

## **IMPORTANT RISK CONSIDERATIONS**



Market Volatility	The value of the securities in the portfolio may go up or down in response to the prospects of individual companies and/or general economic conditions. Local, regional, or global events such as war or military conflict, terrorism, pandemic, or recession could impact the portfolio, including hampering the ability of the portfolio's manager(s) to invest its assets as intended.
Issuer Risk	The portfolio will be affected by factors specific to the issuers of securities and other instruments in which the portfolio invests, including actual or perceived changes in the financial condition or business prospects of such issuers.
Equity Securities	The market price of equity securities may be adversely affected by financial market, industry, or issuer-specific events. Focus on a particular style or on small, medium, or large-sized companies may enhance that risk.
Prospectus	For additional information on risks, please see the fund's prospectus.

## **VIRTUS INVESTMENT PARTNERS**

#### MULTI-ASSET MANAGER



**KEY FACTS** 

\$179.3
Billion in AUM

35
Funds Rated
4 or 5 Stars<sup>1</sup>

































#### Past performance is not indicative of future results.

#### OVER 30 YEARS OF VALUE INVESTING



#### **KEY FACTS**

- Established 1989
- Dallas, TX
- AUM: \$6.4 billion
- Seasoned team, averaging 20+ years industry experience
- Wholly owned affiliate of Virtus Investment
   Partners (NYSE: VRTS)

**U.S. Portfolios** 

- Dividend Value
- Large Cap Value
- All Cap Value
- Mid Cap Value
- Small Cap Value

Non-U.S./Global Portfolios

- Emerging Markets Value
- International Value
- Global Infrastructure Income
- Global Sustainability

NFJ Investment Group assets under management, as of March 31, 2024. This total includes \$2.3 billion in non-discretionary assets. Predecessor firm (known as NFJ Investment Group at the time) was initially created in 1989, acquired by Allianz in 2000, and rolled into the Allianz Global Investors RIA as that firm's Dallas-based Value Equity US team in 2016. Effective February 1, 2021, Virtus lifted out Allianz Global Investors' Dallas-based Value Equity US team and established a new investment adviser for that team, which is registered with the SEC and known as NFJ Investment Group, LLC.

#### INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY



#### NFJ believes:

NFJ's **Modern Value approach** harnesses the power of **advanced data analytics** and **fundamental expertise** to identify quality value businesses.

**Valuation**, **shareholder yield**, and **quality** are key to long-term investment success.

Emphasizing **diversification** and **numbers over narrative** can help achieve better risk-adjusted returns and client outcomes.

#### A MODERN APPROACH TO VALUE INVESTING



# Fundamental expertise...

#### **Strict Valuation**

Capitalize on market dislocations while avoiding value traps

#### **Strong Stewards of Capital**

Emphasis on shareholder yield and dividend growth

#### **High-Quality Focus**

Invest in competitively advantaged companies

MODERN VALUE INVESTING ...augmented by advanced data analytics

#### **Idea Generation**

Real-time processing of fundamental data points

#### **Informational Advantage**

Identify inefficiencies through data analytics and custom peer groups

#### **Risk Management**

Ongoing monitoring of market sentiment and portfolio risks

#### INVESTMENT TEAM





John R. Mowrey, CFA Chief Investment Officer Senior Portfolio Manager/Analyst Industry/NFJ Start Year: 2007/2007



R. Burns McKinney, CFA Senior Portfolio Manager/Analyst Industry/NFJ Start Year: 1996/2006



Jeff N. Reed, CFA, CMT, FDP Senior Portfolio Manager/Analyst Industry/NFJ Start Year: 2004/2007



**Kris P. Marca, CFA**Portfolio Manager/Research Analyst
Industry/NFJ Start Year: 2003/2011



Andrew J. Setaro, CFA, FDP Senior Research Analyst Industry/NFJ Start Year: 2018/2019



