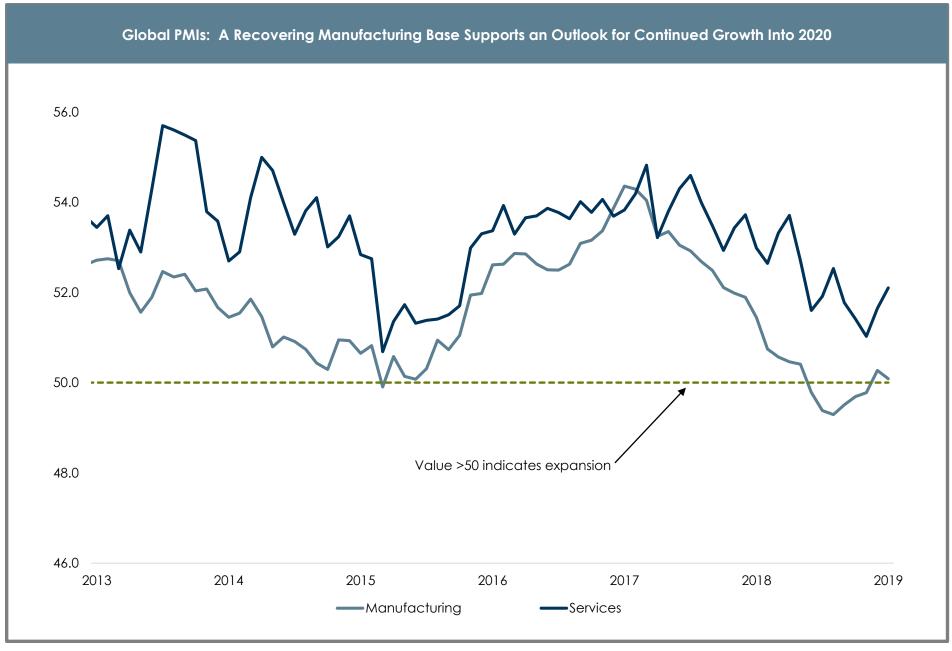
Global Economic Update

First Quarter 2020

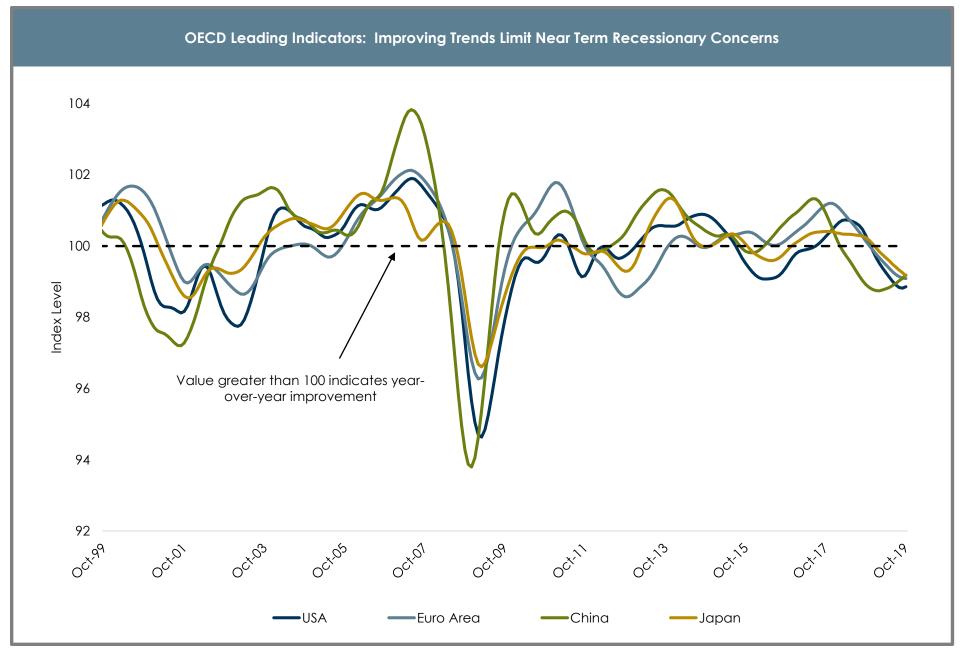


ACG's Investment Committee routinely identifies key areas of focus or themes that will drive investment returns **over the intermediate term.** In this quarterly update, we highlight **market and economic considerations** relevant in the context of enhancing risk-adjusted outcomes.

