



Portfolio Performance

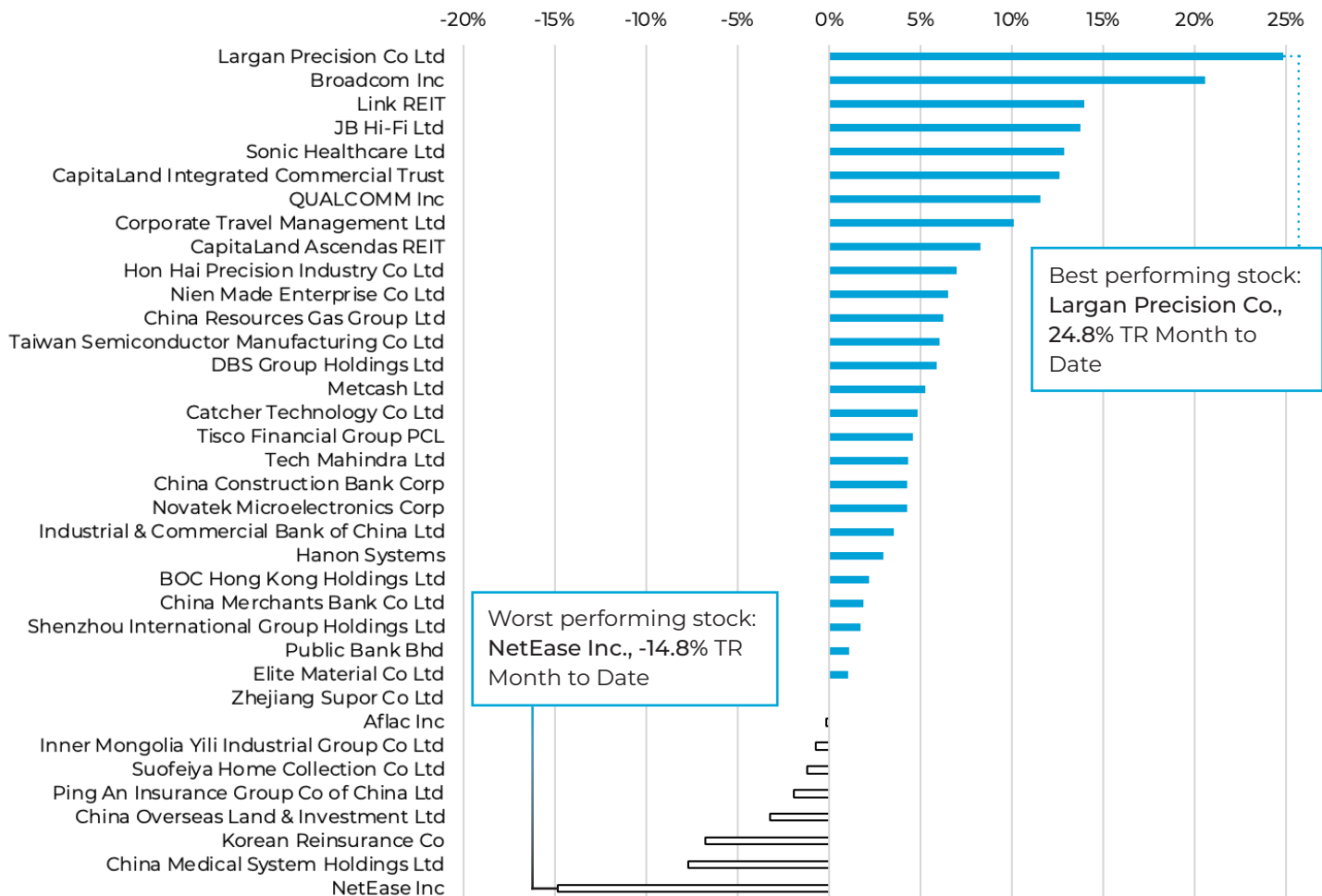
as of 12/31/2023

ADIV rose 4.24% on a NAV basis in December, 4.25% on a market price basis, outperforming the MSCI AC Pacific ex Japan Net Total Return Index benchmark which rose 4.01%. In 2023, ADIV returned 11.43% on a NAV basis (12.31% on a market price basis) vs the benchmark which returned 5.18% outperforming.

