## FundUniverse

## **Universe Book**

4th Quarter 2007

#### 4th Quarter 2007

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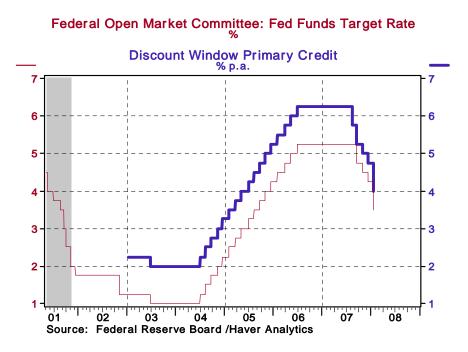
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#### **U.S. Economic Summary**

The probability of a recession in the U.S. has risen significantly in recent weeks. The Fed took an aggressive step on January 22 and the lowered the federal funds rate and discount rate by 75 basis points each to 3.50% and 4.00%, respectively. Additional easing of monetary policy is predicted for the months ahead. In addition to monetary policy easing, the Bush administration is hammering out a fiscal stimulus package to provide broader support to a revival of economic growth. The details of this package will be available shortly. Essentially, the economy is facing difficult straits but remedial measures have been implemented and there is more in the pipeline to prevent severe economic slowdown from taking hold.

In the third quarter of 2007, the real GDP of the U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of 4.9% following a 3.8% increase in the second quarter. Inflation adjusted exports played a major role in providing the lift to GDP in both quarters with gains of 7.5% and 19.1%, respectively. Inventories accounted for a large part of the increase in real GDP in the third quarter. Government outlays have also shown noticeable strength in the second and third quarters of 2007. Consumer spending posted relatively more subdued gains of 1.4% and 2.8% in the second and third quarters of 2007 compared with a 3.8% average gain in the fourth quarter of 2006 and first quarter of 2007. Business capital spending has risen at an annual rate of 5.4%, on average, in the second and third quarters of 2007 compared with a decline of 4.9% in the fourth quarter of 2007 and a paltry 0.3% increase in the first quarter of 2007. However, in the fourth quarter, a significantly slower pace of growth in the neighborhood of 1.00% is likely. In the firsthalf of 2008, a contraction in GDP is most likely. In other words, a recession is projected for the first-half of the year, followed by tepid growth toward the end of 2008. This forecast assumes a lower federal funds rate and a passage of a fiscal stimulus package.

The impact of the housing market crisis and its ripple effects are becoming visible in th real economy. The civilian unemployment rate rose to 5.0% in December 2007 from a cycle low of 4.4% in March 2007. Historically, such sharp increases in the unemployment rate are associated with recessions. Payroll employment rose only 18,000 in December, the smallest gain since August 2003. Private sector payroll employment fell 13,000 in December, the first monthly record of private sector job losses since July 2003. Total payroll employment gains averaged 111,000 per month in 2007 vs. an 189,000 per month in 2006. On a year-to-year basis, total payroll employment slowed to a 0.9% increase in December, down from a peak growth rate of 2.14% in March 2006. Weakness in the labor market is also supported by the latest employment surveys such as Manpower Survey, Monster Employment Index, and Hudson Employment Index and jobless claims data.



The housing sector's recession continues, the bottom is probably a few months ahead. Housing starts fell 14.2% and permits declined 8.1% in December. Housing starts have now dropped 56.1% from their peak in January 2006; permit extensions have fallen 61.5% from their peak also in January 2006. Sales of existing and new single-family homes have dropped 33.7% from their peak in July 2005. On a year-to-yearbasis, they are down 20.5%. The weakness in sales has translated to falling prices and rising inventories of unsold homes. Prices of homes have dropped 6.1% on a year-to-yearbasis in October, according to the Case Shiller 20-city index.

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#### **U.S. Economic Summary (continued)**

News from the factory sector suggests that factory activity has stalled. Industrial production held steady in December after a 0.3% increase in the prior month. Factory production, which is close to 85% of total industrial production, also held steady in December following a 0.5% drop in November. Production at the nation's utilities fell 0.2% after steady readings in each of the two prior months. In the fourth quarter, industrial production dropped at an annual rate of 1.0% compared with a 3.6% increase in the third quarter. Factory output declined at an annual rate of 1.9% in the fourth quarter compared with a 3.6% gain in the fourth quarter. More importantly, in December, factory production rose 1.14% from a year ago, the slowest gain since October 2003 when factory output increased 0.9% from a year ago. Industrial production appears to have peaked in September 2007. The ISM composite index for manufacturing for December dropped below 50, which marks the cutoff between expansion and contraction in the industrial sector.

Business outlays (structures and equipment spending) grew at an annual rate of 9.3% in the third quarter vs. an 11.0% increase in the second quarter. A more sizable deceleration is likely based on weakness in profits stemming partly from the financial crisis that is unfolding. Profits of corporations dropped 1.3% in the third quarter, following a 6.1% jump in the second quarter. Strength in profits from overseas operations helped to trim the decline in the third quarter. Recent financial market developments and projected weakness in economic growth cast a long shadow on profits and business outlays in the near term.

Consumer spending, the main driver of economic growth in the current expansion, has slowed in the final months of 2007. Although retail sales were strong in November, inflation adjusted retail sales were steady on a year-to-year basis in the fourth quarter, which is the slowest in sixteen years. The impact of a further correction in equity markets, housing market issues, and impaired financial markets on consumer spending ranks high on the Fed's worry list. Signs of weakness in consumer spending will play a major role in the near term course of monetary policy. A significant slowing in consumer spending is projected for 2008. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) moved up 4.1% in 2007 vs.2.5% in 2006. Sharp increases in food and energy prices accounted for a large part of this increase. The core CPI, which excludes food and energy prices, has risen 2.4% in 2007, a small deceleration from a 2.6% increase in 2006. The Fed has maintained a tough stance about inflation because of rising energy prices, a weak dollar, and their pass-through effects of the core CPI.

3/73=100 Source: Federal Reserve Board /Haver Analytics

Nominal Trade-Weighted Exch Value of US\$ vs Major Currencies

In the Fed's opinion, any rapid increase in inflation expectations would erode its credibility and complicate the task of sustaining price stability and reduce the central bank's policy flexibility to counter shortfalls in growth in the future. Inflation expectations have been largely contained against the backdrop of the sharp gains in overall inflation. There is small change in the Fed's latest view about inflation. On January 22, the Fed's policy indicated that it expects a moderation in inflation in the months ahead but will continue to monitor inflation developments closely.

As mentioned earlier, exports have made substantial positive contributions to real GDP growth in the first three quarters of 2007. Continued growth in exports, probably with slight moderation is expected in the quarters ahead. However, the latest equity market correction in global markets has brought to question the optimism embedded in this outlook. We remain cautious about how much growth in exports could possibly contribute to momentum in the U.S.economy. It is also premature to attach hard estimates of the impact of the latest global financial turbulence on the U.S economy. The current account deficit of the U.S. economy in the third quarter was 5.1% of GDP, down from a historical high 6.6% of GDP in the third quarter of 2006. The impact of this improvement is reflected in the fact that the trade weighted value of the dollar has gained 3.2% from its low of 71.3 in early-November2007. The trend on a year-to-yearbasis is less promising as the trade weighted value of the dollar at 73.6 has now fallen 10.8% on a year-to-yearbasis and declined nearly 35% from its peak in early-2002.

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Despite the Federal Reserve cutting rates twice during the 4th quarter of 2007, the economy continued to show signs of uncertainty in the marketplace. The Federal Funds rate was lowered by 50 basis during the quarter to 4.25%. The discount rate was lowered by the same amount to 4.75%. During the 4th quarter, worries continued over the intensity of the housing correction, which also spilled over into the credit market. Business and consumer spending softened amid concerns of the overall economy.

Both domestic and international equity markets ended 2007 with a disappointing whimper. The S&P 500 and the MSCI EAFE Indexes declined 3.33% and 1.71% respectively for the quarter ended December 31st. On a positive note, both indexes posted gains for the one-year period. International equity issues outperformed their domestic counterparts by 6.14% over the one-year period, as evidenced by the S&P 500 (5.49%) and the MSCI EAFE (11.63%).

The quarterly universe returns were tight among three of the four median plans. The Foundations & Endowments median plan was the noticeable outlier, posting a 1.19% gain for the quarter. Their lower relative allocation to U.S. Equity, along with a substantially higher allocation to Alternative Assets, gave the Foundations & Endowments median plan a boost for the quarter. Over longer time periods, Foundations & Endowments continued to be the top performing median plan.

