

# Strategy Overview

Second Quarter, 2023



## All Country International Equity Strategy

Boston Common's All Country International Equity invests in a diversified portfolio of high-quality companies with sound governance and sustainable business models selling into growing end markets. Strategy vehicle options include Separate Account, Commingled Fund, Model/ADR, Mutual Fund<sup>1</sup>

### Portfolio Activity

Among our transactions this quarter, we purchased French industrial Rexel, a leading distributor of electrical equipment and cables. The stock trades at a low valuation, less than 6x EBITDA, but has strong fundamental prospects driven by electrification in Europe and the US.

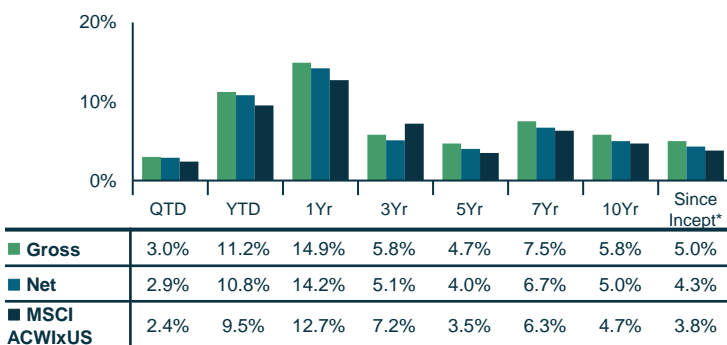
German reinsurer Hannover Re is another new position. In our view, the company has been appropriately underwriting climate change risks, has demonstrated high-quality management, and is positioned to benefit from an attractive pricing cycle.

During the quarter, we sold French automotive supplier Valeo driven by ongoing concerns around the viability of its core auto parts supply business amidst the accelerating transition to EVs.

### Portfolio Review

A composite of Boston Common's International portfolios returned +3.0% before fees, slightly outperforming the MSCI ACWIxUS Index ("the Index"). Stock selection in Healthcare and Technology was the primary driver of outperformance. Within Healthcare, UK pet pharmaceutical supplier Dechra, our best performer, received an acquisition offer at a substantial premium. In Japan, Eisai rallied on rising confidence in the approval and coverage of its Alzheimer's Disease drug Leqembi. Within Technology, semiconductor companies SK Hynix and Taiwan Semi rallied on improving supply-demand balance and growth potential from Generative AI, which also helped German software developer SAP. Additional key contributors included ING bank in Holland and emerging market banks, Rakyat in Indonesia, and Itau in Brazil, as well as Industrials, Daikin in Japan, and Schneider Electric in France. On a regional basis, Emerging Markets had the biggest outperformance, driven mostly by the above-mentioned names within Technology & Financials.

### Performance



### Annual Returns

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Gross	11.2%	-20.1%	0.3%	26.3%	25.4%	-12.3%	31.5%	1.0%	-4.7%	-1.8%
Net	10.8%	-20.5%	-0.4%	25.4%	24.5%	-13.0%	30.5%	0.1%	-5.4%	-2.5%
MSCI ACWIxUS	9.5%	-16.0%	7.8%	10.7%	21.5%	-14.2%	27.2%	4.5%	-5.7%	-3.9%

### Portfolio Characteristics

	Boston Common	MSCI ACWIxUS
# Holdings	63	2,307
<b>Valuation</b>		
Price/EPS (NTM)	14.3	13.5
Enterprise Value/EBITDA (NTM)	9.2	8.3
Price/Book	2.1	1.9
Price/Sales	1.7	1.4
Dividend Yield	2.6%	3.0%
<b>Growth</b>		
3yr EPS Consensus Growth	-7.4% <sup>1</sup>	1.3%
3yr Sales Growth	4.2%	2.1%
<b>Quality</b>		
Beta**	N/A	1.00
LT Debt to Cap	28.1%	27.7%
Net Debt to EBITDA	1.1	1.2
Return on Equity	13.9%	13.4%
Earnings Variability***	24.0%	28.2%
Free Cash Flow Yield	8.2%	5.7%

<sup>1</sup>The 3-year EPS growth metric was significantly impacted by one holding, BioNTech. Despite a 0.8% portfolio weight, excluding this one company would bring the portfolio's 3-year EPS growth to +7.3%.

