Before the Bell

An Ameriprise Investment Research Group Publication

May 1, 2025

Starting the Day

- U.S. equity markets are pointing to a higher open.
- European markets are mostly closed for May Day.
- Japan ended higher, while most markets were closed.
- QCMD and QCMM updates — targets adjusted lower.
- Yeah, that felt like a lot longer than thirty days.
- 10-year Treasury yield at 4.14%.
- West Texas Intermediate (WTI) oil is trading at $56.88.
- Gold is trading at $3,331.10

Market Perspectives

Anthony Saglimbene, Chief Market Strategist

Quarterly Capital Market Updates — S&P 500 Targets Revised Lower. Aggressive U.S. tariff actions against the world, particularly China, have reduced our outlook for economic and profit growth this year. As such, we have lowered our S&P 500 year-end targets across each of our scenarios. Despite tariff and growth concerns, economic conditions in the first quarter remained firm. However, we anticipate economic activity to soften, inflation pressures to rise, and employment conditions to come under added strain if current tariff rates stand as is through the rest of the year or worsen from here. Bottom line: Mostly negative macroeconomic factors at the start of the year have created periods of extreme stock volatility that, at times, have challenged investors' conviction in their longer-term portfolio approach. That said, investors should use these dislocations to allocate to longer-term secular leaders (e.g., Big Tech). We believe diversification strategies across equity income, low volatility, alternative strategies, and fixed income can help investors navigate these challenging periods.

2025 Year-end Targets:	Favorable Scenario	Base-Case Scenario	Adverse Scenario
S&P 500 Index:	6,000	5,600	4,800
10-Year U.S. Treasury Yield:	5.00%	4.00%	3.00%
Fed Funds Target Range:	3.75% to 4.00%	3.25% to 3.50%	2.75% to 3.00%

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

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

Last Updated: April 30, 2025

Below is a snapshot view of the tactical highlights through the second quarter:

- **The Macro Environment:** Elevated equity and fixed income volatility over recent months, combined with evolving/uncertain fiscal policies, has contributed to sapping investor, consumer, and business confidence this year. In addition, recession risks here and abroad are rising, making the investment environment very challenging to navigate.

- **The Fundamentals:** Despite weakened confidence about the future, consumer and business balance sheets sit on a solid foundation, unemployment remains historically low, and until the threat of tariff pressures, inflation was on a slow but steady grind lower. Also, S&P 500 profits in Q1 are tracking above forecasts at the end of March. Yet, analyst estimates for earnings growth in the coming quarters continue to come down, especially in areas sensitive to tariffs. That said, most of the stock pressure this year has come in Big Tech, an area that has seen strong gains in recent years based on artificial intelligence spending, which contributed to stretching valuations.

- **The Portfolio:** Maintain a balanced allocation strategy at the summary level. Favor large-cap U.S. stocks. Overweight Financials.

For a deeper dive into our market outlook and asset allocation views, please refer to the latest edition of the Quarterly Capital Market Digest (QCMD) report. Also, please refer to the recently updated Quarterly Capital Market Monitor (QCMM) deck for a quick-hitting visual walkthrough of current market/economic trends.

U.S. Premarket Indicators / Overnight International Market Activity

United States:

Here is a quick news rundown to start your morning:

