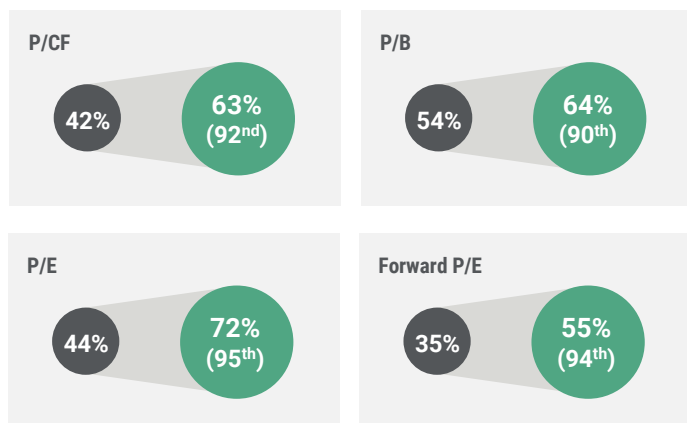


# Unprecedented Opportunity in U.S. Small Cap Value Equities?

With U.S. small cap equities trading above many other asset classes<sup>1</sup>, we believe selectivity is now more important than ever in identifying opportunities. We have observed that U.S. small cap value stocks currently trade at attractive levels relative to both U.S. small and large cap growth stocks.

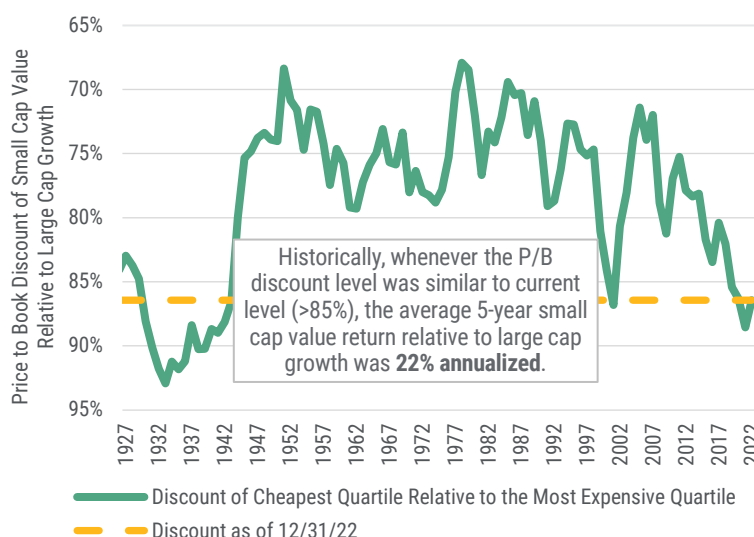
## U.S. small cap value stocks trade at what we consider appealing discount levels compared to U.S. small growth stocks.

Discount Levels  
(U.S. Small Cap Value vs. U.S. Small Cap Growth)<sup>2</sup>



- Historical Average Discount (12/31/97 – 9/30/23)
- Current Discount and Its Percentile Rank vs. History (9/30/23)

## U.S. small cap value stocks also trade at a large price-to-book discount to U.S. large cap growth stocks, which has historically boded well for small cap value returns.<sup>3</sup>



DECEMBER 31, 1926 TO DECEMBER 31, 2022. Current P/B discount as of 12/31/2022. A positive relative return does not guarantee a positive absolute return.

## U.S. small caps have historically performed better than their large-cap peers following bear markets.\* This tendency, combined with U.S. small-cap value stocks' relative valuations vs. large- and small-cap growth stocks, leads us to believe that now may be a compelling time to consider U.S. small-cap value equities.<sup>4</sup>

Returns During and Subsequent to Bear Markets

TECH BUBBLE BURST	Cumulative Returns(%)		
	3/24/00-10/9/02 (929 days)	Subsequent 1-Year	Subsequent 3-Year
S&P 500	-47.38	36.16	62.39
Russell 2000	-41.03	61.64	104.37
Russell 2000 Value	1.56	55.64	108.86

COVID DRAWDOWN	Cumulative Returns(%)		
	2/19/20-3/23/20 (33 days)	Subsequent 1-Year	Subsequent 3-Year
S&P 500	-33.79	77.80	85.24
Russell 2000	-40.66	120.70	78.17
Russell 2000 Value	-43.14	121.71	95.08

GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS	Cumulative Returns(%)		
	10/9/07-3/9/09 (517 days)	Subsequent 1-Year	Subsequent 3-Year
S&P 500	-55.25	72.29	115.84
Russell 2000	-58.53	97.90	147.77
Russell 2000 Value	-59.56	103.66	141.35

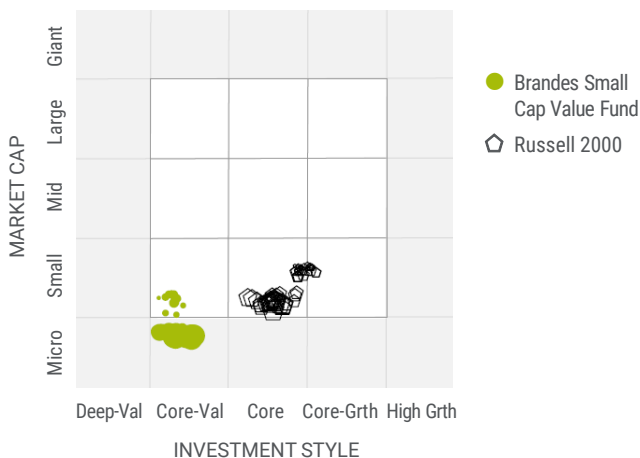
BEAR MARKET OF 2022	Cumulative Returns(%)	
	1/3/22-10/12/22 (282 days)	
S&P 500	-24.49	
Russell 2000	-24.96	
Russell 2000 Value	-20.52	

\*Bear markets are periods during which the S&P 500 declined 20% or more.

# Consider Brandes Small Cap Value Fund

## Consistent Value Approach

Morningstar Style Chart<sup>5</sup>



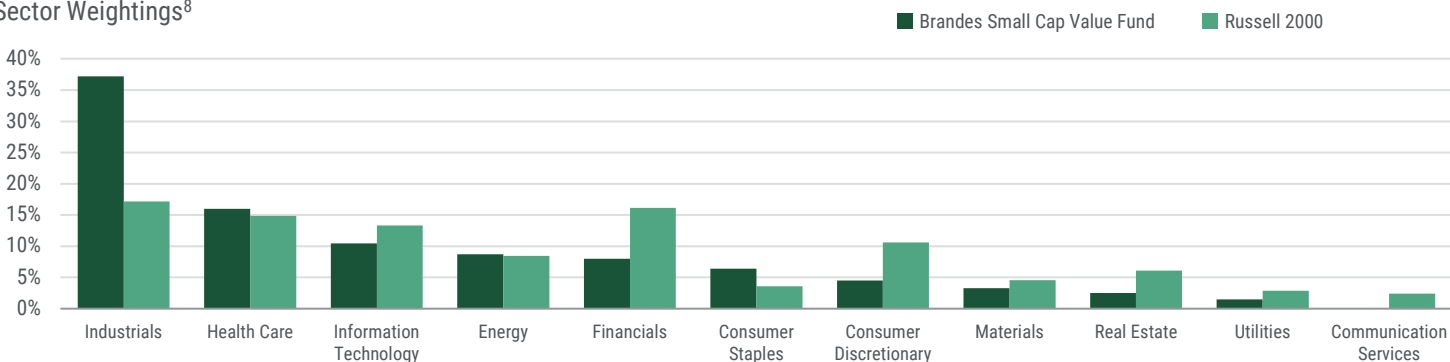
## Attractive Fundamentals, Lower Leverage<sup>6</sup>

	Brandes Small Cap Value Fund (I share)	Russell 2000	Russell 2000 Value
# of Securities	45	1,985	1,448
Price/Earnings	16.7x	12.3x	9.4x
Price/Cash Flow	9.8x	7.7x	5.3x
Price/Book	1.2x	1.9x	1.2x
Dividend Yield	4.7%	1.6%	2.5%
Net Debt to Equity (ex Financials)	9%	86%	72%

