



Global markets power through persistent volatility.

Quarterly snapshot

- Global equities, as measured by the MSCI ACWI Index, rose sharply during the second quarter of 2025, as the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump announced progress on trade deals with major trading partners, most notably China. The rally occurred despite heightened geopolitical uncertainty in the face of escalating conflict in the Middle East, marked by Israeli and U.S. military strikes on Iranian nuclear sites; however, these tensions eased by quarter-end. Emerging markets outperformed developed markets.
- Global fixed-income assets posted gains for the quarter. U.S. Treasury yields were mixed across the yield curve. (Prices move inversely to yields.)
- Global diversification in equity markets remains a strategic SEI investment theme.

Global equities, as measured by the MSCI ACWI Index, rose sharply during the second quarter of 2025, as the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump announced progress on trade deals with major trading partners, most notably China. The rally occurred despite heightened geopolitical uncertainty in the face of escalating conflict in the Middle East, marked by Israeli and U.S. military strikes on Iranian nuclear sites; however, these tensions eased by quarter-end. The U.S. broad-market S&P 500 Index and the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite Index climbed 10.9% and 18.0%, respectively, for the quarter, closing the period at record highs.

Emerging markets outperformed developed markets in the second quarter. The Latin America region (excluding Brazil) was the top performer within the emerging markets for the quarter due mainly to strength in Mexico. Hungary led the robust performance in Eastern Europe. Conversely, the Saudi Arabia market lost ground during the period. The Pacific region and the European Union countries were the strongest performers within the developed markets for the quarter. Hong Kong and Australia led the rally in the Pacific markets, while the Netherlands and Spain were the main contributors to the upturn in European Union stocks. The Nordic countries recorded positive returns for the period, but were the primary developed-market laggards.¹

Global fixed-income assets, as measured by the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index, gained 4.5% (in U.S. dollars) for the second quarter. High-yield bonds led the U.S. fixed-income market, followed by investment-grade corporate bonds and U.S. Treasury securities. Mortgage-backed securities (MBS) recorded losses during the quarter. U.S. Treasury yields were mixed across the yield curve. Yields on 2-, 3-, and 5-year Treasury notes dipped by corresponding margins of 0.17%, 0.21%, and 0.17% to ~~3.89%~~, ~~3.89%~~, and ~~3.96%~~, respectively, while the 10-year Treasury yield edged up 0.1% to 4.24%. The yield curve inverted (3-month yields exceeded 10-year yields) during the quarter.²

¹ All equity market performance statements are based on the MSCI ACWI Index.

² According to the U.S. Department of the Treasury. As of June 30, 2025.

Key measures: Q2 2025

Equity

Dow Jones Industrial Average	5.46%	↑
S&P 500 Index	10.94%	↑
NASDAQ Composite Index	17.96%	↑
MSCI ACWI Index (Net)	11.53%	↑

Bond

Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index	4.52%	↑
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Volatility

Chicago Board Options Exchange Volatility Index	16.73	↓
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PRIOR QUARTERLY: 22.28

Oil

WTI Cushing crude oil prices	\$65.11	↓
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PRIOR QUARTERLY: \$71.48

Currencies

Sterling vs. U.S. dollar	\$1.37	↑
Euro vs. U.S. dollar	\$1.17	↑
U.S. dollar vs. yen	¥144.45	↓

