EquityCompass Equity Risk Management Strategy

Richard E. Cripps, CFA

Chief Investment Officer, Sr. Portfolio Manager EquityCompass Strategies

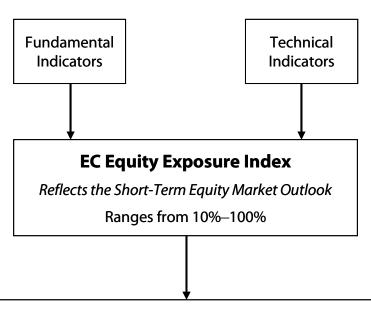


EquityCompass Equity Risk Management Strategy

U.S. equity markets witnessed two bear markets in the last eight years with equity values declining as much as 50%. The frequency of the downturns and the magnitude of their impact on personal wealth have made investors question the effectiveness of strategic asset allocation in controlling stock market and overall investment portfolio risk. A great many investors moved away from the equity markets preferring to keep their investments in safer, but passive instruments like cash. Additionally, investors have become risk averse and less confident in buy and hold investment strategies, mainly due to the uncertain economic outlook, and continue to stay on the side-lines at a time, when from an historical perspective, stocks look attractive for long-term investment.

The EquityCompass Equity Risk Management Strategy ("ERMS" or the "Strategy" or "EC Equity Risk Manager") is a consistent and adaptable approach that seeks to provide confidence to the risk averse investor to get back into the stock market despite the prevailing uncertainty. Based on fundamental and technical indicators, the Strategy seeks to manage an investment portfolio's exposure to the equity markets thus mitigating the risk of an extended market decline while also seeking to participate in enduring market advances. The ERMS is designed to integrate within a strategic allocation to stocks without the use of leverage or complex derivative instruments. Importantly, the Strategy allows the investor to make objective investment decisions rather than reacting to emotional pressures that usually prevail in volatile market conditions.

Diagram 1



EC Equity Risk Manager

Equity Portfolio adjusted monthly based on changes to the EC Equity Exposure Index

Can either be long or short the S&P 500, in cash, or hold combinations of long/short positions and cash

Source: EquityCompass Strategies



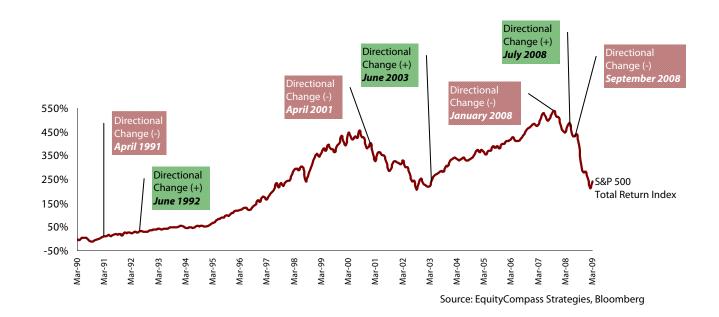
EC Equity Exposure Index

The EC Equity Exposure Index (the "Index") is a quantitatively-derived score that ranges from 10% to 100% and reflects the current favorability towards investing in stocks. A higher percentage reflects favorable conditions for investing while lower percentages are unfavorable. The Index is updated monthly by EquityCompass Strategies based on scores generated from two models — one looks forward and tracks the fundamental indicators and the other relies on historical probabilities to analyze technical indicators. The fundamental model scores range from 0% (unfavorable) to 100% (favorable) and the technical model scores range from 20% (unfavorable) to 100% (favorable). Each model score is given a weight of 50% to produce the EC Equity Exposure Index.

Fundamental Model

The fundamental model measures changes in consensus analyst estimates for the S&P 500 in the next 12 months. Two consecutive months of rising earnings expectations generate the positive signal that turns the model favorable toward stock investment. The model stays favorable until two consecutive months of decreasing expectations reverse the signal to negative. Analyst estimates are generally consistent with the market direction except in periods of major directional change, when they have been seen to lag. Since 1989 there have been seven directional changes with the most recent being a negative reversal which occurred in July 2008 (**Chart 1**).

Chart 1
<u>Directional Changes in the Fundamental Model</u>
(January 1990 – March 2009)





The Technical Model

Table 1 was constructed using the variables of the then DJIA relative to its all-time high and subsequent low. The matrix was then optimized to generate scores that range from 20% to 100% to indicate the desired degree of equity market exposure that produced the best possible returns over the period. This model tries to avoid the overt bias to price momentum or mean reversion tendencies from which many technical models suffer. As detailed on a monthly basis in the **Appendix** on pages 11–13, since 1989 there have been 28 month-end index exposure changes of greater than 20%.

Table 1
Relationship Between the Current Level and the Recent Low

		Less than or equal to 10%	Greater than 10% but less than or equal to 20%	Greater than 20% but less than or equal to 30%	Greater than 30% but less than or equal to 40%	Greater than 40%
-Time High	Less than or equal to 10%	100%	100%	100%	70%	100%
Level and All-Time	Greater than 10% but less than or equal to 20%	20%	50%	30%	80%	100%
the Current L	Greater than 20% but less than or equal to 30%	20%	20%	100%	100%	90%
Relationship Between t	Greater than 30% but less than or equal to 40%	100%	100%	100%	20%	100%
Relationsh	Greater than 40%	20%	100%	20%	80%	100%

Source: EquityCompass Strategies

Index Performance

To test the efficacy of the EC Equity Exposure Index, we simulated its performance based on the S&P 500 from 12/31/89 to 3/31/09 (monthly Index values are presented in the Appendix). For example, an Index score of 80% indicates that 80% of the Index is invested in the S&P 500 and 20% in cash. The Index was fully invested (100%) for 70% of the test period (measured in months) and was invested 50% or less for 22% of the test period.

The cumulative performance of the EC Equity Exposure Index as a portfolio is shown in **Chart 2** with period return analysis in **Tables 2** and **3**. The Index significantly outperformed in large negative market declines and captured 95% of the S&P 500 gain in 11 of the 14 years with positive returns.



