

U.S. Small Cap Dividend SMA

Quarterly Commentary

Portfolio Review

Equities rally. Stocks surged as bond returns worldwide dropped sharply during the quarter. Financial markets advanced despite geopolitical tensions arising from the Israel-Hamas war.

Economic growth improves. The U.S. government confirmed that the economy grew rapidly in the third quarter, while the Federal Reserve kept its benchmark interest rate steady and projected three rate cuts for 2024. Growth stocks beat value stocks, except among small caps, where value outperformed. Small-cap issues outperformed mid- and large-cap stocks.

Industrials lagged. A few stock choices hurt returns in this sector compared with the benchmark. A large position in Luxfer Holdings, a maker of advanced materials, detracted as quarterly results and forward guidance underwhelmed investors. Weak results from aviation company Park Aerospace and a poor initial public offering from Shimmick, an engineering services firm, also hurt returns.

Communication services hindered performance. Our underperformance compared with the benchmark was driven by poor stock selection. Shares of Cable One fell sharply due to concerns about slowing broadband customer acquisition. Also, shares of John Wiley & Sons traded significantly lower on the surprise departure of the CEO and the cancellation of a highly anticipated analyst day.

Energy contributed. Our underweight positioning relative to the benchmark aided performance as energy-related names (both exploration and production and oil field services) lagged significantly. This underperformance was driven by concerns about slowing demand in the face of record levels of crude oil production in the U.S.

Key Contributors

Tecnoglass. This leading manufacturer of architectural glass and aluminum for commercial and residential markets continued to report strong results. Having a cheap valuation, shares also benefited from the acquisition of a peer company at a significant premium over Tecnoglass' multiple.

Pacific Premier Bancorp. This regional bank, which serves small and midmarket businesses on the West Coast, outperformed after it announced a restructuring of its securities portfolio. This is expected to boost earnings by nearly 20% in the new year. An anticipated near-term decline in interest rates was also beneficial.

Columbia Banking System. This bank holding company serves individuals and small and medium-size businesses on the West Coast. Shares outperformed due to declining interest rates. Despite recent outperformance, we believe the shares remain attractive on a relative and absolute basis, and we view the risk/reward profile favorably.

Key Detractors

ChampionX. This oil field services business focuses on production chemicals and equipment. The company continues to demonstrate solid execution and results, but the stock underperformed along with the rest of the energy sector.

Goal and Strategy

Seeks to invest in small-cap, income-producing companies temporarily selling at a discount.

Portfolio Management Team

Name	Start Date	
	Industry	Company
Jeff John, CFA	1991	2008
Ryan Cope, CFA	2009	2009

Top 10 Holdings (%)

Hess Midstream LP	2.67
Graphic Packaging Holding Co	2.62
EVERTEC Inc	2.58
Tecnoglass Inc	2.46
Columbia Banking System Inc	2.44
Webster Financial Corp	2.37
Axis Capital Holdings Ltd	2.26
Timken Co/The	2.25
FNB Corp/PA	2.25
Popular Inc	2.25

As of 12/31/2023

The holdings listed should not be considered recommendations to purchase or sell a particular security. Equity holdings are grouped to include common shares, depository receipts, rights and warrants issued by the same company. Fund holdings subject to change.

Luxfer Holdings. This producer of engineered industrial materials designs and makes products for the transportation, defense and emergency response markets, among others. Weak quarterly results and new headwinds, including macro softness, supply chain issues and competition in the graphic arts business, weighed on the stock.

Axis Capital Holdings. Shares of this property and casualty and reinsurance company underperformed as interest rates fell sharply. Like many other insurers, Axis benefits from higher interest rates, which generate greater investment income. With interest rates expected to decline in the near term, many insurers lagged.

Notable Trades

Old National Bancorp. This bank holding company serves businesses and consumers in the Midwestern U.S. We initiated a position because we believe the shares are attractively valued. Historically, Old National has had a conservative underwriting culture, and we think the bank can capitalize as many rivals are pulling back.

Ryman Hospitality Properties. This hotel real estate investment trust (REIT) specializes in resort, convention and entertainment space in the United States. Originating largely from group travel booked two to three years in advance, Ryman's income is more stable than that of its peers. Ryman is raising rates, and the entertainment portfolio also holds potential.

Valvoline. This automotive services company recently sold its global products business, enabling the company to focus on growing its retail business. With this sale, Valvoline halted its dividend to invest in its retail footprint. While this is the right strategy, the stock no longer suits an income-focused portfolio.

Four Corners Property Trust. We sold out of our holding as part of a broad re-underwriting of our positioning in the REIT space and consolidation into higher-quality names.

