

Discovery Global Millennial Share Portfolio

January 2024

As millennials have entered their prime earning / spending years, they have become the world's most important consumer force reshaping spending patterns across global industries. This disruption is creating powerful, long-term, secular growth opportunities for investors which we call the 'Millennial Effect'. The strategy offers a thoughtful way of gaining exposure to the 'Millennial Effect' through an actively managed portfolio investing across all regions, sectors and market caps in order to effectively capture the widespread impact of this generation. The strategy invests in fundamentally solid companies that are aligning business models to service the tech-enabled consumption habits of the millennial generation. By carefully evaluating the quality of each business and investing at a reasonable valuation, we believe we can give our clients thoughtful exposure to the 'Millennial Effect', creating a well-diversified portfolio capable of generating wealth over the long-term.

The strategy is managed by 3 Co-Portfolio Managers, aided by 80+ research analysts working in 6 locations across the world. We think our local insights and global connectivity enables us to identify less researched companies that can benefit from the impact of the millennial generation. The Co-PMs work with the local analysts to identify what we believe are the best opportunities for this differentiated portfolio. Our team of 80+ investment professionals based across 6 locations globally has identified a proprietary universe of 400+ securities where the revenues are aligned to the millennial thematic. We look at companies that offer products as well as services that are catering to the spending patterns of the millennial generation and aim to keep a balanced portfolio. While the entire team vigorously debates investment ideas and overall portfolio structure, all final buy/sell decisions for the portfolio are a product of the collective decision of the Co-Portfolio Managers.



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Market Review

Global equities continued the positive momentum, albeit a bit slow, in January, returning 0.6% (total returns in USD). Market sentiment was governed by the beginning of the corporate earnings season along with hopes of rate cuts which were later dampened by the Fed.

Investors entered the year with optimism around the imminent rate cuts and the following push to performance. Having said that, the CPI number had trickled up recently with US and UK CPI readings reaching 3.4% and 4% respectively. In the policy meeting held at the end of the month, while the interest rates were kept on hold, the Fed's chairman's comments hinted at a cut being unlikely in the next meeting. In Japan, the central bank reiterated its monetary policy stance, with currency market reactions leading to a yen depreciation. Exporters' earnings benefitted from the move giving a further push to Japanese Equities.

While the GDP growth in Eurozone remained stagnant, US GDP grew at a rate of 3.3% in last quarter. Business activity continued to grow composite PMI coming above 50 across key regions, registering growth in both services and manufacturing sectors. With some of the companies releasing their earnings towards the end of the month, the strong numbers suggested an eventual 'soft landing' for the US economy. The robust earnings and optimistic outlook by some of the Mag-7 companies pushed the returns for communication services and Information Technology sectors. On the other hand, Materials and Real Estate ended the month in red.

Going forward, the performance is likely to be governed by the continued earnings releases next month along with the markets adapting to an environment of delayed rate cuts



Performance Overview

- The Goldman Sachs Asset Management Global Millennials Equity Strategy returned 0.7% in the month of January underperforming MSCI ACWI Growth by 58 bps and MSCI World by 49 bps.
- At the sector level, our holdings in Financials and Industrials supported portfolio performance while our holdings in Consumer Staples and Utilities detracted the most from portfolio returns.
- At the country level, our allocation to Argentina and positions in Korea contributed to portfolio performance during the month. On the other hand, our allocation to China and holding in Portugal detracted the most from portfolio returns.

Periods Ending 31-Jan-2024	GSAM Global Millennials Equity Strategy (%)	MSCI ACWI Growth (%)	Excess Return (bps)	MSCI World (%)	Excess Return (bps)
Trailing 1 year	10.2	23.2	-1300	17.0	-682
Trailing 3 years	-6.7	4.1	-1087	8.1	-1478
Trailing 5 years	10.6	13.0	-241	11.4	-79
Since Inception	12.0	12.9	-95	11.3	66

Source: Goldman Sachs Asset Management. Strategy Inception Date: 1 February 2016. The returns are gross and do not reflect the deduction of investment advisory fees, which will reduce returns. Our investment advisory fees are described in Part 2 of our Form ADV. See additional disclosures. **Past performance does not guarantee future results, which may vary.** The holdings and/or allocations shown may not represent all of the portfolio's investments. Future investments may or may not be profitable.



Performance Commentary

Some of the top contributors and detractors for the month include:

- **Apple** (Contributor) – an American technology company
 - The share price rose after the company release its quarterly earnings where the numbers showed growth despite the China-slowdown. The sale of iPhones remained robust as compared to other smartphones in the market and the services division numbers were also in line with consensus. Apple recognized the regional headwinds from China and has been making efforts to steer its supply chain out of the region. We continue to hold the company as the company remains an outperformer in the industry and is likely to gain more investor attention as and when it increases its AI investment.

- **Meta** (Contributor) – US-based multinational technology conglomerate
 - The share price has been on the rise driven by margins growth announced in the recent earnings announcement. The company has been steadily reducing operational costs but raised its capex guidance for the financial year. The CEO also announced a \$50 billion shares buyback attracting investor attention. We continue to hold the company as it continues to work closely on its AI projects which is likely to provide the company with an edge over other players in the market.

- **EDP Renovaveis** (Detractor) – Renewable energy company
 - The share price has been facing headwinds form the interest rate environment. The stock was up in Nov-Dec when rates were stagnant. However, the performance dropped in January as the uncertainty about the rate trajectory returned. Mild weather and strong hydro and nuclear power generation reduced demand for gas, putting pressure on power prices, bringing the stock under pressure. Renewable developers have some unhedged volumes that are sold at spot price into the power market which now yield lower prices. The uncertainty around the upcoming elections in US are also triggering worries amongst investors. We remain invested in the company as we believe in the long term growth story owing to high thematic alignment and growing environmental concerns amongst younger population.

- **Meituan** (Detractor) – Chinese shopping platform
 - The Share price went down sharply post company's 3Q23 results announcement. Meituan delivered better than expected 3Q23 results but guided to increase subsidy in 4Q23 to support market share expansion and order volume in both food delivery and in store service. Fearing that the spending could lead to lower margin in near terms, investors grew concerned around the stock's performance. We like the company given its leading position in food delivery and on-demand delivery market and continue to believe in the longer-term growth. We are monitoring our current position as we continue to review the near-term risk.

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Effect of Fees:

The following table provides a simplified example of the effect of management fees on portfolio returns. Assume a portfolio has a steady investment return, gross of fees, of 0.5% per month and total management fees of 0.05% per month of the market value of the portfolio on the last day of the month. Management fees are deducted from the market value of the portfolio on that day. There are no cash flows during the period. The table shows that, assuming all other factors remain constant, the difference increases due to the compounding effect over time. Of course, the magnitude of the difference between gross-of-fee and net-of-fee returns will depend on a variety of factors, and this example is purposely simplified.

Period	Gross Return	Net Return	Differential
1 year	6.17%	5.54%	0.63%
2 years	12.72	11.38	1.34
10 years	81.94	71.39	10.55

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