Chart 2
<u>S&P 500 Total Return Index vs. EC Equity Exposure Index</u>

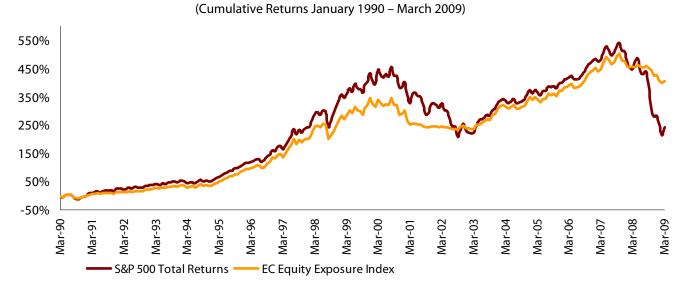


Table 2		EC Equity
	S&P 500 Index	Exposure Index
Cumulative Returns		
Jan 1990 - Mar 2009	240.8%	403.8%
Jan 1990 - Mar 2009		
(Excl. 2008)	440.9%	448.3%
Jan 1990 - Dec 1999	393.1%	311.8%
Jan 2000 - Mar 2009	-32.3%	19.9%
Annualized Return 1990 - 2009	6.5%	8.7%
Standard Deviation	14.9%	11.0%
Sharpe Ratio	0.29	0.59
Period Returns		
1-Month	8.8%	0.9%
3-Month	-11.0%	-4.4%
6-Month	-30.5%	-8.9%
1-Year	-38.1%	-10.0%
3-Year (CAGR)	-13.1%	1.0%
5-Year (CAGR)	-4.8%	3.9%
10-Year (CAGR)	-3.0%	2.7%

Table 3		
i abie 5		EC Equity
	S&P 500 Index	Exposure Index
Annual Returns		
1990	-3.1%	-4.4%
1991	30.5%	19.2%
1992	7.6%	7.2%
1993	10.1%	10.1%
1994	1.3%	1.3%
1995	37.6%	37.6%
1996	23.0%	23.0%
1997	33.4%	31.0%
1998	28.6%	21.7%
1999	21.0%	21.0%
2000	-9.1%	-12.8%
2001	-11.9%	-10.9%
2002	-22.1%	-2.1%
2003	28.7%	20.7%
2004	10.9%	9.9%
2005	4.9%	4.6%
2006	15.8%	15.8%
2007	5.5%	5.5%
2008	-37.0%	-8.1%
2009 (through 3/31/	09) -11.0%	-4.4%

Dividends included Assumes risk-free rate of 2.25% and 0% return for cash allocation Source: EquityCompass Strategies, Bloomberg



EC Equity Risk Management Strategy

The EC Equity Exposure Index forms the basis for the Equity Risk Management Strategy, a tactical strategy that can be employed to systematically reduce the risk of extended market declines while adjusting to capture enduring market advances. The ERMS expands the portfolio flexibility to inverse, or short, the S&P 500 when the EC Equity Exposure Index is unfavorable for owning stocks. As such, the ERMS will have a portfolio that is a combination of either long the S&P 500, short the S&P 500, or cash. Using the monthly EC Equity Exposure Index as a basis, **Table 4** shows the matrix determining the allocation to the various components of the ERMS portfolio. For example, when the composite equity allocation is 80%, the ERMS will allocate 20% to cash and 80% to the S&P 500. When the recommended equity exposure is only 20%, the ERMS will have 20% in cash and 80% inverse, or short, the S&P 500. The ERMS is updated monthly based on changes to the EC Equity Exposure Index.

EC Equity Risk Manager Component Allocation EC Equity Risk Manager Component Allocation EC Equity Long Short **Exposure Index** Cash **S&P 500** S&P 500 80% Recommended 100% 0% 100% 0% equity allocation will 95% 5% 95% 0% produce a 20% cash 90% 10% 90% 0% and 80% long S&P 500 85% 15% 85% 0% allocation in 80% 20% 0% 80% **EC Equity Risk 75%** 25% 0% 75% Manager 70% 30% 70% 0% 65% 35% 65% 0% 60% 40% 60% 0% 55% 45% 55% 0% 50% 100% 0% 0% 20% Recommended 45% 45% 0% 55% equity allocation will 40% 40% 0% 60% produce a 20% cash 35% 35% 0% 65% and 80% inverse 30% 70% 30% 0% S&P 500 (short) 25% 25% 0% 75% allocation in 20% 20% 0% 80% **EC Equity Risk** 15% 15% 0% 85% Manager 10% 10% 0% 90%

Table 4

Source: EquityCompass Strategies

ERMS Portfolio Simulation

We performed a portfolio simulation for the ERMS covering the same study period as was used for the EC Equity Exposure Index (12/31/89–3/31/09). The cumulative results of the simulation are shown in Chart 3 and period returns are shown in Tables 5 and 6. The study period includes a decade of well above average performance (1990-1999) and what is shaping up as one the worst (2000-2009), providing stress conditions to test how well the ERMS was able to capture enduring market advances as well as avoid the ravages of extended market declines. Buy and hold strategies became popular in the 1990s as the fully-invested S&P 500 outperformed the vast majority of active portfolio managers.



However, the ERMS still captured the majority of the market gains with an annualized return of 16.1% versus 18.2% for the S&P 500. As far as returns since 2000, the ERMS simulated an annualized return of 4.1% versus -2.0% for the S&P 500.

The flexibility of the ERMS to position inverse, or short the S&P 500 is best demonstrated by performances in 2008. With the EC Equity Exposure Index indicating very unfavorable conditions for owning stocks, the ERMS was either in cash, or short the S&P 500 most of the year. Perhaps one of the most useful statistics from the performance simulation is the upside/downside capture ratio. The ERMS was able to capture 68.5% of the gain when the S&P 500 was rising while capturing 28.5% when it was declining. Additional performance comparison charts are presented in the addenda.

