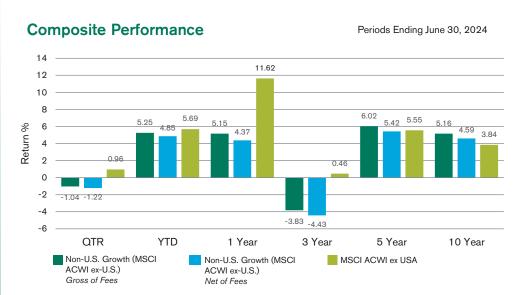
# Non-U.S. Growth (MSCI ACWI ex-U.S.)



# **Quarterly Review**



Source: FactSe

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.

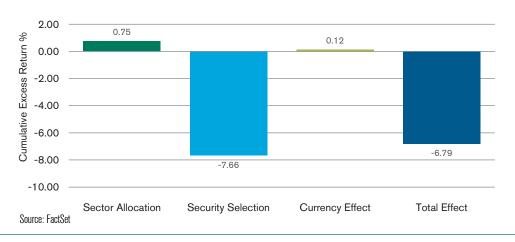
# **Quarterly Top Relative Contributors and Detractors**

Contributor	(%)
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co Ltd	0.45
Novo Nordisk A/S	0.28
Toyota Motor Corp	0.19
Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd	0.18
Tencent Holdings Ltd	0.15

Detractor	(%)
Localiza Rent a Car SA	-0.37
Sartorius Stedim Biotech	-0.31
Airbus SE	-0.29
Grupo Financiero Banorte SAB de CV	-0.27
Edenred SE	-0.25

# **Attribution Analysis**

One Year Ending June 30, 2024



#### At a Glance

**Inception:** November 1, 2011 **Benchmark:** MSCI ACWI ex USA

**AUM:** \$357.19 million

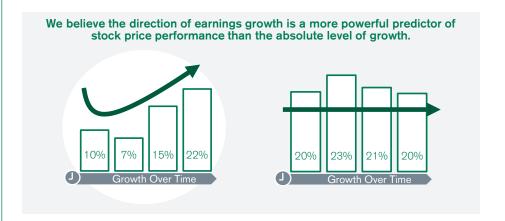
## Portfolio Management Team

	Start Date	
Name	Industry	Firm
Rajesh Gandhi, CFA	1993	2002
Jim Zhao, CFA	1999	2009

# 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.



## **Investment Process**

#### INVESTMENT UNIVERSE

Market capitalization >\$3B Sufficient trading liquidity

Continuous Management
Nonitor investment risk

1 IDEA GENERATION	2 FUNDAMENTAL ANALYSIS	3 PORTFOLIO CONSTRUCTION	PORTFOLIO
			90-135 Holdings
Identify companies exhibiting accelerating growth and improving fundamentals: Fundamental information flow	Confirm acceleration is genuine and sustainable	Focus portfolio on best ideas Monitor risk controls and guidelines	
Quantitative screens			

Continuous Management | decisions | Equal focus on buy and sell decisions

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 ex-U.S. 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



INFLECTION



**SUSTAINABILITY** 



**EARNINGS GAP** 



VALUATION/ RISK-REWARD

# **Portfolio Characteristics**

Characteristics	Portfolio	Benchmark
Weighted Average Market Capitalization	\$138.3 B	\$93.2 B
Median Market Capitalization	\$36.9 B	\$4.5 B
P/E Ratio, Forecasted 1-Year	21.4 x	14.0 x
Earnings Growth, Trailing 1-Year	4.2%	3.4%
EPS Growth, Forecasted 1-Year	19.5%	14.7%
Return on Equity	15.7%	11.8%
% in Cash and Cash Equivalents	0.5%	0.0%
Turnover, 1-Year	59%	3%
Number of Holdings	96	2159

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	4.87
Novo Nordisk A/S	Denmark	Pharmaceuticals	4.55
ASML Holding NV	Netherlands	Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment	3.55
SAP SE	Germany	Software	2.26
Samsung Electronics Co Ltd	South Korea	Technology Hardware Storage & Peripherals	2.12
AstraZeneca PLC	United Kingdom	Pharmaceuticals	2.08
Tencent Holdings Ltd	China	Interactive Media & Services	2.04
London Stock Exchange Group PLC	United Kingdom	Capital Markets	1.98
RELX PLC	United Kingdom	Professional Services	1.93
Air Liquide SA	France	Chemicals	1.80
Total			27.18%

