# SMALL CAP VALUE STRATEGY



# 3Q 2025 Strategy Fact Sheet

## Performance (%)

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

	3Q 2025	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	7 Years	10 Years	Since 12/31/1999
Portfolio (Gross)	8.78	7.71	5.75	16.25	17.50	10.32	10.79	13.41
Portfolio (Net)	8.52	6.91	4.70	15.11	16.34	9.23	9.70	12.31
Russell 2000 Value Index	12.60	9.04	7.88	13.56	14.59	6.40	9.23	9.08

All periods longer than 12 months are annualized. See disclosures on last page. Source: GPS.

## **Manager Commentary**

#### **Market Overview**

Globally, equity markets continued to rise in the third quarter with the S&P 500 Index, Russell 2000 Value Index, and the MSCI EAFE Net Index rallying 8.12%, 12.60%, and 4.77%, respectively.

Easing financial conditions, combined with relatively benign inflation and employment reports, set off a powerful risk-on rally in the second half of the quarter. Investors began reducing bearish positioning, leading to a strong move in the most heavily shorted stocks and price appreciation was inversely correlated with the market capitalization of the underlying security. Such price action is consistent with broad market participants' positioning being out of step with the underlying economic fundamentals. Once the short covering and repositioning are complete, security prices should adjust back to their underlying fundamentals.

With the sharp equity market appreciation over the last two quarters, some short-term price consolidation may be necessary; however, we expect conditions to remain relatively supportive of equity markets. Inflation should continue to rise minimally over the very short term but is expected to peak at levels that will not harm equity valuations. Economic growth should also continue to improve during the fourth quarter and into the first half of 2026. The inflation and growth outlooks are already reflected in the current Treasury yield curve, as yields at the short end have fallen with rate cuts, while yields beyond three years have risen over the last twelve months.

## **Portfolio Positioning**

As a result of buys and sells and market action, the portfolio is overweight Industrials, Materials, and Consumer Staples while underweight Health Care, Real Estate, Utilities, Communication Services, Consumer Discretionary, Financials, Information Technology, and Energy.

### **Contributors to Performance**

During the quarter, the portfolio experienced positive absolute and negative relative performance. Positive relative performance was driven by Real Estate, Information Technology, Financials, Consumer Staples, and Utilities. Detractors for the quarter were Health Care, Industrials, Energy, Materials, Communication Services, and Consumer Discretionary.

<sup>\*</sup> Performance referenced reflects gross-of-fee returns.

# **3Q 2025 SMALL CAP VALUE STRATEGY PORTFOLIO**

# Portfolio Characteristics\*

	Portfolio	Russell 2000 Value Index
Number of Holdings	57	1,431
Wtd. Avg. Mkt. Cap (\$B)	7.41	3.23
Price/Book*	2.05	1.28
Est. 3-5 Yr. EPS Growth (%)*	12.73	9.96
P/E NTM*	14.09	12.75
ROA (%)*	6.29	0.86
ROE (%)*	15.14	3.56
Dividend Yield (%)*	1.73	2.08

<sup>\*</sup> Calculated gross-of-fees.

Source: FactSet

# Top Ten Holdings\*1

<u> </u>			
	% Total Portfolio		% Total Portfolio
Western Alliance Bancorp	3.02	Element Solutions Inc	2.78
Cadence Bank	3.02	Cushman & Wakefield	2.71
Comerica Inc	3.01	Artisan Partners Asset	2.70
Zions Bancorp NA	2.95	Huntington Ingalls	2.70
Cullen/Frost Bankers Inc	2.87	Coherent Corp	2.61

<sup>\*</sup> Excludes 2.13% cash and 4.97% Russell 2000 Value iShares.

Source: FactSet

## Risk Reward\*

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	Portfolio	Russell 2000 Value Index
Beta	0.85	1.00
Sharpe Ratio	0.73	0.52
Information Ratio	0.42	N/A
R-Squared	0.91	1.00
Standard Deviation (%)	19.70	21.96

<sup>\*</sup> Annualized 5-years ending 9/30/2025; calculated gross-of-fees. Source: eVestment

# Portfolio Sector Weightings (%)\*1

	Portfolio	Russell 2000 Value Index
Financials	27.09	26.41
Industrials	25.35	12.98
Consumer Discretionary	10.08	10.59
Materials	8.00	4.79
Information Technology	7.88	8.26
Energy	6.57	6.80
Real Estate	4.33	9.99
Utilities	3.77	6.25
Health Care	3.31	9.15
Consumer Staples	3.13	1.71
Communication Services	0.51	3.07

<sup>\*</sup> Excludes 2.13% cash and 4.97% Russell 2000 Value iShares.

