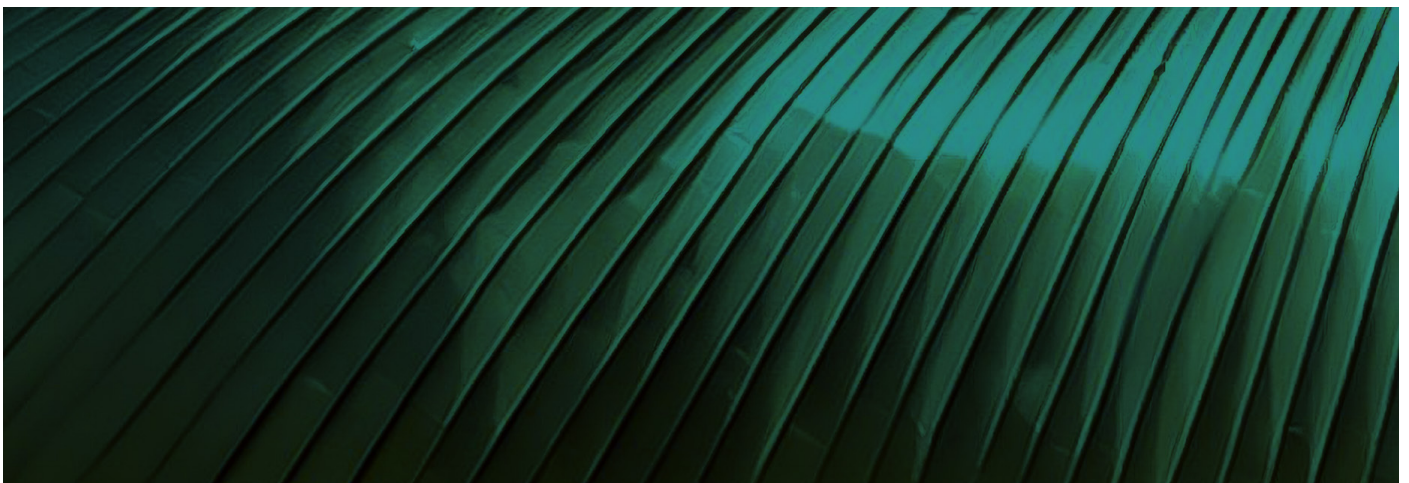


Allocating to Private Assets

Private markets can be used to pursue a range
of potential benefits in investor portfolios.



Need to Know

01

Allocating to Build Wealth

Asset allocation is the art of matching clients' goals to specific mixes of investments. Private markets can be an important part of these efforts, but individual investor allocations historically have been small. That is now changing.¹

02

The Case for Private Markets

Private assets historically have generated attractive risk-adjusted returns compared to public markets across cycles.² They have long been used by family offices, endowments, and other sophisticated investors for objectives such as capital appreciation, income generation, diversification, and inflation mitigation.³

03

Illustrative Allocations

Private assets can work across a range of risk profiles, but the desired allocation depends on the client's specific objectives and circumstances. Disentangling the topics of risk tolerance and liquidity needs is key to sizing the allocation and unlocking these assets' potential.

Why Allocate?

Investors who have no allocation to private markets may be missing out on significant opportunities to potentially build wealth, as sophisticated investors such as college endowments have done for decades (Exhibit 1).

Traditional portfolios could face several challenges in the current environment, including higher and more volatile interest rates and greater inflation compared to recent decades. We believe such shifts serve to make the negative correlation between stocks and bonds less reliable.³



