

Russell US Indexes Spotlight

QUARTERLY REPORT | APRIL 2025

Large caps and Value outperform during Q1 amid a broad pullback in US equities

The narrative around US exceptionalism was challenged over the quarter with higher inflation expectations and renewed concerns around economic growth complicating further monetary policy action. Long yields declined supporting rate-sensitive market segments. However, industry leaders from the last year such as Technology and Discretionary posted steep losses detracting from index returns.

Large caps outperform in Q1

Russell 1000 outperformed Russell 2000 in Q1, consistent with the 12M trend. However, both indices posted losses for the quarter. Segmenting the Russell 1000 further, the Top 200 underperformed the Midcap, in contrast to the 12M trend.

Value outperforms Growth

Both large-cap and small-cap Value indices outperformed their Growth counterparts in Q1. Russell 1000 Growth that held sway over 2024 saw a sharp reversal.

Tech and Discretionary detract significantly

Tech and Discretionary posted steep losses and detracted from index returns. Defensives such as Consumer Staples, Telecoms and Utilities bolstered returns.

Earnings outlook dips

The 2-year EPS outlook for both large and small caps dipped in Q1 after improving steadily over 2024. The earnings outlook for Russell 1000 Value held steady.

Valuations de-rate

Forward P/Es declined over Q1 for all except the Russell 1000 Value index.

Russell IPO inclusion activity declines

Russell 1000 and Russell 2000 included 1 and 7 new IPO names, respectively, in Q1, which was lower than the previous three quarters.

economic growth concerns resurfaced. —Russell 1000 — Russell 2000 — Yield 10 yr (RHS) 120 5.0

Chart 1: The US 10-yr govt yield declined by 36 bps in Q1 as

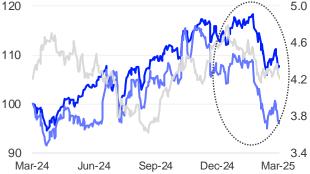


Chart 2: In Q1, US inflation expectations over the short term (1-3 years) rose steeply from 2.37% to 3.04%.



Source: FTSE Russell and LSEG. Data as of March 31, 2025. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. This report should not be considered 'research' for the purposes of MIFID II. Please see the end for important legal disclosures. For professional investors only.

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AUTHORS

Mark Barnes PhD Head of Global Investment Research, Americas Mark.Barnes@Iseg.com

Indhu Raghavan, CFA Manager, Global Investment Research Indhu.Raghavan@lseg.com

Index Performance

The first quarter of 2025 saw most Russell size and style segments in the red, as the narrative around US exceptionalism and the expected return on heavy capital investment in AI technologies was challenged.

As shown in Chart 1, both Russell 1000 and Russell 2000 posted losses, with the large-cap index outperforming the small-cap index as it has over 12M. In the large-cap space, Russell 1000 Growth experienced a sharp pullback over the quarter, as the AI-fueled tech rally stalled, in a reversal from its performance in Q4 2024 and over 12M. It steeply underperformed the Russell 1000 Value index, which was the only Russell style segment among large- and small-caps to post gains in Q1.

A further breakdown of the performance of the Russell 1000 into returns for the Russell Top 200 index and the Russell Midcap index (which constitutes those Russell 1000 stocks beyond the top 200) indicates that the pullback in Q1 was more pronounced in the Top 200 index, which underperformed the Midcap index over the quarter, in a reversal from the 12M trend.

In the small-cap space, both the Russell 2000 Growth and Value indices posted large losses. The Russell 2000 index draws a greater proportion of its revenue domestically than its large-cap counterpart, and the dampening of the US economic outlook toward the end of the quarter was potentially a larger headwind for small caps. The small-cap Growth index underperformed small-cap Value in Q1, in a reversal from Q4 2024.

Chart 1: In Q1, most Russell size and style segments posted losses with the notable exception of Russell 1000 Value. Over 12M, the Top 200 held sway, but it underperformed the Midcap index in Q1.

