AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

• The VIX index, generally perceived as a barometer for volatility within equity markets, averaged a near-20 figure for the month. To put this in perspective, in the six months prior, the index crossed this threshold in just one transient instance in early May. The largest such reading in August approached 25, and materialized in just the first week of the month. This was likely precipitated by news that the US would be enforcing a 10% hike in tariffs on about $300 billion of Chinese imports. China subsequently retaliated to this by declaring that it would be increasing tariffs of their own, albeit on a lesser $75 billion of US imports. This move led to further tensions and, in turn, jitters within the equity markets.

• Amid this August market, the S&P 500, which tracks U.S. large cap companies, performed least anemically and still generated a 1.58% loss. Mid cap stocks were a notch behind and returned -2.85%, per the Russell Mid Cap index. U.S. small caps maintained their position and returned a -4.94%, as measured by the Russell 2000 index.

• International equity markets were nearly equivocally stymied by the month of August. The MSCI EAFE index, which measures the performance of large cap companies within international developed countries, produced paltry returns of -2.59%. International developed small caps, measured by the MSCI EAFE Small Cap index, did not fare much better, returning -2.47%. Emerging market equity, as measured by the MSCI EM index, was the most adversely affected of the three; it generated losses of 4.88%.

• Conversely, fixed income markets rallied during the month of August. US corporate bonds, as measured by the BBgBarc US Corp. Bond index, shifted to a torrid pace, returning 3.14%. US aggregate bonds, as measured by the BBgBarc US Agg Bond index, were again just a step behind this period, as they produced returns of 2.59%. High yield bonds, as measured by the BBgBarc US HY 2% Issuer Cap index, produced returns of -4.88%.

• Oil exhibited a significant decline in the month of August, as it fell by 5.94% to $55.10, bucking a two-month trend of price growth. Gold again rose, this time by 7.06%. The 10-year Treasury yield was crushed by the pressure of fixed income investors, and fell to 1.50%.
CATEGORIES

BBgBarc U.S. High Yield 2% Issuer Cap index: Issuer-constrained version of the flagship US High Yield index, which measures the USD-denominated, high yield, fixed-rate corporate bond market. The index follows the same rules as the uncapped version, but limits the exposure of each issuer to 2% of the total market value and redistributes any excess market value on a pro rata basis.

BBgBarc U.S. Municipal Bond Index: Covers the USD-denominated long-term tax exempt bond market. The index has four main sectors: state and local general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, insured bonds, and prerefunded bonds local general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, insured bonds, and prerefunded bonds.

BBgBarc U.S. Securitized: This index is a composite of asset-backed securities, collateralized mortgage-backed securities (ERISA-eligible) and fixed rate mortgage-backed securities.

BBgBarc U.S. Treasury: A component of the U.S. Government Index. Must be publicly issued, dollar-denominated and non-convertible, fixed rate (although it may carry a coupon that steps up or changes according to a predetermined schedule) and have a long-term maturity (greater than 5 years). Must be rated investment-grade (Ba3/BBB- or higher) by at least two of the following rating agencies: Moody’s, S&P, Fitch; regardless of call features, have at least one year to final maturity, and have an outstanding par value amount of at least $250 million.

Bloomberg Commodities Index: Provides a diversified representation of commodity markets as an asset class. The index is comprised of traded futures on physical commodities; representing 20 commodities which are weighted for economic significance and market liquidity. To promote diversification, weighting restrictions are placed on individual commodities and commodity groups.

MSCI EAFE (Europe, Australasia, Far East): A free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure developed market equity performance, excluding the United States & Canada. The EAFE consists of the country indices of 21 developed nations.

MSCI EAFE Growth: Represents approximately 50% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization of the MSCI EAFE index, and consists of those securities classified by MSCI as most representing the growth style.

MSCI EAFE Small Cap: Offer an exhaustive representation of this size segment by targeting companies that are in the Small-Cap segment of the MSCI EAFE index, and have a market capitalization of less than $1 billion.

MSCI EAFE (Europe, Australasia, Far East): A free float-adjusted index that attempts to mimic the performance of the MSCI EAFE index, and consists of those securities classified by MSCI as most representing the value style.

MSCI Emerging Markets: A free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure international equity market performance, the index consists of the following 23 emerging market country indices: Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Russia, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates.

