

U.S. Unemployment Leading Indicator

Report Overview

The Model Signal Reports translate Quant Pack Leading Indicators into asset allocation insights. This report provides the historical performance data of each sample model since 2000 and will be updated on an annual basis going forward. You can find more information on the indicator and its latest model signal in the MarketDesk Quant Pack published each Friday.

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Overview of Indicator

- The U.S. Unemployment Leading Indicator provides a 12-month forecast of the unemployment rate.
- Based on a composite of 6 macro inputs (housing activity, industrial production, consumer sentiment, small business surveys, etc.) that exhibit a high statistical correlation with future changes in the unemployment rate.
- The leading indicator (1) provides a long-term view into the overall health of the U.S. economy and future economic activity, which (2) informs investment portfolio positioning across asset classes. The indicator is not designed to predict with precision, but that is typically not needed. Instead, investors should focus on the direction and magnitude of the 12-month forecast.

Overview of Model Signal

When U.S. Unemployment Leading Indicator’s 12-month forecast shows the year-over-year change in unemployment will rise above zero, own 100% Risk-Off Exposure (i.e., Defensive Sectors, High-Quality Credit, and Bonds). When U.S. Unemployment Leading Indicator’s 12-month forecast shows the year-over-year change in unemployment will fall below zero, own 100% Risk-On Exposure (i.e., Cyclical Sectors, Low-Quality Credit, and Stocks). All sample model portfolios are rebalanced monthly to equal weight.

Figure 1: Historical Model Signals (Risk-On vs Risk-Off)

The table shows the indicator's historical model reading for each month since 2000

Model Signals Based on U.S. Unemployment Leading Indicator												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2000	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off
2001	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off
2002	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-Off	Risk-Off
2003	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On
2004	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-Off
2005	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-On	Risk-On
2006	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off
2007	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off
2008	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off
2009	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-On
2010	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On
2011	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off
2012	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On
2013	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On
2014	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On
2015	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-On	Risk-Off	Risk-Off
2016	Risk-Off	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-On
2017	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On
2018	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On
2019	Risk-On	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off
2020	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-On	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-On	Risk-On
2021	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-Off
2022	Risk-On	Risk-On	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off
2023	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off	Risk-Off								

Figure 2: Annual Model Returns

	Page 3	Page 4	Page 5
S&P 500	U.S. Sector Rotation	U.S. Credit Rotation	Stock/Bond Rotation
-4%	49%	12%	18%
-12%	-16%	6%	8%
-22%	-15%	-9%	-14%
29%	28%	11%	16%
11%	16%	10%	8%
5%	10%	1%	3%
16%	23%	11%	11%
5%	14%	8%	7%
-37%	-22%	16%	5%
26%	16%	3%	10%
15%	26%	17%	15%
2%	12%	20%	11%
16%	18%	17%	16%
32%	36%	14%	32%
14%	9%	6%	14%
1%	10%	9%	11%
12%	13%	12%	10%
22%	23%	11%	22%
-4%	-9%	-2%	-4%
31%	31%	16%	16%
18%	4%	4%	8%
29%	31%	4%	23%
-18%	-4%	-21%	-17%
9%	1%	5%	4%

Source: MarketDesk Quant Pack. Data as of 4/30/2023. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Performance is shown as total returns with dividends and income reinvested. The performance information shown herein does not reflect the deduction of advisory and/or other fees normally incurred in the management of a portfolio. Hypothetical performance results are presented for illustrative purposes only.

Indicator Signal Overview – U.S. Sector Rotation Model

When U.S. Unemployment Leading Indicator's 12-month forecast shows the year-over-year change in unemployment will rise above zero, own 100% Risk-Off Exposure. When U.S. Unemployment Leading Indicator's 12-month forecast shows the year-over-year change in unemployment will fall below zero, own 100% Risk-On Exposure. The sample model is rebalanced monthly to equal weight. Refer to page 2 to see when the model held Risk-On or Risk-Off exposure for each month since January 2000.

