

Portfolio Commentary

Large Cap Growth

Market Review

The U.S. is shaking off the COVID restraints. The domestic economy is roaring driven by pent up consumer demand, continued low interest rates, and government stimulus. Demand is outpacing supply stretching the economy at the seams and raising concerns that a supply shock could bring inflation. We are in the early stages of what is likely to be an extended economic expansion, one that is more robust and broader than recent expansions.

Financial and commodity markets largely reflected the heightened growth outlook. The S&P 500 returned approximately 8.5% in the second quarter and has increased more than 15% this year, driven more by industrial, financial, and materials companies than by technology companies. Many commodities prices continued this year's run, although they have come off the boil lately. Bonds rallied, relieving inflation concerns for now. The U.S. Treasury 10-year Note yield fell from 1.75% to near 1.50% at quarter end.

The end of pandemic induced restrictions is unleashing economic forces not seen since the end of World War II. Exuberance is palpable. People enjoy socializing without masks! Sporting events draw spectators and flights draw passengers. Rush hour and vacation traffic again snarl roadways.

There are at least three strong pillars supporting this expansion: a strong consumer, a long-delayed capex cycle, and government spending. The fiscal stimulus should not be discounted as it topped 15% of GDP in 2020 and should total over 10% in 2021. A further \$1.2 trillion is expected to be approved this summer. Fiscal programs enacted during the pandemic largely

worked to stabilize American workers and families. New programs will further enhance spending but seem to be motivated, at least in part, to meet political objectives.

Performance Overview

The Congress Large Cap Growth Portfolio ("The Portfolio") returned 9.53% (gross of fees) during the second quarter, while the Russell 1000 Growth Index ("The Index") returned 11.93%.

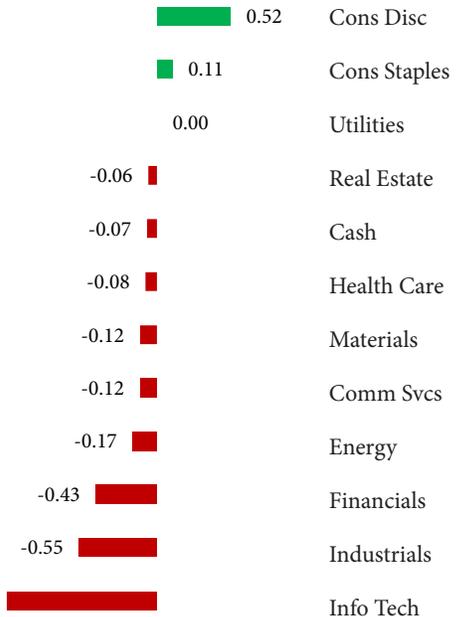
The Portfolio benefited from security selection in Materials and Consumer Discretionary and an underweight allocation to that sector. However, security selection in Information Technology, Financials, and Industrials and an overweight allocation to Materials detracted from performance.

Average Annualized Performance % as of 6/30/2021



Performance is preliminary and subject to change at any time

% Total Effect Portfolio<sup>1</sup> vs. Index (3/31/2021 - 6/30/2021)



Information is as of 6/30/2021. Sources: Congress Asset Management, FactSet, Russell Investments, and Informa Investment Solutions. The information throughout this presentation is for illustrative purposes and is subject to change at any time. Holdings and sector weightings throughout this presentation are subject to change and should not be considered investment advice or a recommendation to buy or sell a particular security. Actual holdings may vary by client. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Gross performance shown does not reflect the deduction of investment management fees and certain transaction costs, which will reduce investment performance. **This information is supplemental to the GIPS Report.** Performance returns of less than one year are not annualized. Frank Russell Company ("Russell") is the source and owner of the trademarks, service marks and copyrights related to the Russell Indexes. Neither Russell nor its licensors accept any liability for any errors or omissions in the Russell Indexes and/or underlying data contained in this communication. No further distribution of Russell data is permitted without Russell's express written consent. Russell does not promote, sponsor or endorse the content of this communication. <sup>1</sup>The information shown is for a representative account as of 6/30/2021. Actual client account holdings and sector allocations may vary.

