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Update from Portfolio Managers
Chris Davis and Danton Goei

Davis Select U.S. Equity ETF (DUSA)

Semi-Annual Review 2024

Executive Summary

- Over the year ended June 30, 2024, DUSA returned 30.61% compared to 24.56% for the S&P 500 Index.
- After more than a decade of record low interest rates, the U.S. Federal Reserve began increasing interest rates in March of 2022, marking the end of the free-money era which began with the global financial crisis (GFC) of 2008-2009. While this period of normalization will likely include unexpected volatility and disruptions, the portfolio is well-positioned for the return to normal, having outperformed the S&P 500 Index since March 2022.
- Our portfolio includes companies with resilient growth, those with durable earnings power and significant free cash flow, and those with some combination of long-lived assets, pricing power, competitive advantage, balance sheet strength, proven management and attractive valuation.

The average annual total returns for Davis Select U.S. Equity ETF for periods ending June 30, 2024, are: NAV Return, 1 year, 30.61%; 5 years, 13.13%; Inception (1/11/17), 11.39%; Market Price Return, 1 year, 31.05%; 5 years, 13.26%; Inception, 11.44%. The performance presented represents past performance and is not a guarantee of future results. Investment return and principal value will vary so that, when redeemed, an investor's shares may be worth more or less than their original cost. For the Fund's most recent month end performance, visit www.davisetfs.com or call 800-279-0279. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance quoted. NAV prices are used to calculate market price performance prior to the date when the Fund was first publicly traded. Market performance is determined using the closing price at 4:00 pm Eastern time, when the NAV is typically calculated. Market performance does not represent the returns you would receive if you traded shares at other times. The total annual operating expense ratio as of the most recent prospectus was 0.61%. The total annual operating expense ratio may vary in future years.

This material includes candid statements and observations regarding investment strategies, individual securities, and economic and market conditions; however, there is no guarantee that these statements, opinions or forecasts will prove to be correct. All fund performance discussed within this material are at NAV and are as of 6/30/24, unless otherwise noted. This is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold any specific security. **Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. The Attractive Growth and Undervalued reference in this material relates to underlying characteristics of the portfolio holdings. There is no guarantee that the Fund performance will be positive as equity markets are volatile and an investor may lose money.**

Performance: Growing Shareholder Wealth

DUSA one-year results exceeded the 24.56% return on the S&P 500 Index, adding to the portfolio's long-term record since its inception. ■

Market Perspective: End of the Free-Money Era

The portfolio's recent outperformance coincides with the overdue bursting of the easy-money bubble after more than a decade of distortions caused by near zero percent interest rates. This shift to a more normal environment began on March 16, 2022 when the Federal Reserve announced the first of 11 consecutive increases in the Federal funds benchmark rate, the steepest rate of change ever. Before discussing how our portfolio is well-positioned to take advantage of this return to normalcy, it is important to understand just how extreme the previous decade of interest rate distortion had become. During this so-called free-money era, both short- and long-term interest rates approached their lowest levels in recorded history (see Figure 1).

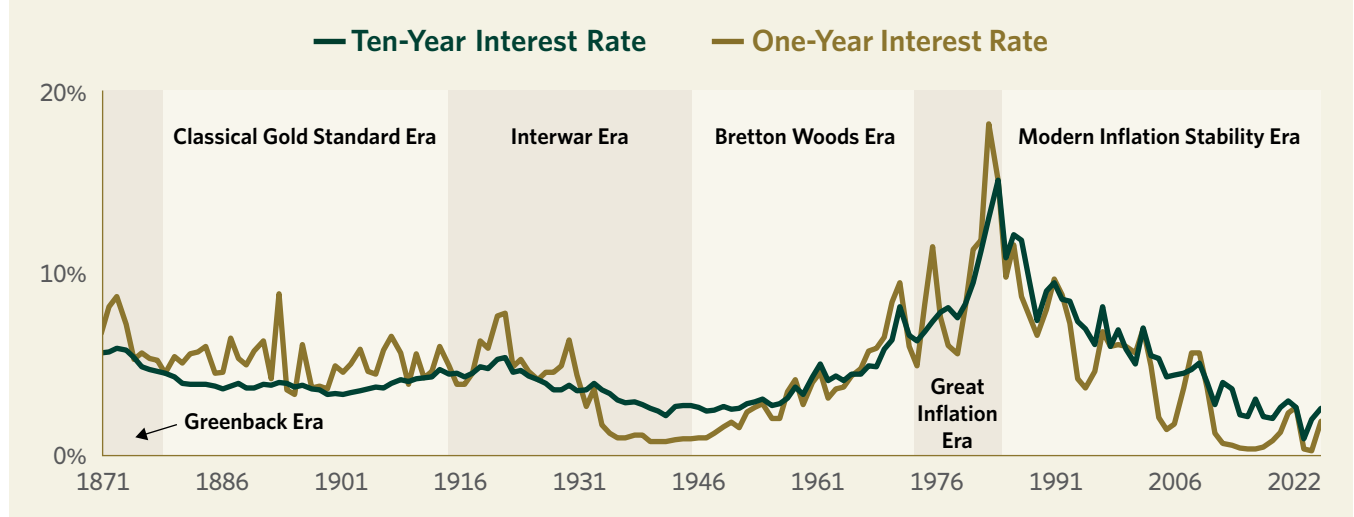
Interest rate suppression (both directly and indirectly through a bond purchase policy known as quantitative easing) became a matter of

