



# **WEATHER THE STORMS OF VOLATILITY WITH AN ACTIVE APPROACH**

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T. Rowe Price

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# Today's discussion

A disrupted market environment supports the case for active management

The difference between Growth and Value stocks has turned “gray”

Higher rates and economic uncertainty have created an opportunity in credit

# Growing crosswinds in global economy

## Monetary Policy

- High inflation has caused aggressive tightening among global Central Banks
- Magnitude of quantitative tightening (QT) has unknown risks
- Risk of disruption in the “financial plumbing” as result of Fed reducing liquidity

## Economic Uncertainty

- Real wage growth offset by higher cost of living
- Higher rates could cause spillover effects in housing and consumption
- Growing risk of “profits recession”

## Geopolitical Tensions

- Increased geopolitical tension following Ukraine invasion
- Indirect impact of invasion = higher energy / food prices
- Increased nationalism

**Equity valuations, while lower, do not yet signal time to be aggressive.**

# Heightened volatility creates opportunity in Fixed Income

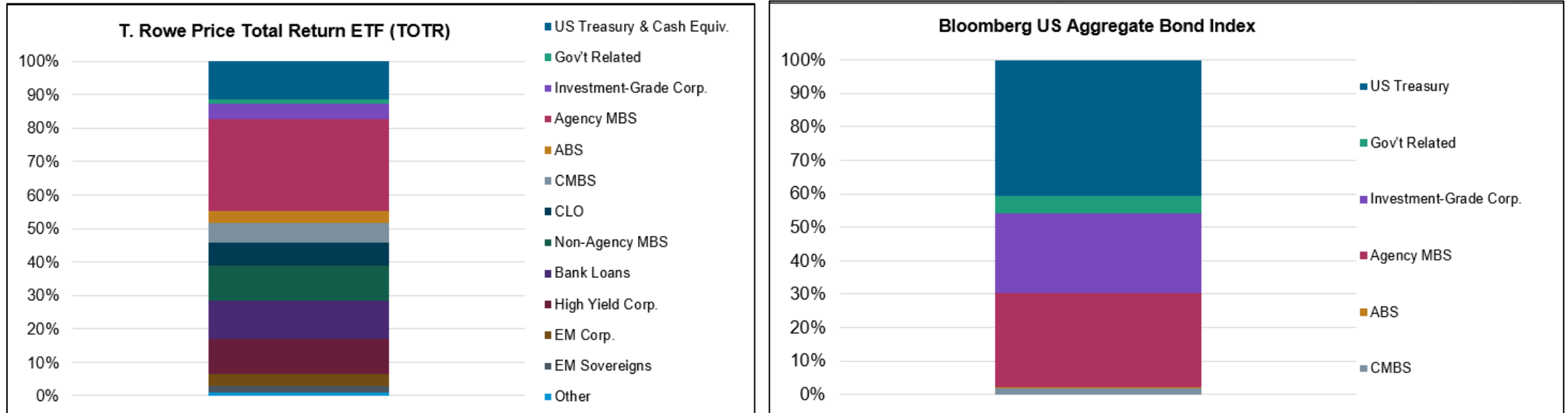
As of July 26, 2022

- Yield levels are important, but it's really *yield volatility* that is the foundation for all financial markets. Right now, it is extremely elevated—and persistently so—relative to the post-GFC period.
- This is creating volatility across all markets and creating potential opportunity for active managers.
- Fixed Income provides diversification for an overall portfolio, but for Fixed Income to do its job right now, an active approach may be required.

# Large disparity between active and passive Fixed Income right now

As of June 30, 2022

## SECTOR BREAKDOWN



- An actively managed bond fund can broaden the opportunity set beyond the benchmark to seek a yield premium and better diversify risk.

Sources: Morningstar and T. Rowe Price, Bloomberg

A yield premium is the additional interest an investor receives for longer-term debt.

