

Annual report

John Hancock Emerging Markets Fund

International equity

August 31, 2023

A message to shareholders



Dear shareholder,

Global equities shook off a number of concerns to register gains during the 12 months ended August 31, 2023. Although central banks continued to raise interest rates, falling inflation gave investors confidence that the tightening cycle would likely slow at some point within the next year. In addition, continued global growth fueled optimism that the world economy would experience a soft landing rather than a recession. Corporate earnings also came in much better than the markets had been anticipating in late 2022.

A large portion of the gain for the major world indexes came from a narrow group of U.S. mega-cap, technology-related companies. European equities also performed very well, as the impact of the conflict in Ukraine did not hamper growth as much as initially feared. On the other hand, value stocks, defensive sectors, smaller companies, and the emerging markets posted gains but underperformed the broad-based indexes.

In these uncertain times, your financial professional can assist with positioning your portfolio so that it's sufficiently diversified to help meet your long-term objectives and to withstand the inevitable bouts of market volatility along the way.

On behalf of everyone at John Hancock Investment Management, I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome new shareholders and thank existing shareholders for the continued trust you've placed in us.

Sincerely,

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink.

Kristie M. Feinberg

Head of Wealth and Asset Management,
United States and Europe
Manulife Investment Management

President and CEO,
John Hancock Investment Management

This commentary reflects the CEO's views as of this report's period end and are subject to change at any time. Diversification does not guarantee investment returns and does not eliminate risk of loss. All investments entail risks, including the possible loss of principal. For more up-to-date information, you can visit our website at jhinvestments.com.

John Hancock

Emerging Markets Fund

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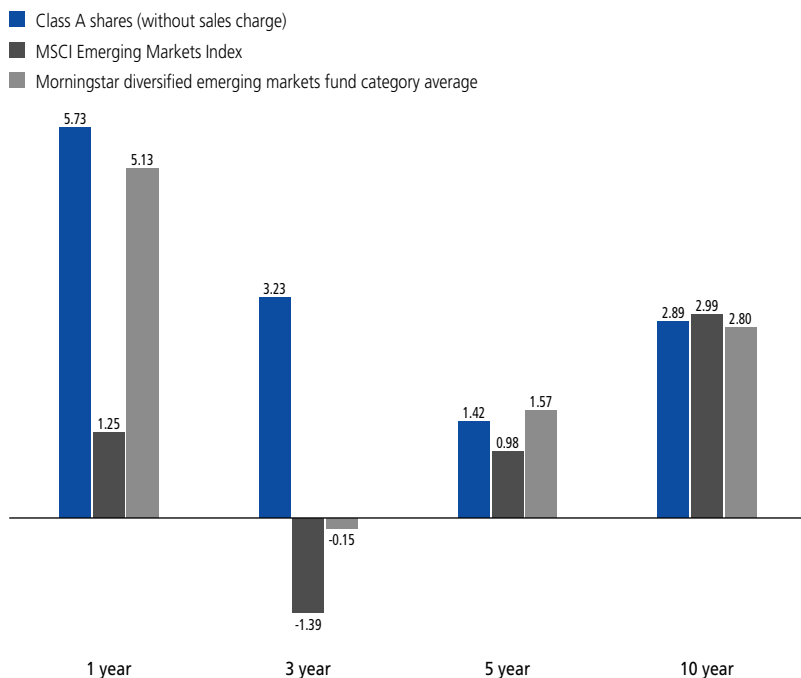
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Your fund at a glance

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURNS AS OF 8/31/2023 (%)



The MSCI Emerging Markets (EM) Index tracks the performance of publicly traded large- and mid-cap emerging-market stocks.

It is not possible to invest directly in an index. Index figures do not reflect expenses or sales charges, which would result in lower returns.

The fund's Morningstar category average is a group of funds with similar investment objectives and strategies and is the equal-weighted return of all funds per category. Morningstar places funds in certain categories based on their historical portfolio holdings. Figures from Morningstar, Inc. include reinvested distributions and do not take into account sales charges. Actual load-adjusted performance is lower.

The past performance shown here reflects reinvested distributions and the beneficial effect of any expense reductions, and does not guarantee future results. Performance of the other share classes will vary based on the difference in the fees and expenses of those classes. Shares will fluctuate in value and, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current month-end performance may be lower or higher than the performance cited, and can be found at jhinvestments.com or by calling 800-225-5291. For further information on the fund's objectives, risks, and strategy, see the fund's prospectus.

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS OVER THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS

Positive performance overall for emerging markets

Emerging-markets stocks gained modest ground, with Europe and Latin America providing the strongest returns and the largest emerging market, China, struggling.

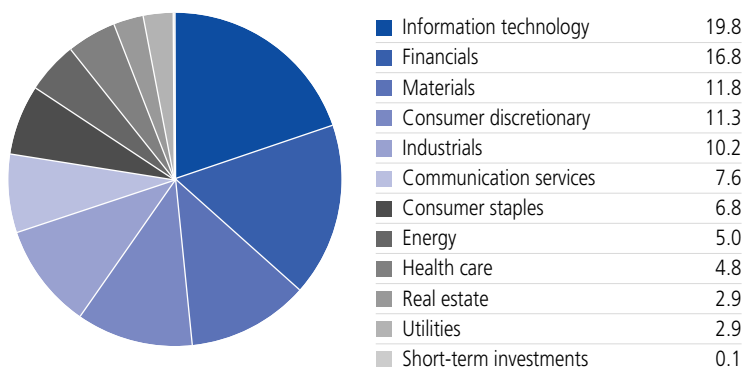
A focus on small caps helped

The fund outperformed the benchmark, the MSCI Emerging Markets Index, due partly to an emphasis on small-cap stocks, which meaningfully outperformed larger stocks this period.

Value stocks also contributed

The fund's greater emphasis on value-oriented stocks, which generally outpaced growth stocks within emerging markets, added further value.

SECTOR COMPOSITION AS OF 8/31/2023 (% of total investments)



Notes about risk

The fund is subject to various risks as described in the fund's prospectuses. Political tensions and armed conflicts, including the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and any resulting economic sanctions on entities and/or individuals of a particular country could lead such a country into an economic recession. The COVID-19 disease has resulted in significant disruptions to global business activity. A widespread health crisis such as a global pandemic could cause substantial market volatility, exchange-trading suspensions, and closures, which may lead to less liquidity in certain instruments, industries, sectors, or the markets, generally, and may ultimately affect fund performance. For more information, please refer to the "Principal risks" section of the prospectuses.

Management's discussion of fund performance

Can you describe the market environment for emerging-market equities during the 12 months ended August 31, 2023?

Emerging-market stocks, as measured by the fund's benchmark, the MSCI Emerging Markets Index, gained modest ground during this time frame. Within the index, most markets produced a positive return. The strongest overall returns came in Latin America and Europe, the latter of which rebounded after losing substantial value the previous year amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Asia, at more than three-quarters of the index, generated a roughly flat return, hampered by the benchmark's largest single weight, China.

Given this environment, how did the fund perform?

The fund outperformed its benchmark. One notable contributor to relative performance was the overweight in small-cap stocks in the fund. In contrast, the index primarily includes large- and mid-cap stocks. Because the market's smallest stocks outperformed their larger counterparts this period, the fund's positioning boosted relative results. Also adding value was the fund's greater emphasis on value-oriented stocks compared to the index. On average, value stocks outpaced growth stocks within emerging markets by a wide margin, lifting the fund's result.

TOP 10 HOLDINGS AS OF 8/31/2023 (% of total investments)

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, Ltd.	4.2
Tencent Holdings, Ltd.	2.9
Samsung Electronics Company, Ltd.	2.2
Alibaba Group Holding, Ltd.	1.5
Infosys, Ltd.	0.7
SK Hynix, Inc.	0.7
Samsung Electronics Company, Ltd., GDR	0.6
China Construction Bank Corp., H Shares	0.6
Petroleo Brasileiro SA	0.6
HDFC Bank, Ltd.	0.6
TOTAL	14.6

Cash and cash equivalents are not included.

TOP 10 COUNTRIES AS OF 8/31/2023 (% of total investments)

China	22.2
India	16.8
Taiwan	16.2
South Korea	12.6
Brazil	5.0
Saudi Arabia	3.6
Mexico	3.2
South Africa	2.9
Hong Kong	2.8
Thailand	2.3
TOTAL	87.6

Cash and cash equivalents are not included.

In addition, the fund's composition of high-profitability stocks contributed to relative performance.

The fund's portfolio composition in South Africa detracted.

Can you tell us about a change to the portfolio management team?

Effective January 1, 2023, Bhanu P. Singh left the portfolio management team.

MANAGED BY

William B. Collins-Dean, CFA

Jed S. Fogdall

Mary T. Phillips, CFA



The views expressed in this report are exclusively those of the portfolio management team at Dimensional Fund Advisors LP, and are subject to change. They are not meant as investment advice. Please note that the holdings discussed in this report may not have been held by the fund for the entire period. Portfolio composition is subject to review in accordance with the fund's investment strategy and may vary in the future. Current and future portfolio holdings are subject to risk.

A look at performance

TOTAL RETURNS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED AUGUST 31, 2023

	Average annual total returns (%) with maximum sales charge			Cumulative total returns (%) with maximum sales charge	
	1-year	5-year	10-year	5-year	10-year
Class A	0.49	0.38	2.37	1.91	26.42
Class C [†]	4.14	0.73	2.27	3.68	25.15
Class I ²	6.07	1.74	3.20	8.98	37.05
Class R6 ²	6.30	1.86	3.31	9.67	38.50
Class NAV ²	6.21	1.86	3.33	9.63	38.78
Index [†]	1.25	0.98	2.99	5.00	34.26

Performance figures assume all distributions are reinvested. Figures reflect maximum sales charges on Class A shares of 5% and the applicable contingent deferred sales charge (CDSC) on Class C shares. Class C shares sold within one year of purchase are subject to a 1% CDSC. Sales charges are not applicable to Class I, Class R6, and Class NAV shares.

The expense ratios of the fund, both net (including any fee waivers and/or expense limitations) and gross (excluding any fee waivers and/or expense limitations), are set forth according to the most recent publicly available prospectuses for the fund and may differ from those disclosed in the Financial highlights tables in this report. Net expenses reflect contractual fee waivers and expense limitations in effect until July 31, 2025 and are subject to change. Had the contractual fee waivers and expense limitations not been in place, gross expenses would apply. The expense ratios are as follows:

	Class A	Class C	Class I	Class R6	Class NAV
Gross (%)	1.49	2.19	1.19	1.08	1.07
Net (%)	1.48	2.18	1.18	1.07	1.06

Please refer to the most recent prospectuses and annual or semiannual report for more information on expenses and any expense limitation arrangements for each class.

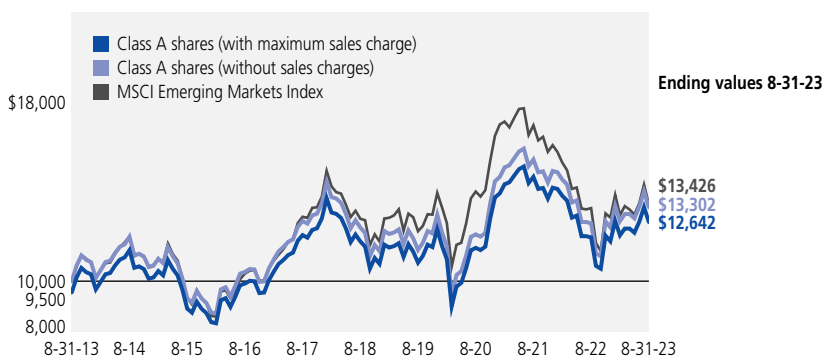
The returns reflect past results and should not be considered indicative of future performance. The return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Due to market volatility and other factors, the fund's current performance may be higher or lower than the performance shown. For current to the most recent month-end performance data, please call 800-225-5291 or visit the fund's website at jhinvestments.com.

The performance table above and the chart on the next page do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on fund distributions or the redemption of fund shares. The fund's performance results reflect any applicable fee waivers or expense reductions, without which the expenses would increase and results would have been less favorable.

[†] Index is the MSCI Emerging Markets Index.

See the following page for footnotes.

This chart and table show what happened to a hypothetical \$10,000 investment in John Hancock Emerging Markets Fund for the share classes and periods indicated, assuming all distributions were reinvested. For comparison, we've shown the same investment in the MSCI Emerging Markets Index.



	Start date	With maximum sales charge (\$)	Without sales charge (\$)	Index (\$)
Class C ^{1,3}	8-31-13	12,515	12,515	13,426
Class I ²	8-31-13	13,705	13,705	13,426
Class R6 ²	8-31-13	13,850	13,850	13,426
Class NAV ²	8-31-13	13,878	13,878	13,426

The MSCI Emerging Markets (EM) Index tracks the performance of publicly traded large- and mid-cap emerging-market stocks.

It is not possible to invest directly in an index. Index figures do not reflect expenses or sales charges, which would result in lower returns.

Footnotes related to performance pages

¹ Class C shares were first offered on 6-27-14. Returns prior to this date are those of Class NAV shares that have not been adjusted for class-specific expenses; otherwise, returns would vary.

² For certain types of investors, as described in the fund's prospectuses.

³ The contingent deferred sales charge is not applicable.

