

# High Equity Income Fund

# BlackRock®

Inst: **BMCIX** A: **BMEAX** C: **BMECX** K: **BHEIX**

## Commentary as of 03/31/24

- The fund posted returns of 6.11% (Institutional shares) and 6.05% (Investor A shares, without sales charge) for the first quarter of 2024.
- The fund underperformed its benchmark, led by stock selection in the energy, health care, and industrials sectors. Real estate sector positioning was the top contributor to relative performance.
- At quarter-end, the largest overweight positions were in the financials, communication services, and consumer discretionary sectors, while the fund had underweight holdings in the industrials, real estate, and information technology sectors.

Contributors	Detractors
Allocation decisions in the real estate sector, particularly an avoidance of the industrials and residential real estate investment trust industries, played a significant role in relative performance. The fund's cash position was also beneficial.	Performance was primarily hindered by security selection in the energy sector, particularly an off-benchmark position in Kosmos Energy, as well as an underweight position in ExxonMobil in the oil, gas & consumable fuels industry. Stock selection in the health care sector detracted, led by a position in health care equipment company Philips. Stock selection in the industrials sector, notably in the electrical equipment industry, negatively impacted performance. Other detractors included security selection in the health care and consumer staples sectors.

## Further insight

The U.S. economy in 2024 is characterized by renewed optimism, though sustained growth depends on increasing labor productivity and artificial intelligence (AI) adoption remaining strong. Economic indicators, such as record-low unemployment, low savings rates among consumers, and an inverted yield curve, suggest a late-cycle economy. We are focused on investing in high-quality companies and those exposed to secular "mega forces", such as reshoring and AI/digitization.

## ★★★★ Morningstar Overall™

Institutional shares rated against 79 Derivative Income Funds, as of 3/31/24, based on risk-adjusted total return. Ratings are determined monthly and subject to change. The Overall Morningstar Rating for a fund is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its 3-, 5- and 10-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics.<sup>††</sup>

## Portfolio management

Tony DeSpirito, Kyle McClements, Franco Tapia, David Zhao

## Top 10 holdings (%)

Wells Fargo	2.46
Citigroup	2.25
Samsung Electronics Gds Represent	1.78
Fidelity National Information Serv	1.68
Baxter International	1.62
BP	1.57
Shell Plc	1.52
Rtx Corp	1.52
First Citizens Bancshares Inc Clas	1.48
Kraft Heinz	1.47

## Investment approach

Invests in common stocks that pay dividends and have the potential for capital appreciation. The fund also utilizes an option writing (selling) strategy to enhance distributions paid to the fund's shareholders. The fund invests, under normal market conditions, at least 80% of its total assets in dividend paying equities.

## Average annual total returns (%) as of 3/31/24

	1Q24 (not annualized)	YTD (not annualized)	1 Year	3 Year	5 Years	10 Years
<b>Institutional</b>	6.11	6.11	15.05	8.21	9.50	8.19
<b>Investor A (Without Sales Charge)</b>	6.05	6.05	14.75	7.93	9.21	7.87
<b>Investor A (With Sales Charge)</b>	0.48	0.48	8.73	6.00	8.04	7.29
<b>Russell 1000 Value<sup>1</sup></b>	8.99	8.99	20.27	8.11	10.32	9.01

The fund's annual total returns prior to June 12, 2017 reflect a different investment strategy.

Expenses for Institutional shares: Total **1.00%**; Net, Including Investment Related Expenses (dividend expense, interest expense, acquired fund fees and expenses and certain other fund expenses) **0.85%**. For Investor A shares: Total **1.24%**; Net, Including Investment Related Expenses **1.10%**. Institutional and Investor A shares have contractual waivers with an end date of 06/30/2025 terminable upon 90 days' notice. For certain share classes, BlackRock may voluntarily agree to waive certain fees and expenses in which the adviser may discontinue at any time without notice. Expenses stated as of the fund's most recent prospectus. Data represents past performance and is no guarantee of future results. Investment returns and principal values may fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. All returns assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Current performance may be lower or higher than that shown. Refer to [blackrock.com](http://blackrock.com) for most recent month-end performance. Investment returns reflect total fund operating expenses, net of all fees, waivers and/or expense reimbursements. Index performance is shown for illustrative purposes only. It is not possible to invest directly in an unmanaged index. Share classes have different sales charges, fees and other features. Returns with sales charge reflect deduction of current maximum initial sales charge of 5.25% for Investor A shares. Institutional shares have no front- or back-end load. Institutional shares may be attributable to unusually high IPO profits. There is no guarantee this level of performance will be repeated. IPO securities have no trading history and the price may be volatile. Net Expenses Excluding Investment Related Expenses for Institutional shares: **0.85%**; for Investor A shares: **1.10%**.

**Important Risks:** The fund is actively managed and its characteristics will vary. Holdings shown should not be deemed as a recommendation to buy or sell securities. Stock and bond values fluctuate in price so the value of your investment can go down depending on market conditions. International investing involves special risks including, but not limited to political risks, currency fluctuations, illiquidity and volatility. These risks may be heightened for investments in emerging markets. The fund may use derivatives to hedge its investments or to seek to enhance returns. Derivatives entail risks relating to liquidity, leverage and credit that may reduce returns and increase volatility. Performance may be attributable to unusually high IPO profits. There is no guarantee this level of performance will be repeated. IPO securities have no trading history and the price may be volatile.

The opinions expressed are those of the fund's portfolio management team as of March 31, 2024, and may change as subsequent conditions vary. Information and opinions are derived from proprietary and nonproprietary sources deemed by BlackRock to be reliable, are not necessarily all-inclusive and are not guaranteed as to accuracy.

BlackRock provides compensation in connection with obtaining or using third-party ratings and rankings.

<sup>1</sup> Russell 1000 Value Index comprises the large-cap value segment of U.S. equities. It is a subset of the Russell 1000 Index that consists of those Russell 1000 securities with lower price-to-book ratios and lower expected growth values.<sup>11</sup> The Morningstar Rating™ for funds, or "star rating", is calculated for managed products (including mutual funds, variable annuity and variable life subaccounts, exchange-traded funds, closed-end funds, and separate accounts) with at least a three-year history. Exchange-traded funds and open-ended mutual funds are considered a single population for comparative purposes. It is calculated based on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure that accounts for variation in a managed product's monthly excess performance, placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. The top 10% of products in each product category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5% receive 4 stars, the next 35% receive 3 stars, the next 22.5% receive 2 stars, and the bottom 10% receive 1 star. The Overall Morningstar Rating for a managed product is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its three-, five-, and 10-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. The weights are: 100% three-year rating for 36-59 months of total returns, 60% five-year rating/40% three-year rating for 60-119 months of total returns, and 50% 10-year rating/30% five-year rating/20% three-year rating for 120 or more months of total returns. While the 10-year overall star rating formula seems to give the most weight to the 10-year period, the most recent three-year period actually has the greatest impact because it is included in all three rating periods. The fund was rated against the following numbers of U.S.-domiciled Derivative Income funds over the following time periods: 79 in the last 3 years, 72 in the last 5 years and 36 in the last 10 years. With respect to these Derivative Income funds, the fund received a Morningstar Rating of 3, 3 and 4 stars for the 3-, 5- and 10-year periods, respectively. Other classes may have different performance characteristics.

You should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of the fund carefully before investing. The prospectus and, if available, the summary prospectus contain this and other information about the fund and are available, along with information on other BlackRock funds, by calling 800-882-0052 or from your financial professional. The prospectus should be read carefully before investing.

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