

# Brown Advisory Flexible Equity Strategy

We believe that our strategy of investing in companies with attractive business economics, shareholder-oriented managements and the potential for future growth, purchased at bargain prices, can outperform the S&P 500 Index with less risk over a full market cycle.



**MANEESH BAJAJ, CFA**  
Portfolio Manager

## May 2021 Monthly Report

### Performance Contributors

#### TOP FIVE CONTRIBUTORS\*

TICKER	NAME	SECTOR	AVG. WEIGHT (%)	MONTHLY RETURN (%)	CONTRIBUTION TO RETURN (%)
JPM	JPMorgan Chase & Co.	Financials	2.96	6.78	0.19
BRK.B	Berkshire Hathaway Inc. Class B	Financials	3.75	5.27	0.19
PINS	Pinterest, Inc. Class A	Communication Services	0.56	12.65	0.14
BAC	Bank of America Corp	Financials	2.99	4.59	0.13
NOMD	Nomad Foods Ltd.	Consumer Staples	2.07	5.18	0.11

#### BOTTOM FIVE CONTRIBUTORS\*

TICKER	NAME	SECTOR	AVG. WEIGHT (%)	MONTHLY RETURN (%)	CONTRIBUTION TO RETURN (%)
KMX	CarMax, Inc.	Consumer Discretionary	3.03	-13.55	-0.45
MA	Mastercard Incorporated Class A	Information Technology	4.87	-5.51	-0.28
AAPL	Apple Inc.	Information Technology	3.45	-5.04	-0.18
DLTR	Dollar Tree, Inc.	Consumer Discretionary	1.32	-15.24	-0.16
AMZN	Amazon.com, Inc.	Consumer Discretionary	2.05	-7.05	-0.15

### Monthly Portfolio Activity

#### NEW INVESTMENT

TICKER	NAME	REASON FOR DECISION
PINS	Pinterest, Inc. Class A	After a pull back in the name, we built an initial position to take advantage of what we believe is a solid runway for the business to capitalize on increased digital advertising spending related to e-commerce.

#### DELETION

TICKER	NAME	REASON FOR DECISION
HAIN	Hain Celestial Group, Inc.	After a strong run for the stock, we believe that the gains have been realized and there are other more attractive opportunities to deploy capital within the portfolio.

### Top 10 Equity Holdings (%)

Cash and equivalents: 2.1%

1. Alphabet, Inc. (Class A and C)*	6.0	6. Berkshire Hathaway, Inc. Cl B	3.7
2. Microsoft Corp.	5.6	7. Apple, Inc.	3.3
3. Visa, Inc.	4.9	8. UnitedHealth Group, Inc.	3.2
4. Mastercard, Inc.	4.6	9. Bank of America Corp.	2.9
5. Facebook, Inc.	4.6	10. JPMorgan Chase & Co.	2.9

#### INSIDE THE STRATEGY: FACTS & TYPICAL PORTFOLIO FIGURES

Inception: 12/31/1984	Top 10 Weight: 30%–50%
Benchmark: S&P 500® Index	Position Size: 1%–6%, max. 8%
Portfolio: 35–45 Holdings	Cash Position: 0%–5%, max. 10%

### Portfolio Comments

The Brown Advisory Flexible Equity Composite gained 0.02% (net of fees) during May, while its benchmark, the S&P 500® Index, gained 0.70%.

The portfolio's communication services holdings provided the strongest contribution to return for the month. JPMorgan Chase, a global financial services company, was the portfolio's top contributor to performance in May. JPMorgan rose along with the rest of the financials sector in May, largely due to the economic recovery well under way and also due to the prospects of higher interest rates.

The portfolio's consumer discretionary holdings were the largest detractors to performance during the month. CarMax, a used car retailer in the U.S., was the portfolio's largest detractor to performance during the month. After a strong run last year and a strong first quarter in 2021, the stock pulled back in May as a result of decelerating near-term business trends in the economy and tougher comparisons for its next earnings report.

