

## Semi-annual Management Report of Fund Performance

### As at March 31, 2022

This Semi-annual Management Report of Fund Performance contains financial highlights but does not contain either semi-annual or annual financial statements of the investment fund. You can obtain a copy of the semi-annual or annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1-888-809-3333, by writing us at Northwest & Ethical Investments L.P., 151 Yonge Street Suite 1200, Toronto, ON M5C 2W7 or by visiting our website at [www.neiinvestments.com](http://www.neiinvestments.com) or SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

Unitholders may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the investment fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

## Management Discussion of Performance

### Results of Operations

The NEI Global Equity RS Fund's Series A units returned -4.1% for the six months ended March 31, 2022 compared with a return of -0.5% for the benchmark explained below.

Unlike the benchmark return, the Fund's returns are after the deduction of fees and expenses paid by the Fund. Performance differences between series of units are mainly attributable to management fees charged to each series. Refer to the Past Performance section for the details of returns by series.

The benchmark for this Fund is the MSCI ACWI NR Index (C\$).

The Fund's net asset value decreased by 17.40% during the period, from \$645,096,175 as at September 30, 2021 to \$532,851,748 as at March 31, 2022. This change in net assets is attributed to net unitholder activity of -\$91,853,868 and -\$20,390,559 to investment operations, including market appreciation (depreciation), income and expenses.

### Factors That Have Affected Performance

The period started with equity markets increasing strongly with investors showing a preference for Growth and Sentiment. However, the emergence of the Omicron variant towards the end of November, saw markets plunge from their all-time highs as risk aversion spiked and investors flocked to more defensive areas of the market.

The new variant also raised uncertainty around inflation, something the Federal Reserve Chair, Jerome Powell, highlighted when stating that the term 'transitory inflation' should be retired. He also signaled faster-than-expected tapering, while expectations of interest rate rises increased. With data from the UK and South Africa emerging that Omicron was less severe than feared, markets stabilized in the final weeks of the year. However, investor sentiment remained fragile, which was reflected in the preference for Quality and Valuation.

The Federal Reserve continued to set the tone for global equity markets at the turn of the year. Investors had been expecting a 0.25% increase in the base rate, but the minutes of the meeting revealed calls for a more aggressive tightening as inflation continued to increase. The apparent hawkishness of the Fed led many to believe that rates would increase further and faster than previously anticipated and led to the strongest swing to Value since the great financial crisis.

The preference for Value continued largely unabated until Russia's invasion of Ukraine towards the end of February. A coordinated response from Western nations saw a raft of sanctions aimed at Putin, the oligarchs and a range of institutions, while Germany's cancellation of the Nordstream 2 project signaled a genuine desire to wean itself (and Europe) off Russian oil and gas. This amplified many of the existing inflationary pressures and triggered fears over recession, reflected by volatility in the bond markets and the inversion of the yield curve.

The Fund underperformed the benchmark in the period. From a sector viewpoint, the largest positive effects came from selection in Communication Services and Materials and underweight in Consumer Discretionary. The underweight in the Energy sector and selection in Financials, Industrials and Consumer Discretionary detracted the most. On a regional basis, selection in Europe and Emerging Asia contributed to relative returns, while selection in North America, Japan, Latin America and Emerging Europe detracted the most.

Nvidia, Svenska Cellulosa and M&T Bank were the largest individual contributors in the Fund, although Meta Platforms, which is not a Fund holding, contributed the most. Nvidia reported strong earnings and raised guidance in Q4/2021 due to continued strength in gaming and datacentres, which stands to benefit from increased capital expenditure relating to the metaverse. Svenska Cellulosa is benefiting from strong demand and a favourable pricing environment, which led to record results and enabled it to increase its dividend. M&T Bank benefited from the rising rate environment that triggered the Value rotation at the start of 2022.

Within the Fund, DocuSign, Walt Disney and OTP Bank detracted the most. DocuSign forecast disappointing revenues citing a return to more normal buying patterns after a period of high demand during the pandemic. Walt Disney reported mixed results with better-than-expected revenues in its Parks and Experiences division, offset by lower-than-expected Disney+ subscriptions, which resulted in slightly disappointing earnings. This was compounded by talk of an employee walkout after the company failed to speak out on Florida's parental rights in education law. OTP Bank has revenue exposure to Russia and Ukraine and declined following the invasion of Ukraine. In response, the portfolio sub-advisor trimmed the positions significantly.

