

Market Review

Index Performance for the Period Ended January 31, 2026

Data as of 01.31.2026	1 Month	3 Month	YTD	1 Year	3 Year ¹	5 Year ¹	10 Year ¹
Equity							
Russell 3000 [®] Index	1.55%	1.81%	1.55%	15.32%	20.18%	13.60%	15.13%
Russell Top 200 [®] Index	0.96%	1.03%	0.96%	16.96%	23.34%	15.60%	16.48%
Russell Top 200 [®] Growth Index	-1.66%	-4.09%	-1.66%	14.96%	28.78%	16.54%	19.58%
Russell Top 200 [®] Value Index	4.69%	8.65%	4.69%	17.86%	15.06%	13.41%	12.00%
Russell 2000 [®] Index	5.35%	5.75%	5.35%	15.81%	12.20%	6.16%	11.21%
Russell 2000 [®] Growth Index	3.98%	1.94%	3.98%	13.91%	13.45%	3.01%	11.27%
Russell 2000 [®] Value Index	6.86%	10.06%	6.86%	17.90%	10.81%	9.21%	10.76%
Russell Mid Cap [®] Index	3.06%	4.08%	3.06%	9.33%	12.48%	9.39%	12.10%
Russell Mid Cap [®] Growth Index	-0.87%	-4.27%	-0.87%	1.25%	15.04%	6.53%	13.28%
Russell Mid Cap [®] Value Index	4.28%	6.84%	4.28%	11.87%	10.94%	10.80%	10.87%
MSCI World ex-USA IMI Index	4.91%	9.21%	4.91%	32.42%	16.22%	10.29%	9.79%
MSCI World ex-USA Growth Index	4.05%	4.76%	4.05%	20.59%	12.22%	6.07%	8.77%
MSCI World ex-USA Value Index	5.34%	13.20%	5.34%	43.06%	20.58%	15.27%	10.61%
MSCI World ex-USA Small Cap Index	6.10%	10.55%	6.10%	37.87%	15.21%	7.81%	9.56%
MSCI ACWI IMI Index	3.28%	4.47%	3.28%	22.07%	18.43%	11.50%	12.53%
MSCI Emerging Markets IMI Index	8.65%	9.06%	8.65%	41.15%	16.62%	5.84%	10.04%
Fixed Income							
Bloomberg Municipal Index	0.94%	1.26%	0.94%	4.70%	3.22%	0.86%	2.32%
Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index	0.11%	0.58%	0.11%	6.85%	3.65%	-0.20%	1.88%
Bloomberg U.S. TIPS Index	0.31%	0.09%	0.31%	5.97%	3.70%	1.12%	2.97%
Bloomberg U.S. Corporate High Yield Index	0.51%	1.66%	0.51%	7.70%	8.88%	4.54%	6.75%
Bloomberg Global Treasury ex-U.S. Hedged Index	0.13%	-0.47%	0.13%	2.00%	4.20%	0.41%	2.11%
Bloomberg Emerging Markets Aggregate Index	0.36%	1.04%	0.36%	10.34%	7.90%	1.73%	4.21%

¹Annualized. TIPS: Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities. Source: Morningstar. The performance presented represents the returns of the listed index. The volatility of an index varies greatly and investments cannot be made directly in an index. Market conditions vary from year to year and can result in a decline in market value due to a material change in market or economic conditions. The performance is past performance and is not a guarantee for future results.



Sterling Capital Advisory Solutions Monthly Update

February 2026

Asset Allocation Update

- We recommend an underweight to Global Equities vs. Fixed Income.
- Within the equity allocation, we recommend an overweight to U.S. Equities and an underweight to Emerging Market Equities.
- Within the fixed income allocation, we recommend an overweight to U.S. TIPS.

Equity Market Highlights

- Global equities, as defined by the MSCI ACWI IMI, returned +3.28% in January, despite several geopolitical (e.g., regime change in Venezuela, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) tensions, Iran protests) and central bank developments (e.g., Federal Reserve (Fed) independence concerns, Kevin Warsh Fed Chair nomination) that grabbed headlines during the month. Gains in January represented the tenth consecutive month of positive returns for global equities. Value (MSCI ACWI Value Index +5.16%) outperformed growth (MSCI ACWI Growth Index +0.72%), which was driven by strong gains in value-centric sectors such as energy and materials. International developed markets (MSCI World ex USA IMI +6.04%) and emerging markets (MSCI EM IMI +8.65%) outperformed the U.S. (Russell 3000® Index +1.55%) during the month. Small caps also outperformed during the month (MSCI ACWI Small Cap Index +5.90%), partially driven by relative returns in the U.S. (Russell 2000® Index +5.35% vs. Russell 1000® Index +1.38%).
- Actively-managed strategy performance was mixed in January, with U.S. large cap and emerging markets managers outperforming while U.S. mid cap managers generally underperformed.
- On a rolling five-year basis, U.S. growth outperformance relative to value declined in January. Although the gap between growth and value returns has closed in recent periods, rolling five-year growth returns have consistently been ahead of value returns since 2017.

Fixed Income Market Highlights

- The broad bond market, as represented by the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index, returned +0.11% in January, bringing its one-year return to +6.85%. For the month and one-year time periods, Agency mortgage-backed securities (MBS) was the top-performing sector within the Aggregate Index. Outside of the Aggregate Index, High Yield (+0.51%) and Emerging Market Debt (+0.36%) were the top performers. Conversely, U.S. Governments (-0.09%) declined for the month.
- Overseas for the month of January, 10-year government bond yields had mixed results, with yields in Italy and Germany moving lower by eight basis points (bps) and one bp, respectively. 10-year yields in France were unchanged (3.43%), while yields in the U.K. were higher by three bps (to 4.51%). Domestically, the yield on the 10-year Treasury moved higher from 4.17% to 4.26% over the month.
- Municipal/Treasury ratios moved lower in January, with 2-year, 3-year, 5-year, 7-year and 10-year ratios declining by at least -4.5%. Current ratios are below 5-year historical averages.

