Fortune or Misfortune?
The Power of a Diversified Portfolio

➤ A solid long-term investment plan can mean the difference between fortune and misfortune

➤ Combining different types of securities may help give you consistent returns with lower risk over time

➤ Work with a financial advisor to develop a financial plan—and create an asset allocation that makes sense
Fortune or Misfortune?

Investing for the long term may help build your fortune or lead you toward misfortune. We believe that designing a solid investment plan—and having the patience and discipline to stick with it—can keep investors on the road to success.

Investing for the long term is like taking an extended road trip: if you start without a good map and a well-planned route, you risk making a wrong turn or two and might even end up lost.

Defining Your Goals
Before you design your investment plan, think carefully about your life-defining financial goals. These may include ensuring a comfortable retirement or leaving something behind for your family or a favorite charity.

You’ll also have to answer some basic questions:

> Where are you in the investor life cycle? Are you just starting your career or are you already headed toward retirement?
> What’s your investment timeline? Do you need cash for a big upcoming expense or can you keep your assets at work well into the future?
> How will you react to investment declines? Lower-risk investments are more stable; higher-risk investments are more volatile but usually offer higher return potential.
> How much are you willing to save to make your dreams become a reality?

Once you’ve answered these questions, your financial advisor can help you get started…and keep you on the right road.
Diversification: Using Risk to Your Advantage

Once you have a plan, you can start building your investment portfolio. The hard part is choosing from among the bewildering array of financial assets that are now available.

The Right Balance
What investments should you choose? The fact is, for most people, there is no single “right” answer. Bonds offer stability, but they don’t have much long-term growth potential, and they won’t keep up with inflation. Stocks have historically been the engines of long-term growth, but they’re much riskier than bonds. Of course, growth isn’t a guarantee—even with stocks.

The most conservative investments may help you sleep at night, knowing you’re less likely to lose money. But they’re unlikely to leave you with enough money to live well and meet your financial goals.

However, “sleeping well” and “living well” don’t have to be mutually exclusive. By combining different types of assets in a diversified portfolio, you’ll be able to get the right combination of safety, security, opportunity and growth.

“Sleeping well” and “living well” don’t have to be mutually exclusive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lower Risk</th>
<th>Higher Risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>“Sleep Well”</strong></td>
<td><strong>“Live Well”</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More Bonds Fewer Stocks</td>
<td>More Stocks Fewer Bonds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bonds offer income and stability. But they have limited potential for growth and could leave you vulnerable to inflation.

Stocks have the potential for the highest long-term growth. But that growth is not assured, and there are many short-term risks along the way.

Source: AllianceBernstein
Diversify for a Smoother Ride

Building a diversified portfolio isn’t simply a matter of cobbling together a group of assets. It’s important to think about the relationships among the portfolio’s various investments and to select assets that zig while others zag. When stocks in your own country are falling, for instance, stocks elsewhere in the world may be rising. And when stocks are doing poorly, bonds are often doing well. A properly diversified portfolio can take advantage of these relationships.

Combining pairs of investments like these, in which the two components have historically gone separate ways, should provide a smoother path over time.

The display on the right shows the effect of combining two hypothetical investments, which we’ve labeled Assets A and B. Both investments prove sound in the long run—both lines end higher than they began—but the similarity ends there. If, instead of investing entirely in either one, you split your capital between two assets, your portfolio as a whole may follow a steadier course than either investment by itself.

![Graph showing the combined behavior of Assets A and B over time.](image-url)

This example is hypothetical and is for illustrative purposes only. It is not intended to represent the historical or to predict future performance of any specific investment. Diversification does not eliminate the risk of loss.

Source: AllianceBernstein

Investing in two assets can give you a smoother ride than investing in only one.
Historic Opposites

Each type of asset has its strengths and weaknesses. Stocks have historically provided the highest long-term return, while bonds are important for their income and stability. But, in the short run, anything can happen with stocks. There have been lengthy periods during which stocks have lost out to bonds. As we see from the corresponding chart, bonds are a great complement to stocks and can play an important role as a stabilizer in a long-term portfolio strategy, particularly during periods when stock prices drop sharply. Every time stock prices declined sharply (more than 10% from peak to trough), bond prices performed significantly better. In each case combining stocks and bonds would have helped to both reduce fluctuations and preserve capital. In general, bonds provide a steady earnings stream and help to soften the fluctuations associated with investing in stocks.

