

# Market Quarterly Client Summary

*CIO Reports*

Q3 2016



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## Macroeconomic Summary

### Consumption buoying economic growth

- U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) looks to be accelerating after a weak first half of the year. For the third quarter, Federal Reserve (Fed) GDP trackers suggest growth of roughly 2.3% QoQ SAAR\*; one tracker designed by BofAML Global Research pegs growth at about 2.9%. These figures compare to first- and second-quarter growth of 0.8% and 1.4% respectively. Firm consumption, signs of stabilization in manufacturing, and a bumpy housing recovery have been tailwinds. BofAML Global Research expects U.S. GDP of 1.6% in 2016, versus 2.6% in 2015. Inflation is expected to average 1.3% in 2016, an increase over last year's figure of 0.1%. The Federal Reserve has remained hesitant in raising its policy rate amid global uncertainty, but we expect a move in December.
- On the global front, low inflation and sluggish economic growth have pushed central banks to do more but with a caveat. The Bank of Japan (BoJ) presented new tools in its monetary policy toolkit with its "yield curve control" program and a commitment to overshoot its target inflation rate. However, the European Central Bank disappointed investors when it did not expand its Quantitative Easing (QE) program. While the expectation is for an eventual expansion, its reticence has raised doubts on the future direction of monetary policy.

## Equities

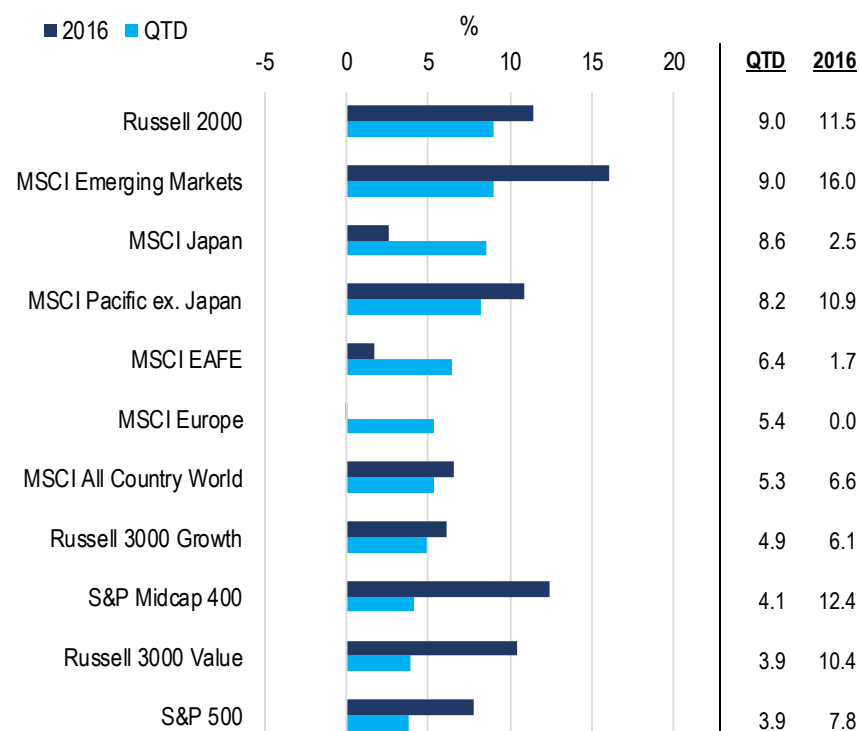
### Equities saw "risk-on" activity in Q3

- Global equity performance overall was higher in the third quarter, with the MSCI All Country World Index (ACWI) closing higher (+5.3%).
- In U.S. equity markets, the S&P 500 Index was up 3.9%, with volatility decreasing throughout the quarter. Performance was driven by small caps (Russell 2000: +9.0%), while cyclical equities led defensives and growth beat value.
- International developed equities lagged Emerging Markets (EM) (+4.9% versus 9.0%). Within Developed Markets, the Pacific region was the best performer, led by New Zealand (+12.4%) and Hong Kong (+11.9%). The MSCI Europe Index rose 5.3% in the third quarter, while North America was a laggard (+4.0%).
- EMs' solid performance was led by Asia (+10.5%), with China (+13.9%), Taiwan (+11.7%) and South Korea (+11.0%) driving gains. The Philippines was the region's worst performer (-5.3%). In LatAm, Brazil (+11.3%) continued its solid performance, offsetting negative returns in Chile (-1.7%) and Mexico (-2.2%).

### U.S. Macroeconomic Variables\*

	Q1'16	Q2'16	Q3'16 F	Q4'16 F	Q1'17 F
<b>Real GDP</b> (% change, QoQ, SAAR)	0.8	1.4	3.0	2.7	2.1
<b>CPI, Consumer Prices</b> (% change, YoY)	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.8	2.4
<b>Unemployment Rate</b> (civilian, %)	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.8
<b>Industrial Production</b> (% change, QoQ, SAAR)	-1.8	-0.5	2.4	0.0	1.4

### Global Equities – Index Total Returns



Source: BofAML Global Research. Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2016. \* QoQ = quarter-over-quarter; YoY = year-over-year; SAAR = seasonally adjusted annual rate. Highlighted cells are BofAML Global Research Economic forecasts. The economic and market forecasts presented are for informational purposes as of the date of this report. There can be no assurance that the forecasts will be achieved. See Appendix for index definitions. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**

## Fixed Income

### Fixed income segments were mixed in Q3

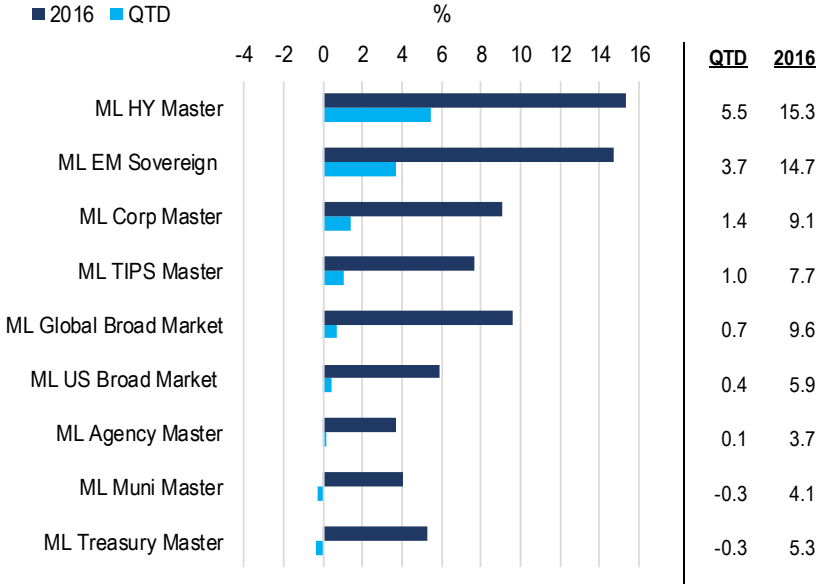
- The market’s expectation for rising inflation and additional Federal Reserve tightening rose as the third quarter drew to a close, affecting some long duration investments. The ML Global Broad Market Index was up +0.7%.
- U.S. bonds rose +0.4% in the third quarter. U.S. Treasury notes and bonds were lower on aggregate by -0.3%. The yield on the U.S. 10-year rose 12 basis points to 1.59% from 1.47% on June 30, 2016. However, it remains well below the level on December 31, 2015 of 2.27%. U.S. Corporates were up +1.4%, while U.S. Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS) posted a +1.0% gain.
- The municipal bond market fell -0.3%, as the spread above comparable Treasury yields generally tightened. Continued concerns over select municipalities had little effect on demand for the broader asset class.
- EM sovereign debt has performed well this year. Third quarter performance was +3.7%, following first and second quarter returns of +5.2% and +5.1% respectively. The search for yield has been a tailwind for many fixed income securities.

