



PERSPECTIVES Viewpoint Alternatives

Hedge funds: Long/short equity strategies

March 3, 2026

Authors:

Ramona Rueckbeil, Head of Investment Strategy Alternative Investments

David Pinto, Senior Investment Strategist

Elena Ahonen, Investment Strategist

Please use the QR code
to access a selection of other
Deutsche Bank CIO reports
www.wealth.db.com



Key takeaways

- In 2025 global hedge fund industry assets under management (AuM) surpassed USD5tn. Long/short (L/S) equity strategies continue to form the largest sub-asset class in AuM terms.
- L/S equity strategies may help diversify traditional portfolios. In addition, they can offer reduced volatility, enhanced downside protection, and portfolio management flexibility that can gain from both rising and falling markets.
- However, investors should also be aware of potential L/S risks such as short squeezes, leverage-induced volatility and high dependence on manager skill. Operational complexities can also lead to significant losses if strategies are not properly managed.

Introduction

Hedge funds are a type of alternative investment. Like other alternatives, they can provide diversification to traditional, liquid asset classes (e.g. equities and bonds) since they generally display a relatively low correlation to them. Hedge funds employ a variety of strategies across individual or multiple asset classes.

In 2025, the overall hedge fund industry saw high net inflows, driven in large part by geopolitical and global economic uncertainty. By end of last year, its total assets under management (AuM) had reached USD5.15tn according to Hedge Fund Research. AuM grew in each of the nine consecutive quarters ending in the fourth quarter of 2025.

The inflows were supported by the launch of many new funds, often taken as a key barometer of industry health. With Intelligence (S&P Global) identified 344 funds in process of being launched during the first nine months of

2025, the highest number since during the COVID-19 global pandemic.

This Viewpoint focuses on **long/short (L/S) equity strategy** hedge funds, which have been the largest sub-asset class (in terms of investor allocations) in the past few years and are expected to lead the pack in 2026 too.

L/S strategies' potential advantages and risks

Long/short (L/S) equity hedge fund strategies take long positions in stocks which they consider undervalued and short positions in stocks which they view as overvalued. These strategies seek to achieve returns which are less volatile and have minimized drawdowns (i.e. peak to trough movements). Such L/S strategies therefore may show a low correlation with conventional long-only equity approaches, potentially useful for portfolio diversification.

What makes this possible is the ability of L/S equity strategies to capture "alpha" (i.e. outperformance vs. benchmark) on both rising and falling stocks, meaning also that they can offer opportunities for gains even when markets are flat or declining. Their lower volatility is due to L/S portfolios typically carrying lower net market exposure than a conventional portfolio (as the long positions are offset by the short positions) but see the risks section below.

L/S strategies' adaptability constitutes another strength: managers can actively adjust net exposure – e.g. shifting from net long to market neutral positions – as market conditions evolve, enabling a flexible and proactive investment approach.

Additionally, the capital generated from short sales can be reinvested, potentially allowing for more efficient use of capital and enhancing overall portfolio returns.

L/S strategies are therefore increasingly seen as a



relatively liquid alternative to standard equity investments, providing a way to hedge market risks while still benefiting from potential equity gains.

However, long/short equity strategies also present several important **risks** that investors need to be aware of. One of the most prominent is so-called **short squeeze risk**, where a heavily-short stock in a strategy unexpectedly rises in price, resulting in escalating losses (as the hedge fund must buy back the stock at a higher price).

Other risks surround the use of **leverage** in a portfolio: while this is intended to amplify a strategy's gains, it can also amplify losses in turbulent markets.

Because L/S strategies' performance relies heavily on good stock selection to identify the right stocks to take long or short positions in, these strategies also carry significant **manager skill dependency**.

Note also that because L/S equity funds typically maintain a net long exposure they are still vulnerable to some degree to **broad equity market downturns** despite their hedging features. Ineffective hedging methods may also expose the portfolio to basis risk (i.e. a mismatch between the value of an asset and the financial instruments used to hedge it).

Short positioning itself also introduces **structural risks**, including theoretically unlimited downside risk if shares held in a short position continue to increase in price. Such shares may also in some cases become difficult to source when the investor needs to repurchase them to return them to the original seller.

These strategies may also underperform in **low dispersion markets** (i.e. ones with a low variability of investment returns between individual stocks or sectors). If the performance gap between long and short positions is small or narrows then (everything else being equal) this will reduce the ability of a strategy to generate alpha.

