

RESEARCH

Three Reasons Why Dimensional Models Stand Out from the Pack

Kaitlin Hendrix, CFA
Asset Allocation Research Director and Vice
President

Dec 16, 2024

Dimensional Models seek to deliver a better investment experience. Here are three reasons they stand out from the pack:

- The investment process is powered by financial science, not speculation.
- The models are composed of Dimensional funds, which have a strong track record of outperformance over time.
- They apply strategic asset allocation at the model level with daily active implementation at the fund level.

1. THE INVESTMENT PROCESS IS POWERED BY FINANCIAL SCIENCE, NOT SPECULATION.

Dimensional's investment approach is driven by rigorous and reliable research. Our Research group, which oversees the Dimensional Models, is at the center of our investment process and works closely with leading academics—including five Nobel laureates—to better understand markets and what drives returns.¹

Rather than focusing on what's shined in a backtest or what is the hot topic today, Dimensional's investment approach starts with a belief in market prices and is supported by decades of theoretical and empirical research.² Instead of trying to outguess the collective wisdom of the market, our approach uses information in asset prices and empirical data about companies to target reliable drivers of higher expected returns. Within equities, we design portfolios to overweight securities with smaller market capitalization, lower relative price, and higher profitability. Within fixed income, we target higher expected returns along the term, credit, and currency of issuance dimensions. This approach frees us from the unreliability of traditional forecasting.

With confidence in markets, deep connections to the academic community, and a focus on implementation, we go where the science leads and continue to pursue new insights, both large and small, to help investors reach their goals.

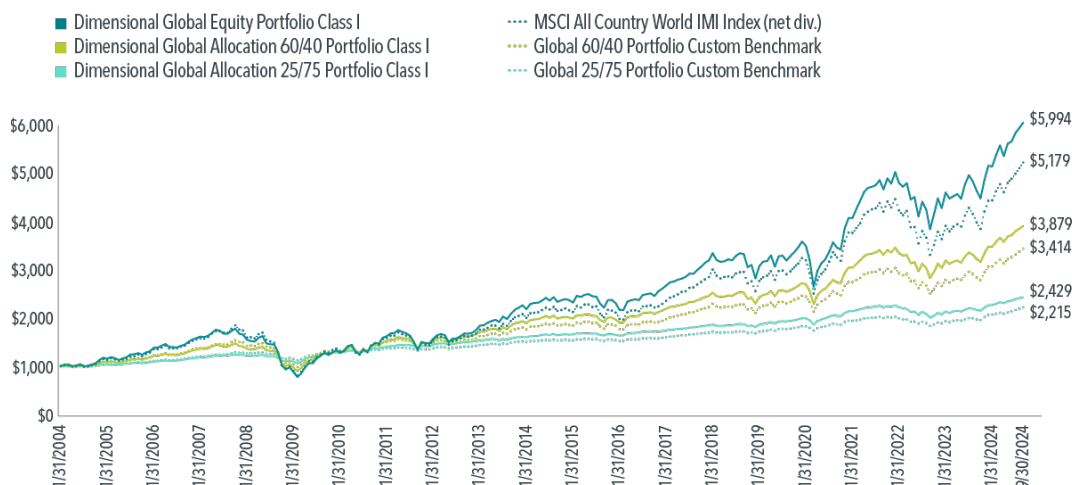
2. THE MODELS ARE COMPOSED OF DIMENSIONAL FUNDS, WHICH HAVE A STRONG TRACK RECORD OF OUTPERFORMANCE OVER TIME.

Research tells us that there are drivers of returns, or factors, associated with securities sharing certain characteristics. While many investment managers may claim to use “factor-based” approaches, it’s worth asking whether those factors are truly evidence-based and likely to appear in the future, or merely the product of chasing trends and spurious perceived correlations between data and returns. And factors identified in the data do not necessarily translate into outperformance for investors.

