SMID Cap Quarterly Commentary
2023: Third Quarter

Argent

Performance Summary

In the third quarter of 2023, the Argent SMID Cap strategy returned -3.38% versus the Russell 2500 Index -4.78% return, outperforming the benchmark by 140 basis points net of fees.

Performance Summary as of September 30, 2023*		3Q23	YTD	1 Year	3 Year*	Since Inception*
Argent SMID Cap	Net (%)	-3.38	10.23	20.17	11.47	7.61
Russell 2500		-4.78	3.59	11.28	8.39	4.97
Excess Return		**1.40**	**6.64**	**8.89**	**3.08**	**2.64**

*Annualized for periods longer than one (1) year. Strategy inception date is 12/31/2019.
For comparison purposes, the strategy is measured against the Russell 2500 Index. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Data is as of 09/30/23 and is supplied as supplemental information to the composite disclosures presented later in this document. 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. This presentation was prepared by Argent and may contain confidential information. Unauthorized use, disclosure, copying, dissemination or redistribution of this presentation is strictly prohibited.

Stock selection was a positive contributor and allocation was a detractor from performance. Argent SMID Cap performance was led by positive stock selection in the Healthcare, Industrials, and Consumer Discretionary sectors. Stock selection and allocation in the Technology and Energy sectors detracted from performance.
Sector gains for the Russell 2500 Index were limited in the third quarter. Only Financials and Energy were positive. Consumer Staples and Materials were the only other sectors to outperform the Russell 2500 benchmark. Traditionally defensive and interest rate-exposed sectors were under pressure. Consumer Staples, Real Estate, and Utilities dropped 8.66%, 7.90%, and 7.32%, respectively. Healthcare was the worst-performing sector, declining 11.44%.

The benchmark Healthcare sector was under pressure in the third quarter. The increased use of GLP-1 weight loss drugs and the expectation that it will decrease demand for various healthcare services, such as diabetes care, was a cause of concern. Argent SMID Cap Healthcare outperformed on stock selection. Managed care organization (MCO), Molina Healthcare, Inc. was the top contributor. Molina generates most of its earnings (approximately 80%) from Medicaid, though it is only the fourth-largest player. The company is diversifying its state exposure with recent Medicaid contract wins in California, Iowa, Indiana, and Nebraska. When fully ramped up, these new relationships are estimated to add more than $4 billion in revenue and $3.50 in earnings per share. Growing exchange enrollment while maintaining margins helps offset membership losses due to Medicaid redeterminations.

The Russell 2500 Industrials sector declined in line with the benchmark index in the third quarter, down 4.94%. Argent SMID Industrials outperformed on stock selection. Contrary to some investor skepticism around a peak cycle demand environment, equipment rental company United Rentals, Inc. remains positive on the outlook for the non-residential construction market. The company is exposed to multiple verticals benefitting from pronounced secular investment trends that management believes provide protection through a broader macro slowdown. Projects related to the CHIPs Act for semiconductor manufacturing that are just getting off the ground are an example. Utilization is resilient but slowing from the unsustainable post-pandemic spike. The company is investing in new equipment and selling older equipment to bring down the age of the fleet as rental rates hold steady.

Stock selection in Argent SMID Consumer Discretionary contributed to outperformance versus the Russell 2500 Consumer Discretionary sector, that underperformed the benchmark in the third quarter. Global mattress manufacturer and distributor Tempur-Sealy International led the gains. Macro pressures have weighed on U.S. bedding demand, and the company lowered its full-year earnings guidance in response. Still, investors looked past it and are focusing on the company's continued market share gains despite the challenging environment. In the second quarter, U.S. industry sales were estimated to have declined mid to high-single digits while Tempur-Sealy sales grew 5%, implying notable outperformance. Margins are benefitting from lower material costs that are expected to continue falling, and the Mattress Firm acquisition is progressing through the regulatory process as expected.

