



# First Trust CLIENT RESOURCE KIT EQUITY

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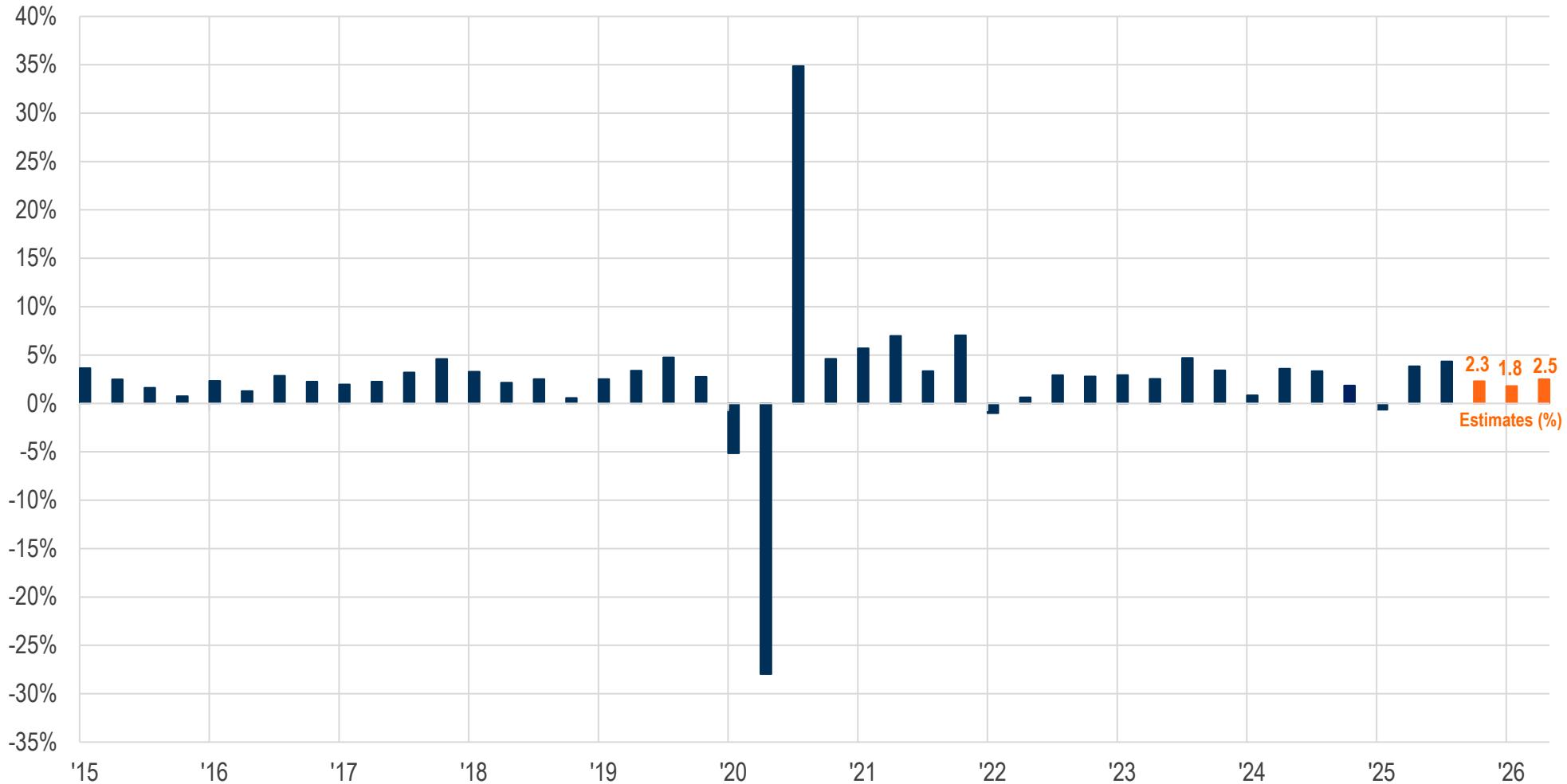
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# U.S. GDP: QUARTER-OVER-QUARTER CHANGE (SAAR)

First Trust

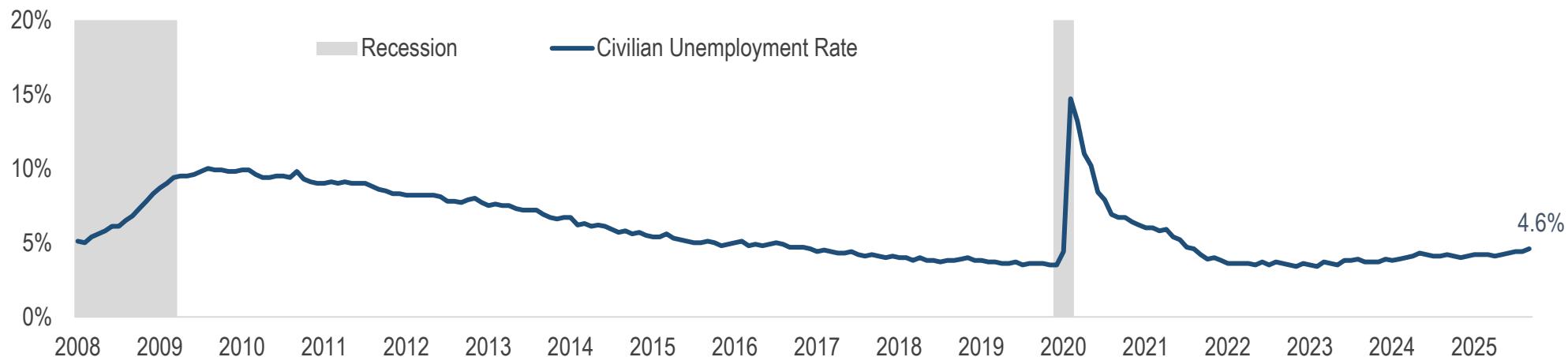
MACRO



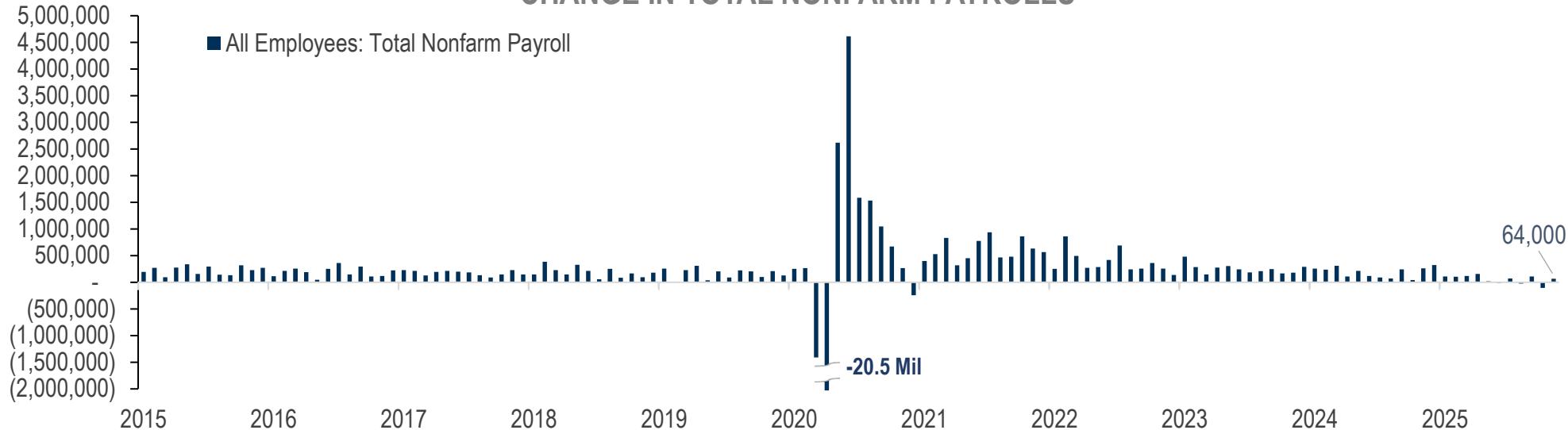
Source: First Trust, Haver Analytics (historical), Bloomberg (consensus estimates). Quarters in orange are consensus estimates. GDP percent change is on a quarter over quarter seasonally adjusted annual rate (SAAR) basis. There can be no assurance that any of the projections cited will occur. Gross domestic product (GDP) is the monetary value of all finished goods and services made within a country during a specific period.

## MACRO

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (U3)