<sup>1</sup> Performance holdings subject to change.

Source: FactSet

## **Additions To Portfolio**

Bath & Body Works, Inc.	CSW Industrials, Inc.
Cirrus Logic, Inc.	Commercial Metals Company
Lumen Technologies, Inc.	Meritage Homes Corporation
Molina Healthcare, Inc.	Mueller Industries, Inc.
Nextracker Inc. Class A	Noble Corporation PLC Class A
PVH Corp.	Sanmina Corporation
Taylor Morrison Home Corporation	

Source: FactSet

# **Deletions From Portfolio**

ADMA Biologics, Inc.	BWX Technologies, Inc.
Celestica Inc.	Federal Signal Corporation
Globus Medical Inc Class A	Kirby Corporation
Light & Wonder, Inc.	NNN REIT, Inc.
Silgan Holdings Inc.	

Source: FactSet

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Performance holdings subject to change.

Due to rounding, totals may not equal 100%.

#### **VAUGHAN NELSON EQUITY TEAM**

### LEAD PORTFOLIO MANAGER



Chris Wallis, CFA, CPA CEO and CIO Senior Portfolio Manager

- 33 years investment management / financial analysis and accounting experience
- MBA, Harvard Business School, 1998
- BBA, Baylor University, 1991

### **PORTFOLIO MANAGER**



James Eisenman, CFA, CPA Portfolio Manager

- · 23 years financial services and accounting experience
- Masters in Accounting, Ohio State University, 2005
- BBA, Ohio State University, 2002, with Honors

### **RESEARCH TEAM**



Benjamin Carrier, CFA Vice President, U.S.

- 11 years financial analysis and accounting experience
- BBA, Baylor University, 2014, cum laude



Earl Lee, CFA Vice President, U.S.

- 13 years investment management and financial analysis experience
- MBA, The University of Texas at Austin, 2012
- · BS, Purdue University, 2007



William Lee Associate, U.S.

- 2 years financial analysis experience
- BA, Vanderbilt University, 2023

#### **CIO TEAM**



Adam Rich, CFA Deputy CIO Portfolio Manager

- 15 years investment management and research experience
- BS, Brigham Young University, 2010

## **CAPITAL ALLOCATION TEAM**



Ben Eckert
Junior Associate
BBA, Baylor University, 2025



Isabella Thomsen Junior Associate

- MS, Vanderbilt University, 2025
- BBA, Stetson University, 2024

### **RISK TEAM**



Sarah Lai Junior Associate, Portfolio and Risk Analysis

- MS, Rice University, 2024
- BA, The University of Texas at Austin, 2023



Isabelle Long Associate, Portfolio and Risk Analysis

- · 3 years portfolio and risk analysis experience
- MBA, Texas A&M University, 2024
- BS, Texas A&M University, 2022



#### William Wojciechowski, PhD Chief Risk Officer, Portfolio and Risk Analysis

- 23 years investment management and financial analysis experience
- PhD, Rice University, 2001
- MA, Rice University, 1999
- MS, West Virginia University, 1996
- BS, Carnegie Mellon University, 1992

#### **ABOUT VAUGHAN NELSON**

Vaughan Nelson Investment Management specializes in value equity investing with a focus on a targeted return. The firm employs a bottom-up, fundamental research process that seeks to capitalize on information and liquidity inefficiencies in the equity universe. The firm's long-term, consistent investment approach draws on its in-depth research capabilities.

- · Headquarters: Houston, Texas
- Founded: 1970
- Firm Assets: \$16.1 Billion\*
- Domestic equity, international equity, and fixed income strategies
- 55 employees
- 27 investment team professionals
- 12 Chartered Financial Analyst designations

## **VAUGHAN NELSON EQUITY STRATEGIES**

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		Product Assets as of 9/30/25
Small Cap Value	<ul> <li>Benchmark against the Russell 2000® Value Index</li> <li>Generally 55 to 85 positions</li> </ul>	\$4,754 MM
Value Opportunity	<ul> <li>Benchmark against the Russell Midcap® Value Index and Russell 2500™ Value Index</li> <li>Generally 55 to 75 positions</li> </ul>	\$2,322 MM
Select	<ul> <li>Benchmark against the S&amp;P 500 Index and Russell 3000® Index</li> <li>Generally 20 to 40 positions</li> </ul>	\$6,627 MM
Global SMID Cap	<ul> <li>Benchmark against the MSCI ACWI SMID Cap NR Index</li> <li>Generally 40 to 80 positions</li> </ul>	\$293 MM
Emerging Markets	<ul> <li>Benchmark against the MSCI Emerging Markets NR Index</li> <li>Generally 20 to 40 positions</li> </ul>	\$52 MM
International	<ul> <li>Benchmark against the MSCI ACWI ex USA NR Index</li> <li>Generally 20 to 40 positions</li> </ul>	\$38 MM

<sup>\*</sup> Number includes assets where Vaughan Nelson Investment Management does not have full unconditional trading authority. The assets consist of model portfolio relationships with third-party platforms and totaled \$2.8 billion as of 9/30/25.

