

Morgan Stanley Investment Funds

Asian Property Fund

GLOBAL LISTED REAL ASSETS TEAM

Performance Review

In the one month period ending 30 April 2024, the Fund's I shares returned -4.11% (net of fees)¹, while the benchmark returned -4.23%.

The Fund performed in line with the FTSE EPRA Nareit Asian Real Estate Net Total Return Index in April. The overweight position to Japan real estate investment trusts (REITs) contributed positively. The overweight to Japan real estate operating companies (REOCs) detracted, partially due to the weak Japanese yen. The underweight to Hong Kong also contributed negatively.

Market Review

Australia REITs underperformed, with all sub-sectors experiencing negative returns in the month. The Australian 10-year government bond yield rose 46 basis points to 4.42% as the market tapered interest rate cut expectations in Australia due to renewed inflation concerns. Mirvac Wholesale Office Fund sold a 50% stake in an office asset, 255 George Street, to Keppel REIT at a reported sale price of 727 million Australian dollars (100% stake). The sale price is an 18% discount to the asset's peak independent valuation.

Despite weakness in the Japanese yen, Japan modestly outperformed the Asian benchmark predominantly due to strength from Japan REITs. The REOCs, however, underperformed. The Bank of Japan (BoJ) left its monetary policy largely unchanged at its April monetary policy meeting. However, the central bank tweaked its forward guidance and made it clear that it intends to raise interest rates further if the economy and inflation evolves as it expects. The BoJ's view, however, is still that underlying consumer price index (CPI) inflation will reach 2% in the latter half of its projection period.

In Hong Kong, the 3-month Hong Kong Interbank Offered Rate (HIBOR) fell 17 basis points to 4.55% and Hong Kong stocks outperformed. Sentiment around Hong Kong stocks took a turn for the better following more signs that China's growth has gathered pace. Regulatory support also added to the upbeat mood. The China Securities Regulatory Commission mapped out a five-point document aimed at propping up Hong Kong's market, ranging from adding more exchange-traded funds to the cross-border Stock Connect programs to encouraging listings of Chinese high-caliber companies in the financial hub.

In Singapore, stocks delivered negative returns in the month due to renewed inflation concerns that tapered interest rate cut expectations in the United States and globally. During the reporting period, both office and retail-focused REITs saw better operating fundamentals. Industrial REITs, however, were below expectations. In addition to that, higher interest expense and operating costs continued to weigh on financial results. The residential-focused REOCs outperformed on the back of better-than-expected sales launches.

Strategy and Outlook

The team uses internal proprietary research to invest in public real estate companies that we believe offer the best value relative to their underlying assets and growth prospects. The team combines a bottom-up approach, assessing the intrinsic value, equity multiples and growth prospects of each security, with a top-down view that incorporates fundamental inflection points, macroeconomic considerations, and geopolitical and country risk. By incorporating both an equity market valuation and a more traditional real estate valuation with a top-down overlay, we believe the Fund will be better prepared to identify securities with the best expected total returns.

Given the stabilization in interest rates across the globe and the increasing likelihood of interest rate cuts, forecasted returns for the asset class have improved. Moreover, we believe relative strength in cash flows can be expected given the unique nature of listed real estate. While changing market sentiment and expectations about the magnitude of interest rate cuts may cause volatility in overall real estate sector returns, the longer-term outlook remains favorable.

Specifically, the contracted rental streams with inflation-linked escalations and the necessity-based nature of real estate — the listed real estate market evolves and grows with the broader needs of society and the economy and sits at the epicenter of how people live, work, shop and communicate — coupled with limited new real estate supply additions in the vast majority of sectors should result in cash flow growth. Additionally, secular themes driving demand for necessity-based real estate, including Technology and Innovation, Aging Demographics, Housing Shortages and Affordability, Global Supply Chain Reorganization and Onshoring, and External Growth Opportunities, are powerful catalysts that can propel growth above expectations for years to come and ultimately reset valuations higher in exposed sectors. Finally, we believe the relative valuation of real estate securities is attractive, specifically when compared to direct property investment and the broader equities market, and is presenting an interesting pricing arbitrage opportunity for investors.

¹ Source: Morgan Stanley Investment Management Limited. Data as of 30 April 2024.