## Alternative Investments

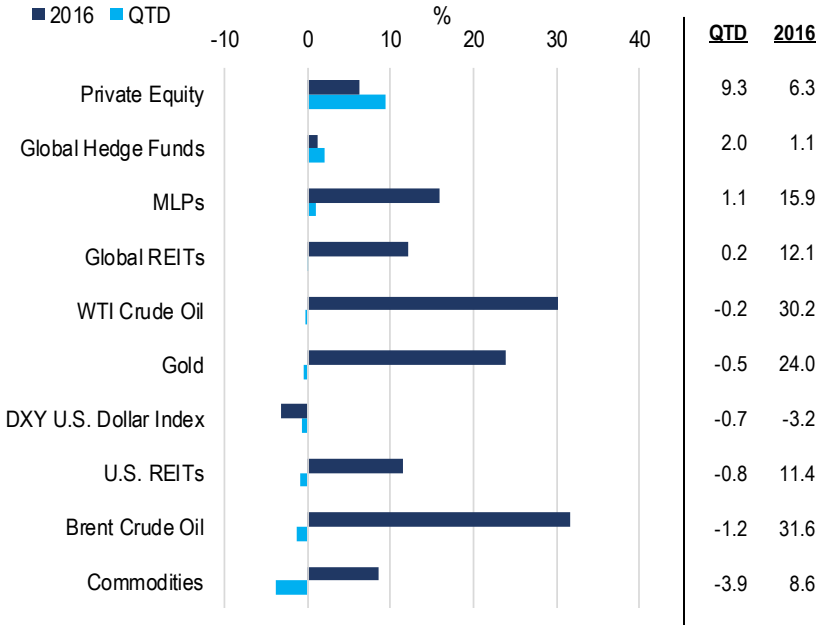
### Commodities generally fell this quarter

- After a powerful bounce in the second quarter, on stabilization in China and a reversal from extremely depressed levels, the Bloomberg Commodity Index fell -3.9% in the third quarter. WTI crude and Brent crude fell -4.9% and -2.2%, respectively, in the quarter.
- Given rising expectations for a rate hike, gold saw a consolidation throughout the third quarter, after strong rallies in the first and second quarters. The yellow metal fell -0.5%, bringing its year-to-date performance to +24.0%.
- The DXY dollar index remained in an increasingly tight range, falling -0.7% in the third quarter. The British pound was again a laggard, falling -2.6%, bringing its year to date performance to -12.0%. EM currencies were mixed versus the dollar.
- The HFRX Global Hedge Fund index rose +2.0%, while the LPX50 Private Equity Index rose +9.3%. U.S. Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs) rose +1.1%, while global Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) were up +0.2%

### Global Fixed Income - Index Total Returns



### Alternative Investments - Index Total Returns



Source: Bloomberg. Data as of September 30, 2016. See Glossary and Appendix for index definitions. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

## Macroeconomic Outlook

**U.S. growth supported by jobs, consumer and housing. Global cyclical momentum shifting modestly to upside on passing effects of falling oil, rising dollar.**

- A solid jobs market, with unemployment headed toward 4%, and strong real wage gains should keep the U.S. consumer moving forward. With inflation gradually rising, we expect the Fed to raise rates by the end of the year. Housing remains an important tailwind, with residential investment growing at a double digit pace.
- Meanwhile, the waning global momentum that developed from China's transition, and the negative impact of the stronger dollar and lower oil prices, is now subsiding thanks to the steadier currency and commodity outlook. As these negative effects fade, global cyclical momentum is starting to shift modestly to the upside.
- The fading impact of lower energy prices and a stronger dollar is evident in first-half corporate profits. Gross domestic product profits – which are the only official seasonally adjusted statistics, unaltered by companies – show a bottom in the fourth quarter, followed by a rebound this year. Profit growth should return to a low-to-mid single-digit pace.

## Equity Outlook

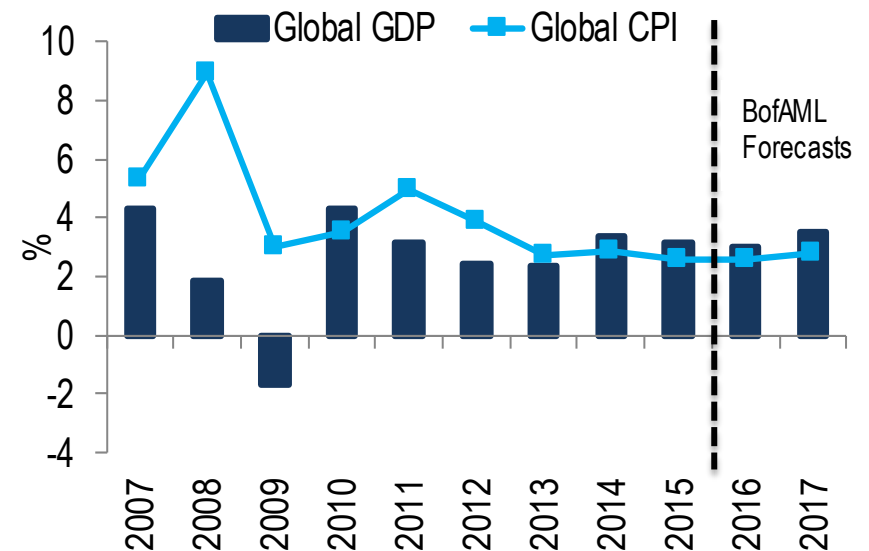
**Equities remain at a neutral weight.**

- Weighing on the outlook are increasingly ineffective central bank policies (negative interest rates) along with political risks. Valuations are full at roughly 18-20 times earnings for the S&P 500. We believe further upside from these levels would be borrowing from returns in 2017 or would need an earnings boost as a catalyst.
- We continue to expect equities to outperform fixed income as gradual U.S. and global expansions continue. While valuations are full in the absolute sense, relative valuations versus fixed income, in general, remain attractive.

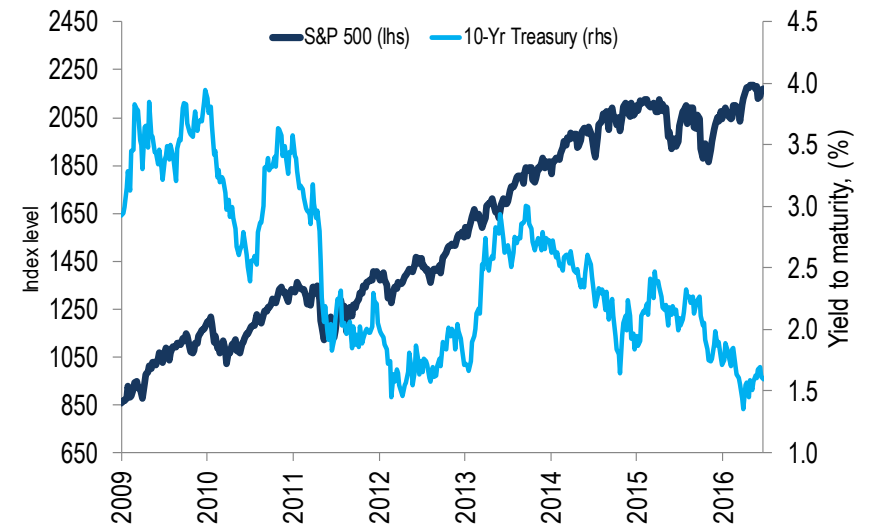
**In this uncertain environment, we favor quality with healthy, robust cash flow**

- We favor high-quality, global-brand companies with solid balance sheets and strong cash flows allowing for the growth of dividends. Select companies in Tech and Industrials in the U.S. are candidates, while companies in Health Care should also benefit from an aging global population and innovation in biotechnology.
- We just upgraded emerging market equities. Despite challenges, including low commodity prices, gradual normalization of Fed monetary policy and the structural downshift in China's growth rate, we believe they will benefit from the recent pickup in global cyclical momentum and, in our view, valuations are attractive. We see those less dependent on trade and commodities, like India, and more domestic support from monetary policy and internal reforms as best positioned. We reduced exposure to international developed markets to fund this overweight.

