

# Small Cap Core Equity

September 30, 2025

## WHO WE ARE

We are an institutional asset management team focused exclusively on investing in small cap and small-mid cap equities.

## Inception Date

April 1, 2019

## Benchmark<sup>2</sup>

Russell 2000 Index

## Vehicles

Separately Managed Account

## Team Management

### Leo Harmon, CFA, CAIA

Head of Equity Portfolio Management

### Andrew Hadland, CFA

Equity Portfolio Manager

### John Nelson, CFA

Equity Portfolio Manager

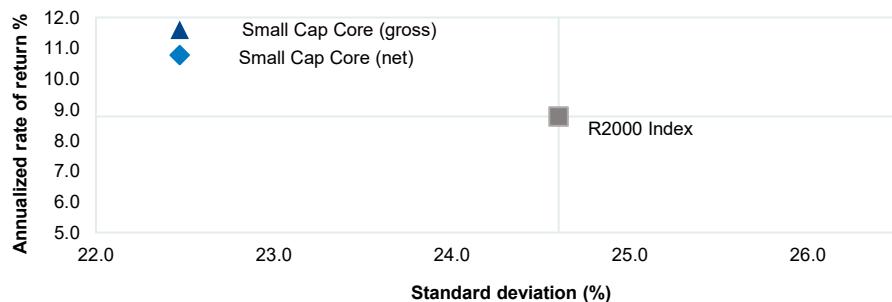
## INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY

We believe the key to generating consistent investment returns is the selection of investment opportunities that possess attractive valuations and demonstrate identifiable catalysts that are expected to generate accelerating earnings and cash flow growth.

## INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES<sup>1</sup>

Over a full market investment cycle, we strive to generate more than 200 basis points of annualized alpha with approximately 80–90% of the risk of the market, where market risk is defined as standard deviation, beta or downside capture.

## TOTAL RISK VERSUS TOTAL RETURN<sup>2</sup>



Since inception data from 4/1/2019 – 9/30/2025. Source: MIM and eVestment Alliance, LLC. Performance over one year is annualized. Risk/return metrics are shown gross of fees.

## RISK/RETURN STATISTICS<sup>2</sup>

	Small Cap Core	Russell 2000 Index
Alpha (%)	3.67	-
Standard deviation (%)	22.47	24.60
Sharpe ratio	0.40	0.25
Beta	0.88	1.00
Tracking error (%)	5.80	-
Information ratio	0.40	-

Since inception 4/1/2019 – 9/30/2025. Source: MIM and eVestment Alliance, LLC. .

1. Any portfolio targets are for illustrative purposes only and should be considered Hypothetical Performance projections since they do not reflect actual historical trading results for any product or investment strategy and there is no guarantee the manager will achieve any stated target.

2. As of 9/30/2025. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Portfolio characteristics are shown gross of fees and are calculated from a representative account invested in the MetLife Investment Management Small Cap Core mandate. Information provided is supplemental to the GIPS compliant presentation.

Please see the disclosures at the end for additional, important information. Any performance mentioned above is supplemental; please see the GIPS Report that is included for complete performance and benchmark descriptions.

## COMPOSITE ANNUALIZED PERFORMANCE<sup>2</sup>

Returns (%)	3Q2024 to 3Q2025	3Q2023 to 3Q2024	3Q2022 to 3Q2023	3Q2021 to 3Q2022	3Q2020 to 3Q2021
Small Cap Core (gross)	5.66	27.21	14.73	-6.57	58.03
Small Cap Core (net)	4.90	26.28	13.88	-7.26	56.89
Russell 2000 Index	10.76	26.76	8.93	-23.50	47.68
Relative performance (gross)	-5.10	0.45	5.80	16.93	10.35
Relative performance (net)	-5.86	-0.48	4.95	16.24	9.21
Returns (%)	QTD	YTD	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year
Small Cap Core (gross)	7.96	7.86	5.66	15.53	17.89
Small Cap Core (net)	7.79	7.29	4.90	14.69	17.03
Russell 2000 Index	12.39	10.39	10.76	15.21	11.56
Relative performance (gross)	-4.43	-2.53	-5.10	0.32	6.33
Relative performance (net)	-4.60	-3.10	-5.86	-0.52	5.47

