

Brandes Emerging Markets Value Fund

FUND INFORMATION

Class I:	BEMIX
Class A:	BEMAX
Class C:	BEMCX
Class R6:	BEMRX

STRATEGY

The Brandes Emerging Markets Value Fund seeks long term capital appreciation.

Performance data quoted represents past performance; past performance does not guarantee future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment 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 quoted. All performance is historical and includes reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Performance data current to the most recent month end may be obtained by calling 1.800.395.3807.

The Brandes Emerging Markets Value Fund returned 8.20% (Class I Shares), outperforming its benchmark, the MSCI Emerging Markets Index, which was up 4.73% in the quarter, and the MSCI Emerging Markets Value Index, which gained 6.37%.

Positive Contributors

Main contributors to returns were holdings in the information technology and communication services sectors.

A convergence of structural demand drivers and regional market dynamics boosted technology-related holdings, with those in Taiwan and South Korea driving performance. These included Samsung Electronics, SK Hynix, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC), and Wiwynn.

In communication services, Millicom International Cellular continued to perform well, while Chile-based Empresa Nacional de Telecomunicaciones (Entel) gained strongly following confirmation of a joint bid with America Movil for competitor Telefonica.

Select bank holdings across regions also helped returns, led by South African Absa Group, Austria-domiciled Erste Group Bank, Slovenia-based Nova Ljubljanska banka, and Thailand's Kasikornbank.

On a relative basis, our underweight allocation to China was value additive.

Performance Detractors

Select holdings in China declined alongside the broader Chinese equity market. Poor performers included Alibaba and resort operators Galaxy Entertainment Group and Wynn Macau.

Several Brazilian holdings also weighed on returns, namely consumer staples business Sendas Distribuidora, wireless telecom TIM, and integrated oil and gas company Petrobras. Other notable detractors included Georgian bank TBC Bank and Indonesia-based Bank Rakyat Indonesia.

Materials represented the second-best performing sector in the MSCI Emerging Markets Index, and our underweight detracted from relative performance.

Select Activity in the Quarter

The emerging markets investment committee initiated positions in Poland-based Santander Bank Polska and Netherlands-domiciled food producer JBS. The committee also added two China-based companies to the Fund: electronic manufacturing services company BYD Electronic and travel services provider Trip.com Group.

JBS is the world's largest meat processor. Founded in Brazil in 1953 and incorporated in the Netherlands in 2025, JBS maintains sizeable operations and workforce in Brazil and other emerging markets. Despite having the industry's most diversified portfolio across animal proteins and geographies, the company trades at a significant valuation discount to industry peers. The market is likely pricing in cyclically depressed beef cattle and poultry conditions, as well as concerns about leverage and governance. We believe that in the medium to long term, these are surmountable risks with improvement potential by the company.

TOP TEN HOLDINGS

(% of assets as of 12/31/2025)

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co Ltd	8.84
Samsung Electronics Co Ltd	7.40
Alibaba Group Holding Ltd	3.68
Wiwynn Corp	3.22
SK Hynix Inc	2.77
Millicom International Cellular SA	2.53
Bank Rakyat Indonesia Persero Tbk PT	2.46
Petroleo Brasileiro SA - Petrobras	2.35
Embraer SA	2.26
Copa Holdings SA	2.25

Fund holdings are subject to change at any time at the discretion of the investment manager.

Santander Bank Polska (SPL) is Poland's third-largest bank by lending share and fourth largest by deposits. It operates a traditional commercial banking model, with net interest income accounting for approximately 80% of operating revenue. Historically, SPL has focused on non-mortgage retail and small-medium enterprise (SME) loans, a strategy that has helped the bank deliver the highest margins among peers over the recent rate cycle, albeit with moderately higher cost of risk.

Generally, we view Polish banks as quality companies characterized by high structural profitability, conservative capitalization, and reasonable competitive dynamics. Moreover, they operate in one of the most dynamic and fastest growing European economies. While these banks have historically traded at a premium, recent proposals for a major banking tax to fund increased military spending have contributed to a sector derating despite the Polish economy and the banks' fundamentals remaining strong. Specific to SPL, we see a favorable risk-reward tradeoff given its healthy balance sheet, good underwriting track record, and leading efficiency metrics (branch footprint reduced by over 50% since 2017). Additionally, its seasoned management team, with proven experience in M&A integrations, reinforces our investment thesis for SPL.

Besides the new buys, other major portfolio activity included the sales of Indonesian tobacco company Gudang Garam, Mexico's Cemex, and Brazilian electric utility Neoenergia.

Year-to-Date Briefing

The Brandes Emerging Markets Value Fund rose 47.83% (Class I Shares), outperforming its benchmark, the MSCI Emerging Markets Index, which appreciated 33.57% in 2025, and the MSCI Emerging Markets Value Index, which rose 32.74%.

Holdings across a variety of sectors contributed to returns, with those in information technology (e.g., Samsung, TSMC, Wiwynn, SK Hynix) leading the way. Other top performers included Alibaba, bank holdings Nova Ljubljanska Banka and Erste Group, as well as telecom services providers Millicom International Cellular, and TIM. Additionally, our overweight to India helped returns relative to the benchmark.

Detractors included select China-based holdings, notably China Education Group and Haier Smart Home. Indonesian holdings Bank Rakyat Indonesia, Indofood, and Gudang Garam also weighed on returns, along with India-based IndusInd Bank.

