

David Moss Portfolio ManagerAs of December 31, 2024, unless otherwise noted.April 2025



For Advisor Use Only

## Agenda

Section 1 – Slide 3 Firm overview

Section 2 – Slide 6 Europe – Attractive?

**Section 3 – Slide 14** Pan European equities

Section 4 – Slide 20 Investment Process

Section 5 – Slide 26 Product

Section 6 – Slide 32 Performance

Section 7 – Slide 37 Stock Examples

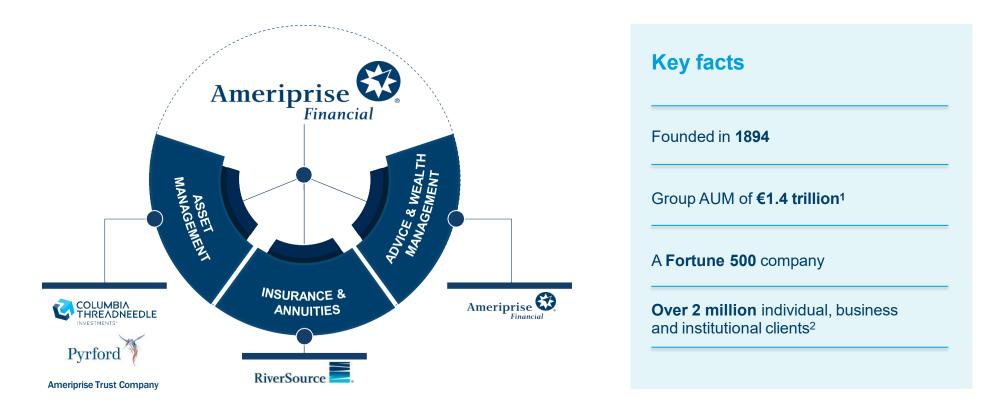
Section 8 – Slide 44 Biography; Fund Codes & Fees; Disclaimers



Section 1 Firm overview



## Ameriprise Financial Inc. Overview of business lines



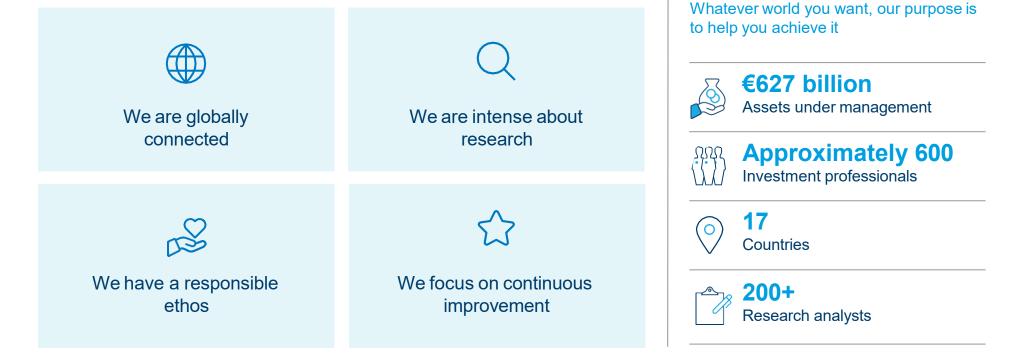
Source: Ameriprise Financial Inc. as at 31 December 2024, unless otherwise stated.

1 Group AUM represents total assets under management and administration for all Ameriprise companies combined, as at 31 December 2024. 2 Ameriprise company accounts.



## Columbia Threadneedle Investments Who we are: Investing smarter for the world you want

Four key strengths to pursue better outcomes for our clients:



Source: Columbia Threadneedle Investments, as of 31 December 2024. Information is for all entities in the Columbia and Threadneedle group of companies.



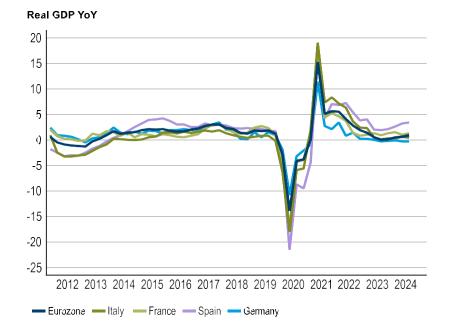
**Business at a glance** 

Section 2 Europe – is it attractive?



## Investment Case for Europe Eurozone GDP Forecasts

#### **GDP** growth has bottomed



#### Forward indicators moving positively



Source: Columbia Threadneedle Investments, Macrobond, December 31, 2024

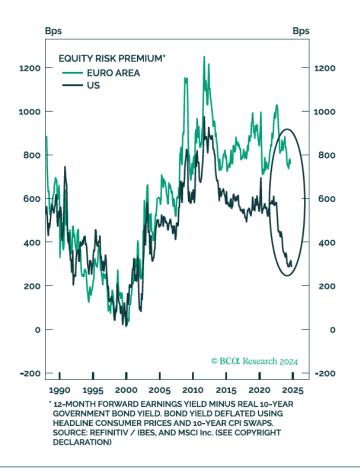


7

## **Investment Case for Europe**

## More bang for your buck - attractive Eurozone risk premium

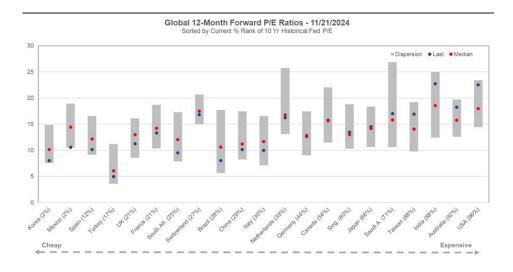
#### Greater European equity market returns vs government bond yields



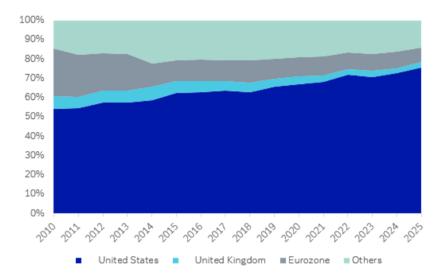
Source: BCA Research, 31 December 2024

## Investment Case for Europe European markets cheap

#### European markets cheap



#### **MSCI World regional weights**



Source :Bloomberg Finance LP, Deutsche Bank Research, December 2024 Source: Datastream IBES estimates, as at December 31, 2024.



