

NORTHERN FUNDS

ACTIVE M EMERGING MARKETS EQUITY FUND (NMMEX)

As of 03/31/21

FUND COMMENTARY

Emerging markets, as measured by the MSCI Emerging Markets Index, finished the first quarter up 2.29%. Emerging markets value stocks outperformed growth, as demonstrated by the MSCI Emerging Markets Value Index return of 4.11% versus the MSCI Emerging Markets Growth Index return of 0.59%. Smaller cap names meaningfully outperformed for the quarter finishing up 7.67%. Eight of the eleven economic sectors posted positive results for the quarter, with materials, information technology, and communication services leading the way. Consumer discretionary, consumer staples, and health care were laggards and the only detractors for the quarter. From a country perspective, top contributors for the quarter were Taiwan, India, and South Africa. China's performance during the quarter was muted. The top detractor to the Index's performance by far was Brazil. Indonesia, Malaysia and Turkey were also notable detractors with Turkey being the quarter's worst absolute performer down nearly 21%.

The Fund lagged the MSCI Emerging Markets Index for the quarter. Weakness was exhibited among the Fund's holdings in the materials, financials and industrials sectors. Exposure to financials in Turkey and industrials in China were especially detrimental. Materials holdings across regions were a drag on returns. Meanwhile, the Fund's holdings added value in the information technology, consumer and energy sectors. An overweight to the information technology sector was also helpful. Although the Fund's underweight to China was beneficial, weak stock selection in the country proved detrimental. Stock selection in Taiwan and South Korea was positive. Westwood's value orientation continued to benefit from value stocks outperforming growth stocks. Ashmore's underweight to China combined with strong stock selection in Brazil, Mexico and Peru contributed to the Fund's results. On the heels of strong absolute and relative results, Axiom's growth orientation faced headwinds in the quarter, driven by stock selection in China and India.

Please carefully read the summary prospectus or prospectus and consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of Northern Funds before investing. Call 800-595-9111 to obtain a summary prospectus or prospectus, which contains this and other information about the funds.

©2021 Northern Funds | Northern Funds are distributed by Northern Funds Distributors, LLC, not affiliated with Northern Trust.



NORTHERN FUNDS

ACTIVE M EMERGING MARKETS EQUITY FUND (NMMEX)

Performance as of 03/31/21				Annualized Returns					
FUND	QTR	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Since Inception *	Gross Expense Ratio	Net Expense Ratio
Active M Emerging Markets Equity Fund	1.84%	1.84%	62.55%	4.77%	11.51%	3.74%	11.33%	1.25%	1.10%
MSCI Emerging Markets Index	2.29%	2.29%	58.39%	6.48%	12.07%	3.65%	10.91%		

*Inception Date- 11/19/08

Performance quoted represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than that shown here. Performance data current to the most recent month end is available by calling 800-595-9111.

The Gross and Net Expense Ratios are as of the most recent prospectus. The Net Expense Ratio includes contractual expense reimbursements that, if not extended, will end on July 31, 2021.

Not FDIC insured | May lose value | No bank guarantee

Please remember that all investments carry some level of risk, including the potential loss of principal invested. They do not typically grow at an even rate of return and may experience negative growth. As with any type of portfolio structuring, attempting to reduce risk and increase return could, at certain times, unintentionally reduce returns.

Please carefully read the summary prospectus or prospectus and consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of Northern Funds before investing. Call 800-595-9111 to obtain a summary prospectus or prospectus, which contains this and other information about the funds.

©2021 Northern Funds | Northern Funds are distributed by Northern Funds Distributors, LLC, not affiliated with Northern Trust.