Your expenses

These examples are intended to help you understand your ongoing operating expenses of investing in the fund so you can compare these costs with the ongoing costs of investing in other mutual funds.

Understanding fund expenses

As a shareholder of the fund, you incur two types of costs:

- **Transaction costs**, which include sales charges (loads) on purchases or redemptions (varies by share class), minimum account fee charge, etc.
- **Ongoing operating expenses**, including management fees, distribution and service fees (if applicable), and other fund expenses.

We are presenting only your ongoing operating expenses here.

Actual expenses/actual returns

The first line of each share class in the table on the following page is intended to provide information about the fund's actual ongoing operating expenses, and is based on the fund's actual return. It assumes an account value of \$1,000.00 on March 1, 2023, with the same investment held until August 31, 2023.

Together with the value of your account, you may use this information to estimate the operating expenses that you paid over the period. Simply divide your account value at August 31, 2023, by \$1,000.00, then multiply it by the "expenses paid" for your share class from the table. For example, for an account value of \$8,600.00, the operating expenses should be calculated as follows:

Example

$$\left[\frac{\text{My account value}}{\$8,600.00} / \$1,000.00 = 8.6 \right] \times \$ \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{"expenses paid"} \\ \text{from table} \end{array} \right] = \text{My actual expenses}$$

Hypothetical example for comparison purposes

The second line of each share class in the table on the following page allows you to compare the fund's ongoing operating expenses with those of any other fund. It provides an example of the fund's hypothetical account values and hypothetical expenses based on each class's actual expense ratio and an assumed 5% annualized return before expenses (which is not the class's actual return). It assumes an account value of \$1,000.00 on March 1, 2023, with the same investment held until August 31, 2023. Look in any other fund shareholder report to find its hypothetical example and you will be able to compare these expenses. Please remember that these hypothetical account values and expenses may not be used to estimate the actual ending account balance or expenses you paid for the period.

Remember, these examples do not include any transaction costs, therefore, these examples will not help you to determine the relative total costs of owning different funds. If transaction costs were included, your expenses would have been higher. See the prospectuses for details regarding transaction costs.

SHAREHOLDER EXPENSE EXAMPLE CHART

		Account value on 3-1-2023	Ending value on 8-31-2023	Expenses paid during period ended 8-31-2023 ¹	Annualized expense ratio
Class A	Actual expenses/actual returns	\$1,000.00	\$1,048.90	\$ 7.39	1.43%
	Hypothetical example	1,000.00	1,018.00	7.27	1.43%
Class C	Actual expenses/actual returns	1,000.00	1,045.80	10.98	2.13%
	Hypothetical example	1,000.00	1,014.50	10.82	2.13%
Class I	Actual expenses/actual returns	1,000.00	1,050.90	5.84	1.13%
	Hypothetical example	1,000.00	1,019.50	5.75	1.13%
Class R6	Actual expenses/actual returns	1,000.00	1,052.00	5.28	1.02%
	Hypothetical example	1,000.00	1,020.10	5.19	1.02%
Class NAV	Actual expenses/actual returns	1,000.00	1,050.90	5.22	1.01%
	Hypothetical example	1,000.00	1,020.10	5.14	1.01%

¹ Expenses are equal to the annualized expense ratio, multiplied by the average account value over the period, multiplied by 184/365 (to reflect the one-half year period).

Fund's investments

Summary of fund's investments as of 8-31-23

(showing percentage of total net assets)

This section shows the fund's 50 largest portfolio holdings in unaffiliated issuers and any holdings exceeding 1% of the fund's total net assets as of the report date. The remaining securities held by the fund are grouped as "Other Securities" in each category. Certain percentages of less than 0.05% are rounded and presented as 0.0%. You can request a complete schedule of portfolio holdings as of the report date, free of charge, by calling 1-800-225-5291. This complete schedule, filed on the fund's Form N-CSR, is also available on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

	Shares	Value	% of Net Assets
Common stocks 98.9%		\$174,665,120	
(Cost \$162,078,100)			
Australia 0.0%		58,402	0.0%
Belgium 0.0%		47,059	0.0%
Brazil 3.9%		6,928,743	3.9%
Petroleo Brasileiro SA	120,644	841,479	0.5%
Vale SA	59,953	787,904	0.5%
OTHER SECURITIES		5,299,360	2.9%
Canada 0.0%		43,528	0.0%
Chile 0.7%		1,192,727	0.7%
China 22.3%		39,408,439	22.3%
Alibaba Group Holding, Ltd. (A)	228,300	2,649,683	1.5%
Aowei Holdings, Ltd. (A)	9,116,000	709,035	0.4%
Bank of China, Ltd., H Shares	1,491,075	505,351	0.3%
BYD Company, Ltd., H Shares	12,500	392,633	0.2%
China Construction Bank Corp., H Shares	1,815,000	971,117	0.6%
China Merchants Bank Company, Ltd., H Shares	108,961	431,466	0.3%
China Petroleum & Chemical Corp., H Shares	600,000	350,824	0.2%
Industrial & Commercial Bank of China, Ltd., H Shares	1,100,000	504,325	0.3%
JD.com, Inc., ADR	581	19,295	0.0%
JD.com, Inc., Class A	23,188	385,109	0.2%
NetEase, Inc.	40,400	836,986	0.5%
PetroChina Company, Ltd., H Shares	686,000	494,857	0.3%
Ping An Insurance Group Company of China, Ltd., H Shares	115,000	688,522	0.4%
Tencent Holdings, Ltd.	122,300	5,068,157	2.9%
Yum China Holdings, Inc.	2,500	132,897	0.1%
Yum China Holdings, Inc. (New York Stock Exchange)	3,785	203,217	0.1%
OTHER SECURITIES		25,064,965	14.0%
Colombia 0.1%		223,725	0.1%
Cyprus 0.0%		16,742	0.0%

	Shares	Value	% of Net Assets
Czech Republic 0.1%		\$181,071	0.1%
Egypt 0.0%		31,085	0.0%
Greece 0.5%		867,378	0.5%
Hong Kong 2.8%		4,982,641	2.8%
China Resources Land, Ltd.	88,444	373,826	0.2%
OTHER SECURITIES		4,608,815	2.6%
Hungary 0.2%		323,953	0.2%
India 16.9%		29,857,442	16.9%
Axis Bank, Ltd.	46,026	539,630	0.3%
Bharti Airtel, Ltd.	55,404	573,260	0.3%
HDFC Bank, Ltd.	50,990	968,956	0.6%
ICICI Bank, Ltd.	68,453	791,124	0.5%
ICICI Bank, Ltd., ADR	1,674	38,787	0.0%
Infosys, Ltd.	73,259	1,270,445	0.7%
ITC, Ltd.	75,338	399,739	0.2%
Larsen & Toubro, Ltd.	9,733	319,124	0.2%
Mahindra & Mahindra, Ltd.	16,748	318,906	0.2%
Reliance Industries, Ltd.	30,170	876,834	0.5%
Tata Consultancy Services, Ltd.	13,739	557,179	0.3%
Tata Steel, Ltd.	234,691	350,033	0.2%
OTHER SECURITIES		22,853,425	12.9%
Indonesia 2.2%		3,810,082	2.2%
Bank Central Asia Tbk PT	665,100	400,394	0.3%
OTHER SECURITIES		3,409,688	1.9%
Ireland 0.0%		72,347	0.0%
Kuwait 0.5%		936,409	0.5%
Malaysia 1.8%		3,115,229	1.8%
Mexico 3.2%		5,599,044	3.2%
America Movil SAB de CV (A)	555,772	534,569	0.3%
Grupo Financiero Banorte SAB de CV, Series O	40,737	345,788	0.2%
Grupo KUO SAB de CV, Series B	136,788	320,821	0.2%
Organizacion Soriana SAB de CV, Series B (A)	386,061	661,153	0.4%
OTHER SECURITIES		3,736,713	2.1%
Netherlands 0.0%		57,281	0.0%
Panama 0.0%		1,182	0.0%
Peru 0.1%		105,342	0.1%
Philippines 0.9%		1,582,976	0.9%

	Shares	Value	% of Net Assets
Poland 1.0%		\$1,736,638	1.0%
Qatar 0.9%		1,501,169	0.9%
Qatar National Bank QPSC	99,106	424,560	0.3%
OTHER SECURITIES		1,076,609	0.6%
Russia 0.0%		32,146	0.0%
Saudi Arabia 3.6%		6,337,792	3.6%
Al Rajhi Bank	24,548	471,918	0.3%
Saudi Arabian Oil Company (B)	35,352	329,189	0.2%
Saudi Basic Industries Corp.	16,613	391,255	0.2%
Saudi Telecom Company	31,225	331,341	0.2%
OTHER SECURITIES		4,814,089	2.7%
Singapore 0.1%		75,754	0.1%
South Africa 2.9%		5,163,473	2.9%
Gold Fields, Ltd., ADR	25,603	323,366	0.2%
OTHER SECURITIES		4,840,107	2.7%
South Korea 12.7%		22,390,953	12.7%
Ecopro Company, Ltd.	338	320,650	0.2%
Hyundai Motor Company	2,796	399,504	0.3%
KB Financial Group, Inc.	10,019	408,136	0.3%
Kia Corp.	8,457	512,613	0.3%
Samsung Electronics Company, Ltd.	75,696	3,828,420	2.2%
Samsung Electronics Company, Ltd., GDR	794	1,000,748	0.6%
SK Hynix, Inc.	13,144	1,208,593	0.7%
OTHER SECURITIES		14,712,289	8.1%
Spain 0.0%		16,362	0.0%
Taiwan 16.3%		28,799,297	16.3%
Hon Hai Precision Industry Company, Ltd.	242,352	809,152	0.5%
MediaTek, Inc.	32,000	705,711	0.4%
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, Ltd.	431,000	7,405,856	4.2%
United Microelectronics Corp.	251,468	359,033	0.2%
OTHER SECURITIES		19,519,545	11.0%
Thailand 2.3%		4,050,836	2.3%
Turkey 1.1%		1,896,983	1.1%
United Arab Emirates 1.7%		2,965,725	1.7%
Emirates Telecommunications Group Company PJSC	59,004	318,635	0.2%
OTHER SECURITIES		2,647,090	1.5%

	Shares	Value	% of Net Assets	
United Kingdom 0.0%		\$27,490	0.0%	
United States 0.1%		227,675	0.1%	
Preferred securities 1.2%		\$2,088,595		
(Cost \$1,431,750)				
Brazil 1.1%		1,885,594	1.1%	
Petroleo Brasileiro SA	150,238	969,013	0.6%	
OTHER SECURITIES		916,581	0.5%	
Chile 0.1%		141,079	0.1%	
Colombia 0.0%		49,988	0.0%	
India 0.0%		4,815	0.0%	
Philippines 0.0%		7,119	0.0%	
Rights 0.0%		\$5,701		
(Cost \$3,528)				
Warrants 0.0%		\$49		
(Cost \$0)				
	Yield (%)	Shares	Value	% of Net Assets
Short-term investments 0.1%			\$165,600	
(Cost \$165,594)				
Short-term funds 0.1%			165,600	0.1%
John Hancock Collateral Trust (C)	5.4789(D)	16,566	165,600	0.1%
Total investments (Cost \$163,678,972) 100.2%			\$176,925,065	100.2%
Other assets and liabilities, net (0.2%)			(328,031)	(0.2)%
Total net assets 100.0%			\$176,597,034	100.0%

The percentage shown for each investment category is the total value of the category as a percentage of the net assets of the fund.

Security Abbreviations and Legend

ADR American Depositary Receipt

GDR Global Depositary Receipt

(A) Non-income producing security.

(B) These securities are exempt from registration under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933. Such securities may be resold, normally to qualified institutional buyers, in transactions exempt from registration.

(C) Investment is an affiliate of the fund, the advisor and/or subadvisor. This security represents the investment of cash collateral received for securities lending.

(D) The rate shown is the annualized seven-day yield as of 8-31-23.

DERIVATIVES

FUTURES

Open contracts	Number of contracts	Position	Expiration date	Notional basis^	Notional value^	Unrealized appreciation (depreciation)
S&P 500 E-Mini Index Futures	3	Long	Sep 2023	\$679,732	\$677,400	\$(2,332)
						\$(2,332)

^ Notional basis refers to the contractual amount agreed upon at inception of open contracts; notional value represents the current value of the open contract.

At 8-31-23, the aggregate cost of investments for federal income tax purposes was \$167,635,016. Net unrealized appreciation aggregated to \$9,287,717, of which \$53,746,586 related to gross unrealized appreciation and \$44,458,869 related to gross unrealized depreciation.

See Notes to financial statements regarding investment transactions and other derivatives information.

