

Portfolio Update: Fourth Quarter 2021

During the fourth quarter ending December 31, 2021, the RMB SMID Cap Fund (the "Fund" or "RMBMX") increased +8.35%, net of fees, compared to a +3.82% increase for the Russell 2500 Index.

	Quarter	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Since Inception (12/31/2004)
RMBMX	+8.35%	+28.10%	+28.10%	+28.01%	+17.79%	+14.50%	+10.19%
Russell 2500® Index	+3.82%	+18.18%	+18.18%	+21.91%	+13.75%	+14.15%	+9.95%

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, 2022, 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.

We are pleased to have provided significant excess return for our investors for the fourth quarter as well as year-to-date and over the three and five year time periods of the Fund.

We seek to deliver excess return by emphasizing company specific risk, where we believe our team has skill. The portfolio is diversified by sector and lifecycle to minimize sector and style risk. This allows stock selection to dominate excess return. The RMB Research Core team has done an exceptional job identifying businesses we want to own with high conviction over the life of the Fund, as evidenced by the 1, 3, 5, 10-year, and since inception performance returns.

An outcome of our disciplined stock selection process is a portfolio bias tilted toward *higher quality* companies relative to the Russell 2500 benchmark. We have written a white paper about the benefits of investing in higher quality companies for the long term, but also try to educate our investors about periods where higher quality companies lag. The "quality" bias was a significant tailwind for the portfolio's performance last year and helped us deliver more alpha than our 300 basis points annual target.

We do not foresee tailwinds turning into headwinds and feel great about the companies we own in the Fund.



Contributors and Detractors

Contributors were dominated by companies that proved their capability to adapt to challenging business conditions, which impacted supply chains, input costs, and labor.

EastGroup Properties Inc. (EGP +37.40%) is an industrial REIT benefitting from being a part of the solution to the nation's supply chain challenges. Part of the supply chain problem is associated with "just-in-time" inventory techniques that businesses employ to run "lean," which may have gone too far. Some businesses ran so lean, they were caught short of inventory and are losing sales. EGP's network of strategically well-placed industrial assets provides storage solutions to businesses. These businesses will likely carry structurally higher inventory levels over time even after the initial burst to re-stock pandemic related inventory deficits. EGP's blow out quarterly results and guidance reinforced this thesis and management has shown great skill, adaptability, and pricing power.

Eagle Materials Inc. (EXP +27.11%) is a high-quality construction material company, supplying cement and wallboard in the U.S. The company has benefited from the recent tightness in both the cement and wallboard endmarkets, as the industry has experienced increasing capacity constraints with limited scope for capacity additions, which resulted in a very favorable pricing environment and pricing power for EXP. The company managed to implement a series of pricing increases, which not only combat the widespread inflation and supply disruption headwind, but also improved margin on the net basis. In addition, the company's strategic decision to control almost all the important raw materials is

RMB SMID Cap Fund FOURTH QUARTER 2021 CONTRIBUTION REPORT Ranked by Basis Point Contribution

	Basis Point Contribution	Return
Top Contributors		
EastGroup Properties Inc.	+85	+37.40%
Eagle Materials Inc.	+57	+27.11%
Devon Energy Corp.	+46	+26.51%
Old Dominion Freight Line Inc.	+42	+25.39%
Martin Marietta Materials Inc.	+42	+29.12%
Bottom Detractors		
Repligen Corp.	-29	-8.35%
Editas Medicine Inc.	-17	-35.42%
CRISPR Therapeutics AG	-16	-32.91%
Roku Inc.	-16	-27.22%
NeoGenomics, Inc.	-15	-29.27%

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.

another big boost for its success in the current environment. Additionally, EXP is heavily exposed to the infrastructure construction end-market, which should be a very favorable demand driver in the next few years, per the passage of recent legislation.

Devon Energy Corp. (DVN +26.51%) is a low-cost gas and oil producer that acquired our holding WPX Energy Inc. last year. DVN savvily acquired WPX when oil and gas prices were low and remains disciplined about capital spending and managing free cash flow to pay out and grow dividends. DVN is an ideal holding to hedge against inflation. It is very possible oil and gas prices may be headed secularly higher due to energy policies that discourage fossil fuel investment, while encouraging the transition toward greater reliance on renewable energy before the renewable energy complex is fully built out and capable of meeting the economy's energy needs. The crisis in Texas last winter was a canary in the coal mine. Additionally, the European Union classified natural gas and nuclear energy as "green" because their overreliance on solar and wind has left them literally "out in the cold." The world still needs oil and gas, but many of these companies are priced as if they are obsolete.

