



# **BRIDGEHOUSE**

**INDEPENDENT PLATFORM**

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**Brandes   GQG   Lazard   Morningstar   Sienna**

2021 Interim Management Report  
of Fund Performance

Brandes U.S. Equity Fund





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## BRANDES U.S. EQUITY FUND

*This interim management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete interim or annual financial statements of the Fund. The interim or annual financial statements are in a separate booklet. You may obtain a copy of the interim or annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling toll-free 1.888.861.9998, by writing to us at Bridgehouse Asset Managers, 36 Toronto Street, Suite 850, Toronto, ON, M5C 2C5, or by visiting our website: [www.bridgehousecanada.com](http://www.bridgehousecanada.com) or the SEDAR website: [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).*

*You may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the Fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure relating to the Fund.*

### MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION OF FUND PERFORMANCE

#### Results of Operations from January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021

##### **Markets & Effect**

Since the beginning of 2021, the prospects for an eventual economic recovery have been improving, although there is unease around new variants of concern and considerable dispersion in vaccination rates among developed and developing countries.

The value style, as measured by the MSCI World Value Index, has had a strong resurgence, outperforming the growth style, as measured by the MSCI World Growth Index, by 3.0%, since the start of 2021. U.S. value stocks have historically led out of U.S. economic recessions. As the world gradually moves on from COVID-19-related shutdowns, traditional value sectors, including energy, financials and industrials, led markets higher in both the U.S. and in Europe.

In the global small cap space, the S&P Developed Small Cap Index gained 11.4% in the first six months of the year. While all sectors moved higher, the energy sector stood out, rebounding from last year's lows with a 49.8% return. Overall performance was also boosted by the consumer discretionary and financial sectors, which were up 17.8% and 16.4% year to date, respectively.

The Canadian market returned 17.3% in the first half of the year, with the energy and financial sectors posting the biggest gains. The energy sector advanced 37.0%, largely driven by the rise in the price of crude oil from resurgent economic activity. Meanwhile, the financial sector's 23.4% return was mostly due to the "Big Five" banks as the outlook for the Canadian economy improved with increased COVID-19 vaccine roll-out.

Emerging markets, as measured by the MSCI EM Index, advanced 4.4% for the period. Many of Latin American and Southeast Asian countries in this segment, including Colombia, Peru and Indonesia, have had an especially hard time handling the COVID-19 virus and are still experiencing economic slowdowns, while others, such as Russia, Taiwan and the Czech Republic, have seen an economic rebound.

##### **Performance**

The Fund's Unhedged Series A units outperformed its benchmark, gaining 15.6% versus a gain of 11.8% for the S&P 500 Index (the "Index"). The Fund's Hedged Series A units also outperformed its benchmark, gaining 18.3% versus a gain of 14.9% for the S&P 500 Index (Hedged) (the "Index").

The Fund returns are after the deduction of fees and expenses while the benchmark returns do not include any costs of investing. See the "Past Performance" section for the returns of the other series, which may vary because of differences in management fees and expenses or timing of series introduction.

Holdings in commercial banks made a positive contribution to overall performance. Holdings in IT services detracted from performance for the period.

##### **Asset Mix**

Over the recent reporting period, the Fund's asset mix did not change significantly. At June 30, 2021, equities made up 99.1% of the Fund, and approximately 0.9% was in cash and other net assets.

One of the Fund's most significant industry exposure changes was a decrease in holdings in capital markets to 3.9% from 6.1% at December 31, 2020.

In line with its bottom-up investment philosophy, Brandes LP continues to build the portfolio on a company-by-company basis. Brandes LP only compares the Fund to the Index in the course of ensuring that it remains appropriately diversified. As a result, the Fund's industry weightings were quite different from the Index during the period. For example, at June 30, 2021, one of the Fund's largest industry exposures was in health care providers & services, which comprised 13.3% of the Fund's portfolio, versus 2.6% for the Index.

