# ANNUAL REVIEW OF ENDOWMENTS

FISCAL YEAR 2018





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B ased on Cambridge Associates' (CA) annual survey of our endowment clients, this report that follows summarizes returns, asset allocation, and other investment-related data for 278 institutions for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018. Included in this year's report are commentary and exhibits across five separate sections: Investment Portfolio Returns, Portfolio Asset Allocation, Investment Manager Structures, Payout from the Long-Term Investment Portfolio, and Investment Office Staffing and Governance.

Although fiscal year 2018 was a solid year for endowment investment performance, most institutions have found it to be a challenging return environment over the last decade. INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO RETURNS highlights performance results for select periods over the last ten years and investigates some of the factors that contributed to the variation of returns reported among participants. Also included in this section are analyses on asset class composite returns and policy portfolio benchmarks.

Changes to asset allocations over the last ten years have been less drastic than those reported in prior decades. **ASSET ALLOCATION** looks back at these changes over the last decade and incorporates data on target asset allocations to lend insights into how institutions are altering their investment policies heading into the future.

The number of managers that endowments use for their overall portfolio and within specific asset classes can vary widely. **INVESTMENT MANAGER STRUCTURES** explores data on this topic as well as implementation strategies for traditional assets (i.e., active versus passive management) and alternative assets.

that look at portfolio inflows and outflows. Included in this section are exhibits on spending policies, the LTIP's support of the institution's operating budget, and liquidity coverage ratios. While most institutions leave their spending policies unchanged in any given year, there was a group of institutions that lowered the spending rate specified in the spending policy in fiscal year 2018.

Finally, **INVESTMENT OFFICE STAFFING AND GOVERNANCE** takes a look at topics such as the number of personnel in the investment office and investment committee structure. New to this year's report are analyses on how endowments use outside advisors/consultants and who has decision rights for asset allocation policy development and manager selection.

# **Investment Portfolio Returns**

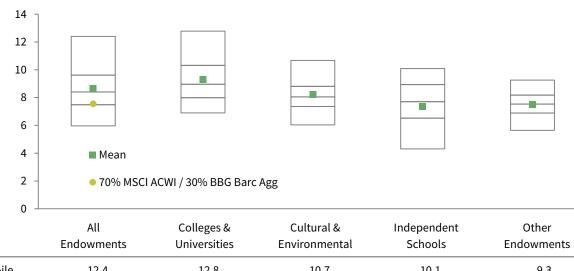
# **RETURNS IN FISCAL YEAR 2018**

Endowments were propelled in fiscal year 2018 by solid investment performance from global equities. The strongest returns came from private markets, with global ex US venture capital producing exceptional returns. Natural resources equities also posted robust returns and made positive contributions to overall portfolio performance.

The mean nominal total return earned by participating endowments was 8.6% in fiscal year 2018. Returns ranged from 12.4% at the 5th percentile to 6.0% at the 95th percentile. Among the various institutions types in this study, college and university endowments reported the highest average return (9.3%) for the fiscal year. In fact, the median return of colleges and universities was higher than the top quartile return for all other institutions types (Figure 1). When the participant group is broken out into broad asset size groups, those with assets over \$1 billion reported the highest average nominal return of 10.1% (Figure 2).

FIGURE 1 FISCAL YEAR 2018 TOTAL RETURN SUMMARY

Trailing 1-Yr as of June 30, 2018 • Percent (%)



	All Endowments	Colleges & Universities	Cultural & Environmental	Independent Schools	Other Endowments
5th %ile	12.4	12.8	10.7	10.1	9.3
25th %ile	9.6	10.3	8.8	8.9	8.2
Median	8.4	9.0	8.1	7.7	7.5
75th %ile	7.5	8.0	7.4	6.5	6.9
95th %ile	6.0	6.9	6.0	4.3	5.6
Mean	8.6	9.3	8.2	7.3	7.5
n	278	160	52	28	38
70/30 Index	7.5				

Sources: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC. Index data are provided by Bloomberg Index Services Limited and MSCI Inc. MSCI data provided "as is" without any express or implied warranties.

Note: Total returns for the MSCI ACWI are net of dividend taxes for global ex US securities.



# FIGURE 2 FISCAL YEAR 2018 TOTAL RETURN SUMMARY BY ASSET SIZE

Trailing 1-Yr as of June 30, 2018 • Percent (%)



Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

The range of participant returns across asset classes are displayed in Figures 3 through 6. The marketable asset class returns are reported as time-weighted returns, and the private investment data are horizon internal rates of return. All index returns are reported in USD terms.

**PUBLIC EQUITY.** The median total public equity composite return among participants was 10.1% in fiscal year 2018. US equities produced the best returns among the geographic regions. The median participant return for US equities was 13.9%, followed by the median global ex US equity developed (7.4%) and emerging markets equity (5.5%) returns. Figure 3 includes the distribution of returns among participants as well as median returns by institution type and asset size.

<sup>1</sup> A time-weighted return (TWR) captures the total return earned over time on the initial investment and eliminates the impact of future cash flows. TWRs are appropriate where the investor controls the timing of cash flows. An internal rate of return (IRR) extracts a return from a cash flow stream composed of the beginning net asset value (NAV) for the time horizon, all inflows and outflows within the period, and the final NAV of the period. IRRs are more appropriate for investments where the fund managers control the decisions of when to call and return capital.

FIGURE 3 DISPERSION OF PARTICIPANTS' ASSET CLASS RETURNS: MARKETABLE INVESTMENTS

Trailing 1-Yr as of June 30, 2018 • Percent (%)

	Public Equity <sup>1</sup>	Global Equity <sup>2</sup>	US Equity	DM ex US Equity	EM Equity	Bonds	Hedge Funds	Public Real Assets <sup>3</sup>	Commodities and Natural Resources	Public Real Estate
All Endowments										
5th Percentile	13.0	18.9	16.8	12.2	9.8	1.7	10.0	21.9	21.9	8.7
25th Percentile	11.2	12.8	14.9	8.9	6.8	0.6	7.3	12.8	14.6	6.6
Median	10.1	9.8	13.9	7.4	5.5	-0.1	5.8	9.1	10.2	6.4
75th Percentile	9.1	5.2	12.5	6.4	3.6	-0.5	4.4	5.0	5.2	3.6
95th Percentile	7.1	2.1	9.0	4.0	-0.3	-1.4	2.3	0.5	-2.1	0.7
Mean	10.1	10.0	13.5	7.7	5.3	0.1	6.0	9.7	10.2	5.4
n	221	148	220	214	219	225	223	156	156	45
Median by Asset Size	_									
Under \$200M	9.5	7.8	13.9	7.0	4.9	-0.1	5.2	8.4	10.5	6.4
n	86	59	85	82	85	85	83	57	62	13
\$200M - \$500M	10.2	7.1	13.9	7.9	5.1	-0.1	5.8	11.2	11.5	6.0
n	57	38	57	57	57	55	56	39	48	8
\$500M - \$1B	10.6	10.6	14.7	7.5	5.8	-0.2	5.5	10.2	11.8	6.5
n	32	20	35	34	33	36	38	27	21	12
Over \$1B	10.7	12.3	13.1	7.5	6.6	0.4	7.1	8.5	7.5	4.1
n	46	31	43	41	44	49	46	33	25	12
Median by Institution Type	5									
Colleges & Universities	10.5	8.9	13.9	7.6	5.7	0.0	5.8	9.0	9.5	5.6
n	117	73	120	114	118	125	124	81	86	28
Cultural & Environmental	9.6	11.1	13.9	7.0	5.3	-0.1	6.3	9.6	11.2	6.4
n	46	28	46	45	44	44	44	33	31	8
Independent Schools	9.3	8.0	14.1	7.7	6.2	-0.1	5.3	9.9	9.9	6.4
n	26	22	24	24	25	24	26	19	17	1
Other Endowments	9.9	9.8	13.6	7.4	4.4	-0.1	5.6	9.0	11.1	6.5
n	32	25	30	31	32	32	29	23	22	8

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Public real assets is a composite of public real estate, commodities and natural resources, and inflation-linked bonds.



 $Source: Endowment\ data\ as\ reported\ to\ Cambridge\ Associates\ LLC.$ 

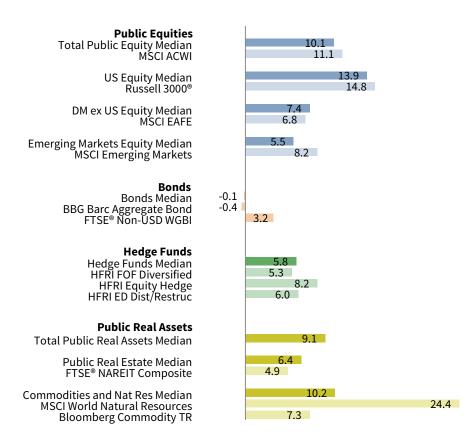
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Public equity is a composite of global equity, US equity, developed markets ex US equity, and emerging markets equity.

 $<sup>^2\, \</sup>text{Global equity includes only investment vehicles that have a mandate to invest in US and international markets.}$ 

On an active management basis, endowments fared best in global ex US developed equities, as the median participant return outperformed the MSCI EAFE Index by 60 basis points (bps). The median return for US equities underperformed the Russell 3000® Index by 90 bps. Results were even worse in emerging markets, where the median return underperformed the MSCI Emerging Markets Index by 270 bps (Figure 4).

**BONDS.** Median participant performance for the bonds composite was -0.1% in fiscal year 2018. As is typically the case, the range of returns from the 5th to 95th percentiles was the narrowest of all the asset classes (Figure 3). The median bond return was just slightly above that of the Bloomberg Barclays Aggregate Bonds Index (-0.4%), reflecting the fact that the vast majority of the traditional bond allocation is invested in investment-grade US securities.<sup>2</sup> The FTSE® Non-US Dollar World Government Bond Index returned 3.2% (Figure 4).

FIGURE 4 MEDIAN MARKETABLE ASSET CLASS RETURNS VS INDEX RETURNS Trailing 1-Yr as of June 30, 2018 • Percent (%)



Sources: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC. Index data are provided by Bloomberg Index Services Limited, Frank Russell Company, FTSE International Limited, Hedge Fund Research, Inc., and MSCI Inc. MSCI data provided "as is" without any express or implied warranties.

<sup>2</sup> Among participants in this study, 89% of the average bond allocation is to US bonds. The remaining allocation is split among global ex US bonds and high-yield bonds.

**HEDGE FUNDS.** The median hedge funds return among participants was 5.8% in fiscal year 2018. The largest endowments reported the highest median return at 7.1% (Figure 3). On an index basis, equity-oriented hedge funds reported the best return (8.2%) among the HFRI indexes displayed in Figure 4.

**PUBLIC REAL ASSETS.** Real assets consists of a diversified group of investments, including commodities, natural resources, real estate, and inflation-linked bonds. On average, commodities and natural resources accounts for three-quarters of the public real assets allocation. The median participant returns reflect this as the overall public real assets composite median of 9.1% was closer to the median commodities/natural resources return (10.2%) than it was to the median public real estate return (6.4%) (Figure 3).

PRIVATE EQUITY. The median trailing one-year IRR for the private equity composite was 17.5% (Figure 5). On a more granular level, the median venture capital return (18.9%) was higher than that of non-venture private equity (16.5%). The largest endowments reported median returns that were noticeably higher than the overall peer group for both venture capital (21.5%) and non-venture private equity (19.0%). On an index basis, the CA Global ex US Venture Capital Index produced the best return (29.0%) of the private investment asset classes (Figure 6).

PRIVATE REAL ASSETS. The median IRR for private natural resources (10.5%) was slightly higher than that of private real estate (9.6%). The smallest endowments reported the highest median return for private natural resources (13.8%) while those between \$500 million and \$1 billion reported the highest median return for private real estate (13.6%). The range of returns from the 5th percentile to the 95th percentile was 25 percentage points (ppts) for private real estate and 33 ppts for private natural resources (Figure 5).

# FIGURE 5 DISPERSION OF PARTICIPANTS' ASSET CLASS RETURNS: PRIVATE INVESTMENTS

Trailing 1-Yr as of June 30, 2018 • Percent (%)

All Endowments 5th Percentile	25.3 21.1 17.5	25.9				
5th Percentile	21.1					
			31.3	23.4	21.2	26.6
25th Percentile	17.5	20.3	23.5	15.1	14.7	17.2
Median	11.5	16.5	18.9	10.4	9.6	10.5
75th Percentile	14.0	13.4	12.1	6.0	5.9	4.6
95th Percentile	8.0	6.7	2.6	-0.6	-4.1	-6.5
Mean	24.3	24.3	17.5	11.1	9.8	10.6
n	198	187	166	168	148	168
Median by Asset Size						
Under \$200M	16.4	15.2	17.4	11.1	7.1	13.8
n	57	57	40	47	27	41
\$200M - \$500M	18.1	17.7	18.5	7.7	7.5	9.0
n	57	57	51	51	41	48
\$500M - \$1B	15.7	16.0	18.6	10.1	13.6	8.3
n	35	29	29	32	34	34
Over \$1B	19.6	19.0	21.5	11.2	10.2	11.4
n	49	44	46	38	46	45
Median by Institution Type						
Colleges & Universities	17.6	16.5	19.3	10.7	10.0	10.5
n	118	111	106	101	105	107
Cultural & Environmental	18.0	18.4	17.5	7.4	8.0	7.0
n	36	33	25	28	26	26
Independent Schools	16.3	15.4	18.3	10.2	8.9	11.1
n	22	22	18	20	10	17
Other Endowments	18.2	15.9	20.1	11.8	7.7	16.2
n	22	21	17	19	7	18

Note: Private investment return statistics are reported as horizon internal rates of return (IRRs).

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 3}$  Private real assets is a composite of private real estate and private natural resources.



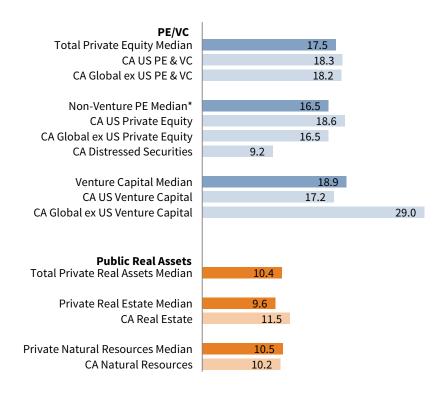
Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 1}\,{\rm Private}$  equity is a composite of non-venture private equity and venture capital.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Non-venture private equity also includes distressed securities that are invested through a private investment vehicle.

#### FIGURE 6 MEDIAN PRIVATE INVESTMENT ASSET CLASS IRRs VS INDEX IRRs

Trailing 1-Yr as of June 30, 2018 • Percent (%)



<sup>\*</sup>Non-venture private equity also includes distressed securities that are invested through a private investment vehicle.

Sources: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC. Index data are provided by Cambridge Associates LLC. Note: Private investment return statistics are reported as horizon internal rates of return (IRRs).

#### **ANALYSIS OF TOP AND BOTTOM PERFORMERS IN 2018**

Many factors contribute to investor returns, including asset allocation policy and the implementation of that policy. In addition, varying performance measurement methodologies may impact the peer performance statistics reported in this study.

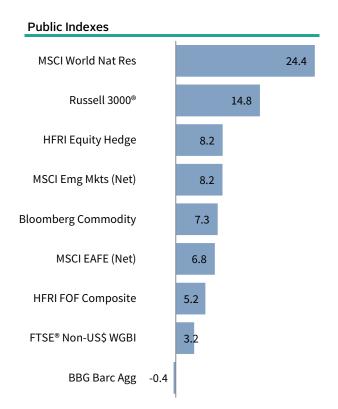
**ASSET ALLOCATION.** The index returns in the top half of Figure 7 provide context on the capital market environment for fiscal year 2018. Included alongside the private benchmark IRRs are public index returns on a modified public market equivalent basis (mPME). The CA mPME replicates private investment performance under public market conditions and allows for an appropriate comparison of private and public market returns.<sup>3</sup>

The table in the bottom half of Figure 7 breaks the participant group into four quartiles based on fiscal year 2018 investment performance. 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 asset allocation of the institutions within each quartile.

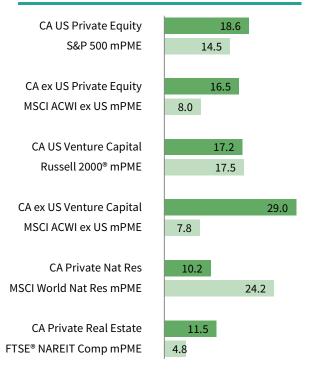
<sup>3</sup> Under the CA mPME methodology, the public index's shares are purchased and sold according to the private fund cash flow schedule, with distributions calculated in the same proportion as the private fund, and mPME net asset value is a function of mPME cash flows and public index returns.

# FIGURE 7 1-YR INDEX RETURNS AND ASSET ALLOCATION OF TOP AND BOTTOM PERFORMERS

As of June 30, 2018 • Percent (%)







# Mean Asset Allocation by Performance Quartile: June 30, 2017 to June 30, 2018

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	16.7	11.7	7.6	5.3	21.3	3.9	17.4	9.3	2.7	4.0	0.2
2nd Quartile	23.2	17.2	8.4	10.0	16.3	3.0	9.2	5.2	4.3	3.2	0.0
3rd Quartile	23.4	17.6	7.4	11.0	19.9	2.5	5.7	3.7	4.6	3.5	0.8
Bottom Quartile	23.7	18.7	8.6	12.1	19.3	1.8	3.9	1.8	4.5	4.5	1.0
Endowment Mean	21.7	16.3	8.0	9.6	19.2	2.8	9.1	5.0	4.0	3.8	0.5



<sup>\*</sup> 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.

