



# NVIT Managed American Funds Asset Allocation Fund

## Quarterly Commentary

Nationwide VIT

Commentary

### Q3 2018

Asset class: Allocation  
Objective: Seek to provide a high total return consistent with preservation of capital over the long term

Morningstar category:  
Allocation—50% to 70%  
Equity  
Class II

### Overall Morningstar Ratings™



Out of 703 investments. An investment's overall Morningstar Rating, based on Class II risk-adjusted return, is a weighted average of its applicable 3-year Ratings. See disclosures on back page.

## Strategy Overview

- The NVIT Managed American Funds Asset Allocation Fund seeks to provide a high total return consistent with preservation of capital over the long term.
- The Fund seeks to achieve its objective by investing 95% of its assets in a core sleeve consisting of the American Funds Asset Allocation Fund and 5% in a volatility overlay sleeve that actively increases or decreases the effective equity exposure of the Fund, daily, per a volatility management process
- The core sleeve consists of a traditional strategically managed asset allocation portfolio of underlying stocks and bonds with a flexible investment mandate
- Investments within the volatility overlay sleeve are dictated by a volatility management process that determines whether the Fund should take long or short positions in futures contracts tied to the S&P 500® Index, S&P Midcap 400® Index, Russell 2000® Index and MSCI EAFE® Index

## NATIONWIDE'S MARKET REVIEW

Equity markets rallied for the second consecutive quarter, with the S&P 500® Index delivering a positive return in 21 of the last 23 quarters. Following volatility in the first quarter of the year on fears of inflation, interest rates, geopolitical stress and trade disagreements, investors have refocused on the strong fundamental backdrop. The economy is strong, with GDP growth of 3.2% forecast for the third quarter, following 4.2% in the second quarter. Consumer, small business and executive confidence remains near record levels, and appears to be driving improved consumer and capital spending. Corporate profits provide strong support for equity market returns, with growth for the S&P 500 expected at 21% and the S&P Small Cap 600 Index could grow 35%. Corporate share repurchases are contributing to earnings and generating demand for shares, with buyback authorizations likely to top \$1 trillion this year. Each month of the quarter had positive performance, with the S&P 500 returning 11% for the year.

During the third quarter, the S&P, Dow Jones Industrial Average and NASDAQ Composite Index returned +7.7%, +9.0% and +7.4% respectively. For the S&P 500, it was the best performance since 2013. Growth stocks outperformed value, and large-caps outperformed small. Leading sectors for the quarter included health care, industrials and technology, while materials, energy and real estate lagged. During the quarter, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) raised their Federal Funds target rate by 0.25% (third hike this year), with an expectation for one additional hike for 2018. The Fed's "dot plot" points to three additional hikes for 2019, bringing the range to between 3.00% and 3.25%, though the futures

## Portfolio management



### Nationwide Fund Advisors (NFA)



**Christopher C. Graham**  
Chief Investment Officer  
Fund tenure since 2016



**Keith P. Robinette, CFA**  
Senior Director of Asset Strategies  
Fund tenure since 2017



**Andrew Urban, CFA**  
Senior Director of Asset Strategies  
Fund tenure since 2017

### Nationwide Asset Management, LLC



**Frederick N. Gwin**  
Senior Investment Professional  
Fund tenure since 2014



**Chad W. Finefrock, CFA**  
Senior Investment Professional  
Fund tenure since 2014

market is suggesting a more gradual pace. Interest rates rose for the fifth-straight quarter, with the 10-year yield closing near a seven-year high of 3.05%. The yield curve flattened, with the spread between the 10-year and 2-year Treasury yields falling to 0.25%. Despite the rising rates, tightening credit spreads allowed the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index to deliver a slight positive return. While positive, international equity markets lagged on concerns over global growth and trade tensions, with the MSCI EAFE® Index returning +1.4% and the MSCI Emerging Markets® Index returning -1.0%.

## PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The NVIT Managed American Funds Asset Allocation Fund (Class II Shares) returned 3.66%, underperforming its prospectus benchmark but outperforming its Morningstar category - US Insurance Fund Allocation - 50% to 70% Equity.