Sources: Bloomberg, FactSet, Lipper

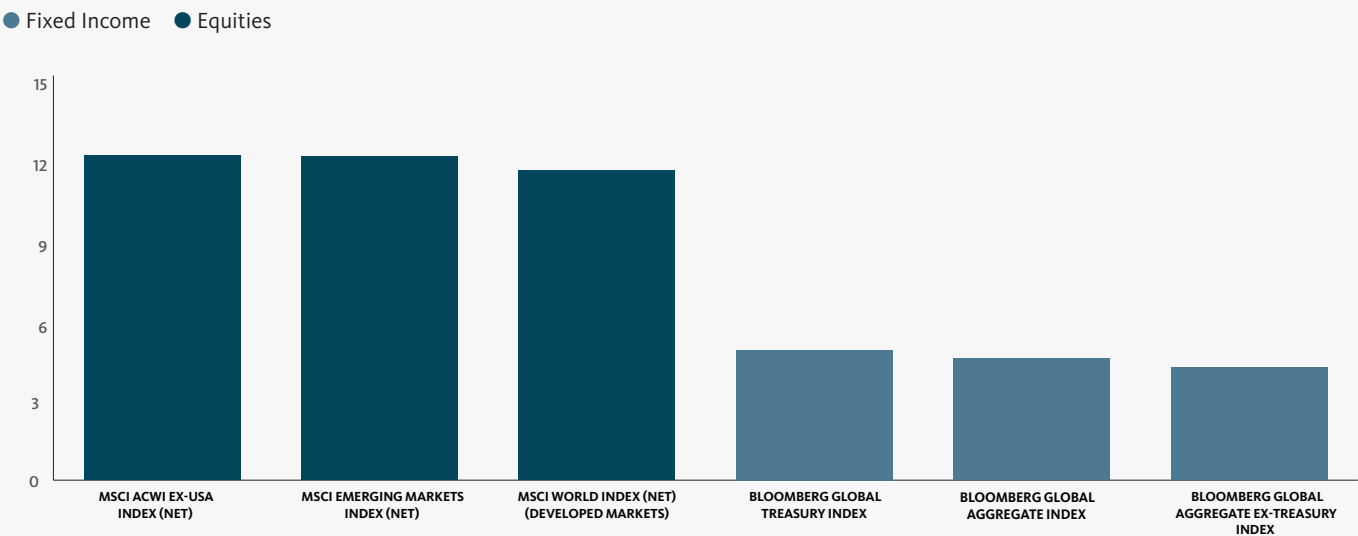
Global commodity prices, as represented by the Bloomberg Commodity Index, were down 3.1% in the second quarter. Oil prices fell sharply in June after moving higher earlier in the quarter, as the announcement of a ceasefire between Israel and Iran eased geopolitical concerns, and investors anticipated a rise in inventories globally. Spot prices for West Texas Intermediate (WTI) and Brent crude oil prices fell 8.9% and 10.7%, respectively, during the quarter. The 5.0% rise in the gold price over the period was attributable to an increase in demand for safe-haven assets spurred by the Israel-Iran military conflict and continued central bank purchases. The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) natural gas price fell 15.2% in response to a decline in global demand and increasing inventory in the U.S. The 0.2% uptick in the wheat price for the quarter resulted mainly from forecasts that unusually warm summer temperatures and extreme weather could reduce stockpiles in North America, Asia, and Europe.

On the geopolitical front, on June 13 (Iran local time), Israel launched targeted strikes on Iran's nuclear program and military leadership in an effort to hamper the Iranian government's efforts to enrich uranium over concerns that it could be used in the production of nuclear weapons. Major General Hossein Salami, the leader of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, was among those killed in the attacks. Later in the day, the Israeli military announced that it had detected "dozens" of missiles launched from Iran toward Israel. In its announcement of the attack, the Israel Defense Force (IDF) said, "The Aerial Defense Array [Israel's missile and air defense system] is currently identifying and intercepting launches." On June 22 (Iran local time), the U.S. conducted targeted military strikes on several of Iran's nuclear facilities. U.S. military forces dropped 14 Massive Ordnance Penetrators (dubbed "bunker-buster bombs") on the Fordow and Natanz nuclear sites in Iran, and fired additional precision-guided weapons at the Isfahan nuclear site. The Trump administration said that the attacks severely damaged the nuclear facilities.

U.S. trade policy remained a focal point for the global financial markets for much of the quarter. On April 2 (which the Trump administration dubbed "Liberation Day" for U.S. trade policy), the U.S. government announced a blanket minimum tariff of 10% for all imports, and imposed so-called reciprocal tariffs on multiple countries (with the exception of goods from Canada and Mexico covered under the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement). However, shortly thereafter, Trump announced a 90-day suspension of these reciprocal tariffs, with exception of China. The action followed a brief period of significant volatility in the U.S. Treasury market. The yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note rose sharply on fears that the tariffs could have a negative impact on the economy and reignite inflation. Bond prices and yields move inversely. The yield subsequently retreated after the announcement of the tariff suspension.

