# INTERNATIONAL EQUITY ADR

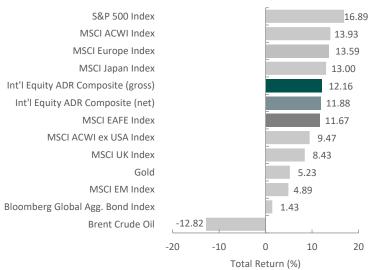


2Q 2023 Commentary

(All MSCI index returns are shown net and in U.S. dollars unless otherwise noted.)

### **Markets Review**

### **Year-to-Date Returns**



Sources: SS&C Advent, Bloombera

Past performance is not indicative of future results. Aristotle International Equity ADR Composite returns are presented gross and net of investment advisory fees and include the reinvestment of all income. Gross returns will be reduced by fees and other expenses that may be incurred in the management of the account. Net returns are presented net of actual investment advisory fees and after the deduction of all trading expenses. Aristotle Capital Composite returns are preliminary pending final account reconciliation. Please see important disclosures at the end of this document.

Global equity markets continued to rally for the second quarter of the year, as the MSCI ACWI Index increased 6.18% during the period. Concurrently, the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index decreased 1.53%. In terms of style, growth stocks outperformed their value counterparts during the quarter, with the MSCI ACWI Growth Index beating the MSCI ACWI Value Index by 6.22%.

The MSCI EAFE Index climbed 2.95% during the second quarter, while the MSCI ACWI ex USA Index increased 2.44%. Within the MSCI EAFE Index, Asia and Europe & Middle East were the strongest-performing regions, while the U.K. gained the least. On a sector basis, seven out of the eleven sectors within the MSCI EAFE Index posted positive returns, with Industrials, Information Technology and Consumer Discretionary generating the largest gains. Conversely, Communication Services, Real Estate and Materials were the worst performers.

Although the global economy continues to recover with improved supply-chain dynamics, lower food and energy costs, and resilient demand, the outlook remains uncertain as geopolitical tensions persist,

China's recovery underwhelms and global monetary policy decisions lead to unintended side effects. Correspondingly, the IMF slightly lowered its growth forecasts and now projects global growth to fall to 2.8% in 2023 from 3.4% in 2022, before settling at 3.0% in 2024.

In addition to the dampened outlook, elevated levels of inflation persisted, and progress toward disinflation was mixed on a regional basis. The U.S. and eurozone reported inflation of 4.0% and 6.1% in May, respectively, down from 4.9% and 7.0% in April. However, improvement in U.K. inflation stalled, and Japan's index that excludes fuel rose 4.3 % in May from a year earlier, its highest mark in 42 years. Overall, the IMF increased its projection for global inflation to 7.0% from 6.6% for the year. Given the mixed inflation data, there was a wide range of central bank policy actions during the quarter. Central banks in some areas, including the eurozone and U.K., continued to increase rates to combat inflation. However, the U.S. Federal Reserve held rates steady in June after raising them in May, and the Bank of Japan maintained its highly accommodative stance.



Meanwhile, China cut the interest rate on its one-year medium-term lending facility as the country's industrial output and retail sales growth missed forecasts. Despite the relaxation of the strict zero-COVID guidelines, sluggish demand, potential deflation and increased COVID cases have deterred a smooth recovery.

On the geopolitical front, tensions in Asia continued to build as the U.S. and Taiwan signed the U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade, which furthers trade interests between the two countries. However, the U.S. and China kept dialogue open, as U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with President Xi Jinping in Beijing. In Eastern Europe, Ukrainian troops initiated a counteroffensive intended to secure additional ground in eastern Ukraine. Western countries reaffirmed their support for Ukraine, as the U.S. committed an additional \$1.3 billion of aid and the European Union offered €50 billion through 2027 to rebuild the nation.

# **Performance and Attribution Summary**

For the second quarter of 2023, Aristotle Capital's International Equity ADR Composite posted a total return of 5.22% gross of fees (5.11% net of fees), outperforming the MSCI EAFE Index, which returned 2.95%, and the MSCI ACWI ex USA Index, which returned 2.44%. Please refer to the table below for detailed performance.

