# Global Growth Limited

# WCM GLOBAL GROWTH LIMITED (ASX:WQG) INVESTMENT UPDATE AND NTA STATEMENT

# 31 AUGUST 2020

#### **PORTFOLIO UPDATE**

The portfolio delivered a return of 0.70% during the month, underperforming compared with the benchmark MSCI All Country World (ex-Australia) Index return of 2.66%. The portfolio has delivered returns in excess of the benchmark over the previous three, six and 12 month periods, as well as over three years and since inception.

The V shape recovery in global equity markets from their March 2020 lows continued in August. The 6% plus local currency return in global equities represented the strongest August for over 30 years. The strength in markets reflects growing investor confidence in the pace and scale of the policy response from governments and central banks to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While consensus estimates for 2020 global corporate earnings are still pointing to a decline of greater than 20%, the recent reporting season did lead to a marginal uptick in these forecasts. Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell's announcement of a move to target inflation was another positive factor for equity markets. Investors took this as a sign that monetary conditions are likely to remain looser for longer.

At a regional level, developed markets outperformed emerging markets, with the latter impacted by concerning COVID-19 case numbers in India, Brazil and Turkey. Consumer discretionary, technology and communication stocks continued to lead the way at a sector level. These sectors contributed to the continued outperformance of growth versus value factors too. The likelihood of ongoing lower interest rates in the US (referenced above) was behind further weakness in the US dollar. This in turn lead to a stronger return for currency hedged portfolios.

Positive contributors to portfolio performance during the month included: aerospace and electronics company HEICO Corporation; athletic apparel retailer lululemon athletica; and global payments technology group Visa. Portfolio holdings weighing on performance included: Illumina, the market leader in next generation sequencing; credit scoring services firm Fair Isaac; and eye care group Alcon.

The relentless share price appreciation of the FAANG (Facebook, Apple, Amazon, Netflix and Alphabet) stocks has many market commentators making comparisons with the technology sector boom, then bust of the late 1990's. Collectively these companies now represent over 20% of the US benchmark S&P 500 Index. Concern is growing that while they have been the major contributor to many 'growth style portfolios' outperformance, they may be reaching unsustainable valuation levels. The WCM Quality Global Growth strategy has in the past had exposure to each of these stocks. Each was purchased at a time when the WCM investment team could make a case that their competitive advantage (economic moat) was expanding. Each was subsequently sold despite continuing to meet most 'great company' definition criteria. A core tenet of WCM's investment process is that only companies it believes are getting better (i.e. have an expanding competitive advantage) qualify for inclusion in the portfolio. Being 'great' isn't good enough.

PERFORMANCE <sup>1</sup>	PORTFOLIO	MSCI ACWI (ex-AU)	VALUE ADDED <sup>3</sup>
1 Month	0.70%	2.66%	-1.96%
3 Months	4.00%	3.69%	0.31%
6 Months	12.96%	1.64%	11.32%
1 Year	18.47%	6.91%	11.56%
3 Year (PA)	22.05%	12.30%	9.75%
Inception <sup>2</sup> (PA)	19.52%	10.87%	8.65%

**Notes**: 1. Portfolio return is calculated before expenses and after investment management and performance fees are paid. 2. Inception date is 21 June 2017. 3. Value Add equals portfolio return minus benchmark return.

NET TANGIBLE ASSETS <sup>1</sup> (PER SHARE)	31 AUG 2020	31 JULY 2020
NTA before tax	\$1.522	\$1.511
NTA after tax and before tax on unrealised gains	\$1.515	\$1.504
NTA after tax	\$1.387	\$1.379
Month end closing share price	\$1.310	\$1.280

**Notes:** 1. NTA is calculated after all fees and expenses and incorporates all company assets including WQG's operating bank account.

KEY DETAILS	
Report Date	31 August 2020
ASX Code	WQG
Investment Adviser	WCM Investment Management
Benchmark	MSCI All Country World Index (ex- Australia) with gross dividends reinvested reported in Australian dollars and unhedged
Number of stocks	20-40
Maximum cash position	7%
Stock universe	Global (ex-Australia)
Portfolio size	\$266.02m
Shares on issue	174.01m
Management Fee	1.25% (ex-GST)
Performance Fee <sup>1</sup>	10% (ex-GST)
Hedging	Unhedged

**Notes:** 1. Performance Fee is 10% (ex-GST) of the Portfolio's outperformance relative to the benchmark plus Management Fee and subject to high water mark. Maximum fee is capped at 0.75% of the closing market value of the Portfolio in each financial year.



#### **HOW INVESTMENTS ARE CHOSEN FOR THIS PORTFOLIO**

WCM's two key criteria for any company to be considered for inclusion in the WCM Quality Global Growth Strategy are 1) a rising competitive advantage (or expanding economic moat); and 2) a corporate culture that supports the expansion of this moat. WCM believes the direction of a company's economic moat is of more importance than its absolute width or size.

Its research is therefore focused on identifying those companies with a positive moat trajectory as measured by a rising return on invested capital (ROIC) as opposed to those with a large but static or declining moat. WCM also strongly believes that corporate culture is a key determinant of a firm's ability to achieve a consistently growing moat. WCM has developed a proprietary approach to analysing corporate culture and has investment team members solely dedicated to this part of their process.

### WHO MANAGES THE PORTFOLIO?

WCM is a California based asset management firm specialising in active global and emerging market equities.

Founded in 1976, the business is majority employee owned and manages over A\$85.6 billion of assets\* on behalf of institutional and retail investors around the world including Australia.



PAUL BLACK
CEO & Portfolio Manager
WCM Investment Management

# WCM GLOBAL GROWTH LIMITED

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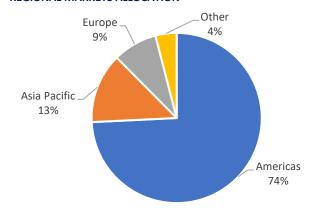
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## **REGIONAL MARKETS ALLOCATION**



TOP TEN PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS	WCM GLOBAL GROWTH (%)
Shopify	5.58
West Pharmaceuticals	5.22
MercadoLibre	4.93
Visa Inc	3.82
Stryker Corp	3.73
Taiwan Semiconductor	3.66
Tencent Holdings	3.29
lululemon athletica	3.25
Thermo Fisher Scientific	2.73
Ansys	2.73
Total	38.94

SECTOR BREAKDOWN	WCM GLOBAL GROWTH (%)
Information Technology	24.69
Health Care	22.99
Industrials	10.98
Financials	10.71
Consumer Discretionary	10.16
Consumer Staples	6.24
Materials	4.40
Cash	4.02
Communication Services	3.29
Real Estate	2.52
Total	100.00

DISCLAIMER: Past performance is not a predictor of future returns. This update has been prepared for information purposes only related to the underlying investment portfolio. The NTA figures provided in this document are unaudited and approximate. This document does not contain investment recommendations nor provide investment advice. Investors in LICs should understand the distinction between Investment Portfolio Performance, NTA Performance and Share Price return. Contango International Management Pty Ltd (CIM) ACN 617 319 123 Corporate Authorised Representative (CAR No. 1254169) of Switzer Asset Management Limited (AFSL No. 312 247) is the investment manager of WQG. Neither WQG, CIM nor their respective related entities, directors or officers guarantees the performance of, or the repayment of capital or income invested within WQG or any associated product. You are strongly encouraged to obtain detailed professional advice and to read any relevant offer document in full before making any investment decision. WQG may not be suitable for your investment needs. This is not an offer to invest in any security or financial product. © 2018 Contango Asset Management Limited. \*WCM AUM data in AUD at 30 June 2020.