

NAVIGATING THE MARKETS

The *Portfolio Compass* provides a snapshot of LPL Financial Research’s views on equity, equity sectors, fixed income, and alternative asset classes. This monthly publication illustrates our current views and will change as needed over a 3- to 12-month time horizon.

The top down is an important part of our asset allocation process. As a result, we have a macro section including our views of the global economy and key drivers of those views, and a section on what we are watching that might change those views.

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COMPASS CHANGES

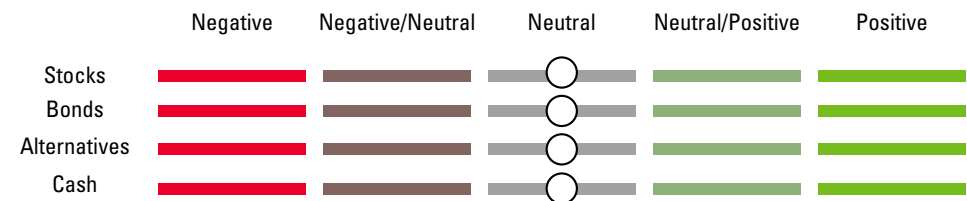
- None.

INVESTMENT TAKEAWAYS

- We expect 6–9% returns for the S&P 500 Index in 2017, commensurate with expected earnings gains.*
- We maintain our preference for cyclical sectors as the U.S. economic expansion continues.
- Our technology view remains modestly positive but we acknowledge that after year-to-date strength, valuations are less compelling.
- Economic and corporate fundamentals for emerging market equities have improved and valuations remain attractive, although uncertain U.S. trade policy remains a risk.
- Recent upgrades to our large and small foreign views reflect meaningful increases in earnings growth in late 2016 and 2017 expectations.
- Expensive valuations in sectors like investment-grade corporates, high yield, and emerging market debt suggest moving up slightly in credit quality.
- Expected gradual Federal Reserve (Fed) rate hikes and slow economic growth are supportive of bonds near term, though rising interest rates may be a headwind longer term as growth and inflation expectations rise.
- For fixed income allocations, we emphasize a blend of high-quality intermediate bonds and a small allocation to less interest rate-sensitive sectors, such as bank loans or high-yield bonds, for suitable investors.
- From a technical perspective, the S&P 500 Index price continues to operate above its 200-day moving average, increasing the likelihood of a sustained long-term bullish trend.

BROAD ASSET CLASS VIEWS

LPL Financial Research’s views on stocks, bonds, cash, and alternatives are illustrated below.



All performance referenced herein is as of July 18, 2017, unless otherwise noted.

*As noted in our *Midyear Outlook 2017: A Shift In Market Control*, we expect the S&P 500 Index total return to be 6–9%, driven by 1) a pickup in U.S. economic growth; 2) mid- to high-single-digit earnings gains; 3) a stable price-to-earnings ratio (PE) of 19–20; and 4) prospects for a fiscal policy boost to earnings in 2018.

