

# **AB Low Volatility Equity Portfolio**

### **Market Overview**

- Global equities climbed in July despite an increase in market volatility. Favorable inflation and mixed economic newsflow raised hopes that the US Federal Reserve would begin to cut interest rates as soon as September.
- The MSCI World Index rose by 1.8% in July, bringing year-to-date gains to 13.7% (all returns in US-dollar terms).
- The European Central Bank (ECB) left interest rates unchanged in July, but comments by ECB President Christine Lagarde described the risks to growth as "tilted to the downside," suggesting the possibility of a second rate cut in September.
- By the end of July, more than half of the companies in the S&P 500 Index had delivered their second-quarter results. Data showed that more than 75% reported positive earnings surprises, although the scale of those surprises was below average levels. However, investors were unsettled by the results from several US technology giants, which prompted a market shift from growth-oriented stocks to smaller and value-focused companies.

	Month to Date	Year to Date	Since Inception 11/12/2012 (Annualized)
Class A USD (NAV)	2.08%	12.72%	10.02%
Charges Applied (4%)	-2.00%	8.22%	9.63%

#### Portfolio Performance (as of 31/7/2024) #

- During the month, key contributors to the Portfolio's performance included a below-benchmark weighting in NVIDIA, whose share price, and those of other artificial intelligence (AI)-related companies, fell amid investor scrutiny of these firms' second-quarter earnings data. At the same time, better-than-expected earnings numbers boosted **UnitedHealth Group**. Meanwhile, **Constellation Software** added value as investors anticipated the release of robust second-quarter results in early August.
- Less positively, **Novo Nordisk** dipped when analysis showed that a competitor's obesity drug was delivering better results than its own medicine. **Merck** also detracted following news of weak vaccine sales, and **Logitech International** slipped amid concerns about economic uncertainty and weakening consumer demand.

#### **Market Outlook**

- Looking ahead, equity returns are expected to broaden beyond the concentrated gains seen among US tech giants. We anticipate that a wider range of companies will likely drive equity returns as earnings growth forecasts improve across the market.
- Besides AI, growth opportunities exist in other sectors such as healthcare, cloud computing, fintech, and European industrials.
- We think earnings will face continued headwinds due to limited pricing power, sticky inflation, and slowing GDP growth, while geopolitical risks from ongoing conflicts and political changes could fuel volatility.
- Despite these challenges, a soft landing for the global economy is anticipated while the US continues to outperform, with growth holding up well. Furthermore, the US labor market has exceeded our expectations, which makes a case for slower rate cuts in the US than elsewhere.

# Past performance is not indicative of future results. Performance calculations are based on a single pricing basis, include the change in Net Asset Value and reinvestment of any distributions paid on Portfolio shares for the period shown, net of assumed front-end load (FEL) 4% for Class A shares. For Class A shares, maximum front-end load (FEL): Up to 5%. Accordingly, these figures do not represent actual returns to an investor.

#### Investment risks to consider. These and other risks are described in the Portfolio's prospectus.

Investment in the Portfolio entails certain risks. Investment returns and principal value of the Portfolio will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Some of the principal risks of investing in the Portfolio include: **Currency Risk:** To the extent that the Portfolio holds assets that are denominated in currencies other than its Base Currency, any changes in currency exchange rates could reduce investment gains or income, or increase investment losses, in some cases significantly. Hedging may reduce but not eliminate currency risk. **Concentration/Focus Risk:** To the extent that the Portfolio invests a large portion of its assets in a limited number of industries, sectors or issuers, or within a limited geographical area, it can be riskier and subject to greater volatility than a Portfolio that invests more broadly. **Derivatives Risk:** The portfolio management purposes and hence this may lead to a higher volatility to the net asset value of the Portfolio. **Equity Securities Risk:** Equities can lose value rapidly, in response to such factors as activities of individual companies, general market or economic conditions, or changes in currency exchange rates. Equities typically involve higher (often significantly higher) market risks than bonds, money market instruments, or other debt securities. **Liquidity Risk:** The risk that arises when adverse market conditions affect the ability to sell assets when necessary. Reduced liquidity may have a negative impact on the price of the assets.

