

# Portfolio Compass



November 28, 2012

## Navigating the Markets

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

### Reading the *Portfolio Compass*

Fundamental, technical, and valuation characteristics for each category are shown by colored squares.

Negative, neutral, or positive views are illustrated by a solid black bar positioned over the color scale, while an outlined black bar with an arrow indicates change and shows the previous view.

Rationales for our views are provided beneath each category.

### Compass Changes

- No changes.

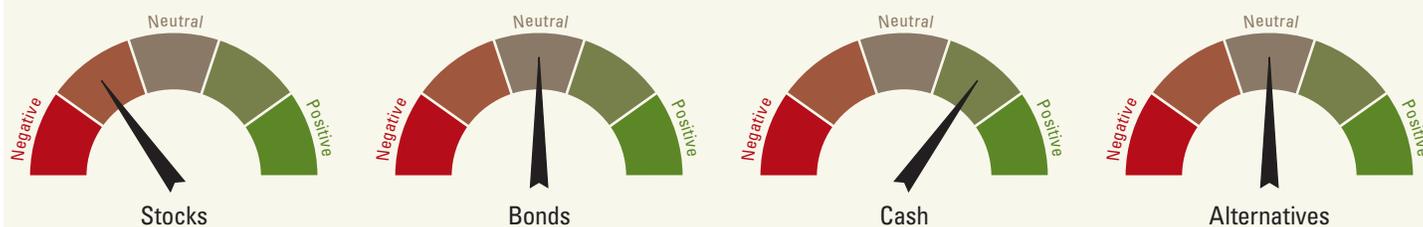
### Investment Takeaways

- Our near-term stock market view remains slightly cautious, with the S&P 500 having reached our 2012 return target (as of November 27, 2012) and given our base case expectation for modest single-digit returns in 2013.\*
- We continue to favor cyclical sectors for the balance of 2012 and into 2013, consistent with our base case 2013 outlook.\*
- We continue to favor precious metals amid Quantitative Easing 3 (QE3), which we expect to weaken the US dollar.
- Our emerging markets view is positively biased, as China's growth is troughing.
- Higher yielding segments of the bond market remain attractive, but we have tempered our enthusiasm.
- Good financial earnings are positive for preferred securities and help offset lower yields.
- We find municipal bonds among the more attractive high-quality bond options. The prospect of higher taxes bodes well, offset by lingering risks of a 28% cap on the exemption of tax-exempt interest income.
- The S&P 500 has closed back above its 200-day simple moving average (SMA) at 1383, establishing a short-term bullish price objective at the 50-day SMA at 1424.

\*LPL Financial Research provided these forecasts based on: a low-single-digit earnings growth rate supported by modest share buybacks combined with 2% dividend yields and little change in valuations for the S&P 500; bond market forecasts are for the Barclays Aggregate Index and are based upon a less than one percentage point rise in rates, with price declines offset by interest income. Please see our *2013 Outlook* for details.

### Broad Asset Class Views

LPL Financial Research's views on stocks, bonds, cash, and alternatives are illustrated below. The positions of negative, neutral, or positive are indicated by the solid black compass needle, while an outlined needle shows a previous view.



## Equity & Alternative Asset Classes

### Maintain Cautious Stock Market View in Base Case 2013 Outlook; Favor Precious Metals

- Our near-term stock market view remains slightly cautious, with the S&P 500 having reached our 2012 return target (as of November 27, 2012), and given our base case expectation for modest single-digit returns in 2013.\*
- Our views are generally aligned across market cap, with a slight preference for large and mid caps. In our 2013 base case scenario, we expect the market to favor the stability, lower valuations, and higher yields offered by larger cap companies. Large caps have led in 2012, based on the Russell Indexes.
- We continue to favor growth over value due to growth's tendency to outperform in slow-growth environments. The styles are roughly in line year-to-date, based on the Russell Indexes.
- Our emerging markets (EM) view is positively biased, as China's growth may be picking up. Recent strength has propelled the MSCI Emerging Markets Index to a double-digit year-to-date return, as of November 27, 2012—only slightly below that in the United States.
- Our large foreign view is neutral. While much of Europe is mired in recession, bold policy actions and valuations are supportive. Thanks to modest fourth quarter gains, the large cap developed foreign benchmark, the MSCI EAFE Index, trails the S&P 500 by just 1%, as of November 27, 2012.
- We expect precious metals to benefit from the Federal Reserve's (Fed) ongoing bond-purchase program, QE3, and resulting downward pressure on the US dollar.