Sources: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC. Index data are provided by Bloomberg Index Services Limited, 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 277 institutions.



There is typically a relationship between the market backdrop and the disparity in asset allocations between the top and bottom performers. In fiscal year 2018, most of the private investment indexes outperformed their respective mPME benchmarks, with global ex US venture capital producing exceptional returns. As one would expect given this outperformance of the private markets, the top quartile of performers reported the highest average allocation to private equity and venture capital (17.4%) and private real assets (9.3%). Likewise, the bottom quartile of performers reported the lowest average allocation to these asset classes.

**ATTRIBUTION.** Asset allocation is a key driver of performance, but 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. Although 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 fiscal year 2018.

Figure 8 illustrates the results of an analysis based on the one-year return and beginning fiscal year asset allocation of participating institutions. The darker shading on the bar chart represents the portion of the mean participant return that can be attributed to asset allocation and is calculated using a blend of representative asset class benchmarks weighted according to each institution's asset allocation. The lighter shading of the bar is calculated by subtracting the mean asset allocation return from the mean participant return and is the portion of the total return that cannot be explained by asset allocation. This "other" portion of returns is principally driven by implementation or execution decisions, which can include active management and manager selection. The analysis estimates that the average asset allocation return among participants was 9.1% while the average endowment lost value through implementation (-0.5%).

US equity, which returned 14.8% and had the highest average allocation among the detailed asset classes, made the largest contribution to the mean asset class return. Global ex US equities and non-venture private equity also made significant positive contributions to overall portfolio performance. Each category's contribution to the mean asset class return is a function of its benchmark return as well as the participant group's average allocation to the category.

Although asset allocation tends to account for most of the return that a portfolio earns, implementation decisions usually explain most of the relative performance among participating institutions. For fiscal year 2018, the attribution model estimates that the average asset allocation return of the top quartile was 150 bps higher than that of the bottom quartile. The difference was twice as large when looking at the portion of the total return explained by other factors, with the top quartile producing a return that was 300 bps higher than the bottom quartile in this area (Figure 9).

<sup>4</sup> 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 8 ATTRIBUTION ANALYSIS

As of June 30, 2018 • Percent (%)

#### Breakdown of Return Trailing 1-Yr Return from Asset Allocation 10 **Asset Class** Contribution Mean Asset to Asset Class Benchmark **Asset Class** Allocation Return Return 8 **US Equity** 21.7 14.8 3.2 Global ex US Equity-Developed Mkts 16.4 6.8 1.1 Non-Venture Private Equity 4.2 18.2 0.8 6 Global ex US Equity-Emerging Mkts 8.2 8.2 0.7 Long/Short Hedge Funds 7.5 8.2 0.6 Public Energy / Natural Resources 2.5 24.4 0.6 9.1 3.6 17.0 0.6 Venture Capital 4 Absolute Return (ex Distressed) 12.0 4.2 0.5 Private Real Estate 11.3 0.3 2.1 Private Oil & Gas / Natural Resources 2.6 9.9 0.2 2 Distressed-Private Equity Structure 1.2 18.2 0.2 Other Private Investments 8.0 18.0 0.1 Distressed-Hedge Fund Structure 1.6 6.0 0.1 Cash & Equivalents 3.9 0.1 1.4 0 -0.5 Commodities 0.5 7.3 0.0 Public Real Estate 0.5 4.9 0.0 Global ex US Bonds-Developed Mkts 0.4 3.2 0.0 -2 Inflation-Linked Bonds 0.5 2.1 0.0 **High Yield Bonds** 0.4 2.6 0.0 All Institutions Mean Timber 0.2 3.6 0.0 Other 0.5 1.4 0.0 Global ex US Bonds-Emerging Mkts 0.4 -1.6 0.0 Return from Other Factors **US Bonds** ■ Return from Asset Allocation 8.2 -0.4 0.0

Sources: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC. Index data provided by Bloomberg Index Services Limited, BofA Merrill Lynch, Cambridge Associates LLC, Frank Russell Company, FTSE Fixed Income LLC, FTSE International Limited, Hedge Fund Research, Inc., J.P. Morgan Securities, Inc., MSCI Inc., 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 277 institutions that provided beginning fiscal year asset allocation. Mean asset allocation is as of June 30, 2017. 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 horizon returns.

# FIGURE 9 ATTRIBUTION ANALYSIS BY PERFORMANCE QUARTILE

Trailing 1-Yr Return • As of June 30, 2018 • Percent (%)



Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

Note: Includes data for 277 institutions that provided beginning fiscal year asset allocation.



#### **RETURN CALCULATION METHODOLOGIES**

Performance reporting methodologies differ across participants in this study. Institutions that place a significant emphasis on benchmarking peer performance should take note of the following issues.

**PRIVATE INVESTMENTS.** There were two main methodologies that institutions used to account for private investments in their fiscal year 2018 total portfolio return. The vast majority of institutions report returns on a current basis, meaning the total portfolio return incorporated private investment valuations for the entire fiscal year period. The second most frequently used methodology was the lagged basis. Under this methodology, private investment valuations lag other assets in the portfolio by one quarter. In essence, the private investment portion of the fiscal year 2018 total return represents performance for the period of April 1, 2017, to March 31, 2018.

When assessing the impact of these two methodologies, it is important to consider private investment returns for both second quarter 2017 and second quarter 2018. With the lagged basis methodology, performance for the former period will be included in the one-year total return calculation, and performance for the latter period will be excluded. For private equity, venture capital, and natural resources, the Cambridge Associates Private Index return for second quarter 2018 was substantially stronger than second quarter 2017 (Figure 10). However, second quarter 2017 returns were stronger than second quarter 2018 for private real estate and distressed securities. Given the index return differentials and the fact that private equity and venture capital makes up most of the average allocation to private investments, it is likely that the current method would produce a higher fiscal year 2018 return than the lagged methodology. Actual results will depend on each institution's allocation across the private investment asset classes and their actual performance in these categories.

FIGURE 10 CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATES PRIVATE INVESTMENT INDEX RETURNS

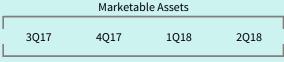
	1-Quarter Horizo	on Pooled Return
	Q2 2017	Q2 2018
US Private Equity	3.5	5.4
US Venture Capital	1.3	6.0
Distressed Securities	3.6	2.5
Real Estate	3.6	1.2
Natural Resources	-0.4	3.6

Source: Cambridge Associates LLC.

# PERFORMANCE REPORTING METHODOLOGIES

#### **Current Basis**

Total investment pool return for 2018 includes marketable asset and private investment performance for July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018.



**Private Investments** 

# **Lagged Basis**

Total investment pool return for 2018 includes marketable asset performance for July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018, and private investment performance for April 1, 2017, to March 31, 2018.

			ole Assets			
ı	2Q17	3Q17	4Q17	1Q18	2Q18	

# Methodologies Used by Participants

Asset Size	Current Basis	Lagged Basis	Other	No PI Allocation
Under \$200M	66%	0%	0%	34%
n	62	0	0	32
\$200M - \$500M	97%	0%	0%	3%
n	59	0	0	2
\$500M - \$1B	76%	20%	2%	2%
n	34	9	1	1
Over \$1B	76%	24%	0%	0%
n	59	19	0	0
All Institutions	77%	10%	0%	13%
n	214	28	1	35

Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

Notes: Private investments include 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 right-hand column.

**NET OF FEE CALCULATIONS.** Each participant in this study provided performance on a net-of-fees basis. However, the types of fees deducted in the net return calculation differ among participants. Returns net of external manager fees only were reported by 83% of respondents. Another 12% of respondents deduct external manager fees plus all or most of investment oversight costs, including investment office staff compensation. The remaining 5% of respondents deduct external manager fees plus some oversight costs, but are gross of investment staff compensation which typically represents the largest portion of internal investment office expenses (Figure 11).

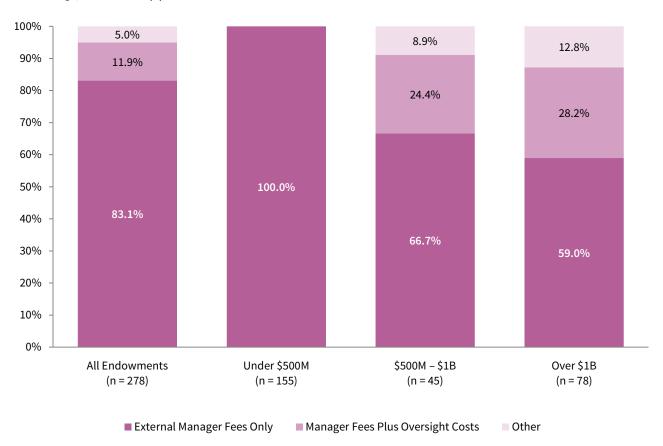
These reporting differences are magnified when participants are broken down into broad asset size groups. All endowments with assets under \$500 million reported returns solely net of external manager fees, while 67% of endowments between \$500

million and \$1 billion and 59% of those above \$1 billion used this method. Among the endowments in the over \$1 billion cohort in Figure 11, 28% reported returns net of manager fees plus all or most investment oversight costs, including investment staff compensation.

Past Cambridge Associates surveys have shown that total investment oversight expenses range between 10 bps and 30 bps for most of our endowment clients. Many factors can impact the overall level of costs including staffing levels, overall complexity of the portfolio, and the types of costs recognized. The scale of asset size can also impact statistics in relative terms, as costs in basis points tend to be lower for institutions with a larger asset base.

FIGURE 11 TYPES OF FEES DEDUCTED IN FY 2018 NET RETURN CALCULATION





Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

Notes: Institutions in the Manager Fees Plus Oversight Costs category net out all or the majority of oversight costs, including investment staff compensation. Institutions in the Other category deduct external manager fees and some investment oversight costs, but are gross of investment staff compensation.



#### **LONG-TERM RETURNS**

The mean average annual compound return (AACR) for all endowments was 7.3% for the five-year period ending June 30, 2018 (Figure 12). Colleges and universities reported the highest mean return (7.7%) of the institutions types. Among the various asset size bands, institutions with assets greater than \$1 billion had the highest returns, averaging 8.5% (Figure 13). The average return for the most recent five-year period lies in the middle of those that have been reported over the last decade (Figure 14).

The mean nominal AACR for the ten-year period was 5.5%, with the largest institutions again reporting the highest mean return (6.2%) among the asset size groups. The most recent trailing ten-year period is an improvement over those reported for the prior two fiscal year ends.

FIGURE 12 TOTAL RETURNS SUMMARY: TRAILING 3-, 5-, AND 10-YR Years Ended June 30, 2018 • Percent (%)

	N	ominal AAC	Rs	Real Af	ter Spendin	g AACRs
	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr
All Endowments						
Mean	6.2	7.3	5.5	-0.2	1.4	-0.4
Median	6.1	7.1	5.5	-0.2	1.4	-0.4
n	277	274	256	133	128	108
Colleges & Universities						
Mean	6.4	7.7	5.6	-0.1	1.6	-0.4
Median	6.3	7.5	5.7	-0.2	1.6	-0.4
n	160	158	151	100	99	88
Cultural & Environmental						
Mean	6.2	7.2	5.6	-0.4	1.0	-0.5
Median	6.0	7.1	5.8	-0.4	1.2	-0.6
n	52	52	47	16	12	8
Independent Schools						
Mean	5.5	6.5	5.2	-0.8	0.5	0.1
Median	5.5	6.4	5.3	-0.6	0.9	-0.6
n	28	28	26	13	13	10
Other Endowments						
Mean	5.6	6.3	5.0	-1.1	0.2	-0.4
Median	5.5	6.0	4.9	-0.9	0.6	-0.4
n	37	36	32	4	4	2
Benchmarks						
70/30 Global	6.6	7.6	5.8			

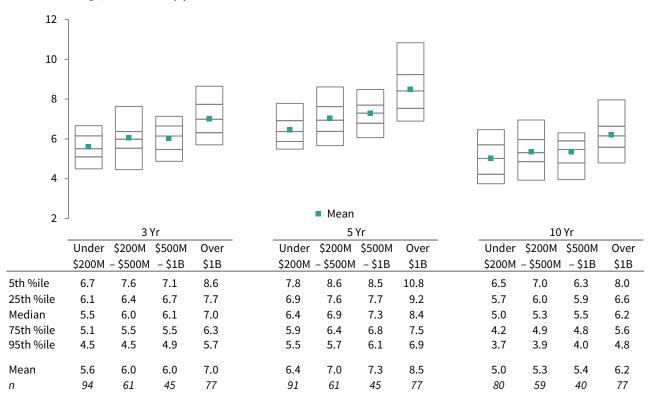
Sources: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC. Index data are provided by Bloomberg Index Services Limited and MSCI Inc. MSCI data provided "as is" without any express or implied warranties.

Notes: Real returns are adjusted for inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index. The Global 70/30 benchmark is composed of 70% MSCI ACWI / 30% Bloomberg Aggregate Bond Index. Returns for the MSCI ACWI are net of dividend taxes for global ex US securities.



# FIGURE 13 NOMINAL RETURN PERCENTILES BY ASSET SIZE: TRAILING 3-, 5-, AND 10-YR

Years Ended June 30, 2018 • Percent (%)



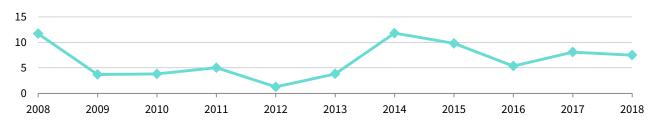
Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

Note: Three-, five-, and ten-year returns are annualized.

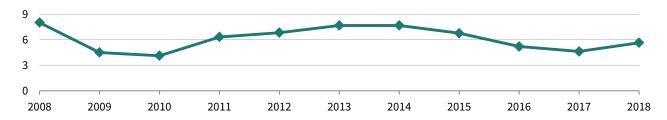
# FIGURE 14 ROLLING 5-YR AND 10-YR AVERAGE ANNUAL COMPOUND RETURNS

Years Ended June 30 • Percent (%)

#### 5-Yr AACR



# 10-Yr AACR



Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

Note: Analysis includes data for 187 institutions that provided returns for the last 20 years.



To maintain purchasing power for an endowment,<sup>5</sup> institutions must achieve a real return that offsets the average effective spending rate over the long term. The most common real return objective that participating institutions target is 5% (Figure 15). Most endowments have struggled in maintaining purchasing power of their portfolios over the last decade. Through the trailing ten-year period ending June 30, 2018, the average real return after spending was -0.4%, with just one-third of participants reporting a return above 0%.

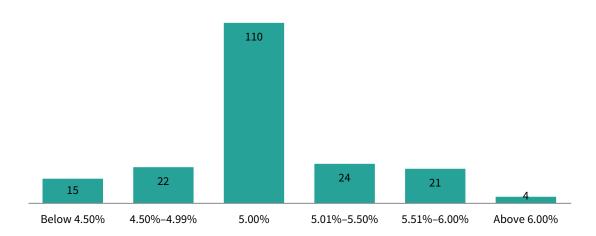


FIGURE 15 REAL TOTAL PORTFOLIO RETURN OBJECTIVES

Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

Note: Analysis includes data for 196 institutions that provided a real total portfolio return objective.

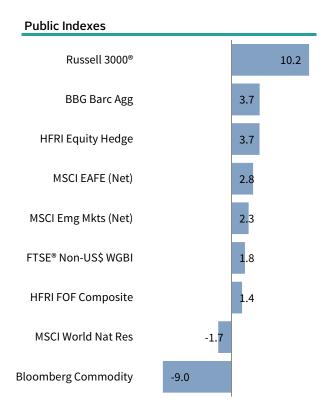
RELATIVE RETURNS: SIMPLE PORTFOLIO BENCHMARK. A simple benchmark that consists of broad stock and bond indexes can be useful in evaluating the decision to adopt the endowment model of investing. Nearly all endowments in this study are growth-oriented portfolios that are diversified across global equity markets. Therefore, the most appropriate simple benchmark is one that uses a global stock index and assigns a higher weighting to that equity index. In this study, we cite a benchmark that consists of 70% MSCI All Country World Index and 30% Bloomberg Barclays Aggregate Bond Index. The average return for institutions in this study outperformed this 70/30 benchmark by approximately 110 bps in fiscal year 2018. However, over the trailing ten-year period the average endowment underperformed this same benchmark by 30 bps.

When looking at participants' historical asset allocation and returns, it was a key tenet of the endowment model that distinguished top performers from other endowments over the last decade. Institutions that had the highest allocations to illiquid private investments generally earned the best total portfolio returns. The top quartile of performers reported an average allocation of 13.7% to private equity and venture capital and 9.4% to private real assets over the last decade (Figure 16). All institutions in the top quartile for the trailing ten-year period earned a return that outperformed the simple 70/30 benchmark.

<sup>5</sup> In this instance, endowment refers to a single fund with no future inflows. A long-term investment portfolio (LTIP), which is a collection of multiple endowments and other long-term funds, can use inflows to maintain purchasing power even if the pool's long-term real return is lower than the spending rate.