Fears of a hard landing were prominent for much of the year as interest rates remained elevated through 2023. However, inflation in the US (and Europe) has declined this year, and a change in tone from the Fed has turned the tide with the market now expecting a soft landing and several rate cuts in the second half of 2024. Asian markets were dragged down by ongoing concerns primarily related to China's domestic policies. Through the year, we saw a shorter-than-expected post-COVID rally, weakness in the property market, and mixed economic data, all without strong policy signals from the government. All 36 companies in the portfolio paid dividends. 21 increased, 3 were flat and 12 declined. It's worth noting that Tech Mahindra and Tisco have moved to a biannual dividend distribution policy. Elsewhere, DBS paid a special dividend, and Largan Precision saw declines in dividend per share as the special dividend paid out last year was not repeated this year. The biggest impact on the Fund's distribution was a decline in Novatek Microelectronics' dividend which, although significant in 2023 was below the unusually large pay out in 2022. No portfolio changes were made this year.

We are excited by the prospects of 2024. In 2023, the "higher-for-longer" environment has benefitted strategies oriented towards value and income, both which happen to be exactly what our investment process is all about. Even with cuts due in 2024, we see an environment where rates will remain higher than pre-pandemic and remain confident for the year ahead.

Holdings are subject to change. Go to SmartETFs.com/ADIV for current holdings.



Best performing stock:
Largan Precision Co.,
24.8% TR Month to
Date

Worst performing stock:
NetEase Inc., -14.8% TR
Month to Date



Portfolio Performance

As of 12/31/2023	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
ADIV at NAV	11.43%	11.43%	0.99%	7.14%	6.20%
ADIV at Market Price	12.31%	12.31%	0.94%	7.11%	6.19%
MSCI AC Pacific Ex-Japan NR	5.18%	5.18%	-7.00%	3.56%	3.23%

Expense Ratio: 0.78% (net) | 4.94% (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, 2026.

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.

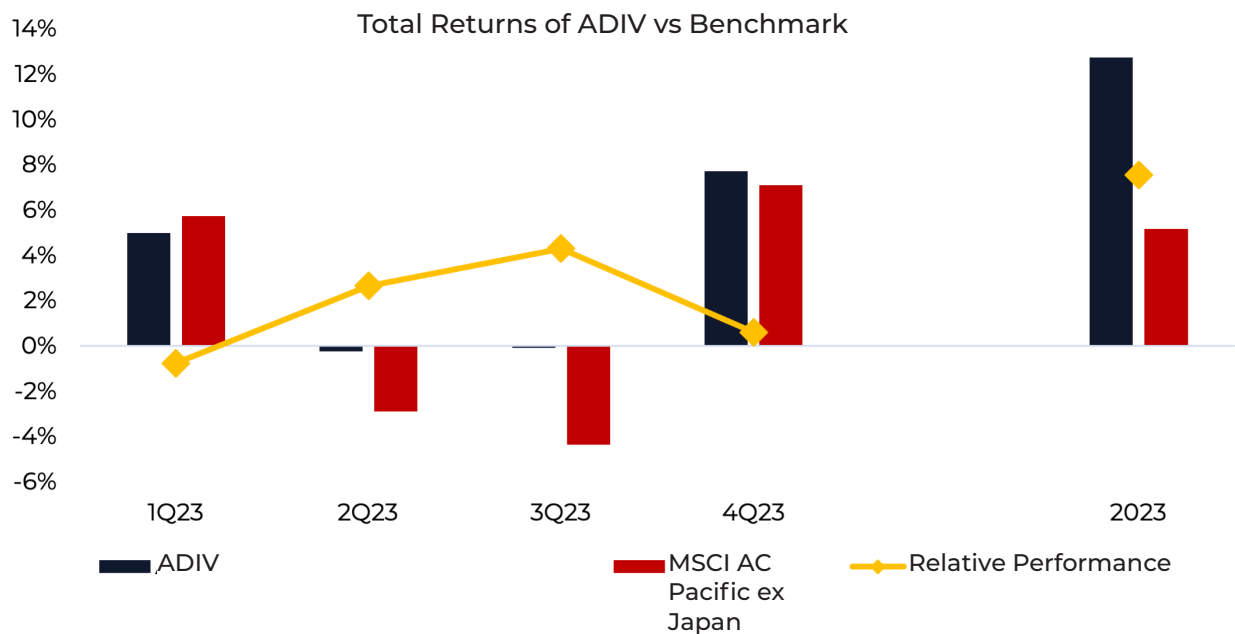
Effective as of the close of business on March 26, 2021, the fund acquired the assets and assumed the performance, financial and other historical information of the Guinness Atkinson Asia Pacific Dividend Builder Fund, an open-end mutual fund (incepted March 31, 2006). The fund's investment objectives, 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.



