

## **REPUBLIC CARIBBEAN EQUITY FUND**



#### 31st March, 2024

# **FUND SIZE**

FUND STRATEGY

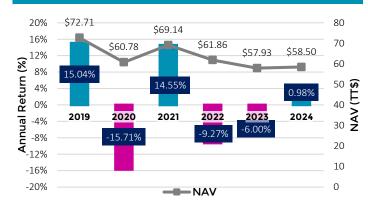
TT\$ 133 Million

The fund seeks to achieve long term capital appreciation by investing in a diversified portfolio of equity securities.

FUND FACTS				
Minimum Initial Investment	Subsequent Investment	Bid Price @ 31-Mar-2024	Offer Price @ 31-Mar-2024	Distribution 29-July-2023
\$2,000.00	\$200.00	\$58.4960	\$59.6659	\$0.5526

TOP TEN (10) HOLD	INGS	EXPOSURES AS AT	5 AS AT 31 MARCH 2024	
EQUITY	FUND WEIGHT	Asset Class Allocation	Fixed Income (0.0%)	
Republic Financial Holdings Ltd	16.23%		/	
Allianz Global Investors	12.68%		Domestic Equities (66.5%)	
Scotiabank T&T Ltd	9.80%		Regional Equities (12.8%)	
GraceKennedy Limited	8.13%		Int'l Equities (17.0%)	
Ansa McAl Ltd	7.33%			
First Citizens Group F'ncial Holdings	7.33%		Mutual Funds (2.3%)	
Agostini Insurance Brokers	5.27%		Money Market Instruments (1.4)	
Massy Holdings Limited	4.95%			
NCB Financial Group Limited	3.35%	Sector Allocation	Financials (52.4%)	
National Enterprises Limited	3.19%		Consumer Staples (28.7%)	
			Technology (5.1%)	

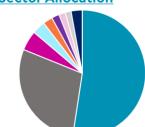
# **ANNUAL RETURNS**



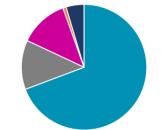
# PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE

BID-BID RETU	*Annualized			
Q1 2024	YTD	3 YEAR*	5 YEAR*	INCEPTION*
0.98%	0.98%	-1.44%	-1.28%	5.63%

The NAV represents the aggregate value of the Fund's investments at the close of business on the Valuation Date minus all liabilities of the Fund including provision for accrued fees and expenses.



# **Geographical Allocation**



Trinidad and Tobago (68.3%)

Consumer Discretionary (3.4%)

Health Care (2.4%)
Energy (2.0%)

Industrials (1.6%)

= Cash (1.5%)

Other (2.9%)

- 🗉 Jamaica (12.5%)
- usa (12.4%)
- Barbados (0.8%)
- Other (4.6%)

NB: 100% of the Fund's assets is represented by long positions.

For further information or to enquire about our other investment & retirement products, please contact us at: Tel: (868) 625-4411 Visit: republicwealthmanagement.com Email: invest@rfhl.com

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## **REPUBLIC CARIBBEAN EQUITY FUND**

## MARKET REVIEW & OUTLOOK

#### **Portfolio Movements**

The Fund's NAV experienced a marginal improvement over the first quarter by 0.98%, driven by robust growth in international equity markets, which was largely offset by further contraction in local and regional equities, as depicted in Table 1. The main contributors to the Fund's positive performance in Q1 2024 were Allianz Global Investors (11.7%), West Indian Tobacco (24.0%) and Scotiabank T&T (2.2%), while GraceKennedy (6.8%), Republic Financial Holdings (62.3%) and Trinidad and Tobago NGL Ltd (23.7%) detracted the most from the Fund's performance. We remain committed to maintaining a diversified portfolio of shares with favorable medium to long term outlooks.

