

# **Global Equity Strategy**

#### September 30, 2023

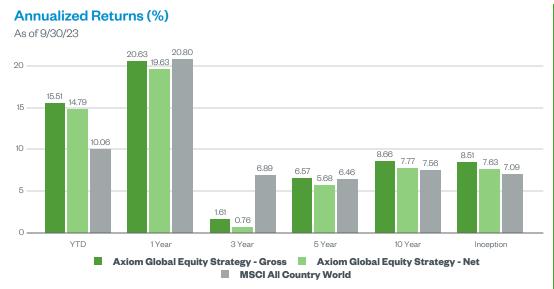
#### Objective

The Global Equity Strategy seeks long term compounding by focusing its investments in global developed markets and may also invest in companies located in emerging markets.

#### Why Invest?

- Clearly defined, transparent, and consistent process
- Driven by fundamentals, supported by evidence

- Active risk management with disciplined portfolio construction
- Advancing positive change through active engagement



\*Past performance is not indicative of future results, and the principal value and investment return will fluctuate, so that you may have a gain or loss when you sell your units

## **Cumulative Returns (%)**



Strategy Facts

Inception July 1, 2004

Firm Assets \$17.4 B\*

Strategy Assets \$3.5 B

Benchmark MSCI All Country World

#### Vehicles

Separate account Commingled fund CIT\*\* UCITS

### **Portfolio Managers**

**Bradley Amoils** Portfolio Manager

**Andrew Jacobson, CFA** Portfolio Manager, Chief Investment Officer

\*Assets include Assets Under Management (\$16.8B) & Assets Under Advisement (\$0.6B).

\*\*SEI Trust Company (the "Trustee") serves as the Trustee of the Trust and maintains ultimate fiduoiary authority over the management of, and the investments made in, the Fund. The Fund is part of a Collective Investment Trust (the "Trust") operated by the Trustee. The Trustee is a trust company organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and a wholly owned subsidiary of SEI Investments Company (SEI). Axiom CIT Trusts are trusts for the collective investment of assets of participating tax qualified pension and profit sharing plans and related trusts, and governmental plans as more fully described in the Declaration of Trust. As bank collective trusts, the Axiom CIT Trusts are exempt from registration as an investment company. Axiom CIT Trusts are managed by SEI Trust Company, the trustee, based on the investment advice of Axiom Investment adviserto the trusts.

Source: Factset and Axiom. There can be no assurance that the Strategy will continue to hold these positions or that weightings do not change after the as of date stated. Please refer to the attached GIPS compliant presentation for complete performance information.



### **Top 10 Holdings**

As of 9/30/23

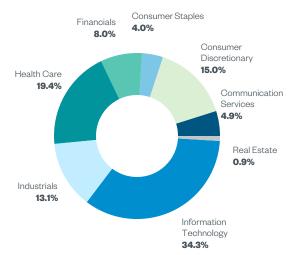
Security	Country	Sector	% of Portfolio	% of Index	
NVIDIA	US	Information Technology	5.5	1.8	
Amazon.com	US	Consumer Discretionary	5.2	1.9	
Microsoft	US	Information Technology	4.8	3.7	
Eli Lilly and Company	US	Health Care	3.9	0.7	
Novo Nordisk A/S Class B	Denmark	Health Care	3.8	0.5	
ServiceNow	US	Information Technology	3.7	0.2	
Visa	US	Financials	3.5	0.6	
Alphabet	US	Communication Services	3.4	2.4	
Danaher Corporation	US	Health Care	3.3	0.3	
Adobe	US	Information Technology	3.1	0.4	