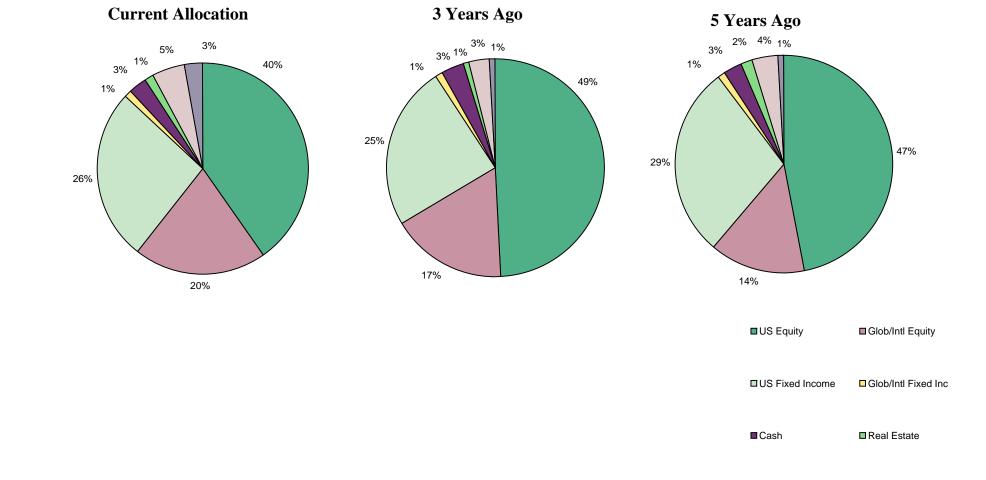
Periods Ended December 31, 2007		1 Yr.	2 Yrs.	3 Yrs.	5 Yrs.
Northern Trust ERISA Median	-0.61%	8.42%	11.09%	10.22%	13.37%
Northern Trust Public Funds Median	-0.74%	8.47%	10.95%	9.75%	13.34%
Northern Trust Foundations & Endowments Med.		9.38%	11.57%	10.66%	13.98%
Northern Wealth Management Group Median	-0.50%	7.50%	9.52%	8.38%	10.69%
S&P 500	-3.33%	5.49%	10.52%	8.62%	12.83%
Lehman Bros. Aggregate Index	3.00%	6.97%	5.64%	4.56%	4.42%
MSCI EAFE (GD)	-1.71%	11.63%	19.00%	17.32%	22.08%
90 Day T-Bills	0.91%	4.68%	4.82%	4.30%	3.06%
Consumer Price Index	0.74%	4.08%	3.31%	3.34%	3.03%

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The Wealth Management median plan was the second best performer for the quarter. During a period filled with disappointing equity results, their lower allocation to equities (domestic and international combined), relative to the other median plans, was an advantage. Since equities performed poorly, their high cash allocation (10% for 4Q07) enhanced the plan's return. In thriving equity markets, Wealth Management's high allocation to cash has been a detriment to the median plan's performance. Over longer time periods, the cash drag is evident when compared to the other market segments' performance.

Given their similar asset mix, the Public Funds and ERISA median plans had comparable showings for the 4th quarter of 2007, returning -0.74 and -0.61, respectively. Their analogous returns are also reflected in the one- year performance. Public Funds returned 8.47% for the year, while ERISA gained 8.42%.

Asset Allocation	Current	1 Year Ago	3 Years Ago	5 Years Ago
ERISA Composite (105 plans)				
U.S. Equity	40%	44%	49%	47%
Global/Non-U.S. Equity	20%	19%	17%	14%
U.S. Fixed Income	26%	26%	25%	29%
Global/Non-U.S. Bonds	1%	3%	1%	1%
Cash & Other	12%	8%	8%	9%
Public Fund Composite (42 plans	5)			
U.S. Equity	39%	44%	48%	41%
Global/Non-U.S. Equity	21%	19%	15%	14%
U.S. Fixed Income	23%	25%	26%	30%
Global/Non-U.S. Bonds	4%	3%	1%	2%
Cash & Other	13%	9%	10%	13%
Foundation & Endowments Com	posite (84 funds)			
U.S. Equity	31%	38%	44%	43%
Global/Non-U.S. Equity	19%	17%	16%	11%
U.S. Fixed Income	16%	17%	20%	25%
Global/Non-U.S. Bonds	1%	1%	2%	1%
Cash & Other	33%	27%	18%	20%



### **ERISA Plans - Composite Asset Allocation**

At quarter-end, the Composite included 105 trusts with a total market value of \$240 billion. The ERISA Composite represents the dollar-weighted aggregate of all plans in the ERISA universe; the range of asset allocation is highlighted on page 5.

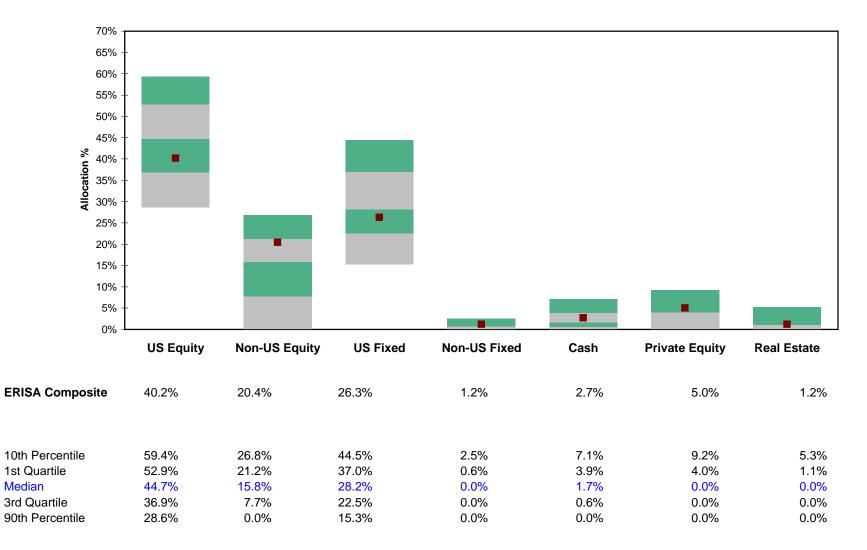
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Private Equity

Other

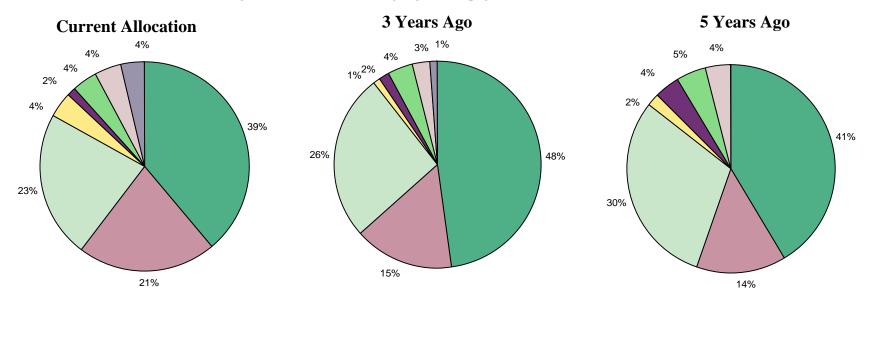
### **ERISA Plans - Range of Asset Allocation**

This chart depicts the range of asset class allocations made by plan sponsors in the ERISA Universe.



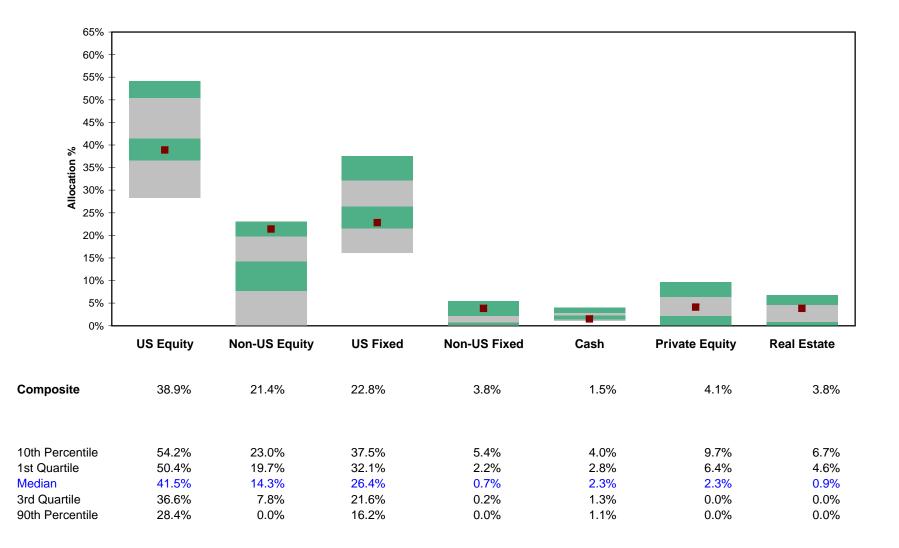
### **Public Funds - Composite Asset Allocation**

At quarter-end, the Composite included 42 trusts with a total market value of \$380 billion. The Public Fund Composite represents the dollar-weighted aggregate of all plans in the Public Fund universe; the range of asset allocation is highlighted on page 7.



