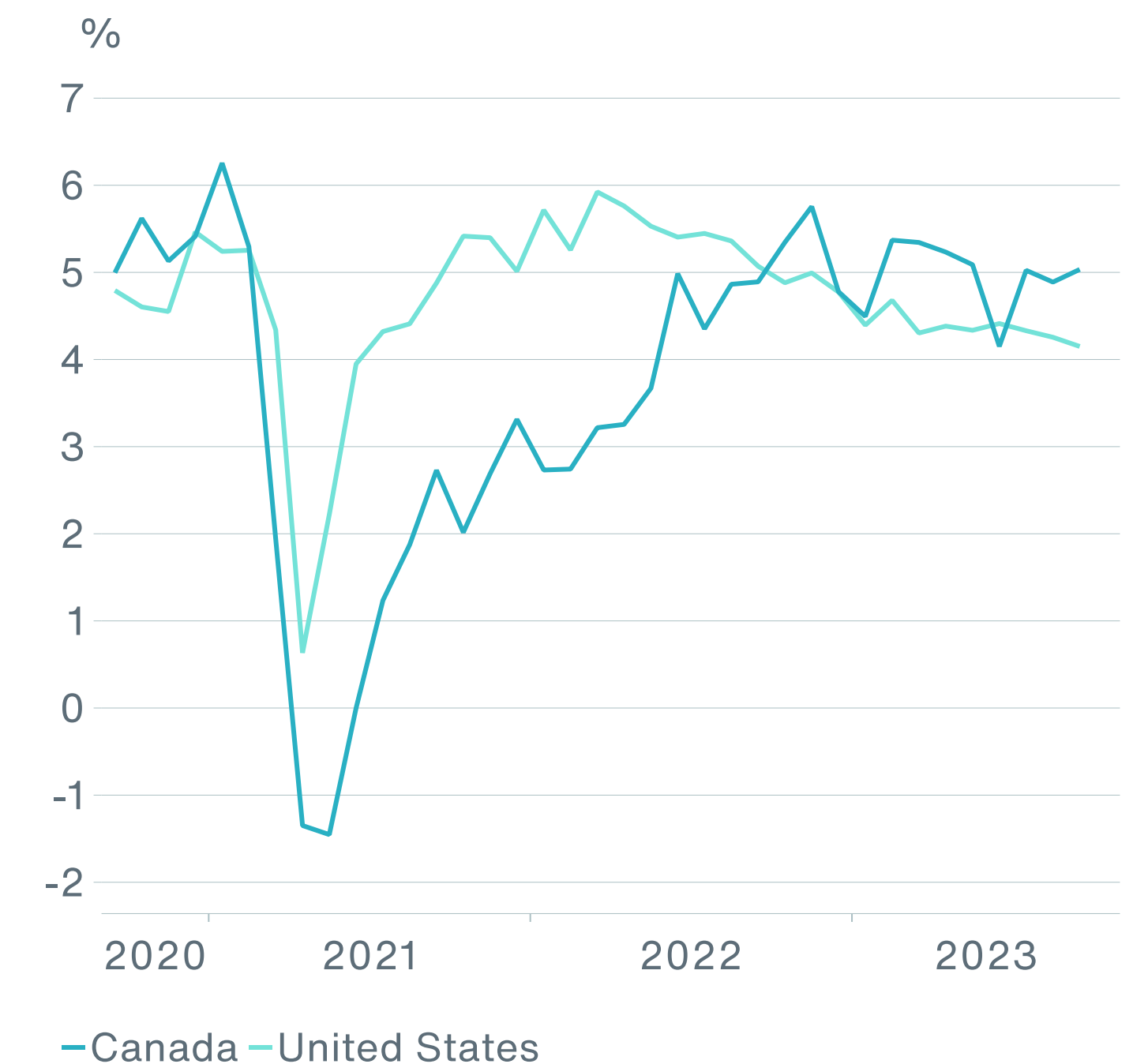


As at 26/10/2023, 26/10/2023, for United States, Policy Rates, Federal Reserve, Target Rates, Federal Funds Target Rate, Canada, Policy Rates, Bank of Canada, Overnight Target Rate, respectively

Source: Macrobond

...Canadian wages have yet to trend down, which has kept upwards pressure on rates and the C\$

Average Hourly Wages (year-on-year %)



