



February 2018

Argus Investors' Counsel, Inc.
Independent Investment Management Since 1960

ARGUS CORE EQUITY STRATEGY

Philosophy

While many equity market participants construct investment strategies in response to recent events, Argus constructs its Core Equity portfolios to prosper in a range of market environments using the following key elements:

- *Broad diversification using uncorrelated revenue streams*
- *Financial strength as a primary stock selection criterion*
- *Counter-momentum rebalancing of holdings*
- *Independent fundamental research*

Annual Returns

Year End	Composite (Gross)	Composite (Net)	S&P 500 Index
2017	20.93%	20.51%	21.83%
2016	16.84%	16.48%	11.96%
2015	-2.58%	-2.87%	1.38%
2014	15.83%	15.47%	13.69%
2013	33.98%	33.57%	32.39%
2012	14.72%	14.36%	16.00%
2011	2.86%	2.56%	2.11%
2010	11.30%	10.97%	15.06%
2009	32.85%	32.49%	26.46%
2008	-32.91%	-33.07%	-37.00%
2007	6.20%	6.04%	5.49%

Past performance is not indicative of future results. Source: Argus Core Equity Composite Returns in the table were calculated by Advent which utilizes the Modified Dietz Methodology.

*PerformanceNotes

Argus Investors' Counsel, Inc. (AIC) is an SEC-registered investment advisor that provides investment advisory services to institutional and individual investors. The Argus Core Equity Composite contains fee-paying fully discretionary core equity accounts that do not contain investment restrictions. Returns in this report are presented gross and net of management fees and include the reinvestment of all income. AIC's SEC registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training. The information in this document has not been approved or verified by the SEC or by any state securities authority. Annual and annualized periods are calculated based on geometrically linked monthly returns. AIC claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®). AIC has been verified firm-wide by Ashland Partners & Company, LLP from January 1, 1995 through March 31, 2017 and by ACA Performance Services from April 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. The US dollar is the currency used to express performance. Past results are not indicative of future returns. To obtain a complete list and description of AIC's composites and/or a GIPS-compliant presentation, please contact Richard Ciuba at (646)747-5439 or Cathleen Lesko at (203) 548-9883.

Key Professionals

Sharon D. Wagoner

Chairman – Portfolio Manager

Donna M. Palais

VP – Portfolio Manager

Jim Kelleher, CFA

Director of Research

Peter Canelo

Investment Strategist

Key Statistics

Assets in the Core Strategy:

\$222 Million

Benchmark:

S&P 500® with Dividends

Historical Tracking Error:

1.93%-2.46%

Diversification:

Growth & Value Representation
Minimum \$10 B Market Cap
WTD Avg. Market Cap: \$181 B
Number of Holdings: 45-55

**Past performance is not indicative of future results. Portfolio characteristics and performance data presented in this document are representative only. The information contained herein is intended for institutional investors only. See Performance Notes on page 1.*

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Firm Overview

Argus Investors' Counsel, Inc. (AIC) is a women-owned and managed SEC registered investment advisor. Argus was incorporated and registered with the SEC in 1960. We specialize in equity investment management for institutional and private investors. Our clients include corporations, public and private pension funds, Taft Hartley organizations, foundations, endowments, and high net-worth individuals.

Our flagship product, the Argus Core Equity Strategy, is based on a rigorous fundamental approach. The Core Strategy seeks to outperform the S&P 500® with dividends over a full market cycle, while limiting downside risk.

Our Argus Team can build your portfolio to suit your ethical and social beliefs.

Market and Portfolio Commentary

February marked the first down month for the S&P 500 since March 2017, when the S&P lost one point, and the first significant decline since January 2016, when the index fell 5.1%. The Argus Core Equity portfolio returned -3.64% (net of fees) for the month, marginally outperforming the S&P's -3.69% return.

January gains were quick to melt away in February on concerns about Fed rate hikes and rising inflation. Only a few stocks in the Argus Portfolio posted gains, and those were in the Consumer Discretionary and Information Technology sectors. Tapestry (formerly Coach) was the top performer, followed by Amazon. Energy stocks were the biggest underperformers.

On the economic front, the Commerce Department said that GDP rose at a 2.5% annualized rate in 4Q17, down slightly from its initial estimate of 2.6%. Personal consumption expenditures grew at a robust pace, ahead of overall growth, and contributed 61.8% of core demand. Argus believes that GDP trends are strong enough to support a Fed rate hike in March, and likely two more increases later this year.

We continue to expect changes in investor sentiment as market volatility increases, the Fed raises interest rates, and economic conditions change. As always, we remain true to our investment strategy, which is designed to take advantage of rotation in industry and stock leadership.

Annualized Performance – Argus Core Equity Composite ***

(As of February 28, 2018)

Trailing Period	Argus Composite (Gross)	Argus Composite (Net)	S&P500® Benchmark (with dividends)
Month to Date	-3.62	-3.64	-3.69
1 Year	16.39	16.02	17.10
3 Year	11.19	10.84	11.14
5 Year	14.99	14.63	14.73
10 Year	10.56	10.23	9.73

***Performance numbers above are calculated using the Modified Dietz method from Advent.