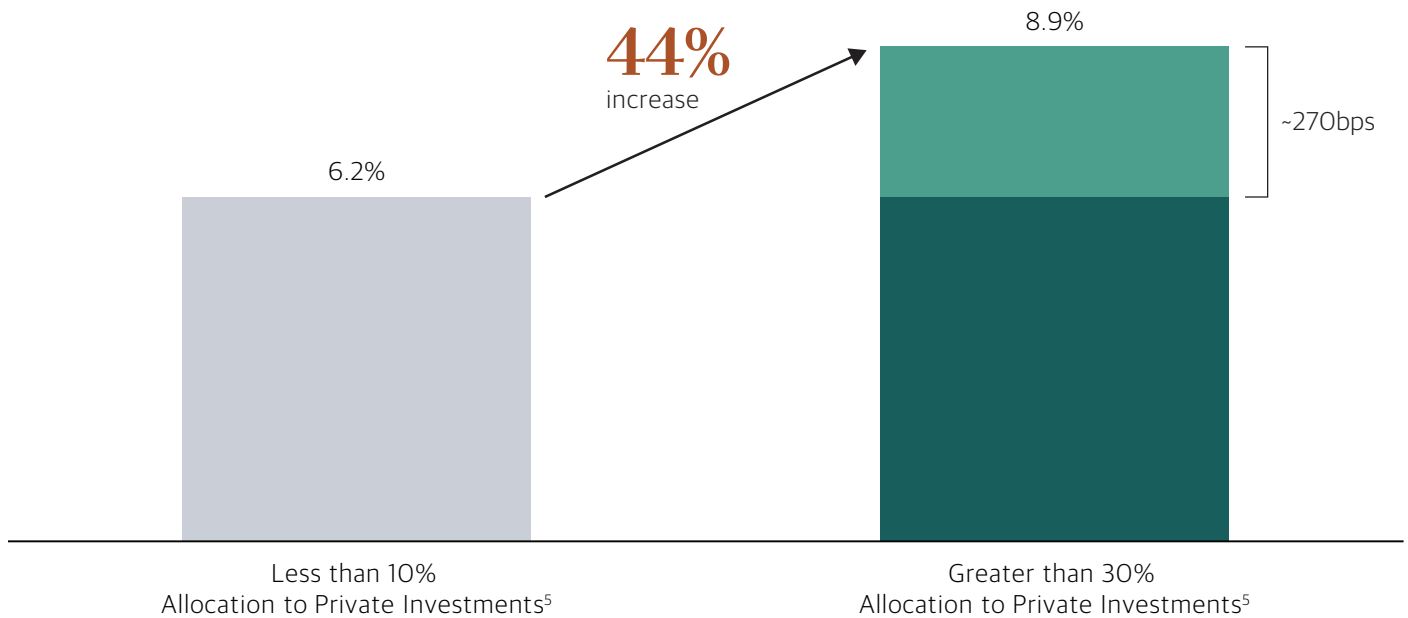
Past performance does not predict future returns.

1. "Future of Alternatives 2029", Preqin.
2. Source: Morningstar, over the 10-year period from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2024. Return and Volatility are based on quarterly returns. Volatility is represented by the standard deviation. The returns and volatility of the asset classes presented are based on the following indices: Private Equity: Cambridge Associates US Private Equity Index. Public REITs: MSCI US REIT Index. Investment Grade Bonds: Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index. Leveraged Loans: Morningstar LSTA US Leveraged Loan Index. Private Real Estate: NFI-ODCE Index. High Yield: Bloomberg US Corporate High Yield Bond Index. US Stocks: S&P 500 Index. Private Credit: Cliffwater Direct Lending Index. Private Infrastructure: Cambridge Associates Private Infrastructure Index. Public Infrastructure: S&P Global Infrastructure Index.
3. Diversification does not ensure a profit or protect against losses.