## 2Q 2021 Attribution Highlights

## Overall Contributors

- Security selection in Materials & Consumer Discretionary
- Underweight allocation to Consumer Discretionary

## Overall Detractors

- Security selection in Information Technology, Financials & Industrials
- Overweight allocation to Materials

## Top 5 Contributors

STOCK	AVG. WEIGHT%	CONTRIBUTION%
PayPal Holdings, Inc	4.46	0.88
IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.	3.21	0.86
Adobe, Inc.	3.45	0.77
Intuit, Inc.	2.33	0.62
Alphabet, Inc. Class A	2.85	0.50

**PayPal Holdings, Inc. (PYPL)** is an online payment platform that enables digital and mobile payments on behalf of consumers and merchants worldwide. PYPL's suite of products is enabling the shift towards the digital transformation of the global economy. This shift, which is being hastened by the post-pandemic recovery, has highlighted the scalability of the business model with most metrics consistently exceeding expectations.

**IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. (IDXX)** engages in the development, manufacture, and distribution of products and services for the veterinary, livestock, poultry, dairy, and water testing markets. It is the leader in the animal diagnostics market. IDXX is benefiting from robust demand for companion animal healthcare which is reflected in the company's double digit same-store clinical visit rate in the U.S.

**Adobe, Inc. (ADBE)** offers a line of software and services that help its customers create and deliver compelling content and web applications using a streamlined workflow and optimize those experiences for a greater return on investment. The company reported solid quarterly results with various metrics exceeding management and street estimates. Strength in Digital Media was driven by an acceleration in the company's small and medium sized customers as well as seat expansions at the enterprise level.

**Intuit, Inc. (INTU)** is the market leader in consumer and professional tax software as well as small business accounting software. Global products and platforms include QuickBooks, TurboTax, Mint, and others which are designed to help customers run their small businesses, pay employees, send invoices, separate business and personal expenses, track spending, and file income taxes. Strong results from QuickBooks Online and TurboTax Live in addition to solid momentum in Credit Karma fueled the company's better than expected quarterly results.

**Alphabet, Inc. Class A (GOOGL)** is a global technology leader focused on the way people connect with information. The company's segments generate revenues primarily by delivering relevant, cost-effective online advertising. GOOGL's impressive quarterly results were driven by continued strength in advertising and its Cloud businesses. The move to streaming is providing a meaningful opportunity for YouTube as its new ad products are taking hold. Within the Google Cloud Platform, the company continues to sign multiyear/multi product deals which should be sticky given GOOGL's strength in multi cloud/hybrid environments.

## Bottom 5 Contributors/Detractors

STOCK	AVG. WEIGHT%	DETRACTION%
Canadian National Railway Co.	1.06	-0.23
Caterpillar, Inc.	2.71	-0.16
Global Payments, Inc.	2.35	-0.15
Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	1.35	-0.09
Abbott Laboratories	2.32	-0.08

**Canadian National Railway Co. (CNI)** engages in the transportation of goods by way of freight trains for various businesses. The company's trains run in Canada and the U.S. While its merger with Kansas City Southern could offer sizable opportunities for CNI, the company did pay a considerable premium (about 20% more than Canadian Pacific's offer). In addition, the deal may not be approved by the Surface Transportation Board. As a result, the stock was sold from the Portfolio.

**Caterpillar, Inc. (CAT)** is the world's leading manufacturer of construction and mining equipment, diesel and natural gas engines, industrial gas turbines, and diesel-electric locomotives. The stock's underperformance can be attributed to the overall weakness within the machinery industry. However, the company continues to generate solid results and recently raised its quarterly dividend by 8%.

**Global Payments, Inc. (GPN)** is a leading pure play payment technology company providing payment and software solutions to approximately 3.5 million merchant locations and over 1,300 financial institutions globally. Despite reporting better than expected quarterly results, management did not raise full-year guidance, which they have done historically.

**Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (VRTX)** focuses on developing and commercializing therapies for the treatment of cystic fibrosis as well as advancing its research and development programs in other areas. The company participates in a cystic fibrosis market that is expected to reach \$13.9 billion by 2025. The stock's underperformance was primarily due to management's announcement that they will not be advancing the Alpha-1 Antitrypsin (AATD) drug VX-864 into late-stage development. Despite the setback, VRTX continues to be the dominant player in cystic fibrosis with very little competition.