MACROECONOMIC VIEWS

	Economic Factor	Outlook	Investing Impact
ECONOMY	U.S. GDP Growth	We expect gross domestic product (GDP) growth near 2.5% in 2017.*	Absence of a recession would likely support equity markets.
	Consumer Spending	Possible tax stimulus, strong labor market, stock gains should help, but has been restrained thus far in 2017.	Supports consumer cyclicals, but potential growth in business spending may be more important.
	Business Spending	Tax reform, infrastructure spending, deregulation may help; watching trade policy.	Industrials would be most likely to benefit; upside for tech but some policy risks.
	Housing	Tight supply, years of underbuilding may help, but higher rates a potential headwind.	A stronger turnaround could support housing and financials stocks.
	Import/Export	Weaker dollar helps; service sector exports strong; uncertainty around trade.	Supports technology, business services; some uncertainty for multinationals.
	Labor Market	Steadily improving overall. Early signs of wage pressure appearing.	May put modest pressure on margins.
	Inflation	Wages, economic growth, policy agenda may raise expectations.	Interest rates likely to rise but only gradually. May help financials.
	Business Cycle	Still mid-cycle but have likely moved into latter third.	Equity markets may have room to run, but expect more volatility.
	Dollar	Weaker in 2017 as markets unwind some of the post-election policy assumptions.	Likely to be largely neutral for earnings.
	Global GDP Growth	Improvement likely in 2017, led by international markets. Trade uncertainty remains a risk.	Upside with risks for global multinationals; global diversification may provide benefits.
POLICY	Fiscal	Tax reform likely, but ETA may not be until 2018; infrastructure may come later.	May provide a welcome economic lift, but government debt still a potential long-term headwind.
	Monetary	Market adjusting to prospects of continued steady pace of rate hikes.	Interest rates may be a modest headwind for quality bonds.
	Government	Republican president and Congress reduces gridlock but awaiting policy clarification.	May contribute to volatility; some concerns persist around trade.
RISKS	Financial	Political environment may lead to looser credit standards, accelerate deregulation.	Net positives in the short term, but higher volatility would still be normal for this point in business cycle.
	Geopolitical & Other	Monitoring Chinese economy, North Korea, Islamic State, trade tensions.	May contribute to higher stock volatility.
OVERSEAS	Developed Overseas	Monetary policy supportive, but Brexit and upcoming elections increase uncertainty in Europe.	Political events may increase currency volatility, but will be a relief for investors if the status quo is maintained.
	Emerging Markets	Oil rebound helps many. Economic growth may have peaked in China. Indian economy seems to be improving, but leverage crackdown may damage recovery.	Faster growth ex-China may help lift low valuations.
FINANCIAL CONDITIONS	Corporate Profits	Improved earnings in 2017 driven by better economic outlook, rebounding energy sector profits, and resilient profit margins.	May be supportive of modest stock market gains.
	Main Street	Fed Beige Book depicts optimistic economic outlook despite below-trend growth.	Supports cyclical sector performance.

Source: LPL Research, U.S. Department of Energy, Haver Analytics 07/18/17

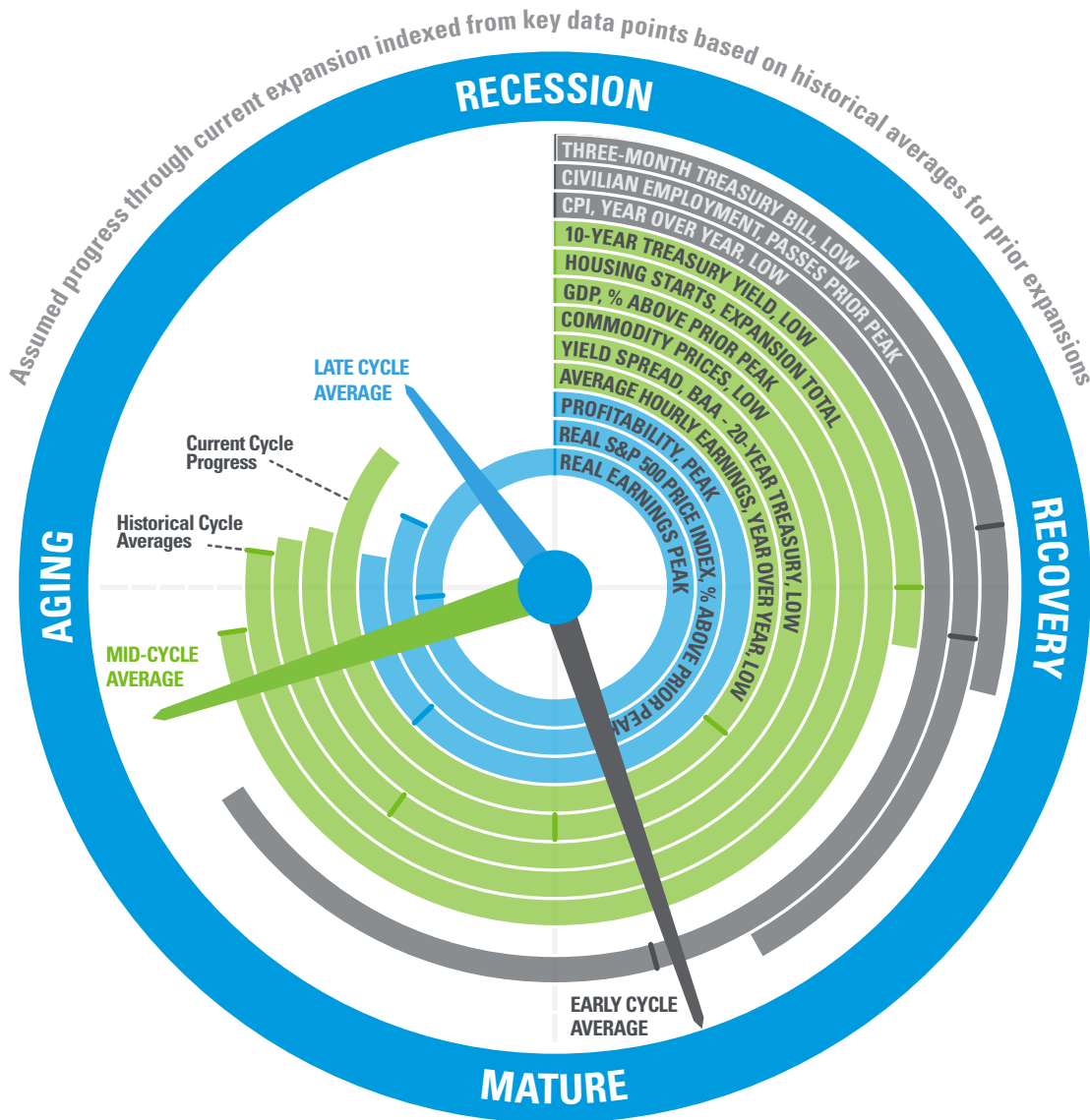
*Our forecast for GDP growth near 2.5% is based on the historical mid-cycle growth rate of the last 50 years. Economic growth is affected by changes to inputs such as: business and consumer spending, housing, net exports, capital investments, and government spending. Although potential delays in passing major fiscal policies introduce some risk to the downside.

