

## **2025 Annual Outlook**

Expect Innovation Led American Exceptionalism to Continue



# Agenda

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

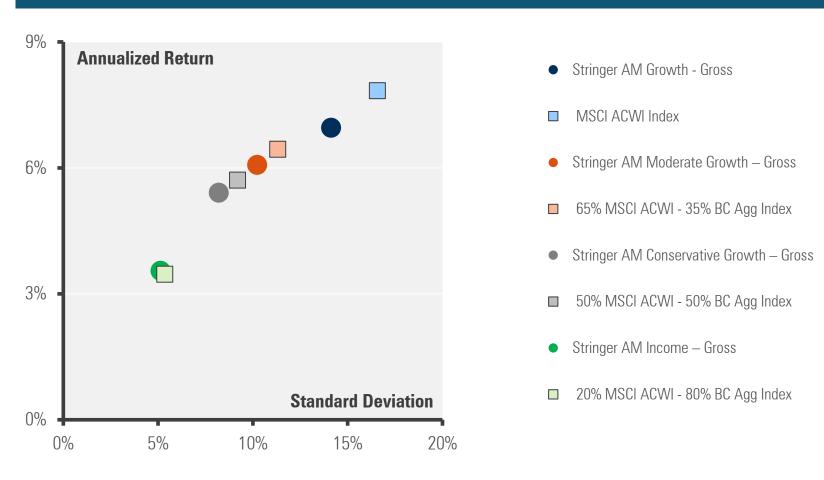


PRELIMINARY MANAGER COMPOSITE (GROSS) VS BENCHMARK: DECEMBER 2024											
								Since Inception (9/1/2008)			
	Yield	YTD	1-YR Trailing	3-YRS Trailing	5-YRS Trailing	7-YRS Trailing	10-YRS Trailing	Trailing Return	Standard Deviation	Beta	Alpha
Stringer AM Growth - Gross	1.69%	11.17%	11.17%	1.41%	7.06%	6.64%	7.13%	6.95%	14.14%	0.84	0.05%
MSCI ACWI Index	1.78%	17.49%	17.49%	5.44%	10.06%	9.21%	9.23%	7.84%	16.56%	1.00	-
Stringer AM Moderate Growth – Gross	2.69%	8.63%	8.63%	0.75%	4.98%	5.03%	5.47%	6.07%	10.23%	0.88	0.22%
65% MSCI ACWI - 35% BC Agg Index	2.53%	11.64%	11.64%	2.77%	6.72%	6.61%	6.70%	6.44%	11.31%	1.00	-
Stringer AM Conservative Growth – Gross	3.39%	8.12%	8.12%	0.18%	3.82%	4.09%	4.50%	5.41%	8.20%	0.86	0.28%
50% MSCI ACWI - 50% BC Agg Index	2.85%	9.19%	9.19%	1.60%	5.18%	5.40%	5.53%	5.71%	9.19%	1.00	-
								Since Inception (7/1/2015)			
	Yield	YTD	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	4.14%	8.86%	8.86%	0.67%	2.42%	2.93%	-	3.01%	6.89%	0.89	-1.14%
35% MSCI ACWI - 65% BC Agg Index	3.17%	6.77%	6.77%	0.41%	3.59%	4.13%	-	4.46%	7.31%	1.00	-
								Since Inception (11/1/2011)			
	Yield	YTD	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	4.84%	6.93%	6.93%	0.25%	1.72%	2.40%	2.69%	3.55%	5.13%	0.90	0.29%
20% MSCI ACWI - 80% BC Agg Index	3.49%	4.38%	4.38%	-0.79%	1.94%	2.80%	3.07%	3.47%	5.35%	1.00	-
								Since Inception (9/1/2015)			
	Yield	YTD	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	1.47%	6.86%	6.86%	-4.36%	6.01%	4.90%	-	5.37%	14.19%	0.87	-3.58%
MSCI ACWI Index	1.78%	17.49%	17.49%	5.44%	10.06%	9.21%	-	10.35%	14.98%	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 2024



