

# The Promises and Pitfalls of Factor Timing

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## Outline

- Factor Timing = The Holy Grail?
- The Literature on Factor Timing
- Which Signals Might Predict Factor Returns?
- The Empirical Evidence
- The Perils and Pitfalls of Factor Timing
- Overcoming the Challenges

The material contained in this presentation is current as of the presentation date, unless otherwise indicated.



## **Factor Timing = Holy Grail?**





## **Factor Returns**

## Full-Sample Performance for Fama-French factor returns (July 1963 to June 2017)

	Mkt-RF	Size	Value	Profitability	Investment	Momentum
Annualized Return	5.2%	12.1%	13.6%	11.5%	12.6%	14.1%
Annualized Volatility	15%	21%	17%	15%	15%	17%
Excess Return	0.0%	7.0%	8.4%	6.3%	7.4%	9.0%
Risk Adjusted Return	0.34	0.57	0.81	0.76	0.83	0.84

Past performance does not guarantee future results.



## But Factors are Cyclical...

## Excess Returns of Factors by Decade

(Excess returns annualized relative to the Fama-French market factor)

	Size	Value	Profitability	Investment	Momentum
July 1963 to 1969	15.2%	9.4%	7.1%	3.7%	13.1%
1970 to 1979	7.2%	13.8%	5.5%	8.7%	10.0%
1980 to 1989	14.2%	13.4%	10.8%	14.5%	16.1%
1990 to 1999	1.4%	6.4%	8.2%	7.8%	9.4%
2000 to 2009	9.9%	8.7%	4.3%	7.3%	7.9%
2010 to June 2017	-0.6%	-1.6%	2.9%	1.0%	1.5%

Darker green: strong positive premium Darker red: strong negative premium

Past performance does not guarantee future results.



## But Factors are Cyclical...

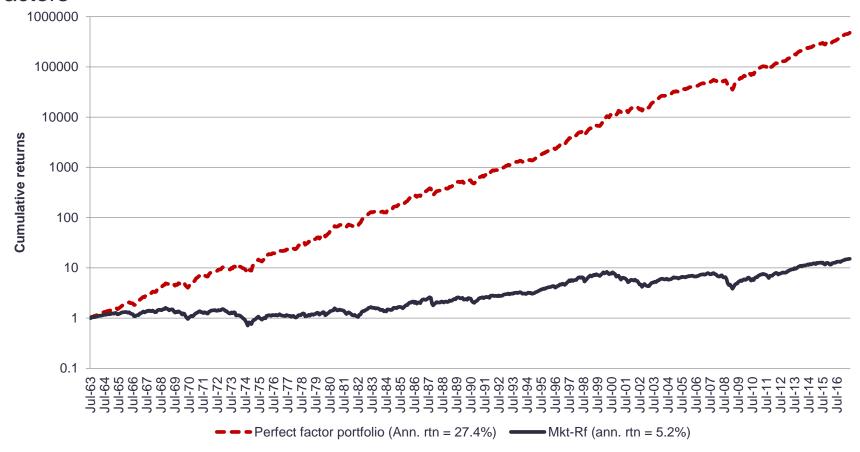




Source: SSGA

## ... And With Foresight, the Opportunity for Alpha is Astounding

A Long-Only Portfolio Rebalanced Monthly Holding Positive Historical Return Factors





Source: SSGA, Kenneth French. As of 8/31/2017. Factor returns represent the returns of components of a universe comprised of publicly listed US companies as defined by Eugene Fama and Kenneth French. The portfolios used are those of the Fama-French long-only portfolios. The performance assumes no transaction and rebalancing costs, so actual results will differ. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Market returns use the Fama-French market portfolio minus the risk-free rate and assume no transaction costs or rebalancing costs. Performance of the factor and market portfolios is not indicative of the performance of any product managed by SSGA.

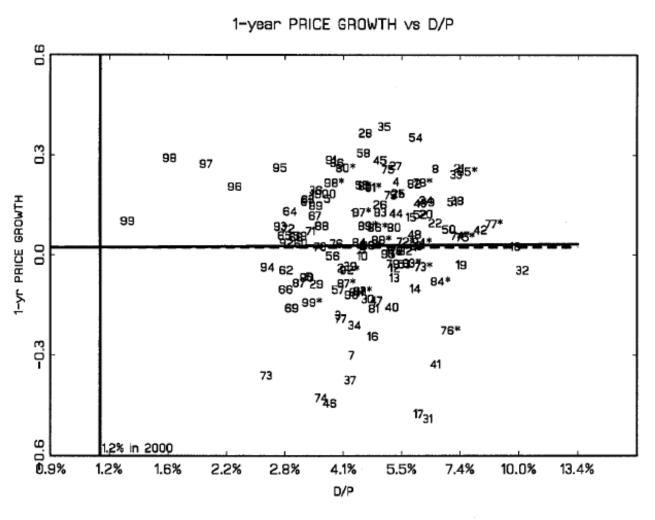
Source: SSGA. Kenneth French.

## **The Literature**





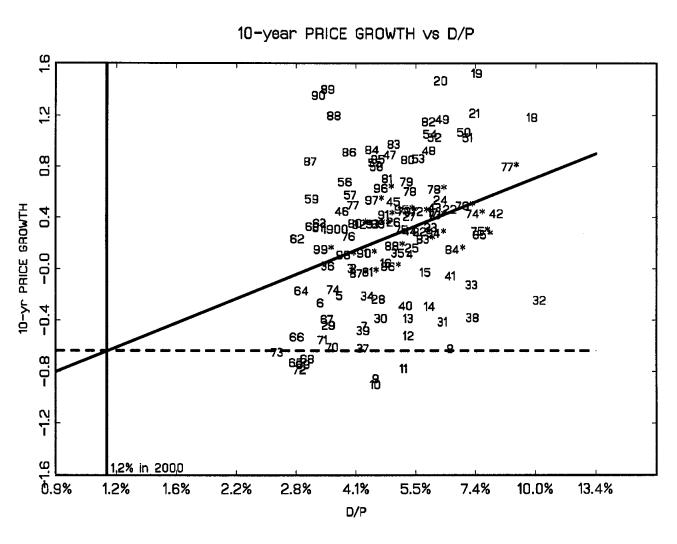
## Campbell and Shiller (1998) on the Relationship between Dividend Yield and Future Market Returns





Source: "Valuation Ratios and the Long-Run Stock Market Outlook: An Update" - John Y. Campbell and Robert J. Shiller. Data updated through 2000.

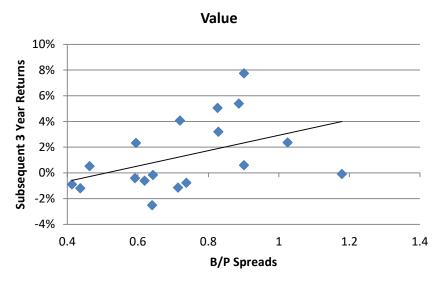
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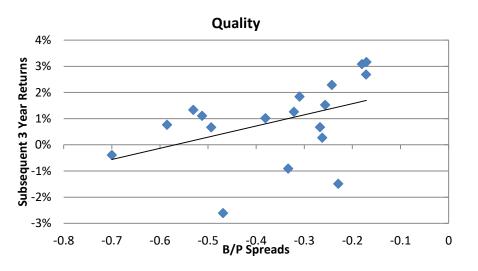


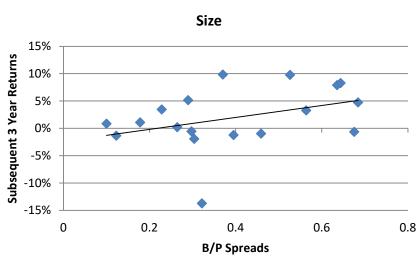


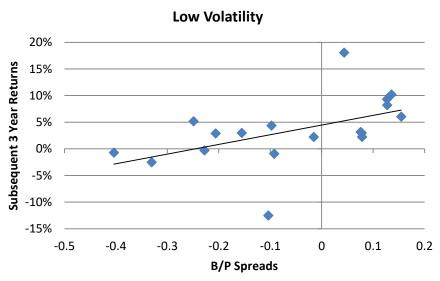


## Extending Campbell and Shiller to Factors: Thomas and Shapiro (2014)







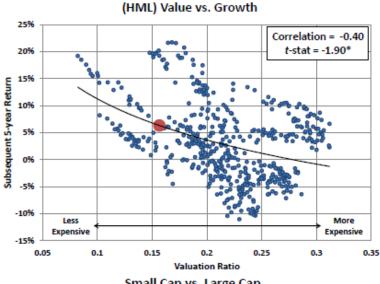


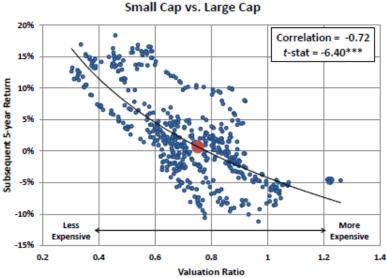
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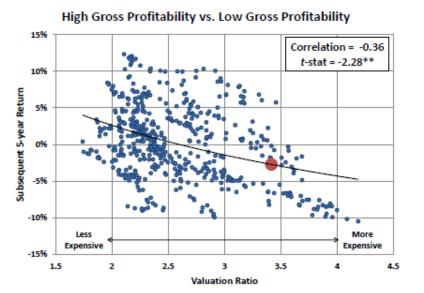
Source: SSGA