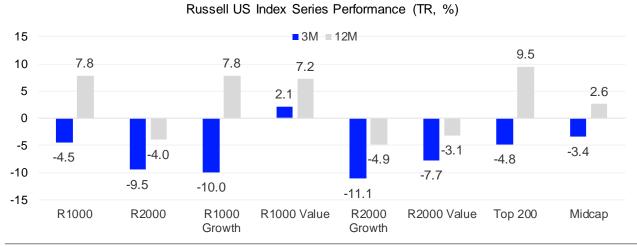
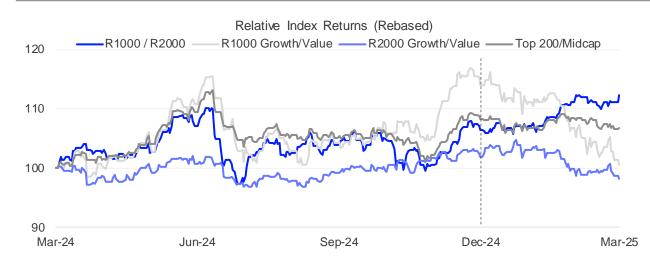


Chart 2: Over 12M, large caps still solidly outperformed small caps. Russell 1000 Growth just held its 12M lead over Russell 1000 Value despite Q1's underperformance. And Top 200's 12M outperformance of the Midcap index narrowed in Q1.



Macro Drivers

Over the course of Q1, the narrative around US exceptionalism was challenged. US inflation expectations rose, and some softer labor market and consumer sentiment data led to concerns around the US economic growth outlook.

As shown in Chart 1, US breakeven inflation over the 1-3 year timeframe rose by 0.68% over the quarter as markets digested the impact of proposed trade and tariff policies. In February and March, consumer sentiment surveys, such as those from the University of Michigan and the Conference Board indicated that consumers too had higher inflation and lower economic growth expectations over the near term.

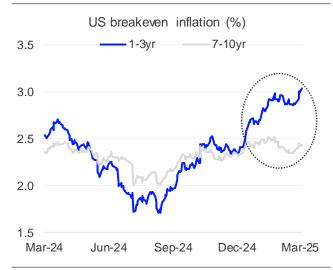
Chart 2 shows the US ISM Manufacturing index and Non-manufacturing composite index alongside the relative performance of the Russell 2000 and Russell 1000 indices. While the non-manufacturing component has been fairly resilient and in expansionary territory for most of the post-pandemic period, it is worth noting the dip in this index in March. Similarly, the manufacturing component, which had risen over Q4 2024, declined in February and March.

Polls for the US's real GDP growth rate for 2025 also reflected a steady rise in growth expectations over Q4 and through February this year, while the March number indicated a slight decline in expected 2025 growth (Chart 3).

In this macro context, the US Fed took a wait-and-see approach to further monetary easing. However, the US 10-year treasury yield declined by 36 bps over Q1 (Chart 4), possibly reflecting the growing pessimism around growth. Both the Russell 1000 and Russell 2000 indices declined alongside the 10-year yield.

Another key development in Q1 was the release of China's DeepSeek AI model, which challenged investor expectations of the return on heavy capital investment in AI technologies being made especially by Big Tech. However, these doubts were reflected in Tech industry performance across the market cap spectrum.

Chart 1: In Q1, US inflation expectations over the short term (1-3 years) rose steeply from 2.37% to 3.04%.





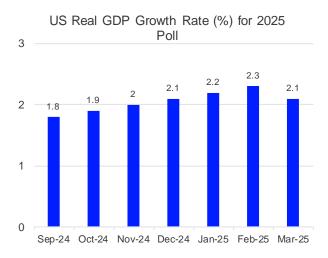


Chart 2: In March, both the ISM Mfg index and the Non-Mfg composite index dipped lower following a slew of softer data.

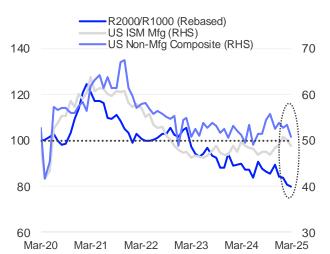
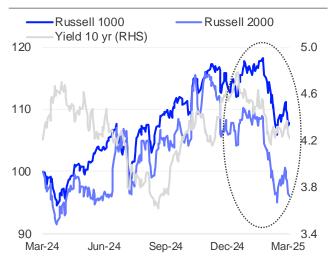


Chart 4: The US 10-year govt yield declined by 36 bps in Q1 as economic growth concerns resurfaced.



Industry Returns & Weights - Russell 1000 & Russell 2000

The US equity rally, which had begun to narrow in Q4 2024, stalled in parts during Q1 2025.