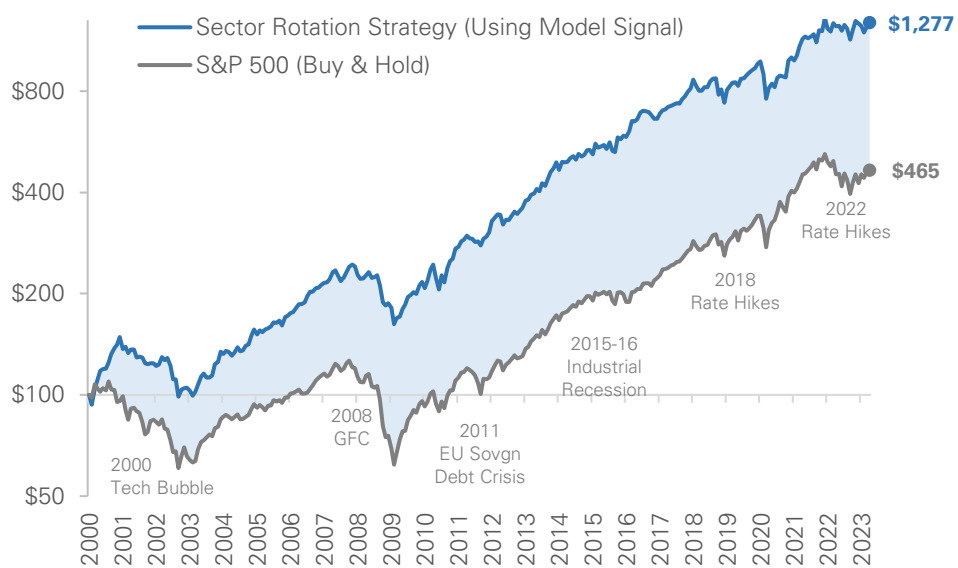
- **Risk-On** = Cyclical Sectors (Industrials, Materials, Cons. Discretionary)
- **Risk-Off** = Defensive Sectors (Utilities, Health Care, Cons. Staples)

Figure 3: Performance Statistics – U.S. Sector Rotation Model

Annual Statistics of Returns & Risks	S&P 500 (Benchmark)	U.S. Sector Rotation Model
Average Return	8.2%	13.1%
Strategy CAGR	6.8%	11.6%
Maximum Drawdown	-51%	-34%
% of Positive Years	74%	78%
Upside Capture	100%	112%
Downside Capture	100%	19%
Net Capture	0%	+93%
Max Positive Year	32%	49%
Max Negative Year	-37%	-22%
Max Risk / Reward Ratio	0.88	2.19

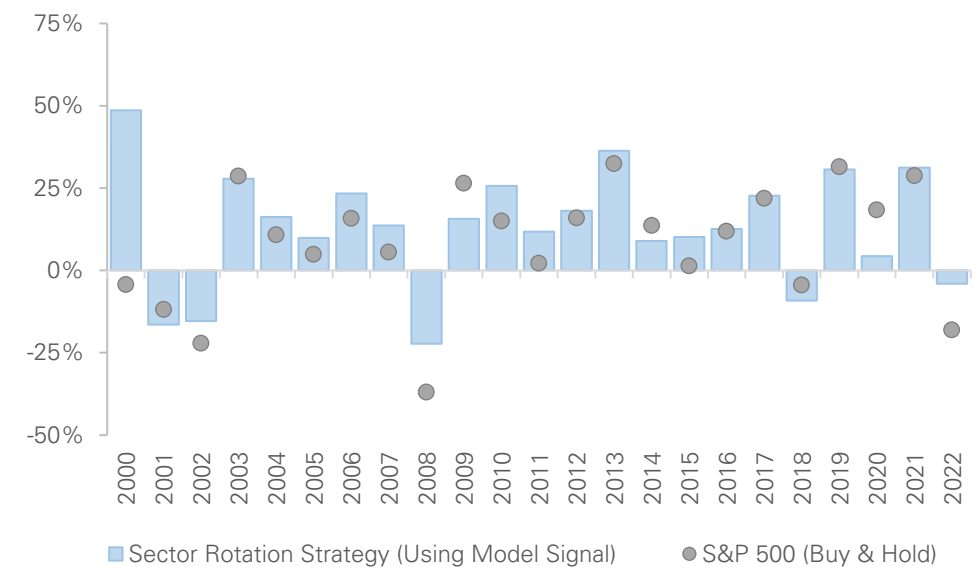
Source: MarketDesk Quant Pack. Based on annual calendar year returns since 2000.

