



**QUARTERLY INVESTMENT COMMENTARY**  
**30 JUNE 2025**

**CONTRARIUS GLOBAL BALANCED FUND**  
**(AUSTRALIA REGISTERED)**

## CONTRARIUS GLOBAL BALANCED FUND (AUSTRALIA REGISTERED)

The Contrarius Global Balanced Fund (Australia Registered) (the “Fund”) aims to achieve long term returns that are higher than the benchmark 60/40 Index. In doing so, it aims to balance capital growth, income generation and risk of loss, using a mix of global assets. The Fund is an actively managed flexible asset allocation fund that may invest in global equities and equity related securities, fixed-income instruments, commodity-linked instruments and cash. The Fund has the flexibility of reducing its exposure to global equities through stock market hedging.

### CONTRARIUS GLOBAL BALANCED FUND (AUSTRALIA REGISTERED) AT 30 JUNE 2025

Total Rate of Return in Australian Dollars		Since Strategy Inception on 1 January 2009	Latest 10 Years	Latest 5 Years	Latest 3 Years	Since Fund Inception on 16 May 2023	Latest 1 Year	Latest Quarter
		% Annualised			% Not Annualised			
Contrarius Global Balanced	(Illustrative)	9.8	7.4	24.7	13.4	-	-	-
Contrarius Global Balanced	(Actual)	-	-	-	-	10.9	31.4	10.2
60/40 Index		7.9	8.4	8.7	13.2	13.9	15.5	3.3

The returns from 1 January 2009 until 15 May 2023 are illustrative and based on the performance history of the Contrarius Global Balanced Fund (Ireland) after applying the investment management fee applicable to the Retail Class. The Contrarius Global Balanced Fund (Ireland) is a sub-fund of Contrarius ICAV, a UCITS fund established as an open ended Irish Collective Asset-management Vehicle that follows the same strategy. The returns for the Retail Class from 16 May 2023 are actual returns. Fund returns are shown net of fees and assume reinvestment of distributions.

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. The Fund's share prices fluctuate and are not guaranteed. Returns may decrease and increase as a result of currency fluctuations. When making an investment in the Fund, an investor's capital is at risk.

The Fund's Retail Class shares returned 10.2% for the quarter versus 3.3% for the benchmark 60/40 Index. Our investment philosophy is not benchmark cognisant and our portfolios would normally vary materially from the benchmark. The Fund's returns are therefore likely to deviate from those of the benchmark. Given our long-term, contrarian, valuation-based investment philosophy, there will be times when the Fund will materially underperform its benchmark in the short-term in order to achieve its objective of long-term outperformance.

## ASSET ALLOCATION

At quarter-end the Fund's net share exposure was 73%, reflecting our expectation of prospective returns from the equities of the major developed markets. The Fund held higher gross share exposure which has been hedged back to reduce stock market risk using listed stock index futures. The Fund also held around 4% in fixed income instruments, 4% in commodity-linked instruments and 3% in net current assets, including cash.

## SHARES

In terms of the Fund's equity holdings, the Fund is overweight Consumer Discretionary and Communication Services stocks. The Fund is overweight stocks in Asia ex-Japan and North America.

Equity Sector Exposure 30 June 2025	Weighting (%)		Over/(Under) Weight
	Shares	MSCI World Index <sup>1</sup>	
Communication Services	25	8	16
Consumer Discretionary	30	10	19
Consumer Staples	6	6	(0)
Energy	2	3	(1)
Financials	7	17	(10)
Health Care	2	10	(8)
Industrials	1	11	(11)
Information Technology	27	26	1
Materials	1	3	(2)
Real Estate	0	2	(2)
Utilities	0	3	(3)
<b>Total Shares</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Source: MSCI (attention is drawn to MSCI disclaimer in 'Notices')

