

WISDOMTREE MEGATRENDS: A PULSE CHECK ON VALUATIONS AS INTEREST RATES RISE

Jeff Weniger – Head of Equity Strategy
01/14/2022

In late November, [Federal Reserve](#) chair Jerome Powell hinted at an accelerated wind-down of the Fed's easy-money policy.

Since that announcement, [Treasury yields](#) have pushed higher, reflecting expectations that in early 2022, the Fed will begin raising its policy rate for the first time since 2018.

As my colleague recently wrote, [a rising rate environment is often viewed more constructively for cyclical value stocks like financials than for the growth stocks captured in our megatrend suite of ETFs.](#)

But this new rate cycle has created opportunity on both sides of the [growth-value](#) coin.

Our megatrend ETFs are trading at much more attractive [valuations](#)—let's do a pulse check on the three that have been most impacted since late November.

WCLD – Down 14.7%¹

The [WisdomTree Cloud Computing Fund \(WCLD\)](#) is currently valued at 11.5x [price-to-sales](#), its lowest level since the first few months of the COVID-19 pandemic. Its premium relative to the [Russell 1000 Growth Index](#) is 102.0%, within 2% of its historical minimum of 100.8%.²

While [WCLD](#)'s valuation premium has meaningfully contracted, its expected revenue growth over the benchmark Index has not. Over the last year, [WCLD](#)'s revenue growth has consistently been forecasted at an average of 1.7x that of the Russell 1000 Growth. Looking over the next 12 months, [WCLD](#)'s median revenue growth is 23%, or 1.8x the 13% median revenue growth rate expected for the Russell 1000 Growth Index.³

These levels could be attractive entry points into the higher-growth cloud names, which Bessemer Venture Partner's Byron Deeter recently spoke about on CNBC.⁴

(FIGURE 1)

(FIGURE 2)

WCBR – Down 10.3%⁵

Like [WCLD](#), The [WisdomTree Cybersecurity Fund \(WCBR\)](#) has been hit hard by the shift in the market and is trading at a similar level of 11.2x price-to-sales, roughly double the valuation of the Russell 1000 Growth Index.

With just under a year of performance, [WCBR](#) has traded within a tighter price-to-sales range than [WCLD](#) but has generated similar revenue growth metrics. Over the next 12 months, the median expected revenue growth rate for [WCBR](#) is 20%, 1.6x the expected median revenue growth of 13% for the Russell 1000 Growth Index.⁶ Notably, [WCBR](#)'s expected growth rate differential relative to the Russell benchmarks is wider than its historical average of 1.3x. The key takeaway is that [WCBR](#)'s relative valuation has compressed while its relative growth rate has expanded.

(FIGURE 3)**WDNA – Down 4%⁷**

The WisdomTree BioRevolution Fund ([WDNA](#)) has not been immune to the sell-off in growth names either, but its [drawdown](#) has been more modest than those of [WCLD](#) and [WCBR](#).

Biotechnology is an inherently [volatile](#) market, and performance can be vastly different within the industry depending on the size exposure. 2021 was a very different year for small-cap relative to all-cap biotechnology indexes. The [MSCI ACWI Biotechnology Index](#) returned 8%, while the [small-cap](#) cut of that Index returned -22.3%, equating to a 30 percentage point differential within the same industry. That level of all-cap outperformance has not occurred in at least the last decade and marks a sharp reversal from small-cap outperformance of 32 percentage points in 2020.

In our view, this environment creates opportunity for [WDNA](#), with balanced size exposure across small-, mid- and large-cap companies, to benefit from a potential small- to mid-cap biotech rebound in 2022.

(FIGURE 4)**The Takeaway**

For investors who were concerned about frothy valuations of high-growth stocks, today's multiples offer a meaningfully cheaper entry point for long-term exposure to specific secular and economic megatrends.

Important Risks Related to this Article

Performance data quoted represents past performance and is no guarantee of future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than original cost. Returns less than one year are not annualized. For current standard performance, holdings and expenses, visit the fund page: [WCLD](#), [WCBR](#), [WDNA](#).

WCLD: There are risks associated with investing, including possible loss of principal. The Fund invests in cloud computing companies, which are heavily dependent on the internet and utilizing a distributed network of servers over the internet. Cloud computing companies may have limited product lines, markets, financial resources or personnel and are subject to the risks of changes in business cycles, world economic growth, technological progress and government regulation. These companies typically face intense competition and potentially rapid product obsolescence. Additionally, many cloud computing companies store sensitive consumer information and could be the target of cybersecurity attacks and other types of theft, which could have a negative impact on these companies and the Fund. Securities of cloud computing companies tend to be more volatile than securities of companies that rely less heavily on technology and, specifically, on the internet. Cloud computing companies can typically engage in significant amounts of spending on research and development, and rapid changes to the field could have a material adverse effect on a company's operating results. The composition of the Index is heavily dependent on quantitative and qualitative information and data from one or more third parties, and the Index may not perform as intended. Please read the Fund's prospectus for specific details regarding the Fund's risk profile.

WCBR: There are risks associated with investing, including possible loss of principal. The Fund invests in cybersecurity companies, which generate a meaningful part of their revenue from security protocols that prevent intrusion and attacks to systems, networks, applications, computers and mobile devices. Cybersecurity companies are particularly vulnerable to rapid changes in technology, rapid obsolescence of products and services, the loss of patent, copyright and trademark protections, government regulation and competition, both domestically and internationally. Cybersecurity company stocks, especially those which are internet related, have experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations in the past that have often been unrelated to their operating performance.

