



MFS® Blended Research® Value Equity Fund

(Class R6 Shares)

Fourth quarter 2024 investment report

NOT FDIC INSURED MAY LOSE VALUE NOT A DEPOSIT

Before investing, consider the fund's investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses. For a prospectus, or summary prospectus, containing this and other information, contact MFS or view online at mfs.com. Please read it carefully.

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PRPEQ-BRU-31-Dec-24

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Table of Contents



Contents	Page
Fund Risks and Investment Objective	1
Market Overview	2
Executive Summary	3
Performance	4
Attribution	5
Significant Transactions	15
Portfolio Positioning	16
Characteristics	18
Portfolio Outlook	20
Portfolio Holdings	25
Additional Disclosures	27

Performance and attribution results are for the fund or share class depicted and do not reflect the impact of your contributions and withdrawals. Your personal performance results may differ.

Portfolio characteristics are based on equivalent exposure, which measures how a portfolio's value would change due to price changes in an asset held either directly or, in the case of a derivative contract, indirectly. The market value of the holding may differ.

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PRPEQ-BRU-31-Dec-24

Fund Risks and Investment Objective



The fund may not achieve its objective and/or you could lose money on your investment in the fund.

Stock: Stock markets and investments in individual stocks are volatile and can decline significantly in response to or investor perception of, issuer, market, economic, industry, political, regulatory, geopolitical, environmental, public health, and other conditions.

Value: The portfolio's investments can continue to be undervalued for long periods of time, not realize their expected value, and be more volatile than the stock market in general.

Strategy: There is no assurance that the portfolio's predicted tracking error will equal its target predicted tracking error at any point in time or consistently for any period of time, or that the portfolio's predicted tracking error and actual tracking error will be similar. The portfolio's strategy to target a predicted tracking error of approximately 2% compared to the Index and to blend fundamental and quantitative research may not produce the intended results. In addition, MFS fundamental research is not available for all issuers.

Quantitative Strategy: MFS' investment analysis, development and use of quantitative models, and selection of investments may not produce the intended results and/or can lead to an investment focus that results in underperforming portfolios with similar investment strategies and/or the markets in which the portfolio invests. The proprietary and third party quantitative models used by MFS may not produce the intended results for a variety of reasons, including the factors used, the weight placed on each factor, changing sources of market return, changes from the market factors' historical trends, and technical issues in the development, application, and maintenance of the models (e.g., incomplete or inaccurate data, programming/software issues, coding errors and technology failures).

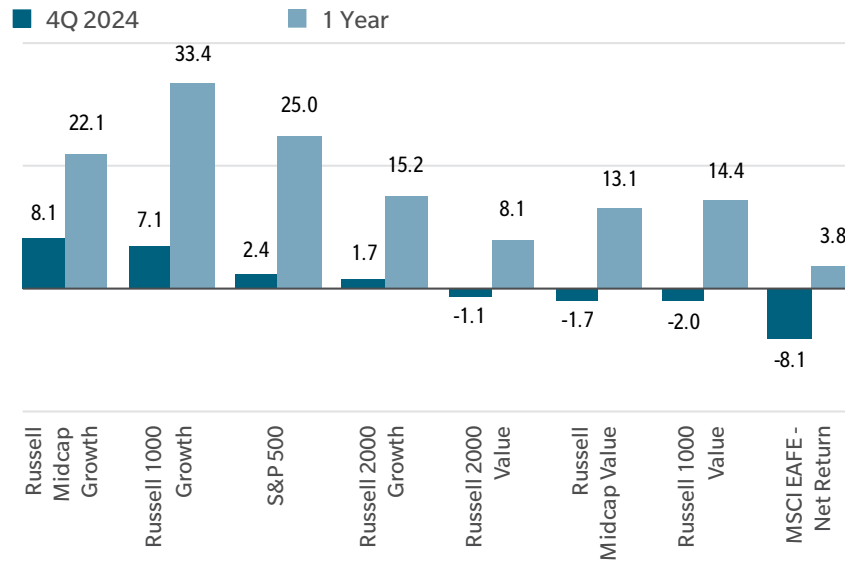
Please see the prospectus for further information on these and other risk considerations.

Investment Objective: Seeks capital appreciation.

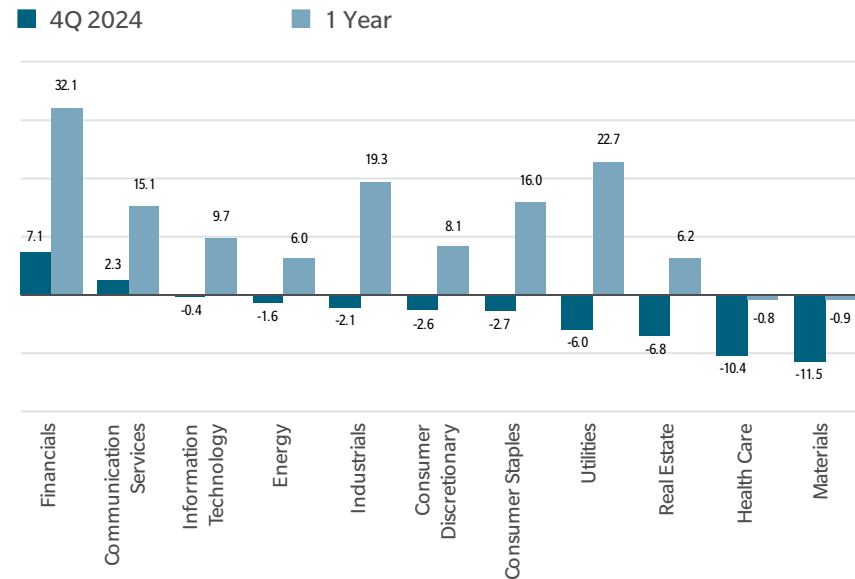
Market Overview



Style performance (%) (USD) as of 31-Dec-24



Sector performance (%) (USD) as of 31-Dec-24



Past performance is not a reliable indicator for future results.
 Source for benchmark performance SPAR, FactSet Research Systems Inc. All indices represent total return unless otherwise noted.