Under a tentative agreement with the U.K., which Trump and U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced on May 8, U.K. steel and aluminum imports will be exempt from the 25% tariff and levies on autos manufactured in the U.K. will be reduced from 25% to 10% for the first 100,000 imported vehicles. The agreement stipulates that the U.K. will purchase Boeing jets worth \$10 billion and ease restrictions on imports of ethanol from the U.S. Imported goods from the U.K. will still be subject to the global 10% tariff implemented in early April. Trump announced in late May that he was a delaying the imposition of the levies from June 1 to July 9 after the EU agreed to accelerate negotiations. He said that European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen requested an extension of the tariff deadline while trade negotiations continued. On June 26, U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick announced that the U.S. and China had completed a trade agreement that the countries negotiated last month during talks in Geneva, Switzerland. Lutnick also said that the U.S. was close to finalizing trade agreements with 10 other countries. The ongoing tariff dispute remains highly volatile and in constant flux.

Major Index Performance in Q2 2025 (Percent Return)



Sources: FactSet, Lipper

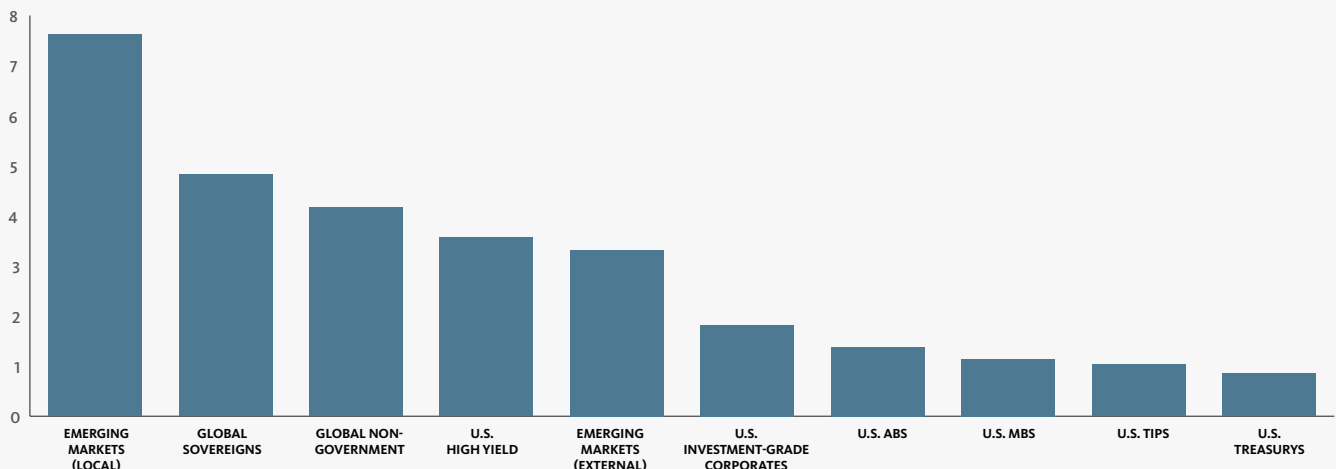
Economic data

U.S.

The Department of Labor reported that the consumer-price index (CPI) ticked up 0.1% in May, down marginally from the 0.2% rise in April and slightly below expectations. Housing and food costs each increased 0.3% for the month. Conversely, the energy index declined 1.0% in May due to a steep drop in gasoline prices. The CPI advanced 2.4% year-over-year—marginally higher than the 2.3% increase in April and in line with expectations. Costs for utility gas service and electricity climbed 15.3% and 4.5%, respectively, over the previous 12-month period. Gasoline and fuel oil prices declined by corresponding margins of 12.0% and 8.6%. Core inflation, as measured by the CPI for all items less food and energy, rose 2.8% year-over-year in May, unchanged from the annual increase in April. Food prices were up 2.9% over the previous 12-month period, while energy costs fell 3.5%.

