NCG Next Century Growth Investors

2Q24 NCG PERFORMANCE COMMENTARY

Market Review

In the second quarter of 2024, equity markets were a mixed bag. Large cap indices generally posted positive results while small cap indices were generally negative. April was negative across the board, May bounced back to be positive, and June was mixed. The debate right now revolves around the timing of the first rate cut and the number of cuts in 2024. Economic data continues to be solid and inflation, while much lower than 12-18 months ago, remains elevated. Employment trends remain healthy but have shown signs of softening. These issues remain key focus areas for the Fed and complicate their decision-making process and messaging to the markets. Our philosophy, process and team remain consistent, and we continue to invest in what we believe are the fastest growing and highest quality companies in America. Please see the performance table for details.

Market breadth remains a highly discussed topic. Overall, large cap stocks continue to outperform small cap stocks, a trend that has persisted for the better part of the last decade. Through 2Q 2024, the Russell 1000 Growth Index has delivered a 10-year annualized return of 16.32% vs the Russell 2000 Growth and Microcap Growth Indexes at 7.28% and 3.61%, respectively. In the first half of 2024, the Russell 1000 Index was up 14.2% and the Russell 2000 Index was up 1.7%. This is the 6th worst relative performance for small caps vs large caps on record during the first half of a calendar year. Part of the difference in performance relates to healthy business fundamentals of large cap companies, which we think can be sustained. But we also believe there is opportunity building for our smaller cap strategies. In prior instances of extreme small cap underperformance in the first half, small cap stocks have on average experienced both positive absolute and relative performance in the second half. In addition, small cap stocks are trading at 20-year relative low valuations levels vs large caps, and historically small caps have generally outperformed large caps following the first Fed rate cut and for a sustained period afterward.

We are monitoring potential growth headwinds in this choppy macro environment, but we also continue to own companies that we believe have strong growth fundamentals currently and into the future. While the Russell 1000 Growth Index continues to post all-time highs, all the small cap growth stock benchmarks we use are still down roughly 20% from all-time highs in 2021 and valuations are reasonable. We look forward to the upcoming June quarter earnings reports and forward guidance updates to gain additional data points on individual companies and overall economic health.

Portfolio Review

Our investment philosophy emphasizes direct research and adhering to a strong sell discipline. We strive to own companies that we believe can grow revenue and profits at strong rates in any economic and market environment. We feel we have the opportunity, if we pick the right stocks, to perform better than the index in all market environments. However, we do not outperform in every quarter or every year, and in the second quarter, we underperformed in all strategies except the micro cap and smid cap (net of fees). In these environments, we believe our team must remain committed to our philosophy and process. Our strategies have been tested over multiple decades and many different market and macro environments, and our team has been together through most of that time. Sticking with our discipline amidst challenging market conditions has helped us outperform since inception in all strategies.

For the quarter, our large cap strategy outperformed in consumer discretionary and health care and underperformed in industrials, technology, and consumer staples. In small cap, we outperformed in health care and industrials and underperformed in financials and consumer. The smid cap outperformed in health care, technology, and industrials and underperformed in financials, consumer, and real estate. Our micro cap strategy outperformed in health care and technology and underperformed in consumer discretionary.

Market Outlook

We believe the future direction of the market will depend on the path of the economy and the direction of earnings estimates. While the timing of the first rate cut is uncertain, the Fed is leaning toward a more accommodative position which could lead to a better environment for small cap stocks, while also leaving room for continued earnings growth for large cap companies. We also believe there is an opportunity building for small cap stocks due to attractive valuations and the underperformance vs large cap stocks over the years. We do not believe in trying to time this dynamic and are positioning for this now. Our experienced and stable team has worked through many of these environments over the past 25 years, and we believe we can lean on our experience of bottom-up stock picking to navigate this market as well. As always, we will stay focused on our core investment philosophy. We believe a portfolio of high-quality growth companies, selected using our original research, and combined with a strong sell discipline will lead to compounding of portfolio value and market outperformance over time. We believe our long-term investment results continue to support this approach.

