

# Japan Value Equity SRI

December 2024

## Strategy

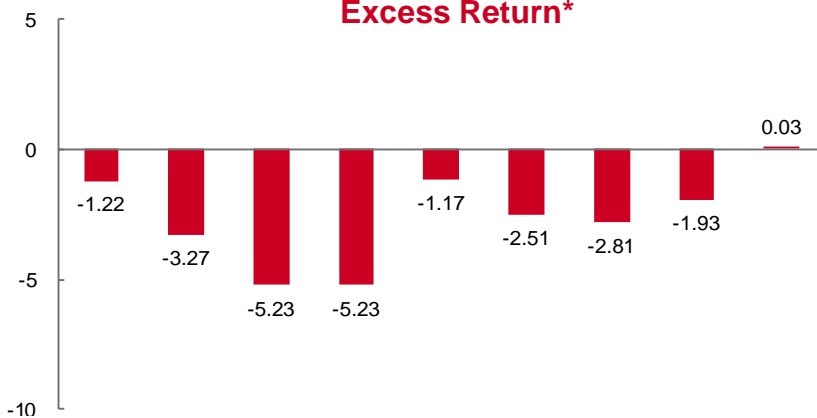
SRI Strategy invests in Japanese equities which meet the criteria of ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) management and investment value, and aims to achieve above benchmark return in the mid- to long-term. Our equity investment takes a bottom-up approach in which the Japanese equity research team analyzes intrinsic value of individual stocks and compares it with market price in order to identify undervalued stocks. ESG research is conducted by Sompo Risk Management, which is a leading company in domestic ESG research.

## Market Review

The Japanese market rose during the month as investors were positive on significant JPY depreciation against USD caused by the expanding interest rate gap between the two countries. Transportation equipment names were a large driver of the growth. They benefited from the significant depreciation of JPY, expectations surrounding the merger of the two domestic automobile majors of Honda and Nissan, and reports that Toyota aims to roughly double its ROE.

The market rose in the first half of the month as China's Caixin PMI beat expectation and hopes grew for the GPIF (Government Pension Investment Fund) to raise its allocation to equity following reports the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare will raise the investment return target for the largest pension fund in the country. The market then dropped somewhat as although the BoJ left rates unchanged and the central bank governor Kazuo Ueda stated he would not be rushing into rate hikes, the market was negative on the prospect of slow rate cuts by the Fed in 2025 despite the US central bank lowering rates 25bps during the month. Share prices then picked up again through the end of the month on the retreat of excessive fears of slower Fed rate cuts following weaker-than-expected core PCE inflation numbers and JPY depreciation versus USD.

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



Top Ten Holdings	%
MITSUBISHI ESTATE CO LTD	4.11
TORAY INDUSTRIES INC	4.05
SUMITOMO MITSUI TRUST GROUP	4.02
NIPPON TELEGRAPH & TELEPHONE	4.01
MURATA MANUFACTURING CO LTD	3.98
KIRIN HOLDINGS CO LTD	3.51
SAN-IN GODO BANK LTD/THE	3.35
OMRON CORP	3.33
NIDEC CORP	3.11
MEBUKI FINANCIAL GROUP INC	3.10
Total	36.55

	Dec	QTD	YTD	1Y	3Y	5Y	7Y	10Y	SI
Composite	2.80	2.16	15.22	15.22	13.48	10.27	6.04	7.62	6.71
Benchmark	4.02	5.43	20.45	20.45	14.65	12.78	8.85	9.54	6.68

### Composite Summary

Composite Name	Sompo Japan SRI Mother Fund	
Benchmark	TOPIX Total Return**	
Inception Date	January 2005	
Number of Holdings	41	
Bloomberg Code	SNAMSRI	
Assets Under Management	Strategy Total	JPY 2.5B (USD 16M)

Characteristics		
	Portfolio	Benchmark
P/E	14.25x	14.01x
P/B	1.08x	1.38x
ROE	7.56%	9.87%
Dividend Yield	2.95%	2.52%

Market Cap		
	Portfolio	Benchmark
Large	47.3%	67.3%
Mid	36.0%	25.2%
Small	10.1%	7.5%
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).

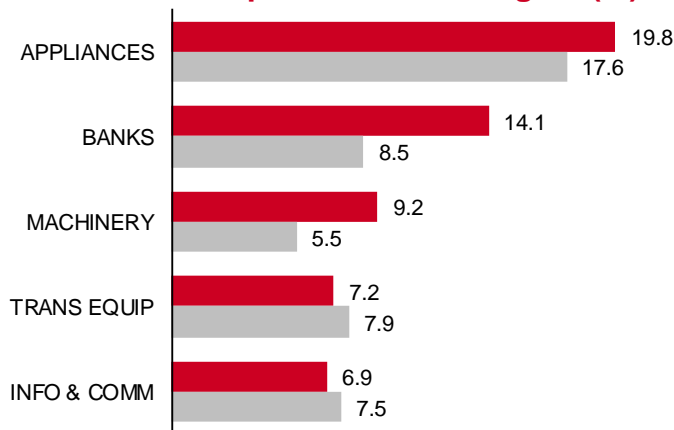
Performance is net of fees.

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

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 net of a model fee of 35bps, which is the highest fee charged to investors.

## Japan Value Equity SRI

### Top Five Sector Weights (%)



■ Portfolio ■ Benchmark

### Attribution Analysis

Both sector allocation and stock selection detracted from performance. In sector allocation, underweighting (UW) of Elec Power & Gas, Pharms, and Retail contributed to performance, while overweighting (OW) of Land Trans and Banks and UW of Wholesale detracted. In stock selection, OW of Omron and Fujitsu General and UW of Daiichi Sankyo contributed to performance, while UW of Toyota Motor and OW of Resona Holdings and Mebuki Financial Group detracted. Last month we increased holdings of Omron, Denso, and Kubota and decreased holdings of Dai-ichi Life Holdings, Daifuku, and Shimizu Corporation.

### Outlook

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

Japanese corporate earnings will likely grow on the back of a recovery in domestic real wages, a cyclical recovery to the manufacturing sector, 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 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.

### 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.