Source: FactSet. Sector performance based on MSCI sector classification. The analysis of Russell 1000® Value Index constituents are broken out by MSCI defined sectors.

US equities market review as of 31 December 2024

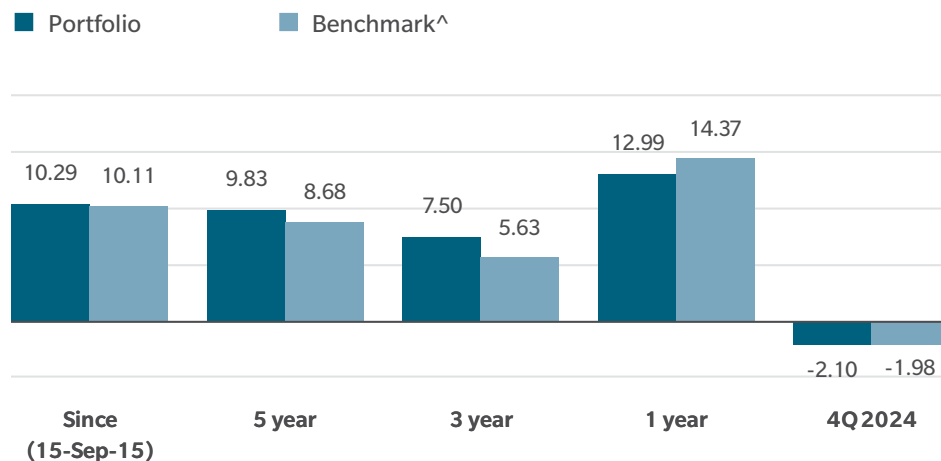
- The US market, as measured by the S&P 500 Index, finished higher in Q4 2024. While the market ended the quarter with a gain, it gave back some of that return in December. Investors used the last month of the year to lock in some profits from a strong year as well as to recognize the uncertainty in many areas in 2025.
- Economic growth in the United States expanded during Q3 2024, with GDP increasing 3.1%. This was similar to Q2 and showed that the US economy was still performing well. With inflation heading toward the US Federal Reserve’s 2% goal, the Fed cut rates two times, each by 25 basis

- points, during the quarter. However, the Fed also announced that fewer cuts than anticipated were likely in 2025.
- For the quarter, growth outperformed value in the large-, mid- and small-cap spaces. Consumer discretionary, communication services and financials were the best-performing sectors, and materials, health care and real estate were the worst.

Executive Summary



Performance results (%) R6 shares at NAV (USD) as of 31-Dec-24



Performance data shown represent past performance and are no guarantee of future results. Investment return and principal value fluctuate so your shares, when sold, may be worth more or less than the original cost; current performance may be lower or higher than quoted. For most recent month-end performance, please visit mfs.com.

Performance results reflect any applicable expense subsidies and waivers in effect during the periods shown. Without such subsidies and waivers the fund's performance results would be less favorable. All results assume the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains.

Shares are available without a sales charge to eligible investors.

Source for benchmark performance SPAR, FactSet Research Systems Inc.

For periods of less than one-year returns are not annualized.

^ Russell 1000® Value Index

Position weights (%) as of 31-Dec-24

	Portfolio	Benchmark^^
Top overweights		
SALESFORCE INC	1.6	0.2
AMERICAN EXPRESS CO	1.8	0.4
AMPHENOL CORP	1.5	0.1
Top underweights		
BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY INC (EQ)	1.8	3.4
WALMART INC	0.2	1.6
PROCTER & GAMBLE CO/THE	-	1.3

^^ Russell 1000® Value Index

Performance Results



Performance results (%) R6 shares at NAV (USD) as of 31-Dec-24

Period	Portfolio	Benchmark [^]	Excess return vs benchmark
4Q 2024	-2.10	-1.98	-0.12
3Q 2024	6.20	9.43	-3.23
2Q 2024	-1.87	-2.17	0.30
1Q 2024	10.74	8.99	1.75
2024	12.99	14.37	-1.38
2023	14.65	11.46	3.19
2022	-4.10	-7.54	3.44
2021	26.43	25.16	1.27
2020	1.75	2.80	-1.05
Life (15-Sep-15)	10.29	10.11	0.18
5 year	9.83	8.68	1.14
3 year	7.50	5.63	1.87
1 year	12.99	14.37	-1.38

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Source for benchmark performance SPAR, FactSet Research Systems Inc.

