NEUBERGER | BERMAN

Neuberger Berman Genesis Fund

TICKER: Institutional Class: NBGIX, Class R6: NRGSX, Investor Class: NBGNX, Trust Class: NBGEX, Advisor Class: NBGAX

PORTFOLIO MANAGERS: Robert D'Alelio, Brett Reiner and Gregory Spiegel

Performance Highlights

Small-cap stocks, as measured by the Russell 2000 Index[1], appreciated strongly in the fourth quarter. The Neuberger Berman Genesis Fund also rallied meaningfully during the period but lagged the Russell 2000 Index.

After a weak start to the fourth quarter, the U.S. equity market rose sharply and capped off an outstanding year. The market declined in October as inflation remained elevated and there were expectations for a "higher for longer" interest rate environment. The market then rallied in November and December. The turnaround was largely driven by the Federal Reserve's (Fed) "pivot," as it indicated the likely end to rate hikes and potential for rate cuts in 2024, buoying hopes that the Fed could orchestrate a "soft landing." All told, the small-cap Russell 2000 Index gained 14.03% during the fourth quarter, boosting its 2023 return to 16.93%. In contrast, the large-cap S&P 500 Index rose 11.69% during the fourth quarter and rose 26.29% for the year.

Portfolio Strategy

During the fourth quarter, the Fund posted positive absolute returns in nine of the ten sectors in which it invests, but lagged the benchmark on a relative basis in all but one sector. This broad-based underperformance is indicative of a deep cyclical, lower-quality, speculative rally. During the period, investors went out on the risk curve in anticipation of an economic recovery and $10 billion was invested in small-cap exchange traded funds (ETFs). Historically, when a significant amount of capital is invested in passive small-cap portfolios, it boosts the performance of the lowest quality (least profitable, non-earning), speculative (smallest market caps) and cyclical (highest beta versus the overall market) stocks. This represented a material headwind to our strategy, which focuses on high quality companies with above average profitability protected by strong barriers to entry and durable business models with the ability to self-finance their own growth and muted cyclicality.

Looking at stock selection, the Fund's holdings in the Consumer Discretionary, Health Care and Technology sectors were the worst performers from relative performance. Within Consumer Discretionary, our Automobile Component and Specialty Retail positions lagged on a relative basis. Within the Consumer sector, we seek a balance between companies that sell "big ticket items" which are more cyclical and often require financing (e.g. housing, autos), and companies which sell "small ticket" items that tend to be less cyclical and more recurring (e.g. specialty retail, food, restaurants). Our companies are not immune to macroeconomic conditions, and we seek to avoid making outsized macro bets, instead focusing on investing in stocks that we believe can outperform through a cycle due to strong business fundamentals (e.g. pricing power, relatively high barriers to entry, limited inventory or fashion risk, strong free cash flow generation, accretive capital deployment). Within the Health Care sector, our high-quality positions underperformed the benchmark's more speculative and lower quality companies. Our Health Care names benefit from their high recurring revenue, free cash flow generative business models, diverse product offerings, low customer concentration, and solid balance sheets. These companies were generally out of favor in the fourth quarter. Within Information Technology, our largest Semiconductor position declined sharply on weak results amid a broader inventory drawdown across the industry. The company had significantly outperformed peers in the first nine months of the year and, while forward guidance was strong on a relative basis, it disappointed the market, resulting in a sharp sell-off in the stock. On the upside, stock selection in the Materials sector, led by the Chemicals industry, added to performance. Elsewhere, within the Industrials sector our Machinery positions were additive for returns. Many of our Machinery names benefited from elevated backlogs, which supported volume despite a normalization of pricing. Our companies continue to manage costs to preserve or grow margins and each enjoy favorable or improving balance sheets.

In terms of sector positioning, the Fund's lack of exposure to the outperforming Biotechnology industry was the largest drag on relative performance. Small-cap biotechnology companies generally do not meet our high-quality investment criteria, as they tend to be speculative, unprofitable, and require capital markets funding to operate. We also were underweight the Household Durable industry, which was up strongly during the period due to projected declines in interest rates. The benchmark's names in this industry are heavily populated with cyclical businesses that tend to have limited differentiation and are challenging to fit within our investment philosophy. Our underweight to Financials and a small cash position also detracted from relative performance. The Fund's underweight to Energy, the only sector in the benchmark with negative performance, added to relative results, as did our lack of exposure to the Utilities sector.

