Voya Global Equity Dividend and Premium Opportunity Fund

Potential for high income, total return and downside capture through global value stocks and options

Strategy overview

Quantitative, global equity strategy seeks to maximize total return while maintaining lower volatility than the reference Index; using model-driven stock selection combined with call writing and currency hedging.

Performance

For the quarter, the Voya Global Equity Dividend and Premium Opportunity Fund provided a total return of –0.06% on a net asset value basis, and a total return of –2.39% on a market price basis. For the same period, the Fund's reference index, the MSCI World Value Index, returned –1.88.

Equity portfolio

For the quarterly reporting period, the Fund's equity sleeve outperformed the Index. Out of the three primary return drivers (proprietary core model, beta and dividend yield), the core model and the low beta position contributed, while the higher dividend yield detracted modestly. Within the proprietary core model, four out of five pillars had a positive impact on relative returns with the sentiment indicator contributing most. The operations indicator was the only detractor.

Regionally, holdings in North America helped performance, while holdings in the Asia/Pacific Excluding Japan region hurt.

On the sector level, stock selection in health care, consumer discretionary and industrials contributed most to results, particularly a non-benchmark position in H&R Block, Inc. and the overweight to Erie Indemnity Co. as well as Phillips 66.

By contrast, selection in communication services and consumer staples detracted. Among the key detractors were lack of exposure to Exxon Mobil Corp. and Chevron Corp. as well as the underweight in UnitedHealth Group Inc.

Option portfolio

During the quarter, the Fund's option strategy contributed to returns. The strategy seeks to generate premiums and retain some potential for upside appreciation. The Fund implemented this strategy by typically writing call options on regional indices, the selection and allocation of which result from an optimization intended to track the reference Index of the portfolio closely. The strike prices of the options written were typically out of the money or near the money, with expiration dates around six weeks at inception.

Outlook and current strategy

U.S. equity markets reversed course during the third quarter, weighed down by fears of interest rates remaining higher for longer. The S&P 500 Index fell by –3.27% for the quarter. Energy and information technology stocks led while utilities and consumer staples lagged. Growth stocks modestly outperformed value stocks during the quarter, and large caps beat small caps.

The U.S. bond market remained choppy during the quarter. The Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index lost –3.23%, while a surprisingly resilient U.S. economy pushed the 10-year U.S. Treasury yield from 3.86% at the beginning of the quarter to 4.59% by quarter-end. In July, U.S. Federal Reserve raised rates by 25 basis points, bringing the Fed funds rate to a range of 5.25–5.50%. Rates were held steady at the September meeting, and Fed Chair Powell's remarks maintained a hawkish tone as he reiterated the central bank's strong commitment to returning inflation to its 2% target.

The U.S. economy has remained resilient as have corporate earnings, fueling the debate of a hard versus soft landing. We still believe there may be greater volatility to come given uncertainty over Fed rate policy through the end of the year; mixed business sentiment and slowing economic growth; and whether a recession will actually happen, and if so, the duration and depth.

E**conomic growth remains uncertain in the Asia-Pacific region.** China's reopening has faltered, Chinese real estate looks shaky and the contraction in global manufacturing could result in more downside for China and emerging markets broadly. In addition, after years of poor market performance, a negative wealth effect could exacerbate a liquidity trap where individuals hoard cash, making policy officials hesitant to aggressively stimulate. Yet, we think significant stimulus will be necessary to meaningfully boost asset prices, and incremental policy measures ultimately will fail. We believe China will reluctantly export deflation via a weaker currency, helping to nudge U.S. inflation lower and support the U.S. dollar.

Given these uncertainties in the global market outlook, we expect the Fund to continue to benefit from its option-writing activities.

Holdings detail

Companies mentioned in this report — percentage of portfolio investments, as of 09/30/23: H&R Block, Inc. 0.44%, Erie Indemnity Co. 0.53%, Phillips 66 0.73%, Exxon Mobil Corp. 0%, Chevron Corp. 0% and UnitedHealth Group Inc. 0.29%; 0% indicates that the security is no longer in the portfolio. Portfolio holdings are subject to change daily.

