

# **Portfolio Update: Third Quarter 2020**

During the third quarter, the RMB SMID Cap Fund (the "Fund" or "RMBMX") increased +6.52%, net of fees, compared to a +5.88% increase for the Russell 2500 Index.

	Quarter	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Since Inception (12/31/2004)
RMBMX	+6.52%	-0.19%	+6.56%	+9.13%	+10.30%	+10.30%	+7.79%
Russell 2500® Index	+5.88%	-5.82%	+2.22%	+4.45%	+8.97%	+10.81%	+7.94%

Performance over one year is annualized. The performance data quoted represents past performance and is not a guarantee of future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate, so that those shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the data quoted. To obtain performance as of the most recent month end, please call 855-280-6423. The Fund's gross expense ratio is 0.90%.

The Fund's investment advisor, RMB Capital Management, LLC, has adapted a contractual expense limitation agreement for each fund through April 30, 2021 reducing the applicable Fund's operating expenses. This may be continued from year to year thereafter if agreed upon by all parties. In the absence of such waivers and/or reimbursements, the applicable Fund's total return and yield would be lower.

Companies reported an unprecedented collapse in earnings posting a year over year decline of more than 50%.

# 80% 60% 40% 20% -20% -40% -40% -60% -Earing Estimate (YoY%) -Average —-1 STD +1 STD

# Russell 2000 Earning Estimate (YoY%)

Source: FactSet

Third guarter earnings were generally better than feared and have started to recover.

The Federal Reserve and international central banks continued to support financial markets with record purchases of financial assets (QE - \$6 trillion and counting YTD). In addition, the Federal Reserve committed to keep rates low for several more years, even if inflation accelerates above its target 2%.



This policy shift assures debt investors negative real returns on their capital if inflation accelerates. While negative real interest rates would be bad for government debt investors, it could be good for equity investors of highly leveraged companies, since, theoretically, inflation would make it easier to pay back debt in cheaper dollars. This policy shift favors the most highly leveraged companies in the Russell 2000, which may be why the most highly leveraged companies led performance for the quarter.

Table 1 shows the performance of the Russell 2500 index broken down by debt to capital, where those with the highest debt to capital ratios were up 10.60% compared to those with the lowest debt to capital which were only up 4.24%.

Our portfolio holdings skew toward higher quality, lower debt/capital and away from higher debt/capital which was a headwind for the quarter, particularly for

Table 1.

Russell 2500 Index - 3Q2020

Total Debt as % Total Cap	Total Return
80 - 100%	10.60%
60 - 80%	7.01%
40 - 60%	5.08%
20 - 40%	5.58%
0 - 20%	4.24%

Source: FactSet

credit sensitive sectors like consumer and financials. Even though this headwind made it difficult to outperform, strong stock selection in Healthcare and Materials was more than enough to offset it. And we expect to benefit from non-ownership of "low quality credit" when this headwind abates.

## **Contributors and Detractors**

Like last quarter, the biggest contributors to performance were mostly companies that will likely continue to benefit from faster adoption curves as a result of the COVID Pandemic. West Pharmaceutical Services Inc. (WST, +21%) manufactures packaging and delivery systems for biologics and is a natural monopoly designed into FDA approvals. Repligen Corp. (RGEN, +19%) is a biopharma pure-play focused on the provision of advanced bioprocessing solutions to the biologic drug development industry. The company is a key provider of protein products central to the monoclonal antibody development process, as well as hardware for upstream and downstream workflows.

