

December 14 2016

NAVIGATING THE MARKETS

COMPASS CHANGES

- Upgraded small caps to neutral/positive from neutral.
- Downgraded large growth to neutral from neutral/positive.
- Downgraded healthcare to neutral/positive from positive.
- Upgraded short-term municipals to neutral from negative/neutral.

INVESTMENT TAKEAWAYS

- We expect mid-single-digit returns for the S&P 500 in 2017, consistent with historical mid-to-late economic cycle performance.*
- Small caps may outperform early in 2017, due to potential supportive policies under President-elect Donald Trump.
- Our style views are aligned, with more positive energy and financials views and stronger growth offsetting our favorable technology view and relative valuations.
- More fiscal stimulus, commodity inflation, and valuations are supportive for emerging market (EM) equities, although uncertain U.S. trade policy is a risk.
- Deteriorating technicals and heightened policy uncertainty drive our slightly more cautious healthcare view.
- Expected gradual Federal Reserve (Fed) rate hikes and slow economic growth are supportive of bonds near term, though rising interest rates may be a headwind longer term as growth and inflation expectations rise.
- For fixed income allocations, we emphasize a blend of high-quality intermediate bonds and a small allocation to less interest rate-sensitive sectors, such as bank loans or high-yield bonds for suitable investors.
- From a technical perspective, the S&P 500 price has made new all-time highs, increasing the likelihood of a sustained long-term bullish trend.

The *Portfolio Compass* provides a snapshot of LPL Financial Research's views on equity, equity sectors, fixed income, and alternative asset classes. This monthly publication illustrates our current views and will change as needed over a 3- to 12-month time horizon.

The top down is an important part of our asset allocation process. As a result, we have a macro section including our views of the global economy and key drivers of those views, and a section on what we are watching that might change those views.

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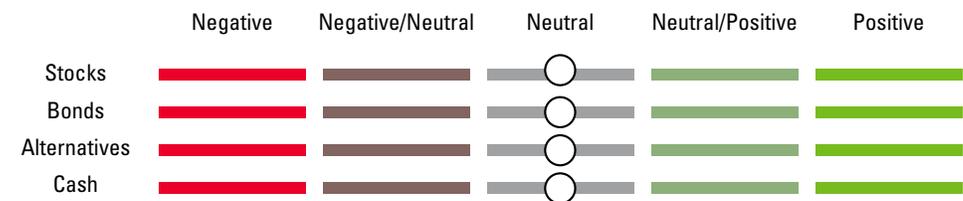
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BROAD ASSET CLASS VIEWS

LPL Financial Research's views on stocks, bonds, cash, and alternatives are illustrated below.



All performance referenced herein is as of December 13, 2016, unless otherwise noted.

*As noted in our *Outlook 2017 Executive Summary*, we expect mid-single-digit returns for the S&P 500 in 2017 and the continuation of the nearly eight-year-old bull market, consistent with historical mid-to-late economic cycle performance. We expect S&P 500 gains to be driven by: 1) a pickup in U.S. economic growth partly due to fiscal stimulus; 2) mid- to high-single-digit earnings gains; 3) an expansion in bank lending; and 4) a stable price-to-earnings ratio (PE) of 18–19. Gains will likely come with increased volatility as the economic cycle progresses.

