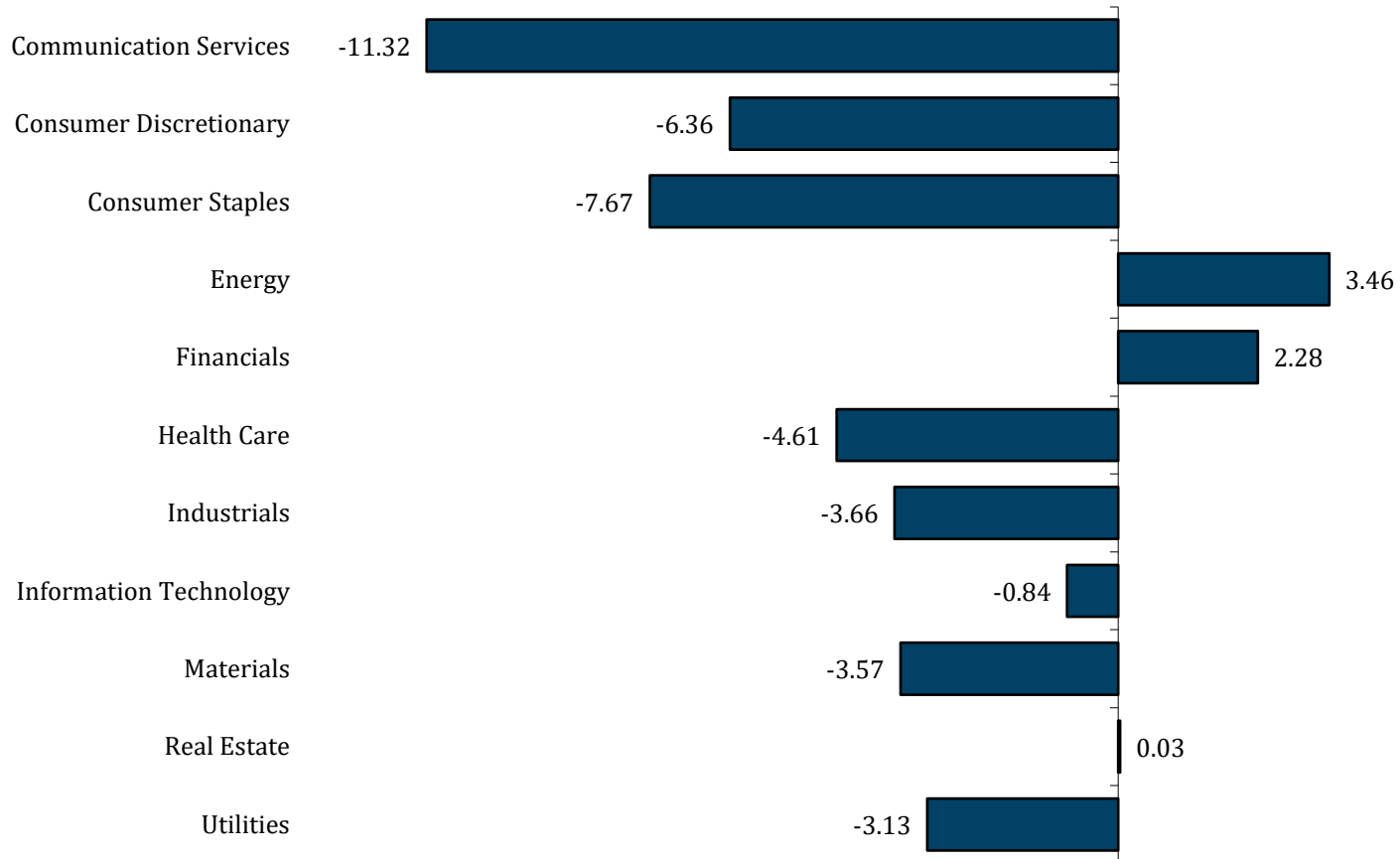


**Russell 2500 Total Return
Q3 2021**



Data calculated in our proprietary attribution system. Past returns are no guarantee of future performance. The Russell 2500 Total Index measures the performance of the small to mid-cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes approximately 2500 of the smallest securities in the Russell 3000 Index based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership.

