

# Semiconductor strength drives emerging markets' continued success

- Korean and Taiwanese chipmakers lead exceptional gains in EM
- Chinese equities struggle amid e-commerce competition and skepticism
- Defensive portfolio with stable stocks at attractive valuation and yield levels

Emerging Markets extended their 2025 winning streak in February, driven by exceptional gains among Korean and Taiwanese semiconductor heavyweights. TSMC (+12%), Samsung Electronics (+35%), and SK Hynix (+18%) continued to benefit from robust chip demand and firm pricing. This strength has reinforced a pronounced divide between silicon and software stocks; both in EM, where software represents less than 2% of the MSCI EM Index and is largely concentrated in India, and in the United States.

By contrast, Chinese equities remained under pressure. Platform giants such as Alibaba Group, Baidu, Tencent, and Meituan posted double-digit declines, weighed down by intense price competition in e-commerce and food delivery. At the same time, last year's AI-driven optimism has increasingly given way to skepticism about tangible monetization. From a factor perspective, momentum continued to lead the advance across EM, with value stocks also outperforming, while defensive names lagged the broader rally.

Table 1 – Performance of EUR and USD share class (gross of fees)

Performance (EUR)	Feb/26	YTD	1 year	3 year	Since inception (March 2011)	Volatility since inception	Return/volatility since inception
Emerging Conservative Equities	5.28%	10.13%	15.76%	15.28%	8.20%	10.70%	0.77
MSCI Emerging Markets Index	6.30%	14.23%	32.09%	17.25%	6.14%	14.08%	0.44
MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility Index (USD optimized)	3.33%	6.73%	9.19%	9.03%	5.97%	10.33%	0.58

## PORTFOLIO MANAGER'S UPDATE - FEBRUARY 2026

Marketing material for professional investors, not for onward distribution

From left to right: Pim van Vliet, Arlette van Ditshuizen, Maarten Polfiet, Jan Sytze Mosselaar, Arnoud Klep



Performance (USD)	Feb/26	YTD	1 year	3 year	Since inception (September 2012)	Volatility since inception	Return/volatility since inception
Emerging Conservative Equities	4.49%	10.72%	31.42%	19.48%	6.89%	12.59%	0.55
MSCI Emerging Markets Index	5.50%	14.83%	49.96%	21.53%	6.49%	16.12%	0.40
MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility Index (USD optimized)	2.55%	7.30%	23.97%	13.00%	4.59%	11.71%	0.39

**Source:** Robeco Performance Measurement. All figures are gross of fees. In reality, costs such as management fees and other costs are charged. These have a negative effect on the returns shown. These figures are preliminary based on the most recent month's performance results. These numbers may deviate from the final performance figures. The value of your investment may fluctuate. Results obtained in the past are no guarantee of future performance.

