

QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT

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BNY Mellon Global Real Return Fund (EUR)

INVESTMENT MANAGER



Newton Investment Management: Newton seeks to deliver strong outcomes to its clients by taking an active, multidimensional and engaged investment approach, applied across its active equity, income, absolute return (including fixed income), multi-asset, thematic and sustainable strategies.

FUND RATINGS



Source & Copyright: Morningstar ratings © 2024 Morningstar. All Rights Reserved. Ratings are collected on the first business day of the month.

The benchmark was updated on 01/11/2021, performance prior to the change is shown using the previous benchmark. The share class can be different to that of the base currency of the fund. For CHF it is SARON CHF, For EUR it is EURIBOR, For GBP it is GBP SONIA, For USD it is USD SOFR, For SGD it is SIBOR SGD.

PERFORMANCE BENCHMARK

The Fund will measure its performance against 1-month EURIBOR + 4% per annum (the "Cash Benchmark"). The Cash Benchmark is used as a target against which to measure the performance of the Fund over 5 years before fees.

EURIBOR is the Euro Interbank Offer Rate and is a reference rate that is constructed from the average interest rate at which Eurozone banks offer unsecured short-term lending on the inter-bank market.

The Fund is actively managed, which means the Investment Manager has discretion over the selection of investments, subject to the investment objective and policies disclosed in the Prospectus.

However, a positive return is not guaranteed and a capital loss may occur.

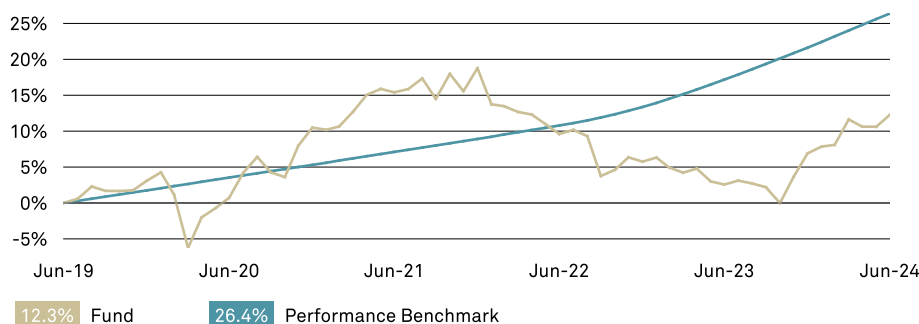
PERFORMANCE DISCLOSURE

Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of investments can fall. Investors may not get back the amount invested. Income from investments may vary and is not guaranteed. Please refer to the prospectus and the KID/KIID before making any investment decisions. Documents are available in English and an official language of the jurisdictions in which the Fund is registered for public sale. Go to www.bnymellonim.com. For a full list of risks applicable to this fund, please refer to the Prospectus or other offering documents.

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Performance:** The Fund generated a positive return, net of fees, during the quarter.
- **Activity:** The main change over the quarter was the move to dial down the level of risk through a reduction in the size of the return-seeking core.
- **Outlook & Strategy:** Initial signs of slowing in the US labour market and deteriorating purchasing managers' indices point to rising risks of an economic growth disappointment.

5 YEAR CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE (%)



PERFORMANCE SUMMARY (%)

	1M	3M	YTD	1YR	Annualised					
					2YR	3YR	5YR			
Euro W (Acc.)	1.50	0.58	5.03	9.46	1.21	-0.91	2.34			
Performance Benchmark	0.62	1.91	3.92	7.85	6.80	5.66	4.79			
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Fund	5.16	1.91	1.26	1.51	-1.00	11.47	7.17	7.49	-10.95	1.07
Performance Benchmark	4.14	3.93	3.66	3.63	3.63	3.59	3.49	3.43	4.08	7.29

Source: Lipper as at 30 June 2024. Fund performance Euro W (Acc.) calculated as total return, based on net asset value, including charges, but excluding initial charge, income reinvested gross of tax, expressed in share class currency. The impact of the initial charge, which may be up to 5%, can be material on the performance of your investment. Performance figures including the initial charge are available upon request. **Returns may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations.**

**BNY MELLON INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT
EMEA LIMITED - CLIENT SERVICES**

Tel: +44 20 7163 2367

Fax: +44 20 7163 2039

Email: internationalsales@bnymellon.com

Web: www.bnymellonim.com

PERFORMANCE COMMENTARY

Financial markets made further progress during the second quarter, although it was a quarter of two halves with a sell-off in April being followed by a rebound in the remainder of the period.

