

Update from Portfolio Manager
Danton Goei



Mastering the Mental
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Davis Select Worldwide ETF (DWLD)

Semi-Annual Review 2024

Key Takeaways

- DWLD posted a strong return of 12.81% during the first six months of 2024, outperforming the 11.30% return of the MSCI ACWI (All Country World Index) by 1.51%.
- Artificial intelligence (AI) drove strong earnings for many of DWLD's companies—including, Meta, Amazon and Applied Materials—which helped contribute to the fund's outperformance. With unemployment at a very low 3.9% and a forecast of 2.5% gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2024, the U.S. economy has been going from strength to strength.
- We would be wise to prepare for more challenging times going forward. While the huge fiscal and monetary stimulus since the Great Financial Crisis has helped generate strong investor returns, we cannot assume that the economy will repeat this success in the next few years.
- Despite the current weaker levels of consumer spending, the drivers of long-term economic growth in China are in place with high levels of technological innovation and talent. Today low equity valuations and strong cash returns to shareholders create opportunities in select Chinese investments.

The average annual total returns for Davis Select Worldwide ETF for periods ending June 30, 2024, are: NAV Return, 1 year, 17.47%; 5 years, 8.57%; Inception (1/11/17), 8.40%; Market Price Return, 1 year, 17.21%; 5 years, 8.59%; Inception, 8.38%. The performance presented represents past performance and is not a guarantee of future results. Investment return and principal value will vary so that, when redeemed, an investor's shares may be worth more or less than their original cost. For the Fund's most recent month end performance, visit www.davisetfs.com or call 800-279-0279. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance quoted. NAV prices are used to calculate market price performance prior to the date when the Fund was first publicly traded. Market performance is determined using the closing price at 4:00 pm Eastern time, when the NAV is typically calculated. Market performance does not represent the returns you would receive if you traded shares at other times. The total annual operating expense ratio as of the most recent prospectus was 0.63%. The total annual operating expense ratio may vary in future years.

This material includes candid statements and observations regarding investment strategies, individual securities, and economic and market conditions; however, there is no guarantee that these statements, opinions or forecasts will prove to be correct. All fund performance discussed within this material are at NAV and are as of 6/30/24, unless otherwise noted. This is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold any specific security. **Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. The Attractive Growth and Undervalued reference in this material relates to underlying characteristics of the portfolio holdings. There is no guarantee that the Fund performance will be positive as equity markets are volatile and an investor may lose money.**

■ Current Positioning, Long-Term Performance and Recent Results

DWLD posted a strong return of 12.81% for the first six months of 2024, outperforming the 11.30% return of the MSCI ACWI by 1.51%. In this report, we discuss factors that contributed to the portfolio's good performance, along with any underperformers during the same period.

Contributors to 2024 Performance

For the first six months of 2024, Meta Platforms was DWLD's largest contributor to performance, rising in value by 43%. Meta also was the fund's largest contributor in 2023, when the company almost tripled in value. Meta continued its strong operating performance in 2024 by growing advertising sales, adding more users and increasing user engagement times. Meta is creating huge value by using AI not only to improve the content it shows its users, but also to retool its advertising to engage its target audience more precisely. While still early, Meta has been one of the biggest beneficiaries of the power of AI.

Thus far in 2024, Amazon and Alphabet have also been big contributors, with their stocks up 27% and 30%, respectively. For both companies, good growth and cost controls helped generate the strong earnings. Cloud computing, supported by the rollout of AI features, also drove profits.

Semiconductor equipment manufacturer Applied Materials, up 46% year to date, was also a major contributor to the fund. Applied Materials' business is driven by long-term secular trends in AI, the Internet of Things (IoT), electric vehicles (EV) and

clean energy, which in turn drives the demand for semiconductor chips and equipment. Applied has also benefited from the CHIPS Act, which is driving funding for building semiconductor factories and the associated manufacturing equipment in the U.S.

Consumer-facing internet holdings including Meituan and Naspers/Prosus (which owns 25% of Tencent) performed well, up 36% and 14%/20%, respectively. Meituan's China food delivery business rebounded strongly from COVID-related disruptions a year ago, and to date its in-store advertising business has successfully fended off competitive challenges from ByteDance's Douyin. Meituan's first international expansion has, within a year, captured 27% market share to become the number-two food-delivery player in Hong Kong. Tencent, which is the main value driver at Naspers and Prosus has bolstered strong advertising revenue growth with the success of its WeChat Video Accounts business, which is a short-form live-streaming video service that competes with Douyin. In addition, Tencent's latest large video game launch of Dungeon & Fighter Mobile (DnF) has been a big hit, becoming the top-grossing game app download in China.