\*LPL Financial Research provided these forecasts based on: a low-single-digit earnings growth rate supported by modest share buybacks combined with 2% dividend yields and little change in valuations for the S&P 500; bond market forecasts are for the Barclays Aggregate Index and are based upon a less than one percentage point rise in rates, with price declines offset by interest income. Please see our *2013 Outlook* for details.

		Fundamentals	Technicals	Valuations	Negative	Neutral	Positive	
Style/Capitalization	Large Growth	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing bias towards Positive]			
	Large Value	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing bias towards Negative]			
	Favor growth over value for faster earnings growth in slow-growth economy, attractive valuations, and our preference for non-financial cyclical sectors. Our capitalization views are fairly balanced.							
	Mid Growth	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing bias towards Positive]			
	Mid Value	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing bias towards Negative]			
	Lull in merger & acquisition activity, cautious stock market view, and valuations offset cyclical tilt and relatively strong earnings growth outlook.							
	Small Growth	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing bias towards Positive]			
	Small Value	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing bias towards Negative]			
Risk of further stock market volatility and valuations temper our near-term view of small caps, which have lagged mid and large caps in the fourth quarter and year-to-date.								
Region	U.S. Stocks	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing bias towards Positive]			
	Large Foreign	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing bias towards Negative]			
	Small Foreign	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing bias towards Positive]			
	Emerging Markets	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing bias towards Positive]			
Our large foreign view is neutral. While much of Europe is mired in recession, bold policy actions and valuations are supportive. The large cap (developed) foreign benchmark, the MSCI EAFE Index, trails the S&P 500 only slightly year-to-date. Our emerging markets view is positively biased, as Chinese growth may be starting to pick up.								
REITs	REITs	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing bias towards Positive]			
	Soft job market, interest rate risk, below-average yield, and valuations temper our enthusiasm.							
Commodities	Industrial Metals	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing bias towards Positive]			
	Precious Metals	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing bias towards Positive]			
	Energy	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing bias towards Negative]			
	Agricultural	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing bias towards Negative]			
Our positive precious metals commodities view is based on the Fed's ongoing QE3 bond-purchase program, which should put pressure on the US dollar. Our recent agriculture commodities downgrade reflected our view that weather-related crop damage was reflected in grain prices. We find the oil commodity attractively valued in the mid-\$80s.								
Other	Non-Correlated Strategies				[Bar chart showing bias towards Positive]			
	Favor distressed assets for volatile environment, long/short equity vehicles as market increasingly rewards fundamentals, and merger-arbitrage/event-driven strategies on increased corporate activity.							

Real Estate/REITs may result in potential illiquidity and there is no assurance the objectives of the program will be attained. The fast price swings of commodities will result in significant volatility in an investor's holdings. International and emerging markets involve special risks such as currency fluctuation and political instability. The price of small and mid-cap stocks are generally more volatile than large cap stocks. Value investments can perform differently from the market as a whole. They can remain undervalued by the market for long periods of time. Precious metal investing is subject to substantial fluctuation and potential for loss. These securities may not be suitable for all investors. 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. Stock investing may involve risk including loss of principal.

## Equity Sectors

### Favor Cyclical Sectors Into 2013, Consistent With Base Case Outlook

- We favor cyclical sectors for the balance of 2012 and into 2013, consistent with our base case view in the *Outlook 2013* publication.
- Our recently lowered technology view remains modestly positive. Disappointing Q3 earnings hurt the sector, but a likely pickup in business spending, mobility trends, huge cash hordes, and valuations are supportive.
- Our industrials view remains modestly positive. We expect a pickup in business spending in the months ahead, and a so-called soft landing (7–8% growth) in China.
- We expect the Fed’s QE3 and early signs of a pickup in Chinese economic growth to support materials.
- A strong start to the holiday shopping season and ongoing recovery in the housing market have helped consumer discretionary, the top-performing sector over the past month. Our view remains neutral amid still-lofty valuations.
- Our financials view remains modestly negative. The sector remains this year’s top performer and is attractively valued, but it faces a challenging regulatory and interest rate environment.
- Utilities are the worst-performing S&P sector since the election amid prospects for higher dividend tax rates, fallout from Superstorm Sandy, and high valuations.
- We continue to under-emphasize defensive sectors, although these sectors may do relatively well in the short term around fiscal cliff negotiations.

