

Innovation Matures, Constraints Tighten, Money Evolves



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VanEck’s Multi-Asset Solutions team employs macro research, fundamental security selection, and quantitative strategies, to build dynamic model portfolios based on client-specific risk profiles. Headed by David Schassler, the team offers a comprehensive perspective on market trends, asset allocation, and strategic analysis.

Table of Contents

Wealth Builder Plus	5
Thematic Disruption	7
Real Assets	9
Select Opportunities	11
Income Builder	13
Performance	15

3 Constraints

Energy. Materials. Liquidity. The real limits shaping markets in 2026.

130%

Silver didn’t surge on hype. It reprices a world running into real, physical constraints.

\$150B

Capital flooded into AI in 2025. In 2026, returns depend on execution rather than imagination.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

2025 Was a Year of Change. 2026 Will Be Defined by Constraints.

2026 started with a bang. A big New York welcome to the city’s newest power couple, Nicolás and Cilia Flores Maduro.

The geopolitical and economic consequences of this moment will unfold over time, with real implications for capital flows, scarce resources, and how investors must be diversified to navigate a rapidly changing world.

2025 was a good year for almost everyone. The investors who did best embraced structural change. Those who struggled were positioned for a world that no longer exists.

Equities worked. Real assets worked better. Even bonds worked a little.

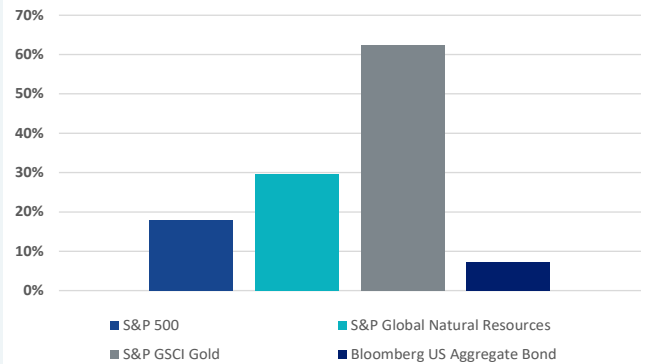
For thematic investors, this remains a target rich environment.

Anyone who follows us knows the themes we focus on.

1. Disruptive technological innovation.
2. Old world assets building the new world.
3. Debasement protection.

Those themes are not changing in 2026. How investors access these evolving themes makes all the difference.

A Great Year for Asset Owners



Source: Morningstar, as of 12/31/2025. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Investments in digital assets involve significant risk and are not suitable for all investors. You could lose your entire principal investment. The views expressed are for illustrative purposes only, subject to change without notice, do not constitute investment advice or recommendations, and are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of VanEck or its other employees. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Theme One: Innovation is Going Mainstream

The race in compute continues and it's having an outsized impact on economic growth.

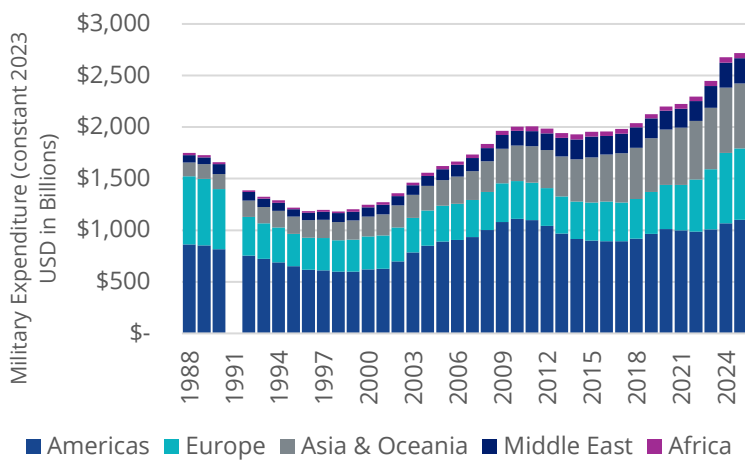
However, this innovation cycle is maturing, and the center of gravity is shifting from build to adopt. What matters now is integration, execution, and return-on-capital.

AI is moving into workflows, automation, and physical systems where it solves real problems. One of the clearest examples is warfare.

Military power is shifting from manpower to machines. Artificial intelligence, autonomy, robotics, and advanced systems are reshaping how conflicts are fought and how deterrence is maintained. Speed, precision, and technological superiority now matter more than scale alone.

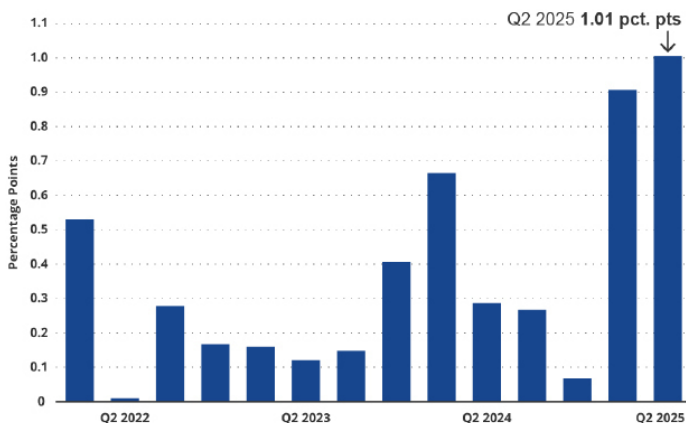
This is not cyclical. It is structural. Defense spending has been rising globally.

Global Military Expenditure Rose by 9.4% in 2024



Source: SIPRI. As of April 2025.

AI's Contribution to U.S. GDP Growth



Source: Barclays.

Elevated geopolitical risk is accelerating the pace and scale of investment. President Trump recently announced on Truth Social that "in these very troubled and dangerous times, our Military Budget for the year 2027 should not be \$1 Trillion Dollars, but rather \$1.5 Trillion Dollars."

