# SMALL CAP VALUE PORTFOLIO | 2Q24

### Portfolio Commentary

## Highlights

- The Congress Small Cap Value Portfolio ("the Portfolio") returned -4.5% (net of fees) vs -3.6% for the Russell 2000 Value Index ("the Index") in 2Q24. The Index declined amidst the hawkish repricing of interest rate cuts and Value modestly underperformed Growth in small caps, particularly on weakness in Health Care and Biotech given concerns regarding valuations with elevated rates.
- The Portfolio largely kept pace with the Index throughout the quarter.
   Selection in Technology and Consumer Discretionary benefited relative performance. This was offset by weakness in our holdings in Health Care and Industrials.
- We continue to find opportunities to upgrade the portfolio, and during the quarter we added names in Financials, Industrials, and Health Care.
- Our Portfolio outperformed the Index over the trailing 1yr, 3yr, 5yr, 10yr, and since inception periods (net). We have shown an ability to participate in up markets and mitigate risk in down, relative to the Index. Since inception, the Portfolio has a 100% up capture and 94% down capture and has compounded capital 4x vs 3x for the Index, net of fees.

#### **Economic Review**

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) dominated investor psyche and drove market performance during the quarter. Market sentiment was also supported by the expectation of a continued expansion, a rebound in corporate earnings, and Fed interest rate cuts.
- We believe the transition to lower interest rates will be slow and longerterm rates are likely to remain elevated, which will have significant investing implications.
- The US economy's underpinnings remain constructive, fortified by continued strength in the labor market, a healthy consumer, and strong corporate balance sheets.
- Despite anticipated volatility, domestic markets remain attractive. Stocks should benefit from continued spending and, for those seeking current income, short and intermediate bonds offer attractive yields.

### Portfolio Review

- We take an all-weather approach and aim to be market and sector neutral
  to the Index. Timing growth and value cycles is difficult and we look to
  outperform the Index across cycles. We combine traditional value investing
  in less innovative sectors (such as Energy and Utilities) while emphasizing
  relative value and competitive positioning in more innovative sectors (such
  as Technology and Health Care).
- Index returns were sharply negative to start the quarter as higher inflation prints and continued economic strength led to a hawkish repricing of interest rate expectations. Index returns were positive in May on strong corporate earnings but weaker in June.

#### Portfolio Review continued

- We outperformed in April and June but lagged in May on stock specific weakness.
- The Portfolio benefited from our holdings in Technology, particularly NAPCO Security Technologies which was aided by re-accelerating fire radio sales. Within Consumer Discretionary, Modine Manufacturing, which makes heat-transfer systems, was helped by secular growth drivers of AI, EVs, and energy efficiency.
- Health Care detracted from relative performance, including Cross
  Country Healthcare which fell on softer forward guidance. Within
  Industrials, TriNet Group was hindered disappointing Q1 results and
  uncertainty regarding trends in health care claims.

### Outlook

- We believe the outlook for value-oriented sectors, particularly Financials and Energy, is compelling. Banks look attractive on relative valuation, underappreciated quality, and leverage to potential rate cuts, and Energy on valuation and continued strength in oil and gas prices.
  - Value remains relatively cheap to Growth as the price to book premium of the Russell 2000 Growth relative to the Russell 2000 Value is ~1 standard deviation rich to historical averages.
- We remain focused on companies with stronger balance sheets and better cash flows that can better navigate economic uncertainty.
  - In less innovative sectors, we look for companies that can navigate higher interest rates and take advantage of higher oil prices.
  - In more innovative sectors, we look for companies that can fund new product research and maintain their competitive advantages in a volatile economic environment with tighter capital markets.

