**Goldman** Asset Management

# PIVOT: Uncertainty to Opportunity Policy, Inflation, Valuation, Other 493, Timing

**Market Strategy** 

2025

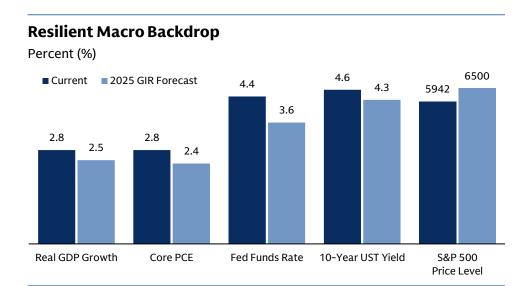
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# **Executive Summary**

Policy, Inflation, Valuation, Other 493, and Timing

We expect the US economy to grow near trend, as the macro backdrop remains resilient, though we see tail risks expanding in the areas of policy, inflation, valuation, concentration, and geopolitics. Investors have an opportunity in 2025 to pivot to potentially useful strategies that may help address these pockets of uncertainty.

- **Policy:** Tariffs, taxes, immigration, regulation, and monetary normalization are all in play in 2025.
- Inflation: The last mile of inflation adjustment will be slow and bumpy. Delays are likely.
- Valuation: For now, we believe high valuation reflects solid macro momentum and corporate execution, though drawdown risk is growing. Cross asset value is plentiful.
- Other 493: Equity markets may broaden, but not be broad, as the performance premium garnered by the Magnificent 7 shrinks, but does not disappear.
- Timing: Recent equity markets have provided very few discounted entry points, and when they do, the door closes quickly. Stay patient and strategic.





Sources: Federal Reserve Economic Data, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research and Goldman Sachs Asset Management. Top Chart Notes: As of January 3, 2025. Bottom Chart Notes: As of December 31, 2024. Chart shows potential inflation outcomes under different tariff scenarios. The economic and market forecasts presented herein are for informational purposes as of the date of this presentation. There can be no assurance that the forecasts will be achieved. Past performance does not guarantee future results, which may vary. These examples are for illustrative purposes only and are not actual results. If any assumptions used do not prove to be true, results may vary substantially.

# **Policy**

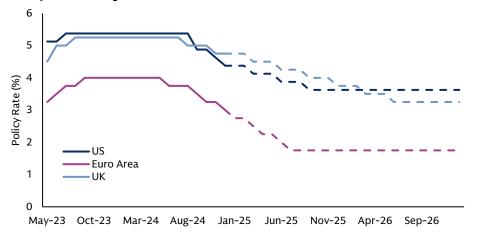
# Uncertainty

- Moving Parts: 2025 may be a year of major policy movement directly influencing macroeconomic and market conditions. Initiatives are likely to include revisions to the US tax code, trade, immigration, regulation, deficit funding, and 9 of 10 major central banks (G10) cutting rates with highly variable trajectories.
- Manageable: We believe the cumulative composition of new policy will not derail growth or risk asset performance, but tail risk and regional differentials are growing, providing a fertile landscape for selectivity.
- Precision: In our view, more precise capital deployment may be required.
   This would include a focus on US domestic revenues, hedging potential volatility, and dynamically managing fixed income exposures.

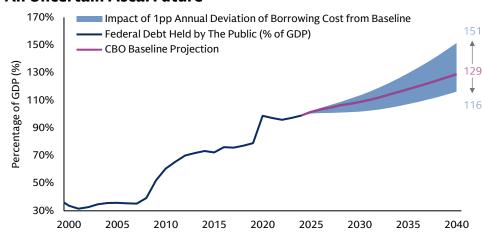
### **Tariff Expectations**

Country	Coverage	Current Tariff	Incremental Tariff	GIR Odds
China	All Imports	14%	10%	Announced
China	Targeted Goods	35%	25%	70.0%
Mexico	All Imports	0-2.5%	25%	30.0%
Canada	All imports	0%	25%	40.0%
EU	Auto Imports	2.5%	25%	70.0%
Global	All Imports	2.7%	10.0%	35.0%

#### **Policy Rate Projections**



#### **An Uncertain Fiscal Future**



Top Right Chart Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research and Goldman Sachs Asset Management. As of February 4, 2025. Bottom Left Chart Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research and Goldman Sachs Asset Management. As of December 31, 2024. Bottom Right Chart Source: Congressional Budget Office and Goldman Sachs Asset Management. As of September 5, 2024. "CBO" refers to Congressional Budget Office. "We" refers to Goldman Sachs Asset Management. The economic and market forecasts presented herein are for informational purposes as of the date of this presentation. There can be no assurance that the forecasts will be achieved. For illustrative purposes only. Please see additional disclosures at the end of this presentation.

