

2023 U.S. Dividend Rebalances: Value Positioning via Dividends

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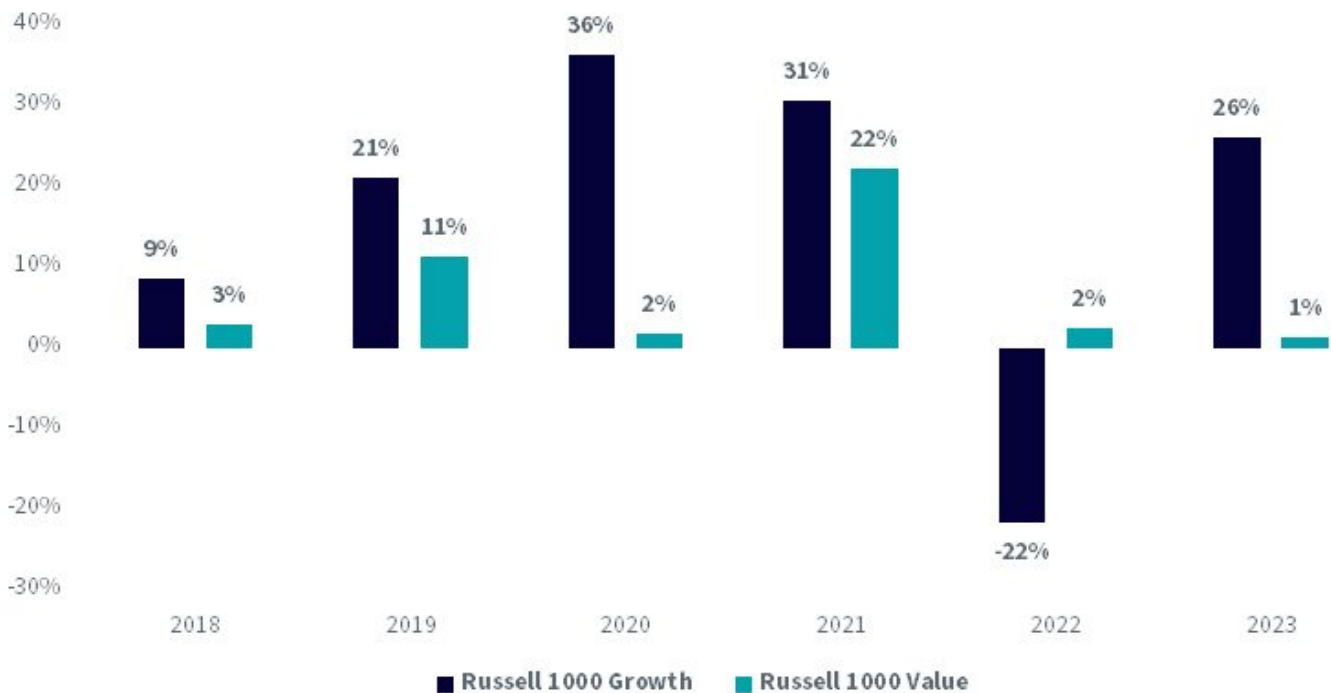
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Following its moment in the sun in 2022, value returned to the background in 2023, lagging growth for the fifth year in the past six.

Growth (proxied by the Russell 1000 Growth Index) finished the year strong and ahead of value (proxied by the Russell 1000 Value Index), primarily driven by the Magnificent Seven, a handful of mega-cap tech giants at the forefront of the artificial intelligence (AI) boom.