Figure 4: Total Returns – U.S. Sector Rotation Model



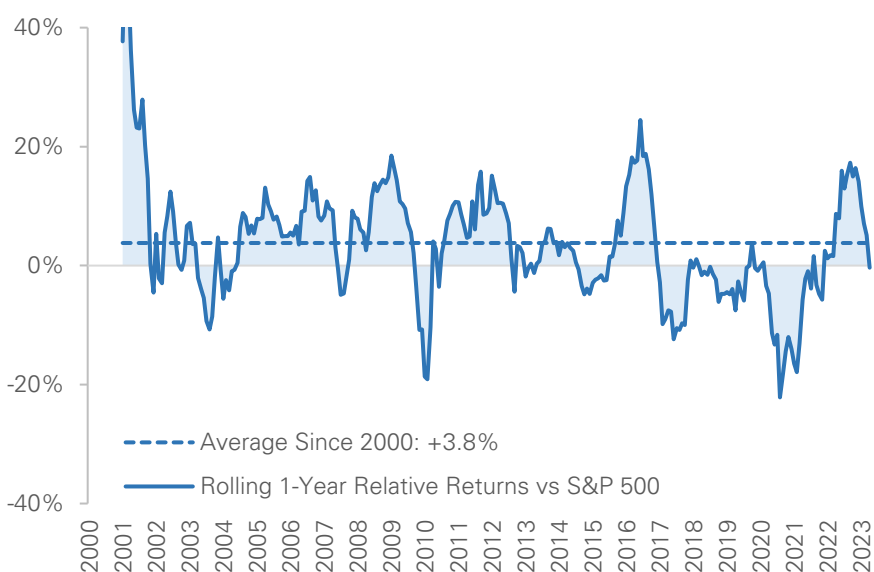
Source: MarketDesk Quant Pack. The portfolio is rebalanced monthly.

