

Portfolio Commentary

Large Cap Growth

Q4 | 2019

MARKET REVIEW

U.S. stocks regained their footing during the fourth quarter, broadly delivering impressive returns. Growth securities led markets higher, with small caps outperforming. The Russell 1000® Growth Index climbed 10.62% in the period, capping off a 36.39% gain for the year. The benchmark rose across all sectors except utilities (+0.00%), with healthcare (+16.22%), information technology (+14.41%), and communication services (+10.89%) producing the strongest returns.

Investors cheered greater clarity around two major market overhangs. The U.S. and China agreed on an initial trade deal, and a Conservative Party election win in the U.K. helped to fade fears of a further delayed or no-deal Brexit. Although details remained to be determined on both issues, at least there was positive movement forward.

Otherwise, the macro backdrop was largely the same, as the U.S. economy continued its late-cycle, slow-grind growth. Employment remained strong, wages started to rise, inflation stayed low, and consumers continued to spend, serving to more than offset concerns about manufacturing and capital expenditure weakness.

PERFORMANCE

For the quarter, the Silvant Large Cap Growth Strategy Composite returned 10.06% (gross)/9.87% (net) compared to the Russell 1000 Growth Index, which returned 10.62%. An overweight position in industrials, underweight positions in healthcare and information technology, and stock selection in consumer staples weighed the most on returns. Stock selection in information technology added the most to performance.

Autodesk and UnitedHealth Group were the largest stock contributors to relative performance in the quarter.

- Design software company Autodesk reported higher-than-expected earnings and revenue and upbeat forward-looking guidance. The firm has benefited from strong billings and expanding margins as it has transitioned from perpetual licensing to a cloud-based software-as-a-service model. We maintained our position, given the business's attractive fundamentals.
- Managed care company UnitedHealth Group experienced positive sector momentum and earnings and revenue gains, driven by tight cost controls and strong performance in its Optum health information technology and services segment. We continued to hold the stock, as it is a well-run, stable business, and Optum remains an attractive growth engine.

PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS

	Portfolio	Benchmark
Wtd. Avg. Market Cap (\$b)	445.72	394.16
Price-to-Earnings*	29.29	25.63
Price-to-Book	6.89	8.12
Price-to-Sales	4.26	3.86
Std. Dev. (3 yr) (%)	14.14	13.07
Alpha (3 yr) (%)	-1.57	0.00
Beta (3 yr)	1.07	1.00
Std. Dev. (5 yr) (%)	14.03	12.82
Alpha (5 yr) (%)	-2.37	0.00
Beta (5 yr)	1.07	1.00
Est. 3-5 Yr EPS Growth (%)	16.65	14.32
Operating Margin (%)	22.30	22.92

*P/E is calculated using forward 12-month earnings.

TOP

CONTRIBUTORS^{1,2}

	Average Weight	Relative Attribution
Autodesk, Inc.	1.90	0.21
UnitedHealth Group Inc.	2.38	0.14
Applied Materials, Inc.	1.37	0.13
Universal Display Corp.	1.11	0.12
Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc.	1.09	0.12
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	1.19	0.11
Netflix, Inc.	1.83	0.09
Splunk Inc.	0.70	0.08
Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.	0.67	0.08
Microsoft Corp.	10.04	0.08

TOP

DETRACTORS^{1,2}

	Average Weight	Relative Attribution
Apple Inc.	6.44	-0.28
Adobe Inc.	0.62	-0.23
Home Depot, Inc.	2.37	-0.23
Vulcan Materials Company	1.16	-0.17
NVIDIA Corp.	0.02	-0.17
Workday, Inc. Class A	1.34	-0.16
Colgate-Palmolive Company	0.85	-0.15
Knight-Swift Transportation Holdings Inc. Class A	1.15	-0.13
Xylem Inc.	1.16	-0.13
Comcast Corp. Class A	1.82	-0.12

Relative attribution: excess return relative to the benchmark, limited to stocks held in the portfolio.

TOP 10 HOLDINGS¹ (% of portfolio)

Microsoft Corp.	10.11
Amazon.com, Inc.	7.12
Apple Inc.	6.92
Visa Inc. Class A	5.33
Alphabet Inc. Class C	3.58
Facebook, Inc. Class A	3.50
Alphabet Inc. Class A	3.49
Mastercard Inc. Class A	2.69
UnitedHealth Group Inc.	2.53
Costco Wholesale Corp.	2.20

Source: FactSet. All data as of 12/31/2019.

