

# Non-U.S. Choice

SECOND QUARTER 2021



*Non-U.S. Equity Choice seeks to provide superior total and risk-adjusted returns by investing in a concentrated portfolio of companies domiciled outside the U.S.*

## Key Components of the Non-U.S. Choice Strategy

A concentrated portfolio that benefits from proprietary research that drives our Non-U.S. strategies; a majority of positions are high convictions in our other strategies

Investments in companies with strong free cash flow and effective capital allocation policies

Disciplined process combines the judgment and experience of fundamental investors with the rigor and objectivity of quantitative insights

Portfolio construction framework designed to minimize unintended risks, reduce volatility, and emphasize security selection risk as the primary source of risk

Broad exposure to countries and sectors with portfolio performance driven by individual security selection

Cash-flow-oriented approach complements other managers within an overall asset allocation plan

## Investment Philosophy

Epoch believes that the best predictors of long-term shareholder return are growth in free cash flow and management's skill in allocating that cash.

We prefer cash flow to earnings for three reasons. First, cash flows are more reliable than reported earnings because they are harder to manipulate under accounting rules. Second, for innovative businesses which derive much of their economic value from intangible assets,

reported earnings have become increasingly less relevant as a measure of value generation compared to cash flows. Third, businesses which appear to generate reported earnings but not cash flows are more likely to run into financial distress.

Capital allocation matters because decisions on how to allocate cash flows—whether to reinvest in order to grow a company, or to return capital to shareholders—can create or destroy long-term shareholder value.

## Strategy Approach and Investment Process

The Epoch Non-U.S. Equity Choice strategy pursues long-term capital appreciation by investing in a concentrated portfolio, typically consisting of 30-50 stocks domiciled outside of the United States. As fundamental investors with a long-term orientation, Epoch selects companies based on their ability to generate free cash flow and allocate it intelligently for the benefit of shareholders.

The investment process begins with a broad universe of over 6,000 non-U.S. companies in both developed and emerging markets. This investment universe is filtered down to approximately 2,000 stocks based on market cap and liquidity constraints. From this investable universe, we identify potential research candidates through meetings with companies, suppliers, customers, their peers, conferences, and trade shows. Our team complements fundamental insights with the Epoch Core Model ("ECM"), a proprietary quantitative tool that was developed in-house to systematically express our free-cash-flow investment philosophy. The Non-U.S. investment universe is large, heterogeneous, and complex, and the ECM helps reduce errors of omission by increasing the breadth of coverage and overcoming behavioral biases. The factors used in the model represent the various aspects of our investment philosophy including free cash flow yield, growth in free cash flow, and the quality of management.

Regardless of the ECM score, all securities undergo in-depth fundamental analysis by our research team before ever being recommended for inclusions in a portfolio. For each company, our investment team scrutinizes management's track record of allocating capital, looking for those with the discipline to use free cash flow to maximize return on investment, thereby creating shareholder value. As part of this process, they review the company's business model, industry dynamics, competitive positioning and strategy, free-cash-flow profile, returns on capital, and valuation. In addition, we examine management's historical track record and incentive schemes. All else equal, Epoch prefers management teams that are focused on measures like free cash flow, return on invested capital, and total shareholder return rather than short-term sales and EPS growth measures—which can be flattered by accounting practices but may not translate into true shareholder value creation. Once a stock has been purchased, we regularly revisit our thesis and typically sell the stock if our price target is reached, our thesis changes, or we see another investment with a better risk-reward profile.

While the portfolio is constructed from the bottom up, we consider the macro context when making decisions. Epoch's Investment Policy Group, composed of senior members of our different strategy groups, provides insight and guidance on the global market environment, as well as macroeconomic and industry trends. The end-result is a concentrated, high-conviction, and risk-controlled portfolio that represents the Firm's best ideas domiciled in Non-US markets.



# Risk Management

Risk management is integrated throughout the investment process and portfolio risk exposures are monitored and formally communicated to portfolio managers on a regular basis and are discussed at investment meetings. The strategy's portfolio construction framework is designed to minimize unintended risks and reduce volatility, producing an efficient portfolio on a risk-return basis. We employ diversification constraints across major countries and sectors. While the strategy does incorporate the top-down views of our Investment Policy Group, the portfolio's emphasis is on idiosyncratic bottom-up ideas with stock selection as the primary source of risk. Following the selection of a name for inclusion in the portfolio, our team pays careful attention to the sizing of positions. Position sizing reflects both quantitative insights and human judgement along with overall portfolio constraints, objectives, and architecture.

