

Asset Allocation Strategy

Executive Summary

August 15, 2024

Is the bull running out of steam?

As a result of the recent market pullback, we are utilizing this opportunity to reallocate from U.S. Short Term Taxable Fixed Income and U.S. Long Term Taxable Fixed Income into U.S. Large Cap Equities and U.S. Small Cap Equities. Balanced portfolios will now be stock/bond neutral versus a previous overweight to fixed income. For further details, read our August 6, 2024, Institute Alert “Rebalancing portfolio allocations.”

In our view, today’s macro and geopolitical environment offers an additional set of factors that could trigger further episodes of volatility in the coming months. These include:

Slowing economy – Although second quarter real gross domestic product (GDP) was higher than expected at a 2.8% annualized rate, we’re expecting a gradual slowdown during the second half of this year as weakening household finances and slower jobs growth hinder consumer spending.

Sticky inflation – The headline July CPI (consumer price index) and June PCE (personal consumption expenditures) continued trending downward on a year-over-year basis, while super-core inflation (services ex-housing and energy) was flat in July but remains elevated at a 12-month annualized rate of over 4%.

Federal Reserve policy uncertainty – Although Federal Reserve (Fed) Chair Jerome Powell did not commit to reducing short-term rates at the July Federal Open Market Committee meeting, fed fund futures indicate four 0.25% interest rate cuts in 2024 with another four cuts in 2025 – which is double the amount for each year from just two months ago. Aggressive Fed easing may portend a weaker-than-expected economy.

Corporate earnings – Second-quarter reporting season to date has shown a broadening of earnings for the S&P 500 Index. Yet, the recent sell-off of technology stocks sparked by disappointing earnings from certain tech conglomerates poses another concern for investors – the elevated bar for mega-cap technology companies and the fact that they must exceed earnings estimates, not just meet expectations.

Market breadth – Despite the recent rebound in small-cap stocks, market breadth remains narrow with a handful of large-cap tech companies accounting for the bulk of the S&P 500 Index’s 14.9% year-to-date gain through August 13.

Rich valuations – The price-to-earnings (P/E) multiple for the S&P 500 Index based on forward 12-month earnings estimates is 22.7x, well above its 10-year moving average, mainly due to expensive technology behemoths. The Information Technology sector’s forward multiple has swelled to 32.7x. Finally, the equity risk premium, a measure of the relative valuation of between stocks and bonds, has hovered near zero, indicating bonds are more attractive than stocks.

Geopolitical risks – The attack on Israel by the militant group Hezbollah, and the violent death of a Hamas leader in Iran threaten to further escalate tensions in the Middle East. This clash coincides with conflicts in Russia-Ukraine, along with uncertainties about China’s economic resilience and its relations with Taiwan.

Cracks in the U.S. labor market – Nonfarm payrolls rose by 114,000 in July – one of the weakest prints since the pandemic – and job growth was revised lower for the prior two months. The unemployment rate unexpectedly climbed for a fourth consecutive month to 4.3%. Meanwhile, initial applications for U.S. unemployment benefits jumped to the highest level in almost a year.

Rising skepticism of Artificial Intelligence (AI) – There is growing concern among investors that the current build-out phase of AI could slow down quickly as end-user companies become more cost conscious and start demanding concrete results.

Economic summary: The U.S. economy is joining a global economic-growth slowdown already underway in Europe and China. We believe the risk of heightened financial volatility from varying policy responses by the Fed and foreign central banks likely will be contained by more uniformly accommodative policies (outside Japan) as the slowdown works its way through labor markets and inflation. Recession worries in the U.S. have been built on disappointing top-tier employment and manufacturing activity early in the third quarter, abruptly reversing optimism responding to surprisingly strong second-quarter GDP growth of 2.8%. We believe expansion-like job growth and a historically low unemployment rate in July more likely signaled an end to post-COVID catch-up hiring than an approaching recession.

Fixed income: Most major U.S. fixed-income asset class indexes displayed positive returns in July as yields declined across the curve. U.S. Treasury Bills (+0.4%) underperformed other major U.S. fixed income asset classes, while U.S. long-term taxable fixed income performed best (+3.3%) during the month. Local currency and unhedged international bond market performance was strong in July. Leveraged loans have overtaken preferred stock as one of the best fixed-income major asset classes year-to-date at 5.1% through July 31.

Equities: Stocks rallied in July with U.S. small caps (+10.2%) besting U.S. mid caps (+4.7%) and U.S. large caps (+1.2%). This is the largest monthly performance disparity of small caps over large caps since the year 2000. U.S. dollar-denominated developed market (DM) equities (+2.9%) outperformed emerging market equities (+0.4%) last month. The currency conversion into U.S. dollars boosted DM returns as the dollar broadly weakened relative to other developed market currencies.

Real assets: Master limited partnerships (MLPs) slightly underperformed the broader market in July, with a +0.6% total return (as measured by the Alerian MLP Index) versus a +1.2% return for the S&P 500 Index. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil prices fell 4.5% during the month. Overall, commodities (measured by the Bloomberg Commodity Total Return Index) were down by 4.0% in July. Over the past 12 months, many individual commodities have seen significant corrections, driven by concerns of weak economic conditions.

Alternative investments*: **Relative Value** strategies registered a gain of 0.8% for the month, with positive contributions from Structured Credit, Long/Short Credit, and Arbitrage strategies. **Macro** strategies retreated by 1.0% in July. Systematic strategies declined by 1.5% for the month, driven by losses across currency, fixed income, and energy holdings. **Event Driven** registered a 2.5% return for July. All strategies, including Activist, Merger Arbitrage, and Distressed Credit recorded gains. **Equity Hedge** strategies posted a 1.4% gain in July and performed similarly to the MSCI All Country World Index. The accretive return was driven by both broad equity market exposure and security selection gains.

*Alternative investments are not appropriate for all investors. They are speculative and involve a high degree of risk that is appropriate only for those investors who have the financial sophistication and expertise to evaluate the merits and risks of an investment in a fund and for which the fund does not represent a complete investment program. Please see pages 9-11 for important definitions and disclosures.