Source: Macrobond

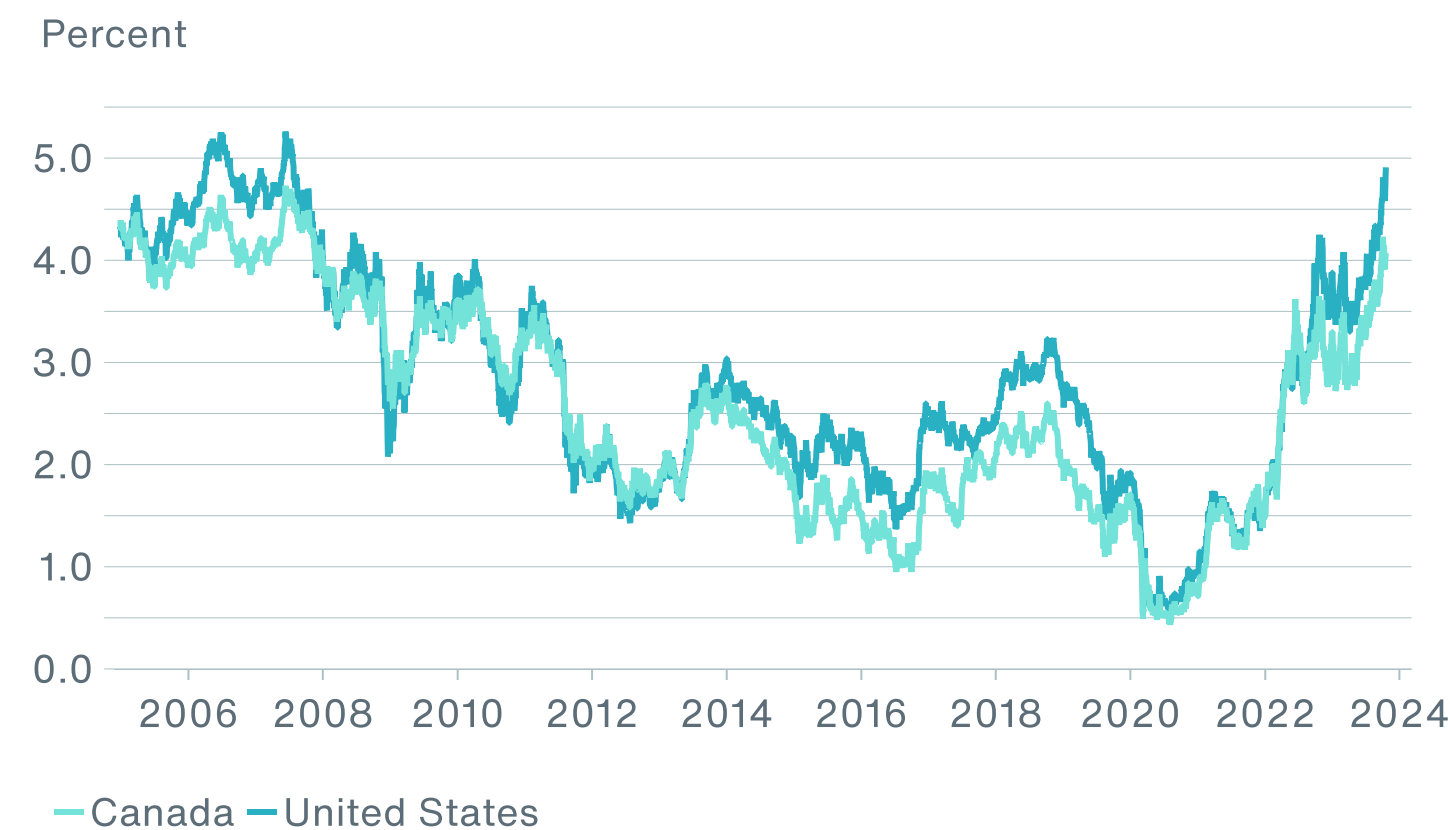
Economic Highlights

Market momentum was checked over the third quarter as bond yields surged higher. Macroeconomic data continued to show resilience, with little sign of a U.S. recession so far. However, core inflation measures have not fallen back as quickly as headline figures and the major central banks continued to indicate that further rate increases are possible over the coming months. Nonetheless, the Federal Reserve, Bank of England and the Bank of Canada decided to pause their monetary policy tightening programmes in Q3 in order to monitor the impact of higher interest rates on the economy.

We still think that a global recession is likely at some point over the coming year, although it may be relatively shallow and short-lived. Meanwhile, inflation will likely continue to fall, but we do not expect the key measures to fall back to pre-pandemic rates any time soon. Extreme uncertainty continues to make predictions especially difficult.

