A Division of S&P Global

# SPIVA® Canada Scorecard

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Experience the active vs. passive debate on a global scale.

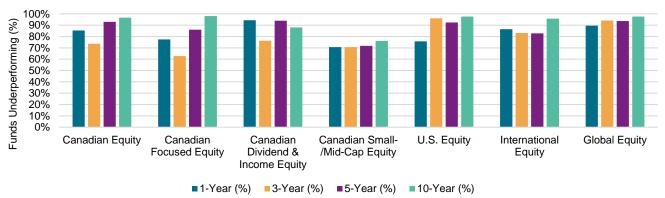
Since the first publication of the S&P Indices Versus Active (SPIVA) U.S. Scorecard in 2002, S&P Dow Jones Indices has been the de facto scorekeeper of the ongoing active versus passive debate.

The SPIVA Canada Scorecard measures the performance of Canadian actively managed funds against their respective benchmarks over various time horizons, covering large-, mid- and small-cap segments, as well as international and global equity funds.

# Year-End 2023 Highlights

2023 was a relatively challenging year for most actively managed funds in Canada. More than three-quarters of active funds underperformed their benchmarks in most categories, including Canadian Equity funds at 85%, Canadian Focused Equity funds at 77% and Dividend & Income Equity funds at 94% (see Exhibit 1 and Report 1). Small-/Mid-Cap Equity funds posted the lowest mid-year underperformance, with 71% lagging the benchmark. Underperformance rates generally increased with time horizons.

#### **Exhibit 1: Percentage of Underperforming Active Canadian Funds**



Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, Fundata. Data as of Dec. 31, 2023. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Chart is provided for illustrative purposes.

Canadian Equity Funds: The <u>S&P/TSX Composite Index</u> gained 11.8% in 2023, while Canadian Equity funds gained 9.3% and 10.1% on equal- and asset-weighted bases, respectively. Underperformance rates hit 85% over the one-year period, climbing to 74%, 93% and 97% over the 3-, 5- and 10-year horizons, respectively.

- Canadian Focused Equity Funds: The blended benchmark of 50% S&P/TSX Composite Index + 25% <u>S&P 500®</u> + 25% <u>S&P EPAC LargeMidCap</u> gained 15.6% in 2023, outperforming 77% of Canadian Focused Equity funds. Underperformance rates were 63%, 86% and 98% over the 3-, 5- and 10-year horizons, respectively.
- Canadian Dividend & Income Equity Funds: The <u>S&P/TSX Canadian Dividend</u>
   <u>Aristocrats® Index</u> gained 10.0% during 2023, while Canadian Dividend & Income Equity funds gained 7.2% and 7.7% on equal- and asset-weighted bases, respectively.
   Underperformance rates surpassed 94% over the one-year period, reaching 76%, 94% and 88% over the 3-, 5- and 10-year horizons, respectively.
- Canadian Small-/Mid-Cap Equity Funds: The <u>S&P/TSX Completion Index</u> rose 10.4% in 2023, and 71% of Canadian Small-/Mid-Cap Equity funds underperformed the index.
   Funds in this category gained 6.7% and 8.5% on equal- and asset-weighted bases, respectively, over the one-year period.
- U.S. Equity Funds: The S&P 500 gained 22.9% in 2023, and 76% of U.S. Equity funds underperformed the index. Few funds in the U.S. Equity category outperformed over the long term, with 96%, 92% and 98% underperforming over 3-, 5- and 10-year horizons, respectively.
- International Equity Funds: 86% of International Equity funds trailed the S&P EPAC LargeMidCap in 2023, and 83%, 83% and 96% underperformed over the 3-, 5- and 10-year periods, respectively.
- Global Equity Funds: The <u>S&P Developed LargeMidCap</u> rose 21.2% in 2023, and Global Equity funds gained 14.7% and 12.9% on equal- and asset-weighted bases, respectively.
   Over the one-year period, 90% of funds in the category trailed the benchmark. Over the 3-, 5- and 10-year periods, 94%, 94% and 98% of funds underperformed, respectively.
- Fund Survivorship: Liquidation rates for all categories were in single digits for the one-year period ending Dec. 30, 2023. Over the 10-year period, 43% of Canadian Equity funds merged or liquidated, and an average of 39% of funds disappeared across all categories (see Report 2).

