



# International Equity Strategy

AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

## Strategy facts

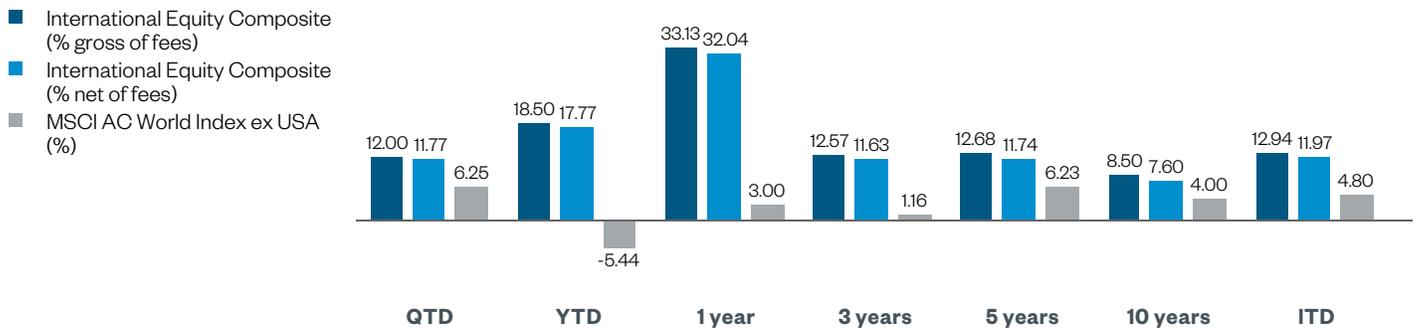
**Lead Portfolio Manager:** Andrew Jacobson, CFA  
**Co-Portfolio Manager:** Bradley Amoils  
**Inception:** July 1, 1996  
**Firm assets:** \$16.4 B\*  
**Strategy assets under management:** \$1.9 B  
**Vehicles:** Separate account, commingled fund, CIT\*\*, UCITS, & mutual fund\*\*\*  
**Benchmark:** MSCI All Country World Ex-United States

## Strategy objectives

Axiom invests in dynamic growth stocks globally. Axiom targets companies whose key business drivers are both improving and exceeding expectations through its disciplined process of data collection, analysis and portfolio construction. Axiom's dynamic growth strategy is implemented by the firm's experienced, stable, and collaborative investment team. The International Equity strategy concentrates its investments in non-US developed markets, but may also invest in companies located in emerging markets. The strategy focuses on growing companies undergoing significant change.

## Annualized returns

Performance period: 7/1/96-9/30/20



Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

## Portfolio statistics

	Strategy	Bench.
Holdings	41	2374
Weighted Average Market Cap (\$M)	\$198,086	\$97,393
Liquidity (\$M/Day)	\$1,024	\$403
Net Debt/Equity Ratio	-12.3	48.8
Price Earnings Ratio (forward)	36.4	14.9
Earnings Growth Rate (forward)	31.8	29.2
PEG Ratio (PE/Growth Rate)	1.1	0.5
Earnings Revisions Up	69%	51%
Earnings Revisions Down	31%	49%

## Portfolio top ten holdings

Security	Country	Sector	Strategy	Bench.
Alibaba	China	Discretionary	5.0%	2.6%
Taiwan Semiconductor	Taiwan	Info. Tech.	4.9%	1.7%
ASML Holding	Netherlands	Info. Tech.	4.2%	0.7%
Adyen NV	Netherlands	Info. Tech.	4.2%	0.2%
JD.com	China	Discretionary	4.2%	0.3%
Tencent	China	Comm. Serv.	4.1%	1.8%
Techtronic Industries	HK	Industrials	3.8%	0.1%
Adobe	US	Info. Tech.	3.8%	0.0%
Lonza Group	Switzerland	Health Care	3.6%	0.2%
Sartorius Stedim	France	Health Care	3.6%	0.0%