The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide or be construed as providing specific investment advice or recommendations for your clients. Any economic forecasts set forth in the presentation may not develop as predicted and there can be no guarantee that strategies promoted will be successful.

WHAT WE'RE WATCHING

The Cycle Clock suggests we are in the mid-to-late stage of the current expansion. Monetary policy is still exhibiting early cycle behavior, with lows from yields still relatively recent. Some items relating to corporate profits are showing late cycle behavior, although they may reset if profits improve.

"What We're Watching" features indicators that are key to the current LPL Financial Research macroeconomic outlook. Economic and market dynamics will dictate featured topics and their durability.



Sources: LPL Research, Federal Reserve, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Standard & Poor's, Robert Shiller, National Bureau of Economic Research, Haver Analytics 07/18/17

The 10-year Treasury yield hit a new low for the current cycle in July 2016 (based on the daily average), shifting us to earlier in the cycle by that metric.

Data for all series are as of July 18, 2017. Starting point for all series is June 1954 except housing starts (March 1961), hourly earnings (December 1970), and commodity prices (December 1970). Real prices and real earnings determined using the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (CPI-U). Commodity prices are based on the GSCI Total Return Index. Profitability is based on real profit per unit value added for non-financial corporate business based on current production as calculated by the BEA.

ASSET CLASS & SECTOR TOP PICKS

Below we provide our top overall ideas across the various asset classes and sectors covered in this publication, as well as our best ideas within the three disciplines of our investment process: fundamentals, technicals, and valuations. More details on these and other investment ideas can be found in subsequent pages.

Characteristics	EQUITY ASSET CLASSES	EQUITY SECTORS	FIXED INCOME	Characteristics	ALTERNATIVE ASSET CLASSES
BEST OVERALL IDEAS	U.S. Stocks Emerging Markets (EM)	Technology Industrials Financials	Investment-Grade Corporates Mortgage-Backed Securities (MBS) Bank Loans	BEST OVERALL IDEAS	Long/Short Equity
Fundamentals	U.S. Stocks U.S. Small Caps Master Limited Partnerships (MLP)	Technology Industrials Financials	Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS) Bank Loans	Catalysts	Global Macro Event Driven Long/Short Equity
Technicals	U.S. Stocks U.S. Small Caps EM	Technology Healthcare Financials	Investment-Grade Corporates Municipal Bonds Bank Loans	Trading Environment	Long/Short Equity
Valuations	Large Foreign EM	Healthcare Telecom	Treasuries MBS	Volatility	Global Macro Long/Short Equity Managed Futures