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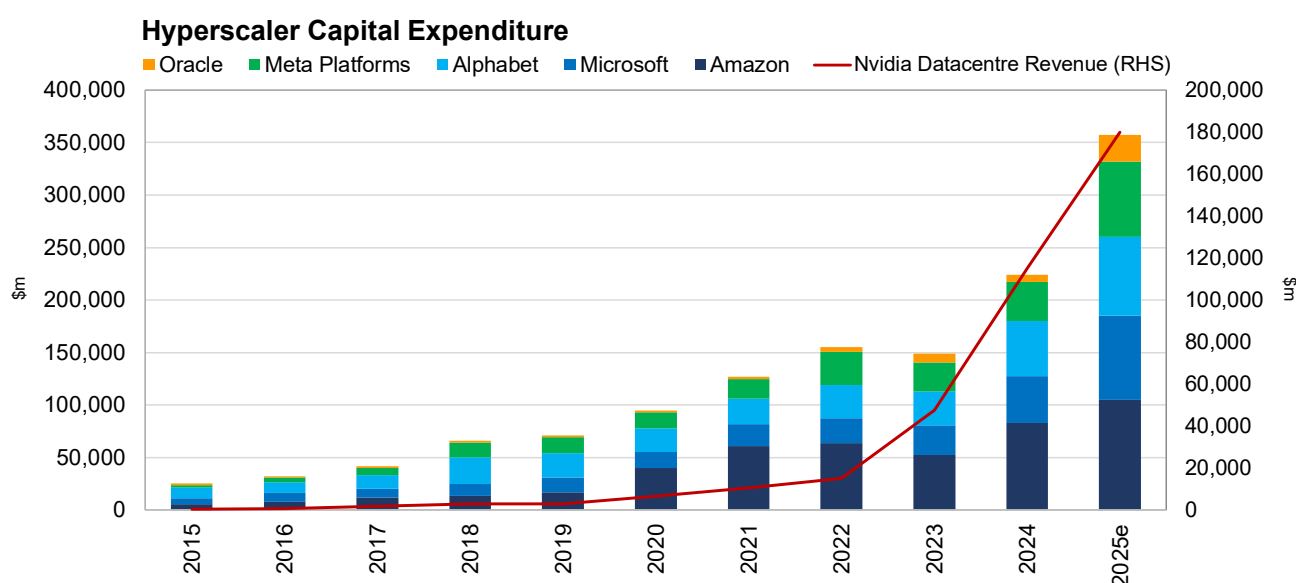
Equity Geographic Exposure	Weighting (%)		Over/(Under)
30 June 2025	Shares	MSCI World Index <sup>1</sup>	Weight
North America	77	75	2
Europe	13	17	(4)
Japan	0	5	(5)
Asia ex-Japan	9	1	8
Other	1	2	(1)
<b>Total Shares</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	
<sup>1</sup> Source: MSCI (attention is drawn to MSCI disclaimer in 'Notices')			

It has been two years since we first discussed the practical use cases of AI. As noted previously, we believe that AI is poised to redefine industries, with transformative impacts already becoming evident in autonomous driving, robotics, and enterprise software. We view Tesla as one of the largest beneficiaries, with its leading positions in generalized autonomous driving and humanoid robots. In terms of other AI beneficiaries, the Fund took advantage of the meaningful pullback during March and April to add Nvidia whose ecosystem of hardware, software, and interconnect capabilities, positions it to be one of the leaders in AI infrastructure and services, particularly in real-world applications.

## NVIDIA

### *The AI Revolution: Still in Its Infancy*

AI adoption is accelerating, yet we believe that we are only at the beginning of its transformative potential. In 2024, cloud hyperscalers invested over \$217 billion in capital expenditure, primarily on AI infrastructure, reflecting the immense demand for computational power. With over 800m weekly users, by now it is likely that many readers may be regular users of ChatGPT (or other LLMs). However, the next frontier—real-world AI—encompassing agentic AI, autonomous vehicles, and humanoid robotics, promises even greater disruption. These advancements require significant infrastructure buildout, particularly for training and inference, creating substantial opportunities for companies like Nvidia.



