The GIC Weekly

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Upcoming Catalysts

Aug. 13 China industrial production
Aug. 13 China retail sales
Aug. 14 Japan industrial production
Aug. 14 NFIB Small Business Optimism Index
Aug. 14 US Import Price Index
Aug. 14 Euro Zone industrial production
Aug. 15 Japan trade balance
Aug. 15 Empire State Manufacturing Survey
Aug. 15 US industrial production
Aug. 15 NAHB/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index
Aug. 15 US capacity utilization
Aug. 16 US initial jobless claims
Aug. 16 Philadelphia Fed Survey
Aug. 16 US housing starts
Aug. 16 US building permits
Aug. 17 U. of M. Consumer Sentiment Index
Aug. 17 Euro Zone CPI

What We Are Talking About

- **What Complacency Looks Like.** Equity markets flirt with new highs and volatility retreats to near cycle lows even though the reflationary narrative is aging, the trade battle is escalating, the yield curve is flattening and economic surprises are rolling over; institutional investors are trying to play catch-up as speculative positioning is skewed long and winning stocks remain overowned; enthusiasm about strong second-quarter earnings is likely to wane as the reality of economic slowing hits earnings expectations, uncertainty around midterm elections mounts and the consequences of debt and deficit-financed growth. **Consider** taking profits in growth and momentum-oriented sectors; skew toward defensive stocks and those with valuation support as a likely correction approaches.

What Complacency Looks Like

Sweltering heat and lazy afternoons characterize the dog days of August. Less typical is the stock market climbing to new highs. August and September are historically seasonally weak for equities; it's a time for corporate confessionals on profit outlooks, prompting negative earnings revisions. Now, with the S&P 500 within 1% of an all-time record and volatility as measured by the VIX near cycle lows, investors apparently see this year differently—even with midterm elections less than 90 days away. And a constant stream of concerning geopolitical headlines hasn't triggered much concern as gold, which usually rallies on heightened global tensions, is about the same price as a year ago. And even though the yield curve has flattened—often a precursor of recession—stocks have continued to price in sustained economic growth.

Certainly, there is much to cheer about. In the second quarter, nominal GDP growth of nearly 7% was the strongest showing in 14 years and the S&P 500's year-over-year earnings growth was 24%. Unemployment continues to fall. Recent revisions to the household savings rate show a more robust consumer balance sheet than originally estimated. Corporate confidence can be seen in share buybacks, which are up more than 50% year over year. Institutional investors are long the market, with put/call ratios still below average and the cost of hedging is low (see *Chart of the Week*, page 3).

Of increasing concern to the Global Investment Committee is that investors seem complacent, inclined to extrapolate current trends rather than discount what appear to be significant shifts in the outlook. While we have discussed bond market inertia (see *The GIC Weekly,* July 16 and July 23), here we address four factors that the equity market will need to wrestle with in coming weeks.

To start with, economic growth is slowing and economic surprises, an important coincident indicator for stocks, have rolled over (see *The GIC Weekly,* Aug. 6). Granted, GDP forecasts for full-year 2018 have drifted upward in recent weeks as economists have noted that the impact of increased federal spending has yet to be fully felt. An alternative view is that second-quarter GDP seems to have been boosted by companies building supply-chain inventories in hopes of mitigating the impact of the administration's trade policies; this suggests a payback in the second half as companies work off those inventories. Yes, third-quarter GDP growth looks solid, with the Blue Chip consensus estimate at 3.1%. Still, that is down from the second quarter's 4.1% real GDP growth—and the rate of change matters to markets.

To that point, in the past two weeks, we have seen meaningful declines and downside misses in both the manufacturing and nonmanufacturing ISM purchasing managers indexes, July payrolls, construction spending, housing starts, auto sales and consumer confidence. The downward shifts in July data are significant. David Rosenberg, chief economist of Gluskin Sheff & Associates, notes that the drop in the services ISM to 55.7 in July from 59.1 in June was marked by more than five-point moves in business activity, new orders and backlogged components; that's only the second time in the history of the series this has happened. The Morgan Stanley Business Conditions Index, which tends to foreshadow the ISM, is back at its December 2017 level. Nonenergy commodity prices, which had begun to weaken two months ago as the US dollar strengthened, have been joined by a swoon in oil. Mounting inventories of oil could be an early indicator of slowing global growth, yet growth fears are not evident in the stock market's performance.

A second concern is that trade rhetoric continues to escalate, especially with China. During the past four months, total US exports were already slowing, due to the stronger dollar and increasing global unease with Washington's confrontational trade policies. Now tariffs are being slapped on more and more goods—most recently another $16 billion by China. Instead of investors questioning the longer-run impact on global growth and supply chains, the news chatter has shifted to a narrative that the US must be winning because US stocks are up while Chinese and emerging market equities are down. In our view, a trade conflict impacting more than $200 billion of goods would likely prove recessionary. Slowly but surely, we are ratcheting up the totals yet US stock investors have barely flinched. On Aug. 6, Morgan Stanley & Co. economists lowered their 2019 GDP forecast to 2.0% from 2.1% on a fourth-quarter-to-fourth-quarter basis due to a stronger dollar and a great impact from tariffs. They also raised their 2018 estimate to 3.0% from 2.5%.

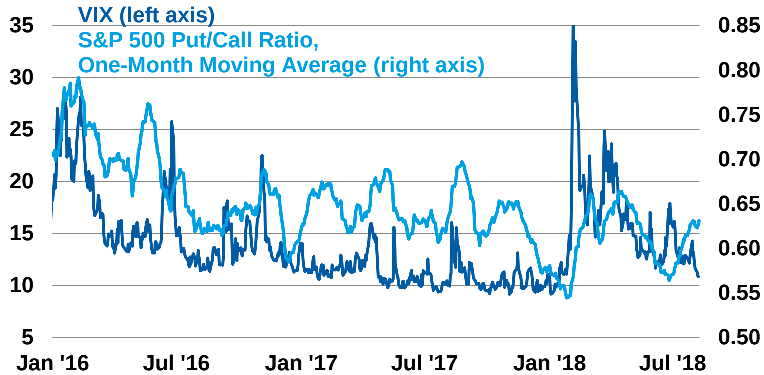
A third factor is Federal Reserve policy. Bullish investors have convinced themselves that the Fed will hit the pause button on rate hikes, which is contrary to its current guidance. Based on its mandate of low unemployment and stable prices, with inflation around 2% there is little logic for a time out short of a capital markets accident or an adverse geopolitical event. In our view, the Fed will hike two more times this year and two more next year before the federal funds rate hits neutral at 2.875%.

