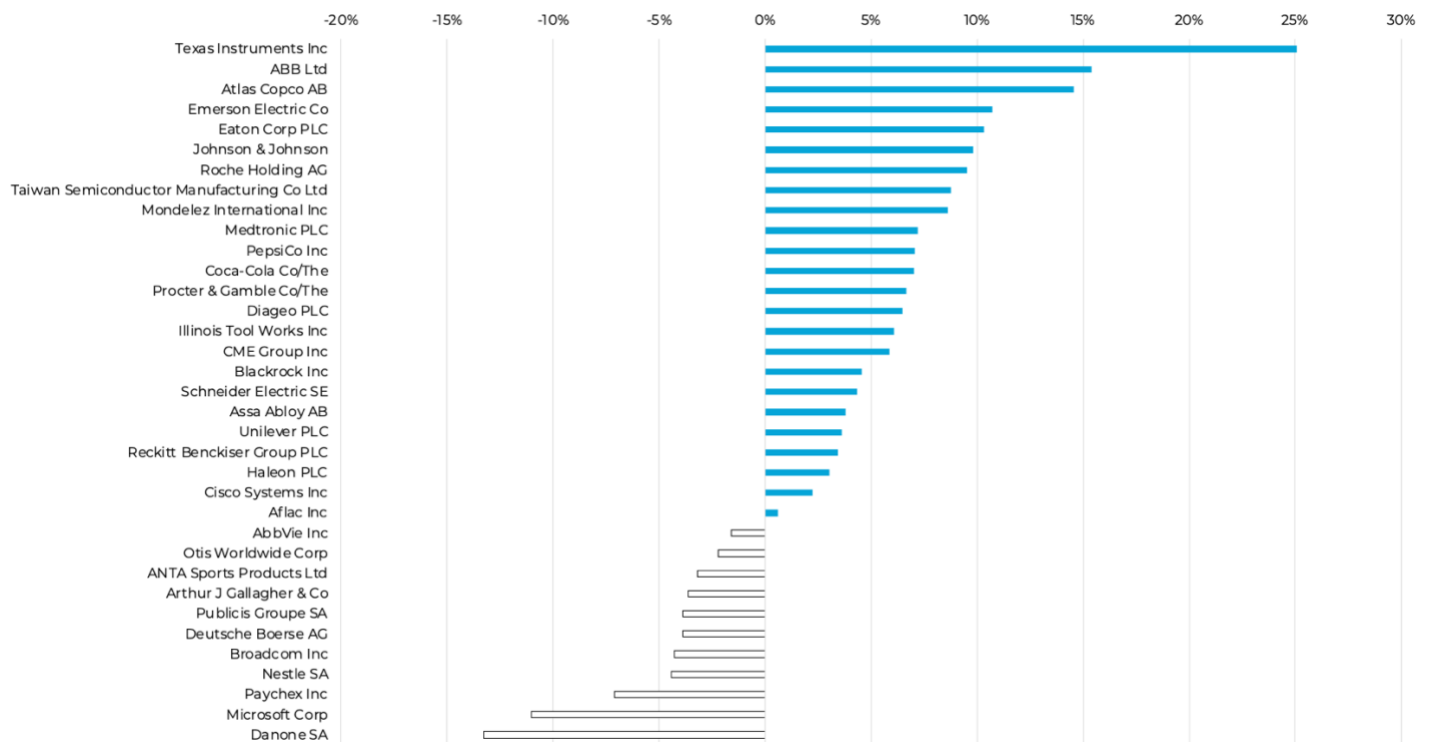


## Portfolio Performance

as of 01/31/2026

In January, DIVS was up 3.51% (NAV basis, 3.59% market price)<sup>1</sup>, while the MSCI World Index benchmark was up 2.24%. The Fund's overweight to Consumer Staples contributed positively as the sector outperformed the benchmark by +3%, though stock selection, particularly Danone at -10.3%, weighed on relative returns. An overweight to Industrials (+7.1%) and an underweight to IT (-1.1%) also supported performance during the month. However, the Fund's zero allocation to Energy detracted, as the sector rose 12.6%. Stock selection was a bright spot across Financials, Health Care, and IT, with holdings such as Texas Instruments (+22.5%), TSMC (+8.8%), and Johnson & Johnson (+9.8%) delivering strong returns. To learn more about these performance drivers and the broader positioning, we invite you to read the rest of the DIVS update.

Holdings are subject to change. Go to [www.gafunds.com/our-funds/DIVS](http://www.gafunds.com/our-funds/DIVS) for current holdings.



**Top Performer:** [Texas Instruments Inc.](#), 25.1% TR Month to Date

**Bottom Performer:** [Danone SA](#), -13.3% TR Month to Date

<sup>1</sup> 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 [gafunds.com](http://gafunds.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.

# DIVS

## Guinness Atkinson Dividend Builder ETF

February 2026 Update



| As of 01/31/2026            | YTD   | 1 Year | 3 Years | 5 Years | 10 Years | Since Inception<br>(03/30/2012) |
|-----------------------------|-------|--------|---------|---------|----------|---------------------------------|
| <i>DIVS at NAV</i>          | 3.51% | 12.15% | 13.83%  | 11.61%  | 11.96%   | 11.96%                          |
| <i>DIVS at Market Price</i> | 3.59% | 12.30% | 13.63%  | 11.56%  | 11.93%   | 10.80%                          |
| <i>MSCI World Index NR</i>  | 2.24% | 19.58% | 19.29%  | 12.86%  | 13.10%   | 11.31%                          |

| As of 12/31/2025            | YTD    | 1 Year | 3 Years | 5 Years | 10 Years | Since Inception<br>(03/30/2012) |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|----------|---------------------------------|
| <i>DIVS at NAV</i>          | 11.57% | 11.57% | 13.62%  | 10.44%  | 11.25%   | 10.61%                          |
| <i>DIVS at Market Price</i> | 11.69% | 11.69% | 13.40%  | 10.38%  | 11.22%   | 10.58%                          |
| <i>MSCI World Index NR</i>  | 21.09% | 21.09% | 21.14%  | 12.14%  | 12.16%   | 11.20%                          |

Expense Ratio: 0.66% (net) | 1.01% (gross)

30-Day SEC Yield (as of 01/31/2026): 1.17% subsidized | 0.83% unsubsidized

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 0.65% through June 30, 2028.