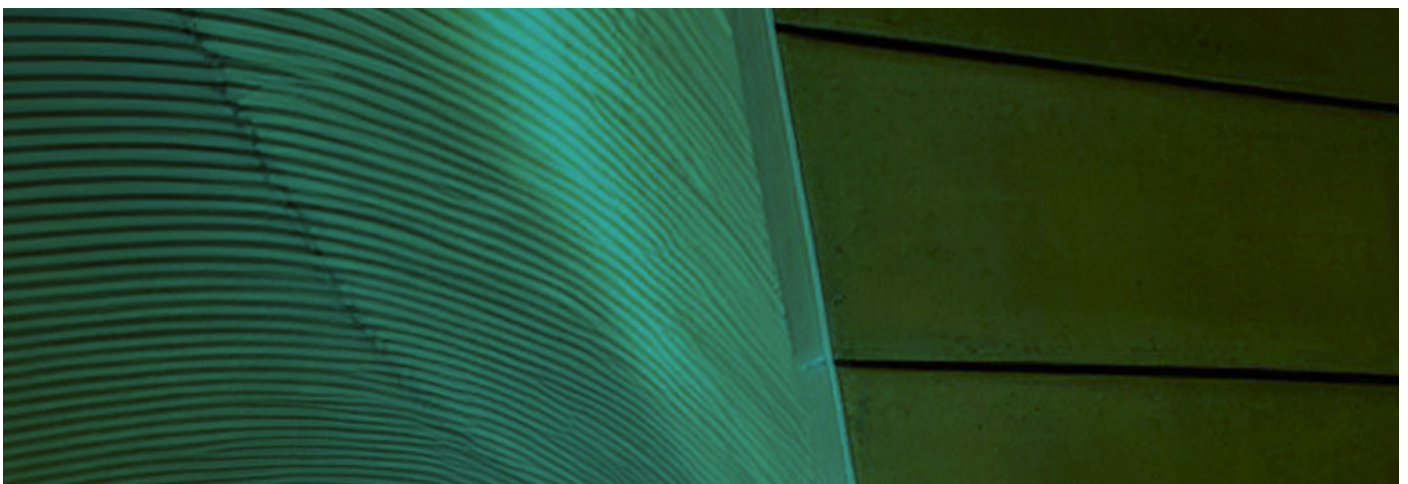
Private markets can offer attractive characteristics, such as the potential for enhanced returns, higher income, and increased portfolio diversification, with the tradeoff of lower liquidity.

EXHIBIT 1: Larger Private Markets Allocations Historically Have Driven Higher Returns⁴

10-Year US Foundation and Endowment Median Annual Compound Return



Note: There can be no assurances that any of the trends described herein will continue or will not reverse. Past events and trends do not imply, predict, or guarantee, and are not necessarily indicative of, future events or results. There is no guarantee that any investment will achieve its aims or objectives or avoid substantial losses.



4. Source: "Better Alternative(s): Private Investments May Improve Outcomes for Defined Contribution Plan Participants" by Cambridge Associates, as of June 2023.

5. Private Investments include all illiquid strategies (venture capital, non-venture private equity, private credit, private real assets, etc.).