- **Stocks are looking at a higher open.** Microsoft and Meta Platforms reported solid results that surpassed analyst estimates for the first quarter after the market closed last night and put to rest that their spending on artificial intelligence is slowing down. For Microsoft, Azure growth accelerated in Q1, and the company sees its outsized capex spending continuing. For Meta, the company upwardly revised its capex spending, notably for data center investments, is seeing healthy trends in April despite tariff headwinds in China, and is focusing on its AI roadmap, including advertising, engaging experiences, Meta AI, and AI devices. Both stocks are up sharply in the premarket. Apple and Amazon are on deck with their earnings reports after the close today. Conversely, this morning, McDonalds saw its largest U.S. same-store sales fall to their lowest levels since the second quarter of 2020. While the company beat Q1 EPS estimates, it missed sales estimates as weather and a more cautious consumer weighed on results. The April nonfarm payrolls report is out on Friday.
- **Yeah, that felt a lot longer than thirty days.** April is finally in the rearview mirror, and to be honest, returns for the month could have been way worse. The NASDAQ Composite actually rose +0.9% in April, led by Netflix (+21.4%), Telsa (+8.9%), Microsoft (+5.3%), and Alphabet (+2.7%). Coming into the final day of April, the S&P 500 Index was on the verge of doing something it had never done in history, which is to decline more than 10% in a month to reverse course and finish the month positively. Although the S&P 500 closed down 0.8% in April, the gains from the April lows are still pretty impressive, given that the index was down more than 11% shortly after President Trump announced his reciprocal tariffs on April 2nd. In fact, following the President's tariff war on the world, the S&P 500 went on to post its worst two-day performance since March 2020. And after the President quickly reversed course and offered a 90-day reprieve from his most aggressive tariffs on everyone sans China to allow more time to negotiate with countries on April 9th, the S&P 500 posted its best day since October 2008. That said, investors, businesses, and consumers exited April with a 10% universal tariff rate on all U.S. imports, a 145% rate on China imports, and several carveouts that, in the case of autos, for example, only complicate the trade environment. The Dow Jones Industrials Average (-3.2%) and Russell 2000 Index (-2.4%) also finished the month lower. In addition, Trump attacked Federal Reserve Chair Powell through social media, members of the White House provided mixed messages on China negotiations/tariff reductions, and several companies suspended earnings guidance amid tariff uncertainty and/or a lack of visibility into their earnings trends. Economic data came in largely mixed last month, including Q1'25 GDP surprising to the downside on the final day of the month, posting its first negative print since Q1'22 as imports surged ahead of the tariffs. On a positive note, and though too backward-looking to drive investor sentiment, employment trends remained firm, inflation measures appeared to be moving in the right direction (outside of expectations, which jumped higher), and first quarter corporate earnings stayed on pace to surpass analyst estimates by a healthy measure. Importantly, Magnificent Seven earnings from Alphabet, Microsoft, and Meta Platforms helped confirm the secular artificial intelligence theme that lifted markets higher over the last two years and propelled profits to new heights remains intact. Following reduced valuations after the price backups in Q1, even though it's too early to say Big Tech is back on the mend, a few of these select stocks were strong contributors to helping broader markets rally in the final weeks of April. As we noted at the top of this section, the month felt extra long, given all the rolling headlines and volatility. Still, investors should feel pretty good about where the major averages landed in April, considering the picture looked a lot worse for stocks at the start of the month.
- **Earnings Update:** With roughly 60% of S&P 500 first quarter reports complete, blended earnings per share (EPS) growth is higher by +12.1% year-over-year on revenue growth of +4.7%.

Europe:

UK equities are trading near the flatline at midday, with most major markets in Europe closed for Labor Day.

Asia-Pacific:

Asian equities finished higher on Thursday, with most of the region's markets closed for public holidays

WORLD CAPITAL MARKETS

5/1/2025 As of: 8:30 AM ET

Americas	% chg.	% YTD	Value
S&P 500	0.1%	-4.9%	5,569.1
Dow Jones	0.3%	-3.9%	40,669.4
NASDAQ Composite	-0.1%	-9.5%	17,446.3
Russell 2000	-0.6%	-11.6%	1,964.1
Brazil Bovespa	0.0%	12.3%	135,067
S&P/TSX Comp. (Canada)	-0.1%	1.4%	24,841.7
Russell 3000	0.1%	-5.4%	3,163.9

Europe (Intra-day)	% chg.	%YTD	Value
DJSTOXX 50 (Europe)	closed	6.5%	5,160.2
FTSE 100 (U.K.)	0.0%	5.4%	8,490.8
DAX Index (Germany)	closed	13.0%	22,497.0
CAC 40 (France)	closed	3.7%	7,593.9
FTSE MIB (Italy)	closed	10.0%	37,604.8
IBEX 35 (Spain)	closed	16.8%	13,287.8
MOEX Index (Russia)	#VALUE!	#VALUE!	#N/A N/A

Asia/Pacific (Last Night)	% chg.	%YTD	Value
Nikkei 225 (Japan)	1.1%	-7.8%	36,452.3
Hang Seng (Hong Kong)	closed	11.4%	22,119.4
Korea Kospi 100	closed	7.8%	2,556.6
Singapore STI	closed	2.9%	3,832.5
Shanghai Comp. (China)	closed	-2.2%	3,279.0
Bombay Sensex (India)	closed	2.9%	80,242.2
S&P/ASX 200 (Australia)	0.2%	1.3%	8,145.6

