# **Small Company Growth**



September 30, 2023

## **Strategy Facts**

Portfolio Managers: Greg Baxter, CFA, Jim Stark, CFA

Inception: June 1, 2007 Index: Russell 2000 Growth

Available Vehicles: Separate Account, Collective Trust

Strategy AUM: \$477M Firm AUM: \$2.8B

Website: http://castleark.com/small-cap-growth/

### **Investment Philosophy**

We believe that **earnings** growth is the primary driver of stock prices over the long term, and that excess return can be achieved by investing in those companies with **improving business fundamentals.** 

#### Portfolio Characteristics

	Castle Ark	Index
# of Securities	107	1,084
Weighted Avg Market Cap (\$MM)	\$5,536	\$3,275
Median Market Cap (\$MM)	\$5,037	\$1,113
Historical Sales Growth	26.7%	33.4%
Historical EPS Growth	29.2%	33.3%
EPS Growth - Long Term Forward	15.4%	12.3%
Return on Equity	9.0%	6.3%
Price to Earnings (Trailing 12M)	23.2	19.3
Price to Earnings (Forward 12M)	21.1	18.2
Price to Book	3.8	3.6
Dividend Yield	0.4%	0.7%
Active Share	82.5%	

#### **Investment Strategy**



A process that emphasizes the **direction of growth** over the absolute level of growth



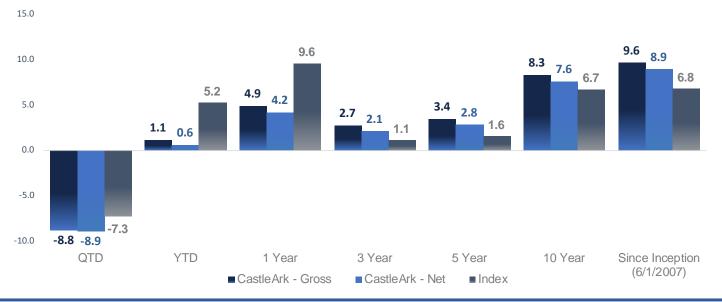
A focus on **actual** fundamental improvements **vs. anticipated improvements** enhance our success rate



A disciplined analysis focused on the **magnitude and sustainability** of the driver of fundamental improvement

## Composite Performance\*

(Periods greater than 1-year are annualized)

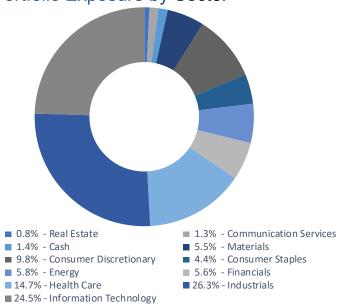


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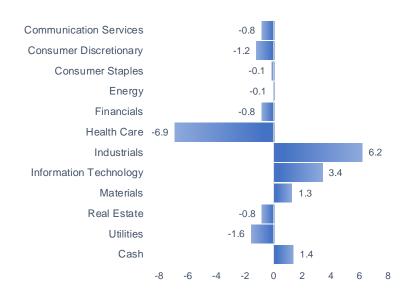
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## Portfolio Exposure by Sector



#### Sector Allocation vs. Index

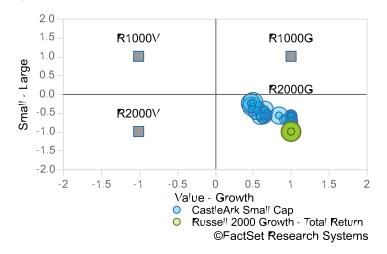


### Top 10 Holdings\*

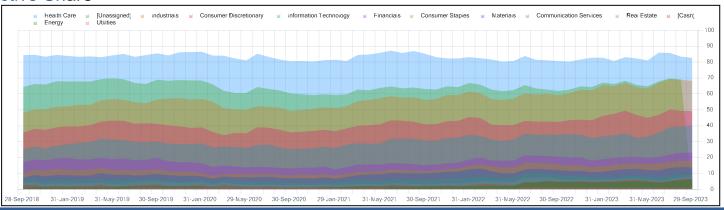
1.94%
1.88%
1.72%
1.69%
1.65%
1.60%
1.57%
1.56%
1.44%
1.41%

\*The securities identified and described do not represent all of the securities purchased, sold or recommended for client accounts. The reader should not assume that an investment in the securities identified was or will be profitable.

#### Style Drift (Rolling 1 Month Periods)



#### Active Share



Please see the Supplemental Disclosures which are an integral part of this Fact Sheet.

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#### Supplemental Disclosures

Composite Performance reflects reinvestment of all income and capital gains and is shown in US dollars and after the deduction of transaction costs. Composite Performance is shown gross and net of actual management fees charged. Actual investment advisory fees incurred by clients may vary. Additional information on the calculation methodologies used herein is available upon request. Indexes are unmanaged, do not incur management fees and cannot be invested in directly. The Composite and index returns are net of any foreign withholding taxes on dividends, interest, and capital gains. The Russell 2000 Growth Index represents a segment of the Russell 2000 Index that display signs of above average growth. The Russell 2000 Index is an index measuring the performance of approximately 2,000 U.S. small-cap companies. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Performance during certain periods reflect strong stock market performance that is not typical and may not be repeated.

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The source of the portfolio characteristics presented in this fact sheet is FactSet and CastleArk and is from a representative account and/or model portfolio. Not every account will have these exact characteristics. The actual characteristics with respect to any particular account will vary based on a number of factors including but not limited to: (i) the size of the account; (ii) investment restrictions applicable to the account, if any, and (iii) market exigencies at the time of investment.

Portfolio holdings and sector weightings of individual client accounts may differ from those shown above. This information does not constitute, and should not be construed as investment advice or recommendations with respect to securities or sectors listed. It should not be assumed that investments in these securities or sectors were or will be profitable.

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