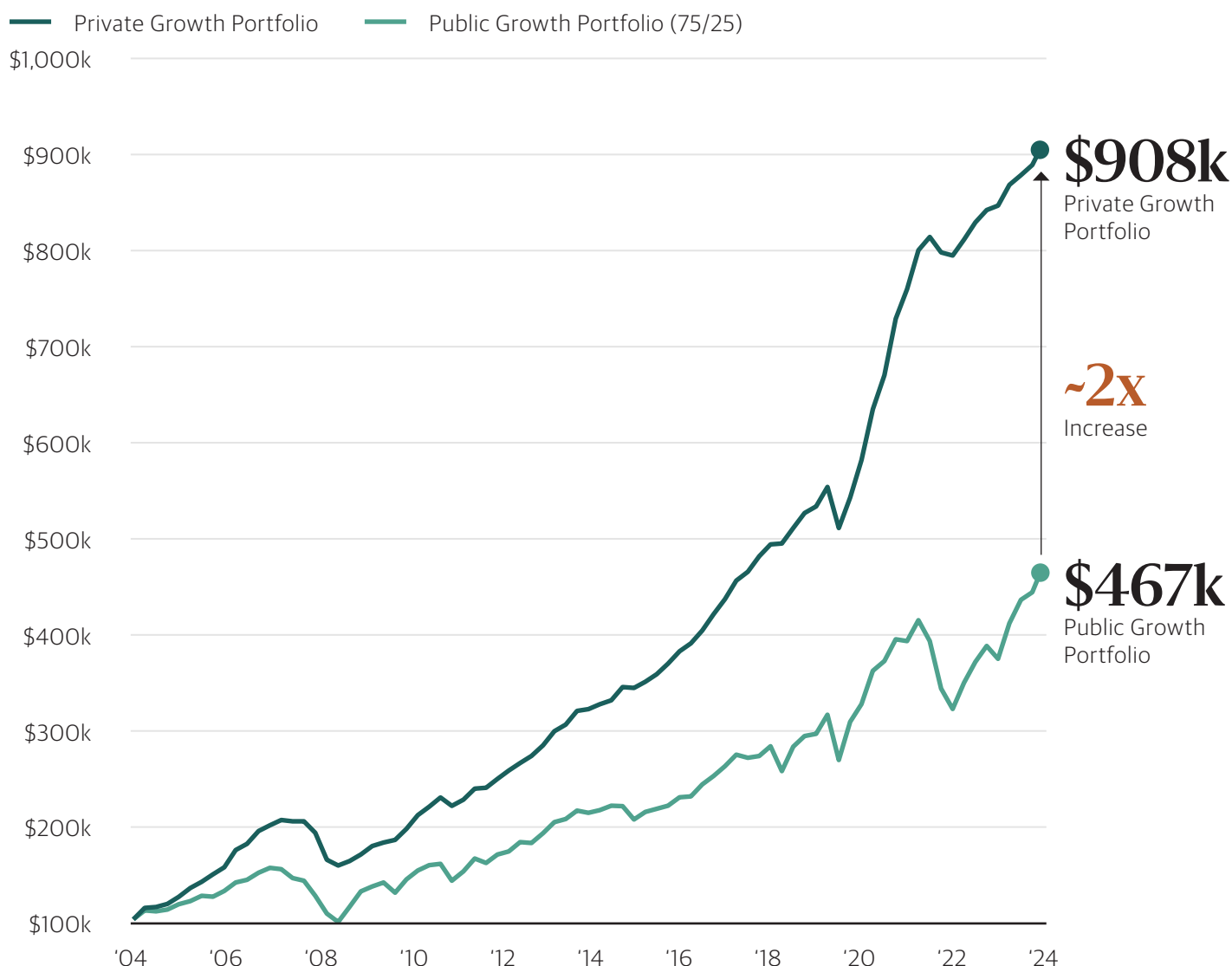
Historical Outperformance

One of the main attractions of private markets is their potential for outperformance compared to public assets.

Historically, private asset portfolios have outperformed their public counterparts. As illustrated in Exhibit 2, an illustrative private market growth portfolio — designed to pursue capital appreciation — has delivered returns that are roughly twice those of a comparable public asset portfolio over the past 20 years.

EXHIBIT 2: Private Growth Portfolio Delivered ~2x Public Market Returns Over Last 20 Years

Hypothetical Growth of \$100,000



Note: Past performance does not predict future returns. This does not represent an actual portfolio managed by Blackstone. The above returns are hypothetical in nature and are shown for illustrative, informational purposes only. These returns do not reflect the actual or expected returns of any Blackstone portfolio strategy and are not a guarantee of future results. Nothing herein is intended as a prediction of how any financial markets, fund, or underlying manager will perform in the future. Illustrative portfolio returns are calculated based on net total returns, assuming quarterly rebalancing over the 20-year period from September 30, 2004 to September 30, 2024. Growth: (75% Equities / 25% Fixed Income). Equities is represented by the S&P 500, MSCI Emerging Markets Index and MSCI World ex US Index. Fixed Income is represented by the Bloomberg US Treasury Index (Unhedged) and Bloomberg US Corporate Bond Index (Unhedged). For Private Credit, we have used the Cliffwater Index with Blackstone's approximate adjustment for leverage and fees. Please refer to Endnotes for definitions of public and private growth portfolio allocations. See "Important Disclosure Information" including "Index Comparison", "Target Allocations" and "Trends".

