



SSQ Fiera Capital U.S. Equity GIF
SSQ Fiera Capital Hedged U.S. Equity GIF

About the fund manager

Fiera Capital Corporation, an independent firm, is one of Canada's leading investment management firms. Fiera Capital offers expertise in both traditional and alternative investment strategies and distinguishes itself particularly in Canadian Fixed Income (active and structured), Canadian Equity, Foreign Equity, non-traditional strategies and asset allocation.

Long-term investing in best-in-class, quality companies

Investment philosophy

Fiera Capital's management team uses a rigorous fundamental approach focused on equity research, which only retains the best high-conviction investment ideas. The fund prioritizes companies that trade at attractive valuations, are leaders in their respective industries, have a competitive advantage, and demonstrate lasting growth potential.

The portfolio is relatively focused, averaging around 25 to 45 holdings, while still being well diversified. The fund can invest in all market capitalizations, from large to small, making every attractive investment opportunity an investable option, regardless of company size.

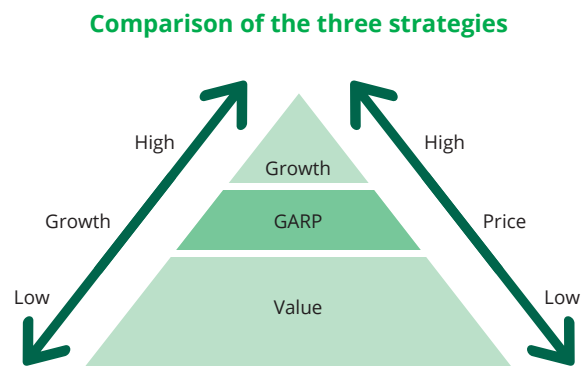
This Growth At a Reasonable Price (GARP) approach offers investors the following advantages:

- Management style yielding superior and steady returns
- Selection of low-volatility stocks with safer outlooks than the market in general
- Lower risk of permanent capital loss relative to the market



What is a strategy focused on Growth At a Reasonable Price (GARP)?

This strategy combines value and growth strategies to find financially solid companies with lasting, high growth potential trading at a discount relative to their intrinsic value. In comparison, a growth strategy identifies companies whose earnings are expected to increase faster than average. This can mean investing in emerging companies or expanding industries that have yet to yield a profit. This strategy puts little weight on the current trading price.



About the SSQ Fiera Capital Hedged U.S. Equity GIF

For investors, when it comes to exchange rate risk, the decision to hedge or not to hedge mainly depends on their objectives and their risk tolerance. The impact of exchange rate fluctuations on short-term returns may either be positive or negative. If an investor's investment decisions tend to be based on short-term performance, a currency hedge solution may help maintain discipline.

For managers, Fiera Capital's foreign currency hedging strategy consists in using future contracts on the U.S. dollar against which it wants to protect the portfolio. In doing so, the effect of exchange rate fluctuations is nullified.

Investment process

Quantitative screening

- High quality and growth potential, non-cyclical and attractive valuation
- Profitability, solid balance sheets, high Return On Invested Capital (ROIC)
- Minimum market capitalization \$1B

Fundamental research and management meetings

- Understand industry and positioning
- Best-in-class and dominance
- Sustainability of competitive advantage
- Corporate governance

Valuation

- Determine intrinsic value (absolute valuation)
- Historical valuation
- Relative valuation (peers, sector, universe)

Portfolio construction and risk management

- Quality companies with sustainable competitive advantages and attractive valuations
- Concentrated portfolio: only the best ideas
- Progressive position building
- Diversification of drivers and investment theses
- High conviction and knowledge in all holdings

Security selection process

What sets Fiera Capital's U.S. equity team apart is its rigorous security selection process. With a management style focused on long-term investing, with holding periods often exceeding 10 years, the selection must be very thorough and spread over a long-term horizon. In fact, analyzing a security before adding it to the portfolio can take anywhere between 1 and 3 months. Deep and disciplined research is the foundation of their investment approach.

Portfolio management team

Nadim Rizk, MBA, CFA, is the Senior Portfolio Manager of the strategy and benefits from more than 20 years of investment experience with US and international equities. He is assisted by Andrew Chan, M.Sc., Assistant Portfolio Manager, and by a solid and experienced team of six analysts.

Why invest in these funds?

The main benefit of investing in a U.S. equity fund is the very large universe of available investment opportunities. In addition, the SSQ Fiera Capital Hedged U.S. Equity GIF offers the following advantages:

- Long-term investing puts emphasis on high quality, best of breed companies and consistency of performance
- Solid and disciplined approach from which the experienced team never deviates
- Rigorous research ensures deep knowledge of portfolio companies and consistent success of the manager's approach
- High conviction portfolio with diversified value-added sources
- Strong risk-adjusted returns, top ranking relative to its peers

Advantages of these funds

Rigorous management process

The portfolio manager uses a Growth At a Reasonable Price (GARP) approach, which favours strong, high-quality companies with a competitive edge and lasting growth potential, trading at attractive valuations.

Solid management team

These funds are managed by a solid and experienced team of two portfolio managers supported by six analysts.

Focused and diversified portfolio

The portfolio holds approximately 25 to 45 securities, which allows the manager to thoroughly understand every security in order to hold it over a long period. Diversification stems from the wide range of company capitalizations and sectors.

Steady returns in various markets

The investment strategy in place allows the manager to benefit from rising markets, while still preserving capital in market downturns. The manager has proven, over time, his/her ability to outperform the benchmark index despite market volatility.

Tax efficient

Low portfolio turnover contributes to tax efficiency when these funds are held in a Non-Registered Savings Plan.

Risk management

The portfolio manager systematically hedges U.S. currency exposure for the SSQ Fiera Capital Hedged U.S. Equity GIF.



**For further details, please refer to the
“Fund Facts” available on ssq.ca**

