

# Inflation Consternation

Volume 39, Issue 1 | January 5, 2023



Discipline Drives Performance®

**By: Mark R. Shenkman, Founder & President**

*The end of 2022 could not arrive fast enough after a bruising year in the financial markets. The accumulative effects of the Fed's seven rate hikes, the highest inflation in 40 years, disruptions in the global trade and energy markets from the Russia/Ukraine war, and labor and supply shortages wreaked havoc on consumer and business confidence in 2022. Chairman Powell finds himself in the precarious position of attempting to stabilize prices without spurring a recession, as Congress and the Fed work at cross-purposes. Congress recently approved a \$1.7 trillion spending and borrowing package, injecting more money into the economy just as the Fed is withdrawing liquidity from the financial system via its tightening policies. The probability of recession in 2023 is escalating as businesses retrench and consumers cope with rising prices. Whether a potential recession will be shallow or deep in the U.S. hinges upon the downstream effect on the labor market. The fact that there is a structural labor shortage may dampen the chances of a deep recession. Despite turmoil in the equity and credit markets, the U.S. economy has shown remarkable resilience. In 2023, with discipline, diligence, and perseverance, credit investors may have the best opportunity in years to achieve high-single-digit coupon returns, though not without economic uncertainty and increased volatility.*

## DISCLAIMERS

The Shenkman Group of Companies (the "Shenkman Group") consists of Shenkman Capital Management, Inc., and its affiliates and subsidiaries, including, without limitation, Shenkman Capital Management Ltd, Romark Credit Advisors LP, and Romark CLO Advisors LLC.

Shenkman Capital Management, Inc. ("Shenkman" or "Shenkman Capital") is registered as an investment adviser with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). Romark Credit Advisors LP is also registered as an investment adviser with the SEC and Romark CLO Advisors LLC is registered as a relying adviser of Romark Credit Advisors LP (together, "Romark"). Shenkman Capital Management Ltd is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Shenkman Capital Management, Inc. and is authorized and regulated by the U.K. Financial Conduct Authority. Such registrations do not imply any specific skill or training.

Unless otherwise stated, all information and characteristics presented herein are based on the Shenkman Group's internal records and valuation. The information and opinions expressed herein are provided for informational purposes only. The information is not intended to be, and should not be construed as, impartial investment advice, an offering of investment advisory services or an offer to sell or a solicitation to buy any securities in any jurisdiction, including without limitation any interest of an investment fund or vehicle managed by the Shenkman Group. Any offer to sell or any solicitation to buy securities of an investment fund or vehicle managed by the Shenkman Group will be made only by means of the Prospectus or Offering Memorandum relating to that fund or vehicle. The information is expressly qualified in its entirety by reference to any such Prospectus or Offering Memorandum. The information provided herein is not intended to be, and should not be, considered as a substitute for reviewing such documents carefully. To the extent of any inconsistency or discrepancy between any such Prospectus or Offering Memorandum and this presentation, the Prospectus or Offering Memorandum shall control. All interests in securities of any fund or vehicle shall not be offered or sold in any jurisdiction in which such an offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful or would require registration or disclosure until the requirements of the laws, rules and regulations of such jurisdiction have been satisfied. It is the responsibility of every person reading this material to satisfy oneself as to the full observance of any laws of any relevant jurisdiction applicable to such person, including obtaining any governmental or other consent which may be required or observing any other formality which needs to be observed in such jurisdiction.

Certain information contained in this Report constitutes "forward-looking statements," which can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "may", "will", "should", "expect", "anticipate", "target", "project", "estimate", "intend", "continue" or "believe" or the negatives thereof or other variations thereon or comparable terminology. Due to various risks and uncertainties, actual events or results or the actual policies, procedures and processes of Shenkman and the performance of any investment funds may differ materially from those reflected or contemplated in such forward-looking statements and no undue reliance should be placed on these forward-looking statements, nor should the inclusion of these statements be regarded as the Shenkman representation that any investment funds will achieve any strategy, objectives or other plans. Unless otherwise indicated, the information contained in this Presentation is current as of the date indicated on its cover. Such information is believed to be reliable and has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but no representation or warranty is made, expressed or implied, with respect to the fairness, correctness, accuracy, reasonableness or completeness of the information and opinions. Additionally, there is no obligation to update, modify or amend this Presentation or to otherwise notify a reader in the event that any matter stated herein, or any opinion, projection, forecast or estimate set forth herein, changes or subsequently becomes inaccurate.

