First Trust

STRATEGIC RISK MODEL PORTFOLIOS

3Q 2023 ALLOCATIONS

MODEL OVERVIEW

The First Trust Strategic Risk Model Portfolios consist of ETFs and are created by the First Trust Advisors Model Investment Committee. These models are aimed at total return while diversifying the risk exposure of various asset classes over the long term and are designed to provide financial professionals with a foundation to build scalable asset allocation solutions for their clients.

ASSET ALLOCATION VIEWS AND RATIONALE

EQUITY ALLOCATION

Macro Positioning	Balanced U.S. Equity Outlook	After a nearly 15% rally in the S&P 500 Index year-to-date, we are taking an incrementally more cautious view towards U.S. equities this quarter. While investment in Artificial Intelligence (AI) has fueled faster earnings growth expectations for certain technology companies and dominated headlines, Federal Reserve ("Fed") rate hikes and tighter lending standards are resulting in slower credit growth, which we believe increases the risk of recession. For now, the labor market remains quite strong, but declining job openings, increasing layoff announcements, and a falling quit rate are early indications that the demand for workers is beginning to soften. Industrial activity remains lackluster as manufacturing firms work down precautionary inventories built up when supply chain difficulties were a key risk. In an environment where earnings growth is expected to slow substantially from the prior year, we believe valuation becomes much more important. As such, we favor value and quality positioning within U.S. markets.
Style Positioning	Favor Value over Growth, Increase Quality Exposure	This quarter, we are emphasizing quality and maintaining our value focus. In our view, growth equities are priced at an unsustainably high premium to value, which may lead to the underperformance of growth equities during a market downturn. We are also increasing our overall exposure to dividend paying equities this quarter. On a size basis, although mid-cap equities remain attractively valued relative to large-cap equities, we are reducing our positioning in mid-cap equities this quarter in some models to lower overall risk.
Sector Positioning	Favor Energy and Healthcare vs. Other Sectors	We expect energy sector equities to continue to generate strong cash flow, as recent years of underinvestment on the part of U.S. producers makes rapid supply recovery difficult. Sanctions on the Russian oil industry further limit supply. Meanwhile, we believe the healthcare sector offers opportunities less exposed to the business cycle. We also like the attractive valuation of the sector, and the return of latent demand for elective healthcare services post-COVID. Additionally, our increased emphasis on dividend paying equities results in higher exposure to the utilities sector.
International Positioning	Remain Underweight International Equities vs. U.S. Equities	While valuation levels in European markets are quite attractive, we do not see a near term catalyst to growth, and we remain underweight international markets versus U.S. equities. Much uncertainty remains in Emerging Markets. While we believe the re-opening of the Chinese economy, as well as easing lending restrictions and fiscal stimulus provide a source of upside risk, recent economic data has been softer than expected. That said, valuation is attractive in Emerging Markets, and any future weakness in the dollar may improve sentiment. While Japan faces secular challenges, robust wage growth is improving near term economic prospects. Meanwhile, rising demand driven inflation may lead the Bank of Japan to adjust its yield curve control (YCC) policy, potentially lifting the Yen.

ALTERNATIVES ALLOCATION

Strategy Positioning	Favor Absolute Return Strategies	Absolute return strategies, such as managed futures and long/short commodities, currently provide the potential for returns which are less correlated to traditional asset classes such as stocks and bonds, in our opinion. The low correlations to traditional asset classes help improve a model's overall diversification profile, potentially providing lower overall portfolio risk and an improved drawdown profile.

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This information is not personalized investment advice, research or an investment recommendation from any First Trust entity regarding (i) the funds that make up the model portfolios, (ii) the use of the model portfolios in a client's best interest, or (iii) any security in particular, and is intended for use only by a third party financial professional, with other information, as a resource to help build a portfolio or as an input in the development of investment advice for its own clients. Financial professionals are responsible for making their own independent judgment as to how to use this information in its client's best interest. Only an investor and their financial professional know enough about their circumstances to make an investment decision. First Trust does not have investment discretion over, nor does it place trade orders for, any non-First Trust portfolios or accounts derived from this information. There is no guarantee that any investment strategy illustrated will be successful or achieve any particular result.

Investing involves risk, including possible loss of principal. Asset allocation and diversification may not protect against market risk, loss of principal or volatility of returns.

ASSET ALLOCATION VIEWS AND RATIONALE CONTINUED

FIXED INCOME OVERVIEW

At the June 14, 2023 Federal Open Market Committee meeting, the Fed, after 10 consecutive meetings delivering interest rate increases, opted to hold rates steady. Despite not raising rates at the June meeting, Chairman Powell was clear in saying, "inflation pressures continue to run high, and the process of getting inflation back down to 2% has a long way to go" suggesting that future interest rate hikes continue to be under consideration. Further to this point, the Fed also raised its expected target for the Federal Funds Rate at year-end to 5.6% via its dot plot. Coming into the year, the Fed's median dot for year-end 2023 had a target of 5.1%.

Meanwhile, the market has recently begun pricing in a Federal Funds Rate that remains higher for longer, with the market implied policy rate moving to approximately 5.2% by the end of 2023. While market expectations for the terminal Federal Funds Rate are below the Fed's projections, the gap has narrowed significantly since the end of March. This move in market expectations has led to higher yields across the yield curve and a more pronounced yield curve inversion since the end of the last quarter. The 10-year Treasury yield is 26 basis points (bps) higher this quarter (through June 23rd) at 3.73% and the 3 Month / 10 Year inversion has widened to 155 bps.

