

MARKET COMMENTARY

The S&P 500 Index rose +6.2% in the first quarter of 2021. Another round of fiscal stimulus was signed and delivered. The \$1.9 trillion bill raised the total COVID fiscal response to \$5.3 trillion; this sum equates to about 25% of pre-COVID GDP or roughly \$16,000 for every American. The bill's passage was widely anticipated and consequently sparked little reaction from equity markets. The acceleration of vaccine availability prompted investor optimism as it was announced that all Americans 16 and older should be eligible by May 1st. On the economic front, the labor market showed signs of improvement as initial jobless claims fell to the lowest level since the pandemic began. The housing market continued its upward trend and consumer confidence also hit its highest level in a year. WTI crude oil prices rose 22% in the quarter, closing the quarter at \$59/barrel after peaking at \$66 in early March. Corporate America performed well, as more than 80% of S&P 500 companies exceeded consensus earnings expectations during the quarter. The signs of near-term recovery, coupled with the Fed's expanding balance sheet, have stoked inflation expectations. The gap between the 10-year treasury note and 10-year TIPS, a proxy for expected inflation, finished the quarter at its highest level since mid-2013. In response to increased growth and inflation expectations, interest rates rose with the 10-year treasury yield rising from 0.92% at the beginning of the quarter to 1.74% at its end.

Value stocks outperformed growth stocks for the second consecutive quarter; the Russell 3000 Value Index returned +11.9% while the Russell 3000 Growth Index returned +1.2%. Over the past six months, the value index has outperformed the growth index by more than 17 percentage points (+31.1% vs. +13.7%). The continued reopening of the economy and the prospect for higher inflation and interest rates has benefited value stocks relative to growth stocks. Despite value's recent outperformance, the valuation gap between growth and value remains considerably wider than historical norms based on common valuation metrics.

The portfolio usually trades at a discount to the value index. Therefore, when value outperforms growth that serves as a tailwind for us relative to the value index. Since the H&W Value Opportunities Fund's inception (12/31/02 for I Shares), it has returned +271% cumulatively compared to +222% for the Russell 3000 Value during quarters when value outperformed growth (+17.2% vs. +15.2% annualized). Conversely, when growth outperforms value that is a headwind. Yet, we have actually been able to beat the value index during these periods as well through positive stock selection. During quarters when growth outperformed value, the Fund returned +139% compared to +64% for the Russell 3000 Value (+9.1% vs. +5.1% annualized). Over the entire period, the Fund has outperformed the benchmark (+785% vs. +428%) despite growth outperforming value by a substantial magnitude (+761% vs. +428%).

Price-to-normal earnings ("P/NE") is one of our preferred metrics because it adjusts for the peaks and troughs of business cycles. The P/NE of the Russell 3000 Value is notably higher than its long-term average (16x vs. 13x) while the P/NE of the Russell 3000 Growth is significantly higher than its long-term average (33x vs. 20x). At 9x normal earnings, the portfolio trades higher than its historical average (7x) but remains at a meaningful discount to the value index and a significant discount to the growth index. This highlights that despite some richly valued publicly traded stocks, we have been able to identify interesting risk-adjusted opportunities trading at attractive valuations not only on a relative basis but also on an absolute basis. The portfolio exhibits somewhat of a cyclical tilt—this is where value opportunities disproportionately reside—but this is offset by investing in good businesses that are well-capitalized and prudently managed, i.e., companies that can endure cyclical downturns. As we look forward, we believe our clients can continue to benefit from this simple and time-tested combination.

ATTRIBUTION – 1Q21

The Hotchkis & Wiley Value Opportunities Fund outperformed the Russell 3000 Value Index in the first quarter of 2021 by a wide margin. Security selection drove about three-fourths of the outperformance. Security selection was particularly beneficial in communication services, industrials, and financials. The overweight exposure to energy and the underweight exposure to health care also helped. Security selection in energy and technology were modest detractors. The largest positive contributors to relative performance in the quarter were Royal Mail, Discovery, News Corp., Wells Fargo, and Amerco; the largest detractors were Cairn Energy, Microsoft, Freddie Mac (preferred), NOV Inc., and F5 Networks.

LARGEST NEW PURCHASES – 1Q21

Berkshire Hathaway is a collection of good businesses—durable assets with attractive reinvestment outlooks—that trade at a reasonable multiple of earnings. We believe that the current valuation does not adequately consider that the company is likely to sustain returns above its cost-of-capital for a very long time. This will drive growth in earnings power and intrinsic value. While there is some uncertainty regarding succession planning, we are comfortable that Berkshire Hathaway will continue to be capably managed by prioritizing growth in shareholder value.

(continued)

Portfolio managers' opinions and data included in this commentary are as of March 31, 2021 and are subject to change without notice. Any forecasts made cannot be guaranteed. Information obtained from independent sources is considered reliable, but H&W cannot guarantee its accuracy or completeness. **The performance shown represents past performance. Past performance is no guarantee of future results and current performance may be higher or lower than the performance shown. Investment results and principal value will fluctuate so that shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. To obtain performance data current to the most recent month-end, access our website at www.hwcm.com.**



VALUE OPPORTUNITIES FUND

HWAIX
HWAAX
HWACX
HWAZX

MANAGER REVIEW & ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

MARCH 31, 2021

F5 Networks provides software and hardware that ensures both traditional and modern applications are efficiently and safely deployed, both on-premise and in public and private clouds. The company is typically viewed as a traditional IT hardware vendor, and critics often highlight the company's secularly declining on-premise appliance business as a key risk factor. This perspective underappreciates the stickiness of F5's software and services which almost always migrate to the public cloud in tandem with F5's loyal enterprise customers. It also underappreciates F5's strong market position in infrastructure and security software for rapidly growing modern applications. We believe downside risk is mitigated by a net cash balance sheet, growing cash flows from F5's traditional businesses, and a renewed focus on shareholder return through share repurchases, which gives this position an attractively skewed risk/return profile.