We recently added direct exposure to defense and aerospace. These companies sit at the intersection of advanced computing, autonomy, and national security. The investment backdrop is long-duration and materially less sensitive to traditional economic cycles.

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Theme Two: Real Assets are the Constraint

The next phase of this cycle will be defined by constraint. AI, electrification, automation, and reshoring all compete for the same finite resources.

The future must be built in the physical world. As an example, this chart demonstrates the outsized investments in data centers.

Yes, data centers need power. Factories need inputs. Supply chains need redundancy.

Old world assets are building the new world.

This is why real assets matter so much. They determine how fast innovation can scale.

Silver Shines for Best Year on Record



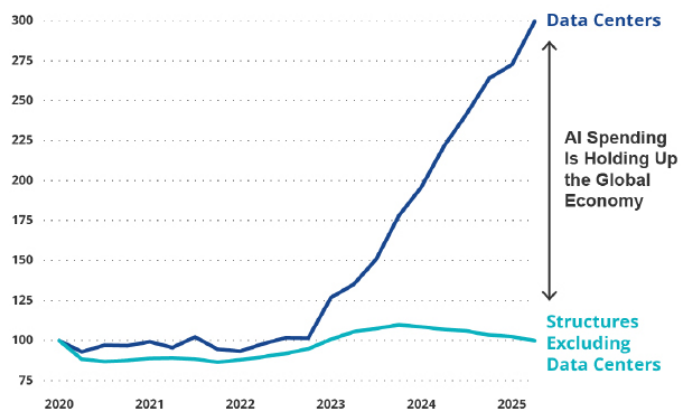
Source: Bloomberg, as of 2025. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

The digital economy is accelerating, but it rests on a physical foundation that cannot be expanded instantly. Energy, materials, and infrastructure are bottlenecks.

Real assets are increasingly central to how the next phase of growth is built.

Data Center CAPEX Has Surged Since 2022

Real Private Nonresidential Fixed Investment, Quarterly



Source: BofA Global Research, as of 2025.

One of the clearest examples is Silver.

Silver's exceptional electrical and thermal conductivity make it essential to solar panels, electronics, semiconductors, and industrial systems. It is now moving deeper into the next generation of battery technology.

Incremental innovation increasingly runs into material limits. Silver markets were already tight before this development. Industrial demand has exceeded mine supply for several years. When new demand meets constrained supply, prices adjust.

Silver rose nearly 130% in 2025 and 50% in the fourth quarter alone.

Silver is not unique. It is representative.

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Theme Three: Money is Changing

Gold did not become one of the top-performing assets by accident. It was information. But the story is bigger than gold. We have moved from monetary dominance to fiscal dominance.

For decades, monetary policy drove outcomes. Interest rates moved lower and lower. Governments borrowed freely, but debt service remained manageable.

Now the constraints are visible!

Fiscal dominance occurs when monetary policy is forced to operate within the constraints of government financing, market liquidity, and debt sustainability.

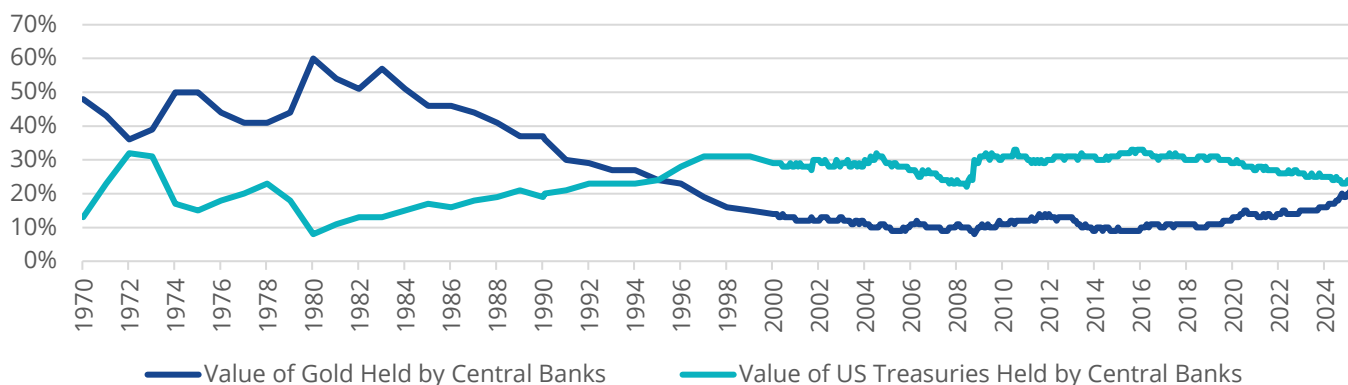
This is not theory. It is observable.

Interest Expense is now an issue, and as such, one must ask: are U.S. Treasuries still the unquestioned reserve asset? Gold and foreign central banks are saying no as foreign governments now hold more gold than U.S. Treasuries.

Central banks are not buying gold for nostalgia. They are buying it because gold carries no counterparty risk, no sanction risk, and no political dependency

Money is changing.

Foreign Central Bank Now Hold More Gold Than US Treasuries



Source: Visual Capitalist, as of 2025.

The Bottom Line

Our themes are accelerating as they are being recognized by the broader investment community.

Technological innovation is going mainstream.

The physical world is constraining the digital one.

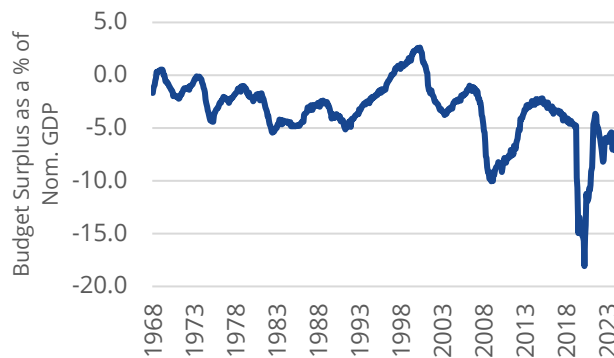
Fiscal dominance is redefining policy and money.

