4Q:2018
CAPITAL MARKETS OUTLOOK

The information herein reflects prevailing market conditions and our judgments as of the date of this document, which are subject to change. In preparing this document, we have relied upon and assumed, without independent verification, the accuracy and completeness of all information available from public sources. Opinions and estimates may be changed without notice and involve a number of assumptions which may not prove valid. There is no guarantee that any forecasts or opinions in this material will be realized. Information should not be construed as investment advice.

The Key Takeaways

Macro

- **Investors are right to be worried about rates**
  - They drove the majority of the beta trade through valuations, net margins and share count
- **Fundamentally, the developed macro story is one of solid but moderating growth, rising core inflation and rate increases/balance-sheet reduction in the G3***
  - By the end of 2019, developed-market growth will be lower (but solid), core inflation at threshold and rates higher across the curve
- **The wild card and key source of tail risk is the impact of policy/politics on the speed/level of inflation and rates**

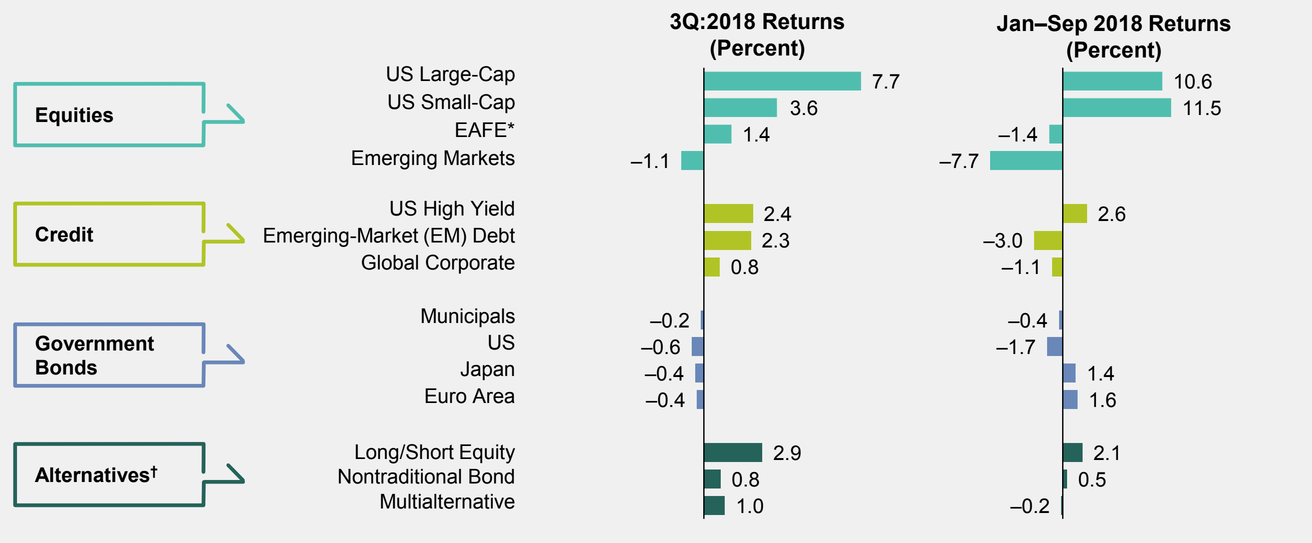
Markets

- **From beta to alpha: the great rising tide is receding...**
  - Rising volatility, moderate returns, P/E contraction and rising dispersion drive the importance of security selection
- **...so focus on the better equity "boats"**
  - For the rest of the cycle, equity returns will largely be about persistency and quality of growth, and strength of balance sheets
- **Don't fight the wrong bond battles**
  - The last thing you should worry about as rates rise is high-grade bonds. They can't kill you; the math doesn't allow it
- **Even so, core fixed-income exposure can be more efficient**
  - Globalize rates to diversify economic-cycle risk; hedge the currency risk to remove the volatility from core
- **When spreads are tight relative to rates, don't run from duration and overweight credit—balance them**
  - Credit barbells are efficient structures and effective late-cycle navigators
- **Our base expectation is for moderate market returns over the next five years, but with substantial tail risk**
  - Portfolio construction needs to account for both—critical for those near, or early into, retirement/decumulation

As of September 30, 2018
Current analysis and forecasts do not guarantee future results.
*G3 is the US, the euro area and Japan.
Source: AB

3Q 2018 Returns Recap: One of These Things Is Not Like the Others…

Returns in US Dollars



As of September 30, 2018

Past performance does not guarantee future results.

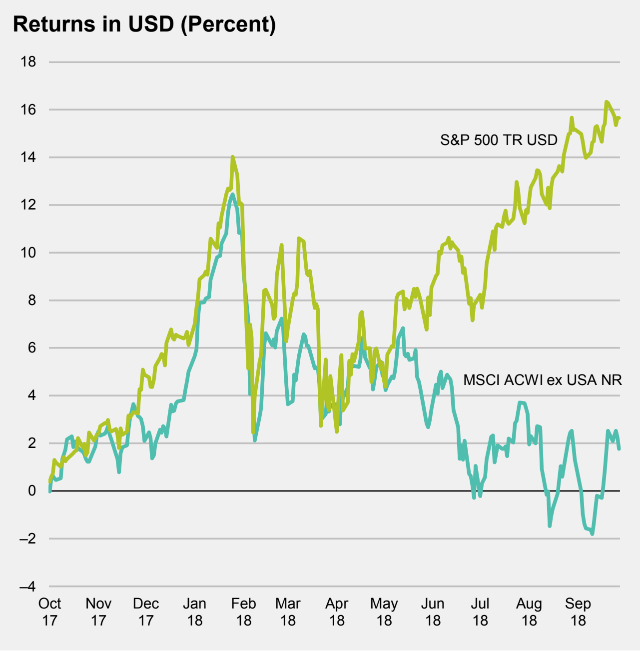
Global corporates, and Japan and euro-area government bonds in hedged USD terms. All other non-US returns in unhedged USD terms. An investor cannot invest directly in an index, and its performance does not reflect the performance of any AB portfolio. The unmanaged index does not reflect the fees and expenses associated with the active management of a portfolio.

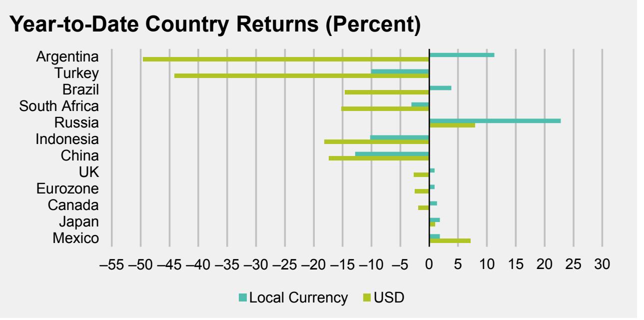
*Europe, Australasia and the Far East

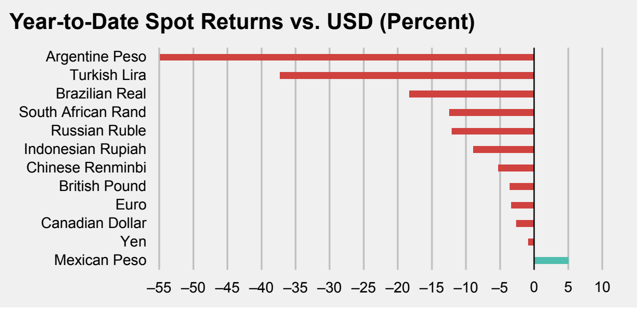
†Returns reflect Morningstar US open-end fund category averages.

Source: Bloomberg Barclays, Morningstar Direct and AB

Divergent Returns: US and the Rest of the World







As of September 30, 2018

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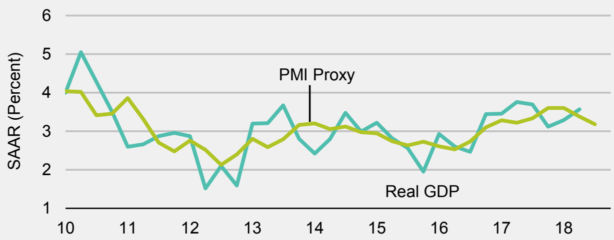
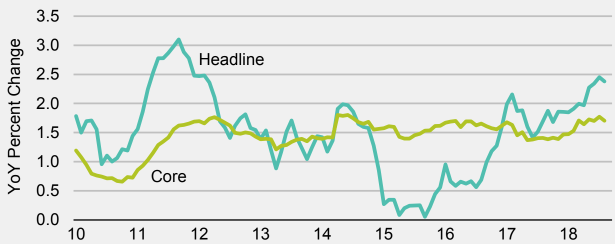
Source: Bloomberg and AB

The Global Macro Pillars: Growth, Inflation and Policy

Global Growth Solid, but Has Likely Peaked



G7 CPI Inflation Advances Toward 2%*



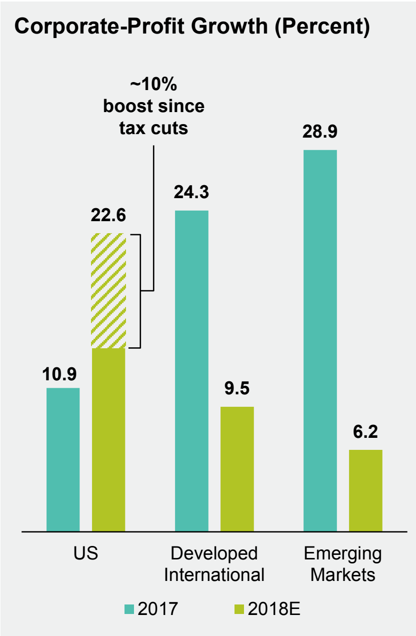
AB Global Economic Forecast: September 2018

