



April 2023

Altrinsic Global Equity Commentary – First Quarter 2023

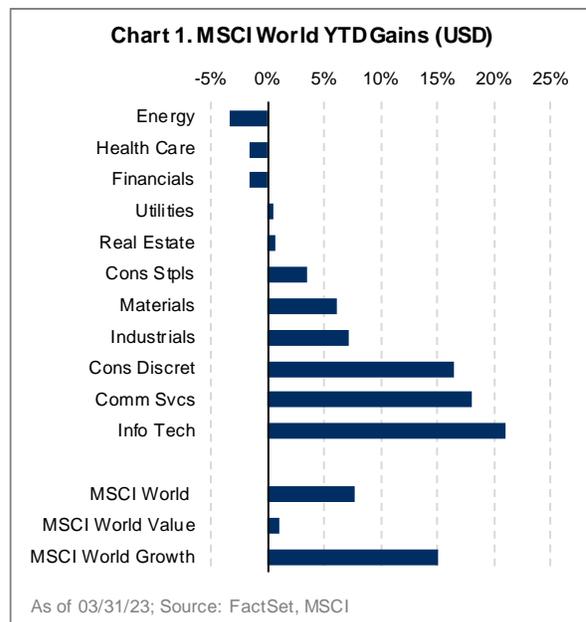
Dear Investor,

Global equities delivered strong gains during the first quarter as investors shrugged off two of the three largest bank failures in US history and the collapse of once venerable Credit Suisse. The proximate cause for the rally is a belief that inflation risk is vanquished, interest rates have peaked, years of extraordinary financial stimulus can be normalized painlessly, and the global economy will not experience a downturn. This implies a tremendous amount of confidence in policymakers.

The Altrinsic Global Equity portfolio gained 4.3% (4.1% net), lagging the MSCI World Index's 7.7% gain, as measured in US dollars.¹ Headline index gains masked significant underlying volatility in sector and style performance (**Chart 1**), as market leadership came from an unlikely combination of the longest duration growth stocks (a proxy for lower rates) and non-financial cyclicals (a proxy for economic growth – or at least a soft economic landing). Traditionally defensive sectors including utilities, health care, and consumer staples lagged. Growth indices far outpaced value indices, and high beta was the best performing factor.

The primary source of our relative underperformance was our lack of growth stocks, an underweight exposure to high beta non-financial cyclicals, and poor performance by our financials investments. Probing deeper into growth stocks' role in performance this quarter, the three best performing sectors were information technology (led by Apple, NVIDIA, Microsoft), communication services (Meta, Alphabet), and consumer discretionary (Tesla, Amazon). In fact, those seven stocks contributed to over half the MSCI World Index's gain and almost all of our relative underperformance (~300bps).

Some of our investments in these industries lagged as well – notably Gen Digital (IT) and Advance Auto Parts (consumer discretionary). Gen Digital declined on fears of a revenue slowdown despite improving profitability and cash flow generation following its acquisition of cybersecurity firm Avast. The temporary revenue slowdown is an unhelpful consequence of the merger that will improve over time. Until then, expenses remain in check and cash flow is increasing. Advance Auto Parts declined as company initiatives to



improve customer service will lead to temporarily heightened inventory levels and lower cash flow. We look favorably on the inventory investments, as improved availability should drive sales growth closer to peer levels in the structurally sound auto parts aftermarket.

The greatest sources of positive attribution came from investments in the consumer staples (Heineken, Danone) and materials (CRH, Akzo Nobel) sectors. Heineken announced results showing continued growth in volume, sales, and profits through their ongoing premiumization strategy. Additionally, FEMSA (an economic owner of 15% of Heineken) announced their intention to sell 40% of their position, with Heineken buying back a quarter of that stake. This decision removes an overhang and highlights management's (and investors') confidence in the company. Danone results were better than feared, demonstrating that the new management team has regained investor trust to embark on their growth and efficiency efforts. Akzo and CRH benefitted from declining input costs while maintaining pricing power and improved return potential. CRH was further aided by the announcement about moving their listing from the UK to the US, which will highlight the valuation disconnect from its closest peers.

