# SMID GROWTH STRATEGY

## Strategy Inception 4/1/2017



Managed Accounts | 4Q 2024

### Firm Overview

Founded	1985
Investment Professionals	27
Total Strategy Assets*	\$969mm
Enterprise Assets*	\$23.7bn

<sup>\*</sup>Totals include model management assets.

### **Key Investment Tenets**



- Positive revenue and earnings growth
- Strong competitive position in stable, expanding industry
- Positive earnings
- Free cash flow positive
- Established profit margins
- Management focused on core business and aligned with stakeholders' interests
- Prudent use of debt and leverage
- Valuation

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Evaluate relative to history, peers, and	
economic conditions	

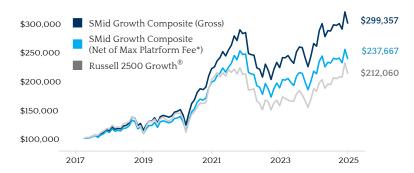
Characteristics	SMid Growth Composite	Russell 2500 Growth®		
P/E Trailing 12 months	30.7x	24.8x		
5-Yr EPS Growth Rate %	22.0	15.7		
Return on Equity %	23.1	12.3		
Long Term Debt/Capital %	32.8	48.5		
Active Share %	93.8			
Market Cap (Wtd Avg)	\$11.4bn	7.3bn		
Number of Equity Holdings**	43	1,292		
1 Yr. Turnover %	23.6			

Risk/Return 4/1/2017 - 12/31/2024	SMid Growth Composite (Gross)	SMid Growth Composite (Net of Max Plat- form Fee*)	Russell 2500 Growth <sup>©</sup>	
Standard Deviation	19.45	19.45	21.37	
Beta	0.87	0.87	1.00	
Sharpe Ratio	0.71	0.55	0.45	
Alpha	5.35	2.35		
Up Capture Ratio	98.1	92.8	100.0	
Down Capture Ratio	78.9	84.1	100.0	

### **Portfolio Construction**

- 35 to 45 securities
- Market Capitalization at Initial Purchase between \$400 mm and \$30 bn
- Industry exposure not to exceed 25% and no more than 5% to any one security, in general
- Fully invested with a cash allocation not in excess of 5%, in general
- Average annual turnover of 25-50%

## Growth of \$100,000 4/1/2017 through 12/31/2024



## Average Annualized Performance % as of 12/31/2024

	QTD	YTD	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	Since Inception 4/1/2017
SMid Growth Composite (Gross)	0.0	13.0	13.0	1.8	15.3	15.2
SMid Growth Composite (Net of Max PlaformFee*)	-0.8	9.7	9.7	-1.2	11.9	11.8
Russell 2500 Growth®	2.4	13.9	13.9	0.0	8.1	10.2

\*Net Performance includes a fee of 3.0%, applied monthly. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

Data is as of 12/31/2024. Sources throughout this presentation: Congress Asset Management, Bloomberg, Russell Investments, and Morningstar Direct. Performance is preliminary and subject to change at any time. \*\*Based on Model Portfolio When calculating Return on Equity, 5 Year EPS Growth Rate, and Long Term Debt /Capital, the adviser removed outliers in the data.

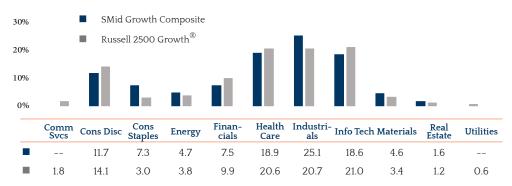
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## Top 10 Holdings as of 12/31/2024

Total:	32.1
AZEK Co., Inc.	2.7
Summit Materials, Inc.	2.8
Tractor Supply Co.	2.8
BJ's Wholesale Club Holdings, Inc.	2.9
Williams-Sonoma, Inc.	2.9
PTC, Inc.	2.9
SPS Commerce, Inc.	3.2
Curtiss-Wright Corp.	3.5
CyberArk Software Ltd.	4.1
Comfort Systems USA, Inc.	4.4

## GICS Sector Allocation vs. Benchmark % ex Cash as of 12/31/2024



Actual client account holdings and sector allocations may vary. <sup>1</sup>2.34% Cash and/or cash equivalents.

<b>Investment Committee</b>	Company Tenure
Nancy Huynh Committee Chair	1998
Dan Lagan, CFA Committee Co-Chair	1989
Matt Lagan, CFA	2003
Ryan Tumbry, CFA	2001
Aaron Fellows, CFA	2017

