# Third Quarter 2010

# Quarterly Commentary

| Ticker | Investment Advisor           | Benchmark                 | Morningstar Category | Investment Objective |
|--------|------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| PGGAX  | T. Rowe Price/Brown Advisory | Russell 1000 Growth Index | Large Growth         | Growth               |

### Economy & Market Overview

Following second-quarter losses, U.S. and international stocks bounced back markedly in the third quarter as weakening in the U.S. and China appeared to have ended. Worries of a double-dip U.S. recession slowly ebbed when key economic data came in slightly ahead of expectations, and concerns about China's slowing growth faded as its economy picked up steam.<sup>1</sup>

Meanwhile, data released in August showed that the euro zone grew at a 3.9% annual rate during the second quarter, driven by tremendous growth in Germany. However, in the third quarter the euro zone's growth rate began slowing, and worries mounted about the possibility of a sovereign debt default or restructuring for some of the region's more troubled members (e.g., Ireland, Greece, Portugal). Additionally, continued strikes by public workers raised concern that necessary government spending cuts might not be implemented.<sup>1</sup>

Key U.S. economic data released during the quarter was mixed, but showed some slight, unexpected improvement: While the unemployment rate remained at 9.6%, an unexpected decrease in weekly initial jobless claims during September gave investors some hope that the unemployment situation may become less bleak. <sup>2</sup> Second-quarter 2010 GDP was positive at 1.7%; however, it was substantially lower than the 3.7% gain posted in the first quarter as inventories decreased and imports grew faster than exports. <sup>3</sup> Housing market data was weak in July, but ended the quarter on a modestly favorable note. A drop in new-home sales during July tapered off in August to a seasonally-adjusted annual rate of 288,000. <sup>4</sup> Existing-home sales rose 7.6% month-over-month in August, but still remained 19% below August 2009. <sup>5</sup> After improving in August, consumer confidence fell in September, reflecting consumers' grim outlook on future economic growth and job prospects. <sup>6</sup>

In September, the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), which has sole responsibility for determining when U.S. recessions officially begin and end, determined that the recession that began in December 2007 ended in June 2009. The NBER also stated that at 18 months, it was the longest of any recession since World War II.<sup>7</sup>

Meanwhile, at its September meeting the Federal Reserve made no changes to its extremely accommodative monetary policy given the slowing pace of recovery in output and employment and noted that it is prepared to "provide additional accommodation if needed to support the economic recovery." 8

During the third quarter, the broad U.S. stock market posted a return of 11.5% as all sectors within the Russell 3000 Index delivered positive returns. Telecommunications led the way, returning 20.1%, while financial stocks performed the weakest with a modest 5.5% gain. Financials were under pressure as investors continued to grapple with the changing landscape of regulatory reform and how it might impact the capital structure and growth opportunities for the industry. For the quarter, growth styles outperformed value, and small-cap stocks underperformed large-caps. To

International markets performed even better than U.S. markets, with developed markets delivering a third-quarter return of 16.5%, led by the energy, telecom and materials sectors. Emerging markets generated a return of 18.0% for the quarter, propelled by the consumer discretionary and industrial sectors. <sup>11</sup>

Real estate outperformed the broad U.S. market, returning 13.2% for the quarter. <sup>12</sup> Although the sector's fundamentals remained uncertain, improved access to capital for commercial real estate properties, combined with their attractive dividend yield, fueled continued demand for the asset class.

In a change from their apparent risk aversion during the second quarter, investors seemed to favor riskier fixed-income asset classes in the third quarter. This switch likely reflected, in part, investors' need for yield at a time when U.S. Treasuries are delivering very low rates (for example, relatively low-risk 10-year Treasuries yielded just 2.52% at quarter-end). In terms of investment-grade bonds, commercial mortgage-backed securities led the way, outpacing duration-adjusted Treasuries by 4.05% for the quarter. High-yield bonds (which are below-investment-grade) also performed well, advancing 4.26% ahead of duration-adjusted Treasuries. Is Also during the period, the yield curve flattened as the distance between 2- and 10-year Treasury yields fell from 2.36% (at the end of the second quarter) to 2.09% (at the end of the third quarter).

