

Driehaus Emerging Markets Growth Fund Summary

2ND QUARTER 2021

Secular growth and work-from-home assets outperformed in 2020 as the world struggled with the initial onset of Covid-19. In the first quarter of 2021 cyclical and value assets rebounded as vaccines were rolled out and the world emerged from lockdown. That quickly led to myriad reports of inflation, with concerns amplified by the Fed's stated willingness to let the economy run hot.

In the second quarter, the backdrop shifted as apprehension grew over peaking economic growth (the World Bank forecasts 5.6% world GDP growth in 2021 followed by 4.3% in 2022). And some of the concerns over inflation began to recede, at least temporarily. Several factors contributed to this. (See Exhibit 1)

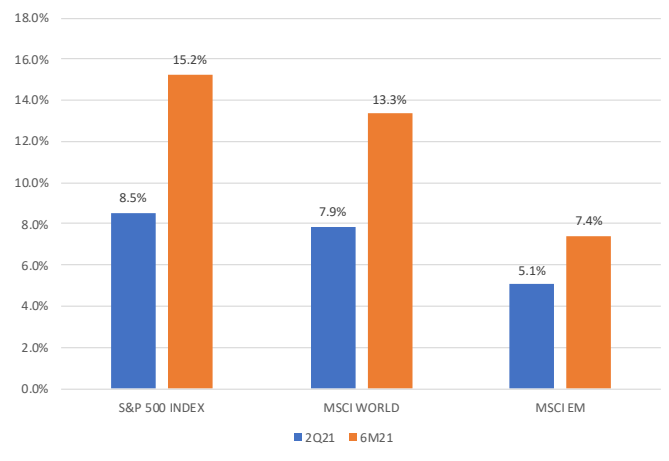
First, the Fed indicated it may not be as dovish as previously thought. Despite the Fed's average inflation targeting framework, the June Federal Open Market Committee meeting showed that most members expect at least two rate hikes in 2023 with some members expecting hikes as early as 2022. This meeting was taken to indicate that the Fed may not let the economy run as hot as previously expected, which in turn lowered long-term growth expectations and flattened the yield curve. After peaking on the last day of the first quarter at 1.74%, the US 10-year yield drifted downwards throughout the spring and finished the quarter below 1.50%.

Next, the price of key industrial commodities like copper and lumber rolled over during the quarter as demand softened (to some degree in response to the rapid increase in prices over the last year but also as supply bottlenecks eased). China also acted to contain commodity prices by announcing plans to release strategic reserves of metals onto the market. (One notable exception within commodities was oil where prices have continued to climb as recovery demand has outpaced supply and Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries+ has not yet been able to agree on production increases.)

Third, Covid-19 has continued to weigh on sentiment, particularly after the emergence of the highly contagious "delta" variant. While early findings indicate that the main vaccines are effective against new variants including delta, much of the world is still struggling to ramp up vaccinations, particularly within Emerging Markets (EM).

Finally, China continued to focus on limiting new credit growth and has been more focused on reorganizing the economy than growing it, at least relative to recent history.

Exhibit 1: Global Indices Total Return 2021

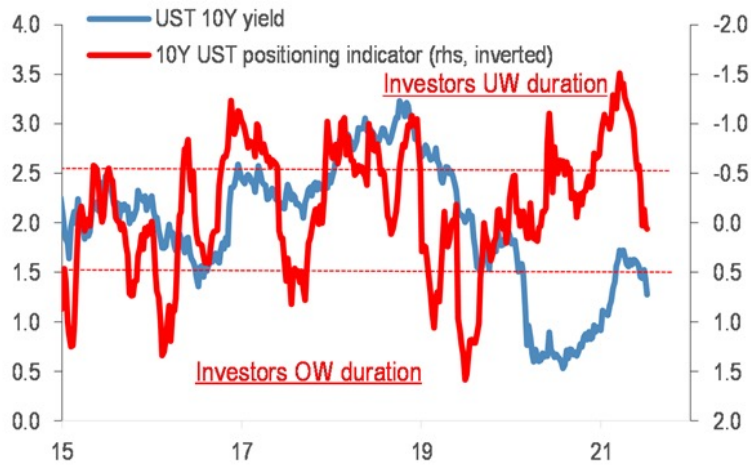


Source: Bloomberg

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Meanwhile, positioning had become increasingly concentrated in value and cyclical stocks as well as treasury shorts (betting that rates would continue to rise) as displayed below in Exhibit 2.