Growth vs. Value Performance over the Years

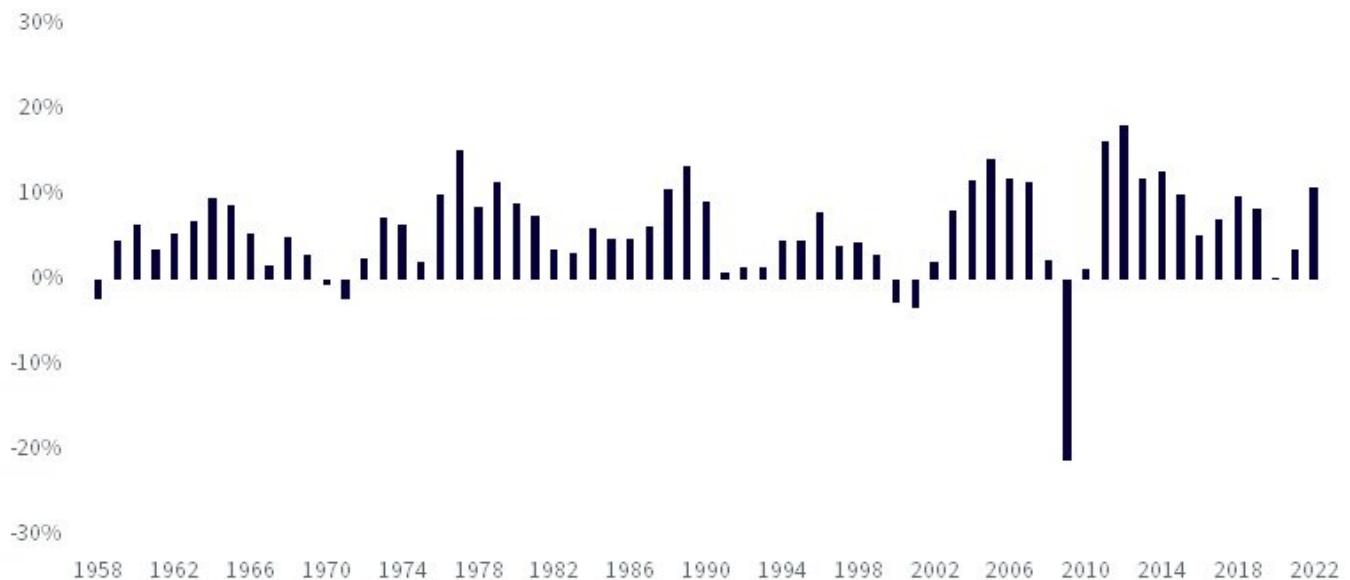


Sources: WisdomTree, FactSet, 12/31/17–11/30/23. Past performance is not indicative of future results. You cannot invest directly in an index.

The Federal Reserve is expected to cut rates in 2024, signaling an end to its most aggressive rate hike campaign since the early 1980s. The long-awaited policy pivot may shift market sentiment in favor of this year's laggards, such as dividend-paying companies and broader value.

In the last 64 years, only six years saw declining dividend levels, and only one year saw a decline of over 5%. Taking a dividend approach to value could provide more downside support through reliable income than pure value strategies.

Annual Growth of S&P 500 Dividends



Sources: WisdomTree, FactSet, 12/31/1958–12/31/2022. Past performance is not indicative of future results. You cannot invest directly in an index.

As growth stock valuations soar with historically high multiples, dividend indexes typically maintain a less top-heavy allocation than traditional market cap-weighted indexes, increasing weights to companies with strong fundamentals and defensive qualities, while reducing weights to companies considered overvalued (read: having the potential to fall short of lofty expectations).

WisdomTree U.S. Dividend Reconstitution

The [WisdomTree U.S. Dividend Index \(WTDI\)](#) is a fundamentally weighted Index that tracks dividend-paying U.S. companies, wherein each company's weight is derived from its share of the Index's total *Dividend Stream*®.

The [WisdomTree U.S. LargeCap Dividend Index \(WTLDI\)](#) is comprised of dividend-paying companies from the large-cap segment of the U.S. Dividend Index, and the [WisdomTree U.S. High Dividend Index \(WTHYE\)](#) is comprised of the top 30% of dividend payers in the U.S. Dividend Index.

Index	Index Ticker	Inception Date	Related ETF
WisdomTree U.S. Dividend Index	WTDI	6/1/06	DTD
WisdomTree U.S. LargeCap Dividend Index	WTLDI	6/1/06	DLN
WisdomTree U.S. High Dividend Index	WTHYE	6/1/06	DHS

The WisdomTree U.S. Dividend family, including the above Indexes, underwent its annual reconstitution in early December. For eligibility in these Indexes, companies must have a market capitalization of at least \$100 million and shares must have a median daily dollar volume of at least \$100,000. Companies are also judged on quality and momentum factors to eliminate potentially higher-risk companies.