PC
MACROECONOMIC VIEWS

	Economic Factor	Outlook	Investing Impact
ECONOMY	U.S. GDP Growth	We expect gross domestic product (GDP) growth near 2.5% in 2017.*	Absence of a recession would likely support equity markets.
	Consumer Spending	Possible tax stimulus, strong labor market, stock gains should help.	Supports consumer cyclicals.
	Business Spending	Tax reform, infrastructure spending may help but uncertainty around trade.	Industrials most likely to benefit; upside for tech but some policy risks.
	Housing	Tight supply, years of underbuilding may help but consumers are still cautious, rates are climbing.	A stronger turnaround could support housing and financials stocks.
	Import/Export	Dollar rise still manageable; service sector exports strong; uncertainty around trade.	Supports technology, business services; some uncertainty for multinationals.
	Labor Market	Steadily improving overall. Early signs of wage pressure appearing.	May put modest pressure on margins.
	Inflation	Wages, economic growth, election have raised expectations.	Interest rates likely to rise but process likely to be gradual after post-election spike. May help financials.
	Business Cycle	Still mid-cycle but have likely moved into latter half.	Equity markets may have room to run, but expect more volatility.
	Dollar	Monitoring post-election strength but year-over-year gains still manageable.	Modest potential drag on earnings.
	Global GDP Growth	Some improvement likely in 2017, with help of EM growth. Trade uncertainty remains a risk.	Upside with risks for global multinationals; global diversification may provide benefits.
POLICY	Fiscal	Stimulus from infrastructure spending and tax reform likely post-election.	May provide a welcome economic lift, but government debt still a potential long-term headwind.
	Monetary	Market adjusting to increased likelihood of rate hikes.	Interest rates may be a modest headwind for quality bonds.
	Government	Republican president, Congress reduces gridlock but awaiting policy clarification.	May contribute to volatility; concerns persist around trade.
RISKS	Financial	Election may loosen credit standards, accelerate deregulation.	Net positives in the short term, but higher volatility would still be normal for this point in business cycle.
	Geopolitical & Other	Monitoring Chinese economy, Islamic State.	May contribute to higher stock volatility.
OVERSEAS	Developed Overseas	Monetary policy supportive, but Brexit increases uncertainty in Europe.	May increase currency volatility; may favor U.S. equities.
	Emerging Markets	Oil rebound, better policy mix in China providing some relief but currency volatility may increase.	Faster growth ex-China may help lift low valuations.
FINANCIAL CONDITIONS	Corporate Profits	Earnings recession ended in Q3 2016; earnings could potentially accelerate in 2017 based on better economic growth, stable profit margins, and rebounding energy sector profits.	May be supportive of modest stock market gains.
	Main Street	Fed Beige Book depicts optimistic economic outlook despite below-trend growth.	Support of cyclical sector performance.

Source: LPL Research, U.S. Department of Energy, Haver Analytics 12/13/16

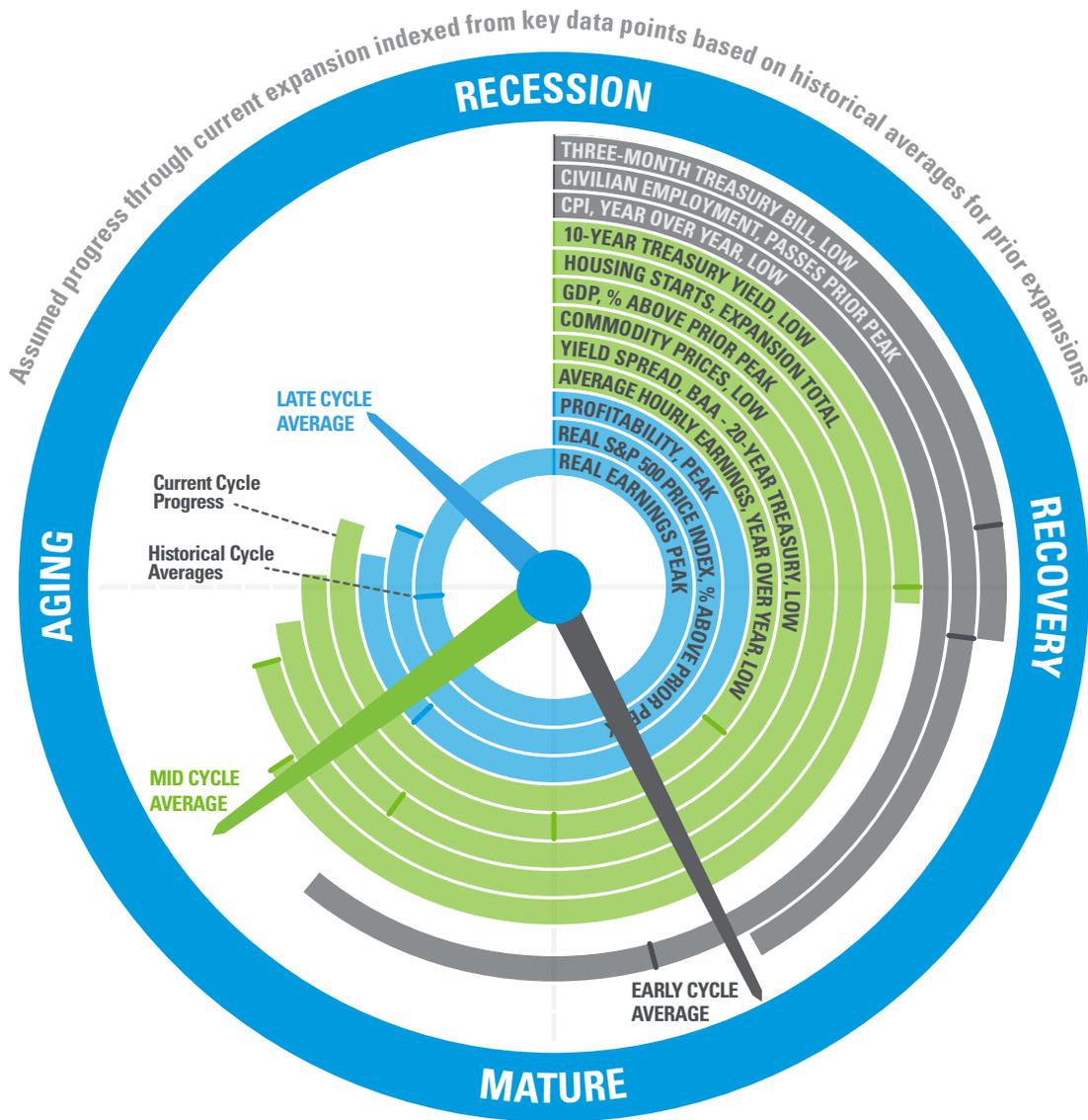
*Our forecast for GDP growth near 2.5% is based on the historical mid-cycle growth rate of the last 50 years. Economic growth is affected by changes to inputs such as: business and consumer spending, housing, net exports, capital investments, and government spending. Fiscal stimulus potentially offers upside.

