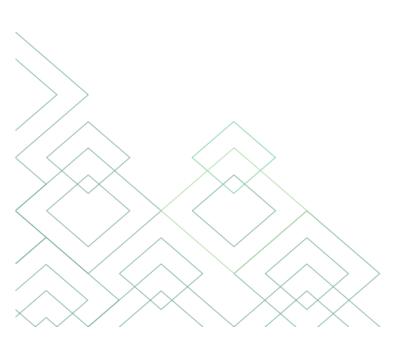


see money differently

# Nedgroup Investments Contrarian Value Equity Fund

Quarter 4, 2020





### Nedgroup Investments Contrarian Value Equity Fund

The following commentary was produced by the sub-investment manager, First Pacific Advisors, LP ("FPA").

USD performance to 30 September 2020	Nedgroup Investments Contrarian Value Equity <sup>1</sup>	S&P 500	MSCI ACWI
3 months	21.8%	12.1%	14.0%
12 months	14.6%	18.4%	15.9%

#### Overview

The Nedgroup Contrarian Value Equity Fund ("Fund" or "NCVE") gained 21.8% (net) for the quarter and 55.3% (net) for the first nine months of 2020.

The Fund's strategy may have appeared out of step in the first quarter, and as the FPA portfolio management team ("portfolio management team" or "portfolio managers" or "team") argued at the time in the Fund's Q1 2020 commentary: "Businesses owned by the Fund may have seen their stock value move 25% day-to-day, or even intra-day, but in the team's assessment their business value did not similarly change."

Stock prices generally appreciated over the last three months; and in many cases increased by quite a lot. While the Fund showed an outsized improvement in the fourth quarter, which was generally a function of the many positions the team pointed out as being inexpensive in the Fund's Q3 2020 commentary. And still, in the portfolio management team's assessment, not a lot has changed in the underlying fundamentals of the companies held in the portfolio.

#### Portfolio discussion

It's been a year of extreme, nerve-wracking volatility. The FPA portfolio management team's longer-term mindset is their anchor in choppy seas, guiding them to seek out what is currently out of favour while avoiding the inflated valuations of what is in vogue. However, these portfolio decisions can at times cause the team to appear out of touch with the crowd – hopefully a temporary phenomenon, and incumbent on the team to prove to you over time.

In the Fund's Q2 2020 commentary earlier this year, the FPA portfolio managers shared what they believed would be temporary impacts on certain businesses: that people would get on planes and stay in hotels again, and what that might mean for the travel and aerospace industries, for example.

We owned and subsequently purchased many stocks that experienced dramatic price declines in the first quarter. The shares of these companies were priced at such low valuations, suggesting that their businesses would never recover.

As a result, the Fund saw more changes in its portfolio last year than it has had in many previous years. We took the opportunity to increase equity exposure earlier in 2020 as other investors were running for the exits. We reset the portfolio by reducing or eliminating certain holdings that in our view offered less attractive long-term potential, while increasing existing and new positions in those businesses that we believed were temporarily harmed by the global pandemic but whose stock prices were disproportionately decimated.

The contributors to and detractors from the Fund's trailing 12-month returns are listed below and reflect the realities of 2020: technology and other growth stocks performed well, while more cyclical "value" stocks did not.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Source: Morningstar (monthly data series). **For illustrative purposes only.** Reflects the gross USD return for the Nedgroup Investments Contrarian Value Equity Fund, D class. The application of management fees and expenses will reduce these returns. An investor in the Fund would not have achieved these gross returns.





#### Exhibit A: Contributors and detractors<sup>2</sup>



#### **Trailing Twelve Months**

Winners	Performance contribution (%)	Avg. weight (%)	Losers	Performance contribution (%)	Avg. weight (%)
Alphabet	3.13%	8.5%	Howmet Aerospace	-3.07%	3.1%
Broadcom	2.09%	4.4%	AIG	-2.16%	4.5%
Facebook	1.88%	4.0%	Raytheon & Otis	-1.84%	1.0%
Analog Devices	1.79%	4.4%	Wells Fargo	-1.84%	2.5%
Baidu	1.74%	2.6%	Ally Financial	-1.70%	0.4%

Technology: It's no great surprise that the top five contributors to performance over the last year were the technology investments that floated upwards on the rising tide. Despite taking some profits, the Fund retained many of these positions. These companies share the common characteristic that they operate successful business models and trade at valuations that, although not as inexpensive as they once were, the FPA portfolio management team believes will still provide a reasonable return in the years to come.

