



NORTH GROWTH  
MANAGEMENT



# MAY 2024 MONTHLY REPORT

JUNE 5, 2024



# Market and Fund Performance Update

In May, U.S. equities rallied sharply on better-than-expected earnings reports and ongoing optimism around artificial intelligence (AI). The S&P 500 booked its strongest May performance since 2009, and all the major indices gained as companies posted a record for share buybacks.

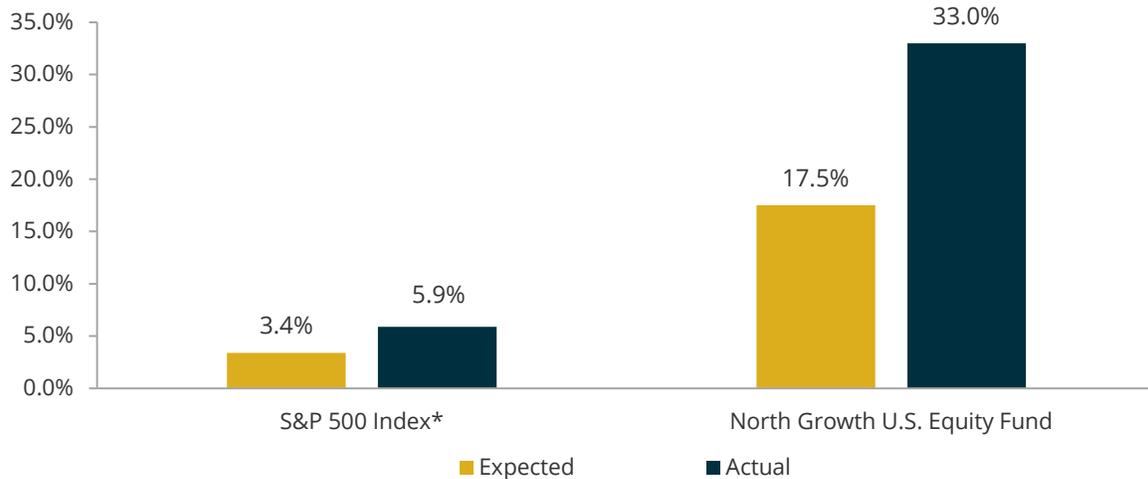
## FIRST QUARTER EARNINGS

With the earnings reporting season for the first quarter of 2024 coming to a close, many public companies have reported positive earnings and revenue surprises. Despite the market's concerns about a possible economic slowdown, analysts have increased their profit estimates in aggregate for the rest of year. For 2024, analysts project S&P 500 earnings to increase 11.3% over 2023.

As of May 31<sup>st</sup>, with 98% of S&P 500 companies having reported actual results, earnings for the index grew 5.9% in the January to March 2024 period while sales increased 4.2%. FactSet data indicates that 78% of the reporting companies posted actual EPS (earnings per share) above estimates. Eight of the eleven sectors reported year-over-year earnings growth, led by the Communication Services, Utilities, Information Technology, and Consumer Discretionary sectors. Conversely, the Energy, Health Care, and Materials sectors reported year-over-year declines in earnings.

The North Growth U.S. Equity Fund delivered strong earnings results in the latest quarter. To date, 91% of the portfolio has reported, and 91% of the profit reports have exceeded analysts' estimates. Earnings on a weighted-average basis grew 33.0% over a year ago, ahead of estimates of a 17.5% increase. Notably, Nvidia and Abercrombie & Fitch each reported exceptionally high earnings growth in excess of 400% year-over-year, while SolarEdge Technologies delivered a particularly weak quarter in which last year's profits evaporated into losses.

### 1Q 2024 U.S. Earnings Growth Year-over-Year



\*Source for S&P 500 Index: FactSet Earnings Insight

Overall, the profit growth rate of the U.S. Fund continues to compare favourably against that of the index. We are especially pleased that the Fund's superior earnings growth versus the S&P 500 coincides with its lower valuation multiple on a price/earnings (P/E) basis compared to the index. Currently, the Fund trades at less than 20 times trailing 12-month earnings whereas the S&P 500 is at a trailing P/E multiple of 25 (ref: Bloomberg).

We remain focused on the fundamental characteristics of individual equities, adhering to our long-standing principles of active management and stock selection. As always, we are steadfastly disciplined in identifying and picking stocks that fit our "Growth at a Reasonable Price" investment philosophy.