These companies may also be smaller and less experienced companies, with limited product or service lines and markets or financial resources and fewer experienced management or marketing personnel. The Fund invests in the securities included in, or representative of, its Index regardless of their investment merit, and the Fund does not attempt to outperform its Index or take defensive positions in declining markets. The composition of the Index is heavily dependent on quantitative and qualitative information and data from one or more third parties, and the Index may not perform as intended. Please read the Fund's prospectus for specific details regarding the Fund's risk profile.

WDNA: There are risks associated with investing, including possible loss of principal. The Fund invests in BioRevolution companies, which are companies significantly transformed by advancements in genetics and biotechnology. BioRevolution companies face intense competition and potentially rapid product obsolescence. These companies may be adversely affected by the loss or impairment of intellectual property rights and other proprietary information or changes in government regulations or policies. Additionally, BioRevolution companies may be subject to risks associated with genetic analysis. The Fund invests in the securities included in, or representative of, its Index regardless of their investment merit, and the Fund does not attempt to outperform its Index or take defensive positions in declining markets. The composition of the Index is governed by an Index Committee, and the Index may not perform as intended. Please read the Fund's prospectus for specific details regarding the Fund's risk profile.

For standardized performance and the most recent month-end performance click [here](#) NOTE, this material is intended for electronic use only. Individuals who intend to print and physically deliver to an investor must print the monthly performance report to accompany this blog.

Related Blogs

- + [Cybersecurity Is Hot-But Did It Ever Cool Off?](#)
- + [A BioRevolution Update](#)

Related Funds

- + [WisdomTree Cloud Computing Fund](#)
- + [WisdomTree Cybersecurity Fund](#)
- + [WisdomTree BioRevolution Fund](#)

View the online version of this article [here](#).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

U.S. investors only: Click [here](#) to obtain a WisdomTree ETF prospectus which contains investment objectives, risks, charges, expenses, and other information; read and consider carefully before investing.

There are risks involved with investing, including possible loss of principal. Foreign investing involves currency, political and economic risk. Funds focusing on a single country, sector and/or funds that emphasize investments in smaller companies may experience greater price volatility. Investments in emerging markets, currency, fixed income and alternative investments include additional risks. Please see prospectus for discussion of risks.

Past performance is not indicative of future results. This material contains the opinions of the author, which are subject to change, and should not to be considered or interpreted as a recommendation to participate in any particular trading strategy, or deemed to be an offer or sale of any investment product and it should not be relied on as such. There is no guarantee that any strategies discussed will work under all market conditions. This material represents an assessment of the market environment at a specific time and is not intended to be a forecast of future events or a guarantee of future results. This material should not be relied upon as research or investment advice regarding any security in particular. The user of this information assumes the entire risk of any use made of the information provided herein. Neither WisdomTree nor its affiliates, nor Foreside Fund Services, LLC, or its affiliates provide tax or legal advice. Investors seeking tax or legal advice should consult their tax or legal advisor. Unless expressly stated otherwise the opinions, interpretations or findings expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of WisdomTree or any of its affiliates.

The MSCI information may only be used for your internal use, may not be reproduced or re-disseminated in any form and may not be used as a basis for or component of any financial instruments or products or indexes. None of the MSCI information is intended to constitute investment advice or a recommendation to make (or refrain from making) any kind of investment decision and may not be relied on as such. Historical data and analysis should not be taken as an indication or guarantee of any future performance analysis, forecast or prediction. The MSCI information is provided on an “as is” basis and the user of this information assumes the entire risk of any use made of this information. MSCI, each of its affiliates and each entity involved in compiling, computing or creating any MSCI information (collectively, the “MSCI Parties”) expressly disclaims all warranties. With respect to this information, in no event shall any MSCI Party have any liability for any direct, indirect, special, incidental, punitive, consequential (including loss profits) or any other damages (www.msci.com)

Jonathan Steinberg, Jeremy Schwartz, Rick Harper, Christopher Gannatti, Bradley Krom, Tripp Zimmerman, Michael Barrer, Anita Rausch, Kevin Flanagan, Brendan Loftus, Joseph Tenaglia, Jeff Weniger, Matt Wagner, Alejandro Saltiel, Ryan Krystopowicz, Jianing Wu, and Brian Manby are registered representatives of Foreside Fund Services, LLC.

WisdomTree Funds are distributed by Foreside Fund Services, LLC, in the U.S. only. You cannot invest directly in an index.

DEFINITIONS

Federal Reserve: The Federal Reserve System is the central banking system of the United States.

Treasury yield: The return on investment, expressed as a percentage, on the debt obligations of the U.S. government.

Growth: Characterized by higher price levels relative to fundamentals, such as dividends or earnings. Price levels are higher because investors are willing to pay more due to their expectations of future improvements in these fundamentals.

Value: Characterized by lower price levels relative to fundamentals, such as earnings or dividends. Prices are lower because investors are less certain of the performance of these fundamentals in the future. This term is also related to the Value Factor, which associates these stock characteristics with excess returns vs the market over time.

Valuation: Refers to metrics that relate financial statistics for equities to their price levels to determine if certain attributes, such as earnings or dividends, are cheap or expensive.

Price-to-sales (P/S) ratio: share price divided by per share revenue.

Russell 1000 Growth Index: A measure of the large-cap growth segment of the U.S. equity universe, selecting from the Russell 1000 Index.

Drawdowns: Periods of sustained negative trends of return.

Volatility: A measure of the dispersion of actual returns around a particular average level.

Small caps: new or relatively young companies that typically have a market capitalization between \$200 million to \$2 billion.