# THE WISDOMTREE PORTFOLIO REVIEW, PART ONE: STRATEGIC MODELS

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This article is relevant to financial professionals who are considering offering model portfolios to their clients. If you are an individual investor interested in WisdomTree ETF Model Portfolios, please inquire with your financial professional. Not all financial professionals have access to these model portfolios.

As we begin an already turbulent 2023, let's take a moment to review how our Model Portfolios performed in 2022. This is the first of a three-part series, breaking each blog post into our categorizations of models: 1) Strategic, 2) Outcome-Focused and 3) Collaboration.

Let's dive in.

# Equity

No one needs to be reminded what a terrible year 2022 was for both global stock and  $\underline{\text{bond}}$   $\underline{\text{markets}}$ . No one completely avoided the tsunami, but there were certain risk factors that performed better than others.

First and foremost was <u>value</u>. We saw a massive rotation into value and out of the growth risk factor that dominated market performance for most of the previous 10 years (think mega-Tech stocks). The 24+% differential between value and <u>growth</u> performance in 2022 was the largest dispersion the market has witnessed in decades, perhaps ever.



- S&P 500 Total Return (\*SPXTR) Level % Change
- S&P 500 Growth Total Return (\*SPXGTR) Level % Change
- S&P 500 Value Total Return (\*SPXVTR) Level % Change



Source: YCharts, data from 1/1/22–12/31/22. You cannot invest in an index, and past performance does not guarantee future results.

For definitions of Indexes in the chart, please visit our <u>glossary</u>.

We saw similar outperformances, on smaller scales, by the <u>dividend</u> and <u>quality</u> factors (though dividends were close).



- S&P 500 Dividend Aristocrats Total Return (\*SPXDATR) Level % Change
- S&P 500 Quality Total Return (\*SPXQTR) Level % Change



Source: YCharts, data from 1/1/22-12/31/22. You cannot invest in an index, and past performance does not guarantee future results.

For definitions of Indexes in the chart, please visit our glossary.

Finally, we saw outperformance by  $\underline{\text{smaller-cap}}$  stocks (using the  $\underline{\text{S\&P 500 equal-weighted}}$   $\underline{\text{Index}}$  as a proxy since it is not  $\underline{\text{cap-weighted}}$  but assigns equal weight to each stock within the  $\underline{\text{S\&P 500}}$ ).









Source: YCharts, data from 1/1/22-12/31/22. You cannot invest in an index, and past performance does not guarantee future results.

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If you know WisdomTree, you know that many, if not most, of our equity products have inherent factor tilts embedded in them, focusing primarily on dividends, value, quality and <u>size</u>—the exact factors that performed best in 2022.

Feb 06 2023, 1:37PM EST. Powered by YCHARTS

Furthermore, another inherent thesis in our equity models is a belief in global <u>diversification</u>. This, too, worked out well in 2022, as both developed international and <u>emerging markets</u> outperformed the U.S., despite an almost year-long rally in the <u>U.S. dollar</u> (which works to dampen the return realized by U.S. investors on their non-U.S. investments).



- Russell 1000 Total Return (\*RUITR)
- MSCI EAFE Total Return (\*MSEAFETR)
- MSCI EMU Total Return (\*MSEMUTR)



Source: YCharts, data from 1/1/22-12/31/22. You cannot invest in an index, and past performance does not guarantee future results.

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All these inherent tilts in our equity model-value, dividends, size, quality and a global allocation-translated into the solid outperformance of our core equity model relative to its underlying benchmarks.

WisdomTree Core Equity Model Portfolio



2.51%

0.25% Model Expense Ratio 12/18/2013

100%

Model 12-Month Dividend Yield (As of 12/31/2022)

Model Performance | Model Allocations | Model Exposures | Fund Performance | Fund Details

As of 12/31/2022	Cumulative Returns			Average Annual Total Returns				
Name	1-Month	3-Month	YTD	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Since Inception
WisdomTree Core Equity Model Portfolio (NAV)	-3.57%	10.12%	-15.84%	-15.84%	3.52%	4.13%		6.52%
WisdomTree Core Equity Model Portfolio (MP)	-4.22%	10.26%	-15.85%	-15.85%	3.49%	4.05%		6.39%
MSCI ACWI IMI	-3.84%	9.84%	-18.40%	-18.40%	3.89%	4.96%		6.63%
MSCI ACWI Diversified Multi Factor	-4.31%	10.40%	-16.59%	-16.59%	3.12%	3.33%		6.76%

Source: WisdomTree Model Adoption Center, as of 12/31/22. Performance is historical and does not guarantee future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than quoted. Investment returns and the principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost.