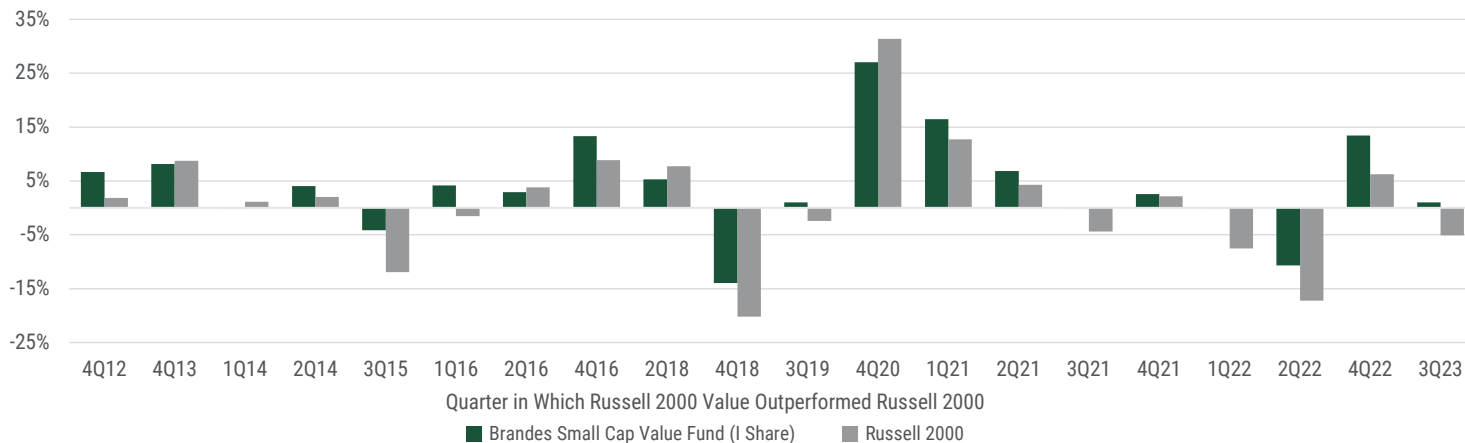
As of 9/30/23. SEC 30-Day Yield<sup>7</sup>: Class I: 1.30% (sub.), -0.83% (unsub.).

## A Good Complement to Passive Strategies

Sector Weightings<sup>8</sup>



## Brandes Performance When Value Outperformed<sup>9</sup>



Source: Brandes, Russell. Performance data quoted, calculated in USD, represents past performance; past performance does not guarantee future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance of the fund may be lower or higher than the performance quoted. Performance data current to the most recent month end may be obtained by calling 800.395.3807. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

Annualized total return as of September 30, 2023	1 Yr	5 Yrs	10 Yrs
Small Cap Value Fund I Share	29.33	9.40	10.14
Russell 2000 Index	8.93	2.39	6.64
Russell 2000 Value Index	7.84	2.59	6.19

Fees and Expenses: Class I: 4.26% (gross), 0.91% (net). The Advisor has contractually agreed to limit operating expenses through January 28, 2024 (the "Expense Cap"). The Expense Caps may be terminated at any time by the Board of Trustees upon 60 days' notice to the Advisor, or by the Advisor with the consent of the Board.

Performance shown for periods before January 2, 2018 is that of a private investment fund managed by the Advisor (the Predecessor Fund) prior to the commencement of the Small Cap Fund's (the Fund) operations, with policies, guidelines and restrictions that were, in all material respects, equivalent to those of the Fund. The Fund acquired the assets and assumed the liabilities of the Predecessor Fund on January 2, 2018, and investors in the Predecessor Fund received Class I shares of the Fund as part of the reorganization. Performance shown reflects the gross expenses of the Predecessor Fund.

<sup>1</sup> Source: FactSet as of 9/30/23. Based on forward price/earnings of Russell 2000 Index (19.2x) vs. international small caps (S&P Developed ex-U.S. SmallCap; 14.1x), U.S. large caps (MSCI USA; 18.1x), international large caps (MSCI EAFE; 12.6x), emerging markets (MSCI Emerging Markets; 11.6x).

<sup>2</sup> Source: MSCI via FactSet; 12/31/97 to 9/30/23. For each fundamental ratio (P/B-Price/Book, P/CF-Price/Cash Flow, Forward P/E-Forward Price/Earnings), we calculate the average ratio of the MSCI USA Small Cap Value Index and divide it by the average ratio of the MSCI USA Small Cap Growth Index to determine the relative valuation.

