

Allianz Best Styles Global Equity

Monthly commentary

Investment Objective

The Fund aims at long-term capital growth by investing in global equity markets.

What Happened in October

Global equities mostly ended October lower. Japanese stocks were a rare bright spot, advancing on hopes of higher government spending after the ruling Liberal Democratic Party lost its parliamentary majority for the first time in 15 years. Elsewhere, however, early gains were more than offset by a weak close to the month. At a sector level, Health Care, Materials, Consumer Staples and Real Estate fell the most, while Financials, Communication Services and Energy moved higher.

US stocks lost ground over October. Shares trended higher for much of the month, with the Nasdaq Composite Index hitting a fresh high as mega-cap tech stocks returned to favour, before slumping on the final trading day of the month as tech earnings highlighted the growing cost of investment in artificial intelligence (AI). US shares have started to price in a growing possibility that Donald Trump may win the US presidential election. The former president has vowed to cut taxes and lower regulation, moves that are seen as being positive for equities. While the race for the White House remains neck and neck, Trump appears to have a slight advantage in the seven swing states that will likely decide the election result.

European equities retreated over October. Sentiment was knocked by the growing possibility that Donald Trump may win November's presidential election, as he vowed to impose a 20% tariff on imports from Europe. At a sector level, Information Technology, Real Estate and Materials companies fell the most, while Energy was the only sector in the MSCI Europe Index to deliver a positive return.

Japanese equities bucked the broader sell-off in stocks to advance over October. Sentiment was lifted by a weaker tone to the yen and hopes of increased government spending after a surprise result in Japan's general election.

Portfolio Review

In October, the Fund returned positively (in EUR, gross of fees), ahead of its benchmark, the MSCI World Index.

October was a mixed yet relatively favourable month for global investment styles. The contrarian investment style Value performed negatively. On the other hand, the trend-following investment styles Growth, Revisions, and Momentum all contributed positively, with Growth being the strongest. The more defensive style Quality posted negative results.

Market Outlook

We continue to regard a "soft landing" in the US as the most probable scenario. However, the past has shown that such forecasts are uncertain. Recent inflation, labour market and activity data do not necessarily suggest another rate cut by the US Federal Reserve (Fed) at the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting at the beginning of November. Nevertheless, recent statements by Fed officials indicate that a rate step is probable. Economic conditions outside the US vary greatly. Downside risks predominate in the euro area, whereas huge state support fuels hopes of an upswing in China. The Japanese economy appears comparatively robust. Overall, we expect a favourable trend in corporate earnings, which is why we remain optimistic for the equity markets. Nevertheless, the US presidential elections in November and the persistent conflicts in the Middle East and in Ukraine might trigger increased volatility. As the market environment remains dynamic, it makes sense to pursue an active investment approach.

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All data are sourced from Bloomberg and Allianz Global Investors as of 31 October 2024 unless otherwise stated.

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