WESTEND Advisors
A VICTORY CAPITAL® INVESTMENT FRANCHISE

# U.S. Sector Strategy

**Q3 2026**

***Macro Drives Markets. WestEnd Knows Macro.***

## Strategy Objective

The U.S. Sector strategy seeks to provide long-term capital appreciation, while sector avoidance and active allocations help mitigate volatility. The strategy combines high-conviction active management with the diversification of low-cost, passive ETFs.

**Inception Date:** January 2013
Top-down approach since 1996

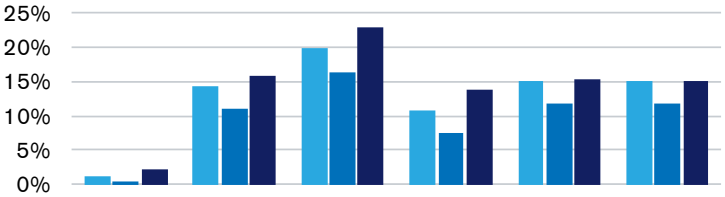
**Focus:** U.S. large-cap equity

**Investments:** Long-only, sector-based equity ETFs from leading U.S. providers; no use of leverage, derivatives, or options

**Risk Mitigation:** Manage downside capture through active U.S. sector avoidance

**Tax efficiency:** Low average annual turnover/long-term holding periods

## INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE*




| | Q3 2026 | 1 Year | 3 Years | 5 Years | 10 Years | Inception |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| U.S. Sector, Gross | 1.18% | 14.26% | 19.85% | 10.67% | 15.07% | 15.17% |
| U.S. Sector, Net | 0.42% | 10.91% | 16.36% | 7.42% | 11.69% | 11.79% |
| S&P 500 | 2.30% | 15.74% | 22.89% | 13.79% | 15.33% | 15.03% |

*Returns for periods greater than one year are annualized.*
*Source: Archer IMS, IDC, WestEnd Advisors*

WestEnd Advisors claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®)

## RISK AND RETURN SUMMARY*

| | Trailing 5 Years | | | Trailing 10 Years | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | U.S. Sector | | | U.S. Sector | | |
| | Gross | Net | S&P 500 | Gross | Net | S&P 500 |
| Return | 10.67% | 7.42% | 13.79% | 15.07% | 11.69% | 15.33% |
| Standard Deviation | 14.60% | 14.53% | 15.13% | 14.93% | 14.85% | 16.08% |
| Alpha | -2.68% | -5.89% | n/a | 0.92% | -2.40% | n/a |
| Beta | 0.96 | 0.95 | 1.00 | 0.91 | 0.90 | 1.00 |
| Sharpe Ratio | 0.47 | 0.25 | 0.66 | 0.85 | 0.62 | 0.80 |
| R-Squared | 98.2% | 98.2% | n/a | 95.9% | 95.9% | n/a |
| Tracking Error | 2.05% | 2.07% | n/a | 3.37% | 3.39% | n/a |
| Upside Capture | 85.9% | 75.0% | 100.0% | 93.9% | 82.4% | 100.0% |
| Downside Capture | 102.1% | 112.1% | 100.0% | 89.6% | 97.4% | 100.0% |

*Source: Archer IMS, IDC, WestEnd Advisors*

## SHORT-TERM VARIABILITY, LONG-TERM CONSISTENCY*

| U.S. Sector vs. S&P 500 | | 1-Year Rolling | 3-year Rolling | 5-year Rolling |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of rolling periods | | 52 | 44 | 36 |
| Periods of outperformance | *Gross* | 26 | 23 | 26 |
| | *Net* | 11 | 7 | 0 |
| Percent of periods outperformed | *Gross* | 50% | 52% | 72% |
| | *Net* | 21% | 16% | 0% |
| Avg. period relative performance (annualized) | *Gross* | 0.28 ppts | 0.36 ppts | 0.67 ppts |
| | *Net* | -3.10 ppts | -2.99 ppts | -2.67 ppts |