Periods ended 9/30/2021	Quarter	YTD	1 Year	Since Inception
Small-Mid Cap Core Fund (WBCIX) - Class I	-1.18%	16.93%	50.45%	22.76%
Small-Mid Cap Core Fund (WBCRX) – Class R6	-1.25%	16.93%	50.45%	22.76%
Russell 2500 Total	-2.68%	13.83%	45.03%	21.72%

Class I & R6 Inception Date: 10/1/2019

Performance cited represents past performance. Past Performance does not guarantee future results and current performance may be lower or higher than the data quoted. Results shown are average annual returns, which assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Investment returns and principal will fluctuate with market and economic conditions and you may have a gain or loss when you sell shares. For the most current month end performance information, please call 1-877-962-5247, or visit our Web site at www.williamblairfunds.com.

Small-Mid Cap Core Fund Expense Ratios:

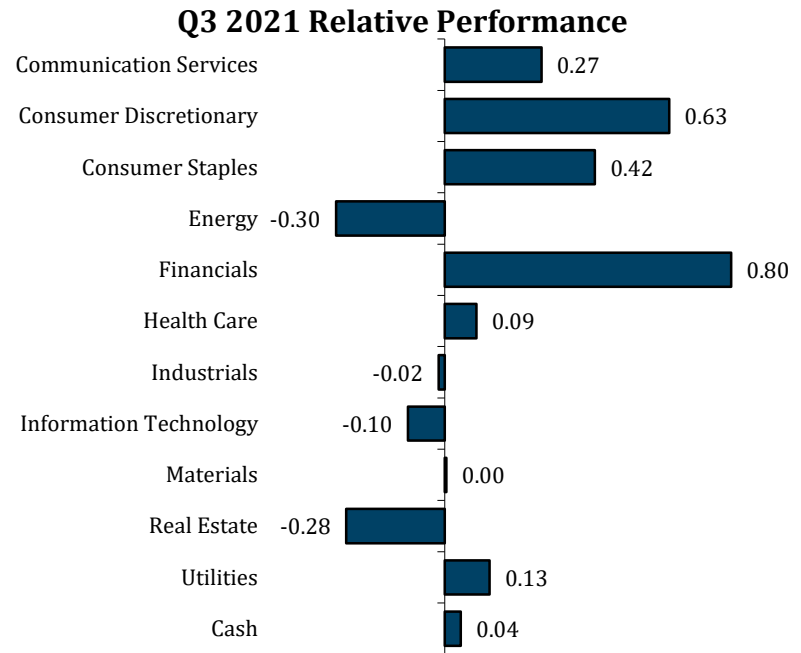
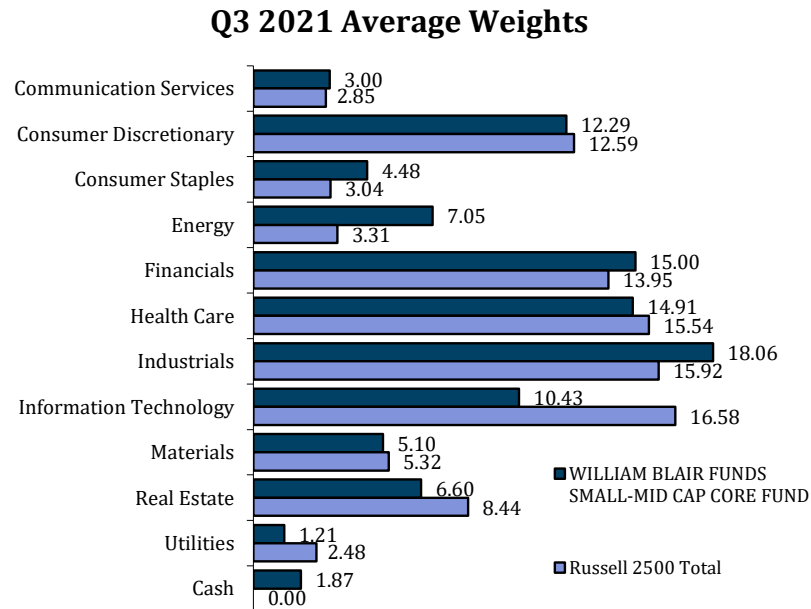
	Gross	Net
Class I Shares	1.22%	0.95%
Class R6 Shares	1.07%	0.90%

The Fund’s Adviser has contractually agreed to waive fees and/or reimburse expenses to limit fund operating expenses until 4/30/22.