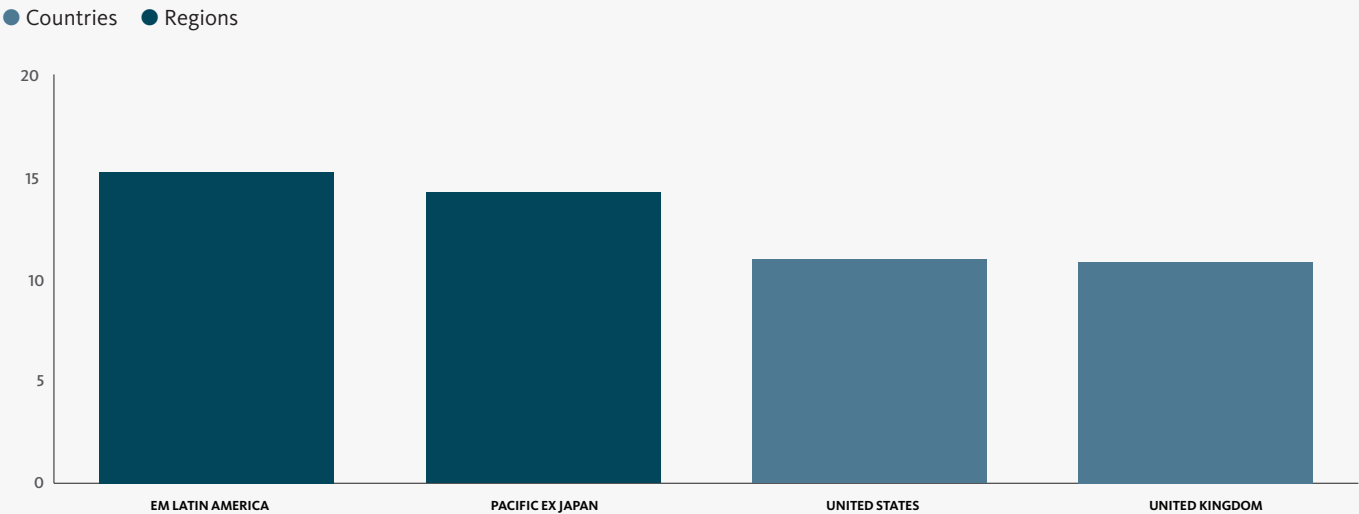
According to the third estimate from the Department of Commerce, U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) decreased at an annual rate of 0.5% in the first quarter of 2025—sharply lower than the 2.4% rise in the fourth quarter of 2024, and down from the government’s second estimate of a 0.2% dip. The economic contraction in the first quarter was attributable mainly to a surge in imports (a subtraction from GDP) as businesses rushed to purchase goods before the Trump administration’s import tariffs took effect in early April. GDP also was hampered by a drop in government spending. Conversely, nonresidential fixed investment (purchases of equipment and software, and nonresidential structures) and consumer spending each rose for the quarter.

Fixed-Income Performance in Q2 2025 (Percent Return)



Sources: FactSet, Lipper. See “Corresponding Indexes for Fixed-Income Performance Exhibit” in the Index descriptions section for more information.

Regional Equity Performance in Q2 2025 (Percent Return)



Sources: FactSet, Lipper. See “Corresponding Indexes for Regional Equity Performance Exhibit” in the Index descriptions section for more information.

U.K.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) reported that inflation in the U.K., as measured by the CPI, increased 0.2% in May, sharply lower than the 1.2% rise in April. The CPI advanced at an annual rate of 3.4% in May, down marginally from the 3.5% year-over-year increase for the previous month. Furniture and household goods, and clothing and footwear posted the largest gains in May, while transportation costs declined. Prices for housing and household services, and education prices were up 7.7% and 7.5%, respectively, over the previous 12-month period, while clothing and footwear prices dipped 0.3%. Core inflation, which excludes volatile food, energy, and alcohol and tobacco prices, increased at an annual rate of 3.8% in May, decelerating from the 3.8% year-over-year uptick in April.³

The ONS also announced that U.K. GDP increased 0.7% in the first quarter of 2025, up from the 0.1% growth rate in the fourth quarter of 2024. Output in the production, services, and construction sectors rose 1.3% and 0.7%, and 0.3%, respectively, over the quarter.⁴

³ According to the ONS. June 18, 2025.

⁴ According to the ONS. June 30, 2025.