# FIGURE 16 10-YR INDEX RETURNS AND ASSET ALLOCATION OF TOP AND BOTTOM PERFORMERS

As of June 30, 2018 • Percent (%)





Mean Asset Alloca	Mean Asset Allocation by Performance Quartile: June 30, 2008 to June 30, 2018										
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	19.8	12.7	6.2	8.6	19.2	3.6	13.7	9.4	3.2	3.2	0.3
2nd Quartile	18.7	13.1	6.5	10.5	20.5	3.9	11.6	7.1	4.6	2.9	0.6
3rd Quartile	19.5	14.6	7.0	12.1	21.4	3.8	7.5	4.5	5.9	3.5	0.3
Bottom Quartile	18.4	14.5	6.7	13.4	19.8	2.9	7.6	4.2	6.7	5.0	0.7
Endowment Mean	19.1	13.7	6.6	11.1	20.2	3.6	10.1	6.3	5.1	3.6	0.5



<sup>\*</sup> 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.

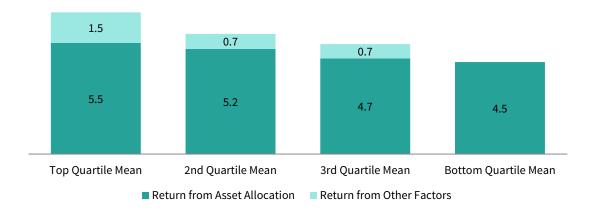
Sources: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC. Index data are provided by Bloomberg Index Services Limited, Cambridge Associates LLC, Frank Russell Company, FTSE International Limited, Hedge Fund Research, Inc., MSCI Inc., the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts, Standard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

Note: Analysis includes data for 181 institutions.



**ATTRIBUTION.** Higher allocations to private investments led to the top quartile of performers earning the highest asset allocation return in our attribution model for trailing ten-year period. The average asset allocation return for the top quartile of performers (5.5%) was 100 bps higher than the average for the bottom quartile of performers (Figure 17). However, similar to our analysis on the trailing one-year data, our attribution model estimates that it was the return from other factors—mainly implementation decisions—that explained most of the dispersion in returns among the peer group for the trailing ten-year period.

FIGURE 17 10-YR ATTRIBUTION ANALYSIS BY PERFORMANCE QUARTILE As of June 30, 2018 • Percent (%)



Sources: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

Notes: Includes data for 181 institutions that provided beginning year asset allocation for all ten years.

The range of returns among private investment funds is usually much wider than what is experienced in marketable asset classes. Over time, portfolios with the highest private investment allocations should theoretically have more potential for earning a larger return from other factors, particularly in venture capital where the potential for excess return can be very significant in certain periods. The top quartile of performers added an average of 1.5 percentage points through implementation decisions over the trailing ten-year period, while the average institution in the bottom quartile added no value through implementation.

The ranges of actual asset class returns across the entire participant group for the trailing five- and ten-year periods are listed in Figures 18 and 19.

FIGURE 18 DISPERSION OF PARTICIPANTS' ASSET CLASS RETURNS: MARKETABLE INVESTMENTS

Trailing 5- and 10-Yr • As of June 30, 2018

	Public	Global	US	DM ex US	EM		Hedge	Public Real	Commodities and Natural	Public Real
	Equity¹	Equity <sup>2</sup>	Equity	Equity	Equity	Bonds	Funds	Assets <sup>3</sup>	Resources	Estate
Trailing 5-Yr										
5th Percentile	11.3	14.0	14.7	10.5	7.8	3.5	7.0	4.0	2.4	9.9
25th Percentile	10.3	11.4	13.7	8.8	5.7	2.6	5.3	1.0	0.0	7.6
Median	9.7	10.4	12.8	8.1	4.8	2.0	4.2	-0.8	-1.7	7.0
75th Percentile	9.0	9.2	11.9	7.2	3.8	1.3	3.4	-2.0	-3.0	5.7
95th Percentile	7.9	6.5	10.0	5.7	1.9	0.4	2.1	-4.1	-5.5	4.8
Mean	9.7	10.3	12.6	8.0	4.8	2.0	4.3	-0.4	-1.5	7.0
n	214	93	215	201	203	206	208	139	133	29
Trailing 10-Yr										
5th Percentile	9.1	11.5	12.6	8.0	6.2	5.9	6.7	1.7	-0.2	8.6
25th Percentile	7.6	10.5	11.0	6.2	4.1	4.6	4.9	-0.7	-3.4	7.2
Median	7.1	9.4	10.0	5.1	2.4	3.9	4.0	-2.7	-4.6	5.8
75th Percentile	6.4	7.4	9.1	4.1	1.5	2.9	3.2	-4.4	-5.8	5.3
95th Percentile	5.3	2.8	7.5	2.2	0.4	1.3	1.9	-6.4	-8.1	3.0
Mean	7.1	8.5	10.0	5.1	2.9	3.7	4.0	-2.7	-4.5	5.9
n	191	48	191	174	140	172	182	99	84	24

Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

FIGURE 19 DISPERSION OF PARTICIPANTS' ASSET CLASS RETURNS: PRIVATE INVESTMENTS

Trailing 5- and 10-Yr • As of June 30, 2018

	Total Private Equity <sup>1</sup>	Non-Venture Private Equity <sup>2</sup>	Venture Capital	Total Private Real Assets <sup>3</sup>	Private Real Estate	Private Natural Resources
Trailing 5-Yr						
5th Percentile	22.1	23.7	26.6	14.2	18.5	11.8
25th Percentile	17.4	16.5	21.2	10.1	14.5	6.5
Median	15.1	14.1	15.8	6.7	12.6	2.5
75th Percentile	12.2	11.3	12.4	3.2	9.4	-0.8
95th Percentile	8.5	7.5	5.0	-2.9	0.0	-5.1
Mean	15.5	14.9	16.2	6.3	11.1	2.7
n	186	175	143	146	128	142
Trailing 10-Yr						
5th Percentile	14.7	14.8	20.0	9.3	11.0	9.6
25th Percentile	12.4	11.7	15.4	6.5	7.3	5.9
Median	10.6	10.2	12.1	4.3	4.1	4.0
75th Percentile	8.9	8.5	9.6	2.1	1.5	1.5
95th Percentile	5.5	4.8	4.7	-3.6	-3.6	-4.1
Mean	10.6	10.0	12.3	3.8	3.9	3.5
n	168	159	129	123	116	107

Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

Note: Private investment return statistics are reported as horizon internal rates of return (IRRs).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Private real assets is a composite of private real estate and private natural resources.



 $<sup>^{1}</sup> Public \ equity is a \ composite \ of \ global \ equity, \ US \ equity, \ developed \ markets \ ex \ US \ equity, \ and \ emerging \ markets \ equity.$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Global equity includes only investment vehicles that have a mandate to invest in US and international markets.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Total public real assets is a composite of public real estate, commodities, and inflation-linked bonds.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 1}\,{\rm Private}$  equity is a composite of non-venture private equity and venture capital.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Non-venture private equity also includes distressed securities that are invested through a private investment vehicle.

# **POLICY PORTFOLIO BENCHMARKS**

**RELATIVE RETURNS.** Benchmarking is all about answering the question, "How are we doing?" in ways that are both accurate and relevant to the objectives of the portfolio being measured. Performance results of peers can be informative, but they are not necessarily the most effective benchmark to evaluate an institution's investment performance. Each nonprofit institution has its own unique blend of investment objectives, constraints, and risk tolerances. Therefore, investment policies will vary within a peer group, leading to different asset allocation structures for institutions that may otherwise be considered peers.

The comparison of an institution's return to its policy portfolio benchmark is a better measure for determining whether a portfolio is being successfully managed against its target investment policy. The policy benchmark is typically a blend of indexes that represent the desired portfolio risk exposures without any expression of more active alternatives. In certain asset classes such as hedge funds and private investments, there are often no investable proxies and other types of benchmarks are used.

The median spread between the actual portfolio return and the policy portfolio benchmark return was -0.1% in fiscal year 2018. A slight majority of respondents (55%) underperformed their policy benchmark in the most recent fiscal year. Most institutions fared well versus their policy benchmark over the longer time horizon. The median difference between the total portfolio AACR and the benchmark was 0.2 ppt and 0.3 ppt for the trailing five- and ten-year periods, respectively (Figure 20).

FIGURE 20 RANGE OF OUT/UNDERPERFORMANCE OF TOTAL RETURN VS POLICY PORTFOLIO BENCHMARK As of June 30, 2018 • Percentage Points



Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

Note: Data points represent the difference between the total portfolio return and the policy portfolio benchmark return.

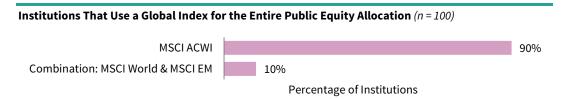


**POLICY PORTFOLIO BENCHMARK COMPONENTS.** Over 85% of the respondents (217 of 247) that provided a policy portfolio benchmark use a detailed, asset class–specific benchmark to evaluate the performance of the total portfolio. Most of the other 30 institutions that provided data use a simple benchmark that typically incorporates a broad-based equity market index and a bond index weighted in proportion to the overall risk profile of the portfolio. The analysis that follows includes only the data of the respondents that use a detailed policy portfolio benchmark.

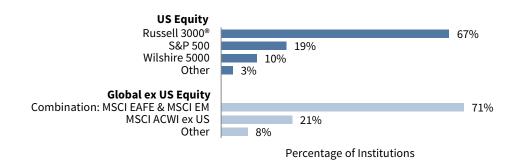
The components of a detailed policy benchmark should align with the asset classes or role-in-portfolio categories stated in the portfolio's asset allocation policy. Since policy allocations can be set at varying levels of granularity, approaches to benchmarking vary among institutions. One area where this is noticeable is in the benchmarking of public equities, where 100 respondents use a global index to benchmark their entire allocation while 115 respondents use separate geographic indexes (Figure 21). For institutions that use a global index for their entire public equity allocation, the MSCI ACWI Index was by far the most common index cited.

FIGURE 21 FREQUENTLY USED COMPONENTS OF POLICY PORTFOLIO BENCHMARKS: PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EQUITY

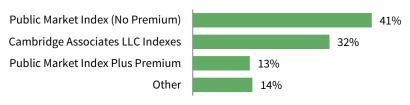
As of June 30, 2018



#### Institutions That Use Separate Geographic Indexes for the Public Equity Allocation (n = 115)



#### **Private Equity Indexes** (n = 113)



Percentage of Institutions

Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

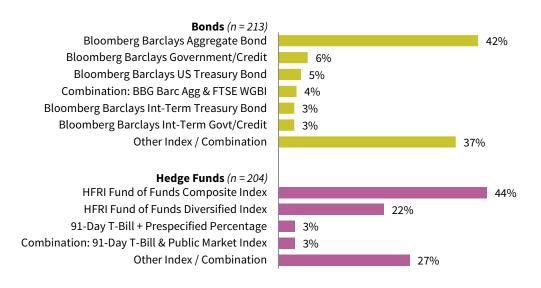
Among the institutions that use separate public equity indexes based on geographic orientation, the Russell 3000® Index was cited by 67% for US equities. A slightly higher proportion of institutions (71%) used a blend of the MSCI EAFE and MSCI Emerging Markets indexes to measure global ex US equities. This approach is appropriate for institutions that have separate targets to global ex US developed and emerging markets, particularly if the targets are out of proportion to the weightings of the MSCI ACWI ex US Index.

The use of a public index(es) is the most common practice for benchmarking private equity in the policy portfolio benchmark, as 41% of respondents use the actual public index return. Another 13% of institutions add a prespecified percentage or premium to the public index return, but the proportion of the peer group using this type of benchmark has dropped significantly in recent years. Just under one-third of respondents (32%) used the Cambridge Associates LLC Private Equity & Venture Capital Indexes.

The use of solely the Bloomberg Barclays Aggregate Bond Index was the most common benchmarking approach for bonds and was reported by 42% of institutions (Figure 22). However, many institutions use unique index combinations to better reflect their underlying bond exposure. Benchmarks should depend on whether allocations are made domestically or globally, as well as the type of issuer (sovereign versus corporate or both). Most respondents use an HFRI index for hedge funds, with the Fund-of-Funds Composite Index reported by 44% of institutions. For real assets, benchmark combinations are unique across most participants due to the wide variety of strategies under this category.

FIGURE 22 FREQUENTLY USED COMPONENTS OF POLICY PORTFOLIO BENCHMARKS: BONDS AND HEDGE FUNDS

As of June 30, 2018 • Percentage of Institutions (%)



Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

# **RISK-ADJUSTED PERFORMANCE**

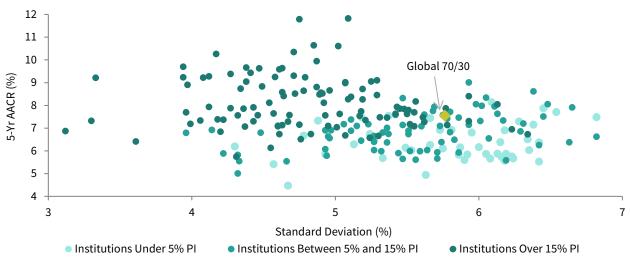
Risk-adjusted performance is important to evaluate as it measures the total return relative to the total amount of risk taken by the portfolio. The most common approach to measuring risk-adjusted performance is by the Sharpe ratio, which shows how much return above the risk-free rate (T-bills) the investor 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 the amount of risk it has actually taken. For this reason, we have split institutions out into subcategories in Figure 23 based on their allocations to private investments.

Institutions that had an allocation of 15% or more to private investments over the last five years reported an average Sharpe ratio of 1.60, significantly higher than that of the other subgroups with smaller private allocations. Although 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.

# FIGURE 23 STANDARD DEVIATION AND SHARPE RATIO

5 Yrs Ended June 30, 2018



	All Institutions	Me	70/30 Global		
	Mean	Under 5%	5%-15%	Over 15%	Benchmark
5-Yr AACR	7.3	6.4	6.8	8.1	7.5
Standard Deviation	5.3	5.8	5.6	4.8	5.8
Sharpe Ratio	1.34	1.04	1.16	1.60	1.23
n	228	47	76	105	

Sources: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC. Index data are provided by Bloomberg Index Services Limited 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 June 30 periods from 2013 to 2018. The 70/30 benchmark is composed of 70% MSCI ACWI Index / 30% Bloomberg Barclays Aggregate Bond Index.



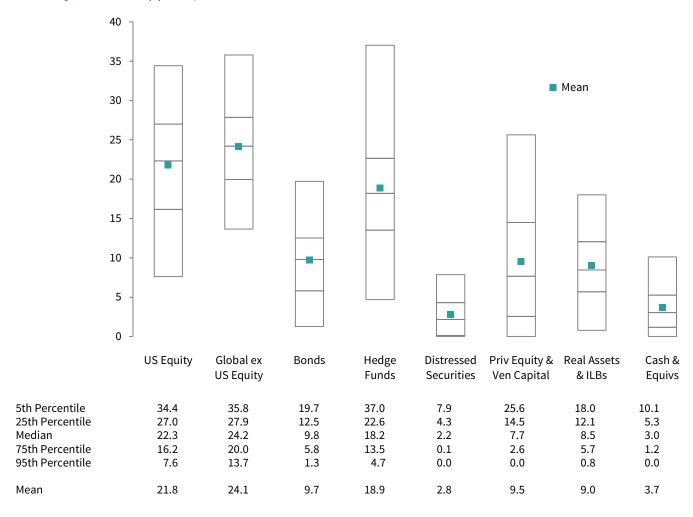
# 2018 Portfolio Asset Allocation

# 2018 ASSET ALLOCATION

More than 45% of the average long-term investment portfolio consisted of public equities at June 30, 2018. On average, allocations to global ex US equities (24.1%) were higher than those to US equities (21.8%). Endowments had significant exposure to alternative assets, with 18.9% allocated to hedge funds and 9.5% allocated to private equity and venture capital, on average. Another 2.8% was allocated, on average, to distressed securities, which are invested through either a hedge fund or private equity—type investment vehicle. Real assets, which consist of a diversified group of public and private assets, made up 9.0% of portfolios, on average. Average allocations to bonds and cash were 9.7% and 3.7%, respectively (Figure 24).

FIGURE 24 ASSET ALLOCATION DISTRIBUTION BY ASSET CLASS

As of June 30, 2018 • Percent (%) • n = 278



Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.



As Figure 25 shows, mean allocations to these broad asset classes vary across different groups of institutions. A key factor in the variation of asset allocations continues to be the total value of assets under management. Smaller portfolios continue to maintain higher allocations to public equities and bonds, while those with assets over \$1 billion have the highest allocations to private investments. Also displayed in Figure 25 is a more granular view of allocations within each broad asset class.

# HISTORICAL ASSET ALLOCATION

Institutional investors that have adopted the endowment model of investing have seen significant shifts in their asset allocation policies over the last few decades. Exposure to bonds has decreased while the larger equity allocation has become more diversified. The largest endowments pioneered this transition in the 1980s, with the trend spreading among other institutions in the 1990s and then accelerating throughout much of the first decade of the new millennium. By the time that the 2008 financial crisis occurred, most endowments in this study had already built highly diversified portfolios.