Bonds help balance performance in bear markets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>US Stocks</th>
<th>US Bonds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 68–Jun 70</td>
<td>–29.2%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 73–Sep 74</td>
<td>–42.7</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 77–Feb 78</td>
<td>–14.2</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 80–Jul 82</td>
<td>–17.2</td>
<td>21.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 87–Nov 87</td>
<td>–29.6</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 90–Oct 90</td>
<td>–14.7</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 98–Aug 98</td>
<td>–13.4</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 00–Mar 03</td>
<td>–40.9</td>
<td>32.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 07–Mar 09</td>
<td>–46.6</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>–27.6%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. US stocks are represented by the S&P 500 with monthly dividends reinvested. US bonds are represented by the 10-year US Treasury bond for periods before 1977, and by the Barclays Capital US Aggregate Bond Index thereafter. Treasury securities provide fixed rates of return as well as principal guarantees if held to maturity. See end of brochure for index descriptions and disclosure. Source: Barclays Capital, Standard & Poor’s and AllianceBernstein.
Mixing Assets for a Higher Return

Combining stocks and bonds can do more than decrease volatility. It may actually increase returns. The following display shows the annualized returns from separate portfolios of stocks and bonds. After a stock market rally in Year 1, you’d likely choose stocks over bonds. But, after a sharp decline in Year 2, you’d likely prefer bonds.

But here’s the surprise: by combining stocks and bonds, you may get higher returns with less turbulence. The stock portfolio’s deep losses in Year 2 diminished its returns from Year 1. Similarly, the bond portfolio’s losses in Year 1 were so deep that they limited its success in Year 2. By holding the two assets, however, you’re able to combine and compound the gains from both years. Even when the losses are subtracted, you’re still significantly ahead.

This example is hypothetical and is for illustrative purposes only. It is not intended to represent the historical or to predict future performance of any specific investment. Diversification and portfolio rebalancing do not assure or guarantee improved performance and cannot completely eliminate general investment risk. Assumes portfolio rebalancing after the first year.

Source: AllianceBernstein
Diversifying by Style: Growth and Value

Growth and value—two different types of stocks that work well together. Over time, each style has had its place in the sun. Combining them in an integrated portfolio can allow their complementary nature to work for you.

Balancing by Style

Another way to steady a portfolio’s returns without lowering them in the long run is to use different investment approaches in different parts of the portfolio.

It’s especially effective to divide your stock investments between growth and value “styles”—as they’re known in the trade. In other words, be a growth investor with part of your stock portfolio and a value investor with the rest.

Growth investors look for stocks of companies whose sales and earnings are growing faster than others. Value investors hunt for bargain stocks that are selling for less than their true worth. These definitions aren’t mutually exclusive—it’s possible for a stock to be growth and value at the same time, and companies can move from one category to the other and back again. But generally, true growth and value stock portfolios look very different.

Buying growth and value stocks combines two complementary investment approaches.

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. If a growth stock company should fail to meet high earnings expectations, its stock price can be severely affected. 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, and their stock prices may not rise as initially expected.

Source: AllianceBernstein
Trading Places

You should have both growth and value in your portfolio because, historically, they have taken turns leading markets. In the late 1990s, as the stock market raced ahead, growth stocks built up a commanding performance advantage. In the new millennium, value stocks took the lead. While the past two style cycles have been among the most pronounced in history, they continue to prove the point that styles trade places over time—often unpredictably.

Instead of trying to choose the winner, consider balancing your stock exposure equally between the two styles. And make sure to maintain that balance through the ups and downs of style cycles. The goal in multistyle investing is to combine the best of growth and value stocks while avoiding the mediocre stocks in between. If done with discipline, this strategy can produce a style-blended portfolio that stacks up well versus the broad market.

### Styles take turns leading performance.

#### Annualized Returns (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value stocks</th>
<th>Growth stocks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>-5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>-9</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Past performance does not guarantee future results.

