

3RD QUARTER • 2017

ENDOWMENTS QUARTERLY

A LOOK AT ASSET ALLOCATION AND TOTAL RETURNS
FOR US ENDOWMENTS AND FOUNDATIONS

The Cambridge Associates US endowment and foundation universe includes colleges and universities, cultural and environmental institutions, health care institutions, independent schools, and other endowed nonprofit institutions as well as foundations. This report provides asset allocation and return analyses for 418 US endowments and foundations that participated in our quarterly survey. The average market value of participating long-term investment portfolios was \$1.3 billion. The median value was \$296.2 million.

EXAMINING RETURNS

The mean return of the US endowment and foundation universe was 3.2% for the quarter ended September 30, 2017.¹ Trailing one-year returns averaged 12.0%. Returns for the trailing one-year period ranged from 14.5% at the 5th percentile to 9.5% at the 95th percentile.

Per the Consumer Price Index, the rate of inflation was 0.8% for third quarter 2017 and 2.2% for the trailing one-year period. Adjusting nominal returns to reflect inflation, the average real return for US endowments and foundations falls to 2.4% for the second quarter and to 9.6% for the trailing one-year period.

RISK-ADJUSTED PERFORMANCE. Risk-adjusted performance is important to evaluate as it measures the total return relative to the total amount of risk taken by the portfolio. The most common approach to measuring risk-adjusted performance is by the Sharpe ratio, which shows how much return above the risk-free rate (T-bills) the investor has earned per unit of risk (defined as the standard deviation of returns). The higher the Sharpe ratio, the more the investor has been compensated for each unit of risk taken.

Risk-adjusted performance comparisons can be complicated when portfolios have significant allocations to private investments. The frequency and timing of private investment valuations can artificially dampen the standard deviation of returns for these assets. Thus, a portfolio with high allocations to private investments can yield a lower volatility statistic that does not fully represent to the amount of risk it has actually taken. For this reason, we have split institutions out into subcategories in Figure 13 based on their allocations to private investments.

¹ Returns are reported on a net of fees basis for 99% of the US endowment and foundation universe.

Institutions that had an allocation of 15% or more to private investments over the last five years reported an average Sharpe ratio of 1.67, significantly higher than that of the other subgroups with smaller private allocations. While the magnitude of the differences in average Sharpe ratios is partly a function of this group's higher average five-year return, it is also attributable to its lower average standard deviation.

TRAILING ONE-YEAR RESULTS

Asset allocation is a key contributor to the total return that a portfolio earns. Figure 7 explores this relationship and illustrates how general asset allocation structures vary across the four performance quartiles of the overall participant group. In this figure, each institution's asset allocation was averaged across the beginning and ending points for the trailing one-year period. The four quartiles in the heat map table represent the average of the institutions within each quartile.

The chart of index returns in Figure 7 provides the context of the market environment for the period. Private investment indexes are pooled horizon IRRs net of fees, expenses, and carried interest, while public indexes are time-weighted returns. Included alongside the private benchmark IRRs are public market returns on a modified public market equivalent basis (mPME). The CA mPME replicates private investment performance under public market conditions and allows for an appropriate comparison of private and public market returns.² The mPME analysis evaluates what return would have been earned had the dollars invested in private investments been invested in the public market index instead. Private natural resources and real estate outperformed their respective mPME reference index for the trailing one-year period, while private equity slightly underperformed the S&P 500 mPME and venture capital significantly underperformed public small-cap equities.³

Public equities produced the best returns of the major asset class strategies for the trailing one-year period. The MSCI Emerging Market Index led the way with a 22.5% return, followed by the MSCI EAFE Index (19.1%) and the Russell 3000® Index (18.7%). Endowments and foundations that posted a trailing one-year return in the top quartile had the highest combined average allocation to US equities, global ex US developed equities, and emerging markets equities (54.0%) while those in the bottom quartile had the lowest average allocation (40.7%).

ONE-YEAR ATTRIBUTION. While asset allocation is a key driver of performance, it does not fully explain the variation of returns that are reported across different institutions. The execution or implementation of an asset allocation strategy also contributes to the total returns that portfolios earn. While we do not have the level of detailed data that is necessary to perform a precise attribution analysis, our data do allow us to conduct an estimated analysis that can help illuminate the main drivers of performance for the trailing one-year period.

2 Under the CA mPME methodology, the public index's shares are purchased and sold according to the private fund cash flow schedule, with distributions calculated in the same proportion as the private fund, and mPME net asset value is a function of mPME cash flows and public index returns.

3 Private investment benchmark IRRs and mPME returns are for the period of 10/1/16 to 6/30/17. Data for the quarter ending 9/30/17 is not yet available due to the delayed reporting by private investment funds.

Figure 8 illustrates the results of an estimated attribution analysis based on the one-year return and beginning fiscal year asset allocation of 395 endowments and foundations that provided sufficient data. The portion of the mean participant return that can be attributed to asset allocation is calculated using a blend of representative asset class benchmarks weighted according to each institution's asset allocation. The return from other factors is calculated by subtracting the mean asset allocation return from the mean participant return. This "other" portion of returns is principally driven by implementation or execution decisions, which can include active management and manager selection.⁴

As is usually the case, the attribution analysis estimates that the vast majority of mean trailing one-year total return for the participant group could be explained by asset allocation. US equities, which returned 18.7% and had one of the highest allocations among the detailed asset classes, had the greatest impact of all the asset class return contributors (4.1%). Global ex US developed equities (3.0%) and emerging markets equities (1.7%) also made significant positive contributions to overall portfolio performance.

Figure 8 also provides a breakdown of the attribution data into the four performance quartiles of the overall group, which highlights the different experiences among institutions. The top performance quartile had the highest mean asset allocation return (13.3%) while the bottom performance quartile had the lowest (11.3%). The model estimates that implementation decisions were responsible for a greater portion of the dispersion in performance between top and bottom performers. On average, the top quartile of performers added 0.8% through implementation decisions while the bottom quartile lost value (-1.4%).

A NOTE ON PERFORMANCE REPORTING METHODOLOGIES. The methodology by which private investment returns are reported can have an impact on peer performance statistics, particularly for trailing one-year periods and shorter. Most participants with private investment allocations in this study reported their trailing one-year private investment returns on a partial basis. Under this method, only three quarters of private returns are incorporated for the trailing one-year period. As September 30 valuations become available, second quarter returns will be restated to reflect actual private performance. The lagged basis was the second most frequently used methodology for institutions with private investment allocations. For these investors, the trailing one-year return included four quarters of private investment performance (July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017).

The key difference between these two methodologies is the extra quarter of private investment performance that is incorporated into the lagged basis methodology. For the trailing one-year return that extra quarter was third quarter 2016, a quarter in which all of the four private indexes generated positive returns. A portfolio using the lagged methodology would likely report a higher trailing one-year return relative to

⁴ This model assumes that flows to and from investment managers take place on the last day of the fiscal year. In addition, the analysis uses a standard set of asset class benchmarks that may be more or less representative of the asset allocation policy across different institutions. Therefore, the portion of returns from other factors may also include some residual/unattributable asset allocation effects.

that calculated using the partial methodology. The impact of using the lagged basis methodology relative to the partial basis methodology will be greater for portfolios with larger allocations to private investments.

CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATES PRIVATE INVESTMENT INDEX RETURNS

	One Quarter				
	End-to-End Pooled Return (%)				
	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017
US Private Equity	3.9	4.7	3.9	3.6	NA
US Venture Capital	3.3	-0.1	3.3	1.4	NA
Real Estate	1.9	1.2	3.0	3.6	NA
Natural Resources	3.8	7.6	1.9	-0.4	NA

Lagged Basis
 Partial Basis

Source: Cambridge Associates LLC.
Note: NA indicates data were not available.

TRAILING TEN-YEAR RESULTS

As noted earlier, asset allocation can be a factor in the variation in returns reported across the participant group. Although the analysis of asset allocation structures on a one-year basis is informative, this short-term analysis can lead to different results from one period to the next as market conditions shift. To investigate the impact of asset allocation policies on long-term investment performance, an analysis of data over an extended period is most suitable. Figure 9 breaks the participant group down into four quartiles based on the trailing ten-year investment return. Each institution's asset allocation was averaged across the 11 September 30 periods that fell from 2007 to 2017. The four quartiles in the heat map table represent the average of the institutions within each quartile.