**Paul A. Magnuson** Senior Portfolio Manager/Analyst Industry/NFJ Start Year: 1985/1992



**Thomas W. Oliver, CFA, CPA** Senior Portfolio Manager/Analyst Industry/NFJ Start Year: 1995/2005



J. Garth Reilly
Senior Portfolio Manager/Analyst
Industry/NFJ Start Year: 2005/2005



Yue Wang, CFA, CPA, FDP Senior Research Analyst Industry/NFJ Start Year: 2015/2018



**Krysta M. Hill**Product Specialist
Industry/NFJ Start Year: 2005/2008

Source: NFJ Investment Group

## **VIRTUS NFJ MID-CAP VALUE FUND**



#### **Fund Information**

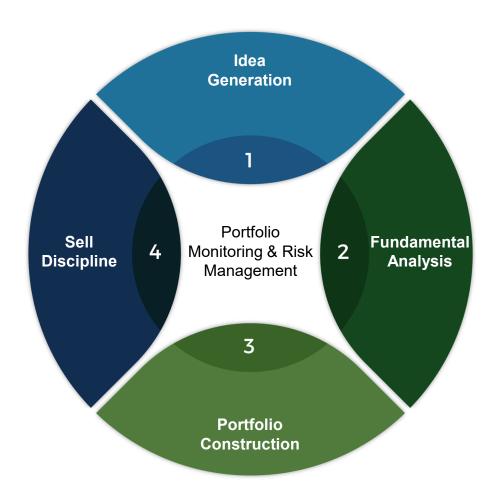
Tickers	A: PQNAX ADMIN: PRAAX C: PQNCX INST: PRNIX P: ANRPX R6: ANPRX			
Fund Inception Date	12/30/97			
Benchmark	Russell Midcap® Value Index			
Number of Holdings	75-125			
Portfolio Managers	Paul A. Magnuson John R. Mowrey, CFA Jeff N. Reed, CFA, CMT, FD J. Garth Reilly Kris P. Marca, CFA			

## **INVESTMENT PROCESS OVERVIEW**





NFJ's Modern Value Approach combines advanced data analytics and other proprietary quantitative tools with fundamental analysis to identify attractively valued, high-quality companies.



## **IDEA GENERATION**

#### PROPRIETARY RESEARCH TOOL AND ADVANCED DATA ANALYTICS





Uncovering unique valuation insights seeks to offer a competitive advantage and begins with processing large amounts of data in an efficient and scalable manner

The NFJ Research Workbench is designed to help identify valuation dislocations more efficiently

- Proprietary database tool spanning the global equity universe
- Highly customized data analysis across multiple financial metrics helps to identify a company's true peers
- Quantitative model overlay helps avoid potential idiosyncratic risks and value traps
- Leverages new technologies to continually improve NFJ's powerful frontend process

Advanced Data Analytics	Actionable Insights	Investment Candidates
Data synthesis through programming language and other quantitative tools	Process identifies companies across the globe that are trading cheaply to peers and the market	Most attractively valued stocks are candidates for additional fundamental research

## **FUNDAMENTAL ANALYSIS**







## NFJ conducts a rigorous analysis of company fundamentals and financial output

Valuation & Custom Peers Identify attractive entry points	Shareholder Yield Evaluate capital allocation policies	Quality Evaluation Identify consistent and above-average financial output
<ul> <li>Statistically derived custom peer groups         <ul> <li>Identify relationships determined by global equity market</li> <li>Data analytics and statistical calculations uncover valuation insights</li> </ul> </li> <li>Absolute/relative measures to company's history and the market         <ul> <li>Industry-specific metrics; P/E, P/B, P/S, EV/EBITDA, P/FFO</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Emphasis on dividend growth over absolute yield</li> <li>Focus on forward buyback programs</li> <li>Assess quality of earnings</li> <li>Consider dividend policy changes and capital deployment stewardship</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Qualitative</li> <li>Consistent and above-average Return on Capital</li> <li>Low balance sheet stress</li> <li>High and improving margins; stability over time</li> <li>Expected and historical earnings growth</li> <li>Quantitative</li> <li>Price Momentum</li> <li>Short Interest</li> <li>Inputs that can result in higher quality:</li> <li>Favorable industry dynamics</li> <li>High barriers to entry</li> <li>Differentiation, first-mover advantage</li> <li>Scalability, brand equity, network effect</li> <li>Duopoly or functional duopoly</li> <li>Recurring revenues</li> </ul>