Although headline inflation has decreased, it remains well above the target level. Core inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy components, remains persistently high and has surpassed economist estimates. Core CPI increased by 5.3% annually through May, while Core PCE, the preferred measure for the Federal Reserve, rose by 4.7% year-over-year through April. The source of underlying inflation strength has changed as stimulus driven core goods spending has transitioned to services.

We believe the Fed, after such an aggressive tightening of financial conditions via higher interest rates and balance sheet reduction, is nearing the finish line for its interest rate hikes. While we believe the Fed will leak additional rate hikes into the market, perhaps even more than they anticipate today, we believe the Fed is nearing the end of this hiking cycle. Whether there are 2 additional rate hikes or even 4 additional rate hikes, the heavy lifting has already been done. More likely, we believe, the Fed will raise rates in July, perhaps skip another meeting and continue to follow this new pattern until, as Chairman Powell has said on many occasions, "the job is done" with respect to inflation. We believe the trouble with this policy is that this aggressive tightening of financial conditions, along with a recent reduction in the money supply, will likely begin to impact growth in the economy more significantly in late 2023 or early 2024. Importantly, central bank policy is rarely an instant gratification toolset. Typically there are "long and variable" lags with respect to when the impact of Fed policy changes begin to manifest themselves. Given this outlook, we recommend a defensive approach with respect to both duration and credit quality. We favor duration targets at or near the benchmark level and fixed income asset classes with modest spread risk.

SECTOR POSITIONING

Ultra-Short Maturity	The Fed has significantly increased short-term interest rates, benefitting the income potential from ultra-short securities, including commercial paper and short term corporate notes. While we anticipate further hiking from the Fed benefitting ultra-short securities, we're now far less concerned with interest rate risk. Instead, we believe reinvestment risk is likely the greater threat over the next year.
Mortgage-Backed Securities	We hold a favorable view on mortgage-backed securities for two reasons. First, in the event of a hard landing or recession, we anticipate this asset class will outperform broader fixed income with exposure to credit risk. Additionally, valuations for mortgage-backed securities are currently significantly cheaper compared to their longer-term averages. The housing market is expected to be more durable, primarily due to constrained available inventory which resulted from homeowners locking in such low rates during the pandemic, which has supported prices. Given the continued volatility, we recommend maintaining hedged structures and defensive positions.
Investment Grade Corporate Bonds	The Investment Grade (IG) credit market has held up better than expectations. We foresee modestly positive near-term returns as all-in-yields have increased to the point where income can offset the impact of spread volatility. In addition, we believe the Fed is closer to the end of their tightening cycle, which causes us to now view a neutral duration position as appropriate. Finally, we believe IG rated corporates have many available options to defend the balance sheet, such as reducing or pausing share buybacks, cutting capital expenditures, and/or selling non-core assets. Within the sector, we have a more favorable view on short and intermediate duration, since long duration corporate bonds are at greater risk of negative returns due to their higher price sensitivity to increased credit spreads. Thus, while we expect economic uncertainty to push spreads wider, we remain confident in the strength of the market and would view such an event as a buying opportunity.
U.S. Treasury Securities	We find investments in U.S. Treasury securities appealing to mitigate credit risk and extend duration, especially considering our belief that risk is increasing due to the economic impact of the Fed's tighter financial conditions. We anticipate relatively limited upside in U.S. Treasury yields in the intermediate and long part of the yield curve, as we believe the Fed is approaching the end of the tightening cycle. However, yields are likely to remain elevated as the Fed continues to combat persistent inflation in a robust labor market. Given our expectations of moderating interest rate risk, especially further out on the yield curve, and rising economic risk in the upcoming quarters, longer duration U.S. Treasuries appear attractive as part of an overall neutral benchmark duration strategy.

