



# PCS ADVISORS

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# Asset Class Summaries

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2022

# U.S. Investment Grade Bonds

Represented by the Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index, the category represents investment grade bonds traded in United States. The index includes Treasury securities, Government agency bonds, Mortgage-backed bonds, Corporate bonds and a small amount of foreign bonds traded in the US. Municipal bonds and TIPS are excluded from the index.

## 10-Year Forecasts

Annual  
Return

1.7%

Annual  
Risk

6.8%

## Historical Returns as of 03/31/22

### Bloomberg US Agg Bond TR USD

	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	15 Year
Annualized Total Returns	-4.2%	1.7%	2.1%	2.2%	3.6%
Annualized Standard Deviation	4.1%	4.0%	3.6%	3.2%	3.4%

### Pros:

- *Intermediate Duration:* Relatively modest average duration (typically between 4 - 6 years) leads to moderate volatility.
- *High Quality:* Heavy exposure to highest quality (AAA) U.S. fixed income market segments. No high yield (BB or lower) exposure.
- *Deflation/Disinflation Protection:* Declining (investment grade) interest rates lead to short-term price gains.
- *Crisis Resistant:* Capable of generating positive returns in times of economic and/or financial turmoil.

### Cons:

- *Modest Return Potential:* Heavy exposure to U.S. Treasury & Agency issues moderates return potential. Relatively low exposure to corporate debt.
- *Credit Risk:* Subject to some relatively modest credit risk.
- *Interest Rate Risk:* Bond prices fall in a rising interest rate (and/or inflationary) environment.

### Highest Correlation:

Municipal Bonds  
TIPS  
Foreign Bonds  
EM Bonds

### Lowest Correlation:

EM Equity  
Alternatives  
International Equity  
Global Equity

# Dynamic Bonds

Bonds issued in the United States & foreign developed countries including but not limited to, Japan, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Canada, Netherlands, Belgium, Australia, Denmark, Sweden and emerging economies. Issues include government securities, corporate credit, structured securities and derivatives. Derivative allocations include futures, swaps and forwards, which may be utilized to hedge exposures or create synthetic exposures.

## 10-Year Forecasts



## Historical Returns as of 03/31/22

\*Custom Blend of Indices

	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	15 Year
Annualized Total Returns	-1.5%	2.3%	2.7%	3.1%	3.7%
Annualized Standard Deviation	2.3%	3.7%	3.0%	2.6%	3.5%

### Pros:

- *Large Opportunity Set:* Majority of the world's bond issues are outside the United States.
- *Limited Interest Rate Exposure:* strategies exhibit lower interest rate exposures through the utilization of cash or derivatives.
- *Diversification Benefits:* Historically, offered low correlation to other fixed income asset classes and global equities.
- *Increased credit:* shifts in central bank rate setting policy demand greater credit exposures in portfolios.

### Cons:

- *Credit risk:* elevated allocations to investment grade and high yield corporate credit increases default risk and correlations to equity portfolios
- *Overlap:* portfolios are structured to be dynamic, tactical and flexible. Because of this, portfolios may result in concentrated single sector or market exposures depending on prevailing market conditions
- *Foreign exchange:* global in nature, these portfolios will oscillate between dollar denominated and non-dollar securities and currency positions. This may result in additional volatility depending on FX valuations

### Highest Correlation:

HY Bonds  
U.S. Large Cap  
Broad Real Assets

### Lowest Correlation:

U.S. Bonds  
International Equity

# High Yield Bonds

High yield bonds are bonds that are rated below investment grade (BB or lower). These bonds have higher default or other credit event risk, but typically pay higher yields than higher rated bonds to attract investors.

## 10-Year Forecasts



## Historical Returns as of 03/31/22

### Bloomberg US Corporate High Yield TR USD

	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	15 Year
Annualized Total Returns	-0.7%	4.6%	4.7%	5.7%	6.5%
Annualized Standard Deviation	4.4%	9.1%	7.5%	6.5%	9.8%

### Pros:

- *High Current Income:* Offer yield spreads above Treasuries and investment grade corporate bonds.
- *Lower Duration:* Typically, shorter maturities and lower interest rate sensitivity. Changes in credit spreads drive volatility (more than changes in interest rates).
- *Diversification Benefits:* Historically, offered relatively low correlation to investment grade fixed income and modest correlation to equities.