Finally, markets still seem to be ignoring significant fiscal deterioration—acceleration in the budget deficit and total debt, and soaring US Treasury issuance. We expect annual budget deficits, now less than 3% of GDP, to hit 6% of GDP by January 2020, about the same time the total debt-to-GDP ratio will likely breach 100%. Rosenberg points out that for the year to date, total government revenues are down 7% on the back of corporate tax receipts that are down 33%. What's more, the third-quarter forecast for Treasury issuance is $330 billion, about $56 billion higher than previously estimated, and the fourth quarter is expected to be $440 billion, more than 60% higher than a year ago. The implication is that even the garden-variety recession that we are expecting in 2019-20 could worsen the debt forecast, leading to a higher cost of capital and lower price/earnings multiples. Even so, rates and multiples are unchanged since March.

Bottom Line: Stock indexes are approaching new highs against a backdrop of low volatility and limited downside hedging. We are concerned that this complacency is built on tax cuts and buyback-induced gains in earnings per share and puts investors at risk if the economy slows, the trade situation worsens, the Fed continues to tighten and fiscal profligacy continues unabated. Seasonal factors and the midterm elections are further potential flashpoints for a market that we increasingly see as vulnerable. **Watch** gold and the VIX. If they increase, it could be signs that complacency is abating. **Consider** taking profits in growth and momentum-oriented sectors; skew toward defensive stocks and those with valuation support as a likely correction approaches. ■

Chart of the Week: Complacency, Yet Again

Despite the downshift in important economic data, the rolling over in economic surprises, the trajectory of trade policy and the concerns about the pace of Federal Reserve rate hikes, the stock market has remained relatively calm. The VIX, a measure of stock-price volatility, is near the cycle's lows while headline indexes like the S&P 500 approach all-time highs. Hedging activity as measured by the S&P 500 put/call ratio (see chart) has picked up in the past month, but it remains below average, suggesting investors are not pricing in much risk of correction. The Global Investment Committee believes that this combination, especially in a seasonally weak period for stocks and ahead of the midterm election, creates a good opportunity to become more defensive.



Source: Bloomberg as of Aug. 9, 2018

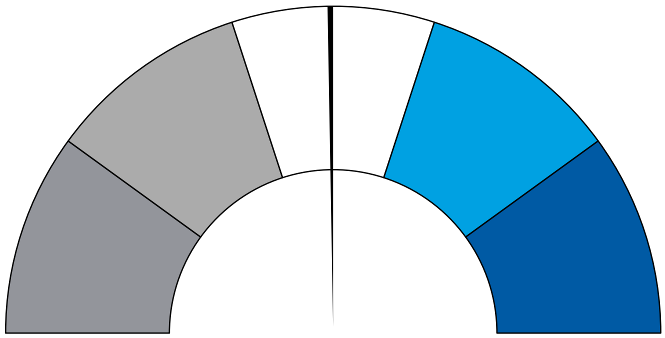
Asset Class Performance and Heat Map (as of Aug. 10, 2018)

Asset Class	Annualized Returns (%)							Yield	Valuation		Volatility (%)		Correlation to Global Equities	
Cash	**YTD**	**1-Yr.**	**2017**	**3-Yr.[1]**	**5-Yr.[1]**	**10-Yr.[1]**	**20-Yr.[1]**	**Current YTM**	**Current YTM**	**Avg. YTM[2]**	**30 Days**	**20 Yrs.[1]**	**30 Days**	**20 Yrs.[1]**
90-Day US Treasury Bills	1.0	1.4	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.3	1.9	2.07	2.07	1.84	0.06	0.57	-0.13	-0.05
Global Equities								**Current Div. Yld.**	**Current P/E**	**Avg. P/E[2]**				
US Large-Cap Growth	13.8	27.0	30.2	14.7	16.5	12.4	6.1	1.05	21.5	21.1	11.1	17.4	0.61	0.89
US Large-Cap Value	1.6	10.9	15.1	10.5	10.2	8.8	6.3	2.86	13.9	13.9	6.7	14.2	0.81	0.89
US Mid-Cap Growth	9.6	23.5	22.0	10.1	11.8	10.6	7.9	0.62	20.5	26.6	11.2	23.2	0.45	0.81
US Mid-Cap Value	1.5	10.5	17.0	11.3	11.4	11.3	9.3	2.61	14.9	14.4	6.8	16.3	0.48	0.88
US Small-Cap Growth	13.1	29.7	23.4	12.2	13.0	11.9	10.4	0.55	26.7	24.0	12.7	21.8	0.22	0.84
US Small-Cap Value	5.8	17.3	11.5	11.9	11.0	11.7	9.9	2.43	17.6	17.2	7.6	17.2	0.20	0.84
Europe Equity	-3.1	3.1	26.2	4.9	6.0	3.6	4.6	3.37	13.7	14.1	11.7	18.1	0.77	0.94
Japan Equity	-2.1	7.6	24.4	6.6	7.7	4.2	4.1	2.15	12.7	19.9	11.1	16.9	0.44	0.71
Asia Pacific ex Japan Equity	-1.4	5.2	26.0	7.8	5.9	5.6	10.0	3.70	15.1	14.5	10.8	20.3	0.66	0.88
Emerging Markets	-6.5	3.3	37.8	9.3	5.6	3.2	8.8	2.56	11.4	11.3	11.2	22.9	0.83	0.87
Global Fixed Income								**Current YTM**	**Current Spread**	**Avg. Spread[2]**				
Short-Term Fixed Income	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.7	0.8	1.6	3.2	2.76	15.0	31.0	0.6	1.4	-0.56	-0.15
US Fixed Income	-1.1	-0.6	3.5	1.5	2.2	3.7	4.7	3.29	41.0	55.0	2.6	3.4	-0.30	-0.05
International Fixed Income	-2.5	-1.6	9.8	3.1	0.7	1.9	4.0	1.27	50.0	49.0	3.5	8.1	0.30	0.31
Inflation-Protected Securities	-3.8	-1.8	9.0	2.4	1.8	2.4	5.7	-	-	-	3.7	7.7	0.42	0.44
High Yield	-2.0	0.5	10.4	6.2	5.0	8.2	7.6	6.56	403.0	514.0	2.7	10.1	0.67	0.76
Emerging Markets Fixed. Inc.	-8.5	-6.2	15.2	3.5	-0.9	2.2	7.1	6.70	292.0	340.5	9.3	13.1	0.70	0.68
Alternative Investments								**Current Div. Yld.**						
Real Estate/REITs	-0.1	5.4	15.0	6.3	6.8	5.5	9.2	3.97	-	-	6.4	18.0	0.67	0.80
MLP/Energy Infrastructure[3]	11.8	11.9	-6.5	-2.8	-2.8	7.3	-	6.92	-	-	17.5	18.5	0.04	0.56
Commodities ex Prec. Metals	-2.5	4.3	0.2	-1.9	-7.6	-9.4	0.8	-	-	-	14.3	16.9	0.66	0.44
Precious Metals	-8.7	-7.6	10.9	3.4	-2.4	1.6	6.7	-	-	-	7.2	19.2	0.52	0.20
Hedged Strategies[4]	-0.9	2.2	6.0	0.8	1.1	-0.1	-	-	-	-	2.6	6.0	0.31	0.64
Managed Futures[5]	-1.5	1.6	2.5	-1.7	0.1	-2.0	-	-	-	-	8.3	7.8	-0.02	0.18
S&P 500	7.2	18.5	21.8	12.5	13.1	10.7	6.7	1.78	16.5	15.9	7.40	14.8	0.81	0.95
Russell 2000	10.6	24.5	14.6	12.0	11.3	10.4	8.6	1.19	25.9	20.5	10.51	19.7	0.15	0.82
MSCI EAFE	-2.6	4.5	25.6	5.5	6.4	3.9	4.8	3.12	13.6	14.9	9.99	16.6	0.78	0.96
MSCI AC World	2.2	11.8	24.6	9.5	9.6	7.0	6.0	2.38	14.8	15.4	6.79	15.5	1.00	1.00

