Performance Comparison[1]

Periods Ended 3/31/25 (%)	QTR	YTD	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	S. I.[1]
DCM Mid Cap Value (gross)	1.52	1.52	9.59	10.11	19.34	10.30	11.77
DCM Mid Cap Value (net)	1.31	1.31	8.67	9.20	18.35	9.36	10.78
Russell Midcap Value	-2.11	-2.11	2.27	3.78	16.70	7.62	9.11

Periods greater than 1 year are annualized
[1]DCM inception was June 30, 2008

Performance Summary

The DCM Mid Cap Value composite was up 1.52% (gross of fees) for the quarter ended March 31, 2025, compared with the Russell Midcap Value Index, down -2.11%.

Relative to the Russell Midcap Value index, the macro backdrop was a benefit to the portfolio this quarter. Markets retreated as the rhetoric around trade policies and tariff implementation heated up throughout the quarter. As investors sought refuge, the portfolio benefitted from its large exposure to stocks with low price volatility and low earnings variability.

Sector Drivers

GICS Sectors	Average Weight			Stock Level Returns		Portfolio Impact	
	Port	Bench	Active	Port	Bench	Contribution	Attribution
Health Care	9.0%	8.2%	0.8%	8.5%	-5.0%	72 bps	117 bps
Utilities	11.7%	7.1%	4.6%	12.3%	8.5%	135 bps	85 bps
Industrials	16.0%	16.9%	-0.9%	-2.7%	-6.5%	-42 bps	69 bps
Consumer Discretionary	9.4%	9.1%	0.3%	-1.9%	-7.7%	-17 bps	54 bps
Information Technology	4.3%	9.1%	-4.8%	-13.0%	-11.1%	-64 bps	31 bps
Consumer Staples	9.4%	5.7%	3.7%	4.3%	3.3%	39 bps	29 bps
Communication Services	3.1%	3.3%	-0.3%	5.2%	3.0%	15 bps	5 bps
Financials	18.9%	18.2%	0.6%	-0.5%	-0.6%	-8 bps	0 bps
Materials	3.3%	6.8%	-3.4%	-6.4%	-3.1%	-22 bps	-8 bps
Real Estate	8.0%	9.8%	-1.8%	1.9%	2.2%	14 bps	-10 bps
Energy	4.5%	5.9%	-1.4%	5.8%	6.1%	28 bps	-14 bps

(see disclosures)

The Health Care sector was the best performer relative to the Russell Midcap Value Index. Stock selection was strong, with all five of the portfolio's holdings generating positive returns, outperforming both the overall benchmark and the Health Care sector. Each holding had specific factors driving its performance; however, the companies executed well despite concerns about regulatory and policy changes, benefiting from their defensive nature during periods of uncertainty. The portfolio also gained from being overweight in the Health Care Equipment & Services industry group, which tends to have a narrower range of outcomes, and underweight in the Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology & Life Sciences industry group, which is typically more speculative and economically sensitive.

Utilities was the second best performing sector relative to the benchmark. The primary driver of this performance was sector allocation, as Utilities is the portfolio's largest overweight sector and was the best performing sector in the benchmark. Stock selection also contributed to the outperformance, with five of the six holdings exceeding the overall Utilities sector performance. During a period of uncertainty, investors favored the defensive characteristics of the highly regulated utilities we owned for their consistent growth. Additionally, many of the portfolio's holdings are based in areas experiencing demand growth due to increased needs for artificial intelligence and other technologies, as well as population growth.

The worst performing sector relative to the benchmark was Energy. Sector allocation accounted for the underperformance, with the portfolio being underweight in Energy by -1.4%, while the overall Energy sector rose by 6.1% during the quarter. The portfolio has remained underweight the Energy sector due to concerns about oversupply, as production has increased despite weak demand, primarily from China, where economic growth has been below trend.

Real Estate (REIT) was the second worst performing sector in the quarter. The underperformance was due to a combination of sector allocation, with the portfolio being underweight a sector that outperformed, and weak stock selection. Stock selection was negatively impacted by the portfolio owning several stocks with higher cyclical exposure, including an apartment owner, a retail operator, and a commercial real estate brokerage. Although the underperformance was modest, the higher cyclicality of these holdings led them to underperform the sector return.

