

A Passive Approach to Risk Parity

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Introduction

What is risk parity?

Broad Definition

Portfolio allocation strategy attempting to balance the risk contribution across complementary asset classes

Goal

To generate stable returns across defined economic regimes

Market Size

An estimated USD 150 billion to USD 175 billion of assets in risk parity funds

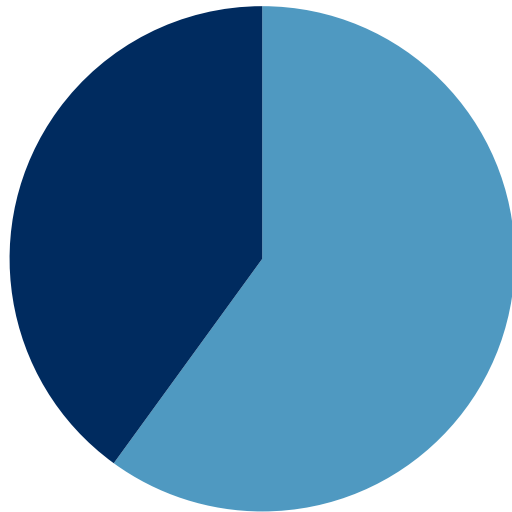
Why Popular?

Offers attractive long-term risk-adjusted returns and outperformance across large equity market drawdowns

Traditional asset allocation

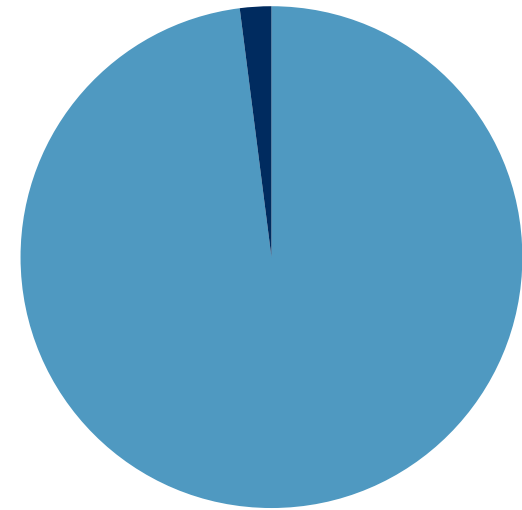
Most portfolios are dominated by equity risk

