

Morgan Stanley Investment Funds

Calvert Sustainable Developed Markets Equity Select Fund



Performance Review

In the three month period ending 30 September 2023, the Fund's Z shares returned -4.30% (net of fees)¹, while the benchmark returned -3.46%.

Calvert Sustainable Developed Markets Equity Select Fund (the Fund) strategy is designed to offer long-term shareholder return through exposure to companies that are leaders in the environmental, social and governance (ESG) landscape or improves in addressing environmental and social challenges and managing material ESG risks. Calvert believes that companies that demonstrate leadership and/or improvement in the management of financially material ESG risks and opportunities offer long-term value creation for shareholders. The investment approach identifies ESG leaders and improvers using a proprietary quantitative and qualitative analysis to construct a portfolio that manages active risk relative to the market benchmark, the MSCI World Index. The portfolio also aims to maintain a carbon footprint 50% lower than the benchmark and higher levels of board gender diversity compared to the benchmark.

In the third quarter, our underweight to energy and relative stock selection in communication services hampered performance. The underweight to energy is driven in part by Calvert's Principles for Responsible Investment research framework, which identifies outside environmental risks among most energy companies that are often not addressed using appropriate management systems or strategies for the transition away from fossil fuels.

In communication services, the biggest drag on performance was not holding any names in the interactive media and services industry, such as Alphabet, which is not held due to concerns over anti-competitive practices, and Meta Platforms, which is not eligible for investment according to the Calvert Principles for Responsible Investment due to ongoing data privacy and governance concerns.

Offsetting these two sector drags, the portfolio benefited from relative stock selection in the industrials sector. Stock selection in the machinery and professional services industries helped performance. In the machinery sector, active weights in Caterpillar and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries were additive to performance. Caterpillar is considered an environmental leader thanks to electrification efforts in its overall product lineup, while Mitsubishi Heavy Industries is considered a leader for environmental opportunities due to its investments and products that support renewable energy, particularly green hydrogen infrastructure. In professional services, our overweight to Automatic Data Processing, a leader in data privacy and security, boosted performance, as did not holding names like Equifax, which is not eligible according to our Principles for Responsible Investment due to significant data privacy controversies.

The portfolio also saw strong performance from its stock selection in the information technology sector, in particular stock picks in the software and semiconductors industries. In software, names like Atlassian and Splunk drove performance during the period. Atlassian is a leader in data privacy and security and Splunk is a leader in human capital management. Avoiding names like Oracle and WiseTech Global also helped performance — neither company is considered an ESG leader according to the Fund's methodology. In semiconductors, our allocation to Nvidia and Intel contributed to strong returns. Nvidia is classified as a social leader due to the company's efforts around ethics and artificial intelligence (AI), while Intel is considered an environmental leader for its energy efficiency improvements and climate goals.

Market Review

In the third quarter of 2023, the equity rally that had previously defied rising interest rates and shaken off three of the largest bank failures in U.S. history ended, as many investors — lured by higher interest rates, particularly for long-term U.S. Treasuries — deserted riskier stocks in favor of relatively risk-free government bonds.

The period saw record-low unemployment, strong job creation and robust consumer spending. While these trends are typically good news stories, in this environment they have been seen as bad news for inflation and fuel for further rate hikes that would weigh on stock prices. As the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) repeatedly confirmed its intent to bring inflation down to 2%, investors' anticipation of "higher for longer" interest rates grew more high and more long during the quarter.

In the first month of the period, however, the global stock rally that had started in January — fueled largely by exuberance over AI technology — continued. The number of economists and pundits predicting a soft landing for the U.S. economy grew larger. When the Fed hiked interest rates 25 basis points on 26 July, many observers expected it might be the final hike of this tightening cycle.

But the end of July would prove to be the high-water mark for U.S. and global equity indexes for the first three quarters of 2023. In early August, as investors came around to the view that the Fed might leave rates higher for longer than they had expected just a month or two earlier, a rise in longer-term bond rates gathered steam. In mid-August, the release of minutes from the Fed's July meeting showed that further rate hikes to quell inflation were under consideration. At the Fed's August conference in Jackson Hole,

¹ Source: Morgan Stanley Investment Management Limited. Data as of 30 September 2023.