*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 [gafunds.com](http://gafunds.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.*

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 Dividend Builder Fund, an open-end mutual fund (incepted March 30, 2012). 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. 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.

A fund's NAV is the sum of all its assets less any liabilities, divided by the number of shares outstanding. The market price is the most recent price at which the fund was traded.

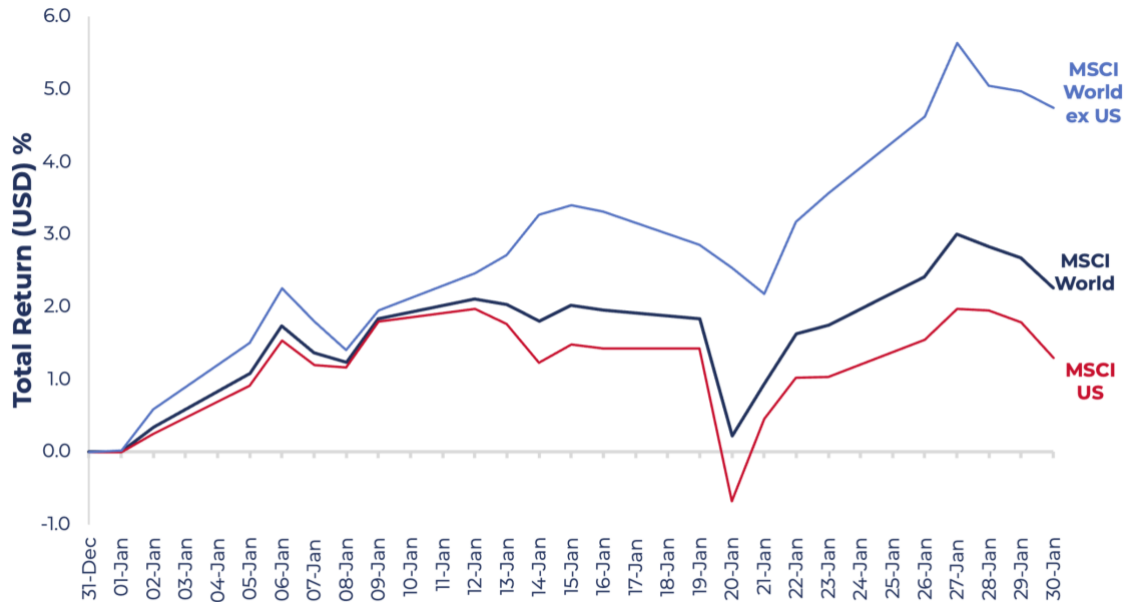
Subsidized yields reflect any fee waivers or reimbursements that may be in effect during a period, while unsubsidized yields do not.

## January in Review

### A volatile start to the year

Financial markets were subject to significant news flow over the month, contending with regime uncertainty in Venezuela following the US capture of Nicolas Maduro, continued demands from Trump that the US must “have” Greenland placing pressure on the NATO alliance, and subsequent threats of tariffs on European countries who opposed his plans. There were further US threats to Canada of 100% tariffs should they follow through on a trade deal with Beijing, increased US-Iran tensions, and spiking Japanese yields on the prospect of fiscal stimulus. Markets had all of these events to contend with, all while digesting the onset of corporate earnings season. Tensions were somewhat eased at Davos, but inevitably a high level of macro noise resulted in divergent regional, sector and factor performance over the month and elevated volatility (including a single day sell-off of 2% in the US). Perhaps unexpectedly, global equities (MSCI World) climbed to all-time highs. International stocks (World ex US) outperformed on a regional basis, with Emerging markets leading the pack, supported by a weakening dollar and surging commodity prices. Although performing positively, the US underperformed the rest of the world, as investors rotated away from US-mega caps and AI exposed software names, and looked towards value on offer elsewhere.

MSCI World Indices – Total Return  
January 2026



Source: Guinness Atkinson, MSCI, Bloomberg as of 01/31/2026

Positive stock performance in the context of geopolitical tensions has become a familiar story since Trump’s inauguration, with the TACO trade in part a driver of this phenomenon. 2025 saw material trade upheaval and multiple geopolitical shocks, yet equities for the most part have rallied since April. Markets are perhaps showing a level of rationality when it comes to tempering reactions to fast-moving headlines that have had

a propensity to reverse course at a moment's notice. Instead, markets are cutting through the noise and focusing on fundamentals. Over January, rather than being driven by multiple expansion, the MSCI was supported by earnings upgrades, albeit with significant regional divergence.

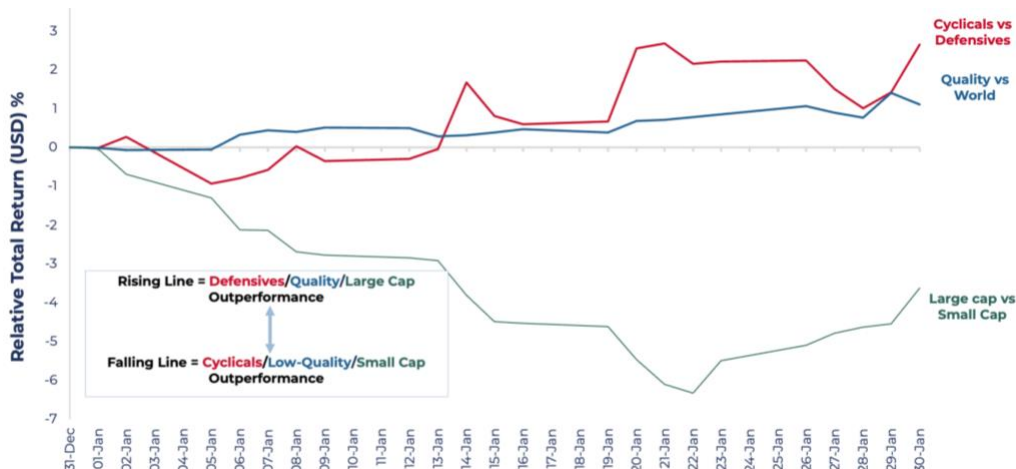
### Global Sector Total Return Breakdown



