McKinsey&Company

# The Real Economy and Future Investment Returns



January 17, 2017

### **Summary**

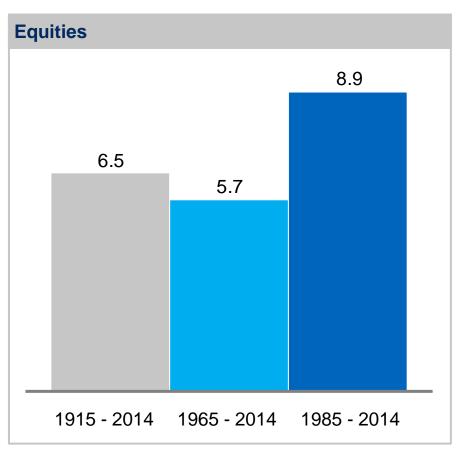
- Equity and bond returns driven by "real" economy
- Unique elements driving last 30 years returns are not repeatable (declining inflation/interest rates, increasing profit margins)
- Future long-term real returns could be 4.0 6.5% for equities and 0.0 2.0% for bonds
- Even under extreme scenarios, equities likely to outperform bonds under most time frames

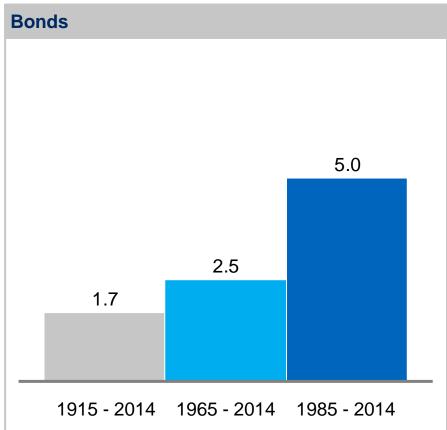
SOURCE: Source McKinsey & Company 2

## Returns on equities and bonds have been high over the past 30 years versus long-term average

#### Total real returns

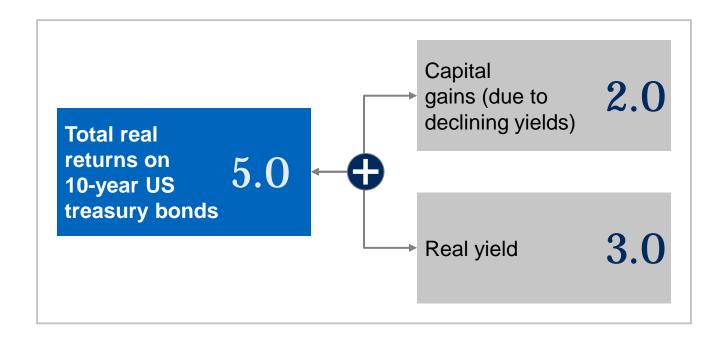
Annualized, based on 3-year average index at start and end years, %





