

### 2024 Outlook

Defense Wins Championships: Digging Into Valuations



## Agenda

- » Preliminary Performance
- » Broad Outlook
- » Investment Implications
- » Recent Activity
- » Current Portfolio Allocations
- » The Cash Indicator



PRELIMINARY MANAGER COMPOSITE (GROSS) VS BENCHMARK: DECEMBER 2023										
							Since Inception (9/1/2008)			08)
	Yield	1-YR Trailing	3-YRS Trailing	5-YRS Trailing	7-YRS Trailing	10-YRS Trailing	Trailing Return	Standard Deviation	Beta	Alpha
Stringer AM Growth - Gross	3.56%	13.65%	3.81%	9.05%	7.78%	6.52%	6.70%	14.38%	0.83	0.33%
MSCI ACWI Index	1.89%	22.20%	5.75%	11.72%	10.05%	7.93%	7.24%	16.94%	1.00	-
Stringer AM Moderate Growth – Gross	4.42%	9.05%	2.11%	6.68%	5.89%	5.13%	5.88%	10.36%	0.88	0.36%
65% MSCI ACWI - 35% BC Agg Index	2.42%	16.19%	2.65%	8.32%	7.26%	6.02%	6.11%	11.52%	1.00	-
Stringer AM Conservative Growth – Gross	4.63%	8.08%	0.76%	5.39%	4.69%	4.26%	5.23%	8.26%	0.86	0.35%
50% MSCI ACWI - 50% BC Agg Index	2.65%	13.67%	1.29%	6.74%	5.97%	5.13%	5.48%	9.32%	1.00	-
							Since Inception (7/1/2015)			15)
	Yield	1-YR Trailing	3-YRS Trailing	5-YRS Trailing	7-YRS Trailing	10-YRS Trailing	Trailing Return	Standard Deviation	Beta	Alpha
Stringer AM Income w/ Growth – Gross	4.47%	6.50%	0.45%	3.42%	2.92%		2.36%	6.96%	0.89	-1.49%
35% MSCI ACWI - 65% BC Agg Index	2.88%	11.19%	-0.07%	5.11%	4.62%		4.19%	7.42%	1.00	-
							Since Inception (11/1/2011)			)11)
	Yield	1-YR Trailing	3-YRS Trailing	5-YRS Trailing	7-YRS Trailing	10-YRS Trailing	Trailing Return	Standard Deviation	Beta	Alpha
Stringer AM Income – Gross	5.03%	6.29%	-0.17%	2.67%	2.42%	2.66%	3.30%	5.10%	0.90	0.14%
20% MSCI ACWI - 80% BC Agg Index	3.11%	8.74%	-1.45%	3.43%	3.23%	3.19%	3.39%	5.30%	1.00	-
							Since Inception (9/1/2015)			
	Yield	1-YR Trailing	3-YRS Trailing	5-YRS Trailing	7-YRS Trailing	10-YRS Trailing	Trailing Return	Standard Deviation	Beta	Alpha
Stringer AM Tactical Opps - Gross	5.00%	4.56%	1.37%	8.80%	6.35%		5.19%	14.41%	0.85	-2.95%
MSCI ACWI Index	1.89%	22.20%	5.75%	11.72%	10.05%		9.52%	15.55%	1.00	-

Sources: Stringer Asset Management and Morningstar. Performance data quoted represents past performance and is for illustrative purposes only. **Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.** The total returns presented are gross of fees. Advisory fees and any other expenses incurred in the management of the account will reduce actual returns. Returns include the reinvestment of income. The indices represented do not bear transaction costs or management fees, and cannot be actually bought or sold. To the extent a shareholder pays sales charges, the performance shown would be less. All indices are unmanaged and investors can not invest directly in an index. For index definitions, see the Index Definitions section at the end of this document. Please refer to the important disclosures found at the end of this document.



#### RISK/REWARD PLOT1: SINCE INCEPTION TO DECEMBER 2023



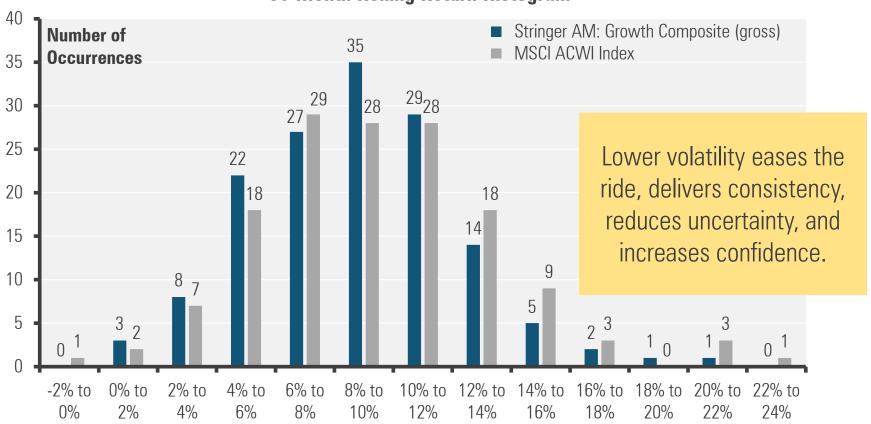
- Stringer AM Growth Gross
- MSCI ACWI Index
- Stringer AM Moderate Growth Gross
- 65% MSCI ACWI 35% BC Agg Index
- Stringer AM Conservative Growth Gross
- 50% MSCI ACWI 50% BC Agg Index
- Stringer AM Income Gross
- 20% MSCI ACWI 80% BC Agg Index