**Abbott Laboratories (ABT)** is a leading provider of healthcare products. It operates through four segments: Established Pharmaceutical Products, Nutritional Products, Diagnostic Products, and Medical Devices. Management lowered full-year guidance, citing reduced revenue from COVID-related testing products as COVID cases dropped significantly, particularly in the U.S.

## 2Q 2021 Transaction Summary

### Sector Allocation Changes

- Increase in Information Technology
- Decrease in Industrials

### Purchased

- Bank of America Corp. (BAC) - Financials
- Synopsys, Inc. (SNPS) - Information Technology

### Sold

- Canadian National Railway Co. (CNI) - Industrials
- Progressive Corp. (PGR) - Financials

### Purchased

**Bank of America Corp. (BAC)** is one of the largest financial institutions in the U.S., serving individual consumers, small-and-middle market businesses, and large corporations with a full range of banking, asset management, and other financial and risk management products and services. The company is poised to benefit from higher inflation, a strong U.S. economy, and the possibility of higher interest rates. BAC has grown its deposits and loans while keeping expenses relatively stable. The company's balance sheet strength, credit metrics, return metrics, share count, and efficiency ratio have all been consistently improving over the past several years. BAC is also the leader in online/mobile banking, a vital attribute for success in the current banking environment.

**Synopsys, Inc. (SNPS)** engages in the provision of software products and consulting services in the electronic design automation (EDA) industry. The company operates through the following segments: Semiconductor and System Design and Software Integrity. SNPS is positioned to benefit from long-term secular trends in the semiconductor industry that are being driven by an increasing number of chips being used in connected devices and more advanced chips being needed for high growth verticals such as 5G, electronic/autonomous vehicles, Internet of Things (IoT), data centers, and Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning. SNPS's EDA solutions have relatively stable demand throughout the semiconductor cycle and its intellectual property portfolio should see increased use.

### Sold

**Canadian National Railway Co. (CNI)** engages in the transportation of goods by way of freight trains for various businesses. The company's trains run in Canada and the U.S. While the merger with Kansas City Southern could offer sizable opportunities for CNI, the company did pay a considerable premium (about 20% more than Canadian Pacific's offer). In addition, the deal may not be approved by the U.S. Surface Transportation Board.

**Progressive Corp. (PGR)** is an insurance holding company that provides personal and commercial auto insurance, residential property insurance, and other specialty property-casualty insurance. During its May monthly results, the company reported its second highest combined ratio since May 2020 due to catastrophe losses as well as unfavorable prior year development. In addition, margins were weaker than expected due to an increase in loss ratio in its personal and commercial insurance lines.

### Positioning

Investments are predicated on a company's future prospects rather than economic or market cycles. We seek companies with strong fundamentals, emphasizing earnings growth consistency, free cash flow, and solid balance sheet metrics. There were two purchases and two sales in the Portfolio

during the quarter, and they are reflective of this philosophy. These combined transactions essentially increased the Portfolio's Information Technology weighting while reducing its Industrials weighting.

### Outlook

Consumers remain the primary economic force spending about 19% more in May than a year ago. Consumers' willingness to spend is matched by ability and confidence. Compensation was up close to 10% from last year and consumer net worth is at a record high.

Sales are likely held back by supply constraints. Manufacturers are struggling to produce enough product to satiate demand. The entire supply chain is challenged, exhibited by the well-publicized semi-conductor shortage. Goldman Sachs estimates that the semi-conductor shortage affects 169 industries ranging from automobiles to kitchen appliances and electronic devices, but the problem is far larger than one component. The U.S. does not have enough willing workers. From truck drivers to waitstaff, capacity is limited by worker availability.

In this regard, some readings of the work force are misleading. The unemployment rate remains elevated and employment stands about 7 million below pre-pandemic levels. However, the Bureau of Economic Activity's April report was full of positive readings including a record 9 million jobs available. Close to 4 million people voluntarily quit their jobs in April, a record high that reflects a bullish outlook for wages and job advancement. Similarly, involuntary separations were 1%, a record low. The reluctance of some to work should wane as pandemic inspired payments expire and child-care capacity returns.