<sup>3</sup> Source: Ken French Data Library. Universe (all U.S. stocks) is divided into thirds by market cap (small, mid and large cap). Small cap value defined as the 50% of small cap stocks with the highest book value to market value ratio. Large cap growth defined as the 50% of large cap stocks with the lowest book to market.

<sup>4</sup> Source: Brandes, FactSet as of 9/30/23.

<sup>5</sup> Source: Morningstar Direct; 9/30/18 to 9/30/23. Fund holdings are subject to change at any time. Data is updated on a quarterly basis. The Investment Style Box reveals a fund's investment strategy by showing its investment style and market capitalization based on the fund's portfolio holdings.

<sup>6</sup> Source: Brandes, Bloomberg, Russell, FactSet as of 9/30/23. Data is updated on a quarterly basis. Price/Book, Price/Earnings, Price/Cash Flow and Dividend Yield for each security provided by Bloomberg, L.P. Please note that Bloomberg does not provide negative numbers in the data feed. Index fundamentals are calculated from holdings data as provided by the relevant index or by FactSet Fundamentals, excluding negative numbers for consistency. Thus, index fundamentals calculated by Brandes may differ from those computed and published by index providers. The declaration and payment of shareholder dividends are solely at the discretion of the issuer and are subject to change at any time.

<sup>7</sup> SEC 30-Day Yield: This calculation is based on a 30-day period ending on the last day of the month shown. It is computed by dividing the net investment income per share earned during the period by the maximum offering price per share on the last day of the period. The yield figure reflects the dividends and interest earned during the period, after the deduction of the fund expenses. A subsidized yield takes into consideration the expenses paid by the Advisor.

<sup>8</sup> Source: Brandes, Russell, as of 9/30/23. Fund holdings are subject to change at any time at the discretion of the investment manager.

<sup>9</sup> Source: Brandes, Russell; 9/30/13 to 9/30/23.

**Book Value:** Assets minus liabilities. Also known as shareholders' equity. **Forward Price/Earnings:** Price per share divided by earnings per share expected over the next 12 months or next fiscal year. **Price/Book:** Price per share divided by book value per share. **Price/Cash Flow:** Price per share divided by cash flow per share. **Price/Earnings:** Price per share divided by earnings per share. **Price/Sales:** Price of a stock or market cap divided by the sales per share or total shares of the company. **Debt/Equity:** Total liabilities divided by shareholder equity. **Yield:** Annual income from the investment (dividend, interest, etc.) divided by the current market price of the investment.

**The Russell 2000 Index** with gross dividends measures the performance of the small cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. **The Russell 2000 Value Index** with gross dividends measures performance of the small cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. Securities are categorized as growth or value based on their relative book-to-price ratios, historical sales growth, and expected earnings growth. **The MSCI Emerging Markets Index** with net dividends captures large and mid cap representation of emerging market countries. **The MSCI EAFE Index** with net dividends captures large and mid cap representation of developed market countries excluding the U.S. and Canada. **The MSCI USA Index** measure the performance of the large and mid cap segments of the U.S. equity market. **The MSCI USA Small Cap Growth Index** captures small cap securities exhibiting overall growth style characteristics in the US. The growth investment style characteristics for index construction are defined using long-term forward EPS growth rate, short-term forward EPS growth rate, current internal growth rate and long-term historical EPS growth trend and long-term historical sales per share growth trend. **The MSCI USA Small Cap Value Index** captures small cap US securities exhibiting overall value style characteristics. The value investment style characteristics for index construction are defined using book value to price, 12-month forward earnings to price and dividend yield. **The S&P 500 Index** with gross dividends measures equity performance of 500 of the top companies in leading industries of the U.S. economy. **The S&P Developed Ex U.S. SmallCap Index** with gross dividends measures the equity performance of small cap companies in developed markets excluding the United States.

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**Because the values of the Fund's investments will fluctuate with market conditions, so will the value of your investment in the Fund. You could lose money on your investment in the Fund, or the Fund could underperform other investments. The values of the Fund's investments fluctuate in response to the activities of individual companies and general stock market and economic conditions. Stocks of small-sized and mid-sized companies tend to have limited liquidity and usually experience greater price volatility than stocks of larger companies.**

*Must be preceded or accompanied by a prospectus.*

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