MODEL ALLOCATIONS

AS OF 6/30/23

EQUITY ALLOCATION	TICKER	CONSERVATIVE	CONSERVATIVE GROWTH	BALANCED GROWTH	MODERATE GROWTH	AGGRESSIVE GROWTH
		17.0%	35.0%	50.0%	70.0%	85.0%
DOMESTIC CORE						
First Trust Large Cap Growth AlphaDEX® Fund	FTC	–	4.5%	4.5%	7.0%	8.5%
First Trust Large Cap Value AlphaDEX® Fund	FTA	–	8.5%	8.5%	11.0%	11.5%
First Trust Capital Strength ETF	FTCS	4.0%	5.0%	6.0%	8.0%	10.5%
First Trust Value Line® Dividend Index Fund	FVD	5.0%	5.5%	7.0%	6.0%	8.5%
First Trust Large Cap Core AlphaDEX® Fund	FEX	5.0%	–	–	–	–
First Trust Rising Dividend Achievers ETF	RDVY	–	–	3.5%	3.0%	4.0%
INTERNATIONAL CORE						
First Trust Europe AlphaDEX® Fund	FEP	–	–	3.0%	2.5%	3.5%
First Trust Emerging Markets AlphaDEX® Fund	FEM	–	2.0%	2.0%	2.5%	4.0%
First Trust Developed Markets ex-US AlphaDEX® Fund	FDT	3.0%	5.0%	3.0%	6.0%	7.5%
First Trust Japan AlphaDEX® Fund	FJP	–	–	2.0%	3.0%	3.5%
SATELLITE						
First Trust Dow Jones Internet Index Fund	FDN	–	–	2.0%	3.5%	4.5%
First Trust Nasdaq Oil & Gas ETF	FTXN	–	–	–	2.0%	2.5%
First Trust Nasdaq Bank ETF	FTXO	–	–	–	2.0%	2.5%
First Trust Energy AlphaDEX® Fund	FXN	–	1.5%	2.0%	–	–
First Trust Health Care AlphaDEX® Fund	FXH	–	3.0%	4.5%	5.5%	6.5%
First Trust NASDAQ Technology Dividend Index Fund	TDIV	–	–	2.0%	8.0%	7.5%
ALTERNATIVES ALLOCATION	**TICKER**	**8.0%**	**10.0%**	**12.0%**	**10.0%**	**5.0%**
First Trust Alternative Absolute Return Strategy ETF	FAAR	4.0%	5.0%	6.0%	5.0%	2.5%
First Trust Managed Futures Strategy Fund	FMF	4.0%	5.0%	6.0%	5.0%	2.5%
FIXED INCOME ALLOCATION	**TICKER**	**75.0%**	**55.0%**	**38.0%**	**20.0%**	**10.0%**
U.S. MORTGAGE-BACKED						
First Trust Low Duration Opportunities ETF	LMBS	10.0%	5.0%	2.0%	2.0%	–
iShares MBS ETF	MBB	3.75%	3.0%	–	–	–
U.S. OPPORTUNISTIC CORE						
First Trust TCW Opportunistic Fixed Income ETF	FIXD	40.0%	40.0%	34.0%	16.0%	8.0%
U.S. CORPORATE - INVESTMENT GRADE						
First Trust Limited Duration Investment Grade Corporate ETF	FSIG	7.5%	5.0%	2.0%	–	–
iShares 5-10 Year Investment Grade Corporate Bond ETF	IGIB	3.75%	–	–	–	–
U.S. TREASURY						
First Trust Long Duration Opportunities ETF	LGOV	10.0%	2.0%	–	2.0%	2.0%

ALLOCATION CHANGES — AS OF 6/30/23

EQUITY ALLOCATION	TICKER	CONSERVATIVE	CONSERVATIVE GROWTH	BALANCED GROWTH	MODERATE GROWTH	AGGRESSIVE GROWTH
DOMESTIC CORE						
First Trust Large Cap Growth AlphaDEX® Fund	FTC	–	–	–	–	–
First Trust Large Cap Value AlphaDEX® Fund	FTA	–	–	–	–	–
First Trust Capital Strength ETF	FTCS	–	–	+1.5%	+1.5%	+2.5%
First Trust Value Line® Dividend Index Fund	FVD	–	–	+1.5%	+2.0%	+2.5%
First Trust Large Cap Core AlphaDEX® Fund	FEX	–	–	–	–	–
First Trust Mid Cap Core AlphaDEX® Fund	FNX	–	–	-3.0%	-3.5%	-5.0%
First Trust Rising Dividend Achievers ETF	RDVY	–	–	–	–	–
INTERNATIONAL CORE						
First Trust Europe AlphaDEX® Fund	FEP	–	–	–	–	–
First Trust Emerging Markets AlphaDEX® Fund	FEM	–	–	–	–	–
First Trust Developed Markets ex-US AlphaDEX® Fund	FDT	–	–	-2.0%	-3.0%	-3.5%
First Trust Japan AlphaDEX® Fund	FJP	–	–	+2.0%	+3.0%	+3.5%
SATELLITE						
First Trust Dow Jones Internet Index Fund	FDN	–	–	–	–	–
First Trust Industrials/Producer Durables AlphaDEX® Fund	FXR	–	–	–	-2.0%	–
First Trust Nasdaq Oil & Gas ETF	FTXN	–	–	–	–	–
First Trust Nasdaq Bank ETF	FTXO	–	–	–	–	–
First Trust Energy AlphaDEX® Fund	FXN	–	–	–	–	–
First Trust Health Care AlphaDEX® Fund	FXH	–	–	–	–	–
First Trust NASDAQ Technology Dividend Index Fund	TDIV	–	–	–	+2.0%	–

ALTERNATIVES ALLOCATION	TICKER	–	–	–	–	–
First Trust Alternative Absolute Return Strategy ETF	FAAR	–	–	–	–	–
First Trust Managed Futures Strategy Fund	FMF	–	–	–	–	–

FIXED INCOME ALLOCATION	TICKER	–	–	–	–	–
U.S. MORTGAGE-BACKED						
First Trust Low Duration Opportunities ETF	LMBS	–	-1.5%	-2.0%	+2.0%	–
iShares MBS ETF	MBB	+3.75%	+3.0%	–	–	–
U.S. OPPORTUNISTIC CORE						
First Trust TCW Opportunistic Fixed Income ETF	FIXD	–	–	+4.0%	-4.0%	-2.0%
U.S. CORPORATE - INVESTMENT GRADE						
First Trust Limited Duration Investment Grade Corporate ETF	FSIG	–	-3.5%	-2.0%	–	–
iShares 5-10 Year Investment Grade Corporate Bond ETF	IGIB	+3.75%	–	–	–	–
U.S. TREASURY						
First Trust Long Duration Opportunities ETF	LGOV	+2.5%	+2.0%	–	+2.0%	+2.0%
U.S. AGGREGATE						
iShares Core U.S. Aggregate Bond ETF	AGG	-5.0%	–	–	–	–
U.S. SHORT MATURITY						
First Trust Enhanced Short Maturity ETF	FTSM	-5.0%	–	–	–	–

You should consider a fund's investment objectives, risks, and charges and expenses carefully before investing. Contact First Trust Portfolios L.P. at 1-800-621-1675 or visit www.ftportfolios.com to obtain a prospectus or summary prospectus which contains this and other information about a First Trust fund. The prospectus or summary prospectus should be read carefully before investing.

