LEVERAGED FINANCE MARKET PERSPECTIVE LETTER

Waffle House

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Tariffs remained the primary focus for most investors in May. Since President Trump's initial Liberation Day tariff unveiling, he has adjusted or delayed tariffs more than 20 times. While the Administration may deem these on again/off again tariff proposals as negotiating tactics, investors are beginning to see the President's frequent waffling as a sign that the long-term outcome will be less severe than originally anticipated. As a result, the S&P 500 index clawed back most of its losses last month, posting a 6.3% gain, the strongest May performance in 35 years. Concurrently, U.S. sovereign debt was downgraded by S&P from AAA to AA+, which also generally failed to rattle investors during the month. What seems most disconcerting is that after two months, the U.S. has only successfully negotiated one trade deal. Most major trading partners seem to be giving the cold shoulder in negotiations, making further delays more likely. Political pushback and court intervention have also lessened the likelihood of a prolonged tariff war. However, the real trade war with China remains unresolved as they appear to be taking a more hardline position, which could have major economic implications for the U.S. Will President Trump's tariff gyrations turn the White House into the Waffle House? Investors, consumers, and trading partners will be keeping a close eye on the potential outcome.

Please reach out to InvestorRelations@ShenkmanCapital.com for the full letter.

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WAFFLE HOUSE



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The ISM Manufacturing Index is a monthly gauge on the level of economic activity in the U.S. manufacturing sector versus the previous month.

The ICE BofA Current 10-Year U.S. Treasury Index (GA10) is a one security index comprised of the most recently issued 10-year U.S. Treasury Note.

The ICE BofA U.S. Corporate Index (COAO) has an inception date of December 31, 1972 and tracks the performance of U.S. dollar denominated investment grade corporate debt publicly issued in the U.S. domestic market.

The ICE BofA U.S. High Yield Index (HOAO) has an inception date of August 31, 1986 and tracks the performance of U.S. dollar denominated below investment grade corporate debt publicly issued in the U.S. domestic market.

The Morningstar LSTA US Leveraged Loan Index is a market value-weighted index designed to measure the performance of the U.S. leveraged loan market based upon weightings, spreads and interest payments.

The Refinitiv US All-Cap Focus Convertible Bond Index has an inception date of December 1993, is a subset of the Refinitiv US Convertible Bond Index and includes securities that have a price between 60 and 140 and a conversion premium of < 100%, among other criteria. The Refinitiv US Convertible Bond Index includes convertible securities that are denominated in USD, have a market value of over \$300mm, and have underlying stocks that trade on US equity markets.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average is a price-weighted average of thirty blue-chip stocks that are generally the leaders in their respective industries.

The Russell 2000 Index measures the performance of the small-cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes approximately 2000 of the smallest securities based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership.

The S&P 500 Index is designed to reflect the U.S. equity markets and focuses on the large-cap sector of the market, which includes the 500 leading companies in leading industries of the U.S. economy.

The NASDAQ composite index is a market-capitalization weighted index of the more than 3,000 common equities listed on the Nasdaq stock exchange. The types of securities in the index include American Depositary Receipts, Common Stock, Limited Partnership Interests, Ordinary Shares, Real Estate Investment Trusts, Shares of Beneficial Interest, and Tracking Stocks. The index includes all Nasdaq listed stocks that are not Security types not included in the Index are closed-end funds, convertible debentures, exchange traded funds, preferred stocks, rights, warrants, units and other derivative securities.

The MSCI Emerging Markets Index captures large and mid-cap representation across 24 Emerging Markets (EM) countries. With 1,398 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

The MSCI World Index, which is part of The Modern Index Strategy, is a broad global equity index that represents large and mid-cap equity performance across 23 developed markets countries. It covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country and MSCI World Index does not offer exposure to emerging markets.

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