

The Di Rocco Keenan Wealth Advisory Group



March Madness is in the AIR. Here are our projections...

Lay-up to a March Rate Drop? The lay-up to a **Federal Reserve March interest rate cut was intercepted** after a few economic readings that surprised on the high side. Most notably the Personal Consumption Expenditure Index (PCE). The PCE is a measure of U.S. household spending. The PCE and the CPI inflation data are still above the Fed target – pushing rate declines further out in 2024.

Three Pointer on Productivity: As noted in the latest BMO Nesbitt Burn's Investment Report, **U.S. productivity came in at 2.7% year over year, the fastest pace since Q1 2021.** We can thank the breakthrough of artificial intelligence for the offensive rebound in innovation and productivity. The BMO Portfolio Action Team writes, "In the current context, we believe enormous investments in artificial intelligence, cloud computing, autonomous vehicles etc. is bound to have a real-world impact. As an example, The Economist recently stated that artificial intelligence is raising productivity for salespeople and coders by a third at tech startups. This is far from trivial for companies that typically burn cash and are racing to generate positive cash flow".

Rooting for the Underdog: Interest rate sensitive stocks (financials, utilities, real estate) have been the underdog against the fast-growing AI/technology stocks. With rate declines on the horizon, **these underdog sectors will have their time to shine in 2024.**

Lianne and Jamie



MARCH 2024

Reminder: Your 2023 Tax Documents

Tax season is underway! To help make this busy time of year smoother for everyone, **attached is the 2023 Tax Documents Overview and Schedule.** It will provide you a brief overview of the various tax slips and supporting documents you may receive, along with their expected mailing and Gateway availability dates.

Please reach out to us if you are unsure of your elected document delivery preferences or if you need assistance accessing your Gateway account.

March is Fraud Prevention Month – We All Have a Role to Play!

BMO is running its annual public awareness campaign to increase awareness of the latest scams impacting our clients and provide best practices for prevention. See link below to learn what scams to look out for.

[Scams Alerts: Learn What To Look For - BMO Canada](#)

INDUSTRY TRENDS



International Women's Day

March 8th marks International Women's Day. We continue to see growth in the number of women executives in the C-suite, with the amount increasing by 28% in 2023. These women in leadership roles bring innovations to how they run their businesses. At Microsoft, 29.1% of executive roles are held by women, a 3.2 percentage point increase from 2022. This comes with a continued focus on diversity and inclusive practices that don't just benefit the workers, but increase the companies bottom line. Initiatives such as: a commitment to pay equity, hybrid work environments, and increased parental leave programs.

<https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/diversity-and-inclusion/women-in-the-workplace>
<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/diversity/inside-microsoft/annual-report?activetab=innovation-spotlights%3aprimar4>