FIGURE 25 MEAN ASSET ALLOCATION BY ASSET SIZE AND INSTITUTION TYPE As of June 30, 2018 • Percent (%)

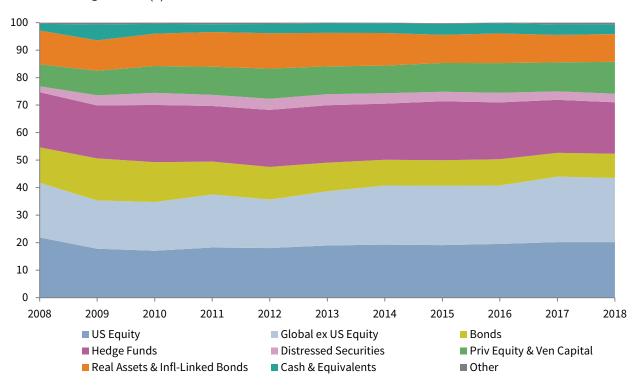
	Asset Size				Institution Type				
	Under	\$200M	\$500M	Over	Coll &	Cult &	Ind	Other	
	\$200M	- \$500M	- \$1B	\$1B	Univ	Env	Schools	Endow	
	(n = 94)	(n = 61)	(n = 45)	(n = 78)	(n = 160)	(n = 52)	(n = 28)	(n = 38)	
US Equity	26.3	22.5	19.2	17.3	20.3	23.6	23.4	24.4	
Global ex US Equity	28.0	25.0	21.0	20.5	22.8	24.8	25.0	28.2	
Developed Markets	19.8	16.9	14.1	12.7	15.0	16.7	17.4	19.9	
Emerging Markets	8.3	8.1	7.0	7.8	7.7	8.1	7.7	8.3	
Bonds	12.2	10.8	8.6	6.6	8.7	10.4	8.7	13.8	
US Bonds	11.0	10.0	7.7	5.3	7.7	9.4	8.1	12.1	
Global ex US Bonds (DM)	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.6	
Global ex US Bonds (EM)	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.9	
High-Yield Bonds	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	
Hedge Funds	18.3	18.2	20.3	19.2	18.3	19.6	21.6	18.1	
Long/Short Hedge Funds	6.1	7.0	7.9	8.9	7.4	7.0	10.0	5.9	
Absolute Return (ex Distressed)	12.2	11.2	12.3	10.3	10.9	12.6	11.6	12.2	
Distressed Securities	1.7	2.9	4.2	3.3	3.0	3.1	2.8	1.5	
Hedge Fund Structure	0.9	1.7	2.5	1.8	1.6	2.2	1.3	1.0	
Private Equity Structure	0.7	1.2	1.7	1.4	1.4	0.9	1.5	0.6	
PE & VC	3.1	7.7	12.5	16.8	12.7	6.2	5.8	3.3	
Non-Venture Private Equity	1.1	3.4	5.9	8.4	6.1	2.7	2.7	1.0	
Venture Capital	1.3	3.4	5.0	7.7	5.5	2.7	1.8	1.8	
Other Private Investments	0.7	1.0	1.6	0.7	1.0	0.8	1.3	0.4	
Real Assets & Infl-Linked Bonds	6.3	7.9	10.2	12.6	10.3	7.1	7.8	7.1	
Private Real Estate	0.3	1.2	2.7	4.4	2.6	1.2	1.6	0.8	
Public Real Estate	0.4	0.4	1.0	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.5	
Commodities	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4	
Public Energy/Nat Resources	3.2	3.2	2.2	1.2	2.3	2.3	2.8	3.5	
Private O&G/Nat Resources Timber	1.2 0.0	2.0 0.1	3.6 0.2	5.2 0.4	3.6 0.2	2.1 0.1	2.4 0.1	1.2 0.0	
Inflation-Linked Bonds	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.6	
Cash & Equivalents	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.4	3.3	5.0	4.1	3.3	
Other	0.3	1.2	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.8	0.2	

Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

Compared to prior decades, the changes in the average asset allocation of the participant group have been relatively minor over the last ten years. For the constant group of endowments that reported data for each of the last ten years, the largest increase was to private equity and venture capital where the mean allocation has increased by 3.6 ppts over the last ten years (Figure 26). In addition, the mean allocation to emerging markets equities (2.8 ppts) was higher than what was reported a decade prior. The asset classes experiencing the largest decreases were bonds (4.1 ppts), real assets (2.2 ppts), and US equities (1.7 ppts). Figure 27 shows the changes in average asset allocation from 2008 to 2018 for the four broad asset size groups.

FIGURE 26 HISTORICAL MEAN ASSET ALLOCATION TRENDS

Years Ended June 30 • Percent (%)



											All
	Constant Universe								End		
2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2018
21.9	17.8	17.0	18.2	18.0	19.0	19.3	19.1	19.5	20.2	20.2	21.8
19.9 <i>14.8</i>	17.6 <i>12.7</i>	17.7 12.3	19.3 <i>13.2</i>	17.7 11.5	19.7 13.0	21.5 <i>14.1</i>	21.6 <i>14.2</i>	21.3 <i>13.9</i>	23.8 15.6	23.3 <i>15.4</i>	24.1 16.2
5.1	4.9	5.4	6.1	6.1	6.7	7.4	7.4	7.3	8.2	7.9	7.9
12.9	15.3	14.5	12.0	11.9	10.4	9.3	9.2	9.5	8.7	8.8	9.7
20.1	19.3	20.8	20.2	20.7	20.9	20.4	21.4	20.7	19.3	18.7	18.9
2.1	3.7	4.4	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.8	3.5	3.5	3.1	3.1	2.8
8.0	8.9	9.8	10.2	11.0	10.1	10.1	10.5	10.8	10.5	11.6	9.5
12.3	11.1	11.7	12.6	12.9	12.2	11.8	10.2	10.8	10.0	10.1	9.0
2.4 0.4	5.8 0.6	3.5 0.5	2.8 0.6	3.3 0.5	3.4 0.3	3.5 0.3	4.0 0.3	3.7 0.3	3.8 0.7	3.5 0.6	3.7 0.5
	21.9 19.9 14.8 5.1 12.9 20.1 2.1 8.0 12.3 2.4	21.9 17.8 19.9 17.6 14.8 12.7 5.1 4.9 12.9 15.3 20.1 19.3 2.1 3.7 8.0 8.9 12.3 11.1 2.4 5.8	21.9 17.8 17.0 19.9 17.6 17.7 14.8 12.7 12.3 5.1 4.9 5.4 12.9 15.3 14.5 20.1 19.3 20.8 2.1 3.7 4.4 8.0 8.9 9.8 12.3 11.1 11.7 2.4 5.8 3.5	21.9     17.8     17.0     18.2       19.9     17.6     17.7     19.3       14.8     12.7     12.3     13.2       5.1     4.9     5.4     6.1       12.9     15.3     14.5     12.0       20.1     19.3     20.8     20.2       2.1     3.7     4.4     4.1       8.0     8.9     9.8     10.2       12.3     11.1     11.7     12.6       2.4     5.8     3.5     2.8	2008         2009         2010         2011         2012           21.9         17.8         17.0         18.2         18.0           19.9         17.6         17.7         19.3         17.7           14.8         12.7         12.3         13.2         11.5           5.1         4.9         5.4         6.1         6.1           12.9         15.3         14.5         12.0         11.9           20.1         19.3         20.8         20.2         20.7           2.1         3.7         4.4         4.1         4.0           8.0         8.9         9.8         10.2         11.0           12.3         11.1         11.7         12.6         12.9           2.4         5.8         3.5         2.8         3.3	2008         2009         2010         2011         2012         2013           21.9         17.8         17.0         18.2         18.0         19.0           19.9         17.6         17.7         19.3         17.7         19.7           14.8         12.7         12.3         13.2         11.5         13.0           5.1         4.9         5.4         6.1         6.1         6.7           12.9         15.3         14.5         12.0         11.9         10.4           20.1         19.3         20.8         20.2         20.7         20.9           2.1         3.7         4.4         4.1         4.0         4.0           8.0         8.9         9.8         10.2         11.0         10.1           12.3         11.1         11.7         12.6         12.9         12.2           2.4         5.8         3.5         2.8         3.3         3.4	2008         2009         2010         2011         2012         2013         2014           21.9         17.8         17.0         18.2         18.0         19.0         19.3           19.9         17.6         17.7         19.3         17.7         19.7         21.5           14.8         12.7         12.3         13.2         11.5         13.0         14.1           5.1         4.9         5.4         6.1         6.1         6.7         7.4           12.9         15.3         14.5         12.0         11.9         10.4         9.3           20.1         19.3         20.8         20.2         20.7         20.9         20.4           2.1         3.7         4.4         4.1         4.0         4.0         3.8           8.0         8.9         9.8         10.2         11.0         10.1         10.1           12.3         11.1         11.7         12.6         12.9         12.2         11.8           2.4         5.8         3.5         2.8         3.3         3.4         3.5	2008         2009         2010         2011         2012         2013         2014         2015           21.9         17.8         17.0         18.2         18.0         19.0         19.3         19.1           19.9         17.6         17.7         19.3         17.7         19.7         21.5         21.6           14.8         12.7         12.3         13.2         11.5         13.0         14.1         14.2           5.1         4.9         5.4         6.1         6.1         6.7         7.4         7.4           12.9         15.3         14.5         12.0         11.9         10.4         9.3         9.2           20.1         19.3         20.8         20.2         20.7         20.9         20.4         21.4           2.1         3.7         4.4         4.1         4.0         4.0         3.8         3.5           8.0         8.9         9.8         10.2         11.0         10.1         10.1         10.5           12.3         11.1         11.7         12.6         12.9         12.2         11.8         10.2           2.4         5.8         3.5         2.8         3.3	2008         2009         2010         2011         2012         2013         2014         2015         2016           21.9         17.8         17.0         18.2         18.0         19.0         19.3         19.1         19.5           19.9         17.6         17.7         19.3         17.7         19.7         21.5         21.6         21.3           14.8         12.7         12.3         13.2         11.5         13.0         14.1         14.2         13.9           5.1         4.9         5.4         6.1         6.1         6.7         7.4         7.4         7.3           12.9         15.3         14.5         12.0         11.9         10.4         9.3         9.2         9.5           20.1         19.3         20.8         20.2         20.7         20.9         20.4         21.4         20.7           2.1         3.7         4.4         4.1         4.0         4.0         3.8         3.5         3.5           8.0         8.9         9.8         10.2         11.0         10.1         10.1         10.5         10.8           12.3         11.1         11.7         12.6         12.9 </td <td>2008         2009         2010         2011         2012         2013         2014         2015         2016         2017           21.9         17.8         17.0         18.2         18.0         19.0         19.3         19.1         19.5         20.2           19.9         17.6         17.7         19.3         17.7         19.7         21.5         21.6         21.3         23.8           14.8         12.7         12.3         13.2         11.5         13.0         14.1         14.2         13.9         15.6           5.1         4.9         5.4         6.1         6.1         6.7         7.4         7.4         7.3         8.2           12.9         15.3         14.5         12.0         11.9         10.4         9.3         9.2         9.5         8.7           20.1         19.3         20.8         20.2         20.7         20.9         20.4         21.4         20.7         19.3           2.1         3.7         4.4         4.1         4.0         4.0         3.8         3.5         3.5         3.5         3.1           8.0         8.9         9.8         10.2         11.0         10.1<td>2008         2009         2010         2011         2012         2013         2014         2015         2016         2017         2018           21.9         17.8         17.0         18.2         18.0         19.0         19.3         19.1         19.5         20.2         20.2           19.9         17.6         17.7         19.3         17.7         19.7         21.5         21.6         21.3         23.8         23.3           14.8         12.7         12.3         13.2         11.5         13.0         14.1         14.2         13.9         15.6         15.4           5.1         4.9         5.4         6.1         6.1         6.7         7.4         7.4         7.3         8.2         7.9           12.9         15.3         14.5         12.0         11.9         10.4         9.3         9.2         9.5         8.7         8.8           20.1         19.3         20.8         20.2         20.7         20.9         20.4         21.4         20.7         19.3         18.7           2.1         3.7         4.4         4.1         4.0         4.0         3.8         3.5         3.5         3.1         3.</td></td>	2008         2009         2010         2011         2012         2013         2014         2015         2016         2017           21.9         17.8         17.0         18.2         18.0         19.0         19.3         19.1         19.5         20.2           19.9         17.6         17.7         19.3         17.7         19.7         21.5         21.6         21.3         23.8           14.8         12.7         12.3         13.2         11.5         13.0         14.1         14.2         13.9         15.6           5.1         4.9         5.4         6.1         6.1         6.7         7.4         7.4         7.3         8.2           12.9         15.3         14.5         12.0         11.9         10.4         9.3         9.2         9.5         8.7           20.1         19.3         20.8         20.2         20.7         20.9         20.4         21.4         20.7         19.3           2.1         3.7         4.4         4.1         4.0         4.0         3.8         3.5         3.5         3.5         3.1           8.0         8.9         9.8         10.2         11.0         10.1 <td>2008         2009         2010         2011         2012         2013         2014         2015         2016         2017         2018           21.9         17.8         17.0         18.2         18.0         19.0         19.3         19.1         19.5         20.2         20.2           19.9         17.6         17.7         19.3         17.7         19.7         21.5         21.6         21.3         23.8         23.3           14.8         12.7         12.3         13.2         11.5         13.0         14.1         14.2         13.9         15.6         15.4           5.1         4.9         5.4         6.1         6.1         6.7         7.4         7.4         7.3         8.2         7.9           12.9         15.3         14.5         12.0         11.9         10.4         9.3         9.2         9.5         8.7         8.8           20.1         19.3         20.8         20.2         20.7         20.9         20.4         21.4         20.7         19.3         18.7           2.1         3.7         4.4         4.1         4.0         4.0         3.8         3.5         3.5         3.1         3.</td>	2008         2009         2010         2011         2012         2013         2014         2015         2016         2017         2018           21.9         17.8         17.0         18.2         18.0         19.0         19.3         19.1         19.5         20.2         20.2           19.9         17.6         17.7         19.3         17.7         19.7         21.5         21.6         21.3         23.8         23.3           14.8         12.7         12.3         13.2         11.5         13.0         14.1         14.2         13.9         15.6         15.4           5.1         4.9         5.4         6.1         6.1         6.7         7.4         7.4         7.3         8.2         7.9           12.9         15.3         14.5         12.0         11.9         10.4         9.3         9.2         9.5         8.7         8.8           20.1         19.3         20.8         20.2         20.7         20.9         20.4         21.4         20.7         19.3         18.7           2.1         3.7         4.4         4.1         4.0         4.0         3.8         3.5         3.5         3.1         3.

Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

Notes: Constant universe represents 181 institutions that provided asset allocation data for each year from 2008 to 2018. 'All End' represents 278 institutions that provided 2018 data.



#### FIGURE 27 TRENDS IN ASSET ALLOCATION BY ASSET SIZE

Equal-Weighted Means as of June 30 • Percent (%)

	US	Global ex US			Hedge	Dist		RA	Cash	
	Equity	Total	Dev	EM	Bonds	Funds	Sec	PE & VC	& ILBs	& Equiv
Under \$200M (n = 41)										
2008	25.3	20.6	16.3	4.3	16.4	18.6	1.5	3.6	10.4	3.1
2018	23.3	26.6	18.4	8.2	10.8	18.2	2.7	6.1	7.5	3.6
Change (ppt)										
2008–18	-2.0	6.0	2.1	3.9	-5.6	-0.3	1.1	2.5	-2.9	0.5
\$200M-\$500M (n = 38)										
2008	23.7	19.8	14.8	5.0	14.9	18.8	1.8	5.5	12.2	2.8
2018	21.3	25.4	17.3	8.1	9.8	17.5	3.6	8.9	8.2	3.4
Change (ppt)										
2008–18	-2.4	5.6	2.5	3.1	-5.1	-1.3	1.9	3.4	-4.0	0.6
\$500M-\$1B (n = 34)										
2008	20.9	19.8	14.7	5.1	12.2	21.4	2.3	8.9	11.6	2.7
2018	19.9	22.0	14.8	7.3	8.9	18.6	4.2	12.6	10.2	3.5
Change (ppt)										
2008–18	-1.0	2.2	0.0	2.2	-3.3	-2.8	1.8	3.8	-1.4	0.8
Over \$1B (n = 68)										
2008	18.3	19.2	13.2	5.9	9.1	21.1	2.8	12.7	14.8	1.5
2018	16.7	20.2	12.3	8.0	6.4	19.3	3.1	17.5	13.0	3.5
Change (ppt)										
2008–18	-1.6	1.0	-1.0	2.0	-2.7	-1.8	0.3	4.8	-1.8	2.0

Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC. Note: Asset sizes are based on June 30, 2018, data.

#### TARGET ASSET ALLOCATION

Though long-term asset allocation trends clearly show how investment policies have evolved over time, one-year changes in actual allocations can be influenced by factors such as asset returns and rebalancing flows. Using shorter-term data can be misleading in determining whether institutions are altering their long-term asset allocation policies. An analysis of target asset allocations is more suitable for such an evaluation.

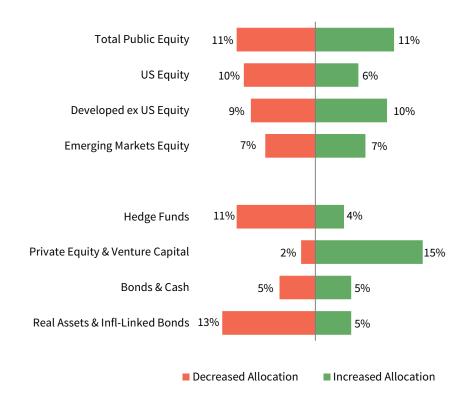
Institutions construct their target asset allocation mix under different frameworks. Of the 255 institutions that provided target asset allocation data, 77% reported data using the traditional asset allocation—centered structure. The remaining institutions reported data using other frameworks, including role-in-portfolio. Under the role-in-portfolio framework, targets are set to broad categories based on the roles that certain investments are expected to play in the portfolio (e.g., growth, deflation-hedging, diversifier).