The Argent SMID portfolio is notably overweight the Technology sector versus the Russell 2500 benchmark. Allocation and stock selection detracted from performance in the third quarter. Cybersecurity provider Fortinet, Inc. led the decline after the broad IT spending slowdown weighed on the company's billings and growth outlook. Given the premium valuation and investor fears of any stepdown in the growth trajectory, the stock was vulnerable. Near-term macro headwinds aside, Fortinet is executing a $2 billion share repurchase authorization and simultaneously investing in new products and development, including its new secure access service edge (SASE) product, FortiOS, to maintain 25%+ margins, in line with its long-term targets.

The Energy sector significantly outperformed the Russell 2500 benchmark index and all other sectors on the back of oil prices that rose nearly 30% in the third quarter. The Argent SMID portfolio holds two positions: liquified natural gas (LNG) producer Cheniere Energy, Inc. and oil producer Magnolia Oil and Gas Corp. Both companies generated significant positive returns, but the portfolio is underweight the sector. The allocation effect and stock selection negatively weighed on attribution. Magnolia is at the forefront of oil companies pledging to focus on shareholder returns over increasing production at any cost. Production efficiency and prudent use of cash flows are welcome changes in the industry. Cheniere is the preeminent LNG company in the U.S. While not immune from changes in global gas prices, long-term contracts provide stability for cash flows that are balanced between debt reduction, dividends, and share repurchases.

Quarterly Attribution Analysis, September 30, 2023
Argent SMID Cap Strategy vs. Russell 2500 Index*

	Argent SMID Cap			Russell 2500			Variation			Attribution Analysis		
	Average Weight	Total Return	Contribution to Return	Average Weight	Total Return	Contribution to Return	Average Weight	Total Return	Contribution to Return	Allocation Effect	Selection + Interaction	Total Effect
Comm. Services	--	--	--	2.96	-10.62	-0.32	-2.96	10.62	0.32	0.18	--	0.18
Cons. Discretionary	18.67	-4.11	-0.78	12.67	-6.87	-0.87	6.00	2.76	0.09	-0.13	0.53	0.40
Consumer Staples	--	--	--	3.32	-1.43	-0.06	-3.32	1.43	0.06	-0.11	--	-0.11
Energy	3.25	9.63	0.29	5.31	17.19	0.76	-2.06	-7.56	-0.47	-0.41	-0.20	-0.60
Financials	13.24	0.76	0.08	15.62	1.41	0.11	-2.38	-0.65	-0.03	-0.12	-0.09	-0.21
Health Care	11.21	-5.83	-0.67	12.51	-14.30	-1.82	-1.30	8.48	1.15	0.15	0.99	1.15
Industrials	24.51	-1.58	-0.42	19.59	-4.94	-0.97	4.92	3.36	0.55	0.00	0.82	0.82
Technology	22.36	-7.20	-1.54	12.72	-6.17	-0.73	9.64	-1.03	-0.81	-0.14	-0.25	-0.39
Materials	--	--	--	5.49	-3.06	-0.16	-5.49	3.06	0.16	-0.10	--	-0.10
Real Estate	5.06	-4.10	-0.22	7.12	-6.64	-0.47	-2.06	2.54	0.25	0.04	0.13	0.16
Utilities	--	--	--	2.70	-9.31	-0.26	-2.70	9.31	0.26	0.12	--	0.12
Cash	1.71	1.30	0.02	--	--	--	1.71	1.30	0.02	0.11	--	0.11
Total	**100.00**	**-3.25**	**-3.25**	**100.00**	**-4.79**	**-4.79**	**--**	**1.54**	**1.54**	**-0.39**	**1.93**	**1.54**

*This analysis is based on the holdings history of a representative portfolio of the Argent SMID Cap Strategy. The information provided in this report should not be considered a recommendation to purchase or sell any particular security. You should not assume that investments in any securities within these sectors were or will be profitable. A list of stocks recommended by Argent in the past year is available upon request. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Market Commentary