### Global growth and inflation are both likely to inch higher



### We expect stocks to continue to outperform bonds



Source: BofAML Global Economics Research, Bloomberg and GWIM Chief Investment Office. Data as of September 30, 2016. The economic and market forecasts presented are for informational purposes as of the date of this report. There can be no assurance that the forecasts will be achieved.

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## Fixed Income Outlook

**We remain underweight fixed income, but we find opportunities selectively in credit. In a flattening yield curve environment, a barbell strategy may be better.**

- We recommend that investors maintain a neutral duration in strategies appropriate for their risk tolerance and caution against over-allocating to long-duration assets given unfavorable risk-reward trade-offs.
- We prefer credit over Treasuries, with an emphasis on investment-grade corporate bonds and municipals. Given the upward bias of the U.S. dollar, we are generally avoiding non-dollar sovereign bonds.

### Stay selective within High Yield

- Valuations and fundamental risks, including the acceleration in default rates, lead us to be cautious on allocations to index-based solutions in high-yield. Investments into high-yield should be in managed solutions that overweight the higher end of the quality spectrum.

## Alternative Investment Outlook

### Neutral Commodities

- Commodity markets are likely to remain range-bound in the near-term, weighed down by global economic policy uncertainty but held up by stable global cyclical momentum. We believe oil prices will finish the year within the range of \$45-\$55 per barrel and move slightly higher next year.

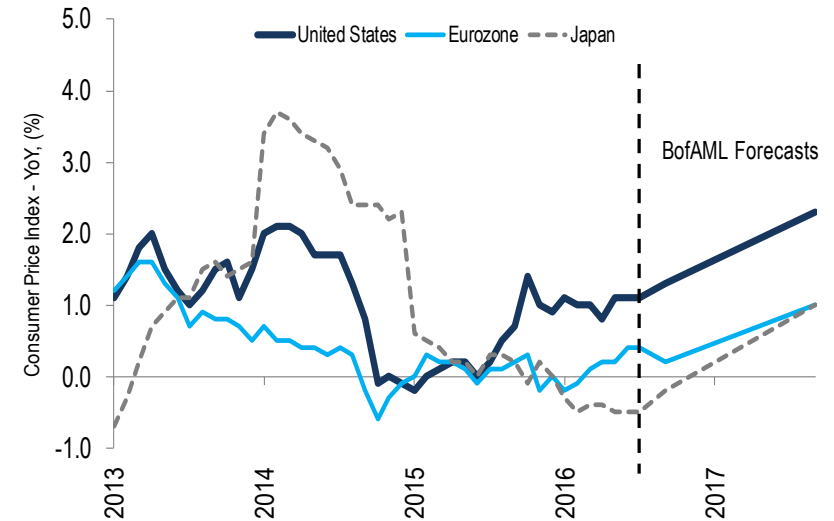
### U.S. dollar stable to firm

- Our base case is that the dollar will likely remain generally stable with some upside potential if, for example, wage growth in the U.S. accelerates more than expected, euro breakup sentiment picks up or relative Emerging Market cyclical momentum stalls, further narrowing the growth differential with the U.S..

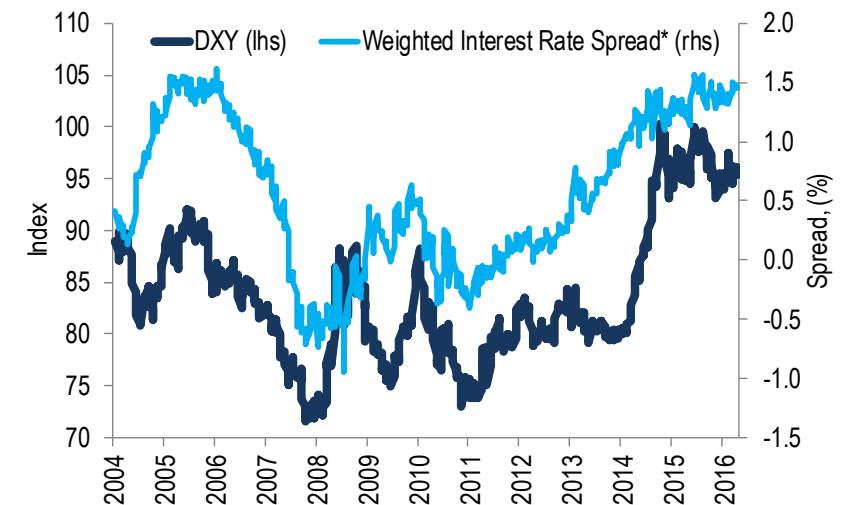
### Neutral in hedge funds, private equity and real estate as an asset class

- We currently emphasize hedge fund strategies that have low-to-moderate levels of market exposure, as well as those whose managers can generate a large portion of their returns from asset selection and/or market timing.
- For private equity, we see potential opportunities in special situations/opportunistic and private credit strategies.
- For real estate, we prefer opportunistic and value sectors.

### Low inflation should support fixed income globally



### Relatively high Treasury yields have helped push the dollar higher



Source: Bloomberg, BofAML Global Research (Top), Bloomberg (Bottom). Data as of September 30, 2016. \*Weighted interest rate spread calculated as U.S. 5-Yr Treasury yield minus weighted five-year government bond yields of Europe, Japan, U.K., Canada, Sweden and Switzerland. Respective weights are same as those in the DXY Index. The economic and market forecasts presented are for informational purposes as of the date of this report. There can be no assurance that the forecasts will be achieved. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**

## Growth

**Bounce back for U.S. growth remains intact in 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Eurozone and U.K. growth remains meager. China policy to remain accommodative.**

- Encouraging survey data suggests the industrial sector is stabilizing, helping the more notable growth drivers of consumption and housing. These and a turn in the inventory cycle leads BofAML Global Research to expect third-quarter gross domestic product growth of 3.0% QoQ at a SAAR.
- While “Brexit” has not produced acute economic malaise, longer-term its effects overhang economic performance in both the U.K. and the eurozone. BofAML Global Research expects third-quarter growth of 0.2% quarter-over-quarter for both. We expect China’s macro policies to remain accommodative amid low external demand and excess capacity reduction.

## Inflation

**Inflation remains subdued but downward pressure is subsiding.**

- Headline inflation remains weak in most countries, but the effects of a collapse in commodity prices is passing. Meanwhile, core measures of inflation that exclude food and energy are relatively stable.

