



## Monthly Client Update

October 31, 2011

*Thoughts and Insights of Bob Jackson, Chief Investment Strategist  
(as summarized by Diana Folino, COO)*

Please find enclosed your Monthly Performance Report through October 31st. **Vista Clients experienced a great month in October!** Most portfolios gained over 7% this month absorbing much of the losses from prior months. For example, at the “Catalyst Category” level, the Vista Model’s best performing category was *Energy, Commodities & Natural Resources* with over 13% growth in October (*the best performing single position in that category, Market Vectors Coal ETF (KOL) was up 25% for the month*).

Overall, long-term performance continues to be very good and the Catalyst Categories are again reacting as we would expect given the current economic environment. To the right is a snapshot of the year-to-date Catalyst Category results:

While there is still major uncertainty with the economy and the stock market continues to experience turbulent times, it is comforting to realize that our strategy provides protection against the concerning scenarios we face and has also produced positive returns over the past 5 years even though the S&P 500 lost value over that period. It is always wise and important to remember that there is no substitute for diversification regarding the peace and comfort it provides in times like these. It also allows us to remain calm when others are panicking.

As we move into the holiday months ahead, it is important to focus on some outstanding items before the new year as part of Vista’s dedication to service.

- **Tax Loss Harvesting:** Vista is in the process of preparing for year-end tax related trading strategies. As a service to Vista Clients, we try to minimize your tax burden where possible. To assist in our planning/strategizing, we need for you to advise us of any “Tax Loss Carry Forwards” or non-Vista gains and losses that you may have. We may be able to harvest investment portfolio capital gains against these Tax Loss Carry Forwards or consider other gain/loss strategies that may benefit you. Please notify us no later than **December 16th** if you would like to include any Tax Loss Carry Forwards with our tax planning process.
- **Roth IRA Conversion:** If you wish to convert all or part of your Traditional IRA to a Roth IRA, conversions would need to be completed before **December 31st**. Please notify us if you are interested or to request further information.

<i>Catalyst Category Description</i>	<i>October 2011</i>	<i>YTD Return by Catalyst</i>
Money Market Funds	0.00%	0.01%
Fixed Income	1.45%	6.00%
Foreign Bonds and Currencies	3.37%	2.39%
International Equities	11.82%	(11.33%)
Domestic Equities	11.80%	(1.80%)
Portfolio Protection Allocation	(8.75%)	(8.84%)
Real Estate	12.58%	(7.78%)
Energy, Commod. & Nat'l Res.	13.34%	(6.63%)
Precious Metals	9.06%	7.30%

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- **Charitable Trust Contributions:** If you wish to establish and/or contribute to a charitable trust for a 2011 tax deduction, please contact us for more information and the necessary paperwork. Accounts need to be established and funded before **December 31st**.
- **Required Minimum Distributions:** If you are age 70 ½ or older, you are required to take minimum distributions based on your life expectancy each year from your traditional IRA account or other employer sponsored retirement plan. If you have not already done so, you must take these distributions before **December 31st**. Please contact us or consult with your tax advisor if you feel this action applies to you.

### **Important Dates to Remember:**

<b>December 16th</b>	Tax Loss Carry-forward information and other gain/loss information needed.
<b>December 31st</b>	Last day for Roth IRA conversions.
<b>December 31st</b>	Last day to establish and/or fund a Charitable Gift Trust for a 2011 tax deduction.
<b>December 31st</b>	Last day to take required minimum distributions for 2011.

### **News & Upcoming Events:**

- October 27th was our *First Annual Client Appreciation Event*. For those of you that missed this fun-filled and insightful evening, Vista will be hosting a **Web Conference on December 1st at 4:00 p.m.** to cover the important and timely information discussed during the event. Please contact Melissa at [MMercado@Vistafa.com](mailto:MMercado@Vistafa.com) to let us know if you would like to attend so we can provide you with call in instructions for the conference.
- Additional Web Conferences will also be planned for future dates. Exact dates and times will be made available soon.

Thank you for your continued trust in Vista Financial Advisors. If you have any questions you wish to discuss or would like additional information on Vista's 2011 Portfolio Allocation, please feel free to call (904) 880-8010 and someone would be happy to review these questions or concerns with you personally.

#### **Important Disclosure Information**

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