Asset Allocation Strategy Report

Executive Summary

August 15, 2024

Wells Fargo Investment Institute forecasts

Global economy (%)	Latest (%) ¹	2024 target (%) ¹	2025 target (%) ¹
U.S. GDP growth	3.0 (Q1)	▼ 2.2	▲ 2.3
U.S. inflation ²	2.9 (Jul.)	▼ 2.5 (Dec.)	3.0 (Dec.)
U.S. unemployment rate ³	4.1 (Jul.)	▲ 4.4 (Dec.)	▲ 4.8 (Dec.)
Global GDP growth ⁴	3.5 (Q1)	2.5	2.6
Global inflation ⁴	5.8 (Q2)	3.3	▼ 3.2
Developed market GDP growth ⁵	1.6 (Q1)	1.5	1.9
Developed market inflation ⁵	4.5 (Q2)	2.5	▼ 2.3
Emerging market GDP growth	4.9 (Q1)	3.3	3.1
Emerging market inflation	6.8 (Q2)	4.0	3.8
Eurozone GDP growth	0.3 (Q2)	▲ 0.9	2.2
Eurozone inflation ²	2.6 (Jul.)	▲ 2.5 (Dec.)	2.0 (Dec.)
Global equities	Latest	2024 YE target	2025 YE target
S&P 500 Index	5522	▲ 5300–5500	▲ 5900–6100
S&P 500 earnings per share	\$225	▲ \$245	▲ \$270
Russell Midcap Index	3392	3300–3500	3700–3900
Russell Midcap earnings per share	\$145	▲ \$170	▲ \$195
Russell 2000 Index	2254	2100–2300	2500–2700
Russell 2000 earnings per share	\$59	▼ \$65	▼ \$85
MSCI EAFE Index	2381	2200–2400	2400–2600
MSCI EAFE earnings per share	\$154	\$160	\$170
MSCI Emerging Markets (EM) Index	1085	950–1150	1100–1300
MSCI EM earnings per share	\$71	\$75	\$85
Global fixed income (%)	Latest	2024 YE target	2025 YE target
10-year U.S. Treasury yield	4.03	▼ 3.75–4.25	4.00–4.50
30-year U.S. Treasury yield	4.30	▼ 4.00–4.50	4.25–4.75
Fed funds rate	5.25–5.50	▼ 4.25–4.50	▼ 3.50–3.75
Global real assets	Latest	2024 YE target	2025 YE target
West Texas Intermediate crude oil price (\$ per barrel)	\$78	\$80–\$90	\$85–\$95
Brent crude oil price (\$ per barrel)	\$81	\$85–\$95	\$90–\$100
Gold price (\$ per troy ounce)	\$2448	▲ \$2400–\$2500	▲ \$2500–\$2600
Commodities	228	235–255	250–270
Currencies	Latest	2024 YE target	2025 YE target
Dollar/euro exchange rate	\$1.08	▲ \$1.08–\$1.12	▲ \$1.08–\$1.12
Yen/dollar exchange rate	¥149.98	▼ ¥146–¥150	▼ ¥150–¥154
ICE U.S. Dollar Index	104	▼ 101–105	▼ 102–106

Tactical guidance*

Cash Alternatives and Fixed Income

Most Unfavorable	Unfavorable	Neutral	Favorable	Most Favorable
	U.S. Long Term Taxable Fixed Income**	Cash Alternatives	U.S. Taxable Investment Grade Fixed Income	
	U.S. Short Term Taxable Fixed Income**	Developed Market Ex.-U.S. Fixed Income	U.S. Intermediate Term Taxable Fixed Income**	
		Emerging Market Fixed Income		
		High Yield Taxable Fixed Income**		

Equities

Most Unfavorable	Unfavorable	Neutral	Favorable	Most Favorable
	Emerging Market Equities	Developed Market Ex.-U.S. Equities	U.S. Large Cap Equities	
		U.S. Mid Cap Equities		
		U.S. Small Cap Equities**		

Real Assets

Most Unfavorable	Unfavorable	Neutral	Favorable	Most Favorable
		Private Real Estate	Commodities	

Alternative Investments***

Most Unfavorable	Unfavorable	Neutral	Favorable	Most Favorable
		Hedge Funds — Equity Hedge	Hedge Funds — Macro	
		Hedge Funds — Event Driven	Hedge Funds — Relative Value	
		Private Debt		
		Private Equity		

Source: Wells Fargo Investment Institute, August 15, 2024. *Tactical horizon is 6-18 months. **Changed this month. ***Alternative investments are not appropriate for all investors. They are speculative and involve a high degree of risk that is appropriate only for those investors who have the financial sophistication and expertise to evaluate the merits and risks of an investment in a fund and for which the fund does not represent a complete investment program. Please see pages 9-11 for important definitions and disclosures.

Sources: Bloomberg, Wells Fargo Investment Institute (WFII), as of July 31, 2024. Targets are based on forecasts by WFII as of August 15, 2024 and provide a forecast direction over a tactical horizon. The closer the current date is to the year-end, the more WFII guidance focuses on the following year's target. GDP = gross domestic product. Q1 = first quarter, Q2 = second quarter. YE = year end. Forecasts are not guaranteed and based on certain assumptions and on our views of market and economic conditions, which are subject to change. Latest EPS (earnings per share) figures are 2023 year-end consensus estimates as of August 6, 2024. ¹Average % change in the latest four quarters from the same year-ago period, unless otherwise noted. ²Latest month percent change from a year ago. ³Three-month average as of the date indicated, percent of labor force. ⁴Weighted average of developed country and emerging-market forecasts. ⁵Weighted average of U.S. and other developed-country forecasts. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.** An index is unmanaged and not available for direct investment. See pages 9-11 for important definitions and disclosures. ▲/▼: recent change.

