Market Commentary
Model Portfolios

Q3 2024

State Street ETF Model Portfolios

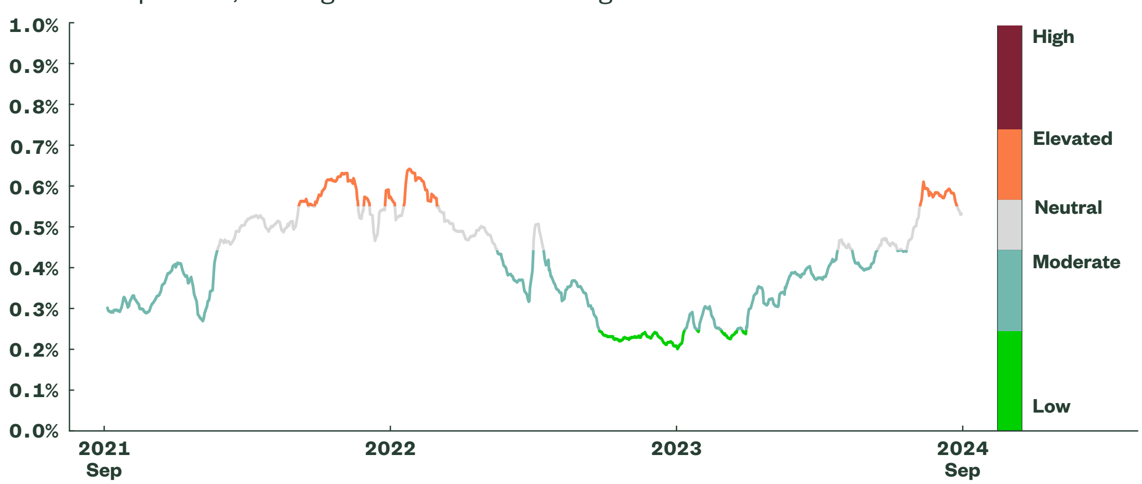
- The global economy showed signs of resilience in Q3 2024. Although global business activity continued to expand in September, the rate of expansion slowed.
- The Global Composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell 0.8 points to 52.0 due to the decline in both manufacturing and services.
- The labor market exhibited signs of cooling, and inflation continued to decline.
- Ongoing geopolitical issues, particularly in Eastern Europe and Asia, continue to create uncertainty, impacting trade and investment flows.

The Market Regime Indicator

The Market Regime Indicator (MRI) employs a quantitative framework and forward-looking indicators to track risk appetite shifts in the market cycle.

- The MRI began July in the Moderate risk regime. During most of the third quarter, the MRI was elevated, indicating weaker investor risk appetite. The MRI improved marginally at the end of September, finishing Q3 in the Neutral risk regime.

Figure 1
A 3-Year Look at the MRI



Source: Investment Solutions Group, as of September 30, 2024.

Key Market Events	
February 24, 2022–Present	Russia-Ukraine War
October 7, 2023–Present	Israel-Hamas War

US Equities

Major US equity indices were higher in Q3. The S&P 500® Index posted positive returns (5.90%) for the third quarter.

- The Federal Reserve cut its policy rate by 50 basis points (bps) at its September meeting, boosting investor hopes of further rate cuts in the future. The Federal Reserve's long-awaited reduction in interest rates played a key role in the bull run.
- Core Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) inflation eased a full percentage point to 2.70% in August from the same time last year.[1]
- On the sector front, all sectors were positive except for Energy and Communication Services, with Real Estate, Utilities and Industrials leading performance.

International Equities

Global equities continued their upward momentum in the third quarter. Regionally, all markets were positive, with a weakening dollar helping to boost returns in many non-US regions.

- The MSCI All Country World Index (MSCI ACWI) returned 6.61% during the quarter.
- European equities had a strong quarter, with the MSCI Europe Index returning 6.60% during the quarter.
- The MSCI All-Country Asia Pacific Index reported positive returns (9.00%) in Q3. Thailand, China, and the Philippines were the top performing countries during the quarter.
- Emerging markets (EM) equities performed better than developed market equities in Q3. The MSCI Emerging Markets Index returned 8.80% during the quarter. Thailand, China, and Philippines were the top three performers in the index.