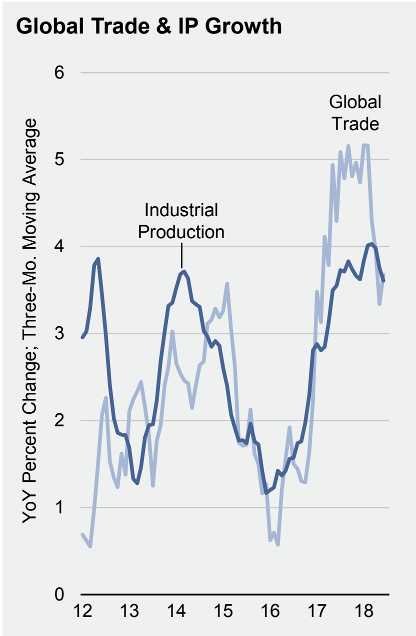
	Real Growth (%)		Inflation (%)		Official Rates (%)		Long Rates (%)	
	18F	19F	18F	19F	18F	19F	18F	19F
Global	3.1	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.7
Industrial Countries	**2.2**	**1.9**	**1.9**	**2.1**	**1.2**	**1.8**	**2.0**	**2.5**
Emerging Countries	4.7	4.5	4.7	4.2	7.2	6.6	6.2	6.0
US	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.4	3.4	3.3	3.8
Euro Area	2.1	1.6	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.3	0.8	1.5
UK	1.4	1.5	2.6	2.1	0.8	1.3	1.8	2.3
Japan	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.3	–0.1	0.0	0.2	0.3
China	6.5	6.3	2.3	2.3	4.4	4.4	3.5	3.3

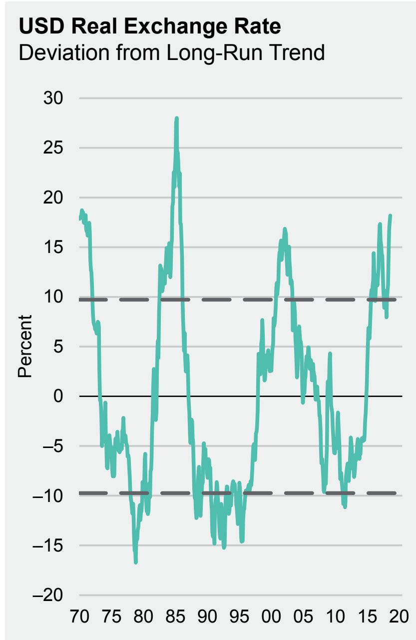
Growth solid but moderating as inflation and rates rise

As of September 30, 2018. **Historical analysis and current forecasts do not guarantee future results.**
Real growth aggregates represent 48-country forecasts, not all of which are shown. Long rates are 10-year yields unless otherwise indicated.
*G7 is the US, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the UK
Source: Bloomberg, Haver Analytics, IHS Markit and AB

Not in Common: Three Key Drivers of Divergence







As of September 30, 2018

Past performance does not guarantee future results. There can be no guarantee that any estimates or forecasts will be realized.

Source: Bloomberg, FactSet, Haver Analytics, IHS Markit and AB

Spotlight on Tariffs

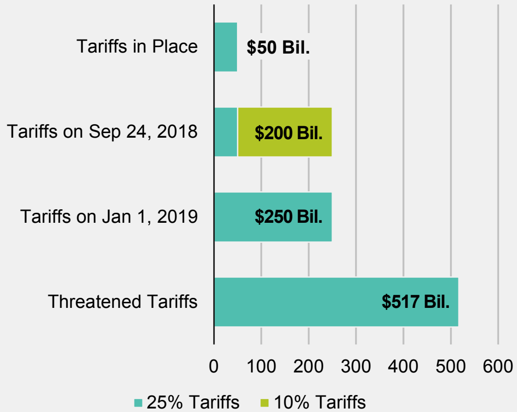
Beyond US and China, High-Trade Countries in the Cross Fire

Key Assumptions

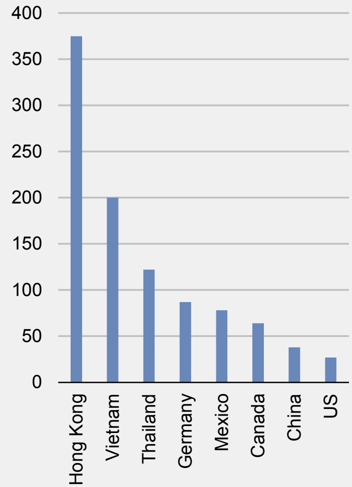
- Rising trade tensions should not be seen as an idiosyncratic development that will quickly fade away
- We don't expect a sharp slowdown in growth, but rising uncertainty and volatility are likely to dampen growth and add to inflation
- Even if the US and China are at the center of the storm, economies with higher trade sensitivities are likely to be more negatively affected

Trump Administration Is Prepared to Impose Tariffs on All Chinese Imports

Total Value of Imposed and Threatened Tariffs (USD Billions)



Trade as a Percentage of GDP



Middle display as of September 30, 2018; right display as of December 31, 2017

Past performance does not guarantee future results. There can be no guarantee that any estimates or forecasts will be realized.

Source: Bloomberg, World Bank and AB

Spotlight on Currencies

US Dollar Has Largely Run Its Course, but Further Upside Expected

FX Forecasts

+ **USD**—biased to the upside, but valuations suggest that a sharp rise from current levels is unlikely
+ **JPY**—to benefit as risk-asset headwinds intensify
+ **EUR**—likely to trade toward the bottom of its 1.15–1.25 trading range in coming months; politics an important downside risk (e.g., Italy, Brexit)
+ **CNY**—already being used as a policy tool in the trade war and could fall further should tensions continue to escalate

Global FX: AB and Consensus Year-End Forecasts

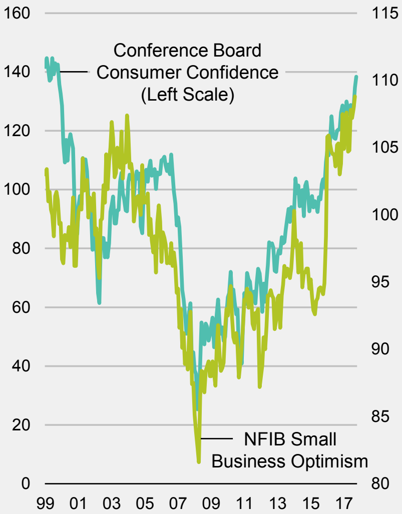
	AB		Consensus	
	2018F	**2019F**	**2018F**	**2019F**
EUR/USD	1.15	1.15	1.16	1.23
USD/JPY	112	105	111	107
USD/CNY	7.00	7.20	6.85	6.70
EUR/GBP	0.92	0.89	0.89	0.89

As of September 30, 2018
Past performance does not guarantee future results. There can be no guarantee that any estimates or forecasts will be realized.
Source: Bloomberg and AB

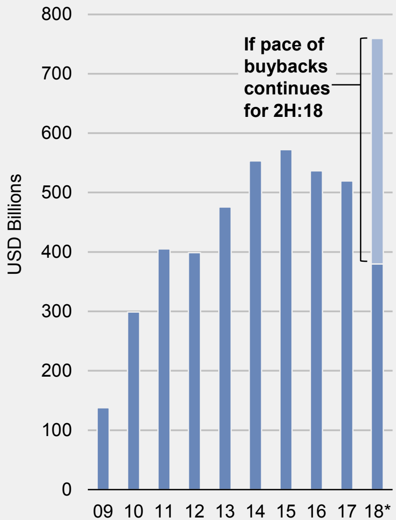
Spotlight on US Fiscal Policy

Tax Cuts Boost Confidence, Consumption and Buybacks in 2018…and 2019?

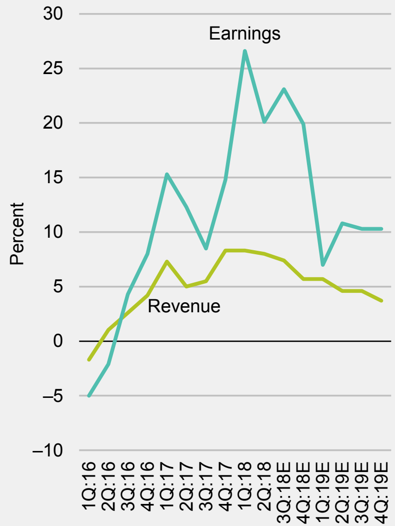
Consumer Confidence & Small Business Optimism Approaching 18-Year Highs



S&P 500 Annual Buybacks on Pace for Highest Level Since Financial Crisis



S&P 500 YoY Growth Rates



Left display through September 30, 2018; middle and right displays as of June 30, 2018

Historical analysis and current forecasts do not guarantee future results.

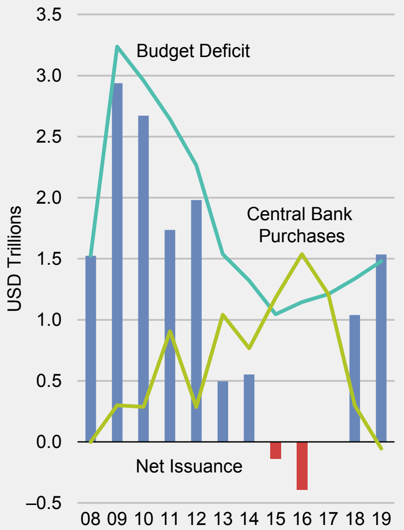
*Year to date through June 30, 2018

Source: Bloomberg, S&P Dow Jones and AB

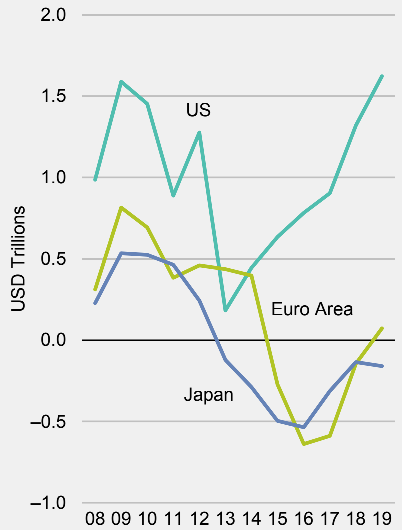
US Monetary Policy

Tightening Continues and Balance Sheet Reduction Hits Top Speed

G3 Net Issuance

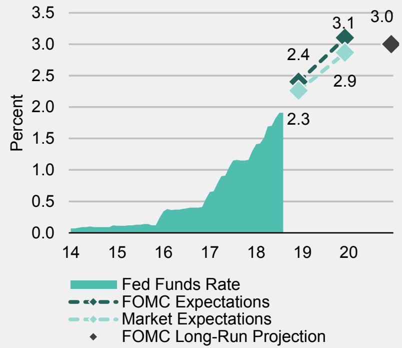


Net Issuance



Fed Funds Rate Expectations

FOMC and Market Expectations*



FOMC September 2018 Forecasts

	18	19	20	Longer Run
Change in Real GDP	3.1	2.5	2.0	1.8
Unemployment Rate	3.7	3.5	3.5	4.5
PCE Inflation†	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.0