Corporate America is responding to the dearth of workers. After a year of retrenchment, companies are investing to meet demand. Enticed by ultra-low interest rates, companies have re-capitalized their balance sheets, are awash in cash, and have reduced interest obligations. The Institute of Supply Management's and the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank's May surveys indicate that much of these funds will be spent on capital equipment and supply chain infrastructure to alleviate current backlogs and meet future demand. This "capex" cycle appears to have legs and should help realign productive resources for today's economy. A similar story is likely to play out in Europe and Japan.

There is little chance, in our view, that the economy falters here. Corporate earnings should grow double digits and even state and local governments are flush with cash. The major economic risk is inflation. Long dormant, measures of inflation are rising. The Federal Reserve Board's (Fed) preferred measure of inflation, the core PCE deflator, measured 3.4% in May. The Fed targets an "average" inflation rate of 2%. While the latest reading is significantly higher than the 2% target, the Fed suggests that conditions driving the elevated rate are transitory and will dissipate as supply constraints recede. Investors should hope that the Fed's words speak louder than their actions.

In the past, notably the late 1970's-1980's, the Fed raised short term interest rates to break inflation's back. Now the Fed is trying to manage inflation

by professing their vigilance while maintaining policies intended to push inflation higher – targeting a federal funds interest rate of 0% to 0.25% and purchasing \$120 billion of treasuries and mortgage securities per month. Recently, the Fed's purchasing of Treasuries has equaled issuance, helping keep long interest rates depressed. Interest rates will likely rise before the Fed begins tapering its asset purchases, perhaps early next year.

As we move past the pandemic and the associated lockdowns, important social and economic questions remain. We used our strong economic position to finance the myriad of programs to support our country. In doing so, we increased our debt to levels not seen since World War II. The upward trajectory is unsustainable and pushes pandemic costs to future generations. How we assess these costs is becoming increasingly important to the markets. Debt remediation is likely to include higher taxes. The structure and form of any tax increases will affect economic growth and inflation. There is no simple fix and so far Congress has largely avoided the issue.

The immediate risk is that our economy is growing faster than its potential which may cause systemic inflationary pressures. Stocks will likely outperform bonds in this environment, however volatility is likely to increase for most asset classes as investors digest the growth/inflation paradigm.

## Congress Asset Management Co. Large Cap Growth Composite 1/1/2011 - 12/31/2020

Year	Total Return Gross of Fees %	Total Return Net of Fees %	S&P 500 Return % (dividends reinvested)	Russell 1000 Growth Return % (dividends reinvested)	Composite Gross 3-Yr annualized ex-post St Dev (%)	S&P 500 3-Yr annualized ex-post St Dev (%)	Russell 1000 Growth 3-Yr St Dev (%)	Number of Portfolios	Gross Dispersion %	Total Composite Assets End of Period (\$ millions)	Total Firm Discretionary Assets End of Period (\$ millions)	Total Firm Advisory-Only Assets End of Period (\$ millions)	Total Firm Assets End of Period # (\$ millions)
2020	28.0	27.5	18.4	38.5	17.3	18.5	19.6	150	1.27	258	10,746	5,523	16,269
2019	34.4	33.9	31.5	36.4	11.5	11.9	13.1	114	0.82	207	8,445	4,083	12,528
2018	2.5	2.1	-4.4	-1.5	10.5	10.8	12.1	80	0.30	136	7,102	3,132	10,234
2017	27.2	26.6	21.8	30.2	9.9	9.9	10.5	78	0.58	111	7,272	3,274	10,546
2016	5.6	5.1	12.0	7.1	10.7	10.6	11.2	81	0.43	98	5,693	2,445	8,139
2015	2.8	2.2	1.4	5.7	11.1	10.5	10.7	28	0.49	65	5,941	1,153	7,094
2014	10.1	9.5	13.7	13.1	10.1	9.0	9.6	30	0.47	89	6,328	1,121	7,449
2013	30.5	30.0	32.4	33.5	12.5	11.9	12.2	35	0.50	233	6,489	978	7,467
2012	11.9	11.5	16.0	15.3	15.2	15.1	15.7	39	0.40	302	6,755	743	7,498
2011	3.5	3.1	2.1	2.6	17.0	18.7	17.8	45	0.66	463	6,329	685	7,014