### Cons:

- *Volatility:* More volatile than investment grade bonds.
- *Spread Risk:* Rising credit spreads adversely affects prices (and returns).
- *Credit/Default Risk:* Higher probability of defaults (with lower recovery rates) than investment grade bonds.
- *Correlation to Equities:* Higher correlation to equities (particularly in stress environments) than to other fixed income asset classes.

### Highest Correlation:

U.S. Mid Cap  
U.S. Small Cap  
U.S. All Cap  
Global Equity  
Real Estate

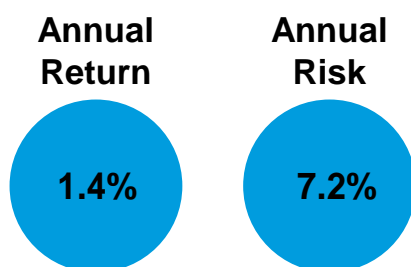
### Lowest Correlation:

Foreign Bonds  
Muni Bonds  
Commodities

# Global Bonds

Bonds issued in the United States & foreign developed countries including but not limited to, Japan, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Canada, Netherlands, Belgium, Australia, Denmark, Sweden and emerging economies.

## 10-Year Forecasts



## Historical Returns as of 03/31/22

### Bloomberg Global Aggregate TR Hdg USD

	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	15 Year
Annualized Total Returns	-3.9%	1.3%	2.2%	2.8%	3.6%
Annualized Standard Deviation	3.5%	3.6%	3.1%	2.9%	2.9%

### Pros:

- *Large Opportunity Set:* Majority of the world's bond issues are outside the United States.
- *Non-U.S. Interest Rate Exposure:* Offers some potential insulation from rising U.S. interest rate environment.
- *Diversification Benefits:* Historically, offered low correlation to other fixed income asset classes and global equities.
- *Foreign Currency Exposure:* Unhedged currency can provide for protection against weakening U.S. dollar.
- *Flexible Mandates:* Managers can allocate risk more tactically across global sovereign, global credit and global currencies

### Cons:

- *Interest Rate Volatility:* global bonds traditionally exhibit more interest rate exposure through longer duration bonds
- *Volatility:* Non-currency hedged bonds can be volatile given foreign currency fluctuations relative to the dollar.
- *Risk:* Subject to foreign financial, economic and geopolitical risk.
- *Non-U.S. Interest Rate Exposure:* Potential exposure to rising interest rates outside the U.S., resulting in price depreciation.

**Highest Correlation:**

U.S. Bonds  
Dynamic Bonds

**Lowest Correlation:**

U.S. Small Cap  
EM Equity  
International Equity

# Large Cap U.S. Stocks

Stocks with market capitalizations greater than \$10 Billion. Large cap stocks represents the vast majority of the total U.S. equity market.

## 10-Year Forecasts

Annual  
Return

5.7%

Annual  
Risk

16.6%

## Historical Returns as of 03/31/22

### S&P 500 TR USD

	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	15 Year
Annualized Total Returns	15.6%	18.9%	16.0%	14.6%	10.3%
Annualized Standard Deviation	13.6%	17.8%	15.8%	13.2%	15.5%

### Pros:

- *Large and Liquid Market:* U.S. large cap stocks represent the largest and most liquid segment of the global equity market.
- *Long Historical Data Set:* The S&P 500 Index performance history dates back to January 1, 1926.
- *Less Volatility:* Lower long-term volatility than mid cap, small cap, or foreign equity markets.

### Cons:

- *Risk:* Subject to equity risk.
- *Lower Risk Premium:* Less risk, but potentially less long-term return than mid cap, small cap, or emerging market equities.

### Highest Correlation:

U.S. All Cap  
U.S. Mid Cap  
Global Equity  
U.S. Small Cap

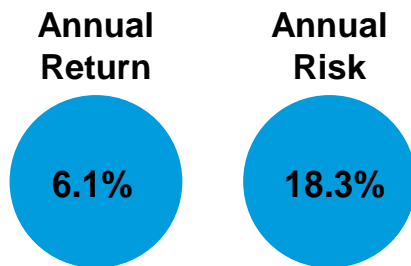
### Lowest Correlation:

TIPS  
Foreign Bonds  
Municipal Bonds  
U.S. Bonds  
Commodities

# Mid Cap U.S. Stocks

Stocks between \$2 and \$10 billion in market capitalization.