READING THE PORTFOLIO COMPASS

RATING	ICON	
Negative	■ ●	<p>Fundamental, technical, and valuation characteristics for each category are shown by their blue icons below, and displayed as colored squares.</p> <p>Negative, neutral, or positive views are illustrated as a colored circle positioned over the scale, whereas an outlined black circle with an arrow indicates change, and shows the previous view.</p> <p>Rationales for our views are provided on the right side.</p>
Negative/Neutral	■ ●	
Neutral	■ ●	
Positive/Neutral	■ ●	
Positive	■ ●	
Previous Position	⊙	

Sector | **F** | **T** | **V** | **⊖** | **○** | **⊕** | **S&P*** | **Rationale**

Materials | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ● | 3.2 | China stimulus could help more, but technicals are negative and China's growth is stalling

Energy | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ● | 8.2 | Intriguing potential contrarian opportunity, but supply and technicals suggest caution, favor MLPs.

Global macro strategy is a hedge fund strategy that selects its holdings primarily on the macroeconomic and political views of various countries, and is subject to numerous risks such as: geopolitical, derivative, commodity, volatility, currency, and regulatory.

Long/short equity strategies are subject to normal alternative investment risks, including potentially higher fees; while there is additional management risk, as the manager is attempting to accurately anticipate the likely movement of both their long and short holdings. There is also the risk of "beta-mismatch," in which long positions could lose more than short positions during falling markets.

EQUITY ASSET CLASSES

We expect 6–9% returns for the S&P 500 Index in 2017, commensurate with expected earnings gains, though fiscal policy offers potential upside to that forecast. We forecast mid- to high-single-digit earnings growth in 2017, driven by better economic growth, resilient corporate profit margins, a stable U.S. dollar, and rebounding energy sector profits. We continue to see a pitched battle between growth and value in 2017; better financials sector performance likely needed to reverse recent value style underperformance. We expect improved small and mid cap performance as prospects for corporate tax reform potentially begin to improve. Geographically, we favor U.S. and EM.

Sector		F	T	V	⊖	○	⊕	Rationale
Style/Capitalization	Large Growth	■	■	■				Mid-to-late stages of economic cycle, potential repatriation of overseas cash at lower tax rates, and technicals are positive for large, but small caps generally benefit more from Trump's policy agenda. Our style views are generally aligned; our financials (biggest value sector) and tech views (biggest growth sector) are both positive, growth valuations are marginally more attractive, but the macro environment slightly favors value.
	Large Value	■	■	■				
	Mid Growth	■	■	■				Mid cap valuations have become attractive relative to large caps and we may see more merger and acquisition activity as policy clarity emerges, which may help mid caps. Positive bias.
	Mid Value	■	■	■				
	Small Growth	■	■	■				Small caps benefit from a potentially lower corporate tax rate and are more insulated—or may benefit—from changes in U.S. trade policy. An aging business cycle and tax reform stumbles are key risks.
	Small Value	■	■	■				
Region	U.S. Stocks	■	■	■				Among developed markets, we remain U.S. focused and are monitoring U.S. trade policy, European elections, earnings, and currency movements to assess international opportunities. U.S. valuations are at the high end of fair.
	Large Foreign	■	■	■				Earnings growth came through in Q1, providing a big boost to stock prices but keeping valuations in check. Expectations for the rest of the year are lower, but comparisons are more difficult as 2016 oil declines anniversary. We are seeing markets increasingly distinguish between European and Japanese stocks.
	Small Foreign	■	■	■				
	Emerging Markets	■	■	■				U.S. trade policy risk has eased some, while as in developed markets, emerging market earnings have come in above expectations, allowing valuations to remain attractive. The weaker U.S. dollar has been a tailwind for the asset class; a sharply rising dollar is a potential risk.
MLPs	MLPs	■	■	■				MLPs have been volatile with oil this year, but we believe this is still an attractive opportunity for suitable investors as Texas and Oklahoma become the de facto swing energy producers.

Investing in MLPs involves additional risks as compared with the risks of investing in common stock, including risks related to cash flow, dilution, and voting rights. MLPs may trade less frequently than larger companies due to their smaller capitalizations, which may result in erratic price movement or difficulty in buying or selling. MLPs are subject to significant regulation and may be adversely affected by changes in the regulatory environment, including the risk that an MLP could lose its tax status as a partnership. Additional management fees and other expenses are associated with investing in MLP funds.