Global	% chg.	% YTD	Value
MSCI All-Country World Idx	0.3%	-0.2%	833.5

Developed International	% chg.	%YTD	Value
MSCI EAFE	0.5%	12.1%	2,501.0

Emerging International	% chg.	%YTD	Value
MSCI Emerging Mkts	0.6%	4.4%	1,112.8

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	-0.3%	-5.5%	321.7
Consumer Discretionary	-1.1%	-14.1%	1,570.1
Consumer Staples	0.7%	6.5%	902.3
Energy	-2.6%	-4.8%	617.5
Financials	0.2%	1.3%	811.1
Health Care	0.9%	2.6%	1,637.0
Industrials	0.8%	0.0%	1,111.4
Materials	0.5%	0.6%	529.9
Real Estate	0.6%	2.3%	259.4
Technology	0.4%	-11.2%	4,083.6
Utilities	-0.5%	5.0%	401.0

Equity Income Indices	% chg.	% YTD	Value
JPM Alerian MLP Index	-2.4%	0.6%	296.1
FTSE NAREIT Comp. TR	0.8%	0.7%	25,281.4
DJ US Select Dividend	-0.4%	-1.3%	3,457.6
DJ Global Select Dividend	-0.1%	13.4%	248.7
S&P Div. Aristocrats	0.5%	-0.7%	4,542.9

Bond Indices	% chg.	% YTD	Value
Barclays US Agg. Bond	0.0%	3.2%	2,258.8
Barclays HY Bond	-0.3%	1.0%	2,709.5

Commodities Futures & Spot (Intra-day)	% chg.	% YTD	Value
CRB Raw Industrials	-0.6%	3.6%	560.6
NYMEX WTI Crude (p/bbl.)	-2.3%	-20.7%	56.9
ICE Brent Crude (p/bbl.)	-2.1%	-19.9%	59.8
NYMEX Nat Gas (mmBtu)	3.4%	-5.3%	3.4
Spot Gold (troy oz.)	-2.3%	22.4%	3,212.5
Spot Silver (troy oz.)	-2.1%	10.4%	31.9
LME Copper (per ton)	-3.3%	5.4%	9,118.2
LME Aluminum (per ton)	-2.6%	-6.1%	2,371.7
CBOT Corn (cents p/bushel)	0.6%	2.0%	478.3
CBOT Wheat (cents p/bushel)	0.3%	-6.5%	532.3

Foreign Exchange (Intra-day)	% chg.	% YTD	Value
Euro (€/$)	0.0%	9.4%	1.13
British Pound (£/$)	0.0%	6.5%	1.33
Japanese Yen ($/¥)	-0.9%	8.9%	144.39
Australian Dollar (A$/$)	-0.1%	3.3%	0.64
Canadian Dollar ($/C$)	-0.1%	4.1%	1.38
Swiss Franc ($/CHF)	-0.2%	9.7%	0.83

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
Financials	14.4%	Overweight	2.0%	16.4%
Information Technology	30.4%	Equalweight	-	30.4%
Consumer Discretionary	10.2%	Equalweight	-	10.2%
Communication Services	9.4%	Equalweight	-	9.4%
Industrials	8.4%	Equalweight	-	8.4%
Consumer Staples	5.8%	Equalweight	-	5.8%
Energy	3.6%	Equalweight	-	3.6%
Utilities	2.5%	Equalweight	-	2.5%
Real Estate	2.2%	Equalweight	-	2.2%
Materials	2.0%	Equalweight	-	2.0%
Health Care	11.1%	Underweight	-2.0%	9.1%

As of: March 31, 2025

Index weightings represent the respective market capitalization of each sector in the S&P 500 as of 3/31/2025. 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
Europe ex U.K.	13.2%	Overweight	2.0%	15.2%
United States	62.8%	Overweight	1.2%	64.0%
Japan	5.1%	Equalweight	-	5.1%
United Kingdom	3.4%	Equalweight	-	3.4%
Latin America	0.9%	Equalweight	-	0.9%
Middle East / Africa	1.2%	Underweight	-1.2%	0.0%
Asia-Pacific ex Japan	10.6%	Underweight	-1.0%	9.6%
Canada	2.8%	Underweight	-1.0%	1.8%

as of: March 31, 2025

Index weightings are based on the regional market capitalizations of the MSCI All-Country World Index as of 3/31/2025. 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

