





# **International Small Cap Portfolio**

First Quarter 2025

# **Market Review**

The MSCI All Country World ex. U.S. Small Cap Index increased 0.64% in the first quarter of 2025. International equites outperformed relative to U.S. equities, marking a divergence from recent trends as investors grappled with significant political uncertainty, particularly around the Trump administration's tariff and trade policies. With increasing economic uncertainty, interest rates declined, leading to outperformance in the financials sector, while technology underperformed. In general, the hottest areas of the market in recent quarters underperformed, with India and Taiwan being the most notable countries in that regard. Europe and Latin America outperformed in the first quarter after a period of significant underperformance, as investors gravitated towards markets with more attractive valuations.

## **Portfolio Review**

The International Small Cap portfolio outperformed the MSCI All Country World ex. U.S. Small Cap Index during the first quarter. The portfolio's geographic positioning was a tailwind as we have been underweight Asia ex. Japan and overweight Europe and Latin America. The top contributors to performance in the first quarter were Haw Par and freee.

- Haw Par is a holding company whose largest asset is a strategic investment in one of the largest banks in Singapore. Shares in Haw Par increased after the company declared a large special dividend in the first quarter.
- freee provides cloud-based enterprise resource planning (ERP) software to small and midsized enterprises in Japan. The company reported strong revenue growth as well as betterthan-expected margins in the quarter.
- Other top contributors in the quarter included Mortgage Advice Bureau, oOh media, and MarkLines.

The biggest detractors to performance during the quarter were Sarana Menara Nusantara and FDM Group.

- Sarana Menara Nusantara is one of the leading telecommunication tower and fiber operators in Indonesia. The company has been negatively impacted by higher borrowing costs and two large customer consolidation events overlapping in a short period of time.
- FDM Group recruits, trains, and deploys information technology professionals around the
  world. The company is going through a weak demand phase, following a surge in IT services
  demand during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Other detractors in the quarter included AJ Bell, Kainos Group, and IntegraFin.

# **Purchases and Sales**

| New Purchases | Complete Sales |  |  |
|---------------|----------------|--|--|
| As One        | None           |  |  |

# **Portfolio Highlights**

Style: Small Cap Index: MSCI® ACWI ex. U.S. Small Cap Index Portfolio Inception: 2012 Portfolio Assets: \$353.6 M\* Portfolio Turnover: 25%-35% Number of Holdings: 40-60

## **Investment Philosophy**

We believe that purchasing high-quality businesses with competitive protections at attractive valuations will achieve excess returns over a complete market cycle.

# **Investment Objectives**

- To achieve a return meaningfully above that of the MSCI<sup>®</sup> ACWI ex. U.S. Small Cap Index
- To achieve this return objective with a portfolio that exhibits lower overall risk characteristics

# **Investment Management Team**

| Name   | Research<br>Start Date |
|--|------------------------|
| <b>Hyung Kim</b> Portfolio Manager + Senior Research Analyst           | 2009                   |
| <b>Craig Thrasher, CFA</b> Portfolio Manager + Senior Research Analyst | 2003                   |
| <b>David Forward</b><br>Research Analyst                               | 2015                   |
| <b>Luke Longinotti, CFA</b> Governance & Sustainability Analyst        | 2020                   |
| Sean Pompa, CFA<br>Research Analyst                                    | 2016                   |
| Mitch Vogt, CFA<br>Research Analyst                                    | 2017                   |
| Clarissa Ali<br>Associate Research Analyst                             | 2023                   |

# **Top 10 Holdings**

As of March 31, 2025

| Company                           | Country        | Percent of equity (%) |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Baltic Classifieds                | Lithuania      | 6.4                   |
| Rightmove                         | United Kingdom | 4.9                   |
| Haw Par                           | Singapore      | 4.8                   |
| FinecoBank                        | Italy          | 4.2                   |
| Caixa Seguridade<br>Participacoes | Brazil         | 3.6                   |
| MarkLines                         | Japan          | 3.6                   |
| AJ Bell                           | United Kingdom | 3.5                   |
| Grupa Pracuj                      | Poland         | 3.4                   |
| Moltiply Group                    | Italy          | 3.4                   |
| Corporacion Moctezuma             | Mexico         | 3.4                   |
| Total                             |                | 41.2                  |

<sup>\*</sup>Figures in USE

This report is based on the assumptions and analysis made and believed to be reasonable by Advisor. However, no assurance can be given that Advisor's opinions or expectations will be correct.
This report is intended for informational purposes only and should be not considered a recommendation or solicitation to purchase securities. Holdings and weightings are based on a representative portfolio. Individual Investors' holdings may differ slightly. Data is obtained by FactSet Research Systems and is assumed to be reliable. Numbers may not always add up due to rounding.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.