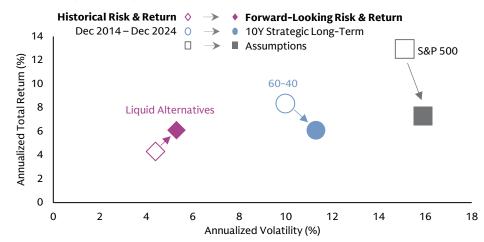
# **Policy**

# Opportunity

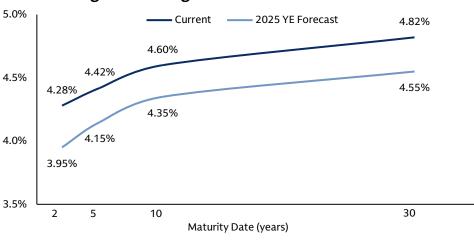
- **Down-in-Cap:** Potential tariffs and US rate differentials are proving to be dollar positive. Companies with higher domestic sales typically outperform when the USD strengthens. The S&P 493 companies average 26% global revenues versus 25% and 21% for mid and small caps, respectively. Still, investors continue to pay a premium for quality, so selectivity is essential.
- **Hedging Volatility:** The cost of hedging policy uncertainty is relatively inexpensive today and can be done effectively using liquid alternatives, fixed income, call writing, and real assets.
- **Dynamic Fixed Income:** Flexibility is key as investors tap into cross asset exposures. In fixed income, an active and dynamic approach can help manage volatility, exploit interest rate changes, and identify value as policy evolves.

#### **Revenue Exposure** 49% 50% Share of Sales Derived From Outside The US (%) 40% 28% 30% 26% 25% 21% 20% 10% Russell 2000 Mid-Cap Index S&P 493 S&P 500 Magnificent 7

#### **Investing Through Volatility**



#### **US Rates: Higher for Longer**



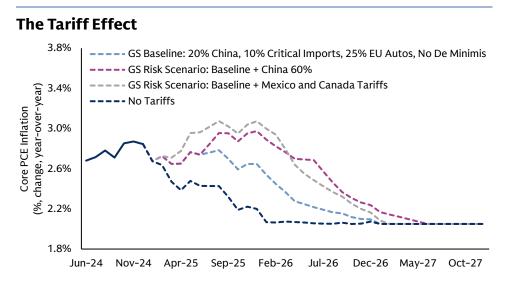
Top Right Chart Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research and Goldman Sachs Asset Management. As of December 31, 2024. Bottom Left Chart Source: Bloomberg and Goldman Sachs Asset Management. As of January 16, 2025. Bottom Right Chart Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research and Goldman Sachs Asset Management. As of January 3, 2025. "We" refers to Goldman Sachs Asset Management. The economic and market forecasts presented herein are for informational purposes as of the date of this presentation. There can be no assurance that the forecasts will be achieved. Past performance does not predict future returns and does not guarantee future results, which may vary. For illustrative purposes only. Please see additional disclosures at the end of this presentation.

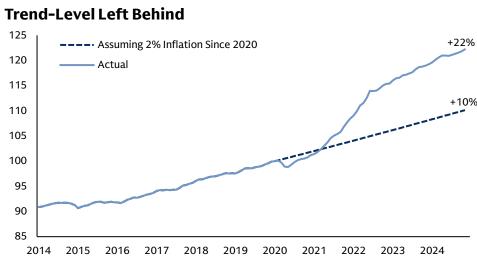
# Inflation

## **Uncertainty**

The Last Mile: Inflation normalization is proving slow as both the magnitude and velocity of improvement diminish. Structural factors, such as higher prices among key household purchases, and tariff uncertainty are sure to make the data in 2025 noisy. While the post-COVID inflation spike has largely been solved, we believe concerns over positive data surprises, tariffs, immigration curbs, and debt sustainability may fuel concerns about an inflation uptick and keep rates higher for longer.

