

# Multi-Cap Growth Portfolio

Commentary | 3Q25 | Managed Accounts

## Highlights

- The Congress Multi-Cap Growth Portfolio ("the Portfolio") returned 5.6% (net of fees) vs 8.0% for the S&P 1500 Index ("the Index") during the quarter.
- Markets continued their climb, and the Index set 22 new record highs during the quarter, benefiting from artificial intelligence ("AI") tailwinds and continued US economic strength. The Portfolio maintains exposure to multiple growth drivers and provided positive absolute returns in each month. However, we trailed the Index, particularly in August and September, on weakness in some of our holdings.
- Portfolio performance was broad-based with positive absolute returns across 6 sectors. Technology and Industrials were the largest contributors, notably our holdings with exposure to AI and AI-related spending and data center buildout. This was modestly offset by Health Care and Consumer Staples.
- We seek to invest in companies with established profitability, a history
  of earnings growth, positive free cash flow, and prudent use of debt and
  leverage.

#### Portfolio Review

- Market returns were broadly positive across market caps, fueled by continued AI-related spend, a resilient consumer, a growing US economy, and corporate earnings that exceeded expectations.
- Technology was the largest driver of absolute returns, notably Arista and NVIDIA, both of which saw strong quarterly results and benefited from continued AI and AI-related spend. In Industrials, Comfort Systems continues to benefit from data center buildout.
- Health Care was the largest absolute detractor, particularly Vericel and Boston Scientific. Vericel came under pressure as recent quarterly results fell short of expectations and was sold from the Portfolio. We believe that Boston Scientific remains fundamentally strong but the stock saw a pullback due to its valuation. In Consumer Staples, Costco reported solid same store sales and earnings growth but was hurt by valuation concerns.
- We continue to seek companies with established, durable growth profiles.
   During the quarter we updated our holdings in Financials with Toast,
   a digital technology platform for the restaurant industry. In Consumer
   Discretionary we purchased Dutch Bros, a drive-thru beverage company
   with an intensely loyal fan base. Within Utilities, we added Vistra, one of
   the largest integrated power and retail electricity providers in the US.

#### Outlook

- Despite economic and political challenges, the US economy remains fundamentally strong, aided by a resilient consumer and continued AI spend and optimism. While we believe the US economy will continue to grow, we are aware of the growing downside risks. We believe we are well-positioned and have exposure to areas of the economy with durable, long-term growth drivers.
  - We maintain our more direct AI exposure as well as "pick and shovels" holdings in Industrials (Comfort Systems, Quanta), Technology (Dell), Materials (Martin Marietta), and Energy (Cameco).
  - Within the Consumer sectors, we own companies that we expect to benefit from value-oriented spending (e.l.f Beauty, Costco) and consumers keeping vehicles longer (O'Reilly).
- We continue to believe investors may benefit from diversification, particularly in times of volatility.
  - Valuations of market cap weighted indices continue to be well-above historical averages. The forward P/E of the S&P 500 relative to its equal weight counterpart is 24% higher than the long-term average.

#### Average Annualized Performance (%) as of 9/30/2025

	QTD	QTD YTD		3 Yrs	5Yrs	10 Yrs	Since Inception (10/31/2010)	
Multi-Cap Growth Composite (Gross)	5.7	13.9	16.8	24.4	12.9	14.2	11.2	
Multi-Cap Growth Composite (Net)	5.6	13.6	16.3	24.0	12.6	13.8	10.7	
S&P 1500	8.0	14.1	16.6	24.1	16.2	14.9	11.2	

Past performance does not guarantee future results.

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# **Top 5 Contributors/Detractors**

Stock	Avg. Weight%	Stock	Avg. Weight%
Arista Networks, Inc.	3.37	Fortinet, Inc.	2.57
Comfort Systems USA, Inc.	2.61	Fair Isaac Corp.	2.13
NVIDIA Corporation	5.71	Dutch Bros, Inc.	0.38
Amphenol Corp.	4.12	Neflix, Inc.	2.89
Alphabet, Inc.	2.17	Vericel Corp.	0.90

Arista Networks, Inc. (ANET) specializes in cloud networking solutions, providing high-performance switching and routing platforms alongside a suite of network applications. ANET delivered strong quarterly results and raised its 2025 revenue growth outlook from 17% to 25%, driven by accelerating demand. Notably, Arista projected that AI-related networking revenue is anticipated to surpass \$1.5 billion for the year, highlighting its growing role in supporting next-generation infrastructure.

Comfort Systems USA, Inc. (FIX) is a national provider of mechanical and HVAC services. In the second quarter, FIX reported record backlog, revenue, and earnings, with particularly strong bookings in the technology sector—due to both traditional and modular construction for data centers. Management noted that project pipelines remain at historically high levels, and the company continues to invest in capacity expansion, productivity improvements, and building automation to meet growing demand from its technology-focused customers.