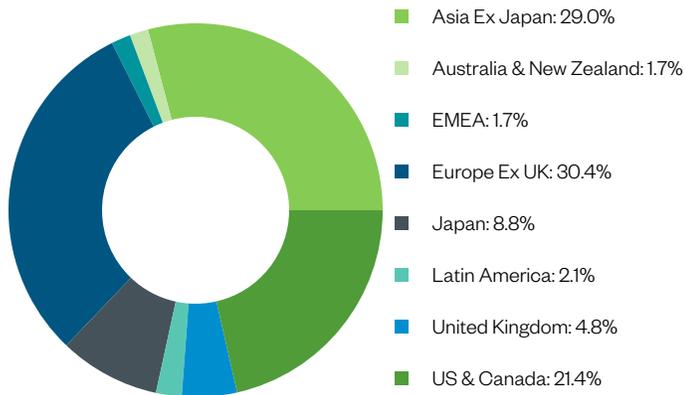
\*Assets include Assets Under Management (\$15.8B) & Assets Under Advisement (\$0.6B).

Source: Factset and Axiom. There can be no assurance that the Strategy will continue to hold these positions or that weightings do not change after the as of date stated. Please refer to the attached GIPS compliant presentation for complete performance information.

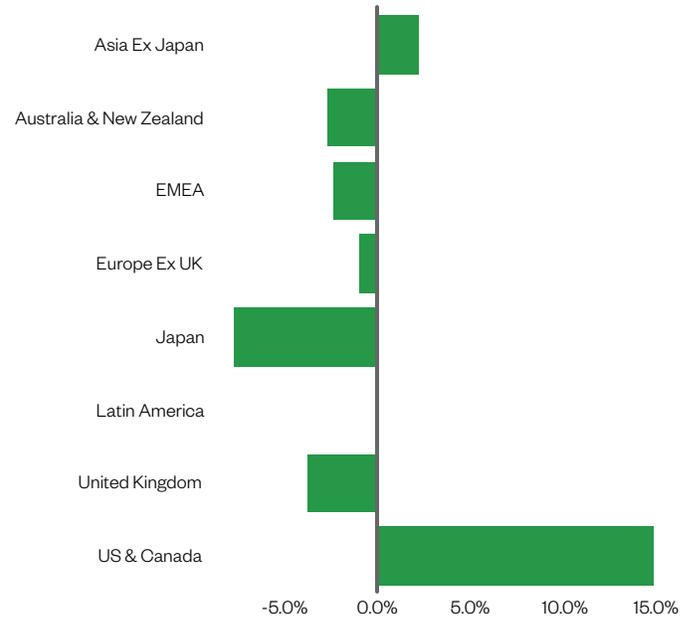
\*\*SEI Trust Company (the "Trustee") serves as the Trustee of the Trust and maintains ultimate fiduciary authority over the management of, and the investments made in, the Fund. The Fund is part of a Collective Investment Trust (the "Trust") operated by the Trustee. The Trustee is a trust company organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and a wholly owned subsidiary of SEI Investments Company (SEI).

\*\*\*Axiom is the sub-adviser to the John Hancock International Dynamic Growth Fund. The Fund is distributed by John Hancock Investment Management Distributors, LLC, which is not affiliated with Axiom. Please visit [jhinvestments.com](http://jhinvestments.com) for more information.

