

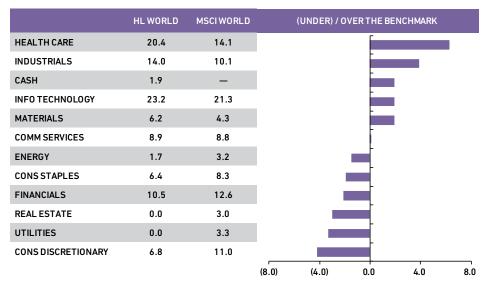
## COMPOSITE PERFORMANCE (% TOTAL RETURN) FOR PERIODS ENDED JUNE 30, 20201

|   | 3 MONTHS | YTD   | 1 YEAR | 3 YEARS <sup>2</sup> | 5 YEARS <sup>2</sup> | SINCE INCEPTION <sup>2,3</sup> |
|---|----------|-------|--------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| HL WORLD EQUITY (GROSSOF FEES)              | 26.60    | 7.20  | 17.51  | 12.49                | 12.63                | 12.40                          |
| HL WORLD EQUITY (NET OF FEES)               | 26.47    | 6.98  | 17.03  | 12.04                | 12.17                | 11.95                          |
| MSCI WORLD INDEX <sup>4,5</sup>             | 19.54    | -5.48 | 3.40   | 7.28                 | 7.49                 | 8.04                           |
| MSCI ALL COUNTRY WORLD INDEX <sup>5,6</sup> | 19.39    | -5.99 | 2.64   | 6.69                 | 7.03                 | 7.47                           |

<sup>1</sup>The Composite performance returns shown are preliminary; <sup>2</sup>Annualized Returns; <sup>3</sup>Inception Date: September 30, 2013; <sup>4</sup>The Benchmark Index; <sup>3</sup>Gross of withholding taxes; <sup>4</sup>Supplemental Index.

Please read the above performance in conjunction with the footnotes on the last page of this report. Past performance does not guarantee future results. All performance and data shown are in US dollar terms, unless otherwise noted.

#### **SECTOR EXPOSURE (%)**



#### **GEOGRAPHIC EXPOSURE (%)**

|                               | HL WORLD | MSCIWORLD | (UNDER) / OVER THE BENCHMARK |
|-------------------------------|----------|-----------|------------------------------|
| EMERGING MARKETS              | 5.1      | -         |                              |
| CASH                          | 1.9      | _         | -                            |
| EUROPE EX-EMU                 | 10.8     | 9.5       | -                            |
| JAPAN                         | 8.8      | 8.0       |                              |
| FRONTIER MARKETS <sup>7</sup> | 0.0      | -         | -                            |
| MIDDLE EAST                   | 0.0      | 0.2       | i i                          |
| PACIFIC EX-JAPAN              | 2.7      | 3.6       |                              |
| UNITED STATES                 | 63.1     | 65.5      |                              |
| EUROPE EMU                    | 7.6      | 10.1      |                              |
| CANADA                        | 0.0      | 3.1       |                              |
|                               |          |           | (8.0) (4.0) 0.0 4.0          |

<sup>7</sup>Includes countries in less-developed markets outside the Index.

Sector and geographic allocations are supplemental information only and complement the fully compliant World Equity Composite GIPS Presentation.

Source: Harding Loevner World Equity Model; MSCI Inc. and S&P. MSCI Inc. and S&P do not make any express or implied warranties or representations and shall have no liability whatsoever with respect to any GICS data contained herein.

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# MARKET REVIEW

Global markets rebounded sharply in the second quarter following the precipitous COVID-induced decline in March. Though still elevated relative to the start of the year, equity market volatility fell considerably, and credit spreads narrowed. The market recovery was broad based, with all regions and sectors finishing in positive territory.

As countries emerged from lockdowns, new economic data showed signs of a fledgling recovery. Business activity remained weak, but many indicators—unemployment, consumer spending, and service and manufacturing surveys—bounced off the troughs witnessed in April. Despite record coronavirus cases in many countries, including the United States and much of Latin America, apparent progress on a vaccine further boosted sentiment.

Economies and stock markets continued to benefit from extraordinary fiscal and monetary support, especially in developed markets. Governments in aggregate introduced an additional US\$3 trillion in fiscal stimulus during the quarter to combat weak economic conditions, bumping up the total since the outbreak began to about US\$11 trillion, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The US, Japan, and Europe boosted direct cash transfers to citizens and China dusted off its battle-tested financial-crisis playbook, funneling funds to local governments for infrastructure spending. As a result, global governmental debt as a percentage of global GDP is expected to surpass 100% for the first time ever.

Financial conditions also remained highly accommodative across the world, with central banks keeping short-term interest rates anchored near zero in every major economy. The US Federal Reserve, having rejoined the near-zero club in March, promised to renew its membership, guiding for ultralow rates through 2022 in anticipation of a slow and laborious recovery. The Fed also took the unusual step of purchasing corporate bonds directly, a step to which it committed in March to enhance bond market liquidity. It also ordered banks to limit dividends and suspend share buybacks to preserve capital until the cumulative effects of the pandemic on eventual loan losses are clearer. Both the European Central Bank and Bank of Japan expanded their lending packages for cash-strapped firms, whereas the People's Bank of China cut bank reserve requirements yet again and pumped funds into rural and regional lenders.

Currency effects showed a near uniform reversal of the flight to safety experienced in the first quarter. Nearly every major currency appreciated against the US dollar, though currencies of many commodity-exporting countries are still significantly negative for the half year. The British pound also remained negative for the half year as stalled Brexit negotiations continued to weigh on it.

While a nascent economic recovery seems underway, most cyclical sectors did not lead the market rally, nor did the pattern

of sectoral gains mirror the declines from the first quarter. Rather, investors maintained a preference for presumed COVID-19 beneficiaries over challenged sectors like Financials, Energy, and Real Estate-and anything travel-related. Information Technology (IT) was again one of the top-performing sectors in the MSCI World Index, with strong returns from both software and hardware stocks. IT has outperformed the overall index by a staggering 1900 basis points for the half year. Consumer Discretionary also did well, helped by e-commerce giants like Amazon.com and eBay, who are benefiting from the abrupt shift to greater online shopping. Materials stocks rose with the recovery in certain commodity metal prices. While the oil price war between Russia and Saudi Arabia eased, Energy underperformed, as the industry struggled with collapsing demand. Financials lagged again this quarter, weighed down by looming but as-yet-unknowable defaults, and with revenues depressed by the low interest rate environment.