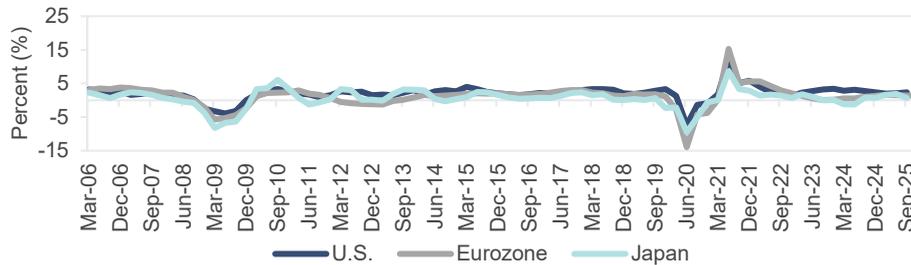
Stock Indices YTD		Bond Indices YTD		Other Indices YTD		U.S. Treasury Yields		Rates/Commodities	
MSCI ACWI IMI	3.28%	Bloomberg US Aggregate	0.11%	US Fund Multialternative	1.34%	6-month	3.63%	Prime Rate	6.75%
Russell 3000	1.55%	Bloomberg Gbl Treas xUS Hdg	0.13%	DJ Equity All REIT	2.80%	1-year	3.48%	LIBOR (3 Mo)	4.85%
S&P 500	1.45%	Bloomberg US TIPS	0.31%	Bloomberg Commodity	10.36%	3-year	3.60%	Oil Price (\$/barrel)	\$65.21
MSCI EAFE	5.22%	Bloomberg US High Yield	0.51%			5-year	3.81%	Gold (\$/t oz)	\$4,895.44
MSCI EM	8.85%	Bloomberg EM Aggregate	0.36%			10-year	4.26%		
						30-year	4.89%		

Data is as of 01.31.2026. TIPS: Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities. Sources: Morningstar; FactSet; Russell Investments; Bloomberg L.P.; U.S. Department of Treasury. Asset allocation and diversification do not assure a profit or protect against loss in declining financial markets. For illustrative purposes only. The views expressed represent the opinions of Sterling Capital Management. Any type of investing involves risk and there are no guarantees that these methods will be successful. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.



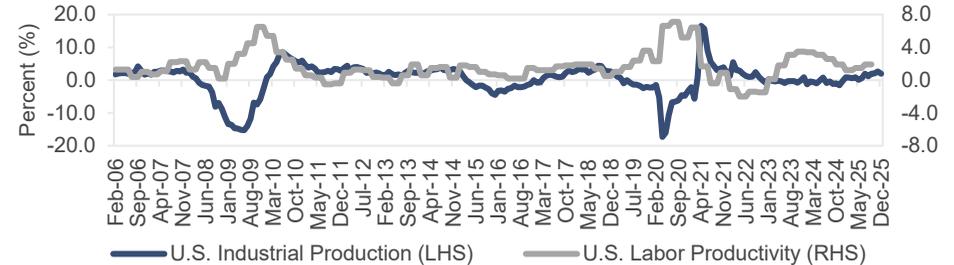
Global Economic Snapshot

YOY Real GDP Growth (\$U.S.)



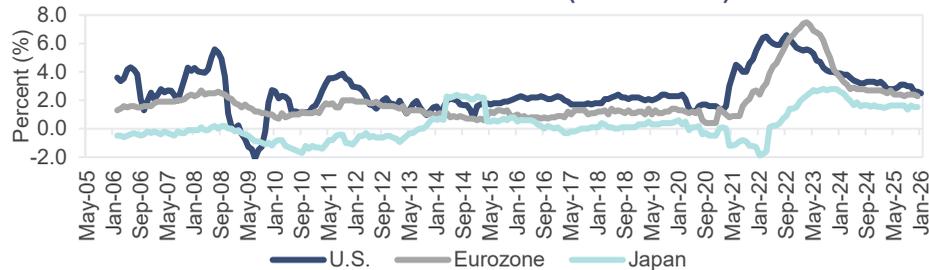
U.S. & Japan data is as of 09.30.2025. Eurozone data is as of 12.31.2025. Source: FactSet.

YOY U.S. Industrial Production and Productivity



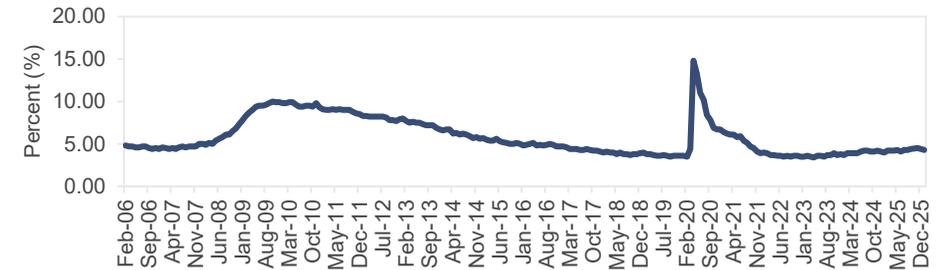
Industrial Production as of 12.31.2025. Industrial Productivity data as of 09.30.2025. Source: FactSet.

Core Consumer Price Index (YoY Growth)



U.S. data is as of 01.31.2026. Japan & Eurozone data is as of 12.31.2025. Source: FactSet. The sudden increase in Japan CPI growth in 2014 coincided with an increase in national sales tax that impacted final price levels.

U.S. - Unemployment Rate



Data is as of 01.31.2026. Source: FactSet.

- Quarterly U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) was strong in the third quarter, pushing year-over-year growth higher to 2.3%. Growth in Europe and Japan is lagging the U.S.
- The U.S. unemployment rate declined for the second consecutive month to 4.3% in January.
- Year-over-year, U.S. core inflation declined to 2.5% in January and is down from 3.2% at the start of 2025. Inflation in Europe ticked lower to 2.3%, while inflation in Japan remains relatively low.
- U.S. industrial production growth declined to 2.0% in December. U.S. labor productivity growth continued to move higher in the third quarter, but the year-over-year rate remains below 2.0%.

Please see the Appendix for important definitions. For illustrative purposes only. The views expressed represent the opinions of Sterling Capital Management. Any type of investing involves risk and there are no guarantees that these methods will be successful. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

