IPL RESEARCH PORTFOLIO COMPASS

The *Portfolio Compass* provides a snapshot of LPL Financial Research's views on equity, equity sectors, fixed income, and alternative asset classes. This monthly publication illustrates our current views and will change as needed over a 3- to 12-month time horizon.

The top down is an important part of our asset allocation process. As a result, we have a macro section including our views of the global economy and key drivers of those views, and a section on what we are watching that might change those views.

CONTENTS

Compass Changes1
Macroeconomic Views2
What We're Watching3
Asset Class & Sector Top Picks4
Equity Asset Classes5
Equity Sectors6
Fixed Income7
Commodities & Alternative Asset Classes9

October 19 2016

NAVIGATING THE MARKETS

COMPASS CHANGES

- Upgraded financials to neutral from negative/neutral.
- Downgraded consumer discretionary to negative/neutral from neutral.

INVESTMENT TAKEAWAYS

- We continue to expect mid-single-digit stock market gains in 2016, consistent with mid-to-late cycle performance and driven by a second half earnings rebound.*
- Our lowered consumer discretionary view reflects signs of fundamental and technical weakness.
- Our upgraded financials view is driven by the strong start to earnings season and an improved technical picture.
- Real estate's addition as the 11th S&P sector could potentially help its outlook, along with job gains and an expected go-slow approach to rate hikes for the Federal Reserve (Fed).
- Expected gradual Fed rate hikes and slow economic growth are supportive of bonds in the near term.
- For fixed income allocations, we emphasize a blend of high-quality intermediate bonds and a small allocation to less interest rate-sensitive sectors such as bank loans or high-yield bonds for suitable investors.
- From a technical perspective, the S&P 500 price continues to operate above its 200day simple moving average, which increases the likelihood that the intermediate- to long-term bullish trend is sustained.

BROAD ASSET CLASS VIEWS

LPL Financial Research's views on stocks, bonds, cash, and alternatives are illustrated below.



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All performance referenced herein is as of October 17, 2016, unless otherwise noted.

*As noted in our *Midyear Outlook 2016* publication, we believe the conditions are in place for a solid earnings rebound during the second half of 2016, due to the easing drags from the U.S. dollar and oil, coupled with minimal wage pressures. A slight increase in price-to-earnings ratios (PE) above 16.6 is possible as market participants gain greater clarity on the U.S. election and the U.K.'s relationship with Europe, and begin to price in earnings growth in 2017. Following several quarters of earnings declines, a turnaround in growth should support our forecast for mid-single-digit gains for stocks in 2016.

MACROECONOMIC VIEWS

	Economic Factor	Outlook	Investing Impact
	U.S. GDP Growth	We expect near-trend 2–2.5% GDP growth in 2016.*	Absence of a recession would likely support equity markets.
	Consumer Spending	Still low oil prices, home price gains, labor market should help.	Supports consumer cyclicals.
	Business Spending	Priorities slowly shifting toward investment.	Industrials (outside oil-sensitive areas), technology most likely to benefit.
	Housing	Tight supply, years of underbuilding may help but consumers are still cautious.	A stronger turnaround could support housing/ financials stocks.
ECONOMY	Import/Export	Dollar impact subsiding; service sectors and oil independence help trade imbalance.	Potentially supports technology, business services.
EUUNUWIY	Labor Market	Steadily improving overall. Early signs of wage pressure in a few fields.	May put modest pressure on margins.
	Inflation	Wages, economic growth point to normalization once commodities stabilize.	Interest rates likely to rise but process will be gradual.
	Business Cycle	Still mid-cycle but may have moved into latter half.	Equity markets may have room to run, but expect more volatility.
	Dollar	Dollar still strong but stabilization may mute further impact.	Drag on U.S. profits starting to fade.
	Global GDP Growth	Potential modest improvement in 2016 overseas ex-China.	May support multinational technology and industrials, global diversification.
	Fiscal	Possibility of fiscal stimulus at home and abroad is increasing.	May provide a welcome economic lift, but government debt still a potential long-term headwind.
POLICY	Monetary	Market adjusting to possibility of an additional rate hike by year-end.	Interest rates may be a modest headwind for quality bonds.
	Government	Increased uncertainty around unusual election cycle.	May contribute to volatility; creates some global trade concerns.
RISKS	Financial	Brexit has had minimal impact on financial condition thus far.	Higher volatility would still be normal for this point in business cycle.
	Geopolitical & Other	Monitoring Chinese economy, Russia, Islamic State.	May contribute to higher stock volatility.
OVERSEAS	Developed Overseas	Monetary policy supportive, but Brexit increases uncertainty in Europe.	May increase currency volatility; likely favors U.S. equities.
	Emerging Markets	Oil rebound, better policy mix in China providing some relief.	Faster growth ex-China may help lift low valuations.
FINANCIAL	Corporate Profits	Expect earnings growth to potentially accelerate in second half of 2016.	May be supportive of modest stock market gains.
CONDITIONS	Main Street	Fed Beige Book depicts optimistic economic outlook despite below-trend growth.	Supportive of rebound in cyclical sectors.

