# Lazard Global Total Return and Income Fund

2024

# **Fund Overview**

#### Performance Review<sup>1</sup>

	Share Price (%)	NAV (%)
1 Month	4.0	1.7
3 Month	8.7	4.8
1 Year	14.3	16.6
3 Year	3.6	5.7
5 Year	10.0	9.7
10 Year	8.5	7.6
Since Inception	7.5	7.5

As of March 31, 2024

### Current Fund Data<sup>2</sup>

Total Net Assets (\$)	240.3 million
Shares Outstanding	13,012,942
Net Asset Value Per Share (\$)	18.47
Share Price (\$)	16.33
Premium/Discount (%)	-11.59
Distribution Per Share (\$)	0.10459
Distribution Rate (on share price)3 (%)	6.80
52-Week High-Low Share Price (\$)	16.60/12.68
52-Week High-Low NAV (\$)	18.53/15.22
Total Leveraged Assets (\$)	341.5 million
Leveraged Percentage (%)	29.63

# Recent Distribution History<sup>3</sup>

Payable Date	Distribution (\$)
March 22, 2024	0.10459
February 22, 2024	0.10459
January 22, 2024	0.10459
December 22, 2023	0.09339
November 22, 2023	0.09339
October 24, 2023	0.09339

### About the Fund

Portfolio Manager	Lazard Asset Management LLC
NYSE Symbol	LGI
First Day of Trading	4/28/2004
Inception NAV (\$)	19.06
Inception Share Price (\$)	20.00

# Commentary

During March, the NAV return of the Lazard Global Total Return and Income Fund (the "Fund") was 1.7%, underperforming the MSCI All Country World Index (MSCI ACWI)<sup>4</sup> return of 3.1%. For the year-to-date, the NAV return of 4.8% is behind the MSCI ACWI Index return of 8.2%. The since-inception annualized NAV return of 7.5% is below the 7.8% return on the Fund's benchmark index (MSCI ACWI and MSCI World Index linked)<sup>5</sup>.

Equity markets worldwide rose sharply in the first quarter, as enthusiasm for technology stocks and optimism about the global outlook for interest rates fueled the sustained rally. The blockbuster quarterly earnings of US-based AI chip designer Nvidia reverberated across global stock markets, sparking a strong, broadbased rally that was especially beneficial to shares of technology companies linked to AI and raising hopes that the resultant frenzy would support economic growth worldwide. In the US, the S&P 500 soared thanks to expectations that interest rate cuts were imminent and strong investor appetite for technology stocks. Four members of the so-called "Magnificent Seven" group of mega cap stocks—NVIDIA, Meta, Amazon, and Microsoft—accounted for 50% of the index's gain. The pan-European STOXX 600 ended the period at a record high, thanks to optimism that interest rate cuts from the ECB and the UK were on the horizon. In Japan, the TOPIX surged, as positive sentiment about the Japanese economy, corporate reforms, and expectations that the BOJ will take a cautious approach toward raising interest rates bolstered risk sentiment. Meanwhile, in emerging Asia, Chinese stocks receded as a slew of disappointing quarterly earnings results undermined expectations for a strong market recovery. In March, the Fund benefitted from security selection in the consumer discretionary sector. Conversely, security selection in the health care, financials and industrials sectors and within the US and the UK detracted from relative performance.

Performance for the smaller, short duration emerging market currency and debt portion of the Fund was positive in March but remains in negative territory for the year-to-date.



# Investment Objective

The Fund's investment objective is total return, consisting of capital appreciation and current income. The Fund's net assets are invested in a portfolio of approximately 60 to 80 US and non-US equity securities, including American Depository Receipts, generally of companies with market capitalizations greater than \$2 billion, and may include investments in emerging markets. The Fund also invests in emerging market currencies (primarily by entry into forward currency contracts), or instruments whose value is derived from the performance of an underlying emerging market currency, and also may invest in debt obligations, including government, government agency and corporate obligations and structured notes denominated in emerging market currencies.