Source: FactSet

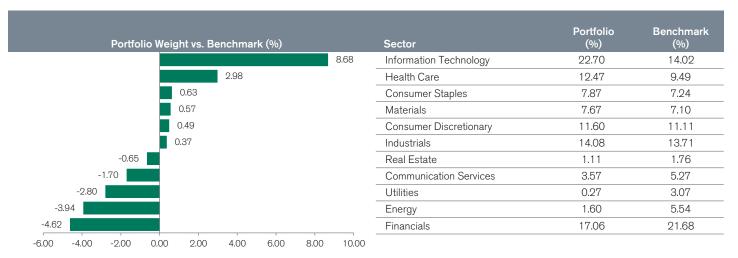
# **Top 10 Overweights**

Holding	Portfolio Weight (%)	Benchmark Weight (%)	Overweight (%)
Novo Nordisk A/S	4.55	1.81	2.74
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co Ltd	4.87	2.82	2.05
ASML Holding NV	3.55	1.59	1.96
London Stock Exchange Group PLC	1.98	0.21	1.77
RELX PLC	1.93	0.33	1.60
ICICI Bank Ltd	1.79	0.29	1.50
SAP SE	2.26	0.81	1.45
Air Liquide SA	1.80	0.38	1.42
Barclays PLC	1.48	0.15	1.33
Schneider Electric SE	1.78	0.50	1.28

Source: FactSet

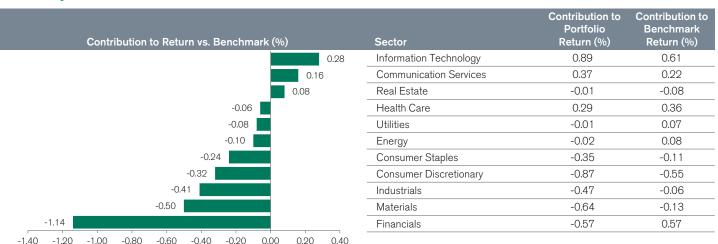
The holdings listed should not be considered recommendations to purchase or sell a particular security. Equity holdings are grouped to include common shares, depository receipts, rights and warrants issued by the same company. Portfolio holdings subject to change without notice.

# **Sector Allocation**



Source: FactSet

# **Quarterly Sector Performance**

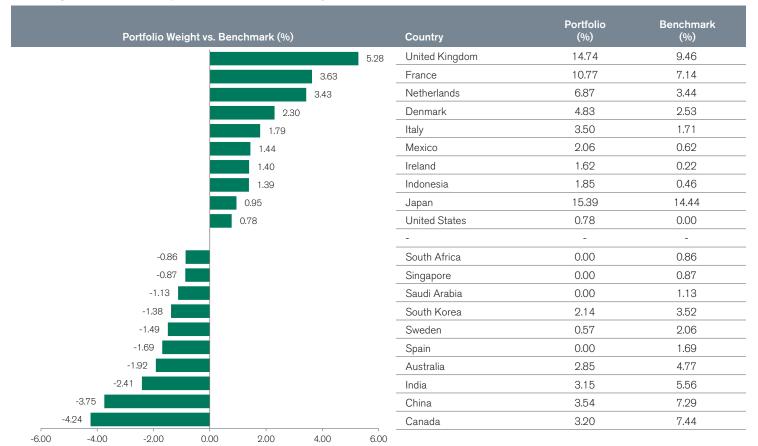


Source: FactSet

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

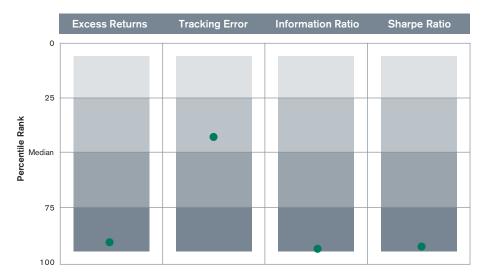
Contributor	(%)
Taiwan	0.35
Japan	0.29
Denmark	0.24
Germany	0.21
Italv	0.12

Detractor	(%)
France	-1.11
Mexico	-0.38
Hong Kong	-0.29
Netherlands	-0.25
Indonesia	-0.25

Source: FactSet

# **Risk-Adjusted Performance**

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



## • American Century Investments Non-U.S. Growth (MSCI ACWI ex-U.S.)

	Excess Returns	Tracking Error	Information Ratio	Sharpe Ratio
Manager	-4.28	5.70	-0.75	-0.36
Percentile Rank	91	43	94	93
Median	0.79	5.33	0.16	-0.11

Source: eVestment Analytics Excess returns are gross of fees. Rankings for Tracking Error are inverted. Number of products in the universe was 143.

# **Quarterly Commentary**

#### Portfolio Review

Non-U.S. developed markets finished a volatile quarter slightly lower. The European Central Bank cut rates for the first time in five years. European and U.K. stocks advanced, while Japanese equities declined as bond yields rose, and the country's currency fell against the U.S. dollar. Defensive sectors led, while technology finished midpack as non-U.S. developed markets are not dominated by a few mega-cap names.

