

Why is increasing volatility likely to benefit active managers in 2018?

and why focus on Quality?

Paul Winter

Analyst

Tel: +61 2 9324 2080 paul-j.winter@ubs.com

Luke Brown

Analyst

Tel: +61 2 9324 3620 luke brown@ubs.com

Oliver Antrobus

Analyst

Tel: +61 3 9242 6467 oliver.antrobus@ubs.com

Josh Holcroft

Analyst

Tel: +852 2971 7705 Josh.holcroft@ubs.com

Pieter Stoltz

Analyst

Tel: +61 2 9324 3779 pieter.stoltz@ubs.com

Shanle Wu

Analyst

Tel: +852 2971 7513 shanle.wu@ubs.com



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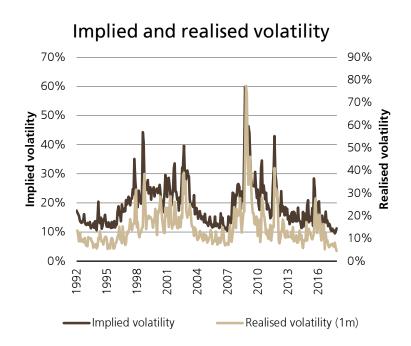
Section 1

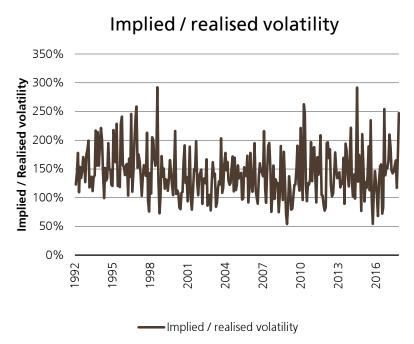
Why is volatility so low, and when is it likely to increase?



Implied vs realised: has the relationship changed?

- Implied volatility = expectation of the future 30 day volatility
- Realised volatility = 30 day realised volatility
- Overall, the relationship between implied and realised has not changed
- i.e. Implied volatility is low because realised volatility is low



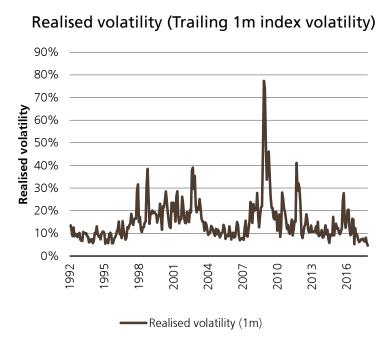


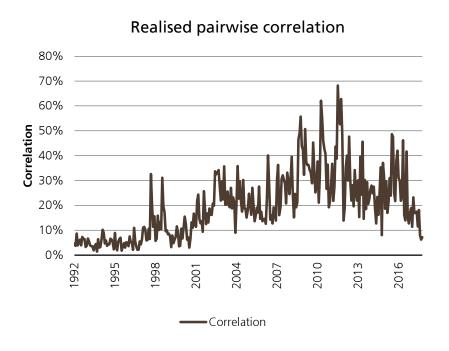
Source: Factset, UBS Quant Index: S&P 500



What's driving realised volatility lower?

- Realised volatility is close to all-time lows
- Pairwise correlation is close to all time lows
- By definition, portfolio volatility is a function of the volatility of the stocks and the correlation
 of the stocks
- So, index volatility is low because the volatility of the stocks and the correlation of the stocks is low... but why?



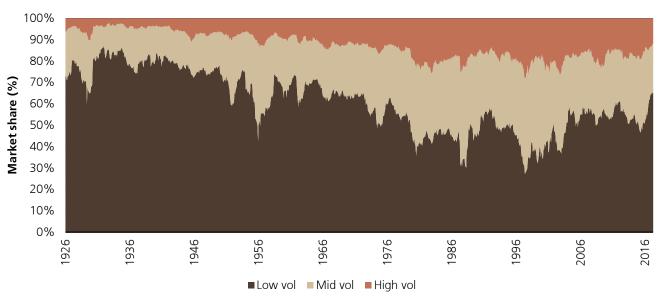




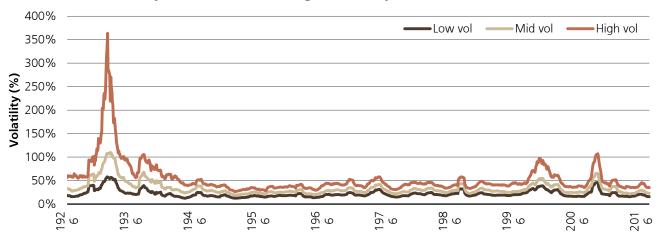
Source: UBS Quant Index: MSCI World

Market structure changes

Weight of low, mid and high volatility stocks over time



Volatility of low, mid and high volatility stocks over time (median)