Typically less than 5% of the Fund is allocated to any one security, at the time of purchase. Therefore, the addition or deletion of an individual security will not generally constitute a substantial change to the portfolio.

The Manager confirms that the Fund did not borrow money during the period.

### **Flows & Fees**

The Fund's Net Asset Value increased to \$84.4 million at June 30, 2021, from \$72.5 million at December 31, 2020. Of this change, an increase of \$11.7 million was due to positive investment performance (net of investment income), and an increase of \$0.2 million was due to net inflows.

For Series A units, the annualized management expense ratio ("MER") at June 30, 2021 is 2.34%, compared to 2.35% at December 31, 2020 for the Unhedged Series. The annualized MER for the Hedged series is 2.44% at June 30, 2021, unchanged from December 31, 2020.

### **Recent Developments**

On or about September 30, 2021, the Fund's benchmark is expected to change to the Russell 1000 Value Index.

The outbreak of the novel coronavirus, first detected in December 2019, rapidly became a pandemic and resulted in disruptions to the economies of many nations, individual companies and the markets in general. This created closed borders, quarantines, supply chain disruptions and general anxiety, which negatively impacted global markets in an unforeseeable manner. The impact of the novel coronavirus and other such future infectious diseases in certain regions or countries may be greater or less due to the nature or level of their public health responses or due to other factors. Health crises caused by the coronavirus outbreak or future infectious diseases may exacerbate other pre-existing political, social and economic risks in certain countries. The impact of such health crises may be quick, severe and of unknowable duration. This pandemic and other epidemics and pandemics that may arise in the future could result in continued volatility in the financial markets and lead to increased levels of Fund redemptions, which could have a negative impact on the Funds and could adversely affect a Fund's performance.

### **Related Party Transactions**

#### **Manager and Portfolio Advisor**

The Fund is managed and advised by Brandes Investment Partners & Co., operating as Bridgehouse Asset Managers ("Bridgehouse") which provides (or arranges for) investment management, distribution, marketing and promotion of the Fund. Bridgehouse receives a monthly management fee based on the daily average net assets of each series of the Fund. In addition, Bridgehouse is entitled to be reimbursed by the Fund for certain operating expenses.

Brandes Investment Partners L.P. ("Brandes LP") continued to be the Manager's portfolio sub-advisor in respect of the Fund. Bridgehouse pays Brandes LP an investment

management fee to provide the Fund with investment management services. Bridgehouse and Brandes LP are affiliates.

### **Forward-Looking Statements**

This document may contain forward-looking statements relating to anticipated future events, results, performance, decisions, circumstances, opportunities, risks or other matters. Forward-looking statements are statements that are predictive in nature, depend upon or refer to future events or conditions, or that include words such as "may", "will", "should", "could", "expect", "anticipate", "intend", "plan", "believe", or "estimate" or other similar expressions. These statements require us to make assumptions and are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties. Our predictions and other forward-looking statements may not prove to be accurate, or a number of factors could cause actual events, results, performance, etc. to differ materially from the targets, expectations, estimates or intentions expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. These factors could include, among others, market and general economic conditions, interest rates, regulatory and statutory developments, the effects of competition in the geographic and business areas in which the Fund may invest, and the risks detailed from time to time in the Fund's simplified prospectus. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. For these reasons, it is important that readers do not place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements and should be aware that the Fund may not update any forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

### **Benchmark Indices**

**S&P 500 Index:** This index consists of 500 large-capitalization stocks and is designed to be a representative sample of the U.S. stock market.

**S&P 500 Index (Hedged):** This index consists of 500 large-capitalization stocks and is designed to be a representative sample of the U.S. stock market. The hedged version minimizes the exposure of currency fluctuations on index performance.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2021 AND PERIODS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 TO 2020

The following tables show selected key financial information about the Fund and are intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance for the six months ended June 30, 2021 and for the past five periods ended December 31, as applicable. In the year a fund or series is established, 'period' represents inception to December 31 of that year. In all other cases, 'period' represents year ended December 31. Inception date for Series AH, FH and IH is April 23, 2015.