PERFORMANCE (%) as of March 31, 2021

	QTR	YTD	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	Since 12/31/02
Value Opportunities Fund – I Shares	19.65	19.65	88.10	12.90	14.43	12.13	12.69
Russell 3000 Value	11.89	11.89	58.38	10.99	11.87	10.91	9.68

The performance shown is past performance. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

The Fund's total annual operating gross expense ratio as of the most current prospectus is 0.97% for I Shares. Expense ratios shown are gross of any fee waivers or expense reimbursements. I Shares sold to a limited group of investors. Periods over one year are average annual total return. Average annual total returns include reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Expense limitations may have increased the Fund's total return.

You should consider the Fund's investment objectives, risks, and charges and expenses carefully before you invest. This and other important information is contained in the Fund's summary prospectus and prospectus, which can be obtained by calling 1-800-796-5606 or visiting our website at www.hwcm.com. Read carefully before you invest.

The fund is non-diversified and may invest in foreign securities, junk bonds, derivatives, or small/mid cap companies. Please read the fund prospectus for a full list of fund risks. Equities, bonds, and other asset classes have different risk profiles, which should be considered when investing. All investments contain risk and may lose value. Specific securities identified are the largest contributors (or detractors) on a relative basis to the Russell 3000 Value Index. Securities' absolute performance may reflect different results. The Fund may not continue to hold the securities mentioned and the Advisor has no obligation to disclose purchases or sales of these securities. Attribution is an analysis of the portfolio's return relative to a selected benchmark, is calculated using daily holding information and does not reflect the payment of transaction costs, fees and expenses of the Fund. The "Largest New Purchases" section includes the three largest new security positions during the quarter/year based on the security's quarter/year-end weight adjusted for its relative return contribution; does not include any security received as a result of a corporate action; if fewer than three new security positions during the quarter/year, all new security positions are included.

Style Risk: A value-oriented investment approach involves the risk that value stocks may remain undervalued or may not appreciate in value as anticipated. Value stocks can perform differently from the market as a whole or from other types of stocks and may be out of favor with investors and underperform growth stocks for varying periods of time.

Philip Morris International ("PM") is one of the world's largest tobacco companies and owns the international rights to the world's most popular cigarette brand, Marlboro. The company has a presence in 180 countries worldwide, a 15% or greater market share in 100 countries, and the #1 or #2 market share in most markets. PM's strong brands enable the company to gain market share and improve pricing even within the slowly shrinking tobacco market. The success in IQOS reduced risk products, already a quarter of its business, helps offset continued declines in the conventional cigarette business, and could aid in continuing the trend of growth in operating income. PM is trading at 15x of our view of normal earnings, has a stable cash flow profile, and a strong commitment to returning cash to shareholders through a large and growing dividend.

Growth investing tends to work well during speculative, momentum-driven markets, while value investing tends to work well following recessionary periods. Value stocks following a recession may start from a lower market value than growth stocks which can contribute to their outperformance. Past recessions and recoveries cannot predict future performance due to different factors and circumstances.

Market Disruption: The global coronavirus pandemic has caused and continues to cause disruption in the global economy, unprecedented business and travel disruption and extreme fluctuations in global capital and financial markets. H&W is unable to predict the consequences of the upheaval caused by coronavirus pandemic, which, depending on the severity and the length of the outbreak, has the potential to negatively impact the firm's investment strategies and reduce available investment opportunities.

Fund holdings and/or sector allocations are subject to change and are not buy/sell recommendations. Current and future portfolio holdings are subject to risk. Certain information presented based on proprietary or third-party estimates are subject to change and cannot be guaranteed.

The Russell 3000® Value Index includes stocks from the Russell 3000® Index with lower price-to-book ratios and lower expected growth rates. The Russell 3000® Growth Index includes companies that display signs of above average growth. The index is used to provide a gauge of the performance of growth stocks in the U.S. The S&P 500® Index is a broad-based unmanaged index of 500 stocks, which is widely recognized as representative of the equity market in general. The indices do not reflect the payment of transaction costs, fees and expenses associated with an investment in the Fund. The Fund's value disciplines may prevent or restrict investment in major stocks in the benchmark indices. It is not possible to invest directly in an index. Top ten holdings as of 3/31/21 as a % of the Fund's net assets: Microsoft Corp. 7.9%, General Electric Co. 6.3%, Wells Fargo & Co. 6.0%, F5 Networks Inc. 5.7%, Royal Mail PLC 4.0%, Triple-S Management Corp. 3.8%, AMERCO 3.6%, American Int'l Group Inc. 3.6%, Goldman Sachs Group Inc. 3.3%, and Discovery Inc. 3.0%. Price-to-Normal Earnings is the current market price per share divided by normalized earnings per share. **Forward earnings is not representative of the Fund's future performance. Diversification does not assure a profit nor protect against loss in a declining market.**

Mutual fund investing involves risk. Principal loss is possible.
NOT FDIC INSURED • NO BANK GUARANTEE • MAY LOSE VALUE
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