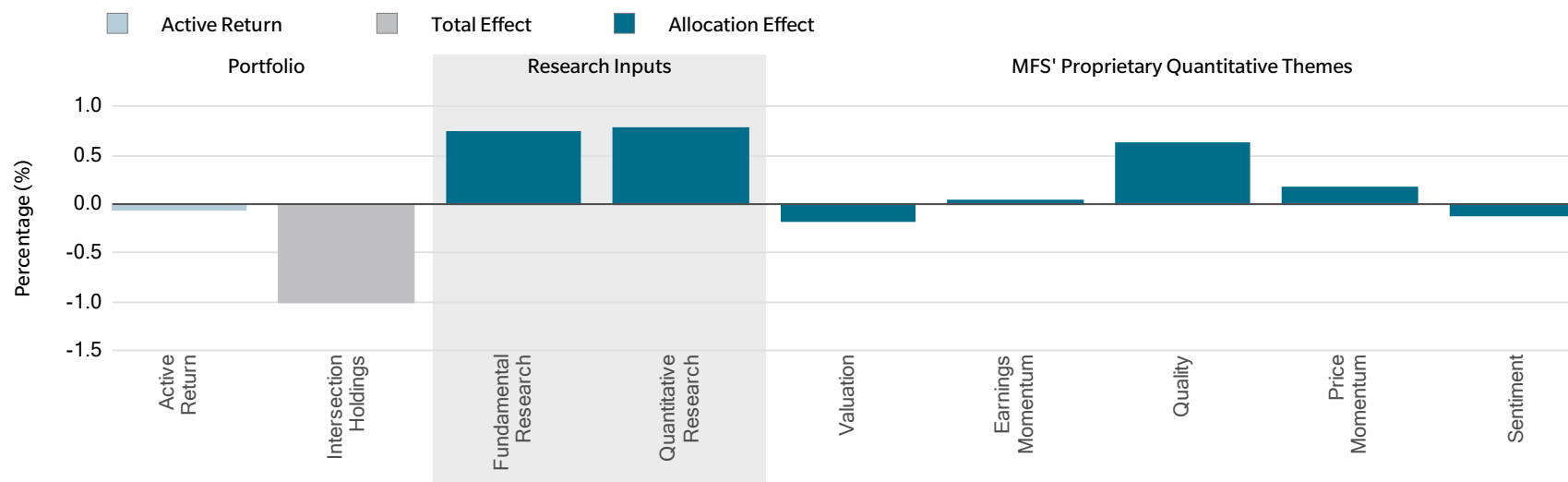
For periods of less than one-year returns are not annualized.

[^] Russell 1000[®] Value Index

Investment Process Performance Drivers



Relative to Russell 1000® Value Index
(USD) - fourth quarter 2024



Please note that the figures provided above do not total to the active return.

Active return represents the difference between the portfolio return and the benchmark return over the time period examined. Active return not explained by the total effect of the intersection holdings will be captured by the total effect of non-intersection stocks, and is not shown in this summary.~ Intersectionholdings represent stocks that are considered attractive from both fundamental and quantitative research sources.

Active return not captured by the allocation effects associated with each respective factor within Research Inputs and Quantitative Themes will be captured by selection and interaction effects, which are not included in this summary.

Results are calculated based on a Brinson-Fachler based performance attribution analysis, grouped by a single factor, generated utilizing Factset's Portfolio Analysis platform. Attributions attempt to decompose a portfolio's performance relative to a benchmark by grouping securities into discrete buckets and attributing returns across these groupings along three dimensions: the allocation effect, the selection effect, and the interaction effect. The groupings are based on beginning of period ratings and scores, rebalanced monthly. The groupings do not reflect intra-month ratings and score changes and may not align with the actual trade rebalance dates of the portfolio. Results are based upon daily holdings to generate individual security returns and do not include expenses, intra-day trading, or intra-day pricing impacts. As a result, portfolio and benchmark returns generated through attribution analysis will likely differ from actual returns.

Total effect represents the combination of allocation, selection and interaction effects associated with Intersection Holdings. MFS defines intersection holdings as stocks with a Fundamental buy rating that are scored within the most attractive tercile of MFS' overall Quantitative Model score. MFS Fundamental analysts rate stocks with a buy, hold or sell rating. Not all stocks are fundamentally rated and stocks without a fundamental rating are treated the same as hold rated stocks. MFS' proprietary quantitative stock selection model ranks stocks on a scale of 1-100.

Allocation Effect represents the contribution to relative performance associated with an overweight or underweight to a particular grouping of stocks from a single Brinson Fachler attribution (i.e., the contribution associated with investments in top quintile stocks based on valuation). It is calculated daily as the difference between the stock portfolio weight of a grouping and benchmark weight for that same grouping, multiplied by the difference between the benchmark's stock grouping return and overall benchmark return. The daily allocation effects are geometrically linked over the reporting period.

Performance Drivers - Fundamental Research

Relative to Russell 1000® Value Index
(USD) - fourth quarter 2024



Fundamental Research	Portfolio	Benchmark	Variation	Attribution Analysis		
	Total Return	Total Return	Average Weight Diff	Allocation Effect	Selection Effect ¹	Total Effect
Fundamental Buy	-2.5	-1.1	42.2	0.4	-1.2	-0.9
Fundamental Hold/unrated	3.1	-2.9	-39.4	0.4	0.4	0.8
Fundamental Sell	-1.5	-1.7	-3.4	-0.0	0.0	-0.0
Cash	1.1	-	0.7	0.0	-	0.0
Total	-2.0	-2.0	-	0.7	-0.8	-0.1

¹ Stock selection includes interaction effect. Interaction effect is the portion of the portfolio's relative performance attributable to combining allocation decisions with stock selection decisions. This effect measures the relative strength of the manager's convictions. The interaction effect is the weight differential times the return differential. Stocks without a rating are treated the same as hold rated stocks for the purpose of creating a blended research score. Stocks without a fundamental rating accounted for 1.5% of the portfolio and 11.2% of the index.

