

Asia Pacific equities rebounded on AI momentum. Discipline is key

- Valuations are compelling, while earnings revisions are still supportive
- Japan and Korea remain our top contributors YTD
- Focus on companies of value with a future in Asia Pacific

Track record of Robeco Asia-Pacific Equities (USD)

	Fund	Index	Excess return
Last month	13.38%	13.24%	0.14%
Year to date	16.11%	13.23%	2.89%
1 year	50.86%	39.86%	11.00%
3 year (ann.)	25.01%	19.51%	5.50%
5 year (ann.)	12.65%	6.82%	5.83%
10 year (ann.)	11.71%	9.42%	2.29%
Since inception	7.61%	5.03%	2.58%

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. The value of your investments may fluctuate.

Source: Robeco, MSCI. Portfolio: Robeco Asia-Pacific Equities D-USD Share Class. Index: MSCI AC Asia Pacific Index. All figures in USD. Data end of April 2026. If the currency in which the past performance is displayed differs from the currency of the country in which you reside, then you should be aware that due to exchange rate fluctuations the performance shown may increase or decrease if converted into your local currency. Performance since inception is as of the first full month. Periods shorter than one year are not annualized. Returns gross of fees, based on gross asset value. Values and returns indicated here are before cost; the performance data does not take account of the commissions and costs incurred on the issue and redemption of units. These have a negative effect on the returns shown. Upon request information on other share classes can be provided. Inception: October 2007

Last month's performance

Asia Pacific equities led the global recovery in April, with the MSCI Asia Pacific up 13.2%, significantly outperforming the US (+10.5%) and Europe (+7.0%). Markets largely looked through ongoing Middle East geopolitical uncertainty, as hopes for a ceasefire and renewed negotiations supported risk sentiment despite limited concrete progress.

Performance was driven overwhelmingly by AI-related strength, with strong 1Q26 earnings and higher capex guidance from US hyperscalers underpinning gains across the AI supply chain. Korea (+37.4%), Taiwan (+26.6%) and Japan (+9.1%) reached record highs, led by Technology, which reinforced its dominance in regional indices. Technology now accounts for over 41% of MSCI Asia ex-Japan, with Taiwan the largest market by index weight (28%), overtaking China (26%).

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At a country level, dispersion increased. Korea and Taiwan benefited from sustained upward EPS revisions, particularly across IT (and Industrials in Korea; Materials in Taiwan), with Korea now expected to deliver the highest compounded EPS growth over 2026-27. In contrast, India saw broad-based earnings downgrades, reflecting concerns around AI disruption to IT services, with market gains driven more by rotation into Financials and Real Estate. China showed mixed signals: external data improved modestly, but weak domestic demand and underperformance of platform companies weighed on equities. Real Estate was a relative bright spot, supported by improving Tier-1 city price trends, though earnings confidence remains limited.

Valuations diverged meaningfully. Taiwan trades well above historical averages, while Korea and Indonesia screen significantly cheap versus history, highlighting differing risk-reward profiles despite recent performance. Capital flows mirrored fundamentals, with foreign inflows returning to Taiwan and Korea, while India and Indonesia continued to see outflows. Southbound flows into Hong Kong moderated from recent averages.

From a style perspective, Momentum and Growth rebounded strongly after March's drawdown and remain the leading factors year-to-date, while Value and Low Volatility lagged. Macro conditions were broadly supportive: easing risk aversion weighed on the US dollar, most Asian currencies appreciated (except IDR), and industrial metals rose, while oil prices remained volatile amid supply uncertainty.

Overall, April reinforced the dominance of the AI-driven growth theme in Asia, increased regional concentration risk, and widened valuation and earnings dispersion, underscoring the importance of selective positioning rather than broad market exposure.

The portfolio outperformed the benchmark by 0.14% in April. Korea was the largest contributor as the market continued to perform well as one of the cheapest global plays on AI picks and shovels. China and Australia also provided a strong contribution. This was followed by Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam and Hong Kong, which all added positively over the month. On the negative side, Taiwan was the largest detractor, driven by a similar narrative to Korea, however, at higher valuations, and thus driving our preference for Korea. ASEAN continued to drag given a lack of AI-related stocks, with Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand the next detractors, while New Zealand also detracted at the margin.

From a sector perspective, Consumer Discretionary was the largest contributor, closely followed by Materials, with IT, Utilities, Health Care and Industrials also adding. Financials led the detractors, with Communications Services, Real Estate, Staples and Energy detracting at the margin.