As of September 30, 2018. **Historical analysis and current forecasts do not guarantee future results.** Projections of change in real GDP and both measures of inflation are percent changes from the fourth quarter of the previous year to the fourth quarter of the year indicated. Expectations for fed funds rate are for December 2018 and December 2019. The projections for the fed funds rate are the value of the midpoint of the projected appropriate target range for the fed funds rate or the projected appropriate target level for the fed funds rate at the end of the specific calendar year or over the longer run. Net issuance is the budget deficit less central bank purchases. *FOMC: Federal Open Market Committee; market expectations are the fed funds rate priced into the Fed futures market as of the September 26, 2018 FOMC meeting date. †PCE: personal consumption expenditures
Source: Bloomberg, Haver Analytics, US Federal Reserve and AB

Putting It All Together: Baseline Forecast and Scenarios

A More Nuanced Outlook; Balanced Risks

	Downside 25%	Central Case 50%	Upside 25%
Growth	Sharp Deceleration	Slowdown	Reacceleration
Inflation	Subdued/Lower	Drifting Higher	Acceleration
Policy Stance	Fiscal & Monetary Easing	Gradual/Sporadic Tightening	Synchronized Tightening
Risk Assets	Negative	Headwinds to Intensify	Positive, at Least at First
Core Yields	Lower	Gradual Increase	Shift to Higher Regime
USD	Stronger USD	Rangebound vs. G10;* Stronger vs. EM	Modest USD Weakness
	Tail Risks	**Base Case**	**Tail Risks**

As of September 30, 2018

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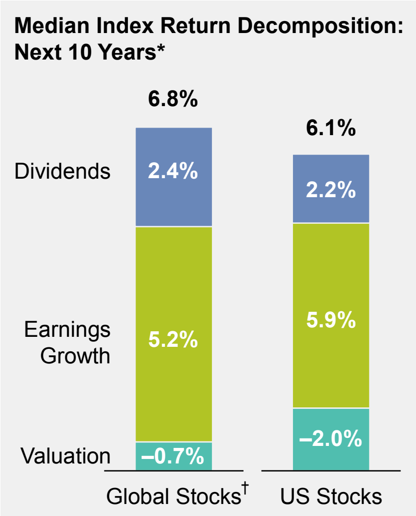
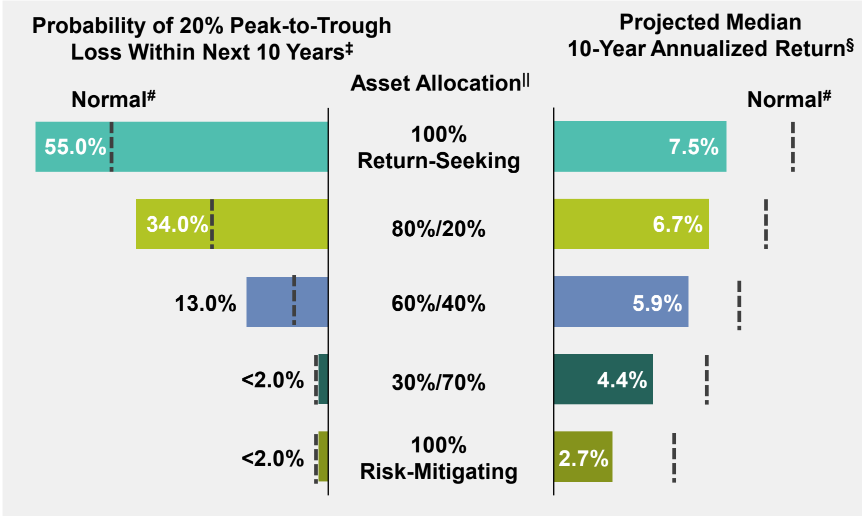
*G10 is the US, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden and the UK

Source: AB

The Risk/Return Trade-Off Is More Important than Ever





Left display as of December 31, 2017; right display as of June 30, 2018. **Past performance does not guarantee future results.** There can be no guarantee that any estimates or forecasts will be realized. Based on AB's estimates of the range of returns for the applicable capital markets.

The forecasted figures in the left display utilize book-value growth and price-to-book valuations as representations of earnings growth and valuation. Data do not represent past performance and are not a promise of actual future results or a range of future results. Based on proprietary AB forecasting system. *Represents projected median compound annual growth rates over the next 10 years. †Global stocks are modeled as 18% US diversified, 18% US value, 18% US growth, 6% US small-/mid-cap, 30% developed international, and 10% emerging markets. ‡Probability of a 20% peak-to-trough decline in pretax, pre-cash-flow cumulative returns within the next 10 years. Because the AB system uses annual capital-market returns, the probability of peak-to-trough losses measured on a more frequent basis (such as daily or monthly) may be understated. The probabilities depicted above include an upward adjustment intended to account for the incidence of peak-to-trough losses that do not last an exact number of years. §Represents projected median compound annual growth rates over the next 10 years. || 100% return-seeking allocation is all stocks; 80%/20% allocation is 80% stocks/20% bonds; 60%/40% allocation is 60% stocks/40% bonds; 30%/70% allocation is 30% stocks/70% bonds; and 100% risk-mitigating allocation is all bonds. #Normal conditions reflect AB's estimates of equilibrium capital-market conditions, which are typically close to a very long-term historical average.

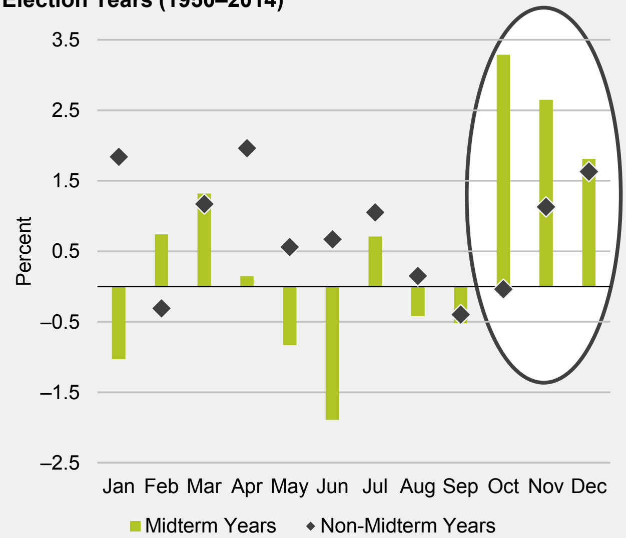
Source: AB

US Hot Topics: Midterm Election Scenarios and…

Midterm Election Probabilities

	80%		20%	
	25%	55%	15%	5%
Outcome	**Blue Wave**	**Split Congress**	**Status Quo**	**Red Wave**
Fiscal Policy	Static/ Easier	Static/ Easier	Easier?	Easier
Fiscal Priority	Infrastructure	Infrastructure	Tax Cuts	Tax Cuts
Equity Response	Negative	Minimal	Positive	Positive
Bond Response	Positive	Minimal	Negative	Negative

Average S&P 500 Monthly Performance During Midterm Election Years (1950–2014)



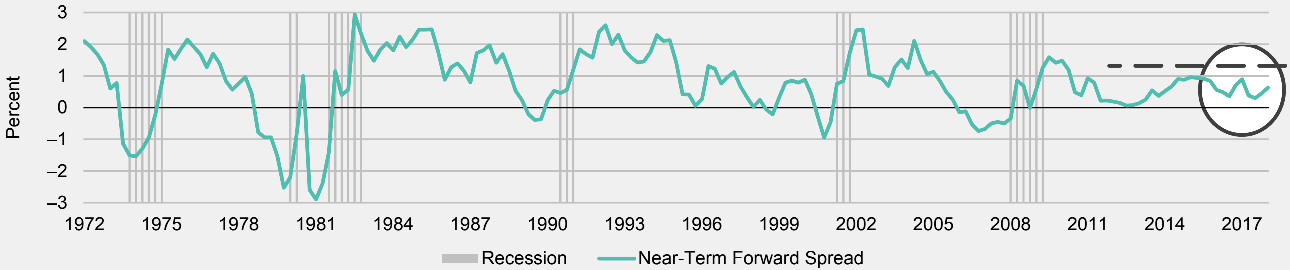
As of September 30, 2018

Historical analysis and current forecasts do not guarantee future results.

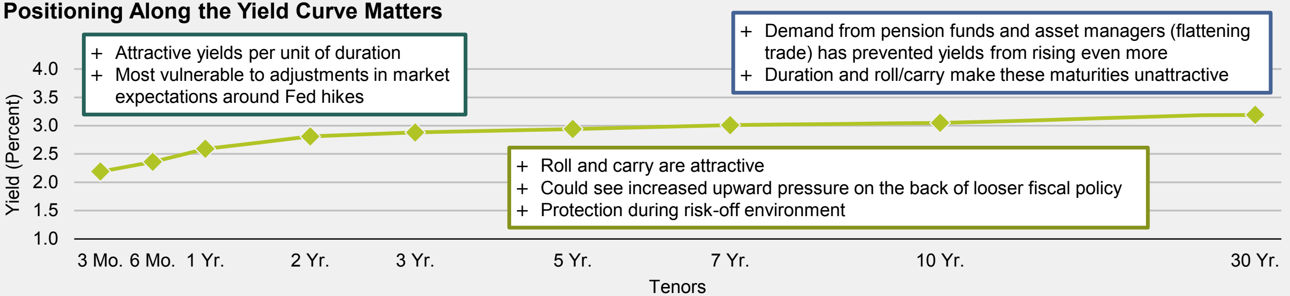
Source: Bloomberg, Fivethirtyeight.com, S&P and AB

...the Shape of the Yield Curve: Should Investors Worry?

