

SECOND QUARTER 2025

GROWTH WITH MODERATE INCOME

Global markets contended with a turbulent macroeconomic landscape, largely shaped by evolving U.S. policy initiatives. After market consternation following early-April news of reciprocal tariffs, investor sentiment on the issue improved following eventual de-escalation efforts including 90-day pauses and emphasis on trade talks. Despite these efforts, the persistence of elevated tariffs and policy uncertainty continued to reshape the global economic environment. Consensus forecasts, led by U.S. revisions, shaved global growth expectations and pushed inflation projections higher. Global economic activity, while distorted by trade data and front-loading ahead of tariffs, proved relatively resilient. Inflation pressures were subdued across several major economies, but core inflation rates remain technically above central bank targets. Financial markets performed well in the second quarter with gains across most major asset classes. Equity markets proved quite resilient with double-digit gains for U.S. equities despite a 10%-plus sell-off in early April. U.S. equities received a substantial boost from megacap tech, given the resurgence in optimism around AI adoption. The U.S. dollar weakened throughout the quarter, benefitting returns for non-U.S. equity indexes in dollar terms. Fixed income returns were positive but much lower than equities. U.S. credit spreads tightened while longer-term interest rates were modestly higher, resulting in a more favorable setup for high yield fixed income versus investment grade.

We made three changes in asset allocation in the quarter. Across tactical changes in April and May, we reduced risk and moved closer to neutral with changes in a number of asset classes, while still remaining modestly overweight global equities overall. In aggregate, the changes included moving from overweight to equal-weight in U.S. equities, emerging market equities, high yield fixed income and global real estate, and moving to overweight in non-U.S. developed market equities and cash. We also slightly increased our investment grade fixed income and inflation-linked fixed income allocations. The April changes reflected a preference to avoid de-risking too quickly after the early April equity market sell-off, while the May changes were also influenced by the subsequent recovery in equity markets and concern that markets were possibly too optimistic on trade negotiation progress. In June, we further added to our global listed infrastructure overweight, reflecting a more attractive earnings outlook for the asset class and exposure to technology-related themes such as global power demand. This move was funded by a reduction in global real estate. Currently, the portfolio has overweights in global listed infrastructure, cash and developed ex-U.S. equities, funded by underweights across investment grade fixed income and global real estate. The portfolio ended the quarter with a slightly higher risk level than its strategic benchmark.

The portfolio was close to benchmark in the quarter as benefits from tactical positioning were offset by drag from fund implementation. Tactical positioning benefited performance primarily due to the underweight to investment grade fixed income and the overweight to non-U.S. developed market equities, partially offset by the overweight to cash (previously underweight and equal-weight). Our broader-based U.S. market factor tilt (TILT), our global listed infrastructure (NFRA) and our broader-based emerging markets factor tilt (TLTE) were the main detractors in terms of fund implementation, while our quality large cap U.S. equity (QLC) and our broader-based developed markets ex-U.S. factor tilt (TLTD) were the main contributors.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION. This document may not be edited, altered, revised, paraphrased, or otherwise modified without the prior written permission of Northern Trust Asset Management (NTAM). The information contained herein is intended for use with current or prospective clients of Northern Trust Investments, Inc (NTI) or its affiliates. The information is not intended for distribution or use by any person in any jurisdiction where such distribution would be contrary to local law or regulation. NTAM and its affiliates may have positions in and may effect transactions in the markets, contracts and related investments different than described in this information. This information is obtained from sources believed to be reliable, its accuracy and completeness are not guaranteed, and is subject to change. Information does not constitute a recommendation of any investment, is not intended as investment advice and does not take into account all the circumstances of each investor.

This report is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended to be, and should not be construed as, an offer, solicitation or recommendation with respect to any transaction and should not be treated as legal advice, investment advice or tax advice. Recipients should not rely upon this information as a substitute for obtaining specific legal or tax advice from their own professional legal or tax advisors. References to specific securities and their issuers are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended and should not be interpreted as recommendations to purchase or sell such securities. Indices and trademarks are the property of their respective owners. Information is subject to change based on market or other conditions.

All securities investing and trading activities risk the loss of capital. Each portfolio is subject to substantial risks including market risks, risks, advisor risk, and risks with respect to its investment in other structures. There can be no assurance that any portfolio investment objectives will be achieved, or that any investment will achieve profits or avoid incurring substantial losses. No investment or risk management technique can guarantee returns or eliminate risk in any market environment. Risk controls and models do not promise any level of performance or guarantee against loss of principal. Any discussion of risk management is intended to describe NTAM's efforts to monitor and manage risk but does not imply low risk.

Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Performance returns and the principal value of an investment will fluctuate. Performance returns contained herein are subject to revision by NTAM. Comparative indices shown are provided as an indication of the performance of a particular segment of the capital markets and/or alternative strategies in general. Index performance returns do not reflect any management fees, transaction costs or expenses. It is not possible to invest directly in any index. Net performance returns are reduced by investment management fees and other expenses relating to the management of the account. Gross performance returns contained herein include reinvestment of dividends and other earnings, transaction costs, and all fees and expenses other than investment management fees, unless indicated otherwise. For additional information on fees, please refer to Part 2A of the Form ADV or consult an NTI representative.

Forward-looking statements and assumptions are NTAM's current estimates or expectations of future events or future results based upon proprietary research and should not be construed as an estimate or promise of results that a portfolio may achieve. Actual results could differ materially from the results indicated by this information.

This information is intended for purposes of NTI and/or its affiliates marketing as providers of the products and services described herein and not to provide any fiduciary investment advice within the meaning of Section 3(21) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA). NTI and/or its affiliates are not undertaking to provide a recommendation or give investment advice in a fiduciary capacity to the recipient of these materials, which are for marketing purposes and are not intended to serve as a primary basis for investment decisions. NTI and/or its affiliates may receive fees and other compensation in connection with the products and services described herein as well as for custody, fund administration, transfer agent, investment operations outsourcing, and other services rendered to various proprietary and third-party investment products and firms that may be the subject of or become associated with the services described herein.

Northern Trust Asset Management is composed of Northern Trust Investments, Inc. Northern Trust Global Investments Limited, Northern Trust Fund Managers (Ireland) Limited, Northern Trust Global Investments Japan, K.K., NT Global Advisors, Inc., 50 South Capital Advisors, LLC, Northern Trust Asset Management Australia Pty Ltd, and investment personnel of The Northern Trust Company of Hong Kong Limited and The Northern Trust Company.

NOT FDIC INSURED | MAY LOSE VALUE | NO BANK GUARANTEE

© 2025 Northern Trust Corporation. Head Office: 50 South La Salle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603 U.S.A.

Northern Trust Asset Management is composed of Northern Trust Investments, Inc., Northern Trust Global Investments Limited, Northern Trust Fund Managers (Ireland) Limited, Northern Trust Global Investments Japan, K.K., NT Global Advisors, Inc., 50 South Capital Advisors, LLC, Northern Trust Asset Management Australia Pty Ltd, and investment personnel of The Northern Trust Company of Hong Kong Limited and The Northern Trust Company.