

# Japan Value Equity Value Focus

September 2024

## Strategy

Value Focus Strategy is a focused, Japanese large/mid-cap equity strategy that aims for above-benchmark return in the mid- to long-term. The portfolio managers build the portfolio by investing in undervalued stocks with careful consideration of risk/return. A bottom-up approach is used. The Japanese equity research team analyzes the intrinsic value of individual stocks and compares it with market price to identify undervalued stocks. The portfolio is not constrained by sector weights.

## Market Review

Japanese equities fell as the market was bearish on JPY appreciation versus USD, stemming from a narrowing interest rate differential between Japan and the US and Shigeru Ishiba chosen as the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)'s new leader, although the market was bullish on China's large-scale economic stimulus measures. Air Transportation and Warehousing & Harbor Transportation Services stocks rose as they are relatively less impacted by the JPY appreciation. However, Mining stocks dropped because of a decline in crude oil prices amid concerns over a recession and increasing oil supply.

The Japanese equity market fell in the first half of the month due to growing concerns of a recession on the back of a weaker-than-expected US ISM Manufacturing Index and JPY appreciation, stemming from the narrowed gap between Japanese and US interest rates. The market subsequently faced an upside resistance as JPY/USD temporarily strengthened to 139 yen, then share prices rose on growing expectations for a soft landing in the US following a 50bps rate cut by the Fed. The market temporarily saw JPY depreciation and higher stock prices towards the end of the month as the market favored China's economic stimulus measures and expectations for Sanae Takaichi, a former Economic Security Minister and supporter of easing monetary policy, to win the LDP leadership race. However, TOPIX ended nearly flat MoM due to rapid JPY appreciation and lower stock prices following Ishiba winning the race as he advocates increasing taxes on financial income and more restrictive fiscal policy.

### Composite Performance (%) Excess Return\*



	Sep	QTD	YTD	1Y	3Y	5Y	SI
--	-----	-----	-----	----	----	----	----

Composite	-0.44	-2.75	13.02	10.72	17.50	15.01	9.86
Benchmark	-2.19	-5.85	14.35	16.92	11.95	13.74	10.07

### Composite Summary

Composite Name	Japan Value Equity Focus					
Benchmark	MSCI Japan**					
Inception Date	March 2018					
Number of Holdings	40					
Assets Under Management	Domestic	JPY 4.3B (USD 30M)				
	Overseas	JPY 28.7B (USD 200M)				
	Strategy Total	JPY 33B (USD 231M)				

Top Ten Holdings	%
TORAY INDUSTRIES INC	5.69
OMRON CORP	5.17
NIDEC CORP	5.01
KIRIN HOLDINGS CO LTD	4.67
SUMITOMO MITSUI TRUST HOLDIN	4.61
FANUC CORP	4.56
MURATA MANUFACTURING CO LTD	4.07
ASAHI KASEI CORP	4.06
SUMITOMO MITSUI FINANCIAL GR	4.00
KYOCERA CORP	3.92
Total	45.76

### Characteristics

	Portfolio	Benchmark
P/E	13.45x	14.15x
P/B	0.98x	1.39x
ROE	7.30%	9.83%
Dividend Yield	2.93%	2.49%

### Market Cap

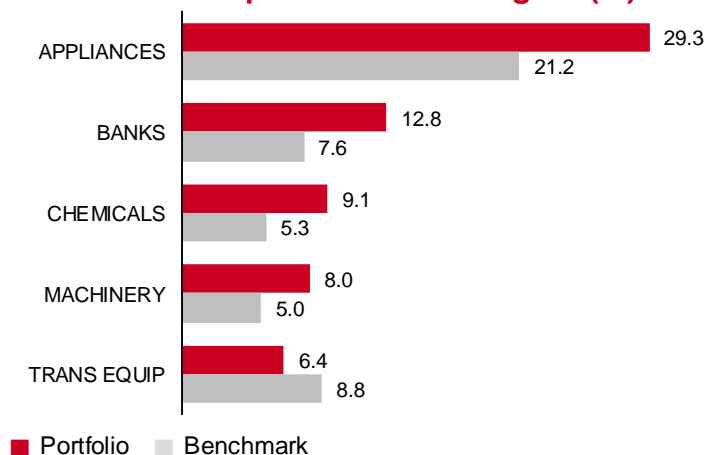
	Portfolio	Benchmark
Large	62.1%	82.7%
Mid	37.9%	16.7%
Small	0.0%	0.1%
Others	0.0%	0.5%

\* Excess return figures are annualized for three years and longer.