Financials: The financials in the portfolio underperformed as investors sold shares in a panic, fearing that the economic downturn would cause such damage to loan and investment portfolios and that there would be, in general, less demand for their products and services. The market was correct that their businesses would be harmed, but not to the degree that was ultimately priced into their stocks. There has been some recent recognition of this as financials were strong performers in Q4 and in the early days of 2021. Given strong balance sheets, a post-COVID economy within sight, stimulus packages, and the Fed's security purchase support, combined with inexpensive valuations, we suspect that there is still gas left in their collective tank.

Aerospace: The Fund owns an aerospace supplier, Howmet, which saw its stock price decline by around twothirds from its Q1 2020 highs.<sup>3</sup> Howmet's price increased about three times from its low and ended the year at its all-time high. The value of its necessary and large market share business did not fluctuate as much as its stock price.

When things look bleakest, the prospects for returns are typically brightest. As much as that might have been the case earlier this year, in the team's assessment the opposite is true today. Now that the stock market has run to new highs, the team would suggest that investors have borrowed from future returns.<sup>4</sup> In general, the more you pay for an asset, the lower you can expect for its future return.

#### Markets and Economy

It's always good to take stock at the end of a calendar year, and no better time than now with 2020 delivering more than the usual share of surprises.

At the end of 2019, no one predicted that the U.S. unemployment rate would hit its highest level since the Great Depression and most Americans would struggle financially; U.S. national debt would cross \$27 trillion, an increase of almost \$5 trillion; U.S. GDP would shrink 3.5%; average wages would *decline* but household incomes would *increase,* thanks to government stimulus checks (Exhibit B); yet the stock market would hit new highs, delivering a double-digit rate of return.

Past performance is no guarantee, nor is it indicative, of future results.





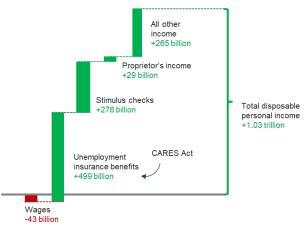
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Reflects the top five contributors and detractors to the Fund's performance based on contribution to return for the trailing twelve months ("TTM") through December 31, 2020. Contribution is presented gross of investment management fees, transactions costs, and Fund operating expenses, which if included, would reduce the returns presented. The information provided does not reflect all positions purchased, sold or recommended by FPA during the TTM. It should not be assumed that recommendations made in the future will be profitable or will equal the performance of the securities listed. Raytheon and Otis were results of a merger between Raytheon and United Technologies. As such, the contribution to return and weight of these separate companies has been combined for purposes of this analysis.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> As of December 31, 2020. The TTM average portfolio weight of and contribution by Howmet were 3.1% and -3.07%, respectively.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Unless otherwise noted, any references to "market" in this Commentary refers to the S&P 500 Index.

#### Exhibit B: Personal Income Increased in 2020 Despite a Decline in Wages in the U.S.<sup>5</sup>





The economy and, by extension, the securities markets have been supported by the friendliest financial conditions in U.S. history including: a negative real rate of interest, liberal fiscal policy, business subsidies, stimulus checks for most individuals, and a ballooning Fed balance sheet used to buy treasuries, agencies, and now corporate bonds.

People were fearful of what *might* be. As is usually the case, however, more things could happen than will happen. We certainly did not predict that 2020 would unfold as it did, but the three meta-points the FPA portfolio management team communicated in their Q1 2020 commentary, when fear was near its peak, reflect their steady bearing.

They said then that;

- 1) "...the world isn't coming to an end. The impact on the Fund is largely a mark-to-market exercise in the midst of the most unsettling series of events that many of us have ever experienced."
- 2) "The FPA portfolio management team added nearly a dozen new holdings and are genuinely happy with what they own..."
- 3) "They believe Fund's portfolio of securities at the end of this tumultuous quarter is attractive and interesting..."

Investors typically anchor to the average annual market return, while disregarding that the actual annual returns vacillate tremendously around that average.

Ironically, people will one day look back at 2020 and see a year that delivered a market return of approximately 2x the long-term average. There will be less attention paid to the market having declined approximately 34%, only to then rebound approximately 67%.<sup>6</sup> That's comforting in a way as it suggests that this unusual year was not really so abnormal.

