

NORTHERN FUNDS INTERNATIONAL EQUITY FUND (NOIGX)

As of 09/30/24

FUND COMMENTARY

Despite a handful of underwhelming key U.S. data releases, U.S. economic resilience persisted throughout the third quarter. The Federal Reserve kicked off its rate cutting cycle with a 0.50% cut, joining the many global central banks that have embarked on rate cutting campaigns. Amid mounting growth concerns, China announced major monetary and fiscal support for its economy in late September. The supportive macro backdrop helped investors tolerate uncertainty around Middle East geopolitical tensions and the U.S. election. Financial market returns in the third quarter were robust with mid-single-digit gains or higher in a number of major asset classes. Equity markets were helped by wider support across both regions and sectors. The major non-U.S. regions modestly led the U.S. in dollar terms. Emerging markets received a late-September boost from China, while non-U.S. developed market returns benefited from a weaker U.S. dollar with more muted returns on a local currency basis.

The Fund underperformed its benchmark for the quarter. The Fund invests in attractively valued, high quality stocks with positive sentiment. Value stocks modestly outperformed lower value names and the market during the quarter, adding to performance. The portfolio's higher quality posture detracted from active performance as the highest quality quintile of the market was the worst performer during the quarter. The Fund's momentum exposure also detracted from active performance as the lowest momentum names had the best returns with turnover in sectors and individual names leading the index higher compared to the first half of the year. Stock selection overall had little active performance impact beyond factor exposures. It was strongest in Information Technology and Real Estate, and was weakest in Materials, Industrials, and Energy.

We expect the outlook for high-quality, inexpensive securities to remain positive given current valuation levels. We also believe the Fund's focus on high quality securities is positioned well as economic conditions shift and markets remain volatile.

Please carefully read the summary prospectus or prospectus and consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of the Northern Funds carefully before investing. Call 800-595-9111 to obtain a summary prospectus or prospectus, which contains this and other information about the funds.

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Performance as of 09/30/24				Annualized Returns					
FUND	QTR	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Since Inception*	Gross Expense Ratio	Net Expense Ratio
International Equity Fund	7.18%	12.54%	23.93%	7.36%	8.20%	4.62%	4.93%	0.65%	0.51%
MSCI World ex USA Index ¹	7.76%	13.10%	24.98%	5.65%	8.36%	5.68%	5.59%		

*Inception Date- 04/01/94

¹MSCI World ex US Index 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. The index is calculated net of foreign tax withholdings. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

Performance quoted represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than that shown here. Performance data current to the most recent month end is available by calling 800-595-9111.

The Gross and Net Expense Ratios are as of the most recent prospectus. The Net Expense Ratio includes contractual expense reimbursements that, if not extended, will end on July 31, 2025.

Derivatives Risk: The risk that derivatives may pose risks in addition to and greater than those associated with investing directly in securities, currencies and other instruments, may be illiquid or less liquid, more volatile, more difficult to value and leveraged so that small changes in the value of the underlying instrument may produce disproportionate losses to the Fund. Derivatives are also subject to counterparty risk, which is the risk that the other party to the transaction will not perform its contractual obligations. The use of derivatives is a highly specialized activity that involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with investments in more traditional securities and instruments.

Equity Risk: Equity securities (stocks) are more volatile and carry more risk than other forms of investments, including investments in high-grade fixed-income securities. The net asset value per share of this Fund will fluctuate as the value of the securities in the portfolio changes.

Foreign Securities Risk: The risk that investing in foreign (non-U.S.) securities may result in the Fund experiencing more rapid and extreme changes in value than a fund that invests exclusively in securities of U.S. companies, due to less liquid markets, and adverse economic, political, diplomatic, financial, and regulatory factors. Foreign governments may impose limitations on foreigners' ownership of interests in local issuers, restrictions on the ability to repatriate assets, and may also impose taxes. Any of these events could cause the value of the Fund's investments to decline.

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Geographic Risk: The risk that if the Fund invests a significant portion of its total assets in certain issuers within the same country or geographic region, an adverse economic, business or political development affecting that country or region may affect the value of the Fund's investments more, and the Fund's investments may be more volatile, than if its investments were not so concentrated in such country or region.

Investment Style Risk: Value stocks are those that are undervalued in comparison to their peers due to adverse business developments or other factors. Value investing carries the risk that the market will not recognize a security's inherent value for a long time, or that a stock judged to be undervalued by a fund's adviser may actually be appropriately priced or overvalued. Value oriented funds will typically underperform when growth investing is in favor.

Sector Risk: The risk that companies in similar businesses may be similarly affected by particular economic or market events, which may, in certain circumstances, cause the value of securities of all companies in a particular sector of the market to decrease.

Not FDIC insured | May lose value | No bank guarantee

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