*Source: Archer IMS, IDC, WestEnd Advisors*

## PORTFOLIO COMPOSITION

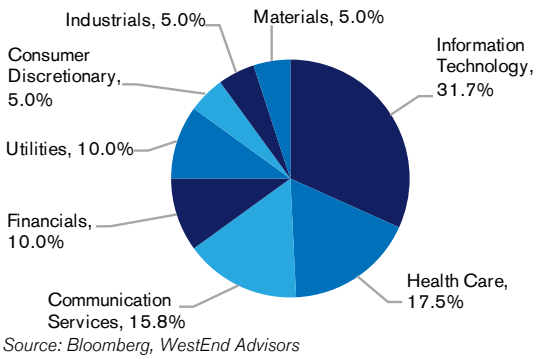
| | |
|---|---|
| Number of Holdings | 4 to 6 on average |
| Maximum Sector Exposure | 35% at cost |
| Target Cash Position | 1% to 5% |
| Annual Turnover Range | 15% to 47%** |

## MODEL PORTFOLIO WEIGHTS

| Equity Sectors | |
|---|---|
| Information Technology | 31.7% |
| Health Care | 17.5% |
| Communication Services | 15.8% |
| Financials | 10.0% |
| Utilities | 10.0% |
| Consumer Discretionary | 5.0% |
| Industrials | 5.0% |
| Materials | 5.0% |

*Source: Bloomberg, WestEnd Advisors*

## CURRENT MODEL ALLOCATION




*Source: Bloomberg, WestEnd Advisors*

** Based on U.S. Sector Composite as of 9/30/2026. Net performance reflects the deduction of an assumed 3.00% annual fee. See Footnotes and Disclosures on page 4 for additional information.*
***Based on 5 years ended 12/31/25*



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## PORTFOLIO POSITIONING as of 9/30/2026

- We are positioned for ongoing expansion, with a mix of early- and mid-phase sectors that we believe provides an appropriate level of economic sensitivity and exposure to positive secular trends, while adjusting exposures for evolving risks and opportunities we see ahead.
- We maintain significant tech-related sector exposures along with Transportation industry and the Materials sector, but we are still avoiding some of the most cyclical early-phase sectors.
- We have reduced Financials exposure and continue to underweight consumer-facing exposure including avoidance of the Consumer Staples sector, where we see increasing headwinds.
- We maintain modest overweights of the late-phase Health Care and Utilities sectors, which we believe have appealing fundamentals and can also outperform if growth slows.

## Q3 2026 ATTRIBUTION

### Positive Contributors

| | |
|---|---|
| **Overweight** | Health Care |
| **Underweight** | Industrials<br>Consumer Discretionary |

### Negative Contributors

| | |
|---|---|
| **Overweight** | Utilities |
| **Underweight** | Information Technology<br>Energy |

*Source: Bloomberg, WestEnd Advisors*

## HISTORICAL RETURNS*

| | U.S. Sector Composite | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Gross | Net | S&P 500 |
| 2026 YTD | 11.30% | 8.85% | 12.75% |
| 2025 | 17.18% | 13.76% | 17.88% |
| 2024 | 20.03% | 16.53% | 25.02% |
| 2023 | 22.25% | 18.69% | 26.29% |
| 2022 | -20.51% | -22.91% | -18.11% |
| 2021 | 29.88% | 26.12% | 28.71% |
| 2020 | 27.29% | 23.59% | 18.40% |
| 2019 | 31.29% | 27.49% | 31.49% |
| 2018 | -0.69% | -3.63% | -4.38% |
| 2017 | 25.08% | 21.45% | 21.83% |
| 2016 | 3.88% | 0.82% | 11.96% |
| 2015 | 7.06% | 3.91% | 1.38% |
| 2014 | 16.45% | 13.04% | 13.69% |
| 2013 | 31.16% | 27.37% | 32.39% |

