

# EUROPEAN EQUITY STRATEGY

as at 31 March 2024

We have a highly selective, concentrated approach to investing in companies that can deliver compound wealth creation over the long term, because we believe that it is companies that create wealth, not equity markets.

## INVESTMENT APPROACH

### Company focus

Unconstrained, rigorous in-house company research is based on our consistently applied philosophy and process. We only select those businesses which meet our stringent investment criteria.

### Team approach

We invest as a team. Our long-tenured, experienced investment team challenges and debates all proposals.

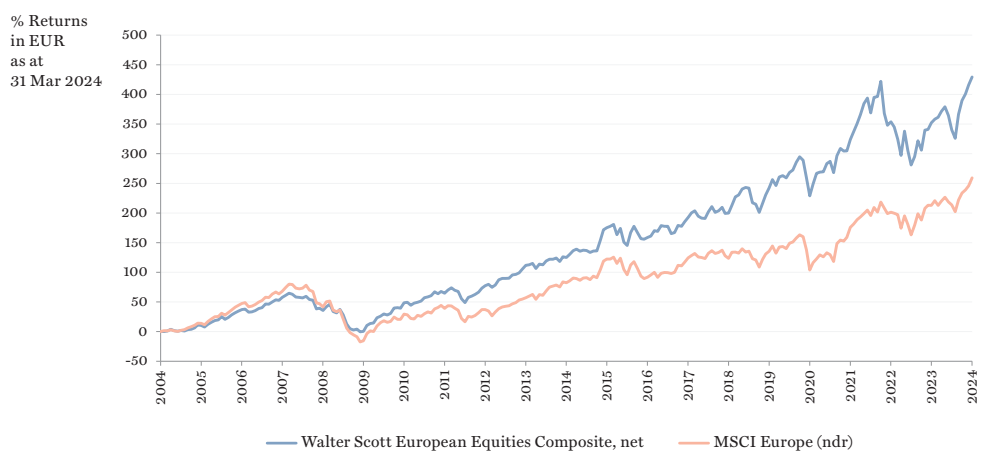
### Long-term investment horizon

We invest for the long term in order to exploit the power of compound growth.

### ESG integration

Analysis of environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks and opportunities is integrated into our investment process. We believe that financially material ESG factors can be an important indicator of a company's ability to prosper over the long term.

## 20-YEAR CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE



## ANNUALISED PERFORMANCE

Returns in EUR % as at 31 March 2024	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	15 Years	20 Years	25 Years
Walter Scott Europe Equities Composite, net	17.0	7.7	9.1	8.9	11.7	8.7	8.0
MSCI Europe (ndr)	14.8	9.2	8.8	7.0	10.1	6.6	4.7

## CALENDAR YEAR PERFORMANCE

Returns in EUR % as at 31 December 2023	YTD	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Walter Scott Europe Equities Composite, gross	8.3	21.5	-21.6	28.6	4.4	32.1	-0.2	9.6	5.3	13.9	6.2
Walter Scott Europe Equities Composite, net	8.1	20.6	-22.2	27.7	3.6	31.1	-0.9	8.8	4.5	13.1	5.4
MSCI Europe (ndr)	7.6	15.8	-9.5	25.1	-3.3	26.0	-10.6	10.2	2.6	8.2	6.8
Excess Returns (net vs index)	0.4	4.8	-12.7	2.5	6.9	5.1	9.7	-1.4	1.9	4.9	-1.4

**Past performance is not a guide to future performance and returns may also increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations.**

Source: Walter Scott (Strategy), MSCI (Index). Gross performance returns do not reflect the deduction of investment advisory fees which if applied would reduce returns but they do reflect the reinvestment of dividends and/or other earnings. Net performance returns reflect the deduction of a model management fee of 0.75% per annum and the reinvestment of dividends and/or other earnings. Please refer to the back page for further information.

MSCI Europe is used as a comparative index for this strategy for illustrative purposes. The strategy does not aim to replicate the composition or performance of the comparative index.

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## STRATEGY OVERVIEW

The European Equity strategy aims to provide investors with a favourable real rate of return over the long term by investing in a portfolio of leading companies located in Europe, including the UK. Stocks are selected through fundamental, in-house company analysis.

The portfolio will typically consist of 40-60 world-class companies we consider capable of generating superior real returns over the long-term. These will be companies which we believe demonstrate high levels of durable growth and profitability, alongside strong balance sheets.

Our unconstrained approach typically leads to portfolios that bear little or no resemblance to any stock market index.

**EUR €79.6bn firm wide AUM**  
**EUR €0.9bn European equity strategy AUM**  
**Composite inception date: 31 March 1991**

## PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS

	Portfolio
Number of Securities	49
Operating Margin	15.6%
ROE	18.1%
Net Debt to Equity*	36%
P/E Ratio	29.0x
Dividend Yield**	1.6%
Active Share	73%
Portfolio Turnover (Typical Annual Range)†	5%-15%

Source: Walter Scott, FactSet & MSCI. Portfolio Characteristics are subject to change and are based on a Walter Scott European Equity representative portfolio as at 31/03/24.

