

PORTFOLIO UPDATE

HNW Australian Equity Portfolio

Monthly Report January 2024

- January saw continued strength in equity markets spurred by lower inflation levels and views that 2024 will see falling interest rates domestically and internationally. In December, Australian inflation declined to 3.4%, which was below market expectations and indicated that the RBA's tightening policies to tame inflation are finally working and that the plateau at the top of the interest rate cycle has been reached.
- The **HNW Australian Equity Portfolio** gained by +2.9%, ahead of the index's return of +1.2%. Whilst pleasing to outperform the index, share prices in December and January generally move based on macroeconomic fears, not actual earnings.
- Atlas is looking forward to the February profit season as going into reporting season, and several companies in the Portfolio have either confirmed profit guidance or given trading updates. These updates have been uniformly positive. We expect the reporting season will continue to show the resilience of company earnings from the companies held in the Portfolio.

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	12m rolling	Incept annual
HNW Australian Equity Portfolio	-0.1%	-1.8%	2.5%	-1.6%	0.3%	3.0%	-0.8%	-2.4%	-4.8%	5.2%	6.3%	2.9%	8.5%	8.1%
ASX 200 TR	-2.4%	-0.3%	1.8%	-2.5%	1.8%	2.9%	-0.7%	-2.8%	-3.8%	5.0%	7.3%	1.2%	7.0%	8.6%
Active return	2.3%	-1.6%	0.6%	0.9%	-1.5%	0.1%	0.0%	0.5%	-1.0%	0.2%	-1.0%	1.8%	1.5%	-0.5%

Portfolio Objective

The objective is to build a portfolio of high-quality companies that will provide returns for a client over time both in increased value and or dividends.

Portfolio Details

Index	S&P ASX 200 Total Return
Number of Stocks	15 - 30
Asset Allocation	100% Equity
Inception Date	30 th January 2022
Security Target	Within 5% of S&P ASX 200 weights
Sector Target	Within 10% of S&P GICS sector weights

Performance Update

There was minimal news flow in January, with companies in a "blackout" before releasing their financial results in February 2024. Several companies in the Portfolio have declared dividends or given positive trading updates throughout December and January. When investors know the value of a company's dividends, production, or revenues earned, there are a few scopes for surprises on results day, which appeals to us.

The critical news in January was that domestic and international inflation was falling faster than the market expected, spurring investors to believe we are at the top of the interest rate cycle and that rate cuts are coming later this year.

Top Ten Active Positions end January 2024

Positive

Ampol

Transurban

Amcor

ANZ Bank

QBE Insurance

Negative

BHP

NAB

Rio Tinto

Fortescue

Telstra

Estimated portfolio metrics for FY24

	ASX 200	HNW AE
PE (x) fwd.	15.8	13.2
Dividend yield (net)	3.9%	4.7%
Est Franking	64%	78%
Grossed Up Yield	5.1%	6.2%
Number of stocks	200	23
Avg mcap \$B	14	55
Beta (3mth rolling)	1.0	0.91

Source: Bloomberg & UBS

PORTFOLIO UPDATE

HNW Australian Equity Portfolio

January 2024

Portfolio Performance

In January, the **HNW Australian Equity Portfolio** gained by +2.9%, ahead of the benchmark's return of +1.2%, with several companies in the Portfolio giving positive Trading Updates during January.

Over the month, positions in Medibank Private (+8%), JB Hi-Fi (+8%), QBE Insurance (+7%) and Westpac (+6%) added value.

On the negative side of the ledger, Mineral Resources (-14 %) were off following a further fall in the lithium price. Still, they provided a positive trading update that saw Iron Ore and Lithium shipments increase over the December Quarter. Atlas Arteria (-6%) also provided an update showing a record quarter for the toll road company, with traffic rising by +3% over the year and revenue increasing by +7% due to inflation escalators.

Incitec Pivot Capital Return

In December, chemical company Incitec Pivot (+4%) received US\$1.675 billion from selling their Louisiana ammonia plant to CF Industries. The company returned \$0.26 per share back to shareholders from the plant sale in two components. Firstly, \$0.16 per share will be returned via a tax-effective, non-taxable capital return, and \$0.10 per share will be returned via an unfranked dividend. Alongside the capital return, Incitec Pivot is currently set to buy back up to \$900 million, representing a reduction of 17% of its outstanding shares. Investors will receive these capital returns on the 8th of February 2024.

Portfolio Trading

Over the month, we trimmed our position in electrical retailer JB-Hi-Fi by roughly 1%, based on the view that the price movement in December and January (+23%) was excessive based on our expectations of their upcoming financial result. The cash received from this sale was reallocated into Lend Lease, Region and Bapcor.

Performance Calculation Methodology

The following conventions have been adopted for calculating performance:

- Transaction expenses of 10bp are applied to Portfolio buy and sells. Transaction expenses are capitalised into the cost base. Rebalancing transactions incur transaction expenses.
- Cash-flow from dividends is credited on the ex-date rather than the pay date. Franking is not considered which is consistent with the calculation methodology of the benchmark. Cash-flow from dividends is assumed to be reinvested in issuer stock at the closing price on the ex-date.
- The Portfolio can participate in entitlement-based capital raisings, however, cannot participate in institutional raisings. The Portfolio must fund the required amount by the sale of the equivalent amount of equity. In the event of a subsequent scale-back the Portfolio will also record the pro-rata amount of script issued.

Sector Exposure January 2024

GICS Sector	ASX200	AEP	ACTIVE
Consumer Discretionary	7.7%	10.7%	3.1%
Consumer Staples	4.8%	0.0%	-4.8%
Energy	6.9%	9.3%	2.5%
Banks	24.7%	26.7%	2.0%
Diversified Fins	4.7%	12.7%	7.9%
Health Care	9.6%	12.7%	3.0%
Industrials	5.5%	8.4%	2.9%
Materials	22.4%	14.6%	-7.9%
Telecommunication Services	2.5%	0.0%	-2.5%
Listed Property	5.5%	2.0%	-3.5%
Utilities	1.3%	3.9%	2.6%

- Performance does not include consideration of taxation including capital gains tax.
- Performance numbers are presented on an unaudited basis