## Europe + UK is attractively valued Cheap vs the US

#### Fairly priced vs own history



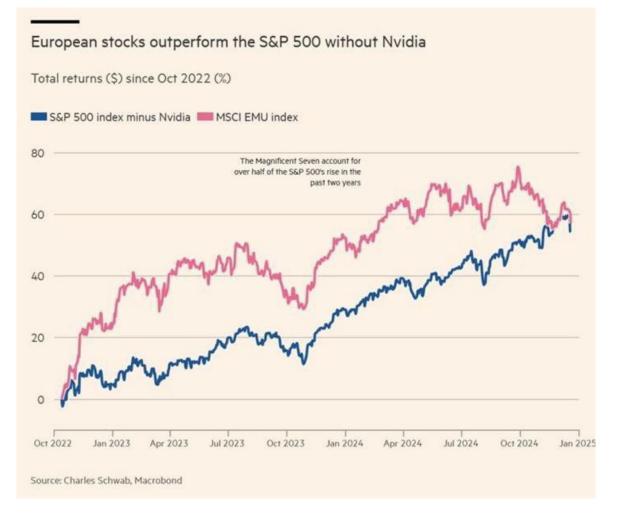
#### Cheap vs US



Source: Bloomberg, as at 31 December 2024.



## It's not been as bad as you may think?



Source: Financial Times, January 31, 2025.

## European banks are bad – right?

#### The Magnificent 47 pull ahead Stoxx 600 Banks index vs Magnificent 7 (total return, net dividends, rebased) - Stoxx 600 Banks - Bloomberg Mag 7 200 Inom 180 160 140 120 100 80 60 Q4 2021 Q1 2023 Q1 2024 Q1 2025 Source: Bloomberg

Source: Financial Times, January 31, 2025.

For Advisor Use Only

## Outlook

## Inflation, interest rates and geopolitics continue to dominate

- We expect Interest rate cuts to continue across key markets pace of cuts in Europe is expected to substantially exceed the US
  - US: 25-50bps expected
  - Europe: interest rates may fall below 1.5% by end of 2025 down from 3.75%.
- Trump's presidential victory and the Republican majority in both the Senate and House of Representatives
  - Deal-making to cement legacy potential tariffs, alternations to foreign policy, impact on energy prices
- Global conflict and geopolitical threats persist
  - Russia / Ukraine ceasefire appears more likely
  - Ceasefire deal agreed between Israel and Hamas. Conflict with the Houthis in Yemen continues
- Political challenges in Europe upcoming elections Germany
- Europe has excess post-pandemic savings benefits consumers
- Challenges remain in China, notably in the housing market further government stimulus is needed
- Focus on stock selection. We favour companies with competitive advantage and pricing power, generated by brands, patents, regulatory barriers to entry and strong market positions

Source: Columbia Threadneedle Investments, as at 31 December 2024.

Section 3 European Equities



## Our European equity credentials

#### A leader in European equity

■ €32.0 billion AuM across all portfolios<sup>1</sup>

#### **Deep resource**

- 22-strong Pan-European equity team<sup>2</sup>
- 19 years average team industry experience
- Close interaction across asset classes
- Dedicated risk management

#### Clear investment philosophy, consistently applied

- Stock selection key source of return
- Culture of collaboration and debate

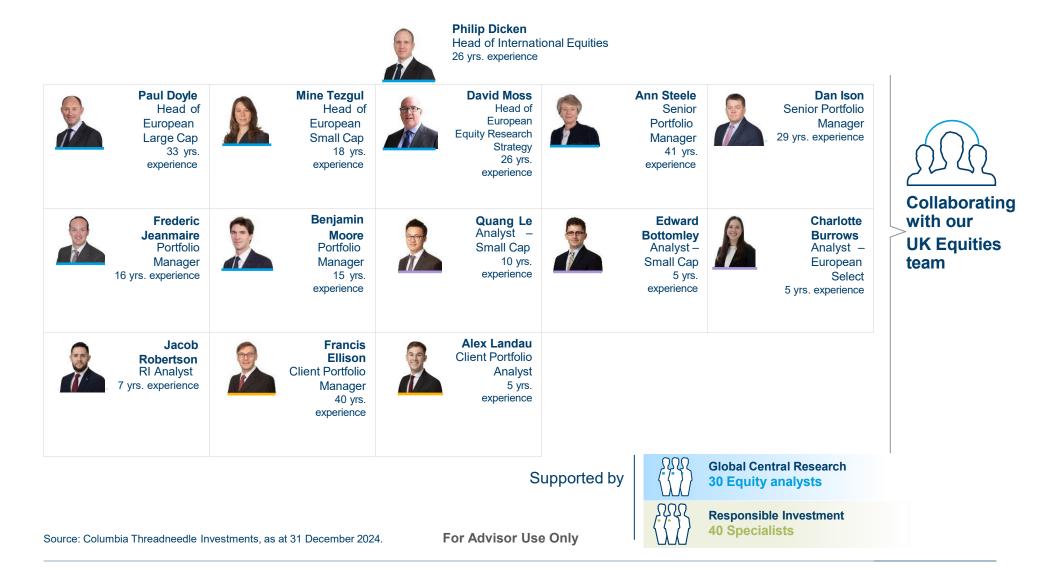
Source: Columbia Threadneedle Investments,

<sup>1</sup> AuM excludes externally managed portfolios and includes UK-specific assets of €13.7 billion. Data as at 31 December 2024

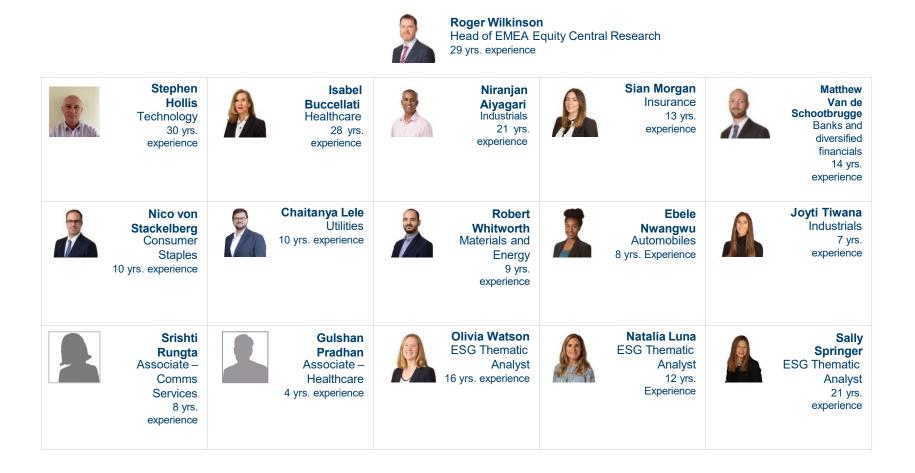
<sup>2</sup> Includes 8 UK-specific investment professionals as at 31 December 2024.

