FINANCIAL MARKETS UPDATE

JANUARY 2024

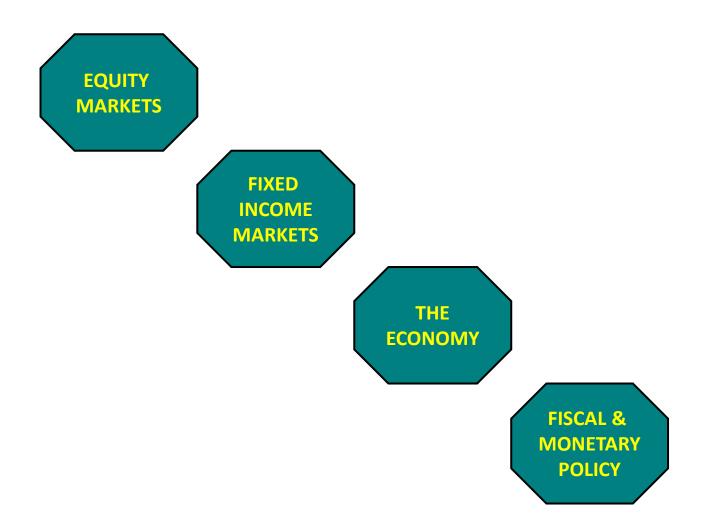
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WHAT WE WILL COVER TODAY





OUR VIEWS COMING INTO 2023

- ✓ "We believe a core inflation rate of 4.0% for 2023 is possible, but importantly, also believe the inflation rate might glide down to the low-mid 3% range exiting the year."
- ✓ "...the Fed will have cover to begin an easing cycle possibly later this year and into 2024."
- ✓ "We now think that we will see a U.S. economic recession to begin around the middle of 2023, but believe the odds are for a shorter and shallower one rather than a deeper and longer one."
- ✓ "We believe stocks will be higher for the year..."



OUR VIEWS AS WE ENTER 2024

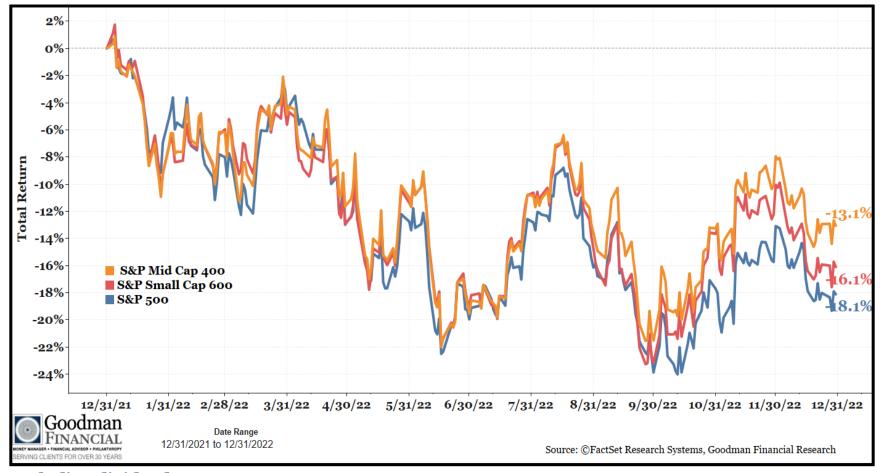
- ✓ "We would not be surprised if we saw a 10% correction in early 2024"
- ✓ "We believe stocks will end up higher for the year, but...gains will be more muted than those we saw in 2023"
- ✓ "We believe that gains will broaden out among stocks, especially small and mid-cap ones relative to mega-cap stocks"
- ✓ "We believe core inflation is probably going to be sticky near the current 3% level for a while"
- ✓ "We expect the 10-year Treasury rate to top 4% in 2024 and...exceed 5% before the year is over"
- ✓ "Our current view...is that the U.S. will see a recession in 2024"







RECALL THAT 2022 WAS A VERY UGLY YEAR!



Including dividends



"We believe stocks will be higher for the year..." WERE THEY EVER EVER!!

Table Comprised of the Following Indexes:

S&P 500 Large-Cap Total Return Index

S&P 500 Large-Cap Value Total Return Index

S&P 500 Large- Cap Growth Total Return Index

S&P 400 Mid-Cap Total Return Index

S&P 400 Mid-Cap Value Total Return Index

S&P 400 Mid-Cap Growth Total Return Index

S&P 600 Small-Cap Total Return Index

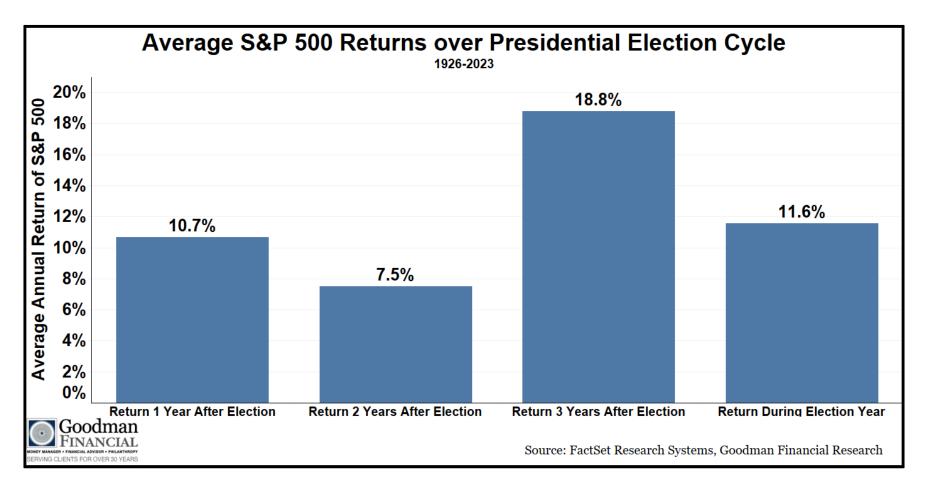
S&P 600 Small-Cap Value Total Return Index

S&P 600 Small-Cap Growth Total Return Index

2023 Retui	2023 Return By Market Segment Value Blend Growth				
Large	22.2%	26.3%	30.0%		
Mid	15.4%	16.4%	17.5%		
Small	14.9%	16.1%	17.1%		



PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CYCLE 2023 RETURNS WERE TRUE TO CYCLE!





DOUBLE DIGIT LOSSES TYPICALLY FOLLOWED BY GAINS – 2023 NO EXCEPTION!

Year	S&P 500 Annual Return	Subsequent Year Return
1937	-34.7%	30.8%
1941	-11.6%	20.1%
1957	-10.7%	43.1%
1966	-10.0%	23.9%
1973	-14.7%	-26.3%
1974	-26.3%	37.1%
2001	-11.9%	-22.1%
2002	-22.1%	28.7%
2008	-37.0%	26.5%
2022	-18.1%	26.3%
Average		18.8%

Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC. Data as of 12/31/23



WHAT A LONG, STRANGE (ROUND TRIP) IT'S BEEN



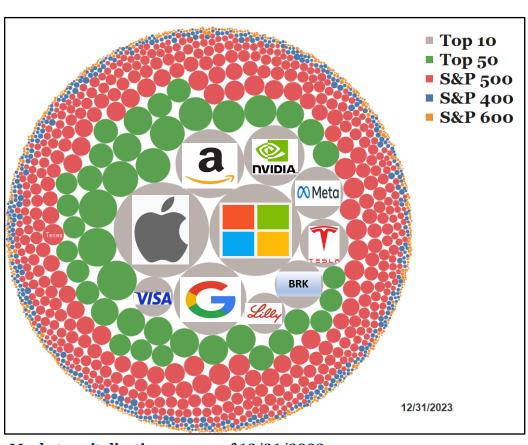


VARIOUS INDEX RETURNS MEGA-CAP STOCK RETURNS SKEW S&P 500





TOP HEAVY? S&P 1500 COMPANIES BY MARKET CAP



10 Largest Companies

32% of S&P 1,500

50 Largest Companies

54% of S&P 1,500



Source: PiperSandler

Market capitalizations are as of 12/31/2023

Source: FactSet

Note: Companies by market capitalization shown to scale

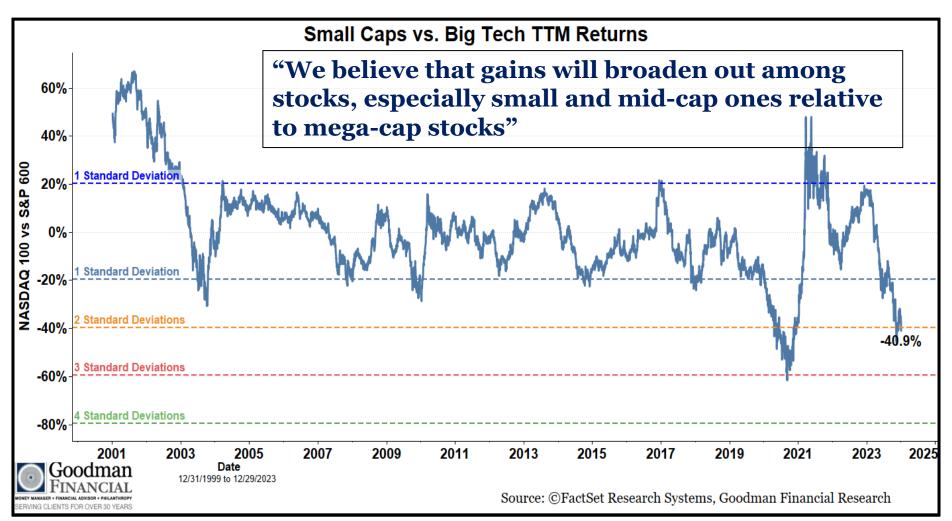


S&P 500 MARKET CAP VS. EQUAL WEIGHTED TWO VERY DIFFERENT INDICES



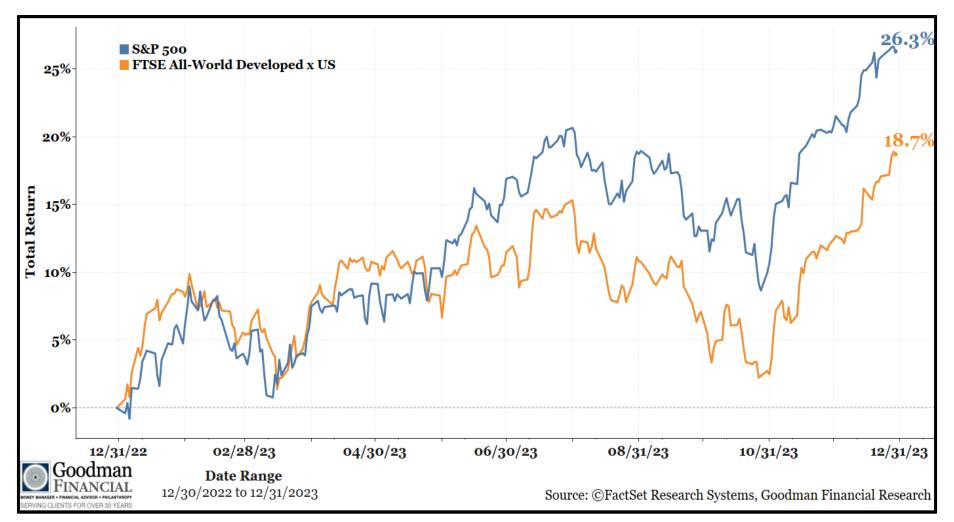


SMALL CAPS POISED TO OUTPERFORM





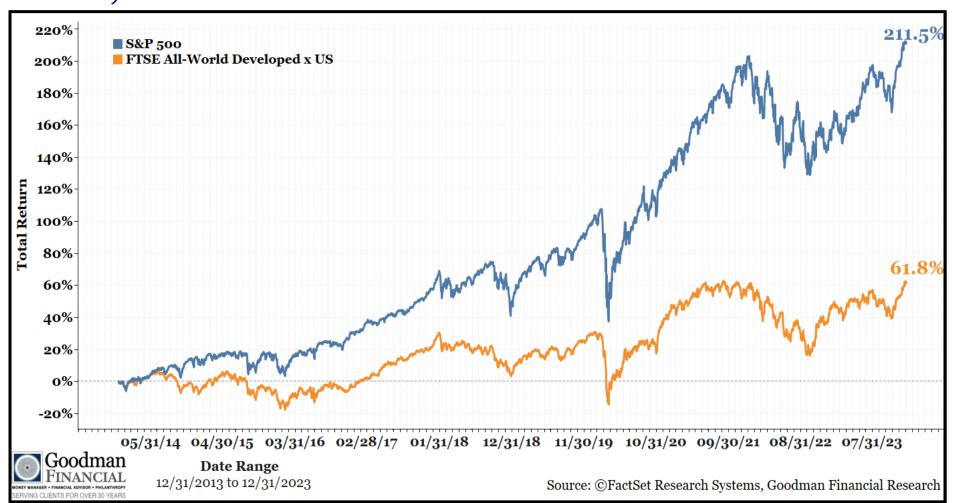
INTERNATIONAL STOCKS LAGGED THE U.S. IN 2023



Data as of 10/31/23



AND, TROUNCED OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS

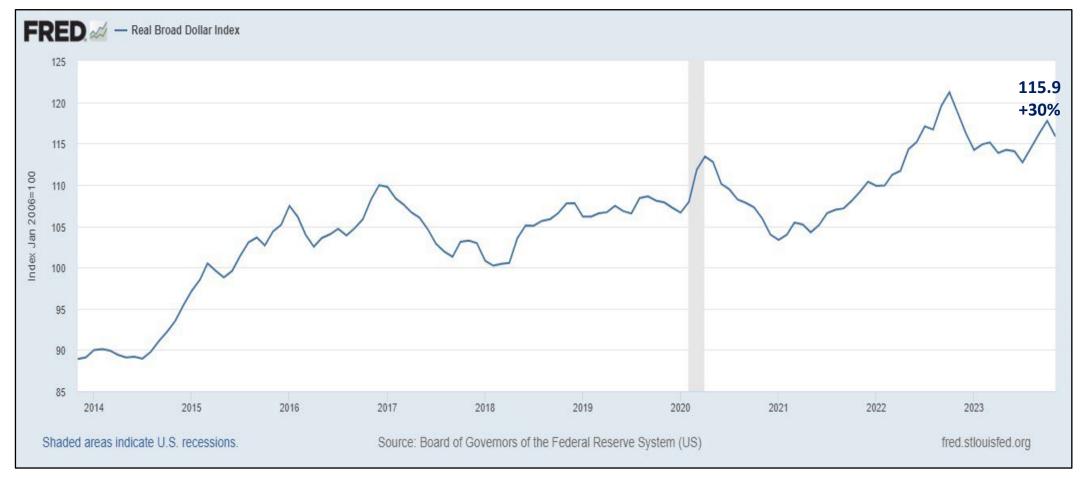


Data as of 12/31/23



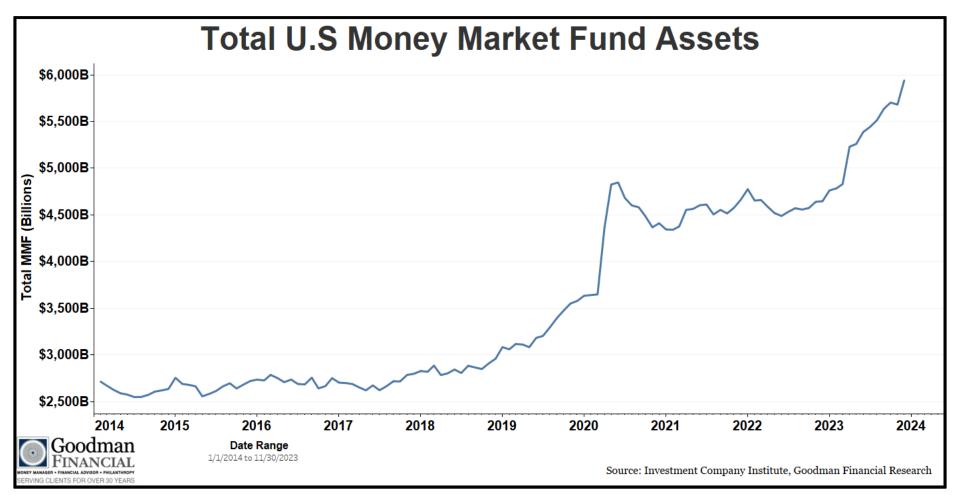
PARTIALLY DUE TO A STRONG U.S. DOLLAR

(November 2013 – November 2023)



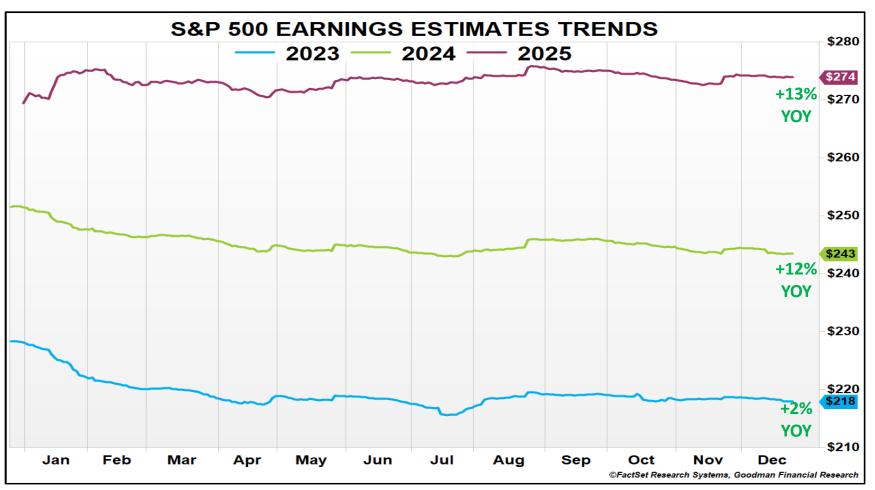


LOTS OF BUYING POWER LEFT





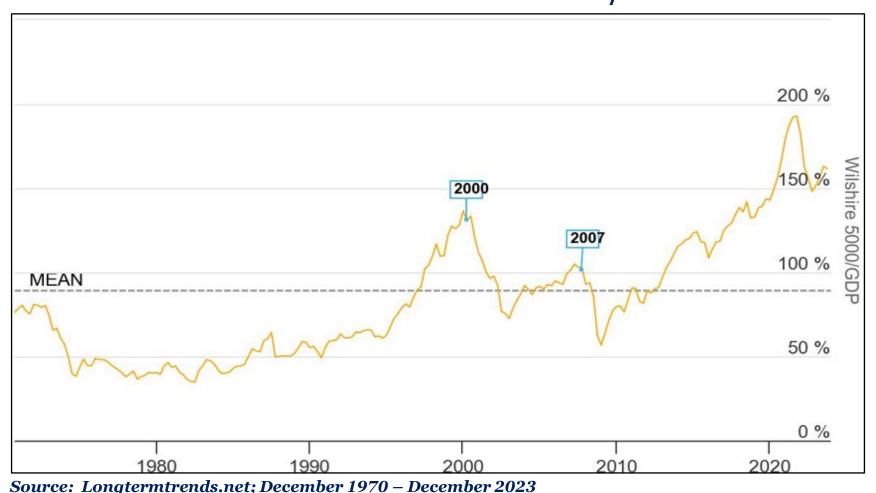
S&P 500 EARNINGS ESTIMATES NOT PRICING IN A RECESSION