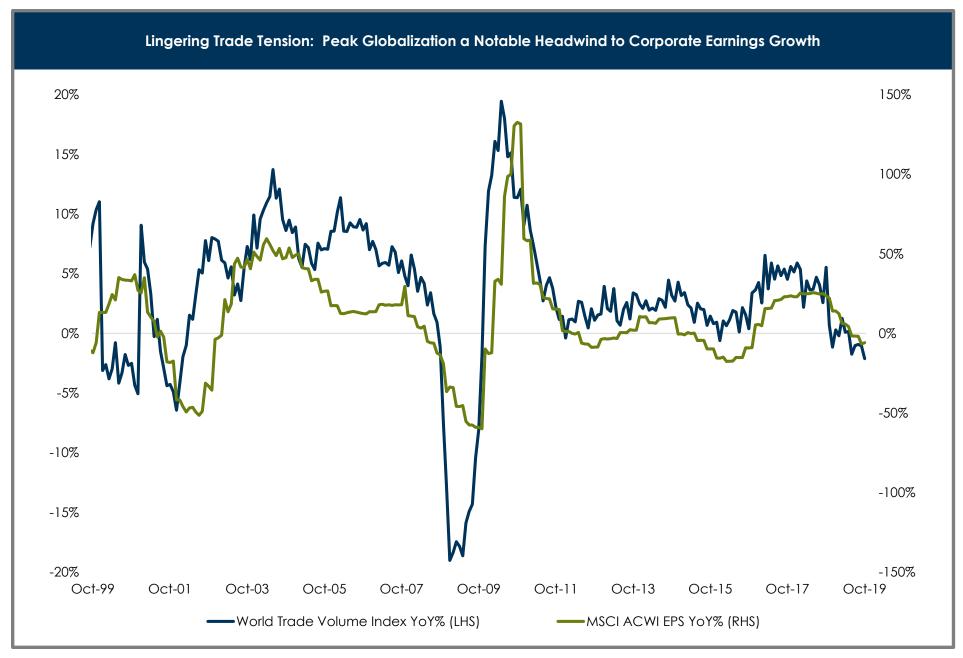




Source: ACG Research, JP Morgan Markets

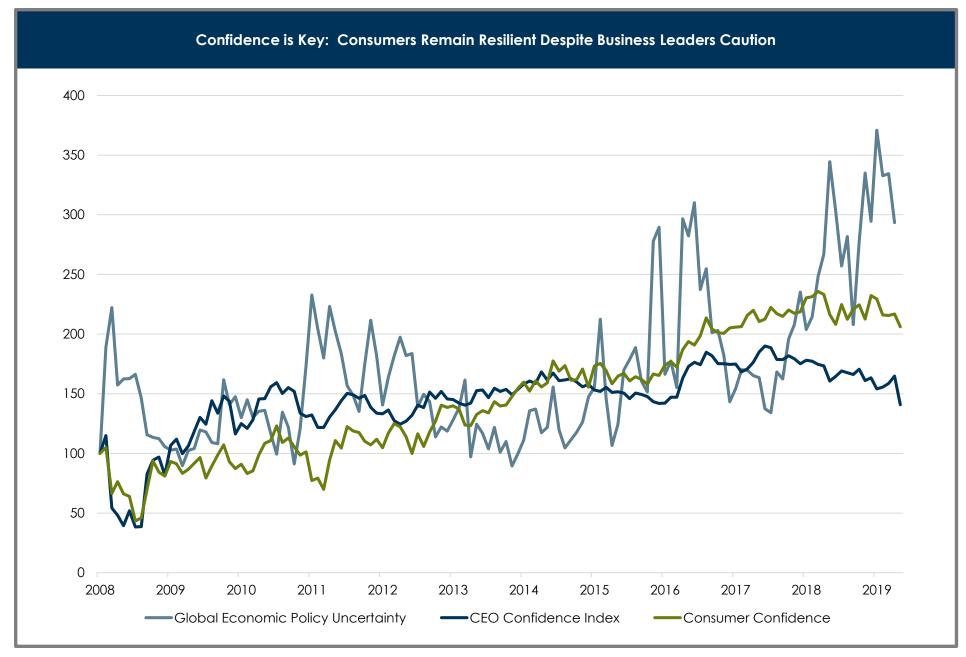


Source: ACG Research, Bloomberg



