

# Small Cap Focus

## Portfolio Update: First Quarter 2025

During the quarter ending March 31, 2025, the Small Cap Focus Composite (the "Strategy") returned -2.56%, net of fees compared to a -9.48% return for the Russell 2000® Index (the "Benchmark").

Performance	Quarter	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Since Inception (12/31/2018)
<b>Small Cap Focus Composite</b> (net of IM fees)	-2.56%	-2.56%	+6.10%	+4.30%	+16.18%	+12.61%
<b>Small Cap Focus Composite</b> (net of IM & WM fees)	-2.82%	-2.82%	+5.05%	+3.27%	+15.05%	+11.51%
<b>Russell 2000® Index</b>	-9.48%	-9.48%	-4.01%	+0.52%	+13.27%	+8.07%

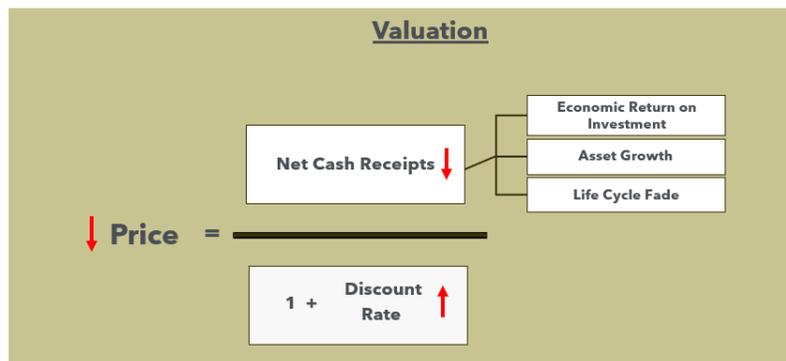
*Inception date: December 31, 2018. Performance for periods of greater than one year is annualized. Please see important disclosures at the end of this document. Past performance is not indicative of future results, and there is a risk of loss of all or part of your investment. Data as of March 31, 2025. Investment management fees are charged for managed investment accounts, is intended to compensate the portfolio managers for their time and expertise for selecting investments and managing the specific strategy as well as other items, such as investor relations expenses and the administration costs. These fees vary by client and for this presentation the highest possible wealth management fees has been applied in these calculations.*

Small cap stocks entered correction territory as enthusiasm for a Trump led stronger economy and a promise to bring down inflation gave way to tariff related risks of slower economic growth and persistent inflation. President Trump's Tariff agenda, in his own words, "might create a little disturbance for a while." His Treasury Secretary, Scott Bessent affirmed that there is "going to be a detox period."

From an investor perspective, that means lower economic growth, possibly a recession, as CEO's and consumers try to figure out the impact of tariffs on their businesses and lives. CEO's need to evaluate how these new tariffs impact costs, supply chains and demand for their products. Consumers need to understand what tariffs mean for their cost of living.

Investors can view these risks through the lens of the Pricing Equation. Higher recession risk is reflected through expectations of lower net cash receipts. A recession increases credit risk which is expressed through a higher discount rate, which equates to lower stock prices.

### Exhibit 1: The Pricing Equation



Source: RMB Asset Management.

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From an industry perspective, relative performance aligned with the emerging narrative that slower growth—or a potential recession—will lead to lower interest rates, benefiting defensive and interest rate-sensitive sectors. As a result, utilities, consumer staples, real estate, and financials outperformed for the quarter.

Energy also outperformed, driven by ongoing Middle East conflicts and President Trump's threat to raise tariffs on countries buying oil from Venezuela. Materials also outperformed, with steel companies seen as beneficiaries of new tariffs, and as gold miners benefited from record prices as gold is seen to be a safe-haven asset.

In contrast, the industrials and consumer discretionary sectors underperformed amid lower economic growth expectations and a drop in consumer confidence to its lowest level since 2013. Healthcare lagged due to the appointment of RFK Jr. as the Secretary of Health and Human Services, an anti-vaccine figure critical of the healthcare industry.

Finally, technology saw a sharp decline—down 17% for the quarter—after China launched “DeepSeek,” a low-cost AI platform posing strong competition to U.S. counterparts who were previously believed positioned to dominate the market.

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## Contributors and Detractors

Contributors benefited from a combination of anticipated positive tailwinds from the new administration, as well as lower interest rates.

BJ's Wholesale Club Holdings Inc. (BJ) is a high quality, defensive consumer staple holding. BJ is membership-only warehouse chain offering members a wide range of products from groceries to electronics at discounted prices. BJ delivered a stellar quarter and year end with higher than expected sales, margins and turns and importantly 90% renewal rates.

