

# **GLOBAL LARGE CAP**

MARCH 31, 2024

# OBJECTIVE

Invests in domestic and international large capitalization companies. Investment objective is capital appreciation with a secondary objective of dividend income.

### **INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY**

Confluence's investment philosophy is a bottom-up, fundamental approach that seeks to generate above-average returns over the long term by investing in high-quality global companies with well-positioned business models that can grow throughout the economic and business cycles. The investment committee identifies businesses that possess sustainable competitive advantages, generate free cash flow and are led by management teams that create shareholder wealth.

The investment process focuses on managing risk, which we define as the probability of a permanent loss of capital. As part of this process, we strive to avoid paying excessive valuations for these businesses. In addition to fundamental company research, international investments go through country and region assessments to further limit portfolio risk. Country selection considerations center on countries that respect contracts and property rights, have minimal political turmoil and foster low-risk geopolitical environments and favorably valued currencies.

#### **OVERVIEW**

- Invests in global businesses with sustainable competitive advantages
- Includes domestic and international equities, primarily large cap companies
- Driven by bottom-up fundamental research, while considering macro factors
- Generally 2% position sizes
- Low-to-moderate turnover
- Appropriate for clients whose primary objective is capital appreciation and whose secondary objective is dividend income

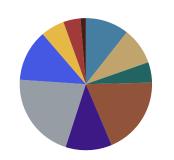
## PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS<sup>1</sup>

CHARACTERISTICS	GLOBAL LARGE CAP	MSCI WORLD
Dividend Yield	1.4%	1.8%
Number of Positions	48-50	1,465
Annual Turnover (5-Year Rolling as of 12/31/23)	13%	

10 Largest Holdings	WEIGHT
Masco Corp.	2.5%
Safran S.A.	2.5%
Fastenal Co.	2.4%
Novo Nordisk A.S.	2.4%
Linde plc	2.4%
W. R. Berkley Corp.	2.4%
AerCap Holdings N.V.	2.3%
Microsoft Corp.	2.3%
Stryker Corp.	2.3%
Dun & Bradstreet Holdings Inc.	2.2%

Market Cap	Global Large Cap
Weighted Avg. Market Cap (\$B)	259.3
Largest Market Cap (\$B)	3,126.1
Median Market Cap (\$B)	108.5
Smallest Market Cap (\$B)	4.4
Large Cap (>\$10B)	93%
Mid Cap (\$3B-\$10B)	6%
Small Cap (<\$3B)	0%

# SECTOR ALLOCATION



- Consumer Discretionary 11%
- Consumer Staples 9%
- Energy 5%
- Financials 19%
- Health Care 11%
- Industrials 21%
- Information Technology 13%
- Materials 6%
- Communication Services 4%
- Cash 1%

See GIPS Report on pages 3-4.

## BOTTOM-UP SECURITY SELECTION: GREAT COMPANIES AT BARGAIN PRICES

Our disciplined investment process is research-driven, seeking to uncover high-quality companies trading at a discount to our estimate of intrinsic value. We define great companies as those with the following attributes:

## **Durable Competitive Advantages**

- Meaningful pricing power
- High barriers to entry
- Superior return on capital over extended periods of time

## **Free Cash Flow**

- Substantial amount available to benefit shareholders
- Should far exceed the capital expenditures needed to maintain and grow the business

## **Capable Management**

- Demonstrated ability to effectively allocate capital
- Alignment of management's interest with investors through large personal investments in company stock

## **TOP-DOWN ANALYSIS: PORTFOLIO CONSTRUCTION**

Our disciplined investment process combines bottom-up security selection with a top-down approach to identify equity investments in favorable geographies, sectors and currencies.

In addition to seeking attractive, macro-driven investment opportunities, our analysis also detects possible global risks.

#### **Geopolitical and Global Macro Factors**

- Investable geographies, both countries and super-regions
- Currencies that are attractively valued relative to parity models
- Sector weightings to minimize risk and benefit from undiscounted trends
- Global secular trends, including economic, social, political and geopolitical factors, that affect the investable universe

## VALUATION ANALYSIS & SELL DISCIPLINE

Valuations play an important role as we believe avoiding excessive valuations is a key metric in managing risk, while maximizing total return potential over an investment cycle.