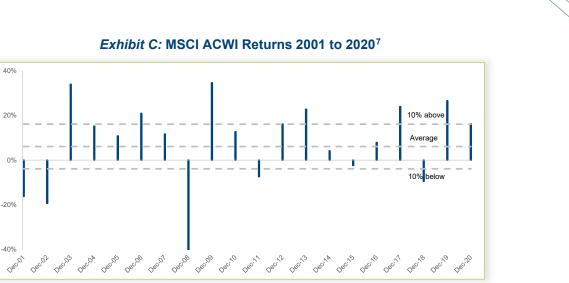
Investors focus on average annual stock market returns without often appreciating that the stock market never returns the average. Long-term equity returns are achieved with significant variability around the mean. The MSCI ACWI Net Return Index has returned an average of 6.12% over the past 20 years, but in only three instances were the returns even within 2% of the average. In 65% of the cases, the returns were more than 10 percentage points higher or lower than the average, with a 77% spread between the best and worst years (34.6% in 2009; -42.2% in 2008). Therefore, notwithstanding the tremendous volatility during the year, as it relates to the global stock market returns for the full calendar year 2020, it was truly an exceptionally unexceptional year (Exhibit C).

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis. Data is from March 2020 through November 2020 and compared to the same time period in 2019.

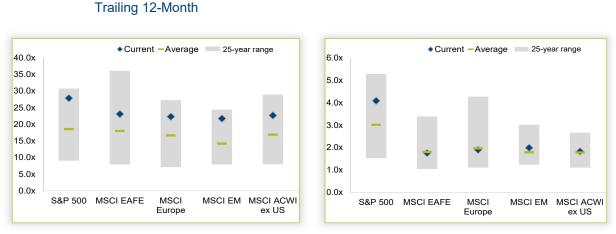
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Source: Bloomberg. As of December 31, 2020. The 'market' statistics noted refer to the S&P 500 Index.



The pendulum swung hard to the downside in March and now has swung even harder to the upside since those market lows. The FPA portfolio management team also wrote in their Q1 2020 commentary that "As emotion is wrung from the stock market, it tends to look forward to what the economy looks like on the other side of a virulent downturn." That happened sooner than the team expected. Far be it from them to say this rebound was overdone, but there's little question that the markets are pricing in a COVID-free world (Exhibit D).



Price to Book Ratio



In comparison to trailing indicators, large-cap U.S. stocks (S&P 500) trade at 22.3x forward earnings at yearend, 45% higher than the 20-year average. <sup>9</sup> Larger market cap companies based outside the U.S. (ACWI ex-U.S.) trade less expensively at 16.7x, although still 25% higher than its 20-year average. These higher valuations can, in part, be supported by lower interest rates and the higher growth rates of many businesses. However, ~12% of the S&P 500 now trades at more than 10x sales – its largest percentage and more than during the dotcom bubble (Exhibit E). Only time will tell if it is truly different this time, but it has always been dangerous to utter those words during previous periods of market exuberance.

Price to Earnings Ratio





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Source: Bloomberg. As of December 31, 2020. MSCI ACWI Net Return Index.

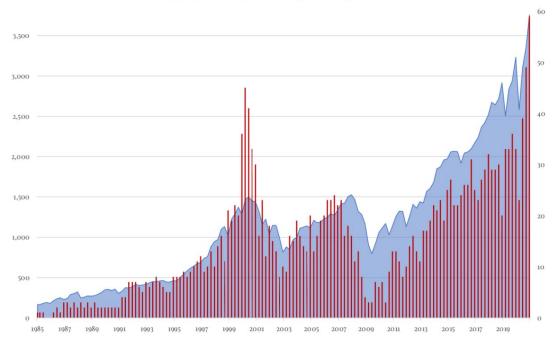
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Source: Factset. As of December 31, 2020. Data is represented by the respective indices in the charts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Source: J.P. Morgan Asset Management, Guide to the Markets. Slide 55. As of December 31, 2020.

Past performance is no guarantee, nor is it indicative, of future results.