This is the new world investors are navigating.

There's no going back.

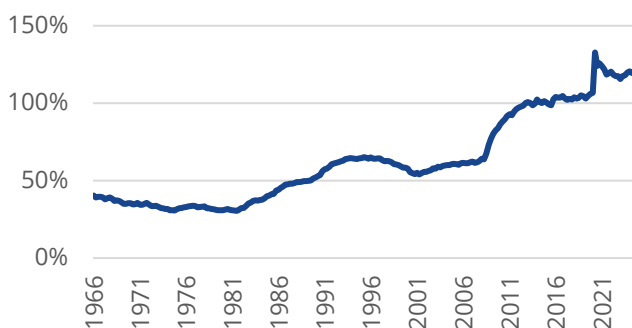
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US Budget Deficit Persists Outside of Recessions



Source: Bloomberg, as of 2025.

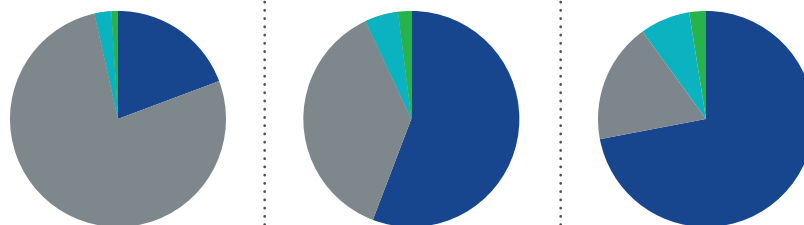
Debt as a Percentage of GDP Rises



Source: Bloomberg, as of 2025.

Wealth Builder Plus Portfolios

Our Wealth Builder Plus Portfolios provide core exposure to equities and fixed income with a strategic allocation to real and digital assets. Security selection which marries the elements of both active and passive strategies allows the portfolio to adapt to changing markets. Its systematic investment approach including an opportunistic rebalancing framework focuses on maximizing diversification and monitoring risk at both the fund and the macro level to allow investors to optimize performance over the long-term.



Conservative

Moderate

Aggressive

	Conservative	Moderate	Aggressive
Equities	22.5%	55.5%	70.5%
U.S. Equity	13.0%	34.0%	44.0%
International Developed Equity	3.0%	7.0%	8.5%
Emerging Markets Equity	1.0%	2.5%	3.0%
Thematic Equity	5.5%	12.0%	15.0%
Fixed Income	69.5%	31.0%	14.0%
U.S. Treasuries	36.0%	16.0%	7.5%
Thematic Fixed Income	33.5%	15.0%	6.5%
Real Assets	4.5%	9.0%	10.5%
Real Assets	4.5%	9.0%	10.5%
Digital Assets	1.5%	2.5%	3.0%
Digital Assets	1.5%	2.5%	3.0%
Cash	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%

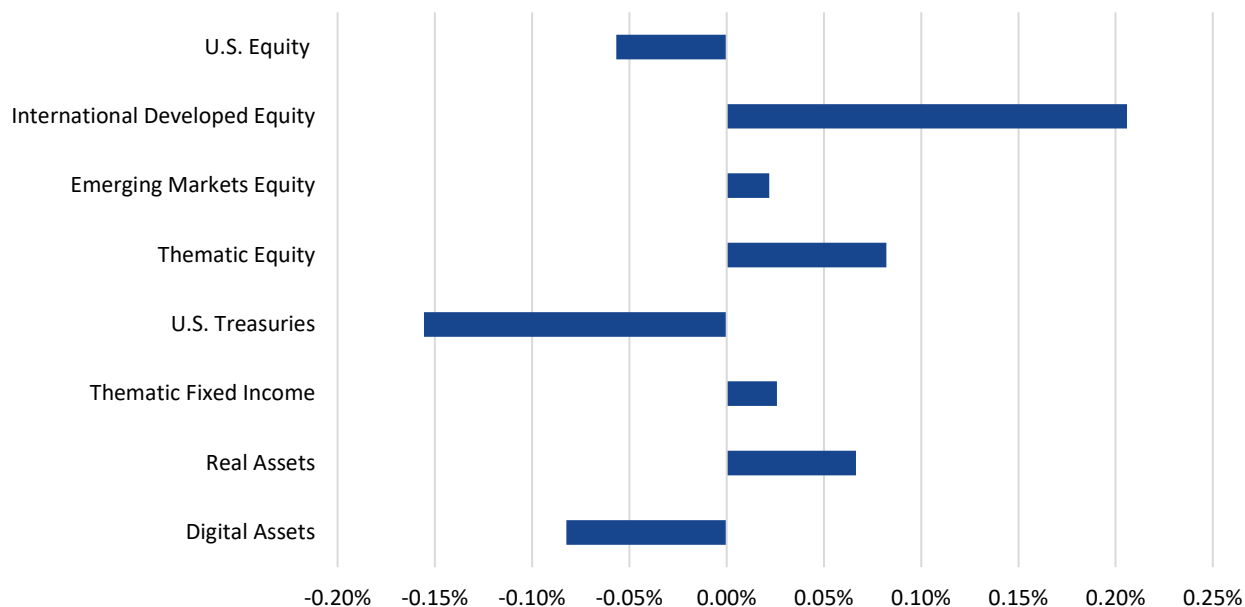
Source: VanEck, FactSet. Data is as of 12/31/2025. For illustrative purposes only. Not intended as an offer or recommendation to buy or sell any securities referenced herein. Strategy allocations will vary.

Please see complete standardized performance for all strategies discussed herein at the end of this commentary. Digital assets are subject to significant risk and are not suitable for all investors. The value of digital assets is highly volatile and you could lose your entire principal investment.