Next Century Growth Investors Compound annual returns as of 06/30/2024	**2Q24**	**YTD**	**Latest 1 Year**	**Latest 3 Year**	**Latest 5 Year**	**Latest 10 Year**	**Inception^ To Date**
Large Cap Growth Composite (%) (net of fees)	5.65	19.55	30.49	10.39	19.16	16.56	10.98
Russell 1000® Growth Index (%)	8.33	20.70	33.48	11.28	19.34	16.32	8.43
Small Cap Growth Composite (%) (net of fees)	(3.32)	5.72	-0.83	-2.07	14.92	12.99	10.63
Russell 2000® Growth Index (%)	(2.91)	4.44	9.13	-4.86	6.16	7.38	6.79
Micro Cap Growth Composite (%) (net of fees)	(0.95)	5.73	(3.74)	-5.46	16.78	17.68	16.84
Russell Microcap® Growth Index (%)	(5.56)	0.66	2.49	(13.57)	2.91	3.61	7.46
Smicro Cap Growth (%) (net of fees)	(3.52)	5.87	-0.46	-2.64	15.77	14.55	16.04
Russell 2000® Growth Index (%)	(2.91)	4.44	9.13	-4.86	6.16	7.38	9.98
SMID Cap Growth Composite (%) (net of fees)	(3.31)	6.93	0.61	-1.72	15.00	12.52	7.28
Russell 2500™ Growth Index (%)	(4.21)	3.93	9.02	-4.11	7.57	8.77	6.15

NCG SMALL CAP 2Q24 REVIEW

	QTD	YTD	1 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	Since Inception*
				Annualized			
Small Cap Growth (%) (Net of fees)	**(3.32)**	**5.72**	**(0.83)**	**(2.07)**	**14.92**	**12.99**	**10.63**
Russell 2000® Growth Index (%)	(2.91)	4.44	9.13	(4.86)	6.16	7.38	6.79

*Inception 1/1/1999

We purchased thirteen new positions: PAR, ENFN, CRDO, COHR, FTAI, AAON, STRL, LOAR, SDHC, BROS, UTI, PRCT, AORT.

In technology, we purchased PAR Technology (PAR), Enfusion (ENFN), Credo Technology (CRDO), Coherent (COHR).

PAR is a software company with a modern platform for enterprise restaurant chains, with offerings for point-of-sale, online ordering, loyalty, and back-office operations, among others. A potential software upgrade cycle is underway in the industry as restaurants feel pressured to upgrade their systems to evolve with consumer preferences and increase operating efficiencies, and PAR is well-positioned to benefit with their modern platform competing against legacy on-premise solutions.

ENFN is a software company with a modern order execution management and portfolio accounting solution for asset managers. The addressable market is large and ripe for disruption as it is dominated by legacy competition with outdated technology. We believe the company is set up for healthy revenue growth and margin expansion in the years ahead.

CRDO is a semiconductor company focused on high-speed connectivity in the data infrastructure market, primarily the data center market. CRDO's products enable higher data connectivity speeds with improved power efficiency, and CRDO is seeing accelerated adoption as these products are helping to enable next-generation AI data centers.

COHR is a market leader in engineered materials, optoelectronic components, and lasers for use across various end markets, with attractive growth opportunities in areas such as the data center and electric vehicles. COHR recently hired a new CEO with a track record of enhancing business strategy to deliver consistent revenue growth and margin expansion, and we believe he has the opportunity to do the same at COHR.

In industrials, we purchased FTAI Aviation (FTAI), AAON, Inc (AAON), Sterling Infrastructure (STRL) Loar Holdings (LOAR).

FTAI is an aftermarket aerospace company focused on engine repair and maintenance for commercial airlines. They have carved out a strong competitive position in the CFM56 engine, which is one of the largest commercial aftermarket opportunities, and they recently added the V2500 engine to their addressable market. We believe the aerospace aftermarket will continue to experience strong demand, allowing FTAI to deliver strong revenue and profit growth.