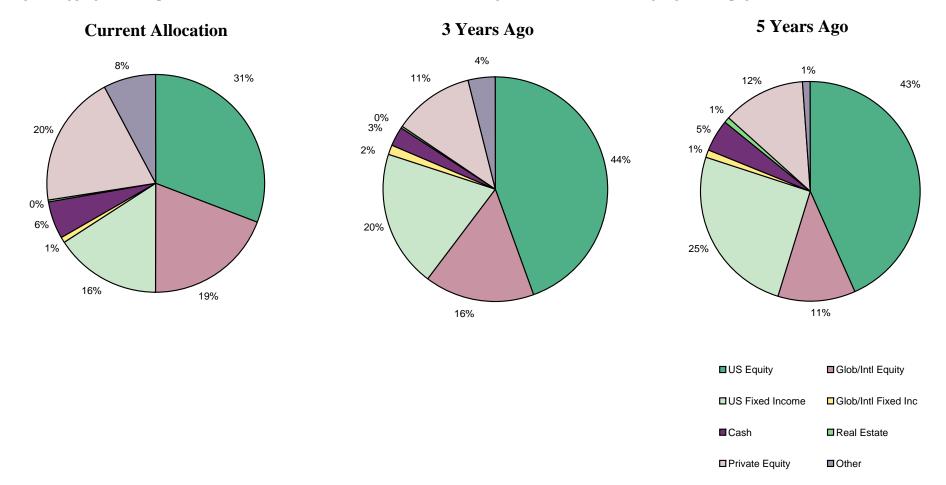


### **Public Funds - Range of Asset Allocation**

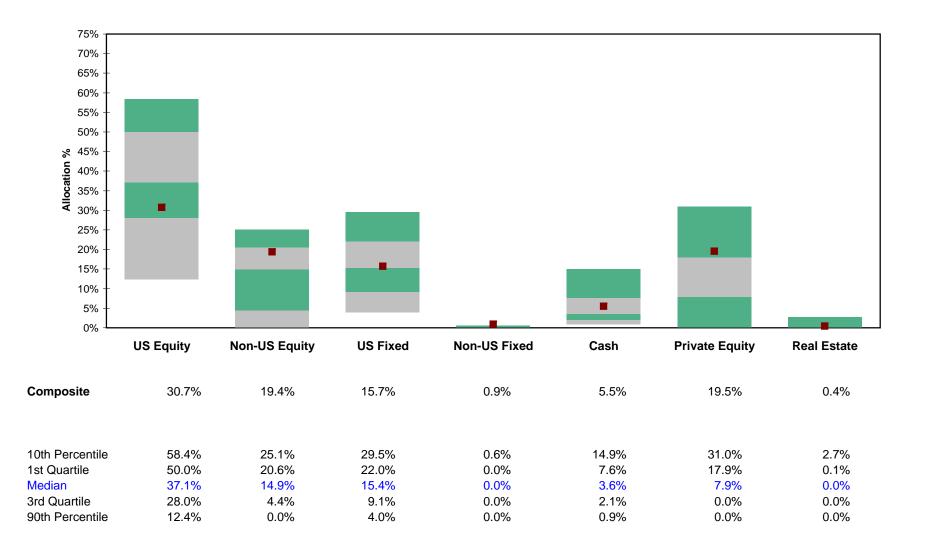


### **Foundation & Endowment Plans - Composite Asset Allocation**

At quarter-end, the Composite included 84 trusts with a total market value of \$97 billion. The Foundation & Endowment Composite represents the dollarweighted aggregate of all plans in the Foundation & Endowment universe; the range of asset allocation is highlighted on page 9.



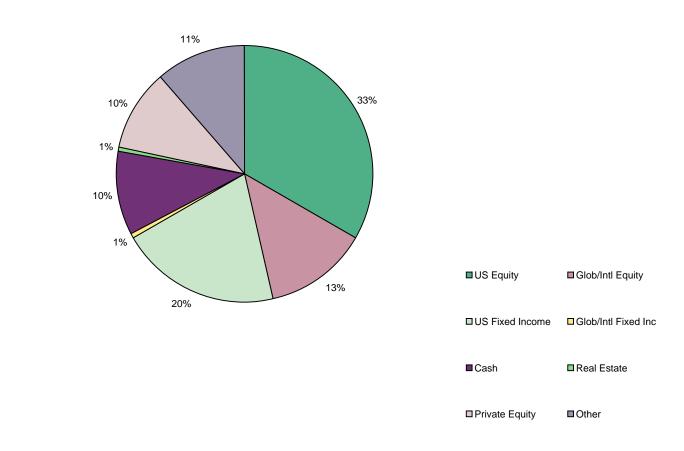
### **Foundation & Endowment Plans - Range of Asset Allocation**



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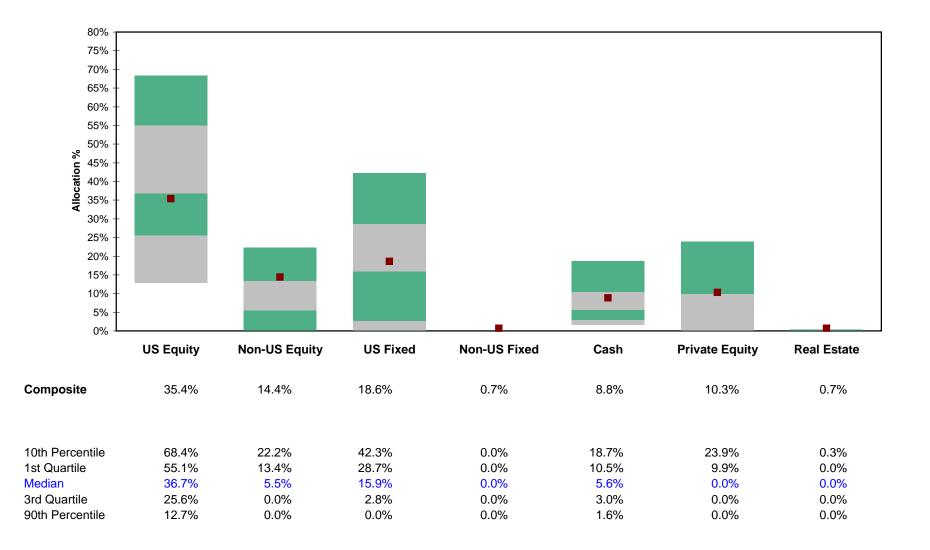
### Wealth Management Plans - Composite Asset Allocation

At quarter-end, the Composite included 171 trusts with a total market value of \$31 billion.



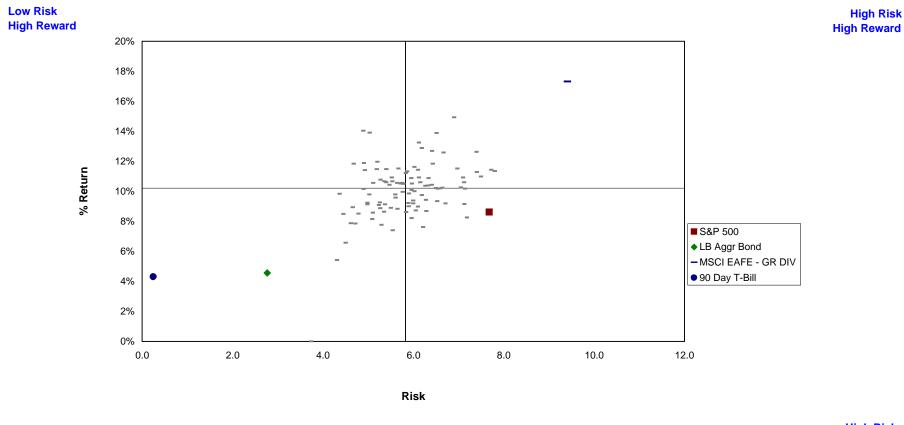
#### **Current Allocation**

### Wealth Management Plans - Range of Asset Allocation



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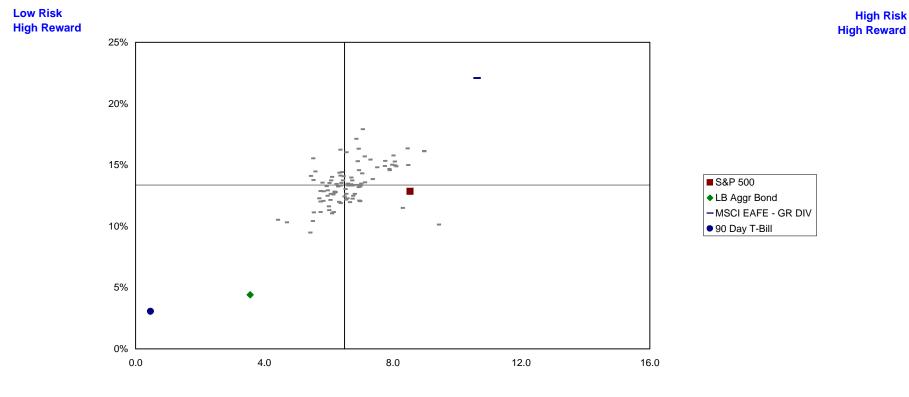
### ERISA Plans - 3 Year Risk vs. Return



Low Risk Low Reward

High Risk Low Reward

### **ERISA Plans - 5 Year Risk Return**



Risk

Low Risk Low Reward

High Risk Low Reward

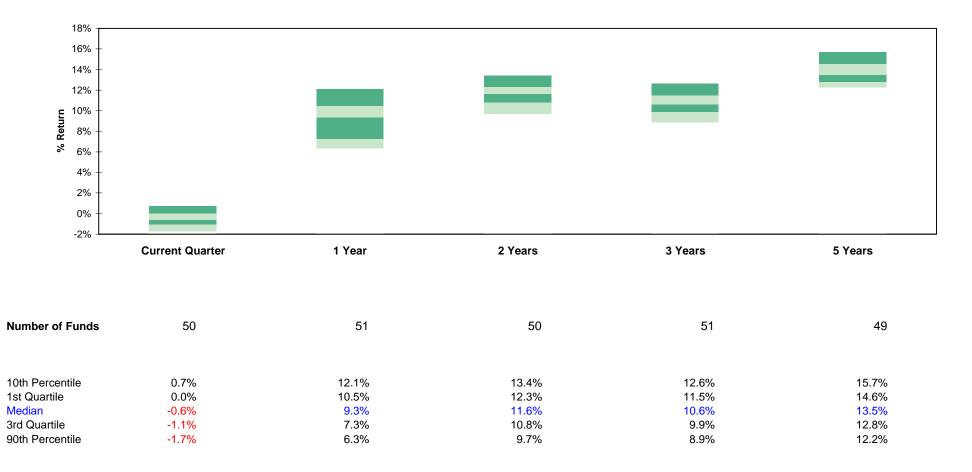


### **ERISA Plans - Total Returns**



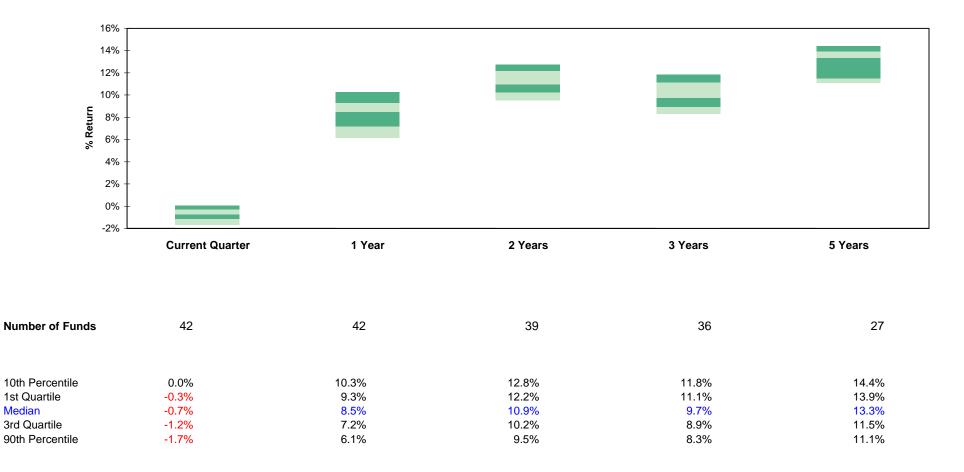
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### **ERISA Plans Greater Than \$1B - Total Returns**