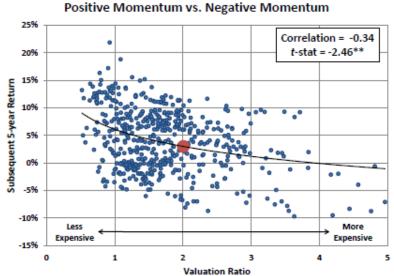
Extending Campbell and Shiller to Factors: Arnott, Beck, and Kalesnik

(2016)





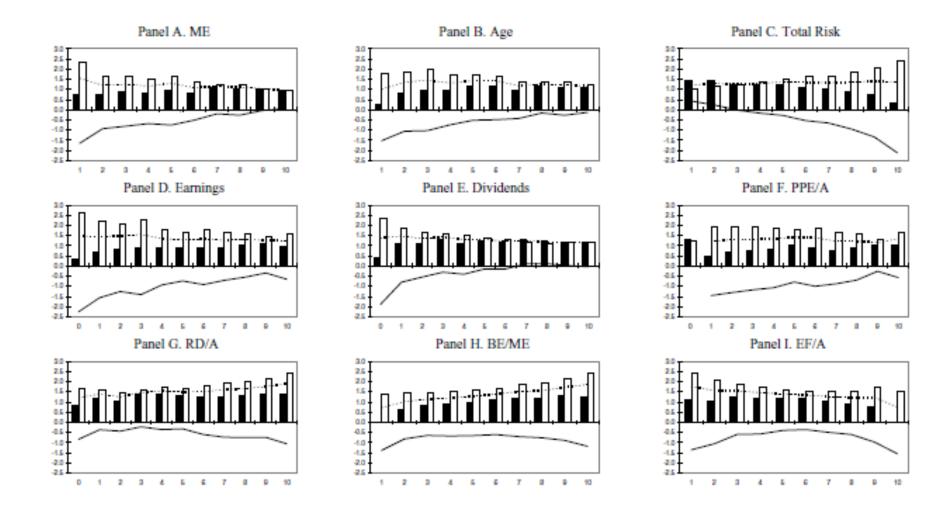






Source: Research Affiliates

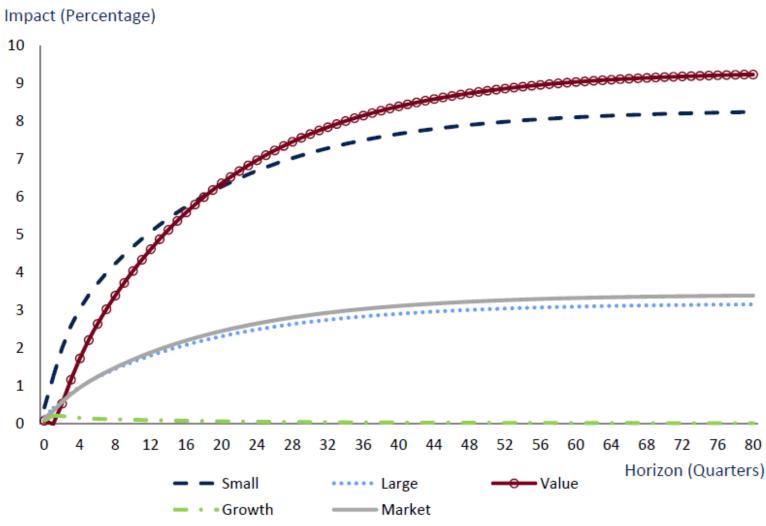
## Baker and Wurgler (2006) on Sentiment





Source: "Investor Sentiment and the Cross-Section of Stock Returns," Malcom Baker and Jeffery Wurgler, Journal of Finance, August 2006

## Winkelmann, Suryanarayanan, Hentschel, and Varga (2013) on Macroeconomic Shocks





Source: "Macro-Sensitive Portfolio Strategies: Macroeconomic Risk and Asset Cash Flows" - Winkelmann, Suryanarayanan, Hentschel, and Varga, MSCI, March 2013

## The Literature

- Historical real earnings: Campbell and Shiller (1988)
- Dividend yield: Fama and French (1988)
- Cross-sectional beta premium: Polk et al. (2006)
- Investment to capital ratio: Cochrane (1991)
- Stock market volatility: Merton (1980) and French, Schwert and Stambaugh (1987)
- Spread between yields on low-grade corporate bonds and one-month Treasury Bills: Keim and Stambaugh (1986)
- Term spread: Campbell (1987) and Fama and French (1989)
- Inflation: Campbell and Vuolteenaho (2003)
- The share of equity issues in total new equity and debt issues: Baker and Wurgler (2000)
- Aggregate market's implied cost of capital: Li, Ng, and Swaminathan (2013)
- Sentiment indicators: Huang et al. (2014)

## The Literature

#### Valuation and Momentum

- Garcia-Feijoo, Kochard, Sullivan, Wang (2015): used to predict Low Volatilty
- Arnott, Beck, Kalesnik (2016, 2017): used to predict Value, Momentum, Low Beta, Gross Profitability,
   Investment, Size

#### Sentiment

Baker and Wurgler (2006): used to predict Size, Volatility, Dividend yield, Growth, Profitability

### Macroeconomic Cycles

- Jacobs and Levy (1989): used to predict Size
- Muijsson, Fishwick, Satchell (2014): used to predict Beta
- Winkelmann, Suryanarayanan, Hentschel, and Varga (2013): used to predict Size and Value



## Which Signals Might Predict Factor Returns? And Why?





## **Candidate Predictors**

Category	Examples of Individual Metrics
Financial Conditions	Corporate credit spread, TED spread,
	Money Supply Growth
Economic	GDP growth, Capacity Ratio, Consumer
Conditions/Macroeconomic	Confidence Index
Cycle	
Sentiment/Risk Sentiment	VIX, ISM PMI
Valuation	CAPE, Dividend Yield, Earnings Yield,
	Book-to-Price
Trend/Momentum/Persistence	Past performance (1 mth, 3 mths, 6 mths,
	1 year, 3 years, 5 years)



Source: SSGA



## Some Priors

	Size (Small Cap)	Quality (Profitability/I nvestment)	Low Volatility	Value	Momentum
Factor Valuation	-	-	-	-	-
Factor Momentum	+	+	+	+	+
Sentiment ("propensity to speculate")	-	+	+	-	n/a
Measures of Risk (Corporate credit spreads, TED spread)	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-
Measures of Economic outlook (TERM spread, Change in Capacity Ratio, Inflation, ISM PMI)	+	-	-	+/-	+/-



Source: SSGA

## **The Empirical Evidence**





### **Factor Data**

History: July 1963 – July 2015

Factor Portfolios: Fama-French long-only portfolios

• Size: low 30%

• Value: high 30%

Profitability: high 30%

Investment: low 30%

Momentum: top 3 deciles

Market: all NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ securities

Factor	Fama-French Definitions
Size	Market equity
Value	Book to Market ratio
Profitability	ROE
Investment	YoY growth rate of total assets
momentum	Prior 2-12 return
Market	All NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ securities

- All portfolios are Cap-weighted, and annually reconstituted (except that Momentum is reconstituted monthly).
- Annual one-way turnover of 30% (monthly of 10% for Momentum) is assumed in order to take out the transaction cost before compounding to long-horizon returns.