The graph above shows the average annual historical return of investments in "growth" stocks, as represented by the Russell 3000 Growth Index, and "value" stocks, as represented by the Russell 3000 Value Index. These returns do not include fees and expenses associated with an investment in a mutual fund. An investor cannot invest directly in an index, and its results are not indicative of any specific investment, including any AllianceBernstein mutual fund. See end of brochure for index descriptions and disclosure.

Source: Russell Investment Group and AllianceBernstein
Looking Beyond Borders

In an increasingly global economy, it doesn’t make sense to limit your investments to the borders of your own country. International diversification can introduce you to a world of opportunity while potentially improving the risk/return balance in your portfolio.

International Markets Can Lead, Too

Spreading your investments across several asset classes in your home country isn’t the only way to diversify. In fact, with borders becoming less and less relevant in capital markets, you could argue that it’s only the starting point.

A look at the pattern of global stock returns clearly shows that both US and non-US stocks have taken turns leading the pack. Since we can never be sure which region will outperform at a given time, it makes sense to diversify your portfolio internationally.

A World of Opportunity

Investing internationally opens your portfolio to a world of opportunity: companies based outside the US account for more than half of the global stock market capitalization today, up from one-third in 1970. Limiting your portfolio to US companies would be like investing only in companies whose names started with a letter from A through G.

Global equity markets have historically traded leadership.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Best</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
<td>US −37.0%</td>
<td>Emerging 78.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>International 7.5%</td>
<td>International −43.4%</td>
<td>International 31.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Worst</strong></td>
<td>Emerging −4.3%</td>
<td>US 3.7%</td>
<td>Emerging −53.3%</td>
<td>US 26.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A World of Opportunity

Non-US companies make up most of the global stock market capitalization.

MSCI World Index
As of December 31, 1970

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>US</th>
<th>International</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worst</td>
<td>−4.3%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MSCI All Country World Index
As of December 31, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>US</th>
<th>International</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worst</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Past performance does not guarantee future results.
Based on market capitalization
Source: MSCI

Past performance does not guarantee future results.
Annualized returns
An investor cannot invest directly in an index whose results are not indicative of the performance for any specific investment, including any AllianceBernstein mutual fund. See end of brochure for index descriptions and disclosure.
Source: MSCI, Standard & Poor’s and AllianceBernstein
The Globalization of Industries

International companies not only account for most of the global stock market’s capitalization, they also command overwhelming shares in key industries—like automobiles, banking and metals & mining. This makes it almost impossible for investors to gain adequate exposure to industry opportunities without looking overseas.

Non-US companies dominate key industries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Non-US</th>
<th>US</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Automobiles</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banking</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metals &amp; Mining</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Past performance does not guarantee future results.
As of December 31, 2009
* The securities discussed are for illustrative purposes only and are not recommendations to buy, sell or hold.
Source: MSCI and AllianceBernstein

The Power of International Diversification

International stocks have a low correlation to US stocks, another factor making them a powerful force for diversification.

This correlation has risen in recent years, as the growing reach of global trade and multinational companies has stitched together economic cycles in different parts of the world.

But the bottom line is that international diversification still works: our research concludes that allocating 30% of the stock portion of a balanced portfolio to international markets would have reduced its overall volatility.

Mixing US and international stocks has historically reduced risk.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of Equities in International Stocks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 14 15 16 17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Past performance does not guarantee future results.
Through December 31, 2009
US stocks are represented by the S&P 500 Index. International stocks are represented by the MSCI EAFE Index. The graph presents various combinations of US and international stocks. Volatility is defined as the annualized standard deviation of portfolio returns for the period from 1970 to 2009. An investor cannot invest directly in an index whose results are not indicative of any specific investment, including any AllianceBernstein mutual fund. See end of brochure for index descriptions and disclosure.
Source: MSCI, Standard & Poor’s and AllianceBernstein

International stocks have a low correlation to US stocks, making them a powerful force for diversification.

Investing in non-US companies is subject to certain risks not associated with domestic investing, such as currency fluctuations and changes in political and economic conditions. The fluctuation and risks of international securities may be magnified due to changes in foreign exchange rates and political and economic uncertainties in foreign countries. Because funds may invest in emerging markets and in developing countries, investments also have the risk that market changes or other factors affecting emerging markets and developing countries, including political instability and unpredictable economic conditions, may have a significant effect on the funds’ net asset value.
How Diversification Works

Different combinations of asset classes will lead to different results. Understanding the risks and rewards associated with each strategy will help you make the right choice.

