CHEERS TO 10 YEARS OF IHDG

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Earlier this month, the WisdomTree International Hedged Quality Dividend Growth Fund (IHDG) celebrated its 10-year anniversary. Launched on May 7, 2014, it applied our now-flagship quality dividend growth methodology to international equity markets.

The Fund provides exposure to companies with the highest quality measurements across the developed international equity universe. WisdomTree's quality definition considers static and trend-based observations of return on equity (ROE) and return on assets (ROA), which provides an explicit focus on profitability when paired with estimated earnings growth.

The resulting stock basket of roughly 300 companies is ultimately dividend-weighted to help keep valuations in check, since we'd typically expect higher-quality businesses to trade at a premium multiple compared to lower-quality peers.

As a result, IHDG marries two equity factor philosophies that WisdomTree excels in: quality and dividends. The pairing has been successful as well. IHDG is consistently ranked within the top quintile in the Morningstar Foreign Large Growth Category throughout history and is top-three over the three-, five- and 10-year periods.

Percentile Rank within Morningstar Category

IHDG vs. Foreign Large Growth Fund Category	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year (& Since Inception)
Percentile Rank	17	2	3	1
# of Investments in Category	404	380	332	224

Source: Morningstar, as of 5/7/24. Subject to change. Morningstar, Inc., 2019. All rights reserved. The information contained herein: (1) is proprietary to Morningstar and/or its content providers; (2) may not be copied or distributed; and (3) is not warranted to be accurate, complete or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information. Past performance, rankings and ratings are no guarantee of future results. The % of Peer Group Beaten is the funds' total-return percentile rank compared to all funds within the same Morningstar Category and is subject to change each month. Regarding ranking of funds, 1 = Best.

Performance Review

The strategy has outperformed broad developed international equity markets since inception, especially when coupled with a static currency hedge to eliminate long foreign currency exposure for a U.S. dollar-based investor.

As of May 7, IHDG has added nearly 5% per year over the trailing three-, five- and 10-year/since inception periods versus the MSCI EAFE Index, quoted in dollar terms. This speaks volumes about the efficacy of a quality and dividend emphasis in international equity markets.

Performance

Fund/Index	Cumulative Total Return			Annualized Total Return			
	1-Month	3-Month	YTD	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year (& Since Inception)
IHDG (NAV)	1.97%	6.76%	9.18%	15.04%	7.70%	11.75%	9.73%
IHDG (MKT)	2.52%	6.59%	9.18%	14.59%	7.62%	11.92%	9.66%
MSCI EAFE (USD)	2.65%	6.26%	5.81%	11.57%	2.88%	7.11%	4.81%
NAV vs. EAFE (USD)	*-0.68%*	*0.49%*	*3.37%*	*3.47%*	*4.82%*	*4.65%*	*4.92%*

Source: WisdomTree, as of 5/7/24. You cannot invest directly in an index. **Performance data quoted represents past performance and is no guarantee of future results. Investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted.**

For the most recent month-end performance, please click here.

But its currency hedge has also had a meaningful performance impact amid the strong-dollar environment in the aftermath of the pandemic.

To quantify its effect, we can compare the performance for its Index versus that of its unhedged twin (WTIDG, the WisdomTree International Quality Dividend Growth Index).

Performance of FX Hedge

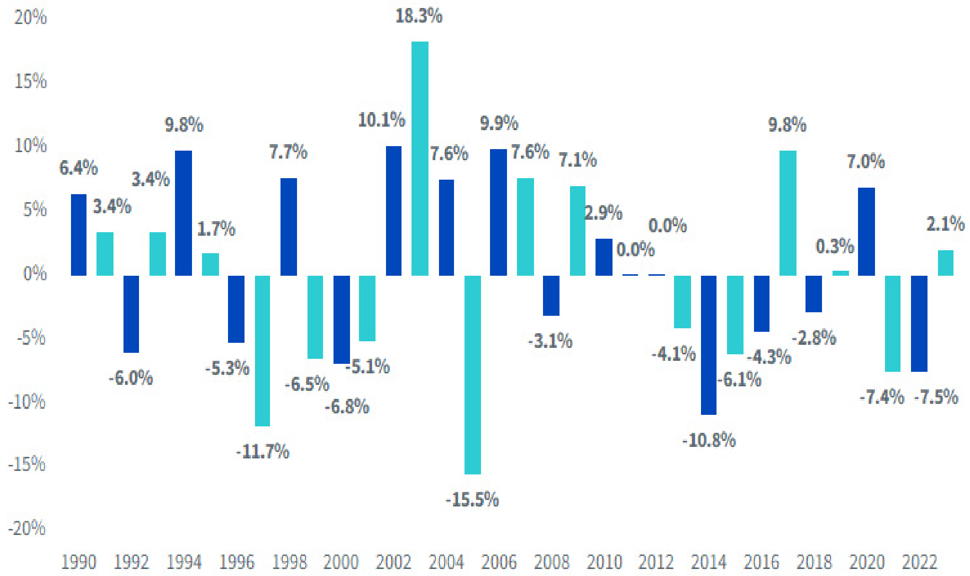
Strategy	Cumulative Total Return			Annualized Total Return			
	1-Month	3-Month	YTD	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year (& Since Inception)
WTIDGH: FX-Hedged	1.05%	6.48%	9.28%	15.24%	8.28%	12.37%	10.38%
WTIDG: FX-Unhedged	0.00%	4.85%	3.96%	8.71%	1.13%	8.61%	5.85%
Impact of FX Hedge	*1.05%*	*1.63%*	*5.32%*	*6.53%*	*7.15%*	*3.76%*	*4.53%*

Source: WisdomTree, as of 5/7/24. **Past performance is not indicative of future results.** You cannot invest directly in an index.

