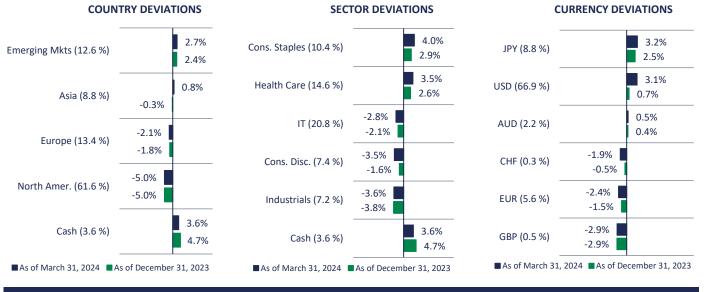
HEXAVEST

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# **All-Country Equities**

Performance (CAD)										
Annualized (%)	3 months	5	YTD	1 year	3 years	5 y	ears	10 years	Since in	ception
Hexavest All-Country Composite	10.91	L	10.91	21.08	10.70	:	8.26	9.20		10.15
MSCI ACWI (net)	11.04	1	11.04	23.21	9.62	1	1.20	10.90		11.63
VALUE ADDED	-0.13	3	-0.13	-2.13	1.08		2.94	-1.70		-1.48
Ten last years (%)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Hexavest All-Country Composite	13.78	18.13	8.32	8.80	0.51	13.44	0.80	12.79	-5.41	16.50
MSCI ACWI (net)	13.55	17.10	4.13	15.83	-1.26	20.20	14.22	17.53	-12.43	18.92
VALUE ADDED	0.23	1.03	4.19	-7.03	1.77	-6.76	-13.42	-4.74	7.02	-2.42

### Positioning (vs MSCI ACWI)



#### Market Outlook

MACROECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT	VALUATION	SENTIMENT		
		-		

Unlike the Canadian and European economies, the U.S. economy has been resilient to monetary tightening so far. But demand is not immune to interest rate hikes in the United States. They will eventually slow activity. In the meantime, it must be noted that growth is defying all forecasts. This resilience obliges us to question our scenarios. Should we adjust our outlook on the basis of data from past months or rely on empirical tools pointing to high probability of a recession, even though they contradict the consensus? In fact, the consensus of forecasters has not ruled out the scenario of a U.S. slowdown; instead, it has been postponed to 2025. That being said, this outlook is fairly consistent with a longer, but not abnormal, lag between the start of rate hikes and their full impact on economic activity. We are maintaining a double-negative rating on the macro environment.

Even with the best models, economic forecasting involves a lot of uncertainty. But the scenario expected by the stock market in March leaves very little room for uncertainty. In the 95th percentile of its historical distribution, the MSCI World valuation appears to be excessively optimistic. The high prices are no longer limited to a few ultra-large-cap U.S. names with strong balance sheets. Over the months, they have spread to other regions and market segments that were pricing in a significant slowdown a few quarters ago. It is true that the equity market is less expensive than it was in 2000 at the height of the speculative bubble, but frequent reference to an extreme point in history doesn't make the current valuation attractive; rather, it is a disquieting reminder that says a lot about the current context. We have lowered the rating of this valuation vector to triple-negative.

After a stock market rally of a magnitude rarely seen, most sentiment metrics entered in overheated territory. But risk appetite is still very much present on the part of large institutional investors and small speculators alike. Is it due to their sense of invincibility or their fear of missing out (FOMO)? History tells us that such bouts of euphoria can last for several quarters. Moreover, the back-testing we have done shows that a change in the regime of our sentiment metric is required for us adopt a more defensive positioning. Thus, patience is required, even for contrarian managers. Against this backdrop, we are maintaining a single-negative rating on sentiment.

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

# **FACT SHEET / MARCH 31, 2024**

# HEXAVEST **Desjardins** Global Asset Manage

# **All-Country Equities**

#### Summary

Benchmark	MSCI ACWI (net)
Value added objective	2% (4-year rolling periods)
Active risk	3% to 5%
Number of holdings	375 to 470
Currency management	Active
Maximum cash exposure	10%

#### **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

#### **Responsible Investment**

We have a team of 10 specialists dedicated exclusively to responsible investment.

#### **Investment Team**

Marc C. Lavoie, CPA, CFA Manager, Global Top-down Strategies Experience: 22 years Team member since 2003

Christian Crête, CFA Senior Portfolio Manager Experience: 24 years Team member since 2012

Jean-Pierre Couture, M.Sc. **Economist and Senior Portfolio** Manager Experience: 28 years Team member since 2010

Aïcha Traoré, M.Fin., M.Sc. Analyst Experience: 4 years Team member since 2022

# **Investment Process**

**TOP-DOWN DECISIONS** REGIONS COUNTRIES CURRENCIES INDUSTRIES **VECTORS OF ANALYSIS** Macro Valuation ---/+++ Sentiment ---/+++

Jean-Benoit Leblanc, M.Sc., CFA Senior Portfolio Manager Experience: 24 years Team member since 2009

Julien Tousignant, M.Sc., CFA Portfolio Manager Experience: 11 years Team member since 2013

Hao Feng, MBA, CFA Portfolio Manager Expérience: 12 years Team member since 2021

Jérôme Lacombe, M.Sc., CFA, FRM Portfolio Manager Experience: 16 years Team member since 2023

#### PORTFOLIO CONSTRUCTION

	Initial universe ~ 2,500 stocks
2	Top-down decisions
3	Top-down portfolio
4	Final portfolio ≈ 400 stocks
5	Currency overlay and derivatives

- 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 March 31, 2024

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The performance shown is that of a composite of all-country equity mandates managed by DGAM. Accounts in the composite may have investment guidelines that differ from those of the representative account. The inception date of the composite is December 1, 2010. 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.

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