Banks: Wells Fargo, Danske Bank and Development Bank of Singapore (DBS) had returns of 22%, 16% and 18%, respectively, during the first six months. Continued economic growth, good net interest margin and low loan delinquencies along with attractive dividend yields resulted in high total returns.

Detractors to 2024 Performance

Detractors to DWLD performance include Asian life insurance company AIA, which was down 21% and Darling Ingredients, which fell 26%. AIA's fundamentals remain strong, with double-digit

new business growth in almost all of their major geographies. The main concern remains whether the company can sustain its performance in China and Hong Kong, but we think those risks are overblown. AIA is still very small in China, with a low-to-mid single-digit market share of the life insurance market. The company targets only mass affluent and high net worth clients and services them using the industry's most professional and best-trained salesforce. The Chinese insurance market has also been under pressure from declining government bond yields in China but AIA is less exposed due to the product mix they offer to their clients and their conservative balance sheet. AIA's valuation remains very attractive with the stock trading just above embedded value, which means we are not paying much for the option of future growth. Management is high quality and buybacks plus cash dividends represent 6% of the company's market capitalization—an attractive level of cash return to shareholders, especially given how quickly AIA is growing.

Darling was down in the first six months of the year as low prices for waste fats and oils, as well as regulatory credits in their renewable diesel business, overwhelmed operational progress. Market conditions so far this year have been difficult, but the company has been making progress integrating recently acquired operations, and preparing for its first production of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) in coming quarters, which will benefit from new regulations that favor domestically produced low-carbon SAF sourced from the waste fats and oils that Darling specializes in. The company needs to keep reducing the debt load it took on for recent acquisitions and to improve operational efficiency, but we like the company's prospects as a reliable supplier of low-carbon fuels. SAF in particular has excellent long-term growth prospects given the difficulty of decarbonizing air travel via other means (e.g., hydrogen or batteries). ■

■ Current Perspective on Global Markets

The Need to Prepare For More Challenging Times

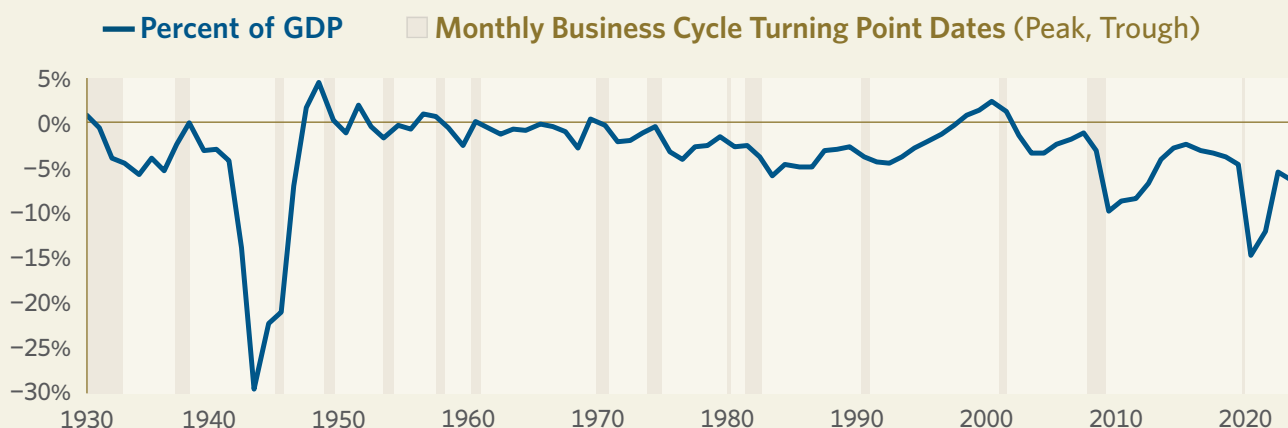
With unemployment at a very low 3.9%¹ and a forecast of 2.5% gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2024,² the U.S. economy has been going from strength to strength. The S&P 500 Index's 2023 performance—with a return of 26.3% followed by a 15.3% return in the first half of 2024—reflects this strong economic backdrop.

The strong economic and market performance has been all the more impressive as it has occurred despite a more than 5.00% rise in interest rates starting in March 2022. Over the past two plus years the biggest change in the economy and in the markets has been this rapid rise in interest rates—what we at Davis have dubbed “the return to normalcy.” Rate normalization has had profound implications for which businesses get funding, how they are funded and how companies are valued.

