

Overview

The Applied Finance Explorer Fund returned 5.28% in the 4th quarter vs 2.90% for the Russell 2000 Value and 5.18% for the Russell 2000. Small cap stocks underperformed their large cap peers, with the Russell 1000 returning 10.30% during Q1. Since inception in June 2015, the Applied Finance Explorer Fund has outperformed its prospectus benchmark (the Morningstar US Small Cap index) and all three major Russell small cap indices by more than 300 basis points annually.

	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	Since Inception
Applied Finance Explorer (AFDZX)	5.28%	26.88%	9.75%	16.47%	11.19%
Morningstar US Small	5.69%	21.51%	2.67%	8.93%	7.84%
Russell 2000 Value	2.90%	18.75%	2.22%	8.17%	7.26%
Russell 2000	5.18%	19.71%	-0.10%	8.10%	7.50%
Russell 2000 Growth	7.58%	20.35%	-2.68%	7.38%	7.30%

	January	February	March	Q1
Applied Finance Explorer (AFDZX)	-1.91%	2.89%	4.31%	5.28%
Morningstar US Small	-3.12%	4.51%	4.38%	5.69%
Russell 2000 Value	-4.54%	3.27%	4.38%	2.90%
Russell 2000	-3.89%	5.65%	3.58%	5.18%
Russell 2000 Growth	-3.21%	8.12%	2.80%	7.58%

The Fund's past performance does not guarantee future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment in the Fund will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance of the Fund may be lower or higher than the performance period. Performance data current to the most recent month end may be obtained by calling 1-800-673-0550. Returns over one year are annualized. End date 3/31/2024 for all returns. Since Inception data from 6/11/2015.

Performance Attribution

On a relative sector basis, Explorer Fund performance in the first quarter was helped by strong results from Consumer Staples, Communication Services and Financials stocks. Performance lagged in the Health Care, Utilities and Materials sectors. Performance between the Russell 2000 and Russell 2000 Value on a sector basis was quite similar, with the largest divergence coming from the Information Technology sector where Russell 2000 Tech stocks performed roughly 12% better than Russell 2000 Value Tech stocks.

On an absolute sector basis, the best performing sectors for the Russell 2000 Value were Energy, Health Care and Industrials while the worst performing sectors were Communication Services, Financials and Real Estate.

For the Explorer Fund, the best absolute performing sectors were Industrials, Consumer Staples and Energy, while the worst performing sectors were Utilities, Information Technology and Communication Services.

On an accounting multiple factor basis, the Explorer Fund carries a higher P/B ratio, lower P/E ratio, lower P/S ratio and lower P/EBITDA ratio compared to the Russell 2000 Value.

P/B Ratio – Explorer Fund: 1.75, Russell 2000 Value: 1.34

P/E Ratio – Explorer Fund: 11.08, Russell 2000 Value: 11.87

P/S Ratio – Explorer Fund: 0.79, Russell 2000 Value: 0.94

P/EBITDA Ratio – Explorer Fund: 5.51, Russell 2000 Value: 5.83

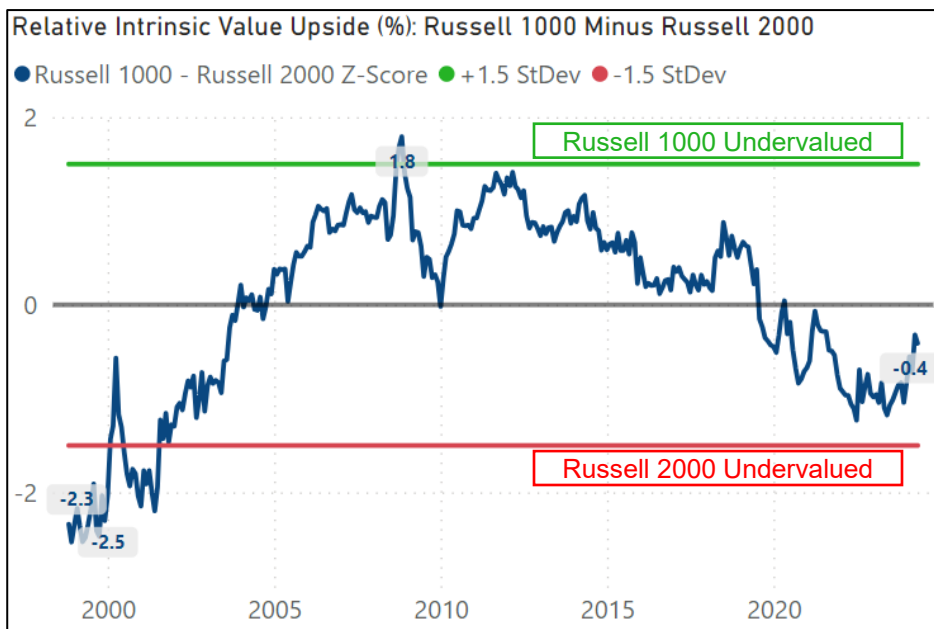
On an Applied Finance factor basis, the Explorer Fund benefited from Applied Finance Valuation, Wealth Creation and Momentum variables, while the Earnings Quality variable was mildly detractive for stock selection. Full details on Applied Finance factors are on page 3 of this report.

