



## **March 2025 Outlook**

New Headlines Overlook  
U.S. Economic Strength

-- For Financial Professionals Only --

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# Agenda



- » Preliminary Performance
- » Broad Outlook
- » Investment Implications
- » Favored Choices
- » The Cash Indicator



## PRELIMINARY MANAGER COMPOSITE (GROSS) VS BENCHMARK: FEBRUARY 2025

	Yield	YTD	1-YR Trailing	3-YRS Trailing	5-YRS Trailing	7-YRS Trailing	10-YRS Trailing	Since Inception (9/1/2008)			
								Trailing Return	Standard Deviation	Beta	Alpha
Stringer AM Growth - Gross	1.61%	2.49%	8.26%	4.95%	9.35%	6.97%	7.04%	7.04%	14.08%	0.84	<b>0.06%</b>
MSCI ACWI Index	1.76%	2.73%	15.06%	9.14%	12.79%	9.44%	9.11%	7.93%	16.50%	1.00	-
Stringer AM Moderate Growth – Gross	2.39%	2.50%	7.77%	3.30%	6.54%	5.42%	5.41%	6.16%	10.18%	0.88	<b>0.21%</b>
65% MSCI ACWI - 35% BC Agg Index	2.43%	2.74%	11.79%	5.83%	8.31%	7.02%	6.67%	6.55%	11.26%	1.00	-
Stringer AM Conservative Growth – Gross	2.85%	2.66%	8.13%	2.82%	5.00%	4.59%	4.48%	5.52%	8.17%	0.86	<b>0.29%</b>
50% MSCI ACWI - 50% BC Agg Index	2.72%	2.74%	10.40%	4.40%	6.33%	5.87%	5.55%	5.82%	9.15%	1.00	-

	Yield	YTD	1-YR Trailing	3-YRS Trailing	5-YRS Trailing	7-YRS Trailing	10-YRS Trailing	Since Inception (7/1/2015)			
								Trailing Return	Standard Deviation	Beta	Alpha
Stringer AM Income w/ Growth – Gross	3.67%	2.78%	10.49%	2.98%	3.23%	3.50%	-	3.25%	6.85%	0.89	<b>-1.09%</b>
35% MSCI ACWI - 65% BC Agg Index	3.01%	2.74%	9.02%	2.96%	4.30%	4.67%	-	4.67%	7.26%	1.00	-

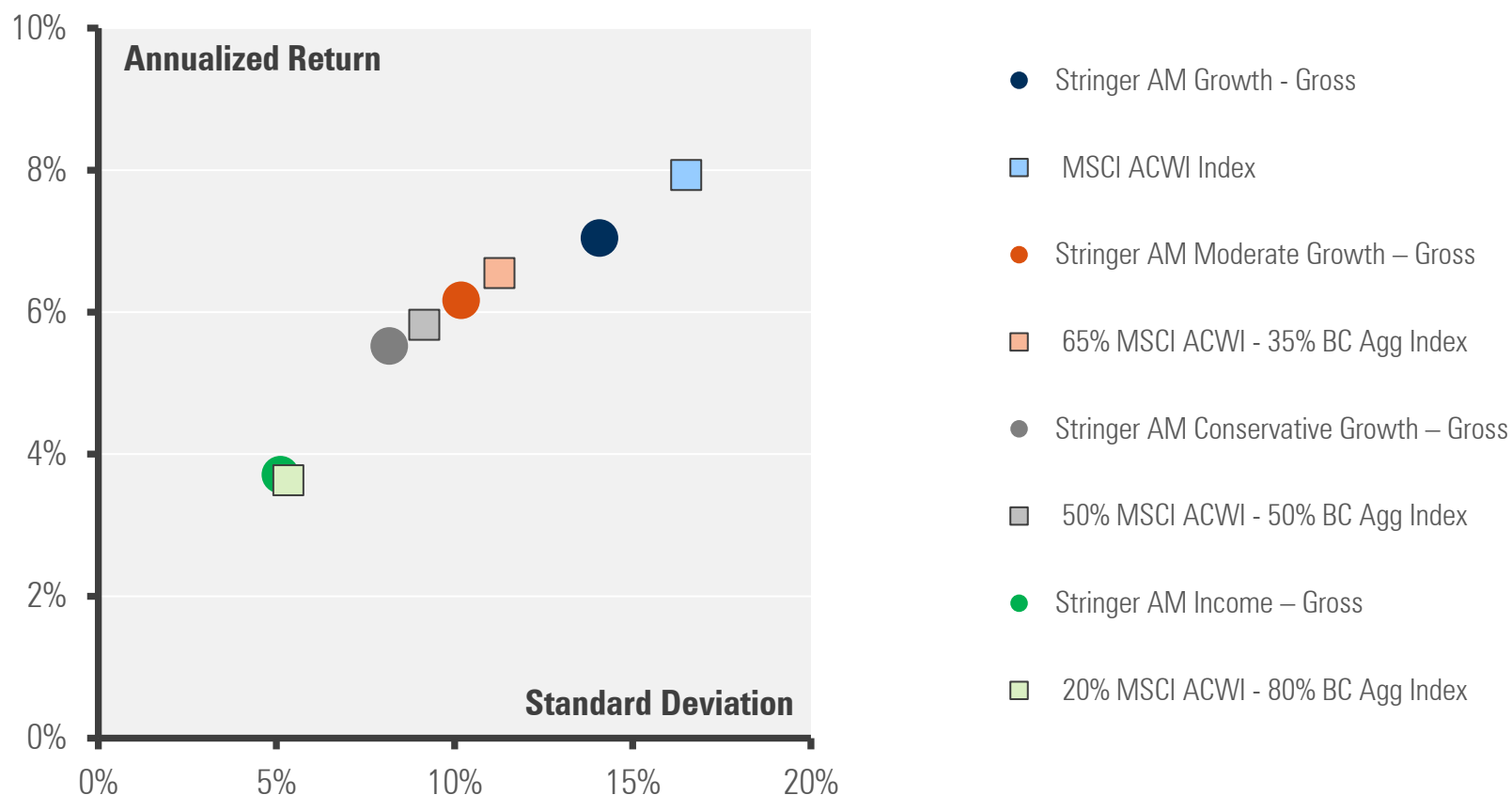
	Yield	YTD	1-YR Trailing	3-YRS Trailing	5-YRS Trailing	7-YRS Trailing	10-YRS Trailing	Since Inception (11/1/2011)			
								Trailing Return	Standard Deviation	Beta	Alpha
Stringer AM Income – Gross	4.16%	2.67%	9.35%	2.24%	2.08%	3.01%	2.84%	3.71%	5.12%	0.90	<b>0.29%</b>
20% MSCI ACWI - 80% BC Agg Index	3.30%	2.74%	7.64%	1.51%	2.25%	3.42%	3.18%	3.63%	5.34%	1.00	-