Wealth Builder Plus Moderate Portfolio

VanEck's Wealth Builder Plus Moderate Strategy returned 0.11% in December versus +0.45% return for the blended 60% MSCI All Country World Index and 40% for the ICE U.S. Broad Market Index.

Performance Contribution to Return by Asset Class



Source: FactSet As of 12/31/2025. Past Performance is no guarantee of future results. Please see attached for full strategy GIPS performance and relevant disclosures.

Performance reflected is net of fees. VanEck's Wealth Builder portfolios are generally charged an asset based fee (which may be on a sliding scale with breakpoints dependent upon AUM). Please contact us at info@vaneck.com for additional information.

Top Performers

Bottom Performers

Equities	Alternative Asset Managers +4.31%	Video Gaming and eSports Stocks -5.20%
Fixed Income	EM High Yield Bonds +0.97%	20+ Year Treasury Bonds -2.65%
Real Assets	Gold Bullion +2.14%	Uranium & Nuclear Stocks -2.08%
Digital Assets	--	Bitcoin -3.59%
Portfolio Changes	No changes to the strategy were implemented in December.	

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Thematic Disruption Portfolio

The VanEck Thematic Disruption Portfolio is focused on innovative long-term secular thematic trends across a wide array of industries including technology, finance, energy and retail. The Strategy targets economic opportunities as a result of emerging transformative discoveries.

Current Allocations

Artificial Intelligence		20.0%
Defiance Quantum ETF	QTUM	8.0%
Global X Artificial Intelligence & Tech ETF	AIQ	9.0%
Vanguard Communication Services ETF	VOX	3.0%
Computing		32.0%
iShares U.S. Technology ETF	IYW	8.5%
Technology Select Sector SPDR® Fund	XLK	8.5%
VanEck Technology TruSector ETF	TRUT	4.5%
Vanguard Information Technology ETF	VGT	10.5%
Consumer		6.0%
Fidelity MSCI Consumer Discretionary Index ETF	FDIS	6.0%
Natural Resources		12.0%
First Trust NASDAQ Clean Edge Smart Grid Infrastructure ETF	GRID	1.5%
Global X U.S. Infrastructure Development ETF	PAVE	1.5%
VanEck Real Assets ETF	RAAX	5.0%
VanEck Uranium and Nuclear ETF	NLR	4.0%
Finance		9.5%
VanEck Alternative Asset Manager ETF	GPZ	4.5%
VanEck Bitcoin ETF	HODL	5.0%
Robotics		18.5%
Invesco Aerospace & Defense ETF	PPA	4.0%
VanEck Fabless Semiconductor ETF	SMHX	5.0%
VanEck Semiconductor ETF	SMH	9.5%
Cash		2.0%

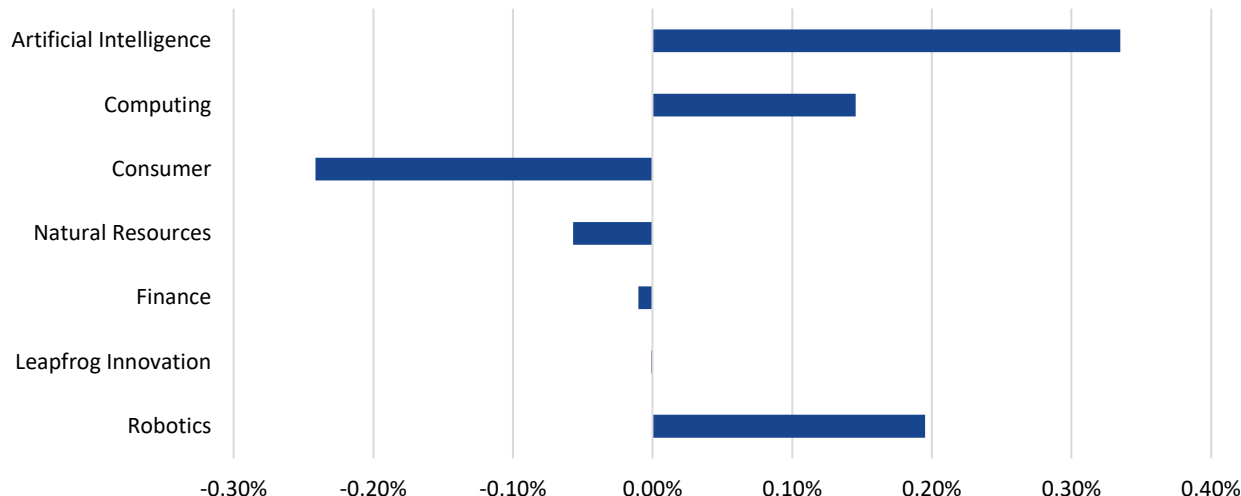
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Thematic Disruption Portfolio

VanEck's Thematic Disruption Portfolio returned 0.45% in December versus 0.22% return for the MSCI ACWI IMI Growth Index.

Contribution to Return



Source: FactSet As of 12/31/2025. Past Performance is no guarantee of future results. Please see attached for full strategy GIPS performance and relevant disclosures.

Performance reflected is net of fees. VanEck's Thematic Disruption portfolio is generally charged an asset based fee (which may be on a sliding scale with breakpoints dependent upon AUM). Please contact us at info@vaneck.com for additional information.

Top Performers	Bottom Performers
Alternative Asset Managers +4.31%	Video Gaming and eSports Stocks -5.20%
Semiconductors +2.54%	Bitcoin -3.59%

Portfolio Changes	No changes to the strategy were implemented in December.
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Performance reflected is net of fees. VanEck's Thematic Disruption portfolio are generally charged an asset based fee (which may be on a sliding scale with breakpoints dependent upon AUM). Please contact us at info@vaneck.com for additional information.

