# Fund*Advisor*Quarterly Update | Q1 2022

The biggest stories of the first quarter were rising inflation rates caused by strong demand as economies continued to open across the globe, the beginning of an interest rate hiking cycle by the Federal Reserve, a selloff in some of the hottest growth stocks in recent years, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. With this as the backdrop, markets ultimately proved more resilient than one might expect. The S&P 500° Index and Russell 2000° Index were down 12% and 14% at one point during the quarter, but finished down 4.6% and 7.5%, respectively. The Russell 1000° Value Index, which represents more value-oriented areas of the market like financials and energy was down less than 1% for the quarter. International markets fared much better than many might expect, declining 5.4%.

Rising inflationary forces have put increased pressure on the Federal Reserve to begin to unwind some of the excessive stimulus that was required to get us through the pandemic. They began to raise interest rates for the first time since 2018 and many are expecting as many as 7 more increases this year. This has

| Asset Category                | Q1    | 1 Year |
|-------------------------------|-------|--------|
| U.S. Large Cap Stocks         | -4.60 | 15.65  |
| U.S. Mid Cap Stocks           | -5.68 | 6.92   |
| U.S. Small Cap Stocks         | -7.53 | -5.79  |
| Developed International Stock | -5.91 | 1.16   |
| Emerging Market Stocks        | -6.97 | -11.37 |
| U.S Value Stocks              | -0.74 | 11.67  |
| U.S Growth Stocks             | -9.04 | 14.98  |
| Intermediate Term Bonds       | -4.51 | -4.10  |

Source: Morningstar Direct. Please see Important Disclosures on page 4 for index definitions.

increased concern that moving too fast could result in slower economic growth or even a recession. The table below shows that historically the market has done a pretty good job of working through the beginnings of a Fed Funds rate increase cycle. In fact, the S&P 500 has had positive returns 1 year after the beginnings of 8 of the last 9 hiking cycles. Smaller stocks have also done relatively well while commodities have been the best performers on average. This is likely the case because the

Fed typically doesn't raise rates unless the economy is on solid footing, which supports more cyclical investments. The key point here is to simply show that the stock market is not necessarily doomed by the prospects of higher interest rates. However, a misstep by the Fed could create additional volatility.

How likely is a recession? The best case scenario would be for inflation pressures to prove temporary as we begin to compound on top of higher than normal inflation that started mid last year while higher interest rates slow the economy to a more normalized pace. On the flip side, we could see a period of stagflation, which is defined as elevated inflation alongside no/low economic growth. Economists continue to forecast decent gross domestic product (GDP) growth for this year and next, thereby implying that most do not anticipate Fed policy will trigger either scenario, but the risks have risen. On the positive side, the COVID recovery continues unabated while consumers and corporations alike seem to be flush with cash and have

| Market Returns 1-year After Beginning of Fed Funds Rate Increases Cycles |           |           |       |             |  |  |  |
|--|-----------|-----------|-------|-------------|--|--|--|
| Rate of First Hike   | Large Cap | Small Cap | Bonds | Commodities |  |  |  |
| Aug-77   | 7.3%      | 47.8%     | 2.2%  | 39.8%       |  |  |  |
| Aug-80   | 13.0%     | 28.7%     | -5.0% | -13.0%      |  |  |  |
| Aug-83   | 8.7%      | 2.6%      | 5.3%  | 16.5%       |  |  |  |
| Dec-86   | -4.7%     | -14.4%    | 1.8%  | 21.2%       |  |  |  |
| Apr-88   | 18.1%     | 13.1%     | 5.2%  | 34.1%       |  |  |  |
| Feb-94   | 2.5%      | -4.8%     | -1.2% | -4.4%       |  |  |  |
| Jun-99   | 8.0%      | 14.4%     | 5.1%  | 64.7%       |  |  |  |
| Jun-04   | 7.5%      | 10.7%     | 7.1%  | 24.8%       |  |  |  |
| Dec-15   | 13.2%     | 22.6%     | 1.6%  | 8.0%        |  |  |  |
| Average  | 8.2%      | 13.4%     | 2.4%  | 21.3%       |  |  |  |

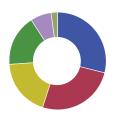
Source: Momingstar Direct. Please see Important Disclosures on page 4 for index definitions.

significant capacity to spend money. A look at the results of a casino, concert, and/or theme park operator makes it clear that there is a thirst to spend and that rising inflation has had limited impact so far.