Development of KAR High-Quality Universe

#### **Quantitative Screens**

- High return on capital over a full economic cycle
- Long and resilient earnings history
- High return on net operating assets
- Minimal debt

#### Other Resources

- Research on existing portfolio holdings
- Meetings with companies
- Industry reviews
- Investment conferences
- Third-party research



Proprietary Fundamental Research

#### **Qualitative Analysis**

 Evaluate sustainability of business model and assess management's ability to direct capital where it can create further control of its market

#### **Financial Analysis**

 Evaluate basis for profitability, long-term growth potential, and ability to allocate capital appropriately

#### **Valuation Analysis**

 Determine the current and potential value of the business



Portfolio Construction

#### **Position Weights**

 Maximum initial position size is 5% (at cost)
 Maximum position size is 10% (at market)

#### **Sector and Geographic Tolerances**

 Seek broad diversification, but no sector constraints

#### **Holding Period**

- Typically 3-to-5 years
- Portfolio turnover is typically 25% to 35%

#### **Cash Levels**

 Typically will not exceed 10% once a portfolio is fully invested; review by CIO triggered if over 10%



Sell Discipline

**Extended Valuation** 

Portfolio Upgrade

**Acquisition Activity** 

Negative Company or Industry Changes

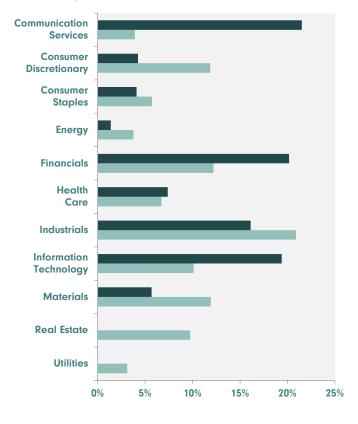
**Seeking Higher Quality** 

Seeking Stronger, More Consistent Growth

**Seeking Better Value** 

## **Sector Diversification**

As of March 31, 2025



MSCI® ACWI ex. U.S. Small Cap Index

Holdings are subject to change. Holdings and weightings are based on a representative portfolio. Individual Investors' holdings may differ slightly. The sector information represented above is based on GICS sector classifications. Data is obtained by FactSet Research Systems and is assumed to be reliable.

KAR International Small Cap

## **Portfolio Characteristics**

As of March 31, 2025

|   | KAR<br>International<br>Small Cap | MSCI® ACWI<br>ex. U.S. Small<br>Cap Index |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| Quality                                 |                                   |   |
| Return on Equity—Past 5 Years           | 22.7%                             | 10.6%                                     |
| Debt/EBITDA*                            | 0.6 x                             | 2.2 x                                     |
| Interest Expense Coverage               | 9.5 x                             | 2.0 x                                     |
| Growth                                  |                                   |   |
| Earnings Per Share Growth—Past 5 Years  | 10.5%                             | 13.0%                                     |
| Earnings Per Share Growth—Past 10 Years | 12.0%                             | 7.2%                                      |
| Dividend Per Share Growth—Past 5 Years  | 15.1%                             | 12.2%                                     |
| Dividend Per Share Growth—Past 10 Years | 11.4%                             | 7.3%                                      |
| Value                                   |                                   |   |
| P/E Ratio—Trailing 12 Months            | 18.3 x                            | 17.8 x                                    |
| Dividend Yield <sup>†</sup>             | 3.0%                              | 3.0%                                      |
| Market Characteristics                  |                                   |   |
| \$ Weighted Average Market Cap          | \$3.2 B                           | \$2.9 B                                   |
| Largest Market Cap                      | \$12.2 B                          | \$11.2 B <sup>‡</sup>                     |

\*KAR utilizes the interquartile method when calculating Debt/EBITDA. The interquartile method excludes outliers from an aggregate statistic such as weighted average. The interquartile method does not assume that data from the top or bottom of the distribution are outliers—only the extreme ends are excluded—and that it can be applied consistently as a quantitative method for most fundamental characteristics. Debt/EBITDA utilizes net debt for the calculation.

