# <sup>31 December 2024</sup> Global Growth (MSCI ACWI)



## **Composite Performance**



## At a Glance

Inception: 1 July 2010 Benchmark: MSCI ACWI AUM: \$9.19 billion USD

**Quarterly Review** 

### Portfolio Management Team

	Start Date		
Name	Industry	Firm	
Keith Creveling, CFA	1990	1999	
Brent Puff	1992	2001	
Ted Harlan, CFA	1998	2007	

#### Source: FactSet

Returns calculated in U.S. dollars. The value of investments can fluctuate. Data assumes reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Data reflects past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

Periods greater than one year have been annualized.

# **Quarterly Top Relative Contributors and Detractors**

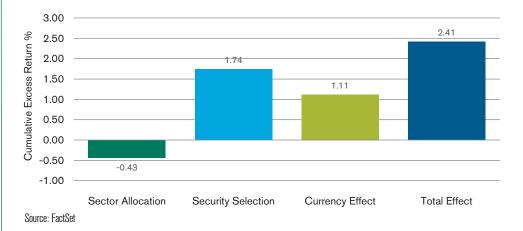
Contributor	(%)
GE Vernova Inc	0.28
Wells Fargo & Co	0.27
Amazon.com Inc	0.26
Broadcom Inc	0.26
Williams Cos Inc/The	0.24

Detractor	(%)
Tesla Inc	-0.54
Apple Inc	-0.40
Novo Nordisk A/S	-0.36
ICON PLC	-0.26
Cellnex Telecom SA	-0.23

Periods Ending 31 December 2024

# **Attribution Analysis**

One Year Ending 31 December 2024



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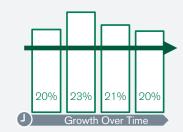
## Investing With a Time-Tested Growth Philosophy

We believe that accelerating, sustainable growth in revenues and earnings, driven by an inflection in business fundamentals, results in stock price outperformance.

- We focus on inflection points in companies' fundamentals because we believe markets are inefficient at identifying such points.
- Our process is designed to uncover stocks that outperform as earnings growth accelerates, market expectations rise and multiples expand.

We believe the direction of earnings growth is a more powerful predictor of stock price performance than the absolute level of growth.





## **Investment Process**

INVESTMENT UNIVERSE Market capitalization >\$3B Sufficient trading liquidity 2,000-2,200 stocks

Continuous Management Continuestment risk

1 IDEA GENERATION	2 FUNDAMENTAL ANALYSIS	3 PORTFOLIO CONSTRUCTION	PORTFOLIO
	600-700 Stocks	200-300 Stocks	90-125 Holdings
Identify companies exhibiting accelerating growth and improving fundamentals: Fundamental information flow Quantitative screens	Confirm acceleration is genuine and sustainable	Focus portfolio on best ideas Monitor risk controls and guidelines	
Continuous Management Equal focus on buy and sell decision			

Risk management does not imply low risk. The total return target is aspirational in nature and is not based on any criteria or assumptions. The target is not meant to reflect any projection or promise of performance. No guarantee or representation is being made that any account will or is likely to achieve the objectives or targets shown.

#### Goal

Seeks to outperform the MSCI ACWI by 2% to 3% annualized over a market cycle.

## **Risk Guidelines**

Maximum position size: 2.5% active weight

Regional exposure: +/- 10% of benchmark weight

Sector exposure: +/- 5% of benchmark weight

Emerging markets exposure: +/- 10% of benchmark weight

Expected tracking error: 2% to 6% versus benchmark



# **Portfolio Characteristics**

Characteristics	Portfolio	Benchmark
Weighted Average Market Capitalization	\$627.1 B	\$683.0 B
Median Market Capitalization	\$46.1 B	\$7.1 B
P/E Ratio, Forecasted 1-Year	26.7 x	19.6 x
Earnings Growth, Trailing 1-Year	12.7%	5.9%
EPS Growth, Forecasted 1-Year	19.6%	15.9%
Return on Equity	13.5%	12.4%
% in Cash and Cash Equivalents	0.6%	0.0%
Turnover, 1-Year	53%	3%
Number of Holdings	102	2647

Source: FactSet Forecasts are not a reliable indicator of future performance.