Attribution results are generated by the FactSet application utilizing a methodology that is widely accepted in the investment industry. Results are based upon daily holdings using a buy-and-hold methodology to generate individual security returns and do not include fees or expenses. As such, attribution results are essentially estimates and do not aggregate to the total return of the portfolio, which can be found elsewhere in this presentation. Recent geopolitical events may have impacted or disrupted the pricing of specific securities including the use of fair valuation approaches. Fair valuation practices across pricing sources – index providers, pricing vendors, MFS - may not align due to security specific considerations or timing of fair valuation parameters. For instance, decisions to use stale prices vs fair value or on the level of haircut when fair valuing securities are typical sources of discrepancy between pricing sources observed during the events. As these securities are bought or sold, the portion of the security's return attributed to the difference between fair value price and trade price will not be recognized in attribution results. These factors may further compound differences between attribution results and actual performance. To obtain the contribution calculation methodology and a complete list of every holding's contribution to the overall portfolio's performance during the measurement period, please email DLAttributionGrp@MFS.com.

Performance Drivers - Quantitative Research

Relative to Russell 1000® Value Index
(USD) - fourth quarter 2024



Quantitative Research	Portfolio	Benchmark	Variation	Attribution Analysis		
	Total Return	Total Return	Average Weight Diff	Allocation Effect	Selection Effect ¹	Total Effect
Quant Q1 - Best	-3.8	0.4	25.2	0.6	-1.6	-1.0
Quant Q2	-0.1	-2.2	7.3	-0.0	0.6	0.6
Quant Q3	-0.1	-2.2	-12.4	0.0	0.4	0.4
Quant Q4	-0.6	-1.2	-11.5	-0.1	0.0	-0.1
Quant Q5 - Worst	-12.6	-5.1	-10.2	0.3	-0.3	0.1
Cash	1.1	-	0.7	0.0	-	0.0
Unassigned	-13.0	-8.8	0.8	-0.1	-0.0	-0.1
Total	-2.0	-2.0	-	0.8	-0.8	-0.1

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Performance Drivers - Valuation

Relative to Russell 1000® Value Index
(USD) - fourth quarter 2024



Valuation	Portfolio	Benchmark	Variation	Attribution Analysis		
	Total Return	Total Return	Average Weight Diff	Allocation Effect	Selection Effect ¹	Total Effect
Valuation Q1 - Best	-3.5	-2.2	12.0	-0.0	-0.3	-0.4
Valuation Q2	-1.1	-1.6	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.2
Valuation Q3	-1.3	-2.5	-0.4	-0.0	0.2	0.2
Valuation Q4	-1.9	-2.6	-3.0	0.0	0.2	0.2
Valuation Q5 - Worst	-2.8	-0.3	-10.6	-0.2	-0.1	-0.3
Cash	1.1	-	0.7	0.0	-	0.0
Unassigned	-13.0	-8.8	0.8	-0.1	-0.0	-0.1
Total	-2.0	-2.0	-	-0.2	0.1	-0.1

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Performance Drivers - Earnings Momentum

Relative to Russell 1000® Value Index
(USD) - fourth quarter 2024



Earnings Momentum	Portfolio	Benchmark	Variation	Attribution Analysis		
	Total Return	Total Return	Average Weight Diff	Allocation Effect	Selection Effect ¹	Total Effect
Earnings Momentum Q1 - Best	-4.2	3.2	0.1	0.0	-1.1	-1.1
Earnings Momentum Q2	-1.1	-1.5	1.6	0.0	0.1	0.2
Earnings Momentum Q3	0.1	-2.7	0.2	-0.1	0.9	0.8
Earnings Momentum Q4	-2.7	-3.6	1.0	0.0	0.2	0.3
Earnings Momentum Q5 - Worst	-5.2	-3.9	-4.3	0.1	-0.2	-0.2
Cash	1.1	-	0.7	0.0	-	0.0
Unassigned	-13.0	-8.8	0.8	-0.1	-0.0	-0.1
Total	-2.0	-2.0	-	0.0	-0.1	-0.1

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Performance Drivers - Quality

Relative to Russell 1000® Value Index
(USD) - fourth quarter 2024



Quality	Portfolio	Benchmark	Variation	Attribution Analysis		
	Total Return	Total Return	Average Weight Diff	Allocation Effect	Selection Effect ¹	Total Effect
Quality Q1 - Best	-2.8	-0.7	16.0	0.2	-0.5	-0.2
Quality Q2	-2.5	-1.0	-0.0	0.0	-0.3	-0.3
Quality Q3	-1.4	-0.8	1.6	0.0	-0.2	-0.2
Quality Q4	-2.7	-3.8	-10.2	0.2	0.1	0.3
Quality Q5 - Worst	1.0	-4.0	-8.9	0.2	0.2	0.4
Cash	1.1	-	0.7	0.0	-	0.0
Unassigned	-13.0	-8.8	0.8	-0.1	-0.0	-0.1
Total	-2.0	-2.0	-	0.6	-0.7	-0.1

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Performance Drivers - Price Momentum

