

Are Your Portfolios Ready for Reversals?

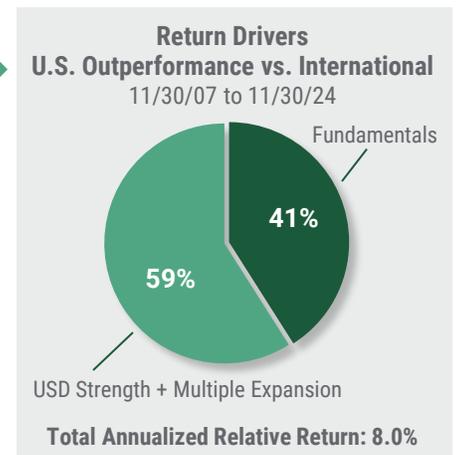
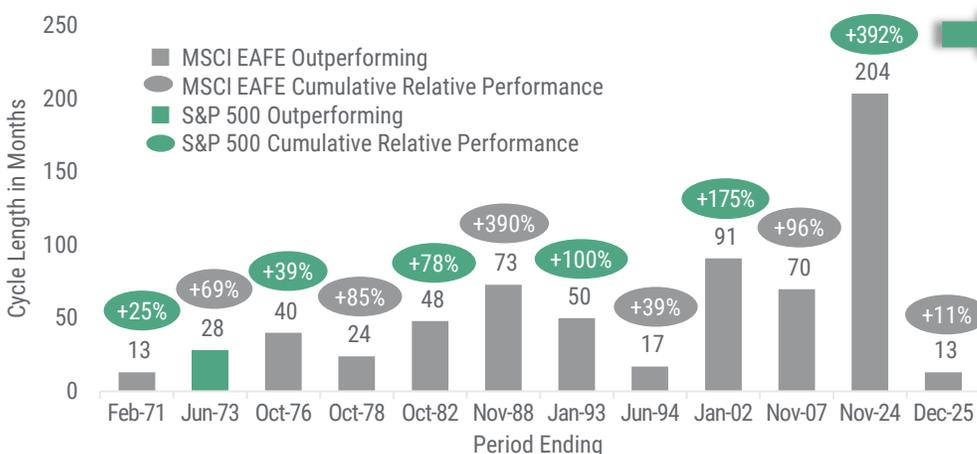
The dramatic outperformance of international stocks vs. U.S. stocks (MSCI EAFE vs. S&P 500) in 2025¹ reminded us again that diversification can be an important component to guard against quick swings in market sentiment. While we cannot predict if this pattern will continue, we believe that international and value stocks offer compelling return potential based on their current valuation levels.

Reversals Can—and Did—Happen

After a prolonged period of underperformance, it is not surprising that there had been little demand to invest in non-U.S. equities, with many investors seemingly thinking that a reversal may never happen. However, history has shown that markets did cycle, and these cycles—although not consistent—tended to last quite a while.

Interestingly, the most recent U.S.-led cycle was only partly shaped by company fundamentals. A strong U.S. dollar and lofty investor enthusiasm driving up valuations (i.e., “multiple expansion”) also played a big role. These two factors powered approximately 4.7% annualized of U.S. outperformance (representing 59% of outperformance) versus international markets since late 2007, but we believe they are less likely to continue going forward.

U.S. vs. International Equity Performance Cycles



RELATIVE PERFORMANCE OF MSCI EAFE VS S&P 500 MEASURED MONTHLY, FEBRUARY 1, 1970, TO DECEMBER 31, 2025 | Source: FactSet, MSCI. Cycles are based on sustained outperformance on a cumulative basis over periods of at least 12 months. For return drivers: multiple expansion is measured by the change in forward price/earnings during the period; USD strength is measured by BIS (Bank of International Settlements) for USD vs. narrow basket (which covers 27 currencies); fundamentals are measured by earnings-per-share growth and dividend yield. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. It is not possible to invest directly in an index. MSCI EAFE Index inception is March 31, 1986. Performance shown prior to inception is the result of back-testing by the index provider. There may be frequent material differences between back-tested performance and actual results. MSCI EAFE net return vs S&P 500 total return.

International Equities: Ripe for Opportunities

Following the outperformance of international stocks in 2025, valuations for U.S. equities remained elevated. On a sector-adjusted basis, international stocks traded near some of the largest valuation discounts versus U.S. stocks. Historically, such valuation discounts have often preceded appealing returns for international stocks relative to their U.S. counterparts.

