VTD

#### Market Update

In what has become the norm, stock market investors endured plenty of volatility in the third Assoct Category guarter. After a strong July, trade tensions reared their head once again, leading to declines in August. Fortunately, fed funds rate cuts and a temporary pause in trade war rhetoric were enough to drive a stronger finish to the guarter. The S&P 500° Index ended the third guarter within 2% of its all-time high and up more than 20% for the year. Mid Cap stocks, one of our favorite areas for long-term growth, performed a bit better while Small Cap and International Markets posted strong returns but well behind the S&P 500. The Emerging Markets have gained only 5.89% this year, but could be poised for stronger returns in the event of a trade war resolution. Small Cap and International Markets have had negative returns over the past 12 months, which includes a dramatic decline in the fourth quarter of 2018. Declining interest rates have driven solid returns for Real Estate and Bonds. Growth stocks (dominated by Technology and Consumer Discretionary stocks) have again outpaced more value-oriented stocks (Financials, Energy, and Utilities) to continue a trend that has existed for most of the past five years.

## **Portfolio Update**

Within the FundAdvisor models, our overweight to Mid Cap stocks has been a positive, while exposure to Emerging Markets has been a slight drag on performance this year. Year-to-date, however, the FundAdvisor models ranged in performance from about 9.81% for our Conservative Balanced model (40% stock/60% bond allocation) to 16.24% for our Growth model (100%

stocks). We have been pleased with the performance and have had several funds that have been performing well, including Diamond Hill Large Cap, Hartford Core Equity, Vanguard Mid Cap, John Hancock Small Cap Value, Touchstone Sands Emerging Markets Growth, and Vanguard Intermediate Term bond funds. Each has beaten their benchmarks.

### Anatomy of a Recession

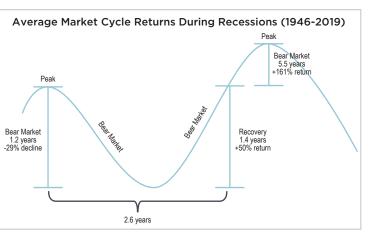
Slowing economic growth, an intensifying trade war, a partially inverted yield curve and negative interest rates in many parts of the world seem to be suggesting deflationary pressures and/or rising chances of a recession. According to the Wall Street Journal, a recent survey of economists put the odds of a recession at 35%. True to form, the media has latched onto recent volatility to double down on calls for bad outcomes. It often seems the greatest risk is talking ourselves into a recession. Similar commentary was prevalent in 2011 and 2015, yet the market is significantly higher than it was then. For the moment, economic growth actually remains decent as evidenced by 2.0% GDP growth in Q2 and expected 1.9% growth in Q3. Despite that and our feeling that maybe things are not as bad as many would make you believe, increasing rumbling about an upcoming recession made us wonder, "What would that actually mean for investors?"

The chart to the right shows the average makeup of a typical market cycle based on the last 9 recessions, dating back to the 1940's. It shows that the average bear market decline lasts only about a year and a half and results in about a 29% decline. Once the recovery begins, it tends to be quick and dramatic, returning more than 50% (the return required to gain back a 30% decline) in just 1.4 years. That's a 33% annualized return! After recovering what was lost, the market typically gains for another five years

Asset Category	YID Return	YID
U.S. Large Cap Stocks	20.55	4.25
U.S. Mid Cap Stocks	21.93	3.19
U.S. Small Cap Stocks	14.18	-8.89
Developed International Stocks	12.80	-1.34
Emerging Market Stocks	5.89	-2.02
U.S. Growth Stocks	23.30	3.71
U.S. Value Stocks	17.81	4.00
Real Estate Investment Trusts	28.49	20.70
Intermediate Term Bonds	6.41	8.17
High Yield Bonds	11.41	6.36

Source: Morningstar Direct. Please see

Important Disclosures on page 4 for index definitions.

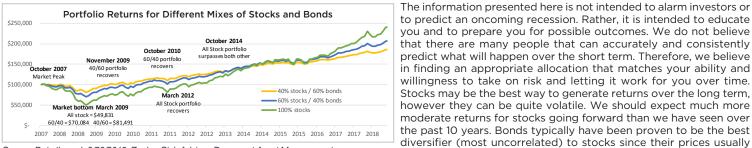


Source: Davenport Asset Management; JPMorgan; Morningstar Direct

and an average of about 160%. That means that even if you had the worst possible timing, investing at the peaks, your average return through a full market cycle (peak to peak) was over 160%.

