# **Emerging Markets**



# **Quarterly Review**

## **Composite Performance**



#### At a Glance

Inception: November 1, 1997 Benchmark: MSCI Emerging Markets AUM: \$3.05 billion

#### Portfolio Management Team

	Start Date		
Name	Industry	Firm	
Patricia Ribeiro	1984	2006	
Sherwin Soo, CFA	1995	2011	

#### 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**

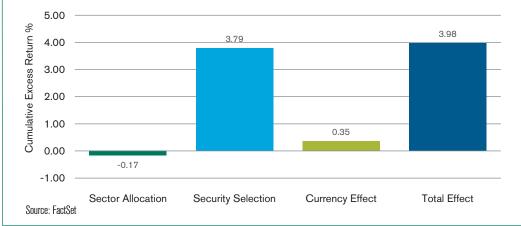
Contributor	(%)
BIM Birlesik Magazalar AS	0.62
SK Hynix Inc	0.46
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co Ltd	0.37
China State Construction International Holdings Ltd	0.24
Tencent Holdings Ltd	0.22

Detractor	(%)
Cemex SAB de CV	-0.46
Bank Rakyat Indonesia Persero Tbk PT	-0.32
Sands China Ltd	-0.31
Banco BTG Pactual SA	-0.31
Hon Hai Precision Industry Co Ltd	-0.29

Periods Ending June 30, 2024

# **Attribution Analysis**

One Year Ending June 30, 2024



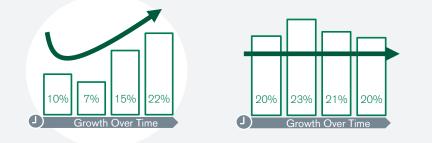
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# Investing With a Well-Defined Bottom-Up Growth Philosophy

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 >\$500M Daily trading liquidity >\$4M Approx. 1,200 companies



1 IDEA GENERATION	2 FUNDAMENTAL ANALYSIS	3 PORTFOLIO CONSTRUCTION	PORTFOLIO
280-320 Companies	150-200 Companies		70-90 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	
duantitative screens			2

Continuous Management Equal focus on buy and sell decisif

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 EM Index by 2% to 3% annualized over a market cycle.

#### **Risk Guidelines**

Maximum position size: 5% active weight

Regional exposure: +/- 10% of benchmark weight

Sector exposure: +/- 10% of benchmark weight

Expected tracking error: 2% to 6% versus benchmark



RISK-REWARD

# **Portfolio Characteristics**

Characteristics	Portfolio	Benchmark
Weighted Average Market Capitalization	\$139.1 B	\$114.0 B
Median Market Capitalization	\$11.6 B	\$2.2 B
P/E Ratio, Forecasted 1-Year	14.5 x	12.9 x
EPS Growth, Historical 1-Year	5.7%	4.7%
EPS Growth, Forecasted 1-Year	27.0%	22.7%
ROE, Historical 1-Year	16.2%	16.1%
% in Cash and Cash Equivalents	1.3%	0.0%
Turnover, 1-Year	23%	4%
Number of Holdings	81	1330

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

# **Top 10 Holdings**

Holding	Country	Industry	Assets (%)
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co Ltd	Taiwan	Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment	11.06
Tencent Holdings Ltd	China	Interactive Media & Services	5.50
Samsung Electronics Co Ltd	South Korea	Technology Hardware Storage & Peripherals	5.44
SK Hynix Inc	South Korea	Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment	3.37
Reliance Industries Ltd	India	Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels	2.82
ICICI Bank Ltd	India	Banks	2.75
China Construction Bank Corp	China	Banks	2.35
BIM Birlesik Magazalar AS	Turkey	Consumer Staples Distribution & Retail	1.94
Trip.com Group Ltd	China	Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure	1.89
BYD Co Ltd	China	Automobiles	1.70
Total			38.82%

Source: FactSet

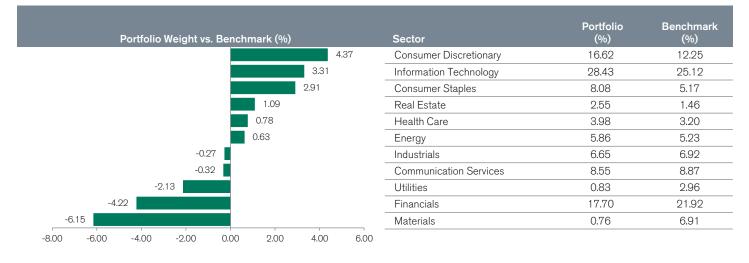
# **Top 10 Overweights**

Holding	Portfolio Weight (%)	Benchmark Weight (%)	Overweight (%)
SK Hynix Inc	3.37	1.24	2.13
BIM Birlesik Magazalar AS	1.94	0.10	1.84
ICICI Bank Ltd	2.75	0.99	1.76
Trip.com Group Ltd	1.89	0.35	1.54
MakeMyTrip Ltd	1.53	0.00	1.53
Wiwynn Corp	1.59	0.10	1.49
China Construction Bank Corp	2.35	0.95	1.40
Bajaj Auto Ltd	1.45	0.10	1.35
NU Holdings Ltd/Cayman Islands	1.35	0.00	1.35
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co Ltd	11.06	9.72	1.34