\*Dividend yield is a financial ratio that shows how much companies have paid out in dividends in the most recent year relative to their stock price at the end of such year. Dividend yield is being shown here as a characteristic of the stocks held in the portfolio and not to infer how the stocks have or will perform, as dividends are not the only component of the portfolio's performance. Dividends are subject to change from year-to-year, and the portfolio's dividend yield could be lower or higher in future years.

\*Number is from MSCI factsheet as of March 31, 2025.

Data is obtained from FactSet Research Systems and BNY Mellon and is assumed to be reliable. Other principal consultant firms may use different algorithms to calculate selected statistics. Estimates are based on certain assumptions and historical information. 

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Returns could be reduced, or losses incurred, due to currency fluctuations.

# **International Small Cap Portfolio**

First Quarter 2025

# **Developed vs. Emerging Markets**

As of March 31, 2025

|                   | Percent of equity (%) |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Developed Markets | 66.8                  |
| Emerging Markets  | 33.2                  |
| Total             | 100.0                 |

# **Geographical Exposure**

As of March 31, 2025

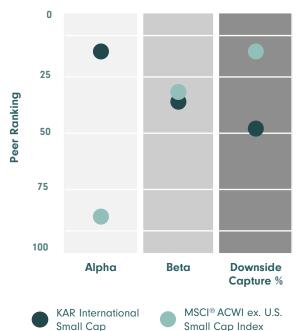


### **Historical Returns**

|                         | KAR International<br>Small Cap | KAR International<br>Small Cap | MSCI® ACWI ex.<br>U.S. Small Cap |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                         | (gross)                        | (net) <sup>‡</sup>             | Index                            |
| Annualized Returns (%)† |                                |                                |                                  |
| As of March 31, 2025    |                                |                                |                                  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter | 6.45                           | 6.22                           | 0.64                             |
| One Year                | 7.88                           | 6.92                           | 1.87                             |
| Three Years             | 2.59                           | 1.67                           | 0.99                             |
| Five Years              | 10.90                          | 9.91                           | 11.84                            |
| Seven Years             | 5.46                           | 4.52                           | 3.22                             |
| Ten Years               | 8.85                           | 7.88                           | 5.32                             |
| Inception*              | 10.97                          | 9.99                           | 6.75                             |
| Annual Returns (%)      |                                |                                |                                  |
| 2024                    | 0.81                           | (0.09)                         | 3.36                             |
| 2023                    | 21.61                          | 20.54                          | 15.66                            |
| 2022                    | (30.43)                        | (31.08)                        | (19.97)                          |
| 2021                    | 9.58                           | 8.61                           | 12.92                            |
| 2020                    | 25.92                          | 24.81                          | 14.24                            |
| 2019                    | 29.47                          | 28.34                          | 22.42                            |
| 2018                    | (5.33)                         | (6.18)                         | (18.20)                          |
| 2017                    | 30.29                          | 29.15                          | 31.65                            |
| 2016                    | 22.81                          | 21.73                          | 3.91                             |
| 2015                    | (0.28)                         | (1.18)                         | 2.60                             |
| 2014                    | (1.92)                         | (2.80)                         | (4.03)                           |
| 2013                    | 32.42                          | 31.26                          | 19.73                            |
| 2012                    | 24.87                          | 23.77                          | 18.52                            |

# **Peer Comparison Chart**

Inception\* to March 31, 2025



The eVestment Non-U.S. Diversified Small Cap Equity Universe includes 53 managers categorized in the non-U.S. diversified small cap equity asset class by eVestment. KAR does not pay any fees to be included in the eVestment Non-U.S. Diversified Small Cap Equity Universe or for the ranking itself. KAR does pay fees for the use of certain products and services provided by eVestment. eVestment rankings are based on gross of fee returns. Gross of fee returns will be reduced by investment management fees and other expenses that may be incurred in the management of the account. Management fees are described in KAR's Form ADV Part 2A, which is available upon request and can also be found at https://kayne.com/wp-content/uploads/ADV-Part-2A.pdf. Returns could be reduced or losses incurred due to currency fluctuations. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