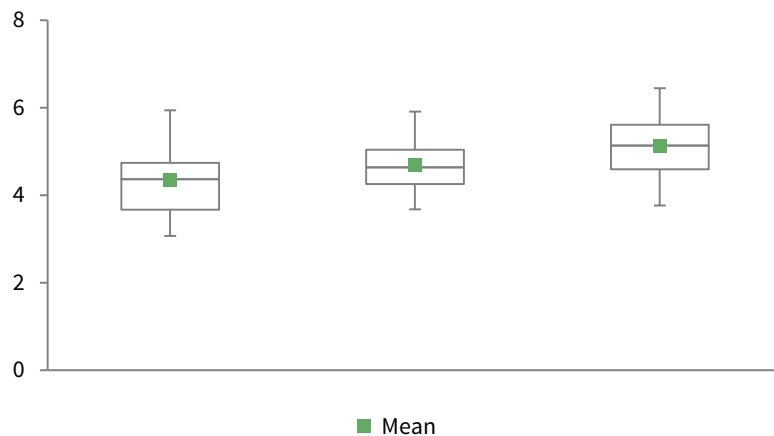
Among the asset class benchmarks, three out of four private investment strategies outperformed their public market counterparts on an mPME basis over the past ten years. Accordingly, the top quartile of performers over the ten-year period reported the highest average allocation to illiquid private investments, while the bottom quartile reported the lowest average allocation to these strategies. Institutions that place significant emphasis on peer performance statistics should note the distinction in average asset allocation policies between top and bottom performers, particularly among private investments.

The figure on the next page organizes participants into three subgroups based on each institution's trailing ten-year average allocation to private investments. The median ten-year return for portfolios with an allocation of over 15% to private investments was 5.1%, approximately 70 basis points higher than the median return reported by portfolios with little to no private investment allocation. The distribution of returns for the three subgroups shows a wide range of results, a disclaimer that portfolios

with high allocations to private investments can underperform the overall peer group, while those with low private investment allocations can outperform. However, these ten-year analyses show that allocations to private investments generally are a key factor in a portfolio's relative performance within the overall participant group over the long-term. Institutions that benchmark peer performance should consider the subgroup median that aligns with their own private investment allocation as an alternative or complement to the peer medians that they already use.

RANGE OF TEN-YEAR RETURNS BY PRIVATE INVESTMENT ALLOCATION

As of September 30, 2017 • Percent (%)



	Private Investment Allocation		
	Under 5%	5%–15%	Over 15%
5th Percentile	5.9	5.9	6.4
25th Percentile	4.7	5.0	5.6
Median	4.4	4.6	5.1
75th Percentile	3.7	4.3	4.6
95th Percentile	3.1	3.7	3.8
Mean	4.3	4.7	5.1
<i>n</i>	52	77	88

Source: Endowment and foundation data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

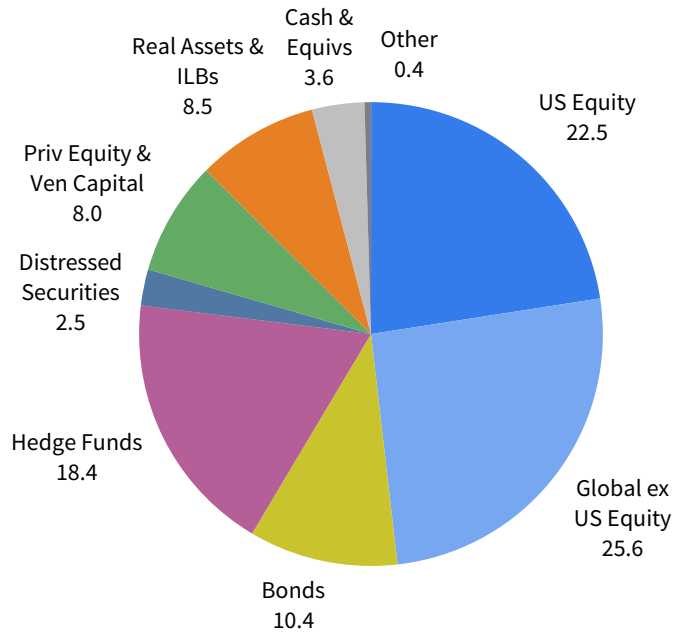
Notes: Each institution's private investment allocation represents the mean for the 11 September 30 periods from 2007 to 2017. Returns are annualized.

TEN-YEAR ATTRIBUTION. The attribution model also points to an outperforming asset allocation structure for the top performance quartile over the last decade. Additionally, the model suggests that implementation decisions were responsible for most of the dispersion in performance between top and bottom performers over this long-term period. Figure 10 shows that the top performance quartile had a mean asset class return of 4.4%, approximately 0.8 percentage points higher than the bottom performance quartile. The top performance quartile also added another 1.6% through implementation decisions while the bottom performance quartile added little value (0.1%) through active management of the portfolio. ■

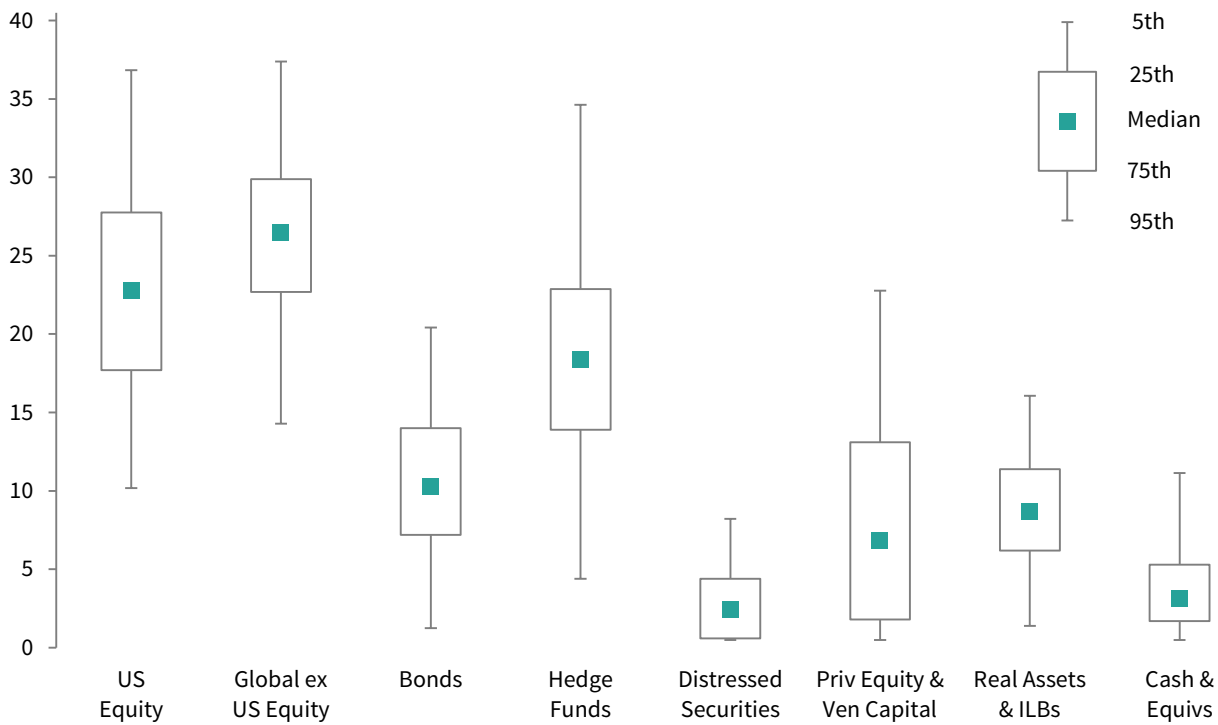
FIGURE 1. ASSET ALLOCATION SNAPSHOT: US ENDOWMENTS AND FOUNDATIONS

As of September 30, 2017 • Percent (%)

