Brompton Insights

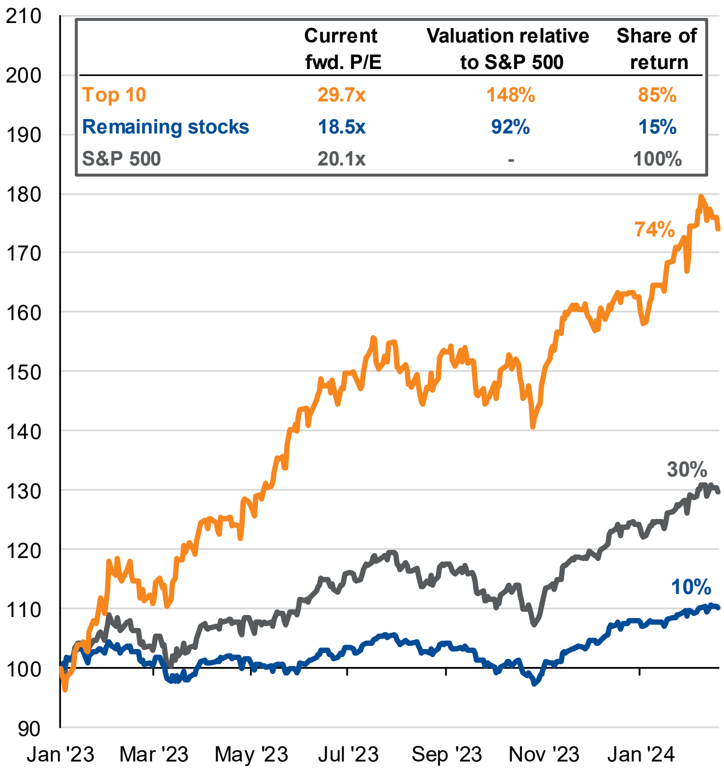
Beyond Big Tech – The Case for Diversification in 2024

February 27, 2024

Much attention has been given to the "Magnificent 7" or "big tech" stocks recently (Apple, Microsoft, Alphabet, Amazon, Nvidia, Meta, Tesla), which have dominated market performance since the start of 2023. In fact, the top ten largest stocks in the S&P 500 Index (the "Index"), which includes the Magnificent 7, accounted for 85% of the Index return from January 1, 2023 to February 20, 2024 as shown in the chart below (left). The Magnificent 7 stocks essentially drove all the profit growth in the Index in 2023, with earnings up an estimated 31% for the group compared to a 4.3% decline in earnings for the rest of the Index.[1] However, leadership is expected to broaden out in 2024 with 39% of earnings growth projected to come from the Technology sector and 61% coming from the rest of the Index.[2] While we continue to have a positive view on big tech, we believe equity market performance will broaden out in 2024 to sectors and regions that lagged in last year's rally. Broader valuations for the U.S. market, ignoring the top ten stocks, are more reasonable and global equity valuations ex-U.S., are in line with historical levels and are at an historic low relative to the Index (see chart below - right side).