Perspectives

Decisions have consequences. The extraordinary stimulus measures and recurring bailouts that characterized the years since the global financial crisis (GFC) have contributed to a moral hazard and inflation in risky assets. While markets shrugged off major bank failures during the first quarter, the consequences of a long overdue reversal of easy monetary policy and supercharged global stimulus are unlikely to be short-lived. New opportunities are emerging but significant excesses still need to deflate.

Early casualties have been among the more speculative beneficiaries of zero interest rates and a world awash with liquidity: profitless tech companies, SPACs, crypto-tokens and exchanges, and Robinhood, to name a few. Sudden spikes in bond yields exposed flaws in Liability Driven Investment (LDI) strategies of UK pension plans and ultimately contributed to the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank, Signature Bank, and Credit Suisse. Even China's once vaunted infrastructure improvement Belt and Road initiative has seen bailouts balloon. Illiquid private companies and venture capital portfolios have drawn attention but have yet to take the full write-downs that public markets suggest they should. While public markets are not offering the fire sale values that one might expect given current macroeconomic and geopolitical factors, there is *a lot* of pessimism priced into a growing number of companies.

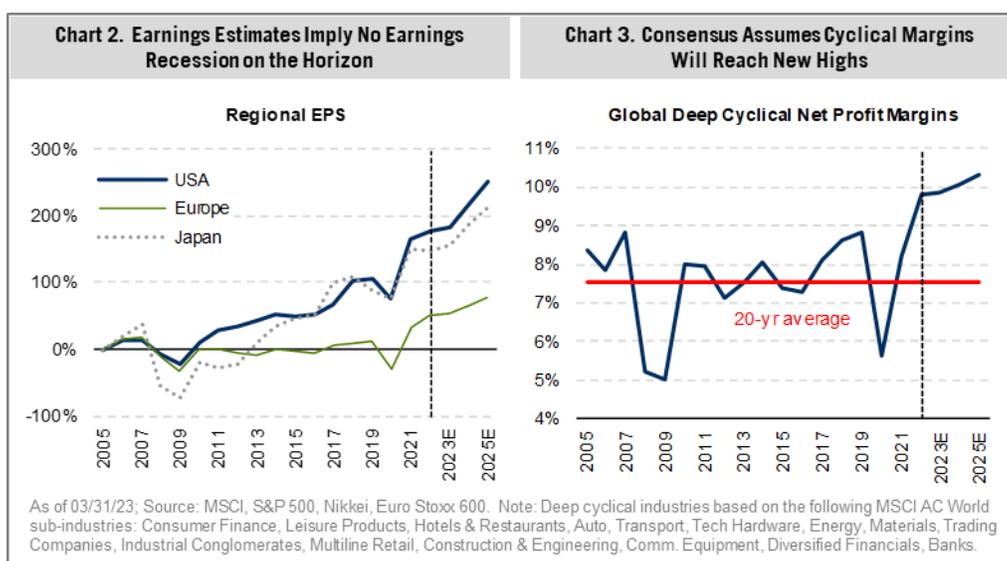
Commercial real estate (CRE) is a casualty in the early innings of a struggle that warrants close attention. A dangerous cycle may be underway with profound consequences for developers, banks, and the economy. CRE prices have been under pressure due to rising interest rates, rising vacancy rates, and stressed borrowers, to name a few. In Europe, many CRE owners are adjusting their bloated debt structure (often 2-3x the leverage of US counterparts) by slashing dividends and selling assets. In the US, CRE's primary lenders (regional banks) are under tremendous pressure from deposit outflows, increased regulatory scrutiny, rising non-performing loans, and the need to reevaluate their entire business models. This set of factors has the hallmarks of a troubling cycle in the making given regional banks' vital role in providing credit to local communities and households. In a post-GFC world, one could reasonably assume that the increased regulation, supervision, capital requirements, and "stress tests" would make the risk of developed market bank failures unimaginable. Yet, here we are again.

