



January Review

The Fund's F Acc share class units returned -3.46% compared to the S&P 500 Index ETF return of 2.07% in sterling terms.

January has been a month of rotation and reversion. Those stocks and factor exposures that performed well in 2022 have underperformed this month and those stocks and factor exposures that performed badly in 2022 have outperformed, in some cases very meaningfully. There are many examples of this dynamic to cite but, to give a feel, stocks like Tesla which was -65% in 2022 was +40.6% in January. The Nasdaq Index was -33.1% in 2022 and is already +10.6% in January. The so called 'meme stocks' have also had a reprieve, Carvana the online car dealer fell 97.9% in 2022 and is up 114.6% in January. The Goldman Sachs Most Shorted Basket was down 51.7% in 22 and is up 19.4% this month. All these big moves have come at the expense of the more defensive areas like Healthcare -1.8%, Staples -1.1% and this is what has caused the fund to be behind the index in the month.

Reversals of this sort are not uncommon in January but tend not to be sustainable, particularly given the economic outlook, where our model shows growth continuing to decelerate over the next two quarters, with GDP forecast to hit 0% by April, and this is why we are still defensively positioned. Corporate earnings remain underwhelming in Technology, and we remain underweight the sector. This underweight is not structural however and we are monitoring the sector closely for opportunities; our contention being that the sector is very likely to produce some winners in the next bull market but that those companies will not be the mega cap growth stocks that have performed so well over the last decade. That is the big opportunity in Technology, and we are excited about the next phase for this sector.

In terms of new stocks, we initiated a position in World Wrestling Entertainment, which is one of the few remaining listed content companies. There is a global fight for content at the moment and, alongside Formula 1, which we also own via our holding in Liberty Media, stands out as a wholly owned asset with a large and very engaged fan base. Both these companies have been the subject of takeover rumours of late which have boosted their share prices.

Market Outlook

The sharp counter trend moves that we have seen so far in January are unfortunately part and parcel of what bear markets look like. Whilst painful to endure in the short term, it's important not to chase prices, they often race higher simply because they have fallen so far in the first place. I continue to believe there is trouble brewing at companies like Tesla, where ongoing criminal investigations are seemingly ignored by investors, and where volume guidance is met by cutting price. Much of the upward momentum in price during



January's rally has been the result of short covering and this is unsustainable in my view. In fact, as corporates continue to miss their numbers and remove guidance, it's even more important to not get sucked in by the noise in the short term and concentrate on those stocks which are best suited to the prevailing economic reality.

Felix Wintle Fund Manager, VT Tyndall North American Fund, 31 January 2023

Data sources: Bloomberg

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