Relative to Russell 1000® Value Index
(USD) - fourth quarter 2024



Price Momentum	Portfolio	Benchmark	Variation	Attribution Analysis		
	Total Return	Total Return	Average Weight Diff	Allocation Effect	Selection Effect ¹	Total Effect
Price Momentum Q1 - Best	1.8	-0.5	4.2	0.1	0.4	0.5
Price Momentum Q2	0.3	-0.9	2.9	0.0	0.4	0.4
Price Momentum Q3	-3.6	-3.0	-1.6	0.0	-0.1	-0.1
Price Momentum Q4	-7.9	-2.5	-2.3	-0.0	-0.8	-0.8
Price Momentum Q5 - Worst	-2.4	-2.6	-4.7	0.1	-0.0	0.0
Cash	1.1	-	0.7	0.0	-	0.0
Unassigned	-13.0	-8.8	0.8	-0.1	-0.0	-0.1
Total	-2.0	-2.0	-	0.2	-0.2	-0.1

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Performance Drivers - Sentiment

Relative to Russell 1000® Value Index
(USD) - fourth quarter 2024



Sentiment	Portfolio	Benchmark	Variation	Attribution Analysis		
	Total Return	Total Return	Average Weight Diff	Allocation Effect	Selection Effect ¹	Total Effect
Sentiment Q1 - Best	-1.7	-1.8	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sentiment Q2	-0.8	-2.1	6.1	0.0	0.4	0.5
Sentiment Q3	-4.4	-2.8	-4.8	0.0	-0.4	-0.3
Sentiment Q4	-4.9	-1.9	-6.1	-0.0	-0.1	-0.1
Sentiment Q5 - Worst	0.4	1.8	-5.0	-0.2	0.1	-0.1
Cash	1.1	-	0.7	0.0	-	0.0
Unassigned	-13.0	-8.8	0.8	-0.1	-0.0	-0.1
Total	-2.0	-2.0	-	-0.1	0.0	-0.1

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Performance Drivers - Sectors



Relative to Russell 1000® Value Index (USD) - fourth quarter 2024		Average relative weighting (%)	Portfolio returns (%)	Benchmark returns (%)	Sector allocation ¹ (%)	+ Stock selection ² (%)	= Relative contribution (%)
Contributors	Consumer Discretionary	0.0	4.0	-2.6	0.0	0.4	0.4
	Health Care	0.8	-7.9	-10.4	-0.1	0.4	0.4
	Financials	-0.5	9.1	7.1	-0.1	0.4	0.3
	Materials	-0.6	-7.7	-11.5	0.1	0.2	0.2
	Communication Services	0.1	7.7	2.3	-0.0	0.2	0.2
	Real Estate	0.2	-5.6	-6.8	0.0	0.1	0.1
	Cash	0.7	1.1	—	0.0	—	0.0
Detractors	Industrials	-0.9	-6.8	-2.1	0.0	-0.7	-0.7
	Consumer Staples	0.2	-9.8	-2.7	-0.0	-0.6	-0.6
	Energy	0.3	-4.7	-1.6	-0.0	-0.2	-0.2
	Information Technology	-0.7	-2.2	-0.4	-0.0	-0.1	-0.2
	Utilities	0.4	-6.1	-6.0	-0.0	-0.0	-0.0
Total			-2.0	-2.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.1

1 Sector allocation is calculated based upon each security's price in local currency.

2 Stock selection is calculated based upon each security's price in local currency and included interaction effect. Interaction effect is the portion of the portfolio's relative performance attributable to combining allocation decisions with stock selection decisions. This effect measures the relative strength of the manager's convictions. The interaction effect is the weight differential times the return differential.

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Performance Drivers - Stocks



Relative to Russell 1000® Value Index (USD) - fourth quarter 2024		Average Weighting (%)		Returns (%)		Relative contribution(%)
		Portfolio	Benchmark	Portfolio ¹	Benchmark	
Contributors	Wells Fargo & Co	2.4	0.9	25.1	25.1	0.4
	Salesforce Inc	1.7	0.2	22.3	22.3	0.3
	Fiserv Inc	1.8	0.3	14.3	14.3	0.2
	Mckesson Corp	1.4	0.2	15.4	15.4	0.2
	Alphabet Inc	1.2	—	14.3	—	0.2
Detractors	Cigna Group/The	1.6	0.3	-20.0	-20.0	-0.3
	Builders Firstsource Inc (Eq)	1.0	0.1	-26.3	-26.3	-0.2
	Wal-Mart Stores Inc	0.0	1.5	-2.6	12.1	-0.2
	Applied Materials Inc	1.1	0.0	-19.3	-19.3	-0.2
	Mondelez International Inc	1.3	0.3	-18.3	-18.3	-0.2

¹ Represents performance for the time period stock was held in portfolio.

Attribution results are generated by the FactSet application utilizing a methodology that is widely accepted in the investment industry. Results are based upon daily holdings using a buy-and-hold methodology to generate individual security returns and do not include fees or expenses. As such, attribution results are essentially estimates and do not aggregate to the total return of the portfolio, which can be found elsewhere in this presentation. Recent geopolitical events may have impacted or disrupted the pricing of specific securities including the use of fair valuation approaches. Fair valuation practices across pricing sources – index providers, pricing vendors, MFS - may not align due to security specific considerations or timing of fair valuation parameters. For instance, decisions to use stale prices vs fair value or on the level of haircut when fair valuing securities are typical sources of discrepancy between pricing sources observed during the events. As these securities are bought or sold, the portion of the security’s return attributed to the difference between fair value price and trade price will not be recognized in attribution results. These factors may further compound differences between attribution results and actual performance. To obtain the contribution calculation methodology and a complete list of every holding’s contribution to the overall portfolio’s performance during the measurement period, please email DLAttributionGrp@MFS.com.