These materials do not undertake to explain all of the risks associated with any investment strategy referred to herein. No person or entity should invest in any strategy referred to herein unless satisfied that it (or its investment representative) has asked for and received all information that would enable it (or them) to evaluate the merits and risks thereof. The performance of any investments discussed in this document is not necessarily indicative of future performance, and you should not assume that investments in the future will be profitable or will equal the performance of past portfolio investments. PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT A GUARANTEE OF FUTURE RESULTS.

The inclusion of any particular investment(s) or transaction(s) in this presentation is not intended to represent, and should not be interpreted to imply, a past or current specific recommendation to purchase or sell an investment, and is not necessarily a list of all the purchases or sales effected during the stated period. There is no assurance that any positions discussed herein will remain in any portfolio for any length of time. The price or value of any investment is current only as of the date reflected and is subject to change. It should not be assumed that any of the holdings or transactions discussed herein were or will prove to be profitable, or that the investment recommendations or decisions made in the future will be profitable or will equal the investment performance of the investments discussed herein.

Third-party information contained in this presentation was obtained from sources that the Shenkman Group considers to be reliable; however, no representation is made as to, and no responsibility, warranty or liability is accepted for, the accuracy, adequacy completeness, timeliness or availability of such information, including ratings. The Shenkman Group is not responsible for any errors or omissions (negligent or otherwise), regardless of the cause, or for the results obtained from the use of such content. THE SHENKMAN GROUP DOES NOT GIVE ANY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE. THE SHENKMAN GROUP SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, EXEMPLARY, COMPENSATORY, PUNITIVE, SPECIAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, COSTS, EXPENSES, LEGAL FEES, OR LOSSES (INCLUDING LOST INCOME OR PROFITS AND OPPORTUNITY COSTS OR LOSSES CAUSED BY NEGLIGENCE) IN CONNECTION WITH ANY USE OF SUCH THIRD-PARTY CONTENT.

Copyright 2020©, S&P Global Market Intelligence and its affiliates as applicable. Reproduction of any information, data or materials, including ratings ("Content") in any form is prohibited except with the prior written permission of the relevant third party. Such party, its affiliates and suppliers ("Content Providers") do not guarantee the accuracy, adequacy, completeness, timeliness or availability of any Content and are not responsible for any errors or omissions (negligent or otherwise), regardless of the cause, or for the results obtained from the use of such Content. In no event shall Content Providers be liable for any damages, costs, expenses, legal fees, or losses (including lost income or lost profit and opportunity costs) in connection with any use of the Content. A reference to a particular investment or security, a rating or any observation concerning an investment that is part of the Content is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold such investment or security, does not address the suitability of an investment or security and should not be relied on as investment advice. Credit ratings are statements of opinions and are not statements of fact.

Any information in these materials from ICE Data Indices, LLC ("ICE BofA") was used with permission. ICE BofA PERMITS USE OF THE ICE BofA INDICES AND RELATED DATA ON AN "AS IS" BASIS, MAKES NO WARRANTIES REGARDING SAME, DOES NOT GUARANTEE THE SUITABILITY, QUALITY, ACCURACY, TIMELINESS, AND/OR COMPLETENESS OF THE ICE BofA INDICES OR ANY DATA INCLUDED IN, RELATED TO, OR DERIVED THEREFROM, ASSUMES NO LIABILITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE USE OF THE FOREGOING, AND DOES NOT SPONSOR, ENDORSE, OR RECOMMEND THE SHENKMAN GROUP, OR ANY OF ITS PRODUCTS OR SERVICES.

The investment products included in these materials (the "Shenkman Products") are not sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by Morningstar, Inc. or any of its affiliates (all such entities, collectively, "Morningstar Entities") or the Loan Syndications and Trading Association ("LSTA"). The Morningstar Entities and LSTA make no representation or warranty,

express or implied, to the owners of the Shenkman Products or any member of the public regarding the advisability of investing in the leveraged loans against which the Morningstar Index is being benchmarked generally or in the Shenkman Products in particular or the ability of the Shenkman Products to track general market performance.

