



# Building Core Strength to Meet Demands of Markets

Positioning across the style spectrum with a focus on individual stock picking.

March 2023

## KEY INSIGHTS

- Balancing both value and growth styles can help to mitigate portfolio risk and reduce the need for investors to have conviction in either style.
- We adopt a concentrated approach that demonstrates conviction and seeks to take advantage of the most actionable ideas from our global research platform.
- The strategy aims to deliver alpha by focusing on individual stocks versus large style or cyclical bets, offering potential to add value across different market environments.



**Peter Bates**  
*Portfolio Manager,  
Global Select Equity Strategy*

Heightened market volatility challenged the conviction of asset allocators in 2022 as inflation ballooned to 40-year highs and led the U.S. Federal Reserve to deliver some of the sharpest sets of interest rate hikes in recent history. The rising rate environment benefited value areas of the market, while punishing many growth stocks. However, even in a tough environment dominated by an exceptionally strong style effect, the Global Select Equity Composite kept pace with the MSCI World Index, eliminating the need for asset allocators to have conviction in either growth or value.

We operate a core approach that is style balanced between both growth and value stocks, which allows the opportunity to create alpha by focusing on individual stocks with idiosyncratic drivers of relative returns regardless of the market environment. This balanced

approach helps to reduce the risk of being on the wrong side of any large style swings that can occur between growth and value.

## A Concentrated Portfolio Demonstrates Conviction in Ideas

We believe focusing on investing in our best ideas can help deliver alpha in both up and down markets, as well as in markets that are led by growth or value. As a long-term, bottom-up investor, we want our stock selection to be the main driver of alpha and to not have the portfolio returns dictated by macro factors or style bets. Therefore, the strategy implements a high-conviction, bottom-up approach to portfolio management with a framework that emphasizes business quality and risk control. The representative portfolio is typically concentrated in 30–45 stocks and is designed to be less benchmark-centric with high active share. Leveraging the best thinking of

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T. Rowe Price's global research platform, we focus on stocks where we believe we have an edge and a potentially favorable risk-adjusted return outcome.

While our focus is on idiosyncratic ideas, given our global mandate, we incorporate different types of stocks with different risk profiles and factor exposures into our analysis. Stock level risk and factor exposure is managed in concert with our detailed bottom-up, fundamental analysis to ensure that the portfolio is not defined by style or macro-specific outcomes. At a stock level, for example, some companies with large export-oriented businesses have been hindered by the recent strength of the U.S. dollar, while there are companies that have suffered due to China's zero-COVID policy. More generally, higher inflation has negatively impacted companies as input costs have risen. Conversely, there have been clear beneficiaries of higher prices with energy companies a clear example. This reflects the bifurcation within equity markets and the types of risk we must balance to build a portfolio with alpha potential in varying market environments.

#### **The Importance of Following Investment Principles and a Clear Investment Process**

Our approach is to own proven, growing businesses that we believe can improve profitability and cash generation at attractive valuation points, but also to be sensitive when valuations may appear close to extreme levels, especially when managing our sell discipline.

When constructing a concentrated portfolio, it is crucial to understand the drivers behind stock performance. The macro variables that can drive stocks need to be balanced to control risk. We seek to create alpha by balancing unsystematic risk and focusing on companies that we believe are positioned to outperform relative to their peer group. Stock returns within the same sector or industry can exhibit

notable dispersion, so we aim to identify the durable and resilient companies that can demonstrate pricing power, barriers to entry, and sustainable advantages over time. Research is crucial here to figure out who has, or is developing, an advantage and is winning in their marketplaces. This helps to refine stock-picking ideas considerably.

This research is also immensely useful when stocks are undergoing periods of distressed sentiment but transitioning to a better outlook. While it is always tempting to wait for patterns of recovery to be established, early identification of fundamentals stabilizing, or the “stop getting worse” point, is crucial to return generation.

In all cases, we would emphasize our desire to remain disciplined around valuation and remain continuously engaged with companies. Not only is it important to meet companies face to face, visit their stores and factories, etc., but we also need to meet with their competitors at the same time to build a complete picture of the opportunity set.

#### **Diversified Exposure to Achieve Balance in the Portfolio**

We define our core approach through three distinct buckets—cyclicals and turnarounds, steady growth, and disruptors—with the market dictating where opportunities present themselves. Cyclical and turnaround exposure is focused on companies where, through our research, we have identified positive cyclical or structural change factors that mean a stock is worthy of a rerating. Most common within the steady growth bucket are companies that have established business models, can demonstrate a clear strategy, and can exhibit good execution and earnings growth through a business cycle. Finally, within disruptors, we are looking for businesses that are gaining share, that have a large addressable market, and where there are opportunities for extreme outcomes.