- In the large-cap space, Tech and Discretionary, which were major drivers of the US equity rally in 2024, posted steep losses. More defensive industries such as Consumer Staples, Utilities, Telecoms and Healthcare were in the green and helped bolster the Russell 1000 index's returns. Large-cap Energy was the third best-performing industry after Staples and Utilities, with a strong contribution from the Oil, Gas & Coal sector (pg. 7). A decline in US yields also supported large-cap Real Estate returns.
- Within the small-cap space, there was a more broad-based pullback in industry returns with Tech and Discretionary being the worst performers. Utilities and Staples were the only small-cap industries to post gains over Q1.

After Q1's performance, 12M returns were more muted and mixed than what was seen at the end of Q4 2024.

- Within large caps, Telecoms, Utilities and Financials were top performing. Tech and Discretionary were among the laggards (bottom 6 industries). Within small caps, Telecoms, Staples and Financials were the top three, followed by notable gains within Utilities. Small-cap Energy, Tech and Discretionary were the worst-performing.
- The largest performance differentials between Russell 1000 and Russell 2000 industries over 12M were in Energy and Technology.

Chart 2: 2024's broad rally moderated and stalled in parts over Chart 1: Over Q1, large caps saw steep losses in Tech & Discretionary, while most small-cap industries were in the red. Q1, leaving Tech & Discretionary among the laggards over 12M. 3M Industry Total Returns (%) 12M Industry Total Returns (%) Russell 1000 Russell 2000 Russell 1000 Russell 2000 **Basic Materials Basic Materials** Consumer Discretionary Consumer Discretionary **Consumer Staples Consumer Staples** Energy Energy Financials Financials Health Care Health Care Industrials Industrials **Real Estate** Real Estate Technology Technology Telecommunications Telecommunications Utilities Utilities -30% -20% -10% 0% 10% 20% -40% -20% 20% 40% 0% Industry Weights (%) 40% Russell 1000 Russell 2000 30% 20% 10% 0% Energy Basic Cons Cons Financials Health Industrials Real Technology Telecoms Utilities Materials Staples Estate Discr Care

Industry Returns & Weights - Russell 1000 & Russell 2000 Growth & Value

Industry performance in the Russell style indices was largely negative in Q1. Value outperformed Growth in several industries but small-cap Value also posted steeper losses in some.

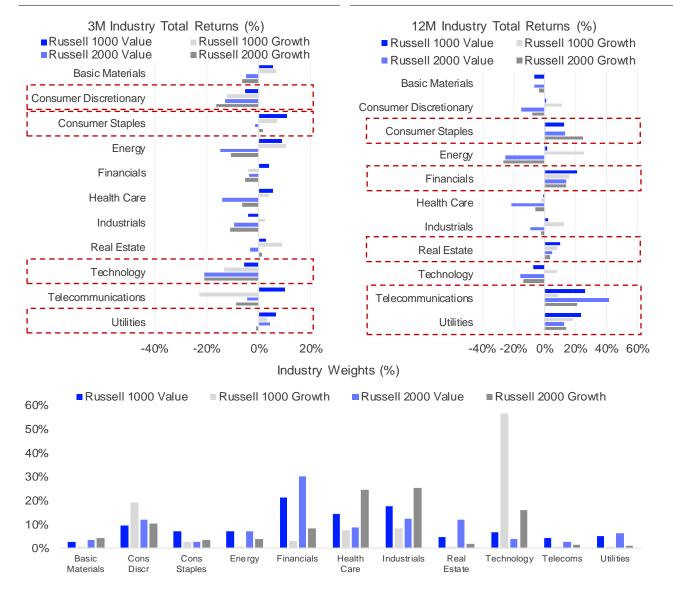
- Within large caps, Value outpaced Growth in industries like Telecoms, Financials and Technology. However, it also lagged in Industrials and Real Estate.
- Within small caps, Value outperformed Growth in defensives such as Utilities and Telecoms. However, Value stocks
 also posted steeper losses in industries like Health Care and Energy.
- Within Growth, large-caps mostly led their small-cap counterparts, notably beating small caps in Energy, Industrials and Basic Materials. Large-cap Telecoms was an exception.
- Within Value, large caps outpaced small caps broadly, notably leading within Energy.

Over the 12M timeframe, industry performance within the style indices was largely positive.

- Financials posted strong 12M performance despite pulling back in Q1 (with the exception of Financials within largecap Value).
- Defensives such as Consumer Staples, Telecoms and Utilities, as well as Real Estate posted strong returns across size and style segments.

Chart 1: In Q1, industry returns were largely negative. Value outperformed growth in several industries, e.g. Telecoms.