## Policy

**The Fed has held steady, but we expect a rate hike in December. ECB and BoE to remain in easing mode.**

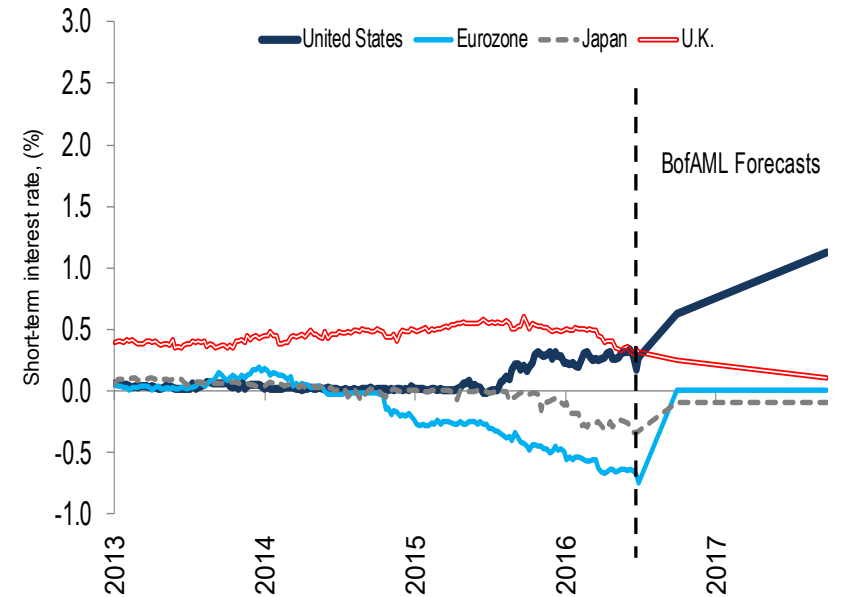
- Despite an uncertain global environment, expectations have increased for the Fed to raise its policy interest rate in December. This comes against a backdrop of easing from the Bank of England (BoE), the European Central Bank (ECB), and the Bank of Japan (BoJ). The BoJ recently instituted its “yield curve control,” which we suspect may be a backdoor to helicopter money.

## Risks

**Global volatility expected to persist as political risk increases**

- There is no shortage of risk as we enter the fourth quarter of 2016. The fallout from the Brexit vote as well as the upcoming U.S. elections are likely to foster policy uncertainty. The risk of a Chinese policy mistake is an additional notable factor. Together these concerns should promote general investor uneasiness, leading to continued bouts of episodic volatility.

### “Lower for longer”: U.S. alone in forecasted policy rate increases



BofAML Global Research Key Economic Forecasts				
	Annual GDP Forecasts (%)		Annual CPI Forecasts (%)	
	2016 E	2017 E	2016 E	2017 E
<b>Global</b>	3.0	3.5	2.6	2.8
<b>U.S.</b>	1.6	2.2	1.3	2.3
<b>Global ex-US</b>	3.3	3.8	2.9	3.0
<b>Euro area</b>	1.5	1.1	0.2	1.0
<b>Japan</b>	0.6	0.9	-0.2	1.0
<b>EM</b>	4.0	4.8	3.9	3.6
<b>China</b>	6.4	6.5	1.8	1.3

Source: BofAML Global Research, World Bank. Data as of September 30, 2016. The economic and market forecasts presented are for informational purposes as of the date of this report. There can be no assurance that the forecasts will be achieved.

## U.S. Equities

### Cyclical stocks rising and “Search for Yield” taking a backseat = themes for Q3

- In U.S. equity markets, the S&P 500 was up 3.9% in the third quarter, with reduced volatility. Traditionally dividend-producing sectors such as Telecom, Utilities and Consumer Staples took a backseat and were the worst performers. Uncertainty regarding monetary policy and increased expectations for fiscal stimulus were drivers.
- Consistent with a potential cyclical upturn from fiscal stimulus, technology, financials, industrial and small-cap growth equities were outperformers.

## International Developed

### Japan outperformed Europe

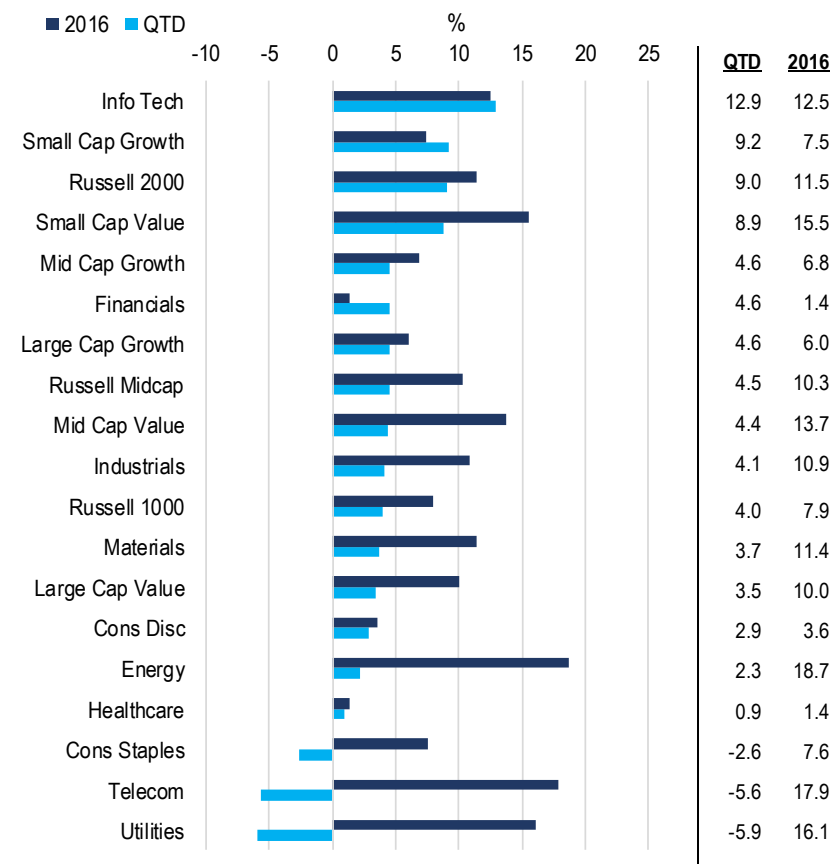
- European equities rose 5.4% in the second quarter, resulting in flat year-to-date performance. Information Technology, Material and Financial stocks were leaders, offset by Energy, Health Care and Telecom Services.
- Japanese equities rose +8.6% in U.S. dollar terms this quarter, bringing their year-to-date return to 2.5%. Meanwhile, the yen rose +1.8% versus the U.S. dollar during the third quarter, providing some relative relief after its +9.0% appreciation in the second quarter and +18.7% rise for the year.

## Emerging Markets

### Emerging Markets were solid performers in the third quarter.

- EM posted a solid 9.0% return during the quarter, led by MSCI EM Asia with a return of 10.5%. Gains within Asia were driven by outperformance in China, Taiwan and South Korea.
- The MSCI EM Latin America Index was up 5.4%. Emerging Markets in Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA) returned 2.4% during the quarter.