Financial statements

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES 8-31-23

Assets	
Unaffiliated investments, at value (Cost \$163,513,378) including \$158,742 of securities loaned	\$176,759,465
Affiliated investments, at value (Cost \$165,594)	165,600
Total investments, at value (Cost \$163,678,972)	176,925,065
Foreign currency, at value (Cost \$397,322)	397,190
Collateral held at broker for futures contracts	33,600
Dividends and interest receivable	374,271
Receivable for fund shares sold	269,294
Receivable for investments sold	1,684,093
Receivable for securities lending income	99
Receivable from affiliates	490
Other assets	38,943
Total assets	179,723,045
Liabilities	
Payable for futures variation margin	38,264
Due to custodian	668,981
Foreign capital gains tax payable	1,362,692
Payable for investments purchased	33,153
Payable for fund shares repurchased	662,096
Payable upon return of securities loaned	165,594
Payable to affiliates	
Accounting and legal services fees	9,344
Transfer agent fees	10,922
Trustees' fees	13
Other liabilities and accrued expenses	174,952
Total liabilities	3,126,011
Net assets	\$176,597,034
Net assets consist of	
Paid-in capital	\$163,804,155
Total distributable earnings (loss)	12,792,879
Net assets	\$176,597,034

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES 8-31-23 (continued)

Net asset value per share

Based on net asset value and shares outstanding - the fund has an unlimited number of shares authorized with no par value

Class A (\$40,066,378 ÷ 3,661,013 shares) ¹	\$10.94
Class C (\$1,279,619 ÷ 116,889 shares) ¹	\$10.95
Class I (\$67,103,467 ÷ 6,133,187 shares)	\$10.94
Class R6 (\$737,571 ÷ 67,501 shares)	\$10.93
Class NAV (\$67,409,999 ÷ 6,161,934 shares)	\$10.94

Maximum offering price per share

Class A (net asset value per share ÷ 95%) ²	\$11.52
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¹ Redemption price per share is equal to net asset value less any applicable contingent deferred sales charge.

² On single retail sales of less than \$50,000. On sales of \$50,000 or more and on group sales the offering price is reduced.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS For the year ended 8-31-23

Investment income	
Dividends	\$6,224,431
Interest	26,042
Securities lending	2,692
Less foreign taxes withheld	(741,109)
Total investment income	5,512,056
Expenses	
Investment management fees	1,297,797
Distribution and service fees	134,601
Accounting and legal services fees	35,133
Transfer agent fees	108,698
Trustees' fees	3,998
Custodian fees	394,551
State registration fees	69,500
Printing and postage	14,048
Professional fees	90,701
Other	31,415
Total expenses	2,180,442
Less expense reductions	(224,689)
Net expenses	1,955,753
Net investment income	3,556,303
Realized and unrealized gain (loss)	
Net realized gain (loss) on	
Unaffiliated investments and foreign currency transactions	744,885
Affiliated investments	(41)
Futures contracts	19,092
	763,936
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of	
Unaffiliated investments and translation of assets and liabilities in foreign currencies	6,307,231 ¹
Affiliated investments	(4)
Futures contracts	(1,454)
	6,305,773
Net realized and unrealized gain	7,069,709
Increase in net assets from operations	\$10,626,012

¹ Net of \$536,882 increase in deferred foreign withholding taxes.

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	Year ended 8-31-23	Year ended 8-31-22
Increase (decrease) in net assets		
From operations		
Net investment income	\$3,556,303	\$4,234,769
Net realized gain	763,936	11,074,414
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	6,305,773	(50,750,914)
Increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations	10,626,012	(35,441,731)
Distributions to shareholders		
From earnings		
Class A	(740,947)	(1,369,613)
Class C	(14,558)	(34,271)
Class I	(973,909)	(1,332,525)
Class R6	(14,197)	(29,921)
Class NAV	(1,715,785)	(2,647,457)
Total distributions	(3,459,396)	(5,413,787)
From fund share transactions	10,510,623	2,370,430
Total increase (decrease)	17,677,239	(38,485,088)
Net assets		
Beginning of year	158,919,795	197,404,883
End of year	\$176,597,034	\$158,919,795

Financial highlights

CLASS A SHARES Period ended	8-31-23	8-31-22	8-31-21	8-31-20	8-31-19
Per share operating performance					
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$10.54	\$13.27	\$10.51	\$10.10	\$11.13
Net investment income ¹	0.18	0.25	0.11	0.13	0.14
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	0.41	(2.65)	2.78	0.50	(1.04)
Total from investment operations	0.59	(2.40)	2.89	0.63	(0.90)
Less distributions					
From net investment income	(0.19)	(0.33)	(0.13)	(0.22)	(0.13)
Net asset value, end of period	\$10.94	\$10.54	\$13.27	\$10.51	\$10.10
Total return (%)^{2,3}	5.73	(18.46)	27.61	6.11	(8.06)
Ratios and supplemental data					
Net assets, end of period (in millions)	\$40	\$43	\$57	\$49	\$52
Ratios (as a percentage of average net assets):					
Expenses before reductions	1.55	1.49	1.54	1.57	1.51
Expenses including reductions	1.42	1.42	1.51	1.56	1.50
Net investment income	1.74	2.09	0.87	1.30	1.38
Portfolio turnover (%)	21	24	10	14	13

¹ Based on average daily shares outstanding.

² Total returns would have been lower had certain expenses not been reduced during the applicable periods.

³ Does not reflect the effect of sales charges, if any.

CLASS C SHARES Period ended	8-31-23	8-31-22	8-31-21	8-31-20	8-31-19
Per share operating performance					
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$10.54	\$13.26	\$10.52	\$10.11	\$11.13
Net investment income ¹	0.11	0.16	0.02	0.06	0.06
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	0.41	(2.65)	2.78	0.50	(1.03)
Total from investment operations	0.52	(2.49)	2.80	0.56	(0.97)
Less distributions					
From net investment income	(0.11)	(0.23)	(0.06)	(0.15)	(0.05)
Net asset value, end of period	\$10.95	\$10.54	\$13.26	\$10.52	\$10.11
Total return (%)^{2,3}	5.14	(19.08)	26.65	5.40	(8.71)
Ratios and supplemental data					
Net assets, end of period (in millions)	\$1	\$1	\$2	\$2	\$3
Ratios (as a percentage of average net assets):					
Expenses before reductions	2.25	2.19	2.24	2.27	2.21
Expenses including reductions	2.12	2.12	2.21	2.26	2.20
Net investment income	1.03	1.36	0.12	0.59	0.65
Portfolio turnover (%)	21	24	10	14	13

¹ Based on average daily shares outstanding.

² Total returns would have been lower had certain expenses not been reduced during the applicable periods.

³ Does not reflect the effect of sales charges, if any.

CLASS I SHARES Period ended	8-31-23	8-31-22	8-31-21	8-31-20	8-31-19
Per share operating performance					
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$10.54	\$13.27	\$10.51	\$10.10	\$11.12
Net investment income ¹	0.24	0.28	0.15	0.15	0.17
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	0.38	(2.64)	2.77	0.51	(1.03)
Total from investment operations	0.62	(2.36)	2.92	0.66	(0.86)
Less distributions					
From net investment income	(0.22)	(0.37)	(0.16)	(0.25)	(0.16)
Net asset value, end of period	\$10.94	\$10.54	\$13.27	\$10.51	\$10.10
Total return (%)²	6.07	(18.20)	27.93	6.41	(7.72)
Ratios and supplemental data					
Net assets, end of period (in millions)	\$67	\$38	\$46	\$37	\$68
Ratios (as a percentage of average net assets):					
Expenses before reductions	1.25	1.19	1.24	1.27	1.22
Expenses including reductions	1.12	1.12	1.21	1.26	1.21
Net investment income	2.30	2.32	1.21	1.43	1.69
Portfolio turnover (%)	21	24	10	14	13

¹ Based on average daily shares outstanding.

² Total returns would have been lower had certain expenses not been reduced during the applicable periods.

CLASS R6 SHARES Period ended	8-31-23	8-31-22	8-31-21	8-31-20	8-31-19
Per share operating performance					
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$10.52	\$13.26	\$10.49	\$10.09	\$11.11
Net investment income ¹	0.22	0.29	0.06	0.18	0.17
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	0.43	(2.65)	2.88	0.48	(1.01)
Total from investment operations	0.65	(2.36)	2.94	0.66	(0.84)
Less distributions					
From net investment income	(0.24)	(0.38)	(0.17)	(0.26)	(0.18)
Net asset value, end of period	\$10.93	\$10.52	\$13.26	\$10.49	\$10.09
Total return (%)²	6.30	(18.20)	28.20	6.42	(7.56)
Ratios and supplemental data					
Net assets, end of period (in millions)	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$67	\$60
Ratios (as a percentage of average net assets):					
Expenses before reductions	1.15	1.08	1.13	1.16	1.11
Expenses including reductions	1.01	1.01	1.10	1.15	1.10
Net investment income	2.14	2.38	0.53	1.75	1.71
Portfolio turnover (%)	21	24	10	14	13

¹ Based on average daily shares outstanding.

² Total returns would have been lower had certain expenses not been reduced during the applicable periods.

CLASS NAV SHARES Period ended	8-31-23	8-31-22	8-31-21	8-31-20	8-31-19
Per share operating performance					
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$10.54	\$13.28	\$10.51	\$10.10	\$11.13
Net investment income ¹	0.23	0.30	0.16	0.18	0.10
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	0.41	(2.66)	2.78	0.49	(0.95)
Total from investment operations	0.64	(2.36)	2.94	0.67	(0.85)
Less distributions					
From net investment income	(0.24)	(0.38)	(0.17)	(0.26)	(0.18)
Net asset value, end of period	\$10.94	\$10.54	\$13.28	\$10.51	\$10.10
Total return (%)²	6.21	(18.15)	28.16	6.53	(7.63)
Ratios and supplemental data					
Net assets, end of period (in millions)	\$67	\$76	\$91	\$75	\$68
Ratios (as a percentage of average net assets):					
Expenses before reductions	1.14	1.07	1.12	1.14	1.10
Expenses including reductions	1.01	1.00	1.09	1.14	1.09
Net investment income	2.16	2.55	1.30	1.77	0.93
Portfolio turnover (%)	21	24	10	14	13

¹ Based on average daily shares outstanding.

² Total returns would have been lower had certain expenses not been reduced during the applicable periods.

Notes to financial statements

Note 1 — Organization

John Hancock Emerging Markets Fund (the fund) is a series of John Hancock Funds II (the Trust), an open-end management investment company organized as a Massachusetts business trust and registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act). The investment objective of the fund is to seek long-term capital appreciation.

The fund may offer multiple classes of shares. The shares currently outstanding are detailed in the Statement of assets and liabilities. Class A and Class C shares are offered to all investors. Class I shares are offered to institutions and certain investors. Class R6 shares are only available to certain retirement plans, institutions and other investors. Class NAV shares are offered to John Hancock affiliated funds of funds, retirement plans for employees of John Hancock and/or Manulife Financial Corporation, and certain 529 plans. Class C shares convert to Class A shares eight years after purchase (certain exclusions may apply). Shareholders of each class have exclusive voting rights to matters that affect that class. The distribution and service fees, if any, and transfer agent fees for each class may differ.

Note 2 — Significant accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (US GAAP), which require management to make certain estimates and assumptions as of the date of the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates and those differences could be significant. The fund qualifies as an investment company under Topic 946 of Accounting Standards Codification of US GAAP.

Events or transactions occurring after the end of the fiscal period through the date that the financial statements were issued have been evaluated in the preparation of the financial statements. The following summarizes the significant accounting policies of the fund:

Security valuation. Investments are stated at value as of the scheduled close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), normally at 4:00 P.M., Eastern Time. In case of emergency or other disruption resulting in the NYSE not opening for trading or the NYSE closing at a time other than the regularly scheduled close, the net asset value (NAV) may be determined as of the regularly scheduled close of the NYSE pursuant to the Advisor's Valuation Policies and Procedures.

In order to value the securities, the fund uses the following valuation techniques: Equity securities, including exchange-traded or closed-end funds, are typically valued at the last sale price or official closing price on the exchange or principal market where the security trades. In the event there were no sales during the day or closing prices are not available, the securities are valued using the last available bid price. Investments by the fund in open-end mutual funds, including John Hancock Collateral Trust (JHCT), are valued at their respective NAVs each business day. Futures contracts whose settlement prices are determined as of the close of the NYSE are typically valued based on the settlement price while other futures contracts are typically valued at the last traded price on the exchange on which they trade. Foreign securities and currencies are valued in U.S. dollars based on foreign currency exchange rates supplied by an independent pricing vendor.

In certain instances, the Pricing Committee of the Advisor may determine to value equity securities using prices obtained from another exchange or market if trading on the exchange or market on which prices are typically obtained did not open for trading as scheduled, or if trading closed earlier than scheduled, and trading occurred as normal on another exchange or market.

Other portfolio securities and assets, for which reliable market quotations are not readily available, are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by the Pricing Committee following procedures established by the Advisor and adopted by the Board of Trustees. The frequency with which these fair valuation procedures are used cannot be predicted and fair value of securities may differ significantly from the value that would have been used had a ready market for such securities existed. Trading in foreign securities may be completed before the scheduled daily close of trading on the NYSE. Significant events at the issuer or market level may affect the values of securities

between the time when the valuation of the securities is generally determined and the close of the NYSE. If a significant event occurs, these securities may be fair valued, as determined in good faith by the Pricing Committee, following procedures established by the Advisor and adopted by the Board of Trustees. The Advisor uses fair value adjustment factors provided by an independent pricing vendor to value certain foreign securities in order to adjust for events that may occur between the close of foreign exchanges or markets and the close of the NYSE.