Expenses shown are as of the most recent prospectus.

A direct investment in an index is not possible. The Russell 2500 Total Index measures the performance of the small to mid-cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes approximately 2500 of the smallest securities in the Russell 3000 Index based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership.

The charts below show the average sector weights and relative performance, by sector, for the Fund vs. its benchmark.



Source: Proprietary attribution system.

Past returns are no guarantee of future results. Based on Global Industry Classification Sectors (GICS). Concentration of assets in one or a few sectors may entail greater risk than a fully diversified stock portfolio and should be considered as only part of a diversified portfolio.

Western Alliance Bancorp (WAL) is a regional bank headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona. During the quarter, the company reported strong credit performance and better-than-expected net interest income, as well as continued robust loan and deposit growth. We trimmed our position though we continue to believe Western Alliance Bancorp is a high-quality bank with an attractive valuation and durable market position given its high touch service model, ability to attract top industry talent and superior profitability.

Builders FirstSource (BLDR) is a residential building materials manufacturer and distributor. Through its combination with BMC Holdings, Builders FirstSource is the largest value-added manufacturer in the industry by total revenue, geographic coverage, total facilities, and product scope. Builders FirstSource's high margin value-added components enable home builders to leverage standardization and automation to lower the cost of construction, while also increasing the speed, in an environment in which we are structurally short on supply of homes and affordability is a key issue. The company reported a very strong quarter, helped by strong volumes, faster growth of higher margin manufactured products and synergies from the BMC merger. We maintained our position and continue to believe Builders FirstSource offers an attractive risk/reward with multiple levers of value creation.

Cameco (CCJ) is a company focused on the mining, trading and processing of uranium, a key input into nuclear power generation. Uranium prices have been in a bear market for over a decade and market forces are beginning to rebalance supply and demand. Supporting the notion that the fundamental backdrop continues to improve, the company announced more contracting activity during the quarter. In addition, the price of uranium in the spot market moved higher, helping to advance the stock. We trimmed our position. We continue to believe the stock is attractive relative to our outlook for a price recovery from current unsustainable levels and subsequent volumes coming back online for Cameco.

This information does not constitute, and should not be construed as, investment advice or recommendations with respect to the securities listed. Specific securities identified and described do not represent all of the securities purchased, sold, or recommended for advisory clients, and you should not assume that investments in the securities identified and discussed were or will be profitable.

Owens & Minor (OMI) is a manufacturer and distributor of disposable healthcare supplies, such as personal protective equipment (PPE), to hospitals and in-home healthcare providers. The company reported positive earnings results during the quarter, driven by elective procedure volume recovery, favorable product mix, personal protective equipment (PPE) sales, and operating efficiencies. However, Owens & Minor reported gross margins that were below elevated expectations due to the increased pricing of nitrile gloves. Despite this transitory headwind, business fundamentals remain strong and our thesis remains intact. We maintained our position and continue to believe there is valuation upside given a higher quality management team and improvements in business mix, which should drive higher growth and margins.

Stem, Inc. (STEM) is an AI-driven energy storage solutions provider that utilizes its proprietary Athena software as a service (SaaS) offering. The Athena system takes in approximately 700,000 data points per second to predict power prices and forecast energy consumption patterns to optimize the energy storage system. The company helps business and utilities increase the return on their energy storage investments and achieve carbon emission reductions and power stability. While Stem reported revenue growth that was in-line with expectations, bookings growth slowed from the prior quarter; the latter point likely weighed on the stock given high investor expectations for revenue growth in 2022. We trimmed our position. We continue to hold a position as Stem has a long runway for growth in the nascent energy storage systems industry, which has several secular tailwinds including a growing number of governments implementing net zero standards and falling costs; both of these should accelerate adoption in the coming years.

New Fortress Energy (NFE) develops, finances and constructs liquified natural gas (LNG) assets and related infrastructure. The company brings low cost natural gas to foreign markets through LNG and in some cases owns the power generation assets in those foreign countries. In the quarter, the company missed expectations due to maintenance issues on power plants they serve in Puerto Rico and some projects delays in Mexico and Nicaragua. Volumes have lagged expectations on transitory issues, which will likely continue to a lesser degree in the back half of the year. Furthermore, concerns regarding the impact of higher natural gas prices dampened performance of the stock. We added to our position in the quarter.

