

# LO Funds

# **Planetary Transition**

Newsletter

Sustainable Equities ● Equities 31 October 2024

## **MARKET REVIEW**

In October, the US narrative continued to be constructive around solid economic growth and a resilient labour market. Most economic data released added to support to the soft-landing narrative, or even a no landing one, and helped in pushing back against recession fears. It is worth noting that the stronger than expected US job data led to lift US yields sharply and the USD versus most major's currencies. The EU economic backdrop is in stark contrast to the US one with recent weak Eurozone data, including contracting PMIs, softening inflation figures (below ECB target), and deteriorating consumer sentiment. In China, the various announcements made in October were perceived as insufficient and fell short of the major stimulus expected from previous months indications. In parallel, China-EU tension escalated as China imposed anti-dumping measures on brandy in a tick-tack response to EU duty tax imposed on Chinese EV vehicles.

On the corporate front, the quarterly reporting season started. From an earnings surprise standpoint, Communication Services (driven by Alphabet), Financials (driven by diversified Banks) and Healthcare (driven by large traditional pharmaceuticals) were the strongest sectors. The Information Technology sector was, in general, "just" in line with expectation due to soft Semiconductors and IT hardware activities. Among the top 10 companies of the equity market (ca. 25% weight), while Amazon and Alphabet were strong, Microsoft was under pressure as it forecasts slower growth in its cloud business. Meta shares slid after it indicated "significant" growth in capital expenditures next year

# PERFORMANCE COMMENT

In the month of October, the Planetary Transition Strategy lagged its reference index which was weak. Sectorial allocation was a slight negative drag largely due to our underexposure to the Communication services sector, one of the only two sectors up in absolute terms during the month. Stock selection was the key factor explaining our

performance drag. In general, what we saw is that the rapid rise in US yield had a detrimental impact on some of our preferred themes (transitioning utilities, renewable value chain, semiconductors), as we enter November this dynamic seems to revert and support our preferences. From a more detailed stock selection perspective we saw Enphase's shares dropped -26% with the market penalising the pushout for the solar market recovery particularly in Europe. AES's shares were weak -18% with an EBITDA miss at the recent results overshadowing the robust renewables pipeline. Finally, Shimano delivered a miss which we view as largely currency and one time off in nature. On the positive side, we saw our precious metals exposure perform strongly considering this month's dynamics, and we continue to believe the demand profile for silver is underestimated given its use in the solar and broader industrial market. Furthermore, TSMC continues to deliver strongly despite some weakness in broader semiconductor markets with capex on Al tools and capacity spend from the cloud players underwriting the growth profile.

## PORTFOLIO POSITIONING

In the month of October, the key investment undertaken in the Planetary Transition Fund was to invest in Bellring Brands. The company is well exposed health and dietary shifts by offering protein-rich, low-sugar products under various brands. As GLP-1 agonists, such as Ozempic, drive appetite suppression, consumers increasingly seek nutrient-dense options to maintain balanced nutrition with smaller portions. BellRing's products support this shift, promoting healthier eating habits and reducing reliance on calorie-dense foods, thereby fostering a more health-focused lifestyle. The business is very capital light with a strong return on capital profile. We see strong market trends with Wallmart alone looking to increase shelf space for this category by 30%. Currently BellRing's has only 9% of shelf space despite representing 18% of the category sales. To fund this, we decided to exit Nestle where we believe execution no longer commands a premium multiple and we have weak visibility on management's ability to restructure for growth.

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Newsletter · LO Funds - Planetary Transition · Data as at 31 October 2024



#### **OUTLOOK FOR THE STRATEGY**

In 2024, as the inflation battle seemed over, monetary policies in countries have now toward a more accommodative stance with rate cuts across key economies, apart for Japan. Narrative over an economic soft landing is starting to take shape potentially favouring a broadening of the equity market performance into the second part of 2024 and 2025 after an historical concentration in performance to a narrow set of companies since 2023.

Many of our themes were left behind and encountered cyclical headwinds, such as clean energy-related themes, which saw a decline of nearly 20%. Despite these cyclical headwinds, we believe that the structural trends we focus on are firmly established. Looking ahead into the rest of 2024 and 2025, we identify several attractive opportunities that were unduly overlooked and could regain investors' attention.

Overall, our portfolio adheres to the principles of strong quality growth while maintaining disciplined valuation. With our dedicated sustainability research team, encompassing system changes across sectors, we are confident that the Planetary Transition strategy is well-positioned to capture investment opportunities arising from a society transitioning to Net Zero, Nature positive and Socially fairer. This provides investors with a diverse range of growth opportunities.

