

Q1 | March 31, 2024

AIA S&P ADR/International Strategy

QUARTERLY PORTFOLIO COMMENTARY (CASH FUNDED AFTER-TAX COMPOSITE)

Global equity moved higher in the first quarter, as the Fed continued their holding pattern on overnight interest rates. Inflation continued to moderate although it remains a key watchpoint, along with a backdrop of greater geopolitical unease, heading into a fall US election. The US economy has exhibited resilience with robust unemployment levels and strong GDP growth. Investors have piled into risk assets as potential Fed rate cuts, combined with more stable economic data, suggest a soft-landing scenario. Annual US inflation was 3.5% in March, up slightly from February. Unemployment moderated at 3.8% in March, maintaining historically robust levels. United States GDP rose by an annualized rate of 3.4% in the fourth quarter of 2023. The MSCI World Index rose (9.0%) over the quarter, while the MSCI Emerging Markets Index rose (2.4%). The MSCI All Country World Index rose (8.3%). The best-performing sectors over the quarter were communication services (+12.8%), information technology (+12.3%), financials (+10.4%), and energy (+9.7%). The worst-performing sectors were real estate (-0.5%) and utilities (+1.2%). North America, Middle East, and Japan showed strength, while Asia and Latin American experienced declines.

During the quarter, the AIA S&P ADR Strategy outperformed its benchmark before taxes and net of 0.35% fees by 0.57%. The strategy outperformed over the period on an after-tax and net of 0.35% fee basis by +0.94%. After-tax outperformance was relatively mild due to limited opportunities to harvest losses, and strong market performance in the first quarter. Tax alpha was positive and added +0.36% during the period.

The AIA S&P ADR Strategy seeks to provide a pre-tax return similar to the performance of the S&P ADR Index, and seeks to outperform the benchmark on an after-tax basis by proactively realizing losses. AIA's managers use a proprietary selection methodology to select a subset of stocks from the index, while seeking sector-neutral weights and diversification across market capitalization. Individual account performance may vary due to restrictions at the account level, such as security exclusions, capital gain budgets, and other restrictions.

Markets have soared to new highs with better than expected economic growth and as investors remain upbeat on the economic outlook. Inflation, monetary policy, and the trajectory of the US economy are watchpoints for investors. While economic data and investor sentiment have been strong, uncertainties linger. Geopolitical and macroeconomic weakness may continue to drive market volatility and dispersion. The resulting market environment has increasingly proven challenging to navigate. We continue to believe that active fundamental research, combined with investment discipline, provides an attractive way to navigate market uncertainty.



AIA S&P ADR/International Strategy - Annualized Returns (as of 3/31/2024)

	Pre-Tax		
AIA S&P ADR Cash Funded After-Tax Composite Pure Gross Returns	Composite Pure Gross Return	Benchmark Return (S&P ADR)	Difference
3 months	9.29%	8.63%	0.66%
1 year	22.59%	20.75%	1.84%
3 years	8.17%	8.58%	-0.41%
5 years	8.74%	8.84%	-0.10%
10 years	5.20%	5.09%	0.11%
Since inception 08/01/2003	7.50%	7.02%	0.47%

After-Tax			
Composite Pure Gross Return	Estimated Benchmark Return	Difference	
9.17%	8.14%	1.03%	
21.96%	18.81%	3.15%	
12.68%	6.85%	5.83%	
13.82%	7.21%	6.60%	
9.33%	3.65%	5.68%	
9.99%	5.74%	4.25%	

Tax Alpha
0.36%
1.32%
6.24%
6.71%
5.57%
3.77%

	Pre-Tax		
AIA S&P ADR Cash Funded After-Tax Composite Net 0.35% Returns	Composite Net 0.35% Return	Benchmark Return (S&P ADR)	Difference
3 months	9.20%	8.63%	0.57%
1 year	22.16%	20.75%	1.42%
3 years	7.79%	8.58%	-0.79%
5 years	8.36%	8.84%	-0.48%
10 years	4.83%	5.09%	-0.25%
Since inception 08/01/2003	7.12%	7.02%	0.10%

After-Tax			
Composite Net 0.35% Return	Estimated Benchmark Return	Difference	Tax Alpha
9.07%	8.14%	0.94%	0.36%
21.54%	18.81%	2.73%	1.32%
12.29%	6.85%	5.44%	6.23%
13.42%	7.21%	6.21%	6.69%
8.95%	3.65%	5.30%	5.55%
9.61%	5.74%	3.87%	3.77%

	Pre-Tax		
AIA S&P ADR Cash Funded After-Tax Composite Net Bundled Fee Returns ¹	Composite Net Bundled Fee Return	Benchmark Return (S&P ADR)	Difference
3 months	8.50%	8.63%	-0.13%
1 year	19.02%	20.75%	-1.73%
3 years	4.98%	8.58%	-3.59%
5 years	5.54%	8.84%	-3.30%
10 years	2.10%	5.09%	-2.99%
Since inception 08/01/2003	4.33%	7.02%	-2.69%

	After-Tax		
Composite Net Bundled Fee Return	Estimated Benchmark Return	Difference	Tax Alpha
8.37%	8.14%	0.24%	0.36%
18.41%	18.81%	-0.40%	1.33%
9.37%	6.85%	2.53%	6.12%
10.48%	7.21%	3.27%	6.57%
6.12%	3.65%	2.47%	5.46%
6.76%	5.74%	1.01%	3.71%

¹ The assumed model bundled fee used is 3.0% and has been retroactively applied since inception.

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The **MSCI World Index** captures large and mid-cap representation across 23 developed markets countries. With 1,465 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country. The **MSCI Emerging Markets Index** is an unmanaged index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of emerging markets. The **MSCI All Country World Index** is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index designed to provide a broad measure of equity-market performance throughout the world. The MSCI ACWI is comprised of stocks from 23 developed countries and 24 emerging markets. The **S&P ADR (American Depositary Receipts) Index** is based on the non-U.S. stocks of the S&P Global 1200 traded in the U.S. exchanges. The index draws constituents from these six indices: S&P Europe 350, S&P/TOPIX 150 (Japan), S&P/TSX 60 (Canada), S&P/ASX All Australian 50, S&P Asia 50, and S&P Latin America 40.



The views and opinions expressed may change based on market and other conditions. This material is provided for informational purposes only and should not be construed as investment advice. There can be no assurance that developments will transpire as forecasted. Actual results may vary.

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Tax alpha is the benefit of loss harvesting, which is assumed to be used to offset gains inside or outside the portfolio in the period they are incurred, and thus credited to the portfolio returns. The after-tax benchmark is an estimate based upon the average capital gain realization rate and dividend yield of the index. Both after-tax calculations using the maximum federal tax rate and 0% state tax, and the maximum federal and state tax rates for dividends and capital gains are displayed.

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