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Top 10 Holdings by Weight		
	Small-Mid Cap Core Fund	Russell 2500 Total
	<u>% in Fund</u>	<u>% in Index</u>
Western Alliance Bancorp	2.75	0.17
Builders FirstSource Inc	2.39	0.16
Denbury Inc	2.36	0.05
East West Bancorp Inc	2.13	0.17
Cameco Corp	1.96	0.00
Merit Medical Systems Inc	1.91	0.06
Owens & Minor Inc	1.84	0.03
PacWest Bancorp	1.73	0.08
Skyline Champion Corp	1.63	0.05
Owens Corning	1.61	0.13
Total:	20.31	0.90

Source: Eagle.

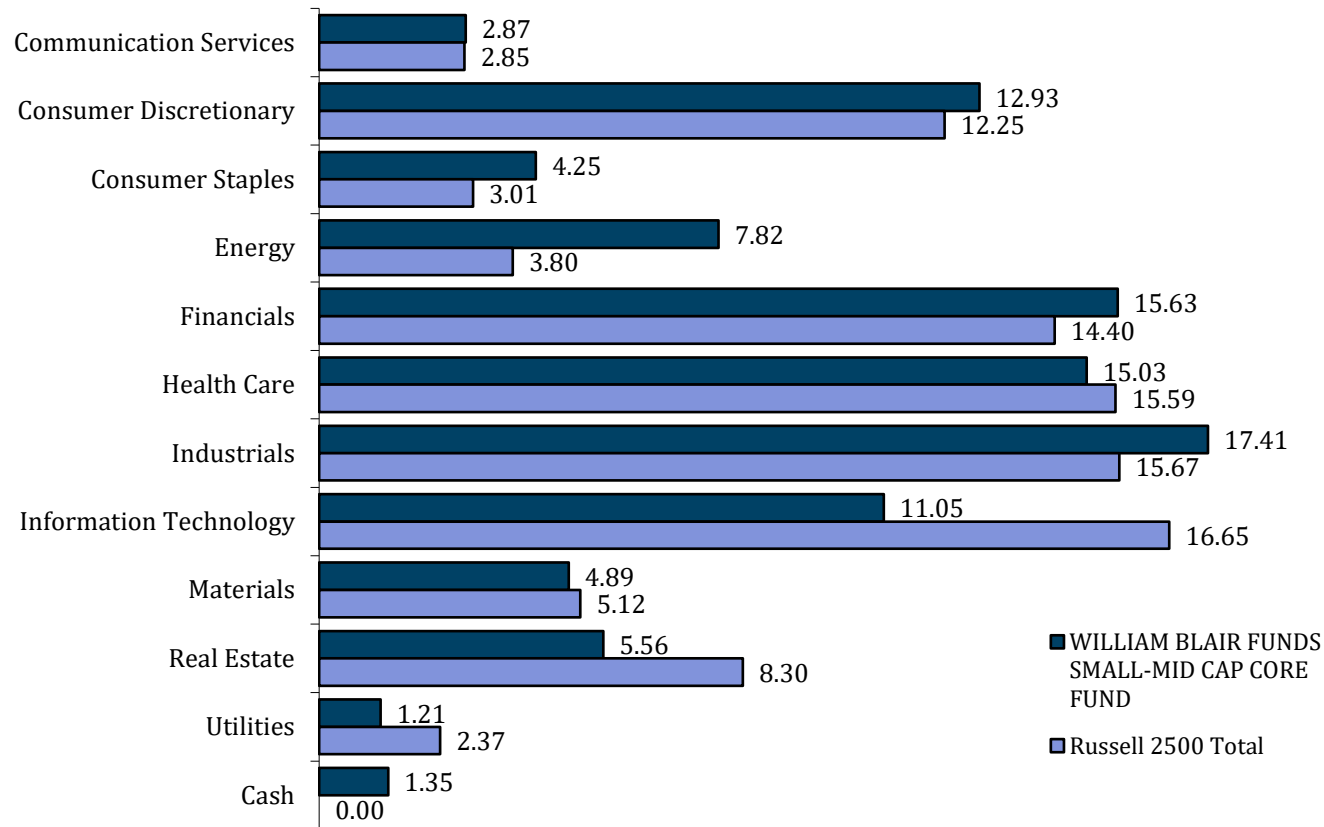
References to specific securities and their issuers are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended and should not be interpreted as recommendations to purchase or sell such securities. William Blair may or may not own the securities referenced and, if such securities are owned, no representation is being made that such securities will continue to be held. Holdings are shown as a percentage of total gross assets.

