

2023 3Q
ASSET ALLOCATION
OUTLOOK



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CIO SUMMARY

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WHAT AND WHY?

We continuously monitor various asset classes which provide the framework for our deeper-dive quarterly analysis. We look at each asset class relative to itself and relative to other asset classes. This analysis seeks out potential tactical adjustments which may be appropriate for implementation in client portfolios.

The aim is to overweight asset classes that are perceived to be undervalued and to underweight asset classes that are perceived to be overvalued.

The result is striving to modestly enhance the return of the portfolio while simultaneously seeking to mitigate overall risk in the portfolio relative to a clients' acceptable level of risk.

HOW?

We use two factors to drive our Asset Allocation weights: Valuation and Technicals. While we do not want to fight the trend (technicals), we also do not want to disregard valuations. Cheap can get cheaper and expensive can get more expensive.

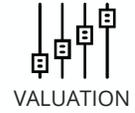
As an example, growth had outperformed value for a decade and had been expensive for a few years, but it just kept getting more expensive. Conversely, value just kept getting cheaper, but got so cheap that an overweight position seemed merited. And now Value continues to outperform Growth.



EQUITIES

↓ EQUITIES

12-18 MONTH EQUITY ASSET ALLOCATION WEIGHTINGS



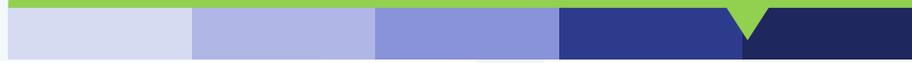
U.S. Equities



Expensive

Consolidating

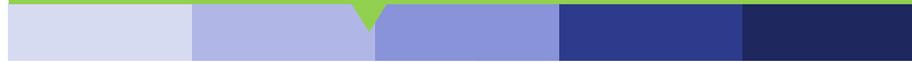
U.S. Value



Fair Value

Consolidating

U.S. Growth



Expensive

Positive

U.S. Large Cap



Expensive

Consolidating

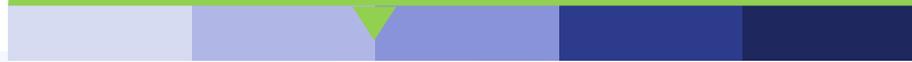
U.S. Mid Cap



Less Expensive

Neutral

U.S. Small Cap



Less Expensive

Neutral

Int'l Dev Equity



Fair Value ?

Neutral

Emerging Mkt Equity



Cheap

Deteriorating

Opportunistic Equity



Cheap

Improving

Opportunistic REIT's



Expensive

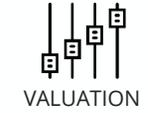
Neutral

A decorative graphic on a purple background. A thick, light purple diagonal line runs from the bottom-left towards the top-right. Two large, light purple circles are positioned on the line: one in the upper-left quadrant and one in the lower-right quadrant. The text 'FIXED INCOME' is centered in white, bold, uppercase letters, with 'FIXED' on the top line and 'INCOME' on the bottom line.

FIXED
INCOME



12-18 MONTH FIXED INCOME ASSET ALLOCATION WEIGHTINGS



Fair Value	Deteriorating
Fair Value	Negative
Fair Value	Negative
Cheap	Improving
Less Expensive	Neutral
Fair Value	Deteriorating
Less Expensive	Improving
Fair Value	Very Positive
Fair Value	Very Positive



OUTLOOK

12-18 MONTH ASSET ALLOCATION OUTLOOK

The equity strength seen at the end of the last period, continued into July, but recently is in a period of consolidation. Fixed Income continues to weaken on the back of higher interest rates.

The economic resilience continues, and equities rallied on hopes for no more rate hikes. Inflation and economic resilience continues to hurt longer duration bonds on fears the Fed either holds for longer or worse continues to hike rates. Investors in vehicles helped by higher rates are enjoying nice gains. The Fed meets Wednesday and the interest rate futures, as well as the equity markets have priced in a September pause.

Technicals for larger equities slide to Consolidating with the recent 6 weeks of modestly negative returns. Most of the other equities continue to lag and moved to Neutral. Fixed Income was generally downgraded, apart from floating rate, which is super positive.

The rally from the mid-March bank failures lows was exceedingly beneficial for Large Cap U.S. equities. The relative weakness since August 1st has broadly spread across more equity markets and really weighed on longer duration Fixed Income. Equities continue to bet on goldilocks, but Fixed Income is singing a different tune. How much longer can equities rally if interest rates, i.e., cost of capital, continue higher?

Notable Changes

- Equities generally moved down a notch to Consolidating, with “riskier” categories losing the positive and moving to neutral or deteriorating.
- The Fixed Income markets were generally downgraded on weaker technicals. The defensive Fixed Income category maintained a very Bullish posture and continues to be the best-looking asset class of any segment.
- Opportunistic Strategies maintained risk-on for Fixed Income, with Floating Rate Senior Bank Loans, loving higher rates and a stable economy. Equity, remained allocated but swapped from International Small Cap to Emerging Market Small Caps. Real Estate continues to drift lower and remains in a defensive position.



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