Data as of 12/26/23

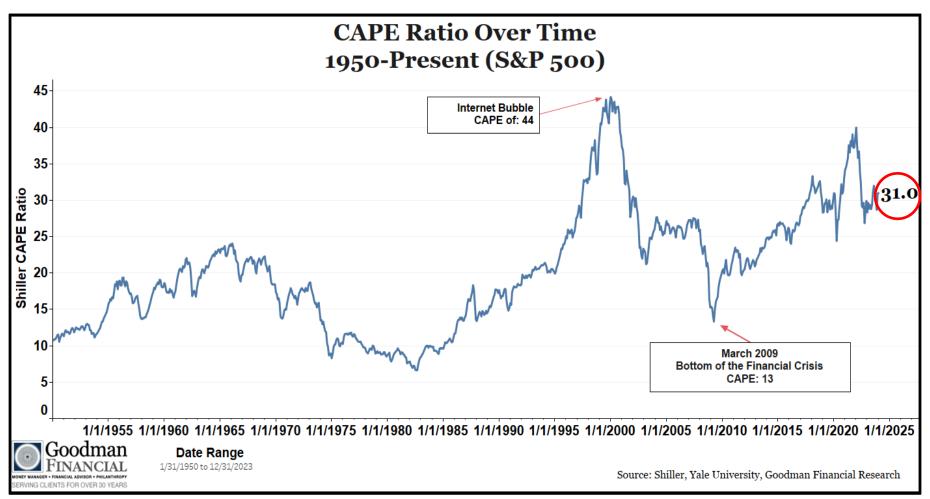


"BUFFET INDICATOR" NEAR HISTORIC HIGHS TOTAL U.S. MARKET CAP/GDP



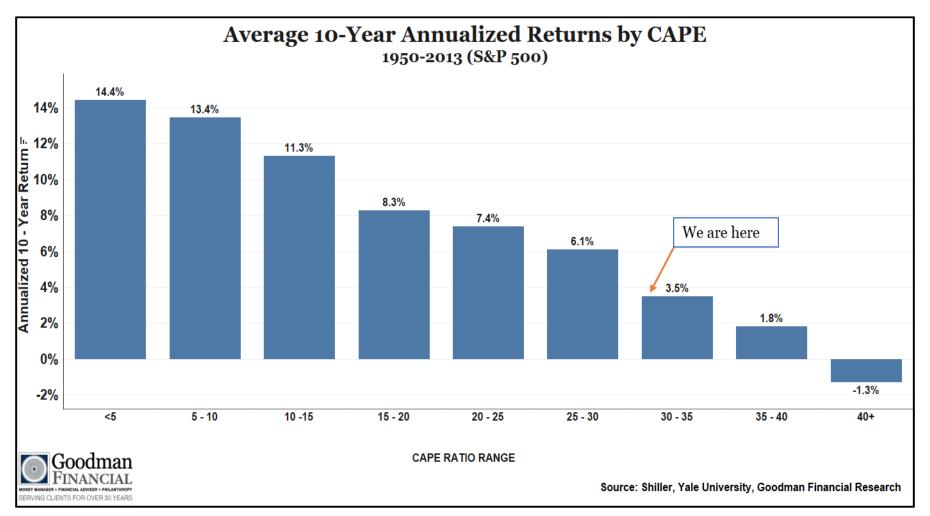


SHILLER CAPE RATIO





CAPE RATIO & 10-YEAR FORWARD RETURNS

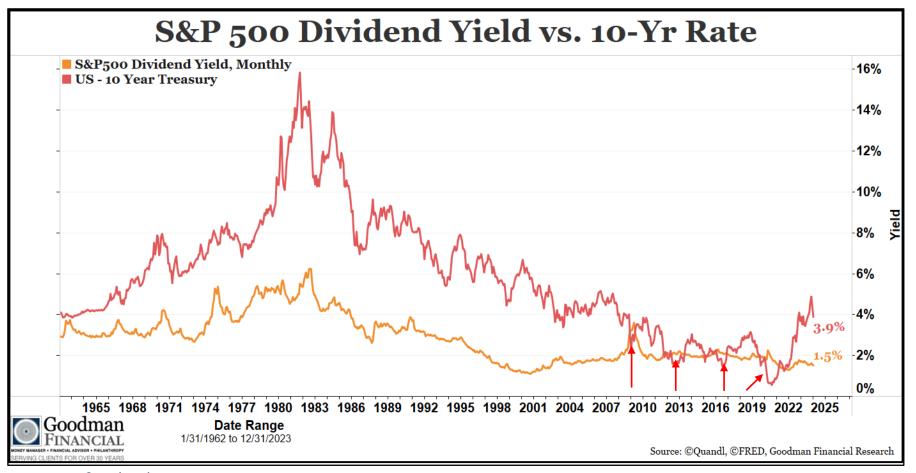


Data as of 10/31/23



TINA IS DEAD!

"THERE IS (WAS!) NO ALTERNATIVE"



Data as of 12/31/23



A LOOK AT ELECTION YEARS SINCE 1928 S&P 500 RETURNS ARE POSITIVE IN 20 OF 24 ELECTION YEARS

Historical U.S. Presidential Election Results				
Election	S&P 500 Index			
Year	President Elected	Total Returns		
2020	Biden	18.3%		
2016	Trump	12.0%		
2012	Obama	16.0%		
2008	Obama	-37.0%		
2004	Bush W	10.9%		
2000	Bush W	-9.1%		
1996	Clinton	23.1%		
1992	Clinton	7.7%		
1988	Bush HW	16.8%		
1984	Reagan	6.3%		
1980	Reagan	32.4%		
1976	Carter	23.8%		
1972	Nixon	19.0%		
1968	Nixon	11.1%		
1964	Johnson	16.5%		
1960	Kennedy	0.5%		
1956	Eisenhower	6.6%		
1952	Eisenhower	18.4%		
1948	Truman	5.5%		
1944	Roosevelt	19.8%		
1940	Roosevelt	-9.8%		
1936	Roosevelt	33.9%		
1932	Roosevelt	-8.2%		
1928	Hoover	43.6%		

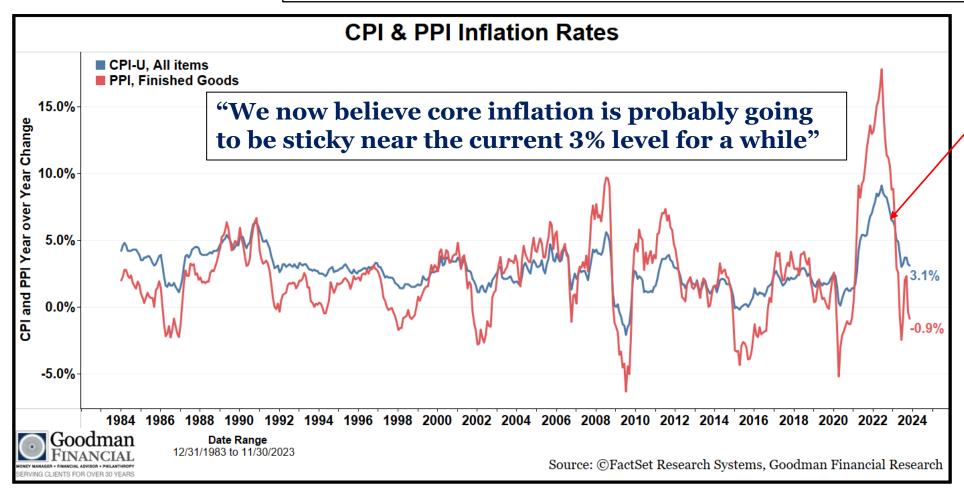
S&P 500 Index Total Returns During Presidential Election Years (1928-2020)			
	Average		
U.S. Presidential Election Results	<u>Return</u>		
A Republican was Elected (11)	15.3%		
A Democrat was Elected (13)	8.5%		
A Republican Incumbent was Re-elected (4)	10.7%		
A Democrat Incumbent was Re-elected (5)	16.6%		





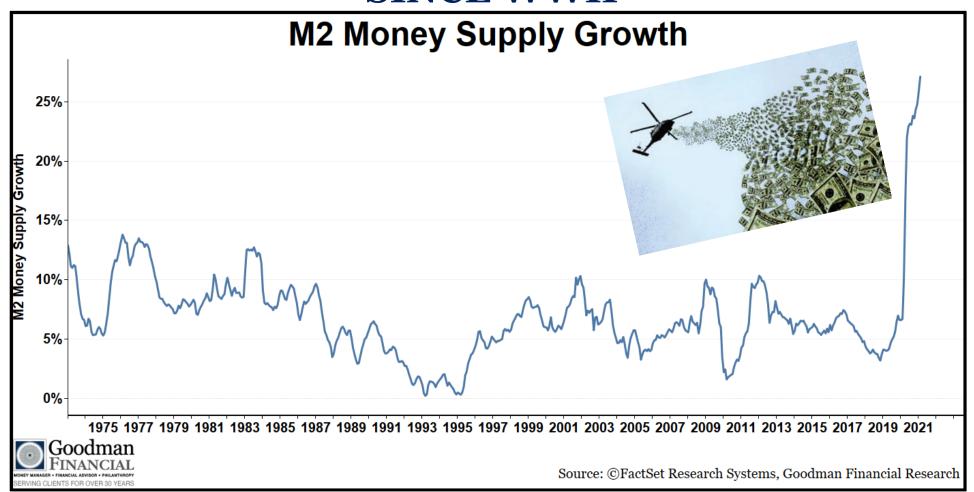


"We believe a core inflation rate of 4.0% for 2023 is possible, but importantly, also believe the inflation rate might glide down to the low-mid 3% range exiting the year."



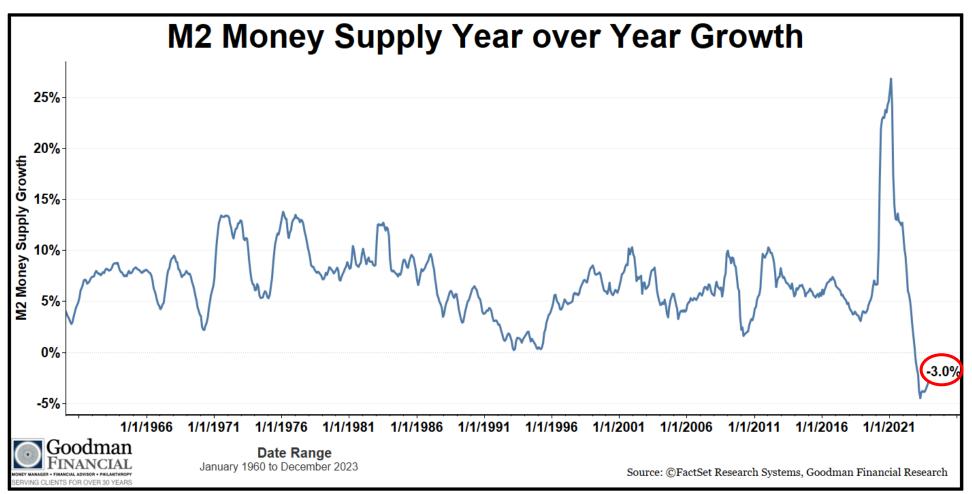


BIGGEST INCREASE IN MONEY SUPPLY SINCE WWII





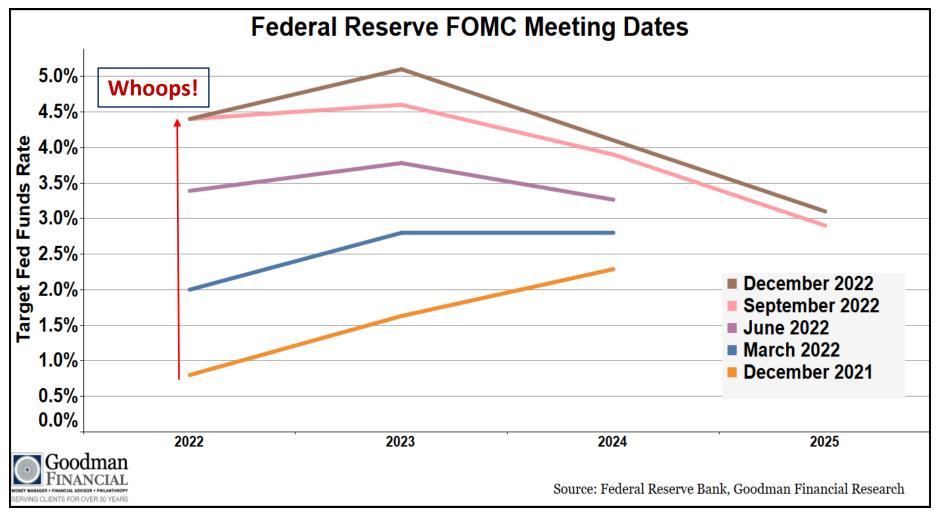
MONEY SUPPLY IS NOW SHRINKING



Data as of December 2023



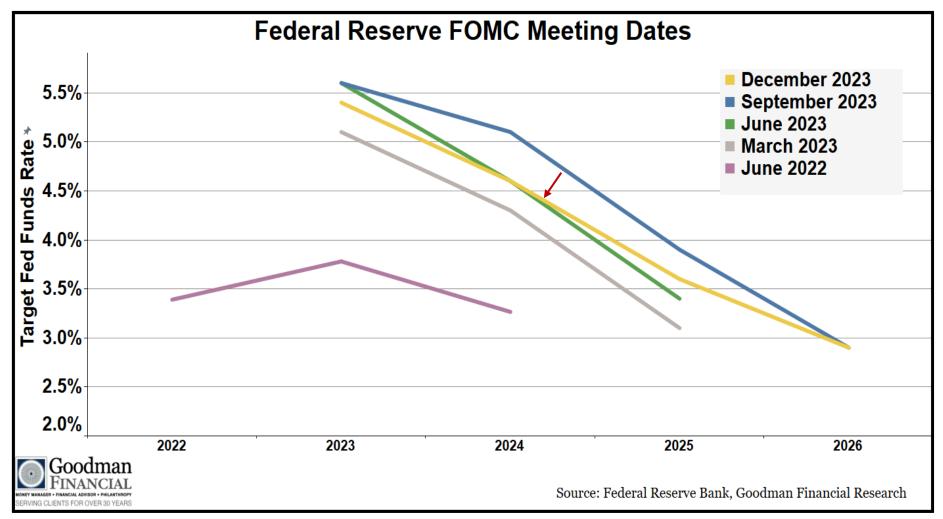
JUST A REMINDER HOW BAD THE FED MISSED IT