## **Performance Statistics**

Inception\* to March 31, 2025

|                      | KAR<br>International<br>Small Cap<br>(gross) | KAR<br>International<br>Small Cap<br>(net) | MSCI® ACWI<br>ex. U.S. Small<br>Cap Index |
|----------------------|--|--|---|
| Alpha                | 4.18   | 3.25                                       | 0.00                                      |
| Sharpe Ratio         | 0.58   | 0.52                                       | 0.34                                      |
| Information<br>Ratio | 0.71   | 0.54                                       | N/A                                       |
| Beta                 | 0.99   | 0.99                                       | 1.00                                      |
| Downside<br>Capture  | 93.72  | 95.96                                      | 100.00                                    |
| Tracking<br>Error    | 5.95   | 5.95                                       | N/A                                       |

<sup>\*</sup>January 1, 2012

<sup>†</sup>All periods less than one year are total returns and are not annualized. Returns are final.

<sup>\*</sup>Net of all fees and expenses. Assumes a 0.90% annual fee. Fees presented on the Disclosure page could vary from the assumed fee in the net-of-fee calculation, as actual fees paid by a particular client account differ depending on a variety of factors including, but not limited to, business unit and size of mandate. The fee used on the Disclosure page utilizes an assumed maximum fee across the firm's business units, which is further detailed on that page.

This material is deemed supplemental and complements the performance and disclosure at the end of this presentation. Returns of the Kayne Anderson Rudnick composite are final unless otherwise specified. For further details on the composite, please see the disclosure statement in this presentation. Data is obtained from FactSet Research Systems and is assumed to be reliable. **Past** performance is no guarantee of future results. Returns could be reduced, or losses incurred, due to currency fluctuations.





# **International Small Cap Composite**

First Quarter 2025

### **Disclosure**

| Year | Composite<br>Gross Return<br>(%) | Composite<br>Net Return<br>(%) | MSCI® ACWI ex.<br>U.S.A. Small<br>Cap Index<br>Return (%) | Composite<br>3-Yr Std Dev<br>(%) | Benchmark<br>3-Yr Std Dev<br>(%) | Number of<br>Accounts | Internal<br>Dispersion<br>(%) | Composite Assets (\$ Millions) | Firm<br>Assets<br>(\$ Millions) |
|------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2015 | (0.28)                           | (1.18)                         | 2.60  | 12.02                            | 11.49                            | < 5                   | N/A                           | 46                             | 8,095                           |
| 2016 | 22.81                            | 21.73                          | 3.91  | 13.26                            | 12.31                            | < 5                   | N/A                           | 55                             | 9,989                           |
| 2017 | 30.29                            | 29.15                          | 31.65   | 13.01                            | 11.69                            | < 5                   | N/A                           | 324                            | 14,609                          |
| 2018 | (5.33)                           | (6.18)                         | (18.20)   | 12.39                            | 12.52                            | < 5                   | N/A                           | 905                            | 17,840                          |
| 2019 | 29.47                            | 28.34                          | 22.42   | 10.78                            | 11.77                            | < 5                   | N/A                           | 2,112                          | 25,685                          |
| 2020 | 25.92                            | 24.81                          | 14.24   | 20.34                            | 21.28                            | 5                     | N/A                           | 2,788                          | 39,582                          |
| 2021 | 9.58                             | 8.61                           | 12.92   | 19.92                            | 20.14                            | 7                     | 1.60                          | 598                            | 47,269                          |
| 2022 | (30.43)                          | (31.08)                        | (19.97)   | 24.86                            | 23.05                            | 7                     | 0.70                          | 368                            | 33,531                          |
| 2023 | 21.61                            | 20.54                          | 15.66   | 21.02                            | 17.22                            | 7                     | 1.09                          | 479                            | 41,186                          |
| 2024 | 0.81                             | (0.09)                         | 3.36  | 21.28                            | 17.05                            | < 5                   | N/A                           | 331                            | 45,494                          |

The MSCI® ACWI ex. U.S.A. Small Cap Index is a trademark/service mark of MSCI®. MSCI® is a trademark of MSCI Inc.

