Select Quality Growth & Income Portfolio

Portfolio Manager Commentary

As of 12/31/2024

EquityCompass

Q4 2024 Commentary

The year ended much like it began, with major stock indexes moving higher in the fourth quarter driven by large growth stocks. Existing narratives continued, with investors focusing on the economy, inflation, Federal Reserve (Fed) policy, and the U.S. presidential election. The beginning of the Fed rate cutting cycle in September, and expectations for another 150 basis points (bps) of cuts in 2025, helped propel broader performance in the third quarter. However, slowing progress on inflation and concerns about the incoming administration's policies on tariffs, taxes, and immigration led to a jump in bond yields, with the 10-year U.S. Treasury yield rising from 3.80% in September to 4.57% at year end. The ground gained by value stocks versus growth stocks fully reversed as value—particularly stocks paying a higher dividend yield—pulled back.

In the fourth quarter, the S&P 500 rose 2.41%, while the technology-heavy NASDAQ Composite Index gained 6.35%. These gains came as only four of the 11 sectors moved higher. The S&P 500 Growth Index—powered by the Consumer Discretionary, Communication Services, and Information Technology sectors—rose 5.99%. The S&P 500 Value Index declined 2.68%, and the average stock, represented by the S&P 500 Equal Weight Index, fell 1.87%.

Performance for the year was consistent with the trend in the fourth quarter. The S&P 500 achieved 57 record highs to finish up 25.02%, rising by over 20% in two consecutive years for only the fifth time, and its first since 1998. The NASDAQ Composite rose 29.57%, and the S&P 500 Growth Index was up 35.81%. The S&P 500 Equal Weight Index and the S&P 500 Value Index finished up 13.01% and 12.27%, respectively.

In the last three months of 2024, the **Select Quality Growth & Income Portfolio (SQLT)** declined 2.67% (-3.43% net of maximum potential fees) and gained 11.28% (7.93% net) for the year. As we have discussed many times, SQLT strives to generate capital appreciation over the long term through broad market exposure including investments in both growth and value stocks. Our stock selection discipline seeks to identify attractively-priced stocks with moderate risk, resulting in the portfolio having far less exposure to the growth names currently driving performance than the S&P 500. During periods when market returns have narrowed, as in 2024, SQLT tends to perform much more like the S&P 500 Equal Weight Index. We are comfortable with this approach, as our objective is not solely to maximize returns, but also to mitigate risk.

Objective

Seeks to provide capital appreciation and income through a diversified portfolio of quality stocks

Portfolio Management Team

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About EquityCompass

EquityCompass is a Baltimore-based SEC registered investment adviser offering a broad range of portfolio strategies and custom plans for individuals, financial intermediaries, and institutional clients in the U.S. Formally organized in 2008, EquityCompass provides portfolio strategies with respect to total assets of approximately $5.2 billion as of December 31, 2024.*

The EquityCompass team of professionals represents deep industry experience in security analysis, capital markets, and portfolio management. We are committed to a consistent investment process that relies on enduring principles, sound empirical reasoning, and the recognition of a dynamic investment environment with a global reach.

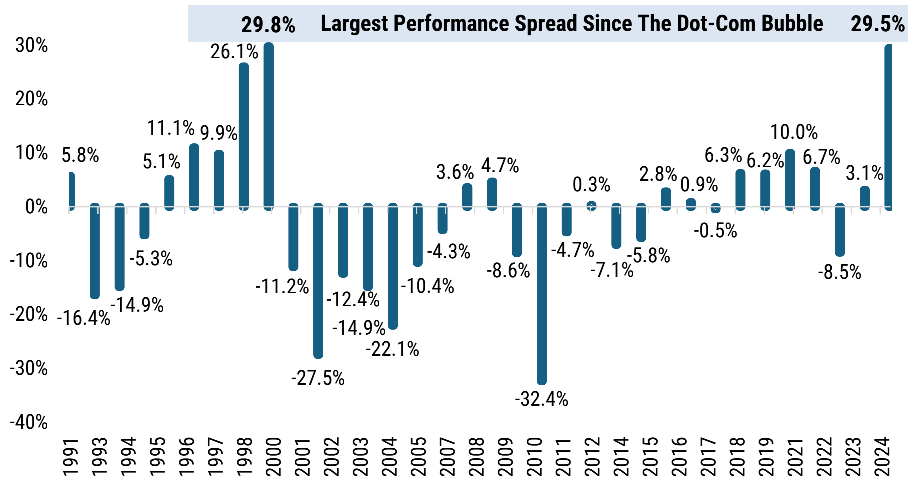
	Total Returns			Annualized Returns				Calendar-Year Returns									
	3-Mos	6-Mos	YTD	1-yr	3-yr	5-yr	10-yr	Incp.	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Gross %	-2.67	1.97	11.28	11.28	4.12	6.82	8.95	9.81	-0.23	14.83	25.64	-9.71	30.46	-5.82	30.81	-9.92	12.61	11.28
Benchmark %	2.41	8.44	25.02	25.02	8.94	14.53	13.10	10.65	1.38	11.96	21.83	-4.38	31.49	18.40	28.71	-18.11	26.29	25.02
S&P EWI %	-1.87	7.55	13.01	13.01	4.45	10.76	10.26	10.03	-2.20	14.80	18.90	-7.64	29.24	12.83	29.63	-11.45	13.87	13.01
Net %	-3.43	0.43	7.93	7.93	1.05	3.68	5.76	6.59	-3.15	11.40	21.99	-12.41	26.74	-8.57	27.01	-12.56	9.33	7.93