# SMALL CAP VALUE PORTFOLIO COMPOSITE RETURNS

December 31, 1999 through September 30, 2025

Performance data shown represents past performance and is not a guarantee of, and not indicative of, future results.

Year	Compos. Returns	Compos. Returns	R2000V Index	No. of Ports.	Disp. at EOP	Compos. Assets at EOP	Total Firm Assets (ex. model assets)	Entity Assets*	Std Dev. Compos.	Std Dev. R2000V Index
	Gross	Net	PRIM		Std. Dev.	MM-USD	\$MM-USD	\$MM-USD	3-Yr Anlzd	3-Yr Anlzd
2025 YTD	7.71%	6.91%	9.04%	63	N/A	3,699	13,336	16,102	19.33%	21.44%
2024	6.48%	5.42%	8.05%	62	0.18%	3,434	14,791	17,840	20.94%	23.44%
2023	26.55%	25.31%	14.65%	56	0.31%	2,712	13,811	16,351	19.59%	21.75%
2022	-9.09%	-10.01%	-14.48%	61	0.19%	1,909	11,720	13,566	23.96%	27.27%
2021	32.54%	31.26%	28.27%	67	0.26%	2,340	13,490	15,481	21.82%	25.00%
2020	9.82%	8.73%	4.63%	64	1.16%	2,571	12,690	14,052	23.18%	26.12%
2019	25.95%	24.72%	22.39%	72	0.35%	2,712	11,346	13,064	14.18%	15.68%
2018	-13.59%	-14.47%	-12.86%	87	0.38%	2,663	10,078	11,425	14.15%	15.76%
2017	7.77%	6.71%	7.84%	101	0.21%	3,780	11,675	13,172	12.78%	13.97%
2016	21.37%	20.18%	31.74%	109	0.86%	3,944	11,572	12,912	13.69%	15.50%
2015	0.99%	-0.01%	-7.47%	102	0.18%	3,135	11,316	12,469	12.12%	13.46%
2014	10.12%	9.02%	4.22%	95	0.16%	3,783	9,943	11,057	10.76%	12.79%
2013	40.39%	39.02%	34.52%	100	0.36%	3,933	9,243	10,258	14.48%	15.82%
2012	16.26%	15.16%	18.05%	96	0.28%	2,902	7,273	8,071	17.60%	19.89%
2011	-2.54%	-3.52%	-5.50%	102	0.19%	2,801	6,876	7,667	20.89%	26.05%
2010	25.20%	23.97%	24.50%	111	0.31%	3,133	7,050	7,965	22.91%	28.37%
2009	30.36%	29.09%	20.58%	93	0.66%	2,491	6,757	7,690	20.31%	25.62%
2008	-21.57%	-22.37%	-28.92%	95	0.52%	1,711	5,761	6,642	16.69%	19.14%
2007	7.31%	6.25%	-9.78%	109	0.29%	1,840	6,637	8,176	10.68%	12.59%
2006	20.00%	18.82%	23.48%	35	0.47%	580	5,218	6,711	11.26%	12.33%
2005	11.81%	10.71%	4.71%	23	0.31%	234	4,120	4,688	14.60%	14.09%
2004	20.11%	18.93%	22.25%	12	0.12%	73	3,446	3,617	18.12%	17.51%
2003	53.27%	51.79%	46.03%	9	0.29%	61	3,246	3,274	19.57%	18.42%
2002	-6.80%	-7.74%	-11.43%	Fewer than 5	N/A	7	3,470	3,471	20.42%	17.39%
2001	5.93%	4.99%	14.03%	Fewer than 5	N/A	8	N/A	4,247	18.37%	14.65%
2000	57.55%	56.65%	22.83%	Fewer than 5	N/A	7	N/A	3,955	19.81%	16.61%