Mean Asset Allocation



Distribution by Asset Class: Asset Allocation

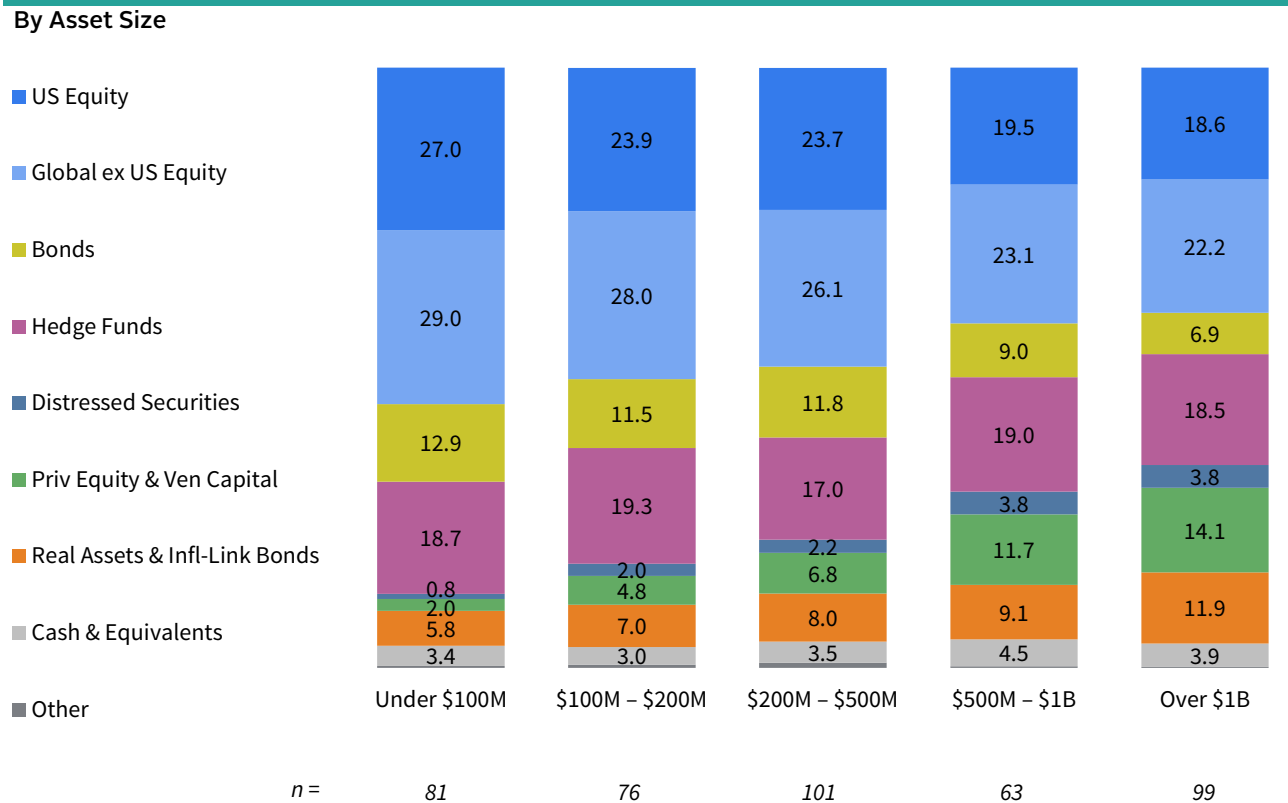
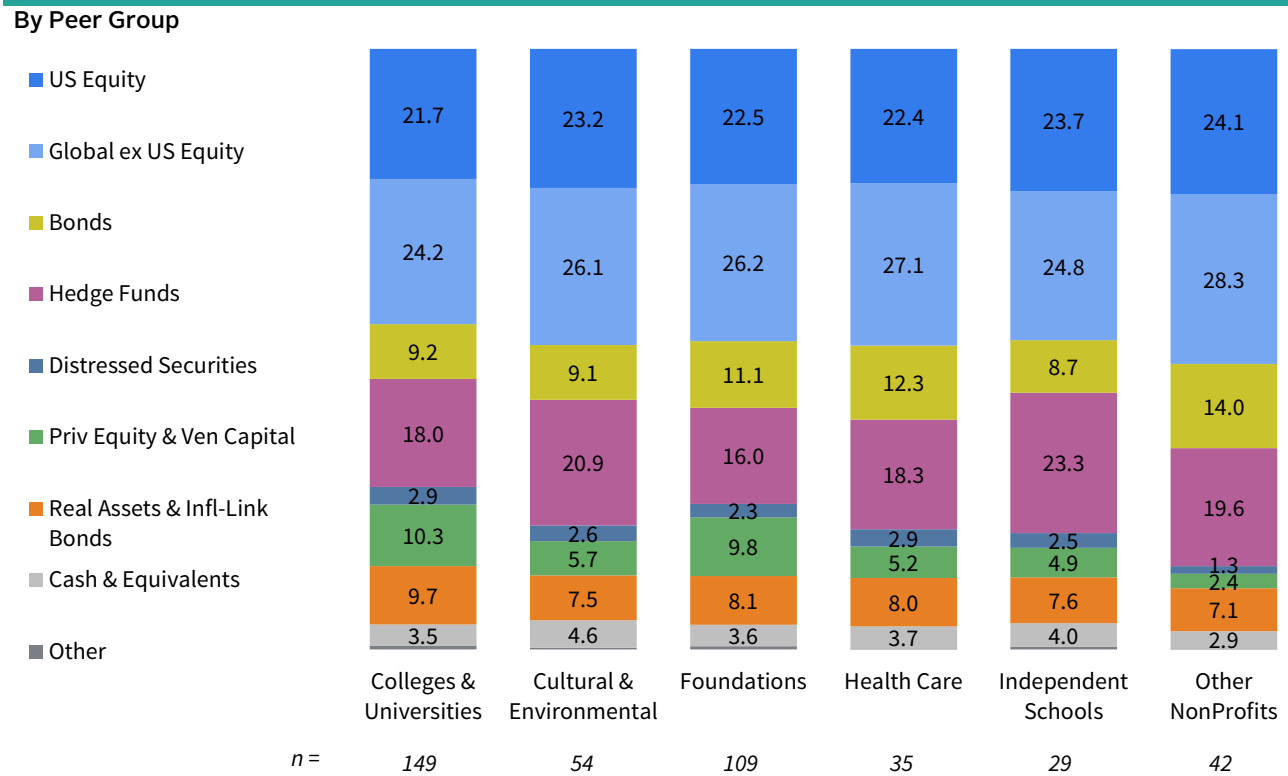


Source: Endowment and foundation data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

Note: Analysis includes data for 418 institutions.

FIGURE 2. SUMMARY ASSET ALLOCATION: US ENDOWMENTS AND FOUNDATIONS

As of September 30, 2017 • Percent (%)



Source: Endowment and foundation data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

FIGURE 3. DETAILED ASSET ALLOCATION BY PEER GROUP: US ENDOWMENTS AND FOUNDATIONS

As of September 30, 2017 • Percent (%)

