



KKR

Global Wealth  
Investment Playbook

Highlights | 4Q24

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# Quarterly Takeaways

01 While we remain cautiously optimistic about global economic growth this year, we are tracking closely pockets of weakness especially in consumer segments across geos. A "soft-landing" remains the highest probability outcome in the US. But tariffs introduce more uncertainty.

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02 We believe that the Fed's path of rates is highly uncertain, elevating the importance of duration management. Importantly, the transition to a new interest rate regime, ongoing developments in the geopolitical and political landscape as well as asynchronous global growth will keep interest rate volatility elevated, we believe.

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03 President Trump's victory has pushed us to double down on our conviction of increased inflation volatility. Regardless of the path of U.S. rates, elevated *inflation* volatility is driving a higher correlation between stocks and bonds, compelling investors to find diversification elsewhere.

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04 Against the current backdrop, we have increased our focus on collateral-based cash flows backed by hard assets, such as in Infrastructure, Real Estate, and Asset-Based Finance. These income streams, or the assets backing them, generally can keep pace with inflation, either contractually or via price escalators, which is one of the core drivers of the outperformance of many Real Assets in the new regime. Downside protection characteristics of Infrastructure become especially appealing.

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05 Private Equity continues to be the asset class with the highest return potential – especially on a go forward basis amidst pressures on public equities driven by elevated valuations, higher inflation volatility, and higher rates. We have seen a solid acceleration in deployment activity and monetization amid an increase in overall activity across global capital markets. Importantly, given rate uncertainty, value creation and exposure to the critical secular trends have become even more important. We have high conviction in securitization, workforce productivity, and the high-end consumer.

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# Expect More Inflationary Pressures And Volatility Under President Trump

## President Trump's Policies Pertaining To Tectonic Shifts Are On Net Inflationary

### Accelerated Energy Transition

- Some pullback in federal funding for EVs, wind, and solar, however, energy requirements tend to be set on the state level
- More oil and gas permitting
- Bottom-line: The longer the energy transition takes, the more expensive it will be

### Shift from "Benign Globalization" to "Great Power Competition"

- Potential 10% tariff on all US imports, 60% tariff on Chinese exports
- Onshoring will continue ("Made In America" sentiment)
- Realigning of diplomatic ties
- Bottom-line: Expect onshoring to continue, which may be inflationary in the near term

### The Great Labor Rebalance

- More constraints on immigration
- Bottom-line: Expect more labor shortages and therefore more inflationary pressures

### Transformative Technologies and the Age of AI

- Narrative on AI may become more negative, but no major policy changes
- Court decisions may be more consequential
- Bottom-line: Slowing down the green energy may be more impactful for AI industries than direct AI policy changes

# The New Investing Environment

## New Macro Regime

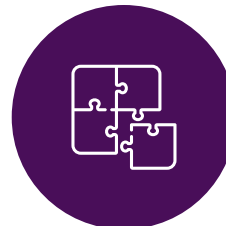
- Elevated Inflationary Bias And Higher Rates Vs Pre-Covid Average
- Geopolitically-driven Volatility
- Asynchronous Regional Cycle

## Implications For Asset Allocation

- Lower Asset Class Returns
- Shifts In Asset Class Correlations
- Volatility Buffer

## Opportunities In Private Assets

- Increased Importance Of Alternatives And The Illiquidity Premium
- Control-Equity/Real Assets Outperformance
- Regional Diversification