Chart 2: Over 12M, Financials returns were resilient across style indices. Defensives like Staples, Telecoms & Utilities were also up.



Industry Returns & Weights - Russell Top 200 & Russell Midcap

Chart 1: In Q1, Tech and Discretionary within Russell Top 200

10%

A comparison of the Russell Top 200 and Russell Midcap indices helps to better understand the variation in performance within Russell 1000, and in particular the performance and influence of the very large/mega-cap stocks. Russell Midcap represents about 27% of the market capitalization of Russell 1000 and 808 stocks of its constituents. The weighted-average market cap of companies within Russell Midcap was about US\$ 30B compared to about US\$ 1.06T for the Top 200 companies at the end of Q1.

- Over Q1, Technology and Discretionary were the worst-performing industries within both indices, however, the Top 200 Tech and Discretionary segments saw steeper declines than Midcap Tech and Discretionary. In other words, the mega caps in these industries suffered a larger reversal in performance over the quarter.
- Beyond Tech and Discretionary, Top 200 industries handily beat Midcap industries in Q1, with the exception of Midcap Utilities which edged out Top 200 Utilities. Midcap companies in Energy, Staples and Real Estate also posted gains.
- Over 12M, Top 200 industries beat Midcap industries except in Utilities, Energy and Real Estate. Among Top 200 industries, Telecoms was the best performing, followed by Financials and Utilities. Among Midcap industries, Utilities was the best performing, followed by Telecoms and Financials.
- It is worth noting that Russell Midcap has far lower exposure to Tech than Russell Top 200, while the midcap index has higher weights in Industrials, Real Estate, Utilities and Financials, among others.

Chart 2: Over 12M, Russell Top 200 industries beat Russell

saw steeper declines than within the Russell Midcap index. Midcap industries except for Utilities, Energy and Real Estate. 12M Industry Total Returns (%) 3M Industry Total Returns (%) Russell Top 200 Russell Midcap Russell Top 200 Russell Midcap **Basic Materials Basic Materials** Consumer Discretionary Consumer Discretionary **Consumer Staples Consumer Staples** Energy Energy Financials Financials Health Care Health Care Industrials Industrials Real Estate Real Estate Technology Technology Telecommunications Telecommunications Utilities Utilities -15%-10% -5% 0% 5% 10% 15% -40% -20% 0% 20% 40% Industry Weights (%) Russell Top 200 Russell Midcap 40% 30% 20%

0% Basic Cons Discr Cons Energy Financials Health Care Industrials Real Estate Technology Telecoms Utilities Materials

Russell 1000 Sector Contributions to Return*

Drilling deeper into Q1 performance at the sector level for the Russell 1000 industries:

- Within Discretionary, Autos & Parts, Retailers and Travel & Leisure detracted notably from industry performance.
 This was a major reversal from Autos & Parts' strong contribution over the previous quarter.
- Within Tech, both Software and Hardware detracted heavily from industry returns as the expected return on investment in AI technologies by Big Tech came into question with the release of China's DeepSeek AI model. This impacted all parts of the AI supply chain including chipmakers and equipment manufacturers.
- At the other end of the spectrum, Oil, Gas & Coal contributed significantly to Energy's performance, possibly linked to expectations of a supportive policy environment for the sector, while Alternative Energy detracted.
- Other sectors that contributed notably to their respective industry returns were Tobacco and Personal Care Drug & Grocery Stores within Staples, Pharma & Biotech within Health Care, Aerospace & Defense within Industrials, REITs within Real Estate, and Telecom Service Providers within Telecoms.

Table 1: Discretionary and Tech posted steep losses in Q1 with major detractions from Autos & Parts, Retailers, Travel and Leisure, Software and Hardware sectors. Oil, Gas & Coal and Telecom Service Providers were among notable contributors to industry returns.