Sector and accounting multiple factor (using weighted harmonic averages) data sourced from Morningstar Direct Attribution Analysis. Data from 12/31/23 – 3/31/24. Applied Finance factor data sourced from Applied Finance database.

Explorer Current Positioning

Applied Finance calculates Intrinsic Value upside on more than 3000 US publicly traded stocks on a weekly basis, with historical data going back to the 1990's. While this data is useful in helping Applied Finance identify individual securities to include in our Valuation-driven investment strategies, aggregate Intrinsic Value data can also be used to study the Intrinsic Value characteristics of popular size & style methodologies used to form passive indices. The chart below represents the Z-score of the Intrinsic Value upside of the Russell 1000 vs the Russell 2000 (all on a market cap basis).

A few trends can be seen over time: in the late 1990's through mid-2002, small cap stocks had more attractive Intrinsic Value upside compared to their large cap peers. This trend reversed following the collapse of the tech bubble, and normalization occurred in the mid 2000's, with large caps showing significant relative upside around the '08 Financial crisis. From 2003 through near 2020, large caps also offered consistently higher Intrinsic Value upside compared to their smaller peers. Recently however, small caps now possess similar Valuations vs. large cap peers for the first time in nearly two decades. As of 3/31/2024, the Russell 2000 has mildly more attractive normalized upside vs. the Russell 1000.



Portfolio	Equity Positions	Relative Valuation Upside vs Russell 3000	EM+1
Applied Finance Explorer	144	55.3%	5.7%
Benchmark	Equity Positions	Relative Valuation Upside vs Russell 3000	EM+1
S&P 400 Growth (IJK)	245	-7.4%	6.2%
S&P 400 (IJH)	401	-1.7%	3.8%
S&P 400 Value (IJJ)	296	4.5%	1.1%
S&P 600 Growth (IJT)	343	-8.6%	3.1%
S&P 600 (IJR)	602	-4.6%	0.9%
S&P 600 Value (IJS)	461	-0.3%	-1.5%
Russell 2000 Growth (IWO)	1064	-14.4%	1.2%
Russell 2000 (IWM)	1951	-8.0%	-0.1%
Russell 2000 Value (IWN)	1420	-1.5%	-1.4%
Russell 3000 (I WV)	2691	0.0%	8.8%
Morningstar Mid Growth (IMCG)	304	-22.1%	5.7%
Morningstar Mid (IMCB)	458	-10.1%	4.4%
Morningstar Mid Value (IMCV)	310	2.3%	3.0%
Morningstar Small Growth (ISCG)	999	-24.3%	0.1%
Morningstar Small (ISCB)	1608	-8.9%	0.3%
Morningstar Small Value (ISCV)	1116	6.8%	0.6%

Diving further into strategy specific data, the table to the left shows the Applied Finance Explorer Fund relative to other small/mid cap universes. The two columns to the right of this table offer a comparison of the Intrinsic Value upside and forecasted Economic Margin (EM +1) levels for each portfolio on an investment-weight basis. Comparing small and mid-cap passive indices, value strategies tend to offer elevated upside compared to their growth peers. The valuation gap between value and growth indices is most pronounced in methodologies that include unprofitable stocks (Russell & Morningstar). Comparing the Explorer Fund to these passive alternatives highlights that the 144 holdings in the Fund have offered higher Intrinsic Value upside and generated higher levels of economic profits than the portfolios of popular size & style benchmarks.

Factor Performance

Applied Finance proprietary factors performed well in Q1 in the small cap space. The top quintile of the firm's overall Company Grade (a grade created from a combination of Valuation, Wealth Creation/Quality and Momentum factors) outperformed by 4.2%, while the bottom quintile underperformed by 5.2%.

Strong Company Grade performance was driven by Valuation, Wealth Creation and Momentum factors. Sector by sector performance varied, with Comm Services, Utilities & Health sectors showing the most positive Company Grade long/short spreads and Cons Staples, Real Estate & Materials showing the smallest long/short Company Grade Spreads.