Figure 5: Historical Annual Returns – U.S. Sector Rotation Model



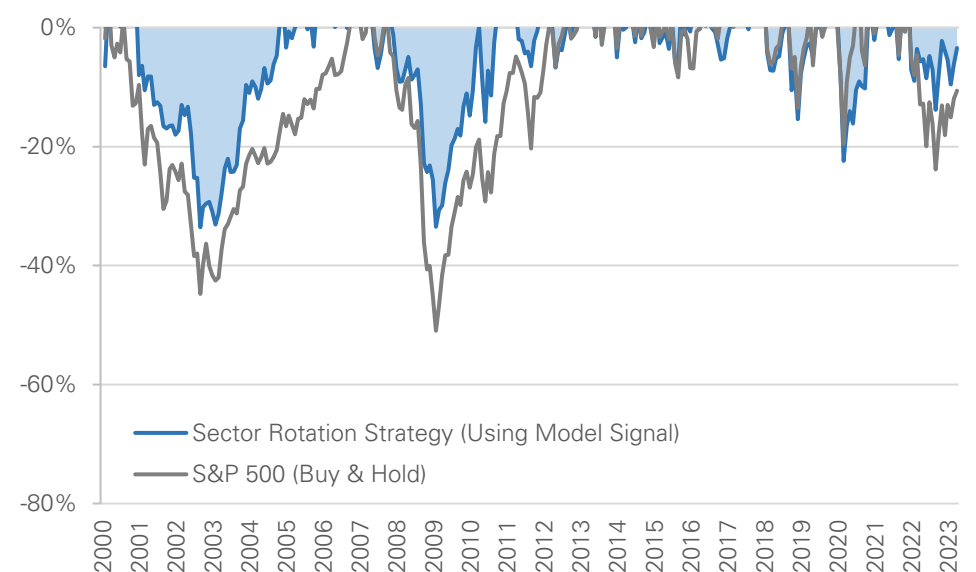
Source: MarketDesk Quant Pack

Figure 6: 1-Year Relative Returns – U.S. Sector Rotation Model



Source: MarketDesk Quant Pack

Figure 7: Portfolio Drawdowns – U.S. Sector Rotation Model



Source: MarketDesk Quant Pack

Indicator Signal Overview – U.S. Credit Rotation Model

When U.S. Unemployment Leading Indicator's 12-month forecast shows the year-over-year change in unemployment will rise above zero, own 100% Risk-Off Exposure. When U.S. Unemployment Leading Indicator's 12-month forecast shows the year-over-year change in unemployment will fall below zero, own 100% Risk-On Exposure. The sample model is rebalanced monthly to equal weight. Refer to page 2 to see when the model held Risk-On or Risk-Off exposure for each month since January 2000.

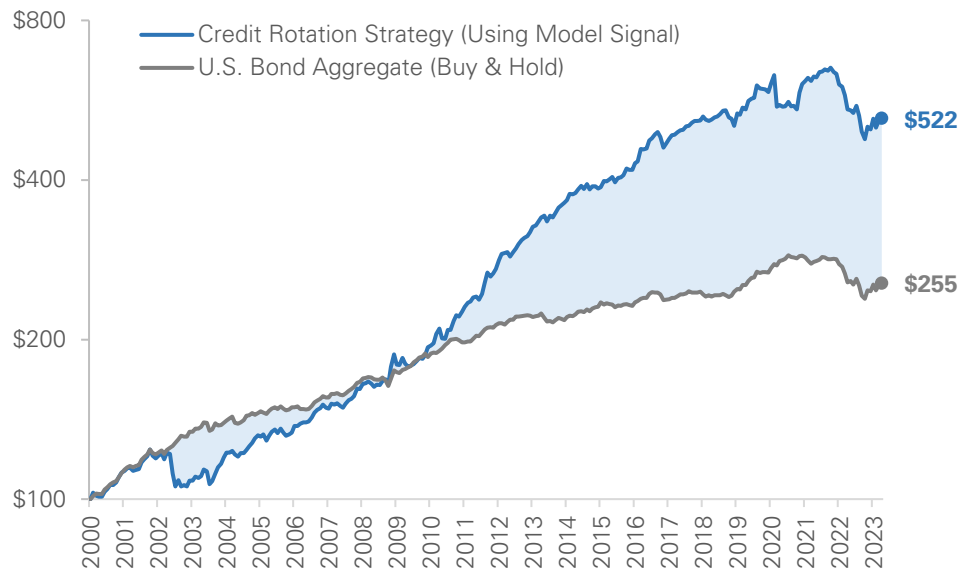
- **Risk-On** = Low-Quality Credit (High Yield, Fallen Angels, Convertibles)
- **Risk-Off** = High-Quality Credit (U.S. Treasuries & MBS)

Figure 8: Performance Statistics – U.S. Credit Rotation Model

Annual Statistics of Returns & Risks	US Bond Aggregate (Benchmark)	Credit Sector Rotation Model
Average Return	4.1%	7.7%
Strategy CAGR	4.1%	7.4%
Maximum Drawdown	-17%	-27%
% of Positive Years	87%	87%
Upside Capture	100%	161%
Downside Capture	100%	20%
Net Capture	0%	+141%
Max Positive Year	12%	20%
Max Negative Year	-13%	-21%
Max Risk / Reward Ratio	0.92	0.95