## Recent Developments

The portfolio sub-advisor's approach is designed to invest in companies that have a combination of attractive long-term characteristics, not on the prevailing macroeconomic landscape. As such, all investment decisions are taken from a bottom-up perspective, and the risk-focused portfolio construction process ensures the Fund is not overly exposed to macro risks.

In practice, this approach means that the Fund's risk budget is dominated by stock selection, while macro exposures are diversified away. At the end of the period, all sector and regional positions were only modestly different from the benchmark index, which has been a consistent feature of the Fund since inception.

From a top-down perspective, the Fund's sensitivities continue to be modest. The main sensitivity of the Fund is also from stock selection, which they expect given the bottom-up investment approach. The other main sensitivity is the Fund's bias away from Value and from high dividend stocks, which has been further compounded by the avoidance of tobacco companies which pay a steady dividend. In addition, the Fund has become slightly more defensive, as demonstrated by the Japanese Yen exposure. From a style perspective, the Fund's exposures are all modest with the most notable, a higher cashflow yield, a lower dividend yield and a lower debt-to-equity ratio. The latter reflects the importance of balance sheet strength in the assessment of companies.

Looking ahead, the volatility in the bond markets and the recent inversion of the yield curve reflect a high degree of nervousness that a recession is looming on the horizon. However, the belief among many investors is that the Federal Reserve is behind the curve with the more likely outcome being a longer series of interest rate hikes than would have been the case had the Fed moved more aggressively earlier on. For the first time since the 1970s the Fed is leading the economy into a recession in order to prevent longer term average inflation from exceeding the target of two percent.

With so much uncertainty around, it is raising questions among investors of how best to position themselves. Historically, market declines have not typically occurred at the start of a rising interest rate cycle, but one-to-three years later. However, while interest rates are rising now, macroeconomic factors can change these trends rapidly, as has been seen on numerous occasions. Timing the market to favour exposure to a particular factor or area of the market has not proven to be a successful strategy for most investors. The portfolio sub-advisor continues to believe, as long-term investors, that investing in sustainable stocks with a diverse exposure to value and growth will yield superior investment returns.

## Related Party Transactions

Northwest & Ethical Investments L.P. ("NEI LP") is the Manager, Trustee, Portfolio Manager and Registrar of the Fund. Northwest & Ethical Investments Inc., the general partner of NEI LP, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Aviso Wealth Inc. ("Aviso"). Aviso is also the sole limited partner of NEI LP. Aviso is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Aviso Wealth LP, which in turn is owned 50% by Desjardins Financial Holding Inc. and 50% by a limited partnership owned by the five Provincial Credit Union Centrals and The CUMIS Group Limited. Desjardins Financial Holding Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec ("Fédération").

NEI LP charges the Fund a fixed administration fee in place of certain variable expenses. NEI LP in turn, pays all operating expenses of the Fund, other than specified fund costs (e.g. the fees and expense of the Independent Review Committee ("IRC"), taxes, and brokerage commissions) which include payments to related parties. These services are in the normal course of operations and are measured at an exchange amount that is consistent with other independent parties. Desjardins Trust Inc. ("Desjardins Trust") is the custodian of the Fund. Desjardins Trust is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Fédération. The Fund may engage in securities lending and repurchase transactions, and Desjardins Trust may act as the Fund's securities lending and repurchase transactions agent ("Agent"). Any revenue earned on such transactions is split 60%—40% between the Fund and the Agent. Desjardins Securities Inc. ("DSI") is a broker responsible for security transactions on behalf of the Fund. DSI is wholly-owned subsidiary of the Fédération.

The Fund's sub-advisors may place a portion of their fund transactions with brokerage firms which are affiliates of NEI LP, provided that the affiliate's trade execution abilities and costs are comparable to those of non-affiliated qualified brokerage firms.

The Fund is distributed through Credential Asset Management Inc., Credential Qtrade Securities Inc., and members of the Desjardins group and other nonrelated parties by way of shared ownership. NEI LP pays to these parties distribution and servicing fees based on a percentage of the daily values of the units of each held by the dealer's clients and additionally, in some cases, on the amount of initial purchase.

