



Objective:	Long-Term Growth	Process:	Fundamental/Intrinsic Value
Asset Class:	Domestic Equity	Implementation:	Individual Stocks
Holdings:	25-35	Style Box:	Large Growth
Inception:	June 1978	Structure:²	SMA / Mutual Fund

Description

Rigorous fundamental analysis is combined with quantitative disciplines to identify undervalued stocks that exhibit signs of near-term positive change. The portfolio typically holds 25-35 large-cap and mid-cap growth stocks. The strategy strives for lower volatility and drawdown relative to peer group benchmarks.

Process

A universe of approximately 1,000 large-cap and mid-cap stocks is screened weekly across two dimensions. One screen identifies signals of low valuation using discounted present value calculations and other valuation multiples. A second screen identifies signs of near-term positive change by tracking the direction of profit margins, cash conversion, relative price strength, insider trading, and analyst sentiment, among others. Stocks that rise to the top of both screens simultaneously are subjected to a more intensive investigation to confirm the apparent valuation opportunity and identify potential reasons for its existence.

Each stock in the portfolio is categorized according to its degree of uncertainty. The most conservative category – “Stable Earners” – includes companies with well-established business models and limited variability from quarter to quarter. “Accelerated Growers” are in the rapid growth phase of their corporate life cycle, when the opportunity for profit is high, but so is the uncertainty surrounding the pace and duration of the accelerated growth period. The most aggressive category is called an “Emerging Franchise.” These companies pioneer new industries, or apply a completely novel business model to an existing industry.

We manage risk in this strategy by tilting the relative weightings among Stable Earners, Accelerated Growers and Emerging Franchises based on the overall market climate. When the valuation level of the stock market is high, implying a relatively less favorable range of outcomes going forward, this strategy might increase its exposure to Stable Earners and reduce exposure to Emerging Franchises and Accelerated Growers. Cash may be used as a risk management tool over shorter time periods when moving average indicators and credit spreads suggest an elevated risk climate in the asset markets.

Role in Portfolio

The Managed Equity Growth strategy serves as a core allocation to the domestic equity asset class to achieve long-term capital appreciation.

² The acronym SMA refers to “Separately Managed Account.”

DISCLOSURES

Introduction

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