Putting it all together, we think the risk/reward profile for stocks has become more balanced. Valuations look more reasonable than they did at the start of the year, but we still find ourselves expecting more moderate returns than in recent years. While a sudden outbreak of peace in Ukraine could prompt a relief rally, rising interest rates and tighter monetary/fiscal policy will remain a headwind and higher input costs could weigh on corporate profitability.

We recently did some trading in our mutual fund and exchange traded fund (ETF) accounts. In early March, we sold some emerging market stock exposure to increase the position in small cap stocks. This was intended to decrease geopolitical risk and take advantage of the attractive valuations of small cap stocks after more than a 10% selloff between November and January. In late March, we rebalanced accounts back to their original stock/bond targets as the strong performance of stocks over the past year had resulted in a nice overweight. We shortened the duration of the bond positions to reduce the sensitivity to increasing interest rates and to take advantage of significantly higher yields on shorter duration bonds. Lastly, we replaced the Federated Kaufmann Large Cap fund with the William Blair Large Cap Growth fund in the models where growth is a primary objective.

# **Aggressive Growth Portfolio**



# **Asset Class % Fund**

U.S. Large Cap

U.S. Large Cap

U.S. Small Cap

Short Term Bond

U.S. Mid Cap

8% William Blair Large Cap Growth I7% Hartford Core Equity Y

7% Diamond Hill Large Cap I

7% FMI Large Cap Institutional

U.S. Mid Cap 26% Vanguard Mid Cap Index

U.S. Small Cap

11% Fuller & Thaler Behavioral Small Cap Equity

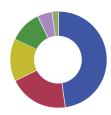
8% Schwab Small Cap Index

International 7% MFS International Diversification I 10% Harding Loevner Intl Small Coms Instl

Emerging Markets 7% Vanguard Emerging Mkts Stock Idx Adm

Cash 2% Money Market

# **Growth Portfolio**



12% William Blair Large Cap Growth I

12% Hartford Core Equity Y

12% Diamond Hill Large Cap I

12% FMI Large Cap Institutional

20% Vanguard Mid Cap Index

U.S. Small Cap 8% Fuller & Thaler Behavioral Small Cap Equity

6% Schwab Small Cap Index

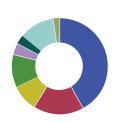
International 5% MFS International Diversification I

6% Harding Loevner Intl Small Coms Instl

Emerging Markets 5% Vanguard Emerging Mkts Stock Idx Adm

Cash 2% Money Market

# **Moderate Growth Portfolio**



U.S. Large Cap

11% William Blair Large Cap Growth I

12% Hartford Core Equity Y

13% Dispared Hill Large Cap I

11% Diamond Hill Large Cap I8% FMI Large Cap Institutional

U.S. Mid Cap 17% Vanguard Mid Cap Index

6% Fuller & Thaler Behavioral Small Cap Equity

5% Schwab Small Cap Index

International B% MFS International Diversification I

3% Harding Loevner Intl Small Coms Instl

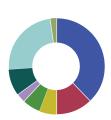
Emerging Markets 4% Vanguard Emerging Mkts Stock ldx Adm Intermediate Gov't/Credit 3% Vanguard Interm-Term Bond Index Adm

6% Lord Abbett Short Duration Income F

6% Vanguard Short-Term Investment-Grade

Cash 2% Money Market

# **Growth & Income Portfolio**



9% American Funds AMCAP F3
9% Hartford Core Equity Y
8% Diamond Hill Large Cap I
12% Vanguard Equity-Income Adm

U.S. Mid Cap 12% Vanguard Mid Cap Index
3% Fuller & Thaler Behavioral Small Cap Equity

U.S. Small Cap

3% Schwab Small Cap Index

International 6% MFS International Diversification I

Emerging Markets 3% Vanguard Emerging Mkts Stock ldx Adm

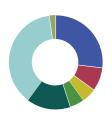
Intermediate Gov't/Credit 9% Vanguard Interm-Term Bond Index Adm