#### Exhibit E: Valuation Extreme<sup>10</sup>

S&P 500 Index Number of Components Trading > 10x Sales



International stocks continue to trade more inexpensively (relatively) when compared to U.S. stocks even with many operating globally (Exhibit F). A lower valuation on its own, though, does not warrant a place for a stock in the Fund's portfolio. Those slots are reserved for growing businesses. The team has been fortunate to find many such companies in the last couple of years, which explains the Fund's 35.5% exposure (as a percent of equity investments) to foreign-domiciled companies; including global companies like Lafargeholcim, Groupe Bruxelles Lambert, Glencore, and Richemont.<sup>11</sup>



Exhibit F: Relative Forward P/E Ratio of S&P 500 vs. MSCI ACWI ex-U.S.<sup>12</sup>

Generally high valuations create a friendly market for raising capital. This past year was no different. Initial public offering volume hit a record \$175 billion; while SPACS, the special purpose acquisition companies that have a "blank check" to invest, have raised more than \$60 billion.<sup>13</sup>

Past performance is no guarantee, nor is it indicative, of future results.



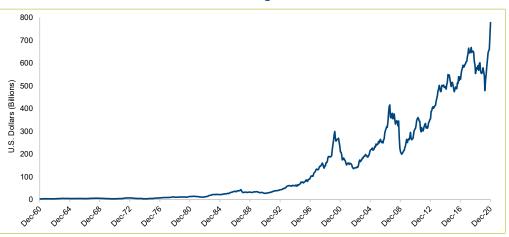
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Source: *What were you thinking? Part Tres*. Jesse Felder, The Felder Report. Data as of December 31, 2020. The 'number of components' refers to individual stocks.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Portfolio composition will change due to ongoing management of the Fund.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Source: Factset. As of December 31, 2020.

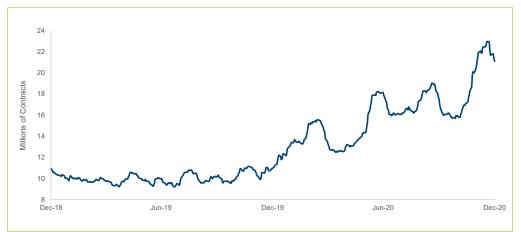
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Source: A Speculative Frenzy is Sweeping Wall Street and World Markets. Bloomberg News. As of December 19, 2020.

According to Bloomberg, "a record \$120 trillion of stock changed hands on U.S. stock exchanges last year, up 50% year-over year. The average Russell 3000 stock saw average daily share volume surge 46% to 1.9 million shares."<sup>14</sup> The stocks that performed best were those with better projected prospects than current earnings and companies that were either less impacted by or benefited from the pandemic. Needless to say, the Fund did not own many of these companies. The momentum-driven buying of many individuals, including those utilizing commission-less platforms like Robinhood, have helped drive stock prices higher. Many of these "investors" operate with the core tenet that past performance is indicative of future performance, and have piled into stocks with the aid of record amounts of borrowed money and the use of derivatives (Exhibits G & H).



#### Exhibit G: Margin Debt<sup>15</sup>

Exhibit H: Call Options Traded 20-Day Moving Average<sup>16</sup>



It's interesting to see how people find solace in different industries in which they have little grasp of the economics, let alone what might be the right price to pay. Momentum, more than understanding, drove the Nifty 50 in the 70s; Oil stocks in the 80s; Tech stocks in the 90s; Diversified industrial stocks and certain financials - like General Electric and Bank of America in the 00s; and now back to technology and healthcare stocks today.<sup>17</sup>

This has led to a clear bifurcation in the market with a widening gulf between the haves and have-nots – as pronounced as the team has ever seen it (Exhibit I). The valuations of many "haves" are too rich for the team's blood and are less likely to deliver reasonable returns over time, despite many high quality businesses in the mix. The lower valuations of the "have-nots" can often be appropriately justified by the secular challenges these businesses face. As price conscious investors, the team focuses on the cohort in between. Much of the oxygen

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Source: Day Traders Put Stamp on Market with Unprecedented Stock Frenzy. Bloomberg Quint. As of January 1, 2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Source: Yardeni Research, Inc. As of December 31, 2020. Debit balances in margin accounts at broker/dealers. Beginning in 1997, data reflects debit Balances in customers' securities margin accounts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Source: Bloomberg. U.S. Total Option Call Volumes. As of December 31, 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Nifty 50 was an informal designation for fifty popular large-cap stocks on the New York Stock Exchange in the 1960s and 1970s that were widely regarded as solid buy and hold growth stocks, or "Blue-chip" stocks. References to individual securities or sectors should not be construed as a recommendation by the Fund, the portfolio managers, or FPA to purchase or sell such securities or invest in such sectors, and any information provided is not a sufficient basis upon which to make an investment decision.

in the room has gotten sucked up by those stocks that have been "working", leaving the share prices of many good businesses gasping for air.