Allocating to Private Markets

When starting out, initial considerations can include the following:



Private markets can be strategic, long-term investments. They are less liquid than public markets, an important tradeoff.



Each client's objectives and situation are unique. Advisors must understand their needs – such as liquidity and tax considerations – to tailor the right allocation.



Who you invest with matters. The difference in outcomes among private markets managers can be wide.

In addition, a robust understanding of the key attributes of private market asset classes, including how to allocate within a multi-asset class portfolio, is key.

Note: This information is provided for illustrative purposes only and should not be considered research or investment advice.

Core Attributes of Private Assets

By using private markets, investors can pursue many of their longstanding objectives, such as capital appreciation, income generation, diversification, inflation mitigation, and tax advantages (see Exhibit 3).

Private equity, for example, can potentially offer capital appreciation, enhancing portfolio growth. Private credit may deliver higher income. Private real estate and infrastructure can typically provide a mix of both income and capital appreciation potential, with a degree of inflation mitigation. Private assets have the potential to provide diversification benefits.⁶

EXHIBIT 3: Core Attributes of Private Market Asset Classes

	Capital Appreciation	Income Generation	Diversification	Inflation Mitigation
Private Equity	✓		✓	
Private Credit		✓	✓	✓
Real Estate	✓	✓	✓	✓
Infrastructure	✓	✓	✓	✓

Note: Represents Blackstone's view of the current market environment as of the date appearing in this material only. The above information is provided for illustrative purposes only and should not be considered as research or investment advice. **Past performance does not predict future returns.** There can be no assurance that any Blackstone fund or investment will be able to effectively enhance returns, increase income, provide diversification, hedge inflation, provide tax advantages, implement its investment strategy, achieve its investment objectives or avoid substantial losses. Diversification does not ensure a profit or protect against losses. Any investment involves a high degree of risk and should only be made if an investor can afford the loss of the entire investment. Blackstone does not provide tax advice. Investors should consult their own legal, accounting and tax advisers to make an independent determination of the suitability and consequences of an investment. See "Important Disclosure Information-Index Definitions" and "-Trends".

6. Diversification does not ensure a profit or protect against losses.

Selecting Assets and Sizing Allocations

Private assets can be deployed across a range of risk profiles, but the desired allocation depends on the client's specific objectives and circumstances. This includes (but is not limited to) both their risk tolerance and the proportion of their overall portfolio dedicated to private assets.

It's crucial to distinguish between a client's risk tolerance and their liquidity needs. These concepts are often conflated, which can lead to sub-optimal allocations. It's important to note that higher allocations to private assets do not necessarily equate to higher risk in portfolios.⁷

With those points in mind, here are two examples to put asset allocation into action.



Note: Alternative investments involve a high degree of risk and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. There is no guarantee that any fund or investment will achieve its aims or objectives or avoid substantial losses.

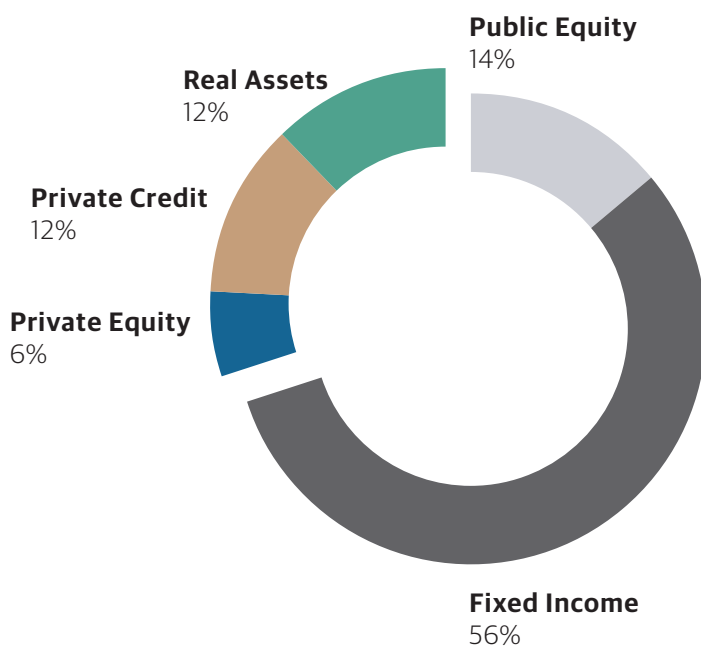
7. Diversification does not ensure a profit or protect against losses.

