

Bernstein Global Strategic Value

Global Equity: MSCI ACWI Benchmark

For the month of: **March** **2025**

Manager Performance Calculations

* Annualized returns

	Last Month	Last 3 Months	Last 1 Year	Last 3 Years*	Last 5 Years*
Bernstein GSV	-3.16%	2.17%	6.71%	6.20%	14.42%
MSCI ACWI	-3.95%	-1.32%	7.15%	6.91%	15.18%
Russell 3000	-5.83%	-4.72%	7.22%	8.22%	18.18%

Performance Attribution & Strategy Comments

Portfolio Performance: In March, the Portfolio decreased in absolute terms but outperformed its Benchmark, the MSCI ACWI, gross and net of fees. Stock selection detracted from overall relative performance, while sector selection contributed, gross of fees. Stock selection within industrials and energy detracted the most, while selection within technology and an overweight to energy contributed, offsetting some losses. Resona Holdings, the fifth-largest banking group in Japan, was the largest contributor during the month. Resona benefitted from Japanese banks reporting solid 3Q results, driven by strong client-facing operations, robust corporate lending, gains on cross-shareholding sales and rising interest rates. Japanese banks also benefitted from macro conditions in Japan that remain supportive of future interest-rate increases, which will improve bank earnings. Prudential, a British-domiciled Asian- focused insurer, contributed after reporting strong full-year 2024 results with a 10% increase in operating profit before tax to \$3.1 billion and an 11% rise in new business profit year on year. Earnings per share increased 8% versus the year before. Prudential expects to grow new business profit, basic earnings per share based on adjusted operating profit, and operating free surplus generated from in-force insurance and asset management business by more than 10% in 2025. Semiconductor giant Samsung Electronics contributed. Samsung launched a collaboration with chipmaker NVIDIA to advance AI-RAN technologies, boosting their stock and attracting positive comments about the partnerships from NVIDIA's CEO. **Outlook:** It was an eventful start of the year, with the Bank of Japan raising rates, the Federal Reserve holding still and the European Central Bank cutting rates—all as expected. The biggest surprise of January was news out of China that DeepSeek released a new AI model that purports to be significantly more efficient than existing models, which has big potential implications on the entire AI complex. After the announcement in January of the US imposing tariffs first on Canada, Mexico and China, and more recently on the European Union, February was another impactful month. Stock markets around the world fell in March ending the first quarter in negative territory, led by continued weakness in the US as elevated uncertainty related to US trade policy is driving global markets. Recent indicators for consumer confidence and manufacturing purchasing manager sentiment are also showing signs of deterioration, particularly in the US. Dollar weakness also impacted foreign market performance in March in US-dollar terms, with Japan up 0.5% and Europe flat (although the index was down 4.0% in euro terms). Emerging markets were up 0.6%, especially with strength in India. The US continued to underperform as the S&P 500 Index fell 5.6%. From a style standpoint, value outperformed growth across all regions leading the broad MSCI ACWI Value Index to outperform the style- neutral index by close to 3% in US-dollar terms year to date. We believe our Portfolio is well positioned with a collection of underappreciated businesses, as well as businesses undergoing positive changes with overall good growth prospects and profitability characteristics yet trading at a large discount to the market. We have about a 15% underweight to US mega- cap tech stocks (the Magnificent Seven) compared with the market; we believe this is appropriate, as we feel we can find other strong businesses trading at much more attractive valuations. Our key bets include overweight positions to memory semiconductors, European aerospace and defense, US communications services, developed- markets banks and materials, as well as underweight positions to tech (excluding memory semis), large-cap industrials (excluding aerospace and defense), consumer staples and non- bank financials. We made some trims and additions to existing positions in March as well as one new name and a couple of exits.

Manager Style Summary

Bernstein is a research-driven, value-based, "bottom-up" manager, whose process is driven by individual security selection. Country allocations are a by-product of the stock selection process, which drives the portfolio country over and under weights. They invest in companies with long-term earnings power, which are undervalued due to an overreaction by the market. This value bias will result in a portfolio which will tend to have lower P/E and P/B ratios and higher dividend yields, relative to the market. The Global Strategic Value product is a concentrated global equity portfolio, and as such, may experience more volatility relative to the market.

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Portfolio Guideline Compliance

Portfolio Guideline:	Index	Bernstein	Calc	Min	Max	Compliance
B3. Security position <= 10% of the account @ purchase						ok
B4. Number of issues		56.0		25	75	ok
B5. Normal Regional Exposures (* benchmark +/- min/max):						
United States *	65%	54%		40%	90%	ok
Europe ex U.K. *	12%	11%		-3%	27%	ok
UK *	3%	12%		-7%	13%	ok
Japan *	5%	10%		-5%	15%	ok
Emerging Markets		7%		0%	20%	ok
Other		6%		0%	20%	ok
B6. Normal Global Portfolio Characteristics (MSCI ACWI)						
Capitalization	568,557	230,833	41%	50%	100%	check
Price/Book Value	3.1	2.1	68%	50%	100%	ok
Price/Earnings (Next 12 mo)	15.8	12.0	76%	50%	100%	ok
Price/Cash Flow	14.3	8.7	61%	50%	100%	ok
Dividend Yield	1.9	2.2	113%	75%	200%	ok
C1. Currency or cross-currency position <= value of hedged securities						ok
No executed forward w/o a corresponding securities position.						ok
C2. Max forward w/ counterparty <= 30% of total mv of account						ok
Forwards executed with Custodian <= 100% of the total mv of account, given credit check						ok
F2. Brokerage commissions not to exceed \$0.05/share for U.S. equities						ok
F3. Annual turnover		55%		30%	40%	check
The portfolio is in compliance with all other aspects of the Portfolio Guidelines					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Manager Explanations for Deviations from Portfolio Guidelines

- F3. Annual Turnover: Turnover will vary throughout market cycles based on the level of volatility in markets and the changing nature of the value opportunity.
- B6. Capitalization: Our portfolio average capitalisation weight relative to the benchmark is driven by two factors. We find some smaller cap ideas very attractive.

Total Firm Assets Under Management (\$m) as of:

Qtr 4 \$792,184

Organizational/Personnel Changes

Investment decisions for Global Strategic Value are made by the Chief Investment Officer and Director of Research. For the month of March 2025 there were no personnel changes for the GSV portfolio.

Account Turnover

Gained:	Number of Accounts:	0	Total Market Value (\$m):	\$	-
Lost:	Number of Accounts:	0	Total Market Value (\$m):	\$	-
	Reason(s):				