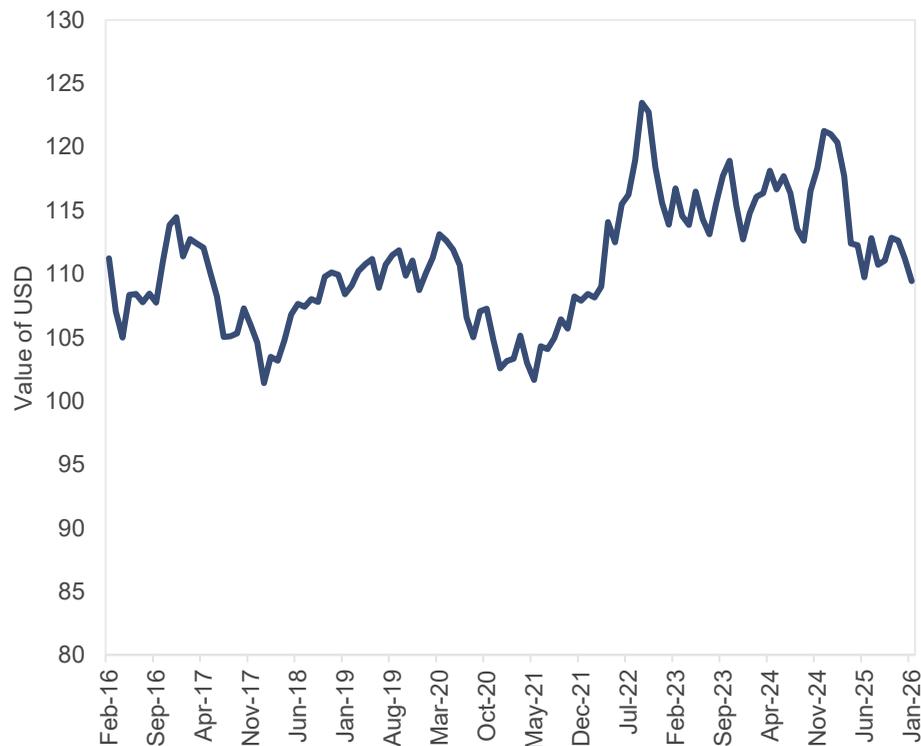
U.S. Economic Indicators



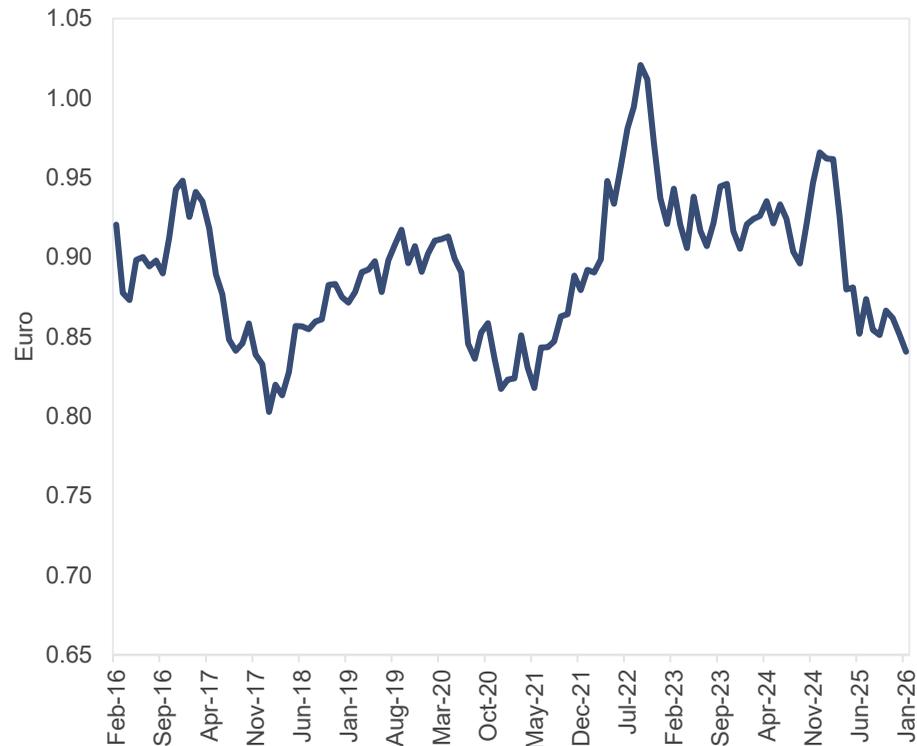
Source: Factset. For illustrative purposes only. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Currency

Nominal Trade-Weighted U.S. Dollar Major Currencies



Euro per U.S. Dollar



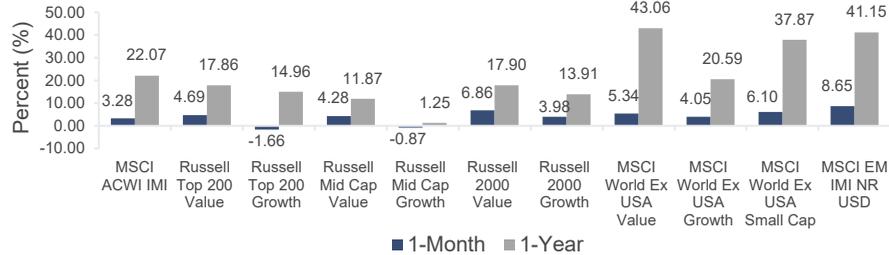
- The Trade-Weighted U.S. Dollar Index (Major Currencies) decreased 1.6% in January and year-to-date. The dollar was down 1.3% versus the Euro in January.

Data is as of 01.31.2026. Source: FactSet. For illustrative purposes only. The views expressed represent the opinions of Sterling Capital Management. Any type of investing involves risk and there are no guarantees that these methods will be successful. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.



Global Equity Markets

Equity Market Performance



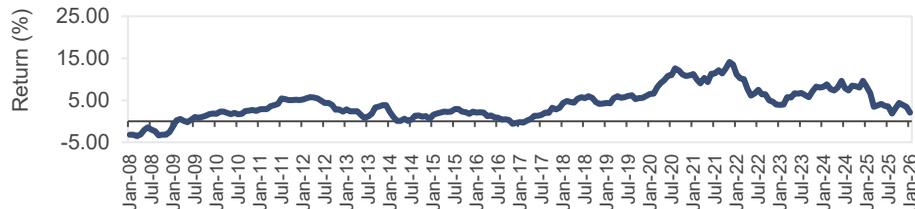
Data is as of 01.31.2026. Sources: Morningstar; Russell Investments.

Active vs. Passive



Data is as of 01.31.2026. Sources: Morningstar, Russell Investments. Median return of Morningstar open-end fund category (institutional share class). Russell return of U.S. categories.

Rolling 5-Year Return Differential Russell 3000 Growth minus Russell 3000 Value



Data is as of 01.31.2026. Source: Morningstar.