The Model Portfolio performance results shown are theoretical and do not reflect any investor's actual experience with owning, trading or managing an actual investment. Thus, the performance shown does not reflect the impact that economic and market factors had or might have had on decision-making if actual investor money had been managed and allocated per the Model Portfolio. The actual performance achieved in seeking to follow the Model Portfolio may differ from the theoretical performance shown for a number of reasons, including the timing of implementation of trades (including rebalancing trades to adjust to Model Portfolio changes), market conditions, fees and expenses (e.g., brokerage commissions, deduction of advisory or other fees or expenses charged by advisors or other third parties to investors, strategist fees and/or platform fees), contributions, withdrawals, account restrictions, tax consequences and/or other factors, any or all of which may lower returns. While the Model Portfolio performance may have been better than the benchmark for some or all periods shown, the performance during any other period may not have been, and there is no assurance that the Model Portfolio performance will be better than the benchmark in the future. The Model Portfolio performance calculations assume reinvestment of dividends, are pre-tax and are net of Fund expenses.

ETF shares are bought and sold at market price (not NAV) and are not individually redeemable from the Fund. Total returns are calculated using the daily 4:00 p.m. EST net asset value (NAV). Market price returns reflect the midpoint of the bid/ask spread as of the close of trading on the exchange where Fund shares are listed. Market price returns do not represent the returns you would receive if you traded shares at other times. Model 12-month yield is calculated using the weighted average trailing 12-month distribution yields of the Fund constituents. Funds incepted less than 12 months ago do not have a trailing 12-month dividend yield. Model expense ratio refers to the weighted average expense ratios of the Fund constituents.

For underlying Fund performance including standardized performance and 30-Day SEC yield, please click <u>here</u>. Month-end performance can be found at wisdomtree.com/etfs

The good news is that these factor rotations tend not to be one-year phenomena but rather multi-year cycles. So, these "factor tailwinds" may be with us for some time to come.

## Fixed Income

For all of 2022, the positioning within our <u>fixed income</u> model was to be under-weight in <u>duration</u> and over-weight in quality credit relative to the Bloomberg Aggregate Index.

These were the correct calls, and this portfolio outperformed its underlying benchmark as well in 2022 by almost 200 <u>basis points</u>.

WisdomTree Fixed Income Model Portfolio



2.84% Model 12-Month Dividend Yield 0.22%

12/18/2013

100%

Model Expense Ratio (As of 12/31/2022)

Model Performance | Model Allocations | Model Exposures | Fund Performance | Fund Details

As of 12/31/2022	Cumulative Returns			Average Annual Total Returns				
Name	1-Month	3-Month	YTD	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Since Inception
WisdomTree Fixed Income Model Portfolio (NAV)	-0.62%	1.84%	-11.23%	-11.23%	-2.29%	0.15%		1.66%
WisdomTree Fixed Income Model Portfolio (MP)	-0.52%	1.97%	-11.10%	-11.10%	-2.29%	0.14%		1.67%
Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index	-0.45%	1.87%	-13.01%	-13.01%	-2.71%	0.02%		1.37%

Source: WisdomTree Model Adoption Center, as of 12/31/22. Performance is historical and does not guarantee future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than quoted. Investment returns and the principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost.

The Model Portfolio performance results shown are theoretical and do not reflect any investor's actual experience with owning, trading or managing an actual investment. Thus, the performance shown does not reflect the impact that economic and market factors had or might have had on decision-making if actual investor money had been managed and allocated per the Model Portfolio. The actual performance achieved in seeking to follow the Model Portfolio may differ from the theoretical performance shown for a number of reasons, including the timing of implementation of trades (including rebalancing trades to adjust to Model Portfolio changes), market conditions, fees and expenses (e.g., brokerage commissions, deduction of advisory or other fees or expenses charged by advisors or other third parties to investors, strategist fees and/or platform fees), contributions, withdrawals, account restrictions, tax consequences and/or other factors, any or all of which may lower returns. While the Model Portfolio performance may have been better than the benchmark for some or all periods shown, the performance during any other period may not have been, and there is no assurance that the Model Portfolio performance will be better than the benchmark in the future. The Model Portfolio performance calculations assume reinvestment of dividends, are pre-tax and are net of Fund expenses.

ETF shares are bought and sold at market price (not NAV) and are not individually redeemable from the Fund. Total returns are calculated using the daily 4:00 p.m. EST net asset value (NAV). Market price returns reflect the midpoint of the bid/ask spread as of the close of trading on the exchange where Fund shares are listed. Market price returns do not represent the returns you would receive if you traded shares at other times. Model 12-month yield is calculated using the weighted average trailing 12-month distribution yields of the Fund constituents. Funds incepted less than 12 months ago do not have a trailing 12-month dividend yield. Model expense ratio refers to the weighted average expense ratios of the Fund constituents.

For underlying Fund performance including standardized performance and 30-Day SEC yield, please click here. Month-end performance can be found at wisdomtree.com/etfs

Well, if your core equity and fixed income models both outperformed, then your strategic allocation models, comprised of varying combinations of the equity and fixed income portfolios, should also have outperformed. Using the traditional "60/40" stock/bond port folio as an example, this is exactly what happened.

