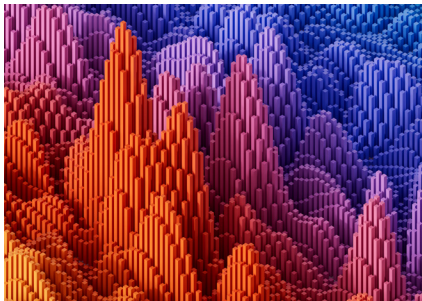


Spring 2026

## Capital Perspectives

# Investing in a Divergent Economy



**Tony Roth**  
Chief Investment Officer

**It is said that the equity market climbs a “wall of worry.” In other words, there are always a number of risks on the horizon for investors, and in fact it is usually the case that the downside risks are easier to enumerate than the upside potential. Today is no different.**

We started off the year with a number of “bricks” being added to that wall. The job market looked to be rolling over, with the three-month moving average of nonfarm payrolls turning negative at the end of 2025. Investor angst over Artificial Intelligence escalated, as the somewhat opposing ideas of overinvestment and labor market evisceration hit the tech sector hard. Private credit, with its exposure to the software industry and significant capital withdrawals, was caught up in the mix. Then the war broke out, and the S&P 500 corrected nearly 10% (based on intraday drawdown), before recovering all of its losses in just 10 trading days—one of the fastest recoveries from a 10% drawdown in history.

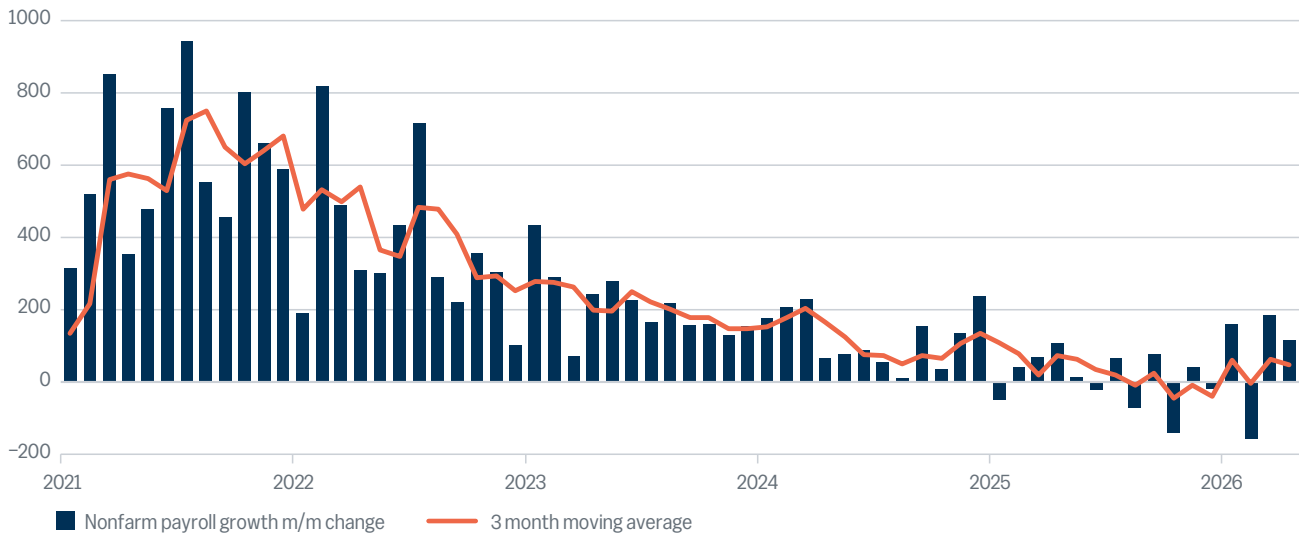
The market is now on the ascent, making new highs. Stocks may seem disconnected from reality considering, despite signs of progress between the U.S. and Iran, geopolitical risk remains at a boil. But in our view, several of the “bricks” mentioned above have crumbled (in a good way), clearing a path for the market to move higher.