Source: Guinness Atkinson, MSCI, Bloomberg as of 01/31/2026

Strong corporate fundamentals only add to a picture of underlying economic strength, with the IMF upgrading 2026 global growth forecasts by 20bps to 3.3% during the month. Equities in 2026 have so far been led by “quality” and “defensives” – an indication that the market is not ignoring a riskier macro-backdrop, but is selectively positioning for it, with the outperformance of “value” also suggesting a market preference for areas with lower valuation risk. In many senses, recent equity performance reflects a degree of discipline – looking through market noise while acknowledging geopolitical uncertainty through a preference for more durable stocks.

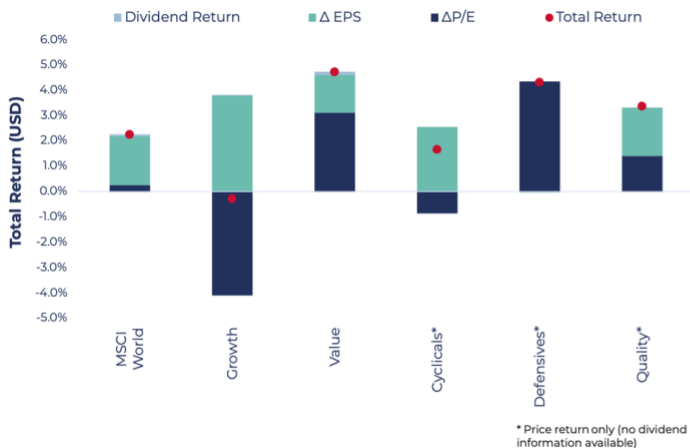
### MSCI World Indices – Relative Performance January 2026



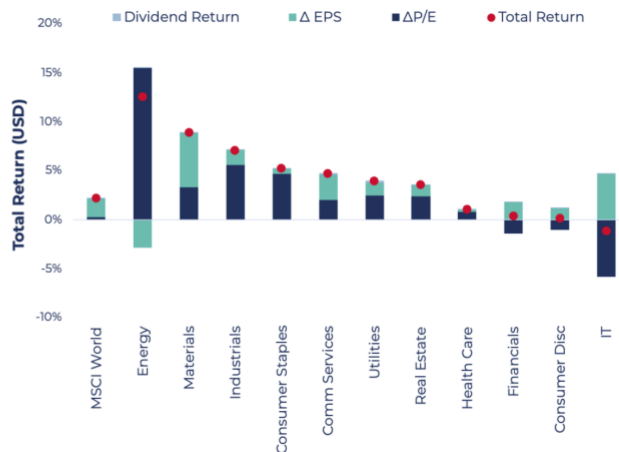
Source: Guinness Atkinson, MSCI, Bloomberg as of 01/31/2026

Strong performance from “defensives” sectors was entirely valuation driven, while “growth” and “cyclicals” saw multiples contract, despite strong earnings upgrades. IT was the sole negatively performing sector over the month, in the face of some of the strongest earnings revisions – with weakness in “software” driving nearly the entirety of IT underperformance relative to the MSCI World.

Total Return Breakdown – Factors



Total Return Breakdown - Sectors



Source: Guinness Atkinson, MSCI, Bloomberg as of 01/31/2026

In January, growth continued to underperform value, extending a trend that began in late October 2025. Despite stronger earnings upgrades, growth stocks lagged as valuation multiples compressed, while value benefited from multiple expansion. In Europe, 2026 opened with growth initially outperforming on the back of strength in defense stocks and lower expected rates relative to the US, but value leadership quickly reasserted itself, driven in particular by weakness in software. In the US, the rotation toward value is more recent, following a prolonged risk-on period through much of 2025 when investors seemingly crowded into AI-exposed growth names and were willing to accept higher valuations and lower quality fundamentals in more speculative areas of the tech sector. However, since October, sentiment around AI has become more cautious, with increased scrutiny on the sustainability of capex intensity and the pace of downstream monetization. Into January, investor concerns on the IT sector shifted towards software companies; focused on the durability of pricing power and their economic moats. Alongside a backdrop of resilient economic growth and a Federal Reserve expected to ease policy rates, market leadership has broadened, with investors rotating away from richly valued AI-related growth stocks toward areas offering more attractive valuations and greater insulation from perceived AI-specific risks.

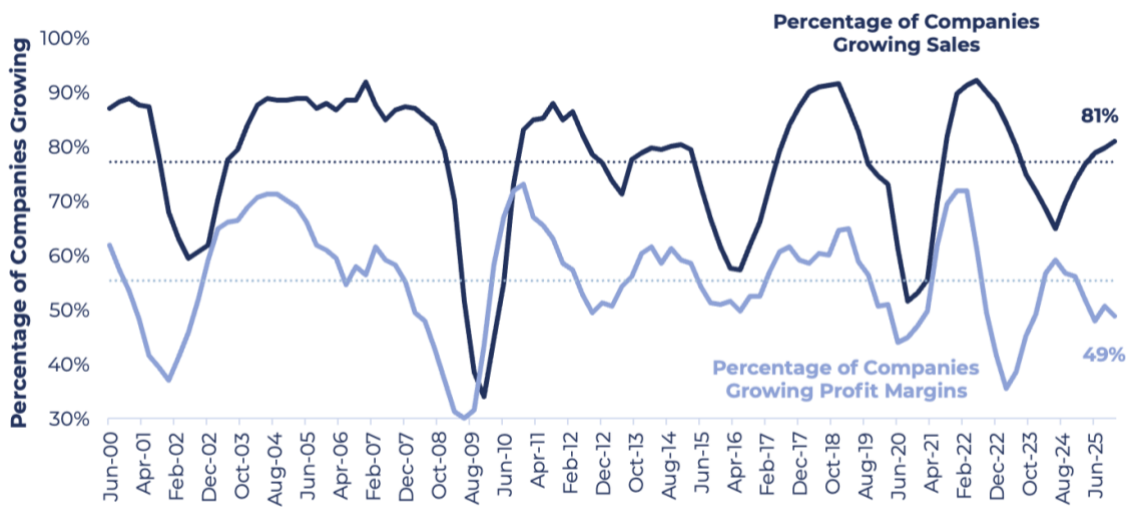
MSCI World Indices – Growth vs Value Relative Performance



