

Large Cap Growth Intra-Quarter Commentary—May 2026



Stocks continued to move higher in May, with major indices reaching new all-time highs. Investor enthusiasm fueled by positive developments for a resolution to the US-Iran conflict and renewed excitement around artificial intelligence (AI) were the primary drivers of the market's strong performance. Corporate earnings have also been a source of optimism, with first-quarter earnings growth tracking at nearly 29%, the best results in almost 5 years (*Source: FactSet*). Moreover, many companies noted during earnings calls that demand remains stronger than anticipated. In addition, the U.S. economy has managed to navigate macroeconomic headwinds and geopolitical uncertainties with growth that continues to surpass expectations. Looking ahead, the combination of oil price stabilization and possible easing geopolitical tensions with Iran could help reduce near-term inflationary pressures. Meanwhile, the potential for deregulation, higher tax refunds, and continued fiscal stimulus could further support equity performance in the near term. As the market climbs a wall of worry, we believe investors will continue to favor equities—provided the fallout from the Iran conflict remains subdued and economic growth remains robust.

Yet, despite the seemingly solid foundation for equities, several risks persist. Chief among them is renewed worry over persistent inflation and its negative impact on lower to middle-income households as elevated energy prices begin to affect affordability and consumer sentiment. There are already growing signs of pressure on U.S. consumers, with recent retailer earnings noting increased caution, spending restraint, and rising credit card delinquency rates. Given that consumer spending historically drives two-thirds of the U.S. economy, any further weakness could have broader economic implications. We also remain watchful of the sustainability of AI-related capital

SECTOR WEIGHTS & PORTFOLIO CHANGES ⁽¹⁾

Sector	Ending Weight ⁽²⁾	Change from 4/30/2026	Large Cap Growth Additions & (Large Cap Growth Deletions) ⁽³⁾
Information Technology	36.0%	1.7%	Nvidia
Industrials	16.3%	2.8%	Trane Technologies, Union Pacific
Consumer Discretionary	12.9%	-0.2%	
Health Care	10.1%	-1.5%	(Zoetis)
Financials	9.8%	-1.8%	(Houlihan Lokey)
Communication Services	7.7%	-0.2%	
Consumer Staples	3.7%	-0.1%	
Real Estate	1.7%	-0.2%	
Utilities	1.4%	-0.2%	
Cash	0.5%	-0.2%	
Energy	0.0%	0.0%	
Materials	0.0%	0.0%	

⁽¹⁾ Based on a representative account of the strategy discussed. Portfolio characteristics (e.g., sector weights, valuation, growth rate) are based on a representative account that we believe is illustrative of the strategy. All accounts in the strategy are invested identically in the same securities unless a client has imposed restrictions. Characteristics and/or holdings on a given date may vary due to pending trades.

⁽²⁾ Weights as of the end of the presentation period. Cumulative total weighting may not add up to 100% due to rounding of percentages to the nearest decimal place.

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Source: Renaissance Research, FactSet

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CONTRIBUTORS TO RETURN⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

Ticker	Company Name	Average Weight ⁽³⁾	Contribution to Return
TOP FIVE CONTRIBUTORS—LARGE CAP GROWTH			
LRCX	Lam Research	2.25%	0.47%
APP	AppLovin	1.32%	0.45%
AAPL	Apple	3.07%	0.43%
NBIX	Neurocrine Biosciences	1.90%	0.33%
AMAT	Applied Materials	2.42%	0.32%
BOTTOM FIVE CONTRIBUTORS—LARGE CAP GROWTH			
ZTS	Zoetis	0.82%	-0.55%
NRG	NRG Energy	1.51%	-0.22%
JLL	Jones Lang LaSalle	1.81%	-0.22%
ANET	Arista Networks	2.50%	-0.21%
GEV	GE Vernova	1.74%	-0.19%

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⁽³⁾ Average weights over the presentation period.

Sources: Renaissance Research, FactSet

expenditures that have been a major driver of the market's earnings growth rate. While investor enthusiasm for AI-related technology stocks remains high, many of these names are trading at historically elevated valuations that leave the market vulnerable. These headwinds reinforce our focus on high-quality growth stocks with more reasonable valuations.