Finally, a L/S strategy's **operational complexity** – running one involves managing exposure, borrowing costs, and hedging instruments, amongst other things – adds another layer of operational risk that can exacerbate outcomes if not managed well.

In **summary**, long/short equity hedge fund strategies should provide a range of advantages including reduced volatility, enhanced downside protection, and flexible portfolio management that may make it possible to capture investment gains in both rising and falling markets. However, they carry notable risks such as short squeezes, leverage-induced volatility, manager skill dependency, and operational complexities that can lead to significant losses if not properly managed.

L/S strategies' historical performance

For long/short (L/S) equity strategies, key benchmarks focus on their risk-adjusted returns and ability to protect against losses, rather than just their total returns. Since these funds seek to offset market risk, their performance is typically compared to both overall hedge fund indices and to traditional equity benchmarks.

During periods of market correction, long/short (L/S) equity strategies have, on an individual basis, historically shown varied results, depending on their net market exposure ("beta" in this context). While Market Neutral Strategies (with low or zero "beta") aim to neutralize market risk by having balanced long and short positions, Directional and Fundamental Strategies (High Beta), maintain a "net long" posture to capture market growth, using short positions mainly to provide only a degree of hedging.

In aggregate, however – as the figures below remind us – the focus of long/short strategies is on reducing market exposure, rather than outperform broad equity benchmarks during normal market conditions. Below three case studies show how the Hedge Fund Research Equity Hedge Index (HFRX) and the Lipper Global Hedge Long/Short Equity index behaved relative to the S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite during major periods of market stress, including the 2008-2009 Financial Crisis (Figure 1), the COVID 19 shock (Figure 2), and last year's "Liberation Day" correction (Figure 3).

In each episode, the hedge fund indices declined far less than the broader equity markets, underscoring their role as effective downside protection vehicles. However, at least on this comparison, these long/short indices have tended to underperform the comparison broad market indices over time in a rising market (Figure 4). The reason is that in rising / bull markets, respective funds' short positions generate losses as prices rise, while hedging costs and lower net market participation dampen overall returns compared to long-only strategies.



Expected market environment in 2026

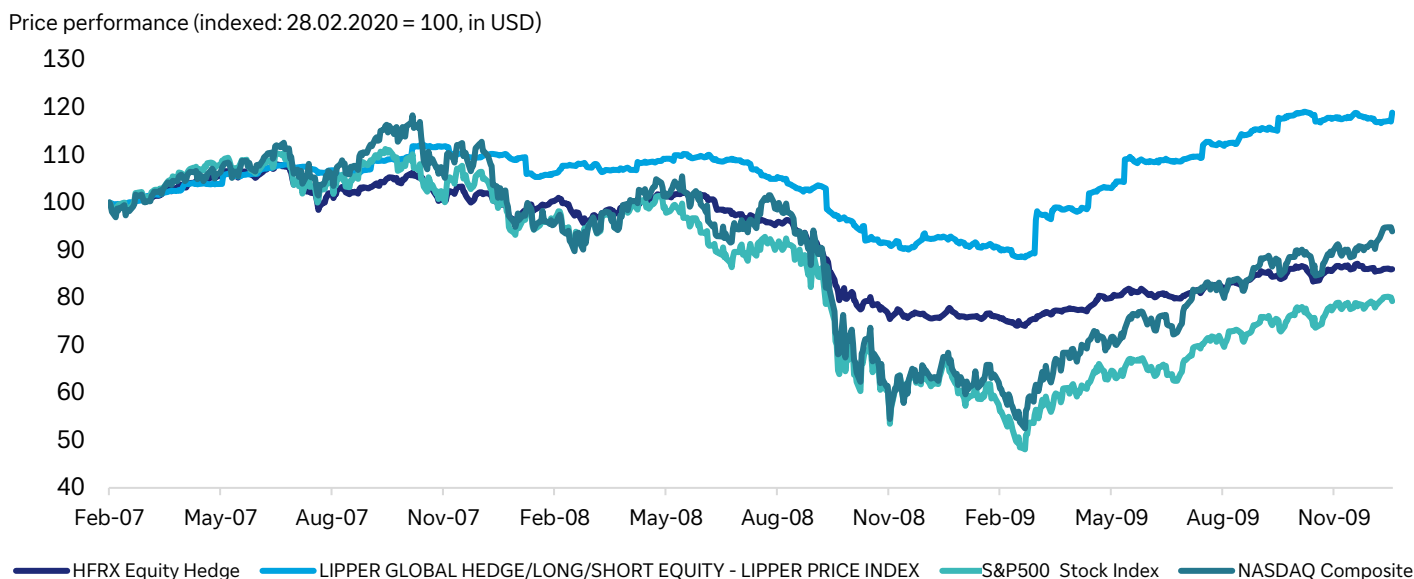
Our base case for global capital markets remains constructive in 2026. We expect **global GDP growth** to moderate to 3.1% (compared to an estimated 3.2% in 2025). Fiscal and monetary policies in major economies are set to provide significant tailwinds. In the US, tax relief, defence and security spending under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, and the expected Fed rate cuts (two by the end of 2026) should stimulate investment and private consumption, as should 250th US anniversary festivities. In the Eurozone, a cyclical boost is likely to emerge from Germany's increased defence spending and the EUR500bn special fund designed to finance broader public investment in infrastructure and climate neutrality. However, structural reforms are essential to boost potential EU growth. In Asia-Pacific fiscal and monetary policy major economies such as China and India should support domestic markets, with Japan also