THE MORNINGSTAR ENTITIES AND LSTA DO NOT GUARANTEE THE ACCURACY AND/OR THE COMPLETENESS OF ANY OF THE MORNINGSTAR INDICES INCLUDED IN THESE MATERIALS OR ANY DATA INCLUDED THEREIN AND SHALL HAVE NO LIABILITY FOR ANY ERRORS, OMISSIONS, OR INTERRUPTIONS THEREIN.

©2022 Morningstar. All Rights Reserved. The information contained herein: (1) is proprietary to Morningstar and/or its content providers; (2) may not be copied or distributed; and (3) is not warranted to be accurate, complete or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

The ISM Manufacturing Index is a monthly gauge on the level of economic activity in the U.S. manufacturing sector versus the previous month.

The ICE BofA Current 10-Year U.S. Treasury Index (GA10) is a one security index comprised of the most recently issued 10-year U.S. Treasury Note.

The ICE BofA U.S. Corporate Index (COAO) has an inception date of December 31, 1972 and tracks the performance of U.S. dollar denominated investment grade corporate debt publicly issued in the U.S. domestic market.

The ICE BofA U.S. High Yield Index (HOAO) has an inception date of August 31, 1986 and tracks the performance of U.S. dollar denominated below investment grade corporate debt publicly issued in the U.S. domestic market.

The Morningstar LSTA US Leveraged Loan Index is a market value-weighted index designed to measure the performance of the U.S. leveraged loan market based upon weightings, spreads and interest payments.

The Refinitiv US All-Cap Focus Convertible Bond Index has an inception date of December 1993, is a subset of the Refinitiv US Convertible Bond Index and includes securities that have a price between 60 and 140 and a conversion premium of < 100%, among other criteria. The Refinitiv US Convertible Bond Index includes convertible securities that are denominated in USD, have a market value of over \$300mm, and have underlying stocks that trade on US equity markets.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average is a price-weighted average of thirty blue-chip stocks that are generally the leaders in their respective industries.

The Russell 2000 Index measures the performance of the small-cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes approximately 2000 of the smallest securities based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership.

The S&P 500 Index is designed to reflect the U.S. equity markets and focuses on the large-cap sector of the market, which includes the 500 leading companies in leading industries of the U.S. economy.

The NASDAQ composite index is a market-capitalization weighted index of the more than 3,000 common equities listed on the Nasdaq stock exchange. The types of securities in the index include American Depositary Receipts, Common Stock, Limited Partnership Interests, Ordinary Shares, Real Estate Investment Trusts, Shares of Beneficial Interest, and Tracking Stocks. The index includes all Nasdaq listed stocks that are not Security types not included in the Index are closed-end funds, convertible debentures, exchange traded funds, preferred stocks, rights, warrants, units and other derivative securities.

The MSCI Emerging Markets Index captures large and mid-cap representation across 24 Emerging Markets (EM) countries. With 1,398 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

The MSCI World Index, which is part of The Modern Index Strategy, is a broad global equity index that represents large and mid-cap equity performance across 23 developed markets countries. It covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country and MSCI World Index does not offer exposure to emerging markets.

Shenkman Capital does not provide tax or legal advice. This material is not intended to replace the advice of a qualified tax advisor, accountant, or attorney. All decisions regarding the tax or legal implications of any investment should be made in consultation with your independent tax or legal advisor.

The data, information, and opinions contained herein are current and/or accurate as of the date stated or the date of this presentation, whichever is later; Shenkman Capital is under no obligation to update any data, information, or opinions contained herein.

These materials are confidential and not for distribution without the Shenkman Group's prior consent. SHENKMAN®, SHENKMAN CAPITAL®, and other Shenkman trademarks and logos used herein are registered trademarks of Shenkman Capital Management, Inc. ROMARK®, ROMARK CLO ADVISORS®, and other Romark trademarks and logos used herein are registered trademarks of Romark Credit Advisors LP and/or Romark CLO Advisors LLC. All rights reserved.