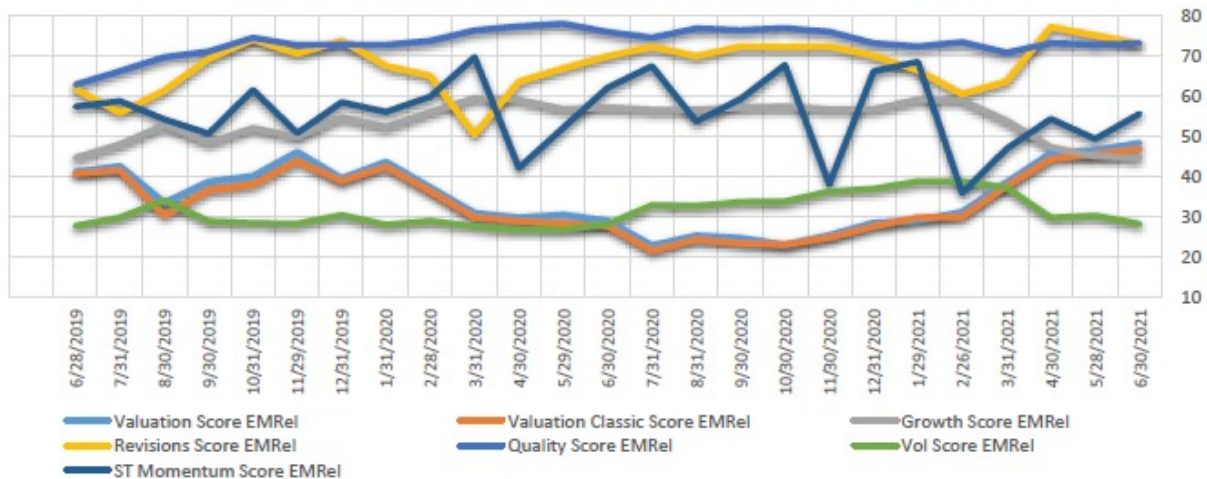
Exhibit 2: Treasury yield and positioning



Source: J.P. Morgan. Data through 6/30/21.

Aside from industry positioning data, our team tracks the factor composition of the quintile of stocks with the highest medium-term momentum to approximate these risks (Exhibit 3). Since the initial vaccine efficacy data was announced, the stocks with the highest momentum were increasingly coming from lower valuation cyclical areas like banks, miners, and construction equipment. Conversely, the momentum of growth stocks had started to fall. These factors contributed to a reversal of factor performance towards the end of the second quarter (i.e. growth rebounding against value).

Exhibit 3: Q1 Medium Term Momentum (With 1M) Decomposition - Factors



Source: Factset. Valuation EM Relative; Revisions Score EM Relative; Short Term Momentum Score EM Relative, Valuation Classic Score EM Relative, Quality Score EM Relative, Growth Score EM Relative, Volatility Score EM Relative.

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Besides factor and risk rotations, one of the biggest issues for EM at large is what is happening in China. There has been an avalanche of regulatory announcements that have meaningfully weighed on sentiment and performance, especially in the internet industry. Long-time EM investors are well used to parsing policy pronouncements and regulations, but the magnitude of what has been announced recently has made the landscape even more challenging. We address this in more detail in the 'Outlook and Positioning' section below.

Performance Review

The Driehaus Emerging Markets Growth Fund returned 7.06% in the second quarter, ahead of the 5.05% return of the MSCI EM Index.¹

Information technology was the top performing sector during the quarter. The Fund holds a trio of stocks that have benefitted from rising demand for artificial intelligence (AI) computing: a chip design company, a leading semiconductor capital equipment maker, and a chip substrate manufacturer. The deployment of AI computing has been broadening out from just the hyperscale cloud services providers to the broader enterprise market as tools like recommendation engines and natural language processing become more common. The Fund also benefitted from its fintech and IT services holdings. The materials sector detracted from performance owing to an active underweight in steel and iron ore related stocks.