Significant Transactions



From 01-Oct-24 to 31-Dec-24		Transaction type	Trade (%)	Ending weight (%)
Purchases	NEXTERA ENERGY INC	New position	2.0	1.8
	STANLEY BLACK & DECKER INC	New position	1.1	1.0
	WP CAREY INC	Add	1.0	1.2
	NORTHERN TRUST CORP	Add	0.9	1.3
	CHARLES SCHWAB CORP/THE	New position	0.9	0.9
Sales	JPMORGAN CHASE & CO	Trim	-2.2	1.8
	PVH CORP	Eliminate position	-1.3	-
	HONEYWELL INTERNATIONAL INC (EQ)	Eliminate position	-1.2	-
	NRG ENERGY INC	Eliminate position	-1.0	-
	AGCO CORP	Eliminate position	-0.9	-

Sector Weights



As of 31-Dec-24	Portfolio (%)	Benchmark^ (%)	Underweight/overweight (%)
Health Care	14.7	14.2	0.5
Real Estate	5.2	4.7	0.5
Utilities	5.1	4.6	0.5
Consumer Staples	8.3	7.9	0.4
Energy	6.6	6.7	-0.1
Consumer Discretionary	5.8	6.2	-0.4
Materials	3.8	4.2	-0.4
Communication Services	3.9	4.4	-0.5
Financials	22.6	23.1	-0.5
Information Technology	8.4	9.3	-0.9
Industrials	13.6	14.8	-1.2

^ Russell 1000® Value Index
1.9% Cash & cash equivalents

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Top Overweight and Underweight Positions



As of 31-Dec-24		Portfolio (%)	Benchmark^ (%)
Overweight	SALESFORCE INC	1.6	0.2
	AMERICAN EXPRESS CO	1.8	0.4
	AMPHENOL CORP	1.5	0.1
	WELLS FARGO & CO	2.3	1.0
	FISERV INC	1.7	0.3
Underweight	BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY INC (EQ)	1.8	3.4
	WALMART INC	0.2	1.6
	PROCTER & GAMBLE CO/THE	-	1.3
	UNITEDHEALTH GROUP INC (EQ)	0.5	1.8
	CHEVRON CORP	-	1.0

^ Russell 1000® Value Index

Characteristics



As of 31-Dec-24	Portfolio	Benchmark [^]
Fundamentals - weighted average		
Price/earnings (12 months forward)	16.1x	17.2x
Price/cash flow	14.3x	13.5x
Price/sales	1.6x	1.8x
PEG ratio	1.8x	2.0x
Return on equity (3-year average)	24.1%	19.6%
Return on invested capital	12.9%	10.8%
IBES long-term EPS growth ¹	10.3%	9.5%
Market capitalization		
Market capitalization (USD) ²	179.3 bn	171.5 bn
Diversification		
Top ten issues	19%	17%
Number of Issues	113	869
Turnover		
Trailing 1 year turnover ³	51%	—
Risk profile (current)		
Active share	71%	—
Risk/reward (5 year)		
Beta	1.00	—

[^] Russell 1000[®] Value Index

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

No forecasts can be guaranteed.

¹ Source: FactSet

² Weighted average.

³ US Turnover Methodology: (Lesser of Purchase or Sales)/Average Month End Market Value

Top 10 Issuers



Top 10 issuers as of 31-Dec-24	Portfolio (%)	Benchmark^ (%)
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	2.5	1.4
WELLS FARGO & CO	2.3	1.0
AMERICAN EXPRESS CO	1.8	0.4
BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY INC (EQ)	1.8	3.4
PFIZER INC	1.8	0.6
NEXTERA ENERGY INC	1.8	0.6
JPMORGAN CHASE & CO	1.8	2.7
FISERV INC	1.7	0.3
CITIGROUP INC (EQ)	1.7	0.5
EATON CORP PLC	1.7	0.5
Total	19.0	11.5

^ Russell 1000® Value Index

Portfolio Outlook and Positioning



For the fourth quarter of 2024, the portfolio underperformed the Russell 1000® Value Index.

Detractors

- Intersection holdings
- Quantitative models: valuation
- Stock selection within industrials and consumer staples

Contributors

- Fundamental research
- Quantitative models: quality and price momentum
- Stock selection within consumer discretionary and health care

Market review

The S&P 500 finished the 4th quarter below its all-time high, hit in early December, following another quarter of market-moving events and volatility. In October the market retreated as expectations for future US Federal Reserve rate cuts moderated, bond yields shifted higher and uncertainty about the outcome of the US election spooked markets. The market resumed higher in November and rallied strongly after the decisive results from the US election and from investor optimism about the potential for the extension of the 2017 tax cuts as well as a friendlier regulatory environment. The November rally carried into early December before a back-up in bond yields and hawkish comments by US Federal Reserve Chair Powell resulted in a volatile sell-off to end the year.

Inflation, globally, is well off the 2022 highs, although progress has stalled in many economies, with service prices and wages remaining sticky. Having said that, more than 75% of central banks are cutting rates, but the pace of policy easing has moderated with both the Fed and Bank of England signaling a more gradual approach. The European Central Bank, despite stubbornly high wage growth, communicated policy is still restrictive and will continue to cut its deposit facility rate in response to weak economic activity. Despite stronger-than-expected inflation in Japan, the Bank of Japan held the policy rate steady while indicating it remained on a tightening track. In the emerging markets, weak consumption and lower-than-expected inflation reports are prompting further stimulative policies

Portfolio Outlook and Positioning



in China, while in Brazil inflation is running well above target, forcing the Central Bank of Brazil (BCB) to increase the Selic rate by a greater-than-expected 100 basis points in early December.