Royal Gold Inc. (RGLD) is a precious metals royalty company that acquires and manages interests in mining projects offering investors exposure to gold and other metals without the operational risks of traditional mining. RGLD is benefiting from the rising price of gold as a safe haven asset in an increasingly uncertain world.

EastGroup Properties Inc. (EGP) is a real estate investment trust focused on the development, acquisition and operation of industrial properties primarily in the major Sunbelt markets. It owns high quality properties clustered around major transportation hubs. It is enabling the rebalancing of the industrial supply chain. Its properties are in high demand and it generates positive cash flow facilitating an attractive dividend yield and dividend growth. With its bond like characteristics, EGP typically outperforms in a declining interest rate environment.

Portfolio detractors delivered disappointing results and/or experienced headwinds from the negative "Deepseek" shock.

West Pharmaceutical Services Inc. (WST) is a global leader in designing and manufacturing innovative packaging and delivery systems for injectable drugs serving biotech and pharmaceutical companies. WST is one of our highest conviction names but disappointed investors this quarter when they lowered guidance due to walking away from a large customer who did not meet their margin requirements. We spoke with management after the quarter and we expect the revenue shortfall to be filled by a much higher margin pharmaceutical customer, but investors are in no mood for uncertainty in the current market environment.

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#### FIRST QUARTER 2025 CONTRIBUTION REPORT

Ranked by Basis Point Contribution

	Basis Point Contribution	Average Weight
<b>Top Contributors</b>		
BJ's Wholesale Club Holdings Inc.	+69	2.96%
Royal Gold Inc.	+44	2.04%
Range Resources Corp.	+36	3.17%
Watsco Inc.	+36	4.78%
EastGroup Properties Inc.	+32	3.62%
<b>Bottom Detractors</b>		
West Pharmaceutical Services Inc.	-98	2.82%
Curtiss-Wright Corp.	-46	4.54%
Eagle Materials Inc.	-43	4.41%
Triumph Financial Inc.	-39	0.94%
Neogen Corp.	-28	0.88%

*Past performance is not indicative of future results, and there is a risk of loss of all or part of your investment. The above does not represent all holdings in the Strategy. Holdings listed might not have been held for the full period. To obtain a copy of RMB Asset Management's calculation methodology and a list of all holdings with contribution analysis, please contact your service team. The data provided is supplemental. Please see important disclosures at the end of this document.*

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## Portfolio Activity

Our turnover is typically low. Most of our sales were related to risk control trims to reduce industry overweight's more in alignment with our risk controls. Risk control trims included Kadant Inc. (KAI), Watsco Inc. (WSO), Devon Energy Corp. (DVN), and Bright Horizons Family Solutions Inc. (BFAM).

We added to several positions we initiated last quarter as their quarterly results exceeded our expectations and our valuation targets increased with new annual data. We added to Texas Roadhouse Inc. (TXRH), Merit Medical Systems Inc. (MMSI), Clearwater Analytics Holdings Inc. (CWAN), AptarGroup Inc. (ATR), and Wintrust Financial Corp. (WTFC). We also started positions in AAON Inc and CyberArk. AAON, Inc is a leading manufacturer of high quality HVAC and refrigeration equipment. Their recent pivot toward providing cooling equipment for Data Centers critical to the AI market has resulted in much higher ROI, growth and value creation. The DeepSeek shock this quarter has investors turning more cautious on the sustainability of current ROI and growth. We believe the current share price reflects too much pessimism and bought the shares after a 33% post quarter decline. CyberArk is a best-in-class cyber security software company with a niche focused on privileged access management.

## Outlook

Our near-term outlook is more cautious. Previously, our outlook skewed more positively, with the focus on lower interest rates associated with lower inflation and stronger economic growth via lower regulation. However, tariffs have emerged as a significant wild card.

It has become clear that tariffs are not a negotiating tool, but rather a bold vision to re-shape world trade to create a more level playing field, in the view of President Trump. We take seriously his warning that the magnitude and scope of his tariff agenda "might create a little disturbance for a while."

We still view deregulation and a leaner government as long-term positives for economic growth and value creation, but we recognize the "no pain, no gain" tariff strategy. The President is pursuing a high-risk/high-reward economic, regulatory, and foreign policy blitzkrieg. This could spark a new era of significant wealth creation—or unleash geopolitical and economic chaos. The near-term outcome is unpredictable.

