

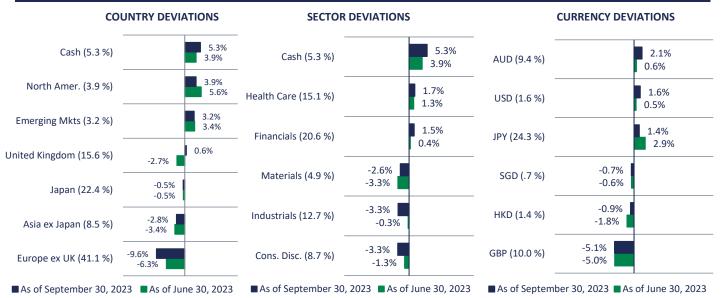


Neutral

International Equities

Performance (CAD)										
Annualized (%)	3 months		YTD	1 year	3 years	5 y	ears	10 years	years Since inception	
Hexavest EAFE Composite	0.47	10.19		29.73	6.17	3.17		5.86	7.10	
MSCI EAFE (net)	-2.03	6.85		23.63	6.18	4.17		6.71	5.62	
VALUE ADDED	2.50	3.34		6.10	-0.01	-:	1.00	-0.85		1.48
Ten last years (%)	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Hexavest EAFE Composite	29.69	4.97	19.02	0.73	10.26	-2.51	11.47	-5.41	6.38	-2.37
MSCI EAFE (net)	31.02	3.67	18.95	-2.49	16.82	-6.03	15.85	5.92	10.32	-8.23
VALUE ADDED	-1.33	1.30	0.07	3.22	-6.56	3.52	-4.38	-11.33	-3.94	5.86





Market Outlook MACROECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT VALUATION SENTIMENT

We do not believe in either a soft-landing scenario or a deep recession scenario. The disinflation seen this year is encouraging, and in our view no further interest rate hikes are required. Our analysis points instead to a classic end of cycle, namely a moderate economic contraction caused by the sharp rise in interest rates and the tightening of credit standards. We are maintaining a double-negative rating for our macroeconomic environment vector.

The high valuation levels and expansion of multiples seen this year on the S&P 500 and NASDAQ indexes are consistent with an acceleration of economic growth and corporate earnings. The valuations of the global small- and mid-cap stock indexes are already pricing in a recession, as well for some industries, particularly banks. It's also worth noting that when you subtract the seven largest stocks in the S&P 500, the so-called magnificent seven, the index has a valuation that is more reasonable, albeit not cheap. In other words, at the end of September the extreme valuations were concentrated in a handful of U.S. mega caps. We are maintaining a double-negative valuation rating.

The relative performances of the sectors and investor positioning reflect hopes for a soft landing. The euphoria we saw in some markets only a few months ago abated during the summer, as can be seen from the MSCI World's third-quarter return of -2.6% in local currency. The improvement in our investor sentiment index echoes this context. What has changed very little, is the high concentration of returns in the so-called magnificent seven this year. In this context, we are raising our investor sentiment vector from single negative to neutral.

Our analysis of the three vectors has prompted us to maintain a defensive bias. We are concerned about the deteriorating economic growth outlook and its impact on corporate earnings at a time when market valuations and investor positioning are not pricing in a slowdown.

HEXAVEST



International Equities

Summary

Benchmark MSCI EAFE (net)

Value added objective 2% (4-year rolling periods)

Active risk 3% to 5%

Number of holdings 200 to 250 (higher if exposure to

EM)

Currency management Active **Maximum cash** 10%

exposure

DEVIATIONS VS. BENCHMARK

Regions: +/- 15%
Countries: +/- 15%
Currencies: +/- 15%
Sectors: +/- 10%

Investment Approach

- Top-down and contrarian approach
- Diversified sources of alpha: regions, countries, currencies, sectors, industries, stocks
- Strong focus on downside protection
- Systematic integration of ESG factors
- Experienced and nimble investment team
- Clearly defined process, applied for nearly 30 years

Investment Team

Marc C. Lavoie, CPA, CFA Manager, Global Top-down

Strategy

Experience: 22 years Team member since 2003

Christian Crête, CFA

Senior Portfolio Manager Experience: 23 years Team member since 2012 Jean-Pierre Couture, M.Sc.

Economist & Senior Portfolio

Manager

Experience: 27 years Team member since 2010

Aïcha Traoré, M. Fin., M.Sc.

Analyst

Experience: 2 years
Team member since 2022

Investment Process TOP-DOWN DECISIONS PORTFOLIO CONSTRUCTION Initial universe REGIONS COUNTRIES CURRENCIES ~ 900 stocks **SECTORS INDUSTRIES** Top-down decisions Top-down portfolio **VECTORS OF ANALYSIS** Macro Final portfolio 4 ≈ 225 stocks Valuation Currency overlay and Sentiment derivatives

Responsible Investment

Christian Felx

Manager and Head of Responsible investment

- We have a team of 10 specialists dedicated exclusively to responsible investment.
- Combine investments and RI expertise to offer highperformance strategies
- Development of a simple RI process that can be easily integrated into any mandate
- Ongoing exchanges between portfolio managers and the RI team increasing the efficiency of the investment process

Contact Us

clientexperience.dgia@desjardins.com

Sources: MSCI, DGAM, as of September 30, 2023

FOR CANADIAN INSTITUTIONAL INVESTOR USE ONLY

The performance shown is that of a composite of international equity mandates managed by Mr. Vital Proulx and his team at St. Lawrence Financial Consultants (1991 to 1996), Kogeva (1997 to 1998), Natcan (1998 to 2004), Hexavest (from May 2004 to August 2021) and DGAM (since September 2021). Accounts in the composite may have investment guidelines that differ from those of the representative account. The inception date of the composite is May 1, 1991. Performance results are presented gross of management and custodial fees but net of all trading commissions. Returns for periods greater than 12 months are annualized. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future performance.

The information and opinions herein are provided for informational purposes only and are subject to change based on market and other conditions. It should not be relied upon as the basis for your investment decisions. This document is not and should not be construed as a solicitation or offering of units of any fund or other security in any jurisdiction. No part of this document may be reproduced in any manner without the prior written permission of DGAM.