

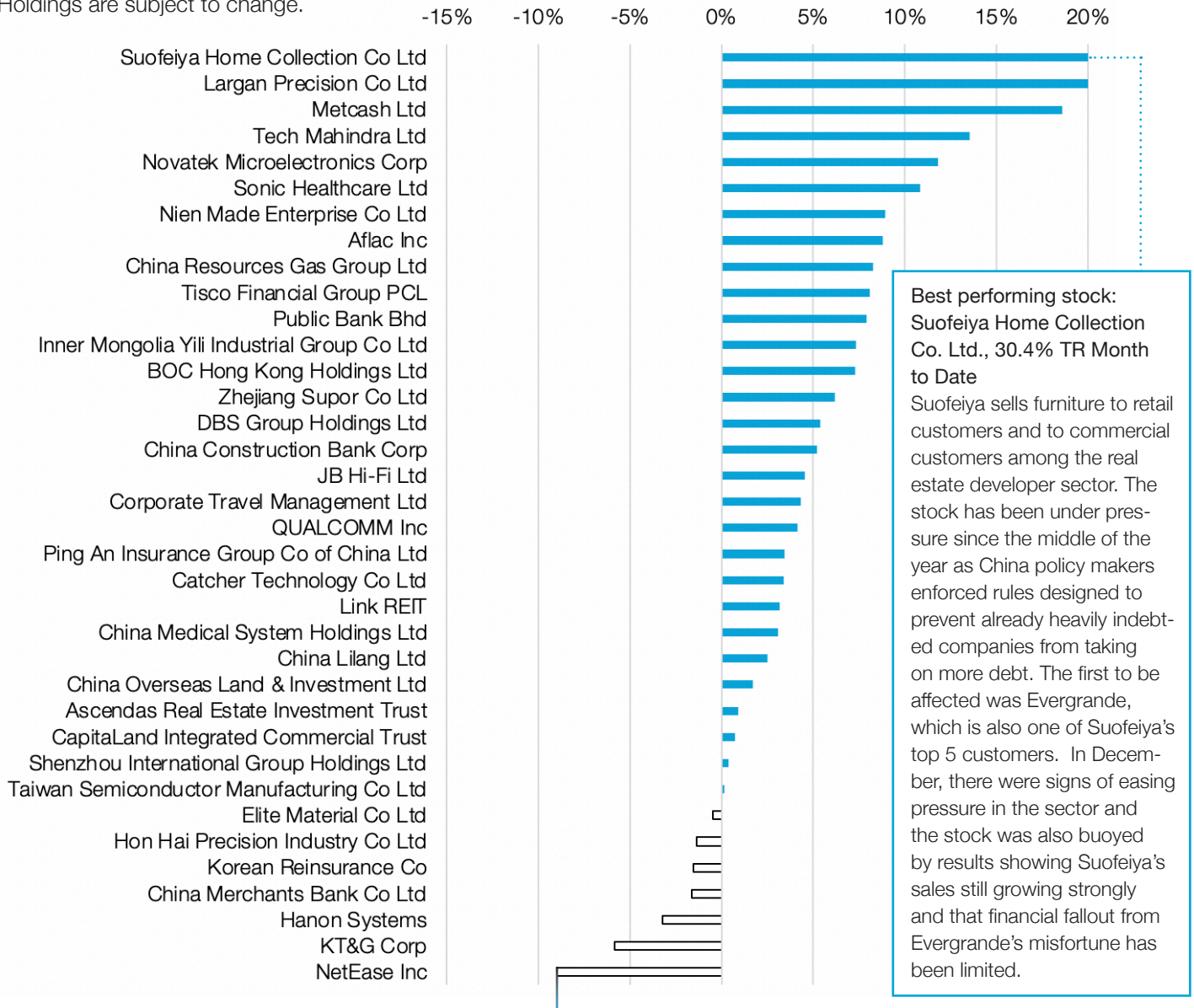


### Portfolio Performance

as of 12/31/2021

ADIV rose 5.72% (NAV basis) in December, outperforming its index which rose 1.64%. In 2021, ADIV produced a total return of 11.27%, compared to the Fund's benchmark, the MSCI AC Pacific ex Japan Index, which fell -5.85%. The Fund therefore outperformed the index by 17.12%. Keep an eye out for our ADIV 2021 Annual Review for a more detailed look at how ADIV performed throughout the year.

Holdings are subject to change.



**Worst performing stock: Netease Inc., -9.0% TR Month to Date**

Netease, a Chinese videogame design company was the weakest performer, but this reflected a more general aversion to technology stocks rather than being the result of any specific news. The stock was down 15% at one point during the month before recovering some lost ground at the end of the year. We still like the company and consensus estimates have average earnings growth of 18% per annum over the next two years.

# ADIV

## The SmartETFs Asia Pacific Dividend Builder ETF

January 2022 Update



SmartETFs

### Portfolio Performance

As of 12/31/2021	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
ADIV at NAV	11.27%	11.27%	15.10%	11.74%	9.08%
ADIV at Market Price	11.27%	11.27%	15.10%	11.74%	9.08%
MSCI AC Pacific Ex-Japan NR	-5.85%	-5.85%	11.69%	10.28%	7.38%

Expense Ratio: 0.78% (net) | 4.97% (gross)

The Adviser has contractually agreed to reduce its fees and/or pay ETF expenses in order to limit the Fund's total annual operating expenses to 0.78% through June 30, 2025.

