Janus Henderson INVESTORS

EUROPEAN FOCUS FUND

At a glance

Performance*
The Fund returned −2.43%, the Index returned −1.25% and the Peer Group returned −2.21%.

Contributors/detractors
BBVA, Banco Santander, and Fresnillo detracted, while Dassault Systèmes, Hexagon and TotalEnergies contributed.

Outlook
Investor attention has shifted increasingly towards the outlook for interest rates, with developments in bond markets likely to remain an important market driver through the remainder of the year.

Portfolio management



Robert Schramm-Fuchs



Marc Schartz, CFA

Investment environment

- European equities made modest gains in October in euro terms but declined in sterling terms as the euro weakened.
- Investor sentiment was generally weak in the first half of the month as higher bond yields (falling prices) and oil prices stoked concerns about economic growth.
- Worries about the French government's finances rose. The country (along with others) also faced protests, mostly over economic grievances.
- Equities recovered their losses as investors increasingly favoured the region's typically more defensive characteristics amid growing worries about artificial intelligence (AI)-related spending.
- Some solid corporate results provided further support, as did the European Central Bank (ECB)'s decision to leave interest rates on hold, even though it suggested it could tighten monetary policy in December.
- The eurozone economy remained unexpectedly resilient, growing by 0.4% over the third quarter. This was down from a 0.6% expansion in the second quarter but better than the predicted.
- Less positively, the flash eurozone composite purchasing managers' index (PMI) fell to a four-month low, as activity contracted in France. PMI growth also softened in Germany.
- Eurozone annual inflation accelerated to a more than three-year high of 3.8% in September, strengthening the case for further monetary policy tightening.

Portfolio review

Several of our banking holdings were among the notable detractors. These included Spanish lenders BBVA and Banco Santander, Dutch bank ABN Amro and Austria's Erste Group. European bank stocks came under pressure as concerns about France's fiscal position brought sovereign risk back onto the agenda. While this has little direct impact on most banks, it is not typically an environment in which the sector thrives. Less pronounced earnings surprises also dampened sentiment, where results were generally robust, but no longer delivered the repeated beats and upgrades investors have come to expect. As the sector was very well-owned, we think this was more a reset in share prices and expectations, than a reflection of a substantial deterioration in the sector's outlook.

Shares in Precious metals miner Fresnillo also underperformed. The sector came under further pressure in October as gold and silver prices fell for a second consecutive month.

Marketing communication
Past performance does not predict future returns.
References made to individual securities do not constitute a recommendation to buy, sell or hold any security, investment strategy or market sector, and should not be assumed to be profitable. Janus Henderson Investors, its affiliated advisor, or its employees, may have a position in the securities mentioned. There is no guarantee that past trends will continue, or forecasts will be realised.
*For benchmark/usage and peer group, if applicable, refer to Fund details on page 3. For relevant descriptions, risks and the Fund's investment policy statement, refer to Additional fund information on page 4.

On the positive side, some of the leading contributors included companies previously perceived as “AI losers” such as Dassault Systèmes and Wolters Kluwer. These stocks began to recover over the summer, with the rebound gathering pace in October as investors took a more nuanced view of the risks and potential benefits of AI.

Measurement technology group Hexagon also added value after the firm delivered strong third-quarter results, with growth and profitability exceeding expectations. In our view, the results suggest that measures implemented by the new management – including better integration of past acquisitions, more decentralised decision-making and a greater focus on cost efficiency – are beginning to bear fruit. We continue to see value in the company's core business, supported by a robust product pipeline, as well as longer-term optionality from its industrial humanoid robotics initiatives.

Another notable contributor was the holding in TotalEnergies, as oil prices continued to rise amid heightened geopolitical tensions and uncertainty surrounding Middle East supply.

In terms of activity, we opened a new position in L’Oréal.

As the world’s largest beauty company, L’Oréal’s scale and diversification across multiple market segments provide meaningful competitive advantages, particularly in terms of its marketing budget, which is significantly superior to that of its peers. The shares have been range-bound in recent years, but we feel the market is underestimating the strength of the underlying business. Its management’s greater emphasis on cost discipline could provide a further tailwind.