In the early going of the third quarter, the market grew increasingly comfortable with the soft-landing scenario. Economic data was mostly better than expected, while cooling inflation figures instilled confidence in the Fed pause. At the end of July, the Russell 2500 Index was within 1% of making a new 52-week high. In the past 50-plus years, August and September have been a more difficult seasonal stretch for the market. That weakness showed up again, particularly for small and mid-cap companies. The Russell 2500 declined more than 10% during those two months. The narrative changed quickly when a few key inflation inputs reversed previous month-over-month declines and turned higher when August data was reported. Used-car prices, Prices Paid in the ISM Manufacturing Index, oil and gasoline prices, and other closely watched measures all increased. At the same time, the GDPNow model predicted third quarter GDP near 6%, galvanizing the Federal Reserve to get more Hawkish, and investors faced an even "higher-for-longer" interest rate scenario. The yield on the 10-year Treasury shot up more than 50 basis points higher in September, hitting the highest levels since before the Great Financial Crisis in 2007. That is an extraordinary rate of change.

It has been a long time since the market faced this type of interest rate environment. Whatever the views on inflation, prices are not coming down. They are moving higher, just less aggressively. The rate for a 30-year fixed mortgage is approaching 8%. The yield curve has been inverted for more than a year, and real yields sit comfortably above expected inflation for the first time in more than fifteen years, implying financial conditions are amply restrictive. Fears of an oncoming recession have increased. Why has quantitative tightening not had more of an effect?

The resilience of the economy is notable. The labor market, though showing some cracks, remains tight. Higher rates impact people and companies that need to borrow or refinance today. Still, many people and companies met all their borrowing needs during the pandemic and are not presently impacted by higher borrowing costs. Strong balance sheets are one element contributing to the year-to-date outperformance of higher-quality companies.

Furthermore, ample fiscal stimulus has partially offset monetary tightening, including the CHIPs Act, Inflation Reduction Act, and Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA). That spending is fueling momentum in multiple trends such as mega-project construction, electrification, including the evolution of electric vehicles, and the re-shoring of manufacturing. Multi-family construction has slowed, but the U.S. is still undersupplied with new single-family homes.

Has 2023 been a good year for stocks or not? It is well-publicized that most gains this year can be attributed to the "Magnificent 7" stocks – Nvidia, Meta, Amazon, Microsoft, Apple, Alphabet, and Tesla – and other technology companies exposed to AI. Thus, large caps have significantly outperformed small and mid-cap stocks in 2023. The Russell 2500 Index was up low-single digits year-to-date at quarter-end, and the median stock is essentially flat, a far cry from the more than 13% gain in the S&P 500.

Banks recovered from their spring lows but retreated again in the third quarter. While the risks of failure have been mitigated, the overhang of higher deposit costs and net interest margin compression remains. Traditional defensive stocks like staples, utilities, and real estate investment trusts (REITs) are feeling the effects of a depressed low-end consumer and higher rates. Healthcare providers are under pressure from GLP-1 weight loss drugs in the event the result is less need for care.

Nonetheless, it is misleading to characterize the market as having traction only from companies tied to technology and artificial intelligence. Those stocks have undoubtedly been leaders, but the market has also rewarded higher-quality companies with favorable industry trends and less financing risk. The Russell 2500 Industrials sector declined 4.94% in the third quarter but is still up 12.92% year-to-date, led by companies in the freight, HVAC, and housing industries, a rather good list. The market is paying for companies with dependable or improving earnings. Profitable companies in the Russell 2500 Index are outperforming non-profitable companies by a wide margin in 2023.