# Selected Portfolio Statistics<sup>6</sup>

Top 10 Global Equity Holdings

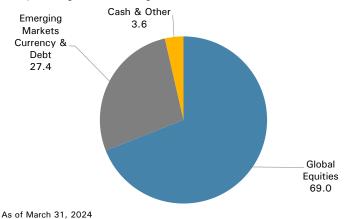
	Dollar Value (\$mm)	Net Assets (%)	Dividend Yield (%)
Microsoft	11.6	4.8	0.67
Alphabet	10.0	4.1	N/A
Amazon	9.3	3.9	N/A
Accenture	6.1	2.5	1.57
Relx	5.8	2.4	1.61
Booz Allen Hamilton	5.7	2.4	1.33
Taiwan Semiconductor	5.5	2.3	1.35
Thermo Fisher Scientific	5.3	2.2	0.26
Visa	5.3	2.2	0.70
IQVIA	5.1	2.1	N/A

# **Global Equity Sector Weightings**

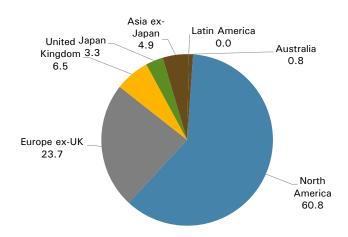
	(%)
Communication Services	6.2
Consumer Discretionary	12.8
Consumer Staples	10.5
Energy	0.0
Financials	17.4
Health Care	11.4
Industrials	20.0
Information Technology	20.8
Materials	0.9
Real Estate	0.0
Utilities	0.0

#### **Total LGI Allocations**

#### (as a percentage of total leveraged assets)



# Global Equity Regional Weightings<sup>7</sup>



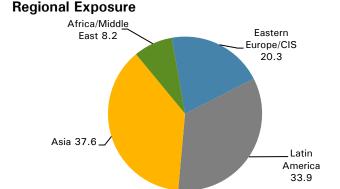
# **Emerging Market Currency and Debt**

# **Investment Vehicle Allocation**

Forwards & Foreign Currency	84.1%
Bonds	15.9%
Structured Notes	0.0%

# **Investment Characteristics**

Average Duration	9 Months <sup>8</sup>



#### Risks

Past performance does not guarantee future results. Prices and rates will fluctuate with changes in market conditions. Distributions are subject to recharacterization for tax purposes after the end of the fiscal year. If the Fund pays distributions in excess of its net investment income, this excess could be a return of capital. Past distributions have included ordinary income, net capital gains, and/or a return of capital. A return of capital does not necessarily reflect a fund's investment performance and should not be confused with yield or income.

Risk factors include:

Investment and Market Risk. An investment in the Fund's Common Stock is subject to investment risk, including the possible loss of the entire principal amount invested. An investment in Common Stock represents an indirect investment in the Fund's portfolio investments. Their value, like other market investments, may move up or down, sometimes rapidly and unpredictably.

The Fund's Common Stock, at any point in time, may be worth less than the amount originally invested, even after taking into account the reinvestment of Fund dividends and distributions. The Fund's investment strategy includes purchasing investments that have embedded financial leverage, such as forward currency contracts, which magnifies the risk that you may lose money.

Leverage Risk. Using leverage is a speculative investment technique and involves certain risks. These include higher volatility of net asset value, the likelihood of more volatility in the market value of Common Stock and the possibility either that the Fund's return will fall if the interest rate on any borrowings rises, or that income will fluctuate because the interest rate of borrowings varies. If the market value of the Fund's portfolio declines, the leverage will result in a greater decrease in net asset value than if the Fund were not leveraged. Such greater net asset value decrease also will tend to cause a greater decline in the market price for Common Stock.

Non-U.S. and Emerging Markets Investments Risk. The Fund may invest in securities of non-US issuers operating in developed countries. These investments involve special risks, including the following: less publicly available information about non-U.S. issuers or markets because of less rigorous disclosure or accounting standards or regulatory practices; many non-US markets are smaller, less liquid and more volatile; the economies of non-U.S. countries may grow at slower rates than expected or may experience a downturn or recession; and the impact of economic, political, social or diplomatic events.

The Fund may also invest in emerging markets securities. Particular risks include: smaller market capitalization of securities markets; significant price volatility; restrictions on foreign investment; and possible seizure of a company's assets. In addition, foreign investors may be required to register the proceeds of sales. Future economic or political crises could lead to price controls, forced mergers, expropriation or confiscatory taxation, seizure, nationalization, or creation of government monopolies, all of which may affect currencies adversely.

Investing in sovereign debt securities will expose the Fund to the direct or indirect consequences of political, social or economic changes in the emerging market countries that issue the securities. Many of these countries are also characterized by political uncertainty or instability. The ability and willingness of sovereign obligors in emerging market countries or the governmental authorities that control repayment of their debt to pay principal and interest on such debt when due may depend on general economic and political conditions within the relevant country. Countries in which the Fund intends to invest have historically experienced, and may continue to experience, high rates of inflation, high interest rates, exchange rate fluctuations, trade difficulties and extreme poverty and unemployment.

The market values of corporate debt securities are sensitive to individual corporate developments and changes in economic conditions. Emerging market issuers may be highly leveraged and may not have more traditional methods of financing available to them. Therefore, their ability to service their debt obligations during an economic downturn or during sustained periods of rising interest rates may be impaired, resulting in a higher risk of default.