Income Portfolio

An income portfolio can be designed with private assets to pursue higher distributions. This portfolio would emphasize private credit, real assets, such as private real estate and infrastructure, and some private equity, in addition to allocation to public equity and fixed income. Allocations like this could outperform a portfolio of stocks and bonds over the past two decades and deliver higher income.

EXHIBIT 4: Income Portfolio: Combining Public and Private Assets

Income Portfolio with 30% Private Assets



Performance, 2004-2024

Compared to a Public Income Portfolio
(75% Fixed Income / 25% Equity)

Total return (annualized)

6.1%
private

100bps
higher annualized performance
vs. public markets

Realized volatility

4.5%
private

130bps
lower annualized volatility
vs. public markets

Current yield

4.2%
private

60bps
higher current yield
vs. public markets

Note: Past performance does not predict future returns. The above returns are hypothetical in nature and are shown for illustrative, informational purposes only. These returns do not reflect the actual or expected returns of any Blackstone portfolio strategy and are not a guarantee of future results. Nothing herein is intended as a prediction of how any financial markets, fund, or underlying manager will perform in the future. This does not represent an actual portfolio managed by Blackstone. The indices and benchmarks reflected herein are not representative of all investments in the applicable asset classes, the performance of such indices and benchmarks in periods other than that the 20-year period shown herein may differ materially, and it should not be assumed that any trends shown will continue. Annualized returns and volatility are calculated based on the quarterly returns over the 20-year period from September 30, 2004 to September 30, 2024. Growth: (75% Equities / 25% Fixed Income). Equities is represented by the S&P 500, MSCI Emerging Markets Index and MSCI World ex US Index. Fixed Income is represented by the Bloomberg US Treasury Index (Unhedged) and Bloomberg US Corporate Bond Index (Unhedged). See "Important Disclosure Information", including "Index Comparison" and "Trends".

The compound performance includes the index providers, or when unavailable, Blackstone's approximate adjustment for leverage and fees, which are typically borne by the investor. Public Market Portfolio Allocations: Income (25% Equities / 75% Fixed income). Growth: (75% Equities / 25% Fixed Income). Equities is represented by the S&P 500, MSCI Emerging Markets Index and MSCI World ex US Index. Fixed Income is represented by the Bloomberg US Treasury Index (Unhedged) and Bloomberg US Corporate Bond Index (Unhedged). The composition of all public-market sleeves is as follows. Equities: 57% S&P 500 Index, MSCI World Ex US Index, 34%, MSCI Emerging Markets Index, 9%. The composition of all fixed income sleeves is as follows: US Treasury Index, 60%. Bloomberg US Corporate Bond Index, 40%. Combined Private and Public Market Portfolio Allocations: See breakdown on page 11. Private Real Estate is represented by the NFI-ODCE Index. Private Credit is represented by the Cliffwater Direct Lending Index with Blackstone's approximate adjustment for leverage and fees. Private Equity is represented by the Cambridge Associates Private Equity Buyout Index. Private infrastructure is represented by the Cambridge Associates US Private Infrastructure Index. For data prior to 2008, the Cambridge Associates US Private Infrastructure Index data has been supplemented with international infrastructure data. NFI-ODCE Index, Cambridge Associates Private Equity Buyout Index and Cambridge Associates US Private Infrastructure Index are net of fees.