The portfolio risk management process includes an effort to monitor and manage risk but does not imply low risk.

## European Equities Diverse and experienced



## EMEA Equity Research Identifying high-quality compounders



## 40+ dedicated Responsible Investment professionals Embedded across our global investments business





For Advisor Use Only

## Pan European Equity Investing in high-quality companies

Philosophy

- Investing in high-quality companies with strong competitive advantages and pricing power
- Uses '*Porter's five forces*' to evidence quality

#### **Strategy facts**

Portfolio managers	David Moss
Reference Index	MSCI Europe NR
AUM (€m)	688
Expected tracking error	3-6%
Typical number of holdings	40 - 60
Typical stock weighting	±2% active
Typical sector weighting	±10% active
Style	Quality bias

#### Team



- Diverse, experienced and long-tenured team, with both large and small cap expertise
- Scale and resource drives unrivalled access to company management

Research

BMC

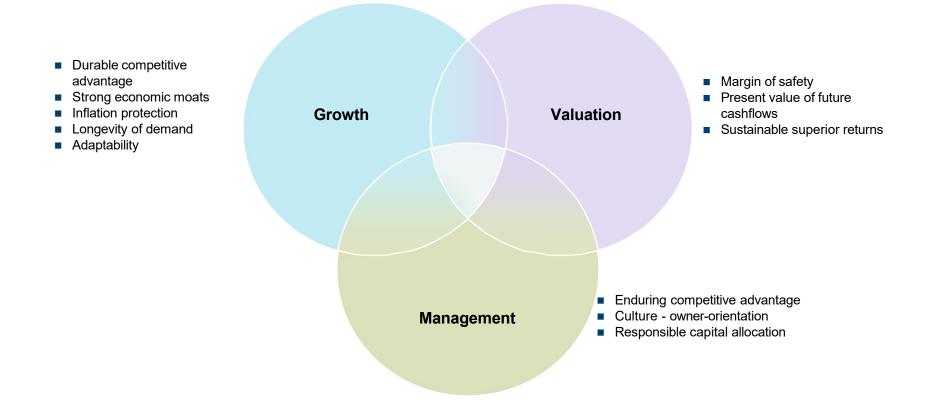
• We take advantage of market inefficiencies

Source Columbia Threadneedle Investments at 31 December 2024.

## Section 4 Investment Process



## Investment philosophy Focus on high-quality businesses



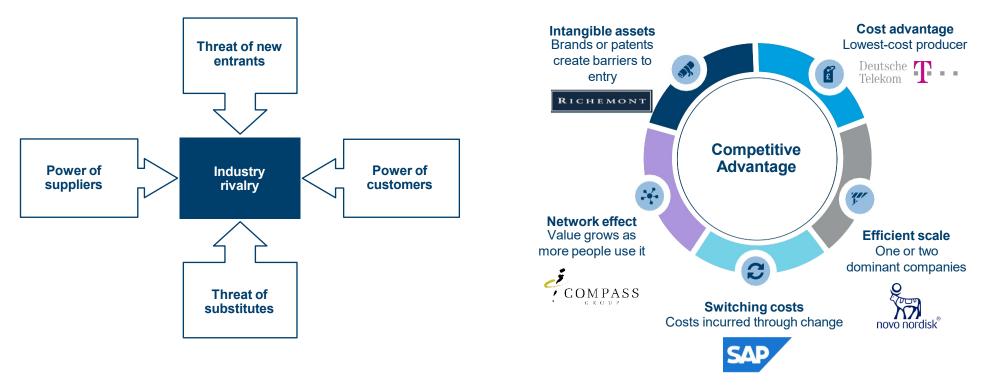
Source: Columbia Threadneedle Investments.



## How we find quality Competitive advantage and sustainability

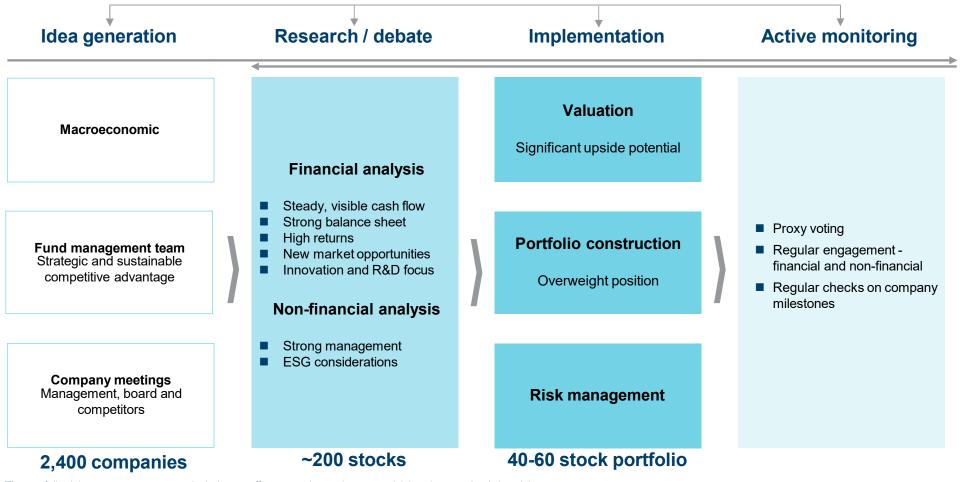
#### **Understanding industry structure**

#### Identifying competitive advantage



Source: Columbia Threadneedle Investments, Morningstar, Harvard Business School and Professor Michael Porter (Porter's 5 Forces).

