

Before the Bell

An Ameriprise Investment Research Group Publication

November 20, 2024

Starting the Day

- U.S. equity futures pointing to a higher open.
- European markets are trading higher at midday.
- Asian markets ended mixed overnight.
- Target misses on top and bottom line.
- Ukraine/Russia tensions rise.
- 10-year Treasury yield at 4.42%.
- West Texas Intermediate (WTI) oil is trading at \$70.09.
- Gold is trading at \$2,635.50

Market Perspectives

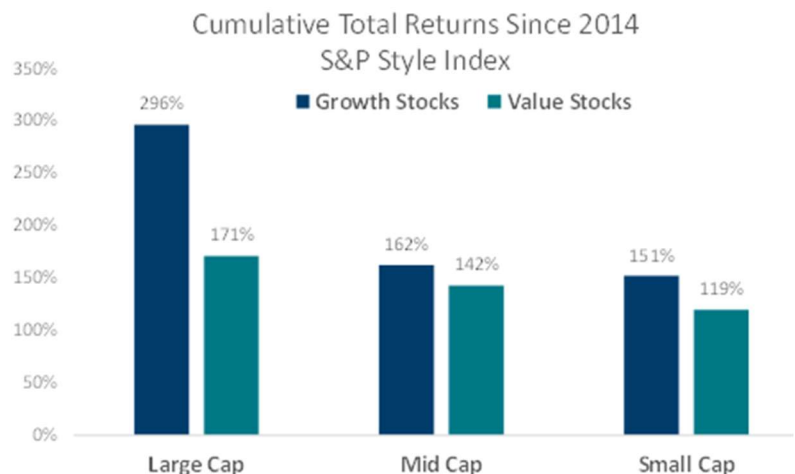
Jun Zhu, CFA, CAIA Senior Analyst Quantitative Asset Allocation

In addition to comments related to overnight activity and pre-market conditions, each Wednesday, we feature commentary from members of the Ameriprise Global Asset Allocation Committee discussing investment considerations targeting their specific area of expertise. The comments are intended to provide additional insight into Committee allocation recommendations.

Growth Stocks are the Winners? It depends. The question of "Growth or Value?" may seem straightforward but the reality is far more nuanced. With large-cap IT stocks reaching record highs, growth stocks have been dominating. As of the end of last month, the S&P 500 Growth Index delivered a year-to-date (YTD) price return of 27%, more than double the S&P 500 Value Index's 12%. Yet, the narrative of growth's supremacy isn't just a 2024 phenomenon. Discussions around the "decline of value investing" have intensified, and the historical performance gap appears to support this view. Over the past decade, the S&P 500 Growth Index has posted a total return of 296% compared to the Value Index's 171%, translating into annualized returns of 15% and 10%, respectively—a wide disparity.

However, this gap narrows significantly when analyzing smaller capitalization categories. Among small-cap companies, growth stocks returned 151% over the past decade versus value stocks' 119%, yielding annualized returns of 10% and 8%, respectively. For mid-cap companies, the gap shrinks further, with growth and value stocks generating annualized returns of 10% and 9%.

To add another layer of complexity, S&P Global publishes a set of indices called the "Pure Style Indices." These indices categorize stocks into "pure growth" or "pure value" based on stricter criteria. A stock must rank highly on growth metrics and low on value metrics to qualify as a "pure growth" stock. According to S&P Global, these indices are intended to provide exposure to "pure style," assist in "style spread" strategies, and support quantitative analysis.