Note: Performance values calculated using USD. 1. As of July 31, 2018. 2. 20-year average as of July 31, 2018. 3. Volatility and Correlation: June 30, 2006 – Present. 4. Volatility and Correlation: Jan 31, 1998 – Present Hedged strategies consist of hedge funds and managed futures 5. Volatility and Correlation: February 28, 1998 – Present. Cheap = Below -0.5 standard deviation; Moderate = Between +0.5 standard deviation and -0.5 standard deviation; Expensive = Above +.5 std dev. Standard deviation (volatility) is a measure of the dispersion of a set of data from its mean.
Source: FactSet, Bloomberg, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management GIC.

Valuation	Volatility	Correlation
Cheap	Low	Low
Moderate	High	High
Expensive		

Short-Term Stock and Bond Indicator



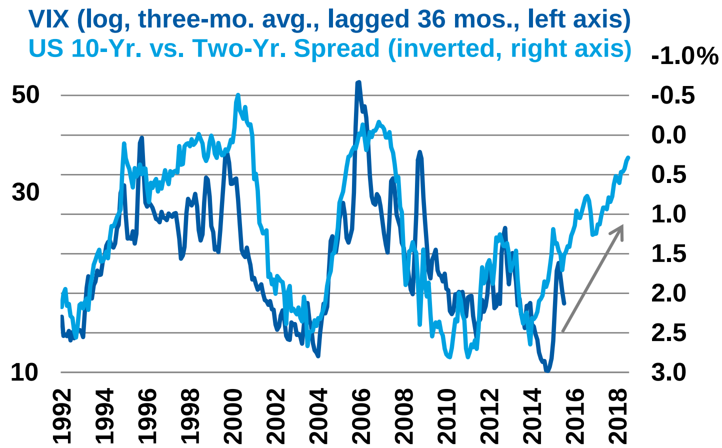
	Macro		Policy		Fundamentals		Sentiment and Technicals	
	Growth	Inflation	Rates	Liquidity	Valuation & Market	Earnings	Sentiment	Technicals
Current	Neutral	Neutral	Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Negative	Very Negative	Neutral	Neutral
Last Week	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Very Positive	Neutral	Very Negative	Neutral	Neutral

Indicator	Category	Reading
PMI (+)	Growth	Risk Off
Durable Goods (+)		Neutral
Retail Sales (+)		Neutral
Manufacturing Hours Worked (+)		Neutral
Commodity Prices (+)	Inflation	Neutral
Yield Curve: 10-Yr./Three-Mo.(-)	Rates	Risk On
Yield Curve: Two-Yr./Three-Mo.(-)		Risk Off
Pace of Interest Rate Hikes (-)		Neutral
Term Premium Model (-)		Risk On
High Yield Spreads (-)	Liquidity	Neutral
Investment Grade Spreads (-)		Neutral
Financial Conditions (-)		Risk On
S&P 500 Earnings/Baa Yield (+)	Valuation & Market Behavior	Risk Off
Large vs. Small Performance (-)		Risk Off
High- vs. Low-Quality Performance (-)		Neutral
High- vs. Low-Beta Performance (+)		Neutral
S&P 500 Forward Price/Earnings Ratio (+)		Neutral
Earnings Revisions Breadth (-)	Earnings	Risk Off
Global Risk Demand (+)	Sentiment	Neutral
Implied Currency Volatility (-)		Neutral
Five-Yr. Macro Sensitivity (-)		Neutral
% Stocks Above 200-Day Moving Avg. (+)	Technicals	Neutral
Cumulative Advance/Decline (+)		Neutral
S&P 500 Put/Call Ratio (-)		Risk Off
Emerging Market Fund Flows (+)		Neutral
Smart Money Flow Index (+)		Neutral
Note: + Indicates that a rise in the indicator is linked to a more favorable outlook for risk assets; - indicates that a rise in the indicator is linked to a less favorable outlook for risk assets. Color coding is set in accordance with the impact on risk assets.		Positive for Stocks Relative to Bonds
		Neutral
		Negative for Stocks Relative to Bonds

Note: Commodity prices are represented by the Bloomberg Commodity Index; pace of interest rate hikes by the Morgan Stanley Pace of Rate Hikes Index; high yield spreads by the Bloomberg Barclays Aggregate US High Yield Index; investment grade spreads by the Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Index; financial conditions by the Morgan Stanley Financial Conditions Index; global risk demand and implied currency volatility by the Morgan Stanley Standardized Global Risk Demand Index. For more information on our Term Premium Model, please refer to our special report, *Using the Term Premium to Manage Portfolio Duration*, March 2016.
Source: Morgan Stanley Wealth Management GIC, Morgan Stanley & Co., Haver Analytics, Bloomberg, FactSet as of Aug. 10, 2018

Fixed Income Insight: Flattening Yield Curve Foreboding for Volatility

We view the low reading on the VIX, a measure of equity market volatility, as complacency in the face of a maturing business cycle and flattening yield curve (see chart). While a correction may not be imminent, we are concerned that in a seasonally weak period for stocks and the uncertainty that midterm elections may introduce, the stock market is vulnerable to a pullback. The summer calm may not last.



