# DEARBORN

# PARTNERS

# Dearborn Partners Core Rising Dividend SMA

### PORTFOLIO STRATEGY

Dearborn Partners' Core Rising Dividend Separately Managed Account (SMA) invests in a diversified set of companies with consistently rising dividends that offer a potential yield greater than the S&P 500. Companies selected offer the potential for mid to high single digit annual dividend growth over the long term. The combination of this attractive current yield plus potential regular dividend increases offers investors a portfolio that we believe will perform well in both rising and falling markets.

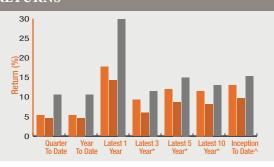
### **INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY**

- ► Growth of dividend income
- Disciplined stock selection
- Participate in the long-term wealth-building potential of investing in great businesses
- Relatively low turnover
- ► Long-term investment time horizon (5+ years)

# PORTFOLIO COMPANY CHARACTERISTICS

- Solid financial condition with very strong balance sheets
- Investment-grade debt (if company has debt)
- Dividends well covered by cash flow and earnings
- Operations in generally defensive businesses
- ▶ The potential to raise dividends consistently year after year

### **RETURNS**



# **RETURNS (%)**

	Quarter To Date						Inception To Date^
Core Dividend (Pure Gross)	5.4%	5.4%	17.7%	9.3%	12.0%	11.5%	13.0%
Core Dividend (Net)	4.6%	4.6%	14.3%	6.0%	8.7%	8.2%	9.7%
■ S&P 500 Index	10.6%	10.6%	29.9%	11.5%	15.0%	13.0%	15.3%

\*Average annualized return

^Inception date: 9/30/2011

## **CHARACTERISTICS**

Dividend Yield (%)	1.9
P/E (Next Four Quarters) (X)	24.3
Est. 3-5 yr. EPS Growth (%)	11.9
P/E to Growth Ratio (X)	2.0
ROE (%)	27.1
LT Debt/Capital (%)	42.9
Beta - 5 Year	0.85
Standard Deviation 5Y - Portfolio (%)	16.3
Standard Deviation 5Y - S&P 500 (%)	18.4
Turnover - 5 Year Annualized (%)	11.8

# **TOP TEN HOLDINGS (% PORTFOLIO)**

Apple Inc.	4.9%
Microsoft Corp	2.7%
Tractor Supply Company	2.6%
Exxon Mobil Corp	2.6%
Stryker Corp	2.6%

Total	27.5%
Accenture PLC CI A	2.3%
Fastenal Company	2.4%
Home Depot Inc	2.4%
Casey's General Stores Inc	2.5%
Costco Wholesale Corp	2.5%

Number of Holdings 49

### DIVIDEND INCREASE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Companies	Quarter	YTD
Reporting Increase	14 of 49	14 of 49
Average Increase	6.7%	6.7%

# MARKET CAP

Weighted Average Market Cap. (M)	\$334.1
Median Market Cap (M)	\$88.3
Large Cap (>\$12.7B)	96.0%
Mid Cap (\$4.6B-\$12.7B)	4.0%
Small Cap (<\$4.6B)	0.0%

### **SECTORS**

Industrials	20.5%
Health Care	16.5%
Information Technology	15.7%
Financials	11.1%
Consumer Discretionary	8.8%
Consumer Staples	8.0%
Utilities	5.7%
Energy	4.3%
Communication Services	4.0%
Materials	3.6%
Real Estate	1.7%

#### THE PREMISE FOR OUR STRATEGY

An objective of our Dearborn Partners Rising Dividend strategy is to reduce vulnerability. Among the ways we attempt to achieve that objective are to include in our portfolios companies that are in strong financial condition with little or no debt, that we believe are capable of increasing dividends at rates above the historic average annual 3% rate of inflation regardless of the economic environment, and to diversify properly across and within the sectors. We further believe that rising dividends offer the potential to reduce vulnerability in challenging markets.

Our Rising Dividend portfolios have representation from all 11 sectors into which Standard & Poor's divides the marketplace. Proper diversification with stocks of high-quality companies can help modify downside risk, i.e., reduce vulnerability, and enhance results in both challenging and favorable market environments.

We believe that the solid companies in our portfolios are likely to not only survive long term but continue to pay dividends with the potential to increase with regularity. Successful investing typically requires patience. Every company in our portfolio pays us while we patiently hold.

