

Fund Commentary

Q2 | 2026

Morningstar Category

European Equity

Inception Date

April 11, 1994 (Series MF)
January 14, 2000 (Series F)

Portfolio Managers

AGF Investments Inc.
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Equities

Market Overview

European equities performed well during the quarter, despite monetary policy shifts, energy-driven inflation, and geopolitical developments. After the sell-off seen in March, European equities stabilized during April, and albeit in a volatile nature, rose steadily during May and June to end the quarter near the highs of the year. Whilst the market climbed a wall of worry at the start of the quarter, they realized hopes of an easing of geopolitical risk and lower commodity prices provided justification for the market recovery.

Eurozone growth remained subdued in the second quarter of 2026, while resilient labour markets continued to support economic activity. Business confidence softened as June Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) readings slipped, signaling a loss of momentum and renewed concerns over the pace of the region's recovery. Inflation fell to 2.8% in June, but rose during the quarter, largely due to energy prices driven by tensions in the Middle East, prompting a 25 basis points rate hike by the European Central Bank (ECB) in June. This hike signified a more cautious tone from the ECB, albeit the indication was that further rate increases would need to be data-driven. Positioning rotated accordingly, as initial defensiveness and reduced cyclicality in April gave way to selective re-risking in May as energy prices eased. June saw a balance between rate-sensitive exposures and structural growth linked to artificial intelligence (AI) capital expenditure (CapEx).

MSCI Europe Index ended the quarter higher, with notable sector divergence. Information Technology contributed the most, benefitting from AI demand, while Financials benefited from higher rates. Industrials also outperformed aided by the lower energy prices. The Energy sector was the biggest underperformer as lower oil prices prompted profit taking from its Q1 gains. Communication Services, which mainly consists of Telecom stocks, also lagged in Q2. Growth outperformed momentum marginally, but dispersion was lower across factors, with Value underperforming. The Euro weakened before stabilizing, adding to return dynamics. Overall, MSCI Europe Index reflected a market shaped by policy tightening, commodity volatility, and selective growth opportunities.

Fund Overview | June 30, 2026

Annualized Performance in CAD, Net of Fees	3 Mo.	1 Yr.	3 Yr.	5 Yr.	10 Yr.	PSD ⁺
AGF European Equity Class - Series MF	12.7%	28.9%	21.3%	15.3%	10.0%	4.3%
AGF European Equity Class - Series F	13.0%	30.5%	23.2%	17.2%	11.9%	5.9%
Benchmark*	13.5%	24.3%	19.6%	13.2%	11.6%	7.1%

Source: AGF Investments. One cannot invest directly in an index. **Past performance is not indicative of future results.** *MSCI Europe Index. Series MF MER: 2.28%, Series F MER: 1.00%, as of March 31, 2026. *Performance Start Date (PSD): December 17, 2001 (Series MF); December 17, 2001 (Series F). Benchmark PSD reflects the PSD of Series MF.

For the quarter ended June 30, 2026, the AGF European Equity Class underperformed the European market benchmark, the MSCI Europe Index.

Security selection and an underweight allocation to Information Technology detracted the most from performance. An overweight allocation to Energy also detracted. Security selection in Health Care detracted, which was partially offset by an underweight allocation. On the other hand, security selection in Financials, Industrials and Consumer Discretionary contributed most to overall performance. The underperformance of the Value versus the Growth style, by 6.7%, and versus the market, by 3.2%, was a strong headwind for the Fund and the main detracting factor.

In terms of countries, Germany was the largest contributor to performance, followed by France and Ireland. Netherlands was the largest detractor from performance, followed by Switzerland and United Kingdom.

In terms of individual holdings, the top contributors to performance during the quarter were Infineon Technologies AG, BNP Paribas and ING Group NV, while the top detractors from performance were Shell Plc, ASML Holding NV and TotalEnergies SE.

The overweight position in BNP Paribas contributed positively as the bank delivered record first-quarter earnings, supported by strong revenue growth, improving operating efficiency and robust performances across its retail banking, asset management and insurance businesses. Investors were also encouraged by the group's strong capital position, attractive shareholder distributions and management's reaffirmation of its medium-term profitability targets.

An overweight position in Shell detracted from performance as weaker oil prices and concerns about global economic growth weighed on the energy sector. Investors moderated earnings expectations for oil producers amid a softer commodity-price environment, despite Shell's continued focus on capital discipline, shareholder returns and operational performance.

Market Outlook

European markets remain attractive relative to the U.S. and global equities offer a clear diversification opportunity given their lower technology weighting. Earnings growth in the region looks set to pick up strongly in 2026 and 2027. Whilst the structural reforms and the promised infrastructure and defense programs are coming through slower than expected, the outlook for the region continues to improve.

Growth remained subdued at the start of the year, and confidence was dented by higher energy prices. However, the sharp fall in the oil price should provide a boost to sentiment. Lower levels of inflation will also lessen the need for further interest rate increases, so monetary policy remains accommodative. Also the headwinds of US trade tariffs and a strong currency that worked against the region over the last 12 months should ease in the second half. Global geopolitical uncertainty will continue to concentrate the need for European policy makers to allocate capital into domestic reshoring, defense platforms, and electrification, all of which boost Europe's growth potential.

The Portfolio Manager remains focused on identifying strong companies, with quality attributes, that trade at a discount to their intrinsic value. The recent volatility is providing potential opportunities, but given the high levels of uncertainty, caution prevails. The Fund is diversified at the stock, sector and country level.

Series F securities can be purchased under the simplified prospectus only through a registered dealer who has obtained consent of AGF to offer Series F securities.

Commissions, trailing commissions, management fees and expenses all may be associated with mutual fund investments. Please read the prospectus before investing. The indicated rates of return are the historical annual compounded total returns including changes in share or unit value and reinvestment of all dividends or distributions and do not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or optional charges or income taxes payable by any securityholder that would have reduced returns. Mutual funds are not guaranteed, their values change frequently and past performance may not be repeated.

MER as of March 31, 2026. AGFI may, in its discretion, temporarily waive some or all of the expenses of the Fund, which will result in a reduction in the MER. AGFI may cease to offer any such waiver at any time without notice.

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