

Sep 2023		Fund			S&P500 Index	
		<i>Performance</i>	<i>Inception to Date</i>		<i>Performance</i>	<i>Inception to Date</i>
2005		+14.01%	+14.01%		+4.78%	+4.78%
2006		+16.91%	+33.29%		+13.62%	+19.05%
2007		+4.06%	+38.70%	09	+3.53%	+23.25%
2008		-47.99%	-27.86%		-38.49%	-24.18%
2009		+42.74%	+2.97%		+23.45%	-6.40%
2010		+24.94%	+28.65%		+12.78%	+5.57%
2011		+1.79%	+30.96%		0.00%	+5.56%
2012		+24.17%	+62.61%		+13.41%	+19.71%
2013		+42.96%	+132.46%		+29.60%	+55.15%
2014		+3.92%	+141.59%		+11.39%	+72.82%
2015		-2.10%	+136.51%		-0.73%	+71.56%
2016		+31.95%	+212.07%		+9.54%	+87.93%

	<i>MTD</i>	<i>YTD</i>	<i>ITD</i>	<i>MTD</i>	<i>YTD</i>	<i>ITD</i>
2017		+13.43%	+254.00%		+19.42%	+124.42%
2018		-20.44%	+181.65%		-6.24%	+110.42%
2019		+27.60%	+259.39%		+28.88%	+171.19%
2020		+16.17%	+317.49%		+16.26%	+215.28%
2021		+35.18%	+464.37%		+26.89%	+300.07%
2022		-10.54%	+404.87%		-19.44%	+222.29%
Jan 2023	+8.22%	+8.22%	+446.39%	+6.18%	+6.18%	+242.19%
Feb 2023	-1.04%	+7.10%	+440.74%	-2.61%	+3.40%	+233.25%
Mar 2023	-4.82%	+1.95%	+414.70%	+3.51%	+7.03%	+244.93%
Apr 2023	-2.45%	-0.55%	+402.08%	+1.46%	+8.59%	+249.99%
May 2023	-3.44%	-3.97%	+384.82%	+0.25%	+8.86%	+250.85%
Jun 2023	+10.87%	+6.47%	+437.51%	+6.47%	+15.91%	+273.56%
Jul 2023	+8.85%	+15.89%	+485.08%	+3.11%	+19.52%	+285.20%
Aug 2023	-3.15%	+12.23%	+466.62%	-1.77%	+17.40%	+278.37%
Sep 2023	-1.40%	+10.66%	+458.69%	-4.87%	+11.68%	+259.93%

In September the Fund fell 1.40% while the S&P500 fell 4.87%. Sterling holders were up 2.84% as the pound fell from \$1.268 to \$1.216 . Long bond yields reached 16-year highs at around 4.6% after the Fed continued to signal high rates because of embedded inflation. The market displayed a similar pattern to August and, indeed, to last September, as it went into the bear market low.

Large stocks did better than small stocks and growth did better than value. This time the range for indices varied from -4.87% for the S&P500 to -7.09% for the Russell Microcap.

Value was about 1% worse than growth in the smaller indices. This underperformance of value tells us recession fears trumped interest rates, which is remarkable as the rising interest rates are negative for growth stocks. This is another step closer to the 1970s and that old hybrid word 'stagflation' is being used more. Overall, the year-to-date result, apart from the Magnificent 7 tech leaders, is now a round trip.

Relatively, we had a good month. This fits in with our view that we do well when the yield curve becomes less negative, as it did by 0.47% between 2 and 10 years. How did we get away with it when, again, we should have been in the worst place with our small-cap value?

We have 180 stocks, so it's not about a few winners. And we have no stocks in the NASDAQ 100, the last good growth sector. It was about energy, our most overweight sector. Uranium surged as acceptance improved. As the uranium debate inexorably moves in favour, we seemed to reach a tipping point where the 'ayes' became the consensus and our stocks built up momentum, going from 7% to 7.5% by market action. The oil price itself rose as OPEC+ restricted supply. The US ran down its Strategic Petroleum Reserve from 648 to 347 million barrels. They said they'd replenish at \$70 but didn't buy when it got there. Thus they revealed their hand, misplayed it, and allowed Saudi Arabia to create an easy short squeeze.

What else? Build-A-Bear (now a 3.6% weighting after adding) went on up even as retail was down. High debt stocks underperformed, which is to our advantage. Consumer non-durable (0% weight), REITs (0%) and utilities (0%) all had a very poor month, hating stagflation as in the 1970s and they are now the worst three sectors year-to-date.

Finally, against the trend, we have some small value stocks exploding upwards, all having been asleep for years: Matrix Service (MTRX, energy facilities' maintenance, 0.47% weight) +42% in September; Geospace (GEOS, seismic, 0.53%) +35%; Virco (VIRC, school desks, 0.08%) +74% and Orion (ORN, port repair, 0.32%) +12%. The common factor? Increasing backlog: a key variable for our type of stocks. As the Inflation Reduction Act begins to affect order patterns, we are looking for the beneficiaries.

Risk Warnings and Other Important Information

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The Fund qualifies as an Undertaking for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities (UCITSIII).

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