# **Top 10 Holdings**

Holding	Country	Industry	Assets (%)
NVIDIA Corp	United States	Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment	5.62
Microsoft Corp	United States	Software	5.27
Amazon.com Inc	United States	Broadline Retail	4.35
Alphabet Inc	United States	Interactive Media & Services	2.73
Meta Platforms Inc	United States	Interactive Media & Services	2.56
Broadcom Inc	United States	Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment	2.36
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co Ltd	Taiwan	Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment	2.29
Mastercard Inc	United States	Financial Services	1.80
AbbVie Inc	United States	Biotechnology	1.66
Wells Fargo & Co	United States	Banks	1.64
Total			30.28%

Source: FactSet

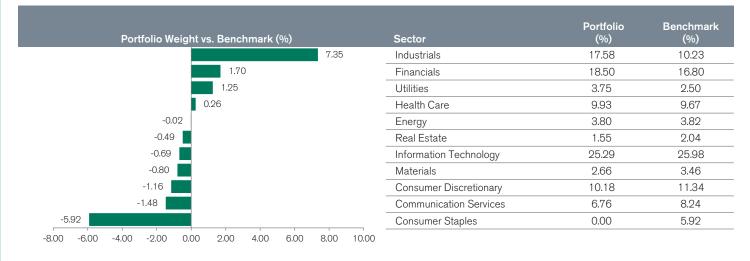
# Top 10 Overweights

Holding	Portfolio Weight (%)	Benchmark Weight (%)	Overweight (%)
Amazon.com Inc	4.35	2.67	1.68
Microsoft Corp	5.27	3.84	1.43
NVIDIA Corp	5.62	4.25	1.37
Wells Fargo & Co	1.64	0.31	1.33
Boston Scientific Corp	1.47	0.17	1.30
AbbVie Inc	1.66	0.41	1.25
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co Ltd	2.29	1.04	1.25
Mastercard Inc	1.80	0.56	1.24
Williams Cos Inc/The	1.27	0.09	1.18
Stryker Corp	1.34	0.16	1.18

Source: FactSet

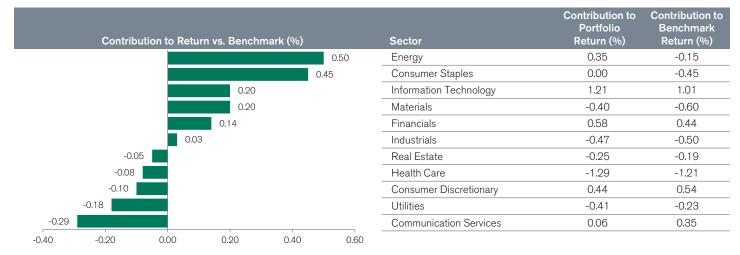
The holdings listed should not be considered recommendations to purchase or sell a particular security. Equity holdings are grouped to include common shares, depository receipts, rights and warrants issued by the same company. Portfolio holdings subject to change without notice.

# **Sector Allocation**



Source: FactSet

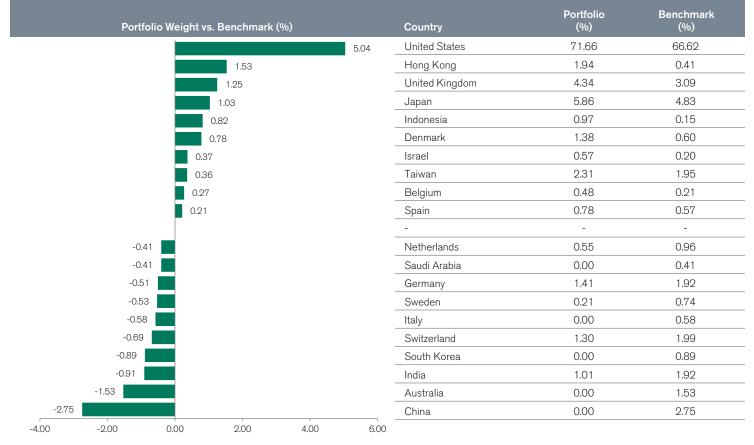
## **Quarterly Sector Performance**



#### Source: FactSet

When shown, "Diversified" includes portfolio holdings that cannot be attributed to a specific GICS sector. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

