

# Global Equity Fund

## THIS FACT SHEET IS FOR THE UNLISTED AND QUOTED CLASS OF UNITS IN THE LOOMIS SAYLES GLOBAL EQUITY FUND ('FUND')

- Loomis Sayles Global Equity Fund is the unlisted class of units
- Loomis Sayles Global Equity Fund (Quoted Managed Fund) is the quoted class of units

### MARKET CONDITIONS

Global equities performed well in the fourth quarter as the concerns that had weighed on sentiment throughout most of the year seemed to dissipate in November and December. Inflation continued to recede unabated, raising hopes that the US Federal Reserve (Fed) and other major central banks would not need to pursue the “higher for longer” interest rate policies that the markets had anticipated in the northern summer and early autumn. Global growth - while slowing - appeared on track to remain in positive territory. The MSCI All Country World Index returned over 5% for the period, with the majority of sectors posting positive results. The information technology sector led the pack, followed by real estate and industrials. The energy sector registered declines largely due to falling oil prices.

### PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE

The Loomis Sayles Global Equity Fund returned 7.7% AUD (net of fees), outperforming the MSCI All Country World Index (Net) which returned 5.0% (also in AUD terms). The Financials, Consumer Staples and Industrial sectors contributed to relative results. The Energy sector also contributed on a relative basis. Not having exposure to the Real Estate sector was the largest detractor from relative returns, followed by the Consumer Discretionary and materials sectors.

### PERFORMANCE AS OF DEC 31, 2023

### BENCHMARK MSCI AC World Index

TOTAL RETURN**	1-MTH	3-MTHS	6-MTHS	1-YR	2-YR^	3-YR^	SINCE INCEPTION **
GLOBAL EQUITY FUND	2.3%	7.7%	7.4%	29.1%	0.5%	9.5%	12.5%
BENCHMARK***	1.8%	5.0%	4.6%	21.4%	3.1%	10.2%	1.8%
QUOTED MANAGED FUND	2.3%	7.7%	7.4%	29.2%	0.6%	-	4.2%
BENCHMARK***	1.8%	5.0%	4.6%	21.4%	3.1%	-	5.4%

^% Performance per annum.

\*Since inception returns calculated from November 1, 2018 (Global Equity Fund); October 1, 2021 (Quoted Managed Fund). \*\*Fund returns are calculated using the net asset value per unit at the start and end of the relevant period in AUD, net of management fees, and assuming all distributions are re-invested. Investors should be aware that past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. Returns can be volatile, reflecting rises and falls in the value of underlying investments.

\*\*\*The benchmark for this Fund is the MSCI All Country World Index NR (MSCI AC World)

#### Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Global Equity Fund performance is the performance of the unlisted class of units and may be a useful reference point for the newer quoted class of units in the Fund. However, you should be aware that the quoted class of units in the Fund has limited performance history. The past performance for the unlisted class of units in the Global Equity Fund is NOT the past performance of the Quoted Managed Fund.

**There is no guarantee that the investment objective will be realized or that the Fund will generate positive or excess return.**

### FUND FACTS

Inv't Style	Agnostic
Assets	\$157 M
Investment Horizon	4-5 years
Distributions	Generally annually
Mgt fee*	0.99%
Performance fee	N/A

### GLOBAL EQUITY FUND

APIR	IML0341AU
Inception date	1-Nov-18
Application	1.8241
Redemption	1.8187

### QUOTED MANAGED FUND

APIR	IML3289AU
ASX ticker	LSGE
Inception date	1-Oct-21
NAV	2.7187

\*Inclusive of the net effect of GST



Ratings issued by Lonsec Research Pty Ltd ABN 11 151 658 561 AFSL 421 445 (assigned February 2023); Zenith Investment Partners AFSL 226872 (assigned November 2023); SQM Research Pty Ltd ABN 93 122 592 036. All rights reserved by each research house.



## LEADERS

The three largest contributors to performance were **Atlas Copco**, **S&P Global** and **Amazon**.

**Atlas Copco** makes critically important tools for its customers across a multiple end markets, including semiconductor and general industrial manufacturing construction. The majority of its business centers around compression and vacuum machinery that controls the flow and pressure of air. It also manufactures industrial-focused products (e.g., assembly tools and machine vision products) and construction-focused products (e.g., light towers, mobile compressors). We believe the company has a growing services business, which provides on-site visits for repairs and upgrades, as well as a specialty equipment rental business. The company's business model focuses on making niche products that are mission critical but not a large part of the customer's capital expenses, helping to create pricing power. In our view the company further solidifies its importance to its customers by employing a sales force of engineers; these engineers co-develop product refreshes and new products with clients, while Atlas retains all intellectual property. Its growing services business, which represents approximately one-third of sales, also enhances Atlas' customer relationships, while creating revenue consistency and visibility. The company rates highly on our ESG factors, primarily driven by an energy saving product offering. Shares of Atlas Copco outperformed during the quarter as the company continues to execute well across a variety of end markets.