**NVIDIA Corporation (NVDA)** is a global leader in accelerated computing and AI GPUs, which power data centers, cloud platforms, and edge applications. During the quarter, the stock rose steadily as investor confidence strengthened around the durability of AI infrastructure spending and NVDA's dominant position as one of the leading providers of merchant AI accelerators. This was reinforced by growing adoption of its GB200 platform and increasing demand from hyperscale cloud providers.

Fortinet, Inc. (FTNT) is a global cybersecurity leader offering a broad range of network security solutions for enterprises and service providers. We see FTNT as a market leader in network security with a sticky customer base and significant opportunities in cloud security as existing clients move to hybrid and cloud-based architectures. Underperformance this quarter was the result of decreasing margins due to higher operating expenses and deteriorating sales growth for next generation products.

**Bottom 5 Contributors/Detractors** 

Fair Isaac Corp. (FICO) provides data analytics solutions and is best known for its flagship credit score, which is widely used to assess consumer creditworthiness. We believe FICO is a monopoly with strong pricing power and no viable competitor. FICO benefits from being deeply engrained in the lending industry as its score is an important part of the mortgage initiation process and in the secondary market as these loans are securitized. Underperformance was due to the Federal Housing Finance Agency allowing Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to leverage Vantage Score alongside the FICO score when underwriting mortgages.

**Dutch Bros, Inc. (BROS)** is a U.S.-based drive-thru beverage company offering a wide range of specialty coffees, signature energy drinks, and custom beverages, with a strong focus on speed and positive customer service. BROS continued to deliver better-than-expected same-store sales; however, concerns about increasing competition and potential weakening consumer financial health weighed on the stock in the second half of the quarter.

# **Portfolio Activity**

Purchases	Sector	Sales	Sector	
Toast, Inc.	Financials	Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc.	Health Care	
Dutch Bros, Inc.	Consumer Discretionary	Vericel Corporation	Health Care	
Vistra Corp.	Utilities	Kinsale Capital Group, Inc.	Financials	
		The Trade Desk, Inc.	Communication Services	

Toast, Inc. (TOST) is a cloud-based digital technology platform designed specifically for the restaurant industry, offering both hardware and software as a service. The platform has been widely adopted by restaurants seeking to streamline operations and capitalize on incremental sales opportunities such as pickup, delivery, and catering. In our view, TOST has significant growth potential, particularly through expansion into larger enterprise customers and international markets. With continued new customer adoption and strong retention of existing clients, we believe the company is positioned for top-line growth and margin expansion.

**Dutch Bros, Inc. (BROS)** is a U.S.-based drive-thru beverage company offering a wide variety of specialty coffees, signature energy drinks, and

Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc. (TMO) provides instruments and services to the life sciences industry. TMO's end markets have come under pressure due to several headwinds, including tariffs and reduced academic and government research funding. The position was sold to reduce the Portfolio's exposure to the life sciences sector.

**Vericel Corp. (VCEL)** is a leading provider of cell therapies for cartilage repair and skin replacement, with a focus on the sports medicine and burn care markets. VCEL has come under pressure following quarterly results that fell short of investor expectations. The position was sold due to concerns that VCEL's growth may not reaccelerate in the near term.

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other custom beverages, with a historically strong emphasis on speed and customer service. BROS operates a scalable and efficient business model with significant room for expansion. BROS plans to grow its footprint in untapped markets across the U.S. and is still in the early stages of adding food to its menu. Its customer service–driven culture has cultivated an intensely loyal fan base, leading to strong same–store sales and giving new locations an immediate advantage, in our view.

Vistra Corp. (VST) is one of the largest integrated power producers and retail electricity providers in the US, operating a diverse fleet of generation assets across natural gas, nuclear, solar, coal, and battery storage. We believe VST offers unique exposure to rising Texas power demand and grid volatility through its dominant ERCOT gas generation footprint, and its ability to deploy capital towards expanding nuclear, solar, and battery assets should enhance earnings stability and long-term growth potential.

Kinsale Capital Group, Inc. (KNSL) is a property and casualty insurance company that operates exclusively in the U.S. excess and surplus (E&S) lines market. Demand for its products has moderated, with gross written premium growth slowing from double-digit to high single-digit levels. Additionally, competitive pressures have increased as more insurers have entered the E&S market. As a result, the position was sold.

Trade Desk, Inc. (TTD) operates an online advertising platform that manages campaigns across multiple channels. The company reported weaker-than-expected second-quarter 2025 results and, at the same time, announced that its CFO would transition to a non-executive role. This development heightened ongoing concerns about operational dysfunction and potential market share loss—especially in light of Amazon's accelerating ad business and newly announced partnership with Netflix.