Steady growth, but signs of a potential slowdown emerged. Company earnings reported early in the quarter showed growth remained strong with improved manufacturing volumes and steady services growth. Late in the quarter, signs of potential future slowing created a bifurcated growth picture. Cyclical areas of the economy began to show some weakness but structural growth themes remained intact.

Financials holdings weighed on performance. Positions in payments companies were key detractors as Netherlands-based Adyen sold off after its quarterly earnings report showed a revenue miss. France-based Edenred faced regulatory concerns amid an investigation into tax exemptions for meal vouchers. Within banks, Grupo Financiero Banorte and Bank Rakyat Indonesia Persero were also notable sources of weakness.

**Materials sector holdings detracted.** Construction materials positions, including James Hardie Industries and CRH, were a drag on relative performance. Chemicals industry holdings were detracted, as Air Liquide and Shin-Etsu Chemical weighed most heavily on returns within the group.

Information technology positions helped relative performance. Semiconductors industry positioning was the key driver of outperformance in the sector. Contributors included Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., which gave a strong revenue report and announced a share buyback. ASML Holding also helped as demand for the company's lithography machines has been strong due to increased investment in artificial intelligence. Infineon Technologies was another notable contributor.

## **Key Contributors**

**Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co.** The company has benefited from increased artificial intelligence investment. Its May revenue report showed a year-over-year increase, and they launched an NT\$4.16 billion share buyback. The company also announced plans to raise prices for its 3-nanometer and advanced packaging products due to strong demand.

Novo Nordisk. Investors reacted positively after the pharmaceuticals company made two announcements including a \$4.1 billion investment in a new manufacturing facility in North Carolina and approval to launch its weight management injection, Wegovy, in China.

**Toyota Motor.** The portfolio does not hold Toyota. Given the company's position in the benchmark and its underperformance during the quarter, the lack of exposure was beneficial to relative performance.

## **Key Detractors**

Localiza Rent a Car. Despite delivering solid quarterly earnings results, investors were concerned about the potential for negative resale conditions due to surprising comments from management about the used car market.

**Sartorius Stedim Biotech.** The company's reported first-quarter results fell short of analysts' expectations as demand in consumables picked up, but investment in hardware and systems remained muted, especially in China. Management noted their outlook uncertainties remain high due to the global political and economic situation.

**Airbus.** The company faced challenges, including falsified documents related to titanium authenticity. Management lowered guidance for this year, and the stock was downgraded. The Boeing Co.'s acquisition of Spirit AeroSystems Holdings and ongoing supply chain issues also pose potential risks to Airbus's competitive positioning.

#### **Notable Trades**

**Nestle.** We initiated a position in Nestle as we believe it is likely to see its sales volume accelerate in the second half of the year as destocking wanes. We also think its investments in facility modernization and additional capacity will start to drive growth inflection in 2024.

**Unilever.** We initiated a position in the British multinational consumer products company. The new management team, installed by an activist investor, has demonstrated success as some of their strategic decisions have improved organic growth.

**Arkema.** We sold the position to reduce some near-term cyclical exposure in the portfolio. We see various data points suggesting a potential slowdown in manufacturing activity, and we expect Arkema's volume growth to slow, possibly resulting in downward earnings revisions.

**UBS Group.** The bank faces a potential new regulatory requirement for significantly higher capital. This would meaningfully reduce the cash return we had originally expected; therefore, we decided to exit the position.

## 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 process is based on individual security selection, but broad themes have emerged.

**Energy transition and power demand are strong secular forces.** As the world moves to rely less on fossil fuels, we are finding opportunities across sectors related to the transition. Increased demand for electric vehicles and large-scale renewable energy infrastructure projects creates inflection points for well-positioned businesses. Artificial intelligence investment is leading to a significant increase in demand for electricity to power data centers.

**Developments in health care create growth opportunities.** Obesity is an area that continues to generate a tremendous amount of growth and investment in the pharmaceuticals industry. Broadly, increased funding for research and development also benefits supporting product and service providers.

Governments have committed to major infrastructure investment. Fiscal stimulus programs enacted by governments in recent years have enabled large-scale infrastructure projects to begin. These offer long-term growth opportunities to companies involved in building, and adjacent products and services continue to see strong earnings.

**Digital transformation supports information technology positions.** The acceleration of digitalization and the growth of artificial intelligence are benefiting the semiconductors industry and technology holdings exposed to cloud computing, automation, digital payments and IT services growth.

Consumer companies pivoting from pricing to volume growth. Opportunities emerge as food, fragrances and personal care companies have invested significantly in research and development to create sustainable volume growth for the future.

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# **Available Vehicles**

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

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