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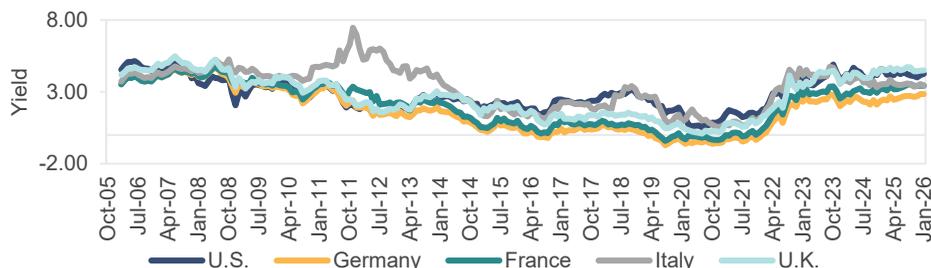
Fixed Income Markets

Bond Market Performance



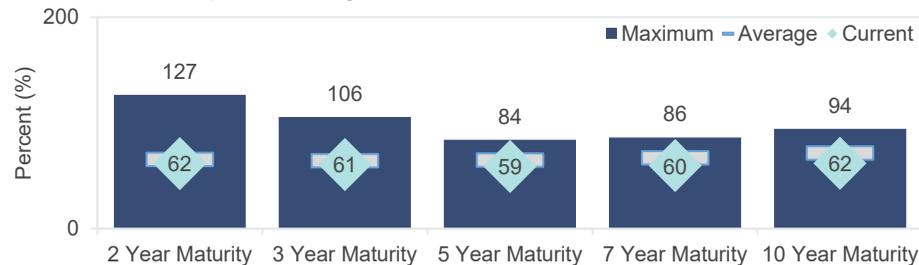
Data is as of 01.31.2026. Sources: Morningstar; Bloomberg L.P.

10-Year Government Bond Yields



Data is as of 01.31.2026. Sources: FactSet; U.S. Department of Treasury.

Municipal/Treasury Yield Ratios Over The Last Five Years



Data is as of 01.31.2026. Sources: Thompson Reuters; Sterling Capital Management Analytics.

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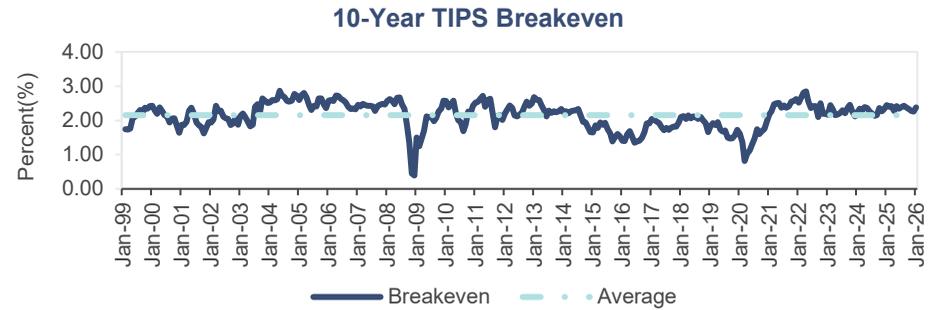
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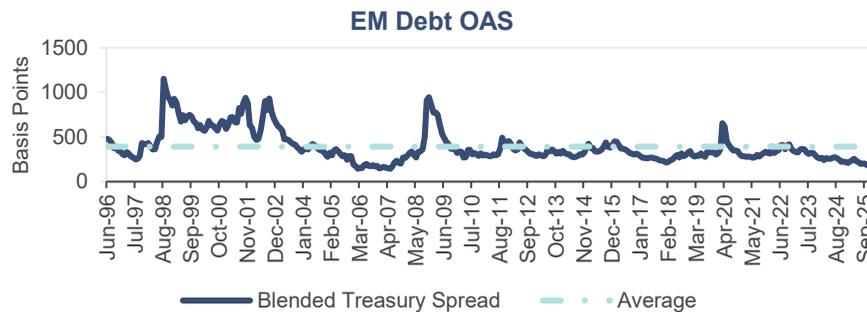
Fixed Income Spreads and TIPS Breakeven



Data is as of 01.31.2026. Source: FactSet.



Data is as of 01.31.2026. Source: Federal Reserve Board of Governors.



Data is as of 01.31.2026. Source: Bloomberg L.P.



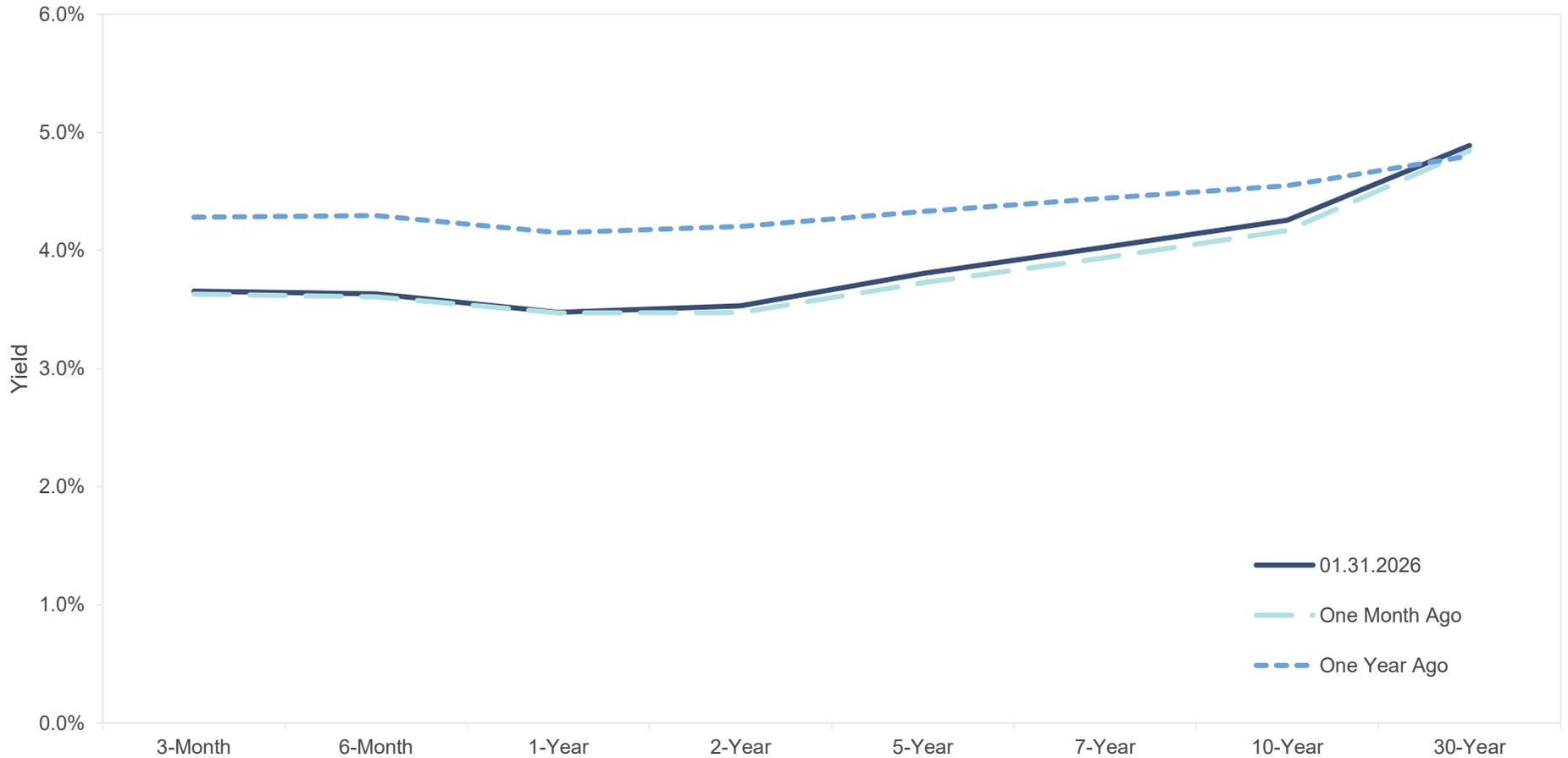
Data is as of 01.31.2026. Source: Bloomberg L.P.