### The Fund's Net Assets per Unit (\$) (note 1)

		Increase (decrease) from operations						Distributions					Net assets, end of period (\$)
		Net assets, beginning of period (\$)	Total revenue (\$)	Total expenses (\$)	Realized gains (losses) for the period (\$)	Unrealized gains (losses) for the period (\$)	Total increase (decrease) from operations (\$) (note 2)	From net investment income excluding dividends (\$)	From dividends (\$)	From capital gains (\$)	Return of capital (\$)	Total annual distribution (\$) (note 3)	
Series A	2021	17.44	0.22	(0.22)	0.73	2.00	2.73	-	-	-	-	-	20.17
	2020	16.93	0.35	(0.36)	1.05	(0.79)	0.25	-	-	-	-	-	17.44
	2019	14.58	0.36	(0.39)	1.34	1.08	2.39	-	-	-	-	-	16.93
	2018	14.71	0.30	(0.42)	1.48	(1.34)	0.02	-	-	-	-	-	14.58
	2017	13.95	0.23	(0.39)	1.53	(0.61)	0.76	-	-	-	-	-	14.71
	2016	12.31	0.18	(0.34)	1.31	0.24	1.39	-	-	-	-	-	13.95
Series F	2021	20.07	0.24	(0.14)	0.85	2.24	3.19	-	-	-	-	-	23.34
	2020	19.36	0.39	(0.22)	1.22	(1.00)	0.39	(0.11)	-	-	-	(0.11)	20.07
	2019	16.49	0.40	(0.24)	1.50	1.21	2.87	-	-	-	-	-	19.36
	2018	16.45	0.34	(0.28)	1.64	(1.52)	0.18	-	-	-	-	-	16.49
	2017	15.42	0.25	(0.26)	1.66	(0.62)	1.03	-	-	-	-	-	16.45
	2016	13.45	0.21	(0.22)	1.58	0.42	1.99	-	-	-	-	-	15.42
Series I	2021	22.12	0.25	-	0.95	2.56	3.76	-	-	-	-	-	25.88
	2020	21.29	0.42	-	1.37	(0.62)	1.17	(0.33)	-	-	-	(0.33)	22.12
	2019	17.89	0.42	-	1.63	1.35	3.40	-	-	-	-	-	21.29
	2018	17.56	0.33	-	1.80	(1.81)	0.32	-	-	-	-	-	17.89
	2017	16.20	0.26	-	1.69	(0.39)	1.56	-	-	-	-	-	17.56
	2016	13.91	0.20	-	0.62	(1.34)	(0.52)	-	-	-	-	-	16.20
Series AH	2021	13.67	0.17	(0.19)	1.28	1.27	2.53	-	-	-	-	-	16.17
	2020	13.37	0.26	(0.29)	0.94	0.28	1.19	-	-	-	-	-	13.67
	2019	11.04	0.29	(0.31)	0.42	2.11	2.51	-	-	-	-	-	13.37
	2018	12.22	0.27	(0.34)	0.80	(1.52)	(0.79)	-	-	-	-	-	11.04
	2017	10.96	0.20	(0.33)	1.80	(0.40)	1.27	-	-	-	-	-	12.22
	2016	9.43	0.15	(0.28)	1.15	1.13	2.15	-	-	-	-	-	10.96
Series FH	2021	14.49	0.18	(0.10)	1.36	1.34	2.78	-	-	-	-	-	17.24
	2020	14.11	0.27	(0.16)	0.69	(0.58)	0.22	(0.11)	-	-	-	(0.11)	14.49
	2019	11.53	0.30	(0.18)	0.49	1.98	2.59	-	-	-	-	-	14.11
	2018	12.62	0.28	(0.21)	0.80	(1.86)	(0.99)	-	-	-	-	-	11.53
	2017	11.19	0.22	(0.21)	1.65	(0.15)	1.51	-	-	-	-	-	12.62
	2016	9.52	0.20	(0.17)	1.19	1.03	2.25	-	-	-	-	-	11.19
Series IH	2021	15.67	0.18	-	1.47	1.45	3.10	-	-	-	-	-	18.77
	2020	15.17	0.28	-	0.84	(0.40)	0.72	(0.23)	-	-	-	(0.23)	15.67
	2019	12.23	0.29	-	0.54	2.12	2.95	-	-	-	-	-	15.17
	2018	13.17	0.24	-	0.84	(2.03)	(0.95)	-	-	-	-	-	12.23
	2017	11.48	0.18	-	1.94	(0.42)	1.70	-	-	-	-	-	13.17
	2016	9.61	0.14	-	0.69	1.04	1.87	-	-	-	-	-	11.48