The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide or be construed as providing specific investment advice or recommendations for your clients. Any economic forecasts set forth in the presentation may not develop as predicted and there can be no guarantee that strategies promoted will be successful.

WHAT WE'RE WATCHING

The Cycle Clock suggests we are in the mid-to-late stage of the current expansion, but we are still seeing some early cycle and late cycle behavior. Extended loose monetary policy, inflation, and employment growth are still exhibiting early cycle behavior, while some items relating to corporate profits are showing late cycle behavior, although they may be reset if profits improve.

"What We're Watching" features indicators that are keys to the current LPL Financial Research macroeconomic outlook. Economic and market dynamics will dictate featured topics and their durability.



Sources: LPL Research, Federal Reserve, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Standard & Poor's, Robert Shiller, National Bureau of Economic Research, Haver Analytics 12/13/16

The 10-year Treasury yield hit a new low for the current cycle in July 2016 (based on the daily average), shifting us to earlier in the cycle by that metric.

Data for all series are as of December 13, 2016. Starting point for all series is June 1954 except housing starts (March 1961), hourly earnings (December 1970), and commodity prices (December 1970). Real prices and real earnings determined using the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (CPI-U). Commodity prices are based on the GSCI Total Return Index. Profitability is based on real profit per unit value added for non-financial corporate business based on current production as calculated by the BEA.

ASSET CLASS & SECTOR TOP PICKS

Below we provide our top overall ideas across the various asset classes and sectors covered in this publication, as well as our best ideas within the three disciplines of our investment process: fundamentals, technicals, and valuations. More details on these and other investment ideas can be found in subsequent pages.

Characteristics	EQUITY ASSET CLASSES	EQUITY SECTORS	FIXED INCOME	Characteristics	ALTERNATIVE ASSET CLASSES
BEST OVERALL IDEAS	U.S. Stocks U.S. Small Caps	Technology	Investment-Grade Corporates Mortgage-Backed Securities (MBS) Bank Loans	BEST OVERALL IDEAS	Long/Short Equity
Fundamentals	U.S. Stocks U.S. Small Caps Master Limited Partnerships	Technology Industrials Real Estate	Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS) Bank Loans	Catalysts	Managed Futures Global Macro Long/Short Equity
Technicals	U.S. Stocks U.S. Small and Mid Cap	Energy Financials Industrials	Bank Loans High-Yield Bonds MBS	Trading Environment	Long/Short Equity
Valuations	Large Foreign Emerging Markets (EM)	Healthcare Technology Telecom	Investment-Grade Corporates MBS	Volatility	Global Macro Long/Short Equity Managed Futures