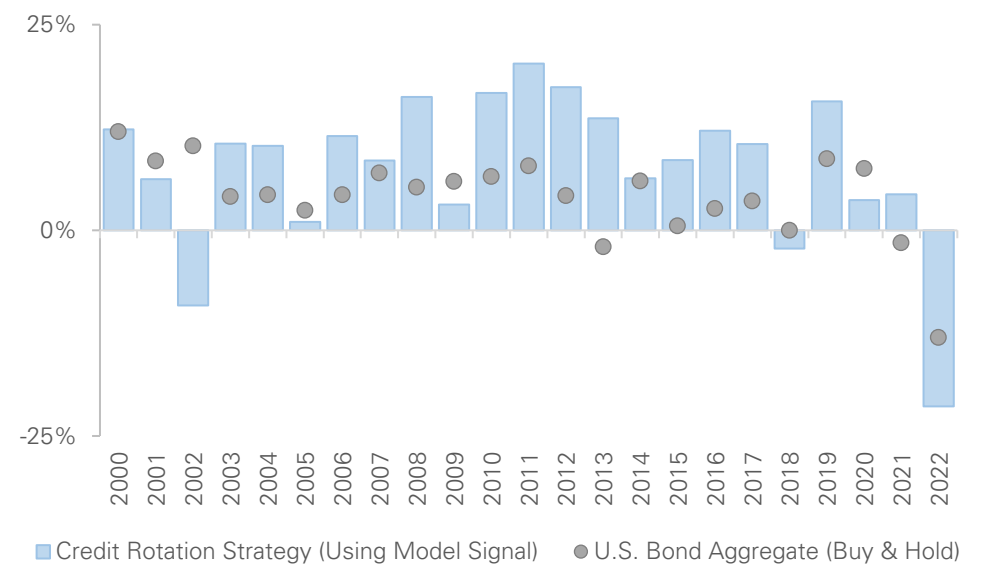
Source: MarketDesk Quant Pack. Based on annual calendar year returns since 2000.

Figure 9: Total Returns – U.S. Credit Rotation Model



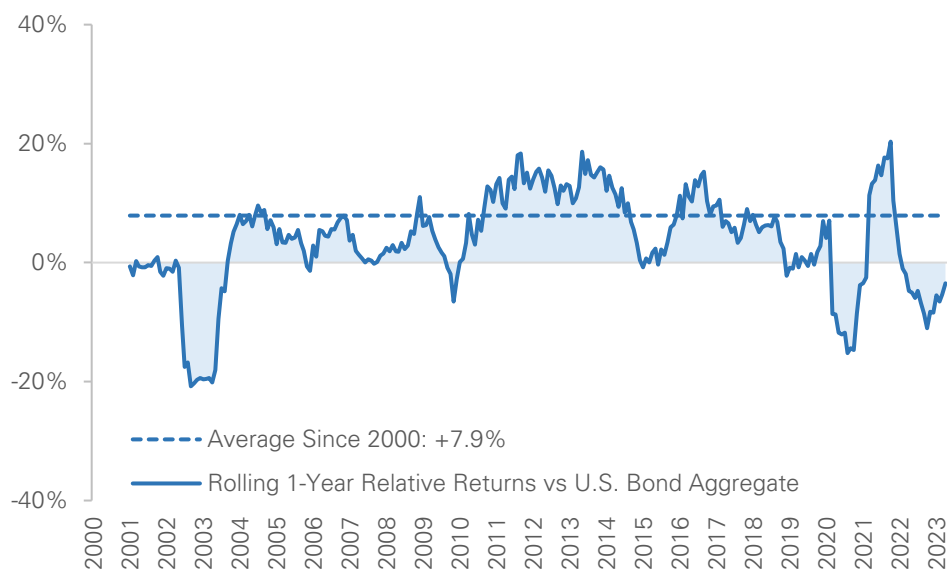
Source: MarketDesk Quant Pack. The portfolio is rebalanced monthly.