Data as of 12/31/22



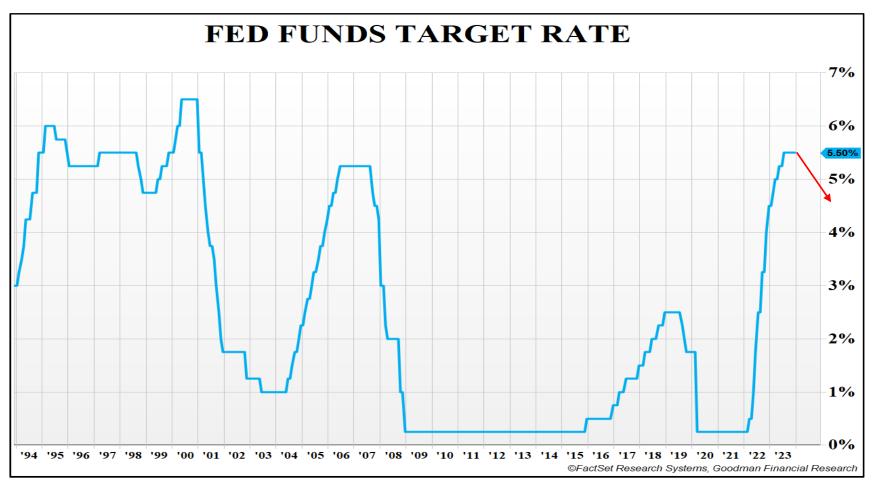
NOW, THE FED IS ON PAUSE AND SIGNALING CUTS IN '24



Data as of 12/31/23

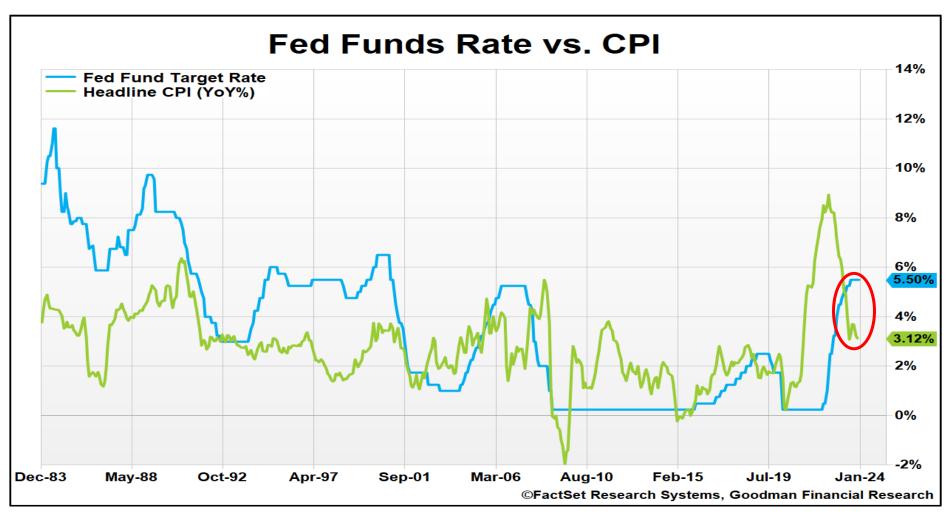


"...the Fed will have cover to begin an easing cycle possibly later this year and into 2024."



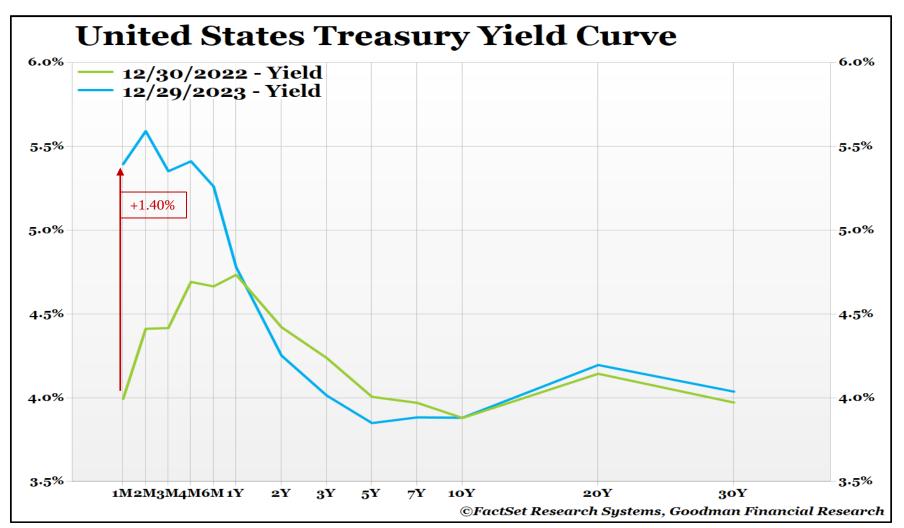


FINALLY, BACK TO POSITIVE "REAL" RATES





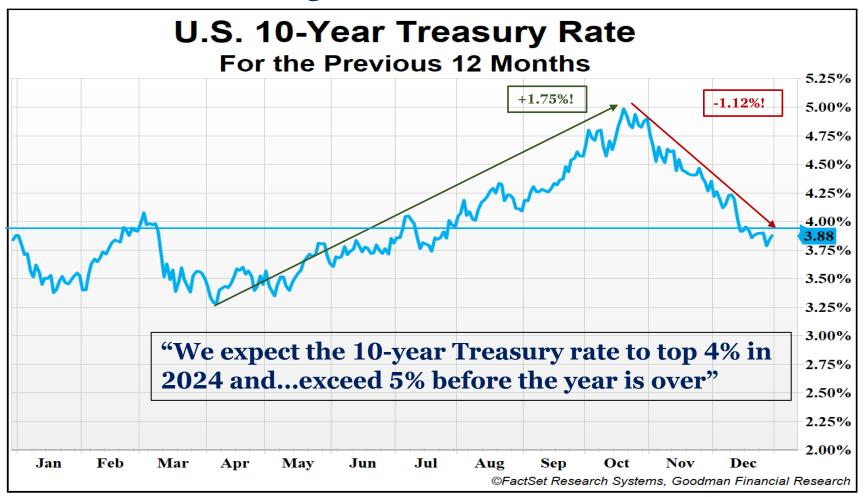
LONG RATES UNCHANGED IN 2023



Data as of 12/31/23



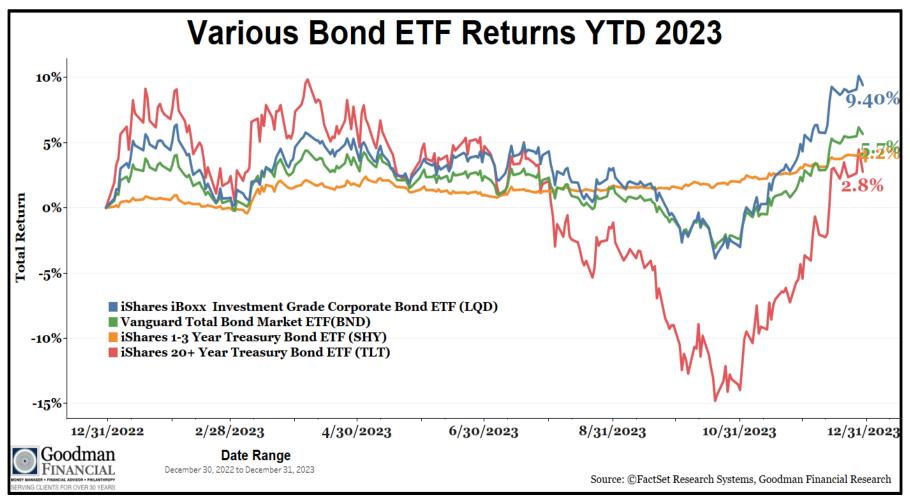
1 YEAR CHART OF THE 10-YEAR TREASURY YIELD – QUITE A ROUND TRIP!



Data as of 12/31/23



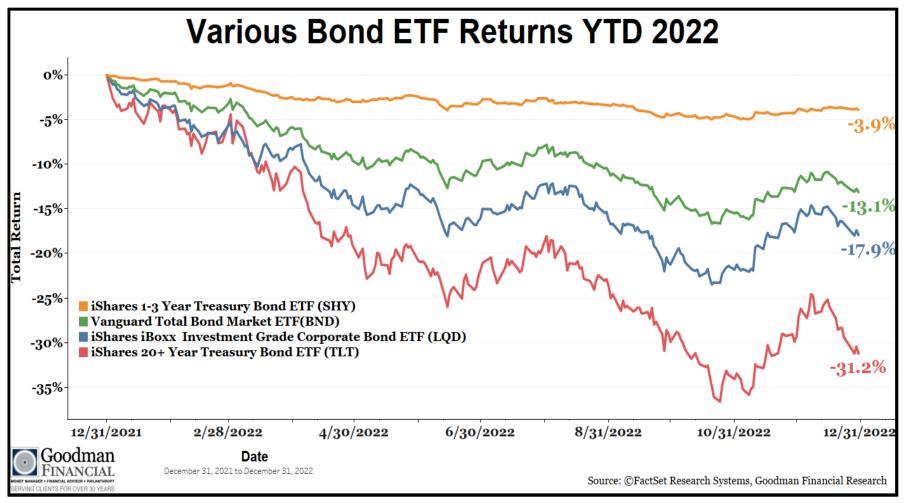
BOND RETURNS IN 2023



Data as of 12/31/23



AS A REMINDER, 2022 WAS WORST YEAR EVER FOR BONDS



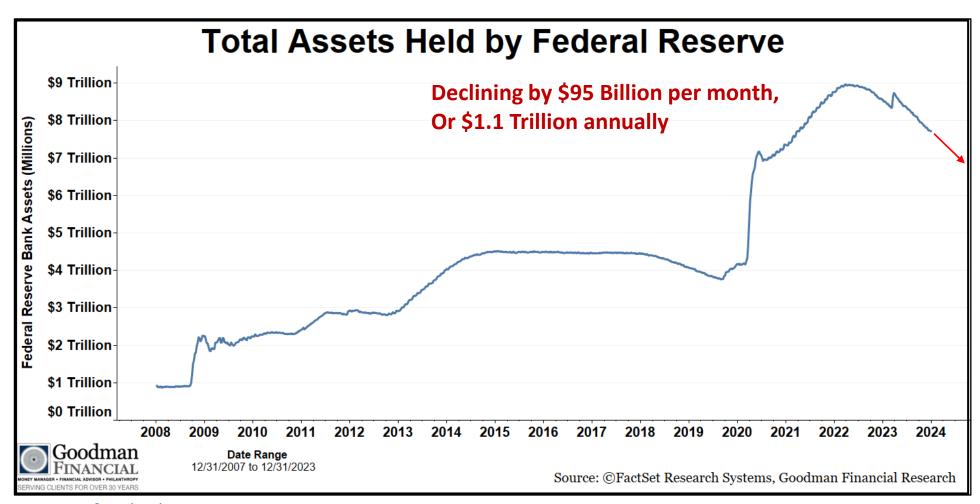


HISTORICAL TREASURY RATES A NEW REGIME?