Dimensional has been a pioneer and leader in an investing approach that incorporates multiple factors, applying a systematic, evidence-based approach for over 40 years. Over that time, we have developed deep expertise in portfolio design, management, and trading. It is this expertise in implementation that has allowed us to deliver reliable equity and fixed income premiums to investors, net of fees and expenses.

Indeed, our multi-asset investment solutions have systematically added value over the long term. The Global Equity Portfolio, the Global Allocation 60/40 Portfolio, and the Global Allocation 25/75 Portfolio have beaten their prospectus benchmarks by an annualized 76, 65, and 46 basis points (hundredths of a percentage point), respectively, since each fund’s first full month.³ For a \$1,000 investment in the Global Equity Portfolio starting in January 2004, that’s a difference in ending wealth of \$5,994 compared to \$5,179 for the benchmark as of September 2024 (see **Exhibit 1**).

Exhibit 1

Growth of \$1,000:
Global Allocation
Portfolios vs.
Prospectus
BenchmarksJanuary 1, 2004–September
30, 2024

Performance data shown represents past performance and is no guarantee of future results. Current performance may be higher or lower than the performance shown. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. To obtain performance data current to the most recent month-end, visit dimensional.com. Performance includes reinvestment of dividends and other earnings.

See Appendix for additional performance information. Global 25/75 Portfolio Custom Benchmark: 25% S&P Global BMI Index (net dividends) and 75% ICE BofA 1-3 Year Global Government Index (hedged to USD). Global 60/40 Portfolio Custom Benchmark: 60% S&P Global BMI Index (net dividends) and 40% ICE BofA 1-3 Year Global Government Index (hedged to USD). Data presented in the Growth of Wealth chart is hypothetical and assumes reinvestment of income and no transaction costs or taxes. The chart is for illustrative purposes only and is not indicative of any investment.

A review of Dimensional's US-domiciled equity and fixed income funds illustrates that positive long-term premiums and our pursuit of them in a cost-effective way have led Dimensional to outperform benchmarks and peers over long periods and across strategies.⁴ Taking a long-term view, over the 20 years ending September 2024, 84% of Dimensional's US-domiciled funds outperformed their benchmarks compared to just 17% for the industry. While only 46% of funds in the industry survived the 20-year period, investors in Dimensional funds were unaffected by closures, as 100% of Dimensional funds are still in existence.

We believe a manager's body of work across all funds launched gives you more information about that manager than evaluating a single strategy. In a model that is composed of multiple funds, a compelling track record across the manager's fund lineup is of particular importance to investors.

Exhibit 2**Dimensional vs. the Industry**

Percentage of US-domiciled equity and fixed income funds that outperformed their benchmarks as of September 30, 2024



Performance data shown represents past performance and is no guarantee of future results. Current performance may be higher or lower than the performance shown. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. To obtain performance data current to the most recent month-end, visit dimensional.com. Performance includes reinvestment of dividends and other earnings.

The sample includes funds at the beginning of each respective period. Survivors are funds that had returns for every month in the sample period. Outperformers (winner funds) are funds that survived the sample period and whose cumulative net return over the period exceeded that of their respective benchmark. Each fund is evaluated relative to its respective primary prospectus benchmark. Where the full series of primary prospectus benchmark returns is unavailable, non-Dimensional funds are instead evaluated relative to their Morningstar category index. See Appendix for more information.

1. Dimensional fund data provided by the fund accountant. Dimensional funds or subadvised funds whose access is or previously was limited to certain investors are excluded.

2. US-domiciled, USD-denominated open-end and exchange-traded fund data is provided by Morningstar.

3. STRATEGIC ASSET ALLOCATION WITH ACTIVE DAILY IMPLEMENTATION AT THE FUND LEVEL IS AN APPROACH THAT CAN MAKE ADVISORS' LIVES EASIER.

Models provide financial advisors with a scalable investment solution. Dimensional's models provide advisors with a scalable solution that is reliably consistent and easy to explain.