The static currency hedge has been universally additive over the life of the strategy, adding over 4.5% per year over the past decade and even more in recent periods.

But in our view, the essential benefit to the currency hedge lies in risk reduction rather than return generation. As pioneers in the currency-hedged equity space, WisdomTree has long believed that currency directions cannot be forecasted with much accuracy or reliability. Unhedged exposure from international investments may be additive for a USD-based investor during one period and then detract from performance shortly after. Thus, the only certainty within FX *uncertainty* is incremental volatility.

Calendar Year Returns from EAFE FX Exposure



Sources: WisdomTree, MSCI, as of 12/31/23. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Currency returns derived from the net returns of the MSCI EAFE (USD) and MSCI EAFE (Local) indexes. You cannot invest directly in an index.

Over the past 30+ years, unhedged currency exposure was additive for returns about 56% of the time and harmed them in the other 43% of calendar year observations. During the negative periods, the average decline was about 6.9%. During the positive ones, the average benefit was about 6.1%. That means, over the past few decades, the average expected value from currency exposure in a one-year period was a measly 35-basis point benefit to returns.

But incremental volatility is a constant and currency bets, therefore, are a gamble where you “pay” the casino through added volatility in your portfolio for essentially coin flip odds to enhance returns by a negligible amount. IHDG's risk reduction compared to IQDG illustrates this well.

Annualized Volatility

Fund/Index	Inception Date	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Since Inception
IHDG	5/7/14	10.23%	15.08%	18.13%	16.10%	16.10%
IQDG	4/7/16	13.20%	18.20%	19.90%	--	17.60%
MSCI EAFE Index (USD)	--	11.57%	15.02%	16.32%	14.42%	--

Sources: WisdomTree, Bloomberg, as of 5/7/24, using market price returns. You cannot invest directly in an index.

Though the strong-dollar environment continues to suppress foreign currencies, IHDG’s hedge helps insulate it from declines in developed international equity markets. Since inception, it’s only captured about two-thirds of the MSCI EAFE’s downside (in USD), while its unhedged stock basket has been more sensitive to both equity and currency declines.

DOWN CAPTURE (MSCI EAFE INDEX) as of 4/30/2024

Ticker	Fund	Inception Date	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Since Inception	Common Period 5/31/2014 - 4/30/2024
IHDG	WisdomTree International Hedged Quality Dividend Growth Fund (NAV)	5/7/2014	66.17%	73.15%	68.13%	-	63.51%	63.51%

Source: WisdomTree Fund Comparison Tool, as of 4/30/24. You cannot invest directly in an index. **Performance data quoted represents past performance and is no guarantee of future results. Investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted.**

For the most recent month-end performance, please click the respective ticker: IHDG, IQDG.

Meanwhile, IHDG's beta to the MSCI EAFE Index hovers around 0.7. Since the beta of its stock basket without the hedge is closer to 1 (and even higher in more recent periods), then the hedge's beta must be negative, making it valuable by definition.

But for a U.S. investor, the hedge goes even further than simply negating the fluctuations of foreign currencies against the dollar.

Today, it also indirectly hedges against U.S. equity risk.

Though we prefer to think of static currency hedges as risk reducers without any directional exposure, they are inherently permanent bullish bets on the dollar when compared to an unhedged position that was established previously. And recently, the dollar has been one of the best diversifiers for U.S. equity markets.

In the piece above, my colleague Jeremy Schwartz explains how there is a weak dollar bias embedded in S&P 500 earnings due to multinational companies doing business in currencies all over the world. As each company's global revenue footprint grows, so does the influence of currency effects in quarterly earnings, where a weaker dollar is beneficial. If a strong dollar results in poor FX translation effects from the revenues received, or worse, prevents that business from being done in the first place, then earnings may suffer and equity prices would likely follow.

Hence the changing relationship between stocks, bonds and the dollar that we've observed for the past few years.

Rolling 52-Week Correlation: S&P 500 vs. USD & Bonds

For definitions of terms in the graph above, please visit the glossary.

While bonds were once the conventional equity hedge asset, today that role has been assumed by the dollar. When the dollar spikes due to economic data releases or geopolitical events, equity markets *and bonds* have recently fallen in tandem.

This has important implications for global portfolio construction and the international equity allocations within. Today, a U.S.-based investor can benefit from an international equity investment like IHDG, “at home and abroad,” for a few reasons:

- **Most obviously**, for geographic diversification within a global portfolio
- **Risk reduction from local FX fluctuations** via its static currency hedge
- Compounded **risk reduction from U.S. equity risk**, as the hedge’s inherent “long USD” bias may somewhat offset equity declines during periods where the dollar is negatively correlated with domestic stocks (i.e., today)

Now that IHDG has wrapped up its first decade, we have ample evidence to prove it is a valuable addition to a global equity portfolio both over the short- and long-term holding periods.

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For the top 10 holdings of IHDG please visit the Fund's fund detail page at https://www.wisdomtree.com/investments/etfs/equity/ihdg

For the top 10 holdings of IQDG please visit the Fund's fund detail page at https://www.wisdomtree.com/investments/etfs/equity/iqdg

For standardized performance and the most recent month-end performance click here NOTE, this material is intended for electronic use only. Individuals who intend to print and physically deliver to an investor must print the monthly performance report to accompany this blog.

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You cannot invest directly in an index.

DEFINITIONS

Return on Equity (ROE) : Measures a corporation's profitability by revealing how much profit a company generates with the money shareholders have invested.

Return on assets (ROA) : Firm profits (after accounting for all expenses) divided by the firm's total assets. Higher numbers indicate greater profits relative to the level of assets utilized to generate them.

Foreign Exchange (FOREX, FX) : The exchange of one currency for another, or the conversion of one currency into another currency.