	Avg.	Q1 2025			Q1 2025	
Sector	Weight	Contrib.	Sector	Weight	Contrib.	
Basic Material			Health Care			
Chemicals	59.1%		Health Care Providers	16.7%		
Industrial Materials	7.0%	-0.31%	Medical Equipment and Services	32.9%	0.09%	
Industrial Metals and Mining	27.5%	1.24%	Pharmaceuticals and Biotechnology	50.3%	3.57%	
Precious Metals and Mining	6.4%	1.67%	Industrials			
Consumer Discretionary			Aerospace and Defense	15.4%	1.00%	
Automobiles and Parts	10.5%	-3.29%	Construction and Materials	8.4%	-0.87%	
Consumer Services	5.3%	0.53%	Electronic and Electrical Equipment	7.5%	-0.62%	
Household Goods & Home Construction	2.5%	-0.28%	General Industrials	14.4%	-0.73%	
Leisure Goods	3.0%	0.05%	Industrial Engineering	8.0%	-0.14%	
Media	12.3%	-0.31%	Industrial Support Services	36.1%	-0.17%	
Personal Goods	3.6%	-0.89%	Industrial Transportation	10.2%	-0.61%	
Retailers	42.1%	-2.45%	Real Estate			
Travel and Leisure	20.7%	-1.20%	Real Estate Investment & Services Dev.	7.9%	0.15%	
Consumer Staples			Real Estate Investment Trusts	92.1%	3.20%	
Beverages	26.0%	1.78%	Technology			
Food Producers	18.8%	0.60%	Software and Computer Services	51.1%	-4.65%	
Personal Care Drug & Grocery Stores	41.2%	3.78%	Technology Hardware and Equipment	48.9%	-7.18%	
Tobacco	14.0%	3.50%	Telecomunications			
Energy			Telecommunications Equipment	41.4%	-3.24%	
Alternative Energy	1.3%	-0.35%	Telecommunications Service Providers	58.6%	6.42%	
Oil, Gas and Coal	98.7%	9.38%	Utilities			
Financials		Electricity	66.8%	2.79%		
Banks	30.5%	-0.36%	Gas, Water and Multi-utilities	22.5%	1.92%	
Finance and Credit Services	6.6%	-0.09%	Waste and Disposal Services	10.7%	1.43%	
Investment Banking and Brokerage Svcs	41.4%	0.69%				
Life Insurance	3.4%	0.14%				
Mortgage Real Estate Investment Trusts	0.5%	0.05%				
	47.00/	0.4504				

Source: FTSE Russell and LSEG. Based on Industry Classification Benchmark. *Index data shown here are from the Russell Capped Index Series, except for the Real Estate Industry. Data as of March 31, 2025. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

2.15%

17.6%

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Non-life Insurance

EPS Growth & Revision Outlook - Russell 1000 & Russell 2000

Consensus 2-year forecast EPS growth declined over the quarter for both the Russell 1000 and the Russell 2000 indices after they had risen steadily for most of 2024 as shown in Chart 1. (The 2-year forecast EPS growth is the expected growth rate of EPS over the two years from the next reported earnings.) The Q1 macro context for these forecasts was one of renewed concerns over the US economic growth outlook and rising inflation expectations.

At the end of Q1, analysts expected Russell 1000 earnings growth of 14.5% over the next two years, lower than the 15.6% growth expected at the end of Q4 2024. Russell 2000 forecast EPS growth declined to 18.6% from 19.4% at the end of the previous quarter.

Taking a 5-year view, forecast EPS growth had risen steadily since troughing toward the end of 2022 when rapid monetary tightening by the Fed had adversely impacted the outlook for US economic growth and corporate earnings.

Chart 2 shows the 2-year forecast EPS growth for the Russell Top 200 and the Russell Midcap indices, which have been very close recently. At quarter end, forecast EPS growth for the Midcap index stood at 14.9% versus the Top 200's 14.2%.

Revision ratios for Russell 1000 and Russell 2000 declined over Q1. They were negative and had stabilized around zero over 2024 (Chart 3).

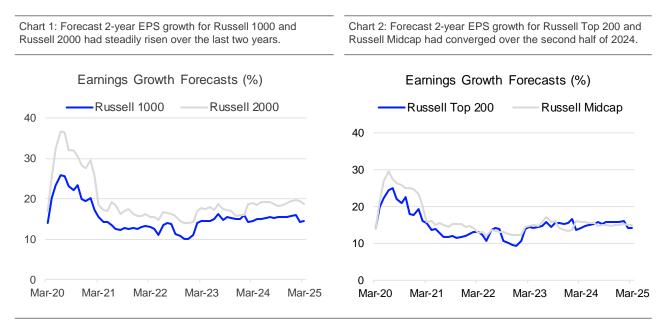
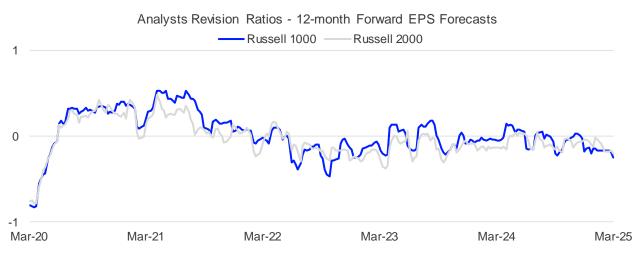


Chart 3: Revision ratios for the Russell 1000 and Russell 2000 steadily improved over the last 2 years and stabilized around zero over 2024. They dipped slightly over Q1 for both indices.