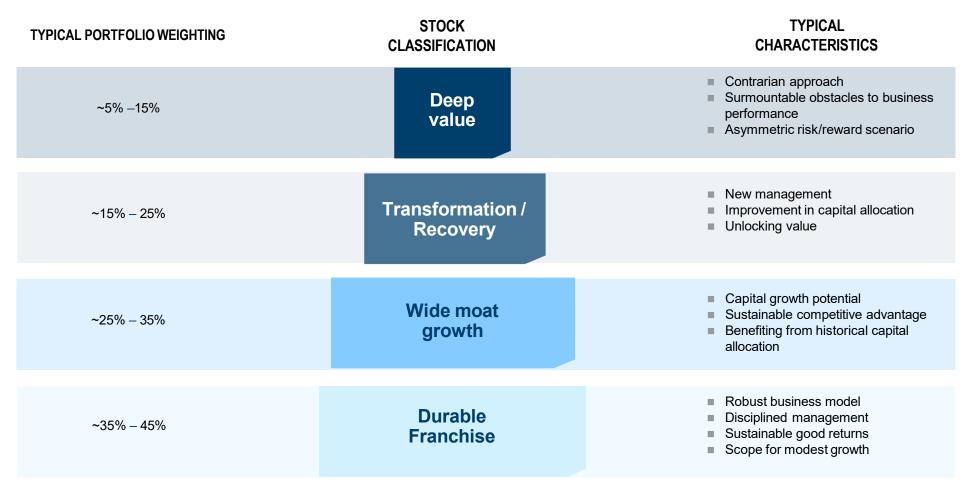
## Our process



The portfolio risk management process includes an effort to monitor and manage risk but does not imply low risk.

**BMO** 

## Portfolio construction Combining quality-growth with quality-income



Note: Diagram sizing is illustrative only. The fund characteristics described above are internal guidelines (rather than limits and controls). They do not form part of the fund's objective and policy and are subject to change without notice in the future.

## Portfolio construction Buy and sell discipline

#### Implementation



#### Portfolio manager has accountability

#### Position size determined by:

- Potential valuation upside
- Stability of business model, industry and geographic exposures
- Contribution to risk, potential sector or style diversification

#### Stocks will be sold for the following reasons:

- Deteriorating competitive advantage
- Change in our view of industry prospects
- Unattractive valuation vs. price target
- More attractive alternatives found
- Investment thesis broken

Source: Columbia Threadneedle Investments



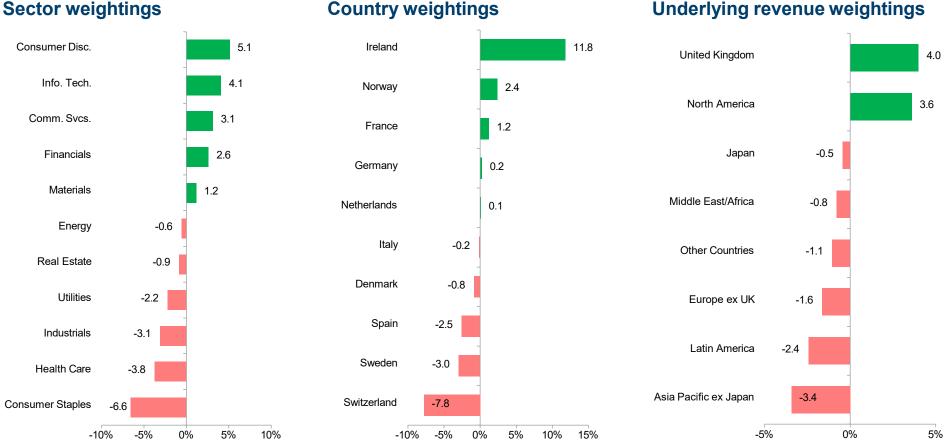
Section 5 Product



# Top 10 holdings 31% of the portfolio

Stock	Description	Portfolio (%)	Index (%)	Active (%)
SAP	IT	4.6	2.5	2.2
Novo Nordisk	Healthcare	3.7	2.7	1.0
Deutsche Telekom	Communication Services	3.3	1.0	2.3
ASML	IT	3.1	2.7	0.4
Air Liquide	Materials	2.9	0.9	1.0
Intesa Sanpaolo	Financials	2.8	0.6	2.2
Shell	Energy	2.8	1.9	0.9
Schneider Electric	Industrials	2.7	1.3	1.4
Deutsche Boerse	Financials	2.7	0.4	2.2
Compass Group	Consumer Discretionary	2.6	0.5	2.1
Total		31.2	-	-

## Relative positioning High-quality international businesses

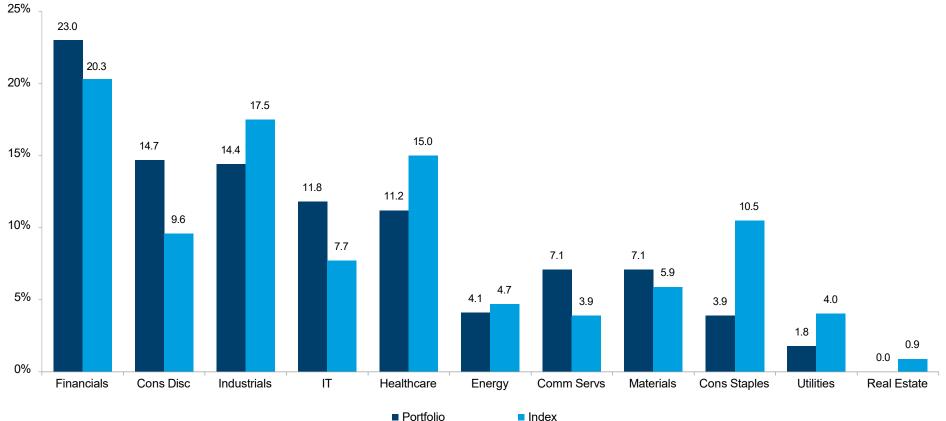


Underlying revenue weightings

Source: Columbia Threadneedle Investments, as at 31 December 2024. Benchmark is the MSCI Europe Index. Selected overweight and underweight positions shown. Holdings, sector weights, allocations and leverage, as applicable, are subject to change at the discretion of the Investment Manager without notice. Provided for information only, not to be construed as investment recommendation or advice. Investments involve risks, not all investment ideas are suitable for all investors.

