

# INCREASING DIVIDEND EQUITY ACCOUNT (IDEA)

March 31, 2021

## **OBJECTIVE**

Invests in companies that have paid or increased dividends over the last 10 years. Primary investment objective is capital appreciation with dividend income as a secondary objective.

## **INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY**

Confluence's investment philosophy builds upon the required criteria established to create the initial IDEA investable universe. Stocks selected for the strategy are diversified across a variety of sectors, avoiding excess concentrations in particular industries. Companies typically have well-positioned business models, ones that can grow during economic expansions and persevere through recessions and industry downturns.

Valuations play an important role, as we believe avoiding excessive valuations is a key metric in managing risk. We also focus on companies where debt levels are manageable. The result is a diversified portfolio of high-quality companies operating stable businesses from which they can offer the prospect of rising dividends to shareholders.

#### **OVERVIEW**

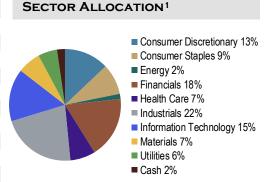
- Invests in businesses with long track records of distributing earnings to shareholders through dividends — companies have paid or increased dividends over the last 10 years
- Market capitalizations greater than \$1 billion
- ◆ Approximately 2% position sizes
- New account fully invested at inception
- Low turnover
- Anticipated dividend growth rate of the aggregate portfolio is important since inflation can erode investment returns and lower purchasing power; however, because the targeted portfolio dividend growth rate is higher than inflation, real income to investors can grow over time

CHARACTERISTICS <sup>1</sup>	IDEA	S&P 500	R3000 VALUE
Dividend Yield	1.9%	1.5%	2.1%
Number of Positions	49	505	2,367
Annual Turnover (5-yr Rolling)	7%		

1This information is presented as supplemental information to the disclosures required by the GIPS® standards. 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. The listing of "10 Largest Holdings" is not a complete list of all stocks in the portfolio or which Confluence may be currently recommending. Application of the investment strategy as of a later date will likely result in changes to the listing. Sector weightings/holdings of individual client portfolios in the strategy may differ, sometimes significantly, from these listings. Contact Confluence for a complete list of holdings. Portfolio yield: composite level weighted average yield, calculated based on annualized current dividends; source: FaclSet. Benchmark sources: S&D bow Jones Indices/FTSE Russell. Annual turnover 5-yr rolling calculated from sample accounts for periods ending 12/31/2020.

MARKET CAP <sup>1</sup>	IDEA	5&P 500	R3000 Value
Weighted Avg. Market Cap (\$B)	130.0	468.5	137.1
Largest Market Cap (\$B)	1,778.2	2,050.7	1,396.9
Median Market Cap (\$B)	70.1	29.1	2.3
Smallest Market Cap (\$B)	3.8	4.2	-
Large Cap (>\$10B)	87%		
Mid Cap (\$10B-\$2B)	11%		
Small Cap (<\$2B)	0%		

10 LARGEST HOLDINGS <sup>1</sup>	
Analog Devices, Inc.	2.5%
The Home Depot, Inc.	2.5%
Linde plc	2.5%
T. Rowe Price Group, Inc.	2.4%
The Charles Schwab Corporation	2.4%
Accenture plc	2.4%
Mastercard Inc.	2.4%
Snap-on Incorporated	2.4%
Graco Inc.	2.4%
NIKE, Inc. (Class B)	2.3%



## **INVESTMENT PROCESS**

## **IDEA SECURITY SCREEN CRITERIA**

The initial security screen for the IDEA portfolio includes the following criteria:

## **Consistent, Growing Dividends:**

- Consecutive dividends paid over the last 10 years
- No dividend reductions in the last 10 years
- ◆ Dividend raised in 7 of the last 10 years
- ♦ Dividend yield greater than 1%

## **IDEA Criteria Indicate:**

- ♦ Stable and growing cash flow
- High-quality companies
- ♦ Moderate to low levels of debt

## **IDEA Portfolio Construction**

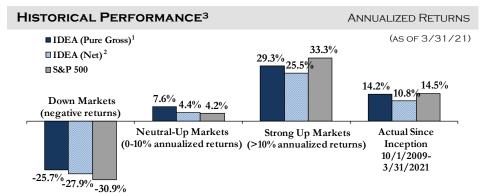
- Approximately 180 companies meet the initial IDEA criteria:
- Diversified across industries and market capitalizations
- Narrowed universe is 50% large cap, 40% midcap, 10% small cap
- Value-based approach utilizes Confluence's internal 11-member research team to evaluate the business and valuation
- Based on internal research, the portfolio management team can make special exceptions for companies that have growing dividends but do not pass all of the initial security screen criteria
- Portfolio management team constructs a welldiversified portfolio consisting of 49 names that have the potential for continued dividend growth and trade at attractive valuations

## How is IDEA DIFFERENT?

- IDEA can buy small cap and mid-cap stocks
- Fundamental research in addition to the IDEA criteria
- Not just about dividends and yield, but about growing dividends
- A separately managed account you know what you own
- ♦ A proven approach no new twists
- New accounts are fully invested at inception

#### ABOUT CONFLUENCE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LLC

Confluence Investment Management is an independent Registered Investment Advisor located in St. Louis, Missouri, that provides professional portfolio management and advisory services to institutional and individual clients. Confluence's investment philosophy is based upon independent, fundamental research that integrates evaluation of market cycles, macroeconomics and geopolitical analysis with the firm's value-driven, company-specific approach. The portfolio management philosophy begins by assessing risk and follows through by positioning clients to achieve their income and growth objectives.