2023 Fund Review

Over the year, ADIV returned 11.43% on a NAV basis (12.31% on a market price basis) vs the benchmark which returned 5.18%.

As we can see below, the Fund has performed as we would expect it to in the current environment, namely providing downside hedge, as seen in the second and third quarters of 2023, and broadly keeping pace on market upswings. In fact, ADIV outperformed in the fourth quarter, even as the Index rebounded. In the long run, we believe this will, as seen in our 2023 performance, lead to outperformance versus our benchmark.



Source: Bloomberg, SmartETFs. Data as of December 31, 2023.

Stock selection contributed positively to outperformance in 2023 whereas asset allocation was a detractor, which is in line with our stated focus on bottom-up stock analysis.

Looking at the sectors, the Fund's main contribution to relative return came from Information Technology, driven by both allocation and selection effects. The top contributors to the sector, and indeed to the fund, were Elite Material, Broadcom and Novatek Microelectronics. Elite Material and Broadcom have benefited from the AI trend while we believe Novatek Microelectronics is benefitting from the start of the PC replacement cycle. Consumer Discretionary, Communication Services, and Health Care also gave positive contributions to relative returns. In Consumer Discretionary and in Health Care, small negative effects from asset allocation were more than offset by our stock selection effects. Not holding

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2023 Fund Review (continued)

Alibaba also provided positive contributions to relative returns. The Communication Services sector was buoyed by both positive allocation and selection effects. Holding NetEase provided over one basis point of contribution to relative return, while not holding Tencent also led to a positive contribution.

Financials was our weakest sector this year, dragged down by both allocation and selection effects. Our weakest performers in this sector, China Merchants Bank, Ping An Insurance, and BOC Hong Kong have all been affected by the negative narrative around the Chinese economy and domestic policy making. The detractors from these three names were able to more than offset any positive contributions from the rest of our Financial stocks, and from positive contributions from not holding names such as Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing. Our zero allocations to Energy, Industrials and Materials were also detractors to relative performance. As a reminder, we believe that the Energy and Materials sectors have cyclical characteristics that do not match our investment philosophy and process.

Despite weakness in many of our Chinese stocks, the country contributed positively to the Fund's relative return. NetEase and China Medical Systems both contributed to relative returns, as did avoiding holding the big internet names, such as JD.com and Alibaba. Detractors were China Merchants Bank, China Overseas Land and Investment and Ping An Insurance, which as mentioned earlier, have been affected by ongoing worries related to the state of the Chinese economy and domestic policy making.

No portfolio changes were made in 2023.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Buys	2	3	3	1	2	6	8	1	2	0
Sells	2	4	3	1	2	6	8*	1	2	0
Total Holdings	36	36	36	36	36	36	37	36	36	36

* Sale of one position not fully completed by year end.

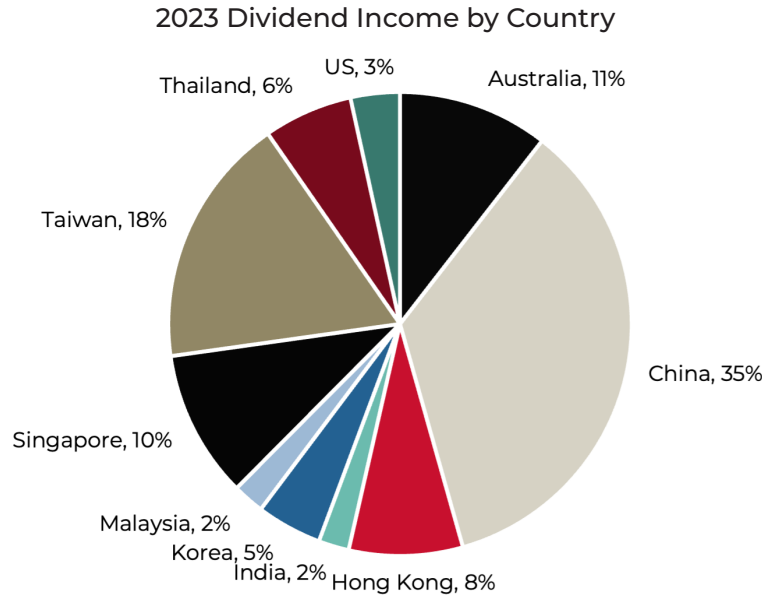
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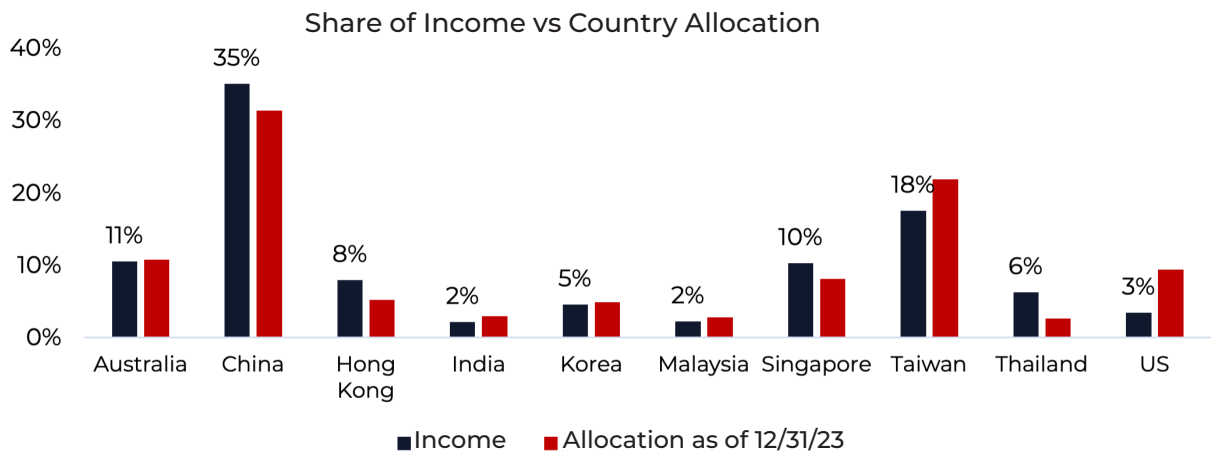
Dividend Review

