

# TT EMERGING MARKETS EQUITY FUND

### **Fund Information**

**Portfolio Managers** 

Niall Paul | Robert James

#### **Target Return**

3% outperformance per annum on a threeyear rolling basis

#### **Expected Capacity**

USD 6bn + USD 1bn for existing clients

#### Renchmark

**MSCI Emerging Markets Index** 

#### **Typical Tracking Error**

4-7%

#### **Fund Inception**

March-2011

#### Assets under management

Fund: USD 780,670,038

Strategy: USD 5,752,632,508

## **Fund Performance**

	Fund Gross	MSCI EM	Rel.
March	-2.9	-2.2	-0.7
Q1	-11.9	-6.9	-5.4
1 Year	-17.4	-11.1	-7.1
3 Year (ann)	5.0	5.3	-0.3
5 Year (ann)	7.2	6.4	0.8
Incep. (ann)	5.5	2.8	2.7
Returns are gross	of fees in	n USD	

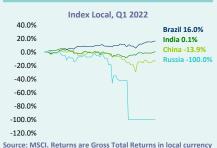
Fund Value (USD mil) 781

Inception 30/03/11

## Q1 2022 Attribution

Country Allocation	-0.6
Security Selection	-5.0
Currency Effect	0.2
Management Effect	-5.4

### Markets



terms for the corresponding MSCI country index.

EM equities sold off as Russia invaded Ukraine, sending commodity prices soaring. The fund saw a negative absolute return, underperforming its benchmark.

## **Performance**

The fund finished behind its benchmark, with outperformance in Qatar more than offset by underperformance in China, Saudi Arabia and South Africa.

## Market Background

EM equities sold off as Russia invaded Ukraine, sending commodity prices soaring.

## Outlook

It has been a tumultuous first quarter for equity markets, with Russia committing the biggest act of aggression on European soil since the Second World War. As Lenin famously remarked: "There are decades where nothing happens; and there are weeks where decades happen." Russia's invasion of Ukraine has turbocharged the spike in commodity prices across the board and already appears to have catalysed a momentous shift in global energy policy. The inflation genie may finally be out of the bottle, with central banks scrambling to shift their monetary policy stance in an attempt to regain control. Meanwhile, Chinese equities experienced a violent sell-off due to the prospect of widening lockdowns to contain COVID, as well as the overhang of potential further regulation in the Tech sector. They then rallied sharply after Beijing encouraged regulators to issue market-friendly policies to "invigorate the economy". The extent of the relief rally suggests that markets are interpreting the Chinese State Council's comments as similar to Mario Draghi's watershed "whatever it takes" speech that saved the euro.

Having been underweight China for much of last year, we increased exposure as we felt that valuations had got to attractive levels and that the factors which had been casting a shadow over the market would gradually improve, most notably COVID, the property cycle and the regulatory backdrop. Unfortunately China's zero-COVID policy is being severely tested by a rapidly expanding outbreak. The country is making progress with MRNA vaccine development and rollout, but this will take time. Meanwhile, although we have seen signs of easing in the property market, sales have not yet picked up. We expect further easing to stabilise the market, but the government may need to row back from its focus on price control, which is part of the "property is for living not speculation" drive. Where we have far higher conviction is in the regulatory backdrop, which we believe will now become sequentially more favourable. It is very encouraging to see efforts by Beijing to co-operate with the US and allow auditing of US-listed Chinese ADRs. We are also hearing from various sources, including our

investee companies, that ADRs will be split into two camps according to whether the companies have access to state secrets. Those that don't will be able to co-operate much more freely with the US. Clearly the ADR issue has been a substantial source of pain for the fund, which is frustrating as the fundamentals of many of our ADR holdings have improved materially. As the regulatory backdrop slowly improves, we believe this will be a significant catalyst for the portfolio. It is also important to note that the companies in China which have outperformed this year have tended to be banks and stodgy SOEs. These are precisely the types of companies that the fund typically avoids in favour of more dynamic private businesses. We are confident however that once Beijing's market and growth friendly policies are implemented and risk appetite improves, many of our private sector holdings will lead the rally. Similarly, whilst our Chinese renewable energy names have struggled against a risk-off backdrop, we believe their structural growth opportunity has actually been enhanced by recent events. Again we see significant pent-up performance in these names.