### **Risk/Return Analysis & Portfolio Characteristics (%)** As of 9/30/23

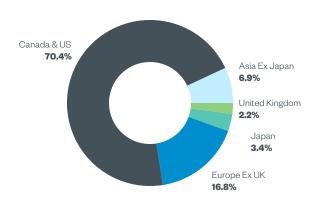
10 Year Statistics	Axiom (Gross)	Axiom (Net)	Index	
Cumulative Return (%)	129.4	111.4	107.2	
Annualized Return (%)	8.7	7.8	7.6	
Annualized Excess Return (%)	1.1	0.2		
Batting Average (% Quarterly)	57.5	57.5		
Annualized Standard Deviation (%)	16.8	16.8	14.4	
Tracking Error (%)	6.6	6.6		
Information Ratio	0.2	0.0		
Annualized Sortino Ratio	0.7	0.6	0.7	
Upside Capture (% Quarterly)	135.3	126.1	-	
Downside Capture (% Quarterly)	110.1	111.6	-	

	Axiom	Index
Holdings	48	2947
% in Axiom Top 10 Holdings	40.2%	12.4%
Weighted Average Market Cap (\$B)	\$523.1	\$407.5
Median Market Cap (\$B)	\$92.0	\$10.4
Liquidity (\$M/Day)	\$3,713	\$2,361
Net Debt/Equity Ratio	26.7	56.5
Price Earnings Ratio (forward)	24.5	15.3
Earnings Growth Rate (forward)	23.0	14.9
PEG Ratio (PE/Growth Rate)	1.1	1.0
Wgt. Avg. Carbon Intensity	24.3	134.9

## Sector Exposure (%)



## **Regional Exposure (%)**



Index: MSCI All Country World Currency: USD

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Source: Factset and Axiom.

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## Commentary

During the third quarter 2023, the Axiom Global Equity Strategy ("Strategy") underperformed the MSCI ACWI Index ("Index") net of fees. The Strategy has outperformed the Index on a net of fees basis over year-to-date, 10-year, and since inception periods.

Axiom underperformed this quarter as growth lagged value globally. Markets were dominated this quarter by strength in the energy sector, driven by a nearly 30% rally in oil prices on the back of supply discipline underpinned by Saudi led OPEC production cuts. This rally in energy also contributed to a pause in the general trend towards moderating inflation, which weighed on growth stocks, including in technology, after a period of solid recovery earlier in the year. Global economic growth has continued to show consistent evidence of deceleration supporting a resumption in the trend towards moderating inflation. Subsequent to the end of the third quarter, oil prices corrected by over 10% as energy demand has slowed. Other drivers of inflation like labor costs and goods prices have eased as well. Fed Funds futures now imply an over 50% probability that the tightening cycle is over. Starting in the 1980's, global markets rallied about 12% on average in the 12 months following the last Fed hike, led by emerging markets up over 20%.

The top performing sector on a relative basis during the third quarter was health care, driven by our GLP-1 exposure in Eli Lilly and Novo Nordisk. In addition, the portfolio was helped by our underweight in utilities and strong performance in communication services, led by Alphabet. Eli Lilly posted strong numbers for 2Q led by obesity drug Mounjaro, and guidance was raised. Our weekly tracking of scripts data continues to show accelerating trends for Mounjaro. Novo Nordisk also raised guidance post results and indicated that supply for Wegovy is beginning to accelerate as supply bottlenecks improve. We continue to be excited by the opportunity for these diabetes and weight loss therapies globally given the large potential patient base, proven efficacy, and their attractive safety and tolerability profiles. In communication services, Alphabet led relative performance after posting better-than-expected second quarter results demonstrating strong performance across core search, YouTube, and cloud computing businesses. Post results, advertising industry feedback continues to point to better-thanexpected spending levels and strong initial demand for Alphabet's new Al-enhanced product offerings.

The biggest detracting sectors during the quarter were information technology and consumer discretionary, as well as our underweight in financials. No single position contributed disproportionately to the underperformance, rather weakness was broad-based after several quarters of outperformance. We exited our position in Adyen following disappointing first half 2023 results as the magnitude of the deceleration in total payment volume caught investors by surprise. The slowdown was due to increased competition in the US, slower trends at new partner eBay, and macroeconomic headwinds. In addition, Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton (LVMH) detracted from performance after the company indicated growth in their key European market was slowing and the expected recovery in greater China post the lifting of zero-COVID policies was milder-than-expected.