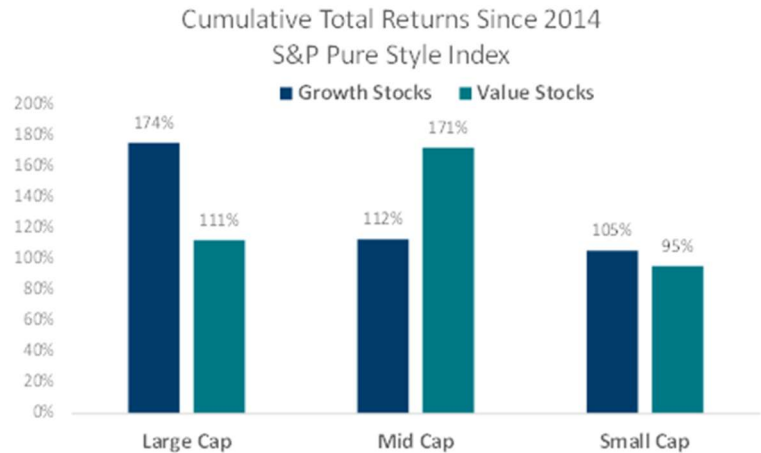


Source: Standard and Poor's, American Enterprise Investment Services Inc. Data as of 10/31/2024

NOTE: FOR IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES, INCLUDING POSSIBLE CONFLICTS, PLEASE SEE THE DISCLOSURE PAGES AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT.

Examining performance through this lens, large-cap pure growth stocks still outperformed their value counterparts since 2014, with total returns of 174% versus 111%. However, the annualized performance gap narrows to just 2.8%. In the small-cap segment, the gap shrinks further to 0.5%. Interestingly, among mid-cap companies, pure value stocks outperformed pure growth stocks by 2.7% on an annualized basis.

The S&P 1500 offers another perspective on the growth versus value debate. The chart below, illustrates the relative strength of growth versus value stocks using both the headline and pure style indices. Since October 2020, the relative strength line for pure growth versus pure value has declined markedly, suggesting that growth stocks have underperformed value stocks under the pure style framework.



Source: Standard and Poor's, American Enterprise Investment Services Inc. Data as of 10/31/2024

The discrepancy between the indices likely stems from how stocks are weighted within growth and value categories. For instance, the pure growth index weights stocks based on growth scores, minimizing the influence of market capitalization. In contrast, the headline S&P 1500 Growth Index includes familiar large-cap names as the top holdings, like NVIDIA (11.7%), Apple (11.2%), Microsoft (10%), Amazon (6.2%), whose outsized market cap skews the overall performance of growth indices (Chart 4). In the pure growth index, NVIDIA's weight (the largest index component) is only 1.3%, and the second-largest holding (1.2%) is a stock with market cap about 1/100th of NVIDIA's size (Chart 5). This difference in weighting methodology underscores how a handful of mega-cap companies can distort the perception of growth versus value performance.

Summary: In our opinion, the perceived dominance of growth stocks in recent years largely reflects the extraordinary performance of a few large-cap companies, rather than a systemic decline in value investing. For value investors, this provides a reason to reconsider the relevance of benchmark comparisons. Value investing, it seems, is far from dead—it may just require a broader lens to evaluate its ongoing viability.

Growth versus Value Relative Strength



Source: Standard and Poor's, American Enterprise Investment Services Inc. Data as of 10/31/2024

Top 10 Stocks in S&P 1500 Pure Growth Index		
	Index Weight (%)	Market Cap (mil USD)
NVIDIA Corporation	1.3	\$ 3,606,155
Vistra Corp.	1.2	\$ 52,687
CNX Resources Corporation	1.0	\$ 5,877
Royal Caribbean Group	0.9	\$ 63,097
Cinemark Holdings, Inc.	0.9	\$ 4,093
Duolingo, Inc. Class A	0.9	\$ 12,206
Palantir Technologies Inc. Class A	0.8	\$ 137,338
PROG Holdings, Inc.	0.8	\$ 1,945
TG Therapeutics, Inc.	0.8	\$ 4,720
Targa Resources Corp.	0.8	\$ 44,391

Top 10 Stocks in S&P 1500 Growth Index		
	Index Weight (%)	Market Cap (mil USD)
NVIDIA Corporation	11.7	\$ 3,606,155
Apple Inc.	11.2	\$ 3,450,640
Microsoft Corporation	10.0	\$ 3,106,219
Amazon.com, Inc.	6.2	\$ 2,151,476
Meta Platforms Inc Class A	4.0	\$ 1,223,177
Alphabet Inc. Class A	3.4	\$ 2,034,551
Tesla, Inc.	3.1	\$ 1,110,681
Alphabet Inc. Class C	2.8	\$ 2,034,551
Broadcom Inc.	2.5	\$ 772,280
Eli Lilly and Company	1.9	\$ 692,744