	Colleges & Universities <i>n = 149</i>		Cultural & Environmental <i>54</i>		Foundations <i>109</i>		Health Care <i>35</i>		Independent Schools <i>29</i>		Other Nonprofits <i>42</i>	
	Mean	Med	Mean	Med	Mean	Med	Mean	Med	Mean	Med	Mean	Med
US Equity	21.7	21.6	23.2	23.2	22.5	21.8	22.4	23.3	23.7	24.9	24.1	25.6
Global ex US Equity	24.2	24.3	26.1	27.5	26.2	26.5	27.1	26.7	24.8	24.9	28.3	28.8
Developed Markets	16.0	16.0	17.3	18.3	17.4	17.6	19.2	18.7	17.0	18.1	20.0	19.7
Emerging Markets	8.1	8.0	8.8	9.4	8.8	9.0	7.8	7.7	7.8	7.7	8.3	8.1
Bonds	9.2	8.8	9.1	8.6	11.1	10.2	12.3	13.8	8.7	8.7	14.0	12.0
US Bonds	7.9	8.3	8.0	8.0	9.8	9.4	10.6	10.1	8.1	8.2	12.0	11.1
Global ex US Bonds (DM)	0.5	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.6	0.0
Global ex US Bonds (EM)	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.9	0.0
High-Yield Bonds	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.0
Hedge Funds	18.0	17.7	20.9	19.1	16.0	16.2	18.3	17.7	23.3	23.6	19.6	19.1
Long/Short Hedge Funds	7.4	6.4	6.7	5.9	5.6	5.0	7.4	6.8	10.3	8.3	7.2	7.2
Absolute Return (ex Distressed)	10.6	10.7	14.2	13.3	10.4	10.1	10.8	10.7	13.0	11.4	12.4	12.1
Distressed Securities	2.9	2.5	2.6	1.9	2.3	1.7	2.9	1.7	2.5	1.4	1.3	0.0
Hedge Fund Structure	1.6	1.0	1.8	0.4	1.3	0.0	2.1	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.9	0.0
Private Equity Structure	1.3	0.8	0.8	0.5	1.0	0.6	0.8	0.0	1.2	0.6	0.4	0.0
PE & VC	10.3	9.3	5.7	3.5	9.8	8.6	5.2	2.2	4.9	4.5	2.4	0.3
Non-Venture Private Equity	5.1	4.2	2.8	1.5	4.0	2.7	2.5	0.8	2.6	2.1	0.7	0.0
Venture Capital	4.3	3.5	2.2	0.5	4.6	2.0	2.1	0.8	1.6	0.7	1.2	0.0
Other Private Investments	0.8	0.2	0.8	0.1	1.2	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.5	0.0
Real Assets & Infl-Linked Bonds	9.7	9.3	7.5	7.4	8.1	8.3	8.0	8.1	7.6	5.9	7.1	6.3
Private Real Estate	2.3	1.6	1.2	0.4	1.8	1.0	1.7	0.3	1.8	0.0	1.4	0.0
Public Real Estate	0.6	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.0
Commodities	0.6	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0
Public Energy/Nat Resources	0.5	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.6	0.0
Private O&G/Nat Resources	3.1	2.8	1.8	0.5	2.2	1.2	1.5	0.7	2.1	1.1	0.9	0.0
Timber	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Inflation-Linked Bonds	2.5	2.2	2.6	2.1	2.5	2.1	3.2	2.9	2.6	2.5	3.3	3.2
Cash & Equivalents	3.5	2.6	4.6	3.4	3.6	2.5	3.7	2.5	4.0	3.1	2.9	1.4
Other Assets	0.6	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0

Source: Endowment and foundation data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

FIGURE 4. DETAILED ASSET ALLOCATION BY ASSET SIZE: US ENDOWMENTS AND FOUNDATIONS

As of September 30, 2017 • Percent (%)

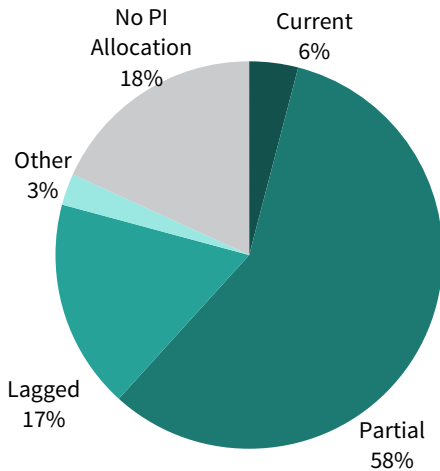
	All Endow & Fdn <i>n = 418</i>		Under \$100M <i>81</i>		\$100M – \$200M <i>76</i>		\$200M – \$500M <i>100</i>		\$500M – \$1B <i>63</i>		Over \$1B <i>98</i>	
	Mean	Med	Mean	Med	Mean	Med	Mean	Med	Mean	Med	Mean	Med
US Equity	22.5	22.3	27.0	27.6	23.9	23.2	23.7	23.5	19.5	19.3	18.6	17.1
Global ex US Equity	25.6	26.0	29.0	29.4	28.0	27.9	26.1	26.0	23.1	24.0	22.2	22.4
Developed Markets	17.3	17.4	20.9	20.8	18.9	19.1	17.5	17.8	15.2	15.5	14.2	13.7
Emerging Markets	8.4	8.2	8.1	7.9	9.0	9.0	8.6	9.0	7.9	8.0	8.0	7.7
Bonds	10.4	9.8	12.9	12.7	11.5	11.4	11.8	11.6	9.0	8.7	6.9	7.0
US Bonds	9.1	8.8	11.5	11.4	9.9	10.2	10.6	9.7	7.8	8.3	5.6	5.7
Global ex US Bonds (DM)	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.6	0.0
Global ex US Bonds (EM)	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.0
High-Yield Bonds	0.4	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0
Hedge Funds	18.4	17.9	18.7	17.7	19.3	18.2	17.0	17.2	19.0	18.6	18.5	18.1
Long/Short Hedge Funds	7.0	6.3	6.3	4.4	7.0	6.2	5.9	5.1	7.5	6.7	8.5	7.8
Absolute Return (ex Distressed)	11.4	10.9	12.4	12.0	12.3	12.3	11.1	11.0	11.5	10.8	10.0	9.3
Distressed Securities	2.5	1.9	0.8	0.0	2.0	1.2	2.2	2.0	3.8	3.5	3.8	3.0
Hedge Fund Structure	1.5	0.3	0.5	0.0	1.2	0.0	1.3	0.9	2.3	1.8	2.3	1.9
Private Equity Structure	1.0	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.8	0.4	0.9	0.5	1.5	1.1	1.5	0.9
PE & VC	8.0	6.3	2.0	0.0	4.8	3.7	6.8	5.7	11.7	10.2	14.1	13.9
Non-Venture Private Equity	3.7	2.4	0.5	0.0	1.7	0.7	3.0	2.1	6.2	5.5	6.9	7.3
Venture Capital	3.4	1.5	0.7	0.0	1.9	0.6	2.9	1.4	4.7	3.5	6.6	5.6
Other Private Investments	0.9	0.1	0.8	0.0	1.3	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.6	0.0
Real Assets & Infl-Linked Bonds	8.5	8.2	5.8	5.8	7.0	7.0	8.0	7.8	9.1	8.6	11.9	11.3
Private Real Estate	1.9	0.8	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0	1.3	0.7	2.2	1.5	4.4	3.3
Public Real Estate	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.5	0.0
Commodities	0.6	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.0
Public Energy/Nat Resources	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.0
Private O&G/Nat Resources	2.2	1.4	0.4	0.0	1.6	0.7	1.6	1.3	2.9	3.0	4.4	4.4
Timber	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.0
Inflation-Linked Bonds	2.7	2.3	3.3	2.7	3.3	2.8	3.2	3.0	2.5	2.5	1.2	0.0
Cash & Equivalents	3.6	2.6	3.4	2.3	3.0	2.4	3.5	3.0	4.5	3.1	3.9	3.1
	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Assets	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.0

Source: Endowment and foundation data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

FIGURE 5. PERFORMANCE REPORTING METHODOLOGIES: US ENDOWMENTS AND FOUNDATIONS

As of September 30, 2017

Performance Reporting Methodology



By Asset Size

	Current Basis	Partial Basis	Lagged Basis	Other	No PI Allocation
Under \$100M	1%	48%	—	1%	49%
<i>n</i>	1	39		1	40
\$100M–\$200M	—	72%	—	—	28%
<i>n</i>		55			21
\$200M–\$500M	1%	83%	2%	2%	12%
<i>n</i>	1	83	2	2	12
\$500M–\$1B	16%	60%	17%	3%	3%
<i>n</i>	10	38	11	2	2
Over \$1B	5%	27%	61%	6%	1%
<i>n</i>	5	26	60	6	1

Current Basis

Total investment pool return for the trailing one-year period includes marketable asset performance and private investment performance for October 1, 2016, to September 30, 2017.

Marketable Assets			
4Q16	1Q17	2Q17	3Q17

Private Investments

Partial Basis

Total investment pool return for the trailing one-year period includes marketable asset performance for October 1, 2016, to September 30, 2017. Private investment portion of the investment pool reflects actual performance for October 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017, and a flat return (0%) for July 1, 2017, to September 30, 2017.

Marketable Assets			
4Q16	1Q17	2Q17	3Q17
Actual Return			0%

Private Investments

Lagged Basis

Total investment pool return for the trailing one-year period includes marketable asset performance for October 1, 2016, to September 30, 2017, and private investment performance for July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017.