The common factor for the detractors was early-stage Rockets, particularly among our biotech holdings. Rockets declined this quarter and early stage (those with no earnings but large market potential) were particularly hard hit. The biotech industry in general was a notable underperformer in the fourth quarter due to a variety of factors. This includes a sell-off in long duration assets, given concerns about inflation and rising interest rates, rotation from growth to value, negative clinical trial results, outflows from ARK Investment Management (one of the largest shareholders in a handful of biotechs). All of these factors weighed on two of our biotech holdings during the quarter, Editas Medicine Inc. (EDIT -35.42%) and CRISPR Therapeutics AG (CRSP -32.91%). Despite the recent underperformance, we still have high conviction in the future potential of gene editing.



Repligen Corp. (RGEN -8.35%) has been mentioned several times over the last few years as a contributor. RGEN is one of our "pick and shovel" plays within our biotech playbook and we believe it will deliver phenomenal results as its biologic purification monopoly continues to exceed expectations. We believe underperformance is driven by short-term investors that are selling the biotech sector and buying the "re-opening" sectors as the impact of COVID has peaked. We remain long-term bullish on RGEN but have trimmed our position, given its current valuation and position size within the portfolio.

NeoGenomics Inc. (NEO -29.27%) provides gene-based cancer testing, which is a requirement for clinical trials and personalized medicine. NEO is essentially a "one-stop shop" high-complexity oncology reference lab, able to offer customers a comprehensive low-cost, high-quality service menu spanning every major category within precision oncology testing. We have high conviction in NEO and anticipated the weak quarter, as the Delta variant delayed clinical trials and non-essential surgeries. The timing could not be worse, as NEO ramped up its sales force in anticipation of its launch of its RaDaR platform, which leapfrogs NEO into the liquid biopsy market. We are not expecting the next quarter to be any better but believe our patience will ultimately be rewarded with outsized longer-term gains.

Portfolio Activity

We topped off several names in our "biotech basket," Intellia Therapeutics Inc. (NTLA), CRISPR Therapeutics AG (CRSP), and Editas Medicine Inc. (EDIT), as they have been significantly oversold due deteriorating sentiment toward the group, as the market has started to shift its attention to re-opening plays and away from perceived COVID beneficiaries, like biotech. We topped off Sonos Inc. (SONO), which had a very strong, thesis-confirming quarter, whose position size was below our level of conviction. We also increased holdings in Webster Financial Corp. (WBS), Columbia Sportswear Co. (COLM), Avery Dennison Corp. (AVY), and ROKU Inc. (ROKU).

We trimmed Repligen Corp. (RGEN) which had become an outsized larger contributor to company specific risk. We also sold CyrusOne Inc. (CONE), which was acquired by KKR & Co. Inc. for its global infrastructure fund. We sold bluebird bio Inc. (BLUE) for thesis violations.

Portfolio activity for the year was very low, given our comfort level with what we own and how the portfolio was positioned within our risk control parameters. Annual turnover was 9.28%, which is at the lower end of our trading history.

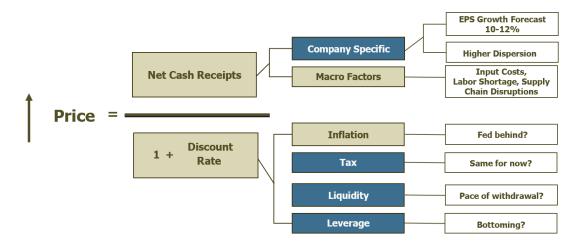
Outlook

We do not expect another 28+% return next year, but we did not expect one last year either. Last year, many investors (including us) underestimated the adaptability of corporate America and underestimated the rebound in earnings. Even with high market P/E, earnings grew faster than most analysts had forecast. Stock prices responded positively to better-than-expected earnings. In other words, earnings risk was mispriced. Fundamental reports illuminated mispricing and prices responded with better-than-expected returns.

The pricing equation is a simple way to think about all the risks that influence price levels, and there are a lot of them as we peer into 2022.



Exhibit 1. The Pricing Equation



Source: RMB Capital

<u>Company Specific</u>: Forward-looking earnings growth forecasts appear to be around 10-12%, which should support equity prices unless they turn out to grow less than that.