A few quick points to make:

- 1. To prevent the decline, you would have to call the market top and bottom with perfect precision. Missing by just a couple of months on either side would dramatically change the outcomes since the market is usually rallying into the peak and recovers quickly from the bottom. Making this call correctly requires more luck than skill and we do not believe many investors can do it.
- The above scenario assumes a portfolio was invested 100% in the S&P 500. An allocation to bonds could result in significantly lower declines. The chart below shows the recovery times of different allocations during the last recession, which was the worst since the 1930s. Take the opportunity to reassess your risk profile.



Source: Data through 9/30/2019; Zephyr StyleAdvisor; Davenport Asset Management

go up in times of market stress, dampening portfolio volatility. However, with low rates, bond returns are likely to be below historical averages. Therefore, in times like these, with dramatic swings in the market, we encourage you to re-evaluate your situation, your willingness to take on risk, and your portfolio makeup. Doing so when the market has been strong can help prevent you from overreacting during more difficult times and may help ensure that you can weather any market volatility that we may experience. We encourage you to contact your Investment Executive to help you in this process.

Performance shown is historical and is no guarantee of future results. Please see page 4 for Important Disclosures and Index Definitions.



# FundAdvisor Portfolio Holdings as of September 30, 2019

MaximumGrowth Portfolio	Asset Class	6%	<b>Fund</b> American Funds AMCAP Hartford Core Equity
	U.S. Large Cap U.S. Mid Cap	7% 9%	Diamond Hill Large Cap FMI Large Cap Vanguard Mid Cap Index
	U.S. Small Cap	11%	JHancock Small Value Dodge & Cox International
	International Large Cap International SMID	10%	MFS International New Discovery
	Emerging Markets Cash		Touchstone Emerging Markets Vanguard Emerging Markets Money Market
Growth Portfolio	U.S. Large Cap	11%	American Funds AMCAP Hartford Core Equity
		15%	Diamond Hill Large Cap FMI Large Cap
	U.S. Mid Cap U.S. Small Cap	8%	Vanguard Mid Cap Index JHancock Small Value
	International Large Cap		Dodge & Cox International MFS International New Discovery
	Emerging Markets		Touchstone Emerging Markets Vanguard Emerging Markets
	Cash	2%	Money Market
Conservative Growth Portfoli	O U.S. Large Cap	9% 9%	American Funds AMCAP Hartford Core Equity Diamond Hill Large Cap
	U.S. Mid Cap U.S. Small Cap		FMI Large Cap Vanguard Mid Cap Index JHancock Small Value
	International Large Cap		FMI International Dodge & Cox International
	International SMID	4%	MFS International New Discovery
	Emerging Markets	3%	Touchstone Emerging Markets Vanguard Emerging Markets
	Investment Grade Bonds	6%	Vanguard Intermediate Term Vanguard Short Term
	Cash	6% 3%	Lord Abbett Short Duration Income Money Market
Balanced Portfolio			American Funds AMCAP
	U.S. Large Cap	7% 7%	Hartford Core Equity Diamond Hill Large Cap
	U.S. Mid Cap		FMI Large Cap Vanguard Mid Cap Index
	U.S. Small Cap		JHancock Small Value FMI International
	International Large Cap	3%	Dodge & Cox International
	International SMID		MFS International New Discovery Touchstone Emerging Markets
	Emerging Markets		Vanguard Emerging Markets Vanguard Intermediate Term
	Investment Grade Bonds	13%	Vanguard Short Term Lord Abbett Short Duration Income
	Cash		Money Market
Conservative Balanced Portfoli	0	4% 4%	American Funds AMCAP Hartford Core Equity
	U.S. Large Cap	4%	Diamond Hill Large Cap
	U.S. Mid Cap	8%	FMI Large Cap Vanguard Mid Cap Index
	U.S. Small Cap	2% 4%	JHancock Small Value FMI International
	International Large Cap		Dodge & Cox International MFS International New Discovery
	Investment Grade Bonds	19%	Vanguard Intermediate Term Vanguard Short Term
		20%	Lord Abbett Short Duration Income
	Cash 📕	5%	Money Market

