



Annual Management Report of Fund Performance

As at September 30, 2021

This 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 or SEDAR at 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

Investment Objective and Strategies

The Fund aims to achieve long-term capital appreciation by investing its assets primarily in equity securities of emerging market companies. The Fund will be able to invest in any sector and in both large and small capitalization companies.

Risk

The risks of investing in the Fund remain as discussed in the Simplified Prospectus. The Fund is suitable for investors investing in the long term, with a medium to high tolerance for risk. Any changes in the Fund have not affected the overall level of risk of the Fund.

Results of Operations

The NEI Emerging Markets Fund's Series A units returned 15.3% for the twelve months ended September 30, 2021 compared with a return of 12.1% 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 EM NR Index (C\$).

The Fund's net asset value increased by 99.06% during the period, from \$291,336,514 as at September 30, 2020 to \$579,926,265 as at September 30, 2021. This change in net assets is attributed to net unitholder activity of \$243,316,960 and \$45,272,791 to investment operations, including market appreciation (depreciation), income and expenses.

Factors That Have Affected Performance

By region, EM EMEA was the best performer for the benchmark, followed by EM Latin America and EM Asia. On a country level some of the benchmark's top performing countries for the period were Czech Republic, Hungary, Russia, India, and Mexico. While among the worst performing countries were Pakistan, Egypt, China, Peru, and Malaysia.

In Asia, Chinese equities underperformed the benchmark. The market rallied initially given positive earnings and continued pick-up in economic activity. Sentiment was later dampened by policy normalization alongside regulatory and geopolitical noise. The government continued to tighten regulations towards the end of the period, moving beyond the internet names and now including stocks in "new economy" sectors. There were also doubts about property developer Evergrande's ability to service its debt interest. Elsewhere in Asia, Korean equities outperformed the benchmark, supported by strong economic data, before moves to impose tighter regulations on the country's fintech sector weakened sentiment, while surging Covid infections and social distancing controls prompted greater investor caution. India was the top-performing Asian market driven by ongoing recovery from the economic damage caused by the spread of the Delta variant early in the summer. There was also a slew of positive financial results in Taiwan's technology sector which bolstered the market.

In Latin America, Brazil experienced a mixed period. Global economic recovery and improving supply-demand dynamics in various commodities supported earnings revisions while the continuing transmission of the Covid Delta variant prompted concern about the economic outlook. Sentiment was further subdued by political tensions which remained elevated ahead of 2022 presidential elections. Turning to EMEA, Russia's market was among the best performers in the Index given strength in demand for commodities, particularly oil, which helped to support the Index, as the country's economy continues to recover faster than expected following the relaxation of Covid restrictions.

At the sector level, Technology, Financials and Healthcare were amongst the largest contributors to performance. Materials, Energy and Utilities were the largest detractors. On a country level, China, Korea, and Singapore were the largest contributors to performance. Russia, Brazil, and Saudi Arabia were the largest detractors.

Recent Developments

The fund's relative overweight sectors are Technology, Healthcare and Consumer Discretionary. Relative underweights are in the Materials, Consumer Staples, and Energy sectors. As a result of activity over the period, the portfolio sub-advisor has reduced exposure to China amid regulation noise to be significantly underweight in the Fund. The focus has now turned to other areas of the economy with more policy support.

As vaccine optimism has fueled positive investor sentiment globally, the portfolio sub-advisor still sees distribution challenges in the near term. Meanwhile, the outlook for inflation remains a key issue for both emerging and developed markets, as central banks may begin to moderate monetary policy accommodation. In the current environment, the portfolio sub-advisor believes that structural growth opportunities should remain the core of the Fund, and they are taking a barbell approach with the "opening up" trade.

In China, regulatory concern in the tech sector has been weighing on the market since the back end of 2020. The portfolio sub-advisor believes the dismantling of the private sector is not the objective and many of the policy objectives are wishlists of western economies, for example data privacy and curbing monopolistic practices. They are focusing on areas of the economy with policy tailwinds that will benefit from the government's agenda of focusing on prosperity and productivity in China, such as the semiconductor industry, made in China localization theme, biotech, and EV.

Independent Review Committee

The term of William Woods ended on September 30, 2021. Mr. Woods had served with distinction on the Independent Review Committee ("IRC") since October 2015. After consulting with the Manager and obtaining the Manager's consent, the IRC re-appointed Mr. Woods for a further period of three years.

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, 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 past five fiscal years or for the periods since inception, as applicable.