The fund uses a three tier hierarchy to prioritize the pricing assumptions, referred to as inputs, used in valuation techniques to measure fair value. Level 1 includes securities valued using quoted prices in active markets for identical securities, including registered investment companies. Level 2 includes securities valued using other significant observable inputs. Observable inputs may include quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speeds and credit risk. Prices for securities valued using these inputs are received from independent pricing vendors and brokers and are based on an evaluation of the inputs described. Level 3 includes securities valued using significant unobservable inputs when market prices are not readily available or reliable, including the Advisor’s assumptions in determining the fair value of investments. Factors used in determining value may include market or issuer specific events or trends, changes in interest rates and credit quality. The inputs or methodology used for valuing securities are not necessarily an indication of the risks associated with investing in those securities. Changes in valuation techniques and related inputs may result in transfers into or out of an assigned level within the disclosure hierarchy.

The following is a summary of the values by input classification of the fund’s investments as of August 31, 2023, by major security category or type:

	Total value at 8-31-23	Level 1 quoted price	Level 2 significant observable inputs	Level 3 significant unobservable inputs
Investments in securities:				
Assets				
Common stocks				
Australia	\$58,402	—	\$58,402	—
Belgium	47,059	—	47,059	—
Brazil	6,928,743	\$6,928,743	—	—
Canada	43,528	—	43,528	—
Chile	1,192,727	1,192,727	—	—
China	39,408,439	1,116,087	38,198,944	\$93,408
Colombia	223,725	223,725	—	—
Cyprus	16,742	—	16,742	—
Czech Republic	181,071	—	181,071	—
Egypt	31,085	—	31,085	—
Greece	867,378	—	856,550	10,828
Hong Kong	4,982,641	—	4,836,444	146,197
Hungary	323,953	—	323,953	—
India	29,857,442	56,666	29,773,259	27,517
Indonesia	3,810,082	—	3,706,897	103,185
Ireland	72,347	72,347	—	—
Kuwait	936,409	—	936,409	—
Malaysia	3,115,229	—	3,115,229	—
Mexico	5,599,044	5,599,044	—	—
Netherlands	57,281	—	57,281	—

	Total value at 8-31-23	Level 1 quoted price	Level 2 significant observable inputs	Level 3 significant unobservable inputs
Panama	\$1,182	\$1,182	—	—
Peru	105,342	105,342	—	—
Philippines	1,582,976	—	\$1,581,982	\$994
Poland	1,736,638	—	1,736,638	—
Qatar	1,501,169	—	1,501,169	—
Russia	32,146	—	—	32,146
Saudi Arabia	6,337,792	—	6,337,792	—
Singapore	75,754	—	75,754	—
South Africa	5,163,473	535,323	4,628,150	—
South Korea	22,390,953	41,395	22,340,599	8,959
Spain	16,362	—	16,362	—
Taiwan	28,799,297	240,336	28,553,080	5,881
Thailand	4,050,836	—	4,049,834	1,002
Turkey	1,896,983	—	1,896,789	194
United Arab Emirates	2,965,725	—	2,965,725	—
United Kingdom	27,490	—	27,490	—
United States	227,675	—	227,675	—
Preferred securities				
Brazil	1,885,594	1,885,594	—	—
Chile	141,079	141,079	—	—
Colombia	49,988	49,988	—	—
India	4,815	—	4,806	9
Philippines	7,119	—	7,119	—
Rights	5,701	3,237	2,464	—
Warrants	49	49	—	—
Short-term investments	165,600	165,600	—	—
Total investments in securities	\$176,925,065	\$18,358,464	\$158,136,281	\$430,320
Derivatives:				
Liabilities				
Futures	\$(2,332)	\$(2,332)	—	—

Level 3 includes securities valued at \$0. Refer to Fund's investments.

Security transactions and related investment income. Investment security transactions are accounted for on a trade date plus one basis for daily NAV calculations. However, for financial reporting purposes, investment transactions are reported on trade date. Interest income is accrued as earned. Dividend income is recorded on ex-date, except for dividends of certain foreign securities where the dividend may not be known until after the ex-date. In those cases, dividend income, net of withholding taxes, is recorded when the fund becomes aware of the dividends. Non-cash dividends, if any, are recorded at the fair market value of the securities received. Gains and losses on securities sold are determined on the basis of identified cost and may include proceeds from litigation.

Securities lending. The fund may lend its securities to earn additional income. The fund receives collateral from the borrower in an amount not less than the market value of the loaned securities. The fund may invest its cash collateral in JHCT, an affiliate of the fund, which has a floating NAV and is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) as an investment company. JHCT is a prime money market fund and invests in

short-term money market investments. The fund will receive the benefit of any gains and bear any losses generated by JHCT with respect to the cash collateral.

The fund has the right to recall loaned securities on demand. If a borrower fails to return loaned securities when due, then the lending agent is responsible and indemnifies the fund for the lent securities. The lending agent uses the collateral received from the borrower to purchase replacement securities of the same issue, type, class and series of the loaned securities. If the value of the collateral is less than the purchase cost of replacement securities, the lending agent is responsible for satisfying the shortfall but only to the extent that the shortfall is not due to any decrease in the value of JHCT.

Although the risk of loss on securities lent is mitigated by receiving collateral from the borrower and through lending agent indemnification, the fund could experience a delay in recovering securities or could experience a lower than expected return if the borrower fails to return the securities on a timely basis. During the existence of the loan, the fund will receive from the borrower amounts equivalent to any dividends, interest or other distributions on the loaned securities, as well as interest on such amounts. The fund receives compensation for lending its securities by retaining a portion of the return on the investment of the collateral and compensation from fees earned from borrowers of the securities. Securities lending income received by the fund is net of fees retained by the securities lending agent. Net income received from JHCT is a component of securities lending income as recorded on the Statement of operations.

Obligations to repay collateral received by the fund are shown on the Statement of assets and liabilities as Payable upon return of securities loaned and are secured by the loaned securities. As of August 31, 2023, the fund loaned securities valued at \$158,742 and received \$165,594 of cash collateral.

Foreign investing. Assets, including investments, and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into U.S. dollar values each day at the prevailing exchange rate. Purchases and sales of securities, income and expenses are translated into U.S. dollars at the prevailing exchange rate on the date of the transaction. The effect of changes in foreign currency exchange rates on the value of securities is reflected as a component of the realized and unrealized gains (losses) on investments. Foreign investments are subject to a decline in the value of a foreign currency versus the U.S. dollar, which reduces the dollar value of securities denominated in that currency.

Funds that invest internationally generally carry more risk than funds that invest strictly in U.S. securities. These risks are heightened for investments in emerging markets. Risks can result from differences in economic and political conditions, regulations, market practices (including higher transaction costs), accounting standards and other factors.

There may be unexpected restrictions on investments or on exposures to investments in companies located in certain foreign countries, such as China. For example, a government may restrict investment in companies or industries considered important to national interests, or intervene in the financial markets, such as by imposing trading restrictions, or banning or curtailing short selling. As a result of forced sales of a security, or inability to participate in an investment the manager otherwise believes is attractive, a fund may incur losses.

Trading in certain Chinese securities through Hong Kong Stock Connect or Bond Connect, mutual market access programs that enable foreign investment in the People's Republic of China, is subject to certain restrictions and risks. Securities offered through these programs may lose purchase eligibility and any changes in laws, regulations and policies impacting these programs may affect security prices, which could adversely affect the fund's performance.

Foreign taxes. The fund may be subject to withholding tax on income, capital gains or repatriations imposed by certain countries, a portion of which may be recoverable. Foreign taxes are accrued based upon the fund's understanding of the tax rules and rates that exist in the foreign markets in which it invests. Taxes are accrued based on gains realized by the fund as a result of certain foreign security sales. In certain circumstances, estimated taxes are accrued based on unrealized appreciation of such securities. Investment income is recorded net of foreign withholding taxes.

Overdraft. The fund may have the ability to borrow from banks for temporary or emergency purposes, including meeting redemption requests that otherwise might require the untimely sale of securities. Pursuant to the fund’s custodian agreement, the custodian may loan money to the fund to make properly authorized payments. The fund is obligated to repay the custodian for any overdraft, including any related costs or expenses. The custodian may have a lien, security interest or security entitlement in any fund property that is not otherwise segregated or pledged, to the extent of any overdraft, and to the maximum extent permitted by law. Overdrafts at period end are presented under the caption Due to custodian in the Statement of assets and liabilities.

Line of credit. The fund and other affiliated funds have entered into a syndicated line of credit agreement with Citibank, N.A. as the administrative agent that enables them to participate in a \$1 billion unsecured committed line of credit. Excluding commitments designated for a certain fund and subject to the needs of all other affiliated funds, the fund can borrow up to an aggregate commitment amount of \$750 million, subject to asset coverage and other limitations as specified in the agreement. A commitment fee payable at the end of each calendar quarter, based on the average daily unused portion of the line of credit, is charged to each participating fund based on a combination of fixed and asset-based allocations and is reflected in Other expenses on the Statement of operations. For the year ended August 31, 2023, the fund had no borrowings under the line of credit. Commitment fees for the year ended August 31, 2023 were \$3,612.

Expenses. Within the John Hancock group of funds complex, expenses that are directly attributable to an individual fund are allocated to such fund. Expenses that are not readily attributable to a specific fund are allocated among all funds in an equitable manner, taking into consideration, among other things, the nature and type of expense and the fund’s relative net assets. Expense estimates are accrued in the period to which they relate and adjustments are made when actual amounts are known.

Class allocations. Income, common expenses and realized and unrealized gains (losses) are determined at the fund level and allocated daily to each class of shares based on the net assets of the class. Class-specific expenses, such as distribution and service fees, if any, and transfer agent fees, for all classes, are charged daily at the class level based on the net assets of each class and the specific expense rates applicable to each class.

Federal income taxes. The fund intends to continue to qualify as a regulated investment company by complying with the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and will not be subject to federal income tax on taxable income that is distributed to shareholders. Therefore, no federal income tax provision is required.

For federal income tax purposes, as of August 31, 2023, the fund has a short-term capital loss carryforward of \$100 and a long-term capital loss carryforward of \$331,051 available to offset future net realized capital gains. These carryforwards do not expire.

As of August 31, 2023, the fund had no uncertain tax positions that would require financial statement recognition, derecognition or disclosure. The fund’s federal tax returns are subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service for a period of three years.

Distribution of income and gains. Distributions to shareholders from net investment income and net realized gains, if any, are recorded on the ex-date. The fund generally declares and pays dividends annually. Capital gain distributions, if any, are typically distributed annually.

The tax character of distributions for the years ended August 31, 2023 and 2022 was as follows:

	August 31, 2023	August 31, 2022
Ordinary income	\$3,459,396	\$5,413,787

Distributions paid by the fund with respect to each class of shares are calculated in the same manner, at the same time and in the same amount, except for the effect of class level expenses that may be applied differently to each class. As of August 31, 2023, the components of distributable earnings on a tax basis consisted of \$5,201,169 of undistributed ordinary income.

Such distributions and distributable earnings, on a tax basis, are determined in conformity with income tax regulations, which may differ from US GAAP. Distributions in excess of tax basis earnings and profits, if any, are reported in the fund's financial statements as a return of capital.

Capital accounts within the financial statements are adjusted for permanent book-tax differences. These adjustments have no impact on net assets or the results of operations. Temporary book-tax differences, if any, will reverse in a subsequent period. Book-tax differences are primarily attributable to corporate actions, investments in passive foreign investment companies and wash sale loss deferrals.

Note 3 — Derivative instruments

The fund may invest in derivatives in order to meet its investment objective. Derivatives include a variety of different instruments that may be traded in the over-the-counter (OTC) market, on a regulated exchange or through a clearing facility. The risks in using derivatives vary depending upon the structure of the instruments, including the use of leverage, optionality, the liquidity or lack of liquidity of the contract, the creditworthiness of the counterparty or clearing organization and the volatility of the position. Some derivatives involve risks that are potentially greater than the risks associated with investing directly in the referenced securities or other referenced underlying instrument. Specifically, the fund is exposed to the risk that the counterparty to an OTC derivatives contract will be unable or unwilling to make timely settlement payments or otherwise honor its obligations. OTC derivatives transactions typically can only be closed out with the other party to the transaction.

Certain derivatives are traded or cleared on an exchange or central clearinghouse. Exchange-traded or centrally-cleared transactions generally present less counterparty risk to a fund than OTC transactions. The exchange or clearinghouse stands between the fund and the broker to the contract and therefore, credit risk is generally limited to the failure of the exchange or clearinghouse and the clearing member.

Futures. A futures contract is a contractual agreement to buy or sell a particular currency or financial instrument at a pre-determined price in the future. Futures are traded on an exchange and cleared through a central clearinghouse. Risks related to the use of futures contracts include possible illiquidity of the futures markets and contract prices that can be highly volatile and imperfectly correlated to movements in the underlying financial instrument and potential losses in excess of the amounts recognized on the Statement of assets and liabilities. Use of long futures contracts subjects the fund to the risk of loss up to the notional value of the futures contracts. Use of short futures contracts subjects the fund to unlimited risk of loss.

Upon entering into a futures contract, the fund is required to deposit initial margin with the broker in the form of cash or securities. The amount of required margin is set by the broker and is generally based on a percentage of the contract value. The margin deposit must then be maintained at the established level over the life of the contract. Cash that has been pledged by the fund, if any, is detailed in the Statement of assets and liabilities as Collateral held at broker for futures contracts. Securities pledged by the fund, if any, are identified in the Fund's investments. Subsequent payments, referred to as variation margin, are made or received by the fund periodically and are based on changes in the market value of open futures contracts. Futures contracts are marked-to-market daily and unrealized gain or loss is recorded by the fund. Payable for futures variation margin is included on the Statement of assets and liabilities. When the contract is closed, the fund records a realized gain or loss equal to the difference between the value of the contract at the time it was opened and the value at the time it was closed.

