

**Quarterly Investment Review** 

September 30, 2024

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FIDELITY EUROPE FUND

## Overview

**INCEPTION DATE:** January 02, 2001 BENCHMARK: MSCI Europe Index

**FUND MANAGER:** Sam Morse, Aruna Karunathilake

#### **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.

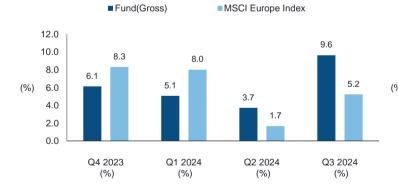
PERFORMANCE RETURNS (%)											
	Cumulative						Annualized				
	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Since Inception	
Fidelity Europe Fund - Series O	6.13	5.06	3.71	9.62	19.44	26.76	9.10	8.78	7.35	5.82	
MSCI Europe Index	8.31	7.99	1.67	5.23	15.54	25.14	8.97	9.34	7.61	4.45	
Relative Return	(2.18)	(2.93)	2.04	4.39	3.90	1.62	0.13	(0.56)	(0.26)	1.37	

Performance returns are unaudited and time-weighted.

Note: Differences may be due to rounding.

## **Cumulative Quarterly Performance**

# Annualized as of September 30, 2024





FIDELITY EUROPE FUND

## **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.



## **Quarterly Fund Commentary**

- From a sector perspective, the Fund's outperformance was driven largely by higher-than-benchmark exposure to the information technology sector, as well as higher-than-benchmark exposure to, and investments in, the consumer staples sector.
- In information technology, lower-than-benchmark exposure to Netherlands-based semiconductor company ASML Holding and an investment in Sweden-based telecommunications company Ericsson contributed. In consumer staples, investments in Netherlands-based retail and wholesale company Koninklijke Ahold Delhaize and U.K.-based multi-category consumer goods company British American Tobacco contributed. In other sectors, investments in Sweden-based telecommunications company Ericsson and Germany-based real-estate company Vonovia also contributed to relative performance.
- Exposure to certain companies in the industrials and financials sectors detracted from relative returns.
- In industrials, out-of-benchmark exposure to Hungary-based passenger airline company Wizz Air Holdings and Ireland-based airline group Ryanair Holdings detracted from relative returns. In financials, investments in France-based reinsurance company SCOR and U.K.-based multinational insurance company Prudential detracted. In other sectors, lower-than-benchmark exposure to U.K.-based biopharmaceutical company AstraZeneca and an investment in U.K.-based engineering services company John Wood Group detracted.

## 12 Month Fund Commentary

- From a sector perspective, investments in financials detracted from relative returns, as did lower-than-benchmark exposure to the industrials sector.
- In financials, out-of-benchmark exposure to France-based reinsurance company SCOR and an investment in U.K.-based multinational insurance
  company Prudential detracted from relative returns. In industrials, out-of-benchmark exposure to Hungary-based passenger airline company Wizz Air
  Holdings and lack of exposure to a France-based energy management and automation company detracted. In other sectors, an investment in U.K.based consumer goods company Reckitt Benckiser Group and lower-than-benchmark exposure to Denmark-based pharmaceutical company Novo
  Nordisk detracted.
- Higher-than-benchmark exposure to, and investments in, the information technology sector contributed to relative returns, as did investments in the
  consumer staples sector.
- In information technology, investments in Germany-based software and services firm SAP and Sweden-based telecommunications company Ericsson
  contributed. In consumer staples, lower-than-benchmark exposure to Switzerland-based food and beverages company Nestlé contributed to relative
  performance, as did an investment in U.K.-based food processing and retailing company Associated British Foods. In other sectors, investments in
  U.K.-based banking and insurance company NatWest, U.K.-based multinational bank Barclays and Spain-based clothing company Industria de Diseño
  Textil (Inditex) contributed to relative returns.

## **Positioning and Outlook**

- Portfolio managers Aruna Karunathilake and Sam Morse believe European equities are now entering a more seasonally challenging period amid elevated uncertainty associated with the U.S. elections in November and subsequent effects on fiscal policy and interest rates.
- The managers maintain a cautious outlook in the near term, acknowledging that several risks remain. While the probability of a soft landing has increased, a slower-than-expected U.S. Federal Reserve interest rate cut cycle could lead to costly refinancings next year. Forecasting interest rates remains challenging; they could pose a risk.
- Against this backdrop, the portfolio management team aims to invest in quality businesses –that is, long-term winners with good management teams, growth potential, strong governance and attractive valuation metrics. In addition, the managers focus on dividend growth as a robust indicator of sustainable fundamentals.