- Primary focus is price paid for a stock
- Purchasing companies only when they are trading at a reasonable discount to our internal estimate of intrinsic value
- Risk is defined as the probability of a permanent loss of capital as opposed to tracking error of a benchmark

## To help preserve capital, portfolio positions are continually reviewed. A company's stock may be sold if:

- Share price reaches or exceeds our estimate of full valuation
- Company's fundamentals deteriorate
- More attractive opportunities are identified

## **PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS**

#### STATISTICAL ANALYSIS<sup>2</sup>

Since Inception**	Pure Gross-of-Fees⁵	MSCI World
Downside Capture Ratio	96.08	100.00
Alpha	0.58	0.00
Beta	0.93	1.00
Annualized Standard Deviation	14.37%	14.97%
R-Squared	0.95	1.00
Sharpe Ratio	0.66	0.63

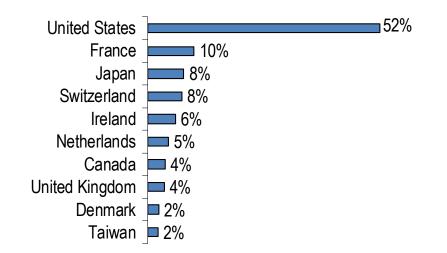
\*\*Inception is 1/1/2013

### 2

## (AS OF 3/31/24)

Portfolio at Quarter End	vs. MSCI World
Active Share	87.89%

# **COUNTRY ALLOCATION<sup>3</sup>**



# PERFORMANCE

COMPOSITE RETURNS<sup>4</sup> (For Periods Ending March 31, 2024)

	Since Inception**	10-Year*	5-Year*	3-Year*	1-Year	YTD	QTD
Global Large Cap Pure Gross-of-Fees⁵	10.7%	9.6%	11.4%	8.9%	20.4%	6.3%	6.3%
Max Net-of-Fees <sup>6</sup>	7.4%	6.3%	8.1%	5.7%	16.9%	5.5%	5.5%
MSCI World	10.7%	9.4%	12.1%	8.6%	25.1%	8.9%	8.9%

Calendar Year	Pure Gross- of-Fees⁵	Max Net- of-Fees⁵	MSCI World	Difference (Gross- MSCI World)	# of Portfolios	Composite Assets (000s)	Total Firm Assets (000s)	Composite 3yr Std Dev	MSCI World 3yr Std Dev	Composite Dispersion
2013	26.5%	22.8%	26.7%	(0.2%)	1	\$421	\$1,955,915	N/A	N/A	N/A
2014	3.1%	0.1%	4.9%	(1.8%)	1	\$434	\$2,589,024	N/A	N/A	N/A
2015	(0.7%)	(3.6%)	(0.9%)	0.2%	1	\$431	\$3,175,419	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	9.0%	5.8%	7.5%	1.5%	1	\$469	\$4,413,659	10.2%	10.9%	N/A
2017	20.2%	16.6%	22.4%	(2.2%)	1	\$561	\$5,944,479	9.1%	10.2%	N/A
2018	(4.6%)	(7.5%)	(8.7%)	4.1%	1	\$535	\$5,486,737	9.4%	10.4%	N/A
2019	31.4%	27.5%	27.7%	3.8%	1	\$704	\$7,044,708	10.5%	11.1%	N/A
2020	9.6%	6.3%	15.9%	(6.3%)	2	\$2,176	\$6,889,798	16.7%	18.3%	N/A
2021	23.0%	19.4%	21.8%	1.2%	1	\$947	\$7,761,687	16.5%	17.1%	N/A
2022	(14.9%)	(17.4%)	(18.1%)	3.3%	1	\$806	\$6,931,635	20.3%	20.4%	N/A
2023	21.1%	17.5%	23.8%	(2.7%)	1	\$223	\$7,200,019	17.6%	16.7%	N/A
*Average annualized returns **Inception is 1/1/2013					See perform	See performance disclosures on last page.				

#### **Portfolio Benchmarks**

**MSCI World (Net) Index** – A free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure developed market equity performance. Performance results are presented net of estimated foreign withholding taxes on dividends, interest and capital gains. (Source: Bloomberg)

(An index is unmanaged and an investor cannot invest directly in an index. They are shown for illustrative purposes only & do not represent the performance of any specific investment. Index performance figures are reported as net returns.)

## **Confluence International Equities Investment Committee**

Mark Keller, CFA Bill O'Grady Tore Stole Gregory Tropf, CFA Matthew Sinkovitz Kaisa Stucke, CFA

Blair Brumley, CFA Patrick Fearon-Hernandez, CFA

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT A MEMBER OF OUR SALES TEAM: (314) 530-6729 or sales@confluenceim.com

See <u>Territory Map</u> on the Confluence website for sales coverage.

#### DISCLOSURES

<sup>1</sup> Portfolio Holdings—All investments carry a certain degree of risk, including possible loss of principal. It is important to review your investment objectives, risk tolerance & liquidity needs before choosing an investment style or manager. Equity securities are subject to market risk & may decline in value due to adverse company, industry or general economic conditions. There can be no assurance that any investment objective will be achieved. Sector weightings/holdings of individual client portfolios in the strategy may differ, sometimes significantly, from these listings. Portfolio yield: composite-level weighted average gross yield, calculated based on annualized current dividends; source: Bloomberg. Benchmark sources: MSCI. Annual turnover 5-yr rolling calculated from sample accounts for periods ending 12/31/2023.