Eurozone

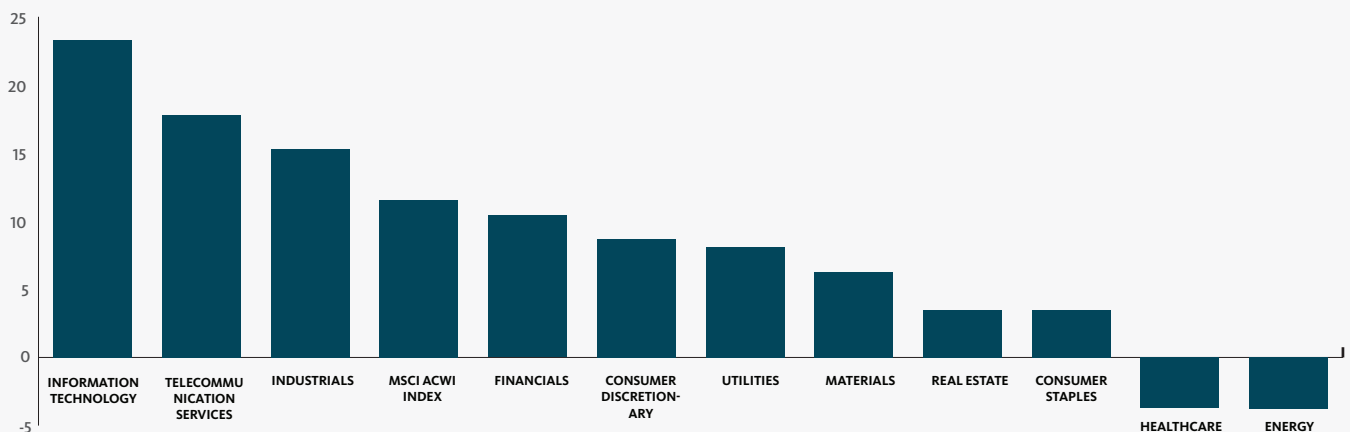
Eurostat pegged the inflation rate for the eurozone at 2.0% for the 12-month period ending in June, slightly higher than the 1.9% annual upturn in May. Costs in the services sector rose at an annual rate of 3.3% in June, edging up from the 3.2% increase in May. Prices for food, alcohol and tobacco increased 3.1% year-over-year in June versus the 3.2% annual rise for the previous month. In contrast, energy prices fell 2.7% year-over-year. Core inflation, which excludes volatile energy and food prices, increased at an annual rate of 2.3% in June, unchanged from the year-over-year increase in May.⁵

Eurostat also reported that eurozone GDP rose 0.6% the first quarter of 2025, representing improvement over the 0.3% growth rate for the fourth quarter of 2024. Eurozone GDP increased 1.5% over the previous 12-month period. The economies of Ireland and Iceland were the strongest performers for the first quarter, expanding 9.7% and 2.7%, respectively. In contrast, GDP in both Denmark and Luxembourg declined 0.5% during the quarter.⁶

⁵ According to Eurostat. July 1, 2025.

⁶ According to Eurostat. June 6, 2025.

Global Equity Sector Performance in Q2 2025 (Percent Return)



Sources: FactSet, Lipper. MSCI ACWI Index Components (as defined by SEI).

SEI's view

Global financial markets scaled a wall of worry in the second quarter of 2025—geopolitics took center stage from tariff turbulence, while equity markets rallied sharply from the post “Liberation Day” lows. Delays on implementing broad-based tariffs and progress with certain negotiations, including China, gave investors confidence to buy the early April equity dip and push the broad-market S&P 500 Index to an all-time high to close the quarter. Even the lack of progress with the Russia/Ukraine war and the escalation of the conflict between Israel and Iran, including the U.S. bombing of Iranian nuclear sites, were not enough to derail the risk rally. In contrast to equities, oil and volatility markets failed to hold gains from the price spike following news of the U.S. involvement given the subdued Iranian response, open shipping lanes in the Strait of Hormuz, and a clear desire from the Trump administration to limit further actions.

