

Portfolio Commentary

Market Review

Turbulence has been the prevailing theme of 2022. Investors are grappling with inflation and a drawn-out conflict between Russia and Ukraine, forces that have damaged asset valuations and stunted economic growth. While the summer months offered some respite, negative sentiment intensified in September. The downward trend of stocks accelerated and bond yields increased as the Federal Reserve (Fed) reinforced its commitment to taming inflation, even at the cost of a potential recession. Energy prices, driven up by international sanctions on Russia, have receded from their highs. However, the coming winter is unlikely to bring more relief, particularly as Europe faces energy prices that have been as high as 10x typical levels. Despite these headwinds, the US economy continues to show strength and the consumer remains fundamentally strong, in our view.

On the inflation front, continued price increases have caused concern, particularly as inflation has broadened out to “stickier” categories like shelter. In response, the Fed is aggressively raising short term interest rates and shrinking its bond holdings. Bond yields reflect the Fed’s vigor and the markets are anticipating a 2023 recession.

Market sentiment is undoubtedly negative, to the point that even “good news” is viewed in a negative light. For instance, August’s unemployment rate of 3.7% is seen as inflationary. However, the US labor market is moving back into balance, with employment at pre-COVID levels and labor force participation creeping higher. An expanding labor pool is deflationary and may indicate the beginning of the end of the “great resignation.” Help wanted signs hang from auto repair shops, restaurants, and health care facilities.

With recent reports suggesting over eleven million unfilled positions, ample opportunity awaits those seeking employment.

Improving supply chains and falling commodity costs indicate we are past peak inflation. Though shelter inflation remains at concerning levels, housing prices and apartment rent growth show signs of turning over. While markets believe the Fed will ultimately keep inflation in check, caution is warranted. Consumers are spending more money on food, fuel, and shelter than in the recent past.

While the domestic economy finds its footing, Europe faces a difficult winter. An over-reliance on Russian natural gas and a premature focus on green energy policies have left the Continent with exorbitant energy and utility costs. Government policies will lessen the out-of-pocket pain for their citizens, but the fundamental energy shortfall is not easily fixed. Elevated fuel costs are likely to dampen consumer discretionary spending and are already curtailing industrial production. U.S. companies with European exposure will feel the chill.

Performance Overview

The Congress SMid Growth Portfolio (“the Portfolio”) returned -2.0% (gross of fees) and -2.1% (net of fees) during the quarter, while the Russell 2500 Growth Index returned -0.1%.

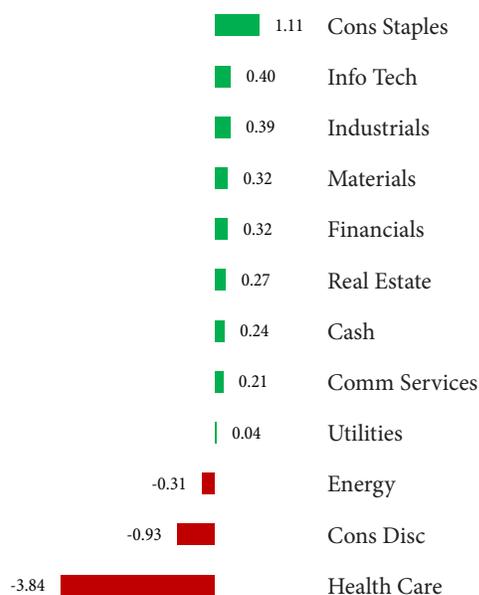
The Portfolio benefited from security selection in Consumer Staples, Information Technology, Industrials, and Financials. However, security selection in Health Care, Consumer Discretionary, and Energy and an overweight allocation to Consumer Staples detracted from performance during the quarter.

% Average Annual Returns as of 9/30/2022



Performance is preliminary and subject to change at any time.

% Total Effect Portfolio vs. Index¹
6/30/2022 - 9/30/2022



Data is as of 9/30/2022. Sources throughout this presentation: Congress Asset Management, FactSet, Russell Investments, and Morningstar Direct. The information throughout this presentation is for illustrative purposes and is subject to change at any time. Holdings and sector weightings 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. This managed account strategy involves risk, may not be profitable, may not achieve its objective, and may not be suitable or appropriate for all investors. Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, and fees of this strategy carefully with their financial professional before investing. 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. ¹The information shown is for a representative account as of 9/30/2022. Actual client account holdings and sector allocations may vary.