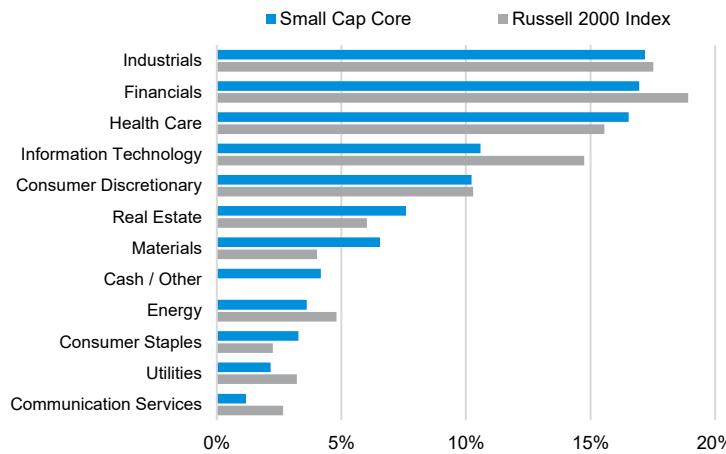
Source: MIM and Bloomberg, LP.

## PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS<sup>1</sup>

	Small Cap Core	Russell 2000 Index
<b>Number of holdings</b>	79	1,972
<b>Forward price/earnings (median)</b>	15.1x	19.4x
<b>Year 2 EPS growth</b>	17.4%	15.0%
<b>Weighted median market capitalization</b>	\$5.0B	\$3.4B
<b>% of portfolio in top 10</b>	16.8%	5.0%

Source: MIM and Bloomberg, LP.

## SECTOR WEIGHTS<sup>1</sup>



Source: MIM and Bloomberg, LP.

## About MetLife Investment Management

MetLife Investment Management serves institutional investors around the world by combining a client-centric approach with deep and long-established asset class expertise in managing fixed income, small and small-mid cap equities, private credit and real estate. We leverage the broader resources of MetLife and its 155-year heritage of strength, stability and disciplined risk management to skillfully navigate today's markets. Our aim is to deliver strong, risk-adjusted returns by building sustainable, tailored portfolio solutions. At the heart of our investment process is approachable expertise – a commitment to being accessible, accountable and collaborative in helping clients realize their long-term return objectives.

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<sup>1</sup> As of 9/30/2025. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Portfolio characteristics are shown gross of fees and are calculated from a representative account invested in the MetLife Investment Management Small Cap Core mandate. Information provided is supplemental to the GIPS compliant presentation. Please see the net of fees disclosure on page 4 for information on the impact of fees on performance.

<sup>2</sup> As of 9/30/2025. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Inception for the MetLife Investment Management Small Cap Core Composite is 4/1/2019. Returns greater than one year are annualized. Information complements the GIPS compliant presentation.

# GIPS Composite Report

## Small Cap Core Equity

Year	Gross-of-fee Return	Net-of-fee Return	Benchmark Return <sup>1</sup>	Number of Portfolios	Dispersion Stdv <sup>2</sup>	Composite 3-Year Stdv <sup>3</sup>	Benchmark 3-Year Stdv <sup>3</sup>	Composite Assets	Total Firm Assets (BB) <sup>4</sup>
04/01/19 (Inception) to 12/31/19	9.28%	8.65%	9.55%	≤ 5	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,099,940	-
2020	7.61%	6.81%	19.96%	≤ 5	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$11,779,172	-
2021	28.04%	27.10%	14.82%	≤ 5	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$14,640,514	-
2022	-3.99%	-4.69%	-20.44%	≤ 5	N/A	24.56%	26.02%	\$24,973,383	-
2023	13.28%	12.44%	16.93%	≤ 5	N/A	18.60%	21.11%	\$30,013,117	-
2024	15.55%	14.71%	11.54%	≤ 5	N/A	19.74%	23.30%	\$34,015,748	-
YTD through 9/30/25	7.86%	7.29%	10.39%	≤ 5	N/A	18.36%	20.88%	\$9,682,383	\$632.6

Past performance is not indicative of future results. Please see the full GIPS® disclosures on the following page.

1. The performance benchmark for the Small Cap Core Equity Composite is the Russell 2000® Index. The Russell 2000 Index® offers investors access to the small-cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. The Russell 2000 is constructed to provide a comprehensive and unbiased small-cap barometer and is completely reconstituted annually to ensure larger stocks do not distort the performance and characteristics of the true small-cap opportunity set. The Russell 2000 includes the smallest 2000 securities in the Russell 3000. It is impossible to invest directly in an unmanaged index. All index returns presented are provided to represent the investment environment existing during the time periods shown and will not be covered by the future report of independent verifiers. For comparison purposes, the index is fully invested and includes the reinvestment of income. The returns for the index do not include any transaction costs, management fees, or other costs.

2. The dispersion of annual returns is measured by the standard deviation among asset-weighted gross-of-fee portfolio returns represented in the composite for the full year. "N/A" is an indication that the information is not statistically meaningful due to an insufficient number of portfolios (five or fewer) in the composite for the entire year. Standard deviation is only presented for accounts managed for a full calendar year.