We initiated a position in Pinterest during the month. Its stock pulled back in May along with some of its other growth-oriented counterparts, which created an attractive entry point. Pinterest is well positioned to capture a larger share of the growing global digital advertising spend related to e-commerce. During the month, we exited our position in Hain Celestial Group. Their CEO, Mark Schiller, has done a terrific job of turning around the business, which has led to meaningful stock price appreciation. After having realized the gains, we deployed the capital to more attractive opportunities. [B](#)

\*Source: FactSet®. The information provided in this material is not intended to be and should not be considered to be a recommendation or suggestion to engage in or refrain from a particular course of action or to make or hold a particular investment or pursue a particular investment strategy, including whether or not to buy, sell, or hold any of the securities mentioned. It should not be assumed that investments in such securities have been or will be profitable. References to specific securities are for illustrative purposes only and do not represent all of the securities purchased, sold or recommended for advisory clients. Sectors are based on the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS®) classification system. The security returns listed represent the period of when the security was held during the month. Top five and bottom five contributors exclude cash and cash equivalents. Contribution to return is calculated by multiplying a security's beginning weight in the portfolio by the security's return on a daily basis, and geometrically linking the return for the reporting period. The top 10 equity holdings exclude cash and equivalents. \*Alphabet Inc. represents a 2.5% holding in Class A shares of the stock and a 3.5% holding in Class C shares of the stock. Numbers may not total due to rounding. The portfolio information provided is based on a representative Flexible Equity account and is provided as supplemental information. This representative account may differ from specific client portfolios. Please see disclosure statements at the end of this presentation for additional information and for a complete list of terms and definitions. Past performance is not indicative of future results. The composite performance shown above reflects the Flexible Equity Composite, managed by Brown Advisory Institutional. Brown Advisory Institutional is a GIPS Compliant firm and is a division of Brown Advisory LLC. Please see the Brown Advisory Flexible Equity disclosure statement at the end of this presentation for a GIPS compliant presentation.

## Brown Advisory Institutional Flexible Equity Composite

Year	Composite Total Gross Returns (%)	Composite Total Net Returns (%)	Benchmark Returns (%)	Composite 3-Yr Annualized Standard Deviation (%)	Benchmark 3-Yr Annualized Standard Deviation (%)	Portfolios in Composite at End of Year	Composite Dispersion (%)	Composite Assets (\$USD Millions)*	GIPS Firm Assets (\$USD Millions)*
2019	37.3	36.8	31.5	12.8	11.9	42	0.4	2,196	42,426
2018	-3.3	-3.7	-4.4	12.3	10.8	41	0.3	2,263	30,529
2017	25.1	24.6	21.8	11.4	9.9	50	0.3	2,912	33,155
2016	9.9	9.4	12.0	12.1	10.6	52	0.2	2,883	30,417
2015	-2.0	-2.4	1.4	11.1	10.5	56	0.2	2,686	43,746
2014	14.0	13.5	13.7	9.2	9.0	49	0.2	3,195	44,772
2013	37.5	36.9	32.4	11.9	11.9	44	0.4	2,247	40,739
2012	19.9	19.5	16.0	14.6	15.1	40	0.3	1,818	26,794
2011	5.8	5.4	2.1	18.5	18.7	43	1.1	1,714	19,962
2010	11.1	10.3	15.1	22.7	21.9	45	0.7	1,811	16,859
2009	37.1	36.0	26.5	21.3	19.6	48	3.4	1,905	11,058

Brown Advisory Institutional claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. Brown Advisory Institutional has been independently verified for the periods from January 1, 1993 through December 31, 2019. The Verification reports are available upon request. Verification assesses whether (1) the firm has complied with all the composite construction requirements of the GIPS standards on a firm-wide basis and (2) the firm's policies and procedures are designed to calculate and present performance in compliance with the GIPS standards. Verification does not ensure the accuracy of any specific composite presentation. GIPS® is a registered trademark owned by CFA Institute.