Source: Guinness Atkinson, MSCI, Bloomberg as of 01/31/2026

While the percentage of S&P 500 companies growing sales is ahead of long-term averages and trending positively, the percentage of companies growing profit margins shows the reverse. Put another way, the breadth of revenue growth is improving, but fewer companies are growing margins. This may explain why market leadership is tilting toward quality, defensives and value - investors are paying for durability (in the form of stronger margins, strong balance sheets etc.) rather than growth at any cost.

S&P 500: Percentage of companies growing sales and profit margins



Source: Guinness Atkinson, Bloomberg as of 01/31/2026

**Rising yields in Japan**

Another source of market uncertainty over the month came from Japan. The newly elected Prime Minister, Sanae Takaichi, called a snap general election, looking to get a stronger majority in the lower house of

parliament. This would increase the chances of her expansionary fiscal policies – which are estimated to total \$167bn in value – being approved. While popular with the Japanese population, the proposed tax cuts and stimulus spending are causing concerns over the country’s fiscal sustainability, given their debt to GDP ratio exceeds 200%. The result is investors requiring a higher premium to own Japanese government bonds (JGBs), thus driving up their yields, and a weakening in the yen. This has been particularly pronounced at the long end of the curve, with 20-, 30- and 40-year bond yields for JGBs hitting all-time highs in January.

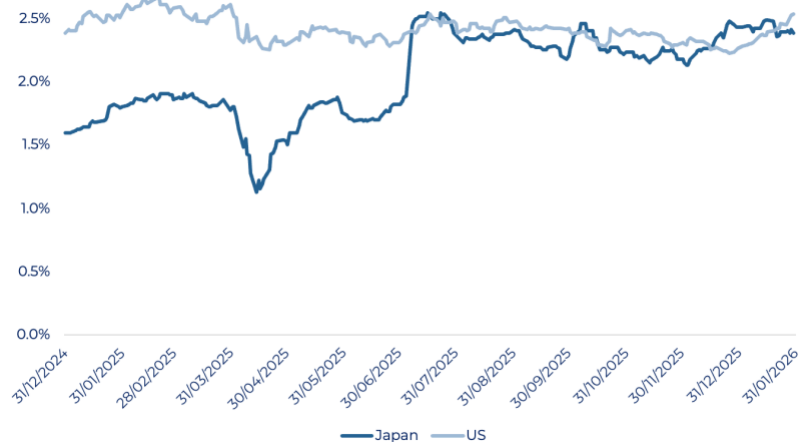
Japanese Government Bond Yields (%)



Source: Ministry of Finance, Japan. Data as of 01/31/2026

However, it is worth noting that thin liquidity for these instruments makes their yields more volatile, as only \$280m worth of recent trading volume was enough to disrupt the \$7.2tn market for JGBs. Some argue that rising yields are just reflective of the Japanese economy normalizing and signal the end of an extended deflationary period. This view is supported by higher inflation expectations in Japan, with medium-term forecasts having increased to levels on par with those for the US, after years of being a percentage point or more below.

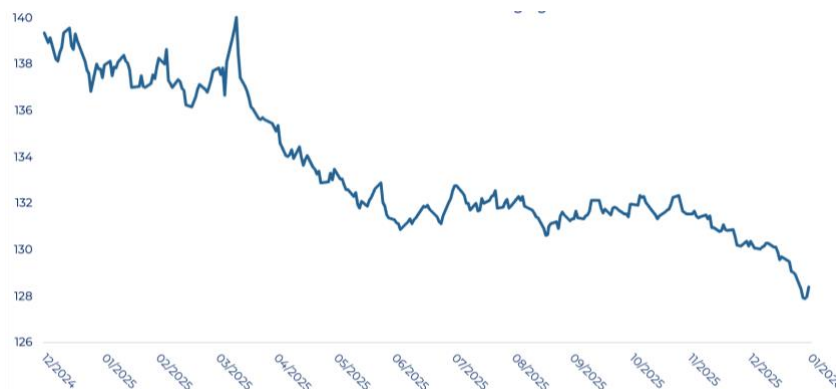
5-year inflation breakeven rates



Source: Guinness Atkinson, Bloomberg as of 01/31/2026

The correspondent weakening in the yen has led to speculation regarding potential US intervention to support the currency. If actions were taken to strengthen the yen, which would involve selling the dollar and therefore increasing its supply, this would put further pressure on the US currency. Conjecture that the administration is considering propping up the yen has exacerbated the dollar weakness seen over 2025, when confidence was impacted by changing trade policies and tariff uncertainty. In January, the greenback fell even further against the currencies of key emerging markets trading partners.

