COOKE & BIELER

Q2 2022

Large Cap Value Equity

Overview

The investing environment went from challenging to nearly universally negative during the second quarter as markets struggled to digest rising interest rates, unexpectedly high levels of inflation, and signs of economic deterioration. This troublesome combination caused sentiment to turn overwhelmingly negative as it resurrected unhappy memories of the stubborn stagflation that hampered stocks much of the 1970s. Indeed, the -20% return posted by the S&P 500® Index for the first half of 2022 was its worst since 1962. The damage would have been worse were it not for a late quarter rally spurred by views that the Federal Reserve might turn less hawkish in the face of continuing economic weakness.

The breadth of the decline was all-encompassing, with all major benchmarks showing double digit declines and every sector across those benchmarks down as well. As in the first quarter, rising interest rates continued to negatively impact Growth indices most and market turbulence continued to affect smaller capitalization stocks the most. Among sectors, Consumer Staples, Utilities, and Energy held up relatively well across the market cap spectrum, while Information Technology and Consumer Discretionary stocks tended to lag.

Portfolio Performance & Developments

Cooke & Bieler's Large Cap Value Strategy provided some downside protection during the difficult market environment of the second quarter, returning -11.06% gross of fees (-11.22% net of fees) against a -12.21% return for the Russell 1000® Value Index. This outperformance was driven by strong stock selection effect, with a positive impact in five of the nine sectors where the portfolio had weight, while sector allocation effect detracted slightly. Consistent with first quarter trends, selection in Financials led the way, with insurance companies such as Progressive and Alleghany continuing to provide the greatest benefit. Consumer Staples holdings also proved resilient amidst fears of a potential recession, with General Mills performing particularly well. The portfolio's Health Care holdings – in particular Dentsply Sirona and HCA Healthcare – were the largest negative offset. Though less significant than during the first quarter, selection results in Industrials and Energy were also negative.

Five Largest Contributors/Detractors

	Avg Weight (%)	Total Return (%)	Contrib. to Return (bps)
General Mills	2.2	12.2	23
Philip Morris	1.9	6.4	11
UnitedHealth	1.5	1.1	7
Progressive	2.4	2.1	6
Amdocs	1.0	-4.5	4

	Avg Weight (%)	Total Return (%)	Contrib. to Return (bps)
State Street	2.6	-28.6	-77
HCA Healthcare	1.9	-32.7	-70
Brookfield Asset Mgmt.	3.0	-21.2	-65
Hanesbrands	1.9	-30.1	-62
Dentsply Sirona	2.1	-27.2	-62

Source: FactSet
Past performance is not indicative of future results. The performance attribution is an analysis of a representative Large Cap Value institutional portfolio's gross of fees return relative to the Russell 1000® Value Index. The holdings identified do not represent all of the securities purchased, sold, or recommended for Cooke & Bieler's Large Cap Value clients. To obtain the calculation's methodology and a list showing every holding's contribution to the overall account's performance during the quarter, contact your client service representative or email your request to contact@cooke-bieler.com.

Largest Contributors

General Mills (GIS), a packaged food company with strong brands, was the largest contributor. GIS managed to achieve strong results despite an environment of high inflation and supply chain disruptions, increasing investor confidence in the business.

Philip Morris (PM), a leading global tobacco products manufacturer, was the second-largest contributor. The company's combustible products exhibited strong pricing power and stable volume trends while its reduced risk product portfolio continued to grow at an accelerated pace, both organically and through the pending acquisition of Swedish Match.

UnitedHealth (UNH), the largest health insurer in the United States, was the third-largest contributor. UNH posted strong results for the first quarter and increased guidance for the full year, indicating that the company is well positioned to demonstrate above average growth in all types of economic environments. The company has also experienced strong fundamental performance in the past year.

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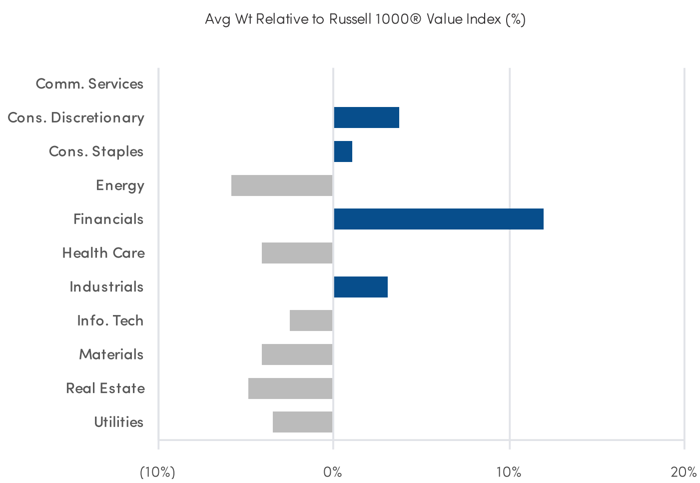
Largest Detractors

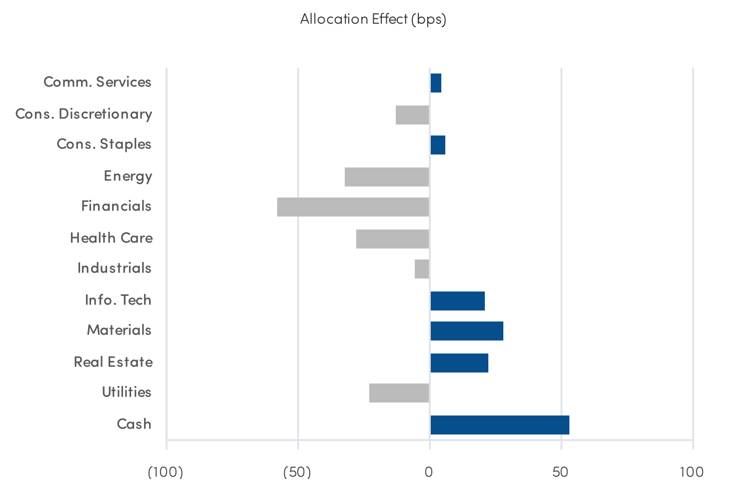
State Street (STT), a leading custodian and recordkeeper for financial assets, was the largest detractor. STT suffered from investor concerns that rising bond yields would have negative implications for its regulatory capital.