Sector Neutral Valuations of MSCI EAFE vs. MSCI USA



Cumulative Returns Subsequent to

Largest EAFE Discounts

Largest EAFE Premiums

Cumulative Returns	Dec 74 – Dec 79	Jul 92 – Jul 95	Nov 01 – Nov 06	Feb 89 – Feb 92	Apr 94 – Apr 99	Oct 09 – Oct 19
MSCI USA	11.7%	12.3%	5.5%	16.0%	27.2%	13.0%
MSCI EAFE	17.9%	16.0%	14.4%	-4.3%	8.7%	5.4%

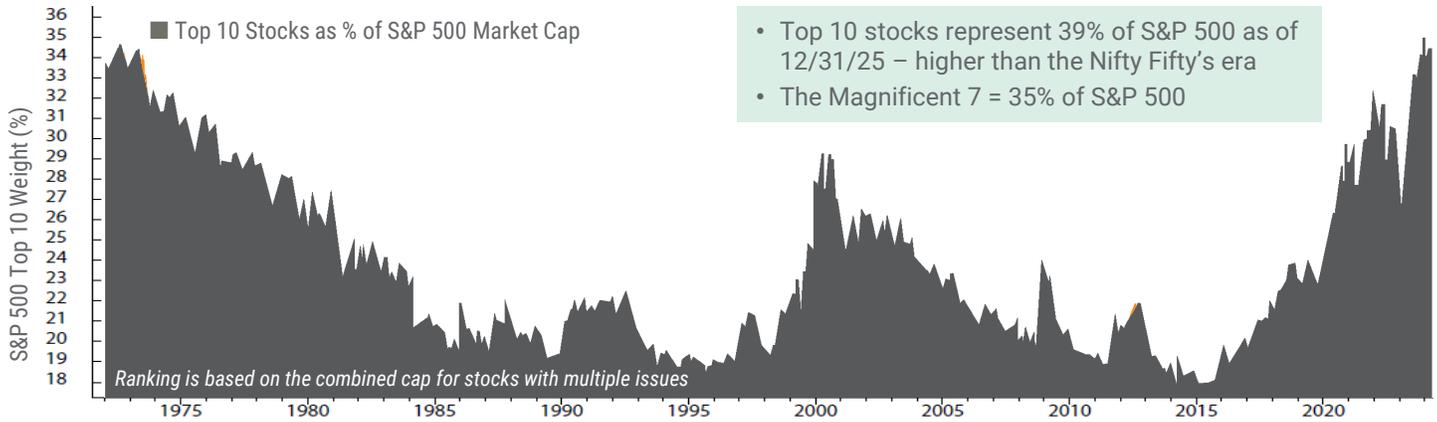
DECEMBER 31, 1974 TO DECEMBER 31, 2025 | Source: MSCI via FactSet. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. It is not possible to invest directly in an index. For each fundamental ratio (Price/Book, Price/Earnings, Price/Cash Flow), we calculate the average ratio of the MSCI EAFE Index and divide it by the average ratio of the MSCI USA Index on a sector neutral basis to determine the relative valuation. Aggregate valuation discount based on the average of each individual metric's valuation discount of the MSCI EAFE index relative to MSCI USA. The inception date for the MSCI EAFE Index and MSCI USA is March 31, 1986. Performance shown prior to inception is the result of back-testing by the index provider. There may be frequent material differences between back-tested performance and actual results.

U.S. Market Dominance and the Importance of Diversification

The dominance of the U.S. market has led many investors to become overexposed to U.S. equities—and to growth stocks, as the largest allocations in the U.S. market (S&P 500) consist of predominantly growth companies, many of them tech-related.

Predicting when the tide may turn or when market negativity may peak is impossible. Thus, we believe the recent market shifts serve as a crucial reminder of the importance of diversification, and why international equities and value stocks should consistently be part of a diversified equity portfolio.

