



July 2022

Altrinsic International Equity Commentary – Second Quarter 2022

Dear Investor,

International equities delivered their worst quarterly performance since the European sovereign debt crisis as uncertainty stemming from inflationary concerns, tightening central bank policies, and rising recession risk weighed on markets. The Altrinsic International Equity portfolio declined 11.5% during the second quarter, outperforming the MSCI EAFE Index's 14.5% decline, as measured in US dollars.ⁱ Outperformance was derived from all major industry exposures except real estate and utilities. Japanese and European-based companies with meaningful US dollar exposure were notable outperformers, benefiting from the relative strength of the US dollar versus most other currencies. We take no consolation in our relative outperformance during this painful drawdown. Near-term macro data and corporate earnings will likely be disappointing, but we are confident in our positioning and encouraged by the investment propositions offered by a growing number of companies with strong long-term fundamentals and attractive valuations.

	Q2	YTD
AGA International	(11.5)	(12.9)
MSCI EAFE	(14.5)	(19.6)
Excess Return	3.0	6.7

Perspectives

Over the past several years, the combination of low interest rates and subdued inflation provided a robust environment for long-duration growth equities and highly leveraged businesses. The tide has turned, and equity markets have corrected sharply, as investors now require a higher cost of capital and companies consider what it will take to compete in a new environment with greater uncertainty around growth, inflation, and policy. As we navigate a period of heightened risks, it is important to consider a few structural truths about investing. Regardless of one's investment discipline, the three primary drivers of stock prices over the long term are fundamentals, valuation, and macro/risk factors. Within each category, significant changes are underway.

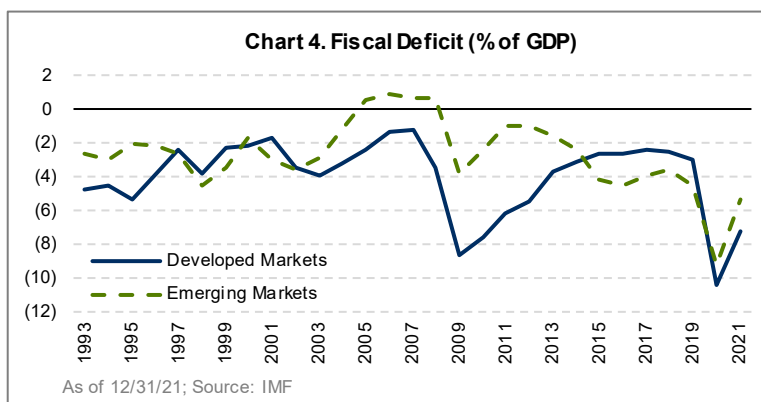
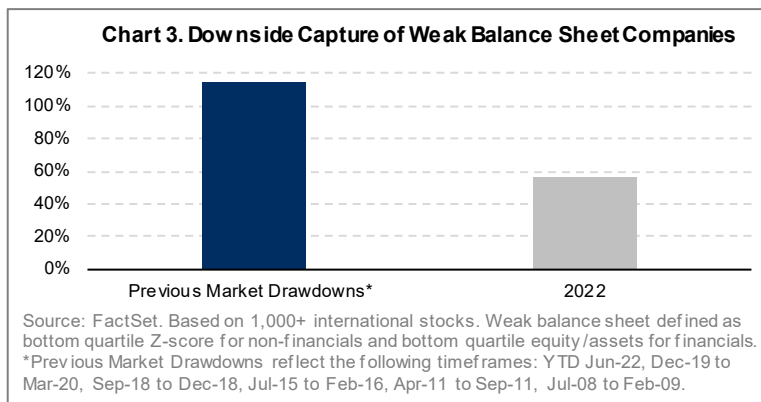
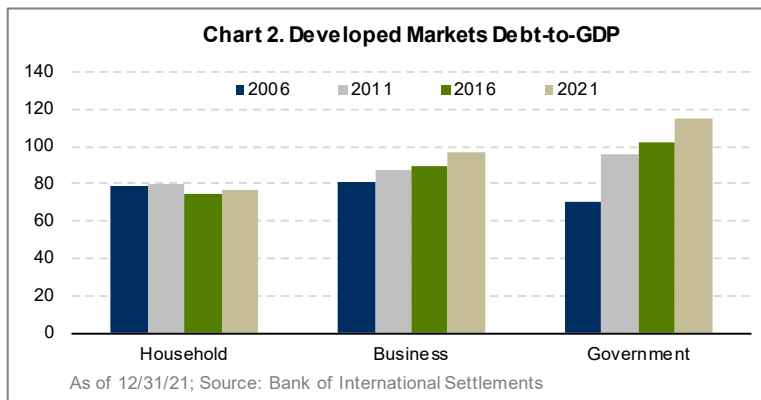
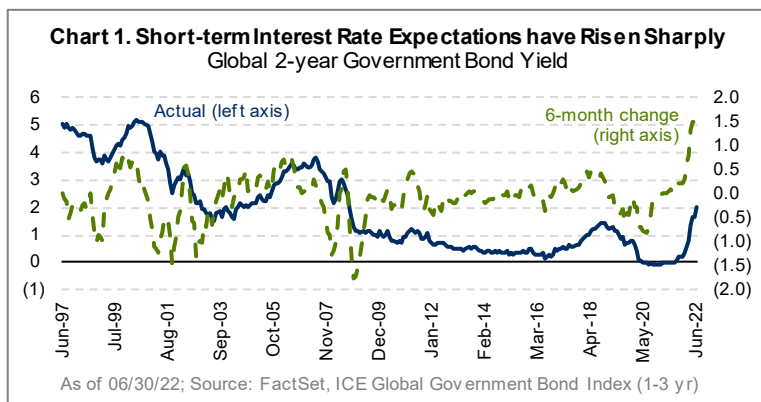
Macro/Risk Factors

