Portfolio Compass

February 6, 2013

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 commodity to modest negative from neutral.

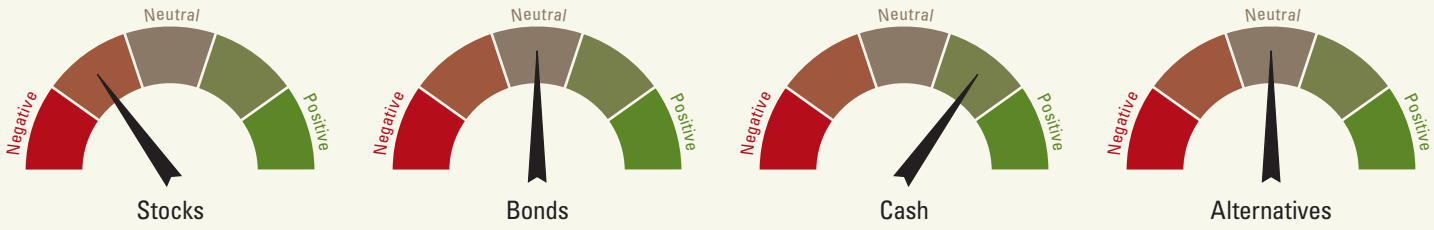
Investment Takeaways

- Our near-term stock market view remains slightly cautious, given our Base Path expectation for modest single-digit returns in 2013.*
- We continue to favor economically sensitive (cyclical) sectors, including industrials, materials, and technology, over defensive sectors.
- Our recently upgraded emerging markets (EM) view is based on a pickup in China's economy and our expectation that stimulus and the recent leadership transition favor better growth in 2013.
- Higher yielding, fundamentally sound segments of the bond market such as high-yield and investment-grade corporate bonds remain attractive, but we have tempered our return expectations.
- We find municipal bonds among the more attractive high-quality bond options but expect lower returns going forward.
- We believe the oil price commodity in the mid- to high-$90s is above fair value and due for a pullback.
- The S&P 500 Index continues to test strong resistance at 1500; however, the technical indicators are overbought, which increase the likelihood for the Index to move lower, testing support at 1474 over the next few weeks.

*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. Please see our *Outlook 2013* 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.



LPL Financial

Equity & Alternative Asset Classes

Maintain Slightly Cautious Stock Market View; Watching for a Pullback in Oil Prices

- Our near-term stock market view is slightly cautious, given our Base Path expectation for modest single-digit returns in 2013.*
- Our improved EM view is driven by the pickup in growth in China, and our expectation that stimulus and the recent leadership transition should favor continued solid growth in 2013.
- Our large foreign view is neutral. While Europe is mired in recession, bold policy actions and valuations are supportive, and the outlook in Japan has improved. Both the MSCI EAFE and EM indexes have trailed the S&P 500 so far this year.
- We continue to favor growth over value due to growth's tendency to outperform in slow-growth environments and our preference for technology over financials. Growth has lagged so far this year on technology underperformance, based on the Russell 3000 style indexes.
- Our views are generally aligned across market cap, with a slight preference for large and mid caps. Mid caps have led so far in 2013. In our Base Path scenario in *Outlook 2013*, we expect the market to favor the stability, lower valuations, and higher yields offered by large caps.
- We believe the oil price commodity in the mid- to high-$90s is above fair value and due for a pullback.
- We expect precious metals to benefit from pressure on the US dollar in part due to the Federal Reserve's (Fed) super-accommodative monetary policy.

All performance referenced herein is as of February 5, 2013, unless otherwise noted.

*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. Please see our *Outlook 2013* for details.

		Fundamentals	Technicals	Valuations	Negative / Neutral / Positive
Style/Capitalization	Large Growth				
	Large Value				
	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				
	Mid Value				
	Cautious stock market view and valuations offset cyclical tilt, relatively strong earnings outlook, and recent pickup in acquisition activity.				
	Small Growth				
	Small Value				
	Risk of increased stock market volatility and valuations temper our near-term view of small caps, which slightly lagged mid and large caps in 2012, but are off to a good start in 2013.				
Region	U.S. Stocks				
	Large Foreign				
	Small Foreign				
	Emerging Markets				
	Our recently upgraded EM view is based on the pickup in China's economy and our expectation that stimulus and the recent leadership transition should favor better growth throughout 2013. Our large foreign view is neutral. While Europe is mired in recession, bold policy actions and valuations are supportive, and the outlook in Japan has improved.				
REITs	REITs				
	Steady job growth, housing market helping, but interest rate risk and valuations temper enthusiasm.				
Commodities	Industrial Metals				
	Precious Metals				
	Energy				
	Agricultural				
	We believe the oil price commodity in the mid- to high-$90s is above fair value and due for a pullback. Our still modestly positive precious metals commodities view is based on the Fed's expanded bond purchase program, which we expect to put pressure on the US dollar. Our agriculture commodities view remains neutral, although grain supplies remain relatively tight.				
Other	Non-Correlated Strategies				
	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 Consistent With Base Path Outlook

- We favor cyclical sectors as 2013 gets underway, consistent with our Base Path view in the *Outlook 2013* publication, and continue to under-emphasize defensive sectors.
- Our industrials view remains modestly positive based on our expectation for a pickup in business spending and better growth in China.
- Our technology view remains modestly positive on a likely pickup in business spending in 2013, powerful mobility trends, huge cash hordes, and attractive valuations.
- We expect better growth in China and potential pressure on the US dollar to support materials.
- Our energy view remains neutral, as favorable seasonality and a positive earnings season thus far are offset by our forecast for a pullback in oil prices from the high-$90s levels. Energy is this year's top sector performer.
- Our financials view remains modestly negative. Bank fundamentals are improving some and valuations are attractive, but the challenging regulatory and interest rate environment persists.
- Our negative views of telecom and utilities reflect higher dividend tax rates, interest rate risk, and rich valuations, although the sectors have roughly matched the S&P 500 this year.
- The outlook for the health care sector has improved with policy clarity, but our view remains cautious for now, given our preference for cyclical sectors and budget pressures.