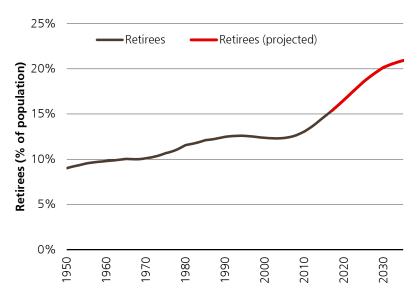




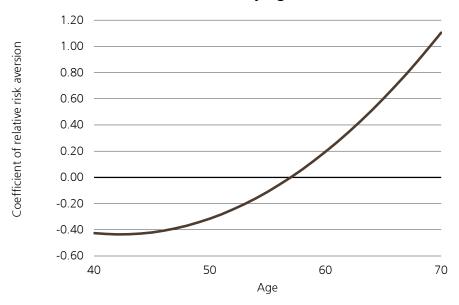
Potential causes?

1. Demographics? Ageing populations globally demanding low risk income

Retirees as a proportion of the population (US)



Risk aversion by age

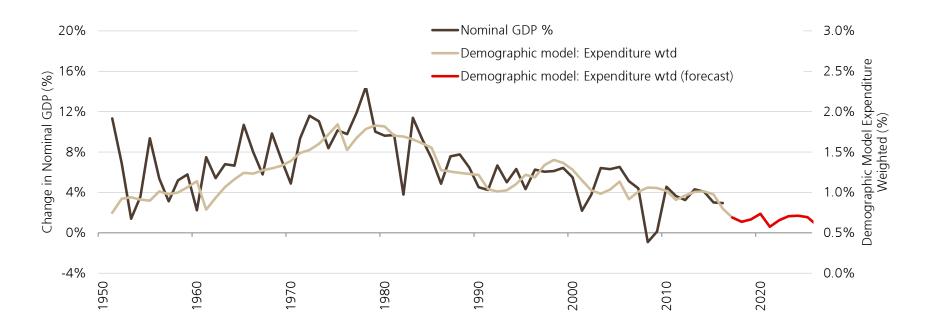




Potential causes?

2. Low interest rates?

In a world of structurally lower growth and inflation we expect low growth and low returns. Perhaps investing in low volatility stocks is a rational response?

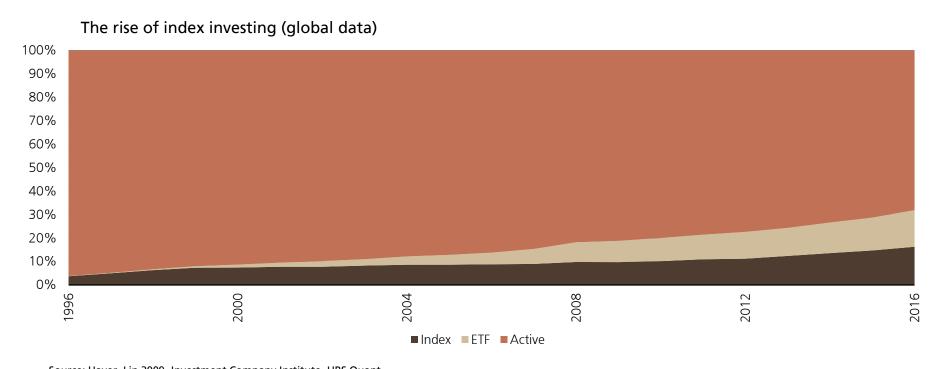




Potential causes?

3. Index and low volatility investing?

Index and low volatility investing favours large cap, low volatility stocks.



Source: Haver, Lin 2009, Investment Company Institute, UBS Quant

Whilst we cannot prove which of these drivers is driving the increase in low volatility investing, we do know that all three drivers remain intact.