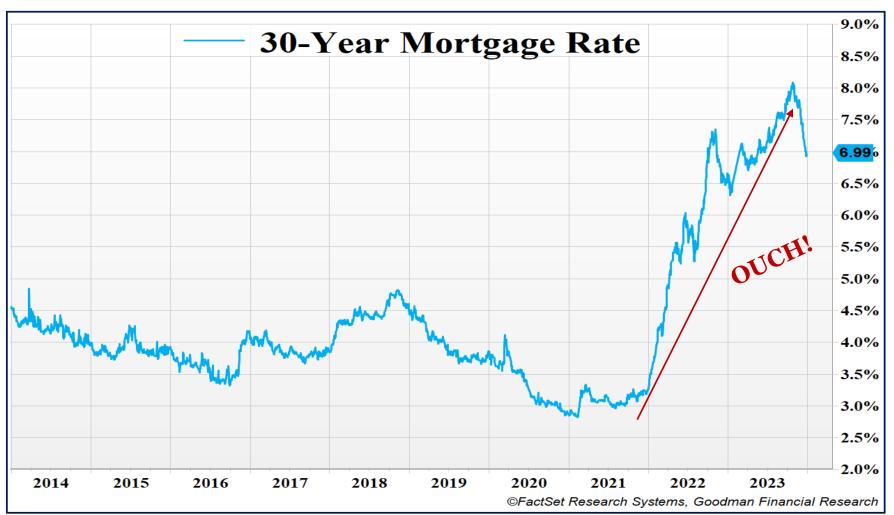
A BIG BOND BUYER IS NOW A SELLER



Data as of 12/31/23



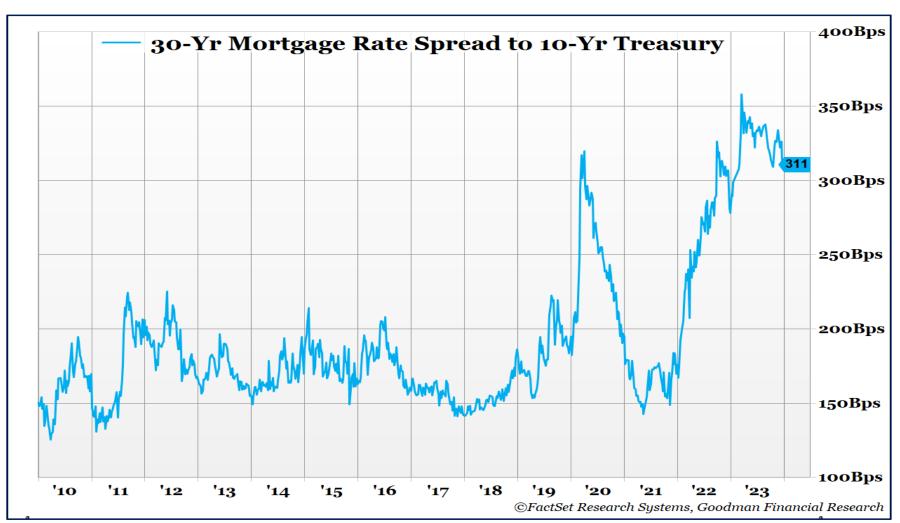
WHAT ABOUT 30-YR MORTGAGE RATES? MAGNITUDE OF INCREASE IS A SHOCK TO BORROWERS



Data as of 12/31/23



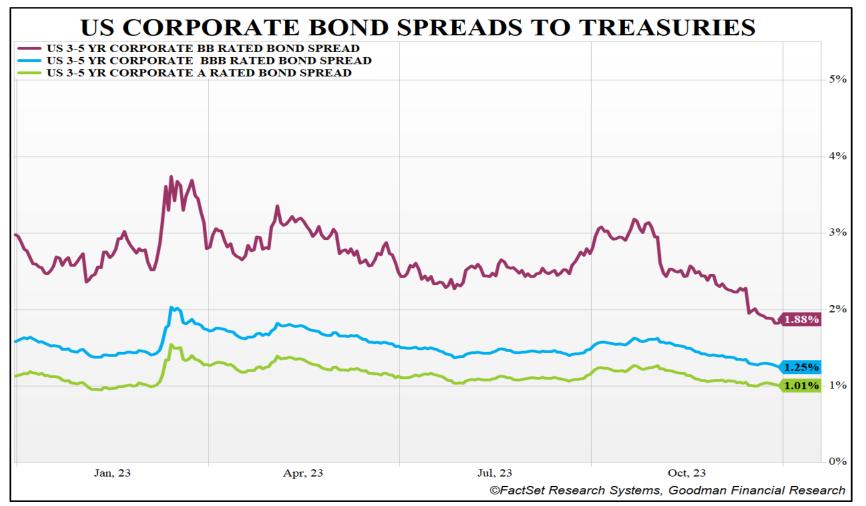
MORTGAGE SPREADS TO TREASURIES AT MULTI-YEAR HIGHS



Data as of 12/31/23

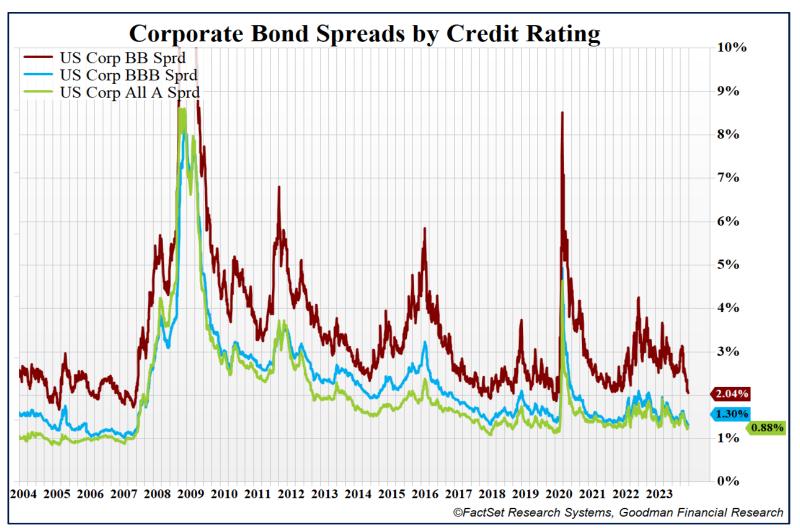


CORPORATE YIELD SPREADS NO RECESSION FEARS HERE





CORP YIELD SPREADS – LONGER TERM

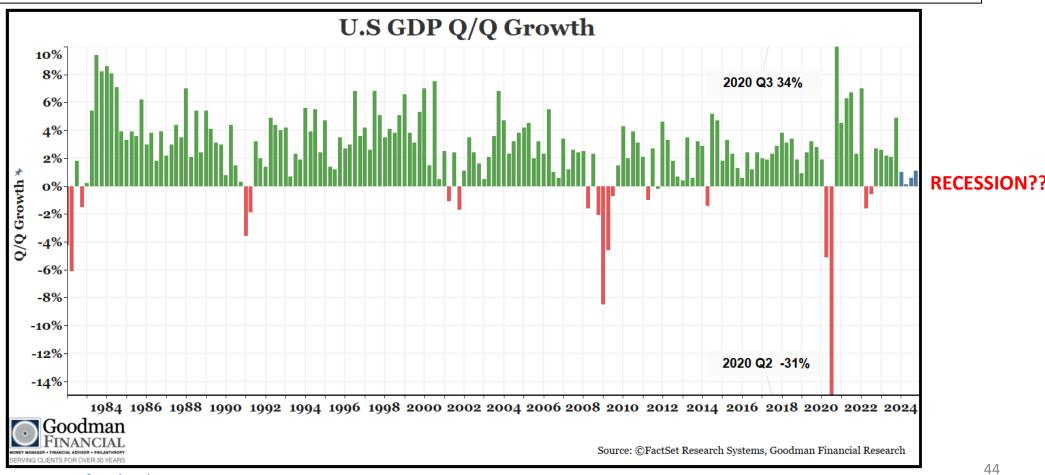








"We now think that we will see a U.S. economic recession to begin around the middle of 2023, but believe the odds are for a shorter and shallower one rather than a deeper and longer one."





RECESSION INDICATORS FLASHING RED

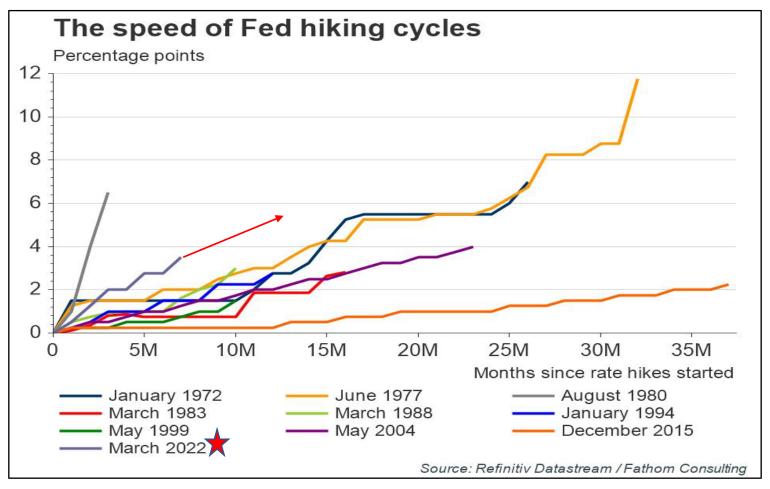
- **✓ Restrictive Fed Funds rate**
 - ✓ Steepest & fastest hiking cycle since 1980
- ✓ Inverted yield curve
 - ✓ Most inverted 10-yr 3-mo curve since 1980s
- **✓** Leading economic indicators in recession territory
- ✓ Banks tightening lending
 - ✓ Percent of banks tightening lending standards in recession territory

"Our current view...is that the U.S. will see a recession in 2024"





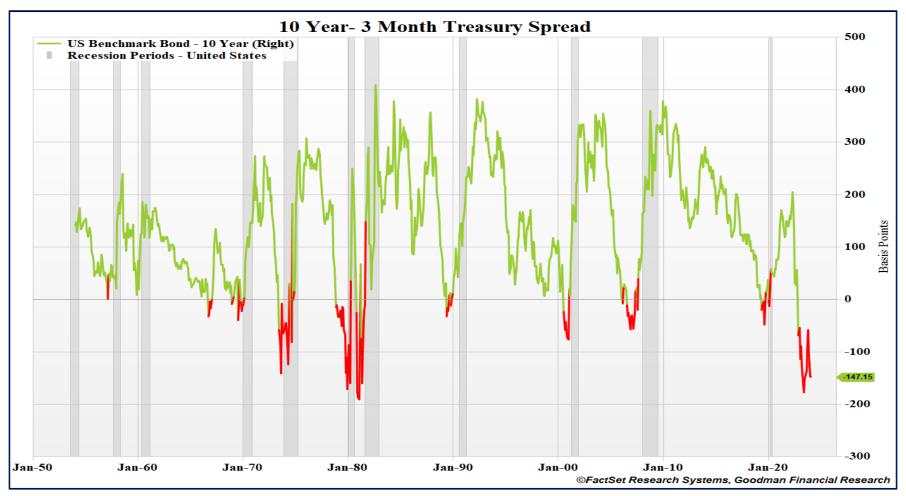
STEEPEST & FASTEST HIKING CYCLE SINCE 1980