## **Candidate Predictors**

RHS Variables , Definition, Data Sources, Availability

Financial Conditions	Definition	sources	From	Till
corporate credit spread	Yield Spread between Moody's BAA and AAA Corporate Bond	Bloomberg	196001	201507
TED spread 1	3-month InterBank Rate - 3-month T-Bill rate	Datastream	197201	201507
TED spread 2	3-month InterBank Rate - 3-month T-Bill rate	FactSet	198601	201507
Term spread	Treasury Yield 20-year - 3-month T-Bill rate	Datastream	197201	201507
M base	YoY growth of monetary base adjusted after inflation	Datastream	196001	201507
M1	YoY growth of money supply M1 adjusted after inflation	Datastream	196001	201507
M2	YoY growth of money supply M2 adjusted after inflation	Datastream	196001	201507
DJIA	YoY growth of Dow Jones Industrial Average Index	Datastream	196001	201507
bank loan	YoY growth of commercial bank assets - loans and leases in bank credit	Datastream	196001	201507
Economic Conditions	Definition	sources	From	Till
gdp	YoY growth of US gdp (constant price)	Datastream	196002	201507
personal consumption	YoY growth of personal consumption (constant price)	Datastream	196002	201507
private fixed inv	YoY growth of domestic private fixed investment (constant price)	Datastream	196002	201507
Current Account	YoY growth of current account adjusted after inflation	Datastream	196102	
Unit output	YoY growth of output per hour (nonfarm business) adjusted after inflation	Datastream	196002	201507
Corporate profit	YoY growth of corporate profits adjusted after inflation	Datastream	196002	201507
bankcruptcy	YoY growth of bankruptcy filings	Datastream	198111	201507
capacity ratio	YoY growth of capacity utilization rate all industry	Datastream	196801	201507
tot treasury out	YoY growth of totoal treasury securities outstanding adjusted after inflation	Datastream	196001	201507
tot cons credit	YoY growth of consumer credit outstanding adjusted after inflation	Datastream	196001	201507
savings rate	personal savings as % of disposable personal income	Datastream	195901	201507
Consumer Conf Index	YoY growth of consumer confidence index	Datastream	196802	201507
personal income	YoY growth of personal income adjusted after inflation	Datastream	196001	201507
•	CPI- ALL URBAN SAMPLE: ALL ITEMS - ANNUAL INFLATION RATE			
CPI	NADJ	Datastream	195901	201507
PPI	US PPI - FINISHED GOODS SADJ	Datastream	196001	201507
Change in CPI	YoY change of CPI	Datastream	196001	201507
change in PPI	YoY change of PPI	Datastream	196101	201507
unemployment rate	unemployment rate	Datastream	195901	201507
Unemploy initial claims 4-wk avg	YoY growth of smoothed 4-week average of unemployment intial claims	Datastream	196801	201507

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Source: SSGA

## **Candidate Predictors**

#### RHS Variables , Definition, Data Sources, Availability

Housing Market	Definition	sources	From	Till
sales of new homes	YoY growth of sales of new one family houses adjusted after inflation	Datastream	196901	201507
sales of existing homes	YoY growth of existing home sales: single-family and condo adjusted after inflation	Datastream	198601	201507
home builder	YoY growth of national association of home builders index adjusted after inflation	Datastream	196001	201507
Unit housing started	YoY growth of new private housing units started	Datastream		

Sentiment	Definition	sources	From	Till
VIX average	monthly average of high and low VIX	FactSet	199001	201507
	linear combination of first principal component of six sentiment proxies, where each	ch		
SENT <sup>^</sup>	has first been orthogonalized with respect to a set of macroeconomic conditions	Baker and Wurgler	196507	201012
SENT	linear combination of first principal component of six sentiment proxies	Baker and Wurgler	196507	201012
DSENT <sup>^</sup>	change of SENT^	Baker and Wurgler	196508	201012
DSENT	change of SENT	Baker and Wurgler	196508	201012
Leading indicator	YoY growth of US the conference board leading economic indicators index	Datastream	196001	201507
ISM PMI	YoY growth of ISM purchasing manager index	Datastream	196001	201507

Shiller's Indicators	Definition	sources	From	Till
CAPE	Cyclically adjusted price to earnings ratio (P/E10)	Shiller	195901	201507
Div Yield	real dividend / real price	Shiller	195901	201506
Earn yield	real earnings/ real price	Shiller	195901	201412

Factor Momentum	Definition	sources	From	Till
Past 1-month performance	excess factor returns in the past 1 month	French's data library	196308	201507
Past 3-month performance	excess factor returns in the past 3 months	French's data library	196310	201507
Past 6-month performance	excess factor returns in the past 6 months	French's data library	196401	201507
Past 1-year performance	excess factor returns in the past 1 year	French's data library	196407	201507
Past 2-year performance	excess factor returns in the past 2 years	French's data library	196507	201507
Past 3-year performance	excess factor returns in the past 3 years	French's data library	196607	201507
Past 5-year performance	excess factor returns in the past 5 years	French's data library	196807	201507

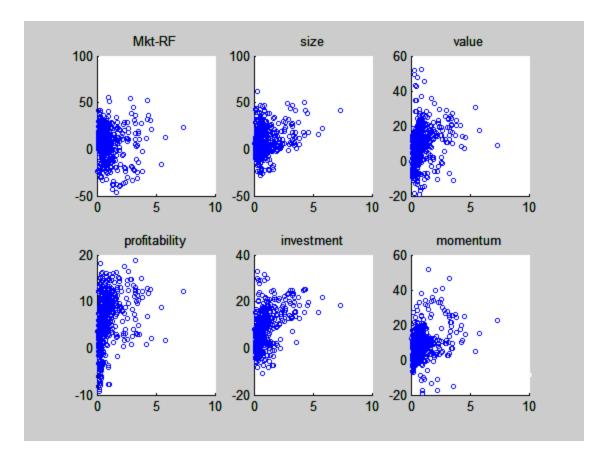
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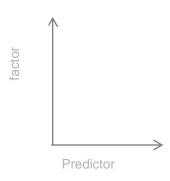
Source: SSGA



## **TED Spread**

#### TED Spread vs Forward 1-Year Factor Premia (July 1963 – July 2015)

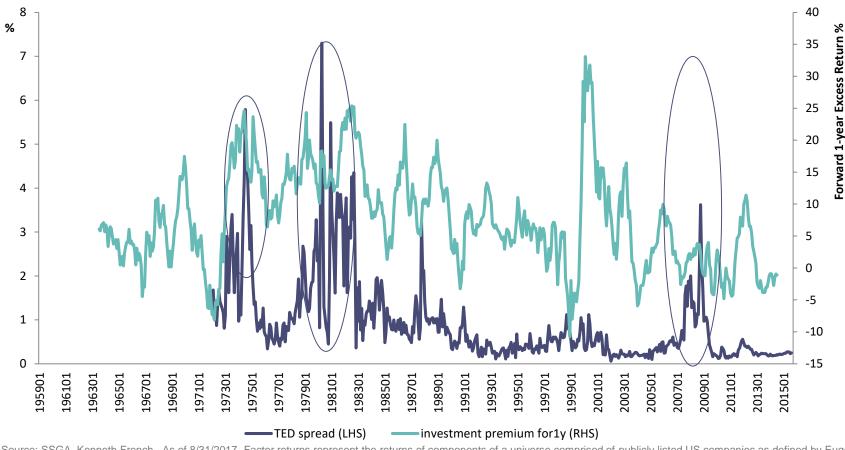






## **TED Spread**

#### TED Spread vs 1 Year Forward Investment Factor





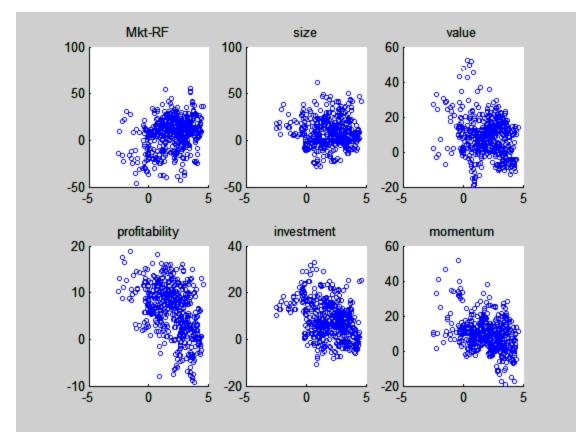
Source: SSGA, Kenneth French. As of 8/31/2017. Factor returns represent the returns of components of a universe comprised of publicly listed US companies as defined by Eugene Fama and Kenneth French. The portfolios used are those of the Fama-French long-only portfolios. The performance assumes no transaction and rebalancing costs, so actual results will differ. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Market returns use the Fama-French market portfolio minus the risk-free rate and assume no transaction costs or rebalancing costs. Performance of the factor and market portfolios is not indicative of the performance of any product managed by SSGA.