Russell 2000: Measures the performance of the 2,000 smallest companies in the Russell 3000 Index, which represent approximately 10% of the total market capitalization of the Russell 3000 Index.

Russell Mid Cap: Measures the performance of the 800 smallest companies of the Russell 1000 Index, which represent approximately 31% of the total market capitalization of the Russell 1000 Index.

Standard & Poor’s 500 (S&P 500): Measures changes in stock market conditions based on the average performance of 500 widely held common stocks. Represents approximately 68% of the investable U.S. equity market.

The Dow Jones Global Select REIT Index: intends to measure the performance of publicly traded real estate securities. The indices are designed to serve as proxies for direct real estate investment, in part by excluding companies whose performance may be driven by factors other than the value of real estate. This index represents equity real estate investment trusts (REITs) and real estate operating companies (REOCs) traded globally.

DEFINITIONS

Small-Cap Stocks refers to a company's capitalization as determined by the total market value of its publicly traded shares.

Large-Cap Stocks are generally defined as those with market capitalizations of more than $10 billion.

Energy Sector is a category of stocks that relate to producing or supplying energy.

Commodity is a good or service that is produced or purchased for use in another good or service.

Fixed Income is a type of investment in which market returns are generally considered to be rather stable, with returns being relatively predictable.

High-Yield Bond is a high paying bond with a lower credit rating than investment-grade corporate bonds, Treasury bonds and municipal bonds.

Index Market value index wide on a pro rata basis.

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There is no assurance that any investment strategy will be successful or that any securities transactions, holdings, sectors or allocations discussed will be profitable. It should not be assumed that any investment recommendation or decisions made in the future will be profitable or will equal any investment performance discussed herein. Investing involves risk, including loss.

Free float is the amount of at least $250 million.

Investing in small-cap and mid-cap stocks generally involves greater risks, and, therefore, may not be appropriate for every investor. International investing also involves special risks, including currency fluctuations, different financial accounting standards, and possible political and economic volatility. There is an inverse relationship between interest rate movements and fixed income prices. Generally, when interest rates rise, fixed income prices fall and when interest rates fall, fixed income prices generally rise. Commodities trading is generally considered speculative because of the significant potential for investment loss.

Specific sector investing such as real estate can be subject to different and greater risks than more diversified investments.

Declines in the value of real estate, economic conditions, property taxes, laws and interest rates all present potential risks to real estate investments.

ASSET CLASS RETURNS: Source: Russell, Bloomberg Barclays, Dow Jones, JP Morgan, Morningstar Direct

S&P 500 SECTOR RETURNS: [Source: Standard & Poor’s] Returns are based on the GICS Classification model. Returns are cumulative total return for stated period, including reinvestment of dividends.

INDEX DESCRIPTIONS:

BBgBarc EM Hard Currency Aggregate: Covers countries and sectors of the emerging markets fixed income investment universe, which includes USD-denominated emerging markets corporate and government-related debt.

BBgBarc Global Agg. ex-U.S. Dollar: Measures changes in global investment-grade, fixed-rate debt markets. It combines non-U.S. dollar-denominated versions of the Pan-European Index and the Japanese, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand components of the Global Treasury Index.

BBgBarc EM Aggregate Bond Index: Measures changes in the fixed rate debt issuers rated investment grade or higher by Moody’s Investors Service, Standard and Poor’s, or Fitch Investor’s Service, in that order. The Aggregate Index is comprised of the Government/Corporate, the Mortgage-Backed Securities, and the Asset-Backed Securities indices.

BBgBarc U.S. Corporate Investment Grade: A component of the U.S. Credit Index. Publicly issued U.S. corporate and specified foreign issues and secured notes that meet the specified maturity, liquidity, and quality requirements. To qualify, bonds must be SEC-registered.

BBgBarc U.S. Government: The U.S. Government component of the U.S. Government/Credit Index comprised of securities issued by the U.S. Government; also including public obligations of the U.S. Treasury with remaining maturity of one year or more, and publicly issued debt of U.S. Government agencies, quasi-federal corporations, and corporate or foreign debt guaranteed by U.S. Government. Must be a publicly issued, dollar-denominated and non-convertible. Must be rated investment-grade (Ba3/BBB- or higher) by at least two of the following rating agencies: Moody’s, S&P, Fitch; regardless of call features, have at least one year to final maturity, and have an outstanding par value amount of at least $250 million.

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