We expect the equity market to end the year higher, though market momentum could moderate as we approach a mid-term election expected to usher in split fiscal control in Washington. We are also wary of the downside risks presented by war-related headlines, a slowing consumer, and relatively concentrated market gains. Nonetheless, the remarkable earnings power of corporate America, ever fed by an insatiable demand for AI, cannot be ignored. As a result, we continue to position client portfolios with a full allocation to equities, a defensive posture within fixed income, and an abiding preference for high-quality, growth-oriented companies.

Figure 1

### Job market may be improving

U.S. nonfarm payroll monthly net new jobs (thousands)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Wilmington Trust. As of March 31, 2026.

### A tale of two economies

Our assessment of the economy is that it is in solid shape but slowing. We expect GDP growth of 1.5% for 2026 and a slight increase in the unemployment rate. Headline inflation has been sticky and is at risk of increasing given the current historic oil supply disruption. However, we anticipate only modest pass-through to core inflation, particularly as an inflation-fatigued consumer is in no place to accept further price increases. Gradual disinflation will, in our view, result in three rate cuts from the Federal Reserve in the second half of 2026.

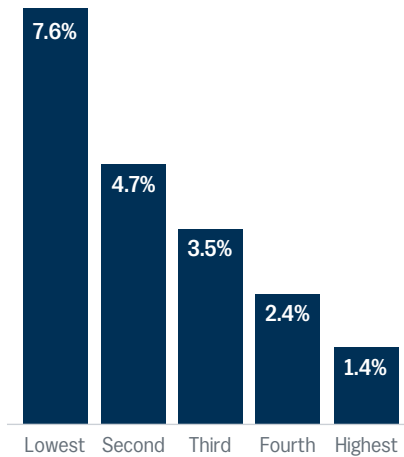
Digging a layer deeper, we often talk about “the economy” as if it were a singular phenomenon, but today we are struck by the theme of “divergence.” Whether we focus on consumer spending, the labor market, or business investment, a single narrative does not tell the whole story.

In the case of the labor market, we’re seeing nascent signs of an encouraging turnaround after flirting with job losses in 2025. The health care sector is a steadfast job engine given ongoing demographic trends and an ever-growing need for health care services. But peeling away health care and looking at the remainder of private sectors, we saw 250,000 jobs cut from May to December last year, typically a harbinger of recession. Fortunately, we are seeing signs of stabilization and potentially even re-acceleration in the labor market (Figure 1), which has been broad-based and led to a modest downgrade of our recession probability to 40%.

Figure 2

### Lower income consumer more exposed to rising oil prices

Spending on gasoline and diesel by income quintile (% of spending)



Data as of December 31, 2025.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Wilmington Trust.

Consumer spending is similarly divergent. The high-income consumer—ever driven by financial asset inflation—continues to spend on goods and services, but the low-end consumer is spending less, with a greater share of that spending on essentials, including gasoline. While we acknowledge that the high-income consumer typically punches above its weight, this “K-shaped” consumer dynamic could be further exacerbated if U.S.-Iran talks fall apart and oil prices move higher. The lowest income quintile spends over 7% of their income on gasoline, compared to less than 2% for the highest quintile (Figure 2).

And then there is the Artificial Intelligence investment supercycle, which is powering business investment and corporate earnings growth. We believe we are still in the middle innings of the AI infrastructure buildout, and demand for chips and cloud storage continues to outstrip available supply. Yet outside of AI, business investment has been very sluggish (Figure 3).

We will gladly welcome economic growth from whatever segments of the economy are able to provide it. Yet we would argue that an economy growing from a broader base is a healthier, more sustainable growth story. We believe we could see broader growth from the labor market, consumer, and capital expenditures as tariff and war uncertainty fades, and the Fed lowers interest rates in the second half of the year.