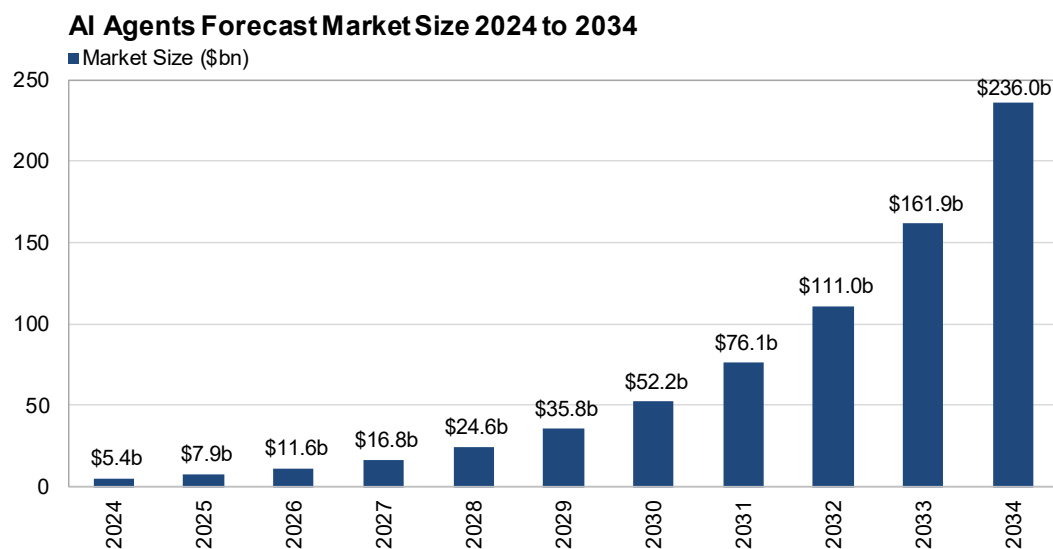
Sources: Bloomberg, Contrarius Research

While the large cloud hyperscalers are today's largest AI infrastructure customers, enterprises and even countries are recognizing the strategic importance of investing in their own AI capabilities. Combined AI training and inferencing demands appear set to drive continued significant AI infrastructure growth over the coming years.

AI training relies on massive and continually growing datasets, necessitating large-scale clusters of Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) to efficiently perform computations. Industry leaders have deployed datacentres with as many as 200,000 GPUs, and there are plans for datacentres featuring over one million interconnected GPUs in the near future. Hardware advancements mean that computational efficiency is no longer the main bottleneck—instead memory bandwidth and networking throughput (i.e. maximizing the collective utilization of installed GPUs), which is called “interconnect”, is the primary constraint of training efficiency. As a result, AI developers are increasingly incentivized to adopt the platform which delivers the highest overall system performance when training a model. Nvidia's industry-leading interconnect solutions provide superior bandwidth and low latency, securing its estimated 90% share of AI training infrastructure.

### *The Rise of Inference and Agentic AI*

The relatively recent development of Chain-of-Thought (CoT) reasoning represents a breakthrough in AI's ability to perform complex, multi-step reasoning tasks, and is expected to become a core capability of agentic AI—which can act autonomously, make decisions, and perform tasks without continuous human oversight. This is likely to have remarkable impacts on productivity across a broad scale. CoT significantly increases inference computational demands—in many cases requiring 100x the compute of simple prompts, driving the need for scalable GPU solutions.



Sources: Precedence Research, Contrarius Research

### *Nvidia: The Epicenter of AI Innovation*

Nvidia, a pioneer of GPUs since 1999, has evolved from a gaming hardware provider to the linchpin of the AI revolution. Nvidia's main business currently is selling GPUs for data centers. It is however much more than merely a hardware business. Today, Nvidia's ecosystem—comprising cutting-edge hardware, software libraries, interconnect solutions and a large and growing developer base—underpins its market leadership. This ecosystem, cultivated over decades under the leadership of Nvidia's visionary founder, Jensen Huang, helps to entrench customers (by creating high switching costs) and results in recurring revenues from hardware upgrades and software licensing over time. Importantly, we also believe that it insulates Nvidia to a degree from competitors despite fierce rivalry in AI hardware.

Given where one is currently in terms of AI adoption and usage, demand for Nvidia's products is likely to remain strong. LLM usage continues to grow significantly and the evolution of these LLM based products to include features such as memory (remembering all previous personal interactions) and multi-step processes, are likely to continue to leave AI companies compute constrained for a while, even with improvements in efficiencies. This is likely to lead to continued growth from here for Nvidia in its data center business, albeit not at the levels previously seen. While we expect Nvidia to face greater competition in inference than it currently enjoys in training, the size of the inference market is expected to be multiples larger than the training market in the long term, providing significant further opportunities for growth. In addition, we would expect that as inference performance continues to improve, the use cases are likely to continue to grow from here.

Whilst we believe that the market to some degree appreciates the large opportunity that Nvidia has from a hardware perspective, the real long-term upside in Nvidia, which we believe one is not paying for, is its services business. Of their ~36,000 employees, around 75% are involved in research and development. It is believed the majority of these roles are engineering. The Company states over half their engineers work on software, and all of them have access to advanced AI tools. Software revenues are currently a very small portion of their business, but are likely to become a meaningful contributor in the coming years.