Asset Allocation Strategy Report

Executive Summary

August 15, 2024

Total returns (%)

Fixed Income

Index	MTD	QTD	YTD	1 year	3 year	5 year
U.S. Taxable Investment Grade Fixed Income	2.3	2.3	1.6	5.1	-2.6	0.2
High Yield Taxable Fixed Income	1.9	1.9	4.6	11.1	2.2	4.2
DM Ex-U.S. Fixed Income (Unhedged)	4.2	4.2	-4.3	-1.3	-9.8	-4.8
EM Fixed Income (U.S. dollar)	1.8	1.8	3.7	8.6	-1.8	0.4

Equities

Index	MTD	QTD	YTD	1 year	3 year	5 year
U.S. Large Cap Equities	1.2	1.2	16.7	22.1	9.6	15.0
U.S. Mid Cap Equities	4.7	4.7	9.9	13.7	3.7	10.2
U.S. Small Cap Equities	10.2	10.2	12.1	14.3	1.9	8.9
DM Equities Ex-U.S. (U.S. dollar)	2.9	2.9	8.9	11.8	4.2	7.9
EM Equities (U.S. dollar)	0.4	0.4	8.1	6.7	-2.3	3.8

Real Assets

Index	MTD	QTD	YTD	1 year	3 year	5 year
Public Real Estate	6.1	6.1	2.7	8.0	-3.2	1.4
Master Limited Partnerships	0.6	0.6	18.4	29.0	25.7	12.4
Commodities (BCOMTR)	-4.0	-4.0	0.9	-5.2	3.6	6.5

Alternative Investments

Index	MTD	QTD	YTD	1 year	3 year	5 year
Global Hedge Funds	0.8	0.8	6.0	8.9	3.5	6.8

Sources: Bloomberg, J.P. Morgan, Standard & Poor's, Wells Fargo Investment Institute (WFII), Russell Indices, MSCI Inc., FTSE, Alerian, Hedge Fund Research, Inc.; as of July 31, 2024. MTD = month to date. QTD = quarter to date. YTD = year to date.

DM indicates Developed Market; EM indicates Emerging Market. Returns over one year are annualized.

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Fixed income sector tactical guidance* and total returns (%) U.S. investment-grade securities

Sector	Guidance	1 month	Year to date
Duration	Neutral	–	–
U.S. Government	Neutral	2.2	1.3
Treasury Securities	Neutral	2.2	1.3
Agencies	Neutral	1.5	2.3
Inflation-Linked Fixed Income	Neutral	1.8	2.5
Credit	Neutral	2.3	1.9
Corporate Securities	Neutral	2.4	1.9
Preferred Securities	Neutral	0.3	4.7
Leveraged Loans	Unfavorable	0.7	5.1
Securitized	Favorable	2.6	1.8
Residential MBS	Favorable	2.6	1.6
Commercial MBS	Neutral	2.1	3.6
Asset Backed Securities	Neutral	1.4	3.0
U.S. Municipal Bonds	Favorable	0.9	0.5
Taxable Municipal	Neutral	2.6	2.5
State and Local General Obligation	Favorable	0.9	-0.1
Essential Service Revenue	Favorable	0.9	0.7
Pre-Refunded	Neutral	0.7	1.2
High Yield Municipal	▲ Neutral	1.1	5.3

Sources: Total returns: Bloomberg as of July 31, 2024. Guidance: Wells Fargo Investment Institute, as of August 15, 2024. *Tactical horizon is 6-18 months. An index is unmanaged and not available for direct investment. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.** MBS = mortgage-backed securities. Duration is a measure of a bond's interest rate sensitivity. See pages 9-11 for important definitions and disclosures. ▲: recent change.

Asset Allocation Strategy Report

Executive Summary

August 15, 2024

S&P 500 Index sector tactical guidance* and total returns (%)

Sector	S&P 500 Index weight (%)**	Guidance***	MTD	QTD	YTD	1 year	3 year	5 year
Communication Services	8.9	▲ Favorable	-4.0	-4.0	21.6	30.0	3.8	13.0
Consumer Discretionary	10.0	Unfavorable	1.7	1.7	7.4	12.2	2.6	10.7
Consumer Staples	5.8	Unfavorable	1.9	1.9	11.1	7.9	6.9	9.3
Energy	3.7	Most Favorable	2.1	2.1	13.3	10.1	28.9	13.8
Financials	13.1	Favorable	6.5	6.5	17.3	26.1	8.3	11.4
Health Care	11.9	▼ Neutral	2.7	2.7	10.7	13.5	6.0	12.5
Industrials	8.4	Favorable	4.9	4.9	13.0	17.8	9.2	12.4
Information Technology	31.4	Neutral	-2.1	-2.1	25.6	35.2	17.5	25.8
Materials	2.2	Favorable	4.4	4.4	8.6	9.7	5.3	11.9
Real Estate	2.3	Unfavorable	7.2	7.2	4.6	11.8	-0.5	5.5
Utilities	2.4	Unfavorable	6.8	6.8	16.9	12.4	6.7	7.6
Total	100.0							

Sources: S&P 500 Index weight and total returns: Bloomberg, as of July 31, 2024. Guidance: Wells Fargo Investment Institute, as of August 15, 2024. *Tactical horizon is 6-18 months. MTD = month to date. QTD = quarter to date. YTD = year to date. An index is unmanaged and not available for direct investment. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.** ▲/▼: recent change.

**Sector weightings may not add to 100% due to rounding.

***To reposition allocations for consistency with our guidance, add two percentage points of exposure to market weight for favorables, subtract two for unfavorables, and hold market weight for neutrals.

International equity tactical guidance* by region

Region	Benchmark weight (%)**	Regional guidance
DM Ex-U.S. Equities		Neutral
Europe	66	Neutral
Pacific	34	Favorable
EM Equities		Unfavorable
Asia	80	Neutral
Europe, Middle East and Africa	13	Most unfavorable
Latin America	7	Neutral

Sources: Bloomberg, Wells Fargo Investment Institute (WFII). Weightings are as of July 31, 2024. WFII guidance is as of August 15, 2024. An index is unmanaged and not available for direct investment. See pages 9-11 for important definitions and disclosures.

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** Benchmarks are MSCI EAFE Index for DM (developed markets) and MSCI Emerging Markets Index for EM (emerging markets). Weightings may not add to 100% due to rounding.

