Santander Asset Management

Santander GO North American Equity

Marketing Communication

8 / 2024

Fund commentary

Market Overview:

U.S. equities advanced over the month ended 8/31/24, as measured by the S&P 500 Index. Consumer Staples, Real Estate, and Health Care were the largest outperformers in the index. The weakest performing index sectors were Energy and Consumer Discretionary, which had negative performance, and Communication Services. Growth stocks underperformed the broad market in the month as some of the more defensive sectors of the market gained ground.

Performance Commentary:

• The portfolio returned 4.40% (gross of fees), while the S&P 500 benchmark returned 2.43%. The portfolio outperformed the benchmark this month due to favourable stock selection.

• Stock selection in Communication Services, Consumer Discretionary, and Financials were the largest contributors to relative performance. Stock selection in Industrials and Information Technology and a lack of exposure to Energy added to relative gains to a lesser extent. Conversely, the average overweight to Consumer Discretionary was the greatest relative detractor from performance. Stock selection in Health Care and Real Estate dampened relative performance, as did a lack of exposure to Consumer Staples. Materials and Utilities – sectors which the portfolio had no exposure to – had a negligible impact on relative performance.

• The top contributing holdings in the portfolio, relative to the benchmark, were DoorDash, Shopify, and The Trade Desk. Conversely, MicroStrategy, Airbnb, and Snowflake were the top relative detractors.

Strategy and Outlook:

Counterpoint Global believes having a market outlook can be an anchor. Our focus is on assessing company prospects over a five-year horizon, and owning a portfolio of unique companies with strong, sustainable competitive advantages whose market value we believe can increase significantly for underlying fundamental reasons.