Data as of 11/8/22

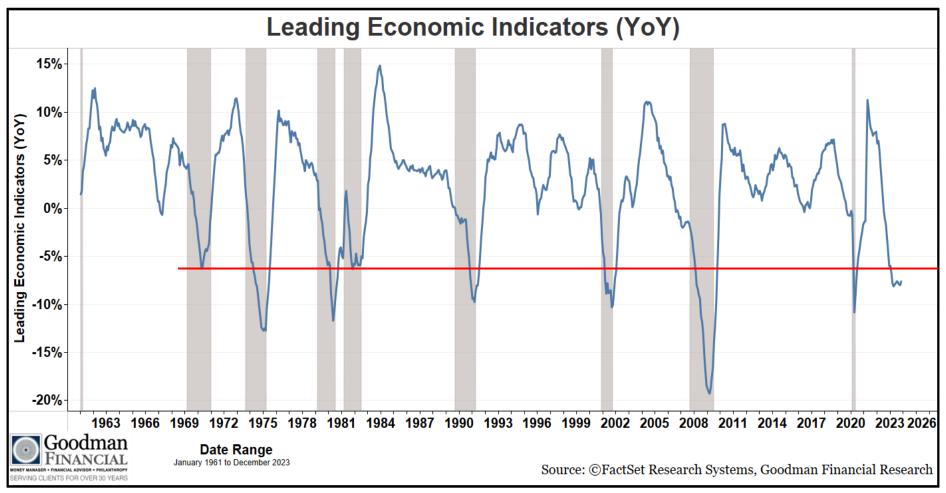


YIELD CURVE IS NOW PREDICTING RECESSION MOST INVERTED CURVE SINCE 1980



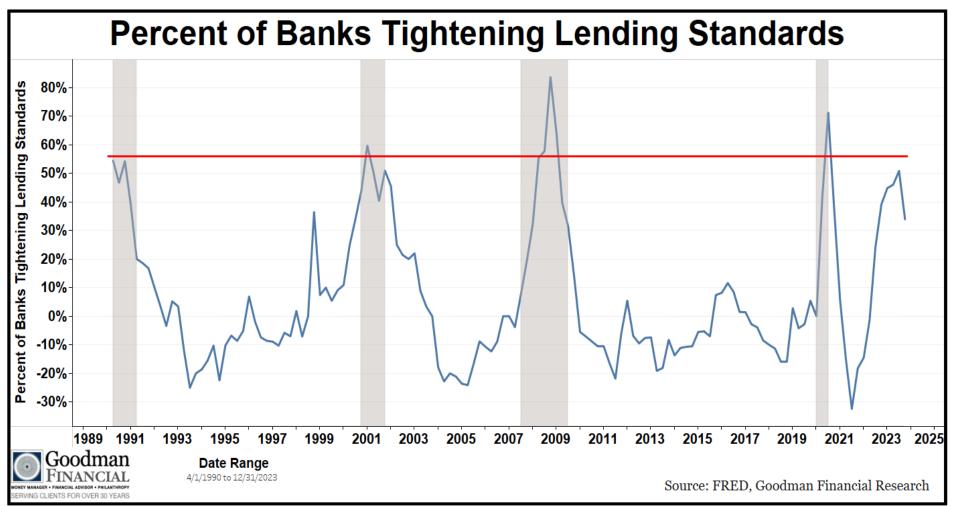


LEADING ECONOMIC INDICATORS IN RECESSION TERRRITORY



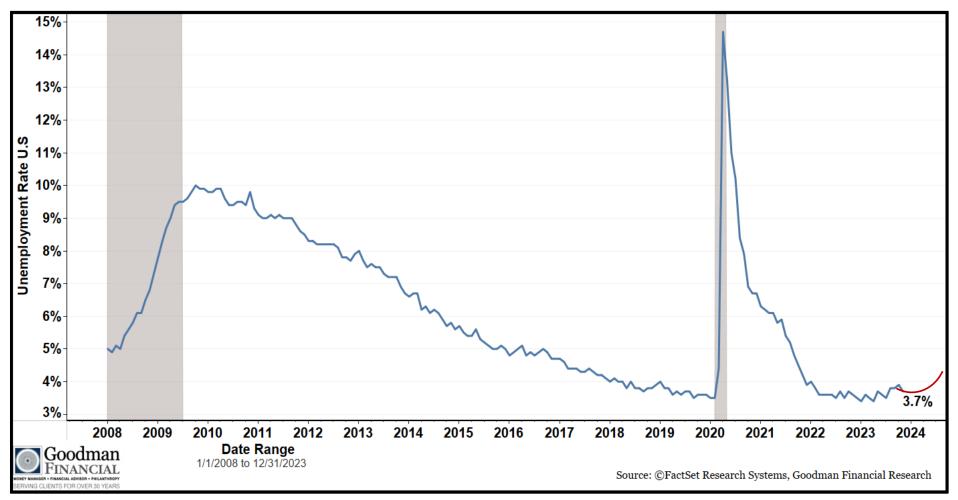


BANKS ARE TIGHTENING TO RECESSION LEVELS





U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT NEAR 50-YEAR LOWS...FOR NOW



Data as of December 2023

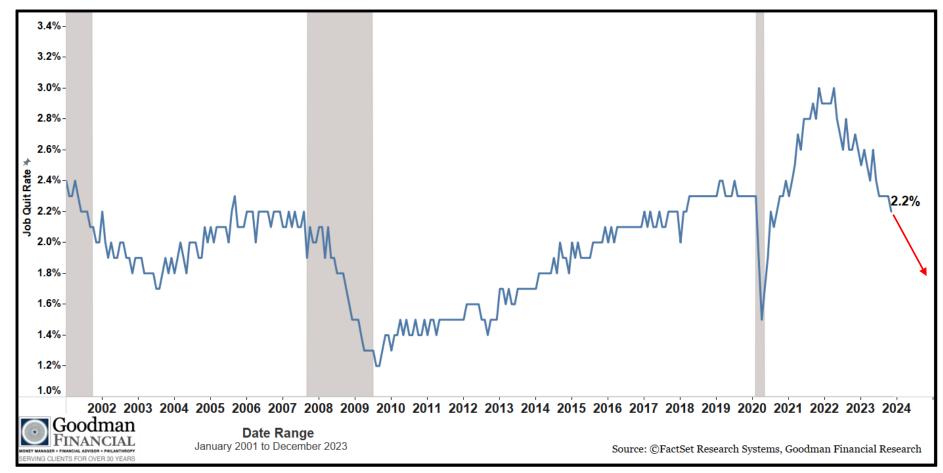


JOB OPENINGS ARE COMING DOWN FAST



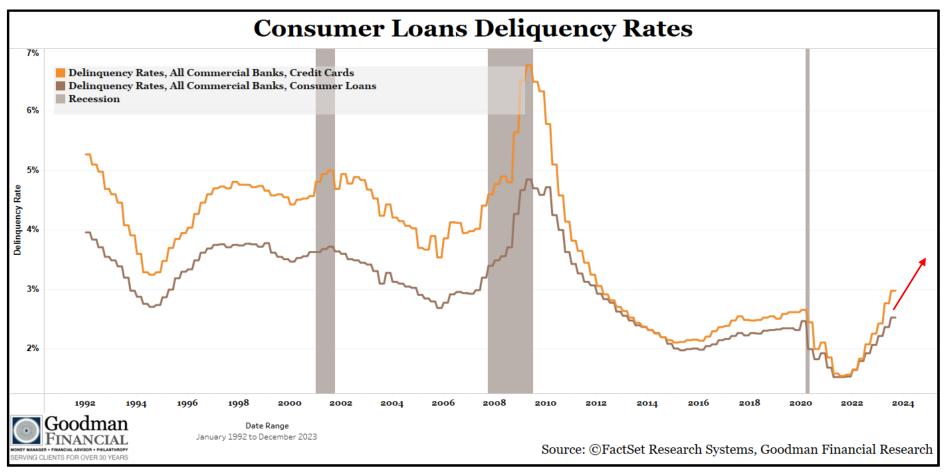


CAUSING THE JOB QUIT RATE TO DROP



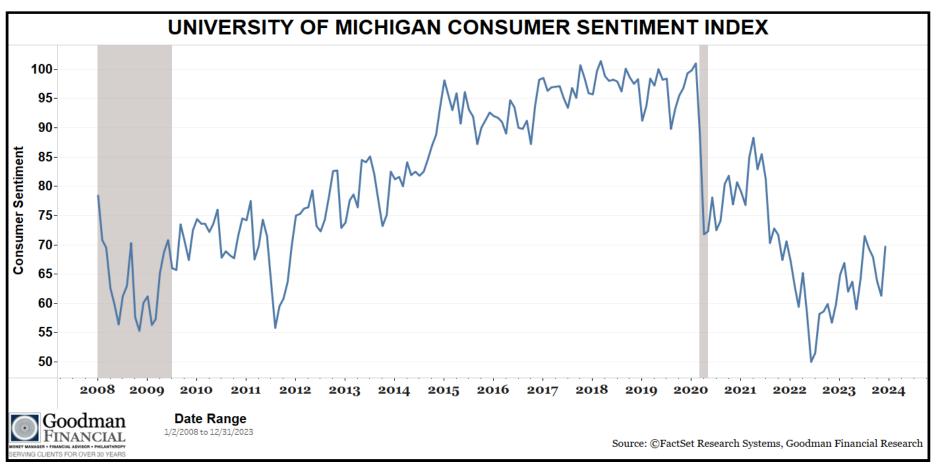


CONSUMERS DELIQUENCY RATES RISING FAST





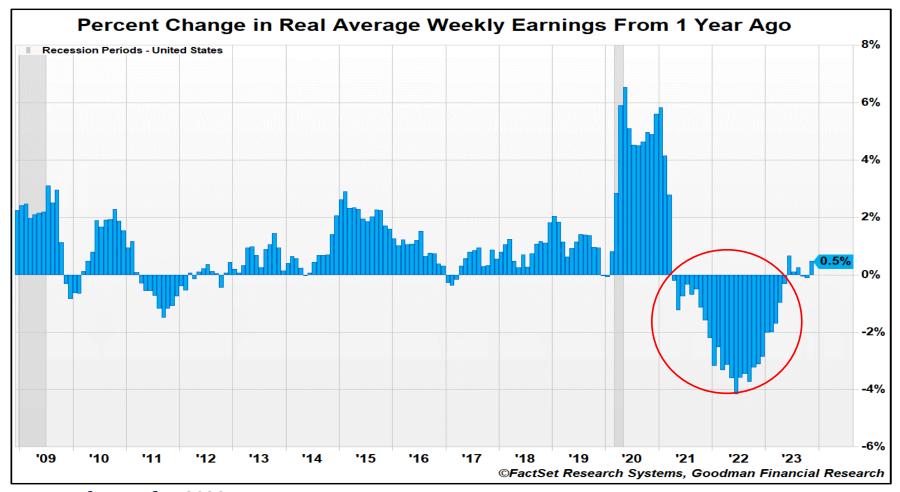
CONSUMER SENTIMENT IS IMPROVING OFF LOWS