Despite Flattening Yield Curve, the Near-Term Forward Spread (the Fed's Preferred Measure) Does Not Signal Alarm



Positioning Along the Yield Curve Matters



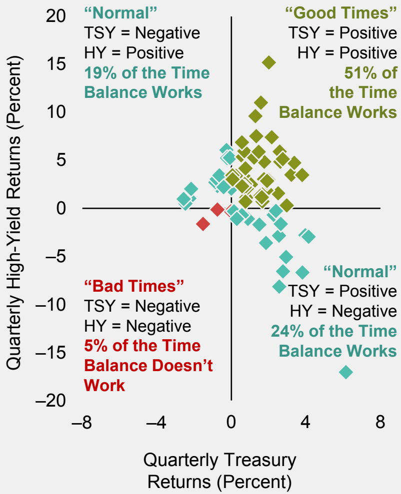
Top display through June 30, 2018; bottom display as of September 30, 2018

Historical analysis does not guarantee future results. The near-term forward spread is calculated as the difference between the current implied forward rate on Treasury bills six quarters from now and the current yield on a three-month Treasury bill.

Source: Bloomberg Barclays, US Federal Reserve and AB

Near-Term Volatility Calls for Balance Between Rates and Credit Risks

Government and Credit Bonds Rarely Underperform at the Same Time



Parking Your Money in Cash Hinders Return Potential

Excess Returns vs. US Aggregate over Rolling Periods

Strategy	12-Month Periods (225 Total Periods): Average Excess Return	12-Month Periods (225 Total Periods): % of Time Positive	36-Month Periods (202 Total Periods): Average Excess Return	36-Month Periods (202 Total Periods): % of Time Positive
3-Month T-Bill	–2.9%	21.0%	–3.4%	4.5%
Credit Barbell Strategy*	**1.7%**	**67.1%**	**1.5%**	**77.2%**

Rising Rates Don’t Have to Derail Bonds†

Expected Total Returns (Percent)

US Aggregate		Change in US High-Yield Spreads (b.p.)			
		–50	**0**	**50**	**100**
Change in US Treasury Yields (b.p.)	**100**	–1.1	–1.5	–2.0	–2.4
	50	1.4	1.0	0.5	0.1
	0	3.9	3.4	3.0	2.5

US High Yield		Change in US High-Yield Spreads (b.p.)			
		–50	**0**	**50**	**100**
Change in US Treasury Yields (b.p.)	**100**	5.2	3.6	1.9	0.3
	50	6.5	4.9	3.3	1.6
	0	7.9	6.3	4.7	3.0

As of September 30, 2018

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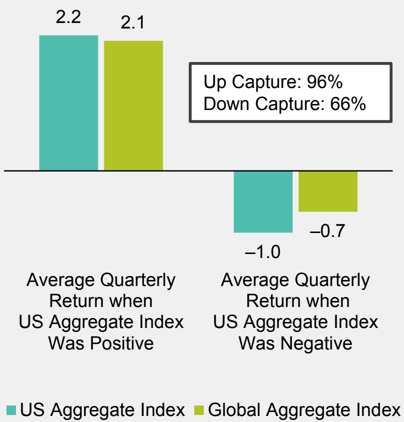
Treasury (TSY) is represented by Bloomberg Barclays Global Treasury, and high yield (HY) by Bloomberg Barclays Global High-Yield hedged to USD. *Credit barbell consists of a 50/50 blend of HY and TSY. Returns in the middle display start from January 1999. †The scenario analysis assesses the potential impact of instantaneous changes in US high-yield spreads and a parallel shift in the US Treasury yield curve on the Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate and US High-Yield indices. Expected returns incorporate the impact of roll and carry over the subsequent 12 months. An investor cannot invest directly in an index, and its performance does not reflect the performance of any AB portfolio. The unmanaged index does not reflect the fees and expenses associated with the active management of a portfolio.

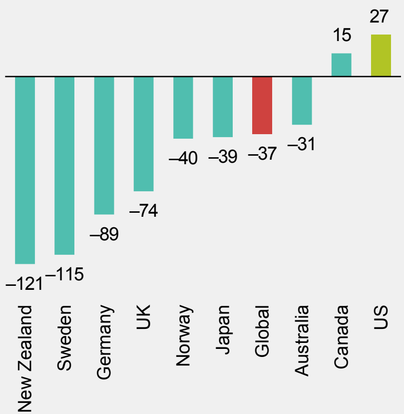
Source: Bloomberg Barclays and AB

Take a World View on Interest-Rate Exposure

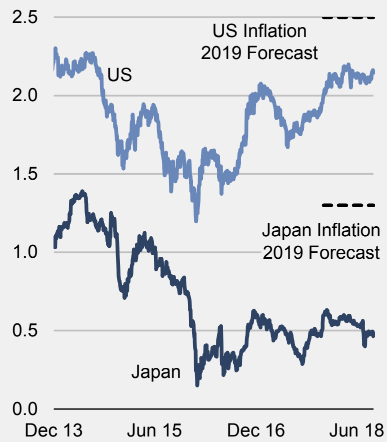
Global Outperforms When US Falls
Up vs. Down Capture
March 1990–September 2018
(Percent)*



US Rates Above Our Fair Value Estimates
10-Year Yield Deviation from Fair Value
(Basis Points)



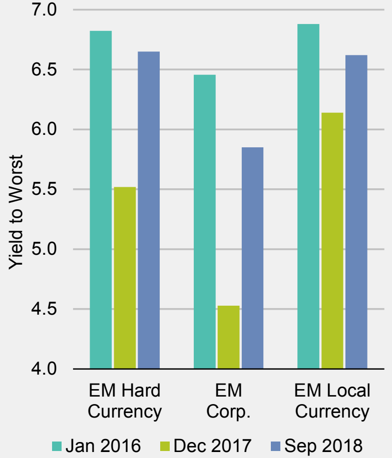
Select Opportunities Exist in Global Inflation-Linked Bonds
B/E Inflation for 10-Year Rates (Percent)†



As of September 30, 2018
Past performance does not guarantee future results.
*Bar height may differ due to rounding. Global bonds hedged is represented by Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate hedged to USD, and US bonds by Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate. An investor cannot invest directly in an index, and its performance does not reflect the performance of any AB portfolio. The unmanaged index does not reflect the fees and expenses associated with the active management of a portfolio.
†B/E: break-even
Source: Bloomberg Barclays and AB

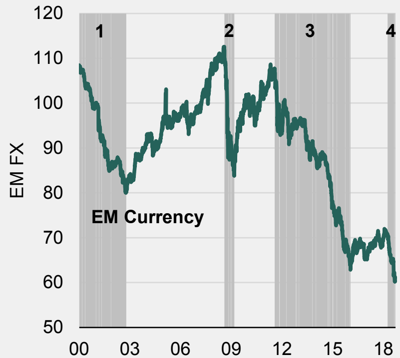
Is Now the Time to Add Emerging-Market Risk? Proceed with Caution

Given Recent Volatility, Valuations Have Improved Meaningfully



EM USD Debt Can Provide Some Cushion When US Dollar Strengthens

Returns	1	2	3	4
EM Hard	17%	–13%	18%	–4%
EM Local	10%	–25%	–26%	–16%



Near-Term EM Outlook Warrants Caution

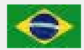
+ Rising rates in developed markets
+ Recent US-dollar strengthening
+ Increased idiosyncratic and political risk in select countries
+ Trump's trade war

Some Countries in Recent Headlines:

Argentina


Mexico


Turkey


Brazil


China

As of September 30, 2018

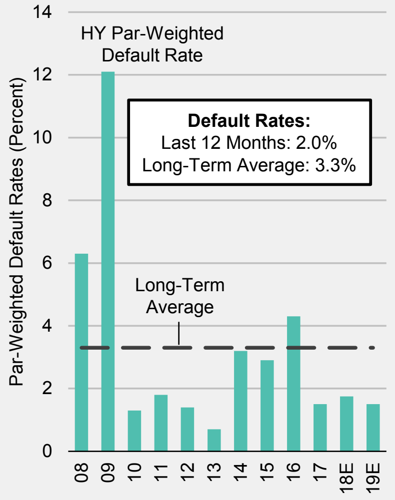
Historical analysis does not guarantee future results.

Emerging market (EM) hard currency is represented by J.P. Morgan EMBI Global; EM corporate by J.P. Morgan CEMBI Broad Diversified; and EM local currency by J.P. Morgan GBI–EM Global Diversified. EM FX is represented by J.P. Morgan Emerging Market Currency. Yields are sourced from the index's subcomponents. An investor cannot invest directly in an index, and its performance does not reflect the performance of any AB portfolio. The unmanaged index does not reflect the fees and expenses associated with the active management of a portfolio.

Source: Bloomberg, J.P. Morgan and AB

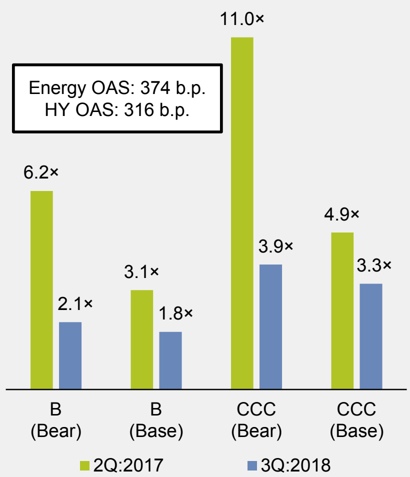
Corporates Continue to Offer Select Opportunities

Low Defaults Support Constructive Outlook on High Yield

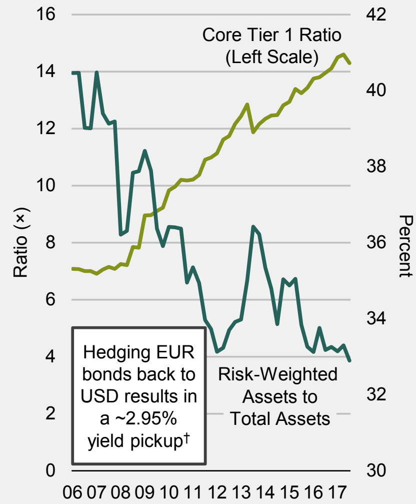


Energy Issuers Have Delevered

AB Net Leverage Forecast for 2018*



European Financials Benefit from Improving Fundamentals Backdrop



Left and middle displays as of September 30, 2018; right display through June 30, 2018 (except for yield pickup, which is as of September 30, 2018)

Historical analysis does not guarantee future results.

