

Japan Value Equity SRI

August 2025

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

Japanese market prices rose on increased expectations for a fed rate cut and a drop in Trump tariff policy concerns. Value outperformed growth as Japanese long-term interest rates rose on the back of expectations for the BoJ to hike rates. Prices rose in the first half of the month despite a brief slip caused by weak US jobs data. Expectations rose for rate cuts in the US and investors were positive on the US promising Japan it will fix the double tariff oversight. The market rose further in the middle of the month as the US once again delayed the implementation of additional tariffs on China following US-China trade talks, easing investor concerns around Trump tariff policy. The market then seesawed through the end of the month, supported by comments from Fed chair Jerome Powell at the Jackson Hole symposium hinting at a rate cut, but buffeted by heightened concerns over Fed independence following the announcement from US President Donald Trump that he will fire Fed governor Lisa Cook.

Composite Performance (%) Excess Return*



Top Ten Holdings	%
NIDEC CORP	4.22
MEBUKI FINANCIAL GROUP INC	4.09
MURATA MANUFACTURING CO LTD	4.05
MITSUBISHI ESTATE CO LTD	3.87
KIRIN HOLDINGS CO LTD	3.74
YAMATO HOLDINGS CO LTD	3.71
NTT INC	3.59
KAO CORP	3.52
SUMCO CORP	3.38
SUMITOMO MITSUI TRUST GROUP	3.33
Total	37.50

	Aug	QTD	YTD	1Y	3Y	5Y	7Y	10Y	SI
Composite	5.01	10.61	12.29	14.18	16.10	16.71	8.74	7.96	7.09
Benchmark	4.52	7.83	11.95	16.23	19.06	16.46	11.17	9.71	7.04

Composite Summary

Composite Name	Sompo Japan SRI Mother Fund	
Benchmark	TOPIX Total Return**	
Inception Date	January 2005	
Number of Holdings	40	
Bloomberg Code	SNAMSRI	
Assets Under Management	Strategy Total	JPY 2.1B (USD 14M)

Characteristics		
	Portfolio	Benchmark
P/E	14.52x	15.18x
P/B	1.11x	1.49x
ROE	7.66%	9.84%
Dividend Yield	2.97%	2.48%

Market Cap		
	Portfolio	Benchmark
Large	49.1%	65.9%
Mid	38.1%	26.4%
Small	12.0%	7.7%
Others	0.0%	-

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

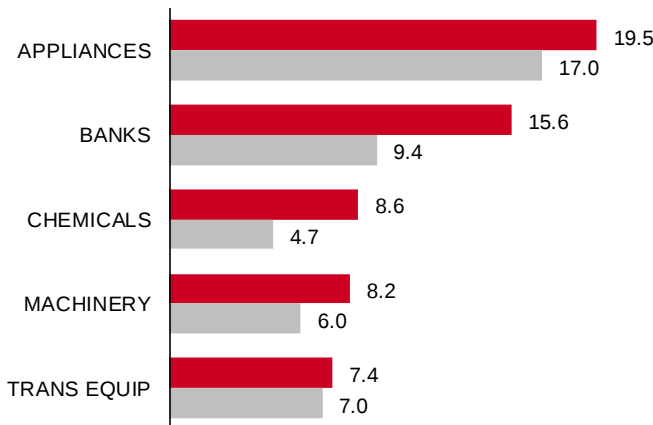
** TOPIX is a market benchmark with functionality as an investable index, covering an extensive proportion of the Japanese stock market. TOPIX is a free-float adjusted market capitalization-weighted index. TOPIX shows the measure of current market capitalization assuming that market capitalization as 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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Top Five Sector Weights (%)



■ Portfolio ■ Benchmark

Attribution Analysis

Sector allocation detracted from performance while stock selection contributed. In sector allocation, overweighting (OW) of Real Estate, Banks, and Metal Prod contributed to performance, while underweighting (UW) of Wholesale and Nonferrous and OW of Textiles detracted. In stock selection, UW of Hitachi and Tokyo Electron and OW of Yamato Holdings contributed to performance, while UW of SoftBank and OW of Omron and artience detracted. Last month we increased holdings of Nippon Kayaku, Omron, and artience and decreased holdings of Resona Holdings, Aisin, and Astellas Pharma.

Outlook

We expect the market will continue to face heavy upside resistance. We urge caution over the near term given that valuation metrics like forward P/E look overall somewhat overheated, having been pulled upwards by a small number of stocks. However, corporate earnings forecasts for this fiscal year may now be revised upwards given the heightened likelihood they will not fall as much as originally expected following the easing of Trump's tariffs. In addition, we do not foresee any large fall in the Japanese market as there is strong equity demand from the high level of large-scale share buybacks seen recently and the BoJ has relatively accommodative monetary policy compared to the US and Europe. While we do expect investors to more readily make predictions of earnings growth as the negative impacts of the Trump tariffs fade away in the second half of the coming fiscal year, we believe it will still take some time before we see serious fundamentals-driven market growth.



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