The top three detractors were concentrated in the low dispersion sectors including energy and financials. Banks remained weak due to a flat yield curve and slow loan growth, while oil companies continue to experience deflationary pressures. We have been wrong so far in our belief that banks are a great way to play the eventual cyclical recovery and rotation out of growth stocks into value. Our thesis that banks would outperform in a "V" recovery because they are as cheap as they were in the financial crisis, but with a fraction of the credit risk has not been recognized by the market - yet. It might seem odd that we are bullish on banks given our belief in the "zombie company apocalypse", but to be clear, we believe the credit risk referenced earlier in this letter resides in structured credit funds, ETF's, CLO's and other shadow banking forms of credit. The more highly regulated bank credit risk is manageable, especially among the banks we own. Time will tell whether we were wrong or

# RMB SMID Cap Fund THIRD QUARTER 2020 CONTRIBUTION REPORT

Ranked by Basis Point Contribution

	Basis Point Contribution	Return
Top Contributors		
West Pharmaceutical Services Inc.	+72	+21.08%
Copart Inc.	+64	+26.29%
Catalent Inc.	+46	+16.86%
Repligen Corp.	+46	+19.36%
Vail Resorts Inc.	+46	+17.53%
<b>Bottom Detractors</b>		
Pinnacle Financial Partners Inc.	-27	-14.88%
WPX Energy Inc.	-21	-23.13%
Diamondback Energy Inc.	-20	-27.31%
Jack Henry & Associates Inc.	-19	-11.41%
FLIR Systems Inc.	-15	-11.20%

The performance presented above is sourced through Factset Research Systems Inc. Past performance is not indicative of future results, and there is a risk of loss of all or part of your investment. The above does not represent all holdings in the Fund. Holdings listed might not have been held for the full period. To obtain a copy of RMB's calculation methodology and a list of all holdings with contribution analysis, please contact your service team. The data provided is supplemental. Please see important disclosures at the end of this document.



just early, but for now we believe banks offer some of the best values in an otherwise frothy market.

# **Portfolio Activity**

Most of our portfolio activity occurred earlier in the year in the throes of the market sell off. This quarter, we trimmed the following "growth" holdings, which outpaced the stock market recovery, making their risk-reward profiles less attractive: Heico Corp. (HEI), Vail Resorts Inc. (MTN), First Republic Bank (FRC), Guidewire Software Inc. (GWRE), and Trex Co. Inc. (TREX).

We re-allocated to smaller names within the "SMID value" universe. We invested in STORE Capital Corp. (STOR). We join good company as Berkshire Hathaway recently increased its sizeable ownership in STOR. The company is a net-lease REIT that is the leader in the acquisition, investment and management of single tenant operational real estate (+400 tenants across +100 industries). We also invested in PotlatchDeltic Corp. (PCH). PCH is a vertically integrated Timber REIT and Wood product manufacturer. After extensive conversations with management, we have conviction that PCH is a highly skilled Timber REIT defined by a wealth creation track record and knowledge-building culture. Finally, we invested in Terminix Global Holdings Inc. (TMX). The business shows bullish "turn around" signals: new management team with operational acumen (CEO, Brett Ponton from Monro Inc. – a previous holding in Small Cap); the divestiture of the Brands segment for \$1.1B (net tax), which makes the company a pure-play pest business; and proceeds of the Brands sale used for debt repayment.

While our turnover is typically low, it has been a little higher this year and trades have added 403 basis points of excess return year to date.

### Outlook

Long-term, we remain bullish on owning higher quality smaller companies. Currently, our research suggest smaller companies are attractively priced relative to larger companies by a magnitude not seen since 1999. The near-term is highly uncertain, as it relates to the timeliness and availability of a COVID vaccine, which will impact how quickly and broadly the economy recovers, which may impact how sustainable the market recovery is or indeed how high it can go from current levels through year end. At times like this, it is important to remember that time in the market is more important than timing the market to long-term investors' returns.

Current market expectations reflect confidence in a rapid economic and earnings recovery. Expectations also reflect increased enthusiasm for healthcare and technology companies that are experiencing faster adoption curves due to how COVID has changed the way we work, play, and live. Expectations also reflect a high degree of pessimism as it relates to energy, banking, and travel.