Source: Bloomberg, Morgan Stanley & Co. Research as of Aug. 8, 2018

Government Debt Monitor

	US			
	Yield (%)			Total Return (%)
Treasury Benchmark	Current	ΔWTD	ΔYTD	YTD
3-Month	2.04	0.04	0.67	1.00
2-Year	2.60	-0.04	0.72	0.22
5-Year	2.74	-0.07	0.54	-0.75
10-Year	2.87	-0.08	0.47	-2.48
30-Year	3.03	-0.06	0.29	-3.71
2-Yr./10-Yr. Spread (bp)	27	-3.66	-25.34	-
10-Yr. TIPS Breakeven (bp)	210	-2.02	11.69	-
Interest Rate Volatility† (bp)	51	2.96	4.03	-

Fixed Income Spread Dashboard

		Duration (Yrs.)	Yield-to-Worst (%)	OAS (bp)	OAS Range** Rich	Cheap
Investment Grade	MBS*	5.06	3.45	30	9	35
	AAA	4.35	2.94	26	18	42
	AA	5.62	3.04	15	8	18
	A	7.30	3.73	94	68	108
	BBB	7.27	4.34	153	115	182
High Yield	BB	4.34	5.30	256	212	385
	B	3.68	6.66	381	333	568
	CCC	3.24	10.12	764	728	1,222

Unless stated, indexes utilized are FTSE Broad Investment Grade, FTSE High Yield, and FTSE Global Indexes
†Interest Rate Volatility measured by Merrill Lynch Option Volatility Estimate (MOVE) Index
*MBS distills high grade agency-rated mortgage-backed securities, a substantial subsector of investment grade indexes.
**OAS stands for Option-Adjusted Spread or spread over the Treasury. Grey diamond denotes current OAS; blue circle denotes two-year average.
Source: Bloomberg, The Yield Book® Software and Services. © 2018 FTSE Index LLC. All rights reserved. Data as of Aug. 10, 2018

Government Debt Monitor

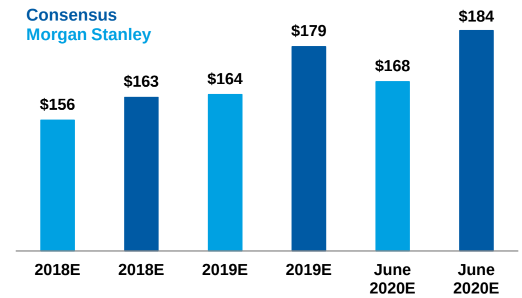
	Global			
	Yield (%)			Total Return (%)*
10-Year Govt. Bond	Current	ΔWTD	ΔYTD	YTD
France	0.67	-0.07	-0.11	2.81
Germany	0.32	-0.09	-0.11	3.38
Japan	0.10	-0.01	0.05	1.08
Spain	1.40	-0.02	-0.16	4.06
UK	1.24	-0.09	0.05	0.92
3-Month LIBOR	2.34	0.00	0.64	-
	US Tax Exempt			
10-Year AAA Muni	2.48	-0.01	0.50	0.05
10-Yr. Muni/UST Ratio	86.71	2.14	4.45	-

Benchmark Returns

	Total Returns (%)		
Index	YTD	MTD	2017
Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate	-1.08	0.52	3.54
Bloomberg Barclays US MBS	-0.53	0.54	2.47
Bloomberg Barclays US IG Corporate	-2.09	0.39	6.42
Bloomberg Barclays Municipal	0.05	0.05	5.45
Bloomberg Barclays US High Yield	1.54	0.28	7.50
Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate	-2.00	-0.38	7.39
JPMorgan Emerging Market	-4.92	-1.70	9.32

*Global total returns reflect Citigroup 7- to 10-year bond indexes and Muni total returns reflect Bloomberg Barclays Municipal Bond Index Total Return
Source: Bloomberg, Thomson Reuters Municipal Market Data (MMD) as of Aug. 10, 2018

S&P 500 Earnings Estimates



Source: FactSet, Thomson Reuters, Morgan Stanley & Co. Research as of Aug. 10, 2018

MS & Co. 12-Month Forward Price Target for the S&P 500

Landscape	Earnings	Price/Earnings Multiple	Price Target	Upside / Downside
Bull Case	$176	17.5	3,000	5.9%
Base Case	$168	16.5	2,750	-2.9%
Bear Case	$160	15.5	2,400	-15.3%
	Current S&P 500 Price		2,833	

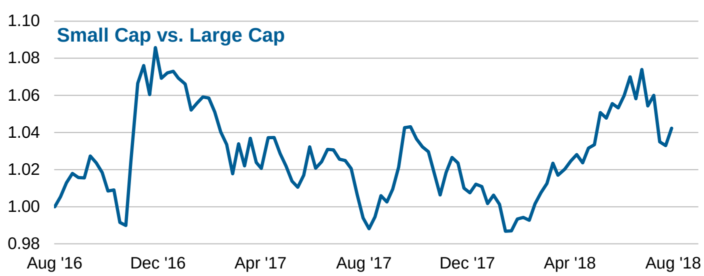
Note: Price targets use forward 12-month earnings estimate
Source: Thomson Reuters, Morgan Stanley & Co. Research as of Aug. 10, 2018

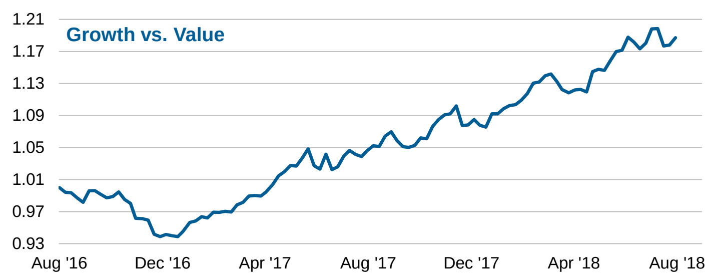
S&P 500 Sector Performance and Valuation (as of Aug. 10, 2018)