3. The three-year annualized standard deviation measures the variability of the gross-of-fee composite and the benchmark returns over the preceding 36-month period. The standard deviation is not presented for 2000 through 2010 because it is not required for periods prior to 2011. It is also not presented for quarter-ends.

4. Prior to March 1, 2025, the investment team was part of a prior firm. Therefore, "Total Firm Assets (BB)" is left blank for year ends before the team joined MetLife Investment Management.

For purposes of the Global Investment Performance Standards ("GIPS") compliance, the "Firm" is defined as MetLife Investment Management ("MIM"). MIM is MetLife, Inc.'s institutional investment management business. The Firm is defined to include all accounts captured in MetLife's Assets Under Management. On December 15, 2022, MetLife, Inc. ("MetLife") acquired Affirmative Investment Management Partners Limited ("AIM") and the Firm was redefined as of December 15, 2023 to include the AIM entity in the Firm Assets. Previously, on September 15, 2017, MetLife, Inc. ("MetLife") acquired Logan Circle Partners ("LCP") and the Firm was redefined as of July 1, 2019 to include LCP in the Firm assets.

MetLife Investment Management claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. MetLife Investment Management has been independently verified for periods January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2023. 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. The Small Cap Core Equity Composite has had a performance examination for the periods April 1, 2019 through December 31, 2024. The verification and performance examination reports are available upon request.

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The creation date of the Small Cap Core Equity Composite is April 1, 2019, and the inception date is April 1, 2019. Prior to March 1, 2025, the performance of the composite represents the performance that occurred while members of the management team were affiliated with prior firms. From Inception until June 20, 2022, the composite was part of Mesirow Financial Investment Management (MFIM). From July 1, 2022 until February 28, 2025, the Small Cap Core Equity composite was managed by the investment team while they were affiliated with Mesirow Equity Management ("MEM"). The Small Cap Core Equity composite had been examined for the periods April 1, 2019 to December 31, 2024 while at MFIM and MEM. MEM had been independently verified for the periods January 1, 1996 until December 31, 2024. The verification and performance examination reports are available upon request.

The Small Cap Core Equity Composite represents the small cap core equity portfolios following our relative value based investment philosophy. The strategy seeks selection of investment opportunities that possess attractive valuations and demonstrate identifiable catalysts that are expected to generate positive changes in fundamental metrics. All discretionary institutional accounts are included with no stated minimum account size. Currently, both taxable and non-taxable accounts are included. The Small Cap Core Equity Composite includes all fee-paying portfolios, managed on a discretionary basis according to the applicable composite strategy except as otherwise excluded herein. The Firm maintains a list of composites and descriptions, a list of limited distribution pooled funds and their descriptions, and a list of broad distribution pooled funds, all of which are available upon request. Policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS® reports are available upon request.

The performance benchmark for the Small Cap Core Equity Composite is the Russell 2000® Index. The Russell 2000 Index® offers investors access to the small-cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. The Russell 2000 is constructed to provide a comprehensive and unbiased small-cap barometer and is completely reconstituted annually to ensure larger stocks do not distort the performance and characteristics of the true small-cap opportunity set. The Russell 2000 includes the smallest 2000 securities in the Russell 3000. It is impossible to invest directly in an unmanaged index. All index returns presented are provided to represent the investment environment existing during the time periods shown and will not be covered by the future report of independent verifiers. For comparison purposes, the index is fully invested and includes the reinvestment of income. The returns for the index do not include any transaction costs, management fees, or other costs.

Returns are based on fully discretionary accounts under management and may include terminated accounts. The dispersion of annual returns is measured by the standard deviation among asset-weighted gross-of-fee portfolio returns represented within the composite for the full year. Dispersion is not calculated for composites with five or fewer accounts for the whole period.

Performance returns are presented gross and net-of-fees and include the reinvestment of all income and are calculated in U.S. dollars. Dividend income has been recorded net of all applicable foreign withholding taxes. Returns calculated gross-of-fees do not reflect the deduction of our investment management fees. Individual client returns will be reduced by investment management fees and other expenses that the account may incur. The investment management fee schedule for the Small Cap Core strategy is 0.85% on the first \$25 million, 0.75% on amounts from \$25 to \$50 million, 0.60% on amounts from \$50 million to \$100 million, and 0.55% on amounts over \$100 million. Net returns have been calculated by reducing the monthly gross returns by the twelfth root of a model fee equal to 0.75%. Investment management fees are described in Part 2A of the Firm's Form ADV. Individual client returns will be reduced by investment management fees and other expenses that the account may incur. Fees have a compounding effect on cumulative results. Actual investment management fees incurred by clients may vary.

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