# Market Context

After a 2022 filled with myriad challenges, 2023 marked an epic turnaround for global markets, including Canada. The S&P/TSX Composite Index was up 12% in 2023. At the same time, U.S. performance was even more remarkable, with the S&P 500 up 23% in Canadian dollar terms, surpassing the <u>S&P/TSX 60</u>, its Canadian large-cap counterpart, by 11%. Overall, all observed benchmarks posted double-digit positive performance for the year (see Exhibit 2).

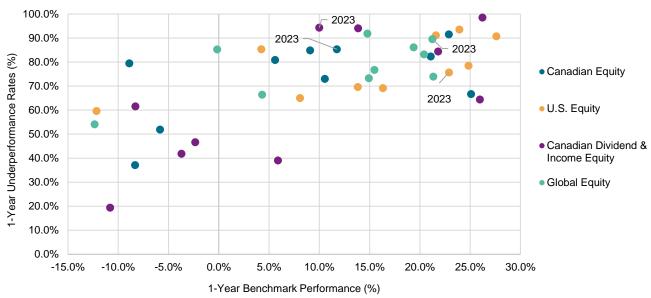
25.0% 22.9% 21.2% 20.0% 15.9% Performance 15.0% 12.1% 11.8% 10.4% 10.0% 10.0% 5.0% 0.0% S&P 500 S&P Developed S&P EPAC S&P/TSX 60 S&P/TSX S&P/TSX S&P/TSX Canadian LargeMidCap LargeMidCap Composite Completion Dividend Aristocrats

**Exhibit 2: Positive Performance for All Major Canada and International Benchmarks** 

Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, FactSet. Data as of Dec. 31, 2023. Index performance based on total return in CAD. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Chart is provided for illustrative purposes.

Robust positive performance of benchmarks may have posed a challenge for managers in 2023, setting a higher hurdle to overcome in the pursuit of alpha. Over the past 10 years, many Canadian active fund categories showed a mild positive relationship between one-year benchmark performance and coincident active fund underperformance rates, as shown in Exhibit 3.

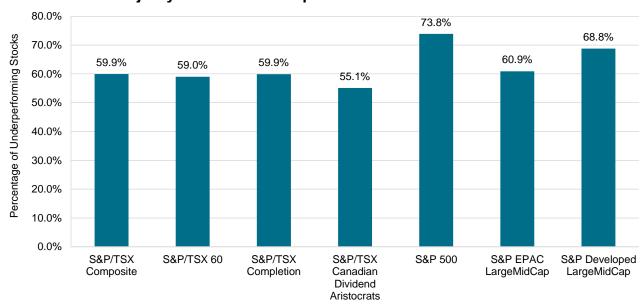
**Exhibit 3: Years of Higher Benchmark Performance that Coincided with Greater Active Underperformance** 



Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, FactSet. Data as of Dec. 31, 2023. Index performance based on total return in CAD. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Chart is provided for illustrative purposes.

Along with solid index performance came positive skew in the cross section of constituent returns. In all categories, the majority of constituents trailed their benchmark's total return. The proportion of winning stocks ranged from 26.2% in the S&P 500 up to 44.9% in the S&P/TSX Canadian Dividend Aristocrats Index, as shown in Exhibit 4.

**Exhibit 4: The Majority of Stocks Underperformed Benchmarks** 



Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, FactSet. Data as of Dec. 31, 2023. Index performance based on total return in CAD. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Chart is provided for illustrative purposes.