### **Public Funds - Total Returns**



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### **Foundation & Endowment Plans - Total Returns**



### Wealth Management Plans - Total Returns



### **All Funds Universe Populations - Total Returns**

Funds Greater than \$1B Universe							
	9/30/2007	12/31/2006	12/31/2005	12/31/2004	12/31/2002		
	12/31/2007	12/31/2007	12/31/2007	12/31/2007	12/31/2007		
Top Quartile	0.0	10.7	12.7	11.7	14.8		
Median	-0.6	9.3	11.6	10.6	13.5		
Bottom Quartile	-1.1	7.4	10.6	9.7	12.7		
Number of Funds	112	110	103	96	87		

Funds Between \$500M and \$1B Universe							
	9/30/2007	12/31/2006	12/31/2005	12/31/2004	12/31/2002		
	12/31/2007	12/31/2007	12/31/2007	12/31/2007	12/31/2007		
Top Quartile	0.6	11.3	12.9	11.5	15.0		
Median	0.0	8.7	10.9	10.3	13.3		
Bottom Quartile	-0.8	7.3	10.0	9.1	12.1		
Number of Funds	45	43	40	37	34		

Funds Between \$250M and \$500M Universe							
	9/30/2007	12/31/2006	12/31/2005	12/31/2004	12/31/2002		
	12/31/2007	12/31/2007	12/31/2007	12/31/2007	12/31/2007		
Top Quartile	0.2	9.6	12.6	10.9	14.1		
Median	-0.5	8.6	10.5	9.4	12.6		
<b>Bottom Quartile</b>	-1.2	6.2	9.8	8.7	11.4		
Number of Funds	56	54	49	48	40		

Funds Between \$100 and \$250M Universe							
	9/30/2007 12/31/2006 12/31/2005 12/31/2004				12/31/2002		
	12/31/2007	12/31/2007	12/31/2007	12/31/2007	12/31/2007		
Top Quartile	0.6	9.5	11.3	9.8	12.2		
Median	-0.3	7.5	9.5	8.5	11.0		
Bottom Quartile	-1.3	5.5	8.2	7.0	9.2		
Number of Funds	62	58	50	46	40		

Funds Less Than \$100M Universe							
	9/30/2007	12/31/2006	12/31/2005	12/31/2004	12/31/2002		
	12/31/2007	12/31/2007	12/31/2007	12/31/2007	12/31/2007		
Top Quartile	0.2	10.1	10.7	9.6	12.7		
Median	-0.7	7.5	9.5	8.2	10.8		
Bottom Quartile	-1.4	5.6	7.4	6.4	8.9		
Number of Funds	130	127	106	94	56		

Funds Greater Than \$100M Universe							
	9/30/2007	12/31/2006	12/31/2005	12/31/2004	12/31/2002		
	12/31/2007	12/31/2007	12/31/2007	12/31/2007	12/31/2007		
Top Quartile	0.4	10.4	12.6	11.4	14.4		
Median	-0.5	8.7	11.0	10.1	13.2		
Bottom Quartile	-1.1	6.8	9.8	8.9	11.5		
Number of Funds	279	266	245	229	200		

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### **U.S. Equity Summary**

Volatility was the theme for the fourth quarter of 2007. The markets, represented by the Russell 3000, posted solid gains in October, but then fell off sharply in November. The markets were down again in December with large positive and negative swings from day to day. Overall, the Russell 3000 was down 3.3% for the quarter. This was the first negative quarter for the index since the second quarter of 2006.

Some common themes recurred throughout 2007. Geopolitical concerns in the Middle East continued to worry investors as well as rising oil prices which reached \$100 a barrel. There were continued concerns over the housing market where the pace of foreclosures accelerated, and many are still worried about who is exposed to sub-prime debt and how much it is. In addition, investors started to be concerned over whether the U.S. was headed towards a recession which added to the anxiety. The Fed did step in and lower rates which caused unsustained rallies in November and December.

When faced with economic challenges, investors often seek the high ground in large cap growth stocks, and this proved to be the case in the fourth quarter of 2007. While the Russell 3000 was down 3.3% for the quarter, the Russell 1000 growth was down only 74 basis points. On the flip side, investors tend to shy away from the riskier small cap value stocks when faced with economic challenges. Small cap value stocks, as seen in the Russell 2000 value, showed the largest decline for the quarter down 7.3%. For the year, the Russell 1000 growth was up 11.8% while the Russell 2000 value was down 9.8%.

This flight to growth can also be seen in the sector returns for the quarter. Financials and Telecom consist of more value oriented stocks and each was down 13.2% and 6.1% respectively in the Russell 3000. The Energy sector was the best performing sector at positive 4.6% with oil prices reaching record highs.

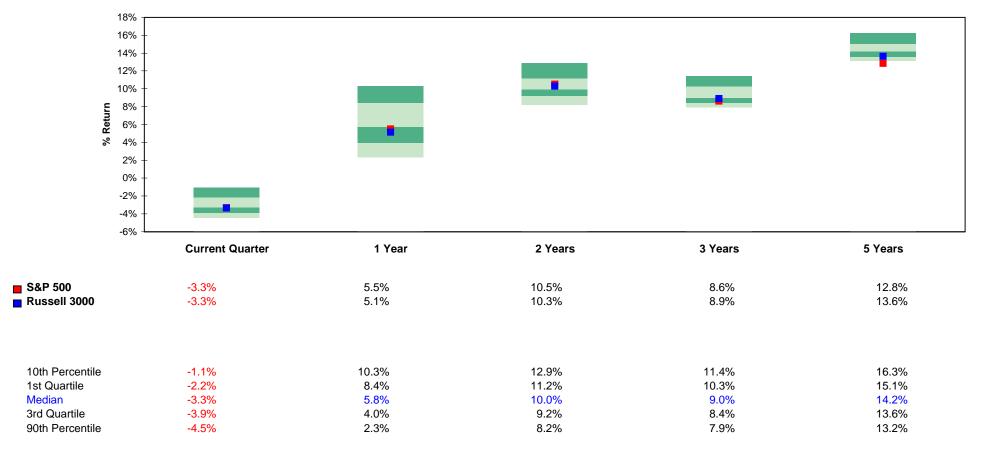
The trend to large cap growth can also be seen in the Northern Trust equity style universes. For the quarter, the large cap growth universe was up 0.4% while the small cap value was down 6.2%. The mid cap growth universe was in between the two at -1.8%.

Periods Ending December 31, 2007	Quarter	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years
S&P 500	-3.3%	5.5%	10.5%	8.6%	12.8%
Russell 3000	-3.3%	5.1%	10.3%	8.9%	13.6%
Russell 1000	-3.2%	5.8%	10.5%	9.1%	13.4%
Russell 1000 Growth	-0.8%	11.8%	10.4%	8.7%	12.1%
Russell 1000 Value	-5.8%	-0.2%	10.5%	9.3%	14.6%
Russell 2000	-4.6%	-1.6%	7.9%	6.8%	16.2%
Russell 2000 Growth	-2.1%	7.0%	10.2%	8.1%	16.5%
Russell 2000 Value	-7.3%	-9.8%	5.5%	5.3%	15.8%
NT Equity Style Medians					
Large Cap Core	-2.6%	7.5%	11.3%	9.7%	13.1%
Large Growth	0.4%	15.0%	11.2%	10.6%	13.3%
Large Value	-4.7%	0.9%	10.1%	9.8%	15.9%
Mid Growth	-1.8%	13.3%	11.3%	12.0%	18.6%
Mid Value	-6.4%	1.2%	7.0%	8.9%	18.0%
Small Growth	-5.3%	3.2%	8.8%	8.8%	17.3%
Small Value	-6.2%	-3.1%	7.4%	7.8%	17.4%

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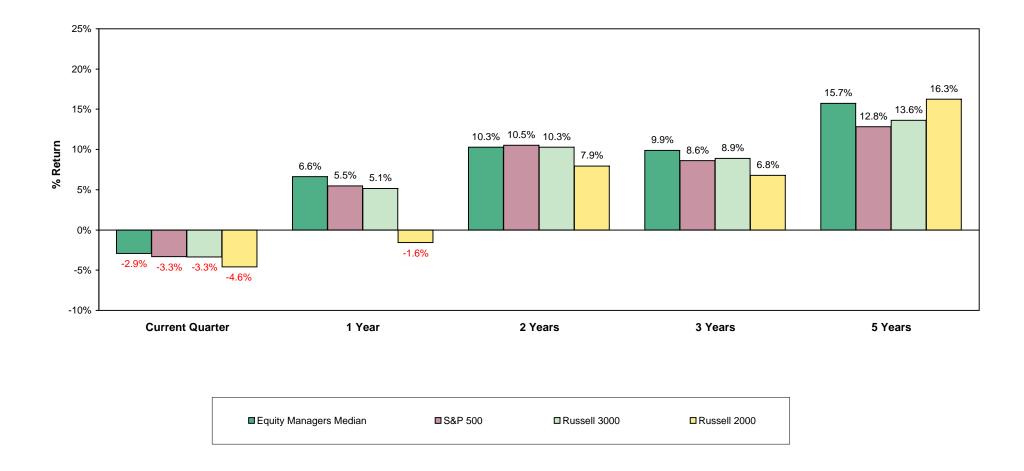
### **U.S. Equity Programs - Total Returns**

This universe depicts the range of plan sponsors' investment experience in their total domestic equity allocation; as opposed to the equity manager universe which depicts the range of managers' performance. This universe is helpful in determining the degree to which sponsors were capable of implementing a portfolio of domestic equity managers capable of beating the broad market.

