FREEDOM WEALTH ALLIANCE

MARKET UPDATE | FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Increased Short-Term Uncertainty Around Coronavirus and U.S. Presidential Elections Impacting Markets

SUMMARY

- Negative headlines persist as the coronavirus spreads outside of Asia and global growth estimates weaken.
- Increased probability of Senator Bernie Sanders becoming Democratic presidential nominee adds to market uncertainty.
- We do not believe these potential short-term factors should change long-term investors' strategies at this time.

Investors came into 2020 anticipating global economic stabilization and a potential reacceleration throughout the year. This resulted in a strong rally in risk assets in Q4 2019 through mid-February this year. In our Q4 2019 quarterly investment commentary, we had become increasingly concerned with the run up in the markets and the higher valuations across risk assets. Markets often need a catalyst to unwind investor greed and overvalued conditions. We believe the onset of the coronavirus and the current U.S. presidential election cycle are two catalysts that are negatively impacting financial markets at this time.

Investors were caught by surprise with the headlines around the spreading of the coronavirus in China and other parts of the world. Government and corporate actions to attempt to contain the spreading of the virus is anticipated to have a negative impact on the global economy. The question is how persistent and how deep of an impact this will be. It is very uncertain at this time and investors have become increasingly cautious on risk assets in this environment.

We are also starting to see, although it's early, increasing probabilities that Senator Bernie Sanders may be the leading candidate for the Democratic Party's U.S. presidential nominee. Senator Sanders may be the most liberal candidate of the group with policies that could be perceived as negative for "Wall Street" and financial markets. Although the U.S. presidential election is months away, this is a source of uncertainty that investors will need to navigate with market volatility that is anticipated to continue.

We do not believe investors should make drastic changes to their investment strategy at this time. Short-term deep selloffs often feel bad when it happens, but we do not believe investors should make emotional investment decisions based on short-term market movements. Oftentimes, a non-emotional, simple portfolio rebalancing strategy is an effective way to buy at lower levels and sell at higher levels when asset allocations move out of long-term target ranges. We implement rebalancing strategies across our FWA-managed portfolios on behalf of clients.

The FWA Investment Committee continues to monitor the markets and potential longer-term impacts of various factors, including the coronavirus and U.S. presidential election. At this time, we believe these factors may be shorter-term in nature rather than longer-term negatives for the global economy. Although we remain cautious on the current valuations of risk assets, the recent selloff is starting to resolve the valuation concern a bit. We will continue to provide updates if conditions materially change from here.

FWA INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Eric Kulwicki, CFA
Senior Portfolio Manager
As the Senior Portfolio Manager, Eric leads the Freedom Wealth Alliance Investment Committee to determine investment strategy, drive research and construct multi-asset portfolios with a focus on managing risk for clients.

Kurt Rozman
President
Kurt is the President of Freedom Wealth Alliance, a full service and fast growing financial services firm founded in the Midwest. Kurt has spent over 25 years of his professional career managing a variety of tactical investment strategies for clients.

Shawn Hittman
Financial Advisor
Shawn has been conducting in-depth analysis of the financial markets and building model portfolios for nearly 20 years. Shawn advises on macroeconomic trends and assesses where potential values and risks exist in the markets.

DEFINITIONS

Risk Assets: Risk assets generally refer to assets that carry a perceived high degree of risk and price volatility. Risk assets can include stocks, lower quality bonds, highly interest rate-sensitive bonds, commodities, currencies and certain alternative strategies.

Conservative Assets: Conservative assets generally refer to assets that carry a perceived low degree of risk and price volatility. Conservative assets can include cash securities and higher quality, less interest rate-sensitive bonds.

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide or be construed as providing specific investment advice or recommendations for any individual security.

Any economic forecasts set forth in the presentation may not develop as predicted and there can be no guarantee that strategies promoted will be successful.

The term "portfolios" used in this piece is in reference to the Freedom Wealth Alliance model portfolios. Any reference to performance is based on estimated, unaudited, gross of fee performance of the model portfolios. Client accounts assigned a Freedom Wealth Alliance model portfolio may have positioning and performance that differs from the firm's model portfolios at any given time.

There is no assurance that the techniques and strategies discussed are suitable for all investors or will yield positive outcomes. The purchase of certain securities may be required to affect some of the strategies. Investing in stock includes numerous specific risks including: the fluctuation of dividend, loss of principal and potential illiquidity of the investment in a falling market.

Bonds are subject to market and interest rate risk if sold prior to maturity. Bond and bond mutual fund values and yields will decline as interest rates rise and bonds are subject to availability and change in price. Government bonds and Treasury bills are guaranteed by the U.S. government as to the timely payment of principal and interest and, if held to maturity, offer a fixed rate of return and fixed principal value. However, the value of fund shares is not guaranteed and will fluctuate.

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Asset management does not ensure a profit or protect against loss. There is no guarantee that a diversified portfolio will enhance overall returns or outperform a non-diversified portfolio. Diversification does not protect against market risk.

Alternative investments may not be suitable for all investors and should be considered as an investment for the risk capital portion of the investor's portfolio. The strategies employed in the management of alternative investments may accelerate the velocity of potential losses.

International investing involves special risks such as currency fluctuation and political instability and may not be suitable for all investors. These risks are often heightened for investments in emerging markets.

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This research material has been prepared by Freedom Wealth Alliance.