### During last 30 years, bond returns driven by capital gains

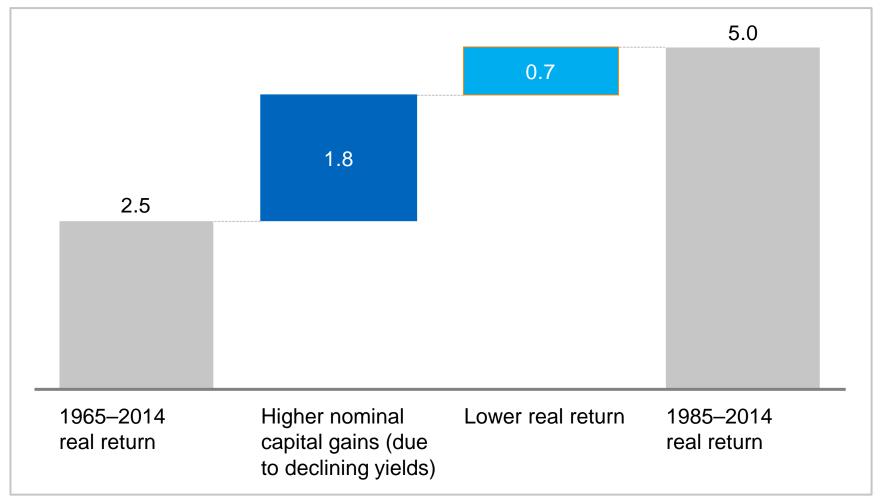
Percent, 1985 to 2014



## Capital gains due to declining yields and inflation drove higher bond returns in the last 30 years

#### 10-year US Treasury bond returns, annualized

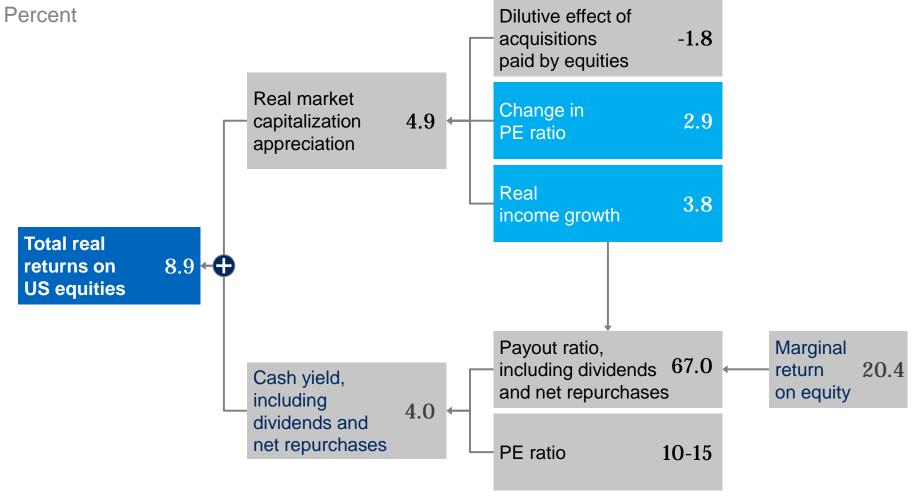
Percent



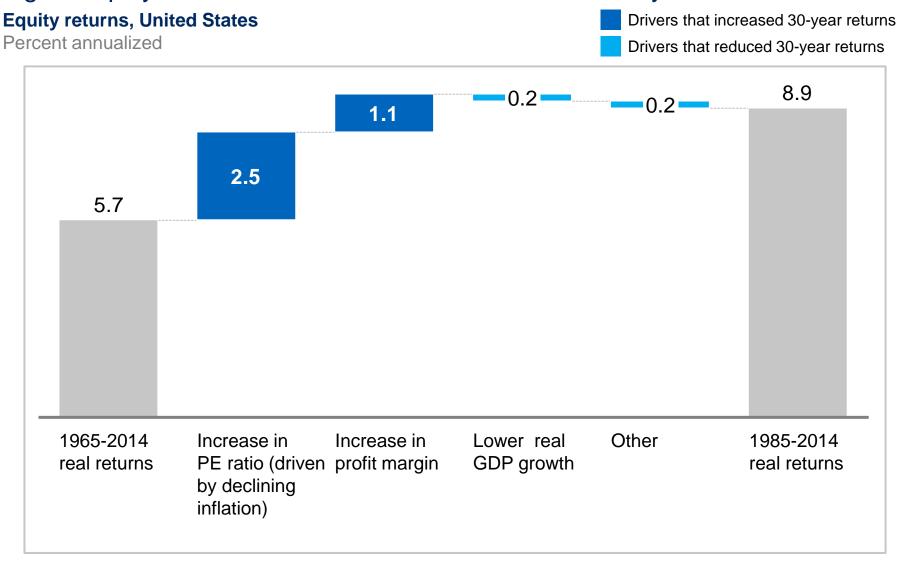
#### Equity returns linked to real economy drivers

Major difference from last 50 years

1985-2014, annualized



## Declining inflation, which increased PE ratios, and increasing margins drove higher equity returns in the United States in the last 30 years