EPS Growth & Revision Outlook - R1000 & R2000 Growth & Value

The 2-year forecast EPS growth for Russell 1000 Growth declined from 18.3% at end-2024 to 16.4% at end-March. The forecast EPS growth for Russell 1000 Value was more stable at 12.3%, similar to the rate at year-end.

The forecast EPS growth for Russell 2000 Value also declined, from 17.9% at end-2024 to 16.6% at quarter-end. It was more stable for Russell 2000 Growth at 20.5%, which was a slight decline from 20.9% at year-end.

Taking a longer-term view, EPS growth forecast for both the large-cap and small-cap style segments had steadily improved since end-2022, and more so for the Russell 2000 Value index (Charts 1 and 3).

Over the quarter, earnings revision ratios declined for both size and style segments. Over the last two years, earnings revision ratios had stabilized around zero (Charts 2 and 4).

Chart 1: EPS growth forecasts for Russell 1000 Growth and Value rose steadily since 2022 but dipped slightly in Q1.

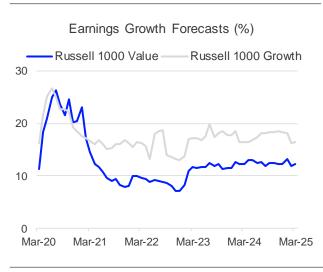


Chart 3: EPS growth forecasts for Russell 2000 Value improved markedly over 2024 but dipped during Q1.



Chart 2: Revision ratios declined over Q1 for the large-cap Growth and Value indices.

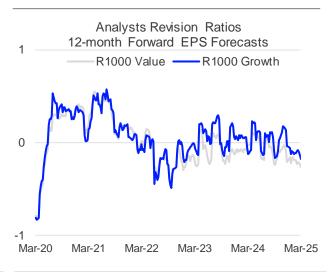
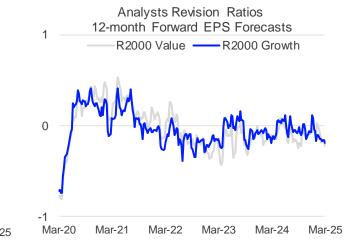


Chart 4: Revision ratios for the small-cap style indices declined in Q1. They had stabilized around zero over the last two years.



Dividend Yield – Trailing 12-Month

After declining over 2024 as US equities rallied, dividend yields have risen over Q1 2025 across the Russell size and style segments as their performance has moderated or pulled back over the quarter. At quarter-end, dividend yield for Russell 1000 was 1.38% and for Russell 2000 was 1.49%. Since mid-2023, the dividend yield for the small-cap index has been slightly higher than that for the large-cap index (Chart 1).

Dividend yields for the Russell Top 200 and Midcap indices have diverged since the first quarter of 2023, with the Russell Midcap index offering a markedly higher yield (Chart 2). This coincides with the start of the AI-fueled US tech rally with the release of Chat GPT in late-2022. At the end of Q1 2025, dividend yields for the Top 200 and Midcap indices stood at 1.28% and 1.67%, respectively. The Midcap index has higher exposure to traditionally higher dividend paying industries such as Financials, Utilities and Real Estate than the Top 200 index.

Value indices typically have higher dividend yields than their Growth counterparts, which is a result of their larger weights in traditionally steadier and more generous dividend payers in Telecom, Utilities and Financials, and smaller weights in Technology and other higher-growth industries that tend to pay little or no dividends.

Since 2021, dividend yields for the small-cap Value index have risen more significantly than for its large-cap Value counterpart. At quarter-end, the Russell 2000 Value index offered a dividend yield of 2.35% compared to the Russell 1000 Value's 2.10%.

Chart 1: Since mid-2023, the Russell 2000 has offered a slightly higher dividend yield than the Russell 1000.

