

Inst: **MAGCX** A: **MDGCX** C: **MCGCX** R: **MRGSX**<sup>1</sup> K: **MKGCX**

## Commentary as of 12/31/23

- The fund posted returns of 11.35% (Institutional shares) and 11.30% (Investor A shares, without sales charge) for the fourth quarter of 2023.
- The fund modestly outperformed its benchmark during the quarter, driven by strength in October. Positive performance was led by sentiment insights that effectively captured the evolving economic “soft-landing” narrative.
- From a sector- and country-positioning perspective, the fund remained largely neutral. It had slight overweight exposures to the health care and industrials sectors, and maintained slight underweight allocations to the utilities and consumer discretionary sectors. The fund had a slight overweight exposure to the United States and maintained a slight underweight allocation to Switzerland.

Contributors	Detractors
Security selection in October drove positive performance. This was highlighted by sentiment measures, including insights evaluating informed investor positioning and text-based measures designed to capture managerial sentiment from conference text, which continued to align with a soft-landing narrative. Capturing consumer trends via alternative data proved additive across luxury goods stocks in the textiles, apparel & luxury goods industry, amid diverging brand sentiment. Insights designed to evaluate consumer foot traffic, spending, and brand trends all did well. Performance from fundamental measures was mixed, with certain measures evaluating efficiency of cash-flow usage and research expenditure proving beneficial.	Macro measures struggled amid changing leadership and sentiment between the third and fourth quarters. As investors flipped from a “higher-for-longer” narrative to a peak interest rate scenario rewarding growth, industry and country insights proved overly defensive. A preference for domestically oriented Japanese firms detracted as investors weighed the timing for the Bank of Japan’s anticipated policy normalization. Most fundamental measures proved overly defensive and ran against the prevailing market tone. Insights evaluating sales, dividends, and other traditional financial statement metrics proved wrong-footed.

## Further insight

Equities enjoyed strong returns during the quarter amid ebullient investor sentiment. This was spurred by a belief that policymakers had successfully brought inflation under control while avoiding a material unemployment increase and economic contraction. The results capped a year of sharp market moves, driven by swings in macroeconomic data that influenced the outlook for inflation and policy rates. However, investors ultimately focused on peak policy and soft-landing narratives, looking past fresh bouts of volatility, notably conflict in the Middle East. Despite broad gains, results diverged globally, with U.S. performance concentrated around mega-cap technology stocks, while international equities enjoyed broader gains. This supported more persistent performance across value styles in Europe and Japan.

## Portfolio management

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## Top 10 holdings (%)

Microsoft	4.63
Apple	4.58
Amazon.com	2.80
Nvidia Corporation	2.53
Alphabet	1.85
Nestlé	1.54
MasterCard	1.53
Block Inc	1.23
Bank of America	1.22
Siemens Ag	1.21

## Investment approach

Invests in equity securities or other financial instruments that are components of, or have market capitalizations similar to, the securities included in the MSCI All-Country World Index.

## Average annual total returns (%) as of 12/31/23

	4Q23 (not annualized)	YTD (not annualized)	1 Year	3 Year	5 Years	10 Years
<b>Institutional</b>	11.35	22.73	22.73	5.98	11.67	6.96
<b>Investor A (Without Sales Charge)</b>	11.30	22.42	22.42	5.72	11.38	6.65
<b>Investor A (With Sales Charge)</b>	5.46	15.99	15.99	3.84	10.18	6.08
<b>MSCI All Country World<sup>2</sup></b>	11.15	22.81	22.81	6.25	12.27	8.48

The fund's annual total returns prior to October 26, 2017 reflect a different investment strategy. Expenses for Institutional shares: Total **0.95%**; Net, Including Investment Related Expenses (dividend expense, interest expense, acquired fund fees and expenses and certain other fund expenses) **0.71%**. For Investor A shares: Total **1.24%**; Net, Including Investment Related Expenses **0.96%**. 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** 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 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 have limited availability and may be purchased at various minimums. See prospectus for details. Net Expenses Excluding Investment Related Expenses for Institutional shares: **0.71%**; for Investor A shares: **0.96%**.

**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 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. Investing in small-cap companies may entail greater risk than large-cap companies, due to shorter operating histories, less seasoned management or lower trading volumes. Short-selling entails special risks. If the fund makes short sales in securities that increase in value, the fund will lose value. Any loss on short positions may or may not be offset by investing short-sale proceeds in other investments. 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.

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**1** Class R shares are sold to a limited group of investors, including certain retirement plans. See prospectus for details. **2** The MSCI All-Country World Index is a capitalization-weighted index of equity securities from a broad range of industries chosen for market size, liquidity and industry group representation.

*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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