Marketable Assets				
3Q16	4Q16	1Q17	2Q17	3Q17

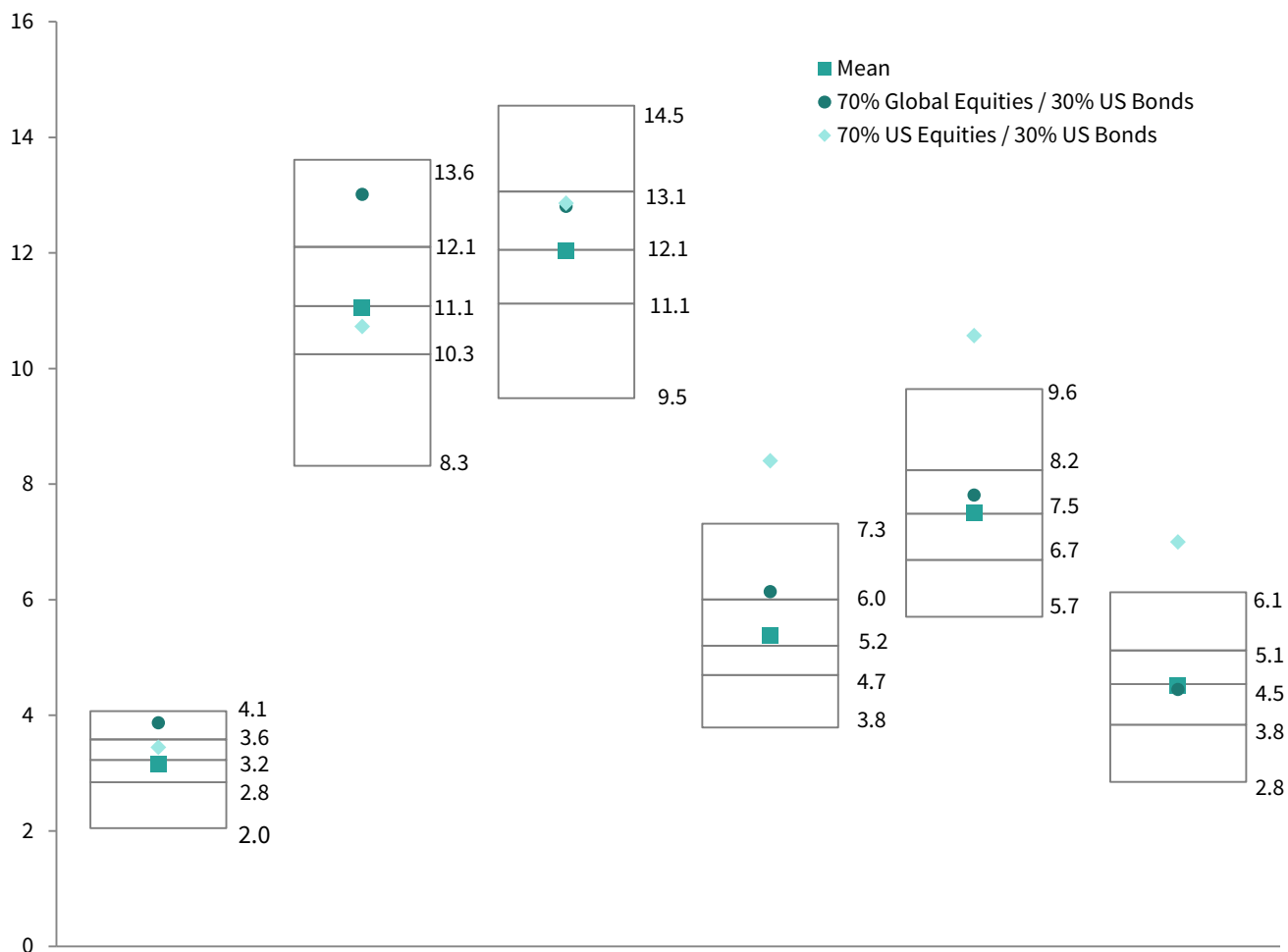
Private Investments

Source: Endowment and foundation data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

Notes: Analysis includes data for 417 institutions. Private investments include total allocation to non-venture private equity, venture capital, distressed securities (private equity structure), private oil & gas/natural resources, timber, private real estate, and other private investments. Institutions with no significant private investment allocations (<1% of their total investment portfolios) are reflected in the No PI Allocation category in the pie graph and table by asset size.

FIGURE 6. NOMINAL RETURN PERCENTILES: US ENDOWMENTS AND FOUNDATIONS

Periods Ended September 30, 2017 • Percent (%)



	Latest Quarter	Calendar YTD	One Year	Three Years	Five Years	Ten Years
Mean	3.2	11.1	12.0	5.4	7.5	4.5
<i>n</i>	418	417	417	412	405	373
70% Global Equities / 30% US Bonds	3.9	13.0	12.8	6.1	7.8	4.4
70% US Equities / 30% US Bonds	3.4	10.7	12.9	8.4	10.6	7.0

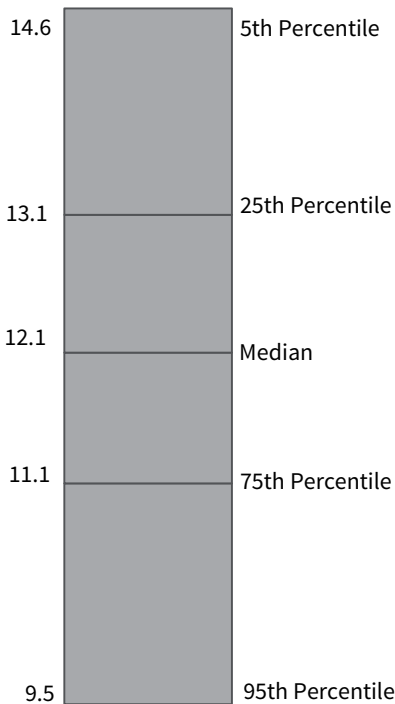
Sources: Endowment and foundation data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC. Index data are provided by Barclays, Bloomberg L.P., Frank Russell Company, and MSCI Inc. MSCI data provided "as is" without any express or implied warranties.

Notes: Three-, five-, and ten-year returns are annualized. The 70/30 simple portfolio benchmarks are calculated assuming rebalancing occurs on the final day of each quarter. Global equity performance represented by MSCI All Country World Index (ACWI). US equity performance represented by Russell 3000®. US bond performance represented by Bloomberg Barclays Government/Credit Bond Index.

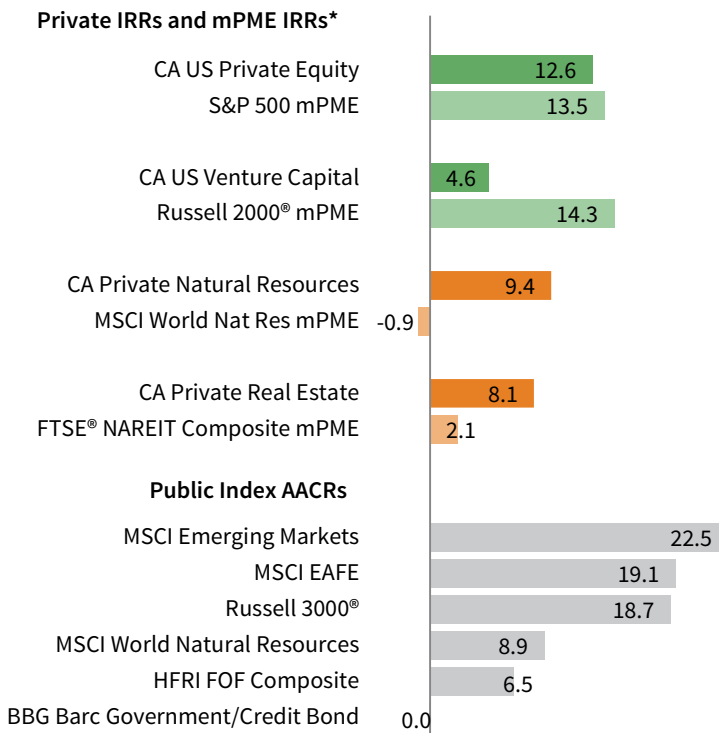
**FIGURE 7. ONE-YEAR ASSET ALLOCATION OF TOP AND BOTTOM PERFORMERS:
US ENDOWMENTS AND FOUNDATIONS**

As of September 30, 2017 • Percent (%)

1-Yr Return Distribution



1-Yr Index Returns



Mean Asset Allocation by Performance Quartile: September 30, 2016 to September 30, 2017

Quartile	US Equity	DM ex US Eqty	EM Equity	Bonds	Hedge Funds	Dist Sec	PE & VC	Priv RA	Pub RA & ILBs	Cash	Other
Top Quartile	27.0	18.6	8.4	9.9	15.6	2.3	6.8	3.7	4.1	3.5	0.1
2nd Quartile	21.8	16.8	8.3	10.0	20.1	3.0	7.3	4.2	4.4	3.5	0.4
3rd Quartile	21.1	16.2	7.6	10.9	18.5	2.9	9.1	4.9	4.9	3.7	0.2
Bottom Quartile	18.8	14.4	7.5	11.7	21.5	2.7	8.9	4.2	5.2	4.5	0.5
E&F Universe Mean	22.2	16.5	8.0	10.6	18.9	2.7	8.0	4.3	4.6	3.8	0.3

Divergence of Asset Allocation from Mean



Sources: Endowment and foundation data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC. Index data are provided by Barclays, Bloomberg L.P., Cambridge Associates LLC, Frank Russell Company, FTSE International Limited, Hedge Fund Research, Inc., MSCI Inc., the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts, Standard & Poor's, and Thomson Reuters Datastream. MSCI data provided "as is" without any express or implied warranties.