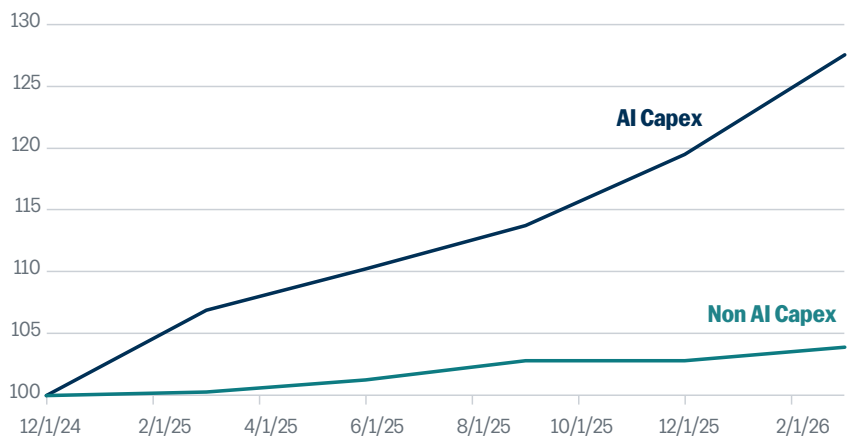
### An earnings story to write home about

And dare we coin the “Great Divergence”—the overall economy may be slowing while corporate earnings growth is accelerating at a rapid pace. At the time of writing, we are mid-way through reporting season for first quarter earnings. The S&P 500 is now projected to realize earnings growth of 27% y/y in the first quarter.<sup>1</sup> That is more than double the earnings growth expected at the close of the first quarter. This upward revision is very much out of the norm, as earnings estimates are typically revised down through the quarter.

Figure 3

### AI investment supercycle is driving the majority of capex

AI vs non-AI capex (indexed to 100 on december 31, 2024)



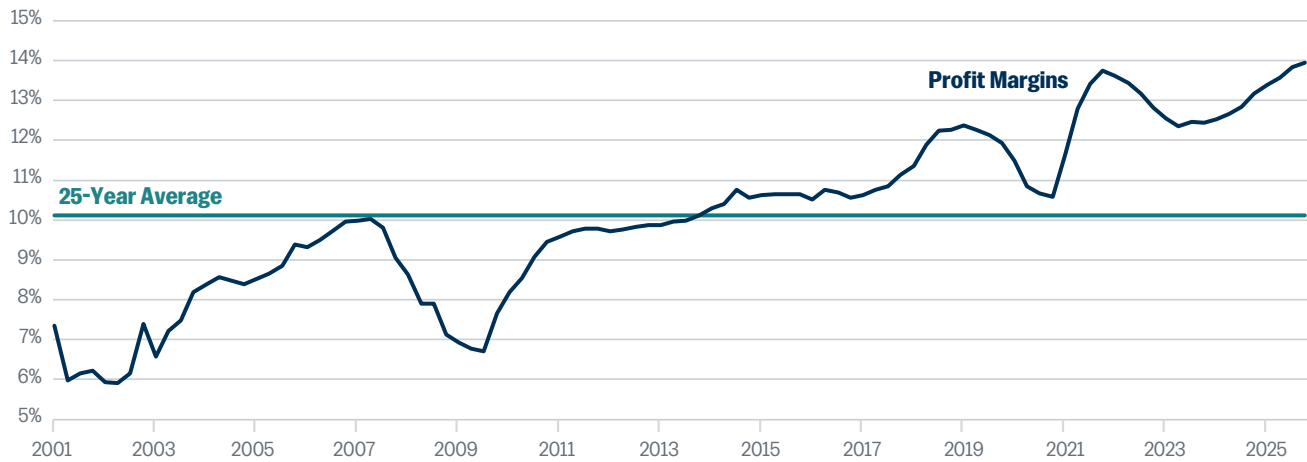
Source: Bloomberg

<sup>1</sup> Factset, as of May 1, 2026.

Figure 4

### Profit margins make new highs

S&P 500 profit margin (trailing 12 month)



Source: Bloomberg. As of March 31, 2026.

