

December 31, 2018

401k PORTFOLIO JANUARY 2019 UPDATE & NEWSLETTER



SAMPLE

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR FUTURE

January 2019 Newsletter

In our last newsletter, we noted that our defensive stance for the **EZTracker** model portfolios was justified by November's continued volatility across the markets. Now that December has passed, the term "volatility" does not even do justice to what investors have seen and experienced since. As of yesterday's 12/31 close: S&P -9.18% for the month (YTD-6.24%), DJII -8.66% (-5.63%) and Nasdaq -9.48% (-3.88%), closing out the worst December since the Great Depression. **EZTracker's** continued defensive stance for its model portfolios continued to be justified.

The volatility over the last two weeks puts in stark relief the continued risks that surround all investing decisions, such as economic growth concerns and political and economic uncertainties like the unresolved US-China trade war. We aim to be as consistent as possible with our strategies for the **EZTracker** model portfolios. While we may not capture each and every market peak or valley, our disciplined approach has provided for consistent market returns over our 16-year history. More importantly, this has enabled us to reduce exposure across all our model portfolios in advance of the recent market gyrations, thereby outperforming **EZTracker's** benchmarks.



2018

After the markets underwent a prolonged increase throughout much of the year – hitting multiple all-time highs on the way but punctuated by two separate corrections – 2018 closed with all major indices posting their first annual loss since 2015. This all occurred in the midst of rising interest rates, an ugly trade battle with many of the US' key trading partners, and growing fears of a slowdown in global economic growth. On the flip side, the signs of recession that everyone has been looking for have not materialized, and consumer spending has remained very strong.

What We're Watching

At the end of October we outlined a host of potential causes for our taking a more conservative stance with **EZTracker** model portfolios: Corporate Earnings, European Union/Italy, U.S./China Trade Dispute and Rising Interest Rates/Hawkish Fed. Since then, certain things have crystallized (Fed interest rate hike), and others remain uncertain (worldwide growth rates and US/China trade). Furthermore there have been new stressors on the market such as Presidential threats of interference at the Fed, the US government shutdown, and China's domestic economic slowdown. Taking into account the year-end volatility and the markets being within correction territory, we see many unresolved issues but also some positives:

Consumer Spending: Americans' purchases make up nearly 70% of economic activity and that engine is expected to continue. Mastercard reported that holiday spending growth was the best in six years, while amazon.com said it had record unit sales.

China economic growth: As China is the world's largest exporter of goods with the most demand for materials from other countries, what happens there matters for businesses and markets across the globe. China just posted the first drop in industrial profits in over 3 years, and a big wild card is how the trade war between the U.S. and China will play out in 2019.

Inflation: Despite faster pay increases, most economists expect inflation to remain tempered next year. Oil and gasoline prices have fallen amid rising supplies and cooling global demand.

The Federal Reserve: Of the 5 major economic drivers (**consumer behavior, investment, inflation, housing and the labor market**), consumer behavior, inflation and the labor market all lack indications of imminent downturn. This moderates the risk that the Federal Reserve will cause a recession by hiking interest rates too much too soon. The Fed can move slowly, and pause if hiccups in the data suggest higher rates are hurting consumers or hiring. Evidence suggests that the Fed understands this just fine. January could prove pivotal as analysts will get more direction:

- January 3: Minutes from the December meeting of the rate-setting FOMC are due
- January 29-30: The next central bank meeting which allows it the opportunity to further fine-tune its message.