S&P 500 Index vs. EC Equity Risk Manager

(Rolling 12-month Returns January 1990 – March 2009)

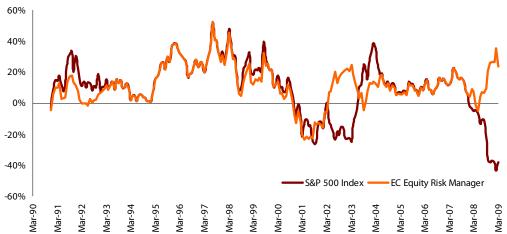


Table 5		
		EC Equity Risk
	S&P 500 Index	Manager
Cumulative Returns		
Jan 1990 <i>-</i> Mar 2009	240.8%	655.7%
Jan 1990 - Mar 2009		
(Excl. 2008)	440.9%	496.6%
Jan 1990 - Dec 1999	432.8%	314.0%
Jan 2000 - Mar 2009	-32.3%	93.3%
Annualized Return 1990 - 2009	6.6%	11.1%
Standard Deviation	14.9%	12.5%
Sharpe Ratio	0.29	0.71
Upside Market Capture	100.0%	68.5%
Downside Market Capture	100.0%	28.5%
Period Returns		
1-Month	8.8%	-8.9%
3-Month	-11.0%	-0.1%
6-Month	-30.5%	12.0%
1-Year	-38.1%	23.4%
3-Year (CAGR)	-13.1%	14.1%
5-Year (CAGR)	-4.8%	11.8%
10-Year (CAGR)	-3.0%	7.7%

Table 6		
Table 6		EC Equity Risk
	S&P 500 Index	Manager
Annual Returns		
1990	-3.1%	-4.4%
1991	30.5%	11.4%
1992	7.6%	6.7%
1993	10.1%	10.1%
1994	1.3%	1.3%
1995	37.6%	37.6%
1996	23.0%	23.0%
1997	33.4%	31.0%
1998	28.6%	21.7%
1999	21.0%	21.0%
2000	-9.1%	-12.8%
2001	-11.9%	-13.7%
2002	-22.1%	21.1%
2003	28.7%	12.6%
2004	10.9%	9.9%
2005	4.9%	4.6%
2006	15.8%	15.8%
2007	5.5%	5.5%
2008	-37.0%	26.7%
2009 (through 3/31/0	09) -11.0%	-0.1%

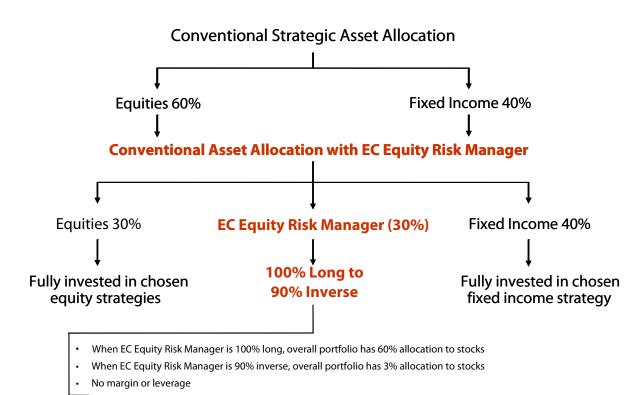
Dividends included Assumes risk-free rate of 2.25% and 0% return for cash allocation Source: EquityCompass Strategies, Bloomberg



Integrating EC Equity Risk Manager into Investment Portfolios

The ERMS should complement, and not replace, the strategic asset allocation to equities. Using the illustration of a 60/40 stock/bond investment portfolio, the ERMS is inserted into the equity portion of the allocation (**Exhibit 1**). In this example, we are setting the ERMS to be 50% of the amount allocated to equities. This is the maximum amount we would advise allocating to the ERMS in equity portfolios. The asset allocation then becomes 30/30/40 among stocks/ERMS/bonds. The 30% allocated to stocks pursues long-term, fully invested strategies with individual stocks, mutual funds, or separate account managers. When the ERMS is 100% long, the effect is to have 60% of the overall portfolio in stocks — consistent with the intended strategic asset allocation. When the ERMS is mostly defensive (90% short S&P 500, 10% cash), the effect is to reduce the overall exposure to stocks in the investment portfolio to 3% from 60%.

Exhibit 1



Source: EquityCompass Strategies



Chart 4 shows the performance of a simulated portfolio allocated 50% to the ERMS and 50% to the S&P 500. The combined portfolio outperforms the buy and hold S&P 500 with a significant reduction in volatility. The integration of the ERMS with a dedicated equity portfolio has several benefits to consider. Dedicated equity managers can maintain their investment focus of identifying superior long-term stocks without being unduly distracted by the inevitable bull/bear cycle. The ERMS will focus on the shorter-term conditions and help protect equity portfolios from serious market declines while also having the adaptability to participate in enduring market advances. Combining the long-term and short-term focus under one equity allocation umbrella addresses investor concerns about committing to stocks during difficult times. If history tells us anything, it is that investing in stocks when it is difficult to do so is often the best time to invest.

Chart 4

<u>S&P 500 vs. EC Equity Risk Manager & Portfolio (50% S&P 500 and 50% ERMS)</u>

(Cumulative Returns January 1990 – March 2009)

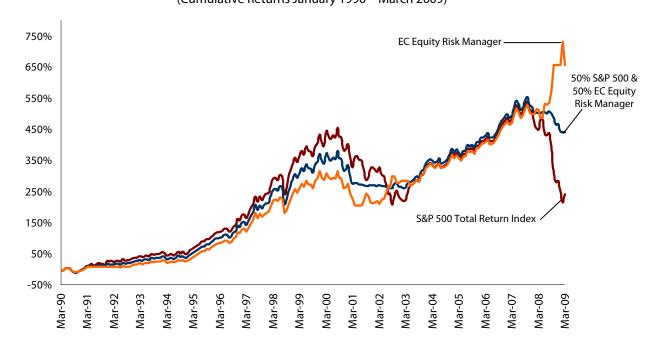


Table 7

		EC Equity	50/50
	S&P 500	Risk Manager	Portfolio
Cumulative Return	240.8%	655.7%	440.0%
Annualized Return	6.6%	11.1%	9.2%
Standard Deviation	14.9%	12.5%	11.2%
Sharpe Ratio	0.29	0.71	0.62

Dividends included Assume 0% return for cash allocation Source: EquityCompass Strategies, Bloomberg



Conclusion

Much of the success in equity investing can be attributed to how well an investor times his entry into and exit from the stock market. In an ideal world, the investor would correctly time these decisions to buy low and sell high, but in reality his behavioral tendencies lean toward the opposite. After suffering the worst bear market since the Great Depression, investors are understandably cautious about investing in stocks. However, it is important to have a perspective that looks beyond the trees into the larger forest. Historically, stocks provided above average returns after severe bear markets. Compared to other asset class alternatives, stocks are currently depressed and reflect a subdued outlook. While this is a near-term impediment, the long-term opportunity is that stocks will gain as the economy returns to normalcy. While there are challenges ahead, it is also important to note that this is not unique from our past nor are the political shifts without precedent.

