Artisan Focus Fund

QUARTERLY Commentary

Investor Class: ARTTX | Advisor Class: APDTX | Institutional Class: APHTX

As of 31 December 2025

Investment Process

Our investment approach is based on idea generation, a systematic framework for analyzing companies and proactive risk management. Utilizing this approach, we seek to construct a focused portfolio designed to maximize alpha while limiting downside risk over the long term.

Idea Generation

We believe a key element in alpha generation is finding areas where our views on industry fundamentals differ from consensus estimates. In this pursuit, we seek to identify inflections in multi-year trends which may be caused by changes in supply/demand dynamics, societal behavior, market conditions, technology, laws/regulations and business models, among other variables. We believe these inflections are often misunderstood by market participants, and can lead to powerful re-ratings of industries and companies. Identifying themes helps us develop a focused universe of companies to analyze more thoroughly.

Systematic Analytical Framework

We apply a systematic framework for analyzing companies across sectors and themes, creating a repeatable and methodical decision-making process. Our proprietary company models focus on multi-year earnings power differentiation, expected outcome scenario analysis, return on invested capital and discounted cash flow valuations. Visual outputs are then produced through our internally developed technology solutions, allowing us to consistently evaluate positions across the portfolio.

Proactive Risk Management

We incorporate risk management into all stages of our investment process. Metrics evaluated include crowding, correlation, volatility, stress tests, liquidity, factor analysis and macro drivers, all of which inform portfolio construction and position sizing. We also use various instruments, such as options, in an effort to magnify alpha and minimize downside.

Team Overview

The investment team applies the same approach to idea generation and fundamental company analysis that Portfolio Manager Chris Smith has honed throughout his career. Research analysts are sector specialists with deep knowledge of their coverage areas. Our process blends a collaborative team mentality with individual accountability.

Portfolio Management

Christopher Smith
Portfolio Manager

Investment Results (%)

As of 31 December 2025	QTD	YTD	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	Inception
			Average Annual Total Returns				
Investor Class: ARTTX	**-0.53**	**19.89**	**19.89**	**22.26**	**10.77**	**—**	**17.76**
Advisor Class: APDTX	**-0.45**	**20.15**	**20.15**	**22.52**	**10.97**	**—**	**17.93**
Institutional Class: APHTX	**-0.44**	**20.21**	**20.21**	**22.60**	**11.07**	**—**	**17.98**
S&P 500® Index	2.66	17.88	17.88	23.01	14.42	—	14.87

Source: Artisan Partners/S&P. Returns for periods less than one year are not annualized. Class inception: Investor (24 April 2017); Advisor (31 July 2018); Institutional (3 February 2020). For the period prior to inception, each of Advisor Class and Institutional Class's performance is the Investor Class's return for that period ("Linked Performance"). Linked Performance has not been restated to reflect expenses of the Advisor or Institutional Class and each share's respective returns during that period would be different if such expenses were reflected.

Expense Ratios	ARTTX	APDTX	APHTX
Annual Report	1.36	1.14	1.06
Prospectus	1.30	1.15	1.06

Annual Report: 30 Sep 2025. Prospectus: 30 Sep 2024. See prospectus for further details.

Past performance does not guarantee and is not a reliable indicator of future results. Investment returns and principal values will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than that shown. Call 800.344.1770 for current to most recent month-end performance. Performance reflects agreements to limit the Fund's expenses, which would reduce performance if not in effect.

"While continuity can be comforting, change can be profitable"—Chris Smith, Antero Peak Group Portfolio Manager

Investors naturally gravitate toward continuity. Stable narratives, familiar leadership and trends that can be easily extrapolated provide intellectual comfort. That comfort, however, does not equate to safety. It reflects reliance on known information—and this is precisely where we believe markets tend to be most efficient.

Understanding current earnings, prevailing growth rates and consensus narratives is necessary to participate. We do not believe it is a source of future alpha.

In our view, investment edge comes from being able to recognize and effectively analyze change. Changes in growth trajectories, changes in business fundamentals—such as returns on invested capital (ROIC)—and changes in earnings expectations as those fundamentals evolve are what ultimately drive long-term returns. This intuition is supported by decades of empirical market evidence. Understanding the present is table stakes; winning requires sustained focus on what comes next.

Exhibit 1: Investment Results

As of 31 Dec 2025	Q4 2025	1 Yr	Cumulative (since inception)	Annualized (since inception)
Artisan Focus Fund (Investor Class)	-0.53%	19.89%	313.89%	17.76%
S&P 500® Index	2.66%	17.88%	233.42%	14.87%
Alpha (percentage points)	*-3.18*	*2.01*	*80.47*	*2.89*
S&P 500® Equal Weight Index	1.39%	11.43%	148.45%	11.04%
Alpha (percentage points)	*-1.92*	*8.47*	*165.44*	*6.73*

Source: Antero Peak Group/S&P. As of 31 Dec 2025. **Past performance does not guarantee and is not a reliable indicator of future results.** Returns greater than one year are annualized unless otherwise noted. Fund inception: 24 Apr 2017.