**S&P Global** is a global financial information services company headquartered in the US. It is comprised of a Ratings business; an Indices business, where it maintains and sells the intellectual property of indices including the S&P 500 index and the Dow Jones Industrial Average index; and a Market Intelligence business which offers financial data, research, and analytical tools to asset managers and other financial institutions. With an entrenched position in these three synergistic businesses, the company rates highly across our quality criteria. Currently its largest business is Ratings, where it operates in an oligopolistic market structure: S&P and Moody's lead in bond and bank loan ratings. Most large bond issuers obtain ratings from both companies; many bond mutual funds require that holdings have ratings from both agencies. This segment also has high barriers to entry, as significant compliance costs necessitate scale. We believe the company has a similarly strong competitive advantage in its indices business, which has been fast growing and high margin. It is unusual for a mutual fund to switch indices once launched. Moreover, its S&P 500 index is the standard performance measurement benchmark in US-listed large cap equities. Lastly, its data business is supported by structural drivers of demand for data, driven in part by algorithmic trading, artificial intelligence and Big Data (i.e., processing of new data sources to gain additional investment insights).

Shares of S&P Global rose after the company announced third quarter earnings; the company beat expectations and raised revenue guidance for its Ratings segment. Strong bond issuance in December and further optimism for 2024 issuance also likely contributed to the positive sentiment.

**Amazon** is a leading operator led by a management team with a long-term strategic vision. We believe the company is well-positioned within e-commerce and Cloud (via AWS), two large growth markets. In retail, we believe it can continue to benefit from the secular shift from brick and mortar stores to on-line, which in our view is still in the early stages in the United States. Amazon's scale and network effect help to create significant barriers to entry for competitors and we think the company continues to gain market share by improving its selection, product availability and customer service. In Cloud, Amazon Web Service (AWS), is one of the three dominant players and, as such, we believe it is well-positioned to continue to capture industry growth. The company also continues to invest heavily in digital content and infrastructure which should support future growth. We also see Advertising emerging as a high margin growth driver for Amazon, with room for future growth. We expect intrinsic value growth to be driven by top line growth and margin expansion over time. A rebound in free cash flow generation primarily driven by normalization of capital expenditures generated stronger-than-market performance in the fourth quarter.

## LAGGARDS

The three most significant detractors from returns were **Airbnb**, **Zions Bank** and **Diamondback Energy**.

**Airbnb** is an online marketplace for short-term stays and vacation rentals. Over the last decade, Airbnb has disrupted the lodging industry by creating a medium where home owners can offer their properties for rent, introducing significantly more choice for consumers. Our investment thesis on Airbnb is primarily driven by its leadership position within this large addressable market.



## LAGGARDS (continued)

We believe Airbnb's capital-light platform, where it collects commissions for each rental, benefits from a powerful network effect. Typically the more property owners who list their properties the more renters it attracts and vice versa. In our view, Airbnb's platform offers a superior consumer experience for both the host and the guest; hosts can access guest profiles, provide feedback on guests, while guests can also provide reviews and ratings on hosts. We believe this experience has created a brand synonymous with seamless private rentals, which is evidenced by the high percentage of direct traffic to Airbnb.

Shares of Airbnb were weak over the period, in part driven by headlines around the passage of a law in New York City that could reduce Airbnb inventory. Concerns about the health of the consumer and associated travel spending also contributed to performance. Shares did begin to rebound in November as the consumer outlook brightened on expectations for lower interest rates.

**Zions Bank** is a regional bank with a client base comprised of small to mid-size businesses (SME's) in the western US. For the three month period, shares underperformed along with most of the banking sector after third quarter earnings were released in October. Concerns included high bond yields driving unrealized losses on securities and potentially worse Provisions for Credit Losses due to higher-for-longer interest rates. We eliminated our position in Zions as we were finding potentially more attractive risk/reward opportunities in the portfolio.

**Diamondback** is an upstream oil and gas company with what we consider an attractive set of assets concentrated in the Permian Basin. The company is currently one of the lowest-cost oil producers in the United States, helping it to generate free cash flow in a range of oil price environments. Management has a demonstrated track record of smart capital allocation with significant return of cash to shareholders. Diamondback has grown organically and through opportunistic acquisitions, most recently acquiring Firebird Energy and Lairo. The company maintains a solid balance sheet and is likely to continue to focus on non-core asset sales to further reduce debt, in our view. Diamondback has an environmental awareness with published targets for reducing scope 1 emissions and water usage; the company also has embraced a "net zero now" approach, purchasing carbon credits to offset emissions. Shares of Diamondback Energy lagged along with the broader energy sector.

## PHILOSOPHY & OUTLOOK

Our investment philosophy is predicated on the belief that investing in companies with multiple alpha drivers, where the risks can be quantified, can help deliver outperformance. We follow a disciplined and repeatable process, seeking to invest only in opportunities that meet our three alpha drivers: quality, intrinsic value growth and attractive valuation. This bottom-up approach results in a concentrated portfolio of businesses where we fully understand and have quantified the risks associated with each investment. Our scenario analysis, under which we determine a range of business values, is an integral part of this process. Through this framework, we determine the relative attractiveness of our investments to assist in constructing an optimal portfolio.