## Sector positioning

#### Portfolio breakdown by sector

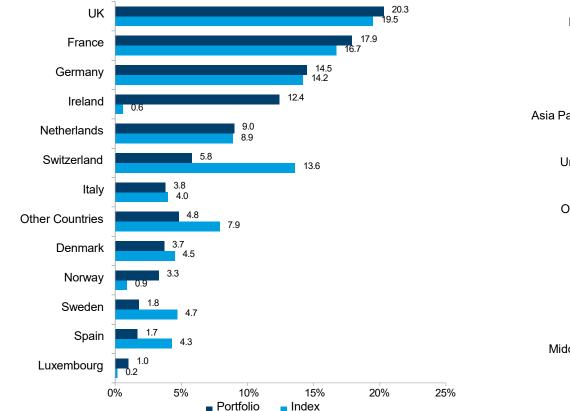


Portfolio

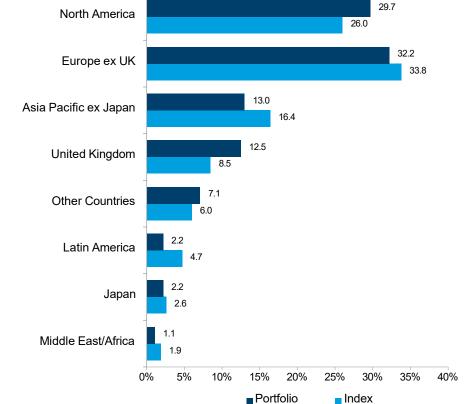
Source: Columbia Threadneedle Investments, as at 31 December 2024. Index is MSCI Europe, excludes cash. Holdings, sector weights, allocations and leverage, as applicable, are subject to change at the discretion of the Investment Manager without notice. Provided for information only, not to be construed as investment recommendation or advice. Investments involve risks, not all investment ideas are suitable for all investors.

## Country and regional weightings Overweight international businesses

#### Country weighting by domicile



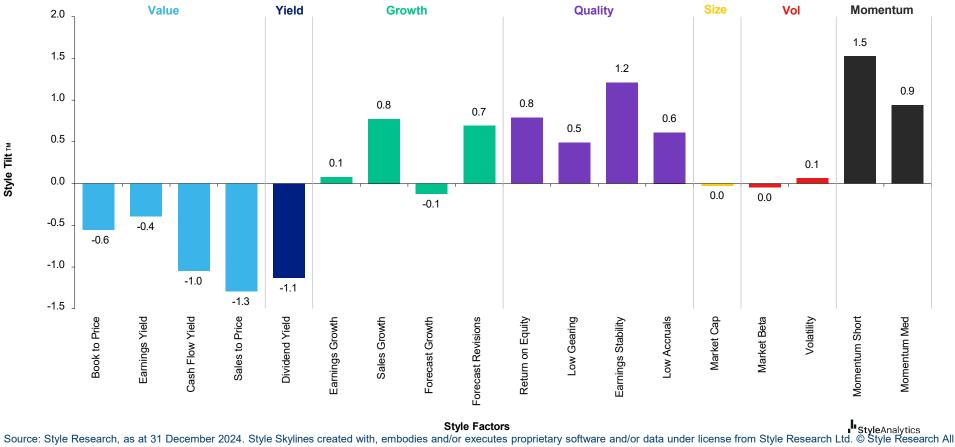
#### **Regional weighting by revenue**



Source: Columbia Threadneedle Investments, as at 31 December. Index is MSCI Europe Other countries are all other countries not specified. Holdings, sector weights, allocations and leverage, as applicable, are subject to change at the discretion of the Investment Manager without notice. Provided for information only, not to be construed as investment recommendation or advice. Investments involve risks, not all investment ideas are suitable for all investors.

## Style Analysis High quality and growth bias

#### Portfolio Style Skyline™



Source: Style Research, as at 31 December 2024. Style Skylines created with, embodies and/or executes proprietary software and/or data under license from Style Research Ltd. © Style Research All Rights Reserved. Must not be redistributed by third parties. Holdings, sector weights, allocations and leverage, as applicable, are subject to change at the discretion of the Investment Manager without notice. Provided for information only, not to be construed as investment recommendation or advice. Investments involve risks, not all investment ideas are suitable for all investors.

Section 6 Performance

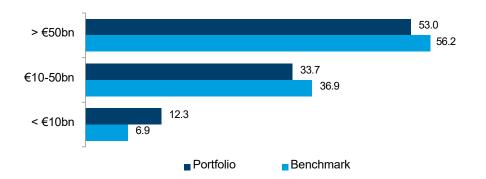


## **Portfolio characteristics**

#### **Portfolio risk**

	Portfolio	Benchmark
Number of stocks	48	414
Active position	71.1%	-
Portfolio beta (ex-ante)	1.01	-
Tracking error (ex-ante)	2.8%	-

#### Market capitalisation weighting (%)



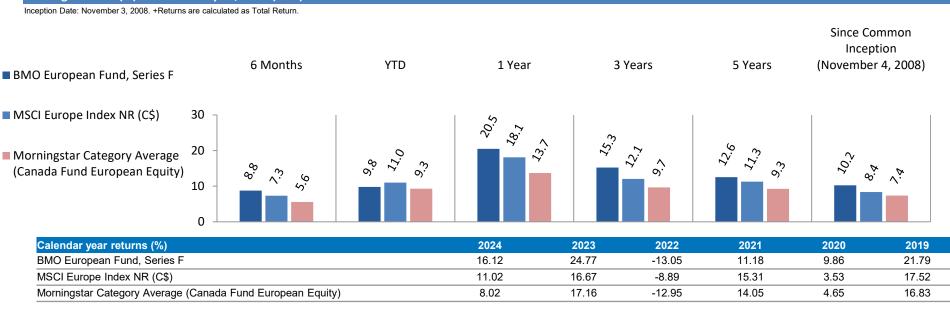
#### **Portfolio characteristics**

	Portfolio	Benchmark
P/E	17.8	18.1
Dividend Yield (%)	3.0	3.2
Return on Equity (%)	13.5	11.4
Average Market Cap (m EUR)	95,633	96,503

Source: Columbia Threadneedle Investments, as at 31 December 2024. Benchmark is MSCI Europe NR Index. Provided for information only, not to be construed as investment recommendation or advice or objective of the proposed strategy. Investments involve risks, not all investment ideas are suitable for all investors.