national policy, first in response to the great financial crisis (GFC) of 2008-2009, and then the COVID-19 crisis in 2020-2021. It was accompanied by dramatic increases in government spending and ballooning federal deficits.

As the cost of money approached zero despite huge increases in money supply, these policies created significant market distortions. Assets were mispriced, risks ignored, inflation allowed to metastasize, and valuation discipline penalized. Given the sheer magnitude of these distortions, the great unwinding that began in 2022 still has a long way to go. Investors should be prepared for unexpected disruptions and heightened volatility. The high valuations of many of today's market darlings rest on extremely rosy assumptions. Although the trigger may be unknowable, these assumptions can change quickly should the market's current optimism be undercut by the unpleasant appearance of one or more so-called black swans, inevitable but unpredictable shocks to the system.

As for the short term, while we do not expect further interest rate increases this year, and in fact believe that interest rates may come down for a time as the inflation outlook normalizes, the free-money bubble that began in 2009 has burst and the reckoning will continue. ■

Fig. 1: Interest Rates Test Zero in the Free-Money Era¹



1. Source: Robert J. Shiller (Yale University), Federal Reserve Board and Federal Reserve economic data.

Portfolio Positioning: Selective, Growing and Undervalued

For investors like us who have always adhered to a valuation discipline, the unwinding of the free-money bubble is an overdue but unsettling return to normalcy after more than a decade of delusion. As we return to reality and prepare for more volatile times, we are encouraged that the companies we own (including our carefully selected banks) are well-positioned for this changing environment, and that DUSA has outperformed the indices since the free-money era ended.

While short-term results signify little, it should come as no surprise that investors are once again seeking durability, profitability, cash production, valuation and balance sheet strength. It is these characteristics that allow companies to better navigate a period of higher inflation and economic uncertainty. Returning to more normal interest rates may create headwinds for many of the market darlings that led for so long, and tailwinds for the type of durable, attractively valued businesses that lie at the heart of our investment discipline.

Importantly, while recent returns have been strong, our DUSA portfolio remains significantly undervalued compared to the market averages. Our carefully selected group of companies trade at less than 15 times forward earnings (see Figure 2). This is a 37% discount to the S&P 500 despite these companies having grown their earnings per share almost 17% per year over the last five years. This rare combination of durable growth and discount prices is a value investor's dream that positions us well for the years ahead.

Fig. 2: **Selective, Attractive Growth, Undervalued²**

	DUSA	Index
Holdings	25	503
EPS Growth (5 Year)	16.5%	17.2%
P/E (Forward)	14.5x	22.9x

Our long-term conviction includes the recognition that short-term corrections and surprises are an unpleasant but inevitable part of the investment landscape. History shows investors should expect a 10% correction on average once per year and a 20% correction every 3.5 years (see Figure 3). Given the excesses of the last decade, we see no reason to imagine that the future will be immune from shocks, crises, volatility and corrections. Our job is not to try to predict the unpredictable but rather to prepare for the inevitable. ■