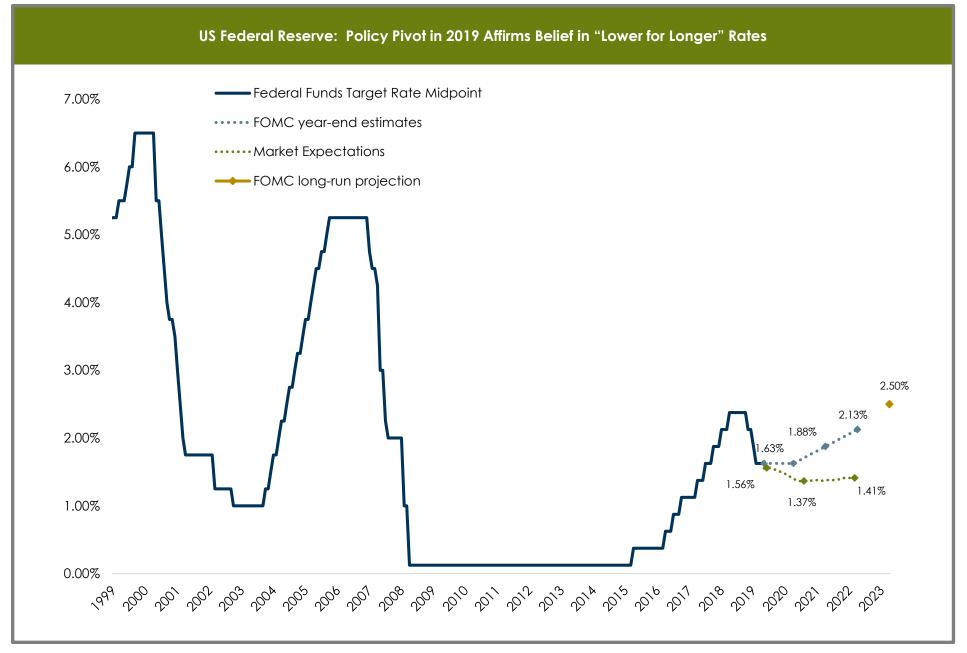
Source: ACG Research, Bloomberg

# Heightened Geopolitical & Social Risks

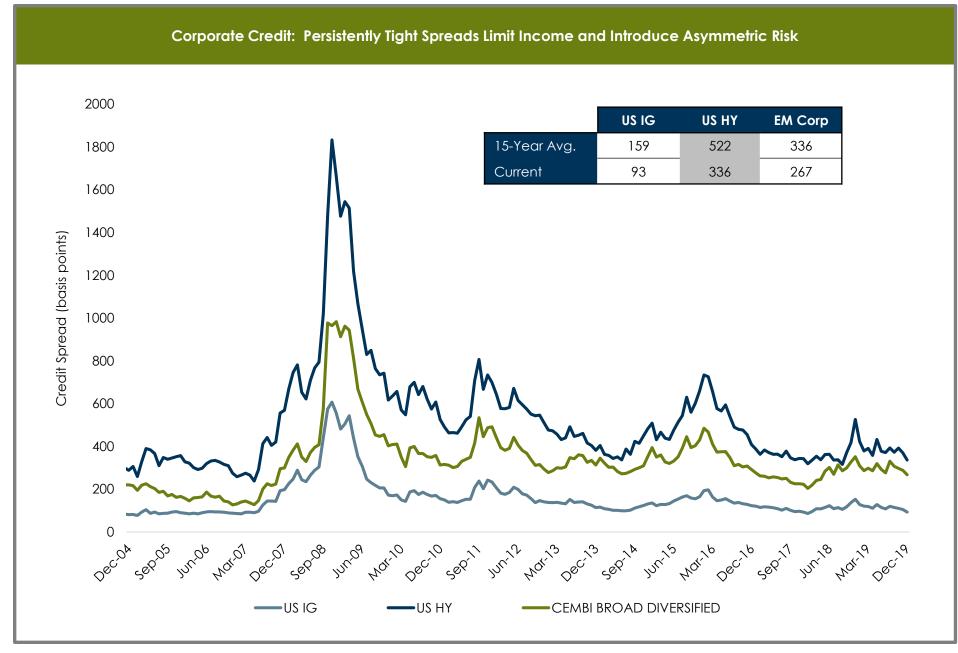


