

Insights

In-depth perspectives from portfolio managers and industry experts on the issues that matter most to investors.

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[**Forward Thinking: How Global Inflationary Trends Fuel Opportunity for Investors**](#)

By: [Forward Thinking](#) | September 12, 2023

In this issue of Forward Thinking, we guide investors seeking to maximize the return potential amid shifting inflationary trends throughout the world, sharing our insights about how to increase their allocations to both global equities and fixed income.

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By: [Stephen C. Concannon, CFA, Will Reardon](#) | December 6, 2023

[Higher Volatility in 2024 May Present Attractive Entry Points for High Yield Bonds](#)

[KEY POINTS](#)

- [1. As global central banks near the end of a historical cycle of tightening monetary policy, we believe a moderate recession is a more probable outcome in 2024.](#)
- [2. Increasing dispersion in valuations across rating segments, sectors and individual issuers will continue to provide opportunity and the ability to capture attractive entry points.](#)
- [3. We have maintained our cautious positioning and continue to prefer defensive sectors that trade wide of historical norms, such as health care, given the sector's historically defensive characteristics.](#)

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[As March is Women's History Month, it's timely that we review women's headway moving up the corporate ranks and the progress of gender diversity initiatives worldwide.](#)

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By: [Paul Psaila](#) | February 5, 2024

[KEY POINTS](#)

- [1. A year into President Lula's term, the political and economic situation in Brazil is better than many had expected.](#)
- [2. The economy will likely grow more than expected as interest rates continue to fall.](#)
- [3. We believe Brazil remains cheap compared to other emerging markets with lower inflation and rates acting as a tailwind for growth.](#)

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[Election Cycle is Very Likely to Impact Stocks](#)

By: Aaron Dunn, CFA | & Bradley Galko, CFA | February 14, 2024

KEY POINTS

1. During presidential election years over most of the last century, on average both U.S. large- and small-cap value have outperformed their growth peers.
2. Value vs. Growth's dominance in election years also correlates with U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) growth and detraction.
3. Incumbent candidates and parties keen to win reelection seek to make voters feel financially secure when heading to the polls.

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[Brazilian Economy Boosted by Reasonable Government Legislations and Tight Monetary Policy](#)

By: *Paul Psaila* | February 5, 2024

KEY POINTS

1. A year into President Lula's term, the political and economic situation in Brazil is better than many had expected.
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3. We believe Brazil remains cheap compared to other emerging markets with lower inflation and rates acting as a tailwind for growth.

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Paul Psaila
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[Postcard from Ghana: The Cocoa Supply Chain Risk for Multinational Chocolate Producers](#)

By: Jennifer Byron, CFA | & Christopher M. Dyer, CFA | February 2, 2024

KEY POINTS

1. We believe cocoa farmers must earn a living income to end child labor and deforestation.
2. Cocoa farmers are up against formidable forces along the supply chain and have little or no bargaining power on price.
3. Profit margins could be impacted if the price of cocoa soars, as farmers opt out for other sources of income.

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[2024 Outlook: International Equity](#)

By: Bruno Paulson | December 15, 2023

Compounding Through the Hype with High Quality Equities

KEY POINTS

1. MSCI World Index's current forward multiple does not look cheap, particularly as it is based on an arguably optimistic, double-digit earnings growth assumption for 2024. Our view is that the possibility of a downturn is not reflected in today's earnings expectations, nor in the current market multiple.
2. We seek to avoid the permanent destruction of capital by focusing on high quality,¹ reasonably priced companies with earnings resilience and by resisting the urge to get caught up in potentially detrimental speculative bubbles.
3. Looking beyond the "Magnificent 7" stocks, we believe there will be "slow burners" for whom the benefits of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI), and AI in general, will take longer to emerge but could be significant over time. We believe these GenAI model users will be able to generate value for customers and/or reduce costs by virtue of their "Walled Gardens."

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Bruno Paulson
Portfolio Manager
International Equity

[2024 Outlook: Value Equity](#)

By: Aaron Dunn, CFA | & Bradley Galko, CFA | December 11, 2023

Normalization of Supply Chains May Create Opportunity for Value Investors

KEY POINTS

1. While inventory destocking has been deep and painful, we believe the slate is now clean for companies in sectors that have been beaten down due to this phenomenon. We also continue to closely watch what we term the GLP-1 (or weight-loss drug) reversion trade — our assumption being that consumer goods companies will still have a place when the dust settles.

2. We're focusing on company-specific opportunities within the industrials, basic materials, semiconductors, consumer and utilities sectors.
3. We believe rates will be higher for longer, and a balanced approach among equity allocations will be key in this regime where risk has a price.

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