Fixed Income

Global bonds (Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index — USD Hedged) reported positive returns in Q3 (4.20%), the best since Q4 2023.

- Investment grade bonds (Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Corporate Bond Index) returned 5.20% during the quarter.
- High yield (Bloomberg U.S. Corporate High Yield 2% Issuer Cap Index) posted positive returns in Q3 (5.30%), with spreads tightening by 14 bps in the quarter.
- US Treasury-inflation-protected securities (TIPS) (4.18%) underperformed US Treasuries (4.84%) by 66 bps during the quarter.[2]
- Headline US consumer price inflation declined from 3.30% (May 2024) to 2.50% (August 2024), while core readings also declined from 3.40% (May 2024) to 3.20% (August 2024).[3]

Real Assets

Commodities (as measured by the Bloomberg Commodity Total Return Index) posted small gains for the third quarter (0.70%) amid a challenging period for commodities as the growing concerns around the health of the global economy weighed on oil prices, dragging down the broader index. Real estate investment trusts (REITs), as measured by the FTSE EPRA Nareit Developed Real Estate Index, rose 16.30%, while the Dow Jones US Select REIT Index was up 15.60% during the quarter.

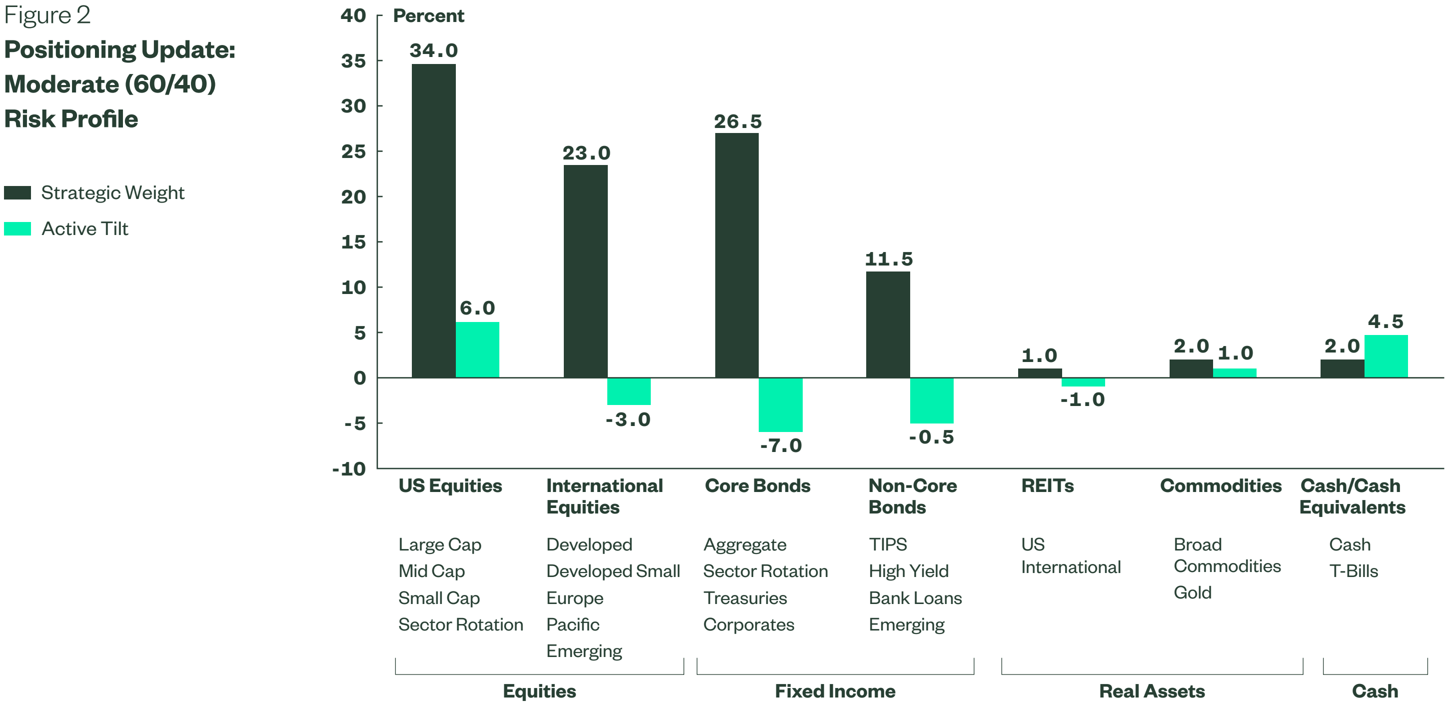
- The Energy sector (as measured by the Bloomberg Energy Subindex Total Return) posted negative returns (-11.20%) in Q3 as both oil and gas declined. Oil saw its worst quarter so far this year, and its second worst since 2022, despite a weaker dollar, elevated geopolitics, and China stimulus.