Company Grade	Returns (%)			Spreads vs Uni (%)	
	Uni	Bottom Quintile	Top Quintile	Bottom Quintile	Top Quintile
All Sectors	1.2	-4.0	5.4	-5.2	4.2
Comm Services	-4.0	-19.8	4.9	-15.8	8.9
Cons Discr	-1.3	-5.9	4.1	-4.6	5.4
Cons Stpls	2.2	2.1	-5.9	-0.1	-8.2
Energy	7.9	-3.4	8.8	-11.3	0.9
Financials	-3.8	-7.5	0.6	-3.7	4.4
Health Care	6.3	-2.7	10.7	-8.9	4.4
Industrials	6.9	0.4	12.3	-6.6	5.4
Technology	0.2	-3.8	2.2	-4.0	2.0
Materials	6.8	9.3	9.5	2.5	2.7
Real Estate	-5.6	-7.6	-7.8	-2.0	-2.2
Utilities	-8.1	-25.8	-6.0	-17.7	2.1

Earnings Quality	Returns (%)			Spreads vs Uni (%)	
	Uni	Bottom Quintile	Top Quintile	Bottom Quintile	Top Quintile
All Sectors	3.0	6.5	2.4	3.5	-0.5
Comm Services	-4.0	-11.7	2.9	-7.7	6.9
Cons Discr	-1.5	-8.0	-4.0	-6.5	-2.5
Cons Stpls	2.2	8.2	-2.5	6.0	-4.8
Energy	7.9	7.6	4.9	-0.3	-3.1
Financials	-3.2	-4.9	10.8	-1.7	14.0
Health Care	6.3	11.4	12.5	5.1	6.2
Industrials	6.8	9.5	6.5	2.7	-0.3
Technology	0.4	24.2	-4.4	23.9	-4.8
Materials	5.9	3.3	0.6	-2.5	-5.2
Real Estate	-17.6	0.0	-20.5	0.0	-2.9
Utilities	-8.1	-47.2	7.8	-39.1	15.8

Valuation	Returns (%)			Spreads vs Uni (%)	
	Uni	Bottom Quintile	Top Quintile	Bottom Quintile	Top Quintile
All Sectors	1.2	-0.6	3.7	-1.9	2.5
Comm Services	-4.0	-8.5	-6.1	-4.5	-2.1
Cons Discr	-1.3	-6.7	-4.9	-5.4	-3.6
Cons Stpls	2.2	9.4	-14.0	7.2	-16.3
Energy	7.9	-10.5	12.8	-18.5	4.9
Financials	-3.8	0.5	7.6	4.3	11.4
Health Care	6.3	3.1	8.0	-3.1	1.7
Industrials	6.9	3.0	9.5	-4.0	2.5
Technology	0.2	0.0	6.0	-0.2	5.8
Materials	6.8	3.5	14.6	-3.2	7.9
Real Estate	-5.4	-7.1	-15.7	-1.7	-10.2
Utilities	-8.1	-30.2	7.0	-22.2	15.1

Economic Momentum	Returns (%)			Spreads vs Uni (%)	
	Uni	Low % Change	High % Change	Low % Change	High % Change
All Sectors	1.2	-3.8	7.8	-5.0	6.6
Comm Services	-4.0	-2.0	6.9	2.0	10.9
Cons Discr	-1.3	-9.1	4.2	-7.8	5.5
Cons Stpls	2.2	-5.0	-3.5	-7.2	-5.7
Energy	7.9	3.3	-22.9	-4.6	-30.8
Financials	-3.8	-4.7	1.7	-0.9	5.5
Health Care	6.3	-1.8	22.1	-8.1	15.8
Industrials	6.9	4.2	-2.8	-2.7	-9.7
Technology	0.2	-11.0	4.0	-11.1	3.8
Materials	6.8	5.7	2.1	-1.0	-4.7
Real Estate	-5.4	-12.5	-5.1	-7.1	0.4
Utilities	-8.1	-25.0	-4.5	-17.0	3.6

Wealth Creation	Returns (%)		Spreads vs Uni (%)		
	Uni	Fail	Pass	Fail	Pass
All Sectors	1.2	-0.8	2.1	-2.0	0.9
Comm Services	-4.0	-11.5	-0.2	-7.5	3.7
Cons Discr	-1.3	-0.7	-1.5	0.6	-0.2
Cons Stpls	2.2	8.2	-0.1	5.9	-2.3
Energy	7.9	3.3	9.6	-4.7	1.7
Financials	-3.8	-8.0	-2.4	-4.2	1.4
Health Care	6.3	3.5	7.8	-2.8	1.5
Industrials	6.9	6.1	7.4	-0.8	0.5
Technology	0.2	-5.3	3.5	-5.5	3.3
Materials	6.8	9.2	4.6	2.5	-2.2
Real Estate	-5.6	-5.1	-6.1	0.5	-0.5
Utilities	-8.1	-7.0	-9.6	1.0	-1.5