At the stock level, most of the largest contributors came from the strong rebound in Korean, Japanese and Taiwan names with AI-related exposure. Resonac, SK Hynix, MediaTek, Murata and Samsung saw strong rebounds following last month's profit taking, on the back of strong capex and order guidance. Notably, LS Corp was the second-largest contributor on the back of strong underlying exposure to electricity-grid expenditure, but also owing to a stronger commitment to value-up policies. Other names in the top 10 contributors were Mitsubishi Electric and Weichai Power. On the negative side, IHI continued to see profit taking, and weakness in Indonesia continued to impact Bank Mandiri. TSMC, Delta Electronics, Softbank and Advantest were large AI plays that benefited, but we are underweight given preference for other names, particularly in Korea. Seven & I and Mitsubishi Estate also detracted given the focus on AI-related names.

Sector Allocation

Sector	Portfolio Weight	Index Weight	Relative Weight
Information Technology	27.2%	30.5%	-3.3%
Financials	22.9%	19.8%	3.1%
Industrials	17.1%	13.6%	3.5%
Materials	6.8%	5.3%	1.5%
Consumer Discretionary	6.3%	11.2%	-4.9%
Communication Services	5.9%	6.4%	-0.6%
Real Estate	5.5%	2.1%	3.3%
Health Care	3.6%	4.1%	-0.5%
Consumer Staples	2.0%	3.0%	-1.0%
Utilities	1.7%	1.7%	0.0%
Energy	1.0%	2.3%	-1.3%

Source: Robeco, MSCI. Portfolio: Robeco Asia-Pacific Equities. Index: MSCI AC Asia Pacific Index. Data end of April 2026. For illustrative purposes only. This is the current overview as of the date stated above and not a guarantee of future developments. It should not be assumed that any investments in sectors or regions identified were or will be profitable.

The fund is currently underweight in Consumer Discretionary, IT and Energy due to concerns about their valuations and recent share price action. On the other hand, it is overweight in Real Estate, Financials and Industrials, where valuations are more attractive.

On commodities, we are overweight Materials and underweight Energy. Industrials holdings include reform plays in Korea and Japan, along with defense. The opportunities available are stock-specific rather than sector-specific, driven by valuation differences and strategic variations.

Top ten holdings

Company	Portfolio Weight
Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.	5.8%
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	5.7%
SK hynix Inc.	4.5%
Mizuho Financial Group, Inc.	3.2%
BHP Group Ltd	3.1%
Mitsubishi Estate Company, Limited	2.7%
Alibaba Group Holding Limited	2.5%
Mitsubishi Electric Corp.	2.3%
Resonac Holdings Corporation	2.2%
Tencent Holdings Ltd	2.1%

Source: Robeco, MSCI. Portfolio: Robeco Asia-Pacific Equities. Index: MSCI AC Asia Pacific Index. Data end of April 2026. The companies shown are for illustrative purposes only in order to demonstrate the investment strategy on the date stated. The companies are not necessarily held by a strategy/fund. No inference can be made on the future development of the company. This is not a buy, sell, or hold recommendation.

The fund focuses on identifying companies with strong free cash flow and modest expectations, a strategy aimed at avoiding bubbles as well as value traps. Position sizes are determined by earnings and, to a lesser extent, share-price momentum. Samsung had been de-rated due to a product-cycle miss in high-bandwidth memory and a weak NAND market, but low valuations and positive HBM developments have seen a re-rating begin. TSMC plays a crucial role in the energy transition as a top-tier chip manufacturer. SK Hynix is the leading player in High Bandwidth Memory, a critical component in the AI build-out and now with very strong pricing power. Mizuho, a domestically-focused Japanese bank, is benefiting from increased interest rates and improving loan demand. BHP is a global leader in low-cost commodities, delivering strong free cash flow and benefiting from the rise in metals prices.

Mitsubishi Estate, with prime real estate in Tokyo, is poised for pricing power as demand remains strong and vacancy rates decline. Alibaba remains a reasonably-valued, cash-generating entity with significant exposure to the growth in Chinese consumer spending, and its AI capabilities have recently been highlighted. Mitsubishi Electric is capitalizing on high-demand sectors like factory automation, infrastructure, and energy-efficient HVAC systems. The company is actively shifting from being a heavy equipment manufacturer toward a technology-driven firm, promising better capital efficiency and improved shareholder returns. Resonac is making a successful transformation into a specialized semiconductor materials business, which is driving high profitability despite a mixed broader chemical market. They have high market share in crucial materials for AI, data centres, and advanced packaging. Tencent is an IT player with significant exposure to the consumer via messaging, e-commerce, gaming and cloud services.