Comfort Is Not Alpha

Much of the investment industry claims to own "good" or "high-quality" businesses. Rarely are those terms defined with any real precision. In practice, "good" often means familiar brands, stable margins, low volatility or narratives that feel intuitively safe. These attributes may be comforting, but comfort is generally not the same thing as alpha.

We believe "good" should be defined empirically. Across multiple decades and thousands of companies, the variables that have consistently created alpha are not subjective notions of quality but change in economic returns on capital, durable growth and upward earnings revisions. These drivers are measurable, testable and repeatable. Many widely celebrated "great" companies have failed this test—not because they are bad businesses but because their fundamentals were no longer improving.

This distinction matters. Owning businesses that are good is very different from owning businesses that are becoming better. Markets are generally efficient at pricing the former. The opportunity lies in identifying the latter before that improvement is fully recognized.

2025: A Volatile Year, Executed Well

2025 was a volatile year. Debates around the durability of artificial intelligence (AI) economics resurfaced. Trade and tariff policy shifted with little warning. The Federal Reserve reframed its reaction function multiple times. Markets rotated rapidly between factors and leadership. By year-end, individual stock volatility relative to the index reached the highest level in over 20 years.

Exhibit 2: Individual Stock Volatility Hit Long-Term Highs in 2025

Average Constituent 12-Month Implied Volatility vs. the S&P 500® Index

Source: S&P/Bloomberg/FactSet. As of 31 Dec 2025. **Past performance does not guarantee and is not a reliable indicator of future results.** Volatility ratio calculated as the average 12-month implied volatility of the S&P 500® Index's constituents vs. the 12-month implied volatility of the S&P 500® Index. Volatility measured by standard deviation.

Despite the volatility, our portfolio had a strong 2025, gaining 19.89% and outperforming the S&P 500® Index by 2.01%. These returns followed a strong 2024, in which we gained 31.89%, exceeding the benchmark by 6.81%. In addition to recent outperformance, the portfolio has generated strong absolute returns since our launch. Since inception, the Artisan Focus Fund (Investor Class) has delivered a cumulative total return of 313.89%, or 17.76% annualized. Relative to the S&P 500® Index, we generated alpha of 80.47% cumulatively, 2.89% annualized.

Looking ahead to 2026, our framework points to a portfolio that we believe is exceptionally well positioned. Volatility has helped accelerate dispersion, widening the gap between businesses that are structurally improving and those benefiting primarily from continuity or narrative momentum. Our research pipeline is increasingly populated with companies exhibiting improving returns on invested capital, accelerating growth and upward earnings revisions—changes that often take time to be fully reflected in market expectations.

Those familiar with our work have heard us emphasize these same variables repeatedly and our willingness to concentrate capital where these align. This letter explains why.

Return on Incremental Invested Capital (ROIIC): The Composition of Value Creation

The framework we use to identify change is simple in concept but demanding in execution. It is built around a small number of variables that have historically driven long-term equity outcomes. The key variable, in our view, is economic returns on incremental invested capital deployed. This variable is focused on change, it cannot be "screened for" and, because of that, in our view, it cannot be efficiently priced the way known conditions can be.

When a company invests a dollar into its business, how much value does that dollar create? How does this value generation compare to its cost of capital? These are the core questions of value creation. Every analyst learns this in the form of a standard discounted cash flow (DCF) formula which is typically stated as the following:

$$\text{Value} = \frac{\text{FCF}}{\text{WACC} - g}$$

Free Cash Flow (FCF); Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC), Growth Rate (g).

A company's valuation multiple is, in effect, a shorthand version of this equation. Using this framework, we believe markets are generally very effective at pricing equities based on current information like existing margins, consensus or guided growth rates, prevailing returns on capital and other readily observable or standardized fundamental metrics. In that sense, we broadly subscribe to the idea of efficient markets: Based solely on known information, equities are rarely mispriced in a durable way. Any contention to the contrary feels a bit arrogant to us.

What this formulation often fails to capture, however, is the impact of change—an area where we believe markets are far less efficient and thus have focused our entire process on this area. Free cash flow itself, after all, is the numerator of the DCF formula. It is highly sensitive to the core question of value creation: When a company invests a dollar, how much incremental value does that investment generate?

Mathematically, value changes non-linearly when future free cash flows change by a different proportion than the capital required to produce them. ROIIC is a direct measure of this relationship. With some straightforward algebra, this concept can be explicitly incorporated into a more robust DCF framework:

$$\text{Value} = \frac{\text{NOPLAT}\left(1 - \frac{g}{\text{ROIIC}}\right)}{\text{WACC} - g}$$

Net Operating Profit Less Adjusted Taxes (NOPLAT), Growth Rate (g), Return on Incremental Invested Capital (ROIIC), Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC).

As ROIIC increases, a company requires less incremental capital to generate a given level of growth in free cash flow (FCF). Conversely, as ROIIC declines, increasingly more capital is required to sustain that same growth, pressuring FCF and DCF values. This dynamic has a powerful effect on intrinsic value that is often brushed over. It tends to expand value non-linearly in both directions. As ROIIC improves, capital investment is often ramped, leading to accelerating growth. As ROIIC worsens, capital investment is ramped with eroding benefits, and growth slows. This is a "double whammy" in a DCF formula and has a profound impact on the value of an equity.