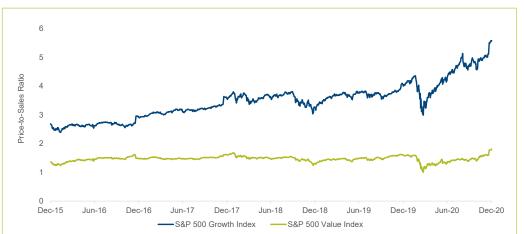


Exhibit I: Price/Sales: S&P 500 Growth Index vs S&P 500 Value Index<sup>18</sup>

Grounded in the philosophy of not paying more for an asset than the team believes it is worth, the team's true north remains bottom-up security selection. They evaluate the risk/reward of each of our investments over a three to five-year period, and innately believe that anything less is speculation. As risky as investing in stocks appeared at the March lows, particularly with regard to the financial, travel, and aerospace sectors, the team would argue that higher stock prices today, all else equal, translates to greater risk.

They therefore expend the bulk of their energy and the Fund's capital on those businesses that they believe offer secular growth, good returns on capital, have operators who are either owners or function with an owner mentality and, finally, trade at prices that should allow for an acceptable rate of return over time.

Investors today are paying more for certainty – or we believe, for the illusion of certainty. However, there are numerous companies (many with unproven business models) whose valuations can only be justified by high earnings growth well into the future. Further, achieving those growth rates does not assure good stock price performance. Take Microsoft for example. It posted 19.5% earnings growth through the first decade of the millennium, but its stock price declined 48% in that time.<sup>19</sup> Price may not matter over the short-term, but it certainly does over the long-term. The Fund's portfolio will hopefully continue to prove that point.

#### Portfolio Activity:20

The Fund increased positions in five of its investments, decreased one of its investments, made four additional investments and exited two investments during the quarter. Last quarter's increases and one decrease were not a function of attractiveness but rather, a function of portfolio rebalancing – Alibaba, Aon, Nexon, PG&E, Softbank and Bank of America. The investments that were exited in the Fund were Jardine Strategy Holdings and Microsoft. Microsoft has reached, what we believe to be, a fair value that warranted using that capital elsewhere. The Fund's newly added positions were FirstEnergy Corp, International Flavors & Fragrances, OpenText and Unilever.

#### Portfolio Profile:

There are currently 37 equity positions in the Fund, with the top five holdings comprising 26.0% and the top 10 comprising 45.7% of the portfolio (based on total assets). The top three sectors, based on GICS sector classification, are Communication Services, Financials, and Information Technology, which comprise over 58% of the total assets of the Fund. The Fund has been able to find opportunity outside of the U.S. and, as a percentage of equity, currently has 39.5% non-U.S. exposure and 60.5% exposure in the U.S.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>21</sup> 'As a Percentage of Equity' excludes cash & cash equivalents. Portfolio composition will change due to ongoing management of the Fund. **Past results are no guarantee, nor are they indicative, of future results.** 



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Source: Bloomberg. As of December 31, 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Source: Bloomberg, for the period 12/31/1999 to 12/31/2009. Microsoft's stock price on the respective dates was \$58.38 and \$30.48.
<sup>7</sup> The information provided does not reflect all positions purchased, sold or recommended by FPA during the quarter. It should not be assumed that an investment in the securities listed was or will be profitable. Increases and decreases represent securities whose position size changed by at least 25% over the period and represent greater than 0.50% of the portfolio. Any exited position mentioned was fully removed, regardless of its representative portfolio size. Portfolio composition will change due to ongoing management of the Fund.



#### Closing

What was a bad year in March turned into an average year by December, emphasizing how noisy short-term performance can be for long duration assets. From a valuation perspective, the FPA portfolio management team believes the Fund is well-positioned for future performance, although more relatively than absolutely.

Although the team does not like losing money, they can't forget about making money. This balance between capital preservation and appreciation must always consider the macro environment: the sovereign desire to inflate, the continued low interest rates, and the negative real return on cash.

They will continue to pay closer attention to how things might unfold over time, rather than to emphasize any moment in time.

Past results are no guarantee, nor are they indicative, of future results.