Dividend Sources

The charts below show the geographic sources of dividend income received by the Fund in 2023, and how they broadly correspond to the regional weightings of the portfolio.



Source: SmartETFs, Guinness Atkinson Asset Management. Based on dividend income received and due to the Fund included in 2023 Fund distribution, converted into the Fund's base currency, USD. Data as of December 31, 2023.



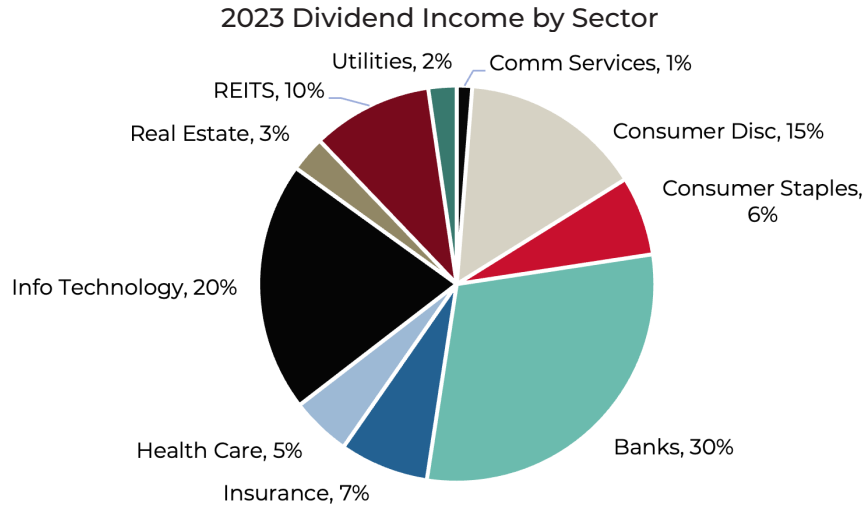
Source: SmartETFs, Guinness Atkinson Asset Management. Based on dividend income received and due to the Fund included in 2023 Fund distribution, converted into the Fund's base currency, USD. Data as of December 31, 2023.