- See Through: Our previous experience with tariffs in 2018-19 suggests that if inflation expectations remain well anchored, Fed policy would try to 'see through' tariff-driven inflation. The Fed's reaction function appears flattened, but not stalled.
- Temporary Rate of Change vs. Price Level: For economists, inflation is viewed as rate-of-change. In that light, inflation continues to slowly normalize towards the Fed's 2.0% target. Consumers, on the other hand, are more likely to think about inflation as price level, which has significantly departed from trend. Whether it's eggs or car insurance, prices are far from feeling normal.
- Pass-Through: The nature of inflation often dictates the response, but the variability of inflationary impulses (supply, demand, policy, credibility) limits the efficacy of a one-size-fits-all hedge. In our view, investment structures that can pass-through cost pressures over time tend to be more reliable inflationary strategies, including equities, private infrastructure, and real estate.





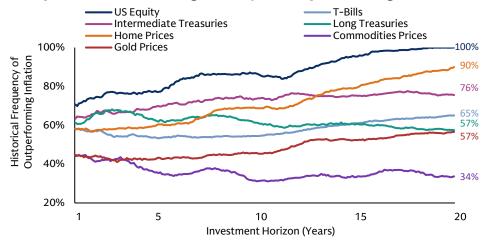
Left Chart Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research and Goldman Sachs Asset Management. As of January 16, 2025. Right Chart Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics and Goldman Sachs Asset Management. As of November 30, 2024. "We" refers to Goldman Sachs Asset Management. The economic and market forecasts presented herein are for informational purposes as of the date of this presentation. There can be no assurance that the forecasts will be achieved. For illustrative purposes only.

# **Inflation**

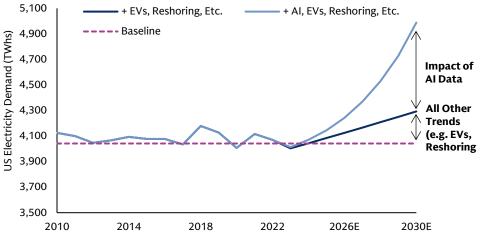
# Opportunity

- **Equities:** Despite the allure of commodities as an inflation hedge, the S&P 500 has been a more effective and reliable inflation hedge. US equity has demonstrated a higher frequency of outperforming inflation across all investment horizons. Commodities tend to hedge inflation as central banks tighten and real rates rise. This has already occurred. We believe the more effective strategy going forward would be to seek potential opportunities that pass through costs and benefit from stable economic growth.
- **Real Estate and Infrastructure:** We see significant investment in private infrastructure and real estate as a byproduct of the surge in data center demand, driven by the rise in cloud computing and AI. Private infrastructure also serves as an effective inflation hedge and diversifier due to its insulation from broader market movements and volatility, long-term contracts as a source of stable income, and low correlations to traditional asset classes.

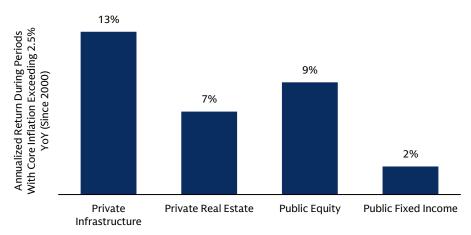
## **US Equities Have A Strong History of Outperforming Inflation**



#### More Data, More Power



#### Infrastructure Shines When Inflation Overshoots



Top Right Chart Source: Goldman Sachs Investment Strategy Group and Goldman Sachs Asset Management. As of 3Q 2024. Bottom Left Source: International Energy Agency (IEA), EuroStat, and British Department for Business - Energy & Industrial Strategy As of December 31, 2022. Bottom Right Chart Source: Goldman Sachs Asset Management. As of September 30, 2024. "We" refers to Goldman Sachs Asset Management. The economic and market forecasts presented herein are for informational purposes as of the date of this presentation. There can be no assurance that the forecasts will be achieved. Past performance does not predict future returns and does not guarantee future results, which may vary. For illustrative purposes only. Please see additional disclosures at the end of this presentation.