Time Period	Composite TWR - Pure Gross* (%)	Composite TWR - Net (%)	S&P 500 (%)	Standard Dispersion (%)	3-Yr Ann Deviation Composite (%)	3-Yr Ann Deviation S & P 500 (%)	Portfolios in Composite	End of Period Composite Assets (\$ millions)	End of Period Strategy Assets (\$ millions)	Pct of Composite \$ in Bundled-Fee	End of Period Total Firm GIPS Assets (\$ millions)
4 Qtr 11	10.33	9.51	11.82	N/A	N/A	18.71	32	\$6	\$6	82%	\$2,016
2012	10.71	7.44	16.00	0.25	N/A	15.09	432	\$96	\$185	97%	\$2,150
2013	25.74	22.02	32.39	0.24	N/A	12.23	811	\$205	\$379	98%	\$1,235
2014	14.17	10.80	13.69	0.17	8.43	8.97	1130	\$318	\$607	98%	\$1,452
2015	0.45	-2.52	1.38	0.19	9.96	10.47	1450	\$366	\$823	98%	\$1,384
2016	13.01	9.67	11.96	0.30	9.59	10.59	1984	\$526	\$1,244	98%	\$1,600
2017	15.70	12.28	21.83	0.18	8.42	9.92	2225	\$620	\$1,636	98%	\$2,057
2018	0.24	-2.72	-4.38	0.22	9.52	10.80	2086	\$551	\$1,793	97%	\$2,297
2019	30.86	26.99	31.49	0.40	10.28	11.93	2434	\$838	\$3,024	97%	\$3,103
2020	12.33	9.01	18.40	0.35	15.81	18.53	2579	\$945	\$3,852	98%	\$3,389
2021	24.79	21.11	28.71	0.30	15.31	17.17	2786	\$1,247	\$5,273	97%	\$4,048
2022	-10.31	-12.96	-18.11	0.21	18.60	20.87	2814	\$1,059	\$5,165	98%	\$3,564
2023	15.32	11.92	26.29	0.21	16.15	17.29	2808	\$1,158	\$6,169	98%	\$3,804

### INVESTMENT TEAM

Carol M. Lippman, CFA

Portfolio Manager, Rising Dividend Strategy

30+ years investment experience

Michael B. Andelman

Portfolio Manager, Rising Dividend Strategy

15+ years investment experience

Peter J. Deakos, CFA
Portfolio Manager, Rising Dividend Strategy

20+ years investment experience

Matthew Guttosch, CFA Analyst, Rising Dividend Strategy

15+ years investment experience

Jonathan Woo, CFA

Analyst, Rising Dividend Strategy 10+ years investment experience

#### \*This statistic is Supplemental Information.

**Dividend Yield** % is a percentage calculated by dividing total dividends by the current market price and multiplying by 100. **P/E (Next Four Quarters)** is the most-recent stock price divided by the mean analyst EPS rearnings per share) estimate for the forward four quarters. This number gives some indication of how cheap or expensive a stock is compared with consensus earnings estimates. The lower the forward P/E, the cheaper the stock. FactSet Estimates data is used in the denominator of this calculation. **Standard Deviation** is the annualized standard deviation of monthly portfolio returns, according to Bloomberg. **Estimated 3-5 Year EPS Growth** is the FactSet mean analyst estimate for annualized future EPS growth for a minimum of 3 years and maximum of 5 years, depending on available analyst estimate data. **P/E to Growth** is the P/E (Next Four Quarters) divided by the Estimated 3-5 Year EPS Growth. Beta is a measure of the degree of change in value one can expect in a portfolio given a change in value in a benchmark index. A portfolio with a beta greater than one is generally more volatile than its benchmark index, and a portfolio with a beta of less than one is generally less volatile than its benchmark index. The Return on Equity (ROE) is the percentage a company earns on its shareholders' equity in a given year. The calculation is net income divided by end-of-year net worth, multiplied by 100. Long-Term Debt as a Percentage of Capital is calculated by dividing long-term debt by total capitalization (the sum of common equity plus preferred equity plus long-term debt). TWR is the Time Weighted Return, also known as the Geometric Mean Return. YTD: year to date. Turnover is the lesser of purchases or sales as a percentage of the average portfolio value of a representative portfolio in the composite, annualized.