NEI LP has established the IRC for the Fund in accordance with the requirements of National Instrument 81-107 – Independent Review Committee for Investment Funds in order to review conflicts of interest as they relate to investment fund management. The Fund did not rely on an approval, positive recommendation or standing instruction from the Fund's IRC with respect to any related party transactions.

This document contains forward-looking statements. Such statements are generally identifiable by the terminology used, such as "plan", "anticipate", "intend", "expect", "estimate", or other similar wording. These forward-looking statements are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties and other factors which may cause actual results, levels of activity and achievements to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such statements. Such factors include, but are not limited to: general economic, market and business conditions; fluctuations in securities prices, fluctuation in interest rates and foreign currency exchange rates; and actions by governmental authorities. Future events and their effects on the Fund may not be those anticipated by us. Actual results may differ materially from the results anticipated in these forward-looking statements. We do not undertake, and specifically disclaim, any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking information, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise.

## Financial Highlights

The following tables show selected key financial information about the Fund and are intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance for the six-month period ending March 31, 2022 and the past five fiscal years or for the periods since inception, as applicable.

### Net Assets per Unit (\$) <sup>(1)</sup>

Series	Period	Net Assets, Beginning of Period	Increase (Decrease) from Operations					Distributions					Net Assets, End of Period	
			Total Revenue	Total Expenses	Realized Gains (Losses)	Unrealized Gains (Losses)	Total Increase (Decrease) from Operations <sup>(2)</sup>	From Income (Excluding Dividends)	From Dividends	From Underlying Funds	From Capital Gains	Return of Capital		Total Distributions <sup>(3)(4)</sup>
A	Mar.2022	14.67	0.10	-0.19	0.99	-1.46	-0.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.07
	Sept. 2021	12.31	0.22	-0.37	0.71	1.83	2.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.67
	Sept. 2020	10.97	0.27	-0.31	0.16	1.20	1.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.31
	Sept. 2019	11.37	0.27	-0.29	-0.21	-0.15	-0.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.21	0.00	0.21	10.97
	Sept. 2018	10.26	0.23	-0.30	0.32	0.85	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	11.37
	Sept. 2017	10.54	0.21	-0.27	0.13	1.08	1.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.46	0.00	1.46	10.26
F	Mar.2022	22.43	0.15	-0.18	1.51	-2.33	-0.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.64
	Sept. 2021	18.71	0.34	-0.33	1.09	2.83	3.93	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	22.43
	Sept. 2020	16.61	0.41	-0.28	0.24	1.87	2.24	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	18.71
	Sept. 2019	17.09	0.35	-0.27	-0.32	-1.34	-1.58	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.32	0.00	0.35	16.61
	Sept. 2018	15.36	0.36	-0.28	0.48	1.05	1.61	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.12	17.09
	Sept. 2017	15.68	0.30	-0.24	0.19	1.66	1.91	0.00	0.02	0.00	2.23	0.00	2.25	15.36
I	Mar.2022	22.82	0.15	-0.03	1.54	-2.36	-0.70	0.00	0.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.27	21.90
	Sept. 2021	12.31	0.34	-0.05	1.10	2.79	4.18	0.00	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.33	22.82
	Sept. 2020	16.84	0.41	-0.05	0.25	1.98	2.59	0.00	0.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.32	19.00
	Sept. 2019	17.33	0.39	-0.06	-0.32	0.51	0.52	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.32	0.00	0.57	16.84
	Sept. 2018	15.56	0.35	-0.05	0.49	1.16	1.95	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.32	17.33
	Sept. 2017	15.84	0.34	-0.04	0.19	1.51	2.00	0.00	0.22	0.00	2.21	0.00	2.43	15.56
O	Mar.2022	13.96	0.09	-0.02	0.94	-1.47	-0.46	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	13.45
	Sept. 2021	11.62	0.21	-0.04	0.68	1.53	2.38	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	13.96
	Sept. 2020	10.15	0.25	-0.03	0.15	1.06	1.43	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	11.62
	Sept. 2019	10.31	0.23	-0.04	-0.19	0.07	0.07	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.21	10.15
	Sept. 2018	10.00	0.06	-0.01	0.30	-0.04	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.31
P	Mar.2022	13.53	0.09	-0.17	0.91	-1.42	-0.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.99
	Sept. 2021	11.34	0.21	-0.32	0.66	1.54	2.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.53
	Sept. 2020	10.10	0.25	-0.27	0.15	1.06	1.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.34
	Sept. 2019	10.00	0.22	-0.22	-0.20	1.04	0.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.19	10.10
PF	Mar.2022	13.83	0.09	-0.09	0.93	-1.44	-0.51	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	13.34
	Sept. 2021	11.54	0.21	-0.18	0.68	1.52	2.23	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	13.83
	Sept. 2020	10.23	0.25	-0.15	0.15	1.02	1.27	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	11.54
	Sept. 2019	10.00	0.22	-0.13	-0.20	1.04	0.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.16	10.23