Price Momentum	Returns (%)			Spreads vs Uni (%)	
	Uni	Bottom Quintile	Top Quintile	Bottom Quintile	Top Quintile
All Sectors	1.1	-3.3	7.1	-4.4	6.1
Comm Services	-4.4	-22.1	2.1	-17.6	6.5
Cons Discr	-1.6	-11.7	3.7	-10.2	5.3
Cons Stpls	2.2	-4.6	9.2	-6.8	7.0
Energy	7.3	-4.6	10.5	-11.9	3.2
Financials	-4.0	-3.8	2.4	0.2	6.4
Health Care	6.3	18.5	3.7	12.2	-2.6
Industrials	6.9	-2.0	13.5	-8.8	6.6
Technology	0.2	-13.8	15.5	-13.9	15.3
Materials	6.5	0.9	5.9	-5.6	-0.6
Real Estate	-5.3	-21.3	0.3	-16.0	5.6
Utilities	-8.1	-23.7	-7.7	-15.6	0.4

Disclosures

Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of the Fund carefully before investing. This and other information is contained in the Fund's prospectus and summary prospectus, which may be obtained online or by calling 1-800-673-0550. Please read and carefully consider the prospectus before investing. The Applied Finance Explorer Fund is distributed by Foreside Fund Services, LLC.

Information About Risk:

Equity Securities Risk: Since the Explorer Fund invests in equity securities, it is subject to the risk that stock prices will fall over short or extended periods of time. Historically, the equity markets have moved in cycles, and the value of the Explorer Fund's equity securities may fluctuate from day to day. Individual companies may report poor results or be negatively affected by industry and/or economic trends and developments. The prices of securities issued by such companies may suffer a decline in response. These factors contribute to price volatility, which is a principal risk of investing in the Explorer Fund.

Market Risk: The value of securities in the Explorer Fund's portfolio will fluctuate and, as a result, the Explorer Fund's share price may decline suddenly or over a sustained period. The equity securities purchased by the Explorer Fund may involve large price swings and potential for loss.

Management Risk: The strategies used by the Adviser may fail to produce the intended result.

Small Cap Risk: Smaller, less established companies may be unable to attain the high growth rates of successful, larger companies during periods of economic expansion.

Risks of Investment Selection and Asset Allocation: The Explorer Fund's investment success depends on the skill of the Adviser in evaluating, selecting and monitoring the portfolio assets. If the Adviser's conclusions about growth rates or securities values are incorrect, the Explorer Fund may not perform as anticipated.

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Key Definitions:

Total Returns: returns of stocks including Dividends and gross of fees and transaction costs.

Net Returns: returns of stocks including Dividends and net of fees and transaction costs.

Relative Valuation Upside vs Russell 3000: The aggregate investment-weight Intrinsic Value upside (including three years of analyst forecast data) of a portfolio/benchmark relative to the Intrinsic Value upside of the Russell 3000 Index as a baseline, using Applied Finance's proprietary calculations for Intrinsic Value.

EM +1: The forecasted Economic Margin for the current year using Applied Finance's proprietary calculation, for the portfolio. Economic Margin is the combination estimated cash flow, capital, and capital charges of a company into a single measure of corporate performance based on firm-specific capital and risk characteristics. Economic Profit refers to the absolute spread a company generates between operating cash flow in excess of its capital charge, while Economic Margin refers to the Economic Profit level as a percentage of each firm's productive capital base.

Company Grade: an overall score that combines Valuation, Wealth Creation, Earnings Quality, Economic Momentum and Price Momentum quintiles into one measure.

Valuation Grade: Applied Finance's proprietary measure of intrinsic value scored on a relative basis to other companies.

Wealth Creation Grade: Applied Finance's proprietary measure of management quality scored on a pass/fail basis.

Earnings Quality Grade: a measure of accounting accruals using balance sheet assets, scored relative to other companies.

Economic Momentum Grade: a measure of forecasted economic margin improvements or declines.

Price Momentum Grade: a measure of total return relative to other stocks.

Information provided with respect to the Fund's Portfolio Holdings, Sector Weightings, and Number of Holdings are as of March 31, 2024 and are subject to change at any time.