AAON is a leading provider of premium HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) equipment for commercial rooftops. The company has benefitted from strong demand in K-12, manufacturing, healthcare, and data centers, among others, and there are regulatory and end market drivers that should sustain demand. AAON has grown market share from 3% to 12% over the last 7-8 years, and the company believes it can eventually reach 20% plus.

STRL is a construction and infrastructure services provider for the buildout of data centers, manufacturing facilities, warehouses, transportation, and residential and commercial buildings. Over the years, the company improved their financial performance by shifting focus to higher growth end markets which allowed for better visibility and project economics. We believe revenue growth and margin expansion should continue as end market tailwinds persist.

LOAR specializes in the design, manufacture, and sale of niche aerospace and defense (A&D) components across >250 aircraft platforms. 80-90% of their products are proprietary to LOAR, which leads to sticky relationships with OEM and aftermarket customers. A&D demand has been strong and we expect it to continue. We believe LOAR will continue growing by adding new products organically, maintaining pricing above inflation, and executing on selective M&A.

In consumer, we purchased Smith Douglas Homes (SDHC), Dutch Bros (BROS), Universal Technical Institute (UTI).

SDHC is a single-family homebuilder, primarily focused on the entry-level buyer. The company went public in January of this year. SDHC offers a strong value proposition to prospective buyers with the ability for home customizations and a below average market price point. With favorable demographics and low existing home inventory due to a high percentage of existing homes being locked in at mortgage rates significantly below current market levels, SDHC is well-positioned to capture demand from the entry-level buyer.

BROS is an Oregon-based operational and franchising drive-through shop focused on hand crafted beverages. They have found success in a small footprint format in rural and suburban areas. The current geographic focus has primarily been on the west coast, but we feel this is a concept that could be successful nationwide with an eventual store base in excess of 4000 units.

UTI is a for-profit education company focused on skilled trades, transportation, and healthcare. The company has over 30 campuses and the education programs are delivered in a hybrid model of on campus and online. The company is experiencing strong demand given a healthy job market and solid wages in their areas of focus. We believe the company can capitalize on this demand by opening new campuses, growing within existing programs, and adding new programs over time.

In health care, we purchased PROCEPT BioRobotics (PRCT) and Artivion (AORT).

PRCT is a medical device company that has developed and is on the market with a robotic therapy for the treatment of BPH (benign prostatic hyperplasia). We believe PRCT has significant growth opportunity by not only taking share in the existing BPH market but by expanding the number of BPH patients treated each year and expanding into new indications, such as prostate cancer treatment, over time.

AORT is a medical device company with a vast portfolio of market-leading products that treat patients with aortic disease. AORT has historically generated solid organic revenue growth, positive profit margins, and positive cash flow, and we believe the company is on the verge of seeing accelerating business growth as the company's development pipeline of innovative products converts into approved products over the coming years.

Due to our sell discipline, we exited twelve positions: RYAN, SPT, TMCI, DV, AEHR, TCMD, WK, GLOB, KNX, PWR, BRZE, GSHD. In general, we sell to zero when our research uncovers a change in our original investment thesis, valuation is extended, or we are replacing a name with a more attractive investment opportunity.

SECTOR WEIGHTS*

	Small Cap Growth	Russell 2000 Growth Index
Technology	31%	22%
Industrials	27%	22%
Health Care	20%	21%
Consumer Discretionary	6%	12%
Consumer Staples	4%	4%
Basic Materials	4%	3%
Financials	3%	5%
Energy	1%	5%
Real Estate	0%	1%
Telecommunications	0%	1%
Utilities	0%	2%
Cash	4%	0%

ATTRIBUTION*

Contributors	Detractors
• Top 3 contributors to absolute performance: TMDX, NSSC, MTSI • NCG's holdings in health care and industrial outperformed	• Top 3 detractors to absolute performance: SPT, KNSL, FLYW • NCG's holdings in financials and consumer underperformed

**As of 06/30/2024*

NCG MICRO CAP 2Q24 REVIEW

				Annualized			
	QTD	YTD	1 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	Since Inception*
Micro Cap Growth (%) (Net of fees)	**(0.95)**	**5.73**	**(3.74)**	**(5.46)**	**16.78**	**17.68**	**16.84**
Russell Microcap® Growth Index (%)	(5.56)	0.66	2.49	(13.57)	2.91	3.61	7.46

**Inception 1/1/2003*

We purchased nine new positions: MAMA, UTI, LINC, USAP, ORN, PAR, AIP, AORT, BOW

In consumer, we purchased Mama's Creations (MAMA), Universal Technical Institute (UTI), Lincoln Educational Services (LINC).