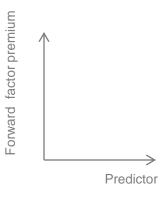
Corporate Credit Spread (Yield Spread between BAA and AAA Corporate Bond)



## **TERM Spread**

TERM Spread vs. Forward 1- Year Factor Premia (July 1963 – July 2015)



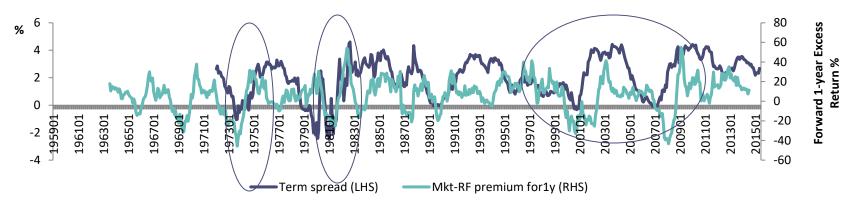




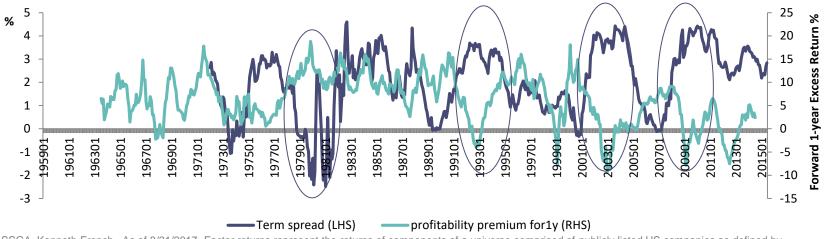
## **TERM Spread**

#### TERM Spread vs. Forward 1- Year Factor Premia (July 1963 – July 2015)

Market Premium and TERM Spread



#### Profitability Premium and TERM Spread

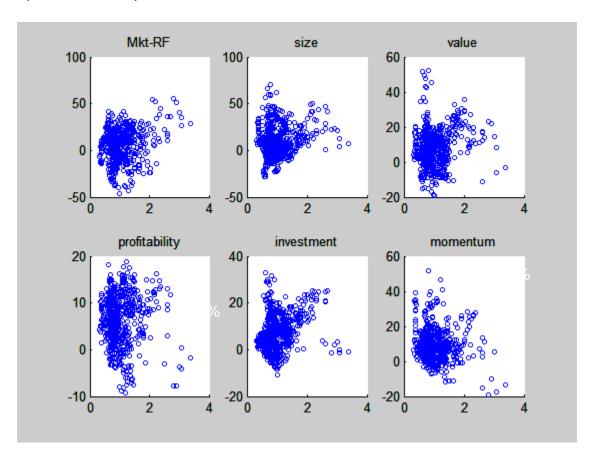


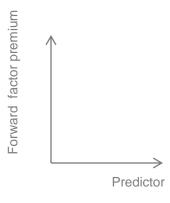


## Corporate Credit Spread

Corporate Credit Spread vs Forward 1-Year Factor Premia (July 1963 – July 2015)

Corporate Credit Spread vs Forward 1-Year Factor Premium



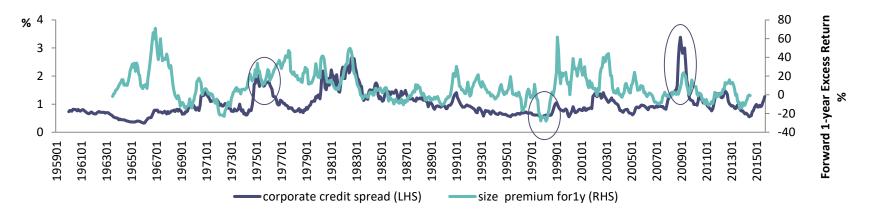




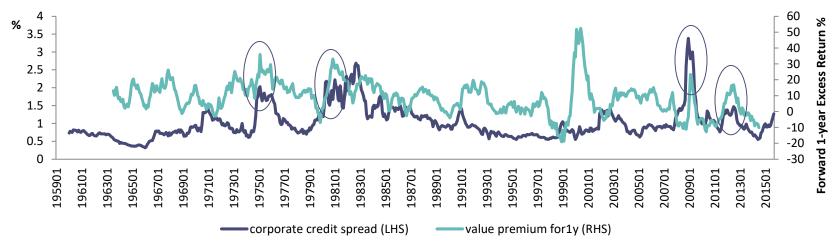
## Corporate Credit Spread

#### Corporate Credit Spread vs Forward 1-Year Factor Premia (July 1963 – July 2015)

Size Premium and Corporate Credit Spread



Value Premium and Corporate Credit Spread





## Financial Predictors vs. Forward Factor Performance

		Corporate credit spread							
		(Yield Spread							YoY growth of
			TED spread (3-		Term spread				commercial
		Moody's BAA	month		•	YoY growth of	VoV growth of	VoV growth of	
			InterBank Rate		•	monetary base	•	•	Loans and
		Corporate	- 3-month T-		month T-Bill	adjusted after	, , , ,	M2 adjusted	leases in bank
		Bond)	Bill rate)	TED spread 2	rate)	inflation	•	after inflation	credit
	size	7%	6%	-10%	2%	-4%	-6%	-2%	-5%
	value	0%	14%	-8%	-12%	-13%	-9%	-5%	3%
Forward 1	profitability	4%	11%	25%	-19%	-12%	-18%	-5%	6%
Month return	investment	9%	20%	1%	-18%	-13%	-12%	-12%	-4%
	momentum	-6%	9%	3%	-13%	-17%	-14%	-9%	1%
	size	12%	11%	-7%	1%	-6%	-11%	-5%	-9%
Famusand 2	value	4%	16%	-8%	-21%	-15%	-12%	-5%	6%
Forward 3 Month return	profitability	3%	18%	31%	-28%	-21%	-27%	-10%	9%
Worth return	investment	14%	30%	6%	-28%	-20%	-17%	-18%	-4%
	momentum	-9%	19%	5%	-21%	-27%	-24%	-14%	4%
	size	15%	17%	-7%	0%	-7%	-15%	-7%	-11%
Forward 6	value	8%	21%	4%	-24%	-15%	-13%	-5%	6%
Month return	profitability	3%	27%	34%	-37%	-29%	-36%	-14%	13%
Month return	investment	19%	35%	14%	-36%	-24%	-21%	-22%	-4%
	momentum	-14%	24%	0%	-28%	-32%	-29%	-15%	6%
	size	15%	27%	-7%	-2%	-9%	-19%	-8%	-12%
Forward 1	value	16%	28%	9%	-20%	-21%	-16%	-8%	1%
Forward 1	profitability	0%	32%	37%	-46%	-33%	-44%	-21%	17%
Year return	investment	25%	47%	24%	-37%	-28%	-27%	-31%	-6%
	momentum	-16%	30%	0%	-37%	-28%	-31%	-15%	9%

Darker green: strong positive correlation Darker red: strong negative correlation

Source: SSGA, Kenneth French. As of 8/31/2017. Analysis over period data is available – see Slides 22 and 23

Factor returns represent the returns of components of a universe comprised of publicly listed US companies as defined by Eugene Fama and Kenneth French. The portfolios used are those of the Fama-French long-only portfolios. The performance assumes no transaction and rebalancing costs, so actual results will differ. Past performance is not a quarantee of future results. Performance of the factor portfolios is not indicative of the performance of any product managed by SSGA.





