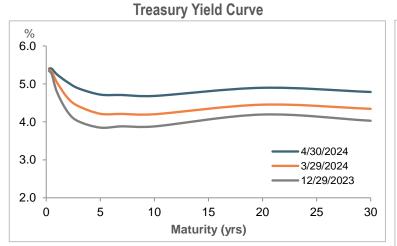
## IR+M CLIENT UPDATE April 2024

May 1, 2024

## MARKET NEWS

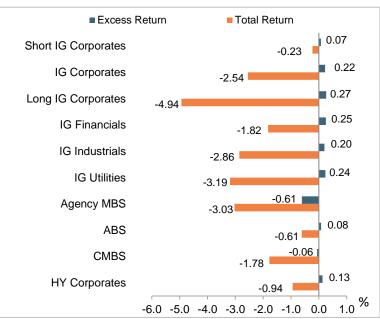
- Risk assets weakened following five consecutive months of positive performance; the S&P 500 fell by 4.2% on the month
  amid continued concerns about inflation, the state of the economy, and the Federal Reserve's (Fed) next rate move
  - The Consumer Price Index rose by 3.5% year-over-year in March, above estimates and up from 3.2% last month; Core CPI rose by 3.8%, and "supercore" inflation, which removes housing costs from Core CPI, rose by 4.8%
  - Annualized US GDP growth came in at 1.6% for the first quarter of 2024, well below survey estimates of 2.5%, and
    consumer confidence dropped to its lowest level since July 2022, driven by a deterioration in the outlook for the
    labor market and income growth over the next six months
- In response to the hotter-than-expected inflation readings, Fed members emphasized a patient approach to considering any
  potential easing in monetary policy; market expectations of rate cuts have also decreased alongside the Fed's messaging as
  the fed funds futures curve now implies only one rate cut through year-end
  - Treasury rate volatility picked up in April after dropping in March, and yields rose broadly across the curve; the 10year Treasury yield increased by 48bps from 4.20% to 4.68%
- Investment-grade issuance totaled \$102 billion, in line with market expectations for the month; the rate of supply has cooled from the record pace seen in the first quarter, but year-to-date issuance remains 37% higher year-over-year
  - Corporate spreads widened slightly during the first few weeks before ending April 3bps tighter at 87bps; investment-grade yields rose by 43bps from 5.30% to 5.73%
- High-yield primary issuance also remained active, with \$26 billion in new bonds coming to market while the Bloomberg High Yield index dropped by 0.94% in April, its largest monthly decline since October 2023
  - High-yield spreads tightened by 2bps to 301bps, and yields increased by 45bps from 7.66% to 8.11%
- Despite a positive backdrop driven by tepid supply and rising bank demand, mortgage-backed securities (MBS), which tend to be rate-sensitive, underperformed Treasuries and other spread products amid higher Treasury yields and rate volatility
- April municipal issuance reached a record high for the month at \$44 billion as muni/Treasury ratios remained low and support from pandemic-era government subsidies continued to fade

## MARKET STATISTICS



Maturity	2-year	5-year	10-year	20-year	30-year
4/30/24	5.04	4.72	4.68	4.90	4.79
MTD Change	0.41	0.50	0.48	0.44	0.44
YTD Change	0.78	0.87	0.80	0.70	0.76

## **MTD Returns**



As of: 4/30/24. Sources: Bloomberg

Excess returns are the curve-adjusted excess return of a given index relative to a term structure-matched position in Treasuries.

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