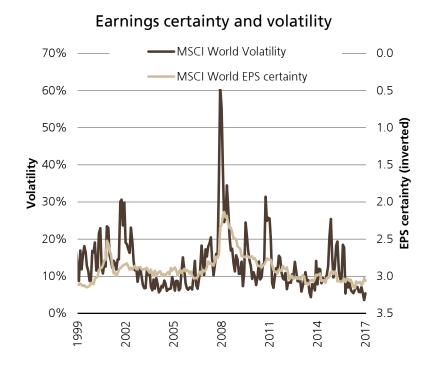


Implied vs realised: has the relationship changed?

The cyclical component

A function of earnings growth and earnings certainty

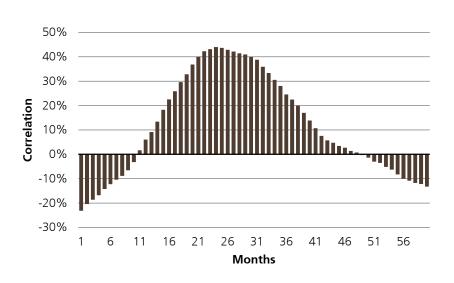


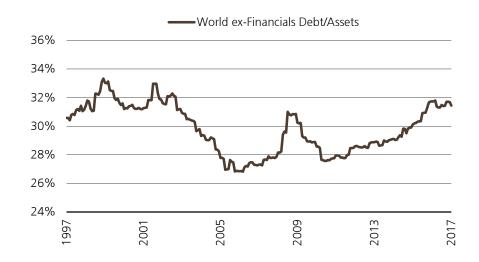


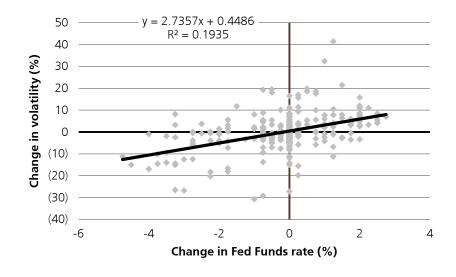


When is volatility likely to pick up?

- The world has re-levered
- The average firm finances on a 3-5 year view
- Lagged correlation peaks at 24 months
- Fed both reacts to, and causes, the cycle



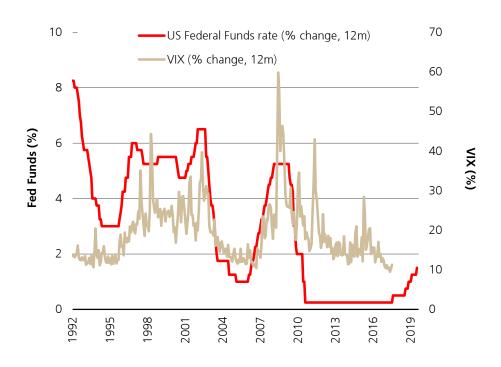


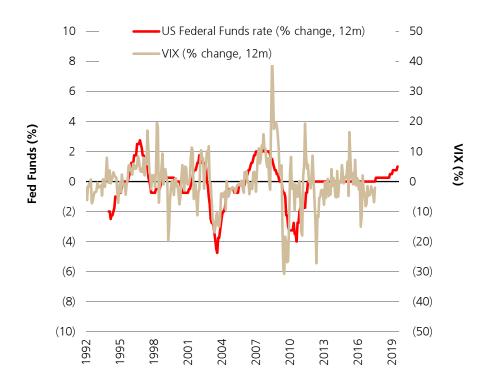




Fed Funds rate and volatility

- The Fed Funds rate leads the VIX by 24 months
- Given that the Fed has been tightening for 24 months, we believe that volatility and hence dispersion should pick up in 2018







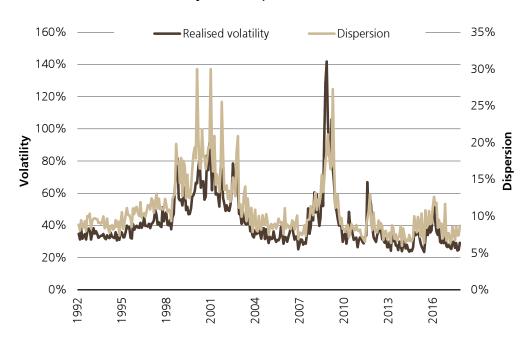
What about dispersion?

