# INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY



# 1Q 2025 Strategy Fact Sheet

# Performance (%)

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

	QTD	Since 3/31/2024
Portfolio (Gross)	2.67	7.78
Portfolio (Net)	2.42	6.72
MSCI ACWI ex USA NR Index	5.23	6.09

All periods longer than 12 months are annualized. See disclosures on last page. Source: GPS.

# **Manager Commentary**

#### **Market Overview**

The past quarter saw continued volatility in international markets, influenced by geopolitical tensions, inflation concerns, a global slowdown in manufacturing, and tariff uncertainty. Despite these challenges, the MSCI ACWI ex-USA Index was up more than five percent.

The key event of the quarter was the United States' tariff announcement. The ramifications of the changes in tariffs have significantly impacted global trade and thus impacted global capital flows.

Looking ahead, we see three significant regime changes that will impact international investing: (1) the Bank of Japan exiting their decades-long stimulative monetary policies, (2) the People's Bank of China becoming the most accommodative central bank in the world to offset their bubble burst, and (3) populism driving local brand champions. We believe the current positioning of the fund will benefit as these regime changes materialize.

### **Portfolio Positioning**

As a result of buys and sells and market action, the portfolio is overweight Information Technology, Real Estate, Materials, Consumer Staples, and Utilities while underweight Industrials, Financials, Consumer Discretionary, Health Care, Communication Services, and Energy.

### **Contributors to Performance**

During the quarter, the portfolio experienced positive absolute and negative relative performance. Positive relative performance was driven by Materials, Consumer Discretionary, Consumer Staples, Health Care, Utilities, and Real Estate while offset by Energy, Financials, Information Technology, Industrials, and Communication Services.

# **1Q 2025 INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY PORTFOLIO**

# Portfolio Characteristics\*

	Portfolio	MSCI AC World ex-USA Net Index
Number of Holdings	22	1,982
P/E NTM*	16.12	13.30
Price/Cash Flow*	9.59	8.71
Wtd. Avg. Mkt. Cap (\$B)	100.18	107.51
Est. 3-5 Yr. EPS Growth (%)*	12.42	10.29
Dividend Yield (%)*	2.13	2.89
Net Debt/Equity*	0.56	0.55

\* Calculated gross-of-fees.

Source: FactSet

# Top Ten Holdings\* 1

3	Country	Sector	% of Total Portfolio *
Monolithic Power Systems Inc	United States	Information Technology	8.46
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co Ltd	Taiwan	Information Technology	7.26
MercadoLibre Inc	Uruguay	Consumer Discretionary	6.35
Wise PLC	United Kingdom	Financials	4.92
Sanofi SA	France	Health Care	4.86
UBS Group AG	Switzerland	Financials	4.81
Grupo Mexico SAB de CV	Mexico	Materials	4.80
YPF SA	Argentina	Energy	4.80
Segro PLC	United Kingdom	Real Estate	4.66
BNP Paribas SA	France	Financials	4.57

<sup>\*</sup> Excludes 0.51% cash.

Source: FactSet

# Portfolio Sector Weightings (%)\*1

	Portfolio	MSCI AC World ex-USA Net Index
Information Technology	27.84	12.22
Financials	19.74	24.84
Materials	8.37	6.29
Industrials	8.24	13.95
Consumer Staples	8.08	6.94
Consumer Discretionary	6.36	11.05
Health Care	4.86	8.65
Energy	4.80	5.02
Real Estate	4.54	1.68
Communication Services	3.89	6.24
Utilities	3.29	3.12

<sup>\*</sup> Excludes 0.51% cash. Due to rounding, totals may not equal 100%.

¹ Performance holdings subject to change.
Source: FactSet

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Performance holdings subject to change.

