

Portfolio Compass



January 8, 2014

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

- Downgraded energy commodities to neutral from neutral/positive.

Investment Takeaways

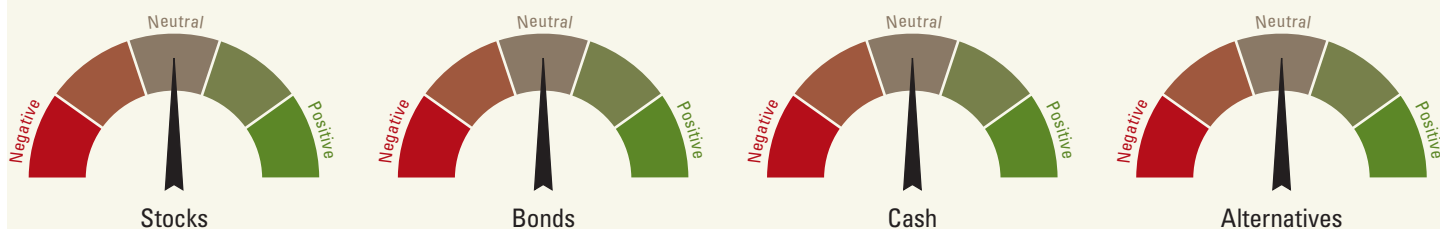
- Our 2014 stock market forecast is for gains of 10–15%, based on our forecast for 5–10% earnings growth and modest price-to-earnings (PE) multiple expansion.*
- We favor small caps and cyclical sectors for their potential to capture further stock market gains amid improving economic growth.
- We favor U.S. stocks relative to emerging markets (EM) and developed foreign, as Europe struggles to grow, and growth in several key EM countries has been uneven.
- We expect yields to move gradually higher in 2014 as economic growth improves and the Federal Reserve (Fed) removes stimulus.
- Higher-yielding, fundamentally sound segments of the bond market such as high-yield bonds, bank loans, and preferred securities remain among the more attractive fixed income options.
- Municipal improvement relative to Treasuries in December may translate to greater Treasury sensitivity over the short term.
- From a technical perspective, the S&P 500 Index closed 2013 with new all-time highs at 1848; the next level of resistance above 1848 is at 1865.

All performance referenced herein is as of January 7, 2014, unless otherwise noted.

* As noted in our *Outlook 2014: The Investor's Almanac* publication.

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

Favor Small Caps as Bull Market to Continue in 2014*

- Our 2014 stock market forecast is for gains of 10–15%, based on our forecast for 5–10% earnings growth and modest PE multiple expansion as economic growth and the market’s confidence in that growth improve.*
- We favor small caps for their potential to capture further stock market gains amid improving economic growth in 2014 and rising valuations.
- We favor U.S. stocks relative to EM and developed foreign, as Europe struggles to grow, and growth in several key EM countries has been uneven. However, prospects for improved overseas growth in 2014 suggest a potentially more positive international equity view at some point in the coming year.
- We maintain a preference for growth over value as 2014 begins, but we expect the year to be more about cyclical versus defensive than style, with our preference being for cyclicals.
- Crude oil (WTI) remains range bound but may be poised for a short-term technical bounce.
- The Fed’s December announcement that it would begin to taper its bond purchases beginning in January 2014, along with low inflation and the market’s rotation into riskier investments, leave us neutral on precious metals, including gold, despite the group’s relative strength to begin the year.