One stock in particular was a major driver of Canadian equity benchmark performance, and therefore positive skew. This single, heavily weighted constituent presented another headwind for many active Canadian Equity funds, as ownership or omission of the stock could have created a binary outcome of success or failure. In our <u>SPIVA Canada Mid-Year 2022</u> <u>Scorecard</u>, we detailed how Shopify, Inc.'s large index weight combined with its deeply negative returns at that time dragged down index performance and allowed many managers to outperform since the stock was widely missing from or underweighted in Canadian active fund portfolios. In 2023, avoidance of Shopify had the opposite effect for managers, as it was among the best-performing stocks in the S&P/TSX Composite Index and had one of the largest average weights, thus driving benchmark performance higher and leaving many active funds behind (see Exhibit 5).<sup>1</sup>

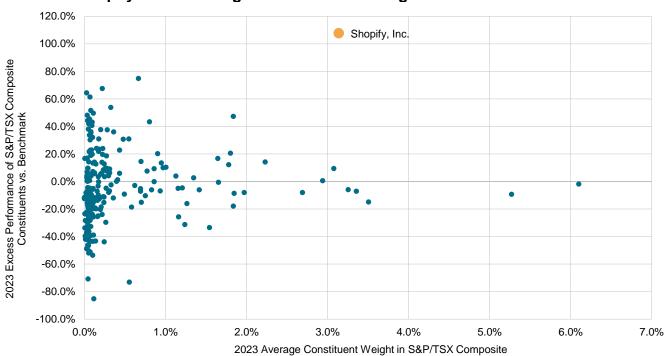


Exhibit 5: Shopify Delivered High Return and the Largest Performance Contribution

Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, FactSet. Data as of Dec. 31, 2023. Index and stock performance based on total return in CAD. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Chart is provided for illustrative purposes.

In addition to strong benchmark performance and constituent concentration challenges, there were reduced opportunities to generate excess returns among single stocks compared to 2022. Exhibit 6 shows that dispersion—a measure of the difference in performance between index constituents and a representation of the opportunity set for stock picking—declined throughout 2023, indicating shrinking opportunities to add value through astute stock selection.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As of Dec. 30, 2022, Shopify's weight in the S&P/TSX Composite Index was 2.0%. Over the course of 2023, this stock had a total return of 119.4% and ended with a 4.2% weight in the S&P/TSX Composite Index.

30% Trailing 12-Month Average Dispersion 25% 20% 15% 10% 5% 0% 2013 2014 2016 2018 2019 Dec. 2012 2015 2017 2020 2022 Dec. 2023 2021 Dec. Dec. Dec. Dec. Dec. Dec. Dec. S&P/TSX Composite S&P 500 (CAD) S&P Developed LargeMidCap

**Exhibit 6: Index Stock-Level Dispersion Trended Downward in 2023** 

Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, FactSet. Data as of Dec. 31, 2023. Index and stock performance based on total return in CAD. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Chart is provided for illustrative purposes.

In contrast to the prior year, 2023 delivered a positive turnaround with rising markets across all benchmark categories. Bright spots abounded, yet many active funds missed their moment in the sun. Ultimately, strong index performance, positive skew among constituent returns and falling dispersion all contributed to conditions that were welcomed by many index-based investors, but which the vast majority of managers found difficult to beat.

# A Unique Scorecard for the Active Versus Passive Debate

Since its first publication in the U.S. over 20 years ago, the SPIVA Scorecard has served as the de facto scorekeeper of the active versus passive debate. For over two decades, we have heard passionate arguments from believers in both camps when headline numbers have deviated from their beliefs.

Beyond the SPIVA Scorecard's widely cited headline numbers is a rich data set that addresses issues related to measurement techniques, universe composition and fund survivorship that are far less frequently discussed but are often much more fascinating. These data sets are rooted in the following fundamental principles of the SPIVA Scorecard, with which regular readers will be familiar.