Positioning for the Future

The portfolio seeks to invest in small-cap, higher-quality, dividend-paying companies selling at a discount to fair value. Our process is based on individual security selection, but broad themes have emerged.

Overweight financials. We hold a large overweight in this sector relative to the benchmark, and that is distributed across a number of industries. We continue to maintain a significant overweight in banking, insurance and financial services while holding an underweight in mortgage REITs and consumer finance. We continue to hold a large absolute weight in Compass Diversified Holdings because we view this company as materially undervalued on a sum-of-the-parts basis. Note that a portion of our sector overweight is driven by noncommon holdings (preferred stocks), which are designed to help enhance the portfolio's return and reduce its volatility.

Opportunities in industrials. We like industrials for the attractive stock-specific opportunities, and we hold an overweight relative to the benchmark. We continue to own a diverse set of what we believe are higher-quality industrials (machinery, trading companies and distributors, commercial services and supplies, aerospace and defense), whose businesses should be able to weather market and economic volatility and generate alpha for our investors through various cycles.

Reduced underweight in energy. While we hold an underweight in energy relative to the benchmark, our positioning is unique, given significant exposure to nontraditional energy names. Our exposure is tilted toward higher-returning pipeline operators (Hess Midstream Operations) and higher-returning energy company (TXO Energy Partners) as well as consumables-driven oil field services providers (ChampionX).

Underweight health care. We continue to be significantly underweight in this sector relative to the benchmark as valuations are not presenting attractive risk/reward opportunities. Also, a significant portion of our underweight in this sector is driven by our lack of exposure in the biotechnology, pharmaceuticals and life sciences tools industries. These industries, which now account for a significant share of the health care sector in the benchmark, do not fit our process around quality and strength. Therefore, since they offer very few of the characteristics (strong cash flow, high returns, attractive valuations) we require when investing our trusted client capital, we will likely remain materially underweight in this sector.

Few opportunities in real estate. We remain significantly underweight in real estate. Valuations for higher-quality REITs remain rich relative to other opportunities in the small-cap value space, leaving us with a more limited set of attractive risk/reward opportunities.

U.S. Small Cap Dividend SMA

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Historically, small- and/or mid-cap stocks have been more volatile than the stocks of larger, more established companies.

Russell 2000® Value Index: Measures the performance of those Russell 2000 Index companies (the 2,000 smallest of the 3,000 largest publicly traded U.S. companies, based on total market capitalization) with lower price-to-book ratios and lower forecasted growth values.

Investment return and principal value of security investments will fluctuate. The value at the time of redemption may be more or less than the original cost. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.



Commentary Glossary

Adjustable-Rate Mortgages (ARMs): Mortgages in which the interest rate is adjusted periodically according to a specific index.

Agency Securities (Agencies): Debt securities issued by U.S. government agencies.

Agency MBS: Mortgage-backed securities issued by U.S. government agencies.

Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT): A parallel tax system that was created to keep high income individuals from avoiding taxes through various deductions and exemptions.

Asset-Backed Securities (ABS): A form of securitized debt backed by loan assets such as auto loans, student loans, and credit card debt.

Basis Points (BPS): Used to express percentage values that are carried out to two decimal places. One basis point equals 0.01%.

Breakeven Rate: Yield difference between nominal Treasury notes and TIPS; indicates the market's expectations for inflation.

Carry-Oriented Currencies: Higher-yielding currencies of countries where interest rates are generally higher than those of countries with lower-yielding currencies. These higher-yielding currencies are targeted for "carry trades," where investors borrow money in a low-interest rate currency and invest in a higher yielding currency, potentially profiting from the difference in interest rates.

Collateralized Loan Obligations (CLOs): A form of securitized debt, typically backed by pools of corporate loans and their payments.

Collateralized Mortgage Obligations (CMOs): A form of structured, securitized debt derived from mortgage-backed securities, typically backed by pools of residential mortgages and their payments.

Commercial Mortgage-Backed Securities (CMBS): Securities representing ownership in pools of commercial real estate loans used to finance the construction and improvement of income-producing properties such as hotels, shopping centers, and office buildings.

Commercial Paper: Short-term debt issued by corporations to raise cash and to cover current expenses in anticipation of future revenues.

Commodity: Basic raw materials such as precious metals and natural resources.

Consumer Price Index (CPI): Published by the U.S. government, CPI is the most commonly used statistic to measure inflation in the U.S. economy. Core CPI excludes food and energy prices, which tend to be volatile.

Contribution to Duration (CTD): A measure of bond portfolio risk that reflects a bond sector's contribution to the overall duration of the portfolio.