		Fundamentals	Technicals	Valuations	Negative	Neutral	Positive	
Style/Capitalization	Large Growth	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing sentiment distribution]			
	Large Value	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing sentiment distribution]			
	We have become more positive on small caps at the expense of large in recent months. We maintain a preference for growth over value, but we expect 2014 to be more about cyclical versus defensive.							
	Mid Growth	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing sentiment distribution]			
	Mid Value	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing sentiment distribution]			
	Positive mid growth view reflects consumer-focused cyclical equity sector exposure and potential for more up-capture. Mid is growing earnings faster than large and may benefit from more acquisitions.							
	Small Growth	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing sentiment distribution]			
	Small Value	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing sentiment distribution]			
Favor small caps for potential to capture stock market gains, as we expect economic growth and stock valuations to improve in 2014, though small cap valuations and potential market volatility are risks.								
Region	U.S. Stocks	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing sentiment distribution]			
	Large Foreign	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing sentiment distribution]			
	Small Foreign	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing sentiment distribution]			
	Emerging Markets	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing sentiment distribution]			
We favor the U.S. over large foreign and EM, as Europe’s growth remains meager, while growth in several key EM economies has been uneven. But prospects for better overseas growth in 2014, including in China, suggest a more positive view at some point over the course of the year.								
REITs	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing sentiment distribution]				
Valuations have improved, but interest rate risk and technicals keep us at neutral.								
Commodities	Industrial Metals	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing sentiment distribution]			
	Precious Metals	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing sentiment distribution]			
	Energy	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing sentiment distribution]			
	Agricultural	■	■	■	[Bar chart showing sentiment distribution]			
Crude oil (WTI) remains range bound but may be poised for a short-term technical bounce. The Fed’s December announcement that it would begin to taper its bond purchases beginning in January 2014, along with low inflation and the market’s rotation into riskier investments, have hurt gold.								
Other	Non-Correlated Strategies				[Bar chart showing sentiment distribution]			
	Favor long/short equity vehicles as the market is rewarding fundamentals. High corporate cash levels and industry shifts create opportunities for shareholder activism. Global macro strategies have been underperforming but may provide diversification benefits in the event of a pullback.							

Global macro strategies risk include but are not limited to imperfect knowledge of macro events, divergent movement from macro events, loss of principal, and related geopolitical risks.

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 Entering 2014 With Emphasis on Consumer Discretionary

- We continue to favor the more U.S.-focused, consumer-oriented sectors over the global, export-focused sectors.
- Our consumer discretionary view remains positive as spending continues to increase, albeit modestly, the housing recovery continues, and we believe holiday shopping met or exceeded conservative expectations.
- Our industrials view is modestly positive due to our forecast for improved U.S. business spending in 2014 and improving global growth.
- Our financials view is neutral. We see the U.S. focus, earnings gains, valuations and a steeper yield curve as positives, although regulation and slowing mortgage activity remain concerns. Within the sector, our regional bank view is positive.
- Our neutral health care view reflects our focus on cyclical sectors as we enter 2014, although robust product innovation trends and a likely uptick in demand from the Affordable Care Act (ACA) are supportive of our outlook.
- The materials sector remains one to watch for a potentially more positive view if growth improves in China.
- We remain cautious on telecom and utilities due to their interest rate sensitivity, though telecom valuations have become more reasonable in recent months.
- Our modestly negative consumer staples view reflects our preference for cyclical sectors in 2014 and above-average valuations.

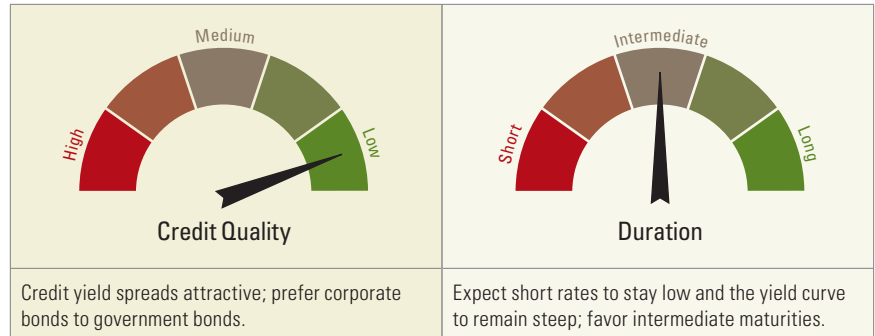
	Fundamentals	Technicals	Valuations	Negative	Neutral	Positive	S&P 500 Weight (%)	
Cyclical	Materials	■	■	■				3.5
	Not ready for a more positive view, but improved growth in China is encouraging.							
	Energy	■	■	■				10.2
	Oil prices remain range bound, but a sector to watch on earnings/natural gas rebound.							
	Industrials	■	■	■				10.9
	We expect a business spending pickup in 2014; housing, U.S. energy boom, and better global growth to help.							
	Consumer Discretionary	■	■	■				12.6
	Solid earnings, wealth effect (stocks, homes), and job gains are positives; comfortable with valuations.							
	Technology	■	■	■				18.5
Positive bias amid attractive valuations, seasonality, technicals, and holiday retail opportunity.								
Defensive	Financials	■	■	■				16.4
	Solid earnings, valuations, and a steeper yield curve offset regulatory risk and mortgage weakness.							
	Utilities	■	■	■				2.9
	Negative view reflects interest rate risk, slow growth, and our preference for cyclical sectors.							
	Health Care	■	■	■				13.0
	Favorable product trends and ACA-driven demand are positive, but our preference is for cyclicals.							
	Consumer Staples	■	■	■				9.7
We favor cyclical sectors; lower valuations and falling oil prices may help some.								
Telecommunications	■	■	■				2.3	
Interest rate and business risks remain, although valuations have become much more reasonable.								