Note: Analysis includes data for 395 institutions.

* Private indexes are pooled horizon IRRs, net of fees, expenses, and carried interest. The CA Modified Public Market Equivalent (mPME) replicates private investment performance under public market conditions. The public index's shares are purchased and sold according to the private fund cash flow schedule, with distributions calculated in the same proportion as the private fund, and mPME NAV is a function of mPME cash flows and public index returns. Private benchmark IRRs and mPME IRRs are for the period 10/1/16 to 6/30/17.

**FIGURE 8. ONE-YEAR RETURN ATTRIBUTION ANALYSIS BY PERFORMANCE QUARTILE:
US ENDOWMENTS AND FOUNDATIONS**

As of September 30, 2017 • Percent (%)

One-Year Mean Return Attribution Analysis by Quartile



Breakdown of Return from Asset Allocation for All Institutions

Asset Class	Mean Asset Allocation	Asset Class Benchmark Return	Contribution to Asset Class Return
US Equity	21.8	18.7	4.1
Global ex US Equity-Developed Mkts	15.8	19.1	3.0
Global ex US Equity-Emerging Mkts	7.5	22.5	1.7
Long/Short Hedge Funds	9.0	11.0	1.0
Absolute Return (ex Distressed)	10.5	5.8	0.6
Non-Venture Private Equity	3.7	12.6	0.5
Public Energy / Natural Resources	3.2	8.9	0.3
Private Oil & Gas / Natural Resources	2.1	9.3	0.2
Venture Capital	3.5	4.6	0.2
Private Real Estate	2.0	7.9	0.2
Distressed-Private Equity Structure	1.1	11.1	0.1
Distressed-Hedge Fund Structure	1.8	6.5	0.1
Other Private Investments	0.8	8.6	0.1
High Yield Bonds	0.5	8.5	0.0
Cash & Equivalents	4.0	0.7	0.0
Global ex US Bonds-Emerging Mkts	0.6	4.6	0.0
Public Real Estate	0.5	3.6	0.0
Timber	0.2	2.7	0.0
Other	0.2	0.7	0.0
US Bonds	9.1	0.0	0.0
Commodities	0.8	-0.3	0.0
Inflation-Linked Bonds	0.5	-0.7	0.0
Global ex US Bonds-Developed Mkts	0.6	-3.1	0.0

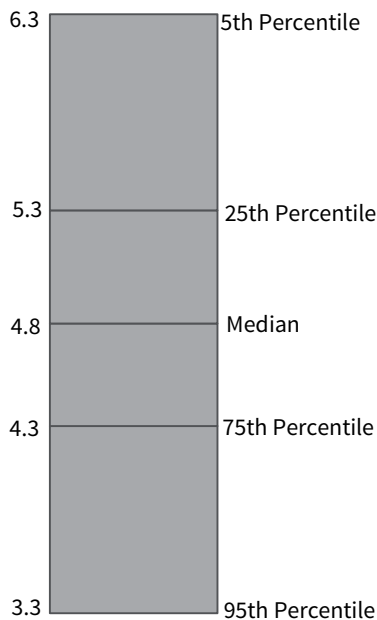
Sources: Endowment and foundation as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC. Index data provided by Barclays, Bloomberg L.P., BofA Merrill Lynch, Cambridge Associates LLC, Citigroup Global Markets, Frank Russell Company, FTSE International Limited, Hedge Fund Research, Inc., J.P. Morgan Securities, Inc., MSCI Inc., The National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts, and the National Council of Real Estate Investment Fiduciaries. MSCI data provided "as is" without any express or implied warranties.

Notes: Includes data for 395 institutions that provided beginning year asset allocation. Mean asset allocation is as of September 30, 2016. The sum of the contribution to asset class return for all categories in the table equals the amount of the total return that was explained by asset allocation. To be consistent with the methodology in which private investment returns are incorporated into the total portfolio composite calculation, private investment benchmark returns are linked quarterly end-to-end returns. This model assumes that flows to and from investment managers take place on the last day of the fiscal year. In addition, the analysis uses a standard set of asset class benchmarks that may be more or less representative of the asset allocation policy across different institutions. Therefore, the portion of returns from other factors shown in the bar chart may also include some residual/unattributable asset allocation effects.

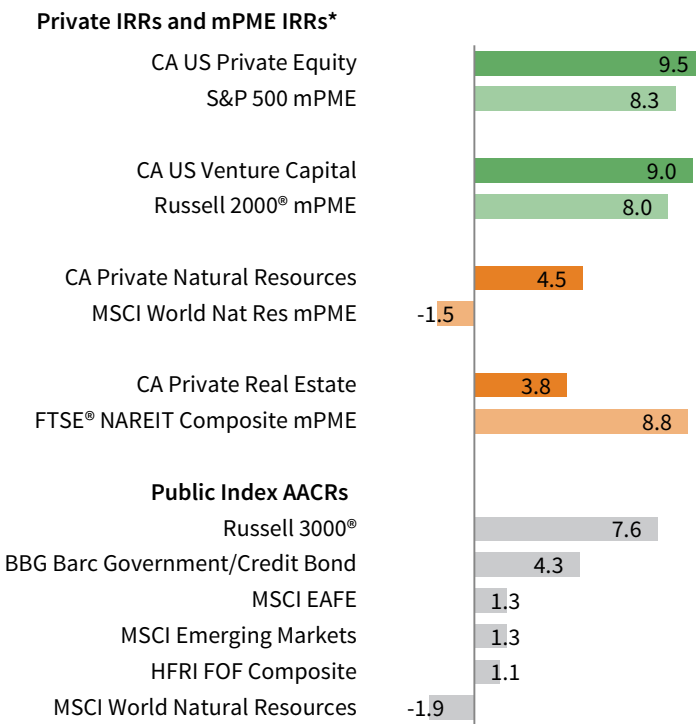
**FIGURE 9. TEN-YEAR ASSET ALLOCATION OF TOP AND BOTTOM PERFORMERS:
US ENDOWMENTS AND FOUNDATIONS**

As of September 30, 2017 • Percent (%)

10-Yr Return Distribution

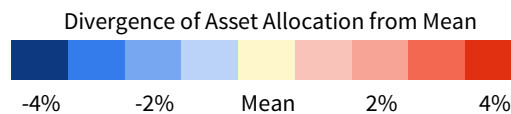


10-Yr Index Returns



Mean Asset Allocation by Performance Quartile: September 30, 2007 to September 30, 2017

Quartile	US Equity	DM ex US Eqty	EM Equity	Bonds	Hedge Funds	Dist Sec	PE & VC	Priv RA	Pub RA & ILBs	Cash	Other
Top Quartile	20.4	13.1	6.4	9.5	18.1	3.8	12.7	8.6	3.7	3.3	0.2
2nd Quartile	20.5	13.0	6.0	10.8	22.5	4.0	9.2	5.1	4.9	3.6	0.4
3rd Quartile	22.0	16.0	6.8	14.0	18.4	2.7	6.3	4.0	6.5	3.0	0.6
Bottom Quartile	22.0	16.1	6.6	15.5	18.1	2.5	5.1	2.9	7.4	3.4	0.5
E&F Universe Mean	21.2	14.5	6.5	12.4	19.3	3.3	8.3	5.2	5.6	3.3	0.4



