# LARGE CAP GROWTH

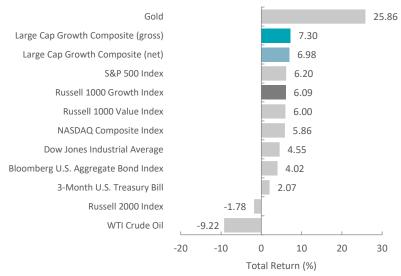




2Q 2025 Commentary

### **Markets Review**

## **Year-to-Date Returns**



Sources: CAPS CompositeHub™, Bloomberg

Past performance is not indicative of future results. Aristotle Atlantic Large Cap Growth Composite returns are presented gross and net of investment advisory fees and include the reinvestment of all income. Gross returns will be reduced by fees and other expenses that may be incurred in the management of the account. Net returns are presented net of actual investment advisory fees and after the deduction of all trading expenses. Aristotle Atlantic Composite returns are preliminary pending final account reconciliation. Please see important disclosures at the end of this document.

Despite some early volatility in the second quarter, the U.S. equity market rebounded with strength, with the S&P 500 Index rising 10.94% during the period. Bonds also delivered positive returns, as the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index rose 1.21%.

On a sector basis, positive returns were led by nine of the eleven sectors within the Russell 1000 Growth Index in the second quarter of 2025. The strongest sectors were Utilities and Information Technology. The weakest sectors were Energy and Health Care.

Trade policy remained a focal point. In early April, President Trump introduced a universal 10% import tariff, as well as reciprocal tariffs on dozens of countries, as part of "Liberation Day." Roughly a week later, and to encourage the start of negotiations, a 90-day pause on reciprocal tariffs was enacted for almost all countries. Later in the quarter, the U.S. and U.K. finalized the Economic Prosperity Deal, which included expanding American access to British markets and lowering tariffs on the first 100,000 of U.K. autos entering the U.S. each year. Meanwhile, negotiations continued with the EU, Japan, Canada and India. After escalating, trade

tensions with China eased somewhat; however, considerable tariffs and other trade policy disputes remain for both countries as negotiations continue. Shortly after quarter end, Congress also passed the Trump administration's sweeping fiscal legislation, which included major tax incentives, infrastructure funding and manufacturing subsidies. Concurrently, the U.S. Dollar Index (DXY) fell 10.7% in the first six months of the year—the fastest decline since 1973.

Economic data released during the quarter painted a mixed picture. U.S. real GDP for the first quarter contracted at an annual rate of 0.5%, primarily due to reduced government spending and a rise in imports. Meanwhile, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 2.4% year-over-year in May, and the unemployment rate remained close to 4%. Notably, a key gauge of consumer confidence rebounded in June, increasing for the first time in six months. However, given the ongoing uncertainty around the macroeconomic outlook, the Federal Reserve opted to hold its policy rate steady at a range of 4.25% to 4.50%, signaling a cautious, data-dependent stance.



Corporate fundamentals continued to serve as a relative bright spot, as S&P 500 companies reported 12.9% year-over-year earnings growth, with 78% of companies exceeding EPS expectations. Still, concerns around global trade and input costs were evident, with more than 425 companies referencing tariffs in earnings calls and nearly 12% issuing negative EPS guidance for the quarter ahead. Management teams broadly emphasized cost discipline and capital flexibility in the face of persistent macro headwinds.

In geopolitics, tensions in the Middle East escalated sharply during the quarter, with Israel and Iran engaging in direct missile exchanges—their most overt confrontation in decades. A succession of precision strikes on key Iranian figures and military sites, as well as U.S. airstrikes on nuclear infrastructure, further fueled fears of a broader regional conflict. However, after 12 days of war, a ceasefire was reached late in the quarter, easing immediate tensions but leaving uncertainty over its durability. In Europe, Russian forces entered eastern Ukraine in the Dnipropetrovsk region for the first time in three years. While the two sides engaged in a second round of negotiations and completed prisoner exchanges, prospects of a material advancement toward a ceasefire remain unclear. Despite the heightened geopolitical risks, WTI crude oil fell 8.9% during the quarter.

## **Performance and Attribution Summary**

For the second quarter of 2025, Aristotle Atlantic's Large Cap Growth Composite posted a total return of 18.63% gross of fees (18.45% net of fees), outperforming the 17.84% return of the Russell 1000 Growth Index.