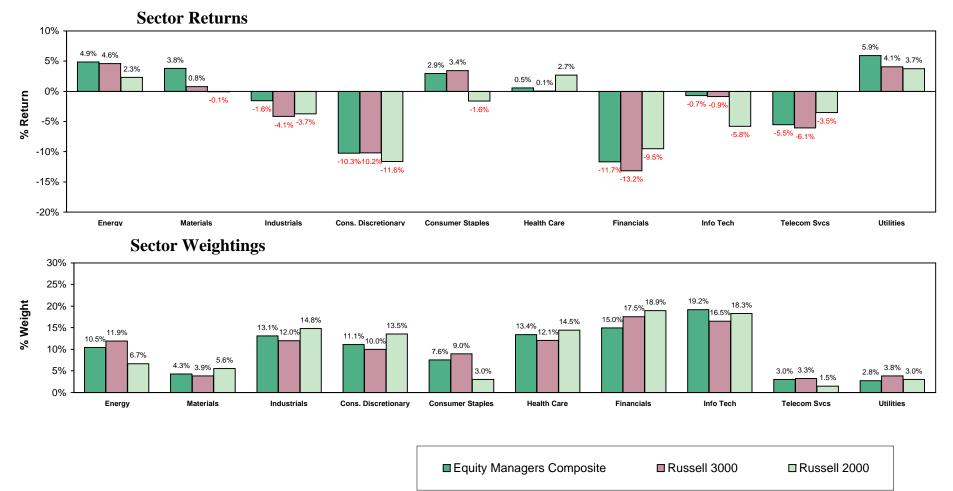




### **U.S. Equity Indexes**



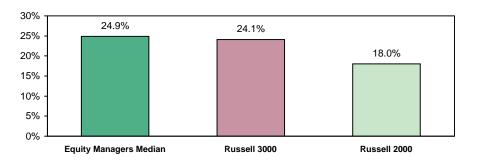
### **U.S. Equity Sector Analysis**



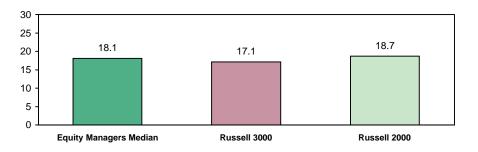
The Northern Trust Company

### **U.S. Equity Characteristics**

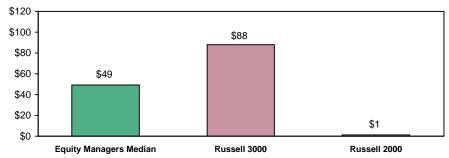
5 year EPS



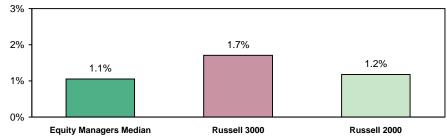
P/E



Market Cap (\$ Billions)



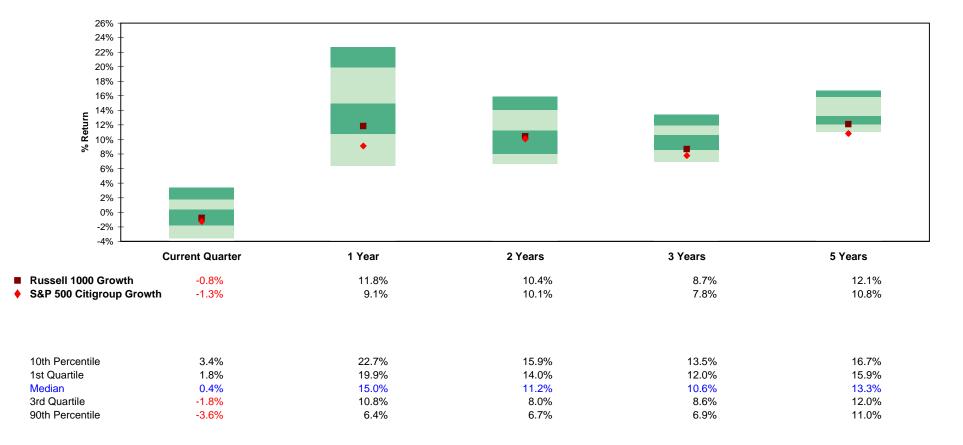
#### **Dividend Yield**



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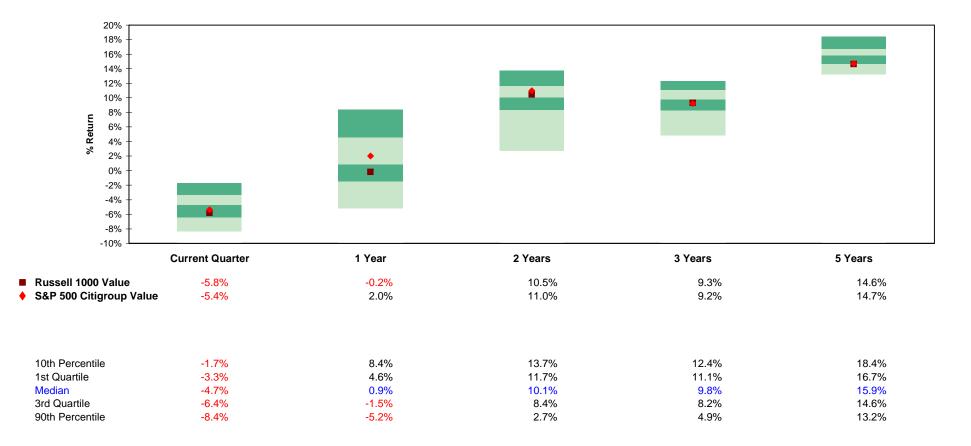
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### Large Growth Managers - Total Returns



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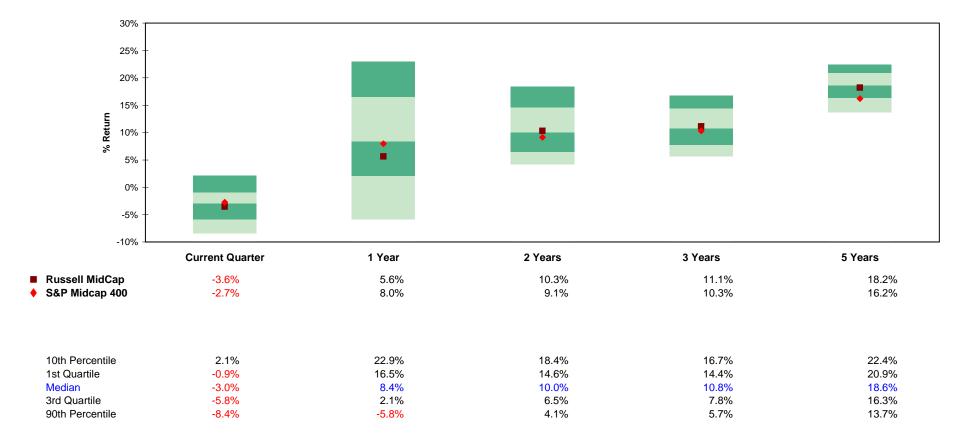
### Large Cap Value Managers - Total Returns



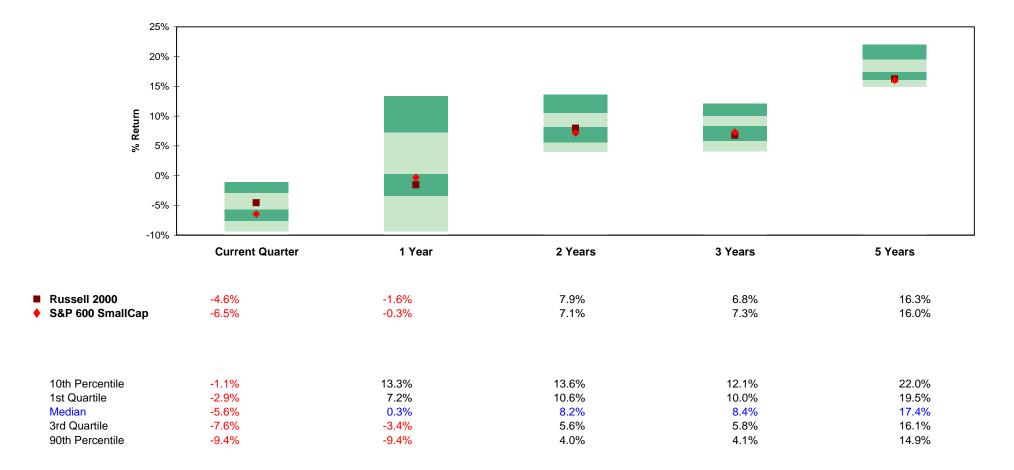
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### **Mid Cap Managers - Total Returns**