- Investment-grade credit spreads moved lower in January while high yield spreads were little changed. Credit spreads in both markets remain low relative to historical averages.
- 10-year TIPS breakeven rates moved higher in January, taking them further above the long-term average.
- Emerging Market debt credit spreads moved lower in January and remain well below the historical average. The yield spread of U.S. to Global Treasuries moved mildly higher and remains above the historical average.

Please see the Appendix for important definitions. For illustrative purposes only. The views expressed represent the opinions of Sterling Capital Management. Any type of investing involves risk and there are no guarantees that these methods will be successful. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.



U.S. Treasury Yield Curve

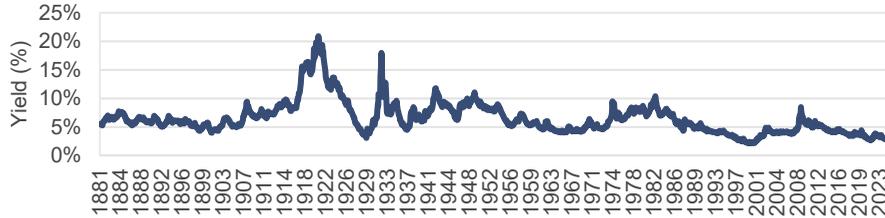


- The yield curve shifted higher in January, following mostly falling yields in 2025. The 10-year yield saw the largest increase, moving from 4.17% to 4.26%.

Data is as of 01.31.2026. Source: FactSet. For illustrative purposes only. The views expressed represent the opinions of Sterling Capital Management. Any type of investing involves risk and there are no guarantees that these methods will be successful. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Yields are subject to market conditions and are therefore expected to fluctuate.

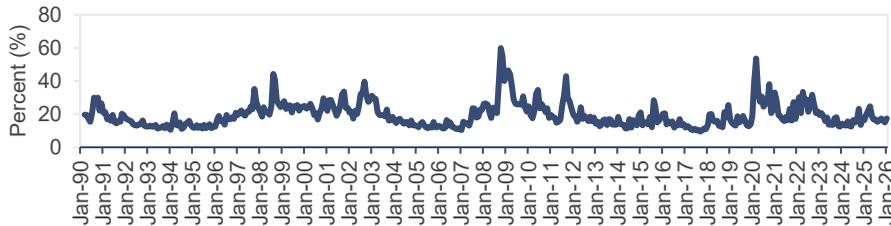
Global Equity Market Fundamentals and Indicators

U.S. Cyclically-Adjusted Earnings Yield



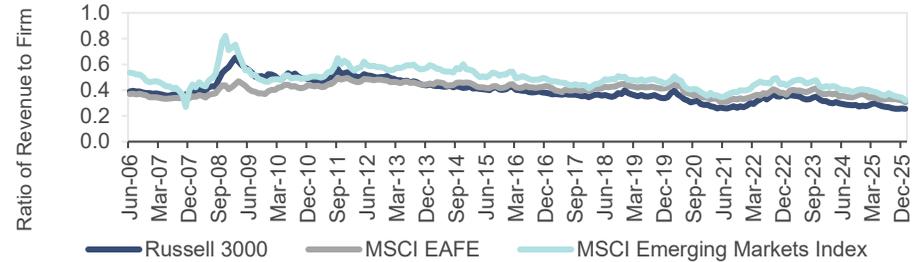
Data is as of 01.31.2026. Sources: Bloomberg L.P.; Robert Shiller "U.S. Stock Markets 1871 - Present and CAPE Ratio."

VIX Index



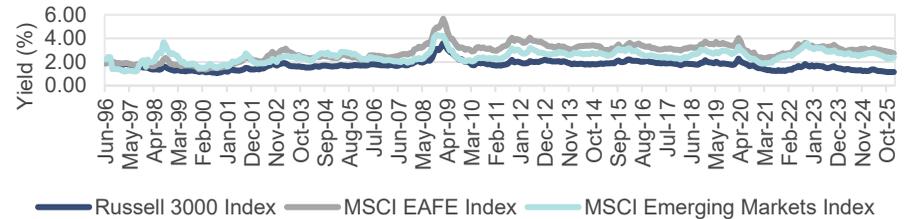
Data is as of 01.31.2026. Sources: FactSet; Russell; Bureau of Labor Statistics; Sterling Capital Management Analytics.

Revenue to Firm Value



Data is as of 01.31.2026. Sources: FactSet; Russell; MSCI.

Dividend Yield



Data is as of 01.31.2026. Sources: FactSet; Russell; MSCI.

- The U.S. cyclically-adjusted earnings yield declined in January and remains low relative to history.
- In January, dividend yields moved lower in developed markets but higher in emerging markets. U.S. dividend yields are low relative to long-run averages and remain below international market levels. Sales yields moved mildly lower across markets in January.
- The CBOE Volatility Index (VIX), a measure of market-expected equity volatility, increased in January and is near the 20-year historical median. Higher VIX levels may be indicative of higher equity risk premiums.