	Yield	YTD	1-YR Trailing	3-YRS Trailing	5-YRS Trailing	7-YRS Trailing	10-YRS Trailing	Since Inception (9/1/2015)			
								Trailing Return	Standard Deviation	Beta	Alpha
Stringer AM Tactical Opps - Gross	1.46%	1.50%	2.99%	-1.36%	7.83%	5.27%	-	5.44%	14.08%	0.87	<b>-3.61%</b>
MSCI ACWI Index	1.76%	2.73%	15.06%	9.14%	12.79%	9.44%	-	10.47%	14.88%	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 PLOT<sup>1</sup>: SINCE INCEPTION TO FEBRUARY 2025



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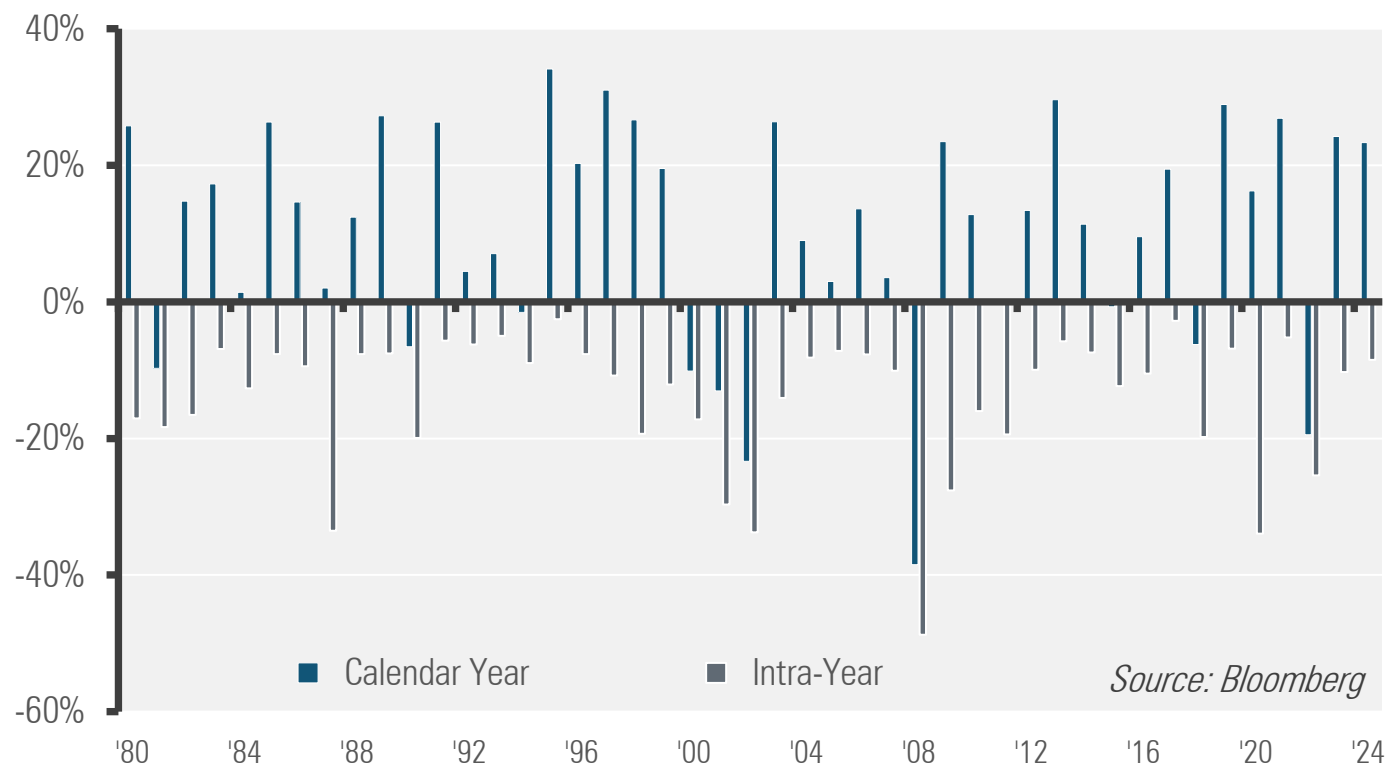