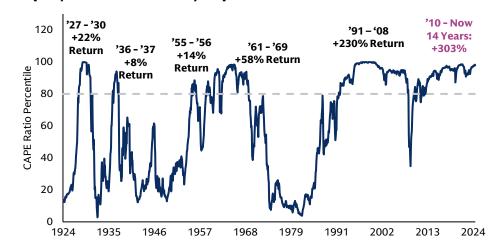
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# **Valuation**

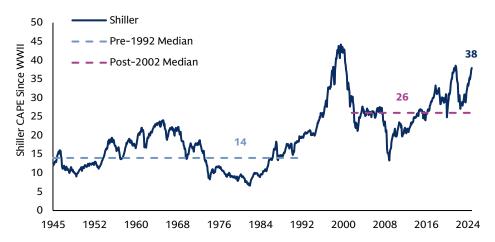
# Uncertainty

- Priced For Perfection: Today's elevated valuations may raise draw-down risk but may also be justified by current macro and earnings fundamentals.
   Absent renewed recessionary factors, we do not expect any sharp equity repricing.
- New Order: Over the last several decades, economic cycles have elongated.
   Reduced macro volatility, moderating inflation, and strengthening corporate execution has allowed the markets to stay expensive longer, reset to a higher normalized valuation, and increase return on equity and profitability.
- Broader Horizon: While we maintain a sanguine view on current valuations, history tells us that above-trend gains—as we have experienced over the last decade—may be limited during periods of elevated valuations. As such, there are compelling cross asset opportunities that may provide better potential entry points and risk managed outcomes, including: fixed income, global equity, and down-in-cap equity.

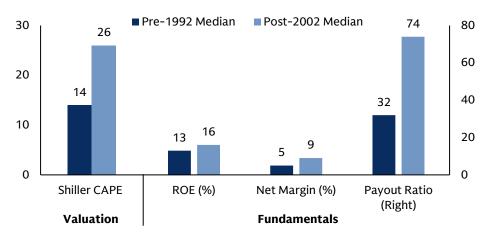
### **Equity Markets Can Stay Expensive For Years**



#### **Shiller CAPE Post-WWII**



#### **S&P Valuation and Fundamentals**



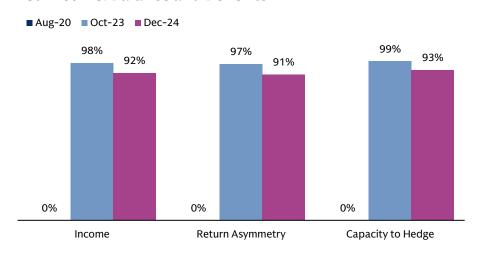
Top Right Chart Source: Robert Shiller and Goldman Sachs Asset Management. As of January 16, 2025. Bottom Left Chart Source: Robert Shiller, Goldman Sachs Investment Strategy Group, and Goldman Sachs Asset Management. As of November 30, 2024. Bottom Right Chart Source: Robert Shiller and Goldman Sachs Investment Strategy Group. As of December 2024. "ROE" refers to return on equity. "We" refers to Goldman Sachs Asset Management. The economic and market forecasts presented herein are for informational purposes as of the date of this presentation. There can be no assurance that the forecasts will be achieved. **Past performance does not predict future returns and does not guarantee future results, which may vary.** For illustrative purposes only.

# **Valuation**

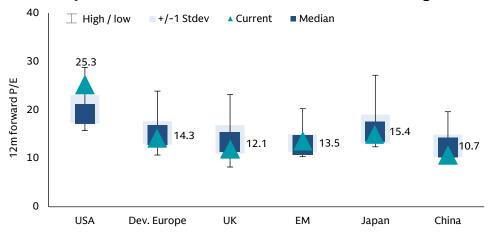
# Opportunity

- **Fixed Income:** Four years ago, the case for fixed income was challenging as bonds providing little in the way of income and/or hedging capacity. Following a significant repricing of rates, fixed income has resumed its position as a core portfolio building block with return asymmetry and hedging potential all above the 90th percentile.
- **Global Equity**: In the long run, valuation matters. We expect the exceptional outperformance of US equities to narrow as we enter a period of a global "catch-up". Global equities not only provide relatively attractive entry points, but complementary characteristics of style, revenue, cyclicality, and income.
- **Down-in-Cap:** Profitable US small cap companies trade near the bottom of their relative range(-32%) while offering EPS (Earnings-Per-Share) growth expectations in 2025 of nearly 15%.