Dimensional's models integrate a strategic approach to asset allocation at the model level with a daily implementation approach at the fund level.⁵

For investors, our daily process at the fund level helps to ensure our models maintain a consistent focus on securities with higher expected returns and add value through daily consideration of real-time market information.

For advisors, our strategic approach can make model management simpler, which tends to reduce the level of trading needed to track the models and makes them easier to

explain to investors.

Dimensional's systematic investment approach means that advisors can trust we will do what we said we would. An approach that relies on trying to outguess the market can put advisors in a position of having to say "sorry" for getting it wrong. But an evidence-based approach that systematically overweights securities with higher expected returns leads to transparent, understandable, and easily explainable outcomes.

GLOSSARY

Asset allocation: The way in which a portfolio is divided among underlying assets.

Correlation: A statistical measure of linear dependence.

Credit premium: The return difference between bonds of similar maturity but different credit quality.

Currency of issuance: The currency in which an asset is issued, such as a USD- versus euro-denominated bond.

Factor-based investing: An investing approach targeting securities associated with higher returns.

Higher expected returns: Expected outperformance informed by historical data.

Market capitalization: The total value of all a company's shares of stock, calculated by multiplying the price of a stock by its total number of outstanding shares.

Relative price: Refers to a company's price, or the market value of its equity, in relation to another measure of economic value, such as book value.

Profitability: A company's operating income before depreciation and amortization minus interest expense scaled by book equity.

Term premium: The return difference between bonds with different maturities but similar credit quality.

1. Eugene Fama (University of Chicago; Nobel laureate, 2013), Dimensional Director and Consultant, Dimensional, 1981–present. Robert Merton (MIT; Nobel laureate 1997), Director, Dimensional US Mutual Funds 2003–2009; Resident Scientist, Dimensional Holdings Inc., 2009–present. Douglas Diamond (University of Chicago; Nobel laureate 2022), Independent Director, Dimensional US Mutual Funds, 2017–2021; Lead Independent Director, Dimensional US Mutual Funds and ETFs, 2022–present. Merton Miller (University of Chicago; Nobel laureate 1990), Independent Director, Dimensional US Mutual Funds, 1981–2000. Myron Scholes (Stanford University; Nobel laureate 1997), Independent Director, Dimensional US Mutual Funds, 1981–2012.

2. "Backtest" refers to applying a strategy or approach to historical data.

3. The Dimensional World Core Equity Portfolio, another fund of funds, has also outperformed its benchmark since its first full month, returning 10.26% from April 1, 2012, through September 30, 2024, compared to 9.73% for the MSCI All Country World IMI Index (net div.).

4. Excluding funds whose access is or previously was limited to certain investors

5. For more information, see: Kaitlin Hendrix, "Dimensional Models: Low Turnover plus Active Implementation" (Dimensional Fund Advisors, November 2023).

This information is intended for registered investment advisors and institutional investors and is not intended for public use. Dimensional Fund Advisors LP is an investment advisor registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Consider the investment objectives, risks, and charges and expenses of the Dimensional funds carefully before investing. For this and other information about the Dimensional funds, please read the prospectus carefully before investing. Prospectuses are available by calling Dimensional Fund Advisors collect at (512) 306-7400 or at dimensional.com. Dimensional funds are distributed by DFA Securities LLC.

Risks include loss of principal and fluctuating value. Investment value will fluctuate, and shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than original cost. There is no guarantee strategies will be successful.

The Dimensional Models are provided for informational purposes only and should not be considered investment advice, a recommendation, or an offering of any services or products for sale. The Dimensional Models are not intended as a sufficient basis on which to make an investment decision. Certain investments included in the Models may not be suitable for investors, nor do they represent a complete investment program.

