# International Equity

Monthly Update

October 2024



# Composite Performance (% Total Return)

Periods ended October 31, 2024	1 Month	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Since Inception
HL International Equity (Gross)	-5.19	6.22	23.71	-0.02	7.03	6.97	8.13
HL International Equity (Net)	-5.25	5.65	22.93	-0.65	6.36	6.29	7.35
MSCI All Country World ex US Index	-4.86	9.13	24.98	2.13	6.29	5.29	5.28
MSCI EAFE Index	-5.42	7.34	23.58	3.22	6.75	5.78	5.09

The composite performance returns shown are preliminary. Returns are annualized for periods greater than one year. International Equity composite inception date: December 31, 1989. MSCI All Country World ex US Index, the benchmark index, and MSCI EAFE Index, the supplemental index, are shown gross of withholding taxes. Please read the above performance in conjunction with the disclosures on the last page of this report.

## Portfolio Positioning (% Weight)

	•		_		
Sector	HL	Index	Und	er / Over	
Cons Staples	13.4	7.2			
Health Care	14.5	9.3			
Cash	2.5	_			
Materials	8.4	6.9			
Industrials	14.5	13.8			
Info Technology	12.9	13.1			
Financials	21.8	23.0			
Real Estate	0.0	1.8			
Energy	3.1	5.1			
Utilities	0.6	3.2			
Comm Services	2.5	5.5			
Cons Discretionary	5.8	11.1			
		-8	-4	0	4

Geography	HL	Index	Under / Over
Europe ex EMU	26.0	19.8	
Other	3.0	_	
Cash	2.5	_	
Japan	14.7	14.2	
Pacific ex Japan	7.6	7.1	
Frontier Markets	0.0	_	
Middle East	0.0	0.5	
Canada	5.2	7.9	
Europe EMU	17.7	20.8	
Emerging Markets	23.3	29.7	
		-8	-4 0 4 8

<sup>&</sup>quot;HL": International Equity model portfolio. "Index": MSCI All Country World ex US Index. "Frontier Markets": Includes countries with less-developed markets outside the index.

## **Investment Perspectives**

### Market

The MSCI ACWI ex US Index declined 4.9% this month, lagging both the US and Emerging Markets despite the European Central Bank cutting rates for the third time this year. Regionally, Pacific ex Japan dropped more than 6% while Emerging Markets fell 4%, dragged down by China, as investors worried that the magnitude of fiscal and monetary policy stimulus measures announced in the third quarter might not be enough to boost consumption. All sectors posted negative returns. Continued weak demand in China weighed on Consumer Staples and Materials, which both fell nearly 8%. Information Technology declined less—just over 2%—supported by strong performance from semiconductor companies benefitting from artificial intelligence (AI) demand.

### **Portfolio**

Shares of semiconductor manufacturer TSMC surged after the company reported strong quarterly earnings, with gross margins of 58% surpassing the 55% consensus expectation due to high fab utilization, cost reductions, and enhanced productivity. The company increased its full-year revenue growth forecast from 25% to 30%, citing AI demand for leading-edge technologies and better-than-expected growth in smartphones. Management also noted that the number of AI chips used in PCs and smartphones is expected to grow faster than unit growth for PCs and smartphones, which remains in the low single digits. TSMC is also using AI and machine learning for R&D in its fabrication facilities, which should further boost the company's productivity, efficiency, speed, and quality. A 1% productivity gain would lead to a profit gain of almost US\$1B for the company.

# Ten Largest Holdings

Company	Market	Sector
TSMC	Taiwan	Info Technology
DBS Group	Singapore	Financials
Chugai Pharmaceutical	Japan	Health Care
HDFC Bank	India	Financials
Royal Dutch Shell	UK	Energy
Allianz	Germany	Financials
Haleon	UK	Cons Staples
Schneider Electric	France	Industrials
Manulife	Canada	Financials
Roche	Switzerland	Health Care

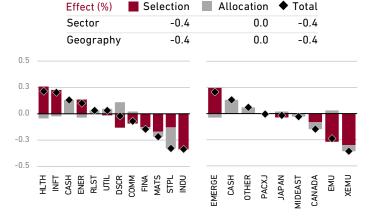
 $\label{thm:continuous} Ten \ Largest \ Holdings \ are \ the \ top \ ten \ holdings \ by \ weight. \ Please \ read \ the \ disclosures \ on \ the \ last \ page, \ which \ are \ an \ integral \ part \ of \ this \ presentation.$ 

<sup>&</sup>quot;Other": Includes companies classified in countries outside the index.

## Benchmark Performance | Oct.

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## Performance Attribution | Oct.



"FRONTIER": Includes countries with less-developed markets outside the index. "OTHER": Includes companies classified in countries outside the index.

- In Industrials, shares of Swedish industrial tool and equipment maker Atlas Copco sank as the company reported that order, sales, and profit growth for the company's compressors was slightly below expectations.
- In Energy, UK oil and gas company Royal Dutch Shell eked out a small gain. Oil prices rose sharply following Iran's attack on Israel, only to fall once Israel's retaliatory strike did not target any Iranian oil and gas infrastructure.
- In the eurozone, French cosmetics manufacturer L'Oréal declined after reporting third-quarter sales that were below expectations. Cosmetics manufacturers continue to face shrinking demand in China.