Corporate Debt: Debt instruments issued by private corporations.

Covered Bonds: Debt securities backed by cash flows from pools of mortgages or public sector loans. The asset pools help secure or "cover" these bonds if the originating financial institution becomes insolvent.

Coupon Interest Rate: The interest rate that is assigned to an interest-paying fixed income security when it is issued.

Credit Analysis: An analysis of the financial strength of the issuer of a security, and the ability of that issuer to provide timely payment of interest and principal.

Credit Default Swap: Credit derivative contracts between two counterparties that can be used to hedge credit risk or speculate on the changes in the credit quality of a corporation or government entity.

Credit Quality: Measures (usually in terms of high or low) the ability of issuers of debt securities to make timely interest and principal payments.

Credit Risk: The risk that the inability of the issuers of debt securities to make payments will cause these securities to decline in value.

Currency Overlay: A financial trading strategy used to separate the management of currency risk from other portfolio strategies. A currency

overlay manager can seek to hedge the risk from adverse movements in exchange rates, and/or attempt to profit from tactical currency views.

Debt Service: The amount of money required within a given period to keep current on required/scheduled repayments of outstanding debt, including interest and principal.

Deflation: A decline in prices for goods, assets and services.

Derivatives: Securities whose performance and/or structure is derived from the performance and/or structure of other assets, interest rates or indexes.

Duration: A measure of the price sensitivity of a fixed income investment to changes in interest rates. The longer the duration, expressed in years, the more a fixed income investment's price will change when interest rates change.

Emerging Markets (EM) Debt: Debt issued by countries whose economies are considered to be developing or emerging from underdevelopment.

Excess Return: The return of an investment portfolio minus the return of what is considered to be a relatively risk-free asset, such as a U.S. Treasury bill.

Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF): Represents a group of securities but is traded on an exchange like an individual stock.

Federal Funds Rate: An overnight interest rate banks charge each other for loans.

Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC): The committee that sets interest rate and credit policies for the Federal Reserve System, the U.S. central bank.

Federal Reserve (Fed): The U.S. central bank, responsible for monetary policies affecting the U.S. financial system and the economy.

Fundamental Factors: Economic or financial data used in determining asset value.

Futures Contracts (Futures): Agreements to buy or sell a specific amount of a commodity or financial instrument at a particular price on a stipulated future date.

General Obligation (GO) Bonds: Municipal bonds that are secured by the full faith and credit of the issuer, including its taxing power.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP): A measure of the total economic output in goods and services for an economy.

Government-Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs): Privately owned corporations created by Congress to provide funding and help to reduce the cost of capital for certain borrowing sectors of the economy such as homeowners, students and farmers.

Headline Risk: Refers to the risk that a negative news media headline about one security issuer, incident or sector could affect the demand for and pricing of a much wider swath of securities.

Hedge: An investment designed to reduce the risk of an adverse price move in another investment. Often a hedge consists of taking an offsetting position in a related investment, such as a futures contract.

High-Yield (HY) Debt: Fixed income securities with lower credit quality and lower credit ratings. High-yield securities are rated below BBB-.

Hybrid Adjustable-Rate Mortgages (ARMs): Combine the characteristics of fixed-rate and adjustable-rate mortgages, with rates remaining fixed for a set period of time and then adjusting periodically according to a specific index.

Inflation: An economic condition of rising prices for goods, services and assets, or equivalently, a declining value of money. Core inflation excludes food and energy prices, which tend to be volatile. It is the opposite of Deflation.

Inflation-Indexed Securities: Debt securities that offer returns adjusted for inflation. Typically, the principal of inflation-indexed securities is indexed to a widely used inflation measure and adjusted accordingly. Interest payments can be adjusted as well.

Interest Rate Risk: The risk that a fixed income investment's value will change due to changes in interest rates.

Investment-Grade (IG) Debt: Fixed income securities with relatively high credit quality and credit ratings in the upper ranges of those provided by credit rating services. Using Standard & Poor's ratings as the benchmark, investment-grade securities are those rated BBB- or higher.

Leverage: The use of financial instruments and/or borrowed capital to increase potential returns or to increase purchasing power.

Long Position: Typical ownership of an asset or investment that gives the owner the right to transfer ownership, the right to any income generated by the asset, and the right to any profits or losses due to value changes.

Long/Short Position: A "market neutral" investing strategy that involves taking long positions in assets that are expected to increase in value and short positions in assets that are expected to decrease in value.

Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs): Publicly traded, generally higher-yielding securities of enterprises that engage in certain businesses, usually pertaining to the use of natural resources.