*Performance data quoted represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment in the Fund will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance of the Fund may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. Performance data current to the most recent month-end may be obtained by visiting SmartETFs.com, or calling (866) 307-5990. The returns shown are cumulative for the period, not annualized. Market prices return is based on the market price of Fund shares as of the close of trading on the exchange where the shares are listed. Performance would have been lower without fee waivers and or reimbursements in effect.*

Effective as of the close of business on March 26, 2021, the fund acquired the assets and assumed the performance, financial and other historical information of the Guinness Atkinson Asia Pacific Dividend Builder Fund, an open-end mutual fund (incepted March 31, 2006). The fund's investment objectives, strategies and policies are substantially similar to those of the predecessor mutual fund and it was managed by the same portfolio managers. Performance information for periods prior to March 26, 2021 is the historical performance of the predecessor mutual fund and reflects the higher operating expenses of the predecessor mutual fund. The fund has lower expenses than the predecessor mutual fund (including a lower management fee). For periods prior to March 29, 2021, the fund's performance would have been higher than shown had it operated with the fund's current expense levels.

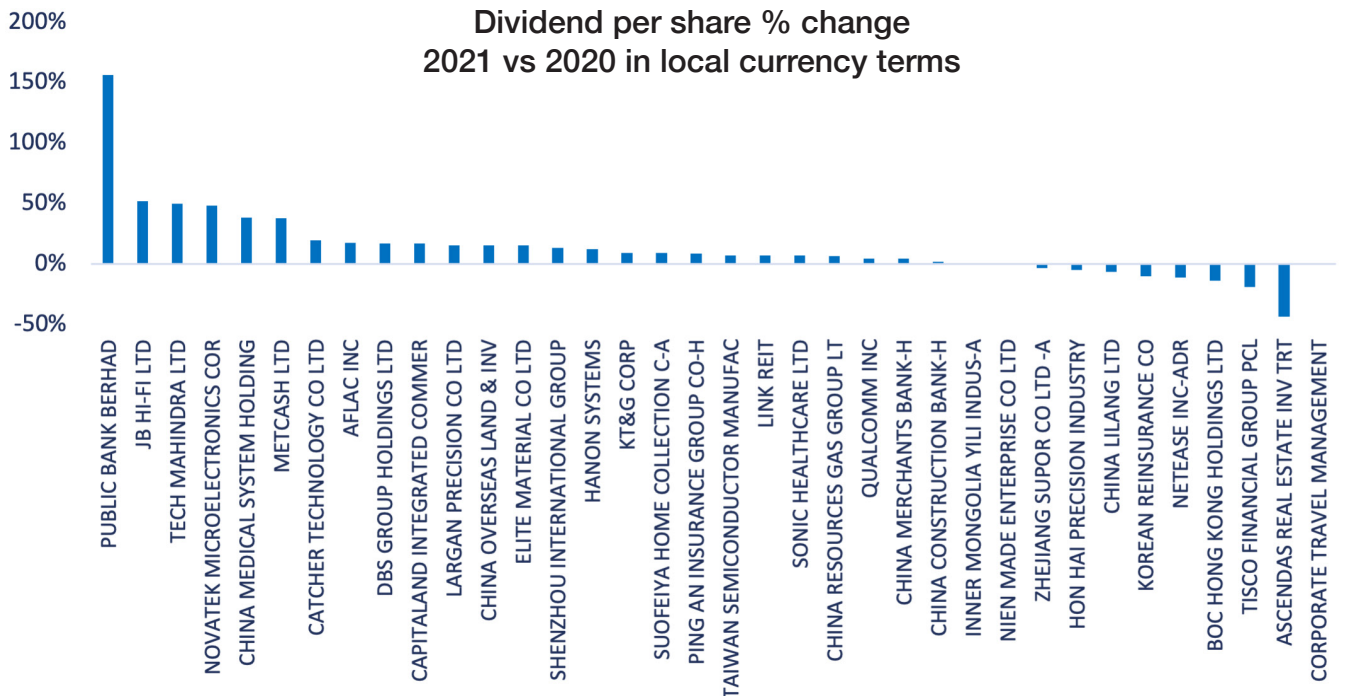


### 2021 Dividend Review

In 2021, out of our 36 holdings:

- 26 companies grew their dividend
- 1 company kept its dividend flat
- 8 companies reduced their dividend
- 1 company omitted the dividend

The chart below shows the percentage change in dividend per share for each of our portfolio companies. The changes at the extremes, Public Bank in Malaysia +156% and Ascendas REIT -43%, are the result of technical factors such as the restoration of a dividend previously omitted and further supplemented, or a timing difference in distribution date. For the rest, these reflect improved operating conditions or greater certainty in outlook which meant that prior conservatism was no longer required.