Sources: Stringer Asset Management and Morningstar. Performance data quoted represents past performance and is for illustrative purposes only. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. The total returns presented are gross of fees. Advisory fees and any other expenses incurred in the management of the account will reduce actual returns. Returns include the reinvestment of income. The indices represented do not bear transaction costs or management fees, and cannot be actually bought or sold. To the extent a shareholder pays sales charges, the performance shown would be less. All indices are unmanaged and investors can not invest directly in an index. For index definitions, see the Index Definitions section at the end of this document. Please refer to the important disclosures found at the end of this document.



## Taking Investment Strategies to the Next Level With a Focus on Behavioral Finance

#### **36-Month Rolling Return Histogram**



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#### BROAD OUTLOOK

- The economy was more resilient over the course of 2023 than we had expected given the aggressive policy tightening from the Fed.
- The Fed has notoriously not been known for its nuance and recent history has been no exception. However, it is important to also recognize that regardless of the size and frequency of Fed action, the U.S. economy is the largest and most diverse economy in history, and the consequences of Fed policy changes are not instantaneous.
- » While high money market rates may seem appealing, they carry their own risks.
- » Diversified intermediate- and longer-duration high-quality fixed income investments offer compelling income and potential for capital appreciation.
- » High-quality equities with dividend income potential are also attractive.
- » With a full slate of anticipated Fed policy intervention and no shortage of headlines as election rhetoric heats up, our nimble strategic and tactical approach may make sense for those more market sensitive investors.



BROAD OUTLOOK								
	U.S.	Europe	Japan	Emerging Markets				
Monetary Conditions	Restrictive	Restrictive	Supportive	Expansionary				
Fiscal Conditions	Expansionary	Supportive	Expansionary	Mixed				
Leading Economic Indicators	Directionless	Softening	Strengthening	Strengthening				
Equity Valuations	Mixed	Fairly Valued	Fairly Valued	Fairly Valued				
Overall	Cautiously Optimistic	Cautious	Cautiously Optimistic	Cautiously Optimistic				

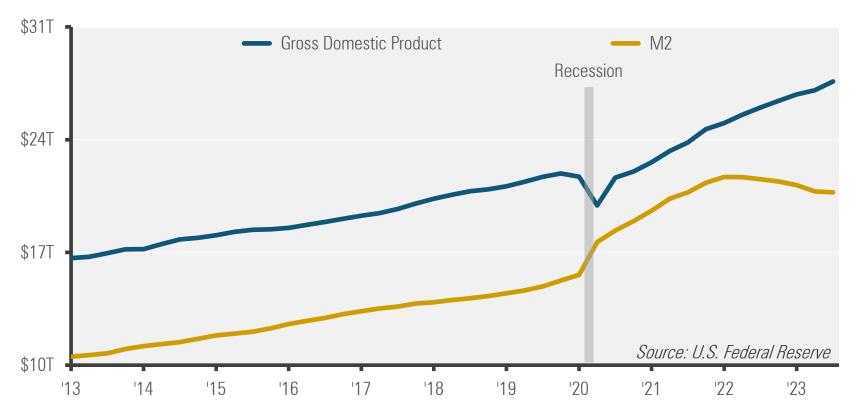


#### SAMPLE OF RECENT ADDITIONS

- » This year's historically narrow equity market rally has left a lot of attractive investment opportunities that have not yet fully participated in this year's market gains.
  - We continue to tilt our Strategies in the direction of less expensive equity investments that we think can provide both attractive upside potential and downside protection.
  - To that end, we recently added an equity ETF to our Growth, Moderate Growth, Conservative Growth, and Income with Growth Strategies that combines low volatility, quality, and value exposures together in a single fund.
- » Additionally, we increased our allocations to U.S. dividend equities and short-term Treasuries depending on the Strategy.
  - These shifts increase our exposure to attractively valued U.S. blue chip dividend-paying companies and low-risk Treasury bonds that are trading at appealing valuations.
  - We think that these changes better prepare our Strategies for potential geopolitical and interest rate risks ahead while offering attractive yield and capital appreciation potential.