Source: LPL Research, U.S. Department of Energy, Haver Analytics 10/17/16

*Our forecast for GDP growth of between 2.5–3% is based on the historical mid-cycle growth rate of the last 50 years. Economic growth is affected by changes to inputs such as: business and consumer spending, housing, net exports, capital investments, and government spending.

The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide or be construed as providing specific investment advice or recommendations for your clients. Any economic forecasts set forth in the presentation may not develop as predicted and there can be no guarantee that strategies promoted will be successful.



WHAT WE'RE WATCHING

The Cycle Clock suggests we are in the mid-to-late stage of the current expansion, but we are still seeing some early cycle and late cycle behavior. Extended loose monetary policy, inflation, and employment growth are still exhibiting early cycle behavior, while some items relating to corporate profits are showing late cycle behavior, although they may be reset if profits improve.



Sources: LPL Research, Federal Reserve, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Standard & Poor's, Robert Shiller, National Bureau of Economic Research, Haver Analytics 10/18/16

The 10-year Treasury yield hit a new low for the current cycle in July 2016 (based on the daily average), shifting us to earlier in the cycle by that metric.

Data for all series are as of October 18, 2016. Starting point for all series is June 1954 except housing starts (March 1961), hourly earnings (December 1970), and commodity prices (December 1970). Real prices and real earnings determined using the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (CPI-U). Commodity prices are based on the GSCI Total Return Index. Profitability is based on real profit per unit value added for non-financial corporate business based on current production as calculated by the BEA.

ASSET CLASS & SECTOR TOP PICKS

Below we provide our top overall ideas across the various asset classes and sectors covered in this publication, as well as our best ideas within the three disciplines of our investment process: fundamentals, technicals, and valuations. More details on these and other investment ideas can be found in subsequent pages.

Characteristics	EQUITY ASSET CLASSES	EQUITY SECTORS	FIXED INCOME	Characteristics	ALTERNATIVE ASSET CLASSES
BEST Overall Ideas	U.S. Stocks Large Growth Emerging Markets (EM)	Healthcare Technology	Investment-Grade Corporates Mortgage-Backed Securities (MBS) Bank Loans	BEST Overall Ideas	Long/Short Equity
Fundamentals	U.S. Stocks Large Growth	Healthcare Technology	Municipal Bonds Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS) Bank Loans	Catalysts	Managed Futures Global Macro Long/Short Equity
Technicals	U.S. Stocks U.S. Small and Mid Cap EM	Energy Technology Financials	Preferred Stocks High-Yield bonds MBS	Trading Environment	Long/Short Equity
Valuations	Large Foreign EM	Healthcare Technology Telecom	Investment-Grade Corporates MBS	Volatility	Global Macro Long/Short Equity Managed Futures

READING THE PORTFOLIO COMPASS

RATING	ICO	NC
Negative	•	•
Negative/Neutral		•
Neutral		
Positive/Neutral		
Positive		
Previous Position	÷	•

Fundamental, technical, and valuation characteristics for each category are shown by their blue icons below, and displayed as colored squares.