## Diversified Exposure to Achieve Balance

Three distinct buckets focusing on the best market opportunities



### Material upside potential with likely exit in two to three years

- Margin upside
- Industries are more cyclical than secular



### Potential Compounds of total return, inclusive of dividend yield

- Capital deployment is important
- Underlying business has lower volatility
- Industries are less cyclical, more secular



### Potential for extreme outcomes if successful

- High sales growth
- Earlier-stage companies, less mature

As of March 2023.  
For illustrative purposes only.  
Source: T. Rowe Price.

“...we have been able to effectively navigate multiple market leadership changes by largely avoiding portfolio-defining macro variable exposure to deliver on our goal of adding value through stock selection.

Our holdings are generally focused on well-established businesses that are profitable, which means we have an inherent bias toward mid- and large-cap companies. We also have a focus on “quality companies” with good balance sheets as empirical evidence has shown that high-quality companies often outperform lower-quality ones over the long term. There are differences in market environments, with quality rewarded in down or flat markets and less so in up markets, but a pattern of historical outperformance can be clearly identified over the long term.

### Ability to Deliver in Variable Market Environments

Over the last two years, equity investors have experienced a performance

roller coaster defined by sharp shifts driven by rapidly changing macro and factor dynamics. It has served as a painful reminder of the risks tied to strategies blindly following a factor or theme. We have seen periods where growth meaningfully outperformed and periods where value has outperformed. Through it all, we have been able to effectively navigate multiple market leadership changes by largely avoiding portfolio-defining macro variable exposure to deliver on our goal of adding value through stock selection. We believe, with that focus on stock picking across the style spectrum, that we can continue to balance those macro and style factors as we seek to add value across different market environments.

The representative portfolio is an account in the composite we believe most closely reflects current portfolio management style for the strategy. Performance is not a consideration in the selection of the representative portfolio. The characteristics of the representative portfolio shown may differ from those of other accounts in the strategy. Please see the GIPS® Composite Report for additional information on the composite.

**GIPS® Composite Report**  
**Global Select Equity Composite**

Period Ended December 31, 2022

Figures Shown in U.S. dollar

	2021	2022
Gross Annual Returns (%)	24.66	-18.00
Net Annual Returns (%) <sup>1</sup>	22.44	-19.51
MSCI World Index Net (%)	21.82	-18.14
Composite 3-Yr St. Dev.	N/A	N/A
MSCI World Index Net 3-Yr St. Dev.	N/A	N/A
Composite Dispersion	N/A	N/A
Comp. Assets (Millions)	9.0	11.6
# of Accts. in Comp.	1	3
<b>Total Firm Assets (Billions)</b>	<b>1,653.6</b>	<b>1,237.4<sup>2</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup>The fee rate used to calculate net returns is 1.83%. This represents the maximum fee rate applicable to all composite members. **Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.**

<sup>2</sup>Preliminary—subject to adjustment.

T. Rowe Price (TRP) claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. TRP has been independently verified for the 26-year period ended June 30, 2022 by KPMG LLP. The verification report is available upon request. A firm that claims compliance with the GIPS standards must establish policies and procedures for complying with all the applicable requirements of the GIPS standards. Verification provides assurance on whether the firm's policies and procedures related to composite and pooled fund maintenance, as well as the calculation, presentation, and distribution of performance, have been designed in compliance with the GIPS standards and have been implemented on a firm wide basis. Verification does not ensure the accuracy of any specific composite presentation. TRP is a U.S. investment management firm with various investment advisers registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, the U.K. Financial Conduct Authority, and other regulatory bodies in various countries and holds itself out as such to potential clients for GIPS purposes. TRP further defines itself under GIPS as a discretionary investment manager providing services primarily to institutional clients with regard to various mandates, which include U.S., international, and global strategies but excluding the services of the Private Asset Management group. As of October 1, 2022, there is no minimum asset level for portfolio inclusion into the composite. Prior to October 2022, the minimum asset level for equity portfolios to be included in composites was USD 5 million and prior to January 2002 the minimum was USD 1 million. The minimum asset level for fixed income and asset allocation portfolios to be included in composites was USD 10 million; prior to October 2004 the minimum was USD 5 million; and prior to January 2002 the minimum was USD 1 million. Valuations are computed and performance reported in U.S. dollars.