Wyoming, European Central Bank (ECB) President Christine Lagarde expressed the sentiment that higher rates would persist for some time in Europe as well.

Things only got worse for equity investors in September, the cruelest month of 2023 so far. Government interest rates continued to rise around the world and global equity prices tumbled, as long-term government bond yields and even money market funds offered attractive alternatives to stocks for the first time in years. While the Fed left rates unchanged at its September meeting, it appeared to predict at least one more rate hike this year, and it pushed out expectations for a return to falling rates later into 2024.

In response, stocks fell further as investors also weighed the negative effects of a potential U.S. government shutdown in November, ongoing labor strikes by the United Auto Workers and SAG-AFTRA actors, and the resumption of college loan payments that could impinge on consumer spending. The energy sector, boosted by a significant rise in oil prices that pushed up gasoline prices for consumers, was one of only two sectors in the S&P 500 Index with a positive return during the quarter.

Outside of the U.S., September inflation data for the euro area looked promising, indicating weaker growth and declining inflation. Morgan Stanley analysts are of the view that the ECB will hold further interest rate action in the coming months and that its next likely move will be a cut, likely in mid-2024. This view is backed by declining wage data and a receding energy shock; however, analysts note that another shock to the European economy could derail this outlook. Similarly, in the U.K., data shows that underlying price pressures are softening, and at the end of September the Bank of England paused its almost two-year straight succession of rate increases. While there is no guarantee that there won't be further rate hikes, many analysts believe they are likely to be done.

In contrast to the Fed and ECB, which intend to keep interest rates high to combat inflation, the Bank of Japan (BOJ) is maintaining negative interest rates to support the economy until inflation hits its 2% target. The BOJ suggests that ongoing inflation could be a temporary result of global oil prices and may not reflect an improvement in economic activity. Many economists believe the BOJ will keep rates negative until sometime in 2024. Negative rates push the yen downward, which may help the economy's exports but hurt consumer spending, making imports more expensive for household spending. These opposing dynamics make it challenging for Japan's economy to expand.

The good news was that, despite a tough quarter that saw nearly all major global indexes deliver negative returns, most of those same indexes were still solidly in positive territory for the year-to-date as of 30 September.

We remain cautiously optimistic about continued inflation reduction in the U.S., U.K. and eurozone, and we believe a full-fledged recession in the U.S. is unlikely. However, there are several factors at play in the U.S. that could slow the economy's progress. Further, the slow growth rates in China and Japan, combined with the renewed Israel-Gaza conflict, present uncertainty for the global economy for the remainder of this year and into 2024.

Portfolio Activity

During the quarter, the Fund exited its position in Seven & I Holdings Co., Ltd. due to a change in the company's eligibility according to the Calvert Principles for Responsible Investment. The company was no longer considered eligible for investment due to ongoing governance issues and mismanagement of material ESG factors.

Strategy and Outlook

As we look ahead with a focus on major factors that are shaping a multidecade transformation of the global economic system relevant to responsible long-term investors, four areas have the potential for the greatest impact from a risk and opportunity perspective: i) Changes to the global energy system — both in terms of the existing fossil fuel system and the development of a distributed, lower-carbon system — are accelerating and revealing challenges for companies globally; ii) Demographic changes, including educational attainment, continue to impact the workforce, as well as the ultimate size of consumer markets globally, with the vast majority of companies yet to fully adapt to these massive changes; iii) Higher costs, including interest rates, wages and raw materials, present unique challenges to every industry and will result in greater differentiation between companies that are able to manage their cost structure and improve productivity and those that are less efficient or trapped in a high fixed operating cost model; iv) Finally, various forms of pricing of externalities — either by governments or through market action — are taking effect and will act to raise costs and influence corporate and consumer behavior.

