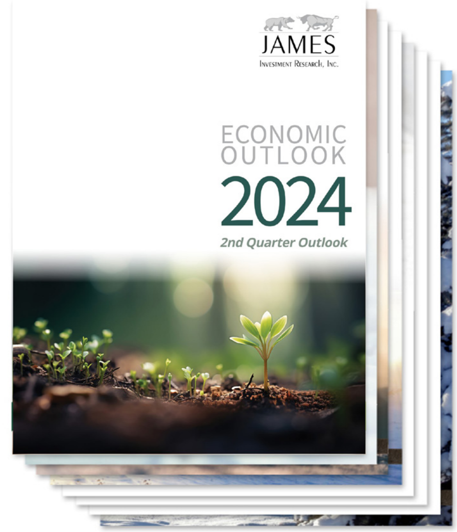
JAMES
Advantage Funds

Planning. Investing. Advice.

1ST QUARTER 2024

1st Quarter Recap



The stock market's record-breaking performance in the first quarter of 2024 has been driven by a combination of factors, including the anticipation of the Federal Reserve (Fed) cutting interest rates and the financial market's strong embrace of the artificial intelligence (AI) secular growth theme. This momentum is further bolstered by a resilient economy, robust corporate earnings, and significant revenue growth.

Navigating a delicate balance, the Federal Reserve aims to control inflation while maintaining economic growth. Although the Fed has indicated that it expects to cut rates by three-quarters of a percentage point this year, it also projects core inflation — the price increase of goods excluding food and energy — to remain at 2.6% in 2024, slightly higher than its stated goal of 2%. This suggests that the path to a soft landing may be more complicated than initially thought. The Fed's actions have significant implications for the stock market. Typically, lower interest rates are seen as beneficial for stocks, as they make borrowing more affordable and can stimulate economic activity. However, if inflation remains stubbornly high, the Fed may be forced to keep rates elevated or even raise them further, which could put pressure on stock valuations.

The concept of a "soft landing" refers to a scenario where the Federal Reserve successfully brings down inflation to its target level without triggering a recession. This is the ideal outcome that many investors are hoping for, as it would allow the economy to continue growing while keeping price pressures in check. Achieving a soft landing is a delicate task, as the Fed must carefully calibrate its policies to avoid overtightening and stifling economic activity. The current strength of the labor market and the resilience of consumer spending provide some cushion against a potential downturn in the economy. If the Fed can engineer a soft landing, it would bode well for the stock market, as it would support continued earnings growth, keeping valuations in check. Conversely, if inflation proves more persistent than expected or if the Fed is forced to take more aggressive action, it could introduce volatility and uncertainty into the market.

Nonetheless, the market's upward trend may persist even without aggressive rate cuts from the Fed, underpinned by the solid foundations of the economy and corporate performance. Companies have shown remarkable adaptability and success in challenging conditions, with many surpassing earnings and revenue expectations. This corporate resilience instills investor confidence in the market's capacity to navigate potential challenges. Moreover, the prospect of ongoing economic expansion, supported by historically low unemployment rates and consistent consumer spending, fuels optimism that the economy can maintain growth even with the Fed opting for a higher for longer interest rate policy.

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Economic Outlook Update

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Fund Highlight: James Small Cap Fund

The James Small Cap Fund gained 8.58% in the first quarter of 2024 while the benchmark VettaFi US Equity Small Cap 2000 Index gained 2.45% and the Russell 2000 Value Index advanced 2.90%. The return during the quarter was driven by the surge in companies with a focus on artificial intelligence (AI) along with the expectation for interest rates cuts by the Federal Reserve, sooner rather than later. The technology sector was the leading sector for the fund followed by the financial sector.

Small-cap valuations continue to remain attractive relative to large caps, presenting a compelling opportunity for long-term investors. Historically, small-cap stocks have thrived in environments characterized by Federal Reserve interest rate cuts and a steepening yield curve. Given the potential for future Fed rate cuts and the discounted valuations compared to large caps, we believe small-cap stocks offer an appealing investment opportunity.

Morningstar Rating™

Overall Rating	★★★
3 Year Rating	★★★★★
5 Year Rating	★★★★
10 Year Rating	★★

The Morningstar Star Rating™ for the James Small Cap Fund (JASCX) is based on risk-adjusted returns as of 3/31/2024 in the Small Value category out of 457 funds overall and in the last 3 years, 426 funds in the last 5 years, and 335 funds in the last 10 years.

Mutual Fund Performance

	Total Expense Ratio*	1Q2024**	1yr	3yr	5yr	10yr	SI	Inception Date
James Balanced: Golden Rainbow (No Load)	1.25%	5.78%	14.73%	4.00%	4.56%	3.10%	6.79%	7/1/91
James Small Cap (No Load)	1.51%	8.58%	31.92%	11.64%	11.69%	5.80%	7.82%	10/2/98
James Micro Cap (No Load)	1.50%	3.85%	29.99%	8.88%	9.95%	7.74%	9.91%	7/1/10
James Aggressive Allocation (No Load)	1.04%	9.88%	24.78%	6.96%	6.22%	–	3.91%	7/1/15

*The performance data quoted represents past performance; past performance does not guarantee future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. The Funds' current performances may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. Investors may obtain performance information current to the last month-end, within 7 business days, at www.jamesinvestment.com. *Total Expense Ratio are expenses deducted from Fund assets. This ratio is as of the 11/01/2023 prospectus. **1st quarter numbers are not annualized. (All other numbers are average annual returns.)*

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The Morningstar Rating™ for funds, or "star rating", is calculated for managed products (including mutual funds, variable annuity and variable life subaccounts, exchange-traded funds, closed-end funds, and separate accounts) with at least a three-year history. Exchange-traded funds and open-ended mutual funds are considered a single population for comparative purposes. It is calculated based on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure that accounts for variation in a managed product's monthly excess performance, placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. The Morningstar Rating does not include any adjustment for sales loads. The top 10% of products in each product category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5% receive 4 stars, the next 35% receive 3 stars, the next 22.5% receive 2 stars, and the bottom 10% receive 1 star. The Overall Morningstar Rating for a managed product is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its three-, five-, and 10-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. The weights are: 100% three-year rating for 36-59 months of total returns, 60% five-year rating/40% three-year rating for 60-119 months of total returns, and 50% 10-year rating/30% five-year rating/20% three-year rating for 120 or more months of total returns. While the 10-year overall star rating formula seems to give the most weight to the 10- year period, the most recent three-year period actually has the greatest impact because it is included in all three rating periods.

Risks: *Investing involves risk, including loss of principal. The value of the fund's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. There is no guarantee that any investment strategy will achieve its objectives, generate profits or avoid losses. Equity securities, such as common stocks, are subject to market, economic and business risks that may cause their prices to fluctuate. Fixed income investments are affected by a number of risks, including fluctuation in interest rates, credit risk, and prepayment risk. In general, as prevailing interest rates rise, fixed income prices will fall. Small-Cap investing involves greater risk not associated with investing in more established companies, such as greater price volatility, business risk, less liquidity and increased competitive threat. Micro-cap stocks may offer greater opportunity for capital appreciation than the stocks of larger and more established companies; however, they also involve substantially greater risks of loss and price fluctuations. Micro-cap companies carry additional risks because their earnings and revenues tend to be less predictable. ETF's are subject to specific risks, depending on the nature of the underlying strategy of the fund. These risks could include liquidity risk, sector risk, as well as risks associated with fixed income securities, real estate investments, and commodities, to name a few.* 18030936-UFD-04152024