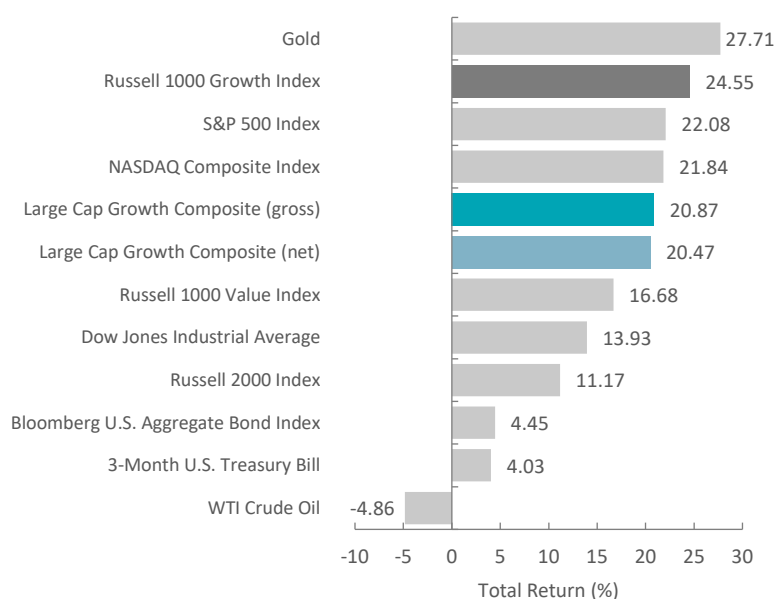


## 3Q 2024 Commentary

### Markets Review

#### Year-to-Date Returns



Sources: CAPS CompositeHub™, Bloomberg

Past performance is not indicative of future results. Aristotle Atlantic Large Cap Growth Composite returns are presented gross and net of investment advisory fees and include the reinvestment of all income. Gross returns will be reduced by fees and other expenses that may be incurred in the management of the account. Net returns are presented net of actual investment advisory fees and after the deduction of all trading expenses. Aristotle Atlantic Composite returns are preliminary pending final account reconciliation. Please see important disclosures at the end of this document.

The U.S. equity market continued its ascent to new record highs, with the S&P 500 Index increasing 5.89% during the period. However, unlike last quarter, the market showed broader gains, with the S&P 500 Equal Weight Index outperforming the cap-weighted S&P 500 Index by 3.71%. Concurrently, the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index rose 5.20% for the quarter as interest rates declined. In terms of style, the Russell 1000 Value Index outperformed its growth counterpart by 6.24%.

On a sector basis, gains were made from all eleven sectors within the Russell 1000 Growth Index, led by Utilities and Real Estate. The worst-performing sectors were Communication Services and Health Care.

After slowing down for two consecutive quarters, U.S. economic growth accelerated to an annualized rate of 3.0%, as consumer spending and private inventory investments increased. Additionally, inflation inched closer to the Federal Reserve's 2.0% target, with the CPI increasing at an annualized rate of 2.5% in August and 2.9% in July. Meanwhile, the U.S. labor market cooled slightly, with unemployment at 4.2% and nominal wage growth moderating during the period.

Given the ongoing progress toward target inflation and a softening labor market, the Federal Reserve

lowered the target range of the federal funds rate by 50 basis points to 4.75% to 5.00%. Fed Chair Powell acknowledged that loosening policy restraint too quickly could undo progress on inflation, whereas moving too slowly could undermine economic activity and weaken employment. Therefore, Powell stressed the importance of monitoring economic data before making further adjustments to monetary policy.

Corporate earnings remained strong, with S&P 500 companies reporting earnings growth of 11.3%, the highest year-over-year improvement since 2021. Furthermore, only 67 S&P 500 companies issued negative EPS guidance, and about 80% exceeded estimates. Reflecting the general trend of disinflation and a resilient domestic economy, fewer companies mentioned topics like "inflation" and "recession" during earnings calls.