During the year ended August 31, 2023, the fund used futures contracts to equitize cash balances. The fund held futures contracts with USD notional values ranging from \$396,000 to \$1.2 million, as measured at each quarter end.

Fair value of derivative instruments by risk category

The table below summarizes the fair value of derivatives held by the fund at August 31, 2023 by risk category:

Risk	Statement of assets and liabilities location	Financial instruments location	Assets derivatives fair value	Liabilities derivatives fair value
Equity	Receivable/payable for futures variation margin ¹	Futures	—	\$(2,332)

¹ Reflects cumulative appreciation/depreciation on open futures as disclosed in the Derivatives section of Fund’s investments. Only the year end variation margin receivable/payable is separately reported on the Statement of assets and liabilities.

Effect of derivative instruments on the Statement of operations

The table below summarizes the net realized gain (loss) included in the net increase (decrease) in net assets from operations, classified by derivative instrument and risk category, for the year ended August 31, 2023:

Statement of operations location - Net realized gain (loss) on:	
Risk	Futures contracts
Equity	\$19,092

The table below summarizes the net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) included in the net increase (decrease) in net assets from operations, classified by derivative instrument and risk category, for the year ended August 31, 2023:

Statement of operations location - Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of:	
Risk	Futures contracts
Equity	\$(1,454)

Note 4 — Guarantees and indemnifications

Under the Trust’s organizational documents, its Officers and Trustees are indemnified against certain liabilities arising out of the performance of their duties to the Trust, including the fund. Additionally, in the normal course of business, the fund enters into contracts with service providers that contain general indemnification clauses. The fund’s maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown, as this would involve future claims that may be made against the fund that have not yet occurred. The risk of material loss from such claims is considered remote.

Note 5 — Fees and transactions with affiliates

John Hancock Investment Management LLC (the Advisor) serves as investment advisor for the fund. John Hancock Investment Management Distributors LLC (the Distributor), an affiliate of the Advisor, serves as principal underwriter of the fund. The Advisor and the Distributor are indirect, principally owned subsidiaries of John Hancock Life Insurance Company (U.S.A.), which in turn is a subsidiary of Manulife Financial Corporation.

Management fee. The fund has an investment management agreement with the Advisor under which the fund pays a daily management fee to the Advisor equivalent on an annual basis to the sum of: (a) 0.800% of the first \$100 million of the fund’s aggregate net assets and (b) 0.750% of the fund’s aggregate net assets in excess of \$100 million. Aggregate net assets include the net assets of the fund and Emerging Markets Value Trust, a series of John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust. The Advisor has a subadvisory agreement with Dimensional Fund Advisors LP. The fund is not responsible for payment of the subadvisory fees.

The Advisor has contractually agreed to waive a portion of its management fee and/or reimburse expenses for certain funds of the John Hancock group of funds complex, including the fund (the participating portfolios). This waiver is based upon aggregate net assets of all the participating portfolios. The amount of the reimbursement is calculated daily and allocated among all the participating portfolios in proportion to the daily net assets of each fund. During the year ended August 31, 2023, this waiver amounted to 0.01% of the fund's average daily net assets. This arrangement expires on July 31, 2025, unless renewed by mutual agreement of the fund and the Advisor based upon a determination that this is appropriate under the circumstances at that time.

The Advisor voluntarily agrees to reduce its management fee for the fund, or if necessary make payment to the fund, in an amount equal to the amount by which the expenses of the fund exceed 0.25% of the average daily net assets of the fund. For purposes of this agreement, "expenses of the fund" means all the expenses of the fund, excluding (a) taxes, (b) brokerage commissions, (c) interest expense, (d) litigation and indemnification expenses and other extraordinary expenses not incurred in the ordinary course of the fund's business, (e) advisory fees, (f) class-specific expenses, (g) underlying fund expenses (acquired fund fees), and (h) short dividend expense. The Advisor may terminate this voluntary waiver at any time upon notice to the fund.

For the year ended August 31, 2023, the expense reductions described above amounted to the following:

Class	Expense reduction	Class	Expense reduction
Class A	\$54,497	Class R6	\$821
Class C	1,759	Class NAV	101,179
Class I	66,433	Total	\$224,689

Expenses waived or reimbursed in the current fiscal period are not subject to recapture in future fiscal periods.

The investment management fees, including the impact of the waivers and reimbursements as described above, incurred for the year ended August 31, 2023, were equivalent to a net annual effective rate of 0.63% of the fund's average daily net assets.

Accounting and legal services. Pursuant to a service agreement, the fund reimburses the Advisor for all expenses associated with providing the administrative, financial, legal, compliance, accounting and recordkeeping services to the fund, including the preparation of all tax returns, periodic reports to shareholders and regulatory reports, among other services. These expenses are allocated to each share class based on its relative net assets at the time the expense was incurred. These accounting and legal services fees incurred, for the year ended August 31, 2023, amounted to an annual rate of 0.02% of the fund's average daily net assets.

Distribution and service plans. The fund has a distribution agreement with the Distributor. The fund has adopted distribution and service plans for certain classes as detailed below pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act, to pay the Distributor for services provided as the distributor of shares of the fund. The fund may pay up to the following contractual rates of distribution and service fees under these arrangements, expressed as an annual percentage of average daily net assets for each class of the fund's shares:

Class	Rule 12b-1 Fee
Class A	0.30%
Class C	1.00%

Sales charges. Class A shares are assessed up-front sales charges, which resulted in payments to the Distributor amounting to \$11,753 for the year ended August 31, 2023. Of this amount, \$1,947 was retained and used for printing prospectuses, advertising, sales literature and other purposes and \$9,806 was paid as sales commissions to broker-dealers.

Class A and Class C shares may be subject to contingent deferred sales charges (CDSCs). Certain Class A shares purchased, including those that are acquired through purchases of \$1 million or more, and redeemed within one year of purchase are subject to a 1.00% sales charge. Class C shares that are redeemed within one year of

purchase are subject to a 1.00% CDSC. CDSCs are applied to the lesser of the current market value at the time of redemption or the original purchase cost of the shares being redeemed. Proceeds from CDSCs are used to compensate the Distributor for providing distribution-related services in connection with the sale of these shares. During the year ended August 31, 2023, CDSCs received by the Distributor amounted to \$2 for Class A shares. There were no CDSCs received by the Distributor for Class C shares.

Transfer agent fees. The John Hancock group of funds has a complex-wide transfer agent agreement with John Hancock Signature Services, Inc. (Signature Services), an affiliate of the Advisor. The transfer agent fees paid to Signature Services are determined based on the cost to Signature Services (Signature Services Cost) of providing recordkeeping services. It also includes out-of-pocket expenses, including payments made to third-parties for recordkeeping services provided to their clients who invest in one or more John Hancock funds. In addition, Signature Services Cost may be reduced by certain fees that Signature Services receives in connection with retirement and small accounts. Signature Services Cost is calculated monthly and allocated, as applicable, to five categories of share classes: Retail Share and Institutional Share Classes of Non-Municipal Bond Funds, Class R6 Shares, Retirement Share Classes and Municipal Bond Share Classes. Within each of these categories, the applicable costs are allocated to the affected John Hancock affiliated funds and/or classes, based on the relative average daily net assets.

Class level expenses. Class level expenses for the year ended August 31, 2023 were as follows:

Class	Distribution and service fees	Transfer agent fees
Class A	\$121,655	\$46,681
Class C	12,946	1,489
Class I	—	60,483
Class R6	—	45
Total	\$134,601	\$108,698

Trustee expenses. The fund compensates each Trustee who is not an employee of the Advisor or its affiliates. The costs of paying Trustee compensation and expenses are allocated to the fund based on its net assets relative to other funds within the John Hancock group of funds complex.

Note 6 — Fund share transactions

Transactions in fund shares for the years ended August 31, 2023 and 2022 were as follows:

	Year Ended 8-31-23		Year Ended 8-31-22	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Class A shares				
Sold	184,361	\$1,956,552	250,208	\$3,024,998
Distributions reinvested	71,593	730,960	110,051	1,352,525
Repurchased	(636,136)	(6,678,661)	(607,921)	(7,294,944)
Net decrease	(380,182)	\$(3,991,149)	(247,662)	\$(2,917,421)
Class C shares				
Sold	10,086	\$105,639	11,125	\$135,227
Distributions reinvested	1,417	14,558	2,765	34,142
Repurchased	(30,075)	(308,391)	(39,945)	(488,131)
Net decrease	(18,572)	\$(188,194)	(26,055)	\$(318,762)

	Year Ended 8-31-23		Year Ended 8-31-22	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Class I shares				
Sold	4,324,850	\$45,694,356	1,950,741	\$22,374,365
Distributions reinvested	95,377	971,892	108,331	1,329,223
Repurchased	(1,939,643)	(20,501,382)	(1,860,291)	(21,656,244)
Net increase	2,480,584	\$26,164,866	198,781	\$2,047,344
Class R6 shares				
Sold	22,457	\$245,390	589	\$7,061
Distributions reinvested	1,382	14,054	2,422	29,649
Repurchased	(22,267)	(231,360)	(30,439)	(374,162)
Net increase (decrease)	1,572	\$28,084	(27,428)	\$(337,452)
Class NAV shares				
Sold	825,926	\$8,714,680	791,863	\$9,556,264
Distributions reinvested	168,545	1,715,785	216,119	2,647,457
Repurchased	(2,019,195)	(21,933,449)	(695,109)	(8,307,000)
Net increase (decrease)	(1,024,724)	\$(11,502,984)	312,873	\$3,896,721
Total net increase	1,058,678	\$10,510,623	210,509	\$2,370,430

Affiliates of the fund owned 25% of shares of Class NAV on August 31, 2023. Such concentration of shareholders' capital could have a material effect on the fund if such shareholders redeem from the fund.

Note 7 — Purchase and sale of securities

Purchases and sales of securities, other than short-term investments, amounted to \$45,698,781 and \$34,737,193, respectively, for the year ended August 31, 2023.

Note 8 — Emerging-market risk

Foreign investing especially in emerging markets, has additional risks, such as currency and market volatility and political and social instability. Funds that invest a significant portion of assets in the securities of issuers based in countries with emerging market economies are subject to greater levels of foreign investment risk than funds investing primarily in more-developed foreign markets, since emerging-market securities may present other risks greater than, or in addition to, the risks of investing in developed foreign countries.

Note 9 — Investment in affiliated underlying funds

The fund may invest in affiliated underlying funds that are managed by the Advisor and its affiliates. Information regarding the fund's fiscal year to date purchases and sales of the affiliated underlying funds as well as income and capital gains earned by the fund, if any, is as follows:

Affiliate	Ending share amount	Beginning value	Cost of purchases	Proceeds from shares sold	Realized gain (loss)	Change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	Dividends and distributions		Ending value
							Income distributions received	Capital gain distributions received	
John Hancock Collateral Trust*	16,566	\$212,055	\$3,222,389	\$(3,268,799)	\$(41)	\$(4)	\$2,692	—	\$165,600

* Refer to the Securities lending note within Note 2 for details regarding this investment.

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Trustees of John Hancock Funds II and Shareholders of John Hancock Emerging Markets Fund

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities, including the fund's investments, of John Hancock Emerging Markets Fund (one of the funds constituting John Hancock Funds II, referred to hereafter as the "Fund") as of August 31, 2023, the related statement of operations for the year ended August 31, 2023, the statements of changes in net assets for each of the two years in the period ended August 31, 2023, including the related notes, and the financial highlights for each of the five years in the period ended August 31, 2023 (collectively referred to as the "financial statements"). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund as of August 31, 2023, the results of its operations for the year then ended, the changes in its net assets for each of the two years in the period ended August 31, 2023 and the financial highlights for each of the five years in the period ended August 31, 2023 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Fund's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Fund's financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB) and are required to be independent with respect to the Fund in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits of these financial statements in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. Our procedures included confirmation of securities owned as of August 31, 2023 by correspondence with the custodian, transfer agents and brokers; when replies were not received from brokers, we performed other auditing procedures. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Boston, Massachusetts

October 10, 2023

We have served as the auditor of one or more investment companies in the John Hancock group of funds since 1988.

Tax information

(Unaudited)

For federal income tax purposes, the following information is furnished with respect to the distributions of the fund, if any, paid during its taxable year ended August 31, 2023.

The fund reports the maximum amount allowable of its net taxable income as eligible for the corporate dividends-received deduction.

The fund reports the maximum amount allowable of its net taxable income as qualified dividend income as provided in the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003.

The fund reports the maximum amount allowable as Section 163(j) Interest Dividends.

Income derived from foreign sources was \$6,844,586. The fund intends to pass through foreign tax credits of \$709,512.

The fund reports the maximum amount allowable of its Section 199A dividends as defined in Proposed Treasury Regulation §1.199A-3(d).

Eligible shareholders will be mailed a 2023 Form 1099-DIV in early 2024. This will reflect the tax character of all distributions paid in calendar year 2023.