On a longer-term basis, the biggest change in the economy and investing environment has been the twin worries of the rising government deficit (spending more than we make) accompanied by the rising national debt (the result of years of high spending). The huge fiscal and monetary stimulus since the Great Financial Crisis has helped generate strong investor returns but we cannot assume that the economy will repeat this strong performance over the next several years. It is worrisome that the federal budget deficit was as high as 6.3% of GDP in 2023 in a year when GDP grew a robust 2.5%, unemployment was an incredibly low 3.7% and interest rates were close to zero percent. As Figure 1³ shows, historically the federal budget deficit spikes in recession years as the government seeks to stimulate the economy and serves as a safety net for the unemployed but is low in years with a strong economy.

1. April Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2. Philadelphia Reserve survey of 34 economists published on May 10. 3. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

**Fig. 1: Federal Surplus or Deficit as a Percentage of Gross Domestic Product
1930-2023**



In 2007, the year before the Great Financial Crisis, the federal budget deficit was only 1.1% of GDP, which enabled the government to be extremely proactive in saving the economy. In the three decades between 1994 and 2023, the federal deficit averaged 3.8%. During this period, we also sustained multiple catastrophes: in 2001, the sharp recession following the dot.com bust; between 2007 and 2009, the Great Financial Crisis; and from roughly 2019 through 2023, the COVID-19 pandemic. Should a recession or other disaster occur today, we would worry that the government's ability to address it effectively could be constrained by the size of the current budget deficit. Another constraint could be the size of the national debt, which has ballooned to 97% of GDP, a level we have not seen since World War II, except during COVID.⁴

Finally, while service of interest expense on the national debt was helped by the near-zero interest rates pre-2023, that is no longer the case. Interest expense as a percentage of federal spending was 5.2% in 2021, rising to 7.6% in 2022 when the Fed started raising rates in March, and then further growing to 10.7% in 2023.⁵ In 2023, net interest expense exceeded Medicaid spending, and 2024 it is forecast to exceed national defense spending, too.⁶ Though it is true that the size of the federal

deficit and national debt have been rising for some time, they would not necessarily cause an economic downturn in and of themselves. Rather, we are concerned that they could erode the degrees of freedom available to the government when we encounter the next national shock. Because of the risk that the U.S. government will be more constrained in its ability to support the economy in the future, it is more important than ever to ensure that our portfolio companies have the balance sheet and cash generation to survive a protracted economic downturn.

Given that both cash and fixed income could see a serious erosion of purchasing power, what is the best approach for investors to maintain their purchasing power in the future?

Real estate returns have also been materially affected by the higher rate and tighter credit environment and would be harmed should interest rates rise further. To us, the pricing power, resilience and adaptability of a well-run business is the wisest way to ensure that purchasing power is maintained. A durable competitive advantage leads to pricing power, while a strong balance sheet and cash generation create resiliency. Moreover, an experienced and talented management team could help the business adapt to changing circumstances.

4. <https://www.pgpf.org/blog/2024/04/how-much-is-the-national-debt-what-are-the-different-measures-used>.

5. <https://www.cbo.gov/data/budget-economic-data#2>. 6. <https://www.crfb.org/blogs/do-we-spend-more-interest-defense>.

How About Investing in a Market Index?

A dozen years of strong equity returns has made the market complacent about valuation. While the argument that a higher market P/E multiple was justified because interest rates were at historical lows might have been valid in the short-term, that logic can no longer be justified. Today at 5.5%, the federal funds rate is actually greater than the long-term average.⁷ By being selective and disciplined about valuation, DWLD has built a collection of world-class companies that grow at levels similar to the broader market, but which are priced at a significant discount to the market index. In our experience, if you start with a significantly higher earnings yield and grow at a similar rate over time, your portfolio returns will be attractive on both an absolute and a relative basis. The 44% P/E discount with very similar EPS growth levels as seen in Figure 2, bodes well for DWLD's future returns relative to the MSCI ACWI.

Fig. 2: Selective, Attractive Growth, Undervalued⁸

	DWLD	Index
Holdings	40	2,759
EPS Growth (5 Year)	17.9%	16.0%
P/E (Forward)	10.7x	19.0x

China: Challenges and Opportunities

The state of the Chinese economy has been a big focus for global investors over the last three-to-four decades and even more so since the start of the COVID pandemic in early 2020. In the years leading into the pandemic, from 2013–2019, China's GDP growth averaged an impressive 6.95% per year. In the years since the pandemic, from 2020–2023, GDP growth has averaged a lower but still very acceptable 4.72%. GDP growth was 5.2% last year; the Chinese government's official forecast is for "about 5% growth" in 2024 and economists

are forecasting 4.5% growth in 2025. We do think a return to the 7% pre-pandemic growth rate is improbable because real estate, which accounts for 22% of GDP⁹ and infrastructure will grow at a slower pace. The easy credit environment for real estate developers is finished, and the view that there is strong demand for all large real estate projects in lower-tier cities no longer exists either. Nevertheless, our expectations are in line with most forecasters that the Chinese economy can grow 4–5% annually for the next several years, which is a good macro environment for our Chinese holdings.