#### MARKET PERFORMANCE (USD %)

| MARKET           | 2Q 2020 | TRAILING 12 MONTHS |
|------------------|---------|--------------------|
| CANADA           | 20.4    | -7.5               |
| EUROPE EMU       | 20.1    | -6.4               |
| EUROPE EX-EMU    | 11.1    | -6.3               |
| JAPAN            | 11.6    | 3.5                |
| MIDDLE EAST      | 20.1    | 1.9                |
| PACIFIC EX-JAPAN | 20.2    | -12.6              |
| UNITED STATES    | 21.8    | 8.4                |
| MSCI WORLD INDEX | 19.5    | 3.4                |

#### SECTOR PERFORMANCE (USD %) OF THE MSCI WORLD INDEX

| SECTOR                 | 2Q 2020 | TRAILING 12 MONTHS |
|------------------------|---------|--------------------|
| COMM SERVICES          | 19.2    | 7.8                |
| CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY | 30.0    | 8.9                |
| CONSUMER STAPLES       | 8.9     | 1.1                |
| ENERGY                 | 17.0    | -35.6              |
| FINANCIALS             | 13.2    | -15.5              |
| HEALTH CARE            | 14.7    | 14.4               |
| INDUSTRIALS            | 17.5    | -7.1               |
| INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY | 31.3    | 33.2               |
| MATERIALS              | 26.1    | -2.1               |
| REAL ESTATE            | 11.9    | -9.0               |
| UTILITIES              | 6.5     | 0.3                |

Source: FactSet (as of June 30, 2020). MSCI Inc. and S&P.

Companies held in the portfolio during the quarter appear in bold type; only the first reference to a particular holding appears in bold. The portfolio is actively managed therefore holdings shown may not be current. Portfolio holdings should not be considered recommendations to buy or sell any security. It should not be assumed that investment in the security identified has been or will be profitable. To request a complete list of holdings for the past year, please contact Harding Loevner. A complete list of holdings at June 30, 2020 is available on page 10 of this report. By geography, the US, Canada, the eurozone, and Pacific ex-Japan (led by Australia, which rebounded with the recovery in commodity prices) performed the best among the major regions. The strong returns in the US were once again led by its large IT sector. Japan lagged relative to its outperformance from the first quarter, while Europe outside the eurozone was weighed down by poor returns from the United Kingdom and Switzerland.

Like last quarter, style effects showed continued investor preference for growth and, to a lesser extent, quality. Stocks in the group of fastest-growing companies outperformed the slowest-growing by a massive 1900 basis points. While shares of the cohort of highest-quality companies, specifically those with more consistent returns and low leverage, slightly outperformed the index, the effect was not nearly as pronounced as for growth. Expensive stocks once again outperformed the cheapest. The value index flashed a brief period of outperformance from mid-May through early June, only to retreat toward the end of the quarter.

# PERFORMANCE AND ATTRIBUTION

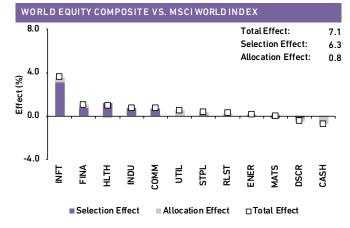
The World Equity Composite rose 26.6% in the quarter, well ahead of the 19.5% rise of the MSCI World Index. The charts located to the right attribute the quarter's performance by sector and region.

Our hefty weight in the market-leading IT sector along with light holdings in the lagging Consumer Staples sector and lack of holdings in Utilities helped relative returns. However, good stocks were the key to the quarter's outperformance. Our stocks in the IT sector did particularly well, led by strong gains from PayPal, which benefited from the lockdown-induced acceleration in e-commerce transactions as well as a heightened aversion to handling cash (or even physical credit cards), resulting in strong growth in PayPal's "card not present" transactions. Additionally, it gained new users as people discovered they could receive government aid payments via its app rather than waiting for a check in the mail. Gains also came from The Trade Desk, a digital advertising platform reporting strong first quarter sales in May, and NVIDIA, which marked the expanding uses of its computer chips from gaming into artificial intelligence with an announcement of a partnership with Mercedes-Benz for autonomous driving.

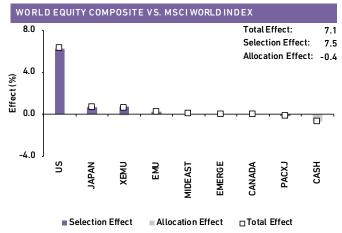
# Our stocks in the IT sector did particularly well, led by strong gains from PayPal, which benefited from the lockdown acceleration in e-commerce transactions.

Good stocks contributed in other sectors as well. In Financials they included US banks **First Republic Bank** and **SVB Financial Group**. Among our Health Care investments, DNA sequencing specialist **Illumina** was boosted by US FDA approval of its diagnostic test for COVID-19, while shares of orthodontic

# SECTOR PERFORMANCE ATTRIBUTION SECOND QUARTER 2020



## GEOGRAPHIC PERFORMANCE ATTRIBUTION SECOND QUARTER 2020



Source: FactSet; Harding Loevner World Equity Composite; MSCI Inc. and S&P. The total effect shown here may differ from the variance of the Composite performance and benchmark performance shown on the first page of this report due to the way in which FactSet calculates performance attribution. This information is supplemental to the Composite GIPS Presentation.

dentistry supplier **Align Technology** soared after the company noted that sale volumes were recovering as countries reopened from lockdowns. Those good results were dented by poor stocks within Consumer Discretionary, where the largest detractors were Chinese ecommerce giant **Alibaba** and online travel agents **Trip.com Group** and **Booking Holdings** (the latter was sold in the quarter).

Viewed by geography, the portfolio posted positive stock selection in every region except Pacific ex-Japan. The US contributed nearly all of the good relative performance, led by the IT stocks mentioned above, along with **ProtoLabs** and eBay. Japanese holdings also added to relative performance, especially optical sensors specialist **Keyence** and industrial robot manufacturer **Fanuc**. These strong results were tempered by negative stock selection in Pacific ex-Japan, namely from the Hong Kong-listed Asian life insurer **AIA Group**. Its shares reacted poorly to China's blunt steps toward increasing political control over Hong Kong, raising concerns as to whether AIA's policy sales in Hong Kong, some of which are made to mainland Chinese buyers looking to diversify their financial wealth, would suffer under the tighter regime.