Balancing Risk and Reward

Let’s assume that you’ve built a portfolio that’s diversified by type of asset, style and geography. Are you better off than you’d be if you had invested in an undiversified portfolio? Over the long term, the answer will almost always be yes.

A diversified portfolio typically gives you higher returns with less risk, but the risk of the asset allocation you’ve chosen will determine your long-term returns. An aggressive all-stock strategy will give you higher returns in the long run, but you’ll have to be willing to accept higher volatility along the way. A conservative strategy with a high percentage of bonds may give you a smoother ride, but you’re likely to earn less over time.

Three Portfolio Strategies

You can tailor your asset allocation so that it makes sense based on the risk you’re willing to assume. Below, we display the target asset allocation of three different combinations: a conservative strategy blending 70% bonds and 30% stocks; a balanced strategy of 60% stocks and 40% bonds; and an all-stock portfolio. In each case, the stock portion is divided equally between growth and value styles.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Portfolio Type</th>
<th>Stocks Percentage</th>
<th>Bonds Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conservative Portfolio</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balanced Portfolio</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All-Stock Portfolio</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The returns you receive are directly related to the asset allocation that you choose.
How Risk and Return Work over Time

The three strategies—conservative, balanced—and all-equity—offer investors different balances between risk and return. In the chart below, we show the simulated results for the second option, a hypothetical balanced portfolio, between 1970 and 2008. Each box shows the annualized return for a specific period of time.

Blue boxes indicate positive returns, while orange boxes reflect a loss. To read the chart, choose a starting year for the investment in the top row, then choose an ending year on the left side. Then draw a line down and across to find the return for that period. For example, if you invested in the portfolio from the beginning of 1990 to the end of 2000, you’d receive an average annual return of 10.8%. This diversified strategy gave investors positive returns during 98% of the investment periods between 1979 and 2009.

A hypothetical balanced strategy for the period 1979–2009 yields mostly positive returns.


Source: Barclays Capital, Delphis Hanover, Frank Russell and Company, FTSE, MSCI, and AllianceBernstein
Two Secrets to Success: Rebalancing and Research

Rebalancing may help keep your portfolio on track. The right research will help you select the best investments within each asset class.

Selling High and Buying Low
Once you’ve set your asset allocation, you can’t just sit back and ignore it. As time passes, some assets will perform better than others. Your portfolio will soon become unbalanced in favor of the assets that have performed well. At that point, it’s time to bring the portfolio back to its initial asset allocation by doing something most investors find extremely difficult—selling the assets that have done well and using the proceeds to buy more investments that haven’t done so well.

Our rebalancing approach is straightforward: when assets outperform and reach certain trigger points, we trim our holdings and buy other assets that have underperformed. Our rebalancing discipline thus forces us to “sell high and buy low.”

Our rebalancing approach forces us to sell high and buy low.

When assets outperform, we sell them...

...and use the proceeds to buy assets that have underperformed.

Investment process applies under normal market conditions.
Source: AllianceBernstein
The Right Choices

To make your asset allocation strategy work, you’ll also have to choose the best securities within each asset class. That’s not something you can do based on a hunch, a few headlines or even a tip from a friend. It requires teams of analysts with in-depth knowledge about companies, industries and the global trends that affect their future.

In today’s global economy, the best companies can be found in every corner of the world. That’s why the most successful investment management firms have extensive research operations staffed with industry specialists in all the world’s major markets.

We believe research is the key to investment success. Good research does more than help pick the best stocks—it can help to reduce risk, because the more information you have about a company, the more certain you can be about its future prospects.

AllianceBernstein has research offices around the world.

As of December 31, 2009
Source: AllianceBernstein

It takes global teams of analysts to keep track of the best stock ideas.
Planning for Retirement—Your Biggest Challenge

Setting the right asset allocation is critically important when planning for the future. But, as retirement approaches, setting your saving and spending levels becomes equally important.