U.S. Pre-Market Indicators / Overnight International Market Activity

United States and North America:

Here is a quick news rundown to start your morning:

- **Nvidia Rise Again.** US stocks were mostly higher on Tuesday, with technology companies driving the gains, particularly Nvidia, which was up ahead of its earnings report tonight. Nvidia is expected to deliver strong earnings, driven by growth in artificial intelligence spending. Broader indices like the S&P 500 benefited less due to uneven sector performance.
- **October Housing data Unimpressive but Confidence Level Higher.** Yesterday's Census Department report on new housing starts came in modestly weaker than expected with the results very likely reflective of hurricane related disruptions during the period. However, builder confidence improved in November, reaching its highest point in several months.
- **Muted Reactions to Geopolitical Uncertainty.** Markets reacted to Ukraine's missile strikes in Russia and updates to Russia's nuclear policies with caution yesterday. Safe-haven assets like gold saw gains, but the broader market showed limited concern over escalating tensions.
- **Trump's Appointments.** Howard Lutnick for Commerce Secretary and Kevin Warsh for Treasury Secretary, are being viewed favorably by financial markets as these officials lean toward pro-business policies.
- **Investor Confidence High.** Investor optimism is on the rise, supported by steady equity inflows and improving sentiment post-election. However, some analysts caution against overconfidence in the face of lingering economic and geopolitical risks.

Europe:

- **European Equity Market Struggles:** European stocks continue to face headwinds from economic stagnation, geopolitical tensions, and weak earnings expectations. Goldman Sachs lowered its 12-month forecast for the Stoxx Europe 600 due to concerns over regional economic performance.
- **Growth Warning:** ECB President Christine Lagarde warned that the Eurozone economy remains vulnerable to global trade tensions, highlighting internal trade barriers and reliance on exports as key risks to growth.
- **Diverging PMI Outlook for Eurozone and UK:** Economists anticipate further contraction in Eurozone PMIs for November, signaling continued economic weakness, while the UK's composite PMI is expected to remain stable, reflecting a comparatively resilient economy.

Asia-Pacific:

- **China's Monetary Policy Holds Steady.** China kept its key lending rates unchanged at 3.10% (1-year) and 3.60% (5-year), meeting market expectations. China's liquidity needs have surged due to increased government bond issuance and tax season demands. Analysts suggest a possible reserve requirement ratio (RRR) cut by year-end to ease pressure.
- **Japan's Export Recovery.** Japanese exports grew 3.1% YoY in October, beating expectations and reversing a prior decline. Growth was driven by semiconductor equipment and optical instruments, with China-bound exports rebounding, although US and EU demand weakened.
- **South Korea's Downgraded Growth Outlook.** The IMF revised South Korea's 2025 GDP growth forecast down to 2% due to geopolitical tensions, trade uncertainties, and rising commodity prices. However, strong semiconductor exports provide some support.
- **Mixed Asian Equity Performance:** Asian markets showed mixed performance mid-week. Japan and Australia saw small declines, while Chinese markets remained largely flat. Crude oil prices and bond yields also remained steady. Rising geopolitical risks, including US-China trade tensions and debates over tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles, are adding uncertainty. Japan faces additional challenges from anti-dumping investigations tied to steel exports.