*Source: Archer IMS, IDC, WestEnd Advisors*

## CURRENT HOLDINGS

### Equity Sector ETFs

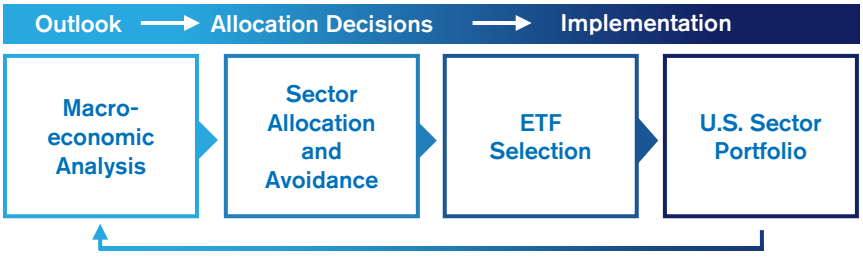
| | |
|---|---|
| Communication Services Select Sector SPDR ETF | XLC |
| Consumer Discretionary Select Sector SPDR ETF | XLY |
| Financials Select Sector SPDR ETF | XLF |
| Health Care Select Sector SPDR ETF | XLV |
| iShares Biotechnology ETF | IBB |
| iShares Expanded Tech Sector ETF | IGM |
| iShares Transportation Average ETF | IYT |
| Materials Select Sector SPDR ETF | XLB |
| Technology Select Sector SPDR ETF | XLK |
| Utilities Select Sector SPDR ETF | XLU |

## INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT TEAM

| | |
|---|---|
| **Fritz Porter, CFA** | Co-CIO, Portfolio Manager<br>27 years of experience<br>18 years at WestEnd Advisors |
| **Ty Peebles, CFA** | Co-CIO, Portfolio Manager<br>16 years of experience<br>12 years at WestEnd Advisors |
| **Ned Durden** | CIS, Portfolio Manager<br>29 years of experience<br>20 years at WestEnd Advisors |
| **Jacob Buchanan, CFA** | Portfolio Manager<br>10 years of experience<br>9 years at WestEnd Advisors |

## U.S. SECTOR INVESTMENT PROCESS

We begin the investment process by aggregating more than 200 domestic and international economic measures into a proprietary database. We then evaluate the data to identify areas of economic strength and weakness in the economy and U.S. equity markets, and invest in typically 4 to 6 equity ETFs from leading providers.




*For illustrative purposes only.*

** Based on U.S. Sector Composite as of 9/30/2026. Net performance reflects the deduction of an assumed 3.00% annual fee. See Footnotes and Disclosures on page 4 for additional information.*

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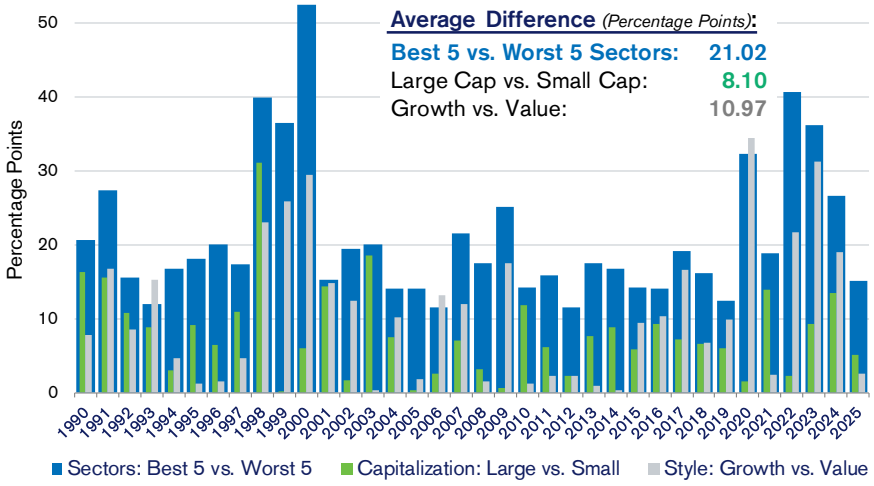
## THE IMPORTANCE OF SECTOR ALLOCATION

The path of economic growth is a key driver of U.S. equity sector performance. The investment team analyzes recurring cyclical trends and identifies the characteristics particular to the current economic cycle. Portfolios are typically invested in four to six large-cap U.S. sectors at any one time based on our macroeconomic outlook, but may be invested in more or fewer sectors as conditions warrant.

