

# Prudent Innovation

*Using liquid alternatives in portfolio construction*

Adding a liquid alternative investment allocation to a classically diversified equity and bond portfolio would have improved the risk adjusted aggregate returns twofold and reduced the drawdown impact by half over the past seven and a half years. Furthermore, since the onset of the global pandemic in 2020, such a portfolio enhancement would have resulted in an effect that would have even been twice as significant.

## The new portfolio equation: managing through the lens of risk

Our recent conversations with investors highlight the beginnings of a new investing regime. Structural forces, such as a recalibration of geopolitical risk, increased asset price dislocations, enhanced commodities volatility, and a changing relationship between stocks and bonds are creating the need for a new approach to portfolio construction. Innovation, leading into a portfolio rehabilitation, needs to be focused through a prudent risk management lens. Investors experience an imperative need to consider new attributes for the portfolio construction process.

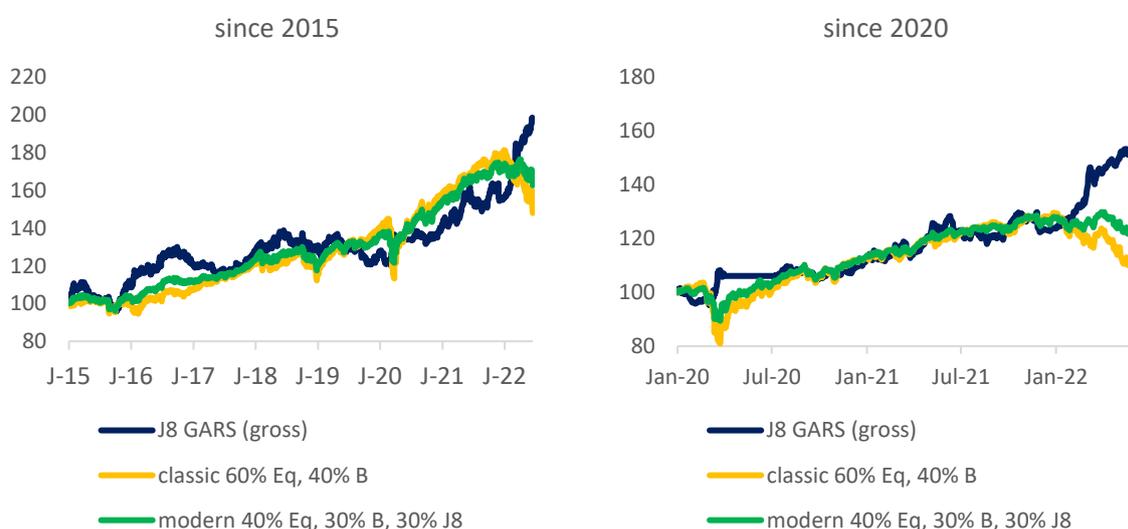
Investors today are reexamining the traditional 60/40 portfolio construction model in order to protect their purchasing power and potentially enhance returns in this new environment. Specifically:

- Enhancing the traditional 60% capital appreciation component, within current equity mandates, by allocating 20% to liquid alternative investment strategies such as our J8 Global Absolute Return Strategy (J8 GARS).
- Enhancing the traditional 40% fixed income component by allocating 10% from the said component into a strategy such as J8 GARS.
- The resultant 40/30/30 portfolio is expected to materially enhance returns per unit of risk and significantly reduce drawdown risk.

The directional long or short positioning of liquid alternatives contributes returns that are positively correlated to inflation while allowing investors to capture the intrinsic value within the illiquidity premium, enhanced commodities volatility, and increased geopolitical risk. Such strategic enhancements increase the diversification of the investment portfolio and help protect against downside risk.

## Improvements and benefits

We use J8 GARS to represent the liquid alternative asset class allocation, S&P 500 Index the equity allocation, and Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index (formally Lehman Aggregate) the bond allocation. Based on our analysis, the modern 40/30/30 portfolio performed superior to the classic 60/40 model, especially during the recent period of high inflation, when it offered significantly less volatility and better total and risk-adjusted returns than the old approach. The modern 40/30/30 allocation promises to also enhance overall liquidity within the confines of a structured, diversified portfolio.