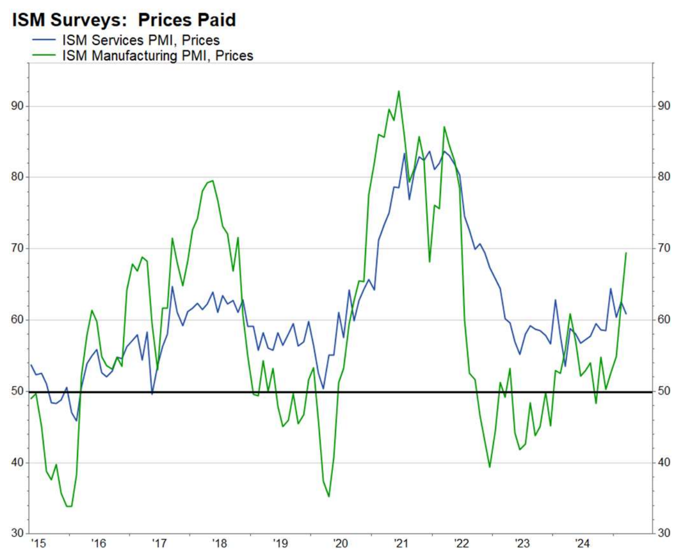
Releases for Thursday, May 1, 2025

All times Eastern. Consensus estimates via Bloomberg

Time	Period	Release	Consensus Est.	**Actual**	Prior	Revised to
8:30 AM	Apr. 26	Initial Jobless Claims	222k	**241k**	222k	223k
8:30 AM	Apr. 19	Continuing Claims	1865k	**1916k**	1841k	1833k
10:00 AM	APR	ISM Manufacturing Index	47.9		49.0	
10:00 AM	APR	ISM Prices Paid	73.0		69.4	
10:00 AM	APR	ISM Employment	44.6		44.7	
10:00 AM	APR	ISM New Orders	45.0		45.2	
10:00 AM	MAR	Construction Spending (MoM)	+0.2%		+0.7%	
NA	APR	U.S. Auto Sales (annualized)	17.2M		17.8M	

Commentary:

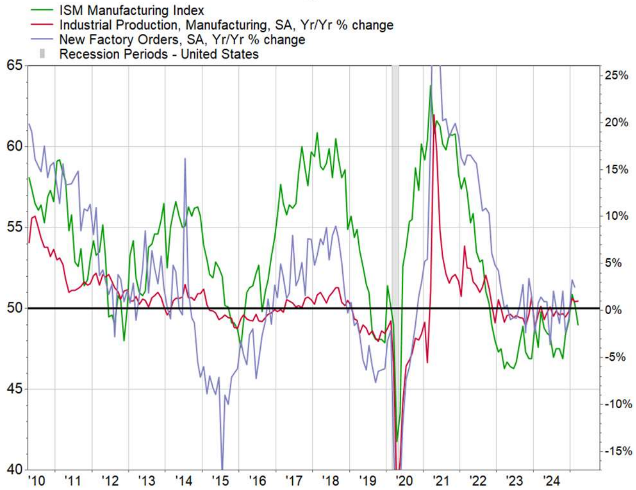
- **Demand for manufactured goods a bit weaker.** The Institute of Supply Management (ISM) will release its Manufacturing Index for the month of April at 10 AM ET today. Forecasters expect the Index to have slipped under the 48 level for the first time since October (46.5). As a reminder, the ISM Surveys are diffusion indexes with a breakeven of 50. Readings above 50 indicate month-over-month expansion in the sector, while numbers below reflect contraction.



- The expected weakness has been informed by previously released Federal Reserve regional bank surveys, which showed nearly universal incremental weakness in the period. A composite calculation of the 5 most prominent regional bank surveys showed a combined level of -87, the weakest combined level since January 2024 (-106).
- The report's 'Prices Paid' component will also be closely examined. Sharply higher goods prices were the primary driver of the inflation spike of 2022 (the Consumer Price Index peaked at +9.0% y/y in June 2022) as goods were in short supply ahead of factories getting back up to speed following pandemic-related closures.
- In recent months, the Prices Paid component of the ISM Manufacturing survey (see chart at right) has once again been rising at a fast pace. For now, such signs have not translated into consistently higher consumer goods prices. Yesterday's Personal Consumption Expenditure Price Index showed consumer goods prices to have been down 0.5% month-over-month in March and down 0.3% on a year-over-year basis.
- *Continued on next page…*