(1) All per unit figures presented in 2022 are referenced to net assets determined in accordance with IFRS and are derived from the Fund's semi-annual financial statements for the period ended March 31, 2022.

(2) Net assets and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period.

(3) Distributions were paid in cash or reinvested in additional units of the Fund.

(4) Distributions (if any) that may have been made that included return of capital in excess of short term earnings were made to minimize disruption and provide stability to investors who have elected to take their distributions in the form of cash, and as disclosed in the Simplified Prospectus. These amounts are reviewed at each calendar year-end and management engages in discussions with the sub-advisor to determine the most applicable strategy on a go forward basis and will take any action(s) as needed for the long term stability of the Fund.

## Ratios and Supplemental Data

Series	Period	Total Net Asset Value (000's of \$)	Number of Units Outstanding (000's)	Management Expense Ratio (%) <sup>(1)</sup>	Management Expense Ratio before Waivers and Absorptions (%)	Trading Expense Ratio (%) <sup>(2)</sup>	Portfolio Turnover Rate (%) <sup>(3)</sup>	Net Asset Value per Unit (\$)
A	Mar. 2022	30,053.43	2,135.24	2.41	2.61	0.04	15.13	14.07
	Sept. 2021	32,864.80	2,240.32	2.39	2.61	0.03	24.09	14.67
	Sept. 2020	29,793.97	2,419.69	2.40	2.62	0.03	26.56	12.31
	Sept. 2019	30,395.88	2,769.86	2.39	2.61	0.05	26.11	10.97
	Sept. 2018	42,241.79	3,716.08	2.40	2.69	0.04	51.82	11.37
	Sept. 2017	34,865.85	3,396.90	2.40	2.72	0.08	78.21	10.26
F	Mar. 2022	4,972.24	229.81	1.34	1.42	0.04	15.13	21.64
	Sept. 2021	4,431.63	197.56	1.33	1.42	0.03	24.09	22.43
	Sept. 2020	4,303.01	229.97	1.34	1.43	0.03	26.56	18.71
	Sept. 2019	4,027.45	242.54	1.35	1.43	0.05	26.11	16.61
	Sept. 2018	9,861.71	576.99	1.34	1.55	0.04	51.82	17.09
	Sept. 2017	4,512.62	293.74	1.33	1.58	0.08	78.21	15.36
I	Mar. 2022	463,619.03	21,166.29	N/A	N/A	0.04	15.13	21.90
	Sept. 2021	576,375.76	25,260.25	N/A	N/A	0.03	24.09	22.82
	Sept. 2020	478,625.12	25,189.36	N/A	N/A	0.03	26.56	19.00
	Sept. 2019	438,315.66	26,033.82	N/A	N/A	0.05	26.11	16.84
	Sept. 2018	245,056.00	14,139.30	N/A	N/A	0.04	51.82	17.33
	Sept. 2017	162,922.75	10,472.31	N/A	N/A	0.08	78.21	15.56
O	Mar. 2022	7,789.42	579.26	0.05	0.05	0.04	15.13	13.45
	Sept. 2021	6,770.11	485.01	0.05	0.05	0.03	24.09	13.96
	Sept. 2020	3,473.63	298.90	0.06	0.06	0.03	26.56	11.62
	Sept. 2019	137.99	13.60	0.06	0.06	0.05	26.11	10.15
	Sept. 2018	137.03	13.29	0.06	0.06	0.04	51.82	10.31
P	Mar. 2022	16,380.25	1,260.81	2.25	2.25	0.04	15.13	12.99
	Sept. 2021	14,828.65	1,095.91	2.25	2.25	0.03	24.09	13.53
	Sept. 2020	9,953.26	877.55	2.29	2.29	0.03	26.56	11.34
	Sept. 2019	8,577.41	849.34	2.35	2.35	0.05	26.11	10.10
PF	Mar. 2022	10,037.38	752.61	1.11	1.11	0.04	15.13	13.34
	Sept. 2021	9,825.24	710.23	1.11	1.11	0.03	24.09	13.83
	Sept. 2020	6,022.49	521.83	1.13	1.13	0.03	26.56	11.54
	Sept. 2019	6,061.20	592.35	1.15	1.15	0.05	26.11	10.23