## Economic Predictors vs. Forward Factor Performance

				Private									Change in						
				Domesti						Change			Consum						
			Personal					_	Changei		_		er	Change					
		CDD	Consum			Unit	Corporat		n	treasury		Personal		in			Chanas	Chamas	Unempl
		GDP growth	ption growth	ent growth	account growth	output growth	-	Bankrup ty filings	ratio	securitie	er Credit	_	nce Index	personal income	CPI	PPI	in CPI	Change in PPI	oyment rate
	size	-6%	-5%	-6%	-1%	-5%	2%	4%	-10%	-5%	-6%	7%	-4%	-6%	7%	6%	-1%	0%	3%
	value	6%	7%	4%	-3%	-6%	3%	4%	1%	-5%	-2%	14%	9%	8%	13%	10%	-2%	-3%	0%
Forward 1	profitability	3%	2%	0%	2%	-15%	-13%	6%	-1%	-10%	6%	10%	-6%	6%	15%	9%	4%	1%	-7%
Month return	investment	-5%	-4%	-7%	-2%	-19%	-11%	0%	-10%	-7%	-5%	12%	-3%	-4%	21%	16%	2%	0%	4%
	momentum	5%	5%	3%	4%	-14%	-5%	-7%	1%	-15%	0%	10%	1%	2%	16%	12%	9%	8%	-7%
	size	-9%	-9%	-11%	-5%	-10%	-2%	6%	-18%	-10%	-11%	12%	-13%	-13%	13%	11%	0%	0%	3%
	value	10%	9%	6%	-6%	-8%	5%	5%	0%	-7%	-4%	23%	10%	12%	18%	14%	-6%	-9%	0%
Forward 3	profitability	6%	5%	0%	3%	-23%	-18%	5%	-2%	-15%	9%	15%	-8%	9%	24%	15%	7%	4%	-11%
Month return	investment	-6%	-6%	-9%	-7%	-28%	-15%	3%	-15%	-12%	-8%	19%	-6%	-5%	32%	24%	4%	-1%	6%
	momentum	8%	7%	7%	0%	-22%	-7%	-12%	1%	-23%	1%	17%	-2%	3%	25%	19%	12%	12%	-10%
	size	-13%	-12%	-14%	-7%	-17%	-7%	10%	-23%	-14%	-15%	16%	-24%	-18%	20%	16%	4%	2%	4%
	value	10%	8%	6%	-5%	-11%	3%	6%	-2%	-7%	-9%	28%	8%	13%	23%	18%	-9%	-12%	0%
Forward 6	profitability	11%	11%	2%	-1%	-29%	-20%	1%	-1%	-19%	14%	20%	-6%	13%	31%	19%	6%	3%	-14%
Month return	investment	-7%	-8%	-10%	-6%	-37%	-21%	4%	-19%	-16%	-10%	25%	-14%	-7%	42%	32%	6%	2%	8%
	momentum	12%	9%	10%	-6%	-29%	-8%	-17%	2%	-28%	3%	23%	-5%	3%	32%	22%	16%	13%	-12%
	size	-10%	-10%	-14%	3%	-21%	-11%	8%	-25%	-22%	-17%	23%	-23%	-16%	26%	21%	6%	-1%	2%
- 1414	value	9%	11%	3%	2%	-22%	-1%	-2%	-2%	-11%	-16%	36%	8%	11%	34%	28%	-8%	-10%	3%
Forward 1 Year	profitability	17%	16%	8%	-2%	-34%	-17%	-9%	1%	-20%	19%	22%	-3%	16%	35%	19%	7%	5%	-14%
return	investment	-7%	-7%	-10%	2%	-50%	-24%	2%	-16%	-22%	-10%	30%	-15%	-10%	55%	43%	12%	7%	11%
	momentum	22%	15%	19%	1%	-32%	-2%	-27%	5%	-29%	8%	32%	0%	10%	38%	21%	12%	2%	-13%
	size	5%	2%	-2%	1%	-20%	-7%	3%	-20%	-30%	-12%	29%	-16%	-6%	29%	26%	4%	-7%	-5%
Forward 2 Year	value	3%	5%	-1%	2%	-40%	-10%	-19%	-8%	-23%	-22%	48%	-4%	-3%	53%	46%	4%	2%	8%
return	profitability	24%	20%	19%	-4%	-37%	-8%	-20%	5%	-16%	23%	24%	8%	15%	37%	17%	9%	11%	-8%
return	investment	2%	0%	1%	-4%	-59%	-21%	-15%	-4%	-23%	-6%	35%	-6%	-8%	64%	49%	13%	8%	13%
	momentum	37%	24%	34%	-5%	-32%	8%	-21%	11%	-26%	15%	42%	8%	22%	42%	24%	10%	-2%	-12%
	size	8%	7%	2%	4%	-24%	-8%	-9%	-20%	-36%	-10%	32%	-14%	-4%	35%	37%	8%	3%	-3%
Forward 3 Year	value	5%	8%	1%	1%	-46%	-15%	-29%	-11%	-28%	-20%	60%	-5%	-4%	62%	52%	4%	5%	12%
return	profitability	21%	17%	23%	-4%	-40%	-7%	-23%	7%	-7%	23%	26%	17%	15%	34%	10%	-1%	-1%	4%
Cturri	investment	7%	4%	8%	-3%	-58%	-18%	-23%	1%	-17%	-6%	44%	3%	-4%	67%	50%	7%	6%	23%
	momentum	30%	21%	32%	0%	-37%	7%	-28%	11%	-23%	14%	43%	9%	14%	45%	30%	13%	5%	-1%
	size	5%	0%	6%	3%	-29%	-6%	-9%	-15%	-37%	-7%	35%	-7%	-5%	40%	44%	11%	1%	3%
Forward 5 Year	value	4%	0%	8%	-3%	-57%	-15%	-13%	-7%	-33%	-15%	67%	-8%	-3%	70%	57%	8%	3%	22%
return	profitability	10%	3%	18%	-2%	-47%	2%	-30%	14%	8%	3%	30%	19%	1%	42%	18%	-8%	-10%	39%
	investment	0%	-5%	8%	-2%	-65%	-16%	-13%	-4%	-11%	-11%	51%	0%	-10%	71%	53%	1%	-4%	42%
	momentum	16%	9%	23%	3%	-44%	11%	-33%	8%	-10%	4%	51%	15%	5%	49%	37%	1%	-7%	27%

Source: SSGA, Kenneth French. As of 8/31/2017. Analysis over period data is available - see Slides 22 and 23. Factor returns represent the returns of components of a universe comprised of publicly listed US companies as defined by Eugene Fama and Kenneth French. The portfolios used are those of the Fama-French long-only portfolios. The performance assumes no transaction and rebalancing costs, so actual results will differ. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Performance of the factor portfolios is not indicative of the performance of any product managed by SSGA.

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## Housing/Sentiment/Valuation vs. Forward Factor Performance

			Housi	ng Mark	et			Shiller Valuation							
		Sales of	f Sales of	f	Unit										
		new	existing	Home	housing	VIX					Leading				
		homes	homes	builder	started	average	SENT^	SENT	DSENT^	DSENT	indicator	ISM PMI	CAPE	Div Yield	Earn yield
	size	6%	-1%	1%	3%	-3%	-9%	-10%	4%	6%	-7%	-3%	-4%	9%	8%
Forward 1	value	4%	1%	4%	1%	-18%	2%	0%	6%	-4%	1%	4%	-8%	11%	11%
Month return	profitability	-8%	-11%	-20%	-5%	5%	13%	13%	-4%	-1%	-6%	-5%	-8%	15%	13%
Wionthretum	investment	-1%	-5%	0%	-3%	-4%	7%	3%	6%	-2%	-11%	-5%	-14%	18%	18%
	momentum	0%	-8%	2%	-1%	-17%	-4%	-5%	5%	5%	1%	-6%	-6%	13%	17%
	size	3%	-6%	-3%	2%	5%	-14%	-17%	2%	4%	-14%	-11%	-7%	16%	14%
Forward 3	value	6%	1%	4%	2%	-19%	1%	-2%	8%	-1%	1%	5%	-13%	18%	16%
Month return	profitability	-12%	-17%	-31%	-9%	-1%	20%	19%	-7%	-3%	-6%	-8%	-13%	24%	23%
Worth return	investment	-4%	-9%	0%	-5%	-8%	10%	4%	5%	3%	-17%	-9%	-20%	28%	28%
	momentum	-3%	-14%	3%	-4%	-24%	-6%	-6%	1%	5%	2%	-11%	-10%	23%	29%
	size	-2%	-10%	-7%	-2%	15%	-21%	-23%	0%	0%	-19%	-18%	-12%	24%	20%
	value	5%	-1%	-3%	2%	-10%	0%	-5%	6%	0%	1%	5%	-17%	24%	20%
Forward 6	profitability	-16%	-20%	-38%	-10%	-12%	26%	24%	-7%	-7%	-5%	-9%	-17%	32%	33%
Month return	investment	-5%	-13%	-4%	-6%	-5%	13%	6%	6%	6%	-21%	-14%	-27%	37%	37%
	momentum	-8%	-16%	1%	-7%	-32%	-10%	-9%	0%	-3%	3%	-16%	-15%	31%	39%
	size	-8%	-19%	0%	-9%	25%	-26%	-29%	6%	7%	-21%	-21%	-13%	30%	26%
	value	7%	-3%	-4%	4%	-10%	-4%	-10%	7%	7%	1%	8%	-22%	33%	29%
Forward 1 Year	profitability	-17%	-23%	-44%	-12%	-21%	26%	25%	-4%	-3%	-1%	-10%	-22%	41%	43%
return	investment	-8%	-21%	-10%	-9%	0%	14%	6%	5%	6%	-21%	-16%	-34%	49%	51%
	momentum	-9%	-16%	0%	-9%	-30%	-15%	-13%	3%	-2%	6%	-15%	-22%	42%	49%
	size	-18%	-16%	-6%	-17%	38%	-44%	-46%	5%	9%	-16%	-13%	-11%	30%	28%
	value	-5%	-14%	-6%	-3%	-10%	-18%	-26%	8%	10%	-7%	0%	-32%	48%	46%
Forward 2 Year	profitability	-4%	-17%	-33%	1%	-38%	24%	24%	1%	-1%	10%	-6%	-32%	52%	53%
return	investment	-19%	-28%	-16%	-14%	-8%	6%	0%	3%	2%	-16%	-11%	-42%	60%	64%
	momentum	-2%	-2%	-2%	-2%	-29%	-31%	-30%	2%	3%	15%	-3%	-33%	53%	55%
	size	-12%	-14%	-8%	-13%	36%	-52%	-57%	6%	10%	-11%	-10%	-10%	29%	32%
	value	-1%	-11%	7%	2%	-3%	-20%	-29%	7%	7%	-5%	-2%	-42%	59%	59%
Forward 3 Year	profitability	1%	-11%	-11%	6%	-47%	23%	23%	-1%	-1%	13%	-9%	-41%	59%	57%
return	investment	-9%	-17%	8%	0%	-11%	-3%	-9%	3%	3%	-7%	-7%	-49%	67%	72%
	momentum	6%	3%	7%	5%	-33%	-39%	-39%	4%	4%	16%	-6%	-40%	57%	60%
	size	-10%	-7%	-2%	-10%	46%	-56%	-61%	5%	6%	-13%	-7%	-13%	27%	36%
	value	-4%	-15%	17%	2%	14%	-14%	-23%	4%	4%	-10%	-5%	-51%	68%	70%
Forward 5 Year	profitability	4%	-13%	14%	12%	-56%	6%	7%	4%	5%	16%	-3%	-57%	69%	68%
return	investment	-4%	-15%	27%	1%	-7%	-11%	-18%	4%	5%	-11%	-9%	-61%	78%	82%
	momentum	7%	3%	17%	8%	-37%	-46%	-47%	4%	4%	11%	-3%	-54%	63%	66%

