

JANUARY 14, 2025

# Town of Paradise Investment Strategy Update

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# **ECONOMIC UPDATE**

## **2024 Year In Review**



Federal Reserve Cuts Rates Fed funds rate dropped from 5.5% to 4.5%

U.S. Economic Growth Was better than economists expected

U.S. Treasury yield curve

Uninverts

U.S. Unemployment Rate Climbs from 3.7% (Dec 2023) to 4.2% (Nov 2024)

U.S. Federal debt tops \$36 trillion **The 3-mo Treasury Bill** Yielded **5.33%** in Dec 2023 and ended the year at **4.31%** 

The 2-yr Treasury Note Yielded 4.25% in Dec 2023 and ended the year at 4.24%

The 5-yr Treasury Note Yielded 3.85% in Dec 2023 and ended the year at 4.38% Republican election sweep in November

> YOY CPI drops from 3.4% (Dec 2023) to 2.7% (Nov 2024)

> S&P 500 closes near an all-time high, up 23% for the year

# **FIGEY Outlook and Commentary**



	METRIC	ANALYSIS
	Fed Funds Rate	The Federal Reserve is expecting to lower the Fed Funds rate 50 basis points (0.50%) in 2025. The Fed Funds futures market is pricing in approximately 44 basis points of cuts for 2025 and end the year at 3.95%.
	Inflation	The Consumer Price Index (CPI) has been rising the past few months and is currently at 2.7% on a YoY basis. Economists surveyed by Bloomberg expect CPI YoY to average 2.5% for 2025.
	Growth	Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew faster in 2024 than most economists expected (currently estimated at 2.7%). The Federal Reserve is expecting GDP to slow in 2025 and average 2.1% for the full year.
VORS	Employment	Weekly initial unemployment (jobless) claims remain near historically low levels but continuing jobless claims (those receiving ongoing unemployment benefits) continue to climb.
	Yields	The 2-year Treasury yield has risen about 75 basis points from last September's low of 3.54%, but is still approximately 95 basis points from the 5.22% cycle high of October 2023.

**Fed Funds** 



#### 4.75% 4.50% 4.25% 4.00% 3.75% 3.50% 3.25% 3.00% 2.75% 2.50% Jan-24 Feb-24 Mar-24 Apr-24 Mav-24 Jun-24 Jul-24 Aug-24 Sep-24 **Oct-24** Nov-24 Dec-24 Jan-25 Feb-25

### Dec 2025 Expected Fed Funds Rate

- The Federal Reserve executed the first lowering of the Fed Funds rate since 2020 at the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting by .50%, followed by .25% cuts at both the November 7<sup>th</sup> and December 18<sup>th</sup> meetings.
- The Fed expects to cut the Fed Funds rate by .50% or 50 basis points by the end of 2025.
- The Fed Funds futures market rate for December 2025 dipped to a low near 2.75% last September.
- Futures market participants for the December 2025 rate are not pricing in as many cuts as the Federal Reserve.

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Jan-24

0.3%

Inflation

0.5%

0.3%

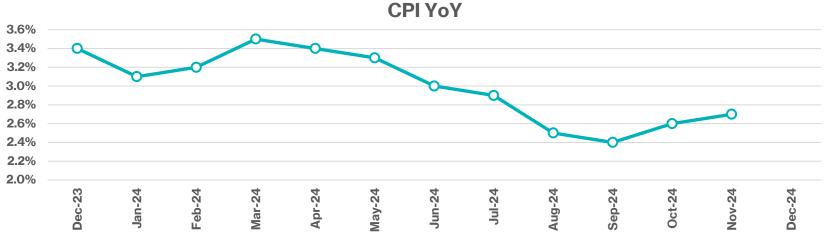
0.1%

-0.1%

-0.3%

0.2%

Dec-23



**CPI MoM** 

-0.1%

Jun-24

0.0%

May-24

0.2%

Jul-24

0.2%

Aug-24

0.2%

Sep-24

0.2%

Oct-24

0.4%

Mar-24

0.3%

Apr-24

0.4%

Feb-24

٠ trending slightly higher.

