

Strategy: Fundamentum Dividend Growth

#### **Philosophy and Process**

# The Fundamentum Dividend Growth (DG) strategy is based on the principle that markets are not entirely efficient, meaning that new information is not immediately reflected in current market prices. Under this principle, portfolio managers can identify investments that are overpriced or underpriced (i.e. in disequilibrium) and invest accordingly. A market for a particular investment may be in disequilibrium for a variety of reasons such as (but not limited to):

- Differing time horizons: Longer-term investors may be able to buy investments at a lower price than expected due to shorter-term investor needs to sell investments, such as to raise cash or change asset allocations.
- Politics: Uncertainty surrounding major political events, such as an election, could lead to overpricing or underpricing of certain
  investments as the general population speculates on the outcome of the event.

The Fundamentum DG Strategy's overall views are data-driven and formalized through weekly Investment Committee Meetings. Once these views about the overall economy and financial markets over the next 6-12 months are formed, they are then applied to the DG portfolio to help guide allocation decisions at the sector, industry, size, and location (US. vs. Non-US) levels. We then conduct company-specific analysis to identify companies we think are likely to outperform in the identified macro environment, are reasonably priced, and are consistently growing their dividends at an above-average rate. This process typically leads to a large-cap portfolio with a US-oriented and value-tilted portfolio consisting of 40-50 individual names.

Investments involve risk including loss of principal and unless otherwise stated, are not guaranteed. There can be no assurance that the future performance of any specific investment strategy will yield positive results.

#### **Investment Strategy/Portfolio Construction**

As of 3/31/2024

The Fundamentum Dividend Growth strategy is a diversified portfolio of predominately U.S., blue-chip companies that pay dividends and have demonstrated an ability to grow their dividend over time. The selection process will focus on companies that have economic moats, strong balance sheets and ability to generate free cash flow that can be used to grow the dividend. The portfolio seeks to have an above-average dividend yield and dividend growth that endeavors to be in the 7-10% range. The portfolio will be limited to less than 20% in non-U.S. Equities and be limited to no more than 10% cash.

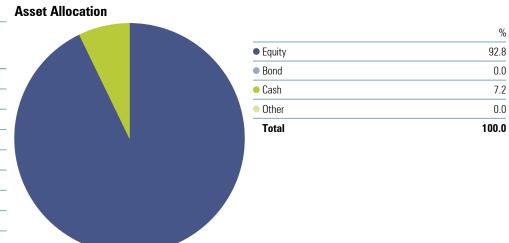
The primary benchmark for the Dividend Growth Strategy is the \*Morningstar US Dividend Growth TR USD Index. All References to the benchmark use the Morningstar US Dividend Growth TR USD Index.

The strategy will primarily invest in individual stocks, but can also invest in ETFs and mutual funds.

This composite was incepted on January 1, 2020. Minimum investment is \$100,000.

Morningstar Category: US SA Large Value

#### Top 10 Holdings % of Total Security Name Portfolio JPMorgan Chase & Co 5.01 Broadcom Inc 4.31 Cisco Systems Inc 3.65 3.53 Exxon Mobil Corp Chevron Corp 3.52 3.50 Merck & Co Inc 3.32 PepsiCo Inc Bank of America Corp 3.25 Lockheed Martin Corp 3.23 AbbVie Inc 3.02