<u>Currency Risks</u>. An investment in Common Stock, as measured in US dollars, may change significantly when the values of the emerging market local currencies change relative to the US dollar, thereby subjecting investors to currency risks. The currencies of emerging market countries may experience significant declines against the US dollar, and significant devaluation may occur subsequent to investments in these currencies by the Fund. Other risks include the dependence on the Investment Manager's ability to predict movements in exchange rates and imperfect correlations between movements in exchange rates. The Fund may use currency hedging transactions which might result in a poorer overall performance for the Fund than if the Fund had not engaged in any hedging transactions.

Currency Investments could be adversely affected by delays in, or a refusal to grant, repatriation of funds or conversion of emerging market currencies. Forward currency contracts are highly volatile, and a relatively small price movement in a forward currency contract may result in substantial losses to the Fund.

<u>Forward Currency Contract</u>. A contract for the purchase or sale from a counterparty of a specified currency at a specified future date. Such contracts may involve the purchase or sale of the local currency against the U.S. dollar or may involve the local currency and another developed market base currency.

Net Asset Value Per Share. An expression for net asset value that represents a fund's (mutual, exchange-traded, and closed-end) or a company's value per share. The Fund's Net Asset Value Per Share is calculated by dividing its total net asset value by the number of shares outstanding.

<u>Total Leveraged Assets</u>. The Fund's Net Assets, increased by financial leverage employed by the Fund, which is (1) the amount the Fund has drawn from its available line of credit and (2) the notional value of forward currency contracts the Fund enters into.

Leveraged Percentage. The Fund's financial leverage as a percentage of the total of its Total Leveraged Assets.

## Notes

- 1 Past performance does not guarantee future results. The NAV results are calculated using the Fund's Net Asset Value per share and assumes reinvestment of all distributions. NAV performance data shown reflects the deduction of the Fund's operating expenses, which include (but are not limited to): management fees, professional services, and custodian and administration fees. The Fund's inception date was April 28, 2004.
- 2 Data is based on the Fund's holdings as of March 31, 2024, which are subject to change in the future.
- 3 The Distribution Rate is calculated by dividing the annualized monthly distribution by the share price shown above. The monthly distribution is established by the Fund's Board of Directors at the beginning of each year pursuant to a level distribution policy. Under the policy, in an effort to seek to maintain a stable monthly distribution to shareholders, the Fund makes regular monthly distributions at a fixed rate per share. The Policy may have the effect of causing anyone (or more) of such distributions to be made from the Fund's assets as a return of capital if Fund income and realized capital gains were less than the amount(s) distributed. In addition, in order to make such distributions, the Fund might also have to sell a portion of its investment portfolio at a time when independent investment judgment might not dictate such action. Based on current information, 100.0% of the year-to-date cumulative distributions are estimated to be comprised of return of capital. It is important to note that an investment in shares of the Fund is not comparable to a fixed-income investment such as a bond or a note. The Policy is subject to change or may be discontinued in the Board's discretion.
- 4 Source: MSCI. MSCI makes no express or implied warranties or representations and shall have no liabilities whatsoever with respect to any MSCI data contained herein. The MSCI data may not be further redistributed or used as a basis for any other indices or any securities or financial products. This report is not approved, reviewed, or produced by MSCI.
- 5 The Fund's benchmark index is the MSCI World Index/MSCI ACWI (Linked), an unmanaged index created by the Fund's investment manager which links the performance of the MSCI World Index until September 1, 2016 (when the Fund's investment strategy changed) and the MSCI ACWI beginning September 1, 2016.
- 6 The identification of certain securities should not be considered a recommendation or solicitation to purchase or sell these securities. It should not be assumed that any investment in these securities was, or will be, profitable. Allocations are subject to change.
- 7 Asia ex-Japan includes Australia.
- 8 A measure of the average cash-weighted term-to-maturity of the investment holdings. Duration is a measure of the price sensitivity of a bond to interest rate movements. Duration for a forward currency contract is equal to its term-to-maturity.

The information provided in this material should not be considered a recommendation to purchase or sell any security. There is no assurance that any securities referenced herein will remain in the Fund's portfolio or that securities sold have not been repurchased. The securities discussed may not represent the Fund's entire portfolio.

It should not be assumed that any of the referenced securities were or will prove to be profitable, or that the investment decisions we make in the future will be profitable. Information and opinions presented have been obtained or derived, from services believed by Lazard to be reliable. Lazard makes no representation as to their accuracy or completeness. All opinions expressed herein are as of March 31, 2024 and are subject to change. The Fund is distributed by Lazard Asset Management Securities LLC.