Performance (%)	2Q23	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Since Inception*
International Equity ADR Composite (gross)	5.22	12.16	19.05	10.61	5.72	6.31	5.93
International Equity ADR Composite (net)	5.11	11.88	18.46	10.06	5.24	5.79	5.43
MSCI EAFE Index (net)	2.95	11.67	18.77	8.93	4.39	5.41	4.98
MSCI ACWI ex USA Index (net)	2.44	9.47	12.72	7.22	3.51	4.75	4.25

<sup>\*</sup>The inception date for the International Equity ADR Composite is June 1, 2013. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Aristotle International Equity ADR Composite returns are presented gross and net of investment advisory fees and include the reinvestment of all income. Gross returns will be reduced by fees and other expenses that may be incurred in the management of the account. Net returns are presented net of actual investment advisory fees and after the deduction of all trading expenses. Aristotle Capital Composite returns are preliminary pending final account reconciliation. Please see important disclosures at the end of this

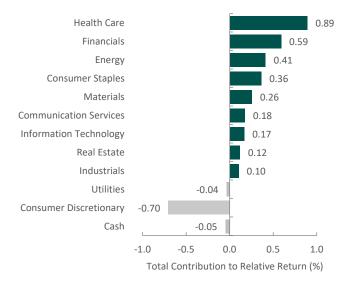
From a sector perspective in the second quarter, the portfolio's outperformance relative to the MSCI EAFE Index can be primarily attributed to security selection, while allocation effects also had a positive impact. Security selection in Health Care, Financials and Energy contributed the most to the portfolio's relative performance. Conversely, security selection in Consumer Discretionary and Industrials, and a lack of exposure to Utilities detracted from relative return.

Regionally, both security selection and allocation effects were responsible for the portfolio's outperformance. Security selection in Europe and the U.K. contributed the most to relative performance, while security selection and an underweight in Asia detracted.



# Total Contribution to Relative Return by Sector versus MSCI EAFE Index

Second Quarter 2023



Source: FactSet Past performance is not indicative of future results. Attribution results are based on sector returns which are gross of investment advisory fees. Attribution is based on performance that is gross of investment advisory fees and includes the reinvestment of income.

## Contributors and Detractors for 2Q 2023

Relative Contributors	Relative Detractors		
ING Groep	Pan Pacific International		
Cameco	Heineken		
Alcon	Symrise		
Credicorp	Kubota		
Ashtead Group	DBS Group		

Cameco, the world's largest publicly traded uranium producer, was one of the top contributors during the period. Over the past year, there has been a rise in support from governments and policymakers for nuclear energy as countries realize it can play a crucial role in lowering dependence on fossil fuels to meet environmental pledges and goals. In addition, Russia's war in Ukraine had led to an increase in the price of competing carbon fuels and heightened attention on energy security. Although such global market dynamics have likely favored Cameco in the short term, we believe the company will benefit long term from its financial discipline and advantaged assets. (Its Canadian mines—Cigar Lake and McArthur River/Key Lake produce some of the world's highest-grade uranium.)

Cameco has also slowly ramped up production while obtaining long-term contracts. As such, in 2022, Cameco signed a record number of long-term supply contracts and conversion services (where yellow cake is processed and readied for enrichment operations). This success has continued into 2023, with Cameco having recently secured an additional 12-year contract with Energoatom, Ukraine's state-owned nuclear energy company, as well as a 10-year agreement with Bulgaria. Central and Eastern Europe are new markets for Cameco, and this supports our belief that the company is well-positioned to win new business in the regions that were historically dominated by Russia. Moreover, we look forward to Cameco's planned acquisition of Westinghouse Electric Company (expected to close during the second half of 2023), as we believe Westinghouse's market-leading downstream capabilities will align well with Cameco's production and fuel services to offer a highly competitive nuclear fuel solution.