1 The Russell 2000 Index is an unmanaged index consisting of the securities of the 2,000 issuers having the smallest capitalization in the Russell 3000 Index, representing approximately 8% of the Russell 3000 total market capitalization. The smallest company's market capitalization is roughly $147 million.

It was another volatile year in the equity markets. During 2023, the Fund largely performed as we would expect in each material up- and down-market period (outperforming in the down-markets that were characterized by investor fear and uncertainty and underperforming in the up-markets when investor risk tolerance and speculation was on the rise). During the full year, the Fund appreciated strongly, but modestly lagged the Russell 2000 Index due to weak stock selection, which was largely offset by positive sector allocation. In terms of stock selection, holdings in the Industrials and Financials sectors were the largest drags on relative results. Within Industrials, several of our holdings declined due to company-specific factors and were a drag on relative results. Our Industrial holdings are balanced between steadier businesses that have a high percentage of recurring revenue and cyclicals that have greater sensitivity to economic conditions. We believe our holdings are well positioned to benefit from several secular megatrends over the coming years, most of which are still in the early phases. This includes infrastructure spending, reshoring, decarbonization, defense spending and a recovery in commercial aerospace. Our holdings have leadership positions in niche markets, strong technical expertise, durable customer relationships and/or relative scale. We believe these competitive advantages position them well through a cycle. Within Financials, our Banks underperformed the names in the benchmark, due in part to their higher valuations at the start of the period. We are underweight the Regional Bank industry and have reduced our exposure to this area of the market throughout the year, as we are cognizant of the challenging industry dynamics. Our bank holdings have conservative credit and risk management cultures, robust capitalization, long-term customer relationships and the ability to compound tangible book value over the long run. Stock selection was positive in the Health Care, Materials, and Technology sectors in 2023. Within Health Care, our Life Sciences Tools & Services positions added the most value, as these long held names benefited from the increased demand for their higher margin products, driven by the growth in drug research and GLP-1 demand. Within the Materials sector, our Chemicals and Containers & Packaging names outperformed. Within Technology, our high-quality Software names continued to outperform. The software businesses that we own can be characterized as having highly visible free cash flow streams, margin expansion opportunities and sell mission-critical solutions to customers with high customer retention and opportunities to up-sell additional solutions. Looking at sector allocation, an overweight to Software industry within the Information Technology sector added the most value. Our overweight in the Industrials sector and lack of Utility names also added considerable value. On the downside, the Fund's underweight to Regional Banks within the Financials sector and a small cash position were the largest drags on relative performance.

BEST AND WORST PERFORMERS FOR FOURTH QUARTER 2023[2]

Best Performers	Worst Performers
Fair Isaac Corporation	Lattice Semiconductor Corporation
Qualys, Inc.	Fox Factory Holding Corp.
RBC Bearings Incorporated	XPEL, Inc.
Kadant Inc.	NetScout Systems, Inc.
Eagle Materials Inc.	Oceaneering International, Inc.

2. Reflects the best and worst performers, in descending order, to the Fund's performance based on individual security performance and portfolio weighting and are determined by their contribution to the Fund's overall performance. Specific securities identified and described do not represent all of the securities purchased, sold or recommended for the Fund. Positions listed may include securities that are not held in the Fund as of 12/31/2023. It should not be assumed that any investments in securities identified and described were or will be profitable.

Best Performers

Fair Isaac Corp.

Fair Isaac Corp. provides decision management tools used to automate and improve business performance. The company is most known for its industry-standard "FICO" score that leverages the company's data scale and predictive analytics capabilities. The stock outperformed, driven by the anticipation of substantial price increases for its mortgage Scores product in 2024.

Qualys, Inc.

Qualys, Inc. is a supplier of cloud-based security and compliance solutions. The company has a leading market position in the vulnerability management market and has successfully launched additional add-on products over time. The stock performed well after reporting strong results and continued return of capital to shareholders in the form of a repurchase program.

