

Investing in Low Volatility Equities



- > Low Volatility stocks can help smooth out the ups and down of an unpredictable market.
- Low Volatility Funds are generally bought to reduce risk.
- > Holdings are all large capitalization, well-known companies with good dividend yields.
- > Low Volatility Funds have had much lower maximum drawdowns.
- According to a <u>research paper by S&P Dow Jones Indices</u>, over the 28-year period through December 2017, the S&P 500 Low Volatility Index had a 10.7% average annualized return, while the broader S&P 500 Index averaged 9.8%.
- Compared to the US Stock Market Low Volatility Funds Outperformed since 1991
- Low Volatility stocks potentially help to diversify portfolios that are concentrated in these areas.



Low Volatility Stocks

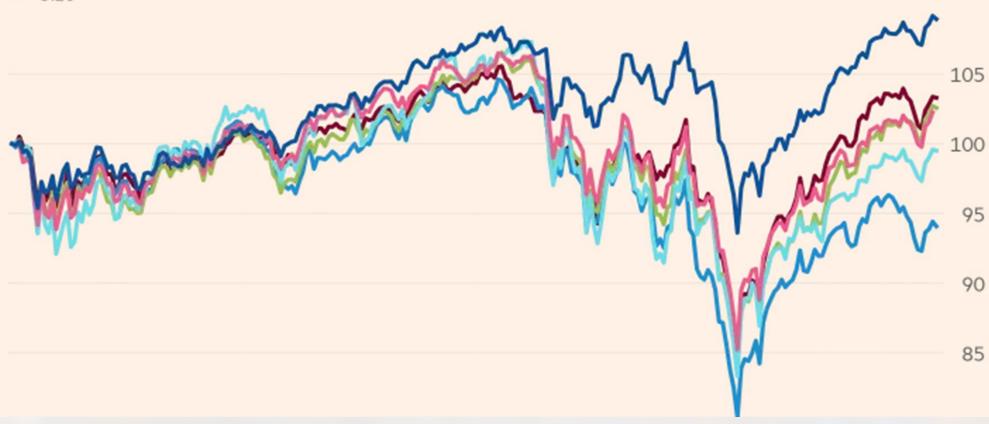


Low-volatility stocks rule the factor roost

Performance normalised as of March 14, 2018.







Low Volatility Performance vs S&P From 2000



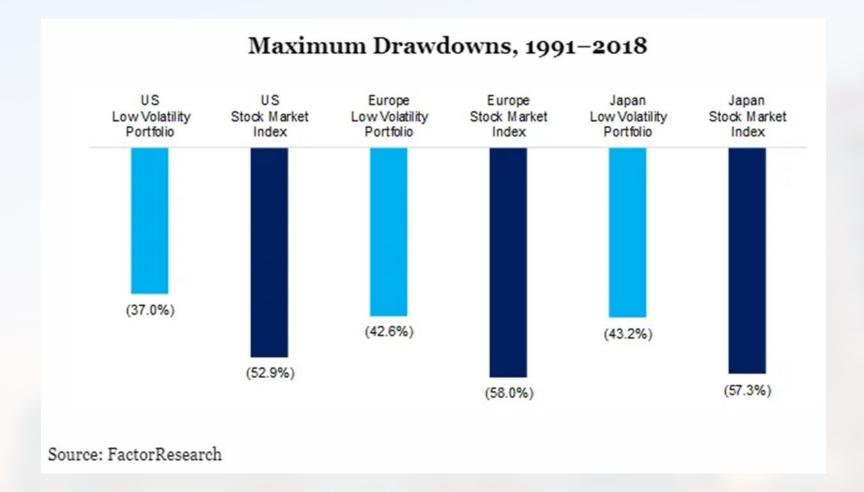


Source: Data sourced from Bloomberg 01/01/2000 to 27/05/2020*. Chart by Castlestone Management Note: Past performance cannot be relied on as a guide to future performance.