WORLD CAPITAL MARKETS

11/20/2024

As of: 8:30 AM ET

Americas	% chg.	% YTD	Value
S&P 500	0.4%	25.6%	5,917.0
Dow Jones	-0.3%	16.7%	43,268.9
NASDAQ Composite	1.0%	27.3%	18,987.5
Russell 2000	0.8%	16.0%	2,324.8
Brazil Bovespa	0.3%	-4.5%	128,197
S&P/TSX Comp. (Canada)	0.1%	22.6%	25,010.8
Russell 3000	0.5%	24.8%	3,388.8

Europe (Intra-day)	% chg.	%YTD	Value
DJSTOXX 50 (Europe)	0.4%	9.0%	4,771.5
FTSE 100 (U.K.)	0.1%	8.5%	8,109.2
DAX Index (Germany)	0.4%	14.2%	19,136.6
CAC 40 (France)	0.4%	-0.9%	7,256.9
FTSE MIB (Italy)	0.4%	10.2%	33,449.8
IBEX 35 (Spain)	0.5%	20.2%	11,645.8
MOEX Index (Russia)	#VALUE!	#VALUE!	#N/A N/A

Asia/Pacific (Last Night)	% chg.	%YTD	Value
Nikkei 225 (Japan)	-0.2%	16.5%	38,352.3
Hang Seng (Hong Kong)	0.2%	20.7%	19,705.0
Korea Kospi 100	0.4%	-5.3%	2,482.3
Singapore STI	-0.4%	22.0%	3,743.6
Shanghai Comp. (China)	0.7%	13.2%	3,368.0
Bombay Sensex (India)	0.3%	8.8%	77,578.4
S&P/ASX 200 (Australia)	-0.6%	14.8%	8,326.3

Global	% chg.	% YTD	Value
MSCI All-Country World Idx	0.4%	18.9%	849.2

Developed International	% chg.	%YTD	Value
MSCI EAFE	0.3%	5.3%	2,283.1

Emerging International	% chg.	%YTD	Value
MSCI Emerging Mkts	0.5%	9.7%	1,094.9

Note: International market returns shown on a local currency basis. The equity Index data shown above is on a total return basis, inclusive of dividends.

S&P 500 Sectors	% chg.	% YTD	Value
Communication Services	1.0%	36.0%	331.7
Consumer Discretionary	0.4%	23.8%	1,743.7
Consumer Staples	0.3%	16.5%	869.5
Energy	-0.7%	16.9%	724.7
Financials	-0.6%	33.7%	825.3
Health Care	-0.5%	4.9%	1,643.9
Industrials	-0.1%	23.0%	1,171.7
Materials	-0.3%	8.4%	576.4
Real Estate	0.5%	11.5%	272.7
Technology	1.2%	34.5%	4,542.3
Utilities	0.7%	30.1%	407.0

Equity Income Indices	% chg.	% YTD	Value
JPM Alerian MLP Index	0.4%	16.8%	297.1
FTSE NAREIT Comp. TR	0.6%	11.0%	26,557.5
DJ US Select Dividend	-0.4%	21.9%	3,658.9
DJ Global Select Dividend	0.2%	11.0%	233.0
S&P Div. Aristocrats	-0.5%	12.3%	4,795.9

Commodities	% chg.	% YTD	Value
Futures & Spot (Intra-day)			
CRB Raw Industrials	0.0%	-0.5%	540.7
NYMEX WTI Crude (p/bbl.)	1.0%	-2.2%	70.1
ICE Brent Crude (p/bbl.)	0.7%	-4.2%	73.8
NYMEX Nat Gas (mmBtu)	3.8%	23.7%	3.1
Spot Gold (troy oz.)	0.1%	27.7%	2,634.0
Spot Silver (troy oz.)	-0.4%	30.7%	31.1
LME Copper (per ton)	0.1%	5.9%	8,966.6
LME Aluminum (per ton)	1.5%	11.7%	2,619.9
CBOT Corn (cents p/bushel)	-0.4%	-15.2%	436.0
CBOT Wheat (cents p/bushel)	-0.7%	-17.0%	564.0

Foreign Exchange (Intra-day)	% chg.	% YTD	Value
Euro (€/€)	-0.3%	-4.3%	1.06
British Pound (£/€)	-0.1%	-0.5%	1.27

	% chg.	% YTD	Value
Japanese Yen (\$/¥)	-0.7%	-9.4%	155.68
Australian Dollar (A\$/€)	-0.3%	-4.4%	0.65

	% chg.	% YTD	Value
Canadian Dollar (\$/C\$)	-0.2%	-5.3%	1.40
Swiss Franc (\$/CHF)	-0.2%	-4.9%	0.88

Data/Price Source: Bloomberg. Equity Index data is total return, inclusive of dividends, where applicable.