While this discussion may sound academic to many of you, we believe it is highly relevant in practice.

Exhibit 3 highlights the results of a study going back to 1990 that examines changes in economic returns, measured by cash flow return on investment (CFROI) for the largest 1,000 US public companies. The findings are, in our view, extraordinarily compelling and strongly validate our focus.

Exhibit 3: Three-Year Rolling Alpha, Largest 1,000 US Companies

CFROI Quintile
3-Years in the future

CFROI Quintile at the time of investment	HIGHEST				LOWEST
HIGHEST	5%	-6%	-12%	-14%	-27%
	9%	3%	-4%	-11%	-21%
	12%	8%	1%	-8%	-21%
	27%	12%	4%	-3%	-13%
LOWEST	12%	13%	13%	3%	-13%

ALPHA IMPROVED WITH ECONOMIC RETURNS

Source: UBS HOLT. As of 31 Jul 2025. **Past performance does not guarantee future results.** Universe: Largest 1,000 US companies by total market cap, rebalanced monthly. Universe excludes the following sectors: financials, REITs and utilities. Sample includes monthly observations of CFROI and returns from 1990–2025; to be included in the sample, a firm must have survived for three years following the initial observation period. Excess return measured as stock three-year forward return relative to investing in an equally weighted portfolio of the universe securities over the same three-year period.

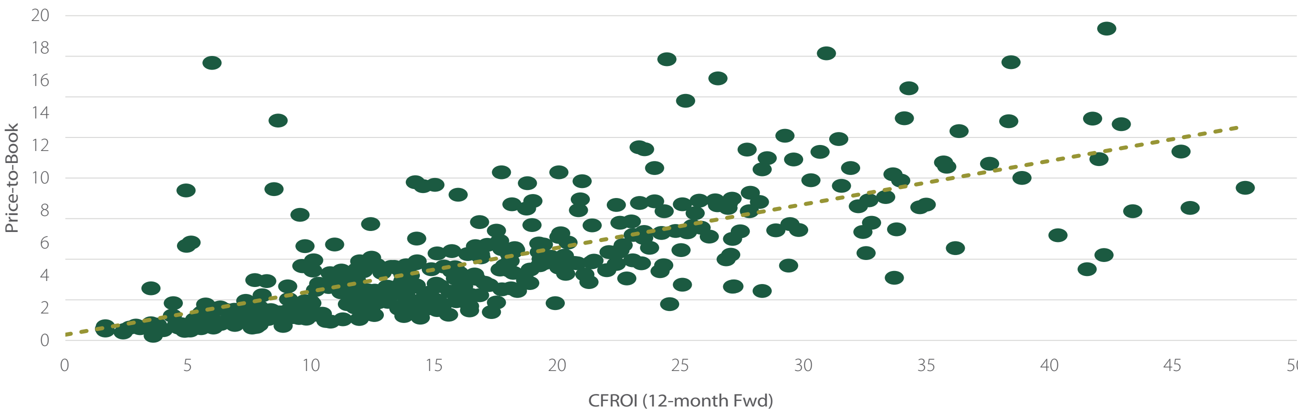
This data set shows that for the last 35 years, on average, alpha increased as economic returns on capital improved and declined as returns deteriorated, without fail.

Importantly, it reinforces our emphasis on change, not just level. Owning companies with the highest returns on capital can be unexpectedly risky when those returns begin to erode, even modestly. The transition from "great" to only "good" is an area where many investors could be blindsided and take substantial losses. This is an area we are acutely focused on avoiding and have embedded checks and balances in our process.

These businesses transitioning from "great" to "good" are particularly dangerous to active managers because they may be considered high-quality, low-volatility businesses, and therefore often sized aggressively in portfolios. In these cases, there is rarely a single, acute event that forces rapid recognition of a mistake. Instead, these positions can quietly but persistently weigh on returns for extended periods of time. Seeking to identify and avoid such long-duration drags on performance is a core element of our investment discipline.

One thing to notice in Exhibit 4 is that, for long-term averages of thousands of companies, the economic returns are very high for relatively subtle changes in CFROI quintile. This is because multiples are highly influenced by ROIC, both theoretically, in our DCF formula, as well as in practice. Simply said, the market is very smart.

Exhibit 4: S&P 500® Index Price-to-Book vs. Economic Return, Correlation=70%



Source: UBS Holt. As of 15 Aug 2025. **Past performance does not guarantee future results.** Universe: S&P 500 ETF excluding CFROE financials, REITs and utilities. Outliers removed for scatter display purposes (removed CFROI > 50 or HOLT P/B > 20).

