



POLARIS

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GLOBAL EQUITY COMPOSITE REPORT

	2020				Annualized as of September 30, 2020				
	YTD	QIII	QII	QI	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	Since 9/30/1984
Polaris Global Equity Composite gross	-14.99%	4.89%	17.84%	-31.22%	-7.17%	-0.64%	6.18%	8.39%	11.43%
Polaris Global Equity Composite net	-15.30%	4.76%	17.70%	-31.31%	-7.63%	-1.15%	5.67%	7.85%	10.58%
MSCI World Index, gross dividends reinvested	2.12%	8.05%	19.54%	-20.93%	10.99%	8.32%	11.08%	9.98%	9.89%

Third quarter 2020 composite returns are preliminary. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

Global markets rose in the third quarter of 2020, building on the prior quarter's gains. Most countries and sectors advanced, supported by governments' stimulus measures intended to mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19. Corporate results have become progressively "better", as companies report modest losses in the third quarter.

While infection rates subsided from May to August, the expected second wave of COVID-19 cropped up in many countries by September. Yet the economic impact of this second wave may be muted, as health care systems begin to understand how to treat the disease and potential vaccines progress quickly. Investors appear to be expecting more progress and recovery, as evidenced by upbeat market returns.

The Polaris Global Equity Composite gained 4.89% for the third quarter of 2020, underperforming the MSCI World Index which returned 8.05%. The Global Composite outperformed the MSCI World Value Index which gained 4.05%. The portfolio had absolute positive gains in most sectors, with notable outperformance in consumer discretionary and materials, where the portfolio was overweight. Detractors included consumer staples, energy, communication services and financials, the latter being an overweight position relative to the benchmark. While the portfolio's U.S. allocation contributed meaningfully to returns, the large underweight relative to the benchmark (32% vs. 67%) continued to hamper results. The portfolio's more heavily-weighted holdings in the U.K., Canada, Norway and Belgium outperformed country benchmarks.

Several of the top holdings were investments made at the beginning of the pandemic. Polaris had conducted extensive research in January and February, deliberately redeploying capital to subsectors historically unattainable due to valuation. When stocks such as Dometic Group AB, Darden Restaurants Inc., Bunzl PLC, Ryanair Holdings PLC and Zhongsheng Group Holdings dropped precipitously, Polaris snapped up these cash-flow heavy companies on the expectation of participating in a rebound. The decision was prescient as all five posted double-digit returns, most in excess of 20%, during the quarter. Detractors like Trevi Finanziaria Industrial, Taylor Wimpey PLC and Marathon Petroleum Corp. retrenched somewhat following the prior quarter's outsized gains.

THIRD QUARTER 2020 PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

For the second consecutive quarter, the Composite's consumer discretionary holdings contributed most to performance. The stock price of L Brands, Inc. nearly doubled during the quarter, as its Bath & Body Works division delivered stellar returns. Online sales of home fragrances, shampoos, soaps and hand sanitizers ramped up considerably. Investors also reacted favorably to management's ongoing efforts to separate the Victoria's Secret brand, while committing to cost cutting measures. South Korean automaker, Kia Motors Corp., beat expectations with strong sales of premium and sport SUVs in the U.S. and Korea, as well as auto introductions in India. Climate control and convenience products maker for recreational vehicles (RVs), Dometic Group, capitalized on the RV travel craze as consumers sought vacation alternatives in light of COVID-19. Dometic's aftermarket sales held up well, while its cost cutting and efficiency measures improved margins. U.K. retailer Next PLC noted strong first half results, and raised its outlook on the back of continued

online sales growth; simultaneously, the company reined in cost controls and warehouse capacity. Darden Restaurants, the parent of Capital Grille, Olive Garden and Longhorn Steakhouse restaurant chains, noted positive sales trends in its takeout/delivery service and slowly began re-opening brick-and-mortar sites with much success; the stock gained 28% for the quarter. L Brands and Darden were sold at a healthy profit, as both reached Polaris' valuation limits. The only sector detractor of note was U.K. homebuilder Taylor Wimpey, which declined after the company announced lower housing completions in fiscal year 2020 due to COVID distancing restrictions. This short-term headwind is expected to reverse course in the second half of 2021, with Taylor Wimpey's management projecting firmer order books as construction resumes and homebuyers come back to the market.

