



# Monthly Investment Commentary

November 2023

## Key Insights

- Stocks in many developed markets pulled back sharply on fears of a prolonged period of higher interest rates.
- Japanese markets continued to outperform, as exporters benefited from a further decline in the yen.
- Longer-term bond yields in the U.S. hit their highest levels in 16 years, while German yields moved to their highest in a decade, resulting in a headwind to fixed income markets.

### MRM NET COMPOSITE PORTFOLIO RESULTS (As of 10/31/2023)

MRM PLATFORMS VS. BENCHMARK	YTD	1-YEAR	3 Years Annualized	5 Years Annualized
<b>Dynamic Overlay</b>	<b>+6.21%</b>	<b>+6.29%</b>	<b>+4.70%</b>	<b>+4.24%</b>
<i>Morningstar Average Tactical Return (fixed &amp; equities)</i>	+0.77%	+1.02%	+2.81%	+3.25%
<b>All Equity</b>	<b>+0.98%</b>	<b>-1.07%</b>	<b>-4.99%</b>	<b>+0.13%</b>
<i>S&amp;P 500 Total Return</i>	+10.69%	+10.14%	+10.36%	+11.01%
<b>Dynamic International</b>	<b>+4.56%</b>	<b>+8.17%</b>	<b>+1.49%</b>	<b>+0.81%</b>
<i>MSCI EAFE with dividends</i>	+3.24%	+15.01%	+6.26%	+4.61%
<b>Global Strategies</b>	<b>+1.91%</b>	<b>+0.39%</b>	<b>-1.89%</b>	<b>+1.90%</b>
<i>(50%) S&amp;P / (50%) MSCI EAFE</i>	+6.97%	+12.58%	+8.10%	+8.00%
<b>Tax-Advantaged Income</b>	<b>+2.52%</b>	<b>+4.14%</b>	<b>+12.04%</b>	<b>+9.64%</b>
<i>Dow Jones US Select Dividend</i>	-13.37%	-11.41%	+7.99%	+1.71%

*MRM Group claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®). Returns are net of fees. For more information visit [www.mrminv.com](http://www.mrminv.com).*

*Please contact MRM Group to obtain a Compliant Presentation and/or MRM's list of Composite descriptions.*

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### Stocks

Global stocks ended the month down as investor concerns over the Israel-Hamas war, long-term inflation, and a possibly higher U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) funding rate, grew. The S&P 500 Index joined the Nasdaq Composite Index in correction territory. Stocks in the small-cap Russell 2000 Index led the decline possibly as a sign of economic weakness that's being masked by AI technology stocks. Outside of the U.S., stocks within emerging markets outperformed their developed market counterparts, which was led by the Indian stock market.

### Bonds

Investment grade bond prices declined sharply during the month as the yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury rose above 5% for the first time in 16 years (ended the month at 4.88%). High yield bond prices fell on increasing fears of an economic slowdown, in part due to geopolitical events.

### Macro

The U.S. economy continued to show strength over the summer with gross domestic product rising by 4.9% in the third quarter. The gain, more than double that of the

second quarter, was supported by continued strength in consumer spending. Fed officials' comments reinforced the "higher for longer" interest rate scenario as the Fed's enacted policy of meaningfully higher interest rates does not appear to be tilting the economy toward recession, downplaying the need for interest rate cuts. There are some warning signs such as declining savings rates, which call into question the sustainability of growth. The Fed's preferred inflation gauge, the personal-consumption expenditures price index, continues to show how resilient inflation and while year-over-year price gains are well below their peak levels of 2022, they remain above the Fed's target rate of 2%, rising 3.4% from a year ago.

### MRM's View

According to FactSet, corporate earnings per share (EPS) grew by 2.7% for the third quarter of 2023 with 49% of companies have reported results and 78% of those companies reporting positive earnings surprise. EPS growth is expected to be flat in the third quarter of 2023. Stock valuations are now below the long-term average with analysts forecasting EPS growth for all of 2023 to be above 1% and double-digit for 2024.

