T. Rowe Price®
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Global Asset Allocation Viewpoints and Investment Environment

MARCH 2019

1 Portfolio Positioning

As of 28 February 2019

Going to Growth as Growth Slows

- We further **reduced our exposure to developed market value stocks outside the U.S.** in favor of growth as value-oriented sectors within those regions may be challenged by moderating growth.
- We continued to **add back to high yield bonds** as they can offer attractive carry and potentially reduced downside relative to stocks.
- We continued to **pare floating rate loans** as short-term rates in the U.S. may have limited upside with the Fed on hold.

2 Market Themes

As of 28 February 2019

Bonds vs. Stocks: Who's got it right?

The bond market reflects a downbeat outlook with a flat Treasury curve and yields remaining well off their November highs, reflecting persistent uncertainty, weakening economic data, and that we are late in a protracted cycle. However, despite declining earnings expectations for this year, the MSCI All Country World Index is up almost 11% since the start of the year, led by cyclical stocks. Equity investors seem enamored with a more dovish Fed and progress toward a trade deal between the U.S. and China. Clearly, stock and bond markets are signaling a very different story, but which one of them will ultimately be right?

U.S. (Earnings) Recession?

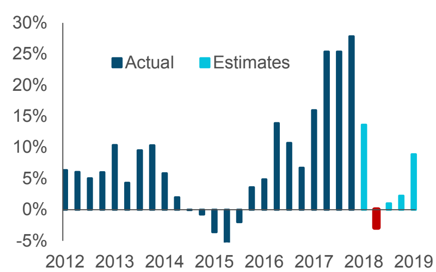
While the probability of a near-term U.S. recession remains low and fears of a policy mistake have subsided in light of the more dovish tone from the Fed, the earnings growth outlook remains in question. After growing more than 20% in 2018, boosted by strong topline growth and tax reform, analysts have been revising 2019 earnings growth estimates downward. Current expectations are for an outright decline in the first quarter and low single-digit growth for the following two quarters. Historically, earnings estimates trend lower as the quarter approaches, but this year's revisions have been unusually sharp. With 2018 tailwinds fading, it's challenging to identify a catalyst in the current environment for a reacceleration of earnings.

ECB: No Dry Powder

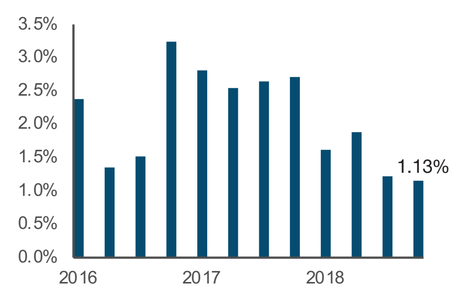
It's been a tough few months for the eurozone economy with growth at a four-year low and the ECB conceding that risks to growth have "moved to the downside." Economic data continue to disappoint as exporters have come under pressure from the slowdown in Chinese growth. Not only is growth weakening, but inflation remains subdued, leaving little room for the ECB to normalize the current ultra-loose monetary policy. With growth slowing and threats of U.S. tariffs on autos looming, there have been talks of a new round of stimulus to boost liquidity. Policymakers have very few tools remaining should the region's economy come under further pressure, and Mario Draghi may end his term without ever raising rates.

10 Year U.S. Treasury Yield vs. MSCI AC World
Quarter-Over-Quarter, Annualized
One Year Ended 28 February 2019

S&P 500 Quarterly Earnings
Year-Over-Year Growth
1 January 2012 to 28 February 2019



European Union GDP Growth
Quarter-Over-Quarter, Annualized
1 January 2016 to 31 December 2018



Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.
Sources: MSCI, FactSet, Haver Analytics/EuroStat.
Please see the Additional Disclosures on final page for information about this MSCI information.