Capital Allocation



■ Equities
■ Bonds

Risk Allocation

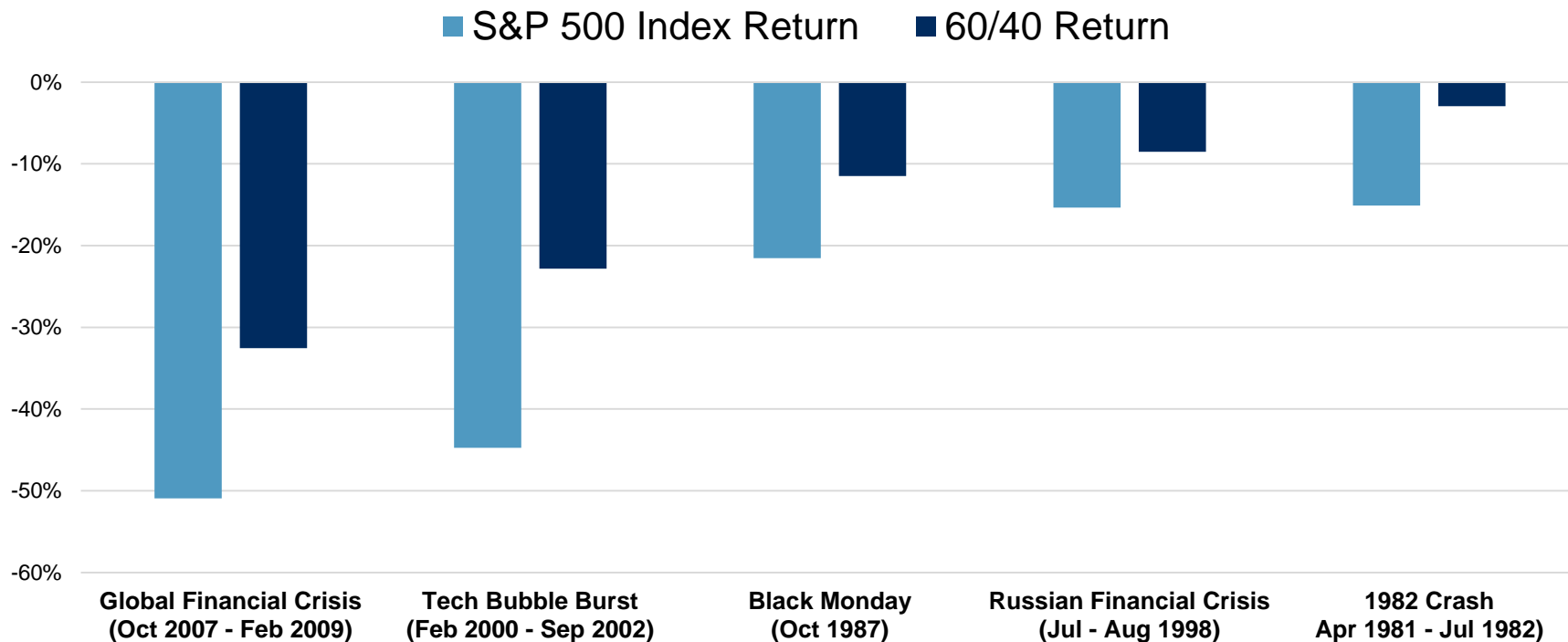


Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC. Charts are provided for illustrative purposes.

Traditional asset allocation

Most portfolios tend to suffer as equities fall

Top five worst S&P 500 drawdowns since 1980 with corresponding 60/40 return



The 60/40 equity/bond portfolio is a hypothetical portfolio.

Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC. Data from January 1980 to March 2019. Index performance based on monthly total return in USD. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Chart is provided for illustrative purposes.

Constructing a Risk Parity Portfolio

Constructing a risk parity portfolio

Core objectives

- **Generate stable returns across defined economic regimes**
 - Via appropriate asset class selection
- **Maximize diversification benefits**
 - Via appropriate weighting scheme
- **Achieve a more stable risk profile**
 - Via risk targeting

Asset class selection

Select asset classes that satisfy the following criteria

- 1 Positive expected long-term performance
- 2 Low or negative correlation to other asset classes
- 3 Diversify across a range of defined economic environments
 - Growth and inflation

Asset class selection

Complementary characteristics

EQUITIES

- Harvest equity risk premium
- Expected to perform well during periods of rising growth
- Expected to perform well during periods of low or falling inflation

NOMINAL BONDS

- High quality bonds provide interest rate premium
- Downside protection during periods of falling growth
- Expected to perform well during periods of low or falling inflation

