

A Unique, International Multifactor Approach

Published November 4, 2022

Liqian Ren

Director of Modern Alpha

As the yen and euro lose significant value this year against the dollar, investors are seeing that currency hedging is not an emerging market (EM) play, but they are increasingly revisiting whether currency hedging makes sense for developed markets (DM), like the European and Japanese equity markets.

We've believed that currency risk is not necessarily a risk that investors get paid for taking, and international currency tends to lose value at the same time its equity loses value. In the current geopolitical and Fed rising rate environment, currencies are coming under increased pressure.

MSCI EAFE Developed Markets Are the New MSCI Emerging Markets: Currency Volatility



Sources: WisdomTree, Bloomberg. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. An investment cannot be made directly into an index.

The average volatility of the developed market currency basket has moved higher than the emerging market currency basket.

WisdomTree applies a systematic multifactor strategy to adjust the hedge ratios of currencies, and the average hedge ratio this year has been about 77%. This has helped cushion the declines in our International Multifactor strategy year-to-date.

Combining a Currency Factor with Equity Factors: The Potential for Good Performance with Lower Volatility

In [WisdomTree's International Multifactor Fund \(DWMF\)](#), factors like value, quality, momentum and low volatility combine to reduce volatility.

Minimum-volatility (min-vol) strategies have high valuations due to their popularity for the last 10+ years, while the dynamically hedged multifactor strategy has delivered the same or lower volatility without sacrificing return and quality characteristics.

DWMF Performance vs. Benchmark



Sources: WisdomTree, FactSet, as of 8/31/22. Past performance is not indicative of future results. You cannot invest directly in an Index.

Performance as of 10/7/22

Name	Average Annual Total Returns						Common Period 8/10/18-10/7/22
	YTD	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Since Inception	
WisdomTree International Multifactor (DWMF)	-14.30%	-10.60%	-0.30%			0.30%	0.30%
MSCI EAFE	-27%	-24.3%	-0.80%	-0.60%		3.90%	-1.10%
MSCI EAFE Value Index	-20%	-18.6%	-1.70%	-2.50%	2.10%	2.0%	-2.60%
MSCI EAFE Min-Vol Index	-24.50%	-21.9%	-5.30%	-1.60%	3.30%	4.0%	-2.70%

Sources: WisdomTree, FactSet, as of 10/7/22. DWMF Inception: 8/10/18. Performance is historical and does not guarantee future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than quoted. Investment returns 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. Performance data for the most recent month-end is available at [wisdomtree.com](https://www.wisdomtree.com).

See the [DWMF Fund page](#) for full standardized performance data and other important information.

DWMF Portfolio Characteristics vs. Benchmarks: Higher Quality and Dividend Yield

Characteristic	WisdomTree Intl. Multifactor	MSCI EAFE	MSCI EAFE Value	MSCI EAFE Min-Vol
Dividend Yield	4.55%	3.47%	5.03%	3.27%
Estimated Price/Earnings (P/E)	9.5	11.45	8.01	15.42
Return on Assets (ROA%)	2.96%	1.61%	1.35%	1.93%
Return on Equity (ROE%)	16.15%	11.55%	11.47%	12.23%
Return on Sales %	11.42%	11.57%	12.27%	11.57%
Leverage	5.46	7.17	8.51	6.33
30-Day SEC Yield	3.66%	2.76%	4.05%	2.69%

Sources: FactSet, WisdomTree, as of 9/30/22. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

WisdomTree International Multifactor Has Achieved High Morningstar Foreign Large Blend Peer Group Rankings

Fund	YTD 1/1/22-9/30/22		1-Year 10/1/21-9/30/22		2-Year 10/1/20-9/30/22		3-Year 10/1/19-9/30/22		4-Year 10/1/18-9/30/22	
	Return	Peer group percentile	Return	Peer group percentile	Return	Peer group percentile	Return	Peer group percentile	Return	Peer group percentile
Number of Funds		281		279		265		252		235
WisdomTree International Multifactor (DWMF)	-15.84	3	-13.57	3	-1.13	10	-1.38	35	-0.59	16

Sources: Morningstar, WisdomTree. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

In summary, we strongly urge investors to rethink currency exposure in their non-U.S. portfolios, both for developed markets and emerging markets. Dynamic currency hedging and half or full currency hedging are ways investors could manage currency risk to reduce volatility in the current market environment.

For definitions of terms/indexes in the charts above, please visit the [glossary](#).

Morningstar, Inc. All Rights Reserved. The information 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.

Important Risks Related to this Article

Please read the [prospectus](#) carefully before investing.

Investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal. Investments in non-U.S. securities involve political, regulatory and economic risks that may not be present in U.S. securities. For example, foreign securities may be subject to the risk of loss due to foreign currency fluctuations, political or economic instability or geographic events that adversely impact issuers of foreign securities. Derivatives used by the Fund to offset exposure to foreign currencies may not perform as intended. There can be no assurance that the Fund's hedging transactions will be effective. The value of an investment in the Fund could be significantly and negatively impacted if foreign currencies appreciate at the same time that the value of the Fund's equity holdings falls. While the Fund is actively managed, the Fund's investment process is expected to be heavily dependent on quantitative models, and the models may not perform as intended. Please read the Fund's prospectus for specific details regarding the Fund's risk profiles.