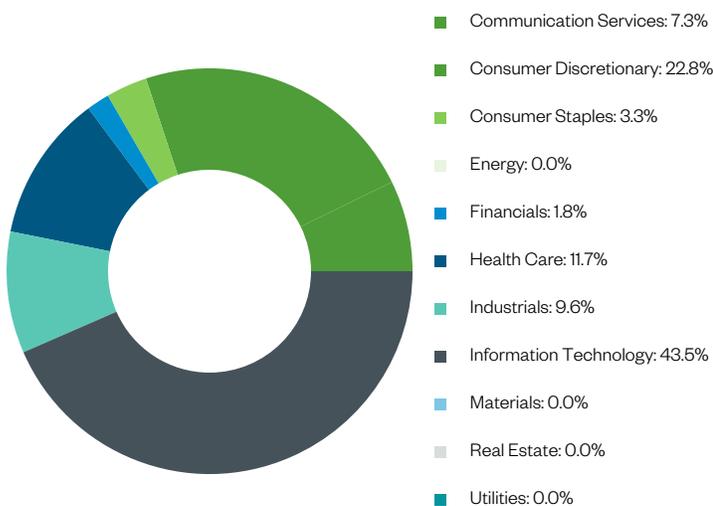
## Portfolio exposure by region



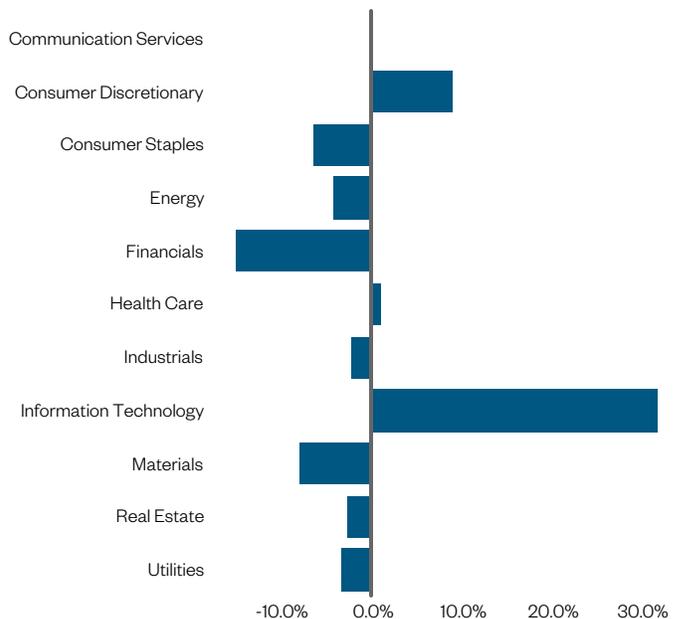
## Regional allocation vs. benchmark weight



## Portfolio exposure by sector



## Sector allocation vs benchmark weight





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## Commentary

During the third quarter 2020, the Axiom International Equity Strategy ("Strategy") outperformed the MSCI All Country World ex-US Index ("Index") net of fees. The Strategy remains ahead of the benchmark on a net of fees basis over the 1-year, 3-year, 5-year, 10-year and since inception periods.

Global equities have recovered sharply, with 3Q Index gains of over 6% coming on top of 2Q's more than 16% gains all supported by a strong rebound in economic indicators. The Citi Global Economic Surprise Index, which bottomed at -79 at the end of April, recently touched an all-time high of +115 before ending the quarter near a decade high at +89. The JPMorgan Global Composite PMI Index, which bottomed at 26.2 in April and started the quarter at 47.9, ended the quarter at an expansionary 52.1. Consensus real global GDP growth forecasts for this year appear to have stabilized at -3.9% while forecasts for next year's rebound were revised up during the quarter from +5.0% to +5.2%. As economic conditions have improved, consensus global earnings estimates have begun to be revised up. Global earnings are now forecast to rebound +29% in 2021, led by a forecast emerging market earnings rebound of +32%, and more than recovering 2020's expected -12% decline. International markets are now trading on 14.9x forward earnings, which is a discount to the forecast growth rate as well as to the US market that now trades on 21x forward earnings. Aggregate international estimate revisions have recently turned positive providing fundamental tailwinds to performance.

On a relative basis, 10 out of 11 sectors contributed to Axiom's outperformance during the third quarter. The top contributing sector was consumer discretionary, led by JD.com and Alibaba, the Chinese e-commerce leaders. Other top performing sectors included financials, where we benefited from our underweight, and industrials where strong stock selection was led by Techtronic, our Hong Kong based maker of cordless hand tools for home improvement benefiting strongly from market share gains and consumer demand. The materials sector, where we have no exposure, was a modest detractor during the quarter.

From a country perspective, China was the top contributor, driven by JD.com and Alibaba as well as by athleticwear national champion Li Ning. Taiwan was the second-best performing country led by our top overall portfolio contributor this quarter, Taiwan Semiconductor. Japan detracted from performance for the quarter due to pullbacks in Lasertec, the semiconductor production equipment company, Anritsu, the 5G communications testing company, and Kobe Bussan, the discount supermarket chain.

From an individual stock perspective, in addition to top performance by Taiwan Semi, other top contributors included Techtronic, Adyen, the Dutch global online payments leader, and JD.com. Detracting stocks for the quarter included Lasertec, Anritsu, ASML, the Dutch advanced semiconductor production equipment company, and TeamViewer, a German remote working solutions vendor.