China was the highest contributor to positive attribution on a country basis. The Fund is roughly 25% underweight relative to the benchmark owing to a more cautious view on the earnings outlook given adverse regulatory activity and muted economic growth.

India was the largest country detractor. The Fund has a positive active weight which hurt performance as India continued to suffer with Covid-19 during the quarter.

Outlook and Positioning

While growth will likely peak this year, the global economic outlook remains on solid ground. US household balance sheets remain healthy due to the high degree of savings and stimulus payments with pent up demand for services. Many industries are still seeing demand run ahead of supply, most notably autos. While some commodities have corrected, the ongoing strength in the price of oil is indicative of robust demand for travel and trade. Both fiscal and monetary policy will remain broadly stimulative even as the Fed moves to marginally scale back monetary accommodation.

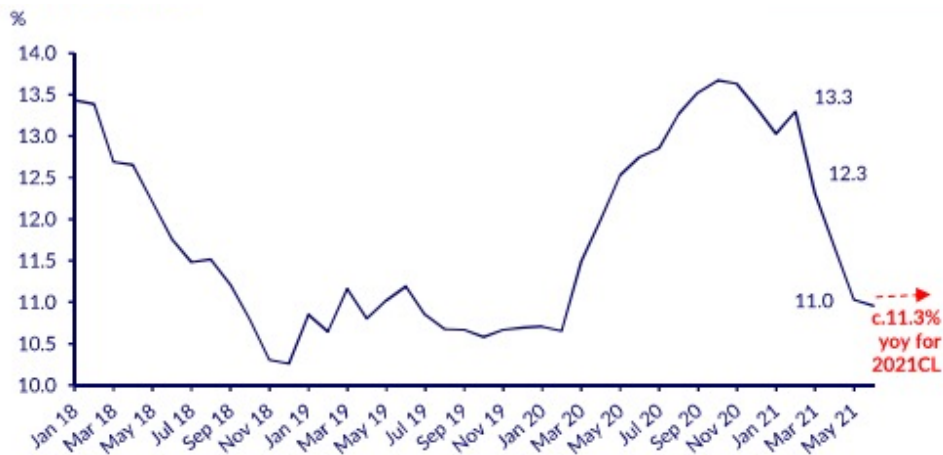
The backdrop in China is also starting to shift. After getting the initial outbreak of Covid-19 under control, China's policy makers clamped down on credit growth in pursuit of their longer-term goal to reduce leverage in the system. This dynamic, combined with appreciation in the Chinese Yuan (CNY) and higher commodity prices, acted to tighten financial conditions and weighed on growth in the first half.

However, the country announced a cut in its Reserve Requirement Ratio (RRR) for essentially all banks in early July. The real economic impact of this should be relatively modest. It releases more liquidity into the system but does not directly stimulate consumption (and some of the liquidity will be used to repay maturing medium-term lending facilities rather than supporting new lending).

¹Performance Disclosure

The performance data shown represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. Principal value and investment returns will fluctuate so that investors' shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Performance data represents the rate that an investor would have earned (or lost), during the given month, on an investment in the Fund (assuming reinvestment of all dividends and distributions). Average annual total return reflects annualized change. Since Fund performance is subject to change after the month-end, please call (800) 560-6111 or visit www.driehaus.com for more current performance information.

Exhibit 4: China's Total Social Financing Balance Growth (YoY)



Source: CLSA, PBOC, Wind

Nevertheless, the RRR cut is still impactful as a signaling device. The market generally interprets these actions to mean that the People's Bank of China (PBOC) was uncomfortable with the degree that growth is slowing and will take steps as needed to support the economy. We do not take this to indicate a full-blown easing cycle but do think it modestly improves the outlook for Chinese equities, particularly with respect to local investors being willing to take more risk.

However, the slightly dovish shift in monetary policy has been more than offset by some of the most extreme regulation on the internet and adjacent industries that we can recall. Last year, a China observer may have concluded that blocking the Ant Group IPO was done to get the company (and its founder) under control and to make sure incentives were aligned as to avoid risky lending practices. But the events of 2021 make clear that the regulators have far more comprehensive ambitions.