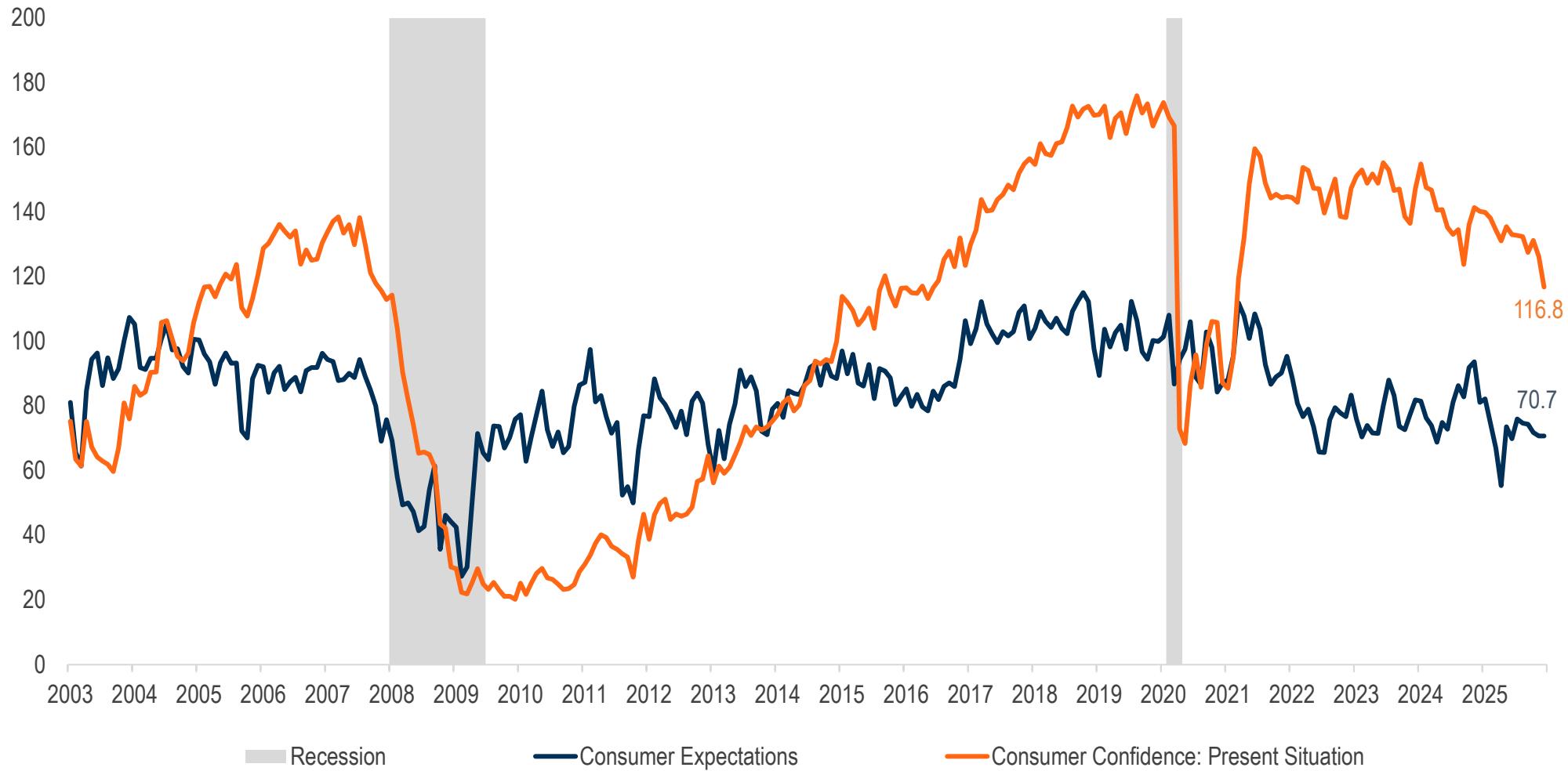


### CHANGE IN TOTAL NONFARM PAYROLLS



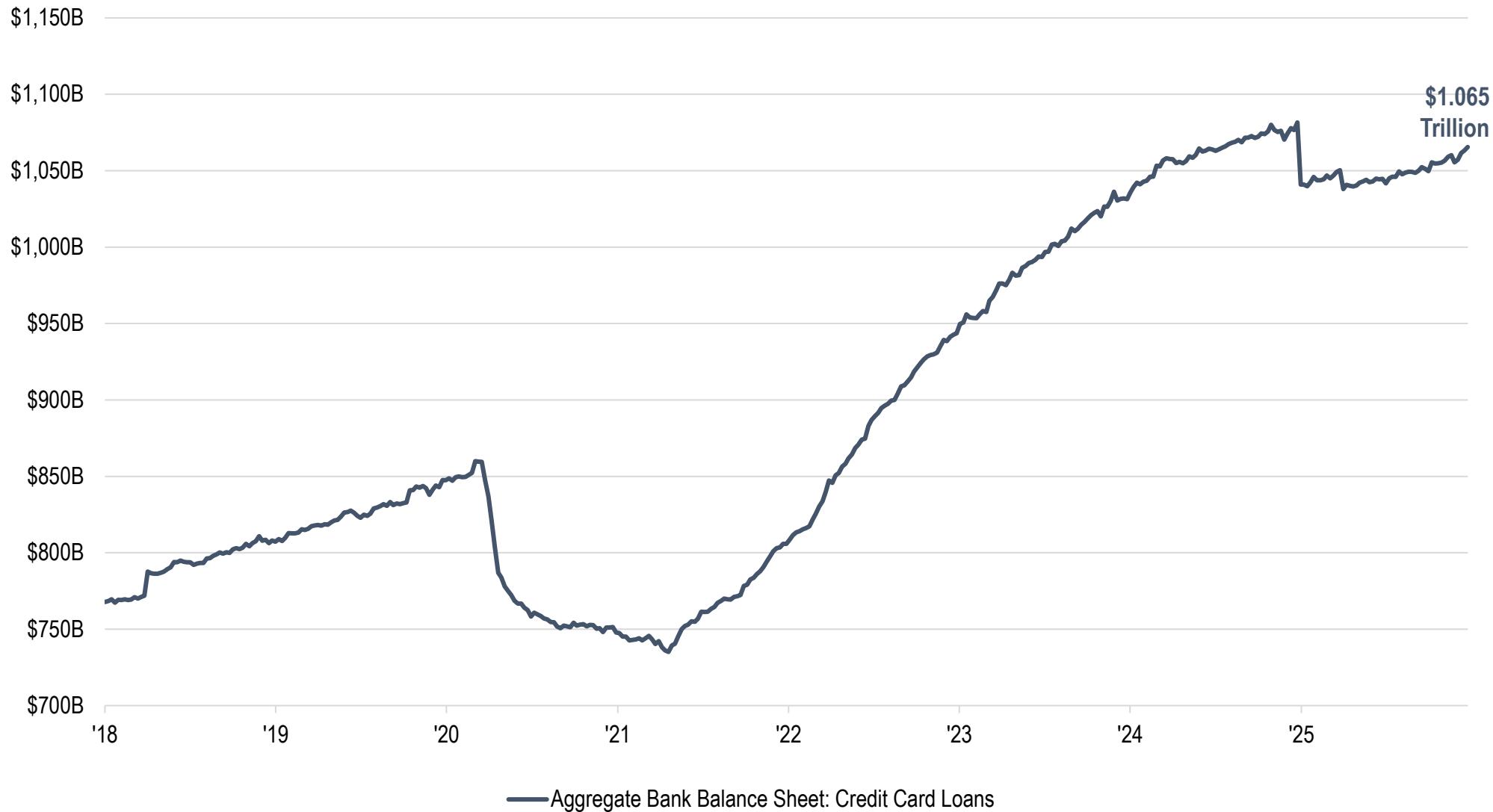
Source: First Trust, Haver Analytics. Unemployment data from March 2008 – November 2025 (latest data available). Unemployment Rate: 16+ years, seasonally adjusted. Payroll data from January 2015 - November 2025 (latest data available). Seasonally adjusted. April 2020 uses a broken axis since it has an extreme value.

## MACRO



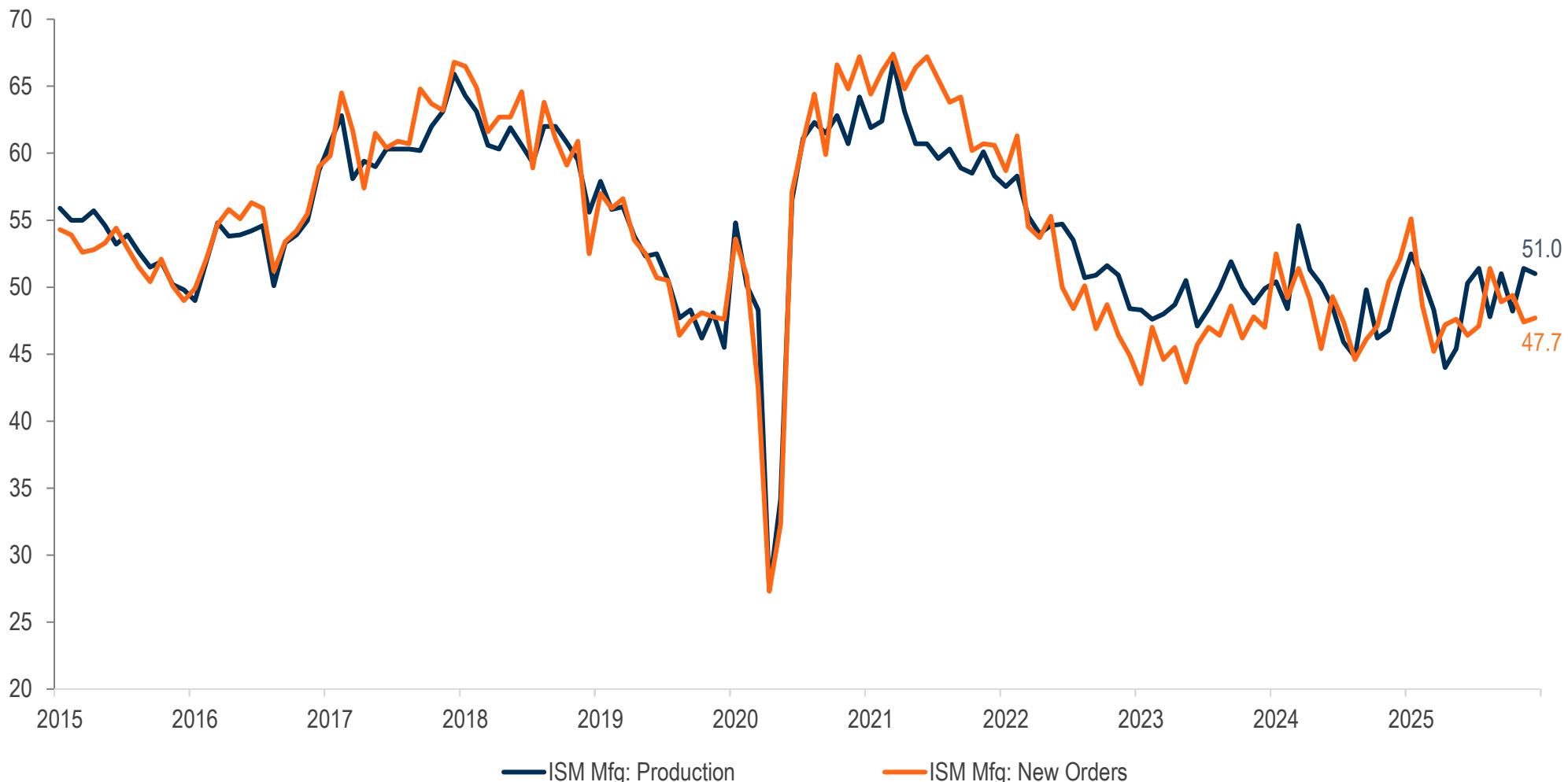
Source: First Trust, The Conference Board/Haver Analytics. Data from January 2003 - December 2025. The Consumer Confidence Index is a survey, administered by The Conference Board, that measures how optimistic or pessimistic consumers are regarding their expected financial situation. The Consumer Confidence Index started in 1967 and is benchmarked to 1985 = 100.

## MACRO



Source: First Trust, Federal Reserve Economic Data (FRED). Weekly data from 1/3/2018 to 12/24/2025 (latest data available). Billions of U.S. dollars, seasonally adjusted. Includes consumer loans: credit cards and other revolving plans, all commercial banks.

## MACRO

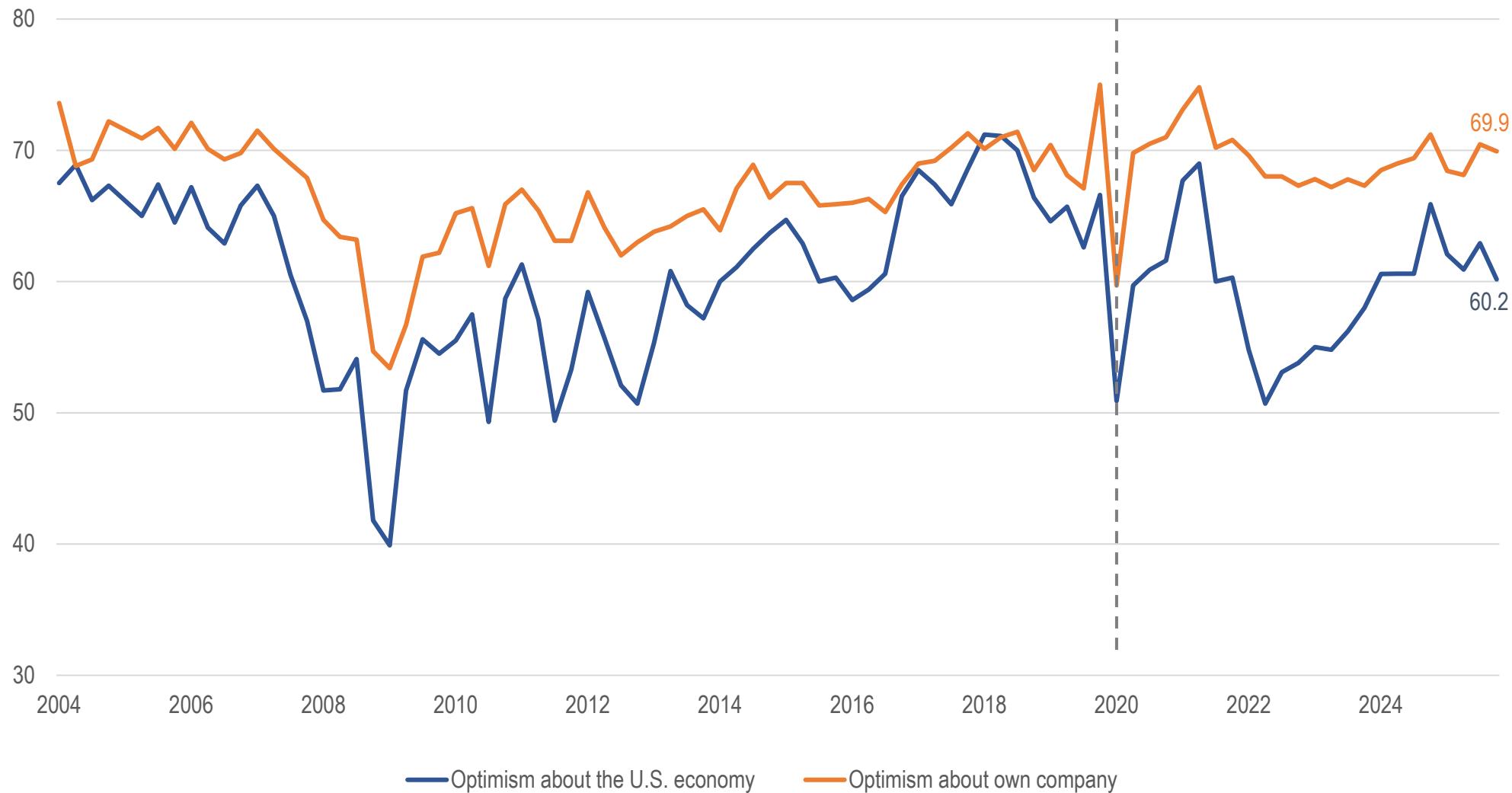


Source: First Trust, Haver Analytics. Data from January 2015 – December 2025. ISM Manufacturing Index measures manufacturing activity based on a monthly survey, conducted by Institute for Supply Management (ISM), of purchasing managers at more than 300 manufacturing firms. An index reading of more than 50 indicates expansion while a reading of below 50 suggests a contraction of the manufacturing sector.