### GDP & M2 in \$ Trillions

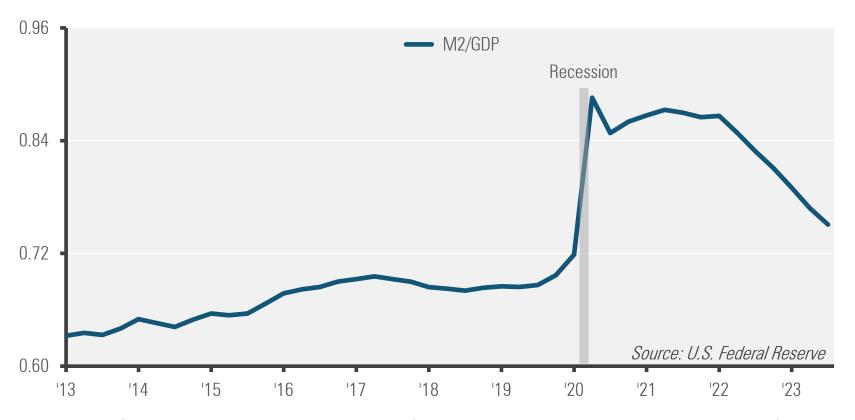




- » Excess pandemic-era stimulus combined with additional fiscal stimulus, such as the Inflation Reduction Act and the CHIPS Act, kept demand elevated even as supply chain disruptions eased.
- » As a result of massive government intervention in the forms of monetary and fiscal stimulus, the amount of money in the economy, as measured by M2, spiked in 2020 and into 2021.
- » This spike was then followed by a jump in the rate of economic growth and inflation.

### M2/GDP

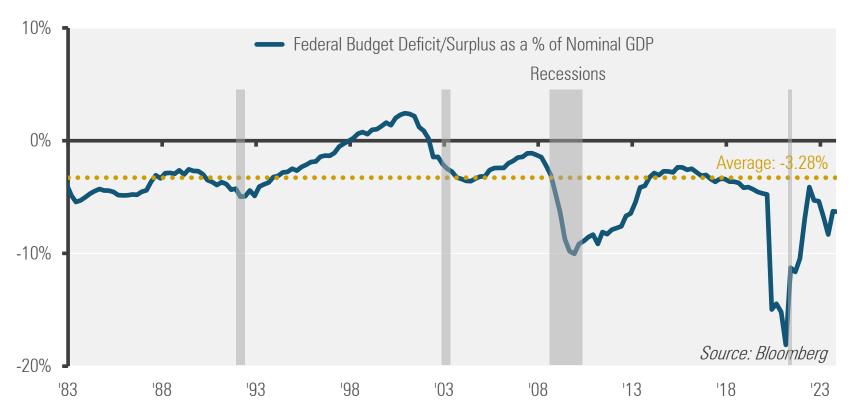




- » Starting in early 2022, the amount of money in the economy relative to the size of the economy has been on a steady decline.
- » The reduction in the amount of money in the economy was a leading contributor to the fall in the rate of inflation.
- » The continuation of the decline in inflationary pressures is one of the major considerations for what the market consensus expects to be a series of rate cuts in 2024 and beyond.

## Deficit or Surplus as a % of GDP

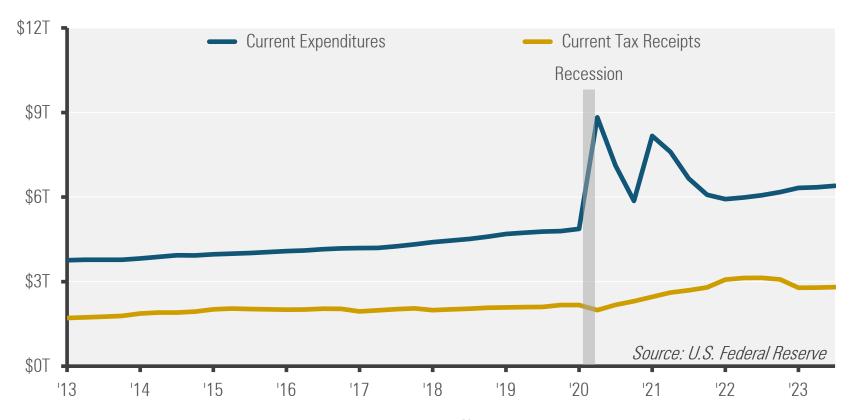




- » Deficit spending tends to increase during war time and/or in periods of economic distress, such as recessions, as the government's counter-cyclical stabilizers kick in.
- » These stabilizers include unemployment insurance and other federal programs that are already on the books in addition to any ad hoc programs enacted, such as the pandemic era CARES Act.
- » However, the size of the deficit has continued well above historical norms despite the economic and market recoveries we have experienced.

## Expenditures & Tax Receipts \$ Trillions





- » Federal income tax receipts have leveled off while spending has continued to increase as shown in the following graph of quarterly tax receipts and spending.
- » Deficit spending at today's level is unheard of during peace time with a strong economy. This level of fiscal support is not sustainable.
- » With excess private sector savings waning and excess government spending unlikely, we expect economic growth to fall below the recent trend to somewhere closer to 1%.