The EC Equity Risk Management Strategy allows investors to prepare for the larger opportunity while addressing nearer-term uncertainties. The strategy introduces automatic decision-making capability that reduces downside market exposure as the economy and stock market go through a bottoming process while also providing the adaptability to participate in the ensuing market advance.



Appendix: Monthly Component Allocation (January 1990 – March 2009)

	Model 1	Model 2	50% Model 1 + 50% Model 2	50% Model 1 + 50% Model 2 Monthly Returns		EC Equity Risk Manager Component Allocation			Monthly Returns		
Month	Fundamental Model	Technical Model		Recommended Equity	Cash	Long S&P 500	Short S&P 500	S&P 500	EC Equity Risk Manager	50% Risk Mgr. + 50% S&P 500	
Jan-90	100%	100%	100%	-6.7%	0%	100%	0%	-6.7%	-6.7%	-6.7%	
Feb-90	100%	100%	100%	1.3%	0%	100%	0%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	
Mar-90	100%	100%	100%	2.6%	0%	100%	0%	2.6%	2.6%	2.6%	
Apr-90 May-90	100% 100%	100% 100%	100% 100%	-2.5% 9.8%	0% 0%	100% 100%	0%	-2.5% 9.8%	-2.5% 9.8%	-2.5% 9.8%	
Jun-90	100%	100%	100%	-0.7%	0%	100%	0%	-0.7%	-0.7%	-0.7%	
Jul-90	100%	100%	100%	-0.3%	0%	100%	0%	-0.3%	-0.3%	-0.3%	
Aug-90	100%	100%	100%	-9.0%	0%	100%	0%	-9.0%	-9.0%	-9.0%	
Sep-90	100%	20%	60%	-2.9%	40%	60%	0%	-4.9%	-2.9%	-3.9%	
Oct-90 Nov-90	100% 100%	20% 20%	60% 60%	-0.3% 3.9%	40% 40%	60% 60%	0%	-0.4% 6.5%	-0.3% 3.9%	-0.3% 5.2%	
Dec-90	100%	20%	60%	1.7%	40%	60%	0%	2.8%	1.7%	2.2%	
Jan-91	100%	50%	75%	3.3%	25%	75%	0%	4.4%	3.3%	3.8%	
Feb-91	100%	50%	75%	5.4%	25%	75%	0%	7.2%	5.4%	6.3%	
Mar-91	100%	100%	100%	2.4%	0%	100%	0%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	
Apr-91 May-91	0% 0%	100% 100%	50% 50%	0.1% 2.2%	100% 100%	0% 0%	0%	0.2% 4.3%	0.0% 0.0%	0.1% 2.2%	
Jun-91	0%	100%	50%	-2.3%	100%	0%	0%	-4.6%	0.0%	-2.3%	
Jul-91	0%	100%	50%	2.3%	100%	0%	0%	4.7%	0.0%	2.3%	
Aug-91	0%	100%	50%	1.2%	100%	0%	0%	2.4%	0.0%	1.2%	
Sep-91	0%	100%	50%	-0.8%	100%	0%	0%	-1.7%	0.0%	-0.8%	
Oct-91 Nov-91	0% 0%	100% 100%	50% 50%	0.7% -2.0%	100% 100%	0% 0%	0%	1.3% -4.0%	0.0% 0.0%	0.7% -2.0%	
Dec-91	0%	100%	50%	5.7%	100%	0%	0%	11.4%	0.0%	5.7%	
Jan-92	0%	100%	50%	-0.9%	100%	0%	0%	-1.9%	0.0%	-0.9%	
Feb-92	0%	100%	50%	0.6%	100%	0%	0%	1.3%	0.0%	0.6%	
Mar-92	0%	100%	50%	-1.0%	100%	0%	0%	-1.9%	0.0%	-1.0%	
Apr-92 May-92	0% 0%	100% 100%	50% 50%	1.5% 0.2%	100% 100%	0% 0%	0% 0%	2.9% 0.5%	0.0% 0.0%	1.5% 0.2%	
Jun-92	100%	100%	100%	-1.5%	0%	100%	0%	-1.5%	-1.5%	-1.5%	
Jul-92	100%	100%	100%	4.1%	0%	100%	0%	4.1%	4.1%	4.1%	
Aug-92	100%	100%	100%	-2.0%	0%	100%	0%	-2.0%	-2.0%	-2.0%	
Sep-92	100%	100%	100%	1.2%	0%	100%	0%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	
Oct-92	100%	100%	100%	0.3%	0%	100%	0%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	
Nov-92 Dec-92	100% 100%	100% 100%	100% 100%	3.4% 1.2%	0% 0%	100% 100%	0% 0%	3.4% 1.2%	3.4% 1.2%	3.4% 1.2%	
Jan-93	100%	100%	100%	0.8%	0%	100%	0%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	
Feb-93	100%	100%	100%	1.4%	0%	100%	0%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	
Mar-93	100%	100%	100%	2.1%	0%	100%	0%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	
Apr-93	100%	100%	100%	-2.4%	0%	100%	0%	-2.4%	-2.4%	-2.4%	
May-93 Jun-93	100% 100%	100% 100%	100% 100%	2.7% 0.3%	0% 0%	100% 100%	0% 0%	2.7% 0.3%	2.7% 0.3%	2.7% 0.3%	
Jul-93	100%	100%	100%	-0.4%	0%	100%	0%	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.4%	
Aug-93	100%	100%	100%	3.8%	0%	100%	0%	3.8%	3.8%	3.8%	
Sep-93	100%	100%	100%	-0.8%	0%	100%	0%	-0.8%	-0.8%	-0.8%	
Oct-93	100%	100%	100%	2.1%	0%	100%	0%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	
Nov-93	100%	100%	100%	-1.0%	0%	100%	0%	-1.0%	-1.0%	-1.0%	
Dec-93 Jan-94	100% 100%	100% 100%	100% 100%	1.2% 3.4%	0% 0%	100% 100%	0%	1.2% 3.4%	1.2% 3.4%	1.2% 3.4%	
Feb-94	100%	100%	100%		0%	100%	0%	-2.7%	-2.7%	-2.7%	
Mar-94	100%	100%	100%	-4.4%	0%	100%	0%	-4.4%	-4.4%	-4.4%	
Apr-94	100%	100%	100%	1.3%	0%	100%	0%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	
May-94	100%	100%	100%	1.6%	0%	100%	0%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	
Jun-94 Jul-94	100% 100%	100% 100%	100% 100%	-2.5% 3.3%	0% 0%	100% 100%	0%	-2.5% 3.3%	-2.5% 3.3%	-2.5% 3.3%	
Aug-94	100%	100%	100%	4.1%	0%	100%	0%	4.1%	4.1%	4.1%	
Sep-94	100%	100%	100%	-2.4%	0%	100%	0%	-2.4%	-2.4%	-2.4%	
Oct-94	100%	100%	100%	2.2%	0%	100%	0%	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%	
Nov-94	100%	100%	100%	-3.6%	0%	100%	0%	-3.6%	-3.6%	-3.6%	
Dec-94 Jan-95	100% 100%	100% 100%	100% 100%	1.5% 2.6%	0% 0%	100% 100%	0% 0%	1.5% 2.6%	1.5% 2.6%	1.5% 2.6%	
Feb-95	100%	100%	100%		0%	100%	0%	3.9%	3.9%	3.9%	
Mar-95	100%	100%	100%		0%	100%	0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	
Apr-95	100%	100%	100%	2.9%	0%	100%	0%	2.9%	2.9%	2.9%	
May-95	100%	100%	100%		0%	100%	0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	
Jun-95 Jul-95	100%	100%	100%	2.3%	0%	100%	0% 0%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3% 3.3%	
Aug-95	100% 100%	100% 100%	100% 100%	3.3% 0.3%	0% 0%	100% 100%	0%	3.3% 0.3%	3.3% 0.3%	0.3%	
Sep-95	100%	100%	100%		0%	100%	0%	4.2%	4.2%	4.2%	
Oct-95	100%	100%	100%		0%	100%	0%	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.4%	
Nov-95	100%	100%	100%	4.4%	0%	100%	0%	4.4%	4.4%	4.4%	
Dec-95	100%	100%	100%		0%	100%	0%	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%	
Jan-96 Feb-96	100% 100%	100% 100%	100% 100%	3.4% 0.9%	0% 0%	100% 100%	0% 0%	3.4% 0.9%	3.4% 0.9%	3.4% 0.9%	
Mar-96	100%	100%	100%		0%	100%	0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	
Apr-96	100%	100%	100%		0%	100%	0%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	
May-96	100%	100%	100%	2.6%	0%	100%	0%	2.6%	2.6%	2.6%	
Jun-96	100%	100%	100%		0%	100%	0%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	
Jul-96 Aug-96	100% 100%	100% 100%	100% 100%	-4.4% 2.1%	0% 0%	100% 100%	0% 0%	-4.4% 2.1%	-4.4% 2.1%	-4.4% 2.1%	
Sep-96	100%	100%	100%	5.6%	0%	100%	0%	5.6%	5.6%	5.6%	
Oct-96	100%	100%	100%		0%	100%	0%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	