EQUITY SECTORS

We maintain our preference for cyclical sectors as the U.S. economic expansion continues. Technology poised to benefit from continued solid earnings growth as business investment potentially picks up. Industrials may benefit from increased infrastructure and defense spending, as well as improving global demand. Financials remain positioned to benefit from deregulation that may free up capital for lending and dividends, while tighter monetary may help profitability via a steeper yield curve. Healthcare valuations still discount an overly pessimistic regulatory climate in our view despite strong 2017 performance.

	Sector	F	T	V	⊖	○	⊕	S&P*	Rationale
Cyclical	Materials	■	■	■	●	○	●	2.9	Positives include improved China growth outlook, infrastructure spending potential, and earnings rebound; trade policy and currencies are keys to outlook, more inflation would help.
	Energy	■	■	■	●	○	●	6.0	We see near-term upside to oil prices potentially to the mid-\$50s; Saudi-Russia production cut extension helped but U.S. production gains may limit upside.
	Industrials	■	■	■	●	○	●	10.3	Potential stronger global growth, infrastructure and defense spending, and energy stability are positive; valuations now slightly above S&P 500 but earnings trends have been good.
	Consumer Discretionary	■	■	■	●	○	●	12.2	Slowing earnings momentum, the age of the business cycle, and e-commerce disruption in retail are among concerns; dip in energy prices helps as summer driving/cooling season underway.
	Technology	■	■	■	●	○	●	22.9	Solid earnings outlook, potential for pickup in business spending, and technology's role as productivity enabler are positives; valuations less compelling following strong 2017 performance.
	Financials	■	■	■	●	○	●	14.4	Deregulation and strong earnings outlook are supportive; a potentially steeper yield curve and stronger loan demand may be needed for next leg higher.
Defensive	Utilities	■	■	■	●	○	●	3.1	Valuations in line with S&P 500 levels are expensive; we continue to favor cyclical sectors at this stage of the cycle and see limited potential for a boost from lower interest rates.
	Healthcare	■	■	■	●	○	●	14.4	We continue to believe regulatory risk is being overly discounted in sector valuations even as last-ditch ACA reform efforts by the GOP continue; favorable demographics long term.
	Consumer Staples	■	■	■	●	○	●	8.9	Our preference for cyclical sectors and interest rate risk suggests caution with this defensive dividend-oriented sector; would likely help provide some cushion in a potential stock market correction.
	Telecommunications	■	■	■	●	○	●	2.0	Sluggish sector growth outlook and interest rate risk drive caution despite rich yields, low valuations, and deregulation potential.
	Real Estate	■	■	■	●	○	●	2.9	Dividend sector weakness has been a headwind in recent months but job gains have been steady, overbuilding is limited, and yields are rich; market pullback may be required to reverse relative weakness.

* S&P 500 Weight (%)

Investing in real estate/REITs involves special risks such as potential illiquidity and may not be suitable for all investors. There is no assurance that the investment objectives of this program will be attained.

Because of its narrow focus, specialty sector investing, such as healthcare, financials, or energy, will be subject to greater volatility than investing more broadly across many sectors and companies.

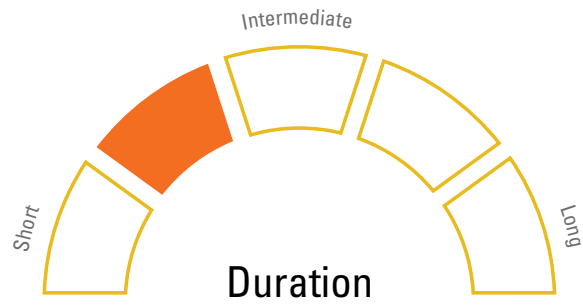
There is no guarantee that a diversified portfolio will enhance overall returns or outperform a nondiversified portfolio. Diversification does not ensure against market risk.

FIXED INCOME

Municipal bonds (as measured by the Bloomberg Barclays Municipal Bond Index) returned -0.4% in June, pressured by rising longer-term interest rates. Markets are still awaiting more details on the Trump administration’s policy impacts with particular focus on tax policy and infrastructure spending. Municipal bonds’ credit quality remains generally good; problem issuers remain isolated and have not impacted the broader market.



Maintaining a cautious approach as valuations richen further, but still prefer corporate bonds to government bonds.



