

# International and Global Growth Equity Strategies

Q3 2020 COMMENTARY

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## INTRODUCTION

Markets grinded higher in the third quarter. Gains were exceptionally strong in July and August, though there was a modest pullback in September. Strength was broad-based amongst sectors and geographic regions. In this environment, growth stocks outperformed substantially relative to value stocks.

We were able to again outperform in the third quarter, aided by the significant repositioning we had done in portfolios amidst the sell-off in March. However, we are wary of the risks to the market rally, including elevated valuation multiples, over-reliance on central banks, an uneven or stagnant economic recovery, resurgences in coronavirus cases, unresolved trade tensions, and uncertainty in the U.S. election. As markets have climbed higher, we have grown more concerned with the disconnect between stock prices and fundamentals.

Accordingly, we made changes in portfolios this past quarter, including taking proceeds from some high valuation "winners", redeploying to lower valuation holdings, and raising cash levels so we have more dry powder. On the margin, these changes should help mitigate some downside if markets become less hospitable, and we continue to contemplate further adjustments for a more conservative balance of growth, profitability, and valuation in the portfolios.

We thank you for entrusting us with your precious capital. This is an unprecedented market environment, and we are hard at work navigating the near-term uncertainty. Our investment process is selective and identifies durable and high-quality growth companies, which we believe can ride out and, in many cases, grow through difficult times such as this.

In the third quarter of 2020, the Chautauqua International Growth Equities composite increased 13.17% (gross of fees), outperforming the MSCI ACWI ex-U.S. Index<sup>®</sup> ND, which increased 6.25%. In the third quarter of 2020, the Chautauqua Global Growth Equities composite increased 10.26% (gross of fees), outperforming the MSCI ACWI Index<sup>®</sup> ND, which increased 8.13%.\*

## MARKET UPDATE

For the MSCI ACWI ex-U.S. Index<sup>®</sup>, growth style outperformed value style. Within emerging markets, growth style also outperformed value style.

For the MSCI ACWI Index<sup>®</sup>, growth style outperformed value style, and large capitalization stocks roughly performed equally with small capitalization stocks. Within emerging markets, growth style also outperformed value style.

Sector and country performance were mostly positive for the quarter.

### MSCI Sector and Country Performances (QTD as of 09/30/2020)

Sector	Performance	Country	Performance	Country	Performance
Consumer Discretionary	18.01%	Taiwan	17.10%	Netherlands	5.97%
Information Technology	12.78%	Denmark	15.40%	Switzerland	5.10%
Materials	11.83%	India	15.11%	Australia	2.84%
Industrials	11.26%	China	12.57%	Singapore	-0.99%
Communication Services	7.37%	United States	9.64%	Israel	-1.96%
Consumer Staples	7.37%	Japan	7.08%	Austria	-4.74%
Health Care	4.75%	Canada	6.37%	Indonesia	-6.80%
Utilities	4.17%				
Real Estate	2.18%				
Financials	1.57%				
Energy	-12.49%				

Based on select MSCI country performance returns.

\*Performance data is preliminary, represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. Current performance data may be lower or higher than the data quoted. For performance data to the most recent month end, contact Chautauqua directly at 303-541-1545 or [www.chautauquacapital.com](http://www.chautauquacapital.com).

## INVESTMENT TEAM

- Generalists with specialized skills
- Averaging 24 years investment experience

## INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY

- The securities of advantaged, wealth-generating businesses are often mispriced because most investors do not fully comprehend the companies' potential for sustained high-growth and improved profitability. Several trends accentuate this phenomenon.

## KEY PILLARS OF OUR INVESTMENT PROCESS

- Security selection drives returns
- Long-term focus
- Concentrated, conviction-weighted portfolios

## ORGANIZED FOR INVESTMENT SUCCESS

- Autonomous institutional boutique
- Employee owners
- We invest alongside our clients
- Self-imposed limit on growth

The economic recovery in the U.S. has now stagnated after the initial recovery. Retail sales have lost momentum since August. Labor markets, unsurprisingly, are soft after extended unemployment benefits lapsed in July, and employers have been reluctant to add staffing in this reduced demand economy. Political stalemate over additional coronavirus relief continued, and there has been little progress on the next stimulus bill. Many state and local governments are facing budget troubles and would be hard-pressed to fill the gap.

The Federal Reserve (Fed) changed its policy framework so that it uses an average inflation target that can make up for past inflation shortfalls, provides outcome-based forward guidance, and potentially extends quantitative easing by changing the rationale of the program to stimulus from market-functioning. Overall, these changes will allow the Fed to remain accommodative for longer, and the Fed has communicated a preference to leave rates unchanged through 2023.