#The "Total Firm Assets" column includes unified managed account (UMA) assets

Congress Asset Management claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. Congress Asset Management has been independently verified for the periods 1/1/96 – 12/31/20. A firm that claims compliance with the GIPS standards must establish policies and procedure 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 Large Cap Growth Composite has had a performance examination for the periods 1/1/96 – 12/31/20. The verification and performance examination reports are available upon request.

Firm Information: Congress Asset Management Co. (CAM) is an investment advisor registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Advisors Act of 1940. Registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training. CAM manages a variety of public equity, private equity, fixed income and ETF managed portfolios for private and institutional clients. CAM acquired Prelude Asset Management, LLC on March 15, 2010. CAM merged with Congress Capital Partners, LLP on June 30, 2015. CAM acquired certain strategies of Century Capital Management, LLC on September 15, 2017.

Composite Characteristics: The Large Cap Growth Composite was created on January 1, 1993 and the inception date of the composite is January 1, 1985, which reflects the first full month in which an account was fully invested in the strategy and met the inclusion criteria. The composite includes all fully discretionary portfolios with a value over \$100 thousand (US dollars) managed in the large cap growth style for a minimum of one full month. The large cap growth strategy invests in the equity of high quality companies with market capitalizations greater than \$5 billion exhibiting consistent earnings growth. The strategy may also invest from time to time in equity securities with capitalizations between \$1 billion and \$5 billion. Accounts with wrap commissions are excluded from the composite. Prior to January 1, 2016 the composite minimum was \$500 thousand (US dollars). Prior to September 1, 2005 the composite did not include taxable accounts, private client accounts, or accounts with less than \$1 million. The primary composite benchmark is the S&P 500 Index. The secondary benchmark is the Russell 1000 Growth Index. The benchmark returns are not covered by the report of independent verifiers. Closed account data is included in the composite as mandated by the standards in order to eliminate a survivorship bias. A list of composite descriptions and a list of broad distribution pooled funds are available upon request.

Calculation Methodology: Valuations and returns are computed and stated in U.S. dollars. Gross of fees returns are calculated gross of management and custodial fees and net of transaction costs. Prior to 2007 net of fees returns were calculated by reducing gross returns by 1/4th of the highest management fee in the Large Cap Growth Composite, which was 1.00%, applied quarterly. Effective January 1, 2007 net of fees returns are calculated using actual management fees. The composite results portrayed reflect the reinvestment of dividends, capital gains, and other earnings when appropriate. Accruals for equity securities are included in calculations. Internal dispersion is calculated using the asset-weighted standard deviation of annual gross-of-fees returns of those portfolios that were included in the composite for the entire year. For those years when less than six portfolios were included in the composite for the full year, no dispersion measure is presented. The three-year annualized ex-post standard deviation measures the variability of the composite and the benchmark returns over the preceding 36-month period. Prior to January 1, 1993 the composite is not in compliance with GIPS.

Fee Schedule: The firms' individual account fee schedule is as follows: 1.00% for first \$1 million, 0.80% for next \$4 million, 0.60% for next \$5 million. Management fees for individual accounts with assets under management exceeding \$10 million, and for institutional accounts are negotiated. The individual account fee schedule may be subject to negotiation where circumstances warrant. As fees are deducted quarterly, the compounding effect will increase the impact of the fees by an amount directly related to the gross account performance. For example, an account earning a 10% annual gross return with a 1% annual fee deducted quarterly would earn an 8.9% annual net return due to compounding.

Other Disclosures: Policies for valuing investments, calculating performance and preparing GIPS Reports are available upon request. Past performance does not guarantee future results. This performance report should not be construed as a recommendation to purchase or sell any particular securities held in composite accounts. Market conditions can vary widely over time and can result in a loss of portfolio value. 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.