### BMO European Fund Performance

#### Trailing returns<sup>+</sup> (%) as of February 28, 2025 (CAD)



Morningstar Percentile rank	6 Months	Year-to-Date	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years
BMO European Fund, Series F	13	45	8	7	7
No. of Investments in Morningstar Category	95	95	95	95	92

Source: Morningstar Direct. Percentile rank is a standardized way of ranking items within a peer group, in this case, funds with the same Morningstar category. The observation with the largest numerical value is ranked 100. The remaining observations are placed equal distance from one another on the rating scale. Note that lower percentile ranks are generally more favourable for returns (high returns), while higher percentile ranks are generally more favourable for risk measures (low risk). Percentile ranks within categories are most useful in those categories that have a large number of funds. For small universes, funds will be ranked at the highest percentage possible. For instance, if there are only two international hybrid funds with 10-year average total returns, Morningstar will assign a percentile rank of 1 to the top-performing fund, and the second fund will earn a percentile rank of 51 (indicating the fund underperformed 50% of the sample). Note for closed-end funds: This is the fund's NAV total return or market total return percentile rank relative to all open-end mutual funds and closed-end funds with the same Morningstar category. Morningstar percentile rank data is to February 28, 2025.

Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

## Attribution analysis – 12m

Top level attribution	Allocation	Stock selection	FX	Total
Stock	6.0	0.1	0.1	6.2
Sector	1.4	4.6	0.1	6.2

Top 5 sectors	Active weight %	Allocation effect	Selection effect	Total contribution
Consumer discretionary	3.8	-0.1	3.0	3.1
Materials	1.2	-0.1	1.8	1.8
Communication Services	2.3	0.1	0.9	1.0
Information Services	4.1	0.1	0.5	0.7
Consumer Staples	-5.4	0.6	-0.1	0.4

Top 10 stocks	Active weight %	Contribution
NatWest Group	1.7	1.1
Cairn Homes	1.8	1.0
SAP	2.0	0.9
Nestle	-2.5	0.8
Intesa Sanpaolo	2.1	0.8
Neinor Homes	1.4	0.7
Pearson	2.1	0.6
Deutsche Telekom	2.3	0.6
Smurfit Westrock	1.1	0.5
CRH	1.9	0.4

Bottom 5 sectors	Active weight %	Allocation effect	Selection effect	Total contribution
Industrials	-0.8	-0.1	-0.7	-0.7
Healthcare	-4.1	0.1	-0.5	-0.3
Financials	1.9	0.3	-0.3	0.1
Utilities	-2.2	0.2	-0.2	0.0
Real Estate	-0.9	0.1	0.0	0.1

Bottom 10 stocks	Active weight %	Contribution
Wizz Air	0.7	-0.5
Brenntag	0.8	-0.4
Infineon	1.5	-0.4
HSBC	-1.5	-0.4
Ryanair	2.0	-0.4
TGS	1.4	-0.4
Heineken	1.2	-0.3
SSE plc	1.6	-0.3
Rolls Royce	-0.5	-0.3
L'Oréal	0.7	-0.3

Source: Columbia Threadneedle Investments, Factset as at 31st December 2024. Benchmark MSCI Europe NR Index. This does not constitute a recommendation to buy or sell any particular security.



## Key activity 12 months to December 24

#### <u>Buys</u>

ASM International Sage Munich Re NatWest OSB Group AXA Taylor Wimpey CVC Capital Partners Prysmian BT Sanofi

#### <u>Sells</u>

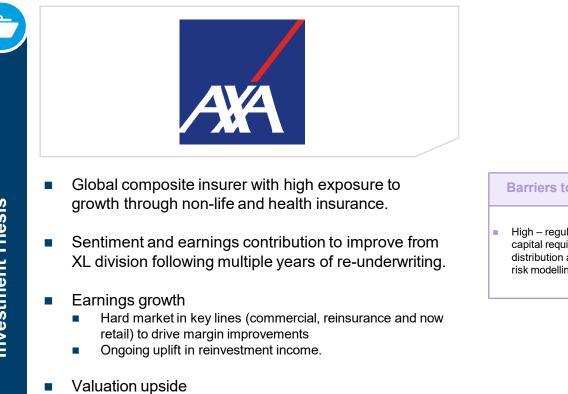
Prudential Wizz Air Legal & General Diageo Brenntag Heineken Ferrari

Source: Columbia Threadneedle Investments, 31 December 2024. The mention of any specific shares or bonds should not be taken as a recommendation to deal.

Section 7 Stock Examples



## AXA Competitive advantage – efficient scale



- Reducing beta of the stock given business mix shift towards technical profits (i.e. insurance over spread income)
- Improving stability of earnings,
- Improving capital return story vs. major peers.

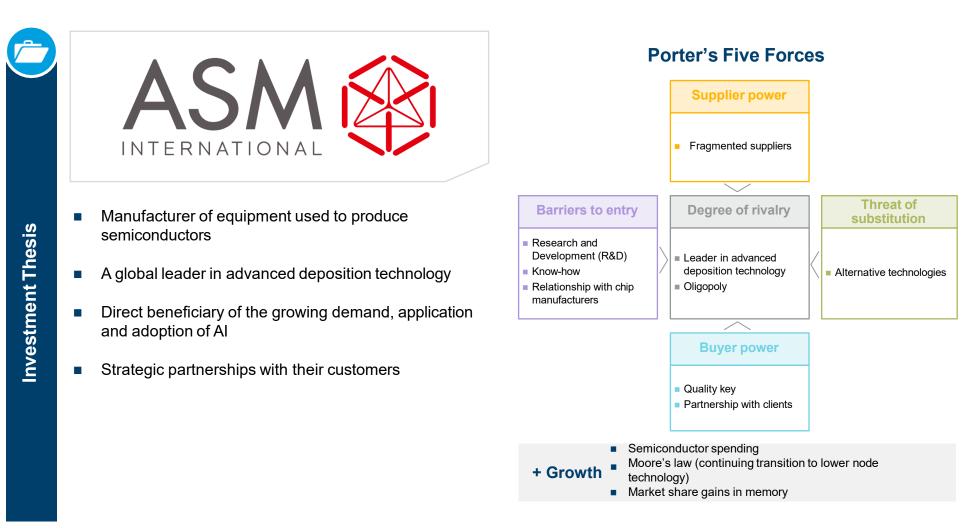
#### **Porter's Five Forces**



Source: Columbia Threadneedle Investments, 31 December 2024. The mention of any specific shares or bonds should not be taken as a recommendation to deal. All intellectual property rights in the brands and logos set out in this slide are reserved by respective owners.

