

Santander AM Euro Equity 5/2023

Fund commentary

Global equity markets fell -1.3% in May and YTD returns moderated to 6.8%. Although the aggregate monthly return was muted, the spread of global sector returns was large with semis (Nasdaq) up +17.9% on AI enthusiasm, and Energy down -9.6% as the oil price fell 11%. Similar to the previous month, DM equities slightly outperformed EM equities, mainly due to growth weakness in China also affecting European equities most exposed to the Chinese loss in growth momentum. There was no meaningful market reaction to the US Fed's hike in May. May manufacturing PMIs in the US, Europe, and China all remain in contraction territory. By sectors in May, the significant outperformance of Semiconductors was driven by the Multimedia Semis product group (+23.9%) as NVIDIA exceeded \$1 trillion market cap on strengthening demand for IA and large language models.

In this environment, the Stoxx 600 index ended the month down -2.31% while the EuroStoxx 50 was down by -2.21% and the MSCI Euro by -2.46%. This detracts to an already solid return for the year, with the Stoxx 600 and EuroStoxx 50 indices up by 8.84% and 13.47%, respectively and the MSCI Euro by 11.07%.

During the month of May, Santander Euro Equity had a negative absolute return and underperformed its benchmark MSCI EMU Net Total Return.

Sector allocation was negative being short Technology and Travel & Leisure and long Utilities and Media, slight positive contribution being short Real Estate.

On the stock selection side, main contributors included short position on chemicals (Basf), l'Oreal, Hermes, and Beverages (Heineken, Pernod) and overweight in Sanofi, Grifols or Sodexo. Main detractors were short ASML or Schneider, and long Teleperformance, Vinci, Bayer, and Deutsche Telekom.

During the month of May, we sold Nordea on concerns over its Swedish Real Estate exposure, bought BNP and continue increasing ASML weight to neutralise the short position versus the benchmark.

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