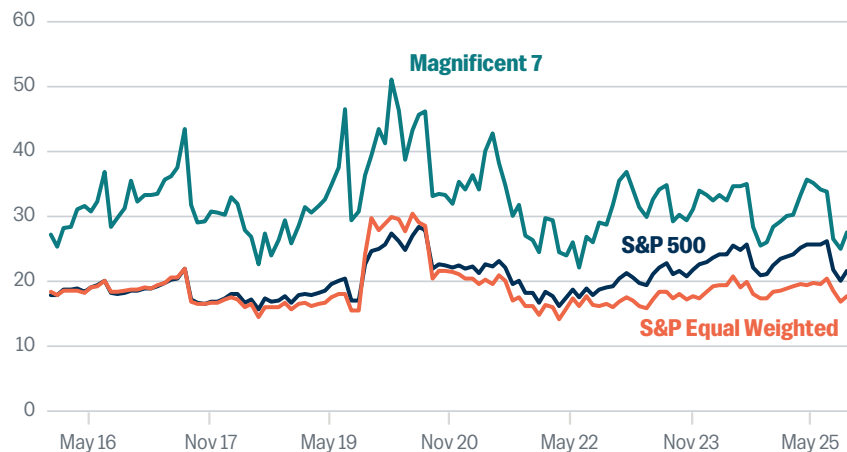
As with the economy, the earnings picture is exhibiting a divergence with exceptional earnings growth concentrated in technology, communications services, and consumer discretionary (the latter thanks mostly to Amazon). Outside of these sectors earnings growth is far lower but very respectable, with materials, financials, real estate, industrials, and utilities all projected to grow earnings at double digits. Solid top-line growth and exceptional earnings have helped profit margins for the S&P 500 climb to a new 25-year high (Figure 4).

Upward revisions to earnings have outpaced the stock market's return, leaving the 12-month-forward price-to-earnings ratio at the 67th<sup>2</sup> percentile, compared to the 99th percentile just a few months ago. The market is not cheap, but valuations appear reasonable to us (Figure 5).

Figure 5

### U.S. equity valuations decline alongside strong earnings

Forward price-to-earnings ratio



<sup>2</sup> Using a 25-year window.

Source: Bloomberg. As of April 30, 2026.



**Tony Roth**

Chief Investment Officer

## Positioning portfolios in the fog of war

Excluding the war, the overall economic and earnings stories are very constructive. We have pushed rate cuts out a bit, now expecting two 25 basis point rate cuts in the second half of the year, but not altering our expectation for the overall trajectory of Fed policy. Our Fed call is out of consensus, but if we are right, a lower fed funds rate would further ease borrowing costs for businesses and consumers. If we are wrong, we would argue that it is because job growth is coming in stronger than expected, not because inflation is running away from the Fed. This would be a positive—perhaps even “Goldilocks”—scenario for equities, as historically equities have proven a resilient hedge against moderate inflation with solid growth.

Geopolitical uncertainty remains the primary risk. Our base case is that the war is resolved—defined here only by a clear path to reopen the Strait of Hormuz—in coming weeks. However, we recognize that if the Strait stays closed for appreciably longer, lower-end consumers could capitulate to higher energy prices. The U.S. is more insulated than other parts of the world, but extending the conflict a bit longer could result in a more dramatic increase in oil prices that would, all else equal, increase recession risks.

There are other risks we are watching as well. These include the expiration of the universal 10% tariffs in July and, further down the line, the midterm elections. Businesses abhor uncertainty, and while they have done a remarkable job of adjusting to an ever-changing landscape, these catalysts could impair business hiring and investment in the second half of the year.

We find ourselves in unusual and uncertain times. Investors who choose to sit out of the market awaiting the “all clear” to add to risk will likely be waiting forever. We feel it is important to stay invested during this time, and we will continue to monitor the landscape, seeking prudent investment opportunities to help our clients achieve their goals.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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# Glossary

**30-day U.S. Treasury bill rate Bank of America Merrill Lynch U.S. 3-Month Treasury Bill Index** measures the performance of a single U.S. Treasury bill added to the index at the beginning of the month and held for a full month; the issue is replaced with a newly selected issue at each month-end and the index will often hold the Treasury bill issued at the most recent three-month auction, it is also possible for a seasoned six-month bill to be selected.

**Alpha** is the excess return of an investment, relative to the return of a benchmark index.

**Atlanta Fed GDPNow** is a nowcasting model for gross domestic product (GDP) growth that synthesizes the bridge equation approach relating GDP subcomponents to monthly source data with factor model and Bayesian vector autoregression approaches. The GDPNow model forecasts GDP growth by aggregating 13 subcomponents that make up GDP with the chain-weighting methodology used by the US Bureau of Economic Analysis.