Month	Model 1 Fundamental	Model 2	+ 50% Model 2	Monthly Returns	CO	EC Equity Risk Manager Component Allocation Monthly Retu				
Month		Technical		Recommended Equity		Long	Short		EC Equity Risk	50% Risk Mgr.
	Model	Model	Equity Exposure	Exposure	Cash	S&P 500	S&P 500	S&P 500	Manager	+ 50% S&P 500
Nov-96	100%	100%	100%	7.6%	0%	100%	0%	7.6%	7.6%	7.6%
Dec-96 Jan-97	100% 100%	100% 100%	100% 100%	-2.0% 6.2%	0% 0%	100% 100%	0%	-2.0% 6.2%	-2.0% 6.2%	-2.0% 6.2%
Feb-97	100%	100%	100%	0.8%	0%	100%	0%	0.2%	0.8%	0.8%
Mar-97	100%	100%	100%	-4.1%	0%	100%	0%	-4.1%	-4.1%	-4.1%
Apr-97	100%	100%	100%	6.0%	0%	100%	0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%
May-97	100%	100%	100%	6.1%	0%	100%	0%	6.1%	6.1%	6.1%
Jun-97 Jul-97	100% 100%	100% 100%	100% 100%	4.5% 8.0%	0% 0%	100%	0% 0%	4.5% 8.0%	4.5% 8.0%	4.5%
Jul-97 Aug-97	100%	100%	100%	-5.6%	0%	100% 100%	0%	-5.6%	-5.6%	8.0% -5.6%
Sep-97	100%	100%	100%	5.5%	0%	100%	0%	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%
Oct-97	100%	100%	100%	-3.3%	0%	100%	0%	-3.3%	-3.3%	-3.3%
Nov-97	100%	20%	60%	2.8%	40%	60%	0%	4.6%	2.8%	3.7%
Dec-97	100%	100%	100%	1.7%	0%	100%	0%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%
Jan-98 Feb-98	100% 100%	100% 100%	100% 100%	1.1% 7.2%	0% 0%	100% 100%	0% 0%	1.1% 7.2%	1.1% 7.2%	1.1% 7.2%
Mar-98	100%	100%	100%	5.1%	0%	100%	0%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%
Apr-98	100%	100%	100%	1.0%	0%	100%	0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
May-98	100%	100%	100%	-1.7%	0%	100%	0%	-1.7%	-1.7%	-1.7%
Jun-98	100%	100%	100%	4.1%	0%	100%	0%	4.1%	4.1%	4.1%
Jul-98	100%	100%	100%	-1.1%	0%	100%	0%	-1.1%	-1.1%	-1.1%
Aug-98 Sep-98	100% 100%	100% 20%	100% 60%	-14.5% 3.8%	0% 40%	100% 60%	0% 0%	-14.5% 6.4%	-14.5% 3.8%	-14.5% 5.1%
Oct-98	100%	20%	60%	4.9%	40%	60%	0%	8.1%	4.9%	6.5%
Nov-98	100%	100%	100%	6.1%	0%	100%	0%	6.1%	6.1%	6.1%
Dec-98	100%	100%	100%	5.8%	0%	100%	0%	5.8%	5.8%	5.8%
Jan-99	100%	100%	100%	4.2%	0%	100%	0%	4.2%	4.2%	4.2%
Feb-99	100%	100%	100%	-3.1%	0%	100%	0%	-3.1%	-3.1%	-3.1%
Mar-99	100% 100%	100% 100%	100% 100%	4.0% 3.9%	0% 0%	100% 100%	0% 0%	4.0% 3.9%	4.0% 3.9%	4.0% 3.9%
Apr-99 May-99	100%	100%	100%	-2.4%	0%	100%	0%	-2.4%	-2.4%	-2.4%
Jun-99	100%	100%	100%	5.5%	0%	100%	0%	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%
Jul-99	100%	100%	100%	-3.1%	0%	100%	0%	-3.1%	-3.1%	-3.1%
Aug-99	100%	100%	100%	-0.5%	0%	100%	0%	-0.5%	-0.5%	-0.5%
Sep-99	100%	100%	100%	-2.7%	0%	100%	0%	-2.7%	-2.7%	-2.7%
Oct-99 Nov-99	100% 100%	100% 100%	100% 100%	6.3% 2.0%	0% 0%	100% 100%	0% 0%	6.3% 2.0%	6.3% 2.0%	6.3% 2.0%
