BCA Market Perspective ©

Risk Management of Investment Programs
October 2012

The term risk has many meanings - a familiar list includes:

- Not achieving an expected return or income objective
- Unexpected volatility of securities
- Rising interest rates
- Credit default
- Bond duration
- Liquidity
- Uncompensated risk
- Economic uncertainty
- Inflation and deflation
- Earnings variability
- Seemingly diversified asset classes becoming too correlated

In spite of all the time and money spent on examining capital market risk and how to control its many variables, managing risk remains a significant challenge and may include:

- Asset allocation among low correlating asset types
- Limiting exposure by security and industry sector
- Focusing on quality securities and products (lower beta) during periods of high uncertainty
- Tactical asset tilting – risk on and risk off (beta control)
- Macro driven events

BCA has found that over the past 24 years, a portfolio's sensitivity to equity markets (beta) has been the primary factor in determining gains and losses. BCA has found that tactical asset allocation and the combination of low correlating asset classes have been effective risk management approaches.