# We Believe This Period Will Be An Opportune Time to Adjust Portfolio Construction And Lean into Private Markets

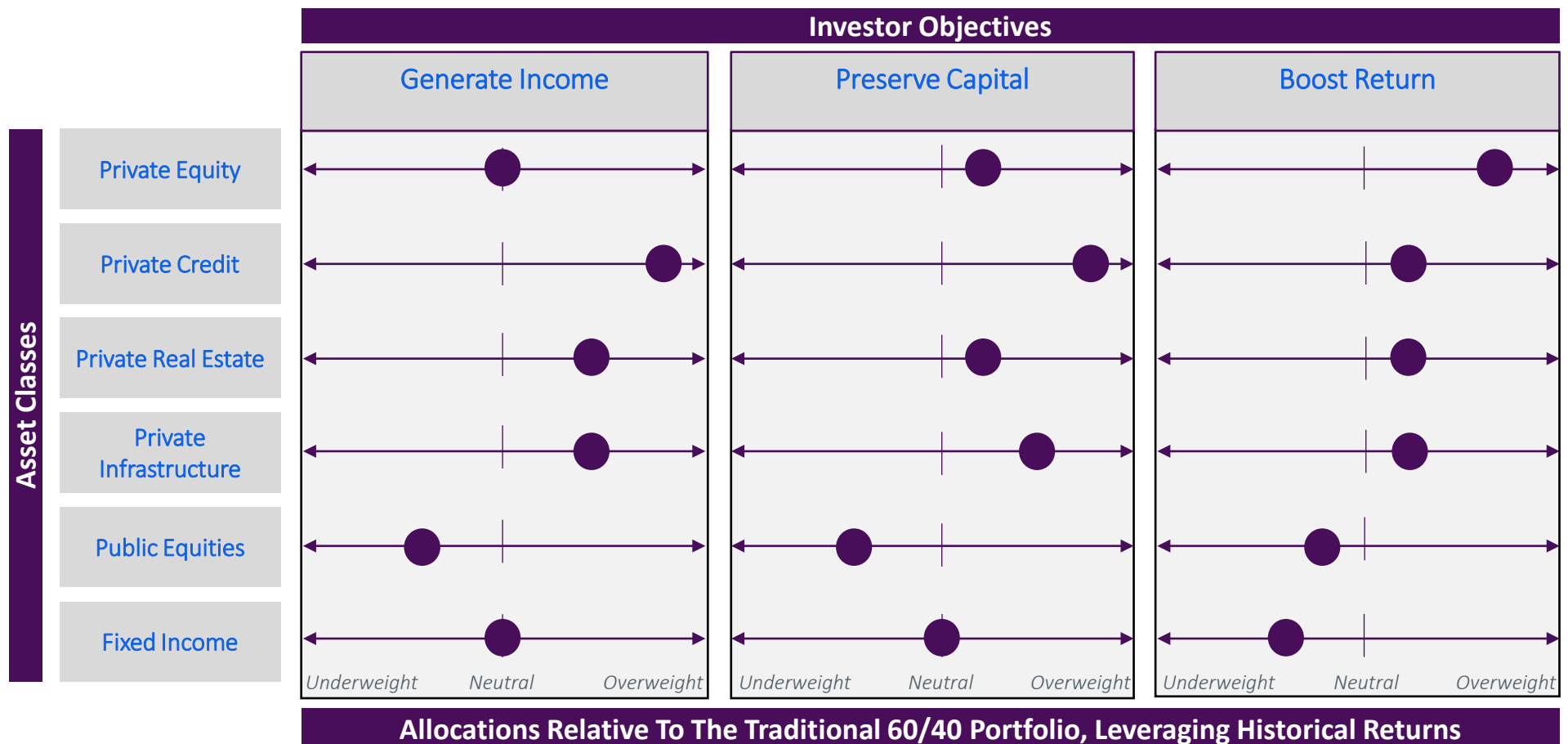
- Over the past 10 years, 60/40 portfolios returned an average of ~8%.
- To achieve close to that return over the next five years amid elevated inflation, higher borrowing costs, and slower real economic growth, investors may need to diversify into alternative asset classes.



Data as at 04/29/2024. Note: Capital markets assumptions are average across all quartiles annualized total returns. Forecasts represent five-year annualized total return expectations. For private asset classes (Private Credit, Private Infra, Private Real Estate, and Private Equity), returns are net of Fee/Carry. Note that we have altered our Private Credit methodology to exclude fund-level leverage, which has lowered total return on a go forward basis. Source: Cambridge Associates, Bloomberg, KKR Global Macro, Balance Sheet and Risk analysis. Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) measures an investment's growth rate, assuming profits are reinvested at the end of each period. Private Real Estate modeled using the Cambridge Associates Real Estate Index. Private Infrastructure modeled using the Cambridge Associates Infrastructure Index. Private Equity modeled using the Cambridge Associates Private Equity Index. Private Credit modeled using the Cliffwater Direct Lending Index. No representation is made that the trends depicted or described above will continue.