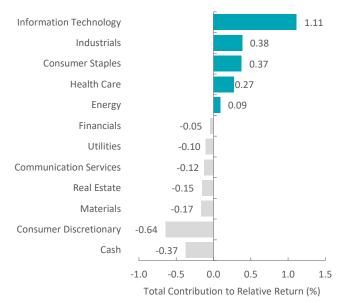
Performance (%)	2Q25	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Since Inception*
Large Cap Growth Composite (gross)	18.63	15.49	22.47	14.43	17.75
Large Cap Growth Composite (net)	18.45	14.89	21.88	13.92	17.26
Russell 1000 Growth Index	17.84	17.22	25.76	18.15	19.17

<sup>\*</sup>The Large Cap Growth Composite has an inception date of November 1, 2016. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Aristotle Atlantic Large Cap Growth Equity Composite returns are presented gross and net of investment advisory fees and include the reinvestment of all income. Gross returns will be reduced by fees and other expenses that may be incurred in the management of the account. Net returns are presented net of actual investment advisory fees and after the deduction of all trading expenses. Aristotle Atlantic Composite returns are preliminary pending final account reconciliation. Please see important disclosures at the end of this document.



During the second quarter, the portfolio's outperformance relative to the Russell 1000 Growth Index was led by security selection. Security selection in Information Technology and Industrials contributed the most to relative performance. Conversely, security selection in Consumer Discretionary and Financials detracted.

## Total Contribution to Relative Return by Sector Versus Russell 1000 Growth Index Second Quarter 2025



Source: FactSet

Past performance is not indicative of future results. Sector attribution shows how much of a portfolio's overall return is directly attributable to stock selection and asset allocation decisions within the portfolio, highlighting which sectors contributed or detracted to the total return. Attribution includes the reinvestment of income. Attribution is presented gross of fees and does not include the deduction of all fees and expenses that a client or investor has paid or would have paid. Please refer to the gross and net composite returns included within to understand the overall impact of fees. Please see important disclosures at the end of this document.

## **Contributors and Detractors for 2Q 2025**

Relative Contributors	Relative Detractors	
Apple	Bio-Techne	
Adaptive Biotechnologies	UnitedHealth Group	
Quanta Services	Visa	
CrowdStrike Holdings	O'Reilly Automotive	
Broadcom	Linde	

### **CONTRIBUTORS**

#### Apple

Apple contributed to performance in the second quarter due to the underweight in the portfolio. Investors remain concerned by the delayed rollout of the company's AI software and hardware strategy, which could see a lengthening of the handset upgrade cycle. Apple also faces headwinds to both sales and margins from China-related tariffs. Furthermore, continued uncertainty on the resolution of the U.S. trade strategy with China may keep investors on the sidelines.

### **Adaptive Biotechnologies**

Adaptive Biotechnologies contributed to relative performance in the second quarter following a better-than-expected first quarter earnings report, which

showed solid across-the-board momentum in both clinical testing and biopharma testing volumes. Adaptive continues to make progress on growing average selling prices (ASPs) and reducing cash burn. Adaptive is also rolling out its test on electronic medical record platforms, which will simplify the workflow and increase test ordering, processing and reporting efficiency.

## **DETRACTORS**

#### Bio-Techne

Bio-Techne detracted from relative performance in the second quarter, as investor concerns rose for companies in the life sciences and tools industry with outsized exposure to the academic and government sectors. These concerns stemmed from changes and limitations placed on the use of National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding grants and the potential for additional budget cuts in the president's proposed budget. In spite of the weakness, Bio-Techne issued a solid quarterly earnings report, with momentum across several product areas. We believe that Bio-Techne is well-positioned to recover once the funding concerns are addressed.



#### UnitedHealth Group

UnitedHealth Group detracted from relative performance in the second quarter following a surprisingly soft first quarter earnings report and a sizable guidance reduction. The issues were two-fold, including higher utilization inside its group Medicare Advantage offering, which drove a higher medical care ratio. The second issue was a negative new member mix, as several competitors exited the market, and many of the patients who switched to UnitedHealth's offerings had not been actively engaged in their care, resulting in higher acuity levels throughout the quarter. The company believes both issues are fixable in its next rate cycle.