We sold the holding in jet engine maker Rolls Royce. While we continue to view the firm as a high-quality business, its share price felt high to us, and we profitably exited the position.

Manager outlook

The situation in the Middle East remains fluid, with intermittent signs of diplomatic progress between the US and Iran continuing to alternate with renewed hostilities. This prolonged period of uncertainty has kept inflation concerns elevated and contributed to the recent rise in global long-term bond yields to multi-year highs. As a result, investor attention has shifted increasingly towards the outlook for interest rates, with developments in bond markets likely to remain an important driver of both asset returns and market leadership through the remainder of the year. Higher bond yields have also brought European sovereign risk back into focus, with particular attention on France.

In Europe, the economic backdrop has continued to improve gradually since the start of the year. Leading indicators have shown increasing signs of stabilisation, most notably in Germany, where the manufacturing PMI returned to expansionary territory for the first time in more than three years in January and strengthened further thereafter towards a multi-year high. This improvement has been reinforced by broadly supportive second- and, more recently, third-quarter earnings seasons. We believe, however, that a more decisive improvement in momentum for domestically oriented European equities is likely to require some easing of the current geopolitical pressures, particularly in the Middle East, which could provide relief through lower energy prices and bond yields. An end to the Russia-Ukraine war would potentially be even more significant, representing a major positive catalyst for Europe, and Eastern Europe in particular.

Another important debate centres on the durability of the AI-driven investment theme that has dominated equity markets for much of the past two years. Companies exposed to semiconductors and AI infrastructure have continued to deliver strong growth and earnings momentum. However, history suggests that sharp reversals in share-price leadership can precede a moderation in underlying growth expectations. Against this backdrop, we have adopted a more balanced approach to the AI theme.

In managing the portfolio, we remain focused on bottom-up stock selection while maintaining balanced exposure across cyclical and more defensive businesses. We also seek to position the portfolio selectively to capture opportunities from both Europe’s global champions and companies with greater leverage to an improving domestic economic backdrop.

Performance (%)

Returns	Cumulative				Annualised			
	1 Month	3 Month	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Since inception (31/01/01)
I Acc (Net)	-2.43	-5.68	-1.00	0.39	15.20	9.52	10.01	7.74
Index	-1.25	-3.28	6.16	9.70	15.76	8.95	9.53	6.81
Peer Group	-2.21	-3.63	4.55	6.25	13.30	6.59	7.99	6.21

12 month rolling	Sep 2025-Sep 2026	Sep 2024-Sep 2025	Sep 2023-Sep 2024	Sep 2022-Sep 2023	Sep 2021-Sep 2022
I Acc (Net)	8.19	20.83	17.46	23.70	-13.57
Index	14.47	15.47	15.28	20.51	-12.78
Peer Group	12.17	11.82	14.63	18.98	-16.01

Performance is on a net of fees basis, with gross income reinvested. Source: at 31/10/26. © 2026 Morningstar, Inc. All rights reserved. The information contained herein: (1) is proprietary to Morningstar and/or its content providers; (2) may not be copied or distributed; and (3) is not warranted to be accurate, complete, or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information. **Past performance does not predict future returns.** Performance/performance target related data will display only where relevant to the share class inception date and annualised target time period. **The value of an investment and the income from it can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount originally invested.** Source for target returns (where applicable) - Janus Henderson Investors. This is a representative share class for the fund, other share classes are available and may be more suitable for your investment needs.

Fund charges will impact the value of your investment. In particular, the ongoing charges applicable to each fund will dilute investment performance, particularly over time. For further explanation of charges please visit our Fund Charges page at www.janushenderson.com.

Note that any differences among portfolio securities currencies, share class currencies and costs to be paid or represented in currencies other than your home currency will expose you to currency risk. Costs and returns may increase or decrease as a result of currency and exchange rate fluctuations.

Investment objective

The Fund aims to provide a return, from a combination of capital growth and income over the long term (5 years or more).

For the fund's investment policy, refer to the Additional fund information on page 4.
Past performance does not predict future returns.

Fund details

Inception date	31 January 2001
Total net assets	911.54m
Asset class	Equities
Domicile	United Kingdom
Structure	OEIC
Base currency	GBP
Index	FTSE World Europe (Ex UK) Index
Peer group	IA Europe ex UK Equity

For benchmark/usage description, refer to Additional fund information on page 4.

