Wellington US Dynamic Equity Fund



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MARKET REVIEW

US equities surged in November, registering a robust gain year to date. Small-cap stocks led a broad equity rally after US elections shifted the balance of political power to the Republican Party. Republicans maintained a slim majority in the House of Representatives and secured control of the Senate, cementing a path for President-elect Donald Trump to enact major policy initiatives, including tax and spending cuts, deregulation, and nationalist trade policies. Risk sentiment was further fueled by favorable economic data, underscored by a resilient labor market, solid consumer spending, and improved consumer and business sentiment. Additionally, the manufacturing sector contracted at a slower pace in November, and the services sector expanded in October at the fastest pace in more than two years.

The Fed lowered interest rates by 25 basis points, although Fed Chair Jerome Powell signaled more concern about the inflation outlook, as stalled disinflation momentum and sturdy economic growth increased the potential for a pause in rate cuts in the months ahead. In October, the core Personal Consumption Price Index ticked up to 2.8% annually after stabilizing at 2.7% in the prior three months. Third-quarter earnings were better than expected; according to FactSet, of the 95% of companies in the S&P 500 Index that had reported third-quarter earnings, the blended year-over-year earnings growth rate for the index was 5.8%, above the 4.2% estimate on September 30.

The S&P 500 returned 5.9% for the period. Within the index, all 11 sectors rose over the period. Consumer discretionary and financials were the top performing sectors.

FUND PERFORMANCE AND ATTRIBUTION

- The fund delivered positive returns for the month.
- Information technology and consumer discretionary were the top contributing sectors, while health care was the bottom contributing sector.
- At the issuer level, our top two absolute contributors were DraftKings and Liberty Media Formula One, while our top two absolute detractors were Exact Sciences and Pinterest.
- The share price of DraftKings, a US-based online sports betting service provider, rose in November. Management delivered 3Q24 results citing top-line strength driven by growth in unique players betting. The company lowered 2024 EBITDA guidance due to unfavorable sports outcomes in October. However, longer-term guidance for 2025 EBITDA was unchanged. Shares of Exact Sciences declined during the period as the company reported third quarter results that missed expectations and lowered full-year guidance. Cologuard orders were impacted by recent hurricanes and some revenue from care gap programs will be recognized in 2025 due to timing shifts. Management cites macro headwinds, impact of hurricanes, and a slow ramp-up of new sales representatives as near-term challenges.

FUND POSITIONING AND OUTLOOK

US Dynamic Equity underperformed the S&P 500 in November after yet another volatile month for equities, driven by the US election and global geopolitical concerns. This underperformance was driven by our positions in Exact Sciences and Pinterest. Shares of Exact Sciences declined due to missed third-quarter expectations and lowered full-year guidance. Pinterest's stock declined due to concerns over rising costs and expenses, which overshadowed the company's strong third-quarter revenue and user growth, and we eliminated the position.

The largest contributors to relative performance were our positions in DraftKings and Liberty Media Formula One. DraftKings' share price rose in November, driven by strong 3Q24 results showing growth in its customer base, while maintaining 2025 EBITDA guidance despite lowering 2024 guidance. Shares of Liberty Media rose over the period after strong earnings were reported along with strategic deals that show help drive growth.

At the end of the month, we held 9 individual positions and a 66% 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 November and each one continues to have an attractive upside to downside ratio.

At the end of the period, our largest overweight was information technology and 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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CAPITAL: Investment markets are subject to economic, regulatory, market sentiment and political risks. All investors should consider the risks that may impact their capital, before investing. The value of your investment may become worth more or less than at the time of the original investment. The Fund may experience a high volatility from time to time. CONCENTRATION: Concentration of investments within securities, sectors or industries, or geographical regions may impact performance. EQUITIES: Investments may be volatile and may fluctuate according to market conditions, the performance of individual companies and that of the broader equity market. HEDGING: Any hedging strategy using derivatives may not achieve a perfect hedge. MANAGER: Investment performance depends on the investment management team and their investment strategies. If the strategies do not perform as expected, if opportunities to implement them do not arise, or if the team does not implement its investment strategies successfully; then a fund may underperform or experience losses. SUSTAINABILITY: A Sustainability Risk can be defined as an environmental, social or governance event or condition that, if it occurs, could cause an actual or potential material negative impact on the value of an investment.

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