

The enthusiasm of most stock markets subsided in April. Concerns over geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and the prospect of higher interest rates for longer periods contributed to a decline in stock markets and higher interest rates.

In the United States, earnings releases from S&P 500 companies for the first quarter of 2024 are underway. At the time of writing, 46% of companies have posted their results; 77% reported earnings per share above analysts' estimates, 8.4% ahead of expectations on average. Investor appetite for risk has recently waned, so it's important to see positive results to maintain good stock market performance.

In April, the S&P 500 returned -4.1% and the Dow Jones -5% in local currency. In Canada, the S&P TSX index returned -1.8%; Energy and Materials were the only positive performers this month. In Europe, the FTSE 100 index (UK) outperformed other indices with a positive return of 2.4%; returns on the London index had been lagging for some months. Conversely, the CAC 40 (France) and DAX 30 (Germany) indices generated negative returns of -2.7% and -3% respectively. In China, the Shanghai Se index has fared better since the beginning of the year than in previous years, with a monthly gain of 3.1%.

The bond market saw its third month of negative returns since the start of the year. The FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index returned -2%. The rigidity of U.S. inflation is reducing the likelihood of cuts in the U.S. interest rate this year. However, we remain optimistic that we will see divergence between U.S. and Canada monetary policy, as Canada sees downward-trending inflation and a softening labour market.

In economic data, the job market landscape is different between Canada and the United States. Canada recorded its first job loss since July 2023, while the U.S. continued to experience a surprisingly robust labour market, with over 300,000 jobs created in March. Not surprisingly, inflation is more persistent south of the border. This is reflected in the tone of central bank governors. Although the Bank of Canada opted for the status quo for a sixth consecutive meeting, Governor Macklem is hinting at an imminent rate cut, mentioning in a press conference that the data since January have increased our confidence that inflation will continue to come down gradually even as economic activity strengthens. Our key indicators of inflation have all moved in the right direction and recent data point to a pickup in economic growth.

Finally, investors eagerly anticipated the release of economic growth figures. The U.S. economy grew at a moderate pace in the first quarter of 2024, with real GDP rising at an annualized rate of 1.6%. In contrast, the third and fourth quarters of 2023 saw growth of 4.9% and 3.4%, respectively. U.S. household consumption is still very strong overall, but there is a shift in consumption from goods to services, a phenomenon often observed towards the end of a business cycle. In Canada, February's GDP by industry was expected to show 0.2% month-on-month, a slowdown on January's 0.5%. Service-producing industries were the main contributors to growth for the third consecutive month, while goods production remained unchanged. Preliminary data for March suggest zero growth.

Bobby Bureau, MBA, CIM[®]

Senior Manager, Fixed Income
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NEW REAL ESTATE FUND

We are delighted to announce the launch of the new Eterna-Cogir Real Estate Fund!

What is it?

In partnership with Cogir Real Estate, the Eterna-Cogir Real Estate Fund offers a unique opportunity to invest in the real estate market, bringing diversification, stability and long-term growth potential to your portfolio.

Why invest in real estate with us?

1. **Expertise:** Cogir has extensive experience in real estate, with a solid track record of successful real estate asset management. Cogir has delivered net returns of 13.7% in 2022 and 8.7% in 2023 for their dedicated fund.
2. **Diversification:** The Fund offers diversified exposure to different types of real estate assets, including apartments and retirement homes, reducing risk and maximizing return opportunities.
3. **Access:** As with our other hedge funds, we offer individual investors access to investment opportunities that would otherwise be reserved for large institutional investors.

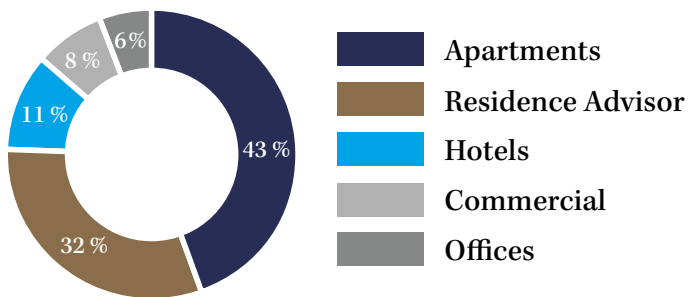
Why now?

With favourable economic trends and growing opportunities in real estate, we believe it is a good time to invest and capitalize on long-term growth potential, especially in the residential real estate market.