- The financial information presented in the Net Assets per Unit table is derived from the Fund's audited financial statements.
- Net Assets and distributions are per Unit of a series are based on the actual number of units outstanding for that series at the relevant time. The Increase (Decrease) from Operations per Unit of a series is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding for that series during the financial period.
- Distributions per Unit of a series are based on the number of units outstanding for the series on the record dates for the distributions. Distributions were paid in cash/reinvested in additional units of the Fund or both.

## Ratios and Supplemental Data

		Net asset value (\$000) (note 4)	Number of units outstanding (000) (note 4)	Management expense ratio (MER) (%) (note 5)	MER before waivers or absorption (%) (note 5)	Portfolio turnover rate (%) (note 6)	Trading expense ratio (%) (note 7)	Net asset value per unit (\$)
Series A	2021	47,874	2,373	2.34	2.41	12.27	0.01	20.17
	2020	43,124	2,472	2.35	2.39	19.64	0.02	17.44
	2019	50,037	2,956	2.49	2.50	13.53	0.01	16.93
	2018	51,565	3,537	2.74	2.75	11.28	0.01	14.58
	2017	64,094	4,356	2.75	2.78	31.85	0.02	14.71
	2016	65,919	4,725	2.75	2.87	21.08	0.03	13.95
Series F	2021	26,847	1,151	1.23	1.26	-	-	23.34
	2020	20,938	1,043	1.20	1.21	-	-	20.07
	2019	24,596	1,270	1.34	1.34	-	-	19.36
	2018	21,824	1,324	1.61	1.61	-	-	16.49
	2017	28,893	1,756	1.62	1.64	-	-	16.45
	2016	18,903	1,226	1.61	1.72	-	-	15.42
Series I	2021	582	22	0.00	0.00	-	-	25.88
	2020	497	22	0.00	0.00	-	-	22.12
	2019	472	22	0.00	0.00	-	-	21.29
	2018	396	22	0.00	0.00	-	-	17.89
	2017	390	22	0.00	0.00	-	-	17.56
	2016	1	-	0.00	0.00	-	-	16.20
Series AH	2021	547	34	2.44	2.49	-	-	16.17
	2020	485	35	2.44	2.46	-	-	13.67
	2019	449	34	2.49	2.49	-	-	13.37
	2018	455	41	2.73	2.73	-	-	11.04
	2017	773	63	2.84	2.90	-	-	12.22
	2016	305	28	2.83	2.95	-	-	10.96
Series FH	2021	8,531	495	1.28	1.28	-	-	17.24
	2020	7,466	515	1.25	1.25	-	-	14.49
	2019	8,191	580	1.38	1.38	-	-	14.11
	2018	8,444	733	1.63	1.63	-	-	11.53
	2017	10,406	824	1.71	1.75	-	-	12.62
	2016	302	27	1.72	1.87	-	-	11.19
Series IH	2021	1	-	0.00	0.00	-	-	18.77
	2020	-	-	0.00	0.00	-	-	15.67
	2019	-	-	0.00	0.00	-	-	15.17
	2018	-	-	0.00	0.00	-	-	12.23
	2017	-	-	0.00	0.00	-	-	13.17
	2016	-	-	0.00	0.00	-	-	11.48