A big driver of economic growth is the progress China has made in developing innovative science and research and development (R&D) projects. One way to measure scientific progress is the number of high-impact research papers published every year. These are papers that are cited the most by other scientists worldwide in their own research. In 2003, the U.S. produced 20 times as many high-impact papers as China, according to data from Clarivate a science analytics company based in Philadelphia. By 2013, the U.S. produced about four times as many top papers and in the most recent data examining the number of papers released in 2022, China had surpassed the U.S. as well as the EU in number of papers published. Similarly, the British scientific journal *Nature* measured that in 2014 China contributed less than a third of America's research papers to prestigious scientific journals. By 2023, China had ascended to the top spot. The Leiden Ranking, managed by the Dutch Leiden University, calculated that 6 of the top 10 universities ranked by scientific output were Chinese and that Tsinghua University was now the number-one science and technology university. So, in addition to volume metrics such as leading the world in number of STEM graduates or issuing the most patents for many years the quality of China's science research has made a dramatic leap over the past decade.¹⁰

7. https://ycharts.com/indicators/effective_federal_funds_rate#. 8. Five-year EPS Growth Rate (5-year EPS) is the average annualized earnings per share growth for a company over the past 5 years. The values shown are the weighted average of the 5-year EPS of the stocks in the Fund or Index. Approximately 14.08% of the assets of the Fund are not accounted for in the calculation of 5-year EPS as relevant information on certain companies is not available to the Fund's data provider. Forward Price/Earnings (Forward P/E) Ratio is a stock's price at the date indicated divided by the company's forecasted earnings for the following 12 months based on estimates provided by the Fund's data provider. These values for both the Fund and the Index are the weighted average of the stocks in the portfolio or Index. 9. <https://www.pgpf.org/blog/2024/04/how-much-is-the-national-debt-what-are-the-different-measures-used>. 10. The Economist 6/15/24 "Soaring Dragons" pp. 67–70.

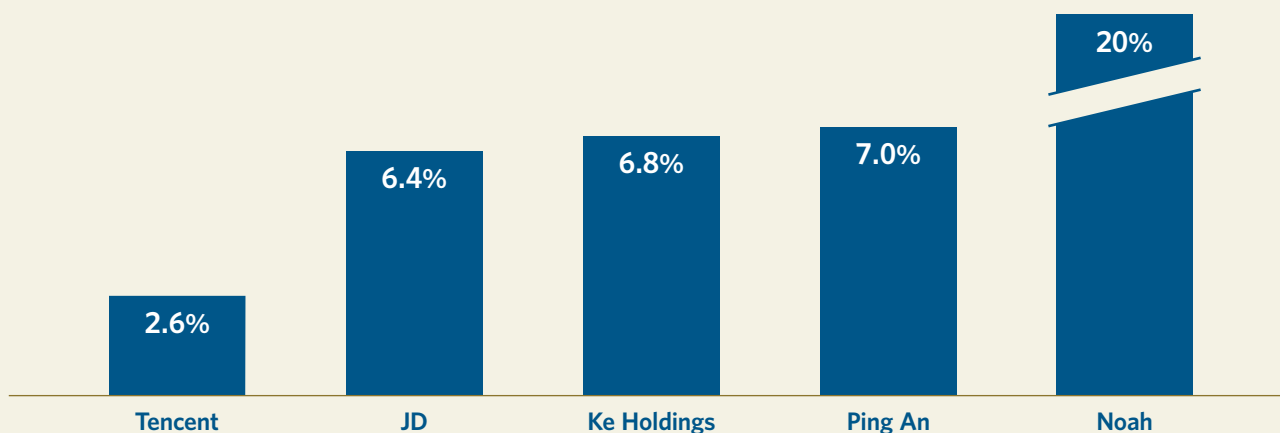
This rapid climb in the level of innovation has crucial implications for the ability of Chinese firms to be among the best in the industries of the future. In 2022, China accounted for 64% of global EV production and 70% of world’s lithium-ion batteries.¹¹ By the end of 2023, BYD passed Tesla to be the world’s biggest manufacturer of purely battery-powered vehicles (*The Economist* 1/13/24: “The car east” pp. 14-16). China also accounts for 80% of solar panels manufactured globally¹² as a result of having driven down manufacturing costs to 16–18.9 cents per watts of generating capacity compared to 24.3–30 cents per watts in the EU and 28 cents in the US.¹³ Even in areas that are at the leading edge of innovation such as quantum computing, China is making significant breakthroughs toward closing the gap with the global leader, the U.S.¹⁴ Another area where China has been making progress is in AI, where it contributes 40% of the world’s research

papers compared with 10% for the U.S. and 15% for the EU and Britain combined. According to Zachary Arnold, an analyst at the Georgetown Centre for Emerging Security and Technology “China’s AI research is world-class. In areas like computer vision and robotics, they have a significant lead.”¹⁵