## 1. Market developments

Table 2 – Market dashboard

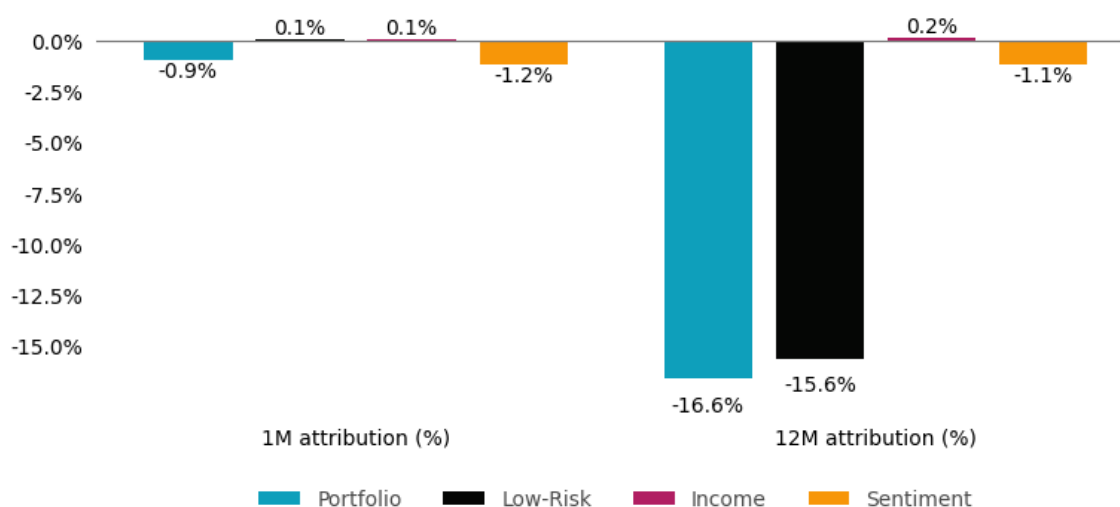
Market dashboard	1M	12M	USD return	1M	12M	USD sector returns	1M	12M	Factors (USD)	1M	12M
S&P 500 EUR	-0.0%	2.7%	China	-5.8%	14.7%	Information Technology	15.5%	108.6%	Market	5.5%	50.0%
MSCI World EUR	1.5%	6.9%	Taiwan	12.8%	76.4%	Utilities	5.3%	31.3%	Value	6.4%	55.4%
S&P 500 USD	-0.8%	17.0%	South Korea	22.0%	194.8%	Financials	1.8%	33.5%	Momentum	6.8%	58.9%
MSCI World local	1.0%	18.7%	India	1.4%	11.3%	Materials	7.6%	96.7%	MinVol	2.5%	24.0%
MSCI World USD	0.7%	21.3%	Saudi Arabia	-5.6%	-2.0%	Industrials	7.0%	64.2%	High Dividend	4.2%	35.5%
MSCI EM EUR	6.3%	32.1%	South Africa	9.6%	99.1%	Consumer Discretionary	-2.6%	8.8%	Quality	5.7%	33.6%
MSCI Europe EUR	4.1%	16.1%	Brazil	3.9%	69.7%	Health Care	2.9%	19.7%	Small caps	4.1%	39.9%
MSCI World Equal USD	4.1%	25.3%	Mexico	7.1%	71.3%	Consumer Staples	2.5%	12.7%	Equal- weighted	4.3%	38.4%
MSCI EM USD	5.5%	50.0%	Thailand	20.5%	55.3%	Real Estate	3.3%	14.0%	Growth	4.6%	50.4%
MSCI Europe USD	3.3%	31.8%	Malaysia	-0.4%	28.7%	Communication Services	-9.1%	17.1%			
MSCI EM Local	5.0%	46.4%	Indonesia	-1.1%	9.9%	Energy	3.5%	31.6%			

**Source:** Robeco, MSCI, Bloomberg.

## 2. Performance attribution

The strategy lagged the strong MSCI EM Index in February but outperformed the MSCI EM Minimum Volatility. As the bull market for EM stocks continued to push valuations higher, the deteriorating sentiment factor detracted from performance while low-risk and income were more muted. Main detractors versus the MSCI EM Index were the underweight positions in the large AI-related index names TSMC, Samsung and Alibaba, as well as an overweight in HCL Technologies Limited, which followed the drop of the Nifty IT Indian index.

Over the past 12 months, the portfolio also showed an overall underperformance. Income was the only positive contributor during this period, while low-risk and sentiment acted as significant detractors.

**Figure 1 – Factor attribution**


**Source:** Robeco Performance Measurement. The figures show relative portfolio returns versus the index. The relative portfolio return is gross of fees and net of transaction costs and is the sum of the allocation effect and stock selection contribution, excluding cash & other. The relative portfolio return is entirely attributed to underlying Robeco factors. All stocks in the portfolio and index are ranked on Robeco factors and grouped into five market value-weighted quintiles. The portfolio factor exposures are averages over the previous month. The returns are over the whole period.

**Table 3 – Top contributors – Top detractors**

Name	Effect	Country	Sector	Active Weight	Return	Index Return
Alibaba	0.71%	China	Consumer Discretionary	-3.03%	0.00%	-15.68%
Telefonica Brasil	0.18%	Brazil	Communication Services	1.50%	18.16%	18.16%
Advanced Info Service Public	0.16%	Thailand	Communication Services	1.39%	17.37%	17.37%
SinoPac Financial	0.16%	Taiwan	Financials	1.42%	17.05%	17.05%
Meituan	0.12%	China	Consumer Discretionary	-0.49%	0.00%	-16.65%

Name	Effect	Country	Sector	Active Weight	Return	Index Return
Dubai Islamic Bank PJSC	-0.22%	United Arab Emirates	Financials	1.06%	-14.08%	-14.08%
SK hynix	-0.26%	Korea	Information Technology	-2.27%	16.95%	16.95%
HCL Technologies	-0.30%	India	Information Technology	1.20%	-17.17%	-17.17%
Samsung Electronics	-0.40%	Korea	Information Technology	-1.47%	35.12%	35.12%
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing	-0.64%	Taiwan	Information Technology	-8.33%	13.33%	13.33%

**Source:** Robeco Performance Measurement and MSCI.

### 3. Positioning

Robeco QI Emerging Conservative Equities selects from an investable universe of around 2,000 EM stocks, buying securities with low-risk characteristics, such as low volatility, low market sensitivity, and low distress risk. Simultaneously, these low-risk stocks are characterized by attractive valuations, a high and stable dividend, positive price momentum, and favorable analyst revisions.

