Baillie Gifford

International All Cap Q2 investment update

July 2025

Investment manager Joe Faraday gives an update on the ACWI ex US All Cap, EAFE Plus All Cap and Developed EAFE All Cap strategies covering Q2 2025.

Your capital is at risk. Past performance is not a guide to future returns.

Joe Faraday: Welcome to the second quarter update on the International All Cap Strategy. I am Joe Faraday, one of the Strategy's Investment Managers.

To put it mildly, it has been an eventful quarter. The US imposition of tariffs on global trading partners was a shock, creating an air of uncertainty for companies and management teams alike. This uncertainty has only been compounded by the growing concerns about the size of the US fiscal deficit, which has caused volatility in bond markets and driven the US dollar lower.

Despite the news flow, international markets rose strongly, with significant investment flows going towards Europe in particular. The tariff shock has made it clear to many asset allocators that after a stunning period of US outperformance, there are clear merits to international equities. International offers both strengthening long-term growth prospects and attractive valuations.

Now, amidst all the uncertainty, it is tempting to make knee-jerk reactions. Our focus remains consistent. We build a diverse portfolio with a range of growth profiles and invest in companies with strong competitive advantages and management teams with proven capital allocation track records. Some of our portfolio companies have endured many challenging periods over their years if not decades of success, while others have disruptive products and business models defining their markets. In each case, we believe they can not only survive during periods of stress and uncertainty but can emerge stronger from them.

The strategy underperformed over the quarter but did produce a strong absolute return, and when we look at the detractors from performance, we see temporary issues for structurally advantaged

159200 10055902 Copyright © Baillie Gifford & Co 2024. businesses. This includes **Bunzl**, a UK-listed but global leader in the distribution of low-cost but high-value products; **LVMH**, the luxury conglomerate behind brands like Louis Vuitton and Dior; and **Sysmex**, one of the world's leading diagnostic equipment manufacturers.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, in the tariff context, stronger performance came from some of our more domestically focused growth companies, like **Jeronimo Martins** in supermarket retail in Poland and Portugal, and **Ryanair**, Europe's leading low-cost airline. At the same time, there were continued strong contributions from our digital platform holdings, with **Spotify**, the music streaming platform, a clear standout.

As I mentioned earlier, we do not make knee-jerk decisions, so turnover this quarter was limited. We are broadly happy with the portfolio's shape. It offers high and durable growth prospects, stronger returns on capital and more resilience than the index. This is the same profile of the two new holdings we took over the quarter, **Alimentation Couche-Tard** for clients with Canada as part of their universe and **Sika**.

Alimentation is the world's most accomplished consolidator in the convenience retail space. Its disciplined, founder-led culture, superior unit economics and proven M&A record should allow it to keep compounding free-cash-flow and earnings at attractive rates for a long time.

Sika is a chemicals company whose admixtures, sealants and membranes sit in the "small cost-big value" sweet spot with pricing power and sticky customer relationships.

Like Alimentation, it grows through organic and inorganic means and has durable growth prospects.

To fund these new holdings, we sold **Murata**, a Japanese electronics components company. **Burberry**, the single-brand luxury goods company best known for its trench coats, and **LY**, a Japanese digital online platform and payments holding company.

Looking ahead, the near-term remains almost hard to predict. From our discussions, company management teams have been less concerned about tariff impacts, for instance, but more concerned about the effects of prolonged uncertainty. This reinforces the value of owning the resilient, structurally advantaged companies in this strategy.

Looking further out, the case for international investing is only getting more attractive. Structural changes in Europe, Japan and across Emerging economies could provide meaningful, enduring tailwinds.

Valuations remain attractive, with all international regions trading at a discount to the US. For the long-term, growth-focused investor, the opportunity set is only getting richer.

Thank you!

Annual past performance to 30 June each year (gross %)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
ACWI ex US All Cap Composite	42.1	-36.0	14.7	3.4	12.7
MSCI ACWI ex US Index	36.3	-19.0	13.3	12.2	18.4
EAFE Plus All Cap Composite	37.6	-35.3	18.6	1.5	10.8
Developed EAFE All Cap Composite	37.5	-35.3	18.7	1.1	10.3
MSCI EAFE Index	32.9	-17.3	19.4	12.1	18.3

Annualised returns to 30 June 2025 (gross %)

	1 year	5 years	10 years
ACWI ex US All Cap Composite	12.7	4.0	5.8
MSCI ACWI ex US Index	18.4	10.7	6.6
EAFE Plus All Cap Composite	10.8	3.5	5.2
Developed EAFE All Cap Composite	10.3	3.3	5.1
MSCI EAFE Index	18.3	11.7	7.0

Annual past performance to 30 June each year (net %)

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
41.3	-36.4	14.0	2.8	12.1
36.3	-19.0	13.3	12.2	18.4
36.8	-35.7	17.9	0.9	10.2
36.7	-35.7	18.0	0.5	9.6
32.9	-17.3	19.4	12.1	18.3
	41.3 36.3 36.8 36.7	41.3 -36.4 36.3 -19.0 36.8 -35.7 36.7 -35.7	41.3 -36.4 14.0 36.3 -19.0 13.3 36.8 -35.7 17.9 36.7 -35.7 18.0	41.3 -36.4 14.0 2.8 36.3 -19.0 13.3 12.2 36.8 -35.7 17.9 0.9 36.7 -35.7 18.0 0.5

Annualised returns to 30 June 2025 (net %)

	1 year	5 years	10 years
ACWI ex US All Cap Composite	12.1	3.4	5.2
MSCI ACWI ex US Index	18.4	10.7	6.6
EAFE Plus All Cap Composite	10.2	2.9	4.6
Developed EAFE All Cap Composite	9.6	2.7	4.5
MSCI EAFE Index	18.3	11.7	7.0

The International All Cap Strategy comprises three distinct variants. Overall, the variants are broadly similar, with the key difference being the degree of exposure to emerging markets listed holdings. Source: Revolution, MSCI. US dollars. Returns have been calculated by reducing the gross return by the highest annual management fee for the composite. 1 year figures are not annualised.

Past performance is not a guide to future returns.

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