	Small-Mid Cap Core Fund	Russell 2500 Total
Quality		
Return on Investment Capital	7.2%	4.3%
Free Cash Flow Margin	10.3%	9.4%
Debt to Total Capital Ratio	42.5%	42.6%
Growth		
EPS Growth Rate (3 Years)	19.2%	14.4%
EPS Growth Rate (5 Years)	19.3%	14.3%
Valuation		
P/E Ratio (1-year forecast)	20.6x	21.6x
Capitalization (\$B)		
Weighted Average Market Cap	\$7.4	\$7.4
Weighted Median Market Cap	\$5.7	\$6.2
Portfolio Positions		
Number of Securities	88	2,534

Characteristics have been calculated by William Blair.

Please refer to the 'Important Disclosures' section of this document for further information on investment risks and returns.

Sector Weights as of 9/30/2021



Source: William Blair; Eagle

Based on Global Industry Classification Sectors (GICS). Concentration of assets in one or a few sectors may entail greater risk than a fully diversified stock portfolio and should be considered as only part of a diversified portfolio.

	Portfolio Weight	Benchmark Weight		Portfolio Weight	Benchmark Weight		Portfolio Weight	Benchmark Weight
COMMUNICATION SERVICES	2.87	2.85	FINANCIALS (continued)			INDUSTRIALS (continued)		
Ziprecruiter Inc-A	1.45	0.00	Wintrust Financial Corp	1.09	0.07	Douglas Dynamics Inc	0.54	0.01
Live Nation Entertainment In	0.73	0.00	Voya Financial Inc	0.79	0.10	Mercury Systems Inc	0.54	0.04
Cable One Inc	0.69	0.15	Encore Capital Group Inc	0.67	0.02	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	11.05	16.65
CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY	12.93	12.25	Firstcash Inc	0.65	0.05	Verra Mobility Corp	1.42	0.03
Skyline Champion Corp	1.63	0.05	Hannon Armstrong Sustainable	0.61	0.06	Nice Ltd - Spon Adr	1.40	0.00
Boot Barn Holdings Inc	1.57	0.04	HEALTH CARE	15.03	15.59	Brooks Automation Inc	1.35	0.11
Wyndham Hotels & Resorts Inc	1.30	0.11	Merit Medical Systems Inc	1.91	0.06	Pure Storage Inc - Class A	1.11	0.10
Overstock.Com Inc	1.13	0.05	Owens & Minor Inc	1.84	0.03	Euronet Worldwide Inc	1.00	0.10
Grand Canyon Education Inc	1.09	0.06	Horizon Therapeutics PLC	1.51	0.00	Solaredge Technologies Inc	1.00	0.00
Fox Factory Holding Corp	1.08	0.09	Codexis Inc	1.21	0.02	Power Integrations Inc	0.97	0.09
Burlington Stores Inc	1.02	0.00	Certara Inc	1.11	0.04	Alarm.Com Holdings Inc	0.86	0.06
National Vision Holdings Inc	0.95	0.07	Acadia Healthcare Co Inc	1.09	0.09	Entegris Inc	0.80	0.26
Bright Horizons Family Solut	0.94	0.13	Hanger Inc	1.03	0.01	Cree Inc	0.64	0.14
Aramark	0.84	0.11	Encompass Health Corp	0.98	0.11	Cmc Materials Inc	0.51	0.05
Callaway Golf Company	0.74	0.05	Steris PLC	0.94	0.00	MATERIALS	4.89	5.12
Terminix Global Holdings Inc	0.64	0.08	Lhc Group Inc	0.85	0.07	Crown Holdings Inc	1.57	0.19
CONSUMER STAPLES	4.25	3.01	Globus Medical Inc - A	0.74	0.09	Eagle Materials Inc	1.07	0.08
Performance Food Group Co	1.36	0.11	Chemed Corp	0.72	0.11	Martin Marietta Materials	0.96	0.00
Spectrum Brands Holdings Inc	1.22	0.06	Healthequity Inc	0.56	0.08	Orion Engineered Carbons SA	0.75	0.02
Inter Parfums Inc	0.98	0.02	Ligand Pharmaceuticals	0.55	0.03	Century Aluminum Company	0.54	0.01
Primo Water Corp	0.68	0.04	INDUSTRIALS	17.41	15.67	REAL ESTATE	5.56	8.30
ENERGY	7.82	3.80	Builders Firstsource Inc	2.39	0.16	Equity Lifestyle Properties	1.57	0.21
Denbury Inc	2.36	0.05	Owens Corning	1.61	0.13	Acadia Realty Trust	1.31	0.03
Cameco Corp	1.96	0.00	Brink's Co/The	1.46	0.05	Coresite Realty Corp	1.14	0.09
Whitecap Resources Inc	1.37	0.00	Bwx Technologies Inc	1.44	0.08	Americold Realty Trust	0.80	0.11
Green Plains Inc	1.07	0.02	Axon Enterprise Inc	1.34	0.17	Healthcare Realty Trust Inc	0.74	0.07
New Fortress Energy Inc	1.06	0.01	Trex Company Inc	1.11	0.18	UTILITIES	1.21	2.37
FINANCIALS	15.63	14.40	Luxfer Holdings PLC	1.10	0.01	Idacorp Inc	1.21	0.08
Western Alliance Bancorp	2.75	0.17	Iaa Inc	1.06	0.11	Cash	1.35	0.00
East West Bancorp Inc	2.13	0.17	Kornit Digital Ltd	1.06	0.00	Total	100.00	100.00
Pacwest Bancorp	1.73	0.08	Lincoln Electric Holdings	1.03	0.11			
Ares Management Corp - A	1.57	0.15	Willscot Mobile Mini Holding	0.89	0.10			
Virtu Financial Inc-Class A	1.42	0.03	Casella Waste Systems Inc-A	0.64	0.06			
Lpl Financial Holdings Inc	1.11	0.19	Stem Inc	0.63	0.02			
Glacier Bancorp Inc	1.10	0.08	Chart Industries Inc	0.57	0.11			