- Survivorship Bias Correction: Many funds might be liquidated or merged during a period of study. However, for someone making an investment decision at the beginning of the period, these funds are part of the opportunity set. Unlike other commonly available comparison reports, SPIVA Scorecards account for the entire opportunity set—not just the survivors—thereby eliminating survivorship bias.
- Apples-to-Apples Comparison: Fund returns are often compared with a popular benchmark regardless of their investment category. The SPIVA Canada Scorecard makes an appropriate comparison by measuring a fund's returns against the returns of a benchmark that reflects the fund's investment category.
- Asset-Weighted Returns: Average returns for a fund group are often calculated using only equal weighting, which means the returns of a CAD 10 billion fund affect the average in the same manner as the returns of a CAD 10 million fund. An accurate representation of how market participants fared in a particular period can be ascertained by calculating weighted average returns, where each fund's return is weighted by net assets. SPIVA Scorecards show both equal- and asset-weighted averages.
- Data Cleaning: SPIVA Scorecards avoid double-counting multiple share classes in all count-based calculations by using only the share class with greater assets. Index, leveraged and inverse funds, along with other index-linked products, are excluded because this is meant to be a scorecard for active managers.

# Reports

Report 1a: Percentage of Funds Underperforming Their Benchmarks (Based on Absolute Return)

| Absolute Return                    | -,   |            |            |            |             |
|------------------------------------|--|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Fund Category                      | Comparison Index   | 1-Year (%) | 3-Year (%) | 5-Year (%) | 10-Year (%) |
| Canadian Equity                    | S&P/TSX Composite Index  | 85.33      | 73.61      | 92.96      | 96.63       |
| Canadian Focused Equity            | 50% S&P/TSX Composite Index +<br>25% S&P 500 (CAD) + 25% S&P<br>EPAC LargeMidCap (CAD) | 77.42      | 62.69      | 86.05      | 98.04       |
| Canadian Dividend & Income Equity  | S&P/TSX Canadian Dividend<br>Aristocrats Index   | 94.34      | 76.27      | 93.94      | 88.06       |
| Canadian Small-/<br>Mid-Cap Equity | S&P/TSX Completion Index   | 70.59      | 70.59      | 71.79      | 76.19       |
| U.S. Equity                        | S&P 500 (CAD)  | 75.69      | 96.03      | 92.36      | 97.56       |
| International Equity               | S&P EPAC LargeMidCap (CAD)   | 86.49      | 83.10      | 82.86      | 95.83       |
| Global Equity                      | S&P Developed LargeMidCap (CAD)  | 89.55      | 94.14      | 93.70      | 97.60       |

Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, Fundata. Data for periods ending Dec. 31, 2023. Outperformance is based on equal-weighted fund counts. Index performance based on total return. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Table is provided for illustrative purposes.

Report 1b: Percentage of Funds Underperforming Their Benchmarks (Based on Risk-Adjusted Return)

| Aujusteu Neturij                   |  |            |            |             |
|------------------------------------|--|------------|------------|-------------|
| Fund Category                      | Comparison Index   | 3-Year (%) | 5-Year (%) | 10-Year (%) |
| Canadian Equity                    | S&P/TSX Composite Index  | 70.83      | 91.55      | 90.74       |
| Canadian Focused Equity            | 50% S&P/TSX Composite Index + 25%<br>S&P 500 (CAD) + 25% S&P EPAC<br>LargeMidCap (CAD) | 65.67      | 89.53      | 96.67       |
| Canadian Dividend & Income Equity  | S&P/TSX Canadian Dividend Aristocrats Index  | 74.58      | 69.70      | 59.26       |
| Canadian Small-/<br>Mid-Cap Equity | S&P/TSX Completion Index   | 73.53      | 66.67      | 72.73       |
| U.S. Equity                        | S&P 500 (CAD)  | 90.73      | 97.22      | 100.00      |
| International Equity               | S&P EPAC LargeMidCap (CAD)   | 81.69      | 90.00      | 92.31       |
| Global Equity                      | S&P Developed LargeMidCap (CAD)  | 91.02      | 97.48      | 98.00       |

Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, Fundata. Results shown for all time horizons over which the comparison index total return was positive. Data for periods ending Dec. 31, 2023. Risk-adjusted return is computed as the annualized average monthly return divided by the annualized standard deviation of the monthly return for the measured periods. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Table is provided for illustrative purposes.