Figure 10: Historical Annual Returns – U.S. Credit Rotation Model



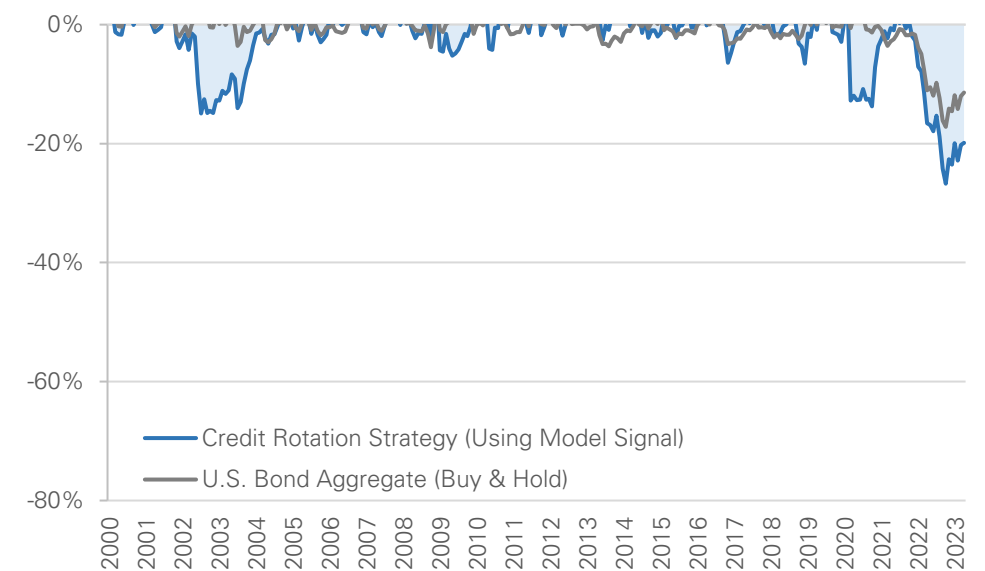
Source: MarketDesk Quant Pack

Figure 11: 1-Year Relative Returns – U.S. Credit Rotation Model



Source: MarketDesk Quant Pack

Figure 12: Portfolio Drawdowns – U.S. Credit Rotation Model



Source: MarketDesk Quant Pack

Indicator Signal Overview – Stock / Bond Rotation Model

When U.S. Unemployment Leading Indicator's 12-month forecast shows the year-over-year change in unemployment will rise above zero, own 100% Risk-Off Exposure. When U.S. Unemployment Leading Indicator's 12-month forecast shows the year-over-year change in unemployment will fall below zero, own 100% Risk-On Exposure. Refer to page 2 to see when the model held Risk-On or Risk-Off exposure for each month since January 2000.