KAR (as defined below) claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS® standards. KAR has been independently verified for the period from January 1, 1999 through December 31, 2024.

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, 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.

The International Small Cap Composite has had a performance examination for the period from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2024. The verification and performance examination reports are available upon request.

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Kayne Anderson Rudnick Investment Management, LLC ("KAR"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Virtus Investment Partners, Inc., is a registered investment advisor under the Investment Advisors Act of 1940. Registration of an Investment Advisor does not imply any level of skill or training. KAR manages a

variety of equity and fixed-income strategies focusing exclusively on securities the firm defines as high quality.

The composite includes all fully discretionary institutional and pooled International Small Cap Portfolios. International Small Cap Portfolios are invested in equity securities with market capitalizations in line with the MSCI® ACWI ex. U.S.A. Small Cap Index, that have market control, rising free cash flow, shareholder-oriented management, strong consistent profit growth and low-debt balance sheets. For comparison purposes, the composite is measured against the MSCI® ACWI ex U.S.A. Small Cap Index (net). The MSCI® ACWI ex. U.S.A. Small Cap Index is a market capitalization-weighted index of smallcapitalization stocks of the MSCI® Global Investable Market Indices Universe, excluding U.S. companies. The index is calculated on a total-return basis with dividends reinvested, net of withholding taxes. Benchmark returns are not covered by the report of the independent verifiers. The inception date of the composite is January 2012. The composite was created in January 2012. Policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS Reports are available upon request. The firm's list of composite descriptions, list of broad distribution pooled fund and the list of limited distribution pooled funds descriptions are available upon request.

The model management fee used for the net returns in this table is 0.90% for all periods

presented. The standard Institutional management fee schedule currently in effect is as follows: 0.90% for the first \$50 million; 0.80% on the next \$50 million; 0.70% on the next \$100 million; 0.60% on the balance. Actual management fees charged may vary depending on applicable fee schedules and portfolio size, among other things. Additional information may be found in Part 2A of Form ADV, which is available on request. The performance information is supplied for reference. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Results will vary among accounts. The U.S. dollar is the currency used to express performance. Returns are presented net of withholding taxes and net of transaction fees and include the reinvestment of all income. Gross returns will be reduced by investment management fees and other expenses that may be incurred in the management of the account. Model net returns have been calculated by deducting 1/12th of the highest tier of the standard management fee schedule in effect for the respective period from the gross composite returns on a monthly basis.

Internal dispersion is calculated using the asset-weighted standard deviation of annual gross returns for accounts in the composite for the entire year. For those years when less than five accounts were included for the full year, no dispersion measure is presented. The three-year annualized ex-post standard deviation measures the variability of the composite (using gross returns) and the benchmark for the 36-month period.

#### GLOSSARY

Alpha: A risk-adjusted measure of an investment's excess return relative to a benchmark. Upside Capture Ratio: A statistical measure of an investment manager's overall performance in upmarkets. It is used to evaluate how well an investment manager performed relative to an index during periods when that index has risen. Sharpe Ratio: A risk-adjusted measure calculated using standard deviation and excess return to determine reward per unit of risk. Information Ratio: The information ratio (IR) is a measurement of portfolio returns beyond the returns of a benchmark, usually an index, compared to the volatility of those returns. Beta: A quantitative measure of the volatility, or systematic risk, of a security or a portfolio in comparison to the market as a whole. Downside Capture Ratio: A statistical measure of an investment manager's

overall performance in down-markets. It is used to evaluate how well an investment manager performed relative to an index during periods when that index has dropped.

#### INDEX DEFINITION

The MSCI® ACWI ex USA Small Cap Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization-weighted index that measures small cap equity performance of developed and emerging markets, excluding the U.S. The index is calculated on a total return basis with net dividends reinvested. The index is unmanaged, its returns do not reflect any fees, expenses, or sales charges, and is not available for direct investment.