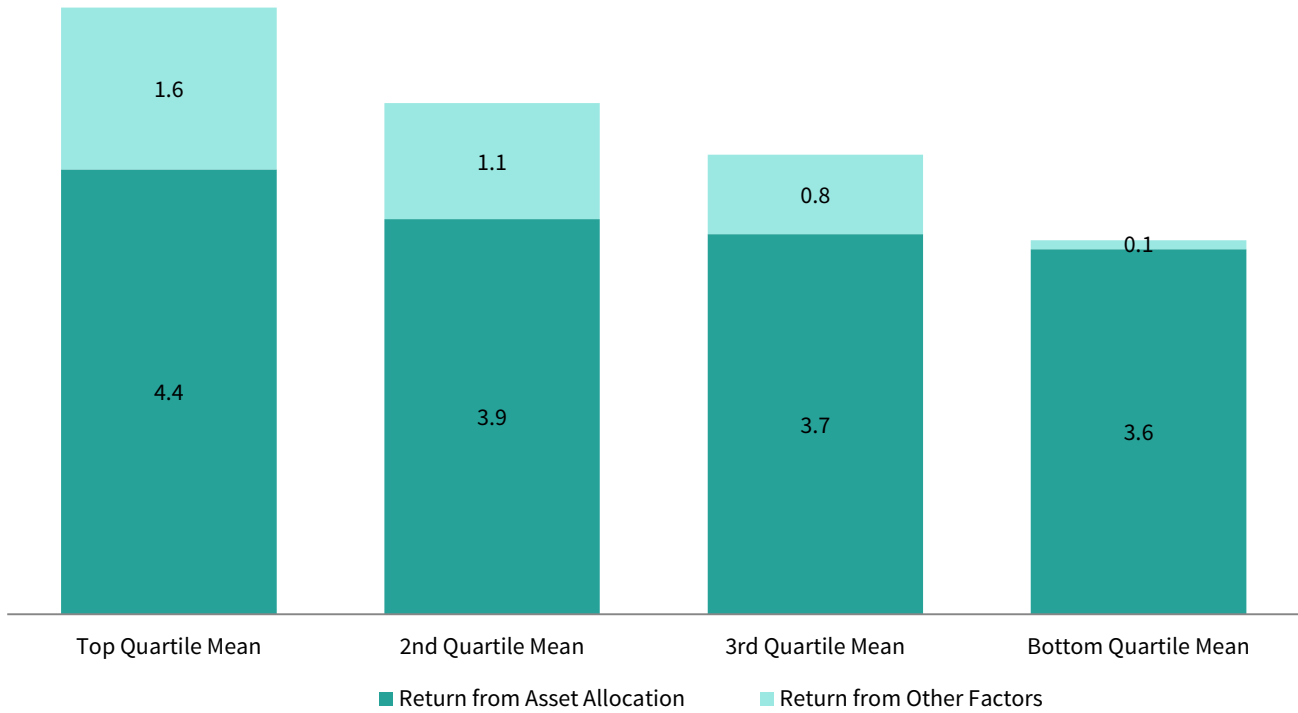
Sources: Endowment and foundation data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC. Index data are provided by Barclays, Bloomberg L.P., Cambridge Associates LLC, Frank Russell Company, FTSE International Limited, Hedge Fund Research, Inc., MSCI Inc., the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts, Standard & Poor's, and Thomson Reuters Datastream. MSCI data provided "as is" without any express or implied warranties.

Note: Analysis includes data for 217 institutions.

* Private indexes are pooled horizon IRRs, net of fees, expenses, and carried interest. The CA Modified Public Market Equivalent (mPME) replicates private investment performance under public market conditions. The public index's shares are purchased and sold according to the private fund cash flow schedule, with distributions calculated in the same proportion as the private fund, and mPME NAV is a function of mPME cash flows and public index returns. Private benchmark IRRs and mPME IRRs are for the period 10/1/7 to 6/30/17.

**FIGURE 10. TEN-YEAR ATTRIBUTION ANALYSIS BY PERFORMANCE QUARTILE:
US ENDOWMENTS AND FOUNDATIONS**

As of September 30, 2017 • Percent (%)



Sources: Endowment and foundation as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC. Index data provided by Barclays, Bloomberg L.P., BofA Merrill Lynch, Cambridge Associates LLC, Citigroup Global Markets, Frank Russell Company, FTSE International Limited, Hedge Fund Research, Inc., J.P. Morgan Securities, Inc., MSCI Inc., The National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts, and the National Council of Real Estate Investment Fiduciaries. MSCI data provided “as is” without any express or implied warranties.

Notes: Includes data for 217 institutions that provided beginning year asset allocation. To be consistent with the methodology in which private investment returns are incorporated into the total portfolio composite calculation, private investment benchmark returns are linked quarterly end-to-end returns. This model assumes that flows to and from investment managers take place on the last day of the fiscal year. In addition, the analysis uses a standard set of asset class benchmarks that may be more or less representative of the asset allocation policy across different institutions. Therefore, the portion of returns from other factors may also include some residual/unattributable asset allocation effects.

FIGURE 11. NOMINAL TOTAL RETURN SUMMARY BY PEER GROUP: US ENDOWMENTS AND FOUNDATIONS

Periods Ended September 30, 2017 • Percent (%)

	Latest Qtr	Calendar YTD	Average Annual Compound Return			
			1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs
Colleges & Universities						
5th Percentile	3.9	12.8	14.6	7.3	9.6	6.0
25th Percentile	3.5	11.8	13.1	6.1	8.5	5.1
75th Percentile	2.8	10.2	11.5	4.9	7.1	3.9
95th Percentile	2.0	8.4	10.2	4.0	6.1	3.0
Mean	3.1	10.9	12.2	5.5	7.8	4.6
Median	3.1	11.0	12.2	5.4	7.7	4.6
<i>n</i>	149	149	149	148	147	138
Cultural & Environmental						
5th Percentile	4.1	13.7	14.8	7.4	9.7	6.1
25th Percentile	3.5	12.6	13.6	6.2	8.3	5.1
75th Percentile	2.9	10.4	11.6	4.9	6.9	4.4
95th Percentile	2.3	9.2	9.9	4.2	5.8	2.8
Mean	3.2	11.4	12.4	5.6	7.6	4.6
Median	3.3	11.5	12.1	5.4	7.5	4.7
<i>n</i>	54	54	54	54	54	48
Foundations						
5th Percentile	4.2	13.6	14.2	7.8	9.9	6.4
25th Percentile	3.6	12.2	13.1	6.3	8.2	5.2
75th Percentile	2.8	10.3	10.9	4.8	6.9	4.0
95th Percentile	2.0	8.2	9.3	4.2	5.9	2.8
Mean	3.2	11.1	12.0	5.6	7.6	4.6
Median	3.3	11.1	11.9	5.2	7.4	4.5
<i>n</i>	109	109	109	106	102	92
Health Care						
5th Percentile	4.1	13.6	14.1	6.5	8.9	5.8
25th Percentile	3.7	12.1	13.2	5.6	7.7	4.9
75th Percentile	3.0	10.4	10.7	4.1	6.1	3.6
95th Percentile	2.6	8.5	9.5	3.5	5.2	3.1
Mean	3.3	11.0	11.8	4.9	7.0	4.3
Median	3.4	10.9	12.3	4.9	7.1	4.3
<i>n</i>	35	35	35	35	35	35
Independent Schools						
5th Percentile	3.8	12.8	13.8	6.2	8.5	6.1
25th Percentile	3.4	11.4	12.4	5.6	8.1	5.2
75th Percentile	2.4	9.3	10.7	4.4	6.3	3.8
95th Percentile	2.1	7.6	8.1	3.6	5.1	2.8
Mean	2.9	10.4	11.4	4.9	7.0	4.6
Median	3.1	10.8	11.6	5.0	6.8	4.8
<i>n</i>	29	29	29	29	29	27
Other Nonprofits						
5th Percentile	4.1	13.9	13.9	6.4	8.6	5.2
25th Percentile	3.6	12.6	12.8	5.3	7.2	4.5
75th Percentile	3.0	10.3	10.7	4.1	6.0	3.7
95th Percentile	2.1	8.4	9.1	3.7	5.2	3.1
Mean	3.2	11.4	11.7	4.8	6.6	4.1
Median	3.3	11.6	12.1	4.9	6.5	4.0
<i>n</i>	42	41	41	40	38	33