MAMA engages in the marketing, manufacturing, and distribution of beef meatballs with sauce, turkey meatballs with sauce, beef meat loaf, sausage and peppers, chicken parmesan, and other similar meats and sauces. Its brands include MamaMancini's, Creative Salads, and The Olive Branch. With a new CEO on board and a much-improved corporate structure, the company has been able to take share in the ready-to-eat food segment and has several new product launches and partnership initiatives that could drive accelerated growth.

UTI is a for-profit education company focused on skilled trades, transportation, and healthcare. The company has over 30 campuses and the education programs are delivered in a hybrid model of on campus and online. The company is experiencing strong demand given a healthy job market and solid wages in their areas of focus. We believe the company can capitalize on this demand by opening new campuses, growing within existing programs, and adding new programs over time.

LINC is a for-profit education company focused on auto, healthcare, and skilled trades. The company has over 20 campuses and the education programs are delivered in a hybrid model of on campus and online. The company is experiencing strong demand given a healthy job market and solid wages in their areas of focus. We believe the company can capitalize on this demand by opening new campuses, growing within existing programs, and adding new programs over time.

In industrials, we purchased Universal Stainless & Alloy Products (USAP) and Orion Group Holdings (ORN).

USAP is a leading manufacturer of specialty steel products for use in aerospace, energy, heavy equipment, and general industrial. We believe USAP is a beneficiary of the strength in the commercial aerospace market, and they have been winning market share with new products and additional customer approvals.

ORN is a leading provider of marine construction services and vertical concrete construction. In marine, they are a leader in enabling the buildout, expansion, and maintenance of ports in the United States. ORN's size, scale, and ability to maintain and grow their equipment fleet relative to a highly fragmented end market allows them to drive growth and profits. There are numerous government and military spending initiatives within the marine segment so the growth outlook should remain strong.

In technology, we purchased PAR Technology (PAR) and Arteris (AIP).

PAR is a software company with a modern platform for enterprise restaurant chains, with offerings for point-of-sale, online ordering, loyalty, and back-office operations, among others. A potential software upgrade cycle is underway in the industry as restaurants feel pressured to upgrade their systems to evolve with consumer preferences and increase operating efficiencies, and PAR is well-positioned to benefit with their modern platform competing against legacy on-premise solutions.

AIP is a leading provider of semiconductor system IP technology, which is used by companies to help develop their own semiconductor devices. AIP is seeing secular growth from an increasing number of companies developing semiconductor devices in the auto and data center end markets, which we believe, along with an enhanced business model, will enable the company to deliver strong and predictable revenue growth and positive cash flow going forward.

In health care, we purchased Artivion (AORT).

AORT is a medical device company with a vast portfolio of market-leading products that treat patients with aortic disease. AORT has historically generated solid organic revenue growth, positive profit margins, and positive cash flow, and we believe the company is on the verge of seeing accelerating business growth as the company's development pipeline of innovative products converts into approved products over the coming years.

In financials, we purchased Bowhead Specialty Holdings.

BOW is a specialty P&C insurance carrier with a focus on the E&S market, a part of the market that has historically generated higher growth and higher returns than the admitted market. BOW is lead by an experienced management team with a proven and successful track record in the insurance industry, and we believe the company can generate strong 20% business growth and high returns as they execute on the business strategy.

Due to our sell discipline, we exited five positions: SPT, TMCI, EVLV, AUGX, AEHR. In general, we sell to zero when our research uncovers a change in our original investment thesis, valuation is extended, or we are replacing a name with a more attractive investment opportunity.