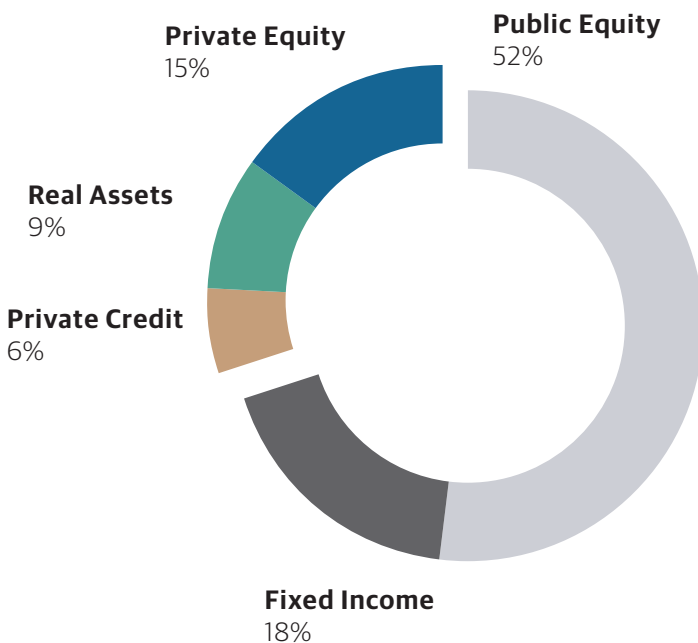
Growth Portfolio

A second example – a portfolio built for growth would pursue greater capital appreciation over time. This type of portfolio would favor private equity, but also include allocations to the other three just-mentioned private asset classes.

Here, also, this style of allocation could outperform public markets over the last 20 years.

EXHIBIT 5: Growth Portfolio: Combining Public and Private Assets

Growth Portfolio with 30% Private Assets



Performance, 2004-2024

Compared to a Public Growth Portfolio
(75% Equity / 25% Fixed Income)

Total return (annualized)

9.2%
private

120bps
higher annualized performance
vs. public markets

Realized volatility

10.4%
private

220bps
lower annualized volatility
vs. public markets

Current yield

2.7%
private

10bps
higher current yield
vs. public markets

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Considerations before Allocating

Private market investing means active ownership of less liquid assets, as value creation takes time. Liquidity needs at the total portfolio level are one important consideration before allocating to private equity. In addition, manager selection may be of particular importance given the wider dispersion of returns compared to public markets. Key manager attributes include scale, staying power and a long track record.



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Methodology Disclosures

Total Returns: The Cliffwater Direct Lending Index ("CDLI") estimates the unlevered total return of US private credit as an asset class and is based on the quarterly filings of Business Development Companies (BDCs). CDLI total returns are adjusted to estimate the impacts of private credit fund leverage, operating expenses, and management and incentive fees, and are based on the CDLI return attributions by net income, realized net gains, and unrealized net gains. The net impact of leverage assumes 1.0x debt-to-equity ratio in each quarter after 2018 and assumes 0.7x debt-to-equity ratio in each quarter in 2018 and prior (given an increase in average BDC fund leverage accompanied by a general portfolio shift towards more senior secured investments). Furthermore, the cost of leverage assumes an all-in cost of 250 basis points per annum over beginning-of-quarter base rate (3-month LIBOR or, following LIBOR's discontinuation, 3-month term SOFR). Fund operating expenses are assumed to be 57 basis points of equity per annum, management fees are assumed to be approximately 143 basis points of gross assets per annum, and incentive fees are assumed to be approximately 18.9% of net, pre-incentive fee net income and net realized and unrealized gains each quarter. These expense and fee assumptions roughly reflect

the average expense and fee ratios of underlying BDCs over the respective time periods.