Source: MassMutual/T Rowe Price

#### MRM model holdings as of September 30, 2023

##### MRM Global Strategies

APPLE INC COM	5.00%
ALLISON TRANSMISSION HLDGS INC	5.00%
AMAZON COM INC	5.00%
AMERICAN EXPRESS CO	5.00%
BOEING CO	3.00%
CATERPILLAR INC DEL	2.00%
DEERE & CO	5.00%
WISDOMTREE INDIA EARNINGS FUND	3.00%
ALPHABET INC CAP STK CL C	5.00%
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHS	10.00%
ISHARES S&P INDIA NIFTY 50 INDEX FUND	3.00%
J P MORGAN CHASE & CO	5.00%
LILLY ELI & CO	5.00%
MCDONALDS CORP	5.00%
META PLATFORMS INC CL A	5.00%
MERCK & CO INC	2.00%
MICROSOFT CORP	6.00%
PEPSICO INC	5.00%
SPDR S&P 500 TRUST	5.00%
UBER TECHNOLOGIES INC COM	5.00%
FDIC CASH NOT COVERED BY SIPC	6.00%

##### MRM Dynamic Overlay – ETFs

ISHARES MSCI ACWI INDEX FUND	3.00%
ISHARES DJ US HOME CONSTRUCTION	4.00%
ISHARES S&P 500 VALUE INDEX FUND	15.00%
ISHARES S&P 100 INDEX FUND	12.00%
POWERSHARES QQQ TRUST, SERIES 1	7.00%
INVESTCO EXCHANGE TRADED FD	5.00%
SPDR S&P 500 TRUST	40.00%
VANGUARD GROWTH INDEX FUND	10.00%
HEALTH CARE SELECT SECTOR SPDR	3.00%
FDIC CASH NOT COVERED BY SIPC	1.00%

##### MRM Dynamic International

WISDOMTREE INDIA EARNINGS FUND	10.00%
ISHARES MSCI CANADA INDEX FUND	15.00%
ISHARES MSCI NETHERLANDS	16.00%
ISHARES MSCI TAIWAN INDEX FUND	10.00%
ISHARES S&P INDIA NIFTY 50 INDEX	20.00%
SPDR S&P 500 TRUST	28.00%
FDIC CASH NOT COVERED BY SIPC	1.00%

##### MRM All Domestic Equity

APPLE INC COM	5.00%
ALLISON TRANSMISSION HLDGS INC	6.00%
AMAZON COM INC	5.00%
BOEING CO	5.00%
CATERPILLAR INC DEL	5.00%
DEERE & CO	5.00%
ALPHABET INC CAP STK CL C	7.00%
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHS	5.00%
J P MORGAN CHASE & CO	5.00%
LILLY ELI & CO	5.00%
MCDONALDS CORP	5.00%
META PLATFORMS INC CL A	5.00%
MERCK & CO INC	5.00%
MICROSOFT CORP	6.00%
PEPSICO INC	5.00%
SCHWAB CHARLES CORP NEW	5.00%
UBER TECHNOLOGIES INC COM	5.00%
FDIC CASH NOT COVERED BY SIPC	6.00%

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### IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

MRM Group, Inc. ("MRM") is a state-registered investment advisor and an independent management firm that is not affiliated with any parent organization. Using quantitative selection methods, each MRM strategy searches within a well-defined universe of securities, using consistent investment criteria to identify attractive investments and create diversified portfolios. MRM seeks to provide long-term capital growth.

STRATEGY	BENCHMARK	VEHICLES	CASH HOLDINGS (When Potential Investments Look Unattractive)
Dynamic Overlay	Morningstar Tactical Allocation	Domestic Securities	Up to 70%
All Domestic Equity	S&P 500 Total Return	Domestic Securities/ADR's	Up to 60%
Dynamic International	MSCI EAFE Gross	Exchange-Traded Funds (ETF's)/Other Securities	Up to 25%
Global Strategies	50% S&P 500 Total Return/ 50% MSCI EAFE Gross	Exchange-Traded Funds (ETF's)/Other Securities	Up to 50%
Tax-Advantaged Income	Dow Jones US Select Dividend Index	Domestic Securities	Up to 4%

The portfolios do NOT use inverse or leveraged ETFs. Universe vehicles may change, from time to time, when approved by the principal of MRM Asset Allocation Group at its sole discretion.