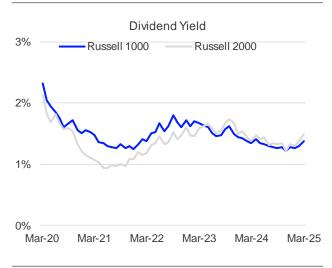


Chart 2: Russell Top 200's and Midcap's dividend yields have diverged since early-2023 around the start of the US tech rally.

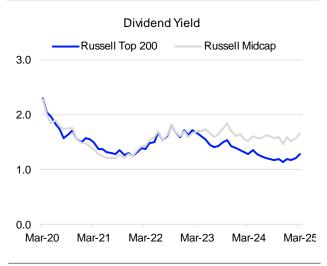


Chart 3: Russell 1000 Value's dividend yield has declined since end-2022 but stabilized over the last two quarters.

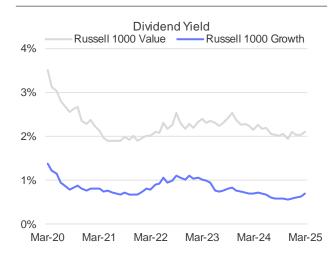
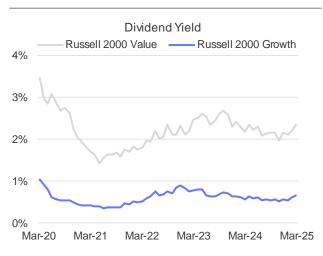


Chart 4: Russell 2000 Value has seen a marked rise in dividend yield since early-2021, even as the index has risen.



Valuation - 12-Month Forward P/E

Forward P/Es declined over Q1 for both the headline Russell indices and other size and style segments as equities pulled back broadly.

12-month forward P/E ratios peaked for Russell 2000, Russell Midcap and the large-cap and small-cap style cohorts around late-November and early-December 2024, after which they began to decline. Meanwhile, forward P/Es were more stable for Russell 1000 and Russell Top 200 until late-February 2025 before they dipped. It is worth noting that several softer indicators on US consumer sentiment and the February flash PMIs were released in late-February, which contributed to deteriorating expectations for the US economy and were reflected in poor index performance.

At quarter-end, the Russell 1000 index was trading at 20.7x slightly above its 5-year average (20.3x) and the Russell 2000 index was trading at 24.9x, below both its 5-year (26.4x) and 10-year (25.1x) averages. Russell Top 200 was trading at 21.7x at quarter-end, above its long-term averages, while Russell Midcap was at 17.9x below its long-term averages. Forward valuations for Top 200 and Midcap have also diverged since end-2022.

Both Growth cohorts de-rated sharply over the quarter, from 30.1x to 25.9x for Russell 1000 Growth and from 40.3x to 36.8x for Russell 2000 Growth. Valuations for the Russell 2000 Value index also contracted from 19.9x to 18.7x over the quarter. Forward P/Es for Russell 1000 Value rose to 17.0x (from 16.9x).

The small-cap valuation premium declined slightly over the quarter from 1.21x to 1.20x as small caps lagged large caps. The large-cap Growth premium over large-cap Value declined notably from 1.78x to 1.52x as Growth steeply underperformed Value among large caps.

Chart 1: 12M forward P/Es have risen steadily over 2024 for the headline Russell indices but they dipped over Q1.

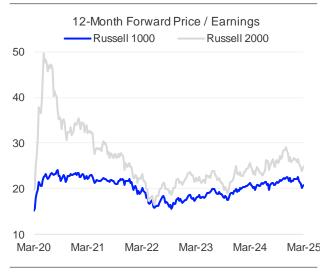


Chart 3: Russell 1000 Growth derated notably in Q1 while the 12M forward P/E for Russell 1000 Value was more stable.

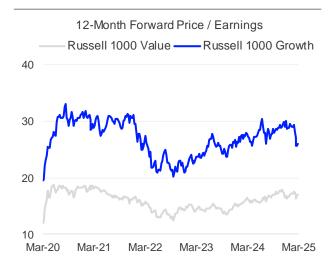


Chart 2: Russell Top 200 and Midcap valuations have diverged since end-2022 when the Al-fueled tech rally began.

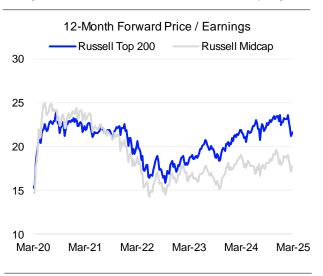
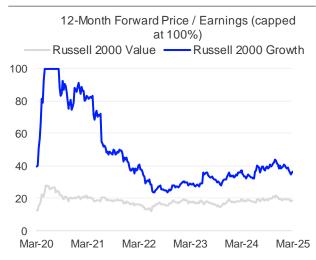


Chart 4: Russell 2000 Growth's premium over Russell 2000 Value declined slightly over Q1.