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The Fund and certain of its sub-funds are recognised in accordance with Section 264 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

UK investors should read the Appendix for UK investors in conjunction with the Fund's Prospectus which are available from the Manager www.nedgroupinvestments.com

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#### NEDGROUP INVESTMENTS CONTACT DETAILS

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The statements contained herein reflect the opinions and views of the FPA portfolio management team as of the date written, are subject to change without notice, and may be forward-looking and/or based on current expectations, projections, and/or information currently available. Such information may not be accurate over the long-term. These views may differ from other portfolio managers and analysts of the sub-investment manager as a whole, and are not intended to be a forecast of future events, a guarantee of future results or investment advice.





You should consider the Fund's investment objectives, risks, and charges and expenses carefully before you invest. Investments, including investments in the Fund, carry risks and investors may lose principal value. Capital markets are

volatile and can decline significantly in response to adverse issuer, political, regulatory, market, or economic developments. The Fund may purchase foreign securities, including American Depository Receipts (ADRs) and other depository receipts, which are subject to interest rate, currency exchange rate, economic and political risks; this may be enhanced when investing in emerging markets. Small and mid-cap stocks involve greater risks and they can fluctuate in price more than larger company stocks.

The return of principal in a bond investment is not guaranteed. Bonds have issuer, interest rate, inflation and credit risks. Interest rate risk is the risk that when interest rates go up, the value of fixed income securities, such as bonds, typically go down and investors may lose principal value. Credit risk is the risk of loss of principal due to the issuer's failure to repay a loan. Generally, the lower the quality rating of a security, the greater the risk that the issuer will fail to pay interest fully and return principal in a timely manner. If an issuer defaults the security may lose some or all of its value. Lower rated bonds, callable bonds and other types of debt obligations involve greater risks. Mortgage-backed securities and asset-backed securities are subject to prepayment risk and the risk of default on the underlying mortgages or other assets. Derivatives may increase volatility.

Value style investing presents the risk that the holdings or securities may never reach their full market value because the market fails to recognize what the portfolio management team considers the true business value or because the portfolio management team has misjudged those values. In addition, value style investing may fall out of favor and underperform growth or other styles of investing during given periods.

Portfolio composition will change due to ongoing management of the Fund. References to individual securities or sectors should not be construed as a recommendation by the Fund, the portfolio managers, the investment manager or the subinvestment manager to purchase or sell such securities or invest in such sectors, and any information provided is not a sufficient basis upon which to make an investment decision. It should not be assumed that future investments will be profitable or will equal the performance of the security or sector examples discussed.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results and current performance may be higher or lower than the performance shown. The performance data herein represents past performance and investors should understand that investment returns and principal values fluctuate, so that when you redeem your investment it may be worth more or less than its original cost.

#### **Index Definitions**

Comparison to any index is for illustrative purposes only and should not be relied upon as a fully accurate measure of comparison. The Fund may be less diversified than the indices noted herein, and may hold non-index securities or securities that are not comparable to those contained in an index. Indices will hold positions that are not within the investment strategy. Indices are unmanaged and do not reflect any commissions or fees which would be incurred by an investor purchasing the underlying securities. The Fund does not include outperformance of any index in its investment objectives. An investor cannot invest directly in an index.

**S&P 500 Index** includes a representative sample of 500 hundred companies in leading industries of the U.S. economy. The Index focuses on the large-cap segment of the market, with over 80% coverage of U.S. equities, but is also considered a proxy for the total market.

**S&P 500 Value Index** is a subset of the S&P 500 index. Companies within the index are ranked based on growth and value factors including three-year change in earnings price/share, three-year sales/share growth rate, momentum, book value/price ratio, earnings/price ratio, sales/price ratio. The companies at the bottom of this list, that have a higher Value Rank, comprising 33% of the total index market capitalization are designated as the Value basket.

**S&P 500 Growth Index** is a subset of the S&P 500 index. Companies within the index are ranked based on growth and value factors including three-year change in earnings price/share, three-year sales/share growth rate, momentum, book value/price ratio, earnings/price ratio, sales/price ratio. The companies at the top of this list, that have a higher Growth Rank, comprising 33% of the total index market capitalization are designated as the Growth basket.

**MSCI ACWI Index** is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to represent performance of the full opportunity set of large- and mid-cap stocks across 23 developed and 26 emerging markets.