The highest contributing country on a relative basis was the US, led by aforementioned Eli Lilly, as well as Blackstone and NVIDIA. Improving asset flows into Blackstone's core investment products, in addition to the inclusion into the S&P 500, Index boosted the relative return during the quarter. Our largest position, NVIDIA continued its strong performance through the third quarter after reporting yet another large positive earnings surprise. The datacenter business continues to see astronomical demand, well exceeding supply, driven by NVIDIA's dominant positioning in training and inference of Large Language Models (LLMs) in generative artificial intelligence (AI) applications. While the stock has pulled back since results, we remain confident that NVIDIA will continue to be the biggest beneficiary of the boom in Al-related chip demand.

The largest relative detracting countries were The Netherlands, France, and Japan. ASML gave more cautious guidance for Extreme-Ultraviolet (EUV) lithography tools following 1H results from push-outs by leading-edge semiconductor manufacturing companies as broad demand remains tepid. Despite the tool push-outs the longer-term demand for EUV lithography tools remains strong warranting us to maintain the holding at a smaller position size. As discussed above, the main detractor in France was LVMH. Lastly, our position in Sony detracted from Japan performance due to weaker-than-expected second quarter results, as Playstation 5 unit sales and profitability in the semiconductor business disappointed vs expectations.

From an individual stock perspective, the best relative contributors for the quarter were Eli Lilly, Novo Nordisk, Danaher, Blackstone, and NVIDIA. Danaher performed strongly during the month in anticipation of the spin out of its environmental and applied solutions business Veralto. The company also announced the bolt-on acquisition of Abcam, a leading protein provider across life science and diagnostic markets. We view the acquisition as favorable given there is little overlap with Danaher's current operations, and its consumable business offers a new, fast-growing and high-margin business. The largest detractors on a relative basis were Adyen, LVMH, ASML, MTU Aero Engines, and AIA Group. MTU Aero Engines, a supplier of after-market jet engine products and services, performed poorly during the second quarter due to exposure to issues with Pratt & Whitney's Geared Turbofan (GTF) engine. This resulted in increased maintenance costs to be borne by MTU. AIA Group, our pan-Asian life insurance position, was impacted by the weaker-than-expected macroeconomic performance in mainland China.

Counterbalancing market tailwinds from a potential end of the tightening cycle in the US and elsewhere, are often highlighted risks such as western economies tipping into recession and elevated geopolitical uncertainty, now including the recent upsurge of violence in the Middle East. Recession fears and geopolitical risks are ever-present and notoriously difficult to time. Even the NBER cycle dating committee, tasked with timing downturns, only recognizes a recession more than 7 months after it has already started and then only declares the recession over more than 15 months after it has bottomed out. Using the S&P since the 1980's as a proxy, markets are on average up nearly 9% in the year before a recession starts and then rise a further 13% in the 12 months after the recession ends, more than compensating for an average 9% loss during the recession, underscoring the value of staying invested relative to market timing. We believe sustaining a steady allocation to actively managed, high quality, wide-moat dynamic growth stocks is a prudent way to participate in potential upside scenarios, such as from a peak in the interest rate cycle, while mitigating the risks of economic or geopolitical events. Notably, using the same market data since 1980, growth stocks on average outperformed value stocks by over 6% during a recession. Dynamic growth stocks have strong company specific earnings drivers and upside catalysts, healthy balance sheets, high returns, and cash generation, all of which tend to make them both long term return compounders and resilient to volatility in GDP growth. At the same time, any moderation in the inflation and the rate outlook tends to be a tailwind to the relative valuation and share price performance of dynamic growth stocks. The Axiom team continues to collaborate closely to ensure that our strategies are positioned to prudently manage evolving risks while continuously seeking to capture market opportunities and that our portfolio companies remain well positioned for sustained success.

The information presented is not definitive investment advice, should not be relied on as such, and should not be viewed as a recommendation by Axiom. The securities presented are not representative of all of the securities purchased, sold or held for advisory clients, and it should not be assumed that investment in the securities identified was or will be profitable.