In Europe, the economic recovery is anything but smooth. A surge in coronavirus cases stoked fears of a second pandemic wave, as infection rates jumped back to peak levels from the spring. Full-scale lockdowns were avoided this time, but the most recent economic data suggests that the uptick in cases has weighed on economic output. Back in July, Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) data increased markedly, showing expansion for the first time since the pandemic. However, PMI data slowed in August and again in September, hand-in-hand with an uptick in new cases and containment measures. Data on retail sales and factory orders followed a similar pattern, softening in the latter months of summer after a strong initial rebound.

At this time, the European Central Bank (ECB) is in a wait-and-see mode. The ECB left policy settings unchanged, but it has left the door open for further stimulus. Thus far, policies have been effective in easing financial conditions from the tighter levels following the initial coronavirus shock, and another tranche of pandemic asset purchases could be announced by the end of the year. Any notion of policy tightening seems off the table, as it could put the recovery at risk. Furthermore, the Fed's new stance would allow looser monetary policy for longer.

The Bank of Japan (BOJ) kept its monetary policy unchanged, confirming that its ultra-easy stance, which includes negative interest rates, zero yield long-term government bonds, and substantial asset purchases, backed by former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, remains intact under his successor Yoshihide Suga.

## PERFORMANCE ATTRIBUTION

Selection effect was a positive contributor to the outperformance in the Chautauqua International Growth composite, specifically in health care and information technology holdings. Overweight allocation in the information technology sector was also a contributing factor. Investments in SolarEdge, Alibaba, Adyen, WuXi Biologics, and BeiGene were the most positive contributors to performance. Holdings and a relative underweight allocation in the industrials sector, as well as lack of exposure to materials, detracted from performance. Though it had a slight positive contribution to the portfolio, Fanuc contributed the least in industrials. For company-specific reasons, Temenos was the biggest decliner in the portfolio.

Selection effect was a positive contributor to the outperformance in the Chautauqua Global Growth composite, specifically in information technology and utilities holdings. Overweight allocation in the information technology sector was also a contributing factor. Within these, holdings in SolarEdge, Taiwan Semiconductor, and Brookfield Renewable were the most positive contributors to performance. While some of the portfolio's best performers were health care companies, holdings and overweight in the sector detracted from relative performance. Holdings and underweight allocation in industrials were also detractors. Of these, the biggest decliners were Incyte, Sinopharm, Recruit, and Fanuc.

## PORTFOLIO HIGHLIGHTS | BUYS AND SELLS

For the Chautauqua International Growth composite, 73% of companies that reported earnings during the quarter were in-line with or exceeded consensus expectations.

For the Chautauqua Global Growth composite, 72% of companies that reported earnings during the quarter were in-line with or exceeded consensus expectations.

### Top 5 Average Weighted International Holdings\* for Q3 2020

Security	Avg. Weight	Contribution
Genmab	6.63	0.68
Novo Nordisk	5.89	0.41
Keyence Corporation	5.24	0.58
Adyen NV	5.06	1.29
Alibaba	4.98	1.60

### Bottom 5 Average Weighted International Holdings\* for Q3 2020

Security	Avg. Weight	Contribution
Fairfax Financial	0.36	-0.08
Brookfield Renewable	1.02	0.54
BYD Company	1.23	1.01
Sinopharm	1.34	-0.29
AMS AG	1.65	0.76

### Top 5 Average Weighted Global Holdings\* for Q3 2020

Security	Avg. Weight	Contribution
Genmab	5.28	0.44
TAL Education	4.37	0.60
Incyte Corporation	3.96	-0.55
Mastercard	3.69	0.50
Novo Nordisk	3.50	0.24

### Bottom 5 Average Weighted Global Holdings\* for Q3 2020

Security	Avg. Weight	Contribution
Fairfax Financial	0.36	-0.08
Alteryx, Inc.	0.53	-0.07
Coherent, Inc.	0.64	-0.09
AMS AG	0.78	0.35
Bristol-Myers Squibb	0.84	0.03

\*The holdings identified do not represent all of the securities purchased, sold, or recommended for advisory clients; and past performance does not guarantee future results. To obtain information about the calculation methodology and a list showing every holding's contribution, please contact Baird.

## COMPOSITE PERFORMANCE FOR THE PERIODS ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2020\* (%)

### Chautauqua International Growth Equity

	Q3 2020	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Since Inception	Cumulative Since Inception
<b>International Growth Equity - Gross</b>	<b>13.17</b>	<b>16.89</b>	<b>25.32</b>	<b>9.27</b>	<b>13.76</b>	<b>8.33</b>	<b>8.56</b>	<b>235.81</b>
<b>International Growth Equity - Net</b>	<b>13.06</b>	<b>16.49</b>	<b>24.76</b>	<b>8.84</b>	<b>13.28</b>	<b>7.91</b>	<b>8.28</b>	<b>223.09</b>
MSCI ACWI ex-U.S. Index® - ND	6.25	-5.44	3.00	1.16	6.23	4.00	3.86	74.78

Chautauqua International Growth Equity inception: January 1, 2006.