It is beyond the scope of this commentary to detail everything that has been announced. Nevertheless, an overview of the key developments offers some perspective as to the scope of the crackdown:

- Penalties for abusive market actions such as: 1) forcing a merchant or restaurant to list exclusively on one ecommerce platform, 2) selling items below cost, 3) failing to get proper approval of past investments.
- Blocking of industry mergers that lead to too much market concentration.
- Mandatory data management and cybersecurity reviews to make sure sensitive data is not brought outside of the country. Also, a crackdown on unnecessary data collection. And banning of apps that do not comply, at least temporarily.
- Expected changes that would clamp down on the variable interest entity (VIE) structure that has enabled foreigners to own companies in certain restricted industries such as internet and education. We don't think this rule will result in forced delisting or annulment of existing VIEs.
- Reduction in online payment and lending fees.
- Expected restrictions on third-party after school tutoring and requirements that schools offer better extracurricular programs. Also, more controls over time spent playing online games by minors.

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In isolation, these actions do not really seem overly extreme. While many of them are about increasing state control over the tech giants, some of these things are also being done to help the average citizen or small business. It is not so much any one action that is a problem but more the lingering uncertainty as to how strictly these will be implemented and what else may be in the pipeline.

Clearly, figuring out the outlook amidst all these ongoing actions has become challenging, especially because much of this is not yet finalized. But we can sketch out some of the broad ramifications:

- Investors needing to increase the discount rate assigned to China internet stocks, both because of the increased earnings uncertainty but also because these actions collectively indicate an industry that is operating at the behest of the state rather than shareholders (this has always been true in China but was easier to ignore when the government was not harming the profit outlook).
- Fewer new equity listings in the US, more in Hong Kong and Mainland China. Those that do list will require explicit government clearance (meanwhile, the US is still moving forward with plans to delist foreign companies that do not comply with SEC audit requirements). This will serve to further fracture the technology and financial ecosystems of the West and China.
- Given China internet has long been a favorite industry for investors, we could see outflows to other internet and large cap EM names.

Considering these developments, the Fund maintained its underweight to China during the quarter and modestly brought down its consumer discretionary weight (where many internet stocks are classified). Additionally, rather than trying to call out policy winners and losers, our team has been increasingly focused on anchoring our investment decisions based on our confidence level in the fundamental earnings drivers.

As the second largest economy and manufacturing engine of the world, it is impossible for EM to really disconnect from what's happening in China. Fortunately, there are some positive offsets beginning to emerge. Part of what makes EM challenging is how heterogeneous it is; the "asset class" is nothing more than a loosely linked group of countries across the world. But this also means it offers a highly dynamic opportunity set. Given how fast the world changes, there is usually something positive happening.

We are becoming increasingly positive on two emerging developments. First, India is increasingly building out its domestic manufacturing capabilities. Last year the government instituted a production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme that aims to make domestic manufacturing more competitive and encourage investment. The PLI scheme is targeted at multiple sectors and should help India compete more effectively with other regional manufacturing hubs.

So far PLI has seen good initial traction and anecdotally multiple companies that we follow have talked about increasing production in India. Given the size of the domestic market we think firms are well incentivized to participate. Additionally, India's timing is good as the trade war and pandemic have revealed how fragile supply chains are when too concentrated geographically. If the PLI scheme and similar efforts are successful in building up India's manufacturing base, it could set off a virtuous cycle with rising employment and infrastructure development which in turn would drive up income levels and consumption (GDP per capita in China is still >5x higher than in India).

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The second dynamic we're positive about is increased equity capital markets activity in South East Asia and India. These markets have historically had few listed technology and internet stocks. But thanks to rising private market funding, high smartphone penetration, and a relaxation of some listing rules we expect to see several new companies list publicly in the coming years. These companies operate in markets with some of the most attractive demographics where basic services like banking are still highly underpenetrated. Perhaps most importantly, they will likely face a much less adversarial regulatory environment compared to Chinese and Western internet firms.

In conclusion, while the markets are always filled with uncertainty, the current market backdrop is especially challenging. Investors need to manage through a normalization in economic growth and policy even as new Covid-19 variants present risks. It's still not clear whether we're heading back into the 'secular stagnation' world of the last five years or if the second quarter was just a blip on the way to inflation and faster growth. Meanwhile, the regulatory environment globally is increasingly antagonistic which could limit justified valuations and future growth opportunities.