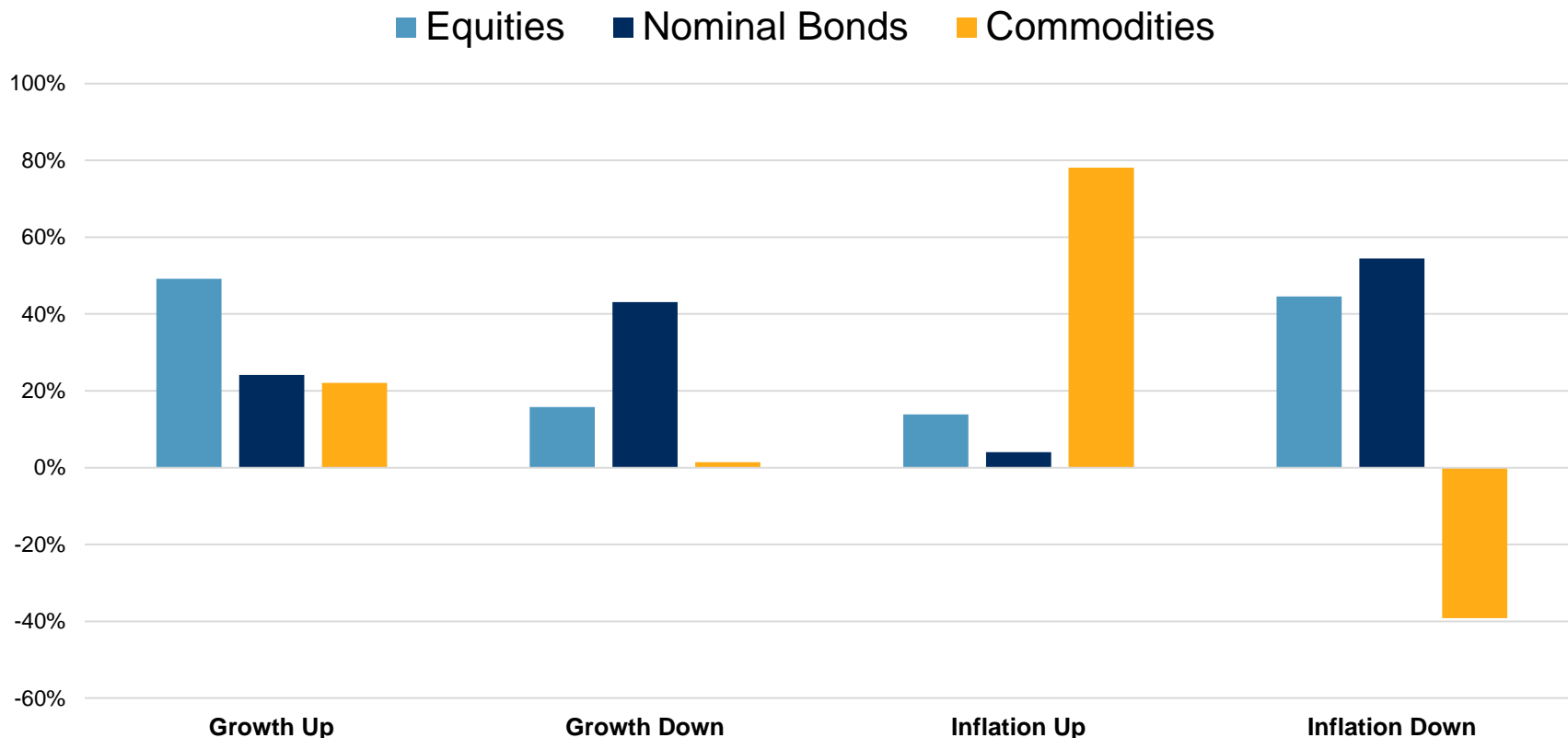
COMMODITIES

- Harvest inflation risk premium
- Expected to perform well during periods of rising growth
- Protection during periods of rising inflation

Asset class selection

Balanced across growth and inflation

Risk-adjusted performance across four economic environments since 1973

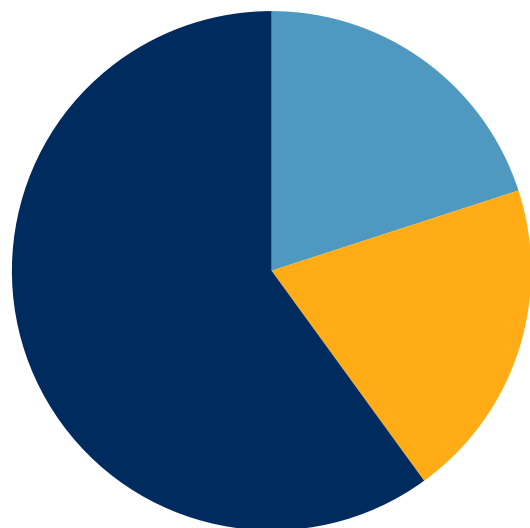


Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC and Bloomberg. Data from January 1973 to March 2019. Equities are represented by the S&P 500 TR. Bonds are represented by the Bloomberg Barclays US Treasury Total Return Unhedged Index. Commodities are represented by the S&P GSCI TR. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Chart is provided for illustrative purposes.

Weighting scheme

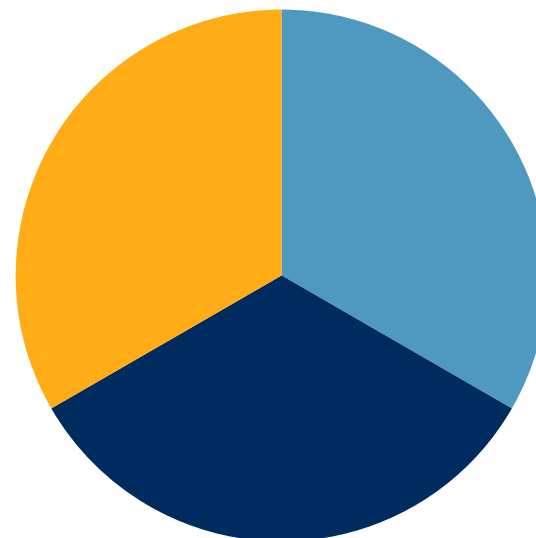
Risk parity targets a risk balanced approach