## Portfolio Review (continued)

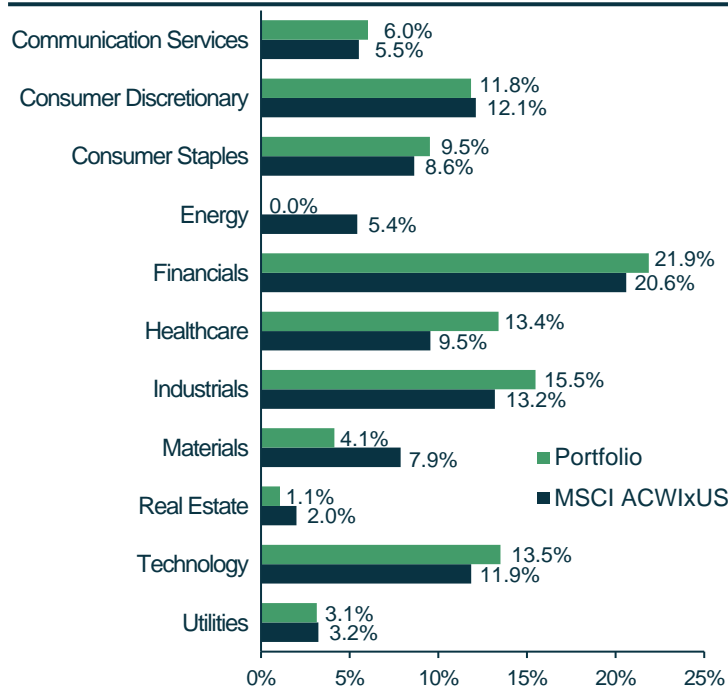
Stock selection in Consumer Discretionary and Industrials was the largest detractor from performance. Weakness in China weighed on ecommerce company Alibaba, while online travel operator Trip.com lagged on far slower-than-expected international travel revival out of China. Environmental solutions companies Kurita Water, Vestas Wind, and Spirax-Sarco declined on downgraded expectations. Our stock selection in the strong Japanese market was the key regional detractor. All three of our Materials holdings, Croda in the UK, LG Chem in Korea, and SQM in Chile, were laggards, though our large underweight to this underperforming sector limited the drag. Other key detractors were defensive holdings: Deutsche Telekom, BioNTech, and Essity.

## Outlook and Positioning

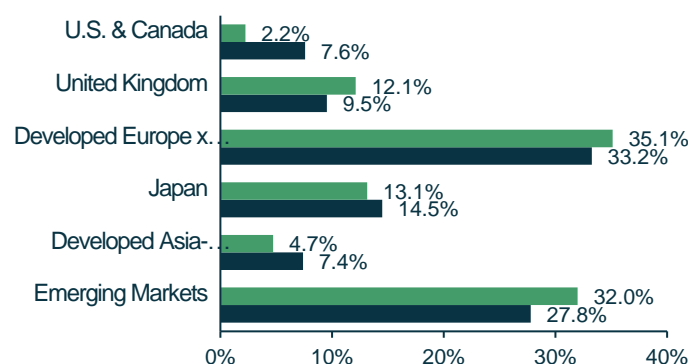
Declining inflation rates should be a prelude to easier monetary policy, an important positive factor for the markets. However, this past year's rapid and steep rise in interest rates will likely be an economic headwind well after the approaching inflection point in central bank policies. The lagged effects of rising costs of living should pressure consumer spending, assuming labor markets soften. Industrial activity has been weaker than the service economy but should benefit from long-term demand driven by the green transition. China's recovery has undershot expectations, driven by property weakness and restrained policy stimulus, while rising trade tensions present risks and opportunities as global supply chains reconfigure.

To account for macroeconomic and geopolitical risks, our portfolios are overweight inexpensive stable stocks, especially in Healthcare and Staples. We balance those positions with more exposure to Industrials, with particular emphasis on renewable energy, electrification, and resource efficiency. We remain overweight Financials, key beneficiaries of higher rates, though our holdings skew towards emerging markets. In all sectors, we seek high ESG and financial quality as well as an attractive balance between growth and valuation.

## Sector Allocation



## Regional Allocation



## Top 10 Equity Holdings

Names	% Weight	Sector Name
TAIWAN SEMICONDUCTOR MFG LTD	3.4%	Technology
SAP SE	2.9%	Technology
DEUTSCHE TELEKOM	2.9%	Communication Services
ROCHE HLDGS	2.8%	Healthcare
SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC	2.6%	Industrials
UNILEVER	2.6%	Consumer Staples
OVERSEA-CHINESE BK	2.5%	Financials
BK RAKYAT	2.3%	Financials
CANADIAN PAC RY LTD	2.2%	Industrials
AXA	2.2%	Financials
<b>Total</b>	<b>26.4%</b>	

Source: APX Advent Portfolio Exchange. Past performance does not guarantee future results. All investments involve risk, including the risk of losing principal. The information in this document is not a recommendation to buy or sell any security. There is no assurance that securities discussed will remain in a strategy upon receiving this document. Securities discussed represent only a portion of a strategy's holdings. It should not be assumed that securities transactions discussed were or will be profitable. Composite returns are presented in U.S. dollars, net of transaction costs, management fees and withholding taxes, with interest and dividends accrued. Returns for periods greater than one year are annualized. This product invests in foreign securities, which are subject to special currency, political and economic risks. The MSCI ACWI ex. U.S. Index is a free-float adjusted, market capitalization weighted index of the largest publicly traded companies listed on the exchanges of developed and emerging market countries around the world, excluding U.S.-based companies. The index is unmanaged and does not incur management fees, transaction costs, or other expenses associated with separately managed accounts. The composition of our composite varies from the composition of the Index because of differences in sector and industry exposure, risk, volatility and holdings. Boston Common claims compliance with Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®). For a full listing of Boston Common's composites and to request a GIPS® Compliant presentation, please call 617-720-5557.