Source: ACG Research, Bloomberg

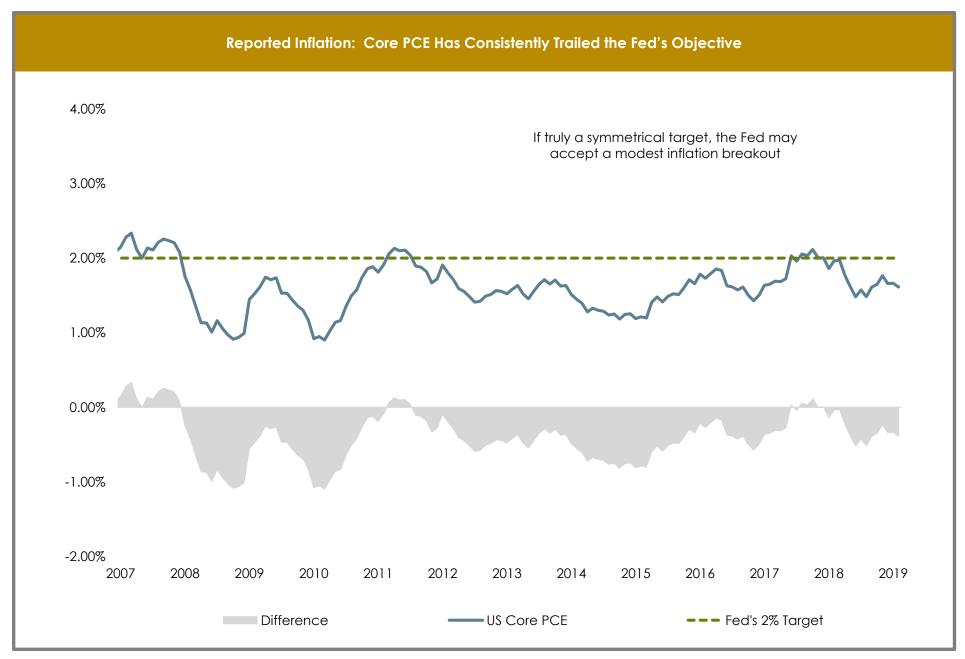
# Challenging Yield Environment



Source: ACG Research, Bloomberg (as of 12/31/19)

