



Ninepoint Focused Global Dividend Class

July 2021 Commentary

Year-to-date to July 31, the Ninepoint Focused Global Dividend Class generated a total return of 8.34% compared to the S&P Global 1200 Index, which generated a total return of 12.25%. For the month, the Fund generated a total return of 1.96% while the Index generated a total return of 2.01%.



Ninepoint Partners,

Despite rising fears related to the spread of the Covid-19 Delta variant, there is little evidence to suggest that the economic recovery is fading. According to FactSet, with 89% of the S&P 500 companies having reported actual results, 87% of the companies have reported a positive revenue surprise and 87% of the companies have reported a positive earnings surprise. Thus far, the blended earnings growth rate for the S&P 500 is an astounding 88.8%, which represents the highest year-over-year growth rate since Q4 2009. Admittedly, the exceptional earnings growth is expected to moderate going forward, however consensus estimates still imply 42% earnings growth in 2021 and 10% in 2022. The resiliency relative to the depths of the Covid-19 crisis is frankly remarkable.

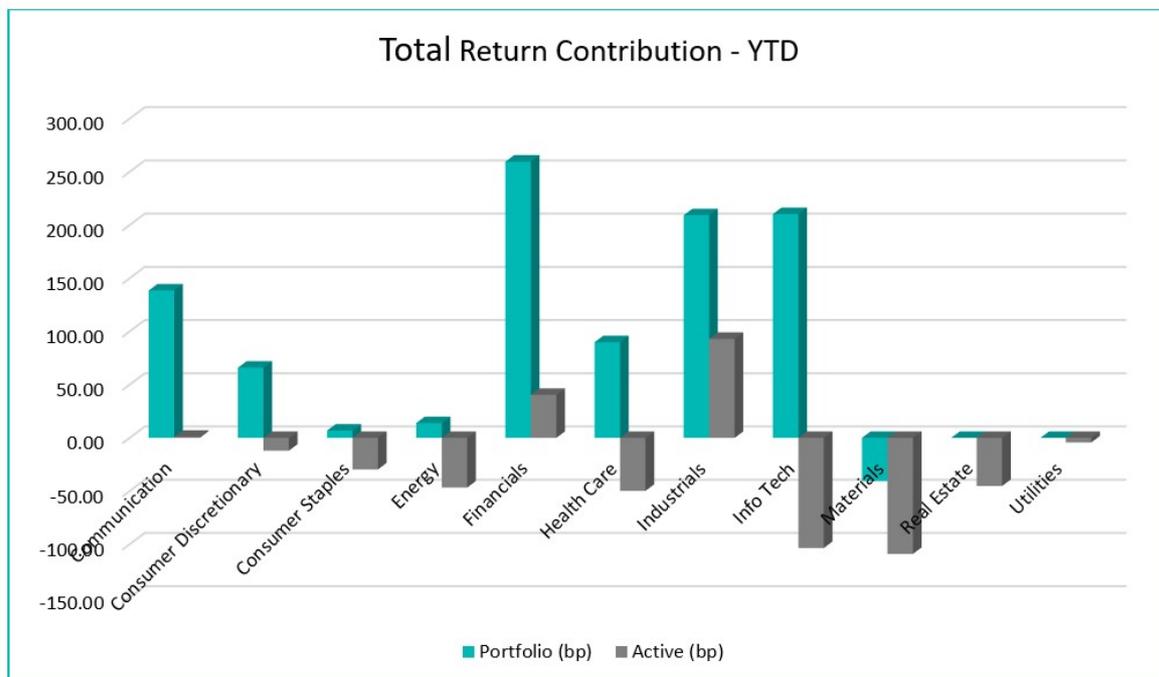
Our confidence in the recovery was bolstered by the recent announcement from President Biden that a group of bipartisan Senators had reached an agreement on \$550 billion of new infrastructure spending. Totalling approximately \$1.2 trillion over five years (and financed through a combination of redirected spending, corporate user fees, strengthened tax enforcement and revenue generated from higher economic growth), the bill has just been passed by the Senate and will be moving to the House of Representatives for final approval. Once signed into law, the current tranche of spending is heavily focused on the transportation and utility sectors, with highlights including \$110 billion for roads & bridges, \$66 billion for railways, \$65 billion for power infrastructure, \$65 billion for broadband, \$55 billion for water infrastructure, \$39 billion for public transit, \$25 billion for airports, \$17 billion for ports & waterways and \$15 billion for electric vehicles. These much-needed infrastructure upgrades will create millions of jobs, enhance competitiveness and boost GDP "over the course of the decade".

Looking ahead, the biggest uncertainty facing the market is still the path of monetary policy normalization. Chairman Powell and other members of the FOMC have clearly indicated that tapering discussions are now appropriate due to increased confidence in the economic recovery. A more formal discussion at the upcoming Jackson Hole Economic Policy Symposium followed by an official tapering announcement during one of the remaining three FOMC meeting dates over the balance of the year should be expected. Perhaps the announcement will coincide with the final approval the infrastructure spending bill in the fall of calendar 2021. Replacing monetary stimulus with fiscal stimulus would act as a buffer, since financial markets have generally experienced elevated volatility leading up to and during periods of tapering and rate hikes. But with policy normalization well-telegraphed, solid investment returns should continue through at least 2023 since we are likely years away from real monetary tightening.