#### **NOTES AND DISCLOSURES**

#### **NOTES**

COMPOSITE DESCRIPTION. This composite is comprised of all fee paying, discretionary Small Capitalization Value portfolios in excess of \$1 million under management. Small Capitalization is defined as a company within the market capitalization range of Russell 2000® Value Index. The benchmark is the Russell 2000® Value Index. The Russell 2000® Value Index measures the performance of small-cap value segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes those Russell 2000 companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower forecasted growth values. The Russell 2000® Value Index is constructed to provide a comprehensive and unbiased barometer for the small-cap value segment. The Index is completely reconstituted annually to ensure larger stocks do not distort the performance and characteristics of the true small-cap opportunity set and that the represented companies continue to reflect value characteristics. Frank Russell Company ("Russell") is the source and owner of Russell Index data contained herein. Any further dissemination of the data is strictly prohibited. Russell is not responsible for any inaccuracy in this presentation. The composite creation and inception date is April 1997. FIRM DEFINITION. Vaughan Nelson Investment Management ("Vaughan Nelson") is an equity, fixed income, and balanced portfolio investment manager. Vaughan Nelson is defined as an independent investment advisory firm and is affiliated with Natixis Investment Managers, LLC. FEES. Small Capitalization Value Fee Schedule: 1.00% on the first \$25 million, .85% on the next \$25 million, .75% on the remainder. OTHER NOTES. Results for the full historical period are time-weighted. Accounts have been valued daily and portfolio returns have been weighted by using beginning-of-month market values plus daily weighted cash flow. The dispersion calculation is based on a dollar-weighted average of gross portfolios returns within the composite for the entire period. The dispersion percent of N/A indicates that the number of portfolios for the entire year wer

#### DISCLOSURES

BASIS OF PRESENTATION. The attached information and index performance has been developed internally and/or obtained from sources, which Vaughan Nelson believes to be reliable; however, Vaughan Nelson does not guarantee the accuracy, adequacy, or completeness of such information, nor does it guarantee the appropriateness of any strategy referred to for any particular investor. This document is provided for informational purposes only and should not be construed as advice or a recommendation for purchase or sale of securities. Past performance is not indicative of future results. The strategy is managed by Chris Wallis and Jim Eisenman from 3/31/22; Chris Wallis, Scott Weber, Dennis Alff, and Chad Fargason from 9/30/13; Chris Wallis and Scott Weber from 6/30/04; Chris Wallis since 1999. **COMPOSITE** NOTES. The composite for each investment strategy has specific criteria in terms of minimum portfolio size, tax status, and discretion. Portfolios meeting the stated criteria are added to the composite as of the first full quarter of investment in that composite's style. Similarly, accounts are removed from the composite after the last full quarter of management under the composite style. A list of all composites and pooled fund investment strategies offered by the firm, with a description of each strategy, is available upon request. The composite results portrayed reflect the reinvestment of dividends, capital gains, and other earnings when appropriate. The three-year annualized standard deviation measures the variability of the composite (using gross-of-fee returns, and the benchmark returns over the preceding 36-month period. **CALCULATION**METHODOLOGY. The composite performance results are time-weighted total returns net of commissions and transaction costs. Valuations and returns are expressed in U.S. dollars. Vaughan Nelson consistently values all portfolios each month on a trade date basis. Additional information regarding policies for valuing portfolios, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS® Reports are available upon request. No composite accounts hold foreign denominated securities. Net-of-fee returns are calculated utilizing the highest annual fee paid by a client in the strategy. This fee is divided by 12 and subtracted from the gross composite return on a monthly basis to calculate monthly net-of-fee returns. Quarterly and annual net-of-fee returns are calculated by geometrically linking these monthly returns. COMPLIANT STATEMENT. Vaughan Nelson claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS® Standards. Vaughan Nelson has been independently verified for the periods 12/31/97 through 6/30/25. A firm that claims compliance with the GIPS® standards must establish policies and procedures for complying with all the applicable requirements of the GIPS® standards. Verification provides assurance on whether the firm's policies and procedures related to composite and pooled fund maintenance, as well as the calculation, presentation, and distribution of performance, have been designed in compliance with the GIPS® standards and have been implemented on a firm-wide basis. The Small Cap Value composite has had a performance examination for the periods 1/1/98 to 12/31/24. The verification and performance examination reports are available upon request. GIPS® is a registered trademark of CFA Institute. CFA Institute does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contained herein.

Model year-end portfolio totals were as follows: 2024 - \$3.0 billion, 2023 - \$2.5 billion, 2022 - \$1.8 billion, 2021 - \$2.0 billion, 2020 - \$1.4 billion, 2019 - \$1.7 billion, 2018 - \$1.3 billion; 2017 - \$1.5 billion; 2016 - \$1.3 billion, 2015 - \$1.2 billion, 2014 - \$1.1 billion, 2013 - \$1.0 billion.

<sup>\*</sup> Number includes assets where Vaughan Nelson Investment Management does not have full unconditional trading authority. The assets consist of model portfolio relationships with third-party platforms and totaled \$2.8 billion as of 9/30/25. This information is supplemental to the Small Cap Value GIPS Report.