Macro and exogenous risk factors took center stage during the second quarter, as inflation proved deeper-rooted than many anticipated, forcing policymakers to tighten their monetary stance. Geopolitical and recurring pandemic issues exacerbated the inflationary impact. In response, short-term interest rates made their sharpest jump in several decades (**Chart 1**), and we may see further increases. Central bankers around the world are attempting to slow global inflation (currently at 6%) without engineering a recession, a rarity in modern history. A world of higher inflation and higher interest rates has particularly meaningful repercussions for leveraged businesses, government decision-making, supply-chain dynamics, and consumer behavior.

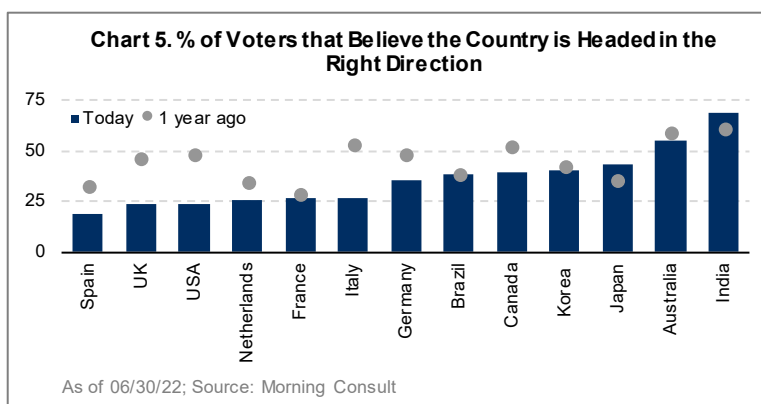
Rising rates and elevated inflation are already affecting several areas of the global economy, but the impact is likely to vary somewhat across the consumer, business, and government segments. In the consumer area, housing activity and consumption patterns have been early victims; weak results from Target and Walmart are just two recent examples. The good news is that household leverage in many developed markets remains unchanged or has improved over the last several years, and when combined with a tight labor market, it should help soften the economic blow (**Chart 2**). Meanwhile, corporates accrued more leverage over the last decade, and much of it was issued by higher-risk borrowers at variable interest rates.