Core Tier 1 ratios provided by Morgan Stanley European credit strategy research on western European banks.

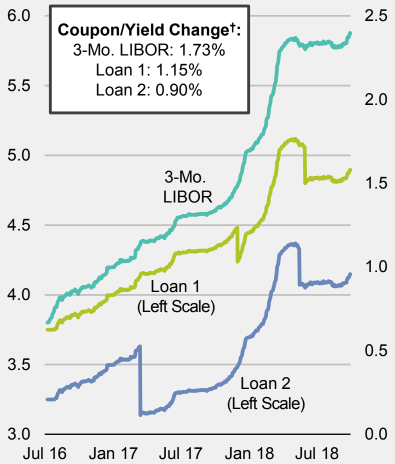
*AB bear- and base-case December 31, 2018 forecasts for energy issuers' net leverage ratios

†Annualized hedging benefit uses one-month currency forwards.

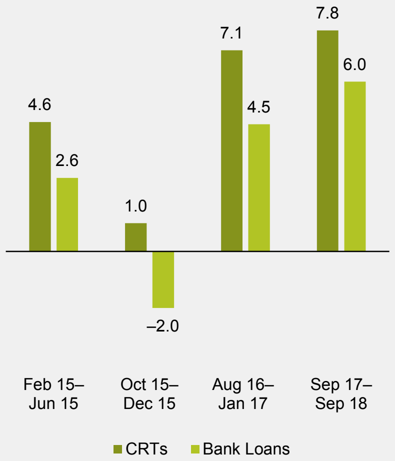
Source: Bloomberg Barclays, J.P. Morgan, Morgan Stanley and AB

Mortgages Offer Floating-Rate Exposure and Relative Value Opportunities

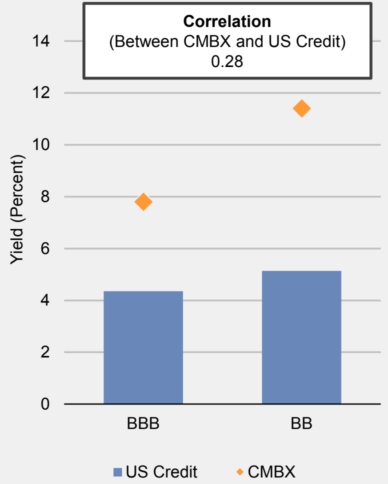
Bank Loans Can Be Refinanced at Lower Rates Even as LIBOR Rises*
Examples of Large Loan Issuers' Yields (Percent)



CRT Returns Beat Loans in Rising-Rate Periods (Percent)‡



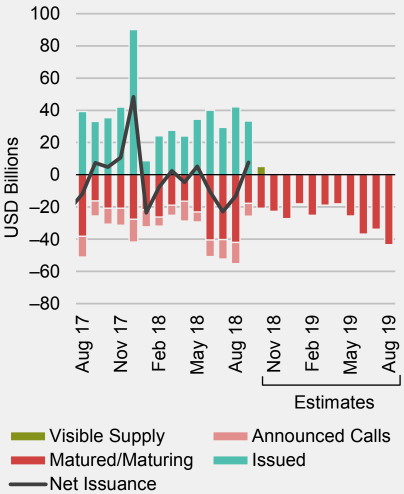
CMBS Offer Relative Value and Diversification Benefits§



As of September 30, 2018. **Historical analysis does not guarantee future results.** *Bank loans are represented by the Credit Suisse Leveraged Loan Index. Loan 1 is represented by TransDigm Group and Loan 2 by American Airlines. †Change is calculated since July 2016. ‡Rising-rate periods defined as time periods when the 10-Year US Treasury rate increased by 20 b.p. or more. Credit risk–transfer securities (CRT) returns are represented by Mark Fontanilla & Co. CRTx Index (Lower Mezzanine). §CMBS: commercial mortgage backed securities. CMBX yields are loss-adjusted. Correlation is the average correlation for BBB-rated CMBX and US corporates and BB-rated CMBX and US corporates. BB corporates are represented by Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate High-Yield BB and BBB Corporates by Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Corporate BBB.
Source: Bloomberg, Bloomberg Barclays, Credit Suisse, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, IHS Markit, Mark Fontanilla & Co., Trepp and AB

Municipals Benefit from Strong Technicals and Fundamentals, Along with Attractive Relative Valuations

Negative Net Supply Continues to Support Municipals



Market Dynamics Indicate Strength for Municipals

Supply/Demand Dynamics

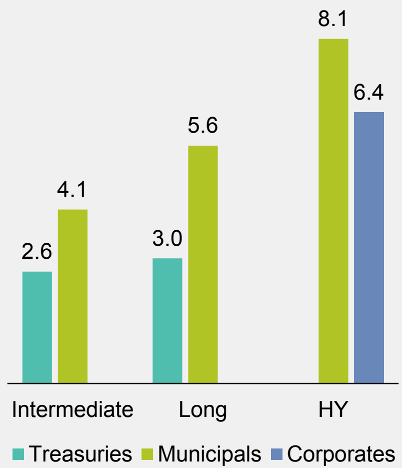
+ Positive net fund flows and lack of supply continue to support prices
+ Supply is approximately 20% below last year's pace

Credit Fundamentals

+ Average state revenue growth of 5% for 2018*
+ The Philadelphia Fed's US Index increased 0.6% over the past three months, supporting the stronger US growth narrative†

Municipals Are Attractive Relative to Taxable Peers

Tax-Equivalent Yields (Percent)‡



As of September 30, 2018

Past performance and current estimates do not guarantee future results.

Treasuries are represented by Bloomberg Barclays US Intermediate Treasury and Bloomberg Barclays US Long Treasury; corporates by Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate High-Yield; municipals by Bloomberg Barclays Municipal Intermediate (5–10-Year), Bloomberg Barclays Municipal Long Bond (22+ year), and Bloomberg Barclays Municipal High Yield.

*The National Association of State Budget Officers' *Spring 2018 Fiscal Survey of the States*

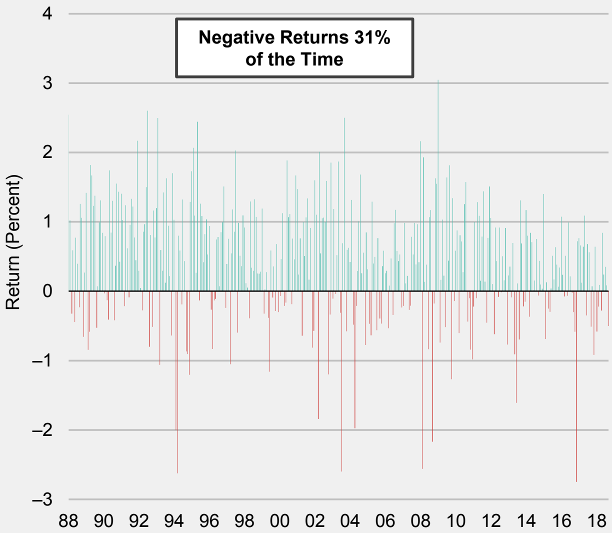
†The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia's US Index summarizes current economic conditions using state-level indicators across the 50 states.

‡Tax rate assumed: 40.8%

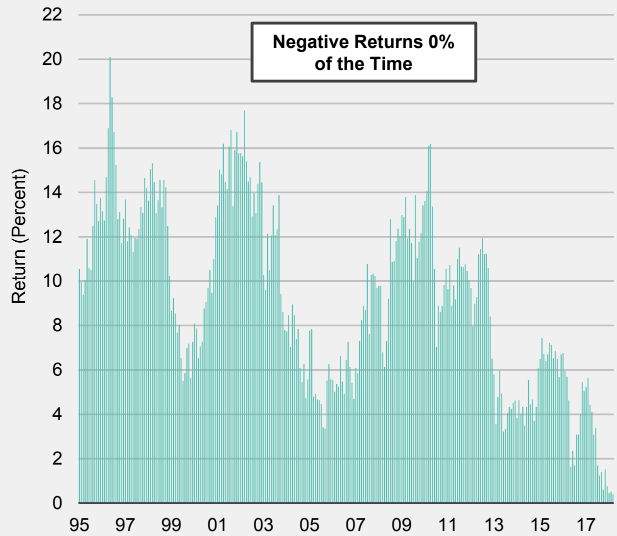
Source: Bloomberg Barclays, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Municipal Market Data, National Association of State Budget Officers and AB

Intermediate-Maturity High Grades Have Been Stable over the Long Term

Small Losses in Intermediate Portfolios Are Common over Short Periods…
Intermediate Municipals: Monthly Returns



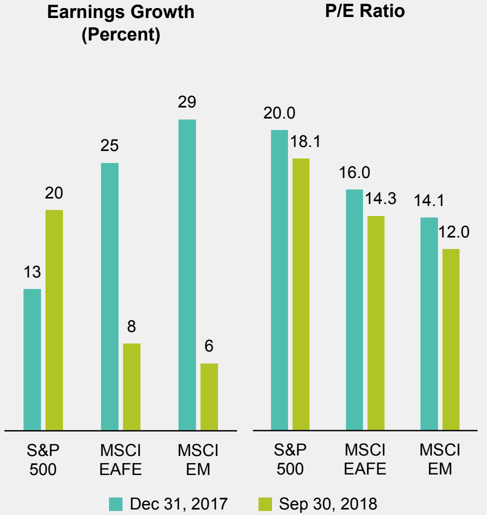
…but Rare over Longer Time Horizons
Intermediate Municipals: Two-Year Rolling Returns



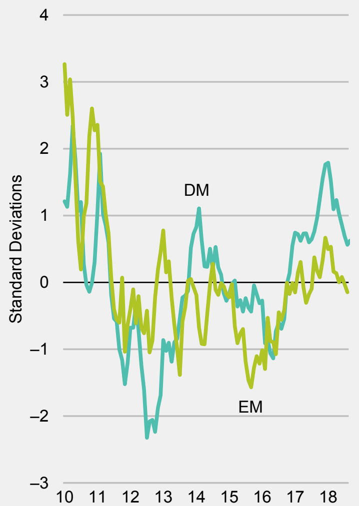
Through September 30, 2018
Historical analysis does not guarantee future results.
Intermediate municipals are represented by Bloomberg Barclays 1–10 Year Municipal Bond.
Source: Bloomberg Barclays and AB