Net Assets per Unit (\$)⁽¹⁾

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 ⁽²⁾	From Income (Excluding Dividends)	From Dividends	From Underlying Funds	From Capital Gains	Return of Capital	Total Distributions ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾		
A	Sept. 2021	8.34	0.07	-0.27	0.42	0.29	0.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.62
	Sept. 2020	6.86	0.06	-0.21	0.51	1.17	1.53	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	8.34
	Sept. 2019	6.54	0.12	-0.19	0.03	0.26	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.86
	Sept. 2018	6.85	0.12	-0.21	0.04	-0.39	-0.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.54
	Sept. 2017	5.88	0.09	-0.18	0.30	0.69	0.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.85
F	Sept. 2021	17.55	0.18	-0.36	0.91	-1.92	-1.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.44
	Sept. 2020	14.34	0.13	-0.29	1.07	1.96	2.87	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	17.55	
	Sept. 2019	13.57	0.23	-0.25	0.05	0.42	0.45	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	14.34	
	Sept. 2018	14.06	0.30	-0.29	0.07	-1.72	-1.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.57	
	Sept. 2017	11.96	0.20	-0.25	0.61	1.54	2.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.06	
I	Sept. 2021	15.41	0.11	-0.04	0.79	1.14	2.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	18.11	
	Sept. 2020	12.57	0.11	-0.05	0.94	2.67	3.67	0.00	0.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.37	15.41	
	Sept. 2019	11.87	0.23	-0.04	0.05	0.81	1.05	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	12.57	
	Sept. 2018	12.27	0.21	-0.05	0.06	-0.63	-0.41	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16	11.87	
	Sept. 2017	10.39	0.19	-0.05	0.53	1.56	2.23	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	12.27	
O	Sept. 2021	12.24	0.10	-0.04	0.63	-4.63	-3.94	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	14.36	
	Sept. 2020	9.99	0.09	-0.05	0.74	1.75	2.53	0.00	0.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.29	12.24	
	Sept. 2019	9.37	0.19	-0.04	0.04	0.50	0.69	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	9.99	
	Sept. 2018	10.00	0.05	-0.03	0.05	-0.70	-0.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.37	
P	Sept. 2021	13.05	0.11	-0.38	0.67	-0.09	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.10	
	Sept. 2020	10.68	0.10	-0.30	0.80	1.89	2.49	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	13.05	
	Sept. 2019	10.00	0.22	-0.24	0.04	0.92	0.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.68	
PF	Sept. 2021	13.20	0.12	-0.21	0.68	-1.26	-0.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.44	
	Sept. 2020	10.79	0.09	-0.18	0.81	2.13	2.85	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	13.20	
	Sept. 2019	10.00	0.31	-0.15	0.04	0.76	0.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.79	

(1) All per unit figures presented in 2021 are referenced to net assets determined in accordance with IFRS and are derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements for the period ended September 30, 2021.

(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 (%) ⁽¹⁾	Management Expense Ratio before Waivers and Absorptions (%)	Trading Expense Ratio (%) ⁽²⁾	Portfolio Turnover Rate (%) ⁽³⁾	Net Asset Value per Unit (\$)
A	Sept. 2021	9,215.04	958.22	2.53	2.69	0.09	27.13	9.62
	Sept. 2020	4,209.28	504.61	2.54	2.70	0.22	72.12	8.34
	Sept. 2019	3,789.65	552.79	2.52	2.68	0.19	52.20	6.86
	Sept. 2018	4,887.28	747.17	2.52	2.88	0.20	65.09	6.54
	Sept. 2017	4,353.67	635.93	2.52	2.95	0.36	74.72	6.85
F	Sept. 2021	10,744.14	525.73	1.50	1.50	0.09	27.13	20.44
	Sept. 2020	1,010.22	57.55	1.51	1.51	0.22	72.12	17.55
	Sept. 2019	691.19	48.21	1.50	1.50	0.19	52.20	14.34
	Sept. 2018	955.95	70.47	1.51	1.71	0.20	65.09	13.57
	Sept. 2017	346.57	24.65	1.51	1.78	0.36	74.72	14.06
I	Sept. 2021	544,538.87	30,076.25	N/A	N/A	0.09	27.13	18.11
	Sept. 2020	283,647.54	18,410.44	N/A	N/A	0.22	72.12	15.41
	Sept. 2019	168,580.91	13,410.05	N/A	N/A	0.19	52.20	12.57
	Sept. 2018	138,770.30	11,686.02	N/A	N/A	0.20	65.09	11.87
	Sept. 2017	113,039.14	9,211.30	N/A	N/A	0.36	74.72	12.27
O	Sept. 2021	312.44	21.75	0.09	0.09	0.09	27.13	14.36
	Sept. 2020	1.27	0.10	0.09	0.09	0.22	72.12	12.24
	Sept. 2019	1.01	0.10	0.09	0.09	0.19	52.20	9.99
	Sept. 2018	0.94	0.10	0.09	0.09	0.20	65.09	9.37
P	Sept. 2021	4,508.14	298.61	2.22	2.27	0.09	27.13	15.10
	Sept. 2020	1,484.60	113.73	2.25	2.30	0.22	72.12	13.05
	Sept. 2019	1,176.82	110.15	2.35	2.40	0.19	52.20	10.68
PF	Sept. 2021	10,607.64	687.18	1.15	1.15	0.09	27.13	15.44
	Sept. 2020	983.61	74.54	1.18	1.18	0.22	72.12	13.20
	Sept. 2019	485.62	45.02	1.20	1.20	0.19	52.20	10.79