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

You could lose money by investing in a fund. An investment in a fund is not a deposit of a bank and is not insured or guaranteed. There can be no assurance that a fund's objective(s) will be achieved. Investors buying or selling shares on the secondary market may incur customary brokerage commissions. Please refer to each fund's prospectus and Statement of Additional Information for additional details on a fund's risks. The order of the below risk factors does not indicate the significance of any particular risk factor.

Some Asian economies are highly dependent on trade with other countries and there is a high concentration of market capitalization and trading volume in a small number of Asian issuers as well as a high concentration of investors and financial intermediaries. Certain Asian countries experience expropriation and nationalization of assets, confiscatory taxation, currency manipulation, political instability, armed conflict and social instability as a result of religious, ethnic, socio-economic and/or political unrest. In particular, escalated tensions involving North Korea could have severe adverse effect on Asian economies. Recent developments between the U.S. and China have heightened concerns of increased tariffs and restrictions on trade.

Asset-backed securities are a type of debt security and are generally not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government and are subject to the risk of default on the underlying asset or loan, particularly during periods of economic downturn.

Unlike mutual funds, shares of the fund may only be redeemed directly from a fund by authorized participants in very large creation/redemption units. If a fund's authorized participants are unable to proceed with creation/redemption orders and no other authorized participant is able to step forward to create or redeem, fund shares may trade at a premium or discount to a fund's net asset value and possibly face delisting and the bid/ask spread may widen.

Investments in bank loans are subject to the same risks as other debt securities, but the risks may be heightened because of limited public information available and because loan borrowers may be leveraged and tend to be more adversely affected by changes in market or economic conditions. The secondary market for bank loans may be subject to irregular trading activity, wide bid/ask spreads and extended trade settlement periods.

Banks are especially subject to the adverse effects of economic recession, currency exchange rates, government regulation, decreases in the availability of capital, volatile interest rates, portfolio concentrations in geographic markets and in commercial and residential real estate loans, as well as competition from new entrants. In addition, banks are subject to extensive regulation at both the federal and state level, which may affect permissible activities, profitability and the amount of capital that they must maintain.

During periods of falling interest rates if an issuer calls higher-yielding debt instruments, a fund may be forced to invest the proceeds at lower interest rates, likely resulting in a decline in the fund's income.

A fund that effects all or a portion of its creations and redemptions for cash rather than in-kind may be less tax-efficient.

The failure or bankruptcy of a fund's and the subsidiary's clearing broker could result in substantial loss of fund assets.

Collateralized loan obligations ("CLOs") carry additional risks, including the possibility that distributions from collateral securities will not be adequate to make interest or other payments, the quality of the collateral may decline in value or default, the possibility that the investments in CLOs are subordinate to other classes or tranches, and the complex structure of the security may not be fully understood at the time of investment and may produce disputes with the issuer or unexpected investment results.

Because the shares of CEFs cannot be redeemed upon demand, shares of many CEFs will trade on exchanges at market prices rather than net asset value, which may cause the shares to trade at a price greater than NAV (premium) or less than NAV (discount). A fund that invests in the shares of CEFs involves additional expenses that would not be present in a direct investment in the underlying funds. In addition, a fund's investment performance and risks will be related to the investment performance and risks of the underlying funds. CEFs may utilize leverage and the fund may be indirectly exposed to leverage.

Commodity prices can have significant volatility, and exposure to commodities can cause the value of a fund's shares to decline or fluctuate in a rapid and unpredictable manner.

Investments linked to the prices of commodities may be considered speculative and subject a fund to greater volatility than investments in traditional securities.

To avoid exceeding position limits set by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, a fund may have to liquidate commodity contract positions at disadvantageous times or prices which may result in substantial loss of fund assets.

Communication services companies are subject to certain risks, which may include rapidly changing technologies, short product life cycles, fierce competition, aggressive pricing and reduced profit margins, loss of patent, copyright and trademark protections, cyclical market patterns, evolving industry standards, often unpredictable changes in consumer tastes and frequent new product introductions. Such companies are particularly vulnerable to domestic and international government regulation, rely heavily on intellectual property rights, and may be adversely affected by the loss or impairment of those rights.

The success of consumer discretionary companies is tied closely to the performance of the overall U.S. and international economies, interest rates, competition, consumer confidence, disposable household income and consumer spending. Changes in demographics and consumer tastes can also affect the demand for consumer discretionary products.

A fund may be subject to the risk that a counterparty will not fulfill its obligations which may result in significant financial loss to a fund.

Covenant-lite loans contain fewer maintenance covenants than traditional loans and may not include terms that allow the lender to monitor the financial performance of the borrower and declare a default if certain criteria are breached. This may hinder a fund's ability to mitigate problems and increase a fund's exposure to losses on such investments.