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#### BROAD OUTLOOK

- » The U.S. economy remains resilient with strong private sector growth and nearly 2 million new jobs expected in 2025.
- » This strong private sector drives innovation and industrial expansion that supports corporate earnings growth.
- » Additionally, personal income is at an all-time high, which boosts consumption.
- » Private sector debt levels, including household debt, has stabilized relative to GDP and reflects economic recovery and improved financial flexibility.
- » Globally, the U.S. leads growth, particularly in services, while other regions like the Eurozone struggle.
- » Despite the positive backdrop, tactical risk management will be of critical importance in the coming year.
- » We expect volatility commensurate with the shifting tides of political power, geopolitical risk, and changes in market leadership after two years of outsized gains and narrow markets.
- Asset allocation coupled with risk controls, including the ability to adjust tactically as well as the Cash Indicator, may be particularly critical in this changing environment.



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

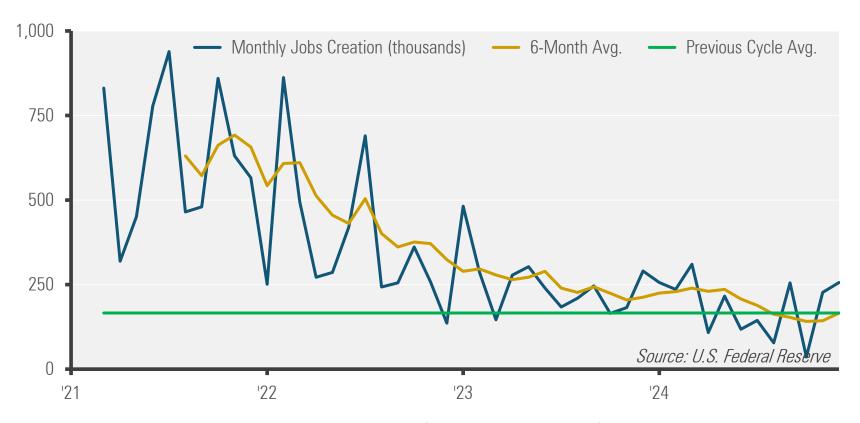


#### SAMPLE OF RECENT ADDITIONS

- We expect U.S. economic and equity market momentum to slow over the year ahead but remain broadly positive.
- » In addition, we think that the equity market opportunity set will likely expand beyond the very narrow market leadership we have seen for the past two years.
- » As a result, we increased and broadened our U.S. equity allocations while also reducing foreign equity market exposure further across our Growth, Moderate Growth, and Conservative Growth Strategies.
- Finaly, we added an opportunistic fixed income ETF to our Moderate Growth, Conservative Growth, and Income with Growth Strategies in order to further diversify our fixed income exposure and increase our underweight to government bonds.
- » These trades are aligned with our positive outlook on U.S. economic growth, equity market opportunities, and attractive fixed-income yields.