#### **VAUGHAN NELSON EQUITY TEAM**

#### **LEAD PORTFOLIO MANAGER**



Adam Rich, CFA **Deputy CIO Portfolio Manager** 

- 15 years investment management and research experience
- BS, Brigham Young University, 2010

#### **PORTFOLIO MANAGERS**



Marco Priani, CFA, CPA, FRM Portfolio Manager

- 24 years investment management and financial analysis experience
- MBA, The University of Chicago-Graduate School of Business, 2005
- LLM, Northwestern University School of Law, 2006
- MSF, Universidad Del CEMA, 1999
- JD, Universidad De Buenos Aires-School of Law, 1987, cum laude



Kevin Ross, CFA **Portfolio Manager** 

- 19 years investment management and financial analysis experience
- MBA, The University of Chicago Booth School of Business, 2014
- BSBA, Washington University, 2006

#### **ANALYSTS**



Zach Buell, CFA Associate, International Equity

- 8 years investment management and financial analysis experience
- BS, Brigham Young University, 2020, magna cum laude



Masa Matsumura, PhD

# Vice President, International Equity

- 15 years investment management and financial analysis experience
- MBA, The University of Chicago Booth School of Business, 2014
- PhD, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2007
- MS, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2005
- BS, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2001
   Zhongjie (Matt) Wang



Associate, International Equity

- 6 years financial analysis and research experience
- MBA, Northwest University, 2022
- BA, University of Manitoba, 2016

# CIO TEAM



Chris Wallis, CFA, CPA **CEO and CIO** Senior Portfolio Manager

- 33 years investment management / financial analysis and accounting experience
- MBA, Harvard Business School, 1998
- · BBA, Baylor University, 1991

## CAPITAL ALLOCATION TEAM



Yash Patil Junior Associate

- MS, Rice University, 2024
- BT, Vellore Institute of Technology, 2020

#### **RISK TEAM**



Sarah Lai Junior Associate, Portfolio and Risk Analysis

- MS, Rice University, 2024
- BA, The University of Texas at Austin, 2023



Isabelle Long

## Associate, Portfolio and Risk Analysis

- 3 years portfolio and risk analysis
- experience
- MBA, Texas A&M University, 2024
- BS, Texas A&M University, 2022



#### William Wojciechowski, PhD Chief Risk Officer, Portfolio and Risk Analysis

- 23 years investment management and financial analysis experience
- PhD, Rice University, 2001
- MA, Rice University, 1999
- MS, West Virginia University, 1996
- BS, Carnegie Mellon University, 1992

#### **ABOUT VAUGHAN NELSON**

Vaughan Nelson Investment Management specializes in value equity investing with a focus on a targeted return. The firm employs a bottom-up, fundamental research process that seeks to capitalize on information and liquidity inefficiencies in the equity universe. The firm's long-term, consistent investment approach draws on its in-depth research capabilities.

- Headquarters: Houston, Texas
- Founded: 1970
- Firm Assets: \$16.9 Billion\*
- Domestic equity, international equity, and fixed income strategies
- 56 employees
- 27 investment team professionals
- 13 Chartered Financial Analyst designations
- 2 PhDs
- \* Number includes assets where Vaughan Nelson Investment Management does not have full unconditional trading authority. The assets consist of model portfolio relationships with third-party platforms and totaled \$2.7 billion as of 3/31/25.

#### VAUGHAN NELSON EQUITY STRATEGIES

		Product Assets as of 3/31/25
Small Cap Value	<ul> <li>Benchmark against the Russell 2000® Value Index</li> <li>Generally 55 to 85 positions</li> </ul>	\$4,537 MM
Value Opportunity	<ul> <li>Benchmark against the Russell Midcap® Value Index and Russell 2500™ Value Index</li> <li>Generally 55 to 75 positions</li> </ul>	\$2,183 MM
Select	<ul> <li>Benchmark against the S&amp;P 500 Index and Russell 3000® Index</li> <li>Generally 20 to 40 positions</li> </ul>	\$6,164 MM
Global SMID Cap	<ul> <li>Benchmark against the MSCI ACWI SMID Cap NR Index</li> <li>Generally 40 to 80 positions</li> </ul>	\$195 MM
Emerging Markets	<ul> <li>Benchmark against the MSCI Emerging Markets NR Index</li> <li>Generally 20 to 40 positions</li> </ul>	\$42 MM
International	<ul> <li>Benchmark against the MSCI ACWI ex USA NR Index</li> <li>Generally 25 to 35 positions</li> </ul>	\$28 MM

# INTERNATIONAL COMPOSITE RETURNS

March 31, 2024 through March 31, 2025

Performance data shown represents past performance and is not a guarantee of, and not indicative of, future results.