**Fundamentum Dividend Growth** 

Minimum Account Size: \$100,000 - Investment Style: Dividend Growth

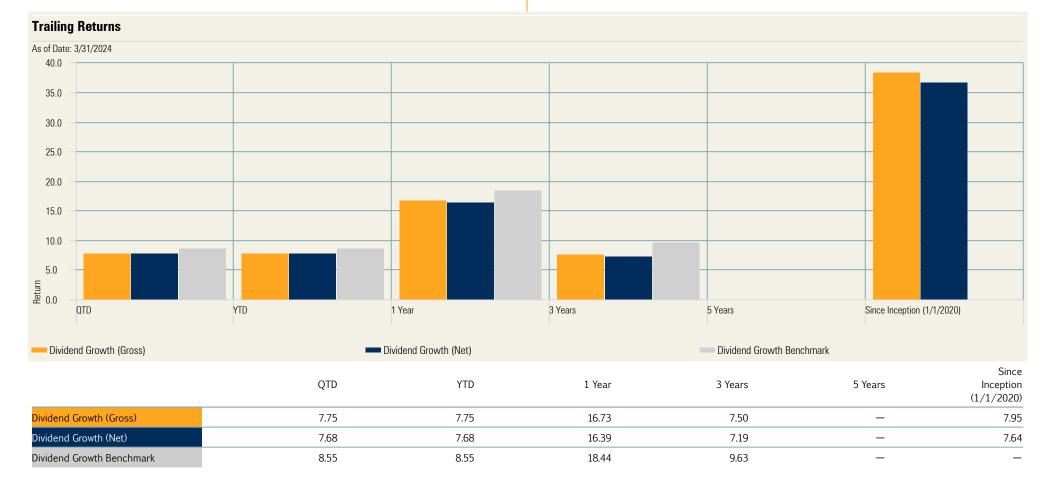
As of 3/31/2024

Strategy:

#### **Investment Committee Personnel:** see Appendix A for biographies

- Seek to deliver portfolio strategies that fit many needs in the financial planning process
- Access to the Portfolio Management Team for consultation and client presentations
- Dedicated team of experienced Investment Professionals located in Cleveland, Ohio

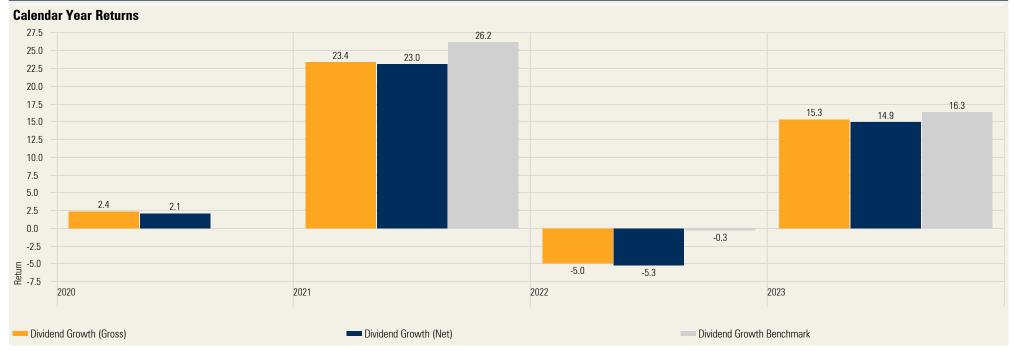
- Three team members hold the CFA® Charter
- Dedicated team of support staff including operations, trading and marketing
- Over 20 portfolios in 5 distinct investment sleeves, focused on Tactical Asset Allocation portfolios, utilizing ETFs, Index Funds, individual securities and actively managed funds.
- Tax-loss harvesting



<sup>\*</sup>The benchmark is composed of the Morningstar US Dividend Growth TR USD Index



Strategy: Fundamentum Dividend Growth



#### **Modern Portfolio Statistics - 1 Year**

Time Period: 4/1/2023 to 3/31/2024

	Return	Std Dev	Down Capture Ratio	Up Capture Ratio	Alpha	Beta	Sharpe Ratio (geo)	Tracking Error		
Dividend Growth (Gross)	16.73	10.84	76.95	84.78	0.58	0.81	0.98	2.74		
Dividend Growth (Net)	16.39	10.84	77.72	84.14	0.29	0.81	0.95	2.74		
Dividend Growth Benchmark	18.44	13.25	100.00	100.00	_	1.00	0.92	_		