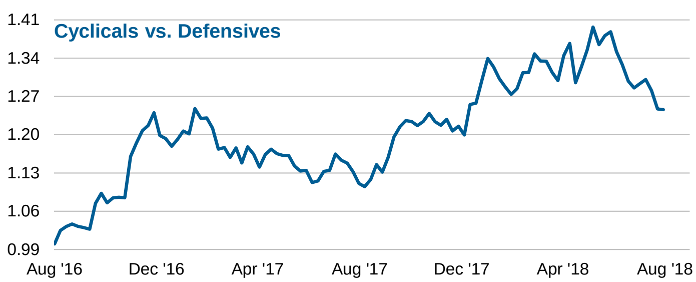
Index Name	Total Return			Dividend Yield (%)	Beta	20-Year Avg. Forward 12-Mo. PE	Forward 12-Mo. P/E*
	WTD (%)	YTD (%)	1-Year (%)				
S&P 500	***-0.18***	***7.21***	***16.80***	***1.78***		***15.9***	***16.5***
Energy	-0.07	5.78	19.36	2.67	0.89	17.6	**17.2**
Materials	-0.85	-1.85	10.34	1.96	1.04	14.0	**15.3**
Industrials	-0.92	-0.01	9.78	1.94	1.03	16.2	**16.2**
Consumer Discretionary	0.81	15.08	25.93	1.15	0.95	18.0	**21.0**
Consumer Staples	-1.87	-5.32	-1.13	2.89	0.59	16.9	**17.6**
Health Care	-0.20	9.47	14.94	1.56	0.96	17.1	**15.9**
Financials	-0.49	1.10	12.69	1.69	1.09	12.8	**12.5**
Information Technology	0.44	16.75	30.59	1.10	1.30	20.7	**18.7**
Telecommunication Services	0.69	-4.58	0.56	5.08	0.68	16.2	**10.2**
Utilities	-0.53	2.41	1.78	3.40	0.22	14.2	**16.6**
Real Estate	-1.80	1.55	4.93	3.26	0.52	15.3	**17.4**

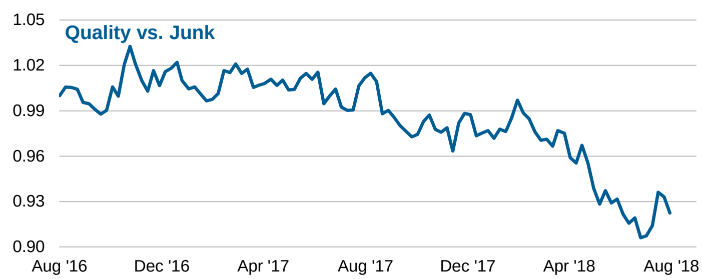
*Dark blue/light blue/gray fill denotes whether current relative forward 12-month P/E is low/neutral/high relative to history.
Source: Morgan Stanley & Co. Research

Performance of Style and Cap Pairs (as of Aug. 10, 2018)









Source: Morgan Stanley & Co. Small Cap is represented by the Russell 2000 Index; Large Cap represented by the Russell 1000 Index; Growth represented by the Russell 1000 Growth Index; Value represented by the Russell 1000 Value Index.Cyclicals and Defensives, and Quality and Junk are based on Morgan Stanley & Co. Research analysis.

Morgan Stanley & Co. Forecasts (as of Aug. 10, 2018)

	Real GDP Growth (%)			10-Yr. Govt. Bond Yield (%)		Headline Inflation (%)			Currency Versus US Dollar		
	2017	2018E	2019E	Q4 '18E	Q2 '19E	2017	2018E	2019E	Q3 '18E	Q1 '19E	Q3 '19E
Global	3.7	3.9	3.8			2.5	2.9	2.9			
US	2.3	2.9	2.4	2.75	2.50	2.1	2.5	2.0			
Euro Zone	2.5	2.1	1.9			1.5	1.8	1.8	1.13	1.19	1.28
UK	1.7	1.2	1.0	1.60	1.85	2.7	2.4	2.2	1.28	1.34	1.44
Japan	1.7	1.1	1.5	0.08	0.10	0.5	1.0	0.9	104	98	95
Emerging Markets	4.8	5.0	5.0			3.1	3.6	3.6			
China	6.9	6.6	6.4	3.50	3.60	1.6	2.4	2.5	6.65	6.47	6.32

Source: Morgan Stanley & Co. Research

Macro Factor Heat Map (as of Aug. 10, 2018)

	Economic Growth	Rates	Inflation / Deflation	Liquidity	Sentiment and Risk	Valuation	Earnings	GIC Conclusion
Europe	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	↓	Preparing for ECB taper
China	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	↓	↓	Soft Landing Better than Expected
Japan	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	Corporate Profit Growth Offset Stronger Yen
Brazil	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	Political Chaos Driving Currency Weakness

Risk Asset Positive | Neutral | Risk Asset Negative

Note: Text in a factor box denotes a color change; for further explanation of the chart, see page 9.
Source: Morgan Stanley Wealth Management GIC

Market Factor Data Points (for the week ending Aug. 10, 2018)

	Positives	Negatives
Global Growth	• US weekly initial jobless claims fell to 213,000 vs. 220,000 estimate • June US JOLTS survey showed 6.66 million job openings vs. 6.63 million forecast • Decline in China's trade balance exceeded expectations in July at $28 billion vs. $39 billion forecast • Japan household spending decreased 1.2% year over year in June, beating forecast • Japan second-quarter GDP increased 0.5% vs. 0.3% expected	• US consumer credit rose less than expected in June at $10.2 billion vs. $15 billion forecast
Inflation	• US core CPI rose 2.4% year over year in July • China CPI and PPI both outperformed expectations in July, up 2.1% and 4.6% year over year, respectively • Japan PPI increased 3.1% year over year vs. 2.9% expected in July	• US core PPI below expectations in July, up 2.7% year over year vs. 2.8% expected