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#### **Footnotes and Disclaimers**

	Composite return (gross of fees)	Composite return (net of fees)	Benchmark Total Return (%)	No. of accounts	Market value (millions)	Total firm assets (millions)	% of firm assets (%)	Internal dispersion (%)	3-year standard deviation (%)	3-year standard deviation (%)
YTD 2023	15.51%	14.79%	10.06%	≤5	3,315.4	16,751.0	19.79	N/A	20.97	16.85
2022	-33.72%	-34.29%	-18.36%	≤5	2,903.9	16,580.9	17.51	N/A	23.24	19.86
2021	20.20%	19.21%	18.54%	≤5	3,672.3	18,639.7	19.70	N/A	17.95	16.84
2020	36.03%	34.92%	16.25%	≤5	3,554.8	18,535.9	19.18	N/A	19.40	18.13
2019	32.43%	31.35%	26.60%	≤5	2,575.4	13,458.1	19.14	N/A	13.80	11.22
2018	-10.76%	-11.51%	-9.42%	≤5	1,535.5	9,729.2	15.78	N/A	12.88	10.48
2017	35.03%	33.97%	23.97%	≤5	1,853.3	12,116.0	15.30	N/A	10.96	10.36
2016	-0.82%	-1.61%	7.86%	9	2,829.8	9,671.6	29.26	0.24	11.26	11.06
2015	4.78%	3.95%	-2.36%	10	3,072.8	8,704.3	35.30	0.16	11.19	10.79
2014	1.67%	0.86%	4.16%	11	3,269.7	9,482.3	34.48	0.19	12.08	10.50
2013	27.86%	26.86%	22.80%	13	4,072.2	9,949.8	40.93	0.25	16.30	13.94

Fee schedule: First \$25 million: 0.80%; next \$50 million: 0.70%; next \$150 million: 0.60%; next \$250 million: 0.50%; Balance: 0.30%

Firm Compliance Statement: Axiom Investors LLC (the "Firm") claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS\*) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. Axiom has been independently verified for the period September 1, 1998 to September 30, 2023. A firm that claims compliance with the GIPS standards must establish policies and procedures for complying with all the applicable requirements of the GIPS standards were standards. Verification provides assurance on whether the firm's policies and procedures related to composite and pooled fund maintenance, as well as the calculation, presentation, and distribution of performance, have been designed in compliance with the GIPS standards and have been implemented on a firm-wide basis. The Axiom Global Equity composite has had a performance examination for the periods July 1, 2004 to September 30, 2023. The verification and performance examination reports are available upon request.

Definition of the Firm: The firm is currently defined for GIPS purposes as Axiom Investors, LLC (the "Firm") is a registered investment advisor under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

Policies: Policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS Reports are available upon request. Past performance does not predict or guarantee future results.

Composite Description: The Global Equity strategy (the "Composite) is designed for investors who seek to invest in a broadly diversified portfolio of international equities. Portfolios are invested in companies located both in the United States and throughout the world. Currencies may be actively managed to reduce portfolio volatility. The Composite represents the performance of all institutional global style fee-paying, discretionary equity accounts, regardless of asset size and comingled fund(s). The Composite was initiated and created in July 2004. A list of composite descriptions, a list of limited distribution pooled fund descriptions, a list of broad distribution pooled fund sand performance results are available upon request.

Benchmark Description: The benchmark is the MSCI All Country World index, which is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed and emerging markets. The benchmark is calculated on a total return basis with net dividends reinvested, after the deduction of withholdings taxes and is free float-adjusted market cap weighted and unmanaged. FX is based off London 4 P.M. close.

Significant Cash Flow Policy: Accounts with a cash flow greater than 20% of the portfolio market value are excluded for the month through 06/30/2023. Starting July 1, 2023, the Significant Cash Flow policy is no longer in effect for the composite.

Reporting Currency: Valuations are computed and performance is reported in U.S. dollars. FX is based off NY 4 P.M. close.