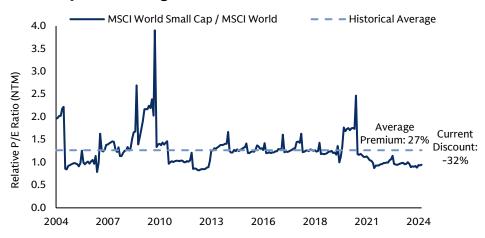
#### Fixed Income: Balance and Benefits



#### Global Equities: Diversification at a More Attractive Bargain



#### **Small Caps: Searching for Discount Within the US**



Top Right Chart Source: Bloomberg and Goldman Sachs Asset Management. As of December 31, 2024. Bottom Left Chart Source: Bloomberg and Goldman Sachs Asset Management. As of December 31, 2024. Source: Bloomberg, MSCI and Goldman Sachs Asset Management. As of September 30, 2024. "We" refers to Goldman Sachs Asset Management. The economic and market forecasts presented herein are for informational purposes as of the date of this presentation. There can be no assurance that the forecasts will be achieved. Past performance does not predict future returns and does not guarantee future results, which may vary. Diversification does not protect an investor from market risk and does not ensure a profit. Please see additional disclosures at the end of this presentation.

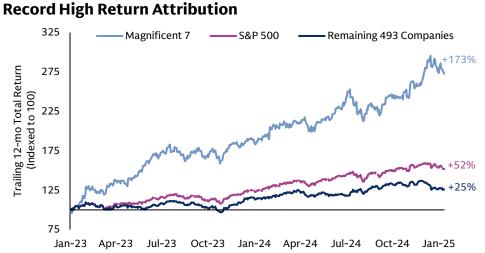
# Other 493

# **Uncertainty**

Concentration: We believe long-term expected returns may be impacted by market concentration. The metric is particularly important today because the US equity market is currently near its highest level of concentration in 100 years. Historical analyses show that it is extremely difficult for any firm to maintain high levels of sales growth and profit margins over sustained periods of time. The same issue plagues a highly concentrated index. As sales growth and profitability for the largest stocks in an index decelerate, earnings growth and therefore returns for the overall index may also decelerate.

- One Third: The 7 largest stocks in the S&P 500 account for nearly a third of the index's total market cap. The rise of "superstar" firms with economies of scale such as today's mega-cap tech stocks is one reason why the aggregate S&P 500 index trades at an elevated P/E multiple. The 7 largest constituents in the S&P 500 index trade at a forward P/E of 31x, substantially above the 19x multiple of the remaining 493 stocks.
- Justified: The dominant position of the Mag 7 has been earned through superior execution and commensurate equity outperformance. The competitive moats possessed by the largest companies in the S&P 500 have allowed them to maintain high levels of growth and margins. Their industry dominance has supported premium valuations and market capitalization relative to the market. But these margins of exceptionalism are likely to narrow, opening the door for others to potentially drive future performance.





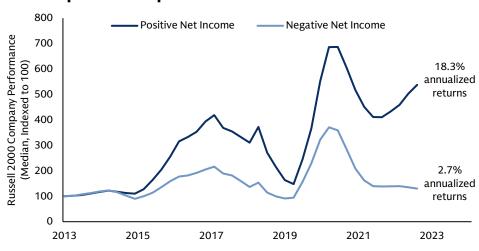
Bottom Left Chart Source: Bloomberg and Goldman Sachs Asset Management. As of January 6, 2025. Bottom Right Chart Source: Bloomberg and Goldman Sachs Asset Management. "We" refers to Goldman Sachs Asset Management. "P/E" refers to Price to Earnings Ratio. Magnificent 7 refers to NVDA, AMZN, TSLA, META, AAPL, GOOG, and MSFT. The economic and market forecasts presented herein are for informational purposes as of the date of this presentation. There can be no assurance that the forecasts will be achieved. Past performance does not predict future returns and does not guarantee future results, which may vary. For illustrative purposes only. Please see additional disclosures at the end of this presentation.

# Other 493

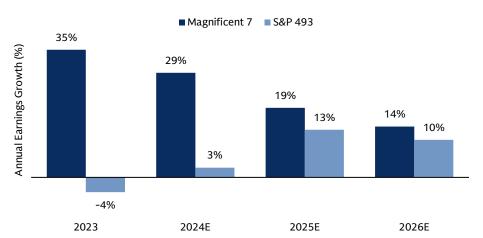
# Opportunity

- Down-in-Cap: We believe smaller cap companies may lead market broadening and "catch up" trades. From a risk perspective, small caps may provide better balance for valuation, concentration, and trade uncertainties, while an uptick in M&A could galvanize idiosyncratic opportunities. As always, selectivity is key given the wide performance differentials across small caps and sensitivity to macro factors.
- **Equal–Weight S&P 500:** Historically, the equal-weight S&P 500 (SPW) has outperformed the cap-weighted index (SPX) over 10-year horizons 78% of the time by an average of 2% annualized. Given today's high market concentration, we believe SPW has potential to outperform SPX during the next decade by a 5% annualized, especially as the earnings gap narrows.
- Private Equity: We see an increasing opportunity within private market investing as the universe of private companies grows and companies stay private for longer, generating more value while under private ownership.

