

# Financials and Health Care lead large relative gains

- Dollar decline continues to influence developed market stock returns
- Insurance company takeover and pharmaceuticals picks lead gains
- Underweight to IT along with overweights to UK and Europe aid returns

## Retrospect: Emerging market stocks see best relative performance against the S&P 500 since 2022

Developed market stocks (as represented by the MSCI EAFE Index) did well in January in local currency terms and particularly well in US dollar terms, as the dollar once again depreciated against the basket of currencies included in the Bloomberg DXY Dollar Index. In terms of specifics, the Australian dollar, the Indian rupee, the British pound and the euro were the strongest performers against the dollar.

Emerging market stocks had their best relative performance versus the S&P 500 since November 2022, as Columbia, Peru, and South Korea produced gains of nearly 30% during the month. Signs of a global cyclical recovery were the rising tide that lifted many emerging market boats.

In the US, stocks were able to overcome a 2.59% intra-month drawdown to finish the month with a 1.44% gain, the ninth consecutive month of positive returns for the S&P 500 Index, despite the threat of a US military strike on Iran, the deaths of two ICE protestors in Minnesota, and a partial government shutdown.

*“Signs of a global cyclical recovery were the rising tide that lifted many emerging market boats*

As was widely expected, the Federal Reserve held interest rates steady at their 28 January meeting. In their accompanying prepared statement, the Fed removed language citing unemployment risks, noted that economic activity had been expanding at a solid pace, and repeated that inflation remained somewhat elevated, all of which served as reasons for staying pat on rates.

The threat of supply disruption due to tensions in the Middle East drove the price of Brent crude oil to jump from USD 60.85 a gallon at the beginning of the month to USD 70.69 by its end, the largest monthly increase since July 2023. Oil service companies had strong gains, with Schlumberger rising 26.06%, on the anticipation they will play a significant role in upgrading Venezuelan oil production going forward.

## PORTFOLIO MANAGER'S UPDATE JANUARY 2026

Marketing material for professional investors, not for onward distribution



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**Table 1 - Fund performance USD**

|                                               | January | Three months | Six months | One year | Three years | Five years | Since inception (01/05) |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------|--------------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Global Premium Equities, gross of fees</b> | 4.22%   | 9.86%        | 15.40%     | 34.41%   | 18.74%      | 15.90%     | 11.20%                  |
| <b>MSCI World Index (net return)</b>          | 2.24%   | 3.36%        | 11.65%     | 19.58%   | 19.31%      | 12.87%     | 11.09%                  |

The performance figures presented above correspond to the D USD share class of the Robeco Global Premium Equities UCITS fund. Performance for other share classes may vary. Performance over one year is annualized. The value of your investments may fluctuate. Past results are no guarantee of future performance. In reality, management fees and other costs are also charged. These have a negative effect on the returns shown. All data to 31 January 2026.

Source: Robeco Boston Partners.

**Table 2 - Fund performance EUR**

|                                               | January | Three months | Six months | One year | Three years | Five years | Since inception (08/13) |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------|--------------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Global Premium Equities, gross of fees</b> | 2.88%   | 6.58%        | 11.02%     | 17.45%   | 15.19%      | 16.38%     | 10.02%                  |
| <b>MSCI World Index (net return)</b>          | 0.93%   | 0.28%        | 7.42%      | 4.50%    | 15.74%      | 13.34%     | 9.02%                   |

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Source: Robeco Boston Partners.

### Performance: Fund significantly outperforms on gains from Financials, IT and Health Care

Robeco BP Global Premium Equities outperformed the MSCI World Index by a wide margin in January, with both stock selection and sector allocation adding to relative returns.

From a sector allocation perspective, the fund added value in six of 10 invested sectors with top contributions coming in Information Technology, Industrials and Energy. Within Information Technology, the only sector to produce a negative return for the index during the month, the fund's underweight exposure to the sector added meaningfully to relative returns. Many opportunities in Information Technology remain too expensive for inclusion in the portfolio today.