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

Fixed Income

Still in the Range

- In 2014, we expect yields to move gradually higher, and out of the current range, as economic growth improves and the Fed removes stimulus.
- We believe intermediate-maturity bonds provide a better risk/return trade-off compared with short-term bonds.
- Municipal improvement relative to Treasuries in December has left valuations higher and may translate to greater Treasury sensitivity over the short term.
- Intermediate municipals possess better risk/reward over the short term, but the sector as a whole remains attractive over the longer term.



		Fundamentals	Technicals	Valuations	Negative	Neutral	Positive
Tax-Free Bonds	Munis-Short-Term	■	■	■	[Gauge: Needle in Negative zone]		
	Muni curve is steep, and short-term valuations are unattractive.						
	Munis-Intermediate-Term	■	■	■	[Gauge: Needle in Neutral zone]		
	More attractive risk/reward among municipal bonds.						
	Munis-Long-Term	■	■	■	[Gauge: Needle in Neutral zone]		
	Valuations are attractive, but better opportunities may emerge in 2014.						
	Munis-High-Yield	■	■	■	[Gauge: Needle in Neutral zone]		
Number of defaults declined for fourth straight year.							

continued on next page

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

Still in the Range

- Modestly attractive EM debt valuations are offset by near-term risks. Recent Chinese data have disappointed, and liquidity concerns persist following a modest reduction in Fed bond purchases.
- Higher-yielding, fundamentally sound segments of the bond market such as high-yield bonds, bank loans, and preferred securities remain among the more attractive fixed income options.
- Among high-quality bonds, we favor investment-grade corporate bonds due to the potential for higher yields and good fundamentals.

	Fundamentals	Technicals	Valuations	Negative	Neutral	Positive	
Taxable Bonds – U.S.	Treasuries	■	■	■	■	■	
	Valuations are fair, and Fed rate hike expectations are balanced.						
	TIPS	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Low actual inflation and above-average rate risk are negatives.						
	Mortgage-Backed Securities	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Valuations are fair-to-expensive but benefit from continued Fed purchases.						
	Investment-Grade Corporates	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Yield spreads are fair. Credit quality is stable.						
	Preferred Securities	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Good income generator. Bank credit quality is still improving.						
Taxable Bonds – Foreign	High-Yield Corporates	■	■	■	■	■	
	Credit quality metrics are good, valuations are fair, and defaults are likely to remain low.						
	Bank Loans	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Attractive due to short-term nature and attractive yield.						
	Foreign Bonds – Hedged	■	■	■	■	■	■
Yields are low compared to domestic bonds.							
Foreign Bonds – Unhedged	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Still-low yields and euro currency risk are concerns.							
Emerging Market Debt	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Attractive valuations are offset by liquidity risks and lackluster EM economic data.							

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.

Long/Short is an investment strategy generally associated with hedge funds. It involves buying long equities that are expected to increase in value and selling short equities that are expected to decrease in value.

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.

Health Care: 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.

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.

Preferred stock investing involves risk, which may include loss of principal.

Distressed investing involves significant risks, including a total loss of capital. The risks associated with distressed investing arise from several factors including: limited diversification, the use of leverage, limited liquidity, and the possibility that investors may be required to accept cash or securities with a value less than their original investment and/or may be required to accept payment over an extended period of time.

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.

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