Source: SSGA, Kenneth French. As of 8/31/2017. Analysis over period data is available – see Slides 22 and 23. Factor returns represent the returns of components of a universe comprised of publicly listed US companies as defined by Eugene Fama and Kenneth French. The portfolios used are those of the Fama-French long-only portfolios. The performance assumes no transaction and rebalancing costs, so actual results will differ. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Performance of the factor portfolios is not indicative of the performance of any product managed by SSGA.

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## Past Factor Returns (1M, 3M, 6M, 12M) vs. Forward Factor Performance

	-			1 month					3 months					6 months			12 months					
		size	value	profitability	investment	momentum	size	value	profitability	investment r	momentum	size	value	profitability	investment	momentum	size	value	profitability	investment	momentum	
	size	10%	3%	-2%	-2%	2%	4%	2%	1%	0%	4%	7%	6%	0%	7%	1%	12%	10%	-1%	9%	5%	
Forward 1 Month return	value	2%	13%	2%	7%	-2%	8%	14%	1%	11%	3%	8%	13%	5%	11%	5%	16%	17%	6%	10%	3%	
	profitability	8%	3%	19%	6%	4%	10%	10%	16%	11%	2%	5%	13%	17%	13%	6%	4%	9%	19%	15%	11%	
	investment	5%	7%	6%	13%	2%	10%	16%	1%	19%	8%	10%	12%	12%	19%	13%	15%	19%	12%	19%	13%	
	momentum	8%	1%	6%	0%	6%	12%	5%	4%	4%	6%	11%	7%	8%	1%	10%	8%	11%	9%	4%	7%	
	size	4%	1%	0%	-1%	3%	1%	4%	2%	4%	1%	8%	6%	0%	10%	1%	14%	12%	-1%	12%	7%	
Forward 3	value	9%	14%	1%	10%	3%	11%	18%	4%	14%	5%	10%	15%	9%	14%	6%	24%	20%	10%	13%	5%	
Month	profitability	9%	9%	16%	10%	1%	10%	14%	15%	14%	6%	2%	20%	21%	19%	10%	5%	14%	25%	21%	18%	
return	investment	11%	15%	1%	18%	8%	11%	17%	10%	20%	14%	13%	17%	20%	25%	19%	20%	26%	18%	26%	20%	
	momentum	12%	5%	4%	4%	5%	16%	12%	8%	7%	10%	12%	15%	13%	3%	12%	9%	20%	15%	8%	9%	
	size	6%	4%	-1%	5%	0%	8%	5%	0%	10%	1%	12%	10%	-2%	18%	4%	20%	14%	-1%	17%	12%	
Forward 6	value	8%	12%	5%	10%	4%	9%	15%	9%	14%	5%	11%	14%	14%	14%	5%	28%	16%	13%	12%	9%	
Month	profitability	3%	12%	16%	12%	5%	0%	19%	21%	18%	10%	-2%	20%	29%	24%	15%	5%	16%	33%	25%	24%	
return	investment	11%	12%	11%	18%	11%	12%	17%	19%	25%	19%	16%	20%	27%	30%	23%	21%	27%	24%	30%	27%	
	momentum	10%	9%	7%	2%	9%	12%	16%	12%	3%	12%	10%	20%	17%	5%	13%	10%	27%	17%	13%	10%	
	size	11%	7%	-2%	7%	3%	14%	10%	0%	13%	6%	19%	13%	0%	19%	12%	24%	18%	-1%	17%	19%	
	value	15%	13%	5%	8%	2%	21%	16%	9%	11%	4%	26%	14%	13%	12%	8%	34%	12%	12%	14%	16%	
Forward 1 Year return	profitability	2%	7%	19%	14%	9%	3%	12%	25%	20%	16%	4%	14%	32%	24%	22%	8%	15%	35%	28%	30%	
	investment	13%	15%	13%	17%	11%	16%	22%	20%	26%	19%	18%	24%	25%	30%	27%	21%	29%	23%	31%	32%	
	momentum	8%	11%	10%	5%	8%	9%	19%	16%	10%	10%	10%	25%	19%	14%	10%	15%	33%	21%	22%	10%	
	size	9%	7%	0%	5%	5%	12%	10%	1%	10%	9%	19%	13%	-1%	14%	16%	26%	18%	-2%	16%	26%	
	value	11%	6%	6%	8%	7%	16%	6%	10%	12%	14%	20%	4%	13%	15%	20%	23%	8%	14%	21%	31%	
Forward 2 Year return	profitability	1%	6%	16%	12%	10%	1%	8%	22%	19%	17%	2%	11%	28%	27%	24%	6%	15%	33%	33%	32%	
	investment	9%	12%	13%	16%	14%	11%	16%	20%	23%	23%	14%	19%	26%	27%	31%	16%	27%	27%	30%	38%	
	momentum	9%	13%	11%	8%	5%	12%	19%	16%	14%	7%	17%	24%	20%	19%	12%	25%	29%	23%	27%	23%	
	size	10%	8%	0%	9%	11%	15%	13%	1%	16%	19%	19%	17%	0%	21%	25%	24%	24%	-3%	25%	33%	
ļ	value	7%	9%	7%	13%	13%	10%	13%	12%	20%	21%	16%	17%	15%	27%	30%	20%	24%	17%	35%	39%	
Forward 3 Year return	profitability	0%	6%	12%	13%	8%	-1%	9%	18%	20%	14%	0%	12%	23%	27%	20%	5%	19%	26%	35%	29%	
	investment	8%	14%	13%	17%	17%	11%	21%	21%	26%	27%	15%	27%	26%	33%	35%	18%	35%	28%	39%	42%	
	momentum	9%	11%	7%	10%	11%	13%	16%	11%	17%	17%	15%	20%	15%	22%	22%	19%	28%	16%	32%	28%	
	size	5%	7%	0%	11%	6%	6%	10%	1%	18%	11%	9%	15%	0%	23%	15%	10%	20%	-1%	25%	19%	
<u>.</u> .	value	7%	9%	10%	15%	12%	9%	12%	17%	24%	21%	13%	15%	24%	31%	29%	18%	21%	29%	38%	40%	
Forward 5 Year return	profitability	3%	7%	7%	13%	9%	4%	11%	11%	22%	16%	8%	15%	15%	30%	24%	16%	22%	19%	38%	32%	
	investment	5%	10%	12%	17%	14%	6%	15%	20%	27%	23%	9%	19%	28%	36%	32%	11%	29%	32%	43%	39%	
	momentum	7%	11%	3%	14%	6%	9%	17%	5%	23%	10%	13%	24%	7%	31%	15%	16%	32%	7%	38%	18%	

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## Past Factor Returns (3 Yr, 4 Yr, 5 Yr) vs. Forward Factor Performance

