

## 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER 2019 - ADVISORY COMMENTARY

THE PAST QUARTER SAW A PITCHED BATTLE BEING FOUGHT BETWEEN TWO SCHOOLS OF INVESTING THOUGHT. ON ONE SIDE, WE HAVE THE CONTINUED DROP OFF IN ECONOMIC DATA ACROSS THE GLOBE ADDING TO THE WEAKNESS IN CORPORATE EARNINGS REPORTS. ON THE OTHER SIDE, WE HAVE THE THESIS THAT AS THOSE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS CONTINUE TO REVEAL THEMSELVES, CENTRAL BANKS AROUND THE GLOBE WILL PROVIDE LOWER INTEREST RATES AND MORE ASSET PURCHASES IN ORDER TO PROP UP THE WORLD'S ASSET MARKETS.

STOCK MARKET VOLATILITY SAW A LARGE INCREASE IN THE QUARTER. THIS TYPE OF CHANGE CAN OFTEN BE A FORESHADOWING OF A MUCH MORE NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENT UP AHEAD. THE POLITICAL SEASON IS STARTING TO HEAT UP IN THE U.S. THIS OFTEN MEANS THAT INVESTORS START TO LOSE THEIR FOCUS A BIT AND ARE MORE SWAYED BY THE DAILY POLICY PROPOSALS BROUGHT FORTH BY EVEN THE MOST MARGINAL CANDIDATES.

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE QUARTER, WE EXITED ALMOST ALL OF OUR LONG-TERM U.S. TREASURY BOND POSITIONS AFTER A VERY NICE RUN UP. WE'VE HELD MOST OF THE PROCEEDS IN CASH THROUGH THE END OF THE QUARTER. THE CONTINUED PUSH LOWER IN INTEREST RATES LOOKS LIKELY TO CONTINUE, BUT THE PAST FEW WEEKS HAVE SEEN A BIT OF A REVERSAL AND WE'D PREFER TO LET THIS CORRECTION RUN ITS COURSE BEFORE WE RE-ENTER THIS ALLOCATION.

WE CONTINUE TO SEE SOLID RISK-RETURN PROSPECTS IN REAL ESTATE, UTILITIES AND OTHER INTEREST-RATE SENSITIVE AREAS. WHILE THESE AREN'T THE MOST EXCITING AREAS TO BE INVESTED IN, THEY HAVE BEEN VERY GOOD PERFORMERS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR SO FAR.

GOLD FINISHED THE QUARTER UP OVER 5%, CONTINUING ITS STRONG PERFORMANCE IN 2019. THE GOLD MINING STOCKS ARE ALSO HOLDING THEIR OWN, AS WE CONTINUE TO SEE THIS SECTOR BENEFIT FROM THE SIDE EFFECTS OF GOVERNMENT MONEY PRINTING AND THE OVERALL EASING OF INTEREST RATES TO TRY TO HELP EQUITY MARKETS STAY ALOFT AT THESE ELEVATED VALUATIONS.

WHILE WE ENDED THE QUARTER WITH MUCH HIGHER THAN AVERAGE CASH HOLDINGS, WE ARE VERY AWARE OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE ACTIONS OF THE WORLD'S CENTRAL BANKS – REGARDLESS OF THE ECONOMIC FUNDAMENTALS – COULD SPUR HIGHER EQUITY PRICES IF THEY PUT THE PEDAL TO THE METAL. RIGHT OR WRONG, THIS COULD BE A RECIPE FOR FURTHER GAINS AND WE STAND READY TO TRY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS, SHOULD IT COME TO FRUITION.

SINCERELY,



BRIAN WECKMAN  
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## 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER 2019 - MARKET UPDATE

### EQUITY MARKETS

- S&P 500 INDEX TR +1.70%
- DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE TR +1.83%
- NASDAQ COMPOSITE INDEX -0.09%
- RUSSELL 3000 INDEX TR +1.16%
- CBOE SPX MARKET VOLATILITY INDEX +7.69%

### FIXED INCOME MARKETS

- BARCLAYS U.S. AGGREGATE BOND INDEX +2.27%
- BARCLAYS U.S. TREASURY 5-7 YEAR INDEX +1.69%

### ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS, COMMODITIES & CURRENCIES

- S&P GSCI TOTAL RETURN INDEX -4.18%
- GSCI WEST TEXAS INTERMEDIATE EXCESS RETURN -7.42%
- U.S. DOLLAR INDEX +3.38%
- GOLD SPOT +5.42%
- DOW JONES COMPOSITE REIT INDEX TR +7.32%
- CBOE BUYWRITE MONTHLY INDEX +0.56%

ANCHORED GROWTH BENCHMARK +1.41%

(70% RUSSELL 3000, 25% BARCLAYS U.S. AGGREGATE BOND INDEX, 5% CASH)