The Core Rising Dividend Composite contains discretionary accounts with a minimum size of \$100,000 that Dearborn manages pursuant to the Dearborn Partners Core Rising Dividend strategy (the "Strategy"), which is one of Dearborn's Rising Dividend strategies. For comparison purposes the composite is measured against the S&P 500 Index. The composite's inception and creation date was September 30, 2011. The Dearborn Partners Core Rising Dividend composite invests in companies diversified across numerous sectors, which offer the potential for a yield greater than that offered by the S&P 500, plus the potential for at least mid-to-high single digit annual dividend growth. Our objective is to identify companies that are likely to raise their dividends with regularity over time. The combination of a current yield greater than the S&P 500 plus the Potential for dividend increases offers investors a portfolio that we believe will perform well in both rising and falling over time. The combination of a current yield greater than the S&P SUO plus the potential for dividend increases offers investors a portrollo that we believe will perform well in both rising and failing markets. Dearborn claims compliance with the GIPS standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. Dearborn has been independently verified for the periods April 1, 1997 through December 31, 2022. The verification reports are available on request. A firm that claims compliance with the GIPS standards must establish policies and procedures for complying with the applicable requirements for 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. GIPS® is a registered trademark of the CFA Institute does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contained herein. The annual composite dispersion is an asset-weighted standard deviation and provides and proved the proposite dispersion is an asset-weighted standard deviation. does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contrained nerein. The annual composite dispersion is an asset-weighted standard deviation is calculated for the accounts in the composite the entire year, using their annual gross returns. The composite and benchmark three-year annualized deviation is not presented prior to 2014 as the composite did not have 36 months of consecutive performance. For periods that the composite three-year standard deviation is shown, it is calculated with composite gross returns. Dearborn maintains a list of broad distribution pooled funds, and a list of composite descriptions, which are both available upon request. Results are based on discretionary accounts under management, including those accounts no longer managed by Dearborn. The U.S. Dollar is the currency used to express performance. Returns are presented on a "pure gross" and net basis and include the reinvestment of all income. Pure gross returns do not reflect the deduction of any expenses, including trading costs, and are supplemental to net returns. For non-wrap fee-paying accounts, the gross returns are calculated net of transactions costs and net returns are calculated net of transaction costs and actual management fees. Net of fee returns are calculated using a model fee of 3%. Model fees are based on the highest fee payer in the composite. Net of fee returns are calculated by deducting the applicable monthly rate of the model fee from the monthly gross returns are calculated by deducting the displaced and calculation put he which resulted in a material performance. of the composite. In August 2023 we discovered that the net composite returns in the table above were not reflecting the disclosed net calculation methodology, which resulted in a material error. The net returns have now been corrected. We also discovered that the firm assets listed for 2017 included an extra digit, which resulted in a material error. The correct total is listed now. Wrap fees include trading expenses, third party management fees, custodial fees, and other administrative expenses. Wrap accounts pay an all-inclusive fee which can range up to 3% and includes all management fees and expenses involved in managing the account. Dearborn's non-wrap management fees range from 0.30% to 1.0%. Some portfolios may pay \$0 trading commissions. Actual fees and expenses may vary. The End of Period Strategy Assets include the assets managed by model managers and is supplemental to the assets in the composite. Dearborn's policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS reports are available upon request. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. This report is not a complete description of or recommendation to invest in the Strategy. There is no assurance the Strategy will be profitable, achieve its objectives, be suitable for you, or not incur losses. Dividends are not guaranteed and must be authorized by the company's board of directors. There is no assurance that any Rising Dividend portfolio company will increase its dividend, or not reduce its dividend, or not have a significant decrease in its stock price. Dividend Yield is one component of performance and should not be the only consideration for investment. The S&P 500 is an unmanaged index of 500 widely held stocks that is generally considered representative of the U.S. stock market. Inclusion of this index is for illustrative purposes only. You cannot invest directly in any index, and index performance does not include transaction costs or other fees, which will affect actual investment performance. Sector classifications are generally determined by referencing the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS®). GICS was developed by and/or is the exclusive property of MSCI, Inc. and Standard & Poors Financial Services LLC (S&P). GICS is a service mark of MSCI and S&P and has been licensed for use by Dearborn Partners, LLC. Dearborn is an SEC-registered investment adviser. Registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training.