

**Quarterly Investment Review** 

June 30, 2024

# **Fidelity Investments Canada ULC**

FIDELITY EUROPE FUND

QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REVIEW AS OF JUNE 30, 2024

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## Overview

INCEPTION DATE: January 02, 2001

BENCHMARK: MSCI Europe Index

FUND MANAGER: Matthew Siddle

#### **OBJECTIVE**

The Fund seeks to achieve long-term capital growth by investing primarily in equity securities of companies located mainly in the United Kingdom and Continental Europe, including the European Union and the European Free Trade Association.

### **APPROACH**

- A regional equity strategy that aims to offer exposure to companies in the European market.
- Leverages Fidelity's dedicated "on the ground" investment team and global resources.

PERFORMANCE RETURNS (%)											
	Cumulative						Annualized				
	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Since Inception	
Fidelity Europe Fund - Series O	(0.63)	6.13	5.06	3.71	8.95	14.91	6.36	6.03	6.03	5.47	
MSCI Europe Index	(2.89)	8.31	7.99	1.67	9.80	15.48	7.39	8.13	6.80	4.26	
Relative Return	2.26	(2.18)	(2.93)	2.04	(0.85)	(0.57)	(1.03)	(2.10)	(0.77)	1.21	

Performance returns are unaudited and time-weighted.

■Fund(Gross)

-2.9 Q3 2023

(%)

Note: Differences may be due to rounding.

-4.0

## **Cumulative Quarterly Performance**

# 10.0 8.0 6.0 4.0 2.0 0.0 -2.0 -0.6

Q4 2023

(%)

■MSCI Europe Index

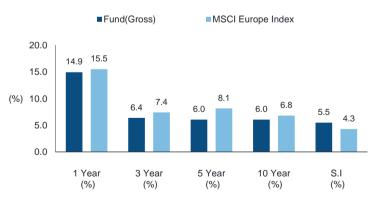
Q1 2024

(%)

Q2 2024

(%)

### Annualized as of June 30, 2024



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# **Overview**

PERFORMANCE RETURNS (%): CALENDAR YEAR RETURNS										
	Calendar Year Returns									
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Fidelity Europe Fund - Series O	16.83	(10.90)	12.60	(0.13)	17.74	(6.52)	18.83	(8.79)	21.85	(1.63)
MSCI Europe Index	16.67	(8.89)	15.31	3.53	17.52	(7.20)	17.26	(3.85)	16.52	2.28
Relative Return	0.16	(2.01)	(2.71)	(3.66)	0.22	0.68	1.57	(4.94)	5.33	(3.91)

Performance returns are unaudited and time-weighted.

Note: Differences may be due to rounding.

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# **Quarterly Fund Commentary**

- From a sector perspective, the Fund's outperformance was largely driven by lower-than-benchmark exposure to, and investments in the consumer discretionary sector. Investments in the consumer staples sector also contributed to relative returns.
- In consumer discretionary, lack of exposure to a France-based luxury goods company and an investment in Netherlands-based global investment group Prosus contributed to relative performance. In consumer staples, investments in U.K.-based consumer goods company Unilever and Switzerland-based bottling company Coca-Cola HBC contributed. In other sectors, investments in Sweden-based telecommunications company Ericsson contributed to relative performance, as did the investments in U.K.-based multinational banks NatWest and Barclays.
- Exposure to certain companies in the utilities and financials sectors detracted from relative returns.
- In utilities, an investment in U.K.-based electricity and gas utility company National Grid detracted from relative returns. In financials, an out-of-benchmark exposure to France-based reinsurance company SCOR SE and lack of exposure to a U.K.-based universal bank and financial services group detracted. In other sectors, lack of exposure to a Denmark-based pharmaceutical company and out-of-benchmark exposure to Ireland-based airline company Ryanair Holdings detracted.