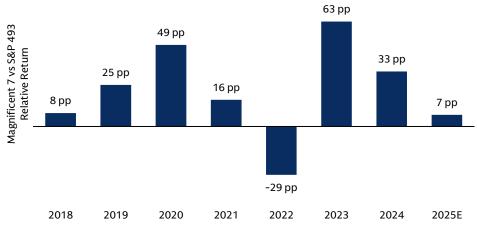
#### **Small Cap Micro-Scope**



#### Closing the Gap: Earnings



#### **Closing the Gap: Returns**



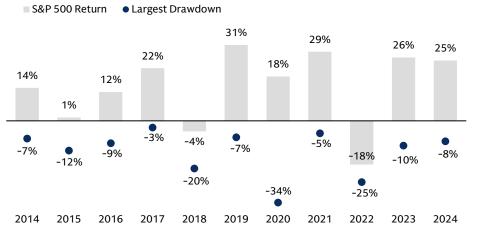
Top Right Chart: Bloomberg and Goldman Sachs Asset Management. As of October 1, 2024. Bottom Left Chart: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research and Goldman Sachs Asset Management. As of January 13, 2025. Bottom Right Chart: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research and Goldman Sachs Asset Management. As of January 13, 2025. "We" refers to Goldman Sachs Asset Management. The economic and market forecasts presented herein are for informational purposes as of the date of this presentation. There can be no assurance that the forecasts will be achieved. **Past performance does not predict future returns and does not guarantee future results, which may vary.** For illustrative purposes only. Please see additional disclosures at the end of this presentation.

# **Timing**Uncertainty

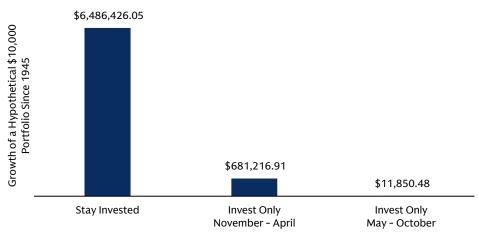
- Unknowns: It is often tempting to wait for more attractive entry points when
  the investment landscape is overcome with uncertainty. The unknowns of
  policy, inflation, valuation, concentration, geopolitics, etc. may argue for riskoff positioning, but these conditions have persisted for some time.
- Growth Amid Uncertainty: Since 4Q 2023, when yields on money market funds touched a high of 5.5%, the US economy has grown by \$1.4 trillion, S&P earnings have risen from \$241 to \$268(e), and the S&P 500 has gained ~25%.
- Blink and You'll Miss It: The largest S&P 500 pullback in 2024 was between July 16 and August 5, declining -8.5%. Most of the loss was fully recovered over the next 10 days. Absent a material shift in macro economic conditions and earnings momentum, we would favor staying strategically patient.

Limited Pullbacks							
S&P 500 Daily Price Δ (days)	± 1%	± 2%	± 3%	± 4%	± 5%		
Avg	62	17	7	3	2		
Bear Market Avg	87	31	13	7	3		
2022	122	46	12	3	1		
2023	64	2	0	0	0		
2024	49	7	0	0	0		

#### **Recent Pullbacks May Be Short-Lived**



#### More Powerful Than Seasonals: Patience and Compounding

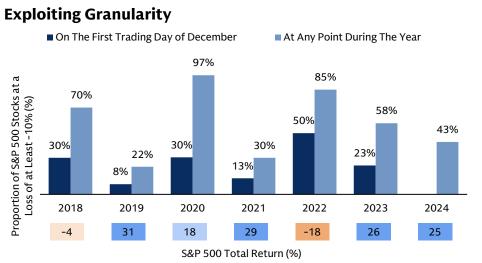


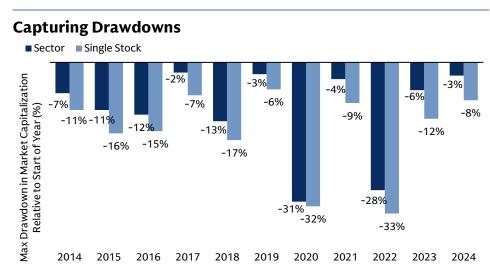
Top Right Chart: Bloomberg and Goldman Sachs Asset Management. As of December 31, 2024. Bottom Left Chart: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research and Goldman Sachs Asset Management. As of January 13, 2025. Bottom Right Chart: Bloomberg and Goldman Sachs Asset Management. As of January 6, 2025. "We" refers to Goldman Sachs Asset Management. The economic and market forecasts presented herein are for informational purposes as of the date of this presentation. There can be no assurance that the forecasts will be achieved. **Past performance does not predict future returns and does not guarantee future results, which may vary.** For illustrative purposes only. Please see additional disclosures at the end of this presentation.