#### **Modern Portfolio Statistics - 3 Year**

Time Period: 4/1/2021 to 3/31/2024

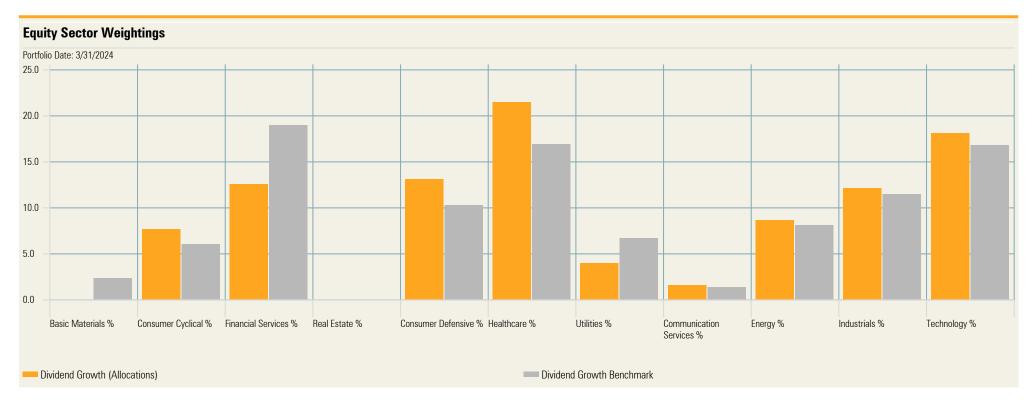
	Return	Std Dev	Down Capture Ratio	Up Capture Ratio	Alpha	Beta	Sharpe Ratio (geo)	Tracking Error		
Dividend Growth (Gross)	7.50	13.80	90.40	86.02	-1.34	0.89	0.32	3.04		
Dividend Growth (Net)	7.19	13.80	91.15	85.43	-1.63	0.89	0.30	3.04		
Dividend Growth Benchmark	9.63	15.28	100.00	100.00	_	1.00	0.42	_		

<sup>\*</sup>The benchmark is composed of the Morningstar US Dividend Growth TR USD Index

Strategy: Fundamentum Dividend Growth

#### **Portfolio Characteristics**

	12 Mo Yield	P/E Ratio	# of Holdings	Average YTM Survey	Sharpe Ratio 3 Yr (Qtr-End)
Dividend Growth (Allocations)	2.25	20.84	42	5.39	0.43

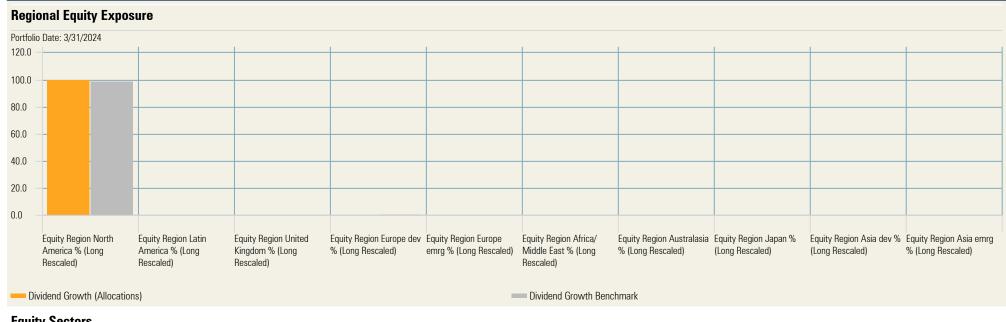


	Basic Materials %	Consumer Cyclical %	Financial Services %	Real Estate %	Consumer Defensive %	Healthcare %	Utilities %	Communication Services %	Energy %	Industrials %	Technology %
Dividend Growth (Allocations)	_	7.77	12.65	_	13.23	21.58	4.04	1.62	8.70	12.21	18.21
Dividend Growth Benchmark	2.45	6.16	19.03	_	10.42	16.99	6.83	1.45	8.19	11.57	16.93

<sup>\*</sup>The benchmark is composed of the Morningstar US Dividend Growth TR USD Index



Strategy: **Fundamentum Dividend Growth** 

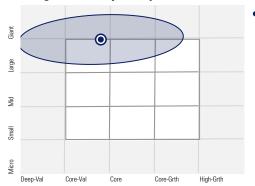


#### **Equity Sectors**

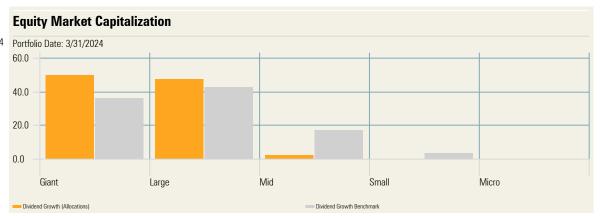
	Equity Region North America %	Equity Region Latin America %	Equity Region United Kingdom %	Equity Region Europe dev %	Equity Region Europe emrg %	Equity Region Africa/Middle East %	Equity Region Australasia %	Equity Region Japan %	Equity Region Asia dev %	Equity Region Asia emrg %
Dividend Growth (Allocations)	100.00	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
Dividend Growth Benchmark	99.14	0.07	0.11	0.66	_	_	_	_	_	0.02

<sup>\*</sup>The benchmark is composed of the Morningstar US Dividend Growth TR USD Index





• Dividend Growth (Allocations) 3/31/2024





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## Appendix A:



**John Nichol, CFA** - Chief Investment Officer and Portfolio Manager with Stratos Investment Management. A senior investment executive with 27+ years of experience integrating fundamental analysis, quantitative research, technical, and derivative management strategies to meet portfolio management objective, risk, and performance goals. Prior to joining Stratos Investment Management, John worked for Equity Bank Trust & Wealth Management, Federated Hermes, Inc., Public Employees Retirement System of Ohio, and the U.S. Department of Treasury — Office of Thrift Supervision. He has been in the investment industry since 1992, including 19 with Federated Hermes Inc. where he had been both a securities analyst, senior portfolio manager, and Growth & Income Group Head. He is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a bachelor's degree in finance and economics and received his MBA from The Ohio State University. John holds the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation.



**Trevor Forbes** - CIO and Managing Director of Investments with Renaissance Investment Group. Trevor graduated from Leicester University, UK with a BSc (Hons) and trained as an investment analyst. Trevor has served as Head of Investments at Standard Life Wealth and Chief Investment Officer at ABN Amro & Julius Baer, as well a Vice President at Citibank Global Asset Management. He has investment experience across global and domestic asset classes and has managed portfolios for Pension Funds, Government Agencies, Religious and secular Foundations as well as Private Wealth Management. Trevor is an affiliate member of the CFA Society of the United Kingdom.



**Travis Smythe, CFA** - A Portfolio Manager with Stratos Investment Management, Travis graduated from The University of Tulsa with a Bachelor's degree in finance. He began his career as an investment analyst for a single advisor firm in Tulsa, which was later acquired by a firm that would ultimately become Capital One Investing. In this role, Travis grew from a primary focus on investment analysis to helping lead the Portfolio Management & Trading team for a network of advisors. Travis holds the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation.

## **Appendix B: Disclosures**

The Firm - Stratos Investment Management is a SEC registered investment advisor that provides investment management services to institutional and individual investors. Prior to May 2016, Stratos Investment Management was the asset management division of Stratos Wealth Partners Ltd., a registered investment advisor that provides investment management management

The Composite - The Fundamentum Dividend Growth composite contains all discretionary, fee-paying accounts managed in accordance with the Fundamentum Dividend Growth strategy. This composite is a growth strategy which seeks to outperform its benchmark (Morningstar US Dividend Growth TR USD Index) over full market cycles. From July 1, 2020 to April, 30, 2023 the benchmark was the FTSE High Dividend Yield index. The composite consists of individual stocks. Accounts with investment objectives of Growth With Income and Growth are considered suitable for this composite. The strategy and composite were incepted in 2020 and the composite was created in 2020. A full list and description of available composites can be furnished upon request.

Fees - Pure Gross of fees returns ("Gross Return") are gross of trading expenses, management, and custodial fees. The monthly model net fee reported will be calculated using the strategy maximum fee divided by 12. For example, the max fee for the Tactical Growth model is 0.29%. Divide this fee by 12 to get a monthly deduction of 0.0242%. This would then be subtracted from the pure gross-of-fees monthly return to arrive at the new net return. The portfolio return and fee information contained in this Appendix do not include the investment advisory fees charged by your primary advisor. Please refer to your investment advisor's fee schedule, as disclosed in their Disclosure Brochure, for additional information. Prior to July 1, 2017, the net fee was calculated using the Net Actual fee, which is defined as the gross-of-fees return reduced by the investment management fee charged by an advisor. Stratos Investment Management charges a maximum investment management fee of 29 basis points (0.29%) for this strategy. This fee includes portfolio management services and transaction costs. All returns are net of the expenses charged by the underlying funds and investment vehicles. For a full breakdown of platform or wrap fees, please refer to the Stratos Investment Management ADV Part 2A.

Dispersion - Internal dispersion is calculated using the equal weighted standard deviation of annual gross returns of those accounts that were included in the composite for the entire year. Internal dispersion is a measure of the spread of the annual returns of individual portfolios within a composite.

Policies - Stratos Investment Management's policies for valuing portfolios, calculating performance and preparing compliant presentations are available upon request. All returns are calculated in U.S. Dollars.

Significant Cash Flows – Stratos Investment Management employs a significant cash flow policy, and has since inception. Significant cash flows are defined as any external cash flow of  $\pm 20\%$  of the beginning month account value. Prior to January 1, 2017, Stratos Investment Management defined significant cash flows as any external cash flow of  $\pm 10\%$ . Accounts with significant cash flows are removed from the composite until rebalanced back to the strategy's model weightings.