The outlook for the global economy, considered through the lens of leading indicators such as PMIs, remains bifurcated by geography and sector. The most recent (November) global composite PMI reading continued to signal expansion, with the dispersion between the manufacturing and services sectors persisting, although the strength and momentum in the latter has started to wane. The global manufacturing PMI slid back below 50, into contraction, in December; however, breadth measures were mixed, with the percentage of economies in expansion increasing to 47%, although only 42% of economies reported a positive month-month increase. Flashing a more optimistic tone was the forward-looking new orders versus inventories ratio, which is now above zero, with 67% of economies reporting new orders exceeding inventories. Regionally, manufacturing is strongest in emerging market economies such as India, Greece, the Philippines and Taiwan, while major developed economies such as the eurozone and Pacific ex-Japan remain deep in contraction. The manufacturing PMIs for the US and Japan remain slightly below 50, but there were signs stabilization/improvement in the December reports.

Q3 earnings were generally better than expectations; however, EPS growth rates were sequentially lower, with topline growth disappointing and continuing to slow. Despite continued deceleration, Mag-7 earnings growth was better than expectations, while ex Mag-7 growth remained weak. At the sector level, earnings growth was weakest and negative for materials, energy and industrials while health care, communication services and utilities posted double-digit EPS growth. Earnings beat rates (reported above estimated) for the S&P 500 remained above the historical average, with growth, defensive and the financials sectors showing beat rates greater than 80%. Earnings revisions (outlook), which have historically been correlated with manufacturing PMIs, firmed in Q4 with analyst earnings increased outnumbering cuts overall and in 6 of 11 sectors, with particular strength in financials and communication services.

Shifting to the market impact, market breadth narrowed significantly again during the quarter, particularly in December, with the S&P equal-weighted index underperforming the cap-weighted index by close to 4% and the Bloomberg Mag 7 Index by almost 13%. From a style and size perspective, large caps mostly outperformed small and midcaps while growth outperformed value across market cap tiers.

Portfolio Outlook and Positioning



Within the Russell 1000® Value Index, sector leadership narrowed in Q4 and was dominated by financials and growth stocks. The financials sector outperformed by a wide margin, driven by strength in banks and diversified financials. Strength in media and entertainment stocks more than offset weakness in the telecom segment, which drove significant outperformance by the communication services sector. The technology sector also outperformed, benefiting from strength in the software and hardware segments, which overwhelmed significant weakness in the semiconductor industry. The materials sector was the biggest laggard in Q4 with significant weakness across all sub-industries. Defensive sectors also continued to underperform with healthcare and utilities particularly weak while the staples sector, which lagged by a smaller margin, was negatively impacted by weakness in household products, food, beverage and tobacco stocks which overwhelmed outperformance by defensive retailers such as Walmart. The more cyclical industrials and consumer discretionary sectors also underperformed, with the former held back by weakness in capital good and service stocks, while the latter was negatively impacted by very weak performance by the durables and apparel segment.

Factor performance (long-short/equal weighted/sector neutral) rotated in December to more eclectic leadership; however, for the quarter overall, higher volatility growth stocks with positive earnings revisions and strong price momentum outperformed by significant margins. Stocks with positive earnings and sales surprises, as well as those investing in capex and R&D, also outperformed to a lesser extent. Stocks with strong profitability attributes, as well as those with higher dividend yields and/or buying back shares, were the most prominent underperformers while stocks with attractive valuations underperformed by narrower margins.

Portfolio performance review

The portfolio underperformed the Russell 1000® Value Index in the fourth quarter. Intersection holdings, which are stocks buy rated based on both our fundamental and quantitative research, subtracted from relative returns. The factor model that contributed negatively to results for the quarter was valuation. The overall quantitative input outperformed during the quarter, with quality and price momentum factors helping relative performance.

At the sector level, the portfolio experienced negative contribution from stock selection within industrials and consumer staples. Sectors which contributed to performance included stock selection within consumer discretionary and health care.

Portfolio Outlook and Positioning



Outlook

As we start the new year, there is an abundance of optimism that the current trends of AI leadership and US exceptionalism will persist. Our base case remains constructive with expectations that the economic recovery will be sustained and broaden supported by easier monetary policy, deregulation in the US and more fiscal stimulus in China.

More specially, on the policy front most central banks are easing policy although stubborn inflation and resilient economies may limit or slow the pace of rate cuts. Global leading indicators remain bifurcated and choppy however there does appear to be some stabilization in the manufacturing PMIs, although they continue to signal contraction in many of the developed economies. Based on history, the current rate-cut cycle should be a tailwind for leading indicators as progress through 2025. While PMIs have done a poor job in recent years of predicting the economy, they continue to be reliable indicator for corroborating the breadth of earnings revisions which also appear to be inflecting higher, in most markets, albeit from depressed levels. Other economic indicators point to a mixed outlook with the OECD CLI hovering above 100 signaling expansion with a strong breadth of economies reporting positive month-month and year-year improvement.

Prominent risks to the consensus outlook, and to a lesser extent ours, include stretched valuations and extremely concentrated markets which could reverse if the AI trade unwinds. A catalyst for such a reversal could be the current gap between the earnings guidance from NVIDIA, and other semiconductor companies, with what hyperscalers are planning to spend. Other risks to monitor include a resurgence of inflation, which could halt the easing cycle, the return of the bond vigilantes in response to debts/deficits, increasing trade tensions and potential tariffs weighing on growth and finally elevated and evolving geopolitical risks.