¹ See Holdings Disclosure on page 3.

² The contributors/detractors listed do not represent all securities purchased or sold for our clients. To obtain a list showing the contribution of each holding that contributed to overall performance during the quarter and the calculation methodology, please call 404-845-7640.

Apple and Adobe were the largest stock detractors from relative performance in the quarter.

- An underweighting to Apple relative to the Index weighed on relative returns. The technology leader posted a remarkable 30%-plus gain in the quarter on solid reporting and strong performance in its smaller business lines, which helped offset iPhone declines. We continued to hold the stock—it is one of the portfolio’s largest holdings—but maintained a smaller relative position.
- Creative software company Adobe has been a strong performer for the portfolio, but we sold it early in the quarter because the amount by which it has beaten earnings expectations has steadily tightened. The firm is further along in its software-as-a-service transition than many of its competitors and has likely captured the bulk of gains from this move. After we exited the position, the stock continued to outperform, detracting from relative returns.

PORTFOLIO CHANGES

Notable new purchases included Paycom Software and DexCom. In addition to selling Adobe as discussed, we also sold Fortune Brands Home & Security and Las Vegas Sands.

- Online payroll technology provider Paycom Software has been a consistently strong performer that continues to dominate its space and deliver strong financial performance with attractive margins.
- We purchased medical device company DexCom on the attractive performance of its continuous glucose monitoring system, which is a game-changer in diabetes management and has incredibly large market potential.
- We exited home fixture and hardware manufacturer Fortune Brands Home & Security on profit taking, given the later stages of the current housing and remodeling cycles and increasing competition from China.
- We sold casino and resort company Las Vegas Sands after several quarters of revenue misses and softening VIP guest attendance that may start to spill over to the mass market.

PERFORMANCE ATTRIBUTION (%) AS OF 12/31/2019

	Quarter-end Sector Weights		Impact		
	Portfolio	Benchmark	Sector Weight	Stock Selection	Total
Communication Services	16.15	11.57	-0.02	-0.02	-0.05
Consumer Discretionary	14.83	13.84	-0.04	-0.09	-0.13
Consumer Staples	4.59	4.64	0.00	-0.12	-0.12
Energy	0.62	0.26	-0.03	0.04	0.01
Financials	1.68	3.12	0.02	-0.03	0.00
Healthcare	12.96	14.74	-0.14	0.04	-0.10
Industrials	9.31	9.27	-0.18	-0.05	-0.23
Information Technology	37.12	38.87	-0.13	0.50	0.38
Materials	1.67	1.34	-0.03	-0.06	-0.10
Real Estate	1.07	2.36	0.13	0.00	0.14
Utilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total			-0.41	0.22	-0.20

Source: FactSet.

Performance attribution does not incorporate the effects of cash, unclassified securities or expenses and may change at any time without notice. The total impact may not equal the difference between Portfolio and Benchmark returns.

OUTLOOK

Our overall outlook for growth stocks continues to be positive. The economy remains generally solid, without any real signs of recession risk, even this late into the cycle. Monetary policy remains extremely accommodative (though further easing this year seems unlikely), and investors appear to have grown accustomed to dealing with the stream of uncertainties that seem to be constantly overhanging the market. At this juncture, our biggest concerns remain around trade and earnings growth. Looking ahead, we expect companies will continue to be able to capture some positive earnings momentum, though it may be later in the year. This in turn should be able to drive attractive, if more normalized, stock returns. Still, the unpredictable nature of some of the market’s macro risks could introduce new outside shocks that have the potential to escalate short-term volatility.

PERFORMANCE COMPARISON (%) AS OF 12/31/2019

	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
Large Cap Growth Composite (Gross)	10.06	35.10	35.10	20.06	12.95	14.75
Large Cap Growth Composite (Net)	9.87	34.12	34.12	19.18	12.12	13.90
Russell 1000® Growth Index	10.62	36.39	36.39	20.49	14.63	15.22
eVestment Alliance Large Cap Growth Median*	9.76	33.79	33.79	19.51	13.44	14.58
# of Portfolios in Median Calculation	305	305	305	296	287	254

eVestment Alliance data capture date: 1/27/2020

Past performance is not indicative of future results. This presentation is solely for SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION purposes, intended for institutional investors, and may not be provided unless accompanied or preceded by the fully compliant GIPS Composite Presentation. The comparative performance contained herein reflects annualized returns for specific time period, is not indicative of actual annual returns, and may not be relied upon for investment decisions. Complete information regarding Silvant's returns is included on the GIPS presentation on page 4. The performance inception date for the composite is 4/1/2007.