Source: Morgan Stanley Wealth Management GIC

Tactical Asset Allocation Reasoning

Global Equities	Relative Weight Within Equities	
US	Equal Weight	US equities have done exceptionally well since the global financial crisis, but they are now in the latter stages of a cyclical bull market. While the acceleration of the Trump/Republican progrowth agenda has created a booming economy and earnings outlook, it may also be sowing the seeds for the end of the cycle as the Fed is forced to raise rates and tighten policy in a more deliberate manner. With the strong run in growth and small-cap stocks, we recently reduced positions in both and favor large-cap value stocks.
International Equities (Developed Markets)	Overweight	We maintain a positive bias for Japanese and European equity markets. The populist movements around the world are now spreading to Italy, which may spur further fiscal support from Germany and France. This would be a potential positive catalyst but not likely to develop until September.
Emerging Markets	Overweight	Emerging market (EM) equities have been the strongest-performing region over the past 24 months but are underperforming so far in 2018. Some of this is simply the result of a market that needs to consolidate strong gains the past few years. However, it is also directly related to the Fed's tightening campaign. We expect EM to find support not far from current levels and have a strong finish to the year.
Global Fixed Income	**Relative Weight Within Fixed Income**	
US Investment Grade	Underweight	We have recommended shorter-duration* (maturities) since March 2013 given the extremely low yields and potential capital losses associated with rising interest rates from such low levels. While interest rates have remained exceptionally low, US economic data have been very strong recently and the Fed is now raising rates at an accelerating pace. Adding some longer duration when 10-year US Treasury yields are above 3% percent makes sense.
International Investment Grade	Underweight	Yields are even lower outside the US, leaving very little value in international fixed income, particularly as the global economy begins to recover more broadly. While interest rates are likely to stay low, the offsetting diversification benefits do not warrant much, if any, position, in our view.
Inflation-Protected Securities	Overweight	With deflationary fears having become extreme in 2015 and early 2016, these securities still offer relative value in the context of our forecasted acceleration in global growth and our expectations for oil prices and the US dollar's year-over-year rate of change to revert toward 0%. That view played out in 2016 and 2017 but has not yet run its course.
High Yield	Underweight	High yield has performed exceptionally well since early 2016 with the stabilization in oil prices and retrenchment by the weaker players. We recently took our remaining high yield positions to zero as we prepare for deterioration in quality of earnings in the US led by lower operating margins. Credit spreads have likely reached a low for this cycle.
Alternative Investments	**Relative Weight Within Alternative Investments**	
Real Estate/REITs	Underweight	Real estate investment trusts (REITs) have underperformed global equities since mid-2016 when interest rates bottomed. We think it is still too early to reconsider our underweight zero allocation given the further rise in rates we expect and deteriorating fundamentals for the industry. Non-US REITs should be favored relative to domestic REITs.
Master Limited Partnerships/Energy Infrastructure*	Overweight	Master limited partnerships (MLPs) have traded better since their capitulation in March around the FERC regulatory announcement. With oil prices much more stable and on an upward path, MLPs have garnered more interest given their 8%-to-10% yields.
Hedged Strategies (Hedge Funds and Managed Futures)	Equal Weight	This asset category can provide uncorrelated exposure to traditional risk-asset markets. It tends to outperform when traditional asset categories are challenged by growth scares and/or interest rate volatility spikes. As volatility becomes more persistent in 2018, these strategies should do better than in recent years.

For more about the risks to Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs) and Duration, please see the Risk Considerations section beginning on page 10 of this report.

Source: Morgan Stanley Wealth Management GIC as of Aug. 10, 2018

Macro Factor Heat Map Key (see page 7)

	Economic Growth	Rates	Inflation / Deflation	Liquidity	Sentiment and Risk	Valuation	Earnings	Conclusion
Dark Blue	Economic growth robust	Steep yield curve	Low-moderate and rising inflation	Liquidity robust in economy / banking system	Shorter-term sentiment and technicals bearish	Risk assets attractively valued	Earnings outlook robust	Confluence of factors supports a risk-on investment approach
Light Blue	Economic growth neutral	Normal yield curve	Low-moderate and declining inflation; moderate inflation; higher and falling inflation	Liquidity neutral in the economy / banking system	Shorter-term sentiment and technicals neutral	Risk assets neutral	Earnings outlook neutral	Confluence of factors supports a neutral investment approach
Gray	Economic growth anemic	Flat/inverted yield curve	Very high/low inflation/deflation; high and rising inflation	Liquidity low in economy / banking system	Shorter-term sentiment and technicals bullish	Risk assets are richly valued	Earnings outlook anemic	Confluence of factors supports a risk-off investment approach
Up	Growth accelerating	Yield curve steepening	Inflation rising	Liquidity increasing	Sentiment becoming more bullish	Valuations rising	Earnings outlook improving	
Down	Growth declining	Yield curve flattening	Inflation falling	Liquidity decreasing	Sentiment becoming more bearish	Valuations falling	Earnings outlook worsening	
Signal Horizon	One to three years	One to three years	One to three years	One to three years	One to three months	Six months to two years	Six months to two years	
Inputs	• Industrial production • Unemployment • Total return • Earnings revisions • Home prices • OECD LEI (China and Brazil) • MS & Co. ARIA (US)	• 10-year vs. 2-year government bond yield spread	• Consumer Price Index	• M1 growth • Private credit growth • Libor-OIS spread	• MS US Equity Risk Indicator (US) • MS Combined Market Timing Indicator (Europe) • MS Global Risk Demand Index • Relative strength index • Members above / below moving average. • Index above / below moving average • Consumer confidence	• Forward price/earnings ratio • Price/book ratio • Equity risk premium • High yield option-adjusted spread	• Earnings revisions breadth • Earnings surprise • Return on equity	• Weighted average z-score of all factors

Index Definitions

For more index, indicator and survey definitions referenced in this report please visit the following:
http://www.morganstanleyfa.com/public/projectfiles/id.pdf

Risk Considerations

MLPs

Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs) are limited partnerships or limited liability companies that are taxed as partnerships and whose interests (limited partnership units or limited liability company units) are traded on securities exchanges like shares of common stock. Currently, most MLPs operate in the energy, natural resources or real estate sectors. Investments in MLP interests are subject to the risks generally applicable to companies in the energy and natural resources sectors, including commodity pricing risk, supply and demand risk, depletion risk and exploration risk.

Individual MLPs are publicly traded partnerships that have unique risks related to their structure. These include, but are not limited to, their reliance on the capital markets to fund growth, adverse ruling on the current tax treatment of distributions (typically mostly tax deferred), and commodity volume risk.

The potential tax benefits from investing in MLPs depend on their being treated as partnerships for federal income tax purposes and, if the MLP is deemed to be a corporation, then its income would be subject to federal taxation at the entity level, reducing the amount of cash available for distribution to the fund which could result in a reduction of the fund's value.

MLPs carry interest rate risk and may underperform in a rising interest rate environment. MLP funds accrue deferred income taxes for future tax liabilities associated with the portion of MLP distributions considered to be a tax-deferred return of capital and for any net operating gains as well as capital appreciation of its investments; this deferred tax liability is reflected in the daily NAV; and, as a result, the MLP fund's after-tax performance could differ significantly from the underlying assets even if the pre-tax performance is closely tracked.