Fig. 3: **The Inevitability of Volatility³**

	Occurrences Since 1928	Frequency of Occurrences
5% Correction	328	≈ 3 per year
10% Correction	102	≈ 1 per year
20% Correction	27	≈ 3.5 years

2. The Attractive Growth and Undervalued reference in this material relates to underlying characteristics of the portfolio holdings. There is no guarantee that the Fund's performance will be positive as equity markets are volatile and an investor may lose money. **Past performance is not a guarantee of future returns.** Five-year EPS Growth Rate (5-year EPS) is the average annualized earnings per share growth for a company over the past 5 years. The values shown are the weighted average of the 5-year EPS of the stocks in the Fund or Index. Approximately 1.28% of the assets of the Fund are not accounted for in the calculation of 5-year EPS as relevant information on certain companies is not available to the Fund's data provider. Forward Price/Earnings (Forward P/E) Ratio is a stock's price at the date indicated divided by the company's forecasted earnings for the following 12 months based on estimates provided by the Fund's data provider. These values for both the Fund and the Index are the weighted average of the stocks in the portfolio or Index. 3. Source: Ned Davis Research. Based on S&P 500 Index data 1928 through 2023.

Four Overarching Ideas

While we build our portfolios from the bottom up based on company-by-company research rather than top-down trends, most of the attractively valued and durable businesses we own reflect four overarching, long-term themes (See Figure 4).

Financials: Misunderstood Durability

Financial companies represent the largest sector weighting in DUSA and reflect a theme we describe as “Misunderstood Durability.” Since the GFC, investor sentiment has tended to view financial companies in general, and banks in particular, as fragile, volatile and prone to disaster. That two large banks, Silicon Valley Bank and First Republic (neither of which we had ever owned), collapsed less than two years ago due to company-specific mismanagement of interest rate risk reinforced a perception of fragility for all banks.

This perception is understandable but inaccurate with regards to the select banks we own, such as Wells Fargo, JP Morgan, Capital One and U.S. Bancorp. These actually grew their customer bases through both the GFC and the regional banking

crisis of 2023. What’s more, throughout the last decade, the combination of higher capital ratios, higher market shares and tighter regulation have reduced the riskiness of these well-run institutions while increasing their durability and competitive advantages. While their quarterly and even annual earnings can be volatile, such “lumpiness” does not diminish the fact that these companies generate capital through the business cycle at an attractive rate and use the capital they generate to increase shareholder value by steadily increasing dividends and buying in shares at discounted prices.

Technology: Resilient Growth, Reasonably Priced

Technology, broadly defined, makes up the portfolio’s next largest theme. As with financials, the term technology covers a wide range of companies with diverse types of business models. Within the tech universe, we focus on a select few companies that combine proven long-term growth with reasonable valuations. This valuation discipline has led us to avoid many of the market darlings that have driven the S&P 500 in recent years, including several of the so-called Magnificent Seven tech darlings that today represent an unprecedented concentration of 32% of the S&P 500.

Fig. 4: Investment Themes with Long Tailwinds

<p>Financials Misunderstood Durability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhanced level of capital ▪ Cheap, underestimated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Industries include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non-financial financials - Consumer finance - Mega banks
<p>Technology Resilient Growth, Reasonably Priced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focus on valuation ▪ Stalwarts vs. darlings ▪ Global reach can help offset inflation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Industries include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - E-commerce - Cloud - Online search - Social media - Semiconductors
<p>Healthcare Value Creators vs. Price Takers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drive by demographics ▪ Services over generics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pharma and biotech have big single drug risk
<p>Industrials Resilient, Non-Linear Growth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Electrification ▪ Energy efficiency 	

In fact, while others have been piling into companies like Meta and Alphabet, which we have owned for many years, we have used their recent outperformance as an opportunity to evaluate and reduce our positions as needed in these excellent, but richly valued, companies. Instead of market darlings such as Nvidia, Apple or Tesla, our technology investments have been focused in durable, proven but less glamorous parts of the technology sector such as semiconductor manufacturing (Intel and Texas Instruments) and capital equipment (Applied Materials).

