

The AXA logo is displayed in a large, bold, grey sans-serif font. It is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the page, partially overlapping a decorative graphic consisting of a dark blue triangle and a red diagonal line.

# PRESS RELEASE

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NEW YORK, DECEMBER 11, 2017

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## **AXA's 1290 FUNDS NOTCH THREE 4-STAR RATINGS FROM MORNINGSTAR**

*Fund Group Provides Institutional-Quality Investment Expertise for  
Financial Professionals and Individual Clients*

[AXA Equitable](#), a leading financial protection company, announced today its 1290 Funds have reached a significant performance milestone, achieving a three-year track record and earning a four-star Morningstar Rating™ for three of its funds based on risk-adjusted returns.

The 1290 Funds provide institutional-quality investment expertise for financial professionals and all types of individual investors, through a thoughtfully designed lineup. The four-star rated funds are as follows (as of December 11, 2017):

- 1290 GAMCO Small/Mid Cap Value Fund (TNVIX): A small- and mid-capitalization strategy. As of 11/30/2017, this Fund (I Shares) had an Overall Morningstar Rating™ of four stars out of 653 US Small Blend funds that are rated by Morningstar.
- 1290 High Yield Bond Fund (TNHIX): An actively-managed high yield strategy combining bottom-up security selection with macro perspective. As of 11/30/2017, this Fund (I Shares) had an Overall Morningstar Rating™ of four stars out of 612 US High Yield Bond funds that are rated by Morningstar.
- 1290 SmartBeta Equity Fund (TNBIX): A strategy that seeks to avoid full participation in speculative bubbles and exhibit less extreme downturns during market shocks. As of 11/30/2017, this Fund (I Shares) had an Overall Morningstar Rating™ of four stars out of 711 US World Large Stock funds that are rated by Morningstar.

AXA's 1290 Funds launched in November of 2014 and has a total of 18 funds. Most recently, in 2016, the group added a new low-volatility equity fund and a suite of nine target-date funds which invest extensively in ETFs.

For nearly 20 years, 1290 Asset Managers, the investment advisor to 1290 Funds, has delivered a multi-asset-class investment portfolio through an open-architecture platform of well-known subadvisors. The group leverages AXA's global resources and footprint to bring institutional asset management expertise to the U.S. market in high-growth investment niches, such as high yield and smart beta.

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*Mutual fund investing involves risk; Principal loss is possible.*

*Please consider the charges, risks, expenses, and investment objectives carefully before purchasing a mutual fund. For a prospectus containing this and other information, please contact a Financial Professional. Read it carefully before you invest or send money.*

Investments in small/mid cap companies may involve greater risks than investments in larger, more established issuers. An investor's principal value in a target-date fund is not guaranteed at any time, including at the fund's target date. Investment diversification does not guarantee a profit or protection against loss. Past investment performance is no indication or guarantee of future performance or results.

1290 Funds® is a registered service mark of AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company, New York, NY 10104. AXA Equitable Funds Management Group, LLC (FMG LLC), doing business as 1290 Asset Managers, serves as investment adviser to the 1290 Funds. AXA S.A. is a French holding company for a group of international insurance and financial services companies, including AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company (NY, NY) and its wholly owned subsidiary, FMG LLC. The 1290 Funds are distributed by ALPS Distributors, Inc., which is not affiliated with FMG, LLC, AXA Equitable, AXA Advisors or the subadvisors.

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Securities products are offered through AXA Advisors, LLC (member [FINRA](#) and [SIPC](#)) 1290 Avenue of the Americas, NY, NY 10104 (212) 314-4600

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The Morningstar Rating for funds, or "star rating", is calculated for managed products (including mutual funds, variable annuity and variable life subaccounts, exchange-traded funds, closed-end funds, and separate accounts) with at least a three-year history. Exchange-traded funds and open-ended mutual funds are considered a single population for comparative purposes. It is calculated based on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure that accounts for variation in a managed product's monthly excess performance, placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. The top 10% of products in each product category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5% receive 4 stars, the next 35% receive 3 stars, the next 22.5% receive 2 stars, and the bottom 10% receive 1 star. The Overall Morningstar Rating for a managed product is

derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its three-, five-, and 10- year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. The 1290 GAMCO Small/Mid Cap Value Fund (I Share) was rated 4 stars out of 653 US Small Blend Funds. The 1290 High Yield Bond Fund (I Share) was rated 4 stars out of 612 US High Yield Bond Funds. The 1290 SmartBeta Equity Fund (I Share) was rated 4 stars out of 711 US World Large Stock Funds.

**Past performance is no guarantee of future results.**

#### **About AXA**

“AXA”(or AXA in the U.S.) is a brand name of AXA Equitable Financial Services, LLC and its family of companies, including AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company (NY, NY), MONY Life Insurance Company of America (AZ stock company, administrative office: Jersey City, NJ), AXA Advisors, LLC, and AXA Distributors, LLC. In business since 1859, AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company is a leading financial protection company and one of the nation’s premier providers of life insurance and annuity products distributed to individuals and business owners through its retail distribution channel, AXA Advisors, LLC (member FINRA, SIPC) and to the financial services market through its wholesale distribution channel, AXA Distributors, LLC.

AXA S.A. (also referred to as “AXA Group”) is a Paris-headquartered holding company for a group of international insurance and financial services companies, including AXA Equitable Financial Services, LLC companies. AXA S.A. is a worldwide leader in financial protection strategies and wealth management with 107 million clients in 64 countries as of Dec. 31, 2016. AXA S.A. has been ranked the No. 1 insurance brand in the world by Interbrand for nine consecutive years as of Sept. 25, 2017.

The obligations of AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company and MONY Life Insurance Company of America are backed solely by their claims-paying ability. Find AXA on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. For more information, visit [www.axa.com](http://www.axa.com). GE-131949(12/17)(exp. 12/19)

#### **About 1290 Asset Managers:**

1290 Asset Managers® serves as the investment advisor to the 1290 Funds, managing approximately \$108.9 billion in total assets under management in insurance separate accounts, U.S. mutual funds and offshore funds as of 10/31/17. 1290 Asset Managers® serves as the trade name of AXA Equitable Funds Management Group, LLC (FMG), a wholly owned subsidiary of AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company.

1290 Funds is part of the AXA family in the U.S. The 1290 Funds were named after AXA’s corporate headquarters building at 1290 Avenue of the Americas in Manhattan, the heart of New York City. To learn more about the 1290 Funds and see detailed profiles of each mutual fund, please visit: [www.1290funds.com](http://www.1290funds.com).