Within the core sleeve, relative returns vs. the S&P 500 Index were driven by poor security selection in Energy and Materials sectors. Stock selection within the Industrials and Financial sectors added to relative performance. The overall sector allocation to Energy and Materials, as well as holding excess cash was a detractor to performance during the quarter.

The volatility overlay sleeve held near maximum effective equity exposure throughout the period as overall equity market volatility remained subdued. It thus added to performance throughout the period.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Within the core sleeve, the largest contributors on a relative basis were:

- Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing – Shares rose after a strong set of financial results with second quarter earnings surpassing forecasts. Year over year sales growth was driven by strong sales of components to the compute sector, especially in the Chinese market.
- Molina Healthcare – Shares surged after the company significantly beat second quarter earnings forecasts and more than doubled its earnings guidance for the full year. The improved performance was driven by better profit margins with a positive impact from cost control and restructuring measures.

## DETRACTORS

Within the core sleeve the largest detractors on a relative basis were:

- Noble Energy – Shares slid after second-quarter earnings disappointed forecasts and the company warned that sales for the year would be at the lower end of its guidance range. Noble cited pipeline capacity constraints in the Permian basin, as it pledged to reallocate some of its near-term investment to alternative U.S. onshore locations.
- Apple Inc. – The Fund didn't hold a position in Apple over the period, versus a 4.21% weight in the benchmark. The absence of the stock detracted from benchmark relative performance during the period.

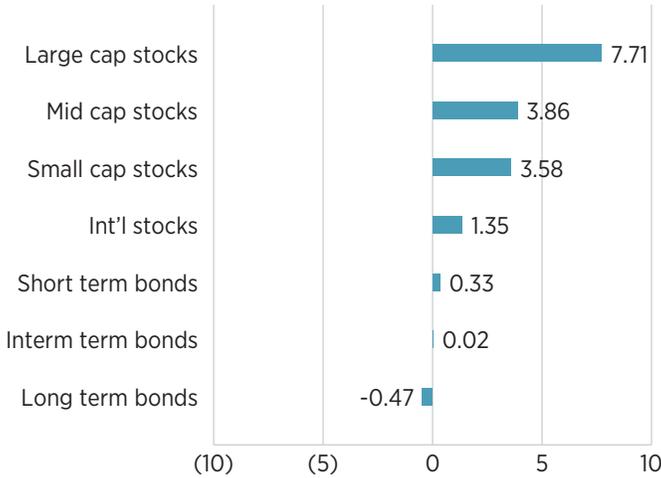
### CURRENT PORTFOLIO POSITIONING

After some equity volatility in the first half of the year, the Fund entered the third quarter with equity exposure around its max of 80%. As volatility remained subdued over the course of the third quarter, the fund maintained that exposure for the rest of the quarter. With generally positive equity performance for the quarter, the volatility overlay was additive to returns. The volatility overlay sleeve functioned in-line with expectations to increase the Fund's volatility in the backdrop of lower market volatility.

### OUTLOOK

The overall economy and markets continue to exhibit typical characteristics of the latter stages of a business cycle, including opportunities for returns in equities exceeding more muted fixed income performance – for which the fund was positioned during the quarter. Political and geopolitical risks have overshadowed some of the positive economic momentum, particularly outside of the US. While central banks are still accommodative, fiscal policy internationally remains restrained relative to the boost being received in the US via tax reform and other spending measures. Thus, the non-US equity allocations have been challenged on an absolute basis and relative to US equities.