As of 12/31/2024; Inception: January 1, 2006; Benchmark = S&P 500 Index; S&P EWI = S&P 500 Equal Weight Index; Please note the above returns reflect representative portfolio performance. See important disclosures at the end of this presentation.

Net returns reflect the deduction of the potential maximum managed account fee of 3.00% which includes the wrap sponsor fee and EquityCompass investment management fees. Actual fees may vary.

S&P 500 Performance Spread Trailing Two-Calendar Years **Chart 1**

Cap Weight *Minus* Equal Weight | Through Calendar Years Ending 1991—2024 | Source: Bloomberg Finance, LP



Narrow market gains in 2024—which saw only 28% of S&P 500 stocks beat the index for the year—led to record market concentration, with the top 10 stocks representing 39% of the index. Growth stocks outperformed value stocks by the fifth largest margin in a calendar year since the 1970s. The market cap-weighted S&P 500 outperformed the S&P 500 Equal Weight by 12%—the third largest calendar year difference going back to 1990 and the second consecutive year of more than 12% outperformance by the market cap-weighted index. In fact, the trailing two-year performance spread between the cap-weight and equal-weight S&P 500 indices ending 12/31/2024 was only marginally bested by the period ending 12/31/1999 (**Chart 1**). Periods of exceptionally disparate returns and high market concentration have typically led to broadening performance. We believe one way to help mitigate risk is by refraining from over concentration among a handful of technology names, as exemplified by the market cap-weighted S&P 500. This approach allows us to participate in broad gains in pursuit of positive absolute returns in years like 2024, while helping to mitigate the potential for disproportionate losses in growth names in years such as 2022.

Looking ahead to 2025, the market continues to grapple with the key issues of inflation and Fed policy. While inflation is well off the highs seen in 2022, progress has stalled, and getting to the Fed's 2% target has proven more difficult than anticipated, complicated by concerns that Trump administration policies could be inflationary. Expectations for further Fed rate cuts have reflected that, with 2025 cuts now reduced to 50 bps. Higher-for-longer interest rates could be a headwind to the economy and markets.

This uncertainty, combined with lofty valuations after two years of strong gains, could lead to market volatility. As an equity portfolio manager, we are committed to being fully invested. We seek to mitigate potential risk and volatility through portfolio tactics, such as diversification and stock selection. SQLT has exposure across all 11 major economic sectors, with its largest concentration in Information Technology (24%) stocks—lower than the 32% sector representation within the S&P 500. We believe financial stability and attractive profitability among individual holdings are characteristics that can help reduce portfolio risk. In terms of stock selection, all SQLT holdings with debt ratings are investment grade, and in terms of profitability, the five-year average return on invested capital for our holdings is 15.3% versus an average of 11.7% for S&P 500 constituents. We believe owning companies that pay and grow dividends can also provide portfolio stability. With one exception, all of SQLT's holdings pay a dividend. Of those 29 names, one initiated its first ever cash dividend during the year, while the portfolio captured 26 dividend increases, averaging 8.0%, among the remaining 28 stocks. We believe that identifying stocks trading at attractive prices can benefit long-term returns. The portfolio's weighted average dividend yield is 2.3% compared to 1.3% for the S&P 500. Currently the one-year forward price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio for the portfolio is 16.7x compared to 21.7x for the S&P 500. Heading into 2025, we believe the portfolio is well positioned moving forward to mitigate risk and participate in market gains, particularly if market performance broadens in the new year.