	Fundamentals	Technicals	Valuations	Negative	Neutral	Positive	S&P 500 Weight (%)	
Cyclical	Materials	■	■	■				3.5
	QE3 and early signs of a pickup in Chinese economic growth are supportive.							
	Energy	■	■	■				11.1
	QE3, China, and valuations help, but challenging demand outlook and difficult regulatory environment.							
	Industrials	■	■	■				10.0
	Still expect pickup in business spending and Chinese growth, with fiscal cliff the key risk.							
	Consumer Discretionary	■	■	■				11.4
	Strong start to holiday shopping season, help from housing, but valuations temper our enthusiasm.							
	Technology	■	■	■				19.3
Earnings weakness has hurt, but mobility trend, valuations, and huge cash hordes are supportive.								
Defensive	Financials	■	■	■				15.1
	Top sector YTD on Europe, housing, and valuations; still tough regulatory, interest rate environment.							
	Utilities	■	■	■				3.4
	Dividend tax rates, Sandy, valuations, and higher interest rates are biggest risks; worst sector YTD.							
	Health Care	■	■	■				12.2
	Valuations supportive; reform here to stay, providing certainty as well as winners and losers.							
	Consumer Staples	■	■	■				10.9
Renewed margin pressure from rising commodities prices and unfavorable seasonals are concerns.								
Telecommunications	■	■	■				3.1	
Dividend tax rates, valuations, and intensifying competition are key risks, but yields are attractive.								

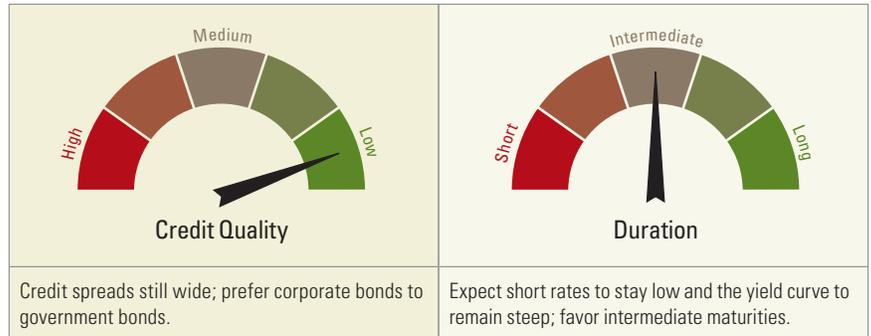
\* For more detailed information, please refer to the quarterly *Sector Strategy* publication.

Because of their narrow focus, sector investing will be subject to greater volatility than investing more broadly across many sectors and companies.

## Fixed Income

### Favor Economically Sensitive Sectors To Help Take Advantage of Higher Yields

- We remain focused on intermediate bonds. By committing to refrain from raising interest rates until mid-2015, intermediate maturity bonds may benefit from Fed policy as investors seek higher yields amid a low-yield world.
- A still-sluggish economy and uncertainty over the economic impact of the fiscal cliff augur for a stable rate environment, which also favors intermediate bonds that still possess a substantial yield advantage relative to short-term bonds.



		Fundamentals	Technicals	Valuations	Negative	Neutral	Positive	
Tax-Free Bonds	Munis-Short-term	■	■	■	[Gauge: Needle in Negative zone]			
	Muni curve is steep, and short-term yields are very low.							
	Munis-Intermediate-term	■	■	■	[Gauge: Needle in Neutral zone]			
	Valuations higher on prospects of higher taxes.							
	Munis-Long-term	■	■	■	[Gauge: Needle in Neutral zone]			
	Valuations attractive on long-term basis. Yields at new record lows.							
Munis-High-Yield	■	■	■	[Gauge: Needle in Neutral zone]				
Yield to be bigger driver of return. Defaults to remain isolated.								

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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 (CONT.)

### Favor Economically Sensitive Sectors To Help Take Advantage of Higher Yields

- Fed purchases of mortgage-backed securities amount to roughly 50% of new issuance and should keep the sector well supported. Valuations cheapened recently after QE3 surge.
- Good financial earnings are positive for preferred securities and help offset lower yields.
- Higher yielding, fundamentally sound segments of the bond market such as high-yield bonds and investment-grade corporate bonds remain attractive, but we temper our enthusiasm due to lower yields, strong year-to-date performance, and higher valuations.
- We continue to find municipal bonds among the more attractive high-quality bond options, but like corporate bonds, we expect much lower returns going forward due to lower yields and now higher valuations.
- The prospect of higher taxes bodes well for municipal bonds but is offset by lingering risks of a 28% cap on the exemption of tax-exempt interest income.