# Timing Opportunity

**Balancing Act:** Much of investing is solving problems within the framework of time horizon, risk tolerance, total return objective, and cash flow requirements. Behaviorally, most investors are risk averse, where not losing money can be 2x-10x more important than making money. Consequently, many investors will be chased to the sidelines during pockets of uncertainty (losses) only to remain there as opportunity (gains) unfolds. In our view, there are several strategies that parley losses into opportunity. Once such approach is tax-aware direct indexing.

- It Happens: Over the last 10 years, 188 S&P 500 stocks have on average declined during the calendar year. But, these losses are often hidden inside of aggregate benchmarks that generate overall positive total returns over the same period. Direct Indexing provides a structure where reliably predictable losses from volatility and dispersion are systematically harvested, ultimately increasing after-tax returns by offsetting capital gains.
- Less is More: Yes, we dislike losses, but they are a reality of risk-taking. The discipline of actively realizing losses effectively raises after-tax total returns by providing an offset to capital gains. We call this benefit "tax alpha" and it is one of the most reliable strategies to improve the bottom line. While there a many ways to implement, we believe the optimal approach toward securing "tax alpha" is with individual stocks rather than sectors, and by periodically injecting incremental cash to the portfolio.





Bottom Left Chart: Bloomberg and Goldman Sachs Asset Management. As of December 31, 2024. Bottom Right Chart: Bloomberg and Goldman Sachs Asset Management. As of September 1, 2024. "We" refers to Goldman Sachs Asset Management. The economic and market forecasts presented herein are for informational purposes as of the date of this presentation. There can be no assurance that the forecasts will be achieved. Goldman Sachs does not provide accounting, tax, or legal advice. **Past performance does not predict future returns and does not guarantee future results, which may vary.** For illustrative purposes only. Please see additional disclosures at the end of this presentation.

# **PIVOT Solutions**

We think the macro backdrop will remain supportive for risk assets, but attention to policy, inflation, valuation, concentration, and timing is warranted. As such, we think investors should remain strategically deployed but also pivot to strategies that may address prevailing uncertainties.

# **Policy**

- Down in Cap
- Liquid Alternatives
- · Dynamic Fixed Income
- · Call-Writing

# Inflation

- Real Assets
- Equal-Weight S&P 500
- · Private Real Estate
- Private Infrastructure

# **Valuation**

- Fixed Income
- · International Equity
- Down in Cap

# Other 493

- Down in Cap
- Equal-Weight S&P 500
- · Private Equity
- Direct Indexing

# **Timing**

- Direct Indexing
- Equity Income
- Alternatives

As of January 21, 2025. "We" refers to Goldman Sachs Asset Management. Goldman Sachs does not provide accounting, tax, or legal advice. Past performance does not predict future returns and does not guarantee future results, which may vary. For illustrative purposes only. Please see additional disclosures at the end of this presentation.

# Glossary

#### **Additional Notes**

Page 2 Notes: "Fed" refers to Federal Reserve. "GIR" refers to Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research. "GDP" refers to Gross Domestic Product. "Core PCE" refers to Personal Consumption Expenditures, excluding food and energy. "UST" refers to US Treasury.

Page 3 Notes: "EV" refers to electric vehicles. Bottom right chart shows the potential impact to Federal debt held by the public as a percentage of GDP from a 1pp increase or decrease in borrowing costs from the CBO's baseline projection until 2040.

Page 6 Notes: "Al" refers to Artificial Intelligence. Private Infrastructure refers to EDHEC infra300, Private Real Estate refers to NFI-ODCE, Public Equities refers to S&P 500, Public Fixed Income refers to Bloomberg Barclays. Annualized returns calculated from quarterly returns. Indices are unmanaged and do not include fees. Private infrastructure is not traded on an exchange and will have less liquidity than public entities. Starting from April 2000 due to data availability for private infrastructure.