No discussion of the tech sector (or indeed of the market as a whole) would be complete without some reference to the advent of generative artificial intelligence, or so-called GenAI. While we are naturally skeptical of hype, we must begin by stating unequivocally that GenAI is likely to be one of the most transformational technological developments in modern history and one that is almost certain to drive major advances across numerous industries. However, as long-term market observers, we are also equally certain that this revolutionary technology will lead to hyperbole, irrational exuberance⁴ and unfulfilled promises. The stock market in particular is susceptible to wishful thinking and the fear of missing out (FOMO). FOMO leads investors to pile into companies making the most headline-grabbing claims about the future while turning their backs on those with proven businesses with demonstrated competitive advantages.

“While AI stocks will likely go through booms and busts, the underlying technology is transformational and will be a permanent part of the economic landscape going forward.”

In particular, we believe many companies are being rewarded for being early beneficiaries of AI demand with the expectation that their revenues and earnings will continue to grow rapidly in the future. The market for AI products and services, however, is still in its very early days and competition is fierce. We believe it is very risky to project who the long-term winners and losers will be based on their past one or two years of performance. For example, the substantial technological and societal transformations heralded by the internet in the 1990s culminated in the dot-com bubble. Then, as our friend Bill Nygren, portfolio manager at Oakmark Funds, recently reminded investors, “in 2000, amidst dot-com hysteria, the largest cap market darlings were Cisco, America Online (AOL) and Yahoo!. AOL and Yahoo! ended up nearly worthless, and Cisco, currently at a lower share price than in 2000, has lost 80% relative to the S&P 500. We think these results should give pause to anyone believing the AI winners have already been determined.” We couldn’t agree more.

As with the internet, our approach is to avoid the “story stocks” and instead ask which companies can use this powerful new tool most effectively to build the value of their businesses and, just as importantly, which companies are most threatened by this new technology. While AI stocks will likely go through booms and busts, the underlying technology is transformational and will be a permanent part of the economic landscape going forward. As such, questions about its impact are already a standard part of our research process. By incorporating this mindset into our company analyses, we are reminded of Amara’s Law which states that “We tend to overestimate the effect of a technology in the short run and underestimate the effect in the long run.”⁵ The advent of GenAI will only reinforce this important adage.

4. Coined by Fed chair Alan Greenspan in 1996. 5. Roy Charles Amara (1925–2007) was an American researcher, scientist and futurist best known for coining Amara’s law on the effect of technology.

Healthcare: Value Creators versus Price Takers

For decades, healthcare spending relentlessly rose from 5% of U.S. GDP in 1960 to roughly 17% in 2010. However, reflecting the wisdom of Herb Stein's famous observation that "if something cannot go on forever, it will stop,"⁶ the rollout of the Affordable Care Act in 2010, along with a range of other public and private initiatives, led to a flattening of this growth. Today, while healthcare spending remains a political hot button, it is somewhat encouraging that 14 years later the industry's share of GDP still stands at 17% despite the invention of many expensive new therapies in the interim.

To offset the rising costs of novel treatments and innovative (and patented) pharmaceutical therapies, the healthcare system has needed to constantly find savings elsewhere. As a result, our investments in this important sector have focused on those companies that play a part in moderating or reducing the natural rate of increase in healthcare spending. Companies such as Cigna and Humana, for example, offer programs like Medicare Advantage which delivers patients a higher quality of care at a lower cost. Given the inefficiencies and incentives of government agencies versus the private sector, we are not surprised that such companies have long records of success. Similarly, lab testing companies like Quest Diagnostics and branded generics companies like Viatrix continue to reduce costs in the healthcare system. On the other side of the ledger, while we marvel at the enormous profits created by novel pharmaceutical and biotech breakthroughs, we find it difficult and risky to try to predict the next winners while also quantifying the duration of those profits given the development of me-too competitors and evolving drug reimbursement policies.

Industrials: Resilient, Non-Linear Growth

In an age of digitization, software, AI, content creation, online advertising and hot consumer brands, companies that operate railroads and generate electricity (Berkshire Hathaway), extract copper (Teck Resources), manufacture insulation (Owens Corning), raise food (Tyson) or produce oil (Tourmaline) may sound dull, but our civilization cannot function without their products. The necessity of these products and, in many cases, the environmental risks of producing them, creates regulatory and legal complexity. What's more, their production often requires large upfront capital investment, and the demand and supply of them in any short-term period may well be subject to cyclical swings, resulting in earnings volatility. Further, as such products are not especially differentiated, price and availability are often the only drivers of customer preference, making it difficult for any one company to maintain high returns without attracting new competition.