## 12 Month Fund Commentary

- From a sector perspective, investments in health care and financials detracted from relative returns.
- In health care, lack of exposure to a Denmark-based pharmaceutical company and an investment in France-based pharmaceutical company Sanofi detracted from relative returns. In financials, investments in U.K.-based insurance company Prudential PLC and U.K.-based investment management firm St. James's Place detracted. In other sectors, an investment in U.K.-based consumer goods company Reckitt Benckiser Group and lack of exposure to a Netherlands-based semiconductor company detracted.
- Lower-than-benchmark exposure to, and investments in, the consumer discretionary sector contributed to relative returns, as did holdings in the information technology sector.
- In consumer discretionary, lack of exposure to a France-based luxury goods company contributed to relative performance, as did an investment in Spain-based clothing company Industria de Diseño Textil (Inditex). Stock selection in the information technology sector contributed to relative returns, particularly the investments in Germany-based software and services firm SAP and Sweden-based telecommunications company Ericsson. In other sectors, lack of exposure to a Switzerland-based food and beverage company contributed to relative returns, as did the investments in U.K.-based multinational banks Barclays and Germany-based real estate company Vonovia SE.

## **Positioning and Outlook**

- The portfolio management team prefers quality companies that are trading at attractive valuations, and the Fund typically does well when the valuation gap between the most and least expensive stocks narrows, given that the Fund tends not to own the priciest companies in the market.
- The team is particularly focused on ensuring that valuation levels fully reflect the risks. As a result, exposure to industrial cyclicals is limited because these companies are generally close to peak valuations and the Fund's defensive overweight in the sector is currently in the mid-single digits.
- Some stocks that look attractive include consumer cyclicals that are cheaper and more likely to benefit from rising real wages. Financials stocks, which are much cheaper if they are able to maintain profits against a headwind of falling rates, are also of interest, as are technology stocks that are seeing, or are about to see, accelerating earnings per share (EPS) growth and are not stretched on valuation. Finally, defensive stocks with a bias toward consumer staples are appealing because they are cheap and are likely to benefit from rising real wages in terms of the affordability of their products. They should also see some benefit from falling input costs for their gross margins.
- Equity markets have proven remarkably resilient and have delivered robust returns year-to-date. Tentative green shoots of growth have been appearing in eurozone activity since early 2024, as indicated by modest improvements in the Purchasing Managers' Index, especially in services across the board.
- Consumers are becoming more optimistic as a result of recent lower inflation and higher growth in real disposable incomes. While this improvement is
  encouraging, restrictive monetary policy is still feeding into the real economy, and external sources of growth, including China's economy, remain weak.
- At the same time, the disinflation process is well under way and wage growth is already moderating. The European Central Bank (ECB) has started its
  rate cutting cycle and the Bank of England is likely to follow in the coming months. However, the projections for both headline and core inflation have
  been revised upward for 2024 and 2025, as domestic price pressures remain elevated. Fidelity's macro team expects a shallow rate cut cycle for central
  banks this year. While there are signs of easing in the U.S. economy and inflation, the robust services sector and labor markets pose risks to achieving
  the final phase of disinflation.
- Political risks continue to contribute to uncertainty and market volatility. The upcoming U.S. elections in November and ongoing geopolitical conflicts are primary sources of potential shocks. Within Europe, the political situation in France is entering a period of major uncertainty, potentially leading to a less favorable environment for investors and companies. The proposed taxation of share buybacks by the three main political groups is likely to be enacted quickly. Additionally, French debt may retain a risk premium in the coming years due to expected budgetary challenges.
- That said, fundamentals do not appear to be improving at the moment. The theory of a soft landing has some justification based on improving real
  wages, but the actual data suggest that earnings revisions have become worse rather than better since rate expectations started falling a few months
  ago.
- The assumption of a soft landing also ignores the differences between the current situation and previous soft-landing events used as parallels. Generally, soft landings have not been preceded by an inverted yield curve, whereas hard landings have. The length of time the yield curve has been inverted has also been an excellent predictor of how long a recession lasts. Neither of these factors points to a soft landing this time.