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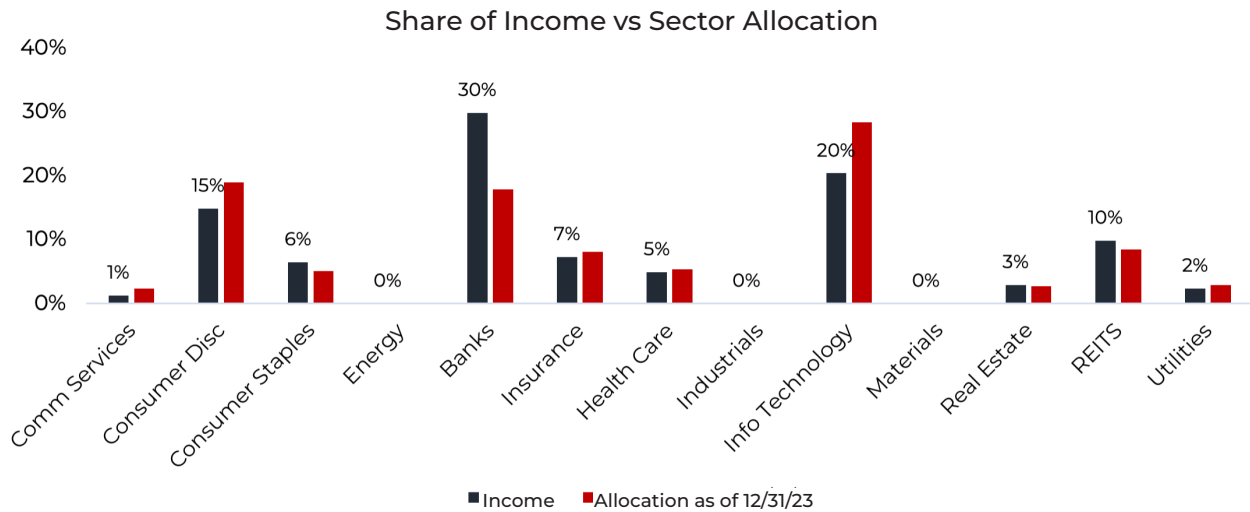
Dividend Review (continued)

By sector, the sources of income in 2023 were as follows:



Source: SmartETFs, Guinness Atkinson Asset Management. Based on dividend income received and due to the Fund included in 2023 Fund distribution, converted into the Fund’s base currency, USD. Data as of December 31, 2023.

As with the regional alignment, the share of income coming from each sector is quite similar to our sector allocation. The notable standouts here are Banks, which had a lower income weighting and information technology which had a higher weighting.



Source: SmartETFs, Guinness Atkinson Asset Management. Based on dividend income received and due to the Fund included in 2023 Fund distribution, converted into the Fund’s base currency, USD. Data as of December 31, 2023.

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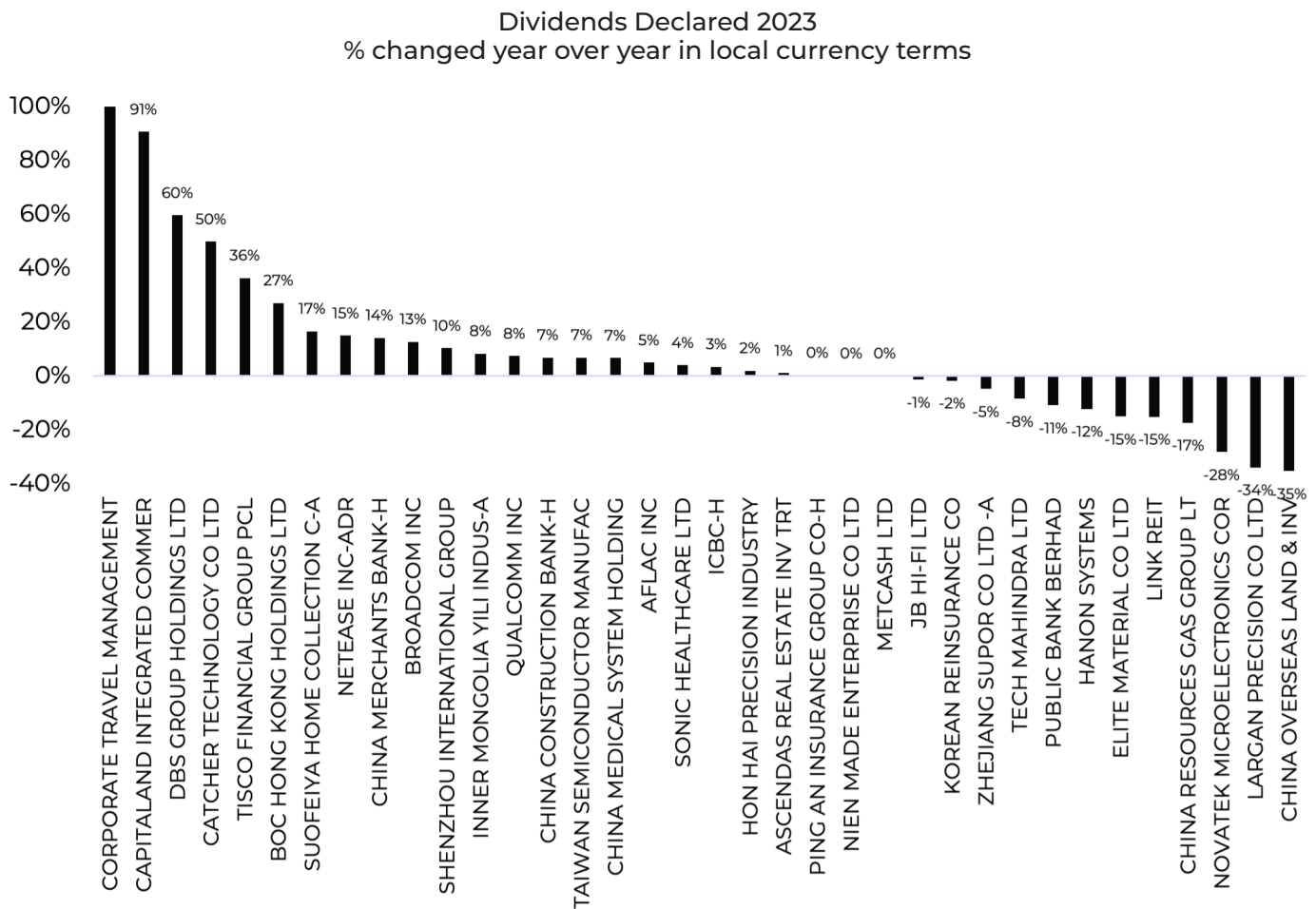


