

# 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.



## May 2019 Monthly Report

### Performance Contributors

#### TOP FIVE CONTRIBUTORS\*

| TICKER | NAME                             | SECTOR           | AVG. WEIGHT (%) | MONTHLY RETURN (%) | CONTRIBUTION TO RETURN (%) |
|--------|----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| ANTM   | Anthem, Inc.                     | Health Care      | 1.84            | 5.68               | 0.10                       |
| SBAC   | SBA Communications Corp. Class A | Real Estate      | 1.52            | 6.22               | 0.09                       |
| UNH    | UnitedHealth Group Incorporated  | Health Care      | 2.86            | 3.75               | 0.09                       |
| CCI    | Crown Castle International Corp  | Real Estate      | 1.07            | 3.36               | 0.04                       |
| NOMD   | Nomad Foods Ltd.                 | Consumer Staples | 2.00            | 2.02               | 0.03                       |

#### BOTTOM FIVE CONTRIBUTORS\*

| TICKER | NAME                                     | SECTOR                 | AVG. WEIGHT (%) | MONTHLY RETURN (%) | CONTRIBUTION TO RETURN (%) |
|--------|------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| LOW    | Lowe's Companies, Inc.                   | Consumer Discretionary | 3.57            | -17.55             | -0.64                      |
| BABA   | Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. Sponsored ADR | Consumer Discretionary | 2.46            | -19.57             | -0.50                      |
| BRK.B  | Berkshire Hathaway Inc. Class B          | Financials             | 4.34            | -8.90              | -0.39                      |
| AAPL   | Apple Inc.                               | Information Technology | 2.99            | -12.42             | -0.38                      |
| FB     | Facebook, Inc. Class A                   | Communication Services | 3.98            | -8.24              | -0.33                      |

### Monthly Portfolio Activity

#### NEW INVESTMENT

| TICKER | NAME | REASON FOR DECISION |
|--------|------|---------------------|
|        | None |                     |

#### DELETION

| TICKER | NAME | REASON FOR DECISION |
|--------|------|---------------------|
|        | None |                     |

### Top 10 Equity Holdings (%)

Cash and equivalents: 2.2%

|                                  |     |                               |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Visa, Inc.                    | 6.4 | 6. Facebook, Inc.             | 3.9 |
| 2. Mastercard, Inc.              | 5.5 | 7. CarMax, Inc.               | 3.7 |
| 3. Alphabet, Inc. (Class A & C)# | 4.7 | 8. Lowe's Companies, Inc.     | 3.4 |
| 4. Microsoft Corp.               | 4.3 | 9. Edwards Lifesciences Corp. | 3.2 |
| 5. Berkshire Hathaway, Inc. Cl B | 4.2 | 10. JPMorgan Chase & Co.      | 3.2 |



**R. HUTCHINGS VERNON, CFA**  
Portfolio Manager



**MANEESH BAJAJ, CFA**  
Portfolio Manager

#### 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 fell 6.8% (net of fees), slightly underperforming its benchmark, the S&P 500® Index, which fell 6.4%. Health care holdings Anthem and UnitedHealth, as well as real estate holdings SBA Communications and Crown Castle, were among the portfolio's top contributors to performance. Consumer holdings Lowe's and Alibaba were among the top detractors to performance.

Anthem and UnitedHealth faced no new major developments during the month. In April, their share prices meaningfully declined on the back of "Medicare for All" returning to the political sphere with several Democratic presidential candidates lending support to it. The companies' shares moved higher in May, making up for some of April's losses as investors recognized the many challenges presented by a single-payer health care system.

SBA Communications rose on the back of strong quarterly earnings and an enhanced outlook for the rest of the year based on strong leasing trends. U.S. gross growth reached a two-year high during the second quarter, with increases expected throughout the year. While foreign exchange remains a headwind for Brazil, all major carriers are actively investing in their networks.

Crown Castle also posted strong quarterly results. The company's management is committed to being a large fiber player during the 5G buildout, and part of that strategy is forward-building capacity as carriers come to market to build these networks. The commentary on the company's quarterly earnings call was positive around current and expected leasing activity.

Lowe's posted solid overall same store sales results. However, gross margins meaningfully declined during the quarter due to legacy issues for which management is working towards identifying solutions. The earnings outlook for the full year was lowered, surprising investors. However, we are encouraged by the company's CEO, who recently increased his stake in the company.

Alibaba reported better-than-expected sales and earnings driven by acceleration in its core China marketplace businesses. However, it was not enough to offset the headlines dominated by macro and trade war concerns. During periods of short-term fluctuation in the stock price, we remind ourselves that China is shifting to a consumer-driven economy and Alibaba is a big beneficiary, which is evidenced by its tremendous growth in its core marketplace business. [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 include cash and equivalents. The top 10 equity holdings include cash and equivalents. #Alphabet Inc. represents a 2.0% holding in Class A shares of the stock and a 2.7% 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)* |
|------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 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                             |
| 2008 | -36.5                             | -37.0                           | -37.0                 | 16.6                                             | 15.1                                             | 51                                     | 1.9                      | 1,541                              | 8,547                              |

\*Returns prior to 2008 were earned at ABIM; therefore, firm assets are not applicable

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, 2018. 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 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 this composite was Institutional Flexible Value. The strategy remains the same.
- This composite was created in 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 this 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. 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. The Actual fees may vary, depending on, among other things, the applicable fee schedule and portfolio size. The 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. For periods after 2011 actual fees are used to calculate net returns. 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 does not indicate 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.

## Disclosures

Past performance is not a guarantee of future performance and you may not get back the amount invested.

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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.