In political news, President Biden announced he would not seek re-election. Vice President Kamala Harris was subsequently named the official Democratic presidential nominee for the 2024 election. In geopolitics, tensions in the Middle East escalated as clashes between Israeli forces and Hezbollah fighters intensified. In response, the U.S. announced the urgent deployment of additional troops to the region in case of a wider regional conflict, while simultaneously mediating a potential ceasefire between the groups.

## Performance and Attribution Summary

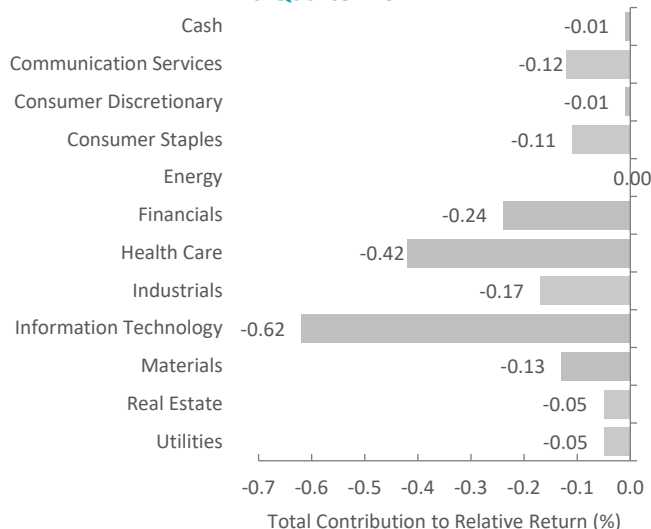
For the third quarter of 2024, Aristotle Atlantic's Large Cap Growth Composite posted a total return of 1.26% gross of fees (1.11% net of fees), underperforming the 3.19% return of the Russell 1000 Growth Index.

Performance (%)	3Q24	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Since Inception*
Large Cap Growth Composite (gross)	1.26	37.33	7.13	16.40	17.62
Large Cap Growth Composite (net)	1.11	36.65	6.67	15.92	17.14
Russell 1000 Growth Index	3.19	42.19	12.02	19.74	19.24

*\*The Large Cap Growth Composite has an inception date of November 1, 2016. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Aristotle Atlantic Large Cap Growth Equity Composite returns are presented gross and net of investment advisory fees and include the reinvestment of all income. Gross returns will be reduced by fees and other expenses that may be incurred in the management of the account. Net returns are presented net of actual investment advisory fees and after the deduction of all trading expenses. Aristotle Atlantic Composite returns are preliminary pending final account reconciliation. Please see important disclosures at the end of this document.*

During the third quarter, the portfolio's underperformance relative to the Russell 1000 Growth Index was primarily due to security selection. Security selection in Information Technology and Health Care detracted the most from relative performance. Conversely, security selection in Consumer Discretionary and Real Estate detracted the least.

### Total Contribution to Relative Return by Sector Versus Russell 1000 Growth Index Third Quarter 2024



Source: FactSet

*Past performance is not indicative of future results. Attribution results are based on sector returns which are gross of investment advisory fees. Attribution is based on performance that is gross of investment advisory fees and includes the reinvestment of income. Please see important disclosures at the end of this document.*

### Contributors and Detractors for 3Q 2024

Relative Contributors	Relative Detractors
Expedia Group	Dexcom
ServiceNow	Synopsys
Home Depot	Tesla
Adaptive Biotechnologies	Guardant Health
UnitedHealth Group	KLA Corporation

### DETRACTORS

#### Dexcom

Dexcom detracted from performance in the third quarter following an uncharacteristic earnings miss, which manifested late in the quarter. The miss was attributed to share loss in the durable medical equipment (DME) channel, reaching a full rebate threshold with insurance companies sooner than expected, and a recent salesforce realignment that resulted in slower new patient starts. Management was



clear that these are Dexcom-specific issues around execution and that they were taking action to remediate those effects. The company stood by its long-range plan, which calls for 15%-plus top-line growth. We believe Dexcom now trades at a relatively attractive valuation given the strong long-term growth profile.