Companies with significant leverage are particularly vulnerable to the changing interest rate and operating backdrop. Historically, leveraged businesses have underperformed in market drawdowns as economic outlooks worsen and concerns around credit risks and profitability repercussions mount (**Chart 3**). However, in 2022 these stocks have significantly outperformed, likely aided by a rotation out of expensive growth stocks. Rising rates and an economic slowdown are an especially bad cocktail for these companies, and this outperformance is likely to unwind in an environment of further economic weakness.

Governments accrued even more debt as they supported businesses and households during the Global Financial Crisis and COVID-19 pandemic. Deficits in most economies are well above historical levels (**Chart 4**), and heavy debt loads combined with a slowing economy and rising interest burden will require more fiscal tightening, most likely in the form of higher taxes. Unlike the last two recessions, individuals and businesses cannot rely on government support as economic reality bites. Approval ratings for most heads of state are also poor (**Chart 5**), providing an opening for populist decision-making. The banking and technology sectors are easy targets.



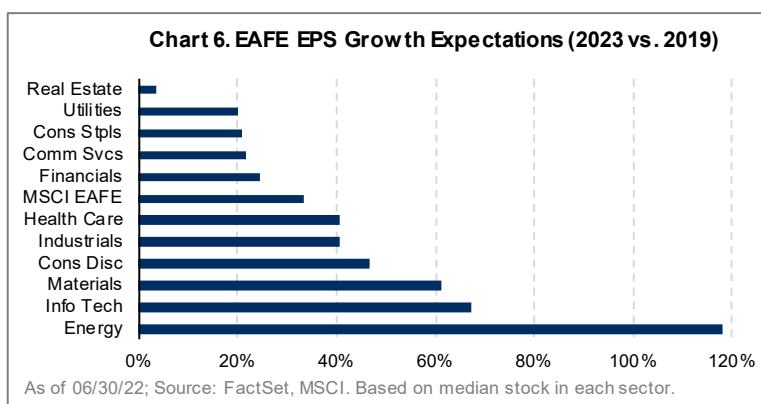
The economic and geopolitical situation in Europe is complicated and vulnerable. The region has always presented a multi-dimensional set of risks, which is undoubtedly still true today. Prior to the start of the Russia-Ukraine war, 40% of Europe's gas supply came from Russia. The threat of Putin fully closing off the Nord Stream pipeline adds significant near-term risks to the continent. Germany faces particularly significant challenges given its heavy dependence upon Russian energy, especially leading into the winter months.



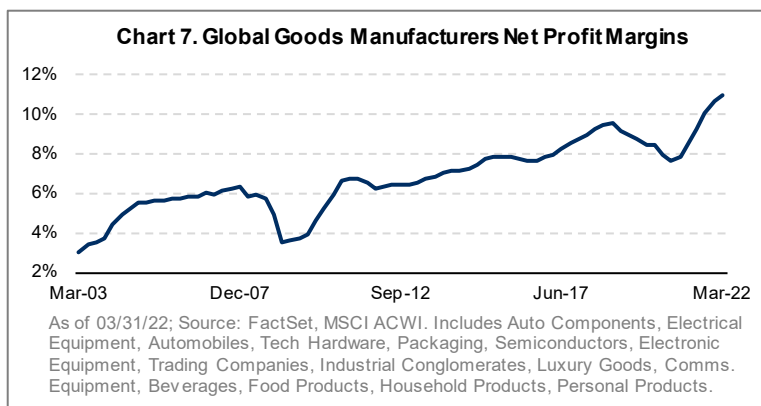
Outside of the war raging on in Eastern Europe and its associated effects, Italy's outlook is particularly dire, as the country has twice the deficit as during the Euro Crisis, 20% more debt, and will face an election within the next 12 months, whenever Prime Minister Mario Draghi steps down. The relationship between Italy and the rest of Europe improved dramatically under Draghi's 18-month tenure, aided by the considerable Euro-stimulus provided to the country. As Europe's economy slows and Italy's deficit comes under pressure, we could see anti-Euro posturing, especially given the combination of a fragmented political structure and forthcoming elections. Italy is a small part of the global equity landscape, but a crisis in Italian banking would reverberate across Europe.