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FIDELITY EUROPE FUND

**QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REVIEW** AS OF JUNE 30, 2024

- Even if we do avoid a recession, it is not certain that EPS growth will accelerate to forecast levels by the end of 2024. Achieving both strong EPS growth and falling interest rates seems to be difficult.
- Opportunities do remain to find decent businesses that have turned into value stocks that are very cheap compared with both their financial potential and the market and growth stocks generally, and for which the managers think the medium-term investment case is strong.
- The portfolio management team prefers to find attractive value stocks that are decent-quality businesses with less volatile fundamentals that should hold up better in difficult macroeconomic circumstances, and this is the focus of the Fund's positioning. The team also focuses on valuation so that the stocks it holds are less vulnerable to derating.



# **Performance Attribution**

SECTOR ATTRIBUTION SUMM	ARY - 3 MOI	NTHS							
Sector	Average Fund Weight (%)	Average Benchmark Weight (%)	Relative Weight (%)	Fund Return (%)	Benchmark Return (%)	Relative Return (%)	Security Selection (bps)	Sector Selection (bps)	Total Relative Contribution (bps)
CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY	9.92	10.67	(0.75)	2.53	(6.70)	9.23	30	72	102
CONSUMER STAPLES	21.78	10.66	11.12	4.70	(0.35)	5.05	95	0	95
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	10.06	7.98	2.08	7.26	5.98	1.27	8	16	24
INDUSTRIALS	8.13	16.48	(8.35)	0.21	0.14	0.08	58	(41)	17
MATERIALS	0.06	6.87	(6.82)	15.06	(0.07)	15.14	2	13	15
COMMUNICATION SERVICES	2.61	2.99	(0.38)	6.56	3.18	3.38	4	5	9
ENERGY	4.50	5.56	(1.06)	4.18	2.94	1.24	14	(6)	9
REAL ESTATE	2.83	0.84	1.99	0.46	(0.53)	0.99	3	(3)	0
FINANCIALS	21.04	18.39	2.65	0.86	2.18	(1.33)	(29)	10	(18)
HEALTH CARE	12.19	15.69	(3.50)	7.24	7.22	0.02	(1)	(18)	(19)
UTILITIES	4.73	3.86	0.87	(2.38)	1.66	(4.05)	(4)	(15)	(19)
SUBTOTAL	97.86	100.00	(2.14)	3.74	1.67	2.07	182	33	215
CASH AND OTHER	2.14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(11)
TOTAL	100.00	100.00	0.00	3.71	1.67	2.04	-	-	204

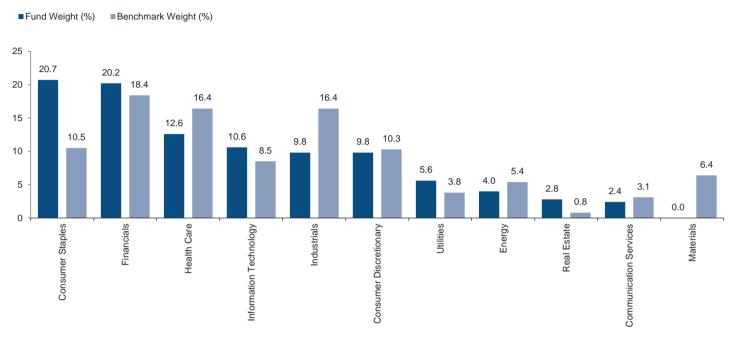
Note: Differences may be due to rounding.