- ✓ Preliminary Performance
  - » Broad Outlook
  - » Investment Implications
  - » Favored Choices
  - » The Cash Indicator

## BROAD OUTLOOK

- » **Limited Economic Impact:** The U.S. economy is less affected by tariffs due to its low reliance on imports, which are less than 14% of GDP, compared to other countries with higher trade dependencies.
- » **Short-Term Economic Slowdown:** Recent data shows a potential negative GDP growth in the first quarter of 2025 due to a spike in imports as businesses prepare for future tariff hikes, though this is seen as a temporary anomaly.
- » **Long-Term Economic Growth:** Despite short-term disruptions, analysts forecast continued earnings growth for large-cap U.S. companies, with a focus on domestic demand and other economic indicators.

# Most Volatility is Just Noise (S&P 500 Index)

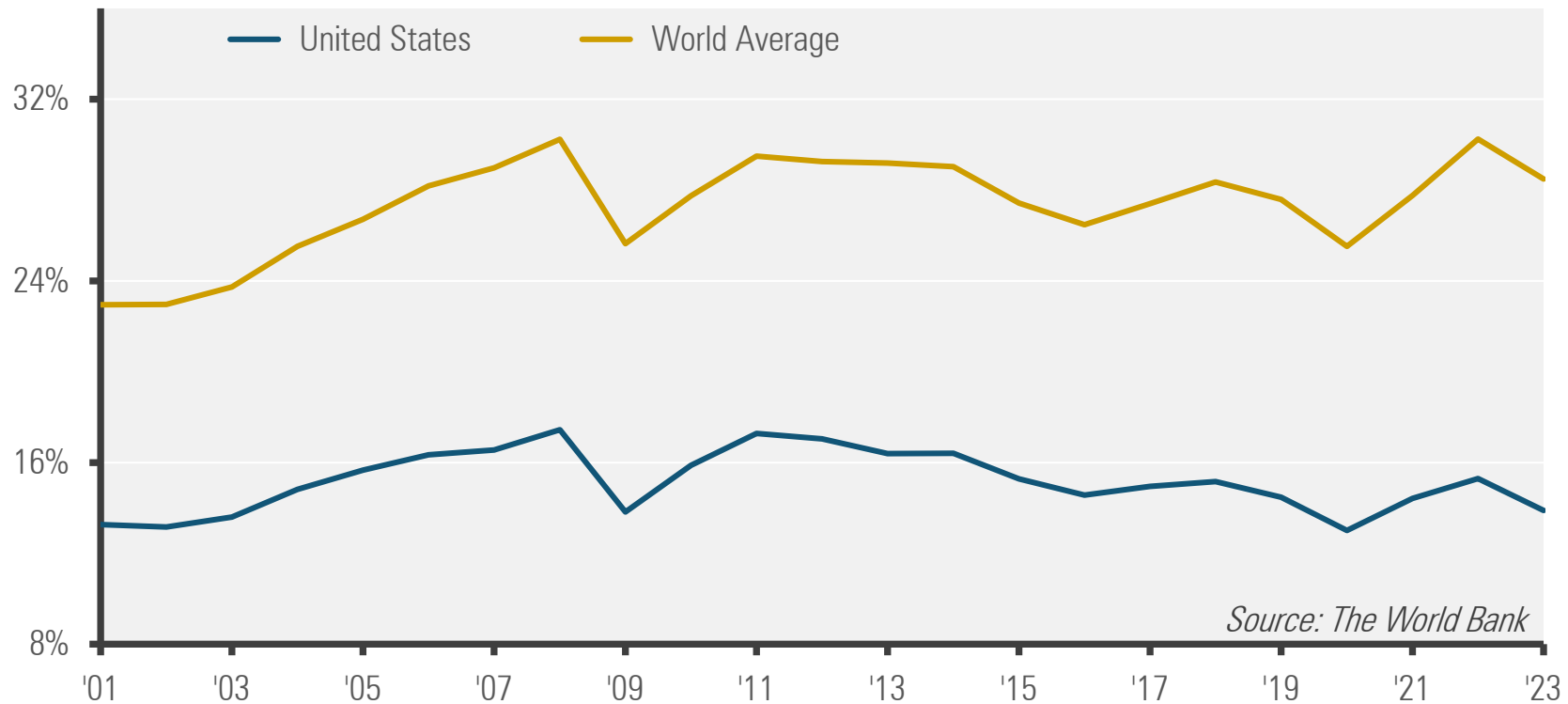


Source: S&P Global