- The Bloomberg Natural Gas Sub-Index also declined by -10.20% due to ample supply.

- The Bloomberg Industrial Metals Subindex returned 3.00% led by zinc (+5.30%) and copper (+4.10%). The Bloomberg Precious Metals Subindex returned 11.30%, with gold returning 12.90% and silver returning 6.30%.

- REITs, an interest-rate sensitive asset class, rose on the back of declining yields and continued to outperform the broader market. Most property sectors were positive in Q3, with Office and Self-Storage gaining over 20%, followed by Health Care, Industrial and Retail REITs.

Figure 2
Positioning Update: Moderate (60/40) Risk Profile



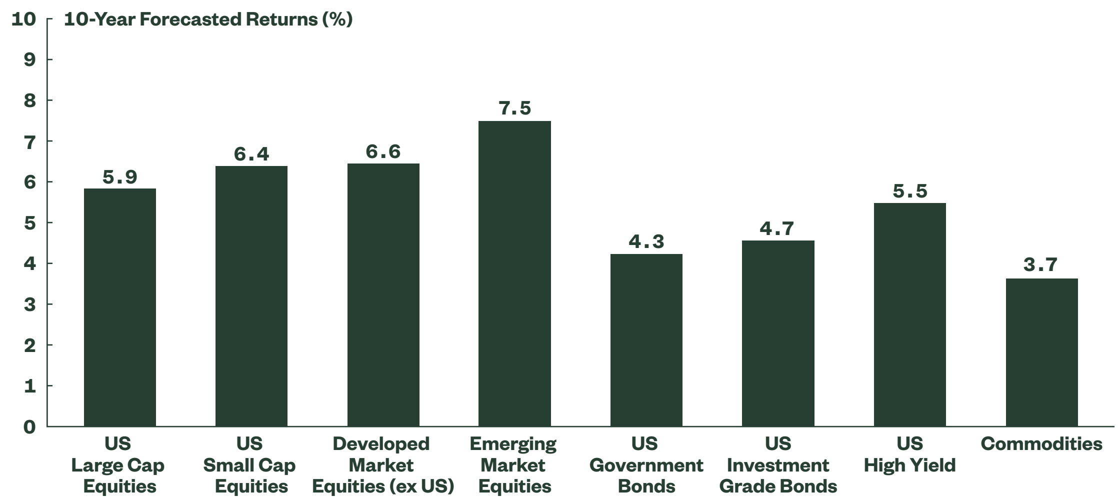
Source: State Street Global Advisors, as of September 30, 2024.
The Strategic Weight is a custom benchmark for the Active Asset Allocation Strategy. The Active Tilt is the difference between the weights of the Active Allocation Strategy and the strategic benchmark. Positions are as of the date indicated, are subject to change, and should not be relied upon as current thereafter. The model portfolio positions presented above are representative of ISG's market views and our positioning for our active portfolios as of the date given. The results shown were achieved by means of a mathematical formula and are not indicative of actual future results which could differ substantially. This information should not be considered a recommendation to invest in a particular sector or to buy or sell any security shown. It is not known whether the sectors or securities shown will be profitable in the future.