SECTOR ATTRIBUTION SUMM	IARY - 1 YEA	R							
Sector	Average Fund Weight (%)	Average Benchmark Weight (%)	Relative Weight (%)	Fund Return (%)	Benchmark Return (%)	Relative Return (%)	Security Selection (bps)	Sector Selection (bps)	Total Relative Contribution (bps)
CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY	10.35	10.90	(0.55)	20.18	(0.81)	20.99	104	139	243
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	10.46	7.39	3.07	36.23	34.38	1.84	52	14	66
REAL ESTATE	2.55	0.82	1.73	56.94	33.81	23.14	19	43	61
COMMUNICATION SERVICES	2.77	3.10	(0.33)	27.67	14.94	12.73	(9)	42	33
UTILITIES	4.23	4.10	0.13	5.20	(0.48)	5.68	2	27	29
CONSUMER STAPLES	22.88	11.58	11.30	5.98	(3.86)	9.84	231	(212)	19
MATERIALS	0.61	6.94	(6.33)	33.64	16.14	17.50	0	11	12
ENERGY	4.65	5.77	(1.12)	24.27	20.65	3.62	19	(14)	6
INDUSTRIALS	7.07	15.72	(8.64)	21.50	20.67	0.83	208	(245)	(37)
FINANCIALS	20.18	17.93	2.25	13.13	26.24	(13.11)	(259)	47	(212)
HEALTH CARE	12.12	15.75	(3.63)	(0.63)	18.35	(18.98)	(230)	(17)	(247)
SUBTOTAL	97.87	100.00	(2.13)	15.08	15.48	(0.40)	137	(166)	(28)
CASH AND OTHER	2.13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(29)
TOTAL	100.00	100.00	0.00	14.91	15.48	(0.57)	-	-	(57)

Note: Differences may be due to rounding.

# **Fund Positioning**

## SECTOR ALLOCATION



Sector breakdowns are only applied to equities and convertibles and the allocation percentages may not add to 100%.

Fund and benchmark weights are based on end weights as at each quarter end.

TOP 10 HOLDINGS	
Holding	Sector
SAP SE	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
ROCHE HLDGS AG (GENUSSCHEINE)	HEALTH CARE
INDITEX SA	CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY
ERICSSON (LM) TELE CO CL B	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
NATIONAL GRID PLC	UTILITIES
SANOFI	HEALTH CARE
KONINKLIJKE AHOLD DELHAIZE NV	CONSUMER STAPLES
BARCLAYS PLC ORD	FINANCIALS
BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO PLC	CONSUMER STAPLES
ASSOCIATED BRITISH FOODS PLC	CONSUMER STAPLES

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## **Investment Process**

### Investment process

- Bottom-up approach focused on high quality companies trading on an attractive valuation.
- Favours well-managed, cash-generative businesses with high and sustainable returns.
- Employs a wide range of resource: extensive company meetings, Fidelity research, and proprietary framework.
- · Long-term perspective, low turnover of investment ideas.

#### Investment style

• Portfolio managers Matt Siddle and Helen Powell follow a "Quality at an attractive price" investment style.

### Quality focus:

- Look to invest in high return, cash generative businesses.
- · Focus on quality of business and structural drivers, not short-term EPS growth.

#### Valuation discipline:

- Look for attractive value on a cross-cycle basis.
- Choose best opportunities based on quality/value matrix.
- Monitor momentum, liquidity and conviction to size positions and avoid excessive risk.

#### Risk management

- Regular use of Barra and FactSet to analyze portfolio.
- PM team use proprietary tool to carry out stock by stock analysis of key factor exposures.
- · Tool measures risk versus fundamental exposures, not arbitrary sector or country of listing classifications.
- Enables identification and measure of exposures that stock picking has driven.
- · Ensures portfolio remains true to investment approach.

#### Portfolio construction

- Generally, 50-80 holdings.
- Exposures monitored at the style, factor, sector and fundamental macro economic level to ensure stock selection and quality bias remain key drivers of risk and return.
- Typical position size 0.5-5% at purchase.

## **Buy discipline**

- Focus on companies with high quality franchises.
- Identify stocks where valuation is attractive for the quality of the franchise.
- Assess risk profile before investing in the company, and the impact on the portfolio.