Ameriprise Global Asset Allocation Committee (GAAC)

U.S. Equity Sector - Tactical Views

	S&P 500 Index Weight	GAAC Tactical View	GAAC Tactical Overlay	GAAC Recommended Weight		S&P 500 Index Weight	GAAC Tactical View	GAAC Tactical Overlay	GAAC Recommended Weight
Financials	12.9%	Overweight	2.0%	14.9%	Energy	3.2%	Equalweight	-	3.2%
Consumer Staples	5.9%	Overweight	2.0%	32.5%	Utilities	2.5%	Equalweight	-	2.5%
Information Technology	31.9%	Equalweight	-	31.9%	Materials	2.3%	Equalweight	-	2.3%
Health Care	11.5%	Equalweight	-	11.5%	Real Estate	2.3%	Equalweight	-	2.3%
Communication Services	8.8%	Equalweight	-	8.8%	Consumer Discretionary	10.2%	Underweight	-2.0%	8.2%
					Industrials	8.5%	Underweight	-2.0%	6.5%

As of: September 30, 2024

Index weightings represent the respective market capitalization of each sector in the S&P 500 as of 9/26/2024. The GAAC Tactical Overlay, as well as Recommended Tactical Weights, is derived from the Ameriprise Global Asset Allocation Committee (GAAC). Views are expressed relative to the Index and are provided to represent investment conviction in each region. Tactical Allocations are designed to augment Index returns over a 6-12 month time horizon. Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Global Equity Regions - Tactical Views

	MSCI All-Country World Index Weight	GAAC Tactical View	GAAC Tactical Overlay	GAAC Recommended Weight		MSCI All-Country World Index Weight	GAAC Tactical View	GAAC Tactical Overlay	GAAC Recommended Weight
United States	62.8%	Overweight	2.2%	65.0%	United Kingdom	3.2%	Equalweight	-	3.2%
Europe ex U.K.	12.9%	Equalweight	-	12.9%	Latin America	0.9%	Equalweight	-	0.9%
Asia-Pacific ex Japan	11.0%	Equalweight	-	11.0%	Canada	2.8%	Underweight	1.0%	1.8%
Japan	5.2%	Equalweight	-	5.2%	Middle East / Africa	1.2%	Underweight	-1.2%	0.0%

as of: September 30, 2024

Index weightings are based on the regional market capitalizations of the MSCI All-Country World Index as of 09/26/2024. The GAAC Tactical Overlay, as well as the Recommended Tactical Weights, are derived from the Ameriprise Global Asset Allocation Committee (GAAC). Views are expressed relative to the Index and are provided to represent investment conviction in each region. Tactical Allocations are designed to augment Index returns over a 6-12 month time horizon. Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Economic News and Views:

Russell T. Price, CFA – Chief Economist

Releases for Wednesday, November 20, 2024

All times Eastern. Consensus estimates via Bloomberg

None Scheduled

Ameriprise Economic Projections

Forecast:	Full-year				Quarterly						
	Actual <u>2022</u>	Actual <u>2023</u>	Est. <u>2024</u>	Est. <u>2025</u>	Actual <u>Q4-2023</u>	Actual <u>Q1-2024</u>	Actual <u>Q2-2024</u>	Actual <u>Q3-2024</u>	Est. <u>Q4-2024</u>	Est. <u>Q1-2025</u>	Est. <u>Q2-2025</u>
Real GDP (annualized)	2.5%	2.9%	2.7%	1.8%	3.2%	1.6%	3.0%	2.8%	1.9%	1.8%	2.0%
Unemployment Rate	3.6%	3.7%	4.4%	4.2%	3.7%	3.8%	4.1%	4.1%	4.2%	4.1%	4.0%
CPI (YoY)	8.0%	3.4%	2.4%	2.0%	3.4%	3.5%	3.0%	2.4%	2.3%	2.0%	2.0%
Core PCE (YoY)	5.2%	2.9%	2.4%	2.0%	2.9%	2.8%	2.6%	2.7%	2.3%	2.2%	2.2%

Sources: Historical data via FactSet. Estimates (Est.) via American Enterprise Investment Services Inc.