## Healthy Jobs Creation

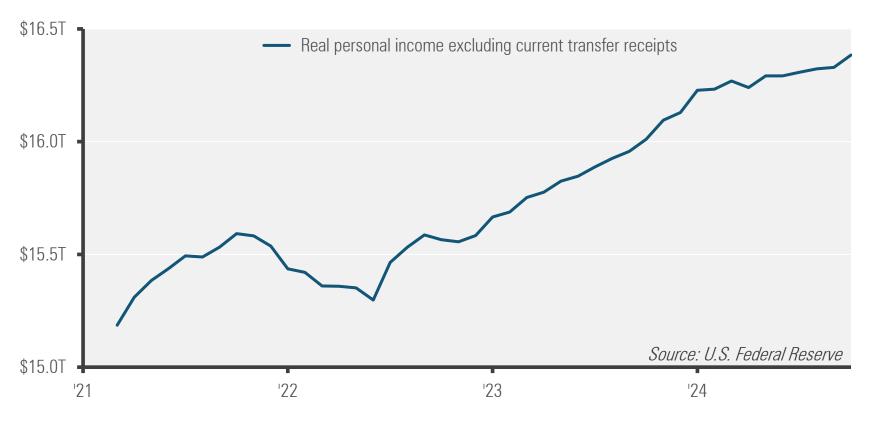




- » As we look toward 2025, our outlook for the economy and financial markets remains positive, driven primarily by robust private sector activity.
- » Given that nearly 70% of U.S. economic activity is consumer-driven, nothing is more fundamental to the current health of the economy than jobs creation and income growth.
- » Jobs creation is stabilizing at a level consistent with the previous business cycle and we think will create nearly 2 million new jobs in 2025.

# **Growing Personal Income**

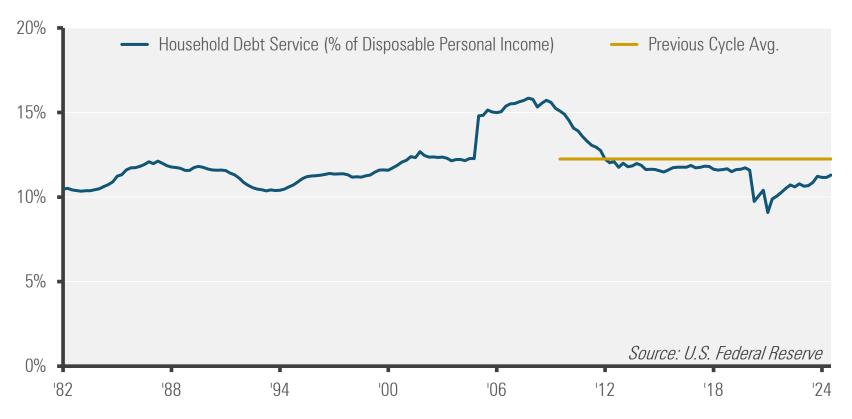




- » Meanwhile, real personal income is at an all-time high.
- » We measure real personal income excluding transfer receipts because it adjusts for inflation and excludes payments, such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, Unemployment Assistance, and a wide range of other benefits.
- » Personal income, even after adjusting for inflation and government support, is at an all-time high, which bodes well for consumption going forward.

## Solid Household Debt Levels

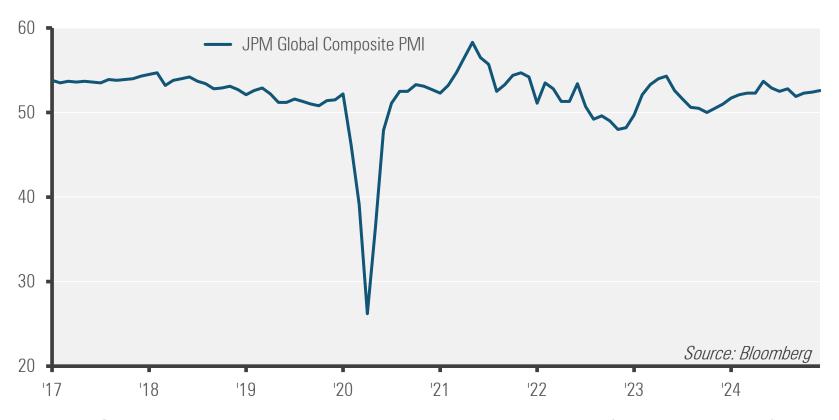




- » Looking at household debt-to-disposable income, the situation has normalized following the unprecedented economic disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- » The current household debt-to-income level is at a rate similar to the long-term average and well below levels that we saw during the mid-2000s housing boom.
- » This situation represents a fundamental improvement in economic resilience and provides businesses and consumers with greater financial flexibility.