- \*For the purpose of complying with the GIPS standards, the firm is defined as Brown Advisory Institutional, the Institutional and Balanced Institutional asset management divisions of Brown Advisory. As of July 1, 2016, the firm was redefined to exclude the Brown Advisory Private Client division, due to an evolution of the three distinct business lines.
- The Institutional Flexible Equity Composite (the Composite) includes all actual, discretionary, institutional accounts with a flexible value equity objective of 100%. The strategy seeks bargains in "value" as well as "growth" stocks and invests primarily in the common stock of domestic companies with market capitalizations greater than \$2 billion at the time of purchase. As of January 1, 2013, the minimum account market value required for Composite inclusion is \$1.5 million. Prior to August 2013, the name of the Composite was Institutional Flexible Value. The strategy remains the same.
- The Composite was created in 1985. The Composite inception date is January 1, 1985.
- The benchmark is the S&P 500® Index. The S&P 500 Index is a capitalization-weighted index of 500 stocks that is designed to measure performance of the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries. Index returns assume reinvestment of dividends and do not reflect any fees or expenses. An investor cannot invest directly into an index. Benchmark returns are not covered by the report of the independent verifiers. Standard & Poor's, S&P®, and S&P 500® are registered trademarks of Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC ("S&P"), a subsidiary of S&P Global Inc.
- The composite dispersion presented is an equal-weighted standard deviation of portfolio returns calculated for the accounts in the Composite for the entire calendar year period.
- Between October 2006 and December 2008, a significant cash flow policy was adopted for the Composite. A significant cash flow is defined as a single flow of cash or securities of more than 25% of the portfolio's market value at prior month end. Accounts with significant cash flows are excluded from the Composite for a grace period, defined as the month during which the flow occurred. Additional information regarding significant cash flow policies are available upon request.
- Gross-of-fees performance returns are presented before management fees but after all trading commissions, and gross of foreign withholding taxes (if applicable). Net-of-fee performance returns reflect the deduction of actual management fees and all trading commissions. Certain accounts in the Composite pay asset-based custody fees that include commissions. For these accounts, gross and net returns are also net of custody fees. Other expenses can reduce returns to investors. Prior to 2011, net performance is based on a model fee using the highest fee in effect, 0.75% applied quarterly. For periods after 2011 actual fees are used to calculate net returns. The standard management fee schedule is as follows: 0.60% on the first \$25 million; 0.50% on the next \$25 million; 0.45% on the next \$50 million; and 0.40% on the balance over \$100 million. Further information regarding investment advisory fees is described in Part II A of the firm's form ADV. Actual fees paid by accounts in the Composite may differ from the current fee schedule.

- The three-year annualized ex-post standard deviation measures the variability of the Composite (using gross returns) and the benchmark for the 36-month period ended on December 31.
- Valuations and performance returns are computed and stated in U.S. Dollars. All returns reflect the reinvestment of income and other earnings.
- A complete list of composite descriptions, policies for valuing portfolios, calculating performance, and preparing compliant presentations are available upon request.
- Past performance is not indicative of future results.
- This piece is provided for informational purposes only and should not be construed as a research report, a recommendation or suggestion to engage in or refrain from a particular course of action or to make or hold a particular investment or pursue a particular investment strategy, including whether or not to buy, sell or hold any of the securities mentioned, including any mutual fund managed by Brown Advisory.

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The S&P 500® Index represents the large-cap segment of the U.S. equity markets and consists of approximately 500 leading companies in leading industries of the U.S. economy. Criteria evaluated include market capitalization, financial viability, liquidity, public float, sector representation and corporate structure. An index constituent must also be considered a U.S. company. An investor cannot invest directly into an index. S&P® and S&P 500® are registered trademarks of Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC. FactSet® is a registered trademark of FactSet Research Systems, Inc. Sectors are based on the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS®) classification system. GICS® is a registered trademark of MSCI and Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC.

## Terms and Definitions for Representative Account Calculations

The **Average Weight** of a position or sector refers to the daily average for the period covered in this report of a stock's value as a percentage of the portfolio. The **Total Return** of an equity security is the sum of the return from price movement and the return due to dividend payments or other sources of income. Standard benchmark-, sector- and portfolio-level returns are the sums of the weights of each security multiplied by its return, summed and calculated daily and summed over the period covered by the report or by an otherwise-noted period. **Contribution to Return** is calculated by multiplying a security's beginning portfolio weight by its daily return and geometrically linking the security's daily contribution to return over the entire reporting period.