Duration

Duration, the most commonly used measure of bond risk, quantifies the effect of changes in interest rates on the price of a bond or bond portfolio. The longer the duration, the more sensitive the bond or portfolio would be to changes in interest rates. Generally, if interest rates rise, bond prices fall and vice versa. Longer-term bonds carry a longer or higher duration than shorter-term bonds; as such, they would be affected by changing interest rates for a greater period of time if interest rates were to increase. Consequently, the price of a long-term bond would drop significantly as compared to the price of a short-term bond.

International investing entails greater risk, as well as greater potential rewards compared to U.S. investing. These risks include political and economic uncertainties of foreign countries as well as the risk of currency fluctuations. These risks are magnified in countries with emerging markets, since these countries may have relatively unstable governments and less established markets and economies.

Alternative investments often are speculative and include a high degree of risk. Investors could lose all or a substantial amount of their investment. Alternative investments are suitable only for eligible, long-term investors who are willing to forgo liquidity and put capital at risk for an indefinite period of time. They may be highly illiquid and can engage in leverage and other speculative practices that may increase the volatility and risk of loss. Alternative Investments typically have higher fees than traditional investments. Investors should carefully review and consider potential risks before investing. Certain of these risks may include but are not limited to: Loss of all or a substantial portion of the investment due to leveraging, short-selling, or other speculative practices; Lack of liquidity in that there may be no secondary market for a fund; Volatility of returns; Restrictions on transferring interests in a fund; Potential lack of diversification and resulting higher risk due to concentration of trading authority when a single advisor is utilized; Absence of information regarding valuations and pricing; Complex tax structures and delays in tax reporting; Less regulation and higher fees than mutual funds; and Risks associated with the operations, personnel, and processes of the manager. All expressions of opinion are subject to change without notice and are not intended to be a forecast of future events or results. Further, opinions regarding Alternative Investments expressed herein may differ from the opinions expressed by Morgan Stanley Wealth Management and/or other businesses/affiliates of Morgan Stanley Wealth Management. This is not a "research report" as defined by FINRA Rule 2241 and was not prepared by the Research Departments of Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC or Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC or its affiliates. Certain information contained herein may constitute forward-looking statements. Due to various risks and uncertainties, actual events, results or the performance of a fund may differ materially from those reflected or contemplated in such forward-looking statements. Clients should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses of a fund before investing. Interests in alternative investment products are offered pursuant to the terms of the applicable offering memorandum, are distributed by Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC and certain of its affiliates, and (1) are not FDIC-insured, (2) are not deposits or other obligations of Morgan Stanley or any of its affiliates, (3) are not guaranteed by Morgan Stanley and its affiliates, and (4) involve investment risks, including possible loss of principal. Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC is a registered broker-dealer, not a bank. In Consulting Group's advisory programs, alternative investments are limited to US-registered mutual funds, separate account strategies and exchange-traded funds (ETFs) that seek to pursue alternative investment strategies or returns utilizing publicly traded securities. Investment products in this category may employ various investment strategies and techniques for both hedging and more speculative purposes such as short-selling, leverage, derivatives and options, which can increase volatility and the risk of investment loss. Alternative investments are not suitable for all investors. As a diversified global financial services firm, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management engages in a broad spectrum of activities including financial advisory services, investment management activities, sponsoring and managing private investment funds, engaging in broker-dealer transactions and principal securities, commodities and foreign exchange transactions, research publication, and other activities. In the ordinary course of its business, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management therefore engages in activities where Morgan Stanley Wealth Management's interests may conflict with the interests of its clients, including the private investment funds it manages. Morgan Stanley Wealth Management can give no assurance that conflicts of interest will be resolved in favor of its clients or any such fund. Alternative investments involve complex tax structures, tax inefficient investing, and delays in distributing important tax information. Individual funds have specific risks related to their investment programs that will vary from fund to fund. Clients should consult their own tax and legal advisors as Morgan Stanley Wealth Management does not provide tax or legal advice.

Managed futures investments are speculative, involve a high degree of risk, use significant leverage, have limited liquidity and/or may be generally illiquid, may incur substantial charges, may subject investors to conflicts of interest, and are usually suitable only for the risk capital portion of an investor's portfolio. Before investing in any partnership and in order to make an informed decision, investors should read the applicable prospectus and/or offering documents carefully for additional information, including charges, expenses, and risks. Managed futures investments are not intended to replace equities or fixed income securities but rather may act as a complement to these asset categories in a diversified portfolio.

Investing in commodities entails significant risks. Commodity prices may be affected by a variety of factors at any time, including but not limited to, (i) changes in supply and demand relationships, (ii) governmental programs and policies, (iii) national and international political and economic events, war and terrorist events, (iv) changes in interest and exchange rates, (v) trading activities in commodities and related contracts, (vi) pestilence, technological change and weather, and (vii) the price volatility of a commodity. In addition, the commodities markets are subject to temporary distortions or other disruptions due to various factors, including lack of liquidity, participation of speculators and government intervention.

Physical precious metals are non-regulated products. Precious metals are speculative investments, which may experience short-term and long term price volatility. The value of precious metals investments may fluctuate and may appreciate or decline, depending on market conditions. If sold in a declining market, the price you receive may be less than your original investment. Unlike bonds and stocks, precious metals do not make interest or dividend payments. Therefore, precious metals may not be suitable for investors who require current income. Precious metals are commodities that should be safely stored, which may impose additional costs on the investor. The Securities Investor Protection Corporation ("SIPC") provides certain protection for customers' cash and securities in the event of a brokerage firm's bankruptcy, other financial difficulties, or if customers' assets are missing. SIPC insurance does not apply to precious metals or other commodities.

Bonds are subject to interest rate risk. When interest rates rise, bond prices fall; generally the longer a bond's maturity, the more sensitive it is to this risk. Bonds may also be subject to call risk, which is the risk that the issuer will redeem the debt at its option, fully or partially, before the scheduled maturity date. The market value of debt instruments may fluctuate, and proceeds from sales prior to maturity may be more or less than the amount originally invested or the maturity value due to changes in market conditions or changes in the credit quality of the issuer. Bonds are subject to the credit risk of the issuer. This is the risk that the issuer might be unable to make interest and/or principal payments on a timely basis. Bonds are also subject to reinvestment risk, which is the risk that principal and/or interest payments from a given investment may be reinvested at a lower interest rate.

Bonds rated below investment grade may have speculative characteristics and present significant risks beyond those of other securities, including greater credit risk and price volatility in the secondary market. Investors should be careful to consider these risks alongside their individual circumstances, objectives and risk tolerance before investing in high-yield bonds. High yield bonds should comprise only a limited portion of a balanced portfolio.

