

# IVA Worldwide I IWWIX

A solid long-term choice for wary investors.

## Morningstar's Take IWWIX

**Morningstar Rating** ★★★

**Morningstar Analyst Rating** Silver

### Morningstar Pillars

Process	+	Positive
Performance	+	Positive
People	+	Positive
Parent	+	Positive
Price	○	Neutral

### Role In Portfolio

Core

### Fund Performance IWWIX

Year	Total Return (%)	+/- Category
YTD	4.14	-1.92
2018	-7.30	0.96
2017	13.84	-0.95
2016	6.48	0.44
2015	-2.22	1.93

Data through 5-31-19

6-06-19 | by Gregg Wolper

It takes some doing to understand IVA Worldwide's approach, but investors with a long-term, cautious orientation will find it worthwhile to do so. And a recent price reduction addresses what had been a weak point. The fund retains its Morningstar Analyst Rating of Silver.

Managers Charles de Vault and Chuck de Lardemelle place great importance on the potential problems that could arise in the global markets and with individual companies. For that reason, they buy only stocks trading at a steep discount to their estimate of fair value. Few stocks meet their standards, and the fund often holds huge cash stakes. For example, the fund had about 40% of its assets in cash in 2017 and early 2018. When markets slid late in 2018, the managers did some buying, and the cash stake dropped to 30% at year-end, where it remained at the end of April 2019.

The cash provided a cushion during the fourth-quarter turmoil, helping the fund hold its 2018 loss to 7.3%, 1 percentage point milder than the world-allocation Morningstar Category average and 2 points better than its MSCI All Country World Index benchmark. Although the fund did outperform, de Vault concedes it should have had an even better showing. He cites investors' rush to sell even strong companies, but also some misfires among the fund's stock picks, such as Hyundai and Genting, the Malaysian casino firm.

Typically, the fund does hold up relatively well in downturns. That's resulted in impressive results since its October 2008 inception. It's also outperformed for shorter periods in risk-adjusted terms, though not with straight total returns. The fund usually lags during rallies that favor companies with high valuations or fundamental risks.

The managers and a core of the analysts have been in place a long time, implementing the strategy consistently. On June 3, 2019, the management fee was cut by 0.10% and breakpoints added, making the expense ratios more palatable. This fund has a place for investors who expect markets to go through rough times along with the buoyant ones.

**Process Pillar** + Positive | Gregg Wolper  
06/06/2019

Although this fund seeks returns that will exceed the all-stock MSCI ACWI over the long haul, the managers' value bent and focus on capital preservation are key here. They regularly hold a hefty cash stake (ranging from the teens to more than 30% of assets) when they can't find investments that meet their stringent value criteria. They also typically own some gold bullion, which the managers say can act as a hedge in a variety of climates. Fixed-income securities appear in varying amounts.

The largest portion of the portfolio is composed of equities. Managers Charles de Vault and Chuck de

Lardemelle look for what they consider a large discount to their assessment of a company's intrinsic value. In determining intrinsic value, they come up with a base-case number, but they also compute a worst-case scenario. The sector and regional weightings can vary markedly from those of the MSCI ACWI, allocation benchmarks, and the portfolios of its peers.

The fund's fixed-income investments can include sovereign bonds and high-yield corporate bonds bought at what the managers consider deep discounts, owned for their capital-appreciation potential more than for income. The fund's high-yield stake reached a peak of more than 30% of assets early in its life. The managers often hedge varying amounts of the fund's currency exposure into the U.S. dollar. Overall, this strategy earns a Positive Process rating.

In recent years, the most unusual aspect of this portfolio has been its high cash level. At the end of 2018's first quarter, Charles de Vault and Chuck de Lardemelle had 40% of assets in cash. That was a huge stake even for this fund, which often leaves money on the sidelines when the managers can't find opportunities that meet their strict valuation guidelines. When the long stock-market rally went into reverse in 2018's fourth quarter, they finally found some stocks falling into their range. They bought some new holdings, such as Grupo Mexico, which owns copper mines in Mexico and Peru, and added substantially to existing holdings, including Samsung Electronics and Bank of America BAC. By the end of the year the cash stake had fallen but still sat at 30% of assets, the same level it was at on April 30, 2019. De Vault says the downturn wasn't severe or lengthy enough to bring more stocks into an appealing valuation range, and he notes that many issues about the global financial environment still concern him, such as levels of debt and deteriorating economic growth in Europe. For these managers, gold remains appealing as a hedge against all kinds of potential problems; the fund's

stake in gold rose slightly to 6.4% of assets at year-end and now lies at 5.6%. Evidence that the managers aren't permanently committed to a high cash stake comes from sibling IVA International IVIQX, where they cut cash all the way to 10% of assets at year-end.