3 Regional Backdrop

As of 28 February 2019

	Positives	Negatives
United States	▪ More dovish Fed, stable inflation ▪ Healthy consumer spending, improving wages ▪ Positive tone on trade ▪ Greater share of secularly advantaged companies than rest of world	▪ Moderating economic growth with fading fiscal stimulus ▪ Late-cycle concerns: tight labor market, rising wages, and elevated margins ▪ Political uncertainty and trade tensions ▪ Deteriorating near-term earnings expectations
Europe	▪ Highly accommodative monetary policy ▪ Indirect beneficiary of China stimulus ▪ Political headwinds in Italy and France have eased	▪ Eurozone economy struggling, with limited scope for ECB to respond ▪ Export weakness, vulnerable to trade and China growth ▪ Political unity remains a concern with Brexit looming ▪ Banking sector remains challenged
Developed Asia/Pacific	▪ BOJ committed to aggressive policy, RBA on hold in face of rising inflation ▪ China stimulus could support regional trade ▪ Broadly attractive valuations, particularly in Japan ▪ Improving corporate governance trends in Japan	▪ Highly exposed to slowing global economic growth and trade tensions ▪ Japanese economic and earnings growth have been weaker than hoped ▪ Stronger yen on risk aversion could weigh on exports ▪ Australia facing slowing economy with weakness in housing
Emerging Markets	▪ Muted inflation, dovish Fed give central banks flexibility to ease ▪ China stimulating in face of slowdown and trade ▪ Idiosyncratic risks have faded (e.g., Brazil, Turkey) ▪ With growth in tech sector, less tied to commodity cycle	▪ China growth trajectory remains a headwind ▪ China stimulus more measured and domestically focused ▪ Highly linked to global trade ▪ Currencies face renewed pressure ▪ Near-term earnings expectations deteriorating

4 Asset Allocation Committee Positioning

As of 28 February 2019

▼ or ▲ Month-Over-Month Change

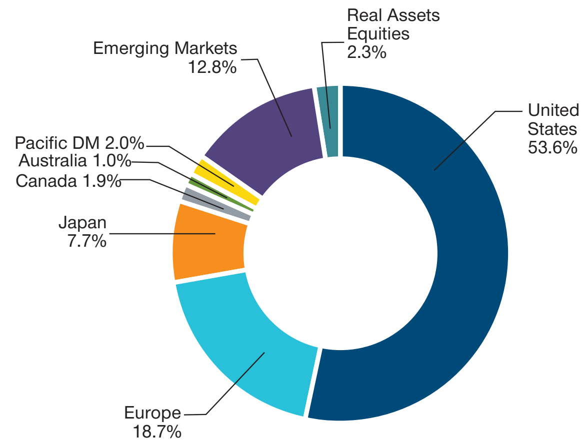
		Change	Underweight	Underweight	Neutral	Overweight	Overweight	**These views are informed by a subjective assessment of the relative attractiveness of asset classes and subclasses over a 6- to 18-month horizon.**
ASSET CLASS	Equities	▼		■				Fundamentals and valuations are reasonable, but cycle is aging, earnings expectations are falling, and trade remains a risk
	Bonds	▲				■		Yields range-bound with modest inflation and Fed on hold. Credit fundamentals broadly supportive amid elevated leverage and moderating earnings
	Cash				■			U.S. yields most attractive among developed markets but may have peaked with Fed on hold
EQUITIES	*Regions*							
	U.S.	▲		■				Earnings growth moderating with valuations fair. U.S. market less vulnerable to slowing global growth
	Global Ex-U.S.	▼				■		Valuations attractive relative to history amid concerns over slowing global growth and trade
	Europe	▼			■			Growth outlook weakening amid concerns over exports, banking system, and elevated political risks
	Japan				■			Trends in corporate governance and monetary policy supportive. Export dependency and stronger yen potential headwinds
	Emerging Markets					■		Sentiment improving on more dovish Fed, softer U.S. dollar expectations, China stimulus measures, and easing trade tensions
	Style							
	U.S. Growth					■		Secular growth companies offer more durable growth in lower-growth environment, but valuations remain above historical averages
	U.S. Value			■				Cheap valuations but lack catalyst with moderating economic growth and flat yield curve
	Global Ex-U.S. Growth	▲				■		Quality growth bias, less exposed to global growth slowdown. Valuations have moderated and are in line with history
	Global Ex-U.S. Value	▼		■				Cyclical orientation and financials exposure challenged by persistently low-rate environment and fading growth outlook
	Capitalization							
	U.S. Large-Cap			■				Softening earnings environment and global trade linkage are risks with valuations trending above historical averages
	U.S. Small-Cap					■		Valuations modestly attractive, less exposed to trade and global growth concerns. High leverage and wage pressure are risks
	Global Ex-U.S. Large-Cap					■		Reliant on strength of global trade. Upside dependent on impact of China stimulus
	Global Ex-U.S. Small-Cap			■				Susceptible to domestic growth trends. Political uncertainty weighing on corporate and consumer confidence in key markets
	Inflation-Sensitive							
	Real Assets Equities		■					Declining global growth outlook could weigh on commodities. U.S. REITs supported by healthy fundamentals and stable rates outlook
BONDS	U.S. Investment Grade	▼				■		Yields remain low with limited concerns from growth and inflation upside. IG corporate spreads wider yet still tight relative to history
	Developed Ex-U.S. IG (Hedged)			■				Large short-rate differential between U.S. and other developed markets has made hedged USD yields more attractive, but durations remain extended
	Inflation-Linked					■		Inflation expectations remain low on slower growth and lower energy prices, making valuation more compelling but lacking catalysts
	Global High Yield	▲		■				Yield carry attractive with near-term default expectations low but late stage of credit cycle a risk
	Floating Rate Loans	▼			■			Rate reset feature less attractive with Fed on hold. Loan terms have weakened and liquidity a risk
	EM Dollar Sovereigns				■			Yields are attractive relative to fundamentals supported by slower Fed path and fading country-specific risks
	EM Local Currency					■		Despite healthy rebound, EM currencies valuation remains attractive in select areas