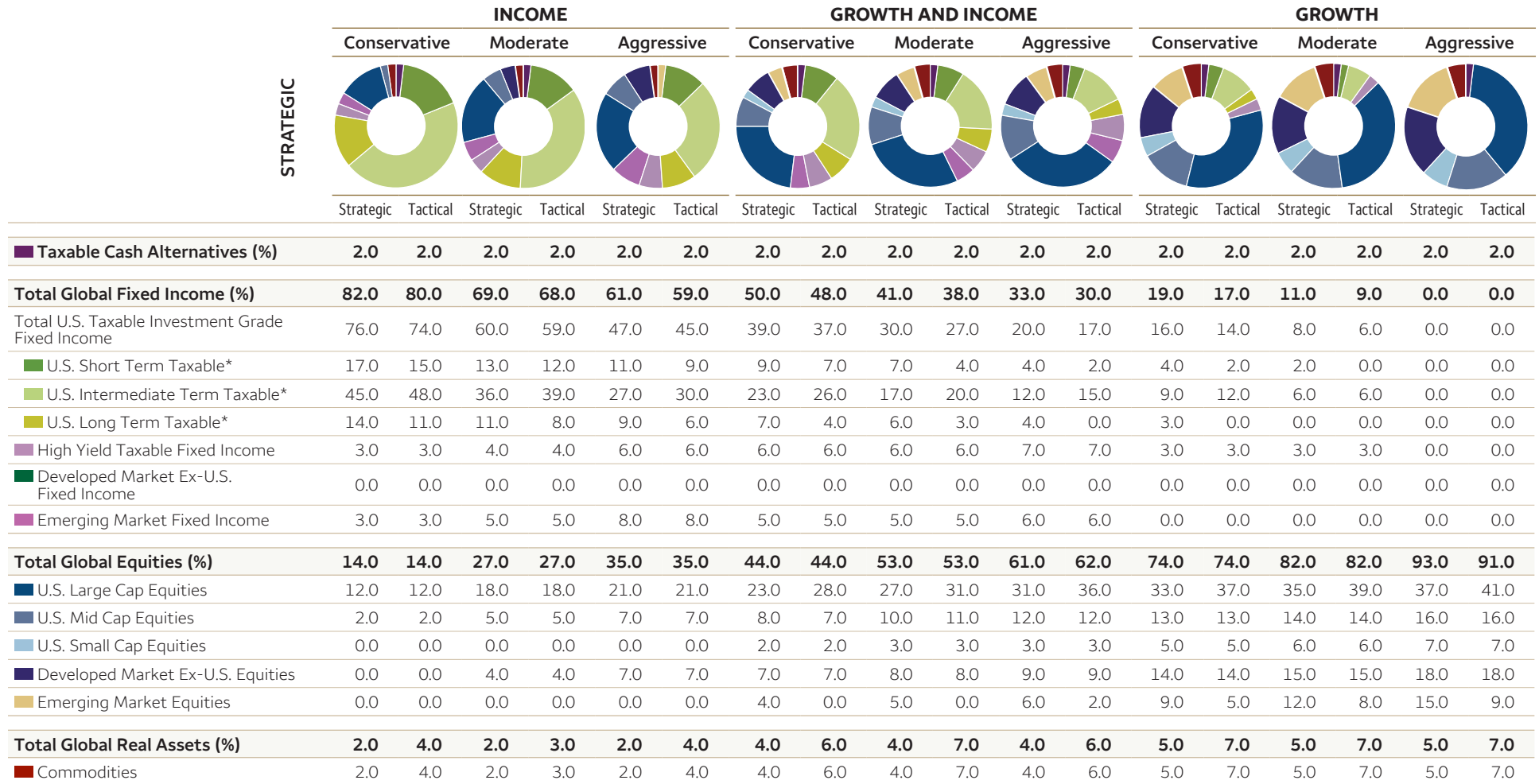
Asset Allocation Strategy Report

Executive Summary

August 15, 2024

Strategic and tactical asset allocation: Liquid

May include fixed income, equities, and real assets



Strategic allocations are updated annually; last update was July 16, 2024. Tactical allocations are updated periodically; last update was August 6, 2024. The U.S. Taxable Investment Grade Fixed Income encompasses the allocations to Short Term, Intermediate Term, and Long Term.

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Asset Allocation Strategy Report

Executive Summary

August 15, 2024

Strategic and tactical asset allocation: Illiquid

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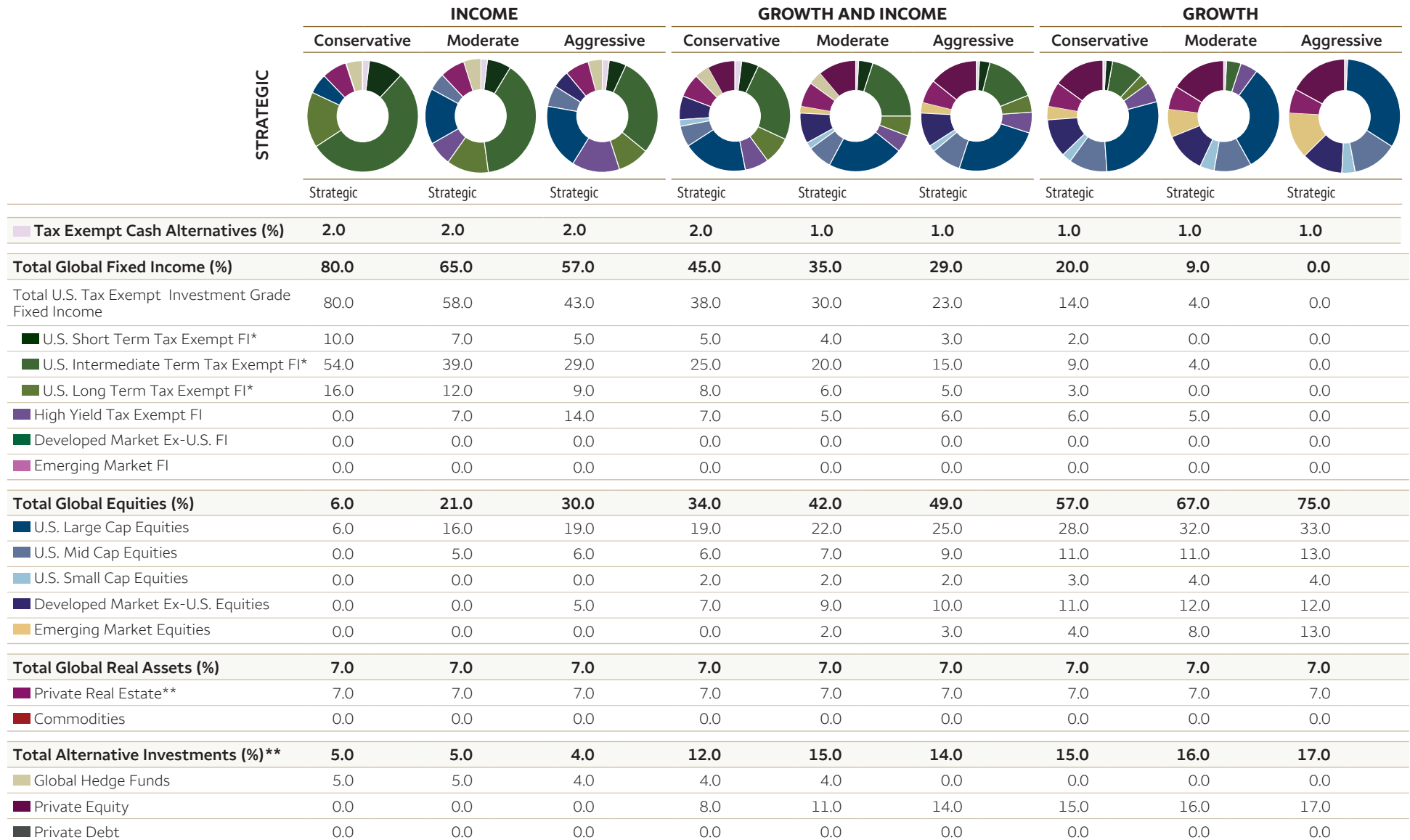
Asset Allocation Strategy Report