In May, the S&P 500 returned 5.3% and the Russell 1000 Growth returned 7.2%. Large-cap stocks outperformed smaller cap stocks, and Growth outpaced Value, driven by a rotation back into high-growth companies levered to the buildout of AI infrastructure. The Information Technology sector was the primary contributor to benchmark performance in May, while Financials and Consumer Staples were the largest detractors. The outperformance of semiconductor stocks was a notable key driver, with the PHLX Semiconductor Index (SOX) returning 22.2% compared to 5.3% for the S&P 500 index overall. Similarly, while the S&P 500 gained 5.3%, the equal-weighted S&P 500 returned only 2.7%, a stark reminder of the narrow market we have seen over the past two months. According to FactSet, only ten tech stocks have accounted for nearly 80% of S&P 500 gains this year. The performance difference between the equal-weighted and cap-weighted S&P 500 remains one of largest we've seen since 1990. Our Large Cap Growth portfolio underperformed both the Russell 1000 Growth and the S&P 500 in May, primarily due to our smaller relative allocations to the technology stocks that drove most of the stock market's performance.

We made several changes to the portfolio in May. A new position was added in the Information Technology sector with **Nvidia** (NVDA), the leading semiconductor company, known for its dominant position in semiconductor chips used in the training and inferencing of AI-models. Despite its status as the clear leader in AI and a beneficiary of rising AI capital investments, the stock has significantly underperformed other semiconductor stocks over the past year, potentially

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setting up for a reversion in relative performance. We believe the launch of the company's next-generation Rubin architecture later this year could be the catalyst that will drive another wave of data center upgrade cycles as hyper-scalers take advantage of the step-up in energy efficiency. In addition, Nvidia is positioned to benefit as enterprises transition to the deployment of actual AI applications through its AI Enterprise software suite, which could become the de-facto operating system for corporate AI implementation. Conversely, we sold our position in **Zoetis** (ZTS) in the wake of deteriorating fundamental factors in our models following disappointing operating results. We believe that the operating environment for pet health has not stabilized as we had originally anticipated. Macroeconomic headwinds faced by consumers in the middle and lower-income strata have caused per-pet spending to decline, resulting in muted demand for veterinary services and lower sales of Zoetis's premium products, which are often sold in veterinary offices. Furthermore, we underestimated the duration of competitive pressures, as Elanco continues to gain share in Zoetis's largest markets, and overestimated the company's ability to launch new products, as new drug launches are delayed until next year. Looking ahead, we don't see any near-term improvements on the horizon as management tries to navigate another growth reset.

Lam Research (LRCX) was our best performing stock in May. Semiconductor equipment stocks, in general, benefited from investor enthusiasm for high-growth momentum stocks with direct exposure to artificial intelligence. In addition, the company's most recent operating results saw an increase in growth forecasts, driven by AI tailwinds, increasing chip complexity, and a continued shortage of memory chips. Another strong performer was **AppLovin** (APP). The stock benefited from accelerating growth as its advertising platform continues to gain significant traction despite an uncertain macroeconomic environment. More importantly, the company announced that its platform will become available to the larger e-commerce addressable market in June, attracting a broader set of advertisers. We remain positive about AppLovin's ability to scale up its customer base, driven by a wider deployment of its self-service portal to non-gaming advertisers.

Conversely, **Zoetis** (ZTS) was the worst performer in May after reporting disappointing quarterly results. The company continues to see pet owners reduce expenditures in the face of macroeconomic headwinds, negatively impacting veterinary visits, and resulting in lower demand for the company's premium products. In addition, competition continues to weigh on their largest dermatology segment, with lower priced alternatives taking incremental market share. Meanwhile new product introductions are being delayed, an unwelcome surprise as new products were expected to help Zoetis regain market share. **NRG Energy** (NRG) was another underperformer after reporting operating results that were below expectations. Adverse weather in Texas and higher supply costs drove much of the shortfall. Meanwhile, the company did not announce any new data center deals, which likely disappointed investors. Despite the short-term headwinds, we continue to believe that NRG will benefit from the current energy supply/demand environment, while several initiatives will eventually result in new data center contracts.

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(Indices are unmanaged and are not available for direct investment.)

PHLX Semiconductor Index—The PHLX Semiconductor Index (SOX) is a capitalization-weighted index composed of 30 semiconductor companies that is widely used to gauge the health of the tech hardware sector.

Russell 1000 Growth Index—The Russell 1000[®] Growth Index is a market capitalization weighted index that measures the performance of those Russell 1000[®] companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values.

S&P 500 Index—The S&P 500 Stock Index is a market capitalization weighted index and consists of 500 stocks chosen for market size, liquidity and industry group representation.

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