Current Positioning

Over the past year, we have seen notable shifts in portfolio positioning on a country basis, driven by our bottom-up investment decisions. The Fund's allocation to South Korea increased significantly, mostly due to share-price appreciation of our holdings. Meanwhile, the Fund's weighting to companies domiciled in China has decreased as our paring and selling activity outweighed new purchases, although China remains one of the Fund's largest country allocations. With the benchmark's China weight rebounding over the past 18 months, our underweight position has widened. The Fund's China exposure is mainly to companies that focus on domestic consumption (e.g., retailers, household durables, leisure). We believe these holdings represent more compelling opportunities than China-based businesses in more capital-intensive sectors. Additionally, because they primarily cater to the domestic market, the Fund's holdings are likely better positioned to withstand external pressure (e.g., tariffs, trade tensions) compared to export-oriented peers.

The Fund maintains a significant overweight to Latin America, with diversified investments in telecommunications, energy, and real estate. Conversely, allocations to India and Taiwan remain lower than benchmark levels. While we continue to identify attractive risk-reward profiles in the companies we own in both countries, our analysis suggests that many businesses in India and tech-heavy Taiwan offer limited margin of safety overall, especially when compared to other opportunities in emerging markets.

Following the strong returns for emerging markets equities in 2025, we believe the asset class remains appealing. As of December 31, the MSCI Emerging Markets Index traded at 13.5x forward earnings, compared to 22.4x for the MSCI USA Index. Within the asset class itself, value stocks (MSCI EM Value) continue to trade at wider-than-historical average discount levels to growth stocks (MSCI EM Growth) across multiple valuation metrics. We are encouraged by the outlook for value stocks in emerging markets and remain confident in the risk-reward tradeoff of the Fund's holdings.

Average Annual Total Returns (%) as of December 31, 2025							
Without Load	3 Months	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Since Inception 8/20/1996
Class I	8.20	47.83	47.83	23.50	10.01	9.14	7.38
Class A	8.13	47.51	47.51	23.26	9.78	8.91	7.15
Class C	7.93	46.43	46.43	22.37	9.10	8.31	—
Class R6	8.24	47.99	47.99	23.69	10.15	9.29	7.47
With Load	3 Months	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Since Inception 8/20/1996 ¹
Class A	1.91	39.03	39.03	20.85	8.49	8.27	6.94
Class C	6.93	45.43	45.43	22.37	9.10	8.31	—
MSCI Emerging Markets Index	4.73	33.57	33.57	16.38	4.19	8.41	6.25
MSCI Emerging Markets Value Index	6.37	32.74	32.74	16.56	6.76	7.96	—

Operating Expenses: Class I: 1.11% (gross), 1.11% (net) Class A: 1.32% (gross), 1.32% (net) Class C: 2.07% (gross), 2.07% (net) Class R6: 1.10% (gross), 0.97% (net)

¹ Fund inception predates MSCI Emerging Markets Value Index inception.

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Prior to January 31, 2011, the Fund was a private investment fund managed by the Advisor with policies, guidelines and restrictions that were, in all material respects, equivalent to those of the Fund. Class A and Class I shares commenced operations on January 31, 2011, while Class C shares commenced operations on January 31, 2013. Prior to January 31, 2013, Class A shares were known as Class S shares. (Class A shares have the same operating expenses as Class S shares.) The Class I performance information shown for periods prior to January 31, 2011 is that of the private investment fund managed by the Advisor that is the predecessor of the Fund not adjusted for Fund expenses. Performance shown prior to January 31, 2011, for Class A shares reflects the performance of the private investment fund restated to reflect Class A sales loads and expenses. Performance shown prior to the inception of Class C shares reflects the performance of the private investment fund for periods prior to January 31, 2011 and the performance of Class I shares for the period from February 1, 2011 to January 30, 2013 restated to reflect Class C expenses. The Class C shares' average annual total return for the 10-year period assumes that Class C shares automatically converted to Class A shares 8 years after the start of the period. The Class C shares' average annual total return for the since inception period cannot be calculated as the Class A shares had not been launched as of 8/20/2004, 8 years after the inception date of the Brandes Emerging Markets Value Fund. Class R6 shares commenced operations on July 11, 2016. Performance shown prior to the inception of Class R6 shares reflects the performance of Class I shares.

The Advisor has contractually agreed to limit the operating expenses through July 29, 2026. The Expense Caps may be terminated at any time by the Board of Trustees upon 60 days notice to the Advisor, or by the Advisor with the consent of the Board.

For term definitions, please refer to <https://www.brandes.com/termdefinitions>.

For index definitions, please refer to <https://www.brandes.com/benchmark-definitions>.

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Because the values of the Fund's investments will fluctuate with market conditions, so will the value of your investment in the Fund. You could lose money on your investment in the Fund, or the Fund could underperform other investments. The values of the Fund's investments fluctuate in response to the activities of individual companies and general stock market and economic conditions. In addition, the performance of foreign securities depends on the political and economic environments and other overall economic conditions in the countries where the Fund invests. Emerging country markets involve greater risk and volatility than more developed markets. Some emerging markets countries may have fixed or managed currencies that are not free-floating against the U.S. dollar. Certain of these currencies have experienced, and may experience in the future, substantial fluctuations or a steady devaluation relative to the U.S. dollar. Stocks of small-sized and mid-sized companies tend to have limited liquidity and usually experience greater price volatility than stocks of larger companies. Growth stocks typically are more volatile than value stocks; however, value stocks have a lower expected growth rate in earnings and sales.

A mutual fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses must be considered carefully before investing. The statutory and summary prospectuses contain this and other important information about the investment company, and may be obtained by calling 1.800.395.3807 or visiting www.brandes.com/funds. Read carefully before investing.

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