At Lombard Odier, we firmly believe that the current global economic model is unsustainable, and we recognise the ongoing transition towards a circular, lean, inclusive and clean economic model. This transition is driving fundamental changes in material systems across value chains and industries. These changes will accelerate through market inflection points, where the adoption of sustainable products and services will rapidly increase, shifting from niche to mass market. As a result, new and evolving profit pools will emerge within and across sectors.

Our investment approach for the Planetary Transition strategy is guided by a systems-change framework. We understand that these systems are interconnected with planetary boundaries. This strategy serves as the overarching approach for LOIM's holistiQ investment philosophy, focusing on various sustainable themes within key systems such as industrials, consumers, materials or energy. Additionally, we identify other opportunities for system changes that contribute to a society that values planetary boundaries and aligns with the sustainability transition.

The strategy encompasses key themes, including green sources of power, electrification of demand (in areas such as mobility, buildings and industry), the bio-economy, new food systems, resource efficiency, circularity, zero waste, preventive case, new consumers and enabling technology solutions across multiple systems.

#### FUND STRATEGY

### **PERFORMANCE**

31.10.2024	INCEPTION	AUM	MONTH- TO-DATE	YEAR- TO-DATE	INCEPTION-TO- DATE	2023	2022	2021
LO Funds – Planetary Transition PA [1]	16 March 2020	USD 378 mn	-3.83%	8.39%	73.00%	7.58%	-19.42%	14.67%
LO Funds – Planetary Transition NA [2]			-3.76%	9.16%	79.94%	8.49%	-18.74%	15.64%
Benchmark [3]			-1.98%	16.50%	130.09%	23.79%	-18.14%	21.82%

Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Performance is presented net of fees.

Dividend accumulated private client share, net performance in USD. Dividend accumulated institutional client share, net performance in USD.

MSCI World ND USD

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The following risks may be materially relevant but may not always be adequately captured by the synthetic risk indicator and may cause additional loss:

Concentration risk: To the extent that the fund's investments are concentrated in a particular country, market, industry, sector or asset class, the fund may be susceptible to loss due to adverse occurrences affecting that country, market, industry, sector or asset class.

**Emerging market risk:** Significant investment in emerging markets may expose to difficulties when buying and selling investments. Emerging markets are also more likely to experience political uncertainty and investments held in these countries may not have the same protection as those held in more developed countries.

**Active management risk:** Active management relies on anticipating various market developments and/or security selection. There is a risk at any given time that the fund may not be invested in the highest-performing markets or securities. The fund's net asset value may also decline.

Before taking any investment decision, please read the latest version of the prospectus, the articles of incorporation, the Key Information Documents (KIDs) and the latest annual report and semi-annual report. Please pay attention to the Appendix B "Risk Factors Annex" of the prospectus.

Incorporation of extra-financial risks into the investment decision process may result in underweighting of profitable investments from the sub-fund's investment universe and may also lead the management of the sub-fund to underweight investments that will continue to perform. Sustainability risks may lead to a significant deterioration in the financial profile, profitability or reputation of an underlying investment and may therefore have a significant impact on its market price or liquidity.

The Fund has been classified as a financial product subject to Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 on sustainability-related disclosures in the financial sector (the "SFDR"). The Fund promotes, among other characteristics, environmental or social characteristics, or a combination of those characteristics, provided that the companies in which the investments are made follow good governance practices.



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The articles of association, the prospectus, the Key Information Document ("PRIIPS/KIDs"), and the subscription form are the only official Offering Documents of the Fund's shares (the "Offering Documents"). No party is authorised to provide information or make assurances that are not contained in the Offering Documents.

#### Access to documents in country of registrations:

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**France.** Representative: CACEIS Bank, Rue Gabriel Péri 89-91, 92120 Montrouge, Supervisory Authority: Autorité des marchés financiers (AMF)

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**Finland.** Finanssivalvonta (Fiva) - Financial Supervisory Authority (FIN-FSA), Snellmaninkatu 6, P.O. Box 103, FI – 00101 Helsinki, Finland; Website: http://www.finanssivalvonta.fi.

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**Luxembourg.** Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF), 291, route d'Arlon, L-1150 Luxembourg; www.cssf.lu.

**Netherlands.** Representative: Lombard Odier Funds (Europe) S.A. – Dutch Branch, Parklaan 26, 3016 BC Rotterdam, Supervisory Authority: Autoriteit Financiële Markten (AFM).

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