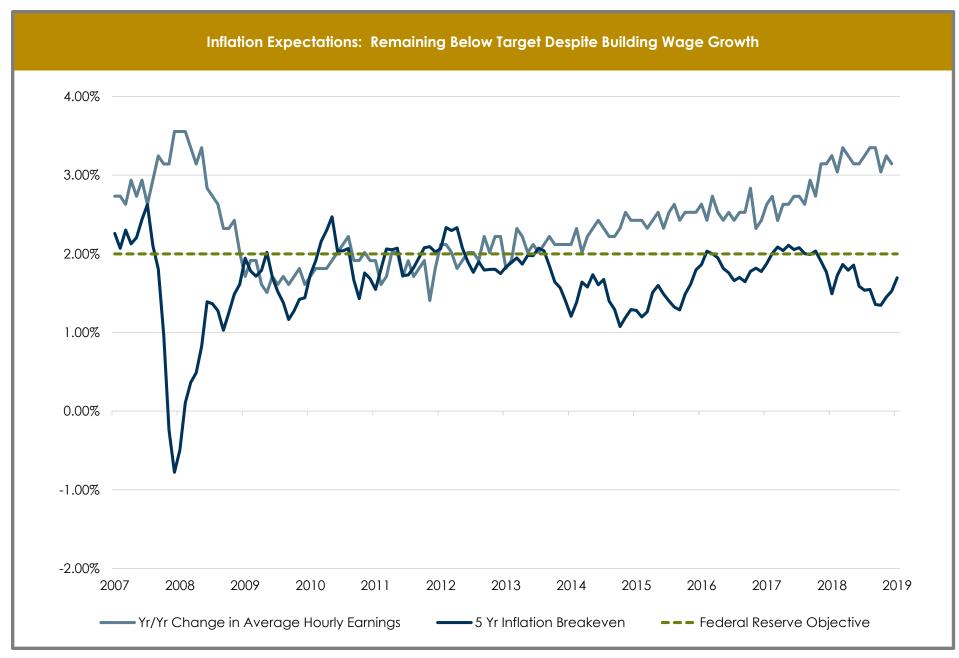


Source: ACG Research, Bloomberg (as of 12/31/19)



Source: ACG Research, Bloomberg (as of 12/31/19)

# Conflicting Inflationary Signals

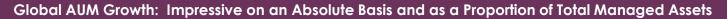


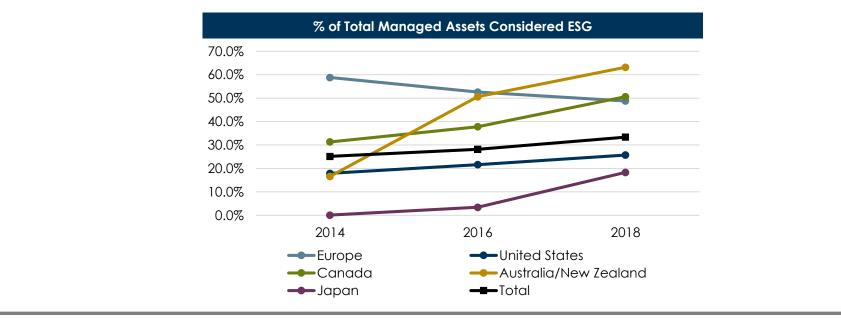
Source: ACG Research, Bloomberg (11/30/2019)

Responsible Investing: Aiming to Incorporate Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Factors Negative/ move from investor focus to The exclusion of certain sectors, companies or practices from a fund or Increase in **Exclusionary Screening** portfolio based on specific ESG criteria. Positive/ Investment in sectors, companies, or projects selected for **positive ESG** focus, intentionality; **Best-In-Class Screening** performance relative to industry peers. The **explicit incorporation of ESG factors** alongside traditional financial analysis; **ESG** Integration seeks both risk mitigation and return opportunities. outcomes focus Sustainability-Themed Investments in themes, solutions, or assets specifically related to sustainability **Strategies** (clean energy, green technology, water, low-carbon, sustainable agriculture). Impact/ Targeted investments, typically within the private markets, seeking both a **Community Investments** social/environmental and financial return. The use of shareholder power to influence corporate behavior on ESG matters Engagement/ such as executive remuneration, shareholder rights, diversity and climate-risk **Shareholder Action** disclosures.