FOUNDATION TOTAL RETURN BENCHMARK +1.54%

(50% RUSSELL 3000, 40% BARCLAYS U.S. AGGREGATE BOND INDEX, 10% CASH)

INFLATION-PLUS INCOME BENCHMARK +1.24%

(40% BARCLAYS U.S. AGGREGATE BOND INDEX, 40% BARCLAYS U.S. TREASURY SHORT INDEX, 20% CASH)

\*SOURCE: KWANTL.COM (10/12/19). INDEXES ARE UNMANAGED AND CANNOT BE INVESTED INTO DIRECTLY. UNMANAGED INDEX RETURNS DO NOT REFLECT FEES, EXPENSES, OR SALES CHARGES. INDEX PERFORMANCE IS NOT INDICATIVE OF THE PERFORMANCE OF ANY INVESTMENT. PAST PERFORMANCE IS NO GUARANTEE OF FUTURE RESULTS.



THE OPINIONS VOICED IN THIS MATERIAL ARE FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY AND ARE NOT INTENDED TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC ADVICE OR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL.

THE ECONOMIC FORECASTS MAY NOT DEVELOP AS PREDICTED AND THERE CAN BE NO GUARANTEE THAT STRATEGIES PROMOTED WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.

PRECIOUS METAL INVESTING INVOLVES GREATER FLUCTUATION AND POTENTIAL FOR LOSSES.

THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT A DIVERSIFIED PORTFOLIO WILL ENHANCE OVERALL RETURNS OR OUTPERFORM A NON-DIVERSIFIED PORTFOLIO. DIVERSIFICATION DOES NOT PROTECT AGAINST MARKET RISK.

STOCK INVESTING INVOLVES RISK INCLUDING LOSS OF PRINCIPLE.

GOVERNMENT BONDS AND TREASURY BILLS ARE GUARANTEED BY THE US GOVERNMENT AS TO THE TIMELY PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST AND, IF HELD TO MATURITY, OFFER A FIXED RATE OF RETURN AND FIXED PRINCIPAL VALUE.

The Standard & Poor's 500 Index is a capitalization-weighted index of 500 stocks designed to measure performance of the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries.

Dow Jones Industrial Average is the most widely used indicator of the overall condition of the stock market, a price-weighted average of 30 actively traded blue chip stocks, primarily industrials. The 30 stocks are chosen by the editors of the Wall Street Journal. The Dow is computed using a price-weighted indexing system, rather than the more common market cap-weighted indexing system.

The NASDAQ Global Market Composite consists of 1,450 stocks that meet NASDAQ's strict financial and liquidity requirements, and corporate governance standards. The Global Market Composite is less exclusive than the Global Select Market Composite.

The Russell 3000 Index is a market capitalization weighted equity index maintained by the Russell Investment Group that seeks to be a benchmark of the entire U.S. stock market. More specifically, this index encompasses the 3,000 largest U.S.-traded stocks, in which the underlying companies are all incorporated in the U.S.

The CBOE SPX Market Volatility Index shows the market's expectation of 30-day volatility. It is constructed using the implied volatilities of a wide range of S&P 500 index options. This volatility is meant to be forward looking and is calculated from both calls and puts. The VIX is a widely used measure of market risk and is often referred to as the "investor fear gauge."

The Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index is a broad-based flagship benchmark that measures the investment grade, US dollar-denominated, fixed-rate taxable bond market. The index includes Treasuries, government-related and corporate securities, MBS (agency fixed-rate and hybrid ARM pass-throughs), ABS and CMBS (agency and non-agency).

The Barclays US Treasury Bond Index measures the performance of U.S. Treasury securities that have a remaining maturity of at least seven years and less than 10 years.

The S&P GSCI is recognized as a leading measure of general price movements and inflation in the world economy. The index – representing market beta – is world-production weighted. It is designed to be investable by including the most liquid commodity futures, and provides diversification with low correlations to other asset classes.

The GSCI West Texas Intermediate Excess Return Index reflects the returns that are potentially available through an unleveraged investment in the West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil futures contract plus the Treasury Bill rate of interest that could be earned on funds committed to the trading of the underlying contracts.

The U.S. Dollar Index is a measure of the value of the U.S. dollar relative to majority of its most significant trading partners. This index is similar to other trade-weighted indexes, which also use the exchange rates from the same major currencies.

Gold Spot refers to the price paid for current delivery of 1 ounce of physical gold.

The Dow Jones Composite REIT Index contains all publicly traded U.S. REITs in the S&P Dow Jones Indices U.S. stock universe that are classified into one of three subcategories—equity, mortgage or hybrid—as defined by the REIT/RESI Industry Classification Hierarchy.

The CBOE S&P 500 BuyWrite Index (BXM) is a benchmark index designed to track the performance of a hypothetical buy-write strategy on the S&P 500 Index.



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