## Improved Global Economic Growth





- » Global economic expansion improved in late 2024 as the rate of growth reached a fourmonth high according to the JPMorgan Global Composite PMI.
- » The U.S. was one of the strongest performers with robust growth in services, although manufacturing has faced headwinds.



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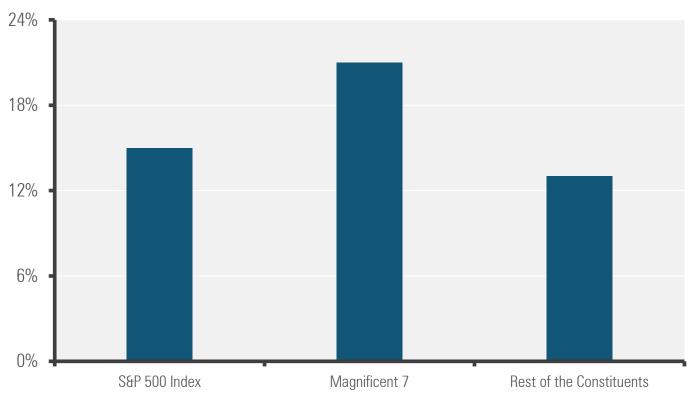


#### **INVESTMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- » We encourage investors to pay particularly close attention to risk tolerance, appropriate asset allocation, and rebalancing.
- » The recent run of a handful of companies creating unprecedented equity market concentration can develop significant risks resulting from portfolio dislocations.
- » Equity market rotations can happen quickly, and it is important to be prepared for these potential shifts, especially in light of today's equity market concentration.
- » Despite some concerns about valuation levels in the equity market, there are strong reasons for optimism.
- » We are focused on areas where we find quality businesses with consistent earnings growth and low financial leverage.
- » This plays out in our tactical overweight to the U.S. relative to foreign equity markets and specific sectors, such as information technology, financial services, consumer discretionary, and communications services.
- » In addition to the growth in U.S. equities, there are also investment opportunities in certain blue-chip companies with global businesses that happen to be headquartered overseas.
- » Regarding our fixed income allocations, we remain overweight asset-backed securities, mortgagebacked securities, and corporate bonds in the belly or intermediate part of the yield curve.

# S&P 500 Index Earnings Estimates





#### Source: Bloomberg

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- » The nature of today's concentrated equity market leaves many opportunities to be captured as earnings growth and market participation expands beyond the Magnificent 7.
- » Analysts expect 15% earnings growth for S&P 500 Index's companies according to FactSet.
- » This includes expectations for 13% earnings growth for the other companies that are not the Magnificent 7.



INVESTMENT OUTLOOK SUMMARY   FAVORED CHOICES								
EQUITY	U.S. » consumer discretionary*, communication services*,growth*, insurance*, technology*, quality Global » dividends, emerging markets xChina*							
FIXED INCOME	intermediate-duration asset-backed securities, corporates, mortgage-backed securities, defined-maturity core fixed income, taxable munis							
ALTERNATIVES	equity option overlay strategies							