STATISTICAL ANALYSIS <sup>4</sup>										
Portfolio at Quarter End	vs. S&P 500									
Active Share (as of 3/31/21)	86.53%	_								
Since Inception**	Pure Gross-of-Fees <sup>1</sup>	S&P 500								
Downside Capture Ratio	83.27	100.00								
Alpha	1.70	0.00								
Beta	0.84	1.00								
Annualized Standard Deviation	12.93%	14.87%								
R-Squared	0.94	1.00								
Sharpe Ratio	1.06	0.94								

\*\*Inception is 10/1/2009

## ANNUAL DIVIDEND **STATISTICS** FOR IDEA Portfolio

AT 12/31

			]	Dividend	Change from	n Prior Year	r*	Annual Di	vidend Incre	eases Over Pa	st 10 Years*	
		Avg.	# 0)	<sup>f</sup> companies	npanies with		Indexed	#	# of companies with		Avg. 10 yr	
Year	Holdings	Yield <sup>+</sup>	Increase	Flat	Decrease	Growth	Growth <sup>++</sup>	10 years	9 years	< 9 years	Growth	
2009	49	2.8%	45	4	0	8.1%	\$3,242	38	6	5	13.3%	
2010	49	2.8%	45	4	0	8.0%	\$3,501	38	3	8	12.6%	
2011	49	2.8%	46	3	0	9.6%	\$3,837	38	4	7	12.5%	
2012	48	3.1%	46	2	0	9.1%	\$4,186	39	5	4	12.8%	
2013	49	2.3%	48	1	0	10.0%	\$4,604	41	3	5	13.1%	
2014	49	2.4%	48	1	0	10.3%	\$5,078	39	3	7	12.7%	
2015	49	2.8%	47	2	0	9.7%	\$5,572	40	3	6	11.9%	
2016	50	2.3%	46	4	0	7.2%	\$5,974	39	1	10	11.4%	
2017	48	2.1%	45	3	0	7.5%	\$6,422	37	1	10	10.5%	
2018	49	2.4%	47	2	0	9.6%	\$7,036	39	3	7	9.9%	
2019	49	2.0%	49	0	0	11.6%	\$7,855	41	2	6	10.8%	
2020 <sup>1</sup>	49	2.0%	46	3	0	7.4%	\$8,437	42	4	3	10.9%	

\* 'Dividend Change' and 'Annual Dividend Increases' sections exclude impact of special dividends and spin- offs. 1 Excludes impact of temporary dividend suspensions during the pandemic of 2020.

+ Average dividend yield of portfolio holdings at 12/31, calculated based on annualized current dividends plus any special dividends paid during the year.

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- 'Indexed Growth' column is an estimate of cumulative dividend growth on a \$100,000 account beginning on 12/31/2008. It does not represent actual results. (Yield data source: FactSet)

