

# QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REVIEW

## Emerging Country Debt Strategy

### Performance returns (USD)

ANNUALIZED RETURNS (QUARTER-END)	Quarter-End	YTD	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Since Inception
Emerging Country Debt Strategy (net)	-0.37	12.57	12.57	3.26	3.04	4.65	11.67
Emerging Country Debt Strategy (gross)	-0.18	13.42	13.42	4.04	3.82	5.44	12.42
J.P. Morgan EMBI Global Diversified +	-1.94	6.54	6.54	-0.91	0.19	3.00	8.19
Value Add	+1.57	+6.03	+6.03	+4.17	+2.85	+1.66	+3.48

### MAJOR PERFORMANCE DRIVERS

The J.P. Morgan EMBI Global Diversified (EMBIG-D) benchmark returned -1.9% in the fourth quarter of 2024. The index's spread over Treasuries tightened by 36 bps, finishing at 325 bps, resulting in a 2.0% spread return. Meanwhile, the 10-year Treasury yield rose by 79 bps to 4.57%, resulting in a -3.9% interest rate return.

The portfolio had positive alpha from country selection and negative alpha from security selection for the period. Within country selection, an overweight position in Argentina (+33.6%) significantly contributed to gains, followed by overweights in Lebanon (+66.5%), Ukraine (+22.9%), and Sri Lanka (+13.3%). An underweight in Brazil (-5.9%) also added positively to the performance. Conversely, an overweight in Romania (-6.4%) and Mexico (-3.7%) detracted from country selection alpha.

In terms of security selection among in-index countries, positive contributions to alpha were primarily driven by holdings in Sri Lanka, Chile, and Ghana, with notable detractors including Brazil and Argentina. Among off-benchmark countries, Tunisia and Grenada made significant positive contributions, while the Russian Federation was a major detractor. In the quasi-sovereign category, Chile emerged as a top contributor, while India had a negative impact.

As of the end of the period, the portfolio's top three overweights are Egypt, Argentina, and Venezuela, while the top three underweights are China, Qatar, and Indonesia. During the period, the portfolio saw significant changes, with Iraq's position shifting from an underweight to an overweight. Additionally, Poland moved from an underweight to an overweight position. Conversely, Kazakhstan's position changed from an overweight to an underweight. The portfolio's overweight in the Dominican Republic decreased, while the underweight in Chile increased.

Composite Inception Date: 30-Apr-94

**Risks:** Risks associated with investing in the Strategy may include: (1) Credit Risk: The risk that the issuer or guarantor of a fixed income investment or the obligor of an obligation underlying an asset-backed security will be unable or unwilling to satisfy its obligation to pay principal and interest or otherwise to honor its obligations in a timely manner. (2) Market Risk - Fixed Income Investments: The market price of a fixed income investment can decline due to a number of market-related factors, including rising interest rates and widening credit spreads or decreased liquidity stemming from the market's uncertainty about the value of a fixed income investment (or class of fixed income investments). (3) Illiquidity Risk: Low trading volume, lack of a market maker, large position size, or legal restrictions may limit or prevent the Fund from selling particular securities or closing derivative positions at desirable prices. For a more complete discussion of these risks and others, please consult the Fund's offering documents. This is not a complete list of risks associated with investing in the Strategy. Please contact GMO for more information. **Performance Returns:** Performance for the year of inception is less than a full calendar year. Returns shown for periods greater than one year are on an annualized basis. To obtain performance information to the most recent month-end, visit [www.gmo.com](http://www.gmo.com). **Performance data quoted represents past performance and is not predictive of future performance.** Net returns are presented after the deduction of a model advisory fee and incentive fee if applicable. These returns include transaction costs, commissions and withholding taxes on foreign income and capital gains and include the reinvestment of dividends and other income, as applicable. Fees paid by accounts within the composite may be higher or lower than the model fees used. Gross returns are presented gross of management fees and any incentive fees if applicable. These returns include transaction costs, commissions, withholding taxes on foreign income and capital gains and include the reinvestment of dividends and other income, as applicable. If management and incentive fees were deducted performance would be lower. For example, if, before fees, the strategy were to achieve a 10% annual rate of return above its hurdle rate each year for ten years, and an annual advisory fee of 1% and incentive fee of 20% of net returns above the hurdle rate were charged during that period, the resulting average annual net return (after the deduction of management and incentive fees) would be approximately 7.20%. **GMO LLC claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®).** A Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) Composite Report is available on [GMO.com](http://GMO.com) by clicking the GIPS® Composite Report link in the documents section of the strategy page. GIPS® is a registered trademark owned by CFA Institute. CFA Institute does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contained herein. Actual fees are disclosed in Part 2 of GMO's Form ADV and are also available in each strategy's Composite Report. Returns for one of the accounts in the composite are based on estimated market values for the period from and including October 2008 through February 2009.

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## PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The GMO Emerging Country Debt Strategy's objective is total return in excess of that of its benchmark, the J.P. Morgan Emerging Markets Bond Index Global Diversified (EMBIG-D). The Strategy invests primarily in external debt of sovereigns and quasi-sovereigns.

GMO's Emerging Country Debt team focuses on bottom-up issue selection, seeking to find issues with similar default characteristics but better long-term total return potential than the issues in EMBIG-D. We believe that our approach provides value-oriented clients with long-term investment objectives a significantly higher likelihood of outperforming the EMBIG-D than the approaches employed by other emerging debt managers who focus on economic forecasting, market timing, and other macro/top-down approaches.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Benchmark(s):** The J.P. Morgan EMBI (Emerging Markets Bond) Index Global Diversified + is an internally maintained benchmark computed by GMO, comprised of (i) the J.P. Morgan EMBI+ Index through 12/31/1999, (ii) the J.P. Morgan EMBI Index Global through 2/28/2020, and the J.P. Morgan EMBI Index Global Diversified (iii) thereafter.

The above information is based on a representative account in the Strategy selected because it has the fewest restrictions and best represents the implementation of the Strategy.

## ABOUT GMO

Founded in 1977, GMO is a global asset manager committed to delivering superior performance and advice to our clients. We are privately owned, which allows us to singularly focus on our sole business – achieving outstanding long-term client investment outcomes. Offering multi-asset, equity, fixed income, and alternative strategies, we invest with a long-term, valuation-based philosophical approach.

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