## PORTFOLIO CONSTRUCTION

#### VIRTUS NFJ MID-CAP VALUE FUND





Seeks to construct a portfolio of quality companies diversified across industries that can help generate alpha and mitigate risk

### **Position Sizing** Sector **Positioning** ■ 75-125 holdings Mitigate idiosyncratic risk Initial position size: Generally ≤1% (at cost) Seek broad sector and Maximum position size: 5% (at market) industry exposure Sector weights +/- 10% ■ Cash typically 2-3% benchmark require CIO approval **Diversification Market Capitalization** Market cap between Diversified portfolio to help reduce \$3 billion and \$50 billion\* downside risk Long-term alpha generation begins with intelligent portfolio construction

## **SELL DISCIPLINE**

### DISPASSIONATE APPROACH TO EXITING COMPANIES





## NFJ's strict sell discipline seeks to remove emotion from the investment process

Valuation Consideration	<ul> <li>Stock becomes expensive on absolute and relative valuations</li> <li>Compared to historical average, broad market, and custom peers</li> </ul>
Quality Deterioration	<ul> <li>Change in company-specific fundamentals or thesis</li> <li>Erosion of industry dynamics or competitive landscape</li> <li>Price momentum</li> </ul>
Portfolio Upgrade	<ul> <li>Better alternative available; candidate becomes more attractive relative to a current holding</li> <li>Improve portfolio construction and risk-adjusted positioning</li> </ul>
Acquisition Activity	<ul> <li>Current holding is acquired</li> <li>Current holding makes acquisition that fundamentally changes its business</li> </ul>

### PORTFOLIO MONITORING AND RISK MANAGEMENT

#### INTEGRATED THROUGHOUT THE INVESTMENT PROCESS





Qualitative analysis and quantitative tools help identify and avoid idiosyncratic risks

#### **Internal Integrated Risk Management**

- Portfolio risk is embedded throughout NFJ's investment philosophy and process:
  - Portfolio level controls: position size and diversification
  - CIO/PM reviews and quarterly investment meetings

#### **Quantitative Elements**

- NFJ custom functions for quantitative changes in:
  - Price momentum
  - Short interest

#### **Independent Review: Virtus Investment Oversight Committee**

- Quarterly meetings with Virtus CEO, CIOs, strategist to discuss markets and performance
- Responsible for monitoring portfolio risk
- Reviews performance, attribution style consistency, and discipline
- Seeks to identify outlier behavior potentially detrimental to portfolio outcomes

## PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS

AS OF MARCH 31, 2024



Valuations	Fund	Index
Price-to-Earnings (forward 1YR)	17.7x	16.9x
Price-to-Earnings (trailing 1YR)	21.6x	19.0x
Dividends		
30-day SEC Yield <sup>1</sup>	1.87%	
30-day SEC Yield (unsubsidized) <sup>2</sup>	1.70%	
Profitability		
Return on Equity (%)	12.0	13.2
Return on Assets (%)	6.0	6.0
Earnings		
Earnings Growth (trailing 3YR avg., %)	5.6	14.9
Earnings Growth (trailing 5YR avg., %)	7.5	10.2