READING THE PORTFOLIO COMPASS

RATING	ICON	
Negative	■ ●	<p>Fundamental, technical, and valuation characteristics for each category are shown by their blue icons below, and displayed as colored squares.</p> <p>Negative, neutral, or positive views are illustrated as a colored circle positioned over the scale, whereas an outlined black circle with an arrow indicates change and shows the previous view.</p> <p>Rationales for our views are provided on the right side.</p>
Negative/Neutral	■ ●	
Neutral	■ ●	
Positive/Neutral	■ ●	
Positive	■ ●	
Previous Position	⊙	

Global macro strategy is a hedge fund strategy that selects its holdings primarily on the macroeconomic and political views of various countries, and is subject to numerous risks such as: geopolitical, derivative, commodity, volatility, currency, and regulatory.

Long/short equity strategies are subject to normal alternative investment risks, including potentially higher fees; while there is additional management risk, as the manager is attempting to accurately anticipate the likely movement of both their long and short holdings. There is also the risk of "beta-mismatch," in which long positions could lose more than short positions during falling markets.

EQUITY ASSET CLASSES

We expect mid-single-digit returns for the S&P 500 in 2017, consistent with historical mid-to-late economic cycle performance. We forecast mid- to high-single-digit earnings gains as corporate America emerges from its year-long earnings recession. We see similar performance between growth and value, with accelerating economic growth and improved financial sector performance favoring value while our sector views and relative valuations favor growth. Small caps may outperform early in 2017, due to potential supportive policies under Trump, while an aging business cycle may favor larger caps later in the year. We maintain our U.S. focus while watching for opportunities to take advantage of post-election weakness in emerging markets.

	Sector	F	T	V	⊖	○	⊕	Rationale
Style/Capitalization	Large Growth	■	■	■	—●—	○	●	Mid-to-late stages of economic cycles tend to favor large caps. Potential benefit of repatriation of overseas cash at lower tax rates, which helps large caps, may be offset by risk of protectionist trade policy. Our style views have become more aligned due to our more positive views of key value sectors, particularly financials but also energy, balanced against our positive technology view and attractive relative valuations for growth.
	Large Value	■	■	■	—●—	○	●	
	Mid Growth	■	■	■	—●—	○	●	Mid caps are exhibiting strong technical momentum, and valuations remain reasonable relative to large caps. Could see more merger and acquisition activity in 2017, which may help mids.
	Mid Value	■	■	■	—●—	○	●	
	Small Growth	■	■	■	—●—	○	●	Small caps benefit from a potentially lower corporate tax rate and are more insulated—and may even benefit—from potential protectionist trade policy. An aging business cycle and above-average valuations are risks.
	Small Value	■	■	■	—●—	○	●	
Region	U.S. Stocks	■	■	■	—●—	○	●	We remain U.S. focused while watching for opportunities overseas, particularly in EM, and monitoring U.S. trade policy's impacts on multinationals.
	Large Foreign	■	■	■	—●—	○	●	Macroeconomic and political risks and U.S. dollar strength keep us cautious on international developed equities, although valuations make these markets worth watching.
	Small Foreign	■	■	■	—●—	○	●	
	Emerging Markets	■	■	■	—●—	○	●	The election of Trump increases U.S. trade policy risk; however, earnings and economic fundamentals for the asset class have improved. Higher U.S. interest rates with attendant dollar strength also represent increased risk.
MLPs	MLPs	■	■	■	—●—	○	●	Trump's energy-friendly stance and higher crude prices could lift U.S. production and spark pipeline construction. Valuations are attractive and distribution growth remains mostly intact; watching interest rate risk.

Investing in MLPs involves additional risks as compared with the risks of investing in common stock, including risks related to cash flow, dilution, and voting rights. MLPs may trade less frequently than larger companies due to their smaller capitalizations, which may result in erratic price movement or difficulty in buying or selling. MLPs are subject to significant regulation and may be adversely affected by changes in the regulatory environment, including the risk that an MLP could lose its tax status as a partnership. Additional management fees and other expenses are associated with investing in MLP funds.