**Performance Pillar** + Positive | Gregg Wolper  
06/06/2019

This fund's returns are strong since its inception and are even more impressive on a risk-adjusted basis. So, although its standard total returns lagged during more recent periods, its risk-adjusted measures are more acceptable. It receives a Positive rating for Performance.

From its 2008 inception through May 31, 2019, the I shares' return crushed the world-allocation category average, 7.5% (annualized) to 4.2%, and also beat the Morningstar Global Allocation Index, which posted a 6.6% gain over that period, and the MSCI ACWI (the fund's chosen benchmark), which rose 7.2%.

That said, the fund had an unusual advantage, relatively speaking, during its first months. It launched just before the October 2008 market crash, so its large cash stake insulated it in that year's disastrous fourth quarter. (The I shares rose 2.8% while the category plunged 15.1%, the MSCI index sank 22.4%, and the Morningstar Global Allocation Index dropped 10.6%.) But the managers' cautious strategy deserves credit, too. The fund's resilience during market declines is also demonstrated by volatility measures, such as downside-capture ratios.

Interestingly, this wary fund also landed near the top of the category in 2010 and 2013, when stocks rose sharply. It did not fare as well, however, in the rallies of 2012 and 2017, and it trailed far behind in the exuberant market of 2019's first quarter.

**People Pillar** + Positive | Gregg Wolper  
06/06/2019

Chuck de Lardemelle and Charles de Vault have managed this fund together since its October 2008 inception, with support from a medium-sized analyst group, many of whom have been on the team a long

time. The team's experience and dedication to the strategy earn the fund a Positive rating for People.

De Vault, who is also chief investment officer, worked on a similarly styled fund, First Eagle Global SGENX, first as an analyst beginning in 1987, then as a comanager from January 2000 through December 2004, and finally as the sole manager from January 2005 through March 2007. He also played key roles on First Eagle Overseas SGOVX and First Eagle U.S. Value FEVAX. De Lardemelle also came from First Eagle, where he served for 10 years as an analyst and then director of research, and briefly as a portfolio manager. Two of the firm's analysts worked with them at First Eagle for many years.

The analyst corps gradually grew to a total of 10 as of 2015. It now stands at eight (plus a research associate), five of whom have been in place since 2010 or earlier. One analyst left in August 2015; another, founding partner Simon Fenwick, departed in late 2017; and a third left to go to business school in 2018 but was quickly replaced by an experienced analyst.

De Vault and De Lardemelle each have more than \$1 million invested in this fund and the same amount in sibling IVA International IVIQX.

**Parent Pillar** + Positive | Gregg Wolper  
10/18/2017

International Value Advisers is an admirable parent. The firm was founded in the fall of 2007 by a group of managers, analysts, and others who migrated from First Eagle. They launched just two funds, which use the patient, value-oriented strategy that the team had specialized in. IVA closed both funds to new investors in January 2011 and has not reopened them, nor has it created new ones (though an offshoot of one fund offered to European investors, which has fewer assets, did reopen in 2017). That restraint demonstrates a clear priority on investment success for fund shareholders rather than amassing the largest asset base possible.

On its website, IVA provides a lengthy "owner's manual" that clearly explains the details of the firm's "atypical" strategy. This increases the likelihood that only appropriate investors, comfortable with the firm's cautious, long-term approach, will own the

funds. The firm has good retention; the original two portfolio managers remain in place and analyst departures are rare.

Less impressive are the IVA funds' expense ratios, which are reasonable when compared with peers but not cheap. These could be lower if the management fee included asset-level breakpoints, a common practice in the industry. Another caveat: Although the analysts are experienced, at this time it's not clear there's an obvious candidate to take over as a portfolio manager, should that be necessary for any reason.

**Price Pillar** ● Neutral | Gregg Wolper  
06/06/2019

Effective June 3, 2019, IVA reduced its management fee by 10 basis points and added breakpoints for that fee to decline further if assets hit certain levels. As a result, the expense ratio for the fund's I shares, which hold more than three fourths of assets, is now 0.90%, which lands squarely in the middle quintile when ranked against the institutional shares of other world-allocation funds. The other share classes have also improved their rankings. Therefore, the fund's Price Pillar has been upgraded to Neutral.