Interest on municipal bonds is generally exempt from federal income tax; however, some bonds may be subject to the alternative minimum tax (AMT). Typically, state tax-exemption applies if securities are issued within one's state of residence and, if applicable, local tax-exemption applies if securities are issued within one's city of residence.

Treasury Inflation Protection Securities' (TIPS) coupon payments and underlying principal are automatically increased to compensate for inflation by tracking the consumer price index (CPI). While the real rate of return is guaranteed, TIPS tend to offer a low return. Because the return of TIPS is linked to inflation, TIPS may significantly underperform versus conventional U.S. Treasuries in times of low inflation.

Ultrashort bond funds Ultra-short bond funds are mutual funds and exchange-traded funds that generally invest in fixed income securities with very short maturities, typically less than one year. They are not money market funds. While money market funds attempt to maintain a stable net asset value, an ultra-short bond fund's net asset value will fluctuate, which may result in the loss of the principal amount invested. They are therefore subject to the risks associated with debt securities such as credit and interest rate risk.

Ultrashort-term fixed income asset class is comprised of fixed income securities with high quality, very short maturities. They are therefore subject to the risks associated with debt securities such as credit and interest rate risk

The majority of $25 and $1000 par **preferred securities** are "callable" meaning that the issuer may retire the securities at specific prices and dates prior to maturity. Interest/dividend payments on certain preferred issues may be deferred by the issuer for periods of up to 5 to 10 years, depending on the particular issue. The investor would still have income tax liability even though payments would not have been received. Price quoted is per $25 or $1,000 share, unless otherwise specified. Current yield is calculated by multiplying the coupon by par value divided by the market price.

The initial interest rate on a **floating-rate security** may be lower than that of a fixed-rate security of the same maturity because investors expect to receive additional income due to future increases in the floating security's underlying reference rate. The reference rate could be an index or an interest rate. However, there can be no assurance that the reference rate will increase. Some floating-rate securities may be subject to call risk.

The market value of **convertible bonds** and the underlying common stock(s) will fluctuate and after purchase may be worth more or less than original cost. If sold prior to maturity, investors may receive more or less than their original purchase price or maturity value, depending on market conditions. Callable bonds may be redeemed by the issuer prior to maturity. Additional call features may exist that could affect yield.

Some $25 or $1000 par **preferred securities** are QDI (Qualified Dividend Income) eligible. Information on QDI eligibility is obtained from third party sources. The dividend income on QDI eligible preferreds qualifies for a reduced tax rate. Many traditional 'dividend paying' perpetual preferred securities (traditional preferreds with no maturity date) are QDI eligible. In order to qualify for the preferential tax treatment all qualifying preferred securities must be held by investors for a minimum period – 91 days during a 180 day window period, beginning 90 days before the ex-dividend date.

Principal is returned on a monthly basis over the life of a **mortgage-backed security**. Principal prepayment can significantly affect the monthly income stream and the maturity of any type of MBS, including standard MBS, CMOs and Lottery Bonds. Yields and average lives are estimated based on prepayment assumptions and are subject to change based on actual prepayment of the mortgages in the underlying pools. The level of predictability of an MBS/CMO's average life, and its market price, depends on the type of MBS/CMO class purchased and interest rate movements. In general, as interest rates fall, prepayment speeds are likely to increase, thus shortening the MBS/CMO's average life and likely causing its market price to rise. Conversely, as interest rates rise, prepayment speeds are likely to decrease, thus lengthening average life and likely causing the MBS/CMO's market price to fall. Some MBS/CMOs may have "original issue discount" (OID). OID occurs if the MBS/CMO's original issue price is below its stated redemption price at maturity, and results in "imputed interest" that must be reported annually for tax purposes, resulting in a tax liability even though interest was not received. Investors are urged to consult their tax advisors for more information.

Asset-backed securities generally decrease in value as a result of interest rate increases, but may benefit less than other fixed-income securities from declining interest rates, principally because of prepayments.

Yields are subject to change with economic conditions. Yield is only one factor that should be considered when making an investment decision.

Equity securities may fluctuate in response to news on companies, industries, market conditions and general economic environment.

Companies paying **dividends** can reduce or cut payouts at any time.

Investing in smaller companies involves greater risks not associated with investing in more established companies, such as business risk, significant stock price fluctuations and illiquidity.

Stocks of medium-sized companies entail special risks, such as limited product lines, markets, and financial resources, and greater market volatility than securities of larger, more-established companies.

Value investing does not guarantee a profit or eliminate risk. Not all companies whose stocks are considered to be value stocks are able to turn their business around or successfully employ corrective strategies which would result in stock prices that do not rise as initially expected.

Growth investing does not guarantee a profit or eliminate risk. The stocks of these companies can have relatively high valuations. Because of these high valuations, an investment in a growth stock can be more risky than an investment in a company with more modest growth expectations.

Asset allocation and diversification do not assure a profit or protect against loss in declining financial markets.

The **indices** are unmanaged. An investor cannot invest directly in an index. They are shown for illustrative purposes only and do not represent the performance of any specific investment.

The **indices selected by Morgan Stanley Wealth Management** to measure performance are representative of broad asset classes. Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC retains the right to change representative indices at any time.

Credit ratings are subject to change.

REITs investing risks are similar to those associated with direct investments in real estate: property value fluctuations, lack of liquidity, limited diversification and sensitivity to economic factors such as interest rate changes and market recessions.

Because of their narrow focus, **sector investments** tend to be more volatile than investments that diversify across many sectors and companies.

Technology stocks may be especially volatile. Risks applicable to companies in the **energy and natural resources** sectors include commodity pricing risk, supply and demand risk, depletion risk and exploration risk.

Rebalancing does not protect against a loss in declining financial markets. There may be a potential tax implication with a rebalancing strategy. Investors should consult with their tax advisor before implementing such a strategy.

Investing in foreign emerging markets entails greater risks than those normally associated with domestic markets, such as political, currency, economic and market risks.

Investing in foreign markets entails greater risks than those normally associated with domestic markets, such as political, currency, economic and market risks. **Investing in currency** involves additional special risks such as credit, interest rate fluctuations, derivative investment risk, and domestic and foreign inflation rates, which can be volatile and may be less liquid than other securities and more sensitive to the effect of varied economic conditions. In addition, international investing entails greater risk, as well as greater potential rewards compared to U.S. investing. These risks include political and economic uncertainties of foreign countries as well as the risk of currency fluctuations. These risks are magnified in countries with emerging markets, since these countries may have relatively unstable governments and less established markets and economies.

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