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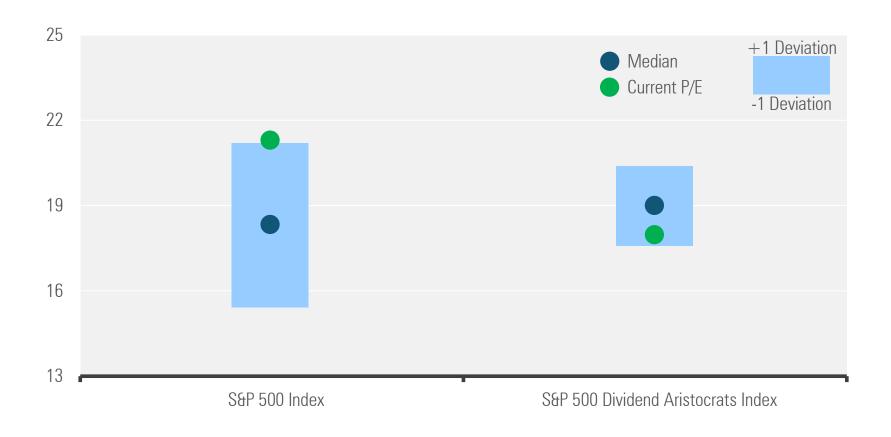


#### INVESTMENT IMPLICATIONS

- » Following last year's narrow equity market rally focused on a limited number of companies, we are finding significant opportunities for investors.
- » In fact, we are seeing incredibly attractive valuations in sectors that feature more stable and consistent earnings.
- » As a result, we are accentuating more value-oriented and defensive sectors which also happen to offer relatively strong yields.
- » We believe these will only look more attractive with an anticipated Fed induced reduction in shortterm interest rates.
- » Investors over-allocated to money markets and T-Bills may witness a swift decline in interest income with Fed rate cuts.
- » In contrast, those in intermediate- and longer-duration fixed income may experience more stable income alongside potential capital appreciation as interest rates decrease.
- » We think that diversifying across fixed income maturities can be advantageous today.
- » Considering the lack of market volatility as measured by the VIX, the recent calm may not persist.
- » The current low VIX levels rank in the bottom 20% of trading days over the last 30 years.

## Forward Price To Earnings Analysis





» High-quality dividend-paying stocks currently trade at discounts relative to their historical averages and well below the narrow group of equities that drove last year's market gains.

Source: Bloomberg. This material is for informational purpose only. Opinions and forecasts expressed herein may not actually occur. Past **performance is not indicative of future results.** The indices represented do not bear transaction costs management fees, and cannot be actually bought or sold. To the extent a shareholder pays sales charges, the performance shown would be less. All indices are unmanaged and investors can not invest directly in an index. For definitions, see the *Index Definitions* section at the end of this document.

## Chicago Exchange Volatility Index (VIX)





- » Considering the lack of market volatility as measured by the VIX, the recent calm may not persist.
- » The current low VIX levels rank in the bottom 20% of trading days over the last 30 years.
- » Historically, low volatility periods are followed by higher volatility, which can offer opportunities to acquire attractively priced equities.



INVESTMENT OUTLOOK SUMMARY   FAVORED CHOICES								
EQUITY	U.S. » dividends, health care, technology Global » dividends, infrastructure, quality							
FIXED INCOME	short-duration commercial mortgage-backed securities and Treasuries, intermediate-duration core fixed income, taxable munis							
ALTERNATIVES	equity option overlay strategies, managed futures, master limited partnerships (MLPs)							

This material is for informational purpose only. Investments discussed may not be suitable for all investors. No part of the authors' compensation was, is, or will be directly or indirectly related to the specific views contained in this report. Information provided is obtained from sources deemed to be reliable; but is not represented as complete, and its accuracy is not guaranteed. The information and opinions given are subject to change at any time, based on market and other conditions, and are not recommendations of or solicitations to buy or sell any security. Opinions and forecasts expressed herein may not actually occur. Past performance is not indicative of future results. The securities identified and described may not represent all of the securities purchased, sold or recommended for client accounts. The reader should not assume that an investment in the securities identified was or will be profitable.



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## Recent Activity



NET TRADE SUMMARY: OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2023										
	Growth		ModGrowth		ConGrowth		IncGrowth		Income	
	Weight	Action	Weight	Action	Weight	Action	Weight	Action	Weight	Action
SPDR MSCI USA StrategicFactor (QUS)	7.00%	BUY	4.50%	BUY	3.50%	BUY	4.00%	BUY	-	-
Vanguard High Dividend Yield ETF (VYM)	-	-	4.00%	BUY	3.00%	BUY	-	-	-	-
SPDR Bbg 3-12 Month T-Bill (BILS)	5.00%	ADD	3.50%	ADD	3.50%	ADD	4.00%	BUY	-	-
JPMorgan Equity Premium Inc. (JEPI)	3.00%	ADD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SPDR Portfolio Short Treasury (SPTS)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.00%	ADD
FirstTrust Managed Futures (FMF)	-5.00%	SELL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Franklin FTSE Japan ETF (FLJP)	-5.00%	SELL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SPDR S&P 400 Mid Cap Value (MDYV)	-5.00%	SELL	-4.00%	SELL	-3.00%	SELL	-3.00%	SELL	-	-
FlexShares Global Infrastructure (NFRA)	-	-	-4.00%	SELL	-3.00%	SELL	-	-	-	-
iShares 10-20 Year Treasury (TLH)	-	-	-4.00%	SELL	-4.00%	SELL	-4.00%	SELL	-6.00%	SELL