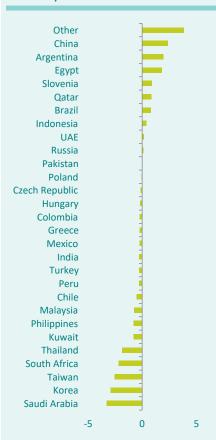
Q1 2022

Another source of outperformance should be the portfolio's increasing exposure to Energy and Materials, given the surge in commodity prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. We believe that the supply impact of the green energy transition is exacerbating the fundamental tightness in the oil market, meaning that prices should remain elevated. Many oil companies are actively encouraged by investors to return capital or invest in renewable energy rather than drilling for more oil. Consequently, non-OPEC oil supply appears to be peaking, while OPEC is delivering below its quota. We are therefore seeing spare capacity fall and inventories drawing down at a time of the year time when they are usually increasing. We have oil exposure through Cosan, Petrobras, S-Oil, Reliance Industries and ONGC. These companies should offer substantial dividend yields and therefore protect the portfolio on the downside in potentially challenging market conditions.

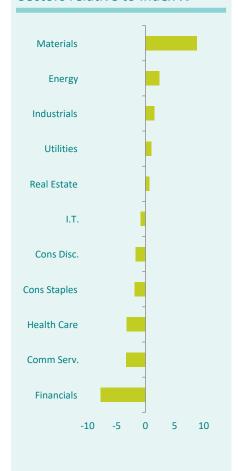
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## Country relative to Index %



### Sectors relative to Index %



## **Portfolio Positioning**

Over the quarter we looked to increase the portfolio's exposure to Energy and Materials, given the spike in commodity prices. As such we added to OCI and Glencore. The latter produces thermal coal, the price of which is up around 150% in a matter of weeks. Consequently, Glencore's EBITDA and cashflow should rise substantially. We also have a large position in Petrobras, which should be a key beneficiary of the elevated oil price. Another related purchase was Barrick Gold, which is one of the cheapest gold producers in our universe.

We also bought Yunnan Aluminium and Korean steelmaker POSCO. As part of its drive to lower emissions, China has limited its capacity in both the aluminium and steel industries. At the same time, many smelters in Europe are struggling to operate due to high energy prices. Consequently, pricing power should remain high, particularly as aluminium is a key component in Electric Vehicles, where demand continues to grow rapidly. At just 0.4x book value, POSCO is one of the cheapest steel producers in the world.

Elsewhere we added substantially to Alibaba, Tencent and Meituan. Chinese Internet companies have been hit by a perfect storm of regulatory tightening and a slowing economy. However, recent comments from Beijing suggest that the government intends to stabilise growth and ease its regulatory stance. At the same time, many of these companies have announced measures to rationalise costs. In our view the stars are now aligning for significant outperformance from Chinese Internet companies as a stronger economy should lead to higher topline growth, the effect of which will likely be magnified in the bottom line due to cost cutting measures, while less intervention from Beijing should catalyse a rerating from very depressed levels. Indeed, on our numbers Alibaba is trading on close to 5x core earnings.

Conversely, we looked to reduce our cyclical Tech exposure as we believe that pressure on consumer purchasing power from higher inflation and a slowing global economy could dent demand for electronics. Moreover, Tech margins are currently very high, but could see pressure in the second half of 2022 as new foundry capacity comes online. This has been the key bottleneck in Tech supply, and once it eases up the sector as a whole could face margin pressure, particularly those areas most closely associated with foundry-related supply constraints. We therefore cut SK Hynix and ASE Technology. For similar reasons we reduced Hyundai Motor, which also has a finance business that will likely see higher NPL formation as the global economy slows.

We also sold Delta Electronics, which we owned for its EV exposure. Many EV-related names have struggled due to concerns over rising input costs. Delta Electronics has held up relatively well, so we decided to exit the position as we felt it could soon come under pressure.

Finally, we looked to cut all exposure to Russia as we became increasingly concerned about the prospect of an invasion of Ukraine. This was mostly achieved, albeit we ran into issues fully exiting certain positions after trading was suspended on the Russian market and foreign investors were banned from selling Russian assets.

