HEXAVEST

**Desjardins** 

-15.32

Global Asset Management

## **Global Equities**

Ρ

3 months		YTD	1 year	3 years	5 ye	ears :	10 years	Since ir	ception
7.25	Ĩ	22.62	22.62	11.49	ç	9.36	9.88		7.08
8.66	Ĩ	20.47	20.47	8.51	12	2.01	10.97		5.37
-1.41		2.15	2.15	2.98	-2	2.65	-1.09		1.71
2014	2015	2016	2017	2019	2010	2020	2021	2022	2023
2014	2015	2010	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2025
15.06	20.20	8.81	7.72	1.16	14.51	-1.45	17.15	-3.52	22.62
14.39	18.89	3.79	14.36	-0.49	21.22	13.87	20.78	-12.19	20.47
	7.25 8.66 -1.41 <b>2014</b> 15.06	8.66   -1.41   2014 2015   15.06 20.20	7.25 22.62   8.66 20.47   -1.41 2.15   2014 2015   15.06 20.20	7.25 22.62 22.62   8.66 20.47 20.47   -1.41 2.15 2.15   2014 2015 2017   15.06 20.20 8.81 7.72	7.25   22.62   22.62   11.49     8.66   20.47   20.47   8.51     -1.41   2.15   2.15   2.017   2018     15.06   20.20   8.81   7.72   1.16	7.25   22.62   22.62   11.49   9     8.66   20.47   20.47   8.51   12     -1.41   2.15   2.15   2.98   -2     2014   2015   2016   2017   2018   2019     15.06   20.20   8.81   7.72   1.16   14.51	7.25   22.62   22.62   11.49   9.36     8.66   20.47   20.47   8.51   12.01     -1.41   2.15   2.15   2.98   -2.65     2014   2015   2016   2017   2018   2019   2020     15.06   20.20   8.81   7.72   1.16   14.51   -1.45	7.25   22.62   22.62   11.49   9.36   9.88     8.66   20.47   20.47   8.51   12.01   10.97     -1.41   2.15   2.15   2.08   -2.65   -1.09     2014   20.20   8.81   7.72   1.16   14.51   -1.45   17.15	7.25   22.62   22.62   11.49   9.36   9.88     8.66   20.47   20.47   8.51   12.01   10.97     -1.41   2.15   2.15   2.08   2019   2020   2021   2022     15.06   20.20   8.81   7.72   1.16   14.51   -1.45   17.15   -3.52

### Positioning (vs MSCI World)

COUNTRY DEVIATIONS		SECTOR DEVIATIONS			<b>CURRENCY DEVIATIONS</b>			
Cash (3.9 %)		3.9% 5.4%	Cash (3.9 %)		3.9% 5.4%	JPY (0.0 %)		1.9% 1.1%
Emerging Mkts (2.7 %)		2.7%	Health Care (15.5 %)		3.3% 2.6%	NOK (0.1 %)		1.3% 1.3%
Asia (8.9 %)	-0.2%	5.675	Cons. Staples (10.1 %)		3.3% 2.9%	USD (0.0 %)		0.8% 2.1%
Asia (6.5 %)		0.3%	Real Estate (0.1 %)	-2.4% -0.8%		CHF (1.4 %)	-1.0% -1.0%	
Europe (16.0 %)	-1.8% -3.0%		IT (20.6 %)	-2.5% -3.1%		EUR (0.9 %)	-1.5% -1.4%	
North Amer. (68.6 %)	-4.5% -5.8%		Industrials (7.2 %)	-3.9% -3.5%		GBP (7.6 %)	-3.2% -3.7%	
As of Dec. 31, 2023	As of Sept. 3	0, 2023	As of Dec. 31, 2023	As of Sept.	30, 2023	As of Dec. 31,	, 2023 As of	Sept. 30, 2023
Market Outlook								

MACROECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT	VALUATION	SENTIMENT		
		-		

Even though economic growth for 2023 exceeded all expectations, particularly in the United States, our base case for 2024 continues to be a mild recession in the developed countries. The leading economic indicators, credit conditions and some coincident indicators continue to favour this scenario. A number of European countries are already in a technical recession, and Canada may have joined them in the fourth quarter. The real economy's response time to monetary tightening is not unusual, and the maximum impact of the rate hikes on economic activity and corporate earnings is yet to come. On the positive side, the deceleration in inflation seen in 2023 will continue this year, albeit at a more moderate pace because of slowing demand. We are maintaining a double-negative rating on the macro environment.