Year	Compos. Returns	Compos. Returns	MSCI ACWI ex USA NR Index	No. of Ports.	Disp. at EOP	Compos. Assets at EOP	Total Firm Assets† (ex. model assets)	Entity Assets**†	Std Dev. Compos.	Std Dev. MSCI EAFE Small Cap Net Index
	Gross	Net			Std Dev	\$MM-USD	\$MM-USD	\$MM-USD	3-Yr Anlzd	3-Yr Anlzd
2025 YTD	2.67%	2.42%	5.23%	5 or fewer	N/A	28	14,176	16,904	N/A	N/A
2024*	4.98%	4.20%	0.82%	5 or fewer	N/A	26	14,791	17,840	N/A	N/A

#### NOTESAND DISCLOSURES

#### NOTES

COMPOSITE DESCRIPTION. Effective 4/1/24, this composite is comprised of all fee-paying, discretionary International portfolios in excess of \$1 million under management. The International strategy primarily invests in non-U.S. equities and principally in developed markets with a market capitalization generally within the range of the MSCI ACWI ex USA NR Index at time of purchase. The index capitalization generally within the range of the MSCI ACWI ex USA NR Index at time of purchase. The index covers approximately 85% of the global equity opportunity outside the United States. MSCI is the source and owner of MSCI Index data contained herein. Any further dissemination of the data is strictly prohibited. MSCI is not responsible for any inaccuracy in this presentation. The composite creation and inception date is 3/31/24. FIRM DEFINITION. Vaughan Nelson Investment Management ("Vaughan Nelson") is an equity, fixed income, and balanced portfolio investment manager. Vaughan Nelson is defined as an independent investment advisory firm and is affiliated with Natixis Investment Managers, LLC. FEES. International Fee Schedule: 1.00% on the first \$25 million, 85% on the next \$75 million, 80% on the remainder. OTHER NOTES. Performance results are presented before management fees. Results for the full historical period are time-weighted. Accounts have been valued daily, and portfolio returns have been weighted by using beginning-of-month market values plus daily weighted cash flow. The dispersion calculation is based on a dollar-weighted average of gross portfolio returns within the composite for the entire period. The dispersion percent of N/A indicates that the number of portfolios for the entire year were equal to five or fewer or periods of less than one year. The benchmark source is FactSet. The valuation source is Intercontinental Exchange (ICE). Benchmark returns are not covered by the report of independent verifiers.

#### **DISCLOSURES**

BASIS OF PRESENTATION. The attached information and index performance has been developed internally and/or obtained from sources, which Vaughan Nelson believes to be reliable; however, Vaughan Nelson does not guarantee the accuracy, adequacy or completeness of such information, nor does it guarantee the appropriateness of any strategy referred to for any particular investor. This document is provided for informational purposes only and should not be construed as advice or a recommendation for purchase or sale of securities. Past performance is not indicative of future results. The strategy is managed by Adam Rich, Marco Priani and Kevin Ross from 4/01/24. COMPOSITE NOTES. The composite for each investment strategy has specific criteria in terms of minimum portfolio size, tax status, and discretion. Portfolios meeting the stated criteria are added to the composite as of the first full quarter of investment in that composite's style. Similarly, accounts are removed from the composite after the last full quarter of management under the composite style. A list of all composites and pooled fund investment strategies offered by the firm, with a description of each strategy, is available upon request. The composite results portrayed reflect the reinvestment of dividends, capital gains, and other earnings when appropriate. The U.S. dollar is the currency used to express performance. The three-year annualized standard deviation measures the variability of the composite (using gross-of-fee returns, and the benchmark returns over the preceding 36-month period. CALCULATION METHODOLOGY. The composite performance results are time-weighted total returns net of commissions and transaction costs. Valuations and returns are expressed in U.S. dollars. Vaughan Nelson consistently values all portfolios each month on a trade date basis. Additional information regarding policies for valuing portfolios, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS® Reports are available upon request. Net-of-fee returns are calculated utilizing the high

- \* Partial year return. Inception date of 3/31/24.
- \*\* Number includes assets where Vaughan Nelson Investment Management does not have full unconditional trading authority. The assets consist of model portfolio relationships with third-party platforms and totaled \$2.7 billion as of 3/31/25. This information is supplemental to the International GIPS Report.
- t Total firm assets and entity assets are shown as N/A as the strategy was previously managed at Advisory Research, Inc. These disclosures for the predecessor firm would not be meaningful and, the strategy did not contribute to Vaughan Nelson's assets historically.