The Dimensional research and portfolio management teams (the "Model Team") developed the Dimensional Models. The Model Team, with oversight from Dimensional's Investment Committee, generally expects to select funds for the Models managed by Dimensional ("Dimensional Funds") without considering the universe of funds sponsored by persons not affiliated with Dimensional or its affiliates ("Third-Party Funds"), even though there may or may not be Third-Party Funds that may be more appropriate for inclusion in such Dimensional Models. To the extent a user implements all or part of a Model, this will generate advisory and other fees for Dimensional or its affiliate, and the management fees of Dimensional funds may be higher than fees charged by Third-Party Funds. The Dimensional Models asset allocation represents the selected target asset mix as determined by the Model Team and as of the date it is provided.

Use of the Models does not imply that Dimensional has provided any legal, tax, or accounting advice or recommendations in relation to the Models or advice on whether it would be advisable for any institutional investor, registered investment advisor ("Advisor"), or client of the Advisor to invest in any Model or Dimensional Funds. The Dimensional Funds selected for a Dimensional Model may not perform as well as and may be subject to higher fees and expenses than other investment products that could have been selected for such Dimensional Model, including potentially Third-Party Funds. Users of the Models shall be responsible for independently determining the appropriateness of a Model and any Dimensional Funds for such user or its clients. Institutional investors and Advisors shall be responsible for rebalancing portfolios for themselves or their clients.

Dimensional is providing information in the form of Dimensional Models as ideas for possible construction of portfolios centered around the Dimensional Funds and not as investment advice or research. Dimensional is not providing any investment, tax, or financial advice to any institutional investor, Advisor, or any client of the Advisor, and has no obligation to, and will not take into account the tax status, investment goals, or other characteristics of any Advisor or any client of the Advisor when compiling the Dimensional Models. Dimensional is not acting as a fiduciary to any institutional investor, Advisor, or any client of the Advisor, nor is any institutional investor, Advisor, or any client of the Advisor entering into any type of advisory or other relationship with Dimensional. The investment decisions made by any institutional investor, Advisor or any client of the Advisor based on the Dimensional Models provided shall be at the institutional investor's, Advisor's, or such client's own risk, and Dimensional makes no guarantee as to the merits of any Model or Dimensional Funds selected for a Model.

The information herein does not constitute a recommendation from Dimensional Fund Advisors LP. The risk of the Models is subject to the risk of the Dimensional Funds, which can be found in the applicable prospectus, and the selection of Dimensional Funds and the allocation

and reallocation of Model assets may not produce a desired result.

Appendix

Periodic Performance

Annualized Returns as of
September 30, 2024

	1 Year	5 Years	10 Years	Since 1/1/2004	Net Expense Ratio (to investor)	Gross Expense Ratio
Dimensional Global Equity Portfolio Class I	30.35%	12.93%	9.90%	9.01%	0.25%	0.43%
MSCI All Country World IMI Index (net div.)	30.96%	11.87%	9.20%	8.25%	—	—
Dimensional Global Allocation 60/40 Portfolio Class I	20.93%	8.57%	6.91%	6.75%	0.25%	0.42%
Global 60/40 Portfolio Custom Benchmark	20.68%	7.94%	6.32%	6.10%	—	—
Dimensional Global Allocation 25/75 Portfolio Class I	12.24%	4.54%	3.96%	4.37%	0.24%	0.39%
Global 25/75 Portfolio Custom Benchmark	12.30%	4.40%	3.68%	3.91%	—	—
World Core Equity Portfolio Institutional Class	29.66%	12.43%	9.34%	—	0.27%	0.44%

Performance data shown represents past performance. Past performance is no guarantee of future results, and current performance may be higher or lower than the performance shown. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Average annual total returns include reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. To obtain Dimensional Fund performance data current to the most recent month-end, access our website at www.dimensional.com. The Portfolios have entered into fee waiver and/or expense assumption arrangements with the advisor. In these cases, the advisor has contractually agreed, under certain circumstances, to waive certain fees and/or assume certain expenses of the Portfolio. The fee waiver will remain in effect through February 28, 2025, and may only be terminated by the Portfolio's Board of Directors/Trustees prior to that date. The net expense ratio reflects the gross expense ratio of the Portfolio after taking into account any such fee waiver and/or expense assumption arrangements. The gross expense ratio reflects the Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses as disclosed in the prospectus. Please read the Portfolio's prospectus for details and more information.

