

Portfolio Commentary

SMALL CAP VALUE

Market Environment

The financial markets were relatively calm as 2022 ended, belying the most turbulent year since the 2008 Great Financial Crisis. 2022 will be remembered as the year the pandemic-induced economic haze began to lift. The clearer view accentuated some troubling trends: the stubborn persistence of inflation, Russia's continuing aggression in Ukraine and antagonism towards the West, and the ratcheting up of tension in trade rhetoric and restrictions between the U.S. and China. Rising rates punished markets with little solace found in stocks, bonds, or alternative investments. The S&P 500 was down 19% for the year and the Bloomberg US Aggregate Index fell 13%, the first time in at least 50 years that both stocks and bonds had negative returns.

Inflation has been a major driver of market volatility and we believe it will continue to have an outsized effect on the markets and economy in 2023. The Federal Reserve (Fed) raised the federal funds rate seven times over the course of the year, a cumulative increase of 4.25%, to slow economic growth and fight rampant inflation. While the full impact of these rate hikes has yet to be felt, recent indicators suggest we are past peak inflation, a sign that the Fed's efforts may be paying off. Core Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE), the Fed's preferred measure of inflation, has fallen in each of the last 4 months. The 3-month annualized rate in November was 3.6%, the lowest since February of 2021.

Consumer demand for goods and housing should continue to weaken, alleviating some cost pressures. However, the labor market remains out

of sync with a shortage of workers even though wages and compensation continue to grow at an accelerated rate. The Fed would like to see the unemployment rate increase from 3.7% to over 4% to bring this back in balance, in theory easing compensation costs. Fine tuning the unemployment rate however is an inexact art, and the Fed risks damaging the American worker should they be too aggressive.

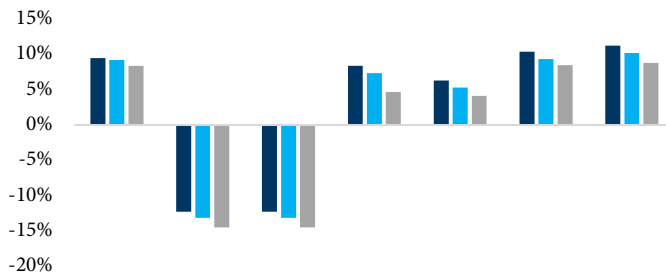
Though trending down, inflation remains high, and the Fed expects to continue raising rates in 2023. This Fed tightening cycle, like all the prior ones, is a delicate experiment – too much tightening could cause a recession, too little and inflation could resurge, wreaking its own havoc. As it stands now, the Fed Funds rate target at 4.25% is above the 3.85% 10-year US Treasury yield, a point at which tightening cycles have ended in the past. We expect this cycle will wind down early in 2023, allowing the economy to find its natural footing with less Fed intervention.

Performance Overview

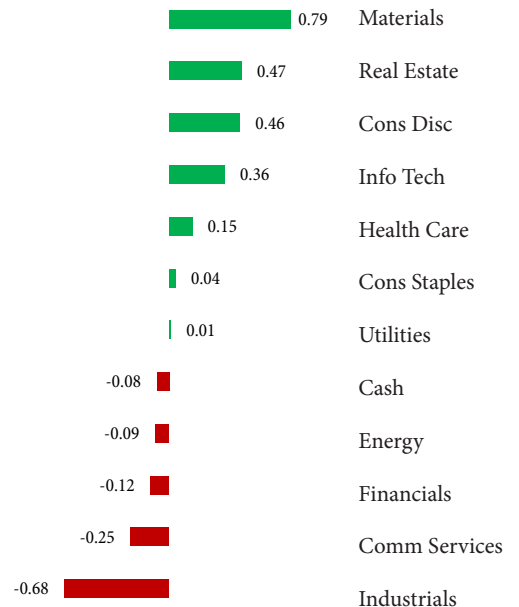
The Small Cap Value Portfolio ("the Portfolio") returned 9.5% (gross of fees) and 9.2% (net of fees) during the quarter, while the Russell 2000 Value Index ("The Index") returned 8.4%.

The Portfolio benefited from security selection in Materials, Consumer Discretionary, Real Estate, and Information Technology. However, security selection in Industrials, Communication Services, Energy, and Financials detracted from performance.

