

# SEPTEMBER 2024 MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER 3, 2024

## Market and Fund Performance Update

U.S. equities continued to march to record highs in September, capping a solid month and quarter. The Federal Reserve's outsized interest rate cut of 50 basis points or 0.50%, combined with resilient U.S. economic data, boosted market confidence during what is typically a difficult month for stocks. Notably, the S&P 500 logged its best year-to-September's end performance since 1997.

#### NO END IN SIGHT FOR MARKET VOLATILITY

Despite some broadening of market gains in September, 2024 so far has been another year of an excessively concentrated market with speculative fervor around artificial intelligence or AI. Throughout the past nine months, the equity markets have been volatile as views have oscillated between an impending economic recession and a "soft landing" or cyclical slowdown in economic growth with neither high inflation nor a severe downturn.

From an economic perspective, inflation is no longer the consequential worry. Inflation is now running close to the long-term preferred target of 2%. The Federal Reserve and Bank of Canada, along with other central banks around the world, have thus pivoted to lowering interest rates to prevent a slump.

Market volatility is likely to remain heightened during such an uncertain macroeconomic backdrop with mixed economic data and muted earnings outlooks from corporations. Further murkiness is compounded by expanding geopolitical conflicts, a marked slowdown in China, and a chaotic runup to the U.S. election in November.

During these challenging times, we continue to adhere to our disciplined, long-term investment approach. We remain focused on researching and investing in companies that meet our "Growth at a Reasonable Price" criteria. As always, we engage in active stock selection as opposed to macro-driven investment decisions.

#### TAX INFORMATION UPDATE

Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> is the distribution date for both the North Growth U.S. Equity Fund and the North Growth Canadian Equity Fund.

We anticipate that there will be no annual capital gains distribution but a modest income distribution for the U.S. Equity Fund, and continue to estimate that the distribution for the Canadian Equity Fund will be between 1% and 5% per unit. Due to factors beyond our control, the current estimates for the distributions may change materially over the coming months. We will continue updating our projections

in the October monthly report, and will provide the final distribution amounts in the November monthly report to be published on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

### U.S. EQUITY FUND

In September, the North Growth U.S. Equity Fund appreciated 3.3%. The Fund outperformed all the indices we regularly track: the S&P 500 which gained 2.1%, the smaller capitalization S&P 400 MidCap and S&P 600 SmallCap which were up 1.2% and 0.9% respectively, as well as the NASDAQ Composite which advanced 2.8%. In Canadian dollars, the Fund increased 3.5% versus the S&P 500's 2.4% monthly return.

Year-to-date, the Fund is up 18.1%. The Fund has underperformed the S&P 500 and NASDAQ Composite which appreciated 22.1% and 21.8% respectively during the same period, while beating the S&P 400 MidCap and S&P 600 SmallCap indices which advanced 13.5% and 9.3% respectively. In Canadian dollars, the Fund has gained 20.7% versus the S&P 500 which is up 24.8%.

### CANADIAN EQUITY FUND, SERIES N

The North Growth Canadian Equity Fund, Series N, returned 2.4% compared to 3.2% for the S&P/TSX Composite Index during September. Year-to-date, the Fund is up 13.6%, lagging the S&P/TSX Composite's 17.2% gain.

We continue to remain focused on our "Growth at a Reasonable Price" investment philosophy which guides our stock picking and has helped us generate long-term outperformance. The team views any pullbacks in the market as opportunities to add to and/or upgrade the portfolio.