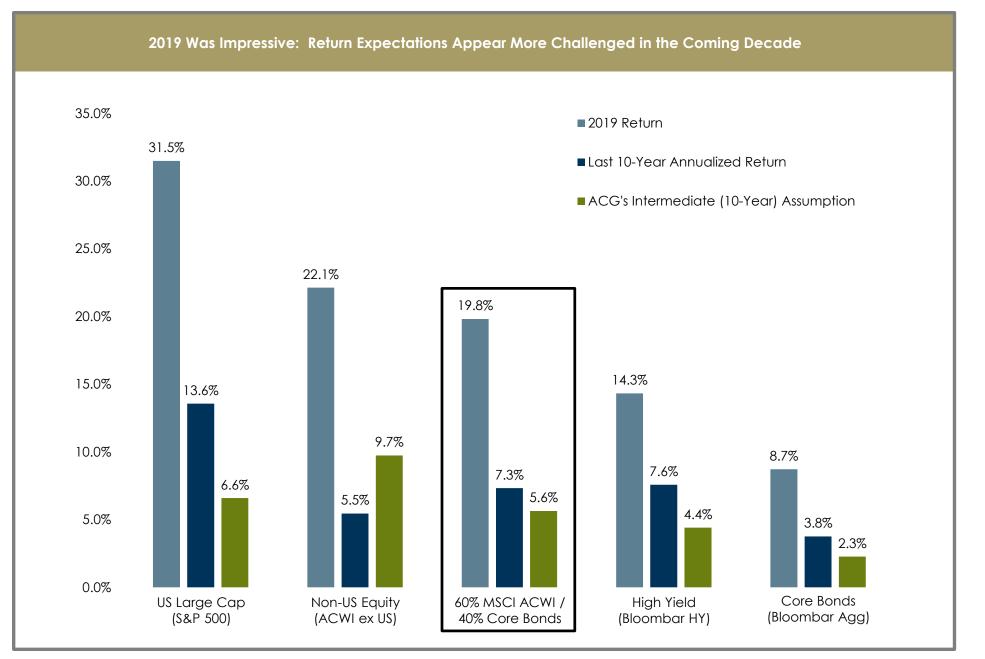
Source: ACG Research, Global Sustainable Investment Alliance

Growth of ESG Assets by Region 2014-2018									
Region	(\$ Billions)						Growth Per Period		Compound Annual Growth Rate
		2014		2016		2018	2014-2016	2016-2018	2014-2018
Europe	\$	10,775	\$	12,040	\$	14,075	11.7%	16.9%	6.9%
United States	\$	6,572	\$	8,723	\$	11,995	32.7%	37.5%	16.2%
Canada	\$	729	\$	1,086	\$	1,699	49.0%	56.4%	23.6%
Australia/New Zealand	\$	148	\$	516	\$	734	248.4%	42.4%	49.2%
Japan	\$	7	\$	474	\$	2,180	6665.7%	360.3%	320.1%
Total	\$	18,231	\$	22,838	\$	30,683	25.3%	34.3%	13.9%