5 Portfolio Implementation

As of 28 February 2019

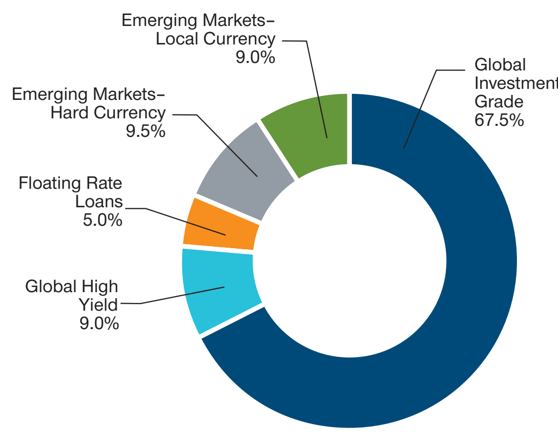
Equity	Neutral Weight	Tactical Weight	Relative Weight
United States	52.0%	53.6%	+1.6%
Europe	18.1	18.7	+0.7
Japan	7.4	7.7	+0.3
Canada	2.9	1.9	-1.0
Australia	2.1	1.0	-1.0
Pacific – Developed Markets	1.6	2.0	+0.3
Emerging Markets	10.9	12.8	+1.9
Real Assets Equities	5.0	2.3	-2.8
Total Equity:	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	

Tactical Allocation Weights



Fixed Income	Neutral Weight	Tactical Weight	Relative Weight
Global Investment Grade (Hedged)	70.0%	67.5%	-2.5%
Global High Yield	10.0	9.0	-1.0
Floating Rate Loans	5.0	5.0	+0.0
Emerging Markets – Hard Currency	9.0	9.5	+0.5
Emerging Markets – Local Currency	6.0	9.0	+3.0
Total Fixed Income:	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	

Tactical Allocation Weights



Source: T. Rowe Price.

Neutral equity portfolio weights broadly representative of MSCI All Country World Index regional weights; includes allocation to real assets equities. Core global fixed Income allocation broadly representative of Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Index regional weights.

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