#### BENCHMARK NOTES

Effective Nov. 1, 2016 the Dynamic Overlay benchmark was changed to Morningstar's Tactical Allocation. The benchmark was applied retroactively to the beginning of the performance period, January 1, 2008. This change had the net effect of placing the Dynamic Overlay Model Portfolio in a more favorable light than would otherwise have been the case if we used the blended benchmark described below. Although this change had a favorable impact on the comparative effect on the model's performance but we believe the change in benchmark more appropriately aligns with our Dynamic Overlay Strategy in that it is designed a tactical allocation rather than a static blended benchmark of 75% S&P 500 Index Total Return and 25% MSCI EAFE. Morningstar's Tactical Allocation Category averages returns for the peer group based on the return of each fund within the group, for the period shown. The S&P 500 Index with dividends is an unmanaged composite of 500 large-capitalization companies whose data is obtained from the Standard & Poor's website. S&P 500 is a registered trademark of McGraw-Hill, Inc. The MSCI EAFE Gross Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed markets, excluding the U.S. and Canada, with data from the MSCI website using price with reinvestment of dividends. The performance of blended benchmarks is shown for comparison because MRM uses securities which track indices related to these products. The Dow Jones US Select Dividend Index comprises 100 stocks and aims to represent the U.S.'s leading stocks by dividend yield. An investment cannot be made directly into an index.

#### DISCLOSURES

MRM Group claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®). MRM has been independently verified for the periods January 1, 2008 through September 30, 2023. The verification report is available upon request. Verification assesses whether (1) MRM has complied with all the composite construction requirements of the GIPS standards on a firm-wide basis and (2) MRM's policies and procedures are designed to calculate the present performance in compliance with the GIPS standards. Verification does not ensure the accuracy of any specific composite presentation.

Valuations are computed and performance is reported in U.S. dollars. Client performance may differ based upon the structure of a particular investment program. For example, some programs are structured as wrap fee programs in which trading costs and brokerage commissions are included in one all-inclusive wrapped fee. As such, these costs may be higher than if the client were to pay trading costs and brokerage commissions separately. The standard management fee is 2.0%. Deviation from the model's diversified structure may result in different risk, return, and diversification characteristics and would therefore not be representative of the models.

All information contained herein is for informational purposes only. This is not a solicitation to offer investment advice in any state where it would be unlawful. There is no assurance that this platform will produce profitable returns or that any account will have results similar to those of the platform. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. You may lose money. Factors impacting client returns include individual client risk tolerance, restrictions client may place on the account, investment objectives, choice of broker/dealer or custodians, as well as other factors. Any particular client's account performance may vary substantially from the program results due to, among other things, commission, timing of order entry, or the manner in which the trades are executed. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate dramatically, and an investor's equity, when liquidated, may be worth more or less than the original cost. Investors should consider the investment objective, risks, charges, and expenses carefully prior to investing.

Investors should not rely on charts and graphs alone when making investing decisions. Investments in securities of non-US issuers involve investment risks different from those of U.S. issuers, including currency risks, political, social, and economic risks. Net-of-fees returns are presented after advisor, management, custodial and trading expenses. The net of fee returns are calculated using actual management fees. The actual fees charged vary and range from .5% to 2.2%, depending on the size of the account and the custodian.

***If you wish to modify or impose reasonable restrictions concerning the management of your account, or if your financial situation, investment objectives, or risk tolerance have changed, please contact your MRM Group investment advisor representative or contact the Manager at (314) 628-1100. We will contact you at least annually to determine if your investment goals, objectives, and risk tolerance have changed.***

**All MRM platforms are suitable for long term investing. Please read the fact sheets and disclosures for each platform carefully before investing.**