Data as of December 2023

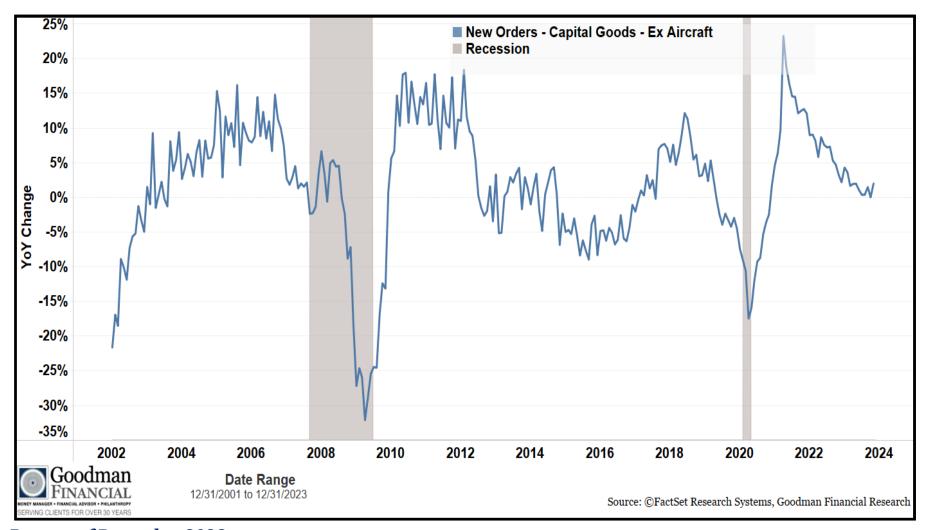


AS REAL WAGES HAVE FINALLY TURNED POSITIVE



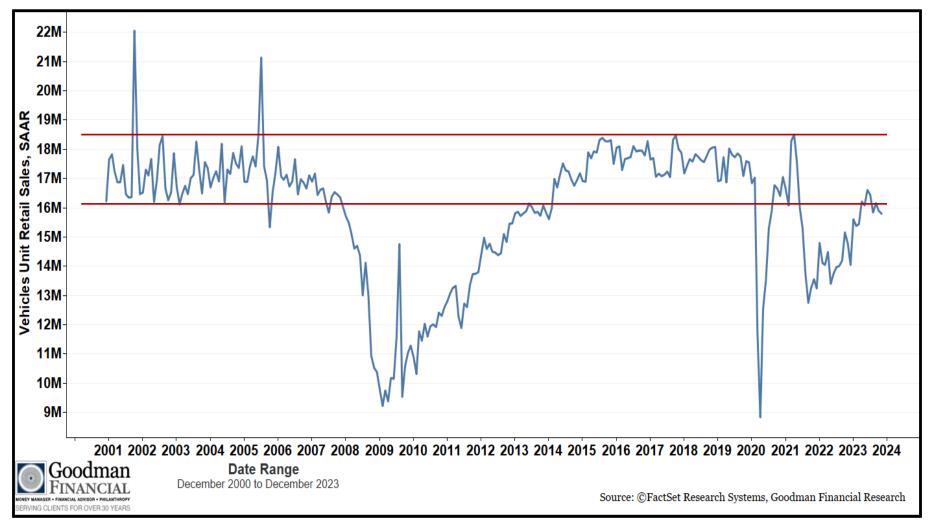


CAPITAL GOODS ORDERS SLOWING





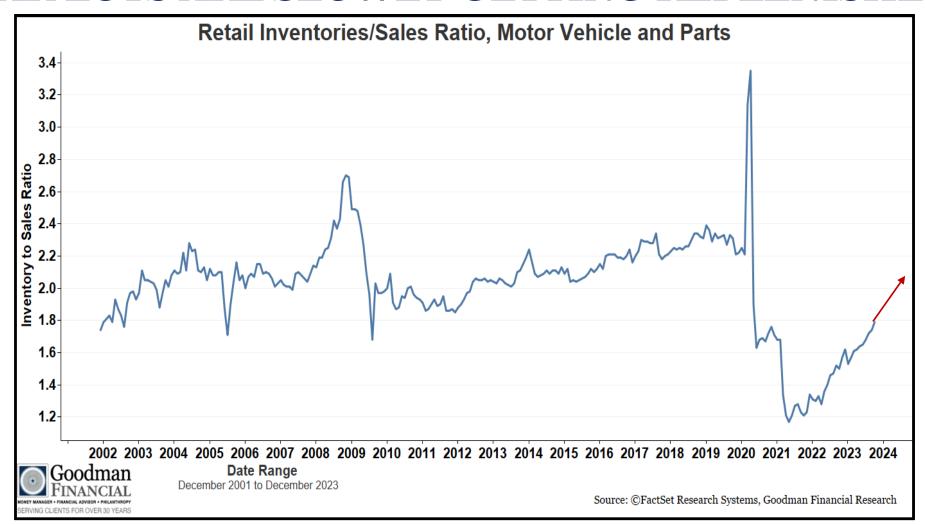
AUTO SALES FINALLY RECOVERED, BUT STALLING



Data as of December 2023



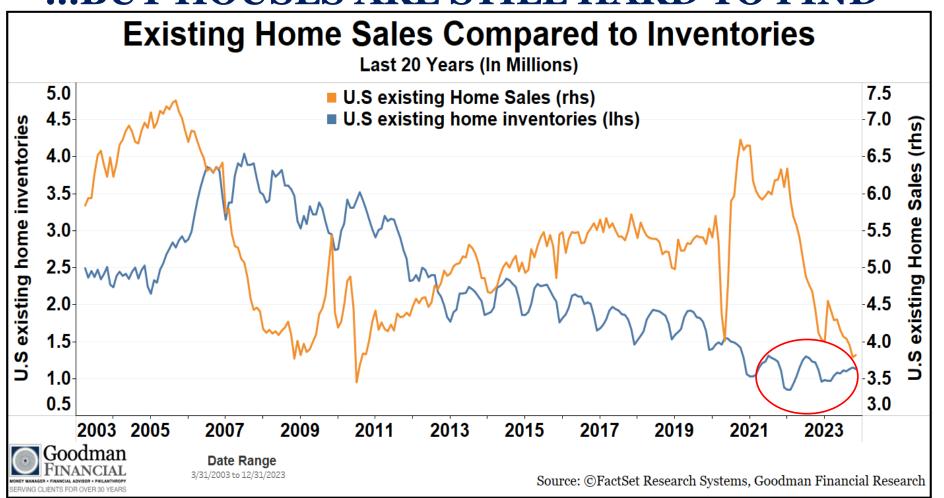
CAR LOTS ARE SLOWLY GETTING REPLENISHED



Data as of December 2023

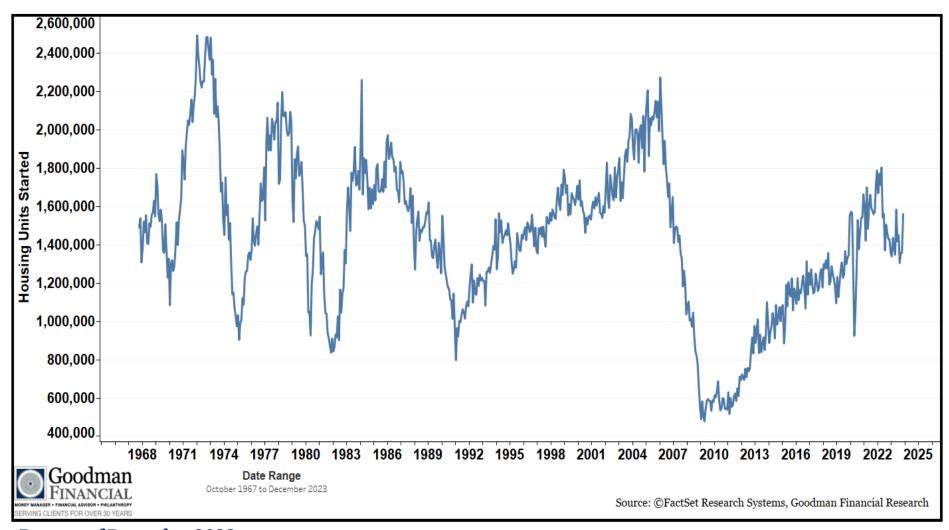


EXISTING HOME SALES ARE BOTTOMING ...BUT HOUSES ARE STILL HARD TO FIND





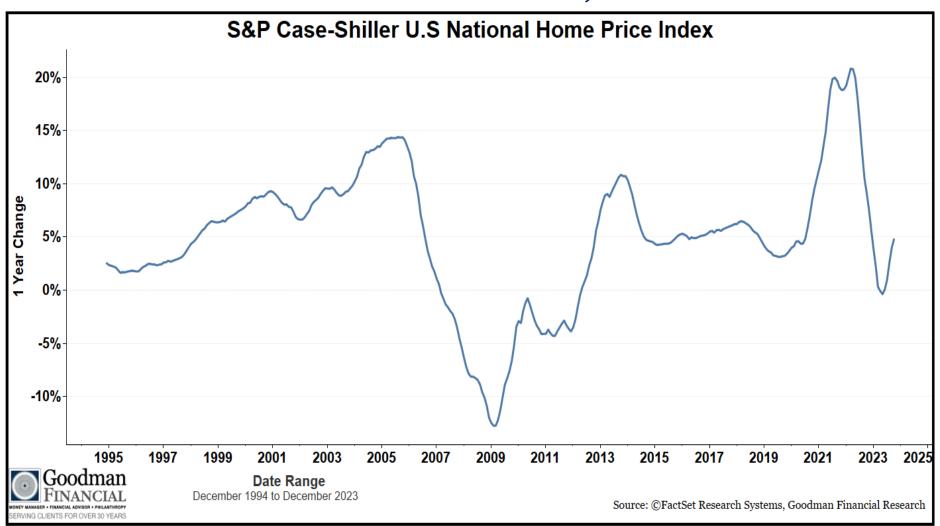
HOUSING STARTS COMING DOWN



Data as of December 2023



HOME PRICES ARE RISING, SURPRISNGLY





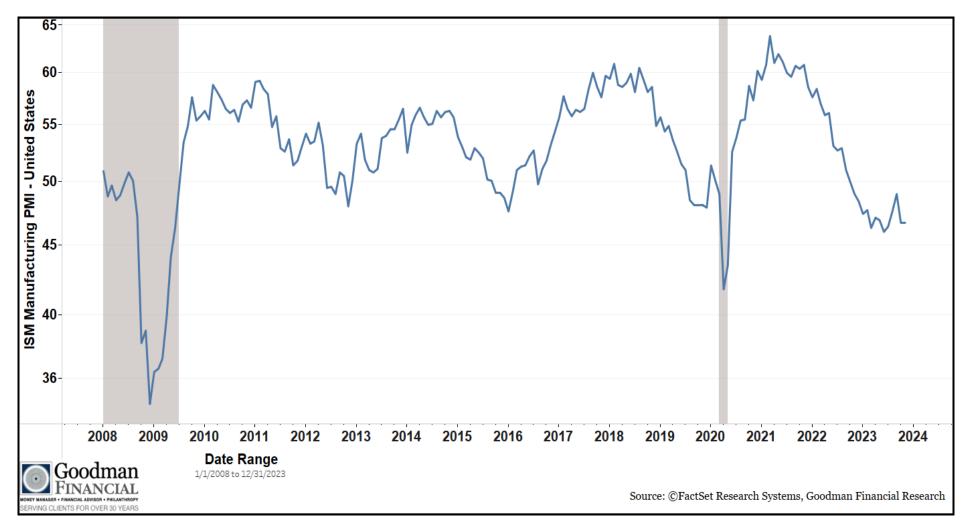
AS HOME AFFORDABILITY WORST SINCE 1980's