Emerging Market Economies US Dollar Index  
Value of the US dollar vs a basket of emerging market currencies



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis as of 01/31/2026

While Japan's debt is sizeable, it is relatively stable. The country maintains a current account surplus, and its overseas assets outweigh the investments of foreigners into Japan. Its large international holdings, particularly of US debt instruments, could be the transmission mechanism for spiking JGB yields to impact global markets. Japanese investors currently hold a low-teens percentage of the US Treasury market, which become comparatively less attractive to domestic bonds in this scenario. If these market participants were to

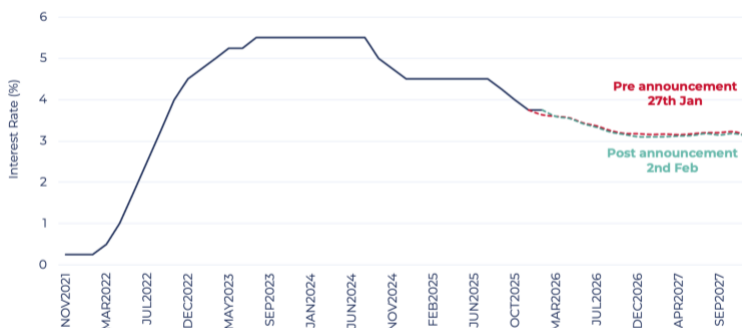
rotate, the supply of US Treasuries and the yields on them would increase, sending up global yields and possibly worsening the fiscal positions of other countries, too. So, we continue to monitor the possibility of global interest rates being higher for longer.

## Trumps Pressure on the Central Bank is Seemingly Having Little Impact

Over the past year, Donald Trump’s relationship with the Federal Reserve has been marked by escalating pressure and challenges to its independence, as he has sought greater influence over monetary policy. The US President has intensified his efforts to exert influence over the Federal Reserve, repeatedly calling for faster and deeper rate cuts to support growth and government finances. What began as public criticism has evolved into personal attacks on Fed officials, an attempted removal of Governor Lisa Cook in August 2025, and most recently the launch of a criminal investigation into Chair Jerome Powell. These actions have raised concerns about the erosion of central bank independence, yet they have had seemingly little practical impact on policy. Despite Trump appointing ally Stephen Miran to the Board of Governors, the Federal Open Market Committee has maintained a cautious, data-dependent approach, with Miran’s more dovish dissenting votes failing to materially influence outcomes within the committee.

In January, the Federal Reserve held rates steady after delivering three consecutive 25bp cuts since July, leaving the policy rate in the 3.5–3.75% range. Powell highlighted the continued strength of the US economy, citing robust GDP growth and a stabilizing labor market, and reiterated that policy is no longer “significantly restrictive.” Only two dissenting votes at the most recent meeting further underscored the Fed’s independence. Interestingly, markets were largely unmoved by Trump’s nomination of Kevin Warsh as the next Fed Chair. Despite Warsh’s own views favoring balance sheet reduction, potentially at odds with Trump’s push for easier policy, rate expectations barely shifted and the dollar strengthened, indicating a level of market confidence that this is a nomination that markets are on-board with, and there is a level of confidence that Central Bank independence will remain.

US Interest Rate  
Before and after announcement of the new Federal Reserve Chair, Kevin Warsh

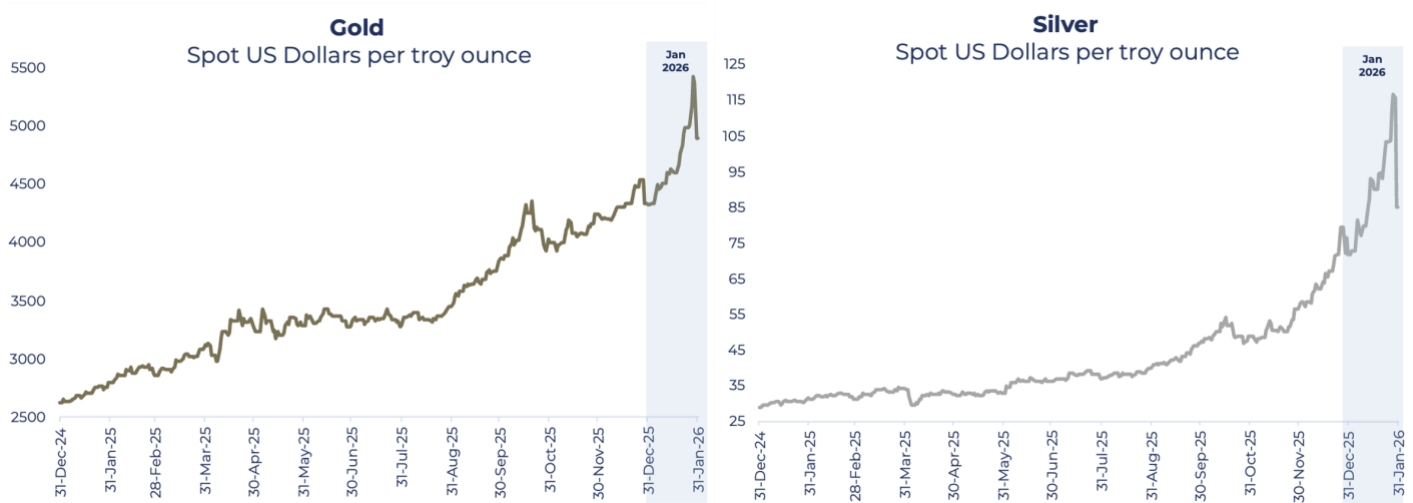


Source: Guinness Atkinson, Bloomberg as of 01/31/2026

## Gold, Silver and the Dollar

It is worth touching on the extraordinary moves of precious metals over January. The dollar tends to have a large impact on both gold and silver, with a weaker currency typically having a positive impact on the price of both metals. Part of Trump’s reasoning for wanting rate cuts may partly reflect a desire to debase the

currency – a weaker dollar making US exports more competitive and imports more expensive, another lever Trump is likely pulling to shift trade imbalances. Market discomfort over geopolitics, Central Bank independence and currency debasement have all contributed to a remarkable rally in gold and silver, in-line with the “flight to safety” seen in quality, defensive and value stocks over the month. This was exacerbated by a surge in demand for gold and silver ETFs from retail investors, supporting a rally that saw prices per troy ounce for gold rally 24% and silver a staggering 61% between the beginning of the year, and January 28th – what was gold’s strongest monthly rally in more than 40 years (up until 28th January). This was followed by the largest one-day sell-off in 40 years for gold, falling 9% on Friday 30th January, and silver dropping 26%, after Trump’s nomination of Kevin Warsh. Exchanges, such as CME, announced a rise in the margin requirements on gold and silver futures following the steep fall, further accentuating the drop.