Capital Allocation



- Equities
- Bonds
- Commodities

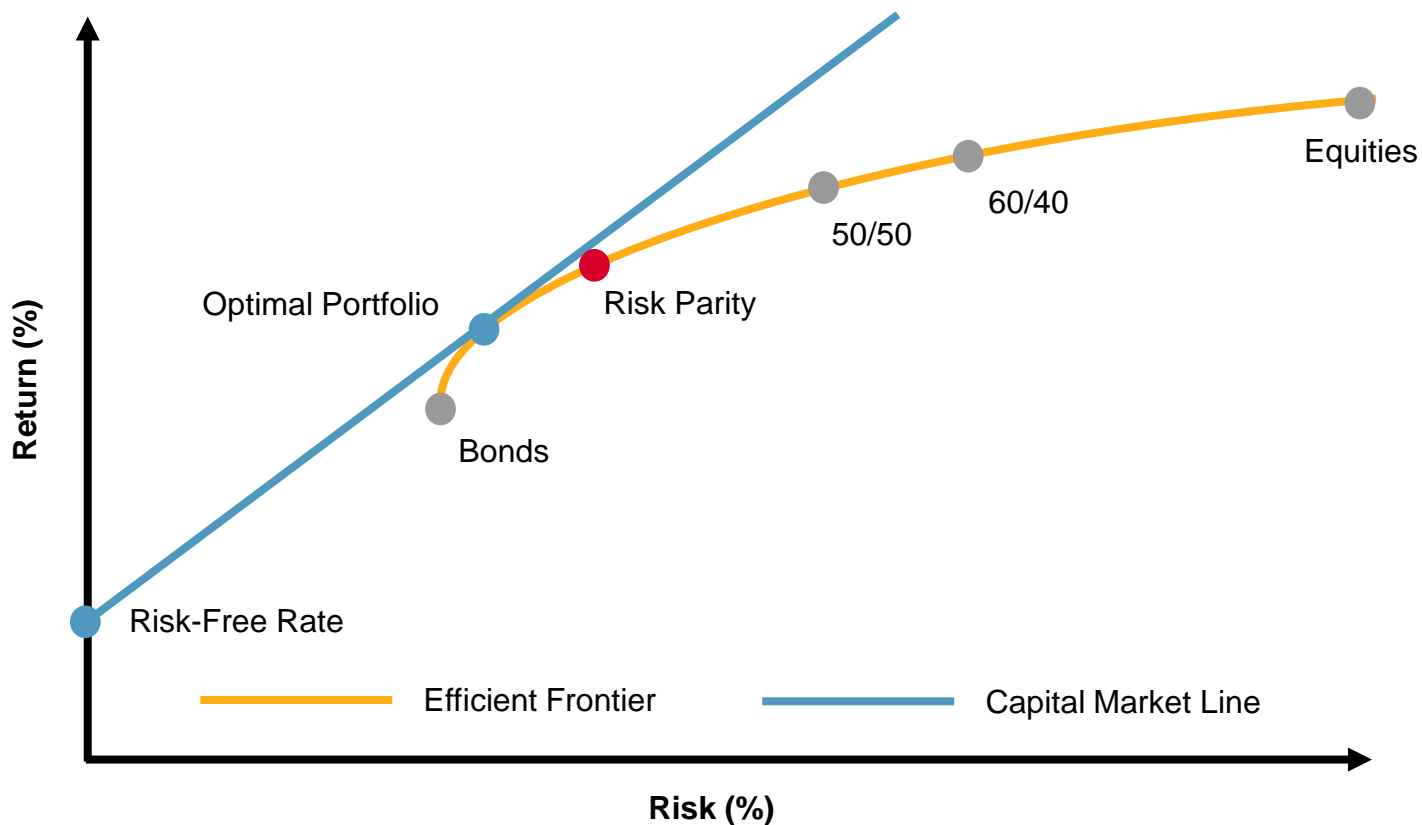
Risk Allocation



Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC. Charts are provided for illustrative purposes.

Weighting scheme

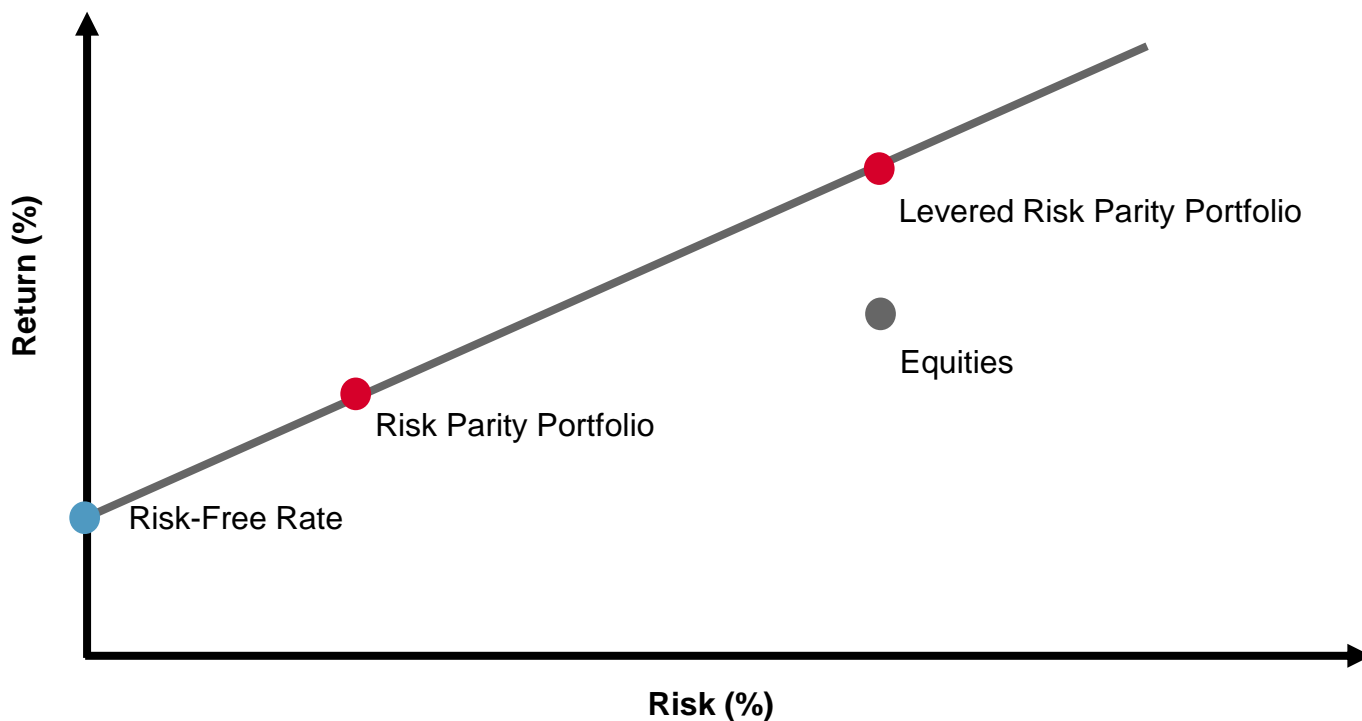
Risk parity portfolios are typically more efficient



Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC. Chart is provided for illustrative purposes.

Risk targeting

Risk parity portfolios typically require leverage

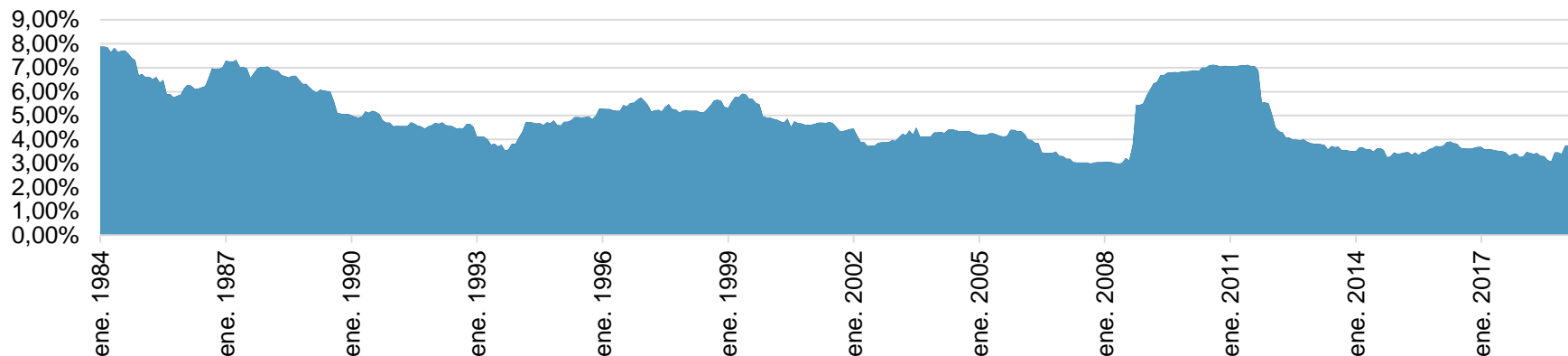


Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC. Chart is provided for illustrative purposes.