<sup>\*</sup>areas that we are tactically emphasizing. 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 2024 TO JANUARY 6, 2025											
	Growth		ModGrowth		ConGrowth		IncGrowth		Income		
	Weight	Action	Weight	Action	Weight	Action	Weight	Action	Weight	Action	
DoubleLine Opp. Bond (DBND)	-	-	2.50%	BUY	5.50%	BUY	4.00%	BUY	4.00%	ADD	
Invesco Con. Disc. (RSPD)	4.00%	BUY	3.00%	BUY	2.00%	BUY	-	-	-	-	
SPDR S&P Comm. Services (XLC)	4.00%	BUY	3.00%	BUY	2.00%	BUY	-	-	-	-	
Vanguard Growth (VUG)	12.00%	BUY	9.00%	BUY	6.00%	BUY	-	-	-	-	
JPMorgan Hedged EQ Overlay (HELO)	3.00%	ADD	2.00%	ADD	-	-	-	-	-	-	
SPDR 1500 Value Tilt (VLU)	3.00%	ADD	2.00%	ADD	-	-	-	-	-	-	
SPDR S&P Insurance (KIE)	2.00%	ADD	3.00%	BUY	2.00%	BUY	-	-	-	-	
SPDR S&P Technology (XLK)	2.00%	ADD	2.00%	ADD	2.00%	ADD	-	-	-	-	
GS ActiveBeta Intl Equity (GSIE)	-	-	-1.50%	TRIM	-1.00%	TRIM	-	-	-	-	
Invesco Taxable Muni (BAB)	-	-	-2.50%	TRIM	-3.50%	TRIM	-	-	-	-	
iShares EM xChina (EMXC)	-2.00%	TRIM	-1.00%	TRIM	-1.00%	TRIM	-	-	-	-	
iShares USA Quality (QUAL)	-4.00%	TRIM	-1.00%	TRIM	-	-	-	-	-	-	
JPMorgan Equity Premium Inc. (JEPI)	-3.00%	TRIM	-3.00%	TRIM	-2.00%	TRIM	-	-	-	-	
SPDR Doubleline Total Return (TOTL)	-	-	-3.00%	TRIM	-2.00%	TRIM	-	-	-	-	
SPDR MSCI USA StrategicFactor (QUS)	-8.00%	TRIM	-4.00%	TRIM	-2.00%	TRIM	-	-	-	-	

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# Recent Activity



NET TRADE SUMMARY: OCTOBER 2024 TO JANUARY 6, 2025 (CONTINUED)											
	Growth		ModGrowth		ConGrowth		IncGrowth		Income		
	Weight	Action	Weight	Action	Weight	Action	Weight	Action	Weight	Action	
Vanguard Intl. Div. Appreciation (VIGI)	-	-	-1.50%	TRIM	-1.00%	TRIM	-	-	-	-	
Direxion NASDAQ-100 EW (QQQE)	-3.00%	SELL	-2.00%	SELL	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Federated Strategic Dividend (FDV)	-6.00%	SELL	-4.00%	SELL	-3.00%	SELL	-	-	-	-	
WisdomTree Intl Quality Dividend (IQDG)	-4.00%	SELL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
DoubleLine Comm. RE (DCRE)	-	-	-3.00%	SELL	-4.00%	SELL	-4.00%	SELL	-4.00%	SELL	

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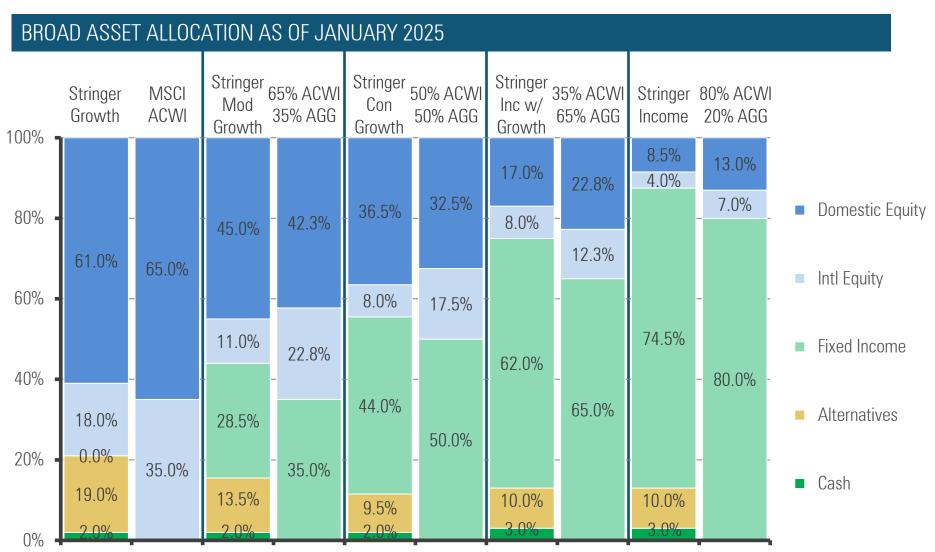