Investors need to be laser focused on observing the world around them and how it has changed because of the pandemic. But disruption and turmoil will lay the foundation for growth and new possibilities. We will continue to work hard on your behalf to find these opportunities and are grateful for your trust and confidence.

- Driehaus Emerging Markets Growth Team

Driehaus Emerging Markets Growth Fund

% Month-End Performance (as of 6/30/21)

	Annualized						
	MTH	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Inception ¹
Investor Class: DREGX	1.58	6.32	40.24	14.72	15.11	7.01	12.00
Institutional Class: DIEMX ¹	1.59	6.43	40.49	14.98	15.29	7.10	12.04
MSCI Emerging Markets Index (ND) ² (Benchmark)	0.17	7.45	40.90	11.27	13.03	4.28	*
MSCI Emerging Markets Growth Index (ND) ³	0.89	5.04	40.08	14.44	16.14	6.63	*

% Quarter-End Performance (as of 6/30/21)

	Annualized						
	QTR	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Inception ¹
Investor Class: DREGX	7.06	6.32	40.24	14.72	15.11	7.01	12.00
Institutional Class: DIEMX ¹	7.13	6.43	40.49	14.98	15.29	7.10	12.04
MSCI Emerging Markets Index (ND) ² (Benchmark)	5.05	7.45	40.90	11.27	13.03	4.28	*
MSCI Emerging Markets Growth Index (ND) ³	4.42	5.04	40.08	14.44	16.14	6.63	*

Top 10 Holdings⁴ (as of 5/31/21)

Company	% of Fund
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd. Sponsored ADR	6.5
Tencent Holdings Ltd.	5.6
Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.	5.5
ASML Holding NV	2.0
ICICI Bank Limited Sponsored ADR	2.0
AIA Group Limited	1.9
NVIDIA Corporation	1.7
Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. Sponsored ADR	1.7
Reliance Industries Limited	1.6
China Merchants Bank Co., Ltd. Class H	1.6

Annual Operating Expenses⁵

	DREGX	DIEMX
Gross Expenses	1.41%	1.19%
Net Expenses	1.41%	1.19%

Sources: Driehaus Capital Management LLC, Factset Research Systems, Inc., eVestment Alliance Data as of 6/30/21.

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*The inception of the fund predates the inception of the index. ¹Institutional Class performance is that of the Investor Class from December 31, 1997 through the inception of the Institutional Class on July 17, 2017, and actual Institutional Class performance thereafter. Performance has not been adjusted to reflect the expenses of the Institutional Class for the period prior to the Class's inception, and Institutional Class performance results would differ if such expenses were reflected. ²The Morgan Stanley Capital International Emerging Markets Index (MSCI Emerging Markets Index) is a market capitalization-weighted index designed to measure equity market performance in global emerging markets. Data is in US Dollars. The net dividend (ND) index is calculated with net dividend reinvestment. ³The Morgan Stanley Capital International Emerging Markets Growth Index (MSCI Emerging Markets Growth Index) is a subset of the MSCI Emerging Markets Index and includes only the MSCI Emerging Markets Index stocks which are categorized as growth stocks. Data is in US dollars. The net dividend (ND) index is calculated with net dividend reinvestment. An investor cannot invest directly in an index. ⁴Holdings subject to change. ⁵Represents the Annual Fund Operating Expenses as disclosed in the current prospectus dated April 30, 2021. It is important to understand that a decline in the Fund's average net assets due to unprecedented market volatility or other factors could cause the Fund's expense ratio for the current fiscal year to be higher than the expense information presented. A shareholder may be required to pay a commission to their financial intermediary.