**Figure 2** – Sector and country positioning matrix

	Brazil	United Arab Emirates	Thailand	Malaysia	Hungary	Mexico	Taiwan	Saudi Arabia	China	India	Korea	Total
<b>Positioning</b>												
Financials	1.4	1.5	2.1	1.6			2.8	-1.3	3.6	-3.4	0.6	9.0
Communication Services	1.6		1.4		0.5		2.9	0.9	-1.4	-0.4	1.8	7.6
Consumer Staples	-0.3					1.9	0.5		0.5	1.2		3.9
Health Care					0.4				-0.3	1.8	-0.5	1.1
Utilities	1.5									-0.5		1.0
Real Estate		0.5										0.6
Industrials	-0.4			1.0					2.0	-1.4	-2.1	-1.1
Energy	-0.6	0.9			0.9			-0.4	-0.7	-1.2		-1.6
Materials						-0.6	0.6	-0.4	-0.5	-0.7	-0.3	-4.1
Consumer Discretionary		0.3						0.8	-6.0	-0.7	-0.6	-6.9
Information Technology							-6.0		-1.5	1.1	-3.6	-9.5
<b>Total</b>	3.4	3.3	3.2	2.9	1.5	0.8	0.7	-0.4	-4.0	-4.4	-5.1	

**Source:** Robeco. Figures show relative portfolio positioning versus the index. Only the largest countries are shown. Sector totals include all countries. Only relative positions of >0.25%/<-0.25% are highlighted. Excludes cash positions.

**Table 4** – Portfolio exposures

Relatively large portfolio weight		Relatively small portfolio weight	
Financials (China)	Strong low-risk profile with notable overweighted holdings in the financial sector, including Bank of Communications and Bank of China.	Information Technology (Taiwan)	Underweighted due to high distress risk. Notable underweighted securities in this sector include Delta Electronics and ASE Technology.
Communication Services (Taiwan)	Strong low-risk profile with low beta. The sector also presents good value, highlighted by a high dividend yield. A notable overweighted security in this sector is Taiwan Mobile.	Consumer Discretionary (China)	Weak momentum, reflected in low price momentum. Key underweighted securities in this sector include PDD and Meituan.
Financials (Taiwan)	Strong low-risk profile with low volatility. Key overweighted securities in this sector include First Financial and Taiwan Cooperative Financial.	Information Technology (Korea)	Weak low-risk profile, characterized by high volatility. Notable underweighted securities in this sector include SK hynix and Samsung SDI.

**Source:** Robeco.

The fund is characterized by a portfolio of low-risk stocks, offering high and stable dividends and a price-to-earnings ratio lower than the market. A comparison of various characteristics of the portfolio versus those of its benchmark – the MSCI Emerging Markets Index – shows a consistent picture, where the strategy remains well-positioned towards the model factors.

Given these characteristics, we firmly believe the strategy is well-positioned to continue harvesting the model factor premiums in Emerging Markets.

Table 5 – Portfolio characteristics

December 2025	Portfolio	MSCI EM	MSCI MinVol		Portfolio	MSCI EM	MSCI MinVol
<b>Risk: Statistical &amp; Distress</b>				<b>Active Positioning</b>			
Volatility (holdings-based 3y)	21.0%	32.0%	24.2%	Number of securities	233	1197	318
Beta (holdings-based 3y)	0.5	1	0.5	Active share	76.3%	-	71.7%
Distance-to-default	7.0	4.9	6.5	Off benchmark	18.1%	-	-
				Expected Turnover	25.0%	-	20.0%
<b>Income &amp; Sentiment</b>				Realized Turnover			
Dividend yield	4.2%	2.3%	2.8%		14.0%	8.0%	22.0%
Net payout yield	4.4%	2.2%	2.9%	<b>Sustainability</b>			
Price/Earnings	12.9	16.2	16.4	Sustainalytics ESG Risk Rating	21.0	21.1	23.8
Price momentum (12-1M)	26.1%	46.7%	29.7%	GhG emissions (t CO2-eq/mUSD)	93.8	180.5	163.4
Earnings revisions (3M, % net positive)	58.4%	65.6%	55.6%	Positive SDG exposure	56.9%	55.2%	51.8%
<b>Market capitalization</b>				<b>Summary</b>			
>10 bn USD	66.3%	87.2%	81.5%	Aims to offer lower absolute risk than market, similar absolute risk to MinVol index			
2-10 bn USD	26.9%	12.8%	18.3%	Increased opportunity set with small/mid-caps and higher dividend yield than market			
<2 bn USD	6.9%	0.0%	0	Active portfolio with low turnover			

