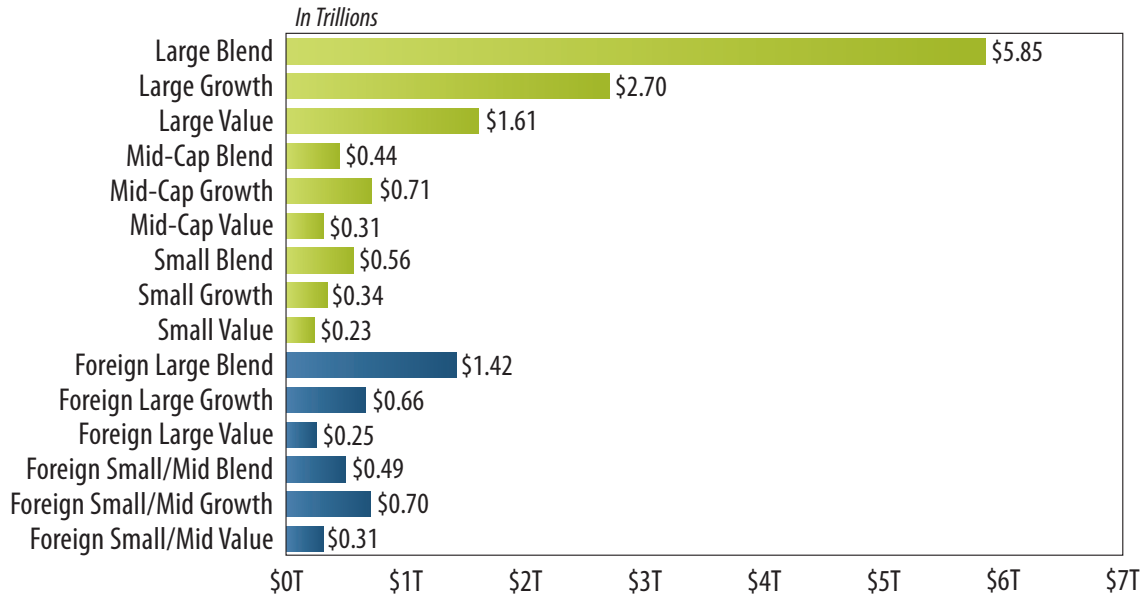


Many Investors Could Be Underweight U.S. Mid- & Small-Cap Stocks

Total Net Assets In Large-, Mid- & Small-Cap Mutual Funds/ETFs



Source: Morningstar (U.S.-based fund categories) as of 7/31/21.

View from the Observation Deck

1. Today's blog post focuses on equity asset allocation via market capitalization (cap). In other words, how much capital do investors commit to U.S. and foreign large-, mid- and small-cap stocks. We use mutual fund and exchange-traded fund (ETF) asset levels as a barometer.
2. As indicated in the chart, as of 7/31/21, investors had positioned a combined \$10.16 trillion in the three U.S. large-cap categories, while allocating just \$1.46 trillion and \$1.13 trillion, respectively, to the mid- and small-cap categories.
3. Overall, of the \$12.75 trillion allocated to these nine categories, 79.69% was in U.S. large-cap stock portfolios.
4. As of 7/31/21, investors had positioned a combined \$2.33 trillion in the three foreign large-cap categories featured in the chart, while allocating \$1.50 trillion to the three small/mid categories.
5. Overall, of the \$3.83 trillion allocated to these nine categories, 60.84% was in foreign large-cap stock portfolios.
6. With two exceptions, Mid-Cap Blend and Foreign Small/Mid Blend, investors have favored the blended portfolios, which have exposure to both growth and value stocks.
7. Year-to-date through 7/31/21, four of the 15 style/market caps featured in the chart reported estimated net outflows, and they were as follows: -\$43.56 billion (Large Growth); -\$2.56 billion (Mid-Cap Growth); -\$1.58 billion (Small Growth); and -\$882 Million (Mid-Cap Value), according to Morningstar.
8. While risk tolerance is always an important factor in determining where to allocate investment capital, the fact that mutual fund and ETF investors have just 20.31% of their capital earmarked for U.S. stocks in mid- and small-caps is a bit surprising, in our opinion. At a 60.84%/39.16% split, however, investors appear to be employing more of a balanced approach to allocating capital in the foreign mutual funds and ETFs.
9. From 12/31/99 through 8/30/21, a period that captures this millennium, the S&P 500 Index posted an average annualized total return of 7.37% (367.26% Cumulative TR), compared to 10.32% (741.15% Cumulative TR) and 10.60% (787.51% Cumulative TR), respectively, for the S&P MidCap 400 and S&P SmallCap 600 Indices, according to Bloomberg. Both mid- and small-caps outperformed their large-cap counterpart, as one might expect given the additional risk associated with smaller companies.

This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. The illustration excludes the effects of taxes and brokerage commissions and other expenses incurred when investing. There can be no assurance that any of the projections cited will occur. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of 500 stocks used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. The S&P MidCap 400 Index is a capitalization-weighted index that tracks the mid-range sector of the U.S. stock market. The S&P Small Cap 600 Index is a capitalization-weighted index that tracks U.S. stocks with a small market capitalization. The information presented is not intended to constitute an investment recommendation for, or advice to, any specific person. By providing this information, First Trust is not undertaking to give advice in any fiduciary capacity within the meaning of ERISA, the Internal Revenue Code or any other regulatory framework. Financial professionals are responsible for evaluating investment risks independently and for exercising independent judgment in determining whether investments are appropriate for their clients.