With long-term interest rates still well below 2.0% (the US 10-year Treasury bond yield is currently pinned below 1.50%) and earnings growth of approximately 42% in 2021 and approximately 10% in 2022 (again according to FactSet), earnings multiples can remain elevated relative to historical levels although they will likely trend lower over time. We would therefore characterize the current environment as mid-cycle, where positive investment returns depend on identifying companies with accelerating earnings, cash flow and dividend growth. Essentially, we think this environment bodes well for the relative performance of our dividend and real asset strategies over the medium term.

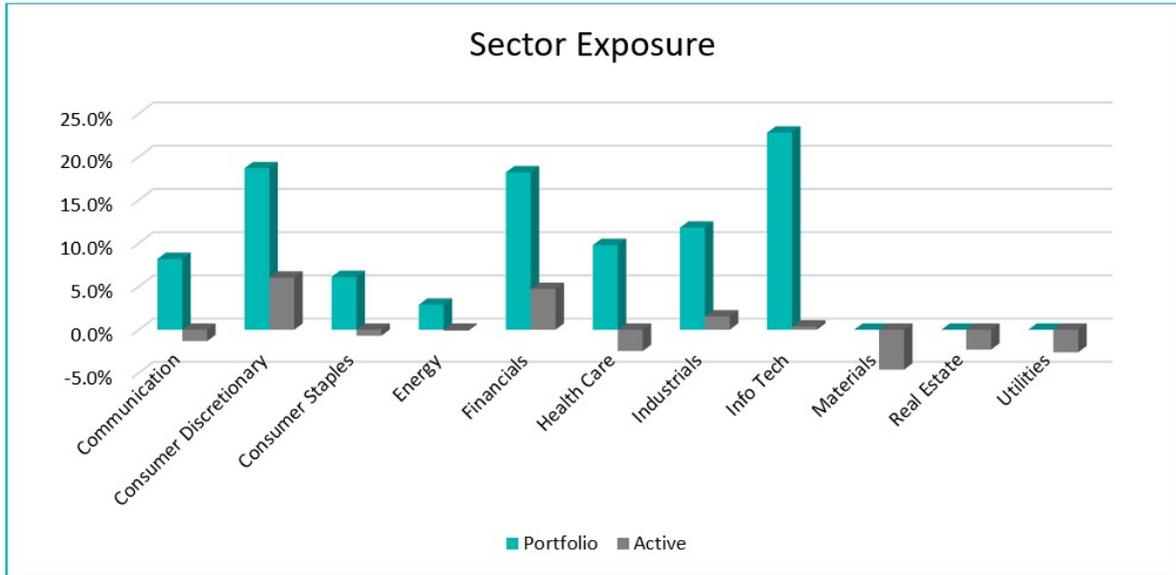
Top contributors to the year-to-date performance of the Ninepoint Focused Global Dividend Class by sector included Financials (+260 bps), Information Technology (+210 bps) and Industrials (+209 bps) while top detractors by sector included only Materials (-41 bps) on an absolute basis.

On a relative basis, positive return contributions from the Industrials (+93 bps), Financials (+40 bps) and Communication (+1 bps) sectors were offset by negative contributions from the Materials (-109 bps), Information Technology (-103 bps) and Health Care (-50 bps) sectors.



Source: Ninepoint Partners

We are currently slightly overweight the Consumer Discretionary, Financials and Industrials sectors, while slightly underweight the Materials, Utilities and Health Care sectors. We have maintained relatively neutral sector allocations but have positioned for the middle phase of the investment cycle, where above-average earnings, cash flow and dividend growth should compensate for some degree of multiple-compression due to rising interest rates.



Source: Ninepoint Partners

The Ninepoint Focused Global Dividend Class was concentrated in 30 positions as at July 31, 2021 with the top 10 holdings accounting for approximately 39.0% of the fund. Over the prior fiscal year, 22 out of our 30 holdings have announced a dividend increase, with an average hike of 2.8% (median hike of 7.0%). We will continue to apply a disciplined investment process, balancing various quality and valuation metrics, in an effort to generate solid risk-adjusted returns.

Jeffrey Sayer, CFA

Ninepoint Partners

NINEPOINT FOCUSED GLOBAL DIVIDEND CLASS - COMPOUNDED RETURNS¹ AS OF JULY 31, 2021 (SERIES F NPP 137) | INCEPTION DATE - NOVEMBER 25, 2015

	1M	YTD	3M	6M	1YR	3YR	5YR	INCEPTION
Fund	1.9%	8.3%	2.4%	10.1%	15.1%	8.4%	10.4%	8.5%
Index	2.1%	12.2%	5.6%	12.8%	25.3%	12.9%	13.7%	12.3%

¹ All returns and fund details are a) based on Series F shares; b) net of fees; c) annualized if period is greater than one year; d) as at July 31, 2021; e) 2015 annual returns are from 11/25/15 to 12/31/15. The index is S&P GLOBAL 1200 TR (CAD) and is computed by Ninepoint Partners LP based on publicly available index information.

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