From both a geographical and sector perspective, the biggest drag on performance this quarter was our cash holding. We kept, on average, nearly 4% of the portfolio in cash during the quarter for potential investment opportunities arising from volatility. While we value the flexibility that provides, when markets rise as much as they did this quarter, it will negatively impact performance.

# PERSPECTIVE AND OUTLOOK

The astounding rally in equity markets since the March 23 lows has opened a chasm between resurging prices for risky assets and a beleaguered global economy reeling from the ongoing pandemic. This disparity has bewildered many investors caught flat footed and provoked an outpouring of angst aimed squarely at the runup in prices. But share prices are not barometers of the current state of affairs. They are a discounting mechanism, a mechanism that invariably races ahead of current events, typically declining ahead of oncoming slowdowns and springing to life well before the first signs of recovery. Under this reckoning, prevailing asset prices are merely seeing across the valley of the current malaise and anticipating an imminent and inevitable turnaround. With lockdowns easing, fledgling signs of a pickup in demand, and burgeoning optimism about vaccines, investors have copious reasons for raising their gazes to the peaks beyond.

Such an optimistic view, however, ignores the outsized and equivocal role being played by government assistance in revitalizing risk appetites. Working hand in glove, fiscal and monetary authorities the world over have unleashed a torrent of aid in a bid to contain the crisis. Along with the customary fiscal stabilizers that kick-in automatically during downturns, interest rates have been slashed, asset purchase programs replenished, and outright financial grants extended further than at any other period outside of wartime. By some estimates, global central banks have injected close to US\$17 trillion of liquidity into the financial system, while global fiscal support, according to the IMF, currently amounts to over US\$11 trillion, a figure that understates the total effect on spending once multipliers are taken into account.

But what's qualitatively different this time, and triggering added apprehension, is the vastly expanded role of the Federal Reserve Board (FRB) and other central banks in developed countries—i.e., monetary policy writ large. Behind the alphabet soup of liquidity facilities and market support programs is an unambiguous expansion of the major central banks' prerogatives and burdens. In addition to their traditional role of inflation guardian and lender of last resort, the central bank has been recast as fiscal partner to elected legislatures and investor of last resort, responsible not just for well-functioning markets but also for capping credit costs and curtailing investor losses. Although the Fed has not yet dipped its toe into buying equities, should it desire further tools for stimulus the precedent has already been set by the Bank of Japan and the Swiss National Bank, along with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, which bought stocks heavily all the way back in 1998.

Not since the Governorship of Marriner Eccles in the 1930's and 40's has US monetary policy found itself bound up so tightly with US fiscal objectives. According to the historian Trevor Jackson, "In terms of crisis governance, the United States is not a country with a central bank; it is a central bank with a country." Further extending its tendrils into every nook and cranny of the financial system, it added, for the first time, a cross section of corporate bonds to its balance sheet—including those issued by **Apple**, the antithesis of a struggling enterprise. By undertaking a massive expansion of its balance sheet without triggering inflation, the Fed is walking an increasingly frayed tightrope.

# Not since the Governorship of Marriner Eccles in the 1930's and 40's has US monetary policy found itself bound up so tightly with US fiscal objectives.

When faced with colossal economic or political shocks, our response is stubbornly to follow the same script: we note the scale of the shock; attempt to assess the company- and industry-level implications; stop occasionally to think about how it ought to cause us to change our investment process, inevitably concluding that only incremental adjustment is warranted; and eventually (or, better, promptly) return to our knitting. That knitting consists of a resolutely bottom-up, fundamental appraisal of the growth prospects for a select group of highquality companies, and what they might be worth. The current episode would be no different, if it weren't for the difficulties we are having in that final piece—ascertaining what an excellent company might be worth. We have returned to our knitting, but there are faintly audible curses to be heard over the clatter of busy needles.

We have consistently tried to be clear-eyed and disciplined about distinguishing between a company and its shares. The fundamental attributes of great businesses, those with strong competitive positions, attractive growth prospects, sound finances, and able managements, tend to persist through time. Their shares, however, are more fickle, tending to reflect the insecurities and enthusiasms of other investors, connected to the company's true underlying value only by the stories being told about its future, which are greatly affected by the moods of the storyteller and his audience. We were fortunate to recognize some years ago that, in an environment of scarce growth and low interest rates, companies consistently delivering strong organic revenue growth and profits to match would be highly prized by investors. Those low interest rates would allow investors to discount the profits from distant growth back into the present only modestly diminished by the passage of time.

At the moment, however, investors are confronted by dramatically increased uncertainty about how and when the global economy can recover from the ravages of the global pandemic, and in addition whether the prospects for any given company, assuming it survives to the other side of the chasm, will be radically altered once it is reached. The pandemic has been a boon for companies such as Amazon and Alibaba, which have provided the home delivery lifeline for hundreds of millions of consumers under lockdown. Likewise, the social media platform giants **Tencent** and **Facebook** have enabled increased interactions by people starved for diversion or human connection during isolation, while PayPal and **MasterCard** (along with AliPay and WeChatPay or Adyen) have accelerated the demise of physical cash transactions.

# Once again, we have returned to our knitting, but there are faintly audible curses to be heard over the clatter of busy needles.

The problem in trying to value these rapidly growing companies is that we can't really know whether the crisis has merely brought forward their future growth (which was arguably already embedded in investor expectations and thus in the stock price), or whether it has also expanded their addressable market, thereby extending the duration of their rapid growth. The market's view is clear: it is apparent that one of the lesser-known effects of COVID-19 is to supercharge the embedded growth expectations for the largest and fastest-growing companies. Rising to new highs this quarter, the stock prices of these companies continue to stand near the extremes of valuation relative to all other stocks that we highlighted last quarter, even as the entire market has rebounded. So far into the future is the profit growth that some stock prices discount today that our tolerance of high prices begins to feel more like an embrace of fundamental uncertainty: the uncertainty of whether we can even begin to properly analyze the growth dynamics or competitive forces that result from new technologies, new business models, or changes in government regulation or taxation not yet on our radar.

That fog of uncertainty is infused with the biggest serving of monetary stimulus ever ladled out from the proverbial punchbowl. While we are certain that such stimulus is the right course of action by governments aimed at preserving their citizens and the business enterprises and other institutions that make up their economies, we are much less sure that the double-barreled fiscal and monetary blunderbuss just fired will not ricochet to wound investors, especially growth investors, on the far side of the pandemic.