**Report 2: Survivorship of Funds** 

| Fund Category                     | Number of Funds at Start | Survivorship (%) |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1-Year                            |                          |                  |
| Canadian Equity                   | 75                       | 94.67            |
| Canadian Focused Equity           | 62                       | 93.55            |
| Canadian Dividend & Income Equity | 53                       | 96.23            |
| Canadian Small-/Mid-Cap Equity    | 34                       | 94.12            |
| U.S. Equity                       | 144                      | 95.14            |
| International Equity              | 74                       | 94.59            |
| Global Equity                     | 268                      | 92.54            |
| All Categories                    | 710                      | 94.40            |
| 3-Year                            |                          |                  |
| Canadian Equity                   | 72                       | 86.11            |
| Canadian Focused Equity           | 67                       | 83.58            |
| Canadian Dividend & Income Equity | 59                       | 91.53            |
| Canadian Small-/Mid-Cap Equity    | 34                       | 91.18            |
| U.S. Equity                       | 151                      | 86.75            |
| International Equity              | 71                       | 91.55            |
| Global Equity                     | 253                      | 86.72            |
| All Categories                    | 710                      | 88.20            |

Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, Fundata. Data for periods ending Dec. 31, 2023. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Table is provided for illustrative purposes.

Report 2: Survivorship of Funds (cont.)

| Fund Category                     | Number of Funds at Start | Survivorship (%) |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 5-Year                            |                          |                  |
| Canadian Equity                   | 71                       | 77.46            |
| Canadian Focused Equity           | 86                       | 67.44            |
| Canadian Dividend & Income Equity | 66                       | 77.27            |
| Canadian Small-/Mid-Cap Equity    | 39                       | 79.49            |
| U.S. Equity                       | 144                      | 84.56            |
| International Equity              | 70                       | 80.00            |
| Global Equity                     | 238                      | 83.19            |
| All Categories                    | 714                      | 77.92            |
| 10-Year                           |                          |                  |
| Canadian Equity                   | 89                       | 57.30            |
| Canadian Focused Equity           | 102                      | 43.14            |
| Canadian Dividend & Income Equity | 67                       | 70.15            |
| Canadian Small-/Mid-Cap Equity    | 42                       | 66.67            |
| U.S. Equity                       | 123                      | 68.29            |
| International Equity              | 72                       | 56.94            |
| Global Equity                     | 208                      | 66.83            |
| All Categories                    | 703                      | 61.33            |

Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, Fundata. Data for periods ending Dec. 31, 2023. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Table is provided for illustrative purposes.

Report 3: Average Fund Performance (Equal-Weighted)

| ,                               | (=900      |            |            |             |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Index/Fund Category             | 1-Year (%) | 3-Year (%) | 5-Year (%) | 10-Year (%) |
| S&P/TSX Composite Index         | 11.75      | 9.59       | 11.30      | 7.62        |
| Canadian Equity                 | 9.30       | 7.87       | 8.76       | 5.64        |
| S&P 500 (CAD)                   | 22.90      | 11.27      | 14.88      | 14.48       |
| U.S. Equity                     | 17.90      | 6.67       | 10.77      | 10.02       |
| S&P EPAC LargeMidCap (CAD)      | 15.93      | 4.78       | 7.72       | 7.06        |
| International Equity            | 12.82      | 1.87       | 5.75       | 4.83        |
| S&P Developed LargeMidCap (CAD) | 21.24      | 8.57       | 12.28      | 11.39       |
| Global Equity                   | 14.71      | 4.01       | 8.48       | 7.03        |
|                                 |            |            |            |             |

Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, Fundata. Data for periods ending Dec. 31, 2023. Returns for periods greater than one year are annualized. Index performance based on total return. Funds are equal weighted, but indices are not. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Table is provided for illustrative purposes.