	Since 2015			Since 2020		
	J8 GARS (gross)	classic 60% Eq, 40% B	modern 40% Eq, 30% B, 30% J8	J8 GARS (gross)	classic 60% Eq, 40% B	modern 40% Eq, 30% B, 30% J8
Annualized Return	9.60%	5.40%	6.75%	20.19%	2.33%	7.63%
Annualized Volatility	10.05%	11.22%	7.77%	10.62%	16.08%	10.69%
Maximum Drawdown	-13.92%	-21.88%	-12.07%	-8.14%	-21.88%	-12.07%
Return / Volatility	0.96	0.48	0.87	1.90	0.14	0.71
Return / Drawdown	0.69	0.25	0.56	2.48	0.11	0.63
Volatility / Drawdown	0.72	0.51	0.64	1.31	0.74	0.89

We use the daily gross returns of the J8 Global Absolute return Strategy (J8 GARS) to allow for comparability with the S&P 500 Index and the Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index. We analyze the performance from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 until and including 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 until and including 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022. **Note: Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results.** Source: J8 Capital Management LLP, ICE Data.



J8 Capital Management LLP

## Conclusion

The astute investor should be mindful of the road ahead and note that increasing diversification may enhance portfolios to better position them towards “more ways to win”. This new diversification with liquid alternatives may both be prudent and smart risk management going forward.

By adding liquid alternatives such as J8 GARS, and reconstructing portfolio diversity to embrace a 40/30/30 model, one creates a significant opportunity to protect, but also to enhance the current equity and fixed income allocations of the aggregate portfolio’s returns.

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## The J8 ‘Value-add’

J8 Capital focuses on three core values: i) prudent investment management; ii) process driven strategy; and iii) persistence in returns. Investors appreciate our focus, transparency, and ease of access. **J8 GARS’s minimum investment is USD 6 million.** The program may be accessed through a separate managed account (SMA) which offers the availability of notional funding if required. Typically, larger such programs have much higher minimums or come in a fully funded fund format or may have capacity constraints that drag performance. The J8 GARS offers an attractive alternative. For higher minimum allocations, the J8 GARS program can be accessed through a Fund vehicle or an investment platform structure.

Additional investor benefits include a low or even negative correlation with both traditional and alternative investments. J8 GARS could be employed as a portfolio overlay to strategically improve the overall portfolio efficiency frontier.

## About J8 GARS

The J8 Global Absolute Return Strategy (“J8 GARS”) is a liquid alternative investment solution. Capital preservation and capital growth are at its core. The program’s portfolio diversification properties and alternative streams of returns make it a compelling contributor to existing investments.

J8 GARS employs a multi-strategy systematic investment process to benefit from both directional trending opportunities and structural market inefficiencies. The program marries trend-following with other strategies to capture market inefficiencies within a multi-strategy construct. Strict risk management protocols are further applied to generate persistent returns.

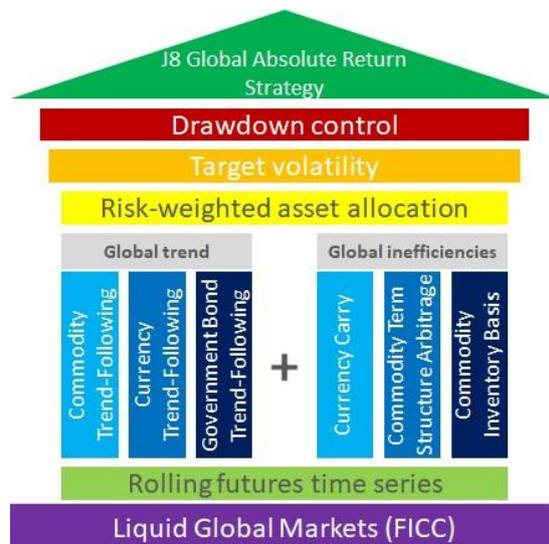


Figure 1: Illustration of the J8 Global Absolute Return Strategy (J8 GARS) construction

The trend-following strategies are applied to core global markets. Complimenting the trend-following core are sub-strategies that capture structural market inefficiencies within a set of broad global markets. This systematic multi-asset and multi-strategy approach stabilizes the overall strategy return profile, reduces drawdown severity and improves overall risk adjusted returns.

J8 GARS has been trading live since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 and continues to outperform liquid alternatives benchmark indices. Returns are uncorrelated to traditional equity and bond markets, as well as to other alternative asset classes.

The implementation of J8 GARS is cost efficient with notional funding and low margin-to-equity requirements.

The strategy is derived from our original [research](#).

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