## **Recent Portfolio Activity**

The table below shows all buys and sells completed during the quarter, followed by a brief rationale.

Buys	Sells	
HubSpot	Expedia Group	
Antero Resources		

## **Buys**

### **HubSpot**

HubSpot provides a cloud-based customer relationship management (CRM) platform that integrates marketing, sales, service, content management and operations hubs into a unified system. Its platform features applications and tools for tasks such as website creation, business blogging, search engine optimization, web analytics, lead generation and more, while also offering a native payment solution. Designed to create adaptable and cohesive customer experiences, HubSpot's Smart CRM and engagement hubs facilitate unified customer profiles and seamless interaction across the customer lifecycle. The hubs, available in free and paid tiers, can function independently, integrate with HubSpot's Smart platform or third-party CRMs, and scale alongside growing businesses.

We invested in HubSpot for its strategic positioning in a large, underserved SMB market, its effective freemium-to-enterprise conversion funnel and its rapidly growing Al suite "Breeze," which enhances automation and personalization across customer interactions. With strong adoption across product tiers, momentum in enterprise expansion, and scalable financials driving margin expansion and free cash flow growth, we believe the company is well-positioned to deliver durable, long-term value. We believe the current valuation is fair based on the combination of durable revenue growth, expanding margins and the early signs of traction in Al monetization.

#### Antero Resources

Antero Resources is engaged in the development, production, exploration and acquisition of natural gas, natural gas liquids (NGLs) and oil properties located in the Appalachian Basin. Operating entirely within the U.S., Colorado-based Antero Resources holds approximately 502,000 net acres of oil and gas properties in Ohio and West Virginia. Antero Resources intends to leverage its team's experience delineating and developing natural gas resource plays to continue developing its reserves and production, primarily on the company's existing multi-year project inventory.

Antero Resources is among the largest U.S. natural gas producers, benefiting from constrained supply growth and increasing long-term demand driven by coal-to-gas switching, power generation for AI datacenters, and liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports to Europe and Asia. It is also one of the largest producers of NGLs in the U.S., which are experiencing heightened global demand due to petrochemical uses and energy security needs. The company's strong transportation portfolio ensures price stability, premium pricing and reliable production flow. With over 20 years of premium drilling inventory in the Marcellus and Utica shales, the company is poised for attractive free cash flow (FCF) generation, 50% of which is planned to be returned to shareholders through buybacks. Since 2019, it has reduced debt by \$2.3 billion, achieved an investment-grade credit rating with a 1.5x leverage ratio and now possesses a robust financial position, providing a defensive edge amid global economic risks. We continue to see a structural shift in demand for natural gas and NGLs supporting prices at these levels or higher, leading to attractive FCF growth for Antero Resources.



#### Sells

### Expedia Group

We sold Expedia Group due to a higher risk of a recession following the significant increase in global tariffs, which can be expected to reduce overall levels of economic activity. In addition, the negative impact on the wealth effect due to potentially declining equity markets will likely impact demand for retail travel. Travel is among the most discretionary spend categories within the consumer discretionary sector.

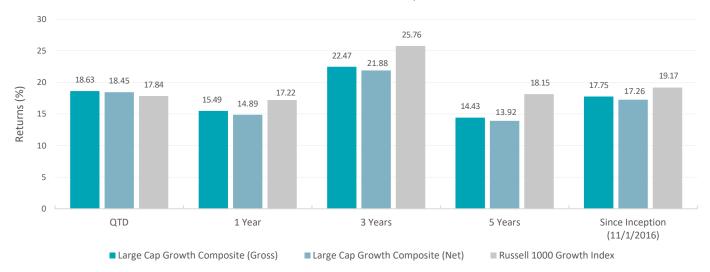
### **Outlook**

The equity markets in the second quarter rose sharply on hopes of a reasonable resolution to tariffs and a resilient economy. Interest rates were largely unchanged for the quarter, with the 10-year Treasury yield at 4.2%. With the looming tariff deadline of July 9th, the markets reacted positively to reported progress. The July 4th deadline for Congress to pass the extension to tax cuts also seems to be progressing. The economic data was mostly in line with expectations, with employment steady and inflation data just above the Fed's 2% target. With the strong rebound in equity markets, valuation levels are once again above historical averages. Our focus will continue to be at the company level, with an emphasis on seeking to invest in companies with secular tailwinds or strong product-driven cycles.