## U.S. EQUITY FUND

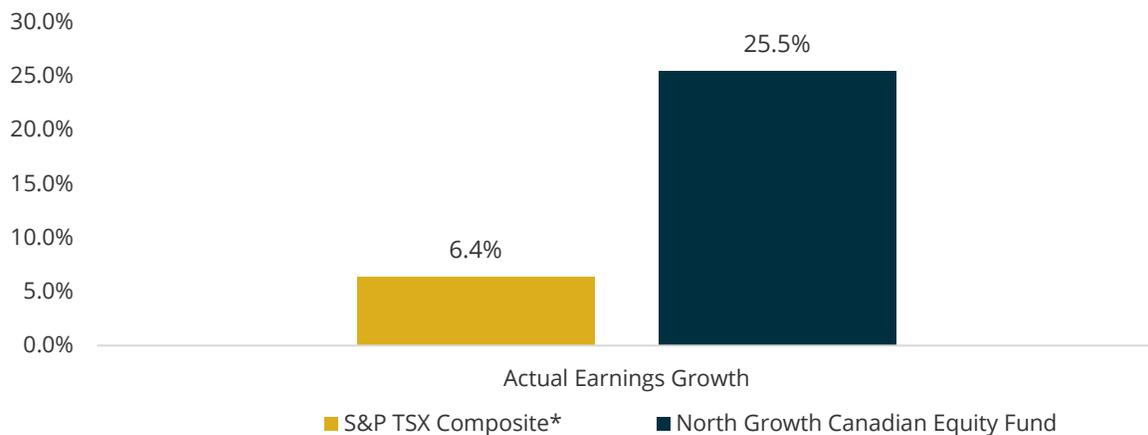
In May, the North Growth U.S. Equity Fund appreciated 7.0%. The Fund outperformed the S&P 500 which grew 5.0%, as well as the S&P 400 MidCap and S&P 600 SmallCap indices which increased 4.4% and 5.0% respectively. The Fund's monthly performance was in-line with the NASDAQ Composite which was also up 7.0%. Due to the weaker U.S. currency last month, in Canadian dollars, the Fund gained 6.1% versus the S&P 500's 4.1% return.

## CANADIAN EQUITY FUND, SERIES N

The North Growth Canadian Equity Fund, Series N, returned 4.6% compared to 2.8% for the S&P/TSX Composite in May.

We continue to maintain laser focus on our “Growth at a Reasonable Price” investment philosophy. With 89% of the portfolio having reported, first quarter earnings in the portfolio grew 25.5% compared to last year. In comparison, the S&P/TSX Composite earnings grew +6.4% over the same period.

1Q 2024 Canadian Earnings Growth  
Year-over-Year



\* Source for S&P/TSX Composite Index: Bloomberg

## North Growth U.S. Equity Fund

### SHORT TERM RATES OF RETURN (%) FOR PERIODS ENDED MAY 31, 2024

	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	YTD
<b>North Growth U.S. Equity Fund \$CDN</b>	<b>6.12</b>	<b>2.15</b>	<b>21.34</b>	<b>15.39</b>
S&P 500 in \$CDN	4.13	4.42	16.83	14.76
<b>North Growth U.S. Equity Fund \$U.S.</b>	<b>6.96</b>	<b>1.65</b>	<b>20.85</b>	<b>11.91</b>
S&P 500 \$U.S.	4.96	3.91	16.35	11.30
S&P 400 MidCap \$U.S.	4.39	3.60	17.27	7.87
S&P 600 SmallCap \$U.S.	5.04	2.36	14.59	1.59
NASDAQ Composite \$U.S.	6.98	4.19	18.11	11.83

### ANNUALIZED RATES OF RETURN (%) FOR PERIODS ENDED MAY 31, 2024

	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	15 Yrs	20 Yrs	Since Inception
<b>North Growth U.S. Equity Fund \$CDN</b>	<b>26.37</b>	<b>6.22</b>	<b>13.22</b>	<b>12.76</b>	<b>14.73</b>	<b>9.76</b>	<b>12.63</b>
S&P 500 \$CDN	28.51	14.07	15.99	15.31	16.27	10.20	10.87
<b>North Growth U.S. Equity Fund \$U.S.</b>	<b>26.06</b>	<b>2.03</b>	<b>13.04</b>	<b>10.20</b>	<b>13.04</b>	<b>9.76</b>	<b>12.31</b>
S&P 500 \$U.S.	28.19	9.57	15.80	12.69	14.56	10.20	10.55
S&P 400 MidCap \$U.S.	25.97	4.67	12.26	9.76	13.33	10.03	11.73
S&P 600 SmallCap \$U.S.	20.34	0.62	10.13	8.99	12.92	9.51	10.90
NASDAQ Composite \$U.S.	30.43	7.64	18.57	15.90	17.40	12.47	11.24*

Source: Bloomberg "Total Return Analysis" as of May 31, 2024

\* This return is a simple price appreciation because total return data is not available on Bloomberg.