**MSCI ACWI ex USA Index** captures large and mid-cap representation across 22 of 23 Developed Markets (DM) countries (excluding the US) and 27 Emerging Markets (EM) countries.

**MSCI ACWI Value Index** captures large and mid-cap securities exhibiting overall value style characteristics across 23 Developed Markets countries and 26 Emerging Markets (EM) countries. The value investment style characteristics for index construction are defined using three variables: book value to price, 12-month forward earnings to price and dividend yield.



Page 11

growth style characteristics across 23 investment style characteristics for index

**MSCI ACWI Growth Index** captures large and mid-cap securities exhibiting overall growth style characteristics across 23 Developed Markets (DM) countries and 24 Emerging Markets (EM) countries. The growth investment style characteristics for index construction are defined using five variables: long-term forward EPS growth rate, short-term forward EPS growth rate, current internal growth rate and long-term historical EPS growth trend and long-term historical sales per share growth trend.

**MSCI Emerging Markets ("EM") Index** captures large and mid-cap representation across 26 Emerging Markets (EM) countries. With 1,404 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

**MSCI Europe Index** captures large and mid-cap representation across 15 Developed Markets (DM) countries in Europe. With 438 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization across the European Developed Markets equity universe.

**MSCI World Index** captures large and mid-cap representation across 23 Developed Markets (DM) countries. With 1,585 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

**MSCI EAFE Index** is an equity index which captures large and mid-cap representation across 21 Developed Markets countries around the world, excluding the US and Canada. With 918 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

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#### Other Definitions

**Call Options** are financial contracts that give the option buyer the right, but not the obligation, to buy a stock, bond, commodity or other asset or instrument at a specified price within a specific time period.

Earnings Per Share (EPS) is calculated as a company's profit divided by the outstanding shares of its common stock. The resulting number serves as an indicator of a company's profitability.

Earnings Per Share Growth is defined as the percentage change in normalized earnings per share over the previous 12-month period to the latest year end.

**Gross domestic product ("GDP")** is the total monetary or market value of all the finished goods and services produced within a country's borders in a specific time period. As a broad measure of overall domestic production, it functions as a comprehensive scorecard of a given country's economic health.

Long Equity Performance represents the performance of stocks that the Fund owned over the given time periods and excludes the long equity portion of a pair trade, short-sales, limited partnerships, derivatives/futures, corporate bonds, mortgage backed securities, and cash and cash equivalents.

**Market Capitalization** refers to the total dollar market value of a company's outstanding shares of stock. Commonly referred to as "market cap," it is calculated by multiplying the total number of a company's outstanding shares by the current market price of one share.

**Market Cycles**, also known as stock market cycles, is a wide term referring to trends or patterns that emerge during different markets or business environments.

**Nifty Fifty** was an informal designation for fifty popular large-cap stocks on the New York Stock Exchange in the 1960s and 1970s that were widely regarded as solid buy and hold growth stocks, or "Blue-chip" stocks.

**Price to Book** is used to compare a firm's market capitalization to its book value. It's calculated by dividing the company's stock price per share by its book value per share (BVPS). An asset's book value is equal to its carrying value on the balance sheet, and companies calculate it netting the asset against its accumulated depreciation.

**Price to Earnings** is the ratio for valuing a company that measures its current share price relative to its EPS. The price-to-earnings ratio is also sometimes known as the price multiple or the earnings multiple.

Trailing Price to Earnings is a relative valuation multiple that is based on the last 12 months of actual earnings.

Forward Price to Earnings is a version of the ratio of price-to-earnings (P/E) that uses forecasted earnings for the P/E calculation.

Price to Sales is a valuation ratio that compares a company's stock price to its revenues. It is an indicator of the value that financial markets have placed on each dollar of a company's sales or revenues.

**Risk Assets** is any asset that carries a degree of risk. Risk asset generally refers to assets that have a significant degree of price volatility, such as equities, commodities, high-yield bonds, real estate and currencies, but does not include cash and cash equivalents.

**Special purpose acquisition company (SPAC)** is a company with no commercial operations that is formed strictly to raise capital through an initial public offering (IPO) for the purpose of acquiring an existing company. Also known as "blank check companies."





Standard Deviation is a measure of the dispersion of a set of data from its mean.

**Volatility** is a statistical measure of the dispersion of returns for a given security or market index. In most cases, the higher the volatility, the riskier the security. Volatility is often measured as either the standard deviation or variance between returns from that same security or market index.