Additional fund information

Tax assumptions and reliefs depend upon an investor's particular circumstances and may be subject to change. Availability of share classes shown may be limited by law in certain jurisdictions. Performance records are detailed on the specific KIID, fees and charges may vary and further information can be found in the fund's prospectus and KIID which must be reviewed before investing. Please consult your local sales representative if you have any further queries. As of 02 July 2026, the Janus Henderson European Mid and Large Cap Fund merged into the Janus Henderson European Focus Fund. These are the views of the author at the time of publication and may differ from the views of other individuals/teams at Janus Henderson Investors. Any securities, funds, sectors or indices mentioned within this article do not constitute or form part of any offer or solicitation to buy or sell them. The information in this commentary does not qualify as an investment recommendation. Investment into the fund will acquire units/shares of the fund itself and not the underlying assets owned by the fund. Cash balances and exposures are based on settled and unsettled trades as at the reporting date.
The FTSE World Europe (Ex UK) Index is a measure of the combined performance of large and medium sized companies from developed and advanced emerging European stock markets excluding the UK. It provides a useful comparison against which the Fund's performance can be assessed over time.
The Investment Association (IA) groups funds with similar geographic and/or investment remit into sectors. The Fund's ranking within the sector (as calculated by a number of data providers) can be a useful performance comparison against other funds with similar aims.

Investment policy

The Fund invests at least 80% of its assets in a concentrated portfolio of shares (also known as equities) of companies, of any size, in any industry, in Europe (excluding UK). Companies will be incorporated, headquartered, listed on an exchange in, or deriving significant revenue from, this region. The portfolio may be concentrated in terms of its number of holdings and/or the size of its largest holdings. The Fund may also invest in other assets including Collective Investment Schemes (including those managed by Janus Henderson), cash and money market instruments. The Investment Manager may use derivatives (complex financial instruments) to reduce risk or to manage the Fund more efficiently. The Fund is actively managed with reference to the FTSE World Europe Ex UK Index, which is broadly representative of the companies in which it may invest, as this can provide a useful comparator for assessing the Fund's performance. The Investment Manager has discretion to choose investments for the Fund with weightings different to the index or not in the index. As an additional means of assessing the performance of the Fund, the IA Europe ex UK sector average, which is based on a peer group of broadly similar funds, may also provide a useful comparator.

Investment strategy

The Investment Manager seeks to capture performance by anticipating the catalysts for change in European companies and industries. The investment process blends compelling company-specific stories with sector themes, with a goal of providing access to sustainable long-term growth trends. This results in a portfolio of typically 30 to 50 mainly well-known larger companies and under-researched mid-sized companies. Smaller companies are not normally a significant focus of the portfolio.

Fund specific risks

Shares can lose value rapidly, and typically involve higher risks than bonds or money market instruments. The value of your investment may fall as a result. Shares of small and mid-size companies can be more volatile than shares of larger companies, and at times it may be difficult to value or to sell shares at desired times and prices, increasing the risk of losses. High exposure to a particular country or geographical region carries a higher level of risk than a more broadly diversified portfolio. When a portfolio is concentrated (has a significant portion of its assets invested in a limited number of holdings), an adverse event impacting even a small number of holdings could create significant volatility or losses. Derivatives may be used with the aim of reducing risk or managing the portfolio more efficiently. However, this introduces other risks, in particular, that a derivative counterparty may not meet its contractual obligations. If the Fund holds assets in currencies other than the base currency of the Fund, or you invest in a share/unit class of a different currency to the Fund (unless hedged, i.e. seeks to mitigate exchange rate movements between the share/unit class currency and the base currency of the Fund), the value of your investment may be impacted by changes in exchange rates. Securities could become hard to value or to sell at a desired time and price, especially in extreme market conditions when asset prices may be falling, increasing the risk of investment losses. Losses could be incurred if a counterparty became unwilling or unable to meet its obligations, or as a result of failure or delay in operational processes or the failure of a third party provider.

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INVESTORS

Source: Janus Henderson Investors, as at 31 October 2026, unless otherwise noted.
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