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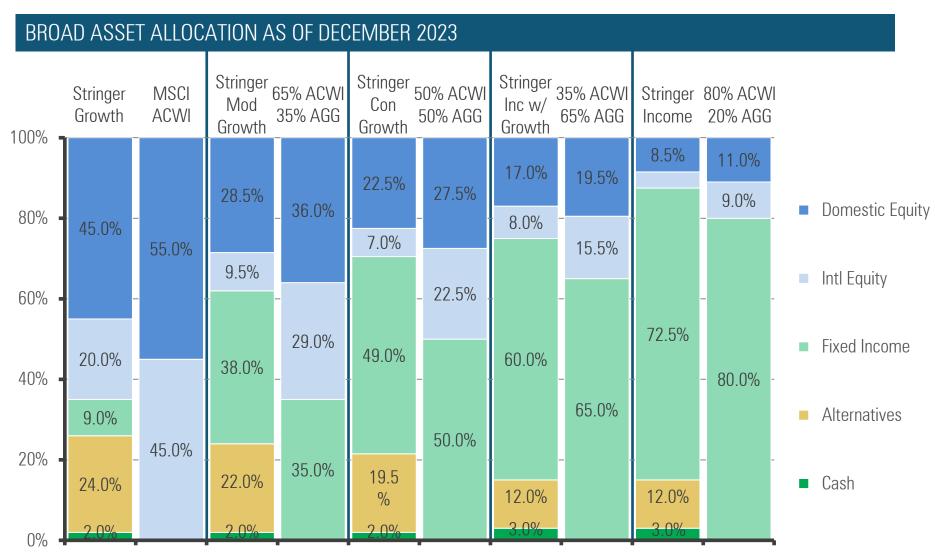
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### **Current Portfolio Allocations**



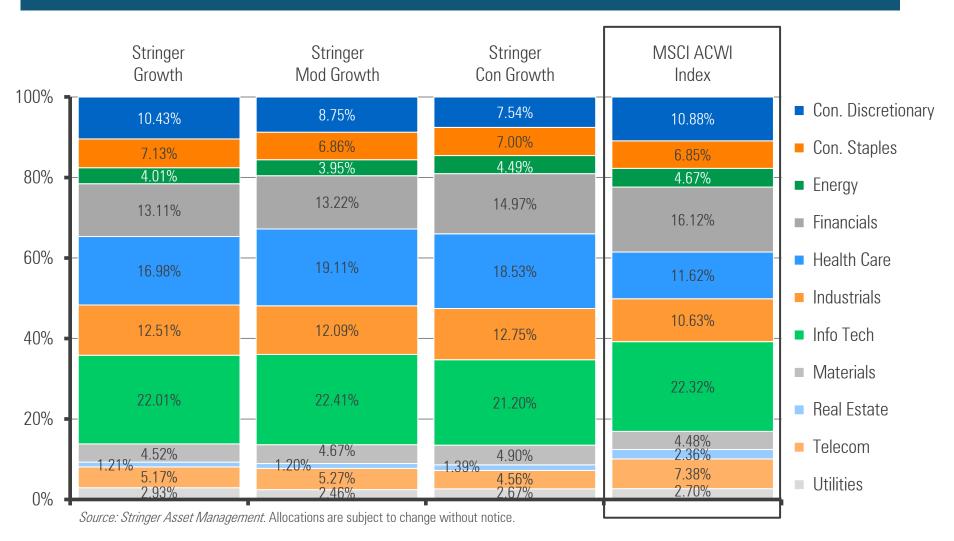


Source: Stringer Asset Management. Allocations are subject to change without notice.

### **Current Portfolio Allocations**



#### TRADITIONAL EQUITY SECTOR ALLOCATION AS OF DECEMBER 2023



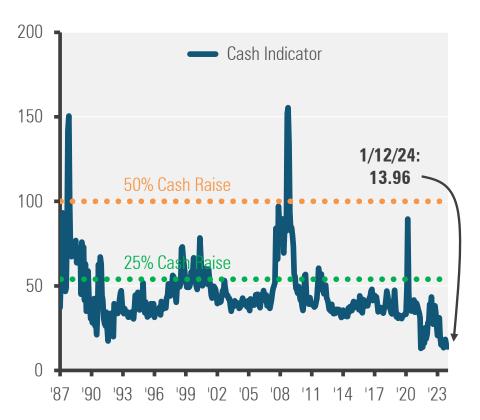


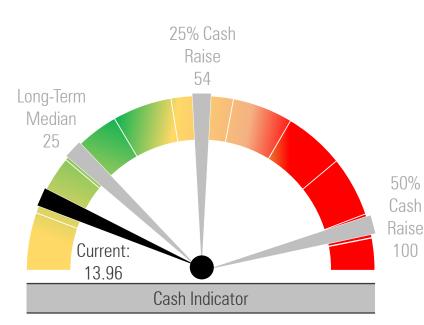
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### The Cash Indicator







Source: Bloomberg and Stringer Asset Management

- » The Cash Indicator (CI) continues to meander near low levels that suggest financial markets are overly complacent.
- » Especially in light of the strong market performance during the last two months of 2023, we expect equity markets to take a breather.
- » We think that the increase in volatility that we expect will create opportunities to build positions in attractively valued equities.