The Right Risk
If you’re just starting out on your investment path, you’ll need to determine how much to save to ensure a comfortable retirement. If you save too little, or take too little risk, you won’t have enough.

You’ll also need to determine how much risk you want to take. Although you may be tempted to choose a conservative strategy with the lowest risk, such a course could leave you without the assets you need to support a comfortable retirement. To live well, you’ll need every percentage point of performance.

The example at right shows what happens to your assets if you’re able to add 1% to your investment returns before you retire, through savings or additional returns. The extra percentage point adds up to an extra $220,000 at retirement. Without it, your savings would run out when you hit 80. With it, you have 10 more years of spending.

Adding 1% to your investment returns greatly increases your chance of having enough.

This is a hypothetical illustration only. The savings phase simulates a defined contribution participant salary of $45,000 at age 25, linearly increasing to $85,000 by age 65, making yearly contributions of 6% of salary at age 25 increasing by 0.5% per year to a maximum 10% with a 50% company matching contribution up to the first 6% of salary. In the spending phase, $63,750 (75% of final salary) is deducted at the beginning of each year. A yearly investment return of 9% is assumed at age 25, linearly decreasing to 6% at age 80 and remaining constant thereafter. In the “1% Greater Return Scenario” a yearly investment return of 10% is assumed at age 25, linearly decreasing to 7% at age 85 and remaining constant thereafter. Inflation is assumed to be a constant 3% and dollar values are expressed in real purchasing power terms. Source: AllianceBernstein

Although you may be tempted to choose a conservative strategy, it could leave you without the assets you need.
The Right Spending

As you approach retirement, you’ll need to adjust your asset allocation to make sure you get the income you need to live on. That usually means fewer equities and more bonds.

At this stage of life, your chief challenge is making sure you don’t run out of money. As a result, your first question should be “How much should I spend in retirement?” Our research shows that spending can have a huge impact on your long-term financial success, perhaps even more than asset allocation. Spend too much, and you risk running out of money or draining your hard-earned wealth more quickly than you had planned.

Spending Smartly

Since investment returns are never certain, it’s impossible to know if a particular portfolio will provide you with enough money in retirement. But it is possible to make projections based on a number of variables: your investment returns, your asset allocation, how long you’ll live and what percentage of assets you spend in each year of your retirement.

Each element has its own effect and its own trade-offs. If you add more equities to your investment mix, you may increase your chances of reaching a certain investment target—but you’ll also increase your chances of losing money along the way.

Portfolio losses become increasingly important as you get older. When you’re building your assets, portfolio losses can be made up within a decade by portfolio gains and additional contributions. But, as you approach retirement, you’ll have less time to make up losses in your portfolio. They’ll have the biggest effect when you hit retirement: your portfolio will be shrinking because of your annual spending, and you won’t have new contributions to help make up losses.

The best way to make sure that you’ll have enough is to reduce the amount you plan to spend in retirement. Lowering your spending—even by a percentage point—can greatly increase your chances of enjoying a comfortable retirement.
Bringing It All Together

To give yourself the best chance of success, define the financial goals you want to reach, then work with your financial advisor to create a plan that helps you meet them.

> **Determine your financial goals**
  Ask yourself the key questions that will determine your financial future: How much are you willing to save to ensure a comfortable retirement? To pay for your children’s education? To finance a home? How much risk are you willing to take?

> **Decide on the right asset allocation**
  Work with your financial advisor to determine an asset allocation that allows you the best chance of reaching your goals. Any decision you make should reflect your personal preferences for risk and return.

> **Keep your plan on track**
  Set up a disciplined rebalancing plan that assures your original asset allocation remains in place—one that forces you to sell high and buy low.

> **Revisit your plan annually or as needed**
  Check in with your advisor annually or when you experience a major life event. As your life changes, so do your needs and goals—your plan may need to change too.

**The Road Ahead**

In this booklet, we’ve explained how developing a plan and a diversified portfolio may help give you a better chance of achieving your financial goals. Once you understand why it’s important to diversify your portfolio by asset, style and geography, you’re well on your way to grasping the timeless principles of investing.

> You’ll realize that the returns you receive are directly proportional to the risk that you take.

> You’ll know that diversified portfolios contain investments that behave quite differently from each other—and that, at any given moment, some of them will do better than others.