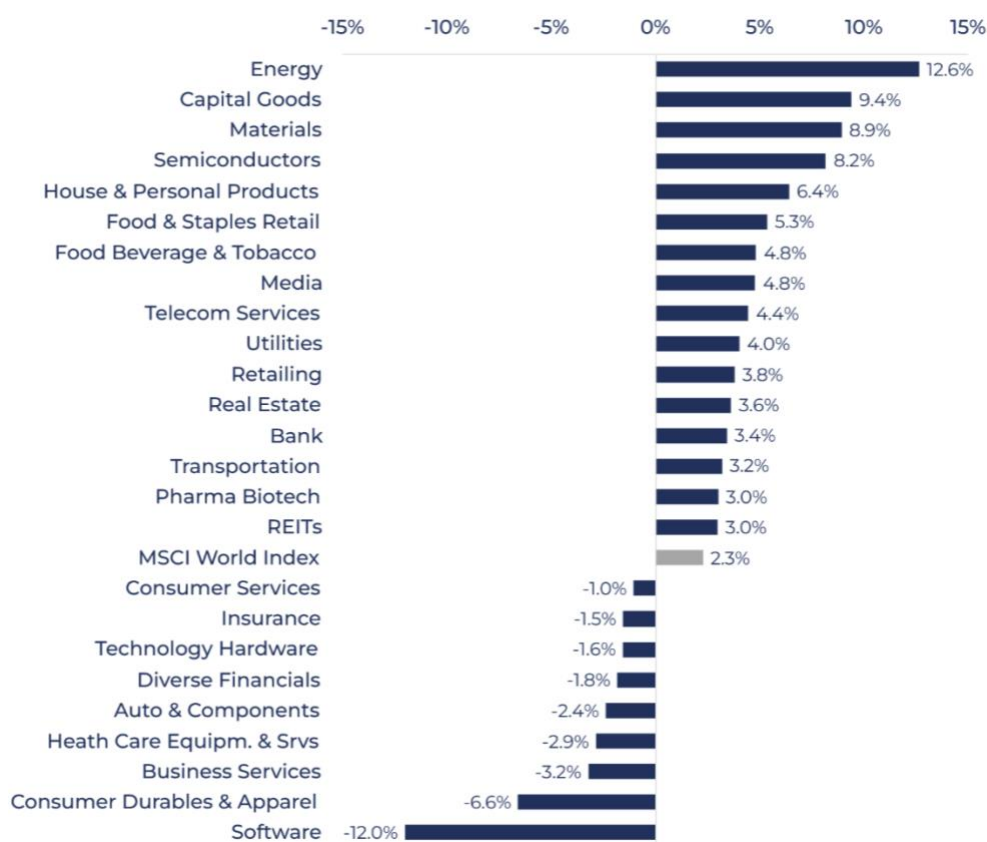


Source: Guinness Atkinson, MSCI, Bloomberg as of 01/31/2026

**A Bifurcation in the Tech Sector**

After what had been a relatively strong year for IT, January brought in a sharp bifurcation between the IT industries: Software, Hardware and Semiconductors. Driven by rising concerns over AI displacement, software names ended the month as the Index’s worst performing industry (-12.0% USD), in sharp contrast to the semiconductor industry (+8.2%) which saw strong demand for chips as the AI buildout continues. Hardware ended the month somewhere in the middle (-1.6%). Elsewhere, Energy led performance (+12.6%), supported by higher commodity prices while Capital Goods, Materials, alongside Semiconductors benefited from renewed capex and industrial demand.

MSCI World Industry Indices Performance  
January 2026

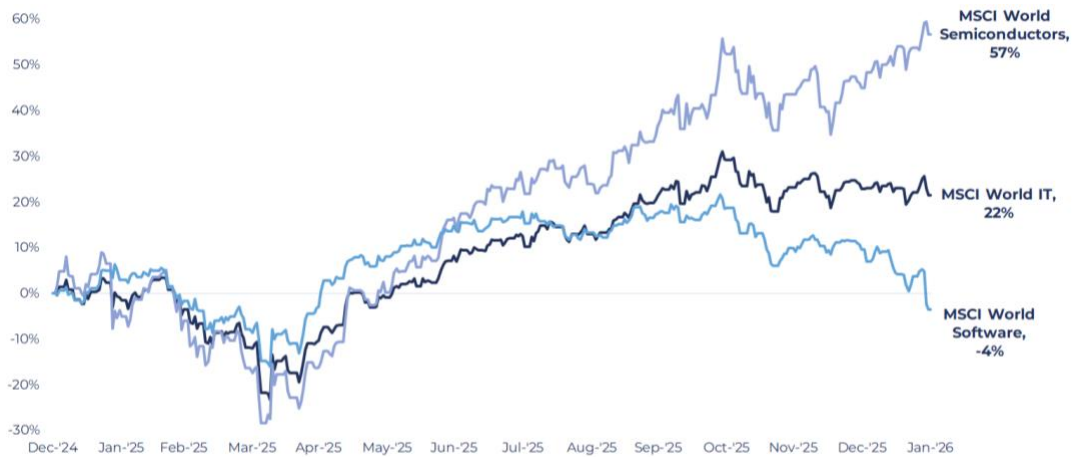


Source: Guinness Atkinson, MSCI, Bloomberg as of 01/31/2026

**So why did software struggle?**

Software stocks have had a challenging start to the year as investor sentiment toward Software-as-a-Service models has deteriorated, driven by rapid advances in artificial intelligence that threaten to disrupt traditional software products. On January 12th, Anthropic released a preview of its Claude Cowork service that can create a spreadsheet from a screenshot or produce a draft report from an assortment of notes, highlighting the expanding capabilities of AI. There are increasing examples of AI enabling the buildout of digital tools such as websites, models and agents by individuals and companies, potentially displacing the need for tools from SaaS companies. Consequently, the MSCI Software Index has fallen more than 20% since October, while the broader MSCI World IT Index remained flat over the same period.