As we enter 2024, we are optimistic about the present economy. Inflation rates are well off their highs in developed and emerging economies now that supply chain issues have normalized. Most central banks appear to be done hiking interest rates. The European Central Bank (ECB) and Bank of England (BoE) seem content to hold policy rates near current levels while the Federal Reserve (Fed) has indicated rate cuts may happen later in 2024.

In the US, inflation is slowing broadly. While somewhat rare historically, we believe that a soft landing is occurring in the US, with US real economic growth positive, unemployment relatively stable and core inflation likely moving toward 2.5% by mid-2024. A stable-to-lower interest rate environment and less upward wage pressure should help corporate bottom lines, in our view. We believe companies are likely to retain workers so long as profits are on the rise, making widespread layoffs unlikely. Globally, restrictive monetary policies have moved growth rates lower; Continental Europe for instance may not escape a recession.

Despite our increased optimism, we are wary of discounting potential downturn signals, such as curve inversions and significant declines in leading economic indicators. There is still the possibility that a downturn and broader recession could occur in 2024. In such a case there would be meaningful corrections across credit and equity markets which already largely reflect a soft landing scenario.

In this still uncertain backdrop, our focus remains on investing in quality companies we believe have the ability to manage the current environment and help generate value over the longer-term. Periods of volatility can provide us with the opportunity to build positions in quality companies at potentially more attractive valuations.



## GLOBAL EQUITY FUND

Portfolio data as of December 31, 2023

### SECTOR ALLOCATION (%)

	Fund	Index
Information Technology	24.8	22.9
Consumer Discretionary	19.5	11.1
Financials	18.1	15.9
Industrials	12.3	10.7
Health Care	11.6	11.2
Communication Services	4.3	7.3
Materials	4.1	4.5
Consumer Staples	3.0	6.8
Energy	1.5	4.5
Real Estate	--	2.4
Utilities	--	2.6
Cash	0.9	--

### TOP 10 HOLDINGS (%)

	Fund
S&P Global, Inc.	5.1
Amazon.com, Inc.	4.9
Alphabet Inc.	4.3
Linde Plc	4.1
Atlas Copco AB	4.1
Mastercard Incorporated	4.0
UnitedHealth Group Incorporated	3.6
Airbnb, Inc.	3.4
Home Depot, Inc.	3.3
Accenture Plc	3.2

Total

### PORTFOLIO CHANGES\*

New holdings	Veralto Corp*
Sold holdings	Zions Bank

\*Veralto Corp. was created in 2023 from the spin-off of Danaher's Environmental and Applied Solutions division.

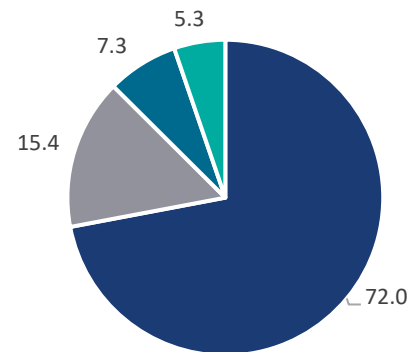
### ABOUT LOOMIS, SAYLES & COMPANY

Boston-based Loomis Sayles has been managing money for investors since 1926. The firm currently manages US \$335 billion, as of 31 December 2023, on behalf of clients worldwide. With extensive resources across the US, Europe and Asia, Loomis Sayles is well positioned to manage global equities and deliver attractive risk-adjusted returns for clients.

\*There is a 30 day lag on portfolio changes

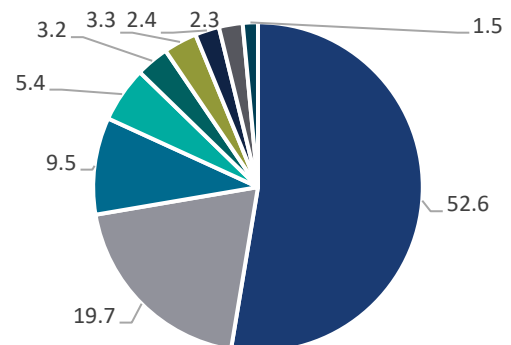
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### REGIONAL ALLOCATION BY DOMICILE (%)



■ North America ■ European Union  
■ United Kingdom ■ Asia

### REGIONAL ALLOCATION BY REVENUE (%)



■ North America ■ Asia  
■ European Union ■ Non-European Union  
■ Latin America ■ United Kingdom  
■ Middle East ■ Oceania  
■ Africa/Other

### PLATFORMS

AMP	Hub24
Asgard	IOOF
BT Wrap	Netwealth
BT Panorama	MLC Wrap
CFS	MLC Navigator
Dash	Macquarie Wrap