WisdomTree Moderate Model Portfolio



For underlying Fund performance including standardized performance and 30-Day SEC yield, please click here. Month-end performance can be found at wisdomtree.com/etfs **Endowment Model** 

Finally, a word about our endowment models, which combine stocks and bonds with an allocation to lower-correlated strategies such as real assets and alternatives. The thesis behind these models is that by incorporating lower-correlated strategies, advisors can deliver a more diversified portfolio experience, with the potential of delivering more consistent portfolio performance regardless of the market regime.

The idea is to take advantage of the power of compounding-if you don't lose as much in down markets, you don't need to gain as much in up markets to still come out ahead in the long run.

This is what happened in 2022. Most advisors know if they included real assets (specifically commodities) and alternatives (equity <a href="long/short">long/short</a>, <a href="mailto:managed futures">managed futures</a>, <a href="global">global</a> macro, etc.) in 2022, they were pleased with the outcome.



traditional 60/40 portfolio (down 14.09%). In other words, it did its job. WisdomTree Endowment Moderately Aggressive Model Portfolio

For underlying Fund performance including standardized performance and 30-Day SEC yield, please click  $\underline{here}$ . Month-end performance can be found at wisdomtree.com/etfs

Using our "moderately aggressive" endowment model as an example, as it is the closest allocation to our traditional 60/40 portfolio, we notice two things: (1) our portfolio (down 13.10%) generally tracked its underlying benchmarks, but (2) it outperformed our

# Conclusion

No one is happy to see negative performances in their portfolios. But, given the *annus horribilis* that was 2022, our relative outperformances are something we can build from as we move into and through 2023.

In part two of this series, we will examine the performances of our Outcome-Focused models.



Financial advisors can learn more about these models and how to position them successfully with end clients at our Model Adoption Center.

Important Risks Related to this Article

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For definitions of terms/indexes in the charts above, please visit the glossary.

For standardized performance and the most recent month-end performance click <a href="here">here</a> NOTE, this material is intended for electronic use only. Individuals who intend to print and physically deliver to an investor must print the monthly performance report to accompany this blog.

View the online version of this article here.



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### **DEFINITIONS**

**Bond market**: The bond market-often called the debt market, fixed-income market, or credit market—is the collective name given to all trades and issues of debt securities. Governments typically issue bonds in order to raise capital to pay down debts or fund infrastructural improvements.

<u>Value</u>: Characterized by lower price levels relative to fundamentals, such as earnings or dividends. Prices are lower because investors are less certain of the performance of these fundamentals in the future. This term is also related to the Value Factor, which associates these stock characteristics with excess returns vs the market over tim.

**Growth**: Characterized by higher price levels relative to fundamentals, such as dividends or earnings. Price levels are higher because investors are willing to pay more due to their expectations of future improvements in these fundamentals.

**Dividend**: A portion of corporate profits paid out to shareholders.

**Quality**: Characterized by higher efficiency and profitability. Typical measures include earnings, return on equity, return on assets, operating profitability as well as others. This term is also related to the Quality Factor, which associates these stock characteristics with excess returns vs the market over tim.

<u>Small caps</u>: new or relatively young companies that typically have a market capitalization between \$200 million to \$2 billion.

**S&P 500 Equal Weight Index**: Designed to track the equally weighted performance of the 500 constituents in the S&P 500 Index.

<u>Market capitalization-weighting</u>: Market cap = share prices x number of shares outstanding. Firms with the highest values receive the highest weights in approaches designed to weight firms by market cap.

<u>S&P 500 Index</u>: Market capitalization-weighted benchmark of 500 stocks selected by the Standard and Poor's Index Committee designed to represent the performance of the leading industries in the United States economy.

<u>Size</u>: Characterized by smaller companies rather than larger companies by market capitalization. This term is also related to the Size Factor, which associates smaller market-cap stocks with excess returns vs the market over time.

**Diversification**: A risk management strategy that mixes a wide variety of investments within a portfolio.

**Emerging market**: Characterized by greater market access and less potential for operational risks when compared to frontier markets, which leads to a larger base of potentially eligible investors.

<u>USD</u> (United States Dollar): The USD (United States dollar) is the official currency of the United States of America. The United States dollar, or U.S. dollar, is made up of 100 cents. It is represented by the symbol \$ or US\$ to differentiate it from other dollar-based currencies.

**Fixed income**: An investment security that provides a return in the form of fixed periodic payments and the eventual return of principal at maturity.



<u>Duration</u>: A measure of a bond's sensitivity to changes in interest rates. The weighted average accounts for the various durations of the bonds purchased as well as the proportion of the total government bond portfolio that they make up.

Basis point : 1/100th of 1 percent.

60/40 Portfolio : A portfolio of 60% equities and 40% fixed income.

**Long/short**: An investing strategy that takes long positions in stocks that are expected to appreciate and short positions in stocks that are expected to decline.

<u>Managed futures</u>: An alternative investment strategy in which futures contracts are used as part of the investment strategy.