So how do we find attractive opportunities in such a difficult category? First, because many such dull businesses are overlooked and out of favor in today's growth-driven market, carefully selected industrials currently sell at extremely low valuations despite having long-term records of growth, durable earnings power, competitive advantages driven by low cost assets or economies of scale, and some inflation protection due to long-lived assets.

What's more, certain long-term trends may be accelerating the growth rates of a number of these companies. For example, in a world of massively expanding computing power, the need for electricity is markedly accelerating. Also, trends like electrification of automobiles and expansion of the electricity grid increase copper demand at a rate

6. Herbert Stein (1916-1999) was an American economist and chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford.

that is likely to continue to outstrip growth in supply (a byproduct of the enormous regulatory challenges of permitting and building new mines). Finally, in ways that are hard to anticipate, the advent of AI is almost certain to create enormous disruption in the relatively more popular and historically faster growing service sector of the economy. The low valuations of dull industrial businesses that are resistant to obsolescence compared to valuations in a service sector facing significant uncertainty may well lead people to view our industrial holdings with more enthusiasm. As one thoughtful analyst recently analogized in looking at the disruption risk facing many service companies, "At the launch of the iPhone, flashlight manufacturers were not worried." Similarly, we recently noticed a billboard outside a large commercial construction site that said, "Hey ChatGPT, finish this building..... Oh wait...", a cheeky reminder that it will be some years before GenAI can do construction, not to mention mine copper, extract oil, or raise, process and deliver food from the farm to our homes. ■

What makes this description so striking is that it was written in *Harper's Weekly* in 1857.

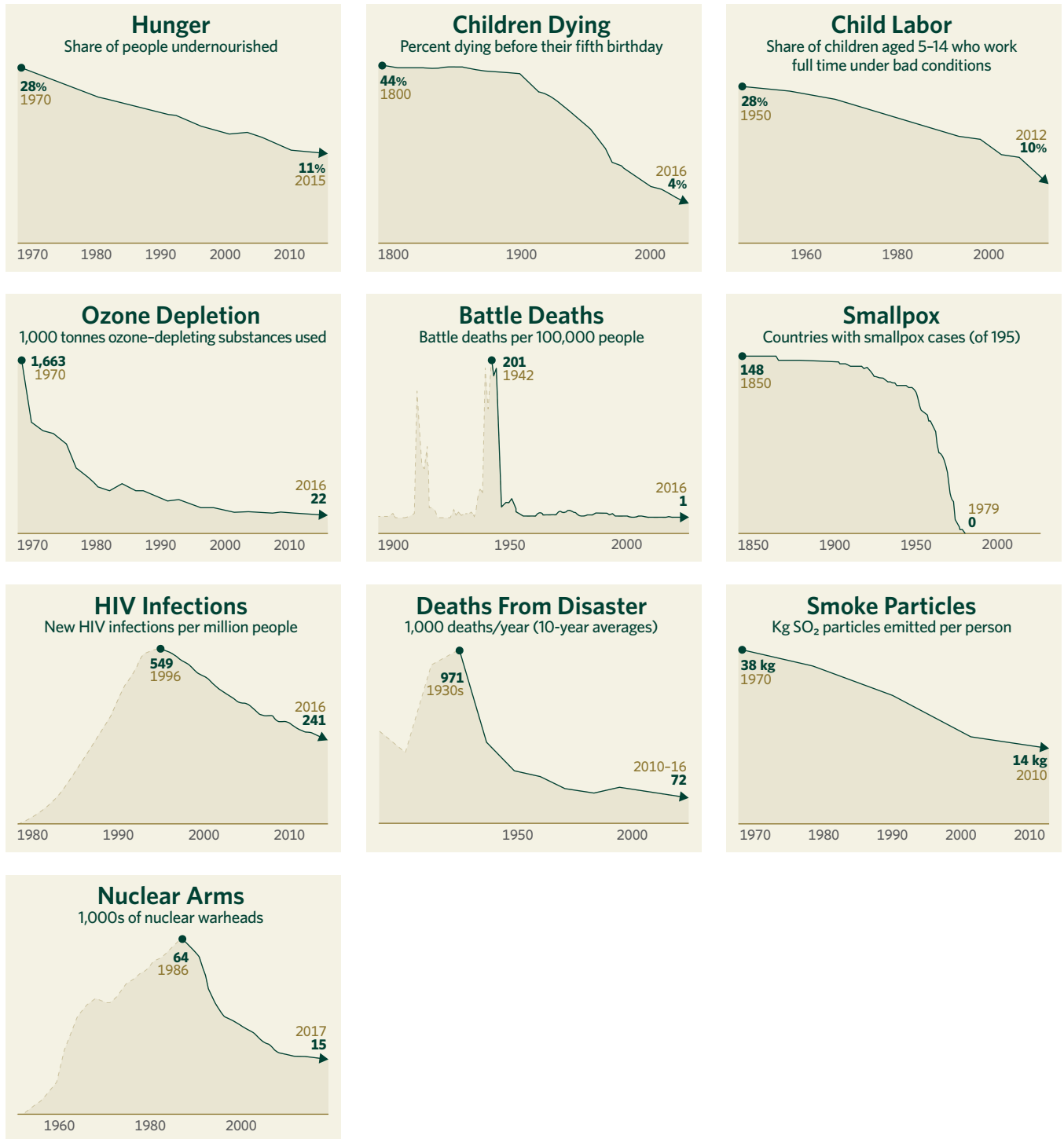
Pessimism, fear and uncertainty are nothing new. And yet we live far better lives today than ever before. For long-term investors, it has always been a mistake to bet against humanity in general and the United States in particular. While it is true that we currently face significant challenges, it is equally true that we are living through a period of enormous global progress. Technology and innovation have contributed enormously to human progress, and with breakthroughs like GenAI, genomics and alternative energy (including compact nuclear reactors) still in their infancy, we see no reason to believe that the record of the last 2,000 years should not continue. At a time when many feel the world has been getting worse, the data tells a different story (see Figures 5 and 6).