Interest rate sensitivity is less defensive but still lower than the benchmark due to expensive valuations.

Yield spread is the difference between yields on differing debt instruments, calculated by deducting the yield of one instrument from another. The higher the yield spread, the greater the difference between the yields offered by each instrument. The spread can be measured between debt instruments of differing maturities, credit ratings, and risk.

Sector	F	T	V	⊖	○	⊕	Rationale
Munis–Short-Term	■	■	■	⊖	○	⊕	Recent outperformance has led to expensive relative valuations.
Munis–Intermediate-Term	■	■	■	⊖	○	⊕	Valuations have richened over the past month and remain above the 5-year average.
Munis–Long-Term	■	■	■	⊖	○	⊕	Long-term yields are more attractive than short-term, though longer duration may be a headwind if rates rise.
Munis–High-Yield	■	■	■	⊖	○	⊕	Valuations remain elevated, though additional yield remains a factor. Long duration may be a headwind with long-term rates at the bottom of their recent range.

Continued on next page.

For the purposes of this publication, intermediate-term bonds have maturities between 3 and 10 years, and short-term bonds are those with maturities of less than 3 years.

All bonds are subject to market and interest rate risk if sold prior to maturity. Bond values will decline as interest rates rise and are subject to availability and change in price.

High-yield/junk bonds are not investment-grade securities, involve substantial risks, and generally should be part of the diversified portfolio of sophisticated investors.

Municipal interest income may be subject to the alternative minimum tax. Federally tax-free but other state and local taxes may apply.

Corporate bonds are considered higher risk than government bonds but normally offer a higher yield and are subject to market, interest rate, and credit risk, as well as additional risks based on the quality of issuer coupon rate, price, yield, maturity, and redemption features.

FIXED INCOME (CONTINUED)

For fixed income allocations, we continue to emphasize a blend of high-quality intermediate bonds coupled with a small allocation to less interest rate-sensitive sectors such as bank loans or high-yield bonds for suitable investors. Though near-term policy hopes have faded somewhat, positive longer-term expectations continue to drive expensive valuations across spread sectors like investment-grade corporates, high yield, and emerging market debt. We maintain a cautious approach with credit-sensitive areas of the market, but a “coupon-clipping” environment may still aid suitable investors.

	Sector	F	T	V	⊖	○	⊕	Rationale
Taxable Bonds – U.S.	Treasuries	■	■	■	▬	●	▬	Yield spreads to overseas alternatives remain elevated relative to history, which may continue to keep a lid on rates in the near term.
	TIPS	■	■	■	▬	●	▬	TIPS may outperform Treasuries if inflation expectations rise, though interest rate sensitivity remains a headwind.
	Mortgage-Backed Securities (MBS)	■	■	■	▬	●	▬	Fed comments about potentially ending reinvestment of maturing MBS on the Fed balance sheet is a risk, though likely not an immediate one. Duration has extended further, but yield per unit of duration remains attractive relative to other high-quality options at this time.
	Investment-Grade Corporates	■	■	■	▬	●	▬	Spreads remain close to multi-year lows, but we still find incremental value in corporate bonds.
	Preferred Stocks	■	■	■	▬	●	▬	Fundamentals are firm for U.S. banks, but low yields, above-average valuations and very strong year to date performance warrant caution. Post-election bond sell-off and subsequent recovery showed the sector’s sensitivity to interest rates.
	High-Yield Corporates	■	■	■	▬	●	▬	Average yield spread remains at 3.6%. Spreads largely price in lowered default expectations and leave little room for error, but yields remain attractive. Oil price or equity market weakness could be negative drivers.
	Bank Loans	■	■	■	▬	●	▬	Floating rates may benefit holders if short-term rates continue to rise, though valuations are less attractive than they were earlier this year. Less energy exposure compared with high yield.
Taxable Bonds – Foreign	Foreign Bonds – Hedged	■	■	■	▬	●	▬	Given easing bias of foreign central banks, the sector may be more resilient if U.S. rates move higher.
	Foreign Bonds – Unhedged	■	■	■	●	▬	▬	Potential currency volatility, low yields, and unattractive valuations are negatives.
	Emerging Market Debt	■	■	■	▬	●	▬	Spreads remain tight relative to history. Profit taking from strong year-to-date performance remains a risk.