Muscular market interventions are likely to suffer from diminishing returns and there is a distinct possibility that the nearterm achievement of higher asset prices has been purchased at the cost of weaker longer-term growth—specifically, a diminished prospect for creative destruction. Within every economic crisis is a silver lining as the business downturn accelerates the demise of marginal businesses and industries. This paves the way for new business models to emerge from the wreckage. Creative destruction clears out the redundant capital and frees up skilled labor, thereby opening the way for new growth vectors, like a forest fire clearing the underbrush for new seedlings to grow from the ashes. The 1930's were devastating but also coincided with the fastest growth in productivity in the nation's history. But, for this process to proceed, companies that are no longer viable in a post-crisis world must eventually be allowed to fail and the workers redirected toward the new faster growing spheres. The danger is that prolonged and possibly misdirected government support, designed as a bridge to a nonexistent future that looks like the past, might interfere with this painful but ultimately salutatory transition and, in so doing, reduce the longer-term prospects for prosperity.

Another conceivable consequence of central bank largesse is the convergence between growth, quality and momentum investment styles. Most objective metrics of quality typically include measures of corporate profitability, which is more readily achieved when growth avenues are available, and it's not unusual to see growth and quality styles move together in the stock market. But the ongoing, sustained outperformance of growth investing has led to a greater overlap between the quality-and-growth nexus with portfolios based purely on stock price momentum. Of course, this is nothing exceptional since the mechanical rules underlying momentum portfolios simply overweight the most recent outperformers, of which growthand-quality companies currently make up a disproportionate share. We typically ignore the overlap between different investment styles, as the ebb and flow of relative style performance is best viewed as creating opportunity for stock selection. But momentum has an unfortunate and, in our view, unsatisfactory longer-term history. Despite a passable overall track record, momentum investing tends occasionally to suffer a spectacular wipeout, wherein multiple years of outperformance are given back in the space of weeks if not days. The last of these occurred in April 2009, when a winner-minus-loser momentum portfolio made up of US stocks fell over 45% in a single month while the broad market climbed 10% over the same period.1 Presently, the concern is that momentum crashes seem to occur most frequently after a large market decline, during times of higher than usual uncertainty and when volatility is highconditions that are too similar to the present environment to be easily dismissed. Although central bank policy of ultra-low interest rates may be the proximate cause, momentum's intrinsic instability makes us nervous that a reckoning may come before current policy has run its course.

So far, the world's various central banks and government spending programs seem to have fulfilled their mission in calming markets, stabilizing credit institutions, and underpinning the economy. Asset prices are flirting with their previous all-time highs, and business activity is beginning the process of recovery. But there is still a long way to go on the latter, and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Long/Short portfolio.

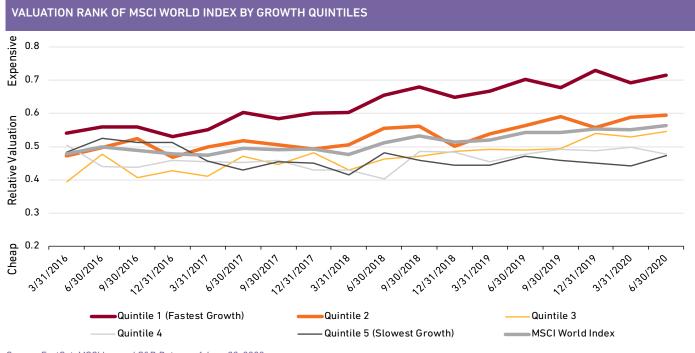
the longer-term economic picture continues to deteriorate. On the present course, should the virus continue to frustrate containment efforts or recovery prove elusive, in the absence of any alternatives it seems likely that authorities will stick to their playbook of liquidity provision and income transfers. Unlike the global financial crisis, where emergency liquidity-primarily directed toward banks to repair their balance sheets-was contained within the financial sector, in the current episode liquidity has been spread far more widely. Under such a scenario, and with the decline in global trade further pressuring aggregate supply, could we see a jump in inflation? Given how low it is today, it wouldn't take much of a jump to spook markets. The last time US monetary policy was similarly entwined with government spending plans, it took a dramatic increase in inflation ignited by the Korean War for the Federal Reserve finally to put its foot down. After an acquiescent monetary policy that lasted throughout the Great Depression and World War II, and a mere three years after the departure of Marriner Eccles, the Federal Reserve, aghast at what it viewed as the carelessness of the Treasury in stoking inflation, demanded its independence. President Truman caved and signed the Treasury accords splitting the role of debt management from monetary policy, an agreement that is still technically in force today.

The prospect of a burst of inflation may seem like a distant concern in a world still mired in a deflationary shock. So far at least, the efforts to avert a disorderly collapse in financial markets during the pandemic have been a success. A necessary first step to avoid a more damaging economic slowdown. The true cost of that success however may only be revealed slowly over the coming quarters and years.

# PORTFOLIO HIGHLIGHTS

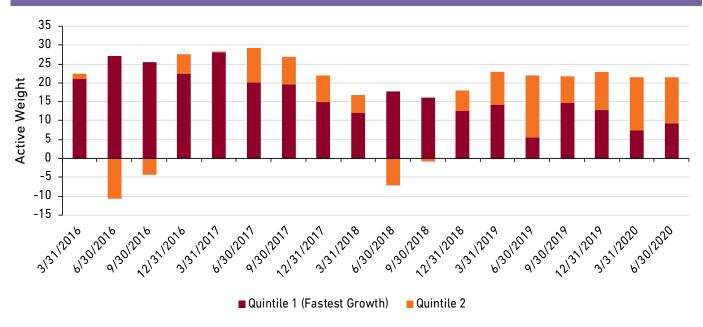
Last quarter, we highlighted the wide disparities in valuation commanded by the fastest-growing companies across nearly all markets, and noted the conundrum we are wrestling with daily: namely, the trade-off between our dedication to investing in growing, high-quality businesses and our appreciation that the price you pay for their shares will strongly influence the return you earn on the investment, at least in the medium term, if not in either the short run or the long run. (See our letter from 1Q18 addressing the latter.) It's worth pointing out how that conundrum has been expressed in the structure of the portfolio over the past few years. In the chart immediately below, we show how the fastest-growing quintiles of companies the World Index has experienced a distinct and growing valuation premium over the rest of the index constituents over the past few years, based on our rankings of a composite of traditional valuation metrics.