# THE CFO SURVEY: OPTIMISM INDEXES

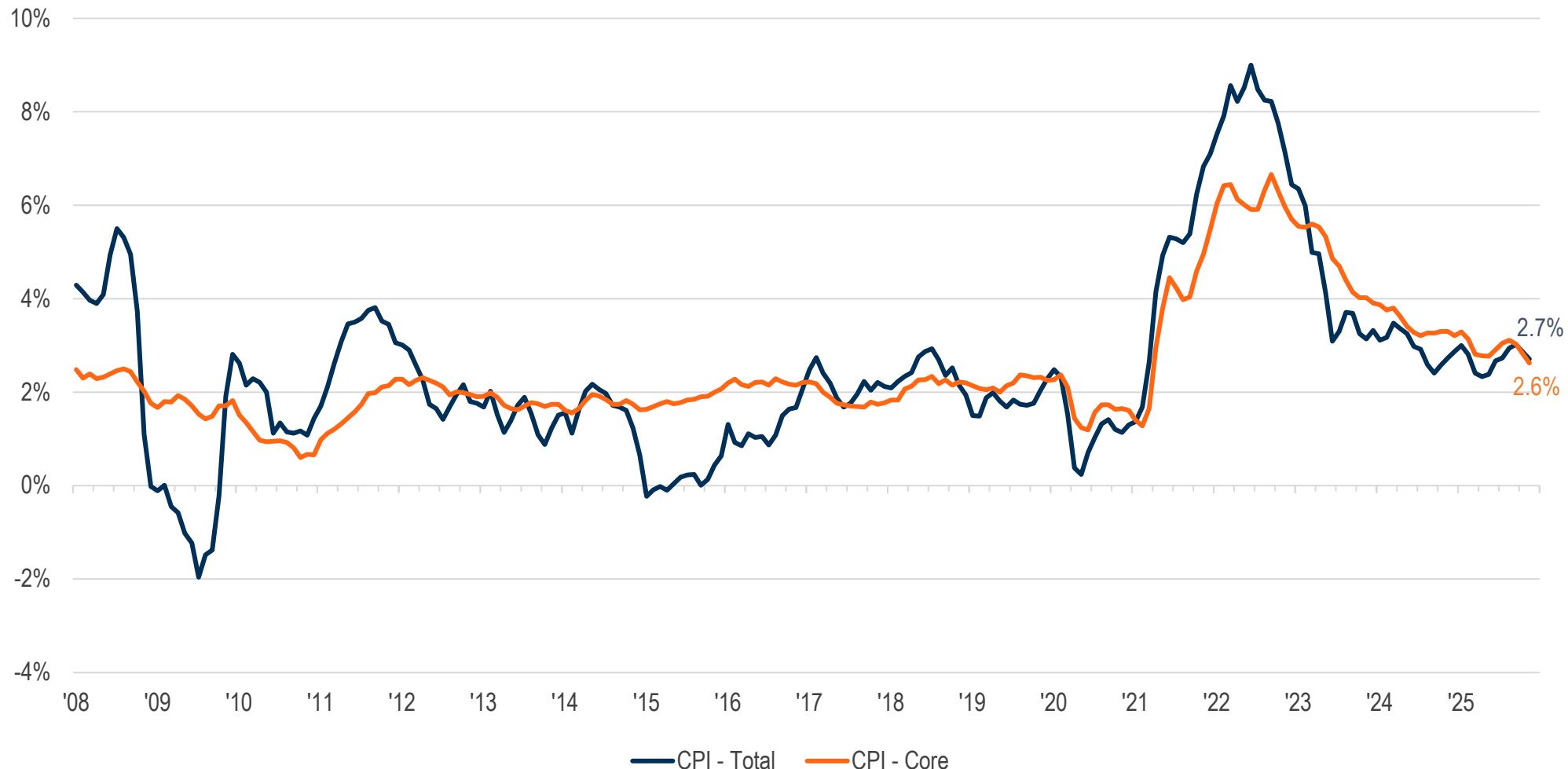
First Trust

MACRO



Source: First Trust, Duke University, FRB Atlanta and FRB Richmond, The CFO Survey. March 2004 – December 2025.

## MACRO



Source: First Trust, FactSet. Data from January 2008 - November 2025 (latest data available), year-over-year. The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services. Core CPI is CPI minus energy and food prices (categories that tend to be highly volatile).

## MACRO

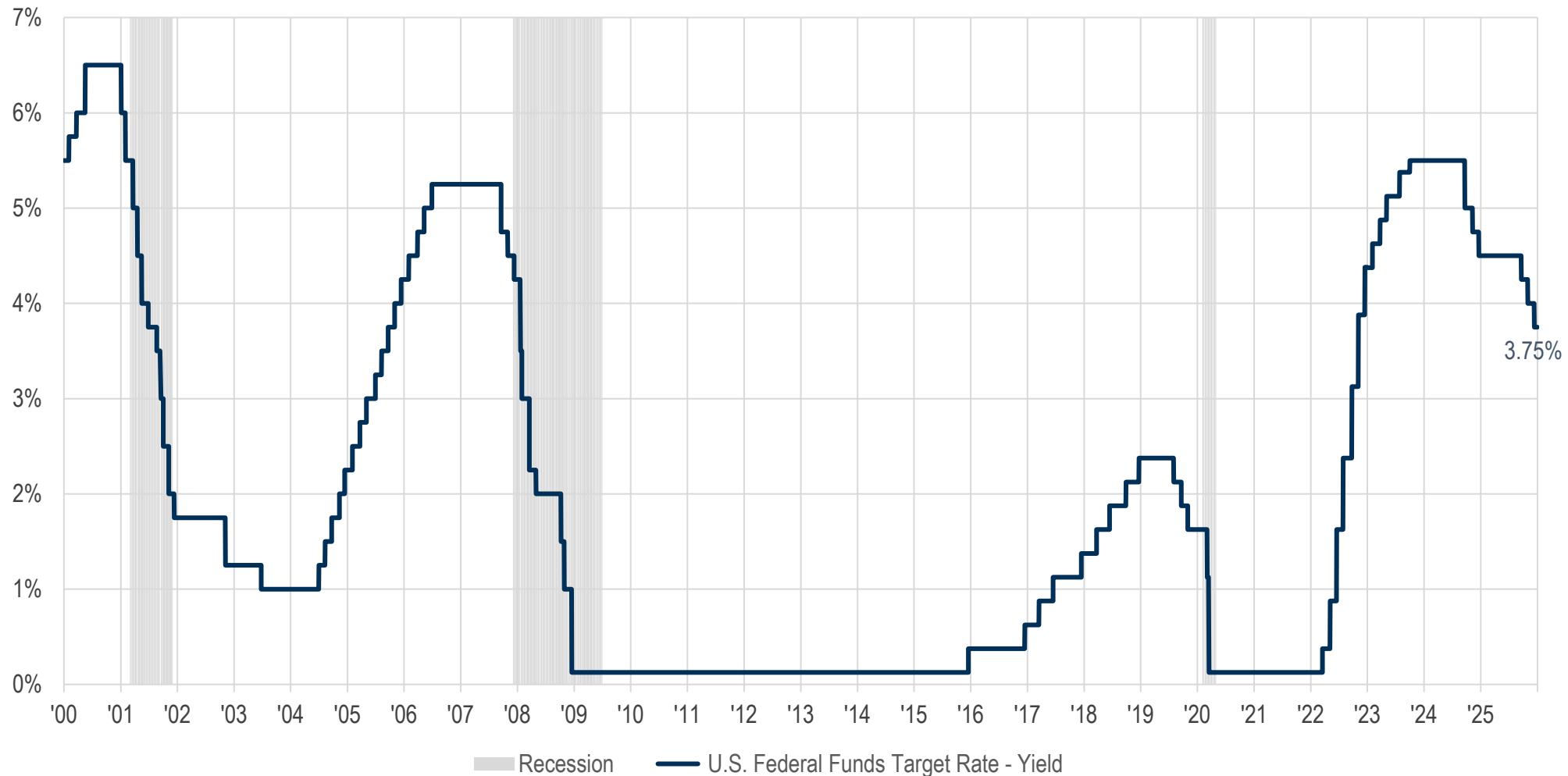


Source: First Trust, Federal Reserve Board/Haver Analytics, January 2015 – November 2025 (latest data available).

# U.S. FEDERAL FUNDS TARGET RATE

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MACRO



Source: First Trust, FactSet. Data from 12/31/1999 to 12/31/2025.

# 10-YEAR U.S. TREASURY YIELD

First Trust

MACRO



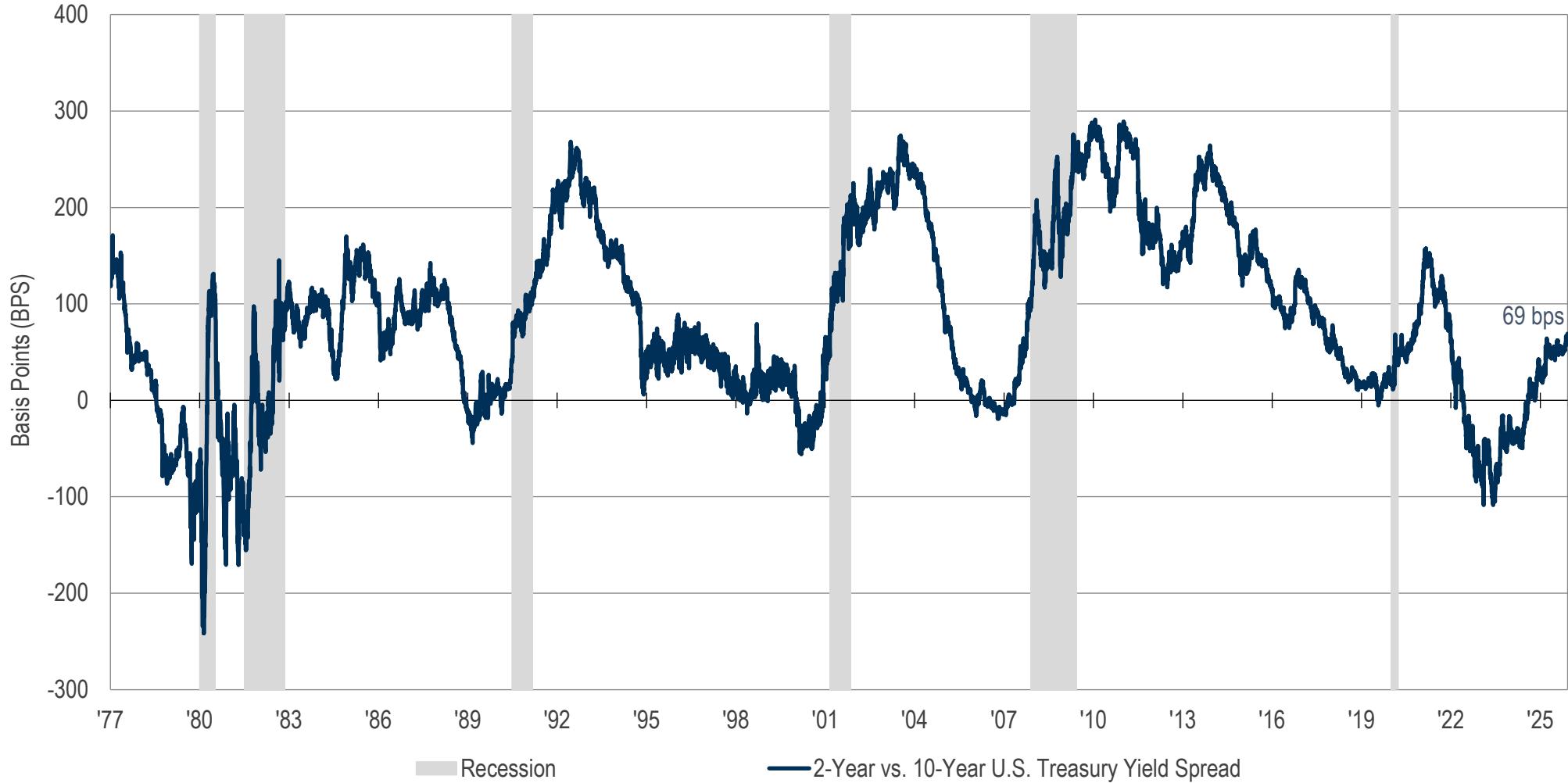
Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Source: First Trust, Bloomberg. Weekly data from January 2000 - December 2025.

# 2-YEAR VS. 10-YEAR U.S. TREASURY YIELD SPREAD

First Trust

MACRO



Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Source: First Trust, Bloomberg. Data from January 1977 - December 2025.

## MACRO

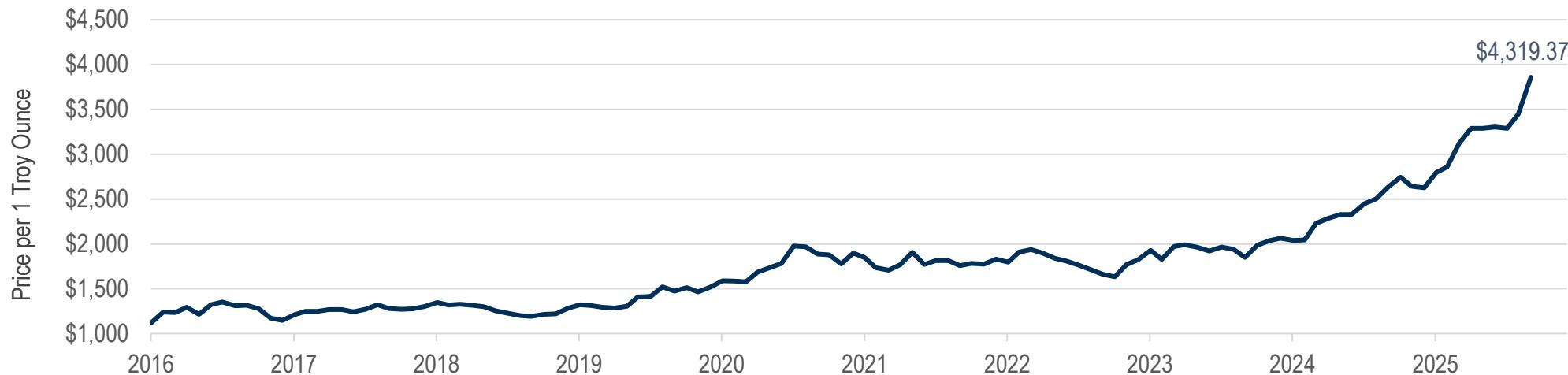


**Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**

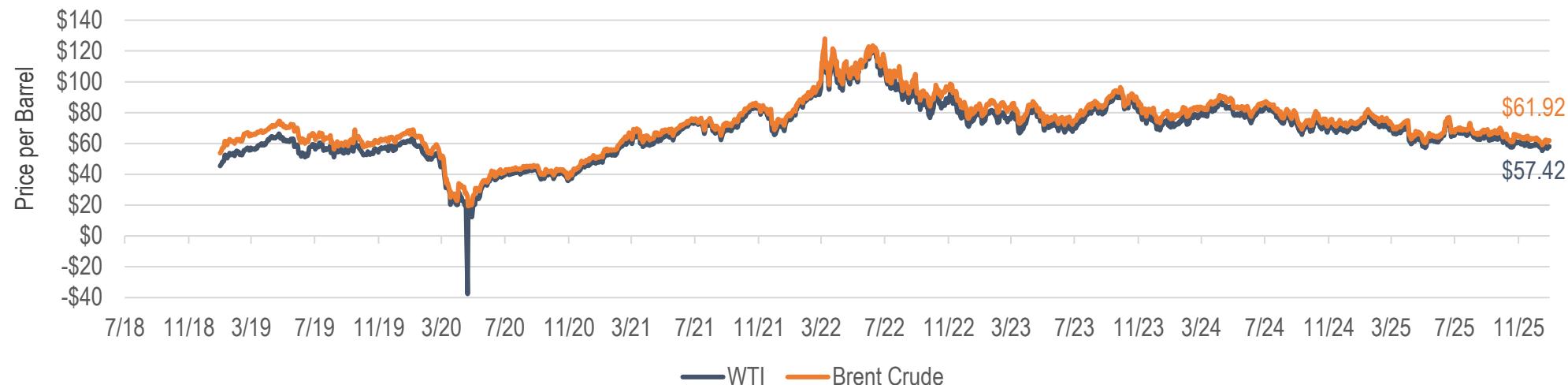
Source: First Trust, Bloomberg. Weekly data from January 2014 - December 2025. This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. The U.S. Dollar Index (DXY) indicates the general international value of the dollar relative to a basket of major world currencies. Indices are unmanaged and investors cannot invest directly in an index.