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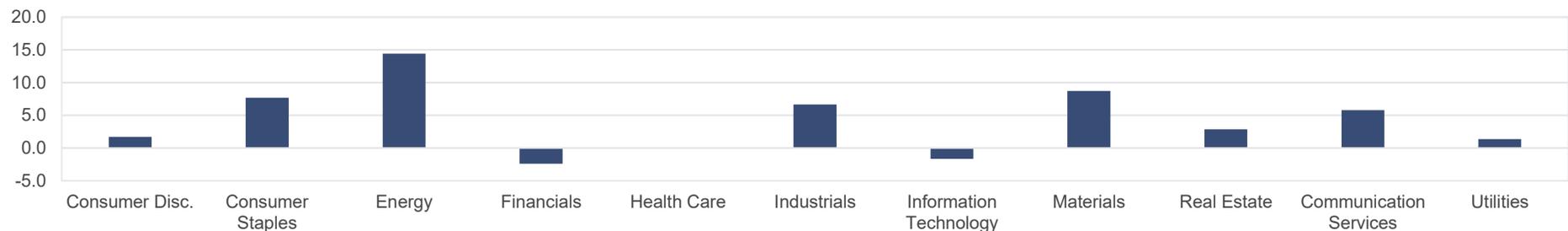
U.S. Equity Market Style and Sector Returns

S&P 1500 by Capitalization & Style¹

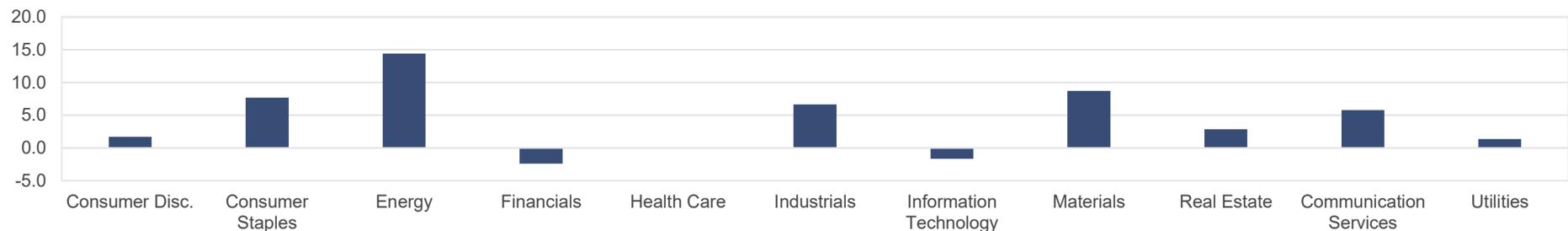
1-Month				YTD		
Value	Blend	Growth		Value	Blend	Growth
2.49%	1.45%	0.54%	Large	2.49%	1.45%	0.54%
4.12%	4.05%	3.99%	Mid	4.12%	4.05%	3.99%
6.46%	5.61%	4.79%	Small	6.46%	5.61%	4.79%

S&P 500 Sector Returns (%)

1-Month



YTD



¹Style boxes are derived from the components of the S&P 1500[®] Index. Please refer to the appendix for further information about capitalization/style returns. Data is as of 01.31.2026. Source: FactSet. For illustrative purposes only. The views expressed represent the opinions of Sterling Capital Management. Any type of investing involves risk and there are no guarantees that these methods will be successful. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.



Appendix

Important Information

Disclosures & Technical Terms

Past performance is not indicative of future results. Any type of investing involves risk and there are no guarantees that these methods will be successful. Economic charts are provided for illustrative purposes only. The information provided herein is subject to market conditions and is therefore expected to fluctuate.

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SCM does not provide tax or legal advice. You should consult with your individual tax or legal professional before taking any action that may have tax or legal implications.

Core Consumer Price Index (CPI): a measure of the aggregate price level in an economy, excluding certain volatile items.

Consumer Confidence Index (CCI): measures what consumers are feeling about their expected financial situation, whether that's optimistic or pessimistic.

Option Adjusted Spread (OAS): A bond's yield spread over comparable maturity government bonds, adjusted for any embedded options.

Real Disposable Personal Income: the amount of money that an individual or household has to spend or save after federal, state, and local taxes and other mandatory charges are deducted.

Real GDP: Real gross domestic product (GDP) is an inflation-adjusted measure that reflects the value of all goods and services produced by an economy in a given year, expressed in base-year prices.

Nonfarm payroll refers to the number of jobs in the private sector and government agencies. It excludes farm workers, private household employees, proprietors, non-profit employees, and actively serving military.

Revenue-to-Firm Value: Total Index Revenues of the past 12 months divided by the sum of equity market value and the value of total debt. This is a measure of total sales generated on the total value (debt plus equity) of firms in the index.

TIPS Breakeven: The inflation rate implied by the spread in yield between U.S. TIPS (Treasury Inflation Protected Securities) and nominal U.S. Government Bonds of equal maturity.

U.S. 3-Year Real Revenue Growth, Russell 3000 Non-Financials: For the Russell 3000 excluding financial firms, the percentage change in trailing 12-month inflation adjusted revenue over 12-month inflation adjusted revenue three years prior.

U.S. Cyclically Adjusted Earnings Yield: The 10-year average of annual, inflation adjusted earnings divided by the current inflation adjusted price of the S&P 500 index. This measure is the inverse of the Shiller CAPE Ratio.

YOY U.S. Productivity Growth: The year-over-year growth in real U.S. output produced per hour worked for non-farm workers.

CAPE Ratio: is a valuation measure that uses real earnings per share (EPS) over a 10-year period to smooth out fluctuations in corporate profits that occur over different periods of a business cycle.

Dividend Risk: refers to the risk of a stock's dividend being cut or eliminated, or to the risk to an option when a dividend is paid.

Dividend Yields: is a financial ratio that shows how much a company pays out in dividends each year relative to its stock price.

Eurozone: consists of those Member States of the European Union that have adopted the euro as their currency.

Municipal Yield: the annual return an investor receives on a municipal bond. It's calculated based on the bond's purchase price, coupon rate, and how long the investor holds the bond.

Treasury Yield: the interest rate the U.S. government pays on its debt securities, expressed as a percentage. It's also the annual return investors earn from holding a U.S. government security.

Capitalization/Style Returns: Capitalization/Style returns are based on the S&P Indexes. All values are cumulative total return for stated period including the reinvestment of dividends. The indexes used from left to right, top to bottom are as follows: S&P 500 Value Index, S&P 500 Index, S&P 500 Growth Index, S&P Mid Cap 400 Value Index, S&P Mid Cap 400 Index, S&P Mid Cap 400 Growth Index, S&P Small Cap 600 Value Index, S&P Small Cap 600 Index, S&P Small Cap 600 Growth Index. The S&P 500® Index is a readily available, carefully constructed, market-value-weighted benchmark of common stock performance. Currently, the S&P® Composite includes 500 of the largest stocks (in terms of stock market value) in the United States; prior to March 1957 it consisted of 90 of the largest stocks. The S&P Midcap 400 is designed to measure the performance of the middle capitalization sector of the U.S. equities market. This market capitalization weighted index was created in June of 1991 and consists of 400 domestic stocks from the NYSE, NASDAQ, and AMEX chosen for market size, liquidity and industry group representation. The S&P SmallCap 600 is designed to measure the performance of the small capitalization sector of the U.S. equities market. This index consists of 600 domestic stocks chosen for market size, liquidity, (bid-asked spread, ownership, share turnover and number of no trade days) and industry group representation. The S&P Style indices measure growth and value along two separate dimensions, with three factors each used to measure growth and value. The Growth factors are 3 Year Change in Earnings per Share over Price per Share, 3 Year Sales per Share Growth Rate, and Momentum. The Value factors are Book Value to price Ratio, Earnings to Price Ratio, and Sales to Price Ratio.