Figure 3
Asset Class Performance

Asset Class	Trailing 3-Months (%)	Trailing 12-Months (%)
Large Cap Equities	5.90	36.40
Small Cap Equities	9.30	26.80
Developed Market Equities (ex US)	7.30	24.80
Emerging Market Equities	8.70	26.10
US Government Bonds	4.70	9.70
Investment Grade Bonds	5.80	14.30
High Yield	5.30	15.70
Commodities	0.70	1.00

Source: Bloomberg Finance, L.P., as of September 30, 2024. **Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.** Index returns are unmanaged and do not reflect the deduction of any fees or expenses. Index returns reflect all items of income, gain and loss and the reinvestment of dividends and other income. Performance returns for periods of less than one year are not annualized. US Large Cap = S&P 500 Total Return Index, US Small Cap = Russell 2000 Total Return Index, Developed ex-US = MSCI EAFE Index, Emerging Markets = MSCI Emerging Markets Index, US Government Bonds = Bloomberg US Treasury Total Return Index, IG Corp = Bloomberg US Corporate Total Return Index, US High Yield = Bloomberg US Corporate High Yield Total Return Index, Broad Commodities = Bloomberg Commodity Total Return Index.

Figure 4
Long-Term Asset Class Forecasts



Source: The forecasted returns are annual arithmetic averages based on State Street Global Advisors' Investment Solutions Group, as of June 30, 2024. The forecasted performance data is reported on a gross of fees basis. Additional fees, such as the advisory fee, would reduce the return. For example, if an annualised gross return of 10% was achieved over a five-year period and a management fee of 1% per year was charged and deducted annually, then the resulting return would be reduced from 61% to 53%. The performance includes the reinvestment of dividends and other corporate earnings and is calculated in the local (or regional) currency presented. It does not take into consideration currency effects. The forecasted performance is not necessarily indicative of future performance, which could differ substantially. Please reference the Appendix for the assumptions used by SSGA Investment Solutions Group to create asset class forecasts.

Appendix

Asset Class Forecast: Assumptions

Fixed Income	Our return forecasts for fixed income derive from current yield conditions together with expectations as to how real and nominal yield curves could evolve relative to historical averages. For corporate bonds, we also analyze credit spreads and their term structures, with separate assessments of investment-grade and high-yield bonds.
Equities	Our long-term equity forecasts begin with expectations for developed market large capitalization stocks. The foundation for these forecasts are estimates of real return potential, derived from current dividend yields, forecast real earnings growth rates, and potential for expansion or contraction of valuation multiples. Our forecasting method incorporates long run estimates of potential economic growth based on forecast labor and capital inputs to estimate real earning growth.
Factor Returns	Over a one to three-year forecast horizon, we look to see how cheap each factor is relative to its own history. Specifically, we focus on book/price spreads for each factor and relate that to their subsequent returns. We find that valuation ratios are useful for forecasting market returns.
Commodities	Our long-term commodity forecast is based on the level of world GDP, as a proxy for consumption demand, as well as on our inflation outlook. Additional factors affecting the returns to a commodities investor include how commodities are held (e.g., physically, synthetically, or via futures) and the various construction methodologies of different commodity benchmarks.

Endnotes

Unless otherwise noted, the source for index returns is FactSet, as of September 30, 2024.

1 Bloomberg Finance, L.P., State Street Global Advisors as of September 30, 2024.

2 Bloomberg Finance, L.P., State Street Global Advisors as of September 30, 2024.

3 Bloomberg Finance, L.P., State Street Global Advisors as of August 31, 2024.

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Glossary

Bloomberg Commodity Total Return Index The index is composed of futures contracts and reflects the returns on a fully collateralized investment in the BCOM. This combines the returns of the BCOM with the returns on cash collateral invested in 13 week (3 Month) U.S. Treasury Bills.

Bloomberg Energy Subindex Total Return The index is a commodity group subindex of the Bloomberg Commodity Total Return Index. The index is composed of futures contracts on crude oil, heating oil, unleaded gasoline and natural gas. It reflects the return on fully collateralized futures positions and is quoted in USD.

Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index A benchmark that provides a broad-based measure of the global investment-grade fixed income markets. The three major components of this index are the U.S. Aggregate, the Pan-European Aggregate, and the Asian-Pacific Aggregate Indices. The index also includes Eurodollar and Euro-Yen corporate bonds, Canadian government, agency and corporate securities, and USD investment-grade 144A securities.

Bloomberg Industrial Metals Subindex The index is composed of futures contracts on aluminum, copper, nickel and zinc. It reflects the return of underlying commodity futures price movements only.

Bloomberg Natural Gas Subindex The index is a commodity group subindex of the Bloomberg CI composed of futures contracts on Natural Gas. It reflects the return of underlying commodity futures price movements only and is quoted in USD.

Bloomberg Precious Metals Subindex Total Return The index is composed of futures contracts on gold and silver. It reflects the return on fully collateralized futures positions and is quoted in USD.

Bloomberg U.S. Corporate Bond Index Measures the investment grade, fixed-rate, taxable corporate bond market. It includes USD-denominated securities publicly issued by US and non-US industrial, utility and financial issuers.

Bloomberg U.S. Corporate High Yield 2% Issuer Cap Index The index measures the performance of high yield corporate bonds, with a maximum allocation of 2% to any one issuer.

Commodities A basic good used in commerce that is interchangeable, or "fungible," with other commodities of the same type. Commodities are most often used as inputs in the production of other goods or services For example, crude oil is a commodity that is used to make motor fuels, and heating oil and lubricants.

Core Inflation A measure of inflation that excludes certain items (food and energy) that move with more volatility that other price movements in the economy. Core inflation is considered to reflect the long-term trend in prices more accurately than so-called headline inflation that includes food and energy.

Core Personal Consumption Expenditures Index, or PCE Measures the prices paid by consumers for goods and services without the volatility caused by movements in food and energy prices to reveal underlying inflation trends. The PCE is the Federal Reserve's favored inflation gauge.

Developed Markets Refers to countries or market areas with relatively high levels of economic growth, market liquidity and transparency as well as political stability, rule of law and safety.

Dow Jones U.S. Select REIT Index The index tracks the performance of publicly traded REITs and REIT-like securities and is designed to serve as a proxy for direct real estate investment, in part by excluding companies whose performance may be driven by factors other than the value of real estate.

Emerging Markets Developing countries where the characteristics of mature economies, such as political stability, market liquidity and accounting transparency, are beginning to manifest. Emerging market investments are generally expected to achieve higher returns than developed markets but are also accompanied by greater risk, decreasing their correlation to investments in developed markets.

FTSE EPRA Nareit Developed Index An index that is designed to track the performance of listed real estate companies and REITS worldwide. By making the index constituents free-float adjusted, liquidity, size and revenue screened, the series is suitable for use as the basis for investment products, such as derivatives and Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs).

High Yield A company or bond that is rated 'BB' or lower is known as junk grade or high yield, in which case the probability that the company will repay its issued debt is deemed to be speculative.

Market Regime Indicator (MRI) A proprietary macro indicator developed by the SSGA Investment Solutions Group. The MRI is designed to identify a level of forward-looking, implied volatility. Factors utilized to generate the signal include implied equity and currency volatility as well as spreads on fixed income.

MSCI ACWI Index, or MSCI All Country World Index A free-float weighted global equity index that includes companies in 23 emerging market countries and 23 developed market countries and is designed to be a proxy for most of the investable equities universe around the world.

MSCI Emerging Markets Index The MSCI Emerging Markets Index captures large and mid-cap representation across 23 emerging markets countries. With 834 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

MSCI Europe Index A benchmark capturing large- and mid-cap representation across 15 developed market countries in Europe.

PMI, or Purchasing Managers Index An indicator of the economic health of the manufacturing sector. The PMI is based on five major indicators: new orders, inventory levels, production, supplier deliveries and the employment environment.

Real Assets Physical or tangible assets that have value and often are investable. Real assets include precious metals, commodities, real estate, agricultural land and oil, and their inclusion in most diversified portfolios is considered appropriate.