MSCI ACWI (All Country World Index): A free float-adjusted market capitalization-weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed and emerging markets.

Municipal Securities: Debt securities typically issued by or on behalf of U.S. state and local governments, their agencies or authorities to raise money for a variety of public purposes, including financing for state and local governments as well as financing for specific projects and public facilities.

Nominal Yield: The interest rate to par value that the bond issuer promises to pay bond purchasers.

Non-Agency Mortgage-Backed Securities (MBS): MBS are groups of home mortgages that are sold by the issuing banks and then packaged together into "pools" and sold as a single security. Non-agency MBS are issued by private entities, such as financial institutions.

Mortgage-Backed Securities (MBS): A form of securitized debt that represents ownership in pools of mortgage loans and their payments.

Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE): This price deflator which comes from the Bureau of Economic Analysis' quarterly report on U.S. gross domestic product is based on a survey of businesses and is intended to capture the price changes in all final goods, no matter the purchaser. Because of its broader scope and certain differences in the methodology used to calculate the PCE price index, the Federal Reserve holds the PCE deflator as its preferred, consistent measure of inflation over time.

Quantitative Easing (QE): A form of monetary policy used by central banks to stimulate economic growth by purchasing domestic government securities to increase the domestic money supply, lower interest rates and encourage investors to make investments in riskier assets such as stocks and high-yield securities.

Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs): Securities that trade like stocks and invest in real estate through properties or mortgages.

Real Yield: A yield that has been adjusted to remove the effects of inflation.

Revenue Bonds: Municipal bonds that are secured by the net revenues from the project or facility being financed.

S&P 500 Index: The S&P 500® Index is composed of 500 selected common stocks most of which are listed on the New York Stock Exchange. It is not an investment product available for purchase.

Secondary Market: A market where investors make purchases from other investors, rather than from the initial issuers.

Securitized Debt: Debt resulting from aggregating debt instruments into a pool of similar debts, then issuing new securities backed by the pool. ABS, MBS, and CMOs are common forms of securitized debt.

Short Position: Refers to the sale of an asset borrowed, not owned, by the seller in anticipation of a price decline. If the seller can buy the asset later (to return what was borrowed) at a lower price, a profit results. If the price rises, the borrower/seller suffers a loss.

Sovereign Debt: A country's government-issued debt, priced in its native currency, which can be sold to investors in other countries.

Spreads, Maturity Spreads, Credit Spreads: Measured differences between two interest rates or yields that are being compared with each other. Spreads typically are measured between fixed income securities of the same credit quality, but different maturities (maturity spreads), or of the same maturity, but different credit quality (credit spreads).

Spread Sectors: Non-Treasury debt sectors with securities that usually trade at higher yields than comparable-maturity U.S. Treasury securities. These sectors typically trade at higher yields than Treasuries because they usually have relatively higher credit risk and/or more risk of prepayment.

Spread Widening, Tightening: Changes in spreads that reflect changes in relative value, with spread widening usually indicating relative price depreciation and spread tightening indicating relative price appreciation.

Swaps: Two-party contracts entered into primarily by institutional investors for periods ranging from a few weeks to more than one year. In a standard "swap" transaction, two parties agree to exchange the returns (or differentials in rates of return) earned or realized on particular predetermined investments or instruments.

Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS): Inflation-linked debt securities issued by the U.S. Treasury.

Technical Factors: Market price behavior, trends, volume, and momentum data used in determining asset value.

U.S. Treasury securities: Debt securities issued by the U.S. Treasury and backed by the direct "full faith and credit" pledge of the U.S. government. Treasury securities include bills (maturing in one year or less), notes (maturing in two to 10 years) and bonds (maturing in more than 10 years). They are generally considered among the highest quality and most liquid securities in the world.

Variable-Rate Demand Notes (VRDNs): Short-term debt securities that track market interest rates using periodic (daily, weekly, monthly, or quarterly) interest rate adjustments.

Weighted Average Life to Maturity: The average time in years to receive the principal repayments.

Yield: A rate of return for bonds and other fixed-income securities. There are several types of yields and yield calculations.

Yield Curve: A line graph showing the yields of fixed income securities from a single sector from a range of different maturities at a single point in time.

Yield to Maturity: A common performance calculation for fixed income securities, which takes into account total annual interest payments, the purchase price, the redemption value, and the amount of time remaining until maturity.

Real Yield to Maturity: Yield to maturity minus any "inflation premium" that had been added/priced in.

Zero-Coupon Securities: Debt securities that are sold at a deep discount then redeemed for their full face value at maturity.