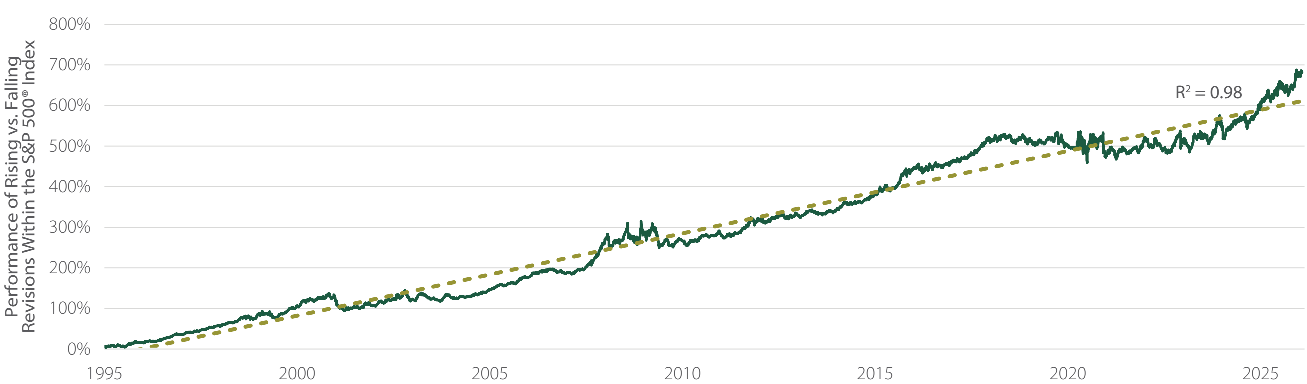
We strive to create a portfolio that we believe is set to experience a substantial increase in ROIC on a forward three-year basis. 2026 is not different.

Earnings Revisions: How Change Is Recognized

Markets do not price change instantly. They price recognition, and we believe earnings revisions are the primary transmission mechanism.

Over the last 30 years, companies with rising forward earnings estimates have generated durable excess returns, while those with falling estimates consistently underperformed. This has occurred with an incredible 0.98 R^2 value of consistency.

Exhibit 5: Cumulative 30-Year Relative Performance of Rising vs. Falling Revisions



Source: S&P/Bloomberg/FactSet/UBS Holt/Antero Peak Group. As of 31 Dec 2025. Chart illustrates the relative outperformance of S&P 500® Index constituents with rising earnings revisions relative to those with decreasing earnings revisions from 30 Dec 1994 to 31 Dec 2025. **Past performance does not guarantee and is not a reliable indicator of future results. R-squared (R^2)** is a statistical measure that indicates how much of the variation of a dependent variable is explained by an independent variable in a regression model.

We think our focus on earnings revisions is sometimes misunderstood and viewed as "short-term" thinking, or "momentum" driven. We emphasize that this represents fundamental momentum, not stock price momentum over the short term. We focus on this because it has historically generated alpha—that is the job. Accurately forecasting fundamental revisions is essential in a buyside culture. The priority must be on metrics that have consistently helped us win, and Exhibit 5 makes this clear. This is also why we focus on the cumulative effect of large estimate revisions over multiple years. This is where our variant, typically thematic views, can compound, and the gap between our estimates and consensus has tended to widen materially. Yet the short-term oscillations represent important signposts along the way.

In our view, revisions are not just signals; they are decision tools. Even small downward moves in our internal estimates will prompt reassessment. Our historical batting average when numbers move lower is poor; it improves materially as our estimates move higher. This reality has shaped a more objective approach to both adding and exiting positions and has been core to our long-term success.

Revisions also serve as a gating mechanism for position sizing, not just timing—they guide our slugging.

Estimate revisions within *our* models (not consensus), even when small, can serve as an important "check" to determine if our investment thesis is playing out as expected, better or worse. Beyond the obvious reason (real-time alpha), this information is embedded in our process to help us concentrate capital effectively and potentially avoid substantial losses in large positions. Said differently, given the empirical evidence showing a high correlation (0.98 R^2) between upward earnings revisions and subsequent outperformance, we use our fundamental research and earnings estimates to inform objective decisions. That is, if we own the equity of a company, and our internal estimates begin to move lower by more than a few percentage points, it raises an objective flag to reevaluate the position. This is something we've learned over time through introspection and analysis—i.e., our batting average when numbers move lower is very low, and it rises materially as numbers move higher. We think an objective process for allocating capital, especially selling stocks, is key to sustained performance and has been core to our long-term success.

Differentiation Is Real and Possible

A common argument against differentiation, particularly in large-cap investing, is that the sheer number of analysts covering these companies makes it impossible to think differently. We believe this argument misunderstands how markets actually work.

In practice, the sell side, with a few notable exceptions, does not function as an independent discovery engine. Instead, it largely reflects and amplifies company-provided narratives. This is not a critique of intelligence; it is a reality of incentives. The sell side's role is to intermediate, not deviate. As a result, true variance of thought is far rarer than headline analyst counts would suggest.

The numbers are revealing. By mid-March 2025, at the conclusion of the Q4 2024 reporting season, 188 S&P 500® Index companies had issued full-year EPS guidance. At that point, sell-side estimates were, on average, within just 0.3% of the midpoint of management guidance. Consensus was not the product of independent analysis; it was effectively management's own forecast, repackaged.