Alcon, the eye care devices, equipment and consumables provider, was also a leading contributor during the quarter. In addition to a backdrop of resilient and robust demand across all of its segments, Alcon's focus on executing its commercial strategy, pricing improvements and product development demonstrates the strength of the business. As an innovative leader in the eye care industry, Alcon develops cutting-edge products such as Total30, the first reusable lenses using water gradient technology created for astigmatic wearers, and the ARGOS Biometer, which enables surgeons to conduct 3D digital imageguided cataract surgery. Products such as these have allowed Alcon to further penetrate its primary end markets and win market share from competitors. While the company continues to navigate challenges such as inflation and supply-chain inefficiencies, we believe Alcon's prudent decisions that have helped maintain operational efficiency, its thoughtful approach to acquisitions, and the advantageous industry dynamics highlight the high-quality nature of the company and the long-term sustainability of its business model.

Heineken, the Dutch brewer that owns a global portfolio of beer brands, was one of the largest detractors. The company saw volumes weaken in several emerging markets. They included Nigeria, whose consumers faced a grain crisis, and Vietnam, which experienced an uptick in unemployment as well as a real estate crisis. Heineken may have been slow to react to the changing conditions and is thus working through high stock levels. As we look past cyclical disruptions, our conviction remains that Heineken's brands possess the pricing power to overcome inflationary pressures and are singularly poised to gain share



in developing markets as consumers switch to premium beers. In addition, we appreciate Heineken's more balanced approach between price and volume, as well as cost reduction, which could drive further improvements in profitability.

Symrise, a global supplier of flavors, fragrances and food ingredients, was a major detractor for the period. The company continues to navigate high inflation and an uncertain market. Additionally, the overhang of heightened regulatory scrutiny weighed on the industry, as European Union authorities are focusing on the leaders in this consolidated industry, something we believe, perhaps counterintuitively, is a good sign for Symrise's future prospects. Despite the near-term challenges, the company has benefited from increasing demand and the successful execution of its strategic initiatives to expand capacity, increase prices and broaden its product portfolio to applications such as pet foods, a catalyst we previously identified. We believe these actions, combined with Symrise's continued innovation and backward integration of its supply chain, will allow the company to manage short-term volatility and improve its long-term fundamentals.

# **Recent Portfolio Activity**

Buys	Sells
None	None

Consistent with our long-term horizon and low turnover, there were no new purchases or sales completed during the quarter.

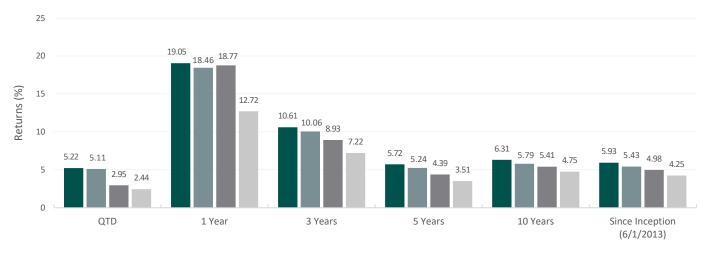
### Conclusion

At Aristotle Capital, we take a bottom-up approach to studying businesses. While macroeconomic factors such as inflation, monetary policy decisions and geopolitical conflicts may continue to dominate the current news cycle, we take a long-term perspective, attempting to identify, what we believe to be, high-quality companies that can successfully navigate periods of boom and bust. We spend very little time attempting to predict the outcome of macro or geopolitical events but rather spend considerable time attempting to identify businesses that are resilient. In our view, the fundamentals of a business are the most important determinants of its long-term stock price performance. Consequently, we believe the best way to consistently add value for our clients is to maintain a long-term view and focus on deeply understanding individual companies' key attributes, value drivers and progress toward improvement.