After its rebalance, the WisdomTree U.S. Dividend Index maintained a lower price-to-earnings ratio than the Russell 3000 Value Index as well as higher dividend yield and quality metrics, such as return on assets (ROA) and return on equity (ROE).

Though the WisdomTree U.S. LargeCap Dividend Index trades at a slight premium valuation to the Russell 1000 Value Index, it has a 5% greater ROE and higher dividend yields and ROA to compensate for the greater multiple.

High dividends were out of favor this year, and a lack of exposure to fast-growing mega-cap giants like the Magnificent Seven caused the WisdomTree U.S. High Dividend Index to underperform the Russell 1000 Value Index. However, we believe this was merely a result of a style mismatch with what markets rewarded during a year marked by narrow equity leadership and minimal breadth. Nonetheless, the Index still trades at attractive discounts to its benchmark with double the dividend yield.

Rebalance Fundamentals

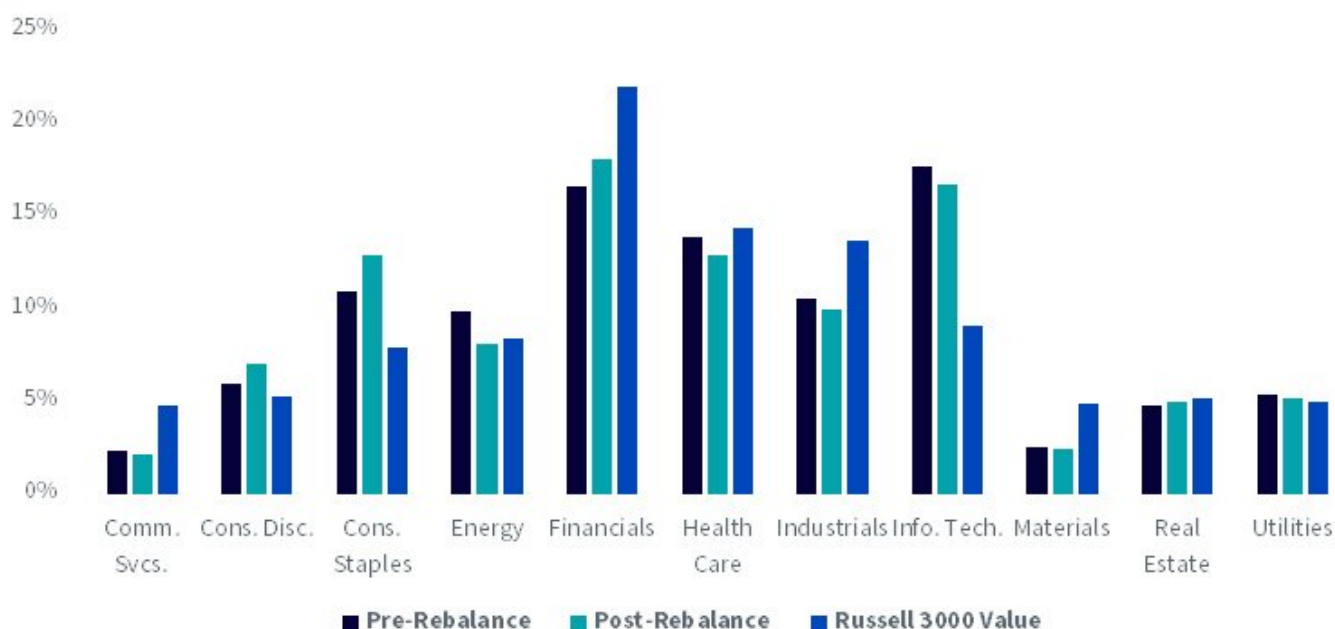
Index	Related ETF	Company Count	P/E	Div. Yield	ROA	ROE	Large Cap	Mid-Cap	Small Cap
U.S. Dividend Post-Rebal	DTD	1,313	16.7x	2.8%	2.9%	17.2%	90.2%	7.8%	2.0%
U.S. Dividend Pre-Rebal		1,322	16.4x	2.9%	3.0%	16.8%	90.2%	7.9%	2.0%
Russell 3000 Value Index		2,278	17.4x	2.4%	2.6%	12.3%	85.8%	11.5%	2.7%
LargeCap Dividend Post-Rebal	DLN	300	17.8x	2.7%	3.0%	18.1%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
LargeCap Dividend Pre-Rebal		298	17.3x	2.9%	3.1%	17.7%	99.9%	0.1%	0.0%
Russell 1000 Value Index		847	17.2x	2.4%	2.7%	13.0%	90.9%	8.9%	0.1%
High Dividend Post-Rebal	DHS	392	12.2x	4.8%	2.1%	13.4%	75.2%	16.9%	7.8%
High Dividend Pre-Rebal		382	12.1x	4.9%	2.4%	13.7%	80.7%	13.5%	5.9%
Russell 1000 Value Index		847	17.2x	2.4%	2.7%	13.0%	90.9%	8.9%	0.1%

