

# QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REVIEW

## Event-Driven Strategy

### Performance returns (USD)

ANNUALIZED RETURNS (QUARTER-END)	Quarter-End	YTD	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Since Inception
Event-Driven Strategy (net)	4.69	5.68	16.85	10.85	7.21	-	5.95
Event-Driven Strategy (gross)	5.35	6.60	19.83	12.72	8.72	-	7.52
FTSE 3-Mo. T-Bill	1.09	2.21	4.88	4.75	2.88	-	2.24
Value Add	+3.60	+3.48	+11.97	+6.10	+4.32	-	+3.71

### MAJOR PERFORMANCE DRIVERS

The major contributors to returns in Q2 were Juniper, the AZEK-James Hardie spread, and U.S. Steel. Juniper contributed to returns after the Department of Justice and the buyer, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, announced a settlement that would allow the merger to close. The AZEK-James Hardie spread contributed to returns after the merger received all remaining approvals and it closed. U.S. Steel contributed to returns after CFIUS reopened its national security review and cleared the merger to close.

The major detractors from returns in Q2 were the Interpublic Group-Omnicom spread, Kellanova, and WillScot. The Interpublic Group-Omnicom spread detracted from returns because we were short the merger spread when the merger received U.S. regulatory approval, although the European regulatory review is still outstanding. Kellanova detracted from returns after the European Commission referred the merger to a more in-depth Phase II review. WillScot detracted from returns amid increased fears of an industrial recession.

### RISKS

Risks associated with investing in the Strategy may include: (1) Merger Arbitrage Risk: the proposed merger or acquisition might not be finalized. If the Strategy buys securities expecting an event-driven transaction (like a merger) and that transaction seems unlikely to happen, is delayed, or doesn't occur, the market price of those securities may drop significantly, leading to losses; (2) Special Situation Investment Risk: certain Funds may make investments in "special situations," which are often difficult to analyze. In any such investment opportunity, there exists the risk that the relevant transaction either will be unsuccessful, will take considerable time or will result in a distribution of cash or a new security the value of which will be less than the purchase price to the Fund of the security or other financial instrument in respect of which such distribution is received; and (3) 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. This is not a complete list of risks associated with investing in the Strategy. Please contact GMO for more information.

Composite Inception Date: 31-Jul-16

**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](http://www.gmo.com). **Performance data quoted represents past performance and is not predictive of future performance.** 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](http://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 2.64% 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. 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.

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## PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The GMO Event-Driven Strategy seeks to generate absolute return by investing in opportunities that arise from significant corporate events where there is generally some uncertainty about the outcome of the event in question and where the outcome will be known relatively soon. In practice, the Fund's portfolio generally includes a heavy focus on merger arbitrage transactions, supplemented by other opportunities that exhibit similar risk, return, and time horizon characteristics. GMO's Event-Driven team approaches this opportunity set with a strong emphasis on expected value, assessing the likelihood and returns of each outcome and focusing on situations where the team's assessment of the expected value is greater than that implied by the market.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Comparator Index(es):** The FTSE 3-Month Treasury Bill Index is an independently maintained and widely published index comprised of short-term U.S. Treasury bills.

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

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