At a minimum, banking regulation will certainly increase and weigh on banks' profitability. Financial conditions are already tightening and will dampen economic growth in the months ahead. Markets are taking an optimistic view of this, implying that reduced lending will slow inflation more effectively – and with fewer

side effects – than Fed actions. Policymakers are balancing inflationary pressures, financial system stability, and politics at a time of unprecedented global leverage, near peak corporate profit margins, and elevated valuations.

Our exposure to banks has varied greatly over the years given their inherent leverage, reliance on the interest rate curve, underlying cyclicality, and a tendency for valuations to overshoot in both directions. During recent years, our exposure was limited to Japan, but more recently we have added emerging market banks to the portfolio. None of our bank holdings experienced the combination of sharp growth in uninsured deposits, asset/liability duration mismatches that hindered liquidity, large unrealized losses on government securities, and weak capital that contributed to the collapse of SVB and Signature in the US. The turmoil during the quarter has increased the valuation appeal, but regulation, increased capital requirements, and increased funding and insurance costs will weigh on ROEs. We keep an open eye to banks with quality franchises, strong management teams, and healthy balance sheets.

Despite the seemingly slow motion roll of casualties, corporate earnings and expectations for their growth have been surprisingly resilient – particularly in the US (**Charts 2 & 3**). This is largely due to extraordinary pricing actions taken by corporations, in many cases well in excess of input costs. Consumers have been accepting of the increases due to an unstable combination of pent-up COVID demand, savings, and stimulus. Pricing power and earnings will be important drivers of performance in coming quarters, particularly in the sectors where valuations and expectations are the highest like tech and consumer discretionary.



We believe it is fruitless to try to forecast central bank policies, market-determined interest rates, or inflation in the short or long term. We do believe it is important to recognize structural change, consider new frameworks, and ponder risks that could carry greater probabilities than markets reflect. A return to the past goldilocks environment of modest growth, steadily declining interest rates, and low stable inflation in major

developed economies is just a remote possibility. We must be mindful that unpleasant conditions, including stagflation, are realistic possibilities.

Well-capitalized and non-commoditized business models in which talented, nimble, and aligned management teams can adapt to changing environments and grow shareholder value should be increasingly rewarded in the market. Price paid (valuation) matters – as it always does over the long term.

Table 1 provides a global perspective on how different markets are reflecting these macroeconomic uncertainties, as captured in primary valuation measures.

	P/E (2023)	CAPE P/E Cyclically Adjusted	FCF Yield (%)
	World	16.6	23.4
United States	18.9	28.3	4.6
Europe	12.9	17.4	5.6
UK	10.4	13.6	7.3
Japan	13.4	16.4	4.7
Emerging Markets	12.7	12.7	4.9
LATAM	7.8	11.6	9.5
EM Asia	14.2	14.2	4.3

2023 estimates. Price as of 03/31/23; Source: FactSet

Portfolio Exposures and Investment Activity

Table 2 (next page) depicts our industry exposures compared to those of the MSCI World Index. Our portfolios are constructed using a bottom-up approach, company by company, with a prudent regard for risk throughout the process. The result is a portfolio positioned very differently from benchmarks with below market risk, and a concentration of attractively valued companies that we believe will deliver sustainable and/or improving returns.

Our three largest overweight exposures are non-bank financials, food and beverage franchises, and pharma biotech and life sciences companies.

Our **Non-Bank Financials** exposure is primarily in property and casualty insurance-focused businesses (Chubb, Everest Re, Willis Tower Watson) and exchanges (ICE, Euronext, JPX). Our insurance-related holdings have multi-year ROE tailwinds due to improved competitive discipline, rising demand in a risky world, better capital allocation, and rising investment income in the current interest rate environment. These companies have a fraction of the leverage of a typical bank with very little funding risks, and many trade at deeply discounted valuations on normalized earnings power. Our exchange holdings have solid competitive moats, attractive free cash flow margins, and new avenues to monetize their strong data and clearing platforms, particularly in a more volatile world.