# **Top Five Contributors/Detractors (%) | Oct.**

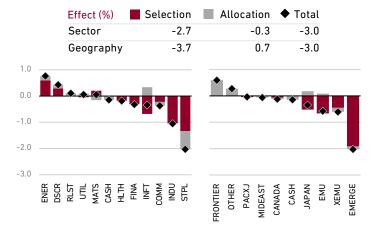
### to Relative Returns

to Relative Returns				
Contributors	Market	Sector	Index Weight	Effect
TSMC	Taiwan	INFT	2.9	0.27
Disco Corp	Japan	INFT	0.1	0.18
ASML*	Netherlands	INFT	1.1	0.16
HDFC Bank	India	FINA	0.3	0.15
Royal Dutch Shell	UK	ENER	0.8	0.13
Detractors				
L'Oréal	France	STPL	0.4	-0.22
Atlas Copco	Sweden	INDU	0.3	-0.17
Shimano	Japan	DSCR	<0.1	-0.14
Haleon	UK	STPL	0.1	-0.12
Symrise	Germany	MATS	0.1	-0.12

## Benchmark Performance | YTD



## Performance Attribution | YTD



- Poor returns in Industrials were largely due to Chinese thermal management component manufacturer Sanhua Intelligent Controls.
  Shares declined as EV sales slowed, particularly those of Tesla, a key client.
- In Consumer Staples, Mexican bottler and convenience store operator FEMSA detracted. Claudia Sheinbaum's decisive Presidential victory and her party's gains in the legislature in June led to a large drop in Mexican stocks as investors feared more populist policies.
- A bright spot was Canadian financial services and insurance provider Manulife, which reported strong first- and second-quarter earnings, aided by a rebound in its wealth management and insurance businesses in Asia. Additionally, Taiwan's TSMC continued to be a strong contributor, benefiting from the enthusiasm surrounding AI.

# Top Five Contributors/Detractors (%) | YTD

#### to Relative Returns

Contributors	Market	Sector	Index Weight	Effect
TSMC	Taiwan	INFT	2.5	1.26
Manulife	Canada	FINA	0.2	0.63
Lukoil	Russia	ENER	-	0.60
DBS Group	Singapore	FINA	0.2	0.59
Chugai Pharmaceutical	Japan	HLTH	0.1	0.48
Detractors				
Samsung Electronics	South Korea	INFT	1.2	-1.01
FEMSA	Mexico	STPL	0.1	-0.90
Infineon Technologies	Germany	INFT	0.2	-0.84
L'Oréal	France	STPL	0.4	-0.74
Sanhua Intelligent Controls	China	INDU	<0.1	-0.71

#### Sources

Benchmark Performance: FactSet, MSCI Inc.

Sector/Geographic Attribution: Harding Loevner International Equity composite, FactSet, MSCI Inc.

Sector/Geographic Positioning and Ten Largest Holdings: Harding Loevner International Equity model, FactSet, MSCI Inc.

#### **Disclosures**

Past performance does not guarantee future results. Invested capital is at risk of loss. The holdings identified do not represent all of the securities purchased, sold, or recommended for advisory clients

For comparison purposes the composite return is measured against the MSCI All Country World ex US Index (Gross). Harding Loevner LP is an investment adviser registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Harding Loevner claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®). Harding Loevner has been independently verified for the period November 1, 1989 through June 30, 2024. A firm that claims compliance with the GIPS standards must establish policies and procedures for complying with all the applicable requirements of the GIPS standards. Verification provides assurance on whether the firm's policies and procedures related to composite and pooled fund maintenance, as well as the calculation, presentation, and distribution of performance, have been designed in compliance with the GIPS standards and have been implemented on a firm-wide basis. The International Equity composite has had a performance examination for the periods January 1, 1990 through June 30, 2024. The verification and performance examination reports are available upon request. Performance data quoted represents past performance; past performance does not guarantee future results. Returns are presented both gross and net of management fees and include the reinvestment of all income. Net returns are calculated using actual fees. The US dollar is the currency used to express performance. For complete information on the construction and historical record of the International Equity composite, please contact Harding Loevner at (908) 218-7900 or invest@hlmnet.com. The firm maintains a complete list of composite descriptions, a list of limited distribution pooled fund descriptions, and a list of broad distribution pooled funds, which are available upon request. GIPS® is a registered trademark of CFA Institute. CFA Institute does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contained herein.

The MSCI All Country World ex US Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure equity market performance in the global developed and emerging markets, excluding the US. The index consists of 46 developed and emerging market countries. The MSCI EAFE Index (Europe, Australasia, Far East) is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure developed market equity performance, excluding the US and Canada. The index consists of 21 developed market countries. You cannot invest directly in these indexes.

Companies held in the portfolio at the end of the month appear in bold type; only the first reference to a particular holding appears in bold. The portfolio is actively managed therefore holdings may not be current. They should not be considered recommendations to buy or sell any security. It should not be assumed that investment in the securities identified has been or will be profitable. The portfolio holdings identified above do not represent all of the securities held in the portfolio. To request a complete list of holdings for the past year, please contact Harding Loevner. The following information is available upon request: (1) information describing the methodology of the contribution data and (2) a list showing the weight and relative contribution to return of all holdings during the month.

Portfolio holdings, portfolio attribution, contributors and detractors, and sector/geographic portfolio positioning are supplemental information only and complement a fully compliant International Equity composite GIPS Presentation, which is available upon request. Performance of contributors and detractors is net of fees, which is calculated by taking the difference between net and gross composite performance for the International Equity strategy prorated by asset weight in the portfolio and subtracted from each security's return. The composite and attribution returns may show discrepancies due to the different data sources for these returns. Composite performance is obtained from Harding Loevner's accounting system and attribution returns are obtained from the FactSet portfolio analysis system. Please note returns from FactSet are not audited for GIPS compliance and are for reference only.

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