S&P 500 Has Become More Concentrated²

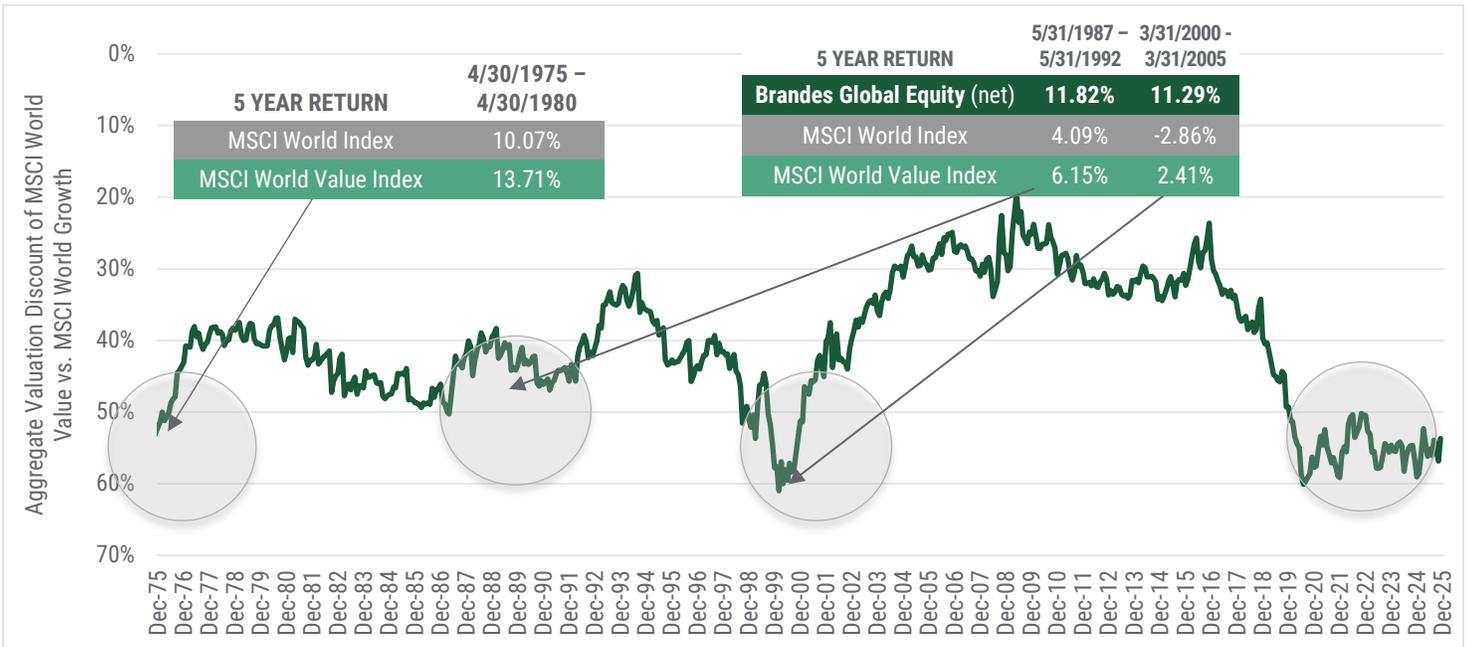


AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025 | Source: Ned Davis Research, FactSet, Brandes. Chart used with permission from NDR, Inc. Further distribution prohibited without prior permission. See NDR Disclaimer at <https://www.ndr.com/terms-of-service>. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

Value in the “Unloved”

Value stocks traded among the cheapest quartile relative to growth stocks (MSCI World Value vs. MSCI World Growth) across various valuation measures. We believe this should bode well for value stocks in general and our Brandes Global Equity Strategy in particular, as the strategy has had the tendency to outperform the benchmark (MSCI World) during value-led periods.

Global Value Stocks Relative Valuation



DECEMBER 31, 1974 TO DECEMBER 31, 2025 | Source: MSCI via FactSet. All returns annualized. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. For each fundamental ratio (Price/Book, Price/Earnings, Price/Cash Flow, Forward Price/Earnings, Enterprise Value/Sales, Enterprise Value/Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization), we calculate the average ratio of the MSCI World Value Index and divide it by the average ratio of the MSCI World Growth Index to determine the relative valuation. Aggregate valuation discounted based upon the average of each individual metric's valuation discount of the value index relative to growth. Please note that all indices are unmanaged and are not available for direct investment. Brandes performance is net of management fees. The examples are for illustrative purposes only. They do not represent the performance of any specific investments. Actual results will vary. Go to <https://www.brandes.com/docs/default-source/default-document-library/publication/performance-report/gips/brandes-global-equity-gips-report-us.pdf> for the Brandes Global Equity GIPS report.

Annualized total return as of December 31, 2025	1-year	5-year	10-year
Brandes Global Equity Composite (net)	33.54%	16.26%	11.22%
Brandes Global Equity Composite (gross)	33.94%	16.76%	11.78%
MSCI World Index	21.09%	12.14%	12.16%

Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. One cannot invest directly in an index. Returns include reinvestment of all dividends and are reduced by any applicable foreign withholding taxes, without provisions for income taxes, if any.