## Let Us Be Your 'Easy Button'



For more information:

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#### **Performance:**

Stringer Asset Management LLC is a registered investment adviser that generally provides services through model portfolios on a sub-advisory business. The firm primarily allocates client's investment management assets among exchange-traded funds ("ETFs") and secondarily among mutual funds. A fully compliant GIPS presentation along with a complete list and description of all composites is available at <a href="https://www.stringeram.com">www.stringeram.com</a> or by calling 901-800-2956. Stringer Asset Management LLC claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®).

Past performance is not indicative of future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares when redeemed may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be higher or lower than the performance data quoted. Advisory fees and any other expenses incurred in the management of the account will reduce actual returns. The performance of any individual portfolio may not be considered comparable to the Composite performance.

The Growth Composite includes all portfolios that mainly invest in equity and alternative ETFs selected from the global investment opportunity set. The Growth Composite has risk characteristics similar to that of the broad equity market and include but are not limited to equity risk, international investing risk and capitalization risk. The total returns presented are gross and net of fees. Advisory fees and any other expenses incurred in the management of the account will reduce actual returns. The benchmark is the MSCI ACWI Index rebalanced quarterly as of January 1, 2016. The benchmark is market-cap weighted and is composed of several country-specific indices. Sources of foreign exchange rates may be different between the composite and the benchmark; however, there have not been material differences to date. Prior to January 1, 2016, the benchmark was the MSCI World Index rebalanced quarterly. Prior to January 1, 2015, the blended benchmark was 70% Russell 3000 Index and 30% MSCI ACWI xUS Index rebalanced quarterly. In both cases, the benchmark was retroactively changed to more closely follow our investment strategy. The index represented does not bear transaction costs or management fees, and cannot be actually bought or sold. It is not possible to invest directly in an index. For index definitions, see the Index Definitions section at the end of this document. The U.S. Dollar is the currency used to express performance. Material use of leverage, derivatives and short positions are not used in this composite.

The Moderate Growth Composite includes all portfolios that mainly invest the majority of their assets in equity exchange-traded funds but also includes fixed income and alternative ETFs selected from the global investment opportunity set. The Moderate Growth Composite has risk characteristics lower than that of the broad equity market and include but are not limited to equity risk, international investing risk and credit risk. The total returns presented are gross and net of fees. Advisory fees and any other expenses incurred in the management of the account will reduce actual returns. The benchmark is a blend of 65% MSCI ACWI Index and 35% Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index rebalanced quarterly as of January 1, 2016. The benchmark is market-cap weighted and is composed of several country-specific indices. Sources of foreign exchange rates may be different between the composite and the benchmark; however, there have not been material differences to date. Prior to January 1, 2016, the blended benchmark was 65% MSCI World Index and 35% Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index rebalanced quarterly. Prior to January 1, 2015, the blended benchmark was 45% Russell 3000 Index, 20% MSCI ACWI xUS Index and 35% Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index rebalanced quarterly. In both cases, the benchmark was retroactively changed to more closely follow our investment strategy. The index represented does not bear transaction costs or management fees, and cannot be actually bought or sold. It is not possible to invest directly in an index. For index definitions, see the Index Definitions section at the end of this document. The U.S. Dollar is the currency used to express performance. Material use of leverage, derivatives and short positions are not used in this composite.



#### **Performance (continued):**

The Conservative Growth Composite includes all portfolios that invest their assets in equity, fixed income and alternative exchange-traded funds selected from the global investment opportunity set. The Conservative Growth Composite has risk characteristics lower than that of the broad equity market and include but are not limited to equity risk, international investing risk and credit risk. The total returns presented are gross and net of fees. Advisory fees and any other expenses incurred in the management of the account will reduce actual returns. The benchmark is a blend of 50% MSCI ACWI Index and 50% Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index rebalanced quarterly as of January 1, 2016. The benchmark is market-cap weighted and is composed of several country-specific indices. Sources of foreign exchange rates may be different between the composite and the benchmark; however, there have not been material differences to date. Prior to January 1, 2016, the blended benchmark was 50% MSCI World Index and 50% Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index rebalanced quarterly. Prior to January 1, 2015, the blended benchmark was 35% Russell 3000 Index, 15% MSCI ACWI xUS Index and 50% Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index rebalanced quarterly. In both cases, the benchmark was retroactively changed to more closely follow our investment strategy. The index represented does not bear transaction costs or management fees, and cannot be actually bought or sold. It is not possible to invest directly in an index. For index definitions, see the Index Definitions section at the end of this document. The U.S. Dollar is the currency used to express performance. Material use of leverage, derivatives and short positions are not used in this composite.