Sources: WisdomTree, FactSet, as of 11/30/23. Past performance is not indicative of future results. You cannot invest directly in an index.

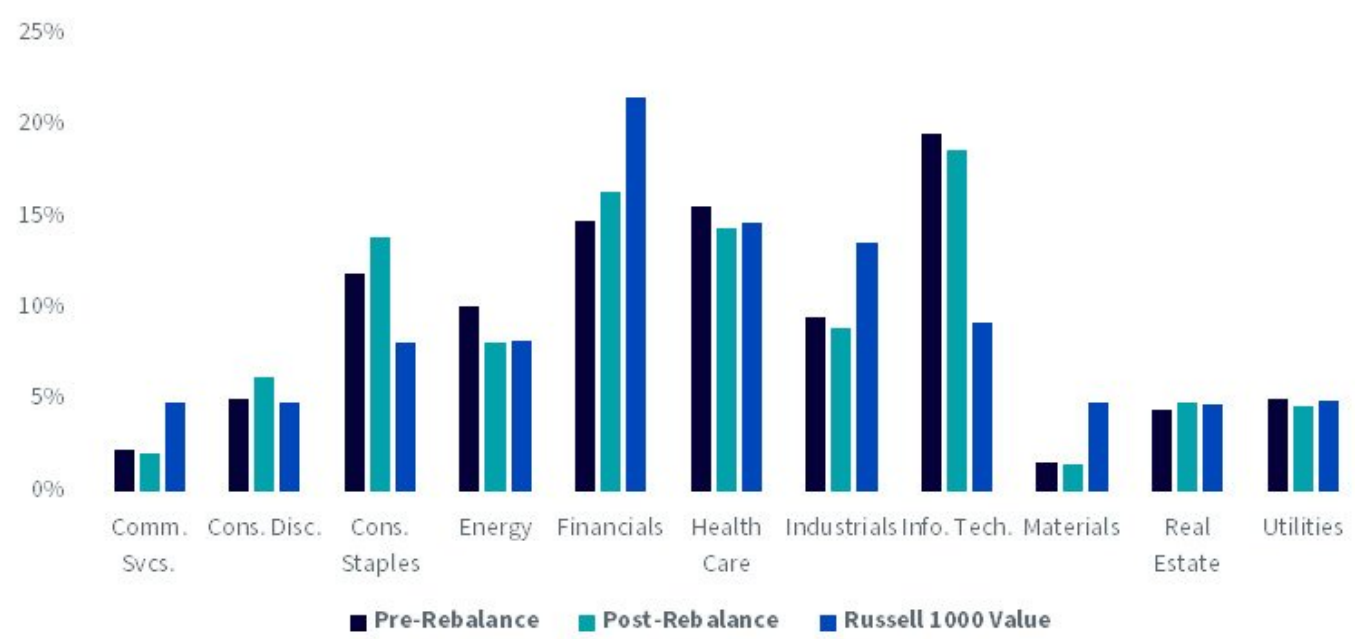
For definitions of terms in the table above, please visit the [glossary](#).