0.3%

Nov-24

Dec-24

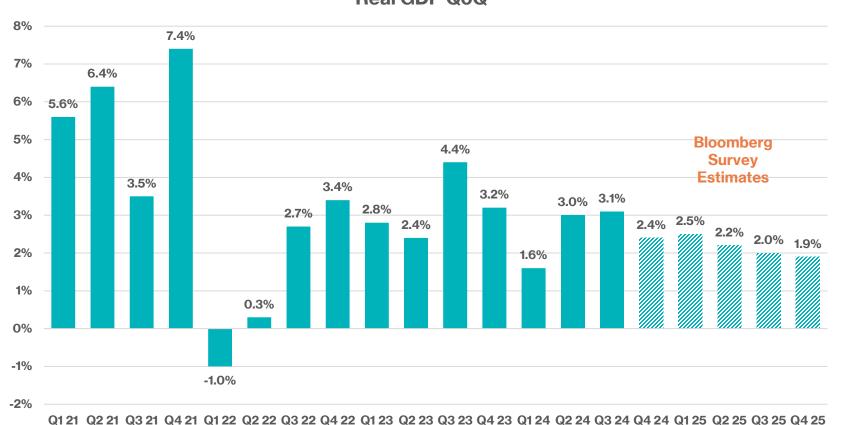
- The year-over-year Consumer Price ٠ Index may see declines during the first quarter of 2025 as higher month-overmonth rates from early 2024 drop out.
- Housing and auto insurance prices ٠ have pushed inflation higher recently.

Inflation has remained sticky the past few months with consumer prices

## MEEDER

Growth



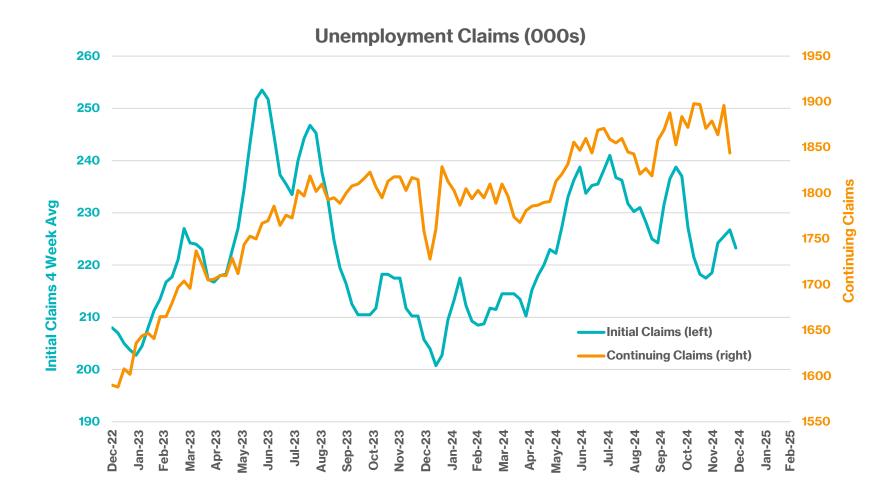


**Real GDP QoQ** 

- U.S. economic growth for 2024 was substantially better than economists expected at the start of the year.
- Economists surveyed by Bloomberg are expecting GDP growth to slow during 2025.
- The uncertainty of what changes the Trump administration will enact has clouded economic forecasts.

## **Employment**





- Weekly Initial Jobless (unemployment) Claims remain at historically low levels. This is typically a sign of a balanced labor market.
- However, continuing unemployment claims have generally been climbing since 2022.
- The Federal Reserve members and economists will be keeping a keen eye on the labor market for clues of weakening.

**Yields** 





#### Yields: U.S. 2 Yr T-Note vs. Fed Funds Upper Limit

- The 2-year Treasury note's yield peaked in October 2023 when the Fed Funds rate was at the top of its cycle.
- Intermediate-term and longer-term rates have increased since September of last year with sticky inflation, election results, and an improving job market.
- Even though intermediate-term interest rates have declined from cycle highs, they are still materially higher than the average the past 20 years.