As of 9/30/2021.

Individual securities listed in this report are for informational purposes only. There is no guarantee that the Fund will continue to hold any one particular security or stay invested in any one particular sector. Holdings are subject to change at any time. This information does not constitute, and should not be construed as, investment advice or recommendations with respect to the securities listed.

Glossary - Terms

Active Share: A measure of the percentage of equity holdings in a portfolio that differ from the benchmark index. It is calculated by taking the sum of the absolute value of the differences of the weight of each holding in a portfolio versus the weight of each holding in the index and dividing by two.

Alpha: A measure of a portfolio's return in excess of the market return, after both have been adjusted for risk. It is a mathematical estimate of the amount of return expected from a portfolio above and beyond the market return at any point in time. For example, an alpha of 1.25 indicates that a stock is projected to rise 1.25% in price in a year over the return of the market, or the return when the market return is zero. When an investment price is low relative to its alpha, it is undervalued, and considered a good selection.

Beta: A quantitative measure of the volatility of the portfolio relative to the overall market, represented by a comparable benchmark. A beta above 1 is more volatile than the overall market, while a beta below 1 is less volatile, and could be expected to rise and fall more slowly than the market.

Developed Markets: Using the Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) geographic definition, this region includes: United Kingdom, Europe (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland), Japan, Pacific Asia (Australia, Hong Kong, New Zealand, and Singapore) and the Western Hemisphere (Canada and other Americas).

Debt to Total Capital Ratio: This figure is the percentage of each company's invested capital that consists of debt. Companies with a high Debt to Total Capital level may be considered more risky. From a portfolio perspective, the portfolio Debt to Total Capital Ratio is a weighted average of the individual holdings' Debt to Total Capital Ratio.