Turning on the Crystal Ball. Barron's Roster of Experts Batted .000 for 2018

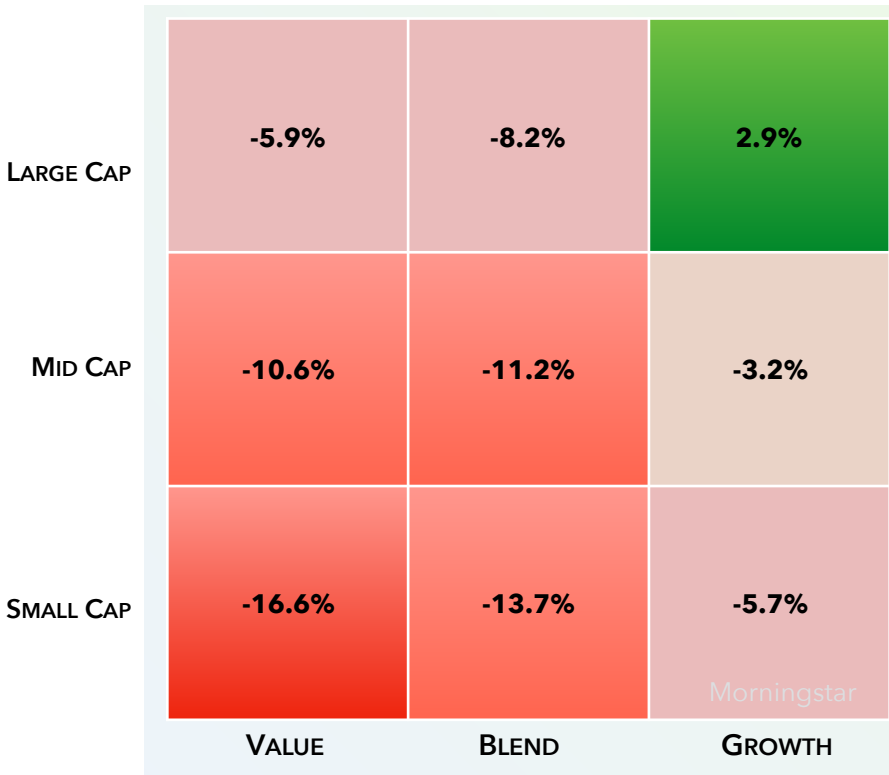
Every year at this time we check with the experts. While EZTracker doesn't make predictions, the year-end brings out the analysts and gurus to enlighten us for the coming year. Each December, Barron's takes a poll of ten experts from the major financial firms – below we summarize their scorecard for 2018 and “guesstimates” for 2019.

For 2019 all ten of Barron's listed analysts call for the S&P to finish higher by year-end with the most optimistic forecasts at 3100 (a 23.7% increase from current levels, and 19.2% up from the polling date). Not one analyst took a conservative stance. Keep in mind that all analysts from last years Barron's panel missed the mark – missed it by an average of more than 11%.

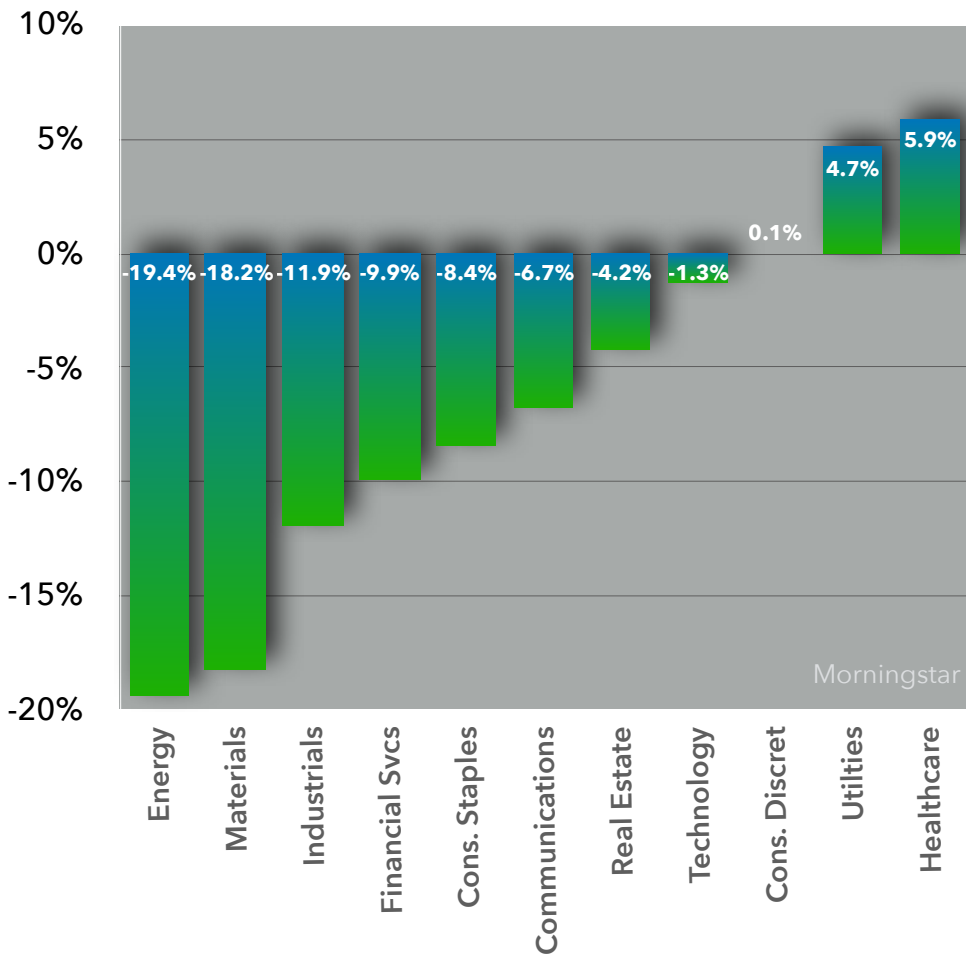
Company	Analyst	2018 S&P Prediction	Actual 2018 S&P	2018 % Miss	2019 S&P Prediction	% Increase
Morgan Stanley	Michael Wilson	2750	2507	-8.8%	2750	9.7%
Yardeni Research	Edward Yardeni	N/A	2507	N/A	3100	23.7%
BofA Merrill Lynch	Savita Subramanian	2800	2507	-10.5%	2900	15.7%
T. Rowe Price	Rob Sharps	2775	2507	-9.7%	2850	13.7%
PGIM	John Praveen	2925	2507	-14.3%	3000	19.7%
Nuveen	Saira Malik	N/A	2507	N/A	2840	13.3%
Citi	Tobias Levkovich	N/A	2507	N/A	3100	23.7%
J.P. Morgan	Dubravko Lakos-Bujas	2800	2507	-10.5%	3100	23.7%
Goldman Sachs	David Kostin	2850	2507	-12.0%	3000	19.7%
Federated Investors	Steve Auth	3000	2507	-16.4%	3100	23.7%
Average		2843	2507	-11.7%	2974	18.6%

