

Japan Value Equity Green

November 2024

Strategy

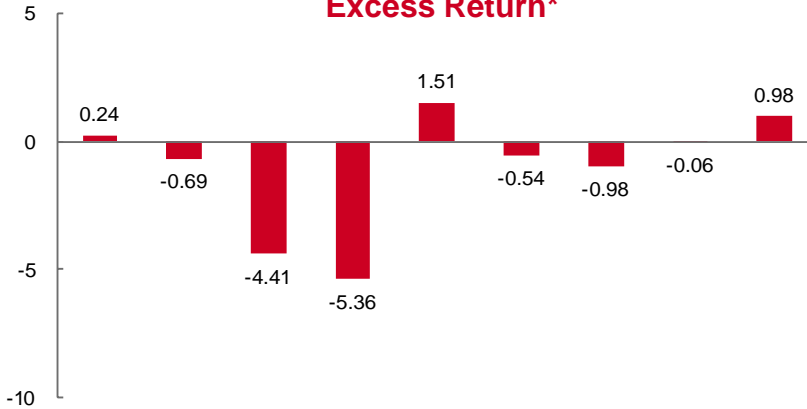
Green Strategy invests in Japanese equities that meet environmental management and investment value criteria, and aims to achieve above-benchmark return in the mid- to long-term. We use a bottom-up approach. The Japanese equity research team analyzes intrinsic value of individual stocks and compares it with market price in order to identify undervalued stocks. Environmental research is conducted by Sompo Risk Management, a leading company in domestic ESG research.

Market Review

Share prices were dragged on by JPY appreciation versus USD, which was caused by concerns over protectionist policies from President-elect Donald Trump, such as increased tariffs, and the shrinking interest rate gap between the two countries. The Banks, Securities, and Insurance sectors rose as investors were positive on increasing domestic interest rates, while the Transportation Equipment and Chemicals sectors fell as investors were negative on potential increased tariffs from Trump.

Share prices were up in the first half of the month as the market was positive on Trump's victory in the US election given his stimulus policies of lowering corporate and income tax. This was despite a slight downtick caused by concerns of additional rate hikes by the BoJ. Concerns over protectionist policies from Trump, such as increased tariffs, and domestic earnings results coming in below investor expectations then weighed on the market. Share prices continued to fall through the end of the month on the release of actual details of tariffs, the drop in US interest rates after Trump publicly picked fiscal hawk Scott Bessent as next Secretary of the Treasury, and JPY appreciating to below JPY150 to 1USD.

Composite Performance (%) Excess Return*



| Top Ten Holdings | % |
|------------------------------|-------|
| MITSUBISHI UFJ FINANCIAL GRO | 4.61 |
| SUMITOMO MITSUI FINANCIAL GR | 3.60 |
| TOYOTA MOTOR CORP | 2.71 |
| NIPPON TELEGRAPH & TELEPHONE | 2.68 |
| MURATA MANUFACTURING CO LTD | 2.37 |
| DAIKIN INDUSTRIES LTD | 2.26 |
| PANASONIC HOLDINGS CORP | 2.22 |
| EAST JAPAN RAILWAY CO | 2.19 |
| TORAY INDUSTRIES INC | 2.18 |
| MEBUKI FINANCIAL GROUP INC | 2.00 |
| Total | 26.82 |

| | Nov | QTD | YTD | 1Y | 3Y | 5Y | 7Y | 10Y | SI |
|-----------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|
| Composite | -0.28 | 0.67 | 11.39 | 10.18 | 15.95 | 11.67 | 7.51 | 9.05 | 6.07 |
| Benchmark | -0.51 | 1.36 | 15.80 | 15.54 | 14.44 | 12.22 | 8.48 | 9.11 | 5.09 |

