

# Thornburg International Growth Fund

## Portfolio Manager Commentary

31 December 2023



### Market Review

International equity markets ended the year with a sharp two-month rally that took the MSCI ACWI ex-U.S. Growth Index up more than 16% from its October 26 lows through year-end. For the 4th quarter the Index rose 11.1%, outperforming both the ACWI ex-U.S. Value Index (up 8.4%) and the broad ACWI ex-U.S. Index (up 9.8%). In most equity markets globally growth outperformed value, with the notable exception of Emerging and U.S. markets.

Moderating inflation, major central banks on hold, lower interest rates, decreasing investor concerns about recession and increasing optimism over the possibility of a soft landing helped support the rally with longer-term interest rates in the U.S., Europe, and the UK falling sharply from mid-October through year end. With interest rates falling, the U.S. Dollar (DXY) fell sharply in the 4th quarter and has fallen 10% since reaching a 20-year high in September of last year. Historically, Dollar weakness has been a significant factor in periods where international equities outperform U.S. markets.

In the 4th quarter Europe, Latin America, Japan and Australia outperformed while the UK and China underperformed. Info Tech, Materials and Industrials outperformed while Communication Services, Consumer Staples, and Consumer Discretionary underperformed. For the year Europe, Japan, and Latin America outperformed while China/Hong Kong underperformed. Info Tech and Industrials outperformed while Communication Services, Consumer Staples, and Health Care underperformed. Value outperformed Growth in international markets for the third year in a row, unlike the U.S. where Growth outperformed in 2023.

The ACWI ex-U.S. Growth Index outperformed the S&P 500 Growth Index in the 4th quarter but underperformed the S&P 500 and S&P 500 Growth indices for the year, with almost 2/3 of the S&P's returns coming from the "Magnificent Seven" growth stocks and the equal weighted S&P underperforming the S&P 500 Index by 12.5%. Note that since October 2022's 13-year low in relative performance the MSCI EAFE, MSCI ACWI ex-U.S. and MSCI ACWI ex-U.S. Growth indices have all outperformed the S&P 500 Index.

We're excited about the businesses in our portfolio and international markets in general in the coming year.

### Portfolio Managers

**Sean Koung Sun, CFA**

Portfolio Manager

**Emily Leveille, CFA**

Portfolio Manager

**Nicholas Anderson, CFA**

Portfolio Manager

Supported by the entire Thornburg investment team

### AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURNS (%)

AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2023

	QTR	YTD	1-YR	3-YR	5-YR	10-YR	ITD
A Shares TIGAX (Incep: 1 Feb 07)							
Without sales charge	12.11	17.96	17.96	-6.01	6.96	3.27	6.05
With sales charge	7.05	12.63	12.63	-7.44	5.98	2.79	5.77
I Shares TINGX (Incep: 1 Feb 07)	12.24	18.41	18.41	-5.69	7.32	3.65	6.52
MSCI ACWI ex-U.S. Growth Index	11.13	14.03	14.03	-2.67	7.49	4.55	3.71

### EXPENSE RATIOS (%)

GROSS	NET
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1.36	1.36
1.06	0.99

Returns for less than one year are not annualized. ITD is inception to date.

Class I shares may not be available to all investors. Minimum investments for the I share class may be higher than those for other classes.

Performance data shown represents past performance and is no guarantee of future results. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate so shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than quoted. For performance current to the most recent month end, visit [thornburg.com](http://thornburg.com) or call 877-215-1330. The maximum sales charge for the Fund's A shares is 4.50%. There is no up-front sales charge for class I shares. Thornburg Investment Management and/or Thornburg Securities LLC have contractually agreed to waive fees and reimburse expenses through at least 1 February 2025, for some of the share classes; these are reflected in the net expense ratio. For more detailed information on fund expenses and waivers/reimbursements, please see the fund's prospectus.

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### Fourth Quarter 2023 Performance Highlights

- In 4Q23 the portfolio (I share class) returned 12.24%, 111 basis points ahead of the MSCI ACWI ex-U.S. Growth Index. Year to date the portfolio (I share class) returned 18.41%, 438 basis points ahead of the MSCI ACWI ex-U.S. Growth Index.
- In the 4th quarter leading contributors to the portfolio's outperformance from a sector perspective were Information Technology, Consumer Discretionary, and Health Care, all due primarily to stock selection. The largest detractors were Materials, Financials, and Industrials.
- Principal contributors to outperformance from a region or country standpoint were the Eurozone, Emerging Asia (primarily China, where we are underweight but had positive stock selection), and Japan. The primary detractors were Switzerland and the UK.
- Bottom-up stock selection continues to be the primary driver of performance, as it has been all year. In the fourth quarter the portfolio's Emerging Growth basket outperformed Growth Industry Leaders and Consistent Growers by a wide margin and was the largest contributor to the portfolio's performance despite its lower 21% average allocation as growthier companies outperformed in November and December.

### Current Positioning and Outlook

In the 4th quarter we reduced exposure to Consistent Growers and increased exposure to the Emerging Growth basket. At year end our basket allocations were 37% Growth Industry Leaders, 36% Consistent Growers, 25% Emerging Growth, and 3% Cash. We added to Information Technology and reduced exposure to Consumer Staples, added to Japan while trimming the UK, and reduced exposure to Emerging Asia – China, India, and Korea. At year end we were overweight developed markets, mostly the Eurozone and global companies domiciled in the U.S., and underweight emerging markets, mostly China, India, Korea and Emerging EMEA.