				3 years					4 years	i		5 years						
		size	value	profitability	investment	momentum	size	value	profitability	investment	momentum	size	value	profitability	investment	momentum		
	size	11%	9%	-2%	6%	6%	11%	8%	-1%	7%	11%	4%	4%	1%	5%	7%		
Forward 1 Month return	value	14%	10%	7%	9%	10%	10%	10%	6%	8%	13%	8%	9%	6%	8%	12%		
	profitability	5%	10%	17%	16%	17%	5%	12%	15%	16%	16%	15%	21%	14%	19%	22%		
	investment	12%	15%	11%	15%	17%	12%	17%	11%	14%	19%	12%	16%	14%	16%	21%		
	momentum	11%	14%	9%	8%	7%	12%	13%	7%	10%	13%	13%	17%	7%	13%	12%		
	size	14%	12%	-3%	9%	9%	16%	11%	-2%	10%	17%	3%	5%	-1%	7%	9%		
	value	20%	11%	10%	11%	17%	14%	14%	9%	12%	21%	12%	11%	8%	11%	18%		
Forward 3 Month return	profitability	7%	15%	23%	23%	24%	8%	19%	20%	24%	24%	22%	31%	20%	29%	34%		
	investment	16%	21%	16%	21%	26%	17%	25%	16%	20%	29%	16%	23%	20%	23%	32%		
	momentum	15%	24%	15%	14%	10%	20%	22%	12%	17%	22%	17%	28%	11%	22%	18%		
	size	19%	15%	-5%	12%	16%	21%	16%	-5%	14%	25%	3%	6%	-2%	9%	12%		
	value	21%	9%	12%	12%	22%	18%	16%	10%	15%	29%	13%	12%	11%	14%	23%		
Forward 6 Month return	profitability	8%	19%	30%	32%	33%	10%	24%	25%	31%	32%	30%	40%	25%	38%	44%		
	investment	18%	24%	20%	24%	32%	22%	31%	20%	25%	37%	18%	28%	25%	28%	39%		
	momentum	19%	30%	18%	19%	16%	23%	29%	16%	23%	29%	19%	36%	11%	28%	22%		
	size	25%	19%	-4%	14%	27%	24%	19%	-6%	16%	32%	1%	7%	-2%	10%	14%		
	value	21%	9%	12%	16%	32%	20%	18%	11%	20%	37%	15%	14%	15%	19%	32%		
Forward 1 Year return	profitability	12%	20%	35%	37%	40%	15%	31%	28%	39%	41%	38%	49%	30%	47%	54%		
	investment	17%	28%	22%	26%	39%	23%	35%	22%	31%	45%	19%	34%	27%	33%	46%		
	momentum	27%	34%	24%	28%	28%	26%	34%	20%	34%	36%	23%	42%	12%	35%	25%		
	size	27%	23%	-6%	19%	36%	20%	21%	-8%	19%	30%	0%	6%	-7%	7%	12%		
	value	17%	18%	14%	29%	47%	17%	23%	18%	31%	46%	22%	21%	22%	29%	41%		
Forward 2 Year return	profitability	11%	25%	31%	42%	41%	22%	41%	28%	48%	48%	39%	55%	32%	56%	58%		
	investment	19%	35%	27%	34%	49%	24%	39%	33%	42%	55%	24%	42%	32%	41%	50%		
	momentum	30%	33%	22%	38%	40%	32%	44%	18%	48%	39%	21%	45%	8%	41%	25%		
	size	21%	27%	-5%	26%	34%	13%	24%	-5%	25%	28%	-7%	4%	-9%	4%	5%		
- 104	value	17%	28%	24%	41%	50%	18%	32%	26%	43%	51%	26%	28%	20%	35%	42%		
Forward 3 Year return	profitability	16%	33%	27%	45%	41%	29%	49%	25%	54%	51%	42%	60%	30%	58%	60%		
	investment	20%	39%	36%	46%	53%	22%	46%	40%	54%	60%	25%	49%	34%	50%	52%		
	momentum	27%	40%	16%	47%	35%	28%	49%	10%	53%	34%	13%	47%	4%	40%	22%		
	size	5%	18%	-6%	21%	19%	-5%	10%	-9%	11%	8%	-22%	-7%	-15%	-11%	-13%		
	value	19%	26%	33%	44%	49%	21%	29%	28%	44%	49%	27%	31%	11%	31%	41%		
Forward 5 Year return	profitability	26%	37%	21%	52%	45%	33%	53%	22%	60%	54%	37%	60%	23%	62%	56%		
	investment	14%	37%	34%	51%	46%	18%	45%	34%	56%	50%	23%	48%	20%	47%	45%		
	momentum	18%	40%	2%	47%	22%	14%	48%	1%	47%	20%	-4%	36%	-1%	26%	7%		

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## **Empirical Observations**

#### Highlights

- Correlations between TERM Spread and Profitability are negative as expected across all horizons (and they
  become increasingly negative as we extend the horizon)
- Both TED Spread and TERM Spread are reasonably strong predictors for horizons greater than 6 months, particularly for Value, Profitability, Investment, and Momentum.
- Four Economic signals Unit Output growth, Personal Savings rate, CPI, and PPI have reasonably strong correlations with Value and Investment factors at horizons of one year and higher.
- The VIX and Sentiment metrics have strong predictive relationships at 1 year horizons and up but the impact is not uniform across all factors.
- Valuation metrics have strong relationship with future factor performance, particularly at longer horizons.
- Past factor performance is a significant predictor for some factors as early as 3 months out (strongest for Size, Value, Profitability, and Investment), but at 1 year+ horizons, the impact is strongest across all factors, though at 3 and 5 year horizons, some evidence of mean reversion starts to appear.





## Linear vs. Regime-Type Indicators

#### Categorize candidate predictors into three states

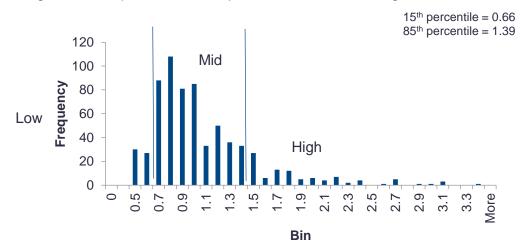
= Low, if the predictor value is less than the 15<sup>th</sup> percentile

States of Predictors

= Mid, if the predictor value is in between of the 15<sup>th</sup> percentile and 85<sup>th</sup> percentile

= High, if the predictor value is greater than the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile

Histogram of Corporate Credit Spread and Low, Mid, High States as of 2015/07





Source: SSGA

## Average Returns Using Three States

				- C. L.		
	Mkt-RF	Size	Value	Profitability	Investment	Momentum
Corporate credit spread						
Low	11.3	1.8	4.2	8.1	4.6	11.3
Middle	4.8	8.3	8.0	5.6	7.4	9.3
High	8.1	13.2	12.7	7.5	9.9	8.6
TED spread						
Low	8.5	5.4	4.9	4.2	5.2	6.7
Middle	8.1	7.9	8.4	7.7	9.1	10.1
High	2.4	17.3	11.3	10.2	13.2	14.2
Term spread						
Low	-2.0	13.9	14.1	10.7	13.4	18.1
Middle	7.7	5.5	6.4	7.3	7.8	8.6
High	11.9	9.3	6.3	2.9	5.6	6.5
M2						
Low	7.3	14.8	10.6	7.2	11.7	13.8
Middle	6.5	8.0	8.1	6.3	7.2	8.6
High	2.9	3.3	8.1	4.6	4.0	6.4
Unit output						
Low	3.6	16.7	12.5	8.4	13.2	14.7
Middle	6.3	7.0	8.7	6.4	7.1	8.5
High	9.2	6.4	1.5	1.5	2.6	5.8

Green: highest factor returnRed: lowest factor return



Source: SSGA, Kenneth French. As of 8/31/2017. Factor returns represent the returns of components of a universe comprised of publicly listed US companies as defined by Eugene Fama and Kenneth French. The portfolios used are those of the Fama-French long-only portfolios. The performance assumes no transaction and rebalancing costs, so actual results will differ. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Performance of the factor portfolios is not indicative of the performance of any product managed by SSGA.



