# Emerging Markets Strategy Update Third Quarter, 2022



# **Portfolio Activity**

We initiated a position in Dino Polska, a low-price and proximity format grocer best known for providing fresh produce and meat products with a focus on small and rural towns in Poland. Resilient consumer spending amid macro volatilities enhances the company's relative defensive profile. While management becomes more conservative in the near term with store expansions, the company's excellent capital allocation track record (a strong 20% return on invested capital) should be supportive over the long term. Dino is early on its ESG journey as it improves disclosure on emissions as well as workplace safety, DEI, and environmental commitments.

We sold Beijing Enterprise Water Group, a leading wastewater treatment company in China, as we are more cautious about its relatively high leverage and earnings outlook. Other portfolio activities included trimming relative outperformers, such as Naspers in South Africa, and reducing companies with more downside earnings risks, including Giant Manufacturing and Airtac in Taiwan. We added to stable defensive companies such as Telkom Indonesia but also increased exposure to oversold names such as industrial automation company Shenzhen Innovance in China.

#### Portfolio Review

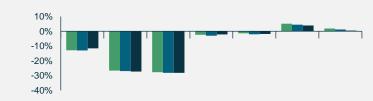
The Boston Common Emerging Markets strategy declined -12.8%, lagging the Index return of -11.6%. Consumer Discretionary was a primary detractor for returns. Lockdowns in key Chinese cities weighed on consumer spending. Ecommerce giant Alibaba, leading electric vehicle and battery manufacturer BYD, and home appliance company Midea all came under pressure despite leading competitive positioning and solid earnings outlooks. Stock selection in Healthcare also detracted from relative performance. China TCM, a leading manufacturer of traditional medicines declined as supply chain disruptions negatively impacted nearterm profitability. Margin pressures and supply chain constraints were headwinds for our Industrial holdings Weichai Power and Airtac International. Our lack of exposure to conventional Energy was another negative factor. China was the primary detractor on a country basis, as insurance company Ping An and China Merchant Bank declined.

Stock selection in Communication Services was the primary contributor to relative results, led by Bharti Airtel (India) and Telkom Indonesia. With an almost 4% yield, demonstrated market share gain, and a favorable regulatory environment, Telkom Indonesia remains an important solutions provider to the country's digitalization needs. Our Materials holdings also performed relatively well. Brazil added most to relative performance on a country basis with strong relative performance. Other notable outperformers included Asian financials: HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, and Bank Rakyat.

## **Annual Returns**

|         | 2022   | 2021  | 2020  | 2019  | 2018   | 2017  | 2016  | 2015   | 2014  | 2013  |
|---------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| Gross   | -26.6% | -7.8% | 24.0% | 24.4% | -16.6% | 44.5% | 8.4%  | -13.5% | -0.5% | 1.2%  |
| Net     | -26.9% | -8.4% | 23.2% | 23.6% | -17.1% | 43.5% | 7.9%  | -13.8% | -1.0% | 0.8%  |
| MSCI EM | -27.2% | -2.5% | 18.3% | 18.4% | -14.6% | 37.3% | 11.2% | -14.9% | -2.2% | -2.6% |

#### **Performance**



|           | QTD    | YTD    | 1Yr    | 3Yr   | 5Yr   | 7Yr  | Since<br>Inception* |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|------|---------------------|
| ■ Gross   | -12.8% | -26.6% | -27.7% | -2.4% | -1.4% | 5.1% | 1.8%                |
| ■ Net     | -13.0% | -26.9% | -28.1% | -3.0% | -2.0% | 4.4% | 1.2%                |
| ■ MSCI EM | -11.6% | -27.2% | -28.1% | -2.1% | -1.8% | 3.9% | 0.5%                |

**Boston Common** 

**MSCIEM** 

# **Portfolio Characteristics**

| # Holdings                    | 52    | 1,386 |  |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|--|
| Valuation                     |       |       |  |
| Price/EPS (NTM)               | 11.5  | 11.7  |  |
| Enterprise Value/EBITDA (NTM) | 6.4   | 6.3   |  |
| Price/Book                    | 1.7   | 1.8   |  |
| Price/Sales                   | 1.0   | 1.4   |  |
| Dividend Yield                | 2.7%  | 2.9%  |  |
| Growth                        |       |       |  |
| 3yr EPS Consensus Growth      | 10.2% | 3.1%  |  |
| 3yr Sales consensus Growth    | 8.3%  | 6.4%  |  |
| Quality                       |       |       |  |
| Beta**                        | 1.00  | 1.00  |  |
| LT Debt to Can                | 23.5% | 21 5% |  |

| Beta**                  | 1.00  | 1.00  |  |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|--|
| LT Debt to Cap.         | 23.5% | 21.5% |  |
| Net Debt to EBITDA      | 0.1   | 0.4   |  |
| Return on Equity        | 15.4% | 16.3% |  |
| Earnings Variability*** | 24.6% | 28.2% |  |
| Free Cash Flow Yield    | 3.7%  | 4.2%  |  |