- Volatility and dispersion are highly correlated
- There is more to dispersion than simply gearing and cost of capital.

Our US strategist, Keith Parker, recently wrote about

- 1. Demographic demand shifts
- 2. Corporate vs consumer
- 3. Margins
- 4. Tax impact
- Technological disruption (see 'Who benefits from automation')

Volatility and dispersion of returns





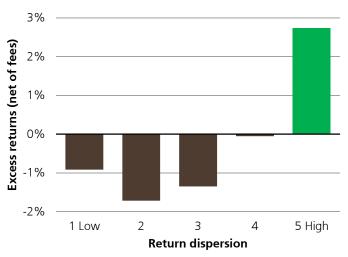
Section 2

The outlook for active management

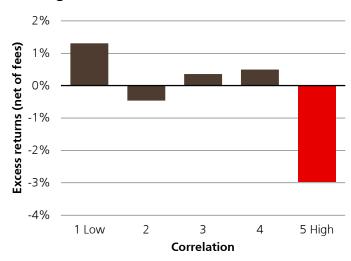


Understanding the opportunity for active managers

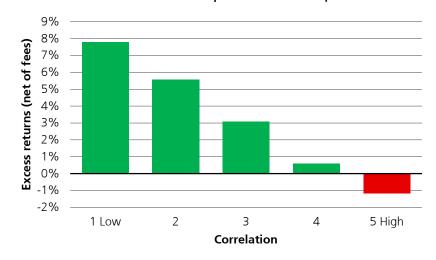
Dispersion and excess returns to active management (net of fees)



Correlation and excess returns to active management (net of fees)



Excess returns to quintile 5 of dispersion





Section 3

Why focus on Quality?



Why does quality work?

- **Risk**: This assumes that high quality firms tend to be low beta, and as such represent a risk to active managers as they are likely to underperform in a rising market. Given that markets tend to increase in the long run, active managers are more likely to overweight higher beta stocks and underweight low beta stocks. Consequently, buying low beta names leads to outperformance as they are under-valued relative to their fundamentals.
- **Behavioural**: Investors persistently under-estimate the earnings persistence of high quality firms, and tend to assume mean-reversion in their estimates. Contrary to this belief, high quality firms tend to continue to perform well, whilst low quality firms tend to continue to disappoint.

How do we distinguish between high quality firms that are likely to continue to outperform versus those that are likely to revert to the mean?



Defining Quality

- 1. Linear or Binary?
- 2. Quadratic with certainty?
- 3. Theoretical or empirical?

	High Quality	Delta Quality
Profitability		
Cash-flow to assets	Ranked	Binary
Change in cash-flow to assets		Binary
Gross profit to assets	Ranked	Binary
Change in gross profit to assets		Binary
Return on assets	Ranked	Binary
Change in return on assets		Binary
Return on assets: variation - sector neutral	Ranked	Binary
Accruals (Sloan definition)	Ranked	Binary
Change in accruals		Binary
Operating cash-flow		Binary
Cash Flow Variation	Ranked	Binary
Financial health		
Change in Current Ratio		Binary
Debt to Assets - sector neutral	Ranked	Binary
Change in Debt to Assets		Binary
Efficiency		
Change in Sales to Assets		Binary
Gross margins	Ranked	Binary
Change in gross margins		Binary
Management signalling		
Equity issuance	Ranked	Binary
Risk		
Distance to Default		Binary
Volatility		Binary



How does Quality perform? High Quality

High Quality: total excess returns

3%

2%

1%

0%

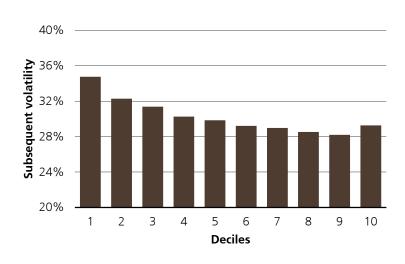
-1%

-2%

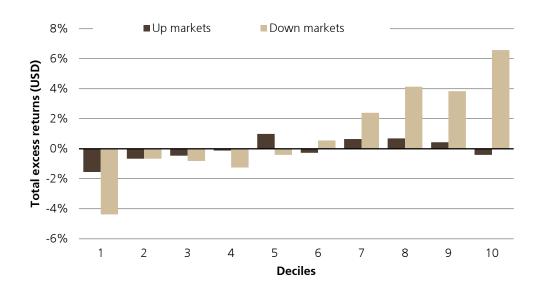
-2%

High Quality: subsequent volatility (12m, monthly)

