

U ACCESS (IRL) CAMPBELL ABSOLUTE RETURN UCITS

Quarterly Comment

For Professional Investors in Switzerland or Professional Investors as defined by the relevant laws. The classification of the fund(s) as per the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR) is available on ubp.com or in the latest prospectus.

Market Comment

- The fourth quarter of 2023 delivered a "Santa rally" for investors fuelled by rate cut expectations following the Fed's pivot towards a more dovish stance. After a slight correction in Q3 following stronger economic and CPI data and fears of "higher for longer" coming back, markets resumed their bullish trajectory that started in Q4 of 2022. Equity markets rallied across the board, led by the US. For the full year, Developed Market (DM) equities outperformed Emerging Markets (EM) with Japan the top performer (+28.3% for the Topix) followed closely by the US (+26.3% for the S&P 500). All styles saw positive returns, with REITs, Growth and Small Cap leading the way given their relative sensitivity to interest rates. The market seem to be in a goldilocks scenario, pricing in six rate cuts for the Fed in 2024. The only asset class in negative territory in Q4 were commodities (-4.6% in Q4; -7.9% YTD).
- Given this backdrop, essentially all fixed income assets rallied sharply. Government bonds, EM Debt, High Yield (HY) and Investment Grade (IG) bonds posting mid-to-high single digit returns for the quarter, pushing all of them in positive territory YTD. In terms of regions, the strongest returns came from EM Debt (+9.3%), followed by Euro Government Bonds (+7.2%) and US Treasuries (+5.7%). In the HY space, the US (+5.7%) outperformed Europe (+5.5%). Global IG (+8.8%) and Inflation linked bonds (+8.6%) complete this bullish picture. On the economic front, the market seems to have shifted from focusing from growth to focusing on inflation in anticipation of the Fed's future moves. This observation is supported by the fact that economic data remained more resilient than many had expected, while inflation dropped significantly in Q4. The market also seems to have mostly priced out a hard landing scenario.
- The current market environment provides a very interesting set of opportunities for our U Access (IRL) Campbell Absolute Return UCITS fund, which offers access to diversifying and decorrelated alpha models, trading mainly in equity indices, forex, credit and cash equities. It has limited exposure to fixed income and none to commodities. It has historically shown a limited correlation to traditional assets.

Sources: UBP, Bloomberg Finance LP, BofA Merrill Lynch

Performance Review

- For the fourth quarter of 2023, U Access (IRL) Campbell Absolute Return UCITS returned -3.74%, bringing YTD performance to +1.01% (Class B USD, net of fees). In terms of contribution by strategy, quarterly losses came from quant macro with gains from momentum, market-neutral quantitative equities, and short-term strategies.
- Momentum strategies gained in equity indices, foreign exchange, and credit and experienced losses in fixed income. From a strategy perspective, gains came from thematic, adaptive, and single-market strategies.



- Quant macro strategies experienced losses in macro dynamics and enhanced carry strategies. Losses for the strategy group came from fixed income, equity indices, and foreign exchange with gains from credit.
- Short-term strategies gained in momentum and experienced losses in regime capture/nonlinear alpha strategies. Market gains came from fixed income and equity indices and losses from foreign exchange.
- Market-neutral quantitative equities gained in statistical arbitrage and fundamental strategies with losses in momentum.
- By sector, the portfolio gained in credit, cash equities, and equity indices and experienced losses in fixed income and foreign exchange.
- Top-performing markets in the portfolio were New Zealand dollar forwards and the 5-year European Crossover CDS Index. Bottom-performing markets were Norwegian krone forwards and Euribor futures.

Portfolio Activity

- The portfolio maintained a steady risk posture throughout the quarter. Realised sector risk was led by fixed income and foreign exchange. Net notional exposure was relatively low as the portfolio maintained diversified positioning within and among sectors. Net exposure remained close to zero in market-neutral equities.
- From a positioning standpoint, the portfolio came into the quarter short equity indices and flipped to long in mid-November, short fixed income, and long US dollar for the first half of the quarter and short US dollar for the second half. The portfolio had a small short position in CDS indices throughout the quarter.

Outlook

- Markets continue to debate hard and soft landing expectations across the globe as many look to the US FOMC to lower rates during 2024. Global equity markets ended 2023 strong with the best quarterly return since Q4 2020 while bond markets saw the highest quarterly return in decades. Our systematic risk management process is enforcing diversification within the portfolio and monitoring many potential risks as we move into the new year.
- Global dispersion, higher volatility levels and ongoing uncertainty are likely to create opportunities for the more nimble strategies in the portfolio as well as the relative-value focused models which aim to mitigate directional risks.

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