Negative, neutral, or positive views are illustrated as a colored circle positioned over the scale, while an outlined black circle with an arrow indicates change and shows the previous view.

Rationales for our views are provided on the right side. Negative Neutral Valuations Positive Technical Fundamentals [v] Θ 0 ⊕ S&P* Rationale Sector China stimulus could help more, but technicals are negative and China's growth is stalling Materials 3.2 Intriguing potential contrarian opportunit caution; favor MLPs. Energy 8.2

Global macro strategy is a hedge fund strategy that selects it holdings primarily on the macroeconomic and political views of various countries, and is subject to numerous risks such as: geopolitical, derivative, commodity, volatility, currency, and regulatory.

Long/short equity strategies are subject to normal alternative investment risks, including potentially higher fees; while there is additional management risk, as the manager is attempting to accurately anticipate the likely movement of both their long and short holdings. There is also the risk of "beta-mismatch," in which long positions could lose more than short positions during falling markets.

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EQUITY ASSET CLASSES

We expect mid-single-digit returns for the S&P 500 with elevated volatility in 2016, consistent with historical mid-to-late economic cycle performance and derived from a second half earnings rebound. As the economic expansion transitions to its latter stages, we favor the generally less volatile and higher-quality large cap stocks, although small caps have enjoyed strong technical momentum recently. We have a slight preference for growth over value but our views have become more closely aligned due to our increasingly positive views of energy and financials. We maintain our U.S. focus, but find emerging markets (EM) increasingly attractive on a valuation and technical basis.

	Sector	F	Т	v	Θ	0	Ð	Rationale
	Large Growth							We favor large caps for the mid-to-late stages of the economic cycle. We maintain a slight preference for growth over value for a slow growth environment when high growth companies may demand above-average valuation premiums. Our positive
	Large Value					•		technology view also supports our growth preference, although our positive energy bias and recently upgraded financials view suggest more balanced style views.
Style/Capitalization	Mid Growth					•		Mid caps are exhibiting strong technical momentum and valuations remain reasonable relative to large caps, but remain vulnerable to a potential
Style/Ca	Mid Value					•		market pullback.
	Small Growth	-			-•		_	Small caps are exhibiting strong technical momentum but rich valuations, the mid-to-late stages of the business cycle, and risk of an increase in stock market
	Small Value							volatility suggest caution.
	U.S. Stocks							We continue to focus equity portfolios in the U.S. while watching for opportunities overseas, particularly in EM.
Ē	Large Foreign			Macroeconomic and political risks and earnings weakness keep us cautious on international developed equities, although valuations make these markets worth				
Region	Small Foreign				•			watching and technicals are improving.
	Emerging Markets							Attractive valuations and technical momentum are a good combination. Fundamentally, the potential for more stimulus and currency and commodity stability are supportive, although China's bad debt problem is a longer-term concern.
MLPs	MLPs							Yields and valuations appear attractive. Distribution growth remains intact for many MLPs, while widespread cuts have not materialized. Declining U.S. crude oil production remains a risk.

Investing in MLPs involves additional risks as compared with the risks of investing in common stock, including risks related to cash flow, dilution, and voting rights. MLPs may trade less frequently than larger companies due to their smaller capitalizations, which may result in erratic price movement or difficulty in buying or selling. MLPs are subject to significant regulation and may be adversely affected by changes in the regulatory environment, including the risk that an MLP could lose its tax status as a partnership. Additional management fees and other expenses are associated with investing in MLP funds.

05

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EQUITY SECTORS

We maintain our slight preference for cyclical growth sectors as the economic expansion continues and economic growth potentially picks up in the U.S. and emerging markets. Technology remains a favorite sector based on favorable fundamentals, attractive valuations, and positive technicals. The latter stages of the business cycle are historically positive for healthcare, which is attractively valued partly due to the market's onerous political outlook. Our lowered consumer discretionary view reflects signs of fundamental and technical weakness. Our upgraded financials view is driven by the strong start to Q3 2016 earnings season and an improved technical picture.