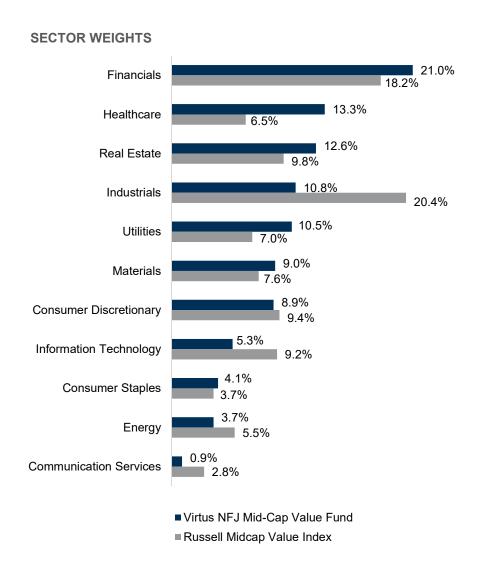
Dividends reflect past performance and there is no guarantee they will continue to be paid. The forward P/E ratio shown uses funds from operations, instead of earnings, for REITs. The information is historical and may not reflect current or future characteristics and may vary among individual accounts depending on a variety of factors, including portfolio size, specific investment guidelines and inception dates of individual accounts. Certain projected characteristics (such as the forward P/E ratio) of the representative account and indices shown have been estimated in this material. Estimated data reflect subjective judgments and assumptions and unexpected events may occur. Therefore, there can be no assurance that developments will transpire as forecasted. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Source: Virtus Performance & Analytics. Please see page 29 for definitions of characteristics shown.

<sup>1 30-</sup>day SEC Yield is a standardized yield calculated according to a formula set by the SEC and is subject to change.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 30-day SEC Yield (unsubsidized) is the 30-day SEC yield without the effect of applicable expense waivers.

## SECTOR ALLOCATION AND TOP HOLDINGS



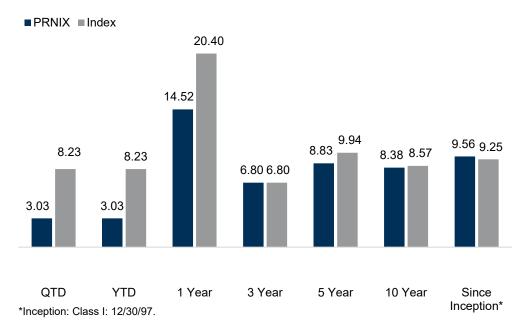


TOP TEN HOLDINGS	% of Fund
NextEra Energy Inc.	2.2
Truist Financial Corp.	2.1
Alexandria Real Estate Equities, Inc.	2.0
Edwards Lifesciences Corp.	2.0
Veeva Systems Inc.	2.0
Eversource Energy	2.0
Stepan Co.	1.9
UGI Corp.	1.9
Rexford Industrial Realty Inc.	1.8
ENN Energy Holdings Ltd.	1.7
Total	19.6

As of 03/31/24. Sector allocations and holdings are subject to change.

## PERFORMANCE REVIEW AS OF MARCH 31, 2024 (%)





Performance data quoted represents past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. Please visit virtus.com for performance data current to the most recent month end. This share class has no sales charges and is not available to all investors. Other share classes have sales charges. See virtus.com for details.

The fund class gross expense ratio is 0.82%. The net expense ratio is 0.65%, which reflects a contractual expense reimbursement in effect through 10/31/2024.

Average annual total return is the annual compound return for the indicated period and reflects the change in share price and the reinvestment of all dividends and capital gains. Returns for periods of one year or less are cumulative returns.

The Russell Midcap® Value Index is a market capitalization-weighted index of medium capitalization, value-oriented stocks of U.S. companies. The index is calculated on a total return basis with dividends reinvested. The index is unmanaged, its returns do not reflect any fees, expenses, or sales charges, and is not available for direct investment.

#### MORNINGSTAR RATINGS™

INST Share		Mid-Cap Value
Time Period	# of Stars	# of Funds
Overall	***	380
3 Year	**	380
5 Year	**	363
10 Year	***	281

Morningstar ratings are based on risk-adjusted returns. Strong ratings are not indicative of positive fund performance.