Most of materials sector holdings were in positive territory, led by Methanex Corp., Linde PLC and Yara International ASA. Canadian methanol producer, Methanex, posted steady gains as methanol prices recovered from second quarter 2020 lows. The company referenced improving methanol demand within Europe and Asia, specifically in China. Supply and demand trends, with the benefit of a few Middle East plant outages, allowed Methanex to increase prices. Cautious of ongoing commodity market tumult, Methanex shored up its balance sheet and preserved cash by idling plants, deferring capital spending and reducing the dividend. Diversification was key for Linde's continued success: the company delivered gases to a worldwide client base, grew its U.S. home/hospital oxygen therapy business and signed deals in China to produce green hydrogen. Norwegian materials company, Yara, announced a 5% share buyback, signaling management's confidence in company prospects. The company is expected to pay a special dividend after the \$1 billion buyback of its 25% stake in Qatar Fertilizer.

The information technology (IT) sector dominated returns for MSCI World Index, with a nearly 22% weighting. The Composite's underweight in IT (and other high-momentum stocks) hampered overall portfolio performance. Nevertheless, there were numerous bright spots in the sector, including Infosys Ltd., Samsung Electronics and Arrow Electronics, Inc., all of which advanced in excess of 10% for the quarter. Infosys reported profits above expectations, citing good cost controls and flexibility/adaptation in serving clients in a COVID-19 contactless environment. Infosys also announced several complementary acquisitions during the quarter, including GuideVision, Essential Utilities and WANdisco. Samsung's DRAM chip spot prices turned positive, with major customers placing orders to rebuild inventory before the end of 2020, when demand is expected to outstrip supply. Additionally, Samsung's foundry business became the sole provider for Qualcomm's application processor for premium 5G smartphones. In contrast, Catcher Technology Co. Ltd. declined after selling two of its Chinese plants used to manufacture Apple iPhone cases. While this business approximated 40% of revenue, it was only 10% of profit as a high-volume, low-margin production. Catcher kept the more profitable Apple MacBook business inhouse. With the \$1.4 billion plant sale to China's Lens Technology, Catcher now has more than \$4.4 billion net cash. Investors are in a holding pattern, awaiting Catcher's next strategic moves to deploy the cash.

Industrial sector returns formed into a barbell, with Bunzl, Wesco International Inc. and Ryanair Holdings up in excess of 20%, while Babcock International and Trevi Finanziaria detracted. Bunzl reinstated dividends after reporting higher pre-tax profits in the first half of 2020, as its grocery and cleaning/safety divisions rose. The company also announced two acquisitions of U.S. safety-products company MCR Safety and Irish flexible-packaging distributor, Abco Kovex. U.S. electrical goods distributor, Wesco International Inc., posted a strong quarter where sales, margin, profit and cash generation exceeded management's expectations. Management indicated the Anixter acquisition will be accretive to earnings; we are more sanguine about debt and margin prospects. Trevi, the Italian engineering and foundation driller, underwent a complete financial and operational restructuring. The stock jumped more than 150% in the second quarter as one of the portfolio's top performers, but relinquished some of this gain in the third quarter. Trevi may face some near-term headwinds, as governmental infrastructure spending is postponed in deference to immediate COVID-19 related needs of citizens. However, the company reaffirmed guidance, pointing to strength of its order book. Babcock International, the U.K. engineering services firm that supports local defense, emergency services and civil nuclear sectors, noted declining profits due to new distancing requirements on ship repair worksites. The stock price slipped further after Babcock announced the end of its long-term contract with Britain's Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to clean up 12 Magnox reactor sites in the U.K.

Although the largest sector contributor in 2019, financials detracted most from returns in the quarter and year-to-date 2020. Upon reopening the global economy post lockdown, financials saw a solid recovery in July and August; by September, this trend reversed course on increased COVID-19 cases. Many banks also encountered lower net interest margins and slower loan growth, while concerns swirled about stimulus running dry, raising the risk of defaults. To counteract these issues, banks have set aside large reserves and capital to absorb potential losses. In fact, many of the banks have the highest capital ratios and loan loss reserves in more than 20 years.

For example, Sweden's Svenska Handelsbanken shored up capital by deferring 2020 dividend payments, closing bank branches and restructuring the employees' profit-sharing plan. International Bancshares reported underwhelming quarterly earnings, due to added credit loss provisions and lower net interest margins. As one of the largest independent banks in Texas, International Bancshares remains in a position of relative strength, with a large capital position, strong liquidity and loyal deposit base. German reinsurer Hannover Re declined when it failed to issue full year guidance, choosing a more conservative statement due to lack of clarity around COVID-19. However, all indications suggest significant price increases in various property and casualty reinsurance, which bodes well for 2021 results. In the interim, Hannover is considering cost cuts to maintain their margins and profitability. Many of these well-capitalized financial institutions are trading at single digit multiples, priced lower than assumptions for the industry's worst-case scenario. So, we believe the upside potential is substantial in an economic recovery, fits and spurts of which are already underway outside the U.S.