## 10-Year Forecasts



## Historical Returns as of 03/31/22

	Russell Mid Cap TR USD				
	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	15 Year
Annualized Total Returns	6.9%	14.9%	12.6%	12.9%	9.5%
Annualized Standard Deviation	13.8%	20.8%	18.3%	15.0%	18.0%

### Pros:

- *Risk Premium:* Offers a potential risk-premium over large cap stocks.
- *Higher Growth:* Smaller companies can grow earnings faster than larger companies.
- *Less Volatility:* Lower long-term volatility than small cap stocks.

### Cons:

- *Risk:* Higher volatility than large cap stocks.
- *Diversification:* High correlation to both large cap and small cap stocks. Mid cap has a very high correlation to a 60/40 large & small cap mix.
- *Arbitrary Classification:* Arbitrary divide between "smaller" large cap and "larger" mid cap stocks. Conflicting definitions of mid-small cap barrier.

### Highest Correlation:

U.S. All Cap  
U.S. Small Cap  
U.S. Large Cap  
Global Equity

### Lowest Correlation:

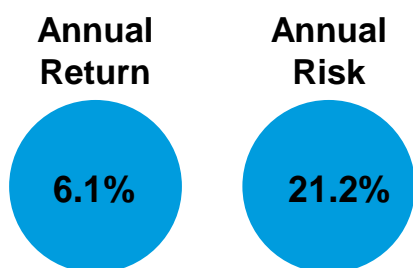
TIPS  
Foreign Bonds  
Municipal Bonds  
U.S. Bonds  
Commodities



# Small Cap U.S. Stocks

Stocks with \$2 billion (or less) in market capitalizations.

## 10-Year Forecasts



## Historical Returns as of 03/31/22

	Russell 2000 TR USD				
	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	15 Year
Annualized Total Returns	-5.8%	11.7%	9.7%	11.0%	8.0%
Annualized Standard Deviation	13.6%	23.7%	21.2%	18.0%	20.4%

### Pros:

- *Risk Premium:* Offers a potential risk-premium over large and mid cap stocks.
- *Higher Growth:* Smaller companies can grow earnings faster than larger companies.
- *Upside:* Virtually all large cap stocks started as small cap stocks at one time in their history.

### Cons:

- *Risk:* Higher volatility than large cap and mid cap stocks.
- *Liquidity/Opportunity Set:* Smaller capitalization stocks have less liquidity and marketability. Access to quality small cap managers is often constrained.

### Highest Correlation:

U.S. All Cap  
U.S. Mid Cap  
U.S. Large Cap  
Global Equity  
Real Estate

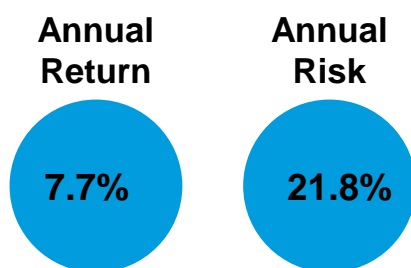
### Lowest Correlation:

TIPS  
Foreign Bonds  
Municipal Bonds  
U.S. Bonds  
Commodities

# International Developed Equity

Stocks of companies located outside of the U.S. in developed countries. Countries include Japan, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

## 10-Year Forecasts



## Historical Returns as of 03/31/22

	MSCI EAFE GR USD				
	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	15 Year
Annualized Total Returns	1.6%	8.3%	7.2%	6.8%	3.4%
Annualized Standard Deviation	11.2%	17.2%	15.0%	14.1%	17.5%

### Pros:

- *Large Universe:* Consists of publicly traded companies in developed countries domiciled outside of the U.S.
- *Diversification:* Higher correlation to U.S. markets in recent years, but still low enough to warrant diversification.
- *Currency Diversification:* Add diversification through foreign currency exposure (away from the U.S. dollar).

### Cons:

- *Equity Risk:* Subject to global economic/financial conditions.
- *Currency Risk:* Subject to currency risk as investment returns are translated back into U.S. dollars.
- *Political, Financial, Currency, and Regulatory Risks:* Each country or region has its own political, financial, currency and regulatory risks.

### Highest Correlation:

Global Equity  
EM Equity  
U.S. All Cap  
U.S. Large Cap

### Lowest Correlation:

TIPS  
Foreign Bonds  
U.S. Bonds  
Commodities

# Emerging Markets Equity

Stocks of companies located outside of the U.S. in developing countries. Emerging markets countries are nations with social or business activity in the process of rapid growth and industrialization. Emerging market countries in the index include China, Brazil, South Korea, Taiwan, South Africa, India, Russia, Mexico, Israel, Malaysia, Chile, Turkey, Thailand, Poland, Colombia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Philippines and Argentina.