Short Term Bond 12% Lord Abbett Short Duration Income F

12% Vanguard Short-Term Investment-Grade

Cash 2% Money Market

#### Conservative Income Portfolio



6% American Funds AMCAP

6% Hartford Core Equity

5% Diamond Hill Large Cap

9% Vanguard Equity-Income Adm

8% Vanguard Mid Cap Index

5% Fuller & Thaler Behavioral Small Cap Equity

5% MFS Intl Diversification I15% Vanguard Intermediate Term

19% Vanguard Short Term

19% Lord Abbett Short Duration Income

Cash 2% Money Market

Intermediate Gov't/Credit

Short Term Bond

U.S. Large Cap

U.S. Mid Cap

International

U.S. Small Cap

| Fund / Index Name                                     | Fund / Index Performance at Net Asset Value** |           |             |             | 110          | D             | Expense Ratio   |       |                  |
|---|---|-----------|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|-------|------------------|
|   | YTD   | 1<br>Year | 3<br>Years* | 5<br>Years* | 10<br>Years* | Up<br>Capture | Down<br>Capture | Gross | Net <sup>5</sup> |
| Large Cap   |   |           |             |             |              |               |                 |       |                  |
| American Funds AMCAP F3                               | -12.36  | 3.74      | 14.17       | 13.78       | 13.33        | 97.60         | 97.72           | 0.34  | 0.34             |
| Diamond Hill Large Cap I                              | -3.31   | 9.88      | 15.67       | 12.36       | 12.91        | 97.31         | 101.29          | 0.67  | 0.67             |
| FMI Large Cap Institutional                           | -6.12   | 5.10      | 11.26       | 10.66       | 11.41        | 88.00         | 88.49           | 0.68  | 0.68             |
| Hartford Core Equity Y <sup>2</sup>                   | -6.53   | 11.30     | 17.52       | 15.85       | 15.02        | 98.27         | 95.33           | 0.45  | 0.45             |
| Vanguard Equity-Income Adm                            | 1.14  | 15.45     | 13.92       | 11.92       | 12.45        | 88.46         | 87.67           | 0.19  | 0.19             |
| William Blair Large Cap Growth I                      | -12.22  | 10.32     | 21.93       | 21.93       | 17.18        | 104.11        | 94.77           | 0.80  | 0.65             |
| Benchmark 1: S&P 500 TR USD                           | -4.60   | 15.65     | 18.92       | 15.99       | 14.64        | 100.00        | 100.00          | -     | -                |
| Mid Cap and Small Cap                                 |   |           |             |             |              |               |                 |       |                  |
| Fuller & Thaler Behavioral Sm-Cp Eq Inst <sup>3</sup> | -7.75   | 0.72      | 15.07       | 10.97       | 13.19        | -             | -               | 0.75  | 0.75             |
| Schwab Small Cap Index                                | -7.52   | -5.78     | 11.82       | 9.81        | 11.09        | 111.13        | 125.30          | 0.04  | 0.04             |
| Vanguard Mid Cap Index Admiral                        | -6.32   | 8.82      | 15.67       | 13.00       | 12.94        | 106.40        | 112.32          | 0.05  | 0.05             |
| Benchmark 1: Russell 2500 TR USD                      | -5.82   | 0.34      | 13.79       | 11.57       | 12.09        | 109.09        | 119.75          | -     | -                |
| International   |   |           |             |             |              |               |                 |       |                  |
| Harding Loevner Intl Small Coms Instl                 | -14.07  | -2.07     | 9.69        | 8.83        | 8.34         | -             | -               | 1.12  | 1.12             |
| MFS Intl Diversification I <sup>4</sup>               | -8.98   | -3.76     | 8.31        | 8.84        | 7.24         | 84.20         | 104.13          | 0.84  | 0.83             |
| Benchmark 1: MSCI EAFE NR USD                         | -5.91   | 1.16      | 7.78        | 6.72        | 6.27         | 83.25         | 113.97          | -     | -                |
| Emerging Markets                                      |   |           |             |             |              |               |                 |       |                  |
| Vanguard Emerging Mkts Stock ldx Adm                  | -6.26   | -8.70     | 5.60        | 5.83        | 3.32         | 87.19         | 116.02          | 0.14  | 0.14             |
| Benchmark 1: MSCI EM NR USD                           | -6.97   | -11.37    | 4.94        | 5.98        | 3.36         | 86.08         | 113.93          | -     | -                |
| Intermediate Gov't/Credit                             |   |           |             |             |              |               |                 |       |                  |
| Vanguard Interm-Term Bond Index Adm                   | -6.26   | -4.45     | 2.17        | 2.54        | 2.76         | 9.88          | -11.07          | 0.07  | 0.07             |
| Benchmark 1: BBgBarc US Govt/Credit Index             | -4.51   | -4.10     | 1.50        | 1.81        | 1.85         | 6.70          | -8.60           | -     | -                |
| Short-Term Bond                                       |   |           |             |             |              |               |                 |       |                  |
| Lord Abbett Short Duration Income                     | -2.52   | -1.95     | 1.56        | 1.97        | 2.29         | 15.13         | 2.15            | 0.48  | 0.48             |
| Vanguard Short-Term Investment-Grade Adm              | -3.80   | -3.67     | 1.49        | 1.78        | 1.96         | 10.49         | -0.25           | 0.10  | 0.10             |
| Benchmark 1: BBgBarc US Govt/Credit 1-3 Yr            | -2.49   | -2.91     | 1.02        | 1.26        | 1.09         | 4.10          | -5.99           | -     | -                |
|   |   |           |             |             |              |               |                 |       |                  |