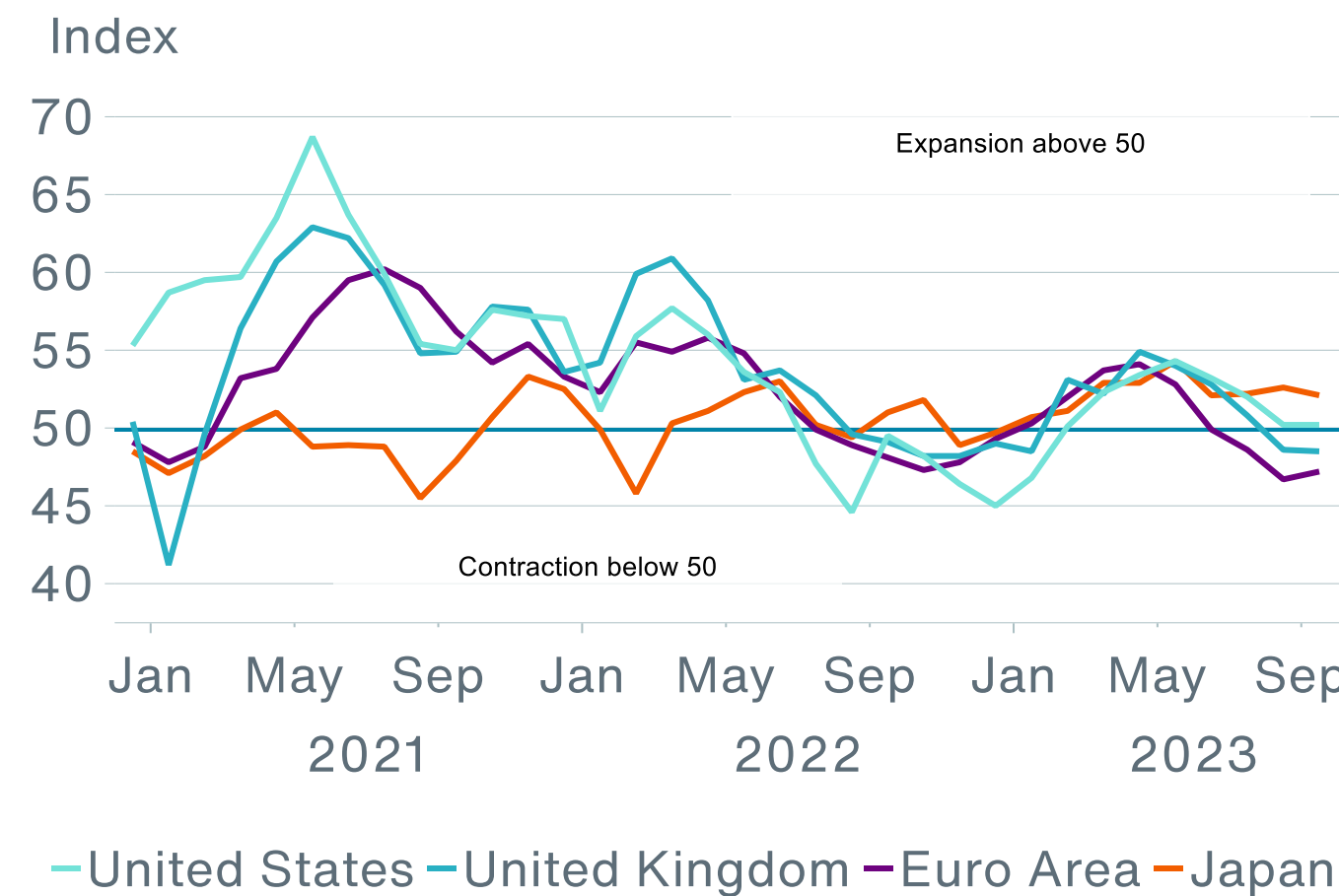
Global yields surged higher over Q3 – U.S. and Canadian 10-year yields hit multi-decade highs, for example