This material is for informational purposes only. Opinions and forecasts expressed herein may not actually occur. Past performance is not indicative of future results. The index represented does 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.

- » The equity market tends to see a correction every 18 months or so.
- » Most corrections are recovered in a short period of time.
- » Bear markets are rarer and are usually associated with a recession.
- » If it is not a recession-induced bear market, it is probably a buying opportunity.

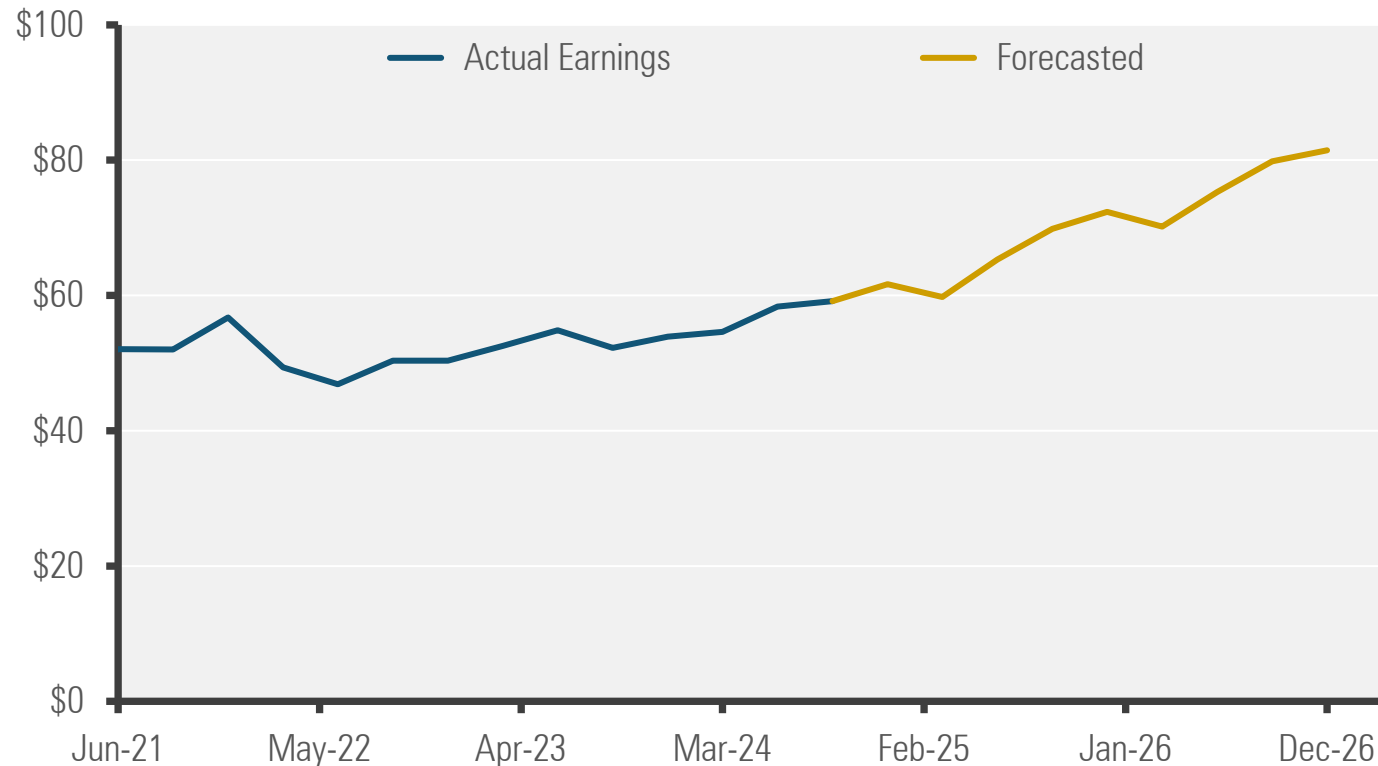
# Imports of Goods & Services (% of GDP)



- » Unlike many smaller, more trade-dependent nations, the U.S. is relatively insulated from the direct effects of tariffs.
- » As of 2023, imports of goods and services accounted for less than 14% of GDP, compared to over 28% for the global average.
- » This makes the U.S. less vulnerable to trade disruptions and tariff-related distortions than many other economies, which are more reliant on exports and imports to fuel their growth.