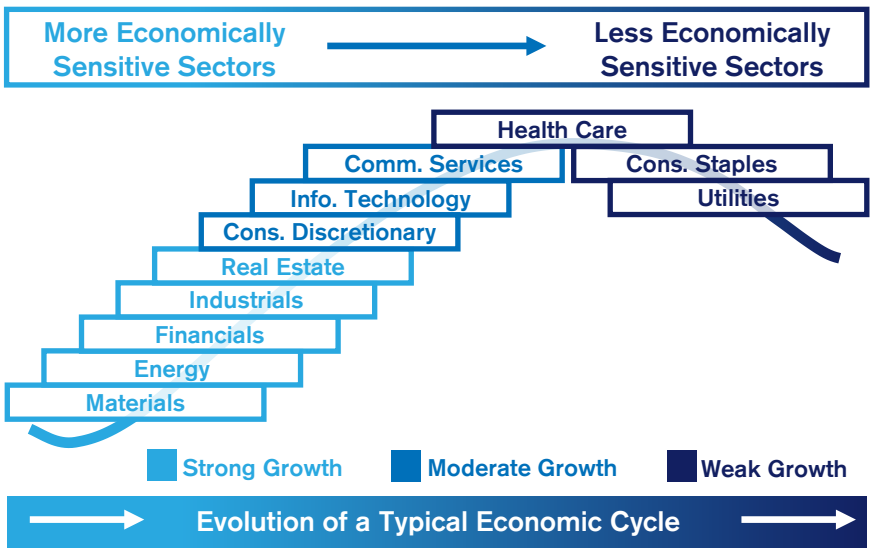
## RANGE OF RETURNS BY SECTOR, CAPITALIZATION, AND STYLE *




*Source: Bloomberg, WestEnd Advisors*

Owning the right sectors at the right time and avoiding those not in their ideal economic environment offers significantly more opportunity for outperformance, in our view, than allocating to the right equity style or market capitalization range.

WestEnd actively positions client portfolios in more economically-sensitive sectors when it expects strong growth, and transitions to less economically-sensitive sectors as growth expectations wane.




*For illustrative purposes only.*

** Sector performance is represented by sectors of the S&P 500® Index. "Large Cap" is represented by the S&P 500® Index. "Small Cap" is represented by the Russell 2000® Index. "Growth" is represented by the Russell 1000® Growth Index. "Value" is represented by the Russell 1000® Value Index. Data for 2016 excludes Real Estate as a stand-alone sector, which was included in Financials until September 16, 2016. Data for 2018 replaces the Telecommunication Services Sector with the new Communication Services Sector after September 21, 2018, using geometrically-linked total returns to produce a single full-year return, and treats the linked returns as a single sector, due to changes in GICS sector classifications and index rebalancing that occurred as of market close on September 21, 2018.*

## FOOTNOTES AND DISCLOSURES

WestEnd Advisors ("WestEnd") operates as an autonomous investment franchise of Victory Capital Management Inc. ("VCM"), an SEC-registered investment adviser. WestEnd's active principals are responsible for managing the firm and its day-to-day operations. Registration of an investment adviser does not imply any level of skill or training. WestEnd manages portfolios of equity securities, ETFs, and mutual funds for individual, institutional and wrap clients.

WestEnd Advisors' U.S. Sector Composite includes all discretionary accounts invested in the U.S. Sector model except for portfolios managed by WestEnd Advisors in a wrap-fee program. The U.S. Sector Composite creation and inception date is December 31, 2012. WestEnd Advisors' U.S. Sector Composite is invested primarily in U.S. equities. The objective of this portfolio is to provide investors a single investment vehicle with exposure to the U.S. equity Sectors and Industries. While the U.S. Sector strategy invests in U.S.-based exchange-traded funds, at times there may be limited exposure to non-U.S. investments. Returns are achieved through long-only investment in exchange traded products and without direct use of leverage or derivatives. Indirect exposure to derivatives may exist through the underlying holdings of exchange traded products. Portfolio results include cash as well as the reinvestment of dividends, interest income, and other earnings, if applicable. Portfolios are denominated in U.S. dollars only.