## 10-Year Forecasts



## Historical Returns as of 03/31/22

	MSCI EM GR USD				
	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	15 Year
Annualized Total Returns	-11.1%	5.3%	6.4%	3.7%	4.1%
Annualized Standard Deviation	10.8%	18.3%	16.6%	15.9%	21.4%

### Pros:

- *Higher Return Potential:* Emerging economies may exhibit higher GDP growth than developed markets.
- *Diversification:* Diversification benefits, particularly if measured over longer holding periods (decades).
- *Currency:* Add diversification through foreign currency exposure (away from the U.S. dollar).

### Cons:

- *Volatility:* Opportunity for high returns comes with increased risk.
- *Sensitivity to Extremes:* More sensitivity to global economic crisis. Correlations rise vs. other risky assets during periods of extreme stress.
- *Political, Financial, Currency, and Regulatory Risks:* Emerging countries have greater political, financial, currency and regulatory instability than developed markets.

### Highest Correlation:

Global Equity  
EM Bonds  
U.S. Mid Cap  
International Equity

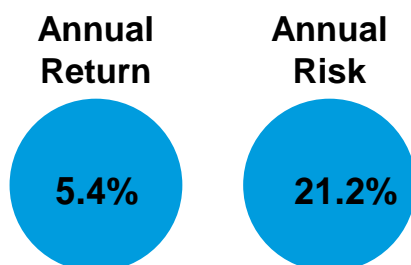
### Lowest Correlation:

Municipal Bonds  
U.S. Bonds  
Foreign Bonds  
TIPS

# Real Estate Investment Trusts

Real Estate Investment Trusts (or REITs) is a tax designation for a companies investing in real estate that reduces or eliminates corporate income taxes. In return for the favorable tax treatment, REITs are required to distribute 90% of their (taxable) income to investors. REITs can be publicly or privately held. Public REITs may be listed on public stock exchanges like shares of common stock in other firms.

## 10-Year Forecasts



## Historical Returns as of 03/31/22

### FTSE Nareit All Equity REITs TR USD

	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	15 Year
Annualized Total Returns	23.6%	11.7%	10.7%	10.5%	6.8%
Annualized Standard Deviation	19.8%	18.9%	16.9%	15.2%	22.8%

### Pros:

- *Dividend Yield:* While an equity asset class, dividend yields have historically exceeded other equity classes.
- *Diversification Benefits:* Have often offered relatively low correlation to both stocks and bonds.

### Cons:

- *Volatility:* Relatively high volatility.
- *Heavy Reliance on Credit:* REITs are unique in their heavy reliance on the credit markets, subjecting them to added risk in difficult credit environments.
- *Fat Tails:* Relatively high fixed cost businesses coupled with leverage make REITs vulnerable to extreme events (or fat left tails).

### Highest Correlation:

U.S. Mid Cap  
U.S. Small Cap  
U.S. All Cap  
U.S. Large Cap  
High Yield Bonds

### Lowest Correlation:

Foreign Bonds  
Municipal Bonds  
U.S. Bonds  
TIPS  
Commodities

# Broad Real Assets

A real asset is a value-generating, physical/tangible asset that has intrinsic value in and of itself. Examples of real assets include land, metals, real estate, infrastructure and commodities. Diversified real asset portfolios strategically and tactically allocate among the various real asset categories, with the goal of providing investors with absolute return, a hedge against rising inflation, and low correlation to more traditional investments.

## 10-Year Forecasts



## Historical Returns as of 03/31/22

	S&P Real Asset TR USD				
	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	15 Year
Annualized Total Returns	13.5%	8.2%	7.2%	5.5%	5.3%
Annualized Standard Deviation	8.3%	13.5%	11.3%	9.7%	11.6%

### Pros:

- *Hedge against rising inflation:* Due to their inherent physical nature, real assets provide a hedge against rising levels of inflation, especially unexpected inflation. Additionally, many real asset securities have cash flows and revenue streams that are directly linked to CPI.
- *Diversification:* Real assets have low correlations with traditional asset classes, such as stocks and bonds.
- *Alternative Income:* Select areas, such as Real Estate and Infrastructure, often have an attractive income component that helps to mitigate volatility.