Emerging Markets: Using MSCI's geographic definition, this region includes: Emerging Markets Asia (China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, S Korea, Taiwan, and Thailand), Emerging Markets Europe, Mid-East and Africa (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Russia, Turkey, Egypt, Morocco, and S Africa), and Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela).

EPS (Earnings Per Share) Growth Rate (Projected): This measure represents the weighted average of forecasted growth in earnings expected to be experienced by the stocks within the portfolio over the next 3-5 years. From a portfolio perspective, the portfolio P/E ratio and EPS Growth Rate are weighted averages of the individual holdings' P/E ratios and EPS Growth Rates. Data calculated in FactSet.

EV/EBITDA: (Enterprise Value / Earnings Before Interest, Taxes and Depreciation-Amortization): The EV/EBITDA ratio is useful for global comparisons because it ignores the distorting effects of individual countries' taxation policies. It's used to find attractive takeover candidates. Enterprise value is a better measure than market cap for takeovers because it takes into account the debt which the acquirer will have to assume. Therefore, a company with a low EV/EBITDA ratio can be viewed as a good takeover candidate.

EV/IC: (Enterprise Value / Invested Capital) Ratio: Enterprise Value (EV), which is market capitalization minus cash plus debt divided by Invested Capital (IC), which is the sum of common stock, preferred stock and long-term debt. This number will get you a simple multiple. If it is below 1.0, then it means that the company is selling below book value and theoretically below its liquidation value.

Information Coefficient: A measure of the correlation between expected and actual returns.

Information Ratio: A measure of risk-adjusted return. The annualized excess return of the portfolio relative to a respective benchmark, divided by the annualized tracking error relative to that same benchmark. The higher the measure, the higher the risk-adjusted return.

Glossary - Terms

PBV: (Price/Book Value) Ratio: The PBV Ratio measures the value of a company's common stock relative to its shareholder's equity. A price-to-book multiple above one means that the price of the company's common stock is higher than its common shareholder's equity. A price-to-book multiple below one means that the price of the company's common stock are less than its break-up value, and the shares may be undervalued.

PCF: (Price/CashFlow): Some analysts favor the price/cash flow over the price-earnings (PE) ratio as a measure of a company's value. Cash flow is a measure of a company's financial health. It equals cash receipts minus cash payments over a given period of time.

P/E: (Price/Earnings) Ratio: This is the most common measure of how expensive a stock is. Simply, it is the cost an investor in a given stock must pay per dollar of current annual earnings. A high P/E generally indicates that the market is paying more to obtain the stock because it has confidence in the company's ability to increase its earnings. Conversely, a low P/E often indicates that the market has less confidence that the company's earnings will increase rapidly or steadily, and therefore will not pay as much for its stock.

R-squared: A measurement of how closely the portfolio's performance correlates with the performance of its benchmark, such as the MSC AC World Free ex US Index. In other words, it is a measurement of what portion of a portfolio's performance can be explained by the performance of the overall market or index. Ranges from 0 to 1, where 0 indicates no correlation and 1 indicates perfect correlation.

Risk (Standard Deviation): A measure of the portfolio's risk. A higher standard deviation represents a greater dispersion of returns, and thus a greater amount of risk. The annualized standard deviation is calculated using monthly returns.

Sharpe-Ratio: A risk-adjusted measure calculated using standard deviation and excess return (Portfolio return – Risk Free Rate) to determine reward per unit of risk. The higher the Sharpe ratio, the better the portfolio's historic risk-adjusted performance.

Tracking Error: Tracking Error measures the extent to which a portfolio tracks its benchmark. The tracking error of an index portfolio should be lower than that of an active portfolio. The tracking error will always be greater than zero if the portfolio is anything other than a replication of the benchmark.

Trailing 1-Year Turnover: This figure reflects the portfolio's trading activity by calculating the amount of the portfolio's holdings bought or sold over the prior year, expressed as a percentage of the portfolio's average market value. Turnover figures may be related to the amount of trading costs experienced by the portfolio.

Weighted Average Market Capitalization: Market capitalization refers to the total market value of each company's outstanding shares. The Weighted Average Market Capitalization for a portfolio is calculated as the average market capitalization of the stocks within the portfolio, weighted by the amount of each stock owned.

Weighted Median Market Capitalization: This calculation represents the median market capitalization of the stocks in the portfolio, weighted by the amount of each stock owned.