In terms of sector allocation changes, the WisdomTree U.S. Dividend Index and WisdomTree U.S. Large-Cap Index largely maintained their sector under- and over-weight allocations relative to the Russell 3000 Value Index and Russell 1000 Value Index, respectively.

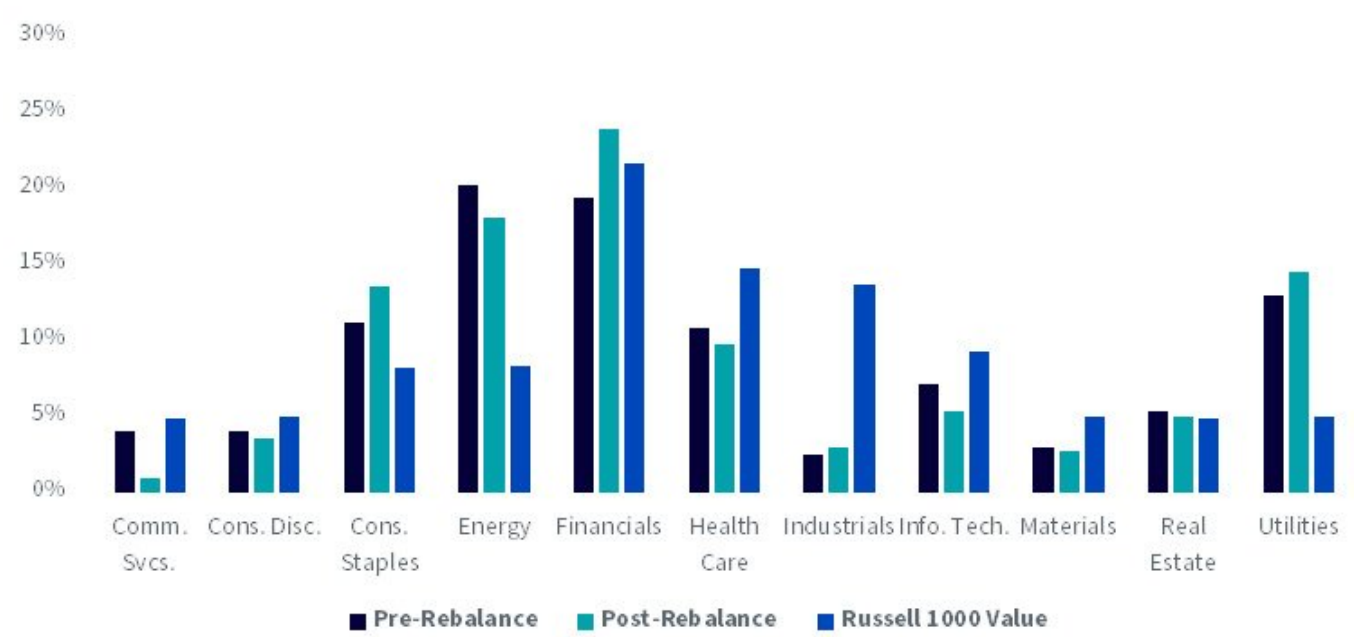
WisdomTree U.S. Dividend Index vs. Benchmark



WisdomTree U.S. LargeCap Dividend Index vs. Benchmark



WisdomTree U.S. High Dividend Index vs. Benchmark



Sources: WisdomTree, FactSet, as of 11/30/23. You cannot invest directly in an index.

Important Risks Related to this Article

There are risks associated with investing, including the possible loss of principal. Funds focusing their investments on certain sectors increase their vulnerability to any single economic or regulatory development. This may result in greater share price volatility. Dividends are not guaranteed, and a company currently paying dividends may cease paying dividends at any time. Please read the Fund's prospectus for specific details regarding the Fund's risk profile.