Deciles



High Quality: total excess returns in up and down markets

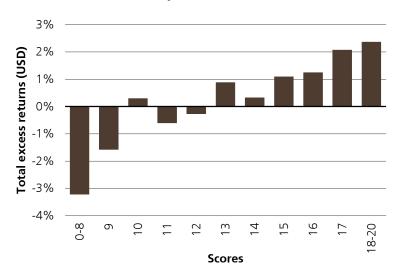




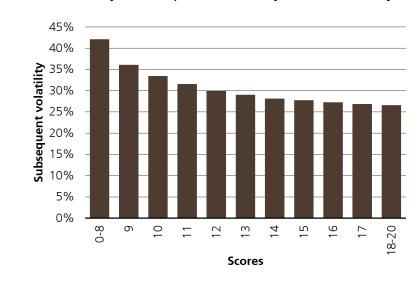
-3%

How does Quality perform? Delta Quality

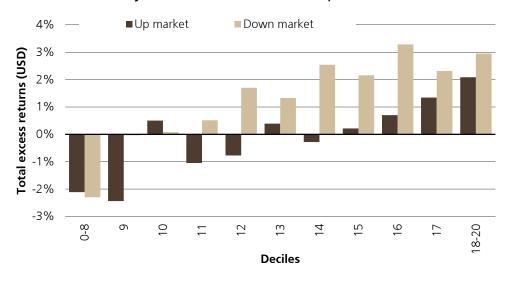
Delta Quality: total excess returns



Delta Quality: subsequent volatility (12m, monthly)



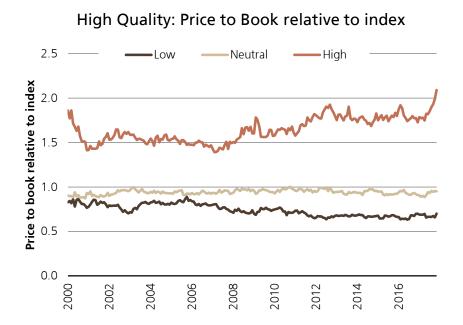
Delta Quality: total excess returns in up and down markets



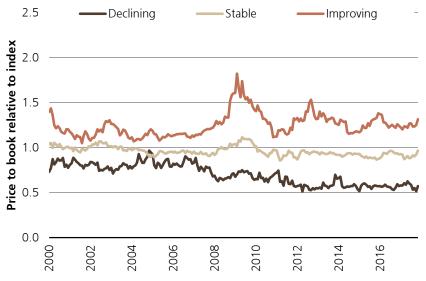


Surely it's priced?

- High Quality is partially priced
- Delta Quality is not appreciated by the market



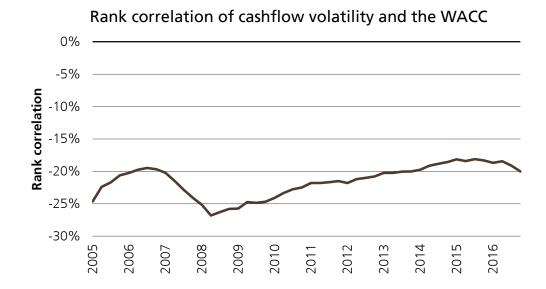
Delta Quality: Price to Book relative to index



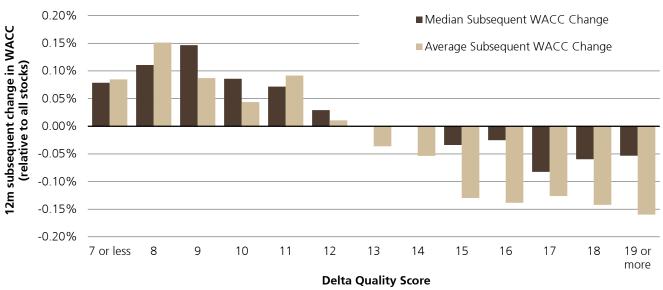


Why we like Quality

- Analysts are good at forecasting cashflows, but are choose incorrect discount rates
- Discount rates are captured in financial statements
- Changes in financial statements are correlated with subsequent changes in WACC



Delta Quality scores and changes in the weighted average cost of capital





Building a Quality factor model

- High quality decile >7
- Delta quality score > 15

	MSCI World
	(Equal Weighted)
Annualised Excess Arithmetic	2.9%
Annualised Excess Geometric	2.7%
Volatility	6.0%
Avg No Of Stocks	157
No Of Periods	262
Sharpe RF 0	0.46
T Stat	2.13

Quality Model excess returns over MSCI World (equal weighted)





Section 4

Where is the opportunity?