### Chautauqua Global Growth Equity

	Q3 2020	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Since Inception	Cumulative Since Inception
<b>Global Growth Equity - Gross</b>	<b>10.26</b>	<b>15.54</b>	<b>26.96</b>	<b>12.39</b>	<b>16.47</b>	<b>12.12</b>	<b>10.06</b>	<b>273.49</b>
<b>Global Growth Equity - Net</b>	<b>10.19</b>	<b>15.28</b>	<b>26.56</b>	<b>11.67</b>	<b>15.75</b>	<b>11.54</b>	<b>9.65</b>	<b>254.71</b>
MSCI ACWI Index® - ND	8.13	1.37	10.44	7.12	10.30	8.55	5.34	104.51
MSCI World Index® - ND	7.93	1.70	10.41	7.74	10.48	9.37	5.59	111.19

Chautauqua Global Growth Equity inception: January 1, 2007.

\*These are preliminary figures from our portfolio accounting system that have yet to be verified by ACA. Performance data represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. Current performance data may be lower or higher than the data quoted. For performance data to the most recent month end, contact Chautauqua directly at 303-541-1545 or [www.chautauquacapital.com](http://www.chautauquacapital.com).

Our conviction weighting process, which considers our estimates for growth, profitability, and valuation, is key to our portfolio management strategy and has been additive to returns over the long run.

In the International strategy, we reduced positions in ASML, BYD, Genmab, Prosus, Recruit, SolarEdge, TAL Education, and WuXi Biologics. Proceeds were used to initiate new positions in Brookfield Renewable and Fairfax Financial and increase positions in Constellation Software, DBS, Keyence, Sinopharm, Tata Consultancy, and Waste Connections.

In the Global strategy, we reduced positions in Alphabet, Amazon, BYD, Nvidia, Prosus, Recruit, TAL Education, and WuXi Biologics. Proceeds were used to initiate new positions in Alteryx, Brookfield Renewable, and Fairfax Financial and increase positions in Atlassian, Charles Schwab, Constellation Software, DBS, Mastercard, Silicon Valley Bank, Sinopharm, Tata Consultancy, and TJX.

## OUTLOOK

The headwinds are easy to identify. Fiscal policy is a critical tool to support the economy in difficult times, but political gridlock has made it difficult to muster. In the U.S., both parties are still far apart on the size and scope of a potential plan, and odds are increasing that Congress will adjourn in October without a deal. This will further stress labor markets and consumption trends that have stagnated after a honeymoon rebound. Election uncertainty remains an overhang. Not only is the outcome still uncertain, but President Trump has also refused to say whether he would honor the transition of power if he loses in November.

There is still a lot of skepticism whether the Fed can improve inflation, and the Fed's job is now harder with such a depleted policy arsenal. The Fed's balance sheet ballooned to approximately \$8 trillion in June but since then has been largely stagnant. Markets sold off when the Fed did not expand the size of its asset purchase program, even though it had formalized a new longer-term framework for accommodative policy, showing the effects of addiction to accommodative monetary policy.

The initial rebound in the European economy was not necessarily a good guide to the recovery, and overall, the ECB has set expectations for economic uncertainty and unevenness going forward. Inflation in the eurozone turned negative for the first time since 2016. The euro currency has appreciated to near all-time highs, but this has happened at the same time as economic data softening and inflation turning negative. This is a concern for the ECB. The combination of a strong euro and a moderation in the economic outlook should result in a downward revision in the inflation outlook. Even with another tranche of pandemic monetary stimulus, the ECB may struggle to curtail euro gains, given underlying dollar weakness and uncertainty heading into the U.S. election.

"For both the Chautauqua International Growth and Global Growth composites, more than 70% of companies that reported earnings during the quarter were in-line with or exceeded consensus expectations."

Member countries in the European Union (EU) remain fractionated, however leaders reached a deal for a long-term fiscal budget covering 2021-2027. Importantly, the budget included a pandemic recovery fund worth €750B, comprised roughly of an equal mix of grants and low-cost loans. Fiscally conservative countries such as Germany, Netherlands, Austria, Denmark, and Sweden pushed to link distributions of the recovery fund to enhancing growth reforms. On the other hand, countries such as Italy and Spain are in a weaker fiscal position but stand to receive the largest amounts from the program. The EU has indicated that distributions from the recovery will not occur until the second half of 2021, and these will be conditional on the submission of national recovery and resilience plans that meet guidelines of the European Commission.

