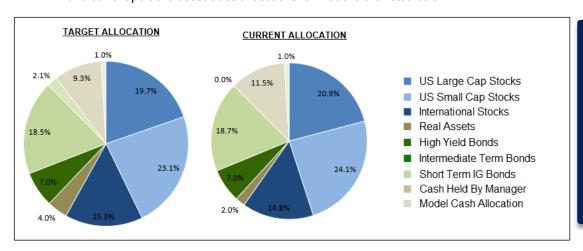


\*General overall portfolio comments refer to the Moderate Growth allocations used in both the Pooled Fund Program and the Unified Managed Account Program. These general comments will be referred to as "Moderate Growth" throughout. Specific references to performance, current allocation, or comparison to indexes are derived from the CWA Model 5 Portfolio in the Pooled Fund Program; these specific comments will be referred to as "Model 5" throughout.

## **PORTFOLIO ANALYSIS**

**Overall Goal.** We construct portfolios to generate a return that <u>maximizes the probability that an investor will meet their retirement goals, as opposed to maximizing their asset base (which interjects significant risk). We believe that a value bias, international exposure and general diversification provide the best avenue to meet this objective. Our portfolios have lower volatility<sup>†</sup>, but can go through periods where they do not keep pace with the U.S. equity markets (the most common benchmark) because of our focus on value, fixed income and international stocks.</u>

The **Moderate Growth Portfolio** is intended to provide a balanced allocation, with a slight overweight to equities over fixed income. The goal is to provide a balance of growth and income with lower volatility than an all-equity portfolio. Our target and current portfolio asset class allocations for Model 5 are listed below.



## **ACTUAL VS. TARGET**

**Underweight** Equities

Equal Weight International Exposure

Equal Weight Intermediate and Long-Term Fixed Income

**High Cash Position** 

## LARGEST EQUITY AND FIXED INCOME POSITIONS

In normal market environments, Moderate Growth has a target allocation of 60% stocks & 40% bonds, with approximately 20% of the portfolio in international equities and fixed income. So, the portfolio is a global one – with a U.S. tilt. By design, the holdings are broadly diversified by location/country, by company size, by credit quality/yield and by maturity/duration. The investment managers have a degree of flexibility which allows them to respond to different market environments, and our equity managers are currently holding a large amount of cash (given current valuations).

† as of 05/31/2019, the 10-year volatility (standard deviation) of Model 5 is 6.9 %, versus 12.6% for the S&P 500 Index.



## **PERFORMANCE**

The Moderate Growth portfolios in the Pooled Fund Program and the Unified Managed Account Program have slightly different investments, costs and thus returns. Accordingly, we direct you to your account statement for your individual performance.

In May, Model 5 (net of fees and expenses) underperformed compared to the Global 60/40 Index, underperformed compared to the S&P Moderate Growth Index, and underperformed compared to the U.S. 60/40 Index which posted the following returns:

PERFORMANCE	MAY	COMMENTS
Global 60/40 Benchmark Index <sup>(2)</sup>	-2.97%	I care carrounding the origining trace war with orinia and the potenti
US 60/40 Benchmark Index <sup>(3)</sup>	-3.09% Volatility picked up late in the month as well. Bond yields ralli	risks of a recession weighed on equity markets globally during the month.  Volatility picked up late in the month as well. Bond yields rallied as the Fed continues to voice its willingness to keep policy accommodative and
S&P Moderate Growth Index <sup>(4)</sup>	-2.31%	to even potentially ease in the coming months.

- (1) "Market Perform" means within a range of +10 bps to -10 bps of the applicable index for the month (or +/- 8 bps per month for YTD performance); "Outperform" means more than +10 bps for the month (or more than +8 bps per month for YTD performance); "Underperform" means more than -10 bps for the month (or more than -8 bps per month for YTD performance). Please note performance comparison comments are based upon Model 5 Pooled Fund Program data. There are inherent limitations in the use of model performance please read the Model Disclosure found on page 6. Investors should consult their individual custodial statement for actual performance of individual portfolios. Actual performance comparisons may differ from model comparisons.
- (2) Global 60/40 Benchmark is 60% MSCI ACWI Index & 40% Barclays Global Aggregate Bond Index.
- (3) US 60/40 Benchmark is 60% S&P 500 Index & 40% Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index.
- (4) S&P Moderate Growth Index is 50% S&P Target Risk Moderate Index & 50% S&P Target Risk Growth Index.

## **MARKET PERFORMANCE**

# **Equities**

PERFORMANCE	MAY	MULTIPLE	COMMENTS
U.S. Equities <sup>(5)</sup>	-6.47%	19.1X	The broader market underperformed large cap indices and small caps were down just shy of -8% for the month.
International Developed <sup>(6)</sup>	-4.68%	15.3X	International developed markets fared a bit better than domestic markets during the month.
Emerging Markets <sup>(7)</sup>	-7.23%	13.1X	Emerging market equities sold off more than domestic large cap indices as a continued trade war with China could have ripple effects for emerging market economies.