Sector Analysis:

YTD Index Performance: Returns (%)



2018 YTD Sector Performance



A Hallmark Moment:

Recently, when deplaning a flight I ended up talking with the pilot. I handed him an EZTracker business card and he replied “I’m a subscriber!” I told him I was a partner and a co-author of the newsletter, to which he responded “Get out of here! Your bold call at the end of October really saved me!” He introduced me to his co-pilot, mentioning that he would be missing out “if he was not signed up with these guys.” We spoke for a few minutes, exchanged season greetings, and went on our way. I recall thinking, what a great job we have and how our subscribers really count on us. Happy New Year to all and a prosperous 2019 for everyone!

EZTracker provides three model portfolios for SkyWest Employees; Aggressive, Moderate and Conservative. Each is designed for different investment needs and styles, as well as level of risk tolerance.

STEP 1: Update Current Investments

Current Subscribers:



Aggressive, Moderate & Conservative Portfolios:
Rebalance to the appropriate portfolio below.

New Subscribers:

Rebalance your 401k using the chart below for the portfolio you want to follow. If you need assistance, call our free help hotline at 201.503.6445.

Which Portfolio is Right for You: Selecting the right portfolio is an individual decision based on your **willingness** and **ability** to take risk. Only you can decide. Planning your retirement is more important than ever. Your portfolio choice will vary based on age, retirement horizon, savings & expenses, pension & social security income, other investment assets, personality, and other factors. We believe you can take control of your 401k and plan for the retirement you envision. We've arranged for advisors at Friedenthal Financial to do a **COMPLIMENTARY RISK ASSESSMENT** for you. Or, you can take this **SHORT QUIZ** on your own that they've provided (no personal information is required for the quiz). Your privacy is protected.

EZTracker Model Portfolios	Symbol	Aggressive	Moderate	Conservative	Buy Date
T.Rowe Price Stable Value	TRPSV			%	01/02/19
T. Rowe Price New Horizons	PRNHX			%	01/02/19
Vanguard Extended Market Index	VIEIX			%	01/02/19
Vanguard Institutional Index I	VINIX			%	01/02/19
		100%	100%	100%	

Your individual percentages may vary somewhat from those indicated above due to rounding, timing of purchases, and performance every month (In many cases even though there may be no changes for a particular month you may notice a small change, due to performance/rounding).

STEP 2: Update Future Investment Elections

If you are adding cash to your 401k through payroll deductions, set your Future Contributions identical to your Current Investment in the above **EZTracker** Model Portfolio chart.

All the model portfolios consist of core holdings representing major market segments plus top performers based on current market conditions. Some market conditions may cause us to deviate from the following percentages.