Dec-99	100%	100%	100%	5.9%	0%	100%	0%	5.9%	5.9%	5.9%
Jan-00	100%	100%	100%	-5.0%	0%	100%	0%	-5.0%	-5.0%	-5.0%
Feb-00	100%	100%	100%	-1.9%	0%	100%	0%	-1.9%	-1.9%	-1.9%
Mar-00	100%	20%	60%	5.9%	40%	60%	0%	9.8%	5.9%	7.8%
Apr-00	100%	100%	100%	-3.0%	0%	100%	0%	-3.0%	-3.0%	-3.0%
May-00 Jun-00	100% 100%	100% 20%	100%	-2.1% 1.5%	0% 40%	100% 60%	0% 0%	-2.1% 2.5%	-2.1% 1.5%	-2.1% 2.0%
Jul-00	100%	20%	60%	-0.9%	40%	60%	0%	-1.6%	-0.9%	-1.3%
Aug-00	100%	100%	100%	6.2%	0%	100%	0%	6.2%	6.2%	6.2%
Sep-00	100%	100%	100%	-5.3%	0%	100%	0%	-5.3%	-5.3%	-5.3%
Oct-00	100%	100%	100%	-0.4%	0%	100%	0%	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.4%
Nov-00	100%	100%	100%	-7.9%	0% 40%	100%	0% 0%	-7.9%	-7.9%	-7.9%
Dec-00 Jan-01	100% 100%	20% 100%	60% 100%	0.3% 3.5%	0%	60% 100%	0%	0.5% 3.5%	0.3% 3.5%	0.4% 3.5%
Feb-01	100%	100%	100%	-9.1%	0%	100%	0%	-9.1%	-9.1%	-9.1%
Mar-01	100%	20%	60%	-3.8%	40%	60%	0%	-6.3%	-3.8%	-5.1%
Apr-01	0%	20%	10%	0.8%	10%	0%	90%	7.8%	-7.1%	0.3%
May-01	0%	100%	50%	0.3%	100%	0%	0%	0.7%	0.0%	0.3%
Jun-01 Jul-01	0% 0%	100% 50%	50% 25%	-1.2% -0.2%	100% 25%	0% 0%	0% 75%	-2.4% -1.0%	0.0% 0.5%	-1.2% -0.2%
Aug-01	0%	50%	25%	-1.6%	25%	0%	75%	-6.3%	4.8%	-0.2%
Sep-01	0%	20%	10%	-0.8%	10%	0%	90%	-8.1%	7.2%	-0.4%
Oct-01	0%	20%	10%	0.2%	10%	0%	90%	1.9%	-2.0%	0.0%
Nov-01	0%	20%	10%	0.8%	10%	0%	90%	7.7%	-6.6%	0.5%
Dec-01	0%	50%	25%	0.2%	25%	0%	75%	0.9%	-0.8%	0.0%
Jan-02	0%	30%	15%	-0.2%	15%	0%	85%	-1.5%	1.1%	-0.2%
Feb-02 Mar-02	0% 0%	50% 30%	25% 15%	-0.5% 0.6%	25% 15%	0% 0%	75% 85%	-1.9% 3.8%	1.3% -3.2%	-0.3% 0.3%
Apr-02	0%	30%	15%	-0.9%	15%	0%	85%	-6.1%	5.3%	-0.4%
May-02	0%	30%	15%	-0.1%	15%	0%	85%	-0.7%	0.3%	-0.2%
Jun-02	0%	30%	15%	-1.1%	15%	0%	85%	-7.1%	6.2%	-0.5%
Jul-02	0%	20%	10%	-0.8%	10%	0%	90%	-7.8%	6.1%	-0.8%
Aug-02	0%	20%	10%	0.1%	10%	0%	90%	0.7%	-1.4%	-0.4%
Sep-02 Oct-02	0% 0%	20% 100%	10% 50%	-1.1% 4.4%	10% 100%	0% 0%	90%	-10.9% 8.8%	10.2% 0.0%	-0.3% 4.4%
Nov-02	0%	20%	10%	0.6%	10%	0%	90%	5.9%	-5.4%	0.3%
Dec-02	0%	100%	50%	-2.9%	100%	0%	0%	-5.9%	0.0%	-2.9%
Jan-03	0%	20%	10%	-0.3%	10%	0%	90%	-2.6%	1.9%	-0.3%
Feb-03	0%	100%	50%	-0.8%	100%	0%	0%	-1.5%	0.0%	-0.8%
Mar-03	0%	100%	50%	0.5%	100%	0%	0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.5%
Apr-03 May-03	0% 0%	100% 20%	50% 10%	4.1% 0.5%	100% 10%	0% 0%	90%	8.2% 5.3%	0.0% -4.7%	4.1% 0.3%
Jun-03	100%	100%	100%	1.3%	0%	100%	0%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%
Jul-03	100%	100%	100%	1.8%	0%	100%	0%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%
Aug-03	100%	100%	100%	2.0%	0%	100%	0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%