Many **Food & Beverage** franchises operate in structurally sound categories and/or with scope for operational improvement undertaken by newly installed, experienced management teams. The ongoing trend toward premiumization and the significant tailwinds from the world reopening to consumers also contribute to these companies' future prospects. While many might consider these companies dull and defensive, we see several avenues for growth.

	Altrinsic Global Equity	Over/(Under) Weight vs. World
Non-Bank Financials	19.9	12.1
Food & Beverage Franchises	8.4	4.2
Pharma Biotech & Life Sciences	9.9	1.1
Info Tech	11.5	(11.0)
Consumer Discretionary	5.7	(5.9)
Utilities	0.5	(2.5)
Materials	5.2	0.7
Banks	5.6	0.1
Energy	4.4	(0.5)
Real Estate	1.9	(0.6)
Communication Services	6.1	(1.0)
Health Care Equipment & Service	3.5	(1.1)
Industrials	9.4	(1.4)
Cash	4.6	4.6
Other	3.5	1.1

As of 03/31/23; Source: FactSet and Altrinsic. Altrinsic sector weights are based upon a representative fully discretionary account with the global mandate. Altrinsic independently analyzes each security recommended for purchase and categorizes it into the MSCI GICS sector that it deems most appropriate. Altrinsic's sector classification may differ from MSCI.

Pharma Biotech & Life Sciences companies offer very attractive free cash flow yields and are positioned to benefit from innovations in areas including medical devices, Alzheimer's, oncology, and cardiology. Scientific advancement in drug discovery tools and targets, as well as the increasing use of AI in medical devices, are driving new business opportunities. There is significant underappreciated change taking place in the health care space, including evolving business models, the move toward value-based care, and improved data utilization.

Our three largest underweight exposures include information technology, consumer discretionary, and utilities.

Information Technology companies offer pockets of value, but we expect many of the popular growth stocks to go through a period of value purgatory, similar to what former TMT darlings (including Cisco) experienced in the aftermath of the 1998-2000 TMT bubble. Many of the popular avenues for growth for the largest tech players are much closer to their end than beginning, with global smartphone penetration now at 84%, global digital advertising penetration at 66%, and global e-commerce penetration at 20% (versus 10% just five years ago).¹ Either valuations fall to more sensible levels considering underlying earnings, or stock prices wait for earnings to catch up. We see growing opportunities and the most compelling value in enterprise companies with mission-critical products, significant recurring revenue, and drivers of value creation that are within their control.

The **Consumer Discretionary** sector is dominated by notoriously cyclical auto companies and highly valued retailers and luxury companies. Profitability and valuations in each of these areas are near peak levels as demand was either shifted or pulled forward by COVID constraints or stimulus, leaving them vulnerable to any consumer hiccups.

¹ Sources: Statista and Insider Intelligence.

Utilities tend to underperform in a sharply rising interest rate environment, as it causes liquidity concerns for the sector's relatively high debt load. Several utilities are already issuing equity to fund capex, and most companies have unappealing risk/reward skews in light of high valuations coupled with regulatory, growth, and cost pressures.

We are seeing pockets of value emerge among cyclical industrials and materials companies, but much of the recent strength has been among highly cyclical and high beta companies whose elevated valuations and lofty profit margins leave little margin of safety in the event of disappointment. We expect these companies to exhibit volatility (as they always do), and we will be opportunistic when attractive investment propositions arise. We have found the most compelling opportunities among companies that are embracing technology and/or enhancing the services components of their business models.

Table 3 provides a cross-sectional view of regional and sector exposures.

