Inception Date 10/13/23 Morningstar® Category Large Value

# **Market Overview**

US equities registered their first quarterly loss since the third quarter of 2023. Volatility surged and risk sentiment waned as markets grappled with the implications and considerable uncertainty surrounding the new administration's policies on trade, immigration, fiscal spending, tax cuts, and deregulation. Escalating tariffs and the prospect of additional levies in April worsened the outlook for inflation and economic growth, fueling fears of stagflation and recession. Against a turbulent market backdrop, technology indices fell sharply, and growth and small-cap stocks significantly underperformed their value and large-cap counterparts, respectively.

The Russell 1000 Value returned 2.14% for the period. Within the index, eight out of 11 sectors rose for the quarter. Energy and communication services were the top-performing sectors, while information technology and consumer discretionary were the bottom-performing sectors over the period.

# **Performance Summary**

- Hartford Quality Value ETF outperformed the Russell 1000 Value Index during the quarter.
- Security selection was a driver of relative performance due to strong selection within consumer staples, information technology, and healthcare. This was partially offset by selection within communication services and industrials. Sector allocation, a result of our bottom-up stock selection process, also contributed to returns. Allocation effect was driven by our underweight allocations to industrials and consumer discretionary. This was modestly offset by our overweight to information technology.
- Top relative contributors over the period included overweight allocations to Phillip Morris (consumer staples) and Gilead Sciences (healthcare), while our top two relative detractors were not holding benchmark constituent Berkshire Hathaway (financials) and an overweight allocation to Knight-Swift Transportation (industrials).

# **Positioning & Outlook**

- Within this environment, market participants continue to grapple with the impacts of rapid policy changes, particularly on trade and economic growth. We anticipate the potential for heightened volatility will persist amid early indications of economic softening. We continue to believe President Donald Trump's policy objectives, including tariffs and lower taxes, may prove inflationary, challenging the central bank's ability to continue lowering rates. Volatility is selectively creating attractive investment opportunities, but the range of outcomes remains wide. Against this backdrop, we remain focused on companies with consistent pricing power, strong balance sheets, and sustainable and growing cash flows trading at attractive valuations.
- At the end of the period, our largest overweights were to the utilities, energy, and healthcare sectors. We were most underweight to industrials.

## Portfolio managers from Wellington Management and years of experience

Matthew G. Baker, 30 years Nataliya Kofman, 27 years Brian J. Schmeer, CFA, 13 years

## Top Ten Holdings (%)

| JP Morgan Chase & Co.                | 4.20  |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Philip Morris International,<br>Inc. | 3.59  |
| UnitedHealth Group, Inc.             | 3.50  |
| Wells Fargo & Co.                    | 3.02  |
| Gilead Sciences, Inc.                | 2.66  |
| Bank of America Corp.                | 2.62  |
| Morgan Stanley                       | 2.08  |
| American Express Co.                 | 2.05  |
| Williams Cos., Inc.                  | 2.01  |
| Honeywell International, Inc.        | 1.97  |
| Percentage Of Portfolio              | 27.70 |

Holdings and characteristics are subject to change. Percentages may be rounded.

## Average Annual Total Returns (%)

|                      | QTD  | YTD  | 1 Year | 3 Year | 5 Year | 10 Year | SI    |
|----------------------|------|------|--------|--------|--------|---------|-------|
| QUVU NAV             | 3.28 | 3.28 | 6.60   | 4.87   | 15.16  | 8.34    | 7.85  |
| QUVU Market Price    | 3.15 | 3.15 | 6.74   | —      | —      | —       | 15.99 |
| Benchmark            | 2.14 | 2.14 | 7.18   | 6.64   | 16.15  | 8.79    | _     |
| Morningstar Category | 1.49 | 1.49 | 6.62   | 6.86   | 16.55  | 8.91    | _     |

#### Total Operating Expenses<sup>1</sup>: 0.45%

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SI = Since Inception. Fund Inception: 10/13/2023. Prior to the close of business on 10/13/23, the Fund operated as an open-end mutual fund (the "Predecessor Fund"). The Fund has the same investment objective, strategies and policies as the Predecessor Fund. The NAV returns prior to October 16, 2023 include the returns of the Predecessor Fund"s share classes and operating expenses as follows: Class F (2/28/17-10/13/23); Class I (8/31/06-2/27/17); and Class A excluding sales charges (1/2/96-8/30/06). The Market Price performance does not include the Predecessor Fund's NAV performance and instead reflects the Fund's Market Price beginning with the Fund's listing on the exchange. Had the Predecessor Fund been structured as an exchange-traded fund, the performance may have differed. Performance for periods of less than one year is not annualized.

Performance data quoted represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. For more current performance information to the most recent month ended, please visit hartfordfunds.com.

ETF shares are bought and sold at market price, not net asset value (NAV). Total returns are calculated using the daily 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time NAV. Market price returns reflect the midpoint of the bid/ask spread as of the close of trading on the exchange where Fund shares are listed. Market price returns do not represent the returns an investor would receive if they traded shares at other times. Brokerage commissions apply and will reduce returns.

Benchmark: Russell 1000 Value Index is an unmanaged index measuring the performance of those Russell 1000 Index companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower forecasted growth values. Indices are unmanaged and not available for direct investment.

<sup>1</sup>Expenses are the total annual operating expenses from the Fund's most recent prospectus at the time of publication.

Important Risks: Investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal. Security prices of the Fund's underlying holdings will fluctuate in value depending on general market and economic conditions and the prospects of individual companies. The market price of the Fund's shares will fluctuate in response to changes in the Fund's net asset value, intraday value of the Fund's holdings, and the supply and demand for shares. The Fund is actively managed and does not seek to replicate the performance of a specified index. The securities of large market capitalization companies may underperform other segments of the market. Different investment styles may go in and out of favor, which may cause the Fund to underperform the broader stock market. For dividend-paying stocks, dividends are not guaranteed and may decrease without notice. To the extent the Fund focuses on one or more sectors, the Fund may be subject to increased volatility and risk of loss if adverse developments occur.

Investors should carefully consider a fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses. This and other important information is contained in a fund's full prospectus and summary prospectus, which can be obtained by visiting hartfordfunds.com. Please read it carefully before investing.

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