## Quarterly asset class returns (%)\*

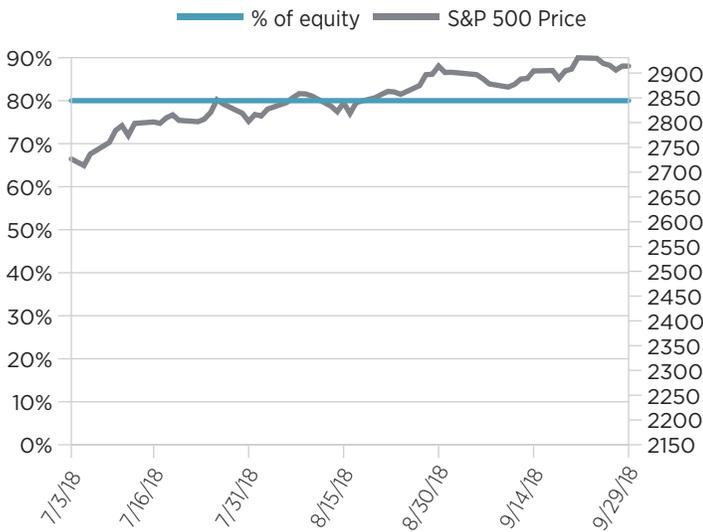


Source: Morningstar, 09/30/18.

The results shown represent past performance; past performance does not guarantee future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the past performance shown.

\* Asset class returns stated above are based on the returns of the following indexes: S&P 500 Index (Large Cap Stocks); S&P MidCap 400 Index (Mid Cap Stocks); Russell 2000 Index (Small Cap Stocks); MSCI EAFE Index (Int'l Stocks); Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index (Interm Term Bonds); Bloomberg Barclays US Govt/Credit 1-3 Yr Index (Short Term Bonds); and Bloomberg Barclays US Long Government/ Credit Index (Long Term Bonds).

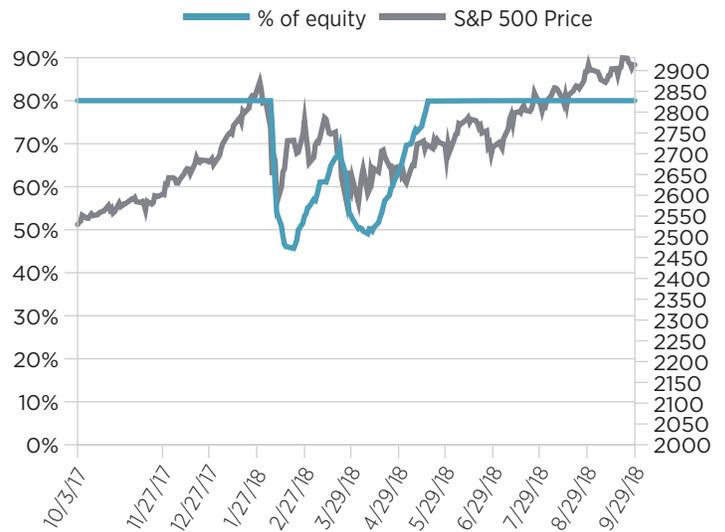
## Rolling managed fund effective equity exposure (Trailing 3 months)



Left axis: Percentage of equity exposure; Right axis: S&P 500 price

Source: Nationwide Managed Volatility Web App, 09/30/18

## Rolling managed fund effective equity exposure (Trailing 12 months)



Left axis: Percentage of equity exposure; Right axis: S&P 500 price

Source: Nationwide Managed Volatility Web App, 09/30/18

## Average annual total returns (%)

Share class	QTD	YTD	1-year	3-year	5-year	Since inception
Class II	3.66	3.39	6.94	10.90	—	6.29
S&P 500 Index	7.71	10.56	17.91	17.31	13.95	—
Allocation—50% to 70% Equity Category	3.28	3.45	7.26	8.98	7.03	—

Performance returns assume the reinvestment of all distributions. Returns for periods less than one year are not annualized. Total returns reflect a contractual expense limitation for direct annual Fund expenses for all classes for certain periods since inception, without which returns would have been lower. Performance numbers do not reflect and would be reduced by the insurance-related fees and charges of the variable product. Please consult the variable product prospectus for information about these fees and charges. To obtain the most recent standardized performance, go to <https://www.nationwide.com/variable-annuity-prospectus-and-performance.jsp> or <https://www.nationwide.com/variable-life-products.jsp>.

**The results shown represent past performance; past performance does not guarantee future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the past performance shown, which does not guarantee future results. Share price, principal value, and return will vary, and you may have a gain or a loss when you sell your shares.**

NVIT Funds are not sold to individual investors. These investment options are underlying subaccounts and cannot be purchased directly by the public. They are only available through variable products issued by life insurance companies.