	Fundamentals	Technicals	Valuations	Negative	Neutral	Positive	
Taxable Bonds – U.S.	Treasuries	■	■	■	■	■	
	Fiscal cliff uncertainty and sluggish growth keeping Treasuries expensive.						
	TIPS	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Prefer to nominal Treasuries, as easy monetary policy is inflationary over time.						
	Mortgage-Backed Securities	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Currently most attractive government bond option. Stable yield range a positive.						
	Investment-Grade Corporates	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Yield spreads attractive. Credit quality stable.						
	Preferred Securities	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Good income generator. Bank credit quality improving.						
High-Yield Corporates	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Defaults likely to be low through 2013 and 6.0% yield spread is attractive.							
Bank Loans	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Prefer high-yield for income, with rising rate catalyst delayed with Federal Open Market Committee on hold until mid-2015.							
Taxable Bonds – Foreign	Foreign Bonds – Hedged	■	■	■	■	■	
	Sovereign risks still a concern.						
	Foreign Bonds – Unhedged	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Low yields and euro currency risk a concern.						
Emerging Market Debt	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Fundamentals and valuations attractive but sensitive to European risks.							

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. Mortgage Backed Securities are subject to credit, default risk, 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, and interest rate risk. International and emerging market investing involves risks such as currency fluctuation and political instability and may not be suitable for all investors. 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 - while providing a real rate of return guaranteed by the U.S. Government. 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. Foreign Bonds – Hedged: Non-U.S. fixed income securities generally from investment grade issuers in developed countries, with hedged currency exposure. Foreign Bonds – Unhedged: Non-U.S. fixed income securities normally denominated in major foreign currencies.

## DEFINITIONS:

### EQUITY AND ALTERNATIVES ASSET CLASSES

**Large Growth:** Stocks in the top 70% of the capitalization of the U.S. equity market are defined as Large Cap. Growth is defined based on fast growth (high growth rates for earnings, sales, book value, and cash flow) and high valuations (high price ratios and low dividend yields).

**Large Value:** Stocks in the top 70% of the capitalization of the U.S. equity market are defined as Large Cap. Value is defined based on low valuations (low price ratios and high dividend yields) and slow growth (low growth rates for earnings, sales, book value, and cash flow).

**Mid Growth:** The U.S. mid-cap range for market capitalization typically falls between \$1 billion and \$8 billion and represents 20% of the total capitalization of the U.S. equity market. Growth is defined based on fast growth (high growth rates for earnings, sales, book value, and cash flow) and high valuations (high price ratios and low dividend yields).

**Mid Value:** The U.S. Mid Cap range for market capitalization typically falls between \$1 billion and \$8 billion and represents 20% of the total capitalization of the U.S. equity market. Value is defined based on low valuations (low price ratios and high dividend yields) and slow growth (low growth rates for earnings, sales, book value, and cash flow).

**Small Growth:** Stocks in the bottom 10% of the capitalization of the U.S. equity market are defined as Small Cap. Growth is defined based on fast growth (high growth rates for earnings, sales, book value, and cash flow) and high valuations (high price ratios and low dividend yields).

**Small Value:** Stocks in the bottom 10% of the capitalization of the U.S. equity market are defined as Small Cap. Value is defined based on low valuations (low price ratios and high dividend yields) and slow growth (low growth rates for earnings, sales, book value, and cash flow).

**U.S. Stocks:** Stock of companies domiciled in the U.S.

**Large Foreign:** Large-cap foreign stocks have market capitalizations greater than \$5 billion. The majority of the holdings in the large foreign category are in the MSCI EAFE Index.

**Small Foreign:** Small-cap foreign stocks typically have market capitalizations of \$250M to \$1B. The majority of the holdings in the small foreign category are in the MSCI Small Cap EAFE Index.

**Emerging Markets:** Stocks of a single developing country or a grouping of developing countries. For the most part, these countries are in Eastern Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, the Far East and Asia.

**REITs:** REITs are companies that develop and manage real-estate properties. There are several different types of REITs, including apartment, factory-outlet, health-care, hotel, industrial, mortgage, office, and shopping center REITs. This would also include real-estate operating companies.