YoY = Year-over-year, Unemployment numbers are period ending. GDP: Gross Domestic Product; CPI: Consumer Price Index

PCE: Personal Consumption Expenditures Price Index. Core excludes food and energy.

All estimates other than GDP are period ending.

Last Updated: October 31, 2024

Ameriprise Global Asset Allocation Committee Targets and Views

Targets

2024 Year-end Targets:	Favorable Scenario	Base-Case Scenario	Adverse Scenario
S&P 500 Index:	6,100	6,000	5,300
10-Year U.S. Treasury Yield:	4.00%	3.75%	3.00%
Fed Funds Target Range:	4.25% to 4.50%	4.50% to 4.75%	4.00% to 4.25%

Estimates (Est.) via American Enterprise Investment Services Inc.

Please see latest *Quarterly Capital Market Digest* for more information.

Last Updated: October 30, 2024

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Global Asset Allocation Committee Views

AMERIPRISE GLOBAL ASSET ALLOCATION COMMITTEE TACTICAL ASSET CLASS VIEWS

2024 Year-end S&P 500 Target: 5,750

2024 Year-End 10-year Treasury Target: 3.75%

as of 09/27/2024

	Overweight	Equalweight	Underweight
Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Large Cap Growth • U.S. Large Cap Value 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Mid Cap Value • U.S. Mid Cap Growth • U.S. Small Cap Value • U.S. Small Cap Growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed Foreign Equity • Emerging Foreign Equity
S&P 500 Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer Staples • Financials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication Services • Energy • Health Care • Information Technology • Materials • Real Estate • Utilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer Discretionary • Industrials
Global Equity Regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United States 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asia Pacific ex. Japan • Europe ex U.K. • Japan • Latin America • United Kingdom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle East/Africa • Canada
Fixed Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Government • U.S. Investment Grade Corp. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. High Yield Bonds • Developed Foreign Bonds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging Foreign Bonds • Municipal Bonds
Alternatives		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real Assets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative Strategies
Cash		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash • Cash Investments 	

Note: Our Tactical Allocations are designed to augment a Strategic portfolio over a 6-12-month time horizon. **Asset Allocation and diversification do not ensure or guarantee better performance and do not eliminate the risk of investment losses. Investors should note that rising interest rates could have a detrimental effect on bond prices. Please consult with your financial advisor.** Cash generally refers to assets, securities and/or products low in risk and highly liquid. For asset allocation purposes, instruments can include Treasury bills, certificates of deposit, money market funds and high-quality bonds whose maturities are less than 3 months. Outside of asset allocation purposes, cash investments can also include illiquid cash held in a mutual fund or pledged as collateral for derivatives. You can only access this cash by redeeming the fund using it, subject to fees or time constraints associated with redemptions.

As of September 30, 2024

Major Market Indices	Rolling Returns			
	Q3'24	1-year	3-years	5-years
Russell 3000® Index (U.S. Equity)	6.23%	35.19%	10.29%	15.26%
MSCI ACWI Ex USA Index – net (Foreign Equity)	8.06%	25.35%	4.14%	7.59%
Bloomberg U.S. Universal Bond Index (Fixed Income)	5.20%	12.08%	-1.05%	0.70%
Wilshire Liquid Alternative Index (Alternatives)	2.56%	10.18%	2.35%	3.18%
FTSE Three-Month Treasury Bill Index (Cash)	1.37%	5.63%	3.63%	2.38%

Past performance is not a guarantee of future performance. Performance calculations use FactSet data and are as of Date.

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The Ameriprise Investment Research Group

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As of September 30, 2024

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Risk Factors

Alternative investments involve substantial risks and are more volatile than traditional investments, making them more suitable for investors with an above-average tolerance for risk.