Industrials added through sector allocation as the fund maintains its overweight exposure relative to the MSCI World Index. In Energy, the fund maintains more than double the exposure of the index, benefiting relative returns, as Energy was the top-performing sector for the index during the month. Detractions in sector allocation were limited, with the only area of notable detraction coming from the fund's overweight exposure to Financials.

**Table 3 - Performance attribution**

|                        | Fund           |              |                 | MSCI World     |              |                 | Variation      |              |                 | Attribution analysis |                  |              |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Sector                 | Average weight | Total return | Cont. to return | Average weight | Total return | Cont. to return | Average weight | Total return | Cont. to return | Allocation effect    | Selection effect | Total effect |
| Communication services | 4.72           | 1.42         | 0.07            | 8.71           | 4.73         | 0.41            | -4.00          | -3.31        | -0.34           | -0.09                | -0.16            | -0.26        |
| Consumer Discretionary | 1.71           | 5.27         | 0.09            | 9.99           | 0.19         | 0.03            | -8.28          | 5.08         | 0.06            | 0.17                 | 0.08             | 0.26         |
| Consumer Staples       | 7.89           | 1.56         | 0.12            | 5.29           | 5.31         | 0.27            | 2.60           | -3.75        | -0.15           | 0.07                 | -0.28            | -0.21        |
| Energy                 | 7.55           | 12.76        | 0.94            | 3.59           | 12.98        | 0.45            | 3.97           | -0.22        | 0.49            | 0.42                 | -0.02            | 0.40         |
| Financials             | 26.18          | 5.04         | 1.30            | 16.86          | 0.44         | 0.08            | 9.32           | 4.60         | 1.22            | -0.18                | 1.19             | 1.02         |
| Health Care            | 16.74          | 3.44         | 0.57            | 9.76           | 1.13         | 0.12            | 6.97           | 2.31         | 0.45            | -0.09                | 0.39             | 0.30         |
| Industrials            | 20.18          | 2.86         | 0.59            | 11.33          | 6.95         | 0.76            | 8.84           | -4.09        | -0.17           | 0.43                 | -0.82            | -0.39        |
| Information Technology | 7.12           | -0.51        | -0.05           | 26.70          | -1.14        | -0.30           | -19.58         | 0.63         | 0.26            | 0.68                 | 0.04             | 0.72         |
| Materials              | 5.17           | 9.67         | 0.49            | 3.39           | 8.90         | 0.29            | 1.79           | 0.77         | 0.20            | 0.12                 | 0.04             | 0.16         |
| Real Estate            | --             | --           | --              | 1.81           | 3.62         | 0.06            | -1.81          | -3.62        | -0.06           | -0.02                | --               | -0.02        |
| Utilities              | 2.75           | 9.19         | 0.24            | 2.58           | 3.92         | 0.10            | 0.17           | 5.26         | 0.15            | 0.00                 | 0.14             | 0.14         |
| Total                  | 100.00         | 4.37         | 4.37            | 100.00         | 2.26         | 2.26            | --             | 2.11         | 2.11            | 1.51                 | 0.60             | 2.11         |

Holdings data for the Robeco BP Global Premium Equities fund and the MSCI World Index from 12/31/2025 to 1/30/2026. Please note that all figures provided in the attribution table above refer to the US calculated performance which does not include any cash, is calculated in US dollars, and does not account for any share class specific differences. Attribution figures may differ by share class. For further details regarding your specific share class, please contact your Robeco account manager.

Source: Robeco Boston Partners.

Turning to stock selection, the fund had three primary areas of contribution: Financials, Health Care and Utilities. Within Financials, fund holdings outpaced index constituents by over 4.5%, led by UK insurance business Beazley, which rocketed higher by 40% after the company was acquired by Zurich Insurance Group. Also contributing positively were Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria, which climbed higher by over 8%, Prudential, which ticked higher by 7%, and avoiding Visa, which fell 7%.

