## Fiducian International Shares Fund

Monthly Report - August 2023



### Fund description

The Fund invests in a diversified group of international equity managers. The Fund utilises the Fiducian "Manage the Manager" process, carefully selecting best of breed managers with different styles, sector and geographical exposures with the aim of achieving superior returns with reduced risk.

This Fund gives investors exposure to the growth of major global economies through investment in international companies. A currency overlay manages the exposure to international currencies.

International share investment can be volatile over the short term, and the recommended holding period is at least 8 years.

#### Fund facts

Portfolio manager: Conrad Burge

**ARSN:** 093 543 456 **APIR code:** FPS0005AU

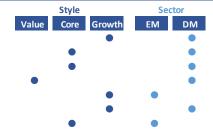
Benchmark: MSCI Ex-Australia Index

Current fund size: \$546 million (August 2023)

Management cost: 1.24% Total management costs: 1.30% Application/Exit fee: Nil

Inception Date: February 1997

Manager
Franklin Templeton
Challenger
Wellington GRE
Wellington Value
Fiducian India
Fiducian Technology
Vanguard

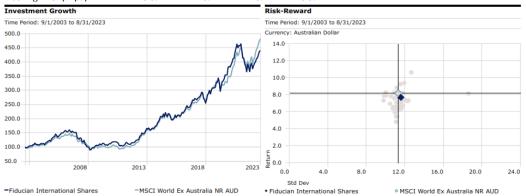


#### Performance and Risk

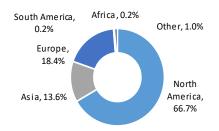
After fee returns as at 31 August 2023										
	1 Mth	3 Mth	6 Mth	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	7yrs	10 Yrs		
Fund	0.8%	6.3%	11.5%	15.5%	7.5%	8.4%	10.9%	11.6%		
Index	1.6%	7.0%	16.0%	22.6%	13.3%	10.8%	12.5%	12.9%		
Excess	-0.8%	-0.7%	-4.5%	-7.1%	-5.8%	-2.4%	-1.6%	-1.4%		

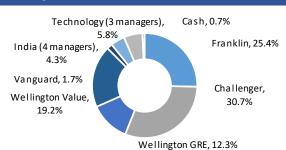
#### **Risk Exposure**

	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs
Fund Volatility (Std Dev %)	9.7%	11.6%	12.9%	11.3%
Benchmark (Std Dev %)	11.2%	11.7%	12.3%	11.0%
Beta	0.76	0.90	0.98	0.96
Tracking Error (% pa)	3.3%	4.3%	4.3%	3.9%



#### Geographic exposures and current manager weights





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#### Market Commentary and Outlook

Economic data across most developed countries continues to highlight sluggish growth at best in response to tight monetary policy being implemented in most jurisdictions. However, higher interest rates have been steadily pushing inflation lower, while unemployment rates have begun to rise modestly.

Overall, this combination of news was modestly negative for most asset class returns in August. The broad US market (S&P 500 index) declined by 1.7%, and the Australian stock market (ASX 200 index) declined by 0.7%. Australian listed property sector recorded gains during the month (+2.3%), and bulk commodity prices, including coal and iron ore, were also higher. The Australian dollar was weaker during the month, declining by 3.6% against the US dollar.

Looking ahead, geopolitical risks, alongside elevated interest rates and slower economic growth this year, represent potential headwinds for markets. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is forecasting global growth to be 3.0% in both 2023 and 2024. The IMF expects growth rates to remain slightly below long-term trend levels for some time. However, in broad terms, share markets continue to appear more attractive than most other investment opportunities.

#### **Fund Commentary**

The Fund rose by 0.8% in August, which was below the index return of 1.6% for the MSCI ex-Australia index (in AUD). Over the month, the Fiducian India Fund was the top performer (+3.8%) followed by Challenger (+1.6%).

For the 12 months to the end of August 2023, the Fund rose by 15.5%, compared to the 22.6% rise in the index. Challenger (+23.1%) has been the best performer over the period followed by the Wellington Global Research Equity Mandate (+21.7%). Fiducian Technology Fund and Vanguard Emerging Markets have underperformed during the period.

The Fund remains strongly diversified, with 13 underlying managers and exposure to over 50 different countries and a broad range of industries. The United States and Europe remain the largest regional exposures by virtue of their size in global markets. The largest regional tilt is towards Asian equities (predominantly India), which offer relatively high earnings growth rates, and overall the Fund has a marginal overweight exposure to emerging markets relative to developed markets.

#### Top stock holdings and geographic tilts

Stock	Industry	Weight
Alphabet Inc	Interactive Media	2.1%
Mercadolibre Inc	Internet & Direct Marketing F	1.7%
Danaher Corp	Life Sciences Tools	1.7%
Humana Incorporated	Managed Health Care	1.7%
Zscaler Inc	Systems Software	1.7%
Broadridge Finance	Data Processing	1.7%
Tyler Technologies Inc	Application Software	1.6%
Equinix Inc	Specialized REITs	1.6%
Synopsys Inc	Application Software	1.6%
Inari Medical Inc	Health Care Equipment	1.5%