# S&P 500 Index Earnings Expectations

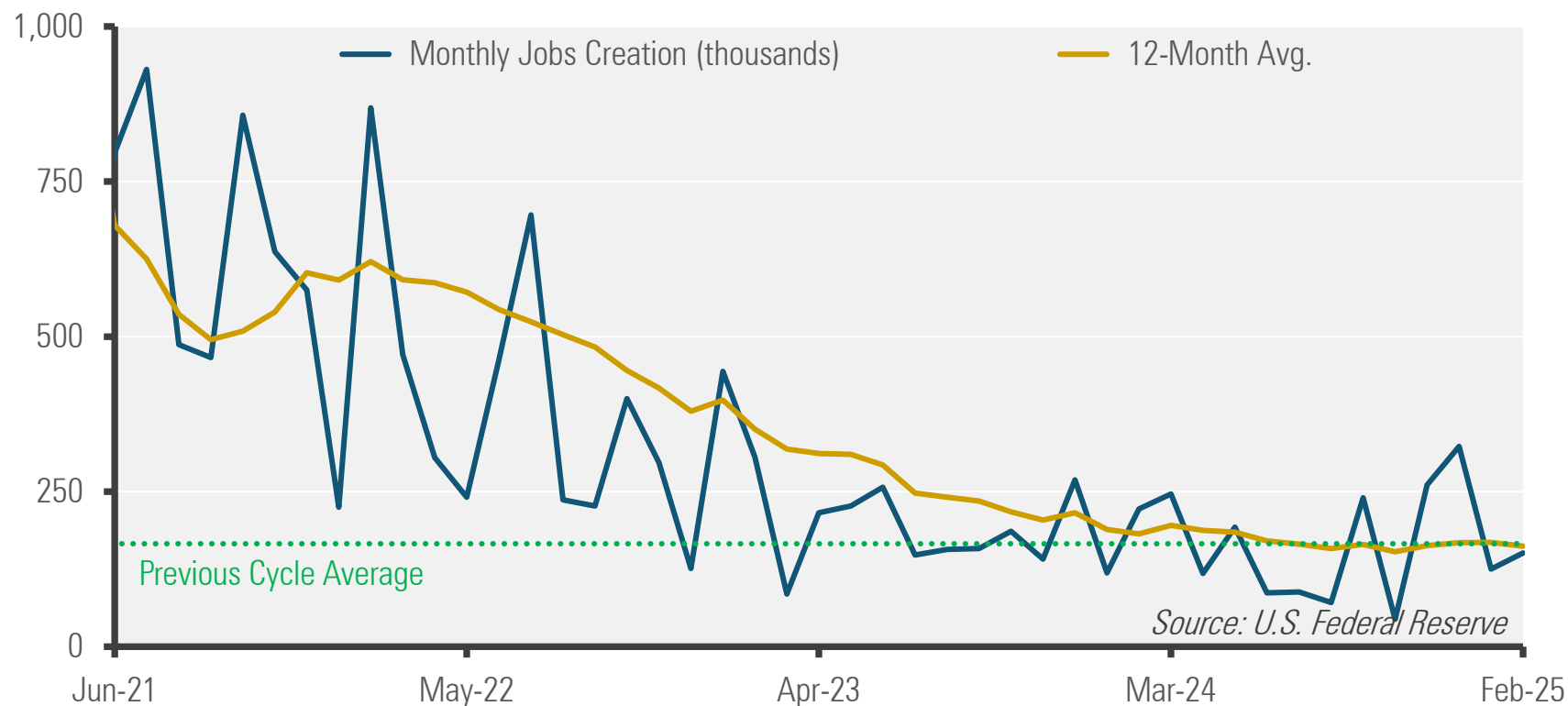


*Source: S&P Global*

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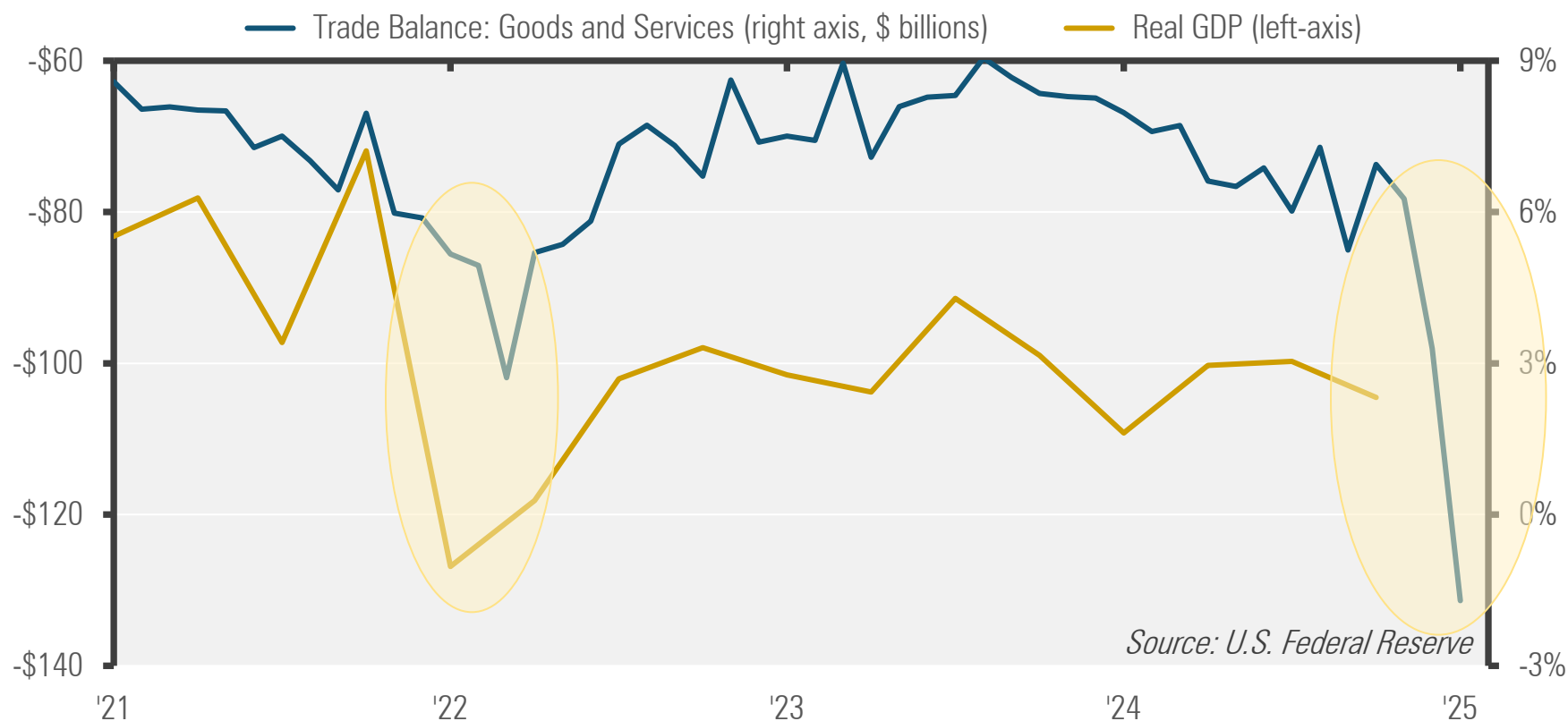
- » Despite the challenges posed by tariffs, analysts generally expect continued earnings growth for large-cap U.S. companies.
- » The S&P 500 Index is forecasted to see persistent earnings growth in the coming years, driven by the expansion of the broader U.S. economy.
- » While tariffs and geopolitical tensions may slow this growth, they are unlikely to derail it entirely.

# Monthly Jobs Creation



- » With 151,000 new jobs created, the February jobs gains slowed to 11,000 less than the 12-month average.
- » This was mainly due to the reduction of 10,000 jobs in the federal government. The private sector continues to create new jobs at a steady pace.
- » Now that the U.S. is close to full employment, we are unlikely to get major swings in the monthly jobs report like we saw earlier in the post-pandemic recovery.
- » Steady jobs gains reflect a private sector that is healthy, stable, and growing.

# Trade Balance & GDP



- » Similar to what we saw in early 2022, imports in the U.S. have spiked recently. In 2022 the increase in imports was the result of supply chain bottlenecks easing. Imports spiked this year as businesses frontload inventories ahead of expected tariff increases.
- » Because imports subtract from the GDP calculation, this sharp increase in imports could result in negative GDP growth for the quarter.
- » However, these effects will likely be reversed in future quarters resulting in a higher GDP figure at that time.



# Agenda



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  - » The Cash Indicator

## INVESTMENT IMPLICATIONS

- » Our Strategies remain overweight the U.S. with a focus on quality businesses with consistent earnings and low financial leverage.
- » The foreign businesses we favor have similar characteristics.
- » We have been advocating for some time in favor of the quality equity factor. The recent market action has illustrated how quickly rotations can occur and the quality factor protected nicely. We expect the rotation away from the Magnificent 7 to continue and for quality investments to benefit.
- » We also invest in alternative strategies that help reduced equity market volatility and increase current income through the use of options overlay strategies.
- » On the fixed income side, we are focused on high quality intermediate duration corporate bonds and asset-backed securities.