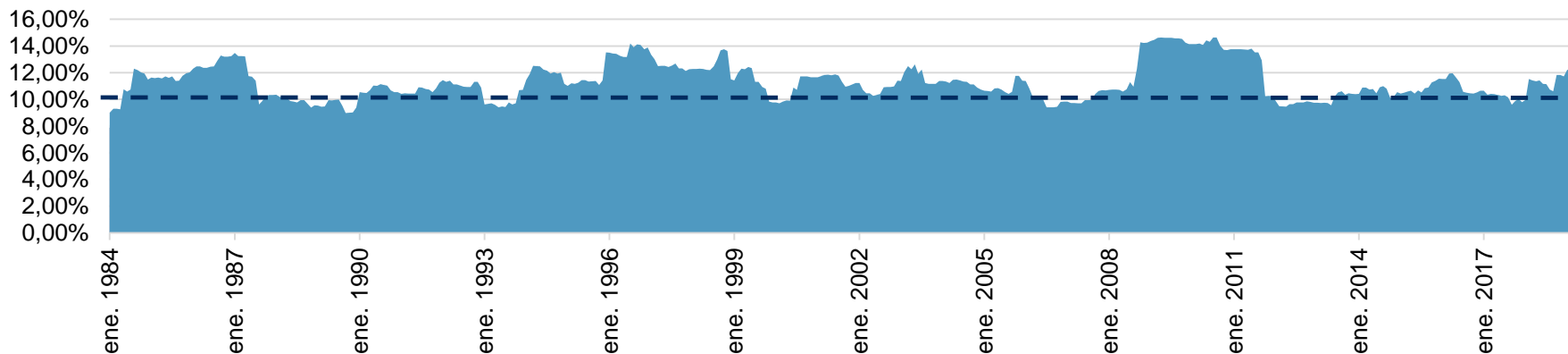
Risk targeting

Risk parity are typically volatility targeted

Simple risk parity with no volatility targeting



Simple risk parity with volatility targeting

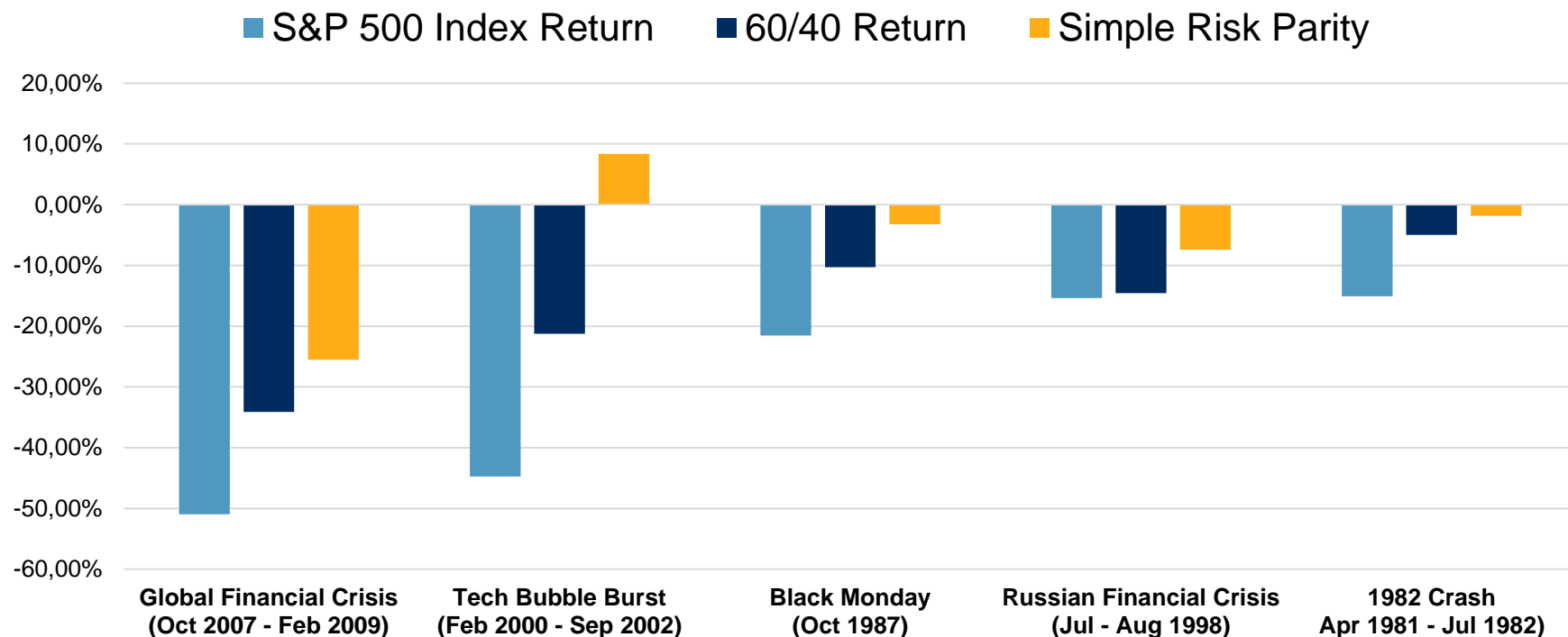


Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC. Data from January 1980 to April 2019. Simple Risk Parity is constructed by allocating equal risk, rebalanced monthly, across three asset classes (stocks, bonds, and commodities) based on each asset class' previous 12-month realized volatility. Charts are provided for illustrative purposes.

Drawdown analysis

Risk parity is less dominated by equity risk

Top five worst S&P 500 drawdowns since 1980 with corresponding 60/40 and risk parity return



The 60/40 equity/bond portfolio is a hypothetical portfolio.

Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC. Data from January 1981 to March 2019. Simple Risk Parity is constructed by allocating equal risk, rebalanced monthly, across three asset classes (stocks, bonds, and commodities) based on each asset class' previous 12-month realized volatility. Chart is provided for illustrative purposes.

Performance analysis

Does risk parity outperform in every environment?

Period	Simple Risk Parity	60/40 Portfolio	Outperformance
1982 Bull Market, Sep 1982 - Mar 1984	29.0%	35.1%	-6.1%
Black Monday, Oct 1987	-3.2%	-10.3%	7.0%
Surprise Fed Rate Hike, Feb – Mar 1994	-10.0%	-9.8%	-0.2%
Tech Bubble, Jan 1999 – Mar 2000	13.1%	23.8%	-10.8%
Tech Bubble Burst, Apr 2000 – Feb 2003	50.7%	-6.6%	57.3%
Easy Credit, Aug 2002 – Mar 2004	49.6%	36.4%	13.3%
Global Financial Crisis, Jul 2007 – Mar 2009	-10.1%	-21.6%	11.5%
Europe/Greek Debt Crisis, Apr – June 2010	-1.3%	-7.6%	6.3%
2016-2018 Bull Market, Mar 2016 - Jan 2018	58.6%	68.9%	-10.3%
Fourth Quarter 2018, Oct – Dec 2018	-12.9%	-17.0%	4.1%

The 60/40 equity/bond portfolio is a hypothetical portfolio.

Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC. Data from January 1981 to March 2019. Simple Risk Parity is constructed by allocating equal risk, rebalanced monthly, across three asset classes (stocks, bonds, and commodities) based on each asset class' previous 12 month realized volatility. Table is provided for illustrative purposes.

Investing in risk parity

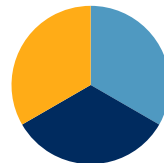
Implementation choices

Allocation Approach

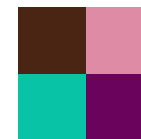
Equal Volatility Contribution



Equal Risk Contribution



Balanced across Economic Environments



Weighting within Asset Classes

Market Cap Weighting

- Market Index Weighted

Alternative Weighting

- GDP Index Weighted
- Risk Weighted
- Valuation Weighted

Liquidity Weighting

- Production Weighted
- Trading Volume Weighted

Risk Measurement

Static Risk Model

Dynamic Risk Model

Investing in Risk Parity

Investing in risk parity

Institutional approaches to using risk parity

Core/Satellite Approach

Risk/return characteristics could qualify risk parity to be the core holding of an investment portfolio

Alternative Investments

Use of leverage and derivatives led many investors to place risk parity within alternatives bucket

Opportunistic

Some institutional investors have this bucket and not uncommon to place here

Global Tactical Asset Allocation

Similar peer group to risk parity given it uses a wide range of asset classes and shifting weights

Investing in risk parity

Risk parity for Latin American investors

Tailoring

Risk parity implementation can be tailored

Asset Class Selection

The key is to select investments that behave differently across economic environments