Please consult a tax advisor regarding the tax consequences of your investment in the fund.

EVALUATION OF ADVISORY AND SUBADVISORY AGREEMENTS BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

This section describes the evaluation by the Board of Trustees (the Board) of John Hancock Funds II (the Trust) of the Advisory Agreement (the Advisory Agreement) with John Hancock Investment Management LLC (the Advisor) and the Subadvisory Agreement (the Subadvisory Agreement) with Dimensional Fund Advisors LP (the Subadvisor) for John Hancock Emerging Markets Fund (the fund). The Advisory Agreement and Subadvisory Agreement are collectively referred to as the Agreements. Prior to the June 26-29, 2023 meeting at which the Agreements were approved, the Board also discussed and considered information regarding the proposed continuation of the Agreements at a meeting held on May 30-June 1, 2023. The Trustees who are not “interested persons” of the Trust as defined by the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act) (the Independent Trustees) also met separately to evaluate and discuss the information presented, including with counsel to the Independent Trustees and a third-party consulting firm.

Approval of Advisory and Subadvisory Agreements

At meetings held on June 26-29, 2023, the Board, including the Trustees who are not parties to any Agreement or considered to be interested persons of the Trust under the 1940 Act, reapproved for an annual period the continuation of the Advisory Agreement between the Trust and the Advisor and the Subadvisory Agreement between the Advisor and the Subadvisor with respect to the fund.

In considering the Advisory Agreement and the Subadvisory Agreement, the Board received in advance of the meetings a variety of materials relating to the fund, the Advisor and the Subadvisor, including comparative performance, fee and expense information for a peer group of similar funds prepared by an independent third-party provider of fund data, performance information for an applicable benchmark index; and, with respect to the Subadvisor, comparative performance information for comparably managed accounts, as applicable, and other information provided by the Advisor and the Subadvisor regarding the nature, extent and quality of services provided by the Advisor and the Subadvisor under their respective Agreements, as well as information regarding the Advisor’s revenues and costs of providing services to the fund and any compensation paid to affiliates of the Advisor. At the meetings at which the renewal of the Advisory Agreement and Subadvisory Agreement are considered, particular focus is given to information concerning fund performance, comparability of fees and total expenses, and profitability. However, the Board noted that the evaluation process with respect to the Advisor and the Subadvisor is an ongoing one. In this regard, the Board also took into account discussions with management and information provided to the Board (including its various committees) at prior meetings with respect to the services provided by the Advisor and the Subadvisor to the fund, including quarterly performance reports prepared by management containing reviews of investment results and prior presentations from the Subadvisor with respect to the fund. The information received and considered by the Board in connection with the May and June meetings and throughout the year was both written and oral. The Board also considered the nature, quality, and extent of non-advisory services, if any, to be provided to the fund by the Advisor’s affiliates, including distribution services. The Board considered the Advisory Agreement and the Subadvisory Agreement separately in the course of its review. In doing so, the Board noted the respective roles of the Advisor and Subadvisor in providing services to the fund.

Throughout the process, the Board asked questions of and requested additional information from management. The Board is assisted by counsel for the Trust and the Independent Trustees are also separately assisted by independent legal counsel throughout the process. The Independent Trustees also received a memorandum from their independent legal counsel discussing the legal standards for their consideration of the proposed continuation of the Agreements and discussed the proposed continuation of the Agreements in private sessions with their independent legal counsel at which no representatives of management were present.

Approval of Advisory Agreement

In approving the Advisory Agreement with respect to the fund, the Board, including the Independent Trustees, considered a variety of factors, including those discussed below. The Board also considered other factors (including conditions and trends prevailing generally in the economy, the securities markets, and the industry) and did not treat any single factor as determinative, and each Trustee may have attributed different weights to different factors. The Board's conclusions may be based in part on its consideration of the advisory and subadvisory arrangements in prior years and on the Board's ongoing regular review of fund performance and operations throughout the year.

Nature, extent, and quality of services. Among the information received by the Board from the Advisor relating to the nature, extent, and quality of services provided to the fund, the Board reviewed information provided by the Advisor relating to its operations and personnel, descriptions of its organizational and management structure, and information regarding the Advisor's compliance and regulatory history, including its Form ADV. The Board also noted that on a regular basis it receives and reviews information from the Trust's Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) regarding the fund's compliance policies and procedures established pursuant to Rule 38a-1 under the 1940 Act. The Board observed that the scope of services provided by the Advisor, and of the undertakings required of the Advisor in connection with those services, including maintaining and monitoring its own and the fund's compliance programs, risk management programs, liquidity management programs, derivatives risk management programs, and cybersecurity programs, had expanded over time as a result of regulatory, market and other developments. The Board considered that the Advisor is responsible for the management of the day-to-day operations of the fund, including, but not limited to, general supervision of and coordination of the services provided by the Subadvisor, and is also responsible for monitoring and reviewing the activities of the Subadvisor and other third-party service providers. The Board considered the Advisory Agreement and the Subadvisory Agreement separately in the course of its review. In doing so, the Board noted the respective roles of the Advisor and Subadvisor in providing services to the fund.

In considering the nature, extent, and quality of the services provided by the Advisor, the Trustees also took into account their knowledge of the Advisor's management and the quality of the performance of the Advisor's duties, through Board meetings, discussions and reports during the preceding year and through each Trustee's experience as a Trustee of the Trust and of the other trusts in the John Hancock group of funds complex (the John Hancock Fund Complex).

In the course of their deliberations regarding the Advisory Agreement, the Board considered, among other things:

- (a) the skills and competency with which the Advisor has in the past managed the Trust's affairs and its subadvisory relationship, the Advisor's oversight and monitoring of the Subadvisor's investment performance and compliance programs, such as the Subadvisor's compliance with fund policies and objectives, review of brokerage matters, including with respect to trade allocation and best execution and the Advisor's timeliness in responding to performance issues;
- (b) the background, qualifications and skills of the Advisor's personnel;
- (c) the Advisor's compliance policies and procedures and its responsiveness to regulatory changes and fund industry developments;
- (d) the Advisor's administrative capabilities, including its ability to supervise the other service providers for the fund, as well as the Advisor's oversight of any securities lending activity, its monitoring of class action litigation and collection of class action settlements on behalf of the fund, and bringing loss recovery actions on behalf of the fund;
- (e) the financial condition of the Advisor and whether it has the financial wherewithal to provide a high level and quality of services to the fund;

- (f) the Advisor's initiatives intended to improve various aspects of the Trust's operations and investor experience with the fund; and
- (g) the Advisor's reputation and experience in serving as an investment advisor to the Trust and the benefit to shareholders of investing in funds that are part of a family of funds offering a variety of investments.

The Board concluded that the Advisor may reasonably be expected to continue to provide a high quality of services under the Advisory Agreement with respect to the fund.

Investment performance. In considering the fund's performance, the Board noted that it reviews at its regularly scheduled meetings information about the fund's performance results. In connection with the consideration of the Advisory Agreement, the Board:

- (a) reviewed information prepared by management regarding the fund's performance;
- (b) considered the comparative performance of an applicable benchmark index;
- (c) considered the performance of comparable funds, if any, as included in the report prepared by an independent third-party provider of fund data; and
- (d) took into account the Advisor's analysis of the fund's performance and its plans and recommendations regarding the Trust's subadvisory arrangements generally.

The Board noted that while it found the data provided by the independent third-party generally useful it recognized its limitations, including in particular that the data may vary depending on the end date selected and that the results of the performance comparisons may vary depending on the selection of the peer group. The Board noted that the fund outperformed the benchmark index for the one- and three-year periods and underperformed for the five- and ten-year periods ended December 31, 2022. The Board also noted that the fund outperformed the peer group median for the one-, three-, and five-year periods and underperformed for the ten-year period ended December 31, 2022. The Board took into account management's discussion of the fund's performance including the favorable performance relative to the benchmark index for the one- and three-year periods and relative to its peer group median for the one-, three-, and five-year periods. The Board concluded that the fund's performance has generally been in line with or outperformed the historical performance of comparable funds and the fund's benchmark index.

Fees and expenses. The Board reviewed comparative information prepared by an independent third-party provider of fund data, including, among other data, the fund's contractual and net management fees (and subadvisory fees, to the extent available) and total expenses as compared to similarly situated investment companies deemed to be comparable to the fund in light of the nature, extent and quality of the management and advisory and subadvisory services provided by the Advisor and the Subadvisor. The Board considered the fund's ranking within a smaller group of peer funds chosen by the independent third-party provider, as well as the fund's ranking within a broader group of funds. In comparing the fund's contractual and net management fees to those of comparable funds, the Board noted that such fees include both advisory and administrative costs. The Board noted that net management fees and net total expenses are lower than the peer group median.

The Board took into account management's discussion of the fund's expenses, including actions taken to reduce the fund's expenses in the prior year. The Board also took into account management's discussion with respect to the overall management fee and the fees of the Subadvisor, including the amount of the advisory fee retained by the Advisor after payment of the subadvisory fees, in each case in light of the services rendered for those amounts and the risk undertaken by the Advisor. The Board also noted that the Advisor pays the subadvisory fee, and that such fees are negotiated at arm's length with respect to the Subadvisor. In addition, the Board took into account that management had agreed to implement an overall fee waiver across the complex, including the fund, which is discussed further below. The Board also noted actions taken over the past several years to reduce the fund's operating expenses. The Board also noted that, in addition, the Advisor is currently waiving fees and/or

reimbursing expenses with respect to the fund and that the fund has breakpoints in its contractual management fee schedule that reduces management fees as assets increase. The Board reviewed information provided by the Advisor concerning the investment advisory fee charged by the Advisor or one of its advisory affiliates to other clients (including other funds in the John Hancock Fund Complex) having similar investment mandates, if any. The Board considered any differences between the Advisor's and Subadvisor's services to the fund and the services they provide to other comparable clients or funds. The Board concluded that the advisory fee paid with respect to the fund is reasonable in light of the nature, extent and quality of the services provided to the fund under the Advisory Agreement.

Profitability/indirect benefits. In considering the costs of the services to be provided and the profits to be realized by the Advisor and its affiliates from the Advisor's relationship with the Trust, the Board:

- (a) reviewed financial information of the Advisor;
- (b) reviewed and considered information presented by the Advisor regarding the net profitability to the Advisor and its affiliates with respect to the fund;
- (c) received and reviewed profitability information with respect to the John Hancock Fund Complex as a whole and with respect to the fund;
- (d) received information with respect to the Advisor's allocation methodologies used in preparing the profitability data and considered that the Advisor hired an independent third-party consultant to provide an analysis of the Advisor's allocation methodologies;
- (e) considered that the John Hancock insurance companies that are affiliates of the Advisor, as shareholders of the Trust directly or through their separate accounts, receive certain tax credits or deductions relating to foreign taxes paid and dividends received by certain funds of the Trust and noted that these tax benefits, which are not available to participants in qualified retirement plans under applicable income tax law, are reflected in the profitability information reviewed by the Board;
- (f) considered that the Advisor also provides administrative services to the fund on a cost basis pursuant to an administrative services agreement;
- (g) noted that affiliates of the Advisor provide transfer agency services and distribution services to the fund, and that the fund's distributor also receives Rule 12b-1 payments to support distribution of the fund;
- (h) noted that the Advisor also derives reputational and other indirect benefits from providing advisory services to the fund;
- (i) noted that the subadvisory fee for the fund is paid by the Advisor and is negotiated at arm's length;
- (j) considered the Advisor's ongoing costs and expenditures necessary to improve services, meet new regulatory and compliance requirements, and adapt to other challenges impacting the fund industry; and
- (k) considered that the Advisor should be entitled to earn a reasonable level of profits in exchange for the level of services it provides to the fund and the risks that it assumes as Advisor, including entrepreneurial, operational, reputational, litigation and regulatory risk.

Based upon its review, the Board concluded that the level of profitability, if any, of the Advisor and its affiliates from their relationship with the fund was reasonable and not excessive.

Economies of scale. In considering the extent to which economies of scale would be realized as the fund grows and whether fee levels reflect these economies of scale for the benefit of fund shareholders, the Board:

- (a) considered that the Advisor has contractually agreed to waive a portion of its management fee for certain funds of the John Hancock Fund Complex, including the fund (the participating portfolios) or otherwise reimburse the expenses of the participating portfolios (the reimbursement). This waiver is based upon aggregate net assets of all the participating portfolios. The amount of the reimbursement is calculated daily and allocated among all the participating portfolios in proportion to the daily net assets of each fund;
- (b) reviewed the fund's advisory fee structure and concluded that: (i) the fund's fee structure contains breakpoints at the subadvisory fee level and that such breakpoints are reflected as breakpoints in the advisory fees for the fund; and (ii) although economies of scale cannot be measured with precision, these arrangements permit shareholders of the fund to benefit from economies of scale if the fund grows. The Board also took into account management's discussion of the fund's advisory fee structure; and
- (c) the Board also considered the effect of the fund's growth in size on its performance and fees. The Board also noted that if the fund's assets increase over time, the fund may realize other economies of scale

Approval of Subadvisory Agreement

In making its determination with respect to approval of the Subadvisory Agreement, the Board reviewed:

- (1) information relating to the Subadvisor's business, including current subadvisory services to the Trust (and other funds in the John Hancock Fund Complex);
- (2) the historical and current performance of the fund and comparative performance information relating to an applicable benchmark index and comparable funds; and
- (3) the subadvisory fee for the fund, including any breakpoints, and to the extent available, comparable fee information prepared by an independent third-party provider of fund data; and

information relating to the nature and scope of any material relationships and their significant to the Trust's Advisor and Subadvisor.

