

# Allianz Thematica

## Monthly commentary

### Investment Objective

The Fund aims at long-term capital growth by investing in global equity markets with a focus on theme and stock selection in accordance with environmental and social characteristics.

### What Happened in January

January was a turbulent month for global equity markets, with the MSCI All Country World Index (ACWI) finishing the month modestly higher. Oil majors and defence stocks led gains across major indices early on after the US launched airstrikes against Caracas and captured Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. However, trade war jitters weighed on sentiment after US President Donald Trump threatened to slap extra tariffs on eight European economies for opposing his ambitions to annex Greenland, triggering a rift with European leaders and stoking concerns over the future of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) alliance. Meanwhile, heightened geopolitical tensions in the Middle East were an additional headwind, with rhetoric intensifying between Washington and Tehran as nuclear talks remained stalled and political unrest persisted in Iran after security forces killed thousands in a lethal crackdown against anti-government protestors.

Japanese stocks finished in front as hopes for pre-election stimulus bolstered sentiment. European stocks were next, while the US finished further behind. Emerging markets outpaced their developed market peers, helped by a weak US dollar.

Turning to the MSCI ACWI, all sectors generated positive returns in January. Energy was the strongest performer, while Materials and Industrials also posted solid gains. Conversely, Information Technology and Health Care were among the underperformers.

In currency markets, the US dollar sold off, touching a 4-year low in a sustained flight of capital out of US assets. Oil prices rose in January with Brent crude closing the month near USD 70 a barrel. Gold subsequently breached USD 5,600 an ounce amid soaring safe-haven demand as geopolitical and economic uncertainty lingered in the aftermath of deteriorating trans-Atlantic relations over Greenland and increased US-Iran tensions. However, gold plunged at month-end, closing January below USD 4,900 as investors booked profits.

## Performance Analysis

The Fund returned positively (in EUR, gross of fees) in January, well ahead of the benchmark index MSCI AC World Index.

The sector allocation had a positive effect on relative performance driven by the overweight to the Industrials and Materials sectors, which both outperformed in January. Selection was a positive contributor in particular within the Information Technology sector, where the portfolio was underweighting the mega cap Technology companies, as well as the Industrials and Materials sectors.

Theme-wise, all themes resulted in a positive contribution to performance over the course of January. The themes Artificial Intelligence (AI) Adoption and Strategic Autonomy were however the most significant outperformers followed by Electrification and Humanoid Robots.

Single stock-wise, the underweight in Technology mega cap stocks Microsoft and Apple resulted in a positive contribution as the stock underperformed due to concerns around AI infrastructure spending and AI implications for software. The positions in Rainbow Robotics, Advantest, Lam Research and Teradyne all performed well in January driven by good results and a stronger market focus on AI beneficiaries and applications. Materials companies Cameco, Glencore and Albemarle were also notable outperformers on the back of rising raw materials prices. First Solar lagged broader markets as analyst downgrades, weaker bookings, guidance cuts and margin concerns pressured shares after strong 2025 gains. Affirm underperformed despite earnings beats as rising credit-loss provisions and "Buy Now, Pay Later." valuation concerns weighed on sentiment. Additionally, portfolio underweights in mega-cap tech Alphabet and high-growth Micron Technology versus strong sector returns further detracted from relative performance.

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