# Relative to the Traditional 60/40 Portfolio, Investors Can Tilt Asset Class Exposure To Increase Return And Reduce Vol

- The incorporation of investor preferences is an integral step in the strategic asset allocation process.
- To incorporate Alternatives into an existing traditional 60/40 portfolio, it is important to thoughtfully reduce allocations to equities and fixed income in a manner consistent with portfolio objectives (i.e. reducing fixed income more than equities when incorporating Alternatives into the 'Boost Return' objective) and to consider asset class performance, volatility, and correlations between asset classes.



# Alternative Asset Classes Have Historically Helped Investors Generate Income, Preserve Capital, And Boost Returns

- Today, many investor portfolios still resemble the traditional 60/40 portfolio, but investors are increasingly looking to enhance their portfolios with Alternatives to achieve their investment objectives in this new macroeconomic regime.
- Through optimization techniques applied to historical asset class returns, return volatility, and cross-correlations, we back tested the output confirming the incorporation of Alternatives, aligning with investor preferences, has historically enhanced the relevant objective.

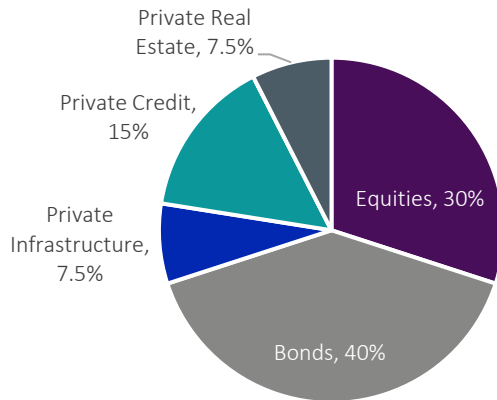
## KKR Alts Enhanced Framework For Wealth

**Objective:** Increase income potential of portfolio while maintaining liquidity

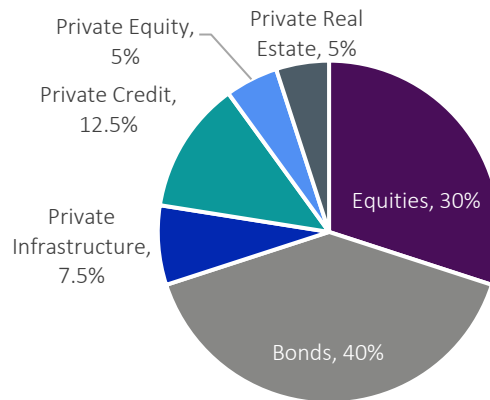
**Objective:** Receive loss protection and inflation hedging benefits

**Objective:** Boost the return potential of the portfolio

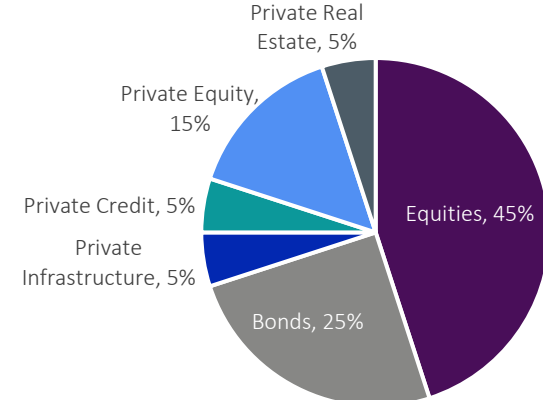
### Alts Enhanced – Generate Income



### Alts Enhanced – Preserve Capital



### Alts Enhanced - Boost Return



**Historical Performance vs 60 / 40:**

- Income +1.6%
- Liquidity ↓

- Volatility -2.4%
- Liquidity ↓

- Return +1.1%
- Liquidity ↓

Traditional

- Reallocate from the Public Equity tranche to more yield, inflation protection and diversification in Alternatives. Maintain substantial Bond allocation

- Reduce portfolio volatility by tilting some Public Equities exposure to Alts. Maintain substantial Bond allocation given downside protection

- Increase the return potential of the portfolio by tilting Bond allocation towards Equities

Alts

- Increase Private Credit allocation given predictable and high streams of cash flow, followed by Infra & Private Real Estate (yield may emanate from RE Credit vs Equity) for both additional yield and diversification

- Increase allocation to Private Credit given potential for downside protection followed by Private Infrastructure which benefits from lower volatility and inflation-hedging attributes

- Overweight Private Equity to boost total return, followed by Real Assets