(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	54.74	45.26
Series F	1.00	100.00	N/A
Series P	1.75	42.88	57.12
Series PF	0.75	100.00	N/A

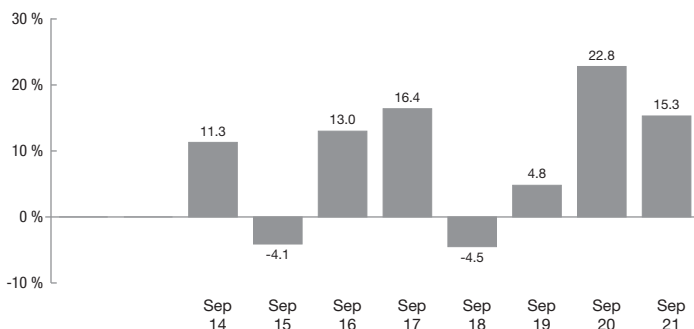
Past Performance

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.

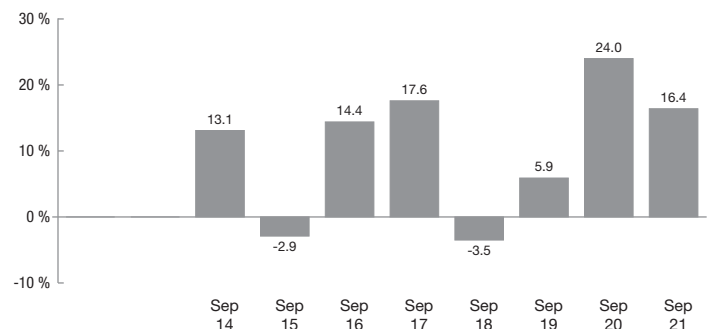
Year-by-Year Returns

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. 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.