Table 3. Altrinsic Global Equity Portfolio										
	N. AM		EUROPE		JAPAN		OTHER		Portfolio Risk Summary	
	AGA	Index	AGA	Index	AGA	Index	AGA	Index		
	95.4	100.0	37.3	69.9	43.0	20.4	7.1	6.2	8.1	3.5
Comm Svcs	6.1	7.1	3.1	5.6	1.6	0.7	--	0.5	1.3	0.3
Cons Discret	5.7	11.6	2.6	8.0	1.3	2.2	--	1.2	1.7	0.2
Cons Stpls	12.0	6.6	0.9	3.4	10.1	2.7	--	0.3	0.9	0.1
Energy	4.4	5.0	1.2	3.6	3.3	1.2	--	--	--	0.1
Financials	25.5	13.3	9.2	7.8	9.7	3.5	3.2	0.7	3.3	1.3
Health Care	13.4	13.4	5.7	9.4	7.7	3.1	--	0.6	--	0.3
Industrials	9.4	10.8	3.9	6.1	3.5	2.8	2.0	1.6	--	0.3
Info Tech	11.5	22.4	7.7	20.1	2.9	1.6	--	0.7	0.8	--
Materials	5.2	4.4	2.4	1.9	2.7	1.6	--	0.3	--	0.6
Real Estate	1.9	2.5	--	1.8	--	0.1	1.9	0.2	--	0.4
Utilities	0.5	3.0	0.5	2.0	--	0.8	--	0.1	--	0.1

• Concentration in three areas:
 I. Quality global franchises
 –eg., Nestlé, Heineken, Chubb
 II. Asian companies with improving financial productivity at attractive valuations
 –eg., Sumitomo Mitsui Trust, Tokio Marine, Makita, Daito Trust
 III. Event driven, idiosyncratic, and/or “deeper value” plays across industries
 –eg., Liberty Global, KB Financial, Bureau Veritas
 • Significantly overweight non-US versus US
 • Large exposure to financials. Significantly underweight Western banks.

As of 03/31/23; Source: MSCI World (Net) Index. Sector and regional portfolio weights, based upon a representative fully discretionary account with the global mandate, are presented as supplemental information to a full disclosure presentation found in the appendix. Altrinsic independently analyzes each security recommended for purchase and categorizes it into the MSCI GICS sector and/or country that it deems most appropriate. Altrinsic's sector and country classifications may differ from MSCI. Please note that fractional differences in the portfolio's totals may occur due to Excel's rule-based rounding. The securities identified above are not necessarily held by Altrinsic Global Advisors, LLC for all client portfolios, and should not be considered a recommendation or solicitation to purchase or sell these securities. It should not be assumed that any investment in these securities was, or will be, profitable.

Investment activity was somewhat subdued this quarter, as we exited five positions (Astellas Pharma, Berkshire Hathaway, Julius Baer, Smiths Group, Trip.com) and established two new positions (Axis Capital, Kroger). Astellas faces increased competition, degrading the risk/return profile. The other companies were sold as their discounts to our intrinsic value estimates have substantially narrowed. Amidst the extreme pessimism within the financials sector, we initiated a position in specialty insurer and reinsurer Axis Capital. The current stock price does not reflect the improvements being made at both the organizational level (better business mix, more disciplined pricing, new CEO with turnaround success) and industry level (tailwinds of a better competitive environment and interest rate environment) to drive prolonged earnings growth. We also reintroduced a position in leading supermarket operator Kroger. The shares have come well off their post pandemic high (where we sold), but the company is executing well with sharpened price focus, omni channel efforts, and enhanced prepared and local food offerings. The pending merger with Albertsons adds scale and is highly complementary.

In conducting our due diligence, we subscribe to the old adage that “seeing is believing, while reading can be deceiving.” Put more eloquently, investors need to get out there and “kick the tires.” Our team has spent significant time on the road during the last year with recent research trips throughout the US, Brazil, Taiwan, Continental Europe, the UK, Southeast Asia, India, and Japan, among others. These trips have heightened our conviction in some investments while highlighting weaknesses in others. In all cases, the on-the-ground experiences increased our depth of knowledge, broadened our networks, improved our perspective, and have ultimately been additive to our clients’ portfolios. Selective trip notes written by individual analysts are periodically shared with our clients and/or made available on our website and LinkedIn.