**Basis points** refers to a common unit of measure for interest rates and other percentages in finance. One basis point is equal to 1/100th of 1%, or 0.01%, or 0.0001, and is used to denote the percentage change in a financial instrument.

**Beta** is a measure of how an individual asset moves when the overall stock market increases or decreases. Thus, beta is a useful measure of the contribution of an individual asset to the risk of the market portfolio when it is added in small quantity.

**Bloomberg Agriculture Subindex Total Return (BCOMAGTR)**, formerly known as Dow Jones-UBS Agriculture Subindex Total Return (DJUBAGTR), is a commodity group subindex of the Bloomberg CTR composed of futures contracts on coffee, corn, cotton, soybeans, soybean oil, soybean meal, sugar and wheat and reflects the return on fully collateralized futures positions and is quoted in USD.

**Bloomberg Commodity Index** is composed of futures contracts and reflects the returns on a fully collateralized investment in the BCOM; it combines the returns of the BCOM with the returns on cash collateral invested in 13 week (3 Month) U.S. Treasury Bills.

**Bloomberg Commodity Total Return index (BCOMTR)** is composed of futures contracts and reflects the returns on a fully collateralized investment in the BCOM and combines the returns of BCOM with the returns on cash collateral invested in 13 week (3 Month) U.S. Treasury Bills.

**Bloomberg Dollar Spot Index** tracks the performance of a basket of 10 leading global currencies versus the U.S. Dollar. It has a dynamically updated composition and represents a diverse set of currencies that are important from trade and liquidity perspectives.

**Bloomberg Energy Subindex Total Return (BCOMENTR)**, formerly known as Dow Jones-UBS Energy Subindex Total Return (DJUBENTR), is a commodity group subindex of the Bloomberg CTR composed of futures contracts on crude oil, heating oil, unleaded gasoline and natural gas and reflects the return on fully collateralized futures positions and is quoted in USD.

**Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index** measures the performance of global investment-grade fixed-rate debt markets, including the U.S., Pan-European, Asian-Pacific, Global Treasury, Eurodollar, Euro-Yen, Canadian, and investment-Grade 144A index-eligible securities.

**Bloomberg Industrial Metals Subindex Total Return Index (BCOMTNT)**, formerly known as Dow Jones-UBS Industrial Metals Subindex Total Return (DJUBINTR), is a commodity group subindex of the Bloomberg CTR composed of longer-dated futures contracts on aluminum, copper, nickel and zinc and reflects the return on fully collateralized futures positions and is quoted in USD.

**Bloomberg Municipal Bond Index** covers the four main sectors of the USD-denominated long-term tax-exempt bond market: state, and local, general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, insured bonds, and pre-refunded bonds.

**Bloomberg Precious Metals Subindex Total Return (BCOMPRTR)**, formerly known as Dow Jones-UBS Precious Metals Subindex Total Return (DJUBPRTR), is a commodity group subindex of the Bloomberg CTR composed of futures contracts on gold and silver. It reflects the return on fully collateralized futures positions and is quoted in USD.

**Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Index** measures the performance of the entire U.S. market of taxable, fixed-rate, investment-grade bonds. Each issue in the index has at least one year left until maturity and an outstanding par value of at least \$250 million.

**Bloomberg US Credit Index** measures the investment grade, US dollar-denominated, fixed-rate, taxable corporate and government related bond markets. It is composed of the US Corporate Index and a non-corporate component that includes foreign agencies, sovereigns, supranationals and local authorities.

**Bloomberg U.S. High Yield Corporate Index**, formerly Lehman Brothers U.S. High Yield Corporate Index, measures the performance of taxable, fixed-rate bonds issued by industrial, utility, and financial companies and rated below investment grade. Each issue in the index has at least one year left until maturity and an outstanding par value of at least \$150 million.

**Bloomberg U.S. Mortgage Backed Securities Index** measures the performance of investment grade fixed-rate mortgage-backed pass-through securities of GNMA, FNMA, and FHLMC.