As of December 31, 2025, the Brandes Global Equity Strategy traded at what we consider more compelling valuation levels than the benchmark, and our holdings in aggregate have strong balance sheets.

Brandes Global Equity – Portfolio Characteristics

	Brandes Global Equity	MSCI World	MSCI ACWI Value
# of Securities	70	1,320	1,600
Forward Price/Earnings FY1	14.0x	21.9x	16.2x
Price/Earnings	14.8x	24.4x	17.6x
Price/Cash Flow	8.8x	17.0x	11.7x
Price/Book	1.8x	3.9x	2.4x
Dividend Yield	2.8%	1.6%	2.6%
Net Debt to Equity (ex Financials)	40%	43%	59%
Net Debt to EBITDA (ex Financials)	1.2x	0.8x	1.7x
Consensus 3-5 Yr EPS Growth	7.5%	7.7%	6.3%

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025 | Source: Brandes, Bloomberg, MSCI, FactSet. Consensus 3-5 Yr EPS Growth based on long term company growth estimates aggregated from Factset. The portfolio characteristics shown relate to a single account deemed by Brandes to be generally representative of the strategy as of date noted. Not every account will have these exact characteristics. The actual characteristics with respect to any particular account will vary based on a number of factors including but not limited to: (i) the size of the account; (ii) investment restrictions applicable to the account, if any; and (iii) market exigencies at the time of investment. Data is updated on a quarterly basis. Price/Book, Price/Earnings, Price/Cash Flow and Dividend Yield for each security provided by Bloomberg, L.P. Please note that Bloomberg does not provide negative numbers in the data feed. Index fundamentals are calculated from holdings data as provided by the relevant index or by FactSet Fundamentals, excluding negative numbers for consistency. Thus, index fundamentals calculated by Brandes may differ from those computed and published by index providers. The declaration and payment of shareholder dividends are solely at the discretion of the issuer and are subject to change at any time.

Value Opportunities During Uncertain Times

With over fifty years in business, we have learned that uncertainty is an enduring feature of markets. While unease seems heightened today compared to much of the past 15 years, it is prudent to remember that markets evolve over time and good businesses have the ability to adapt to new environments, highlighting the need to discriminate among opportunities.

¹ For 12/31/2024 to 12/31/2025, the MSCI EAFE Index returned 31.89% vs. 17.88% for the S&P 500.

² Top 10 of S&P 500: NVIDIA, Apple, Microsoft, Amazon.com, Alphabet Inc. Class A, Broadcom, Alphabet Inc. Class C, Meta Platforms Class A, Tesla, Berkshire Hathaway Class B. The Magnificent 7 stocks are a group of seven large, influential technology-focused companies in the US stock market: NVIDIA, Apple, Microsoft, Amazon.com, Alphabet Inc. Class A, Alphabet Inc. Class C, Meta Platforms Class A, Tesla.

Earnings per share (EPS): The portion of a company's profit allocated to each share of common stock. EPS serves as an indicator of a company's profitability.

Enterprise Value/Sales: Market capitalization plus debt, minority interest, and preferred shares, minus total cash and cash equivalents, divided by annual sales.

Enterprise Value/EBITDA: Market capitalization plus debt, minority interest, and preferred shares, minus total cash and cash equivalents, divided by earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization.

Dividend Yield: Dividends per share divided by price per share.

Forward Price/Earnings: Price per share divided by expenditures.

Forecast Growth 12M: IBES consensus forecast gross earnings per share expected over the next 12 months or next fiscal year.

Multiple Expansion: an increase in a valuation multiple such as a Price to Earnings multiple.

Net Debt to Equity: A measure of a company's financial leverage calculated by dividing its net liabilities by stockholders' equity.

Net Debt to EBITDA: A measurement of leverage, calculated as a company's interest-bearing liabilities minus cash or cash equivalents, divided by its EBITDA.

Price/Book: Price per share divided by book value per share.

Price/Cash Flow: Price per share divided by cash flow per share.

Price/Earnings: Price per share divided by earnings per share.

The MSCI ACWI Value Index captures large and mid cap securities across developed and emerging markets exhibiting value style characteristics, defined using book value to price, 12-month forward earnings to price and dividend yield.

The MSCI EAFE Index with net dividends captures large and mid cap representation of developed market countries excluding the U.S. and Canada.

The MSCI USA Index measure the performance of the large and mid cap segments of the U.S. equity market.

