# Payden & Rygel Quarterly Portfolio Review

# Short Term Bond Fund 4th Quarter 2023





#### FROM THE DESK OF JOAN PAYDEN



#### **SOFT LANDING**

#### A U.S. "SOFT LANDING" BECAME MORE PLAUSIBLE AS INFLATION SLOWED NOTABLY.

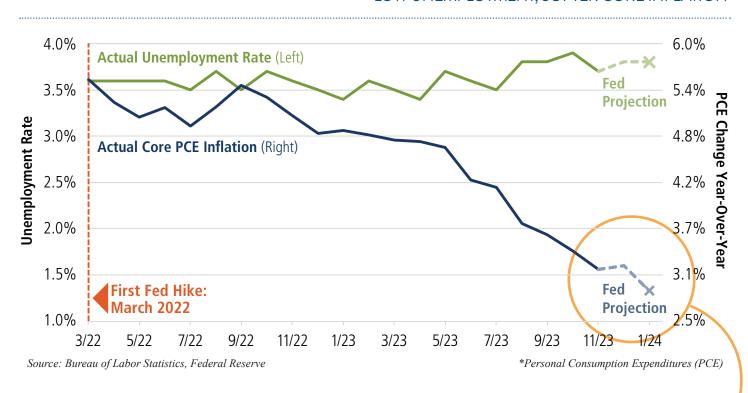
The core PCE\* price index average monthly change for the past six months of 0.15%, if sustained, would align with the Fed's 2% inflation target.

INFLATION COOLING WITHOUT A CALAMITY IN LABOR MARKETS SIGNALS THE FED MAY ACHIEVE THE ELUSIVE "SOFT LANDING." U.S. unemployment rate fell to 3.7% despite a rise in labor force participation.

#### NOT ALL ECONOMIES FARED AS WELL AS THE U.S.

Euro area growth remained sluggish as inflation cooled, yet its unemployment rate remained steady. In contrast, the U.K. and Canada face diminishing growth prospects and rising unemployment rates.

### A "SOFT LANDING" IN ONE PICTURE LOW UNEMPLOYMENT, SOFTER CORE INFLATION



#### **MARKET THEMES & OUTLOOK**

Both equities and bonds posted positive returns as market participants embraced news of a "soft landing." Looking ahead, lower bond yields, tighter credit spreads, and higher equity prices suggest active management may provide opportunities to generate attractive risk-adjusted returns going forward.

The Fed communicated they were likely finished hiking.

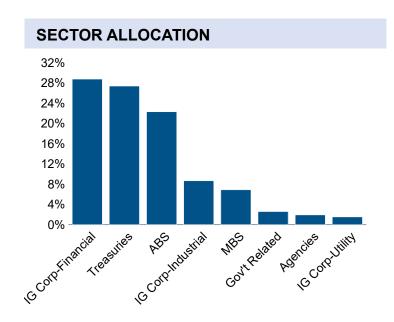
If core inflation readings are consistently below 3% in 2024, the Fed may cut rates in the latter half of 2024, contrary to current market expectations. The U.S. economy might

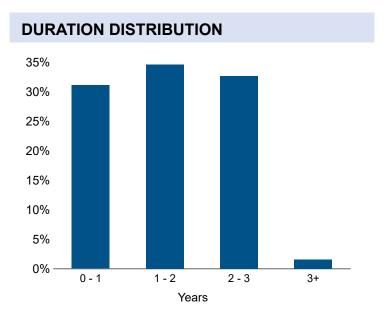
grow at- or above-trend in 2024, but global economic growth will likely continue to diverge.



Portfolio Review and Market Update - 4th Quarter 2023

PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS (As of 12/31/2023)					
Portfolio Market Value	\$733.7 million				
Fitch Rating	AAAf/S1				
Weighted Average Duration	1.50 years				
SEC 30-Day Yield (net)	4.61%				





#### PORTFOLIO RETURNS - Periods Ending 12/31/2023

	4th Quarter	2023	Trailing 3 Yr	Trailing 5 Yr	Trailing 10 Yr	Since Inception (1/1/92)
FLORIDA TRUST S-T BOND FUND (gross)	2.59%	5.49%	0.97%	2.09%	1.62%	3.52%
FLORIDA TRUST S-T BOND FUND (NAV)*	2.51%	5.20%	0.70%	1.81%	1.36%	3.20%
ICE BofA 1-3 Year US Treasury Index**	2.49%	4.26%	-0.04%	1.30%	1.05%	3.02%

Periods over one year are annualized

<sup>\*</sup>Net Asset Value data provided by custodian UMB. Net of fees.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Taxable money market funds average prior to 02/2000.



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#### **OUR STRATEGIES**

#### **Multi-Sector**

**Short Maturity Bonds** 

**U.S. Core Bond** 

Absolute Return Fixed Income

Strategic Income

**Global Fixed Income** 

**Liability Driven Investing** 

#### **Sector-Specific**

**Emerging Markets Debt** 

**Government/Sovereign** 

**High Yield Bonds & Loans** 

Inflation-Linked/TIPS

**Investment Grade Corporate Bonds** 

Municipal Bonds (U.S.)

**Securitized Bonds** 

#### **Income-Focused Equities**

**Equity Income** 

## Payden & Rygel