# **Strategy Vehicle Options**

Separate Account, Commingled Fund, Mutual Fund

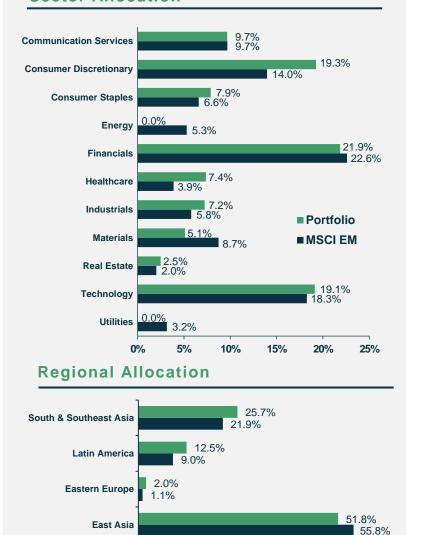
# **Outlook and Positioning**

Aggressive central bank actions, tightening financial conditions, and weakening economic growth all contributed to a challenging macro backdrop for EM equities. Meanwhile, forward-looking indicators suggest inflation expectations remain well anchored and central banks could be close to the top of their tightening cycles. In an environment of declining earnings growth expectations, EM corporates' multi-year balance sheet improvement and enhanced interest-rate coverage should provide support in addition to attractive relative valuations.

Our portfolios retain a defensive tilt as we continue to add to quality companies in economically sensitive sectors unfairly punished by macro headwinds. Earnings consistency, strong balance sheets, and forward-looking managements attentive to ESG issues are among the characteristics we are looking for to weather this volatile environment. Our portfolios have an overweight in Consumer Discretionary and Industrials; we offset this cyclicality with an overweight in Consumer Staples and Healthcare.

Regionally, we continue to favor Latin America over EMEA and Southeast Asia over East Asia. Latin American central banks have been advanced in their rate-hiking cycle, led by Brazil. Unemployment has been declining in Brazil, while inflation is moderating; this should provide a favorable domestic environment, especially as election uncertainties lessen. As Emerging Europe manages the twin impacts of inflationary pressures and energy supply constraints, equity valuations have significantly declined. Policy support in the form of tax cuts as well as wage growth presents differentiated opportunities. Geopolitical risk has risen for Taiwan, and Taiwan-based companies operating in China may face additional headwinds. Meanwhile, the combination of falling industrial production and elevated inventories underscore weak global demand outlook. China's zero-COVID policy remains the biggest hurdle for near-term growth.

### **Sector Allocation**



#### **Contributors & Detractors**

|                       | % of    |        | Relative |                        |
|-----------------------|---------|--------|----------|------------------------|
| Top 10                | Capital | Return | Contrib. | Sector                 |
| HDFC BANK LTD         | 3.6%    | 8.1%   | 0.65%    | Financials             |
| DELTA ELECTRONIC      | 2.6%    | 9.2%   | 0.56%    | Technology             |
| WEG SA                | 1.9%    | 17.9%  | 0.53%    | Industrials            |
| BK RAKYAT             | 2.7%    | 5.7%   | 0.46%    | Financials             |
| AXIS BANK             | 2.0%    | 11.7%  | 0.42%    | Financials             |
| BHARTI AIRTEL LTD     | 1.6%    | 13.9%  | 0.41%    | Communication Services |
| ITAU UNIBANCO HLDG SA | 1.3%    | 21.8%  | 0.40%    | Financials             |
| LOJAS RENNER S.A.     | 1.3%    | 19.7%  | 0.37%    | Consumer Discretionary |
| PAGSEGURO DIGITAL LTD | 0.9%    | 26.2%  | 0.32%    | Technology             |
| KALBE FARMA           | 1.6%    | 7.9%   | 0.31%    | Healthcare             |
|                       |         |        | 4.43%    |                        |

|                            | % of    |        | Relative |                        |
|----------------------------|---------|--------|----------|------------------------|
| Bottom 10                  | Capital | Return | Contrib. | Sector                 |
| ALIBABA GROUP HLDG<br>LTD  | 4.9%    | -29.5% | -1.03%   | Consumer Discretionary |
| CHINA TRAD CHINESE         | 2.2%    | -43.7% | -0.91%   | Healthcare             |
| CHINASOFT INTL LTD         | 2.2%    | -39.7% | -0.70%   | Technology             |
| BYD COMPANY LTD            | 2.0%    | -37.9% | -0.57%   | Consumer Discretionary |
| WEICHAI POWER CO           | 1.7%    | -40.3% | -0.53%   | Industrials            |
| CHINA MERCHANTS<br>BANK    | 2.3%    | -31.0% | -0.52%   | Financials             |
| LONGFOR GROUP<br>HLDGS LTD | 1.6%    | -36.9% | -0.50%   | Real Estate            |
| PING AN INSURANCE          | 2.7%    | -26.5% | -0.45%   | Financials             |
| XINYI SOLAR HLDGS          | 1.7%    | -32.9% | -0.30%   | Technology             |
| AIRTAC INTERNATION         | 1.4%    | -29.3% | -0.29%   | Industrials            |
|                            |         |        | -5.81%   |                        |

8.0%

12.2%

20%

40%

60%

Africa & Middle East

0%

Source: APX Advent Portfolio Exchange. Past performance does not guarantee future results. All investments involve risk, including the risk of losing principal.

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