

ERISA UNIVERSE  
SUMMARY

**MEDIAN ERISA PLANS POST DOUBLE-DIGIT RETURNS FOR 2009**

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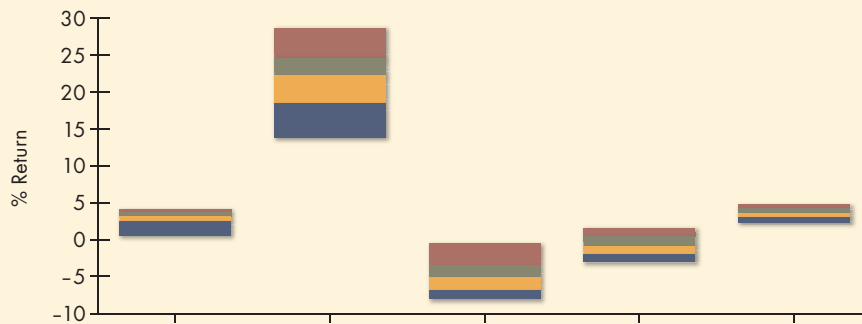
In the fourth quarter of 2009, U.S. institutional investment plan sponsors experienced one of their more average quarters, with the median investment program up about 3.5%. The rather mild quarter caps off an up-and-down year in which plan sponsors experienced one of their worst quarters (first quarter) and two of their best (second and third quarters). Taken together, a volatile 2009 will go down as one of the better calendar years on record.

The median ERISA plan return for the fourth quarter of 2009 continued the trend that began in the second quarter by posting positive performance results. The difference

being they were not at the double-digit pace of the previous two quarters. The median plan posted a return of 3.3% for the fourth quarter, bringing the 2009 full-year median plan return to 22.4%.

For the fourth quarter, the ERISA median was positive only from an absolute standpoint. On a relative basis, the majority of plans in the Northern Trust Universe were unable to outperform their respective plan benchmarks, with less than 50% of the plans outperforming the index. That resulted in a median excess return of -0.4% for the quarter.

ERISA PLANS – TOTAL RETURNS DECEMBER 31, 2009



	CURRENT QUARTER	1 YEAR	2 YEARS	3 YEARS	5 YEARS
10th Percentile	4.3%	28.8%	-0.4%	1.7%	4.8%
1st Quartile	3.9%	24.7%	-3.4%	0.6%	4.4%
Median	3.3%	22.3%	-5.0%	-0.7%	3.7%
3rd Quartile	2.6%	18.6%	-6.8%	-1.9%	3.1%
90th Percentile	0.7%	14.0%	-8.0%	-3.0%	2.4%

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As has been the case since the second quarter, the positive ERISA plan level performance in the fourth quarter was greatly influenced by both the domestic and international equity sectors' positive results. The international equity markets trailed the U.S. markets in the most recent quarter with the median returns of 3.7% and 5.9%, respectively.

The fixed income sector continued to provide a wide range of returns depending on how the allocation was weighted with respect to government or credit securities. The majority of the Northern Trust plans again did well when they had a tilt toward credit securities, which outperformed versus

government securities. This overweight resulted in the median program returning 0.8% versus the Barclays Capital U.S. Aggregate index return of 0.2% for the fourth quarter.

The real estate sector also continues to help or hurt plans depending on the type of investment – REITs versus limited partnerships – with the majority of plans returning negative results. The sector's median return for the quarter was –1.5% with a wide range of results around it. This wide range was evident in the fourth quarter with results of 6.6% for the top decile versus –6.9% for the bottom decile.

#### COMPOSITE ASSET ALLOCATION – ERISA

	CURRENT	1 YEAR AGO	3 YEARS AGO	5 YEARS AGO
U.S. Equity	35%	33%	44%	49%
Global/Non-U.S. Equity	15%	15%	19%	17%
U.S. Fixed Income	28%	35%	26%	25%
Global/Non-U.S. Bonds	2%	1%	3%	1%
Cash & Other	20%	16%	8%	8%

#### ABOUT NORTHERN TRUST UNIVERSES

Northern Trust Universes represent the performance results of more than 300 large institutional investment plans that subscribe to Northern Trust performance measurement services. These plans, with a combined asset value of \$390 billion, represent a broad snapshot of overall institutional investment plan performance within the U.S. market.

If you would like to participate in our universe analysis and receive more in-depth information, please contact your relationship manager.

Returns are shown gross of fees. Index returns assume reinvestment of dividends and earnings and do not reflect the deduction of any trading costs or other expenses. It is not possible to invest directly in an index. Periods greater than one year are annualized. Past performance does not indicate future results.

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