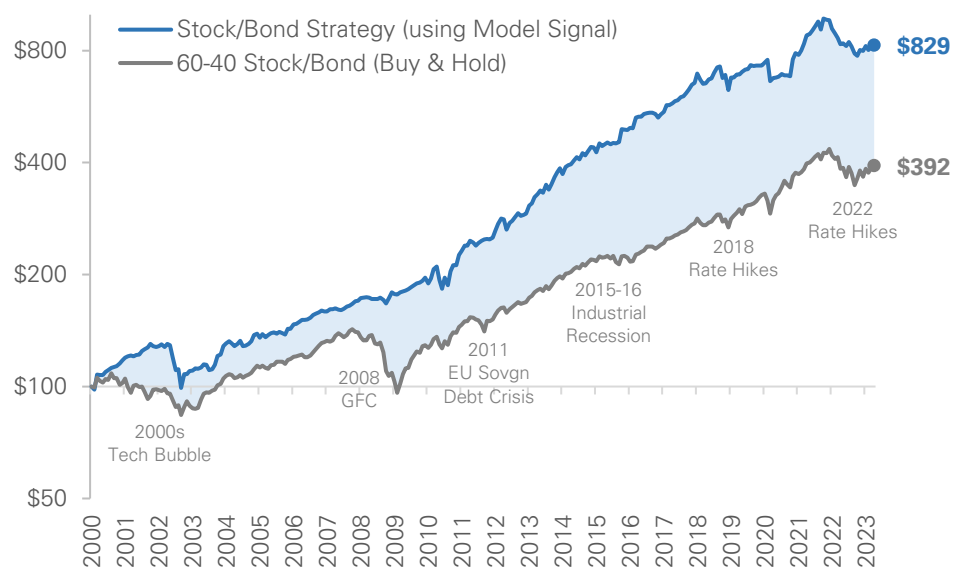
- **Risk-On** = Stocks (S&P 500 Index)
- **Risk-Off** = Bonds (U.S. Bond Aggregate Index)

Figure 13: Performance Statistics – Stock / Bond Rotation Model

Annual Statistics of Returns & Risks	60-40 Stock/Bond (Benchmark)	Stock / Bond Rotation Model
Average Return	6.4%	10.0%
Strategy CAGR	6.1%	9.5%
Maximum Drawdown	-33%	-24%
% of Positive Years	78%	87%
Upside Capture	100%	125%
Downside Capture	100%	40%
Net Capture	0%	+85%
Max Positive Year	22%	32%
Max Negative Year	-22%	-17%
Max Risk / Reward Ratio	1.01	1.87

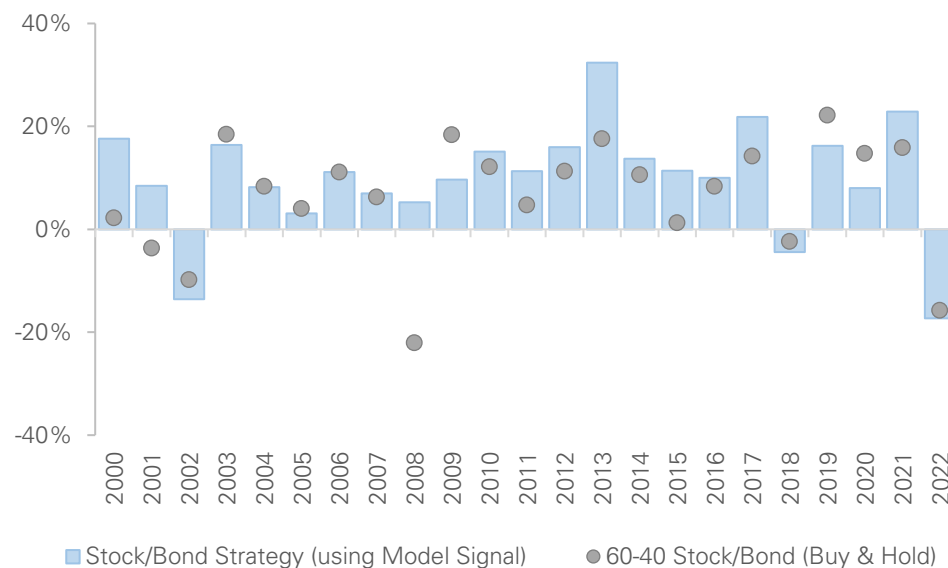
Source: MarketDesk Quant Pack. Based on annual calendar year returns since 2000.

