

# QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REVIEW

## Emerging Country Debt Fund

### Performance returns (USD)

ANNUALIZED RETURNS (QUARTER-END)	Quarter-End	YTD	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Since Inception
Emerging Country Debt Fund (net)	5.63	5.63	22.02	2.47	3.33	4.45	12.04
Emerging Country Debt Fund (gross)	5.77	5.77	22.67	3.02	3.88	5.01	12.66
J.P. Morgan EMBI Global Diversified +	2.04	2.04	11.28	-1.39	0.75	2.75	8.27
Value Add	+3.59	+3.59	+10.74	+3.87	+2.58	+1.69	+3.77

### Major Performance Drivers

The J.P. Morgan EMBI Global Diversified + (EMBIG-D) index returned 2.0% in the first quarter of 2024. Driving index gains, the benchmark's spread over Treasuries tightened by 42 bps, finishing at 342 bps and resulting in a 3.2% spread return. Meanwhile, the 10-year Treasury yield rose by 32 bps to 4.20%, resulting in a -1.2% interest rate return.

The portfolio had positive alpha from both country selection and security selection in the first quarter. Within country selection, the portfolio's overweight positions in Argentina (+25.9% total return) and Ecuador (+51.5% total return, the EMBIG-D's best performer for the quarter) drove gains. Overweight positions in Egypt (+22.2%) and Tunisia (+17.3%) and an underweight in Qatar (-1.2%) also contributed positively. While unable to fully offset gains, overweight positions in Colombia (-2.4%) and South Africa (-3.1%) detracted from country selection alpha.

Within security selection, positive contributions to alpha came from the choice of holdings in Suriname, Peru, and Indonesia, more than offsetting losses from the choice of holdings in Turkey, Ecuador, and Pakistan. Off-benchmark countries also contributed positively, driven by the portfolio's holdings in Russia, with smaller positive contributions from Chad, Republic of the Congo, and Belarus, which more than offset the negative effects from the portfolio's holdings in Venezuela.

Entering the second quarter, the portfolio's largest overweights are Argentina, Vietnam, and Bahrain, while the largest underweights are China, Qatar, and Malaysia. The portfolio had a few notable changes in country exposures during the quarter. In duration-adjusted terms, the portfolio's exposure to Turkey, Egypt, and Vietnam grew, while its exposure to South Africa, Saudi Arabia, and Ivory Coast decreased.

Inception Date: 19-Apr-94

Performance for the year of inception is less than a full calendar year. Returns shown for periods less than one year are not annualized.

**Risks:** Risks associated with investing in the Fund may include: (1) Credit Risk: The risk that the issuer or guarantor of a fixed income investment or the obligor of an obligation underlying an asset-backed security will be unable or unwilling to satisfy its obligation to pay principal and interest or otherwise to honor its obligations in a timely manner. (2) Market Risk - Fixed Income: The market price of a fixed income investment can decline due to market-related factors, including rising interest rates and widening credit spreads, or decreased liquidity due to market uncertainty about the value of a fixed income investment (or class of fixed income investments). In addition, the market prices of emerging country sovereign and quasi-sovereign debt instruments can decline due to uncertainty about their credit quality and the reliability of their payment streams. (3) Illiquidity Risk: Low trading volume, lack of a market maker, large position size, or legal restrictions may limit or prevent the Fund from selling particular securities or closing derivative positions at desirable prices. For a more complete discussion of these risks and others, please consult the Fund's prospectus. Annualized Returns may include the impact of purchase premiums and redemption fees. Returns shown for periods greater than one year are on an annualized basis. To obtain performance information to the most recent month-end, visit [www.gmo.com](http://www.gmo.com).

**Performance data quoted represents past performance and is not indicative of future results. The investment return 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. Current performance data may be lower or higher than the performance data provided herein.** The local market in which the Fund is priced was closed for Good Friday on March 29, 2024. Therefore, the performance for the fund and corresponding benchmark will utilize March 28 for purposes of the ending valuation for the March return and the starting valuation for the April return. If certain expenses were not reimbursed, performance would be lower. Transaction costs, if any, are paid to the fund to offset the cost of portfolio transactions to invest or raise cash. **Net Expense Ratio: 0.54%; Gross Expense Ratio: 0.54%** Net Expense Ratio reflects the reduction of expenses from fee reimbursements. The fee reimbursements will continue until at least June 30, 2024. Elimination of this reimbursement will result in higher fees and lower performance. Gross Expense Ratio is equal to the Funds Total Annual Operating Expenses set forth in the Funds most recent prospectus dated June 30, 2023.

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## PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The GMO Emerging Country Debt Fund's objective is total return in excess of that of its benchmark, the J.P. Morgan Emerging Markets Bond Index Global Diversified (EMBIG-D). The Fund invests primarily in external debt of sovereigns and quasi-sovereigns.

GMO's Emerging Country Debt team focuses on bottom-up issue selection, seeking to find issues with similar default characteristics but better long-term total return potential than the issues in EMBIG-D. We believe that our approach provides long-term, value-oriented clients with the best chance for total return in this asset class and differentiates us from other emerging debt managers who focus on economic forecasting, market timing, and other macro/top-down approaches.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Benchmark(s):** The J.P. Morgan EMBI (Emerging Markets Bond) Index Global Diversified + is an internally maintained benchmark computed by GMO, comprised of (i) the J.P. Morgan EMBI+ Index through 12/31/1999, (ii) the J.P. Morgan EMBI Index Global through 2/28/2020, and the J.P. Morgan EMBI Index Global Diversified (iii) thereafter.

**An investor should consider the fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing. This and other important information can be found in the funds prospectus. To obtain a prospectus please visit [www.gmo.com](http://www.gmo.com). Read the prospectus carefully before investing.**

**The GMO Trust funds are distributed in the United States by Funds Distributor LLC. GMO and Funds Distributor LLC are not affiliated.**

## ABOUT GMO

Founded in 1977, GMO is a global asset manager committed to delivering superior performance and advice to our clients. We are privately owned, which allows us to singularly focus on our sole business – achieving outstanding long-term client investment outcomes. Offering multi-asset, equity, fixed income, and alternative strategies, we invest with a long-term, valuation-based philosophical approach.

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\*GMO's West Coast Hub is comprised of members of Investment, Global Client Relations, and other teams located in and around the Greater San Francisco area

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