Our trend analysis on this topic focuses on institutions that reported under the traditional asset allocation—centered framework. Just under one-third (29%) of these institutions made a change to their policy targets in fiscal year 2018. Institutions with portfolios between \$500 million and \$1 billion were most likely to make changes to their policy targets (37%), while those with asset under \$200 million were least likely to make changes (14%).

As shown in Figure 28, 15% of respondents raised their target allocation to private equity and venture capital in fiscal year 2018, while just 2% lowered their target. The trend was the opposite for hedge funds, where 11% of endowments lowered their target, while just 4% reported an increase. In real assets, the proportion of endowments lowering their target (13%) was more than double the proportion that reported increases. Figure 29 shows changes in target asset allocation data for the broad asset size groups.

FIGURE 28 CHANGES IN TARGET ASSET ALLOCATION

June 30, 2017 – June 30, 2018 • Percentage of Institutions Increasing or Decreasing Targets



Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC. Note: Real assets includes targets to both public and private assets.

#### FIGURE 29 CHANGES IN TARGET ASSET ALLOCATION BY ASSET SIZE

June 30, 2017 - June 30, 2018

	Total	US	DM ex US	EM	Hedge		Bonds	RA	
	Equity	Equity	Equity	Equity	Funds	PE & VC	& Cash	& ILBs	Other
Under \$200M (n = 66)									
Mean Target AA (%)									
2017	50.1	24.0	17.5	7.7	20.5	5.8	14.7	7.7	1.1
2018	50.3	24.2	17.6	7.6	20.4	6.3	14.7	7.2	1.1
% of Inst Making Changes to Targets									
Increased	8	2	8	5	3	9	2	2	0
Decreased	8	6	5	2	6	2	2	11	0
\$200M - \$500M (n = 41)									
Mean Target AA (%)									
2017	43.4	20.9	14.8	7.8	18.8	12.1	14.0	10.5	1.2
2018	43.3	20.8	14.6	7.8	18.9	12.6	13.8	10.1	1.2
% of Inst Making Changes to Targets									
Increased	12	3	8	4	7	15	5	5	0
Decreased	10	3	4	8	7	0	10	15	0
\$500M - \$1B (n = 31)									
Mean Target AA (%)									
2017	40.2	18.5	13.3	8.3	21.1	15.3	12.0	10.8	0.6
2018	40.5	18.7	13.2	8.2	20.7	16.5	11.4	10.0	0.9
% of Inst Making Changes to Targets									
Increased	16	20	18	12	6	19	6	3	3
Decreased	10	10	12	12	16	0	10	19	0
Over \$1B (n = 51)									
Mean Target AA (%)									
2017	36.5	17.7	12.7	8.4	20.6	17.7	10.0	13.1	2.1
2018	36.4	17.5	12.4	8.4	20.1	18.0	10.1	13.4	2.0
% of Inst Making Changes to Targets									
Increased	10	8	10	9	2	22	8	10	4
Decreased	18	27	20	13	18	6	4	10	6

 $Source: Endowment\ data\ as\ reported\ to\ Cambridge\ Associates\ LLC.$ 

Notes: Asset sizes are based on June 30, 2018, data. Not all institutions set targets by geographic region for public equities. Therefore, the targets listed by geographic region do not sum to the exact amount listed for total equity.

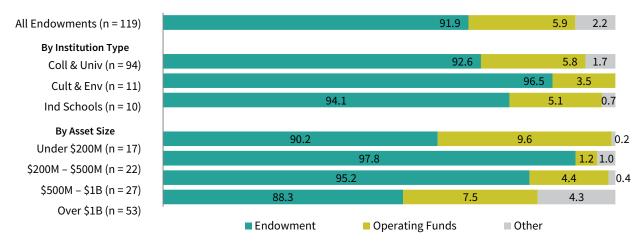
#### **ASSET COMPOSITION**

**LONG-TERM INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO.** The LTIP is the group of assets for which institutions report their asset allocation and returns in this study. Endowment assets compose all or the vast majority of the LTIP for most institutions in this study. On average, 91.9% of the LTIP were endowment assets as of June 30, 2018. The average composition of the LTIP is similar when the respondent group is broken down across different institutions types and asset sizes (Figure 30).

In addition to endowment assets, many institutions invest a portion of their operating funds and/or other assets in the LTIP. On average, operating funds and other assets represented 5.9% and 2.2% of the LTIP, respectively. Examples of other assets in the LTIP include life income and annuity funds, special purpose funds, and assets invested by external organizations.

FIGURE 30 COMPOSITION OF LONG-TERM INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

Equal-Weighted Means as of Fiscal Year End



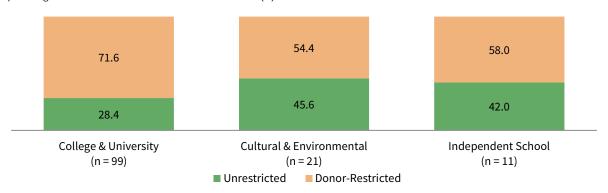
Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

**ENDOWMENT.** The endowment for most institutions consists of both donor-restricted and unrestricted funds. Under FASB reporting guidelines, donor-restricted funds are further broken down into permanently restricted funds (i.e., the corpus of a gift to be maintained in perpetuity) and temporarily restricted funds. Donor-restricted funds are designated to be used for a program or a purpose that is specified by the donor. On the other hand, unrestricted funds come with no such requirements on how the funds must be used by the institution. While donors can make unrestricted gifts, this category can also include institutional funds that have been specifically set aside to function as permanent capital (i.e., board-designated endowment funds).

The average composition of the endowment between donor-restricted and unrestricted funds varies among the different institution types in study. At colleges and universities, donor-restricted funds represented 71.6% of the endowment, on average. The average proportion was lower at cultural and environmental institutions and independent schools, where donor-restricted funds represented 54.4% and 58.0% of the average endowment, respectively (Figure 31).

FIGURE 31 CLASSIFICATION OF ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Equal-Weighted Means as of Fiscal Year End 2018 • Percent (%)



Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.



#### PRIVATE INVESTMENTS AND UNCALLED CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

One of the core principles of the endowment model is the use of private investments that, in part due to their illiquid nature, offer the potential for higher long-term returns than those of public equities. Participating institutions, particularly those with larger asset sizes, allocate a significant portion of their portfolios to private investments. The average allocation to private investments for all participants was 20.5%, while those with portfolios greater than \$1 billion had an average allocation of 28.1% (Figure 25).

Investors should be mindful of the liquidity implications of investing in and funding a private investments program. Uncalled capital represents a commitment of capital to be funded in the future. Although annual spending distributions usually represent the biggest liquidity need of a portfolio, institutions with private investment programs must also consider the potential impact of uncalled capital commitments.

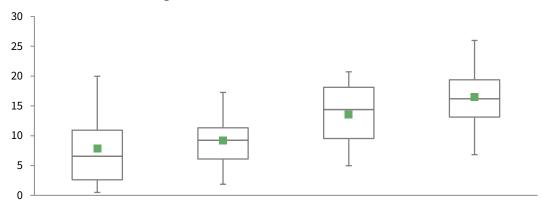
For participants with private investment programs, uncalled capital commitments as a percentage of the total LTIP value tends to rise with asset size. For those with asset sizes greater than \$1 billion, uncalled capital commitments represented an average of 16.5% of their total LTIP value. For institutions with assets less than \$200 million, the average ratio was less than half of this value (7.8%). Likewise, larger portfolios also have a higher ratio of uncalled capital commitments to the LTIP's total liquid assets, which exclude hedge funds and private investments. For institutions with assets greater than \$1 billion, uncalled capital commitments represented an average of 35.9% of their total liquid assets. The same ratio for the smallest institutions was just 11.3% (Figure 32).

Of the participants that have provided consistent historical data, over 90% (115 of 123) reported an increase in the dollar amount of uncalled capital commitments over the last five years. The median percent change in the amount of uncalled capital commitments among all institutions was 97%. Over the same five-year period, the median percent change in the market value of the LTIP (28%) and the portfolio's liquid assets (35%) was substantially lower. As a result, both of the aforementioned ratios increased for most endowments. The trend in the median ratios for the four asset size groups are displayed in Figure 33.

# FIGURE 32 UNCALLED CAPITAL COMMITTED TO PRIVATE INVESTMENT FUNDS

As of June 30, 2018 • Percent (%)

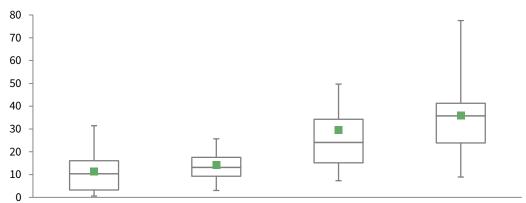
# Uncalled Capital Commitments as a Percentage of the Total LTIP



#### Mean

	Under \$200M	\$200M - \$500M	\$500M - \$1B	Over \$1B
5th Percentile	20.0	17.3	20.7	26.0
25th Percentile	10.9	11.3	18.1	19.4
Median	6.5	9.2	14.4	16.2
75th Percentile	2.6	6.1	9.5	13.1
95th Percentile	0.5	1.8	5.0	6.8
Mean	7.8	9.2	13.5	16.5
n	53	52	40	62

# Uncalled Capital Commitments as a Percentage of the LTIP's Liquid Assets



	■ Mean							
	Under \$200M	\$200M – \$500M	\$500M - \$1B	Over \$1B				
5th Percentile	31.5	25.7	49.7	77.6				
25th Percentile	16.1	17.5	34.3	41.3				
Median	10.3	13.1	24.1	35.7				
75th Percentile	3.2	9.3	15.2	23.9				
95th Percentile	0.6	3.0	7.3	8.9				
Mean	11.3	14.1	29.5	35.9				
n	53	52	40	62				

Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

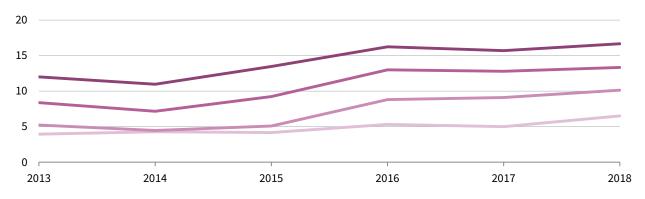
Notes: Uncalled capital is the amount committed, but not yet paid in, to private investment funds. Liquid assets consist of all LTIP assets excluding hedge funds and private investments. Private investments include non-venture private equity, venture capital, distressed securities (private equity structure), private oil & gas/natural resources, private real estate, and timber.



#### FIGURE 33 TREND IN UNCALLED CAPITAL COMMITMENTS TO PRIVATE INVESTMENT FUNDS

Years Ended June 30 • Percent (%)

# Median Uncalled Capital Commitments as a Percentage of the LTIP



#### Median Uncalled Capital Commitments as a Percentage of the LTIP's Liquid Assets



Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

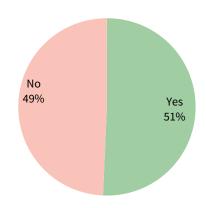
Notes: Uncalled capital is the amount committed, but not yet paid in, to private investment funds. Liquid assets consist of all LTIP assets excluding hedge funds and private investments. Private investments include non-venture private equity, venture capital, distressed securities (private equity structure), private oil & gas/natural resources, private real estate, and timber.

As the ratios of unfunded capital commitments to assets continue to rise, the potential liquidity risks associated with funding future capitals can increase as well. In prior years, these risks have been mitigated for most institutions due to the self-funding nature of private investment program cash flows. However in 2018, just over one-half (51%) of participants reported that their private investment programs were cash flow positive, meaning the amount of fund distributions was higher than paid-in capital calls (Figure 34). For participants whose private investment fund distributions are not enough to offset new capital calls, the remaining funding of capital calls has to come from cash reserves or other liquidity sources, which could include proceeds from sales of other investment assets in the LTIP.

### FIGURE 34 PRIVATE INVESTMENT PROGRAM CASH FLOW

As of June 30, 2018 • n = 209

# Was Your Private Investment Program Cash Flow Positive in 2016?



## By Asset Size

	Yes	No
Under \$200 Million	48%	52%
n	26	28
\$200 Million – \$500 Million	40%	60%
n	21	31
\$500 Million – \$1 Billion	54%	46%
n	21	18
Over \$1 Billion	59%	41%
n	38	26

Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

Note: Private investment fund programs were considered cash flow positive if fund distributions were higher than paid-in capital calls in 2018.

# **Investment Manager Structures**

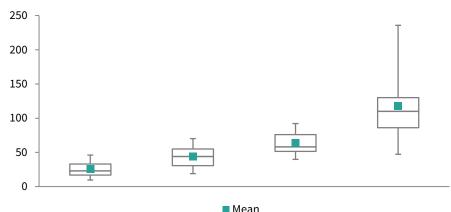
#### NUMBER OF EXTERNAL MANAGERS

Many factors contribute to the number of managers employed within an investment portfolio. The scale of total assets under management is a primary factor, as portfolios with more assets generally spread their assets across a greater number of managers. On average, portfolios with assets greater than \$1 billion employed 117 external investment managers in 2018 (Figure 35). In contrast, portfolios with less than \$200 million employ an average of just 25 managers. For all asset size groups, the average number of external managers was higher in fiscal year 2018 than it was five years ago. However, the average dipped slightly over the last year for the over \$1 billion cohort (Figure 36).

Even within the broad asset size groups, the range of managers employed can be wide. Within the smallest portfolios, the number of managers employed at the 25th percentile (33) is nearly double the number used at the 75th percentile (17) (Figure 35). For portfolios over \$1 billion, there are 236 managers employed at the 5th percentile compared to just 47 at the 95th percentile. Much of the variation can be attributed to the management of alternative asset classes. As Figure 37 shows, the dispersion in the number of alternative asset managers employed, particularly within private investments, is much wider than that of the more traditional equity and bond asset classes. Further detail on these and other asset classes are provided for the four broad asset size groups in Figure 38.

## FIGURE 35 NUMBER OF EXTERNAL MANAGERS

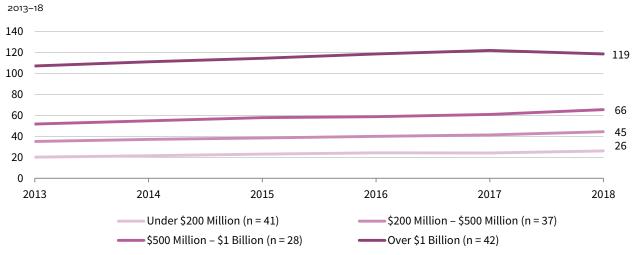
As of June 30, 2018



	Under \$200M	\$200M — \$500M	\$500M — \$1B	Over \$1B
5th Percentile	46	70	92	236
25th Percentile	33	55	76	130
Median	23	44	58	110
75th Percentile	17	31	52	86
95th Percentile	10	19	40	47
Mean	25	44	64	117
n	92	60	39	57

Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC. Note: Funds-of-funds are counted as one separate investment manager.

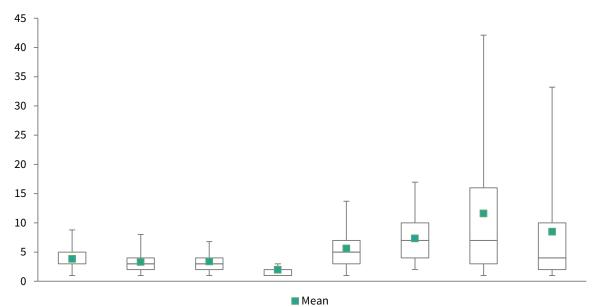




Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

## FIGURE 37 DISPERSION IN NUMBER OF MANAGERS FOR SELECTED ASSET CLASSES

As of June 30, 2018



	US Equity	DM ex US Equity	Emerging Markets Equity	US Bonds	Long/Short Hedge Funds	Ab Return Hedge Funds	Private Equity	Venture Capital
5th %ile	7	7	7	4	13	15	41	25
25th %ile	5	4	4	2	7	10	16	10
Median	3	3	3	2	5	7	7	4
75th %ile	3	2	2	1	3	4	3	2
95th %ile	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Mean	4	3	3	2	6	7	12	8
n	249	242	246	228	209	239	204	192

Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

Notes: Only those institutions with an allocation to the specific asset class have been included. Funds-of-funds are counted as one manager.