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Real Assets Portfolio

VanEck's Real Assets Portfolio seeks long-term total return. In pursuing long-term total return, the strategy seeks to maximize real returns while seeking to reduce downside risk during sustained market declines. The strategy primarily allocates to exchange-traded products that provide exposure to inflation fighting real assets including resource assets, income assets, and gold.

Current Allocations

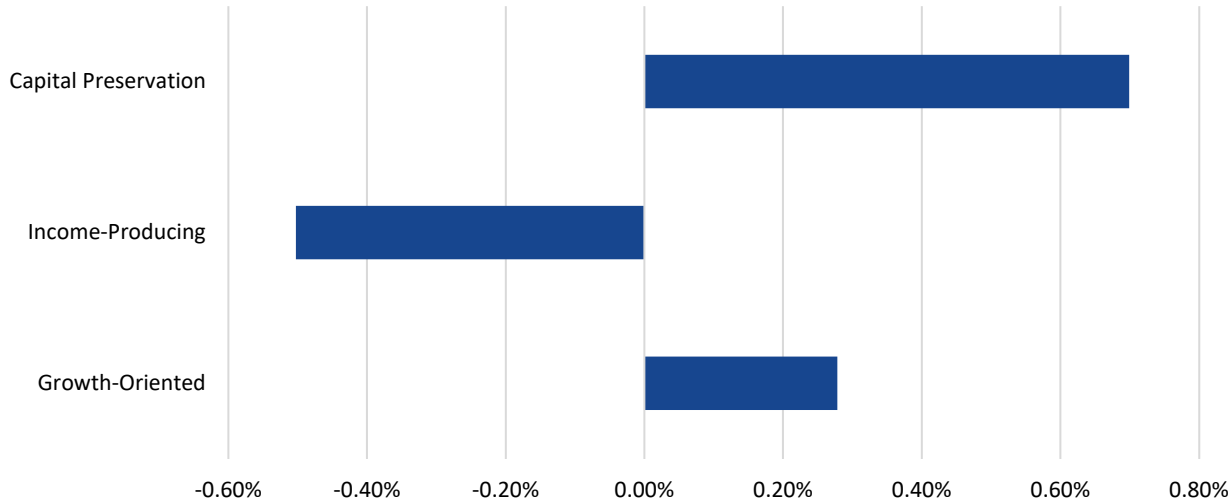
Capital Preservation	Ticker	26.0%
VanEck Gold Miners ETF	GDX	3.0%
VanEck Merk Gold ETF	OUNZ	23.0%
Growth-Oriented		39.5%
Energy Select Sector SPDR Fund	XLE	6.0%
Invesco Water Resources ETF	PHO	0.0%
iShares Global Industrials ETF	EXI	4.0%
Materials Select Sector SPDR Fund	XLB	3.5%
VanEck Commodity Strategy ETF	PIT	18.5%
VanEck Natural Resources ETF	HAP	4.0%
VanEck Uranium and Nuclear ETF	NLR	3.5%
Income-Producing		32.5%
First Trust Nasdaq Clean Edge Smart GRID Infrastructure ETF	GRID	4.0%
Global X U.S. Infrastructure Development ETF	PAVE	11.0%
iShares Residential and Multisector Real Estate ETF	REZ	3.0%
iShares U.S. Infrastructure ETF	IFRA	3.0%
Utilities Select Sector SPDR Fund	XLU	3.5%
VanEck Energy Income ETF	EINC	8.0%
Cash		2.0%

Source: VanEck, FactSet. As of 12/31/2025. For illustrative purposes only. Not intended as an offer or recommendation to buy or sell any securities referenced herein. Strategy allocations will vary.

Real Assets Portfolio

VanEck's Real Assets Portfolio returned +0.46% in December versus -0.32% return for the Bloomberg Commodity Index.

Contribution to Return



Source: FactSet As of 12/31/2025. Past Performance is no guarantee of future results. Please see attached for full strategy GIPS performance and relevant disclosures.

Performance reflected is net of fees. VanEck's Real Assets Portfolio is generally charged an asset based fee (which may be on a sliding scale with breakpoints dependent upon AUM). Please contact us at info@vaneck.com for additional information.

	Top Performers	Bottom Performers
Capital Preservation	Gold Miners +3.78%	Gold Bullion +2.14%
Income-Producing	Energy Income -0.45%	Utilities -5.09%
Growth Oriented	Natural Resources +2.85%	Water Resources -2.62%
Portfolio Changes	Added: First Trust NASDAQ Clean Edge Smart GRID Infrastructure ETF (GRID) Increased: Utilities Select Sector SPDR ETF (XLU), iShares U.S. Infrastructure ETF (IFRA), iShares Global Industrials ETF (EXI), VanEck Natural Resources ETF (HAP) Trimmed: Energy Select Sector SPDR ETF (XLE), Materials Select Sector SPDR ETF (XLB), iShares Residential and Multisector Real Estate ETF (REZ), VanEck Energy Income ETF (EINC), VanEck Merk Gold ETF (OUNZ)	

Performance reflected is net of fees. VanEck's Real Assets Portfolio is generally charged an asset based fee (which may be on a sliding scale with breakpoints dependent upon AUM). Please contact us at info@vaneck.com for additional information.

Select Opportunities Portfolio

The VanEck Select Opportunities Portfolio is an equity-focused, go-anywhere strategy that is intended to provide investors with exposure to high-conviction ideas across asset classes. The Strategy incorporates VanEck's top investment ideas to generate alpha while maintaining a risk-managed framework.