Fundamentals

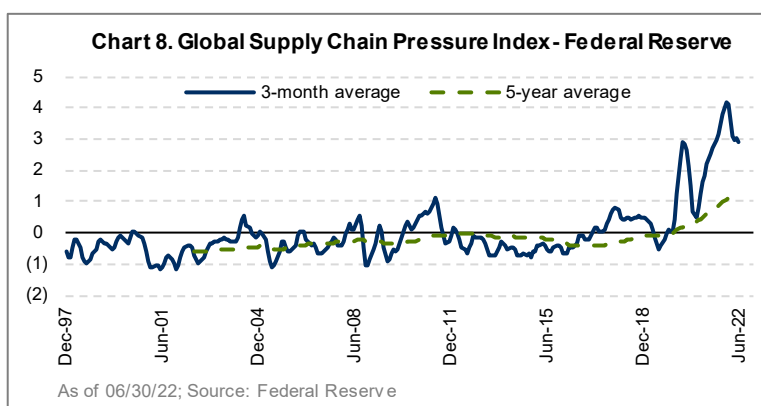
Fundamental conditions vary by region and sector, with risks pervasive amidst significant macro changes. As a result, our focus has been on companies less dependent on economic factors and/or those undergoing some form of change – ideally led by nimble, resilient, and aligned management teams. From a big picture perspective, returns on invested capital, earnings sustainability, and growth are among the broadest measures of business fundamentals. One of the greatest risks in equity markets, however, stems from the unrealistic earnings outlooks held by many investors and companies themselves. While equity markets have corrected, consensus earnings expectations have yet to adjust. Since December 2020, consensus has upgraded 2023 EPS expectations for Europe, the US, and Japan by 25%, 18%, and 15%, respectively, on the assumptions of robust demand and sustained all-time high profit margins. These upgrades have been made across industries, but expectations for technology and consumer discretionary look particularly optimistic at 67% and 47% above 2019 levels, respectively (**Chart 6**). Earnings expectations often lag markets, but current elevated levels could present risks for many stocks in the coming months.



The likely evolution of supply chain strategies across industries over the medium-term only exacerbates the downside to lofty earnings expectations, given expected increases in operating costs. Globalization and technology utilization have been massive tailwinds to supply chain efficiency over the past 20 years. Just-in-time inventory management became a part of most manufacturers' operating models, helping margins expand rapidly as companies improved the speed and cost of production (**Chart 7**). This trend began to slow due to trade disputes, populism, and employee backlash, and the slowdown has recently been exacerbated by a series of societal and geopolitical pressures: pandemic-related closures (particularly in China), shifting demand, the Russia-Ukraine war, ESG considerations, and high energy costs.