**Bloomberg US Treasury US TIPS TR USD index** measures the performance of rules-based, market value-weighted inflation-protected securities issued by the U.S. Treasury. It is a subset of the Bloomberg US Treasury Inflation-Linked Bond Index (Series-L), which measures the performance of the US Treasury Inflation Protected Securities (TIPS) market. Federal Reserve holdings of US TIPS are not index eligible and are excluded from the face amount outstanding of each bond in the index.

**Call risk:** Call risk is the possibility that an issuer may redeem a fixed income security before maturity (a call) at a price below its current market price. An increase in the likelihood of a call may reduce the security's price.

**Cambridge Global Private Equity Index** is a horizon calculation based on data compiled from 2,354 private equity funds, including fully liquidated partnerships, formed between 1986 and 2019. All returns are net of fees, expenses, and carried interest.

## Glossary Continued

**Consumer price index** measures the price of consumer goods and how they're trending and is a tool for measuring how the economy as a whole is faring when it comes to inflation or deflation.

**Coupon, coupon rate, or coupon payment** is the annual interest rate paid on a bond, expressed as a percentage of the face value and paid from issue date until maturity.

**Credit risk:** Fixed income securities carry the risk of default, which means that the security issuer fails to pay interest or principal when due. Many fixed income securities receive credit ratings from services such as Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investor Services, Inc. These services assign ratings to securities by assessing the likelihood of issuer default. Lower credit ratings correspond to higher credit risk.

**Dow Jones Global ex. US Select RESI Index** tracks the performance of equity real estate investment trusts (REITs) and real estate operating companies (REOCs) traded globally, excluding the U.S.

**Drawdown** is a peak-trough decline during a specific period for an investment, trading account, or fund and is usually quoted as the percentage between the peak and the subsequent trough.

**Drift** occurs when an asset or investment diverges significantly from its objective or investment style, such as market capitalization. It can result naturally from capital appreciation in one asset relative to others in a portfolio, a change in a fund's management, or a manager who begins to diverge from the portfolio's mandate. It can be corrected by rebalancing the fund to optimal weights.

**Duration risk** is the risk associated with the sensitivity of a bond's price to a one percent change in interest rates. The higher a bond's duration, the greater its sensitivity to interest rates changes.

**Equity risk premium** is the extra return that's available to equity investors above the return they could get by investing in a riskless investment like T-Bills or T-Bonds or cash.

**ESG** is a strategy that integrates environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors into the investment process may avoid or sell investments that do not meet criteria set forth by the investment manager. Such investments may perform better than investments selected utilizing ESG factors.

**Event-driven hedge fund strategies** attempt to take advantage of temporary stock mispricing before or after a corporate event takes place. An event-driven strategy exploits the tendency of a company's stock price to suffer during a period of change.

**Federal funds rate** is the interest rate at which depository institutions lend reserve balances to other depository institutions overnight on an uncollateralized basis.

**Global intangible low-taxed income (GILTI)** is a category of income that is earned abroad by U.S.-controlled foreign corporations (CFCs) and is subject to special treatment under the U.S. tax code.

**Gold** can be significantly affected by international monetary and political developments as well as supply and demand for gold and operational costs associated with mining.

**Headline inflation** is a measure of the total inflation within an economy, including commodities such as food and energy prices, which tend to be much more volatile and prone to inflationary spikes.

**HFR® (HedgeFundResearch) Indices** are the established global leader in the indexation, analysis and research of the hedge fund industry. They are broadly constructed indices designed to capture the breadth of hedge fund performance trends across all strategies and regions.

**HFRX Absolute Return Index and the HFRX Global Hedge Fund Index** represent the overall composition of the hedge fund universe and comprise all eligible hedge fund strategies and selects constituents that characteristically exhibit lower volatilities and lower correlations to standard directional benchmarks of equity market and hedge fund industry performance.

**HFRX Global Hedge Fund Index** is designed to be representative of the overall composition of the hedge fund universe and are asset weighted based on the distribution of assets in the hedge fund industry.

**Inflation-linked bonds** are a specific type of index-linked securities that are tied to the costs of consumer goods as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or another index. Their values increase during inflationary periods, which reduces the risk of uncertainty.