Country Allocation

Country	Portfolio Weight	Index Weight	Relative Weight
Japan	34.8%	29.6%	5.3%
Korea	18.5%	13.0%	5.5%
China	14.3%	16.1%	-1.8%
Taiwan	9.7%	17.3%	-7.6%
Australia	6.7%	8.5%	-1.8%
India	4.7%	8.3%	-3.7%
Hong Kong	2.4%	2.6%	-0.1%
Singapore	2.2%	2.1%	0.1%
Indonesia	1.6%	0.5%	1.1%
Thailand	1.5%	0.7%	0.8%
Vietnam	1.2%	0.0%	1.2%
United States	0.9%	0.0%	0.9%
Philippines	0.7%	0.2%	0.5%
New Zealand	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%
Pakistan	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%

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South Korea is the largest overweight, given cheap exposure to AI 'picks and shovels' exposure, along with the administration's focus on value-up policies and moving them to a more mandatory status. Japan is the fund's next largest overweight. Good value, increased shareholder return, governance reform, and structural reform are all reasons to remain positive on the country. Increasing domestic capex and specialized inputs into the AI supply chain are additional tailwinds. ASEAN is an overweight in general, but continues to be held back by political uncertainty. However, the region is close to record-low valuations, while having very strong medium-term drivers like monetary stimulus and FDI, which can lead to significant multiplier effects and alpha opportunities, particularly in Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines. Demographics is a long-term positive for the region. The fund has been cautious about Taiwan, India, and Australia due to high valuations, but we have reduced our underweight in India in the recent relative underperformance, on a stock-specific basis. Despite higher valuations, these markets still offer specific stock opportunities. China is a small underweight and we will keep our focus on stock-specific opportunities.

Currency policy

Our only active currency position remains a modest KRW hedge linked to our overweight in Korea. A moderation in risk aversion weighed on the US dollar during the month. Oil prices initially declined but rebounded later as efforts to restart oil supply negotiations failed. Against this backdrop, most Asian currencies appreciated versus the US dollar, with the notable exception of the Indonesian rupiah, which depreciated by 2.1%.

Outlook

Despite elevated geopolitical risks and higher energy prices, Asia Pacific equity markets have rebounded to new highs. Performance, however, has been notably narrow, concentrated in AI-exposed IT leaders in Korea, Taiwan and, to a lesser extent, Japan. Encouragingly, capex and order momentum across the AI ecosystem continues to support earnings growth, particularly within semiconductors and related supply chains. We previously viewed the Iran-related sell-off as an attractive entry point given resilient fundamentals and the valuation reset at that time—a view that has been validated by the subsequent rebound.

That said, the recent rally underscores the need for discipline. Higher oil prices are likely to feed through to inflation, interest rate expectations and ultimately demand, which increases the risk of second-order effects on earnings outside the narrow AI cohort. While valuations remain attractive in aggregate and relative to the US-provided IT earnings remain robust—the margin for error is narrowing as concentration risk increases. From a portfolio construction perspective, we frame the outlook around two key scenarios.

First, a continuation of the current narrow, AI-led market. In this environment, the priority is to maintain an appropriate risk budget to the theme: gradually moderating beta exposure as valuations become more stretched, while retaining sufficient participation given the structural, multi-year nature of the AI cycle. Within this, stock selection becomes increasingly critical. As the AI cycle evolves—from GPUs to memory, photonics and now physical AI—we see rising dispersion driven by product cycles, valuations and earnings delivery, creating opportunities for alpha through differentiated positioning.

A second scenario is one in which hyperscaler capex slows, leading to negative earnings revisions, compounded by the macro drag from sustained higher oil prices. In this outcome, returns are likely to penalise crowded, high-expectation names most severely. Portfolio resilience will depend on identifying stocks with valuation support, balance-sheet strength and credible earnings momentum, particularly those less exposed to higher rates, weaker demand and energy-related cost pressures.

Overall, we remain constructive on Asia Pacific equities. Absolute and relative valuations remain compelling, earnings revisions are still supportive, and the region continues to offer differentiated structural growth opportunities. However, the combination of a sharp rebound, elevated energy prices and narrowing market leadership reinforces the importance of vigilance—closely monitoring earnings delivery, managing concentration risk, and diversifying sources of alpha within portfolio construction.

Currently, the portfolio still offers reasonable value, with metrics such as 12.5 x FY1 earnings, 1.78x book value, 13.8% ROE, and a 2.2% dividend yield.

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