# Returns Net of Fees as of September 30, 2019

Fund / Index Name	Fund / Index Performance at Net Asset Value**				Up	Down	Expense Ratio		
	YTD	1 Year	3 Years*	5 Years*	10 Years*	Capture	Capture	Gross	Net <sup>3</sup>
Large Cap									
American Funds AMCAP F3	13.93	-2.41	11.76	9.29	12.53	97.43	100.16	0.37	0.37
Diamond Hill Large Cap I	22.32	5.73	12.10	9.81	12.04	96.97	102.93	0.67	0.67
Hartford Core Equity Y <sup>1</sup>	22.74	8.02	14.56	12.33	14.18	99.04	91.08	0.48	0.45
FMI Large Cap Institutional	17.03	5.89	12.11	9.51	11.85	89.13	88.55	0.66	0.66
Benchmark: S&P 500 Index	20.55	4.25	13.39	10.84	13.24	100.00	100.00	-	-
Mid Cap and Small Cap									
Vanguard Mid Cap Index Admiral	22.60	3.65	10.67	9.20	13.05	91.09	80.73	0.05	0.05
Benchmark: Russell Mid Cap® Index	21.93	3.19	10.69	9.10	13.07	83.00	65.35	-	-
JHancock Small Cap Value I	17.33	-4.40	6.26	7.54	10.96	95.85	99.95	1.23	1.22
Benchmark: Russell 2000® Index	14.18	-8.89	8.23	8.19	11.19	100.00	100.00	-	-
International									
FMI International Institutional	11.49	1.42	5.72	5.93	-	-	-	0.76	0.76
Dodge & Cox International Stock	11.00	-2.75	5.26	0.64	4.92	108.06	109.82	0.63	0.63
MFS International New Discovery I	12.00	-0.62	7.77	6.38	8.73	88.53	65.44	1.05	1.05
Benchmark: MSCI EAFE Index	12.80	-1.34	6.48	3.27	4.90	100.00	100.00	-	-
Emerging Markets									
Touchstone Sands Cptl Emerg Mkts Gr Y <sup>2</sup>	14.49	8.72	7.40	4.74	-	-	-	1.36	1.36
Vanguard Emerging Mkts Stock Idx Adm	8.07	1.27	5.26	2.01	3.16	100.36	101.34	0.14	0.14
Benchmark: MSCI EM Index	5.89	-2.02	5.97	2.33	3.37	100.00	100.00	-	-
Intermediate Gov't/Credit									
Vanguard Interm-Term Bond	10.28	12.43	3.10	3.93	4.78	169.83	191.63	0.07	0.07
Benchmark: BBgBarc US Govt/Credit Index	6.41	8.17	2.40	2.68	3.05	100.00	100.00	-	-
Short-Term Bond									
Lord Abbett Short Duration Income	4.71	5.27	2.98	2.70	3.56	184.16	13.63	0.39	0.39
Vanguard Short-Term Investment-Grade Adm	5.18	5.88	2.46	2.48	2.83	175.33	127.49	0.10	0.10
Benchmark: FTSE USBIG Govt/Corp 1-3 Yr	3.39	4.58	1.79	1.56	1.48	100.00	100.00	-	-

Performance shown is historical and is no guarantee of future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the data quoted. To obtain performance data current to the most recent month end, please call (800) 846-6666. \*Returns greater than one year are annualized.

\*\*Mutual funds are offered in the FundAdvisor program at net asset value, but are subject to an annual investment advisory fee of up to **1.25%**. The Davenport wrap fee includes investment advice and brokerage execution. In addition to the FundAdvisor fee, clients will bear a proportionate share of each mutual fund's management and administrative expenses, including advisory fees paid to the mutual fund's investment advisors. The performance shows the actual performance of the shares at net asset value, and does not represent individual account performance. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the data quoted. To obtain performance data current to the most recent monthend, please visit the following web sites: www.americanfunds.com, www.touchstoneinvestments.com, www.diamond-hill.com, www.dodgeandcox.com, www.eatonvance.com, www.fiduciarymgt.com, www.jhinvestments.com, www.mfs.com, www.vanguard.com. The investment and principal value of an investment will fluctuate. An investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Mutual Fund and Index returns are provided by Morningstar and Zephyr StyleADVISOR.

You should consider each mutual fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. Each mutual fund's prospectus contains this and other important information, should be read carefully before investing or sending money, and can be obtained by contacting your Investment Executive, or by calling (800) 846-6666. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate. An investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Investing in securities carries risk including the possible loss of principal.

# Important Disclosures

<sup>1</sup>Hartford Administrative Services Company ("HASCO"), the Fund's transfer agent, has contractually agreed to waive and/or reimburse a portion of the transfer agency fee to the extent necessary to maintain the transfer agency fee for Class Y as follows: 0.04%. This contractual arrangement will remain in effect until February 29, 2020 unless the Board of Directors of The Hartford Mutual Funds, Inc. approves its earlier termination.