Fees: Gross of fees returns are presented before management and oustodial fees but after all trading expenses. Net of fees returns are calculated by deducting the highest fee from the monthly gross composite return which is expressed above in the stated fee schedule. Returns include the reinvestment of income. Performance is calculated net of withholding taxes on dividends. The fee schedule for the Axiom Global Equity Fund, which is included in the Global Equity Composite is listed above. The total expense ratio as of December 31, 2022 was 1.26%.

Internal Dispersion: Internal dispersion is calculated using the asset-weighted standard deviation of annual gross returns of those portfolios that were in the composite for the entire year. If 5 or less accounts, N/A is shown.

Annualized Standard Deviation: The three-year annualized standard deviation measures the variability of the composite gross returns and the benchmark returns over the preceding 36-month period. The standard deviation is not required for periods prior to 2011.

Batting Average: The number of periods that the portfolio outperforms (or matches) the benchmark divided by the total number of periods.

Tracking Error: The active risk of the portfolio. It determines the standard deviation of the excess returns between the portfolio and the benchmark. It is calculated by creating a new return series of the excess returns and then calculating the population standard deviation of that return series.

Information Ratio: A measure of consistency in excess return. The annualized excess return over a benchmark divided by the annualized standard deviation (population) of excess return.

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This may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws. Actual results could and likely will differ, sometimes materially, from those projected or anticipated.

We are not undertaking any obligation to update or revise any forward looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. You should not take any statements regarding past trends as a representation that trends or activities will continue in the future. Accordingly, you should not put undue reliance on these statements.

The information contained herein represents neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities or investment service. This strategy will only be offered through appropriate documents, copies of which may be obtained upon request from ClientRelations@axiom-investors. com. Offers will not be made in any jurisdiction in which the making of an offer or the acceptance thereof would not be in compliance with the laws of such jurisdiction. Investors should read applicable materials carefully before making a decision to invest.

#### Risks of investing in the strategy:

Potential loss of investment: No guarantee or representation is made that the investment program used by Axiom will be successful. The strategy represents a speculative investment and involves a high degree of risk. An investment in the strategy should be discretionary capital set aside strictly for speculative purposes. Investors must have the financial ability, sophistication/experience and willing-ness to bear the risks of an investment in the strategy. An investment in the strategy is not suitable for all investors. An investment could lose all or a substantial portion of his/her/its investment. Only qualified eligible investors may invest in the strategy. Because of the nature of the trading activities, the results of the strategy's operations may be volatile from month to month and from period to period. Accordingly, investors should understand that past performance is not indicative of future results.

Fees and expenses: The strategy may be subject to substantial charges for management, advisory and brokerage fees. It may be necessary for those accounts that are subject to these charges to make substantial trading profits to avoid depletion or exhaustion of their assets.

Reliance on key persons: The strategy's manager or advisor has total trading authority over the strategy and may be subject to various conflicts of interest. The death, disability or departure of the manager or advisor may have a material effect on the strategy.

Counterparty and bankruptcy risk: Although Axiom will attempt to limit its transactions to counterparties which are established, well-capitalized and creditworthy, the strategy will be subject to the risk of the inability of counterparties to perform with respect to transactions, whether due to insolvency, bankruptcy or other causes, which could subject the strategy to substantial losses.

Volatile markets: Market prices are difficult to predict and are influenced by many factors, including changes in interest rates, weather conditions, government intervention and changes in national and international political and economic events.

The above summary is not a complete list of the risks, tax considerations and other important disclosures relating to Axiom products or services. Prospective clients should read all disclosure documents provided by Axiom relating to its products or services before engaging Axiom's advisory services.

The information herein is only current as of the date indicated, and may be superseded by subsequent market events or for other reasons.

The Axiom Investors Collective Investment Trust is a trust for the collective investment of assets of participating tax-qualified pension and profit sharing plans and related trusts, and governmental plans as more fully described in the Declaration of Trust. The Axiom Investors Trust is managed by SEI Trust Company, the trustee, based on the investment advice of Axiom Investors, the investment adviser to the trust. As a bank collective trust, the Axiom Investors Trust is exempt from registration as an investment company.