We continue to believe strongly in the structural case for continued 'growth' outperformance as we detailed in our recent [webinar](#) that is available on our website. Global equity risk premiums stand out given near zero global policy benchmark rates, and global growth equities seem especially attractive in the context of an investment landscape in which sustainably above average growth is increasingly scarce. The tailwinds fueling the strong returns achieved by Axiom's investments in dynamic growth stocks have been durably accelerated by the challenges of COVID. Top contributors across a range of sectors and geographies include innovative leaders in ecommerce, digital media, cloud infrastructure, 'green' technology, broadband communications, and advanced drug development. Markets have continued to rebound quickly from any geopolitical and COVID-related volatility, and we are optimistic about the medium and longer-term opportunities.

*The information presented is not definitive investment advice, should not be relied on as such, and should not be viewed as a recommendation by Axiom. The security presented is not representative of all of the securities purchased, sold or held for advisory clients, and it should not be assumed that the investment in the security identified was or will be profitable.*

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## Footnotes and disclaimers

	Composite return (gross of fees)	Composite return (net of fees)	Benchmark Total Return (%)	No. of accounts	Market value (millions)	Total firm assets (millions)	% of firm assets (%)	Internal dispersion (%)	Composite 3-year standard deviation (%)	Benchmark 3-year standard deviation (%)
YTD 2020	18.50%	17.77%	-5.44%	7	1,876.9	15,812.1	11.87	N/A	17.11	16.00
2019	33.76%	32.66%	21.51%	7	1,715.6	13,458.1	12.75	N/A	12.99	11.34
2018	-16.34%	-17.05%	-14.20%	6	989.4	9,729.2	10.17	N/A	13.02	11.38
2017	35.25%	34.15%	27.19%	6	1,123.6	12,116.0	9.27	N/A	10.91	11.87
2016	-3.56%	-4.38%	4.50%	7	1,124.2	9,671.6	11.62	0.11	11.17	12.51
2015	1.21%	0.35%	-5.66%	7	1,402.2	8,704.3	16.11	0.20	11.25	12.13
2014	-2.76%	-3.58%	-3.87%	8	2,035.0	9,482.3	21.46	0.07	13.04	12.81
2013	32.03%	30.94%	15.29%	8	2,307.9	9,949.8	23.20	0.42	16.91	16.23
2012	13.92%	12.98%	16.83%	12	3,008.3	8,611.6	34.93	0.25	19.83	19.26
2011	-19.02%	-19.71%	-13.71%	15	4,691.0	10,161.2	46.17	0.37	22.90	22.71
2010	8.88%	7.98%	11.15%	18	7,451.5	13,827.6	53.89	0.37	N/A	N/A

Fee schedule: First \$25 million: 0.85%; Balance: 0.75%

**Firm Compliance Statement:** Axiom International Investors LLC (the "Firm") claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. Axiom has been independently verified for the period September 1, 1998 to June 30, 2020. Verification assesses whether (1) the firm has complied with all the composite construction requirements of the GIPS standards on a firm-wide basis and (2) the firm's policies and procedures are designed to calculate and present performance in compliance with the GIPS standards. The Axiom International Equity composite has been examined for the periods September 1, 1998 to June 30, 2020. The verification and performance examination reports are available upon request.

**Definition of the Firm:** The firm is currently defined for GIPS purposes as Axiom International Investors, LLC (the "Firm") is a registered investment advisor under the Investment Act of 1940.

**Policies:** Policies for valuing portfolios, calculating performance, and preparing compliant presentations are available upon request. Past performance does not predict or guarantee future results.

**Composite Description:** The International Equity strategy (the "Composite") is designed for investors who seek to invest in a broadly diversified portfolio of international equities. Portfolios are invested in the full range of developed markets and may also invest in selected emerging markets. Currencies may be actively managed to reduce portfolio volatility. The Composite represents the performance of all Institutional international style fee-paying, discretionary equity accounts, regardless of asset size and comingled fund(s). The Composite was initiated and created in September 1998. For the periods from July 1, 1996 to August 31, 1998 (the "Prior Composite") was managed by Andrew Jacobson and current Axiom team members at Columbus Circle Investors ("Columbus"). A complete list of composite descriptions is available upon request.