**Source:** Robeco, FactSet, MSCI. Figures are holdings-based. The fund aims for a better sustainability profile compared to the benchmark by promoting certain sustainability characteristics within the meaning of Article 8 of the European Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation and integrating sustainability in the investment process. More specifically, the binding elements as per the prospectus and sustainability disclosure (SFDR disclosure) pertain to applying the Robeco Level 1 exclusion list, targeting a Sustainalytics ESG risk rating that is better than the benchmark (the Sustainalytics ESG risk rating offers insight into company-level ESG risk by measuring the size of an organization's unmanaged ESG risk, a lower score refers to a better overall sustainability profile), and pursuing better carbon (as measured by greenhouse gas emissions), waste and water footprints than the benchmark. Turnover figures are calculated one-way/annum since inception of the portfolio (based on full calendar years only).

Table 6 below shows the current main over- and underweights as a result of our bottom-up stock-selection process.

The portfolio's largest overweight positions were in Malayan Banking at 1.71% and Telefonica Brasil at 1.50%. Conversely, the most underweighted securities included Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing with an active weight of -8.33% and Alibaba at -3.03%.

**Table 6** – Main active over and underweights of the fund

Name	Sector	Country	Active Weight
Malayan Banking	Financials	Malaysia	1.71%
Telefonica Brasil	Communication Services	Brazil	1.50%
SinoPac Financial	Financials	Taiwan	1.42%
Advanced Info Service Public	Communication Services	Thailand	1.39%
Chunghwa Telecom	Communication Services	Taiwan	1.35%
Arca Continental	Consumer Staples	Mexico	1.28%
Bank of Communications	Financials	China	1.22%
People's Insurance Co (Group) of China	Financials	China	1.20%
HCL Technologies	Information Technology	India	1.20%
SK Telecom	Communication Services	Korea	1.18%

Name	Sector	Country	Active Weight
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing	Information Technology	Taiwan	-8.33%
Alibaba	Consumer Discretionary	China	-3.03%
SK hynix	Information Technology	Korea	-2.27%
Samsung Electronics	Information Technology	Korea	-1.47%
Reliance Industries	Energy	India	-0.85%
MediaTek	Information Technology	Taiwan	-0.78%
ICICI Bank	Financials	India	-0.72%
Xiaomi	Information Technology	China	-0.70%
Delta Electronics	Information Technology	Taiwan	-0.69%
PDD	Consumer Discretionary	China	-0.65%

**Source:** Robeco.

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The funds have not been and will not be registered with the National Registry of Securities or maintained by the Mexican National Banking and Securities Commission and, as a result, may not be offered or sold publicly in Mexico. Robeco and any underwriter or purchaser may offer and sell the funds in Mexico on a private placement basis to Institutional and Accredited Investors, pursuant to Article 8 of the Mexican Securities Market Law.

**Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Peru**

The Superintendencia del Mercado de Valores (SMV) does not exercise any supervision over this Fund and therefore the management of it. The information the Fund provides to its investors and the other services it provides to them are the sole responsibility of the Administrator. This Prospectus is not for public distribution.

**Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Singapore**

This document has not been registered with the Monetary Authority of Singapore ("MAS"). Accordingly, this document may not be circulated or distributed directly or indirectly to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 304 of the SFA, (ii) to a relevant person pursuant to Section 305(1), or any person pursuant to Section 305(2), and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 305, of the SFA, or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA. The contents of this document have not been reviewed by the MAS. Any decision to participate in the Fund should be made only after reviewing the sections regarding investment considerations, conflicts of interest, risk factors and the relevant Singapore selling restrictions (as described in the section entitled "Important information for Singapore Investors") contained in the prospectus. Investors should consult their professional adviser if you are in doubt about the stringent restrictions applicable to the use of this document, regulatory status of the Fund, applicable regulatory protection, associated risks and suitability of the Fund to your objectives. Investors should note that only the Sub-Funds listed in the appendix to the section entitled "Important information for Singapore Investors" of the prospectus ("Sub-Funds") are available to Singapore investors. The Sub-Funds are notified as restricted foreign schemes under the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore ("SFA") and invoke the exemptions from compliance with prospectus registration requirements pursuant to the exemptions under Section 304 and Section 305 of the SFA. The Sub-Funds are not authorized or recognized by the MAS and shares in the Sub-Funds are not allowed to be offered to the retail public in Singapore. The prospectus of the Fund is not a prospectus as defined in the SFA. Accordingly, statutory liability under the SFA in relation to the content of prospectuses does not apply. The Sub-Funds may only be promoted exclusively to persons who are sufficiently experienced and sophisticated to understand the risks involved in investing in such schemes, and who satisfy certain other criteria provided under Section 304, Section 305 or any other applicable provision of the SFA and the subsidiary legislation enacted thereunder. You should consider carefully whether the investment is suitable for you. Robeco Singapore Private Limited holds a capital markets services license for fund management issued by the MAS and is subject to certain clientele restrictions under such license.

**Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Spain**

Robeco Institucional Asset Management B.V., Sucursal en España with identification number W0032687F and having its registered office in Madrid at Calle Serrano 47-14<sup>º</sup>, is registered with the Spanish Commercial Registry in Madrid, in volume 19.957, page 190, section 8, sheet M-351927 and with the National Securities Market Commission (CNMV) in the Official Register of branches of European investment services companies, under number 24. The investment funds or SICAV mentioned in this document are regulated by the corresponding authorities of their country of origin and are registered in the Special Registry of the CNMV of Foreign Collective Investment Institutions marketed in Spain.

**Additional information for investors with residence or seat in South Africa**

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**Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Switzerland**

The Fund(s) are domiciled in Luxembourg. This document is exclusively distributed in Switzerland to qualified investors as defined in the Swiss Collective Investment Schemes Act (CISA). This material is distributed by Robeco Switzerland Ltd, postal address: Josefstrasse 218, 8005 Zurich. ACOLIN Fund Services AG, postal address: Leutschenbachstrasse 50, 8050 Zürich, acts as the Swiss representative of the Fund(s). UBS Switzerland AG, Bahnhofstrasse 45, 8001 Zurich, postal address: Europastrasse 2, P.O. Box, CH-8152 Opfikon, acts as the Swiss paying agent. The prospectus, the Key Information Documents (PRIIP), the articles of association, the annual and semi-annual reports of the Fund(s), as well as the list of the purchases and sales which the Fund(s) has undertaken during the financial year, may be obtained, on simple request and free of charge, at the office of the Swiss representative ACOLIN Fund Services AG. The prospectuses are also available via the website.

**Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Taiwan**

The Funds may be made available outside Taiwan for purchase outside Taiwan by Taiwan resident investors, but may not be offered or sold in Taiwan. The contents of this document have not been reviewed by any regulatory authority in Taiwan. If you are in any doubt about any of the contents of this document, you should obtain independent professional advice.

**Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Thailand**

The Prospectus has not been approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission which takes no responsibility for its contents. No offer to the public to purchase the Shares will be made in Thailand and the Prospectus is intended to be read by the addressee only and must not be passed to, issued to, or shown to the public generally.

**Additional information for investors with residence or seat in the United Arab Emirates**

Some Funds referred to in this marketing material have been registered with the UAE Securities and Commodities Authority ("the Authority"). Details of all Registered Funds can be found on the Authority's website. The Authority assumes no liability for the accuracy of the information set out in this material/document, nor for the failure of any persons engaged in the investment Fund in performing their duties and responsibilities.

**Additional information for investors with residence or seat in the United Kingdom**

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**Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Uruguay**

The sale of the Fund qualifies as a private placement pursuant to section 2 of Uruguayan law 18,627. The Fund must not be offered or sold to the public in Uruguay, except under circumstances which do not constitute a public offering or distribution under Uruguayan laws and regulations. The Fund is not and will not be registered with the Financial Services Superintendency of the Central Bank of Uruguay. The Fund corresponds to investment funds that are not investment funds regulated by Uruguayan law 16,774 dated 27 September 1996, as amended.