<sup>2</sup>Touchstone Advisors, Inc. (the "Advisor" or "Touchstone Advisors") and Touchstone Strategic Trust (the "Trust") have entered into a contractual expense limitation agreement whereby Touchstone Advisors will waive a portion of its fees or reimburse certain Fund expenses (excluding dividend and interest expenses relating to short sales; interest; taxes; brokerage commissions and other transaction costs; portfolio transaction and investment related expenses, including expenses associated with the Fund's liquidity providers; other expenditures which are capitalized in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; the cost of "Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses," if any; and other extraordinary expenses not incurred in the ordinary course of business) in order to limit annual Fund operating expenses to 1.04%, 1.79%, 0.79%, and 0.69% of average daily net assets for Classes A, C, Y, and Institutional Class shares, respectively. This contractual expense limitation is effective through July 29, 2020, but can be terminated by a vote of the Board of Trustees of the Trust (the "Board") if it deems the termination to be beneficial to the Fund's shareholders. The terms of the contractual expense limitation agreement provide that Touchstone Advisor is entitled to recoup, subject to approval by the Board, such amounts waived or reimbursed for a period of up to three years from the date on which the Advisor reduced its compensation or assumed expenses for the Fund. The Fund will make repayments to the Advisor only if such repayment does not cause the annual Fund operating expenses (after the repayment is taken into account) to exceed both (1) the expense cap in place when such amounts were waived or reimbursed and (2) the Fund's current expense limitation. Investors pay the net expense ratio of the fund's prospectus for more information.

#### <sup>3</sup>Investors pay the net expense ratio of the fund.

Diversification and Asset Allocation does not ensure a profit or guarantee protection against a loss. It is important to note that short-term and trailing performance will fluctuate. We expect all of the funds at some point to experience underperformance versus their benchmarks and peer groups. However, we believe that our research process has helped us identify funds that are likely to perform well over the long term. Our decision to remove a fund is not based on short-term performance, but on in-depth analysis using our Monitoring Criteria. The mutual fund categories are determined by Davenport using a combination of Morningstar categories and a returns-based style analysis provided by Zephyr StyleADVISOR.

Any opinions expressed here are statements of judgment on this date and are subject to future change without notice. This information may contain forward looking predictions that are subject to certain risks and uncertainties which could cause actual results to differ materially from those currently anticipated or projected. The information contained herein has been compiled from sources believed to be reliable; however, there is no guarantee of its accuracy or completeness. There is no guarantee that a company will continue to pay a dividend. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate. Small and mid cap company stocks may be more volatile than stocks of larger, more established companies. The portfolios may invest in foreign securities which are subject to additional risks such as currency fluctuations, political instability, differing financial standards and the potential for illiquid markets.

## Bonds are subject to market and interest risk; values expect to decline as interest rates rise. Bonds may not be suitable for all investors and you should consider specific risks such as credit risk, default risk and volatility prior to investing.

Index Definitions: U.S. Large Caps represented by the S&P 500 Index. U.S. Mid Caps represented by the Russell Midcap Index. U.S. Small Caps represented by the Russell 2000 Index. U.S. Growth Stocks represented by the Russell 1000 Growth Index. U.S. Value Stocks represented by the Russell 1000 Value Index. International Stocks represented by the MSCI EAFE Index. Emerging Market Stocks represented by the MSCI EM Index. Int? Small Stocks represented by the MSCI ACWI ex USA Small Index. Intermediate Term Bonds represented by the Bloomberg Barclays Intermediate Government/Credit Index. Bank Loans represented by the S&P/LSTA Leveraged Loan index definition Index. High Yield Bonds represented by the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate Bonds are represented by the FTSE 3-Month T-bill Index. Real Estate Investment Trusts represented by the FTSE Nareit All Equity REITs Index

Performance shown is historical and is no guarantee of future results. Investing in securities carries risk including the possible loss of principal.

\*\*Source: Morningstar Direct. Data as of 9/30/2019. ©2019 Morningstar, Inc. All Rights Reserved. The information contained herein: (1) is proprietary to Morningstar and/or its content providers; (2) may not be copied or distributed; and (3) is not warranted to be accurate, complete or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information.