## Key U.S. Equity Index Performance

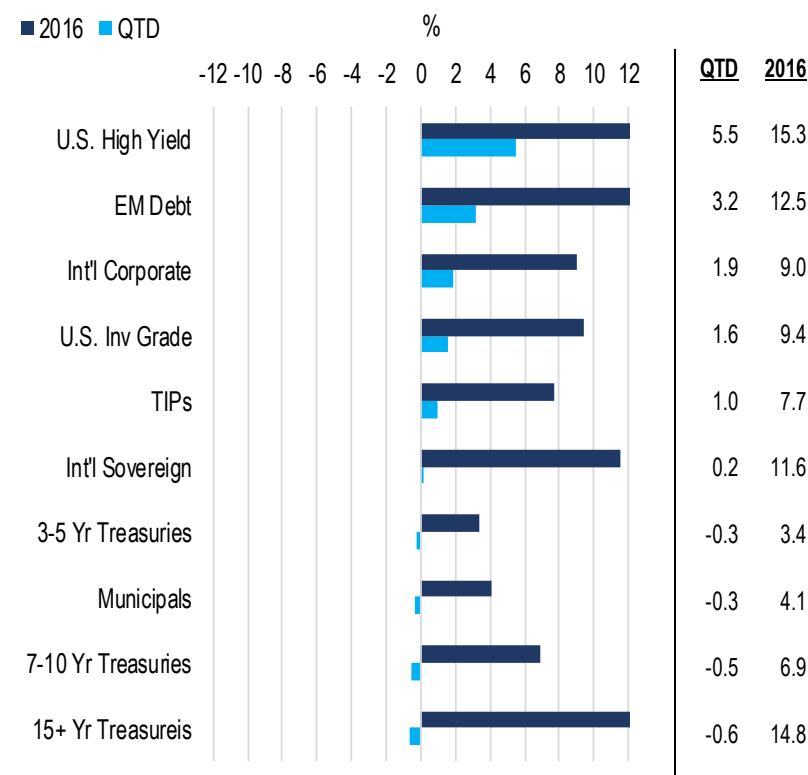


## BofAML Global Research Key Equity Forecasts

	Equity Index Level	
	September 30, 2016	December 31, 2016 E
<b>MSCI ACWI</b>	418	445
<b>S&amp;P 500</b>	2168	2000
<b>Stoxx 600</b>	343	390
<b>Shanghai Composite</b>	3005	2600
<b>Hang Sang</b>	9582	9000



## Key Fixed Income Index Returns



## BofAML Global Research Key Fixed Income Forecasts

	Short-Term Policy Interest Rate (%)		
	Current	2016 E	2017 E
U.S.	0.38	0.63	1.13
Euro Area	0.00	0.00	0.00
Japan	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10
Global	3.57	3.84	3.94

## U.S. Treasuries

### Amid monetary policy uncertainty, long duration struggled.

- U.S. Treasuries, as measured by the ML U.S. Treasury Index, were down 0.3% in the third quarter and fell broadly. Amid rising expectations of a Fed rate hike before year-end, investors were more concerned with interest rate volatility and were hesitant to purchase longer-duration bonds. The 15+ year U.S. Treasury index was down 0.6%, while the 7-10-year maturities index fell 0.5% in the quarter. However, TIPS returned 1.0%, bucking the trend in Federal government paper.

## U.S. Corporates

### High Yield and EM sovereign debt led returns

- High Yield bonds outperformed in the third quarter versus other fixed income segments. The ML U.S. High Yield index rose 5.5% despite elevated risk of defaults in the Energy, Metals and Mining sectors, which account for a large proportion of HY credit.
- Emerging Market Sovereign debt rose 3.7% during the quarter, outperforming the broad corporate index (+1.4%).

## Municipals

### Municipals performed sluggishly, similar to most of the fixed income space.

- The municipal bond market fell 0.3% in the third quarter, bringing its year-to-date return to 4.1%. Valuations relative to U.S. Treasuries remain attractive, and the tax-exempt status is not likely to be threatened in the near term.

## International

### International bonds remained strong

- EM dollar-denominated debt remained a strong performer within the sovereign space, with a return of 3.3% for the third quarter. International sovereign debt posted a 0.2% return, while international corporate bonds returned 1.9%.

## Commodities and real assets

### Commodities took a breather

- Commodities took a step back during the third quarter, returning -3.9%. For the year, the asset class has returned 8.6%. Led by the oil markets, commodities produced solid returns during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter on signs of stabilization in China and expectations that oversupply in the oil markets would diminish on falling output.
- Within oil markets, WTI crude and Brent crude fell 0.2% and 1.2% respectively.
- Precious metals returned 0.2% in Q3 and have returned 27.4% year-to-date. After a strong first half of the year, investors have become more cautious on the outlook for monetary policy.

### Mixed performance among Master Limited Partnerships and REITs in the quarter

- MLPs rose 1.1% in Q3, muted performance that tracked energy prices. Global and U.S. Real Estate Investment Trusts were down 0.8%, pausing after their solid performance in the first half of the year. REIT performance was affected by a turnaround in the search for yield.

## Currencies

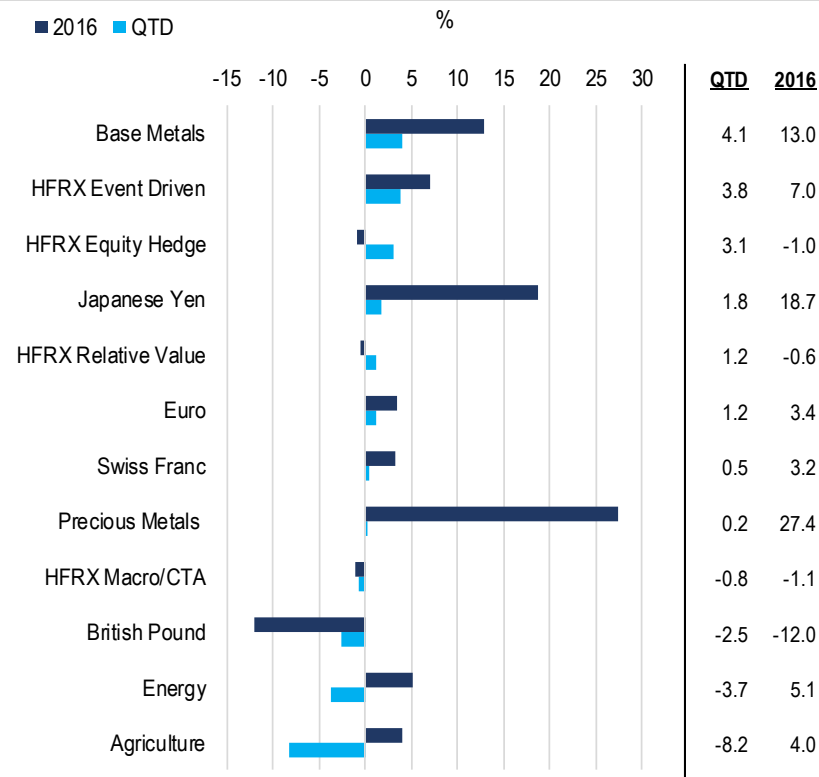
- The DXY dollar index held steady (-0.7%) after a second-quarter performance of +1.6%. Rising expectations of a Fed rate hike and dovish European Central Bank and Bank of Japan policies have kept the currency in demand.
- The Mexican peso has been the worst performer among EM currencies, falling 5% during the third quarter. Among the outperformers have been the South African rand and the South Korean won, with gains of 7.3% and 4.6% respectively.

## Hedge Funds

### Hedge fund performance was mixed among different strategies

- The HFRX Global Hedge Fund index rose 2.0% in the third quarter, resulting in a year-to-date gain of 1.1%. Event-driven strategies were the best-performing segment for the second consecutive quarter, with third-quarter performance of 3.8%, following a prior-quarter gain of 4.5%. Weighing on the aggregate were macro strategies, at -0.8% for the quarter.