	Sector	F	т	v	Θ	0	Ð	S&P*	Rationale
	Materials							2.8	Stability in China and the U.S. dollar, and gradual increase in inflation, are supportive, although China's transition to a services-led economy presents a challenge.
	Energy							7.3	We still see modest near-term upside to oil prices even near the \$50 level on expected continued progress toward balancing supply and demand; positive bias.
Cyclical	Industrials							9.7	Attractive valuations and potential upside to oil prices are positives; economic growth in the U.S. and EM is poised to improve and may help drive a pickup in capital investment.
Cycl	Consumer Discretionary						_	12.5	Downgrade driven by technical weakness, negative earnings revisions, risk of higher oil prices, and the age of the business cycle, although valuations are reasonable.
	Technology						•	21.5	Strong earnings revisions over past one and three months; potential for business spending uptick, tech's role as productivity enabler, valuations, and technicals all positive.
	Financials							13.0	Strong start to earnings season, attractive valuations, and solid loan growth offset difficult regulatory and interest rate environment; upside potential if rates keep going higher.
	Utilities				•			3.2	We prefer cyclical sectors at this stage of the cycle; rich valuations, technical weakness, and interest rate risk also suggest caution.
	Healthcare						•	14.5	Favorable demand outlook, drug development trends, solid earnings gains, and valuations are all supportive; eventual political clarity may be a catalyst.
Defensive	Consumer Staples							9.9	We still favor cyclical sectors, while valuations look rich and technicals have weakened; pullback may be required for relative performance to improve.
	Telecommunications							2.6	Technical weakness coupled with sluggish growth outlook drives caution despite rich yields and attractive valuations.
	Real Estate							3.0	Favorable jobs backdrop, rich yields, and addition as an S&P sector should help; interest rate risk seems manageable for now given the Fed's likely go-slow approach.

* S&P 500 Weight (%)

06

Investing in real estate/REITs involves special risks such as potential illiquidity and may not be suitable for all investors. There is no assurance that the investment objectives of this program will be attained.

Because of its narrow focus, specialty sector investing, such as healthcare, financials, or energy, will be subject to greater volatility than investing more broadly across many sectors and companies.

There is no guarantee that a diversified portfolio will enhance overall returns or outperform a nondiversified portfolio. Diversification does not ensure against market risk.

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FIXED INCOME

Municipal bond yields have followed Treasury yields higher in recent weeks, and valuations relative to Treasuries have also moderated. Issuance has continued to be heavy as municipalities look to take advantage of the current low rate environment ahead of election- and Fed-related uncertainty toward the end of the year, though investor demand has remained strong and helped to limit losses. Over the longer term, a favorable supply-demand balance and prospects for higher (local) taxes may provide support. Municipal bonds' credit quality remains generally good; problem issuers remain isolated and have not impacted the broader market.



Yield spread is the difference between yields on differing debt instruments, calculated by deducting the yield of one instrument from another. The higher the yield spread, the greater the difference between the yields offered by each instrument. The spread can be measured between debt instruments of differing maturities, credit ratings, and risk.

	Sector	F	Т	v	Θ	0	Ð	Rationale
Tax-Free Bonds	Munis– Short-Term							Higher relative valuations and lower yields limit appeal.
	Munis– Intermediate-Term							Yields are off recent lows, and valuations have improved relative to Treasuries. Supply may continue to be a headwind through election.
	Munis– Long-Term					•		Valuations relative to Treasuries have improved, and strong demand continues to provide support.
	Munis– High-Yield					•		Rich valuations and longer maturity may be headwinds, though additional yield is an offsetting factor.

Continued on next page.

For the purposes of this publication, intermediate-term bonds have maturities between 3 and 10 years, and short-term bonds are those with maturities of less than 3 years. All bonds are subject to market and interest rate risk if sold prior to maturity. Bond values will decline as interest rates rise and are subject to availably and change in price. High-yield/junk bonds are not investment-grade securities, involve substantial risks, and generally should be part of the diversified portfolio of sophisticated investors. Municipal interest income may be subject to the alternative minimum tax. Federally tax-free but other state and local taxes may apply.