And yet, outcomes diverged meaningfully. By year-end, the 10 largest companies in the index, despite being covered by an average of ~60 analysts each, delivered results that differed from those initial expectations by an extraordinary 15% on average. Consensus did not equate to foresight.

This gap between perceived efficiency and realized outcomes is precisely where we believe opportunity resides. Differentiation does not come from having access to more information; it comes from being willing to question the information everyone else accepts, to do the work others cannot or will not, and to focus on change, not current conditions. Markets and consensus are anchored to what is visible today, including management guidance, near-term trends and static snapshots of profitability. Our work is oriented toward identifying inflection points where fundamentals are improving or deteriorating faster than expectations imply. In our view, large-cap markets are not over-researched—they are under-challenged, particularly when it comes to anticipating what will be different tomorrow rather than extrapolating what looks obvious today.

Growth and Alpha Are Linked

Growth only creates value that we can capitalize on when it is durable, scalable and reinvested at attractive rates. Exhibit 6 shows how companies with sustained, multiyear growth inflections have been able to generate meaningfully better outcomes than those with stagnant or unsustainably high growth priced too aggressively.

Exhibit 6: Five-Year Rolling Alpha, Largest 1,000 US Companies' Performance Relative to Median

5-Year Forward Sales Growth CAGR%

Starting P/E Multiple	Negative	0% – 10%	10% – 20%	20% – 30%	Above 30%
Above 40X	-12%	-5%	-2%	-1%	0%
30X – 40X	-8%	-1%	1%	3%	5%
20X – 30X	-6%	0%	2%	3%	9%
10X – 20X	-7%	0%	4%	7%	11%
0X – 10X	-6%	2%	8%	11%	8%

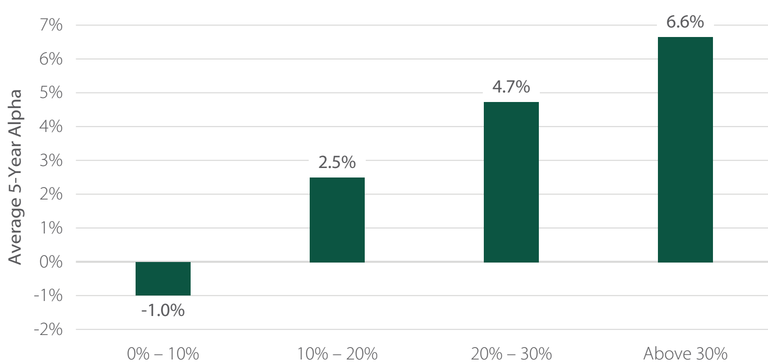
PERFORMANCE HAS HISTORICALLY IMPROVED WITH SUSTAINED GROWTH

Source: S&P/Bloomberg/UBS HOLT. As of 31 Oct 2019. **Past performance does not guarantee future results.** Universe: S&P 500® Index constituents from 1990 – 2019.

This is important to our thinking. We generally do not play in the two tails of the market, nor have we typically looked at deep value, low-quality assets. This occurs naturally, as it is extremely rare for commoditized businesses, or those that have low barriers to entry, to sustain structural change in ROIC. On the other hand, we also haven't historically focused on unprofitable tech or binary biotech, given that these are situations where we have little or no analytic edge, and risks are elevated. We mostly play in that "center" of the market.

In that context, the key takeaway from Exhibit 6 is that alpha has historically, on average, always improved with sustained elevated growth rates, particularly in our sweet spot of ~10X–40X P/E multiple stocks. For this group, sustained elevated growth has driven alpha expansion with consistency and magnitude across 30 years of data. Exhibit 7 reinforces this point: Growth purchased at reasonable price has correlated strongly with long-term alpha.

Exhibit 7: Growth at a Reasonable Price Correlates to Alpha



Source: S&P/Bloomberg/UBS HOLT. As of 31 Oct 2019. **Past performance does not guarantee future results.** Universe: S&P 500® Index constituents from 1990–2019. Chart shows the simple average of the 5-year rolling alpha of index constituents versus the index by the 5-year forward sales growth CAGRs groupings shown in Exhibit 6 (0% – 10%, 10% – 20%, 20% – 30% and above 30%).

Batting and Slugging: The Construction of Alpha

We evaluate investment performance through two lenses: batting average and slugging percentage. Batting average reflects the percentage of profitable investments relative to total investments, while slugging reflects the magnitude of gains on profitable investments relative to losses on non-profitable ones.

The prevailing assumption that investment success is driven primarily by being right more than half the time oversimplifies the drivers of long-term performance. In our view, sustainable alpha is generated less by hit rate and more by payoff asymmetry. Accordingly, our process is designed to prioritize outcome magnitude over outcome frequency.

As such, we concentrate capital in high-conviction opportunities that are supported by rigorous fundamental research and continuous reassessment. This approach is intended to maximize upside capture while enforcing disciplined loss containment. When an investment thesis is confirmed, we seek to scale our exposure. When fundamentals deteriorate, we act decisively to reduce risk.