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Total Returns as of 6/30/19	1 Year	5 Year*	10 Year*	Since Inception* (10/1/08)
IVA Worldwide Fund A (no load)	1.65%	2.93%	6.98%	7.61%
IVA Worldwide Fund A (with load)	-3.43%	1.88%	6.43%	7.10%
IVA Worldwide Fund I	1.91%	3.19%	7.25%	7.87%
MSCI All Country World Index	5.74%	6.16%	10.15%	7.74%

\*Annualized

**Past performance does not guarantee future results.** The performance data quoted represents past performance and current returns may be lower or higher. Returns are shown net of fees and expenses and assume reinvestment of dividends and other income. The investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed may be worth more or less than the original cost. To obtain performance information current to the most recent month-end, please call 1-866-941-4482. As of the most recent prospectus, maximum sales charge for the A shares is 5.00%. The expense ratios for the fund are as follows: IVA Worldwide Fund: 1.15% (A shares); 0.90% (I share). Amounts redeemed within 30 days of purchase are subject to a 2.00% fee.

MSCI All Country World Index is an unmanaged index consisting of 49 country indices comprised of 23 developed and 26 emerging market country indices and is calculated with dividends reinvested after deduction of withholding tax. The Morningstar Global Allocation Index represents a multi-asset-class portfolio of 60% global equities and 40% global bonds. The Index is not available for direct investment.

### Investment Objective

The IVA Worldwide Fund will seek long-term growth of capital by investing in a range of securities and asset classes from markets around the world, including U.S. markets.

### **IVA reopened all funds to new investors in September 2018**

As of June 30, 2019, the IVA Worldwide Fund's top 10 holdings were: Gold bullion (6.2%); Berkshire Hathaway, Inc. Class A; Class B (4.1%); Compagnie Financiere Richemont SA (2.7%); Bank of America Corp. (2.6%); Bureau Veritas SA (2.6%); Bayerische Motoren Werke AG (2.5%); Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. (2.4%); Astellas Pharma, Inc. (2.2%); AIB Group PLC (2.2%); Nestle SA (2.0%).

As of June 30, 2019, total firm assets under management were \$14.1 billion.

**There are risks associated with investing in funds that invest in securities of foreign countries, such as erratic market conditions, economic and political instability and fluctuations in currency exchange rates. Value-based investments are subject to the risk that the broad market may not recognize their intrinsic value.**

**An investor should read and consider the fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. This and other important information are detailed in our prospectus and summary prospectus, which can be obtained by calling 1-866-941-4482 or visiting [www.ivafunds.com](http://www.ivafunds.com). Please read the prospectus and summary prospectus carefully before you invest.** The IVA Funds are offered by IVA Funds Distributors, LLC.

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The Morningstar Analyst Rating is not a credit or risk rating. It is a subjective evaluation performed by the mutual fund analysts of Morningstar, Inc. Morningstar evaluates funds based on five key pillars, which are process, performance, people, parent and price. Morningstar's analysts use this five pillar evaluation to identify funds they believe are more likely to outperform over the long term on a risk-adjusted basis. Analysts consider numeric and qualitative factors, but the ultimate view on the individual pillars and how they come together is driven by the analyst's overall assessment and overseen by an Analyst Ratings Committee. The approach serves not as a

formula but as a robust analytical framework ensuring consistency across Morningstar's global coverage. A fund may receive a Gold rating and still have negative, flat or poor performance.

The Analyst Rating scale ranges from Gold to Negative, with Gold being the highest rating and Negative being the lowest rating. A fund with a "Gold" rating distinguishes itself across the five pillars and has garnered the analysts' highest level of conviction. A fund with a "Silver" rating has notable advantages across several, but perhaps not all, of the five pillars-strengths that give the analysts a high level of conviction. A "Bronze" rated fund has advantages that outweigh the disadvantages across the five pillars, with sufficient level of analyst conviction to warrant a positive rating. A fund with a "Neutral" rating isn't seriously flawed across the five pillars, nor does it distinguish itself very positively. A "Negative" rated fund is flawed in at least one, if not more pillars and is considered an inferior offering to its peers. Analyst Ratings are reevaluated every 14 months. For more detailed information about Morningstar's Analyst Rating, including its methodology, please go to <http://corporate.morningstar.com/us/documents/MethodologyDocuments/AnalystRatingforFundsMethodology.pdf>.

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