Disclaimer

The **MSCI World Value Index** captures large- and mid-cap securities exhibiting overall value style characteristics across 23 developed market (DM) countries. The value investment style characteristics for index construction are defined using three variables: book value to price, 12-month forward earnings to price and dividend yield. **Investors cannot invest directly in an index.**

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. All investing involves risks of fluctuating prices and the uncertainties of rates of return and yield inherent in investing. All security transactions involve substantial risk of loss. The performance quoted represents past performance. Investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate, and shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted.

Total investment return at market share price measures the change in the market value of your investment assuming reinvestment of dividends, capital gain distributions and return of capital distributions/allocations, if any, in accordance with the provisions of the Fund's dividend reinvestment plan. Total investment return at market share price is not annualized for periods less than one year. Closed-end funds like the Fund do not continuously offer shares for sale and are not required to buy shares back from investors upon request. Shares of closed-end funds trade on national stock exchanges. Therefore, market share prices are not directly affected by Fund expenses or fees, which ordinarily have the effect of lowering total return.

Total investment return at net asset value has been calculated assuming a purchase at net asset value at the beginning of the period and a sale at net asset value at the end of the period; and assumes reinvestment of dividends, capital gain distributions and return of capital distributions/allocations, if any, in accordance with the provisions of the dividend reinvestment plan. Net asset value is total assets minus total liabilities, divided by the number of shares outstanding. Net asset value is net of all fund expenses, including operating costs and management fees. Total investment return at net asset value is not annualized for periods less than one year.

Principal risks. All investing involves risks of fluctuating prices and the uncertainties of rates of return and yield inherent in investing. Price volatility, liquidity, and other risks that accompany an investment in equity securities of domestic and foreign companies, and small and mid-sized capitalized companies. International investing poses special risks including currency fluctuation, economic and political risks not found in investments that are solely domestic. Risks of foreign investing are generally intensified for investments in emerging markets.

Options risk. The Fund may purchase put and call options and may write (sell) put options and call options and is subject to Options Risk. The risk in writing a call option is that the Fund gives up the opportunity for profit if the market price of the security increases and the option is exercised. The risk in buying an option is that the Fund pays a premium whether or not the option is exercised. Risks may also arise from an illiquid secondary market or from the inability of counter-parties to meet the terms of the contract. When an option is exercised or closed out, the Fund may be required to sell portfolio securities or to deliver portfolio securities to satisfy its obligations when it would not otherwise choose to do so, or the Fund may choose to sell portfolio securities to realize gains to offset the losses realized upon option exercise. Such sales or delivery would involve transaction costs borne by the Fund and may also result in realization of taxable capital gains, including short-term capital gains taxed at ordinary income tax rates, and may adversely impact the Fund's after-tax returns.

This Fund has **additional risks** which you should consider, such as market discount risk, investment and market risk, foreign investment and emerging markets risk, foreign (non-US currency risk, Asia Pacific regional and country risk, issuer risk, equity risk, distribution risk, tax risk, dividend risk, small-cap and mid-cap company risk.

The Fund employs a quantitative model to execute its investment strategy. Data imprecision, software or other technology malfunctions, programming inaccuracies and similar circumstances may impair the performance of these systems, which may negatively affect performance. Furthermore, there can be no assurance that the quantitative models used in managing the strategy will perform as anticipated or enable the strategy to achieve its objective.

This commentary has been prepared by Voya Investment Management for informational purposes. Nothing contained herein should be construed as (i) an offer to sell or solicitation of an offer to buy any security or (ii) a recommendation as to the advisability of investing in, purchasing or selling any security. Any opinions expressed herein reflect our judgment and are subject to change. Certain of the statements contained herein are statements of future expectations and other forward-looking statements that are based on management's current views and assumptions and involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results, performance or events to differ materially from those expressed or implied in such statements. Actual results, performance or events may differ materially from those in such statements due to, without limitation, (1) general economic conditions, (2) performance of financial markets, (3) interest rate levels, (4) increasing levels of loan defaults, (5) changes in laws and regulations and (6) changes in the policies of governments and/or regulatory authorities.

The opinions, views and information expressed in this commentary regarding holdings are subject to change without notice. The information provided regarding holdings is not a recommendation to buy or sell any security. Portfolio holdings are fluid and are subject to daily change based on market conditions and other factors.

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