**Benchmark description:** The benchmark is the MSCI All Country World ex U.S. index, which is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed and emerging markets excluding the United States. The benchmark is calculated on a total return basis with net dividends reinvested, after the deduction of withholding taxes and is free float-adjusted market cap weighted and unmanaged. Prior to January 1, 2001, the benchmark was calculated on a total return basis not including tax credits. FX is based off London 4 P.M. close.

**Significant Cash Flow Policy:** Accounts with a cash flow greater than 20% of the portfolio market value are excluded for the month.

**Reporting Currency:** Valuations are computed and performance is reported in U.S. dollars. FX is based off NY 4 P.M. close.

**Fees:** Gross of fees returns are presented before management and custodial fees but after all trading expenses. Net of fees returns are calculated by deducting the highest fee from the monthly gross composite return which is expressed above in the stated fee schedule. Returns include the reinvestment of income. Performance is calculated net of withholding taxes on dividends.

**Internal Dispersion:** Internal dispersion is calculated using the asset-weighted standard deviation of annual gross returns of those portfolios that were in the composite for the entire year.

**Annualized Standard Deviation:** The three-year annualized standard deviation measures the variability of the composite and the benchmark returns over the preceding 36-month period. The standard deviation is not required for periods prior to 2011.

This may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws. Actual results could and likely will differ, sometimes materially, from those projected or anticipated.

We are not undertaking any obligation to update or revise any forward looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. You should not take any statements regarding past trends as a representation that trends or activities will continue in the future. Accordingly, you should not put undue reliance on these statements.

Axiom's standard policy is to use the MSCI country for country reporting purposes. There will be instances where the majority of a company's earnings and/or assets are located in a country within the strategy guideline, while the country of incorporation may be located elsewhere.

The information contained herein represents neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities or investment service. This strategy will only be offered through appropriate documents, copies of which may be obtained upon request from ClientRelations@axiom-investors.com. Offers will not be made in any jurisdiction in which the making of an offer or the acceptance thereof would not be in compliance with the laws of such jurisdiction. Investors should read applicable materials carefully before making a decision to invest.

**Risks of investing in the strategy:**

**Potential loss of investment:** No guarantee or representation is made that the investment program used by Axiom will be successful. The strategy represents a speculative investment and involves a high degree of risk. An investment in the strategy should be discretionary capital set aside strictly for speculative purposes. Investors must have the financial ability, sophistication/experience and willingness to bear the risks of an investment in the strategy. An investment in the strategy is not suitable for all investors. An investor could lose or a substantial portion of his/her/its investment. Only qualified eligible investors may invest in the strategy.

**Because of the nature of the trading activities,** the results of the strategy's operations may be volatile from month to month and from period to period. Accordingly, investors should understand that past performance is not indicative of future results.

**Fees and expenses:** The strategy may be subject to substantial charges for management, advisory and brokerage fees. It may be necessary for those accounts that are subject to these charges to make substantial trading profits to avoid depletion or exhaustion of their assets.

**Reliance on key persons:** The strategy's manager or advisor has total trading authority over the strategy and may be subject to various conflicts of interest. The death, disability or departure of the manager or advisor may have a material effect on the strategy.

**Counterparty and bankruptcy risk:** Although Axiom will attempt to limit its transactions to counterparties which are established, well-capitalized and creditworthy, the strategy will be subject to the risk of the inability of counterparties to perform with respect to transactions, whether due to insolvency, bankruptcy or other causes, which could subject the strategy to substantial losses.

**Volatile markets:** Market prices are difficult to predict and are influenced by many factors, including: changes in interest rates, weather conditions, government intervention and changes in national and international political and economic events.

The above summary is not a complete list of the risks, tax considerations and other important disclosures relating to Axiom products or services. Prospective clients should read all disclosure documents provided by Axiom relating to its products or services before engaging Axiom's advisory services.

The information herein is only current as of the date indicated, and may be superseded by subsequent market events or for other reasons.

The Axiom Investors Collective Investment Trust is a trust for the collective investment of assets of participating tax-qualified pension and profit sharing plans and related trusts, and governmental plans as more fully described in the Declaration of Trust. The Axiom Investors Trust is managed by SEI Trust Company, the trustee, based on the investment advice of Axiom Investors, the investment adviser to the trust. As a bank collective trust, the Axiom Investors Trust is exempt from registration as an investment company.