Performance shown is historical and is no guarantee of future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the data quoted. To obtain performance data current to the most recent month end, please call (800) 846-6666. \*Returns greater than one year are annualized.

\*\*Mutual funds are offered in the FundAdvisor program at net asset value, but are subject to an annual investment advisory fee of up to 1.25%. The Davenport wrap fee includes investment advice and brokerage execution. In addition to the FundAdvisor fee, clients will bear a proportionate share of each mutual fund's management and administrative expenses, including advisory fees paid to the mutual fund's investment advisors. The performance shows the actual performance of the shares at net asset value, and does not represent individual account performance. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the data quoted. To obtain performance data current to the most recent monthend, please visit the following web sites: www.americanfunds.com, www.touchstoneinvestments.com, www.diamond-hill.com, www.dodgeandcox.com, www.eatonvance.com, www.fiduciarymgt.com, www.jhinvestments.com, www.mfs.com, www.vanguard.com. The investment and principal value of an investment will fluctuate. An investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Mutual Fund and Index returns are provided by Morningstar and Zephyr StyleADVISOR.

You should consider each mutual fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. Each mutual fund's prospectus contains this and other important information, should be read carefully before investing or sending money, and can be obtained by contacting your Investment Executive, or by calling (800) 846-6666. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate. An investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Investing in securities carries risk including the possible loss of principal.

#### Important Disclosures:

In June 2020, the names of the Fund Advisor composites were made due to a rebranding of the program. Maximum Growth composite was changed to Aggressive Growth, the Conservative Growth to Moderate Growth, Balanced to Growth & Income and the Conservative Balanced to Conservative Income.