Long-term, we remain bullish on owning what we believe to be high quality companies managed by adaptable highly skilled management teams. We believe there is at least a 50% chance President Trump achieves many of his goals; reduced regulation, more efficient government, improved global trade terms, and peace in Ukraine. If so, equity investors—particularly in small-cap stocks—may benefit.

However, if tariffs trigger a deep recession, the current market correction could deepen into a full-blown bear market. In that scenario, interest rates would likely collapse, allowing the Treasury to refinance debt at significantly lower costs, easing the budget burden. Tariffs could also be lifted or modified to revive global trade and growth, sparking a new bull market.

Investors should brace for increased volatility as this high-stakes agenda unfolds. We recommend staying fully invested to your existing equity allocation since market timing is impossible and potentially increasing your allocation to equities if a full blown bear market drives equity prices 10-15% lower. The upside to the tariff wildcard is equally probable to the downside. Investors who sell now based on tariff uncertainty will unlikely get back in when that uncertainty dissipates as stocks will likely be significantly higher.

We believe riding out the volatility with an efficiently diversified portfolio of high-quality companies managed by highly skilled management teams that have a proven track record of adaptability and value creation is the best strategy for long-term success.

# Small Cap Focus

Thank you for your commitment to the Strategy.

Sincerely,



Chris Faber  
Portfolio Manager

## TOP TEN HOLDINGS AS OF 3/31/25

<b>Company</b>	<b>% of Assets</b>
Watsco Inc.	4.73%
Kadant Inc.	4.72%
Curtiss-Wright Corp.	4.38%
Eagle Materials Inc.	4.29%
EastGroup Properties Inc.	3.80%
Fair Isaac Corp.	3.71%
Carpenter Technology Corp.	3.56%
BJ's Wholesale Club Holdings Inc.	3.38%
Range Resources Corp.	3.36%
AptarGroup Inc.	3.18%

*Holdings are subject to change. Past performance is not indicative of future results, and there is risk of loss of all or part of your investment. The data provided is supplemental. Please see disclosures at the end of this document.*

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An investment cannot be made directly in an index. The index data assumes reinvestment of all income and does not bear fees, taxes, or transaction costs. The investment strategy and types of securities held by the comparison index may be substantially different from the investment strategy and types of securities held by the strategies. The benchmarks are shown for comparison purposes and are fully invested and include the reinvestment of income. The Russell 2000<sup>®</sup> is a subset of the Russell 3000<sup>®</sup> Index, representing about 8% of the total market capitalization of that index. It includes approximately 2000 of the smallest securities based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership. The Russell 2500<sup>®</sup> is a subset of the Russell 3000<sup>®</sup>, including approximately 2500 of the smallest securities based on their market cap and current index membership. The strategies include small- to mid-cap equity portfolios. The strategies may target investments in companies with relatively small market capitalizations (generally between \$500 million and \$10 billion at the time of initial purchase), that are undervalued as suggested by Curi RMB Capital's proprietary economic return framework. The S&P

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500 is widely regarded as the best single gauge of the United States equity market. It includes 500 leading companies in leading industries of the US economy. The S&P 500 focuses on the large cap segment of the market and covers approximately 75% of US equities. The Russell 2000® Value Index tracks the performance of companies with lower price-to-book ratios, which shows a company's market price relative to its balance sheet. The Russell 2000® Growth Index is a subset of companies with higher price-to-book ratios, or those expected to have higher growth values in the future. The Russell 3000® Index is a capitalization-weighted stock market index that seeks to be a benchmark of the entire U.S. stock market. The indexes do not reflect investment management fees, brokerage commissions, or other expenses associated with investing in equity securities.

**Basis Point (bps):** A unit that is equal to 1/100th of 1% and is used to denote the change in a financial instrument.

## Life Cycle Stages

**Rockets:** These are hyper-growth, early-stage companies which consume a lot of capital as they try to execute their business model. Typically, they are innovative with new products, new services, or new business processes that may threaten the status quo of existing larger companies. Upside potential may be huge, but so is downside risk. Volatility is high, and results are often binary.

**Golden Goodies:** These are Rockets that have survived and proven that they have viable long-term business models. They have historically tended to grow faster than the overall market and need to beat the fade in returns by continuing to fend off competitive threats. These have a history of being classic asset compounders and will continue to create wealth for as long as they can beat that fade.

**Falling Angels:** These are Golden Goodies whose growth rates have slowed because they have become so large or their economic returns have been falling because of competitive threats or an inability to find reinvestment opportunities at current high rates of return.

**Corks:** These are mature companies where the economic returns approximate the cost of capital. Asset growth does not add or destroy value, so improving the level of economic return is critical to their success.