### Performance Contributors

### Positive Contributors

### During last quarter:

Stock selection was strong overall, led by the information technology sector. In fact, seven of the 10 largest individual contributors to positive returns came from the information technology sector. An average 1% underweight to the energy sector aided performance as this sector lagged the benchmark index (the Russell 1000 Growth Index). The portfolios's higher price-to-earnings ratio than that of the index benefited returns as well.

### During last 12 months:

Overall stock selection was strong. Similar to the quarter, most of the strong selection came from the information technology sector. The largest individual contributor was an overweight to Salesforce.com Inc. Sector allocations relative to the benchmark index added to returns, led by an average 1% overweight to the telecommunication services sector; although this sector is a very small part of the index, it generated the strongest returns during the period. The portfolio's smaller average market capitalization than that of the index benefited relative performance during the period.

### **Negative Contributors**

### During last quarter:

Sector allocations relative to the index detracted from performance, particularly an average 3% underweight to the materials sector, as materials generated the strongest sector returns within the index. Although stock selection was strong overall, it was negative in the health care sector. The largest individual detractor was an overweight to the underperforming Covance Inc. Additionally, the portfolio's smaller market capitalization profile than that of the benchmark index detracted from returns during the period.

### During last 12 months:

The portfolio's average 2% overweight to the energy sector detracted from returns. Also, although stock selection was strong overall, it was negative in the financial sector. The largest individual detractor was an overweight to Charles Schwab Corp. Additionally, the portfolio's lower dividend yield than that of the index hurt performance during the 12-month period.

### Changes to the investment option's structure or portfolio:

No material changes occurred in the portfolio structure.

### Performance

Investment results shown represent historical performance and do not guarantee future results. Investment returns and principal values fluctuate with changes in interest rates and other market conditions so the value, when redeemed may be worth more or less than original costs. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data shown. The gross fund expense figure does not reflect any waivers or caps on the mutual fund. Performance shown reflects the application of net expenses of the fund. For more performance information, including most recent month-end performance, visit principalfunds.com, or contact your financial representative of The Principal.

In situations where the net and gross fund expense figures are different, the investment manager has contractually agreed to limit the investment option's expense. Differences may also be shown due to the investment manager choosing to pay certain expenses that would normally be payable by the fund. The gross fund expense figure does not reflect any waivers or caps on the mutual fund. Performance shown reflects the application of net expenses of the fund.

| Average Annual Total Returns (%) as of 09/30/2010 | QTR   | YTD  | 1 Year | 3 Year | 5 Year | 10 Year | Since<br>Inception |
|---|-------|------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------------------|
| LargeCap Growth Fund I (A) (excl. sales charge)   | 14.08 | 6.29 | 14.91  | -3.33  | 2.25   | -       | -1.41              |
| LargeCap Growth Fund I (A) (incl. sales charge)   | 7.73  | 0.51 | 8.62   | -5.15  | 1.09   | -       | -1.98              |
| Russell 1000 Growth Index                         | 13.00 | 4.36 | 12.65  | -4.36  | 2.06   | -3.44   | -                  |
| Large Growth Category                             | 12.66 | 3.38 | 10.34  | -6.06  | 1.18   | -2.22   | -                  |
| Morningstar Percentile Ranking                    | -     | -    | 11     | 15     | 27     | -       | -                  |
| Total Funds in Category                           | 1789  | 1759 | 1743   | 1518   | 1279   | 752     | -                  |

| Inception Date                      | 06/28/2005 |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Ext. Perf. Inc. Date                | 12/06/2000 |
| Total Inv. Exp Gross                | 1.86       |
| Total Inv Exp Net                   | 1.43       |
| Waiver Date                         | 11/12/2010 |
| Contractual Cap Date                | 11/12/2010 |
| Contingent Deferred<br>Sales Charge | -          |
| Maximum Up-front<br>Sales Charge    | 5.50       |

These calculated returns reflect the historical performance of the oldest share class of the fund, adjusted to reflect a portion of the fees and expenses of this share class. Please see the fund's prospectus for more information on specific expenses, and the fund's most recent shareholder report for actual date of first sale. Expenses are deducted from income earned by the fund. As a result, dividends and investment results will differ for each share class.