The stock price of oil refiner Marathon Petroleum trended in line with oil supply/demand volatility, jumping up more than 60% from the first to second quarter of 2020, only to lose momentum in the third quarter. Brent crude futures fell and Chinese demand lessened. Nevertheless, Marathon made strategic top-line (selling Speedway gas stations) and bottom-line (reducing expenses and headcount) decisions which should offer some protection against broader commodity market tumult. U.K.'s Cineworld Group declined due to delays in theatre re-openings as a result of COVID-19. After the quarter end, Cineworld announced plans to shut down all U.S. and U.K. theaters until movie studios release blockbuster movies and theater openings are permitted in New York and Los Angeles, where the majority of movie critics reside.

Table reflects sector/regional allocation for a representative global equity portfolio as of September 30, 2020.

	MSCI World Weight	Portfolio Weight	Energy	Utilities	Materials	Industrials	Consumer Discretionary	Consumer Staples	Health Care	Financials	Information Technology	Comm. Services	Real Estate	Cash
N. America	69.6%	36.6%	0.9%	2.1%	1.3%	2.1%	5.0%	2.2%	5.9%	10.2%	6.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Japan	7.9%	5.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%	1.2%	1.1%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other Asia	3.4%	14.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	4.1%	0.7%	0.0%	2.1%	5.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Europe	16.9%	29.1%	0.0%	0.0%	8.4%	4.8%	5.5%	1.5%	2.2%	3.4%	0.0%	3.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Scandinavia	2.3%	8.5%	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%	2.7%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	3.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Africa & South America	0.0%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Cash	0.0%	4.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.4%
Portfolio Totals		100.0%	0.9%	2.1%	13.2%	10.9%	16.5%	5.6%	8.1%	21.2%	11.0%	6.3%	0.0%	4.4%
MSCI World Weight	100.0%		2.5%	3.3%	4.5%	10.4%	11.8%	8.2%	13.8%	11.9%	22.1%	8.8%	2.8%	0.0%

Table may not cross foot due to rounding.

INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT AND STRATEGY

Polaris added more than a dozen new stocks to the Composite portfolio in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, taking advantage of historic lows as an entry point. In the ensuing months, many of these companies rebounded dramatically and Polaris sold Darden, Ryanair and Delta Airlines at hefty profits as they reached Polaris' valuation limits. The timing was opportune, as a second wave of COVID-19 infection in late Fall 2020 has cast doubt on the robustness of the travel/leisure sector in the short-term.

Much discussion has surrounded the manner of the American economic recovery, with many pundits pointing to a "K" shape recovery, which is a bifurcated rebound with industries like technology, retail and software on the rise, while travel, entertainment, hospitality and food service continue their downward slide. There is little debate on the shape of recovery in Europe and Asia, as many of these countries are trending back to normal commerce. Germany's economy is improving faster than anticipated, helped by a mild and short coronavirus lockdown, large-scale fiscal stimulus and Berlin's close trade links with China. France's gross domestic product, which shrunk by a record 13.8% in the second quarter of 2020, was forecasted to grow by 17% in the third quarter. China is back up to pre-COVID-19 economic activity levels, as businesses reopen,

mobility increases and consumer spending rises. On this backdrop, many companies are resuming full operations and are catching up with demand and adjusting production as needed based on future orders. Yet, business projections and investor optimism might be dampened as a second wave follows into a third wave of infection in late 2020.

With competing macro trends in mind, we have reconstructed the portfolio to add more defensive names with higher return profiles and lower downside risk. Among the new purchases are Alexion Pharmaceuticals Inc., a biologics manufacturing firm specializing in rare disease conditions; Science Applications International, which provides IT services to the U.S. government; and Ingredion Inc., which primarily refines corn to make sweeteners and starches. At the same time, we are holding onto some more depressed cyclical companies with strong cash flows, which may have significant upside potential as markets normalize. We believe that this multi-pronged investment approach may allow us to weather the pandemic, and lead to good performance in a recovery.

FOOTNOTES: The information presented is supplemental. It should not be considered as a recommendation to purchase or sell a particular security mentioned, may change at any time and may not represent current or future investments. References to individual securities throughout this document are intended to illustrate contributors to recent performance or market trends and to provide examples of thematic or security-specific catalysts identified by the investment team as part of its investment process. References to specific securities should not be viewed as representative of an entire portfolio, nor should the performance of any particular security be viewed as representative of the performance experienced by any other security or portfolio. Please refer to the annual disclosure presentation. Past performance is not indicative of future results. The MSCI World Index, gross dividends reinvested, measures the performance of a diverse range of global stock markets in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and the Far East. The MSCI World Value Index captures large- and mid-cap securities exhibiting overall value style characteristics across 23 developed market countries. One cannot invest directly in an index.