Asset Allocation

Allocation scheme can applied across a range of investments

Indexing Risk Parity

Indexing risk parity

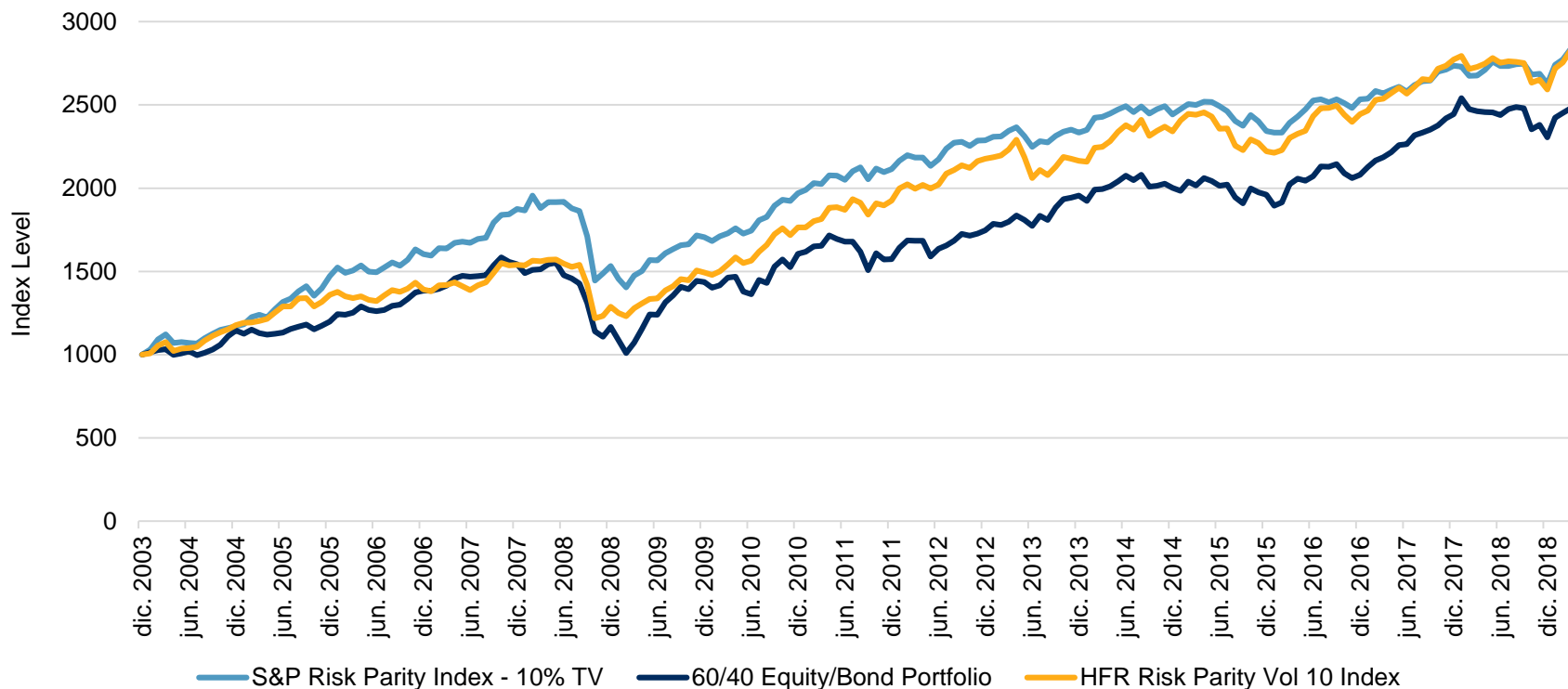
S&P Risk Parity Indices

- **Applications:**
 - Benchmark or trackable index
- **Exposure:**
 - Invests across equities, fixed income, and commodities
 - Utilizes futures contracts
- **Weighting:**
 - Inverse-volatility (i.e. equalize volatility contribution)
 - Long-term lookback window
 - Three volatility targets: 10%, 12%, and 15%

Indexing risk parity

S&P Risk Parity Indices

Performance versus the 60/40 Portfolio and Fund Based Benchmark – January 2003 through March 2019



The 60/40 equity/bond portfolio is a hypothetical portfolio.

Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC. Data from January 2003 to March 2019. Index performance based on monthly total return in USD. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Table is provided for illustrative purposes and reflects hypothetical historical performance. Please see the Performance Disclosure at the end of this document for more information regarding the inherent limitations associated with back-tested performance.

Indexing risk parity

S&P Risk Parity Indices

Performance versus the 60/40 Portfolio and Fund Based Benchmark –
January 2003 through March 2019

	S&P Risk Parity Index - 10% Target Volatility	HFR Risk Parity Vol 10 Index	60/40 EQUITY/BOND PORTFOLIO
Annual Return	7.08%	7.06%	6.14%
Annual Volatility	8.26%	8.34%	10.05%
Sharpe Ratio	0.707	0.694	0.506
Maximum Peak-to-trough Drawdown	-28.17%	-22.43%	-36.42%
Return to Maximum Drawdown	25.12%	31.47%	16.93%
Annualized Tracking Error	3.93%		

Select Periods: *Cumulative Returns*

Global Financial Crisis, <i>Oct 2007 - Feb 2009</i>	-23.6%	-20.6%	-36.4%
Europe/Greece Debt Crisis, <i>Mar - June 2010</i>	0.9%	1.5%	-7.2%
Downgrade of U.S. Debt, <i>Aug - Nov 2011</i>	-1.4%	-0.8%	-2.2%
China's Black Monday, <i>May - Sept 2015</i>	-5.7%	-8.2%	-6.1%
Inflation Fears, <i>Jan 2018 - Mar 2018</i>	-2.0%	-2.4%	-3.4%
Fourth Quarter 2018, <i>Oct 2018 - Dec 2018</i>	-4.4%	-5.7%	-7.0%

Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC., HFR Index, LLC. Data as of March 29, 2019. Index performance based on monthly total return in USD. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Chart is provided for illustrative purposes and reflects hypothetical historical performance. Please see the Performance Disclosure at the end of this document for more information regarding the inherent limitations associated with back-tested performance.

Performance Disclosure

The S&P Risk Parity Index – 10% Target Volatility, S&P Risk Parity Index – 12% Target Volatility, and S&P Risk Parity Index – 15% Target Volatility were launched on July 11, 2018. All information presented prior to an index's Launch Date is hypothetical (back-tested), not actual performance. The back-test calculations are based on the same methodology that was in effect on the index Launch Date. Complete index methodology details are available at www.spdji.com.

S&P Dow Jones Indices defines various dates to assist our clients in providing transparency. The First Value Date is the first day for which there is a calculated value (either live or back-tested) for a given index. The Base Date is the date at which the Index is set at a fixed value for calculation purposes. The Launch Date designates the date upon which the values of an index are first considered live: index values provided for any date or time period prior to the index's Launch Date are considered back-tested. S&P Dow Jones Indices defines the Launch Date as the date by which the values of an index are known to have been released to the public, for example via the company's public website or its datafeed to external parties. For Dow Jones-branded indices introduced prior to May 31, 2013, the Launch Date (which prior to May 31, 2013, was termed "Date of introduction") is set at a date upon which no further changes were permitted to be made to the index methodology, but that may have been prior to the Index's public release date.

Past performance of the Index is not an indication of future results. Prospective application of the methodology used to construct the Index may not result in performance commensurate with the back-test returns shown. The back-test period does not necessarily correspond to the entire available history of the Index. Please refer to the methodology paper for the Index, available at www.spdji.com for more details about the index, including the manner in which it is rebalanced, the timing of such rebalancing, criteria for additions and deletions, as well as all index calculations.

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