The inception of the Fund: October 13, 1992.

	May 31, 2024
Unit Price	\$ 60.11 CDN / \$ 44.08 US
Total Assets in Fund	\$ 678.0 Million CDN

## North Growth Canadian Equity Fund, Series N

### SHORT TERM RATES OF RETURN (%) FOR PERIODS ENDED MAY 31, 2024

	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	YTD
<b>North Growth Canadian Equity Fund, Series N</b>	<b>4.61</b>	<b>2.88</b>	<b>11.29</b>	<b>5.60</b>
S&P/TSX Composite Index	2.77	5.07	11.79	7.58

### ANNUALIZED RATES OF RETURN (%) FOR PERIODS ENDED MAY 31, 2024

	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	Since Prospectus
<b>North Growth Canadian Equity Fund, Series N</b>	<b>4.07</b>	<b>3.89</b>	<b>10.61</b>	<b>7.23</b>	<b>11.27</b>
S&P/TSX Composite Index	17.55	7.35	10.14	7.53	8.92

Source: Bloomberg "Total Return Analysis" as of May 31, 2024  
The prospectus inception of the Fund: June 15, 2012.

	May 31, 2024
Unit Price	\$ 24.76 CDN
Total Assets in Fund	\$ 50.6 Million CDN

## North Growth Canadian Money Market Fund

### ANNUALIZED RATES OF RETURN (%) FOR PERIODS ENDED MAY 31, 2024

	Current Yield*	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	15 Yrs
<b>North Growth Canadian Money Market Fund</b>	<b>4.83</b>	<b>4.96</b>	<b>2.85</b>	<b>2.02</b>	<b>1.45</b>	<b>1.19</b>
30 Day Treasury Bill	N/A	5.09	2.87	2.04	1.44	1.20

\* The Current Yield for the Money Market Fund is the average of the annualized daily yield for the most recent seven day period. This measure is no longer available for the 30-day T-Bill Index.

We take a very simple approach to managing the North Growth Canadian Money Market Fund. We invest in a portfolio of high-quality short-term bonds. The average maturity of the portfolio is often around 30 days. Historically, the Fund has generated very competitive yields with this simple approach because of our 0.25% management fee.

We manage the portfolio to ensure high liquidity and have no intention to extend maturities or reduce the quality of the holdings. We believe the Fund has superior liquidity characteristics due to its very low average maturity. The North Growth Canadian Money Market Fund's yield tends to correspond with changes in the Bank of Canada's overnight rate.

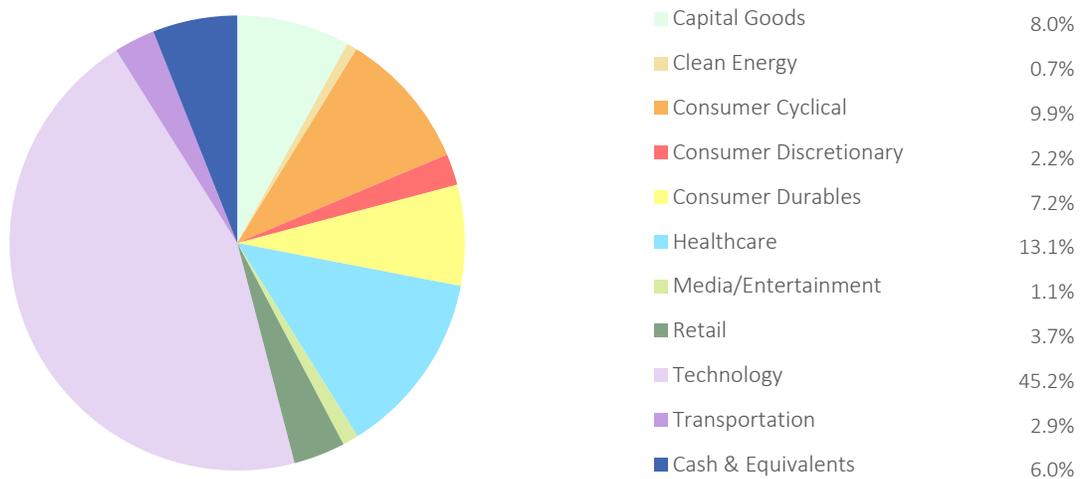
The current yield quoted above is net of the management fee.