Source: FactSet

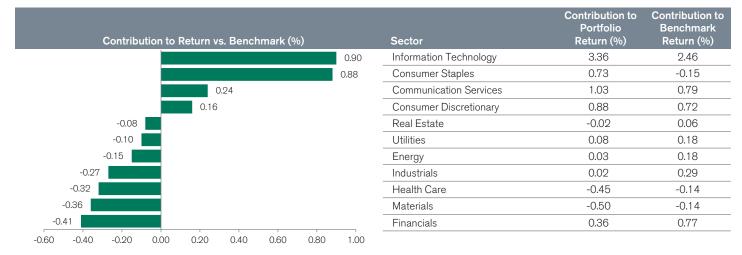
The holdings listed should not be considered recommendations to purchase or sell a particular security. Equity holdings are grouped to include common shares, depository receipts, rights and warrants issued by the same company. Portfolio holdings subject to change without notice.

# **Sector Allocation**



Source: FactSet

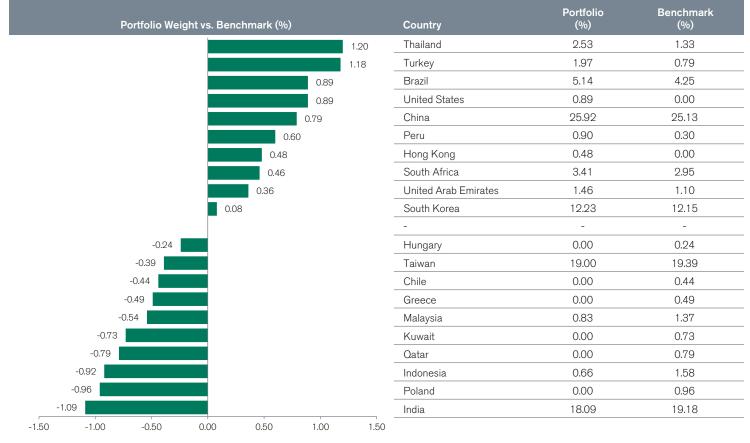
# **Quarterly Sector Performance**



#### 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

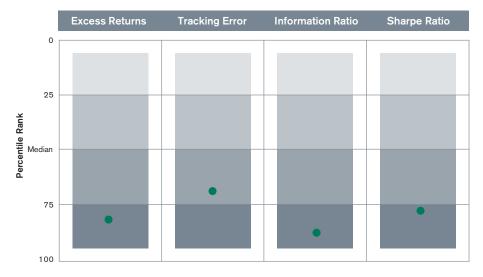
# Quarterly Top Relative Contributors and Detractors by Country

(%)	Detractor	(%)
0.93	India	-0.77
0.54	Mexico	-0.43
0.38	Hong Kong	-0.31
0.21	Indonesia	-0.11
0.11	Brazil	-0.08
	0.93 0.54 0.38 0.21	0.93India0.54Mexico0.38Hong Kong0.21Indonesia

Source: FactSet

## **Risk-Adjusted Performance**

Three-Year Risk-Adjusted Performance vs. eVestment Global Emerging Mkts All Cap Equity vs. MSCI Emerging Markets, Citigroup 3-Month T-Bill



#### American Century Investments Emerging Markets

	Excess Returns	Tracking Error	Information Ratio	Sharpe Ratio
Manager	-2.70	4.59	-0.59	-0.58
Percentile Rank	82	69	88	78
Median	0.86	5.57	0.15	-0.40

Source: eVestment Analytics

Excess returns are gross of fees.

Rankings for Tracking Error are inverted.

Number of products in the universe was 280.

# **Quarterly Commentary**

#### **Portfolio Review**

**Emerging markets (EM) stocks advanced and outperformed developed markets equities.** EM received a boost from artificial intelligence-related stocks, especially in June. Taiwan and China led markets higher, fueled by AI and expectations for accelerating demand for chips from data centers and edge or on-device AI. The Chinese market rebounded amid supportive policy measures and stronger economic data.

**India, South Africa rally.** The incumbent Indian prime minister's victory lifted investor sentiment around policy continuity. South African stocks rallied on news of a post-election unified government. Conversely, markets in Brazil and Mexico declined. Brazil struggled with hotter-than-expected inflation, while political uncertainty weighed on Mexican stocks amid concerns around the ruling party's concentrated power.