### FIGURE 38 EXTERNAL MANAGERS BY STRATEGY

As of June 30, 2018

	Under \$20	MOC	\$200M - \$500M		\$500M - \$	\$500M - \$1B		Over \$1B	
	Average		Average		Average	Average			
	Number of		Number of	-			Average Number of		
Strategy	Managers	n	Managers	n	Managers	n	Managers	n	
Traditional Equity									
Global Equity	2	66	2	44	4	22	4	37	
US Equity	3	92	3	60	4	40	6	57	
Developed ex US Equity	2	90	3	59	3	39	5	54	
Emerging Markets Equity	2	90	3	59	3	40	5	57	
Traditional Bonds									
Global Bonds	1	27	1	17	1	10	1	13	
US Bonds	2	89	2	56	2	36	2	47	
Developed ex US Bonds		0		0	1	1	3	6	
Emerging Markets Bonds	1	4	1	3	1	4	1	7	
High-Yield Bonds	1	12	1	6	1	5	2	11	
Hedge Funds									
Long/Short Hedge Funds	4	66	5	55	6	38	9	50	
Absolute Return (ex Dist Securities)	4	87	8	56	9	41	10	55	
Distressed Securities									
Distressed (Hedge Fund Structure)	1	29	2	40	2	35	3	37	
Distressed (Private Equity Structure)	2	45	3	48	5	35	7	45	
Private Investments									
Non-Venture Private Equity	3	50	6	58	13	41	25	55	
Venture Capital	2	46	4	52	8	40	19	54	
Other Private Investments	2	48	2	46	3	23	3	30	
Real Assets & ILBs									
Private Real Estate	1	25	2	44	6	39	14	54	
Public Real Estate	1	15	1	11	1	16	1	15	
Commodities	1	14	1	16	1	5	2	18	
Inflation-Linked Bonds (TIPS)	1	18	1	13	1	4	1	5	
Private Oil & Gas / Natural Resources	2	37	4	49	6	36	11	52	
Timber	1	1	1	6	2	10	2	24	
Public Energy/Natural Resources	2	60	2	47	2	28	3	27	
Diversified (Multi-Strategy) RA	1	20	1	12	1	3	1	2	
Cash (Dedicated Cash Managers Only)	1	80	2	53	2	29	2	34	
Tactical Asset Allocation	1	10	1	7	1	1	1	4	
Other	1	4	1	2	1	1	3	12	

Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

Notes: n indicates the number of institutions that are included in the average number of managers. Only those institutions with an allocation to the specific asset class are included in each category. As a result, the sum of the individual asset classes will not equal the true total average of managers.

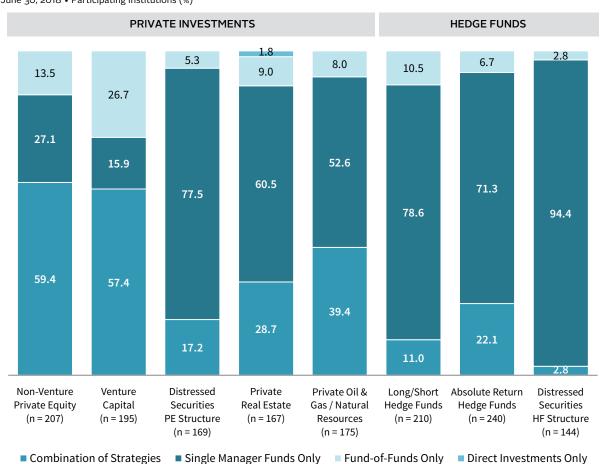


#### **ASSET CLASS IMPLEMENTATION**

**ALTERNATIVE ASSETS.** Institutions can use different strategies when it comes to implementing their alternative asset allocations. For hedge funds, there are two primary types of investment vehicles that institutions use. A single manager fund is a type of investment vehicle where the investment manager makes the decisions for the securities and assets held within the fund. In contrast, a fund-of-funds is a type of strategy where the investment manager invests in a collection of other investment funds. Within each of the hedge fund categories in our asset allocation framework, the vast majority of institutions solely use single manager funds to implement their allocations (Figure 39).

Implementation practices are more varied across private investment asset classes. A combination of single manager funds and funds-of-funds were used by a majority of respondents for non-venture private equity (59%) and venture capital (57%). A sole reliance upon single manager funds was most prevalent with private distressed securities (78%), private real estate (61%) and private oil & gas/natural resources (53%). Smaller portfolios generally employ more funds-of-funds managers than larger portfolios in all private investment asset classes.

FIGURE 39 PORTFOLIO IMPLEMENTATION: PRIVATE INVESTMENTS AND HEDGE FUNDS As of June 30, 2018 • Participating Institutions (%)



Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

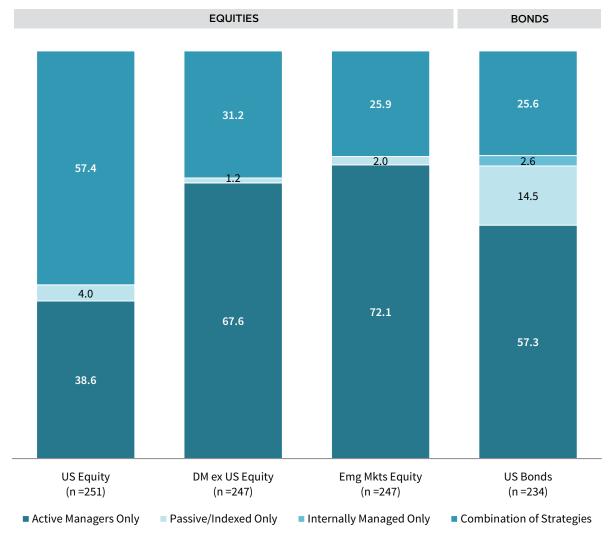
Note: n represents the number of institutions that provided the portfolio implementation for each asset class.



**PUBLIC EQUITIES AND BONDS.** Of the institutions that provided implementation data on traditional asset classes, 39% used active managers for all of their US equity allocation, while most (57%) use a combination of active and passive implementation (Figure 40). Among those that use a combination of strategies, 66% of the US equity allocation was implemented through active management. For global ex US equities, developed markets and emerging markets allocations were achieved solely through active managers for 68% and 72% of respondents, respectively. For US bonds, 57% of respondents used only active managers for their allocation.

FIGURE 40 PORTFOLIO IMPLEMENTATION: TRADITIONAL EQUITIES AND BONDS

As of June 30, 2018 • Participating Institutions (%)



Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

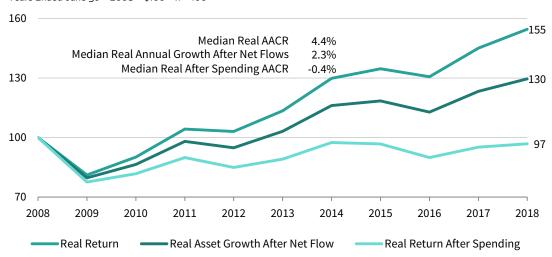
Note: n represents the number of institutions that provided the portfolio implementation for each asset class.

# Payout from the Long-Term Investment Portfolio

#### **NET FLOW RATE**

Traditionally, endowment health has been evaluated in terms of investment performance and endowment spending or payout rate. A key objective has been to achieve real investment returns that exceed the average annual payout rate over the long term. Figure 41 is based on median data for the group of participants that provided returns, LTIP market values, and spending rates over the last decade. Using median investment performance and starting with an initial investment of \$100 in 2008, the portfolio would have grown to \$155 in real dollars by the end of fiscal year 2018. After deducting the annual spending distributions from real investment performance, the investment would have fallen to \$97, slightly eroding purchasing power of the endowment. This approach omits an important part of the picture: the LTIP is also driven by inflows that come in as gifts, and other funds designated for long-term investment.

FIGURE 41 CUMULATIVE DOLLAR GROWTH AFTER INFLATION, NET FLOWS, AND SPENDING Years Ended June 30 • 2008 = \$100 • n = 100



Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

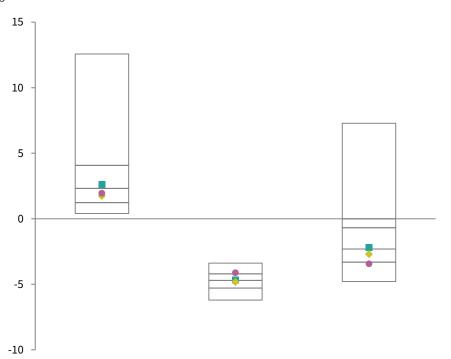
Notes: To limit the impact of outliers, median data are used for each statistic in this chart. The median real annual growth after net flows represents the actual growth in the long-term investment portfolio's market value adjusted for inflation.

The combination of the total inflows and outflows for the LTIP constitutes the net flow rate. In the same figure, the actual value of the investment, which incorporates both real investment performance and net flows, is tracked by the middle line and grew by 130% over the ten-year period. Because of the steady inflow from gifts and other additions that most institutions experienced, the actual growth in the portfolio was substantially higher than growth based on returns after spending only. Since maintaining the purchasing power of existing endowment gifts is a key objective in endowment management, the traditional return after spending statistic should not be dismissed. However, this statistic can understate the actual extent of asset growth. By incorporating real investment performance with the overall net flow rate, an institution can better evaluate the trajectory of the LTIP's role in the institution's business model.

The net flow rate is calculated as a percentage of the LTIP market value at the beginning of the fiscal year. As is typically the case, the median (-2.3%) net flow rate for participants in fiscal year 2018 was negative, meaning the amount of withdrawals from the portfolio surpassed the amount of additions for the majority of respondents (Figure 42). The median net flow rate was lowest for independent schools (-3.4%). Colleges and universities and cultural and environmental institutions reported median net flow rates of -2.2% and -2.7%, respectively.

FIGURE 42 INFLOW, OUTFLOW, AND NET FLOW RATES

Fiscal Year 2018



	Inflow Rate	Outflow Rate	Net Flow Rate
5th Percentile	12.6	-3.4	7.3
25th Percentile	4.1	-4.2	-0.7
Median	2.3	-4.7	-2.3
75th Percentile	1.2	-5.3	-3.3
95th Percentile	0.4	-6.2	-4.8
n	101	101	101
■ Colleges & Universi	ties 2.6	-4.7	-2.2
Cultural & Environr	nental 1.7	-4.8	-2.7
<ul> <li>Independent School</li> </ul>	ols 1.9	-4.1	-3.4

Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

Notes: All rates are expressed as a percentage of the beginning year LTIP market value. Included in this analysis are 80 colleges and universities, 12 cultural and environmental institutions, and 9 independent schools. Two other endowments that provided sufficient data for this analysis are included in the percentile distributions.

**INFLOW RATE.** Endowment gifts typically represent the bulk of the inflows that an LTIP receives. On average, endowment gifts represented 73% of total inflows in fiscal year 2018 among participants. Other types of inflows can include reinvested operating surpluses, capital campaign funds, proceeds from non-portfolio asset sales, and other various types of additions. The inflow rate among all endowments in fiscal year 2017 varied from 12.6% at the 5th percentile to 0.4% at the 95th percentile.

**OUTFLOW RATE.** The vast majority of outflows consist of distributions determined by the endowment spending policy. On average, spending policy distributions represented 89% of total outflows in fiscal year 2018 among participants. Other types of outflows consist of special one-time appropriations as well as recurring annual distributions to cover administrative costs and expenses. Compared to inflow rates, the range of outflow rates among participants fell within a narrower band, from -3.4% at the 5th percentile to -6.2% at the 95th percentile.

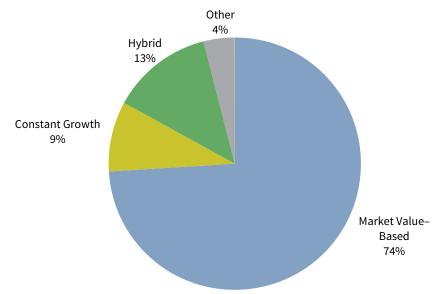
#### **SPENDING POLICIES**

An institution's spending policy serves as a bridge that links the LTIP and the enterprise. The spending policy should be designed to balance the needs of current and future generations of stakeholders, with the goals of providing appropriate levels of support to operations and preserving, or even growing, endowment purchasing power.<sup>6</sup>

The majority (74%) of responding institutions continue to use a market value—based policy, which dictates spending a percentage of a moving average of endowment market values (Figure 43). This policy type emphasizes purchasing power preservation by linking the spending distribution amount directly to the endowment's market value.

### FIGURE 43 SPENDING POLICY TYPES

Fiscal Year 2018 • n = 243



Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.



<sup>6</sup> For a more in-depth discussion on this topic, please see William Prout et al., "Spending Policy Practices," Cambridge Associates Research Report, 2018.

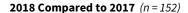
The next most common spending policy type is a hybrid policy, which was cited by 13% of institutions. A hybrid spending policy blends the more predictable spending element of a constant growth policy with the asset preservation principle of a market value—based policy and allows an institution to set the appropriate mix that best meets its needs. The policy is expressed as a weighted average of a constant growth policy and a percentage-of-market-value (or average market value over a period of time) policy.

The third most common spending policy type is the constant growth policy, which was used by 9% of institutions. This policy type increases the prior year's spending amount by a measure of inflation and/or a prespecified percentage. Institutions tend to use this policy type when the endowment is a significant source of operating revenue and volatility in annual spending distributions is less tolerable. Even though the strict application of a constant growth policy produces predictable spending, most institutions using this policy type impose a spending cap and floor based on a percentage of the endowment's market value, or a moving average of market values. Spending collars essentially transform the constant growth policy to a market value—based policy in times of significant endowment growth or contraction to avoid a complete disconnect between spending and the endowment market value.

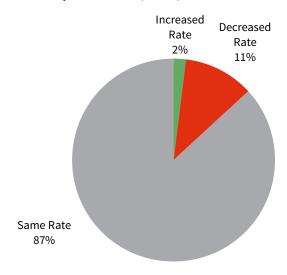
**SPENDING POLICY CHANGES.** Spending policy, like investment policy, should reflect a long-term approach to investing and distributions. Since long-term expectations are incorporated, most institutions do not make major changes to their spending policy on a regular basis. Of the 217 institutions that provided a spending policy for the last two years, just four switched to a different spending policy type in fiscal year 2018. Similarly, when compared to five years ago, just 6% of respondents (10 of 154) used a spending policy type in fiscal year 2018 that was different than the type of policy used in fiscal year 2013.

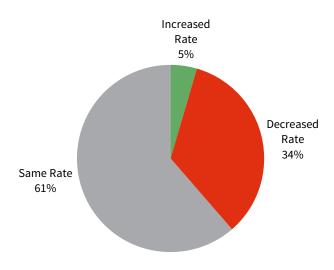
For institutions using a market value—based policy, a primary component of the spending calculation is the target spending rate. To preserve the purchasing power of an endowment, the target spending rate must align with the long-term real investment return. While the current low return environment is spurring many institutions to reevaluate their spending policies, most respondents that provided data over the last decade continue to use the same target spending rate. Approximately 87% of institutions left their target rate unchanged in fiscal year 2018 compared to 2017 (Figure 44). Looking back even further over the last ten years, 61% of institutions used the same target spending rate in fiscal years 2008 and 2018.

#### FIGURE 44 CHANGES IN TARGET SPENDING RATES FOR MARKET VALUE-BASED SPENDING POLICIES









Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

Notes: Market value-based spending policies base spending on a prespecified percentage of a moving average of market values. Data reflect institutions using a market value-based spending policy that also provided the target rate used in their spending calculation for fiscal year 2017 or 2008. If a range was provided, the target spending rate was calculated using the midpoint of the range.

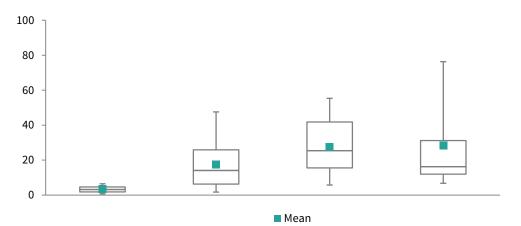
#### LTIP SUPPORT OF OPERATIONS

Since few nonprofit institutions generate enough revenues from their core operations to break even on their annual operating budgets, many rely on their LTIP to provide additional financial support. The level of LTIP support varies considerably among the institutions in this study. Spending distributions supported 1% or less of the operating budget for some institutions, while for others it is the single largest source of revenue.

Public universities, which receive financial support from state appropriations, generally rely less on the LTIP to fund the operating budget compared to private colleges and universities and other nonprofits. For the 15 public universities that provided data, median support from the LTIP as a percentage of operating expenses was 3.2% in 2018. Median support for private colleges and universities was considerably higher at 14.1% (Figure 45). Among independent schools and cultural and environmental institutions, reliance on the LTIP is higher, as median support of the operating budget was 16.3% and 25.5%, respectively.

#### FIGURE 45 LTIP SUPPORT OF OPERATIONS

Fiscal Year 2018



	Public Coll & Univ	Private Coll & Univ	Cultural & Environmental	Independent Schools
5th Percentile	6.5	47.6	55.3	76.3
25th Percentile	4.7	25.9	41.8	31.2
Median	3.2	14.1	25.5	16.3
75th Percentile	1.9	6.3	15.6	12.0
95th Percentile	0.8	1.8	5.7	6.8
Mean	3.4	17.5	27.6	28.2
n	15	76	17	13

Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

Note: LTIP support of operations is the proportion of the operating budget that is funded from LTIP payout.

#### **ENDOWMENT PAYOUT COVERAGE RATIOS**

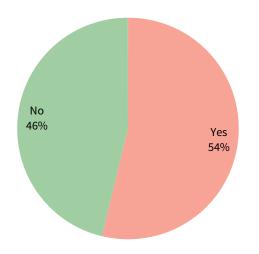
As discussed earlier in this section, the endowment spending policy distribution accounts for the vast majority of the annual outflows from the LTIP. Since most spending policies incorporate some measure of the endowment's market value, institutions can be susceptible to decreases in endowment spending following periods of market decline. Similarly, institutions may prefer to avoid liquidating certain assets at depressed prices during market bottoms. In such instances, institutions may seek to replace a portion of endowment spending or supplement it by drawing funds from other liquidity sources. A discussion of data on two coverage metrics that compare the market value of operating funds and the amount available under lines of credit to endowment spending follows. Credit lines and operating funds can be used for many different purposes by an institution; the coverage ratios we show here provide hypothetical markers for colleges and universities to evaluate their endowment payout in relation to these sources of liquidity.