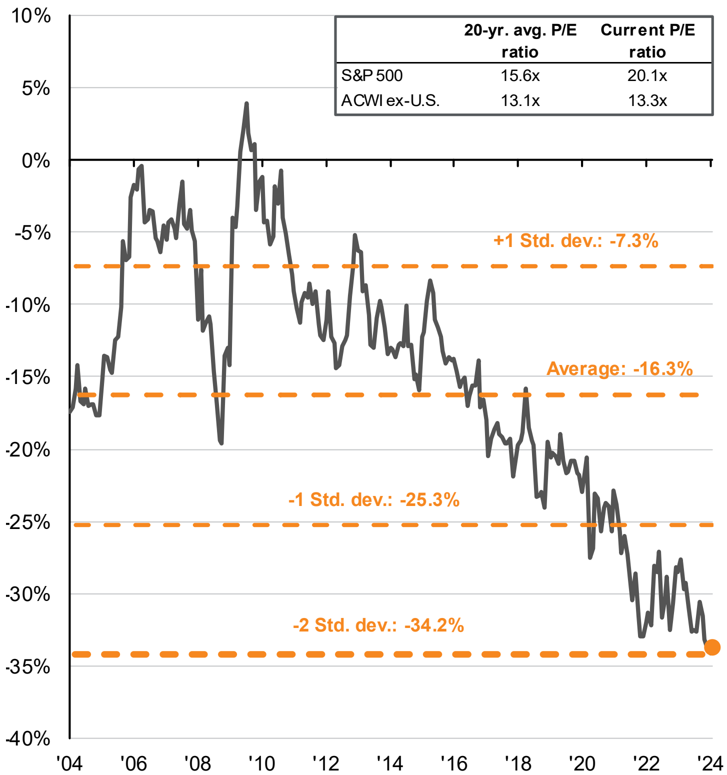
Performance of the top 10 stocks in the S&P 500

Indexed to 100 on 1/1/2023, price return, top 10 held constant



International: Price-to-earnings discount vs. U.S.

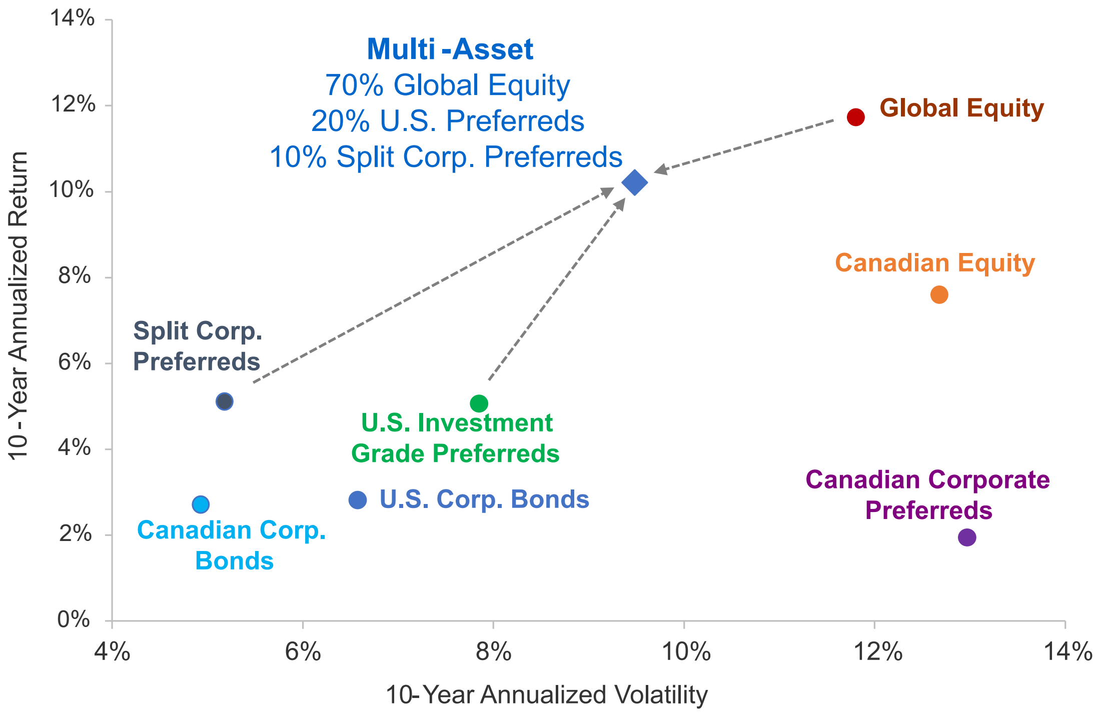
MSCI All Country World ex-U.S. vs. S&P 500, next 12 months



Source: J.P. Morgan Asset Management, as of February 20, 2024. (Left) The top 10 companies used for this analysis are held constant and represent the Index's 10 largest index constituents at the start of 2023. The top 10 stocks are: AAPL, MSFT, AMZN, NVDA, GOOGL, BRK.B, GOOG, META, XOM, UNH, and TSLA. The remaining stocks represent the rest of the 494 companies in the S&P 500.