HCA Healthcare (HCA), a health care services company, was the second-largest detractor. HCA's valuation contracted meaningfully as investors reacted to modestly disappointing first quarter results and indications that labor cost pressures and weaker than expected non-pandemic volume will persist.

Brookfield Asset Management (BAM), a global investor, operator, and manager of real assets, was the third-largest detractor. Investor sentiment on the stock waned due to macro concerns of higher interest rates and inflation. BAM is well positioned to benefit from rising inflation while interest rate risk should prove manageable given the company's long-term fixed rate debt. Additionally, the announced spinoff of its asset management business should reduce complexity and better highlight the valuation discrepancies between BAM and its peers.

Sector Positioning





Source: FactSet
Past performance is not indicative of future results. The performance attribution is an analysis of a representative Large Cap Value institutional portfolio's gross of fees sector return relative to the Russell 1000® Value Index. Please see additional performance disclosures at the end of this document.

Sector allocation effect was slightly negative for the second quarter. The portfolio's significant overweight to Financials, the third worst performing sector within the Index, posed the biggest relative headwind. Underweight positions in Energy, Health Care, and Utilities – among the benchmark's most defensive sectors during the challenging quarter – also hampered relative results. Conversely, the strategy's underweight to Materials, Real Estate, and Information Technology was additive to the portfolio as all three sectors turned in some of the benchmark's weakest returns.

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Initiations

Alphabet (GOOGL) generates over 90% of its revenues from advertising, primarily through its Google Search & YouTube offerings, with Google Cloud products accounting for the remainder. We believe that the company's heavily entrenched position in the search market should enable it to take advantage of trends in global advertising spending and increase its share of customer advertising budgets.

ESAB (ESAB) is a leading global provider of welding equipment and consumables. The company was spun off from long-time portfolio holding Colfax during the quarter.

Hasbro (HAS) is a leading global play and entertainment company with a broad and deep portfolio of brands and entertainment properties spanning toys, games (mostly traditional but increasingly digital), licensed products, and television and film entertainment. Retailer liquidations, tariffs, and COVID-19 limited fundamental progress during the 2017-2020 period. We believe that the company's results should improve as these headwinds fade, thanks to its strong position as well as growth opportunities in the global play and entertainment industry.

Synchrony Financial (SYF) is a leading private label credit card company with value propositions driven by data collection and analysis. The profit-sharing element of their business model both enhances the client relationship and provides downside protection to SYF.

Eliminations

3M (MMM), **Amdocs (DOX)**, and **Enovis (ENOV)** were eliminated to make room for better opportunities.

Notable Stock Updates

Enovis (ENOV) is the successor entity to long-time portfolio holding Colfax following the spin-off of their welding business. ENOV is a medical technology business selling orthopedic reconstruction, prevention, and rehabilitation products.

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Outlook

The end of the second quarter leaves investors worse off and facing the same set of uncertainties that bedeviled them in April. Widespread supply chain disruptions persist, the war in Ukraine seems no closer to resolution, and inflation remains stubbornly high, forcing the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates even as the economy slows. The odds of recession are rising – though the timing and severity remain unclear – and investors' minds are naturally drawn to speculation about when the tide of events will turn. Never long-term oriented or fundamentally focused by nature, most market participants are prone to guessing at geopolitical and economic developments.

We think these inclinations are mistaken. We agree that the Fed's window to engineer a soft landing is shrinking. With the economy already slowing, further monetary tightening risks tipping us into a recession. But with inflation still at multi-decade highs, easing policy too soon risks further embedding inflation and increasing the costs of later action. The Fed's success depends on a myriad of factors mostly out of its control, making their task extremely difficult and investor efforts to predict the outcome futile.

We think it is better to adopt Warren Buffett's mantra of buying good businesses when they go on sale. The trick of course is to distinguish good businesses with low share prices from those that have merely been kept aloft by investor optimism or those that face serious existential threats. This differentiation is the focus of our research: finding businesses that can prosper far into the future regardless of the short-term path of the economy. Recently, this research has led us to find value in Information Technology and Consumer Discretionary companies – businesses left behind as investors worry about rising rates or slowing demand, but which remain poised to earn solid returns over a full cycle. Regardless of the industry or sector, these businesses share strong competitive advantages, conservative capital structures, and talented management teams that we believe can generate attractive returns over the long run. And while their fundamental prospects are largely unchanged, they are all substantially – often 30% or more – cheaper than they were at the beginning of the year. While short-term bumps are inevitable and the market's bottom will only be clear in retrospect, we believe our long-term approach, supported by the conviction that comes from detailed independent research, will add value through this cycle.

Sources: AEI, APX, CNBC, FactSet, Forbes, Fortune, PBS, The Wall Street Journal

Additional Cooke & Bieler Large Cap Value Performance Disclosures