Investor returns have also benefited from Chinese regulators pushing listed companies to use their cash-rich balance sheets to improve shareholder returns. This effort led by top securities regulator Wu Qing mimics similar regulator-led efforts in Japan and South Korea.¹⁶ Over the past three years, listed Chinese firms have been returning \$280 billion a year in dividends and share repurchases.¹⁷

Figure 3 displays the cash returns to shareholders for the latest twelve months of several of DWLD’s largest Chinese holdings calculated as a percentage of market capitalization.

Fig. 3: China/Hong Kong—Latest-12 Months Shareholder Return as a Percentage of Market Capitalization



Note: Last Twelve Months is through 6/30/24 except for Noah which is through 7/3/24.

11. <https://alj.com/en/perspective/how-china-rose-to-lead-the-world-in-electric-vehicles/>. 12. <https://www.theecoexperts.co.uk/solar-panels/china-solar-industry-dominance>. 13. <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/03/07/business/china-solar-energy-exports.html>. 14. <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3237538/chinese-scientists-claim-record-smashing-quantum-computing-breakthrough>. 15. *The Economist* 6/15/24 “Soaring Dragons” pp. 67–70. 16. <https://www.reuters.com/markets/asia/chinese-companies-rush-hike-dividends-buy-back-shares-japan-style-reform-2024-05-30/>. 17. <https://www.investing.com/news/stock-market-news/goldman-sachs-bullish-on-china-shareholder-returns-3494873>.

These high levels of cash returns to shareholders highlight the following key points: 1) Many of our Chinese holdings have very strong balance sheets with large amounts of net cash. 2) These companies generate a lot of free cash flow, which enables very consistent levels of dividend payments. 3) Managements are taking advantage of the low share prices by buying back their stock. 4) These companies' valuations are very low (see Figure 4).

Fig. 4 **China/Hong Kong—Valuations of Major Stock Indices**

Stock Index	P/E	vs MSCI ACWI	vs S&P 500
MSCI China	10.2x	-46%	-55%
MSCI ACWI	19.0x		
S&P 500	22.9x		

Figure 4 shows the forward P/E multiples of the major stock indices. The huge 46–55% discount that Chinese companies are trading at relative to the global and U.S. stock indices bodes well for future returns. Our Chinese holdings are a collection of competitively advantaged businesses with good growth prospects run by talented and experienced management teams and trading at very attractive valuations.

How Have We Positioned the Portfolio for AI?

As we noted in our last letter, many view generative AI as a transformational technology that, according to Nvidia, is poised to be “bigger than the PC, bigger than mobile and bigger than the internet, by far.” While we would agree that generative AI is going to lead to major technological advances and transform numerous industries, we also expect it will lead to hyperbole, irrational exuberance¹⁸ and unfulfilled promises. The stock market in particular is susceptible to wishful thinking and the fear of

missing out (FOMO). FOMO leads investors to pile into companies making the most headline-grabbing claims about the future while turning their backs on those with proven businesses with demonstrated competitive advantages. In particular, we believe many companies are rewarded for being early beneficiaries of AI demand with the expectation that their revenues and earnings will continue to grow rapidly in the future. The market for AI products and services, however, is still in its very early days and competition is fierce. We believe it is very risky to project who the long-term winners and losers will be based on their past one or two years of performance. This can be a target rich environment for value-conscious stock pickers with a long-term focus.

So how has DWLD positioned itself to take advantage of the growth opportunities created by the AI boom while avoiding overvalued narrative-driven stocks?

We seek out attractive businesses that are both proven and profitable but which also stand to benefit from the growth in AI. Meta, for instance, has a highly profitable growing business as the global leader in social media and messaging with its Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp platforms. AI-recommended content now accounts for 30% of posts read on Facebook and 50% of posts on Instagram.

In addition, Meta’s Llama 3 is widely considered the most advanced open-source large language model family released to date. The company also has detailed a number of compelling AI product initiatives that we believe have the potential to generate significant incremental revenue and earnings for Meta over time. Some of these have

18. Coined by Fed chair Alan Greenspan in 1996.

already gone live, including ad creative automation with generative AI and the Meta AI assistant, which was broadly rolled out across the company's apps in April. We expect that these products will improve significantly over time as the company iterates and expands its features and as the underlying foundational models continue to advance.