### Congress Asset Management Co. Multi-Cap Growth Composite 1/1/2015 - 12/31/2024

Year	Total Return Gross of Fees %	Total Return Net of Fees %		Russell 3000 Growth % (dividends reinvested)	Composite Gross 3-Yr annualized ex-post St Dev (%)	S&P Composite 1500 3-Yr annualized ex-post St Dev (%)	S&P 500 3-Yr annualized ex-post St Dev (%)	Number of Portfolios	Gross Dispersion %	Total Composite Assets End of Period (\$millions)	Total Firm Discretionary Assets End of Period (\$millions)	Total Firm Advisory- Only Assets End of Period (\$ millions)	Total Firm Assets End of Period # (\$millions)
2024	20.8	20.4	24.0	32.5	21.1	17.3	20.3	28	0.65	365	14,207	9,471	23,678
2023	30.2	29.9	25.5	41.2	20.9	17.4	20.3	29	0.53	325	12,146	8,514	20,660
2022	-27.5	-27.7	-17.8	-29.0	24.2	21.1	23.4	32	0.45	287	10,083	6,799	16,882
2021	22.6	22.1	28.5	28.7	19.2	17.5	17.2	34	0.64	403	12,778	8,018	20,796
2020	39.6	39.1	17.9	18.4	20.7	18.9	18.5	30	0.81	324	10,746	5,523	16,269
2019	33.4	32.9	30.9	31.5	13.4	12.1	11.9	27	0.80	242	8,445	4,083	12,528
2018	-3.4	-3.8	-5.0	-4.4	12.4	11.0	10.8	23	0.32	187	7,102	3,132	10,234
2017	25.4	24.9	21.1	21.8	10.3	9.9	9.9	23	0.51	215	7,272	3,274	10,546
2016	0.5	O.1	13.0	12.0	11.4	10.7	10.6	6	n/a	131	5,693	2,445	8,139
2015	2.7	2.3	1.0	1.4	10.8	10.5	10.5	≤5	n/a	135	5,941	1,153	7,094

#The "Total Firm Assets" column includes unified managed account (UMA) assets

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Composite Characteristics: The creation and inception date of the Multi-Cap Growth Composite is July 1, 2003, which reflects the first full month an account was fully invested in the strategy and met the inclusion criteria. The composite includes all fully discretionary portfolios with a value over \$100 thousand (US dollars) managed in the multi cap growth style for a minimum of one full month. The multi-cap growth strategy invests in the equity of high-quality companies with market capitalizations over \$500 million exhibiting consistent earnings growth. Accounts with wrap commissions are excluded from the composite. Prior to January 1, 2016, the composite minimum was \$500 thousand (US dollars). The primary composite benchmark is the S&P Composite 1500 Index and the S&P Sol Index is a supplemental index. Effective April 1, 2021, the Multi-Cap Growth Composite benchmark was changed retroactively from the Russell 3000 Growth Index to the S&P Composite 1500 Index in order to better represent the investable universe. The benchmark returns are not covered by the report of independent verifiers. Closed account data is included in the composite as mandated by the standards in order to eliminate a survivorship bias. The % of the composite represented by non-fee-paying accounts at annual period end was 1% in 2008. A list of composite descriptions, a list of broad distribution pooled funds, and a list of limited distribution pooled fund descriptions are available upon request.

Calculation Methodology: Valuations and returns are computed and stated in U.S. dollars. Gross of fees returns are calculated gross of management and custodial fees and net of transaction costs. Prior to 2007 net of fees returns were calculated by reducing gross returns by 1/4th of the highest management fee in the Multi-Cap Growth Composite, which was 0.63%, applied quarterly. Effective January 1, 2007, net of fees returns are calculated using actual management fees. The composite results portrayed reflect the reinvestment of dividends, capital gains, and other earnings when appropriate. Accruals for equity securities are included in calculations. Internal dispersion is calculated using the asset-weighted standard deviation of annual gross-of-fees returns of those portfolios that were included in the composite for the entire year. For those years when less than six portfolios were included in the composite for the full year, no dispersion measure is presented. The three-year annualized ex-post standard deviation measures the variability of the composite, and the benchmark returns over the preceding 36-month period.

Fee Schedule: The firms' individual account fee schedule is as follows: 1.00% for the first \$1 million, 0.80% for next \$4 million, 0.60% for next \$5 million. Management fees for individual accounts with assets under management exceeding \$10 million, and for institutional accounts are negotiated. The individual account fee schedule may be subject to negotiation where circumstances warrant. As fees are deducted quarterly, the compounding effect will increase the impact of the fees by an amount directly related to the gross account performance. For example, an account earning a 10% annual gross return with a 1% annual fee deducted quarterly would earn an 8.9% annual net return due to compounding.

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Large Companies Risk: The securities of large-capitalization companies may be relatively mature compared to smaller companies and therefore subject to slower growth during times of economic expansion. Large-capitalization companies may also be unable to respond quickly to new competitive challenges, such as changes in technology and consumer tastes.

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