Source: Company reports. Dividend declared and the shares gone ex-dividend in 2021, in local currency terms.

The three fastest dividend growths, after Public Bank, were Australian electrical retailer JB Hi-Fi, Indian IT consultant Tech Mahindra, and Taiwan semiconductor designer Novatek Microelectronics.

We have held **JB Hi-Fi** since the fund was launched 8 years ago and the company has a solid track record in the highly competitive Australian market. The company has been a particular beneficiary of home-office working but it has also started to realize benefits from the acquisition of household consumer durable goods business, the Good Guys. The 52% increase in dividend distribution this year the 71% increase in earnings in 2020.



## 2021 Dividend Review (cont.)

**Tech Mahindra's** IT consultancy business differs from its Indian peers by virtue of its exposure to the telecom sector. For many years this has been a slow growth segment but the advent of fifth generation mobile telecommunications technology (5G) changes things. The wide range of applications for consumers, but more importantly for businesses, has revitalized this business. During COVID the company was unable to carry out billable work, so earnings suffered, but it was winning new contracts. As the world began to re-open revenues picked up. After an earnings decline of 7%, profit growth reaccelerated to 27% in calendar year 2021 and is forecast to grow a further 16% in the next twelve months. This prompted an additional special dividend which delivered 50% dividend growth on top of a doubling of the dividend in 2020 over 2019.

**Novatek Microelectronics** is a fabless chip designer. It relies on other wafer fabrication plants to manufacture the chips it designs. There has been a step change in revenues with its growing range of screen driver chips applicable to TVs, Monitors, Notebook PCs and cars as well as for its combined System on Chip designs for use in handheld devices. Now that smartphone makers more widely are adopting brighter and more energy efficient (OLED) displays, the market for Novatek's chips has been growing fast enabling the company to raise prices across the board. Earnings for the company grew over 50% in calendar year 2020 and are expected to have tripled this year. The dividend distribution grew 20% in 2020, by 48% this year and is forecast to grow meaningfully again next year.

The news is not bad even at the weaker end of the spectrum.

**Tisco Financial** was obliged by the Bank of Thailand to restrict distributions from bank earnings to 50% of the prior year. However, Tisco also has non-bank financial businesses in the group including asset management and brokerage. By maximizing the distributions from these divisions, Tisco was able to limit the decline to -19% year on year. The company felt able to do this because the banking business has been well-run and well-capitalized for many years. Management has been prudent in setting aside reserves over time against possible future bad debt. Non-performing assets are over 2 times covered by reserves and importantly, non-performing assets as a percentage of the total has remained steady at around 2%, at the lower end of the range over the past seven years. The market forecasts a recovery in the 2022 dividend to a level higher than that of pre-pandemic.

**BOC Hong Kong's** dividend fell 14% in 2021 which compares to an earnings decline of 24% over the same period. Margin compression was due to a narrowing spread between interest received and interest paid; fee income was higher and credit quality remain sound resulting in lower credit costs. Its capital strength and market position leave it better placed in our view for a post-COVID recovery on the back of ongoing market share gains in loans and deposits as well as its position to benefit from further development of the Bond Connect scheme (the channel through which international investors can buy domestic Chinese bonds).

**NetEase** is a Chinese videogaming company which has been able to negotiate its way through the regulatory changes being made in its domestic market. It is helped by being highly successful in overseas markets and not just China. The company's dividend policy is based on earnings which include currency movements. The strength of the renminbi meant that overseas earnings were less valuable when translated back into the reporting currency. The dividend fell 11% but

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### 2021 Dividend Review (cont.)

the distribution was consistent with policy. The company's video game pipeline looks strong, and the music streaming/advertising businesses, which the company categorizes as Innovative Businesses, have also been growing well.

### There's more where that came from!

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### Disclosure

**MSCI AC Pacific ex Japan Index** captures large and mid cap representation across 4 Developed Markets countries and 7 Emerging Markets countries in the Pacific region. With 1,176 constituents, the Index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

**Earnings Growth** is the annual compound annual growth rate of earnings from investments.

Characteristics of a company as an underlying security in the Fund's portfolio do not represent or predict the performance of the fund or any security.

**NAV** is the dollar value of a single share, based on the value of the underlying assets of the fund minus its liabilities, divided by the number of shares outstanding. Calculated at the end of each business day.

**Market Price** is the current price at which an asset or service can be bought or sold. The market price of an asset or service is determined by the forces of supply and demand. The price at which quantity supplied equals quantity demanded is the market price.

Investing involves risk, including possible loss of principal. The Fund invests in securities that pay dividends, and there is no guarantee that the securities held by the Fund will declare or pay dividends in the future, or that dividends will remain at current levels or increase. Investments in foreign securities involve greater volatility, political, economic and currency risks and differences in accounting methods. These risks are greater for emerging markets countries. For more information on the risks of investing in this Fund, please see the prospectus.

**Consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of the Fund carefully before investing. For a prospectus or summary prospectus with this and other information, please call (866) 307-5990 or visit our website at [www.SmartETFs.com](https://www.SmartETFs.com). Read the prospectus or summary prospectus carefully before investing.**

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