Top 10 Contributors/Detractors

	Top 10 Contributors	Average % Weight	Contribution
1	BJ'S WHOLESALE CLUB HOLDINGS	1.85	0.45
2	WR BERKLEY CORP	1.74	0.37
3	AUTOZONE INC	1.79	0.32
4	REPUBLIC SERVICES INC	1.63	0.30
5	CENTERPOINT ENERGY INC	2.04	0.29
6	AMEREN CORPORATION	2.13	0.27
7	DOLLAR GENERAL CORP	1.49	0.25
8	ENTERGY CORP	1.92	0.25
9	OGE ENERGY CORP	2.08	0.24
10	HARTFORD INSURANCE GROUP INC	1.76	0.23

	Top 10 Detractors	Average % Weight	Contribution
1	REGAL REXNORD CORP	1.31	-0.38
2	LAMB WESTON HOLDINGS INC	0.72	-0.28
3	LITTELFUSE INC	1.48	-0.26
4	LITHIA MOTORS INC	1.40	-0.26
5	KNIGHT-SWIFT TRANSPORTATION	1.43	-0.26
6	MICROCHIP TECHNOLOGY INC	1.31	-0.24
7	RAYMOND JAMES FINANCIAL INC	2.07	-0.20
8	GLOBAL PAYMENTS INC	1.45	-0.19
9	SKECHERS USA INC CL A	1.19	-0.19
10	BORGWARNER INC	1.62	-0.16

Selected Contributor(s) to Performance

BJ’s Wholesale Club Holdings (BJ) was the largest contributing stock for the quarter, up 27.7%. BJ’s Wholesale operates 250 member-warehouse clubs in the Eastern United States with approximately 60% of locations also selling gasoline. Food accounts for approximately 87% of food and general merchandise sales. The company reported fourth quarter results that topped expectations, delivering same store sales growth excluding fuel of 4.6%. The company continues to see momentum in traffic growth along with memberships reaching an all-time high of over 7.5 million. The company has been able to offset consumer pressures with investments in fresh food initiatives and improved merchandising assortment. The portfolio continues to hold the stock.

WR Berkley (WRB) is a property & casualty insurer which focuses on professional liability, worker’s compensation, reinsurance, and monoline, as well as commercial and auto. The company’s niche product lines have allowed it to recognize pricing gains, as well as market share gains, while having less exposure to inflationary pressures currently impacting auto and home insurers. In the quarter, the company exceeded expectations as strength in written premium growth and rate increases continued. The company has also been active with share buybacks, buying $67.4 million in shares in the fourth quarter, and announced a special dividend of $0.50 per share. In addition to continued strong fundamentals, the shares traded up near the end of the quarter with the announcement that Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Company would acquire 15% of WR Berkley shares in either the open market or private transactions over the next 12 months, lending support to the shares. The portfolio continues to hold the stock.

Selected Detractor(s) from Performance

The largest detractor to the portfolio was Regal Rexnord (RRX), which declined -26.4% during the quarter. RRX is a global manufacturer of powertrain solutions and motion control products, serving a wide range of industries. As a short-cycle industrial—where purchasing decisions are made quickly—RRX is particularly vulnerable to weak end markets, which have pressured its profitability over the past year with no signs of improvement. This aligns with data from the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) New Orders, which reflects similar trends. Additionally, the company faces challenges from tariffs impacting its manufacturing operations in Mexico, Canada, and other regions. The market weakness contributed to RRX missing earnings expectations for the quarter and issuing disappointing guidance for 2025, with limited recovery anticipated before the year's second half. The portfolio continues to hold the stock.

Lamb Weston Holdings (LW) was the largest detracting stock, falling by -22.1% for the period held. As a leading producer of value-added frozen potato products—primarily french fries—the company holds the top market share in North America and ranks second globally. Demand for frozen potatoes is predominantly driven by out-of-home consumption, with McDonald's as Lamb Weston's largest customer. However, in late December, the company reported earnings that significantly missed expectations and issued a lowered guidance for the fiscal year ending in May. Additionally, it projected challenging conditions to persist through the remainder of fiscal 2025 and into fiscal 2026. Compounding these issues, the CEO was ousted, and Chief Operating Officer Tom Werner was appointed as the new CEO. Given the ongoing deterioration in fundamentals, the stock was exited during the quarter.

Current Positioning

At the end of the quarter, the portfolio's largest overweight sectors relative to the benchmark are the Utilities and Consumer Staples sectors. The largest underweight sectors relative to the benchmark are the Information Technology and Materials sectors. Throughout the quarter, the portfolio weight increased the most in the Consumer Staples and Health Care sectors while decreasing the most in the Financials and Industrials sectors.