An issuer or other obligated party of a debt security may be unable or unwilling to make dividend, interest and/or principal payments when due and the value of a security may decline as a result.

An investment in credit default swaps involves greater risks than if a fund had invested in the reference obligation directly. These risks include general market, liquidity, counterparty, credit and leverage risks.

Ratings assigned by a credit rating agency are opinions of such entities, not absolute standards of credit quality and they do not evaluate risks of securities. Any shortcomings or inefficiencies in the process of determining credit ratings may adversely affect the credit ratings of the securities held by a fund and their perceived or actual credit risk.

Changes in currency exchange rates and the relative value of non-US currencies may affect the value of a fund's investments and the value of a fund's shares.

A fund is susceptible to operational risks through breaches in cyber security. Such events could cause a fund to incur regulatory penalties, reputational damage, additional compliance costs associated with corrective measures and/or financial loss.

Investments in debt securities subject the holder to the credit risk of the issuer and the value of debt securities will generally change inversely with changes in interest rates. In addition, debt securities generally do not trade on a securities exchange making them less liquid and more difficult to value.

Depositary receipts may be less liquid than the underlying shares in their primary trading market and distributions may be subject to a fee. Holders may have limited voting rights, and investment restrictions in certain countries may adversely impact their value.

The use of derivatives instruments involves different and possibly greater risks than investing directly in securities including counterparty risk, valuation risk, volatility risk, and liquidity risk. Further, losses because of adverse movements in the price or value of the underlying asset, index or rate may be magnified by certain features of the derivatives.

Distressed securities are speculative and often illiquid or trade in low volumes and thus may be more difficult to value and pose a substantial risk of default.

Companies that issue dividend-paying securities are not required to continue to pay dividends on such securities. Therefore, there is a possibility that such companies could reduce or eliminate the payment of dividends in the future.

Investments in emerging market securities are generally considered speculative and involve additional risks relating to political, economic and regulatory conditions.

Energy companies are subject to certain risks, including volatile fluctuations in price and supply of energy fuels, international politics, terrorist attacks, reduced demand, the success of exploration projects, natural disasters, clean-up and litigation costs relating to oil spills and environmental damage, and tax and other regulatory policies of various governments. Oil production and refining companies are subject to extensive federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations regarding air emissions and the disposal of hazardous materials and may be subject to tariffs. In addition, oil prices are generally subject to extreme volatility.

Equity securities may decline significantly in price over short or extended periods of time, and such declines may occur in the equity market as a whole, or they may occur in only a particular country, company, industry or sector of the market.

A fund may invest in the shares of other ETFs, which involves additional expenses that would not be present in a direct investment in the underlying funds. In addition, a fund's investment performance and risks may be related to the investment performance and risks of the underlying funds.

Political or economic disruptions in European countries, even in countries in which a fund is not invested, may adversely affect security values and thus the fund's holdings. A significant number of countries in Europe are member states in the European Union, and the member states no longer control their own monetary policies. In these member states, the authority to direct monetary policies, including money supply and official interest rates for the Euro, is exercised by the European Central Bank. The implications of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union are difficult to gauge and cannot yet be fully known.

Extension risk is the risk that, when interest rates rise, certain obligations will be paid off by the issuer (or other obligated party) more slowly than anticipated, causing the value of these debt securities to fall. Rising interest rates tend to extend the duration of debt securities, making their market value more sensitive to changes in interest rates.

Financial services companies are subject to the adverse effects of economic recession, currency exchange rates, government regulation, decreases in the availability of capital, volatile interest rates, portfolio concentration in geographic markets, industries or products, and competition from new entrants in their fields of business.

Floating rate securities are structured so that the security's coupon rate fluctuates based upon the level of a reference rate. As a result, the coupon on floating rate securities will generally decline in a falling interest rate environment, causing a fund to experience a reduction in the income it receives from the security. A floating rate security's coupon rate resets periodically according to the terms of the security. Consequently, in a rising interest rate environment, floating rate securities with coupon rates that reset infrequently may lag behind the changes in market interest rates.

Trading on foreign commodity markets is not regulated by any U.S. government agency and may involve risks not applicable to U.S. exchanges.

The market for forward contracts is substantially unregulated and can experience lengthy periods of illiquidity, unusually high trading volume and other negative impacts, such as political intervention. Forward contracts can increase a fund's risk exposure to underlying references and their attendant risks, such as credit risk, currency risk, market risk, and interest rate risk, while also exposing a fund to counterparty risk, liquidity risk and valuation risk, among others.

The frequent trading of commodity futures contracts may increase the amount of commissions or mark-ups that a fund pays when it buys and sells contracts which may detract from a fund's performance.

The risk of a position in a futures contract may be very large compared to the relatively low level of margin a fund is required to deposit and a relatively small price movement in a futures contract may result in immediate and substantial loss relative to the size of margin deposit.

A commodity price may change substantially between periods of trading due to adverse news announcements.

Stocks with growth characteristics tend to be more volatile than certain other stocks and their prices may fluctuate more dramatically than the overall stock market.

Health care companies may be affected by government regulations and government health care programs, increases or decreases in the cost of medical products and services and product liability claims, among other factors. Many health care companies are heavily dependent on patent protection, and the expiration of a company's patent may adversely affect that company's profitability. Health care companies are also subject to competitive forces that may result in price discounting, may be thinly capitalized and susceptible to product obsolescence.