While the market appears to have some concerns about the investment levels required for Meta's generative AI initiatives, we believe these investments are worthwhile given the potential for GenAI to redefine user experience and catalyze platform shifts. We are also comforted by management's commitment to financial and cost discipline as well as its strong track record of product execution, which we think raises the odds that Meta's efforts will benefit shareholders in the long-term.

Samsung is another example of a global highly profitable technology leader that is positioned to reap major rewards from the AI opportunity while still trading at a very attractive valuation. As the largest semiconductor memory manufacturer, the largest mobile handset manufacturer and the number-two foundry business, Samsung has built a number of durable competitive advantages. Moreover, high-bandwidth memory (HBM) is proving to be a big opportunity given the memory-intensive demands of AI computing. Although SK Hynix—the world's second-largest memory chipmaker and Samsung's resurgent rival—has an early lead in HBM, we expect Samsung's capacity and engineering scale eventually would help the company reassert its dominance in this fast-growing market.

Our longstanding investment in the largest semiconductor equipment vendor, Applied Materials, predates the investment mania surrounding GenAI,

but its emergence has proven to be an accelerant for the company's core technologies, especially advanced packaging for HBM and multi-chip (tile) integration. The use of new materials and the increase in processing steps required to manufacture chips at 3 nanometers and below expands Applied Materials' addressable market and increases its market share. New transistor structures and power-distribution systems will each draw heavily on Applied Materials' unique expertise in depositing and etching these new features. And the die size of the individual tiles that form the GPU continues to get larger, meaning that more production tools are needed just to produce the same number of GPUs one generation to the next. GPU volume for training alone probably needs to more than double next year to train the 10 trillion parameters anticipated for OpenAI's GPT5.

Meta, Samsung and Applied Materials are all beneficiaries of the AI boom but their reasonable valuations do not build in the expectation of major AI contributions. In these early days of the AI industry's development, we like these companies' combination of an established profitable growing business with the opportunity to build a meaningful AI business over time. ■

■ Notes on Holdings

Humana

Humana is a Medicare-focused U.S. health insurer with an attractive long-term growth profile. Enrollees in the private version of Medicare, called Medicare Advantage (MA), have historically grown at high rates (approximately 8% compound annual growth rate (CAGR) for the past 10 years) because of a growing population of seniors and an increasing percentage of those seniors choosing MA over

traditional fee-for-service Medicare. Per-capita premium growth further bolsters revenue growth in most years. This growth has been matched with a high-teens average return on equity (ROE) over many years, and significant barriers to entry because of the highly regulated nature of the health insurance industry. Humana is the second largest insurer in MA, behind UnitedHealth. In terms of risks, Humana's focus on MA brings program-specific political risks, but we believe the large and growing voting block of MA members (now greater than 10% of voters) offers some protection from extreme outcomes.

In addition to the MA insurance business, Humana also has a growing healthcare services segment, focused on primary care, home health and pharmacy. This segment supplements Humana's third-party provider relationships with in-house capabilities to improve quality and lower costs for members in select markets. Humana also has a small but growing Medicaid business.

We bought Humana shares in DWLD earlier this year, at what we believe are attractive prices (double-digit internal rates of return) after an unexpected uptick in medical costs pressured margins and forced the company to lower guidance, which sent the stock tumbling. This cost uptick is industry-wide and has come just as per-capita premium growth in MA has hit a lull. So, margins are being squeezed from both sides, and competitors have responded with commitments that they will prioritize margins over member growth in coming periods. It likely would take several years for Humana's margins to return back to normal/target, and member growth may temporarily stall or even decline as benefits are cut. But we believe the seeds are now in place for an attractive multiyear

margin improvement cycle as competitors become more disciplined in their annual MA bids, and exit unprofitable geographies. Humana stands to benefit, and should return to attractive growth once the current turmoil has passed.

Tyson Foods

Tyson Foods is a major U.S. meat processor, ranking number one in domestic chicken production, number two in beef and number three in pork. Roughly one out of every five pounds of these three foods produced in the United States comes from a Tyson facility. The company also has a prepared-foods business with several industry-leading brands, including Hillshire Farm and Jimmy Dean as well as a small international business concentrated in Asia.

