

NORTHERN FUNDS

ACTIVE M EMERGING MARKETS EQUITY FUND (NMMEX)

As of 09/30/20

FUND COMMENTARY

Emerging markets posted a solid return during the third quarter as the MSCI Emerging Markets Equity Index rose 9.56%. Asian markets drove the quarter's performance. China was a strong contributor, rising 12.50% as its bellwether Internet consumer discretionary stocks supported returns. South Korea and Taiwan also contributed with returns of 12.83% and 16.54%, respectively. India finished the quarter with a return of 14.95% on the back of strong performance from information technology outsourcing companies. Among the larger markets, Mexico and Russia underperformed the broad Index as did South Africa. Thailand and Turkey were the worst performing markets. On a sector basis, the best returning areas included consumer discretionary and information technology, while utilities and financials lagged. Growth stocks outperformed value for the quarter, as the MSCI EM Growth returned 14.15% versus 4.66% for its value counterpart.

The Active M Emerging Markets Equity Fund posted a strong return during the quarter, outperforming the MSCI Emerging Markets Index, up 11.66% versus 9.56%, respectively. Strong stock selection across several key markets supported the Fund's performance. Exposure to information technology stocks in Taiwan was particularly helpful. Information technology outsourcing and motor vehicle manufacturing stocks within India added value as well. While strong stock selection in other major markets, such as China and Brazil proved helpful, the Fund's overweight to Brazil and underweight to China was a detractor. Stock selection in South Africa was also detrimental to relative performance. The Fund's more growth-oriented sub adviser, Axiom, contributed to results within the information technology sector as well as within China. Meanwhile, value-oriented Westwood performed well within India and Taiwan. Finally, Ashmore's top-down driven approach benefited from an underweight to both Russia and Thailand and an overweight to the stronger performing Taiwan market.

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.

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Performance as of 09/30/20				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	11.66%	-1.48%	8.70%	1.19%	8.00%	2.42%	9.92%	1.25%	1.10%
MSCI Emerging Markets Index	9.56%	-1.16%	10.54%	2.42%	8.97%	2.50%	9.51%		

*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.

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