High yield securities, or "junk" bonds, are less liquid and are subject to greater market fluctuations and risk of loss than securities with higher ratings, and therefore, are considered to be highly speculative.

A fund's income may decline when interest rates fall or if there are defaults in its portfolio.

An index fund will be concentrated in an industry or a group of industries to the extent that the index is so concentrated. A fund with significant exposure to a single asset class, or the securities of issuers within the same country, state, region, industry, or sector may have its value more affected by an adverse economic, business or political development than a broadly diversified fund.

A fund may be a constituent of one or more indices or models which could greatly affect a fund's trading activity, size and volatility.

There is no assurance that the index provider or its agents will compile or maintain the index accurately. Losses or costs associated with any index provider errors generally will be borne by a fund and its shareholders.

Industrials and producer durables companies are subject to certain risks, including the general state of the economy, intense competition, consolidation, domestic and international politics, excess capacity and consumer demand and spending trends. They may also be significantly affected by overall capital spending levels, economic cycles, technical obsolescence, delays in modernization, labor relations, and government regulations.

As inflation increases, the present value of a fund's assets and distributions may decline.

RISK CONSIDERATIONS CONTINUED

Inflation-indexed debt securities, such as TIPS, are subject to the same risks as other debt securities. Although the holders of TIPS receive no less than the par value of the security at maturity, if a fund purchases TIPS in the secondary market whose principal values have previously been adjusted upward and there is a period of subsequent declining inflation rates, a fund may receive at maturity less than it invested and incur a loss.

Information technology companies are subject to certain risks, including rapidly changing technologies, short product life cycles, fierce competition, aggressive pricing and reduced profit margins, loss of patent, copyright and trademark protections, cyclical market patterns, evolving industry standards and regulation and frequent new product introductions.

The yield on an interest-only security is extremely sensitive to the rate of principal payments on the underlying mortgage assets and a rapid payment rate may have an adverse effect on a fund's yield to maturity from these securities. Conversely, principal-only securities tend to decline in value if prepayments are slower than anticipated.

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of the debt securities in a fund's portfolio will decline because of rising interest rates. Interest rate risk is generally lower for shorter term debt securities and higher for longer-term debt securities.

Many internet companies have incurred large losses since their inception and may continue to incur large losses in the hope of capturing market share and generating future revenues. Accordingly, many such companies expect to incur significant operating losses for the foreseeable future, and may never be profitable.

Inverse floating rate securities are a type of debt instrument that has a coupon rate that varies inversely with a benchmark rate. Inverse floaters create effective leverage and will typically be more volatile and involve greater risk than the fixed rate municipal bonds underlying the inverse floaters.

If a fund invests in securities of another investment company, a fund may bear its ratable share of that investment company's expenses as well as a fund's advisory and administrative fees, which may result in duplicative expenses. A fund may also incur brokerage costs if purchasing or selling shares of exchange-traded investment companies.

Because Japan's economy and equity market share a strong correlation with the U.S. markets, the Japanese economy may be affected by economic problems in the U.S. Japan also has a growing economic relationship with China and other Southeast Asian countries. Should political tension increase, it could adversely affect the economy and destabilize the region as a whole. Japan also remains heavily dependent on oil imports, and higher commodity prices could therefore have a negative impact on the economy. Japanese securities may also be subject to lack of liquidity, excessive taxation, government seizure of assets, different legal or accounting standards and less government supervision and regulation of exchanges than in the U.S. Furthermore, the natural disasters that have impacted Japan and the ongoing recovery efforts have had a negative effect on Japan's economy, and may continue to do so.

Large capitalization companies may grow at a slower rate than the overall market.

Leverage may result in losses that exceed the amount originally invested and may accelerate the rates of losses. Leverage tends to magnify, sometimes significantly, the effect of any increase or decrease in a fund's exposure to an asset or class of assets and may cause the value of a fund's shares to be volatile and sensitive to market swings.

To the extent a fund invests in floating or variable rate obligations that use the London Interbank Offered Rate ("LIBOR") as a reference interest rate, it is subject to LIBOR Risk. The United Kingdom's Financial Conduct Authority, which regulates LIBOR, has ceased making LIBOR available as a reference rate over a phase-out period that began January 1, 2022. There is no assurance that any alternative reference rate, including the Secured Overnight Financing Rate ("SOFR") will be similar to or produce the same value or economic equivalence as LIBOR or that instruments using an alternative rate will have the same volume or liquidity. The unavailability or replacement of LIBOR may affect the value, liquidity or return on certain fund investments and may result in costs incurred in connection with closing out positions and entering into new trades. Any potential effects of the transition away from LIBOR on a fund or on certain instruments in which a fund invests can be difficult to ascertain, and they may vary depending on a variety of factors, and they could result in losses to a fund.

Certain fund investments may be subject to restrictions on resale, trade over-the-counter or in limited volume, or lack an active trading market. Illiquid securities may trade at a discount and may be subject to wide fluctuations in market value.

A portfolio comprised of low volatility stocks may not produce investment exposure that has lower variability to changes in such stocks' price levels. Low volatility stocks are likely to underperform the broader market during periods of rapidly rising stock prices.

The portfolio managers of an actively managed portfolio will apply investment techniques and risk analyses that may not have the desired result.