#### PERFORMANCE COMPOSITE RETURNS (FOR PERIODS ENDING MARCH 31, 2021)

	Pure Gross-of- Fees <sup>1</sup>	Net-of- Fees <sup>2</sup>	S&P 500	R3000 Value	Calendar Year	Pure Gross-of- Fees <sup>1</sup>	Net-of- Fees <sup>2</sup>	S&P 500	R3000 Value	Difference (Gross- S&P500)	# of Portfolios	Composite Assets (000s)	Total Firm Assets (000s)	Composite 3yr Std Dev	S&P 500 3yr Std Dev	R3000V 3yr Std Dev	Composite Dispersion
Since	14.2%	10.8%	14.5%	11.9%	2009**	7.5%	6.7%	6.0%	4.2%	1.4%	40	\$7,190	\$533,832	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Inception**	17.270	10.070	17.070	11.570	2010	16.8%	13.3%	15.1%	16.3%	1.7%	138	\$33,407	\$751,909	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.4%
10-Year*	13.3%	10.0%	13.9%	10.9%	2011	8.9%	5.7%	2.1%	(0.1%)	6.8%	325	\$68,562	\$937,487	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.5%
5-Year*	14.5%	11.1%	16.3%	11.8%	2012	9.2%	6.0%	16.0%	17.6%	(6.8%)	414	\$91,822	\$1,272,265	12.7%	15.1%	15.8%	0.2%
3-Year*	14.0%	10.6%	16.8%	11.0%	2013	31.4%	27.5%	32.4%	32.7%	(1.0%)	536	\$153,123	\$1,955,915	10.3%	11.9%	12.9%	0.4%
					2014	12.0%	8.7%	13.7%	12.7%	(1.7%)	942	\$257,782	\$2,589,024	8.1%	9.0%	9.4%	0.2%
1-Year	46.9%	42.5%	56.3%	58.3%	2015	1.6%	(1.4%)	1.4%	(4.1%)	0.3%	1,265	\$311,651	\$3,175,419	9.5%	10.5%	10.7%	0.3%
YTD	6.1%	5.3%	6.2%	11.9%	2016	17.0%	13.5%	12.0%	18.4%	5.1%	1,714	\$470,340	\$4,413,659	9.2%	10.6%	11.0%	0.3%
QTD	6.1%	5.3%	6.2%	11.9%	2017	19.8%	16.2%	21.8%	13.2%	(2.0%)	2,254	\$698,440	\$5,944,479	8.5%	9.9%	10.3%	0.4%
*Average annualized returns				2018	(3.8%)	(6.6%)	(4.4%)	(8.6%)	0.6%	2,539	\$699,689	\$5,486,737	9.8%	10.8%	11.1%	0.3%	
**Inception is 10/1/2009					2019	29.9%	26.0%	31.5%	26.2%	(1.6%)	3,193	\$1,079,861	\$7,044,708	10.9%	11.9%	12.0%	0.4%
Portfolio Ber	nchmarks				2020	10.7%	7.4%	18.4%	2.9%	(7.7%)	3,269	\$1,159,219	\$6,889,798	16.5%	18.5%	20.0%	0.8%

S&P 500® Index—Capitalization-weighted index of 500 stocks designed to measure performance of the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries.

Russell 3000® Value Index—Capitalization-weighted index designed to measure performance of those Russell 3000® Index companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower forecasted growth values.

(Source: Bloomberg)

Confluence Investment Management LLC claims compliance with the GIobal investment Performance Standards (GIPS\*) 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, 2019. The verification report is available upon request. A firm that claims compliance with the GIPS standards. Verification provides assurance on whether the firm's 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.

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The Increasing Dividend Equity Account (IDEA) Composite was created on October 1, 2009. 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. The U.S. Dollar is the currency used to express performance. Returns are presented gross and net of all income.

nanagement, including those accounts no longer with the firm. Past performance is not indicative of future results. 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.

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 is as follows: 0.60% on the first \$500,000; 0.55% on the next \$500,000; and 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 100% 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 sponsors.

A complete list of composite descriptions is available upon request for whaling 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 IDEA Composite contains fully discretionary IDEA wrap accounts. The IDEA position is available upon request from a universe of stocks, from all market capitalizations, meeting minimum criteria of paying & increasing dividends over the last 10 years. "Results shown for the year 2009 represent partial period performance from October 1, 2009, through December 31, 2009. N/A-Composite Dispersion: Information is not statistically meaningful due to an insufficient nu

In the composite for the entire year. NiA--Syr sto Dev. Composite odes not have 3 years of monthly performance history.

Altistorical Performance Chart—Annualized positive benchmark return is greater than 10%. The S&P 500® Index is an unmanaged market capitalization-weighted index of 500 common stocks chosen for market size, liquidity & industry group representation to represent U.S. equity performance. Down Markets: 02 '10, 03 '11, 02 '12, 04 '12, 03 '15, 01 '18, 04 '18, 01 '20; Neutral-Up Markets: 02 '11, 01 '14, 03 '14, 01 '15-02 '15, 01 '16, 03 '19; Strong Up Markets: 02 '09-01 '10, 03 '10-01 '11, 04 '11-01 '12, 03 '12, 01 '13-04 '13, 02 '14, 04 '15, 02 '16-04 '17, 02 '16-04 '17, 02 '18-03 '18, 01 '19-02 '19, 04 '19, 02 '20-01 '21 '4 Statistical Analysis—Active Share: Measures % of portfolio holdings that differ from benchmark index; calculated by taking the sourced from exchange-traded fund: Shares S&P 500 Core [IVV]. 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 manager protected capital better during a market decline. Alpha: Measures portfolio volditility (systematic risk) compared to an appropriate benchmark index. gain performed in the market had no gain or loss. Beta: Measures portfolio volditility (insystematic risk) compared to an appropriate benchmark index. gain performed in the market index of time; higher Standard Deviation indicates more variability in returns than benchmark index. Gandard Deviation: Measures price variability (risk) over a period of time; higher Standard Deviation indicates more variability in returns. R-Squared: Indicates whether comparison index is an appropriate benchmark based on correlation; generally, R-Squared above 0.70 is desirable. Sharpe Ratio: Quantifies risk-adjusted performance by measuring excess return per unit of risk, higher Sharpe Ratio suggests better risk-adjusted performance. (Data source: Zephyr's PSN SMA Database)

#### **Confluence Value Equities Investment Committee**

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