VT Tyndall North American Fund

Monthly Commentary | 30 June 2023



June Review

The Fund's F Acc share class units returned 2.56% compared to the S&P 500 Index ETF return of 2.73% in sterling terms.

We made some changes to our sector weightings in June. One of the biggest changes was the reduction to our position in Healthcare. We have taken the weighting down from 22% at the end of May to 9.4% at the end of June and reinvested the proceeds in other parts of the market, most notably Technology. Our Technology weighting has increased from 16% to 30%. We made this switch because we are currently seeing better opportunities in Tech and we are finding fewer reasons to be defensive in our Tactical portfolio. We sold several Healthcare holdings including Merck and Vertex Pharmaceuticals and trimmed some of other holdings. In Tech we bought Nvidia, now our biggest holding in the fund, and added to other positions like Cadence Design and Lam Research that are direct plays on the reshoring of the chip industry and the ongoing transformation of the industry brought about by the Al evolution. Al is going to require a very large-scale upgrade of the data centre and these companies are well placed to benefit from that.

We also reduced our Staples weighting from 8.9% to 4.8%, taking profits in stocks that we felt had done their job and it was time to move on. We sold General Mills, McDonald's and trimmed some Hershey. We added the proceeds to our homebuilders, which are now just over 10% of the portfolio. We are excited about the near-term future for this sector, as there is a unique dynamic at play right now. With existing home sales at multi decade lows due to lack of inventory, the winners are the homebuilders as new homes are the only outlet for buying demand. This is an unintended consequence of higher interest rates as homeowners find themselves 'rate locked' and unable to move. This has already paid dividends as Lennar Holdings was the biggest contributor to return in the month, rising by 17%. Pulte Homes was a good performer as well and returned 17.5%. We are also in a demographic sweet spot for housing demand, as Millennials enter their early 30s, which we believe will start to manifest once the outlook on interest rates becomes clearer.

On the subject of rates, Jay Powell did not raise interest rates in June but left the door open to further hikes in July, the market currently pricing in a 90% chance of such an event happening. Will this be the last rate increase? We shall have to see, but inflation is falling, and we are likely very near the end of this rate hiking cycle.

Market Outlook

The market breadth has started to get better and the outlook is improving. The sentiment backdrop is still supportive in that there are many bearish voices and much concern over the potential for recession. There are areas of the market which are to be avoided but generally the tone has significantly improved over the last few months. We are finding lots of new

ideas and once the market gets comfortable that the inflation is finally under control, the broad market is likely to continue to perform well.

Felix Wintle Fund Manager, VT Tyndall North American Fund, 30 June 2023

Data sources: Bloomberg

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