Market risk is the risk that a particular security, or shares of a fund in general may fall in value. Securities are subject to market fluctuations caused by such factors as general economic conditions, political events, regulatory or market developments, changes in interest rates and perceived trends in securities prices. Shares of a fund could decline in value or underperform other investments as a result. In addition, local, regional or global events such as war, acts of terrorism, spread of infectious disease or other public health issues, recessions, natural disasters or other events could have significant negative impact on a fund. In February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine which has caused and could continue to cause significant market disruptions and volatility within the markets in Russia, Europe, and the United States. The hostilities and sanctions resulting from those hostilities could have a significant impact on certain fund investments as well as fund performance. The COVID-19 global pandemic and the ensuing policies enacted by governments and central banks have caused and may continue to cause significant volatility and uncertainty in global financial markets. While vaccines have been developed, there is no guarantee that vaccines will be effective against future variants of the disease. Recent and potential future bank failures could result in disruption to the broader banking industry or markets generally and reduce confidence in financial institutions and the economy as a whole, which may also heighten market volatility and reduce liquidity.

There can be no assurance that the securities held by a fund will stay within a fund's intended market capitalization range.

A fund faces numerous market trading risks, including the potential lack of an active market for fund shares due to a limited number of market makers. Decisions by market makers or authorized participants to reduce their role or step away in times of market stress could inhibit the effectiveness of the arbitrage process in maintaining the relationship between the underlying values of a fund's portfolio securities and a fund's market price.

Materials and processing companies are subject to certain risks, including the general state of the economy, consolidation, domestic and international politics and excess capacity. Materials companies may also be significantly affected by volatility of commodity prices, import controls, worldwide competition, liability for environmental damage, depletion of resources and mandated expenditures for safety and pollution control devices.

Mortgage-related securities are more susceptible to adverse economic, political or regulatory events that affect the value of real estate.

The values of municipal securities may be adversely affected by local political and economic conditions and developments. Income from municipal securities could be declared taxable because of, among other things, unfavorable changes in tax laws, adverse interpretations by the Internal Revenue Service or state tax authorities, or noncompliant conduct of an issuer.

There are no government or agency guarantees of payments in securities offered by non- government issuers, therefore they are subject to the credit risk of the issuer. Non-agency securities often trade "over-the-counter" and there may be a limited market for them making them difficult to value.

An index fund's return may not match the return of the index for a number of reasons including operating expenses, costs of buying and selling securities to reflect changes in the index, and the fact that a fund's portfolio holdings may not exactly replicate the index.

A fund classified as "non-diversified" may invest a relatively high percentage of its assets in a limited number of issuers. As a result, a fund may be more susceptible to a single adverse economic or regulatory occurrence affecting one or more of these issuers, experience increased volatility and be highly concentrated in certain issuers.

Securities of non-U.S. issuers are subject to additional risks, including currency fluctuations, political risks, withholding, lack of liquidity, lack of adequate financial information, and exchange control restrictions impacting non-U.S. issuers.

General problems of the oil & gas industry include volatile fluctuations in price and supply of energy fuels, international politics, terrorist attacks, reduced demand as a result of increases in energy efficiency and energy conservation, the success of exploration projects, clean-up and litigation costs relating to oil spills and environmental damage, and tax and other regulatory policies of various governments. Oil production and refining companies are subject to extensive federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations regarding air emissions and the disposal of hazardous materials. Friction with certain oil producing countries, and between the governments of the United States and other major exporters of oil to the United States, or policy shifts by governmental entities and intergovernmental entities such as OPEC, could put oil exports at risk. In addition, falling oil and gas prices may negatively impact the profitability and business prospects of certain energy companies. Further, global concerns of civil unrest in foreign countries may also affect the flow of oil from such countries.

A fund and a fund's advisor may seek to reduce various operational risks through controls and procedures, but it is not possible to completely protect against such risks. The fund also relies on third parties for a range of services, including custody, and any delay or failure related to those services may affect the fund's ability to meet its objective.

The prices of options are volatile and the effective use of options depends on a fund's ability to terminate option positions at times deemed desirable to do so. There is no assurance that a fund will be able to effect closing transactions at any particular time or at an acceptable price.

Because OTC derivatives do not trade on an exchange, the parties to an OTC derivative face heightened levels of counterparty risk, liquidity risk and valuation risk.

A fund that invests in securities included in or representative of an index will hold those securities regardless of investment merit and the fund generally will not take defensive positions in declining markets.

High portfolio turnover may result in higher levels of transaction costs and may generate greater tax liabilities for shareholders.

Preferred securities combine some of the characteristics of both common stocks and bonds. Preferred stocks are typically subordinated to other debt instruments in terms of priority to corporate income, and therefore will be subject to greater credit risk than those debt instruments.

The market price of a fund's shares will generally fluctuate in accordance with changes in the fund's net asset value ("NAV") as well as the relative supply of and demand for shares on the exchange, and a fund's investment advisor cannot predict whether shares will trade below, at or above their NAV.

Prepayment risk is the risk that the issuer of a debt security will repay principal prior to the scheduled maturity date. Debt securities allowing prepayment may offer less potential for gains during a period of declining interest rates, as a fund may be required to reinvest the proceeds of any prepayment at lower interest rates.

