Portfolio Compass

June 12, 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.

*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.

Compass Changes

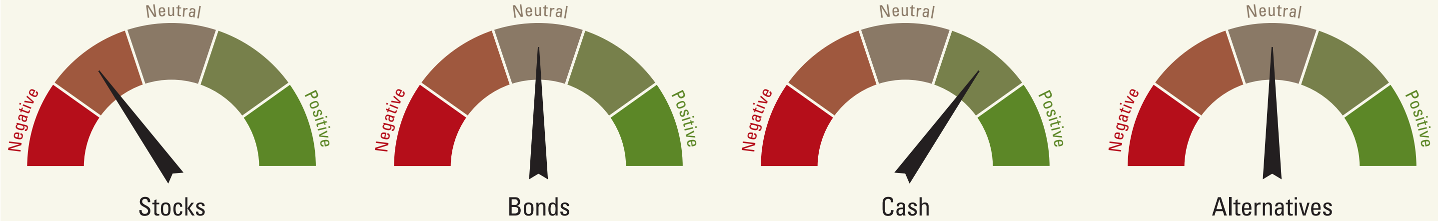
- Downgraded emerging market equities to negative/neutral from neutral.
- Downgraded consumer staples equities to negative/neutral from neutral.
- Downgraded emerging market debt to neutral from neutral/positive.

Investment Takeaways

- Our near-term stock market view is slightly cautious, with stocks having outpaced our 2013 forecast* and given the magnitude and duration of the rally.
- We have lowered our emerging markets (EM) view primarily due to uneven growth in China and technical weakness.
- Concerns over economic growth and illiquid trading conditions suggest emerging market debt weakness may persist despite attractive valuations. We downgraded emerging market debt as precaution.
- Our views on cyclical versus defensive sectors have become more balanced due to our focus on yield and in anticipation of a stock market pullback. Technicals largely drive our more cautious view of consumer staples.
- High-quality bond weakness appears overdone but we maintain focus on higher-yielding, fundamentally sound segments of the bond market such as high-yield bonds, bank loans, and preferred securities.
- We believe the oil commodity is due for a pullback from current mid-$90s levels amid elevated inventories.
- From a technical perspective, the S&P 500 looks to have formed a short-term top at 1669 and now is moving lower. The next bearish price objective is set at the 50-day simple moving average at 1609.

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

Lowering Emerging Markets View Amid Uneven Growth in China, Technical Deterioration

- Our near-term stock market view is slightly cautious, with stocks having outpaced our 2013 forecast and given the magnitude and duration of the rally.
- Our view of U.S. stocks relative to the global markets is becoming increasingly constructive, as our views of international markets have been lowered.
- Our modestly negative large foreign view reflects our belief that the market's expectation for Europe's recovery is overly optimistic, while the Eurozone debt crisis is not yet over.
- Our lowered EM view (to modestly negative) primarily reflects uneven growth in China and technical deterioration.
- Our views are generally aligned across market cap, with a slight preference for large and mid caps. We expect the market to favor the stability, lower valuations, and higher yields offered by large caps in the coming months.
- We maintain a modest preference for growth over value due to growth's tendency to outperform in slow-growth environments, although our conviction has lessened as our sector views have come more balanced.
- Federal Reserve (Fed) policy remains supportive of precious metals, but US dollar gains, low inflation, Chinese growth concerns, and the market's preference for yield have caused technical weakness.
- We believe the oil commodity is due for a pullback from current mid-$90s levels amid elevated inventories.

		Fundamentals	Technicals	Valuations	Negative — Neutral — Positive
Style/Capitalization	Large Growth				
	Large Value				
	Favor growth over value for faster earnings growth in slow-growth economy, but with less conviction as our sector mix has become more balanced. Our capitalization views are also fairly balanced.				
	Mid Growth				
	Mid Value				
	Our guarded stock market view and higher valuations suggest caution, but earnings outlook is relatively strong, and the merger and acquisition outlook is positive.				
	Small Growth				
	Small Value				
	Risk of increased stock market volatility and valuations temper our near-term view of small caps, which may represent an attractive buy-the-dip opportunity.				
Region	U.S. Stocks				
	Large Foreign				
	Small Foreign				
	Emerging Markets				
	We have recently lowered our large foreign view to modestly negative, as we believe the market's expectation for Europe's recovery are overly optimistic, while the Eurozone debt crisis is not yet over. Our lowered EM view primarily reflects an uneven growth trajectory in China and deteriorating technicals.				
REITs	REITs				
	Job growth, housing, yield all help, but interest rate risk and valuations temper enthusiasm.				
Commodities	Industrial Metals				
	Precious Metals				
	Energy				
	Agricultural				
	Fed policy remains supportive of precious metals, but US dollar gains, low inflation, Chinese growth concerns, and the market's preference for yield have caused technical weakness. We believe the oil commodity is due to pull back from current mid-$90s levels. Our agriculture commodities view remains neutral, although after recent declines opportunities may be emerging.				
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.				

All performance referenced herein is as of June 11, 2013, unless otherwise noted.