Executive Summary

August 15, 2024

Strategic asset allocation: Tax-efficient illiquid

May include fixed income, equities, real assets, and alternative investments



Tax-efficient strategic allocations are updated annually; last update was July 16, 2024. Tactical allocations are updated periodically. FI = fixed income. The U.S. Tax Exempt Investment Grade Fixed Income encompasses the allocations to Short Term, Intermediate Term, and Long Term. Hedge fund allocations are based on private hedge fund capital market assumptions. *Wells Fargo Advisors only.

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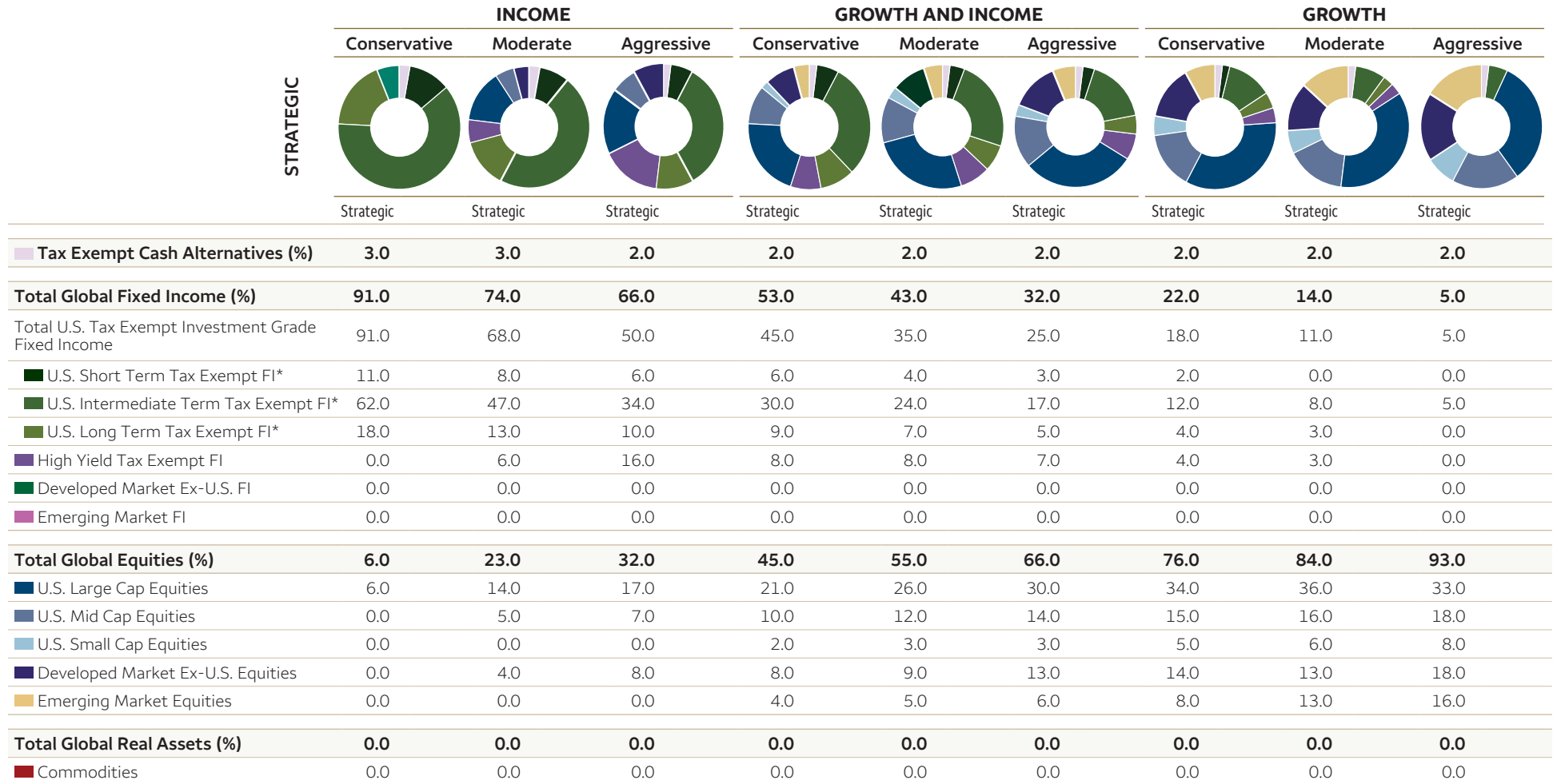
Asset Allocation Strategy Report

Executive Summary

August 15, 2024

Strategic asset allocation: Tax-efficient liquid

May include fixed income, equities, and real assets



Tax-efficient strategic allocations are updated annually; last update was July 16, 2024. Tactical allocations are updated periodically. FI = fixed income. The U.S. Tax Exempt Investment Grade Fixed Income encompasses the allocations to Short Term, Intermediate Term, and Long Term.