Important Information

Index Definitions & Disclosures

A Note on Indices: The volatility of an index varies greatly; all indices are unmanaged and investments cannot be made directly in an index. Indices are shown for illustrative purposes only and do not represent the performance of any specific investment. The indices selected by Sterling Capital Management to measure performance are representative of broad asset classes. Sterling Capital Management retains the right to change representative indices at any time.

The **Bloomberg Emerging Markets Hard Currency Aggregate Index** is a flagship hard currency Emerging Markets debt benchmark that includes USD-denominated debt from sovereign, quasi-sovereign, and corporate EM issuers.

The **Bloomberg Global Treasury Ex U.S. Hedged Index** is comprised of securities issued by developed ex. U.S. and emerging market governments. The index is hedged against constituent currencies versus the U.S. dollar.

The **Bloomberg Global Treasury Index** is a broad benchmark that tracks the performance of fixed-rate, local currency government debt of investment-grade countries, including both developed and emerging markets, excluding the United States. It's essentially the treasury sector of the Global Aggregate Index.

The **Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index** is an unmanaged index composed of securities that are SEC-registered, taxable, and dollar denominated. The index covers the U.S. investment grade fixed rate bond market, with index components for government and corporate securities, mortgage pass-through securities, and asset-backed securities. It is not possible to invest in the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index, which is unmanaged and does not incur fees and charges.

The **Bloomberg U.S. Corporate High Yield Index** measures the U.S. corporate market of non-investment grade, fixed-rate corporate bonds. Securities are classified as high yield if the middle rating of Moody's, Fitch, and S&P is Ba1/BB+/BB+ or below.

The **Bloomberg U.S. Credit Index** measures the investment grade, U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed-rate, taxable corporate and government related bond markets. It is composed of the U.S. Corporate Index and a non-corporate component that includes foreign agencies, sovereigns, supnationals and local authorities.

The **Bloomberg U.S. Government Index** is comprised of securities issued by the U.S. government and its agencies with at least one year until final maturity.

The **Bloomberg U.S. MBS Index** covers the mortgage-backed pass-through securities of Ginnie Mae (GNMA), Fannie Mae (FNMA), and Freddie Mac (FHLMC). It is formed by grouping the universe of individual fixed rate MBS pools into generic aggregates.

The **Bloomberg U.S. Treasury Inflation-Linked Bond Index (Series-L)** measures the performance of the U.S. Treasury Inflation Protected Securities (TIPS) market. Federal Reserve holdings of U.S. TIPS are not index eligible and are excluded from the face amount outstanding of each bond in the index.

The **Bloomberg Commodity Index** and related sub-indices are composed of futures contracts on physical commodities and represents 22 separate commodities traded on U.S. exchanges, with the exception of aluminum, nickel and zinc.

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The **Dow Jones Equity All REIT Index** is designed to measure all publicly traded real estate investment trusts in the Dow Jones U.S. stock universe classified as equity REITs according to the S&P Dow Jones Indices REIT Industry Classification Hierarchy. These companies are REITs that primarily own and operate income-producing real estate.

The **ISM Manufacturing Index** is a monthly indicator of U.S. economic activity based on a survey of purchasing managers at manufacturing firms nationwide.

The **ISM Manufacturing New Orders Index** is a key sub-index within the ISM Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) that measures the month-over-month change in new purchase orders received by manufacturing firms.

The **ISM Non-Manufacturing Index** is an index that measures the economic condition and performance of service-based companies.

The **ICE U.S. Dollar Index** is calculated in real time approximately every 15 seconds from a multi-contributor feed of the spot prices of the Index's component currencies.

The **MSCI ACWI Investable Market Index (IMI)** captures large, mid and small cap representation across 23 Developed Markets (DM) and 26 Emerging Markets (EM) countries. With 8,768 constituents, the index is comprehensive, covering approximately 99% of the global equity investment opportunity set. DM countries include: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the U.K. and the U.S. EM countries include: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey and United Arab Emirates.



Important Information

Index Definitions & Disclosures

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The **MSCI World Investable Market Index (IMI)** is a comprehensive global stock market index that represents large, mid, and small-cap stocks across 23 developed market countries. It captures approximately 99% of the free-float adjusted market capitalization in each country.

The **MSCI EAFE 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.

The **MSCI Emerging Markets Index** is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure equity market performance in the global emerging markets.

The **MSCI Emerging Markets Growth Index** captures large and mid cap securities exhibiting overall growth style characteristics across 26 Emerging Markets (EM) countries. The growth investment style characteristics for index construction are defined using five variables: long-term forward EPS growth rate, short-term forward EPS growth rate, current internal growth rate and long-term historical EPS growth trend and long-term historical sales per share growth trend.

The **MSCI Emerging Markets Investable Market Index (IMI)** is a stock market index that measures the performance of large, mid, and small-cap companies in emerging markets.

The **MSCI Emerging Markets Value Index** captures large and mid cap securities exhibiting overall value style characteristics across 26 Emerging Markets (EM) countries. The value investment style characteristics for index construction are defined using three variables: book value to price, 12-month forward earnings to price and dividend yield.

The **MSCI ACWI Value Index** captures large and mid cap securities exhibiting overall value style characteristics across 23 Developed Markets countries and 24 Emerging Markets (EM) countries. The value investment style characteristics for index construction are defined using three variables: book value to price, 12-month forward earnings to price and dividend yield.

The **MSCI ACWI Growth Index** captures large and mid cap securities exhibiting overall growth style characteristics across 23 Developed Markets (DM) countries and 24 Emerging Markets (EM) countries. The growth investment style characteristics for index construction are defined using five variables: long-term forward EPS growth rate, short-term forward EPS growth rate, current internal growth rate and long-term historical EPS growth trend and long-term historical sales per share growth trend.