## Average Annualized Performance (%) as of 6/30/2024

	QTD	YTD	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5Yrs	10 Yrs	Since Inception (11/1/2010)
Small Cap Value Composite (Gross)	-4.3	0.5	15.1	3.0	10.1	7.4	11.3
Small Cap Value Composite (Net)	-4.5	0.0	14.0	2.0	9.1	6.4	10.2
Russell 2000 Value®	-3.6	-0.8	10.9	-0.5	7.1	6.2	8.8

### Past performance does not guarantee future results.

Data is as of 6/30/2024. 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. Actual client account holdings and sector allocations may vary.



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#### % Total Effect Portfolio vs. Index<sup>1</sup> 3/31/2024 - 6/30/2024



	Info Tech	Cons Disc	Comm Services	Utilities	Cons Staples	Cash	Materials	Financials	Energy	Industrials	Real Estate	Health Care
Allocation Effect	-0.03	-0.01	-0.01	0.03	-0.01	0.04	0.01	-0.08	0.01	0.02	-0.01	-0.17
Selection Effect	0.69	0.40	0.23	0.17	0.17		-0.07	-0.20	-0.34	-0.39	-0.37	-0.69
Total Effect	0.66	0.38	0.22	0.20	0.16	0.04	-0.06	-0.28	-0.32	-0.37	-0.38	-0.87

### **Top 5 Contributors/Detractors**

Sтоск	Avg. Weight%				
NAPCO Security Technologies, Inc.	1.66				
Bancorp, Inc.	1.86				
Coherent Corp.	1.11				
Telephone and Data Systems, Inc.	0.77				
Virtu Financial, Inc.	1.94				

NAPCO Security Technologies, Inc. (NSSC) develops, manufactures, and distributes security products including access control systems, door security products, intrusion and fire alarm systems, video surveillance products, and cellular communications services. NSSC's fire radio sales are experiencing a re-acceleration following a strong 2023, driven by inventory stocking ahead of the 3G network sunset. In addition, new product launches and expanded distribution partnerships are expected to improve activation trends and accelerate annualized recurring revenue.

**Bancorp, Inc.** (TBBK) is a commercial bank and one of the top two providers of banking-as-a-service in the U.S. The spread between the two-year and ten-year Treasury yields narrowed by 0.15% in the final week of June. Given that approximately 75% of TBBK's customer loans are priced at variable rates, this narrowing spread acted as a catalyst for the stock's forward earnings multiple.

Coherent Corp. (COHR) is a vertically integrated manufacturing company that develops, manufactures, and markets engineered materials, optoelectronic components, devices, and lasers for industrial, communications, electronics, and instrumentation markets. COHR reported strong fiscal Q3 results and raised its fiscal 2024 earnings and revenue guidance. This performance is driven by increasing demand for COHR's 800G transceivers.

#### **Bottom 5 Contributors/Detractors**

Sтоск	Avg. Weight%					
TriNet Group, Inc.	1.67					
JELD-WEN Holding, Inc.	1.12					
HomeStreet, Inc.	0.62					
Cross Country Healthcare, Inc.	1.32					
Acadia Healthcare Company, Inc.	1.79					

**TriNet Group, Inc. (TNET)** is a leading provider of comprehensive human capital management solutions tailored for small and medium-sized businesses. TNET reported disappointing Q1 results, primarily due to higher-than-projected health care claims. Although management reaffirmed its 2024 guidance, uncertainty about future trends in health care claims throughout the year has created headwinds for the stock.

JELD-WEN Holding, Inc. (JELD) is a leading global designer, manufacturer, and distributor of high-performance interior and exterior doors, windows, and related building products for new construction and repair/remodel sectors. JELD reported modestly disappointing Q1 results and revised down its full-year revenue, EBITDA, and cash flow expectations due to weakening business trends. These trends are due to a softening global macroeconomic environment that has reduced demand for JELD's product portfolio.

HomeStreet, Inc. (HMST) is a commercial bank headquartered in Seattle with a branch footprint primarily in the greater Seattle and Los Angeles metro areas. In April HMST announced that the terms of its merger agreement with FirstSun Capital Bancorp (FSUN) had been amended to the detriment of HMST shareholders, calling further into question the competency of HMST management, in our view. HMST was sold during the quarter due to this development.