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Asset Allocation Strategy Report

Executive Summary

August 15, 2024

Forecasts, targets, and estimates are based on certain assumptions and on our views of market and economic conditions which are subject to change.

Past performance does not indicate future results. The value or income associated with a security or an investment may fluctuate. There is always the potential for loss as well as gain. Investments discussed in this report may be inappropriate for some investors depending on their specific investment objectives and financial position.

Asset class risks

Asset allocation and diversification are investment methods used to manage risk and cannot eliminate the risk of investment losses. Your individual allocation may be different than the strategic long-term allocation above due to your unique individual circumstances, but is targeted to be in the allocation ranges detailed. The asset allocation reflected above may fluctuate based on asset values, portfolio decisions, and account needs.

Alternative investments, such as hedge funds, private capital funds, and private real estate funds, carry specific investor qualifications and involve the risk of investment loss, including the loss of the entire amount invested. While investors may potentially benefit from the ability of alternative investments to potentially improve the risk-reward profiles of their portfolios, the investments themselves can carry significant risks. Government regulation and monitoring of these types of investments may be minimal or nonexistent. There may be no secondary market for alternative investment interests and transferability may be limited or even prohibited.

The use of alternative investment strategies, such as Equity Hedge, Event Driven, Macro and Relative Value, are speculative and involve a high degree of risk. These strategies may expose investors to risks such as short selling, leverage risk, counterparty risk, liquidity risk, volatility risk, the use of derivatives and other significant risks. The use of alternative investment strategies may require a manager's skill in assessing corporate events, the anticipation of future movements in securities prices, interest rates, or other economic factors. No assurance can be given that a manager's view of the economy will be correct which may result in lower investment returns or higher return volatility.

Private capital funds use complex trading strategies, including hedging and leveraging through derivatives and short selling. These funds often demand long holding periods to allow for a turnaround and exit strategy. Hedge fund and private equity/private capital fund investing involves other material risks including capital loss and the loss of the entire amount invested. A fund's offering documents should be carefully reviewed prior to investing.

Privately offered real estate funds carry significant risks. They are unlisted making them hard to value and trade. They are generally only available to accredited investors within the meaning of the U.S. securities laws. There can be no assurance a secondary market will exist for these funds and there may be restrictions on transferring interests.

Investing in long/short strategies is not appropriate for all investors. **Short** selling involves sophisticated investment techniques that can add additional risk, and

involves the risk of potentially unlimited increase in the market value of the security sold short, which could result in potentially unlimited loss for the Fund.

Cash alternatives including bank certificates of deposits, Treasury bills, and ultra-short bond mutual funds have advantages and disadvantages depending on the type of instrument. They typically offer lower rates of return than longer-term equity or fixed-income securities and may not keep pace with inflation over extended periods of time. While government securities are backed by the full faith and credit of the federal government as to payment of principal and interest if held to maturity and are considered free from credit risk, they are subject to interest rate risk.

Investing in commodities is not appropriate for all investors. Exposure to the commodities markets may subject an investment to greater share price volatility than an investment in traditional equity or debt securities. Investments in commodities may be affected by changes in overall market movements, commodity index volatility, changes in interest rates or factors affecting a particular industry or commodity. Products that invest in commodities may employ more complex strategies which may expose investors to additional risks.

Inflation-Indexed Bonds, including Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS), are subject to interest rate risk, especially when real interest rates rise. This may cause the underlying value of the bond in the portfolio to fluctuate more than other fixed income securities.

Investing in foreign securities presents certain risks that may not be present in domestic securities. For example, investments in foreign, emerging and frontier markets present special risks, including currency fluctuation, the potential for diplomatic and potential instability, regulatory and liquidity risks, foreign taxation and differences in auditing and other financial standards.

Investments in fixed-income securities are subject to market, interest rate, credit/default, liquidity, inflation and other risks. Bond prices fluctuate inversely to changes in interest rates. Therefore, a general rise in interest rates can result in the decline in the bond's price. Credit risk is the risk that an issuer will default on payments of interest and principal. High yield fixed income securities are considered speculative, involve greater risk of default, and tend to be more volatile than investment grade fixed income securities. Municipal bonds offer interest payments exempt from federal taxes, and potentially state and local income taxes. They are subject to credit risk and potentially the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). Quality varies widely depending on the specific issuer. All fixed income investments may be worth less than their original cost upon redemption or maturity.

Leveraged loans are generally below investment grade quality ("high-yield" securities or "junk" bonds). Investing in such securities should be viewed as speculative and investors should review their ability to assume the risks associated with investments which utilize such securities.

Equity securities are subject to market risk which means their value may fluctuate in response to general economic and market conditions and the perception of individual issuers. Investments in equity securities are generally more volatile than other types of securities.

Mortgage-related and asset-backed securities are subject to the risks associated with investment in debt securities. In addition, they are subject to prepayment and

call risks. Changes in prepayments may significantly affect yield, yielding investments may not be available for the Fund to purchase. These risks may be heightened for longer maturity and duration securities. Commercial Mortgage Backed Securities (CMBS) are a type of mortgage-backed security backed by commercial mortgages rather than residential real estate. CMBS tend to be more complex and volatile than residential mortgage-backed securities due to the unique nature of the underlying property assets.

Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs) involves certain risks which differ from an investment in the securities of a corporation. MLPs may be sensitive to price changes in oil, natural gas, etc., regulatory risk, and rising interest rates. A change in the current tax law regarding MLPs could result in the MLP being treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes which would reduce the amount of cash flows distributed by the MLP. Other risks include the volatility associated with the use of leverage; volatility of the commodities markets; market risks; supply and demand; natural and man-made catastrophes; competition; liquidity; market price discount from Net Asset Value and other material risks.