# Agenda



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- ✓ Broad Outlook
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  - » Favored Choices
  - » The Cash Indicator

## INVESTMENT OUTLOOK SUMMARY | FAVORED CHOICES

<b>EQUITY</b>	<i>U.S.</i> » <b>communication services*</b> , <b>insurance*</b> , <b>momentum*</b> , <b>quality*</b> <i>Global</i> » dividends, <b>quality*</b>
<b>FIXED INCOME</b>	<b>cash*</b> , intermediate-duration asset-backed securities, corporates, mortgage-backed securities, defined-maturity core fixed income, taxable munis
<b>ALTERNATIVES</b>	equity option overlay strategies

**\*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.**



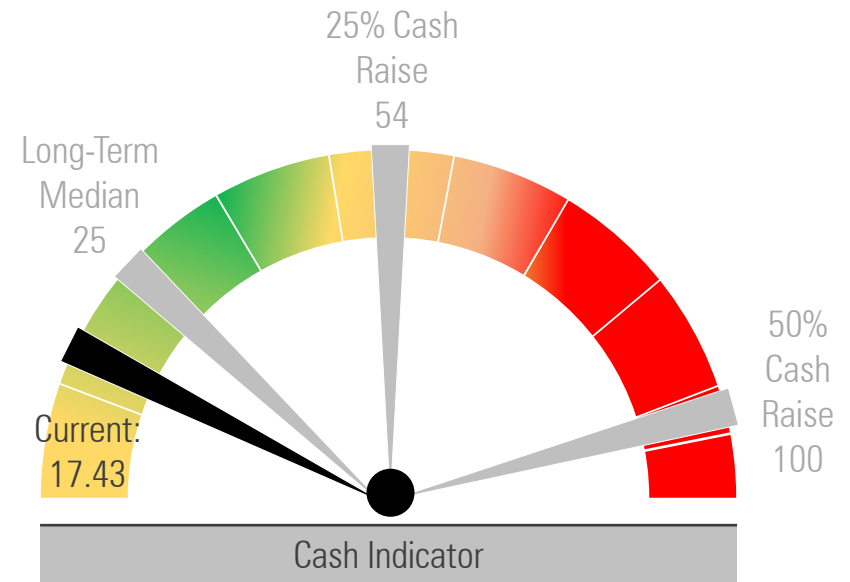
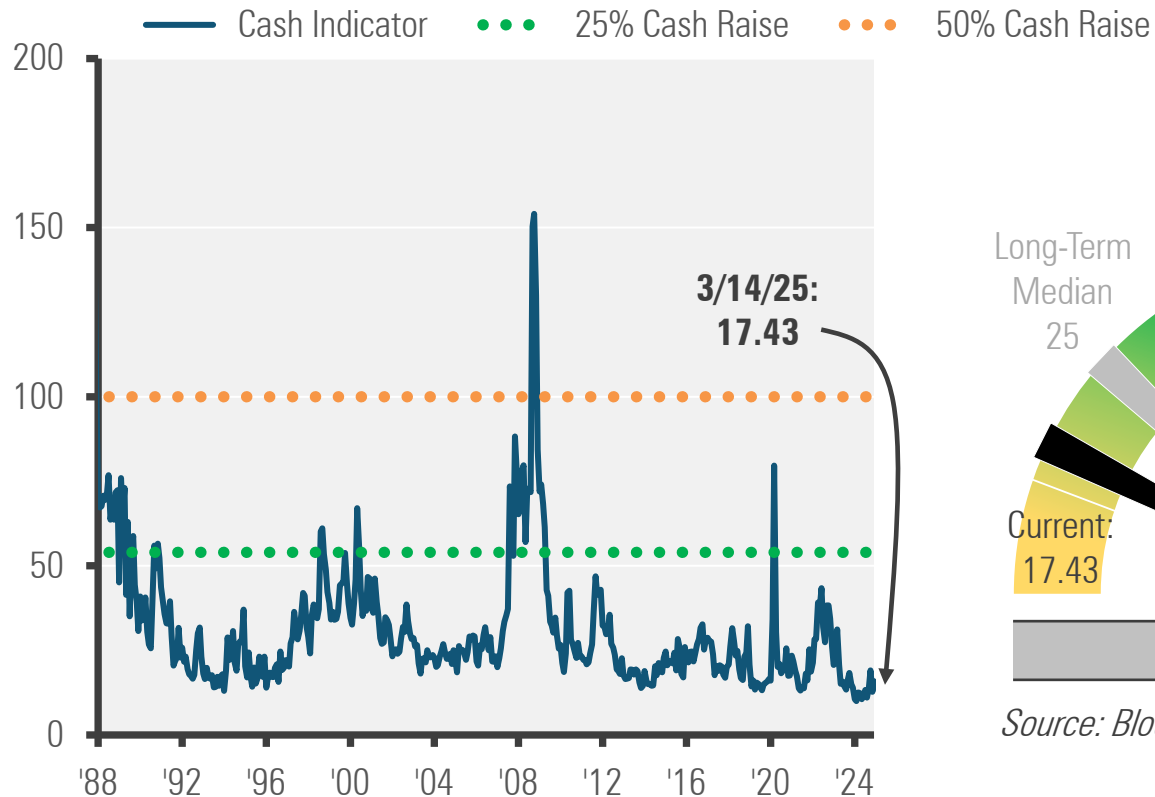
# Agenda