High quality companies with improving fundamentals and solid cashflow yields

High Quality and cashflow yield

	1 Low quality	2	3	4	5 high quality
1 expensive	-4.3%	-0.5%	0.8%	-0.4%	1.9%
2	-5.5%	-3.4%	-1.3%	0.5%	0.0%
3	-1.6%	1.2%	-0.5%	2.4%	1.1%
4	-0.8%	1.1%	0.6%	1.4%	3.0%
5 cheap	2.0%	2.5%	3.0%	4.6%	4.8%

Delta Quality and cashflow yield

	Declining	Stable	Improving
1 expensive	-3.1%	-1.6%	1.1%
2	-7.1%	-1.5%	-0.7%
3	-3.2%	1.0%	1.1%
4	-1.3%	1.2%	1.9%
5 cheap	5.4%	2.6%	3.9%



Screen: United States

	_			HQ	DQ	FCF
Ticker	Company	Country	Sector	score	score	Yield*
S&P 500						
CMCSA-US	Comcast Corporation Class A	US	Consumer Discretionary	8	17	6.3%
LOW-US	Lowe's Companies, Inc.	US	Consumer Discretionary	10	16	7.2%
AZO-US	AutoZone, Inc.	US	Consumer Discretionary	10	14	7.0%
CCL-US	Carnival Corporation	US	Consumer Discretionary	8	16	2.3%
COST-US	Costco Wholesale Corporation	US	Consumer Staples	9	17	2.3%
PFE-US	Pfizer Inc.	US	Health Care	8	15	7.4%
BMY-US	Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	US	Health Care	9	17	3.6%
CSCO-US	Cisco Systems, Inc.	US	Information Technology	8	13	6.3%
NTAP-US	NetApp, Inc.	US	Information Technology	9	17	7.2%
EBAY-US	eBay Inc.	US	Information Technology	7	14	5.8%
INTC-US	Intel Corporation	US	Information Technology	9	14	4.8%
MSFT-US	Microsoft Corporation	US	Information Technology	7	14	6.1%
PPG-US	PPG Industries, Inc.	US	Materials	9	14	6.1%
APD-US	Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.	US	Materials	8	14	3.9%
AVB-US	AvalonBay Communities, Inc.	US	Real Estate	7	16	3.4%

^{*} FCF Yield is UBS analyst forecast (if not available: trailing, or DY)



Screen: Europe

				HQ	DQ	FCF
Ticker	Company	Country	Sector	score	score	Yield*
MSCI Europe						
BKG-GB	Berkeley Group Holdings plc	GB	Consumer Discretionary	10	17	10.1%
WPP-GB	WPP Plc	GB	Consumer Discretionary	8	13	10.3%
NXT-GB	Next plc	GB	Consumer Discretionary	10	15	8.1%
PSN-GB	Persimmon Plc	GB	Consumer Discretionary	8	17	8.7%
CCL-GB	Carnival plc	GB	Consumer Discretionary	9	15	2.3%
CPG-GB	Compass Group PLC	GB	Consumer Discretionary	9	12	4.4%
HEIA-NL	Heineken NV	NL	Consumer Staples	7	15	4.6%
VPK-NL	Royal Vopak NV	NL	Energy	7	14	0.6%
BAYN-DE	Bayer AG	DE	Health Care	7	15	8.2%
NOVO.B-DK	Novo Nordisk A/S Class B	DK	Health Care	10	14	3.8%
IAG-ES	International Consolidated Airlines Group SA	ES	Industrials	7	16	6.7%
AENA-ES	Aena SME SA	ES	Industrials	9	17	6.8%
ALFA-SE	Alfa Laval AB	SE	Industrials	8	16	5.2%
CAP-FR	Capgemini SE	FR	Information Technology	8	15	6.6%
BLT-GB	BHP Billiton Plc	GB	Materials	7	17	10.5%
RIO-GB	Rio Tinto plc	GB	Materials	9	15	7.9%
1COV-DE	Covestro AG	DE	Materials	10	16	8.9%
MNDI-GB	Mondi plc	GB	Materials	9	13	4.4%
BLND-GB	British Land Company PLC	GB	Real Estate	8	13	4.4%
TEL-NO	Telenor ASA	NO	Telecommunication Services	9	16	8.3%
ENEL-IT	Enel SpA	IT	Utilities	7	16	12.0%