Current Allocations

Artificial Intelligence & Tech Leaders		65.3%
Defiance Quantum ETF	QTUM	5.0%
Global X Artificial Intelligence & Technology ETF	AIQ	5.0%
iShares Expanded Tech Sector ETF	IGM	5.5%
iShares Global Tech ETF	IXN	5.5%
iShares Russell Top 200 Growth ETF	IWY	7.0%
State Street Technology Select Sector SPDR ETF	XLK	6.5%
VanEck Semiconductor ETF	SMH	11.5%
VanEck Technology TruSector ETF	TRUT	5.0%
Vanguard Mega Cap Growth ETF	MGK	10.0%
Defense		4.0%
Invesco Aerospace & Defense ETF	PPA	4.0%
Real Assets		9.0%
VanEck Real Assets ETF	RAAX	9.0%
Nuclear Energy		3.5%
VanEck Uranium and Nuclear ETF	NLR	3.5%
Digital Assets		4.5%
VanEck Bitcoin ETF	HODL	4.5%
Gold		11.0%
VanEck Merk Gold ETF	OUNZ	11.0%
Private Credit		5.0%
VanEck Alternative Asset Manager ETF	GPZ	5.0%
Cash		2.0%

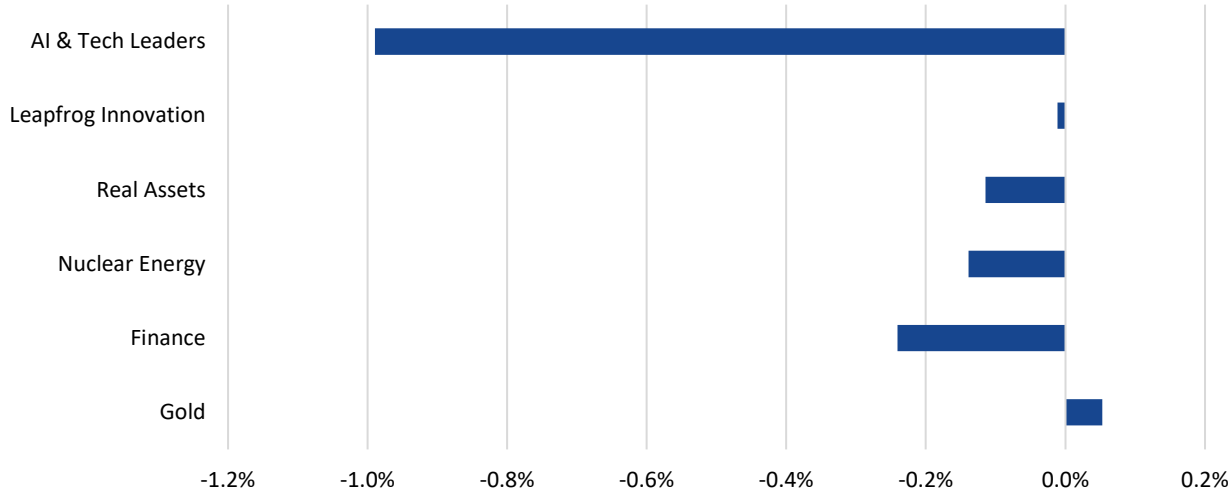
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Select Opportunities Portfolio

VanEck's Select Opportunities Portfolio returned +0.34% in December versus +1.04% return for the MSCI ACWI Index.

Contribution to Return



Source: FactSet As of 12/31/2025. Past Performance is no guarantee of future results. Please see attached for full strategy GIPS performance and relevant disclosures.

Performance reflected is net of fees. VanEck's Select Opportunities portfolio is generally charged an asset based fee (which may be on a sliding scale with breakpoints dependent upon AUM). Please contact us at info@vaneck.com for additional information.

Top Performers	Bottom Performers
Alternative Asset Managers +2.58% Semiconductors +0.84%	Video Gaming and eSports -6.77% Bitcoin -5.18%
Portfolio Changes	No changes to the strategy were implemented in December.

Performance reflected is net of fees. VanEck's Select Opportunities portfolio are generally charged an asset based fee (which may be on a sliding scale with breakpoints dependent upon AUM). Please contact us at info@vaneck.com for additional information.

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Income Builder Portfolio

The Income Builder Strategy targets enhanced total returns relative to traditional core fixed income while maintaining a comparable risk profile. It seeks to achieve this by integrating thematic sources of yield and return, employing quantitatively informed portfolio construction with an emphasis on diversification and hedging, and embedding comprehensive risk management throughout the investment process.

Current Allocations

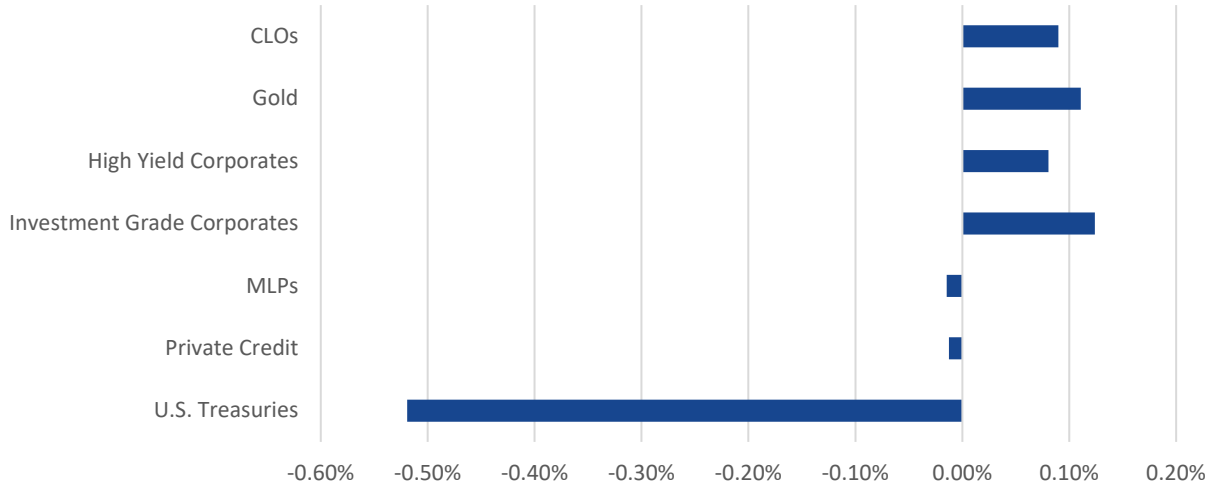
CLOs		14.0%
VanEck AA-BB CLO ETF	CLOB	2.5%
VanEck CLO ETF	CLOI	11.5%
Gold		5.0%
VanEck Merk Gold ETF	OUNZ	5.0%
High Yield Corporates		17.0%
VanEck Emerging Markets High Yield Bond ETF	HYEM	4.0%
VanEck Fallen Angel High Yield Bond ETF	ANGL	13.0%
Investment Grade Corporates		14.0%
VanEck IG Floating Rate ETF	FLTR	11.0%
VanEck Preferred Securities ex Financials ETF	PFXF	3.0%
MLPs		3.0%
VanEck Energy Income ETF	EINC	3.0%
Private Credit		3.0%
VanEck BDC Income ETF	BIZD	3.0%
U.S. Treasuries		42.0%
iShares 7-10 Year Treasury Bond ETF	IEF	32.5%
iShares 20+ Year Treasury Bond ETF	TLT	9.5%
Cash		2.0%