During the past 30 years, the total volume of poultry and red meat consumed in the U.S. has grown by roughly 1% per annum. Coupling this with increasing U.S. exports, Tyson has historically grown volumes at a 1.0-1.5% CAGR. Additionally, while commodity meat products are a significant portion of Tyson's sales, scale provides a meaningful cost advantage in the meat-processing industry and the company has delivered an average return on tangible invested capital of nearly 30% for the past decade. Looking forward, in addition to expecting modest volume growth domestically, we think that relatively low per-capita meat consumption in its key foreign markets—50% lower in China than in the U.S., for example—offers plenty of runway for Tyson to continue to grow its export volumes and international capacity.

In fiscal year 2023, Tyson's earnings hit a more than ten-year low based on cyclically weak margins across its chicken, beef and pork businesses. In fiscal 2024 so far, earnings remain depressed

as further deterioration in beef margins given low domestic cattle inventories has offset improvement in chicken and pork performance. We believe this downturn has created an attractive opportunity to initiate a position in Tyson as the company is trading at less than 18x depressed fiscal 2024 owner earnings and well below 10x our longer-term estimates of more normalized owner earnings. Key risks include animal disease, feed costs, high-priced merger and acquisition activity and longer-term beef demand trends.

Meituan

Meituan is China's leading super app for local services with more than 700 million users annually. The company operates the go-to platform for local business search and discovery (e.g., restaurants, salons, spas, karaoke, etc.) built on user-generated reviews, ratings, photos/videos and recommendations. In addition, the company offers a range of other popular services such as food delivery, hotel booking, movie-ticket reservations and shared-bike rentals. Among its many products and services, food delivery is the most valuable because of its scale (nearly 20 billion orders amounting to about \$130 billion in meals in 2023) and high user frequency (customers order 39 times per year on average). Based on its strong competitive position (about 70% market share), proven profitability and solid growth prospects, we believe Meituan owns the most attractive food-delivery business globally.

Outside of food delivery, the company's local services marketplace business monetizes largely via commissions on in-store coupons, along with hotel bookings sold and advertising for increased

merchant visibility in the app. Given Meituan's well-known brand in local services and the low costs associated with running the platform, this business has been a major driver of profit growth since its initial public offering. However, during the last two years, the company has had to respond aggressively to competitive encroachment into the local services space by Douyin, China's version of TikTok, which has resulted in slower profit growth for the business. We believe these profit growth headwinds will prove temporary and that both Meituan and Douyin will learn to share the market rationally over the long-term, with Meituan maintaining overall leadership and Douyin excelling in certain use cases and verticals that are better suited to its strength in livestreaming. Given the relatively low online penetration rate of local services, especially as compared to e-commerce, and the still attractive duopoly market structure going forward, we remain excited about Meituan's long-term prospects in this business.

These near-term competitive concerns gave us an opportunity to substantially increase our position in Meituan at very attractive prices. Even after the 36% year-to-date stock price increase, we still find Meituan's valuation attractive at 14x 2024 and 11x 2025 normalized owner earnings, given the company's durable market position and management's track record of strong execution and value creation. Beyond the competitive threat from Douyin, key risks we are closely monitoring include the potential for increased regulatory scrutiny, particularly as it relates to courier employment and benefits, and market saturation in food delivery caused by an inability to increase penetration among lower-income consumers. ■

■ Outlook

In the first half of the year where the stock market index roared ahead and especially given that it was mainly led by a few mega-cap technology names in a very narrow market, we are pleased that we not only kept up with the market but narrowly beat it. Nonetheless, we believe the appropriate focus now is on durability and resilience. Large government budget deficits and higher sovereign debt levels raises the risk of stubborn inflation and reduced government fiscal and monetary options in the future. Then, coupled with valuation levels well above historical averages raises the risk of market weakness.

Given the current economic and market backdrop, we believe DWLD's collection of competitively advantaged businesses with strong balance sheets and cash flow generation trading at a wide 44% discount relative to the MSCI ACWI, is well poised to generate good absolute and relative returns. The combination of market leaders in growing

industries such as Meta, Alphabet, Amazon and Applied Materials, as well as attractively priced durable companies such as leading financial institutions like Capital One, Berkshire Hathaway, Danske Bank and Julius Baer; in addition to undervalued Asian equities trading at very large discounts such as Meituan, Ping An, JD.com, Samsung and Sea Limited creates an attractive portfolio on both a long- and shorter-term basis.

We understand that in uncertain times such as these, it is more important than ever to be able to entrust your savings to an experienced and reliable investment manager with a strong long-term record. During the 50 years since our firm's founding, the Davis Investment Discipline has demonstrated an ability to generate above-average returns based on in-depth fundamental research and analysis, a long-term investment horizon and a strong value discipline. While times have changed, these fundamental principles are timeless and proven. We thank you for your continued trust and interest in DWLD. ■



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- Saving like a pessimist, but investing like an optimist

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Shares of DWLD are bought and sold at market price (not NAV) and are not individually redeemed from the ETF. There can be no guarantee that an active trading market for ETF shares will develop or be maintained, or that their listing will continue or remain unchanged. Buying or selling ETF shares on an exchange may require the payment of brokerage commissions and frequent trading may incur brokerage costs that detract significantly from investment returns.

