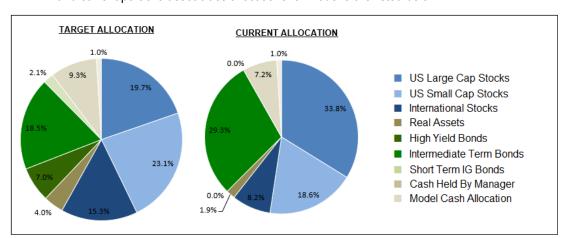


\*General overall portfolio comments refer to the Moderate Growth allocations used in both the Pooled Fund Program and the Unified Managed Account Program. These general comments will be referred to as "Moderate Growth" throughout. Specific references to performance, current allocation, or comparison 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

**Equal Weight** Equities

Under 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 11/30/2024, the 10-year volatility (standard deviation) of Model 5 is 10.3%, versus 15.6% 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 November, Model 5 (net of fees and expenses) outperformed compared to the Global 60/40 Index, outperformed compared to the U.S. 60/40 Index, and outperformed compared to the S&P Moderate Growth which posted the following returns:

PERFORMANCE	NOV	COMMENTS	
Global 60/40 Benchmark Index <sup>(2)</sup>	2.48%		
U.S. 60/40 Benchmark Index <sup>(3)</sup>	3.94%	Post-election, the markets broadened, and small and mid-caps outperformed the S&P 500. Fixed-income markets ended in the green due to spread compression despite rates moving higher.	
S&P Moderate Growth Index <sup>(4)</sup>	2.46%	to spread compression despite rates moving higher.	

- (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	NOV	MULTIPLE	COMMENTS
U.S. Equities <sup>(5)</sup>	6.65%	25.7X	Broad markets outperformed the S&P by almost a full percent during the month.
International Developed <sup>(6)</sup>	-0.55%	14.0X	International developed markets underperformed strongly during the month.
Emerging Markets <sup>(7)</sup>	-3.58%	12.7X	EM markets underperformed strongly during the month.

- (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	NOV	SPREAD OVER UST 10 YEAR	COMMENTS
U.S. Treasuries (Medium Duration) <sup>(8)</sup>	0.97%	-	
U.S. Treasuries (Longer Duration) <sup>(9)</sup>	1.87%	0.31%	Spreads compressed during the month, and while yields initially
Global Fixed Income <sup>(10)</sup>	0.34%	-0.67%	rose post-election, yields fell slightly in November. The Fed appears content to slowly walk yields down in 2025 as long as
Emerging Fixed Income <sup>(11)</sup>	0.84%	2.09%	the inflation rate remains rangebound.
High Yield <sup>(12)</sup>	1.15%	2.92%	

- (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	NOV	TREND	COMMENTS
Energy <sup>(13)</sup>	0.00%	-	Oil was flat during the month.
Real Estate <sup>(14)</sup>	4.09%	-	RE was strong as a new pro-growth administration could help with RE.
Industrial Metals(15)	-2.15%	-	Industrial metals sold off during November.
Gold <sup>(16)</sup>	-3.12%	-	Gold fell during the month due to the dollar's strength.

- (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**

For November, please see the below commentary from Guggenheim Investments

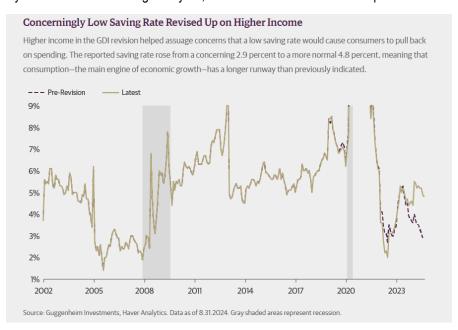
Macroeconomic Update: Recent Data Reduces (But Does Not Remove) Downside Risks Guggenheim Investments, November 19, 2024

"While recent economic data releases have bolstered the case for a soft landing of the U.S. economy, mixed readings on the labor market and elevated policy uncertainty cloud the 2025 outlook. The new administration will pursue initiatives to boost growth, but those could come at some cost. The ability to meaningfully expand the fiscal impulse seems unlikely, even with a united government.

Recent revisions to income data have been positive and eased concerns about the durability of the U.S. expansion. Higher income in the annual revision to gross domestic income (GDI) helped assuage concerns that a low saving rate would cause consumers to pull back on spending. The reported saving rate rose from a concerning 2.9 percent to a more normal 4.8 percent, meaning that consumption—the main engine of economic growth—has a longer runway than previously indicated.

Recent labor market data have also showed a gradual cooling, but more abrupt labor market weakness remains a risk to our outlook. While the strong September employment report suggested some stabilization, payroll growth in October was weighed down by the effects of hurricanes and strikes, and the unemployment rate ticked higher, again suggesting an ongoing cooling. With so much noise impacting October payrolls, it is reassuring to see alternative measures holding up, with jobless claims reversing after a hurricane-related jump and surveys suggesting slightly better hiring conditions.

The outlook for 2025 is uncertain given potential shifts in policy after the election and geopolitical risks. A continued moderation in immigration points to a slowdown in U.S. economic growth, and uncertainty about the path of trade policy could be an additional headwind. However, the potential for further tax cuts, continued appreciation in financial assets, and a potential boost to business sentiment after the election are tailwinds. Fundamentals point to a further easing in inflation, but tariffs could lead to price shifts that interrupt that trend. On balance, the Fed will likely continue to recalibrate policy toward a neutral setting next year, which we estimate at 3.25–3.5 percent."





# 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.

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model performance information is provided for illustrative purposes only. Cain Watters Model investors may experience materially different returns.

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