# Navigating uncertain times: Our positioning



## Defensive—Low volatility focus

- Southern Company
- Philip Morris International
- Republic Services
- Coca-Cola



## Quality—Good fundamentals with reasonable valuation

- Elevance Health
- Danaher
- Alphabet
- Fiserv



## Cyclical—Concerns partially discounted

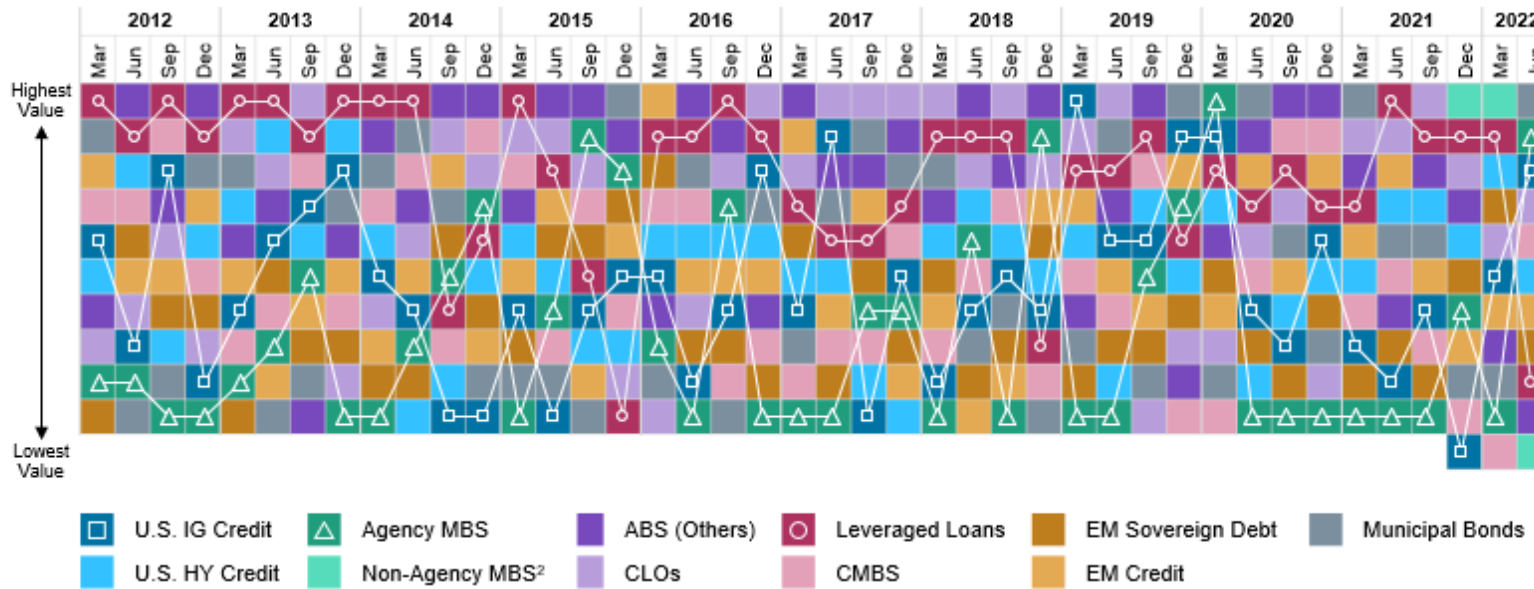
- Progressive
- Wells Fargo
- Eaton
- KLA

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# Opportunities for active sector allocation

As of June 30, 2022

## QUARTERLY RISK-ADJUSTED EXCESS RETURNS<sup>1</sup>



- For decades, owning the “index” was more than enough for investors to meet their return and diversification goals.
- Today, rates are not only lower, but there is a lot of variation and dispersion in FI sector returns through time.
- This means two things: 1) proper diversification is key, and 2) investors may need to be flexible and active to capture tactical opportunities.

**Past performance cannot guarantee future results.** Index performance is for illustrative purposes only and is not indicative of any specific investment. Investors cannot invest directly in an index.

<sup>1</sup> Excess returns are sector returns relative to Treasuries of a similar duration. These excess returns are then adjusted for risk by dividing by the standard deviation of returns.

<sup>2</sup> Data available June 30, 2021.

IG is investment grade. MBS is mortgage-backed securities. ABS is asset-backed securities. EM is emerging markets. HY is high yield. CLO is collateralized loan obligations. CMBS is commercial mortgage-backed securities.

Please refer to slide 10 for more information about the indices used.

# Today's summary

Today's  
investment  
landscape has  
become “gray”

Active  
management  
may be needed  
to improve  
investment  
outcomes



# Additional Disclosures

Top 10 Issuers, T. Rowe Price Value Fund (as of 6/30/22)

	Industry	% of Fund	% of Russell 1000 Value Index
Becton, Dickinson & Company	Health Care Equip & Supplies	3.9%	0.4%
Elevance Health	Health Care Providers & Svcs	3.3	0.5
Southern Company	Electric Utilities	3.2	0.4
JPMorgan Chase	Banks	2.9	1.9
TotalEnergies	Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels	2.9	0.0
Microsoft	Software	2.7	0.0
Johnson & Johnson	Pharmaceuticals	2.7	2.6
AstraZeneca	Pharmaceuticals	2.6	0.0
AbbVie	Biotechnology	2.6	0.0
Chubb	Insurance	2.5	0.5

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Slide 7: Bloomberg Indices: U.S. IG Credit: Bloomberg US Corporate Investment Grade Index; Agency MBS: Bloomberg US MBS Index; ABS: Bloomberg ABS Non-AAA Index; CMBS: Bloomberg Non-Agency CMBS Agg Eligible Index; U.S. High Yield Credit: Bloomberg US Corporate High Yield Index; Municipal Bonds: Bloomberg Taxable Muni Index. Leveraged Loans: Credit Suisse Leveraged Loans Index. JP Morgan Indices: EM Sovereign Debt: JP Morgan EMBI Global Diversified Index; EM Credit: JP Morgan CEMBI Broad and Diversified Index; CLOs: JP Morgan CLOIE 50% AAA + 50% BBB; Non-Agency MBS: JP Morgan CRT 70% M1 + 30% M2.

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