**Chip stocks drove relative gains.** Stock selection and a favorable overweight in the semiconductors and semiconductor equipment industry added substantial value during the quarter. South Korea-based SK Hynix and fellow chipmaker Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. were among the leading individual contributors as the industry benefited from improving demand and a stronger outlook for artificial intelligence chips and high bandwidth memory.

**Positioning in consumer staples helped relative outperformance.** Stock selection in the sector contributed, due primarily to an overweight position in Turkey-based retailer BIM Birlesik Magazalar. BIM operates almost entirely in the hard discount format, benefiting from traffic inflows as consumers trade down amid high inflation. South Africa-based supermarket chain Shoprite Holdings also contributed.

**Positioning in health care weighed on relative returns.** An overweight to the sector and stock selection detracted, led by weakness for drug manufacturers Sun Pharmaceutical Industries and Samsung Biologics. We believe that Samsung Biologics, in particular, can capitalize on growing demand for biologics contract development and manufacturing, given its world-leading capacity.

#### **Key Contributors**

**BIM Birlesik Magazalar.** The Turkish retailer's positive traffic momentum supported shares, while solid results confirmed strong execution, with industry-leading growth, market share gains and margin improvement. BIM is well positioned for a slower consumer environment as the government aims to bring down inflation.

**SK Hynix.** Strong high bandwidth memory demand and a recovery in commodity memory prices following production cuts fueled an improved memory price outlook and higher price assumptions. SK Hynix''s dominance of the high bandwidth memory market supported shares amid raised earnings forecasts to reflect higher-than-expected chip prices.

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. Investors rewarded TSMC's robust earnings visibility from expanding generative artificial intelligence demand and leadership in leading-edge chips with rebounding margins. In our view, high utilization from advanced nodes and potential price hikes will likely drive further upside.

#### **Key Detractors**

**Cemex.** The stock"s weakness was driven by the drop in the Mexican equity market and some cooling in Mexican construction activity. We believe onshoring continues to support the Mexican and U.S. economies and that additional infrastructure projects for needed housing and roads will likely drive further cement demand growth.

Bank Rakyat Indonesia Persero. Shares continued to decline from a recent all-time high amid concerns about asset quality, particularly given headwinds in the microlending segment. Persistent above-average credit costs also weighed on the stock.

Sands China. The casino operator's first-quarter results missed expectations due to unfavorable VIP win rates and disruptions from ongoing construction. Consensus adjusted earnings estimates lower during the period.

#### **Notable Trades**

**InterGlobe Aviation.** Low-cost Indian carrier IndiGo holds a commanding share of the underpenetrated domestic market amid a post-COVID-19 revival in passenger volumes, which are expected to double by 2030. We believe IndiGo stands to benefit from strong fare trends, new airport developments and ongoing international expansion.

**Contemporary Amperex Technology Co.** Despite market oversupply, CATL has maintained profitability through its technology and cost advantages. We believe CATL leads its global peers in technology offerings, cost competitiveness and financial stability in the new energy vehicle and energy storage system battery markets.

Vale. The Brazil-based global mining giant's margins have come under pressure, reflecting lower iron ore prices and slightly higher costs.

Localiza Rent a Car. We exited the Brazil-based car rental company, given uncertainty due to the lack of visibility on vehicle prices (and thus depreciation). In our view, falling car prices could prevent meaningful earnings expansion in the foreseeable future.

#### Positioning for the Future

The portfolio continues to invest in companies where we believe fundamentals are strong and improving but share price performance does not fully reflect these factors.

**Our outlook remains constructive.** With inflation pressure lessening and monetary policy easing in its early stages, emerging markets (EM) economies are forecast to grow more than twice the rate of developed markets. Though the Fed's higher-for-longer stance has deterred aggressive moves by EM central banks, we anticipate a gradual broadening of easing in the second half of the year as disinflation progresses.

China's economy got off to a good start, but the property market remains a headwind. China's economy grew faster than expected in the first quarter. However, high-frequency data has shown some softness recently, suggesting that the domestic demand recovery hasn't fully found firm footing. The housing market continues to face downward price pressures from excess supply. Though the direction of property market policy is encouraging, we think housing activity will likely remain weak through the end of the year.

**Electronics trends spur earnings growth in Asia.** Strong exports from South Korea and Taiwan are driving a continued expansion in electronics manufacturing activity. We expect the build-out of artificial intelligence infrastructure to remain a growth catalyst and have seen signs of a recovery in regular servers.

Latin American central banks have become more cautious. Political noise, slower disinflation and the Fed's more hawkish stance are influencing the banks' measured approach. Broader growth has held up, and trends such as trade protectionism and sticky commodity prices are positives. Despite post-election volatility in Mexico, supportive economic factors, such as nearshoring and remittances, remain in place. In Brazil, economic activity also remains resilient with private consumption supported by the tightness in the labor market.

#### **Available Vehicles**

Available in U.S. and certain non-U.S. countries
Available only in U.S.
Available only in certain non-U.S. countries
Available only in U.S.

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