Composite Summary

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Composite Name | Sompo Japan Green Mother Fund | | | | | | | | |
| Benchmark | TOPIX Total Return** | | | | | | | | |
| Inception Date | July 2006 | | | | | | | | |
| Number of Holdings | 77 | | | | | | | | |
| Bloomberg Code | SNAMGRN | | | | | | | | |
| Assets Under Management | Strategy Total | JPY 48.6B (USD 324M) | | | | | | | |

| Characteristics | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Portfolio | Benchmark |
| P/E | 12.68x | 13.56x |
| P/B | 0.97x | 1.33x |
| ROE | 7.62% | 9.82% |
| Dividend Yield | 3.21% | 2.59% |

| Market Cap | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Portfolio | Benchmark |
| Large | 45.0% | 67.0% |
| Mid | 46.6% | 25.4% |
| Small | 6.8% | 7.6% |
| Others | 0.0% | - |

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

** TOPIX is a market benchmark with functionality as an investable index, covering an extensive proportion of the Japanese stock market. TOPIX is a free-float adjusted market capitalization-weighted index. TOPIX shows the measure of current market capitalization assuming that market capitalization as of the base date (January 4, 1968) is 100 points. This is a measure of the overall trend in the stock market, and is used as a benchmark for investment in Japan stocks. Dividends used in calculating the TOPIX Total Return Index are gross (i.e. before tax).

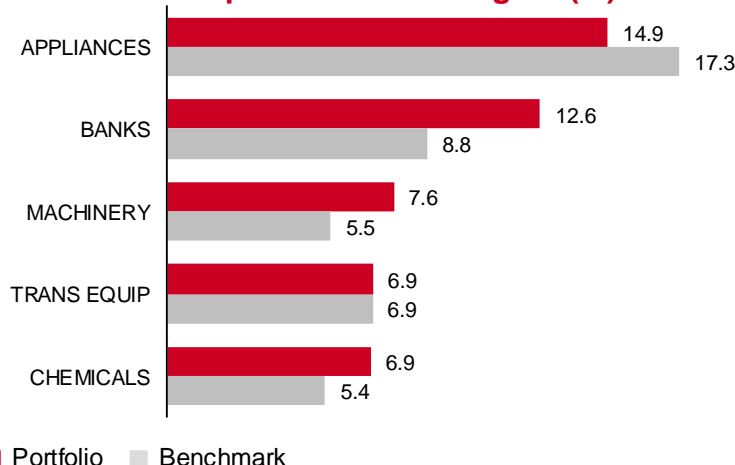
Performance is net of fees.

The data shown is of a representative account. Past performance is not a guarantee of future returns.

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Japan Value Equity Green

Top Five Sector Weights (%)



Yuya Harashima, CMA, CFA
Portfolio Manager
10 years investment experience
8 years at Sompo AM

Attribution Analysis

While sector allocation contributed to performance, stock selection detracted. In sector allocation, overweighting (OW) of Banks and Textiles and underweighting (UW) of Wholesale contributed to performance, while UW of Services, Securities, and Insurance detracted. In stock selection, OW of United Arrows, Panasonic Holdings, and Mebuki Financial Group contributed to performance, while OW of Omron and Sumco and UW of Sony Group detracted. Last month we increased holdings of Murata Manufacturing, Daikin Industries, and Japan Post Bank and decreased holdings of Net One Systems, Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, and Sumitomo Electric Industries.

Outlook

We expect the market will face heavy upside resistance over the near term.

While concerns about the slowing US economy remain, Japanese corporate earnings will likely grow on the back of a recovery in domestic real wages and capital efficiency improvement measures implemented by companies following pressure from the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE). Share prices do not look overvalued given current general valuation metrics such as forward P/E. However, downward pressure on share prices will likely increase because of concerns of increased tariffs from the US and worries that JPY will continue to appreciate on the back of divergent monetary policy between the US and Japan. That said, it is difficult to envision a large correction to the Japanese market given strong equity demand from the high level of large-scale share buybacks seen recently and the BoJ's relatively accommodative monetary policy compared to the US and Europe.

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