The Income with Growth Composite includes all portfolios that invest their assets in equity, fixed income and alternative exchange-traded funds selected from the global investment opportunity set. The Income with Growth Composite has risk characteristics lower than that of the broad equity market and include but are not limited to equity risk, international investing risk and credit risk. The total returns presented are gross of fees. Advisory fees and any other expenses incurred in the management of the account will reduce actual returns. The benchmark is a blend of 35% MSCI ACWI Index and 65% Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index rebalanced quarterly. The benchmark is market-cap weighted and is composed of several country-specific developed market indices. Sources of foreign exchange rates may be different between the composite and the benchmark; however, there have not been material differences to date. The index represented does not bear transaction costs or management fees, and cannot be actually bought or sold. It is not possible to invest directly in an index. For index definitions, see the Index Definitions section at the end of this document. The U.S. Dollar is the currency used to express performance. Material use of leverage, derivatives and short positions are not used in this composite. As of 12/30/16, the Conservative Composite was renamed the Income with Growth Composite.

The Income Composite includes all portfolios that invest their assets in equity, fixed income and alternative exchange-traded funds selected from the global investment opportunity set. The Income Composite has risk characteristics lower than that of the broad equity market and include but are not limited to equity risk, international investing risk and credit risk. The total returns presented are gross and net of fees. Advisory fees and any other expenses incurred in the management of the account will reduce actual returns. The benchmark is a blend of 20% MSCI ACWI Index and 80% Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index rebalanced quarterly as of January 1, 2016. The benchmark is market-cap weighted and is composed of several country-specific indices. Sources of foreign exchange rates may be different between the composite and the benchmark; however, there have not been material differences to date. Prior to January 1, 2016, the benchmark was a blend of 20% MSCI World Index and 80% Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index rebalanced quarterly. The benchmark was retroactively changed to more closely follow our investment strategy. The index represented does not bear transaction costs or management fees, and cannot be actually bought or sold. It is not possible to invest directly in an index. For index definitions, see the Index Definitions section at the end of this document. The U.S. Dollar is the currency used to express performance. Material use of leverage, derivatives and short positions are not used in this composite.



#### **Index Definitions:**

Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index — This Index provides a measure of the U.S. investment grade bond market, which includes investment grade U.S. Government bonds, investment grade corporate bonds, mortgage pass-through securities and asset-backed securities that are publicly offered for sale in the United States. The securities in the Index must have at least 1 year remaining to maturity. In addition, the securities must be denominated in US dollars and must be fixed rate, nonconvertible and taxable.

MSCI ACWI (Net) Index – This Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed and emerging markets. The MSCI ACWI Index consists of 23 developed and 23 emerging market country indexes. Net total return includes the reinvestment of dividends after the deduction of withholding taxes, using a tax rate applicable to non-resident institutional investors who do not benefit from double taxation treaties.

Russell 1000 Growth Index — This Index measures the performance of the large cap growth segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes those Russell 1000 companies with relatively higher price-to-book ratios, higher I/B/E/S forecast medium term growth and higher sales per share historical growth. The Index is constructed to provide a comprehensive and unbiased barometer for the large-cap growth segment. The Index is completely reconstituted annually to ensure new and growing equities are included and that the represented companies continue to reflect growth characteristics.

Russell 1000 Value Index — This Index measures the performance of the large cap value segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes those Russell 1000 companies with relatively lower price-to-book ratios, lower I/B/E/S forecast medium term growth and lower sales per share historical growth. The Index is constructed to provide a comprehensive and unbiased barometer for the large-cap value segment. The Index is completely reconstituted annually to ensure new and growing equities are included and that the represented companies continue to reflect value characteristics.

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



#### **Index Definitions (continued):**

S&P 500 Equal Weight Index – This Index is the equal-weight version of the widely-used S&P 500 Index. The Index includes the same constituents as the capitalization weighted S&P 500 Index, but each company in the Equal Weight Index is allocated a fixed weight - or +0.2% of the index total at each quarterly rebalance.

S&P 500 Dividend Aristocrats Index — This Index tracks companies within the S&P 500 Index that have a record of raising their dividends for at least 25 consecutive years. Each company is equally weighted within the Index. S&P will remove companies from the Index when they fail to increase dividend payments from the previous year. The Index's universe includes stocks with a float-adjusted market capitalization of at least \$3 billion and an average daily trading volume of at least \$5 million, in addition to consistently increasing dividend payments. The index requires a minimum of 40 companies.



#### **Statistical Definitions:**

Standard deviation — A statistical measure of volatility, standard deviation is often used as an indicator of the 'risk' associated with a return series. Standard deviation of return measures the average deviations of a return series from its mean. A large standard deviation implies that there have been large swings in the return series of the manager.

Alpha — Alpha is a measure of risk (beta)-adjusted return. Alpha measures the difference between a portfolio's actual returns and what it might be expected to deliver based on its level of risk. In an ideal sense, higher risk should equate to higher return. A positive alpha means the fund has beaten expectations. A negative alpha means that the fund has failed to match performance given its level of risk. If two managers have the same return, but one has a lower beta, that manager would have a higher alpha.