SELECT QUALITY GROWTH & INCOME PORTFOLIO WRAP COMPOSITE (01/01/2016 – 12/31/2023)

Year-End	Gross-of-Fees Return*	Net-of-Fees Return**	Benchmark Return	Composite 3 Yr. Ex Post Std. Deviation	Benchmark 3 Yr. Ex Post Std. Deviation	Composite Number of Portfolios	Internal Dispersion	Portfolios With Bundled Fees	Composite Assets (USD Mil.)	Strategy Assets (USD Mil.)†	Firm & Advisory Assets (USD Mil.)
2016	14.6%	11.2%	12.0%	N/A	N/A	9	N/A	100%	$13	$151	$2,714
2017	25.7%	22.0%	21.8%	N/A	N/A	9	0.0%	100%	$15	$261	$3,785
2018	-9.5%	-12.2%	-4.4%	11.3%	11.0%	11	0.1%	100%	$12	$238	$3,831
2019	30.9%	27.2%	31.5%	13.9%	12.1%	6	0.1%	90%	$11	$282	$4,294
2020	-6.2%	-8.9%	18.4%	24.1%	18.8%	8	0.3%	90%	$12	$192	$4,012
2021	31.2%	27.4%	28.7%	23.3%	17.4%	9	0.1%	89%	$15	$234	$5,038
2022	-9.9%	-12.5%	-18.1%	24.0%	21.2%	8	N/A	75%	$9	$205	$4,469
2023	12.6%	9.3%	26.3%	15.4%	17.5%	<6	N/A	75%	$10	$214	$4,707

** Supplemental information. Please see Fees section for details. ** Net returns are calculated by subtracting the highest applicable wrap fee (3.00% on an annual basis) from the gross composite return. † Supplemental Information.*

EquityCompass Investment Management, LLC ("EquityCompass") claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards ("GIPS®") and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. EquityCompass has been independently verified for the periods 06/01/2014-12/31/2023. The verification report is available upon request. A firm that claims compliance with the GIPS standards must establish policies and procedures 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.

Definition of the Firm
EquityCompass is registered as an investment adviser with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The firm provides a broad range of investment strategies to individuals, financial intermediaries, and institutions in the United States. EquityCompass, a wholly owned subsidiary of Stifel Financial Corp., was organized as an entity in 2007, and has been registered with the SEC since May 5, 2008. SEC Registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training. Please refer to the firm's ADV Part 2 for additional disclosures regarding the firm and its practices. To obtain a GIPS Report or a list of our composite descriptions and/or policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS reports, please call (443) 224-1231 or send an e-mail to info@equitycompass.com.

Composite Description
The performance results displayed herein represent the investment performance record for the Select Quality Growth & Income Portfolio Wrap Composite. The composite includes wrap and non-wrap accounts that are invested in the composite strategy and managed on a discretionary basis by EquityCompass. Select Quality Growth & Income Portfolio is a sector-balanced equity strategy that seeks to outperform its benchmark by investing in quality, underpriced stocks with favorable value and price momentum characteristics. It is available in wrap fee programs through third-party intermediaries (each, a "Sponsor") that have engaged EquityCompass to manage client accounts on a discretionary basis or to provide non-discretionary investment recommendations in the form of model portfolios. The Composite was created in January 2017 and the inception date is January 1, 2016.

Benchmark Description
The benchmark is S&P 500 Index. The **S&P 500 Index** is a capitalization-weighted index that is generally considered representative of the U.S. large capitalization market. All benchmark returns are shown on a total return basis and assume that all cash distributions, such as dividends, are reinvested. The volatility of the indices identified in this report may be materially different from the volatility of the model portfolios presented by EquityCompass. Indices are unmanaged, do not reflect fees and expenses, and are not available for direct investment.

Fees
Gross-of-fees returns, are gross of portfolio management and custody fees and net of all actual transaction costs in the case of non-wrap accounts and those wrap accounts traded by EquityCompass. If the wrap account trades are executed by the Sponsor, transaction costs are bundled with the wrap fee and therefore not deducted from gross-of-fee return calculation. Net returns are calculated by subtracting the highest applicable annual wrap fee (3.00%, by deducting 0.75% quarterly) from the gross composite return. The EquityCompass management fee schedule per annum is 0.35% on up to 1,000,000, 0.32% on 1,000,000–2,500,000 million, 0.28% on 2,500,000–5,000,000, 0.25% on 5,000,000–10,000,000, and negotiable over 10,000,000. Clients are typically charged a wrap fee which includes, in addition to the manager fee, trading expenses, as well as custody and administrative fees. The wrap fee schedule varies by Sponsor and is available upon request.

