

Navigator® International Equity/ADR

Portfolio Manager



Tony Soslow, CFA®
Co-Head of Equity

Top Contributors as of December 31, 2023

Company Name	Avg. Weight (%)	Contribution to Return (%)
CRH public limited company	3.14	0.85
Iberdrola SA Sponsored ADR	2.93	0.52
BAE Systems plc Sponsored ADR	2.85	0.48

Top Detractors as of December 31, 2023

Company Name	Avg. Weight (%)	Contribution to Return (%)
InMode Ltd.	0.36	-0.57
Sanofi Sponsored ADR	0.65	-0.29
Alibaba Group Holding Limited Sponsored ADR	1.84	-0.29

Source: Factset. For illustrative purposes only. Past performance does not guarantee future results. The holdings identified do not represent all of the securities purchased, sold or recommended for advisory clients. In the chart above, "weight" is the average percentage weight of the holding during the period, and "contribution" is the contribution to overall performance during the period. To obtain the calculation methodology and a list showing every holding's contribution to the overall composite during the period and the last 12 months, contact: PortfolioAnalytics@ccmg.com.

Declaring Victory Too Soon?

Market Review

When managing an economy to achieve both full employment and contained inflation, you can never really "claim victory." Play is continuous. So yes, the U.S. Central Bank's 16-month tightening regime, which lifted the Fed Fund's rate 5.25% from zero has successfully reduced broad measures of inflation while sustaining economic growth. However, maintaining this dual mandate is an ongoing, challenging, never-ending pursuit. In response to the current success, equities rallied in Q4 with the Russell 2000 and Russell 1000 Large Cap Growth indices gaining about 14% each.

Monetary policy has thus far been "sufficiently restrictive" to push Core PCE down to 3.2% and reduce labor market tightness, all without pushing the economy into recession. The unicorn of economic outcomes – the soft landing – is before us as Fed Funds futures now anticipate interest rate cuts in 2024.

Equities have rallied in response to both the removal of the Fed's tightening bias and the likelihood of future rate cuts. The Russell 2000 Small Cap Index – the fragile laggard of the prior two years due to both its pronounced interest rate and economic sensitivity – reversed higher in both November and December.

December's 12.2% gain for the Russell 2000 Small Cap Index brought the quarterly gain to 14%, nearly matching the advances of the Russell 1000 Large Cap Index. The January anomaly typically associated with small-cap stock price gains post tax-loss selling at year-end potentially occurred two months early as capital market liquidity changed abruptly. Disinflation and its impact on Central Bank tendencies, long rates, and credit spreads have all contributed to P/E ratios expansion across the equity marketplace.

In November, Core PCE inflation, a favored Fed inflation metric, retreated to 3.2% from its February 2022 peak of 5.6%. 10-year U.S. Treasury yields have fallen 1.1% from their October 19th high of 5% and 5-year high yield spreads have collapsed over 1.5% in just two months. Falling inflation in all large categories including goods, services, and services less housing, coincide with lower wage pressures to move expectations of the May 2024 Fed Funds rate down a full 0.5% to 4.8%. Fragile company risk has receded.

Fourth Quarter Portfolio Highlights

- Navigator® International Equity/ADR is positioned with 14.7% in emerging markets with a balance in developed economies and cash.
- China, France, Japan, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom are the strategy's largest country weights, all ranging between 6% and 18%.
- ADR continues to find what we believe are undervalued, high-quality companies in both developed and emerging markets to add to the portfolio.
- ADR's exposure to China is now 6.8% or slightly above its weighting in the All-Country World less U.S. benchmark.
- Communication Services, Consumer Discretionary, Financials, Industrials, and Information Technology are our largest sector weights.

*Past performance is not indicative of future results.
This is not a recommendation to buy or sell a particular security. Please see attached disclosures.*



- From a country perspective, the portfolio benefited from our relative positioning in the Ireland and the United Kingdom while performance was hurt by our positioning in Canada and Bermuda.
- Our positioning in Materials and Utilities helped relative performance while our positioning in Financials and Information Technology acted as a drag.
- The top three contributors to absolute portfolio return in the quarter were CRH Plc, Iberdrola SA, and BAE Systems Plc. The top three detractors to absolute portfolio return in the quarter were InMode Ltd., Sanofi, and Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.
- During the quarter, to benefit from improving business fundamentals, the three most recent additions to the portfolio were PagSeguro Digital Ltd., ING Groep NV, and Deutsche Telekom AG. The three most recent exits were Koninklijke Ahold Delhaize NV, Sony Group Corp., and BRP Inc.

Positioning and Outlook

Like prior periods, our portfolios seek to follow business momentum, and after long economic periods, tend to get slightly offside at turning points. To this end, our quality and antifragility focus helped the bottom-up equity portfolios during the recently extended period of rising interest rates and expanding credit spreads through October.

Our lower risk bias, however, provided a performance governor during the November and December period as the positive change in liquidity conditions served more fragile and higher beta companies. As such, we are adjusting our Small and SMID Cap portfolio risk to reflect this change – all within our process of selecting what we believe are undervalued, high-quality companies with improving business momentum. Additionally, we are increasing our exposure to these same companies in our All Cap Core portfolio to offset the overweight position of large-cap growth as they relatively outperformed.

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The securities of small and mid-cap companies may be subject to more abrupt or erratic market movements and may have lower trading volumes than larger, more established companies.

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Equity securities are subject to price fluctuation and possible loss of principal. Stock markets tend to move in cycles, with periods of rising prices and periods of falling prices. Certain investment strategies tend to increase the total risk of an investment (relative to the broader market). Strategies that concentrate their investments in limited sectors are more vulnerable to adverse market, economic, regulatory, political, or other developments affecting those sectors. The Russell 1000 Value Index measures the performance of the large-cap value segment of the U.S. equity universe.

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A Leading Economic Indicator is a measurable set of data that may help to forecast future economic activity.

The U.S. Treasury index is based on the recent auctions of U.S. Treasury bills. Occasionally it is based on the U.S. Treasury's daily yield curve.

The Core Personal Consumption Expenditure (PCE) Price Index measures the changes in the price of goods and services purchased by consumers for the purpose of consumption, excluding food and energy.

Gross domestic product (GDP) is a monetary measure of the market value of all the final goods and services produced in a specific time period by a country or countries.

Foreign securities are issued by a foreign issuer for which a U.S. market is not the principal trading market.

Antifragile companies are those which possess a large majority of strong balance sheet, income statement and other metrics such as debt-to-equity, gross margins, earnings variability - which have shown to demonstrate less stock price volatility on a going forward basis. Companies with poor credit metrics, high financial and operating leverage high historically been more fragile to adverse changes in economic and earnings conditions.

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