Current Yields: Current yields are based on the spot, unlevered interest rates accruing on investments by BDCs in the CDLI at the end of each calendar quarter. Current yields are adjusted to estimate the impacts of private credit fund leverage, operating expenses, and management and incentive fees. The net impact of leverage assumes 1.0x debt-to-equity ratio in each quarter, in line with a typical, levered private credit fund. Furthermore, the cost of leverage assumes an all-in cost of 250 basis points per annum over beginning-of-quarter base rate (3-month LIBOR or, following LIBOR's discontinuation, 3-month term SOFR). Fund operating expenses are assumed to be 50 basis points of equity per annum, management fees are assumed to be approximately 250 basis points of equity per annum, and incentive fees are assumed to be approximately 17.5% of net, pre-incentive fee net income each quarter. These expense and fee assumptions roughly reflect the average expense and fee ratios of underlying BDCs over the respective time periods.

Index Definitions

Bloomberg US Corporate Bond Index: The Bloomberg US Corporate Bonds Bond Index is an index of the US dollar-denominated, investment-grade, fixed-rate, taxable corporate bond market. It includes USD-denominated securities issued by US and non-US industrial, utility, and financial issuers.

Bloomberg US Treasury Index: The index measures US dollar-denominated, fixed-rate, nominal debt issued by the US Treasury. Treasury bills and STRIPS are excluded. The index assumes reinvestment of all distributions and interest payments.

Cambridge Associates US Private Infrastructure Index: This index is a horizon calculation based on data compiled from US infrastructure funds, formed between 2003 and 2024.

Cambridge Private Equity Buyout Index: This index is a horizon calculation based on data compiled from US and international buyout equity funds, formed between 1983 and 2024.

Cliffwater Direct Lending Index: The Cliffwater Direct Lending Index (CDLI) seeks to measure the unlevered, gross of fee performance of US middle market corporate loans, as represented by the asset-weighted performance of the underlying assets of Business Development Companies (BDCs), including both exchange-traded and unlisted BDCs, subject to certain eligibility requirements.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (All Items in US City Average): The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: All Items (CPIAUCSL) is a price index of a basket of goods and services paid by urban consumers. Percent changes in the price index measure the inflation rate between any two time periods. The most common inflation metric is the percent change from one year ago. It can also represent the buying habits of urban consumers. This particular index includes roughly 88 percent of the total population, accounting for wage earners, clerical workers, technical workers, self-employed, short-term workers, unemployed, retirees, and those not in the labor force.

MSCI Emerging Markets Index: The MSCI Emerging Markets Index is used to measure the stock market performance within emerging countries. It is one of many indexes created by Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI). The index captures mid- to large-cap companies across more than 12 emerging countries.

MSCI World ex USA Index: The MSCI World ex USA Index captures large and mid-cap representation across 22 of 23 Developed Markets

(DM) countries—excluding the United States. The index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

NFI-OCDE Index: The National Council of Real Estate Investment Fiduciaries Fund Index - Open End Diversified Core Equity, is the first of the NCREIF Fund Database products and is an index of investment returns reporting on both a historical and current basis the results of 38 open-end commingled funds pursuing a core investment strategy, some of which have performance histories dating back to the 1970s. The NFI-OCDE Index is capitalization-weighted and is reported gross of fees. Measurement is time-weighted. NCREIF will calculate the overall aggregated Index return.

S&P 500 Index: The index measures the performance of 500 widely held stocks in US equity market. Standard and Poor's chooses member companies for the index based on market size, liquidity and industry group representation. Included are the stocks of industrial, financial, utility, and transportation companies. Since mid-1989, this composition has been more flexible and the number of issues in each sector has varied. It is market capitalization-weighted.

S&P Global Infrastructure Index: The S&P Global Infrastructure Index is a benchmark that tracks the performance of 75 of the largest publicly traded infrastructure companies in the world. The index is made up of companies from developed and emerging markets, and is diversified across the energy, transportation, and utilities sectors.

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