# **Fund Commentary**



## **Hartford Dividend and Growth Fund**

Tickers A: IHGIX C: HDGCX F: HDGFX I: HDGIX R3: HDGRX R4: HDGSX R5: HDGTX R6: HDGVX Y: HDGYX Inception Date 07/22/1996

**Morningstar® Category** Large Value

**Lipper Peer Group** Equity Income

### **Market Overview**

United States (US) equities surged to record highs during the quarter as stocks extended their robust performance from 2023. While mega-cap stocks outperformed the rest of the market in aggregate, there was more breadth in the rally, fueled by better-than-expected fourth-quarter earnings and an encouraging economic outlook. Financial markets recalibrated for fewer interest rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve (Fed) amid some areas of persistent inflation and sustained strength in the economy, highlighted by 3.2% annualized GDP growth in the fourth quarter and a resilient labor market that supported consumer spending.

The S&P 500 returned 10.56% over the period. Within the index, ten out of 11 sectors rose over the quarter. Communication services and energy were the top performing sectors while real estate was the lone sector with negative performance.

## Performance Summary

- Hartford Dividend and Growth Fund (I Share) underperformed the S&P 500 Index for the quarter.
- Security selection was the primary driver of relative underperformance. Selection within
  information technology, healthcare, and communication services detracted the most from
  relative performance while selection within utilities was the top contributor.
- Sector allocation, a result of our bottom-up stock selection process, also modestly detracted from returns. Allocation effect was driven by our underweight to information technology.
- At the issuer level, our top two relative detractors were not owning NVIDIA and Meta Platforms, while our top two relative contributors were an underweight to Apple and not owning Tesla.

### **Positioning & Outlook**

- The Fed remains in the challenging position of balancing resilient employment leads with inflation that is moderating but remains above target. We continue to anticipate market volatility driven by uncertainty around consumer spending, the strength in the labor market and wage growth, and the outcome of the US election. Given the current wide range of outcomes, we are focused on companies with consistent pricing power, strong balance sheets, and sustainable and growing cash flows trading at attractive valuations.
- We continue to believe that opportunistically investing in out of favor growth and cyclical names with positive risk/reward skews provides upside exposure while maintaining an overweight to more defensive segments will provide the opportunity for upside participation while insulating the portfolio from valuation-driven corrections.
- At the end of the period, our largest overweights were to energy and financials. We were most underweight to information technology and consumer discretionary.

### Overall Morningstar Rating™ (I-Share)\*



1118 Products | Category Based on Risk-Adjusted Returns as of 03/31/2024

# Portfolio Managers from Wellington Management

#### Matthew G. Baker

Senior Managing Director Equity Portfolio Manager Professional Experience Since 1995

### Nataliya Kofman

Senior Managing Director Equity Portfolio Manager Professional Experience Since 1998

### Brian J. Schmeer, CFA

Managing Director Equity Research Analyst Professional Experience Since 2012

The portfolio managers are supported by the full resources of Wellington.

### Top Ten Holdings (%)

Microsoft Corp.	5.60
Alphabet, Inc.	4.87
Wells Fargo & Co.	2.90
JP Morgan Chase & Co.	2.78
Apple, Inc.	2.35
QUALCOMM, Inc.	1.99
UnitedHealth Group, Inc.	1.98
ConocoPhillips	1.92
Micron Technology, Inc.	1.88
Visa, Inc.	1.74
Percentage Of Portfolio	28.01

Holdings and characteristics are subject to change. Percentages may be rounded.