RBC Bearings, Inc.

RBC Bearings, Inc. manufactures and markets highly engineered precision bearings, components and essential systems for the industrial, defense and aerospace industries. The company's competitive advantage is based on intangible assets, high switching costs and scale. The stock outperformed due to a positive outlook for defense and commercial aerospace, continued execution following the acquisition of Dodge Industrial and a reduction in leverage.

Kadant, Inc.

Kadant, Inc. is a global supplier of high-value, critical components and engineered systems. Its products and equipment are used in process industries such as paper/packaging, wood products, metals/mining, food processing and recycling/waste management. Kadant's competitive advantage is backed by high switching costs, as their capital equipment and aftermarket products are used in mission-critical manufacturing processes with high cost of failure. The stock outperformed due to stronger than expected quarterly results, a healthy backlog and attractive balance sheet.

Eagle Materials, Inc.

Eagle Materials, Inc. is a leading supplier of heavy construction materials and light building materials used for infrastructure and residential/non-residential construction projects. Eagle Material's cost advantage is supported by its vertical integration (raw material reserves, paperboard mills) and plant network. The stock outperformed due to a more favorable outlook for housing and construction and continued operational execution.

Worst Performers

Lattice Semiconductor Corp.

Lattice Semiconductor Corp. sells low-power programmable logic semiconductor chips. The company is a market leader in lower-power applications and its proprietary embedded software serves as an additional barrier to entry when compared to semiconductor peers. The stock underperformed as reported results were lighter than expectations due to an ongoing industry-wide inventory correction.

Fox Factory Holding Corp.

Fox Factory Holding Corp. develops and sells performance enhancing suspensions and other components for the mountain bike and power vehicle market. The company is innovation focused, with strong competitive advantages due to intellectual property, scale, market share, supply-chain, brand, and customer relationships. Longer term, the company is poised to benefit from expanding into adjacent markets and manufacturing efficiencies. The stock underperformed due to weak earnings results due to cyclical weakness in its bikes business, the United Auto Workers strike, and potential concerns over its Marucci acquisition.

XPEL, Inc.

XPEL, Inc. is a leader in the growing automotive paint protection film industry and leveraging its customer relationships and supply chain to expand into adjacent industries. The company is differentiated by its comprehensive bundled products and services offered to customers and has a high return/capital-light business model with a track record of strong free cash flow generation to self-fund growth. The stock underperformed due to potential competitive concerns from Tesla expanding its own product offering.

NetScout Systems, Inc.

NetScout Systems, Inc. designs, develops, manufactures and markets a family of products for network and application performance management. The stock underperformed on the back of weaker than expected third quarter results that highlighted continued cyclical headwinds in the company's end markets.

Oceaneering International, Inc.

Oceaneering International, Inc. is a leading services provider to the offshore and deepwater oil and gas industry. The stock underperformed amidst a broader pullback in the energy sector as commodity prices weakened.

Outlook

Over the past two years, the Fed has been squarely focused on restoring price stability with the goal of suppressing demand to bring inflation under control. Recent Fed commentary suggests the tightening cycle has peaked, while also indicating that rates will remain elevated. Overall economic activity remains relatively stable, with some indicators suggesting an economic cooling. Considering this backdrop, equity markets have remained highly sensitive to Fed commentary, inflation-related data points and economic indicators. Taking a step back, markets have potentially entered a new phase. Specifically, the cost of capital has risen materially, financing has become more difficult, and risk aversion has returned. That said, recent optimism around the potential for rate cuts has caused an easing in financial conditions and driven more risk taking. The risk of recession both in the U.S. and globally remains a possibility, but by no means is a certainty. With the macro trajectory clouded, we are striving to maintain balance in the portfolio. We remain confident that our high-quality portfolio of businesses with attractive financial characteristics, differentiated and durable business models, and sustainable earnings growth is well positioned to weather these uncertain times and deliver above-average risk-adjusted returns.

