# Wellington US Dynamic Equity Fund



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#### MARKET REVIEW

US equities snapped a streak of five consecutive monthly gains amid heightened volatility and presidential-election uncertainty. A selloff in some mega-cap technology companies at the end of October drove the major indices sharply lower, and a batch of strong economic data (job growth, consumer spending, consumer confidence) prompted financial markets to recalibrate for a potentially slower pace of interest-rate cuts by the Federal Reserve. US GDP expanded at a brisk 2.8% annualized pace in the third quarter, modestly below expectations of 3.1%. Growth was driven primarily by robust consumer spending, as well as government outlays that pushed the budget deficit up to US\$1.8 trillion in 2024, the highest-ever level outside of the pandemic relief periods of 2021 and 2022. The core Personal Consumption Price Index accelerated 0.3% in September (2.7% annually), following a 0.2% increase in August, causing concern that inflation would continue to rise. According to FactSet, of the 70% of companies in the S&P 500 Index that had reported third-quarter earnings, the blended year-over-year earnings growth for the index was 5.1%, better than the 4.3% estimate on September 30. The forward 12-month price-to-earnings ratio for the index was 21.3, above the 10-year average of 18.1. In October, the manufacturing sector contracted for the seventh straight month. In contrast, the services sector expanded at the fastest pace since February 2023, as solid consumer spending lifted the ISM Services Index to 54.9 in September.

The S&P 500 returned -0.9% for the period. Within the index, 8 out of 11 sectors fell over the period. Health care and materials were the bottom performing sectors, while financials and communication services were the top performing sectors for the month.

## FUND PERFORMANCE AND ATTRIBUTION

- The fund delivered negative returns over the period.
- Consumer discretionary was the bottom contributing sector, while information technology and financials were the top contributing sectors.
- At the issuer level, our top two absolute contributors were NVIDIA and Tradeweb Markets, while our top two absolute detractors were DraftKings and Apple.
- Shares of NVIDIA rose over the period amid higher investor confidence in the demand for the company's next generation Blackwell chip. CEO Jensen Huang said in an interview during the month that demand for the chip is "insane", easing recent concerns about engineering delays. Foxconn CEO Young Liu also made positive comments saying the demand for their servers based on the Blackwell chip was above expectations. The share price of DraftKings, a US-based online sports betting service provider, fell in October ahead of its third-quarter earnings release, amid uncertainty about potential adjustments to management's medium-term guidance.

## FUND POSITIONING AND OUTLOOK

US Dynamic Equity outperformed the S&P 500 in October after another volatile month for equities. This outperformance was driven by our positions in Tradeweb and Liberty Media Formula One. Shares of Tradeweb, an electronic marketplace operator, rose in October after the company reported a sharp increase in trading volumes. Shares of Liberty Media Formula One increased as the company, which controls the Formula One Grand Prix, saw viewership ratings growth.

The largest detractors from relative performance were our positions in DraftKings and Netflix. Shares of online sports betting service provider DraftKings fell in October amid uncertainty about potential adjustments to management's medium-term guidance. Shares of the streaming services company Netflix rose over the month after the company announced better-than-expected quarterly subscriber additions and projected higher sign-ups for the last three months of the year.

At the end of the month, we held 10 individual positions and a 63% weight in the S&P 500 E-mini futures.

Our active positions reflect our strategic approach as we explore more opportunities and re-evaluate our portfolio allocation on an individual stock basis, trusting in the future earnings potential of the underlying holdings. The positions spanned 5 sectors by the end of October and each one continues to have an attractive upside to downside ratio.

At the end of the period, our largest overweights were communication services and information technology. We were most underweight to industrials and consumer staples, neither of which we had exposure to.

# PAST PERFORMANCE DOES NOT PREDICT FUTURE RETURNS. AN INVESTMENT CAN LOSE VALUE.

Fund performance is based on USD S Acc share class and are net of fees and expenses. Other share class performance may differ. Index used in the calculation of attribution data: S&P 500. Fund performance is net of actual (but not necessarily maximum) withholding and capital gains tax but are not otherwise adjusted for the effects of taxation and assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. If an investor's own currency is different from the currency in which the fund is denominated, the investment return may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations. The views expressed are in the context of the investment objective of the Fund only and should not be considered a recommendation or advice.

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