- The financial information presented in the Ratios and Supplemental Data table is derived from the Fund's Net Asset Value and is provided as at December 31 of the years shown.
- The management expense ratio ("MER") is calculated as the total management fees and operating expenses paid by each series of the Fund, including GST/HST and interest and excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs, and is expressed as a percentage of the average daily Net Asset Value of each series of the Fund on an annualized basis. Any management fee distributions paid by a series of the fund that effectively reduced management fees payable by some unitholders are not deducted from expenses to determine the overall MER of that series. The Manager, at its sole discretion, waives management fees or absorbs expenses. Such waivers and absorptions can be terminated at any time. The MERs of the Fund are shown both with and without the waiver and absorptions.
- Portfolio turnover rate is calculated at the Fund level based on the lesser of purchases or proceeds of sales of securities for the period, excluding cash, short term notes and bonds having maturity dates at acquisition of one year or less, divided by the average value of the portfolio securities for the period. The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio advisor manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a Fund's portfolio turnover rate in a year, the greater the trading costs payable by the Fund in the year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the year. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a Fund.
- The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average Net Asset Value of the Fund. The trading expense ratio is calculated at the Fund level and applies to all series of the Fund.

## MANAGEMENT FEES

Bridgehouse Asset Managers, the Manager, provides or arranges for investment management, distribution, marketing and promotion of the Fund. In consideration for the services provided Bridgehouse Asset Managers receives a monthly management fee based on the daily average Net Asset Value of Series A, Series AH, Series F and Series FH. Management fees for Series I and Series IH are negotiated and paid directly by the unitholders of Series I, and Series IH, and not by the Fund.

For the six months period ended June 30, 2021, the Fund paid Bridgehouse Asset Managers management fees of \$645,819. Bridgehouse uses these management fees to pay for commission payments to registered brokers and dealers and general investment management expenses. The breakdown (commission payments / investment management, administration and other) as a proportion of the management fee for each Series are:

- Series A, AH (44% / 56%)
- Series F, FH (0% / 100%)
- Series I, IH (0% / 100%)

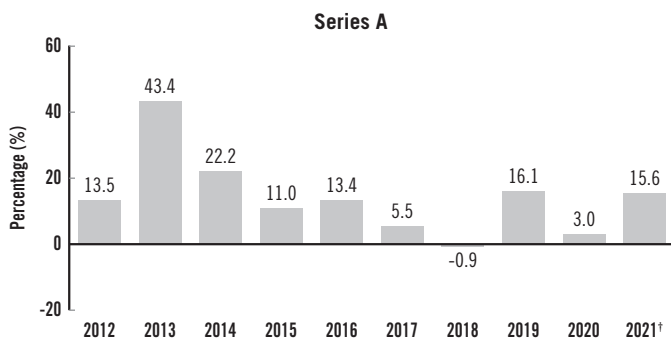
Commission payments represent cash commissions paid by Bridgehouse Asset Managers to registered brokers and dealers during the period and includes upfront deferred sales charge and trailing commissions. This amount may, in certain circumstances, exceed 100% of the fees earned by the Bridgehouse Asset Managers during the period. For new Funds or Series the amount presented may not be indicative of longer term operating periods.

