SMALL CAP DIVERSIFIED VALUE

MARKET COMMENTARY

The Russell 2000 Index declined -2.2% in the third quarter of 2022. The Russell 2000 Growth Index outperformed for the quarter, returning +0.2% vs. -4.6% for the Russell 2000 Value Index.

Investors continued to grapple with elevated inflation and the Fed's hawkish action and sentiment. The latest CPI reading was 8.3% year-over-year, which was slightly above consensus forecasts but below the 40-year high reached in June (9.1%). Energy prices declined, with WTI crude oil falling from $106/barrel to $79/barrel over the course of the quarter. The most recent Core CPI reading, which excludes food and energy, increased slightly from the beginning of the quarter (6.3% from 5.9%). To combat inflation, the FOMC continued to raise interest rates. It increased the Fed Funds Target Rate by 150 basis points via two hikes in the quarter. The target rate now stands at 3.25% (upper bound), a full 3 percentage points higher than where the year began (0.25%). Market implied expectations are for the rate to exceed 4% by year-end.

The economy demonstrated mixed signals. Second quarter real GDP (reported in the third quarter) contracted -0.6% quarter-over-quarter. The ISM Manufacturing PMI declined to 50.9 from over 60 in late 2021 (a reading above 50 indicates expansion, below 50 contraction). The ISM Services PMI was 56.7, slightly higher than at the beginning of the quarter. Unemployment and initial jobless claims remain low. Reported corporate earnings were strong, with 59% of Russell 2000 companies exceeding analyst expectations. Lower forward guidance was a common theme, however. Many management teams have been pointing to inflation, continued supply constraints, and the stronger dollar as near-term profitability headwinds.

At a price-to-earnings ratio[1] of 9.0x at the end of September, the Russell 2000 Value Index continues to trade at an attractive valuation relative to its own history. We continue to find attractive opportunities in Energy. There has been massive underinvestment in new energy projects. These projects take a long time, i.e., years, to produce oil and gas, so even if investment ramps up, we appear poised for a supply shortage for some time. This should keep upward pressure on commodity prices and benefit energy companies' earnings and cash flow. Eventually this is likely to balance but this could be well into the future. In the meantime, the overearning and above normal cash flow puts energy companies in a position to return a lot of capital to shareholders. Retiring shares at attractive valuations is accretive to earnings per share and makes these companies even more attractively valued. We also remain partial to banks, which trade at significant discounts to the market and to their own history. Banks are also returning a lot of capital to shareholders and are one of very few industries than can benefit from rising interest rates. The substantial excess capital on their balance sheets should enable banks to withstand an economic downturn without requiring dilutive capital raises.

ATTRIBUTION – 3Q22

The Hotchkis & Wiley Small Cap Diversified Value portfolio (gross and net of management fees) underperformed the Russell 2000 Value Index in the third quarter of 2022. The largest positive contributor to relative performance was stock selection in Information Technology. The overweight in Energy and underweight in Real Estate also helped relative performance. Conversely, stock selection in Industrials detracted from relative performance during the quarter. The underweight position and stock selection in Health Care also detracted.

[1]Based on FY1 consensus earnings

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Composite performance is available at www.hwcm.com, located on the strategy's Performance tab. Returns discussed can differ from actual portfolio returns due to data differences, cash flows, trading, and other activity. Portfolio characteristics and attribution based on representative Small Cap Diversified Value portfolio. Client portfolio holdings may vary due to different restrictions, cash flows, and other relevant considerations. Performance attribution is an analysis of the portfolio's return relative to the index, is calculated using daily holdings information and does not reflect management fees and other transaction costs and expenses; interaction effect is combined with stock selection. No assurance is made that holdings, or all investment decisions by H&W were or will be profitable.

The value discipline used in managing accounts in the Small Cap Diversified Value strategy may prevent or limit investment in major stocks in the Russell 2000, Russell 2000 Value and Russell 2000 Growth and returns may not be correlated to the indexes. Quarterly characteristics and portfolio holdings are available at www.hwcm.com, located on the strategy's Portfolio and Literature tabs. For a list showing every holding's contribution to the overall account's performance and portfolio activity for a given time period, please contact H&W at hotchkisandwiley@hwcm.com. Portfolio information is subject to the firm's portfolio holdings disclosure policy.

Equity securities may have greater risks and price volatility than U.S. Treasuries and bonds, where the price of these securities may decline due to various company, industry and market factors. Investing in smaller and/or newer companies involves greater risks than those associated with investing in larger companies, such as business risk, significant stock price fluctuations and illiquidity.

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