EQUITY SECTORS

We maintain our preference for cyclical sectors as the U.S. economic expansion continues. Technology looks particularly attractive on post-election weakness, while industrials should benefit from infrastructure spending under Trump and a Republican-controlled Congress. Healthcare valuations are compelling and the market’s view of regulatory risk may be overly onerous. The election and higher interest rates boost the outlook for financials, while energy may get a lift from the OPEC-led global supply cut agreement.

	Sector	F	T	V	⊖	○	⊕	S&P*	Rationale
Cyclical	Materials	■	■	■	●	○	●	2.9	Stability in China, infrastructure spending, and gradual rise in inflation are supportive, although U.S. dollar strength and trade policy are risks, while China’s transition to a service economy is a challenge.
	Energy	■	■	■	●	○	●	7.6	We still see modest near-term upside to oil prices potentially to the mid-\$50s, and further gains in 2017, following OPEC-led global production cuts and steady demand; maintain positive bias.
	Industrials	■	■	■	●	○	●	10.3	Valuations are above average, but positives include potential stronger growth in U.S. and EM in 2017, infrastructure spending, and oil price stability; may see long-awaited pickup in capital spending.
	Consumer Discretionary	■	■	■	●	○	●	12.3	Technical weakness, slowing earnings momentum, higher oil prices, the age of the business cycle, and e-commerce disruption are all concerning, although valuations have become reasonable.
	Technology	■	■	■	●	○	●	20.8	Strong recent earnings performance; potential business spending increases (possibly lifted by corporate tax reform), technology’s role as productivity enabler, valuations, and technicals all positive; protectionist trade policy is key risk.
	Financials	■	■	■	●	○	●	14.8	Steeper yield curve post-election, possible deregulation and expanded credit access, and strong recent earnings performance suggest a positive bias; buy on the dip candidate.
Defensive	Utilities	■	■	■	●	○	●	3.1	Valuations have fallen below the S&P 500 but are still expensive; we continue to favor cyclical sectors at this stage of the cycle while interest rate risk and technical weakness suggest caution is warranted.
	Healthcare	■	■	■	●	○	●	13.5	We like the demographics, the pace of innovation, generally limited regulatory risk to drug prices, and valuations; pending Affordable Care Act overhaul introduces significant policy uncertainty and technicals have weakened.
	Consumer Staples	■	■	■	●	○	●	9.3	We still favor cyclical sectors, earnings revisions have been negative and below average, interest rate risk remains high and technicals are poor; on the positive side, valuations have fallen to slightly below average levels.
	Telecommunications	■	■	■	●	○	●	2.6	Technical weakness coupled with a generally sluggish growth outlook and rising interest rates drive caution despite rich yields and attractive valuations.
	Real Estate	■	■	■	●	○	●	2.8	Steady job gains, rich yields, and addition as an S&P sector help; interest rate risk has risen post-election, suggesting some near-term caution is warranted. Buy on the dip candidate.

* S&P 500 Weight (%)

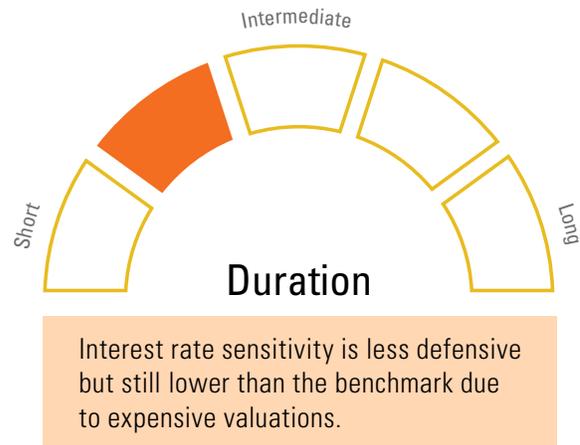
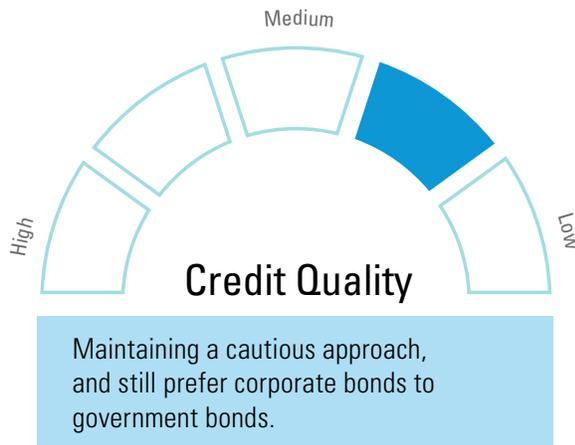
Investing in real estate/REITs involves special risks such as potential illiquidity and may not be suitable for all investors. There is no assurance that the investment objectives of this program will be attained.