NEUBERGER BERMAN GENESIS FUND RETURNS (%)

	December 2023	4Q23	YTD	(ANNUALIZED AS OF 12/31/23) 1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Since Inception
Institutional Class	8.97	9.16	15.75	15.75	3.48	12.43	8.73	11.93
Class R6	8.98	9.20	15.89	15.89	3.58	12.54	8.82	11.86
Investor Class	8.96	9.13	15.59	15.59	3.32	12.25	8.55	11.77
Trust Class	8.94	9.10	15.48	15.48	3.22	12.15	8.46	11.74
Advisor Class	8.93	9.02	15.19	15.19	2.96	11.87	8.18	11.51
Russell 2000® Index	12.22	14.03	16.93	16.93	2.22	9.97	7.16	9.27

Performance data quoted represent past performance, which is no guarantee of future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original costs. Results are shown on a "total return" basis and include reinvestment of all dividends and capital gain distributions. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. For current performance data, including current to the most recent month end, please visit www.nb.com/performance.

* The inception dates for Neuberger Berman Genesis Fund Class R6, Institutional, Investor, Trust, and Advisor Classes were 3/15/13, 7/1/99, 9/27/88, 8/26/93, and 4/2/97, respectively. The inception date used to calculate benchmark performance is that of the Investor Class, which has lower expenses and typically higher returns than the Trust and Advisor Classes.

** Shares of the Class R6, Institutional Class, Trust Class and Advisor Class may not be purchased directly from the Fund's Investment Manager (the "Manager"); they may only be purchased through certain institutions that have entered into administrative services contracts with the Manager. Some classes are not open to all investors. See the prospectuses for details.

*** The Russell 2000® Index is a float-adjusted market capitalization-weighted index that measures the performance of the small-cap segment of the U.S. equity market. It includes approximately 2,000 of the smallest securities in the Russell 3000® Index (which measures the performance of the 3,000 largest U.S. public companies based on total market capitalization). The index is rebalanced annually in June.

Please note that the index does not take into account any fees, expenses or taxes of investing in the individual securities that it tracks, and that individuals cannot invest directly in any index. Data about the performance of this index are prepared or obtained by the Manager and include reinvestment of all dividends and capital gain distributions. The Fund may invest in many securities not included in the above-described index.

EXPENSE RATIOS (%)

	Gross Expense
Institutional Class	0.84
Investor Class	0.74
Class R6	1.00
Trust Class	1.09
Advisor Class	1.34

Gross expense represents the total annual operating expenses that shareholders pay (after the effect of fee waivers and/or expense reimbursement). The Fund's investment manager (the "Manager") has contractually undertaken to waive and/or reimburse certain fees and expenses of the Fund so that the total annual operating expenses are capped (excluding interest, brokerage commissions, acquired fund fees and expenses, taxes including any expenses relating to tax reclaims, dividend and interest expenses relating to short sales, and extraordinary expenses, if any) through 08/31/2027 for Class R6 at 0.75%, for Trust Class at 1.50%, for the Institutional Class at 0.85% and for Advisor Class at 1.50% (each as a percentage of average net assets). As of the Fund's most recent prospectuses, the Manager was not required to waive or reimburse any expenses pursuant to this arrangement. Absent such arrangements, which cannot be changed without Board approval, the returns may have been lower. Information as of the most recent prospectuses dated December 18, 2023, as amended, restated and supplemented.

An investor should consider the Fund's investment objectives, risks and fees and expenses carefully before investing. This and other important information can be found in the Fund's prospectus, and if available summary prospectus, which you can obtain by calling 877.628.2583. Please read the prospectus, and if available the summary prospectus, carefully before making an investment.

Past performance is not indicative of future results. This material is not intended to address every situation, nor is it intended as a substitute for the legal, tax, accounting or financial counsel of your professional advisors with respect to your individual circumstances. This material is based upon information that we consider reliable, but we do not represent that it is accurate or complete, and it should not be relied on as such. Portfolio holdings and opinions expressed are as of the date herein and are subject to change without notice. This material is not intended to be a formal research report and should not be construed as an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any security.

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Most of the Fund's performance depends on what happens in the stock market. The market's behavior can be unpredictable, particularly in the short term. There can be no guarantee that the Fund will achieve its goal. The Fund may take temporary defensive and cash management positions; to the extent it does, it will not be pursuing its principal investment strategies.