3Q 2022 Attribution Highlights

Overall Contributors

- Security selection in Consumer Staples, Information Technology, Industrials & Financials

Overall Detractors

- Security selection in Health Care, Consumer Discretionary & Energy
- Overweight allocation to Consumer Staples

Top 5 Contributors/Detractors

STOCK	AVG. WEIGHT%	CONTRIBUTION%
e.l.f. Beauty, Inc.	3.00	0.53
LPL Financial Holdings, Inc.	3.24	0.46
BJ's Wholesale Club Holdings, Inc.	3.22	0.45
Valmont Industries, Inc.	2.68	0.45
Comfort Systems USA, Inc.	2.72	0.39

e.l.f. Beauty, Inc. (ELF) is a leading beauty products company offering high-quality cosmetics at value prices. ELF continued to deliver results above expectations during the quarter, both domestically and internationally, which resulted in market share gains for the company. Its lower price point offerings are also well-positioned as consumers are impacted by inflation.

LPL Financial Holdings, Inc. (LPLA) is a leader in the retail financial advice market and the largest independent broker-dealer. LPLA showed consistent organic growth rates during the quarter as it continues to add new clients. It is also benefiting from the rising interest rate environment as it earns a spread on client cash balances.

BJ's Wholesale Club Holdings, Inc. (BJ) is a membership-only warehouse club chain. Warehouse operators are benefiting in the current environment as consumers look for value. As such, BJ has been able to offset inflationary pressures with strong membership metrics. Revenue from membership income has shown continued growth, driven by improving renewal rates and new members.

Valmont Industries, Inc. (VMI) is a diversified global manufacturer and provider of highly engineered fabricated metal products to the infrastructure and agriculture markets. VMI's stock performance benefited from a combination of strong second quarter results and growth outlook across its end markets during the quarter. Despite the weakening macroeconomic environment, VMI's prospects remain positive given the structural investment needed in food security, grid modernization, solar generation, and telecom.

Comfort Systems USA, Inc. (FIX) builds, installs, maintains, repairs, and replaces mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems throughout the U.S. The company outperformed on robust organic growth across data centers, food processing, and life sciences. FIX is also well-positioned to benefit from the growing trend of reshoring manufacturing and supply chains inside the U.S.

Bottom 5 Contributors/Detractors

STOCK	AVG. WEIGHT%	DETRACTION%
Neogen Corporation	1.50	-0.75
Horizon Therapeutics PLC	2.64	-0.54
Perficient, Inc.	1.76	-0.52
STERIS PLC	2.39	-0.43
Helen of Troy Ltd.	1.03	-0.41

Neogen Corporation (NEOG) develops, manufactures, and markets a diverse line of products and services dedicated to food and animal safety. Despite better-than-expected quarterly results, the stock came under pressure due to its merger agreement with 3M's Food and Safety business. Management indicated that the combined company is expected to grow at a 10% rate long term, driven by compelling opportunities in Food Safety and global opportunities.

Horizon Therapeutics PLC (HZNP) develops therapies for orphan diseases, specifically uncontrolled gout and thyroid eye disease. Growth of the company's key Tepezza drug slowed to 6% year over year, prompting management to lower fiscal year revenue and earnings guidance sharply. As a result, management announced an expansion and refocusing of sales efforts and a renewed emphasis on targeting new patient populations. We believe Horizon continues to have a healthy drug pipeline that could translate to more commercial offerings, and Tepezza has an opportunity to expand.

Perficient, Inc. (PRFT) is an IT services firm specializing in the digital transformation of business operations and processes. Management lowered its full-year expectations for growth due to isolated customer cancellations and a faster shift to offshoring – a dynamic that is a near-term headwind to growth. However, the company still maintains that underlying demand is strong despite the lower outlook. PRFT also continues to benefit from increased cloud adoption and the need for digital transformation.

STERIS PLC (STE) is a leading provider of infection prevention and procedural products and services. Despite relatively strong quarterly results, the stock was pressured due to lowered guidance because of lower-than-expected hospital procedure volume and supply chain constraints.

Helen of Troy Ltd. (HELE) is a leading global consumer products company with seven leadership brands: OXO, Honeywell, Braun, PUR, Hydro Flask, Vicks, and Hot Tools. HELE cut its earnings outlook during the quarter due to shifting consumer spending away from home-related goods and a pullback in orders from major retailers that had too much inventory. It is uncertain how long it will take for inventory to normalize, especially as inflation pressure remains high.

3Q 2022 Transaction Summary

Sector Allocation Changes

- Increase in Communication Services
- Decrease in Consumer Discretionary

Purchased

- R1 RCM Holdco, Inc. (RCM) - Health Care
- Perion Network Ltd. (PERI) - Communication Services

Sold

- Bruker Corporation (BRKR) - Health Care
- Helen of Troy Ltd. (HELE) - Consumer Discretionary

Purchased

R1 RCM, Inc. (RCM) offers technology-enabled revenue cycle management services to healthcare providers, including health systems and hospitals, physician groups, and municipal and private emergency medical service providers. The company has expanded margins and added technology offerings through internal development and M&A, which has resulted in new customers. Tight labor conditions and rising wage pressures play into its offerings as healthcare providers seek to streamline the patient experience, drive operational efficiency, and improve financial performance.