This investment option maintains a voluntary waiver which is reflected in the value displayed for Total Investment Expense - Net. This waiver may be discontinued at any time.

# Statistics Summary as of 09/30/2010

|                            | Risk and Return Statistics Summary |      |       |        |       | Upside/Downside Capture Ratio        |          |           |                |       |                  |        |                |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|------|-------|--------|-------|--------------------------------------|----------|-----------|----------------|-------|------------------|--------|----------------|
|                            | Alpha                              | Beta | R2    | Sharpe | Info  | Std<br>Dev                           | Std      |           | # of<br>Months |       | Avg<br>Returns % |        | rket<br>mark % |
|                            |                                    |      |       | Ratio  | Ratio |                                      | Up       | Down      | Up             | Down  | Up               | Down   |                |
|                            | 3 Year Return vs. Rank             |      |       |        |       | 3 Year Upside/Downside Capture Ratio |          |           |                |       |                  |        |                |
| LargeCap Growth Fund I (A) | 1.92                               | 1.09 | 96.51 | -0.06  | 0.20  | 24.65                                | 20       | 16        | 5.33           | -6.02 | 111.85           | 106.04 |                |
| Russell 1000 Growth Index  | N/A                                | N/A  | N/A   | N/A    | N/A   | N/A                                  | 19       | 17        | 4.77           | -5.68 | 100.00           | 100.00 |                |
|                            | 5 Year Return vs. Rank             |      |       |        |       | 5 Year Up                            | side/Dow | nside Cap | oture Ratio    | )     |                  |        |                |
| LargeCap Growth Fund I (A) | 0.44                               | 1.08 | 95.94 | 0.08   | 0.04  | 19.72                                | 36       | 24        | 4.10           | -4.24 | 106.49           | 105.19 |                |
| Russell 1000 Growth Index  | N/A                                | N/A  | N/A   | N/A    | N/A   | N/A                                  | 33       | 27        | 3.85           | -4.03 | 100.00           | 100.00 |                |

Risk and return statistical data is provided by Markov Processes International (MPI). Risk & Return Statistics Summary results are based on performance excluding sales charges. Percentile rankings are based on total returns in accordance with the appropriate Morningstar peer group. Please see Important Notes section for definitions of Risk and Return Statistics.

# Top Ten Holdings as of 08/31/2010

| Security                  | Net Assets (%) |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Apple, Inc.               | 4.90           |
| Google, Inc.              | 4.08           |
| Qualcomm, Inc.            | 2.86           |
| Schlumberger, Ltd.        | 2.32           |
| Danaher Corporation       | 2.31           |
| Allergan, Inc.            | 2.09           |
| MasterCard Incorporated A | 2.05           |
| S&P FUTURE - SEP2010      | 2.05           |
| Accenture PLC             | 2.00           |
| Amazon.com, Inc.          | 1.79           |
| Total % in Top 10         | 26.44          |

Page 4

| Manager(s)         | Start Date | Degree | Alma Mater                            |  |  |  |
|--------------------|------------|--------|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Robert W. Sharps   | 08/19/2004 | M.B.A. | University of Pennsylvania (Wharton)  |  |  |  |
| Mariateresa Monaco | 06/02/2009 | M.B.A. | Massachusetts Institute of Technology |  |  |  |
| Kenneth M. Stuzin  | 07/14/2009 | M.B.A. | Columbia University                   |  |  |  |

### **Fund Strategy**

The investment seeks to maximize long-term capital appreciation. The fund invests primarily in growth-oriented equity securities of U.S. and, to a limited extent, foreign companies with large market capitalizations that exhibit strong growth and free cash flow potential. It normally invests at least 80% of net assets (plus any borrowings for investment purposes) in equity securities of companies with market capitalizations within the range of companies in the Russell 1000 Growth index at the time of purchase.