Nature, extent, and quality of services. With respect to the services provided by the Subadvisor, the Board received information provided to the Board by the Subadvisor, including the Subadvisor's Form ADV, as well as took into account information presented throughout the past year. The Board considered the Subadvisor's current level of staffing and its overall resources, as well as received information relating to the Subadvisor's compensation program. The Board reviewed the Subadvisor's history and investment experience, as well as information regarding the qualifications, background, and responsibilities of the Subadvisor's investment and compliance personnel who provide services to the fund. The Board also considered, among other things, the Subadvisor's compliance program and any disciplinary history. The Board also considered the Subadvisor's risk assessment and monitoring process. The Board reviewed the Subadvisor's regulatory history, including whether it was involved in any regulatory actions or investigations as well as material litigation, and any settlements and amelioratory actions undertaken, as appropriate. The Board noted that the Advisor conducts regular, periodic reviews of the Subadvisor and its operations, including regarding investment processes and organizational and staffing matters. The Board also noted that the Trust's CCO and his staff conduct regular, periodic compliance reviews with the Subadvisor and present reports to the Independent Trustees regarding the same, which includes evaluating the regulatory compliance systems of the Subadvisor and procedures reasonably designed to assure compliance with the federal securities laws. The Board also took into account the financial condition of the Subadvisor.

The Board considered the Subadvisor's investment process and philosophy. The Board took into account that the Subadvisor's responsibilities include the development and maintenance of an investment program for the fund that is consistent with the fund's investment objective, the selection of investment securities and the placement of

orders for the purchase and sale of such securities, as well as the implementation of compliance controls related to performance of these services. The Board also received information with respect to the Subadvisor's brokerage policies and practices, including with respect to best execution and soft dollars.

Subadvisor compensation. In considering the cost of services to be provided by the Subadvisor and the profitability to the Subadvisor of its relationship with the fund, the Board noted that the fees under the Subadvisory Agreement are paid by the Advisor and not the fund.

The Board also relied on the ability of the Advisor to negotiate the Subadvisory Agreement with the Subadvisor, which is not affiliated with the Advisor, and the fees thereunder at arm's length. As a result, the costs of the services to be provided and the profits to be realized by the Subadvisor from its relationship with the Trust were not a material factor in the Board's consideration of the Subadvisory Agreement.

The Board also received information regarding the nature and scope (including their significance to the Advisor and its affiliates and to the Subadvisor) of any material relationships with respect to the Subadvisor, which include arrangements in which the Subadvisor or its affiliates provide advisory, distribution, or management services in connection with financial products sponsored by the Advisor or its affiliates, and may include other registered investment companies, a 529 education savings plan, managed separate accounts and exempt group annuity contracts sold to qualified plans. The Board also received information and took into account any other potential conflicts of interest the Advisor might have in connection with the Subadvisory Agreement.

In addition, the Board considered other potential indirect benefits that the Subadvisor and its affiliates may receive from the Subadvisor's relationship with the fund, such as the opportunity to provide advisory services to additional funds in the John Hancock Fund Complex and reputational benefits.

Subadvisory fees. The Board considered that the fund pays an advisory fee to the Advisor and that, in turn, the Advisor pays a subadvisory fee to the Subadvisor. As noted above, the Board also considered the fund's subadvisory fees as compared to similarly situated investment companies deemed to be comparable to the fund as included in the report prepared by the independent third-party provider of fund data, to the extent available. The Board noted that the limited size of the Lipper peer group was not sufficient for comparative purposes. The Board also took into account the subadvisory fees paid by the Advisor to the Subadvisor with respect to the fund and compared them to fees charged by the Subadvisor to manage other subadvised portfolios and portfolios not subject to regulation under the 1940 Act, as applicable.

Subadvisor performance. As noted above, the Board considered the fund's performance as compared to the fund's peer group median and the benchmark index and noted that the Board reviews information about the fund's performance results at its regularly scheduled meetings. The Board noted the Advisor's expertise and resources in monitoring the performance, investment style and risk-adjusted performance of the Subadvisor. The Board was mindful of the Advisor's focus on the Subadvisor's performance. The Board also noted the Subadvisor's long-term performance record for similar accounts, as applicable.

The Board's decision to approve the Subadvisory Agreement was based on a number of determinations, including the following:

- (1) the Subadvisor has extensive experience and demonstrated skills as a manager;
- (2) performance of the fund has generally been in line with or outperformed the historical performance of comparable funds and the fund's benchmark index;
- (3) the subadvisory fee is reasonable in relation to the level and quality of services being provided under the Subadvisory Agreement; and

- (4) noted that the subadvisory fees are paid by the Advisor not the fund and that the subadvisory fee breakpoints are reflected as breakpoints in the advisory fees for the fund in order to permit shareholders to benefit from economies of scale if the fund grows.

Based on the Board's evaluation of all factors that the Board deemed to be material, including those factors described above, the Board, including the Independent Trustees, concluded that renewal of the Advisory Agreement and the Subadvisory Agreement would be in the best interest of the fund and its shareholders. Accordingly, the Board, and the Independent Trustees voting separately, approved the Advisory Agreement and Subadvisory Agreement for an additional one-year period.

STATEMENT REGARDING LIQUIDITY RISK MANAGEMENT

Operation of the Liquidity Risk Management Program

This section describes the operation and effectiveness of the Liquidity Risk Management Program (LRMP) established in accordance with Rule 22e-4 under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the Liquidity Rule). The Board of Trustees (the Board) of each Fund in the John Hancock Group of Funds (each a Fund and collectively, the Funds) that is subject to the requirements of the Liquidity Rule has appointed John Hancock Investment Management LLC and John Hancock Variable Trust Advisers LLC (together, the Advisor) to serve as Administrator of the LRMP with respect to each of the Funds, including John Hancock Emerging Markets Fund, subject to the oversight of the Board. In order to provide a mechanism and process to perform the functions necessary to administer the LRMP, the Advisor established the Liquidity Risk Management Committee (the Committee). The Fund's subadvisor, Dimensional Fund Advisors LP (the Subadvisor) executes the day-to-day investment management and security-level activities of the Fund in accordance with the requirements of the LRMP, subject to the supervision of the Advisor and the Board.

The Committee receives monthly reports and holds quarterly in person meetings to: (1) review the day-to-day operations of the LRMP; (2) monitor current market and liquidity conditions and assess liquidity risks; (3) review and approve month-end liquidity classifications; (4) monitor illiquid investment levels against the 15% limit on illiquid investments and established Highly Liquid Investment Minimums (HLIMs), if any; (5) review quarterly testing and determinations, as applicable; (6) review redemption-in-kind activities; and (7) review other LRMP related material. The Advisor also conducts daily, monthly, quarterly, and annual quantitative and qualitative assessments of each subadvisor to a Fund that is subject to the requirements of the Liquidity Rule and is a part of the LRMP to monitor investment performance issues, risks and trends. In addition, the Advisor may conduct ad-hoc reviews and meetings with subadvisors as issues and trends are identified, including potential liquidity issues. The Committee also monitors global events, such as the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine and related U.S. imposed sanctions on the Russian government, companies and oligarchs, and other amendments to the Office of Foreign Assets Control sanctioned company lists, that could impact the markets and liquidity of portfolio investments and their classifications. In addition, the Committee monitors macro events and assesses their potential impact on liquidity brought on by fear of contagion (e.g. regional banking crisis).

The Committee provided the Board at a meeting held on March 28-30, 2023 with a written report which addressed the Committee's assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of the implementation and operation of the LRMP and any material changes to the LRMP. The report, which covered the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, included an assessment of important aspects of the LRMP including, but not limited to: (1) Security-level liquidity classifications; (2) Fund-level liquidity risk assessment; (3) Reasonably Anticipated Trade Size (RATS) determination; (4) HLIM determination and daily monitoring; (5) Daily compliance with the 15% limit on illiquid investments; (6) Operation of the Fund's Redemption-In-Kind Procedures; and (7) Review of liquidity management facilities.

The report provided an update on Committee activities over the previous year. Additionally, the report included a discussion of notable changes and enhancements to the LRMP implemented during 2022 and key initiatives for 2023.

The report also covered material liquidity matters which occurred or were reported during this period applicable to the Fund, if any, and the Committee's actions to address such matters.

The report stated, in relevant part, that during the period covered by the report:

- The Fund's investment strategy remained appropriate for an open-end fund structure;
- The Fund was able to meet requests for redemption without significant dilution of remaining shareholders' interests in the Fund;

- The Fund did not experience any breaches of the 15% limit on illiquid investments, or any applicable HLIM, that would require reporting to the Securities and Exchange Commission;
- The Fund continued to qualify as a Primarily Highly Liquid Fund under the Liquidity Rule and therefore is not required to establish a HLIM; and
- The Chief Compliance Officer's office, as a part of their annual Rule 38a-1 assessment of the Fund's policies and procedures, reviewed the LRMP's control environment and deemed it to be operating effectively and in compliance with the Board approved procedures.

Adequacy and Effectiveness

Based on the annual review and assessment conducted by the Committee, the Committee has determined that the LRMP and its controls have been implemented and are operating in a manner that is adequately and effectively managing the liquidity risk of the Fund.

Trustees and Officers

This chart provides information about the Trustees and Officers who oversee your John Hancock fund. Officers elected by the Trustees manage the day-to-day operations of the fund and execute policies formulated by the Trustees.

Independent Trustees

Name, year of birth Position(s) held with Trust Principal occupation(s) and other directorships during past 5 years	Trustee of the Trust since ¹	Number of John Hancock funds overseen by Trustee
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Hassell H. McClellan,² Born: 1945	2005	186
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Trustee and Chairperson of the Board

Director/Trustee, Virtus Funds (2008-2020); Director, The Barnes Group (2010-2021); Associate Professor, The Wallace E. Carroll School of Management, Boston College (retired 2013). Trustee (since 2005) and Chairperson of the Board (since 2017) of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex.

James R. Boyle, Born: 1959	2015	183
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Trustee

Board Member, United of Omaha Life Insurance Company (since 2022). Board Member, Mutual of Omaha Investor Services, Inc. (since 2022). Foresters Financial, Chief Executive Officer (2018–2022) and board member (2017–2022). Manulife Financial and John Hancock, more than 20 years, retiring in 2012 as Chief Executive Officer, John Hancock and Senior Executive Vice President, Manulife Financial. Trustee of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (2005–2014 and since 2015).

William H. Cunningham,³ Born: 1944	2012	184
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Trustee

Professor, University of Texas, Austin, Texas (since 1971); former Chancellor, University of Texas System and former President of the University of Texas, Austin, Texas; Director (since 2006), Lincoln National Corporation (insurance); Director, Southwest Airlines (since 2000). Trustee of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 1986).

Noni L. Ellison,* Born: 1971	2022	183
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Trustee

Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary, Tractor Supply Company (rural lifestyle retailer) (since 2021); General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer & Corporate Secretary, Carestream Dental, L.L.C. (2017–2021); Associate General Counsel & Assistant Corporate Secretary, W.W. Grainger, Inc. (global industrial supplier) (2015–2017); Board Member, Goodwill of North Georgia, 2018 (FY2019)–2020 (FY2021); Board Member, Howard University School of Law Board of Visitors (since 2021); Board Member, University of Chicago Law School Board of Visitors (since 2016); Board member, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Foundation Board (2021–present). Trustee of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 2022).

Grace K. Fey, Born: 1946	2008	186
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Trustee

Chief Executive Officer, Grace Fey Advisors (since 2007); Director and Executive Vice President, Frontier Capital Management Company (1988–2007); Director, Fiduciary Trust (since 2009). Trustee of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 2008).

Dean C. Garfield,* Born: 1968	2022	183
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Trustee

Vice President, Netflix, Inc. (since 2019); President & Chief Executive Officer, Information Technology Industry Council (2009–2019); NYU School of Law Board of Trustees (since 2021); Member, U.S. Department of Transportation, Advisory Committee on Automation (since 2021); President of the United States Trade Advisory Council (2010–2018); Board Member, College for Every Student (2017–2021); Board Member, The Seed School of Washington, D.C. (2012–2017). Trustee of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 2022).