Within Health Care, pharmaceutical businesses drove returns, led by Ipsen and Sandoz, which climbed higher by 17% and 9%, respectively, along with Novo Nordisk, which jumped higher by 15%. Avoiding Eli Lilly and UnitedHealth Group also benefited relative returns, with the stocks declining over the month. Lastly, in Utilities, SSE was the standout performer, rising over 13% as energy demand continues to rise. On the negative side, stock selection in Industrials lagged during the month, as Acuity and SPIE ticked lower. Broadly, detractions were limited during the month.

Regionally, the fund added value across all but one region (Pacific), with top contributions coming in overweight exposure to the UK and Europe and underweight exposure to North America.

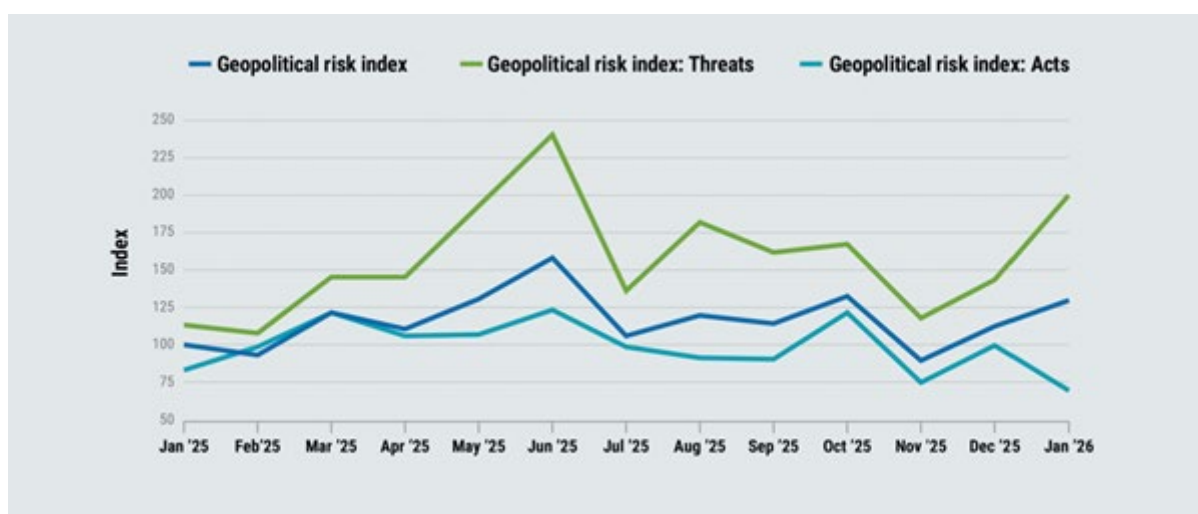
**Table 4 - Comparison of characteristics for the portfolio and the benchmark indices**

|                                                | Global Premium Equities | MSCI World Index  |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Market Cap: Weighted Average                   | USD 79.7 billion        | USD 909.2 billion |
| Market Cap: Median                             | USD 26.7 billion        | USD 26.4 billion  |
| Dividend Yield                                 | 2.5%                    | 1.6%              |
| Price-Earnings (FY1)                           | 12.8x                   | 19.1x             |
| Price/Book                                     | 2.1x                    | 3.9x              |
| Median Free Cash Flow Yield                    | 6.2%                    | 4.1%              |
| Operating Return on Operating Assets (5 years) | 27.1%                   | 26.3%             |
| Return on Equity (5 years)                     | 12.3%                   | 12.6%             |

Source: Robeco Boston Partners.

#### Outlook: Investors focus on the strength of the US economy rather than geopolitical risks

While geopolitical risk remains elevated, investors seem to be focusing on the strength of the US economy, moderating inflation, and earnings results and forecasts, all of which remain encouraging.



Source: Caldara & Lacoviello; MacroMicro, 31 January 2026

While overall earnings-per-share (EPS) growth trends remain robust, investors should take caution given the expected increase continues to be heavily influenced by the tech sector. From a technical standpoint, however, stocks are off to a good start for 2026 based upon historical patterns.

Hopefully history will repeat itself in 2026!

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