The macro conditions around the world range from murky to downright treacherous. Ongoing risks include war, excessive debt, economic imbalances, geopolitical tensions, and – most importantly – those that are not yet known. Macro uncertainties are a given. However, our investments’ combination of compelling valuations and long-term scope for sustainable and/or improving financial productivity, along with the differentiated risk profile embedded in our portfolio give us great confidence in our ability to deliver superior risk-adjusted returns for our clients during these complicated times.

Sincerely,

John Hock
John DeVita
Rich McCormick

¹ Performance is presented gross and net of management fees for the composite and includes the reinvestment of all income. Gross returns will be reduced by investment advisory fees and other expenses that may be incurred in the management of the account. Net of fee performance was calculated using the highest applicable annual management fee of 0.85% applied monthly. Policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS reports are available upon request. Past performance is not indicative of future results. The outlook and opportunities noted throughout this letter are the opinions of Altrinsic as of the date of this letter. There is no guarantee that we will be successful in implementing investment strategies that take advantage of such perceived opportunities or that any investment in the securities discussed will be profitable. Please see Important Considerations and Assumptions at the end of this letter for additional disclosures. Data sourced from FactSet, MSCI, and Altrinsic research.

GIPS Report - Altrinsic Global Equity Composite

Year to Date	Total Firm Assets (millions)	Composite Assets			Annual Performance Results				Ex-Post Standard Deviation (3 Yr Annualized)	
		USD (millions)	% of Firm Assets	Number of Accounts	Composite		MSCI World (Net)	Composite Dispersion (Gross)	Composite (Gross)	MSCI World (Net)
					Gross	Net				
2022	8,440	410	5%	Five or fewer	-5.99%	-6.79%	-18.14%	N.A. ¹	18.61%	20.43%
2021	10,533	618	6%	Five or fewer	16.36%	15.39%	21.82%	N.A. ¹	16.75%	17.06%
2020	8,763	691	8%	6	3.56%	2.68%	15.90%	N.A. ¹	16.98%	18.27%
2019	7,397	808	11%	7	24.51%	23.47%	27.67%	N.A. ¹	9.81%	11.14%
2018	6,284	650	10%	6	-6.11%	-6.90%	-8.71%	N.A. ¹	9.66%	10.38%
2017	7,259	1,153	16%	7	16.71%	15.74%	22.40%	0.25%	9.92%	10.23%
2016	7,107	1,116	16%	8	11.91%	10.98%	7.51%	0.24%	10.82%	10.92%
2015	8,927	1,523	17%	13	-0.97%	-1.81%	-0.87%	0.16%	10.78%	10.80%
2014	11,656	2,295	20%	18	2.37%	1.51%	4.94%	0.19%	11.00%	10.23%
2013	14,261	3,069	22%	20	24.40%	23.37%	26.68%	0.29%	13.53%	13.54%
2012	12,586	3,128	25%	21	12.95%	12.00%	15.83%	0.32%	16.37%	16.74%
2011	10,683	2,361	22%	18	-5.49%	-6.29%	-5.54%	0.30%	18.85%	20.15%
2010	10,621	2,087	20%	12	13.55%	12.60%	11.76%	0.35%	22.52%	23.72%
2009	9,278	1,524	16%	10	29.80%	28.72%	29.99%	0.42%	20.24%	21.40%
2008	5,537	1,553	28%	13	-32.19%	-32.78%	-40.71%	0.27%	16.34%	17.02%
2007	7,582	2,437	32%	17	1.17%	0.31%	9.04%	0.30%	8.26%	8.10%
2006	5,574	1,918	34%	16	17.02%	16.04%	20.06%	0.08%	8.05%	7.64%
2005	2,563	321	13%	8	8.61%	7.70%	9.49%	N.A. ¹	10.82%	9.66%
2004	1,603	242	15%	Five or fewer	19.48%	18.60%	14.72%	N.A. ¹	14.29%	14.74%
2003	871	162	19%	Five or fewer	46.75%	45.69%	33.10%	N.A. ¹	15.80%	17.46%
2002	561	77	14%	Five or fewer	-12.51%	-13.17%	-19.88%	N.A. ¹	N.A.	N.A.
2001	491	135	28%	Five or fewer	-10.15%	-10.83%	-16.82%	N.A. ¹	N.A.	N.A.
2000*	520	175	34%	Five or fewer	-0.87%	-1.24%	-10.91%	N.A. ¹	N.A.	N.A.