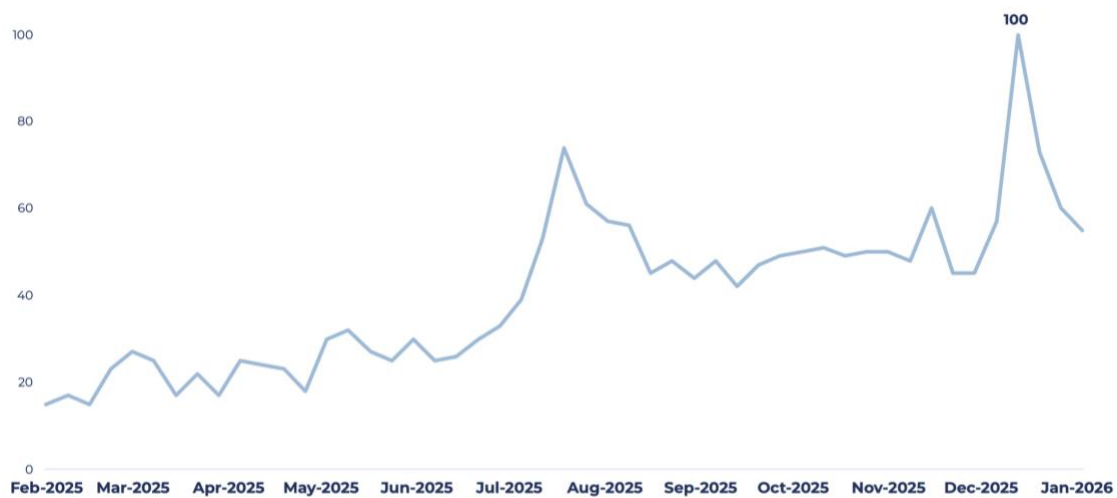
MSCI World IT: Semiconductors vs Software Price Return (USD)



Source: Guinness Atkinson, MSCI, Bloomberg as of 01/31/2026

Interest in so-called “vibe-coding” has increased dramatically over the past year, with Google searches for the term spiking in January, coinciding with AI product launches and the underperformance in software. Vibe-coding refers to the emerging practice of using advanced generative AI tools to create software, workflows, and digital products through natural language prompts rather than traditional coding or packaged applications. The appeal is clear: tools such as Anthropic’s Claude and similar agents allow users to generate spreadsheets, dashboards, websites, and reports, lowering the time and technical barrier to building bespoke software. The concern is that this poses a structural challenge to SaaS and enterprise software vendors whose value propositions have historically rested on providing discrete, workflow-specific tools. More broadly, this dynamic could impact growth, weaken pricing power and shorten product life cycles.

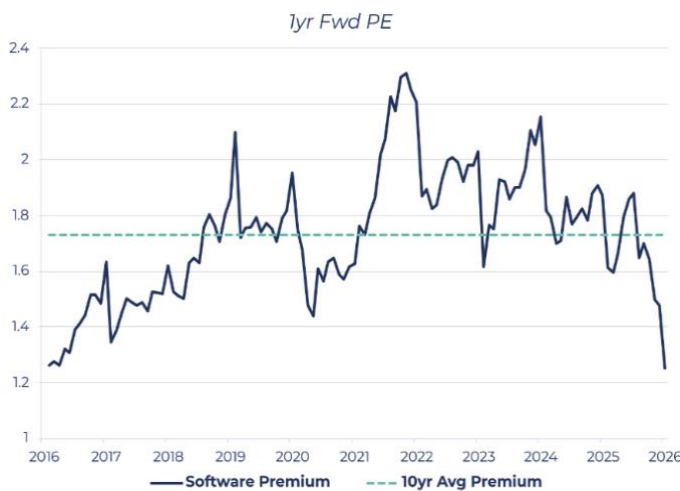
Weekly Google searches for “Vibecoding”



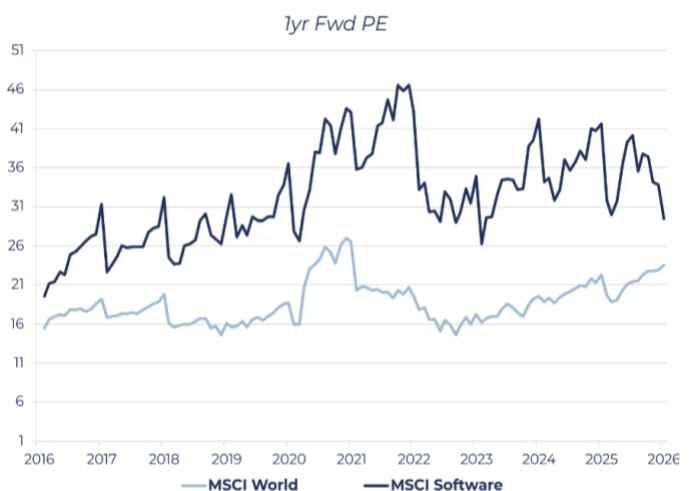
Source: Guinness Atkinson, Google as of 01/31/2026

All together, these concerns have prompted a reassessment of valuations across the sector. Software company valuations have come down significantly from recent peaks. As shown in the chart, the valuation premium of MSCI Software versus MSCI World has compressed materially, falling well below its long-term average after several years of elevated multiples. Absolute forward P/E multiples for software have also declined meaningfully from the highs reached in 2021–2022, driven by slower growth assumptions and renewed AI fears. While software still trades at a premium to the broader market, the gap has narrowed considerably.