Dividend Actions

In 2023, out of our 36 holdings:

- 21 companies grew their dividends.
- 3 companies kept dividends flat.
- 12 companies reported lower dividends.

The chart below shows the percentage change in dividend per share (DPS) for each of our portfolio companies.



Source: Company reports. Dividends declared and the shares gone ex-dividend in 2023, in local currency terms. Data as of December 31, 2023.

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Dividend Actions (continued)

Having halted dividend payments during 2020 and 2021, Corporate Travel Management resumed dividends in 2022. However, the resumed DPS for 2022 was still 87% lower than in 2019. In 2023, the DPS has come in closer to the historical average, which produced an outsized 460% year-on-year DPS growth.

Capitaland Integrated Commercial Trust (CICT) and Catcher Technology's dividend growth were down to timing changes. For CICT, distributions for the second half of 2021 were split into two, with a significantly larger portion going ex in the same year instead of in the following year (i.e. 2022), and thus causing a lower base for 2023 DPU growth. In Catcher Technology's case, the increase was due to the company moving to a semi-annual dividend payout structure i.e. we are receiving 50% of 2024's dividend earlier than usual. Research reports from Morgan Stanley indicate that DPS will continue to be at least NTD10 (approximately \$0.32 USD) per year in the near term. As such, we would expect the DPS growth to decline by around 33% next year.

DBS Group released a special dividend in 2023, driving the strong DPS growth. What's more, even without the special dividend, DBS would have reported a very respectable year-on-year DPS growth of 25%.

Among the largest decliners, China Overseas Land reflects the slower pace of property sales in China, but the proportion of earnings distributed as a dividend remains unchanged. Largan Precision's 34% DPS decline was due to comparison with a higher-than-usual base year; management declared a special dividend in 2022. Excluding the special dividend in 2022, Largan would have declined by a more modest 7.6%. In the case of Novatek Microelectronics, the decline should be seen against the large payout in 2022 which was the result of accelerated earnings growth over the prior three years and an 80% payout ratio. In 2023 the absolute dividend declined but the payout ratio still stands at 80% and the trailing yield at year end was 7.2%.