As investors in Apple early in the prior decade, we have experienced first-hand how valuable the transition of a business to high-margin services is, once a company leverages its dominant installed base. We believe Nvidia's hardware dominance provides it with a similar opportunity for significant growth in software and services well into the future.

### *Nvidia's Ecosystem*

Nvidia sits at the center of the AI revolution thanks to the GPU. Whereas CPUs handle complex tasks sequentially, GPUs are able to handle many smaller tasks in parallel, making them well suited to accelerated computing applications, particularly AI. Recognizing the potential of GPUs, by the mid-2000's Nvidia developed a proprietary toolkit (Compute Unified Device Architecture, CUDA—free with hardware purchase) to enable accelerated computing beyond traditional graphics rendering. This incredible foresight contributed significantly to Nvidia's current AI hardware dominance, providing them a significant head start and propelling them to become the world's most valuable listed company.

Nvidia's GPUs, (unlike general-purpose CPUs), require tailored software and algorithms to fully leverage their parallel computing capabilities for AI and other high-performance tasks. Software does not automatically benefit from GPU acceleration; it must be specifically designed to exploit the architecture. Nvidia's CUDA provides developers with the 'tools' to

maximize the parallel processing power of Nvidia GPUs, enabling efficient handling of complex computations. Over nearly two decades, Nvidia and its third-party developer community have created a robust ecosystem of over 400 CUDA-accelerated software libraries, each optimized for specific domains such as scientific computing, machine learning, and real-time graphics. Nvidia's early focus on accelerated computing also resulted in deep learning frameworks (such as PyTorch and TensorFlow) being developed to leverage CUDA for optimum performance on Nvidia GPUs.

This ecosystem creates significant network effects, making Nvidia the go-to choice for AI development. Developers building AI models can save years of effort by using Nvidia's optimized frameworks and libraries, which streamline complex tasks like model training and inference.

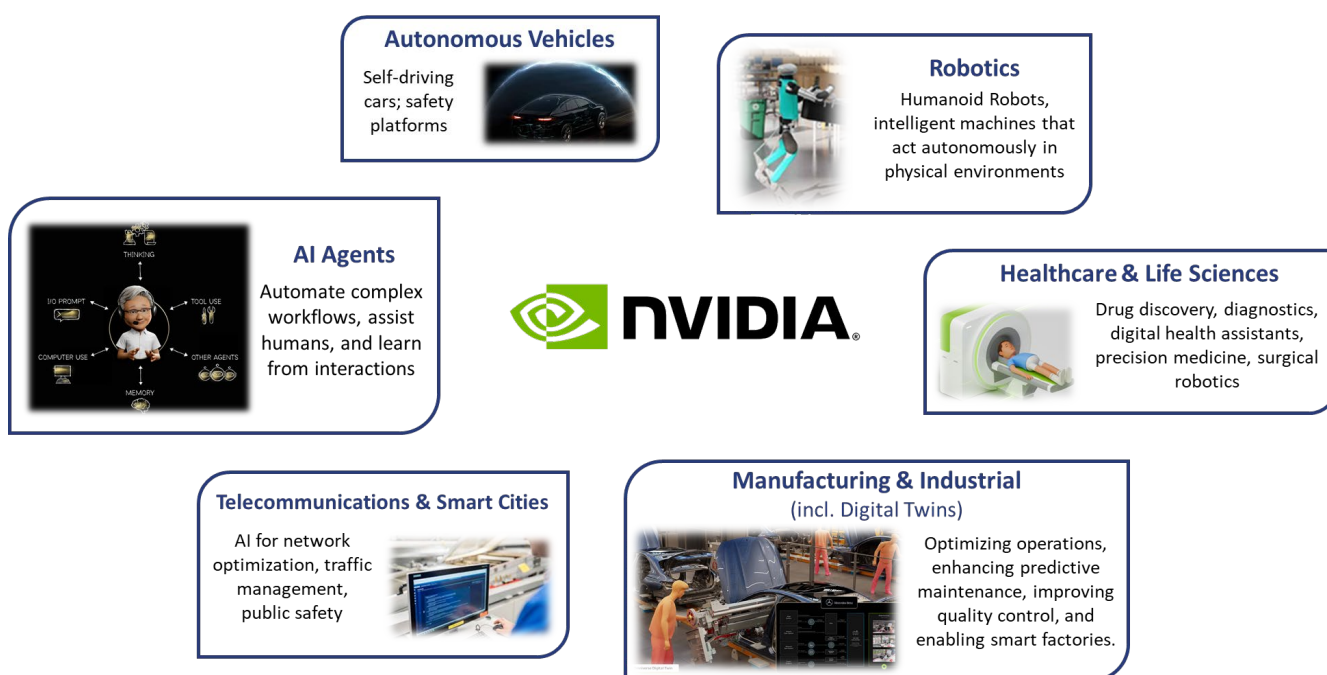
For competitors like AMD or Intel, challenging Nvidia is a formidable task. Superior hardware alone is insufficient; rivals must replicate Nvidia's mature software ecosystem, including CUDA's extensive libraries and developer adoption, where Nvidia holds a decade-long head start. They must also match Nvidia's industry-leading interconnect capabilities to support large-scale AI deployments. Few companies have demonstrated the ability to simultaneously innovate in cutting-edge hardware, software, and interconnects, positioning Nvidia to sustain its dominance. We believe their success is likely to continue.