Consistent readers of these quarterly missives will recall that we have worried aloud about the rising prices of shares in the kind of companies we most admire, going back to the 4Q14 letter. But our portfolio valuation statistics have remained fairly high themselves, prompting the question of whether all the handwringing was just that, without follow-through in actions. The next chart, though, shows that we have acted upon our waning enthusiasm for the fastest-growing companies over those same four years, with our aggregate holdings in the speediest quintile shrinking by seventeen percentage points since mid-2016, while our holdings in the next lower (but still above average) growth cohort increased by over twenty-two points.



Source: FactSet; MSCI Inc. and S&P. Data as of June 30, 2020.

HL WORLD EQUITY PORTFOLIO ACTIVE WEIGHT IN THE TOP TWO GROWTH QUINTILES



Source: FactSet; Harding Loevner World Equity Model; MSCI Inc. and S&P. Data as of June 30, 2020.

The preceding charts divide the Index and Harding Loevner's World Equity Portfolio into quintiles according to Harding Loevner's Growth and Value rankings, which are proprietary measures determined using objective data. Growth rankings are based on historical growth of earnings, sales, and assets, as well as expected changes in earnings and profitability. Value rankings are based on several valuation measures, including price ratios.

That's a shift of a sixth of the portfolio from the fastest-growing companies to the merely robustly growing, driven primarily by a desire to avoid the most expensive stocks in our own qualified opportunity set. To be clear, pulling back on those valuation risks has come at a cost: the cohort of fastest-growing companies has outperformed strongly over most of that period, as it has done once again this quarter.

As for transactions this quarter, as usual, they fall into several buckets. First, there are sales that recognize that the investment thesis we had envisioned is either marred by disappointing growth in fundamentals or is now not expected to work as envisioned. We'd include the sale of **Walgreens Boots Alliance** in the former category and the sales of Booking Holdings and **EssilorLuxottica** in the latter category. We believe structural growth challenges from the pandemic will put great strain on potential weaknesses within business and governance models.

In Booking's case, we believe bargaining power may weaken in its key European market to the extent that large hotel chains use their superior financial strength to consolidate market share in this historically fragmented market characterized by small hotel operators, which has long been favorable for Booking's pricing power. Further, we are aware of Booking's historical reliance on Google for a large percentage of its business. Should Google pursue forward integration in its ever-expanding travel search business, Booking would almost certainly be adversely affected. We believe the odds of either or both risks manifesting are materially higher post pandemic than prior—hence our belief that risk-reward has turned unfavorable for Booking relative to the many investment alternatives available to us.

In EssilorLuxottica's case, we are concerned that underlying governance strains in the merger that have yet to be addressed may impede effective management decision-making that will be required to address the acute growth challenges facing the group in light of the pandemic. We believe actions mitigating the negatives and capitalizing on the positives from the pandemic across our companies requires a very high level of effective management decision making. We are not convinced the requisite level of management responsiveness and foresight is probable at EssilorLuxottica while underlying governance issues remain unresolved.

Second, there are purchases of high-quality businesses whose growth has been temporarily (in our view) dented or interrupted, but whose share price has become very attractive as other investors extrapolate their current woes. We purchased India's **HDFC Bank**, and added to existing holdings in two other Emerging Market oriented banks in the quarter: Brazil's **Itaú Unibanco** and UK-domiciled **Standard Chartered**. All three shares had fallen sharply as the pandemic gathered force, but we believe their franchises will not only survive the downturn but thrive through the recovery. HDFC Bank's growth prospects appear strong, for instance, thanks to India's low level of credit penetration, especially in retail lending. The bank is also wellpositioned in the corporate segment, which may present good future growth opportunities. In addition, HDFC is one of the few banks in India not saddled with asset-quality issues. We also added to Japanese cosmetics producer **Shiseido**, whose shares have performed poorly even before the pandemic, but whose brands still command strong loyalty across Asia, where consumption patterns are likely to return to normal sooner than in other regions where the response to COVID-19 has been less well-managed.

Third, we trimmed several US holdings whose very strong share price performance left them both more highly valued and at a larger weight in the portfolio. We reduced NVIDIA, the chipmaker for ultra-fast computer applications, **Verisk**, the data service provider for insurers, and PayPal, the online payments platform.

# We have added to holdings in three Emerging Market-oriented banks. All were early casualties of the pandemic that we believe will thrive during the recovery.

Fourth and finally, we returned to buy former holdings once again in Amazon and in Tencent. In Amazon, we return to a company that we'd owned for most of the past decade but had sold twice on valuation grounds and worries about capital intensity—most recently just eight months ago. As the coronavirus spread in the US, we reasoned that Amazon was clearly integral to its customers' ability to weather the lockdown, and any lingering political risk would be assuaged by its prodigious efforts through the crisis. In our view the company's growth prospects have significantly improved—or been telescoped nearer to the present—by consumer behavioral changes arising from the pandemic, and its scale advantages will allow it to roll out new services at attractive prices that competitors will struggle to match.

In Tencent, we are returning to one of China's strongest digital economy franchises. The digital economy across China is continuing to grow rapidly and may also benefit from a host of behavioral changes post COVID-19 that could extend the duration of its rapid growth. Tencent has multiple long-term growth drivers ranging from expanding its overseas share in mobile games, to accelerating advertising via constant innovation across its burgeoning WeChat social media ecosystem, to greater online entertainment subscription growth, to developing more fintech services on top of its already-pervasive electronic payments platform, to offering cloud software services that enable other Chinese enterprises and institutions to develop broader digital capabilities. The firm has a wealth of R&D staff developing new technologies along with a broad external technology investment portfolio, and its financial strength should allow it to exploit those advantages to pursue attractive growth opportunities in several directions at once.



Portfolio Management Team Update

We are pleased to announce that, on January 1, 2021, Jingyi Li will succeed Ferrill Roll, CFA as co-lead portfolio manager of the Global Equity strategy. Peter Baughan, CFA will continue as the strategy's other co-lead. Portfolio managers Rick Schmidt, CFA, Chris Mack, CFA, and Scott Crawshaw also will continue to support the Global strategy by managing model portfolios. While no longer a portfolio manager on this strategy, Ferrill will remain engaged with it in his role as Chief Investment Officer. The World Equity strategy is managed based on the Global Equity model portfolio, but has a more limited exposure to emerging markets.