In Japan, the new Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga is a strong advocate for structural reforms to increase the country's economic output, such as deregulation, digitization, and encouraging consolidation within the country's low profitability banking sector. Japan has suffered relatively few coronavirus cases and deaths compared to the U.S. and Europe, but its economy is recovering slowly from a state of emergency in April and May and the decline of global trade.

In spite of the risks and weak economic fundamentals, markets have grinded higher. Equity markets are expensive relative to current earnings power. In this recessionary economy, earnings have collapsed. The rise in stock prices has been accompanied by extraordinary levels of monetary accommodation, quantitative easing, and back-stopping of financial assets by central banks. On the one hand, policy support remains accommodative. On the other hand, policy arsenals are nearing exhaustion, and there is little fundamental support to belie high valuations and the exuberant market rally.

Therefore, we have made adjustments to portfolios, including realizing profits from some high valuation "winners", redeploying to lower valuation holdings, and raising cash levels so we hold more dry powder. On the margin, these changes should help mitigate some downside if markets become less hospitable, and we continue to contemplate further adjustments for a more conservative balance of growth, profitability, and valuation in the portfolios.

Valuations are high across the market, but on a relative basis, they are still most attractive for international stocks. The pandemic has delivered a global growth shock, but in doing so, it has accelerated the timeline for several mega trends that we have been actively investing in, such as productivity enhancement (robotics, automation, and software), e-commerce, electronic payments, and rapid drug development. Furthermore, many portfolio companies have been able to continue to deliver growth even in this recessionary environment, which is an exceptional trait.

## **BUSINESS UPDATE**

There have been no changes to the investment team at Chautauqua Capital Management nor have there been any changes to the ownership structure of our parent company, Baird.

Respectfully submitted,

The Partners of Chautauqua Capital Management – a Division of Baird

"Valuations are high across the market, but on a relative basis, they are most attractive for international stocks. The pandemic has delivered a global growth shock, but in doing so, it has accelerated the timeline for several mega trends that we have been actively investing in..."

Investment Professional	Educational Background	Years of Experience	Prior Affiliation
<b>Brian Beitner, CFA</b> <i>Managing Partner</i>	MBA, University of Southern California BS, University of Southern California	40	TCW Scudder Stevens & Clark Bear Stearns & Company Security Pacific
<b>Jesse Flores, CFA</b> <i>Partner</i>	MBA, Stanford University BS, Cornell University	14	Roth Capital Partners Blavin & Company Lehman Brothers
<b>Haicheng Li, CFA</b> <i>Partner</i>	MBA, Stanford University MMSc, Harvard Medical School MS, Harvard University BA, Rutgers University	19	TCW
<b>David Lubchenco</b> <i>Partner</i>	MBA, University of Denver BA, The Colorado College	28	Marsico Capital Management Transamerica Investment Management Janus Capital
<b>Nate Velarde</b> <i>Partner</i>	MIDS, UC Berkeley MBA, University of Chicago BA, University of Chicago	19	PIMCO Nuveen Investments TCW

The above commentary does not provide a complete analysis of every material fact regarding any market, industry, security or portfolio. Strategy holdings information, opinions and other market or economic information and data provided are as of the date of the commentary, unless another date is expressly indicated, and may change without notice.

The MSCI ACWI Index<sup>®</sup> is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure the equity performance of developed and emerging markets. The MSCI ACWI Index<sup>®</sup> consists of 44 country indices, including the United States, comprising 23 developed and 24 emerging market country indices.

The MSCI ACWI ex-U.S. Index<sup>®</sup> is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed and emerging markets excluding the United States.

The MSCI World Index<sup>®</sup> is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed markets. The MSCI World Index<sup>®</sup> consists of 23 developed market country indices.

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Performance results will vary among client accounts. The actual return and value of an account will fluctuate and at any point in time could be worth more or less than the amount invested. The performance results displayed herein represent the investment performance records for the Chautauqua composites that include fully discretionary fee paying client accounts. The composites' returns are total, time weighted returns expressed in U.S. dollars. Composite returns reflect the reinvestment of dividends and other earnings. The net performance reflects the deduction of investment advisory fees and transactions costs and the gross performance is net of transaction costs, but gross of advisory fees. The cumulative performance information shown is the aggregate amount that the composites have gained since inception through September 30, 2020.

The separate accounts and private investment funds are available to institutions and persons with a minimum account asset value of \$100,000,000 and \$25,000,000, respectively, which is negotiable in certain instances. Investors in the private investment funds must also meet eligibility requirements.

For additional important information about the fees, expenses, risks and terms of investment advisory accounts at Baird, please review Baird's Form ADV Brochure, which can be obtained from your financial advisor and should be read carefully before opening an investment advisory account.