> You’ll accept the inevitable periods of negative returns in your portfolio, knowing that they’ll be more muted because outperformance in one asset will help balance underperformance in another.

> You’ll understand that what really matters is the overall results, not the individual parts.

Now it’s time for you to act—to meet with your financial advisor and take the first steps toward creating a long-term plan and a powerful new portfolio of your own.
Glossary

Asset allocation
An investor’s mix of stocks, bonds and other assets.

Balanced investing
Investing in bonds as well as stocks. Over time, this has produced more return for a given risk level than investing in stocks and bonds alone (see "Diversification").

Diversification
Concurrently investing in more than one kind of asset for the purpose of lowering risk; the greater the diversification, all else being equal, the lower the investor’s risk.

Equity (Stock)
Ownership of a company in the form of shares that represent a claim on the corporation’s earnings and assets.

Fixed-income securities (Bonds)
Bonds, notes, bills and like securities representing loans to governments, agencies, corporations or banks for a stated period at a fixed rate of interest.

Growth stocks
Stocks of companies prized for high historical sales and earnings growth. They often sell at high prices relative to current fundamentals.

Risk
In common usage, the chance of loss or of something bad occurring. In financial terms, it usually means the uncertainty of outcomes due to one or many causes; it can be positive as well as negative. Return is usually measured by the extent to which returns may vary from the norm. Volatile assets tend to have a wider range of possible returns and thus are said to be higher risk.

Value stocks
 Stocks selling at low prices relative to company assets, sales and earnings power.

Valuation
The worth of an asset or company, determined by using various techniques, or the value of an investment portfolio’s holdings on a specific date.

Volatility
Variability, fluctuation—a common measure of investment risk. The range of outcomes of an investment over a given period; the smaller the range of individual outcomes, the lower the volatility.
Your investments are important to you—they’re your means of reaching your financial goals and achieving better outcomes in life. At AllianceBernstein Investments, we’re committed to putting our research to work for you:

- Exploring the opportunities and risks of the world’s capital markets and the innovations that can reshape them
- Helping investors overcome their emotions and keep their portfolios on track
- Defining the importance of investment planning and portfolio construction in determining investment success

Our research insights are a foundation to help investors build better outcomes. Speak to your financial advisor to learn how we can help you reach your goals.

There is no guarantee that any forecasts or opinions in this material will be realized. Information should not be construed as investment advice.

Diversification does not guarantee a profit or protect against loss.

Index Descriptions:

- The Barclays Capital Global High Yield Index is constructed using the US Corporate High Yield, Pan-European High Yield, EM High Yield, CMBS High Yield, and Pan-Euro EMG High Yield Indices. The Barclays Capital Global High Yield Index 2% Constrained covers the universe of fixed rate, non-investment grade debt. The Index is the 2% Issuer Capped component of the US Corporate High Yield Index. The Barclays Capital Government/Corporate Bond Index is composed of all bonds that are investment grade (rated Baa or higher by Moody’s or BBB or higher by S&P, if unrated by Moody’s). Issues must have at least one year to maturity. Total return comprises price appreciation/depreciation and income as a percentage of the original investment. Indexes are rebalanced monthly by market capitalization. The FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Global Real Estate Index is designed to represent general trends in eligible listed real estate stocks worldwide. Relevant real estate activities are defined as ownership, trading and development of income-producing real estate. The NAREIT Index is a real-time index comprised of 50 publicly traded real estate companies. The MSCI World Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure global developed equity-market performance. The MSCI All Country World Index, a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure equity-market performance in the developed and emerging markets throughout the world. The MSCI EAFE® Index (Europe, Australia, Far East) is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure developed market equity performance, excluding the US and Canada. The MSCI Emerging Markets Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure equity-market performance in the global emerging markets. The Russell 3000® Growth Index measures the performance of Russell 3000 Index companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values. The Russell 3000® Value Index measures the performance of Russell 3000 Index companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower forecasted growth values. The Russell 3000® Index measures the performance of the 3,000 largest US companies based on total market capitalization. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of 500 US companies and is a common measure of the performance of the overall US stock market.

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Please read the prospectus and/or summary prospectus carefully before investing.