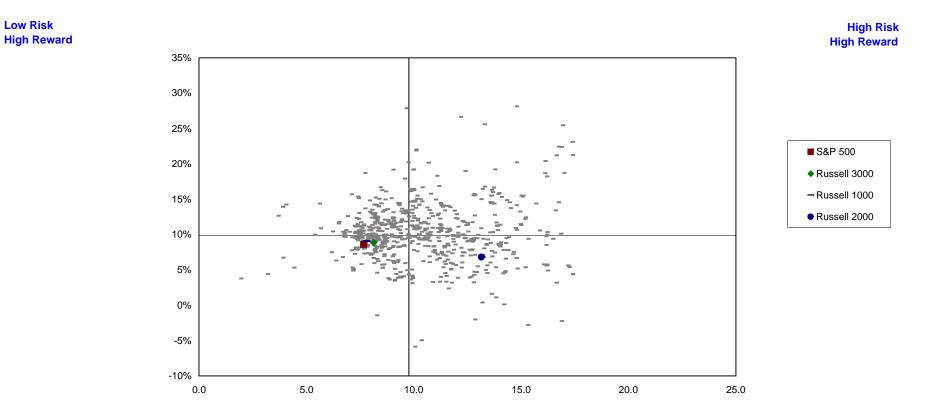


### **Small Cap Managers - Total Returns**



Low Risk

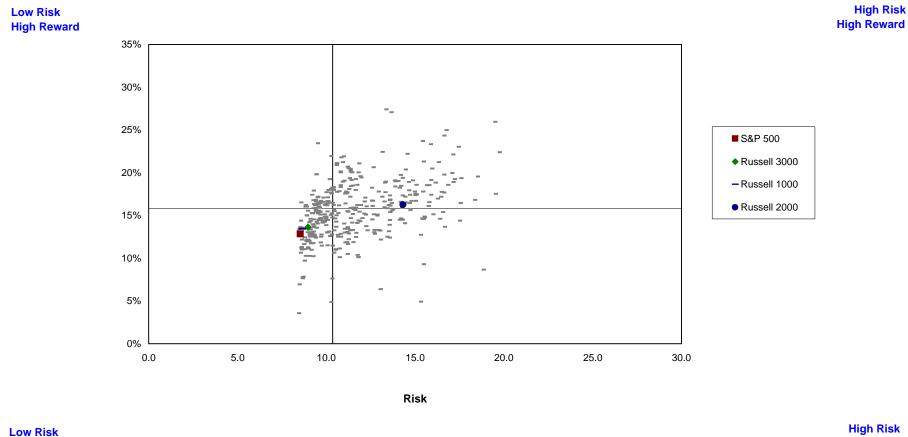
### U.S. Equity Managers - 3 Year Risk vs. Return



Low Risk Low Reward Risk

**High Risk** Low Reward

### U.S. Equity Managers - 5 Year Risk vs. Return



Low Reward

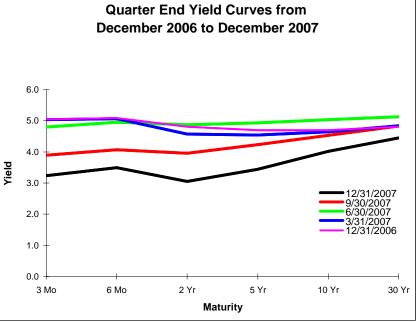
**High Risk** Low Reward

#### **U.S. Fixed Income Overview**

During the fourth quarter, the fixed income market continued to experience significant volatility as the pace of the subprime credit crisis intensified. The valuation of complex derivatives came into focus as the major investment banks were forced to write-off billions of dollars of subprime and credit related losses. The ensuing flight to quality caused yields to decrease sharply, particularly on the front end of the curve. For the quarter, the three month bill declined by 56bps, while two and five year Treasuries declined by 94 bps and 80 bps respectively. The flight to quality theme was consistent throughout the year, leading Treasuries to outperform all spread sectors within the Lehman Aggregate Index for 2007.

Spreads in the ABS sector widened considerably during the last three months of the year, as subprime related securities continued to decline amidst a backdrop of major downgrades by the rating agencies. The declining fundamentals of the housing market also contributed to the underperformance. Asset backed securities were the worst performing investment grade sector in the Lehman Aggregate Index for the year, providing an excess return of -5.3% versus duration matched Treasuries. ABS issuance declined dramatically relative to the previous year, particularly among home equity loans, as underwriting standards became more restrictive and many subprime mortgage originators became insolvent.

Within the investment grade corporate market, the quality theme was similar as lower quality issuers underperformed higher rated issuers, a reversal of the market performance during 2006. The dispersion of returns for the quality tiers was sharp as AAA rated issuers underperformed duration adjusted Treasuries by 1.3%, while BBB rated issuers underperformed by 5.2%. The high yield sector posted a return of -1.3% for the fourth quarter, as investors focused on increased default rates and volatility in the equity markets. Although the high yield sector was able to provide a positive return of 1.9% for the year, it was a sharp decline from the 11.9% return posted during 2006. High yield issuance during the second half of 2007 was only \$43.4 billion, a 64% decline from the first six months of the year.



In summary, during 2007, the fixed income markets experienced a sharp re-pricing of risk and a liquidity crisis resulting from the lack of transparency in complex derivatives such as collateralized debt obligations ( CDO's). Global central banks coordinated a major effort to restore liquidity as economic and financial stability was threatened. The billions of dollars in losses incurred and the resulting dislocation in the financial markets will hopefully lead investors to scrutinize financial innovations and risk/reward profiles in much greater detail going forward.

Period Ending December 31, 2007	QTR	1 YR	2 YR	3 YR	5 YR
Northern Trust U.S. Fixed Income Manager (Median)	1.96	5.85	5.54	4.62	4.70
Lehman US Universal Index	2.66	6.50	5.74	4.72	4.99
Lehman US Aggregate Index	3.00	6.97	5.64	4.56	4.42
Lehman Government/Credit	3.10	7.22	5.44	4.60	4.44
Lehman Government Bond Index	3.73	8.66	6.04	4.90	4.10
Lehman Government Intermediate Index	3.36	8.47	6.13	4.63	3.69
Lehman Treasury 20+ Years	6.40	10.15	5.44	6.47	6.02
Lehman US TIPS Index	4.97	11.63	5.87	4.85	6.27
Lehman Mortgaged Backed Bond Index	3.06	6.90	6.06	4.90	4.49
Lehman Asset Backed Index	-0.76	2.21	3.45	2.99	3.20
Lehman Credit Bond Index	2.19	5.11	4.68	3.77	4.84
Lehman High Yield Corporate Index	-1.30	1.87	6.74	5.39	10.90
90 Day T-Bill	0.91	4.68	4.82	4.30	3.06

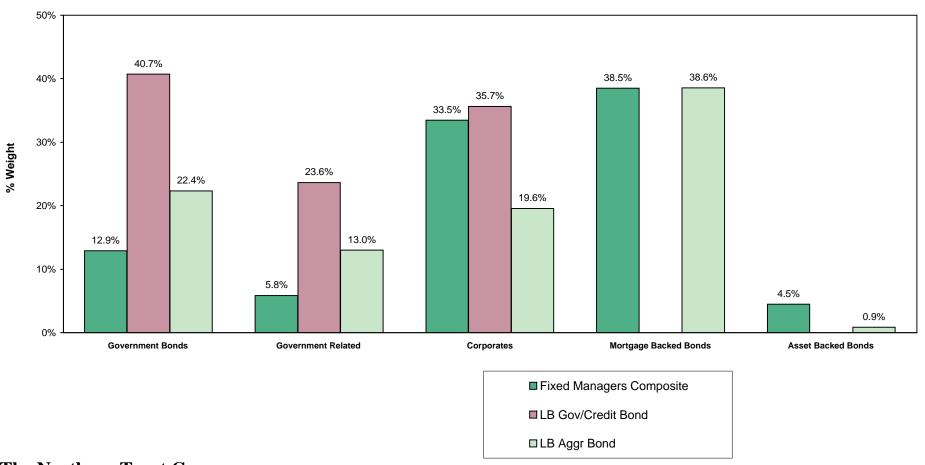
Statistical Source: Lehman Brothers Global Family of Indices December 31, 2007.

### **U.S. Fixed Income Programs - Total Returns**

This universe depicts the plan sponsors' range of investment experience in their total US fixed income allocation; as opposed to the fixed income manager universe which depicts the range of managers' performance. This universe is helpful in determining the degree to which sponsors were capable of implementing a portfolio of US fixed income managers capable of beating the broad market.

