

# American Focus Private Portfolio

Q4 2023

## Management Philosophy

The American Focus Private Portfolio uses quantitative measures to identify stocks offering growth at a reasonable price.

- › Portfolio is constructed with a maximum of 25 American listed securities that have strong relative earnings momentum, dividend growth and are trading at reasonable valuation.
- › Portfolio aims to be 100% invested and can use up to 20% ETFs for diversification.
- › All holdings must have adequate liquidity.
- › All holdings must have a dividend.

## Top Holdings (52.4% of total portfolio)

Symbol	Description	Portfolio Weight	Income Yield
AVGO	BROADCOM INC	7.1%	1.9%
MSFT	MICROSOFT CORP	6.0%	0.8%
NVO	NOVO-NORDISK A/S ADR	5.6%	0.9%
LLY	ELI LILLY & CO	5.5%	0.8%
KLAC	KLA CORP	5.5%	1.0%
AAPL	APPLE INC	4.9%	0.5%
MCD	MCDONALDS CORP	4.7%	2.3%
ACN	ACCENTURE PLC	4.4%	1.5%
HD	HOME DEPOT INC	4.4%	2.4%
BHP	BHP GROUP LTD ADR	4.3%	10.2%

## Portfolio Performance

US Focus Private Portfolio	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	Since Inception
Performance*	6.0%	7.2%	18.3%	14.6%	16.5%	14.1%
Benchmark	8.6%	7.3%	21.3%	9.8%	13.1%	11.8%

US Focus Model	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	Since Inception
Performance*	6.0%	7.2%	18.3%	14.6%	16.5%	14.5%
Benchmark	8.6%	7.3%	21.3%	9.8%	13.1%	12.3%

## Portfolio Information

	American Focus Private Portfolio	American Focus Model Portfolio
Inception	January 26, 2017	September 12, 2014
Initial Minimum Investment	\$28,897	\$26,632
Distributions Made		\$6,100
Current Yield		2.8%
Current Investment		\$63,147 USD
Portfolio Manager	John (Jay) D. Nash, BA, CIM®, FCSI®	

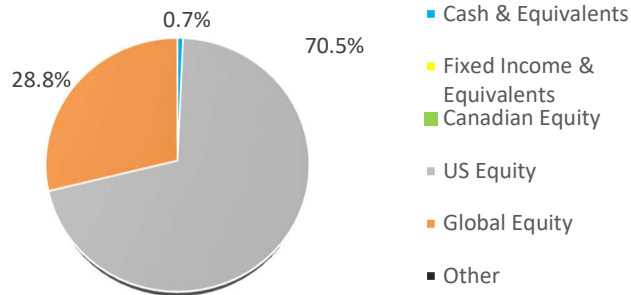
Benchmark Composition: 75% S&P 500 TR and 25% MSCI EAFE TR in Canadian Dollars  
Returns are before management fees in Canadian dollars. Data beyond 1 year is annualized.

- All reported data presented includes the cash balance set aside and available for investment in securities within the private portfolio. NBF statements exclude cash amounts from listed holdings in the section dedicated to the private portfolio.

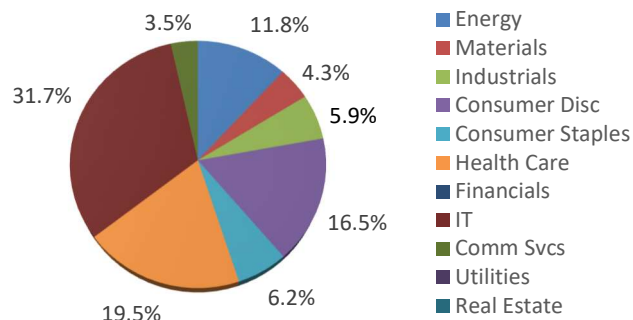
- The American Focus Private Portfolio was launched on January 26, 2017. A Model using a similar investment strategy was launched on September 12, 2014. Return figures are presented for informational purposes. The unit was dividend in two December 2019.

## Leading Families to Their Wealth Goals

### Asset Allocation



### Industry Weightings



## Management Commentary

2023 was a volatile year for equity markets globally. American stocks, specifically the largest cap tech names, held in better than most providing a boost to the overall index. The NASH American Focused portfolio benefitted from significant weightings in mega cap companies like **Apple** (AAPL) and **Microsoft** (MSFT) along with overweight exposures to Semiconductors (AVGO; KLAC; TXN) and Health Care names focused on incoming weight loss drugs (LLY; NVO). While the total return for the portfolio was slightly below the benchmark (75% SP 500; 25% EAFE), the year was a very good one and the portfolio continues to outperform on a since inception basis.

We don't think the weight loss story is over and will be maintaining exposure to Ozempic and Wagovy through positions in **Eli Lilly** (LLY) and **Novo-Nordisk** (NVO). At the same time, we believe that the 30%+ pullback in snack food providers, like **Pepsico** (PEP) are over done providing an opportunity to build our position.

We believe interest rates will be cut in 2024 providing a tailwind to the markets. Valuations do not appear to be "cheap", but investors are likely to move back toward stocks as risk free returns from cash and guaranteed income decline.

## Transactions

Added	Increased	Decreased	Removed
Golar LNG Ltd (GLNG)	Bristol Myers Squibb (BMY)	Novo-Nordisk (NVO)	Horizons USD Cash Maximizer ETF (HSUV.U)
	Pepsico Inc. (PEP)	Pfizer (PFE)	
	Johnson & Johnson (JNJ)		



I have prepared this commentary to give you my thoughts on various financial aspects and considerations. This commentary reflects my opinion alone, and may not reflect the views of National Bank Financial Group. In expressing these opinions, I bring my best judgement and professional experience from the perspective of someone who surveys a broad range of investments. Therefore, this report should be viewed as a reflection of my informed opinions rather than analyses produced by the Research Department of National Bank Financial. > National Bank Financial - Wealth Management (NBFWM) is a division of National Bank Financial Inc. (NBF), as well as a trademark owned by National Bank of Canada (NBC) that is used under license by NBF. NBF is a member of the Canadian Investment Regulatory Organization (CIRO) and the Canadian Investor Protection Fund (CIPF), and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NBC, a public company listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX: NA). > National Bank Financial may act as financial advisor, fiscal agent or underwriter for certain companies mentioned herein and may receive remuneration for its services. National Bank Financial and/or its officers, directors, representatives or associates may have a position in the securities mentioned herein and may make purchases and/or sales of these securities from time to time on the open market or otherwise. The particulars contained herein were obtained from sources we believe to be reliable, but are not guaranteed by us and may be incomplete. Unit values and returns will fluctuate and past performance is not necessarily indicative of future performance.