Source: VanEck, FactSet. As of 12/31/2025. For illustrative purposes only. Not intended as an offer or recommendation to buy or sell any securities referenced herein. Strategy allocations will vary.

Income Builder Portfolio

The VanEck Income Builder Portfolio returned -0.14% in December versus -0.29% return for the ICE BofA US Broad Market Index.

Contribution to Return



Source: FactSet As of 12/31/2025. Past Performance is no guarantee of future results. Please see attached for full strategy GIPS performance and relevant disclosures.

Performance reflected is net of fees. VanEck's Income Builder portfolio is generally charged an asset based fee (which may be on a sliding scale with breakpoints dependent upon AUM). Please contact us at info@vaneck.com for additional information.

Top Performers	Bottom Performers
Gold Bullion +2.14% Preferred Securities ex Financials +1.97%	20+ Year Treasury Bonds -2.65% 7-10 Year Treasury Bonds -0.76%
Portfolio Changes	No changes to the strategy were implemented in December.

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Standardized Performance

	Inception Date	1M	3M	YTD	1Y	3Y	5Y	Since Inception
Wealth Builder Plus Conservative Strategy 7/1/2024								
Net		-0.16	1.03	10.21	10.21	--	--	9.02
Gross		-0.16	1.03	10.21	10.21	--	--	9.02
20% ACWI/80% ICE US Broad Market Index		-0.04	1.39	9.89	9.89	--	--	8.31
Wealth Builder Plus Moderate Strategy 7/1/2024								
Net		0.11	1.67	15.41	15.41	--	--	13.77
Gross		0.11	1.67	15.41	15.41	--	--	13.77
60% ACWI/40% ICE US Broad Market Index		0.45	2.23	15.31	15.31	--	--	12.71
Wealth Builder Plus Aggressive Strategy 7/1/2024								
Net		0.26	2.09	18.33	18.33	--	--	16.32
Gross		0.26	2.09	18.33	18.33	--	--	16.32
80% ACWI/20% ICE US Broad Market Index		0.70	2.64	17.98	17.98	--	--	14.84
Thematic Disruption Strategy 12/24/2021								
Net		0.45	-0.21	23.89	23.89	23.35	--	6.12
Gross		0.46	-0.19	24.01	24.01	23.63	--	6.44
MSCI ACWI IMI Growth Index		0.22	2.73	22.12	22.12	25.27	--	9.06
Real Assets Strategy 8/16/2017								
Net		0.46	4.37	29.11	29.11	15.69	13.99	8.05
Gross		0.46	4.37	29.11	29.11	15.88	14.34	8.46
Bloomberg Commodity Index		-0.32	5.85	15.77	15.77	3.96	10.64	6.14
Select Opportunities Strategy 12/20/2024								
Net		0.34	1.94	27.22	27.22	--	--	25.15
Gross		0.34	1.94	27.22	27.22	--	--	25.15
MSCI ACWI Index		1.04	3.29	22.34	22.34	--	--	21.86
Income Builder Strategy 9/30/2021								
Net		-0.14	--	--	--	--	--	-0.14
Gross		-0.14	--	--	--	--	--	-0.14
ICE BofA US Broad Market Index		-0.29	--	--	--	--	--	-0.29

The performance data quoted represents past performance. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Performance may be lower or higher than performance data quoted. Performance figures presented herein are preliminary and may differ slightly from final performance figures. Please contact us at info@vaneck.com for additional information.

Returns greater than 1 year are annualized.

Source: VanEck. As of 12/31/2025.

Disclosures

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Wealth Builder Plus Conservative (Proprietary) is a diversified, risk-balanced portfolio of U.S. listed ETFs that gains exposure to key asset classes. These include, U.S., developed international and emerging market equities, U.S. investment grade, high yield and emerging market debt, and commodity futures, gold bullion and natural resource equities. Additionally, the strategy may gain exposure, through U.S. listed ETFs, to more differentiated assets, such as digital assets and high yield alternatives. The strategy will re-balance periodically to maintain diversification and its overall risk profile. The Wealth Builder Plus Conservative (Proprietary) risk level is conservative. 100% of composite assets are proprietary.

20% ACWI 80% US Broad Market Index (2080CON) is a blended index of 20 % MSCI ACWI and 80% ICE BofA US Broad Market Index. MSCI All Country World Index (MXWD) is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index designed to measure the combined equity market performance of developed and emerging markets countries. ICE BofA US Broad Market Index (US00) tracks the performance of US dollar denominated investment grade debt publicly issued and settled in the US domestic market, including US Treasury, quasi-government, corporate, securitized and collateralized securities.

