# ATHENA PURE VALUATION | PROFITABILITY



SMA COMMENTARY | QUARTER I, 2021

## **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- The portfolio was up 20.6% in Q1, beating its Morningstar US Mid Value benchmark return by 3.4%.
- Market conditions are attractive for stock selection, benefiting active managers as they pursue unique equity strategies.
- ♦ Strong quarter for value stocks overall.
- Two stocks were sold in February: CenterPoint Energy and Lockheed Martin.

Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
Half of the stocks held during the quarter outperformed the benchmark, with six stocks generating returns exceeding 20%.	Only one stock had a negative return during the quarter.

## **ECONOMIC AND MARKET PERSPECTIVE**

- Markets continued to rally in Q1 despite political and pandemic challenges, ending the quarter at an all-time high (S&P 500) or near all-time highs (NASDAQ and Russell 2000)
- The pandemic impacts are waning with the rate of vaccinations accelerating during the quarter and optimistic feelings permeating the market.
- The Q1 economy strengthened dramatically, as indicated by a March PMI
  Manufacturing index at a 40 year high of 65 and a PMI Services index at an all-time
  high, (by 3 points) of 64. The latter was most impacted by the pandemic, so it is
  reassuring to see the 8.4 jump from February to March.
- The job market, which tends to lag overall economic activity, also took a big step in March, with nearly one million jobs being added. The hospitality and travel industries were major beneficiaries. This rapid healing of the employment market has led to GDP growth rate forecasts as high as 10% for Q3 and Q4.
- Our market indicators strengthened during the quarter, with economic and technical measures very strong, behavioral measures normal to very strong, while valuation measures remain elevated.
- Disruption in the economy and markets has created unique opportunities and a favorable environment for skilled active management. Market volatility has been higher than usual and may continue.
- We continue to believe that taking a long-term perspective and following a disciplined investment approach will be essential to successfully navigating the next year.

The Pure portfolio's long-term performance profile remains attractive with 16 out of 20 years positive and periodic outsized returns of greater than 20% in 9 of those years.

### PERFORMANCE<sup>Δ</sup>

# Annualized Since Inception (7/1/2002)

17.1%

10.2%

### **Portfolio**

Benchmark†

 $\Delta$  All performance figures are based on composite portfolio performance on a pre-tax basis with reinvestment of dividends and is net of all trading, custodial, and management fees.

† Portfolio benchmark is the M\* Mid Value Index.

#### **Calendar Year Performance**

YTD	20.6%
2020	1.6%
2019	17.1%
2018	-4.0%
2017	8.4%
2016	12.5%
2015	-18.8%
2014	8.5%
2013	67.2%
2012	-3.5%
2011	3.2%
2010	33.0%
2009	32.9%
2008	-38.0%
2007	20.9%
2006	33.4%
2005	0.8%
2004	55.1%
2003	90.6%
2002*	47.8%

<sup>\* 2002</sup> return is Jul 1 – Dec 31 and is not annualized.

## % ANNUALIZED TRAILING PERFORMANCE AS OF 3/31/2021

	Q1 2021	YTD	I YEAR	3 YEARS	5 YEARS	10 YEARS	INCEPT
Pure Valuation   Profitability (Net)	20.6	20.6	123.3	11.6	9.3	8.7	17.1
Morningstar US Mid Value TR Index	17.2	17.2	74.9	8.6	11.1	11.4	10.2

Investment returns presented assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains and are net of actual management fees. Current performance may be higher or lower than what is shown. Benchmark performance is shown for comparison purposes only and it is not possible to invest directly in an index. Holdings shown and discussed in this analysis should not be deemed as a recommendation to buy or sell securities and the current portfolio holdings may be different than what is presented. There are risks involved in investing in any Athena Portfolio, including loss of principal.

For complete portfolio performance, disclosures and risks, refer to athenainvest.com.

# **IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES**

The information provided here is for general informational purposes only and should not be considered an offer or solicitation for the sale or purchase of any specific securities, investments, or investment strategies. It should not be assumed that recommendations of Athenalnvest made herein or in the future will be profitable or will equal the past performance records of any Athenalnvest investment strategy or product. There can be no assurance that future recommendations will achieve comparable results. The author's opinions may change, without notice, in reaction to shifting economic, market, business, and other conditions. These views may not be relied upon as investment advice or as an indication of trading intent on behalf of Athenalnvest.

It should not be assumed that recommendations of AthenaInvest made herein or in the future will be profitable or will equal the past performance records of any AthenaInvest investment strategy or product. There can be no assurance that future recommendations will achieve comparable results.

You are solely responsible for determining whether any investment, investment strategy, security or related transaction is appropriate for you based on your personal investment objectives financial circumstances. You should consult with a qualified financial adviser, legal or tax professional regarding your specific situation. Investments involve risk and are not guaranteed.

The opinions expressed in this commentary are as of March 31, 2021. PURE-QC-202103