Geopolitical risk obviously remains elevated, with the latest focus on the Israel-Iran war and America's entry into the fray. Outside of the energy complex, there has been little reaction on the part of financial markets. The jump in crude oil prices seemed rather constrained and have fallen back to pre-war levels. Even the possibility of a rogue operation by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps aimed at disrupting shipping through the Strait of Hormuz would be irrational and self-defeating. Roughly 95% of Iran's oil exports is loaded onto tankers docked at Kharg Island, near the northern end of the Persian Gulf. Iran cannot afford to disrupt its neighbors' exports without disrupting its own. In addition, China, one of Iran's strategic partners, receives almost half of its imported oil from the Middle East; Iran cannot afford to lose any allies. Remarkably, investors have managed to take all this uncertainty in stride.

There has been a good deal of volatility, particularly for equities, but a broad grouping of assets is in positive territory for the year to date. International stocks, as measured by the MSCI World ex USA Index, climbed 19.0% for the first six months of 2025. U.S. large-cap stocks (as represented by the Russell 1000 Index) are up 6.1% thus far in 2025, but were down by more than 15% in April on a year-to-date basis following the unveiling of so-called reciprocal tariffs. The small-cap Russell 2000 Index has been down much of the year but has come back from an even steeper loss of almost 21% and is down just 1.8% for the year-to-date.

Regarding monetary policy, more interest-rate cuts are probably ahead, but the pace of easing in Canada and the eurozone should slow since policy rates are approaching the same level as the current inflation rate. The U.S. and the U.K., on the other hand, probably have more room to cut their respective policy rates, but SEI expects both central banks to be cautious in doing so. At a time when the outlook is so uncertain, all the major central banks are probably more data-dependent than ever. Among the potentially inflationary developments all central banks need to consider: the generally expansive fiscal policies pursued by their governments, the potential for retaliatory tariff hikes that increase prices on targeted goods, and the potential impact of the Israeli-Iranian war on energy prices (now less concerning). Economies appear to be heading in a stagflationary direction, making monetary policy choices more difficult.

Remarkably, investors have managed to take all of the market uncertainty in stride.

SEI believes that recessionary risk has risen considerably. While our base case remains that the global economy will avoid recession in 2025, we recognize a slowing in both the hard and soft data. The much-ballyhooed European stimulus will be more of a 2026-and-beyond story, and the Fed is solidly in wait-and-see mode with tariff uncertainty still unfolding, so it is less than clear if the second half of 2025 will look more like the first or second quarter.

Global diversification in equity markets remains a strategic SEI investment theme, along with our preference for active portfolio management. Despite the “Magnificent Seven” mega-cap tech stocks, which trade at an average of nearly 30 times future earnings, dominating performance during the second quarter after faltering to start the year, we continue to expect broader participation from U.S. equity sectors and capitalizations in the latter half of 2025.

Within the fixed-income markets, credit spreads remain relatively tight yet yields and income are attractive. We continue to prefer securitized credit over corporate debt given the favorable risk-adjusted yields. In our view, asset classes such as collateralized loan obligations (CLOs) look particularly attractive at this stage of the cycle.

Glossary of Financial Terms

Yield is the income returned on an investment, such as the interest received from holding a security. The yield is usually expressed as an annual percentage rate based on the investment's cost, current market value, or face value.

Yield curve represents differences in yields across a range of maturities of bonds of the same issuer or credit rating (are (which is used to assess the risk of default of companies or countries). A steeper yield curve represents a greater difference between the yields. A flatter curve indicates that short- and long-term yields are closer together.

Index definitions

All indexes are quoted in gross performance unless otherwise indicated.

The **MSCI ACWI Index** is a market capitalization-weighted index that tracks the performance of over 2,000 companies, and is representative of the market structure of 48 developed and emerging-market countries in North and South America, Europe, Africa, and the Pacific Rim. The index is calculated with net dividends reinvested in U.S. dollars.

The **S&P 500 Index** is a market-weighted index that tracks the performance of the 500 largest publicly traded U.S. companies and is considered representative of the broad U.S. stock market.

The **Nasdaq Composite Index** is a market capitalization-weighted index that tracks the performance of all domestic and international companies listed on the Nasdaq Stock Market. Technology stocks comprise nearly 50% of the index's weighting.