In our fourth quarter commentary, we anticipated that higher volatility and uncertainty would persist into 2025. This prediction has proven to be more accurate than expected. The initial hopes for lower taxes and reduced regulation have taken a back seat to the escalating trade war, characterized by rhetoric followed by action, as tariffs were enacted and then paused. While some trading partners have shown a willingness to negotiate, our largest trading partner, China, has retaliated with higher import tariffs and has adopted a stance of fighting the battle to the end. If tariffs are fully enacted, most expect a recession or, at the very least, stagflation, where prices rise despite slowing growth.

Our concern is that the longer policies and regulations remain in flux, the more uncertain the environment becomes. This uncertainty will erode business and consumer confidence, leading to a decline in corporate spending, capital investment, and increased savings. There are already indications that these actions are beginning to occur, which will lead to a slowdown in growth. While trade policy could be resolved in the near term, and markets would likely react positively, we can only speculate on how this will impact the global trade order and U.S. relations in the long term.

Amid the recent volatility and market declines, we are finding improved risk-reward opportunities in perceived high-quality cyclical stocks. This should lead to the portfolio reducing its underweight position in volatility and beta as valuations become more compelling.

We continue to focus on identifying perceived high-quality stocks at reasonable valuations that offer a compelling risk-reward profile over time.

Disclosures

Dean Capital Management, LLC (DCM) is an independent investment management firm owned by LLC members and entities affiliated with C.H. Dean, LLC. The firm manages a variety of equity and fixed income assets for institutional and individual investors. DCM claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®). 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. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

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The Mid Cap Value style uses value oriented equities, the majority of which have a market capitalization between $3.5 billion and $40 billion at purchase. These are fully invested equity styles which range from 90%-100% equity, and the number of holdings typically ranges between 40 and 60. The remainder of the portfolios is typically invested in short term U.S. Treasury Bills or other cash equivalents.

Future performance based on prior results should not be assumed. The Russell Midcap Index is a subset of the Russell 1000 Index and includes approximately 800 of the smallest securities based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership. The Russell Midcap represents approximately 27% of the total market capitalization of the Russell 1000 companies.

The Russell Midcap Value Index measures the performance of those Russell Midcap Index companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower forecasted growth values. Members of the Russell Midcap Value Index are also members of the Russell 1000 Value Index. These stock indexes assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains, and assume no management, custody, transaction or other expenses. Russell statistics used in this presentation were obtained from Russell Investments (www.russell.com).

Performance represents all fully discretionary commission accounts for the respective strategy. A complete list and description of DCM's composites and additional information regarding the calculation and reporting of returns is available upon request. To obtain a GIPS report and/or the firm's list of composite descriptions please contact us at 1.913.944.4452.

The securities discussed do not represent an account's entire portfolio and in the aggregate may represent only a small percentage of an account's portfolio holdings. It should not be assumed that any of the securities' transactions or holdings discussed were or will prove to be profitable, or that the investment recommendations or decisions we make in the future will be profitable or will equal the investment performance of the securities discussed herein. The contributors/detractors listed do not represent all securities purchased or sold for our clients. To obtain a list showing the contribution of each holding that contributed to overall performance during the period and the calculation methodology, please call 1.913.944.4452. The detailed sector attribution table is specific to the policy portfolio for the strategy. Individual account results may vary.

Gross performance figures do not reflect payment of investment advisory fees, but do reflect deduction of brokerage commissions and trading expenses. Net of fee performance reflects the deduction of advisory fees, brokerage commissions, trading and other expenses. Net results reflect the deduction of a model fee equivalent to the highest applicable advisory fee 0.80%. The net compounded effect of the deduction of fees over time will be affected by the amount of the fee, the time period, and investment performance. Management fee schedules are available on Form ADV Part 2A.

Performance presents results with all dividend and interest income reinvested and is stated in U.S. Dollar terms. Leverage is not used in any portfolio in these composites.

A performance examination has been performed on performance results from 7/1/08 through 12/31/24. A firm-wide verification was performed for the periods 7/1/08 through 12/31/24. Data subsequent to 2/28/25 represents preliminary performance results.

For More Information

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About Dean Capital Management, LLC

Dean Capital Management, LLC ("DCM") is an employee-owned registered investment advisor founded in March 2008. Located in Overland Park, Kansas, DCM is a long-only, fundamental U.S. Value equity manager. DCM manages portfolios across the capitalization spectrum for institutional clients, financial intermediaries and advisors.

DCM is majority-owned by the founding principals, who also comprise the investment team. Additionally, all investment professionals maintain significant personal investments in DCM managed products, further aligning the investment team with our clients.