Jingyi joined Harding Loevner in 2010. During the years since, he has achieved outstanding results as an analyst and as a portfolio manager on (at various times) three strategies including Global Equity. His analyst responsibilities have included companies in the global Industrials and Utilities sectors as well as a variety of Chinese companies. A partner of Harding Loevner, Jingyi is an acknowledged intellectual leader whose trenchant critiques and insight contribute to his colleagues' investment decision-making as well as his own. Before joining Harding Loevner, Jingyi worked in management consulting at Accenture and China International Economics Consultants, and in private equity at New China Capital Management. He graduated from Shanghai Jiaotong University with a BA in International Trade and earned an MBA from the Yale School of Management.

#### **Management Update**

At the end of this year, as the natural next step in a longplanned succession, Ferrill Roll, CFA, who has shared Chief Investment Officer responsibilities with Simon Hallett, CFA since 2016, will become sole CIO. Simon will continue to contribute actively to Harding Loevner and our clients by engaging in the thought leadership activities he relishes, exploring and educating internal and external audiences on vital investment questions. He will remain a partner of Harding Loevner and continue to advise us on strategic matters as vice chairman of the firm's Executive Committee.

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## WORLD EQUITY HOLDINGS (AS OF JUNE 30, 2020)

| SECTOR/COMPANY/DESCRIPTION                                | COUNTRY     | END WT (%) |
|---|-------------|------------|
| COMM SERVICES   |             |            |
| ALPHABET Internet products and services                   | US          | 3.4        |
| DISNEY Diversified media and entertainment provider       | US          | 1.1        |
| FACEBOOK Social network                                   | US          | 3.0        |
| NETEASE Gaming and internet services                      | China       | 0.7        |
| TENCENT Internet and IT services                          | China       | 0.7        |
| CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY                                    |             |            |
| ALIBABA E-commerce retailer                               | China       | 0.9        |
| AMAZON.COM E-commerce retailer                            | US          | 2.1        |
| EBAY E-commerce retailer                                  | US          | 1.2        |
| NIKE Athletic footwear and apparel retailer               | US          | 2.2        |
| TRIP.COM GROUP Online travel services                     | China       | 0.5        |
| CONSUMER STAPLES  |             |            |
| COLGATE PALMOLIVE Consumer products manufacturer          | US          | 1.0        |
| ESTÉE LAUDER Cosmetics manufacturer                       | US          | 1.1        |
| L'ORÉAL Cosmetics manufacturer                            | France      | 1.4        |
| NESTLÉ Foods manufacturer                                 | Switzerland | 1.4        |
| SHISEIDO Consumer products manufacturer                   | Japan       | 1.5        |
| ENERGY  |             |            |
| EXXONMOBIL Oil and gas producer                           | US          | 1.7        |
| FINANCIALS  |             |            |
| AIA GROUP Insurance provider                              | Hong Kong   | 2.7        |
| BANK CENTRAL ASIA Commercial bank                         | Indonesia   | 0.4        |
| BBVA Commercial bank                                      | Spain       | 0.5        |
| FIRST REPUBLIC BANK Private bank and wealth manager       | US          | 2.8        |
| HDFC BANK Commercial bank                                 | India       | 0.5        |
| ICICI BANK Commercial bank                                | India       | 0.5        |
| ITAÚ UNIBANCO Commercial bank                             | Brazil      | 0.9        |
| STANDARD CHARTERED Commercial bank                        | UK          | 1.0        |
| SVB FINANCIAL GROUP Commercial bank                       | US          | 1.1        |
| HEALTH CARE   |             |            |
| ABBOTT LABS Health care products manufacturer             | US          | 1.5        |
| ABCAM Life science services                               | UK          | 1.3        |
| ALCON Eye care products manufacturer                      | Switzerland | 1.3        |
| ALIGN TECHNOLOGY Orthodontics products manufacturer       | US          | 1.1        |
| ILLUMINA Life science products and services               | US          | 2.8        |
| LONZA Life science products developer                     | Switzerland | 3.4        |
| SONOVA HOLDING Hearing aids manufacturer                  | Switzerland | 1.2        |
| SYSMEX Clinical laboratory equipment manufacturer         | Japan       | 1.3        |
| THERMOFISHER SCIENTIFIC Health care products and services | US          | 1.5        |

| SECTOR/COMPANY/DESCRIPTION                               | COUNTRY | END WT (%) |
|--|---------|------------|
| UNITEDHEALTH GROUP Health care products and services     | US      | 1.0        |
| VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS Pharma manufacturer               | US      | 3.8        |
| WATERS Analytical instruments manufacturer               | US      | 0.3        |
| INDUSTRIALS  |         |            |
| 3M COMPANY Diversified product manufacturer              | US      | 0.6        |
| FANUC Industrial robot manufacturer                      | Japan   | 0.6        |
| JOHN DEERE Industrial equipment manufacturer             | US      | 1.3        |
| KONE Elevator and escalator manufacturer                 | Finland | 1.1        |
| KUBOTA Industrial and consumer equipment manufacturer    | Japan   | 1.1        |
| MAKITA Power tool manufacturer                           | Japan   | 0.9        |
| NIDEC Electric motor manufacturer                        | Japan   | 0.9        |
| PROTOLABS Prototype manufacturing services               | US      | 1.2        |
| <b>ROPER</b> Diversified technology businesses operator  | US      | 2.9        |
| SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC Energy management services            | France  | 1.1        |
| VERISK Risk analytics and assessment services            | US      | 2.2        |
| INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY                                   |         |            |
| APPLE Consumer electronics and software developer        | US      | 2.7        |
| COGNIZANT IT consultant                                  | US      | 0.8        |
| EPAM IT consultant                                       | US      | 1.4        |
| KEYENCE Sensor and measurement equipment manufacturer    | Japan   | 2.2        |
| MASTERCARD Electronic payment services                   | US      | 2.8        |
| MICROSOFT Consumer electronics and software developer    | US      | 2.0        |
| NETWORK INTERNATIONAL Electronic payment services        | UK      | 0.3        |
| NVIDIA Semiconductor chip designer                       | US      | 1.1        |
| PAYPAL Electronic payment services                       | US      | 4.6        |
| SALESFORCE.COM Customer relationship management software | US      | 1.2        |
| SYNOPSYS Software developer and chip designer            | US      | 1.4        |
| THE TRADE DESK Digital advertising management services   | US      | 1.6        |
| WORKDAY Enterprise resource planning software            | US      | 1.1        |
| MATERIALS  |         |            |
| AIR LIQUIDE Industrial gases producer                    | France  | 1.1        |
| CHR. HANSEN Natural ingredients developer                | Denmark | 0.9        |
| LINDE Industrial gases supplier and engineer             | US      | 1.7        |
| SYMRISE Fragrances and flavors manufacturer              | Germany | 2.5        |
| REAL ESTATE  |         |            |
| NoHoldings   |         |            |
| UTILITIES  |         |            |
| No Holdings  |         |            |
| CASH   |         | 1.9        |