This material includes candid statements and observations regarding investment strategies, individual securities, and economic and market conditions; however, there is no guarantee that these statements, opinions or forecasts will prove to be correct. These comments may also include the expression of opinions that are speculative in nature and should not be relied on as statements of fact.

Davis Advisors is committed to communicating with our investment partners as candidly as possible because we believe our investors benefit from understanding our investment philosophy and approach. Our views and opinions include "forward-looking statements" which may or may not be accurate over the long term. Forward-looking statements can be identified by words like "believe," "expect," "anticipate," or similar expressions. You should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which are current as of the date of this material. We disclaim any obligation to update or alter any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise. While we believe we have a reasonable basis for our appraisals and we have confidence in our opinions, actual results may differ materially from those we anticipate.

Objective and Risks. The investment objective of Davis Select Worldwide ETF is long-term growth of capital. There can be no assurance that the Fund will achieve its objective. Some important risks of an investment in the Fund are: **stock market risk; common stock risk; market trading risk:** includes the possibility of an inactive market for Fund shares, losses from trading in secondary markets, periods of high volatility, and disruptions in the creation/redemption process. **ONE OR MORE OF THESE FACTORS, AMONG OTHERS, COULD LEAD TO THE FUND'S SHARES TRADING AT A PREMIUM OR DISCOUNT TO NAV; exchange-traded fund risk:** the Fund is subject to the risks of owning the underlying securities as well as the risks of owning an exchange-traded fund generally; **foreign country risk; exposure to industry or sector risk:** significant exposure to a particular industry or sector may cause the Fund to be more impacted by risks relating to and developments affecting the industry or sector; **China risk - generally; headline risk; foreign market risk; large-capitalization companies risk; manager risk; authorized participant concentration risk:** to the extent that Authorized Participants exit the business or are unable or unwilling to proceed with creation and/or redemption orders with respect to the Fund and no other Authorized Participant is able to step forward to create or redeem Creation Units, Fund shares may trade at a discount to NAV and could face delisting; **cybersecurity risk; emerging market risk:** securities

of issuers in emerging and developing markets may present risks not found in more mature markets; **depository receipts risk:** depository receipts involve higher expenses and may trade at a discount (or premium) to the underlying security and may be less liquid than the underlying securities listed on an exchange; **fees and expenses risk; foreign currency risk; and mid- and small-capitalization companies risk; and shareholder concentration risk:** See the prospectus for a complete description of the principal risks

The information provided in this material should not be considered a recommendation to buy, sell or hold any particular security. As of 6/30/24, the top ten holdings of Davis Select Worldwide ETF were: Meta Platforms, 7.18%; Meituan, 5.27%; Ping An Insurance, 5.03%; Capital One Financial, 4.91%; Prosus, 4.68%; Danske Bank, 4.43%; Julius Baer, 4.36%; Berkshire Hathaway, 4.28%; Amazon.com, 4.01%; and Samsung Electronics, 3.89%.

Davis Fundamental ETF Trust has adopted a Portfolio Holdings Disclosure policy that governs the release of non-public portfolio holding information. This policy is described in the Statement of Additional Information. Holding percentages are subject to change. Visit davisetfs.com or call 800-279-0279 for the most current public portfolio holdings information.

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Bps stands for Basis Points. One basis point = 0.01%.

We gather our index data from a combination of reputable sources, including, but not limited to, Lipper, Wilshire, and index websites.

The **MSCI ACWI (All Country World Index)** is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed and emerging markets throughout the world. The index includes reinvestment of dividends, net foreign withholding taxes. The **MSCI China Index** captures large- and mid-cap representation across China A shares, H shares, B shares, Red chips, P chips and foreign listings (e.g., ADRs). With 756 constituents, the index covers about 85% of this China equity universe. Currently, the index includes Large Cap A and Mid Cap A shares represented at 20% of their free float adjusted market capitalization. The **S&P 500 Index** is an unmanaged index of 500 selected common stocks, most of which are listed on the New York Stock Exchange. The index is adjusted for dividends, weighted towards stocks with large market capitalizations and represents approximately two-thirds of the total market value of all domestic common stocks. Investments cannot be made directly in an index.

After 10/31/24, this material must be accompanied by a supplement containing performance data for the most recent quarter end.