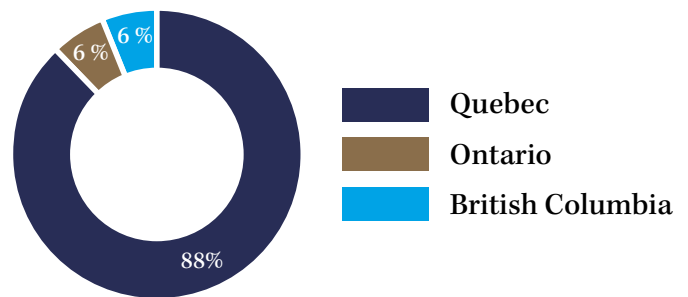
How to participate

For more information on joining our Eterna-Cogir Real Estate Fund and investing in the future, contact us today!

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STATISTICS ON APRIL 30TH, 2024

CANADA		UNITED STATES		CURRENCIES	
Unemploy. rate (March)	6,1 % ↑	Unemploy. rate (March)	3,8 % ↓	\$ USA / \$ CAN	0,73 ↑
C.P.I. (March)	2,9 % ↑	C.P.I. (March)	3,5 % ↑	\$ USA / € Euro	1,07 ↑
3 months treasury bills	4,98 % ↓	3 months treasury bills	5,39 % ↑	¥ Yen / \$ USA	157,80 ↓
Bonds 5 years	3,87 % ↑	Bonds 5 years	4,72 % ↑		
Bonds 10 years	3,82 % ↑	Bonds 10 years	4,68 % ↑		
S&P/TSX	21 715 ↓	Dow Jones - Industrial	37 816 ↓		
		S&P 500	5 036 ↓		

The arrow indicates the trend since the publication of the last monthly data or end of the month.

MARKET INDICES IN CANADIAN DOLLARS AS OF APRIL 30TH, 2024

	YTD	3 months	6 months	1 year	3 years*	5 years*
FTSE Canada 91 Day TBill Index	1,71 %	1,24 %	2,53 %	4,98 %	2,78 %	2,07 %
BONDS						
FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index	-3,20 %	-1,86 %	4,42 %	-0,91 %	-2,20 %	-0,11 %
FTSE Canada Short Term Overall Bond Index	-0,08 %	0,11 %	3,23 %	2,61 %	0,05 %	1,20 %
Indice adapté gestion privée Eterna ¹	-1,28 %	-0,68 %	3,78 %	0,91 %	-0,82 %	0,79 %
FTSE Canada Mid Term Overall Bond Index	-3,06 %	-1,87 %	4,56 %	-1,65 %	-2,20 %	0,12 %
FTSE Canada Long Term Overall Bond Index	-7,91 %	-4,78 %	6,05 %	-5,56 %	-5,35 %	-2,19 %
NORTH AMERICA STOCK MARKETS \$ CAN						
Canada - S&P/TSX	4,68 %	4,10 %	16,91 %	8,73 %	7,59 %	8,86 %
United States - Standard & Poor's 500	10,44 %	7,11 %	19,90 %	24,50 %	12,21 %	13,77 %
United States - Dow Jones	5,10 %	2,30 %	14,55 %	14,95 %	9,93 %	10,17 %
INTERNATIONAL STOCK MARKETS \$ CAN						
United Kingdom - FTSE-100	9,02 %	9,27 %	15,78 %	8,68 %	9,82 %	5,43 %
France - CAC-40	6,41 %	5,42 %	16,06 %	4,73 %	8,18 %	6,90 %
Germany - DAX	7,61 %	7,23 %	21,18 %	10,66 %	5,60 %	7,24 %
Japan - Nikkei-225	6,91 %	1,04 %	18,68 %	16,74 %	1,18 %	4,56 %
Hong Kong - Hang Seng	8,38 %	17,76 %	2,93 %	-9,04 %	-11,74 %	-9,25 %
Australia - S&P/ASX 200	-0,20 %	0,80 %	14,63 %	4,34 %	0,90 %	2,71 %
CURRENCY						
USD versus CAD	4,04 %	2,55 %	-0,70 %	1,67 %	3,89 %	0,58 %

* Annual compounded total return.

¹ The Eterna Adapted Private Wealth Index is made up of 60% of FTSE Canada Short Term Overall Bond Index and of 40% of FTSE Canada Mid Term Overall Bond Index.ada..

Source : Bloomberg