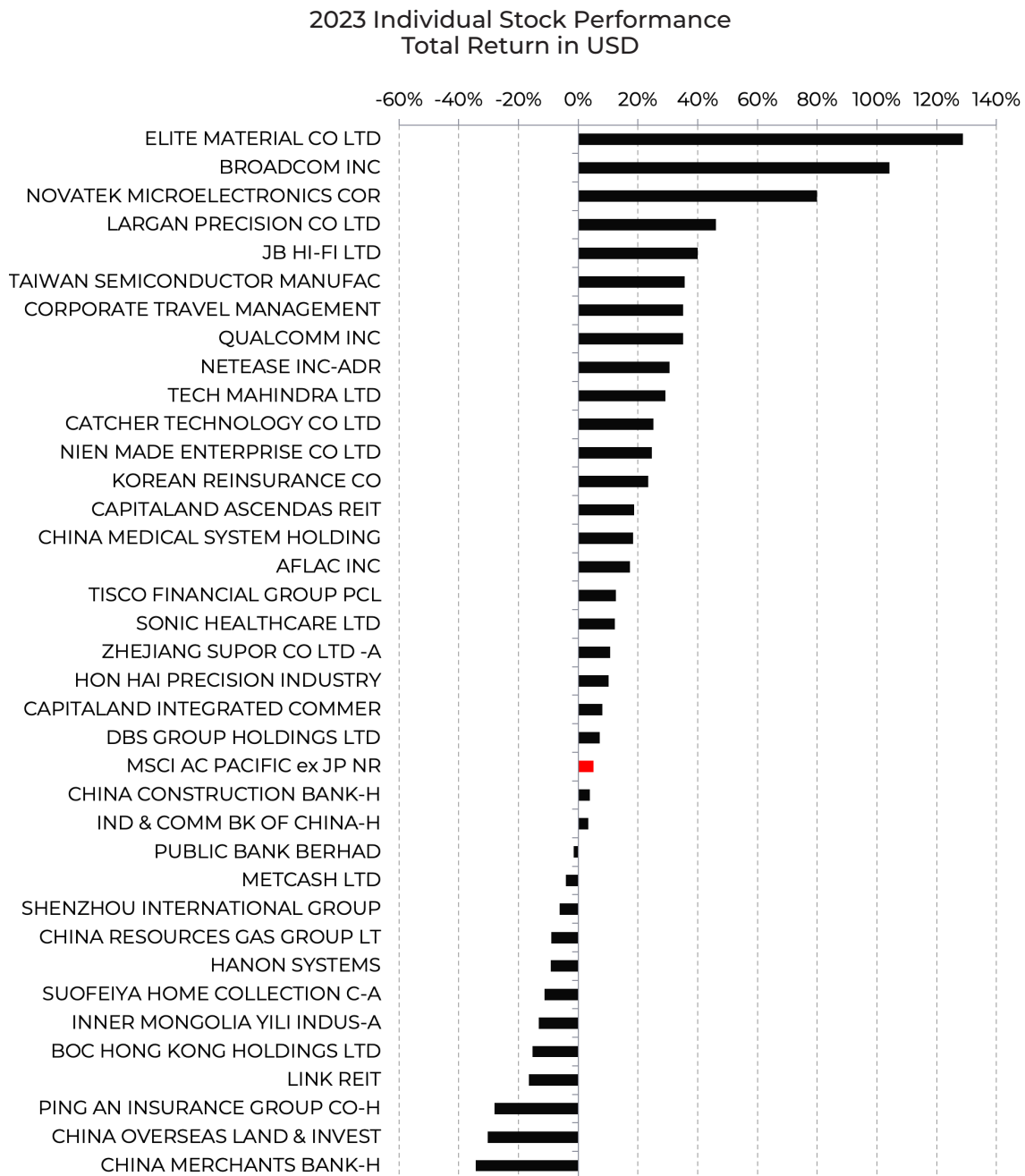
Individual Stock Performance

The chart on the following page shows the total return for each position in the portfolio for the period it was held in 2023. Of the 36 names in the portfolio, 14 underperformed the benchmark and 22 outperformed. Of our underperformers, 11 of them are Chinese companies which have broadly been more affected by negative sentiments related to the environment in China rather than by stock specific issues.

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Individual Stock Performance (continued)



Source: Bloomberg. Data as of December 31, 2023.

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Individual Stock Performance (continued)

Leaders

Of our top five performing stocks, three were in the Information Technology sector, and one each from the Communication Services and Consumer Discretionary sectors.

Elite Material Co

Elite Material, a manufacturer of copper clad laminates (CCLs) crucial for printed circuit boards (PCBs), commands significant market shares in High-density Interconnect PCBs and Substrate-like PCBs of 70% and 90% respectively. With PCBs used in premium smartphones and datacenter switches, the company is poised for growth as the industry shifts towards AI. Despite falling CCL prices due to decreased consumer electronics demand and industry inventory issues seen in the first half of this year, Elite has benefited and continues to benefit from the surge in interest in AI. Servers dedicated to AI require up to four times more CCL than conventional servers. They also require more complex materials, a market that Elite is reported to dominate. This strategic positioning has contributed to the company's share appreciation as investors remain excited by the company's growth avenue.

Broadcom Inc

Broadcom Inc. is a designer, developer and manufacturer of semiconductors and infrastructure software services. We bought this stock in December 2022 after a period of weakness associated with the tech sector. This is another company that has benefited from the rise in AI interest. In a year where wireless chip sales have been broadly flat, and broadband infrastructure and non-AI data center sales are in a cyclical downturn, sales of AI chips have driven the company's revenue growth and improved company margins. The company's VMWare acquisition was also finally approved by all regulatory jurisdictions and officially closed at the end of November. On the back of strong performance, Broadcom's management also announced a 14% increase to the FY24 dividend.