#### About T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc.

Founded in 1937, T. Rowe Price is a global investment management firm committed to providing investment management excellence, world-class service and guidance to institutional and individual investors worldwide. T. Rowe Price provides a broad array of proprietary mutual funds, sub-advisory investment services and separate account management for individual and institutional investors, retirement plans and financial intermediaries. Headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland, T. Rowe Price has offices in Buenos Aires, Hong Kong, London, Toronto, Sydney, Luxemburg, Stockholm, Singapore, Denmark, Amsterdam, Tokyo and Zurich.As of December 31, 2009, T. Rowe Price managed more than \$391.3 billion in assets for some of the world's leading corporations, public retirement plans, foundations, endowments and individual clients. The investment management services span the full range of U.S. and non-U.S. equity, fixed-income and multi-asset-class investment styles. T. Rowe Price's disciplined, risk-aware investment approach focuses on diversification, style consistency and fundamental research. The T. Rowe Price investment approach strives to achieve superior performance but is always mindful of the risks incurred relative to the potential rewards.

### **About Brown Advisory**

Brown Advisory (Brown) was founded in 1993 as an investment management arm of Alex Brown & Sons, an investment bank founded in 1800. When Alex Brown & Sons was acquired by Bankers Trust, Brown became independently owned through an employee-led buyout in 1998. The firm is headquartered in Baltimore, with offices in Washington, Boston and London. Brown is employee-owned, and each of the 250 employees has an equity interest in the firm. With over \$17 billion in client assets as of December 31, 2009, the firm and its affiliates strive to meet each investor's unique requirements through a broad array of investment styles and asset classes, including domestic equities, international equities, green equities, fixed income, private equity, real estate and other alternative assets.

# You're in good company with Principal Funds

### GLOBAL INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

- A wide range of mutual funds in all core asset classes and investment styles, as well as several niche funds to help you explore new investment opportunities for your clients.
- The extensive asset management capabilities of a number of leading sub-advisors including Principal Global Investors and its boutique affiliates.

### ASSET ALLOCATION EXPERTISE

- Turnkey assets allocation solutions--including target-risk and target-date funds--to help deepen your client relationships and simplify your life.
- Asset allocation strategies powered by our risk-managed fund, including alternative asset classes.

### RETIREMENT LEADERSHIP

Training, advanced strategies, and dedicated retirement specialists to help you capture a
great share of the rollover IRA market.

### principalfunds.com



Principal Funds is a leading provider of mutual fund solutions for individual investors and retirement plans, with approximately \$55.1 billion in mutual fund assets under management (as of June 30, 2010). Principal Funds has special expertise in providing asset allocation solutions, and is the 5th largest manager of lifecycle funds in the nation based on target-date and target-risk mutual fund assets under management (according to Financial Research Corporation, as of March 31, 2010). Principal Funds are distributed through a nationwide network of independent financial professionals affiliated with brokerage and financial planning firms.

### **Important Notes**

Principal Funds, Inc. is distributed by Principal Funds Distributor, Inc., member of the Principal Financial Group®. Principal Funds Distributor, Principal Shareholder Services, Principal Management Corporation and its affiliates, and Principal Funds, Inc. are collectively referred to as Principal Funds.

Before investing in mutual funds, investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of the funds. This and other information is contained in the free prospectus, which can be downloaded from our site, by visiting principal.com, or by contacting us at 1.800.222.5852. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing.

The value of the investment options will fluctuate so that when redeemed, shares or units may be worth more or less than the original cost.

Returns shown for periods of less than one year are not annualized. All returns displayed here are after Total Investment Expense of the investment option. Any operating expenses of a mutual fund or underlying mutual fund that are part of net Total Investment Expense are obtained from the mutual fund's most recent prospectus. The operating expenses shown as part of the Total Investment Expense include voluntary expense limits and fee credit.