## PAST PERFORMANCE

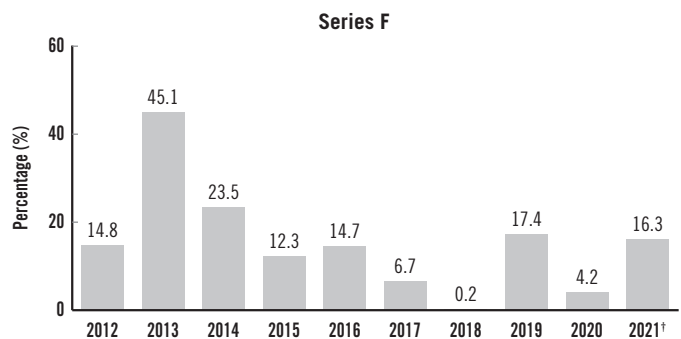
This section shows the historical performance for each series of the Fund for the six months ended June 30, 2021 and each of the previous annual periods ended December 31. Historical performance is based on the change in Net Asset Value per unit, assuming reinvestment of all distributions. Management fees and operating expenses have been taken into account before calculating performance, except in the case of Series I and Series IH units where the management fee is calculated outside of the Fund. Historical performance does not take into account the potential impact on returns of purchases, redemptions, distribution fees or other optional charges or income taxes payable by an investor. Keep in mind that past performance does not necessarily indicate how the Fund will perform in the future.

### Year-by-Year Returns (%)

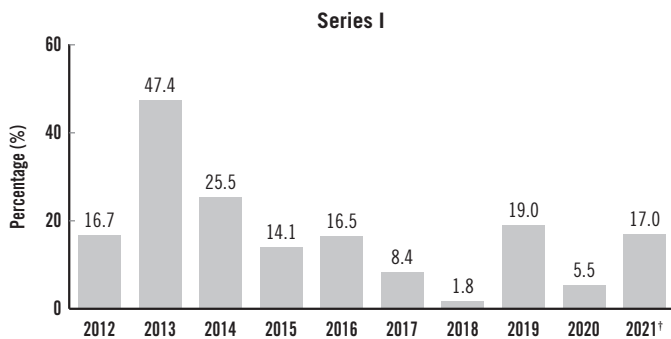
The bar chart shows the Fund's annual performance for each of the years shown. The bar chart shows how the performance of each series of the Fund has changed from year to year. It illustrates in percentage terms how much an investment in each series of the Fund made on January 1 of each year, or on the inception dates, would have grown or decreased by the last day of each financial year. 2021 data presented below is for the six-month period ended June 30, 2021.



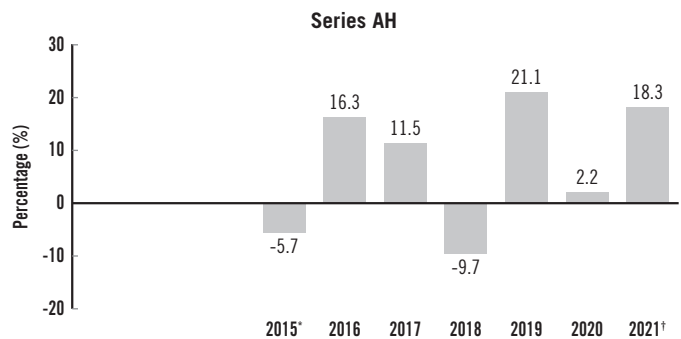
†Six-month return from January 1 to June 30, 2021.



†Six-month return from January 1 to June 30, 2021.



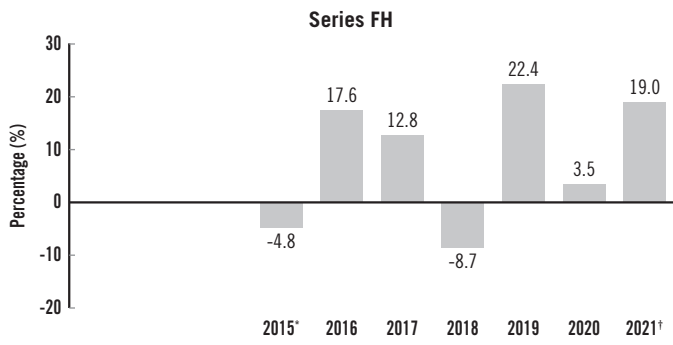
†Six-month return from January 1 to June 30, 2021.