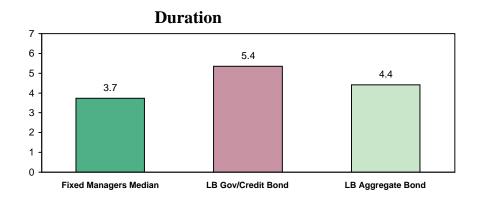


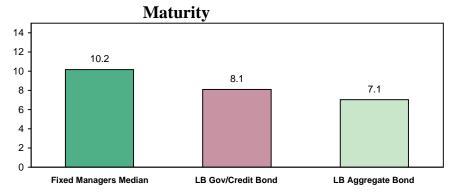
### **U.S. Fixed Income Sector Analysis**



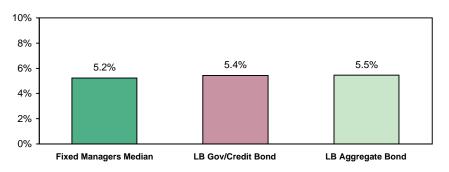
**Sector Weightings** 

### **U.S. Fixed Income Characteristics**

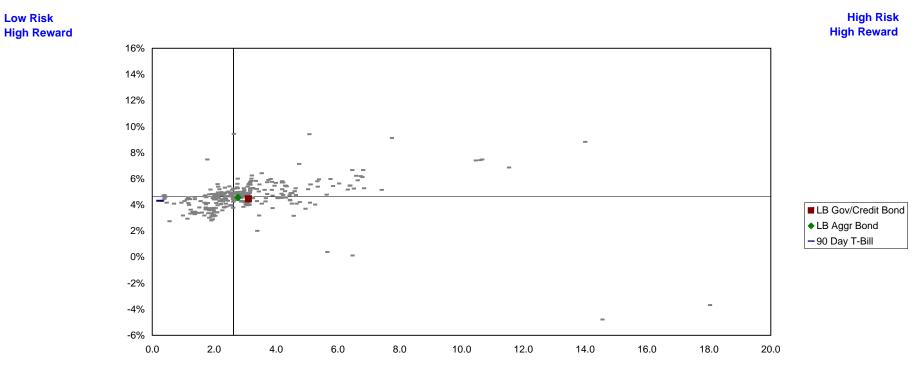




Coupon



# U.S. Fixed Income Managers - 3 Year Risk vs. Return

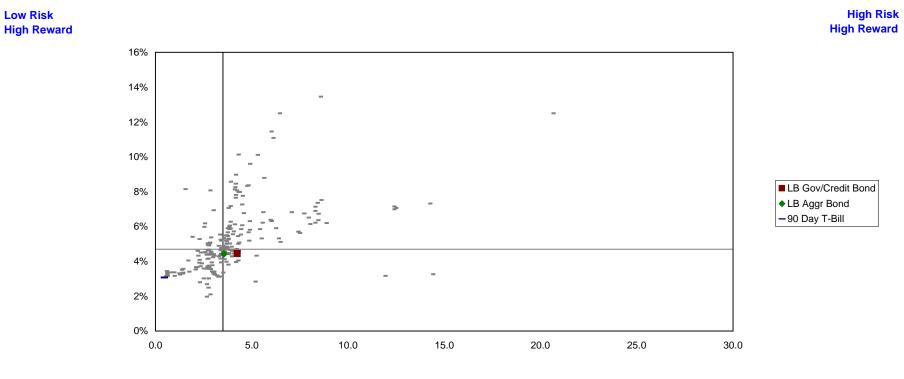


Risk

Low Risk Low Reward

High Risk Low Reward

# U.S. Fixed Income Managers - 5 Year Risk vs. Return



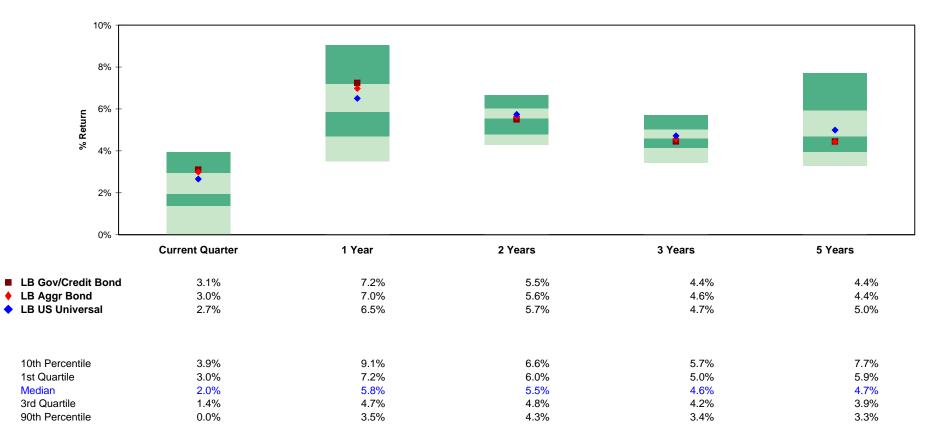
Risk

Low Risk Low Reward

High Risk Low Reward

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### **U.S. Fixed Income Managers - Total Returns**



4th Quarter 2007

### **International Overview**

#### Overview

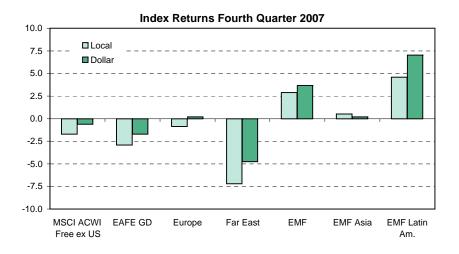
The fourth quarter of 2007 proved to be difficult for markets across the world. The worldwide exposure to the sub-prime housing slide continued to weigh down international markets, excluding the emerging markets, which are insulated from the pressures on the world's developed markets for the time being. That exposure coupled with the increasing level of turmoil in the credit markets and the abrupt economic pull-back in Japan dragged the MSCI EAFE Index down 2.9% for the quarter in local terms. Even with the currency pick-up from the weakened U.S. dollar, the index was still unable to crawl out of negative territory returning -1.7% for the quarter (USD terms). Utilities and Telecom were the preferred sectors for the quarter, returning 8.3% and 6.9%, respectively. Information Technology and the hard hit Financials sectors were the largest detractors for the quarter producing returns of -7.5% and -5.1%. The more cyclical sectors followed suit with negative returns as well.

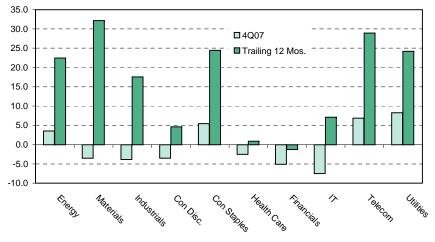
#### **International Currency Markets**

During the fourth quarter, the dollar continued to depreciate against most of the major currencies (CAD, EUR, & JPY). The deterioration of interest differentials, which was worsened by the U.S. Fed's 4th quarter interest rate cuts was the primary cause for the depreciation. The USD was able to make up ground against the GBP and AUD. The GBP was weakened by the BOE's quarter-percent cut in December and the market's expectation of more cuts in the near-term. In Australia, the currency, AUD, was hit by the widespread unwinding of carry-trade positions.

#### **International Equity Markets**

The International Equity Markets continued to struggle during the volatile fourth quarter of 2007. The MSCI ACWI Index produced a negative 1.7 % return for the quarter which resulted in a positive 17.1% return for the one-year period (in local terms). The major developed market returns weighted heavily on the index. Japan's -8.77% return was a large detractor on the index's performance, given the country's relatively high allocation, 14.8% of the index. Germany was able to produce a positive return of 2.2% for quarter based on their Materials and Industrials sectors. Spain also added to the index, 5.4% return for the quarter, due to their outperformance in the Financials and Telecom sectors.





#### **MSCI EAFE Sector Returns in \$US**

### **International Overview (Continued)**

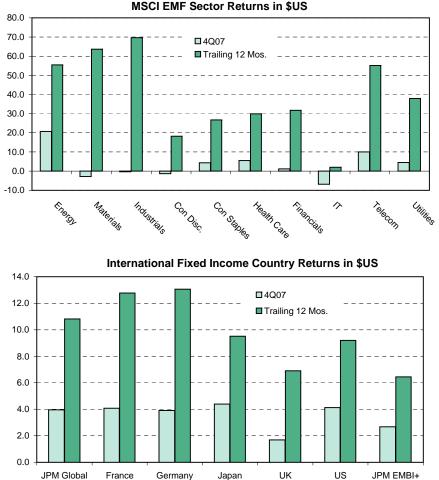
#### **International Equity Markets (continued)**

The bright spot for the quarter, as it has been throughout the year, was emerging markets, which ended the quarter with a return of 2.9% (in local terms). India was the high flyer in the emerging markets arena, returning 22.0% for the quarter. The quarterly performance was positive across all sectors except the Information Technology sector (-2.2%). The story was close to the same for the Russian returns, 17.1% for the quarter, and positive returns across all it's sectors. Brazil also helped to lift the index based on its Energy sector return of 51.5%, which was a direct result of the rising oil prices. China gave back some of its positive performance from earlier quarters with a negative 3.3% return for the quarter. In a reversal of the story coming from Germany, China was hurt by the Materials and Industrials sectors which produced returns of -19.2% and -5.0%, respectively.

#### **International Fixed Income Markets**

The J.P. Morgan Global Bond Index increased by 3.96% in the fourth quarter. The continued U.S. subprime credit concerns along with their concern regarding the economic slowdown drove the U.S. Fed to cut interest rates by another 50bps. during the quarter, pushing yields downward and treasury prices up. The Bank of England cut their key lending rate by 25bps. in December in an effort to spur economic growth. The European Central Bank decided not to make a change to their lending rates in the fourth quarter. Bank of Japan's first unanimous decision since June was to leave their lending rates unchanged due to the fact that the pace of growth "seems to be slowing" because of a slump in housing. This was done a day after the government slashed its growth forecast.

The J.P. Morgan Emerging Market Bond Plus Index also increased, returning 2.7% for the quarter and 6.5% for the year. All of the countries in the index posted positive returns for the quarter. Brazil, which is the largest contributor to the index at greater than 20%, returned 1.7% in dollar terms. While Russia, the index's second largest contributor (16.5%), returned 3.8% for the quarter (USD terms).