Investing in foreign and emerging market debt securities involves special additional risks. These risks include, but are not limited to, currency risk, geopolitical and regulatory risk, and risk associated with varying settlement standards.

Mortgage-backed securities are subject to credit, default, prepayment risk that acts much like call risk when you get your principal back sooner than the stated maturity, extension risk, the opposite of prepayment risk, market and interest rate risk.

Bank loans are loans issued by below investment-grade companies for short-term funding purposes with higher yield than short-term debt and involve risk.

Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS) help eliminate inflation risk to your portfolio, as the principal is adjusted semiannually for inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI)— while providing a real rate of return guaranteed by the U.S. government. Investing in foreign and emerging markets debt securities involves special additional risks. These risks include, but are not limited to, currency risk, geopolitical, and regulatory risk, and risk associated with varying settlement standards.

COMMODITIES & ALTERNATIVE ASSET CLASSES

Agriculture and metal prices have rebounded in recent weeks on improved global supply-demand prospects, while oil prices have been choppy as domestic energy production has trended slightly higher as rig counts have risen in response to previously higher prices. Precious and industrial metals have benefited from a weaker U.S. dollar, continued monetary policy support from the Federal Reserve, and improving China sentiment. We remain constructive on long/short equity strategies, who continue to benefit from low levels of correlation between sectors, as well as favorable sector positioning.

Sector		F	T	V	⊖	○	⊕	Rationale
Commodities	Industrial Metals	■	■					Base metals have benefited from improving China demand and U.S. dollar weakness, while fiscal policy/infrastructure spending may provide an additional boost. The Chinese economy grew faster than expected in Q2, but may have peaked for the year, presenting a risk for metal prices over the balance of the year.
	Precious Metals	■	■					U.S. dollar weakness and likely go-slow approach from the Fed helped precious metals stabilize in mid-July, although latest softer inflation data has reduced gold's appeal some and interest rate risk remains.
	Energy	■	■					Higher U.S. production may cap oil price gains in the mid-\$50s range in 2017. The extended global production agreement helped some but is not likely to drive an oil breakout above its 2017 highs.
	Agricultural	■	■					Weak U.S. crops, particularly wheat, have pushed agriculture price indexes higher, helping to offset impact of elevated inventories that weighed on prices much of 2017. Trade policy and currency are important factors to watch for agricultural prices.
Sector		T	C	V	⊖	○	⊕	Rationale
Alternatives	Long/Short Equity	■	■	■				We continue to be cautious on more directional equity managers and favor those with conservative or variable net exposures and a history of generating alpha from their short positioning. The strategy continues to benefit from low levels of correlation between sectors, as well as favorable sector positioning. We remain aware of underlying factor exposures, given the potential for rapid market rotations.
	Event Driven	■	■	■				Corporate transaction activity remains healthy, while an increase in interest rates has historically led to more attractive merger spreads. Political and regulation uncertainty exists, but has yet to disrupt the broader deal environment. Prefer managers with ability to hedge equity beta and focus solely on idiosyncratic risk. Position crowding has not been a recent concern; however, believe manager's ability to source unique opportunities will provide additional value.
	Managed Futures	■	■	■				As the majority of the industry's intermediate-term trend following systems favor long equity, long fixed income, and to a lesser extent short energy exposure; strategies balancing trend signals across distinct time horizons and asset classes are best suited to manage any market disruptions. The use of multi-manager or a combination of uncorrelated strategies should also be considered to smooth return profiles.
	Global Macro	■	■	■				We maintain a constructive view of the global macro investing environment, as the potential for shifts in fiscal policy, increasing global political uncertainty, and economic divergences are all constructive components of an increasingly attractive opportunity set.

LEGEND

CHARACTERISTICS	ICON	DEFINITION
Catalysts	C T	Potential for favorable macroeconomic and/or idiosyncratic market developments that may benefit the investment strategy.
Trading Environment	T E	Market characteristics present sufficient investment opportunities for this investment style.
Volatility	V O	The current volatility regime provides a constructive environment that an investment of this style can capitalize on.

Alternative strategies may not be suitable for all investors and should be considered as an investment for the risk capital portion of the investor's portfolio. The strategies employed in the management of alternative investments may accelerate the velocity of potential losses.

Commodity-linked investments may be more volatile and less liquid than the underlying instruments or measures, and their value may be affected by the performance of the overall commodities baskets as well as weather, geopolitical events, and regulatory developments.