Russell 1000® Growth Index offers investors access to the large-cap growth segment of the U.S. equity universe. The index measures the performance of those Russell 1000 companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values. Investors cannot invest directly in an index.

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*eVestment Alliance (eA) is a manager-reported database on hundreds of investment managers and thousands of investment products covering a full range of asset classes, investment styles, and geographic concentrations. Based on manager input, eA independently constructs universes using qualitative and quantitative factors. The investment products are organized into peer groups and assessed on an ongoing basis to ensure the consistency of a product's attributes within a designated style classification. In addition, eA utilizes style analysis tools, performance analytics, and the review of a product's investment strategy narrative in the construction of wide-ranging universes that are both pure in style and consistent over time.

The eVestment Number of Portfolios represents the number of investment products included in the calculation of the median return for the given eVestment universe for the given time period. Individual investment managers may have more than one investment product included in the universe, so the number of observations will likely be greater than the actual number of investment managers represented.

HOLDINGS DISCLOSURE

The information provided in this report should not be considered a recommendation to purchase or sell any particular security. There is no assurance that any securities discussed herein will remain in an account's portfolio at the time you receive this report or that securities sold have not been repurchased. The securities discussed do not represent an account's entire portfolio and in the aggregate may represent only a small percentage of an account's portfolio holdings.

It should not be assumed that any of the securities transactions or holdings discussed were or will prove to be profitable, or that the investment recommendations or decisions we make in the future will be profitable or will equal the investment performance of the securities discussed herein.

IMPORTANT RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Equity Securities: The market price of equity securities may be adversely affected by financial market, industry, or issuer-specific events. Focus on a particular style or on small or medium-sized companies may enhance that risk. **Growth Stocks:** Growth stocks are typically sensitive to market movements because their market prices tend to reflect future expectations. When it appears those expectations will not be met, the prices of growth stocks typically fall.

For information, contact:

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LARGE CAP GROWTH COMPOSITE 4/1/07 – 12/31/2019

Year	Gross of Fee Return (%)	Net of Fee Return (%)	Benchmark Return (%)	Number of Portfolios	Composite Dispersion (%)	3-Year Standard Deviation		Total Composite Assets at End of Period (US\$ Mil)	Total Firm Assets (US\$ Mil)
						Composite	Benchmark		
2019	35.10	34.12	36.39	Five or fewer	N/A	14.14	13.07	308	821
2018	0.05	-0.69	-1.51	7	0.19	13.79	12.13	308	748
2017	28.03	27.09	30.21	12	0.14	11.78	10.54	730	1,138
2016	-2.34	-3.08	7.08	12	0.12	12.70	11.15	888	1,277
2015	8.78	7.98	5.67	13	0.22	11.81	10.70	912	1,382
2014	10.37	9.55	13.05	13	0.14	11.70	9.59	737	1,736
2013	35.92	34.93	33.48	13	0.32	14.61	12.18	736	2,233
2012	16.42	15.56	15.26	18	0.50	18.43	15.66	1,067	3,002
2011	1.67	0.91	2.64	20	0.53	19.42	17.76	899	3,686
2010	21.25	20.36	16.71	22	2.5	22.84	22.11	1,038	4,093

Silvant Capital Management LLC claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. Silvant has been independently verified for the period March 31, 2008 (the date of the Firm's founding) through December 31, 2018. A copy of the verification report is available upon request. Verification assesses whether (1) the firm has complied with all the composite construction requirements of the GIPS standards on a firm-wide basis and (2) the firm's policies and procedures are designed to calculate and present performance in compliance with GIPS standards. Verification does not ensure the accuracy of any specific composite presentation.