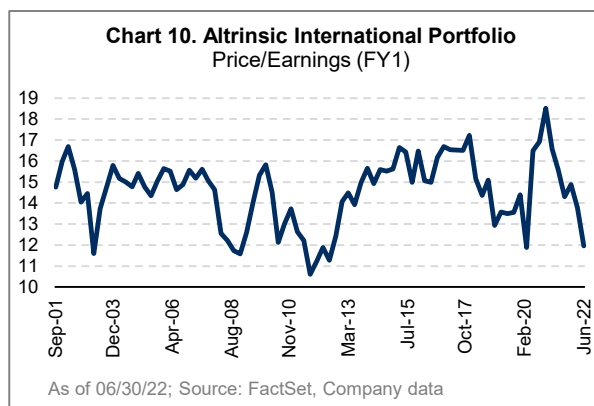
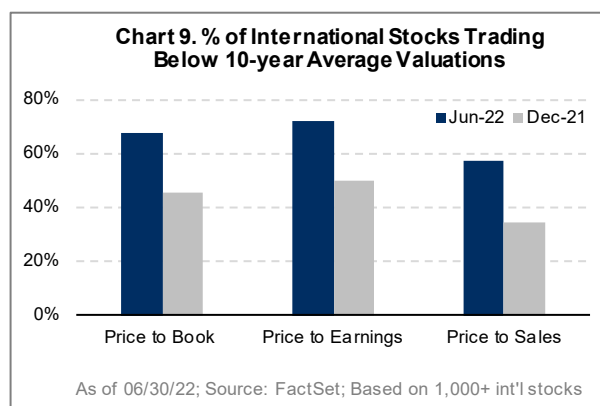
While some supply chain pressure has eased over the past few months, it remains far worse than historical averages (**Chart 8**). A recent Morgan Stanley survey of over 400 global manufacturers found that the majority of companies plan to adjust their supply chains (due in part to geopolitical risks), and those making long-term changes expect an average margin dilution of 2%. This 2% is significant considering global goods manufacturing profit margins are 11%. While most headlines have focused on the negatives, there will certainly be beneficiaries of this shift; companies in automation and energy efficiency stand to benefit, and Mexico has been identified as an attractive region for more localized manufacturing and business operations. The ongoing shifts in supply chain dynamics and the associated costs to implement such changes contribute to our skepticism about the consensus assumption that companies can earn all-time high profit margins.



Valuation

There is no shortage of fundamental, geopolitical, and economic concerns, so, unsurprisingly, sentiment is weak. Bank of America's Bull/Bear Indicator, which measures equity and bond positioning, is now at one of its most bearish levels in the last decade. Google search interest for the word "recession" is near all-time highs, only matched by March 2009 and March 2020. As we saw in both of those periods, the highly negative sentiment presented enormous buying opportunities.

As sentiment has deteriorated, valuations have adjusted sharply, leaving a majority of global stocks trading at a discount to history (**Chart 9**). While many deserve this de-rating, the downdraft provides investment opportunities. Notwithstanding our skepticism about earnings expectations, the Altrinsic International Equity portfolio's aggregate P/E ratio is near historical lows (**Chart 10**). In our pursuit of attractively valued businesses, however, we have not sacrificed quality (whether defined by pricing power, management strength, and/or competitive moat) when compared to the past. While our holdings will not be immune to market gyrations, each investment has company-specific opportunities to increase shareholder returns via improved efficiency, capital allocation, and demand dynamics.



Performance Drivers and Portfolio Positioning

The Altrinsic International Equity portfolio's outperformance was broad-based with positive attribution derived from our differentiated positioning in the consumer discretionary, information technology, and financials industries. Companies with meaningful sales exposure to the US dollar were notable outperformers, led by holdings in Japan (Astellas and Tokio Marine), Europe (TotalEnergies, Sanofi, Heineken), and the UK (GSK PLC).

Positive attribution in the consumer discretionary sector was driven by our Chinese investments (Trip.com, Alibaba, Sands China), which recovered from depressed levels on easing COVID-19 restrictions and an improving regulatory outlook. Outperformance within technology was due to a stock-specific story (Check Point, which operates with more defensive revenue characteristics) and our underweight allocation to expensive high-growth technology stocks. Our financials holdings continued to outperform due to strength in our property & casualty insurance investments (Tokio Marine, Everest Re, Chubb) which are set to benefit from a combination of higher bond investment income and ongoing improvements in the competitive environment. Real estate and utilities were modest sources of negative attribution. Within real estate, Daito Trust, which builds and manages apartment complexes in Japan, saw its shares fall due to raw material cost concerns. Negative attribution in the utilities sector was due to our underweight allocation to this outperforming sector.