**Synopsys**

Synopsys detracted from performance in the third quarter. The stock was part of the general investor pullback in AI-related semiconductor names due to concerns about overall AI market growth in the near term and profitability of the massive capex investments being made in AI infrastructure. The company continues to execute well on its AI-enhanced product suite, and Synopsys IP and tools continue to be an integral part of the semiconductor design and manufacturing supply chain. As semiconductor companies and enterprises continue to rely on increasingly complex semiconductors in their technology stack, we see Synopsys as a key beneficiary of the increased design and manufacturing spend.

**CONTRIBUTORS**

***Expedia Group***

Expedia contributed to performance in the third quarter. The company reported better-than-expected second quarter earnings in August. The outlook for the year was reduced; however, the stock was trading at under 10x earnings at the time of the outlook reduction. The vacation home rental business Vrbo returned to growth. The significant return of capital continues with the share count having been reduced over the past year.

***ServiceNow***

ServiceNow contributed to performance in the third quarter, as the company reported what we consider to be solid second quarter earnings results that continue to highlight ongoing traction of its company's product platform and improving momentum for the GenAI product lines. The company's guidance for third quarter current remaining performance obligations (cRPO) was also ahead of consensus, which supports the strength of the company's product platform in a software spending environment that continues to see headwinds from macroeconomic factors and budgets shifting to GenAI products.

**Recent Portfolio Activity**

The table below shows all buys and sells completed during the quarter, followed by a brief rationale.

Buys	Sells
Eli Lilly	BioMarin Pharmaceutical
Linde	Estée Lauder
	IDEXX Laboratories
	Thermo Fisher Scientific

**Buys**

***Eli Lilly and Company***

Eli Lilly is a leading pharmaceutical company that develops diabetes, oncology, immunology and neuroscience medicines. The company generates over half of its revenue in the U.S. from its leading drugs Trulicity, Verzenio and Taltz. The company operates in a single business segment: human pharmaceutical products.

Eli Lilly has a deep pipeline in treatment areas focused on metabolic disorders, oncology, immunology and central nervous system disorders. Currently, there are two phase-three assets: orforglipron, an oral GLP-1, and retatrutide, a triple incretin



agonist, which could possibly expand upon the potential success of Mounjaro. We believe that Mounjaro has the potential to commercialize beyond Type 2 diabetes and obesity, potentially in the areas mentioned above of heart disease, sleep apnea, fatty liver disease and chronic kidney disease. We believe the premium valuation is supported by this outsized growth profile.

### ***Linde***

Linde is the largest industrial gas company worldwide and a major technological innovator in the industry. The company produces atmospheric gases like oxygen, nitrogen, argon and rare gases through air separation processes, with cryogenic air separation being the most prevalent. It also has technologies to produce blue and green hydrogen, which are considered clean energy. Linde uses three basic distribution methods for industrial gases: on-site or tonnage, merchant or bulk liquid, and packaged or cylinder gases. These methods are often integrated, with products from all three supply modes coming from the same plant. The method of supply is determined by the lowest cost means of meeting the customer's needs.

Linde holds a leading market share in a consolidated industry, with expected revenues of approximately \$34 billion in 2024. The company has consistently grown its earnings throughout economic cycles due to its exposure to both cyclical and defensive end markets. The operating model also benefits from defensive characteristics that include long-term supply agreements signed with customers, with over 70% of the business has contracts of at least 3 years, providing defensive characteristics to its operating model. We see a robust backlog and pipeline driven by attractive growth end markets and significant decarbonization opportunities with operational discipline from management.

### **Sells**

#### ***BioMarin Pharmaceutical Inc.***

We sold BioMarin Pharmaceutical following better-than-expected competitive data from Ascendis Pharma for the treatment of achondroplasia. Given that BioMarin has anchored future growth expectations around its achondroplasia drug Voxzogo, this competitive threat adds a new dimension to the story. While there were nuances between the study design of the two drugs, we believe this will be an overhang on BioMarin shares for the foreseeable future.