THE FUND'S PERFORMANCE WAS DRIVEN BY THE RETURN-SEEKING CORE

On the positive side, equities continued to advance, largely thanks to gains by companies exposed to artificial intelligence (AI), which remained the dominant market theme. However, government bonds lost ground as investors priced in fewer rate cuts over the rest of the year, even as the European Central Bank delivered its first rate cut since the pandemic.

Meanwhile, geopolitical risk returned to the fore as tensions in the Middle East briefly escalated, driving a spike in energy prices. In June, President Emmanuel Macron's decision to announce a snap legislative election caused a sell-off in French assets while, more broadly, there was evidence of some weakness in global economic data.

In line with its commitment to preserve capital, the Fund managed to mitigate the downside during a period of market weakness in April.

Performance was driven by the return-seeking core. Equities led the return drivers and, unsurprisingly, it was the AI-focused names, including TSMC and Nvidia, that were responsible for the lion's share of the gains. Apple also joined the party, after its earnings report exceeded expectations, followed by its announcement of a partnership with OpenAI. Shell caught a bid from the higher oil price, reflecting geopolitical uncertainty.

Among the detractors, Hubbell posted disappointing results following inflated expectations while, among financials, B3 suffered from continuing high rates in Brazil, and Bank Mandiri, which was trimmed in April, displayed weakness owing to less favourable macroeconomic conditions in Indonesia.

Elsewhere, emerging market debt also detracted, driven by the position in longer-dated Mexican debt as the currency was hit by fallout from the country's election. The bonds themselves were weak in line with their developed market counterparts as the prospect of interest rate cuts was pushed out.

The stabilising layer detracted. Derivative protection, largely through out-of-the-money put options, represented a cost given rising markets. Physical positions in government bonds were accretive to returns, benefitting from the attractive running yield paid by US Treasuries, while bond futures, which do not benefit from coupon payments, detracted owing to the less favourable pace of monetary policy easing.

By contrast, gold surged, in particular at the beginning of the quarter, as concerns around inflation and geopolitics came to the fore.

ACTIVITY REVIEW

The main change over the quarter was the move to dial down the level of risk through a reduction in the size of the return-seeking core.

BOND DURATION WAS LARGELY UNCHANGED OVER THE QUARTER

Deteriorating economic data and stubborn inflation warranted a more cautious approach, and we therefore decided to close out the majority of the tactical upside protection via the S&P 500, Russell 2000, Hang Seng, Nikkei 225 and MSCI Emerging Market indices, which had been purchased to participate in the broadening of the market rally.

In a similar vein, within the stabilising layer, the level of downside protection through options on the Eurostoxx 50 and S&P 500 indices was increased. Bond duration (interest rate sensitivity) was largely unchanged over the quarter, with the focus remaining at the shorter end of the curve which offers an attractive yield.

Turning to individual equities, we added a new position in Adidas, the sports footwear and apparel group, which has stumbled in recent years on account of a series of transitory issues. Adidas has an attractive franchise and a new management team which is keen to implement its recovery strategy.

We also purchased Walt Disney, the media and leisure conglomerate, which has a strong franchise with the majority of the company's value tied to the growing area of consumer experiences through its theme park and consumer businesses.

On the other side of the ledger, while we continue to believe in the transformative potential of AI, we took some profit in those stocks which are most exposed to this theme, notably ASML, Nvidia and Lam Research, where expectations had become lofty. We also trimmed positions in oil names Shell and ConocoPhillips which we believed now fully reflected the geopolitical risk premium.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND OUTLOOK

For risk assets such as equities, the gradual nature of the economic slowdown, easing of inflation and 'dovish' central bank narrative have been sufficient to extend rallies.