Pessimism Never Goes Out of Fashion

Recently our friend and author Shane Parrish shared a striking quote that seems to capture the current mood of our country:

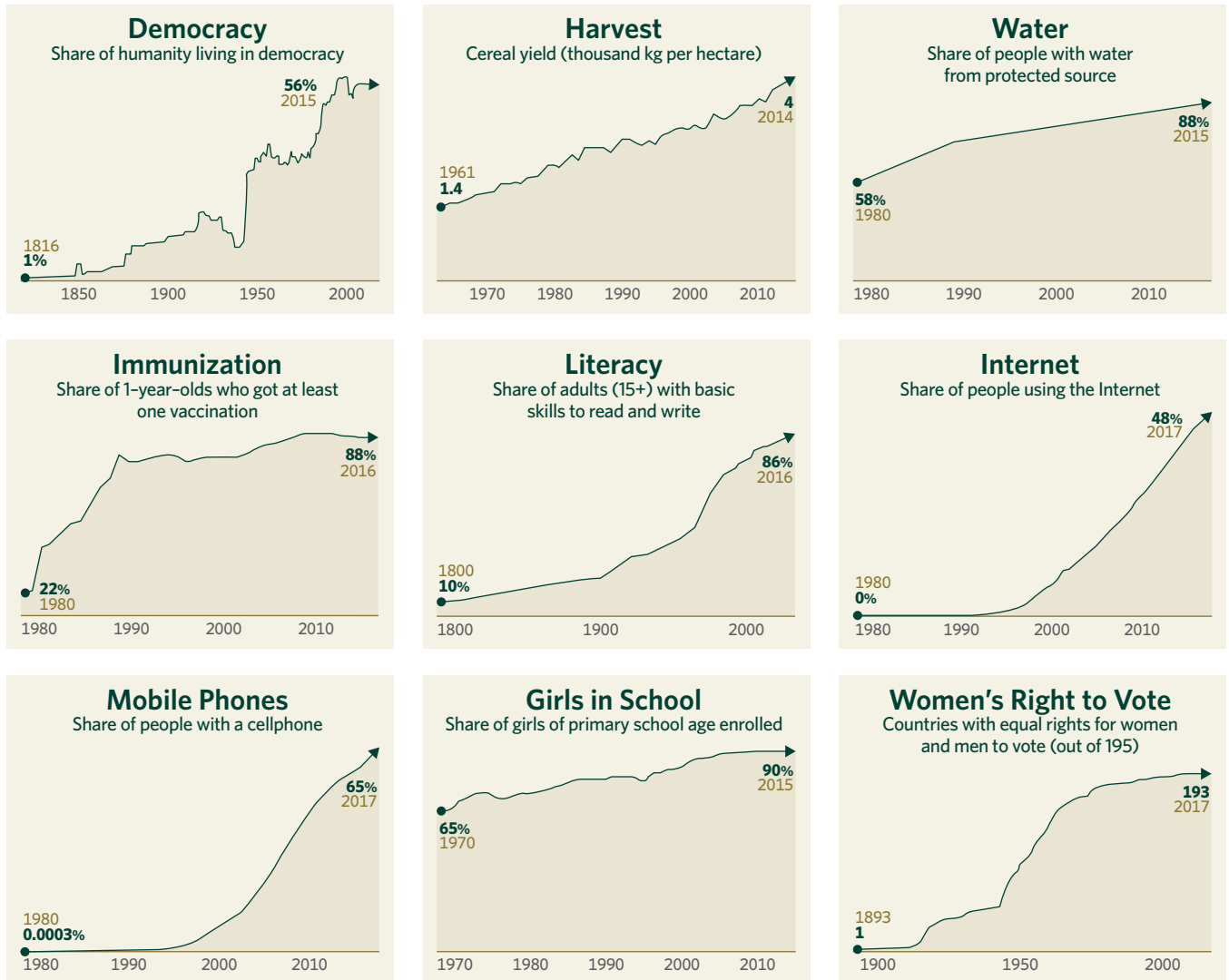
"It is a gloomy moment in the history of our country. Not in the lifetime of most men has there been so much grave and deep apprehension; never has the future seemed so incalculable as at this time. The domestic economic situation is in chaos...Prices are so high as to be utterly impossible. The political cauldron seethes and bubbles with uncertainty. Russia hangs, as usual, like a cloud, dark and silent, upon the horizon. It is a solemn moment. Of our troubles, no man can see the end."

Fig. 5: Less Bad, More Good⁷
While Bad Things Have Been Declining...



7. Source: <https://www.gapminder.org/factfulness-book/32-improvements/>.

Fig. 6: Less Bad, More Good⁸
...Good Things Have Been Increasing



Our confidence that our country and our species has not come to the end of our forward progress does not make us blind to the risks we face. In fact, our awareness of these risks is the very reason that we seek out companies with proven records of durability, resilience and profitability. ■

8. Source: <https://www.gapminder.org/factfulness-book/32-improvements/>.

■ Outlook: Navigating the Transition

From 2008–2022, artificially suppressed interest rates created a period of unprecedented economic and market distortion. Throughout that period, fundamental investment analysis—which rests on discounted present value, cost of capital and risk management—became largely irrelevant. Valuation discipline fell out of favor and the market increasingly rewarded momentum and speculation.