International vs. US: Moderating Growth and Higher Cyclicality Are Drivers

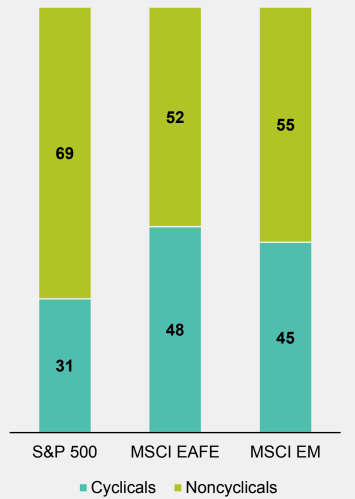
Earnings and P/Es Decline More Acutely Outside the US



Material Drop in Non-US Manufacturing PMIs*



Non-US Indices
Higher Cyclicals Content

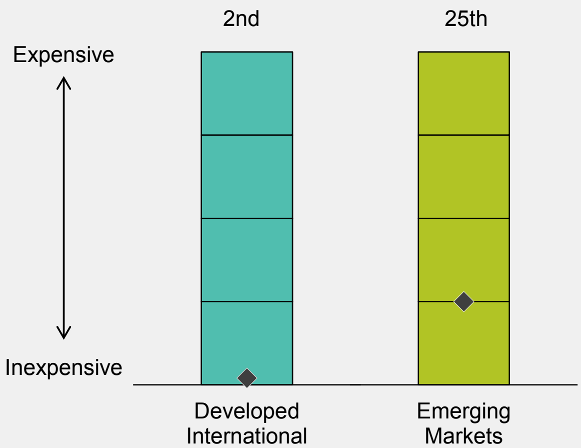


Left display as of September 30, 2018; middle display through August 31, 2018; right display as of September 30, 2018
Cyclicals includes: energy, financials, industrials and materials. Noncyclicals includes: communication services, consumer discretionary, consumer staples, healthcare, technology, real estate and utilities.
*Standard deviations from mean, 2010 to 2018.
Source: Bloomberg, Haver Analytics, IHS Markit, MSCI, S&P and AB

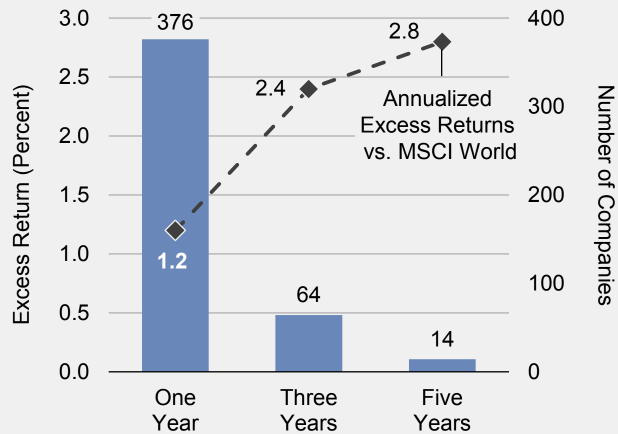
International Valuations Attractive, but Selectivity Is Key

Companies with Sustainable Earnings Are Vital in Times of Slower Economic Growth

P/E Discount to US, Percentile Rank vs. History



Key to Successful Growth Investing: Beating the Fade
Companies Persisting with ≥10% Year-over-Year Earnings Growth Rates: Top 1,000 Global Companies (1979–2017)*



Left display as of September 30, 2018; right display as of December 31, 2017

Past performance and historical analysis do not guarantee future results.

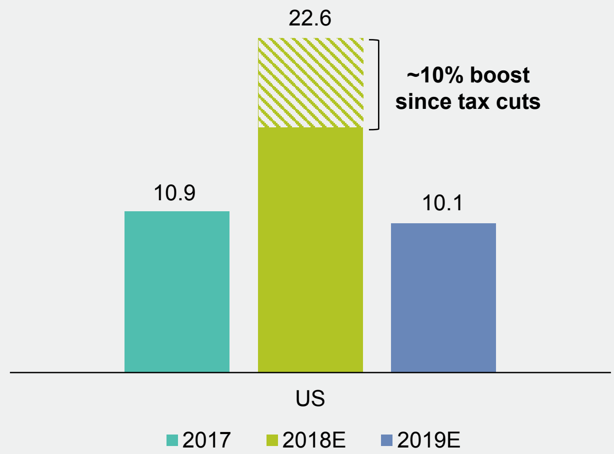
Percentile ranking is versus its own history, since January 1988. Historical data for information only

*Universe consists of the top 1,000 companies by market cap each year through 2017 with annual rebalancing

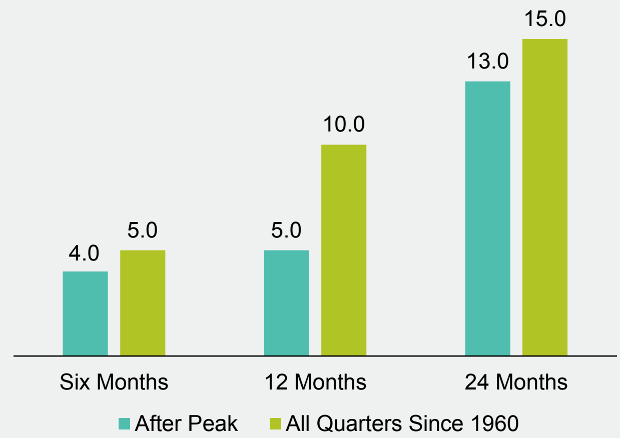
Source: Center for Research in Security Prices, FactSet, MSCI, S&P Compustat and AB

US Profits Slowing: Stock Returns Not Likely Upended

Corporate-Profit Growth Is Robust but Projected to Slow
Recent Earnings Growth (Percent)



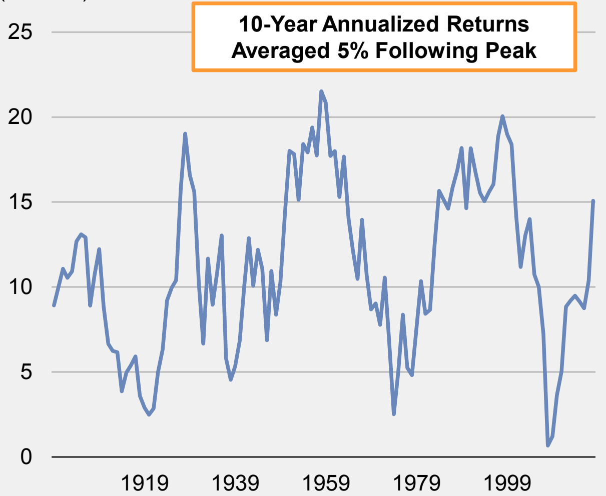
US Equities Have Delivered Positive Returns After Peaks in Earnings
Median S&P 500 Returns Following Peaks in Quarterly Year-over-Year EPS



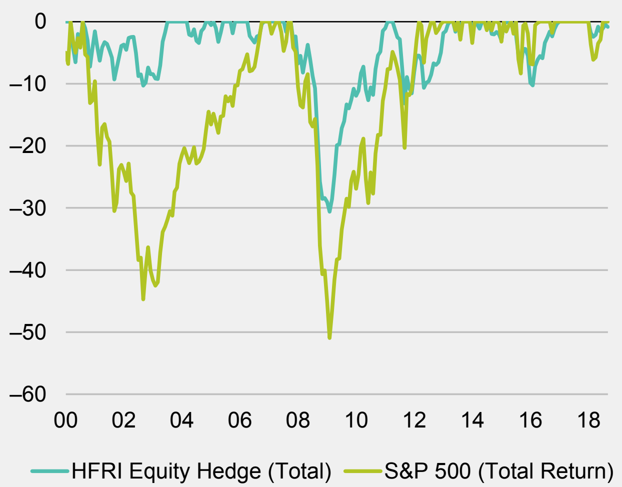
Left display as of September 30, 2018; right display as of July 9, 2018
Historical analysis and current forecasts do not guarantee future results.
Source: Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Bloomberg, CBOE, Cornerstone Macro, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis,, Morningstar, S&P and AB

Heightened Tail-Risk Potential: Downside Protection May Be Appropriate

US Large-Caps: Strong Returns May Moderate in Near Term
S&P 500 10-Year Moving Average Returns 1919–2018
(Percent)*



Drawdowns Were Less Severe with Equity Hedge Strategies†
Since Inception (Percent)

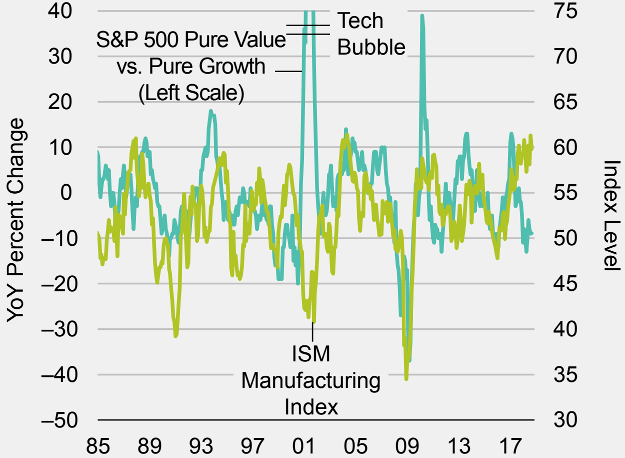


Left display through August 31, 2018; right display through September 30, 2018.
Historical analysis does not guarantee future results.
*William N. Goetzmann, Roger G. Ibbotson and Liang Peng, “A New Historical Database for the NYSE 1815–1925: Performance and Predictability” (Yale School of Management Working Paper No. ICF — 00-13, New Haven, CT, July 14, 2000); Ibbotson Associates, “Appendix A: Monthly Returns on Basic Series (Table A-1: Large Company Stocks—Total Returns),” in *Ibbotson SBBI 2008 Classic Yearbook: Market Results for Stocks, Bonds, Bills and Inflation* 1926–2007(Chicago: Morningstar, 2008)
†Drawdown is the peak-to-trough decline during a specific record period of an investment. A drawdown is usually quoted as the percentage between the peak and the trough.
Source: Hedge Fund Research, Ibbotson Associates, S&P, Yale School of Management and AB

