

Real Estate Opportunities

The U.S. real estate market, as represented by the FTSE Nareit All Equity REITs Index, had a total return of 11.36% for the year.

Investment Review

Real estate securities continued to rally in December on an improving interest rate and economic outlook. Real estate shares saw strong follow-through on November gains (along with broad equities) as further signs of disinflation solidified investor sentiment that the Federal Reserve would pivot toward cutting lending rates in 2024. Interest rates declined sharply on these expectations, and credit spreads narrowed, which further supported share prices. In the real estate space, performance was primarily driven by interest rates and macro assumptions, with more cyclically oriented sectors outperforming those with pricing power and well-defined growth prospects.

A number of sectors with more challenged fundamentals, which had underperformed earlier in the fourth quarter, outperformed in December's rally. Self storage REITs (21.1% total return) rose meaningfully again in December on interest rate expectations and a healthier U.S. economic outlook. Lower mortgage rates could lead to more housing transactions, driving demand for self storage space. For now, however, U.S.-based storage companies may not yet have seen a bottom in new tenant rental rates. Moreover, those

 Index Performance (US\$)

 Linked Index⁽¹⁾

 Q4 2023
 17.98%

 1 Year
 11.36%

 3 Year
 5.70%

 5 Year
 7.43%

 10 Year
 7.67%

(1) Linked Index: Prior to 3/31/2019, the index was the FTSE Nareit Equity REITs Index. Thereafter, it is the FTSE Nareit All Equity REITs Index.

Data quoted represents past performance, which is no guarantee of future results. Risk of loss is possible.

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Periods greater than 12 months are annualized.

companies anticipate 2024 same-store revenues to face a headwind of elevated move-out rates. The office sector (19.6%) also continued its outperformance from November despite an ongoing struggle with reduced demand. Industrial (15.1%) outperformed on the prospect of an economic "soft landing." But while rent growth in some U.S. cities appears to be stabilizing, other markets are still decelerating.

Performance among residential property types was mixed, with a reversal in relative performance from November.

Apartments (11.0%), which have struggled with rental growth (with weakness particularly in the Sunbelt region), found favor in December. Other residential subsectors, including manufactured homes (2.4%) and single-family homes for rent (1.8%), trailed.

Consumer cyclicals gained, including retail landlords, which were backed by healthy leasing activity. Regional malls (16.8%) benefited from continued strong leasing activity, particularly among trophy assets, as tenants looked past consumer and economic concerns. With supply expected to remain limited, pricing power could potentially increase. Hotels (11.9%) also outperformed; shopping centers (9.1%) gained but trailed U.S. real estate broadly.

Data centers (–1.5%) modestly retreated amid an investor rotation into assets perceived to be riskier. The sector strongly outperformed in 2023 on its compelling secular growth story. Digital Realty announced a \$7 billion joint venture with a

| ETOE New 't All English DEIT: In June |
|---------------------------------------|
| FTSE Nareit All Equity REITs Index |
| 16.9% |
| 15.5% |
| 4.0% |
| 18.7x |
| 3.5% |
| 2.9% |
| 4.7% |
| \$1,315.1B |
| \$42.4B |
| 140 |
| |

Source: Cohen & Steers.

Characteristics are market capitalization-weighted averages of estimates for companies in the FTSE Nareit All Equity REITs Index and are subject to change over time.

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Real Estate Opportunities

private equity investor to develop four hyperscale campuses across Northern Virginia, Paris and Frankfurt. The company will maintain a 20% equity stake, reducing its future development spending by \$5.6 billion. The projects will likely take until at least 2026 to complete.

Investment Outlook

We believe listed real estate offers attractive return potential relative to broad equities. Fundamentals are on solid footing compared with prior cycles. Slowing inflation and still-healthy demand should provide a more supportive backdrop for REITs as we approach the end of the Fed hiking cycle. While growth will likely decelerate, cash flows are generally expected to remain sound as supply stays in check. Further, an end to central bank tightening tends to be followed by notable strength in listed real estate performance.

We have a preference for assets with strong secular growth profiles and good pricing power. Among residential sectors, we favor single-family homes based on our positive view of rental housing demand (supported by the lack of affordability in the purchase market) and demographic tailwinds. We have become more cautious on multi-family residences due to weakening fundamentals. In health care, we have a positive outlook on senior housing, where occupancies are improving following early-pandemic declines. With growth rates normalizing in self storage, we have pared our weight in the sector.

Data center REITs are well situated, in our view. While tech companies are slowing spending, capital expenditures for cloud computing remain healthy. Supply is constrained by limitations on power infrastructure serving key data center markets; as a result, the sector has enjoyed its strongest rent growth in a decade. We have recently added to our cell tower allocation, as valuations have become more attractive.

We remain cautious about offices due to weak fundamentals and uncertain longer-term demand. Within the sector, our holdings are concentrated in companies with assets in secondary office markets, where we believe fundamentals will remain resilient.

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Real Estate Opportunities

| Index Sector Total Returns | | |
|----------------------------|---------|----------|
| Sector | Q4 2023 | YTD 2023 |
| Data Centers | 11.76 % | 30.06 % |
| Regional Mall | 34.33 % | 29.94 % |
| Hotel | 22.92 % | 23.92 % |
| Specialty | 22.47 % | 22.76 % |
| Single Family Homes | 8.66 % | 20.63 % |
| Industrial | 17.13 % | 19.15 % |
| Self Storage | 23.52 % | 18.50 % |
| Timber | 14.22 % | 15.91 % |
| Health Care | 10.47 % | 13.93 % |
| Shopping Center | 15.73 % | 12.05 % |
| Apartment | 8.89 % | 5.88 % |
| Manufactured Home | 12.67 % | 2.48 % |
| Gaming | 10.73 % | 2.20 % |
| Office | 23.54 % | 2.03 % |
| Free Standing | 18.48 % | -1.52 % |
| Infrastructure | 30.63 % | -1.53 % |
| Diversified | 20.39 % | -7.59 % |

Source: Cohen & Steers.

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The FTSE Nareit All Equity REITs Index contains all tax-qualified REITs with more than 50% of total assets in qualifying real estate assets other than mortgages secured by real property that also meet minimum size and liquidity criteria.

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Important Risk Considerations: Investing involves risk, including entire loss of capital invested. There can be no assurance that the investment strategy will meet its investment objectives. Diversification is not guaranteed to ensure a profit or protect against loss.

The strategy invests in private real estate investments which are illiquid and susceptible to economic slowdowns or recessions and industry cycles, which could lead to financial losses in a portfolio and a decrease in revenues, net income and assets. Lack of liquidity in the private real estate may actually be sold.

The strategy may use leverage, directly or indirectly in connection with an investment. The use of leverage involves a high degree of financial risk and may increase the exposure of investments in the strategy to factors such as rising interest rates, downturns in the economy, or deterioration in the condition of the properties underlying such investments. Leverage magnifies favorable and unfavorable effects of price movements in a portfolio's underlying assets and overall aggregate returns of a portfolio.

A portfolio in the strategy could potentially be concentrated in relatively few underlying assets and thus the benefits of diversification may not be fully realized. Because of the length of time typically needed to construct a private real estate portfolio, initially the strategy will not be diversified. A limited number of underlying assets could result in aggregate returns realized by the investor which are substantially adversely affected by the unfavorable performance of a small number of underlying assets.

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