The starting point in 2024 for the S&P 500 and the NASDAQ is an extremely expensive valuation. The potential for surprises therefore looks asymmetrical: good news is already priced in, whereas bad news isn't. Outside the U.S., however, stock market valuations are more normal. Europe, Asia Pacific and emerging markets have valuations close to their historical medians. Mid and small caps already reflect an austere economic scenario (a lot of bad news is priced in). Our analysis of market valuations clearly shows that a defensive equity positioning is very cheap, whereas a pro-cyclical positioning has become very expensive. In an environment where the S&P 500 is in the most expensive decile of its historical distribution and because of its importance in the global market, we are maintaining a double-negative rating on valuation.

The Federal Reserve's change of tone fuelled a broadly based stock market surge at the end of the year. Our risk appetite metrics all jumped, as investors, worried about missing the boat, rushed to buy stocks with just weeks to go before year-end. As for insiders, they took the opportunity to sell shares. In a sign that the year-end rally was overdone, the various short-term sentiment metrics jumped into euphoria territory and the technical indicators quickly moved into overbought territory. The fact that low-quality stocks outperformed was also a sign of euphoria. Even so, given that the three- and six-month averages of our composite sentiment index are still neutral, we have lowered our investor sentiment vector only one notch to negative.

Our analysis of the three vectors has prompted us to maintain a defensive bias. We're concerned about the deteriorating economic growth outlook and its impact on corporate earnings at a time when market valuations and investor positioning are not indicative of a slowdown.

### HEXAVEST **Desjardins** Global Asset Management

Jean-Pierre Couture, M.Sc.

Team member since 2010

Team member since 2022

Aïcha Traoré, M.Fin., M.Sc.

Experience: 28 years

Experience: 4 years

Manager

Analyst

Economist and Senior Portfolio

# **Global Equities**

### Summary

Benchmark	MSCI World (net)
Value added objective	2% (4-year rolling periods)
Active risk	3% to 5%
Number of holdings	275 to 350 (higher if exposure to
	EM)
Currency management	Active
Maximum cash	10%
exposure	

### **DEVIATIONS VS. BENCHMARK**

Regions:	+/- 15%
Countries:	+/- 15%
Currencies:	+/- 15%
Sectors:	+/- 10%

### **Investment Approach**

- Clearly defined process, applied for nearly 30 years
- Top-down and contrarian approach
- Diversified sources of alpha: regions, countries, \_ currencies, sectors, industries, stocks
- Strong focus on downside protection \_
- Systematic integration of ESG factors
- Experienced and nimble investment team

## **Responsible Investment**

### **Christian Felx**

Manager and Head of Responsible investment

✤ We have a team of 10 specialists dedicated exclusively to responsible investment.

### **Investment Team**

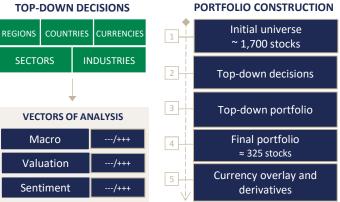
Marc C. Lavoie, CPA, CFA Manager, Global Top-down Strategy Experience: 23 years Team member since 2003

Christian Crête, CFA Senior Portfolio Manager Experience: 24 years Team member since 2012

Jérôme Lacombe, M.Sc., CFA, FRM Portfolio Manager Experience: 16 years Team member since 2023

### **Investment Process**

**TOP-DOWN DECISIONS** 



- Combine investments and RI expertise to offer highperformance strategies
- Development of a simple RI process that can be easily integrated into any mandate
- Ongoing exchanges between portfolio managers and the RI team increasing the efficiency of the investment process

### **Contact Us**

clientexperience.dgia@desjardins.com

Sources: MSCI, DGAM, as of December 31, 2023.

### FOR CANADIAN INSTITUTIONAL INVESTOR USE ONLY

The performance shown is that of a composite of global equity mandates managed by DGAM (since September 2021). Accounts in the composite may have investment guidelines that differ from those of the representative account. The inception date of the composite is January 1, 1999. Performance results are presented gross of management and custodial fees but net of all trading commissions. Returns for periods greater than 12 months are annualized. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future performance.

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