# **Fund Commentary**

Performance (%)										
		Average Annual Total Returns						Expenses <sup>1</sup>		
Class	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	SI	Gross	Net	
Ā	7.25	7.25	21.21	9.66	12.48	10.63	9.53	0.97%	0.97%	
A with 5.5% Max Sales Charge	_	_	14.54	7.61	11.21	10.01	9.30	_	_	
F	7.33	7.33	21.59	10.02	12.86	10.97	9.73	0.63%	0.63%	
I	7.33	7.33	21.49	9.92	12.77	10.90	9.71	0.73%	0.73%	
R3	7.13	7.13	20.73	9.23	12.06	10.24	9.49	1.35%	1.35%	
R4	7.23	7.23	21.11	9.57	12.41	10.58	9.71	1.05%	1.05%	
R5	7.31	7.31	21.49	9.90	12.75	10.92	9.92	0.73%	0.73%	
R6	7.33	7.33	21.60	10.01	12.86	11.02	9.98	0.63%	0.63%	
Υ	7.31	7.31	21.50	9.95	12.80	10.99	9.97	0.73%	0.73%	
S&P 500 Index	10.56	10.56	29.88	11.49	15.05	12.96	_	_	_	
Morningstar Category	8.83	8.83	20.70	8.87	10.89	9.09	_	_	_	
Lipper Peer Group	7.73	7.73	18.83	8.24	10.27	8.83	_	_	_	

Morningstar® Category Large Value Lipper Peer Group Equity Income

Performance data quoted represents past performance and does not guarantee 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 may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. For more current performance information to the most recent month ended, please visit hartfordfunds.com.

Share Class Inception: A, Y - 7/22/96; F - 2/28/17; I - 8/31/06; R3, R4, R5 - 12/22/06; R6 - 11/7/14. Performance shown prior to the inception of a class reflects performance and operating expenses of another class(es) (excluding sales charges, if applicable). Had fees and expenses of a class been reflected for the periods prior to the inception of that class, performance would be different. Since inception (SI) performance is from 7/22/96. Performance and expenses for other share classes will vary. Additional information is in the prospectus. Only Class A assesses a sales charge.

S&P 500 Index is a market capitalization-weighted price index composed of 500 widely held common stocks. Indices are unmanaged and not available for direct investment.

Important Risks: Investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal. Security prices fluctuate in value depending on general market and economic conditions and the prospects of individual companies. • For dividend-paying stocks, dividends are not guaranteed and may decrease without notice. • Different investment styles may go in and out of favor, which may cause the Fund to underperform the broader stock market. • Foreign investments may be more volatile and less liquid than U.S. investments and are subject to the risk of currency fluctuations and adverse political, economic and regulatory developments. • To the extent the Fund focuses on one or more sectors, the Fund may be subject to increased volatility and risk of loss if adverse developments occur. • Financially material environmental, social and/or governance (ESG) characteristics are one of several factors that may be considered and as a result, the investment process may not work as intended.

Investors should carefully consider a fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses. This and other important information is contained in a fund's full prospectus and summary prospectus, which can be obtained by visiting hartfordfunds.com. Please read it carefully before investing.

Mutual funds are distributed by Hartford Funds Distributors, LLC (HFD), Member FINRA. Advisory services are provided by Hartford Funds Management Company, LLC (HFMC). Certain funds are sub-advised by Wellington Management Company LLP. HFMC and Wellington Management are SEC registered investment advisers. HFD and HFMC are not affiliated with any sub-adviser.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Expenses as shown in the Fund's most recent prospectus.

<sup>\*</sup>Class I-Shares Star Ratings: 3-year 4 stars out of 1118 products, 5-year 5 stars out of 1058 products, and 10-year 5 stars out of 816 products for the period ended herein. Other share classes may have different ratings. The Morningstar Rating™ for funds, or "star rating", is calculated for funds and separate accounts with at least a 3-year history. Exchange-traded funds and open-ended mutual funds are considered a single population for comparative purposes. Star rating based on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure that accounts for variation in a managed product's monthly excess performance (without adjusting for any sales load, if applicable), placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. 5 stars are assigned to the top 10%, 4 stars to the next 22.5%, 3 stars to the next 35%, 2 stars to the next 22.5%, and 1 star to the bottom 10%. Overall Morningstar Rating is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its 3-, 5-, and 10-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. For more information about the Morningstar Fund Ratings, including their methodology, please go to global.morningstar.com/managerdisclosures. ©2024 Morningstar, Inc. All rights reserved. The information contained herein: (1) is proprietary to Morningstar and/ or its content providers; (2) may not be copied or distributed; and (3) is not warranted to be accurate, complete or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information.