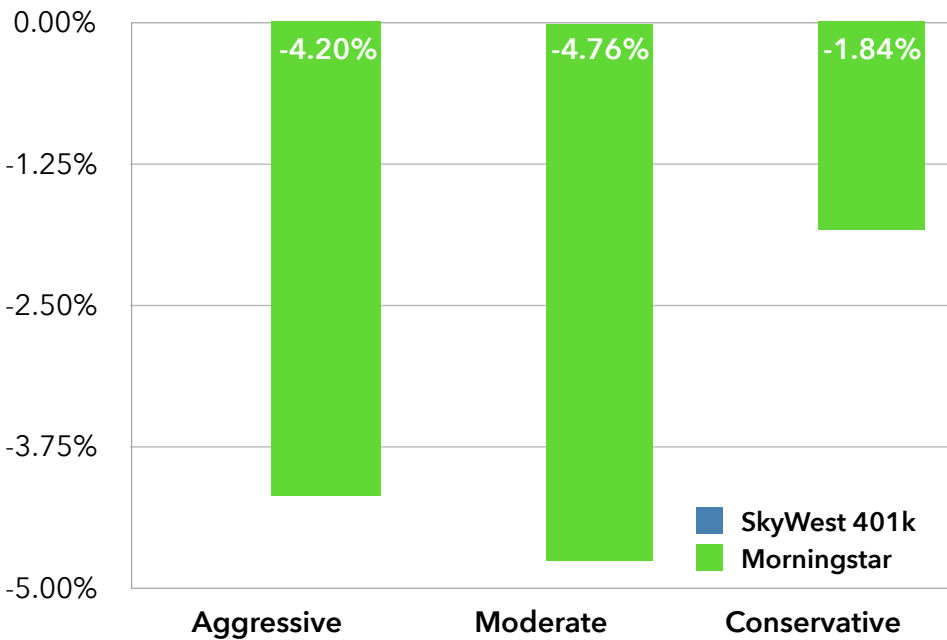
- Aggressive Portfolio:**
95-100% invested in equities. This is a high risk/high reward portfolio.
- Moderate Portfolio:**
70% invested in equities and 30% invested in bonds or Stable Value Fund.
- Conservative Portfolio:**
40% invested in equities and 60% invested in bonds or Stable Value Fund. This is our lowest risk portfolio.

Which Portfolio is Right for You: Selecting the right portfolio is an individual decision based on your **willingness** and **ability** to take risk. Only you can decide. Planning your retirement is more important than ever. Your portfolio choice will vary based on age, retirement horizon, savings & expenses, pension & social security income, other investment assets, personality, and other factors. We believe you can take control of your 401k and plan for the retirement you envision. We've arranged for advisors at Friedenthal Financial to do a **COMPLIMENTARY RISK ASSESSMENT** for you. Or, you can take this **SHORT QUIZ** on your own that they've provided (no personal information is required for the quiz). Your privacy is protected.

Current Performance Through Dec 31, 2018	Dec **	YTD
EZTracker Aggressive	N/A	N/A
EZTracker Moderate	N/A	N/A
EZTracker Conservative	N/A	N/A
Morningstar Benchmarks		
Aggressive Target Risk Index	-4.20%	-8.17%
Moderate Target Risk Index	-1.71%	-4.76%
Conservative Target Risk Index	0.65	-1.20%
S&P 500	-4.78%	-6.24%

* Portfolio started 11/25/18
** Since last Newsletter

Total Return versus Morningstar Benchmarks YTD



SkyWest Portfolios started Nov 25, 2018

Morningstar Target Risk Index

The Morningstar Target Risk Index series serve as benchmarks to help with investment selections. They cover a global set of stocks, bonds and commodities. While not investable indices, they represent challenging benchmarks for long-term investing plans such as the EZTracker model portfolios.

Historical Performance

Any investment strategy should be measured one way: Results over time. Not one-week, one-month, or even one-year. While past performance is not a guarantee of future performance, our record has been excellent in delivering long-term returns. As with any long-term investing strategy, you should not expect dramatic short-term results to offset past losses.

Monthly Fund Data

Below is the current fund performance for the alternatives in the **SkyWest** 401k plan. The “Tracker Average” is a weighted average of performance over the past year and is a key factor in selecting funds for inclusion in the model portfolios.