**Commodities – Industrial Metals:** Stocks in companies that mine base metals such as copper, aluminum and iron ore. Also included are the actual metals themselves. Industrial metals companies are typically based in North America, Australia, or South Africa.

**Commodities – Precious Metals:** Stocks of companies that do gold- silver-, platinum-, and base-metal-mining. Precious-metals companies are typically based in North America, Australia, or South Africa.

**Commodities – Energy:** Stocks of companies that focus on integrated energy, oil & gas services, oil & gas exploration and equipment. Public energy companies are typically based in North America, Europe, the UK, and Latin America.

**Merger Arbitrage** is a hedge fund strategy in which the stocks of two merging companies are simultaneously bought and sold to create a riskless profit. A merger arbitrageur looks at the risk that the merger deal will not close on time, or at all. Because of this slight uncertainty, the target company's stock will typically sell at a discount to the price that the combined company will have when the merger is closed. This discrepancy is the arbitrageur's profit.

### EQUITY SECTORS

**Materials:** Companies that engage in a wide range of commodity-related manufacturing. Included in this sector are companies that manufacture chemicals, construction materials, glass, paper, forest products and related packaging products, metals, minerals and mining companies, including producers of steel.

**Energy:** Companies whose businesses are dominated by either of the following activities: The construction or provision of oil rigs, drilling equipment and other energy-related service and equipment, including seismic data collection or the exploration, production, marketing, refining and/or transportation of oil and gas products, coal and consumable fuels.

**Industrials:** Companies whose businesses: Manufacture and distribute capital goods, including aerospace and defense, construction, engineering and building products, electrical equipment and industrial machinery; provide commercial services and supplies, including printing, employment, environmental and office services; provide transportation services, including airlines, couriers, marine, road and rail, and transportation infrastructure.

**Consumer Discretionary:** Companies that tend to be the most sensitive to economic cycles. Its manufacturing segment includes automotive, household durable goods, textiles and apparel, and leisure equipment. The service segment includes hotels, restaurants and other leisure facilities, media production and services, consumer retailing and services and education services.

**Technology:** Companies that primarily develop software in various fields such as the Internet, applications, systems and/or database management and companies that provide information technology consulting and services. Technology hardware & equipment include manufacturers and distributors of communications equipment, computers and peripherals, electronic equipment and related instruments, and semiconductor equipment and products.

**Financials:** Companies involved in activities such as banking, consumer finance, investment banking and brokerage, asset management, insurance and investment, and real estate, including REITs.

**Utilities:** Companies considered electric, gas or water utilities, or companies that operate as independent producers and/or distributors of power.

**Healthcare:** Companies in two main industry groups: Healthcare equipment and supplies or companies that provide healthcare-related services, including distributors of healthcare products, providers of basic healthcare services, and owners and operators of healthcare facilities and organizations or companies primarily involved in the research, development, production and marketing of pharmaceuticals and biotechnology products.

**Consumer Staples:** Companies whose businesses are less sensitive to economic cycles. It includes manufacturers and distributors of food, beverages and tobacco, and producers of non-durable household goods and personal products. It also includes food and drug retailing companies.

**Telecommunications:** Companies that provide communications services primarily through a fixed line, cellular, wireless, high bandwidth and/or fiber-optic cable network.

### FIXED INCOME

**Credit Quality:** An individual bond's credit rating is determined by private independent rating agencies such as Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch. Their credit quality designations range from high ('AAA' to 'AA') to medium ('A' to 'BBB') to low ('BB', 'B', 'CCC', 'CC' to 'C').

**Duration:** A measure of the sensitivity of the price (the value of principal) of a fixed-income investment to a change in interest rates. Duration is expressed as a number of years. Rising interest rates mean falling bond prices, while declining interest rates mean rising bond prices. The bigger the duration number, the greater the interest-rate risk or reward for bond prices.

**Munis – Short-term:** Bonds issued by various state and local governments to fund public projects. The income from these bonds is generally free from federal taxes. These bonds generally have maturities of less than three years.

**Munis – Intermediate:** Bonds issued by various state and local governments to fund public projects. The income from these bonds is generally free from federal taxes. These bonds generally have maturities of between 3 and 10 years.

**Munis – Long-term:** Bonds issued by various state and local governments to fund public projects. The income from these bonds is generally free from federal taxes. These bonds generally have maturities of more than 10 years.