## Key Alternative Investment Index Returns



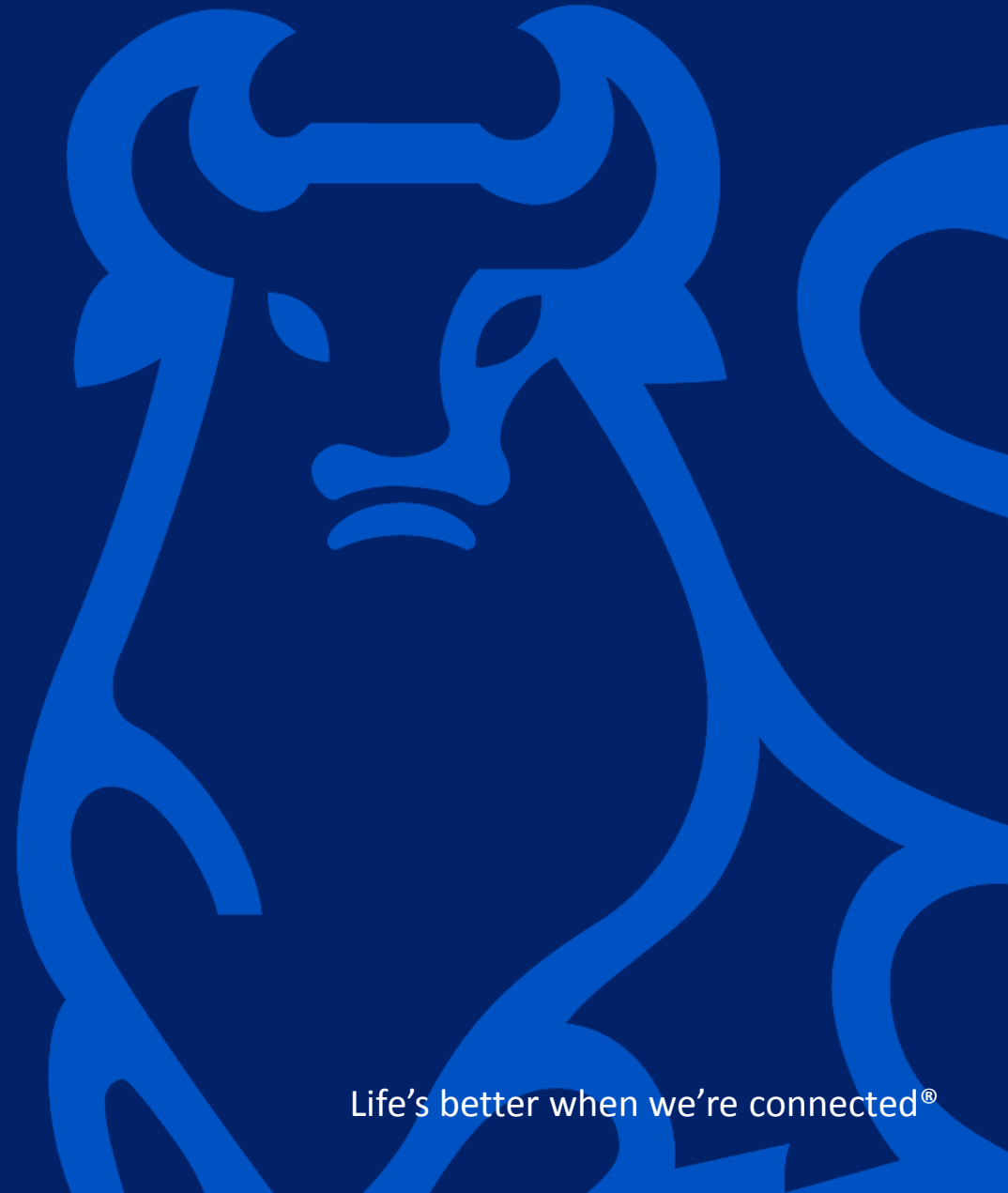
## BofAML Global Research Key Currency & Commodity Forecasts

	Price Target		
	September 30, 2016	Q4 16E	2017 E
EUR/USD	1.12	1.08	1.15
USD/JPY	101.35	105.00	115.00
USD/CNY	6.67	7.00	6.80
Brent Crude(\$/bbl)	49.09	55.00	61.00
WTI Crude (\$/bbl)	48.05	54.00	59.00
Gold (\$/oz)	1316.00	1500.00	1475.00
Copper (\$/t)	4825.00	4750.00	4625.00

Source: Bloomberg. BofAML Global Research. Commodity subsectors represented by Bloomberg Commodity Index. Data as of September 30, 2016. The economic and market forecasts presented are for informational purposes as of the date of this report. There can be no assurance that the forecasts will be achieved. See Appendix for index definitions.

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# Appendix



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# Glossary

**Consumer Price Index (CPI) Level:** Base Year 1982-84: 100. The CPI represents changes in prices of all good and services purchased for consumption by urban households. User fees and sales and excise taxes paid by the consumer are also included. Income taxes and investment items are not included.

**CPI Core Index Level:** Base year 1982-84; it excludes food and energy items from the Consumer Price Index Level.

**Current Account Deficit:** Occurs when a country's total import of goods, services and transfers is greater than the country's total export of goods, services and transfers; this situation makes a country a net debtor to the rest of the world.

**Developed Market:** A country that is most developed in terms of its economy and capital markets. The country must be high-income, but this also includes openness to foreign ownership, ease of capital movement, and efficiency of market institutions.

**Emerging Market:** A country that is progressing toward becoming advanced, as shown by some liquidity in local debt and equity markets and the existence of some form of market exchange and regulatory body.

**GDP - Nominal:** Gross Domestic Product (GDP) equals the total income of everyone in the economy or the total expenditure on the economy's good and services. GDP includes only the value of final goods and services. Nominal GDP measures the value of goods and services at current dollar prices.

**GDP - Real:** The chain-weighted GDP measure of goods and services at constant dollar prices. The base year changes continuously over time (e.g., 1995, process measures real growth from 1995 to 1996). The figures are then linked to a chain that can compare goods and services in any two years. Chain-weighted figures never let prices get too far out of date.

**Jobless Claims:** Average weekly initial claims for unemployment insurance: measures the average number of new claims for unemployment compensation per week.

**U.S. Employees Non-Farm Private Payrolls:** A statistic that represents the total number of paid U.S. workers except for farm workers, general government employees, employees of nonprofit organizations that provide assistance to individuals and private household employees. The Non-Farm Private Payroll represents about 80% of the workers who produce the U.S. Gross Domestic Product.

# Asset Class Proxies

Asset Class	Index Proxy
Cash	BofAML 3 month T-Bill Index
U.S. Large Cap Equities	S&P 500 Index
U.S. Small Cap Equities	Russell 2000 Index
U.S. Large Cap Growth	Russell 1000 Growth Index
U.S. Large Cap Value	Russell 1000 Value Index
U.S. Mid Cap Growth	Russell Midcap Growth Index
U.S. Mid Cap Value	Russell Midcap Value Index
U.S. Small Cap Growth	Russell 2000 Growth Index
U.S. Small Cap Value	Russell 2000 Value Index
Developed International Equities	MSCI EAFE
Emerging Markets Equities	MSCI EM
Global Equities	MSCI ACWI
U.S. Corporates	BofAML U.S. Corporate Master
U.S. IG Fixed Income	Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index
U.S. High Yield	BofAML High Yield Master
U.S. Munis	BofAML Municipal Master
Global Fixed Income	BofAML Global Fixed Income Markets Index
Hedge Fund Strategies	HFRX Global Hedge Fund Index
Global REITs	FTSE NAREIT Global REITs Total Return
U.S. REITs	FTSE NAREIT U.S. REITs Total Return
Commodities	Bloomberg Commodity
Gold	Gold Spot Price
Private Equity	LPX 50 TR USD Index

# Index Definitions

**Alerian MLP Index** is a composite of the 50 most prominent energy master limited partnerships and is calculated by Standard & Poor's using a float-adjusted, market capitalization-weighted methodology. The total return index is calculated on an end-of-day basis and is disseminated daily through its ticker symbol, AMZX, on the New York Stock Exchange.