## Equity Fund Holdings and Composition

### U.S. EQUITY FUND — TOP 10 HOLDINGS AS AT MAY 31, 2024

Ranking	Security	% of Net Assets
1	Applied Materials Inc.	6.54
2	Jabil Inc.	6.38
3	Ciena Corp.	4.75
4	Motorola Solutions Inc.	3.86
5	Coherent Corp.	3.70
6	Qualcomm Inc.	3.27
7	HP Inc.	3.25
8	Elevance Health, Inc.	2.82
9	Brinker International Inc.	2.79
10	Abercrombie & Fitch Co.	2.62
<b>Top 10</b>		<b>39.98</b>
<b>Total Equities</b>		<b>93.99</b>
<b>Cash</b>		<b>6.01</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>100.00</b>

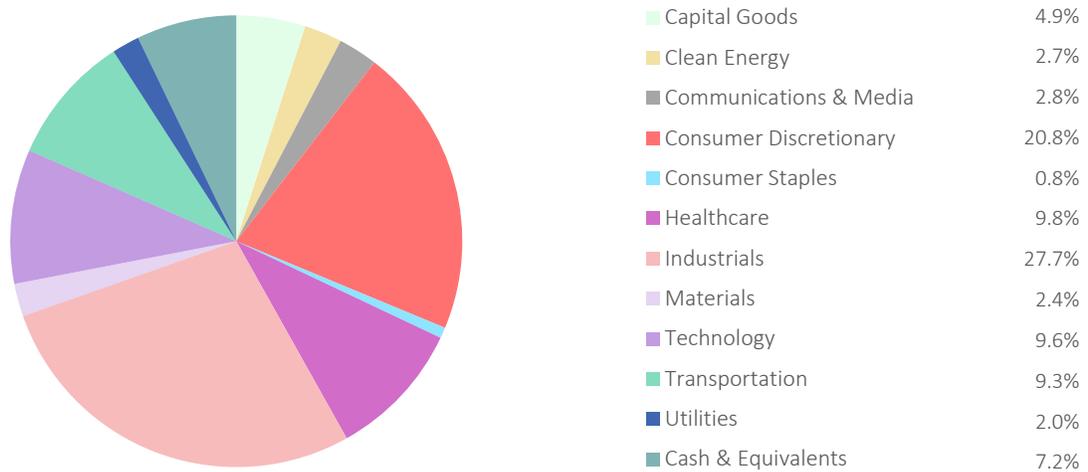
### U.S. EQUITY FUND — SECTOR MIX AS AT MAY 31, 2024



## CANADIAN EQUITY FUND — TOP 10 HOLDINGS AS AT MAY 31, 2024

Ranking	Security	% of Net Assets
1	Bombardier Inc., Class B	8.41
2	Heroux-Devtek Inc.	6.81
3	Leon's Furniture Ltd.	6.79
4	TFI International Inc.	6.11
5	Calian Group Ltd.	5.73
6	ATS Corporation	4.95
7	CAE Inc.	4.50
8	Aritzia Inc.	3.99
9	Knight Therapeutics Inc.	3.88
10	Open Text Corporation	3.79
<b>Top 10</b>		<b>54.96</b>
<b>Total Equities</b>		<b>92.84</b>
<b>Cash</b>		<b>7.16</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>100.00</b>

## CANADIAN EQUITY FUND — SECTOR MIX AS AT MAY 31, 2024



## Investing with Us

### INVESTING WITH NORTH GROWTH MANAGEMENT:

North Growth Management is a focused firm. Our objective is to achieve consistent, superior, long-term returns on our equity funds based on our “Growth at a Reasonable Price” investment philosophy.

### CONDUCTING TRANSACTIONS

The settlement cycles in the Canadian and U.S. securities industries have been shortened from trade date plus two business days to trade date plus one business day (“T+1”). Accordingly, the settlement cycles for the North Growth Funds have also changed to T+1.

To accommodate these shorter settlement cycles, the cut-off time for same-day equity fund transactions is two hours before the applicable market closes, normally 2 p.m. Eastern Time or 11 a.m. Pacific Time, and for same-day Money Market Fund redemptions is 1 p.m. Eastern Time or 10 a.m. Pacific Time. However, redemption requests for amounts equal to or greater than 10% of the Fund’s net asset value require five business days notice. Please note that U.S. markets close early on the day before Independence Day and on the Friday after U.S. Thanksgiving and both U.S. and Canadian markets close early on Christmas Eve. The cut-off time on those days is 12 p.m. (noon) Eastern Time or 9 a.m. Pacific Time. Orders received after the applicable cut-off time will be processed on the next business day.

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### WHERE TO FIND NGM FUND PRICES

Please visit [www.northgrowth.com](http://www.northgrowth.com) to view the Funds’ daily prices or to be added to our e-mail list to receive daily notification of the Funds’ prices.