**Munis – High Yield:** Bonds issued by various state and local governments to fund public projects. The income from these bonds is generally free from federal taxes. These bonds generally offer higher yields than other types of bonds, but they are also more vulnerable to economic and credit risk. These bonds are rated BB+ and below.

**Treasuries:** A marketable, fixed-interest U.S. government debt security. Treasury bonds make interest payments semi-annually and the income that holders receive is only taxed at the federal level.

**TIPS (Treasury Inflation Protected Securities):** A special type of Treasury note or bond that offers protection from inflation. Like other Treasuries, an inflation-indexed security pays interest every six months and pays the principal when the security matures. The difference is that the underlying principal is automatically adjusted for inflation as measured by the consumer price index (CPI).

**Mortgage-Backed Securities:** A type of asset-backed security that is secured by a mortgage or collection of mortgages. These securities must also be grouped in one of the top two ratings as determined by a accredited credit rating agency, and usually pay periodic payments that are similar to coupon payments. Furthermore, the mortgage must have originated from a regulated and authorized financial institution.

**Investment-Grade Corporates:** Securities issued by corporations with a credit rating of BBB- or higher. Bond rating firms, such as Standard & Poor's, use different designations consisting of upper- and lower-case letters 'A' and 'B' to identify a bond's investment grade credit quality rating. 'AAA' and 'AA' (high credit quality) and 'A' and 'BBB' (medium credit quality) are considered investment grade.

**Preferred Stocks:** A class of ownership in a corporation that has a higher claim on the assets and earnings than common stock. Preferred stock generally has a dividend that must be paid out before dividends to common stockholders and the shares usually do not have voting rights.

**High-Yield Corporates:** Securities issued by corporations with a credit rating of BB+ and below. These bonds generally offer higher yields than investment grade bonds, but they are also more vulnerable to economic and credit risk.

**Bank Loans:** In exchange for their credit risk, these floating-rate bank loans offer interest payments that typically float above a common short-term benchmark such as the London interbank offered rate, or LIBOR.

**Foreign Bonds – Hedged:** Non-U.S. fixed income securities generally from investment grade issuers in developed countries, with hedged currency exposure.

**Foreign Bonds – Unhedged:** Non-U.S. fixed income securities normally denominated in major foreign currencies.

**Emerging Market Debt:** The debt of sovereigns, agencies, local issues, and corporations of emerging markets countries and subject to currency risk.

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#### IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

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 any individual. To determine which investments may be appropriate for you, consult your financial advisor prior to investing. All performance referenced is historical and is no guarantee of future results. All indexes are unmanaged and cannot be invested into directly.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Stock investing involves risk including loss of principal.

The Standard & Poor's 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.

MSCI EAFE is made up of approximately 1,045 equity securities issued by companies located in 19 countries and listed on the stock exchanges of Europe, Australia, and the Far East. All values are expressed in U.S. dollars. All values are expressed in US dollars. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

The Russell 1000 Index consists of the 1,000 largest securities in the Russell 3000 Index, which represents 90% of the total market capitalization of the Russell 3000 Index. It is a large-cap, market oriented index and is highly correlated with the S&P 500 Index.

The Russell 2500 Index is a broad index featuring 2,500 stocks that cover the small and mid cap market capitalizations. The Russell 2500 is a market cap weighted index that includes the smallest 2,500 companies covered in the Russell 3000 universe of United States-based listed equities.

The Russell 3000 Index measures the performance of the 3,000 largest U.S. companies based on total market capitalization, which represents approximately 98% of the investable U.S. equity market. As of the latest reconstitution, the average market capitalization was approximately \$4 billion; the median market capitalization was approximately \$700 million. The index had a total market capitalization range of approximately \$309 billion to \$128 million.

Quantitative Easing is a government monetary policy occasionally used to increase the money supply by buying government securities or other securities from the market. Quantitative easing increases the money supply by flooding financial institutions with capital in an effort to promote increased lending and liquidity.

This research material has been prepared by LPL Financial.

To the extent you are receiving investment advice from a separately registered independent investment advisor, please note that LPL Financial is not an affiliate of and makes no representation with respect to such entity.

Not FDIC or NCUA/NCUSIF Insured | No Bank or Credit Union Guarantee | May Lose Value | Not Guaranteed by any Government Agency | Not a Bank/Credit Union Deposit