**Turn Arounds:** These distressed companies are the victims of overcapacity, weak competitive position, or poor capital allocation. In order to be successful, they must divest the lower return segments of their overall business.

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## RMB Asset Management

Small Cap Focus Composite // GIPS Report

**Organization** | Curi RMB Capital, LLC ("Curi RMB Capital") is an independent investment advisor registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 and established in 2005. The GIPS firm is defined as RMB Asset Management ("RMB AM"), a division of Curi RMB Capital. Previously, the firm was defined as RMB Capital and was redefined on January 1, 2016 to only include the asset management business due to the difference in how its investment strategies and services are offered. RMB AM claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. RMB AM has been independently verified for the periods April 1, 2005 through December 31, 2022. The verification report(s) is/are 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.

**Description** | The Small Cap Focus Strategy reflects the performance of fully discretionary equity accounts, which have an investment objective of long-term growth using a portfolio of primarily small-cap stocks and for comparison purposes is measured against the Russell 2000® index. The Strategy seeks to maintain a concentrated portfolio of approximately 40 securities. The inception date of the Small Cap Focus Composite is December 31, 2018 and the Composite was created on December 31, 2018. The composite includes small cap equity portfolios invested in undervalued companies as suggested by Curi RMB Capital's proprietary economic return framework, with relatively small market capitalizations (generally under \$2.5 billion at the time of initial purchase) and with both growth and value attributes. Valuations and returns are computed and stated in U.S. Dollars.

### Composite Assets

Year End	Total Firm Assets as of 12/31 (\$M)	USD (\$M)	# of Accounts Managed	Composite Gross-of-Fees (%)	Composite Net-of-Fees (%)	Russell 2000® (%)	Composite 3-YR ST DEV (%)	Russell 2000® 3-YR ST DEV (%)	Composite Dispersion (%)
2023	6,235.5	354.2	754	20.63	19.77	16.93	20.03	21.11	0.88
2022	5,228.7	279.2	670	-22.46	-23.08	-20.44	23.30	26.02	0.94
2021	6,277.6	309.9	528	28.55	27.65	14.82	19.80	23.35	0.99
2020	5,240.6	207.5	388	23.35	21.47	19.96	N/A	N/A	2.24
2019	4,947.9	97.9	253	32.23	31.26	25.52	N/A	N/A	0.79

\* Composite dispersion is reported as N/A when the information is not statistically meaningful due to an insufficient number of portfolios in the composite for the entire year

**Fees** | The standard management fee is 0.750% of assets on the first \$2.0 million, 0.700% on the next \$2.0 - \$5.0 million, 0.650% on the next \$5.0 million, 0.600% on the next \$10.0 - \$20.0 million, and 0.550% over \$20.0 million. Net returns are computed by subtracting the highest applicable fee (0.75% on an annual basis) on a quarterly basis from the gross composite quarterly return, and the resulting quarterly net figures are compounded to calculate the annual net return. Actual investment advisory fees incurred by clients may vary. Composite performance is presented on a gross-of-fees and net-of-fees basis and includes the reinvestment of all income. The annual composite dispersion is an asset-weighted standard deviation calculated for the accounts in the Composite the entire year. Risk measures presented are calculated using gross-of-fees performance. Policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS Reports are available upon request.

**Minimum Value Threshold** | There is no account minimum in the Small Cap Focus Composite.

**Comparison with Market Indices** | Curi RMB Capital compares its Composite returns to a variety of market indices. These indices represent unmanaged portfolios whose characteristics differ from the Composite portfolios; however, they tend to represent the investment environment existing during the time period shown. The returns of the indices do not include any transaction costs, management fees, or other costs. Benchmark returns presented are not covered by the report of independent verifiers. The benchmark for the Small Cap Focus composite is the Russell 2000® Index, which for comparison purposes is fully invested and includes the reinvestment of income. The Russell 2000® is a subset of the Russell 3000® Index, representing about 8% of the total market capitalization of that index. It includes approximately 2000 of the smallest securities based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership. The Russell 2000® index is an unmanaged index that is designed to measure the small cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. The index does not reflect investment

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management fees, brokerage commissions, or other expenses associated with investing in equity securities. You cannot invest directly in an index.

**Other** | Past performance is no guarantee of future performance. Historical rates of return may not be indicative of future rates of return. Individual client performance returns may be different than the composite returns listed. GIPS® is a registered trademark of CFA Institute. CFA Institute does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contained herein. A list of Composite Descriptions and a list of Broad Distribution Pooled Funds are available upon request.