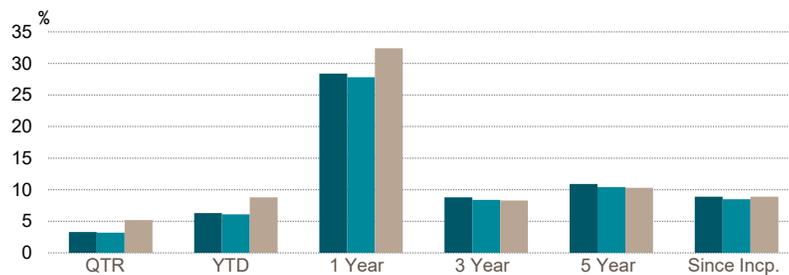
## Portfolio Management Team

### Industry Experience

Bill Booth, CFA	25 years
Glen Petraglia, CFA	21 years
Lilian Quah, CFA	18 years
Bill Priest, CFA	56 years

Supported by a team of analysts with an average of 20 years experience

## NON-U.S. CHOICE



	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Portfolio (Gross)	9.0	24.8	-13.4	26.2	-0.8	4.3
Portfolio (Net)	8.6	24.3	-13.7	25.7	-1.2	4.1
MSCI EAFE (Net)	7.8	22.0	-13.8	25.0	1.0	4.7

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Portfolio (Gross)	9.0	24.8	-13.4	26.2	-0.8	4.3
Portfolio (Net)	8.6	24.3	-13.7	25.7	-1.2	4.1
MSCI EAFE (Net)	7.8	22.0	-13.8	25.0	1.0	4.7

Results for 2015 represent partial period performance from October 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.

## SECTOR WEIGHTS

	Portfolio %	MSCI EAFE (Net) %
Consumer Discretionary	18.8	13.0
Financials	13.6	17.0
Information Technology	13.5	9.1
Health Care	12.6	12.3
Industrials	12.3	15.4
Consumer Staples	10.6	10.5
Communication Services	8.5	4.8
Materials	7.0	7.8
Utilities	1.8	3.4
Energy	0.0	3.2
Real Estate	0.0	3.0
Cash	1.3	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 5 LARGEST COUNTRY WEIGHTS

	Portfolio %	MSCI EAFE (Net)%
France	25.3	11.5
Japan	20.0	23.2
Netherlands	13.8	4.3
United Kingdom	8.6	14.4
Switzerland	6.8	9.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>74.5</b>	<b>63.2</b>

## THREE YEAR RISK METRICS

Portfolio vs. MSCI EAFE (Net)	
Info Ratio	0.14
Alpha	0.76
Beta	0.97
R <sup>2</sup>	0.95

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Composite Inception	October 1, 2015
Assets	\$904.0 million
<b>Availability</b>	<b>Minimum</b>
Separate account	\$50 million
<b>Mutual Fund</b>	
Mainstay Epoch International Choice Fund	
Ticker: ICEUX (Class I)	\$1 million

## CHARACTERISTICS

	Portfolio	MSCI EAFE (Net)
Dividend Yield (%)	2.0	2.3
Standard Deviation (3yr) (%)	17.4	17.5
Sharpe Ratio (3yr)	0.43	0.40
Weighted Avg Mkt Cap (\$M)	91,439	79,804
Weighted Med Mkt Cap (\$M)	49,012	46,705
Number of Equity Positions	36	845
12 Month Turnover (%)	43.8	

## 5 LARGEST HOLDINGS

	Portfolio %
Swiss Re AG	3.8
AXA SA	3.7
Bureau Veritas SA	3.5
Nordea Bank Abp	3.4
Koninklijke Philips N.V.	3.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>17.8</b>

All data as of 06/30/2021 unless otherwise noted. Source: FactSet Research Systems, Inc.; MSCI Inc. Totals may not add due to rounding. Performance for the most recent quarter is preliminary and subject to change. The risk statistics are shown for informational purposes only and are not indicative of future results. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Valuations are computed and performance is reported in U.S. dollars. Composite returns are presented gross and net of management fees and include the reinvestment of all income. Gross-of-fees returns are presented before management fees but after all trading expenses. Net performance reflects the gross-of-fees return reduced by the investment management fee and performance-based fee (where applicable) incurred. Returns include the effect of foreign currency exchange rates. The statements expressed herein are informed opinions, are as of the date noted, and are subject to change at any time based on market or other conditions. International investments involve special risks including currency fluctuation, long liquidity and different accounting methods and economical and political systems. Securities of smaller companies tend to be more volatile and less liquid than that of large companies. Information about indices allows for the comparison of an investment strategy's results to that of a widely recognized broad market index. There is no representation that such index is an appropriate benchmark for such comparison. Results for an index do not reflect trading commissions and costs. Index volatility may be materially different from a strategy's volatility and portfolio holdings may differ significantly from the securities comprising an index. This information is intended to highlight issues and not to be comprehensive or to provide advice only. Any reproduction, modification, distribution, transmission or republication of the information, in part or in full, is prohibited.

