

Market Overview

The second quarter of 2017 was another positive one for global equities, spurred on by U.S. indices moving to new record highs as continued economic improvement encouraged the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates for the second time this year. European news was dominated by elections in France and the U.K. Japanese stocks advanced as the International Monetary Fund raised its forecast for 2017 GDP growth from 0.8% to 1.2% – the largest upward revision among developed nations.

The MSCI World Index (the Fund's benchmark) gained 4% during the quarter. All but two sectors ended the quarter higher, with industrials leading the market's advance but telecommunication services trailing and energy stocks lagging badly amid further weakness in oil prices. The Fund kept pace with rising markets over the quarter and outperformed its benchmark index.

Fund Overview

The 1290 SmartBeta Equity Fund pursues its investment objective by investing at least 80% of its net assets, plus borrowings for investment purposes, in equity securities. The Fund's strategy of low volatility, high earnings sustainability was rewarded against a volatile market backdrop.

Spotlight on Holdings

What helped performance during the quarter?

- The Fund's bias toward stocks with superior earnings sustainability, a proprietary measure of earnings quality, was rewarded this quarter. The positions in McDonald's (0.0%*) and Nvidia (0.53%*) were among those higher-quality names which contributed positively to active performance.
- The strategy's avoidance of stocks with higher volatility such as General Electric (0.0%*) and Intel (0.12%*) also contributed positively to performance.
- The Fund's lower-than-benchmark exposure to the energy sector proved beneficial this quarter. The zero weight in Chevron (0.0%*) and Schlumberger (0.0%*) featured among the top contributors to performance at the individual stock level.

What hurt performance during the quarter?

- The Fund had an underweight exposure to the IT sector which weighed on performance. At the individual stock level, the Fund's lower-than-benchmark exposure to Alphabet (0.62%*) was a key detractor.

* % of total market value of fund holdings as of 6/30/17. Subject to change.
Current and future Fund holdings are subject to risk.

An investor should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of the Fund carefully before investing. To obtain a prospectus containing this and other information, please call 1-888-310-0416 or download the file from www.1290funds.com. Read the prospectus carefully before you invest.

1290 SmartBeta Equity Fund seeks to achieve long-term capital appreciation. Performance may be affected by one or more of the following risks. Foreign markets, particularly emerging markets, may be less liquid, more volatile and subject to less government supervision than domestic markets. Security values also may be negatively affected by changes in the exchange rates between the U.S. dollar and foreign currencies. Differences between U.S. and foreign legal, political and economic systems, regulatory regimes and market practices also may impact security values and it may take more time to clear and settle trades.

The **MSCI World Index** is a broad global equity benchmark that represents large and mid-cap equity performance across 23 developed markets countries. It covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country and MSCI World benchmark does not offer exposure to emerging markets.

Past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

The Fund may not be successful in implementing its investment strategy or may not employ a successful investment strategy, and there can be no assurance that the Fund will grow to or maintain an economically viable size, which could result in the Fund being liquidated at any time without shareholder approval and at a time that may not be favorable for all shareholders. Until the Fund is fully capitalized it may not be pursuing its investment objective or executing its principal investment strategies.

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1290 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10104

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AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company (NY, NY)

(AXA000451) (exp. 12/31/17)