Model Portfolio holdings are supplemental information only and complement the fully compliant World Equity Composite GIPS Presentation. The portfolio is actively managed therefore holdings shown may not be current. Portfolio holdings should not be considered recommendations to buy or sell any security. It should not be assumed that investment in the security identified has been or will be profitable. To request a complete list of portfolio holdings for the past year contact Harding Loevner.

## 2Q20 CONTRIBUTORS TO ABSOLUTE RETURN (%)

| LARGEST CONTRIBUTORS | SECTOR | AVG.WT. | CONTRIBUTION |
|----------------------|--------|---------|--------------|
| PAYPAL               | INFT   | 4.8     | 3.30         |
| FIRST REPUBLIC BANK  | FINA   | 3.6     | 1.12         |
| FACEBOOK             | СОММ   | 3.1     | 1.08         |
| APPLE                | INFT   | 2.6     | 1.05         |
| THE TRADE DESK       | INFT   | 1.3     | 1.01         |

## 2Q20 DETRACTORS FROM ABSOLUTE RETURN (%)

| LARGEST DETRACTORS       | SECTOR | AVG.WT. | CONTRIBUTION |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|--------------|
| WALGREENS BOOTS ALLIANCE | STPL   | 0.4     | -0.15        |
| STANDARD CHARTERED       | FINA   | 0.9     | -0.05        |
| HDFC BANK                | FINA   | 0.1     | 0.00         |
| WATERS                   | HLTH   | 1.2     | 0.01         |
| SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC       | INDU   | 0.1     | 0.02         |

### **PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS**

| QUALITY & GROWTH                       | HL WORLD | MSCI WORLD |
|--|----------|------------|
| PROFIT MARGIN <sup>1</sup> (%)         | 15.8     | 13.6       |
| RETURN ON ASSETS <sup>1</sup> (%)      | 9.0      | 7.4        |
| RETURN ON EQUITY <sup>1</sup> (%)      | 18.1     | 17.4       |
| DEBT/EQUITY RATIO <sup>1</sup> (%)     | 55.0     | 82.3       |
| STD DEV OF 5 YEAR ROE <sup>1</sup> (%) | 3.6      | 5.3        |
| SALES GROWTH <sup>1,2</sup> (%)        | 10.1     | 5.8        |
| EARNINGS GROWTH <sup>1,2</sup> (%)     | 13.7     | 11.2       |
| CASH FLOW GROWTH <sup>1,2</sup> (%)    | 13.0     | 9.2        |
| DIVIDEND GROWTH <sup>1,2</sup> (%)     | 7.1      | 8.2        |
| SIZE & TURNOVER                        | HL WORLD | MSCIWORLD  |
| WTD MEDIAN MKT CAP (US \$B)            | 67.9     | 70.1       |
| WTD AVG MKT CAP (US \$B)               | 236.5    | 262.6      |
| TURNOVER <sup>3</sup> (ANNUAL %)       | 23.6     | -          |

## LAST 12 MOS CONTRIBUTORS TO ABSOLUTE RETURN (%)

| LARGEST CONTRIBUTORS   | SECTOR | AVG. WT. | CONTRIBUTION |
|------------------------|--------|----------|--------------|
| PAYPAL                 | INFT   | 4.6      | 2.23         |
| VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS | HLTH   | 3.2      | 2.10         |
| NVIDIA                 | INFT   | 1.9      | 2.06         |
| APPLE                  | INFT   | 2.5      | 1.63         |
| LONZA                  | HLTH   | 3.1      | 1.59         |

## LAST 12 MOS DETRACTORS FROM ABSOLUTE RETURN (%)

| LARGEST DETRACTORS | SECTOR | AVG. WT. | CONTRIBUTION |
|--------------------|--------|----------|--------------|
| SCHLUMBERGER       | ENER   | 1.0      | -1.11        |
| BOOKING HOLDINGS   | DSCR   | 2.6      | -1.03        |
| STANDARD CHARTERED | FINA   | 1.2      | -0.73        |
| SONOVAHOLDING      | HLTH   | 1.4      | -0.37        |
| AIA GROUP          | FINA   | 1.8      | -0.33        |

| RISK AND VALUATION              | HL WORLD | MSCI WORLD |
|---------------------------------|----------|------------|
| ALPHA4(%)                       | 4.93     | _          |
| BETA4                           | 0.99     | _          |
| R-SQUARED <sup>4</sup>          | 0.94     | —          |
| ACTIVE SHARE <sup>3</sup> (%)   | 87       | —          |
| STANDARD DEVIATION4(%)          | 14.64    | 14.32      |
| SHARPE RATIO4                   | 0.78     | 0.44       |
| TRACKING ERROR <sup>4</sup> (%) | 3.7      | _          |
| INFORMATION RATIO <sup>4</sup>  | 1.40     | —          |
| UP/DOWN CAPTURE <sup>4</sup>    | 116/91   | _          |
| PRICE/EARNINGS <sup>5</sup>     | 30.8     | 20.3       |
| PRICE/CASH FLOW <sup>5</sup>    | 24.8     | 12.5       |
| PRICE/BOOK <sup>5</sup>         | 4.1      | 2.4        |
| DIVIDEND YIELD <sup>6</sup> (%) | 0.9      | 2.3        |

<sup>1</sup>Weighted median; <sup>2</sup>Trailing five years, annualized; <sup>3</sup>Five-year average; <sup>4</sup>Trailing five years, annualized; <sup>3</sup>Weighted harmonic mean; <sup>4</sup>Weighted mean. Source (Risk characteristics): eVestment Alliance (eA); Harding Loevner World Equity Composite, based on the Composite returns; MSCI Inc. Source (other characteristics): FactSet (Run Date: July 5, 2020, based on the latest available data in FactSet on this date.); Harding Loevner World Equity Model, based on the underlying holdings; MSCI Inc.

