# ARGENT SMID CAP

#### **SEPARATE ACCOUNT**



# September 30, 2023 | 3Q 2023

### WHAT WE BELIEVE

We believe the most powerful force in investing is compounding cash flows. Argent invests in high quality, attractively valued businesses that can thrive in an ever-changing world. We call these enduring businesses.

To us an enduring business...

- · is growing cash flows,
- · has a durable competitive advantage, and
- · allocates capital wisely.

To capitalize on the power of compounding, we build concentrated, low turnover portfolios of these enduring businesses. **Time horizon is our edge.** 

Firm AUM: \$3.1B

Argent SMID Cap AUM: \$4.7M

Argent SMID Cap Inception: 12/31/2019

### **INVESTMENT TEAM**

# **SMID Cap Portfolio Team**

Peter Roy, CFA	Portfolio Manager
25Years Experience	

Kirk McDonald, CFA Portfolio Manager

21 Years Experience

# One Argent - Intentional Collaboration

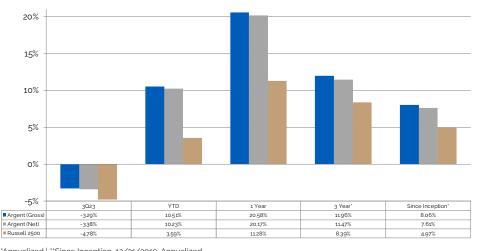
One Argent - Intention	al Collaboration
Kenneth H. Crawford 32 Years Experience	Portfolio Manager
Scott A. Harrison, CFA 27 Years Experience	Portfolio Manager
<b>Jed Ellerbroek, Jr., CFA</b> 18 Years Experience	Portfolio Manager
<b>Brian Reynolds, CFA, CFP</b> 17 Years Experience	Senior Research Analyst
<b>Steven K. Smith, CFA</b> 9 Years Experience	Senior Research Analyst
Bill Weeks, PH.D., CFA 18 Years Experience	Senior Research Analyst, Quantitative
Parker Moses, CFA 3 Years Experience	Research Analyst
<b>Ward Brown</b> 28 Years Experience	Director of Portfolio Engagement

#### INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGY

Our SMID Cap strategy combines the art (deep fundamental research) and science (Argent Alpha Model) of investing. We perform in-depth analysis in search of durable competitive advantages in companies led by skilled, forward thinking management teams.

Argent's SMID Cap process results in a concentrated, low turnover portfolio consisting of 40-50 companies. The goal of the strategy is to outperform the Russell 2500 Index over the long term.

## **PERFORMANCE**



'Annualized | "Since Inception, 12/31/2019, Annualized The GIPS Report including additional disclosures is located at the end of this document.

## **CHARACTERISTICS**

	Argent SMID Cap	Russell 2500
Number of Holdings	40	2,485
Weighted Avg Market Cap (MM)	\$15,660	\$6,133
Forecasted P/E	19.5x	40.0X
Price to Book Ratio	4.6x	2.6x
Price to Sales Ratio	2.5x	2.1X
Estimated Sales Growth (NTM)	7.0%	5.4%
Estimated EPS Growth (NTM)	10.0%	8.9%
Statistical Summary (Since Inception as of 09/30/23)	Argent SMID Cap	Russell 2500
Beta	0.98	1.00
R-Squared	0.92	1.00
Standard Deviation	24.94%	24.30%
Up Capture	99.10%	
Down Capture	92.52%	

#### **TOP TEN HOLDINGS & SECTOR ALLOCATION**

	Argent SMID Cap Weight (%)		Argent SMID Cap Weight (%)	Russell 2500 Weight (%)
Fortinet, Inc.	4.1	Communication Services		2.86
United Rentals, Inc.	4.0	Consumer Discretionary	18.45	12.52
OneMain Holdings, Inc.	3.3	Consumer Staples		3.40
Green Brick Partners Inc.	3.3	Energy	3.47	5.82
Booz Allen Hamilton Holding Corporation	3.2	Financials	13.44	15.81
AMETEK, Inc.	3.2	Health Care	11.00	11.98
Medpace Holdings, Inc.	3.1	Industrials	24.83	19.67
Entegris, Inc.	3.1	Information Technology	22.15	12.82
RLI Corp	3.1	Materials		5.55
Skyline Champion Corporation	3.1	Real Estate	4.80	6.91
		Utilities		2.65
		Cash	1.87	