MSCI Software Valuation Premium vs MSCI World



MSCI Software & MSCI World Absolute Valuation



Source: Guinness Atkinson, Bloomberg as of 01/31/2026

This dynamic has continued into February, as we write, and broadened into other areas such as professional and business services which provide data and analytics typically via “software as a service” platforms. Short term expectations for earnings for those companies perceived to be at risk from AI disruption have not changed materially, however, and the market is therefore discounting long-term earnings growth heavily. Within the portfolio we have a low exposure to these two industries; Software accounts for approximately 2.1% of the portfolio (the only holding being Microsoft) and Commercial & Professional Services 2.0% (the only holding being Paychex). We continue to monitor this closely, and will report further on our views in coming updates.

## Portfolio Holdings

**Texas Instruments**, the leading player in analog and embedded semiconductors, ended the month as the Fund’s top performer (22.5% USD). The company delivered solid quarterly revenue growth of 10% and issued guidance above consensus, reflecting benefits from a cyclical recovery in the industrial end market. In addition, Texas Instruments is increasingly positioned as an AI beneficiary, having disclosed annual data center revenue for the first time at \$1.5bn, representing 64% growth in 2025. Encouragingly, after two years of

sluggish sales amid an inventory correction, automotive semiconductor revenue also appears to be recovering, growing 8% year-over-year. With capex rolling off and free cash flow set to improve meaningfully into 2026-27, we remain constructive on Texas Instrument's outlook.

**ABB** also performed well over January (11.8% USD) on better-than-expected revenue, earnings and FY26 guidance. Its Electrification segment, which grew 12% year-over-year, is seeing insatiable demand stemming from the data center buildout. However, the segment is more diversified and resilient than it might seem at face value, with solid demand from utilities, land-based infrastructure, and transport end markets, among others. Even after excluding data center orders, Electrification still grew at double digits. The firm also benefited from positive pricing, higher volumes and improved efficiency, which was a tailwind to margins but was somewhat offset by increasing expenses related to tariffs and commodities. Beyond electrification, automation represents an additional structural growth driver, offering compelling exposure to both the management of the energy transition and the evolving demographics of the global labor force.

**Danone** experienced a challenging month (-10.3% USD), driven by ongoing headwinds in its infant formula segment. Early January reports from China indicated lower-than-expected birth rates, implying a contraction in the segment's total addressable market. While this represents a structural challenge for the category, it is a well-known and increasingly priced-in trend, and Danone is well-diversified to benefit from other geographies with more attractive demographics like Latin America and other emerging markets. In addition, the Singapore Food Agency issued a precautionary recall of Danone's Dumex Dulac 1 infant formula after the apparent detection of cereulide toxin in the product. Although Danone's Dumex brand accounts for less than 1% of group sales, clearly the risk lies with reputational damage for the broader infant formula, which makes up a more significant proportion of the firm's total revenue. Having said that, the recall appears precautionary in nature and limited in scope, with no indication at this stage of a broader or systemic quality issue. We continue to closely monitor developments and potential implications for the group.

**Microsoft** also had weak performance over the month (-9% USD) despite strong results, with revenue and EPS beating expectations and Intelligent Cloud growing 28% year-over-year. Azure growth of 38% was marginally below consensus, which seems to have weighed on the stock. However, management made clear that this reflected temporary capacity allocation decisions rather than demand weakness, as the firm had to balance between internal and third-party GPU deployments. Encouragingly, Azure growth would have exceeded 40% if all new GPUs had been directed to third-party workloads. Commercial RPO surged 110% year-over-year to \$625bn, highlighting exceptional long-term demand visibility. Operating leverage continued to offset AI-related margin pressure, allowing Microsoft to upgrade margin guidance. While capex was higher than expected, the mix is improving toward shorter-lived, revenue-generating assets (GPUs and networking), which should support near-term monetization. Overall, Microsoft reported a strong set of results despite the market's focus on a one-quarter Azure growth datapoint.

## Important Information

**Basis Points (bps)** are a unit of measurement used to describe the percentage change in the value or rate of a financial instrument. One basis point is equivalent to 0.01% (1/100th of a percent) or 0.0001 in decimal form.

**MSCI World Index** captures large and mid cap representation across 23 Developed Markets countries. With 1,583 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

**S&P 500 Index** is a market-capitalization-weighted index of 500 leading publicly traded companies in the U.S.

**MSCI World Value Index** captures large and mid-cap securities exhibiting overall value style characteristics across 23 Developed Markets countries. The value investment style characteristics for index construction are defined using three variables: book value to price, 12-month forward earnings to price and dividend yield.

**MSCI World Growth Index** captures large and mid-cap securities exhibiting overall growth style characteristics across 23 Developed Markets countries. The growth investment style characteristics for index construction are defined using five variables: long-term forward EPS growth rate, short-term forward EPS growth rate, current internal growth rate and long-term historical EPS growth trend and long-term historical sales per share growth trend.

**Consumer Price Index** is a weighted average of prices for a basket of goods and services representative of aggregate U.S. consumer spending.

Indexes are unmanaged. It is not possible to invest directly in an index. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

**Price to Earnings Ratio** is a stock valuation metric that compares a company's share price to its earnings per share.

**Capex (Capital Expenditure)** refers to funds a company spends on acquiring, upgrading, and maintaining long-term physical assets such as property, buildings, technology, or equipment aiming to increase operational capacity or future value.

**Earnings Per Share (EPS)** is a company's net profit divided by the number of common shares it has outstanding. It indicates how much money a company makes for each share of its stock and is a widely used metric for estimating corporate value.

**Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR)** is the rate of return that would be required for an investment to grow from its beginning balance to its ending balance, assuming the profits were reinvested at the end of each period of the investment's life span.

**Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE)** Index is a measure of the prices that US consumers pay for goods and services.

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.gafunds.com](http://www.gafunds.com). Read the prospectus or summary prospectus carefully before investing.

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.

# DIVS

Guinness Atkinson Dividend Builder ETF

February 2026 Update



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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.

Investing in securities involves risk and there is no guarantee of principal.

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