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

Balanced Sector Mix Reflects Focus on Yield, Housing, and Business Spending

- Our views on cyclical versus defensive sectors have become more balanced due to our focus on yield and in anticipation of a stock market pullback.
- We expect a potential pickup in business spending to help industrials sector performance. Higher business spending would also help technology, which is on watch for a potentially more positive view.
- Our recent decision to lower our materials view reflected the risk to China's growth trajectory and strength in the US dollar.
- Our energy sector view remains neutral due to our belief that crude oil prices will pull back from mid-$90s levels, balanced against benefits of the U.S. energy renaissance.
- Our consumer discretionary view is neutral, although we favor housing-related areas of the sector including homebuilders.
- Health care is our favored defensive sector on prospects for more insured customers to enter the health care system and robust product innovation.
- Consumer staples valuations are high and technicals have weakened, as the market has increasingly favored cyclical investments, driving our more cautious view.
- Our utilities sector view remains modestly negative due to high valuations and interest rate risk, evident during the recent Treasury sell-off.
- Strong performance and the benefits to banks of (gradually) rising rates have led to our slightly more constructive view of financials in recent weeks.

		Fundamentals	Technicals	Valuations	Negative Neutral Positive	S&P 500 Weight (%)
Cyclical	Materials					3.4
	Uneven Chinese growth trajectory and US dollar strength are weighing on commodity prices.					
	Energy					10.6
	We expect crude oil to pull back from current mid-$90s levels on elevated inventories.					
	Industrials					10.1
	Business spending uptick, housing, and U.S. energy renaissance help, but China has become a risk.					
	Consumer Discretionary					11.8
	Higher taxes and valuations remain headwinds, but wealth effect (housing, stocks) providing offset.					
	Technology					18.1
	Watching technicals for potentially more positive view; valuations remain attractive.					
	Financials					16.6
	Still-tough regulatory environment but gradually higher interest rates help the banks.					
Defensive	Utilities					3.3
	Valuations are high, while technicals have deteriorated, as interest rates have risen in recent weeks.					
	Health Care					12.7
	Growth outlook beginning to improve amid policy clarity, innovation, but growth remains tepid.					
	Consumer Staples					10.6
	Attractive yields, contained commodity inflation, offset by rich valuations and technical weakness.					
	Telecommunications					2.8
	Rich valuations, tough competition, wireless market maturation, offset lofty yields, earnings gains.					

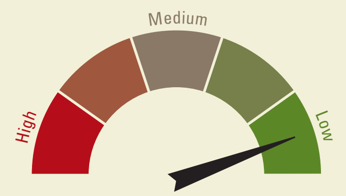
* For more detailed information, please refer to the quarterly *Sector Strategy* publication.

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

Fixed Income

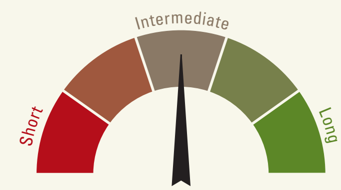
Focus on Higher Yielding Segments Due to Better Valuation and as Buffer Against Rise in Rates

- Rising fears of the Fed reducing, or tapering, the pace of bond purchases, continues to pressure yields higher. We believe the sell-off may be overdone given the still-sluggish economic environment. The upcoming Fed meeting may provide much needed clarity.
- Despite recent weakness, we remain focused on intermediate maturity bonds, which provide the potential for a better risk/return trade-off compared to short-term bonds over the balance of the year.
- Municipal price declines continued in sympathy with, and in some cases greater than, Treasury weakness. Although price pressure remains over the coming one to two weeks, we maintain a positive view due to a favorable summer seasonal period that may benefit the market starting in late June.



Credit Quality

Credit yield spreads attractive; prefer corporate bonds to government bonds.



Duration

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						
	Modest rebound after difficult March, but yields are near record lows.						
	Munis–High-Yield						
	Yield to be bigger driver of return. Defaults to remain isolated.						

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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 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 preferred securities remain among the more attractive fixed income options, even after recent weakness. Record-low yields and higher valuations augur for lower returns going forward.
- We downgrade emerging market debt as growth fears and illiquid markets may translate to additional price weakness in the short term. The most attractive valuations in almost one-year should provide support longer-term, however.

		Fundamentals	Technicals	Valuations	Negative	Neutral	Positive
Taxable Bonds–U.S.	Treasuries						
	Treasury yields may retest high end of two-year range.						
	TIPS						
	Higher inflation already priced in and possesses interest rate risk.						
	Mortgage-Backed Securities						
	Valuations cheapened following recent weakness.						
	Investment-Grade Corporates						
	Yield spreads fair. Credit quality stable.						
	Preferred Securities						
	Good income generator. Bank credit quality improving.						
	High-Yield Corporates						
	Defaults on pace to be low in 2013 and yield stands 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 remain and yields back at lows.						
	Foreign Bonds–Unhedged						
	Low yields and euro currency risk a concern.						
	Emerging Market Debt						
	Growth concerns and illiquidity fueling weakness, which may continue in the short term.						

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.

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 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.

LPL Financial