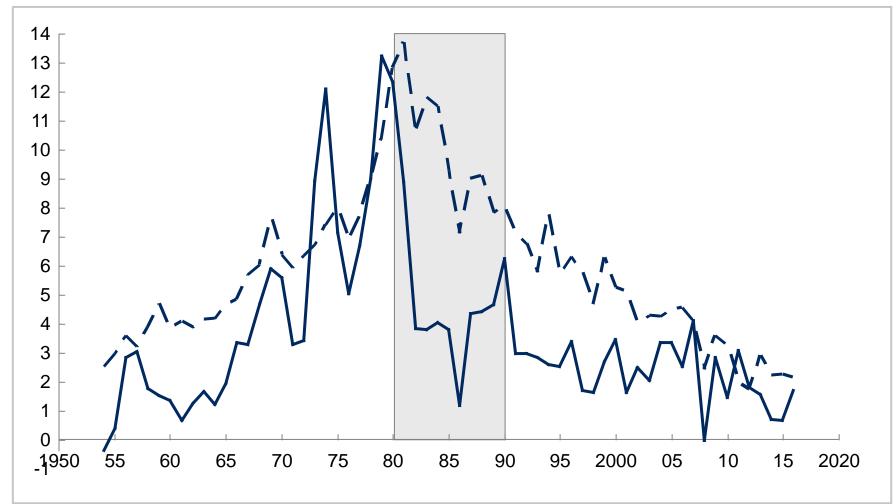


## 1980s started with unusually high inflation and interest rates

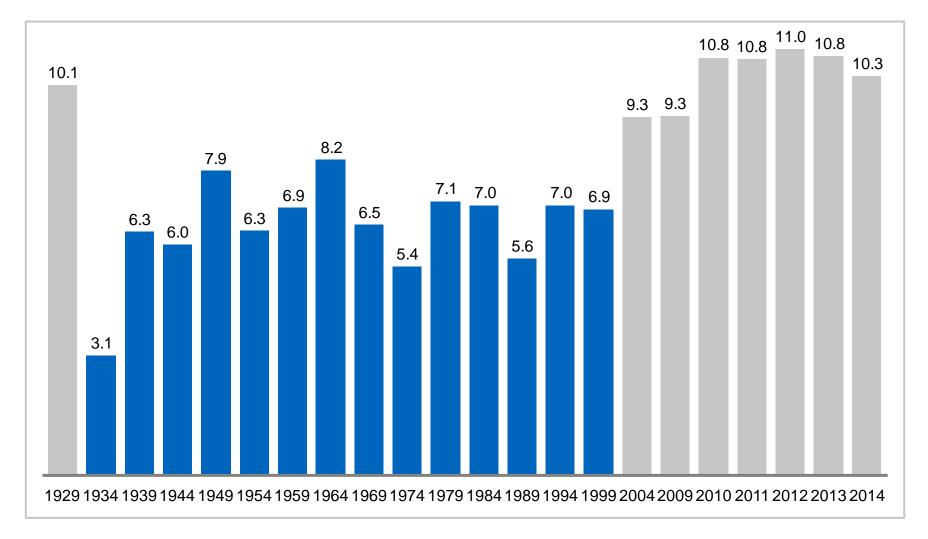
#### Inflation Yield on 10-Yr Govt Bond

#### 10-year US Treasury yields and annual inflation

Percent



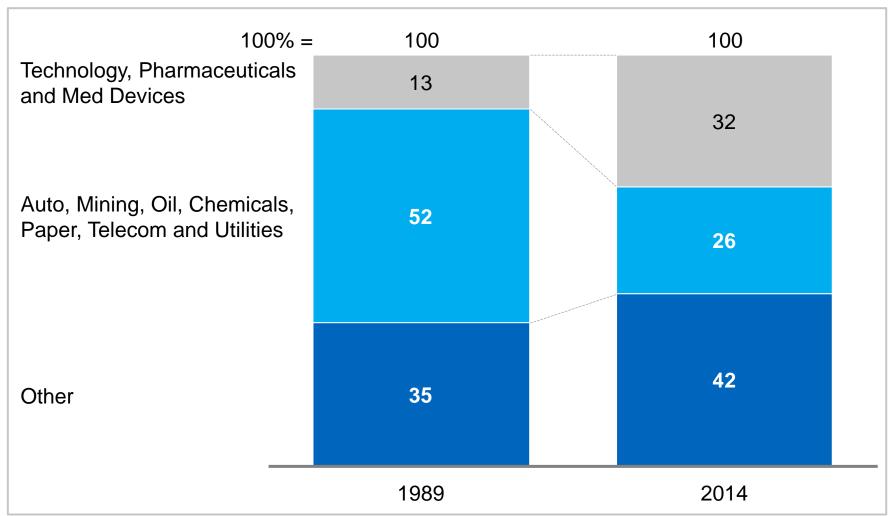
## US corporate profits are at their highest level vs. GDP since 1929 US after-tax corporate profits as share of US national income Percent