Page 7 Notes: "Shiller" refers to Robert Shiller. "CAPE" refers to Cyclically Adjusted Price to Earnings Ratio.

Page 8 Notes: Top Right Chart shows the 10-Year US Treasury Note's 20-year relative percentile across three characteristics on November 9, 2020 and November 9, 2023. The first characteristic is the security's yield. The second characteristic is the illustrative distribution of total returns if the 10-Year interest rate moves 1pp higher and 1pp lower. The illustrative total return in the case of a 1pp increase in the interest rate is calculated by adding the 10-Year US Treasury Note's yield to its respective modified duration price impact of a 1pp decrease in interest rates. The illustrative total return in the case of a 1pp decrease in the interest rate is calculated by adding the 10-Year US Treasury Note's yield to its respective modified duration price impact of a 1pp decrease in interest rates. The distribution of total returns is calculated by dividing those two figures. The third characteristic is the ability of a 10-Year US Treasury Note to hedge an equity market drawdown via price appreciation assuming interest rates fall to 0%. This is calculated by multiplying the yield of a 10-Year US Treasury Note by its modified duration. Goldman Sachs Asset Management's and Bloomberg's products are not related, and Bloomberg has not endorsed either Goldman Sachs Asset Management or its products. Bottom left chart shows next 12-month P/E ratio from January 2015 to the current period. 12m forward P/E(x) refers to price-to-earnings ratio for the next 12 months, which is a valuation measure applied to respective broad equity indices.

Page 10 Notes: Top right chart shows 12-month forward returns of the median unprofitable vs profitable Russell 2000 company, indexed to 100 since 2013 on an annual rolling basis. Profitable vs unprofitable refers to companies with a net income greater than zero or less than zero, respectively.

Page 11 Notes: Bottom right chart shows growth of three hypothetical \$10,000 portfolios from 1945-2025, one that stays invested for the entirety of each year throughout the period, one that invests only from November to April (the period of best performance) of each year, and one that invests only from May to October (the period of worst performance) of each year.

#### **Equities**

The S&P 500 Index is the Standard & Poor's 500 Composite Stock Prices Index of 500 stocks, an unmanaged index of common stock prices. The index figures do not reflect any deduction for fees, expenses or taxes. It is not possible to invest directly in an unmanaged index.

The Euro Stoxx 600 Index represents the performance of 600 publicly-traded companies based in one of 18 EU countries.

The TOPIX Index is a free-float adjusted market capitalization-weighted index that is calculated based on all the domestic common stocks listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange First Section.

The MSCI Asia Pacific ex-Japan Index captures large and mid cap representation across 4 of 5 Developed Markets countries (ex Japan) and 9 Emerging Markets countries in the Asia Pacific region.

The MSCI World Index captures large and mid-cap representation across 23 Developed Markets (DM) countries\*. With 1,397 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

#### Fixed Income

The 10-Year Treasury is a US Treasury debt obligation that has a maturity of 10 years.

The Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index measures the performance of investment grade, U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed rate taxable bond market, including Treasuries, government-related and corporate securities, MBS (agency fixed-rate and hybrid ARM pass-throughs), ABS, and CMBS.

The Bloomberg Municipal Bond Index tracks the market for tax-exempt municipal securities in the US.

#### Other

Euro Area refers to the Eurozone. The Eurozone is comprised of Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Spain.

Volatility is a measure of variation of a financial instrument's price.

# Risk Considerations and General Disclosures

#### **Risk Considerations**

Equity securities are more volatile than fixed income securities and subject to greater risks. Small and mid-sized company stocks involve greater risks than those customarily associated with larger companies. Investments in foreign securities entail special risks such as currency, political, economic, and market risks. These risks are heightened in emerging markets.

Emerging markets securities may be less liquid and more volatile and are subject to a number of additional risks, including but not limited to currency fluctuations and political instability.

An investment in real estate securities is subject to greater price volatility and the special risks associated with direct ownership of real estate.

Investments in fixed-income securities are subject to credit and interest rate risks. Bond prices fluctuate inversely to changes in interest rates. Therefore, a general rise in interest rates can result in the decline in the bond's price. Credit risk is the risk that an issuer will default on payments of interest and principal. This risk is higher when investing in high yield bonds, also known as junk bonds, which have lower ratings and are subject to greater volatility. All fixed income investments may be worth less than their original cost upon redemption or maturity.

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Bonds are subject to interest rate, price and credit risks. Prices tend to be inversely affected by changes in interest rates.

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