^{*} FCF Yield is UBS analyst forecast (if not available: trailing, or DY)



Screen: Japan

				HQ	DQ	FCF
Ticker	Company	Country	Sector	score	score	Yield*
Topix 1000						
7269-JP	Suzuki Motor Corp.	JP	Consumer Discretionary	7	15	6.9%
7606-JP	UNITED ARROWS LTD.	JP	Consumer Discretionary	10	17	5.0%
7259-JP	Aisin Seiki Co Ltd	JP	Consumer Discretionary	7	12	7.8%
6326-JP	Kubota Corporation	JP	Industrials	7	14	2.7%
3632-JP	GREE, Inc.	JP	Information Technology	7	12	20.2%
4208-JP	UBE Industries, Ltd.	JP	Materials	8	16	6.5%

^{*} FCF Yield is UBS analyst forecast (if not available: trailing, or DY)



Screen: Asia ex-Japan (part 1)

Ticker	Company	Country	Sector	HQ score	DQ score	FCF Yield*
MSCI AC Asia ex Japan						
2020-HK	ANTA Sports Products Ltd.	HK	Consumer Discretionary	10	18	3.9%
1093-HK	CSPC Pharmaceutical Group Ltd.	HK	Health Care	10	16	2.9%
27-HK	Galaxy Entertainment Group Limited	HK	Consumer Discretionary	10	15	4.5%
1169-HK	Haier Electronics Group Co., Ltd.	HK	Consumer Discretionary	9	17	7.4%
168-HK	Tsingtao Brewery Co., Ltd. Class H	HK	Consumer Staples	9	16	5.3%
1193-HK	China Resources Gas Group Limited	HK	Utilities	8	18	6.1%
2688-HK	ENN Energy Holdings Limited	HK	Utilities	8	15	10.0%
1113-HK	CK Asset Holdings Limited	HK	Real Estate	8	15	7.7%
2388-HK	BOC Hong Kong (Holdings) Limited	HK	Financials	8	15	3.8%
2333-HK	Great Wall Motor Co., Ltd. Class H	HK	Consumer Discretionary	8	14	10.1%
857-HK	PetroChina Company Limited Class H	HK	Energy	7	17	6.8%
386-HK	China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation Class H	HK	Energy	7	16	8.4%
2628-HK	China Life Insurance Co. Ltd. Class H	HK	Financials	7	16	2.4%
576-HK	Zhejiang Expressway Co. Ltd. Class H	HK	Industrials	7	13	13.4%
867-HK	China Medical System Holdings Ltd.	HK	Health Care	7	' 13	2.7%
966-HK	China Taiping Insurance Holdings Co., Ltd.	HK	Financials	7	' 13	0.8%

^{*} FCF Yield is UBS analyst forecast (if not available: trailing, or DY)



Screen: Asia ex-Japan (part 2)