For your Blended Research strategy, we continue to be encouraged by the relatively broad factor leadership. As we have communicated in the past, the most challenging market environment for our approach is one in which a single factor/style or a limited group of stocks dominates performance as was evident in 2020. With the OECD Global & US Composite Leading Indicators (CLI), signaling expansion, our analysis of factor performance through the economic cycle aligns with the outperformance of higher beta stocks with strong earnings and price momentum. While the magnitude is smaller, stocks with attractive valuations have also historically continued to outperform as

Portfolio Outlook and Positioning



the economy shifts to the expansion phase of the cycle. Late cycle factors such as profitability and growth as well as the quality-focused fundamental research input to our process tend to be weaker in the front half of the business cycle.

The commentary included in this report was based on a representative fully discretionary portfolio for this product style; as such the commentary may include securities not held in your portfolio due to account, fund, or other limits.

Portfolio Holdings



As of 31-Dec-24	Equivalent exposure (%)
Cash & Cash Equivalents	1.9
Cash & Cash Equivalents	1.9
Communication Services	3.9
T-Mobile US Inc	1.7
Alphabet Inc Class A	1.2
Meta Platforms Inc	1.1
Consumer Discretionary	5.8
O'Reilly Automotive Inc	1.3
Aramark	1.2
Booking Holdings Inc	1.1
Newell Brands Inc	0.8
TJX Cos Inc	0.6
Home Depot Inc	0.4
Mohawk Industries Inc	0.3
Hasbro Inc	0.2
Consumer Staples	8.3
Colgate-Palmolive Co	1.3
Mondelez International Inc	1.2
Kimberly-Clark Corp	1.1
Altria Group Inc	0.9
Target Corp	0.9
Philip Morris International Inc	0.9
General Mills Inc	0.8
PepsiCo Inc	0.5
Dollar General Corp	0.2
Albertsons Cos Inc	0.2
Walmart Inc	0.2
Energy	6.6
ConocoPhillips	1.5
EOG Resources Inc	1.4
Phillips 66	1.2
Exxon Mobil Corp	1.1
TechnipFMC PLC	0.9
Valero Energy Corp	0.4

As of 31-Dec-24	Equivalent exposure (%)
Financials	22.6
Wells Fargo & Co	2.3
American Express Co	1.8
Berkshire Hathaway Inc	1.8
JPMorgan Chase & Co	1.8
Fiserv Inc	1.7
Citigroup Inc	1.7
Chubb Ltd	1.6
Northern Trust Corp	1.3
Popular Inc	1.2
Ameriprise Financial Inc	1.2
Goldman Sachs Group Inc	1.0
Charles Schwab Corp	0.9
Corebridge Financial Inc	0.8
Hartford Financial Services Group Inc	0.6
Bank of America Corp	0.5
Interactive Brokers Group Inc	0.4
MetLife Inc	0.4
Everest Group Ltd	0.4
Raymond James Financial Inc	0.3
Voya Financial Inc	0.2
Morgan Stanley	0.2
Synchrony Financial	0.2
American International Group Inc	0.1
Health Care	14.7
Johnson & Johnson	2.5
Pfizer Inc	1.8
McKesson Corp	1.4
Cigna Group	1.4
Medtronic PLC	1.4
Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc	1.3
Boston Scientific Corp	0.7
AbbVie Inc	0.7

Portfolio Holdings



As of 31-Dec-24	Equivalent exposure (%)
Health Care	14.7
UnitedHealth Group Inc	0.5
Gilead Sciences Inc	0.5
Biogen Inc	0.5
Becton Dickinson & Co	0.5
Veeva Systems Inc	0.4
Organon & Co	0.4
Abbott Laboratories	0.4
Illumina Inc	0.3
Industrials	13.6
Eaton Corp PLC	1.7
Westinghouse Air Brake Technologies Corp	1.3
General Dynamics Corp	1.3
CSX Corp	1.1
Union Pacific Corp	1.1
Stanley Black & Decker Inc	1.0
Trane Technologies PLC	1.0
Leidos Holdings Inc	0.9
RTX Corp	0.8
Builders FirstSource Inc	0.8
Masco Corp	0.7
CNH Industrial NV	0.6
General Electric Co	0.5
Ferguson Enterprises Inc	0.3
AMETEK Inc	0.3
CACI International Inc	0.2
Information Technology	8.4
Salesforce Inc	1.6
Amphenol Corp	1.5
QUALCOMM Inc	1.2
Applied Materials Inc	1.0
Lam Research Corp	0.9
NXP Semiconductors NV	0.7

As of 31-Dec-24	Equivalent exposure (%)
Information Technology	8.4
Accenture PLC	0.6
Motorola Solutions Inc	0.4
Okta Inc	0.3
Guidewire Software Inc	0.2
Materials	3.8
RPM International Inc	1.3
Eastman Chemical Co	0.9
Linde PLC	0.8
United States Steel Corp	0.3
International Flavors & Fragrances Inc	0.3
CRH PLC	0.2
Real Estate	5.2
Highwoods Properties Inc REIT	1.3
WP Carey Inc REIT	1.2
Essential Properties Realty Trust Inc REIT	0.7
Jones Lang LaSalle Inc	0.7
Cousins Properties Inc REIT	0.6
SBA Communications Corp REIT	0.3
Essex Property Trust Inc REIT	0.2
CBRE Group Inc	0.2
Utilities	5.1
NextEra Energy Inc	1.8
Duke Energy Corp	1.1
Edison International	0.9
National Fuel Gas Co	0.5
PG&E Corp	0.4
Dominion Energy Inc	0.3

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