Minimum Account Size - The minimum account size for inclusion in the composite is \$100,000.

Ex-Post Standard Deviation -. The three year annualized ex post standard deviation is not presented for periods where 36 monthly composite returns are not available.

Market or Economic Conditions – Not applicable.

Additional Disclosures - Investing involves risk including loss of principal. The investment returns and principal value of the portfolio will fluctuate so that the value of an investor's account, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original value. No strategy assures success or protects against loss.

The performance data quoted represents past performance; past performance does not guarantee future results.

All indices are unmanaged and may not be invested into directly.

Stratos Investment Management defaults to each separate account that dividends and capital gains be reinvested unless otherwise requested by the customer. As a result, performance reported can include accounts that request dividends and capital gains to be reinvested back into the security or accounts that request dividends and capital gains as cash if the customer overrides the default.

The performance period presented is for a period of after the Great Recession when the market was in economic recovery and with a trend of positive market conditions. Therefore, it is not known how the portfolio would perform in a bear market or in declining market conditions.

Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of mutual funds and exchange traded funds carefully before investing. The prospectus and, if available, the summary prospectus contain this and other important information about the fund(s). You can obtain a prospectus and summary prospectus from your financial representative. Read carefully before investing.

## **Appendix C: Definitions**

Alpha: A measure of the difference between a portfolio's actual returns and its expected performance, given its level of risk as measured by beta. A positive Alpha figure indicates the portfolio has performed better than its beta would predict. In contrast, a negative Alpha indicates the portfolio has underperformed, given the expectations established by beta.

Annual Report Net Expense Ratio: The percentage of fund assets used to pay for operating expenses and management fees, including 12b-1 fees, administrative fees, and all other asset-based costs incurred by the fund, except brokerage costs. Fund expenses are reflected in the fund's NAV. Sales charges are not included in the expense ratio. The expense ratio for fund of funds only includes the wrap or sponsor fees and does not include the underlying fund fees.

Average Coupon: This figure is surveyed for stable value investments and provides an indication of whether the underlying portfolio owns more high- or low-coupon bonds.

Average Price: Morningstar generates this figure from the fund's portfolio by weighting the price of each bond by its relative size in the portfolio. This number reveals if the fund favors bonds selling at prices above or below face value (discount or premium securities, respectively). A higher number indicates a bias toward premiums. This statistic is expressed as a percentage of par (face) value.

Beta: Beta is a measure of systematic risk with respect to a benchmark. Systematic risk is the tendency of the value of the fund and the value of benchmark to move together. Beta measures the sensitivity of the fund's excess return (total return minus the risk-free return) with respect to the benchmark's excess return that results from their systematic co-movement. It is the ratio of what the excess return of the fund would be to the excess return of the benchmark if there were no fund-specific sources of return. If beta is greater than one, movements in value of the fund that are associated with movements in the value of the benchmark tend to be amplified. If beta is one, they tend to be the same, and if beta is less than one, they tend to be dampened. If such movements tend to be in opposite directions, beta is negative. Beta is measured as the slope of the regression of the excess return on the fund as the dependent variable and the excess return on the benchmark as the independent variable.

Downside Capture Ratio: Downside Capture Ratio measures manager's performance in down markets. A down-market is defined as those periods (months or quarters) in which market return is less than 0. In essence, it tells you what percentage of the down-market was captured by the manager. For example, if the ratio is 110%, the manager has captured 110% of the down-market and therefore underperformed the market on the downside.

Effective Maturity: The holding weighted average term (in years) at which time principal is expected to be paid. Expressed in years. Repayment of principal may be expected at the stated maturity date, estimated from expected prepayments of principal, calculated from sinking fund schedules, pre-refunded dates, investor put options, or modeled for perpetual securities. However, issuer optional redemption features (e.g. calls) are not incorporated into the calculation. Expressed in years.

Gross Return: The return an investor would have received had they not paid any expenses. The calculation of gross return adjusts the monthly total return for the share class by the share class level fees prevailing at that time. For periods where Morningstar does not have the prevailing fees for the share class no gross returns will be calculated. Gross returns for separate accounts are collected from the firms.

