U.S. QUALITY STILL AT WIDEST PROFITABILITY AND VALUATION DISCOUNTS SINCE LAUNCH

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Quality stocks have lagged across the globe this year, as expected in the early stages of an economic recovery.

The WisdomTree US Quality Dividend Growth Index (WTDGI) selects companies that look attractive across measures of profitability like ROE and ROA, and earnings growth prospects, and weights them by their dividend stream. The WisdomTree US Quality Dividend Growth Fund (DGRW), seeks to track the price and yield performance of WTDGI, before fees and expenses.

Its fundamental strategy has allowed WTDGI to gain exposure to dividend growers and help avoid exposure to companies at risk of cutting or suspending dividend payments.

After a year of flat dividend growth, economic growth this year supports dividend growth across all sectors. Out of the 20 largest dividend payers in the S&P 500 Index, 18 have grown their payments over the past 12 months.[1] Banks, which were precluded by regulators from increasing payouts in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, are among the fastest growing. Excluding banks, WTDGI held more than half of the top 20 largest dividend growers found in the S&P 500 Index in 2021.

Dividend Growers ex-Banks			Dividends per Share		Dividend Stream ($bn)		Holding
Ticker	Name	Sector	11/30/20	11/30/21	11/30/20	11/30/21	WTDGI
MSFT	Microsoft Corporation	Information Technology	$2.24	$2.48	$16.94	$18.75	Yes
CI	Cigna Corporation	Health Care	$0.04	$4.00	$0.01	$1.45	Yes
AAPL	Apple Inc.	Information Technology	$0.82	$0.88	$13.94	$14.96	Yes
ORCL	Oracle Corporation	Information Technology	$0.96	$1.28	$2.89	$3.85	Yes
EOG	EOG Resources, Inc.	Energy	$1.50	$3.00	$0.88	$1.75	No
PG	Procter & Gamble Company	Consumer Staples	$3.16	$3.48	$7.84	$8.63	Yes
ABBV	AbbVie, Inc.	Health Care	$5.20	$5.64	$9.18	$9.96	No
UNH	UnitedHealth Group Incorporated	Health Care	$5.00	$5.80	$4.74	$5.50	Yes
HD	Home Depot, Inc.	Consumer Discretionary	$6.00	$6.60	$6.46	$7.11	No
ABT	Abbott Laboratories	Health Care	$1.44	$1.80	$2.55	$3.19	No

Sources: WisdomTree, FactSet, as of 11/30/21. 11/30/20 used as the start date based on WTDGI's annual Index screening date. You cannot invest directly in an index. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

Methodology Update—The Rise of Intangibles

WTDGI is rebalanced annually to reset exposure to these companies and to adapt to changing economic conditions. Prior to this year's reconstitution, we announced an update to WTDGI's methodology, improving on our original process created more than eight years ago. The growing number of negative equity companies that were ineligible for inclusion in WTDGI underscored the need for an update.

Since 2017, the number of companies with negative equity has continued to grow—today more than 30 companies in the S&P 500 fall under this classification. This is partly due to undervalued assets on their balance sheets (brand value, patents, property values, etc.) and maximizing capital efficiency through dividends and share buybacks. Companies with negative equity are commonly involved in the franchising, data, or real estate businesses or are companies with large research and development budgets.

Some of these companies have strong business models and histories of dividend growth, as can be seen in the table below. As the number of negative equity companies continues to increase, we wanted to update the methodology to give them a fair chance to be included in WTDGI.

WTDGI selects eligible companies using a weighted combination of three factors: medium-term estimated earnings growth, historical three-year average ROE, and historical three-year average ROA. This most recent update gives companies with negative equity a median ROE score if they've had positive dividend growth over the past five years, making them eligible for inclusion if their growth and ROA numbers warrant it.

Name	5-Yr Div. Gwth.	Market Cap ($bn)
HOME DEPOT	19.1%	$395.3
ORACLE CORP	11.9%	$276.6
ABBVIE	18.6%	$202.5
MCDONALD'S CORP	8.8%	$183.2
LOWE'S COS	13.5%	$165.3
PHILIP MORRIS INTL	3.7%	$147.3
STARBUCKS CORP	16.4%	$125.0
HCA HOLDINGS	26.8%	$84.4
COLGATE-PALMOLIVE	2.9%	$64.5
MSCI	26.0%	$54.8
Average	14.8%	$169.9
Median	15.0%	$156.3
S&P 500 Index Median	7.9%	$40.8

Sources: WisdomTree, FactSet, as of 09/30/21. You cannot invest directly in an index. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

Here are some of the major changes after WTDGI's December reconstitution.