Report 3: Average Fund Performance (Equal-Weighted) (cont.)

| Index/Fund Category  | 1-Year (%) | 3-Year (%) | 5-Year (%) | 10-Year (%) |
|--|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| S&P/TSX Completion Index   | 10.44      | 6.71       | 10.18      | 5.68        |
| Canadian Small-/Mid-Cap Equity   | 6.67       | 5.17       | 9.36       | 4.40        |
| S&P/TSX Canadian Dividend Aristocrats Index                                      | 10.00      | 10.09      | 10.47      | 7.05        |
| Canadian Dividend & Income Equity  | 7.21       | 8.57       | 8.28       | 5.49        |
| 50% S&P/TSX Composite Index + 25% S&P 500 (CAD) + 25% S&P EPAC LargeMidCap (CAD) | 15.58      | 8.89       | 11.41      | 9.30        |
| Canadian Focused Equity  | 12.41      | 8.10       | 9.78       | 6.16        |

Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, Fundata. Data for periods ending Dec. 31, 2023. Returns for periods greater than one year are annualized. Index performance based on total return. Funds are equal weighted, but indices are not. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Table is provided for illustrative purposes.

Report 4: Average Fund Performance (Asset-Weighted)

| Index/Fund Category  | 1-Year (%) | 3-Year (%) | 5-Year (%) | 10-Year (%) |
|--|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| S&P/TSX Composite Index  | 11.75      | 9.59       | 11.30      | 7.62        |
| Canadian Equity  | 10.08      | 8.80       | 8.92       | 6.05        |
| S&P 500 (CAD)  | 22.90      | 11.27      | 14.88      | 14.48       |
| U.S. Equity  | 20.43      | 5.87       | 10.85      | 10.45       |
| S&P EPAC LargeMidCap (CAD)   | 15.93      | 4.78       | 7.72       | 7.06        |
| International Equity   | 12.19      | 0.89       | 6.48       | 5.64        |
| S&P Developed LargeMidCap (CAD)  | 21.24      | 8.57       | 12.28      | 11.39       |
| Global Equity  | 12.85      | 3.42       | 7.52       | 7.02        |
| S&P/TSX Completion Index   | 10.44      | 6.71       | 10.18      | 5.68        |
| Canadian Small-/Mid-Cap Equity   | 8.52       | 5.34       | 9.51       | 4.41        |
| S&P/TSX Canadian Dividend Aristocrats Index                                      | 10.00      | 10.09      | 10.47      | 7.05        |
| Canadian Dividend & Income Equity  | 7.68       | 9.15       | 9.20       | 6.57        |
| 50% S&P/TSX Composite Index + 25% S&P 500 (CAD) + 25% S&P EPAC LargeMidCap (CAD) | 15.58      | 8.89       | 11.41      | 9.30        |
| Canadian Focused Equity  | 11.76      | 7.98       | 9.65       | 6.27        |

Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, Fundata. Data for periods ending Dec. 31, 2023. Index performance based on total returns. Returns for periods greater than one year are annualized. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Table is provided for illustrative purposes.

**Report 5: Quartile Breakpoints of Fund Performance** 

| Fund Category                     | Third Quartile | Second Quartile | First Quartile |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1-Year                            |                |                 |                |
| Canadian Equity                   | 7.44           | 9.44            | 10.79          |
| Canadian Focused Equity           | 8.32           | 10.69           | 15.07          |
| Canadian Dividend & Income Equity | 5.71           | 6.68            | 8.03           |
| Canadian Small-/Mid-Cap Equity    | 4.50           | 6.71            | 11.05          |
| U.S. Equity                       | 11.98          | 17.17           | 23.35          |
| International Equity              | 11.18          | 12.56           | 14.52          |
| Global Equity                     | 10.00          | 13.31           | 17.06          |
| 3-Year                            |                |                 |                |
| Canadian Equity                   | 6.61           | 8.17            | 9.96           |
| Canadian Focused Equity           | 6.17           | 8.37            | 10.34          |
| Canadian Dividend & Income Equity | 7.67           | 8.70            | 10.20          |
| Canadian Small-/Mid-Cap Equity    | 1.69           | 5.21            | 7.29           |
| U.S. Equity                       | 5.01           | 6.94            | 9.03           |
| International Equity              | -0.37          | 2.19            | 4.31           |
| Global Equity                     | 2.60           | 4.67            | 6.57           |
| 5-Year                            |                |                 |                |
| Canadian Equity                   | 7.99           | 8.89            | 10.12          |
| Canadian Focused Equity           | 8.67           | 9.90            | 10.60          |
| Canadian Dividend & Income Equity | 7.64           | 8.39            | 9.29           |
| Canadian Small-/Mid-Cap Equity    | 7.38           | 9.30            | 12.11          |
| U.S. Equity                       | 9.02           | 11.05           | 12.08          |
| International Equity              | 4.28           | 5.36            | 7.12           |
| Global Equity                     | 6.77           | 8.45            | 9.82           |
| 10-Year                           |                |                 |                |
| Canadian Equity                   | 5.15           | 5.88            | 6.83           |
| Canadian Focused Equity           | 5.47           | 6.39            | 7.74           |
| Canadian Dividend & Income Equity | 4.66           | 6.05            | 6.95           |
| Canadian Small-/Mid-Cap Equity    | 3.89           | 4.49            | 5.92           |
| U.S. Equity                       | 9.00           | 10.48           | 11.70          |
| International Equity              | 4.35           | 5.30            | 6.02           |
| Global Equity                     | 5.78           | 6.90            | 8.57           |

Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, Fundata. Data for periods ending Dec. 31, 2023. Index performance based on total returns. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Table is provided for illustrative purposes.

# Appendix A: SPIVA Methodology

#### Data

S&P Dow Jones Indices obtains a custom feed of monthly return data from Fundata Canada for all equity funds<sup>2</sup> in its database. The feed includes data on funds that have merged or liquidated. Fundata applies the following filters to the file S&P DJI receives.

- All non-equity funds are excluded.
- All pooled funds, segregated funds or other specialized categories that do not qualify as retail mutual funds are excluded.
- Multiple occurrences of the same fund's portfolio reporting in two or more currencies are also excluded, as S&P DJI only uses the Canadian dollar version.
- Only a single share class is included.

The file contains the following data fields on a monthly basis.

- Fund name
- Fund identifier
- Month and year
- Fund returns for the month, after management and other costs, including distributions
- Fund assets under management in that month
- Fund categorization in that month
- Management type (i.e., whether the fund is indexed or actively managed)

S&P DJI then excludes index funds, limiting the data to funds that are actively managed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Includes mutual funds and ETFs.

## **Fund Categories**

S&P Dow Jones Indices chooses funds that, at any point in the previous 120 months, were classified in at least one of the following seven Canadian Investment Funds Standards Committee (CIFSC) categories.

- Canadian Equity
- Canadian Focused Equity
- Canadian Dividend & Income Equity
- Canadian Small-/Mid-Cap Equity
- U.S. Equity
- International Equity
- Global Equity

The categories reviewed in this report represent the major areas of interest for Canadian market participants. The CIFSC governs the categorization of Canadian mutual funds.

#### **Benchmarks**

The chosen benchmarks are shown in Exhibit 6. All index returns are total returns (i.e., include dividend reinvestment) in Canadian dollars. There has been no deduction from index returns to account for fund investment expenses. It is important to note that active fund returns are after expenses, but they do not include loads and entry fees. To ensure the study is robust and fair, representative benchmarks were selected for each fund category, but not all funds adopt the benchmarks stipulated. However, a vast majority do set their performance hurdle based on either the assigned benchmarks in this report or a similar alternative.

**Exhibit 6: SPIVA Categories and Their Benchmarks** 

| SPIVA Category                    | Benchmark Index  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Canadian Equity                   | S&P/TSX Composite Index  |
| Canadian Focused Equity           | 50% S&P/TSX Composite Index + 25% S&P 500 (CAD) + 25% S&P EPAC LargeMidCap (CAD) |
| Canadian Dividend & Income Equity | S&P/TSX Canadian Dividend Aristocrats Index                                      |
| Canadian Small-/Mid-Cap Equity    | S&P/TSX Completion Index   |
| U.S. Equity                       | S&P 500 (CAD)  |
| International Equity              | S&P EPAC LargeMidCap (CAD)   |
| Global Equity                     | S&P Developed LargeMidCap (CAD)  |
|                                   |  |

Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, Fundata. Table is provided for illustrative purposes.