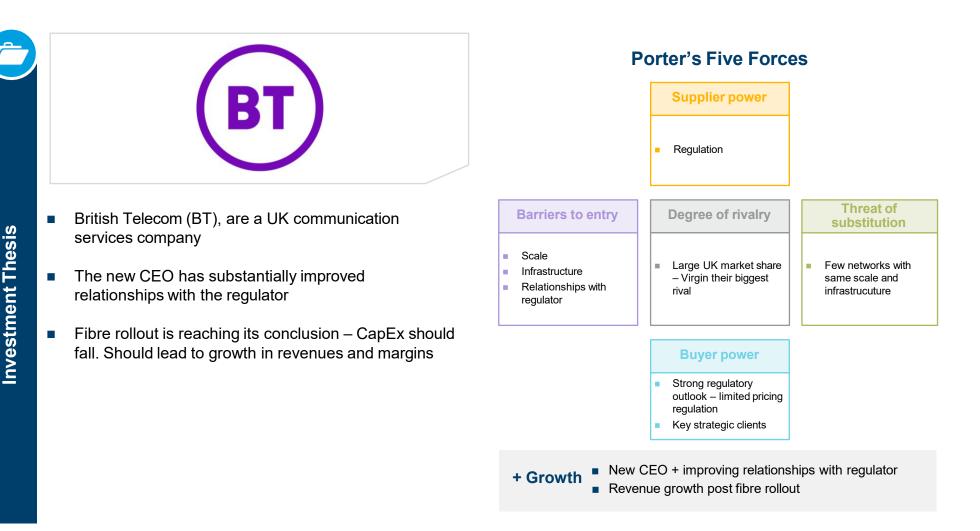
## **ASM International**

#### Competitive advantage - intangible assets (technology) + network effect



Source: Columbia Threadneedle Investments, 31 December 2024. The mention of any specific shares or bonds should not be taken as a recommendation to deal. All intellectual property rights in the brands and logos set out in this slide are reserved by respective owners.

# BT Competitive advantage – efficient scale + network effect



Source: Columbia Threadneedle Investments, 31 December 2024. The mention of any specific shares or bonds should not be taken as a recommendation to deal. All intellectual property rights in the brands and logos set out in this slide are reserved by respective owners.

# CRH Competitive advantage – efficient scale

			Porter's Five Forces		
				Supplier power	
				<ul> <li>Commoditised inputs</li> </ul>	
Investment Thesis	•	High quality building materials company, operating across a range of sectors	Barriers to entry	Degree of rivalry	Threat of substitution
	•	US listing has helped boost share prices - ~80% return during 2023	<ul> <li>Cost of building a factory,</li> <li>Environmental restrictions</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Low in mature market,</li> <li>High in EM (less consolidated)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Some regions have higher cement consumption</li> </ul>
	•	A beneficiary of US infrastructure programmes – the US is a big growth market		Buyer power	
-	•	European business is now mature and stable		<ul> <li>Concentrated client base</li> <li>CRH vertically integrated</li> </ul>	
				growth driven by M&A his ing recovery in the US and	-

Source: Columbia Threadneedle Investments, 31 December 2024. The mention of any specific shares or bonds should not be taken as a recommendation to deal. All intellectual property rights in the brands and logos set out in this slide are reserved by respective owners.

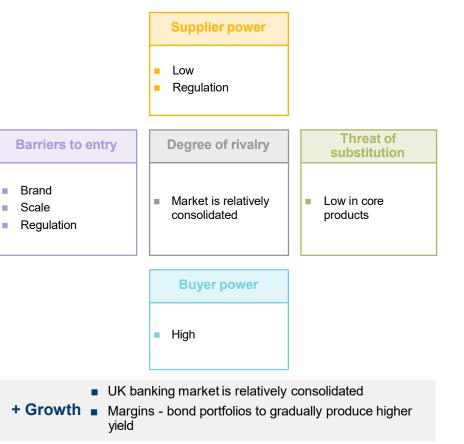
#### NatWest

## Competitive advantage - intangible assets (brand)



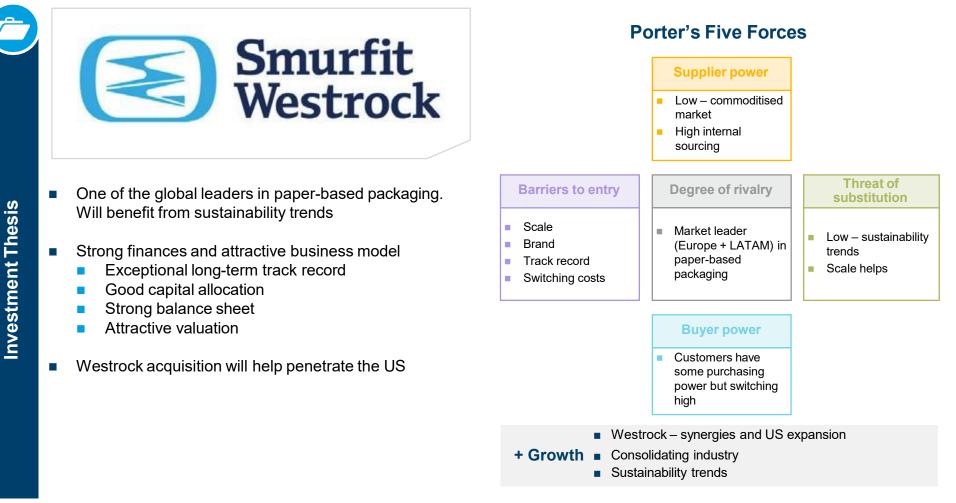
- Lag in earnings / valuation to gradually filter through
  - Deposits invested in bond portfolios yields increasing over time
  - Margins have been suppressed vs European peers
- UK economy more resilient than Europe interest rates to remain higher for longer
- Valuation attractive
- Dividend and share buy-back program





Source: Columbia Threadneedle Investments, 31 December 2024. The mention of any specific shares or bonds should not be taken as a recommendation to deal. All intellectual property rights in the brands and logos set out in this slide are reserved by respective owners.