The S&P 500 finished the quarter at about 19.5x forward earnings, and a lot of attention is being paid to the current multiple of the market versus the current level of interest rates. While it is difficult to argue the market is cheap, it is again more bifurcated than the headline figure. The Russell 2500 Index is around 17x, its widest discount to the large-cap index since the Great Financial Crisis in 2007. Notably, earnings in the Russell 2500 Index are expected to grow more than 14% next year, while S&P 500 earnings are expected to grow 10%. Thus, mid and small-cap cap stocks are less expensive than their large-cap peers with a better earnings outlook.

The third quarter earnings season and forward guidance will be telling. Key questions remain. What is the impact of broad macro pressure on sales and inventories, how orders and backlogs are trending, the change in costs of labor and materials, and the stability of pricing power? At quarter-end, there was a notable lack of bellwether companies preannouncing bad news in any meaningful way.

Top Contributors

Aspen Technology Inc. (AZPN) is a global provider of asset optimization software solutions. Integration challenges with the Emerson (EMR) assets it acquired in mid-2022 weighed in the first half of the year, but the company made progress in removing some of the uncertainty. It terminated the agreement to purchase Micromine due to regulatory hurdles, allowing it to focus on better incorporating the Subsurface Science and Engineering (SSE) and Osi, Inc. assets it acquired in the deal. In addition, average contract value (ACV) growth rates were better than expected, aided by strength in its upstream oil & gas segment, despite the macro environment that has pressured its Chemicals business.

CDW Corp (CDW) is a leading multi-brand provider of information technology solutions to small, medium, and large business, government, education, and healthcare customers in the United States, UK, and Canada. During the second quarter, the company reported disappointing first-quarter earnings. A slowing economy weighed on information technology spending generally, and demand weakened across the company's segments. While some uncertainty persists, CDW has proven itself an enduring business and long-term winner. Investors took advantage of the discount, and when the company reported second-quarter earnings, it was better than expected, with management expressing optimism and conservatism. Optimistic on the public segment and improved sentiment for large commercial customers but still weary on the small business segment and overall economic environment. The company is just as excited about AI potential as any tech company and sees itself as a beneficiary.

Houlihan Lokey Inc. (HLI) is a leading global investment bank with expertise in mergers & acquisitions, capital markets, financial restructurings, and valuation advisory. The company benefitted from investor confidence in a trough for deal activity in its Corporate Finance segment. At the same time, strength in Financial Restructuring continued, given the large volume of low-cost debt maturing. On the deal front, management believes the bottom is in for this cycle. More lenders are willing to step in with financing, Europe is showing signs of life, and there is an improving appetite for deals. Mandates that had been delayed are starting to move forward again and getting multiple offer sheets, which has not been the case for several quarters.

Fair Isaac Corp. (FICO) provides analytics software, solutions, and services, including the FICO credit score. Incremental price increases for the large volume of credit scores and continued momentum in the company's software platform are driving performance despite investor caution on the impact of weaker residential mortgage originations. While lower mortgage volumes are a headwind, better pricing offsets the impact. The company has experienced fifteen straight quarters of +50% annual recurring revenue growth in its software segment by growing wallet share from its existing customers and winning new business.

Murphy USA, Inc. (MUSA) markets refined products through its network of branded gasoline stations, convenience store customers, and unbranded wholesale customers in the U.S. The high-quality, defensive characteristics of the stock were on display in the third quarter, and Murphy's business has been performing exceptionally well. Consumers under pressure and hunting for value have contributed to positive traffic trends. Fuel margin was better than expected with little volatility, adding to the case for structurally higher margins. Store count will increase into 2024 while share buybacks and dividends round out the shareholder-friendly capital allocation program.