The Morningstar Rating™ for funds, or "star rating", is calculated for managed products (including mutual funds, variable annuity and variable life subaccounts, exchange-traded funds, closed-end funds, and separate accounts) with at least a three-year history. Exchangetraded funds and open-ended mutual funds are considered a single population for comparative purposes. It is calculated based on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure that accounts for variation in a managed product's monthly excess performance, placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. The top 10% of products in each product category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5% receive 4 stars, the next 35% receive 3 stars. the next 22.5% receive 2 stars, and the bottom 10% receive 1 star. The Overall Morningstar Rating for a managed product is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its three-, five-, and 10-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. The weights are: 100% three-year rating for 36-59 months of total returns, 60% five-year rating/40% three-year rating for 60-119 months of total returns, and 50% 10-year rating/30% five-year rating/20% three-year rating for 120 or more months of total returns. While the 10-year overall star rating formula seems to give the most weight to the 10-year period, the most recent three-year period actually has the greatest impact because it is included in all three rating periods. Ratings do not take into account the effects of sales charges and loads.

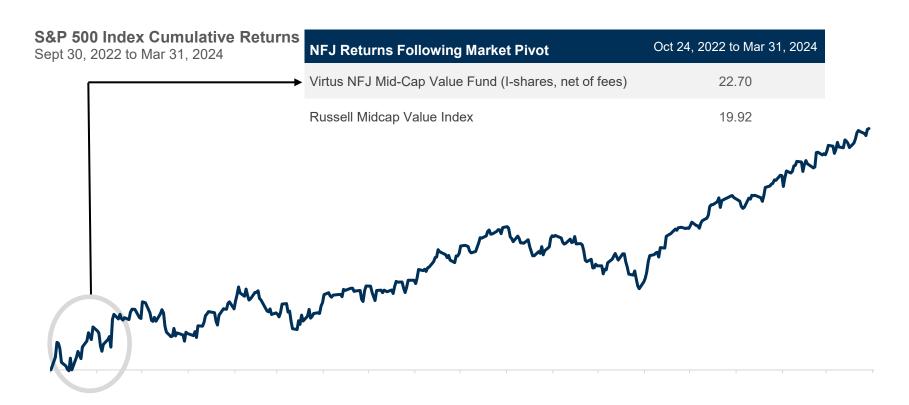
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### RECENT PERFORMANCE

### SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION, AS OF MARCH 31, 2024



- NFJ took advantage of attractive valuation dislocations early in 2022, and that positioning has been rewarded by the market in recent months
- The Virtus NFJ Mid-Cap Value Fund has outperformed the Russell Midcap Value by almost 280 basis points (I-shares) from the end of October 2022 thru March 2024



### MORNINGSTAR PERCENTILE RANKINGS

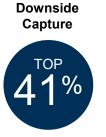




#### MID-CAP VALUE CATEGORY BASED ON TOTAL RETURN









**Sharpe** 

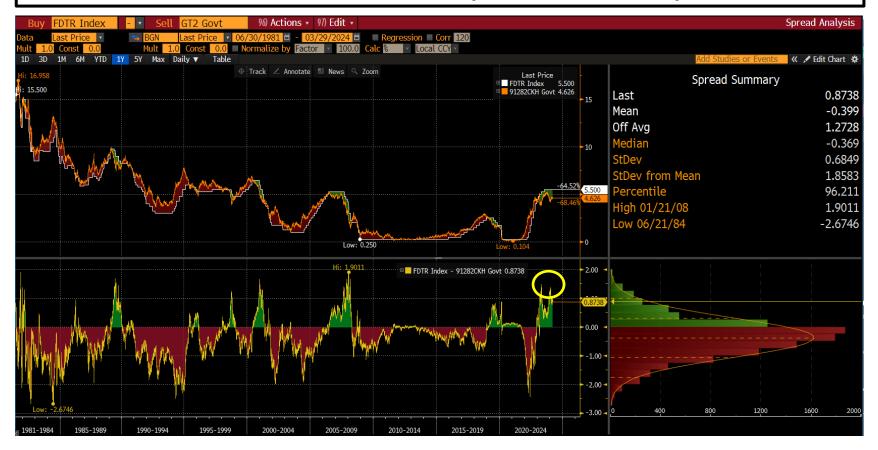
r 10 Year 12/30/97
122 12
156 24
148 17
140 9
281 41