**Barclays Capital U.S. Aggregate Index** is a broad-based benchmark that measures the Investment Grade, U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed-rate taxable bond market, including Treasuries, government-related and corporate securities, MBS (agency fixed rate and hybrid ARM pass-throughs), ABS and CMBS.

**Bloomberg Commodity Index** is made up of 22 exchange-traded futures on physical commodities, which are weighted to account for economic significance and market liquidity.

**Cambridge Associates Private Equity U.S. Total Return:** Performance data is calculated quarterly by Cambridge Associates and published by Thomson Reuters Venture Economics' Private Equity Performance Database, which tracks the performance of thousands of U.S. and European venture capital and buyout funds formed since 1969. Sources are financial documents and schedules from Limited Partners investors and General Partners. All returns are calculated net to investors (net of fees and carried interest) by Thomson Venture Economics from the underlying financial cash flows using both cash on cash returns (distributions and capital calls) and the unrealized net asset value of funds as reported by private equity fund managers. The "U.S." category includes only U.S. funds.

**DJ Credit Suisse AllHedge Index** is an asset-weighted hedge fund index derived from the market leading Dow Jones Credit Suisse Hedge Fund Index. The Dow Jones Credit Suisse AllHedge Index provides a rules-based measure of an investable portfolio. Index performance data is published monthly and constituents are rebalanced semi-annually according to the sector weights of the Dow Jones Credit Suisse Hedge Fund Index.

**DJ Credit Suisse AllHedge Convertible Arbitrage Index** measures the aggregate performance of convertible arbitrage funds. Convertible arbitrage funds typically aim to profit from the purchase of convertible securities and the subsequent shorting of the corresponding stock when there is a pricing error made in the conversion factor of the security.

**DJ Credit Suisse AllHedge Equity Market Neutral Index** measures the aggregate performance of equity market neutral funds. Equity market neutral funds typically take both long and short positions in stocks while seeking to reduce exposure to the systemic risk of the market (i.e., a beta of zero is desired).

**DJ Credit Suisse AllHedge Event Driven Index** measures the aggregate performance of event-driven funds. Event-driven funds typically invest in various asset classes and seek to profit from potential mispricing of securities related to a specific corporate or market event. Such events can include mergers, bankruptcies, financial or operational stress, restructurings, asset sales, recapitalizations, spin-offs, litigation, regulatory and legislative changes, and other types of corporate events.

**DJ Credit Suisse AllHedge Emerging Markets Index** measures the aggregate performance of Emerging Market funds. Emerging Market funds typically invest in currencies, debt instruments, equities and other instruments of countries with "emerging" or developing markets (typically measured by GDP per capita). Such countries are considered to be in a transitional phase between developing and developed status.

**DJ Credit Suisse AllHedge Fixed Income Arbitrage Index** measures the aggregate performance of fixed income arbitrage funds. Fixed income arbitrage funds typically attempt to generate profits by exploiting inefficiencies and price anomalies between related fixed income securities. Fixed income arbitrage funds seek to limit volatility by hedging out exposure to the market and interest rate risk.

**DJ Credit Suisse AllHedge Long Short Equity Index** measures the aggregate performance of long/short equity funds. Long/short equity funds typically invest in both long and short sides of equity markets, generally focusing on diversifying or hedging across particular sectors, regions or market capitalizations.

**DJ Credit Suisse AllHedge Global Macro Index** measures the aggregate performance of global macro funds. Global macro funds typically focus on identifying extreme price valuations and leverage is often applied on the anticipated price movements in equity, currency, interest rate and commodity markets.

# Index Definitions (continued)

**DJ Credit Suisse AllHedge Managed Futures Index** measures the aggregate performance of managed futures funds. Managed futures funds (often referred to as CTAs or Commodity Trading Advisors) typically focus on investing in listed bond, equity, commodity futures and currency markets globally.

**Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA)** measures the performance of 30 leading U.S. blue-chip companies.

**DXY Index** indicates the general international value of the U.S. dollar. The Index does this by averaging the exchange rates between the dollar and major world currencies.

**FTSE NAREIT U.S. Real Estate Index** is a performance index based on publicly traded real estate investment trusts (REITs) that span commercial real estate space across the U.S. economy. The index series provides investors with exposure to all investment and property sectors. A REIT is a company that owns and, in most cases, operates income-producing real estate such as apartments, shopping centers, offices, hotels and warehouses. Some REITs also engage in financing real estate. To qualify as a REIT, a company must distribute at least 90% of its taxable income to its shareholders annually. A company that qualifies as a REIT is permitted to deduct dividends paid to its shareholders from its corporate taxable income. As a result, most REITs remit at least 100% of their taxable income to their shareholders and therefore owe no corporate tax.

**FTSE®EPRA®/NAREIT® Global Index** is a free float, market capitalization-weighted real estate index designed to represent publicly traded equity REITs and listed property companies globally.

**Gold** reflects the gold spot price and is quoted in U.S. dollars per Troy Ounce.

**HFRX Global Hedge Fund Index** is an asset-weighted index that includes over 55 constituent funds. All funds must be open to new investments, have at least \$50 million under management and have a 24-month track record. The index is rebalanced quarterly. The index is designed to be representative of the overall composition of the hedge fund universe.

**JPMorgan Global FX Volatility Index** tracks the implied volatility on three-month options on G7 and Emerging Market economy currencies, with individual weightings based on Bank of International Settlements (BIS) daily turnover percentages.

**BofAML U.S. Broad Market Index** tracks the performance of U.S. dollar-denominated Investment Grade government and corporate public debt issued in the U.S. domestic bond market, including collateralized products such as mortgage pass-through and asset-backed securities.

**BofAML U.S. Corporate Master Index** tracks the performance of U.S. dollar-denominated Investment Grade corporate public debt issued in the U.S. domestic bond market. Qualifying bonds must have at least one year remaining term to maturity, a fixed coupon schedule and a minimum amount outstanding of \$150 million. Bonds must be rated Investment Grade based on a composite of Moody's and S&P.

**BofAML Municipal Masters Index** tracks the performance of the Investment Grade U.S. tax-exempt bond market.

**BofAML Global Sovereign Broad Market Index** tracks the performance of local currency-denominated debt of Investment Grade-rated sovereign issuers.

**BofAML Global Emerging Markets Sovereign Index** tracks the performance of U.S. dollar-denominated debt of sovereign issuers domiciled in countries with a BB or lower foreign currency long-term sovereign debt rating.

**BofAML High Yield Master Index** tracks the performance of below Investment Grade U.S. dollar-denominated corporate bonds publicly issued in the U.S. domestic market. "Yankee" bonds (debt of foreign issuers issued in the U.S. domestic market) are included in the index provided the issuer is domiciled in a country having an Investment Grade foreign currency long-term debt rating (based on a composite of Moody's and S&P).

# Index Definitions (continued)

**BofAML Mortgage Master Index** tracks the performance of U.S. dollar-denominated 30-year, 15-year and balloon pass-through mortgage securities having at least \$150 million outstanding per generic production year.