Corporate bonds are considered higher risk than government bonds but normally offer a higher yield and are subject to market, interest rate, and credit risk, as well as additional risks based on the quality of issuer coupon rate, price, yield, maturity, and redemption features.

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07

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FIXED INCOME (CONTINUED)

For fixed income allocations, we continue to emphasize a blend of high-quality intermediate bonds coupled with a small allocation to less interest rate-sensitive sectors such as bank loans or high-yield bonds for suitable investors. High-yield spreads continued to compress last month on an increase in the price of oil and declining default expectations, but we believe the current spread at 4.9% is largely pricing in these improvements, leaving little room for error. For bank loans, we continue to believe a Fed rate hike could be enough to push London Interbank Offered Rate (Libor) above the 1% floor that many bank loans have implemented, potentially allowing investors to take advantage of floating rates in the near future. We maintain a cautious approach with credit-sensitive areas of the market, but a "coupon-clipping" environment may still aid suitable investors.



Investing in foreign and emerging markets debt securities involves special additional risks. These risks include, but are not limited to, currency risk, geopolitical and regulatory risk, and risk associated with varying settlement standards.

Mortgage-backed securities are subject to credit, default, prepayment risk that acts much like call risk when you get your principal back sooner than the stated maturity, extension risk, the opposite of prepayment risk, market and interest rate risk.

Bank loans are loans issued by below investment-grade companies for short-term funding purposes with higher yield than short-term debt and involve risk.

Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS) help eliminate inflation risk to your portfolio, as the principal is adjusted semiannually for inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI)—while providing a real rate of return guaranteed by the U.S. government. Investing in foreign and emerging markets debt securities involves special additional risks. These risks include, but are not limited to, currency risk, geopolitical, and regulatory risk, and risk associated with varying settlement standards.

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COMMODITIES & ALTERNATIVE ASSET CLASSES

Commodities, led by energy, have strengthened recently as Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) nations seem to work toward an agreement on supply cuts, which would help rebalance oil markets. Domestic energy production has stabilized somewhat as rig counts have started to rise in response to higher prices. Gold has struggled as a Fed rate hike potentially looms on the horizon. Credit-based strategies have continued to recover with higher energy prices. Managed futures strategies, which had benefited from declining interest rates earlier in the year, have struggled recently with rate increases and equity market volatility.

	Sector	F	Т	v	Θ	0	Ð	Rationale				
	Industrial Metals							Chinese demand remains soft, despite bold policy reforms and monetary stimulus efforts. Technicals have recently deteriorated.				
Commodities	Precious Metals							Rising geopolitical risk post-Brexit is supportive in the near term while the potential for a Fed rate hike poses a risk.				
Comm	Energy							An OPEC deal is now much more likely, which could rebalance markets more quickly than expected. We believe the market has responded accordingly, which may limit upside beyond the mid-50s.				
	Agricultural							Although U.S. grain harvest yields came in high, figures were lower than expected, which boosted prices. Managed money (institutional investor) positioning remains bearish.				
	Sector	E	C T	v 0	Θ	\bigcirc	Ð	Rationale				
	Long/Short Equity							We continue to be cautious on highly directional managers and favor those with lower net exposures. The value-conscious investment orientation, which many long/short managers employ, is well positioned for a potential increase in market volatility.				
Alternatives	Event Driven							Deal opportunities remain widely available, whereas the environment for distressed and special situation strategies has improved on the rally in oil prices.				
Alter	Managed Futures							Managed futures have had volatile performance, but upward-trending commodity markets may potentially provide a stronger environment for these strategies.				
	Global Macro							These strategies have disappointed recently, despite a favorable macroeconomic backdrop. We believe the opportunity set is ripe for these managers.				
LE	GEND											
CHARACTERISTICS		I	CON		DEFINITIC	ON						
Catalysts			C T		Potential for favorable macroeconomic and/or idiosyncratic market developments that may benefit the investment strategy.							
Trading Environment			TE		Market characteristics present sufficient investment opportunities for this investment style.							
Vo		v 0		The current volatility regime provides a constructive environment that an investment of this style can capitalize on.								