#### ***Estée Lauder Inc.***

We sold Estée Lauder, as Chinese consumer headwinds continue to present an unpredictable pace of recovery. And while Estée has taken action to reduce costs and drive a profit recovery plan, it is apparent that a certain level of volume will be necessary to make that plan successful, and that is difficult to predict with a high degree of certainty. China-driven travel retail business continues to be slower than anticipated, pushing out the expected timing of a recovery. Despite the weakness in share price, Estée continues to trade at a premium multiple, and consensus estimates may prove aggressive should Chinese consumer weakness linger. Lastly, with a pending transition in both the CFO and CEO roles, we see the potential for another reset as the new management team takes over.

#### ***IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.***

We sold IDEXX Laboratories on concerns that the cumulative effects of past pricing power and subdued volume growth will begin to impact sales growth as pricing power subsides. Furthermore, signs point to a slowing consumer, which could soften demand for vet services and thus adversely affect testing volumes. IDEXX trades at a premium multiple, and we have seen signs of slowing growth having outsized impacts on stock prices in the most recent earnings period.

#### ***Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.***

We sold Thermo Fisher Scientific due to the reduction in the Health Care weighting in the Russell 1000 Growth benchmark due to the annual rebalance. Furthermore, we believe that Thermo is trading at a full valuation based on its expected earnings growth and the softness in some life science-related end markets.

