

Market Overview

World stocks posted strong performance over the first quarter of 2019, the MSCI World Index, the Fund's benchmark, rose 12.5% in U.S. dollar terms. The improving Sino-U.S. trade relationship, dovish statements from major central banks – most notably the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) and the European Central Bank (ECB) – and positive earnings results helped global equities flourish. However, later in the quarter, several factors weighed on sentiment, including apprehension about global growth and geopolitics, in particular, the abrupt ending of the U.S.-North Korea summit, India-Pakistan military hostilities and the uncertainty around Brexit (the U.K.'s decision to leave the EU). The inversion of the U.S. yield curve (when yields on three-month treasuries were higher than their 10-year counterparts) also damaged stocks at the end of March, as investors feared this was a sign of an upcoming U.S. recession.

Investors rotated into more cyclical sectors at the opening of the period, but shifted back into defensive sectors in March with consumer staples rallying. The IT sector was the best performing sector over the full period with IT services stocks fueling the growth.

Fund Overview

The 1290 SmartBeta Equity Fund pursues its investment objective to seek to achieve long-term capital appreciation by investing at least 80% of its net assets, plus borrowings for investment purposes, in equity securities. The Fund underperformed the MSCI World Index over the quarter. The strategy's exposure to low volatility and quality went unrewarded at the beginning of the period as markets rallied and investors took on risk. Later in the period low volatility and quality exposure boosted relative performance as the market shifted toward more defensive equity.

Fund Highlights

What helped performance during the quarter?

- Fund positioning within the financials sector was rewarded, driven by the strategy's above benchmark exposure to the insurance industry.
- Also proving beneficial was the Fund's bias towards stocks exhibiting high quality earnings profiles, with overweight exposure to information services companies Intuit (0.51%*) and Accenture (0.71%*) among the top stock contributors over the period.

What hurt performance during the quarter?

- Overall the Fund's focus on stocks with lower volatility went unrewarded. Not holding companies exhibiting higher volatility such as Amazon (0.00%*) and Facebook (0.00%*) held back returns.
- Below-benchmark exposure to the IT sector weighed on returns as Apple (0.70%*) featured among the top stock detractors over the period.

Source for all figures above: AXA Investment Managers

* % of total market value of fund holdings as of 3/31/19. Subject to change.

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, the value of stocks and equity securities 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)

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