- Silvant Capital Management LLC ("Silvant") is an SEC-registered investment adviser and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Virtus Partners, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Virtus Investment Partners, Inc. ("Virtus"). Registration of an investment adviser does not imply any level of skill or training. Silvant manages assets on behalf of institutional and retail separate accounts and mutual funds. Silvant became an affiliate of Virtus effective June 1, 2017, when Virtus acquired RidgeWorth Capital Management LLC and RidgeWorth Investments ("RidgeWorth"). Silvant was created March 31, 2008, when all of the investment decision-makers associated with the growth equity investment strategies of RidgeWorth became employees of Silvant. The staff and decision making process remained intact and independent within Silvant. For composite reporting purposes, the Firm is defined as all equity portfolios managed by Silvant. Composite performance results are linked to performance history generated at RidgeWorth.
- The Large Cap Growth Strategy composite includes fully discretionary separately managed investment accounts and registered and unregistered mutual funds managed in accordance with the large cap growth style, with the objective of investing in stocks with a competitive advantage, strong profitability metrics, above average free cash flow, above average operating margins and positive price trends. Under normal circumstances, Large Cap Growth Portfolios will have at least 80% of their assets invested in common stocks and other U.S. traded equity securities of large cap companies. U.S. traded equity securities may include American Depository Receipts ("ADRs"). Silvant considers large cap companies to be companies with market capitalizations similar to those of companies in the Russell 1000® Growth Index. Silvant will seek out securities it believes have strong business fundamentals, such as revenue growth, improving cash flows, increasing margins and positive earnings trends. Prior to September 1, 2015, the gross of fee return for the mutual fund was calculated by adding back the fund's published total operating expense ratio to the net of fee mutual fund performance; we now use the gross of fee return of the underlying portfolio. A complete description of the composite is available on request.
- The Large Cap Growth Strategy composite includes the performance of the equity portion of balanced accounts. Cash returns have been allocated using a predetermined cash allocation mix approach. Such "carve-outs" represent the following percentages of the total market value of the composite: 5.8% on December 31, 2008, and less than 1% on December 31, 2009. Beginning January 1, 2010, all equity segments are managed with their own cash balance.
- The benchmark for the Large Cap Growth Strategy composite is the Russell 1000® Growth Index, which measures the performance of those Russell 1000® companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values. Index returns do not reflect the deduction of any fees or expenses.
- The three-year annualized standard deviations for the composite and the benchmark index are calculated using monthly returns. The statistic was not calculated for the composite for December 31, 2008, and December 31, 2009, because 36 monthly returns are not available.
- Valuations and returns are computed and stated in U.S. Dollars.
- Beginning March 31, 2008, composite policy requires the temporary removal of any portfolio incurring a client initiated significant cash inflow or outflow of 10% or greater of portfolio assets.
- The dispersion of annual returns is measured by the equal-weighted standard deviation of portfolio returns represented within the composite for the full year. Partial year dispersion is measured by the equal-weighted standard deviation of portfolio returns represented in the composite for the partial year period specified.
- The significant increase in the dispersion statistic for calendar year 2010 was attributable to significant outperformance in one of our comingled funds due to the receipt of proceeds from a class action lawsuit. Excluding this portfolio would reduce dispersion from 2.4 to 0.6 and would have no significant impact on composite performance.
- Returns are calculated based on total return which (a) includes cash returns, realized and unrealized gains plus income; (b) utilizes trade date and accrual accounting; and (c) is after the deduction of actual trading fees and expenses. Portfolio returns are calculated utilizing daily valuation. Composite returns, calculated monthly, are the weighted average return of the underlying portfolios using beginning-of-period market values. Composite gross of fee returns do not reflect any deduction for investment advisory fees, custodial charges or other costs that a client might incur in connection with the management of an account. Composite net of fee performance is calculated assuming a fee of 0.75%, the highest fee for this type of investment account.
- The management fee schedule applicable to large cap growth equity accounts is as follows: 0.75% on the first \$10 million, 0.45% on the next \$40 million, and 0.25% on all over \$50 million. The minimum annual fee is \$10,000. Actual investment advisory fees incurred by clients may vary.
- This composite was created March 31, 2008, the inception date of Silvant, and continues the investment strategy of a composite originally created in 2007. The composite has performance history with an inception date of April 1, 2007.
- The minimum portfolio size for the Large Cap Growth Strategy composite is \$1,000,000. For further information on investment management fees, please refer to Form ADV Part 2.
- Policies for valuing portfolios, calculating performance, and preparing compliant presentations are available upon request.
- A complete list and description of firm composites and performance results is available upon request.
- Past performance is not indicative of future results and no investment is guaranteed for return of principal and/or return on investments. Results will vary among accounts. All information provided and used in calculations is believed to be correct, but accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Please consult with a financial professional before investing.