

INTERNATIONAL EQUITY STRATEGY

Quarterly Investment Review

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The GMO International Equity Strategy seeks to generate high total return by investing primarily in non-U.S. developed market equities. The Strategy measures its performance against the MSCI World ex USA Index for performance comparison purposes.

The Strategy's investment approach is grounded in the Systematic Equity team's belief that, in the short term, equity markets exhibit exploitable inefficiencies as a result of irrational investor actions, the imperfect flow of information, and the participation of non-economic actors, while in the long term, returns are ultimately driven by economic reality. The Strategy aims to take advantage of this inefficiency by utilizing a multi-factor valuation model in conjunction with other methods, such as momentum and corporate alerts, to identify mispriced equity securities.

MAJOR PERFORMANCE DRIVERS

Global equities posted modest gains in the third quarter, with value stocks outperforming as enthusiasm for AI infrastructure moderated after a strong second-quarter rally. Over the quarter, there was a high degree of variation in performance across sectors; Energy was buoyed as prices remained high amid persistent geopolitical tensions, Information Technology returns were mixed with software outperforming hardware, and rate-sensitive areas came under pressure as persistent inflation and fiscal concerns maintained upward pressure on yields.

In this environment, our Valuation models were the strongest performers in developed markets outside the U.S., with contributions from both Bottom-up Valuation and Top-Down Valuation signals. In contrast, our Momentum models struggled as the stocks we identified as having the strongest momentum underperformed, with some recovery seen after notable underperformance in July.

The portfolio outperformed the primary index (MSCI World ex USA+) in the third quarter driven by a mix of stock selection and allocation decisions across countries and sectors. Stock selection in the Industrials sector was a key strength, including positions in Japanese, Singaporean, German, and Hong Kong Industrials. Top contributors Yangzijiang Shipbuilding (Singapore) and Toyota Tsusho (Japan) exemplified this theme and were owned on a mix of positive Valuation and Momentum. Other top contributors included overweight positioning in UK Communication Services and Norwegian Energy.

Information Technology was the top detractor from a mix of overweight positioning and stock selection. The Information Technology sector dominated the top detractors, including overweight positioning in Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment names STMicroelectronics (France) and ASML (Netherlands). Stock selection in Japan was also challenging, including underweight positioning in Financials and overweight positioning in Consumer Discretionary.

Portfolio weights, as a percent of equity, for the positions mentioned were: Yangzijiang Shipbuilding (1.5%), Toyota Tsusho (2.2%), STMicroelectronics (1.1%), and ASML (4.2%)

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PRELIMINARY ANNUALIZED RETURNS (USD, %) (QUARTER-END)

	Quarter-End	YTD	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Since Inception
International Equity Strategy (net)	2.35	20.78	32.81	28.74	16.71	12.24	8.48
International Equity Strategy (gross)	2.53	21.43	33.77	29.67	17.55	13.06	9.24
MSCI World ex USA +	0.89	10.42	15.79	18.43	9.34	9.08	7.20
Value Add vs. MSCI World ex USA +	+1.45	+10.36	+17.02	+10.32	+7.37	+3.17	+1.28
MSCI World ex USA Value	3.71	14.96	24.33	23.70	14.72	10.40	7.41
Value Add vs. MSCI World ex USA Value	-1.36	+5.82	+8.48	+5.04	+1.99	+1.84	+1.07

RISKS

Risks associated with investing in the Strategy may include: (1) Market Risk - Equities: the market price of equities may decline due to factors affecting the issuer, its industries, or the economy and equity markets generally. Declines in stock market prices generally are likely to reduce the net asset value of the Fund's shares; (2) Non-U.S. Investment Risk: the market prices of many non-U.S. securities (particularly of companies tied economically to emerging countries) fluctuate more than those of U.S. securities. Many non-U.S. markets (particularly emerging markets) are less stable, smaller, less liquid, and less regulated than U.S. markets, and the cost of trading in those markets often is higher than it is in U.S. markets; and (3) Management and Operational Risk: the risk that GMO's investment techniques will fail to produce desired results, including annualized returns and annualized volatility. This is not a complete list of risks associated with investing in the Strategy. Please contact GMO for more information.