The performance shown is based on WestEnd Advisors' U.S. Sector Composite which includes all fully discretionary accounts invested in the U.S. Sector model except for Wrap-Fee (Wrap) and Unified Managed Account (UMA) accounts. While the accounts in the U.S. Sector Composite are invested according to the same model as Wrap and UMA accounts, performance may differ between the U.S. Sector Composite and Wrap and UMA accounts due to a variety of factors, including but not limited to: fees assessed by Wrap and UMA sponsors (e.g. wrap fees), Wrap and UMA sponsor- and client-imposed investment restrictions, and WestEnd Advisors' lack of trading discretion over UMA accounts.

Gross returns reflect the deduction of direct trading costs and the underlying expenses of investment vehicles held in the portfolio. Net performance reflects the deduction of an assumed 3.00% annual fee rate which is intended to equal or exceed the combined maximum advisory program fees and maximum investment management fees charged to advisory platform clients. This combined fee will normally include all charges for trading costs, portfolio management fees, custody and other administrative fees. Composite net returns are calculated by subtracting 1/12th of the highest applicable annual fee rate (3.00%) from the monthly gross return. Due to compounding of returns, full year net returns will typically not equal the gross return less 3%. Actual fees may vary depending on the individual sponsor's fee. Investment management fees are negotiated directly with advisory program sponsors. Fees are negotiable where circumstances warrant. Additional information on fees is provided in VCM's SEC Form ADV Part 2.

Past performance is not indicative of future results. It should not be assumed that recommendations made in the future will be profitable. The information contained herein is not intended to be an offer to provide investment advisory services. Such an offer may only be made if accompanied by VCM's SEC Form ADV Part 2.

The S&P 500® is used for comparative purposes only. The S&P 500®, our primary benchmark, includes approximately 500 stocks and is a common measure of the performance of the overall U.S. stock market. The S&P 500® Index measures the performance of 500 leading companies in the U.S. economy. The S&P 500® Index focuses on the large-cap segment of the market, with approximately 75% coverage of U.S. equities. The S&P 500® Index is designed to be an indicator of U.S. equities and is meant to reflect the risk/return characteristics of the large-cap universe. The S&P 500® Index is a market capitalization-weighted index - each stock's weight in the index is proportionate to its market capitalization. Benchmark returns are not covered by the report of independent verifiers.

A complete list and description of all WestEnd Advisors' composites, as well as a presentation that complies with the requirements of Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®), may be obtained by phone (888-500-9025) or email (info@westendadvisors.com). Policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS Reports is available upon request. GIPS® is a registered trademark of CFA Institute. CFA Institute does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contained herein.

Attribution Analysis is relative to the S&P 500® benchmark and was current as of the quarter specified in this presentation. A complete attribution report is available upon request.

The information presented herein has been gathered from sources believed to be reliable, however data is not guaranteed. Any portfolio characteristics, including position sizes and sector allocations among others, are generally averages and are for illustrative purposes only and do not reflect the investments of an actual portfolio unless otherwise noted. The investment guidelines of an actual portfolio may permit or restrict investments that are materially different in size, nature, and risk from those shown. The investment processes, research processes, or risk processes shown herein are for informational purposes to demonstrate an overview of the process. Such processes may differ by product, client mandate, or market conditions. Portfolios that are concentrated in a limited number of sectors or industries may be subject to a higher degree of volatility than a portfolio whose investments are more diversified.

Holdings, Sector Weightings, and Portfolio Characteristics were current as of the date specified in this presentation. The listing of particular securities should not be considered a recommendation to purchase or sell these securities. While these securities were among WestEnd Advisors' U.S. Sector holdings at the time this material was assembled, holdings will change over time. There can be no assurance that the securities remain in the portfolio or that other securities have not been purchased. It should not be assumed that recommendations made in the future will be profitable or will equal the performance of the securities presently in the portfolio. Individual clients' portfolios may vary. Upon request, WestEnd Advisors will provide a list of all recommendations for the prior year.

As of September 30, 2026, WestEnd Advisors had $42.8 million of assets in the U.S. Sector Composite. This information is included as supplemental information only.

October 2026