SECTOR WEIGHTS*

	Micro Cap Growth	Russell Microcap Growth Index
Technology	27%	14%
Health Care	27%	33%
Industrials	27%	21%
Consumer Discretionary	10%	11%
Consumer Staples	4%	4%
Basic Materials	2%	3%
Financials	2%	6%
Energy	0%	3%
Real Estate	0%	1%

Telecommunications	0%	3%
Utilities	0%	2%
Cash	1%	0%

ATTRIBUTION*

Contributors	Detractors
• Top 3 contributors to absolute performance: TMDX, INOD, NSSC • NCG'S holdings in health care and technology outperformed	• Top 3 detractors to absolute performance: SPT, FLYW, KRUS • NCG's holdings in consumer discretionary underperformed

**As of 06/30/2024*

NCG SMID Cap 2Q24 Review

					Annualized		
	QTD	YTD	1 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	Since Inception*
SMID Cap Growth (%) (Net of fees)	**(3.31)**	**6.93**	**0.61**	**(1.72)**	**15.00**	**12.52**	**7.28**
Russell 2500™ Growth Index (%)	(4.21)	3.93	9.02	(4.11)	7.57	8.77	6.15

*Inception 4/1/2000

We purchased eleven new positions: PAR, ENFN, CRDO, COHR, FTAI, AAON, STRL, LOAR, SDHC, BROS, PRCT.

In technology, we purchased PAR Technology (PAR), Enfusion (ENFN), Credo Technology (CRDO), Coherent (COHR).

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CRDO is a semiconductor company focused on high-speed connectivity in the data infrastructure market, primarily the data center market. CRDO's products enable higher data connectivity speeds with improved power efficiency, and CRDO is seeing accelerated adoption as these products are helping to enable next-generation AI data centers.

COHR is a market leader in engineered materials, optoelectronic components, and lasers for use across various end markets, with attractive growth opportunities in areas such as the data center and electric vehicles. COHR recently hired a new CEO with a track record of enhancing business strategy to deliver consistent revenue growth and margin expansion, and we believe he has the opportunity to do the same at COHR.

In industrials, we purchased FTAI Aviation (FTAI), AAON, Inc (AAON), Sterling Infrastructure (STRL) Loar Holdings (LOAR).

FTAI is an aftermarket aerospace company focused on engine repair and maintenance for commercial airlines. They have carved out a strong competitive position in the CFM56 engine, which is one of the largest commercial aftermarket opportunities, and they recently added the V2500 engine to their addressable market. We believe the aerospace aftermarket will continue to experience strong demand, allowing FTAI to deliver strong revenue and profit growth.

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STRL is a construction and infrastructure services provider for the buildout of data centers, manufacturing facilities, warehouses, transportation, and residential and commercial buildings. Over the years, the company improved their financial performance by shifting focus to higher growth end markets which allowed for better visibility and project economics. We believe revenue growth and margin expansion should continue as end market tailwinds persist.

LOAR specializes in the design, manufacture, and sale of niche aerospace and defense (A&D) components across >250 aircraft platforms. 80-90% of their products are proprietary to LOAR, which leads to sticky relationships with OEM and aftermarket customers. A&D demand has been strong and we expect it to continue. We believe LOAR will continue growing by adding new products organically, maintaining pricing above inflation, and executing on selective M&A.

In consumer, we purchased Smith Douglas Homes (SDHC) and Dutch Bros (BROS).

SDHC is a single-family homebuilder, primarily focused on the entry-level buyer. The company went public in January of this year. SDHC offers a strong value proposition to prospective buyers with the ability for home customizations and a below average market price point. With favorable demographics and low existing home inventory due to a high percentage of existing homes being locked in at mortgage rates significantly below current market levels, SDHC is well-positioned to capture demand from the entry-level buyer.

BROS is an Oregon-based operational and franchising drive-through shop focused on hand crafted beverages. They have found success in a small footprint format in rural and suburban areas. The current geographic focus has primarily been on the west coast, but we feel this is a concept that could be successful nationwide with an eventual store base in excess of 4000 units.

In health care, we purchased PROCEPT BioRobotics (PRCT).