**OPERATING FUNDS.** Slightly more than half of the institutions that provided data on their operating funds (64 of 119) invest a portion of those funds in the LTIP. While median percentage of operating funds invested in the LTIP was 50.1%, the percentage varies considerably across respondents (Figure 46).

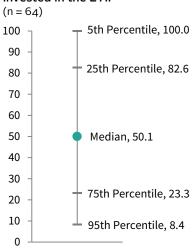
#### FIGURE 46 OPERATING FUNDS

Fiscal Year 218

Operating Funds Invested in the LTIP (n = 119)



Percentage (%) of Operating Funds Invested in the LTIP



Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

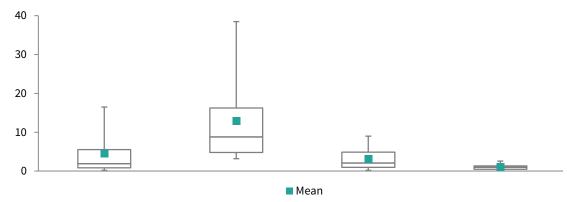
There were 92 respondents that reported data on their operating funds and endowment spending policy distribution. The coverage ratio displayed at the top of Figure 47 considers the amount of operating funds outside of the LTIP in relation to the endowment spending policy distribution. The median ratio among all respondents was 1.9. At this level, there would be enough operating funds outside the LTIP to cover slightly less than two years of endowment spending.

For institutions that rely little on the LTIP to support the operating budget, spending distributions are often lower relative to other aspects of the business model. Indeed, the ratio of operating funds outside the LTIP to the endowment spending policy distribution is generally higher among institutions in this study have lower LTIP support. Institutions that have low LTIP support (5% or less) reported a median ratio of 8.8. Respondents with a moderate reliance on LTIP support reported a median ratio of 2.1 while those with a high reliance on LTIP support reported a median of 0.9.

**LINES OF CREDIT.** There were 71 respondents that reported data on their line(s) of credit and endowment spending policy distribution. Among these institutions, the median ratio of available line of credit to endowment spending policy distribution was 0.7 for fiscal year 2018. A ratio less than 1.0 means that there are not enough funds available to be drawn from the credit lines to replace the entire annual endowment spending policy distribution.

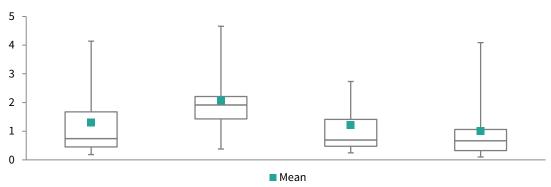
Similar to the coverage ratio that focused on operating funds, this ratio also tends to be higher for institutions that have lower levels of LTIP support. Institutions that rely the least on the LTIP to support the operating budget reported a median ratio of 1.9. The median ratio for all other respondents that have either a moderate reliance or high reliance on LTIP was 0.7.

# Ratio of Operating Funds Outside LTIP to Endowment Spending Policy Distribution



	All Institutions	Low LTIP Support	Moderate LTIP Support	High LTIP Support
5th Percentile	16.5	38.5	9.0	2.6
25th Percentile	5.5	16.2	4.9	1.3
Median	1.9	8.8	2.1	0.9
75th Percentile	0.8	4.8	1.0	0.5
95th Percentile	0.2	3.2	0.2	0.1
Mean	4.5	12.9	3.0	1.0
n	92	20	42	30

## Ratio of Available Line of Credit to Endowment Spending Policy Distribution



	All Institutions	Low LTIP Support	Moderate LTIP Support	High LTIP Support
5th Percentile	4.1	4.7	2.7	4.1
25th Percentile	1.7	2.2	1.4	1.1
Median	0.7	1.9	0.7	0.7
75th Percentile	0.4	1.4	0.5	0.3
95th Percentile	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.1
Mean	1.3	2.1	1.2	1.0
n	71	13	33	25

Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

Notes: Subgroups in this analysis are based on the proportion of the operating budget that is funded from LTIP payout. The subgroups are broken out as follows: low LTIP support, less than 5%; moderate LTIP support, 5% to 20%; and high LTIP support, greater than 20%. Available line of credit is calculated as the total amount of all credit lines net of any amounts drawn against those lines as of June 30, 2018.



# **Investment Office Staffing and Governance**

What does staffing look like at small, medium, and large endowments? How do endowments use outside advisors and consultants? Who governs the investment office? Who has decision rights for asset allocation or manager selection? In this section, we provide a snapshot of endowment management in 2018 and highlight relevant trends over the past year.

#### INVESTMENT OFFICE STAFFING AND OUTSIDE RESOURCES

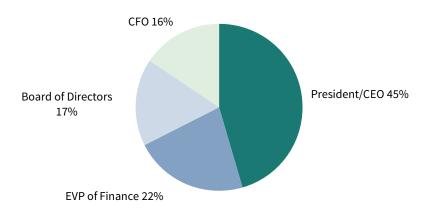
The primary mission of an investment office is to assume day-to-day responsibility for the endowment and other investment assets. This mission will be defined by the set of functions that internal investment office staff will carry out or oversee. Since both the investment philosophy and the demands on the office will vary among institutions, each office will have its own unique profile. Therefore, when evaluating the current structure or anticipated growth of an investment office, it is important to consider not only the size of the asset base, but also the portfolio complexity (whether handled by internal or external resources), the secondary demands on the staff (i.e., treasury functions), the use of outside consultants or advisors, and the level of involvement by boards and committees. Both the number of internal professional investment staff and the depth of specialization required to successfully manage the asset base will fluctuate based on these characteristics.

**CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER.** The presence of a dedicated Chief Investment Officer (CIO) correlates with asset size and is most common at larger endowments. The vast majority (90%) of the respondents with endowments greater than \$1 billion have a full-time CIO, while 56% of respondents with assets between \$500 million and \$1 billon indicated they had a CIO in place. The percentage is drastically lower for endowments less than \$500 million, where only 10% of respondents have a CIO.

Organizations with smaller asset sizes rely more heavily on outside advisors or a chief financial officer to oversee investment assets. In these cases, the chief financial officer might work closely with external investment advisors to develop an investment strategy and monitor investment managers. It is also commonplace for endowments of this size to outsource some or all of the portfolio to an OCIO. Where there is a CIO, it is most common for the position to report directly to the CEO or president of the institution (Figure 48).

FIGURE 48 CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER REPORTING LINES

Fiscal Year 2018 • n = 77



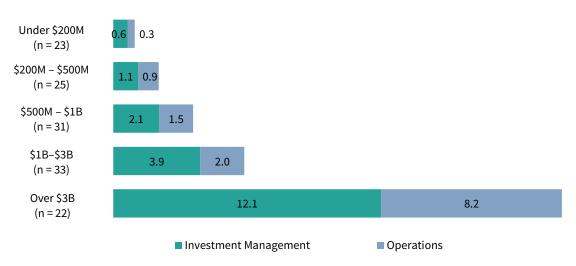
Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

**STAFFING LEVELS.** Investment office personnel are typically divided into investment management and investment operations. Investment management staff is responsible for implementing the investment policy of the committee and can include: a chief investment officer, risk officer(s), investment director(s), investment officer(s), portfolio manager(s), and analyst(s). Investment operations staff is responsible for the management of custodian and broker relationships, transaction processing, capital call management, endowment accounting, performance measurement, and in some cases conducting operational due diligence on investment managers.

Our survey shows that investment office staffing typically correlate with asset size. This is perhaps not surprising as larger portfolios tend to invest with more fund managers and favor a more active investment approach, which can require more resources. On average, endowments that oversee more than \$3 billion in assets employ a total of 20.3 FTE split between investment management and operations (Figure 49).

FIGURE 49 AVERAGE STAFFING LEVELS

Fiscal Year 2018 • Number of Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)

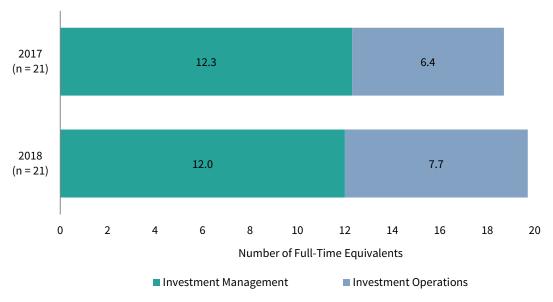


Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

It should be noted that the more than \$3 billion cohort includes 12 endowments that manage assets in excess of \$6 billon and have a total staff size of 27.9 FTE on average, which is more than double the average of 11.3 FTE for endowments with assets between \$3 billion and \$6 billion. A similar observation can be made for the \$1 billion to \$3 billion cohort. Endowments toward the upper-end of the size band have one to two more FTEs than the average of 5.9 for the total group.

Compared to 2017, staffing levels remained unchanged for a constant universe across most size bands. The exception was the \$3 billion plus group, which saw an average increase of 1.3 FTEs dedicated to investment operations (Figure 50). Substantial allocations to alternative assets and increased regulations have driven the need for more investment operations support.

FIGURE 50 YEAR-TO-YEAR AVERAGE STAFFING LEVELS: C&Us OVER \$3 BILLION Fiscal Years 2017 & 2018



Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

Personnel consisted of a mixture of senior-, mid-, and junior-level positions. Senior investment professionals typically carry the title of Investment Director or Managing Director and have more than ten years of professional experience. Mid-level professionals can hold the titles of Investment Officer or Associate and bring five to ten years of experience. Junior-level positions are usually recent graduates or those with a few years of experience. Junior positions usually carry the title of Investment Analyst or Associate. Figure 51 provides the average FTEs by asset size and position levels for investment management and operations positions.

#### FIGURE 51 AVERAGE INVESTMENT STAFF BY FUNCTION

Fiscal Year 2018 • Number of Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)

	Investment Management		Inve	stment Opera	tions	
	Senior	Mid	Junior	Senior	Mid	Junior
Over \$3B	4.5	3.6	4.5	1.3	2.1	3.7
n	22	17	18	16	22	18
\$1B - \$3B	1.8	2.1	1.2	0.9	1.0	1.3
n	26	10	25	13	18	22
\$500M - \$1B	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.6	0.9	0.7
n	17	13	10	5	16	11
\$200M - \$500M	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.4	0.3	0.8
n	10	2	11	2	7	8
Under \$200M	0.6	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2
n	2	2	5	2	4	4

Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

Notes: Office leadership positions (CFO/CIO), IT, and Legal support are not included in the analysis. Only institutions with personnel at the specific staffing level are included in each category. Therefore, the sum of the personnel across each category will not equal the total investment office FTEs.

#### **RELIANCE ON OUTSIDE ADVISORS AND CONSULTANTS**

Endowments engage external advisors and consultants in varying degrees and across a wide variety of functions. Based on survey responses and our understanding of how each survey participant engages with CA, Figure 52 broadly illustrates how the group of 278 study participants works with outside advisors or consultants. Endowments with assets less than \$1 billion rely more heavily on external advisors to manage or help manage their investment portfolios, while larger endowments will seek outside support in the form of research, data, or asset class specialization.

FIGURE 52 USE OF EXTERNAL ADVISORS AND CONSULTANTS

Fiscal Year 2018 • n = 278 • Participating Institutions (%)

OCIO, 8%	\$368 Million
Data & Research, 18%	\$6.4 Billion
Advison/Consulting 200/	¢1.7 Billion
Advisory/Consulting, 29%	\$1.7 Billion
Non-Discretionary Portfolio Mgmt, 45%	\$453 Million

Average Market Value

Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC and CA's service contract records.



Of study participants, 8% use CA for discretionary portfolio management services. Also known as OCIO, this management model allows institutions to fully delegate portfolio management decision making to an outside firm. These firms are accountable for portfolio strategy, implementation, day-to-day management, and operations. Managing the portfolio within agreed upon policy guidelines, the outsourced investment team makes manager selection, manager termination, tactical asset allocation, and portfolio rebalancing decisions.

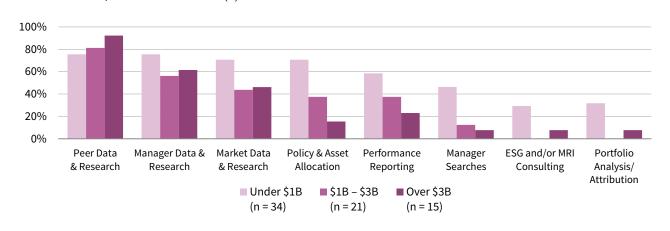
Advisors are used for non-discretionary portfolio management services for the total endowment by 45% of institutions. These institutions work with an outside team of investment professionals who provide day-to-day oversight of their portfolios, while retaining final decision making on portfolio investments. This service model provides resources and expertise to contribute to portfolio management alongside an institution's investment team.

Outside support for research, manager, peer, and benchmarking data is used by 18% of study participants. These endowments tend to be larger and have built their own internal investment teams to manage their portfolios. The average market value of endowments using consultants in this fashion is \$6.4 billion.

The remaining 29% of survey participants use external resources for a range of services beyond total portfolio management, including asset allocation reviews, manager searches, alternative assets management, ESG/MRI consulting, and performance reporting.

Figure 53 examines the range of services other than portfolio management that are most commonly used by institutions of different sizes. Based on survey responses, smaller endowments rely more heavily on external advisors for policy and asset allocation, performance reporting, and manager searches than the largest endowments. Reliance on advisors for peer data & research and market data & research was more consistent across asset sizes.

FIGURE 53 USE OF EXTERNAL ADVISORS AND CONSULTANTS: TYPES OF SERVICES Fiscal Year 2018 • n = 70 • Percent of Institutions (%)



Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

Note: Analysis excludes institutions that use advisors for OCIO and non-discretionary portfolio management.

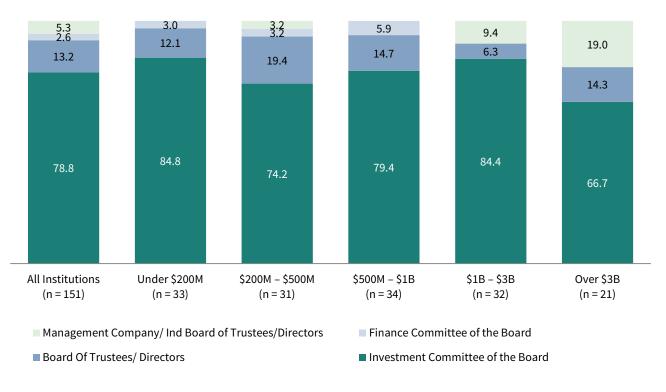


#### **GOVERNANCE**

Good governance is one key factor to a successful investment program. To create the conditions for good governance, endowments should assess whether they have in place the appropriate model for portfolio oversight and management, are upholding their fiduciary responsibilities, and are learning about peer best practices in committee structure, process, and policies.

**GOVERNING BODY/OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.** Among all respondents, an investment committee of the board most often has oversight over the investment office and/or outside advisors (79% of respondents). In much smaller numbers, other governing bodies cited by respondents were a finance committee of the board (3%), the board of trustees or directors (13%), and management company/independent board of trustees/ directors (5%) (Figure 54).





Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

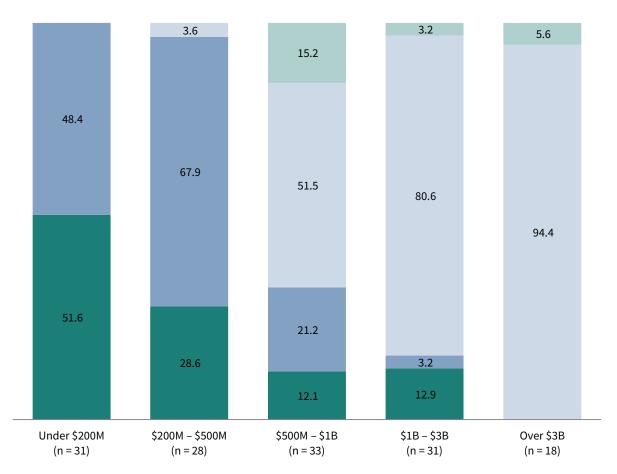
Some of the largest university endowments have established legally separate investment management companies, which have their own board of directors. In these cases the management company's board typically has some overlap with that of the university. Among the more than \$3 billion cohort, 19% have a management company board in place.

**DECISION-MAKING RESPONSIBILITY.** To help quantify the dynamic between the governing body (hereafter, any governing body is referred to as simply the investment committee) and those managing the endowment (internal investment office or outside advisor), we asked who possessed decision-making responsibility for four integral investment functions: asset allocation policy development, portfolio rebalancing, manager selection, and manager termination. The resulting data show certain trends in the balance of authority between investment committees, staff, and advisors.

For endowments greater than \$500 million, the majority of asset allocation policy is developed by committees acting on staff recommendations (Figure 55). Institutions with endowments less than \$500 million depend far more on the recommendations of outside advisors or investment committees driving policy autonomously. The investment committee's role in portfolio rebalancing is steadily diminished as endowment size rises (Figure 56), with total staff discretion on rebalancing decisions most common for endowments more than \$500 million.