Perion Network Ltd. (PERI) is a global digital advertising company focused on ad search, social media, and display/video/CTV for both demand and supply-side customers. The company is a relatively small player in the space but is gaining rapid share with its “cookie-less” SORT advertising solution. Amidst a difficult period for advertisers in general, PERI continues to show solid growth and limited exposure to challenged verticals such as retail.

Sold

Bruker Corporation (BRKR) develops, manufactures, and distributes high-performance scientific instruments and analytical and diagnostic solutions. Supply chain headwinds along with uncertain funding for its solutions in China and Europe have created doubt about the company’s ability to meet its outlook growth targets.

Helen of Troy Ltd. (HELE) is a global consumer products company. As inflation began to pick up earlier this year, consumers began to shift their spending away from home-related goods and HELE started to feel the impact. At the same time, certain HELE customers, notably major retailers, found themselves with too much inventory in a slowing backdrop. As a result, they pulled back on orders and HELE had to significantly cut its earnings outlook. It is uncertain how long it will take for inventory levels to normalize, especially as inflation pressure remains high. This resulted in the position being sold from the Portfolio.

Positioning

Portfolio 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 Communication Services weighting while reducing its Consumer Discretionary weighting.

Outlook

As economic challenges abound, attention has turned to corporate earnings. Doubts are mounting about companies’ abilities to maintain margins either through price increases or operational efficiencies. Employment costs are rising and supply chain issues are forcing many companies to rely on higher cost options such as increasing inventory and/or moving operations closer to home. The prospect of higher costs and higher interest rates has increased market volatility and weighed on returns. So far this year the S&P 500 has lost 1% or more in a week 21 times, a grim milestone that has been exceeded only three times in the last 30 calendar years.

The immediate economic outlook is uncertain and stock market valuations and interest rate trends reflect this reality. The U.S. ten-year Treasury note now yields about 3.8%, up from 1.5% at year end. We believe the increased yield will be enough to dampen inflation to a more reasonable level in 2023. While the US consumer won’t escape inflation unscathed, consumers, in general, are well-positioned to absorb price increases, and the strong labor market is contributing to rising compensation.

How hard or soft the coming landing will be is unclear, and the stock market is likely to react to a combination of corporate earnings and the U.S. ten-year yield. As such, market swings are expected to continue. Ultimately, intermediate- and longer-term economic prospects will be heavily influenced by the consumer and his or her spending priorities. Looking through the noise, we continue to believe that a portfolio of established growth companies offers the best prospects for long-term capital appreciation.

Congress Asset Management Co. SMid Growth Composite 4/1/2017 - 12/31/2021

Year	Total Return Gross of Fees%	Total Return Net of Fees%	Russell 2500 Growth Return % (dividends reinvested)	Composite Gross 3-Yr annualized ex-post St Dev (%)	Russell 2500 Growth 3-Yr annualized ex-post 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)
2021	28.4	27.9	5.0	18.5	22.0	98	0.91	79	12,778	8,018	20,796
2020	50.3	49.7	40.5	20.7	23.9	47	0.62	55	10,746	5,523	16,269
2019	28.7	28.2	32.7	n/a	n/a	14	n/a	37	8,445	4,083	12,528
2018	1.3	0.9	-7.5	n/a	n/a	≤5	n/a	27	7,102	3,132	10,234
3/31/17–12/31/17	12.8	12.5	17.1	n/a	n/a	≤5	n/a	35	7,272	3,274	10,546

#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 – 12/31/21. The verification report(s) is/are available upon request. 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. Verification does not provide assurance on the accuracy of any specific performance report.

Firm Information: Congress Asset Management Co. (CAM) is an investment advisor registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Advisers 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 creation and inception date of the SMid Growth Composite is April 1, 2017, which reflects the first full month 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 SMid growth style for a minimum of one full month. The SMid growth strategy invests in the equity of high quality companies with market capitalizations between \$300 million and \$20 billion (at the time of purchase) exhibiting consistent earnings growth. Accounts with wrap commissions are excluded from the composite. The primary composite benchmark is the Russell 2500 Growth Index. The benchmark returns are not covered by the report of the 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, a list of broad distribution pooled funds, and a list of limited distribution pooled fund descriptions 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. 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. It is not presented for periods prior to 2020 because 36-month returns were not available.

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.