Top Detractors

Fortinet, Inc. (FTNT) provides network security solutions. Caution from enterprise customers in this economic environment developed rapidly in the second quarter, resulting in deferrals of deals and shorter contracts, the latter of which was a 4%-5% headwind to year-over-year billings growth. Investors were spooked by the deterioration and the lack of short-term clarity given the uncertain environment, reducing enterprise customers' spending appetite even for something like security, which is a vital area of their IT budgets, and the digestion of products given the high demand that existed last year during the supply chain constraints. This change in the growth outlook for the next few quarters significantly impacts a high-multiple stock like Fortinet that has delivered exceptional growth over the past two years. However, the company is executing well on what it can control. Financial performance is strong, with attractive incremental margins managed by sales growth outpacing expense growth. Plus, new products and services are being launched in critical areas, particularly the SP5 ASIC now available, and Fortinet continues to gain market share in its core offerings.

Entegris Inc. (ENTG) is a leading supplier of advanced materials and process solutions for the semiconductor and other high-technology industries. Entegris is one of the few pure-play suppliers uniquely positioned to benefit from unit growth. There is a long-term secular runway driven by the increasing content of chips in virtually every area of life. Shorter-term, the downcycle in the semiconductor industry has led to a significant inventory correction, and the timing of a trough is an ongoing process. The company is executing well in areas of its control, including cost discipline, integrating the CMC Materials acquisition, selling off non-core assets, and ramping up its new Taiwan facility ahead of the inevitable upcycle.

Zebra Technologies Corp (ZBRA) is a global leader providing Enterprise Asset Intelligence solutions in the Automation Identification and Data Capture (AIDC) industry. Barcode scanners and RFID readers are two examples. The slowing economy has weighed on purchasing decisions from Zebra's large retail enterprise customers, and the excess inventory needs time to correct. Customers are delaying investments and deferring deals, though outright cancellations have not accelerated. While the malaise has lasted longer than initially expected, Zebra has a long-term growth runway and is taking market share. The opportunity in RFID is an example. The segment growth rate is above Zebra's core portfolio as use cases expand into areas such as quick-serve restaurants and logistics applications. Industry-leading customer loyalty and normalizing costs are helping smooth out the downcycle.

Select Medical Holdings Corp. (SEM) is one of the largest operators of critical illness recovery hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals, outpatient rehabilitation clinics, and occupational health centers in the U.S. based on the number of facilities. All four of the company's segments delivered operational improvements over the last few quarters. The post-pandemic normalization of utilization and labor cost improvements led the company to a positive pre-announcement of second-quarter earnings in mid-July. Hospital stocks and other healthcare providers pulled back broadly during the third quarter after marching steadily higher in the year's first half. Investors are focused on utilization trends and demand for care, tracking back toward pre-pandemic growth rates following a surge in catch-up related procedure volumes.

Ametek, Inc. (AME) is a leading global manufacturer of electronic instruments and electromechanical devices. Ametek has been benefiting, relative to peers, from its diversified end-market mix. Strength in Aerospace & Defense (positive low double-digit organic growth) as air travel has returned to pre-COVID levels has offset weakness in life sciences (negative mid-single digit organic growth). The Process and Power & Industrial businesses grow organically in the mid-single digit range. Overall, 5% of total organic growth is driven entirely by pricing, leading to more robust than average incremental EBIT margins despite inflation of approximately 4%. The company's typical incremental EBIT margin is 30%-35%, but this year, it will track nearly 40% based on guidance, and it was almost 50% in the second quarter. Book to bill remains greater than 1x, although barely at 1.01x, declining materially from 1.1x in the first quarter of 2023. Customers are returning to more normal ordering. It is reasonable to expect some normalization of book-to-bill and its backlog in the coming quarters. On the inorganic side, free cash flow conversion has been greater than 100% year-to-date, and leverage is now less than 1x. Management continues to highlight a robust pipeline of acquisition opportunities.