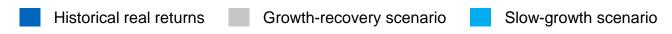
## Significant shift in composition of US based companies led to higher profit margins

#### **Share of total profits for US based companies**

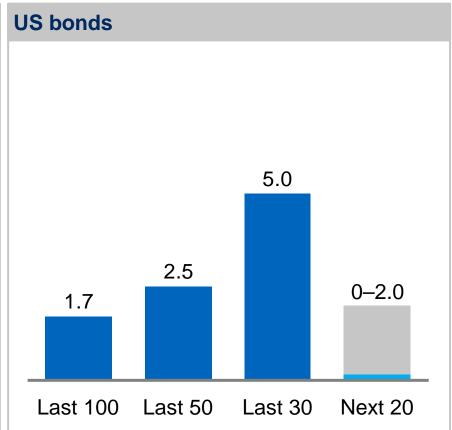
Percent



### Returns over the next 20 years could be lower than long term averages

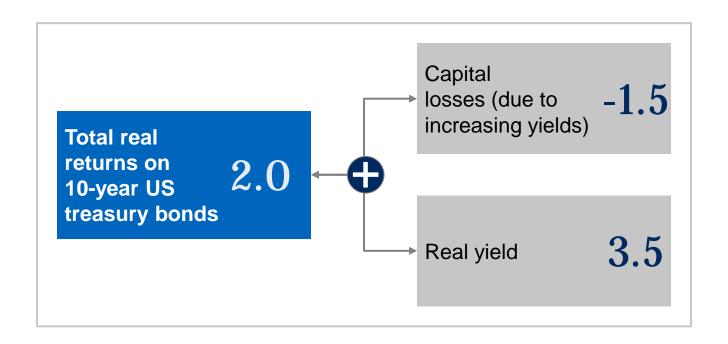






## Future bond returns depressed by capital losses as interest rates return to typical levels

Potential bond returns next 20 years Percent



### Real economy factors driving future equity returns

- No increase in P/E ratio
  - Inflation currently low
  - P/E ratios near "normal"
- Slower profit growth
  - Lower workforce growth
  - Lower productivity
  - Margins currently at all-time high
  - Potential pressures on future margins