Novatek Microelectronics Corp

Novatek Microelectronics designs and manufactures integrated circuits (ICs) used in displays. The company has had a difficult period recently, driven by customers correcting their inventory levels, prolonged weakened consumer demand and increasing competition from Tier 2 and Tier 3 Chinese peers. However, these problems have been largely priced in, and the market has been focusing instead on 2024 outlook with the belief that replacement cycles for high-end PCs may be starting, which would improve consumer demand.

NetEase Inc

NetEase is a Chinese gaming company, known for its more "hardcore gamer" franchises. The easing of gaming regulations in China has led to a recovery in monthly domestic title releases and buoyed the company's share price this year. Adding to this, the company launched Eggy Party, a more casual bat-

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Individual Stock Performance (continued)

le-royale style game that has seen unexpected success in 2023, making it the most downloaded game in China this year.

JB Hi-Fi Ltd

JB Hi-Fi is an Australian retail company that deals with consumer electronics and home appliances. The market had been skeptical about the company's ability to sustain high quality results (seen through the COVID era) and worried about management's slower market sales growth outlook. However, fears have been partially calmed by market share gains and JB Hi-Fi's ability to beat sell-side expectations in recent earnings reports.

Laggards

China Merchants Bank

China Merchants Bank is historically one of China's most profitable banks. However, with a meaningful wealth management business, it has been hit this year by weak markets. A weak property market has led to weak mortgage repricing and lower loan yields. On the non-interest income side, a slower COVID rebound has translated to slower consumption and investing activity, pressuring fee income. With potentially more interest rate cuts to come in China, China Merchants Bank expect pressure on net interest margins to continue in 2024. We remain optimistic about the company. The market had been overenthusiastic in their estimation of China's recovery trajectory. With investors now adjusting their outlooks, we expect the company to be looked upon more favorably due to its continued funding cost advantages and historically strong returns on assets.

Ping An Insurance

Ping An Insurance is a Chinese financial services business, primarily providing insurance products to customers, as well as banking and investment products. Lower interest rates in 2023 and a volatile Chinese stock market has led to lower investment yield that has continued to decline through the year. Reports that the government had requested the company acquire a stake in Country Garden led to further share price weakness from November. It is worth noting that Ping An's management have vehemently denied these rumors and in fact, the company had been reducing shares in Country Garden and various other real estate holdings in the preceding quarter.

China Overseas Land & Investment

China Overseas Land & Investment (COLI) is a housebuilder that has historically succeeded amongst the disruptions in the Chinese real estate sector related to the country's tougher stance on excessive debt accumulation by private developers. This time, the crisis in confidence of the Chinese real estate sector has been driven by the fact that companies previously thought to be too big to fail, namely Evergrande and Country Garden, have missed debt repayments, triggering widespread concerns over the

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Individual Stock Performance (continued)

financial health of the sector. Adding to that, the government has for the most part of this year, provided little meaningful support to the sector, worsening investor anxieties. However, we remain confident in COLI's ability to prudently manage through this crisis. The company's balance sheet remains healthy, land acquisitions remain of high quality, and underlying sales performance remains better than the average of the top 100 mainland developers.

Link REIT

Link REIT is the outlier of our worst performers in that underperformance was primarily driven by a stock specific issue. The company saw a sharp decline in February after management announced a \$2.4bn one-to-five right issue. While the idea of raising capital via rights issue in and of itself was not negatively viewed by the market, the almost 30% discount of the subscription price of the rights units versus the previous closing price per unit was. Outside of this, Link REIT has had a broadly stable performance in 2023, in line with market expectations.

BOC Hong Kong

BOC Hong Kong (BOCHK) is a separately listed subsidiary of Bank of China and is the second largest commercial banking group in Hong Kong. As with China Merchants Bank, weaker share price performance has been driven by overoptimistic market expectations of China's COVID recovery in the first half of the year, as well as increasing anxiety around global rate movements seen through 2023.

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Important Information

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.

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.

Earnings per Share (EPS) is calculated as a company's profit divided by the outstanding shares of its common stock. The resulting number serves as an indicator of a company's profitability.

EBITDA or earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization, is an alternate measure of profitability to net income.

Price to Earnings Ratio (PER) is the ratio for valuing a company that measures its current share price relative to its earnings per share.

Risks:

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.

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. Read the prospectus or summary prospectus carefully before investing.

Shares of the Fund are distributed by Foreside Fund Services, LLC.