AN UNCERTAIN BACKDROP NECESSITATES A FLEXIBLE PORTFOLIO

However, initial signs of slowing in the US labour market and deteriorating purchasing managers' indices point to rising risks of an economic growth disappointment, while sentiment and positioning are no longer a tailwind for risk assets.

Other risks include the legacy of the build-up in government debt and stubborn levels of inflation. These influences are likely to continue to cause volatility in markets, with the potential to morph into something uglier.

We believe this uncertain and unpredictable backdrop necessitates a flexible, dynamic portfolio that can reduce risk as the storm clouds gather, with the potential to subsequently capitalise on opportunities as the market backdrop evolves.

TOTAL PORTFOLIO BREAKDOWN (%)

Return Seeking Assets	71.2
Equities	41.8
Alternatives	12.5
EM Debt	11.6
Corporate Bonds	5.4
Synthetic Exposure	-0.1
Stabilising Assets & Hedging Positions	28.8
Government Bonds	9.0
Precious Metals	6.3
Index Linked Bonds	4.8
Risk Premia	1.6
Currency Hedging	-0.4
Cash	7.5
Bond Derivatives Exposure¹	26.7
Direct Equity Index Protection¹	-11.3
Synthetic Equity Market Exposure¹	1.3
Total Equity Exposure[^]	31.8
Total Return Seeking assets[^]	61.2

¹Delta adjusted

[^]Net of direct equity index protection and synthetic equity market exposure

BOND PORTFOLIO BREAKDOWNS
RATING BREAKDOWN

Average Rating	BBB
Government Bonds	A
Investment Grade Bonds	BBB
High Yield Bonds	BB

DURATION (IN YEARS)

Average Gross Bond Duration (Years)	4.4
Average Net Bond Duration (Years)*	3.4
Government Bonds	3.4
Investment Grade Bonds	4.5
High Yield Bonds	2.1

*Duration including impact of hedging exposure using bond options and futures

Source: BNY Mellon Investment Management EMEA Limited

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS

No. of Holdings	31
Government Bonds	12
Investment Grade Bonds	6
High Yield Bonds	13

YIELD (%)

Average yield	5.3
Government Bonds	5.2
Investment Grade Bonds	5.6
High Yield Bonds	6.3

TOP 10 HOLDINGS (%)

US 2yr Bond Futures	20.2
US Treasury 1.25% 15-apr-28	4.8
Govt of Spain 0.0% 08-nov-2024	4.7
Govt of Greece 0.0% 25-oct-2024	4.5
Govt of Mexico 0.0% 03-oct-2024	2.9
iShares Physical Gold	2.9
Barclays Bank Plc 0.0% 21-jan-2025	2.9
Barclays Bank Plc 0.0% 17-jan-2025	2.7
Microsoft	2.3
US Treasury 3.0% 15-nov-2045	2.1

EQUITY SECTOR BREAKDOWN (%)

Technology	10.1
Consumer Services	6.5
Health Care	5.9
Financials	5.6
Industrials	5.0
Energy	2.9
Consumer Goods	2.6
Basic Materials	1.6
Telecommunications	0.8
Utilities	0.8

REGIONAL EQUITY ALLOCATION (%)

North America	19.6
Europe ex UK	9.3
UK	7.0
Pacific ex Japan	1.2
Japan	0.4
Others	4.2

CURRENCY ALLOCATION (%)