#### **Important Information**

The Portfolio is part of AB SICAV I (referred to as "AB"). AB is an open-ended investment company with variable capital (société d'investissement à capital variable) under the laws of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

## Investment involves risk. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

The information contained here reflects the views of AllianceBernstein L.P. or its affiliates and sources it believes are reliable as of the date of this publication. AllianceBernstein L.P. makes no representations or warranties concerning the accuracy of any data. There is no guarantee that any projection, forecast or opinion in this material will be realized. Past performance does not guarantee future results. The views expressed here may change at any time after the date of this publication. This document is for informational purposes only and does not constitute investment advice. AllianceBernstein L.P. does not provide tax, legal or accounting advice. It does not take an investor's personal investment objectives or financial situation into account; investors should discuss their individual circumstances with appropriate professionals before making any decisions. This information should not be construed as sales or marketing material or an offer of solicitation for the purchase or sale of, any financial instrument, product or service sponsored by AllianceBernstein or its affiliates.

Investment in the Fund entails certain risks. Investment returns and principal value of the Fund will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. The Fund is meant as a vehicle for diversification and does not represent a complete investment program. Some of the principal risks of investing in the Fund (risks typically associated with ordinary market conditions) include concentration/focus risk, currency risk, derivatives risk, emerging/frontier markets risk, equity securities risk, hedging risk, market risk, and securities lending risk. The Portfolio may invest in financial derivative instruments for investment purposes in addition to hedging and/or efficient portfolio management purposes and hence this may lead to a higher volatility to the net asset value of the Portfolio. These and other risks are described in the Fund's prospectus. Prospective investors should read the prospectus and Product Highlights Sheet carefully and discuss risk and the fund's fees and charges with their financial adviser to determine if the investment is appropriate for them. This information is directed solely at persons in jurisdictions where the funds and relevant share class are registered or who may otherwise lawfully receive it. Before investing in AllianceBernstein funds, investors should review the fund's full prospectus, together with the fund's Product Highlights Sheet and the most recent financial statements. Copies of these documents, including the latest annual report and, if issued thereafter, the latest semi-annual report, may be obtained free of charge from www.abfunds.com / www.alliancebernstein.com or by contacting the local distributor in the jurisdictions in which the funds are authorized for distribution. References to specific securities are presented for the purpose of providing information regarding a particular investment sector, or to illustrate the application of AllianceBernstein's investment philosophy, and are not to be considered recommendations by AllianceBernstein. The specific securities identified and described above may or may not be held by the Portfolio at any given time. The transactions sumarized herein represent those securities for which positions were initiated, eliminated or traded by the Portfolio, and are provided for informational purposes only. The specific securities listed do not represent all the securities purchased or sold by the Portfolio. Opinions and estimates expressed are AllianceBernstein's present opinions only, reflecting information currently available to AllianceBernstein as well as prevailing market conditions. Such opinions involve a number of assumptions which may not prove valid, and are subject to change without notice. Not all investments in the securities identified should be assumed to be profitable and future investments may not be profitable. A list of the Portfolio's holdings is available at www.alliancebernstein.com.

This document has been issued by AllianceBernstein (Singapore) Ltd. ("ABSL", Company Registration No. 199703364C). AllianceBernstein (Luxembourg) S.à r.l. is the management company of the portfolio and has appointed ABSL as its agent for service of process and as its Singapore representative. AllianceBernstein (Singapore) Ltd. is regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore. This advertisement has not been reviewed by the Monetary Authority of Singapore. MSCI makes no express or implied warranties or representations and shall have no liability whatsoever with respect to any

MSCI makes no express or implied warranties or representations and shall have no liability whatsoever with respect to any MSCI data contained herein. The MSCI data may not be further redistributed or used as a basis for other indices or any securities or financial products. This report is not approved, reviewed or produced by MSCI.

The [A/B] logo is a registered service mark of AllianceBernstein and AllianceBernstein<sup>®</sup> is a registered service mark used by permission of the owner, AllianceBernstein L.P. © 2024 AllianceBernstein L.P.