**MSCI® World Index** is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure global Developed Market equity performance. As of July 2009, the index consisted of 23 Developed Market country indices: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

**MSCI® EAFE (Europe, Australasia, and Far East) Index** comprises 21 MSCI country indices, representing the Developed Markets outside of North America.

**MSCI® Emerging Markets Index** is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index designed to measure equity market performance in the global Emerging Markets. As of July 2009, the index consisted of 25 Emerging Market country indices: Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, and Turkey.

**MSCI® Europe non-U.K. Index** is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index designed to measure Developed Market equity performance in Europe. As of July 2009, the index consisted of 15 Developed Market country indexes: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.

**Muni Yields** uses the Moody's Municipal Bond Yield Average AAA 10 Year. Derived from pricing data on unenhanced newly issued general obligation bonds each observation is an unweighted average.

**WTI crude oil** reflects the Bloomberg West Texas Intermediate Crushing Crude Oil Spot Price. The price is derived by adding spot market spreads to the NYMEX contract. Units are in U.S. dollars per barrel and is traded intraday.

**Russell 1000 Growth Index®** measures the performance of those Russell 1000 companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values.

**Russell 1000 Value Index®** measures the performance of those Russell 1000 companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower forecasted growth values.

**Russell 2000 Index®** measures the performance of the 2,000 smallest companies in the Russell 3000 Index.

**Russell 2000 Growth Index.** The index measures the performance of those Russell 2000 companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values.

**Russell 2000 Value Index.** The index measures the performance of those Russell 2000 companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower forecasted growth values.

**Silver** reflects the silver spot price and is quoted in U.S. dollars per Troy Ounce.

**S&P 500 Index**, widely regarded as the best single gauge of the U.S. equities market, includes a representative sample of 500 leading companies in leading industries of the U.S. economy. Although the index focuses on the large-cap segment of the market, with approximately 75% coverage of U.S. equities, it is also an ideal proxy for the total market. An investor cannot invest directly in an index.

**S&P 400 Mid Cap Index** is representative of 400 stocks in the mid-range sector of the domestic stock market, representing all major industries.

**Ten-Year Treasury** relates the yield on a security to its time to maturity and is based on the closing market bid yields on actively traded Treasury securities in the over-the-counter market.

**VIX Index**, the Chicago Board Options Exchange Standard and Poor's Volatility Index, reflects a market estimate of future volatility, based on the weighted average of the implied volatilities for a wide range of strikes.



Reference to indices, or other measures of relative market performance over a specified period of time (each, an “index”) are provided for illustrative purposes only, do not represent a benchmark or proxy for the return or volatility of any particular product, portfolio, security holding, or AI. Indices are unmanaged. The figures for the index reflect the reinvestment of dividends but do not reflect the deduction of any fees or expenses which would reduce returns. Investors cannot invest directly in indices. We strongly recommend that these factors be taken into consideration before an investment decision is made. Neither Merrill Lynch nor the index sponsor can verify the validity or accuracy of the self reported returns of the managers used to calculate the index returns. Merrill Lynch does not guarantee the accuracy of the index returns and does not recommend any investment or other decision based on the results presented. The indices referred in the presentation do not reflect the performance of any account or fund managed by Merrill Lynch or its affiliates, or of any other specific fund or account, and do not reflect the deduction of any management or performance fees or expenses. The hedge fund universe from which the components of the indices are selected is based on funds which have continued to report results for a minimum period of time. This prerequisite for fund selection interjects a significant element of “survivor bias” into the reported levels of the indices, as generally only successful funds will continue to report for the required period, so that the funds from which the statistical analysis or the performance of the indices to date is derived necessarily tend to have been successful. There can, however, be no assurance that such funds will continue to be successful in the future. Indices are unmanaged and results shown are not reduced by taxes or transaction costs such as fees. It is not possible to invest directly in an Index.

Alternative Investments are speculative and subject to a high degree of risk. Although risk management policies and procedures can be effective in reducing or mitigating the effects of certain risks, no risk management policy can completely eliminate the possibility of sudden and severe losses, illiquidity and the occurrence of other material adverse effects. Some or all alternative investment programs may not be suitable for certain investors. Many alternative investment products, specifically private equity and most hedge funds, require purchasers to be “qualified purchasers” within the meaning of the federal securities laws (generally, individuals who own at least \$5 million in “investments” and institutional investors who own at least \$25 million in “investments,” as such term is defined in the federal securities laws). No assurance can be given that any alternative investment’s investment objectives will be achieved. In addition to certain general risks, each product will be subject to its own specific risks, including strategy and market risk.

Alternative Investments such as derivatives, hedge funds, private equity funds, and funds of funds can result in higher return potential but also higher loss potential. Changes in economic conditions or other circumstances may adversely affect your investments. Before you invest in alternative investments, you should consider your overall financial situation, how much money you have to invest, your need for liquidity, and your tolerance for risk.

Investors should bear in mind that the global financial markets are subject to periods of extraordinary disruption and distress. During the financial crisis of 2008-2009, many private investment funds incurred significant or even total losses, suspended redemptions or otherwise severely restricted investor liquidity, including increasing the notice period required for redemptions, instituting gates on the percentage of fund interests that could be redeemed in any given period and creating side-pockets and special purpose vehicles to hold illiquid securities as they are liquidated. Other funds may take similar steps in the future to prevent forced liquidation of their portfolios into a distressed market. In addition, investment funds implementing alternative investment strategies are subject to the risk of ruin and may become illiquid under a variety of circumstances, irrespective of general market conditions.

There may be conflicts of interest relating to the alternative investment and its service providers, including Bank of America, and its affiliates, who are engaged in businesses and have clear interests other than that of managing, distributing and otherwise providing services to the alternative investment. These activities and interests include potential multiple advisory, transactional and financial and other interests in securities and instruments that may purchase or sell such securities and instruments. These are considerations of which investors in the alternative investments should be aware. Additional information relating to these conflicts is set forth in the offering materials for the alternative investment.

The opinions expressed herein are those of the GWIM Chief Investment Office as of the date of this material and are subject to change. It is provided as general market commentary only, and it does not consider the specific investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of any one client. It should not be considered a recommendation or solicitation to purchase or sell any security. There is no guarantee that any future event discussed herein will come to pass. When reading this commentary, you should consider that investments in securities involve risk and you could lose some or all of the amounts you have invested. The information herein was obtained from various sources, which we believe to be reliable, but we do not guarantee its accuracy or completeness. The indexes referenced herein are unmanaged and are not available for direct investment; returns assume no management, transaction or other expenses and also assume reinvestment of dividends, interest and/or capital gains. **Past performance does not guarantee or indicate future results.**

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The investments discussed have varying degrees of risk. Some of the risks involved with equities include the possibility that the value of the stocks may fluctuate in response to events specific to the companies or markets, as well as economic, political or social events in the U.S. or abroad. Bonds are subject to interest rate, inflation and credit risks. Investments in high-yield bonds may be subject to greater market fluctuations and risk of loss of income and principal than securities in higher rated categories. Investments in foreign securities involve special risks, including foreign currency risk and the possibility of substantial volatility due to adverse political, economic or other developments. These risks are magnified for investments made in emerging markets. Investments in a certain industry or sector may pose additional risk due to lack of diversification and sector concentration. Investments in real estate securities can be subject to fluctuations in the value of the underlying properties, the effect of economic conditions on real estate values, changes in interest rates, and risk related to renting properties, such as rental defaults. There are special risks associated with an investment in commodities, including market price fluctuations, regulatory changes, interest rate changes, credit risk, economic changes and the impact of adverse political or financial factors.

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