<sup>2</sup> Statistical Analysis—Active Share: Measures percentage of portfolio holdings that differ from the benchmark index; calculated by taking the sum of the absolute value of the differences of the weight of each holding in the manager's portfolio and the weight of each holding in the benchmark index, as of the date shown, and dividing by two. (*Calculated by Confluence. Index holdings/weights sourced from MSCI, Inc.) Downside Capture Ratio*: Measures performance in down markets relative to index (down market: any quarter where the market return is less than zero); lower Downside Capture Ratio indicates the manager protected capital better during a market decline. *Alpha:* Measures nonsystematic return or return that cannot be attributed to the market. *Beta:* Measures portfolio volatility (systematic risk) compared to an appropriate benchmark index. *Standard Deviation:* Measures price variability (risk) over a period of time. *R-Squared:* Indicates whether comparison index is an appropriate benchmark based on correlation. *Sharpe Ratio:* Quantifies risk-adjusted performance by measuring excess return per unit of risk. (*Data source: Zephyr's PSN SMA Database*)

<sup>3</sup> Country Allocation—Country allocations do not constitute a recommendation by Confluence or a solicitation of any offer to buy or sell any securities. Country allocations represent a portion currently or previously held in a representative (model) portfolio invested in accordance with the stated strategy. Country allocation weightings exclude cash and cash equivalents. This listing does not represent all of the countries currently or previously owned in the portfolio. Application of the investment strategy as of a later date will likely result in changes to the listing. Contact Confluence to receive a complete list of securities, sectors and/or countries previously held. Investing in securities involves the risk of loss of the amount invested that investors should be prepared to bear. There can be no assurance that any investment objective will be achieved or that any investment will be profitable or avoid incurring losses.

<sup>4</sup>Performance Composite Returns—Confluence Investment Management LLC claims compliance with the Global investment Performance Standards (GIPS<sup>®</sup>) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. Confluence Investment Management LLC has been independently verified for the periods August 1, 2008, through December 31, 2022. The verification report is available upon request. 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 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. Verification does not provide assurance on the accuracy of any specific performance report.

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. The Global Large Cap strategy was incepted on January 1, 2013, and the current Global Large Cap Composite was created on January 1, 2013. Confluence Investment Management LLC is an independent registered investment adviser. Results are based on fully discretionary accounts under management, including those accounts no longer with the firm. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Composite performance is typically net of foreign withholding taxes on dividends, interest income and capital gains with some exceptions based on custodian treatment. The U.S. Dollar is the currency used to express performance. Returns are presented gross and net of all fees and include the reinvestment of all income.

<sup>5</sup>Pure gross returns are shown as supplemental information to the disclosures required by the GIPS® standards.

<sup>6</sup>Net-of-fee performance was calculated using the highest applicable annual bundled fee of 3.00% applied quarterly. This fee includes brokerage commissions, portfolio management, consulting services and custodial services. The Confluence fee schedule for this composite: 0.60% on the first \$500,000; 0.55% on the next \$500,000; 0.50% over \$1,000,000. There are no incentive fees. Clients pay an all-inclusive fee based on a percentage of assets under management. The collection of fees produces a compounding effect on the total rate of return net of fees. Bundled fee accounts make up 0% of the composite for all periods. Actual investment advisory fees incurred by clients may vary. Wrap fee schedules are provided by independent wrap sponsors and are available upon request from the respective wrap sponsor.

Historical performance is based on the Global Large Cap–Direct Composite which was created on January 1, 2013. The Global Large Cap–Direct composite includes accounts that pursue the Global Large Cap strategy, but do not have bundled fees. Gross returns from the Global Large Cap–Direct composite include transaction costs and net-of-fee performance was calculated using the highest applicable annual bundled fee of 3.00% applied quarterly. Non-fee-paying accounts comprise 100% of composite assets for all periods.

A complete list of composite descriptions is available upon request. Policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS Reports are available upon request. The annual composite dispersion is an equal-weighted standard deviation, using gross-of-fee returns, calculated for the accounts in the composite for the entire year. The three-year annualized standard deviation measures the variability of the composite gross returns over the preceding 36-month period. The Global Large Cap Composite contains fully discretionary Global Large Cap wrap accounts. The Global Large Cap portfolio invests in U.S.-listed shares of global large capitalization companies.

N/A-Composite Dispersion: Information is not statistically meaningful due to an insufficient number of portfolios in the composite for the entire year. N/A-3yr Std Dev: Composite does not have 3 years of monthly performance history.