Because of its narrow focus, specialty sector investing, such as healthcare, financials, or energy, will be subject to greater volatility than investing more broadly across many sectors and companies.

There is no guarantee that a diversified portfolio will enhance overall returns or outperform a nondiversified portfolio. Diversification does not ensure against market risk.

FIXED INCOME

Increased supply, proposed changes to taxation, and the potential for additional spending that could lead to inflation have hurt municipal performance over the past several months, and outflows from retail investors led to another month of underperformance in November.* Valuations looked cheap following the sell-off, but have since moved closer to long-term averages. Issuance appears to be moderating following three record-breaking months, though municipal bond mutual fund flows, a proxy for retail investor demand, have also slowed. Markets are still waiting for more details on Trump’s policy plans, as the structure of his infrastructure plan will determine if it will have a meaningful impact on supply in the municipal market. Municipal bonds’ credit quality remains generally good; problem issuers remain isolated and have not impacted the broader market.



Yield spread is the difference between yields on differing debt instruments, calculated by deducting the yield of one instrument from another. The higher the yield spread, the greater the difference between the yields offered by each instrument. The spread can be measured between debt instruments of differing maturities, credit ratings, and risk.

Sector	F	T	V	⊖	○	⊕	Rationale
Munis–Short-Term	■	■	■	⊖	○	⊕	Relative valuations in line with 5-year average, but lower yields limit appeal.
Munis–Intermediate-Term	■	■	■	⊖	○	⊕	Valuations have cheapened over the past month, though remain above the 5-year average.
Munis–Long-Term	■	■	■	⊖	○	⊕	Valuations relative to Treasuries cheapened during recent sell-off, but longer duration may be a headwind if rates continue to rise.
Munis–High-Yield	■	■	■	⊖	○	⊕	Valuations remain elevated following sell-off, though additional yield remains a factor.

Continued on next page.

*Based on the Barclays Municipal Bond Index, which underperformed the Barclays Aggregate Index.

For the purposes of this publication, intermediate-term bonds have maturities between 3 and 10 years, and short-term bonds are those with maturities of less than 3 years.

All bonds are subject to market and interest rate risk if sold prior to maturity. Bond values will decline as interest rates rise and are subject to availability and change in price.

High-yield/junk bonds are not investment-grade securities, involve substantial risks, and generally should be part of the diversified portfolio of sophisticated investors.

Municipal interest income may be subject to the alternative minimum tax. Federally tax-free but other state and local taxes may apply.

Corporate bonds are considered higher risk than government bonds but normally offer a higher yield and are subject to market, interest rate, and credit risk, as well as additional risks based on the quality of issuer coupon rate, price, yield, maturity, and redemption features.

FIXED INCOME (CONTINUED)

For fixed income allocations, we continue to emphasize a blend of high-quality intermediate bonds coupled with a small allocation to less interest rate-sensitive sectors such as bank loans or high-yield bonds for suitable investors. Expectations for pro-business policies from the incoming Trump administration, along with a sustained move above \$50 for oil have led high-yield spreads to contract to 2014 levels. The current spread at 4.1% is likely pricing in most of this optimism, leaving little room for error. For bank loans, we believe a Fed rate hike could be enough to push London Interbank Offered Rate (Libor) above the 1% floor that many bank loans have implemented, potentially allowing investors to take advantage of floating rates in the near future. We maintain a cautious approach with credit-sensitive areas of the market, but a “coupon-clipping” environment may still aid suitable investors.