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

All performance referenced is historical and is no guarantee of future results.

There is no assurance that the techniques and strategies discussed are suitable for all investors or will yield positive outcomes. The purchase of certain securities may be required to affect some of the strategies.

Stock and Pooled Investment Risks

Investing in stock includes numerous specific risks including: the fluctuation of dividend, loss of principal and potential illiquidity of the investment in a falling market.

Investing in foreign and emerging markets securities involves special additional risks. These risks include, but are not limited to, currency risk, geopolitical risk, and risk associated with varying accounting standards. Investing in emerging markets may accentuate these risks.

Bond and Debt Equity Risks

Government bonds and Treasury bills are guaranteed by the U.S. government as to the timely payment of principal and interest and, if held to maturity, offer a fixed rate of return and fixed principal value. However, the value of fund shares is not guaranteed and will fluctuate.

Alternative Risks

Currency risk is a form of risk that arises from the change in price of one currency against another. Whenever investors or companies have assets or business operations across national borders, they face currency risk if their positions are not hedged.

Global macro strategy is a hedge fund strategy that selects its holdings primarily on the macroeconomic and political views of various countries, and is subject to numerous risks such as: geopolitical, derivative, commodity, volatility, currency, and regulatory.

Event driven strategies, such as merger arbitrage, consist of buying shares of the target company in a proposed merger and fully or partially hedging the exposure to the acquirer by shorting the stock of the acquiring company or other means. This strategy involves significant risk as events may not occur as planned and disruptions to a planned merger may result in significant loss to a hedged position.

Managed futures strategies use systematic quantitative programs to find and invest in positive and negative trends in the futures markets for financials and commodities. Futures and forward trading is speculative, includes a high degree of risk that the anticipated market outcome may not occur, and may not be suitable for all investors.

DEFINITIONS

The simple moving average is an arithmetic moving average that is calculated by adding the closing price of the security for a number of time periods and then dividing this total by the number of time periods. Short-term averages respond quickly to changes in the price of the underlying, while long-term averages are slow to react.

The Beige Book is a commonly used name for the Federal Reserve's (Fed) report called the Summary of Commentary on Current Economic Conditions by Federal Reserve District. It is published just before the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting on interest rates and is used to inform the members on changes in the economy since the last meeting.

Technical Analysis is a methodology for evaluating securities based on statistics generated by market activity, such as past prices, volume and momentum, and is not intended to be used as the sole mechanism for trading decisions. Technical analysts do not attempt to measure a security's intrinsic value, but instead use charts and other tools to identify patterns and trends. Technical analysis carries inherent risk, chief amongst which is that past performance is not indicative of future results. Technical Analysis should be used in conjunction with Fundamental Analysis within the decision making process and shall include but not be limited to the following considerations: investment thesis, suitability, expected time horizon, and operational factors, such as trading costs are examples.

London Interbank Offered Rate (Libor): An interest rate at which banks can borrow funds, in marketable size, from other banks in the London interbank market. The Libor is fixed on a daily basis by the British Bankers' Association. The Libor is derived from a filtered average of the world's most creditworthy banks' interbank deposit rates for larger loans with maturities between overnight and one full year.

The PE ratio (price-to-earnings ratio) is a measure of the price paid for a share relative to the annual net income or profit earned by the firm per share. It is a financial ratio used for valuation: a higher PE ratio means that investors are paying more for each unit of net income, so the stock is more expensive compared to one with lower PE ratio.

Alpha measures the difference between a portfolio's actual returns and its expected performance, given its level of risk as measured by Beta. A positive (negative) Alpha indicates the portfolio has performed better (worse) than its Beta would predict.

Beta measures a portfolio's volatility relative to its benchmark. A Beta greater than 1 suggests the portfolio has historically been more volatile than its benchmark. A Beta less than 1 suggests the portfolio has historically been less volatile than its benchmark.

INDEX DEFINITIONS

All indexes are unmanaged and cannot be invested into directly.

The S&P 500 Index is a capitalization-weighted index of 500 stocks designed to measure performance of the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries.

The Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Municipal Bond Index covers the USD-denominated long-term tax-exempt bond market. The index has four main sectors: state and local general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, insured bonds, and prerefunded bonds.

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