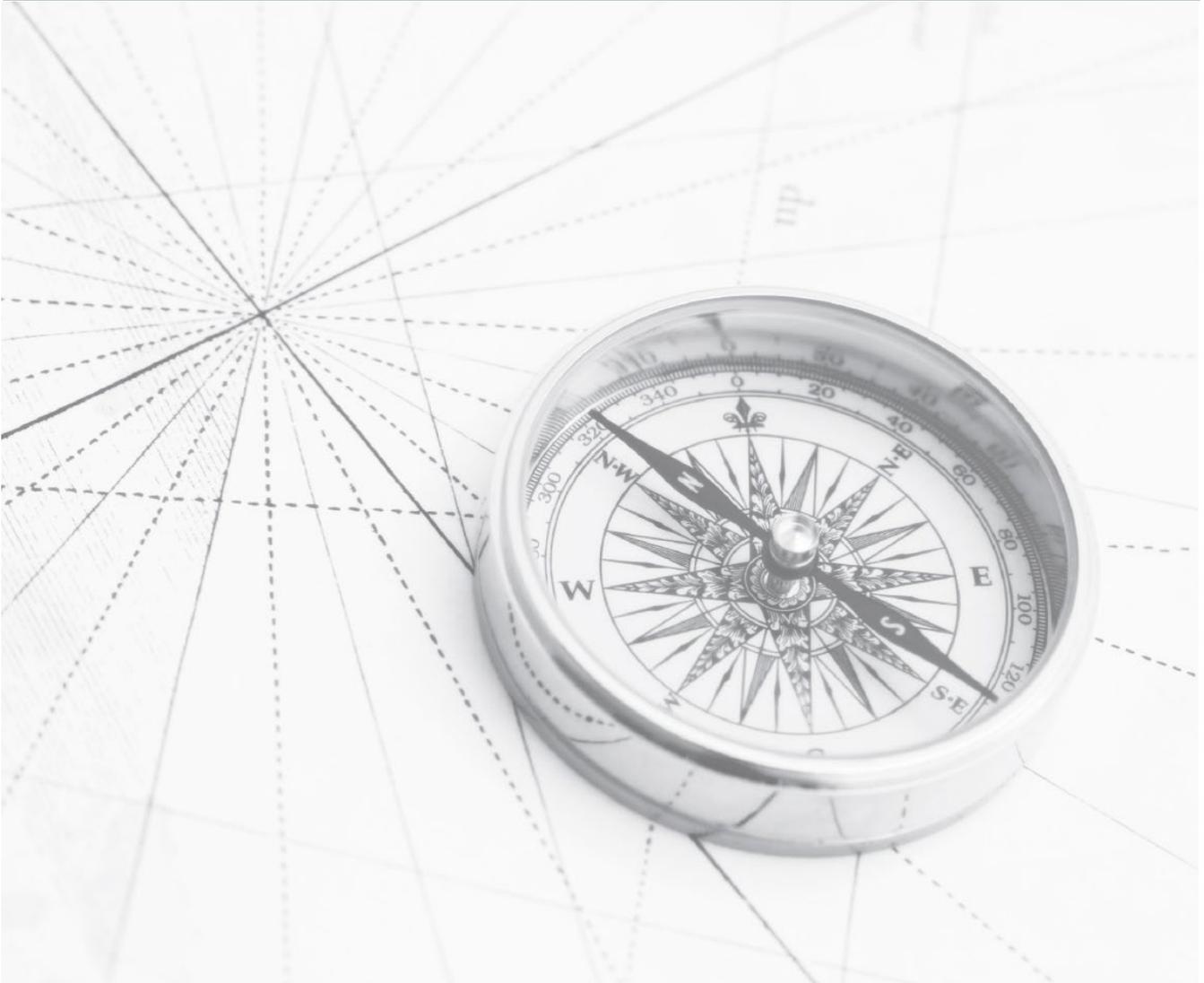


## A NOTE ON FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This report may contain forward-looking statements that reflect our current expectations or forecasts of future events. Forward-looking statements are inherently subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions that could cause actual events, results, performance or prospects to differ materially from those expressed in, or implied by, these forward-looking statements. These risks, uncertainties and assumptions include general economic, political and market factors in North America and internationally, interest and foreign exchange rates, the volatility of global equity and capital markets, business competition, technological change, changes in government regulations, changes in tax laws, unexpected judicial or regulatory proceedings and catastrophic events. The foregoing list of important risks, uncertainties and assumptions is not exhaustive. Please consider these and other factors carefully and do not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. Any forward-looking information contained in this report is current only as of the date of this report.



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