- ➤ This is a long-only portfolio composed of the top 10% of US equities ranked by price volatility over the last 12 months with monthly rebalancing.
- Compared to the US stock markets lowvolatility portfolio outperformed the stock market since 1991.



Low-volatility funds are generally bought to reduce risk. Over the last 25-plus years the low-volatility portfolios has much lower maximum drawdowns than their corresponding stock market indices.



Excess Return Index



- Low Volatility factor exists in US and international stocks, and across the market-cap spectrum, so it can play a role across asset classes.
- Low Volatility has a particularly low historical correlation with the Value factor, and negative correlation with the Quality and Momentum factors.
- Low Volatility stocks potentially help to diversify portfolios that are concentrated in these areas.

	Low volatility	Dividend yield	Quality	Value	Momentum	Size
Low volatility	1.00			-	-	
Dividend yield	0.75	1.00				
Quality	-0.01	-0.10	1.00			
Value	0.01	0.32	-0.32	1.00		
Momentum	-0.65	-0.72	-0.07	-0.35	1.00	
Size	0.24	0.53	-0.09	0.55	-0.38	1.00

Source: Bloomberg L.P., as of June 30, 2019. Correlations below 0.50 represent increased diversification potential. Diversification does not guarantee a profit or eliminate the risk of loss. Low Volatility is represented by the S&P 500 Low Volatility Index; Dividend Yield by the S&P 500 Low Volatility High Dividend Index; Quality by the S&P 500 Quality Index; Value by the S&P 500 Enhanced Value Index; Momentum by the S&P 500 Momentum Index and Size by the S&P 500 Equal Weigh Index. An investment cannot be made directly into an index.

Low Volatility ETF Inflows Continue To Grow



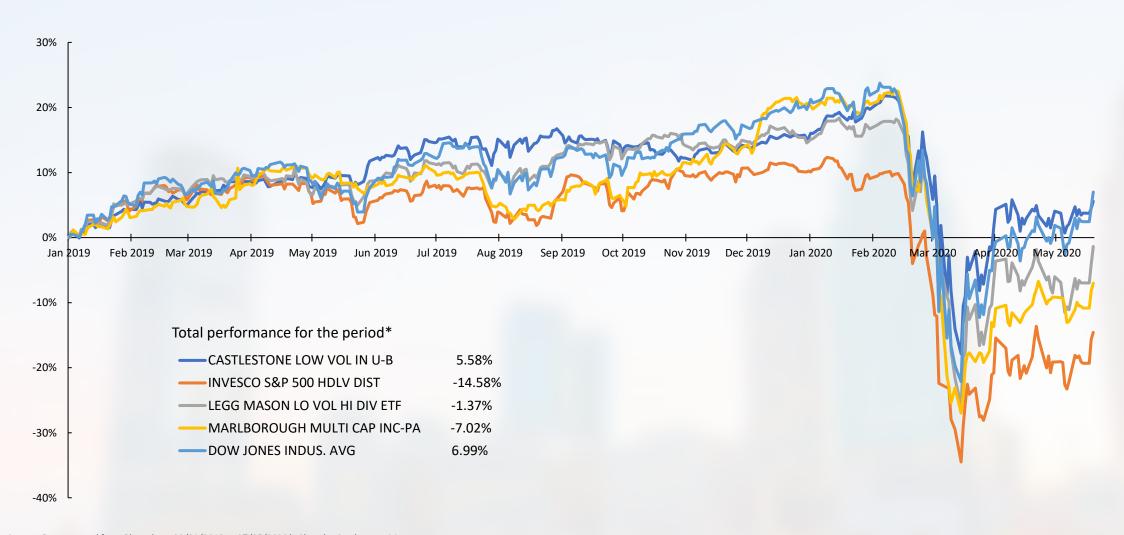


Assets under management of 10 biggest min-vol ETFs (\$bn).



Castlestone Low Volatility UCITS Performance Since Inception





Source: Data sourced from Bloomberg 09/01/2019 to 27/05/2020*. Chart by Castlestone Management Note: Past performance cannot be relied on as a guide to future performance.

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