Nvidia's potential in real-world AI extends well beyond data centers: while third party developers use Nvidia's infrastructure and software to build applications, Nvidia is also leveraging their own technology by building platforms internally and in collaboration with third parties to address specific needs in AI, 3D simulation, and other real-world applications. In our view, these platforms position Nvidia as a potential 'operating system' of physical AI and underscores their potential to drive service revenues.

### Real World Applications

While Nvidia is developing multiple platforms, we briefly detail some of these (Omniverse, Cosmos, and Dynamo) to highlight their potential in real world AI applications.

#### NVIDIA Opportunities



Sources: NVIDIA, Contrarius Research

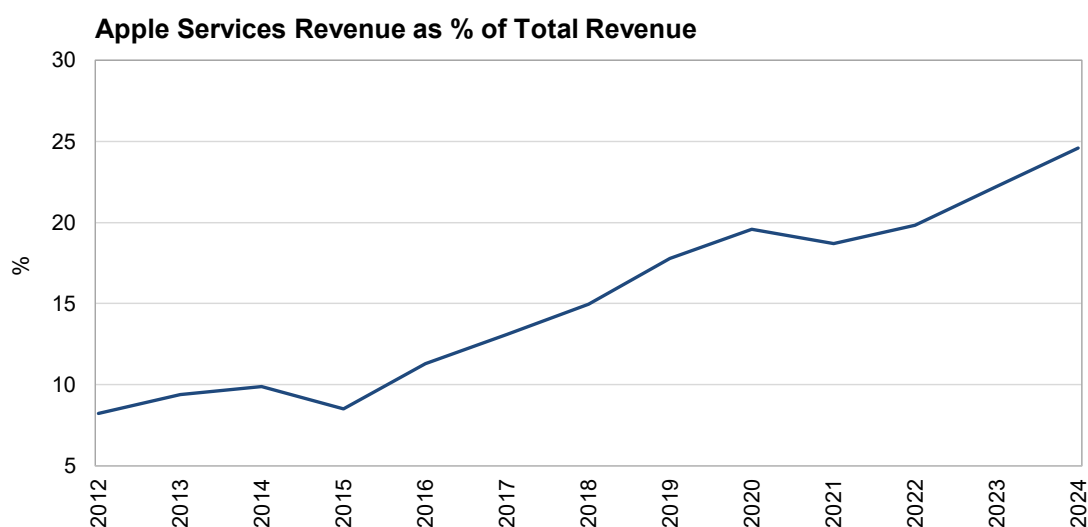
Omniverse is a platform for developers to create 3D virtual worlds featuring real world physics. Cosmos is a generative world foundation model. Developers can use Omniverse to create a virtual copy of an environment. Omniverse can generate photorealistic videos of scenarios in that environment. The combination of Omniverse and Cosmos enables the rapid generation of synthetic data which can be used to accelerate training of physical AI, particularly autonomous vehicles and robotics. This overcomes constraints on sourcing real world data for physical AI applications, which is scarce, costly and time consuming to manually curate and label. Once the model is trained, Dynamo functions as the operating system, orchestrating fast and efficient (i.e. low cost) inferencing.