10-year government bond yields



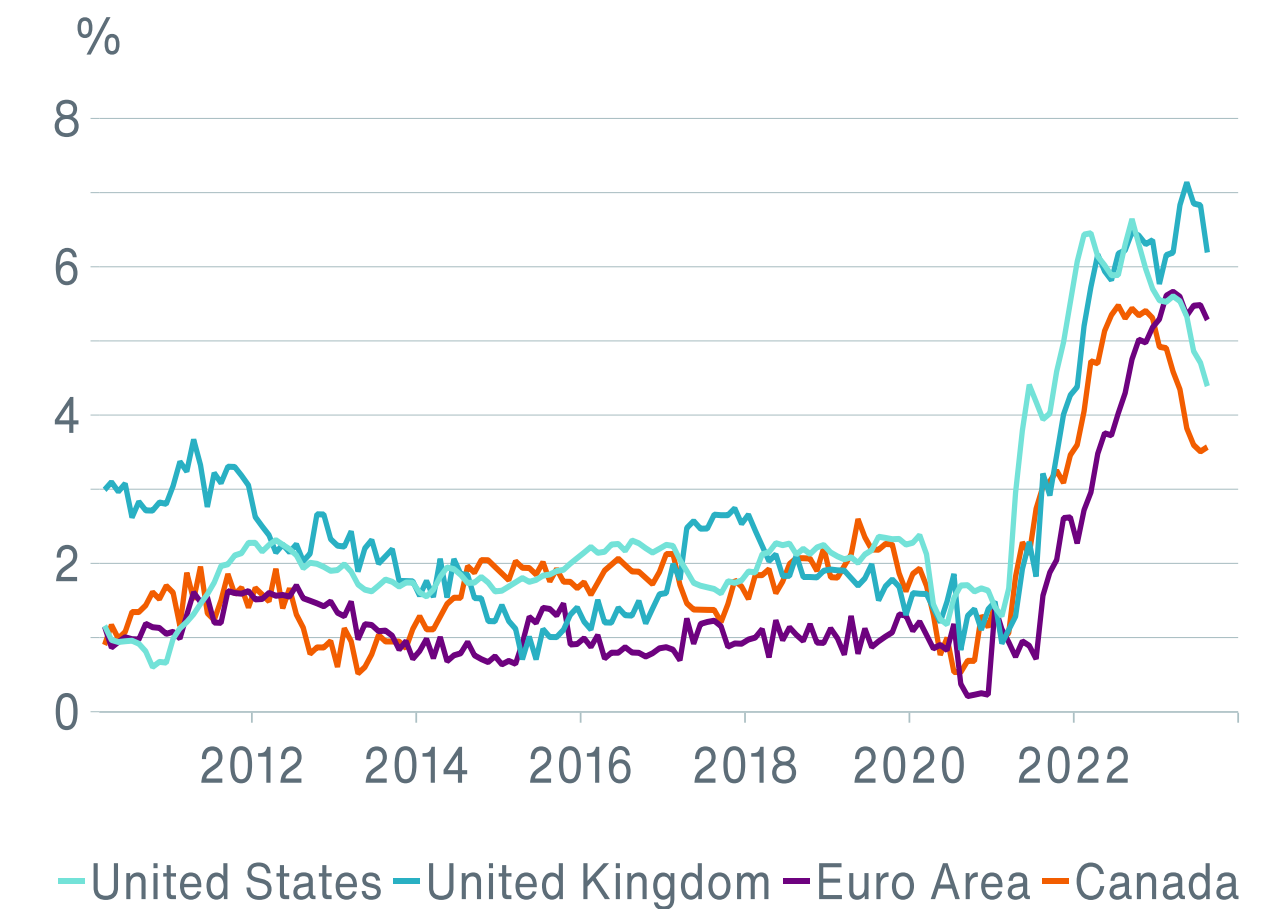
Source: Macrobond

Economic activity continued to weaken over Q3 – Selected regional composite PMIs



Source: Macrobond

Core inflation has eased over Q3 but remains elevated – Core CPI YoY



Source: Macrobond



Appendix Thought Leadership



Thought Leadership Papers

Click the icon to read the associated paper



How Public Pension Should Assess Liquidity

Many public pension funds find value in illiquid assets such as private equity, private credit, and real assets. Read on for research-backed guidance on how different plan characteristics can impact public pension funds' ability to invest in illiquid assets.



Aon ESG Manager Ratings

In this article, Daniel Ingram, Aon's North American Head of Responsible Investment, talks about responsible investing approaches, how it differs from impact investing, and how to evaluate integration by asset managers.



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Enhanced Liability-Driven Investment Strategies – Learnings after One Year

While assets struggled throughout 2022, defined benefit solvency ratios generally improved due to a decrease in liabilities. Plan sponsors rethinking their glide path may consider whether an Enhanced Liability Driven Investing (eLDI) solution is right for them.

This paper outlines how eLDI assets can help improve yield and diversification compared to traditional LDI solutions, while maintaining liability-matching characteristics.



Impact Investing is Hard: Here's How to Do It Well

The landscape for impact investing is complex and evolving. Investors need to balance their impact with other investment characteristics. These tradeoffs also require a different approach depending on the asset class and investment structure.

In this paper, Aon's team shares insights on key considerations, recommended questions and a practical framework.



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