

# COMGEST GROWTH AMERICA USD I ACC - IE00B44DJL65

NAV per share: \$53.48

30 April 2024

## **KEY DIFFERENTIATORS**

- Quality comes first, we seek growth that can endure
- Team-based approach, rather than starmanager fund, which we believe leads to greater consistency
- ESG integrated into the investment process leveraging proprietary ESG research
- Culture matters. Comgest's broad partnership structure incentivises long-term thinking, an ESG mindset, teamwork and low employee turnover

## **INVESTMENT TEAM**



Christophe Nagy, Justin Streeter, Louis Citroën, Rémi Adam

Team may include advisors from affiliates within the Comgest Group.

## **RISK AND REWARD PROFILE**



The indicator represents the risk and reward profile presented in the UCITS Key Investor Information Document. The indicator assumes you keep the product for 5 years otherwise the actual risk can vary significantly.

## **INVESTMENT POLICY**

The objective of the Sub-Fund ("the Fund") is to increase the value of the Fund (capital appreciation) over the long term. The Fund intends to achieve this objective through investment in a portfolio of high-quality, long-term growth companies. The Fund will invest at least two-thirds of its assets in securities issued by companies that have their headquarters in, or principally carry out their activities in America or in securities issued or guaranteed by the American government.

The Fund is actively managed. The index is provided for comparative purposes only. The Fund is aimed at investors with a long-term investment horizon (typically 5 years or more).

## **CUMULATIVE PAST PERFORMANCE (REBASED TO 100)**



## **ROLLING PERFORMANCE (%)**

				Annualised					
	1 Month	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Since Incep.	
Fund	-4.8	-4.8	3.8	23.7	8.6	14.2	13.1	14.0	
Index	-4.1	-4.1	5.9	22.0	7.6	12.6	11.8	12.7	
Fund Volatility				13.9	17.6	18.6	15.8	15.3	
Index Volatility				12.8	16.6	20.2	17.0	16.4	

## **CALENDAR YEAR PAST PERFORMANCE (%)**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Fund	14.0	1.4	5.7	21.2	2.8	29.2	25.3	26.7	-20.5	34.2
Index	13.0	0.7	11.2	21.1	-4.9	30.7	17.8	28.2	-18.5	25.7

## ANNUAL PERFORMANCE (%) AS AT QUARTER END

										1Q23 -1Q24
Fund	15.4	0.1	12.6	12.8	16.4	0.6	46.0	13.0	-4.9	33.6
Index	12.0	1.1	16.4	13.3	8.8	-7.5	55.6	15.2	-8.2	29.3

Performance data expressed in USD. Returns may increase or decrease as a result of exchange rate fluctuations. Index: S&P 500 - Net Return.The index is used for comparative purposes only and the Fund does not seek to replicate the index.

### Past performance does not predict future returns.

Performance figures are calculated net of investment management fees, administrative fees and all other fees with the exception of sales charges. If taken into account, sales charges would have a negative impact on performance.

The cumulative graph and "Since Inception" data may refer to the last relaunch date of the share class which may differ from its actual inception date. Calendar year past performance is only shown for years for which a full calendar year of past performance is available.

## RATINGS (AS AT 31/03/2024)



Morningstar Category: EAA Fund US Large-Cap Growth Equity (Number of funds in Category: 965)

#### SFDR CLASSIFICATION: Article 8

The Fund promotes environmental and/or social characteristics.

#### **ESG LABELS**



The LuxFLAG ESG label has been granted from 01/04/2024 to 31/03/2025. Investors must not rely on the label with regard to investor protection issues and LuxFLAG cannot incur any liability related to financial performance or default of the labelled fund.

#### **CARBON FOOTPRINT<sup>1</sup>**



Source: MSCI as at 31/03/2024, tCO $_{\rm 2}e$  per USD m invested.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT<sup>1</sup>**



Source: Trucost as at 31/03/2024, estimation of the environmental costs per USD m invested.

<sup>1</sup> Calculation methodology and scope on page 3.

#### Please see risks and other important information on following pages

Issued by Comgest Asset Management International Limited, 46 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, Ireland - info@comgest.com

Source: CAMIL / FactSet financial data and analytics, unless otherwise stated. All information and performance data is as at 30/04/2024, unless otherwise indicated, and is unaudited.