The S&P 500® Index is comprised of 500 U.S. stocks and is an indicator of the performance of the overall U.S. stock market. Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC, a division of S&P Global, is the source and owner of the registered trademarks related to the S&P 500 Index. The Russell 2000® Index measures the performance of the 2000 smallest companies in the Russell 3000® Index. The Russell Top 200® Index is a market capitalization weighted index of the largest 2000 companies in the Russell 3000°. The Russell 1000° Growth Index measures the performance of the Russell 1000 companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values. The Russell 1000® Value Index measures the performance of the Russell 1000 companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower forecasted growth values. The Russell Midcap<sup>®</sup> Index measures the performance of the 800 smallest companies in the Russell 1000. The Russell 2000<sup>®</sup> Index, Russell Top 200<sup>®</sup> Index, Russell 1000° Growth Index, Russell 1000° Value Index and Russell Midcap® Index are trademark/service marks of the Frank Russell Co. Russell® is a trademark of the Frank Russell Co. The S&P/LSTA Leveraged Loan Index provides an overview of the Senior Secured, Floating Rate Leveraged Loan market as well as an expansive review of the S&P Leveraged Loan Index (LLI) and sub-indexes. The MSCI Europe, Australia and Far East (MSCI EAFE) Index is an unmanaged index composed of the stocks of approximately 1,000 companies from around the world, excluding the U.S., Canada, and Latin America. The MSCI ACWI ex USA SMID Index represents the performance of small-cap and mid-cap stocks in developed and emerging markets, excluding the U.S. The index is computed using the net return, which withholds applicable taxes for non-resident investors. The MSCI Emerging Markets (MSCI EM) Index is a capitalization-weighted index of stocks from emerging markets that only includes issues that may be traded by foreign investors. The reported returns reflect equities priced in U.S. dollars and do not include the effects of reinvested dividends. The Russell 2500° Index is a market cap-weighted index that includes the smallest 2,500 companies covered in the Russell 3000 universe of United States-based listed equities. The Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate High Yield Index measures the U.S. dollar-denominated, high yield, fixed-rate corporate bond market. 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 Barclays Intermediate Government/Credit Index is an unmanaged index composed of debt securities with maturities from one to ten years issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Treasury. U.S. Government agencies, quasi-federal corporations and fixed rate dollar denominated SEC-registered corporate debt that are rated investment grade or higher by Moody's Investors Service and Standard and Poor's Corporation or Fitch Investor's Service, in that order. It includes investment grade, U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed-rate Treasuries, government-related and corporate securities. The FTSE U.S. BIG Government/Corporate 1-3 Year Index measures the performance of bonds issued in the U.S. investment-grade bond market. The Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index is a broad-based benchmark that measures the investment grade, U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed-rate taxable bond market, including Treasuries, government-related and corporate securities, MBS (agency fixed-rate and hybrid ARM pass-throughs), ABS, and CMBS (agency and non-agency). The Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate Bond Index measures the investment grade, U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed-rate, taxable corporate bond market. The Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Government Index includes U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed-rate, nominal U.S. Treasuries and U.S. agency debentures (securities issued by U.S. government owned or government sponsored entities, and debt explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. Government. The **FTSE 3-Month T-bill Index** is a free-float adjusted, market capitalization-weighted index of U.S. equity REITs. Constituents of the index include all tax-qualified REITs with more than 50 percent of total assets in qualifying real estate assets other than mortgages secured by real property.

## An index is not available for direct investment; therefore its performance does not reflect the expenses, fees and taxes generally paid with the active management of an actual portfolio.

**Risk Considerations:** International funds invest primarily in equity securities of issuers outside the United States. International investments are subject to additional risks such as currency fluctuations, political instability, and the potential for illiquid markets. Funds that invest in foreign securities may involve greater risks, including political infastructure problems, currency volatility and limited equity opportunities, as many large companies may still be "state-run" or private. Small and mid cap company stocks may be more volatile than stocks of larger, more established companies. Investments in bonds and other fixed income securities may fail in value if interest rates change. Generally, the prices of debt securities rise when interest rates fall, while their prices fall when interest rates rise. Longer term debt securities are usually more sensitive to interest rate changes. An issuer suffering an adverse change in its financial condition could see the credit quality of its securities deteriorate, leading to greater **Ratio** measures a manager's performance in up markets relative to the market (benchmark) itself over the preceding 10-year period. **Downside Capture Ratio** neasures a manager's performance in down markets relative to the market (benchmark) itself over the preceding 10-year period. **Gross Expense Ratio** is the total annual operating expenses of a fund divided by its average net assets. **Net Expense Ratio** is the total annual operating expenses of a fund, less any

fee waivers, divided by its average net assets. This is the expense ratio actually charged by the fund for the previous fiscal year.

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# DAVENPORT

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