Empirically, portfolio returns are often less sensitive to incremental changes in batting average than to improvements in payoff ratio. For portfolios with moderate single-name volatility, modest increases in hit rate tend to produce limited incremental alpha, whereas improvements in position sizing and payoff asymmetry can materially enhance outcomes. As a result, we focus on position construction, risk allocation and downside management as primary drivers of performance.

Our philosophy is grounded in two principles: outcomes will be imperfect, and opportunities will be unevenly distributed. Accepting both allows us to exit losing positions efficiently and allocate capital aggressively to ideas that have more favorable profiles. This discipline is central to our capital compounding objective.

Organizational culture is a critical enabler of this framework. Effective execution requires intellectual honesty, low ego and a willingness to challenge prior assumptions. Decisions are made in service of portfolio outcomes, not individual viewpoints or prior convictions.

We are mindful that industry conventions—low turnover, benchmark constraints and tightly balanced exposures—can limit payoff potential. This often constrains the ability to generate differentiated returns. Our approach is designed to avoid structural dilution of conviction.

We devote disproportionate analytical time to our largest positions and to holdings exhibiting adverse fundamental trends. This enables early identification of negative inflections and timely risk reduction. By emphasizing asymmetric payoffs, disciplined sizing and responsiveness to changing fundamentals, we seek to deliver consistent, repeatable outperformance over a full market cycle.

Real Example: General Electric

General Electric (GE) exemplifies one such example where we generated an outsized outcome by following our process: identifying long-duration structural change, building differentiated analytical depth and concentrating capital aggressively as the fundamentals compounded.

We initiated our position in GE in February 2023 based on a clear structural imbalance in global aviation. The narrowbody market requires approximately 130–140 aircraft deliveries per month to meet replacement demand. Supply, impaired by years of underinvestment, pandemic disruption and recurring Boeing groundings, had struggled to reach even ~70% of that level. This gap is structural, not cyclical.

The result is an aging global fleet with rising utilization and materially higher service intensity. Aircraft are staying in service longer, driving non-linear growth in aftermarket demand. Production recovery will take years, constrained by certification, labor and supply-chain fragility. This can create a long-duration earnings tailwind for the best positioned aftermarket suppliers.

GE sits at the center of this dynamic.

Long-duration structural change enables unusually deep research. We built engine-level unit economics models across GE's installed base—flight hours, maintenance intervals, pricing and incremental margins. This work compounds over time and creates conviction that does not depend on quarterly narratives.

In 2022, GE's return on invested capital was approximately 6%. As aftermarket mix increased, ROIC expanded to roughly 16% by 2026 and is on a path toward ~30%. Revenue growth accelerated to high-single-digit rates on a sustainable basis, margins doubled, and our internal free cash flow estimates increased by approximately $2 billion.

As confidence in the durability of these economics increased, we concentrated capital accordingly. This is where we believe slugging matters. When structural change is durable and unit economics are understood at a granular level, payoff asymmetry dominates hit rate.

The stock's valuation multiple expanded from roughly 20X earnings at entry to approximately 40X today, reflecting materially higher returns, growth durability and lower fundamental risk. Since our initial purchase, GE's share price has increased approximately 370%.

<u>The outcome followed the process: structural change, improving ROIIC, sustained revisions and disciplined concentration.</u>

We Foresee a Strong Setup for 2026 and Beyond

Based on our framework, we believe our portfolio is well positioned over the next three years. Based on our models, we project our current portfolio will experience rising ROIC of approximately 500bps, a widening growth gap versus the benchmark and upward earnings revisions of roughly 5%.

Exhibit 8: Key Portfolio Metrics Entering 2026 vs. the S&P 500® Index

	S&P 500® Index	Artisan Focus Fund	
EBIT Margin	17%	35%	Higher
WACC	10%	9%	Lower
ROIC (2025 YE→2028 YE)	10%→10%	17%→22%	Expanding
WACC/ROIC Spread	1%	8%	Higher
NTM, Earnings Growth (Consensus Est.)	15%	21%	Faster
P/E Ratio	23.2X	24.6X	~In line
Total EPS Growth Est., 3-Yr	38%	88%	Higher

Source: Antero Peak Group/S&P/Bloomberg/FactSet. As of 31 Dec 2025. **Past performance does not guarantee and is not a reliable indicator of future results.** Total earnings growth projections are estimates based on the team's analysis and subject to material revision. Earnings growth does not guarantee outperformance. Three-year EPS growth estimate of 38% for the S&P 500® Index comprised of the compounded yearly estimates for 2026–2028: 2026: 15%; 2027: 11%; 2028: 8%. Three-year EPS growth estimate of 88% for the Artisan Focus Fund comprised of the compounded yearly estimates for 2026–2028: 2026: 21%; 2027: 24%; 2028: 25%. Next 12 Months (NTM).