With this future state in mind, leadership on issues of sustainability across industries requires a company to evolve its product strategy, refine its corporate strategy and continually strengthen its ability to provide effective oversight and execution of the sustainable transition before us.

The Calvert Sustainable Developed Markets Equity Select strategy is built on our belief that companies addressing the sustainability challenges presented by this multidecade transformation are better positioned to deliver shareholder return and positive societal outcomes. The Fund seeks to invest in companies that are leaders and improvers at managing this future business state, either through their operations and corporate strategy, or through the products and services that they offer.

Using ESG performance on financially material issues as the primary criteria for stock selection, the Fund leverages a combined quantitative and qualitative approach to narrow the investment universe and identify and invest in the best-performing companies in

the Calvert Research System from an ESG standpoint. The portfolio is then optimized to manage risk, lower the overall greenhouse gas emissions of the portfolio and increase the board level diversity of the portfolio against the benchmark. The result is an actively managed portfolio of global developed market stocks designed to provide risk-controlled returns in excess of the MSCI World Index, with exceptional performance on environmental and social issues.

For further information, please contact your Morgan Stanley Investment Management representative.

Fund Facts

Launch date	08 April 2022
Base currency	U.S. dollars
Benchmark	MSCI World Index Net Index (USD)

Calendar Year Returns (%)

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results.

	YTD	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Class Z Shares	9.47	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
MSCI World Index Net Index (USD)	11.10	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

All performance data is calculated NAV to NAV, net of fees, and does not take account of commissions and costs incurred on the issue and redemption of units. The sources for all performance and Index data is Morgan Stanley Investment Management. **Please visit our website www.morganstanley.com/im to see the latest performance returns for the fund's other share classes.**

Share Class Z Risk and Reward Profile

The risk and reward category shown is based on historic data.

- Historic figures are only a guide and may not be a reliable indicator of what may happen in the future.
- As such this category may change in the future.
- The higher the category, the greater the potential reward, but also the greater the risk of losing the investment. Category 1 does not indicate a risk free investment.
- The fund is in this category because it invests in company shares and the fund's simulated and/or realised return has experienced high rises and falls historically.

This rating does not take into account other risk factors which should be considered before investing, these include:

- The fund relies on other parties to fulfill certain services, investments or transactions. If these parties become insolvent, it may expose the fund to financial loss.
- There may be an insufficient number of buyers or sellers which may affect the funds ability to buy or sell securities.

- Sustainability factors can pose risks to investments, for example: impact asset values, increased operational costs.
- Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. Returns may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations. The value of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may lose all or a substantial portion of his or her investment.
- The value of the investments and the income from them will vary and there can be no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objectives.
- Investments may be in a variety of currencies and therefore changes in rates of exchange between currencies may cause the value of investments to decrease or increase. Furthermore, the value of investments may be adversely affected by fluctuations in exchange rates between the investor's reference currency and the base currency of the investments.

Please refer to the Prospectus for full risk disclosures. All data as of 30 September 2023 and subject to change daily.

Applications for shares in the Fund should not be made without first consulting the current Prospectus and the Key Information Document ("KID") or Key Investor Information Document ("KIID"), which are available in English and in the official language of your local jurisdiction at morganstanleyinvestmentfunds.com or free of charge from the Registered Office of Morgan Stanley Investment Funds, European Bank and Business Centre, 6B route de Trèves, L-2633 Senningerberg, R.C.S. Luxemburg B 29 192.

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INDEX INFORMATION

The **MSCI World Net Index** is a free float adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure the global equity market performance of developed markets. The term "free float" represents the portion of shares outstanding that are deemed to be available for purchase in the public equity markets by investors. The index is unmanaged and does not include any expenses, fees or sales charges. It is not possible to directly invest in an index.

The **Standard & Poor's 500® Index (S&P 500®)** measures the performance of the large cap segment of the U.S. equities market, covering approximately 80% of the U.S. equities market. The Index includes 500 leading companies in leading industries of the U.S. economy.

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