# VALUEWORKS 

QUALITY ASSETS COMPELLING VALUATIONS

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## PRELIMINARY RESULTS FIRST QUARTER 2024

Financial markets have been in a consequential advance since the end of October. They seem to be reacting well to the combination of a growing economy, moderating inflation, and a normalization in interest rates. While we have been respectful of the risk of a pullback in the face of political uncertainty and tighter monetary conditions, we also recognize that after two years of trivial investment returns for the major averages, equity prices could well chug higher for an extended period without such a near term reversal.

The economy is performing well. Job growth has been consistent, employment is high, and GDP is growing. This is happening in the context of interest rates that have finally been normalized. While market pundits debate endlessly whether rates will be cut from $5 \frac{1}{2} \%$ to $43 / 4 \%$ by year-end, the more relevant fact is we are no longer anyplace close to zero.

Competitive forces also seem to have taken their toll on inflation. With most covid-induced supply chain bottlenecks
cleared, capacity constraints are having a smaller impact on final prices. The biggest exception is probably housing. To my eye, that represents a meaningful prospective positive. We have underinvested in housing for over a decade, and it has caught up to us. Increased construction spending on residential real estate can be significantly additive to economic growth over a multi-year period.

All that said, the advance from October has been torrid and is often sighted as a reason to be cautious. It is pretty uncommon for these types of advances not to be followed by a sharp correction. But it is not unprecedented. From late 1992 to late 1994, the S\&P went virtually nowhere before torquing $20 \%$ higher over six months. For the next 18 months, it advanced another $50 \%$ with neither a meaningful retracement nor even a discernable pause. That may or may not be repeated, but it should not be discounted. Our strategy is to be prudently invested through any turmoil that comes, and position ourselves to participate in a longer-term advance.

|  |  | annualized |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | ---: | :---: | :---: |
| RECENT PERFORMANCE | Q1 2024 | YTD | $\mathbf{1 Y R}$ | 3 YR |
| CAPITAL APPRECIATION (GROSS) | 6.30 | 6.30 | 24.95 | 15.36 |
| CAPITAL APPRECIATION (NET) | 6.00 | 6.00 | 23.54 | 14.04 |
| S\&P 500* | 10.56 | 10.56 | 29.87 | 11.50 |
| RUSSELL 1000 VALUE* | 8.37 | 8.37 | 17.48 | 6.56 |

HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE vs S\&P 500*: YEARLY SINCE 1996

- VW CAPITAL APPRECIATION COMPOSITE S\&P 500*



## 1. Identification

We monitor the financial markets to identify securities that match our investment criteria-focusing on opportunities that appear misunderstood by the general market.

## 2. Appraisal

First we identify the assets; then we appraise them. This allows us to determine the company's underlying value. We then decide whether the assets are of high quality and therefore likely to appreciate over time.

## 3. Assessment

Here we assess any claims against a company's assets; we then compare the
market price of the claims to the company's underlying value. If a particular security trades at a discount, we identify factors that could eliminate the valuation gap and increase its price. We then make a decision on the purchase of the security.

## 4. Re-Evaluation

We continuously monitor our positions to determine if our original investment thesis still applies, taking necessary action to optimize our portfolio.

## 5. Exit

We exit a position when a security either reaches full valuation or changes in its outlook invalidate part of our original thesis.

|  | Total Firm | Composite Assets |  |  | Annual Performance Results |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Year End | Assets (In Millions) | USD (In Millions) | Number Of Accounts | Composite: Gross | Composite: Net | S\&P 500 | Composite Dispersion |
| 2023 | 313 | 98 | 72 | 18.44\% | 17.12\% | 26.27\% | 3.34\% |
| 2022 | 292 | 86 | 79 | 5.19\% | 3.99\% | -18.10\% | 5.17\% |
| 2021 | 257 | 93 | 91 | 38.07\% | 36.45\% | 28.72\% | 8.11\% |
| 2020 | 181 | 73 | 93 | 14.28\% | 12.99\% | 18.01\% | 5.67\% |
| 2019 | 197 | 76 | 109 | 23.02\% | 21.65\% | 31.50\% | 2.26\% |
| 2018 | 164 | 85 | 105 | -10.12\% | -11.14\% | -4.63\% | 1.83\% |
| 2017 | 208 | 105 | 110 | 24.69\% | 23.27\% | 21.84\% | 3.02\% |
| 2016 | 175 | 89 | 108 | 26.12\% | 24.62\% | 11.98\% | 4.48\% |
| 2015 | 143 | 63 | 111 | -19.29\% | -20.30\% | 1.41\% | 2.06\% |
| 2014 | 229 | 95 | 142 | 0.88\% | -0.36\% | 13.68\% | 1.88 |
| 2013 | 252 | 93 | 134 | 47.03\% | 45.24\% | 32.40\% | 2.54\% |
| 2012 | 167 | 70 | 150 | 12.92\% | 11.49\% | 15.98\% | 1.84\% |
| 2011 | 160 | 75 | 193 | -4.58\% | -5.80\% | 1.85\% | 1.64\% |
| 2010 | 165 | 81 | 221 | 13.71\% | 12.15\% | 15.04\% | 5.25\% |
| 2009 | 152 | 78 | 241 | 48.83\% | 46.92\% | 26.48\% | 7.86\% |
| 2008 | 112 | 58 | 311 | -46.97\% | -47.68\% | -36.96\% | 8.58\% |
| 2007 | 295 | 178 | 515 | 1.50\% | 0.14\% | 5.49\% | 5.93\% |
| 2006 | 267 | 159 | 411 | 19.08\% | 17.44\% | 15.79\% | 7.25\% |
| 2005 | 209 | 119 | 340 | 1.81\% | 0.31\% | 4.91\% | 3.73\% |
| 2004 | 165 | 78 | 158 | 20.03\% | 18.42\% | 10.88\% | 4.20\% |
| 2003 | 121 | 49 | 93 | 40.31\% | 38.29\% | 28.69\% | 4.71\% |
| 2002 | 75 | 33 | 58 | -13.97\% | -15.23\% | -22.10\% | 3.53\% |
| 2001 | 85 | 36 | 51 | 2.05\% | 0.64\% | -11.88\% | 8.31\% |
| 2000 | 80 | 35 | 69 | 2.28\% | 0.68\% | -9.11\% | 6.64\% |
| 1999 | 81 | 36 | 79 | 32.56\% | 30.46\% | 21.04\% | 15.60\% |
| 1998 | 66 | 26 | 78 | 11.60\% | 9.68\% | 28.58\% | 6.03\% |
| 1997 | 39 | 9 | 30 | 35.65\% | 32.96\% | 33.36\% | 3.84\% |
| 1996 | 26 | 6 | 20 | 19.77\% | 17.13\% | 22.96\% | 4.06\% |

## DISCLOSURES

## PAST PERFORMANCE MAY NOT BE INDICATIVE OF FUTURE RESULTS.


 is measured against the S\&P 500 Index.

 this strategy may lose value.



 are included in composite at the start of the first full month under management. Exiting accounts are included through the last full month under management.






 by clients may vary.

 in compliance with GIPS reporting standards for the period October 1, 2001 through December 31, 2007; the same methods continue to be used in performance presentation.

 $\mathbf{2 . 6 4 \%}, \mathbf{1 . 9 6 \%}, \mathbf{1 . 6 4 \%}$, and $2.27 \%$ for those respective periods.