Of note, given our focus, we believe our process naturally generates a much higher quality portfolio than the benchmark. That is, we own companies that, on average, are twice as profitable as measured by operating margins (which embeds clues about business quality and competition) and generate a dramatically higher WACC/ROIC spread than the benchmark, giving them an accelerating growth bias. Yet, we are owning this portfolio at a multiple that is only a very small premium to the index's P/E multiple and should become "cheaper." For a portfolio structured this way, with objective fundamental-based decisions being made along the way, we believe the setup bodes well for our investors over the long term.

Looking Ahead

We feel good about the portfolio as we enter 2026. Market volatility remains elevated, and macro uncertainty persists. Yet our conviction in the underlying process continues to strengthen. The data suggest that while this is not an easy game, it is ultimately a simple one. Macro narratives will ebb and flow, but long-term outcomes are driven by stock selection and by identifying businesses whose fundamentals are changing for the better.

Noise has become structural in today's market and is now simply part of the game. Information moves at lightning speed, accuracy notwithstanding. Technology is changing rapidly and likely accelerating, while fiscal and monetary policy remain broadly reactionary. None of these forces are going away, and we expect new ones to emerge.

Despite this, we see an expanding opportunity set beneath the surface. Structural change at the company and industry levels is creating exactly the type of environment our process was built to try and capture. Our confidence is not rooted in forecasts about interest rates, policy decisions or headlines. Instead, it is grounded in thousands of hours of bottom-up research, detailed long-term modeling and a repeatable framework to help identify change before it is fully recognized by the market.

Short-term results are never linear. But as 2025 reinforced, and as the past eight years have demonstrated, we believe our process compounds over time.

Thank you, as always, for your continued trust and partnership.

Top 5 Issuers (% of net assets)

NVIDIA Corp (Transformation of the Enterprise)	7.8
General Electric Co (Aero Normalization)	7.0
Apple Inc (Digitization of User Experience & Commerce)	7.0
Rolls-Royce Holdings PLC (Aero Normalization)	6.9
Siemens Energy AG (De-Globalization)	6.1
TOTAL	**34.7%**

For more information: Visit www.artisanpartners.com | Call 800.344.1770

Carefully consider the Fund's investment objective, risks and charges and expenses. This and other important information is contained in the Fund's prospectus and summary prospectus, which can be obtained by calling 800.344.1770. Read carefully before investing.

Current and future portfolio holdings are subject to risk. The value of portfolio securities selected by the investment team may rise or fall in response to company, market, economic, political, regulatory or other news, at times greater than the market or benchmark index. A portfolio's environmental, social and governance ("ESG") considerations may limit the investment opportunities available and, as a result, the portfolio may forgo certain investment opportunities and underperform portfolios that do not consider ESG factors. Non-diversified portfolios may invest larger portions of assets in securities of a smaller number of issuers and performance of a single issuer may have a greater impact to the portfolio's returns. Use of derivatives may create investment leverage and increase the likelihood of volatility and risk of loss in excess of the amount invested. High portfolio turnover may adversely affect returns due to increased transaction costs and creation of additional tax consequences. Securities of small- and medium-sized companies tend to have a shorter history of operations, be more volatile and less liquid and may have underperformed securities of large companies during some periods. International investments involve special risks, including currency fluctuation, lower liquidity, different accounting methods and economic and political systems, and higher transaction costs. These risks typically are greater in emerging and less developed markets, including frontier markets.

This commentary represents the views of the manager as of 31 Dec 2025 and do not necessarily represent those of Artisan Partners. The views and opinions expressed are based on current market conditions, which will fluctuate and those views are subject to change without notice. While the information contained herein is believed to be reliable, there is no guarantee to the accuracy or completeness of any statement in the discussion. Any forecasts contained herein are for illustrative purposes only and are not to be relied upon as advice or interpreted as a recommendation. This material is not an offer of any investment products or services mentioned other than those offered by Artisan Partners.

The portfolio managers' views are subject to change, and Artisan disclaims any obligation to advise investors of such changes.

For the purpose of determining holdings, exposures are delta-adjusted at the issuer level and may include multiple securities of the same issuer. Portfolio holdings are subject to change without notice and are not intended as recommendations of individual securities. Further portfolio holdings information is available upon request. Unless otherwise indicated, all information in this report includes all classes of shares, except performance and expenses.

This material is provided for informational purposes without regard to your particular investment needs and shall not be construed as investment or tax advice on which you may rely for your investment decisions. Investors should consult their financial and tax adviser before making investments in order to determine the appropriateness of any investment product discussed herein.

S&P 500® Index measures the performance of 500 US companies focused on the large-cap sector of the market. S&P 500® Equal Weighted Index gives each constituent the same weight in the index, versus the market weighted index where bigger companies hold a larger share of the index. The index(es) are unmanaged; include net reinvested dividends; do not reflect fees or expenses; and are not available for direct investment.