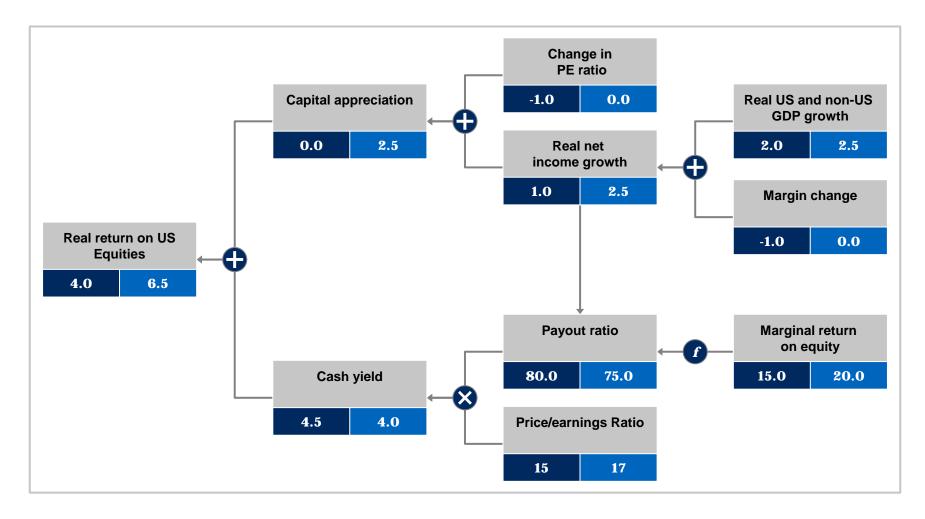
SOURCE: Source McKinsey & Company 13

## Scenarios for future US equity returns

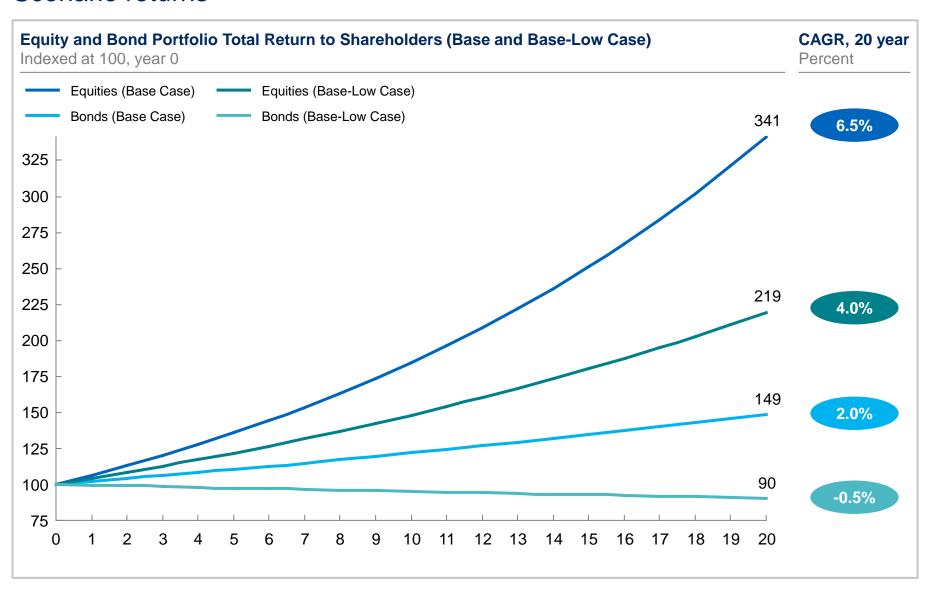
#### 2016-35, annualized

Percent

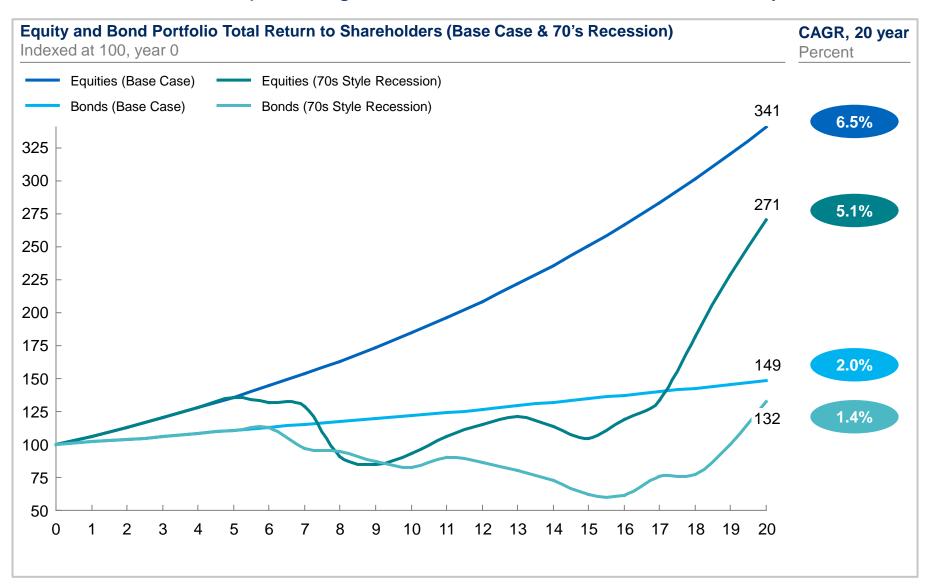
Slow-growth scenario Growth-recovery scenario