Argent SMID Cap Strategy Top Contributors and Detractors for Quarter Ending September 30, 2023*

Top Contributors	Avg. Weight	Total Effect	Top Detractors	Avg. Weight	Total Effect
Aspen Technology, Inc.	1.92	0.44	Green Brick Partners, Inc.	0.91	-0.28
CDW Corporation	2.80	0.39	Entegris, Inc.	3.17	-0.33
Tempur Sealy International, Inc.	2.91	0.33	Zebra Technologies	2.38	-0.40
Houlihan Lokey, Inc. Class A	2.46	0.32	Select Medical Holdings	2.43	-0.41
Murphy USA, Inc.	2.09	0.29	Fortinet, Inc.	4.49	-0.90

*This is based on the holdings history of a representative portfolio of the Argent SMID Cap Strategy. The information provided in this report should not be considered a recommendation to purchase or sell any particular security. You should not assume that investments in any securities within these sectors were or will be profitable. A list of stocks recommended by Argent in the past year is available upon request. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Buys

Green Brick Partners Inc. (GRBK) is a homebuilding and land development company. The Housing market has been more resilient than investors expected coming into 2023. Housing starts and home sales have strengthened throughout the year despite higher mortgage rates. Green Brick's positioning in Dallas-Fort Worth & Atlanta and its lot development within those markets, built on its favorable land bank, are helping the company stand out versus peers. The company has been emphasizing its Trophy brand of homes, which are entry-level, lower-priced options. Given stable demand and declining speculative home inventories, Green Brick is pulling back on incentives. Fewer incentives and lower lumber costs are helping moderate the expected decline in gross margin, and management believes it has seen the margin trough. Its homes face less competition from other builders while the buyer profile remains strong. Orders for new homes were up 65% year-over-year through the second quarter, with a 7% cancellation rate, the lowest in the peer group.

Sells

NVR Corp. (NVR) is a homebuilder and provider of mortgage banking services. While the industry dynamics remain favorable, NVR's second-quarter new home deliveries were down year-over-year, more in line with seasonality. At the same time, peers have reported demand well above seasonal norms. The weakness in unit activity for NVR relative to peers is its geographic concentration in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast. Orders were +25% in its Southeast region, 30% of units in the order book. The Mid-Atlantic region, NVR's most significant, saw just 9% order growth while its other areas, Mideast and Northeast, saw orders decline low-single digits. While the demand for new homes in the U.S. is strong today, given the lack of existing home inventory, affordability remains a challenge, particularly in more expensive geographies. The South and Southeast have experienced net positive population change, boosting real estate demand.

Portfolio Positioning

In the third quarter, the Argent SMID portfolio eliminated one position, homebuilder NVR, Inc., and established one new position, homebuilder Green Brick Partners, Inc.

The housing market has continued to defy expectations. The lack of supply versus resilient demand imbalance has offset affordability challenges. High prices and mortgage rates nearing 8% are an issue, but new home sales have been better than expected, with existing home sales limited by a lack of sellers. Improving supply chains and an improving labor market are contributing to better homebuilder margins and pace of closings. Orders have decelerated in some geographies but are generally much better than expected. The debt-free balance sheet and lack of land exposure lend to a favorable risk profile for NVR. Still, the company is exposed to geographies, particularly the northeast, feeling the affordability effect on its orders more so than peers. The premium multiple leaves less room for error, and we elected to sell the position and establish a new position in homebuilder peer Green Brick Partners, Inc.

Green Brick's core markets are Dallas-Fort Worth and Atlanta, where the company has an advantageous land bank and lot development strategy. Buyer demand for new homes in short supply is driving orders well above expectations. Its entry-level Trophy Signature brand of homes supports growth and increased returns. Incentives have declined while prices have increased, allowing the higher margins to be sustained. The company is also expanding into new secondary markets, such as Austin, supported by a healthy balance sheet that provides for greenfield development and acquisitions.

Argent SMID Cap portfolio turnover was 4% in the third quarter and is 19% year-to-date.

Sincerely,
Argent SMID Cap Team

Argent Capital Management, LLC

ARGENT SMID CAP COMPOSITE

January 1, 2020 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 Annualized	8.06	7.61	4.97						

Disclosures:

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 S1.2 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.