# **PORTFOLIO REVIEW**



## **Current Portfolio** Town of Paradise portfolio as of 12/31/2024

### Your Portfolio

Securities Book Value CLASS/LAIF Tri Counties Bank Total Portfolio Book Value

Weighted Average Maturity Weighted Average Yield

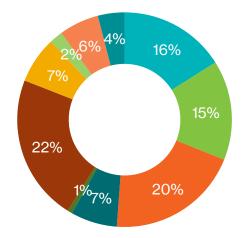
**Your Maturity Distribution** 

\$12,857,154 \$7,769,720 \$207,199,438

> 1.98 years 2.87%

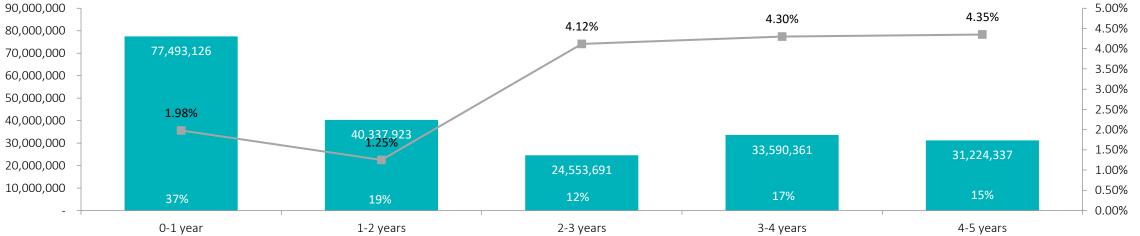
\$186,572,564

### Your Asset Allocation



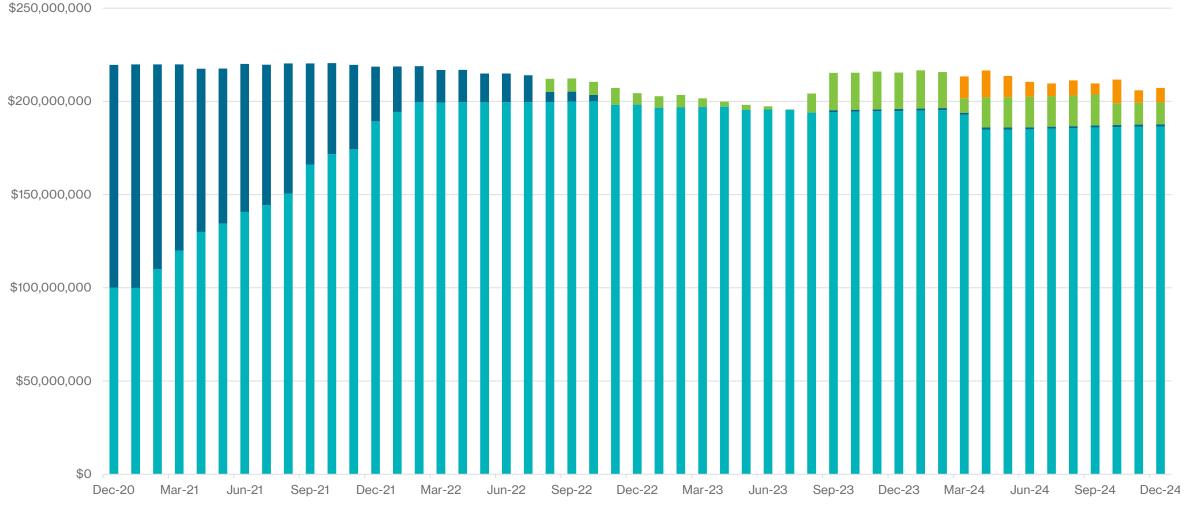
### US Government Agencies

- Corporate MTNs
- Municipal Bonds
- Supranationals
- FDIC-Insured Products
- US Treasuries
- Mortgage Backed Securities
- Commercial Paper
- CLASS/LAIF
- Tri Counties Bank MMF



YIELD AND INTEREST INCOME INFORMATION IS ANNUALIZED. ALL YIELD INFORMATION IS SHOWN GROSS OF ANY ADVISORY AND CUSTODY FEES AND IS BASED ON YIELD TO MATURITY AT COST. PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT A GUARANTEE OF FUTURE RESULTS.