				HQ	DQ	FCF
Ticker	Company	Country	Sector	score	score	Yield*
MSCI AC Asia ex Japan						
LPPF-ID	PT Matahari Department Store Tbk Class A	ID	Consumer Discretionary	10	14	7.2%
ADRO-ID	PT Adaro Energy Tbk	ID	Energy	8	20	14.5%
BSDE-ID	PT Bumi Serpong Damai Tbk	ID	Real Estate	8	16	11.9%
BBTN-ID	PT Bank Tabungan Negara (Persero) Tbk	ID	Financials	7	15	0.6%
532540-IN	Tata Consultancy Services Limited	IN	Information Technology	10	16	4.3%
500182-IN	Hero Motocorp Limited	IN	Consumer Discretionary	10	13	3.2%
036570-KR	NCsoft Corporation	KR	Information Technology	9	18	7.2%
011170-KR	Lotte Chemical Corp.	KR	Materials	8	15	13.5%
000030-KR	Woori Bank	KR	Financials	7	15	4.4%
Z74-SG	Singapore Telecommunications Limited	SG	Telecommunication Services	9	14	5.4%
S63-SG	Singapore Technologies Engineering Ltd	SG	Industrials	7	18	3.5%
A17U-SG	Ascendas Real Estate Investment Trust	SG	Real Estate	7	16	6.0%
C09-SG	City Developments Limited	SG	Real Estate	7	16	0.2%
GLOW-TH	Glow Energy Public Co., Ltd.	TH	Utilities	8	13	12.2%
PTT-TH	PTT Public Co., Ltd.	TH	Energy	7	18	11.6%
PTTEP-TH	PTT Exploration & Production Plc	TH	Energy	7	15	8.9%
SCC-TH	Siam Cement Public Co. Ltd.	TH	Materials	7	13	7.9%
SCC.F-TH	Siam Cement Public Co. Ltd.(Alien Mkt)	TH	Materials	7	13	3.6%
3008-TW	LARGAN Precision Co., Ltd.	TW	Information Technology	10	18	5.4%
2474-TW	Catcher Technology Co., Ltd.	TW	Information Technology	9	19	9.3%
6505-TW	Formosa Petrochemical Corp	TW	Energy	9	17	5.5%
1301-TW	Formosa Plastics Corporation	TW	Materials	7	18	2.0%

^{*} FCF Yield is UBS analyst forecast (if not available: trailing, or DY)



Screen: Australia

Ticker	Company	Country	Sector	HQ score	DQ score	FCF Yield*
ASX 200						
SRX-AU	Sirtex Medical Limited	AU	Health Care	10	14	5.3%
HVN-AU	Harvey Norman Holdings Ltd	AU	Consumer Discretionary	9	16	8.8%
RIO-AU	Rio Tinto Limited	AU	Materials	9	16	7.1%
SUL-AU	Super Retail Group Limited	AU	Consumer Discretionary	8	19	7.9%
FMG-AU	Fortescue Metals Group Ltd	AU	Materials	8	17	4.0%
BHP-AU	BHP Billiton Limited	AU	Materials	8	17	9.1%
ALL-AU	Aristocrat Leisure Limited	AU	Consumer Discretionary	8	17	5.0%
WPL-AU	Woodside Petroleum Ltd	AU	Energy	8	14	4.7%
WHC-AU	Whitehaven Coal Limited	AU	Energy	7	19	18.9%

^{*} FCF Yield is UBS analyst forecast (if not available: trailing, or DY)



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Our quantitative models rely on reported financial statement information, consensus earnings forecasts and stock prices. Errors in these numbers are sometimes impossible to prevent (as when an item is misstated by a company). Also, the models employ historical data to estimate the efficacy of stock selection strategies and the relationships among strategies, which may change in the future. Additionally, unusual company-specific events could overwhelm the systematic influence of the strategies used to rank and score stocks.

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12-Month Rating	Definition	Coverage ¹	IB Services ²
Buy	FSR is > 6% above the MRA.	45%	26%
Neutral	FSR is between -6% and 6% of the MRA.	39%	23%
Sell	FSR is > 6% below the MRA.	16%	11%
Short-Term Rating	Definition	Coverage ³	IB Services ⁴
Buy	Stock price expected to rise within three months from the time the rating was assigned because of a specific catalyst or event.	<1%	<1%
Sell	Stock price expected to fall within three months from the time the rating was assigned because of a specific catalyst or event.	<1%	<1%

Source: UBS. Rating allocations are as of 30 September 2017.

- 1. Percentage of companies under coverage globally within the 12-month rating category.
- 2:Percentage of companies within the 12-month rating category for which investment banking (IB) services were provided within the past 12 months.
- 3:Percentage of companies under coverage globally within the Short-Term rating category.
- 4:Percentage of companies within the Short-Term rating category for which investment banking (IB) services were provided within the past 12 months.

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Contact information

UBS Securities Australia Ltd **Paul Winter Quantitative analysts**email paul-j.winter@ubs.com

Tel: +61 (2) 9324 2080 Fax: +61 (2) 9324 3600

Level 16 Chifley Tower 2 Chifley Square Sydney NSW 2000 Australia

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