PRCT is a medical device company that has developed and is on the market with a robotic therapy for the treatment of BPH (benign prostatic hyperplasia). We believe PRCT has significant growth opportunity by not only taking share in the existing BPH market but by expanding the number of BPH patients treated each year and expanding into new indications, such as prostate cancer treatment, over time.

Due to our sell discipline, we exited eight positions: RYAN, SPT, TMCI, DV, BRZE, GSHD, GLOB, WK. In general, we sell to zero when our research uncovers a change in our original investment thesis, valuation is extended, or we are replacing a name with a more attractive investment opportunity.

SECTOR WEIGHTS*

	SMID Cap Growth	Russell 2500 Growth Index
Technology	33%	22%
Industrials	27%	22%
Health Care	20%	19%
Consumer Discretionary	6%	16%
Consumer Staples	4%	3%
Basic Materials	4%	2%
Financials	3%	7%
Real Estate	1%	1%
Energy	0%	5%
Telecommunications	0%	1%
Utilities	0%	1%
Cash	2%	0%

ATTRIBUTION*

Contributors	Detractors
• Top 3 contributors to absolute performance: TMDX, NSSC, MTSI • NCG's holdings in health care, technology and industrials outperformed	• Top 3 detractors to absolute performance: SPT, KNSL, SAIA • NCG's holdings in financials, consumer, and real estate underperformed

**As of 06/30/2024*

Next Century Growth Investors, LLC

NCG Large Cap 2Q24 Review

			Annualized				
	QTD	YTD	1 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	Since Inception*
Large Cap Growth (%) (Net of fees)	**5.65**	**19.55**	**30.49**	**10.39**	**19.16**	**16.56**	**10.98**
Russell 1000® Growth Index (%)	8.33	20.70	33.48	11.28	19.34	16.32	8.43

*Inception 1/1/1999

We purchased one new position: SHOP

In technology, we purchased Shopify (SHOP).

SHOP is a leading e-commerce enablement and infrastructure platform powering millions of online merchants across the globe. Product breadth, ease of use, and scale are key attributes that should drive industry leading growth for many years.

Due to our sell discipline, we exited one position: LULU. In general, we sell to zero when our research uncovers a change in our original investment thesis, valuation is extended, or we are replacing a name with a more attractive investment opportunity.

Sector Weights*

	Large Cap Growth	Russell 1000 Growth Index
Technology	55%	57%
Consumer Discretionary	14%	18%
Health Care	12%	10%
Industrials	12%	9%
Financials	5%	2%
Real Estate	1%	1%
Consumer Staples	1%	2%
Basic Materials	0%	0%
Energy	0%	1%
Telecommunications	0%	1%
Utilities	0%	0%
Cash	1%	0%

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ATTRIBUTION*

Contributors	Detractors
• Top 3 contributors to absolute performance: NVDA, GOOGL, AAPL • NCG's holdings in consumer discretionary and health care outperformed	• Top 3 detractors to absolute performance: CELH, ODFL, KNSL • NCG's holdings in industrials, technology, financials, and consumer staples underperformed

**As of 06/30/2024*

Disclosures

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Source: FactSet for Attribution and Sectors.

Reported in USD. Performance figures for less than one year are not annualized. An investment in this strategy is speculative and involves substantial risks, including the possible loss of the entire investment and the potential for economic and market conditions and factors to materially adversely affect the value of the investments. Due to various factors, including changing market conditions, the content may no longer be reflective of current opinions or positions. Performance information presented may include "estimated" figures in circumstances where "final" figures are not yet available. Both gross and net performance reflects the reinvestment of dividends and interest, and the deduction of brokerage or other commissions, and any other expenses that a client would have paid or actually paid, other than custodial fees For the Small Capitalization Growth Equity Composite IPOs contributed significantly to performance in 1999. Next Century Growth Investors claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®). 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..