#### MSCI EMF Sector Returns in \$US

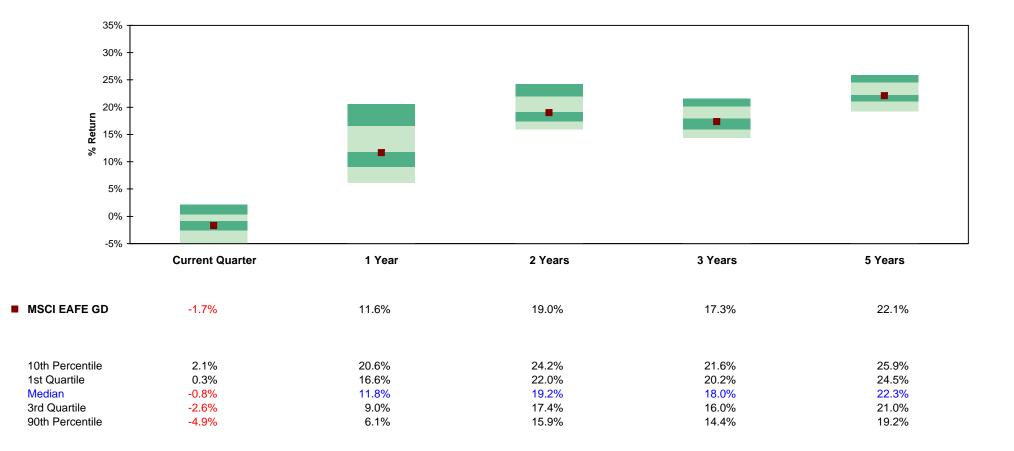
# **Non-U.S. Equity Programs - Total Returns**

This universe depicts plan sponsors' range of investment experience in their total non-US equity allocation; as opposed to the non-US equity manager universe which depicts the range of managers' performance. This universe is helpful in determining the degree to which sponsors were capable of implementing a portfolio of non-US equity managers capable of beating the broad market.



#### Fund Universe Universe Book 4th Quarter 2007

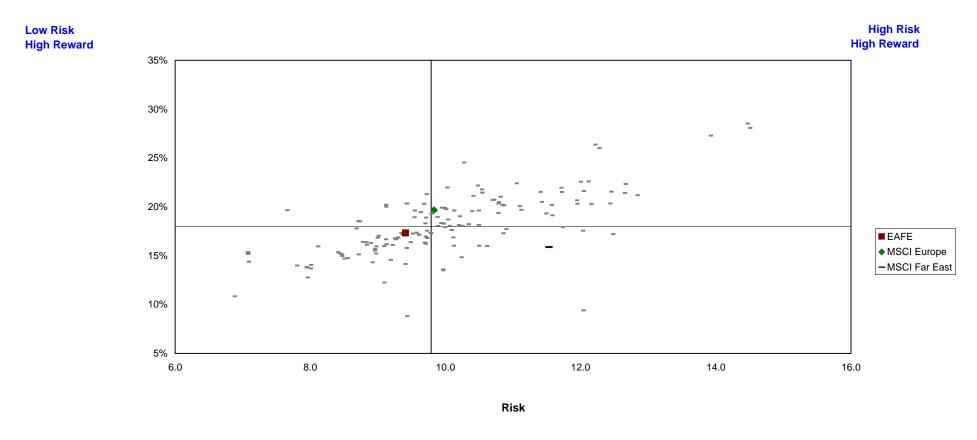
## **Developed Non-U.S. Equity Managers - Total Returns**



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# Developed Non-U.S. Equity Managers - 3 Year Risk vs. Return

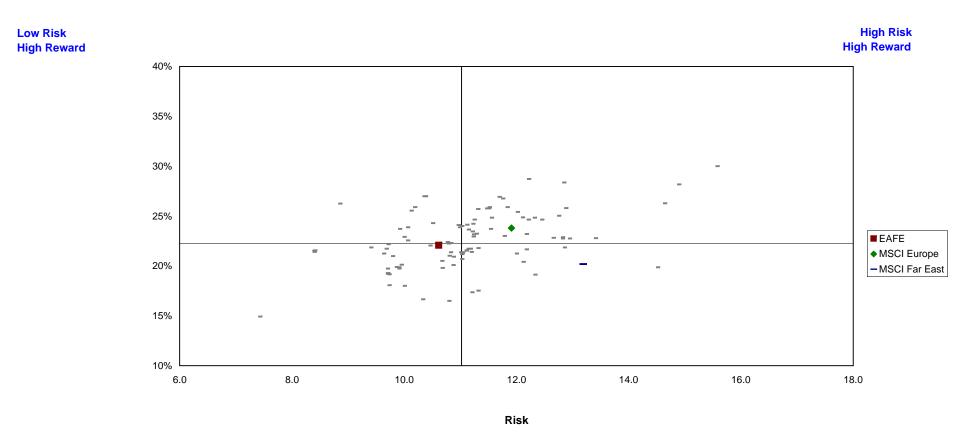


Low Risk Low Reward

High Risk Low Reward

4th Quarter 2007

# Developed Non-U.S. Equity Managers - 5 Year Risk vs. Return

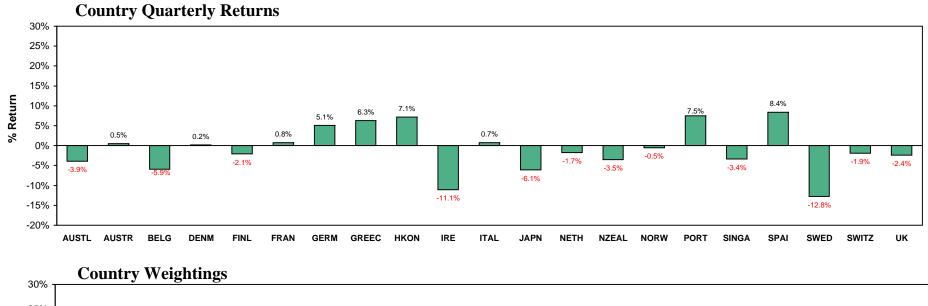


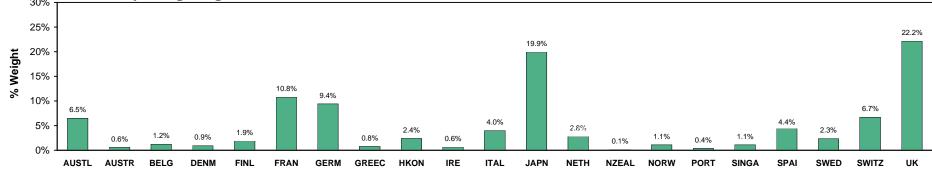
Low Risk Low Reward High Risk Low Reward

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# **EAFE Country Analysis**

#### MSCI EAFE Gross Dividends





### **Alternative Markets Summary**

#### **Private Equity**

Private equity fundraising in 2007 ended with a record amount of capital being committed. According to statistics published by Private Equity Analyst magazine, US based firms raised \$302 billion in 2007, surpassing by nearly 20% the record \$254 billion raised in 2006. Most of the capital was raised by US buyout managers with 182 buyout firms raising \$228 million. The venture capital world had 148 funds raise \$32.2 billion. These are astounding figures given the backdrop of tightening credit and a difficult exit environment.

The continued record fundraising demonstrates the appetite for private equity by institutional and wealthy private investors alike. Large pension funds in Europe and Asia also continue to demonstrate how keen they are to build private equity programs. Even established US institutional plans are indicating their desire to increase allocations according to several published studies.

Private equity programs monitored by the Northern Trust fared well in 2007, with larger buyout funds driving performance gains. For the twelve months ending December 31, 2007, the median private equity program posted a gain of 23.2% versus the median total marketable equity program (US plus International) return of 8.6%. As usual, the dispersion of returns was wide with the top decile of private equity programs leading the marketable equity top decile by 22% while the bottom decile of private equity outgained marketable equity by over 3%. However, at the five year mark, the median private equity program lagged marketable equity by over a full percent with the wide dispersion of private equity program returns strongly leading and the downside seriously lagging. The dispersion of private equity program returns reflects the tiered nature of private equity performance and varied vintage years within these portfolios.

#### **Real Estate**

Real Estate properties continued to post strong gains. Conversely, REITS encountered steep losses. The office sector posted the strongest appreciation with the west being the strongest performing location. The median real estate program monitored by the Northern Trust lagged broad property indexes for the twelve months ending December 31, 2007.

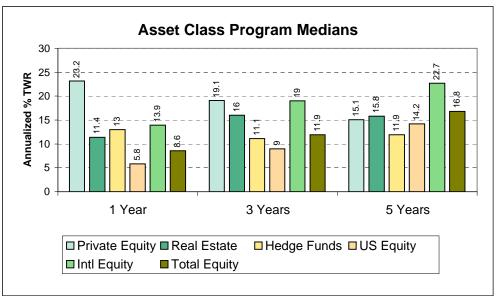
Over longer periods, real estate posted respectable gains, with the median real estate programs in the Northern Trust universe outpacing marketable equity by 4.0% with a solid 16.0% return. At the five year mark, the median real estate program of 15.8% lagged the marketable equity program median by 100 basis points, but was strong enough to outperform the private equity program median by 70 basis points.

#### The Northern Trust Company

#### Hedge Funds

Hedge funds proved resilient in 2007, rebounding from the July losses sparked by the sub-prime lending woes. Most fund of funds hedge indices posted twelve month returns of over 10% for the year. Emerging markets strategies took top honors, with most indices posting returns in the mid 20's for 2007. On the flipside, short-only strategies garnered relatively modest, albeit positive, performance nearing the gains of long only broad US equity market indices.

A sampling of the diversifiedhedge programs of institutional investors showed a median annual return of 13.0% for 2007. The 13.0% hedge program median easily outpaced the median total equity program return of 8.6% as well as most diversified fund of fund indices. Over the longer periods of 3 and 5 years, hedge fund programs underperformed total marketable equity programs (programs include US and international). The three year median of 11.1% lagged the marketable equity median by 80 basis points while the 5 year median of 11.9% was worse still, trailing by nearly 5%. The near term market volatility has arguably benefited hedge fund portfolios.



# **Private Equity Programs - Total Returns**



# **Real Estate Programs - Total Returns**

