# **Asset Allocation Changes**

## SEI Strategic Portfolios

Second Quarter 2018



SEI's target strategic asset allocations are based on our long-term expectations for the global markets and are derived from our capital market assumptions. In the short-term, we may over- or underweight these positions as part of our strategic asset allocation, which aims to take advantage of short-term market opportunities.

Changes were made to the target active asset allocations of the SEI Strategic Portfolios (the Funds) in the second quarter:

- Closed the European equity overweight and corresponding US large-company equity underweight in the Core, Balanced, Growth and Aggressive Funds
- Increased long commodity exposure in the Defensive, Conservative, Moderate, Core, Balanced and Growth Funds

#### Rationale

## Closed European Equity Overweight and Corresponding US Large-Company Underweight

- Our original thesis rested on attractive valuations, earnings momentum, leveraged exposure to the global economic recovery and a reduction in political risks following the 2017 French election.
- While European equity markets remain cheap compared to the US, recent softness in both leading economic data
  and corporate earnings revisions have raised concerns over the short-term outlook. In addition, US fiscal stimulus has
  not only impacted forward US earnings to a significant degree, but also has the potential to spur additional stock
  buyback activity, which already dwarfs European share repurchases.
- Finally, while we do not expect a full-blown trade war, we do expect continued heated rhetoric as the US
  administration attempts to set a hard-line tone. While Europe and the US may have more modest economic ties,
  European equity markets remain significantly more exposed; therefore, we think they are likely to underperform on
  heightened trade uncertainty.

## **Increased Long Commodity Exposure**

- We remain confident in the coordinated global economic expansion which, despite its later-stage nature in developed
  markets, should continue thanks to fiscal stimulus in the US and still-easy monetary policies in Europe and Japan.
  Although emerging markets have lagged the developed world in this cycle, recoveries in those economies could also
  add to the current demand tailwind for commodities. On the supply side, capital investment has fallen notably in
  commodity-related sectors. We expect this dynamic of strong demand growth and reduced short-term supply across
  many commodities to continue in the near-to-intermediate term.
- The broad and persistent presence of backwardation (or the market condition where current pricing exceeds the
  expected future pricing) supports our view of stronger demand exceeding current supply levels. This condition
  provides the added potential benefit of receiving an extra premium for maintaining long commodity exposure,
  assuming all else is equal.
- In an environment of high equity valuations and low bond yields, commodities can provide significant diversification benefits. In fact, late-market cycles typically experience high correlations between stocks and nominal bonds as economic growth fuels inflationary pressures which erode the value of nominal cash flows. This may be especially pertinent in the US, where substantial fiscal stimulus has been implemented despite an economy that may already be at full employment. Commodities typically benefit in those economic scenarios and therefore display a favourable correlation profile relative to both stocks and nominal bonds.

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• Commodities may also benefit from geopolitical shocks, such as trade conflicts, the recent scuttling of the West's nuclear deal with Iran, intensifying military conflict in the Middle East and other risks that could negatively impact oil supplies and accelerate broader inflationary pressures.

The following tables provide a comparison of the Funds' target active weights relative to their strategic (long-term, neutral target) weights as at 30 June 2018:

|                              | Defensive     |             | Conser        | vative      | Moderate      |             |  |
|------------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|--|
|                              | Strategic (%) | Current (%) | Strategic (%) | Current (%) | Strategic (%) | Current (%) |  |
| Equities                     |               |             |               |             |               |             |  |
| Global Managed Volatility    | 7.30%         | 7.30%       | 16.80%        | 16.80%      | 23.56%        | 23.56%      |  |
| Global Developed             |               |             |               |             |               |             |  |
| UK                           |               |             | 4.20%         | 4.20%       | 10.70%        | 10.70%      |  |
| Europe                       |               |             |               |             |               |             |  |
| Pan European Small Companies |               |             |               |             |               |             |  |
| US Large Companies           |               |             |               |             |               |             |  |
| US Small Companies           |               |             |               |             |               |             |  |
| Factor Allocation US Equity  |               |             |               |             |               |             |  |
| Japan                        |               |             |               |             |               |             |  |
| Pacific Basin ex-Japan       |               |             |               |             |               |             |  |
| Emerging Markets             |               |             |               |             |               |             |  |
| Fixed Interest               |               |             |               |             |               |             |  |
| Emerging Markets             |               | 2.00%       |               | 2.00%       | 2.10%         | 5.10%       |  |
| High Yield***                | 5.00%         | 3.00%       | 6.20%         | 4.20%       | 7.48%         | 4.48%       |  |
| Global Credit                | 3.00%         | 3.00%       | 3.10%         | 3.10%       | 4.20%         | 4.20%       |  |
| Global Government            | 3.00%         | 3.00%       | 3.10%         | 3.10%       | 4.20%         | 4.20%       |  |
| Global Short Duration        | 19.00%        | 19.00%      | 15.40%        | 15.40%      | 15.61%        | 15.61%      |  |
| Global Short Term            | 19.00%        | 19.00%      | 15.40%        | 15.40%      | 5.75%         | 5.60%       |  |
| UK                           | 6.10%         | 6.10%       | 8.20%         | 8.20%       | 10.60%        | 10.60%      |  |
| Income                       |               |             |               |             |               |             |  |
| Multi-Asset Income           | 5.10%         | 5.10%       | 7.20%         | 7.20%       | 5.30%         | 5.30%       |  |
| Inflation Sensitive          |               |             |               |             |               |             |  |
| Inflation-Linked Bonds       | 2.00%         | 2.00%       | 2.10%         | 2.10%       | 2.10%         | 2.10%       |  |
| Commodities                  | 2.00%         | 2.50%       | 3.00%         | 3.50%       | 3.00%         | 4.00%       |  |
| Absolute Return              |               |             |               |             |               |             |  |
| Liquid Alternatives          | 1.00%         | 1.00%       | 3.00%         | 3.00%       | 4.30%         | 4.30%       |  |
| Liquidity                    |               |             |               |             |               |             |  |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents    | 27.50%        | 27.00%      | 12.30%        | 11.80%      | 1.10%         | 0.25%       |  |
| Currency                     |               |             |               |             |               |             |  |
| GBP                          |               | 2.00%       |               | 2.00%       |               | 3.00%       |  |
| USD                          |               | -2.00%      |               | -2.00%      |               | -3.00%      |  |

A blue-shaded cell (white font) represents an overweight position; a grey-shaded cell (black font) represents an underweight position versus the strategic weight. Figures shown represent the total target active weight (i.e. strategic weight +/- overweight/underweight).

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<sup>\*\*</sup>Obtained by investing in a hedged sterling-denominated share class of the SEI Japan Equity Fund combined with a long US dollar/short sterling currency forward designed to neutralise unintended currency effects.

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|                              | Core          |             | Balanced      |             | Growth        |             | Aggressive    |             |
|------------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
|                              | Strategic (%) | Current (%) |
| Equities                     |               |             |               |             |               |             |               |             |
| Global Managed Volatility    |               |             |               |             |               |             |               |             |
| Global Equity                | 7.40%         | 7.40%       | 8.10%         | 8.10%       | 10.00%        | 10.00%      | 13.00%        | 13.00%      |
| UK                           | 17.90%        | 17.90%      | 24.30%        | 24.30%      | 31.00%        | 31.00%      | 38.75%        | 38.75%      |
| Europe                       | 3.20%         | 3.20%       | 3.00%         | 3.00%       | 4.00%         | 4.00%       | 5.00%         | 5.00%       |
| Pan European Small Companies | 1.00%         | 1.00%       | 2.00%         | 2.00%       | 3.00%         | 3.00%       | 3.00%         | 3.00%       |
| US Large Companies           | 5.90%         | 4.40%       | 5.30%         | 3.80%       | 6.40%         | 4.15%       | 7.60%         | 5.35%       |
| US Small Companies           | 0.40%         | 0.40%       | 2.30%         | 2.30%       | 3.10%         | 3.10%       | 3.90%         | 3.90%       |
| Factor Allocation US Equity  | 6.40%         | 6.40%       | 7.60%         | 7.60%       | 9.50%         | 9.50%       | 11.50%        | 11.50%      |
| Japan                        | 2.10%         | 2.10%       | 3.00%         | 3.00%       | 3.00%         | 3.00%       | 4.00%         | 4.00%       |
| Japan Hedged**               |               | 1.50%       |               | 1.50%       |               | 2.25%       |               | 2.25%       |
| Pacific Basin ex-Japan       | 1.00%         | 1.00%       | 2.00%         | 2.00%       | 2.00%         | 2.00%       | 3.00%         | 3.00%       |
| Emerging Markets             | 2.10%         | 2.10%       | 5.10%         | 5.10%       | 8.00%         | 8.00%       | 10.00%        | 10.00%      |
| Fixed Interest               |               |             |               |             |               |             |               |             |
| Emerging Markets             | 3.30%         | 7.30%       | 5.20%         | 9.20%       | 6.00%         | 11.00%      |               |             |
| High Yield***                | 7.70%         | 3.70%       | 6.30%         | 2.30%       | 6.00%         | 1.00%       |               |             |
| Global Credit                | 5.40%         | 5.40%       | 3.10%         | 3.10%       | 2.00%         | 1.50%       |               |             |
| Global Government            | 5.40%         | 5.40%       | 4.20%         | 4.20%       | 1.75%         | 1.25%       |               |             |
| Global Short Duration        | 2.70%         | 2.70%       | 1.05%         | 1.05%       |               |             |               |             |
| Global Short Term            | 2.70%         | 2.30%       | 1.05%         | 0.55%       |               |             |               |             |
| UK                           | 13.00%        | 13.00%      | 6.20%         | 6.20%       |               |             |               |             |
| Income                       |               |             |               |             |               |             |               |             |
| Multi-Asset Income           | 3.10%         | 3.10%       | 2.10%         | 2.10%       |               |             |               |             |
| Inflation Sensitive          |               |             |               |             |               |             |               |             |
| Inflation-Linked Bonds       | 2.20%         | 2.20%       | 2.10%         | 2.10%       | 2.00%         | 2.00%       |               |             |
| Commodities                  | 4.00%         | 5.25%       | 3.00%         | 4.25%       | 2.00%         | 3.00%       |               |             |
| Absolute Return              |               |             |               |             |               |             |               |             |
| Liquid Alternatives          | 2.00%         | 2.00%       | 2.00%         | 2.00%       |               |             |               |             |
| Liquidity                    |               |             |               |             |               |             |               |             |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents    | 1.10%         | 0.25%       | 1.00%         | 0.25%       | 0.25%         | 0.25%       | 0.25%         | 0.25%       |
| Currency                     |               |             |               |             |               |             |               |             |
| GBP                          |               | 2.50%       |               | 2.50%       |               | 2.75%       |               | -2.25%      |
| USD                          |               | -2.50%      |               | -2.50%      |               | -2.75%      |               | 2.25%       |