# ARGENT SMID CAP COMPOSITE DISCLOSURES - DECEMBER 31, 2019 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

For the period ending December 31,	Composite Return (%) Gross-of-Fees	Composite Return (%) Net-of-Fees	Russell 2500 Return (%)	Composite 3-Yr St. Dev (%)	Russell 2500 3-Yr St. Dev (%)	Number of Composite Accounts	Composite Assets (\$ millions)	Firm Assets (\$ millions)	Internal Dispersion (%)
2022	-22.82	-23.10	-18.37	26.04	25.16	7	2	2,828	0.13
2021	35.43	34.64	18.18	NA	NA	5	2	3,517	0.46
2020	15.75	15.32	19.99	NA	NA	4	2	2,874	NA
Three -Year Annualized	6.55	6.09	5.00						
Information for period(s) September 30, 2023									
3rd Quarter 2023	-3.29	-3.38	-4.78	21.12	20.73	7	2	2,915	-
Rolling 1 – Year	20.58	20.17	11.28						
Rolling 3 – Year	11.96	11.47	8.39						
Since Inception	8.06	7.61	4.97						

- 1. Argent Capital Management, LLC ("Argent") is a registered investment adviser with United States Securities and Exchange Commission in accordance with the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. As of October 2022, Argent was redefined to exclude the wrap division. Argent claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. Argent has been independently verified for the periods January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2022. A firm that claims compliance with the GIPS standards must establish 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 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 Argent SMID Cap Composite has had a performance examination for the periods January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022. The verification and performance examination reports are available upon request. 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.
- 2. This composite represents investment performance for portfolios in U.S. equities with both mid & small-capitalization showing strong earnings, with both growth and value characteristics, for which Argent has sole investment discretion. Portfolios typically include 40-50 equity holdings and cash targeted to be less than 10% of total portfolio value. This composite inception date is December 2019 and was created in December 2020. A list of composite descriptions and broad distribution pooled funds are available upon request.
- 3. The benchmark is the Russell 2500® Index which measures the performance of the 2,500 smallest companies in the Russell 3000 Index, with a median capitalization of \$1.2 billion. Russell Investment Group is the source and owner of the Russell Index data contained or reflected in this material and all trademarks and copyrights related thereto. The presentation may contain confidential information and unauthorized use, disclosure, copying, dissemination, or redistribution is strictly prohibited. This is a presentation of Argent. Russell Investment Group is not responsible for the formatting or configuration of this material or for any inaccuracy in Argent's presentation thereof.
- 4. Valuations are computed and performance reported in U.S. currency. Performance results are total return, (i.e. include the reinvestment of all income, including but not limited to dividends received). Policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS Reports are available upon request. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. There is no guarantee that strategies, systems, indicators, or signals will result in profits or that they will not result in a full loss or losses. All investors are advised to fully understand all risks associated with any kind of investing they choose to do.
- 5. Gross-of-fee fee returns are presented before management and certain custodial fees, but after all trading expenses except where commissions have been waived or for accounts with asset-based pricing fees. Net-of-fee performance is calculated by reducing gross performance by actual management fees incurred and any asset-based-pricing fees for applicable portfolios as asset-based-pricing fees are considered a trading expense. During 2020 2022, all portfolios in the composite had their commissions waived.
- 6. Standard annual advisory fees are calculated as a percentage of assets under management according to the following schedule; 0.35% on the balance of the account, although fees may be negotiated or waived in certain circumstances. Non-fee-paying accounts are reduced by a model fee derived by applying this standard fee schedule in effect for the respective period. Note: Effective June 30, 2023, net-of-fees for all periods, since inception, has been revised to reflect a standard flat 0.35% fee. Individual composite accounts have had their fees adjusted and refunded.
- 7. Internal dispersion is calculated using the asset-weighted standard deviation of all portfolios that were included in the composite for an entire year, net of fees. The three-year annualized standard deviation measures the variability of the composite and the benchmark returns over the preceding 36-month period. The external deviation is based on the 36-month gross-of-fees returns of the composite and the benchmark. The standard deviation is not presented for 2020 & 2021 since the composite inception date of 12/31/19 does not provide historical data to calculate a 3-year formula.