- ✓ Preliminary Performance
- ✓ Broad Outlook
- ✓ Investment Implications
- ✓ Favored Choices
- » The Cash Indicator



# The Cash Indicator



Source: Bloomberg and Stringer Asset Management

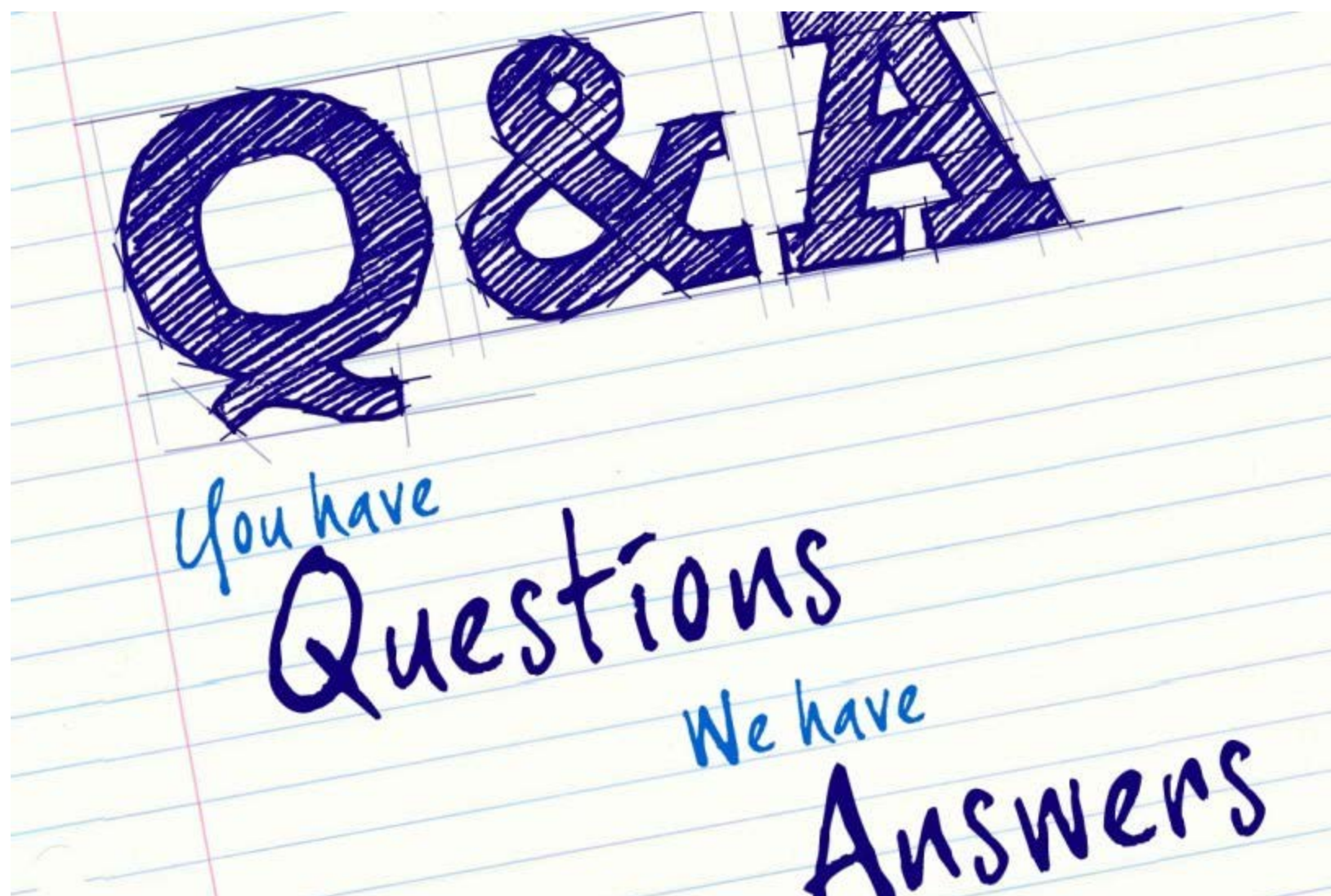
- » The current Cash Indicator (CI) level is not suggesting a severe market dislocation that would prompt significant cash raise.
- » Fear in the domestic equity market has been inching up from very low levels. We view this trend as a healthy development and a recent from last year's complacency.
- » Markets that are overly complacent are more easily subject to downside shocks.
- » With the current positive economic backdrop, equity market declines are buying opportunities in our opinion.

Let Us Be Your 'Easy Button'



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# Disclosures

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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 [www.stringeram.com](http://www.stringeram.com) 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.



# Disclosures

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## **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.

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## Performance (continued):

The Tactical Opportunities Composite includes all portfolios that mainly invest in equity and alternative ETFs selected from the global investment opportunity set. The Tactical 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. 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.



# Disclosures

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## 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.

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## 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 trading 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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