**Interest rate risk:** Prices of fixed income securities rise and fall in response to changes in the interest rate paid by similar securities. Generally, when interest rates rise, prices of fixed income securities fall. However, market factors, such as the demand for particular fixed income securities, may cause the price of certain fixed income securities to fall while the price of other securities rise or remain unchanged. Interest rate changes have a greater effect on the price of fixed income securities with longer durations. Duration measures the price sensitivity of a fixed income security to changes in interest rates.

**ISM manufacturing index**, also known as the purchasing managers' index (PMI), is a monthly indicator of U.S. economic activity based on a survey of purchasing managers at more than 300 manufacturing firms and is considered to be a key indicator of the state of the U.S. economy.

**ISM Non-Manufacturing Index** is an economic index based on surveys of more than 400 non-manufacturing (or services) firms' purchasing and supply executives and is part of the ISM Report On Business—Manufacturing (PMI) and Services (PMI).

**ISM Services Prices Paid Index** is a diffusion index calculated by adding the percent of responses indicating they paid more for inputs plus one-half of those responding who paid the same; resulting in a single number that is seasonally adjusted.

**LIBOR** is the average interbank interest rate at which a selection of banks on the London money market are prepared to lend to one another.

**Long, or a long position**, describes an investor's expectation of a holding's future value. A position that the investor expects will rise in value and plans to hold for a long period of time is often described as "held long." It is the opposite of short, or a short position.

**M2 money supply** is a measure of the money supply that includes cash, checking deposits, and other types of deposits that are readily convertible to cash such as CDs.

**Macro hedge fund strategies** generally focus on financial instruments that are broad in scope and move based on systemic or market risk (not security specific). In general, portfolio managers who trade within the context of macro strategies focus on currency strategies, interest rates strategies, and stock index strategies.

# Glossary Continued

**The Magnificent Seven** refers to the companies commonly recognized for their market dominance, their technological impact, and their changes to consumer behavior and economic trends: Alphabet (Google), Amazon, Apple, Meta (formerly Facebook), Microsoft, NVIDIA, and Tesla.

**MSCI AC Asia ex Japan Index** captures large- and mid-cap representation across two of three developed markets countries (excluding Japan) and nine emerging markets countries in Asia. The index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

**MSCI All Country World Index (ACWI)** is a stock index designed to track broad global equity-market performance. Maintained by Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI), the index comprises the stocks of about 3,000 companies from 23 developed countries and 26 emerging markets.

**MSCI China Index** captures large- and mid-cap representation across China A shares, H shares, B shares, Red chips, P chips and foreign listings (e.g. ADRs). The index covers about 85% of this China equity universe. Currently, the index includes large-cap A and mid-cap A shares represented at 20% of their free float adjusted market capitalization.

**MSCI EAFE Growth Index** captures large- and mid-cap securities exhibiting overall growth style characteristics across developed markets countries around the world, excluding the U.S. and Canada.

**MSCI EAFE Index** is an equity index which captures large and mid-cap representation across 21 Developed Markets countries around the world, excluding the U.S. and Canada. With 902 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

**MSCI EAFE® (net) Index** measures the performance of approximately 20 developed equity markets, excluding those of the United States and Canada; total returns of the index are net of the maximum tax withholding rates that apply in many countries to dividends paid to non-resident investors.

**MSCI Emerging Markets (net) Index** captures large- and mid-cap representation across 27 emerging markets countries. With 1,407 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

**MSCI EAFE Value Index** captures large- and mid-cap securities exhibiting overall value style characteristics across developed markets countries around the world, excluding the U.S. and Canada.

**MSCI Emerging Markets Index** captures large- and mid-cap representation across 26 emerging markets countries. The index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

**MSCI Europe Index** captures large- and mid-cap representation across 15 developed markets (DM) countries in Europe. The index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization across the European DM equity universe.

**MSCI Japan Index** is designed to measure the performance of the large- and mid-cap segments of the Japanese market. The index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in Japan.

**MSCI United Kingdom Index** is designed to measure the performance of the large- and mid-cap segments of the UK market. The index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in the UK.

**Personal consumption expenditures** is the primary measure of consumer spending on goods and services in the U.S. economy and is the primary engine that drives future economic growth.

**Price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio** measures a company's current share price relative to its earnings per share (EPS).