Real Estate Investment Trusts ("REITs") are subject to the risks of investing in real estate, including, but not limited to, changes in the real estate market, vacancy rates and competition, volatile interest rates and economic recession. Increases in interest rates typically lower the present value of a REIT's future earnings stream and may make financing property purchases and improvements more costly. The value of a fund will generally decline when investors in REIT stocks anticipate or experience rising interest rates.

If a fund's counterparty defaults on its obligations and a fund is delayed or prevented from recovering collateral, or if the value of the collateral is insufficient, a fund may realize a loss.

A fund may be unable to sell a restricted security on short notice or only sell them at a price below current value.

Companies that issue loans tend to be highly leveraged and thus are more susceptible to the risks of interest deferral, default and/or bankruptcy. Loans are usually rated below investment grade but may also be unrated. As a result, the risks associated with these loans are similar to the risks of high-yield fixed income instruments. The senior loan market has seen a significant increase in loans with weaker lender protections which may impact recovery values and/or trading levels in the future.

Short selling creates special risks which could result in increased gains or losses and volatility of returns. Because losses on short sales arise from increases in the value of the security sold short, such losses are theoretically unlimited.

A fund with significant exposure to a single asset class, country, region, industry, or sector may be more affected by an adverse economic or political development than a broadly diversified fund.

Securities of small- and mid-capitalization companies may experience greater price volatility and be less liquid than larger, more established companies.

Investments in sovereign bonds involve special risks because the governmental authority that controls the repayment of the debt may be unwilling or unable to repay the principal and/or interest when due. In times of economic uncertainty, the prices of these securities may be more volatile than those of corporate debt or other government debt obligations.

Subsidiary investment risk applies to a fund that invests in certain securities through a wholly-owned subsidiary of the fund that is organized under the laws of the Cayman Islands ("Subsidiary"). Changes in the laws of the U.S. and/or Cayman Islands could result in the inability of a fund to operate as intended. The Subsidiary is not registered under the 1940 Act and is not subject to all the investor protections of the 1940 Act. Thus, a fund that is as an investor in the Subsidiary will not have all the protections offered to investors in registered investment companies.

Swap agreements may involve greater risks than direct investment in securities and could result in losses if the underlying reference or asset does not perform as anticipated. In addition, many swaps trade over-the-counter and may be considered illiquid.

If a fund does not qualify as a RIC for any taxable year and certain relief provisions were not available, a fund's taxable income would be subject to tax at the fund level and to a further tax at the shareholder level when such income is distributed. Further, there may be other tax implications to a fund based on the type of investments in a fund.

Trading on an exchange may be halted due to market conditions or other reasons. There can be no assurance that a fund's requirements to maintain the exchange listing will continue to be met or be unchanged.

Investments in issuers located in the United Kingdom may subject a fund to regulatory, political, currency, security and economic risk specific to the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom has one of the largest economies in Europe and is heavily dependent on trade with the European Union ("EU"), and to a lesser extent the United States and China. The United Kingdom vote to leave the European Union and other recent rapid political and social change throughout Europe make the extent and nature of future economic development in Europe and the effect on securities issued by European issuers difficult to predict.

Securities issued or guaranteed by federal agencies and U.S. government sponsored instrumentalities may or may not be backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government.

Utilities companies are subject to imposition of rate caps, increased competition, difficulty in obtaining an adequate return on invested capital or in financing large construction projects, limitations on operations and increased costs attributable to environmental considerations and the capital market's ability to absorb utility debt. Utilities companies may also be affected by taxes, government regulation, international politics, price and supply fluctuations, volatile interest rates and energy conservation.

RISK CONSIDERATIONS CONTINUED

A fund may hold securities or other assets that may be valued on the basis of factors other than market quotations. This may occur because the asset or security does not trade on a centralized exchange, or in times of market turmoil or reduced liquidity. Portfolio holdings that are valued using techniques other than market quotations, including "fair valued" assets or securities, may be subject to greater fluctuation in their valuations from one day to the next than if market quotations were used. There is no assurance that a fund could sell or close out a portfolio position for the value established for it at any time.

Value characteristics of a stock may not be fully recognized for a long time or a stock judged to be undervalued may actually be appropriately priced at a low level.

In China, direct ownership of companies in certain sectors by foreign individuals and entities is prohibited. In order to allow for foreign investment in these businesses, many Chinese companies have created variable interest entities ("VIEs") structures to enable indirect foreign ownership. VIEs are not formally recognized under Chinese law. Intervention by the Chinese government with respect to VIEs could significantly affect the Chinese company's performance and the enforceability of the VIE's contractual arrangements that establish the links between the Chinese company and the shell company in which the Fund invests. VIEs are also subject to the investment risks associated with the underlying Chinese issuer or operating company. Chinese companies are not subject to the same degree of regulatory requirements or accounting standards and oversight as companies in more developed countries. As a result, information about the Chinese securities and VIEs in which the Fund invests may be less reliable and incomplete.

A fund may invest in securities that exhibit more volatility than the market as a whole.

The purchase of securities on a when-issued, TBA ("to be announced"), delayed delivery or forward commitment basis may give rise to investment leverage and increase a fund's volatility and exposure to default.

"Whipsaw" markets in which significant price movements develop but then repeatedly reverse, may cause substantial losses for a fund.

Zero coupon bonds do not pay interest on a current basis, they may be highly volatile, and they do not produce cash flow. A fund could be forced to liquidate zero coupon bond securities at an inopportune time to generate cash to distribute to shareholders as required by tax laws.

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