© 2010 Morningstar, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Part of the mutual fund data contained herein: (1) is proprietary to Morningstar and/or its content providers; (2) may not be copied or distributed; and (3) is not warranted to be accurate, complete, or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information.

These calculated returns reflect the historical performance of the oldest share class of the fund, adjusted to reflect a portion of the fees and expenses of this share class. Please see the fund's prospectus for more information on specific expenses, and the fund's most recent shareholder report for actual date of first sale. Expenses are deducted from income earned by the fund. As a result, dividends and investment results will differ for each share class.

This investment option maintains a voluntary waiver which is reflected in the value displayed for Total Investment Expense - Net. This waiver may be discontinued at any time.

The manager of the Fund, Principal Management Corporation, invests between 10% and 40% of the Fund's assets in common stocks in an attempt to match or exceed the performance of the Fund's benchmark index for performance.

Effective July 14, 2009, Brown Advisory was added as an additional sub-advisor. Performance results displayed reflect all sub-advisors managing this portfolio during the time periods displayed.

Effective July 1, 2010, this fund is closed to new investors. Effective August 5, 2010, this fund is closed to new assets.

principalfunds.com



Principal Life Insurance Company, Des Moines, Iowa 50392-0001, principal.com 09/2010 #t10101903dg

# **Important Notes**

Russell 1000 Growth Index is a market-capitalization weighted index of those firms in the Russell 1000 with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values.

Extended Performance Inception Date (Ext. Perf. Inc. Date) - Inception date of the oldest share class of the fund.

#### **Risk and Return Statistics:**

**Alpha** - The difference between an investment's actual returns and its expected performance, given its level of risk (as measured by beta).

**Beta** - An investment's sensitivity to market movements.

**R-squared** - Ranges from 0 to 100 and reveals how closely an investment's returns track those of a benchmark index.

**Standard Deviation** - Measures how much an investment's returns are likely to fluctuate.

**Sharpe Ratio** - Measures how an investment balances risks and rewards. The higher the Sharpe ratio, the better the investment's historical risk-adjusted performance.

**Information Ratio** - A risk-adjusted measure commonly used to evaluate an active manager's involvement skill. It's defined as the manager's excess return divided by the variability or standard deviation of the excess return.

<sup>1</sup> On the Other Hand: Economic Insights, Third Quarter 2010 edition, by Bob Baur and the Principal Global Investors Economic Committee

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: Employment Situation Summary 9/3/2010 www.bls.gov)

<sup>3</sup> Bureau of Economic Analysis, US Dept of Commerce (www.bea.gov)

<sup>4</sup> National Association of Home Builders (www.nahb.com)

<sup>5</sup> National Association of Realtors (www.realtor.org)

<sup>6</sup> Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index, September 28, 2010 (www.conference-board.org)

<sup>7</sup> Business Cycle Dating Committee, National Bureau of Economic Research, September 20, 2010 (www.nber.org)

<sup>8</sup> Federal Reserve Board press release dated September 21, 2010 (www.federalreserve.gov)

<sup>9</sup> Russell 3000 Index

principalfunds.com



Principal Life Insurance Company, Des Moines, Iowa 50392-0001, principal.com 09/2010 #t10101903dq

# **Important Notes**

- <sup>10</sup> Russell family of indexes
- <sup>11</sup> Developed international markets: MSCI EAFE Index; emerging international markets: MSCI EM Index
- <sup>12</sup> MSCI US REIT Index
- <sup>13</sup> Source: FactSet, constant maturity US Treasury yield
- <sup>14</sup> As measured by components of Barclays Capital Aggregate Bond Index
- <sup>15</sup> As measured by components of Barclays Capital High Yield Index
- <sup>16</sup> Source: FactSet, constant maturity US Treasury yield

This report is not complete unless all pages, as noted below, are included.

principalfunds.com



Principal Life Insurance Company, Des Moines, Iowa 50392-0001, principal.com 09/2010 #t10101903dq