**Producer Price Index (PPI)** is a family of indexes measuring the average change in selling prices received by domestic producers of goods and services.

**Real estate investment trusts, or REITs,** are companies that own, operate, or finance income-generating real estate. Similar to mutual funds, REITs pool the capital of numerous investors, allowing them to earn dividends from real estate investments without having to buy, manage, or finance properties themselves.

## Relative value hedge fund strategies

cover a variety of low-volatility trading strategies with the consistent theme of attempting to reduce market risk, i.e., the manager seeks to generate a profit regardless of which direction the markets are moving. All relative value strategies minimize market risk by taking offsetting long and short positions in related stocks, bonds, and other types of securities.

**Reverse optimization** uses risk estimates and optimal portfolio weights (asset allocations) to derive the forward-looking returns that generate the highest expected risk-adjusted return for the portfolio; in contrast, traditional optimization uses risk estimates and forward-looking return assumptions to derive the portfolio weights (asset allocations) that generate the highest expected risk-adjusted return for the portfolio. Reverse optimization can be used to test or validate market outcomes in addition to (not as a replacement for) other methods of analysis.

**Risk assets** refers to assets that are not risk-free, such as currencies, equities, and other financial instruments. Treasuries are not included.

**Russell 1000® Index** measures the performance of the 1,000 largest companies in the Russell 3000 Index, representing approximately 92% of the total market capitalization of the Russell 3000 Index.

**Russell 1000 Growth** is a market capitalization-weighted index that measures the performance of the large-cap growth segment of U.S. equity securities; it includes the Russell 1000 index companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values.

**Russell 1000 Value** is a market capitalization-weighted index that measures the performance of the large-cap value segment of U.S. equity securities; it includes the Russell 1000 index companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower expected growth values.

**Russell 2000® Index** measures the performance of the 2,000 smallest companies in the Russell 3000 Index, which represents approximately 8% of the total market capitalization of the Russell 3000 Index.

## Glossary Continued

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**S&P 493** is a term that was coined to reference the index S&P 500 excluding the “Magnificent Seven” (M7) of Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, Meta (formerly Facebook) Platforms, Microsoft, Nvidia, and Tesla.

**S&P 500 index** measures the stock performance of 500 large companies listed on stock exchanges in the U.S. and is one of the most commonly followed equity indices.

**S&P Developed Property Index** defines and measures the investable universe of publicly traded property companies domiciled in developed markets. The companies in the index are engaged in real estate related activities, such as property ownership, management, development, rental and investment.

**S&P Listed Private Equity Index** comprises the leading listed private equity companies that meet specific size, liquidity, exposure, and activity requirements. The index is designed to provide tradable exposure to the leading publicly-listed companies that are active in the private equity space.

**S&P Municipal Bond Index** is a broad, market value-weighted index that seeks to measure the performance of the U.S. municipal bond market.

**S&P US REIT Index** measures the investable U.S. real estate investment trust market and maintains a constituency that reflects the market’s overall composition.

**Short-duration Treasury securities** are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government. They typically mature in one year or less.

**Short, or short position**, refers to a trading technique in which an investor sells a security with plans to buy it later; it is used when an investor expects the price of a security to fall in the short term.

**Stagflation** is persistent high inflation combined with high unemployment and stagnant demand in a country’s economy.

**Tail risk** is the probability that the asset performs far below or far above its average past performance. Investors are most concerned with “left” tail risk, or the likelihood that observations fall three standard deviations below the average expected return.

**Taxable equivalent yield (TEY)** = the pretax yield that must be received on a taxable security to provide the holder the same after-tax yield as that earned on a tax-exempt security. The TEY = muni yield/1- highest tax rate.

**Value sectors or stocks**, generally refer to those trading at levels perceived to be below their fundamentals.

**Yield curve** plots yields (interest rates) of bonds having equal credit quality but differing maturity dates. The slope of the yield curve gives an idea of future interest rate changes and economic activity.

**Yield to maturity** is the estimated total return on a bond if the bond is held until it matures.

**Yield to worst** measures the lowest possible yield that can be received on a bond with an early retirement provision and must always be less than yield to maturity because it represents a return for a shortened investment period.