	Sector	F	T	V	⊖	○	⊕	Rationale
Taxable Bonds – U.S.	Treasuries	■	■	■	●			The post-election sell-off has led to more attractive yields, and yield spread to overseas alternatives has improved, which may help to offset recent weaker demand.
	TIPS	■	■	■		●		TIPS may possibly outperform Treasuries if inflation expectations continue to rise, though interest rate sensitivity may remain a headwind.
	Mortgage-Backed Securities (MBS)	■	■	■			●	Increasing yields have led to duration extension, which could become a headwind if rates move materially higher. However, yield per unit of duration remains attractive relative to other high-quality options at this point in time.
	Investment-Grade Corporates	■	■	■		●		Valuations have richened, but we still find incremental value in corporate bonds.
	Preferred Stocks	■	■	■		●		Fundamentals are firm for U.S. banks, but low yields and above-average valuations warrant caution. Recent bond sell-off showed the sector’s sensitivity to rising rates.
	High-Yield Corporates	■	■	■		●		Average yield spread of 4.1% largely prices in lowered default expectations and leaves little room for error, but yields remain attractive in a low-yield environment.
	Bank Loans	■	■	■			●	Libor is nearing 1% level that would push it above the floor held by many bank loans, making floating rates more attractive. Less energy exposure compared with high yield.
Taxable Bonds – Foreign	Foreign Bonds – Hedged	■	■	■		●		Given easing bias of foreign central banks, the sector may be more resilient if U.S. rates move higher.
	Foreign Bonds – Unhedged	■	■	■	●			Potential currency volatility, low yields, and unattractive valuations are negatives.
	Emerging Markets Debt	■	■	■		●		Increasing rate hike expectations and Trump’s tough talk on trade are headwinds. Valuations are below the 5-year average, but also below the 4% spread level where buying interest has emerged in the past.

Investing in foreign and emerging markets debt securities involves special additional risks. These risks include, but are not limited to, currency risk, geopolitical and regulatory risk, and risk associated with varying settlement standards.

Mortgage-backed securities are subject to credit, default, prepayment risk that acts much like call risk when you get your principal back sooner than the stated maturity, extension risk, the opposite of prepayment risk, market and interest rate risk.

Bank loans are loans issued by below investment-grade companies for short-term funding purposes with higher yield than short-term debt and involve risk.

Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS) help eliminate inflation risk to your portfolio, as the principal is adjusted semiannually for inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI)—while providing a real rate of return guaranteed by the U.S. government. Investing in foreign and emerging markets debt securities involves special additional risks. These risks include, but are not limited to, currency risk, geopolitical, and regulatory risk, and risk associated with varying settlement standards.

COMMODITIES & ALTERNATIVE ASSET CLASSES

Commodities, led by energy, have strengthened recently as OPEC and non-OPEC nations agreed to a crude oil production cut. Domestic energy production has stabilized and trended slightly higher as rig counts have started to rise in response to higher prices. Gold has struggled ahead of the December Fed rate hike and government bond yields have backed up substantially. Managed futures strategies, which had benefited from declining interest rates earlier in the year, have struggled recently with rate increases and equity market volatility.

Sector		F	T	V	⊖	○	⊕	Rationale
Commodities	Industrial Metals	■	■					Copper has benefited from the U.S. election results (read through to higher growth and inflation) as well as recent higher-than-expected Chinese demand. Base metals generally stand to benefit from fiscal stimulus in the U.S.
	Precious Metals	■	■					Recently increasing interest rates and the potential for a quickened Fed rate hiking campaign pose risks in the near term. However, the probability of higher inflation increases gold's attractiveness.
	Energy	■	■					The new U.S. administration and higher crude prices could lead to higher production domestically. The agreement by OPEC and certain non-OPEC nations to cut production should bring markets back into balance relatively soon.
	Agricultural	■	■					Many crops' outlooks have been hurt by strong actual supply and supply forecasts. The effects on trade and the U.S. dollar due to U.S. political leadership change will be an important factor for agricultural prices.
Sector		T	C	V	⊖	○	⊕	Rationale
Alternatives	Long/Short Equity	■	■	■				We continue to be cautious on highly directional managers and favor those with lower net exposures. The value-conscious investment orientation, which many long/short managers employ, is well positioned for a potential increase in market volatility. Post-election decline in sector correlations has provided a short-term tailwind in the stock-picking environment.
	Event Driven	■	■	■				Corporate activity remains healthy, while an increase in interest rates has historically led to more attractive merger spreads. Change in political leadership should be closely followed for future impact on regulatory risks.
	Managed Futures	■	■	■				Managed futures have had volatile performance lately with rapid swings in virtually all markets. These strategies need a higher level of agreement between longer- and shorter-term signals to be effective.
	Global Macro	■	■	■				These strategies have disappointed recently, despite a favorable macroeconomic backdrop. We believe the opportunity set is ripe for these managers.