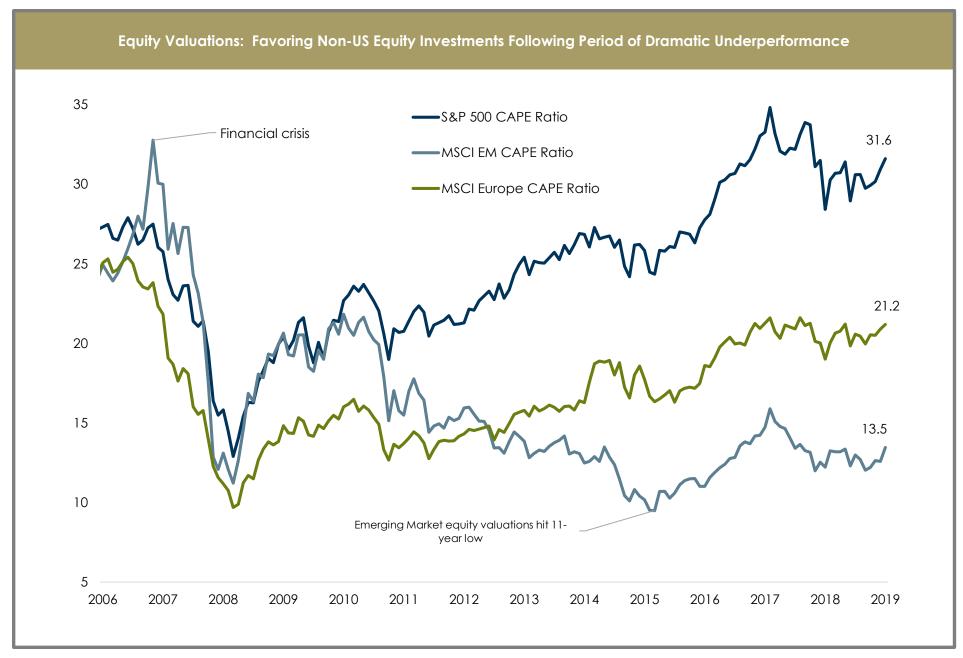


Source: ACG Research, Global Sustainable Investment Alliance. Asset values are converted to US dollars at the time of reporting. Over the measurement period, The European Sustainable Investment Forum (EuroSIF) narrowed its definition of "ESG Integration" which resulted in a lowered proportion of responsible investments to total managed assets. In 2014, data for Japan was combined with the rest of Asia, so this information is not available. ©2020 Asset Consulting Group All Rights Reserved

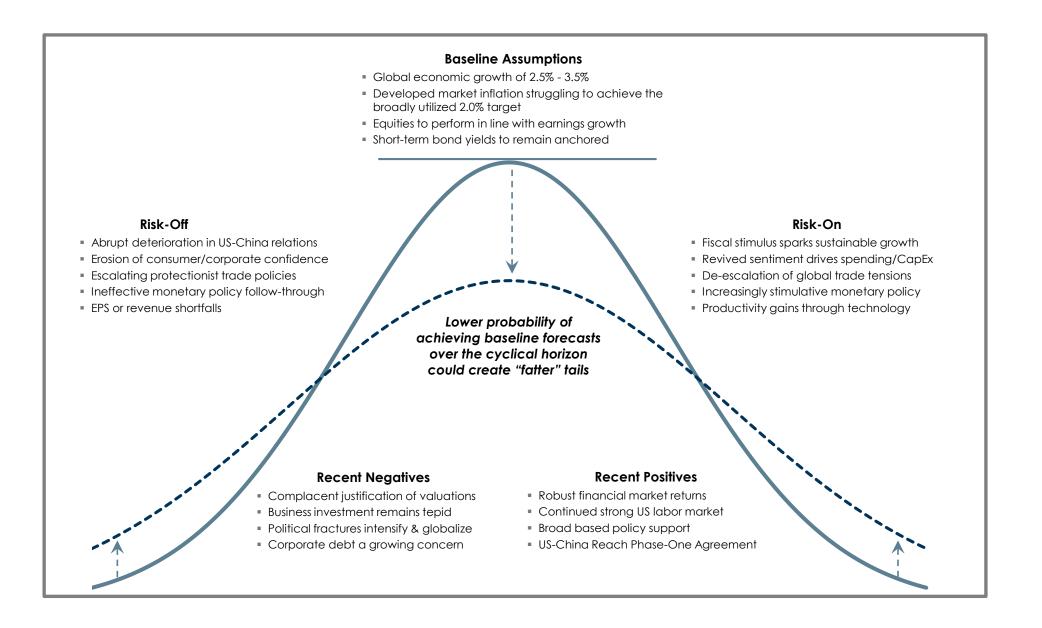


Source: ACG Research, Standard & Poor's, MSCI, Bloomberg Barclays

## Muted Return Environment



Source: ACG Research, Bloomberg, Robert Shiller



## Implementation Strategies

## **Evolving Global Growth Dynamics**

- Maintain long-term strategic allocations
- Pursue active/focused/opportunistic strategies in less efficient markets

## Heightened Geopolitical & Social Risks

- Embrace global diversification, with a modest reserve of dry powder
- Private strategies can limit near-term price impacts

### **Challenging Yield Environment**

- Maintain high-quality core fixed income exposures for portfolio ballast
- Incorporate "non-traditional" strategies for flexibility and yield enhancement

#### **Conflicting Inflationary Signals**

- Shorter-dated fixed income and floating rate securities protect against inflationary surprise
- Diversified real assets can provide enhanced income amid rising prices

### **Demand for Responsible Investment**

- Consider a high-quality portfolio orientation
- Opportunities in both stocks and bonds for impact oriented investment

#### **Muted Return Expectations**

- Revisit overall risk tolerance and investment objectives
- Focus on strategic plan versus frequent tactical shifts

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