## North Growth U.S. Equity Fund

### SHORT TERM RATES OF RETURN (%) FOR PERIODS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	YTD
NGM U.S. Equity Fund \$CDN	3.50	3.80	4.02	20.74
S&P 500 in \$CDN	2.38	4.62	10.20	24.82
NGM U.S. Equity Fund \$U.S.	3.26	5.05	4.23	18.09
S&P 500 \$U.S.	2.14	5.89	10.42	22.08
S&P 400 MidCap \$U.S.	1.16	6.94	3.26	13.54
S&P 600 SmallCap \$U.S.	0.85	10.13	6.71	9.33
NASDAQ Composite \$U.S.	2.76	2.76	11.46	21.84

### ANNUALIZED RATES OF RETURN (%) FOR PERIODS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	15 Yrs	20 Yrs	Since Inception^
NGM U.S. Equity Fund \$CDN	29.30	8.09	12.77	12.76	13.81	10.52	12.65
S&P 500 \$CDN	36.38	14.38	16.46	15.54	15.94	11.10	11.04
NGM U.S. Equity Fund \$U.S.	29.27	5.76	12.30	10.65	12.06	10.14	12.36
S&P 500 \$U.S.	36.35	11.91	15.98	13.38	14.15	10.71	10.75
S&P 400 MidCap \$U.S.	26.79	7.47	11.78	10.32	12.30	10.31	11.78
S&P 600 SmallCap \$U.S.	25.86	3.99	10.21	10.05	12.08	9.69	11.03
NASDAQ Composite \$U.S.	38.70	8.87	18.84	16.19	16.66	13.20	11.40*

Source: Bloomberg "Total Return Analysis" as of September 30, 2024

Unit Price \$ 62.90 CDN \$ 46.51 US

Total Assets in Fund \$ 705.4 Million CDN

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

<sup>^</sup> The inception of the Fund: October 13, 1992.

## North Growth Canadian Equity Fund, Series N

### SHORT TERM RATES OF RETURN (%) FOR PERIODS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	YTD
NGM Canadian Equity Fund Series N	2.42	5.96	9.74	13.62
S&P/TSX Composite Index	3.15	10.54	9.96	17.24

### ANNUALIZED RATES OF RETURN (%) FOR PERIODS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	Since Prospectus*
NGM Canadian Equity Fund Series N	19.53	3.45	11.56	8.43	11.61
S&P/TSX Composite Index	26.74	9.52	10.95	8.09	9.44

Source: Bloomberg "Total Return Analysis" as of September 30, 2024

Unit Price \$ 26.64 CDN

Total Assets in Fund \$ 47.9 Million CDN

<sup>\*</sup>The prospectus inception of the Fund: September 15, 2012.

## North Growth Canadian Money Market Fund

### ANNUALIZED RATES OF RETURN (%) FOR PERIODS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Current Yield*	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	15 Years
NGM Canadian Money Market Fund	4.16	4.83	3.33	2.20	1.56	1.28
30 Day Treasury Bill	N/A	4.99	3.38	2.24	1.56	1.30

<sup>\*</sup> 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**

## U.S. EQUITY FUND — HOLDINGS AS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Ranking	Security	% of Net Assets
1	Jabil Inc.	6.13
2	Applied Materials Inc.	5.85
3	Ciena Corp.	5.79
4	Motorola Solutions Inc.	4.53
5	Coherent Corp.	4.35
6	HP Inc.	3.05
7	Brinker International Inc.	2.88
8	Qualcomm Inc.	2.60
9	Elevance Health, Inc.	2.59
10	Booking Holdings Inc.	2.56
11	NVR Inc.	2.49
12	Tempur Sealy International, Inc.	2.48
13	Lumentum Holdings Inc.	2.46
14	Tapestry Inc.	2.41
15	Integer Holdings Corporation	2.28
16	Crocs, Inc.	2.22
17	Johnson Controls International plc.	2.20
18	Nvidia Corp.	2.17
19	Jacobs Solutions Inc.	2.15
20	Texas Instruments Inc.	2.14
21	Abercrombie & Fitch Co.	2.02
22	Global Payments Inc.	1.93
23	Microsoft Corporation	1.86
24	FedEx Corp.	1.84
25	Apple Inc.	1.82
26	Fortune Brands Innovations, Inc.	1.82
27	InMode Ltd.	1.79
28	Electronic Arts Inc.	1.60

