

# QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REVIEW

## U.S. Small Cap Value Fund

### Performance returns (USD)

| ANNUALIZED RETURNS (QUARTER-END)  | Quarter-End | YTD   | 1-Year | 3-Year | 5-Year | 10-Year | Since Inception |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|---------|-----------------|
| U.S. Small Cap Value Fund (net)   | -0.67       | 11.16 | 11.16  | 5.46   | 10.26  | -       | 10.94           |
| U.S. Small Cap Value Fund (gross) | -0.55       | 11.69 | 11.69  | 5.97   | 10.76  | -       | 11.44           |
| S&P SmallCap 600 Value            | 1.43        | 7.56  | 7.56   | 3.21   | 8.09   | -       | 9.23            |
| Value Add                         | -2.10       | +3.60 | +3.60  | +2.26  | +2.17  | -       | +1.72           |

Net of all fees and expenses after reimbursement by the Manager, but not transaction costs, if any. If certain expenses were not reimbursed, performance would be lower. Gross of fees, expenses and transaction costs, if any. If these fees, expenses and costs were included, performance would be lower. **Performance data quoted represents past performance and is not indicative of future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance data may be lower or higher than the performance data provided herein. To obtain performance information to the most recent month-end, visit [www.gmo.com](http://www.gmo.com).**

### MAJOR PERFORMANCE DRIVERS

Global equity markets diverged in the fourth quarter, as the U.S. had another solid month while the rest of the world struggled – although the returns for a USD investor look particularly lackluster outside the U.S. because of a surging dollar. In particular, with the return of President Trump to the White House, areas that are assumed to be beneficiaries of likely policy were favored, while areas that might be subject to tariffs were treated less kindly.

Within small caps the S&P Small Cap 600 Value index outperformed the S&P Small Cap 600 index by 2% in the fourth quarter. The stocks identified as expensive by the valuation models did indeed fare poorly for the quarter, but unfortunately the very cheapest stocks also underperformed, and it was "shallow" value that proved to be the big winner. Similarly, the stocks least favored by the alerts model did very poorly, but again the most favored also underperformed while stocks in the middle performed the best.

Sector allocation was very solid, helped by being overweight the two best performing sectors, Industrials and Financials, and being underweight the two worst performing sectors, Materials and Real Estate. Unfortunately, this was more than offset by challenging security selection, with Consumer Discretionary, Financials, Industrials, and Information Technology causing the biggest negative relative impacts.

Inception Date: 2-Jul-19

Performance for the year of inception is less than a full calendar year. Returns shown for periods greater than one year are on an annualized basis.

**Risks:** Risks associated with investing in the Fund may include: (1) Market Risk - Equities: The market price of equities may decline due to factors affecting the issuer, its industries, or the economy and equity markets generally. Declines in stock market prices generally are likely to reduce the net asset value of the Fund's shares. (2) Management and Operational Risk: The risk that GMO's investment techniques will fail to produce desired results, including annualized returns and annualized volatility. (3) Smaller Company Risk: Smaller companies may have limited product lines, markets, or financial resources, lack the competitive strength of larger companies, have less experienced managers or depend on a few key employees. The securities of companies with smaller market capitalizations often are less widely held and trade less frequently and in lesser quantities, and their market prices often fluctuate more, than the securities of companies with larger market capitalizations. For a more complete discussion of these risks and others, please consult the Fund's Prospectus. **Performance Returns:** Annualized Returns may include the impact of purchase premiums and redemption fees. The GMO Trust funds are distributed in the United States by Funds Distributor LLC. GMO and Funds Distributor LLC are not affiliated.

**Net Expense Ratio: 0.48%; Gross Expense Ratio: 0.65%** Net Expense Ratio reflects the reduction of expenses from fee reimbursements. The fee reimbursements will continue until at least June 30, 2025. Elimination of this reimbursement will result in higher fees and lower performance. Gross Expense Ratio is equal to the Funds Total Annual Operating Expenses set forth in the Funds most recent prospectus dated June 30, 2024.

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## PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The GMO U.S. Small Cap Value Fund seeks to generate total return in excess of its benchmark, the S&P Small Cap 600 Value Index, by investing primarily in equities of U.S. companies that are included in the S&P 600 Index or whose market capitalization at the time of investment is less than that of companies in the bottom decile of market capitalization of the MSCI U.S. IMI Index.

The Fund's investment approach is grounded in the Systematic Equity team's belief that, in the short term, equity markets exhibit exploitable inefficiencies as a result of irrational investor actions, the imperfect flow of information, and the participation of non-economic actors, while in the long-term returns are ultimately driven by economic reality. The Fund aims to take advantage of these inefficiencies by utilizing a multi-factor valuation model in conjunction with other methods, such as momentum and corporate alerts, to identify undervalued equity securities.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Benchmark(s):** The S&P SmallCap 600 Value Index is an independently maintained and widely published index comprised of value stocks within the S&P SmallCap 600 index. The S&P SmallCap 600 seeks to measure the small-cap segment of the U.S. equity market. Value stocks are measured using three factors: the ratios of book value, earnings, and sales to price. S&P does not guarantee the accuracy, adequacy, completeness or availability of any data or information and is not responsible for any errors or omissions from the use of such data or information. Reproduction of the data or information in any form is prohibited except with the prior written permission of S&P or its third-party licensors.

**An investor should consider the fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing. This and other important information can be found in the funds prospectus. To obtain a prospectus please visit [www.gmo.com](http://www.gmo.com). Read the prospectus carefully before investing.**

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## ABOUT GMO

Founded in 1977, GMO is a global asset manager committed to delivering superior performance and advice to our clients. We are privately owned, which allows us to singularly focus on our sole business – achieving outstanding long-term client investment outcomes. Offering multi-asset, equity, fixed income, and alternative strategies, we invest with a long-term, valuation-based philosophical approach.

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\*GMO's West Coast Hub is comprised of members of Investment, Global Client Relations, and other teams located in and around the Greater San Francisco area

\*\*Representative Office