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## FUND COMMENTARY

The US equities market was choppy in April, with signs that the US economy is in rude health. Strong consumer spending was seen in March and inflation also halted its deceleration, stabilising above 3%, exceeding the Federal Reserve's target level. These factors have led to both a reduction in rate cuts expected by bond investors in 2024 and a rise in 10-year bond yields, putting pressure on long duration assets. The geopolitical upheaval in the Middle East has increased volatility across most risk assets. These factors should not distract from the fact that all major regions are seeing easier financial conditions and an industrial rebound, as evidenced by the national and regional Purchasing Managers' Indices.

Q1'24 earnings releases are currently in full swing. Banks' interest income is under increasing pressure, largely due to factors beyond their control. This is one of the reasons why we avoid investing in this sector.

Among the portfolio holdings that have published their quarterly earnings, Johnson & Johnson reiterated its 2024 guidance, largely driven by a refreshed set of pharma products which should allow the company to grow despite losing patent protection on a major product, Stelara, in 2024.

Cintas (uniform rental company) reported a 10% increase in revenue and 1.2 percentage point of margin expansion, resulting from healthy volume and a very well-rounded operating model. Growth was driven by both its core and newer offerings (Fire, First Aid & Safety Services), whilst EPS was up 22%.

Digital advertising behemoths Meta and Alphabet reported strong top- and bottom-line growth. However, concerns arose as Meta raised its investment and cost outlook, fuelling fears of a costly AI investment cycle. Conversely, Alphabet alleviated such worries around its AI competitive positioning, with Search revenues reaccelerating again and positive comments being made around AI usage in Search.

The views expressed in this document are valid at the time of publication only, do not constitute independent investment research and should not be interpreted as investment advice. The reference to specific companies does not constitute a recommendation to invest directly in these securities. Allocation is subject to change without notice. Remember that past performance does not predict future returns.

## PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS

Total Net Assets (all classes, m)	\$972.0
Number of holdings	30
Average weighted market cap (bn)	\$755.2
Weight of top 10 stocks	57.1%
Active share	72.1%
Holdings exclude cash and cash equivalents	

## **SECTOR BREAKDOWN (%)**

	Fund	Index
Information Technology	31.0	29.2
Health Care	17.1	12.3
Communication Services	13.7	9.1
Industrials	12.3	8.8
Materials	9.2	2.4
Consumer Discretionary	6.9	10.3
Consumer Staples	4.7	6.2
Financials	4.7	13.1
[Cash]	0.4	
Energy		4.1
Utilities		2.3
Real Estate		2.2
Source: Comaest / GICS sector classification		

## TOP 5 HOLDINGS (%)

	Fund
Microsoft	9.0
Eli Lilly	7.2
Oracle	6.7
Meta Platforms A	5.3
Apple	5.1
Above holdings are provided for information only, are subject to change and are not a recommendation to buy or sell	

## **COUNTRY BREAKDOWN (%)**

	Fund	Index
United States	99.6	99.0
[Cash]	0.4	
United Kingdom		0.5
Ireland		0.4

Source: Comgest / MSCI country classification

Source: Comgest / GICS sector classificat

## RISKS

This Fund has the following core inherent risks (non-exhaustive list):

- Investing involves risk including possible loss of principal.
- The value of all investments and the income derived therefrom can decrease as well as increase.
- There is no assurance that the investment objective of the Fund will be achieved.
- To the extent that the Fund is invested in or denominated in a currency other than yours, the cost and return in your currency may increase or decrease due to exchange rate fluctuations.
- A more detailed description of the risk factors that apply to the Fund is set out in the Prospectus.

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## **FUND DETAILS**

**ISIN:** IE00B44DIL65 Bloomberg: CRMGUCI ID Domicile: Ireland Dividend Policy: Accumulation Fund Base Currency: USD Share Class Currency: USD Share Class Inception Date: 08/02/2013 Index (used for comparative purposes only): S&P 500 - Net Return Ongoing Charges: 0.82% p.a of the NAV Investment Manager's Fees (part of ongoing charges): 0.75% p.a of the NAV Maximum Sales Charge: None

Exit Charge: None

Minimum Initial Investment: USD 750,000 Minimum Holding: None

Contact for Subscriptions and Redemptions: CACEIS Investor Services Ireland Limited Dublin\_TA\_Customer\_Support@caceis.com Tel: +353 1 440 6555 / Fax: +353 1 613 0401