Foreign securities involve risks in addition to those associated with comparable U.S. securities.

An individual security may be more volatile, and may perform differently, than the market as a whole.

Markets may be volatile and values of individual securities and other investments, including those of a particular type, may decline significantly in response to adverse issuer, political, regulatory, market, economic or other developments that may cause broad changes in market value, public perceptions concerning these developments, and adverse investor sentiment or publicity.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively affected and could continue to affect the economies of many nations, individual companies and the global securities and commodities markets, including their liquidity, in ways that cannot necessarily be foreseen at the present time. Epidemics and/or pandemics, such as the coronavirus, have and may further result in, among other things, closing borders, extended quarantines and stay-at-home orders, order cancellations, disruptions to supply chains and customer activity, widespread business closures and layoffs, as well as general concern and uncertainty.

High public debt in the U.S. and other countries creates ongoing systemic and market risks and policymaking uncertainty.

The Fund may experience periods of large or frequent redemptions that could cause the Fund to sell assets at inopportune times or at a loss or depressed value. Redemption risk is heightened during periods of declining or illiquid markets.

From time to time, based on market or economic conditions, the Fund may have significant positions in one or more sectors of the market.

Compared to larger companies, small- and mid-cap companies may depend on a more limited management group, may have a shorter history of operations, and may have limited product lines, markets or financial resources. The securities of small- and mid-cap companies are often more volatile and less liquid than the securities of larger companies and may be more affected than other types of securities by the underperformance of a sector or during market downturns.

Value stocks may remain undervalued or may decrease in value during a given period or may not ever realize what the portfolio management team believes to be their full value.

A decline in the Fund's average net assets during the current fiscal year due to market volatility or other factors could cause the Fund's expenses for the current fiscal year to be higher than the expense information presented.

The Fund and its service providers, and your ability to transact with the Fund, may be negatively impacted due to operational matters arising from, among other problems, human errors, systems and technology disruptions or failures, or cybersecurity incidents. It is not possible for the Manager or the other Fund service providers to identify all of the cybersecurity or other operational risks that may affect the Fund or to develop processes and controls to completely eliminate or mitigate their occurrence or effects.

There can be no guarantee that the Portfolio Managers will be successful in their attempts to manage the risk exposure of the Fund or will appropriately evaluate or weigh the multiple factors involved in investment decisions, including issuer, market and/or instrument-specific analysis, valuation and environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors.

No risk management program can eliminate the Fund's exposure to adverse events; at best, it may only reduce the possibility that the Fund will be affected by such events, and especially those risks that are not intrinsic to the Fund's investment program.

The Fund may not be able to sell an investment at the price at which the Fund has valued the investment.

The **S&P 500 Index** is widely regarded as the standard for measuring large cap U.S. stock market performance and includes a representative sample of leading companies in leading industries.

The **Russell 2000® Growth Index** is a float-adjusted market capitalization-weighted index that measures the performance of the small-cap growth segment of the U.S. equity market. It includes those Russell 2000® Index companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth rates. The index is rebalanced annually in June.

As of 12/31/2023, the weightings of the Best and Worst Performers, in order listed above, as a percentage of Fund net assets were: Fair Isaac Corporation 2.50%; Qualys, Inc. 2.38%; RBC Bearings Incorporated 2.21%; Kadant Inc. 1.66%, Eagle Materials Inc. 1.85%; Lattice Semiconductor Corporation 1.92%; Fox Factory Holding Corp. 0.92%; XPEL, Inc. 0.00%; NetScout Systems, Inc. 0.31%; Oceaneering International, Inc. 0.68%.

Beta is a measure of the magnitude of a stock's past share price fluctuations in relation to the fluctuations in the stock market (as represented by the benchmark). While not predictive of the future, stocks with a beta greater than one have in the past been more volatile than the benchmark, and those with a beta less than 1 have in the past been less volatile than the benchmark.

The Global Industry Classification Standard ("GICS")SM is used to derive the component economic sectors of the benchmark and the fund. GICS was developed by and is the exclusive property of MSCI and Standard & Poor's. "Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS)," "GICS" and "GICS Direct" are service marks of MSCI and Standard & Poor's.