Figure 14: Total Returns – Stock / Bond Rotation Model



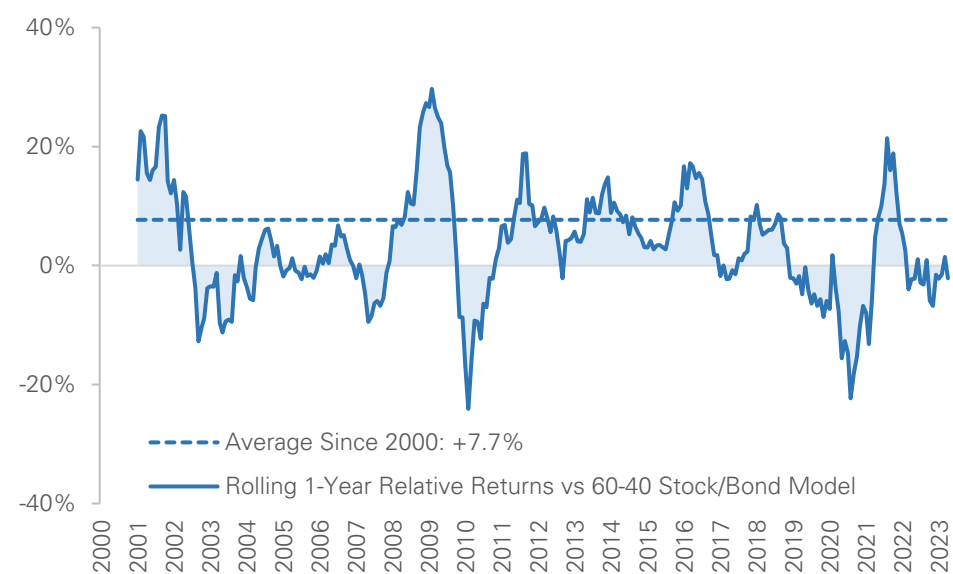
Source: MarketDesk Quant Pack. The portfolio is rebalanced monthly.

Figure 15: Historical Annual Returns – Stock / Bond Rotation Model



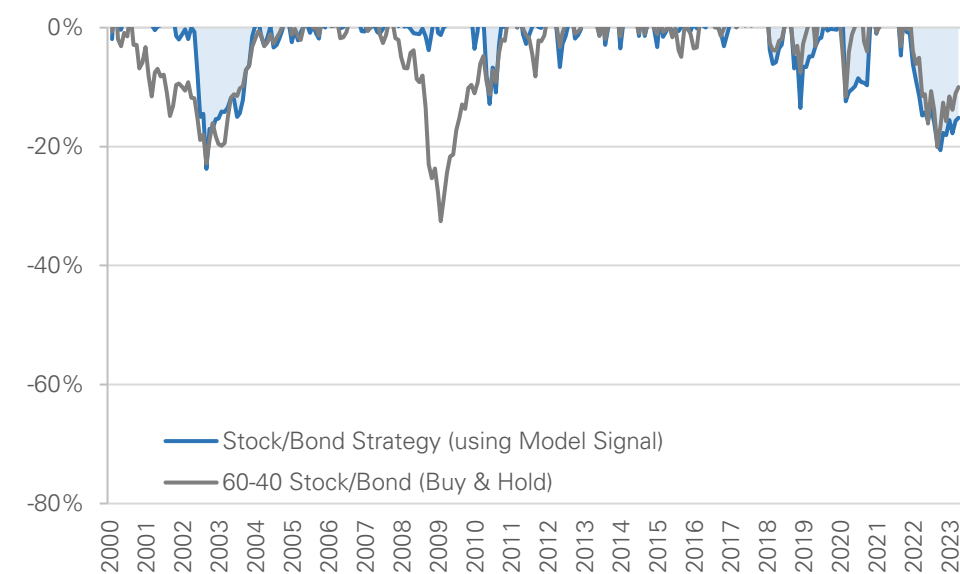
Source: MarketDesk Quant Pack

Figure 16: 1-Year Relative Returns – Stock / Bond Rotation Model



Source: MarketDesk Quant Pack

Figure 17: Portfolio Drawdowns – Stock / Bond Rotation Model



Source: MarketDesk Quant Pack

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