Ranking	Security	% of Net Assets
29	Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc.	1.56
30	Warner Bros. Discovery Inc.	1.52
31	Align Technology, Inc.	1.49
32	Watts Water Technologies Inc.	1.49
33	Ulta Beauty Inc.	1.40
34	United Rentals, Inc.	1.25
35	Arhaus Inc.	1.21
36	Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc.	1.21
37	Charles River Laboratories International, Inc.	1.14
38	West Pharmaceutical Services, Inc.	0.98
39	Atkore Inc.	0.96
40	Masterbrand, Inc.	0.59
41	Amentum Holdings Inc.	0.53
42	First Solar Inc.	0.46
43	Biogen Inc.	0.39
44	Axonics Inc	0.31
45	NIKE Inc., Class B	0.25
	Total Equities	94.75
	Cash	5.25
	Total Assets	100.00

## CANADIAN EQUITY FUND — HOLDINGS AS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Ranking	Security	% of Net Assets
1	Bombardier Inc., Class B	9.97
2	Leon's Furniture Ltd	9.45
3	TFI International Inc	6.63
4	Aritzia Inc	6.29
5	ATS Corporation	5.12
6	Calian Group Ltd	4.57
7	CAE Inc.	4.55
8	Open Text Corporation	4.53
9	Constellation Software Inc	3.86
10	Zymeworks Inc	3.44
11	Restaurant Brands International	3.30
12	Bird Construction Inc	3.23
13	Canadian National Railway Company	3.07
14	TELUS Corporation	3.02
15	Dollarama Inc.	2.63
16	Bombardier Recreational Products Inc.	2.49
17	ADF Group Inc	2.43
18	dentalcorp Holdings Inc	2.20
19	Polaris Renewable Energy Inc	1.87
20	Profound Medical Corp	1.81
21	Evertz Technologies Limited	1.47
22	AutoCanada Inc	1.45
23	Shopify Inc.	1.32
24	Canadian Solar Inc.	1.27
25	Jamieson Wellness Inc.	1.07
26	Lululemon Athletica Inc.	0.55
27	Badger Infrastructure Solutions Ltd.	0.53
	Total Equities	92.12
	Cash	7.88
	Total Assets	100.00

## 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 11 a.m. Eastern Time or 8 a.m. Pacific Time. Orders received after the applicable cut-off time will be processed on the next business day.

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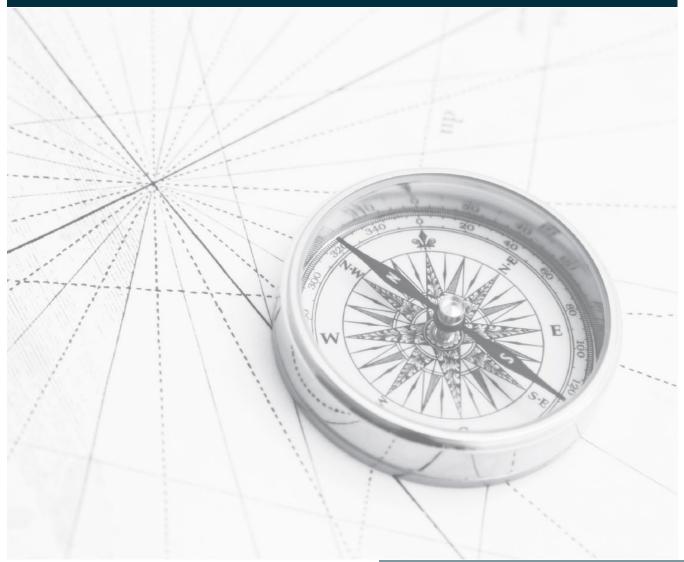
#### WHERE TO FIND NGM FUND PRICES

Please visit www.northgrowth.com to view the Fund's 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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