1 The Adviser and certain of its affiliates on their own initiative have agreed to waive certain amounts of their respective fees and/or reimburse expenses. Total annual fund operating expenses (excluding acquired fund fees and expenses, interest expense, extraordinary expenses and proxy-related expenses paid by the Fund, if any) paid by the Fund's IS and SS classes (after the voluntary waivers and/or reimbursements) will not exceed 0.57% and 0.82% (the "Fee Limit"), respectively, up to but not including the later of (the "Termination Date"): (a) July 1, 2022; or (b) the date of the Fund's next effective Prospectus. While the Adviser and its affiliates currently do not anticipate terminating or increasing these arrangements prior to the Termination Date, these arrangements may only be terminated or the Fee Limit increased prior to the Termination Date with the agreement of the Fund's Board of Trustees. 2 Hartford Administrative Services Company ("HASCO"), the Fund's transfer agent, has contractually agreed to waive its transfer agency fee and/or reimburse transfer agency-related expenses to the extent necessary to limit the transfer agency fee for Class Y as follows: 0.06%. This contractual arrangement will remain in effect until February 28, 2023 unless the Board of Directors of The Hartford Mutual Funds, Inc. approves its earlier termination.3 The Fund's investment adviser, Fuller & Thaler Asset Management, Inc. ("Fuller & Thaler" or the "Adviser") has contractually agreed to waive its management fee and/ or reimburse Fund expenses so that total annual operating expenses do not exceed 1.30%, 1.80% 1.25%, 0.99%, and 0.90% for A Shares, Investor Shares, Institutional Shares and R6 Shares, respectively, of the Fund's average daily net assets through January 31, 2023. Massachusetts Financial Services Company has agreed in writing to bear the fund's expenses, excluding management fees, distribution and service fees, interest, taxes, extraordinary expenses, brokerage and transaction costs, investment-related expenses, and fees and expenses associated with investments in investment companies and other similar investment vehicles, such that "Other Expenses" do not exceed 0.10% of the class' average daily net assets annually for each of Class A, Class B, Class B, Class B, Class R1, Class R2, Class R3, and Class R4 shares, and 0.00% of the class' average daily net assets annually for Class R6 shares. This written agreement will continue until modified by the fund's Board of Trustees, but such agreement will continue until at least September 30, 2022. 5 Investors pay the net expense ratio of the fund. Diversification and Asset Allocation does not ensure a profit or guarantee protection against a loss. It is important to note that short-term and trailing performance will fluctuate. We expect all of the funds at some point to experience underperformance versus their benchmarks and peer groups. However, we believe that our research process has helped us identify funds that are likely to perform well over the long term. Our decision to remove a fund is not based on short-term performance, but on in-depth analysis using our Monitoring Criteria. The mutual fund categories are determined by Davenport using a combination of Morningstar categories and a returns-based style analysis provided by Zephyr StyleADVISOR.

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Bonds are subject to market and interest risk; values expect to decline as interest rates rise. Bonds may not be suitable for all investors and you should consider specific risks such as credit risk, default risk and volatility prior to investing.

Index Definitions: U.S. Large Caps represented by the S&P 500 Index. U.S. Mid Caps represented by the Russell Midcap Index. U.S. Small Caps represented by the Russell 2000 Index. U.S. Growth Stocks represented by the Russell 1000 Growth Index. U.S. Value Stocks represented by the Russell 1000 Value Index. International Stocks represented by the MSCI EAFE Index. Int'l Small Stocks represented by the MSCI ACWI ex USA Small Index. Intermediate Term Bonds represented by the Bloomberg Barclays Intermediate Government/Credit Index. Bank Loans represented by the S&P/LSTA Leveraged Loan index definition Index. High Yield Bonds represented by the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate High Yield Index. Corporate Bonds are represented by the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate Bond Index. Government Bonds represented by the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Government Index. Cash represented by the Federated Govt Obligations. Commodities are represented by the S&P GSCI Index. Emerging Market Stocks is represented by the MSCI Emerging Markets (MSCI EM) Index.

Performance shown is historical and is no guarantee of future results. Investing in securities carries risk including the possible loss of principal.

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An index is not available for direct investment; therefore its performance does not reflect the expenses, fees and taxes generally paid with the active management of an actual portfolio.

Risk Considerations: International funds invest primarily in equity securities of issuers outside the United States. International investments are subject to additional risks such as currency fluctuations, political instability, and the potential for illiquid markets. Funds that invest in foreign securities may involve greater risks, including political and economic uncertainties, as well as risk of currency fluctuations. Investments in emerging markets come with much greater risk due to political instability, domestic infrastructure problems, currency volatility and limited equity opportunities, as many large companies may still be "state-run" or private. Small and mid cap company stocks may be more volatile than stocks of larger, more established companies. Investments in bonds and other fixed income securities may fall in value if interest rates change. Generally, the prices of debt securities rise when interest rates fall, while their prices fall when interest rates rise. Longer term debt securities are usually more sensitive to interest rate changes. An issuer suffering an adverse change in its financial condition could see the credit quality of its securities deteriorate, leading to greater price volatility of the security. Funds investing in lower quality debt securities are more susceptible to these problems and their value may be more volatile

Gross Expense Ratio is the total annual operating expenses of a fund divided by its average net assets. Net Expense Ratio is the total annual operating expenses of a fund, less any fee waivers, divided by its average net assets. This is the expense ratio actually charged by the fund for the previous fiscal year. The mean reversion, or reversion to the mean, is a theory used in finance that suggests that asset price volatility and historical returns eventually will revert to the long-run mean or average level of the entire dataset.



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