EquityCompass Equity Risk Management Strategy

	Model 1	Model 2	50% Model 1 + 50% Model 2	Monthly Returns		EC Equity Risk Manager Component Allocation			Monthly Returns		
- Month	Fundamental Model	Technical Model	Recommended Equity Exposure	Recommended Equity Exposure	Cash	Long S&P 500	Short S&P 500	S&P 500	EC Equity Risk Manager	50% Risk Mgr. + 50% S&P 500	
Sep-03 Oct-03	100% 100%	100% 100%	100% 100%	-1.1% 5.7%	0% 0%	100% 100%	0% 0%	-1.1% 5.7%	-1.1% 5.7%	-1.1% 5.7%	
Nov-03	100%	80%	90%	0.8%	10%	90%	0%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%	
Dec-03	100%	80%	90%	4.7%	10%	90%	0%	5.2%	4.7%	5.0%	
Jan-04	100%	100%	100%	1.8%	0%	100%	0%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	
Feb-04	100%	100%	100%	1.4%	0%	100%	0%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	
Mar-04	100%	100%	100%	-1.5%	0%	100%	0%	-1.5%	-1.5%	-1.5%	
Apr-04	100%	100%	100%	-1.6%	0%	100%	0%	-1.6%	-1.6%	-1.6%	
May-04 Jun-04	100% 100%	100% 80%	100% 90%	1.4% 1.8%	0% 10%	100% 90%	0% 0%	1.4% 1.9%	1.4% 1.8%	1.4% 1.8%	
Jul-04 Jul-04	100%	100%	100%	-3.3%	0%	100%	0%	-3.3%	-3.3%	-3.3%	
Aug-04	100%	80%	90%	0.4%	10%	90%	0%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	
Sep-04	100%	80%	90%	1.0%	10%	90%	0%	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%	
Oct-04	100%	80%	90%	1.4%	10%	90%	0%	1.5%	1.4%	1.5%	
Nov-04	100%	80%	90%	3.6%	10%	90%	0%	4.0%	3.6%	3.8%	
Dec-04	100%	100%	100%	3.4%	0%	100%	0%	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%	
Jan-05	100%	100%	100%	-2.4%	0%	100%	0%	-2.4%	-2.4%	-2.4%	
Feb-05	100%	100%	100%	2.1%	0%	100%	0%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	
Mar-05	100%	100% 100%	100%	-1.8%	0% 0%	100% 100%	0% 0%	-1.8%	-1.8% -1.9%	-1.8% -1.9%	
Apr-05 May-05	100% 100%	80%	100% 90%	-1.9% 2.9%	10%	90%	0%	-1.9% 3.2%	2.9%	3.0%	
Jun-05	100%	100%	100%	0.1%	0%	100%	0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	
Jul-05	100%	100%	100%	3.7%	0%	100%	0%	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%	
Aug-05	100%	100%	100%	-0.9%	0%	100%	0%	-0.9%	-0.9%	-0.9%	
Sep-05	100%	100%	100%	0.8%	0%	100%	0%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	
Oct-05	100%	100%	100%	-1.7%	0%	100%	0%	-1.7%	-1.7%	-1.7%	
Nov-05	100%	100%	100%	3.8%	0%	100%	0%	3.8%	3.8%	3.8%	
Dec-05	100%	100%	100%	0.0%	0%	100%	0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
Jan-06	100%	100%	100%	2.6%	0%	100%	0%	2.6%	2.6%	2.6%	
Feb-06	100%	100% 100%	100%	0.3%	0% 0%	100% 100%	0% 0%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	
Mar-06 Apr-06	100% 100%	100%	100% 100%	1.3%	0%	100%	0%	1.2% 1.3%	1.2% 1.3%	1.2% 1.3%	
May-06	100%	100%	100%	-2.9%	0%	100%	0%	-2.9%	-2.9%	-2.9%	
Jun-06	100%	100%	100%	0.1%	0%	100%	0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	
Jul-06	100%	100%	100%	0.6%	0%	100%	0%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	
Aug-06	100%	100%	100%	2.4%	0%	100%	0%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	
Sep-06	100%	100%	100%	2.6%	0%	100%	0%	2.6%	2.6%	2.6%	
Oct-06	100%	100%	100%	3.3%	0%	100%	0%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	
Nov-06	100%	100%	100%	1.9%	0%	100%	0%	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%	
Dec-06	100%	100%	100%	1.4%	0%	100%	0%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	
Jan-07 Feb-07	100% 100%	100% 100%	100% 100%	1.5% -2.0%	0% 0%	100% 100%	0% 0%	1.5% -2.0%	1.5% -2.0%	1.5% -2.0%	
Mar-07	100%	100%	100%	1.1%	0%	100%	0%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	
Apr-07	100%	100%	100%	4.4%	0%	100%	0%	4.4%	4.4%	4.4%	
May-07	100%	100%	100%	3.5%	0%	100%	0%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	
Jun-07	100%	100%	100%	-1.7%	0%	100%	0%	-1.7%	-1.7%	-1.7%	
Jul-07	100%	100%	100%	-3.1%	0%	100%	0%	-3.1%	-3.1%	-3.1%	
Aug-07	100%	100%	100%	1.5%	0%	100%	0%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	
Sep-07	100%	100%	100%	3.7%	0%	100%	0%	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%	
Oct-07	100%	100%	100%	1.6%	0%	100%	0%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	
Nov-07	100%	100% 100%	100%	-4.2% -0.7%	0% 0%	100% 100%	0% 0%	-4.2%	-4.2%	-4.2%	
Dec-07 Jan-08	100% 0%	100%	100% 50%	-3.0%	100%	0%	0%	-0.7% -6.0%	-0.7% 0.0%	-0.7% -3.0%	
Feb-08	0%	20%	10%	-0.3%	10%	0%	90%	-3.2%	2.7%	-0.3%	
Mar-08	0%	20%	10%	0.0%	10%	0%	90%	-0.4%	-0.2%	-0.3%	
Apr-08	0%	20%	10%	0.5%	10%	0%	90%	4.9%	-4.4%	0.2%	
May-08	0%	100%	50%	0.6%	100%	0%	0%	1.3%	0.0%	0.6%	
Jun-08	0%	20%	10%	-0.8%	10%	0%	90%	-8.4%	8.0%	-0.2%	
Jul-08	100%	20%	60%	-0.5%	40%	60%	0%	-0.8%	-0.5%	-0.7%	
Aug-08	100%	20%	60%	0.9%	40%	60%	0%	1.4%	0.9%	1.2%	
Sep-08	0%	20%	10%	-0.9%	10%	0%	90%	-8.9%	6.5%	-1.2%	
Oct-08	0%	20%	10%	-1.7%	10%	0%	90%	-16.8%	12.0%	-2.4%	
Nov-08	0%	100%	50%	-3.6%	100%	0%	0%	-7.2% 1.10/	0.0%	-3.6%	
Dec-08 Jan-09	0% 0%	100% 100%	50% 50%	0.5% -4.2%	100% 100%	0% 0%	0% 0%	1.1% -8.4%	0.0% 0.0%	0.5% -4.2%	
Feb-09	0%	20%	10%	-1.1%	100%	0%	90%	-10.6%	9.7%	-4.2% -0.5%	
Mar-09	0%	20%	10%	0.9%	10%	0%	90%	8.8%	-8.9%	-0.1%	