REITs or Real Estate Investment Trust Companies that own and operate commercial properties, such as office buildings and apartment complexes.

S&P 500® Index A popular benchmark for U.S. large-cap equities that includes 500 companies from leading industries and captures approximately 80% coverage of available market capitalization.

The MSCI All-Country Asia Pacific Index The index captures large and mid cap representation across 5 Developed Markets countries and 8 Emerging Markets countries in the Asia Pacific region.

TIPS or Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities Treasury securities that are indexed to inflation in order to protect investors from the negative effects of inflation. TIPS are backed by the US government and are thus considered an extremely low-risk investment. The par value of TIPS rises with inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, while the interest rate remains fixed.

Treasuries The debt obligations of a national government. Also known as "government securities," Treasuries are backed by the credit and taxing power of a country, and are thus regarded as having relatively little or no risk of default.

Important Risk Information

The views expressed in this material are the views of State Street Global Advisors' Investment Solutions Group (ISG) through the period ended September 30, 2024 and are subject to change based on market and other conditions.

This document contains certain statements that may be deemed forward-looking statements. Please note that any such statements are not guarantees of any future performance and actual results or developments may differ materially from those projected.

All information is from SSGA unless otherwise noted and has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but its accuracy is not guaranteed. There is no representation or warranty as to the current accuracy, reliability or completeness of, nor liability for, decisions based on such information and it should not be relied on as such. All performance cited is calculated in US dollars unless otherwise stated.

The information provided does not constitute investment advice and it should not be relied on as such. It should not be considered a solicitation to buy or an offer to sell a security. It does not take into account any investor's particular investment objectives, strategies, tax status or investment horizon. You should consult your tax and financial advisor.

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

Index returns reflect capital gains and losses, income, and the reinvestment of dividends.

ETFs trade like stocks, are subject to investment risk, fluctuate in market value and may trade at prices above or below the ETFs' net asset value. Brokerage commissions and ETF expenses will reduce returns.

Investing in commodities entail significant risk and is not appropriate for all investors. Commodities investing entail significant risk as commodity prices can be extremely volatile due to wide range of factors. A few such factors include overall market movements, real or perceived inflationary trends, commodity index volatility, international, economic and political changes, change in interest and currency exchange rates.

Equity securities may fluctuate in value and can decline significantly in response to the activities of individual companies and general market and economic conditions.

Investing in **REITs** involves certain distinct risks in addition to those risks associated with investing in the real estate industry in general. Equity REITs may be affected by changes in the value of the underlying property owned by the REITs, while mortgage REITs may be affected by the quality of credit extended. REITs are subject to heavy cash flow dependency, default by borrowers and self-liquidation. REITs, especially mortgage REITs, are also subject to interest rate risk (i.e., as interest rates rise, the value of the REIT may decline).

The **index returns** are unmanaged and do not reflect the deduction of any fees or expenses. Investing involves risk including the risk of loss of principal.

Investing in **foreign domiciled securities** may involve risk of capital loss from unfavorable fluctuation in currency values, withholding taxes, from differences in generally accepted accounting principles or from economic or political instability in other nations. Investments in emerging or developing markets may be more volatile and less liquid than investing in developed markets and may involve exposure to economic structures that are generally less diverse and mature and to political systems which have less stability than those of more developed countries.

Asset allocation is a method of diversification which positions assets among major investment categories. Asset allocation may be used in an effort to manage risk and enhance returns. It does not, however, guarantee a profit or protect against loss.

Bonds generally present less short-term risk and volatility than stocks but contain interest rate risk (as interest rates rise bond prices usually fall); issuer default risk; issuer credit risk; liquidity risk; and inflation risk. These effects are usually pronounced for longer-term securities. Any fixed income security sold or redeemed prior to maturity may be subject to a substantial gain or loss.

Commodities and commodity-index linked securities may be affected by changes in overall market movements, changes in interest rates, and other factors such as weather, disease, embargoes, or political and regulatory developments, as well as trading activity of speculators and arbitrageurs in the underlying commodities.

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