## **Aristotle Large Cap Growth Composite Performance**

All Periods Ended June 30, 2025



Year	Large Cap Growth Composite (Gross %)	Large Cap Growth Composite (Net %)	Russell 1000 Growth Index (%)
2024	28.48	27.90	33.36
2023	36.83	36.14	42.68
2022	-31.37	-31.61	-29.14
2021	22.13	21.67	27.60
2020	42.97	42.40	38.49
2019	37.29	36.73	36.39
2018	-0.93	-1.34	-1.51
2017	29.53	28.99	30.21
11/1/16 – 12/31/16	3.49	3.49	3.44

 $\textit{Sources: CAPS CompositeHub}^{\text{TM}}$ 

Composite returns for all periods ended June 30, 2025 are preliminary pending final account reconciliation.

Past performance is not indicative of future results. Performance results for periods greater than one year have been annualized. Returns are presented gross and net of investment advisory fees and include the reinvestment of all income. Gross returns will be reduced by fees and other expenses that may be incurred in the management of the account. Net returns are presented net of actual investment advisory fees and after the deduction of all trading expenses.



#### **DISCLOSURES:**

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All investments carry a certain degree of risk, including the possible loss of principal. Investments are also subject to political, market, currency and regulatory risks or economic developments. International investments involve special risks that may in particular cause a loss in principal, including currency fluctuation, lower liquidity, different accounting methods and economic and political systems, and higher transaction costs. These risks typically are greater in emerging markets. While Large-capitalization companies may have more stable prices than smaller, less established companies, they are still subject to equity securities risk. In addition, large-capitalization equity security prices may not rise as much as prices of equity securities of small-capitalization companies. Securities of small- and medium-sized companies tend to have a shorter history of operations, be more volatile and less liquid. Value stocks can perform differently from the market as a whole and other types of stocks. The material is provided for informational and/or educational purposes only and is not intended to be and should not be construed as investment, legal or tax advice and/or a legal opinion. Investors should consult their financial and tax adviser before making investments. The opinions referenced are as of the date of publication, may be modified due to changes in the market or economic conditions, and may not necessarily come to pass. Information and data presented has been developed internally and/or obtained from sources believed to be reliable. Aristotle Capital does not guarantee the accuracy, adequacy or completeness of such information.

The Russell 1000® Growth Index measures the performance of the large cap growth segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes those Russell 1000 companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values. This index has been selected as the benchmark and is used for comparison purposes only. The Russell 1000® Value Index measures the performance of the large cap value segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes those Russell 1000 companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower expected growth values. The Russell 2000® Index measures the performance of the small cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. The Russell 2000 Index is a subset of the Russell 3000® Index representing approximately 10% of the total market capitalization of that index. It includes approximately 2000 of the smallest securities based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership. The S&P 500® Index is the Standard & Poor's Composite Index of 500 stocks and is a widely recognized, unmanaged index of common stock prices. The Dow Jones Industrial Average® is a price-weighted measure of 30 U.S. blue-chip companies. The Index covers all industries except transportation and utilities. The NASDAQ Composite Index measures all NASDAQ domestic and international based common type stocks listed on The NASDAQ Stock Market. The NASDAQ Composite includes over 3,000 companies, more than most other stock market indices. The Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index is an unmanaged index of domestic investment grade bonds, including corporate, government and mortgage-backed securities. The WTI Crude Oil Index is a major trading classification of sweet light crude oil that serves as a major benchmark price for oil consumed in the United States. The 3-Month U.S. Treasury Bill is a short-term debt obligation backed by the U.S. Treasury Department with a maturity of three months. The U.S. Dollar Index (DXY) is a measure of the value of the U.S. dollar relative to the value of a basket of currencies of the majority of the United States' most significant trading partners. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services. While stock selection is not governed by quantitative rules, a stock typically is added only if the company has an excellent reputation, demonstrates sustained growth and is of interest to a large number of investors. The volatility (beta) of the Composite may be greater or less than its respective benchmarks. It is not possible to invest directly in these indices.

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