While expectations for a soft landing and declining interest rates creates a positive backdrop for equities, risks to this outlook remain. One way investors can position for a broadening out in market participation while balancing risk is through a multi-asset approach combining global equities and fixed income. Brompton Enhanced Multi-Asset Income ETF (BMAX) offers a unique multi-asset strategy by combining global equities, diversified by sector and geography, with Split Corp. preferred shares and U.S. investment grade preferred shares. Historically, this multi-asset blend with 70% global equities and 30% U.S. and Split Corp. preferred shares has provided a favourable risk/return profile versus equities and traditional fixed income, as shown in the chart below.

Multi-Asset: Higher Risk-Adjusted Returns



Source: Morningstar, LSEG Datastream, as at January 31, 2024, Multi-Asset is based on quarterly rebalancing and is represented by: 70% MSCI World TR Index, 20% ICE BofA 8% Constrained Core West Preferred & Jr Subordinated Securities Index, and 10% Index One Split Corp. Preferred Share Index; U.S. Investment Grade Preferreds – ICE BofA 8% Constrained Core West Preferred & Jr Subordinated Securities Index; Canadian Equity – S&P/TSX Composite TR Index; Global Equity – MSCI World TR Index; Canadian Corporate Preferreds – S&P/TSX Preferred TR Index; Split Corp. Preferreds – Index One Split Corp. Preferred Share Index; U.S. Corporate Bonds – ICE BofA U.S. Corporate Index; Canadian Bonds – ICE BofA Canada Corporate Index.

Brompton Enhanced Multi-Asset Income ETF ("BMAX") offers a unique multi-asset approach by combining investments in equity ETFs, and fixed income ETFs currently focused on U.S. Investment Grade Preferred Shares and Split Corp. Preferred Shares. The equity ETFs included in the BMAX portfolio provide sector diversification and are globally diversified across major developed markets, giving investors the opportunity to benefit from the long-term growth potential of high-quality companies while reducing the concentration risk of investing in one single sector or region. Over the last three months BMAX has returned 14.6%, benefitting from strong performance broadly across sectors and stocks beyond the Magnificent 7, a trend we believe will continue in 2024.

BMAX is the first enhanced multi-asset ETF in Canada, employing a modest amount of leverage (target 33% of NAV) in order to enhance income and capital appreciation potential. This unique approach to a multi-asset solution provides investors with attractive income as well as asset class and geographic diversification in a single ETF.

			Annual Compound Returns[3]	
Name	**Ticker**	**Distribution Rate[4]**	**1-Yr**	**Since Inception**
Brompton Enhanced Multi-Asset Income ETF	BMAX	9.8%	9.9%	16.0%

(1) Source: J.P. Morgan Asset Management. "Market Cap or Equal Weight?", February 14, 2024. https://am.jpmorgan.com/us/en/asset-management/liq/insights/market-insights/market-updates/on-the-minds-of-investors/market-cap-or-equal-weight/

(2) Source: J.P. Morgan Asset Management. "1Q 2024 Guide to the Markets", as of December 31, 2023. Based on next 12 months earnings growth (the percent change in next 12-months earnings estimates compared to last 12-months earnings provided by brokers).

(3) Returns are for the periods ended January 31, 2024 and are unaudited. Inception date October 18, 2022. The table shows BMAX's compound returns for each period indicated. Past performance does not necessarily indicate how BMAX will perform in the future. The information shown is based on Net Asset Value per unit and assumes that distributions made by BMAX on its units in the period shown were reinvested at Net Asset Value per unit in additional units of BMAX.

(4) Annualized distribution rate based on January 31, 2024 closing markt price. Source: LSEG Eikon.

BROMPTON FUNDS

VALUE

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