Beta — This represents the systematic risk of a portfolio and measures its sensitivity to a benchmark. A portfolio with a beta of one is considered to be as risky as the benchmark and would therefore provide expected returns equal to those of the market benchmark during both up and down periods. A portfolio with a beta of two would move approximately twice as much as the benchmark.

*Yield* – Portfolio and benchmark yields are calculated using a harmonic weighted average of the net dividends per share during the past 12 months for each holding as of the date identified at their respective target weighting.



#### **Principal Risks:**

Allocation risk – The performance of the portfolio relative to its benchmark will depend largely on the decisions to strategic asset allocation and tactical adjustments made to the asset allocation. At times, judgments as to the asset classes in which the portfolio should invest may prove to be wrong, as some asset classes may perform worse than others or the equity markets generally from time to time or for extended periods of time. Market risk - The value of securities in the portfolio may decline due to daily fluctuations in the securities markets, including fluctuation in interest rates, national and international economic conditions and general equity market conditions. Management style risk - To the extent the portfolio focuses on a particular style of stocks, such as growth or value, its performance may at times be better or worse than that of similar portfolios with other focuses or that have a broader investment style. Business and sector risk - From time to time, a particular set of circumstances may affect a particular industry or certain companies within an industry, while having little or no impact on other industries or other companies within the industry. Large company risk - The portfolio may invest in larger, more established companies, which may be unable to respond quickly to new competitive challenges such as changes in consumer tastes or innovative smaller competitors. Also, large companies are sometimes unable to attain the high growth rates of successful, smaller companies, especially during extended periods of economic expansions. Mid-sized company risk - The portfolio may invest in mid-cap companies, which may be more vulnerable to adverse business or economic events than larger, more established companies. In particular, these mid-sized companies may pose additional risks, including liquidity risk, because these companies tend to have limited product lines, markets and financial resources, and may depend upon a relatively small management group. Small company risk - The portfolio may invest in smaller companies, which generally have less experienced management teams, serve smaller markets, and find it more difficult to obtain financing for growth or potential development than larger companies. Real Estate Investment Trust ("REIT") risk — The portfolio may invest in ETFs or other pooled investment vehicles that invest in REITs. REITs are susceptible to the risks associated with investing in real estate generally, including, among others, declines in the value of real estate, lack of ability to access the credit markets and defaults by borrowers or tenants. Commodities risk - The portfolio may invest in ETFs or other pooled investment vehicles that invest in commodities, such as raw materials or agricultural products. Commodities are tied to future market values and future income and are vulnerable to adverse movements in prices and exchange rates. Additionally, the price of commodities may be affected by geopolitical changes and relations. *Credit risk* – An issuer of debt securities may not make timely payments of principal and interest. Debt securities risk - Increases in interest rates typically lower the value of debt securities held by the portfolio. Investments in debt securities include credit risk. There is also the risk that a bond issuer may "call," or repay its high yielding bonds before their maturity dates. Debt securities subject to prepayment can offer less potential for gains during a declining interest rate environment and similar or greater potential for loss in a rising interest rate environment. Limited training opportunities for certain debt securities may make it more difficult to sell or buy a security at a favorable price or time. High yield securities risk - Investments in high yield fixed income securities, also known as "junk bonds", involve a greater risk of default and are subject to a substantially higher degree of credit risk or price fluctuations than other types of debt securities. Interest rate risk - Increases in interest rates typically lower the present value of a company's future earnings stream. Accordingly, stock prices will generally decline when investors anticipate or experience rising interest rates. Issuer risk – The value of an individual security or particular type of security can be more volatile and thus perform differently than the market as a whole. Shares of other investment companies and ETFs risk – Investors will indirectly bear fees and expenses charged by the underlying funds in which the portfolio may invest in addition to the portfolio's direct fees and expenses and, as a result, the cost of investing in the portfolio will generally be higher than the cost of investing directly in the underlying fund shares. Investments in ETFs bear the risk that the market price of the ETF's shares may trade at a discount to their net asset value or that an active trading market for an ETF's shares may not develop or be maintained. Non-diversified fund risk – A non-diversified fund is generally subject to the risk that a large loss in an individual issue will cause a greater loss for the fund than it would if the fund was required to hold a larger number of securities or smaller positions. Foreign exposure risk – Foreign markets, particularly emerging markets, can be more volatile than the U.S. market due to increased risks of adverse issuer, political, regulatory, or economic developments. Foreign currency risk – The value of an investment denominated in a foreign currency will decline in dollar terms if that currency weakens against the dollar. Additionally, certain countries may utilize formal or informal currency-exchange controls or "capital controls." Such controls may also affect the value of the portfolio's holdings. U.S. Government and U.S. agency obligations risk - There can be no assurance that the U.S. Government would provide financial support to its agencies or instrumentalities (including government-sponsored enterprises) that issue or guarantee certain securities where it is not obligated to do so.



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