## **Stocks**

Below we highlight a major winner and a major loser:

#### OC

OCI is a leading producer of urea and therefore performed well against a backdrop of sharply higher fertiliser prices. Producing fertiliser typically requires gas, the price of which is so high that many European suppliers are currently unable to operate. OCI enjoys fixed-cost gas input in North Africa, and also has US operations that buy gas at much more favourable rates than European ones. At the same time, corn, wheat and soy prices are extremely elevated, meaning farmers can afford to pay more for fertiliser. Thus, demand is strong, supply is constrained and OCI has advantaged gas costs. As such it appears very well positioned.

#### 360 Digitech

360 Digitech is an online lender operating in China. It has exposure to the subprime segment and is starting to make inroads into the SME sector. Historically, 360 has used its own balance sheet to lend, but is slowly transitioning to an asset-light model where it uses banks' balance sheets and takes a fee. Consequently, returns are becoming more stable, with lower associated risk. Over time this should lead to a rerating. 360 had a very strong 2021, growing earnings by around 60% on the back of impressive volume and margin expansion. While regulatory pressure may slow such stellar growth, we still believe that earnings can sustainably expand at over 20% a year. 360 has a ROE of over 30%, yet trades at just 3x earnings and 0.8x book value. Such mispricing is due to concerns about potential regulation and ADR risk. We believe that both factors are more than captured in the price; even with further regulation we expect strong growth, while ADR risk is being mitigated as 360 is working on a secondary listing in Hong Kong.



## TT EMERGING MARKETS EQUITY FUND

## Performance Attribution Q1 2022

On this page we identify where your portfolio added or subtracted value, relative to the benchmark.

Country Selection (%)					
Country	Country Allocation	Security Selection	Currency Effect	Management Effect	
Total Portfolio	-0.6	-5.0	0.2	-5.4	
Equity	-0.6	-5.0	0.0	-5.6	
Top/Bottom 5 EM Countries	-1.0	-4.2	-0.1	-5.2	
Qatar	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	
India	-0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	
Indonesia	-0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	
Taiwan	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.0	
UAE	-0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	
Russia	0.7	-1.5	0.3	-0.6	
Mexico	0.0	-0.7	0.0	-0.8	
South Africa	-0.5	0.0	-0.3	-0.8	
Saudi Arabia	-0.8	-0.1	0.0	-0.9	
China	0.0	-2.3	0.0	-2.4	
Rest of World	0.4	-0.8	0.1	-0.3	
Non Equity	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	
Foreign Exchange	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	
Cash	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	
Futures	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	

Sector Selection (%)					
Sector	Sector Allocation	Security Selection	Currency Effect	Management Effect	
Total Portfolio	-0.4	-5.2	0.2	-5.4	
Equities	-0.3	-5.2	0.0	-5.6	
Energy	-0.2	0.5	0.5	0.8	
Materials	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.3	
Health Care	0.2	-0.2	0.1	0.1	
Consumer Discretionary	0.2	0.0	-0.1	0.1	
Real Estate	-0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	
Utilities	0.0	-0.2	0.0	-0.2	
Information Technology	-0.3	0.1	-0.2	-0.4	
Consumer Staples	0.1	-0.8	-0.1	-0.8	
Communication Services	0.2	-1.5	-0.2	-1.6	
Industrials	-0.1	-1.6	-0.1	-1.7	
Financials	-0.7	-1.6	0.0	-2.4	
Non Equity	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	
Foreign Exchange	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	
Cash	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	
Futures	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	

## Highlights

- The fund finished behind its benchmark, with outperformance in Qatar more than offset by underperformance in China, Saudi Arabia and South Africa.
- Qatar National Bank performed well as it benefits from higher rates. The country is a major exporter of LNG and has therefore seen a significant positive shock to its terms of trade. Conversely, the fund lost out by being underweight Saudi banks. We struggle to find value there as many leading Saudi banks are trading on 5x book value, which assumes substantially higher rates.
- OCI performed well as it is a key beneficiary of higher urea prices.
- 360 Digitech struggled amid general concerns about ADRs and the Chinese economy.
- The fund's Russian holdings sold off sharply after Russia invaded Ukraine.