Composite Inception Date: 31-Mar-87

***Preliminary Performance:** Final performance numbers are generally available on GMO's website within fifteen business days after month end. Investors should not rely on preliminary numbers to make investment decisions.

Performance Returns: Performance for the year of inception is less than a full calendar year. Returns shown for periods greater than one year are on an annualized basis. To obtain performance information to the most recent month-end, visit www.gmo.com. **Performance data quoted represents past performance and is not indicative of future results.** Net returns are presented after the deduction of a model advisory fee and incentive fee if applicable. These returns include transaction costs, commissions and withholding taxes on foreign income and capital gains and include the reinvestment of dividends and other income, as applicable. Fees paid by accounts within the composite may be higher or lower than the model fees used. Gross returns are presented gross of management fees and any incentive fees if applicable. These returns include transaction costs, commissions, withholding taxes on foreign income and capital gains and include the reinvestment of dividends and other income, as applicable. If management and incentive fees were deducted performance would be lower. For example, if, before fees, the strategy were to achieve a 10% annual rate of return above its hurdle rate each year for ten years, and an annual advisory fee of 1% and incentive fee of 20% of net returns above the hurdle rate were charged during that period, the resulting average annual net return (after the deduction of management and incentive fees) would be approximately 7.20%. **GMO LLC claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®).** A Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) Composite Report is available at www.gmo.com by clicking the GIPS® Composite Report link in the documents section of the strategy page. GIPS® is a registered trademark owned by CFA Institute. CFA Institute does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contained herein. Actual fees are disclosed in Part 2 of GMO's Form ADV and are also available in each strategy's Composite Report. Returns include a substantial, one-time litigation settlement recovery received on December 16, 2024. This event contributed 5.25% to 2024 annual performance, based on a representative account. Performance for other periods, including this date, was also positively impacted, sometimes materially. Without this recovery, performance would have been lower in both absolute terms and relative to the benchmark. Additional information is available upon request. Returns reflect a significant, one-time increase to the net assets on November 26, 2025 attributable to European Union discriminatory tax refunds. These refunds contributed 5.18% to 2025 annual performance, based on a representative account. Returns for other periods that include the date/period mentioned above were also positively impacted, sometimes substantially. In the absence of the refunds, performance would have been lower, both in absolute terms and relative to the benchmark. Additional information is available upon request. The Index used for performance reporting purposes changed from the MSCI EAFE Index to the MSCI World ex USA Index effective June 30th, 2026. The portfolio is actively-managed, is not managed relative to a benchmark and uses an index for performance comparison purposes only and, where applicable, to compute a performance fee.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Comparator Index(es): The MSCI World ex USA + Index is an internally maintained benchmark computed by GMO, comprised of (i) the MSCI EAFE (Europe, Australasia, and Far East) Value Index (MSCI Standard Index Series, net of withholding tax) through 06/30/2014, the (ii) the MSCI EAFE (Europe, Australasia, and Far East) Index (MSCI Standard Index Series, net of withholding tax) through 6/30/2026 and (iii) the MSCI World ex USA Index thereafter. MSCI data may not be reproduced or used for any other purpose. MSCI provides no warranties, has not prepared or approved this report, and has no liability hereunder. The MSCI World ex USA Value Index (MSCI Standard Index Series, net of withholding tax) is an independently maintained and widely published index comprised of global developed markets, excluding the United States. MSCI data may not be reproduced or used for any other purpose. MSCI provides no warranties, has not prepared or approved this report, and has no liability hereunder.

The above information is based on a representative account in the Strategy selected because it has the fewest restrictions and best represents the implementation of the Strategy.

For private bank intermediaries in Singapore and Hong Kong, these materials are intended for institutional and Accredited/Professional Investors Use Only.

ABOUT GMO

Founded in 1977, GMO is a global asset manager committed to delivering superior performance and advice to our clients. We are privately owned, which allows us to singularly focus on our sole business – achieving outstanding long-term client investment outcomes. Offering multi-asset, equity, fixed income, and alternative strategies, we invest with a long-term, valuation-based philosophical approach.

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*GMO's West Coast Hub is comprised of members of Investment, Global Client Relations, and other teams located in and around the Greater San Francisco area

**Representative Office

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