Independent Trustees (continued)

Name, year of birth Position(s) held with Trust Principal occupation(s) and other directorships during past 5 years	Trustee of the Trust since ¹	Number of John Hancock funds overseen by Trustee
Deborah C. Jackson, Born: 1952	2012	185
<i>Trustee</i> President, Cambridge College, Cambridge, Massachusetts (since 2011); Board of Directors, Amwell Corporation (since 2020); Board of Directors, Massachusetts Women's Forum (2018-2020); Board of Directors, National Association of Corporate Directors/New England (2015-2020); Chief Executive Officer, American Red Cross of Massachusetts Bay (2002–2011); Board of Directors of Eastern Bank Corporation (since 2001); Board of Directors of Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation (since 2001); Board of Directors of Boston Stock Exchange (2002–2008); Board of Directors of Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare (health benefits company) (2007–2011). Trustee of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 2008).		
Steven R. Pruchansky, Born: 1944	2012	183
<i>Trustee and Vice Chairperson of the Board</i> Managing Director, Pru Realty (since 2017); Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Greenscapes of Southwest Florida, Inc. (2014-2020); Director and President, Greenscapes of Southwest Florida, Inc. (until 2000); Member, Board of Advisors, First American Bank (until 2010); Managing Director, Jon James, LLC (real estate) (since 2000); Partner, Right Funding, LLC (2014-2017); Director, First Signature Bank & Trust Company (until 1991); Director, Mast Realty Trust (until 1994); President, Maxwell Building Corp. (until 1991). Trustee (since 1992), Chairperson of the Board (2011–2012), and Vice Chairperson of the Board (since 2012) of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex.		
Frances G. Rathke,³ Born: 1960	2020	183
<i>Trustee</i> Director, Audit Committee Chair, Oatly Group AB (plant-based drink company) (since 2021); Director, Audit Committee Chair and Compensation Committee Member, Green Mountain Power Corporation (since 2016); Director, Treasurer and Finance & Audit Committee Chair, Flynn Center for Performing Arts (since 2016); Director and Audit Committee Chair, Planet Fitness (since 2016); Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, Keurig Green Mountain, Inc. (2003-retired 2015). Trustee of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 2020).		
Gregory A. Russo, Born: 1949	2012	183
<i>Trustee</i> Director and Audit Committee Chairman (2012-2020), and Member, Audit Committee and Finance Committee (2011-2020), NCH Healthcare System, Inc. (holding company for multi-entity healthcare system); Director and Member (2012-2018), and Finance Committee Chairman (2014-2018), The Moorings, Inc. (nonprofit continuing care community); Global Vice Chairman, Risk & Regulatory Matters, KPMG LLP (KPMG) (2002–2006); Vice Chairman, Industrial Markets, KPMG (1998–2002). Trustee of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 2008).		

Non-Independent Trustees⁴

Name, year of birth Position(s) held with Trust Principal occupation(s) and other directorships during past 5 years	Trustee of the Trust since ¹	Number of John Hancock funds overseen by Trustee
Andrew G. Arnott, Born: 1971	2017	184

Non-Independent Trustee

Global Head of Retail for Manulife (since 2022); Head of Wealth and Asset Management, United States and Europe, for John Hancock and Manulife (2018-2023); Director and Chairman, John Hancock Investment Management LLC (since 2005, including prior positions); Director and Chairman, John Hancock Variable Trust Advisers LLC (since 2006, including prior positions); Director and Chairman, John Hancock Investment Management Distributors LLC (since 2004, including prior positions); President of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (2007-2023, including prior positions). Trustee of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 2017).

Paul Lorentz, † Born: 1968	2022	183
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Non-Independent Trustee

Global Head, Manulife Wealth and Asset Management (since 2017); General Manager, Manulife, Individual Wealth Management and Insurance (2013–2017); President, Manulife Investments (2010–2016). Trustee of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 2022).

Principal officers who are not Trustees

Name, year of birth Position(s) held with Trust Principal occupation(s) during past 5 years	Current Position(s) with the Trust since
Kristie M. Feinberg, Born: 1975	2023

President

Head of Wealth and Asset Management, United States and Europe, for John Hancock and Manulife (since 2023); CFO and Global Head of Strategy, Manulife Investment Management (2021-2023, including prior positions); CFO Americas & Global Head of Treasury, Invesco, Ltd., Invesco US (2019-2020, including prior positions); Senior Vice President, Corporate Treasurer and Business Controller, Oppenheimer Funds (2001-2019, including prior positions); President of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 2023).

Charles A. Rizzo, Born: 1957	2007
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Chief Financial Officer

Vice President, John Hancock Financial Services (since 2008); Senior Vice President, John Hancock Investment Management LLC and John Hancock Variable Trust Advisers LLC (since 2008); Chief Financial Officer of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 2007).

Salvatore Schiavone, Born: 1965	2009
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Treasurer

Assistant Vice President, John Hancock Financial Services (since 2007); Vice President, John Hancock Investment Management LLC and John Hancock Variable Trust Advisers LLC (since 2007); Treasurer of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 2007, including prior positions).

Principal officers who are not Trustees (continued)

Name, year of birth Position(s) held with Trust Principal occupation(s) during past 5 years	Current Position(s) with the Trust since
Christopher (Kit) Sechler, Born: 1973 <i>Secretary and Chief Legal Officer</i> Vice President and Deputy Chief Counsel, John Hancock Investment Management (since 2015); Assistant Vice President and Senior Counsel (2009–2015), John Hancock Investment Management; Assistant Secretary of John Hancock Investment Management LLC and John Hancock Variable Trust Advisers LLC (since 2009); Chief Legal Officer and Secretary of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 2009, including prior positions).	2018
Trevor Swanberg, Born: 1979 <i>Chief Compliance Officer</i> Chief Compliance Officer, John Hancock Investment Management LLC and John Hancock Variable Trust Advisers LLC (since 2020); Deputy Chief Compliance Officer, John Hancock Investment Management LLC and John Hancock Variable Trust Advisers LLC (2019–2020); Assistant Chief Compliance Officer, John Hancock Investment Management LLC and John Hancock Variable Trust Advisers LLC (2016–2019); Vice President, State Street Global Advisors (2015–2016); Chief Compliance Officer of various trusts within the John Hancock Fund Complex (since 2016, including prior positions).	2020

The business address for all Trustees and Officers is 200 Berkeley Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116-5023.

The Statement of Additional Information of the fund includes additional information about members of the Board of Trustees of the Trust and is available without charge, upon request, by calling 800-225-5291.

- ¹ Each Trustee holds office until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified, or until the Trustee's death, retirement, resignation, or removal. Mr. Boyle has served as Trustee at various times prior to the date listed in the table.
- ² Member of the Audit Committee as of September 26, 2023.
- ³ Member of the Audit Committee.
- ⁴ The Trustee is a Non-Independent Trustee due to current or former positions with the Advisor and certain affiliates.
- ^{*} Elected to serve as Independent Trustee effective as of September 9, 2022.
- [†] Elected to serve as Non-Independent Trustee effective as of September 9, 2022.

More information

Trustees

Hassell H. McClellan, *Chairperson*^π
Steven R. Pruchansky, *Vice Chairperson*
Andrew G. Arnott[†]
James R. Boyle
William H. Cunningham^{*}
Grace K. Fey
Noni L. Ellison[^]
Dean C. Garfield[^]
Deborah C. Jackson
Patricia Lizarraga^{*,^,§}
Paul Lorentz[‡]
Frances G. Rathke^{*}
Gregory A. Russo

Officers

Kristie M. Feinberg[#]
President
Charles A. Rizzo
Chief Financial Officer
Salvatore Schiavone
Treasurer
Christopher (Kit) Sechler
Secretary and Chief Legal Officer
Trevor Swanberg
Chief Compliance Officer

^π Member of the Audit Committee as of September 26, 2023.

[†] Non-Independent Trustee

^{*} Member of the Audit Committee

[^] Elected to serve as Independent Trustee effective as of September 9, 2022.

[§] Effective September 21, 2023, Ms. Lizarraga is no longer a Trustee.

[‡] Elected to serve as Non-Independent Trustee effective as of September 9, 2022.

[#] Effective June 29, 2023.

The fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, as well as the fund proxy voting record for the most recent twelve-month period ended June 30, are available free of charge on the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) website at sec.gov or on our website.

All of the fund's holdings as of the end of the third month of every fiscal quarter are filed with the SEC on Form N-PORT within 60 days of the end of the fiscal quarter. The fund's Form N-PORT filings are available on our website and the SEC's website, sec.gov.

We make this information on your fund, as well as **monthly portfolio holdings**, and other fund details available on our website at jhinvestments.com or by calling 800-225-5291.

Investment advisor

John Hancock Investment Management LLC

Subadvisor

Dimensional Fund Advisors LP

Portfolio Managers

Will B. Collins-Dean, CFA
Jed S. Fogdall
Mary T. Phillips, CFA

Principal distributor

John Hancock Investment Management Distributors LLC

Custodian

Citibank, N.A.

Transfer agent

John Hancock Signature Services, Inc.

Legal counsel

K&L Gates LLP

Independent registered public accounting firm

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

You can also contact us:

800-225-5291

jhinvestments.com

Regular mail:

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P.O. Box 219909
Kansas City, MO 64121-9909

Express mail:

John Hancock Signature Services, Inc.
430 W 7th Street
Suite 219909
Kansas City, MO 64105-1407

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You may revoke your consent at any time by simply visiting jhinvestments.com/login and following the instructions above. You may also revoke consent by calling 800-225-5291 or by writing to us at the following address: John Hancock Signature Services, Inc., P.O. Box 219909, Kansas City, MO 64121-9909. We reserve the right to deliver documents to you on paper at any time should the need arise.

Brokerage account shareholders

If you receive statements directly from your bank or broker and would like to participate in eDelivery, go to **icsdelivery/live** or contact your financial representative.

John Hancock family of funds

U.S. EQUITY FUNDS

Blue Chip Growth
Classic Value
Disciplined Value
Disciplined Value Mid Cap
Equity Income
Financial Industries
Fundamental All Cap Core
Fundamental Large Cap Core
Mid Cap Growth
New Opportunities
Regional Bank
Small Cap Core
Small Cap Growth
Small Cap Value
U.S. Global Leaders Growth
U.S. Growth

INTERNATIONAL EQUITY FUNDS

Disciplined Value International
Emerging Markets
Emerging Markets Equity
Fundamental Global Franchise
Global Environmental Opportunities
Global Equity
Global Shareholder Yield
Global Thematic Opportunities
International Dynamic Growth
International Growth
International Small Company

FIXED-INCOME FUNDS

Bond
California Municipal Bond
Emerging Markets Debt
Floating Rate Income
Government Income
High Yield
High Yield Municipal Bond
Income
Investment Grade Bond
Money Market
Municipal Opportunities
Opportunistic Fixed Income
Short Duration Bond
Short Duration Municipal Opportunities
Strategic Income Opportunities

ALTERNATIVE FUNDS

Alternative Asset Allocation
Diversified Macro
Infrastructure
Multi-Asset Absolute Return
Real Estate Securities
Seaport Long/Short

A fund's investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses should be considered carefully before investing. The prospectus contains this and other important information about the fund. To obtain a prospectus, contact your financial professional, call John Hancock Investment Management at 800-225-5291, or visit our website at jhinvestments.com. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing or sending money.

EXCHANGE-TRADED FUNDS

John Hancock Corporate Bond ETF
John Hancock International High Dividend ETF
John Hancock Mortgage-Backed Securities ETF
John Hancock Multifactor Developed International ETF
John Hancock Multifactor Emerging Markets ETF
John Hancock Multifactor Large Cap ETF
John Hancock Multifactor Mid Cap ETF
John Hancock Multifactor Small Cap ETF
John Hancock Preferred Income ETF
John Hancock U.S. High Dividend ETF

ASSET ALLOCATION/TARGET DATE FUNDS

Balanced
Multi-Asset High Income
Lifestyle Blend Portfolios
Lifetime Blend Portfolios
Multimanager Lifestyle Portfolios
Multimanager Lifetime Portfolios
Preservation Blend Portfolios

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND GOVERNANCE FUNDS

ESG Core Bond
ESG International Equity
ESG Large Cap Core

CLOSED-END FUNDS

Asset-Based Lending
Financial Opportunities
Hedged Equity & Income
Income Securities Trust
Investors Trust
Preferred Income
Preferred Income II
Preferred Income III
Premium Dividend
Tax-Advantaged Dividend Income
Tax-Advantaged Global Shareholder Yield

John Hancock ETF shares are bought and sold at market price (not NAV), and are not individually redeemed from the fund. Brokerage commissions will reduce returns.

John Hancock ETFs are distributed by Foreside Fund Services, LLC, and are subadvised by Manulife Investment Management (US) LLC or Dimensional Fund Advisors LP. Foreside is not affiliated with John Hancock Investment Management Distributors LLC, Manulife Investment Management (US) LLC or Dimensional Fund Advisors LP.

Dimensional Fund Advisors LP receives compensation from John Hancock in connection with licensing rights to the John Hancock Dimensional indexes. Dimensional Fund Advisors LP does not sponsor, endorse, or sell, and makes no representation as to the advisability of investing in, John Hancock Multifactor ETFs.

A trusted brand

John Hancock Investment Management is a premier asset manager with a heritage of financial stewardship dating back to 1862. Helping our shareholders pursue their financial goals is at the core of everything we do. It's why we support the role of professional financial advice and operate with the highest standards of conduct and integrity.

A better way to invest

We serve investors globally through a unique multimanager approach: We search the world to find proven portfolio teams with specialized expertise for every strategy we offer, then we apply robust investment oversight to ensure they continue to meet our uncompromising standards and serve the best interests of our shareholders.

Results for investors

Our unique approach to asset management enables us to provide a diverse set of investments backed by some of the world's best managers, along with strong risk-adjusted returns across asset classes.

"A trusted brand" is based on a survey of 6,651 respondents conducted by Medallia between 3/18/20 and 5/13/20.



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This report is for the information of the shareholders of John Hancock Emerging Markets Fund. It is not authorized for distribution to prospective investors unless preceded or accompanied by a prospectus.

A company of  **Manulife** Investment Management

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