## **Portfolio Review** Town of Paradise Historical Portfolio Balances



MEEDER

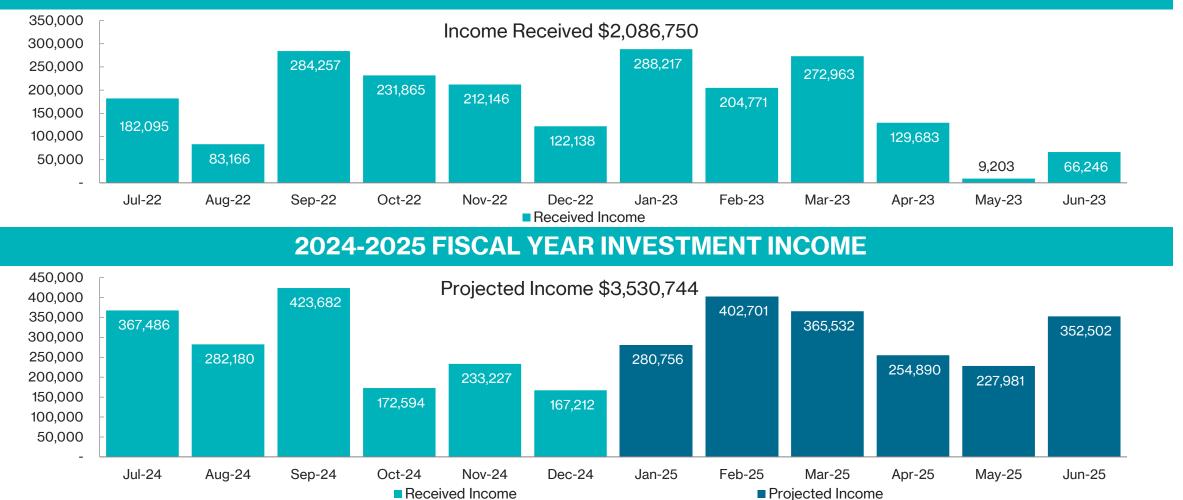
■ Investments ■ LAIF ■ CLASS ■ Tri Counties Bank

# **Investment Income**

Town of Paradise portfolio as of 12/31/2024



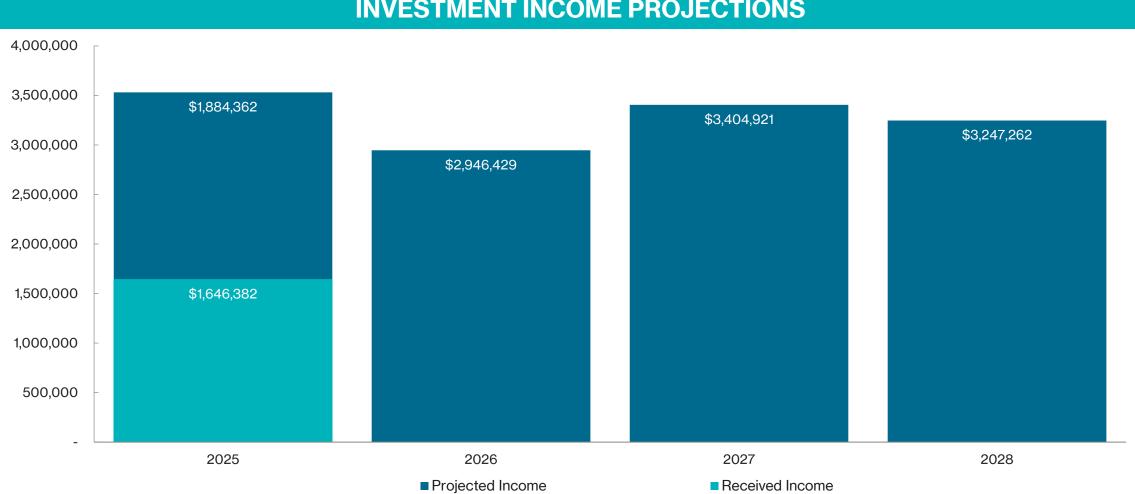
## 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR INVESTMENT INCOME



INTEREST INCOME REFLECTS INCOME RECEIVED ON SECURITIES HELD IN THE CUSTODY ACCOUNT AND DOES NOT INCLUDE INCOME RECEIVED ON CLIENT MANAGED ASSETS.

## **Portfolio Review** Town of Paradise portfolio as of 12/31/2024





## **INVESTMENT INCOME PROJECTIONS**

INTEREST INCOME REFLECTS INCOME RECEIVED ON SECURITIES HELD IN THE CUSTODY ACCOUNT AND DOES NOT INCLUDE INCOME RECEIVED ON CLIENT MANAGED ASSETS.

## **Disclosures**



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