Manulife Investment Management

[The Manulife Investment Management logo appears on the screen]

This year has been anything but normal, and investors are facing financial markets that are unique and, let's face it, scary.

I talk to different types of investors every day: pension plans, investment advisors, policymakers, my friends and family. They listen to my opinions on the markets.

But I'm also listening to them. Trying to get an idea of what challenges they face. What keeps them up at night. What hard conversations they're having.

And over and over, the same three themes keep coming up: inflation; market volatility; and rising interest rates. These are the challenges that are worrying investors, from mom and pop to multibillion-dollar pension plans.

And rightfully so. Inflation levels not seen in 40 years are impacting growth, real returns and turning central banks hawkish. Interest rates are back on the rise at historic speeds, threatening to break out of a 40 year downward trend. The combination of these factors has sent investors out of both equity and bond markets, to the safety of the sidelines.

But despite the flashing red and scary headlines, these challenges aren't insurmountable. There are strategies and solutions that may counteract the challenges they face. Alternative assets, go-anywhere approaches, asset allocation funds, income-focused strategies; these are just some of the tools that can help build portfolios that can thrive through even the most difficult economic landscape.

It's with this backdrop that Manulife Investment Management's global macro strategy team has been working alongside Kevin Headland and Macan Nia, our Capital Markets Strategy experts, to identify the strategies that can help investors navigate these unique economic times.

We know what problems investors are facing. Now, let's talk solutions.

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