Information is as of 6/30/2024. Sources: Congress Asset Management and Factset Research Systems. The information throughout this presentation is for illustrative purposes and is subject to change at any time. Holdings, sector weightings and securities identified as top contributors and detractors 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. The securities identified do not represent all the securities purchased, sold or recommended to clients. For information regarding the methodology used to select these holdings or to obtain a list showing the contribution of every holding in the strategy's composite account, which we believe is most representative to both a current and/or prospective client, please contact us at 1-800-234-4516. Gross performance shown does not reflect the deduction of investment management fees and certain transaction costs, which will reduce investment performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results. The information shown is for a representative account as of 6/30/2024.



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### **Portfolio Activity**

Purchases	Sector
Marqeta, Inc.	Financials
MYR Group, Inc.	Industrials
Evolent Health, Inc.	Health Care
Tango Therapeutics, Inc.	Health Care

SalesSectorKymera Therapeutics, Inc.Health CareHomeStreet, Inc.Financials

Marqeta, Inc. (MQ) provides a cloud-based open API platform for modern card issuing and transaction processing, enabling customers to build and rapidly scale their card programs with extensive control and configurability. MQ's platform has driven innovation in both issuing and processing products including open APIs and technology-as-a-service. These innovations should lead to further card-based payment volume share gains for MQ over time.

MYR Group, Inc. (MYRG) is a leading specialty contractor serving the electric utility infrastructure, commercial, and industrial construction markets in the U.S. and Canada. MYRG generates roughly 60% of revenues from its transition and distribution business where it has been a top three player for the past several years. Recent growth in this business has been driven by increasing electrical grid capital expenditures, a trend we expect to continue.

**Evolent Health, Inc. (EVH)** provides health care providers with advisory services and an integrated technology platform which enables these providers to transition from a fee-for-service model to a value-based care model. EVH is well-positioned to capitalize on an ongoing shift in the U.S. healthcare system in which hospitals, physicians, and other providers are increasingly being reimbursed on a quality of care and outcome basis rather than the traditional fee-for-service basis.

Tango Therapeutics, Inc. (TNGX) is a clinical-stage biotechnology company engaged in the discovery and delivery of precision cancer medicines. It also identifies novel targets and develops new drugs directed at tumor suppressor gene loss in defined patient populations with high unmet medical need. TNGX's lead compound is designed to work selectively in cancer cells with an MTAP deletion, which occurs in roughly 10% - 15% of all human tumors. TNGX is collaborating with Gilead Sciences, Inc. (GILD) on this compound, with promising pre-clinical trial results.

**Kymera Therapeutics, Inc. (KYMR)** is a biopharmaceutical company engaged in the discovery and development of small molecule therapeutics that degrade disease-causing proteins. The company recently began deemphasizing its once promising clinical stage breast cancer therapeutic which was core to our investment thesis.

HomeStreet, Inc. (HMST) is a commercial bank headquartered in Seattle with a branch footprint primarily in the greater Seattle and Los Angeles metro areas. In April HMST announced that the terms of its merger agreement with Firstsun Capital Bancorp (FSUN) had been amended to the detriment of HMST shareholders, calling further into question the competency of HMST management, in our view.



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### Congress Asset Management Co. Small Cap Value Composite 1/1/2014 - 12/31/2023

Year	Total Return Gross of Fees %	Total Return Net of Fees %		Composite Gross 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)
2023	17.2	16.0	14.7	20.2	21.8	9	0.15	400	12,146	8,514	20,660
2022	-12.3	-13.1	-14.5	27.2	27.3	7	0.12	324	10,083	6,799	16,882
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

#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 – 12/31/23. 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 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 securities to buy and sell and the investment decision-making process remained intact. Accordingly, composite 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.