# Appendix B: Glossary

### Percentage of Funds Outperformed by the Index

To correct for survivorship bias, we use the opportunity set available at the beginning of the period as the denominator. We determine the count of funds that have survived and beat the index. We then report the percentage of funds that did not survive and beat the index.

# Survivorship (%)

The survivorship measure represents the percentage of funds in existence at the beginning of the time period that are still active at the end of the time period.

# **Equal-Weighted Fund Performance**

Equal-weighted returns for a particular style category and time horizon are determined by compounding the simple average of the monthly returns of all active funds that were available at the start of the period.

# Asset-Weighted Fund Performance

Asset-weighted returns for a particular style category are calculated similarly, except based on a weighted average return of fund returns each month, with each fund's return weighted by its total net assets. Asset-weighted returns can be a better indicator of category performances because they reflect the returns of the total money invested across the sample of funds.

#### Quartile Breakpoints

The p<sup>th</sup> percentile for a set of data is the value that is greater than or equal to p% of the data but is less than or equal to (100-p)% of the data. In other words, it is a value that divides the data into two parts: the lower p% of the values and the upper (100-p)% of the values. The first quartile is the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile, which is the value separating the elements of a population into the lower 75% and the upper 25%. The second quartile is the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile, and the third quartile is the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile. For fund category quartiles in a particular time horizon, the data used is the return of the largest surviving share class of the fund net of fees, excluding loads.

# Survivorship Bias

Many funds might liquidate or merge during a period of study. This usually occurs due to continued poor performance by the fund. Therefore, if index returns were compared to fund returns using only surviving funds, the comparison would be biased in favor of the fund category. The SPIVA reports remove this bias in three ways. The first method to remove the bias is to use the entire investment opportunity set, made up of all funds in that particular category at the outset of the period, as the denominator for outperformance calculations. The second is explicitly to show the survivorship rate in each category. The final way is to construct a peer average return series for each category based on all available funds at the outset of the period.

#### Fees

The fund returns used are net of fees, excluding loads.

#### **Indices**

A benchmark index provides an investment vehicle against which fund performance can be measured.

#### S&P 500

Widely regarded as the best single gauge of the U.S. equities market, this index includes a representative sample of 500 leading companies in leading industries of the U.S. economy and provides over 80% market coverage of the U.S. equities market.

#### S&P/TSX Composite Index

This is the headline index and the principal broad market measure for Canadian equity markets. The S&P/TSX Composite Index is the basis for numerous subindices, which break down the Canadian market by different factors, including size, liquidity and Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS®).

#### S&P/TSX Completion Index

This is a modular component of the S&P/TSX Composite Index. This index comprises constituents of the S&P/TSX Composite Index that are not in the S&P/TSX 60.

#### S&P/TSX Canadian Dividend Aristocrats Index

This index is designed to measure the performance of Canadian securities that have followed a managed dividends policy of consistently increasing dividends every year for at least five years.

#### S&P EPAC LargeMidCap

This index is a float-weighted, rules-based benchmark that is designed to measure the universe of securities in the developed markets, excluding North America. The S&P EPAC LargeMidCap constitutes the top 85% of the available market capitalization of the <u>S&P EPAC BMI</u>. The S&P EPAC LargeMidCap was previously named the S&P/Citigroup EPAC PMI Index and represented 80% of the available market cap. On Oct. 1, 2008, the new size divisions and name change took effect.

#### S&P Developed LargeMidCap

This index is a float-weighted, rules-based benchmark that is designed to measure securities in the developed markets. The S&P Developed LargeMidCap constitutes the top 85% of the available market cap of the <u>S&P Developed BMI</u>. The S&P Developed LargeMidCap was previously named the S&P/Citigroup World PMI Index and represented 80% of the available market capitalization. On Oct. 1, 2008, the new size divisions and name change took effect.

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