#### Sell discipline

- The long-term outlook for the business deteriorates.
- Valuation no longer provides an attractive risk/reward payoff.
- The stock is replaced with a higher conviction idea.

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Past performance is no guarantee of future results. An investment may be risky and may not be suitable for an investor's goals, objectives and risk tolerance. Investors should be aware that an investment's value may be volatile and any investment involves the risk that you may lose money.

Performance results for individual accounts will differ from performance results for composites and representative accounts due to factors such as portfolio size, especially if currently only funded with affiliated fee paying seed capital, timing of investments, market conditions, account objectives and restrictions, and factors specific to a particular investment structure.

The value of a strategy's investments will vary day to day in response to many factors, including in response to adverse issuer, political, regulatory, market or economic developments. The value of an individual security or a particular type of security can be more volatile than the market as a whole and can perform differently from the value of the market as a whole. Nearly all accounts are subject to volatility in foreign exchange markets.

The performance of fixed income strategies will change daily based on changes in interest rates and market conditions and in response to other economic, political or financial developments. Debt securities are sensitive to changes in interest rates depending on their maturity, and may involve the risk that their prices may decline if interest rates rise or, conversely, if interest rates decline, their prices may increase. Debt securities carry the risk of default, prepayment risk and inflation risk. Changes specific to an issuer, which may involve its financial condition or economic environment, can affect the credit quality or value of an issuer's securities. Lower-quality debt securities (those of less than investment grade quality, also referred to as high yield debt securities) and certain types of other securities are more volatile and are often considered to be speculative and involve greater risk due to increased sensitivity to adverse issuer, political, regulatory and market developments, especially in periods of general economic difficulty. The value of mortgage securities may change due to shifts in the market's perception of issuers, changes in interest rates, or regulatory or tax changes.

Derivatives may be volatile and involve significant risk, such as, credit risk, currency risk, leverage risk, counterparty risk and liquidity risk. Using derivatives can disproportionately increase losses and reduce opportunities for gains in certain circumstances. Derivatives may have limited liquidity and may be harder to value, especially in declining markets. Derivatives involve leverage because they can provide investment exposure in an amount exceeding the initial investment. Leverage can magnify investment risks and cause losses to be realized more quickly. A small change in the value of an underlying asset, instrument, or index can lead to a significant loss. Assets segregated to cover these transactions may decline in value and are not available to meet redemptions. Government legislation or regulation could affect the use of these transactions and could limit the ability to pursue such investment strategies.

The performance of international strategies depends upon currency values, political and regulatory environments, and overall economic factors in the countries in which they invest. Foreign markets, particularly emerging markets, can be more volatile than the Canadian market due to increased risks of adverse issuer, political, regulatory, market, or economic developments and can perform differently from the Canadian market. Foreign exchange rates also can be extremely volatile. These risks may be particularly significant for strategies that focus on a single country or region.

The securities, derivatives and currency markets of emerging market countries are generally smaller, less developed, less liquid, and more volatile than the securities, derivatives and currency markets of the United States and other developed markets and disclosure and regulatory standards in many respects are less stringent. There also may be a lower level of monitoring and regulation of markets in emerging market countries and the activities of investors in such markets and enforcement of existing regulations may be extremely limited. Government enforcement of existing market regulations may be limited, and any enforcement may be arbitrary and the results may be difficult to predict. Emerging market countries are more likely than developed market countries to experience political uncertainty and instability, due to factors such as war, terrorism, nationalization, limitations on the removal of funds or other assets, or diplomatic developments that affect investments in these countries. In many cases, governments of emerging market countries continue to exercise significant control over their economies. In addition, there is a heightened possibility of expropriation or confiscatory taxation, imposition of withholding taxes on interest payments, or other similar developments that could affect investments in those countries.



# Fidelity Investments Canada ULC

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QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REVIEW AS OF JUNE 30, 2024

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