## Highlights

- At the sector level, outperformance in Energy and Materials was overshadowed by underperformance in Financials, Industrials and Communication Services.
- The war in Ukraine has turbocharged commodity price spikes across the board. The fund's holdings in Glencore, Zijin Mining and Petrobras all performed well against this backdrop.
- Energy storage system provider Pylon struggled due to concerns around rising raw material costs pressuring margins.
- Russia-based Yandex sold off sharply in the Communication Services sector.

Stock Selection (%)					
				Management	
	Stock	Country	Sector	Effect (%)	TT Held
Top Contributors	OCI	Egypt	Materials	0.81	<b>√</b>
	Glencore	South Africa	Materials	0.67	<b>V</b>
	Zijin Mining	China	Materials	0.64	√
	Sberbank	Russia	Financials	0.53	√
	Lukoil	Russia	Energy	0.46	×
Top Detractors	Fix Price Group	Russia	Consumer Discretionary	-0.80	<b>√</b>
	Yandex	Russia	Communication Services	-0.64	<b>V</b>
	Polymetal	Russia	Materials	-0.60	<b>V</b>
	360 Digitech	China	Financials	-0.56	<b>V</b>
	Gazprom	Russia	Energy	-0.56	<b>V</b>



# Q1 2022 TT EMERGING MARKETS EQUITY FUND

Portfolio Breakdown (%)				
	TT GEMS MSCI EM			
	110	IT GEMS		
	31 Dec	31 Mar	31 Mar	
Czech Republic			0.2	
Egypt	1.5	1.9	0.1	
Greece			0.2	
Hungary	0.7		0.2	
Kuwait			0.8	
Poland	0.6	0.7	0.7	
Qatar	1.0	1.8	1.0	
Russia	6.6	0.1		
Saudi Arabia		0.9	4.2	
Slovenia	0.9	0.9		
South Africa	2.7	1.9	4.1	
Turkey			0.3	
UAE		1.6	1.4	
EMEA	14.1	9.8	13.1	
China	29.4	32.4	30.0	
India	12.2	12.8	13.1	
Indonesia	1.3	2.1	1.7	
Korea	14.9	9.7	12.6	
Malaysia		0.7	1.5	
Pakistan			0.0	
Philippines			0.8	
Taiwan	18.2	13.6	16.1	
Thailand			1.9	
Emerging Asia	76.1	71.4	77.7	
Argentina	1.9	2.0		
Brazil	4.3	6.6	5.8	
Chile			0.5	
Colombia			0.2	
Mexico	2.5	2.1	2.3	
Peru			0.3	
Latin America	8.7	10.7	9.2	
Other	0.0	3.8	0.0	
Cash	1.1	4.3		
Tatal	100-0	100.0	100.0	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	

Sector Allocation (%)					
	TT GEMS		MSCI EM		
	31 Dec	31 Mar	31 Mar		
Communication Services	5.6	6.8	10.1		
Consumer Discretionary	9.1	10.7	12.3		
Consumer Staples	3.0	3.9	5.8		
Energy	4.3	7.2	4.8		
Financials	15.0	14.4	22.1		
Health Care	1.5	0.6	3.9		
Industrials	6.6	6.9	5.4		
Information Technology	33.2	20.8	21.6		
Materials	15.7	18.3	9.4		
Real Estate	1.5	2.7	2.1		
Utilities	3.3	3.6	2.6		
Cash	1.1	4.3			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0		

Top 10 Stocks						
December 31, 2021			March 31, 2022			
Security	Country	Weight %	Security	Country	Weight %	
TSMC	Taiwan	9.5	TSMC	Taiwan	9.5	
Samsung Electronics	Korea	7.6	Alibaba Group	China	7.1	
Alibaba Group	China	3.9	Samsung Electronics	Korea	5.1	
Tencent	China	3.4	Tencent	China	4.8	
HDFC Bank	India	2.8	Barrick Gold	Other	2.2	
Delta Electronics	Taiwan	2.6	Cemex	Mexico	2.1	
SK Hynix	Korea	2.6	HDFC Bank	India	2.1	
Cemex	Mexico	2.5	Yageo	Taiwan	2.0	
ICICI Bank	India	2.4	Renew Energy	India	2.0	
Hyundai	Korea	2.2	Globant	Argentina	2.0	
Top 10 Positions		39.4	Top 10 Positions		38.7	
Top 20 Positions		56.6	Top 20 Positions		56.8	
No. of stocks		63	No. of stocks		59	

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