## MACRO

### GOLD SPOT PRICE



### WEST TEXAS INTERMEDIATE (WTI) VS. BRENT CRUDE OIL



Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Source: First Trust, Bloomberg. Gold is monthly data from February 2016 - December 2025. Gold spot price is the current market price. WTI and Brent Crude oil is daily data from July 2018 - December 2025.

## MACRO



**Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**

Source: First Trust, Bloomberg. Weekly data from January 2000 - December 2025. This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of 500 companies used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. Investors cannot invest directly in an index.

# SIZE AND STYLE INDICES: TOTAL RETURNS



## MARKETS

Index	YTD	3 Mo	6 Mo	12 Mo	3 Yr. <sup>^</sup>	5 Yr. <sup>^</sup>	10 Yr. <sup>^</sup>
<b>S&amp;P 500</b>	17.86%	2.65%	10.98%	17.86%	22.98%	14.40%	14.81%
<b>S&amp;P 500 Growth</b>	22.14%	2.21%	12.21%	22.14%	29.27%	15.02%	16.98%
<b>S&amp;P 500 Value</b>	13.19%	3.20%	9.59%	13.19%	15.80%	12.94%	11.72%
<b>S&amp;P Midcap 400</b>	7.48%	1.64%	7.28%	7.48%	12.53%	9.08%	10.69%
<b>S&amp;P Midcap 400 Growth</b>	7.44%	1.27%	6.93%	7.44%	13.52%	7.09%	10.42%
<b>S&amp;P Midcap 400 Value</b>	7.56%	2.06%	7.69%	7.56%	11.48%	10.97%	10.66%
<b>S&amp;P SmallCap 600</b>	5.99%	1.69%	10.96%	5.99%	10.11%	7.25%	9.75%
<b>S&amp;P SmallCap 600 Growth</b>	5.35%	0.06%	6.75%	5.35%	10.50%	5.46%	9.75%
<b>S&amp;P SmallCap 600 Value</b>	6.66%	3.41%	15.51%	6.66%	9.62%	8.91%	9.58%
<b>Russell 1000</b>	17.35%	2.41%	10.59%	17.35%	22.72%	13.57%	14.57%
<b>Russell 2000</b>	12.79%	2.19%	14.85%	12.79%	13.71%	6.06%	9.59%
<b>Russell 3000</b>	17.13%	2.40%	10.76%	17.13%	22.23%	13.13%	14.27%
<b>Dow Jones Industrial Average</b>	14.92%	4.03%	9.92%	14.92%	15.36%	11.58%	13.11%
<b>The Nasdaq Composite</b>	21.17%	2.72%	14.47%	21.17%	31.47%	13.39%	17.71%

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Source: First Trust, Bloomberg. Total returns as of 12/31/2025. <sup>^</sup>Annualized returns. For illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. Indices do not charge management fees or brokerage expenses, and no such fees or expenses were deducted from the performance shown. Indices are unmanaged and investors cannot invest directly in an index.

**Index Definitions:** **S&P 500** - An unmanaged index of 500 companies used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. **S&P 500 Growth** - S&P measures growth stocks using three factors: sales growth, the ratio of earnings change to price, and momentum. Constituents are drawn from the S&P 500 Index. **S&P 500 Value** - S&P measures value stocks using three factors: the ratios of book value, earnings, and sales to price. Constituents are drawn from the S&P 500 Index. **S&P MidCap 400** - A capitalization-weighted index that tracks the mid-range sector of the U.S. stock market. **S&P MidCap 400 Growth** - S&P measures growth stocks using three factors: sales growth, the ratio of earnings change to price, and momentum. Constituents are drawn from the S&P MidCap 400 Index. **S&P MidCap 400 Value** - S&P measures value stocks using three factors: the ratios of book value, earnings, and sales to price. Constituents are drawn from the S&P MidCap 400 Index. **S&P SmallCap 600** - A capitalization-weighted index that tracks U.S. stocks with a small market capitalization. **S&P SmallCap 600 Growth** - S&P measures growth stocks using three factors: sales growth, the ratio of earnings change to price, and momentum. Constituents are drawn from the S&P SmallCap 600 Index. **S&P SmallCap 600 Value** - S&P measures value stocks using three factors: the ratios of book value, earnings, and sales to price. Constituents are drawn from the S&P SmallCap 600 Index. **Russell 1000** - Comprised of the largest 1000 companies in the Russell 3000 Index. It represents the universe of large capitalization stocks from which most active money managers typically select. **Russell 2000** - Comprised of the smallest 2000 companies in the Russell 3000 Index, representing approximately 8% of the Russell 3000 total market capitalization. **Russell 3000** - Comprised of 3,000 large U.S. companies, as determined by market capitalization. It captures approximately 98% of the investable U.S. equity market. **Dow Jones Industrial Average** - A price-weighted measure of 30 U.S. blue-chip companies. The index covers all industries except transportation and utilities. **The Nasdaq Composite** - A large market-cap-weighted index of more than 2,500 stocks, American depositary receipts (ADRs), and real estate investment trusts (REITs), among others, listed on the Nasdaq stock exchange.

## MARKETS

Index	YTD	3 Mo	6 Mo	12 Mo	3 Yr.^	5 Yr.^	10 Yr.^
<b>S&amp;P 500 Communication Services</b>	33.56%	7.26%	20.17%	33.56%	42.90%	16.35%	14.07%
<b>S&amp;P 500 Consumer Discretionary</b>	6.04%	0.71%	10.31%	6.04%	25.23%	9.00%	13.18%
<b>S&amp;P 500 Consumer Staples</b>	3.90%	0.01%	-2.35%	3.90%	6.26%	7.18%	8.15%
<b>S&amp;P 500 Energy</b>	8.68%	1.53%	7.84%	8.68%	4.24%	23.68%	8.28%
<b>S&amp;P 500 Financials</b>	14.97%	2.01%	5.30%	14.97%	18.92%	15.20%	13.12%
<b>S&amp;P 500 Health Care</b>	14.60%	11.68%	15.88%	14.60%	6.26%	8.21%	9.91%
<b>S&amp;P 500 Industrials</b>	19.27%	0.86%	5.81%	19.27%	18.21%	13.58%	12.97%
<b>S&amp;P 500 Information Technology</b>	24.04%	1.42%	14.80%	24.04%	38.81%	20.91%	24.30%
<b>S&amp;P 500 Materials</b>	10.54%	1.12%	4.25%	10.54%	7.54%	6.79%	9.92%
<b>S&amp;P 500 Real Estate</b>	3.15%	-2.87%	-0.36%	3.15%	6.84%	5.66%	6.18%
<b>S&amp;P 500 Utilities</b>	16.04%	-1.40%	6.06%	16.04%	10.00%	9.73%	10.61%

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Source: First Trust, Bloomberg. Total returns as of 12/31/2025. ^Annualized returns. For illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. Indices do not charge management fees or brokerage expenses, and no such fees or expenses were deducted from the performance shown. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of 500 companies used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance, while the 11 major S&P 500 Sector Indices are capitalization-weighted and comprised of S&P 500 constituents representing a specific sector.

As of 9/28/18, GICS was reconstituted, and the Telecommunications Services sector was renamed Communication Services. GICS sector information for periods prior to 9/28/18 may not necessarily be comparable to the reconstituted sectors.

# FOREIGN INDICES: TOTAL RETURNS



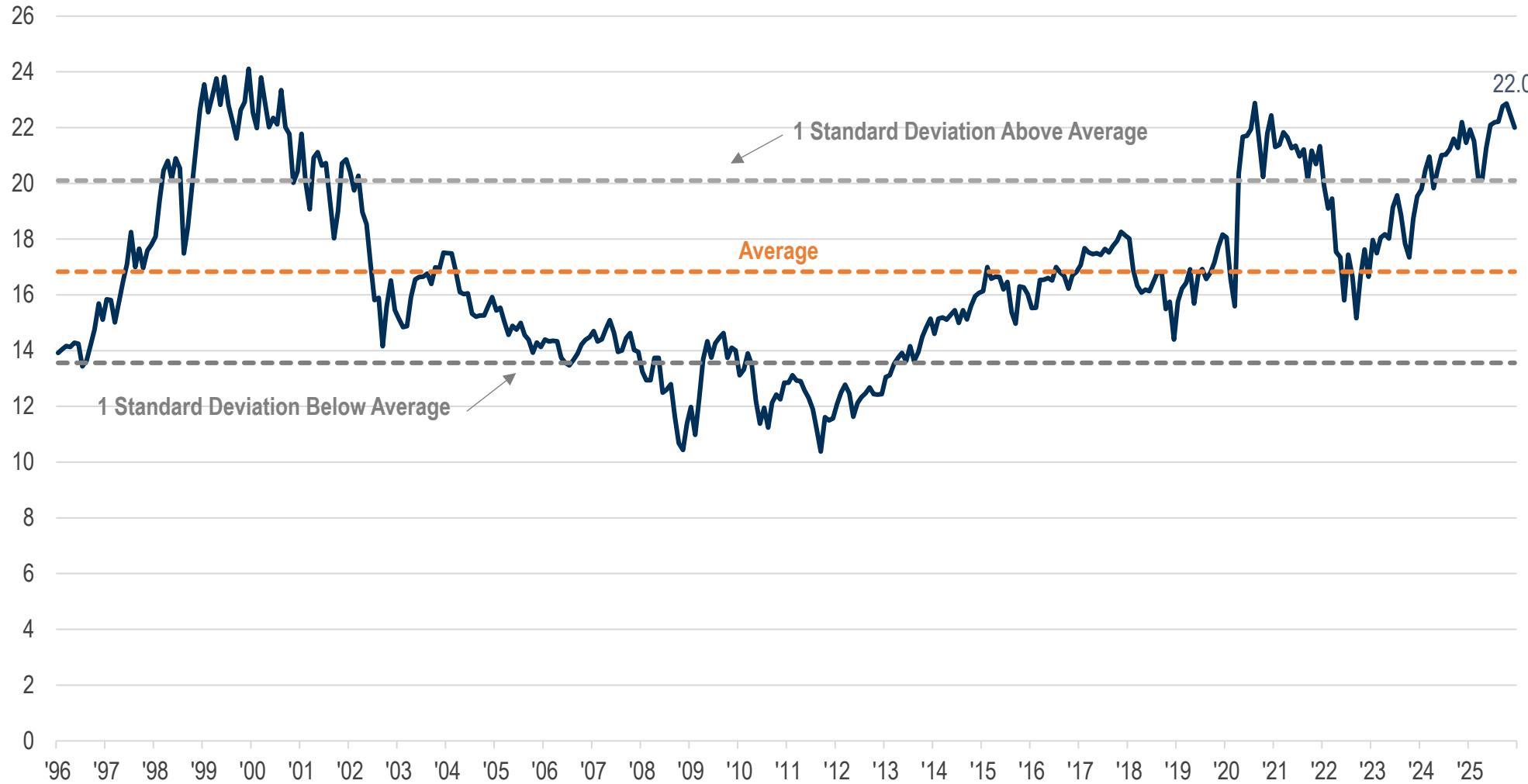
## MARKETS

Index	YTD	3 Mo	6 Mo	12 Mo	3 Yr. <sup>^</sup>	5 Yr. <sup>^</sup>	10 Yr. <sup>^</sup>
<b>MSCI All-Country World Ex-USA</b>	32.39%	5.05%	12.29%	32.39%	17.33%	7.91%	8.41%
<b>MSCI World Ex-USA</b>	31.85%	5.20%	10.81%	31.85%	17.64%	9.46%	8.55%
<b>MSCI Europe</b>	32.33%	5.89%	9.42%	32.33%	15.47%	7.81%	5.98%
<b>MSCI EAFE</b>	32.03%	4.91%	10.04%	32.03%	17.97%	9.62%	8.87%
<b>MSCI Emerging Markets</b>	34.29%	4.76%	16.21%	34.29%	16.93%	4.61%	8.86%

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Source: First Trust, Bloomberg. Total returns as of 12/31/2025. <sup>^</sup>Annualized returns. Indices do not charge management fees or brokerage expenses, and no such fees or expenses were deducted from the performance shown. Indices are unmanaged and investors cannot invest directly in an index. **MSCI All-Country World (ACWI) Ex-USA** – Captures large and mid cap representation across 22 of 23 Developed Markets (DM) countries (excluding the US) and 24 Emerging Markets (EM) countries. With 1,973 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the global equity opportunity set outside the US. **MSCI World Ex-USA** - Captures large and mid cap representation across 22 of 23 Developed Markets (DM) countries-- excluding the United States. With 776 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country. **MSCI Europe** - A free-float weighted index designed to measure the equity market performance of the developed markets in Europe. **MSCI EAFE** - A free-float weighted equity index that covers developed market countries in Europe, Australasia, Israel and the Far East. **MSCI Emerging Markets** - A free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure equity market performance of emerging markets.