Index Movements QoQ				
	Price Return			
TTSE All T&T Index	4	-1.20%		
TTSE Cross Listed Index	•	-1.75%		
TTSE Composite Index	4	-1.32%		
Jamaica Stock Exchange Index	ጭ	0.64%		
S&P 500 Index	<del>በ</del>	10.16%		
MSCI World Index	Ŷ	8.85%		

Table 1: QoQ movements of select Indices

### Domestic and Regional

Top Advances & Declines - All T&T Index			
	Price Return		
Prestige Holdings Limited	ጭ	29.14%	
West Indian Tobacco Co	ጭ	24.04%	
PLIPDECO	ጭ	10.81%	
LI Williams B	Ψ.	-10.71%	
Trinidad Cement Ltd	•	-11.25%	
Trinidad & Tobago NGL Ltd	•	-23.73%	

Table 2: Top advances and declines - All T&T Index

Top Advances & Declines - Cross Listed Index				
	Price Return			
JMMB Group Ltd	ጭ	11.85%		
FirstCaribbean Intl Bank	ጭ	0.14%		
NCB Financial Group Ltd	Ψ	-5.88%		
GraceKennedy Ltd	•	-6.85%		

Table 3: Top advances and declines – Cross Listed Index

# Trinidad and Tobago

Real GDP Grov	<b>/</b> th	Headline Inflation	Core Inflation	Net Reserves	Import Cover
Q2 2024		Feb-24	Feb-24	Feb-24	Feb-24
3.6%		0.8%	0.1%	US\$ 5.64B	7.1 months

- Economic recovery over 1H23 was led by the non-energy sector particularly in the Wholesale and Retail and Construction sectors - and is expected to have continued in the second half of the year, according to the CBTT.
- Financial system credit advanced 7.9% over the 12-month period ended Jan-24, driven by commercial lending (11.5%), personal lending (9.8%) and real estate mortgages (4.7%).
- The MPC maintained the repo rate at 3.50% at its most recent meeting in March 2024.

#### Jamaica

- Headline inflation rose marginally to 6.2% in February 2024, above the BoJ's target of 4.0%-6.0%, reflecting higher public passenger vehicle (PPV) fares as well as the effect of wage increases throughout the economy.
- Labour market conditions remain tight with unemployment at a record low of 4.2% in October 2023.
- Jamaica's policy rate stands unchanged at 7.0% following the MPC's latest meeting.

#### International

- The Fed maintained its policy rate in the range of 5.25%-5.50% in March 2024, marking the fifth consecutive meeting at which rates were held steady. While the timing of potential rate cuts is unknown, the market broadly anticipates the first of three cutes for 2024 to be in June.
- Energy commodity prices observed mixed movements QoQ: Brent Crude rose ◆13.55% and WTI futures ◆16.08% while Henry Hub futures plunged ◆29.87%.
- US equities reached new heights in 1Q24, with the S&P500 index crossing the 5,000 price threshold in February. QoQ, the the S&P500 advanced ◆10.16%, the tech-heavy Nasdaq increased ◆9.11% and the Dow moved ◆5.62% higher.
- International equities also ended the quarter in the green: the MSCI World Index jumped ◆8.85%, the MSCI EAFE Index advanced ◆4.95%, and the MSCI EM Index edged marginally higher by ◆1.63%.
- The top performing sectors of the MSCI World Index over 1Q24 were telecomm. (◆12.93%), technology (◆12.27%), and financials (◆10.44%), while the bottom three were materials (◆3.30%), utilities (◆1.21%) and real estate (◆-0.61%).
- US bonds experienced a modest downturn on account of surprisingly strong economic data and lowered expectations of rate cuts this year. The Bloomberg US Aggregate index declined ♦-0.78% QoQ.

All data as at 31 March 2024, unless specified otherwise.

Real GDP Growth

Dec-23 (YoY)

3.1%

Inflation

Feb-24 (YoY)

3.2%

Unemployment

Feb-24

**Earnings Growth** 

4Q23 (QoQ)

Sources: The Trinidad and Tobago Stock Exchange (TTSE), Bloomberg LP, The Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago (CBTT), The Bank of Jamaica (BOJ)

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