(1) Management expense ratio is based on total expenses (excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs, as well as withholding taxes) for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period.

(2) The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other Fund transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period.

(3) The portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's sub-advisor manages its investment holdings. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the period. The higher the portfolio turnover rate in a period, the greater the trading costs payable by the Fund in the period, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the period. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a Fund.

## Management Fees

The Manager is responsible for the management, supervision and administration of the Fund. The Manager receives from the Fund management fees, before HST, calculated daily on the net asset value of the Fund at an annual rate shown below. The Fund does not pay management fees for Series I and O units. Series I and O unitholders pay a negotiated fee directly to NEI Investments.

The management fee covers the cost of investment advisory fees, sales, marketing, and distribution expenses of the Fund. In addition, the Manager may pay a trailer fee to dealers out of this management fee. The trailer fee is a percentage of the average daily value of the units of the Fund held by the dealer's clients. No trailer fees are paid in respect of any Series F and PF units of the Fund.

The following table shows the major services paid for out of management fees as a percentage of the management fee for all applicable series of the Fund:

	Management Fee (%)	Investment Advisory and Other Fees (%)	Trailer Fee (%)
Series A	2.00	53.82	46.18
Series F	1.00	100.00	N/A
Series P	1.75	42.85	57.15
Series PF	0.75	100.00	N/A

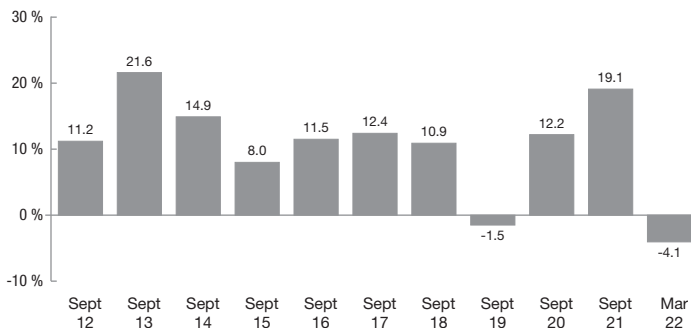
## Past Performance

The performance information provided will not necessarily indicate how the Fund will perform in the future. The information shown assumes that distributions made by the Fund in the periods shown were reinvested in additional units of the relevant series of the Fund. In addition, the information does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or other optional charges that would have reduced returns or performance.

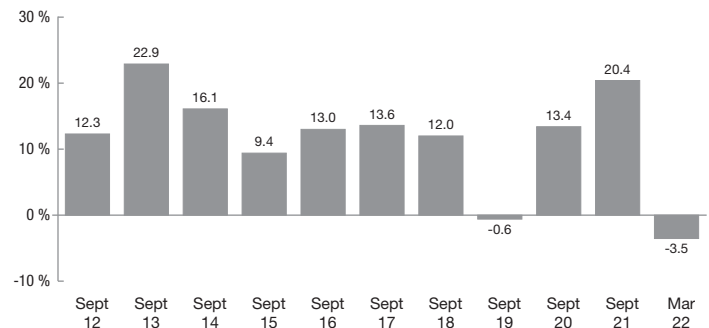
### Year-by-Year Returns

The following charts show the annual performance for each series of units of the Fund for each period shown and illustrate how the Fund's performance has varied from period to period with the exception of 2022, which shows the six-month return for the period ended March 31, 2022. The charts indicate how much an investment made on the first day of each financial period would have grown or decreased by the last day of each financial period.