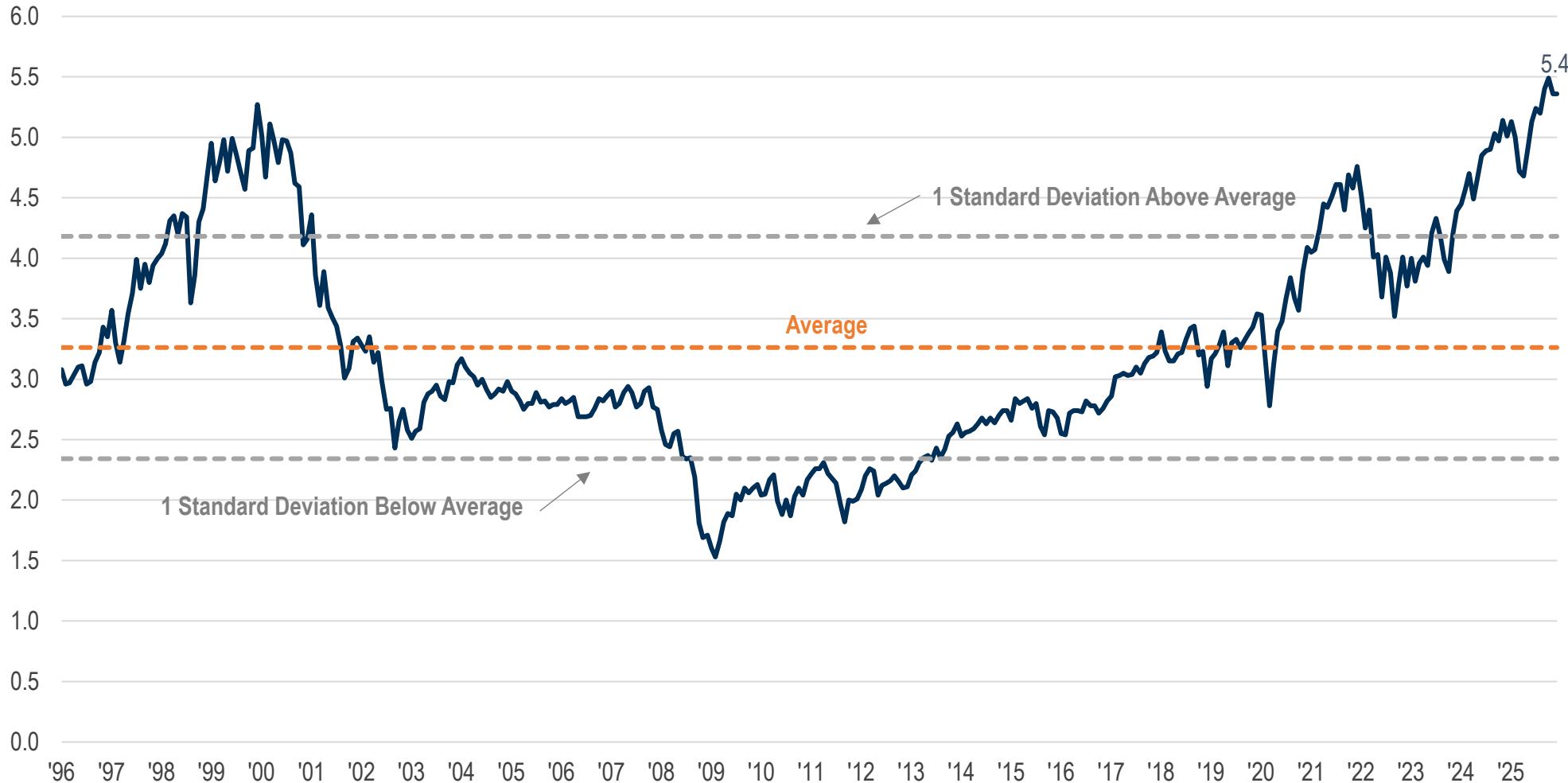
## MARKETS



**Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**

Source: First Trust, FactSet. Data from 1/31/1996 to 12/30/2025. Standard Deviation is a measure of price variability (risk). There can be no assurance that any of the projections cited will occur. This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. Price-to-Next Twelve Months earnings is price divided by FactSet consensus forecasted earnings per share over the next twelve months. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of 500 companies used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. Investors cannot invest directly in an index.

## MARKETS



Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Source: First Trust, FactSet. Data from 1/31/1996 to 12/30/2025. Price-to-book ratio is the share price divided by book value of equity per share. Standard Deviation is a measure of price variability (risk).

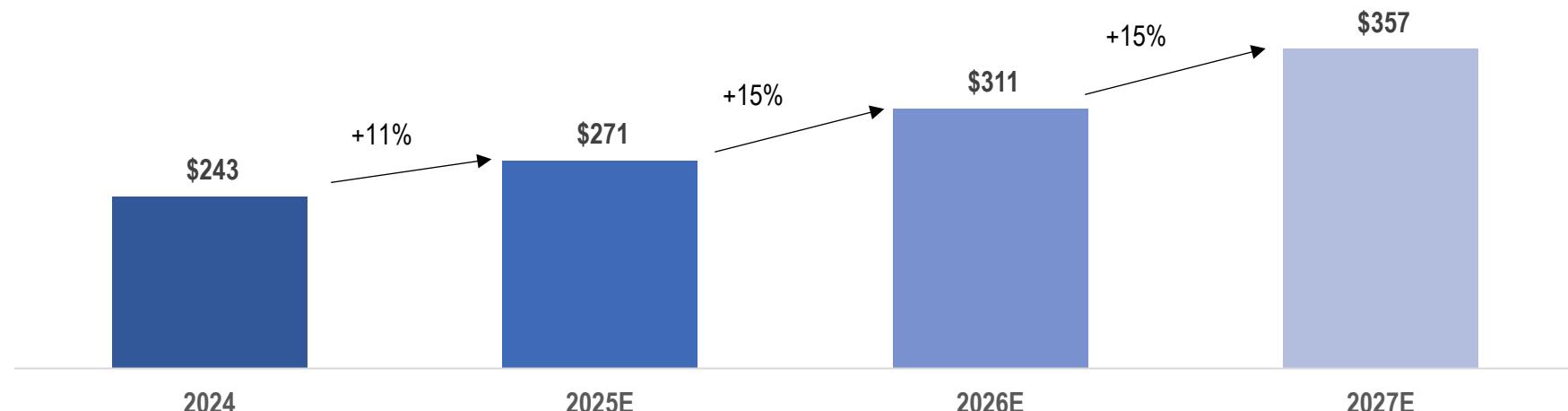
This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of 500 companies used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. Investors cannot invest directly in an index.

# S&P 500 INDEX EPS - CURRENT VS. PREVIOUS QUARTER

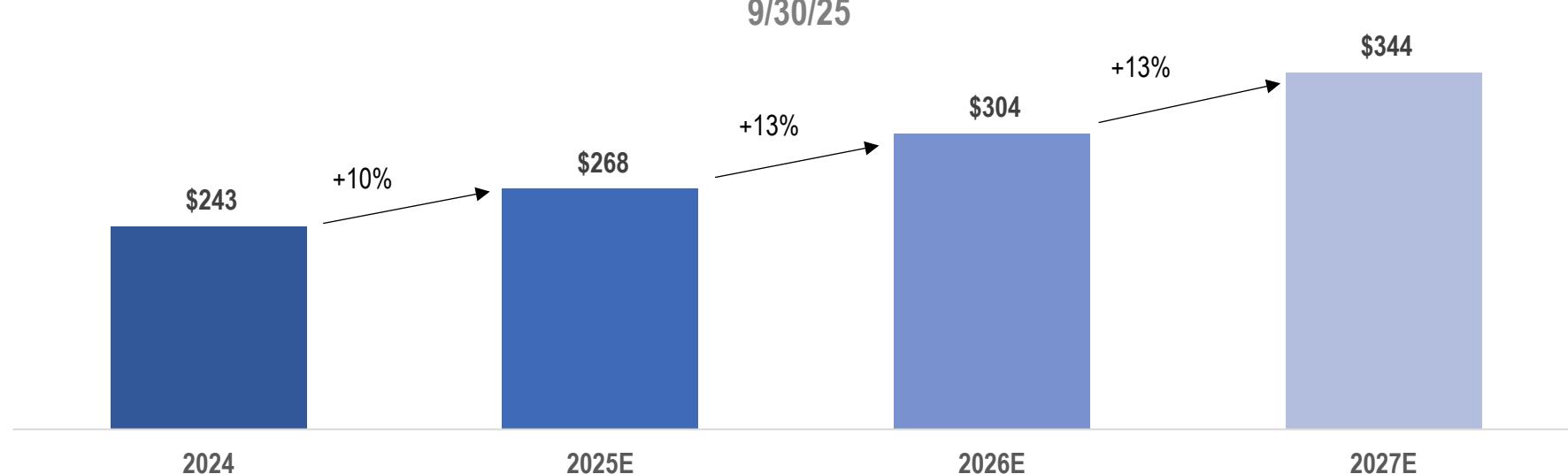
First Trust

MARKETS

CURRENT (12/31/25)



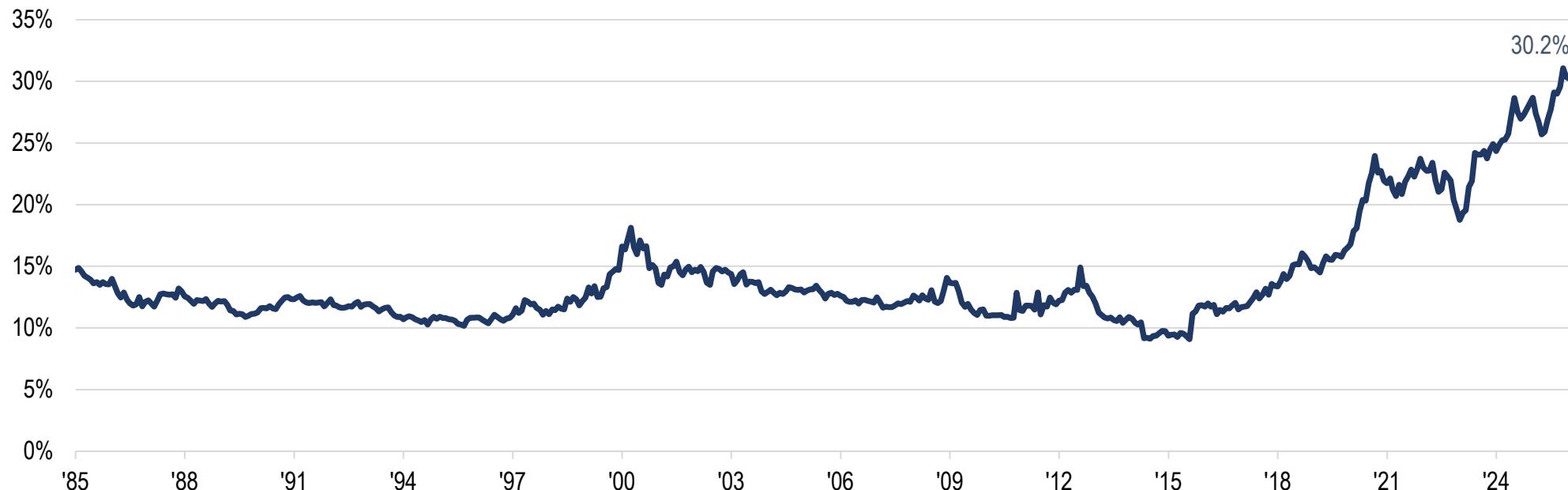
9/30/25



Source: First Trust, FactSet. 2025-2027 numbers are consensus estimates. For illustrative purposes only. There can be no assurance that any of the projections cited will occur. Earnings per share (EPS) is a company's net profit divided by the number of common shares it has outstanding. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of 500 companies used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. Investors cannot invest directly in an index.

## MARKETS

### % SHARE OF S&P 500 INDEX



### TOP 5 MEMBER FIRMS BY WEIGHT IN THE INDEX

Ticker	Company Name	Weight in S&P 500 Index (12/31/25)
NVDA	NVIDIA Corporation	7.76%
AAPL	Apple Inc.	6.87%
MSFT	Microsoft Corp.	6.15%
GOOG/GOOGL	Alphabet Inc.	5.62%
AMZN	Amazon.com, Inc.	3.84%

Source: First Trust, Bloomberg, FactSet. Data from 12/31/1984 to 12/31/2025. References to specific companies or securities should not be construed as a recommendation to buy or sell any such security, nor should they be assumed profitable. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of 500 companies used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. Investors cannot invest directly in an index.