All that changed in the first quarter of 2022 when interest rates began a long overdue period of normalization. The effects of this return to normalcy will be volatile and will unfold over a long period of time. Companies and investors that are not well-prepared face big problems, only some of which have come to light. As this bubble bursts, we expect many more unpleasant surprises, particularly in the most levered and speculative areas of the market and economy.

For Davis Advisors, this transition marks a return to normalcy. The key pillars of success in this tumultuous environment are the cornerstones of our investment discipline: cash generation, conservative capital structure, durable business model, low valuation and proven management. We are pleased that our portfolio has outperformed during this transition, and is strongly positioned to build wealth in the decade to come as our carefully selected group of companies combine attractive valuations with long-term growth.

For more than fifty years, we have navigated a constantly changing investment landscape guided by one North Star: to grow the value of the funds entrusted to us. We are pleased to have achieved strong results thus far and look forward to the decades ahead. With more than \$2 billion of our own money, we stand shoulder to shoulder with our clients on this long journey.⁹

We are grateful for your trust and are well-positioned for the future. ■



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- Why you make most of your money in a bear market
- Viewing volatility as a cost of admission to building wealth
- Saving like a pessimist, but investing like an optimist

⁹. As of 6/30/24, Davis Advisors, the Davis family and Foundation, our employees, and Fund directors have more than \$2 billion invested alongside clients in similarly managed accounts and strategies.