Source: Endowment and foundation data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

FIGURE 12. NOMINAL TOTAL RETURN SUMMARY BY ASSET SIZE: US ENDOWMENTS AND FOUNDATIONS

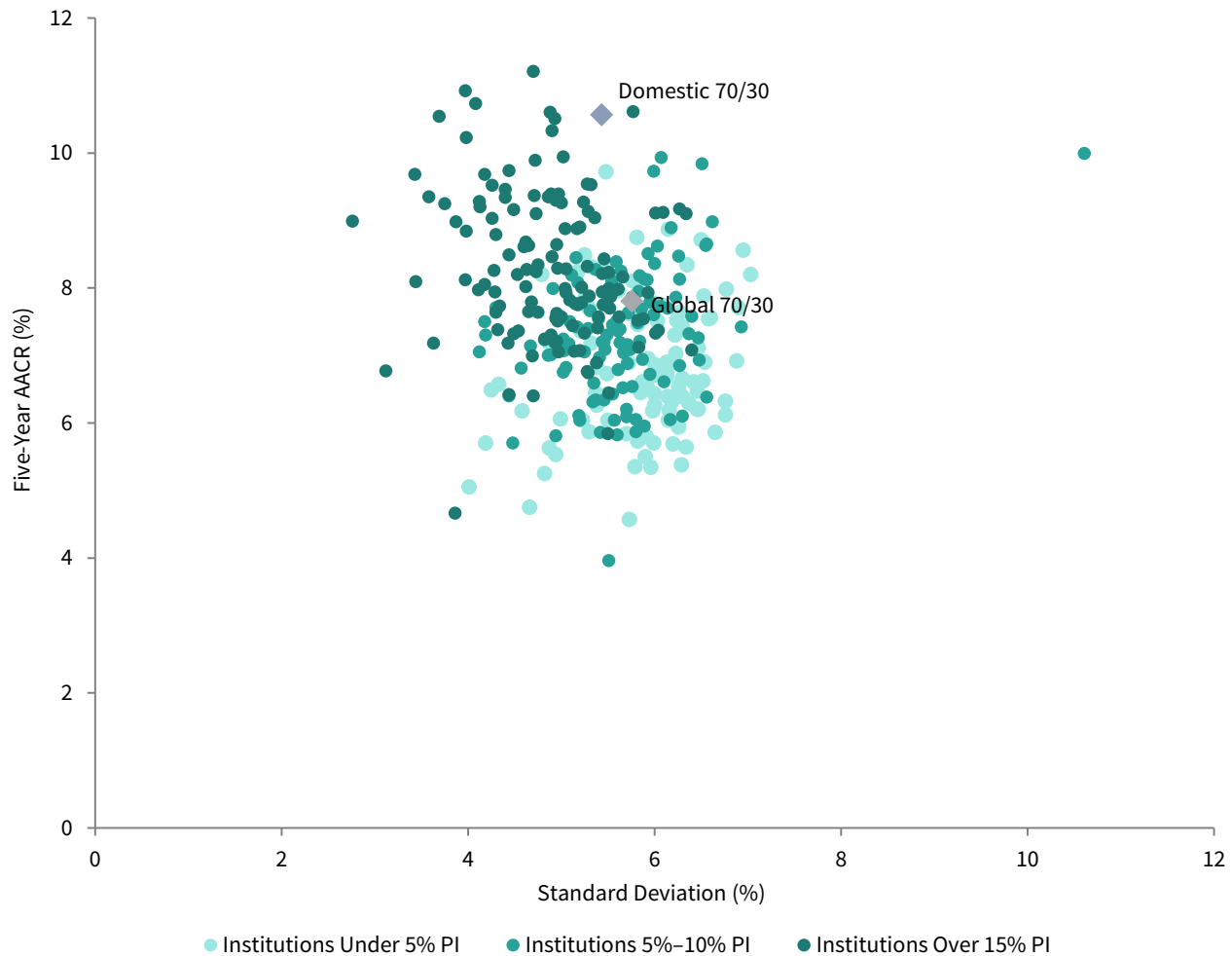
Periods Ended September 30, 2017 • Percent (%)

	Latest Qtr	Calendar YTD	Average Annual Compound Return			
			1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs
Under \$100 Million						
5th Percentile	4.1	14.0	14.2	6.4	8.5	5.8
25th Percentile	3.7	12.6	13.2	5.6	7.6	4.5
75th Percentile	3.1	10.3	10.7	4.4	6.2	3.3
95th Percentile	2.4	8.4	8.8	3.8	5.5	2.1
Mean	3.4	11.3	11.8	5.1	6.9	4.0
Median	3.4	11.4	12.0	5.0	6.8	4.0
<i>n</i>	81	81	81	77	73	63
\$100 Million to \$200 Million						
5th Percentile	3.9	13.7	14.7	6.3	8.5	5.4
25th Percentile	3.7	12.3	12.8	5.4	7.3	4.8
75th Percentile	3.0	10.7	11.2	4.3	6.2	3.7
95th Percentile	2.3	9.0	10.0	3.7	5.6	2.8
Mean	3.3	11.5	12.1	4.9	6.8	4.2
Median	3.3	11.6	12.1	4.8	6.9	4.2
<i>n</i>	76	76	76	76	75	70
\$200 Million to \$500 Million						
5th Percentile	4.1	13.7	14.1	6.8	8.9	5.9
25th Percentile	3.6	12.2	12.8	5.7	8.0	5.0
75th Percentile	3.0	10.5	11.1	4.6	6.7	3.9
95th Percentile	2.3	9.2	9.9	3.9	5.8	2.9
Mean	3.2	11.3	12.0	5.2	7.3	4.4
Median	3.2	11.1	11.9	5.1	7.3	4.5
<i>n</i>	100	100	100	100	99	93
\$500 Million to \$1 Billion						
5th Percentile	3.9	13.2	14.1	6.8	9.7	5.8
25th Percentile	3.3	11.4	12.8	5.7	8.0	5.0
75th Percentile	2.5	9.8	11.1	4.8	7.4	4.3
95th Percentile	1.4	7.7	8.0	3.7	6.4	3.2
Mean	2.9	10.4	11.7	5.3	7.7	4.6
Median	3.1	10.4	11.8	5.3	7.6	4.6
<i>n</i>	63	63	63	62	61	55
Over \$1 Billion						
5th Percentile	4.0	12.8	14.8	8.4	10.6	6.7
25th Percentile	3.4	11.6	13.2	7.0	9.3	5.6
75th Percentile	2.6	9.8	11.4	5.5	7.7	4.6
95th Percentile	1.9	8.3	10.2	4.8	6.7	3.8
Mean	3.0	10.7	12.4	6.2	8.5	5.2
Median	3.0	10.7	12.4	6.3	8.6	5.1
<i>n</i>	98	97	97	97	97	92

Source: Endowment and foundation data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

FIGURE 13. STANDARD DEVIATION AND SHARPE RATIO: US ENDOWMENTS AND FOUNDATIONS

Five Years Ended September 30, 2017



	All Institutions	Mean by PI Allocation			70/30 Benchmarks	
	Mean	Under 5%	5%–15%	Over 15%	Domestic	Global
5-Yr AACR	7.5	6.8	7.3	8.3	10.6	7.8
Standard Deviation	5.4	5.9	5.6	4.9	5.4	5.8
Sharpe Ratio	1.38	1.13	1.26	1.67	1.86	1.31
<i>n</i>	333	97	106	130		

Sources: College and university data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC. Index data are provided by Barclays, Bloomberg L.P., Frank Russell Company, and MSCI Inc. MSCI data provided "as is" without any express or implied warranties.

Notes: Analysis includes only institutions that provided underlying quarterly returns and asset allocation for the last five years. Each institution's private investment allocation represents the mean for the six September 30 periods from 2012 to 2017. The Domestic 70/30 benchmark is composed of 70% Russell 3000® / 30% Bloomberg Barclays Government/Credit and the Global 70/30 benchmark is composed of 70% MSCI ACWI / 30% Bloomberg Barclays Government/Credit.

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