Nvidia has numerous customers utilizing these platforms, however an initial obvious use case is for manufacturing companies who can use these platforms to create digital twins of their manufacturing and warehouse facilities. By creating a virtual replica, processes such as construction, production flows, and line improvements can be modelled, tested, and streamlined virtually with high accuracy prior to physical implementation. This also creates optimal training environments for physical AI. Further down the line, when humanoid robots become more mainstream (likely before 2030), we believe it is likely that these customers may be among the first to reap the productivity benefits of the coming physical AI era.

The opportunity to optimize production lines through digital twins is also being used by several car companies, including Toyota, Mercedes-Benz, Audi, BMW, Volvo, and GM, as well as a number of Chinese brands who are already Nvidia customers. In some instances (GM for example), Nvidia complements this offering by also providing self-driving hardware and software services (through its Nvidia Drive platform).

It is worth noting that while we continue to believe that Tesla's FSD technology is (and will continue to be) superior, some companies may opt not to license Tesla's FSD and are likely then to be driven towards an alternative like Nvidia.

We also believe it is quite possible that humanoid robotics and autonomous vehicles follows the path of today's smartphones, with two dominant players. In this scenario Tesla with its vertically integrated approach to hardware and software would most likely capture the lion's share of the industry profit pool (much like Apple today with smartphones). It would however leave significant scope for someone to provide a software plus chip solution to hardware providers who want to choose a non-Tesla solution. We believe that Nvidia is in prime position to fill that role.



Sources: Bloomberg, Contrarius Research

Much like the stellar growth in Apple's services business over time, we see enormous potential for real world AI to drive long term revenue growth for Nvidia. Automotive and robotics currently contribute only 1.3% of Nvidia's total revenues.

### Summary

We believe that real world AI companies like Tesla and Nvidia are going to disrupt the business models of many companies—and even entire industries. Indeed, many large capitalisation technology companies are very likely to be disrupted themselves.

The market has recently focussed on the short-term impact on Nvidia's revenues and profits from China related chip bans and general uncertainty from the trade war. This created the opportunity to acquire Nvidia at an extremely attractive price. While Nvidia has already contributed meaningfully to the Fund's performance, we believe that Nvidia remains a compelling investment opportunity.

### CONCLUSION

At the end of June, the Fund's net equity exposure of 73% is higher than its benchmark, and is determined by an assessment of the attractiveness of selected equities relative to assessed opportunities available in other assets.

With regard to the Fund's equity holdings, we are contrarian bottom-up stock pickers and while we believe that companies like Tesla and Nvidia are extremely attractive, we do not own many of the other mega capitalisation technology related stocks. As

contrarian investors we are finding value in a variety of very different stocks, with companies such as Paramount Global, Warner Bros. Discovery, The Swatch Group, Kering and Caesars Entertainment among the Fund's Top 10 equity holdings.



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**Sources.** The benchmark for the Contrarius Global Balanced Fund (Australia Registered) is a composite index consisting of 60% MSCI World Index, including reinvested net income and 40% J.P. Morgan Global Government Bond Index, including reinvested coupons, expressed in Australian dollars (“60/40 Index”). The 60/40 Index may not be copied, used, or distributed without prior written approval. 60/40 Index: The 60/40 Index values are calculated by BNP Paribas S.A. Australia using end of day index level values licensed from MSCI and J.P. Morgan. MSCI World Index (“**MSCI Data**”): For the avoidance of doubt, MSCI is not the benchmark “administrator” for, or a “contributor”, “submitter” or “supervised contributor” to, the blended returns, and the MSCI Data is not considered a “contribution” or “submission” in relation to the blended returns, as those terms may be defined in any rules, laws, regulations, legislation or international standards. MSCI Data is provided “as is” without warranty or liability and no copying or distribution is permitted. MSCI does not make any representation regarding the advisability of any investment or strategy and does not sponsor, promote, issue, sell or otherwise recommend or endorse any investment or strategy, including any financial products or strategies based on, tracking or otherwise utilising any MSCI Data, models, analytics or other materials or information. J.P. Morgan Global Government Bond Index (the “**GBI Global Index**”): Information has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable but J.P. Morgan does not warrant its completeness or accuracy. The GBI Global Index is used with permission. Copyright 2025, J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. All rights reserved. The 60/40 Index may not be copied, used, or distributed without prior written approval.

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