Average Annualized Performance % as of 12/31/2022



% Total Effect Portfolio vs. Index<sup>1</sup> (9/30/2022 - 12/31/2022)



	QTD	YTD	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	Inception 11/1/2010
Small Cap Value Composite (Gross)	9.5	-12.3	-12.3	8.4	6.3	10.4	11.3
Small Cap Value Composite (Net)	9.2	-13.1	-13.1	7.4	5.3	9.3	10.2
Russell 2000 Value	8.4	-14.5	-14.5	4.7	4.1	8.5	8.8

Performance is preliminary and subject to change at any time.

Data is as of 12/31/2022. 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. <sup>1</sup>The information shown is for a representative account as of 12/31/2022. Actual client account holdings and sector allocations may vary.

## 4Q 2022 Attribution Highlights

### Overall Contributors

- Security selection in Materials, Consumer Discretionary, Real Estate & Information Technology

### Overall Detractors

- Security selection in Industrials, Communication Services, Energy & Financials

### Top 5 Contributors/Detractors

STOCK	AVG. WEIGHT%	CONTRIBUTION%
Matador Resources Company	2.40	0.67
EMCOR Group, Inc.	2.61	0.62
Skechers U.S.A., Inc. Class A	1.78	0.46
Patrick Industries, Inc.	1.40	0.44
Shyft Group, Inc.	2.20	0.43

**Matador Resources Company (MTDR)** is an oil and natural gas exploration and development company. The stock performed well in the 4th quarter driven largely by higher oil prices.

**EMCOR Group, Inc. (EME)** engages in the provision of electrical and mechanical construction and facilities services. EMCOR's shares benefited from increased backlog and incremental confidence in construction bid activity around data infrastructure, advanced manufacturing in semiconductors, pharmaceuticals, and food processing & storage.

**Skechers USA, Inc. (SKX)** produces sneakers and shoes. Skechers shares performed well as its lower priced brands continued to benefit from strong global demand and domestic wholesale growth.

### Top 5 Contributors/Detractors

STOCK	AVG. WEIGHT%	DETRACTION%
Telephone and Data Systems, Inc.	1.42	-0.33
Pacira Biosciences, Inc.	1.14	-0.33
LCI Industries	1.53	-0.12
FTI Consulting, Inc.	3.21	-0.10
Editas Medicine, Inc.	0.26	-0.08

**Telephone and Data Systems, Inc. (TDS)** provides wireline and wireless communication services. TDS shares declined as expenditures for its 5G roll out were higher than expectations.

**Pacira Biosciences, Inc. (PCRX)** provides non-opioid pain management and regenerative health solutions. Pacira shares came under pressure as work shortages and surgical volumes caused revenues to come in lower than expectations.

**LCI Industries (LCII)** manufactures RVs and RV equipment. Shares of LCII came under pressure as higher interest rates led investors to be concerned that the ability to finance RV purchases would be diminished.

### Purchased

- UFP Technologies, Inc. (UFPT) - Health Care
- Gitlab, Inc. Class A (GTLB) - Information Technology
- Bank of Hawaii Corp. (BOH) - Financials

### Sold

- Jounce Therapeutics, Inc. (JNCE) - Health Care
- Tronox Holdings Plc (TROX) Materials
- KnowBe4, Inc. (KNBE) - Information Technology

## Economic Outlook

Last year's broad sell-off reflects the lingering economic uncertainties around growth and inflation. We do not anticipate a similar experience in 2023. It was a painful year for most investors, but these watershed years can be cathartic. The zero-interest rate era is over, and the readjustment phase is well underway. Not coincidentally, speculative investments that blossomed in the zero-rate era have cracked. Those, like FTX – built on manipulation, greed, and fraud – have collapsed. Fortunately, ancillary damage has been contained and the crypto correction will not be a contagion.

The bond market of 2023 should offer more stability. Last year's unprecedented interest rate rise was driven by the highest inflation levels in over 40 years. This seems unlikely to be repeated as inflation appears to be easing. Further, while bond yields have fallen recently, they remain near their highest levels in over a decade and offer investors better income prospects.

The outlook for stocks is more tenuous. Company profit margins will likely shrink as elevated costs have yet to be fully realized, but stock valuations are attractive especially if interest rates stabilize as expected. Technology stocks led the market in a low interest environment over the past few years. However, we anticipate market breadth to widen as shifting economic sands improve the prospects for other sectors, potentially altering stock market leadership in the coming year.

