

## ASTOR INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

**About Astor:** Astor Investment Management (AIM) is a registered investment adviser that offers multiple investment strategies across various disciplines (Income, Equity, Alternative) in SMAs, Mutual Funds and UMAs. Astor is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois. The firm advises \$1.2 billion in total assets as of 12/31/2023.

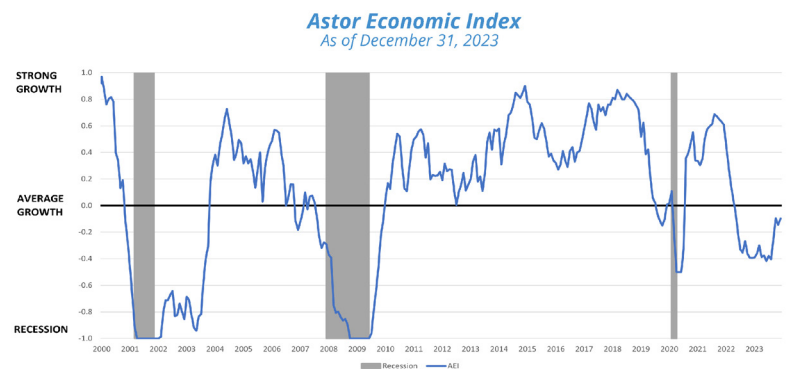
**Investment Philosophy:** Astor believes that diligent analysis of economic data can provide valuable signals for longer-term financial market allocations. Our research has shown that periods of severe economic stress (i.e., recessions) often coincide with substantial drawdowns in the stock market while periods of economic growth has coincided with rising equity prices. Astor’s analysis seeks to identify signs of weakness as they start to appear. Astor uses the information to attempt to reduce client participation in these drawdowns by reducing exposure to risky assets. When our analysis indicates the U.S. Economy’s health is above ‘average growth’, the Astor Investment Committee seeks to increase overall exposure to risky assets (stocks, other) in an attempt to capture positive returns from asset prices.

## THE ASTOR ECONOMIC INDEX®

Astor’s proprietary economic indicator, The **Astor Economic Index®**, is designed to quantify the current state of the economy into a single value. The Index is the cornerstone of our portfolio construction process and creates a ‘roadmap’ for equity exposure (i.e., beta). As the index fluctuates throughout cycles, equity allocations are systematically and gradually reduced or increased based on the level of economic growth signaled.

*Source: Astor Calculations, NBER Data: 12/31/1999 - 12/31/2023. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. The Astor Economic Index® should not be used as the sole determining factor for your investment decisions. There is no guarantee the index will produce the same results in the future. An investment cannot be made in the index.*

Astor Economic Index® & Recession Overlay



## THE ASTOR SOLUTION SERIES

With macro, top down analysis as the cornerstone of the Astor investment philosophy, we have created strategies to cater to varying risk tolerances as well as portfolio objectives. Each strategy objective is designed as a complement to traditional investment allocations and attempts to diversify investor portfolios, **mitigate volatility**, and **lessen the portfolio drawdowns** typically associated with adverse macro environments.

Astor has strategies designed to complement various investment objectives and help investors stay disciplined to reach their investment goals.

**DYNAMIC ALLOCATION**  
(ALL ASSET - BROAD EQUITY)

**SECTOR ALLOCATION**  
(U.S. EQUITY)

**ACTIVE INCOME**  
(UNCONSTRAINED INCOME)

**MACRO ALTERNATIVE**  
(ALTERNATIVE/HEDGE)

**Astor Dynamic Allocation** takes a macroeconomics-based approach to asset allocation using the proprietary Astor Economic Index® (AEI). The strategy adjusts portfolio beta throughout economic cycles by utilizing a broad range of asset classes. The strategy does not attempt to ‘time’ the market, rather gradual adjustments are made as the U.S. economy strengthens/weakens.