## COMPLETED PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS

| POSITIONS ESTABLISHED    | COUNTRY | SECTOR |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|
| AMAZON.COM               | US      | DSCR   |
| HDFC BANK                | INDIA   | FINA   |
| SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC       | FRANCE  | INDU   |
| TENCENT                  | CHINA   | СОММ   |
| THERMO FISHER SCIENTIFIC | US      | HLTH   |

The portfolio holdings identified above do not represent all of the securities held in the portfolio. It should not be assumed that investment in the securities identified has been or will be profitable. The following information is available upon request: (1) information describing the methodology of the contribution data in the charts above; and (2) a list showing the weight and contribution of all holdings during the quarter and the last 12 months. Past performance does not guarantee future results. In the charts above, "weight" is the average percentage weight of the holding during the period, and "contribution" is the contribution to overall performance over the period. Contributors and detractors exclude cash and securities in the Composite not held in the Model Portfolio. Quarterly data is not annualized.

#### WORLD EQUITY COMPOSITE PERFORMANCE (AS OF JUNE 30, 2020)

|                       | HL WORLD<br>EQUITY<br>GROSS | HL WORLD<br>EQUITY<br>NET | MSCI<br>WORLD <sup>1</sup> | MSCI<br>ACWI <sup>2</sup> | HL WORLD<br>EQUITY 3-YR STD<br>DEVIATION <sup>3</sup> | MSCI WORLD<br>3-YR STD<br>DEVIATION <sup>3</sup> | MSCI ACWI<br>3-YR STD<br>DEVIATION <sup>3</sup> | INTERNAL<br>DISPERSION <sup>4</sup> | NO.OF<br>ACCOUNTS | COMPOSITE<br>ASSETS | FIRM<br>ASSETS |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|
|                       | (%)                         | (%)                       | (%)                        | (%)                       | (%)   | (%)  | (%)   | (%)                                 |                   | (\$M)               | (%)            |
| 2020 YTD <sup>5</sup> | 7.20                        | 6.98                      | -5.48                      | -5.99                     | 16.17   | 16.02  | 16.03   | N.A. <sup>6</sup>                   | 5                 | 2,550               | 4.30           |
| 2019                  | 30.60                       | 30.07                     | 28.40                      | 27.30                     | 12.28   | 11.13  | 11.21   | N.M. <sup>7</sup>                   | 5                 | 2,431               | 3.78           |
| 2018                  | -8.79                       | -9.16                     | -8.20                      | -8.93                     | 11.53   | 10.39  | 10.48   | N.M.                                | 4                 | 1,688               | 3.36           |
| 2017                  | 30.93                       | 30.41                     | 23.07                      | 24.62                     | 10.66   | 10.24  | 10.37   | 1.1                                 | 7                 | 3,933               | 7.28           |
| 2016                  | 7.59                        | 7.14                      | 8.15                       | 8.48                      | 10.91   | 10.94  | 11.07   | 0.6                                 | 7                 | 3,092               | 7.93           |
| 2015                  | 5.94                        | 5.48                      | -0.32                      | -1.84                     | +   | +  | +   | N.M.                                | 7                 | 2,903               | 8.72           |
| 2014                  | 7.49                        | 7.04                      | 5.50                       | 4.71                      | +   | +  | +   | N.M.                                | 5                 | 2,138               | 6.11           |
| 2013 <sup>8</sup>     | 7.49                        | 7.48                      | 8.11                       | 7.42                      | +   | +  | +   | N.A.                                | 3                 | 1,540               | 4.65           |

<sup>1</sup>Benchmark Index; <sup>2</sup>Supplemental Index; <sup>3</sup>Variability of the Composite and the Index returns over the preceding 36-month period, annualized; <sup>4</sup>Assetweighted standard deviation (gross of fees); <sup>5</sup>The 2020 YTD performance returns and assets shown are preliminary; <sup>6</sup>N.A.–Internal dispersion less than a 12-month period; <sup>7</sup>N.M.–Information is not statistically significant due to an insufficient number of portfolios in the Composite for the entire year; <sup>8</sup>2013 represents the partial year, October 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013; +Less than 36 months of return data.

The World Equity Composite contains fully discretionary, fee-paying accounts investing in US and non-US equity and equity-equivalent securities and cash reserves, and is measured against the MSCI World Total Return Index (Gross) for comparison purposes. Returns include the effect of foreign currency exchange rates. The exchange rate source of the benchmark is Reuters. The exchange rate source of the Composite assets invested in countries or regions not included in the benchmark, is available upon request.

The MSCI World Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure global developed market equity performance. The Index consists of 23 developed market countries. The MSCI All Country World Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure equity market performance in the global developed and emerging markets. The Index consists of 49 developed and emerging market countries. You cannot invest directly in these Indices.

Harding Loevner LP claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. Harding Loevner has been independently verified for the period November 1, 1989 through March 31, 2020.

Verification assesses whether (1) the firm has complied with all composite construction requirements of the GIPS standards on a firm-wide basis and (2) the firm's policy and procedures are designed to calculate and present performance in compliance with GIPS standards. The World Equity Composite has been examined for the periods October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2020. The verification and performance examination reports are available upon request.

Harding Loevner LP is an investment adviser registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Harding Loevner is an affiliate of Affiliated Managers Group, Inc. (NYSE: AMG), an investment holding company with stakes in a diverse group of boutique firms. The firm maintains a complete list and description of composites, which is available upon request.

Results are based on fully discretionary accounts under management, including those accounts no longer with the firm. Composite performance is presented gross of foreign withholding taxes on dividends, interest income and capital gains. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Policies for valuing portfolios, calculating performance, and preparing compliant presentations are available upon request.

The US dollar is the currency used to express performance. Returns are presented both gross and net of management fees and include the reinvestment of all income. Net returns are calculated using actual fees. Actual returns will be reduced by investment advisory fees and other expenses that may be incurred in the management of the account. The standard fee schedule generally applied to separate World Equity accounts is 1.00% annually of the market value up to \$20 million; 0.50% of amounts from \$20 million to \$100 million; 0.45% of amounts from \$100 million to \$250 million; above \$250 million on request. Actual investment advisory fees incurred by clients may vary. The annual composite dispersion presented is an assetweighted standard deviation calculated for the accounts in the composite the entire year.

The World Equity Composite was created on September 30, 2013.