\*Net Debt to Equity figure excludes securities from the financial sector.

\*\*Calculated, based on MSCI definition, using current holdings and reflecting the deduction of a model fee of 0.75% per annum (see Fees section for more detail).

†Based on the last 10 calendar years of representative portfolio turnover.

## TOP TEN STOCKS

Stock	% of portfolio
ASML	4.3
Novo Nordisk	4.2
ASM International	3.6
Ferrari	3.3
Hermès	3.1
LVMH	2.7
Diploma	2.5
Inditex	2.4
CTS Eventim	2.4
Reply	2.3

## SECTOR

Industrials	20.9%	<div style="width: 20.9%;"></div>
Consumer discretionary	20.9%	<div style="width: 20.9%;"></div>
Healthcare	19.6%	<div style="width: 19.6%;"></div>
Information technology	17.6%	<div style="width: 17.6%;"></div>
Consumer staples	6.3%	<div style="width: 6.3%;"></div>
Communication services	4.5%	<div style="width: 4.5%;"></div>
Materials	3.5%	<div style="width: 3.5%;"></div>
Energy	1.8%	<div style="width: 1.8%;"></div>
Real estate	1.8%	<div style="width: 1.8%;"></div>
Financials	1.2%	<div style="width: 1.2%;"></div>
Liquidity	1.7%	<div style="width: 1.7%;"></div>

## COUNTRY

UK	17.1%	<div style="width: 17.1%;"></div>
Switzerland	16.4%	<div style="width: 16.4%;"></div>
France	14.7%	<div style="width: 14.7%;"></div>
Germany	14.6%	<div style="width: 14.6%;"></div>
The Netherlands	11.5%	<div style="width: 11.5%;"></div>
Italy	9.2%	<div style="width: 9.2%;"></div>
Denmark	5.8%	<div style="width: 5.8%;"></div>
Spain	4.2%	<div style="width: 4.2%;"></div>
Sweden	2.1%	<div style="width: 2.1%;"></div>
Finland	1.4%	<div style="width: 1.4%;"></div>
Norway	1.2%	<div style="width: 1.2%;"></div>
Liquidity	1.7%	<div style="width: 1.7%;"></div>

Source: Walter Scott European Equity representative portfolio as at 31/03/24 used to demonstrate Top Ten Stocks, Sector and Region information. The representative portfolio adheres to the same investment approach as the Walter Scott European Equity Strategy. In general, the same representative account is used to ensure consistency in reporting quarter on quarter. During Q1 2024 however, the usual representative account terminated. Therefore, an alternative representative account, which is similar to the original, was used. All holdings are subject to change. Information is historical and may not reflect current or future portfolio's. Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

This information should not be considered a recommendation to purchase or sell any security. The data shown should not be relied upon as a complete listing of the strategy's holdings as information on particular holdings may be withheld. There is no assurance that any securities shown will remain in a portfolio at the time you receive this factsheet or that securities sold have not been repurchased. It should not be assumed that the holdings listed were or will prove to be profitable or that the investment decisions Walter Scott makes in the future will be profitable or will equal the investment performance illustrated.

## CONTACT

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## EXPLANATORY NOTES

To receive a list of composite descriptions of Walter Scott and/or GIPS® reports, please email [clientservice@walterscott.com](mailto:clientservice@walterscott.com) or contact the Client Management team using the telephone number or address shown at the end of this document.

## COMPOSITE DESCRIPTION

This composite includes all European portfolios. Portfolios within the composite typically hold 40 to 60 stocks.

## FEES

Net of management fee composite returns are calculated by deducting a model fee from the gross return. Actual management fees may differ from the model fees used and performance-based fees may result in higher fees than model fees applied. The model fee rate is higher than the 10-year average actual composite fee rate as at 31 December 2022. Considering calendar year periods after 2012, the model fee rate of 0.75% was lower than the actual fee rate of 1.32% in 2020. This was due to a bespoke performance fee paid on a portfolio in the composite. The model rate deducted is equivalent to the highest fee rate that would be charged to the intended audience. For further details of fee rates see Part II of Form ADV.

## PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS DEFINITIONS

Please contact us on [clientservice@walterscott.com](mailto:clientservice@walterscott.com) for further

information on the methodologies used in the calculation of the portfolio characteristics shown.

## BENCHMARK DEFINITION

MSCI Europe: an equity benchmark that represents large and mid-cap equity performance across developed markets countries in Europe. It is not directly exposed to emerging markets. Further information can be found at [www.msci.com](http://www.msci.com).

## KEY INVESTMENT RISKS

**Equities** are subject to market, market sector, market liquidity, issuer, and investment style risks, to varying degrees. **Small and mid-sized company stocks** tend to be more volatile and less liquid than larger company stocks as these companies are less established and have more volatile earnings histories. Investing in **foreign denominated and/or domiciled securities** involves special risks, including changes in currency exchange rates, political, economic, and social instability, limited company information, differing auditing and legal standards, and less market liquidity. These risks generally are greater with emerging market countries.

Investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate, so that when an investment is sold, the amount returned may be less than that originally invested.

## IMPORTANT REGULATORY INFORMATION

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