When evaluating the purchase of a variable annuity product, your clients should be aware that variable annuity products are long-term investment vehicles designed for retirement purposes and will fluctuate in value; and investing involves market risk, including possible loss of principal.

Share class	Expense ratios		Inception date
	Gross (%)	Net (%)	
Class II	0.97	0.97	07/08/2014

The expense ratios are as shown in the most recent prospectus. Expenses include underlying fund expenses. Please see the Fund's prospectus for more details.

## Top Holdings

	% of portfolio
American Funds IS Asset Allocation	100.0

Holdings are provided for informational purposes and should not be deemed as a recommendation to buy or sell the securities.

## Portfolio characteristics

Total Net Assets (all classes)	\$1.8B
Total Number of holdings	1
Sharpe Ratio	1.5
Standard deviation	6.5
Alpha	-0.7
Beta	0.7
R-Squared	89.5

Portfolio characteristics are based on Class II shares.

• Not a deposit • Not FDIC or NCUSIF insured • Not guaranteed by the institution • Not insured by any federal government agency • May lose value

## Important Disclosures

This material is not a recommendation to buy, sell, hold, or roll over any asset, adopt an investment strategy, retain a specific investment manager or use a particular account type. It does not take into account the specific investment objectives, tax and financial condition or particular needs of any specific person. Investors should work with their financial professional to discuss their specific situation.

**Variable products are sold by prospectus. Both the product and underlying fund prospectuses can be obtained by visiting [Nationwide.com/prospectus](http://Nationwide.com/prospectus) or by calling 1-800-848-6331. Before investing, carefully read and consider the fund's investment objectives, risks, charges, expenses, and other important information contained in this and the underlying funds' prospectuses.**

**DEFINITIONS:** **Average annual total returns** are the annual compounded returns that would have produced the cumulative total return if fund performance had been constant during the given period. **Sharpe ratio** measures excess return per unit of risk (standard deviation). A higher Sharpe ratio suggests better risk-adjusted performance. **Standard deviation** measures performance fluctuation, may not be indicative of future risk and is not a predictor of returns. **Alpha** represents the excess returns of a fund relative to its benchmark. A positive alpha is the added value an active manager has contributed over the benchmark returns. **Beta** measures volatility in relation to the fund's benchmark. A beta of less than 1.0 indicates lower volatility, while a beta of more than 1.0 indicates higher volatility relative to the benchmark. **R-Squared** measures the percentage of a fund's movements that can be explained by movements in a benchmark.

**Principal Risks:** Investing in mutual funds involves risk, including the possible loss of principal. Share price, principal value, and return will vary, and you may have a gain or a loss when you sell your shares. There is no assurance that the investment objective of any fund will be achieved. The NVIT Managed American Funds Asset Allocation Fund (the "Fund") consists of two main components. First, a majority of its portfolio, referred to herein as the "Core Sleeve," operates as a "fund-of-funds" that invests in the Growth-Income Fund<sup>SM</sup>, a series of American Funds Insurance Series<sup>®</sup> (the "Underlying Fund"). The Underlying Fund is designed for investors seeking both capital appreciation and income. The Fund, through its Core Sleeve, is subject to the risks of its underlying funds, including but not limited to: the risks of investing in equity securities; fixed-income securities (default risk and interest rate risk); international securities and cash position risk (the Fund may miss investment opportunities). Through its Volatility Overlay, the Fund may invest in more-aggressive investments such as derivatives (which create investment leverage and are highly volatile). The Volatility Overlay may not be successful and may result in losses greater than if the Fund did not implement the Volatility Overlay. Please refer to the most recent prospectus for more detailed information.

Nationwide Fund Advisors (NFA), the Fund's investment adviser, makes both the asset allocation and underlying fund selection decisions for the Fund. Nationwide Asset Management, LLC (NWAM) provides asset allocation consulting services to NFA. NWAM also manages the Volatility Overlay using stock index futures according to Nationwide Funds' quantitative process for evaluating volatility. In addition, NWAM serves as the subadviser to certain other Nationwide Funds. NWAM is a registered investment adviser and wholly owned subsidiary of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company, and therefore is affiliated with NFA.