The MSCI World Index with net dividends captures large and mid cap representation of developed markets.

The MSCI World Growth Index captures large and mid cap securities across developed market countries exhibiting growth style characteristics, defined using long-term forward earnings per share (EPS) growth rate, short-term forward EPS growth rate, current internal growth rate, long-term historical EPS growth trend, and long-term historical sales per share growth trend.

The MSCI World Value Index captures large and mid cap securities across developed market countries exhibiting value style characteristics, defined using book value to price, 12-month forward earnings to price, and dividend yield.

The S&P 500 Index measures equity performance of 500 of the top companies in leading industries of the U.S. economy.

MSCI has not approved, reviewed or produced this report, makes no express or implied warranties or representations and is not liable whatsoever for any data in the report. You may not redistribute the MSCI data or use it as a basis for other indices or investment products.

Diversification does not assure a profit or protect against loss in a declining market.

Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. One cannot invest directly in an index.

The information provided in this material should not be considered a recommendation to purchase or sell any particular security. It should not be assumed that any security transactions, holdings or sectors discussed were or will be profitable, or that the investment recommendations or decisions we make in the future will be profitable or will equal the investment performance discussed herein. Strategies discussed are subject to change at any time by the investment manager in its discretion due to market conditions or opportunities. The Brandes investment approach tends to result in portfolios that are materially different than their benchmarks with regard to characteristics such as risk, volatility, diversification, and concentration. International and emerging markets investing is subject to certain risks such as currency fluctuation and social and political changes; such risks may result in greater share price volatility.

All investments carry a certain degree of risk including the possible loss of principal.

The foregoing reflects the thoughts and opinions of Brandes Investment Partners® exclusively and is subject to change without notice. Brandes Investment Partners® is a registered trademark of Brandes Investment Partners, L.P. in the United States and Canada.

United States: Issued by Brandes Investment Partners, L.P., 4275 Executive Square, 5th Floor, La Jolla, CA 92037.

Singapore/Asia: FOR INSTITUTIONAL/ACCREDITED INVESTOR USE ONLY. Issued by Brandes Investment Partners (Asia) Pte Ltd., The Gateway West, 150 Beach Road, #35-51, Singapore 189720. Company Registration Number 201212812M. ARBN:164 952 710. This document is for "institutional investors" or "accredited investors" as defined under the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore and may not be distributed to any other person. This document is being provided for information purposes only. Incorporated in Singapore in 2012, Brandes Investment Partners (Asia) Pte Ltd (Brandes Asia) provides portfolio management services to clients in Asia (as permitted under local law). Brandes Investment Partners, L.P., a U.S. registered investment adviser and a sister entity to Brandes Asia, provides research, portfolio construction and other support to Brandes Asia.

Ireland/Europe: FOR PROFESSIONAL INVESTOR USE ONLY. Issued by Brandes Investment Partners (Europe) Limited (Brandes Europe), Alexandra House, The Sweepstakes, Ballsbridge, Dublin, D04 C7H2, Ireland. Registered in Ireland Number 510203. Authorised and regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. This report is being provided for information purposes only, no representation or warranty is made, whether express or implied as to the accuracy or completeness of the information provided. To the fullest extent permitted by law Brandes Europe shall not be liable for any loss or damage suffered by any person as a result of the receipt of this report. Recipients of this report should obtain their own professional advice. The distribution of this report may be restricted by law. No action has been or will be taken by Brandes Europe to permit the possession or distribution of this report in any jurisdiction where action for that purpose may be required. Accordingly, this report may not be used in any jurisdiction except under circumstances that will result in compliance with any applicable laws and regulations. Persons to whom this report is communicated should inform themselves about and observe any such restrictions. This information is being issued only to, and/or is directed only at (i) persons who have professional experience in matters relating to investments or (ii) are persons falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) ("high net worth companies, unincorporated associations etc.") of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 or to whom it may otherwise lawfully be communicated (all such persons together being referred to as "Relevant Persons"). This communication must not be acted on or relied on by persons who are not Relevant Persons. Any investment or investment activity to which this communication relates is available only to Relevant Persons and will be engaged in only with Relevant Persons. This report is a confidential communication to, and solely for the use of, the persons to whom it is distributed to by Brandes Europe.

Canada: Distributed by Brandes Investment Partners & Co., 6 Adelaide Street East, Suite 900, Toronto, ON, M5C 1H6. This communication is for information purposes only and should not be regarded as a sales communication or as advice regarding any financial product or services.