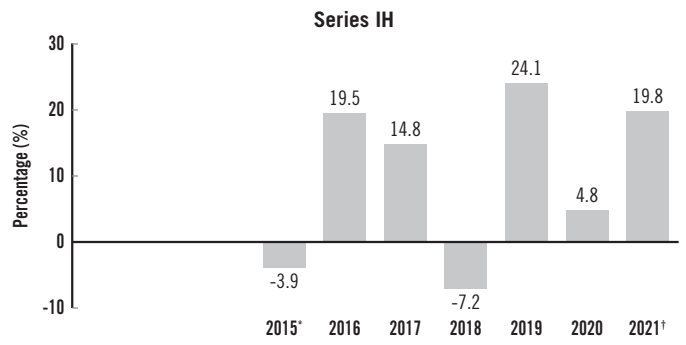
\*2015 Series AH returns are from April 23, 2015

†Six-month return from January 1 to June 30, 2021.





\*2015 Series FH returns are from April 23, 2015  
 †Six-month return from January 1 to June 30, 2021.



\*2015 Series IH returns are from April 23, 2015  
 †Six-month return from January 1 to June 30, 2021.

## SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO AS AT JUNE 30, 2021

### Top 25 Positions

The portfolio does not contain any short positions. The investment portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the investment fund. An updated listing is available on a quarterly basis.

Security	Fund (%)
1. Bank of America Corporation	3.3
2. Comcast Corporation Cl. A	3.1
3. Citigroup Inc.	3.0
4. Chevron Corporation	2.8
5. Wells Fargo & Company	2.8
6. CVS Health Corporation	2.8
7. Merck & Co., Inc.	2.7
8. FedEx Corporation	2.6
9. Pfizer Inc.	2.6
10. McKesson Corporation	2.5
11. Omnicom Group Inc.	2.4
12. Amdocs Limited	2.4
13. HCA Healthcare, Inc.	2.3
14. JPMorgan Chase & Co.	2.2
15. Cigna Corporation	2.2
16. Truist Financial Corporation	2.2
17. Textron Inc.	2.2
18. Old Republic International Corporation	2.1
19. The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation	2.1
20. General Dynamics Corporation	2.0
21. World Fuel Services Corporation	2.0
22. American International Group, Inc.	2.0
23. Ingredion Incorporated	1.9
24. State Street Corporation	1.8
25. Emerson Electric Co.	1.8
<b>% of Fund</b>	<b>59.8</b>
<b>Total Number of Companies</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Total Net Asset Value (\$MM)</b>	<b>\$84</b>

### Asset Mix

Asset Class	Fund (%)
Global Equity	99.1
Cash & Cash Equivalent	0.8
Other Net Assets	0.1
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Industry Exposure

Industry	Fund (%)
Health Care Providers & Services	13.3
Diversified Financial Services	9.5
Pharmaceuticals	7.1
Media	6.6
Commercial Banks	6.5
Insurance	5.2
IT Services	5.1
Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels	4.8
Aerospace & Defense	4.2
Capital Markets	3.9
Household Durables	3.3
Electrical Equipment	2.9
Chemicals	2.8
Air Freight & Logistics	2.6
Electronic Equipment, Instruments & Components	2.3
Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment	2.2
Software	2.0
Food Products	1.9
Consumer Finance	1.6
Energy Equipment & Services	1.5
Interactive Media & Services	1.4
Equity Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)	1.4
Health Care Technology	1.4
Communications Equipment	1.3
Specialty Retail	1.1
Industrial Conglomerates	1.0
Electric Utilities	1.0
Beverages	0.7
Biotechnology	0.5
Cash & Cash Equivalent	0.8
Other Net Assets	0.1
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total Number of Industries</b>	<b>29</b>

### Country Exposure

Country	Fund (%)
United States	98.2
Singapore	0.9
Cash & Cash Equivalent	0.8
Other Net Assets	0.1
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total Number of Countries</b>	<b>2</b>

Note: Rounding to one decimal place may result in individual figures totalling more or less than 100%





Bridgehouse Funds are managed by Bridgehouse Asset Managers® and are available through registered dealers.

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