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Shares of DUSA are bought and sold at market price (not NAV) and are not individually redeemed from the ETF. There can be no guarantee that an active trading market for ETF shares will develop or be maintained, or that their listing will continue or remain unchanged. Buying or selling ETF shares on an exchange may require the payment of brokerage commissions and frequent trading may incur brokerage costs that detract significantly from investment returns.

This material includes candid statements and observations regarding investment strategies, individual securities, and economic and market conditions; however, there is no guarantee that these statements, opinions or forecasts will prove to be correct. These comments may also include the expression of opinions that are speculative in nature and should not be relied on as statements of fact.

Davis Advisors is committed to communicating with our investment partners as candidly as possible because we believe our investors benefit from understanding our investment philosophy and approach. Our views and opinions include "forward-looking statements" which may or may not be accurate over the long term. Forward-looking statements can be identified by words like "believe," "expect," "anticipate," or similar expressions. You should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which are current as of the date of this material. We disclaim any obligation to update or alter any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise. While we believe we have a reasonable basis for our appraisals and we have confidence in our opinions, actual results may differ materially from those we anticipate.

Objective and Risks. The investment objective of Davis Select U.S. Equity ETF is long-term capital growth and capital preservation. There can be no assurance that the Fund will achieve its objective. Some important risks of an investment in the Fund are: **stock market risk; common stock risk; market trading risk:** includes the possibility of an inactive market for Fund shares, losses from trading in secondary markets, periods of high volatility, and disruptions in the creation/redemption process. **ONE OR MORE OF THESE FACTORS, AMONG OTHERS, COULD LEAD TO THE FUND'S SHARES TRADING AT A PREMIUM OR DISCOUNT TO NAV;** **exchange-traded fund risk:** the Fund is subject to the risks of owning the underlying securities as well as the risks of owning an exchange-traded fund generally; **focused portfolio risk:** investing in a limited number of companies causes changes in the value of a single security to have a more significant effect on the value of the Fund's total portfolio; **financial services risk; foreign country risk; headline risk; large-capitalization companies risk; manager risk; authorized participant concentration risk:** to the extent that Authorized Participants exit the business or are unable or

unwilling to proceed with creation and/or redemption orders with respect to the Fund and no other Authorized Participant is able to step forward to create or redeem Creation Units, Fund shares may trade at a discount to NAV and could face delisting; **cybersecurity risk:** a cybersecurity breach may disrupt the business operations of the Fund or its service providers; **depository receipts risk:** depository receipts involve higher expenses and may trade at a discount (or premium) to the underlying security and may be less liquid than the underlying securities listed on an exchange; **fees and expenses risk; foreign currency risk; mid- and small-capitalization companies risk; and shareholder concentration risk.** See the prospectus for a complete description of the principal risks.

The information provided in this material should not be considered a recommendation to buy, sell or hold any particular security. As of 6/30/24, the top ten holdings of Davis Select U.S. Equity ETF were: Meta Platforms, 11.21%; Berkshire Hathaway, 9.19%; Capital One Financial, 9.00%; Amazon.com, 8.44%; Humana, 5.32%; Alphabet, 4.98%; Markel Group, 4.72%; Applied Materials, 4.70%; MGM Resorts International, 4.36%; and Wells Fargo, 4.26%.

Davis Fundamental ETF Trust has adopted a Portfolio Holdings Disclosure policy that governs the release of non-public portfolio holding information. This policy is described in the Statement of Additional Information. Holding percentages are subject to change. Visit davisetfs.com or call 800-279-0279 for the most current public portfolio holdings information.

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Free cash flow is the cash left over after a company pays for its operating expenses and capital expenditures.

We gather our index data from a combination of reputable sources, including, but not limited to, Lipper, Wilshire, and index websites.

The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of 500 selected common stocks, most of which are listed on the New York Stock Exchange. The index is adjusted for dividends, weighted towards stocks with large market capitalizations and represents approximately two-thirds of the total market value of all domestic common stocks. Investments cannot be made directly in an index.

After 10/31/24, this material must be accompanied by a supplement containing performance data for the most recent quarter end.