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## **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)
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	9.85	7.78	2.07	12.29	(7.70)	19.99	1	176	177
CONSUMER STAPLES	18.45	10.78	7.68	14.00	8.67	5.33	57	102	159
HEALTH CARE	13.76	16.68	(2.92)	8.58	2.11	6.47	67	1	68
REAL ESTATE	2.36	0.89	1.47	19.04	16.92	2.12	3	42	46
CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY	8.82	9.84	(1.02)	9.42	3.89	5.54	(21)	66	45
UTILITIES	4.83	4.06	0.78	13.27	16.22	(2.95)	(1)	23	22
MATERIALS	1.61	6.22	(4.62)	6.75	8.40	(1.65)	(7)	12	5
ENERGY	4.19	5.21	(1.02)	(9.40)	(7.59)	(1.81)	(4)	5	1
COMMUNICATION SERVICES	2.31	3.19	(0.88)	6.66	11.26	(4.60)	(6)	(8)	(14)
FINANCIALS	19.57	18.76	0.80	9.12	10.08	(0.96)	(33)	19	(14)
INDUSTRIALS	11.70	16.60	(4.89)	0.40	7.89	(7.49)	(98)	31	(67)
SUBTOTAL	97.45	100.00	(2.55)	9.78	5.23	4.55	(41)	469	428
CASH AND OTHER	2.55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
TOTAL	100.00	100.00	0.00	9.62	5.23	4.39	-	-	439

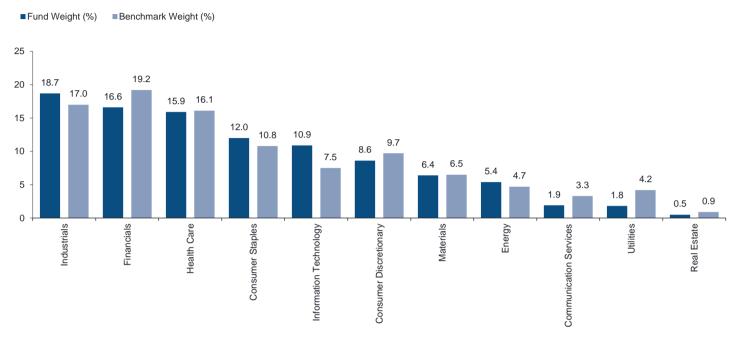
Note: Differences may be due to rounding.

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)
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	10.36	7.66	2.71	56.58	39.21	17.37	31	168	199
CONSUMER STAPLES	21.72	11.17	10.55	22.97	9.95	13.02	240	(97)	143
CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY	9.66	10.51	(0.85)	29.26	16.71	12.55	(54)	171	117
REAL ESTATE	2.61	0.85	1.76	47.15	44.77	2.39	6	56	62
UTILITIES	4.46	4.05	0.41	28.31	26.15	2.17	15	29	44
COMMUNICATION SERVICES	2.61	3.11	(0.51)	39.63	27.80	11.83	11	19	29
ENERGY	4.60	5.60	(1.00)	(3.75)	(2.56)	(1.19)	2	24	26
MATERIALS	0.72	6.76	(6.03)	24.94	26.04	(1.10)	(9)	25	16
HEALTH CARE	12.52	15.94	(3.42)	12.75	19.90	(7.15)	(84)	(13)	(97)
INDUSTRIALS	8.44	16.11	(7.68)	30.86	36.55	(5.68)	87	(212)	(125)
FINANCIALS	20.06	18.24	1.82	25.00	36.28	(11.28)	(214)	32	(182)
SUBTOTAL	97.76	100.00	(2.24)	27.21	25.14	2.07	32	201	233
CASH AND OTHER	2.24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(71)
TOTAL	100.00	100.00	0.00	26.76	25.14	1.62	-	-	162

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.

Sector
HEALTH CARE
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY
HEALTH CARE
CONSUMER STAPLES
ENERGY
HEALTH CARE
INDUSTRIALS
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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#### Risks

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.



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QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REVIEW AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

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