Driehaus Emerging Markets Growth Fund

Sector Attribution 2nd Quarter – 3/31/21 to 6/30/21

	Driehaus Emerging Markets Growth Fund (Port) (%)			MSCI Emerging Markets Index (ND) ¹ (Bench) (%)			Attribution Analysis (%)
	Port Avg. Weight	Port Total Return	Port Contrib To Return	Bench Avg.Weight	Bench Total Return	Bench Contrib To Return	Total Effect ²
Communication Services	11.10	5.14	0.71	11.55	1.93	0.24	0.45
Consumer Discretionary	12.06	4.51	0.54	17.18	3.56	0.60	0.24
Consumer Staples	4.41	5.12	0.25	5.65	4.50	0.26	0.02
Energy	3.86	8.78	0.37	4.89	12.44	0.58	-0.17
Financials	18.32	7.07	1.45	18.17	4.16	0.79	0.60
Health Care	4.20	22.61	0.93	4.75	14.10	0.65	0.31
Industrials	6.03	15.58	0.78	4.52	13.17	0.57	0.12
Information Technology	26.63	7.81	2.00	20.70	3.84	0.77	0.93
Materials	7.00	5.53	0.32	8.53	8.19	0.67	-0.25
Real Estate	0.51	6.55	0.04	2.07	-6.01	-0.13	0.24
Utilities	1.12	0.73	0.05	1.99	2.00	0.04	0.04
Cash	4.76	-0.25	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.15
Other	0.00	-0.36	-0.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.37
Total	100.00	7.05	7.05	100.00	5.05	5.05	2.00

Data as of 6/30/21.

Sources: Driehaus Capital Management LLC, Factset Research Systems, Inc., eVestment Alliance

¹The Morgan Stanley Capital International Emerging Markets Index (MSCI Emerging Markets Index) is a market capitalization-weighted index designed to measure equity market performance in global emerging markets. Data is in US Dollars. The net dividend (ND) index is calculated with net dividend reinvestment. ²Total Effect - The Total Effect for each MSCI/GICS Sector is equal to the sum of the individual Attribution Effects for that MSCI/GICS Sector.

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Per FactSet Research Systems Inc., the attribution report provides an in-depth analysis of relative performance. With this report one can research whether or not a portfolio outperformed a benchmark, and how each group contributed to performance. The performance data shown above is estimated and represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. The information presented is intended for informational purposes only.

Driehaus Emerging Markets Growth Fund

Country Performance Attribution 2nd Quarter – 3/31/21 to 6/30/21

MSCI Country	Driehaus Emerging Markets Growth Fund (Port) (%)			MSCI Emerging Markets Index (ND) ¹ (Bench) (%)			Attribution Analysis (%)
	Port Avg. Weight	Port Total Return	Port Contrib To Return	Bench Avg.Weight	Bench Total Return	Bench Contrib To Return	Total Effect ²
Argentina	0.53	-3.89	0.04	0.11	6.07	0.01	0.01
Australia	0.58	-10.80	-0.08	0.01	-24.07	0.00	-0.10
Brazil	5.56	23.66	1.22	4.89	22.91	1.01	0.17
Canada	0.83	-10.79	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.03
Chile	0.08	-27.08	-0.13	0.50	-14.19	-0.08	-0.01
China	25.20	7.66	2.12	34.34	2.66	0.98	1.59
Colombia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	-2.90	-0.01	0.01
Cyprus	0.68	1.15	0.02	0.14	36.54	0.05	-0.05
Czech Republic	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	14.56	0.01	-0.01
Egypt	0.04	-6.86	-0.02	0.07	-9.23	-0.01	-0.02
France	1.25	17.05	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14
Germany	0.53	-16.92	-0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.16
Greece	0.21	-2.70	-0.01	0.12	8.18	0.01	-0.02
Hong Kong	5.02	0.88	0.08	2.98	-1.88	-0.05	0.02
Hungary	1.11	25.86	0.27	0.22	14.81	0.03	0.19
India	13.29	3.23	0.44	9.70	6.91	0.66	-0.42
Indonesia	1.17	-1.81	-0.02	1.18	-5.14	-0.06	0.05
Japan	0.99	1.88	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.03
Kuwait	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.51	9.52	0.05	-0.02
Luxembourg	0.04	-3.29	0.00	0.10	14.20	0.01	-0.01
Malaysia	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.34	-2.46	-0.03	0.10
Mexico	1.65	15.51	0.20	1.78	9.14	0.16	0.05
Netherlands	2.67	11.88	0.29	0.28	9.62	0.03	0.13
Pakistan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	-6.65	0.00	0.00
Peru	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	-11.02	-0.01	0.02
Philippines	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.63	7.55	0.05	-0.01
Poland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.63	18.24	0.11	-0.08
Qatar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.66	2.21	0.01	0.02
Romania	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	12.29	0.00	0.00
Russia	2.91	11.42	0.34	2.70	13.59	0.36	-0.05
Saudi Arabia	0.23	-1.35	-0.01	2.80	10.08	0.27	-0.16
Singapore	0.85	20.15	0.15	0.02	-11.76	0.00	0.12
South Africa	1.11	10.40	0.13	3.72	-1.58	-0.04	0.31
South Korea	10.79	4.95	0.51	13.36	4.83	0.63	0.00
Suriname	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	-0.11	0.00	0.00
Switzerland	0.58	-17.85	-0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.13
Taiwan	12.17	4.97	0.56	13.95	7.09	0.94	-0.28
Thailand	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.75	-4.87	-0.09	0.18
Turkey	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.27	-0.48	0.00	0.01
United Arab Emirates	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.63	11.18	0.07	-0.03
United Kingdom	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	14.69	0.01	0.00
United States	5.18	25.56	1.32	0.08	-3.59	0.00	1.05
Cash	4.76	-0.25	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.15
Other	0.00	-0.36	-0.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.37
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Driehaus Emerging Markets Growth Fund

