



Your success. Our priority.

Acquisition of BMO's EMEA asset management business

On 12 April we were pleased to announce the acquisition of the EMEA asset management business of BMO. Below are some frequently asked questions.

If you have further queries please contact your relationship manager (if you are a professional client) or our Client Service Desk at 0800 953 0134* (UK) or +352 46 40 10 7190* (EEA and Switzerland). *Please note that calls may be recorded.

FAQ

1. Who is BMO?

BMO is North America's eighth largest bank by assets, serving more than 12 million customers through its personal and commercial banking, wealth management and investment management businesses.

BMO's asset management business gives us an additional \$124 billion of AUM in Europe with leading positions in important growth areas. The acquisition means we will add new capabilities as well as enhance our established strengths in areas including responsible investment, liability-driven investment (LDI), outsourced management (OCIO), and European real estate.

The acquisition also adds further depth and scale in traditional asset classes. BMO's European fund range comprises several publicly traded investment trusts, including F&C Investment Trust PLC, the world's longest-tenured investment trust.

2. Why are you buying BMO's EMEA asset management business?

The business is a great addition to Columbia Threadneedle that will deliver meaningful value for clients and our business. It's a strategic acquisition and an important next step as we expand our solutions capabilities, broaden our client offering and add key talent to our experienced team. It brings complementary capabilities, enabling us to serve more clients and meet their needs more fully.

3. How does it fit with your existing capabilities?

The acquisition is largely complementary. We are adding important new capabilities and enhancing our offering in core established areas to create a "best of both" investment offering for our existing and future clients.

Importantly, this includes key growth areas where BMO is a market leader, such as responsible investment, liability-driven investment (LDI) and fiduciary management (OCIO). It also adds further depth and scale in traditional asset classes.

4. Will my fund or investment be affected?

We understand the importance of maintaining stability and continuity as we proceed gradually from here. For our existing clients, it will be business as usual with no impact on your current funds and portfolios. We remain focused on continuing to deliver consistent, competitive investment performance.

Over time, we will assess the combined fund line-up in the UK and Europe and make decisions that are in the best interests of our customers.

5. What is the timeline for the transaction?

BMO will continue to operate the business as they have until the transaction has closed, which we expect towards the end of the calendar year. As a result, there will be no immediate changes to either business. As we work through our plans over the next several months, we remain focused on continuing to deliver consistent, competitive investment performance and driving business momentum.

Between now and closing, BMO and Columbia Threadneedle will work closely together to ensure we fully understand what client needs and preferences are before we contemplate any changes. Our approach in all cases will be to preserve or enhance each investment process after fully understanding client preferences and having a chance to fully assess the current investment process and identifying any areas for enhancement.

6. Will you be changing your brand?

There will be no changes to our Columbia Threadneedle Investments branding.

7. Will there be changes to Columbia Threadneedle's leadership team?

We expect to enhance our senior team in EMEA as a result of the acquisition. One of the benefits the acquisition brings is new talent and we have had very positive discussions with members of the BMO senior team and we expect some will join us in EMEA.

We are excited about the opportunity to work together to deliver the many benefits to be gained from this acquisition.

8. How would you characterise the cultures of the two organisations?

Asset management is a people business and cultural fit was critical to our decision to move forward with this opportunity. There is strong cultural alignment between our organisations. We share a client-centric culture, fundamental belief in active management, collaborative and research-based investment approach, and long-held commitment to responsible investment principles.

9. How will Columbia Threadneedle manage the transition period and beyond?

As we work through our plans over the next several months, we remain focused on continuing to deliver consistent, competitive investment performance and driving business momentum.

BMO will continue to operate the business as they have until the transaction completes, which we expect towards the end of the calendar year. As a result, there will be no immediate changes.

We will proceed gradually, engaging with teams to define our future approach in a manner that will add depth and breadth to our offering and bring the best of both firms to our clients globally. For those areas that are new to Columbia Threadneedle (for example, LDI, Fiduciary and European real estate) it will be largely business as usual. Where we have established teams, for example in RI and European fixed income, we will look to deepen our existing capabilities by bringing together talent and expertise from both organisations.

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Columbia Threadneedle Investments is the global brand name of the Columbia and Threadneedle group of companies.