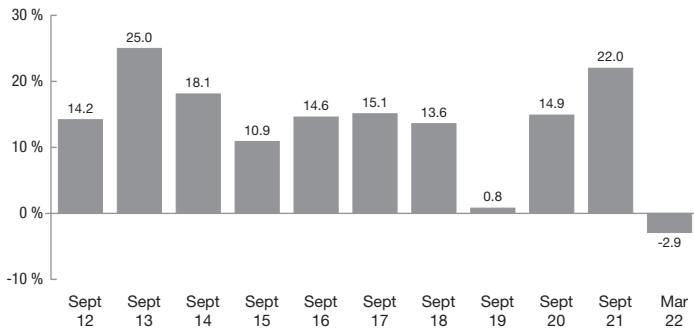
**Series A**



**Series F**



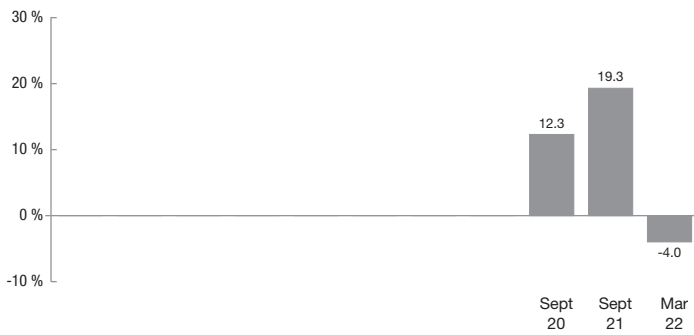
**Series I**



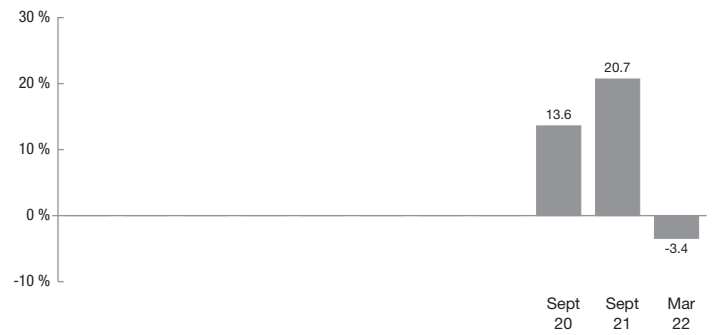
**Series O**



**Series P**



**Series PF**



## Summary of Investment Portfolio as at March 31, 2022

Total Net Asset Value: \$532,851,748

Top Holdings		%
1	Apple	4.9
2	Microsoft	3.6
3	Alphabet Inc.	3.3
4	Cash and Equivalents	3.1
5	NVIDIA	2.6
6	Amazon.com	2.3
7	ASML Holding	2.3
8	Thermo Fisher Scientific	2.2
9	Walt Disney Company	2.0
10	Abbott Laboratories	1.9
11	Accenture, Class A	1.9
12	M&T Bank	1.8
13	Bank of America	1.6
14	Svenska Cellulosa Aktiebolaget, Class B	1.6
15	Samsung Electronics	1.6
16	Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company	1.6
17	Procter & Gamble	1.5
18	Lonza Group	1.5
19	Novo Nordisk	1.5
20	Norsk Hydro	1.5
21	Capital One Financial	1.5
22	Travelers Companies	1.5
23	Aker BP	1.4
24	Verizon Communications	1.4
25	Hess	1.3
	Total	51.4

Net Asset Value Mix		%
Equity		93.8
Unit Trust		3.1
Cash and Equivalents		3.1
Total		100.0

Sector Allocation		%
Information Technology		27.1
Financials		15.6
Health Care		13.2
Consumer Discretionary		8.4
Industrials		8.0
Communication Services		7.8
Consumer Staples		4.8
Materials		4.7
Real Estate		3.1
Cash and Equivalents		3.1
Energy		2.7
Utilities		1.5
Total		100.0

Geographic Distribution		%
United States		57.5
Other Countries		34.3
Japan		5.1
Cash and Equivalents		3.1
Total		100.0

"Unit Trust" includes REITs, ETFs, and other similarly structured investment vehicles.

"Other Countries" geographic category includes all countries individually representing less than 5% of the Portfolio's net asset value.

The Summary of Investment Portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the investment fund. Updates are available quarterly.