# FIGURE 55 DECISION-MAKING AND IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITY FOR KEY INVESTMENT FUNCTIONS: ASSET ALLOCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Fiscal Year 2018 • n =141 • Percent of Institutions (%)



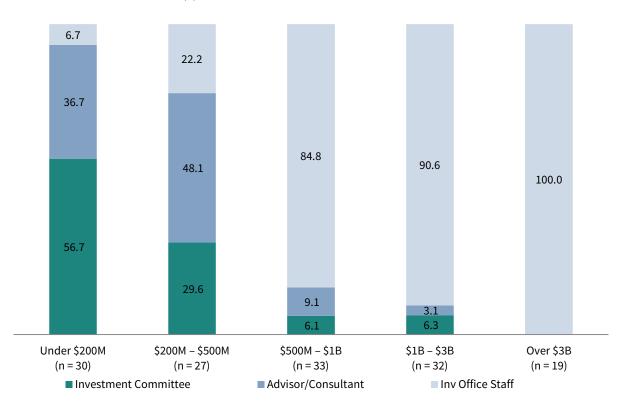
■ IC drives policy ■ IC relies on advisor/consultant recommendations ■ IC relies on staff recommendations ■ Combination

Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC. Note: Investment committee (IC) refers to any governing body.



# FIGURE 56 DECISION-MAKING AND IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITY FOR KEY INVESTMENT FUNCTIONS: PORTFOLIO REBALANCING

Fiscal Year 2018 • n =141 • Percent of Institutions (%)

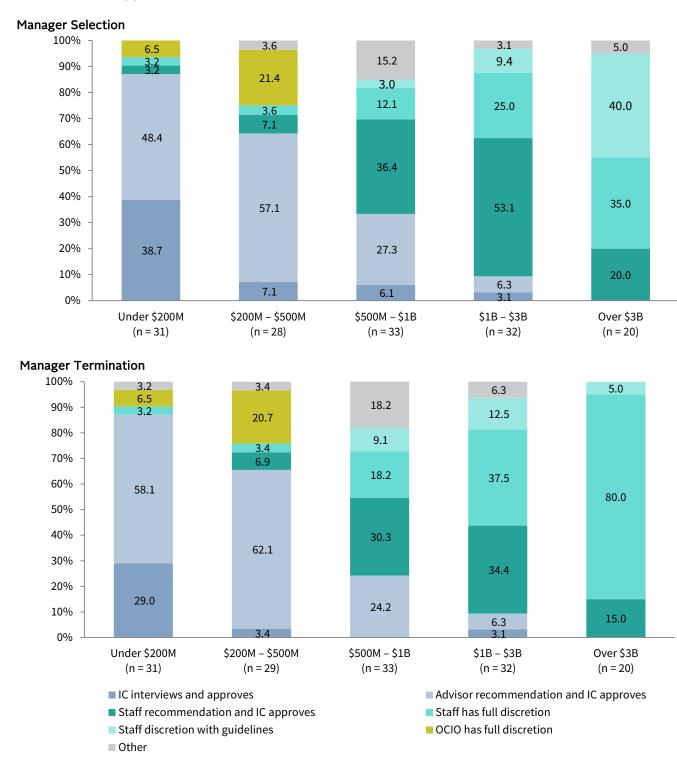


Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC. Note: Investment committee refers to any governing body.

The process of manager selection and termination also involves committees, advisors, and staff, but with different degrees of discretion (Figure 57). Advisors play a significant role in both selection and termination of investment managers at institutions with AUM less than \$500 million. Staff recommendations are increasingly relied upon from \$500 million to \$3 billion and staff discretion (with and without guidelines) accounts for a majority of decision-making at endowments greater than \$3 billion AUM. Among the investment committees involved in manager selection, the predominant role is to approve managers, but not interview them.

# FIGURE 57 DECISION-MAKING AND IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITY FOR KEY INVESTMENT FUNCTIONS: MANAGER SELECTION AND TERMINATION

Fiscal Year 2018 • Percent(%)



Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

Notes: Investment committee (IC) refers to any governing body. "Other" includes IC approval based on staff and advisor recommendations.

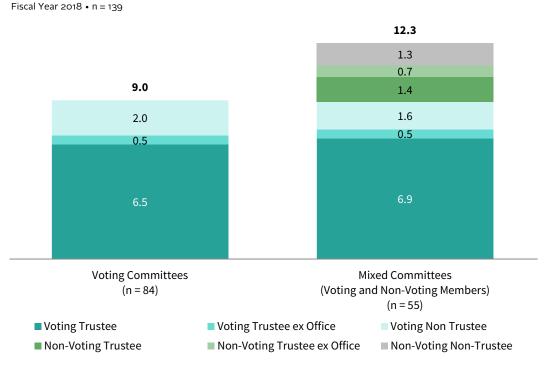


**INVESTMENT COMMITTEE COMPOSITION.** Two types of committees emerged from our survey data. We found that over 60% of investment committees (84 of 139) are fully composed of voting members, and the remaining investment committees also include non-voting members. While mandatory voting encourages accountability, there can be good reasons to include non-voting members. Organizations should weigh the benefits of these advisory members against the prospects of an oversized committee.

The average size of voting committees is 9.0 members, which on average consist of 6.5 trustees, 2.0 non-trustees, and 0.5 ex officio members. Examples of ex officio committee members include the president of the college or chairman of the board or of another committee, whose investment committee membership is included in the official duties of the position. Committees including non-voting members averaged 12.3 people (Figure 58).

Investment committee members can bring a diverse set of experiences to assist in overseeing institutional investment assets. At least some committee members should have professional, institutional investment experience—not just experience managing their own money—and if the organization lacks sufficient trustees with such qualifications, many times the committee includes non-trustee members with investment expertise to fulfill this role. On average, respondents indicated that 70% of their committee members have investment experience (Figure 59).

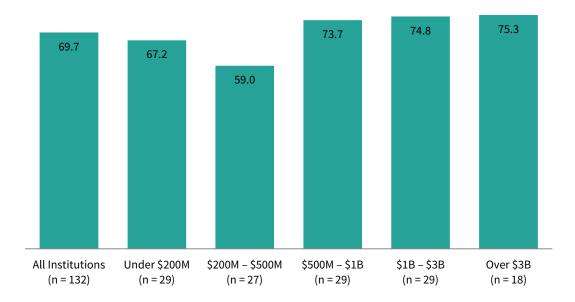
FIGURE 58 PROFILE OF INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC. Note: Investment committee refers to any governing body.

FIGURE 59 PERCENT OF INVESTMENT COMMITTEE WHO ARE INVESTMENT PROFESSIONALS

Fiscal Year 2018 • Percent (%)



Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC.

committee term length and limits. Setting guidelines for terms can help manage member turnover and mitigate committee stagnation. Responses regarding term length and limit policy indicated that term length guidelines are generally more common than term limits: for committee members, term lengths (an average of 3.5 years) were specified by 61% of endowments, while term limits (an average of 3.2 terms) were mandated by a smaller percentage of 49% of institutions (Figure 60). The use of term lengths was also more common than term limits for committee chairs. The lack of policies around term limits and lengths at some endowments could suggest that these institutions value the stability of a long-standing committee and view turnover as disruptive to long-term investment policy.

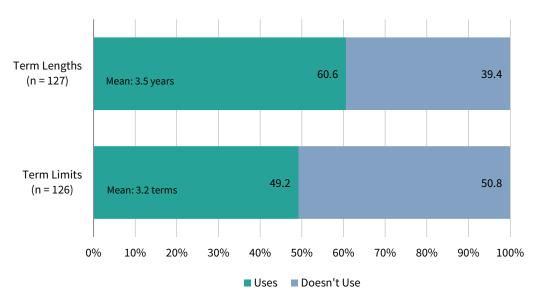
**INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS.** Our survey responses show that the majority of endowments (71%) hold quarterly meetings. Few institutions hold meetings on a more or less frequent schedule, but ad hoc conference calls are a frequently cited occurrence. Regular attendance of investment committee members is critical to proper oversight. Participants indicated that average attendance was strong, at 83%.

**REIMBURSEMENT AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY.** Only 25% of respondents provide committee members with expense reimbursement, which generally includes travel-related and other out-of-pocket expenses. Just 3% of participants offer their committee members some sort of compensation other than expense reimbursement. This compensation most can come in the form of charitable gifts, honorariums, and salary.

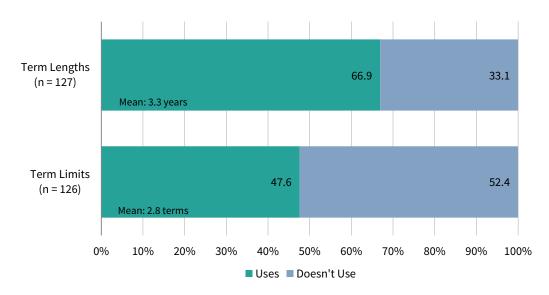
#### FIGURE 60 INVESTMENT COMMITTEE TERM LENGTHS AND LIMITS

Fiscal Year 2018

#### **Investment Committee Member**



#### **Investment Committee Chair**



Source: Endowment data as reported to Cambridge Associates LLC. Note: Investment committee refers to any governing body.

Nearly all respondents have a conflict of interest policy for investment committee members (95%). These policies require disclosure (50%), recusal (19%), or both disclosure and recusal (31%). Policies may differ by asset class, with institutions requiring disclosure for long-only equity conflicts and recusal for private equity conflicts, for example. A slightly smaller amount of institutions (85%) have a conflict of interest policy in placed for investment staff. The majority (66%) of policies center on disclosure only, while 26% require disclosure and recusal.  $\blacksquare$ 

# Notes on the Data

#### **DATA COLLECTION AND RESULTS**

This report includes data for 278 endowed institutions. When the overall group is broken out by industry type, 160 are colleges and universities, 52 are cultural and environmental institutions, 28 are independent schools, and 38 are other endowed institutions. All participants provided investment pool data as of June 30, 2018. The notation of n denotes the number of institutions included in each analysis.

The 278 participants in this study reported long-term investment portfolio (LTIP) assets as of June 30, 2018, totaling \$528 billion. The LTIP size of participants ranged from \$20.4 million to \$43.4 billion. The mean LTIP size was \$1.9 billion and the median was \$378.8 million. Seventy-eight endowments reported LTIP assets greater than \$1 billion, and they controlled 88% of the aggregate LTIP assets.

#### **CALCULATION OF THE SHARPE RATIO**

The Sharpe ratio shows how much return above the risk-free rate (T-bills) the investor has earned per unit of risk (defined as standard deviation of returns). The higher the Sharpe ratio, the more the investor has been compensated for each unit of risk taken. The ratio is a measure of reward relative to total volatility. The formula is:

$$\frac{R_p - R_f}{S_p} = Sharpe Ratio$$

Where:

- +  $R_{_{D}}$  is the arithmetic average of composite quarterly returns,
- $R_{\rm f}$  is the arithmetic average of T-bill (risk-free) quarterly returns, and
- +  $\boldsymbol{S}_{_{\boldsymbol{D}}}$  is the quarterly standard deviation of composite quarterly returns.

#### **BLENDED PORTFOLIO BENCHMARKS**

Throughout the report, the 70/30 simple portfolio benchmarks are calculated assuming rebalancing occurs on the final day of each quarter. ■

#### **PARTICIPANTS**

**COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES** 

The University of Akron Foundation University of Alaska Foundation

Allegheny College

American Coll of Greece & American Univ of Greece

American University Amherst College

University of Arkansas Foundation Inc.

College of The Atlantic Baylor University Bentley University

Berkeley Endowment Management Company

Bethune-Cookman University

Boston College Boston University Bowdoin College Brown University Bryn Mawr College University of California

California Institute of Technology

Carleton College

Carnegie Mellon University Case Western Reserve University Centenary College of Louisiana

Chapman University
The University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati
Claremont McKenna College

Clarkson University

Clemson University Foundation

Colby College Colgate University Columbia University Connecticut College

Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science & Art

**Cornell University** 

College For Creative Studies

Dartmouth College
Davidson College
University of Delaware
Denison University
Duke University
Duquesne University
Emerson College
Emory & Henry College
Emory University

Florida International University Foundation, Inc.

Florida State University Foundation Inc. University of Florida Investment Corporation

Georgetown University Georgia Tech Foundation Inc. Gettysburg College

**Grand Valley State University** 

Hampton University

Goucher College

Harvard Management Company, Inc.

Haverford College

University of Hawaii Foundation

Hollins University
College of the Holy Cross

Hope College

Houston Baptist University University of Houston System

Howard University

University of Idaho Foundation, Inc.

University of Illinois Foundation Indiana University Foundation Iowa State University Foundation

Johns Hopkins University Kalamazoo College KU Endowment Lafayette College

Lebanese American University

Lehigh University Lewis and Clark College

Louisiana State University Foundation

University of Louisville Lycoming College Macalester College

University of Maine Foundation Maryland Institute College of Art

Mercy College University of Michigan Michigan State University

MIT Investment Management Company

Mount Holyoke College Mount St. Mary's University National University

University of Nebraska Foundation Nevada System of Higher Education

New England Conservatory
New York University
Northeastern University
Norwhwestern University
Norwich University
University of Notre Dame
Oberlin College

Occidental College
Ohio State University
Ohio Wesleyan University

University of Oklahoma Foundation Oklahoma State University Foundation

Pace University
University of the Pacific
University of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania State University
Pepperdine University
University of Pittsburgh
Pomona College

University of Pittsburgh
Pomona College
Princeton University
The Principia Corporation
Providence College

Purdue Research Foundation Randolph-Macon College

Reed College

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute University of Rhode Island Foundation

The Rockefeller University

Rice University

University of Rochester University of San Diego

San Francisco State University Foundation

Santa Clara University Scripps College Seattle University Simmons College

Soka University of America University of Southern California Southern Methodist University

Spelman College



# PARTICIPANTS (CONTINUED)

#### **COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (CONT)**

St. Lawrence University University of St. Thomas Stanford University Swarthmore College Texas Lutheran University

The University of Texas Investment Management Co.

University of Toronto c/o UTAM (returns in CAD)

**Trinity University Tulane University** The UCLA Foundation

UNC Management Company, Inc. UNCG Endowment Partners, LP Union Theological Seminary

Vanderbilt University

University of Vermont & State Agricultural College

Villanova University University of Virginia Virginia Tech Foundation Washburn University Foundation University of Washington

Washington and Jefferson College Washington College

Washington University in St. Louis

Webb Institute Wellesley College

Wesleyan University

Western New England University

College of William & Mary Foundation

Williams College Yale University Yeshiva University

#### **CULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL**

Atlanta Historical Society

The Vivian Beaumont Theater, Inc. Boston Symphony Orchestra Inc.

The Brookings Institution

California Academy of Sciences

Carnegie Institution for Science

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis

Conner Prairie Foundation Council on Foreign Relations

Cypress Lawn Endowment Care Trust

The Edison Institute The Evergreens Cemetery

Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe

The Frick Collection

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

The J. Paul Getty Trust

Jeremy and Hannelore Grantham Environmental Trust

Hagley Museum and Library Honolulu Museum of Art

**Huntington Library and Art Gallery** 

Institute for Advanced Study

Institute of International Education

Linda Hall Library Trusts

Longwood Gardens, Inc.

Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation Endowment Trust

Metropolitan Museum of Art Minnesota Orchestral Association

Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Museum of Modern Art

Museum of Science, Boston

National Gallery of Art

National Geographic Society

NPR Foundation

National Wildlife Federation

New York Philharmonic

The New York Public Library

New York Public Radio

Philadelphia Museum of Art

Ravinia Festival Association

Scenic Hudson Land Trust Inc.

The School of American Ballet

Science History Institute

Seattle Art Museum

**Smithsonian Institution** 

The Trustees of Reservations

United Negro College Fund

WGBH Educational Foundation

Wildlife Conservation Society

The Henry Francis duPont Winterthur Museum, Inc.

**WNET** 

#### **INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS**

**Auditory Learning Foundation** 

The Blake School

Boston College High School

The Brearley School

Buckingham Browne & Nichols School

The Colburn School

Episcopal School of Dallas

The Fessenden School

Greenwich Country Day School

**Groton School** 

Milton Hershey School Trust

Hockaday School

The Hotchkiss School

Kamehameha Schools

Lakeside School

The Lawrenceville School

The Loomis Institute

The Madeira School

Park Tudor Trust

Phillips Exeter Academy

The Pingry School

Punahou School

The Roxbury Latin School

Salisbury School

St. Paul's School

Western Reserve Academy

The Winsor School

Xaverian Brothers High School

#### **OTHER ENDOWMENTS**

American College of Surgeons

American Jewish Committee

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee

The American Society of Hematology

Animal Rescue League of Boston

Armenian Church Endowment Fund

Armenian General Benevolent Union

CASA Columbia

Catholic Church Extension Society

Catholic Investment Trust of Washington



# PARTICIPANTS (CONTINUED)

## **OTHER ENDOWMENTS (CONTD)**

Archdiocese of Chicago

The Church Pension Fund

Claremont University Consortium

Diocese of Providence

**Episcopal Divinity School** 

Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies Greater New York Hospital Association

**HighGround Advisors** 

The Ignatius Fund

International/American Association for Dental Research

Isidore and Van Gerwen Charitable Trusts

Jewish Child Care Association

Mission Diocese Fund

Massachusetts Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

University of Nebraska Foundation Fund

Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health

The PGA of America, LP

The Rose Hills Foundation

Saint Thomas Church

SGI-USA Endowment

Soka University of America EEF

Southern Poverty Law Center

Sunflower Foundation Health Care for Kansans

Parish of Trinity Church in the City of New York

United Methodist Health Ministry Fund

**United States Tennis Association** 

Catholic Diocese of Wilmington

Xaverian Brothers USA



#### William Prout, Senior Investment Director

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