Overall, the risk of recession has cooled but continues to be elevated amidst tightening monetary and fiscal policy. Yet the underlying US economy has held up relatively well, especially against the backdrop of a looming global recession. While additional fiscal stimulus is unlikely with the return of a divided government, there is still a large amount of spending to be disbursed, which could provide a further tailwind. Though the broader economic outlook is uncertain, we remain confident opportunities for outsized and resilient earnings growth can be identified through bottom-up

fundamental analysis. We believe a diversified portfolio of quality growth companies provides investors the best opportunity to participate in up markets and protect capital in down markets.

## Congress Asset Management Co. Small Cap Value Composite 1/1/2012 - 12/31/2021

Year	Total Return Gross of Fees %	Total Return Net of Fees %	Russell 2000 Value Return % (dividends reinvested)	Composite Gross 3-Yr an- nualized ex-post St Dev (%)	Russell 2000 Value 3-Yr an- nualized ex-post St Dev (%)	Number of Portfolios	Gross Disper- sion %	Total Composite Assets End of Period (\$ millions)	Total Firm Discretionary Assets End of Period (\$ millions)	Total Firm Advisory-On- ly Assets End of Period (\$ millions)	Total Firm Assets End of Period # (\$ millions)
2021	33.4	32.2	28.3	25.7	25.0	6	n/a	367	12,778	8,018	20,796
2020	8.8	7.8	4.6	27.1	26.1	≤5	n/a	197	10,746	5,523	16,269
2019	26.2	25.1	22.4	16.5	15.7	≤5	n/a	185	8,445	4,083	12,528
2018	-15.5	-16.3	-12.9	15.7	15.8	≤5	n/a	235	7,102	3,132	10,234
2017	16.9	15.8	7.8	13.9	14.0	≤5	n/a	244	7,272	3,274	10,546
2016	18.4	17.2	31.7	15.4	15.7	≤5	n/a	283	n/a	n/a	n/a
2015	-7.6	-8.4	-7.5	13.6	13.7	≤5	n/a	266	n/a	n/a	n/a
2014	6.2	5.2	4.2	12.5	13.0	≤5	n/a	0.4	n/a	n/a	n/a
2013	45.5	44.1	34.5	15.9	16.1	≤5	n/a	0.1	n/a	n/a	n/a
2012	27.4	26.2	18.1	n/a	n/a	≤5	n/a	17	n/a	n/a	n/a

#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 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 Small Cap Value Composite was created on March 31, 2014 and the inception date is November 1, 2010. Performance prior to September 15, 2017 was generated by Century Capital Management, LLC. Performance prior to March 1, 2014 was generated before the Portfolio Manager became affiliated with Century Capital Management, LLC. The Portfolio Manager was the only individual responsible for selecting securities to buy and sell and the investment decision-making process remained intact. Accordingly, composite performance is linked to performance generated prior to March 1, 2014. Because CAM acquired certain strategies of Century Capital Management, LLC on September 15, 2017 Total Firm Assets are shown as n/a for periods prior to the acquisition date. All portability requirements with respect to GIPS have been met. The composite includes all fully discretionary portfolios with a value over \$100 thousand (US dollars) managed in the small cap value style for a minimum of one full month. The small cap value strategy generally invests in the equity of companies with market capitalizations between \$50 million and \$5 billion or that are within the range of the Russell 2000 Value Index (at the time of purchase) that trade at a discount to intrinsic value or whose earnings growth is under appreciated by the street. Prior to October 1, 2017 there was no minimum value for inclusion. The composite contained proprietary non-fee paying assets which represented 100% of total composite assets as of December 31, 2014 and 0.14% of composite assets as of December 31, 2015 and 0.17% as of December 31, 2016. The benchmark is the Russell 2000 Value 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, 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. Prior to January 1st, 2021, net of fees returns are calculated by reducing monthly gross returns by 1/12th of the maximum applicable annual management fee, which is 0.95%. Effective January 1st, 2021, net of fee returns are calculated on a daily basis by reducing the daily gross return by a daily equivalent of the highest stated management fee. For periods ended on or before March 31, 2011, the maximum applicable management fee was 1% on the first \$50 million. For periods beginning after March 31, 2011, the maximum applicable management fee is 0.95% on the first \$50 million of assets. 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 2011 and 2012 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 typically 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.