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## **Current Portfolio Allocations**



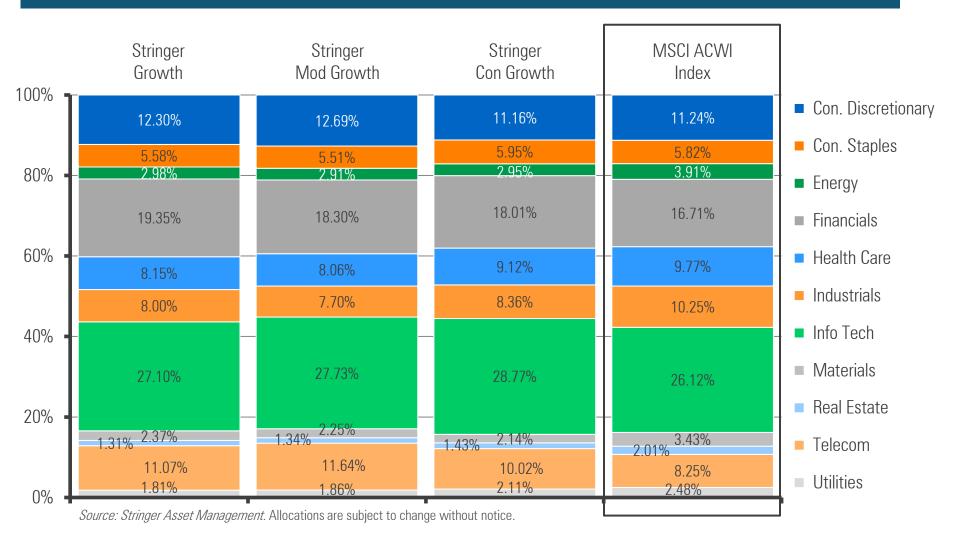


Source: Stringer Asset Management. Allocations are subject to change without notice.

## **Current Portfolio Allocations**



#### TRADITIONAL EQUITY SECTOR ALLOCATION AS OF JANUARY 2025



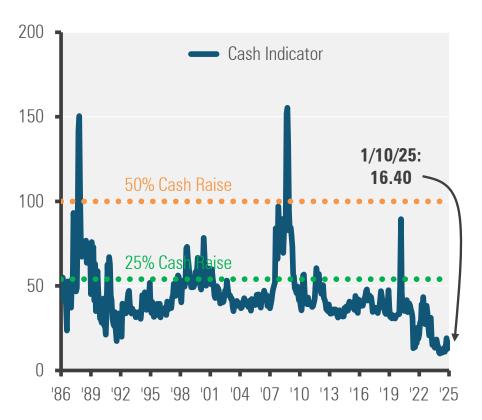


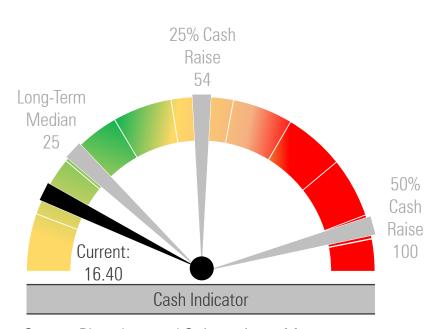
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## The Cash Indicator







Source: Bloomberg and Stringer Asset Management

- » The Cash Indicator (CI) remains well below historical norms as equity market volatility has been limited and fixed income credit spreads remain tight.
- » Given the shifting interest rate environment and geopolitical risks, there are many factors that could tip the equity market into a period of heightened volatility.
- » With our positive economic backdrop, we think periods of increased volatility are likely buying opportunities for disciplined investors.



# Let Us Be Your 'Easy Button'



For more information:

Jonathan Bernstein (713) 339-0598 | info@stringeram.com







#### **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.

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.

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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