- 5) U.S. Equities are represented by the Russell 3000 Index.
- (6) International Developed is the MSCI EAFE Index.
- (7) Emerging Markets is the MSCI EM Index.



# **Fixed Income**

PERFORMANCE	MAY	SPREAD OVER UST 10 YEAR	COMMENTS
U.S. Treasuries (Medium Duration) <sup>(8)</sup>	2.99%	-	10-Year yields fell during the month.
U.S. Treasuries (Longer Duration) <sup>(9)</sup>	6.70%	0.45%	Long yields fell markedly during the month as risk aversion returned to the equity markets and the Fed hinted at the potential for policy easing in the intermediate term.
Global Fixed Income <sup>(10)</sup>	1.35%	-0.50%	International bond yields also fell during the month as global markets continue to price in easier central bank policy in the U.S.
Emerging Fixed Income <sup>(11)</sup>	0.10%	3.12%	Emerging market bonds were largely unchanged during the month as trade war fears crept into emerging markets. Spreads widened.
High Yield <sup>(12)</sup>	-1.19%	4.36%	High Yield bonds sold off and spreads widened in concert with the equity market volatility.

- (8) U.S. Treasuries (7-10 Years), represented by the Barclays U.S.T 7-10 Yr Total Return Index
- (9) U.S. Treasuries (20+ Years), represented by the Barclays U.S.T 20+ Yr Total Return Index
- (10) Barclays Global Aggregate Bond Index.
- (11) Barclays Emerging Markets EMEA Total Return
- (12) Barclays U.S. Corporate High Yield Index.

**Commodities and Real Assets**. The Model 5 portfolios do not have significant exposure to commodities, except indirectly. However, commodities and real assets (real estate) provide a good sense of global demand (in the case of industrial commodities) or fear (gold).

PERFORMANCE	MAY	TREND	COMMENTS
Energy <sup>(13)</sup>	-13.46%	DOWN	Energy experienced a massive sell off during the month. China is the largest oil importer in the world and could be the impetus for the current weakness in the oil market.
Real Estate <sup>(14)</sup>	-0.01%	-	Real Estate was once again flat during the month.
Industrial Metals <sup>(15)</sup>	-5.49%	DOWN	Metals were down during the month. China trade talks will likely continue to cause volatility in the Metals space at the minimum.
Gold <sup>(16)</sup>	1.76%	-	Gold was stronger during the month. The Fed hinting that they could potentially cut rates could be a catalyst for Gold in the near and intermediate term as the market may beginning pricing in a weaker U.S. Dollar.

- (13) S&P GSCI Energy Total Return Index.
- (14) Dow Jones U.S. Real Estate Index.
- (15) S&P GSCI Industrial Metals Total Return Index.
- (16) SPDR Gold Shares (GLD).



## **Market Comments**

We have been commenting lately, both in this letter and our weekly investment meetings, that we believe the Fed's change to dovish language in January signaled that the next move in interest rates is down. It appears that may just be the case.

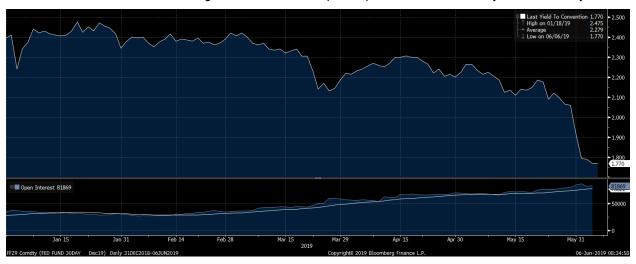
This past week, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said during a speech at a conference hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago that the Fed would "act as appropriate to sustain the expansion" amid the economic impact of escalating trade wars. He also stated that "we are closely monitoring the implications of these developments for the U.S. economic outlook."

Following that speech, on Monday James Bullard, the president of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, said that a rate cut might be "warranted soon" and that current interest rates might be "inappropriately high."

"If we get a sense that . . . growth is slower than we expect and that underlying inflation is below where we want it to be, then as chair Powell and I and others have indicated we are going to put in place appropriate policy to achieve those goals," he said in an interview with CNBC after Mr. Powell spoke. "Whether or not that means acting preemptively or when the data comes in is just going to depend on the context at the time."

Quotation source: Financial Times

In fact, the Fed Funds Futures now signal that the market expects up to 3 0.25% rate cuts by the end of the year.



Source: Bloomberg

The current state of market volatility, particularly in May, would suggest that the Fed is monitoring the markets very closely and that if volatility continues to persist it may cause them to cut rates in the near to intermediate term.

