

Market Commentary

Global equities finished the fourth quarter well into positive territory, trimming the extent of their losses for the full year. The market's gains were achieved in October and November, when signs that inflation had peaked alongside less hawkish commentary from U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell raised hopes that the central bank would end its interest rate hiking cycle in early 2023. Indeed, both the Fed and the European Central Bank raised their benchmark overnight lending rates by a more modest 50 basis points in mid-December. Also supporting sentiment, the Chinese government began to ease the zero-COVID policy that had weighed on global economic growth for much of 2022. However, stocks retreated into year-end as investors focused on the impact of higher rates on economic growth and corporate earnings in the coming year.

Dividend-paying stocks returned 14.59%, as reflected in the return of the MSCI World High Dividend Yield Index for the quarter. All 11 sectors within the Index finished in positive territory. Contributions to Index return were led by the health care, consumer staples and industrials sectors.

Fund Performance and Positioning

The USAA Global Equity Income Fund posted a positive total return for the quarter and underperformed its benchmark, the MSCI World High Dividend Yield Index.

The Fund selects holdings from among the universe of companies that pay above-average dividends and carry the potential of increasing those dividends. In doing so, the Fund uses quantitative analysis to identify companies that meet one of the following criteria: trade at attractive valuations, exhibit positive momentum, and/or are high quality, as measured by strong and stable profitability.

Negative security selection drove the Fund's underperformance relative to the benchmark, while sector allocation was a modest contributor. In particular, selection within information technology weighed on relative performance. In country terms, selection within the U.S. market was the biggest detractor, while selection within Japan led positive contributions.

Carefully consider a fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing. To obtain a prospectus or summary prospectus containing this and other important information, visit www.vcm.com/prospectus. Read it carefully before investing.

All investing involves risk, including the potential loss of principal. In addition to the normal risks associated with investing, international investments may involve risk of capital loss from unfavorable fluctuation in currency values, from differences in generally accepted accounting principles or from economic or political instability in other nations. Emerging markets involve heightened risks related to the same factors as well as increased volatility and lower trading volume. Dividends are never guaranteed. Derivatives may not work as intended and may result in losses. The value of your investment is also subject to geopolitical risks such as wars, terrorism, environmental disasters, and public health crises; the risk of technology malfunctions or disruptions; and the responses to such events by governments and/or individual companies.

The opinions are as of the date noted and are subject to change at any time due to changes in market or economic conditions. The comments should not be construed as a recommendation of individual holdings or market sectors, but as an illustration of broader themes.

Discussion based on the Fund share class. Other classes are available and may have different performance characteristics.

Holdings, if any, are subject to change without notice and should not be considered purchase recommendations.

The MSCI World High Dividend Yield Index is a stock index designed to measure the performance of large- and mid-cap securities in developed markets that have higher-than-average dividend income and quality characteristics. The index excludes real estate investment trusts.

An index is unmanaged and not available for direct investment; therefore, its performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the active management of an actual portfolio.

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