### Strategy Highlights

- Seeks to offer downside protection by strategically reducing risk as the economy weakens
- Increases exposure to stocks (risky assets) during times of economic strength and increase exposure to fixed income/cash (low risk assets) during periods of economic weakness
- May purchase inverse ETFs during periods of extreme economic weakness in an effort to benefit from declining equity prices

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**Astor Sector Allocation** is a core equity solution that analyzes economic fundamentals at the sector level. It utilizes multiple signals to rotate into and out of sectors depending upon our expectations for growth within specific sectors compared to the overall growth of the U.S. economy.

### Strategy Highlights

- Seeks to generate excess return through both sector rotation and factor-based security selection (size, style, value/growth)
- Strategy will overweight/underweight U.S. Equity Sectors based on the overall economic health and momentum of individual sectors
- Attempts to offer downside protection by adjusting cash/fixed income between 0-75% during periods of economic weakness

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The strategy seeks to find the asset mix that provides a more attractive yield-to-risk ratio compared to intermediate-term Treasury bonds. Employs a fundamental approach to income investing, assessing risk and opportunity across the capital market spectrum. Designed to be a portfolio complement to traditional income strategies, using an active approach to fixed income investing.

### Strategy Highlights

- Analyzes macroeconomics, interest rates and credit data, seeking to make appropriate adjustments to duration, credit quality and equity income exposure in an effort to reduce volatility and minimize principal risk
- Active management approach seeks to reduce the impact of adverse credit and rate conditions
- Ability to invest in equity and other non-fixed income asset classes during periods of above average economic growth (as determined by the AEI)

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The strategy employs multiple strategies across diverse asset classes, including U.S. equity and fixed income, as well as global assets that are often beyond investors' reach, such as global equities, international fixed income, currencies and commodities. The strategy seeks to provide a smoother return stream, with lower volatility, across market cycles, than could generally be achieved by holding stocks alone.

### Strategy Highlights

- Attempts to guard against large adverse losses by incorporating risk management at the asset and strategy level
- Uses asset and strategy level diversification, in pursuit of positive returns throughout the business cycle; can hold both long and short positions in many assets

## PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT TEAM



**Bryan Novak**  
CEO



**John Eckstein**  
CIO



**Nick Porter**  
Portfolio Manager/ Vice President  
- Research

The strategies mentioned here are offered in various formats. Clients invested in the strategies can have different results depending on the specific investment program and product type chosen. You should refer to the applicable prospectus and/or Form ADV Part 2A for further information.

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The Astor Economic Index®: The Astor Economic Index® is a proprietary index created by Astor Investment Management LLC. It represents an aggregation of various economic data points. The Astor Economic Index® is designed to track the varying levels of growth within the U.S. economy by analyzing current trends against historical data. The Astor Economic Index® is not an investable product. The Astor Economic Index® should not be used as the sole determining factor for your investment decisions. The Index is based on retroactive data points and may be subject to hindsight bias. There

is no guarantee the Index will produce the same results in the future. All conclusions are those of Astor and are subject to change. Astor Economic Index® is a registered trademark of Astor Investment Management LLC.

Astor strategies seek to achieve their objectives by investing in Exchange-Traded Funds ("ETFs"). An ETF is a type of Investment Company which attempts to achieve a return similar to a set benchmark or index. ETFs are subject to substantially the same risks as those associated with the direct ownership of the securities comprising the index on which the ETF is based. The value of an ETF is dependent on the value of the underlying assets held. ETFs are subject to investment advisory and other expenses which results in a layering of fees for clients. As a result, your cost of investing in the fund will be higher than the cost of investing directly in ETFs and may be higher than other mutual funds with similar investment objectives. ETFs may trade for less than their net asset value. Although ETFs are exchanged traded, a lack of demand can prevent daily pricing and liquidity from being available. Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses of the ETFs held within Astor's strategies before investing. This information can be found in each ETFs prospectus.

Inverse ETFs attempt to profit from the decline of an asset or asset class by seeking to track the opposite performance of the underlying benchmark or index. Inverse products attempt to achieve the stated objectives on a daily basis and can face additional risks due to this fact. The effect of compounding over a long period can cause a large dispersion between the ETF and the underlying benchmark or index. Inverse ETFs may lose money even when the benchmark or index performs as desired. Inverse ETFs have potential for significant loss and may not be suitable for all investors.