Dealing Frequency: Any business day (D) when banks in Dublin and the primary trading exchanges in the United States are open for business

Cut Off: 12:00 pm Irish time on day D An earlier deadline for receipt of application or redemption requests may apply if your request is sent through a third party. Please enquire with your local representative, distributor or other third party

NAV: Calculated using closing prices of D NAV Known: D+1

Settlement: D+3

Legal Structure: Comgest Growth America, a subfund of Comgest Growth plc (an open-ended investment company with variable capital authorised by the Central Bank of Ireland), is an Undertaking for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities (UCITS)

Management Company: None as Comgest Growth plc is self-managed

Investment Manager: Comgest Asset Management International Limited (CAMIL) Regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland and registered as an investment adviser with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission SEC registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training

Sub-Investment Manager: Comgest S.A. (CSA) Regulated by the Autorité des Marchés Financiers - GP 90023

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

This is a marketing communication. Please refer to the fund prospectus and the UCITS KIID before making any final investment decisions. Tax applicable to an investment depends on individual circumstances. Depending on where you live, the Fund may not be available to you for subscription. In particular this Fund cannot be offered or sold publicly in the United States. Consult your financial or professional adviser for more information on investing and taxation. The Prospectus, the UCITS KIID, the latest annual and interim reports and any country specific addendums can be obtained free of charge from the Investment Manager (at www.comgest.com) or the Administrator and from the facilities agent:

BNP Paribas Trust Corporation UK Limited, Facilities Agency Services, c/o Company Secretarial Department, 10 Harewood Avenue, London, NW1 6AA. Investors in the United Kingdom WILL NOT have any protection under the UK Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

Further information or reporting may be available from the Investment Manager upon request.

Complaints handling policies are available on our website at www.comgest.com in the regulatory information section. Comgest Growth Plc may decide to terminate at any time the arrangements made for the marketing of its UCITS.

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Carbon Footprint: estimates the apportioned Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gases emissions of the portfolio holdings.

Environmental Footprint: estimates the apportioned ratio of annual costs linked to greenhouse gases, water abstraction, waste generation, air, land & water

Environmental Footprint: estimates the apportioned ratio of annual costs linked to greenhouse gases, water abstraction, waste generation, air, land & water pollutants, and natural resource use associated with the portfolio holdings per USD m invested. Environmental Footprint Source: S&P Trucost Limited © Trucost 2024. All rights in the Trucost data and reports vest in Trucost and/or its licensors. Neither Trucost, nor its affiliates, nor its licensors accept any liability for any errors, omissions or interruptions in the Trucost data and/or reports. No further distribution of the Data and/or Reports is permitted without Trucost's express written consent. Index Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC ("SPDJI"). The index is a product of S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC or its affiliates ("SPDJI") and has been licensed for use by Comgest. Standard & Poor's® and S&P® are registered trademarks of Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC ("S&P"); Dow Jones® is a registered trademark of Dow Jones Trademark Holdings LLC ("Dow Jones"). The Company and the Funds are not sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by SPDJI, Dow Jones, S&P, their respective affiliates and none of such parties make any representation regarding the advisability of investing in such product(s) nor do they have any errors or interruptions of the index have any liability for any errors, omissions, or interruptions of the index.

For more detailed information on ESG integration please consult our website: www.comgest.com/en/our-business/esg

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# Glossary

Active Share: The percentage of fund holdings that is different from the reference index holdings. A fund that has no holdings in common with the reference index will have an active share of 100%, and a fund that has exactly the same holdings as the reference index considered will have an active share of 0%.

ADR - American Depositary Receipt: A negotiable security that represents securities of a foreign company and allows that company's shares to trade in the financial markets of the United States.

Annualised: A figure converted into an annual rate. Figures covering a period of more than one year are averaged to present a figure for a 12month period

**Bp(s) - Basis point(s):** One basis point is equal to one hundredth of 1% (i.e. 0.01%). **BV - Book Value:** The value of the company assets

minus its liabilities

CAGR - Compound Annual Growth Rate: The rate of return that would be required for an investment to grow from its beginning balance to its ending balance, assuming the profits were reinvested at the end of each year of the investment's lifespan.