<sup>\*\*</sup>Obtained by investing in a hedged sterling-denominated share class of the SEI Japan Equity Fund combined with a long US dollar/short sterling currency forward designed to neutralise unintended currency effects.

#### **Fund Risks**

The investment risks described below are not exhaustive and potential investors should carefully review the Prospectus prior to investing. Diversification does not ensure a profit or guarantee against a loss. The risks described below may apply to the underlying assets of the products into which they invest.

- o Investment in equity securities in general are subject to market risks that may cause their prices to fluctuate over time.
- Fixed income securities are subject to credit risk and may also be subject to price volatility and may be sensitive to interest rate fluctuations.
- Absolute return investments utilise aggressive investment techniques which may increase the volatility of returns. If the correlation between absolute return investments and other asset classes within the fund increases, absolute return investments' expected diversification benefits may be decreased.

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<sup>\*\*\*</sup>Obtained by investing in a hedged sterling-denominated share class of the SEI High-Yield Fixed Income Fund combined with a long US dollar/short sterling currency forward designed to neutralise unintended currency effects.

#### Glossary

**Hedging:** Hedging is an investment technique that attempts to limit potential losses due to swings in market value (price changes) of stocks, bonds, commodities or currencies. This is generally achieved by purchasing equally weighted and opposite exposure in two different markets.

Long Position: A long position is positioning to gain from future strength of a particular security or currency.

**Nominal bonds:** A nominal bond is a bond that makes payments of a fixed amount, rather than a fixed real (inflation-adjusted) value.

**Short Position**: A short position is positioning to gain from future weakness of a particular security or currency.

## **Important Information**

The SEI Strategic Portfolios are a series of the SEI Funds and may invest in a combination of other SEI and Third-Party Funds as well as in additional manager pools based on asset classes. These manager pools are pools of assets from the respective Strategic Portfolio separately managed by Portfolio Managers which are monitored by SEI. One cannot directly invest in these manager pools.

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The risks described below may apply to the underlying assets of the products into which the Strategic Portfolios invest:

- >> Investment in equity securities in general are subject to market risks that may cause their prices to fluctuate over time.
- >> Fixed-income securities are subject to credit risk and may also be subject to price volatility and may be sensitive to interest rate fluctuations.
- » Absolute return investments utilise aggressive investment techniques which may increase the volatility of returns. If the correlation between absolute return investments and other asset classes within the fund increases, absolute return investments' expected diversification benefits may be decreased.
- >> International investments may involve risk of capital loss from unfavourable fluctuation in currency values, from differences in generally accepted accounting principles or from economic or political instability in other nations.

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