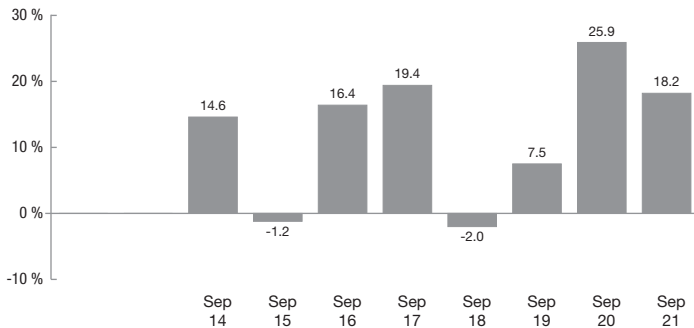
Series A



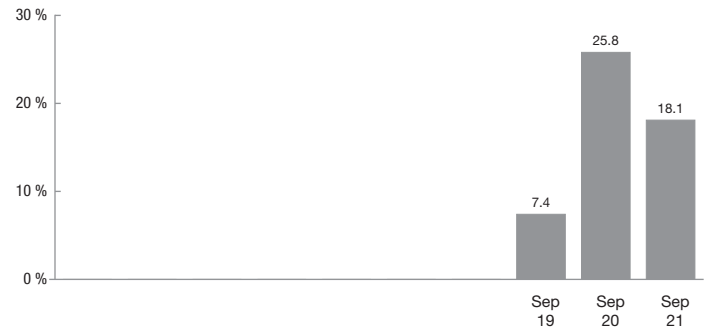
Series F



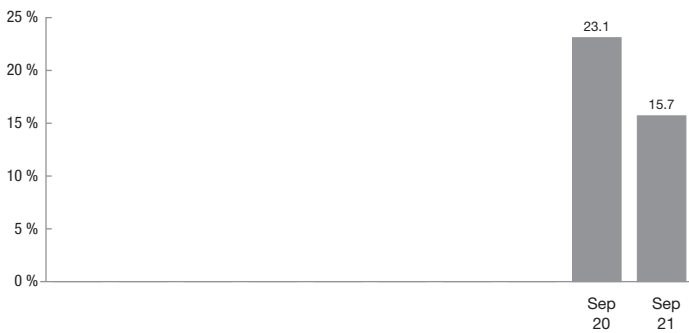
Series I



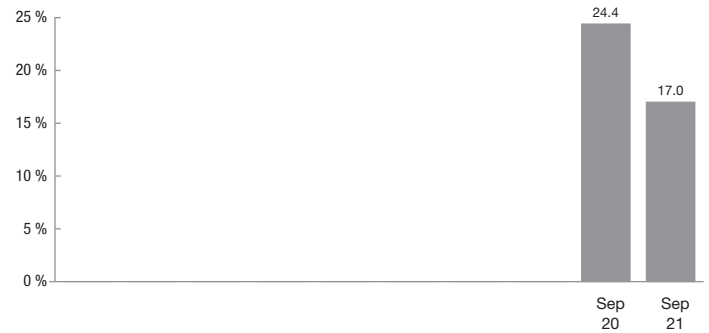
Series O



Series P



Series PF



There was an investment objective change effective May 6, 2013 for Series A, Series F and Series I that could have materially impacted performance during the period. Performance restarted as a result of Fund mergers in 2013.

On or about July 13, 2020, the Portfolio sub-advisor began to apply parts of the Manager’s responsible approach to investing to the Fund. Performance for the periods before and after this change could have differed had the change not occurred or occurred at a different date.

Annualized Compound Returns

The following table shows the annual compound returns for all series of the Fund. All returns are in Canadian dollars, on a total return basis, net of fees. For comparison, the returns for the benchmark are included. A discussion regarding the relative performance of the Fund is found in the Results of Operations section of this report and a description of indexes can be found in the Annualized Compound Returns section of this report.

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

The MSCI Emerging Markets Index is designed to represent the performance of large- and mid-cap securities in Emerging Markets. It is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted Index.

While the Fund uses this benchmark for long-term performance comparisons, it is not managed relative to the composition of the Index. As a result, the Fund may experience periods when its performance is not aligned with the Index, either positively or negatively. Please see the "Results of Operations" section of this report for a discussion of recent performance results.

Group/Investment	1 Yr (%)	3 Yrs (%)	5 Yrs (%)	10 Yrs (%)	Since Inception ^(*) (%)
MSCI EM NR Index (C\$)	12.1	7.9	8.4	N/A	**
NEI Emerging Markets Fund, Series A	15.3	14.0	10.5	N/A	7.4
NEI Emerging Markets Fund, Series F	16.4	15.2	11.6	N/A	8.6
NEI Emerging Markets Fund, Series I	18.2	16.9	13.3	N/A	10.3
NEI Emerging Markets Fund, Series O	18.1	16.9	N/A	N/A	13.2
NEI Emerging Markets Fund, Series P	15.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.0
NEI Emerging Markets Fund, Series PF	17.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	17.3

^{*}Since inception returns are not provided for series that have been in existence for more than 10 years.

^{**}The return of the benchmark since inception for each applicable series is as follows: Series A: 7.6%, Series F: 7.6%, Series I: 7.6%, Series O: 6.7%, Series P: 9.2%, Series PF: 9.2%.

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Summary of Investment Portfolio as at September 30, 2021

Total Net Asset Value: \$579,926,265

Top Holdings		%
1	Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, ADR	8.3
2	Samsung Electronics	5.9
3	Tencent Holdings	5.3
4	WuXi Biologics (Cayman)	3.0
5	MediaTek	3.0
6	MercadoLibre	2.8
7	Alibaba Group Holding, ADR	2.8
8	Cash and Equivalents	2.7
9	Bank Rakyat Indonesia	2.7
10	Country Garden Services Holdings	2.5
11	Samsung Electro-Mechanics	2.3
12	JD.com, ADR	2.3
13	Bajaj Finance	2.2
14	Reliance Industries	2.1
15	Bank Central Asia	2.1
16	OTP Bank	2.1
17	Li Ning	1.9
18	Sea, ADR	1.9
19	Techtronic Industries	1.9
20	TCS Group Holding	1.9
21	Capitec Bank Holdings	1.8
22	Samsung Biologics Co.	1.8
23	Infosys, ADR	1.8
24	WuXi AppTec, Class H	1.6
25	XPeng	1.6
	Total	68.3

Net Asset Value Mix		%
Equity	97.3	
Cash and Equivalents	2.7	
Total	100.0	

Sector Allocation		%
Information Technology	29.8	
Financials	21.4	
Consumer Discretionary	16.5	
Communication Services	9.6	
Health Care	9.3	
Industrials	7.4	
Cash and Equivalents	2.7	
Energy	2.1	
Consumer Staples	1.2	
Total	100.0	

Geographic Distribution		%
Cayman Islands	24.0	
Other	22.1	
South Korea	14.7	
India	12.7	
Taiwan	12.3	
Hong Kong	6.2	
Brazil	5.3	
Cash and Equivalents	2.7	
Total	100.0	

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

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