The Russell 2500 Growth Index measures the performance of those Russell 2500® Index companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values. The performance data includes reinvested dividends. An investor cannot invest directly in an index. P/E Ratio is the ratio of a company's share price to the company earnings per share. Weighted Average Market Capitalization represents the average value of the companies held in the portfolio. When that figure is weighted, the impact of each company's capitalization on the overall average is proportional to the total market value of its shares. Return on Equity is equal to a company's net income for a full fiscal year, divided by total shareholder equity. 5-Year EPS Growth is the average predicted annual earnings growth over the next five years based on estimates provided to Factset. Active Share is a measure of the stock holdings in a portfolio that differ from the stated benchmark index. Long Term Debt to Capital is a solvency measure that shows the degree of financial leverage a firm takes on. Standard Deviation is a measure of the dispersion of a set of data from its mean. It is used by investors as a gauge for the amount of expected volatility. Sharp e Ratio is a risk-adjusted measure, calculated using standard deviation and excess return to determine reward per unit of risk. The higher the Sharpe Ratio, the better the portfolio's historical adjusted performance. Alpha is a measure of the difference between actual returns and expected performance, given the level of risk as measured by Beta, where Beta measures sensitivity to benchmark movements. Beta is a measure of the volatility, or systematic risk, of a security or a portfolio in comparison to the entire market or a benchmark. Upside Capture ratio measures the manager's overall performance to the benchmark's overall performance, considering only months that are positive in the benchmark. An Upside Capture Ratio of more than 100% indicates a manager who outperforms the relative benchmark in the benchmark's positive months. Downside Capture ratio is the ratio of the manager's overall performance to the benchmark's overall performance, considering only months that are negative in the benchmark. A Downside Capture Ratio of less than 100% indicates a manager who outperforms the relative benchmark in the benchmark's negative months and protects more of a portfolio's value during down markets.

### Congress Asset Management Co. SMid Growth Composite 4/1/2017 - 12/31/2023

Year	Total Return Gross of Fees%	Total Return Net of Fees3%	Russell 2500 Growth Return % (dividends reinvested)	Composite Gross 3-Yr annualized ex-post St Dev (%)	Russell 2500 Growth 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)
2023	18.8	15.3	18.9	19.8	21.0	195	0.56	173	12,146	8,514	20,660
2022	-21.5	-23.8	-26.2	22.8	25.2	158	0.51	96	10,083	6,799	16,882
2021	28.4	24.6	5.0	18.5	22.0	98	0.91	79	12,778	8,018	20,796
2020	50.3	46.0	40.5	20.7	23.9	47	0.62	55	10,746	5,523	16,269
2019	28.7	25.0	32.7	n/a	n/a	14	n/a	37	8,445	4,083	12,528
2018	1.3	-1.7	-7.5	n/a	n/a	≤5	n/a	27	7,102	3,132	10,234
3/31/17- 12/31/17	12.8	10.3	17.1	n/a	n/a	≤5	n/a	35	7,272	3,274	10,546

### SMID GROWTH COMPOSITE DISCLOSURE

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

Congress Asset Management claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. Congress Asset Management has been independently verified for the periods 1/1/96 – 12/31/23. The verification report(s) is/are available upon request. A firm that claims compliance with the GIPS standards must establish policies and procedure for complying with all the applicable requirements of the GIPS standards. Verification provides assurance on whether the firm's policies and procedures related to composite and pooled fund maintenance, as well as the calculation, presentation, and distribution of performance, have been designed in compliance with the GIPS standards and have been implemented on a firm-wide basis. Verification does not provide assurance on the accuracy of any specific performance report.

Firm Information: Congress Asset Management Co. (CAM) is an investment advisor registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. Registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training. CAM manages a variety of public equity, private equity, fixed income, and ETF managed portfolios for private and institutional clients. CAM acquired Prelude Asset Management, LLC on March 15, 2010. CAM merged with Congress Capital Partners, LLP on June 30, 2015. CAM acquired certain strategies of Century Capital Management, LLC on September 15, 2017.

Composite Characteristics: The creation and inception date of the SMid Growth Composite is April 1, 2017, 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 SMid growth style for a minimum of one full month. The SMid growth strategy invests in the equity of high-quality companies with market capitalizations between \$300 million and \$20 billion (at the time of purchase) exhibiting consistent earnings growth. Accounts with wrap commissions are excluded from the composite. The primary composite benchmark is the Russell 2500 Growth Index. The benchmark returns are not covered by the report of the independent verifiers. Closed account data is included in the composite as mandated by the standards in order to eliminate a survivorship bias. 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. Net of fees performance reflects the deduction of a maximum annual model delivery fee of 3%, or 0.25% monthly. 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. It is not presented prior to 2016 because 36-month returns were not available.

Other Disclosures: Policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS Reports are available upon request. Past performance does not guarantee future results. This performance report should not be construed as a recommendation to purchase or sell any particular securities held in composite accounts. Market conditions can vary widely over time and can result in a loss of portfolio value. GIPS® is a registered trademark of CFA Institute. CFA Institute does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contained herein.

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There is no guarantee that the model portfolio will continue to hold any particular security and securities are held in varying percentages. Holdings are subject to change since the portfolio is actively managed. Holdings are intended to illustrate the composition and characteristics. Across client portfolios, there may be variations in holdings, characteristics and performance information as dictated by reasons such as diversification needs, specific client guidelines, account size, cash flows, the timing and terms of execution of trades, and differing tax situations.

This strategy involves risk, may not be profitable, may not achieve its objective, and may not be suitable or appropriate for all investors. Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, and fees of this strategy carefully with their financial professional before investing. Principal loss is possible. Past strategy returns are dependent on the market and economic conditions that existed during the period. Future market or economic conditions can adversely affect the returns. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

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