## Smurfit Westrock Competitive advantage – efficient scale + switching costs



Source: Columbia Threadneedle Investments, 31 December 2024. The mention of any specific shares or bonds should not be taken as a recommendation to deal. All intellectual property rights in the brands and logos set out in this slide are reserved by respective owners.

Section 8 Biography; Fund Codes & Fees; Disclaimers



# Portfolio Manager - Columbia Threadneedle Investments



#### **DAVID MOSS** Portfolio Manager European Equities Head of European Equities Research Strategy

David Moss is a European Equity Portfolio Manager. David joined Columbia Threadneedle through the acquisition of BMO GAM (EMEA) in 2021, having previously been with BMO (and its predecessor companies) since 1996. From 1998-1999, he focused on UK Equity and prior to that he worked as a Fixed Interest Analyst focusing on the UK Gilt and Non-Gilt Markets. David began his career in 1987 at Barclays Bank, where he worked as an Analyst on the Corporate Lending Team, working primarily with recovery situations for small to medium-sized enterprises.

David graduated from the University of Loughborough in 1996 with a BSc Economics. He has obtained his ACIB and IIMR qualifications and is a member of the CFA Society of the UK.



#### Fund Codes and Fees

Series	M₽₹(%)	Front End	Low Load <sup>+</sup>
Advisor Series (CAD\$ / US\$)	2.47	BMO99719/BMO79719	BMO98719/BMO78719
FSeries (CAD\$ / US\$)	1.03	BMO95719/BMO40719	-

\*MERs are as of September 30, 2024. +Low Load and DSC purchase options are no longer available for sale



#### **Disclaimers**

Information as of December 31, 2024, unless otherwise noted. This information does not constitute investment advice and is issued without regard to specific investment objectives or the financial situation of any particular recipient.

For advisor use only. No portion of this communication may be reproduced or distributed to clients.

Investors cannot invest directly in an index. Comparisons to indices have limitations because indices have volatility and other material characteristics that may differ from a particular mutual fund.

Holdings are based on the representative portfolio and are subject to change at any time. The portfolio holdings information provided by Columbia Management Investment Advisers, LLC and/or its agents or affiliates is proprietary and confidential. References to specific securities are included as an illustration of the investment management strategy and are not recommendations. Holdings may represent only a small percentage of the portfolio and are subject to change based on market and other conditions. It should not be assumed that any particular security was or will prove to be profitable or that decisions in the future will be profitable or provide similar results to the securities discussed.

The statistical data and related information presented in this material is designed to assist the reader in making an informed investment decision. Use of different statistical data and related information might portray different historical results. The information presented does not portray a comprehensive picture of the investment objectives, strategies and methodologies employed by the products or managers identified, and the reader is encouraged to conduct its own due diligence regarding any differences between the products and managers identified.

The views expressed are as of the date given, may change as market or other conditions change and may differ from views expressed by other CMIA associates or affiliates. Actual investments or investment decisions made by CMIA and its affiliates, whether for its own account or on behalf of clients, may not necessarily reflect the views expressed. This information is not intended to provide investment advice and does not take into consideration individual investor circumstances. Investment decisions should always be made based on an investor's specific financial needs, objectives, goals, time horizon and risk tolerance. Asset classes described may not be appropriate for all investors. Past performance does not guarantee future results, and no forecast should be considered a guarantee either. Since economic and market conditions change frequently, there can be no assurance that the trends described here will continue or that any forecasts are accurate.

Information provided by third parties is deemed to be reliable but may be derived using methodologies or techniques that are proprietary or unique to the third-party source.

Any statement that necessarily depends on future events may be a forward-looking statement. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of performance. They involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Although such statements are based on assumptions that are believed to be reasonable, there can be no assurance that actual results will not differ materially from expectations. Investors are cautioned not to rely unduly on any forward-looking statements. In connection with any forward-looking statements, investors should carefully consider the areas of risk described in the most recent simplified prospectus.

Columbia Management Investment Advisers, LLC, a Minnesota Limited Liability Company, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ameriprise Financial. Ameriprise Financial, organized as a Delaware corporation, is a publicly traded company listed on the NYSE under the symbol AMP. CMIA is registered as an investment adviser with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

This communication is intended for information purposes only. This update has been prepared by Columbia Management Investment Advisers, LLC, the portfolio manager of the BMO European Fund and represents their assessment at the time of publication. The comments contained do not necessarily represent the views of BMO Global Asset Management. The views are subject to change without notice as markets change over time. The information contained herein is not, and should not be construed as, investment advice to any party. Investments should be evaluated relative to the individual's investment objectives and professional advice should be obtained with respect to any circumstance.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Series F units are only available to investors who participate in eligible wrap programs or flat fee accounts with their registered dealers that have entered into a Series F Agreement with BMO Investment Inc.

Commissions, trailing commissions (if applicable), management fees and expenses all may be associated with mutual fund investments. Please read the fund facts or simplified prospectus of the relevant mutual fund before investing. The indicated rates of return are the historical annual compounded total returns for the period indicated including changes in unit value and reinvestment of all distributions and does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or optional charges or income taxes payable by any unitholder that would have reduced returns. Mutual funds are not guaranteed, their values change frequently and past performance may not be repeated. Distributions are not guaranteed and are subject to change and/or elimination.

For a summary of the risks of an investment in BMO Mutual Funds, please see the specific risks set out in the simplified prospectus.

BMO Mutual Funds are managed by BMO Investments Inc., which is an investment fund manager and a separate legal entity from Bank of Montreal.

BMO Global Asset Management is a brand name under which BMO Asset Management Inc. and BMO Investments Inc. operate.

"BMO (M-bar roundel symbol)" is a registered trademark of Bank of Montreal, used under licence.