- As we've noted on past occasions, the ISM surveys are some of the oldest and most watched monthly measures of manufacturing and service sector activity. But since they are surveys and not based on hard data they can at times be influenced by the sentiment of the individuals filling out the surveys.
- As seen in the chart at right, actual manufacturing output as measured by total Industrial Production and total Factory Orders has been a little more stable of late. Still, although tariffs are partially meant to attract production back to the U.S., we believe demand for manufactured goods is likely to be weak initially (over the next few months at least).
- *The charts associated with this commentary have been sourced from FactSet.*

A Broad Look at US Manufacturing Conditions:



Ameriprise Economic Projections

Forecast:	Full-year				Quarterly						
	Actual 2023	Actual 2024	Est. 2025	Est. 2026	Actual Q2-2024	Actual Q3-2024	Actual Q4-2024	Actual Q1-2025	Est. Q2-2025	Est. Q3-2025	Est. Q4-2025
Real GDP (annualized)	2.9%	2.8%	0.7%	1.8%	3.0%	2.8%	2.3%	-0.3%	0.8%	0.2%	1.5%
Unemployment Rate	3.7%	4.1%	4.5%	4.5%	4.1%	4.1%	4.1%	4.2%	4.4%	4.5%	4.5%
CPI (YoY)	3.4%	2.9%	3.7%	2.4%	3.0%	2.4%	2.9%	2.4%	3.6%	4.0%	3.7%
Core PCE (YoY)	2.9%	2.8%	3.4%	2.6%	2.6%	2.7%	2.8%	2.6%	3.5%	3.7%	3.8%

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.

Our projections currently assume an average import tariff rate of 20% over the projection period.

All estimates other than GDP are period ending. **Last Updated: April 30, 2025**

Please note: The economic outlook remains highly dynamic and heavily reliant on developments related to the Trump administration's tariff policies.

Ameriprise Global Asset Allocation Committee Targets and Views

Targets

2025 Year-end Targets:	Favorable Scenario	Base-Case Scenario	Adverse Scenario
S&P 500 Index:	6,000	5,600	4,800
10-Year U.S. Treasury Yield:	5.00%	4.00%	3.00%
Fed Funds Target Range:	3.75% to 4.00%	3.25% to 3.75%	2.75% to 3.00%

Estimates (Est.) via American Enterprise Investment Services Inc.
Please see latest *Quarterly Capital Market Digest* for more information. **Last Updated: April 30, 2025**

Global Asset Allocation Committee Views

AMERIPRISE GLOBAL ASSET ALLOCATION COMMITTEE TACTICAL ASSET CLASS VIEWS

2025 Year-end S&P 500 Target: 5,600
2025 Year-End 10-year Treasury Target: 4.00%

as of 04/30/2025

	Overweight	Equalweight	Underweight
Equity	• U.S. Large Cap Growth	• U.S. Large Cap Value • U.S. Mid Cap Value • U.S. Mid Cap Growth • U.S. Small Cap Value • U.S. Small Cap Growth • Developed Foreign	• Emerging Foreign
S&P 500 Sectors	• Financials	• Communication Services • Consumer Discretionary • Consumer Staples • Energy • Industrials • Information Technology • Materials • Real Estate • Utilities	• Health Care
Global Equity Regions	• United States • Europe ex U.K.	• Japan • Latin America • United Kingdom	• Middle East/Africa • Asia-Pacific ex Japan • Canada
Fixed Income	• U.S. Investment Grade • Municipals	• U.S. Government • U.S. High Yield • Developed Foreign	• Emerging Foreign
Alternatives		• Real Assets • Alternative Strategies	
Cash		• 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 March 31, 2025	Rolling Returns			
Major Market Indices	**Q1'25**	**1-year**	**3-years**	**5-years**
Russell 3000® Index (U.S. Equity)	-4.72%	7.22%	8.22%	18.18%
MSCI ACWI Ex USA Index – net (Foreign Equity)	5.23%	6.09%	4.48%	10.92%
Bloomberg U.S. Universal Bond Index (Fixed Income)	2.66%	5.24%	1.01%	0.32%
Wilshire Liquid Alternative Index (Alternatives)	0.76%	2.00%	2.43%	4.49%
FTSE Three-Month Treasury Bill Index (Cash)	1.10%	5.17%	4.42%	2.69%

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

The Ameriprise Investment Research Group

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As of March 31, 2025

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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.

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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.

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