#### DOES THE FED FUNDS RATE LEAD OR FOLLOW THE MARKET?



While they track each other closely, the Federal Funds rate does not typically stay above the 2-Year Treasury for long

#### Fed Funds Minus the 2-Year Treasury Yield: 1980 to Present Day



## **UNPRECEDENTED START FOR MOMENTUM IN 2024**



Many investors that stayed on the sidelines in 2023 and subsequently missed out on the market rally have sought exposure in winners YTD...

# **Goldman Sachs Momentum Index Returns by Year** 2014-2024

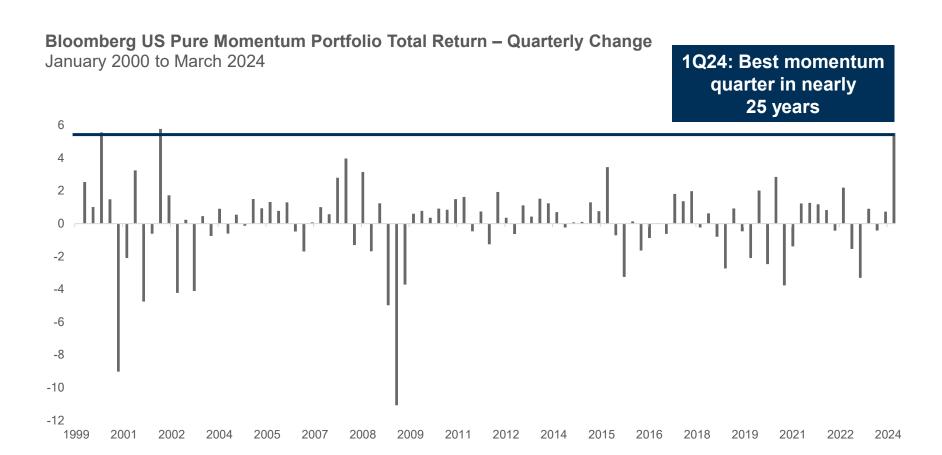


Past performance is not indicative of future results. Annual data calculated weekly. The Goldman Sachs Momentum Index is a custom basket pair trade that represents an equal notional pair trade of going long the Goldman Sachs US Momentum Long and short the Goldman Sachs US Momentum Short. Performance reflects each side rebalanced back to equal notional at the close of each trading day. Source: NFJ Investment Group, FactSet, Bloomberg

## **UNPRECEDENTED START FOR MOMENTUM IN 2024**



Many investors that stayed on the sidelines in 2023 and subsequently missed out on the market rally have sought exposure in winners YTD...



## MID VALUE IS WELL-POSITIONED GOING FOR 2024

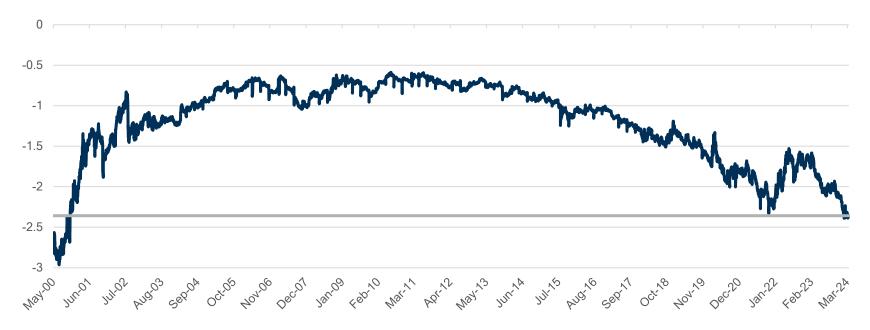


## Today's mid value stocks are trading at multi-decade low valuations

Total Index Returns	Oct 31, 2000 to Mar 28, 2024
Russell Midcap Value	765.2%
S&P 500	473.9%