New investment activity was modest during the quarter, as we initiated two new positions – Deutsche Post AG (Germany) and Hana Financial (South Korea) – and eliminated Siemens Energy (Germany).

Deutsche Post, commonly known as DHL, is a European logistics company previously prone to execution missteps. Management has transformed the company by improving its business mix and increasing cost efficiencies. No longer reliant on German post, express shipping is DHL's key profit driver (50% of profits), and the company occupies the leading position in a three-player oligopoly with high barriers to entry. The current valuation assumes an excessive decline in DHL's profitability once global freight capacity and rates normalize, and it undervalues DHL's secular growth opportunities from increasing e-commerce penetration and supply chain complexity.

Hana Financial, one of Korea's largest banks, has improved its ROE significantly through a combination of cost-cutting, underwriting discipline, and penetration into fee-based businesses. Despite these improvements, the stock trades at a deep discount to book value, as investors question sustainability and worry about the potential for heavy regulation, fintech competition, and global economic weakness. We believe the bank can manage fintech risks well and should offset any credit risks with its strong collateral and disciplined underwriting. While earnings have tripled over the last five years, we see further growth ahead due to continued headcount reductions, rising interest rates, and expansion of its asset management business.

Siemens Energy was sold as we lost confidence in the company’s ability to offset significant cost inflation despite compelling opportunities in wind and other forms of low-carbon energy.

We took advantage of the equity market weakness to add to select cyclical businesses within our existing portfolio that offer a combination of structural integrity and improving business models: HDFC Bank (India), Sekisui House (Japan), Siemens (Germany), CRH (Ireland), Medtronic (Ireland), Assa Abloy (Sweden), Daimler Truck (Germany), AXA (France), and SCOR (France).

A summary of our most differentiated sectoral exposures is provided in **Table 2**.

Table 2. Sources of Differentiation		
	Altrinsic International Equity	Over/(Under) Weight vs. EAFE
Non-Bank Financials	25.8	16.8
IT Software & Services	4.7	1.8
Health Care	14.8	1.1
Food & Beverage Franchises	8.9	0.9
Consumer Discretionary	5.7	(5.4)
Industrials	11.2	(4.1)
Energy & Materials	8.3	(3.8)
Utilities	0.0	(3.5)
Banks	6.1	(2.8)
Real Estate	3.2	0.5
Communication Services	5.6	0.2
Cash	3.0	3.0
Other	2.4	(4.8)

<u>Overweight:</u>	<u>Underweight:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insurance – Strong outlook for demand and competition; enhanced business mix and cost cutting opportunities • Exchanges – Solid moats with improving prospects for data and clearing penetration • IT Software & Services – Recurring revenues focused on risk and cyber undergoing business model transitions • Health Care – Reduced patent cliff risk, investing heavily in innovative sciences, attractive valuations • Food & Beverage Franchises – Strong category mix with premiumization, reopening, and cost cutting opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer Discretionary – Many companies are expensive on normalized profitability with various disruption risks • Industrials – Many companies are expensive on normalized profitability • Energy & Materials – Less favorable risk/return given commodity price vs. marginal cash cost • Utilities – Peak valuations present unappealing risk/reward • Banks – Valuations do not account for risks around disruption, commoditization, and regulation

As of 06/30/22, Source: FactSet and Altrinsic. Altrinsic sector weights are based upon a representative fully discretionary account with the international 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.