Reporting Currency
Valuations are computed and performance reported in U.S. dollars (USD).

Annualized Standard Deviation
The three-year annualized ex post standard deviation measures the variability of the monthly returns of the composite (gross-of-fee) and the benchmark over the preceding 36-month period; it is not presented for periods of less than three years.

Internal Dispersion
Internal dispersion is calculated using the asset-weighted standard deviation of annual gross returns of all accounts that were in the composite for the entire year; it is not presented for periods less than one year or when there were fewer than five accounts in the composite for the entire year.

Assets
Strategy Assets include all discretionary and non-discretionary accounts invested in the Select Quality Growth & Income Portfolio strategy. Accounts that are excluded from the composite because of significant cash flows or for other reasons are also included in Strategy Assets. This is presented as supplemental information.

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This commentary often expresses opinions about the direction of market, investment sector, and other trends. The opinions should not be considered predictions of future results. The information contained in this report is based on sources believed to be reliable, but is not guaranteed and not necessarily complete. All investments involve risk, including loss of principal, and there is no guarantee that investment objectives will be met. It is important to review your investment objectives, risk tolerance, and liquidity needs before choosing an investment style or manager. Equity investments are subject generally to market, market sector, market liquidity, issuer, and investment style risks, among other factors to varying degrees. Fixed Income investments are subject to market, market liquidity, issuer, investment style, interest rate, credit quality, and call risks, among other factors to varying degrees.

It is important to review your investment objectives, risk tolerance, and liquidity needs before choosing an investment style or manager. Changes in market conditions or a company's financial condition may impact a company's ability to continue to pay dividends. Companies may also choose to discontinue dividend payments. Due to their narrow focus, sector-based investments typically exhibit greater volatility and are generally associated with a high degree of risk. Actual performance for a client may differ due to such factors as timing, economic and market conditions, cash flows, and client constraints. Diversification does not ensure profit or protect against loss. Rebalancing may have tax consequences, which should be discussed with your tax advisor.

The S&P 500® Index is a capitalization-weighted index that is generally considered representative of the U.S. large capitalization market. The **S&P 500® Equal Weight Index** is based on the S&P 500. All index constituents are members of the S&P 500 and follow the eligibility criteria for that index. The S&P EWI is maintained in accordance with the index methodology of the S&P 500, which measures 500 leading companies in leading U.S. industries. The S&P EWI measures the performance of the same 500 companies, in equal weights. As such, sector exposures in the S&P EWI will differ. The **S&P 500® Growth Index** measures constituents from the S&P 500 that are classified as growth stocks based on three factors: sales growth, the ratio of earnings change to price, and momentum. The **S&P 500® Value Index** measures constituents from the S&P 500 that are classified as value stocks based on three factors: the ratios of book value, earnings and sales to price. The **NASDAQ Composite Index**, comprised mostly of technology and growth companies, is a market value-weighted index of all common stocks listed on NASDAQ. All index returns are shown on a total return basis and assume that all cash distributions, such as dividends, are reinvested. The volatility of the indices identified in this report may be materially different from the volatility of the model portfolios presented by EquityCompass. Indices are unmanaged, do not reflect fees and expenses, and are not available for direct investment.

Return on invested capital (ROIC) assesses a company's efficiency in allocating capital to profitable investments. It is calculated by dividing net operating profit after tax by invested capital. ROIC gives a sense of how well a company is using its capital to generate profits.

Representative Portfolio Performance: Returns reflect the performance of three representative portfolios that have been strung together for the life of the strategy. To the extent possible, the oldest account in the strategy with a continuous track record that also did not have large cash flows or mandate changes are used as representatives portfolio. Portfolio 1 reflects monthly returns for the period 1/1/2006 – 3/31/2006, Portfolio 2 reflects monthly returns for the period 4/1/2006 - 12/31/2023 and Portfolio 3 reflects monthly returns starting 1/1/2024. EquityCompass believes the representative performance is useful in terms of presenting the objectives and character of the strategy, however, returns are calculated separately for each portfolio, and therefore, performance may differ from one portfolio to another. There is no assurance that EquityCompass will make any investments with the same characteristics as the representative account presented.

*Total assets combines both Assets Under Management and Assets Under Advisement as of December 31, 2024. Assets Under Management represents the aggregate fair value of all discretionary and non-discretionary assets, including fee paying and non-fee paying portfolios. Assets Under Advisement represent advisory-only assets where the firm provides a model portfolio and does not have trading authority over the assets.

Past performance does not guarantee future performance or investment results.