Preferred stocks are subject to issuer-specific and market risks. They are generally subordinated to bonds or other debt instruments in an issuer's capital structure, subjecting them to a greater risk of non-payment than more senior securities.

The prices of small and mid-cap company stocks are generally more volatile than large company stocks. They often involve higher risks because smaller companies may lack the management expertise, financial resources, product diversification and competitive strengths to endure adverse economic conditions.

Sector investing can be more volatile than investments that are broadly diversified over numerous sectors of the economy and will increase a portfolio's vulnerability to any single economic, political, or regulatory development affecting the sector. This can result in greater price volatility. **Communication Services** companies are vulnerable to their products and services becoming outdated because of technological advancement and the innovation of competitors. Companies in the Communication Services sector may also be affected by rapid technology changes, pricing competition, large equipment upgrades, substantial capital requirements, and government regulation and approval of products and services. In addition, companies within the industry may invest heavily in research and development which is not guaranteed to lead to successful implementation of the proposed product. Risks associated with the **Consumer Discretionary** sector include, among others, apparel price deflation due to low-cost entries, high inventory levels and pressure from e-commerce players, reduction in traditional advertising dollars, increasing household debt levels that could limit consumer appetite for discretionary purchases, declining consumer acceptance of new product introductions, and geopolitical uncertainty that could affect consumer sentiment. **Consumer Staples** industries can be significantly affected by competitive pricing particularly with respect to the growth of low-cost emerging market production, government regulation, the performance of the overall economy, interest rates, and consumer confidence. The **Energy** sector may be adversely affected by changes in worldwide energy prices, exploration, production spending, government regulation, and changes in exchange rates, depletion of natural resources, and risks that arise from extreme weather conditions. Investing in **Financial** services companies will subject an investment to adverse economic or regulatory occurrences affecting the sector. Some of the risks associated with investment in the **Health Care** sector include

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Executive Summary

August 15, 2024

competition on branded products, sales erosion due to cheaper alternatives, research and development risk, government regulations and government approval of products anticipated to enter the market. There is increased risk investing in the **Industrials** sector. The industries within the sector can be significantly affected by general market and economic conditions, competition, technological innovation, legislation and government regulations, among other things, all of which can significantly affect a portfolio's performance. **Materials** industries can be significantly affected by the volatility of commodity prices, the exchange rate between foreign currency and the dollar, export/import concerns, worldwide competition, procurement and manufacturing and cost containment issues. **Real Estate** investments have special risks, including possible illiquidity of the underlying properties, credit risk, interest rate fluctuations, and the impact of varied economic conditions. Risks associated with the **Technology** sector include increased competition from domestic and international companies, unexpected changes in demand, regulatory actions, technical problems with key products, and the departure of key members of management. Technology and Internet-related stocks, especially smaller, less-seasoned companies, tend to be more volatile than the overall market. **Utilities** are sensitive to changes in interest rates, and the securities within the sector can be volatile and may underperform in a slow economy.

Index definitions

An index is unmanaged and not available for direct investment.

Personal consumption expenditures (PCE) is the primary measure of consumer spending on goods and services in the U.S. economy. It accounts for about two-thirds of domestic final spending, and thus it is the primary engine that drives future economic growth.

Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI measures the price of a fixed basket of goods and services purchased by an average consumer.

The ICE U.S. Dollar Index is a weighted average of the value of the U.S. dollar relative to a basket of U.S. trade partner currencies, comprised of the euro, Japanese yen, pound sterling, Canadian dollar, Swedish krona, and Swiss franc. A higher index value indicates dollar appreciation.

Fixed income representative indexes

Cash Alternatives/Treasury Bills. Bloomberg U.S. Treasury Bills (1-3M) Index is representative of money markets.

U.S. Short Term Taxable Fixed Income. Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate 1-3 Year Bond Index is the 1-3 year component of the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond, which represents fixed-income securities that are SEC-registered, taxable, dollar-denominated, and investment-grade.

U.S. Intermediate Term Taxable Fixed Income. Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate 5-7 Year Bond Index is unmanaged and is composed of the Bloomberg U.S. Government/Credit Index and the Bloomberg U.S. Mortgage-Backed Securities Index, and includes Treasury issues, agency issues, corporate bond issues, and mortgage-backed securities with maturities of 5-7 years.

U.S. Long Term Taxable Fixed Income. Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate 10+ Year Bond Index is unmanaged and is composed of the Bloomberg U.S. Government/Credit Index and the Bloomberg U.S. Mortgage-Backed Securities Index, and includes

Treasury issues, agency issues, corporate bond issues, and mortgage-backed securities with maturities of 10 years or more.

U.S. Taxable Investment Grade Fixed Income. Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index is a broad-based measure of the investment grade, U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed-rate taxable bond market.

High Yield Taxable Fixed Income. Bloomberg U.S. Corporate High-Yield Index covers the universe of fixed rate, non-investment grade debt.

Developed Market Ex-U.S. Fixed Income (Unhedged). J.P. Morgan GBI Global ex-U.S. Index (Unhedged) in USD is an unmanaged market index that is representative of the total return performance in U.S. dollars on an unhedged basis of major non-U.S. bond markets.

Developed Market Ex-U.S. Fixed Income (Hedged). J.P. Morgan GBI ex U.S. Hedged is an unmanaged market index representative of the total return performance in U.S. dollars on an unhedged basis of major non-U.S. bond markets.

Emerging Market Fixed Income (U.S. dollar). J.P. Morgan Emerging Markets Bond Index (EMBI Global) currently covers more than 60 emerging market countries. Included in the EMBI Global are U.S.-dollar-denominated Brady bonds, Eurobonds, traded loans, and local market debt instruments issued by sovereign and quasi-sovereign entities.

U.S. Investment Grade Corporate Fixed Income. Bloomberg U.S. Corporate Bond Index measures the investment grade, fixed-rate, taxable corporate bond market. It includes USD denominated securities publicly issued by US and non-US industrial, utility and financial issuers.