The current state of Fed policy suggests that the market cycle could be in its late stages and that an easing cycle may be forthcoming. We continue to believe this was the impetus for the strong market to begin 2019, and that market volatility will remain elevated surrounding the ongoing trade issues with China and the market beginning to digest future moves by the Central Bank.



# **Further Reading**

1) Jay Powell says Fed is ready to act if trade wars hit economy, Financial Times, June 4, 2019

This article outlines recent Fed comments and was the source of the quotations in our commentary this month.

https://www.ft.com/content/adfa1180-86d1-11e9-97ea-05ac2431f453?segmentId=645fb9d7-8d13-2a63-ff11-f5eb5a5882ed

2) Investors are counting on Jay Powell to save them, Financial Times, June 6, 2019

An opinion piece on current investor sentiment and behavior surrounding recent Fed comments and potential outcomes.

https://www.ft.com/content/0157ef7e-8834-11e9-97ea-05ac2431f453

For questions, or to request additional information, please contact your CWA Financial Planner



### **DISCLOSURES**

#### PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT AN INDICATOR OF FUTURE MARKET RETURNS.

Cain Watters is a Registered Investment Advisor. Request Form ADV Part 2A for a complete description of Cain Watters Advisors' investment advisory services. Diversification does not ensure a profit and may not protect against loss in declining markets. No inference should be drawn that managed accounts will be profitable in the future or that the Manager will be able to achieve its objectives. Investing involves risk and the possibility of loss, including a permanent loss of principal.

Asset allocation and diversification do not assure or guarantee better performance and cannot eliminate the risk of investment losses. All investments and strategies have the potential for profit or loss. Different types of investments involve higher and lower levels of risk. Historical performance returns for investment indexes and/or categories, usually do not deduct transaction and/or custodial charges or an advisory fee, which would decrease historical performance results. There are no assurances that a portfolio will match or exceed any specific benchmark.

This commentary contains the opinions of the CWA Investment Committee at the time of publication and is subject to change. Market and economic factors can change rapidly, producing materially different results. This update is intended for clients currently invested in CWA Recommended Investment Programs. This is not intended to be personalized investment advice. This does not take into account a particular investor's financial objectives or risk tolerances. Any specific mention of securities is for informational purposes only and is not intended as a recommendation or solicitation to purchase.

CWA Model 5 Moderate Growth Pooled Fund Program: The target allocation and portfolio data used throughout this presentation is for the CWA Model 5 recommended for participants in the Pooled Fund Program. This Model is the most common recommendation and is used here to illustrate the CWA methodology. Other CWA Recommended Investment Program models will vary in asset allocation and underlying manager and/or security selection. Clients should discuss these models and programs with their planner prior to selection.

\*\*The CAPE ratio is a valuation measure that uses real earnings per share (EPS) over a 10-year period to smooth out fluctuations in corporate profits that occur over different periods of a business cycle. The ratio is generally applied to broad equity indices to assess whether the market is undervalued or overvalued. While the CAPE ratio is a popular and widely-followed measure, several leading industry practitioners have called into question its utility as a predictor of future stock market returns. The CAPE ratio, an acronym for Cyclically Adjusted P/E (i.e. Price-Earnings) ratio, was popularized by Yale University professor Robert Shiller. It is also known as the Shiller P/E ratio.

+Statements relating to Value outperforming Growth are based upon the data of the Fama-French 3-Factor Model. A pioneering study by renowned academics, Eugene Fama and Ken French, suggesting that three risk factors: market (beta), size (market capitalization) and price (book/market value) dimensions explain 96% of historical equity performance.

Model Performance Disclosure: Model performance is NOT an indicator of future or actual results. Performance does not represent the returns that any individual investor actually received. Cain Watters Investors may incur a loss. Cain Watters Models contain allocations to several different common pooled trust funds. Each individual pooled trust fund has a defined investment strategy; usually designed around a specific asset class. Investment managers and their respective strategies are chosen to meet each of the pooled funds' objectives. Investors in the models pay a monthly asset based trust fee, based on their average investment balance during the month. Model performance is calculated using the reported net asset value of each individual pooled fund. Performance for the individual funds is then weighted according to the model target allocation. Model performance includes the reinvestment of dividends and interest. The annual trust fee of 0.65% is subtracted from gross returns on a pro-rated basis of 0.0541% per month; and includes trust fees and investment advisory fees. For time periods prior to July 1, 2016 an annual trust fee of 1.05% or 0.0875% per month was used. Model performance has inherent limitations in that it does not reflect the effects of significant cash flows, or take into account actual client asset allocation that may differ materially from the target allocation due to rebalancing policies and changes in market values. This model performance information is provided for illustrative purposes only. Cain Watters Model investors may experience materially different returns.

Use of Comparison Benchmark or Index: Indexes cannot be invested in directly. Index performance and statistics are provided for illustrative or comparison purposes and are chosen as commonly accepted representations of the performance of a particular segment of the market.