<u>Macro</u>: Supply chains appear to be loosening up, housing demand remains strong, input costs appear to be settling down, labor supply is slowly grinding higher, so while GDP growth is decelerating, it should remain positive for 2022.

From a numerator perspective, equity prices appear well-suited for further gains, but what about the denominator?

<u>Inflation</u>: The Fed has asked that we stop using the term "transitory," as it relates to inflation. This seems to be an admission that it is behind the curve and is unsure what to expect. The bond market is pricing in an expectation that there is little sustainable inflation risk. If the bond market is correct, then the discount rate will remain low and supportive of equity valuations. If the bond market has mispriced inflation risk, then equity valuations could be vulnerable to a correction. Unfortunately, we do not have any better information than the bond market to forecast anything different.

<u>Tax</u>: At the time of this writing, Build Back Better legislation, which included increases to investor capital gains tax rates, is barely on life support. As of today, we do not anticipate any changes to the tax premium imbedded in the current discount rate, which is supportive of equity valuations.

<u>Liquidity:</u> The Federal Reserve has been very open about its transition, from providing excess liquidity through quantitative easing (QE) and negative real interest rates toward neutral liquidity through tapering and raising rates. So far, the Fed has done a great job of threading the needle, but the last time the Fed tapered, it was a headwind for equity markets. Markets seem to be pricing this in, as less liquid small caps have underperformed more liquid large cap stocks. This risk might be the most difficult for markets to price right, since the withdrawal of this much excess liquidity is so rare, and both the Fed and the markets are feeling their way through normalization. This should be neutral to equity valuations, but risks are to the downside at this point in the cycle. The Fund's quality bias may be a tailwind for excess return in this scenario

<u>Credit Risk</u>: Credit spreads remain near historic lows, which is consistent with a steadily growing economy, minimal inflation risks and adequate liquidity.



In summary, the market appears priced for strong earnings growth, supported by decent GDP growth, with seemingly very little risk that inflation remains high, and guarded by a Federal Reserve willing to provide liquidity when needed. If that is what we get in 2022, it should be another good year for equities, where company specific risk is rewarded through wider dispersion and another good year for active managers, who are on the right side of dispersion.

Our outlook is that more things can happen than will happen. We are mindful that markets exist to price risk, not deliver returns. Excess returns are an outcome of proper identification of mispriced risk. So, given that markets price risk, it seems that today the market sees very little. The contrarian in us suggests that the numerator and denominator are more vulnerable to negative shocks (mispriced risk) today than they were last year but admit we have not proven skill in identifying mispriced risk at the macro level. Our skill is in identifying mispriced risk at the company specific level. From that perspective, we continue to feel great about the companies we own in the Fund and believe our dual diversification portfolio construction process handles many of the unforecastable macro risks that are so hard to get right.

As always, the companies we invest in demonstrate high managerial skill in capital allocation, which creates value for customers, employees, communities, and shareholders.

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

Sincerely,

Chris Faber Portfolio Manager

Shop II





TOP 10 HOLDINGS AS OF 12/31/21 Company % of Assets **EastGroup Properties Inc.** 2.88% West Pharmaceutical Services Inc. 2.80% **Pinnacle Financial Partners Inc.** 2.56% 2.54% Repligen Corp. 2.52% Copart Inc. **Eagle Materials Inc.** 2.50% American Financial Group Inc. 2.48% 2.48% **Bio-Techne Corp.** Catalent Inc. 2.46% **Teledyne Technologies Inc.** 2.38%

Holdings are subject to change. The above is a list of all securities that composed 25.59% of holdings managed as of 12/31/2021 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 12/31/2021. 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.



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Diversification does not assure a profit or protect against a loss in a declining market.

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. The Russell 2500 Value Index tracks the performance of companies with lower price-to-book ratios, which shows a company's market price relative to its balance sheet. The Russell 2500 Growth Index is a subset of companies with higher price-to-book ratios, or those expected to have higher growth values in the future.

Alpha, used in finance as a measure of performance, is the excess return of an investment relative to the return of a benchmark index.

The **price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio** is defined as a ratio for valuing a company that measures its current share price relative to its per-share earnings.

Earnings per share (EPS) is calculated as a company's profit divided by the outstanding shares of its common stock. The resulting number serves as an indicator of a company's profitability. EPS growth is not a measure of the fund's future performance.

Correlation is a statistic that measures the degree to which two securities or indices move in relation to each other.

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. Investments in small and mid cap companies involve additional risk such as limited liquidity and greater volatility.

Foreside Fund Services, LLC, Distributor