#### Russell Midcap Value Price-to-Book vs. S&P 500 Price-to-Book

May 2000 to March 2024



## A FEW SPOONFULS FROM THE OCEAN (MAG 7)...



Even a modest decline among the largest capitalization names could have massive implications for lower capitalization areas of the market

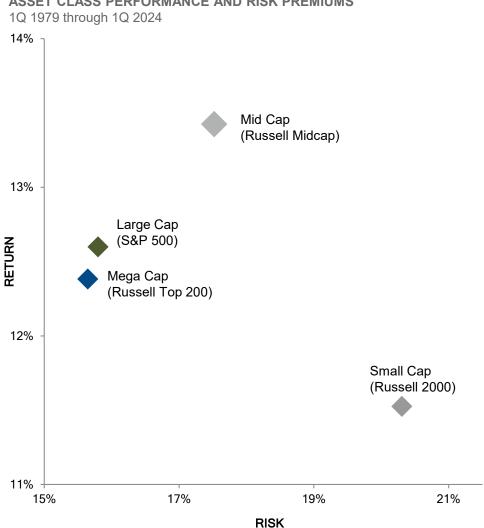


Decrease in S&P 500 Top 20 Names	Market Value of Decline (\$, bn)	% of Total Russell Midcap Market Value
5%	1,088.3	<mark>8%</mark>
10%	2,176.6	<mark>15%</mark>
15%	3,265.0	<mark>23%</mark>
20%	4,353.3	<mark>30%</mark>

## ARE MID CAPS A "SWEET SPOT" IN THE U.S.?



#### ASSET CLASS PERFORMANCE AND RISK PREMIUMS



Since 1979, mid caps have delivered higher returns than large caps, with only moderately higher risk.

Over the period, mid caps have provided better returns than small caps...with lower risk.

Past performance is not indicative of future results.

Sources: NFJ Investment Group, Russell Investments. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

## NFJ: FOCUS ON SHAREHOLDER YIELD





#### The Power of Dividends

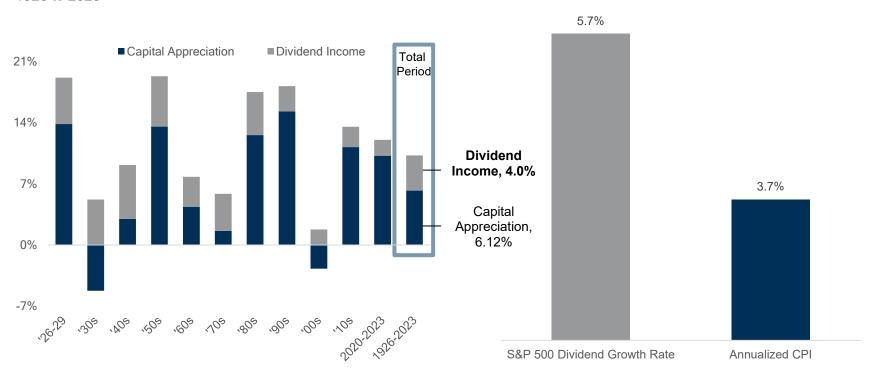
 Dividends are always positive and have comprised a significant portion of investors' total return over time

## **S&P 500 Capital Appreciation & Dividend Yield** 1926 to 2023

#### The Power of Dividend Growth

Dividend growth has outpaced inflation over time

**Annualized S&P 500 Dividend Growth vs. Inflation** 1958 to 2023



## **INVESTING WITH NFJ**



01

# A Three-Decade Strong Value Foundation

- History of identifying market mispricing and trends through fundamental analysis
- Focus on valuation, shareholder yield, and quality

02

# Modern Value Investing Approach

- Proprietary tools and methods to meet the challenges of today's dynamic capital markets
- Applies advanced data analytics

03

# High Conviction / High Diversification

- Quantitative methods to eliminate emotional bias
- Detailed, hands-on analysis of company fundamentals
- Strict adherence to process

## **VIRTUS NFJ MUTUAL FUNDS**



Each strategy subadvised by NFJ adheres to NFJ's disciplined value investment philosophy and process, seeking attractively valued, fundamentally sound companies with an emphasis on quality and risk control.

