

Market Overview

Markets opened the first quarter of 2018 with record highs, but later came under pressure as global equities suffered a sell-off in February, partly because of concerns about tightening monetary policy after stronger-than-expected US wage growth. Market volatility continued into March driven by fears of a trade war between the U.S. and China as President Trump announced a raft of tariffs, which led to China responding with its own measures against U.S. imports. Jerome Powell, the new chair of the Federal Reserve (the Fed), raised interest rates as expected. While in Europe, a transition deal was approved that would see the U.K. remain in the European Union until the end of 2020. Most sectors displayed negative returns over the quarter with energy and telecommunications being the worst performing sectors. IT and consumer discretionary were the only two sectors showing positive returns.

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 underperformed its benchmark the MSCI World Index (Net) this quarter, driven by the Fund's Low Volatility exposure at the beginning of the period. However, as market volatility increased later in the quarter, the Fund's defensive profile was rewarded

Fund Highlights

What helped performance during the quarter?

- Quality factors were rewarded generally this quarter. The Fund's exposure to stocks such as Adobe Systems (0.70%*) and Mastercard (0.79%*), which the manager's proprietary measure of quality identified as having strong sustainable earnings growth, helped drive portfolio return.

What hurt performance during the quarter?

- The Fund had a lower-than-benchmark exposure to the IT sector over the quarter, largely driven by the relative volatility of technology stocks such as Microsoft (0.00%*) and Cisco Systems (0.00%*). This proved unhelpful as the sector outperformed the broad market, despite coming under pressure toward the end of the quarter.
- The Fund's focus on low volatility and quality resulted in an overweight exposure to the consumer staples sector, which weighed on performance.

Source for all figures above: AXA Investment Managers

* % of total market value of fund holdings as of 3/31/18. 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. In general, stocks and other equity security values fluctuate, and sometimes widely fluctuate, in response to changes in a company's financial condition as well as general market economic and political conditions and other factors. 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 (Net)** 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. Individuals cannot invest directly in an index.

Past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

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AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company (NY, NY)

(AXA000586) (exp. 9/30/18)