Dividends included Assumes risk-free rate of 2.25% and 0% return for cash allocation Source: EquityCompass Strategies, Bloomberg

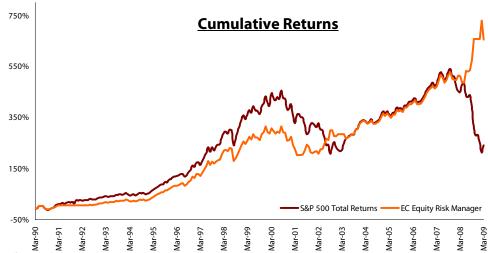


Performance Comparison S&P 500 Index vs. EC Equity Risk Manager

January 1990 – March 2009







Important Disclosures

The information contained herein has been prepared from sources believed to be reliable but is not guaranteed and is not a complete summary or statement of all available data nor is it considered an offer to buy or sell any securities referred to herein. EquityCompass Strategies is a research and investment advisory unit of Choice Financial Partners, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary and affiliated SEC registered investment adviser of Stifel Financial Corp. Portfolios based on EquityCompass Strategies are available exclusively through Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated. Affiliates of EquityCompass Strategies may, at times, release written or oral commentary, technical analysis, or trading strategies that differ from the opinions expressed within. Opinions expressed are subject to change without notice and do not take into account the particular investment objectives, financial situation, or needs of individual investors. The S&P 500 Index is a broad market index that tracks the performance of 500 stocks from major industries of the U.S. economy. The FINRA-Bloomberg Active U.S. Corporate Bond Indices reflect activity for the most frequently traded fixed-coupon investment-grade and highyield bonds. High-Yield Bonds have greater credit risk than higher quality bonds. When investing in bonds, it is important to note that as interest rates rise, bond prices will fall. The CRB Index is the Commodity Research Bureau Index that measures the overall direction of commodity sectors, which is designed to isolate and reveal the directional movement of prices in overall commodity trades. The MSCI US REIT Index is designed as a broad representation of REITs. When investing in real estate, it is important to note that property values can fall due to environmental, economic, or other reasons, and changes in interest rates can negatively impact the performance of real estate companies. The MSCI Emerging Markets Index is designed to measure equity market performance in global emerging markets. The Emerging Markets Index is a float-adjusted market capitalization index. Investing in Emerging Markets may involve greater risk and volatility than investing in more developed countries. The CBOE Volatility Index (VIX) is a key measure of market expectations of nearterm volatility conveyed by S&P 500 stock index option prices. The volatility of the indices identified in this report may be materially different from the volatility of the model portfolios presented by EquityCompass Strategies. Indices are unmanaged, and it is not possible to invest directly in an index.

The risk of loss in trading Commodities can be substantial. You should therefore carefully consider whether such trading is suitable for you in light of your financial condition. The high degree of leverage that is often obtainable in commodity trading can work against you as well as for you. The use of leverage can lead to large losses as well as gains. Currencies and Futures are generally volatile and may not be suitable for all investors. Investment in foreign exchange related products is subject to many factors which contribute to or increase volatility, such as national debt levels and trade deficits, changes in domestic and foreign interest rates, and investors' expectations concerning interest rates and global or regional political, economic or financial events and situations. Success is achieved only if significant losses are avoided. Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) represent a share of all of the stocks in their respective index held in a trust. Therefore, ETFs are subject to market risk, including the possible loss of principal. The value of the portfolio will fluctuate with the value of the underlying securities. ETFs trade like stocks, and there will be brokerage commissions associated with buying and selling exchange traded funds unless trading occurs in a fee-based account. Investors should consider an ETF's investment objective, risks, charges, and expenses carefully before investing. The prospectus, which contains this and other important information, is available from your Financial Advisor and should be read carefully before investing. Due to their narrow focus, sector-based Investments typically exhibit greater volatility and are generally associated with a high degree of risk. Small company stocks are typically more volatile and carry additional risks, since smaller companies generally are not as well established as larger companies. The market risk associated with small-cap and mid-cap stocks is generally greater than that associated with large-cap stocks because small-cap and mid-cap stocks tend to experience sharper price fluctuations than large-cap stocks, particularly during bear markets. Investing in low-priced securities carries a high degree of risk and may not be suitable for all investors. There is no guarantee that the figures or opinions forecasted in this report will be realized or achieved. Past performance is no quarantee of future results.

Additional Information is available upon request.

© 2009 EquityCompass Strategies, One South Street, Baltimore, MD 21202. All rights reserved.