Wealth Builder Plus Aggressive (Proprietary) is a diversified, risk-balanced portfolio of U.S. listed ETFs that gains exposure to key asset classes. These include, U.S., developed international and emerging market equities, U.S. investment grade, high yield and emerging market debt, and commodity futures, gold bullion and natural resource equities. Additionally, the strategy may gain exposure, through U.S. listed ETFs, to more differentiated assets, such as digital assets and high yield alternatives. The strategy will re-balance periodically to maintain diversification and its overall risk profile. The Wealth Builder Plus Aggressive (Proprietary) risk level is aggressive. 100% of composite assets are proprietary.

80% ACWI 20% US Broad Market Index (8020AGG) is a blended index of 80 % MSCI ACWI and 20% ICE BofA US Broad Market Index. MSCI All Country World Index (MXWD) is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index designed to measure the combined equity market performance of developed and emerging markets countries. ICE BofA US Broad Market Index (US00) tracks the performance of US dollar denominated investment grade debt publicly issued and settled in the US domestic market, including US Treasury, quasi-government, corporate, securitized and collateralized securities.

The Thematic Disruption Strategy (Proprietary) composite is focused on disruptive, innovative and forward thinking themes across a wide array of industries, including technology, finance, healthcare, energy and retail. This strategy is adaptive and take advantage of economic opportunities as a result of novel and transformative discoveries. The portfolio construction process will simultaneously allow for overweighting the most financially lucrative innovations and managing risk vis a vis the correlations and volatilities of the ETFs in the investible universe. The Strategy utilizes the Russell 1000 Growth Total Return Index as a performance benchmark. 100% of composite assets are proprietary.

The MSCI ACWI IMI Growth Index is designed to capture large, mid, and small-cap securities exhibiting overall growth style characteristics across both Developed Markets (DM) and Emerging Markets (EM) countries. The growth investment style characteristics for index construction are defined using five variables: long-term forward earnings per share (EPS) growth rate, short-term forward EPS growth rate, current internal growth rate, long-term historical EPS growth trend, and long-term historical sales per share growth trend.

Real Assets (Proprietary) seeks long-term total return. In pursuing long-term total return, the composite seeks to maximize real returns while seeking to reduce downside risk during sustained market declines by allocating primarily to exchange-traded products that provides exposure to real assets, which include commodities, real estate, natural resources, and infrastructure. The composite seeks to reduce downside risk by using a rules based approach to determine when to allocate a portion or all of the composite's assets to cash and cash equivalents. 100% of composite assets are proprietary.

Bloomberg Commodity Index (BCOMTR) (the “index”) and comprises exchange-traded future contracts on more than 20 commodities which are weighted to account for economic significance and market liquidity.

VanEck Income Builder Composite seeks enhanced returns relative to traditional core fixed income, while maintaining a comparable risk profile. The strategy will pursue this objective by: incorporating thematic sources of yield and total return; applying quantitatively informed portfolio construction focused on diversification and hedging; and embedding comprehensive risk management throughout the investment process.

The ICE BofA US Broad Market Index (US00) tracks the performance of US dollar denominated investment grade debt publicly issued and settled in the US domestic market, including US Treasury, quasi-government, corporate, securitized and collateralized securities.

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The S&P 500® Index consists of 500 widely held common stocks covering industrial, utility, financial and transportation sector; as an Index, it is unmanaged and is not a security in which investments can be made.

The NASDAQ-100 Index tracks the performance of the 100 largest non-financial companies listed on the NASDAQ Stock Market, emphasizing innovation and growth, particularly in tech, and is capitalization-weighted

The Bloomberg Aggregate Bond Index is a broad benchmark for the investment-grade, fixed-rate taxable bond market, including Treasuries, corporate, mortgage-backed, asset-backed, and government-related securities. It is a market capitalization-weighted index used by investors, bond traders, mutual funds, and ETFs to measure the performance of the U.S. dollar-denominated investment-grade bond market.

The composite returns represent the total returns of all fully discretionary portfolios within the strategies’ mandate. The returns of the portfolio are time-weighted, based on trade date accounting. VanEck’s policy is to accrue interest income and recognize dividend income and short dividend expense as reported on ex-dividend date. Interest income is recognized when received. Interest, dividends, and capital gains accrued on foreign securities are reported net of non-reclaimable foreign withholding taxes. Portfolio valuations are based on market values and expressed in US Dollars.

Composite returns are shown gross and net of management fees while including the reinvestment of all income. Brokerage and transaction expenses such as exchange, duty, and commission fees are deducted from trade amounts to determine net transaction costs/proceeds which are reflected in both gross and net returns. Net of fee performance is calculated by deducting actual management fees and in some instances, performance based fees charged to each account.

The composite returns represent past performance and are not reliable indicators of future results which may vary. The composite and comparative index returns can be found on the following page. Additional information regarding policies for valuing investments, calculating performance and preparing GIPS Reports are all available upon request.

Van Eck Associates Corporation (the “Adviser”) has agreed to waive fees and/or pay Fund expenses to the extent necessary to prevent the operating expenses of the Fund (excluding acquired fund fees and expenses, trading expenses, taxes and extraordinary expenses). The expense limitation is expected to continue until the Fund’s Board of Trustees acts to discontinue all or a portion of such expense limitation. A complete list of composite and limited distribution pooled fund descriptions and list of broad distribution pooled funds is available upon request.

Total Firm AUM include all discretionary and non-discretionary assets under management of VanEck, including all fee-paying accounts and accounts managed outside the Firm (e.g. by sub-advisers) where VanEck has allocation and selection authority. Firm proprietary accounts are included in the definition of firm assets. The three-year annualized standard deviation, gross of fees, found on the following page, measures the variability of the composite and the benchmark returns over the preceding 36 month period.

The significant cash flow policy has been suspended for this composite since its inception.



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