# Country Allocation: Top 10 Over/Underweights



Source: FactSet

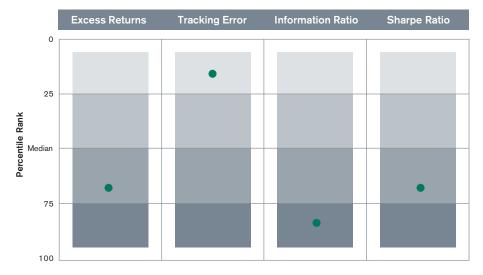
# Quarterly Top Relative Contributors and Detractors by Country

Contributor	(%)	Detractor	(%)
Switzerland	0.25	Denmark	-0.32
India	0.23	Ireland	-0.26
Taiwan	0.22	Hong Kong	-0.21
South Korea	0.20	Spain	-0.19
China	0.20	Netherlands	-0.16

Source: FactSet

## **Risk-Adjusted Performance**

Three-Year Risk-Adjusted Performance vs. eVestment Global Large Cap Equity vs. MSCI ACWI, Citigroup 3-Month T-Bill



#### American Century Investments Global Growth (MSCI ACWI)

	Excess Returns	Tracking Error	Information Ratio	Sharpe Ratio
Manager	-2.46	3.33	-0.74	-0.06
Percentile Rank	68	16	84	68
Median	-0.98	5.74	-0.15	0.02

Source: eVestment Analytics

Excess returns are gross of fees.

Rankings for Tracking Error are inverted.

Number of products in the universe was 602.

# **Quarterly Commentary**

#### **Portfolio Review**

Stocks exhibited mixed performance in the last quarter of 2024. The reelection of former President Donald Trump initially pleased investors who had worried about uncertain election results. However, the Fed's signal that it will slow the pace of interest rate cuts amid persistent inflation largely erased post-election gains. In all, U.S. stocks rose for the quarter, while non-U.S. developed markets stocks declined.

**U.S. stocks advanced.** Mid- and large-cap growth stocks came out ahead, as investors appreciated a clear conclusion to the U.S. presidential election. Meanwhile, the Fed lowered interest rates by 50 bps in total during the quarter but signaled it would slow down the pace of easing in 2025. For the third quarter, S&P 500 Index companies logged their fifth straight quarter of earnings growth.

**Energy selection lifted returns.** Stock selection in the energy sector was positive. Namely, a position in The Williams Cos. outperformed as this provider of energy infrastructure reported robust financial results.

A lack of exposure to consumer staples contributed. Having no exposure to the consumer staples sector lifted relative returns as traditionally defensive sectors lagged during the period.

**Communication services hindered relative performance.** A position in Cellnex Telecom, Europe's leading provider of cell towers, weighed on performance after reporting disappointing financials for the first nine months of the year. Nexon, a Japanese video game publisher that reported disappointing third-quarter results, also detracted, along with having no exposure to select benchmark names.

#### **Key Contributors**

**GE Vernova.** The energy equipment manufacturer recently narrowed its revenue guidance and increased its free cash flow estimates for 2025. Management also announced an annual dividend and share buyback program.

Wells Fargo & Co. The stock rose most recently following the presidential election, as investors anticipate economic policies and lower regulatory risk to benefit banks.

**Amazon.** During the period, the online retail giant's stock advanced amid strong holiday spending. Investors also appreciated the company's growing operating profit levels and artificial intelligence initiatives, including its proprietary Al chips.