The data shown is of a representative account. Past performance is not a guarantee of future returns. This document has been prepared solely for informational purposes and does not constitute an offer to sell securities in any jurisdiction. Actual performance achieved by a client portfolio may be affected by a variety of factors, including the initial balance of the account, the timing and amount of any additions to or withdrawals from the portfolio, changes made to the account to reflect the specific investment needs or preferences of the client, duration and timing of participation as a client, and a client portfolio's risk tolerance, investment objectives and investment time horizon. The returns presented above are gross and do not reflect the deduction of investment advisory fees which will reduce returns.

# Japan Value Equity Value Focus

## Top Five Sector Weights (%)



**Eitaro Tanaka, CMA**

Japanese Equity Group Head  
Senior Portfolio Manager  
20 years investment experience  
9 years at Sompo AM

## Attribution Analysis

Both sector allocation and stock selection contributed to performance. In sector allocation, overweighting (OW) of Textiles and Chemicals and underweighting (UW) of Pharms contributed to performance, while UW of Retail and Wholesale and OW of Banks detracted. In stock selection, OW of Toray, Omron, and Kao contributed to performance, while OW of Mitsubishi Estate, Osaka Gas, and Murata Manufacturing detracted. Last month we increased holdings of Shizuoka Financial Group, East Japan Railway, and Sumitomo Metal Mining and decreased holdings of Makita, Kao, and Dai-ichi Life Holdings.

## Outlook

We expect the market will fluctuate around the recent bottom but show signs of a potential recovery.

FY24 Japanese corporate earnings will likely grow and share prices do not look overvalued given their general valuation metrics such as forward P/E ratio, whilst the Japanese market will unlikely see a full-scaled upward trend as long as fears over a US recession continue to linger. Share prices fell as the market priced in concerns over policies of Ishiba's new administration. We believe that investors will regain a sense of calm as directions of economic policies and fiscal management of the administration become clearer and that the market will show signs of a potential recovery over the near term. We also believe that it is difficult to envision a large correction to the Japanese market given strong equity demand from the high level of large scale share buyback seen recently and the BoJ's relatively accommodative monetary policy compared to the US and Europe.

## Contact Information

Daniel Robbins  
+81 3 5290 3414

Takuya Orime  
+81 3 5290 3406

Group email: [global@sompo-am.co.jp](mailto:global@sompo-am.co.jp)

### Important Notice

This material is being made available to you by SOMPO ASSET MANAGEMENT CO., LTD, "Sompo AM". You are not permitted to copy this material or pass it to anyone else. This material does not constitute an offer to sell securities in any jurisdiction. This material is not, and must not be treated as, investment advice or investment recommendations. Before making any investment decision, you should seek independent investment, legal, tax, accounting or other professional advice as appropriate, none of which is offered to you by Sompo AM. No investment service will be provided in or into any jurisdiction except to the extent permitted by local law. Sompo AM makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, except as required by law or in the case of fraud, regarding the accuracy, completeness or adequacy of the information in this material. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

### For the attention of investors in the US

This report is for the use of non-U.S. persons.

### For the attention of investors in the United Kingdom:

To the extent that this material is being issued by any persons who are not authorised under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (the "Act"), it is being issued in the United Kingdom only to, and/or is directed only at, persons who are of a kind to whom it may lawfully be issued or directed under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005, including persons who are authorised under the Act ("authorised persons"), certain persons having professional experience in matters relating to investments, high net worth companies and high net worth unincorporated associations or partnerships. This material is only available to such persons in the United Kingdom and this material must not be copied or distributed to any other person without seeking prior consent from Sompo AM.

### For the attention of investors in Abu Dhabi:

This material and the information contained herein, does not constitute, and is not intended to constitute, a public offer of securities or other form of investments in the UAE and accordingly should not be construed as such. The portfolio management services detailed herein are only being offered to a limited number of sophisticated investors in the UAE: (a) who are willing and able to conduct an independent investigation of the risks involved in the related investments and (b) upon their specific request. The investments and services detailed herein have not been approved by or licensed or registered with the UAE Central Bank, the Securities and Commodities Authority or any other relevant licensing authorities or governmental agencies in the UAE. This material is for the use of the named addressee only and should not be given or shown to any other person (other than employees, agents or consultants in connection with the addressee's consideration thereof). No transaction will be concluded in the UAE and any enquiries regarding the investments and services detailed herein should be made to Sompo AM.

Sompo AM is a registered Financial Instruments Firm with the Director General of Kanto Local Finance Bureau ("KLFB") of the Japan Ministry of Finance, KLFB (KINSYO) No. 351, and is a member of the Japan Investment Advisers Association, and The Investment Trusts Association, Japan. The firm is also registered as an investment adviser with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Such registration does not imply any specific skill or training.