

## U.S. EQUITY STRATEGY

## Quarterly Investment Review

ANNUALIZED RETURNS (USD, %) (QUARTER-END)

	<i>Quarter-End</i>	<i>YTD</i>	<i>1-Year</i>	<i>3-Year</i>	<i>5-Year</i>	<i>10-Year</i>	<i>Since Inception</i>
U.S. Equity Strategy (net)	-2.05	-2.05	26.94	18.30	12.51	13.47	11.19
U.S. Equity Strategy (gross)	-1.94	-1.94	27.52	18.87	13.06	14.03	11.73
S&P Composite 1500 +	-3.81	-3.81	17.85	17.77	11.58	13.81	10.96
Value Add	+1.76	+1.76	+9.08	+0.54	+0.93	-0.34	+0.24

## MAJOR PERFORMANCE DRIVERS

Global equity markets started the year with positive absolute returns across regions, then fell after the U.S. and Israel decided to attack Iran, ending the quarter with all regions posting negative returns. In January and February, the U.S. underperformed markets outside the U.S. However, non-U.S. markets were most directly exposed to disruptions in the trade of energy, commodities, and other critical products from the Middle East and were the worst performers in March.

Amid the market volatility, value modestly outperformed growth in the U.S. In this environment, our Value and Momentum signals both excelled at differentiating between attractive and unattractive names, with the strongest performance from Bottom-up Value.

Portfolio outperformance was driven by stock selection across a broad range of sectors. Highlights included stock selection in Information Technology, Health Care, and Consumer Discretionary. In contrast, sector allocation detracted. The portfolio maintained underweight positions in three of the quarter's top-performing sectors: Energy, Materials, and Utilities.

## RISKS

Risks associated with investing in the Strategy may include: (1) Market Risk - Equities: the market price of equities may decline due to factors affecting the issuer, its industries, or the economy and equity markets generally. Declines in stock market prices generally are likely to reduce the net asset value of the Fund's shares; (2) Management and Operational Risk: the risk that GMO's investment techniques will fail to produce desired results, including annualized returns and annualized volatility; and (3) Focused Investment Risk: the Fund invests its assets in the securities of a limited number of issuers, and a decline in the market price of a particular security held by the Fund may affect the Fund's performance more than if the Fund invested in the securities of a larger number of issuers. This is not a complete list of risks associated with investing in the Strategy. Please contact GMO for more information.

Composite Inception Date: 28-Feb-89

**Performance Returns:** Performance for the year of inception is less than a full calendar year. Returns shown for periods greater than one year are on an annualized basis. To obtain performance information to the most recent month-end, visit [www.gmo.com](http://www.gmo.com). **Performance data quoted represents past performance and is not predictive of future performance.** Net returns are presented after the deduction of a model advisory fee and incentive fee if applicable. These returns include transaction costs, commissions and withholding taxes on foreign income and capital gains and include the reinvestment of dividends and other income, as applicable. Fees paid by accounts within the composite may be higher or lower than the model fees used. Gross returns are presented gross of management fees and any incentive fees if applicable. These returns include transaction costs, commissions, withholding taxes on foreign income and capital gains and include the reinvestment of dividends and other income, as applicable. If management and incentive fees were deducted performance would be lower. For example, if, before fees, the strategy were to achieve a 10% annual rate of return above its hurdle rate each year for ten years, and an annual advisory fee of 1% and incentive fee of 20% of net returns above the hurdle rate were charged during that period, the resulting average annual net return (after the deduction of management and incentive fees) would be approximately 7.20%. **GMO LLC claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®). A Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) Composite Report is available at [www.gmo.com](http://www.gmo.com) by clicking the GIPS® Composite Report link in the documents section of the strategy page. GIPS® is a registered trademark owned by CFA Institute. CFA Institute does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contained herein. Actual fees are disclosed in Part 2 of GMO's Form ADV and are also available in each strategy's Composite Report.** The portfolio is actively-managed, is not managed relative to a benchmark and uses an index for performance comparison purposes only and, where applicable, to compute a performance fee.

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*Quarterly Investment Review*

## PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The GMO U.S. Equity Strategy seeks to generate high total return by investing primarily in U.S. equities. The Strategy measures its performance against the S&P Composite 1500+ Index.

The Strategy's investment approach is grounded in the Systematic Equity team's belief that, in the short term, equity markets exhibit exploitable inefficiencies as a result of irrational investor actions, the imperfect flow of information, and the participation of non-economic actors, while in the long-term returns are ultimately driven by economic reality. The Strategy aims to take advantage of these inefficiencies by utilizing a multi-factor valuation model in conjunction with other methods, such as momentum and corporate alerts, to identify undervalued equity securities.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Comparator Index(es):** The S&P Composite 1500 + Index is an internally maintained benchmark computed by GMO, comprised of (i) GMO blended benchmark of U.S. Equity Allocation Comp blended Benchmark through 06/30/2014, (ii) Russell 3000 through 3/31/2020, and (iii) S&P Composite 1500 thereafter. The GMO blended benchmark of U.S. Equity Allocation Comp blended Benchmark is comprised of a weighted average of account benchmarks; many of the account benchmarks consist of S&P 500, Russell 3000 or some like proxy for each market exposure they have. For each underlying account benchmark, the weighting of each market index will vary slightly. The index is internally blended by GMO and maintained on a monthly basis. S&P does not guarantee the accuracy, adequacy, completeness or availability of any data or information and is not responsible for any errors or omissions from the use of such data or information. Reproduction of the data or information in any form is prohibited except with the prior written permission of S&P or its third party licensors. Russell Investment Group is the source and owner of the trademarks, service marks and copyrights related to the Russell Indexes. Russell® is a trademark of Russell Investment Group.

The above information is based on a representative account in the Strategy selected because it has the fewest restrictions and best represents the implementation of the Strategy.

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## ABOUT GMO

Founded in 1977, GMO is a global asset manager committed to delivering superior performance and advice to our clients. We are privately owned, which allows us to singularly focus on our sole business – achieving outstanding long-term client investment outcomes. Offering multi-asset, equity, fixed income, and alternative strategies, we invest with a long-term, valuation-based philosophical approach.

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\*GMO's West Coast Hub is comprised of members of Investment, Global Client Relations, and other teams located in and around the Greater San Francisco area

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