# S&P 500 SECTOR INDEX VALUATION AND EST. EPS GROWTH



## MARKETS

S&P 500 Sector Index	PRICE TO NTM EPS			EST. EPS GROWTH			PRICE-TO-BOOK			EST. RETURN ON EQUITY	
	12/31/25	10-Yr. Median	Ratio to Median	2025	2026	2027	12/31/25	10-Yr. Median	Ratio to Median	2025	2026
Communication Services	22.2	17.3	128%	17%	12%	14%	5.8	3.4	171%	22.5%	21.4%
Consumer Discretionary	28.8	24.2	119%	2%	11%	17%	9.3	8.6	107%	28.5%	26.5%
Consumer Staples	20.8	20.1	104%	-1%	7%	8%	6.6	6.1	108%	29.1%	28.9%
Energy	15.8	15.1	104%	-11%	7%	19%	1.9	1.9	100%	11.5%	12.0%
Financials	16.4	13.6	120%	11%	9%	11%	2.3	1.4	165%	13.4%	13.7%
Health Care	18.3	16.3	112%	13%	9%	11%	5.1	4.5	113%	25.0%	24.3%
Industrials	23.9	18.2	131%	8%	15%	15%	6.8	5.0	137%	24.5%	25.7%
Information Technology	26.7	22.0	121%	25%	28%	20%	13.6	8.4	163%	37.3%	38.2%
Materials	19.0	17.5	108%	3%	21%	13%	2.9	2.9	98%	12.8%	14.6%
Real Estate	17.1	18.0	95%	2%	5%	7%	3.0	3.2	95%	16.3%	17.5%
Utilities	17.9	18.0	99%	7%	10%	9%	2.3	2.1	110%	11.5%	11.8%

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Source: First Trust, FactSet. As of 12/31/2025. This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. There can be no assurance that any of the projections cited will occur.

The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of 500 companies used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance, while the 11 major S&P 500 Sector Indices are capitalization-weighted and comprised of S&P 500 constituents representing a specific sector. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. Indices do not charge management fees or brokerage expenses, and no such fees or expenses were deducted from the performance shown.

Price-to-Book ratio - Share price divided by book value of equity per share. Est. Return on Equity (ROE) - Estimated return on common equity utilizing FactSet consensus estimated earnings per share in calendar year divided by equity per share. Est. EPS Growth - Expected year-over-year growth in FactSet consensus forecasted Earnings Per Share. Price to NTM EPS - Price divided by FactSet consensus forecasted earnings per share over the next twelve months.

As of 9/28/18, GICS was reconstituted, and the Telecommunications Services sector was renamed Communication Services. GICS sector information for periods prior to 9/28/18 may not necessarily be comparable to the reconstituted sectors.

# THE IMPORTANCE OF SECTOR DIVERSIFICATION



## MARKETS

### TOTAL RETURNS OF THE S&P 500 SECTOR INDICES

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
35.3%	-15.4%	61.7%	27.7%	19.9%	28.7%	43.1%	29.0%	10.1%	27.4%	38.8%	6.5%	50.3%	43.9%	54.4%	65.4%	57.8%	40.2%	33.6%
22.4%	-22.8%	48.6%	26.7%	14.0%	23.9%	41.5%	25.3%	6.9%	23.5%	23.8%	4.1%	32.7%	33.3%	46.2%	1.6%	55.8%	36.6%	24.0%
19.4%	-29.0%	41.3%	22.2%	12.7%	18.3%	40.6%	20.1%	6.6%	22.7%	23.0%	0.8%	32.1%	23.6%	34.9%	-0.6%	42.3%	30.5%	19.3%
16.3%	-30.5%	20.9%	20.4%	6.3%	17.9%	35.6%	16.0%	5.9%	18.8%	22.1%	-0.3%	29.3%	20.7%	34.5%	-2.0%	18.1%	30.1%	16.0%
14.2%	-33.5%	19.7%	19.0%	6.1%	15.3%	28.4%	15.2%	3.4%	16.7%	22.1%	-2.2%	29.0%	13.4%	27.3%	-5.5%	12.5%	23.4%	15.0%
12.0%	-34.9%	17.2%	14.1%	4.7%	15.0%	26.1%	9.8%	-1.6%	16.3%	21.0%	-8.4%	27.9%	11.1%	26.1%	-10.6%	12.4%	17.3%	14.6%
11.9%	-39.9%	14.9%	12.1%	2.4%	14.8%	25.6%	9.7%	-2.6%	13.8%	13.5%	-12.5%	27.6%	10.7%	24.4%	-12.3%	12.1%	14.9%	10.5%
7.1%	-43.1%	13.8%	10.2%	-0.6%	10.8%	25.0%	6.9%	-4.8%	6.0%	12.1%	-13.0%	26.3%	0.5%	21.6%	-26.1%	2.1%	5.7%	8.7%
-13.2%	-45.7%	11.9%	5.5%	-9.8%	4.6%	13.2%	3.0%	-8.4%	5.4%	10.9%	-13.3%	24.6%	-1.8%	21.1%	-28.2%	0.5%	5.2%	6.0%
-18.6%	-55.3%	8.9%	2.9%	-17.1%	1.3%	11.5%	-7.8%	-21.1%	-2.7%	-1.0%	-14.7%	20.8%	-2.2%	18.6%	-37.0%	-1.4%	2.6%	3.9%
										-1.3%	-18.1%	11.8%	-33.7%	17.7%	-39.9%	-7.1%	0.0%	3.1%

**Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**

Source: First Trust, Bloomberg. For illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. All indices are unmanaged, statistical composites that cannot be purchased directly by investors. An index does not charge management fees or brokerage expenses, and no such fees or expenses were deducted from the performance shown.

In addition to the risks of investing in common stocks which includes the possible loss of principal, investing in individual sectors is subject to non-diversification risk, which generally will result in greater price fluctuations than the overall market.

Prior to 2017, Real Estate was included in the Financials sector. As of 9/28/18, the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) was reconstituted, and the Telecommunications Services sector was renamed Communication Services. GICS sector information for periods prior to 9/28/18 may not necessarily be comparable to the reconstituted sectors.

# THE IMPORTANCE OF STYLE DIVERSIFICATION



## MARKETS

### ANNUAL RETURNS OF KEY EQUITY ASSET CLASSES

1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
LCG 36.5%	LCG 42.2%	MCG 47.7%	REITs 25.9%	REITs 15.5%	REITs 5.2%	SCG 48.5%	REITs 30.4%	MCG 16.7%	REITs 34.4%	MCG 11.2%	SCV -28.9%	MCG 55.5%	SCG 29.1%	REITs 7.3%	REITs 20.1%	SCG 43.3%	REITs 27.1%	LCG 5.5%	SCV 31.7%	LCG 27.4%	LCG 0.0%	LCV 31.9%	SCG 34.6%	REITs 39.9%	LCV -5.2%	LCG 30.0%	LCG 35.9%	Foreign 31.2%
SCV 31.8%	Foreign 20.0%	SCG 43.1%	MCV 23.7%	SCV 14.0%	MCV -9.5%	SCV 46.0%	SCV 22.2%	Foreign 13.5%	Foreign 26.3%	Foreign 11.2%	MCV -34.8%	SCG 34.5%	MCG 28.2%	LCG 4.7%	MCV 18.6%	MCG 39.6%	LCG 14.9%	REITs 2.3%	MCV 20.3%	Foreign 25.0%	REITs -4.1%	LCG 31.1%	LCG 33.5%	LCG 32.0%	MCV -12.8%	MCG 22.6%	SCG 15.2%	LCG 22.4%
MCV 31.1%	LCV 14.7%	LCG 28.2%	SCV 22.8%	MCV 6.2%	SCV -11.4%	MCG 43.4%	Foreign 20.2%	REITs 8.3%	SCV 23.5%	LCG 9.1%	LCG -34.9%	MCV 32.0%	REITs 27.6%	LCV -0.5%	SCV 18.1%	SCV 34.5%	MCV 13.3%	MCG 0.4%	LCV 17.4%	MCV 23.7%	SCG -6.4%	MCG 28.8%	SCV 31.7%	Foreign -14.5%	LCV 22.2%	LCV 12.3%	LCV 13.2%	
LCV 30.0%	MCG 5.1%	Foreign 27.0%	LCV 6.1%	SCG -9.2%	Foreign -15.9%	Foreign 38.6%	MCG 18.9%	LCV 5.8%	LCV 20.8%	SCG 7.0%	REITs -37.3%	Foreign 31.8%	SCV 24.5%	MCG -0.6%	LCV 17.7%	MCV 33.3%	LCV 12.4%	MCV -0.7%	SCG 11.3%	SCG 18.5%	MCG -8.0%	SCG 28.4%	Foreign 7.8%	LCV 24.9%	SCV -14.5%	SCG 18.7%	MCG 12.3%	SCG 13.0%
MCG 22.5%	MCV 3.5%	LCV 12.7%	Foreign -14.2%	LCV -11.7%	LCV -20.9%	REITs 38.5%	MCV 17.9%	MCV 5.5%	MCV 15.7%	LCV 2.0%	SCG -38.5%	LCG 31.6%	MCV 21.9%	MCV -1.0%	Foreign 17.3%	LCG 32.8%	MCG 7.7%	Foreign -0.8%	MCG 10.1%	LCV 15.4%	LCV -9.0%	REITs 28.1%	SCV 4.6%	MCV 24.7%	REITs -25.1%	Foreign 18.2%	MCV 12.1%	SCV 12.6%
REITs 18.9%	SCG 1.2%	MCV 7.2%	LCG -22.1%	LCG -12.7%	LCG -23.6%	MCV 34.9%	LCV 15.7%	SCV 4.7%	SCG 13.3%	MCV -1.3%	LCV -39.2%	REITs 27.4%	LCV 15.1%	SCG -2.9%	MCG 16.7%	LCV 32.0%	SCG 5.6%	SCG -1.4%	REITs 9.3%	MCV 14.1%	MCV -9.6%	MCV 27.5%	LCV 1.4%	Foreign 11.3%	MCG -25.4%	SCV 14.6%	SCV 8.1%	MCV 10.1%
SCG 12.9%	SCV -6.5%	SCV -1.5%	SCG -22.4%	MCG -13.3%	MCG -24.5%	LCV 31.8%	SCG 14.3%	SCG 4.2%	MCG 11.6%	SCV -9.8%	MCG -41.6%	LCV 21.2%	LCG 15.1%	SCV -5.5%	LCG 14.6%	Foreign 22.8%	SCV 4.2%	LCV -3.1%	LCG 6.9%	REITs 9.3%	SCV -12.9%	SCV 22.4%	MCV -3.1%	MCG 10.4%	SCG -26.4%	MCV 13.6%	REITs 4.3%	MCG 9.8%
Foreign 1.8%	REITs -18.8%	REITs -6.5%	MCG -24.3%	Foreign -21.4%	SCG -30.3%	LCG 25.7%	LCG 6.1%	LCG 4.0%	LCG 11.0%	REITs -17.8%	Foreign -43.4%	SCV 20.6%	Foreign 7.8%	Foreign -12.1%	SCG 14.6%	REITs 3.2%	Foreign -4.9%	SCV -7.5%	Foreign 1.0%	SCV 7.8%	Foreign -13.8%	Foreign 22.0%	REITs -5.9%	SCG 2.8%	LCG -29.4%	REITs 11.5%	Foreign 3.8%	REITs 1.7%

● Foreign   ● Large-Cap Growth (LCG)   ● Large-Cap Value (LCV)   ● Small-Cap Growth (SCG)   ● Small-Cap Value (SCV)   ● Mid-Cap Value (MCV)   ● Mid-Cap Growth (MCG)   ● REITs

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Source: First Trust, Bloomberg, NAREIT. Diversification does not guarantee a profit or protect against a loss. For illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. All indices are unmanaged, statistical composites that cannot be purchased directly by investors. An index does not charge management fees or brokerage expenses, and no such fees or expenses were deducted from the performance shown.

The S&P 500 Growth and S&P 500 Value Indices were used to measure the performance of large-capitalization companies. The Dow Jones U.S. Mid-Cap Growth Total Stock Market Index and Dow Jones U.S. Mid-Cap Value Total Stock Market Index were used to measure the performance of mid-capitalization companies. The Russell 2000 Growth and Russell 2000 Value Indices were used to measure the performance of small-capitalization companies. The MSCI EAFE Index was used to measure the performance of foreign stocks. The NAREIT Composite Index was used to measure the performance of REITs. Small company stocks are more volatile than large company stocks and can be subject to significant price fluctuations. Foreign stocks are subject to additional risks including currency fluctuations, political risks, withholding, the lack of adequate financial information, and exchange control restrictions impacting foreign issuers.