Asset allocation is the process of spreading assets across several different investment styles and asset classes. The purpose is to potentially reduce long-term risk and capture potential profits across various asset classes.

There is no assurance that the investment objective of any fund (or that of any underlying fund) will be achieved or that a diversified portfolio will produce better results than a non-diversified portfolio. Diversification does not guarantee returns or insulate an investor from potential losses, including the possible loss of principal.

**Market Indexes:** Market index performance is provided by a third-party source Nationwide Funds Group deems to be reliable. Indexes are unmanaged and have been provided for comparison purposes only. No fees or expenses have been reflected. Individuals cannot invest directly in an index. **S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index:** An unmanaged, market capitalization-weighted index of 500 stocks of leading large-cap U.S. companies in leading industries; gives a broad look at the U.S. equities market and those companies' stock price performance. **S&P Mid-Cap 400 Index:** An unmanaged index that measures the performance of 400 stocks of medium-sized U.S. companies (those with a market capitalization of \$1.4 billion to \$5.9 billion). **The S&P SmallCap 600<sup>®</sup> Index:** measures the small-cap segment of the U.S. equity market. The index is designed to track companies that meet specific inclusion criteria to ensure that they are liquid and financially viable. **NASDAQ Composite Index:** a market capitalization-weighted index that measures all NASDAQ domestic and international based common type stocks listed on the Nasdaq Stock Market. **MSCI EAFE Index:** An unmanaged, free float-adjusted, market capitalization-weighted index that is designed to measure the performance of large-cap and mid-cap stocks in developed markets as determined by MSCI; excludes the United States and Canada. **Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index:** An unmanaged, market value-weighted index of U.S. dollar-denominated, investment-grade, fixed-rate, taxable debt issues, which includes Treasuries, government-related and corporate securities, mortgage-backed securities (agency fixed-rate and hybrid adjustable-rate mortgage pass-throughs), asset-backed securities and commercial mortgage-backed securities (agency and non-agency). **Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Government/Credit 1-3 Year Index:** An unmanaged index that measures the performance of non-securitized component of the U.S. Aggregate Index with maturities of 1-3 years, including Treasuries, government-related issues and corporates. **Bloomberg Barclays US Long Government/ Credit Index:** The index measures the performance of non-securitized component of the U.S. Aggregate Index with maturities of 10 years and greater, including Treasuries, government-related issues and corporates. It is a subset of the U.S. Aggregate Index. **Russell 2000 Index:** An unmanaged index that measures the performance of the small-cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. **MSCI Emerging Markets Index:** An unmanaged, free float-adjusted, market capitalization-weighted index that is designed to measure the performance of large-cap and mid-cap stocks in emerging-country markets as determined by MSCI.

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Morningstar Ratings are based solely on a proprietary mathematical formula based on measures of risk and performance that it recalculates each month. The ratings formula measures the amount of variation in a fund's or ETF's monthly performance (excluding the effects of sales charges and loads) emphasizing downward variations and rewarding consistency. Ratings are subject to change every month. The top 10% of funds and ETFs in the category receive 5 stars; the next 22.5%, 4 stars; the next 35%, 3 stars; the next 22.5%, 2 stars; and the bottom 10%, 1 star. As of November 1, 2016, Morningstar no longer provides ratings for load-adjusted share classes. Other share classes may have different performance characteristics. Ratings are based on each fund's Class II performance. Current fund performance may be higher or lower, which may change a fund's star rating. Despite high ratings, funds may have experienced negative performance during the period. The fund received 4 stars (Class II) for the 3-year periods among 703 Allocation—50% to 70% Equity funds, respectively. © 2018 Morningstar. All Rights Reserved. The information contained herein: (1) is proprietary to Morningstar and/or its content providers; (2) may not be copied or distributed; and (3) is not warranted to be accurate, complete or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information.

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