

Fund Commentary

Q2 | 2026

Morningstar Category

Emerging Markets Equity

Inception Date

April 18, 2008 (Series MF)
April 18, 2008 (Series F)

Portfolio Managers

AGF Investments Inc.
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Market Overview

Emerging markets (EM) equities delivered positive but uneven returns in second quarter of 2026, supported by resilient earnings momentum and sustained artificial intelligence (AI)-driven demand for data centers, semiconductors and related hardware. Gains were led by South Korea and Taiwan, while improving geopolitical conditions provided an additional tailwind. Persistent trade frictions, uneven domestic demand and commodity volatility created periodic headwinds.

Economic growth in South Korea advanced by 1.8% in the first quarter, marking the strongest growth since 2021. Inflation rate accelerated to 3.2% in June, prompting the Bank of Korea to keep interest rates steady. Similarly in Taiwan, rates remained unchanged after inflation went over 2% for the first time in a year in May. The country's economic growth continued to expand albeit at a slower pace than in the previous quarter. China's macroeconomic backdrop remained stable but mixed with growth supported by export demand and manufacturing resilience while domestic consumption is lackluster, and residential real estate is mired in weakness. Real Gross Domestic Product growth for the first quarter stood at 5.0% year-on-year. The People's Bank of China kept the one-year Loan Prime Rate unchanged for the 11th consecutive month, while relying on targeted liquidity injections to support credit conditions. After a difficult start to the year, India's equity market rallied in the second quarter due to a combination of improving domestic fundamentals, better earnings momentum, resilient local liquidity and relief from lower energy prices as the conflict with Iran de-escalated.

Korean equities rallied, leading regional performance on the back of robust semiconductor demand. Taiwanese equities rallied strongly as AI-related technology continued to benefit from strong demand and tight supply. Chinese equities fell, driven by continued weakness in the property sector as well as domestic consumption. Saudi Arabian equities declined during the quarter while parts of emerging Europe lagged, reflecting weaker earnings momentum and limited exposure to the AI investment cycle.

Overall, EM equities outperformed developed markets over the quarter, as strong returns from mega caps in East Asia helped the region. Information Technology and Industrials were the best performing sectors, supported by demand for semiconductors, and capital expenditure cycles. Conversely, Consumer Discretionary and Energy lagged, reflecting softer consumer spending trends and pressure from commodity-price volatility and supply uncertainty. Large cap stocks outperformed small caps amid a preference for earnings visibility.

Fund Overview | June 30, 2026

Annualized Performance in CAD, Net of Fees	3 Mo.	1 Yr.	3 Yr.	5 Yr.	10 Yr.	PSD ⁺
AGF Emerging Markets Class - Series MF [^]	28.2%	56.2%	23.1%	8.1%	8.1%	5.1%
AGF Emerging Markets Class - Series F [^]	28.6%	58.0%	24.5%	9.4%	9.4%	6.2%
Benchmark [*]	26.6%	50.2%	26.5%	10.6%	11.6%	6.8%

Source: AGF Investments. One cannot invest directly in an index. **Past performance is not indicative of future results.** [^]AGF China Focus Class merged into AGF Emerging Market Class on May 22, 2026. AGF Asian Growth Class merged into AGF Emerging Markets Class on May 15, 2020. The mergers may have a material effect on the performance of the fund. Effective July 5, 2023, AGF Emerging Markets Class is closed to new investors. The fund will remain available to existing investors, including those with systematic investment plans. ^{*}MSCI Emerging Markets Index. Series MF MER: 2.75%, Series F MER: 1.58%, as of March 31, 2026. ⁺Performance Start Date (PSD): April 28, 2008 (Series MF); May 8, 2008 (Series F). Benchmark PSD reflects the PSD of Series MF.

AGF Emerging Markets Class outperformed the MSCI Emerging Markets Index benchmark during the quarter.

Sector allocation and security selection contributed to performance during the quarter. From a sector allocation perspective, an underweight to Consumer Discretionary was the biggest contributor to performance, followed by an overweight to Information Technology. On the other hand, an overweight to Industrials was the largest detractor, followed by an underweight to Financials.

Security selection in the Information Technology and Energy sectors were the top contributors to performance, whereas security selection in the Consumer Discretionary and Financials were the top detractors from performance.

From a country perspective, exposure to China was the biggest contributor to performance, followed by exposure to South Korea. On the other hand, despite extremely strong absolute returns relative to the benchmark Taiwan was the largest detractor. The Fund's exposure to Peru was the next largest detractor.

In terms of individual holdings, the top contributors to performance were Samsung Electronics Co Ltd, Shengyi Technology Co Ltd and ASE Technology Holding Co Ltd, while the top detractors were Mediatek Inc, AL Rajhi Bank and KT&G Corp.

Samsung Electronics advanced after reporting record quarterly revenue and profit, driven by booming AI memory demand and strong hyperscaler data-center investment. Shengyi Technology shares rose as booming AI server demand fueled triple-digit profit growth and strengthened prospects for high-end laminate materials. Shares of ASE Technology climbed after record revenues from their advanced-packaging line of business, stronger AI-related demand, and an upwardly revised outlook for the rest of the year.

Shares of MediaTek rose over 180% during the quarter on as it is helping Alphabet Inc. create application-specific integrated circuits. The Fund's underweight to MediaTek made it the largest detractor relative to the benchmark. Al Rajhi Bank also slid during the quarter despite double digit profit growth and raised guidance, as broader market caution outweighed strong fundamentals. Shares of KT&G declined as investors took profits after the company reported positive earnings growth. Domestic cigarette-market weakness also weighed on investor sentiment.

Market Outlook

The portfolio manager follows a concentrated, high-conviction, bottom-up approach, targeting companies with durable competitive advantages, accelerating sales and earnings, and positive revision momentum, supported by disciplined risk management and a focus on the trajectory of value creation. Currently, EMs appear to be in the early stages of a structural growth cycle, led by North Asia and the AI-driven compute buildout, where demand remains robust but supply constrained, while select markets less exposed to technology could benefit as suppliers of critical raw materials and energy inputs, resulting in a more bifurcated landscape across regions and sectors.

The macroeconomic backdrop has remained resilient, though growth has been uneven across regions. While energy disruptions and geopolitical fragmentation have continued to create uncertainty, inflation remains moderate in economies less sensitive to energy prices. Within EMs, countries supported by strong domestic demand may be better positioned to sustain economic growth, while exports could provide an important additional boost. We expect global capital expenditure cycles to continue supporting corporate earnings, even as policy uncertainty and commodity-related risks contribute to periodic volatility. Against this backdrop, we believe EM equities offer attractive long-term investment opportunities, underpinned by structural growth drivers.

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