## MARKETS

30

25

20

15

10

5

1 Standard Deviation Below Average

Average

1 Standard Deviation Above Average

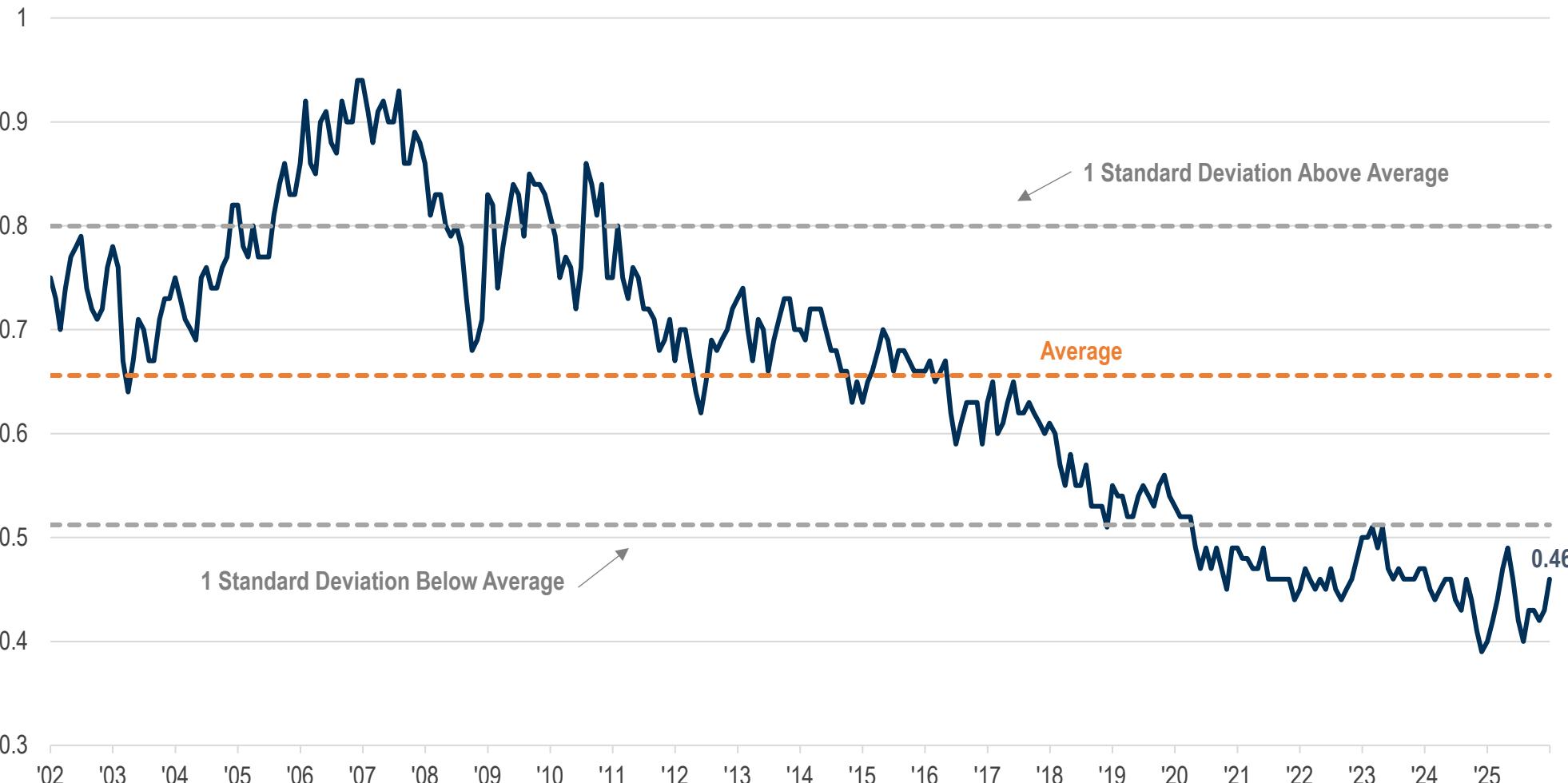
15.07



**Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**

Source: First Trust, FactSet. Data from 1/31/1997 to 12/30/2025. Price-to-Next Twelve Months earnings is price divided by FactSet consensus forecasted earnings per share (EPS) over the next twelve months. Standard Deviation is a measure of price variability (risk). There can be no assurance that any of the projections cited will occur. The MSCI Europe Index captures large and mid cap representation across 15 Developed Markets countries in Europe. Indices are unmanaged and investors cannot invest directly in an index.

## MARKETS



**Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**

Source: First Trust, FactSet. Data from 12/31/2001 to 12/30/2025. Price-to-book (P/B) ratio is the share price divided by book value of equity per share. Standard Deviation is a measure of price variability (risk). This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. The MSCI Europe Index captures large and mid cap representation across 15 Developed Markets countries in Europe. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of 500 companies used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. Indices are unmanaged and investors cannot invest directly in an index.

# INTERNATIONAL VALUATION AND EST. EPS GROWTH



## MARKETS

Index	PRICE TO NTM EPS			EST. EPS GROWTH			PRICE TO BOOK			EST. RETURN ON EQUITY	
	12/31/25	10-Yr. Median	Ratio to Median	2025	2026	2027	12/31/25	10-Yr. Median	Ratio to Median	2025	2026
MSCI Europe	15.1	14.3	105%	12%	11%	12%	2.5	1.9	130%	13.7%	14.2%
MSCI Germany	15.0	12.9	116%	19%	16%	15%	2.0	1.6	123%	10.7%	11.7%
MSCI Switzerland	18.2	17.0	107%	17%	7%	10%	4.6	3.1	147%	20.6%	20.3%
MSCI United Kingdom	13.3	12.6	105%	8%	10%	11%	2.2	1.7	130%	15.2%	15.6%
MSCI Japan	16.1	14.1	114%	5%	10%	9%	1.9	1.4	133%	10.0%	10.3%
MSCI Pacific ex Japan	17.2	15.4	111%	4%	7%	7%	2.0	1.7	124%	10.9%	11.2%
MSCI Canada	16.9	14.6	116%	17%	13%	11%	2.5	1.8	139%	13.7%	14.4%
MSCI Emerging Markets (EM)	13.3	12.1	110%	16%	18%	14%	2.2	1.7	130%	13.4%	14.3%
MSCI China	12.3	10.9	113%	2%	11%	15%	1.8	1.6	112%	11.7%	11.9%
MSCI EM Latin America	10.5	11.4	92%	51%	2%	14%	1.9	1.7	108%	17.6%	16.6%
MSCI Brazil	9.4	10.2	93%	60%	-2%	18%	1.8	1.7	105%	18.8%	16.9%
MSCI India	22.7	20.7	110%	6%	16%	15%	3.7	3.5	107%	14.5%	15.0%

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Source: First Trust, FactSet. As of 12/31/2025. This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. There can be no assurance that any of the projections cited will occur. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. Indices do not charge management fees or brokerage expenses, and no such fees or expenses were deducted from the performance shown.

The above International MSCI Indices are designed to measure the performance of the large- and mid-cap segments of each region/country. **Price-to-Book ratio** - Share price divided by book value of equity per share. **Est. Return on Equity (ROE)** - Estimated return on common equity utilizing FactSet consensus estimated earnings per share in calendar year divided by equity per share. **Est. EPS Growth** - Expected year-over-year growth in FactSet consensus forecasted Earnings Per Share. **Price to NTM EPS** - Price divided by FactSet consensus forecasted earnings per share over the next twelve months.

# FACTOR RETURNS VS. S&P 500 EQUAL WEIGHT INDEX



## FACTORS

**Value:** Lowest price-to-book

**Momentum:** Highest 12-month price change

**Quality:** Highest return-on-equity

**Size:** Lowest market capitalization

**Low Volatility:** Lowest 1-year price variability

**Dividend Yield:** Highest dividend yield

	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025	Apr 2025	May 2025	Jun 2025	Jul 2025	Aug 2025	Sep 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	12 Month
Top	Momentum 6.27%	Low Volatility 2.21%	Low Volatility -1.00%	Momentum 0.59%	Quality 6.33%	Size 4.62%	Quality 2.15%	Value 6.72%	Momentum 5.31%	Momentum 2.43%	Value 3.54%	Value 0.95%	Momentum 13.82%
2	Quality 4.34%	Dividend Yield 0.94%	Dividend Yield -1.76%	Quality -0.69%	Momentum 5.94%	Value 4.25%	Momentum 2.15%	Size 4.93%	Size 1.20%	Size 0.14%	Dividend Yield 3.31%	S&P 500 Equal Wgt 0.45%	Value 13.46%
3	Size 3.86%	S&P 500 Equal Wgt -0.61%	Value -3.10%	S&P 500 Equal Wgt -2.29%	Size 4.74%	Momentum 4.10%	Size 1.74%	Dividend Yield 4.92%	S&P 500 Equal Wgt 1.11%	S&P 500 Equal Wgt -0.95%	Low Volatility 3.04%	Dividend Yield 0.13%	S&P 500 Equal Wgt 11.43%
4	Value 3.85%	Value -1.03%	S&P 500 Equal Wgt -3.38%	Low Volatility -2.61%	S&P 500 Equal Wgt 4.35%	S&P 500 Equal Wgt 3.43%	S&P 500 Equal Wgt 0.97%	S&P 500 Equal Wgt 2.69%	Quality 0.87%	Quality -1.67%	S&P 500 Equal Wgt 1.90%	Quality -0.31%	Size 9.55%
5	S&P 500 Equal Wgt 3.50%	Quality -2.57%	Size -4.91%	Size -2.62%	Value 4.34%	Quality 3.15%	Dividend Yield 0.70%	Low Volatility 2.54%	Value 0.01%	Value -1.99%	Size 1.61%	Low Volatility -0.80%	Quality 8.81%
6	Dividend Yield 2.37%	Size -4.61%	Momentum -6.18%	Value -4.75%	Dividend Yield 3.31%	Dividend Yield 2.73%	Value 0.57%	Quality 2.53%	Low Volatility -0.32%	Dividend Yield -3.02%	Quality 1.46%	Size -0.86%	Dividend Yield 7.98%
Bottom	Low Volatility 2.16%	Momentum -5.50%	Quality -6.48%	Dividend Yield -4.85%	Low Volatility 1.76%	Low Volatility 0.30%	Low Volatility -0.37%	Momentum 1.82%	Dividend Yield -0.64%	Low Volatility -3.43%	Momentum -1.39%	Momentum -1.56%	Low Volatility 3.29%

**Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**

Source: First Trust, Capital IQ. As of 12/31/2025. Returns are total returns. Universe: largest 1,000 U.S. firms with \$1 million in average daily volume over the last 3 months and 12 months of trading history. Top 30% of stocks by factor are selected. Stocks are then equally weighted. These examples are for illustrative purposes and do not represent any actual investment.

The S&P 500 Index is an index of 500 companies used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. S&P 500 Equal Weight Index (EWI) - The equal-weight version of the S&P 500 Index. The index includes the same constituents as the capitalization-weighted S&P 500, but each company in the S&P 500 EWI is allocated a fixed weight - or 0.2% of the index total at each quarterly rebalance. An index does not charge management fees or brokerage expenses, and no such fees or expenses were deducted from the performance shown. Indices are unmanaged and investors cannot invest directly in an index.

# FACTOR RETURNS VS. S&P 500 INDEX



## FACTORS

**Value:** Lowest price-to-book

**Momentum:** Highest 12-month price change

**Quality:** Highest return-on-equity

**Size:** Lowest market capitalization

**Low Volatility:** Lowest 1-year price variability

**Dividend Yield:** Highest dividend yield

	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025	Apr 2025	May 2025	Jun 2025	Jul 2025	Aug 2025	Sep 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	12 Month
Top	Value 4.54%	Dividend Yield 3.38%	Dividend Yield -1.15%	Momentum 1.11%	Momentum 8.17%	Momentum 6.82%	Quality 3.54%	Value 5.88%	Momentum 6.23%	Momentum 3.78%	Dividend Yield 3.23%	Value 1.20%	Quality 19.94%
2	Size 3.90%	Low Volatility 2.36%	Value -1.37%	Quality 0.00%	Quality 7.57%	Quality 5.85%	Momentum 3.42%	Size 4.86%	Quality 4.46%	Quality 3.18%	Value 3.01%	Dividend Yield 0.08%	Value 18.42%
3	Momentum 3.37%	Value 2.21%	Low Volatility -2.96%	S&P 500 -0.68%	S&P 500 6.29%	S&P 500 5.09%	S&P 500 2.24%	Dividend Yield 4.53%	S&P 500 3.65%	S&P 500 2.34%	Low Volatility 1.82%	S&P 500 0.06%	S&P 500 17.88%
4	Dividend Yield 3.06%	S&P 500 -1.30%	Size -4.70%	Low Volatility -1.26%	Size 4.79%	Size 4.64%	Size 1.89%	S&P 500 2.03%	Size 1.17%	Size 0.10%	Size 1.51%	Momentum -0.09%	Momentum 14.56%
5	S&P 500 2.78%	Quality -1.66%	S&P 500 -5.63%	Size -2.60%	Low Volatility 3.41%	Value 3.87%	Low Volatility 0.78%	Quality 1.72%	Dividend Yield 0.59%	Value -1.45%	S&P 500 0.25%	Low Volatility -0.54%	Dividend Yield 12.42%
6	Quality 2.57%	Size -4.59%	Quality -7.47%	Value -4.33%	Value 3.26%	Dividend Yield 2.87%	Value 0.13%	Low Volatility 1.63%	Value 0.53%	Dividend Yield -1.75%	Quality 0.17%	Quality -0.74%	Size 9.76%
Bottom	Low Volatility 1.97%	Momentum -5.79%	Momentum -8.71%	Dividend Yield -4.83%	Dividend Yield 2.51%	Low Volatility 1.16%	Dividend Yield -0.34%	Momentum -0.69%	Low Volatility 0.41%	Low Volatility -2.31%	Momentum -2.50%	Size -0.95%	Low Volatility 6.44%

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Source: First Trust, Capital IQ. As of 12/31/2025. Returns are total returns. Universe: largest 1,000 U.S. firms with \$1 million in average daily volume over the last 3 months and 12 months of trading history. Top 30% of stocks by factor are selected. Stocks are then equally weighted. These examples are for illustrative purposes and do not represent any actual investment.