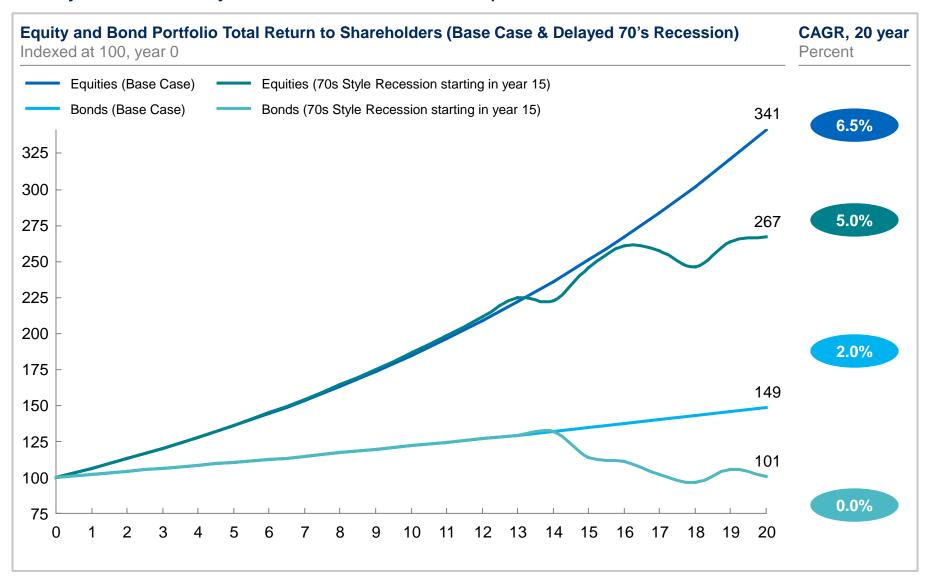
#### Scenario returns



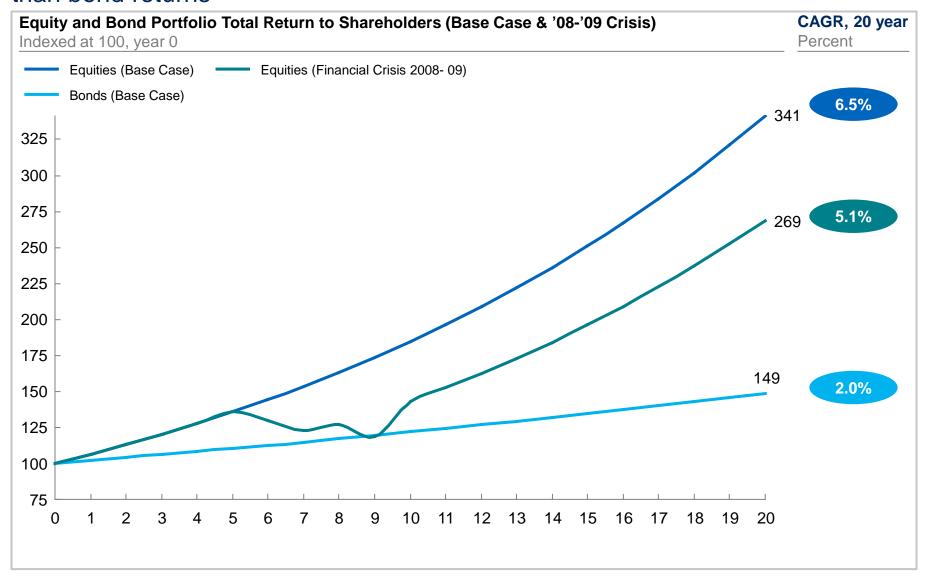
#### Total real return on equities higher than bonds even under a 1970's style recession



#### Delay in 1970s style recession makes equities even more attractive



#### Under a 2008-2009 financial crisis environment, equity returns remain higher than bond returns



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SOURCE: Source McKinsey & Company 19