P/E Ratio: A fund's price/earnings ratio can act as a gauge of the fund's investment strategy in the current market climate, and whether it has a value or growth orientation. Companies in those industries enjoying a surge of popularity tend to have high P/E ratios, reflecting a growth orientation. More staid industries, tend to have low P/E ratios, reflecting a value orientation. Morningstar generates this figure in-house on a monthly basis, based on the most-recent portfolio holdings submitted by the fund and stock statistics gleaned from our internal equities databases. Negative P/Es are not used, and any P/E greater than 60 is capped at 60 in the calculation of the average.

SEC Yield: A calculation based on a 30-day period ending on the last of the previous month. It is computed by dividing the net investment income per share earned during the period by the maximum offering price per share on the last day of the period. When a dash appears, the vield available is more than 30 days old. This information is taken from fund surveys.

Separate Account Net Return: The return of Separate Account investment after deducting all expenses from the gross return generated by investment.

Sharpe Ratio: A risk-adjusted measure developed by Nobel Laureate William Sharpe. It is calculated by using standard deviation and excess return to determine reward per unit of risk. The higher the Sharpe Ratio, the better the fund's historical risk-adjusted performance. The Sharpe ratio is calculated by dividing a fund's annualized excess returns by the standard deviation of a fund's annualized excess returns. Since this ratio uses standard deviation as its risk measure, it is most appropriately applied when analyzing a fund that is an investor's sole holding. The Sharpe Ratio can be used to compare two funds directly on how much risk a fund had to bear to earn excess return over the risk-free rate.

Standard Deviation: A statistical measurement of dispersion about an average, which, for a mutual fund, depicts how widely the returns varied over a certain period of time. Investors use the standard deviation of historical performance to try to predict the range of returns that are most likely for a given fund. When a fund has a high standard deviation, the predicted range of performance is wide, implying greater volatility.

Tracking Error: Tracking Error is calculated by a linear regression of the ETF's daily NAV returns on the underlying index's daily total returns for the past six months. Tracking Error is the standard deviation of the error term in that regression.

Turnover Ratio: A measure of how frequently an investment buys or sells it's holdings. Expressed as a percentage of how much of the investment's holdings have been traded over a given year as reported in the investment's periodic disclosure document. There are many methods for calculating turnover ratios. This data is collected from disclosure documents and therefore, corresponds to regulator turnover calculation and provision requirements in the investment's domicile.

Upside Capture Ratio: Upside Capture Ratio measures a manager's performance in up markets relative to the market (benchmark) itself. It is calculated by taking the security's upside capture return and dividing it by the benchmark's upside capture return.

Average YTM Survey: Morningstar surveys fund companies for an average yield to maturity of the portfolio. The calculation of yield to maturity should take into account the market prices as of the date of the portfolio, par value, coupon interest rate, and time to maturity. All coupons are reinvested at the same rate. If the survey is not provided or is not available, the field will not populate.

12 Month Yield: An expression of the amount paid out in distributions (pre-tax) by the investment in the last 12 months expressed as a percentage of the previous month end price. Distributions include capital gains, dividend and interest payments but does not include any return of capital payments.

\*Definitions defined by Morningstar Direct

## **Appendix C: Definitions**

Stratos Investment Management's View on Risk: Our perspective on low and high risk, is based off our view of standard deviation, and downside/upside capture ratios relative to the broader market and/or benchmark. Standard deviation measures the volatility or spread of returns around an investment's average return. A lower standard deviation typically suggests reduced volatility and is commonly associated with lower risk, while a higher standard deviation indicates higher volatility and higher risk. Additionally, we factor in the downside capture ratio, which assesses a fund's performance compared to the broader market during periods of negative market returns. A downside ratio below 100 indicates that the fund tends to outperform the market during downsturns, potentially mitigating downside risk for investors. Conversely, the upside capture ratio measures the fund's performance compared to the broader market during periods of positive market returns. A higher upside capture ratio suggests that the fund has captured a larger portion of the market's upside, potentially indicating higher risk during market upswings.

It's essential to recognize that our risk assessment from above relies on historical data and statistical analysis, which may not fully account for future market conditions or unforeseen events. Past performance should not be viewed as a guarantee of future outcomes, and investing in securities carries inherent risks, including the risk of loss of principal.

Investors should carefully evaluate their risk tolerance, investment objectives, and time horizon before making investment decisions. It's important to understand that investing involves inherent risks, and there are no assurances of investment success or protection against loss in any investment strategy or portfolio.