N.A. - Information is not statistically meaningful due to an insufficient period of time.

N.A.¹ - Information is not statistically meaningful due to an insufficient number of portfolios in the composite for the entire year.

*Results shown for the year 2000 represent partial period performance from July 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000. The composite inception date is 1 July 2000.

Altrinsic Global Equity Composite is a diversified (60 - 100 holdings), bottom-up, fundamental, value oriented, Global, all cap portfolio, benchmarked to the MSCI World (Net) Index (accounts have the ability to invest in 144A stocks). The MSCI World Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed markets. Portfolios in the composite may invest in countries that are not in the MSCI World (Net) Index. Additional information is available upon request. The minimum account size for this composite is \$5 million. Prior to January 1, 2004, the minimum account size for this composite was \$10 million. Returns include the effect of foreign currency exchange rates. Prior to April 1, 2006 the exchange rate source of the composite was Bloomberg 4pm New York close and the exchange rate source of the benchmark was WM Reuters 4pm London close.

Altrinsic Global Advisors, LLC claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS Standards. Altrinsic Global Advisors, LLC has been independently verified for the periods from December 8, 2000 through June 30, 2022.

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 Altrinsic Global Equity Composite has had a performance examination for the periods beginning December 8, 2000 through June 30, 2022. The verification and performance examination reports are available upon request.

Altrinsic Global Advisors, LLC is a registered investment adviser. A list of all composite and pooled fund investment strategies offered by the firm, with a description of each strategy, is available upon request. The type of portfolios in which each strategy is available (segregated account, limited distribution pooled fund, or broad distribution pooled fund) is indicated in the description of each strategy.

Results are based on fully discretionary accounts under management, including those accounts no longer with the firm. Beginning July 1, 2005, composite policy requires the temporary removal of any portfolio incurring a client initiated significant cash inflow or outflow of at least 40% of portfolio assets. The temporary removal of such an account occurs at the beginning of the month in which the significant cash flow occurs and the account re-enters the composite after the first full month under management if fully invested. Additional information regarding the treatment of significant cash flows is available upon request. Composite performance is presented net of foreign withholding taxes on dividends, interest income, and capital gains. Withholding taxes may vary according to the investor's domicile. The MSCI World (Net) Index deducts withholding tax by applying the maximum rate of the company's country of incorporation applicable to non-resident institutional investors. The normal characteristics of the transactions in the Altrinsic Global Equity Composite include the purchase and sale of forward currency contracts using a foreign exchange credit line(s) secured by the underlying assets. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

The US dollar is the currency used to express performance. Returns are presented gross and net of management fees and include the reinvestment of all income. Gross returns will be reduced by investment advisory fees and other expenses that may be incurred in the management of the account. Net of fee performance was calculated using the highest applicable annual management fee of 0.85% applied monthly. Prior to January 1, 2005 the highest management fee applied was 0.75%. The annual composite dispersion is an asset-weighted standard deviation calculated for the accounts in the composite the entire year. Policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS Reports are available upon request.

The investment management fee schedule is 0.85% on the first \$25 million, 0.60% on the next \$50 million, and 0.50% on the remainder. Some accounts may pay incentive fees. Actual investment advisory fees incurred by clients may vary.

The Altrinsic Global Equity Composite was created January 1, 2004. Performance presented prior to December 8, 2000 occurred while the Portfolio Manager was affiliated with a prior firm and the Portfolio Manager was the only individual responsible for selecting the securities to buy and sell.

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