Corporate Bonds are debt instruments issued by a private corporation. Non-Investment grade securities, commonly known as “high-yield” or “junk” bonds, are historically subject to greater risk of default, including the loss of principal and interest, than higher-rated bonds, which may result in greater price volatility than experienced with a higher-rated issue.

Investing in **derivatives** is a specialized activity that involves special risks that subject the fund to significant loss potential, including when used as leverage, and may result in greater fluctuation in fund value.

Diversification and **Asset Allocation** do not assure a profit or protect against loss.

Dividend and interest payments are not guaranteed. The amount of dividend payment, if any, can vary over time and issuers may reduce or eliminate dividends paid on securities in the event of a recession or adverse event affecting a specific industry or issuer. Should a company be unable to pay interest on a timely basis a default may occur and interruption or reduction of interest and principal occur. Investments in a narrowly focused sector may exhibit higher volatility than investments with broader objectives and is subject to market risk and economic risk.

There are risks associated with **fixed-income investments**, including bond funds, such as credit risk, interest rate risk, and prepayment and extension risk. In

general, bond prices rise when interest rates fall and vice versa. This effect is usually more pronounced for longer-term securities.

Growth securities, at times, may not perform as well as value securities or the stock market in general and may be out of favor with investors.

Income Risk: We note that dividends are declared solely at the discretion of the companies' boards of directors. Dividend cuts or eliminations will likely negatively impact underlying company valuations. Published dividend yields are calculated before fees and taxes. Dividends paid by foreign companies to ADR holders may be subject to a withholding tax which could adversely affect the realized dividend yield. In certain circumstances, investors in ADR shares have the option to receive dividends in the form of cash payments, rights shares or ADR shares. Each form of dividend payment will have different tax consequences and therefore generate a different yield. In some instances, ADR holders are eligible to reclaim a portion of the withholding tax.

International investing involves certain risks and volatility due to potential political, economic currency instabilities and different financial and accounting standards. Risks are enhanced for **emerging market** issuers.

Interest payments on **inflation-protected securities** may be more volatile than interest payments on ordinary bonds. In periods of deflation, these securities may provide no income.

Market Risk: Model portfolios and markets in general could sustain significant volatility due to several factors. As we have seen recently, both economic and geopolitical issues could have a material impact on this model portfolio and the equity market as a whole.

The **mutual funds** and **ETFs** included in this report are subject to specific risk factors, generally the same as those of the underlying securities and may result in a loss of the principal amount invested.

Non-investment-grade (high-yield or junk) securities present greater price volatility and more risk to principal and income than higher rated securities.

Quantitative Strategy Risk: Stock selection and portfolio maintenance strategies based on quantitative analytics carry a unique set of risks. Quantitative strategies rely on comprehensive, accurate and thorough historical data. The Ameriprise Investment Research Group utilizes current and historical data provided by third-party data

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Sector Risk: The Ameriprise Global Asset Allocation Committee and managers of this model portfolio can elect to overweight or underweight (or completely avoid) certain economic sectors. This could lead to substantial underperformance versus a more diversified or balanced weighting.

Security Recommendation Risk: The research team may not be successful in selecting securities that collectively perform better than the benchmark. When viewing return comparisons investors should keep in mind the following information. Our model portfolio generally maintains less than 50 securities, whereas benchmark indices contain several times that amount. The benchmark index is market capitalization weighted, providing greater weight to the larger company movements, whereas our model portfolio is designed to be equally dollar weighted. Furthermore, the model portfolio may deviate significantly, at times, from the sector allocation of the benchmark due to our interpretation of economic conditions and market factors as well as our security selection process.

The benchmark index returns are taken from Bloomberg Financial Markets and reflect dividends reinvested. Additionally, there is no fee or cost assumption in the index comparison return.

Investments in **small- and mid-capitalization companies** involve greater risks and volatility than investments in larger, more established companies.

The products of **technology companies** may be subject to severe competition and rapid obsolescence, and their stocks may be subject to greater price fluctuations.

Value securities may be unprofitable if the market fails to recognize their intrinsic worth or the portfolio manager misgauged that worth.

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Index definitions

An index is a statistical composite that is not managed. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

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