The S&P 500 Index is an index of 500 companies used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. S&P 500 Equal Weight Index (EWI) - The equal-weight version of the S&P 500 Index. The index includes the same constituents as the capitalization-weighted S&P 500, but each company in the S&P 500 EWI is allocated a fixed weight - or 0.2% of the index total at each quarterly rebalance. An index does not charge management fees or brokerage expenses, and no such fees or expenses were deducted from the performance shown. Indices are unmanaged and investors cannot invest directly in an index.

## FACTORS



**Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**

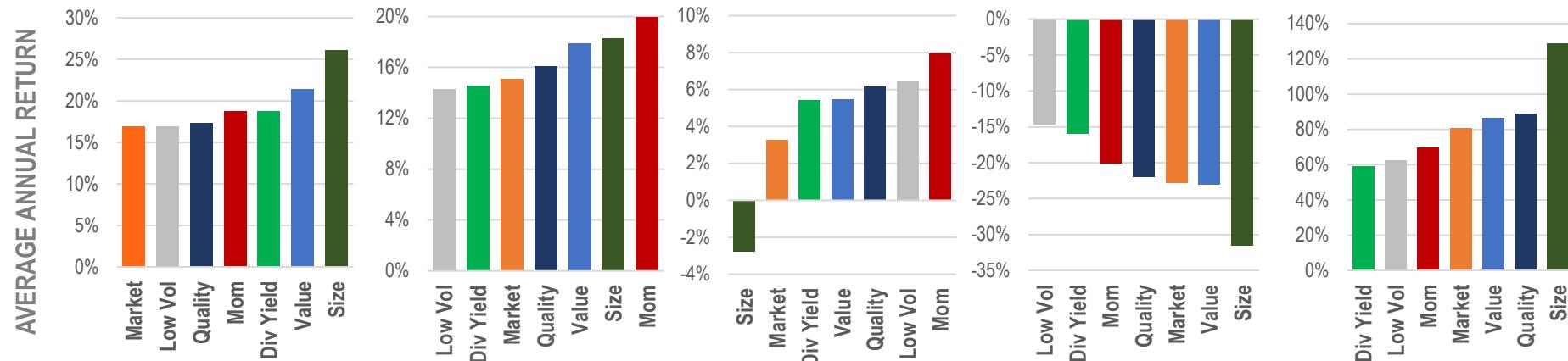
Source: First Trust, Capital IQ. As of 12/31/2025. Universe: largest 1,000 U.S. firms with \$1 million in average daily volume over the last 3 months and 12 months of trading history. Returns less than 1 year are not annualized.

Value: Lowest price-to-book. Momentum: Highest 12-month price change. Quality: Highest return-on-equity. Size: Lowest market capitalization. Low Volatility: Lowest 1-year price variability. Dividend Yield: Highest dividend yield. The S&P 500 Index is an index of 500 companies used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. The S&P 500 Equal Weight Index (EWI) is the equal-weight version of the S&P 500 Index. The index includes the same constituents as the capitalization-weighted S&P 500, but each company in the S&P 500 EWI is allocated a fixed weight - or 0.2% of the index total at each quarterly rebalance. An index does not charge management fees or brokerage expenses, and no such fees or expenses were deducted from the performance shown. Indices are unmanaged and investors cannot invest directly in an index.

# FACTORS AND ECONOMIC CYCLES

## FACTORS

	Recovery	Expansion	Late Expansion	Early Recession	Late Recession
Economy	High Growth Off Bottom	Continued Stable Growth	Slowing Growth	Negative Growth	Negative Growth
Fed Policy	Accommodative	Neutral	Tightening	Accommodative	Accommodative
Sentiment	Risk-On	Risk-On	Switching from Risk-On to Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off
Equities	High Equity Returns	High Equity Returns	Lower Equity Returns	Negative Returns	Highest Returns
Top Factors	Size and Value	Momentum and Value	Early: Momentum Late: Low Volatility and Quality	Low Volatility, Dividend Yield and Quality	Size and Quality



- **Market:** All NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ traded stocks
- **Value:** Lowest price-to-book
- **Low Volatility:** Lowest trailing 60-day variance

- **Quality:** Highest operating profitability
- **Momentum:** Highest 12-month price change lagged one month

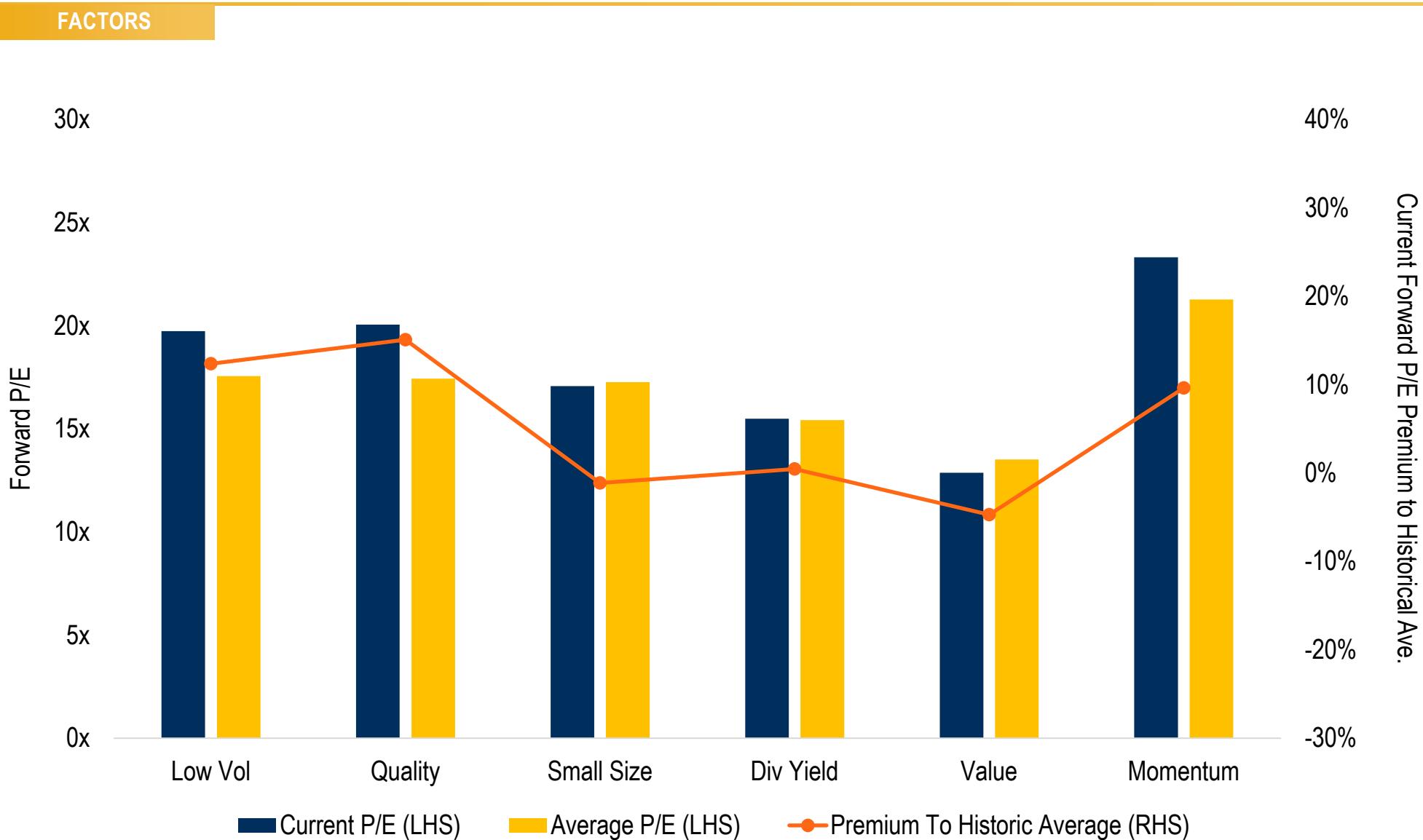
- **Size:** Lowest market capitalization
- **Dividend Yield:** Highest dividend yield

**Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**

Source: First Trust. As of 12/31/2025. This example is for illustrative purposes and does not represent any actual investment. We define economic cycles as follows: Recovery – 18 months following the end of a recession. Expansion – time between recovery and late-expansion. Late expansion – last 18 months before peak economic growth. Early recession – start of a recessionary period until 3 months before it ends. Late recession – last 3 months before the economy bottoms. Business cycle dates were sourced from the National Bureau of Economic Research. Data source for performance: Kenneth R. French data library using the CRSP database, July 1963 through May 2022 (for the purposes of this analysis we ended expansion 18 months from the end of late recession). Universe includes all NYSE, AMEX & Nasdaq stocks. Top 30% of stocks by factor are selected. Stocks are then market cap weighted.

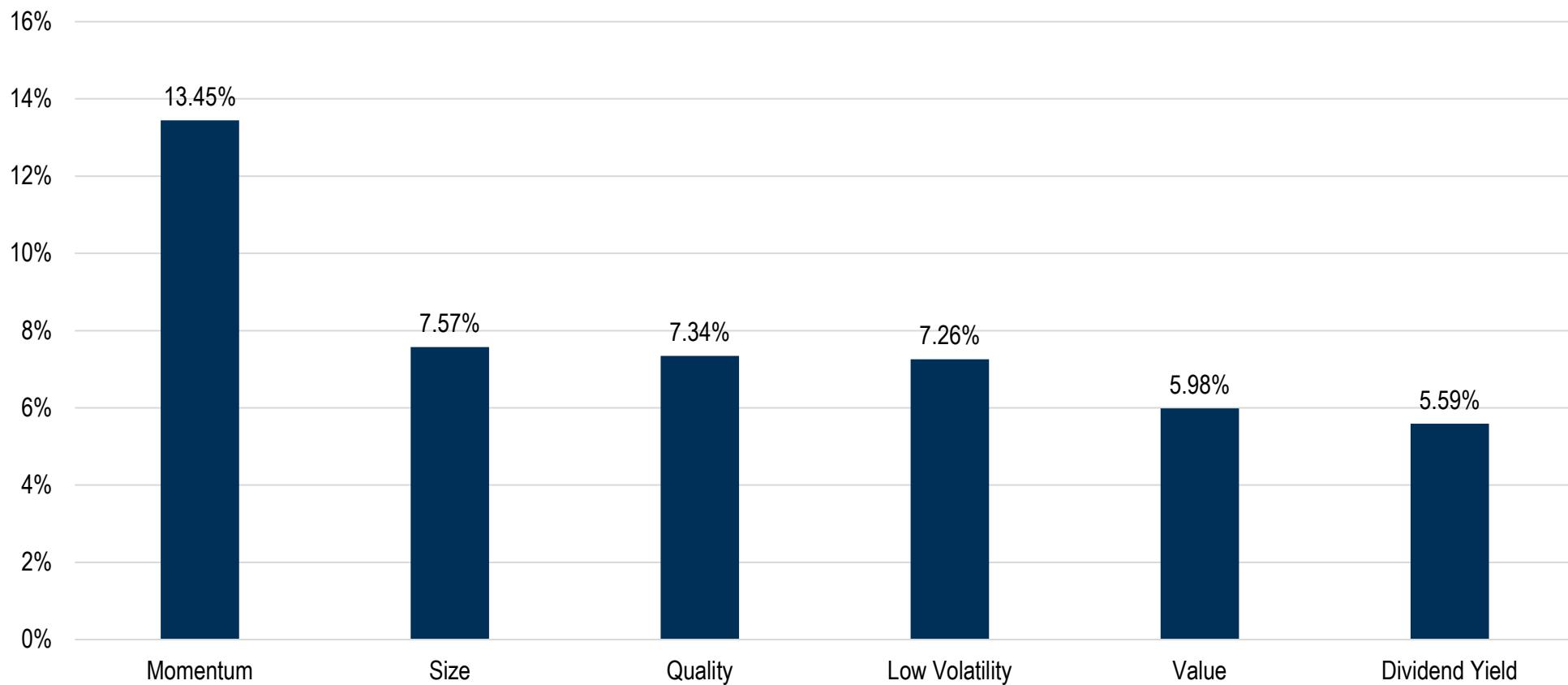
# FACTOR VALUATIONS: FORWARD PRICE-TO-EARNINGS RATIO

First Trust



Source: First Trust, Bloomberg & Capital IQ. Monthly data is calculated from 12/31/1999 to 12/31/2025. For illustrative purposes and does not represent any actual investment. The median monthly forward price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio is used for each factor. Each factor is comprised of the top 30% of stocks from a universe of the largest 1,000 U.S. stocks with at least \$1 million dollars in average daily volume over the last 3 months and 12 months of trading history. Value: Lowest price-to-book. Momentum: Highest 12-month price change. Quality: Highest return-on-equity. Size: Lowest market capitalization. Low Volatility: Lowest 1-year price variability. Dividend Yield: Highest dividend yield.

## FACTORS



Source: First Trust, Bloomberg & Capital IQ. As of 12/31/2025. Chart shows median next twelve-month EPS growth for each factor group. This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. Universe: largest 1,000 U.S. firms with \$1 million in average daily volume over the last 3 months and 12 months of trading history. Top 30% of stocks by factor are selected. Stocks are then equally weighted.  
 Earnings per share (EPS) is a company's net profit divided by the number of common shares it has outstanding. Growth rates are based on the next twelve months earnings estimates compared to the trailing twelve months.  
 Value: Lowest price-to-book. Momentum: Highest 12-month price change. Quality: Highest return-on-equity. Size: Lowest market capitalization. Low Volatility: Lowest 1-year price variability. Dividend Yield: Highest dividend yield.