LEGEND

CHARACTERISTICS	ICON	DEFINITION
Catalysts		Potential for favorable macroeconomic and/or idiosyncratic market developments that may benefit the investment strategy.
Trading Environment		Market characteristics present sufficient investment opportunities for this investment style.
Volatility		The current volatility regime provides a constructive environment that an investment of this style can capitalize on.

Alternative strategies may not be suitable for all investors and should be considered as an investment for the risk capital portion of the investor's portfolio. The strategies employed in the management of alternative investments may accelerate the velocity of potential losses.

Commodity-linked investments may be more volatile and less liquid than the underlying instruments or measures, and their value may be affected by the performance of the overall commodities baskets as well as weather, geopolitical events, and regulatory developments.

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

All performance referenced is historical and is no guarantee of future results.

There is no assurance that the techniques and strategies discussed are suitable for all investors or will yield positive outcomes. The purchase of certain securities may be required to affect some of the strategies.

Stock and Pooled Investment Risks

Investing in stock includes numerous specific risks including: the fluctuation of dividend, loss of principal and potential illiquidity of the investment in a falling market.

Investing in foreign and emerging markets securities involves special additional risks. These risks include, but are not limited to, currency risk, geopolitical risk, and risk associated with varying accounting standards. Investing in emerging markets may accentuate these risks.

Investing in mutual funds involves risk, including possible loss of principal.

Bond and Debt Equity Risks

Government bonds and Treasury bills are guaranteed by the U.S. government as to the timely payment of principal and interest and, if held to maturity, offer a fixed rate of return and fixed principal value. However, the value of fund shares is not guaranteed and will fluctuate.

Alternative Risks

Currency risk is a form of risk that arises from the change in price of one currency against another. Whenever investors or companies have assets or business operations across national borders, they face currency risk if their positions are not hedged.

Global macro strategy is a hedge fund strategy that selects its holdings primarily on the macroeconomic and political views of various countries, and is subject to numerous risks such as: geopolitical, derivative, commodity, volatility, currency, and regulatory.

Event driven strategies, such as merger arbitrage, consist of buying shares of the target company in a proposed merger and fully or partially hedging the exposure to the acquirer by shorting the stock of the acquiring company or other means. This strategy involves significant risk as events may not occur as planned and disruptions to a planned merger may result in significant loss to a hedged position.

Managed futures strategies use systematic quantitative programs to find and invest in positive and negative trends in the futures markets for financials and commodities. Futures and forward trading is speculative, includes a high degree of risk that the anticipated market outcome may not occur, and may not be suitable for all investors.

DEFINITIONS

The simple moving average is an arithmetic moving average that is calculated by adding the closing price of the security for a number of time periods and then dividing this total by the number of time periods. Short-term averages respond quickly to changes in the price of the underlying, while long-term averages are slow to react.

The Beige Book is a commonly used name for the Federal Reserve's (Fed) report called the Summary of Commentary on Current Economic Conditions by Federal Reserve District. It is published just before the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting on interest rates and is used to inform the members on changes in the economy since the last meeting.

Technical Analysis is a methodology for evaluating securities based on statistics generated by market activity, such as past prices, volume and momentum, and is not intended to be used as the sole mechanism for trading decisions. Technical analysts do not attempt to measure a security's intrinsic value, but instead use charts and other tools to identify patterns and trends. Technical analysis carries inherent risk, chief amongst which is that past performance is not indicative of future results. Technical Analysis should be used in conjunction with Fundamental Analysis within the decision making process and shall include but not be limited to the following considerations: investment thesis, suitability, expected time horizon, and operational factors, such as trading costs are examples.

London Interbank Offered Rate (Libor): An interest rate at which banks can borrow funds, in marketable size, from other banks in the London interbank market. The Libor is fixed on a daily basis by the British Bankers' Association. The Libor is derived from a filtered average of the world's most creditworthy banks' interbank deposit rates for larger loans with maturities between overnight and one full year.

INDEX DEFINITIONS

All indexes are unmanaged and cannot be invested into directly.

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

This research material has been prepared by LPL Financial LLC.

To the extent you are receiving investment advice from a separately registered independent investment advisor, please note that LPL Financial LLC is not an affiliate of and makes no representation with respect to such entity.

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