The **MSCI ACWI ex USA Growth Index** captures large and mid cap securities exhibiting overall growth style characteristics across 22 Developed Markets (DM) countries and 26 Emerging Markets (EM) countries.

The **MSCI ACWI ex USA IMI Index** is a global equity index that tracks the performance of large, mid, and small-cap companies in developed and emerging markets outside the United States. It aims to capture approximately 99% of the global equity investment opportunity set excluding US equities, according to MSCI.

The **MSCI ACWI Small Cap Index** captures small cap representation across 22 of 23 Developed Markets (DM) countries (excluding the US) and 24 Emerging Markets (EM) countries. With 4,372 constituents, the index covers approximately 14% of the global equity opportunity set outside the US.

The **MSCI ACWI Large Cap Index** captures large cap representation across 22 of 23 Developed Markets (DM) countries (excluding the US) and 24 Emerging Markets (EM) countries. With 982 constituents, the index covers approximately 70% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

The **MSCI ACWI Mid Cap Index** captures mid cap representation across 22 Developed Markets (DM) and 24 Emerging Markets (EM) countries. With 1,280 constituents, the index covers approximately 15% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

The **MSCI World ex USA Value Index** captures large and mid cap securities exhibiting overall value style characteristics across 22 of 23 Developed Markets countries.

The **MSCI World ex USA Small Cap Index** captures small cap representation across 22 of 23 Developed Markets (DM) countries (excluding the United States). With 2,529 constituents, the index covers approximately 14% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

The **MSCI World ex USA Investable Market Index (IMI)** captures large, mid and small cap representation across 22 of 23 Developed Markets (DM) countries—excluding the United States. With 3,540 constituents, the index covers approximately 99% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

The **Russell Midcap® Index** measures the performance of the mid-cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. The Russell Midcap® Index is a subset of the Russell 1000® Index. It includes approximately 800 of the smallest securities based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership. The Russell Midcap® Index represents approximately 31% of the total market capitalization of the Russell 1000® companies. The Russell Midcap® Index is constructed to provide a comprehensive and unbiased barometer for the mid-cap segment. The index is completely reconstituted annually to ensure larger stocks do not distort the performance and characteristics of the true mid-cap opportunity set.

Important Information

Index Definitions & Disclosures

A Note on Indices: The volatility of an index varies greatly; all indices are unmanaged and investments cannot be made directly in an index. Indices are shown for illustrative purposes only and do not represent the performance of any specific investment. The indices selected by Sterling Capital Management to measure performance are representative of broad asset classes. Sterling Capital Management retains the right to change representative indices at any time.

The **Russell 1000® Index** measures the performance of the large-cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. It is a subset of the Russell 3000® Index and includes approximately 1,000 of the largest securities based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership. The Russell 1000® represents approximately 92% of the U.S. market. The Russell 1000® Index is constructed to provide a comprehensive and unbiased barometer for the large-cap segment and is completely reconstituted annually to ensure new and growing equities are included.

The **Russell 2000® Index** measures the performance of the small-cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. The Russell 2000® Index is a subset of the Russell 3000® Index representing approximately 10% of the total market capitalization of that index. It includes approximately 2,000 of the smallest securities based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership. The Russell 2000® is constructed to provide a comprehensive and unbiased small-cap barometer and is completely reconstituted annually to ensure larger stocks do not distort the performance and characteristics of the true small-cap opportunity set.

The **Russell 2000® Growth Index** measures the performance of growth style of investing in small cap U.S. stocks. The Growth Index contains those Russell 2000 securities with greater-than-average growth orientation.

The **Russell 2000® Value Index** measures the performance of value style of investing in small cap U.S. stocks. The Value Index contains those Russell 2000 securities with less-than-average growth orientation. Securities in the Value Index generally have lower price-to-book and price-to-earnings ratios than those in the Growth Index.

The **Russell 3000® Index** measures the performance of the 3,000 largest U.S. companies based on total market capitalization.

The **Russell 3000® Growth Index** is an unmanaged index comprised of those Russell 3000 companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values.

The **Russell 3000® Value Index** measures the performance of the broad value segment of the US equity value universe.

The **Russell 200® Value Index** measures the performance of the especially large cap segment of the US equity universe represented by stocks in the largest 200 by market cap that exhibit value characteristics.

The **Russell Midcap® Growth Index** measures the performance of growth styles of investing in Mid Cap U.S. stocks. The Growth Index contains those Russell Mid Cap securities with greater-than-average growth orientation.

The **Russell Midcap® Value Index** measures the performance of value style of investing in Mid Cap U.S. stocks. The Value Index contains those Russell Mid Cap securities with less-than-average growth orientation. Securities in the Value Index generally have lower price-to-book and price-to-earnings ratios than those in the Growth Index.

The **Russell Top 200® Growth Index** offers measures the performance of the especially large cap segment of the U.S. equity universe represented by stocks in the largest 200 by market cap. It includes Russell Top 200® Index companies with higher growth earning potential as defined by Russell's leading style methodology.

The **Russell Top 200® Index** is an index of the largest 200 companies in the Russell 3000 index. It is commonly used as a benchmark index for U.S.-based ultra large-cap (mega-cap) stocks with the average member commanding a market capitalization of upwards of \$200 billion.

The **S&P® 500 Index** is an unmanaged capitalization-weighted index of 500 U.S. stocks designed to measure performance of the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries.

The **S&P Small Cap 600® Index:** The S&P SmallCap 600® Index is designed to measure the performance of the small capitalization sector of the U.S. equities market. This index consists of 600 domestic stocks chosen for market size, liquidity, (bid-asked spread, ownership, share turnover and number of no trade days) and industry group representation.

The **S&P Mid Cap 400® Index:** The S&P MidCap 400® Index is designed to measure the performance of the mid capitalization sector of the U.S. equities market. This index consists of 400 domestic stocks chosen for market size, liquidity, (bid-asked spread, ownership, share turnover and number of no trade days) and industry group representation.

The **S&P 1500:** An investable U.S. equity benchmark, the S&P Composite 1500 combines three leading indices, the S&P 500®, the S&P MidCap 400, and the S&P SmallCap 600 to cover approximately 90% of the U.S. market capitalization. It is designed for investors seeking to replicate the performance of the U.S. equity market or benchmark against a representative universe of tradable stocks.

The **Trade-Weighted U.S. Dollar Index**, also known as the broad index, is a measure of the value of the United States dollar relative to other world currencies. It is a trade weighted index that improves on the older U.S. Dollar Index by using more currencies and the updating the weights yearly.

The **Volatility Index (VIX)** is a real-time market index representing the market's expectations for volatility over the coming 30 days.