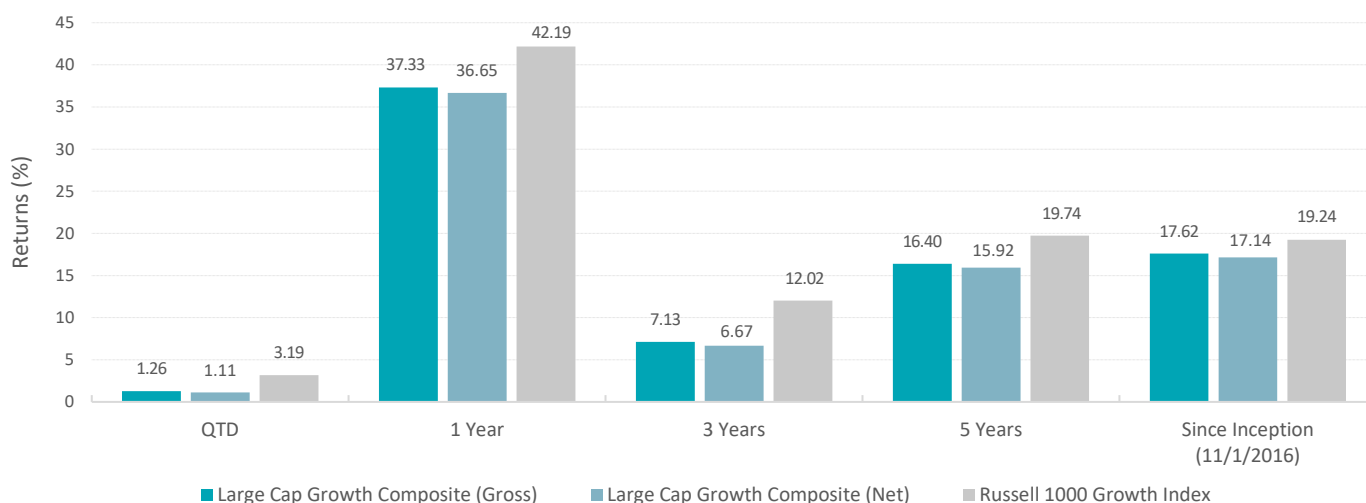


## Outlook

The equity markets in the third quarter posted positive returns, led by the interest rate sensitive Utilities and Real Estate sectors. The sector performance reflected a sizable decline in interest rates, with the 10-year U.S. Treasury yield down about 70 basis points for the quarter. Economic activity continued to show signs of moderating, with the ISM Manufacturing Index remaining in contraction territory and employment statistics slowing. Equity valuation levels remain elevated compared to historical levels, leaving little room for sizable multiple expansion. There has been no improvement in the geopolitical situation, and the U.S. presidential election remains a toss-up. The market has become more sensitive to a potential recession and declining earnings and less focused on inflation. Although the upside is more muted given the elevated valuation levels, the backdrop of lower interest rates and moderate earnings growth should support equity markets. Our focus will continue to be at the company level, with an emphasis on seeking to invest in companies with secular tailwinds or strong product-driven cycles.

### Aristotle Large Cap Growth Composite Performance

All Periods Ended September 30, 2024



Year	Large Cap Growth Composite (Gross %)	Large Cap Growth Composite (Net %)	Russell 1000 Growth Index (%)
2024 YTD	20.87	20.47	24.55
2023	36.83	36.14	42.68
2022	-31.37	-31.61	-29.14
2021	22.13	21.67	27.60
2020	42.97	42.40	38.49
2019	37.29	36.73	36.39
2018	-0.93	-1.34	-1.51
2017	29.53	28.99	30.21
11/1/16 – 12/31/16	3.49	3.49	3.44

Sources: CAPS CompositeHub™

Composite returns for all periods ended September 30, 2024 are preliminary pending final account reconciliation.

Past performance is not indicative of future results. Performance results for periods greater than one year have been annualized. Returns are presented gross and net of investment advisory fees and include the reinvestment of all income. Gross returns will be reduced by fees and other expenses that may be incurred.



*in the management of the account. Net returns are presented net of actual investment advisory fees and after the deduction of all trading expenses.*

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All investments carry a certain degree of risk, including the possible loss of principal. Investments are also subject to political, market, currency and regulatory risks or economic developments. International investments involve special risks that may in particular cause a loss in principal, including currency fluctuation, lower liquidity, different accounting methods and economic and political systems, and higher transaction costs. These risks typically are greater in emerging markets. Securities of small- and medium-sized companies tend to have a shorter history of operations, be more volatile and less liquid. Value stocks can perform differently from the market as a whole and other types of stocks.

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The Russell 1000® Growth Index measures the performance of the large cap growth segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes those Russell 1000 companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values. This index has been selected as the benchmark and is used for comparison purposes only. The Russell 1000® Value Index measures the performance of the large cap value segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes those Russell 1000 companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower expected growth values. The Russell 2000® Index measures the performance of the small cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. The Russell 2000 Index is a subset of the Russell 3000® Index representing approximately 10% 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 S&P 500® Index is the Standard & Poor's Composite Index of 500 stocks and is a widely recognized, unmanaged index of common stock prices. The S&P 500® Equal Weight Index (EWI) is the equal-weight version of the widely-used S&P 500. The index includes the same constituents as the capitalization weighted S&P 500, but each company in the S&P 500 EWI is allocated a fixed weight - or 0.2% of the index total at each quarterly rebalance. The Dow Jones Industrial Average® is a price-weighted measure of 30 U.S. blue-chip companies. The Index covers all industries except transportation and utilities. The NASDAQ Composite Index measures all NASDAQ domestic and international based common type stocks listed on The NASDAQ Stock Market. The NASDAQ Composite includes over 3,000 companies, more than most other stock market indices. The Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index is an unmanaged index of domestic investment grade bonds, including corporate, government and mortgage-backed securities. The WTI Crude Oil Index is a major trading classification of sweet light crude oil that serves as a major benchmark price for oil consumed in the United States. The 3-Month U.S. Treasury Bill is a short-term debt obligation backed by the U.S. Treasury Department with a maturity of three months. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services. While stock selection is not governed by quantitative rules, a stock typically is added only if the company has an excellent reputation, demonstrates sustained growth and is of interest to a large number of investors. The volatility (beta) of the Composite may be greater or less than its respective benchmarks. It is not possible to invest directly in these indices.

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