#### **Key Detractors**

**Tesla.** A lack of investment in Tesla detracted from relative performance. Shares of the electric vehicle (EV) maker rose strongly as investors viewed Tesla CEO Elon Musk's support of President-elect Donald Trump as a positive for the company. A slowdown in global EV deliveries, however, has impacted Tesla.

**Apple.** A lack of investment in the iPhone maker detracted from relative performance. Shares rose most recently after an analyst's report noted that Apple may be approaching a golden era of growth, driven by artificial intelligence.

**Novo Nordisk.** Investors were disappointed by the Danish drugmaker's sales for the recent reporting period and test results for its latest obesity treatment. The share price declined in this environment.

#### **Notable Trades**

**Morgan Stanley.** We expect earnings to be supported by an improvement in the investment banking business as it recovers from cyclically depressed levels. Earnings from wealth management, the other large growth engine, are expected to remain strong, supported by robust capital markets.

**AMETEK.** Organic growth is poised to inflect positively, driven by businesses that have been the biggest victims of destocking. We also expect order momentum to build in the coming quarters. We believe that AMETEK's growth will likely also be supported by acquisitions as the backdrop for M&A improves.

Booz Allen Hamilton Holding. While earnings continue to come in stronger than expectations, we exited our investment and took profit on increased uncertainty around the future growth trajectory of government spending following the recent U.S. election.

AstraZeneca. We decided to exit our investment after indications that testing on next-generation cancer treatments is falling short of expectations. We have deployed the proceeds to higher-conviction ideas.

## Positioning for the Future

We believe a key benefit of our investment approach is the ability to identify businesses with a diverse set of growth drivers. We think these drivers are sustainable and complement our holdings' other idiosyncratic characteristics.

Artificial intelligence spending continues unabated despite elevated interest rates. Since many of the biggest buyers are spending cash, high interest rates are not proving to be a headwind to AI infrastructure investment. As a result, the technology upgrades required to handle massive amounts of data at high speeds are driving revenue growth across a wide range of businesses. Beneficiaries include companies that make components for processing data and cooling the equipment inside data centers. Power demand is also notable, with companies such as Microsoft and Amazon making multibillion-dollar investments to develop the dedicated power sources they need to maintain their competitive edge.

Accelerated spending on Al infrastructure expands to power generation and distribution. Advancements in Al, the rise of green energy and aging infrastructure are fueling significant demand for electricity generation and distribution. In addition, operators of large-scale data centers have announced substantial capital spending plans to address the rising power requirements for accelerated computing. In this environment, we see potential investment opportunities ranging from utilities that are increasing their power generation capacities to companies that provide essential services and products along the supply chain.

**Financials present opportunities.** This sector has performed well in the wake of the U.S. presidential election due to expectations the incoming Trump administration may reduce the regulatory burden on financial institutions. We've also seen a nascent recovery in M&A activity, which would be positive for investment banks. Furthermore, many expect the administration to focus on higher U.S. economic growth, which would be financed through U.S. banks.

We're limiting our exposure to industries with stagnant demand. Slowing global growth has weighed heavily on eurozone exporters of machinery, vehicles, chemicals and agri-food products. Though stimulus measures have the potential to reignite demand, China's slowdown has been especially impactful since the country is a key end market for Europe-based industrial companies. Instead, our non-U.S. exposure is focused on companies whose products and services address attractive opportunities such as semiconductor manufacturing and the commercialization of innovative treatments for diabetes and obesity.

We continue to find opportunities in Japan-based equities. Favorable developments include increased digitalization driven by rising labor costs and inflation, which benefits information technology consulting companies. Japanese industrial companies are also profiting from secular opportunities such as growing global and local electricity demand. Additionally, corporate culture improvements, such as better capital allocation and enhanced governance, are making Japanese equities more attractive.

## **Available Vehicles**

Separate Account	Available in U.S. and certain non-U.S. countries
Collective Investment Fund	Available only in U.S.
UCITS	Available only in certain non-U.S. countries

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