## RAYMOND JAMES<sup>®</sup> | Freedom Focus

Economic and market perspective for Freedom portfolio positioning

# **Equities: looking beyond the U.S.**

The large universe of stocks can present opportunities for the globally minded investor. While the U.S. represents just over half of the world's weight by market capitalization, only about 26% of the world's total stocks are domiciled domestically.

## 11,000 stocks. 40 countries.

Percentage of global market capitalization by country



OUTSIDE THE US**48.5%**JapanChinaUKSwitzerlandFranceGermany

Canada Australia **+** More

Source: Proxied by S&P Global Broad Market (BMI) Index, as of 11/30/15.

### Weighing opportunity with risk

For U.S. investors, investing in foreign-based companies creates a potential local market return along with the effect of translating foreign currencies back to the U.S. dollar (USD). Given market risks overseas, there is more potential for volatility but also for portfolio diversification and growth.



#### INTERNATIONAL INVESTING =

investment in the market + an investment in currency Your return = local return +/- currency effect

### 2015: a mixed year

U.S. equities generally outperformed non-U.S. equities, and the strong U.S. dollar provided a headwind for those in the U.S. invested in non-U.S. companies. Developed markets were relatively flat and emerging markets were down, although both had outliers spanning negative to positive returns.

#### 2015 year-to-date total returns\*



#### INDUSTRY SELECTION EFFECTS

In 2015, the returns of commodity-oriented industries such as basic materials and oil and gas were down, while growth-oriented industries, including consumer services and technology, were up. Global sector returns can differ dramatically, which provides active managers opportunity to more appropriately position portfolios.

## One-year total return percentage by global industry



Source: Dow Jones Global Index, as of 12/31/15.

#### **KEY TAKEAWAYS:**

- There are thousands of stocks in dozens of countries to invest in outside the U.S.
- Returns by sector and geography can vary significantly, which may present opportunities.
- International investing along with

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-30	-25	-20	-15	-10	-5	0	5	10	15	20

Source: Morningstar Direct, as of 12/31/2015. \*In U.S. dollars for select benchmarks.

its currency component – may add more risk but also diversification and growth benefits.

Reach out to your financial advisor to discuss the risk and return potential that comes with both U.S. and non-U.S. equities, or to learn more about the underlying equity allocation in your portfolio.

Indices are not available for direct investment. Any investor who attempts to mimic the performance of an index would incur fees and expenses which would reduce returns. Diversification does not ensure a profit or protect against a loss. All investments are subject to risk. There is no assurance that any investment strategy will be successful.

Further information on the funds selected for the Freedom portfolios is available by prospectus, which can be obtained through your financial advisor. Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of mutual funds and exchange-traded funds before investing. All investments are subject to risk. The prospectus contains this and other information about the funds and should be read carefully before investing.

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Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Indices are not available for direct investment. Any investor who attempts to mimic the performance of an index would incur fees and expenses that would reduce returns. All investing involves risk. Asset allocation and diversification does not ensure a profit or protect against a loss.

There is no assurance that any investment strategy will be successful. All investments carry a certain degree of risk and you may incur a profit or a loss.

**Risk:** It is important to review the investment objectives, risk tolerance, tax objectives and liquidity needs before choosing an investment style or manager. All investments carry a certain degree of risk and no one particular investment style or manager is suitable for all types of investors, you may incur a profit or a loss.

- High-yield (below investment grade) bonds are not suitable for all investors.
- There is an inverse relationship between interest rate movements and fixed income prices. Generally, when interest rates rise, fixed income prices fall and when interest rates fall, fixed income prices generally rise.
- International investing involves special risks, including currency fluctuations, different financial accounting standards, and possible political and economic volatility.
- Investing in emerging markets can be riskier than investing in well-established foreign markets. Investing involves risk and investors may incur a profit or a loss, including the loss of all principal.
- Investing in small-cap stocks generally involves greater risks, and therefore, may not be appropriate for every investor.
- Commodities trading is generally considered speculative because of the significant
  potential for investment loss. Among the factors that could affect the value of the
  fund's investments in commodities are cyclical economic conditions, sudden political
  events, changes in sectors affecting a particular industry or commodity, and adverse
  international monetary policies. Markets for precious metals and other commodities
  are likely to be volatile and there may be sharp price fluctuations even during periods
  when prices overall are rising.
- Specific sector investing such as real estate can be subject to different and greater risks than more diversified investments. Declines in the value of real estate, economic conditions, property taxes, tax laws and interest rates all present potential risks to real estate investments.

- Some accounts may invest in Master Limited Partnership ("MLP") units, which may
  result in unique tax treatment. MLPs may not be appropriate for ERISA or IRA accounts,
  and cause K-1 tax treatment. Please consult your tax adviser for additional information
  regarding the tax implications associated with MLP investments.
- Alternative investments are generally considered speculative in nature and may involve a high degree of risk, particularly if concentrating investments in one or few alternative investments. These risks are potentially greater and substantially different than those associated with traditional equity or fixed income investments. The investment strategies used by certain Funds may require a substantial use of leverage. The investment strategies employed and associated risks are more fully disclosed in each Fund's prospectus, which is available from your financial advisor.
- Changes in the value of a hedging instrument may not match those of the investment being hedged.
- These portfolios may be subject to international, small-cap and sector-focus exposures as well. Accounts may have over weighted sector and issuer positions, and may result in greater volatility and risk.
- Companies in the technology industry are subject to fierce competition, and their products and services may be subject to rapid obsolescence.

#### **Definitions:**

The S&P Russia BMITR USD index is a market cap weighted index of publically traded mid to large cap Russian company. It is calculated in U.S. dollars and rebalanced annually in September.

The S&P Latin America BMI is a subset of the S&P Global BMI. The index is designed to serve as a Latin American benchmark and can be segmented by country, size (large, mid, small), GICS® (sector/industry) and style (value/growth).

The S&P Emerging BMI captures all companies domiciled in the emerging markets within the S&P Global BMI with a float-adjusted market capitalization of at least USD 100 million and a minimum annual trading liquidity of USD 50 million. The index is segmented by country/region, size (large, mid and small), style (value and growth), and GICS (sectors/industry groups).

The S&P United Kingdom BMI – a sub-index of the S&P Europe 350 – includes all UK-domiciled stocks from the parent index. The index is designed to be reflective of the UK market, yet efficient to replicate.

The S&P Japan BMI, a sub-index of the S&P Global BMI, our leading global equity index series, is a comprehensive benchmark that defines and measures the investable universe of publicly traded companies domiciled in Japan.

The S&P Developed Ex-U.S. BMI is a member of the S&P Global BMI series, the S&P Developed Ex-U.S. BMI is a comprehensive benchmark including stocks from developed markets excluding the United States.

The S&P Composite 1500 BMI is designed for investors seeking to replicate the performance of the U.S. equity market or benchmark against a representative universe of tradable stocks.

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