Gross performance returns are presented before management and all other fees, where applicable, but after trading expenses. Net of fees performance reflects the deduction of the maximum fee rate applicable to all composite members as shown above. Gross performance returns reflect the reinvestment of dividends and are net of nonreclaimable withholding taxes on dividends, interest income, and capital gains. Gross performance returns are used to calculate presented risk measures. Effective June 30, 2013, portfolio valuation and assets under management are calculated based on the closing price of the security in its respective market. Previously portfolios holding international securities may have been adjusted for after-market events. Policies for valuing portfolios, calculating performance, and preparing compliant presentations are available upon request. Dispersion is measured by the standard deviation across asset-weighted portfolio returns represented within a composite for the full year. Dispersion is not calculated for the composites in which there are five or fewer portfolios.

Some portfolios may trade futures, options, and other potentially high-risk derivatives that may create leverage and generally represent in aggregate less than 10% of a portfolio. Benchmarks are taken from published sources and may have different calculation methodologies, pricing times, and foreign exchange sources from the composite.

Composite policy requires the temporary removal of any portfolio incurring a client initiated significant cash inflow or outflow greater than or equal to 15% of portfolio assets. The temporary removal of such an account occurs at the beginning of the measurement period in which the significant cash flow occurs and the account re-enters the composite on the last day of the current month after the cash flow. Additional information regarding the treatment of significant cash flows is available upon request.

The firm's list of composite descriptions, a list of limited distribution pooled fund descriptions, and a list of broad distribution pooled funds are available upon request. GIPS® is a registered trademark of CFA Institute. CFA Institute does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contained herein.

## Fee Schedule

### Global Select Equity Composite

As of December 31, 2022

Global Select Equity Composite. The Global Select Equity Composite seeks long-term capital appreciation through investment in common stocks of established companies listed primarily on the developed world's stock markets. We seek to buy and own companies where we have a differentiated view on the trajectory or durability of their growth prospects that is not accurately reflected in current share prices. Further, we pursue a balanced approach that is concentrated within our best investment ideas while allowing enough diversification to manage macro risk factors. (Created January 2021; incepted December 31, 2020.)

First 50 million (USD)	65 basis points
Next 50 million (USD)	60 basis points
Above 100 million (USD)	55 basis points on all assets <sup>1</sup>
Above 200 million (USD)	50 basis points on all assets <sup>1</sup>
Minimum separate account size	50 million (USD)

<sup>1</sup>A transitional credit is applied to the fee schedule as assets approach or fall below the breakpoint.

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**Risks**—The following risks are materially relevant to the portfolio:

**Currency**—Currency exchange rate movements could reduce investment gains or increase investment losses.

**Emerging markets**—Emerging markets are less established than developed markets and therefore involve higher risks.

**Issuer concentration**—Issuer concentration risk may result in performance being more strongly affected by any business, industry, economic, financial or market conditions affecting those issuers in which the portfolio's assets are concentrated.

**Sector concentration**—Sector concentration risk may result in performance being more strongly affected by any business, industry, economic, financial or market conditions affecting a particular sector in which the portfolio's assets are concentrated.

**Small and mid-cap**—Small and mid-size company stock prices can be more volatile than stock prices of larger companies.

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### General Portfolio Risks:

**Equity**—Equities can lose value rapidly for a variety of reasons and can remain at low prices indefinitely.

**ESG and sustainability**—ESG and Sustainability risk may result in a material negative impact on the value of an investment and performance of the portfolio.

**Geographic concentration**—Geographic concentration risk may result in performance being more strongly affected by any social, political, economic, environmental or market conditions affecting those countries or regions in which the portfolio's assets are concentrated.

**Hedging**—Hedging measures involve costs and may work imperfectly, may not be feasible at times, or may fail completely.

**Investment portfolio**—Investing in portfolios involves certain risks an investor would not face if investing in markets directly.

**Management**—Management risk may result in potential conflicts of interest relating to the obligations of the investment manager.

**Market**—Market risk may subject the portfolio to experience losses caused by unexpected changes in a wide variety of factors.

**Operational**—Operational risk may cause losses as a result of incidents caused by people, systems, and/or processes.

## INVEST WITH CONFIDENCE<sup>SM</sup>

T. Rowe Price focuses on delivering investment management excellence that investors can rely on—now and over the long term.

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