We suspect if a vaccine is available sooner rather than later, investors may take profits from their "COVID stocks" (technology & healthcare) and reallocate to "value stocks" (financials and cyclicals). Alternatively, if there is a major second COVID wave that proves as deadly, and a vaccine is still far off from approval, we suspect the market could test the March 2020 lows but hold on to their "COVID" stocks. Unfortunately, we do not have an edge on how this will all play out, which is why we believe a core portfolio of higher quality companies diversified by industry and lifecycle is the best way to manage uncertainty and deliver great long-term risk adjusted returns.

Adding to investor uncertainty is the election. It may turn out to be one of the most contested in U.S. history, as both sides have lawyered up ahead of election day. While we do not believe the market should be surprised by a delayed outcome, one never knows. If the market sells off, we will be ready. We will leverage insights from our research team and proprietary research platform to add value for our clients, like we did in March.

Uncertainty and risks are constantly changing in ways that are difficult to forecast. Our north star is to think long-term, own great businesses, managed by great business managers who allocate capital in ways that create value for clients, employees, communities, and ultimately shareholders. We are grateful to be part of the capital allocation process and are excited about the continued opportunities to add value for our clients.



Thank you for your commitment to the Fund. Should you have any questions regarding your investment, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,

Chris Faber Portfolio Manager

Shop II

Jeff Madden Portfolio Manager

Jeffy B. Madden

TOP 10 HOLDINGS AS OF 9/30/20					
Company	% of Assets				
West Pharmaceutical Services Inc.	3.82%				
Copart Inc.	2.99%				
Fair Isaac Corp.	2.89%				
Catalent Inc.	2.84%				
EastGroup Properties Inc.	2.71%				
Repligen Corp.	2.61%				
Vail Resorts Inc.	2.49%				
Markel Corp.	2.26%				
Alexandria Real Estate Equities Inc.	2.20%				
Bio-Techne Corp.	2.12%				

Holdings are subject to change. The above is a list of all securities that composed 26.92% of holdings managed as of 9/30/2020 under the RMB SMID Cap Fund ("Fund") of RMB Capital Management, LLC ("RMB Capital") based on the aggregate dollar value. This list is provided for informational purposes only and may or may not represent the current securities managed. It does not represent all of the securities purchased, sold, or recommended for advisory clients (under the Fund or otherwise) during the calendar quarter ending 9/30/2020. The reader should not assume that investments in the securities identified and discussed were or will be profitable. For a complete list of historical recommendation for the Fund, please contact RMB Investors Trust at 855-280-6423.



The opinions and analyses expressed in this letter are based on RMB Capital Management, LLC's ("RMB Capital") research and professional experience, and are expressed as of the date of our mailing of this letter. Certain information expressed represents an assessment at a specific point in time and is not intended to be a forecast or guarantee of future performance, nor is it intended to speak to any future time periods. RMB Capital makes no warranty or representation, express or implied, nor does RMB Capital accept any liability, with respect to the information and data set forth herein, and RMB Capital specifically disclaims any duty to update any of the information and data contained in this letter. The information and data in this letter does not constitute legal, tax, accounting, investment, or other professional advice. Past performance is not indicative of future results, and there is a risk of loss of all or party of your investment. This information is confidential and may not be reproduced or redistributed to any other part without the permission of RMB Capital.

An investment cannot be made directly in an index. The index data assumes reinvestment of all income and does not bear fees, taxes or transaction costs. The investment strategy and types of securities held by the comparison index may be substantially different from the investment strategy and types of securities held by your account. The Russell 2500 Index measures the performance of the 2,500 smallest companies in the Russell 3000 Index. The Russell 3000 Index measures the performance of the 3,000 largest U.S. companies based on total market capitalization. The index does not reflect investment management fees, brokerage commissions, or other expenses associated with investing in equity securities.

Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. For complete information about the Fund, including a free prospectus, please contact RMB Investors Trust at 855-280-6423, or visit the website at www.rmbfunds.com. The prospectus contains important information about the funds, including investment objectives, risks, management fees, sales charges, and other expenses, which you should consider carefully before you invest or send money.

All investing involves risk including the possible loss of principal. There can be no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objective.

Foreside Fund Services, LLC, Distributor