This material is not intended to be relied upon as a forecast or research. The opinions expressed are those of Driehaus Capital Management LLC (“Driehaus”) as of July 20, 2021 and are subject to change at any time due to changes in market or economic conditions. The commentary has not been updated since July 20, 2021 and may not reflect recent market activity. The information and opinions contained in this material are derived from proprietary and non-proprietary sources deemed by Driehaus to be reliable and are not necessarily all inclusive. Driehaus does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this information. There is no guarantee that any forecasts made will come to pass. Reliance upon information in this material is at the sole discretion of the reader.

Investments in overseas markets can pose more risks than U.S. investments, and share prices are expected to be more volatile than that of a U.S.-only fund. The Fund invests in foreign securities, including small and mid cap stocks, which may be subject to greater volatility than other investments. During certain periods, the Fund has benefited from unusually strong market conditions in the overseas markets.

In addition, returns of the Fund will fluctuate with changes in stock market conditions, currency values, interest rates, foreign government regulations, and economic and political conditions in countries in which the Fund invest. These risks are generally greater when investing in emerging markets. These and other risk considerations are discussed in the prospectus for the Fund.

At times, a significant portion of the Fund’s return may be attributable to investments in initial public offerings (IPOs) or concentrations in certain strong performing sectors, such as technology. Returns from IPOs or sector concentrations may not be repeated or consistently achieved in the future. In addition, participating in IPOs and other investments during favorable market conditions may enhance the performance of a Fund with a smaller asset base, and this Fund may not experience similar performance results as its assets grow.

Stocks of medium-sized companies tend to be more volatile in price than those of larger companies and may have underperformed the stocks of small and large companies during some periods. In addition, investments in medium-sized companies may be more susceptible to particular economic events or competitive factors than are larger, more broadly diversified companies. Growth stocks may involve special risks and their prices may be more volatile than the overall market.

It is anticipated that the Fund will experience high rates of portfolio turnover, which may result in payment by the Fund of above-average transaction costs. These are nondiversified funds compared to other funds, the Fund may invest a greater percentage of assets in a particular issuer or a small number of issuers. As a consequence, the Fund may be subject to greater risks and larger losses than diversified funds.

Market Turbulence Resulting from COVID-19. The outbreak of COVID-19 has negatively affected the worldwide economy, individual countries, individual companies and the market in general. The future impact of COVID-19 is currently unknown, and it may exacerbate other risks that apply to the Fund.

S&P 500 - The Standard & Poor’s (“S&P”) 500 Index consists of 500 stocks chosen for market size, liquidity, and industry group. It is a market-weighted index (stock price times number of shares outstanding), with each stock’s weight in the index proportionate to its market value.

Please consider the investment objectives, risks, fees and expenses of the Fund carefully prior to investing. The prospectus and summary prospectus contain this and other important information about the Fund. To obtain a copy of the prospectus and/or summary prospectus, please call us at (800) 560-6111. Please read the prospectus and summary prospectus carefully before investing.

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