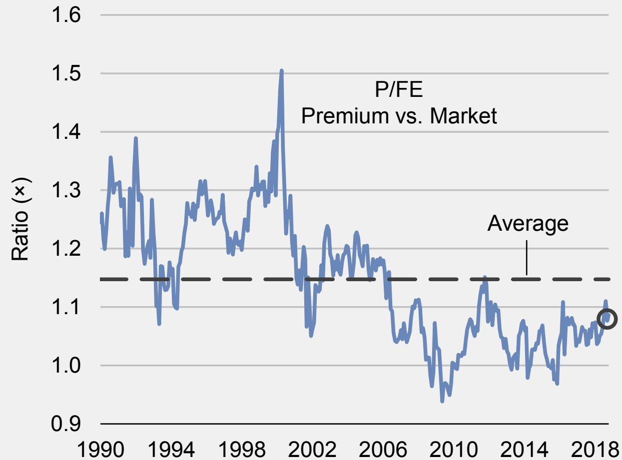
Growth Style Remains Relevant, but Firm-Level Characteristics Matter

Seek Companies with High and Enduring Profitability

When PMIs Peak, the Stability of Growth Is Coveted



Opportunity Set of High-and-Persistent-Return Businesses Attractively Valued vs. the Broad Market*



Through September 30, 2018

Historical analysis does not guarantee future results. Numbers may not sum due to rounding. Based on AB's persistent-return model.

*High persistence: top 20% of persistent return model; low persistence: bottom 20% of persistent-return model. Price/forward earnings of highest quintile of persistent-return-model stocks relative to the Russell 1000

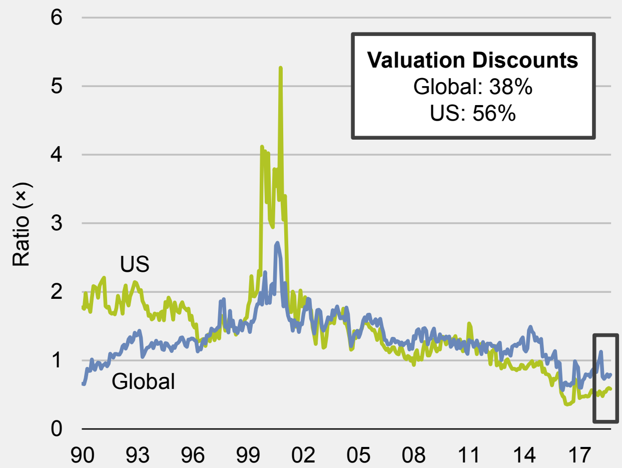
Source: Cornerstone Macro, Institute for Supply Management, Russell Investments, S&P and AB

Financial Strength: Currently Vital and Attractively Valued

Seek Companies with Strong Balance Sheets

US Stocks with High Debt Look Vulnerable to Rising Rates
S&P 500: Debt to Capital

Relative P/B of Low- vs. High-Levered Stocks: Financial Strength on Sale



Through September 30, 2018

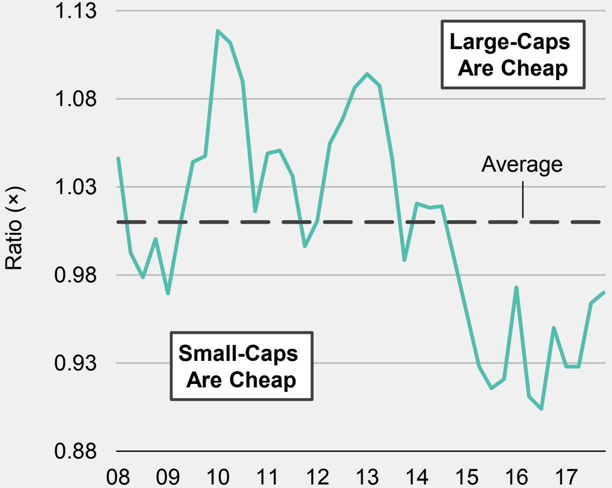
Historical analysis does not guarantee future results.

Average monthly returns of the net debt to equity factor (low leverage to high leverage) index between 1990 and 2017 when bond yields fall or rise by greater than 10 basis points or are unchanged. The US GDP cycle is based on that defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research. The display shows average quarterly returns of the low leverage to high leverage index in five cycles (early, mid, late expansion and early, late recession). The GDP cycle back-test is carried out between 1990 and 2012.

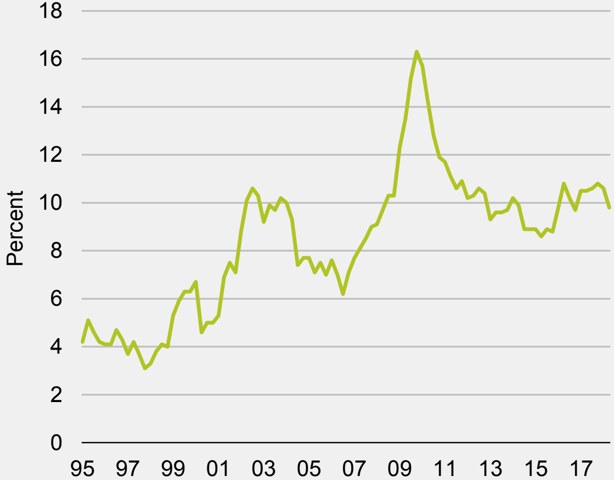
Source: Bernstein Research, FactSet, Morningstar Direct, MSCI, National Bureau of Economic Research, S&P, Thomson Reuters Datastream, Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S and AB

Opportunities Remain in Small-Caps, but Financial Strength Matters

Smaller-Cap Stocks Are Less Expensive than Larger-Caps
Relative Valuations (Russell 2000 vs. Russell 1000)*



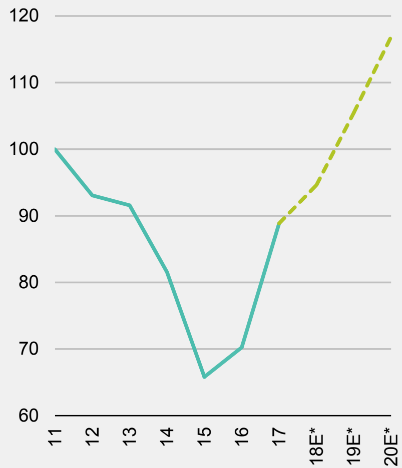
"Zombie" Companies: A Material Portion of Small-Caps
Russell 2000 Firms Having Interest-Coverage Ratios <1 for Three Consecutive Years



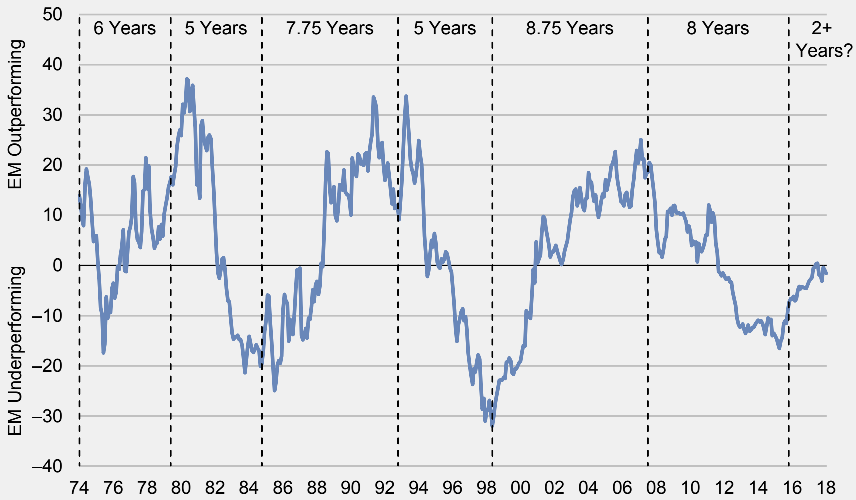
Left display through September 30, 2018; right display through June 30, 2018
Historical analysis does not guarantee future results.
*Valuation composite is one-third price/forward earnings, one-third price/book and one-third price/sales.
Source: Bloomberg, Cornerstone Macro, FactSet, Russell Investments and AB

Earnings Growth Remains Supportive of EM Equity Returns

Earnings Rebound Is Forecast to Continue
MSCI EM: Earnings per Share, 2011 = 100



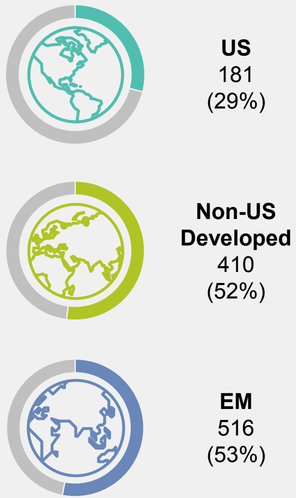
Periods of Secular EM Relative Performance Tend to Be Very Long Term
Emerging-Market vs. Developed-Market Equities**,** Rolling Three-Year Relative Returns (Percent)



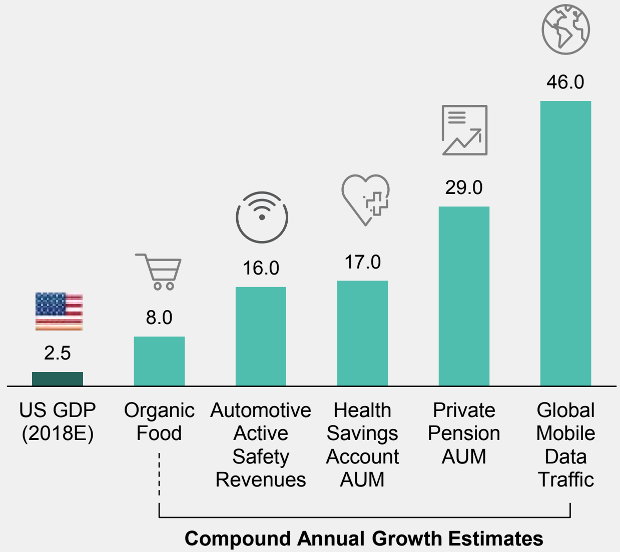
As of September 30, 2018
Past performance, estimates and current analysis do not guarantee future results.
In USD. Developed-market equities represented by MSCI World. Emerging-markets equities represented by MSCI Emerging Markets from its inception in January 1988 to present. Prior to this date EM equities represented by a 50/50 blend of the MSCI Hong Kong and MSCI Singapore Indices.
*Based on consensus earnings estimates
Source: MSCI and AB