## **Aristotle International Equity ADR Composite Performance**

All Periods Ended June 30, 2023



■ Int'l Equity ADR Composite (Gross) ■ Int'l Equity ADR Composite (Net) ■ MSCI EAFE Index (Net) ■ MSCI ACWI ex USA Index (Net)

	Int'l Equity ADR Composite	1 1/1 5 11 100 0 11		
Year	(Gross %)	Int'l Equity ADR Composite (Net %)	MSCI EAFE Index (Net %)	MSCI ACWI ex USA Index (Net %)
2023 YTD	12.16	11.88	11.67	9.47
2022	-17.60	-18.04	-14.45	-16.00
2021	16.17	15.58	11.26	7.82
2020	9.91	9.47	7.82	10.65
2019	23.21	22.80	22.01	21.51
2018	-8.44	-8.76	-13.79	-14.20
2017	23.82	23.32	25.03	27.19
2016	0.71	0.11	1.00	4.50
2015	1.41	0.73	-0.81	-5.66
2014	-4.31	-4.73	-4.90	-3.87
6/1/13 – 12/31/13	11.04	10.68	13.75	10.34

Composite returns for all periods ended June 30, 2023 are preliminary pending final account reconciliation.

Past performance is not indicative of future results. The information provided should not be considered financial advice or a recommendation to purchase or sell any particular security or product. Performance results for periods greater than one year have been annualized.

Returns are presented gross and net of investment advisory fees and include the reinvestment of all income. Gross returns will be reduced by fees and other expenses that may be incurred in the management of the account. Net returns are presented net of actual investment advisory fees and after the deduction of all trading expenses.



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All investments carry a certain degree of risk, including the possible loss of principal. Investments are also subject to political, market, currency and regulatory risks or economic developments. International investments involve special risks that may in particular cause a loss in principal, including currency fluctuation, lower liquidity, different accounting methods and economic and political systems, and higher transaction costs. These risks typically are greater in emerging markets. Securities of small- and medium-sized companies tend to have a shorter history of operations, be more volatile and less liquid. Value stocks can perform differently from the market as a whole and other types of stocks.

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The MSCI EAFE Index (Europe, Australasia, Far East) is a free float-adjusted market capitalization-weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed markets, excluding the United States and Canada. The MSCI EAFE Index consists of the following 21 developed market country indices: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The MSCI ACWI captures large and mid-cap representation across 23 developed market countries and 24 emerging markets countries. With approximately 3,000 constituents, the Index covers approximately 85% of the global investable equity opportunity set. The MSCI ACWI Growth Index captures large and mid-cap securities exhibiting overall growth style characteristics across 23 developed markets countries and 24 emerging markets countries. The MSCI ACWI Value Index captures large and mid-cap securities exhibiting overall value style characteristics across 23 developed markets countries and 24 emerging markets countries. The MSCI ACWI ex USA Index captures large and midcap representation across 22 of 23 developed markets countries (excluding the United States) and 24 emerging markets countries. With approximately 2,300 constituents, the Index covers approximately 85% of the global equity opportunity set outside the United States. The MSCI Emerging Markets Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization-weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of emerging markets. The MSCI Emerging Markets Index consists of the following 24 emerging market country indexes: Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey and United Arab Emirates. The S&P 500® Index is the Standard & Poor's Composite Index of 500 stocks and is a widely recognized, unmanaged index of common stock prices. The Brent Crude Oil Index is a major trading classification of sweet light crude oil that serves as a major benchmark price for purchases of oil worldwide. The MSCI Japan Index is designed to measure the performance of the large and mid-cap segments of the Japanese market. With approximately 250 constituents, the Index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in Japan. The Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index is a flagship measure of global investment grade debt from 28 local currency markets. This multi-currency benchmark includes treasury, government-related, corporate and securitized fixed-rate bonds from both developed and emerging markets issuers. The MSCI United Kingdom Index is designed to measure the performance of the large and mid-cap segments of the U.K. market. With nearly 100 constituents, the Index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in the United Kingdom. The MSCI Europe Index captures large and mid-cap representation across 15 developed markets countries in Europe. With approximately 430 constituents, the Index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization across the European developed markets equity universe. These indices have been selected as the benchmarks and are used for comparison purposes only. The volatility (beta) of the Composite may be greater or less than the respective benchmarks. It is not possible to invest directly in these indices.

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