		Fundamentals	Technicals	Valuations	Negative / Neutral / Positive	S&P 500 Weight (%)
Cyclical	Materials	Neutral	Positive	Neutral		3.6
	Better growth in China is supportive while pressure on the US dollar should help.					
	Energy	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral		11.3
	Solid earnings season and favorable seasonality, but oil price rally due for a pause in our view.					
	Industrials	Neutral	Positive	Positive		10.2
	Potential uptick in business spending post-fiscal cliff and an improving Chinese growth outlook.					
	Consumer Discretionary	Neutral	Positive	Negative		11.4
	Soft holiday shopping season, higher taxes, and still-rich valuations remain near-term headwinds.					
	Technology	Neutral	Neutral	Positive		18.3
	Potential uptick in business spending, mobility trend, valuations, and cash hordes are supportive.					
	Financials	Negative	Positive	Positive		15.9
	Still tough regulatory, interest rate environment, though some encouraging signs in Q4 earnings.					
Defensive	Utilities	Negative	Negative	Negative		3.4
	Higher dividend tax rates for higher earners, rich valuations, and interest rate risk cloud outlook.					
	Health Care	Negative	Neutral	Positive		12.2
	Valuations and policy clarity are supportive, but budget pressures and slow growth are not.					
	Consumer Staples	Neutral	Neutral	Negative		10.7
	Margins have held up, but preference for cyclicals, valuations, and seasonals keep us cautious.					
	Telecommunications	Neutral	Negative	Negative		3.0
	Higher dividend tax rates, rich valuations, and intense competition offset attractive yields.					

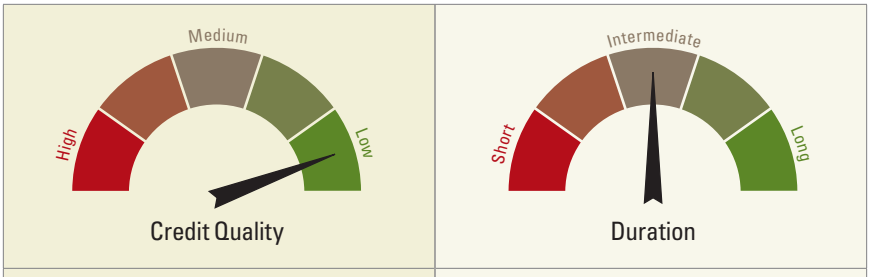
* For more detailed information, please refer to the quarterly *Sector Strategy* publication.

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

Fixed Income

Focus on Higher Yielding Segments Due to Better Valuation and as Buffer Against Rise in Rates

- We still expect yields to trade in a range in 2013, despite poor high-quality bond performance in January 2013. A still-sluggish economy and uncertainty over scheduled sequester spending cuts augur for a stable rate environment, which also favors intermediate bonds that still possess a substantial yield advantage relative to short-term bonds.
- By committing to refrain from raising interest rates until unemployment falls to 6.5%, intermediate maturity bonds may benefit from Fed policy as investors seek higher yields amid a low-yield world. A 0.14% to 0.22% rise in intermediate to long-term Treasury yields in January should help high-quality bonds stabilize in the weeks ahead.



Credit Quality	Duration
Credit yield spreads attractive; prefer corporate bonds to government bonds.	Expect short rates to stay low and the yield curve to remain steep; favor intermediate maturities.

		Fundamentals	Technicals	Valuations	Negative / Neutral / Positive
Tax-Free Bonds	Munis–Short-term	■	■	■	
	Muni curve is steep, and short-term yields are very low.				
	Munis–Intermediate-term	■	■	■	
	Higher tax rates a modest positive.				
	Munis–Long-term	■	■	■	
	Valuations still attractive after 2012 improvement, but yields near record lows.				
	Munis–High-Yield	■	■	■	
	Yield to be bigger driver of return. Defaults to remain isolated.				

continued on next page

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 availably 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.)

Focus on Higher Yielding Segments Due to Better Valuation and as Buffer Against Rise in Rates

- Higher yielding, fundamentally sound segments of the bond market such as high-yield bonds, bank loans, and investment-grade corporate bonds remain attractive, but we temper our enthusiasm due to lower yields and higher valuations.
- Bank loans are becoming increasingly attractive due to a much narrower yield differential to high-yield bonds.
- We continue to find municipal bonds among the more attractive high-quality bond options, but after a good start to 2013, we expect municipal bonds to move more in sync with Treasuries.
- The implementation of higher taxes bodes well for municipal bonds but is offset by lingering risks of a 28% cap on the exemption of municipal interest income.

		Fundamentals	Technicals	Valuations	Negative / Neutral / Positive
Taxable Bonds–U.S.	Treasuries				
	Treasuries cheapened recently but remain 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 fair. Credit quality stable.				
	Preferred Securities				
	Good income generator. Bank credit quality improving.				
	High-Yield Corporates				
	Defaults likely to be low in 2013 and stand out in low-yield world.				
	Bank Loans				
	Increasingly attractive due to narrower yield gap to high-yield.				
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 still attractive after 2012 improvement.				

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 availably 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.

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 ratning 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.

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.

The MSCI Emerging Markets Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure equity market performance of emerging markets. As of May 27, 2010 the MSCI Emerging Markets Index consisted of the following 21 emerging market country indices: Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, and Turkey.

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.

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.

This research material has been prepared by LPL Financial.

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