Global Equities: Cast a Wider Net—Not All Industries Influenced by GDP

Number of Stocks with Earnings Yield Higher than 7%, and Percentage of Index



Growth Isn't Always About the Economy
Growth Rates (Percent)



Left display as of September 30, 2018; right display as of December 31, 2017. **Past performance and historical analysis do not guarantee future results.** Historical data for information only. Earnings yield calculated using reciprocal of P/FE (2019). US represented by S&P 500, non-US developed by MSCI EAFE and EM by MSCI Emerging Markets. Individual stocks for which price/forward earnings (2018E) data were not available are excluded from these figures. US GDP estimate from AB economists. Organic food estimate from AB analysts, through 2023. Automotive active safety revenues estimate from Roland Berger, through 2025. Health savings account AUM from Devenir and AB, through 2022. Private pension AUM estimate from Citigroup, OECD and AB, through 2025. Mobile data traffic estimates from Cisco Systems, through 2021.
Source: Center for Research in Security Prices, Cisco Systems, Citigroup, Devenir, FactSet, MSCI, OECD, Roland Berger, S&P Compustat and AB

A Word About Risk

The information contained here reflects the views of AllianceBernstein L.P. or its affiliates and sources it believes are reliable as of the date of this publication. AllianceBernstein L.P. makes no representations or warranties concerning the accuracy of any data. There is no guarantee that any projection, forecast or opinion in this material will be realized. Past performance does not guarantee future results. The views expressed here may change at any time after the date of this publication. This document is for informational purposes only and does not constitute investment advice. AllianceBernstein L.P. does not provide tax, legal or accounting advice. It does not take an investor's personal investment objectives or financial situation into account; investors should discuss their individual circumstances with appropriate professionals before making any decisions. This information should not be construed as sales or marketing material or an offer or solicitation for the purchase or sale of any financial instrument, product or service sponsored by AllianceBernstein L.P. or its affiliates.

Important Risk Information Related to Investing in Equity and Short Strategies

All investments involve risk. Equity securities may rise and decline in value due to both real and perceived market and economic factors as well as general industry conditions.

A short strategy may not always be able to close out a short position on favorable terms. Short sales involve the risk of loss by subsequently buying a security at a higher price than the price at which it sold the security short. The amount of such loss is theoretically unlimited (since it is limited only by the increase in value of the security sold short). In contrast, the risk of loss from a long position is limited to the investment in the long position, since its value cannot fall below zero. Short selling is a form of leverage. To mitigate leverage risk, a strategy will always hold liquid assets (including its long positions) at least equal to its short position exposure, marked to market daily.

Important Risk Information Related to Investing in Emerging Markets and Foreign Currencies

Investing in emerging-market debt poses risks, including those generally associated with fixed-income investments. Fixed-income securities may lose value due to market fluctuations or changes in interest rates. Longer-maturity bonds are more vulnerable to rising interest rates. A bond issuer's credit rating may be lowered due to deteriorating financial condition; this may result in losses and potentially default, or failure to meet payment obligations. The default probability is higher in bonds with lower, noninvestment-grade ratings (commonly known as "junk bonds").

There are other potential risks when investing in emerging-market debt. Non-US securities may be more volatile because of the associated political, regulatory, market and economic uncertainties; these risks can be magnified in emerging-market securities. Emerging-market bonds may also be exposed to fluctuating currency values. If a bond's currency weakens against the US dollar, this can negatively affect its value when translated back into US-dollar terms.

Bond Ratings Definition

A measure of the quality and safety of a bond or portfolio, based on the issuer's financial condition, and not based on the financial condition of the fund itself. AAA is highest (best) and D is lowest (worst). Ratings are subject to change. Investment-grade securities are those rated BBB and above. If applicable, the Pre-Refunded category includes bonds which are secured by US government securities and therefore are deemed high-quality investment grade by the advisor.

Index Definitions

Following are definitions of the indices referred to in this presentation. It is important to recognize that all indices are unmanaged and do not reflect fees and expenses associated with the active management of a mutual fund portfolio. Investors cannot invest directly in an index, and its performance does not reflect the performance of any AB mutual fund.

+ **Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Bond Index:** Measure of global investment-grade debt from 24 local-currency markets; includes treasury, government-related, corporate and securitized fixed-rate bonds from both developed- and emerging-market issuers.
+ **Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Corporate Bond Index:** Tracks the performance of investment-grade corporate bonds publicly issued in the global market and found in the Global Aggregate. (Represents global corporate on slide 2.)
+ **Bloomberg Barclays Global High-Yield Bond Index:** Provides a broad-based measure of the global high-yield fixed-income markets. It represents the union of the US High-Yield, Pan-European High Yield, US Emerging Markets High-Yield, CMBS High Yield and Pan-European Emerging Markets High-Yield indices.
+ **Bloomberg Barclays Global Treasury Index:** Tracks fixed-rate local currency government debt of investment grade countries. The index represents the Treasury sector of the Global Aggregate Bond Index.
+ **Bloomberg Barclays Global Treasury: Euro Bond Index:** Includes fixed-rate, local-currency sovereign debt that makes up the Euro Area Treasury sector of the Global Aggregate Bond Index. (Represents euro-area government bonds on slide 2.)
+ **Bloomberg Barclays Global Treasury: Japan Bond Index:** Includes fixed-rate, local-currency sovereign debt that makes up the Japanese Treasury sector of the Global Aggregate Bond Index. (Represents Japan government bonds on slide 2.)
+ **Bloomberg Barclays Municipal Bond Index:** A rules-based, market value–weighted index engineered for the long-term tax-exempt bond market. (Represents municipals on slide 2.)
+ **Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index:** A broad-based benchmark that measures the investment-grade, US dollar–denominated, fixed-rate, taxable bond market, including US Treasuries, government-related and corporate securities, mortgage-backed securities (MBS [agency fixed-rate and hybrid ARM pass-throughs]), asset-backed securities (ABS), and commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS).
+ **Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate High-Yield Bond Index:** Represents the corporate component of the Bloomberg Barclays US High-Yield Index. (Represents US high yield on slide 2.)
+ **Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate Bond Index:** Measures the investment-grade, fixed-rate, taxable corporate bond market and includes USD-denominated securities publicly issued by US and non-US industrial, utility and financial issuers.

Index Definitions (continued)

- **Bloomberg Barclays US Treasury Index:** Includes fixed-rate, local-currency sovereign debt that makes up the US Treasury sector of the Global Aggregate Index. (Represents US government bonds on slide 2.)

- **Credit Suisse Leveraged Loan Index:** Tracks the investable market of the U.S. dollar denominated leveraged loan market. It consists of issues rated “5B” or lower, meaning that the highest rated issues included in this index are Moody’s/S&P ratings of Baa1/BB+ or Ba1/BBB+. All loans are funded term loans with a tenor of at least one year and are made by issuers domiciled in developed countries.

- **HFRI Equity Hedge Index:** Investment managers who maintain positions both long and short in primarily equity and equity derivative securities. A wide variety of investment processes can be employed to arrive at an investment decision, including both quantitative and fundamental techniques; strategies can be broadly diversified or narrowly focused on specific sectors and can range broadly in terms of levels of net exposure, leverage employed, holding period, concentrations of market capitalizations and valuation ranges of typical portfolios. Equity Hedge managers would typically maintain at least 50% exposure to, and may in some cases be entirely invested in, equities, both long and short.

- **J.P. Morgan Corporate Emerging Markets Bond Index:** A global, corporate emerging-market benchmark that tracks USD-denominated corporate bonds issued by emerging-market entities.

- **J.P. Morgan Emerging Market Bond Index Global:** A benchmark index for measuring the total return performance of government bonds issued by emerging-market countries that are considered sovereign (issued in something other than local currency) and that meet specific liquidity and structural requirements. In order to qualify for index membership, the debt must be more than one year to maturity, have more than $500 million outstanding, and meet stringent trading guidelines to ensure that pricing inefficiencies don’t affect the index. (Represents emerging-market debt on slide 2.)

- **J.P. Morgan Emerging Markets Currency Index:** Tracks 10 EM FX spot rates versus the US dollar.

- **J.P. Morgan Government Bond-Emerging Markets Global Diversified Index:** A comprehensive global emerging-market index of local government bond debt. To qualify, a country’s gross national income (GNI) per capita must be below the GNI per capita level that is adjusted yearly by the growth rate of the world GNI per capita, provided by the World Bank, for three consecutive years.

- **MSCI All Country World Index:** A market capitalization weighted index designed to provide a broad measure of equity-market performance throughout the world.

- **MSCI EAFE Index:** A free float–adjusted, market capitalization–weighted index designed to measure developed-market equity performance, excluding the US and Canada. It consists of 22 developed-market country indices. (Represents EAFE on slide 2.)

- **MSCI Emerging Markets Index:** A free float–adjusted, market capitalization–weighted index designed to measure equity market performance in the global emerging markets. It consists of 21 emerging-market country indices. (Represents emerging markets on slide 2.)

Index Definitions (continued)

- **MSCI World Index:** A market capitalization–weighted index that measures the performance of stock markets in 24 countries.
- **Russell 1000 Index**: A stock market index that represents the highest-ranking 1,000 stocks in the Russell 3000 Index, representing about 90% of the total market capitalization of that index.
- **Russell 2000 Index:** Measures the performance of the small-cap segment of the US equity universe. It is a subset of the Russell 3000 Index, representing approximately 8% of the total market capitalization of that index. It includes approximately 2,000 of the smallest securities based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership. (Represents US small-cap on slide 2.)
- **S&P 500 Index:** Includes a representative sample of 500 leading companies in leading industries of the US economy. (Represents US large-cap on slide 2.)

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