We're excited about the businesses in our portfolio and international markets in general in the coming year. While we think the U.S. is likely to continue slowing, we see the potential for improved growth in a number of markets like Europe, the UK, India, and Brazil. We remain cautious about China given the lack of visibility around macro stimulus and low consumer confidence in general but are watching it closely for opportunities. Japan is particularly interesting given pockets of growth and improving corporate governance which we observed firsthand in 2023 and will be following in 2024. We continue to find areas of opportunity in the pharma and medical tools space, where the pull forward in demand from COVID and the resulting inventory glut is creating interesting buying opportunities. While we think AI is truly transformational and its runway is long, we've adjusted some of our holding weights to account for their elevated valuations.

#### TEN LARGEST HOLDINGS

AS OF 30 NOVEMBER 2023

	% FUND
Novo Nordisk A/S	5.8
Nestle S.A.	5.5
ASML Holding N.V.	4.6
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. Ltd.	3.9
AstraZeneca plc	3.6
Mastercard, Inc.	3.0
LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE	2.9
Tencent Holdings Ltd.	2.9
Beiersdorf AG	2.8
Ferrari N.V.	2.8

#### TOP 5 CONTRIBUTORS (%) 4Q23

	AVERAGE WEIGHT	CONTRIB. TO RETURN
ASML Holding NV	4.57	1.22
Novo Nordisk A/S	5.93	0.80
Advanced Micro Devices Inc	1.72	0.75
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co Ltd	3.89	0.74
BE Semiconductor Industries NV	1.53	0.72

#### BOTTOM 5 DETRACTORS (%) 4Q23

	AVERAGE WEIGHT	CONTRIB. TO RETURN
Lonza Group AG	1.96	-0.22
Aon PLC	1.77	-0.17
Yum China Holdings Inc	0.25	-0.16
Cellnex Telecom SA	0.05	-0.13
Tencent Holdings Ltd	2.72	-0.13

Source: FactSet

*Past performance does not guarantee future results.*

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### Important Information

Unless otherwise noted, the source of all data, charts, tables and graphs is Thornburg Investment Management, Inc., as of 31 December 2023.

Investments carry risks, including possible loss of principal. Additional risks may be associated with investments outside the United States, especially in emerging markets, including currency fluctuations, illiquidity, volatility, and political and economic risks. Investments in small- and mid-capitalization companies may increase the risk of greater price fluctuations. Investments in the Fund are not FDIC insured, nor are they bank deposits or guaranteed by a bank or any other entity.

The views expressed are subject to change and do not necessarily reflect the views of Thornburg Investment Management, Inc. This information should not be relied upon as a recommendation or investment advice and is not intended to predict the performance of any investment or market.

Funds invested in a limited number of holdings may expose an investor to greater volatility.

There is no guarantee that the Fund will meet its investment objectives.

Any securities, sectors, or countries mentioned are for illustration purposes only. Holdings are subject to change. Under no circumstances does the information contained within represent a recommendation to buy or sell any security.

Consistent Growers: generally exhibit steady earnings and revenue growth, often with subscription or other recurring revenue profiles. These firms tend to buoy the portfolio in weak markets.

Emerging Growth Companies: are often addressing a new market or carving out a niche in an existing market. Companies in this basket tend to be smaller, earlier-stage companies. Successful emerging growth companies are often reclassified as their businesses mature.

Growth Industry Leaders: often have leadership positions in growing markets. These firms tend to be larger, more established, and have dominant market share.

Basis Point (bp) – A unit equal to 1/100th of 1%. 1% = 100 basis points (bps).

The MSCI ACWI ex-U.S. Growth Index (MSCI ACWI ex US Growth NTR) is a market capitalization weighted index that includes growth companies in developed and emerging markets throughout the world, excluding the United States.

The MSCI ACWI ex-U.S. Index (MSCI ACWI ex US NTR) is a market capitalization weighted index representative of the market structure of 46 developed and emerging market countries in North and South America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and the Pacific Rim, excluding securities of United States' issuers. The index is calculated with net dividends reinvested in U.S. dollars.

The MSCI All Country (AC) World ex-U.S. Value Index is a market capitalization weighted index representative of the market structure of 46 developed and emerging market countries in North and South America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and the Pacific Rim, excluding securities of United States' issuers. The index is constructed using an approach that provides a precise definition of style using eight historical and forward-looking fundamental data points for every security. The index returns reflect the reinvestment of dividends and other earnings, are net of withholding taxes, and do not include any trading costs, management fees or other expenses.

The MSCI EAFE Index (MSCI EAFE NTR) is an unmanaged index. It is a generally accepted benchmark for major overseas markets. Index weightings represent the relative capitalizations of the major overseas developed markets on a U.S. dollar adjusted basis. The index is calculated with net dividends reinvested in U.S. dollars.

The S&P 500 Index (S&P 500 TR) is an unmanaged broad measure of the U.S. stock market.

The S&P 500 Growth Index is a market capitalization weighted index designed to measure the performance of growth stocks in the S&P 500 Index. The S&P U.S. Style Indices measure Growth and Value in separate dimensions across six risk factors at the stock level.

The performance of any index is not indicative of the performance of any particular investment. Unless otherwise noted, index returns reflect the reinvestment of income dividends and capital gains, if any, but do not reflect fees, brokerage commissions or other expenses of investing. Investors may not make direct investments into any index.

### **Not FDIC Insured. May lose value. No bank guarantee.**

*Before investing, carefully consider the Fund's investment goals, risks, charges and expenses. For a prospectus or summary prospectus containing this and other information, contact your financial advisor or visit [thornburg.com](http://thornburg.com). Read them carefully before investing.*

Thornburg is a global investment firm delivering on strategy for institutions, financial professionals and investors worldwide. The privately held firm, founded in 1982, is an active, high-conviction manager of fixed income, equities, multi-asset solutions and sustainable investments with \$42.9\* billion in total assets across mutual funds, institutional accounts, separate accounts and UCITS.



\*Includes assets under management (\$41.8B) and assets under advisement (\$1.1B).