## High Minus Low Returns

	Mkt-RF	Size	Value	Profitability	Investment	Momentum
Corporate credit spread	-3.2	11.4	8.6	-0.6	5.3	-2.7
TED spread	-6.2	11.9	6.5	5.9	8.0	7.6
TERM Spread	13.9	-4.6	-7.8	-7.8	-7.7	-11.6
M2	-4.4	-11.5	-2.5	-2.5	-7.7	-7.5
Unit Output	5.6	-10.3	-11.0	-6.9	-10.6	-8.9
Capacity Ratio	-7.2	-15.3	-2.6	0.8	-6.6	-2.1
CPI	-10.6	15.7	13.8	5.9	10.6	11.1
SENT^	-9.2	-4.8	-3.6	7.6	1.5	2.6
ISM PMI	-14.4	-14.9	2.6	-3.7	-5.3	-5.9
Div Yield	6.8	17.4	6.7	3.2	9.0	9.2
Momentum (past return)	-3.1	6.1	5.8	5.2	7.4	6.6

<sup>•</sup> Green cells = Differences are statistically different from zero



Source: SSGA, Kenneth French. As of 8/31/2017. Factor returns represent the returns of components of a universe comprised of publicly listed US companies as defined by Eugene Fama and Kenneth French. The portfolios used are those of the Fama-French long-only portfolios. The performance assumes no transaction and rebalancing costs, so actual results will differ. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Performance of the factor portfolios is not indicative of the performance of any product managed by SSGA.

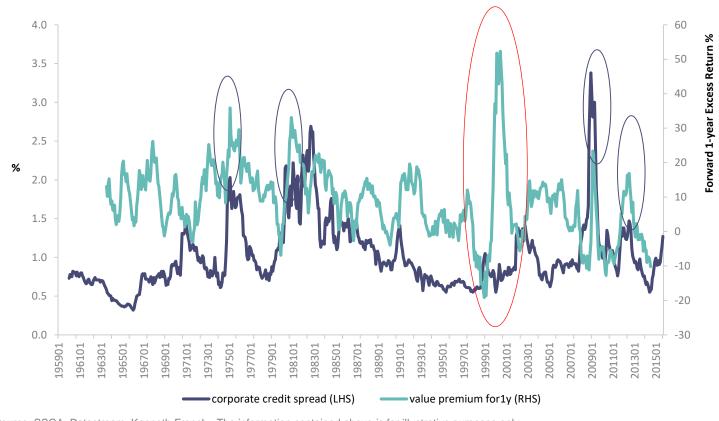
## **Perils and Pitfalls**





## Pitfall #1: Time-Varying Relationships

US Corporate Credit Spread and the Fama-French Value Long Factor Portfolio (July 1963 to July 2015)





Source: SSGA, Datastream. Kenneth French. The information contained above is for illustrative purposes only.

Hypothetical returns are based upon estimates and reflect subjective judgments and assumptions. These results were achieved by means of a mathematical formula and do not reflect the effect of unforeseen economic and market factors on decision-making. The hypothetical returns are not necessarily indicative of future performance, which could differ substantially.

## Pitfall #1: Time-Varying Relationships

Beta of Fama-French Long Value Portfolio Factor to Market (Rolling 3-year windows) (July 1963 to July 2015)





Source: SSGA, Datastream. Kenneth French. The information contained above is for illustrative purposes only.

Hypothetical returns are based upon estimates and reflect subjective judgments and assumptions. These results were achieved by means of a mathematical formula and do not reflect the effect of unforeseen economic and market factors on decision-making. The hypothetical returns are not necessarily indicative of future performance, which could differ substantially.



# Pitfall #2: Seeking Indicators Based on Hindsight

## An Example

	Mkt-RF	Size	Value	Profitability	Investment	Momentum
3-Month Horizon			1 311 31 3	,		
Number of predictors statistically significant in 1972 – 1989	5	18	3	2	10	9
Number of predictors are confirmed statistically significant						
in the same direction in 1990 - 2010	0	1	0	2	0	1
6-Month Horizon						
Number of predictors statistically significant in 1972 – 1989	1	17	3	3	6	14
Number of predictors are confirmed statistically significant						
in the same direction in 1990 - 2010	0	1	0	2	0	0
12-Month Horizon						
Number of predictors statistically significant in 1972 - 1989	3	14	5	4	14	13
Number of predictors are confirmed statistically significant						
in the same direction in 1990 - 2010	1	1	0	2	1	1



Source: SSGA

# Overcoming the Challenges: Building a Factor Timing Model





Factor returns represent the returns of components of a universe comprised of publicly listed US companies as defined by Eugene Fama and Kenneth French. The portfolios used are those of the Fama-French long-only portfolios. The performance assumes no transaction and rebalancing costs, so actual results will differ. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Performance of the factor portfolios is not indicative of the performance of any product managed by SSGA.

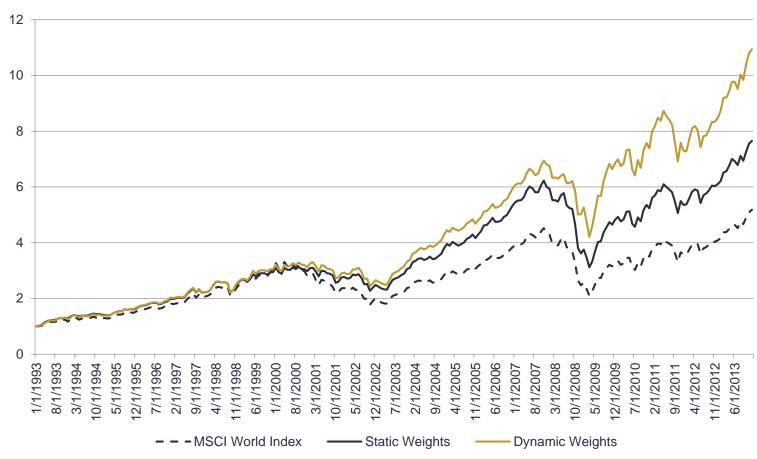
Dates for the two portfolios illustrated on slides 45 and 46 do not match given that they were produced as two independent research projects. The two projects were conducted by the Investment Solutions Group and Active Quantitative Group respectively.





## Illustration #1: A Linear Timing Strategy with Factor Valuation

### Cumulative Portfolio Returns (January 1993 to May 2014, USD Gross Returns)



#### Static Portfolio:

- Annualized Excess Returns = 1.78%
- Tracking Error = 3.42%
- IR = 0.52

#### Dynamic Portfolio:

- Annualized Excess Returns = 2.60%
- Tracking Error = 4.10%
- IR = 0.63



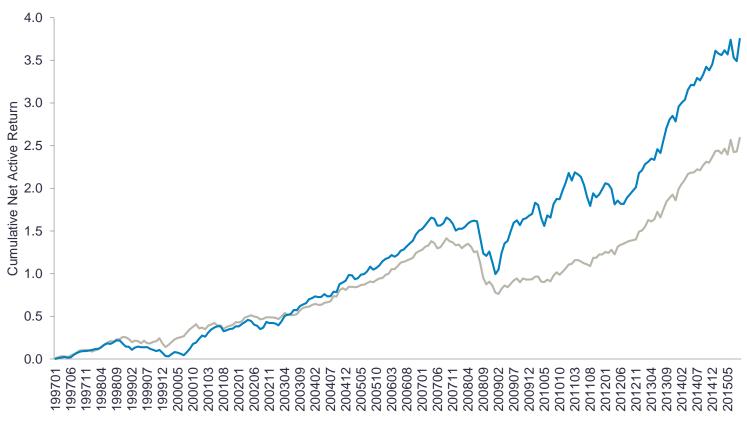
Source: SSGA, Kenneth French. As of 8/31/2017. Factor returns represent the returns of components of a universe comprised of publicly listed US companies as defined by Eugene Fama and Kenneth French. The portfolios used are those of the Fama-French long-only portfolios. The performance assumes no transaction and rebalancing costs, so actual results will differ. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Performance of the factor portfolios is not indicative of the performance of any product managed by SSGA.

Dates for the two portfolios illustrated on slides 46 and 47 do not match given that they were produced as two independent research projects. The two projects were conducted by the Investment Solutions Group and Active Quantitative Group respectively.



# Illustration #2: A Timing Strategy with Multiple Predictors Embedding Sentiment and Macroeconomic Variables

Cumulative Portfolio Returns (January 1997 to September 2015, USD Gross Returns)



#### Static Portfolio:

- Annualized Excess Returns = 3.45%
- Tracking Error = 3.93%
- IR = 0.88

### Dynamic Portfolio:

- Annualized Excess Returns = 4.53%
- Tracking Error = 3.88%
- IR = 1.17

—— Static Weights —— Dynamic Weights

Source: SSGA, Kenneth French. As of 8/31/2017. Factor returns represent the returns of components of a universe comprised of publicly listed US companies as defined by Eugene Fama and Kenneth French. The portfolios used are those of the Fama-French long-only portfolios. The performance assumes no transaction and rebalancing costs, so actual results will differ. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Performance of the factor portfolios is not indicative of the performance of any product managed by SSGA.

Dates for the two portfolios illustrated on slides 46 and 47 do not match given that they were produced as two independent research projects. The two projects were conducted by the Investment Solutions Group and Active Quantitative Group respectively.





# **Appendix**





## **Disclosures**

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