Portfolio statistics are obtained from various data sources and intended to provide a general view of the portfolio, or Index, at a point in time. Artisan Partners excludes outliers when calculating portfolio characteristics and may use data from a related security to calculate statistics if information is unavailable for a particular security. Percent of net assets represents the portfolio's exposures based on the economic value of investments (including delta-adjusting options exposures). Delta-adjusted options exposure is a measure of the market exposure created by the options and accounts for the sensitivity of options to changes in price of the underlying security. In comparison, measuring the exposure of an option at the market value of the option or notional value can understate or overstate, respectively, the economic exposure and risk. This estimate of portfolio exposure is only an approximation of the portfolio at a point in time.

Contribution to Return (CTR) represents the contribution of an investment to the total portfolio return. CTR is calculated by multiplying a security's portfolio weight by its in-portfolio return daily for the period and has been derived from a transaction-based methodology, which includes the impact of transactions. **Attribution** quantifies the relationship between a portfolio's relative returns and the active management decisions differentiating the portfolio from the benchmark. **CTR and Attribution** are not exact, nor representative of actual investor returns due to several variables (e.g., fees, expenses, transactions) and therefore should be considered an approximation and examined in conjunction with the performance of the portfolio during the period. If applicable, securities of the same issuer are aggregated and may be delta-adjusted to determine the weight in the portfolio, and aggregation of corporate affiliates is subject to the determination of Artisan Partners. Further information on the methodology used is available upon request.

Theme classifications are at the sole discretion of the team. Themes and constituents are as of the date indicated and are subject to change. Certain holdings have been reclassified subsequent to initial investment, which has impacted theme performance during the period. Portfolio sector classifications are defined by the investment team based on GICS.

Return on Invested Capital (ROIC) is a measure of how well a company generates cash flow relative to capital invested in the business. **Alpha** is a quantitative measure of the volatility of the portfolio relative to a designated index. A positive alpha of 1.0 means the fund has outperformed its designated index by 1%. Correspondingly, a similar negative alpha would indicate an underperformance of 1%. **Earnings Before Interest & Tax (EBIT)** is an indicator of a company's profitability, calculated as revenue minus expenses, excluding tax and interest. **Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR)** is the year-over-year average growth rate of an investment over a period of time. It is calculated by taking the nth root of the total percentage growth rate, where n is the number of years in the period being considered. **Earnings per Share (EPS)** is the portion of a company's profit allocated to each outstanding share of common stock. **Return on Investment (ROI)** measures the amount of return on an investment relative to the investment's cost. **Free Cash Flow** is a measure of financial performance calculated as operating cash flow minus capital expenditures. **Consensus Earnings Estimates** represent the average financial forecast for a company's future performance, typically its earnings per share (EPS) and revenue, as predicted by a group of financial analysts. **Cash Flow Return on Investment (CFROI)** is a valuation metric that acts as a proxy for a company's economic return by assessing the company's cash flows against its cost of capital. **Discounted cash flow** (DCF) is a valuation method used to estimate the value of an investment based on its expected future cash flows. **Correlation** is a statistical measure of how two securities move in relation to each other. A perfect positive correlation is represented by the value +1.00, while 0.00 indicates no correlation and -1.00 indicates a perfect negative correlation. **EBIT Margin** is a financial ratio that measures a company's profitability which is calculated by dividing EBIT by sales or net earnings. **Forward Price-to-Earnings (P/E) Ratio** is a measure of the P/E ratio using forecasted earnings for the P/E calculation. The forecasted earnings used in the formula can either be for the next 12 months or for the next full-year fiscal period. **R-Squared (R^2)** indicates the proportionate amount of variation in the dependent variable that is explained by the independent variable, measured on a scale of 0.0-1.0. **Return on Incremental Invested Capital (ROIIC)** measures how much profit a company generates from new capital investments, calculated as the change in earnings divided by the change in invested capital over a specific period of time. **Hit Rate** (Batting Average) is a statistic that measures the percentage of profitable investments relative to the total number of investments over a given period. **Implied Volatility** is a forward-looking measure showing the market's expectation of how much an asset's price will fluctuate in the future, derived from current options prices. **Net Operating Profit After Tax (NOPAT)** represents a company's after-tax operating profit. **Price-to-Book (P/B) Ratio** is a valuation measure used to compare a stock's market value to its book value. **Price-to-Earnings (P/E)** is a valuation ratio of a company's current share price compared to its per-share earnings. **Slugging Ratio** measures the ratio of average gains on profitable investments versus the average losses on non-profitable investments. **Standard Deviation** defines how widely returns varied from an average over a given period of time. Higher deviation represents higher volatility. **Upward Revisions** represent positive changes to previous earnings estimates or earnings forecast and indicate a more positive or increased outlook for the company, portfolio or index. **WACC/ROIC Spread** is a performance metric that is equal to the difference between the WACC and ROIC. **Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC)** represents a company's average after tax cost of capital from all sources, including common stock, preferred stock, bonds and other forms of debt.

Artisan Partners Funds offered through Artisan Partners Distributors LLC (APDLLC), member FINRA. APDLLC is a wholly owned broker/dealer subsidiary of Artisan Partners Holdings LP. Artisan Partners Limited Partnership, an investment advisory firm and adviser to Artisan Partners Funds, is wholly owned by Artisan Partners Holdings LP.

ARTISAN PARTNERS