Source: FTSE Russell and LSEG. All data as of March 31, 2025. Price/Earnings ratio capped at 100%. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. FTSE Russell | Russell US Indexes Spotlight Q1 2025

IPO Additions

FTSE Russell adds eligible initial public offerings (IPOs) to its Russell US Indices on a quarterly basis, ensuring that the indices are always an accurate reflection of the markets they are designed to represent. Examining the history of such activity and its industry composition offers insights into market trends and investor sentiment.

While the number of IPOs each quarter tends to ebb and flow, the falloff over the past three years has been particularly dramatic, a likely effect of higher market volatility since 2020 and higher interest rates since 2022. IPO additions to the Russell family of indices had picked up since Q1 2024 but saw a decline in Q1 2025. Over the most recent quarter, Russell 1000 added one new name while Russell 2000 included seven new names for a total of 8 IPO inclusions to the Russell large-cap and small-cap indices (compared to an average of about 14 new names over the previous three quarters.)

From an industry standpoint, out of 8 inclusions, four were in small-cap Health Care, two in small-cap Energy and one in small-cap Tech. Large-cap Consumer Staples added one name. Health Care has historically dominated IPO inclusions, especially prior to the overall decline in IPO inclusions.

For more information, see Russell US Index IPO additions and reports.

Chart 1: Russell 2000 added 7 newcomers and Russell 1000 one new name in Q1. This represented a decline from the previous three quarters when IPO inclusions averaged about 14 new names in the large- and small-cap indices.

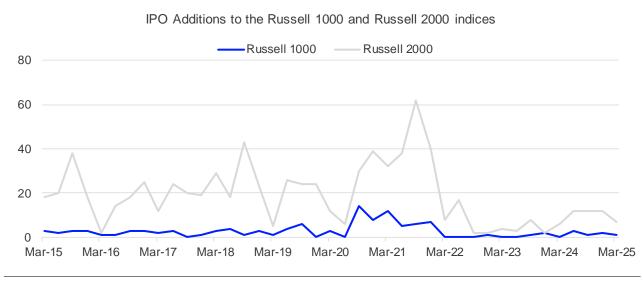
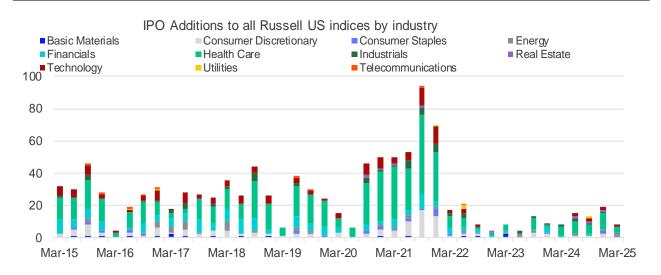


Chart 2: In Q1, there were four new Health Care names added to Russell 2000. Small-cap Energy and Technology added two and one new names, respectively. Large-cap Consumer Staples had one IPO inclusion.



Return & Risk – Rolling Three-Year Patterns

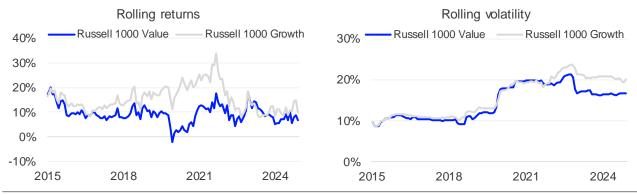
In the most recent 3-year period, Russell Top 200 offered the best return for unit risk followed by Russell 1000 Growth and the headline Russell 1000 index.



Both Russell 1000 and Russell 2000 rolling 3-year returns were slightly lower over the quarter, as small-cap volatility ticked up.



Rolling returns for Russell 1000 Growth and Value also settled lower at quarter-end, while risk remained stable.



Russell 2000 Growth's and Value's rolling return remained in positive territory, but realized volatility ticked up over Q1.





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To learn more, visit lseg.com/ftse-russell; email info@ftserussell.com; or call your regional Client Service team office: EMEA +44 (0) 20 7866 1810 Asia-Pacific North America +1 877 503 6437 Hong Kong +852 2164 3333 Tokvo +81 3 6441 1430

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