CapEx - Capital Expenditure: The money invested by a company to acquire or upgrade fixed, physical, non-consumable assets such as plants, buildings, technology, or property, equipment.

Cash Flow: The net amount of cash and cash equivalents being transferred in and out of a company. Cash received signifies inflows, and cash spent signifies outflows.

CPI - Consumer Price Index: An index that measures the overall change in consumer prices based on a representative basket of goods and services over time. It is the metric often used to measure inflation.

DY - Dividend Yield: A ratio that shows how much a company pays out in dividends each year relative to its share price.

EBITDA - Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortisation: Used to measure a company's core profitability and is calculated by interest, tax, adding depreciation and amortisation expenses to net income.

EBIT - Earnings Before Interest and Taxes: Used to measure a company's core profitability and is calculated by adding interest and tax expenses to net income.

EPS - Earnings Per Share: The profits of a company attributed to each share, calculated by dividing profits after tax by the number of shares. EPS serves as an indicator of a company's profitability.

FCF - Free Cash Flow: The cash generated by a company from its normal business operations after subtracting any money spent on capital expenditures.

GDP - Gross Domestic Product: The total market value of all the finished goods and services produced within in a country's border in a specific time period.

GDR - Global Depositary Receipt: A certificate issued by a bank that represents shares in a foreign stock on two or more global markets. A GDR is similar to an American depositary receipt (ADR), except an ADR only lists shares of a foreign country in the markets of the United States.

LTM - Last 12 Months: LTM multiples are backward-looking and are based on historical performance.

Market Cap(italisation): A measure of a company's size, calculated by multiplying the total number of shares in issue by the current share price. Companies are commonly grouped according to size, such as small cap, mid cap, large cap or all cap. There is no consensus on the definition of these groupings and they may vary from portfolio to portfolio depending on the country of investment.

NAV - Net Asset Value: The current market value of the portfolio's assets minus the portfolio's liabilities

NTM - Next 12 Months: NTM multiples are forward-looking and are based on projected performance

Ongoing Charges: A fund's operational costs over a year. Ongoing Charges are calculated as a percentage of the average fund size over the year and include, for example, investment manager's fees, administration fees and custody costs.

Operating Margin: Measures how much profit a company makes on a dollar (or relevant currency) of sales after paying for variable costs of production, such as wages and raw materials, but before paying interest or tax.

**Operating Profit:** A company's gross income less operating expenses and other business-related expenses, such as wages, cost of goods sold (COGS) and depreciation.

Organic Growth: Growth a company achieves by increasing output and enhancing sales through the business' own operations and internal processes. This does not include profits or growth attributable to mergers, acquisitions, divestitures and foreign exchange but rather an increase in sales and expansion through the company's own resources

Organic Sales: Sales generated from within a company that are a direct result of the company's existing operations and internal processes. Organic sales do not include the impacts of mergers, acquisitions, divestitures and foreign exchange

P/B or P/BV - Price-to-Book Value Ratio: Measures the market's valuation of a company relative to its book value. P/B or P/BV is calculated by dividing the company's stock price per share by its book value per share.

P/E - Price-to-Earnings Ratio: A ratio used to value a company's shares. It is calculated by dividing the current market price by the earnings per share

P/S - Price-to-Sales Ratio: A valuation ratio that compares a company's stock price to its revenues. It is an indicator of the value that financial markets have placed on each dollar of a company's sales or revenues.

PEG - Price/Earnings-To-Growth Ratio: stock's price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio divided by the growth rate of its earnings for a specified time period. The PEG ratio is used to determine a stock's value while also factoring in the company's expected earnings growth.

PMI - Purchasing Managers' Index: An index of the prevailing direction of economic trends in the manufacturing and service sectors.

Reference Index: Index against which a fund's performance is compared.

**ROE** - **Return On Equity:** Measures financial performance and is calculated by dividing net income by shareholders' equity. ROE is a gauge of a company's profitability and how efficiently it

generates those profits. ROIC - Return On Invested Capital: Calculation used to assess a company's efficiency at allocating the capital under its control to profitable investments.

SME - Small- Or Medium-Sized Enterprise: A company, or companies considered as a group, that are neither very small nor very large and which employ fewer than a given number of employees. This number varies across countries.

Volatility: Measures the movements of an asset up and down over time. Volatility is generally considered to be a measure of risk.