Fundamentals

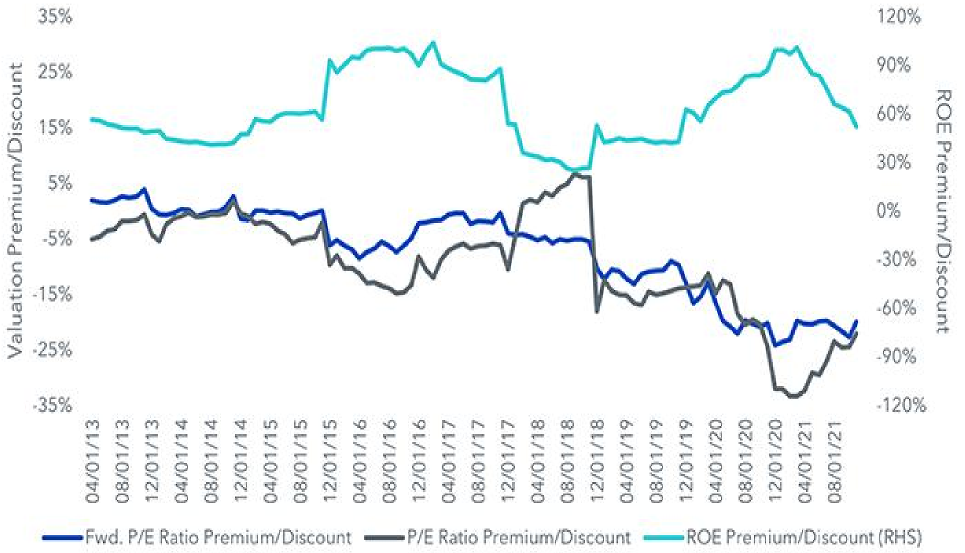
After its annual reconstitution, WTDGI improved both its profitability and valuation metrics. ROA improved to 8.50% and ROE improved by over 100 basis points to 28.75%. Both significantly exceed comparable metrics for the S&P 500 Index.

Along with improved quality metrics, the post-rebalance basket shows higher implied growth as measured by earnings retention times ROE. WTDGI also has a 0.84% higher dividend yield than the S&P 500 with a 13% discount in forward valuation:

Portfolio	Div. Yield (%)	P/E Ratio	Fwd. P/E Ratio	ROE	ROA	Implied Growth	PE to Long-Term Growth	Dividend Payout Ratio
WTDGI Pre-Rebal	2.10	19.41	16.99	27.61	8.39	16.34	1.72	40.81%
WTDGI Post-Rebal	2.11	21.52	18.49	28.75	8.50	15.67	1.61	45.51%
S&P 500 Index	1.28	24.92	21.23	18.16	3.95	12.36	1.50	31.97%

Sources: WisdomTree, FactSet. Data as of 11/30/21. You cannot invest directly in an index. Dividend Payout Ratio = The percentage of earnings paid to shareholders in dividends. Calculated as yearly dividends per share over earnings per share. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

WTDGI is trading at its largest forward valuation discount versus the S&P 500 Index since its inception in April 2013. The chart below shows how both the trailing P/E ratio discount and ROE premium, on the right-hand axis, remain at attractive historical levels.



Sources: WisdomTree, FactSet. Data of 11/30/21. Past performance is not indicative of future results. You cannot invest directly in an index.

Sector Exposure

During this latest reconstitution, the Consumer Discretionary sector had the biggest weight increase, as the economy continued to rebound after the COVID-19 slowdown last year. The addition of negative equity but large dividend growers like Home Depot, McDonald’s and Starbucks led the way. The Consumer Staples sector also saw an increase in exposure driven by the addition of Philip Morris and Kimberly-Clark Corporation.

Noteworthy weight reduction came from the Health Care and Information Technology sectors. Companies with large weight reductions were Pfizer, Bristol-Myers Squibb and Intel Corp.

Overall sector tilts versus the S&P 500 Index remain consistent as WTDGI remains underweight in Financials and Consumer Discretionary while being overweight in Industrials, Health Care and Consumer Staples.

Conclusion

Heading into 2022 with an eye on volatility in the latter part of the economic recovery, we believe that having exposure to a basket focused on profitability and growth fundamentals can provide investors with improved risk-adjusted returns.

[1] Sources: WisdomTree, FactSet. Data from 11/30/20–11/30/21.

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DEFINITIONS

Quality : Characterized by higher efficiency and profitability. Typical measures include earnings, return on equity, return on assets, operating profitability as well as others. This term is also related to the Quality Factor, which associates these stock characteristics with excess returns vs the market over tim.

Return on Equity (ROE) : Measures a corporation's profitability by revealing how much profit a company generates with the money shareholders have invested.

Return on assets (ROA) : Firm profits (after accounting for all expenses) divided by the firm's total assets. Higher numbers indicate greater profits relative to the level of assets utilized to generate them.

Dividend Stream : Refers to the regular dividends per share multiplied by the number of shares outstanding.

S&P 500 Index : Market capitalization-weighted benchmark of 500 stocks selected by the Standard and Poor's Index Committee designed to represent the performance of the leading industries in the United States economy.

Negative equity : Negative equity occurs when the value of real estate property falls below the outstanding balance on the mortgage used to purchase that property. Negative equity is calculated simply by taking the current market value of the property and subtracting the amount remaining on the mortgage.

Buyback : When a company uses its own cash to purchase its own outstanding shares; may positively impact the share price.

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.

Basis point : 1/100th of 1 percent.

Baskets : The composition of an ETF in terms one creation/redemption unit.

Earnings Retention : Proportion of a firm's earnings that are is not paid out to shareholders in the form of a dividend but rather reinvested back into the business. Higher numbers indicate a greater percentage of earnings are being reinvested.

Dividend yields : Refers to the trailing 12-month dividend yield. Dividends over the prior 12 months are added together and divided by the current share price. Higher values indicate more dividends are being generated per unit of share price.

Forward discount : A term that denotes a condition in which the forward or expected future price for a currency is less than the spot price. It is an indication by the market that the current domestic exchange rate is going to decline against another currency.

Price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio : Share price divided by earnings per share. Lower numbers indicate an ability to access greater amounts of earnings per dollar invested.

Equity premium : the excess return that investors may receive over the risk free rate as compensation for taking on the relatively higher risk associated with equit.

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

Risk-adjusted returns : Returns measured in relation to their own variability. High returns with a high level of risk indicate a lower probability that actual returns were close to average returns. High returns with a low level of risk would be more desirable, as they indicate a higher probability that actual returns were close to average returns.