EUR	69.3
USD	20.3
GBP	1.9
CHF	0.1
Others	8.3

KEY RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS FUND

- The Fund may invest in China interbank bond market through connection between the related Mainland and Hong Kong financial infrastructure institutions. These may be subject to regulatory changes, settlement risk and quota limitations. An operational constraint such as a suspension in trading could negatively affect the Fund's ability to achieve its investment objective.
- The Fund may invest in China A shares through Stock Connect programmes. These may be subject to regulatory changes and quota limitations. An operational constraint such as a suspension in trading could negatively affect the Fund's ability to achieve its investment objective.
- Where the Fund invests significantly in a single market, this may have a material impact on the value of the Fund.
- There is no guarantee that the Fund will achieve its objectives.
- This Fund invests in international markets which means it is exposed to changes in currency rates which could affect the value of the Fund.
- Derivatives are highly sensitive to changes in the value of the asset from which their value is derived. A small movement in the value of the underlying asset can cause a large movement in the value of the derivative. This can increase the sizes of losses and gains, causing the value of your investment to fluctuate. When using derivatives, the Fund can lose significantly more than the amount it has invested in derivatives.
- Investments in bonds/money market securities are affected by interest rates and inflation trends which may negatively affect the value of the Fund.
- Bonds with a low credit rating or unrated bonds have a greater risk of default. These investments may negatively affect the value of the Fund.
- The issuer of a security held by the Fund may not pay income or repay capital to the Fund when due.
- Emerging Markets have additional risks due to less-developed market practices.
- Contingent Convertible Securities (CoCo's) convert from debt to equity when the issuer's capital drops below a pre-defined level. This may result in the security converting into equities at a discounted share price, the value of the security being written down, temporarily or permanently, and/or coupon payments ceasing or being deferred.
- The insolvency of any institutions providing services such as custody of assets or acting as a counterparty to derivatives or other contractual arrangements, may expose the Fund to financial loss.
- If this share class is denominated in a different currency from the base currency of the Fund. Changes in the exchange rate between the share class currency and the base currency may affect the value of your investment.
- For hedged share classes the hedging strategy is used to reduce the impact of exchange rate movements between the share class currency and the base currency. It may not completely achieve this due to factors such as interest rate differentials.
- A complete description of risk factors is set out in the Prospectus in the section entitled "Risk Factors".

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

To achieve a total return in excess of a cash benchmark over an investment horizon of 3-5 years.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Total net assets (million)	€ 1,028.83
Performance Benchmark	Cash (1mth EURIBOR) + 4% per annum
Lipper sector	Lipper Global - Mixed Asset EUR Flex - Global
Fund type	ICVC
Fund domicile	Ireland
Fund manager	Aron Pataki / Andy Warwick
Base currency	EUR
Currencies available	EUR, USD, GBP, SGD, CHF
Fund launch	08 Mar 2010

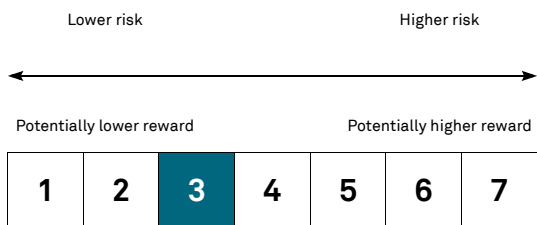
EURO W (ACC.) SHARE CLASS DETAILS

Inception date	30 Mar 2012
Min. initial investment	€ 15,000,000
Max. initial charge	5.00%
Annual mgmt charge	0.75%
ISIN	IE00B70B9H10
Registered for sale in:	AT, BE, CH, CO, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GG, IE, IT, JE, KR, LU, NL, NO, PE, PT, SE, SG, UY

DEALING

09:00 to 17:00 each business day
 Valuation point: 12:00 Dublin time
 Costs incurred when purchasing, holding, converting or selling any investment, will impact returns. Costs may increase or decrease as a result of currency and exchange rate fluctuations.
 For more details please read the KID document.

RISK AND REWARD PROFILE - EURO W (ACC.)



The summary risk indicator is a guide to the level of risk of this product compared to other products. It shows how likely it is that the product will lose money because of movements in the markets or because we are not able to pay you. We have classified this product as 3 out of 7, which is a medium-low risk class. This rates the potential losses from future performance at a medium low level, and poor market conditions are unlikely to impact the capacity of BNY Mellon Fund Management (Luxembourg) S.A. to pay you.

Source: BNY Mellon Investment Management EMEA Limited
 Any views and opinions are those of the investment manager, unless otherwise noted.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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