Data as of December 2023



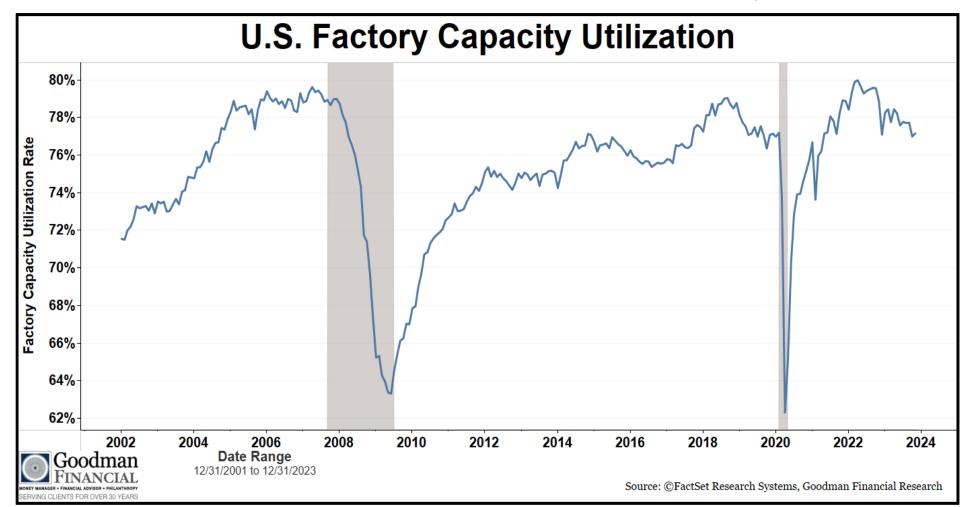
PURCHASING MANAGERS INDEX FALLING



Data as of December 2023

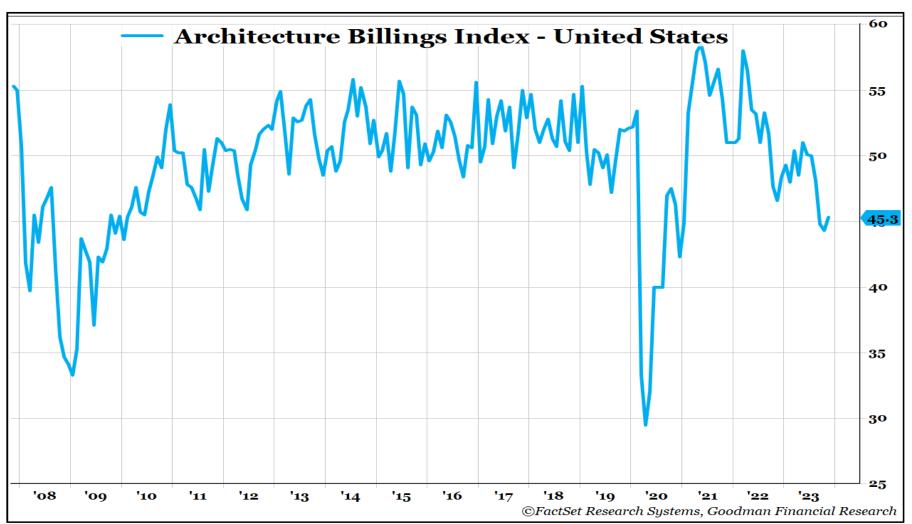


FACTORY UTILIZATION IS STILL STRONG, BUT SLOWING





COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION OUTLOOK IS FALLING









Fitch's Warning About America's Fitch's Warning About America's Fitch's Warning About America's NATIONAL DEBT

U.S. Credit Rating Downgrade Is a Sign of Government Dysfunction

The national debt has ballooned from \$14 trillion to \$32 trillion in a little over a decade.

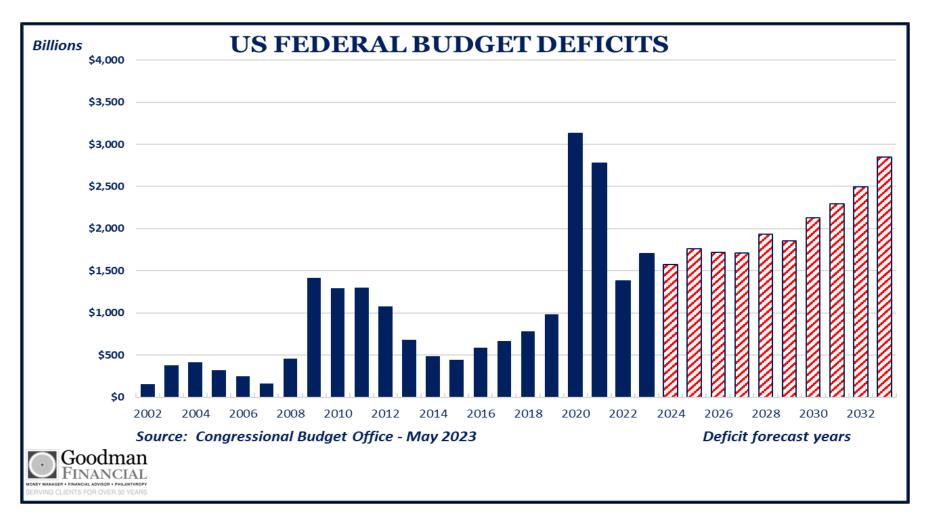
Fitch cuts US credit rating to AA+; Treasury calls it 'arbitrary'

Fitch Downgrades America

The rating agency may be too optimistic about the U.S. fiscal future.

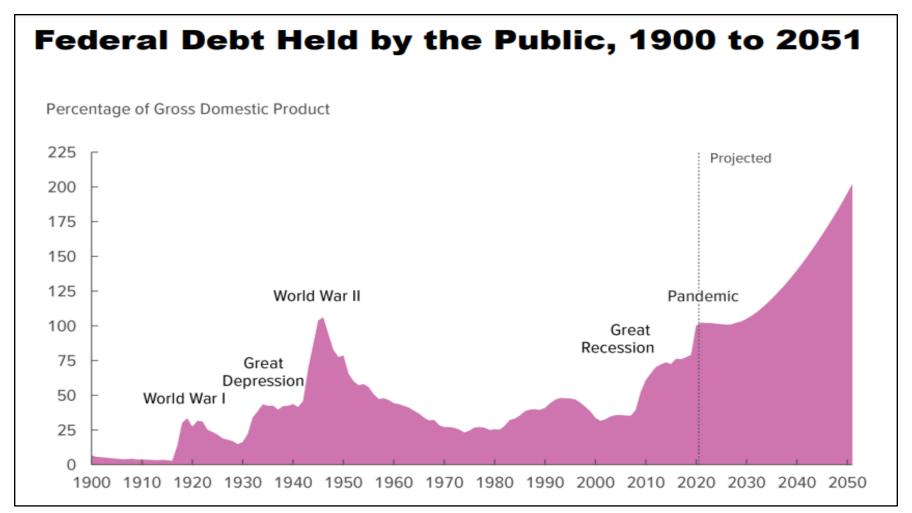


LARGE AND INCREASING BUDGET DEFICITS AS FAR AS WE CAN SEE





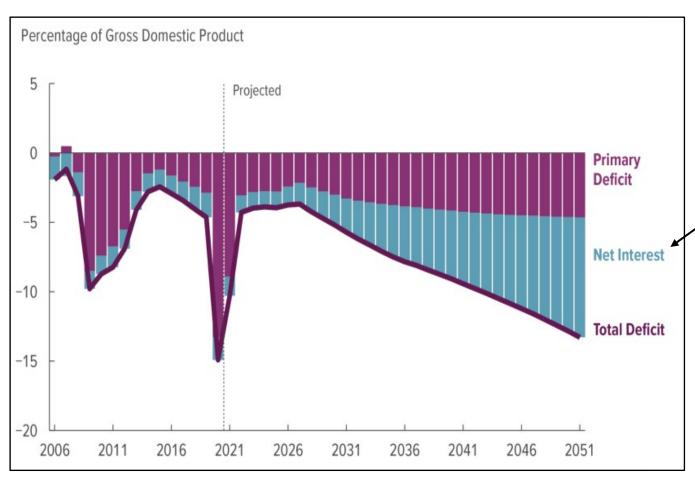
FORECASTED DEBT AS % OF GDP



Source: Congressional Budget Office; Data as of May 2022



INTEREST RATES WILL BECOME A PROBLEM

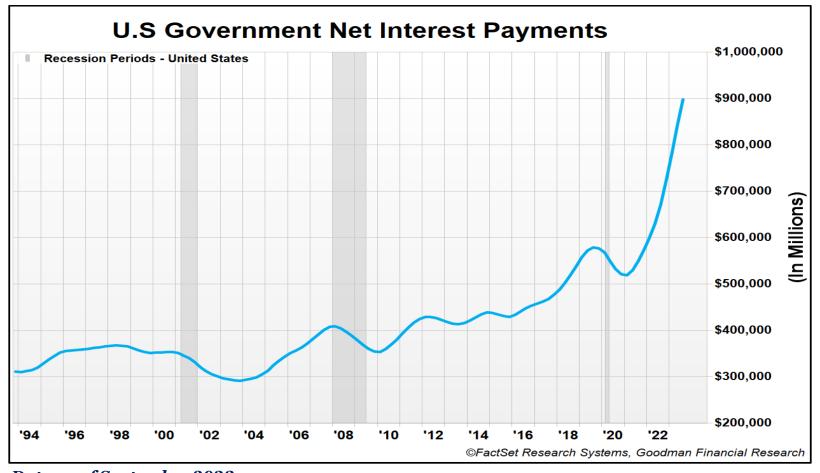


CBO expects interest rates to rise as the economy recovers and then continues to expand, particularly in the latter half of the coming decade. The agency expects the interest rate on 10-year Treasury notes to average 1.6 percent over the 2021–2025 period and 3.0 percent over the 2026–2031 period. After 2031, the interest rate on 10-year Treasury notes is projected to rise steadily, reaching 4.9 percent by 2051. (Though higher than current rates, the projected interest rates are lower than they have been historically.)

Source: Congressional Budget Office, as of May 2021



INTEREST RATES ARE A PROBLEM! INTEREST COSTS HAVE DOUBLED SINCE COVID



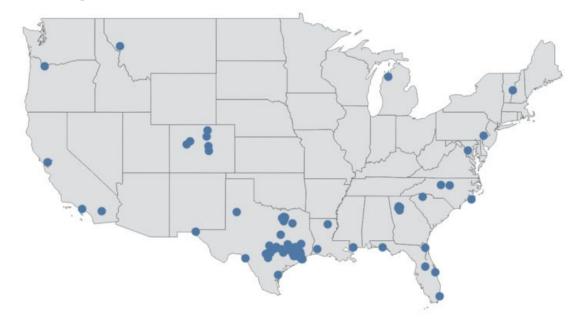


Thank you

Additional information or answers to questions can be obtained by contacting:

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As of December 31, 2022

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