U.S.				NON-U.S.							
Virtus NFJ Mid-Ca Value Fund	p Virtus NFJ Di Value Fund	vidend Virtus N Value Fu	FJ Small-Cap und	Virtus NF Value Fu	J Large-Cap		IFJ Emerging Value Fund	Virtus Ni Value Fu	J International		IFJ Global ability Fund
SYMBOL											
A: PQNAX ADMIN: PRAAX C: PQNCX INST: PRNIX P: ANRPX R6: ANPRX	A: PNE ADMIN: ANE C: PNE INST: NFJ P: ADJ R6: ANE	DAX ADMIN: ECX C: IEX INST: IPX P:	PCVAX PVADX PCVCX PSVIX ASVPX ANFVX	ADMIN: C: INST:	PNBAX ALNFX PNBCX ANVIX ALCPX VAAGX	A: C: INST: P:	AZMAX AZMCX AZMIX AZMPX	A: ADMIN: C: INST: P: R6:	AFJAX AIVAX AFJCX ANJIX AFVPX ANAVX	A: INST: P:	ASUAX ASTNX ASTPX
BENCHMARK											
Russell Midcap® Russell 1000® Value Index		<sup>®</sup> Value Russell Index	Russell 2000® Value Index Russell 1000® Value Index			Emerging is Index (net)	MSCI AG USA Ind	C World ex ex (net)	World I Index 2	: MSCI AC ndex (net) :: Dow Jones ability World net)	

### **GLOSSARY**



**Dividend/Share Growth** – On a portfolio level, this statistic measures the trailing dividends/share growth of a portfolio's holdings.

Earnings/Share Growth - Measures the trailing earnings and/or earnings estimates per share growth of a portfolio's holdings, as indicated.

**Price-to-Earnings Ratio** ("P/E") is a valuation ratio of a company's current share price to its per-share earnings. The higher the P/E ratio, the more the market is willing to pay for each dollar of annual earnings.

**ROA (Return on Assets)** is an indicator of how profitable a company is relative to its total assets. ROA gives an idea as to how efficient management is at using its assets to generate earnings.

Return on Equity is the amount of net income returned as a percentage of shareholder equity.

Sharpe Ratio is a risk-adjusted measure calculated using standard deviation and excess return to determine reward per unit of risk.

**Standard Deviation** measures variability of returns around the average return for an investment portfolio. Higher standard deviation suggests greater risk.

**Up/Down Capture Ratio** is a measure of how well a manager was able to replicate or improve on phases of positive benchmark returns and how badly the manager was impacted by phases of negative benchmark returns.

The **Russell Midcap® Value Index** is a market capitalization-weighted index of medium capitalization, value-oriented stocks of U.S. companies. The index is calculated on a total return basis with dividends reinvested. The index is unmanaged, its returns do not reflect any fees, expenses, or sales charges, and is not available for direct investment.

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**Virtus** (NYSE: VRTS) is a distinctive partnership of boutique investment managers, singularly committed to the long-term success of individual and institutional investors.

- We are not constrained by a single investment approach; rather, we provide access to independent, specialized investment philosophies through our multi-discipline, multi-strategy approach.
- We have the flexibility, agility, and responsiveness of a boutique asset management firm with similar product breadth and investment talent of our larger peers.
- We are committed to thoughtfully providing investment solutions, adhering to the highest standards of product quality, operational excellence, and fiduciary responsibility.

Please consider a Fund's investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses carefully before investing. For this and other information about any Virtus Fund, contact your financial professional, call 800-243-4361, or visit virtus.com for a prospectus or summary prospectus. Read it carefully before investing.

Not all products or marketing materials are available at all firms.

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