Alternative strategies may not be suitable for all investors and should be considered as an investment for the risk capital portion of the investor's portfolio. The strategies employed in the management of alternative investments may accelerate the velocity of potential losses.

Commodity-linked investments may be more volatile and less liquid than the underlying instruments or measures, and their value may be affected by the performance of the overall commodities baskets as well as weather, geopolitical events, and regulatory developments.



IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

All performance referenced is historical and is no guarantee of future results.

There is no assurance that the techniques and strategies discussed are suitable for all investors or will yield positive outcomes. The purchase of certain securities may be required to affect some of the strategies.

Stock and Pooled Investment Risks

Investing in stock includes numerous specific risks including: the fluctuation of dividend, loss of principal and potential illiquidity of the investment in a falling market.

Investing in foreign and emerging markets securities involves special additional risks. These risks include, but are not limited to, currency risk, geopolitical risk, and risk associated with varying accounting standards. Investing in emerging markets may accentuate these risks.

Bond and Debt Equity Risks

Government bonds and Treasury bills are guaranteed by the U.S. government as to the timely payment of principal and interest and, if held to maturity, offer a fixed rate of return and fixed principal value. However, the value of fund shares is not guaranteed and will fluctuate.

Alternative Risks

Currency risk is a form of risk that arises from the change in price of one currency against another. Whenever investors or companies have assets or business operations across national borders, they face currency risk if their positions are not hedged.

Global macro strategy is a hedge fund strategy that selects it holdings primarily on the macroeconomic and political views of various countries, and is subject to numerous risks such as: geopolitical, derivative, commodity, volatility, currency, and regulatory.

Event driven strategies, such as merger arbitrage, consist of buying shares of the target company in a proposed merger and fully or partially hedging the exposure to the acquirer by shorting the stock of the acquiring company or other means. This strategy involves significant risk as events may not occur as planned and disruptions to a planned merger may result in significant loss to a hedged position.

Managed futures strategies use systematic quantitative programs to find and invest in positive and negative trends in the futures markets for financials and commodities. Futures and forward trading is speculative, includes a high degree of risk that the anticipated market outcome may not occur, and may not be suitable for all investors.

DEFINITIONS

The simple moving average is an arithmetic moving average that is calculated by adding the closing price of the security for a number of time periods and then dividing this total by the number of time periods. Short-term averages respond quickly to changes in the price of the underlying, while long-term averages are slow to react.

The Beige Book is a commonly used name for the Federal Reserve's (Fed) report called the Summary of Commentary on Current Economic Conditions by Federal Reserve District. It is published just before the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting on interest rates and is used to inform the members on changes in the economy since the last meeting.

Technical Analysis is a methodology for evaluating securities based on statistics generated by market activity, such as past prices, volume and momentum, and is not intended to be used as the sole mechanism for trading decisions. Technical analysts do not attempt to measure a security's intrinsic value, but instead use charts and other tools to identify patterns and trends. Technical analysis carries inherent risk, chief amongst which is that past performance is not indicative of future results. Technical Analysis should be used in conjunction with Fundamental Analysis within the decision making process and shall include but not be limited to the following considerations: investment thesis, suitability, expected time horizon, and operational factors, such as trading costs are examples.

London Interbank Offered Rate (Libor): An interest rate at which banks can borrow funds, in marketable size, from other banks in the London interbank market. The Libor is fixed on a daily basis by the British Bankers' Association. The Libor is derived from a filtered average of the world's most creditworthy banks' interbank deposit rates for larger loans with maturities between overnight and one full year.

INDEX DEFINITIONS

All indexes are unmanaged and cannot be invested into directly.

The **S&P 500 Index** is a capitalization-weighted index of 500 stocks designed to measure performance of the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries.

This research material has been prepared by LPL Financial LLC.

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