Uncertainty Presents Opportunity

There is tremendous uncertainty affecting markets, economic growth, interest rates, and inflation, some of which we have not seen in generations. These conditions present new challenges for companies, governments, households, and investors and once again serve as a reminder to investors that the valuation and risk components of the risk/return equation are critical considerations. It will be more difficult than in the past for stocks to ride the economic, stimulus, or “story” tides. Therefore, attractively valued companies with paths to improving the quality and growth of their returns on invested capital should outperform over the medium-term. Our portfolio is well positioned for this environment. Thanks for your interest in Altrinsic.

Sincerely,

John Hock
John DeVita
Rich McCormick

ⁱ Performance is presented gross 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. 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 International 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 EAFE (Net)	Composite Dispersion (Gross)	Composite (Gross)	MSCI EAFE (Net)	
					Gross	Net					
2021	10,533	5,548	53%	10	7.22%	6.31%	11.26%	0.12%	16.89%	16.92%	
2020	8,763	4,192	48%	8	3.78%	2.90%	7.82%	0.38%	16.96%	17.89%	
2019	7,397	3,300	45%	8	21.78%	20.76%	22.01%	0.43%	9.70%	10.81%	
2018	6,284	2,381	38%	9	-7.19%	-7.98%	-13.79%	0.45%	9.92%	11.24%	
2017	7,259	2,920	40%	10	22.45%	21.43%	25.03%	0.23%	11.35%	11.83%	
2016	7,107	3,048	43%	16	8.86%	7.94%	1.00%	0.16%	12.14%	12.46%	
2015	8,927	3,307	37%	19	0.16%	-0.69%	-0.81%	0.20%	12.01%	12.46%	
2014	11,656	3,453	30%	24	-4.54%	-5.35%	-4.90%	0.12%	12.09%	13.03%	
2013	14,261	3,608	25%	22	20.26%	19.26%	22.78%	0.32%	14.27%	16.25%	
2012	12,586	3,057	24%	23	13.27%	12.32%	17.32%	0.23%	16.99%	19.37%	
2011	10,683	2,671	25%	21	-9.90%	-10.67%	-12.14%	0.49%	18.82%	22.43%	
2010	10,621	3,339	31%	19	11.61%	10.67%	7.75%	0.49%	22.25%	26.23%	
2009	9,278	2,482	27%	10	29.28%	28.21%	31.78%	1.20%	19.75%	23.58%	
2008	5,537	1,584	29%	9	-33.96%	-34.54%	-43.39%	0.28%	16.35%	19.24%	
2007	7,582	1,840	24%	9	5.83%	4.93%	11.17%	0.27%	8.45%	9.43%	
2006	5,574	947	17%	6	22.13%	21.11%	26.35%	0.13%	9.09%	9.33%	
2005	2,563	530	21%	Five or fewer	10.98%	10.05%	13.56%	N.A. ¹	11.64%	11.39%	
2004	1,603	262	16%	Five or fewer	23.37%	22.46%	20.25%	N.A. ¹	14.06%	15.43%	
2003	871	155	18%	Five or fewer	41.87%	40.84%	38.60%	N.A. ¹	16.31%	17.81%	
2002	561	87	16%	Five or fewer	-6.58%	-7.28%	-15.94%	N.A. ¹	N.A.	N.A.	
2001	491	22	4%	Five or fewer	-14.74%	-15.39%	-21.45%	N.A. ¹	N.A.	N.A.	
2000*	520	29	6%	Five or fewer	-6.56%	-6.91%	-10.53%	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 International Equity Composite is a diversified (60 – 100 holdings), bottom-up, fundamental, value oriented, Global-ex U.S., all cap portfolio, benchmarked to the MSCI EAFE (Net) Index. The MSCI EAFE is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed markets, excluding the U.S. & Canada. Portfolios in the composite may invest in countries that are not in the MSCI EAFE (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, 2021.

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 International Equity Composite has had a performance examination for the periods beginning December 8, 2000 through June 30, 2021. 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 EAFE (Net) Index deducts withholding tax by applying the maximum rate of the company's country of incorporation applicable to non-resident institutional investors. 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 International 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. 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.

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