Preferred Stock. ICE BofA Fixed Rate Preferred Securities Index tracks the performance of fixed rate US dollar denominated preferred securities issued in the U.S. domestic market.

Equity representative indexes

U.S. Large Cap Equities. S&P 500 Index is a capitalization-weighted index calculated on a total return basis with dividends reinvested. The index includes 500 widely held U.S. market industrial, utility, transportation and financial companies.

U.S. Mid Cap Equities. Russell Midcap Index measures the performance of the mid-cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. The Russell Midcap Index is a subset of the Russell 1000® Index. It includes approximately 800 of the smallest securities based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership. The Russell Midcap Index represents approximately 27% of the total market capitalization of the Russell 1000 companies.

U.S. Small Cap Equities. Russell 2000 Index measures the performance of the 2,000 smallest companies in the Russell 3000® Index, which represents approximately 8% of the total market capitalization of the Russell 3000 Index.

Developed Market Ex-U.S. Equities (U.S. dollar)/(Local). MSCI EAFE Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of 21 developed markets, excluding the U.S. and Canada.

Emerging Market Equities (U.S. dollar)/(Local). MSCI Emerging Markets Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure equity market performance of 23 emerging markets.

MSCI All Country World Index (MSCI ACWI) is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of 23 developed and 26 emerging markets.

Real assets representative indexes

Public Real Estate. FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Developed Index is designed to track the performance of listed real-estate companies and REITs in developed countries worldwide.

MLPs. Alerian MLP Index is a composite of the 50 most prominent energy Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs) that provides investors with an unbiased, comprehensive benchmark for this emerging asset class. The index, which is calculated using a float-adjusted, capitalization-weighted methodology, is disseminated real-time on a price-return basis and on a total-return basis.

Commodities (BCOMTR). Bloomberg Commodity Total Return Index (BCOMTR) is composed of future contracts and reflects the returns on a fully collateralized investment in the BCOM. This combines the returns of the BCOM with the returns on cash collateral invested in 13 week (3 month) U.S. Treasury Bills. Bloomberg Commodity Index (BCOM) is comprised of 23 exchange-traded futures on physical commodities weighted to account for economic significance and market liquidity.

Alternative strategies representative indexes

Global Hedge Funds. HFRI Fund Weighted Composite Index. A global, equal-weighted index of over 2,000 single-manager funds that report to HFR Database. Constituent funds report monthly net-of-all-fees performance in U.S. dollars and have a minimum of \$50 million under management or a 12-month track record of active performance. The HFRI Fund Weighted Composite Index does not include Funds of Hedge Funds.

Relative Value. HFRI Relative Value (Total) Index. Strategy is predicated on realization of a valuation discrepancy in the relationship between multiple securities. Managers employ a variety of fundamental and quantitative techniques to establish investment theses, and security types range broadly across equity, fixed income, derivative or other security types. Fixed income strategies are typically quantitatively driven to measure the existing relationship between instruments and, in some cases, identify attractive positions in which the risk adjusted spread between these instruments represents an attractive opportunity for the investment manager. Relative Value (RV) position may be involved in corporate transactions also, but as opposed to Event Driven (ED) exposures, the investment thesis is predicated on realization of a pricing discrepancy between related securities, as opposed to the outcome of the corporate transaction.

Macro. HFRI Macro (Total) Index. Encompass a broad range of strategies predicated on movements in underlying economic variables and the impact these have on equity, fixed income, hard-currency, and commodity markets. Managers employ a variety of techniques, both discretionary and systematic analysis, combinations of top-down and bottom-up theses, quantitative and fundamental approaches and long- and short-term holding periods. Although some

Asset Allocation Strategy Report

Executive Summary

August 15, 2024

strategies employ RV techniques, Macro strategies are distinct from RV strategies in that the primary investment thesis is predicated on predicted or future movements in the underlying instruments rather than on realization of a valuation discrepancy between securities. In a similar way, while both Macro and Equity Hedge managers may hold equity securities, the overriding investment thesis is predicated on the impact movements in underlying macroeconomic variables may have on security prices, as opposed to Equity Hedge (EH), in which the fundamental characteristics on the company are the most significant are integral to investment thesis.

Event Driven. HFRI Event Driven (Total) Index. Maintains positions in companies currently or prospectively involved in corporate transactions of a wide variety including mergers, restructurings, financial distress, tender offers, shareholder buybacks, debt exchanges, security issuance or other capital structure adjustments. Security types can range from most senior in the capital structure to most junior or subordinated and frequently involve additional derivative securities. Exposure includes a combination of sensitivities to equity markets, credit markets and idiosyncratic, company-specific developments. Investment theses are typically predicated on fundamental (as opposed to quantitative) characteristics, with the realization of the thesis predicated on a specific development exogenous to the existing capital structure.

Equity Hedge. HFRI Equity Hedge (Total) Index. Equity Hedge: Investment Managers who maintain positions both long and short in primarily equity and equity derivative securities. A wide variety of investment processes can be employed to arrive at an investment decision, including both quantitative and fundamental techniques; strategies can be broadly diversified or narrowly focused on specific sectors and can range broadly in terms of levels of net exposure, leverage employed, holding period, concentrations of market capitalizations and valuation ranges of typical portfolios. EH managers would typically maintain at least 50% exposure to, and may in some cases be entirely invested in, equities, both long and short.

Note: HFRI Indices have limitations (some of which are typical of other widely used indexes). These limitations include survivorship bias (the returns of the indexes may not be representative of all the hedge funds in the universe because of the tendency of lower performing funds to leave the index); heterogeneity (not all hedge funds are alike or comparable to one another, and the index may not accurately reflect the performance of a described style); and limited data (many hedge funds do not report to indexes, and, therefore, the index may omit funds, the inclusion of which might significantly affect the performance shown. The HFRI Indices are based on information self-reported by hedge fund managers that decide on their own, at any time, whether or not they want to provide, or continue to provide, information to HFR Asset Management, L.L.C. Results for funds that go out of business are included in the index until the date that they cease operations. Therefore, these indexes may not be complete or accurate representations of the hedge fund universe, and may be biased in several ways. Returns of the underlying hedge funds are net of fees and are denominated in USD.

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