### Cons:

- *Short history:* Diversified Real Assets are a relatively new asset class. While many of the underlying components themselves have longer track records, others, such as TIPS (late 1990's) and MLPs (early 1990's) remain limited.
- *Exposure to super-cycles:* The more tangible real asset categories (direct commodities, natural resources) have historically gone through super-cycles. This can result in lower returns for extended periods when inflation is subdued. This risk is mitigated through diversified portfolios' exposure to equities, which should mitigate prolonged periods of muted returns.
- *Unique Risk Exposures:* Real assets may be more heavily exposed to geopolitical, weather-related, and regulatory risks. These risks can often be sudden and unavoidable.
- *Heterogeneity:* Due to the breadth of the investable universe with multiple underlying categories, real asset portfolios can look quite different from another. This can create challenges in benchmarking and in comparing portfolios.

# Diversified Hedge Fund Portfolio

A portfolio that allocates to a diversified pool of underlying hedge fund strategies and managers.

## 10-Year Forecasts

Annual  
Return

5.9%

Annual  
Risk

8.7%

## Historical Returns as of 03/31/22

### HFRI Fund of Funds Composite USD

	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	15 Year
Annualized Total Returns	0.6%	5.7%	4.5%	3.9%	2.3%
Annualized Standard Deviation	4.6%	7.1%	6.1%	4.9%	5.6%

\*HFRI Fund of Funds Index subject to periodic revisions.

### Pros:

- *Capital Preservation:* Ability to make money and/or limit losses in down markets. High (relative) historical risk-adjusted return.
- *Diversification:* Provides investors ability to generate a higher expected return for an aggregate portfolio while reducing overall equity allocation.
- *Alignment of Interests:* Managers invest alongside their clients and charge incentive fees.

### Cons:

- *Transparency:* Holdings, style, strategy and leverage may be constantly changing. By definition, hedge fund strategies are constantly evolving.
- *Fees:* High management fees and (trading) expenses. Funds of hedge funds have another layer of management fees.
- *Leverage:* Underlying hedge fund strategies often require leverage, increasing return potential and risk.
- *Esoteric Risks:* Illiquidity, fraud, regulatory, herd behavior, blind pool, extreme non-normal returns (or fat tails), fluid structure and terms, and others.

### Highest Correlation:

EM Equity  
U.S. Mid Cap  
Global Equity  
U.S. Small Cap

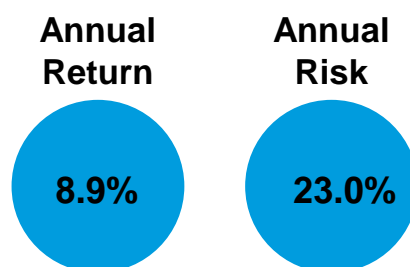
### Lowest Correlation:

Foreign Bonds  
Municipal Bonds  
U.S. Bonds  
TIPS

# Private Equity

Private equity is a non-publicly traded asset class with a wide range of investment strategies and styles. Investment strategies typically follow the corporate lifecycle; **Venture Capital (VC)**, **Growth Equity**, **Levered Buyout** and **Distressed/Special Situations**.

## 10-Year Forecasts



## Historical Returns as of 03/31/22

### Cambridge PE 67% Buyout vs. 33% Venture

	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	15 Year
Annualized Total Returns	0.0%	13.3%	14.1%	13.5%	11.1%
Annualized Standard Deviation	0.0%	7.3%	5.7%	4.4%	5.1%

\*Returns are typically lagged by 1-2 quarters.

\*\*Illiquidity makes performance volatility impossible to measure precisely.

### Pros:

- **Inefficiency & Risk Premiums:** Greater opportunity for active management to add value. Theoretically requires an illiquidity risk premium.
- **Board Representation:** Ability to proactively influence business strategy and operations.
- **Excess Return Potential:** Top managers have historically outperformed publicly traded equity indexes.
- **Access to Smaller Companies:** Ability to access a part of the market not available to public equity investors.

### Cons:

- **Illiquidity Risk:** 10 plus year investment cycles. Illiquidity and J-Curve investment cycle makes it difficult to hold a targeted allocation percentage (and rebalance).
- **Higher Performance Dispersion:** High dispersion of returns between top and bottom performing managers compared to most other asset classes.
- **Blind Pool Risk and Low Transparency:** Inability to preview investments before committing capital and more difficult to monitor investments.
- **Leverage:** Some private equity strategies require substantial leverage adding risk.
- **Fees:** Very high management and incentive fees as well as administrative expenses.
- **Esoteric Risks:** Fraud, regulatory, disparate/complex structures and terms, and others.

# Disclosures

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