- In Japan, global capital continues to be attracted to Tokyo office assets. While Grade A office vacancy rates remain among the lowest globally, there will be moderate headwinds for the sector given a wave of new supply deliveries. In Japan hotels, the reopening of international borders and a weaker yen supporting domestic travel have led to improving sentiment toward the sector, and cash flows are expected to improve significantly. Additionally, Japan residential is expected to benefit from increasing wage growth.
- In Australia office and for-sale residential, fundamentals are challenged; however, the nascent sector of rental housing is performing well. Central business district retail is likely to be under pressure for some time due to the fall in international travel as well as work-from-home policies that have led to fewer office workers visiting these retail establishments. Across the real estate spectrum, transaction volumes and pricing in Australia are beginning to stabilize, but a downward bias still exists.
- In China, fundamentals remain below trend. Uncertainty regarding government policies, balance sheet and solvency issues, and geopolitical relationships with Western countries remain front of mind and continue to warrant an elevated level of scrutiny.
- In Hong Kong, geopolitical risks remain a concern. However, pent-up demand for discretionary goods from mainland China is expected to be strong as travel and mobility increase, and will be supportive for retail demand in the country.

For further information, please contact your Morgan Stanley Investment Management representative.

Fund Facts

Launch date	01 September 1997
Base currency	U.S. dollars
Benchmark	Custom- Blended Benchmark

Calendar Year Returns (%)

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results.

	YTD	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Class I Shares	-1.76	-3.45	-14.64	1.18	-7.69	13.95	-1.65	15.46	3.32	-6.72	-1.53
Blended Benchmark	-4.38	-1.15	-11.43	3.86	-9.46	16.59	-1.92	15.56	5.61	-7.60	0.08

All performance data is calculated NAV to NAV, net of fees, and does not take account of commissions and costs incurred on the issue and redemption of units. The sources for all performance and Index data is Morgan Stanley Investment Management. **Please visit our website www.morganstanley.com/im to see the latest performance returns for the fund's other share classes.**

Share Class I Risk and Reward Profile

- The fund may be impacted by movements in the exchange rates between the fund's currency and the currencies of the fund's investments.
- The fund relies on other parties to fulfill certain services, investments or transactions. If these parties become insolvent, it may expose the fund to financial loss.
- Sustainability factors can pose risks to investments, for example: impact asset values, increased operational costs.
- There may be an insufficient number of buyers or sellers which may affect the fund's ability to buy or sell securities.
- Investment in China A-Shares via Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect program may also entail additional risks, such as risks linked to the ownership of shares.
- There are increased risks of investing in emerging markets as political, legal and operational systems may be less developed than in developed markets.

- Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. Returns may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations. The value of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may lose all or a substantial portion of his or her investment.
- The value of the investments and the income from them will vary and there can be no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objectives.
- Investments may be in a variety of currencies and therefore changes in rates of exchange between currencies may cause the value of investments to decrease or increase. Furthermore, the value of investments may be adversely affected by fluctuations in exchange rates between the investor's reference currency and the base currency of the investments.

Please refer to the Prospectus for full risk disclosures. All data as of 30 April 2024 and subject to change daily.

Applications for shares in the Fund should not be made without first consulting the current Prospectus and the Key Information Document ("KID") or Key Investor Information Document ("KIID"), which are available in English and in the official language of your local jurisdiction at morganstanleyinvestmentfunds.com or free of charge from the Registered Office of Morgan Stanley Investment Funds, European Bank and Business Centre, 6B route de Trèves, L-2633 Senningerberg, R.C.S. Luxembourg B 29 192.

Information in relation to sustainability aspects of the Fund

and the summary of investor rights is available at the aforementioned website.

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INDEX INFORMATION

The Blended Index performance shown is calculated using the **GPR Far East Net Return Index** from inception through 31

January 2009 and the **FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Asian Real Estate Net Total Return Index** thereafter.

The **GPR Far East Net Return Index** is a sub-index of the GPR General Index and is composed of listed real estate securities in the Asian real estate markets.

FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Asian Real Estate Net Total Return Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index composed of listed real estate securities in the Asia Pacific real estate market, designed to represent general trends in eligible real estate equities in the Asia Pacific region. The Index is unmanaged and does not include any expenses, fees or sales charges. It is not possible to invest directly in an Index.

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