Fund	Fund Symbol	Total Return					Tracker Average
		1 MO	3 MO	6 MO	12 MO	YTD	
Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Admiral	VBTLX	1.81%	1.62%	1.65%	-0.02%	-0.02%	2.76%
Metropolitan West Total Return Bond M	MWTRX	1.70%	1.37%	1.35%	-0.07%	-0.07%	2.37%
T. Rowe Price Stable Value N	TRPSV	0.19%	0.54%	1.08%	2.10%	2.10%	2.13%
JPMorgan Strategic Income Opps R5	JSORX	-0.80%	-1.30%	-0.29%	0.85%	0.85%	-0.84%
T. Rowe Price Retirement Trust 2005 B	TRRFEX	-2.04%	-4.59%	-2.98%	-3.26%	-3.26%	-7.02%
T. Rowe Price Retirement Trust 2010 B	TRRAX	-2.44%	-5.27%	-3.46%	-3.61%	-3.61%	-8.06%
T. Rowe Price Retirement Trust 2015 B	TRRGX	-3.00%	-6.17%	-4.30%	-4.17%	-4.17%	-9.62%
T. Rowe Price Retirement Trust 2020 B	TRRBX	-3.83%	-7.36%	-5.28%	-4.94%	-4.94%	-11.68%
T. Rowe Price Retirement Trust 2025 B	TRRHX	-4.53%	-8.38%	-6.21%	-5.62%	-5.62%	-13.50%
Vanguard Real Estate Idx Admiral Shares	VGSLX	-7.94%	-6.44%	-5.95%	-5.95%	-5.95%	-14.33%
T. Rowe Price Retirement Trust 2030 B	TRRCX	-5.19%	-9.39%	-7.11%	-6.28%	-6.28%	-15.26%
T. Rowe Price Blue Chip Growth Trust T2	TRBCX	-8.43%	-14.22%	-8.70%	2.01%	2.01%	-16.01%
T. Rowe Price Mid-Cap Growth	RPMGX	-8.58%	-13.15%	-6.70%	-2.04%	-2.04%	-16.62%
T. Rowe Price Retirement Trust 2035 B	TRRJX	-5.73%	-10.19%	-7.89%	-6.87%	-6.87%	-16.73%
Vanguard Emerging Mkts Stock Idx Adm	VEMAX	-2.94%	-6.29%	-7.93%	-14.58%	-14.58%	-17.31%
T. Rowe Price New Horizons	PRNHX	-9.94%	-17.04%	-9.54%	4.04%	4.04%	-17.71%
T. Rowe Price Retirement Trust 2040 B	TRRDX	-6.22%	-10.85%	-8.46%	-7.32%	-7.32%	-17.92%
MFS International Value R3	MINGX	-4.66%	-10.90%	-8.81%	-9.22%	-9.22%	-18.32%
Vanguard Institutional Index I	VINIX	-9.03%	-13.53%	-6.87%	-4.42%	-4.42%	-18.47%
T. Rowe Price Retirement Trust 2050 B	TRRMX	-6.49%	-11.24%	-8.81%	-7.58%	-7.58%	-18.61%
T. Rowe Price Retirement Trust 2060 B	TRRLX	-6.48%	-11.25%	-8.85%	-7.57%	-7.57%	-18.63%
T. Rowe Price Retirement Trust 2045 B	TRRKX	-6.56%	-11.22%	-8.85%	-7.57%	-7.57%	-18.65%
T. Rowe Price Retirement Trust 2055 B	TRRNX	-6.54%	-11.26%	-8.85%	-7.62%	-7.62%	-18.69%
MFS Value R3	MEIHX	-10.19%	-11.60%	-6.61%	-10.09%	-10.09%	-21.00%
Vanguard Total Intl Stock Index Admiral	VTIAX	-4.83%	-11.68%	-11.21%	-14.43%	-14.43%	-23.00%
Fidelity Low Priced Stock	FLPSX	-8.20%	-13.54%	-11.53%	-10.75%	-10.75%	-24.01%
American Funds Europacific Growth R5E	RERHX	-5.13%	-12.62%	-13.39%	-15.01%	-15.01%	-25.18%
JPMorgan Mid Cap Value L	FLMVX	-10.09%	-14.76%	-11.50%	-11.65%	-11.65%	-26.19%
Vanguard Extended Market Index Inst	VIEIX	-10.69%	-18.18%	-14.61%	-9.35%	-9.35%	-28.82%
T. Rowe Price International Discovery	PRIDX	-5.34%	-15.39%	-19.08%	-17.47%	-17.47%	-31.24%
Goldman Sachs Small Cap Value Inst	GSSIX	-11.71%	-18.08%	-15.41%	-14.02%	-14.02%	-32.30%
Skywest Stock	SKYW	-22.73%	-24.33%	-13.98%	-15.60%	-15.60%	-41.81%



Questions, Comments, Problems?

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