Standardized performance and complete information on investment objectives, risks, advisory fees, and expenses of Dimensional's funds are available here: <https://www.dimensional.com/us-en/funds>

DIMENSIONAL VS. THE INDUSTRY

Data Sample

The sample includes US-domiciled, USD-denominated open-end and exchange-traded funds (ETFs) in the following Morningstar categories. Non-Dimensional fund data provided by Morningstar. Dimensional fund data is provided by the fund accountant. Dimensional funds or subadvised funds whose access is or previously was limited to certain investors are excluded. Dimensional Retirement Equity Fund included. Index funds, load-waived funds, and funds of funds are excluded from the industry sample.

Methodology

The beginning samples include funds as of the start of each respective time period. Surviving funds are those with return observations for every month of the sample period. Each fund is evaluated relative to its primary prospectus benchmark. Where the full series of primary prospectus benchmark returns is unavailable, non-Dimensional funds are instead evaluated relative to their Morningstar category index. Outperformers are funds that survived the sample period and whose cumulative net return over the period exceeded that of their respective benchmark. We aggregate funds with multiple share classes to the strategy level.

Morningstar Categories (Equity)

Equity fund sample includes the following Morningstar historical categories:

Diversified Emerging Markets, Europe Stock, Foreign Large Blend, Foreign Large

Growth, Foreign Large Value, Foreign Small/Mid Blend, Foreign Small/Mid Growth, Foreign Small/Mid Value, Global Real Estate, Japan Stock, Large Blend, Large Growth, Large Value, Mid-Cap Blend, Mid-Cap Growth, Mid-Cap Value, Miscellaneous Region, Pacific/Asia ex-Japan Stock, Real Estate, Small Blend, Small Growth, Small Value, Global Large-Stock Blend, Global Large-Stock Growth, Global Large-Stock Value, and Global Small/Mid Stock.

Morningstar Categories (Fixed Income)

Fixed income fund sample includes the following Morningstar historical categories: Corporate Bond, High Yield Bond, Inflation-Protected Bond, Intermediate Core Bond, Intermediate Core-Plus Bond, Long-Term Bond, Intermediate Government, Long Government, Muni California Intermediate, Muni California Long, Muni Massachusetts, Muni Minnesota, Muni National Intermediate, Muni National Long, Muni National Short, Muni New Jersey, Muni New York Intermediate, Muni New York Long, Muni Ohio, Muni Pennsylvania, Muni Single State Intermediate, Muni Single State Long, Muni Single State Short, Muni Target Maturity, Short Government, Short-Term Bond, Ultrashort Bond, Global Bond, and Global Bond-USD Hedged.

Index Data Sources

Index data provided by Bloomberg, MSCI, Russell, FTSE Fixed Income LLC, and S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC. Bloomberg data provided by Bloomberg. MSCI data © MSCI 2024, all rights reserved. Frank Russell Company is the source and owner of the trademarks, service marks, and copyrights related to the Russell Indexes. FTSE fixed income indices © 2024 FTSE Fixed Income LLC. All rights reserved. S&P data © 2024 S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, a division of S&P Global. All rights reserved. Indices are not available for direct investment. Their performance does not reflect the expenses associated with management of an actual portfolio. US-domiciled mutual funds and US-domiciled ETFs are not generally available for distribution outside the US.

Mutual fund investment values will fluctuate, and shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than original cost. Diversification neither assures a profit nor guarantees against a loss in a declining market. There is no guarantee investment strategies will be successful. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. ETFs trade like stocks, fluctuate in market value, and may trade either at a premium or a discount to their net asset value. ETF shares trade at market price and are not individually redeemable with the issuing fund, other than in large share amounts called creation units. ETFs are subject to risks similar to those of stocks, including those regarding short-selling and margin account maintenance. Brokerage commissions and expenses will reduce returns.