The **Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index** is a market capitalization-weighted index that tracks the performance of investment-grade (rated BBB- or higher by S&P Global Ratings/Fitch Ratings or Baa3 or higher by Moody's Investors Service) fixed-income securities denominated in 13 currencies. The index reflects reinvestment of all distributions and changes in market prices.

The **S&P US Mortgage Backed Securities Index** tracks the performance of U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed-rate and adjustable-rate/hybrid mortgage pass-through securities issued by Ginnie Mae (GNMA), Fannie Mae (FNMA) and Freddie Mac (FHLMC).

The **ICE BofA U.S. Treasury Index** tracks the performance of the direct sovereign debt of the U. S. government.

The **ICE BofA U.S. Corporate Index** includes publicly issued, fixed-rate, nonconvertible investment-grade (rated BBB- or higher by S&P Global Ratings and Fitch Ratings or Baa3 or higher by Moody's Investors Service) dollar-denominated, U.S. Securities and Exchange (SEC)-registered corporate debt having at least one year to maturity.

The **ICE BofA U.S. High Yield Constrained Index** is a market value-weighted index of all domestic and Yankee high-yield bonds, including deferred interest bonds and payment-in-kind securities, with maturities of one year or more and a credit rating of BB+ or lower by S&P Global Ratings and Fitch Ratings or Ba1 or lower by Moody's Investors Service, but are not in default.

The **Bloomberg Commodity Index** tracks the performance of futures contracts on physical commodities. The index comprises 24 of the most traded commodity futures contracts across six sectors.

Consumer-price indexes measure changes in the price level of a weighted-average market basket of consumer goods and services purchased by households. A consumer price index is a statistical estimate constructed using the prices of a sample of representative items whose prices are collected periodically.

The **MSCI World ex USA Index** tracks the performance of the large- and mid-cap segments of equity markets across 22 of 23 developed- market countries--excluding the U.S.

The **Russell 1000 Index** tracks the performance of 1000 of the largest U.S. equity securities based on market capitalization. The index is a subset of the Russell 3000 Index, which comprises the 3,000 largest U.S. companies, and includes approximately 1,000 of the largest securities based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership.

The **Russell 2000 Index** tracks the performance of the small-cap segment of the U S. equity market. The index is a subset of the Russell 3000 Index, which comprises the 3,000 largest U.S. companies, and includes approximately 2,000 of the smallest securities based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership.

Corresponding Indexes for Fixed-Income Performance Exhibit

U.S. High Yield	ICE BofA U.S. High Yield Constrained Index
Global Sovereigns	Bloomberg Global Treasury Index
Global Non-Government	Bloomberg Global Aggregate ex-Treasury Index
Emerging Markets (Local)	JPMorgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Index
Emerging Markets (External)	JPMorgan EMBI Global Diversified Index
U.S. Mortgage-Backed Securities (MBS)	Bloomberg US Mortgage Backed Securities Index
U.S. Asset-Backed Securities (ABS)	Bloomberg US Asset Backed Securities Index
U.S. Treasurys	Bloomberg US Treasury Index
U.S. Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS)	Bloomberg 1-10 Year US TIPS Index
U.S. Investment-Grade Corporates	Bloomberg US Corporate Bond Index

Corresponding Indexes for Regional Equity Performance Exhibit

United States	S&P 500 Index
United Kingdom	FTSE All-Share Index
Pacific ex Japan	MSCI Pacific ex Japan Index (Net)
Japan	TOPIX, also known as the Tokyo Stock Price Index
Europe ex U.K.	MSCI Europe ex UK Index (Net)
EM Latin America	MSCI Emerging Markets Latin America Index (Net)

Disclosures

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There are risks involved with investing, including loss of principal. International investments may involve risk of capital loss from unfavorable fluctuation in currency values, from differences in generally accepted accounting principles or from economic or political instability in other nations. Emerging markets involve heightened risks related to the same factors as well as increased volatility and lower trading volume. Narrowly focused investments and smaller companies typically exhibit higher volatility. Bonds and bond funds will decrease in value as interest rates rise. High-yield bonds involve greater risks of default or downgrade and are more volatile than investment-grade securities, due to the speculative nature of their investments.

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