^Large Cap Growth Composite Inception 1/1/1999, represent 14.87% firm AUM
^Small Cap Growth Composite Inception 1/1/1999, represent 32.59% firm AUM
^Micro Cap Growth Composite Inception 1/1/2003, represent 32.72% firm AUM
^SMID Cap Growth Composite Inception 4/1/2000, represent 1.84% firm AUM
^SMicro Cap Growth Composite Inception 1/1/2013, represent 1.64% firm AUM

The Russell Microcap® Growth Index measures the performance of the microcap growth segment of the U.S. equity market. It includes Russell Microcap companies that are considered more growth oriented relative to the overall market as defined by Russell's leading style methodology. The Russell Microcap Growth Index is constructed to provide a comprehensive and unbiased barometer for the microcap growth segment of the market. The Index is completely reconstituted annually to ensure larger stocks do not distort performance and characteristics of the microcap opportunity set. The Russell Microcap Growth Index is not an actual investment and does not reflect the deduction of transaction charges and other expenses that your account must bear. Additional information regarding policies for calculating and reporting returns is available upon request

The NCG Micro Cap Growth Equity Composite contains portfolios investing primarily in the equity securities of smaller U.S. companies that the portfolio manager believes have substantial potential for high long-term growth. The portfolio manager seeks to identify the fastest growing and highest quality companies for investment. Investment results are measured versus the Russell Microcap® Growth Index.

The Next Century Growth Investors Small/Micro Cap Growth Equity Composite contains portfolios investing primarily in the equity securities of smaller companies that the portfolio manager believes have substantial potential for high long-term growth. The portfolio manager seeks to identify the fastest growing and highest quality companies for investment. The strategy invests in both small and microcap companies Investment results are measured versus the Russell 2000® Growth Index.

The NCG Small Capitalization Growth Equity Composite contains portfolios investing primarily in the equity securities of smaller U.S. companies that the portfolio manager believes have substantial potential for high long-term growth. The portfolio manager seeks to identify the fastest growing and highest quality companies for investment. Investment results are measured versus the Russell 2000® Growth Index.

The Russell 2000® Growth Index measures the performance of the small-cap growth segment of the US equity universe. It includes those Russell 2000® companies with higher price-to-value ratios and higher forecasted growth values. The Russell 2000® Growth Index is constructed to provide a comprehensive and unbiased barometer for the small-cap growth segment. The index is completely reconstituted annually to ensure larger stocks do not distort the performance and characteristics of the true small-cap opportunity set and that the represented companies continue to reflect growth characteristics. The Russell 2000® Growth Index is not an actual investment and does not reflect the deduction of transaction charges and other expenses that your account must bear.

The Russell 1000® Growth Index measures the performance of the large-cap growth segment of the US equity universe. It includes those Russell 1000® companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values. The Russell 1000® Growth Index is constructed to provide a comprehensive and unbiased barometer for the large-cap growth segment. The index is completely reconstituted annually to ensure new and growing equities are included and that the represented companies continue to reflect growth characteristics. The Russell 1000® Growth Index is not an actual investment and does not reflect the deduction of transaction charges and other expenses that your account must bear.

The NCG Focused Large Capitalization Growth Composite contains portfolios investing primarily in equity securities of U.S. companies that the portfolio manager believes have substantial potential for high long-term growth. The portfolio manager seeks to identify the fastest growing and highest quality companies for investment. The strategy invests in both large and medium companies with an emphasis on large capitalization. Investment results are measured versus the Russell 1000® Growth Index.

The Russell 2500™ Growth Index measures the performance of the small to mid-cap growth segment of the US equity universe. It includes those Russell 2500™ companies with higher growth earning potential as defined by FTSE Russell's leading style methodology. The Russell 2500™ Growth Index is constructed to provide a comprehensive and unbiased barometer of the small to mid-cap growth market. The index is completely reconstituted annually to ensure larger stocks do not distort the performance and characteristics of the true small to mid-cap opportunity set and that the represented companies continue to reflect growth characteristics.

The NCG Small/Mid Capitalization Equity Composite contains portfolios investing primarily in the equity securities of small and medium-sized U.S. companies that the portfolio manager believes have substantial potential for high long-term growth. The portfolio manager seeks to identify the fastest growing and highest quality companies for Investment. Investment results are measured versus the Russell 2500™ Growth Index.