boosted by government investment in strategically important industries, direct transfers to private households, and robust real income growth.

Key downside **risks** to the economic and market outlook include "known unknowns" such as existing geopolitical conflicts (e.g. in the Ukraine and the Middle East), the re-escalation of trade barriers and risks associated with the implementation of AI. Elevated asset prices are a risk and fiscal debt concerns could also push long-term yields higher, thereby tightening financial conditions. Policy and financial stability risks exist, for example, around monetary policy. Overall, we expect that **opportunities** will coexist with episodic volatility, which argues for disciplined positioning, diversification, and active risk management. Long/short equity strategies can help provide additional diversification of traditional investment portfolios in the current environment, if the associated risks can be managed effectively.

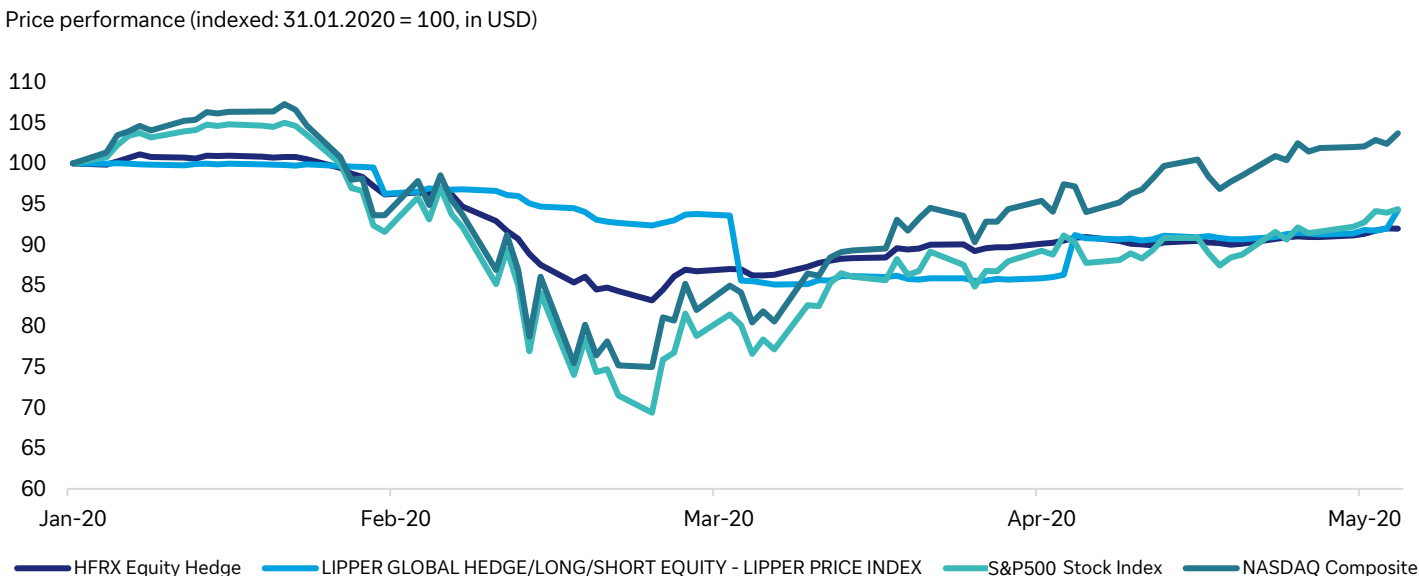


Figure 1: Long/short equity hedge fund indices outperformed US equity indices during the 2008-2009 Global Financial Crisis



Source: LSEG Datastream, Deutsche Bank AG, as of February 27, 2026.

Figure 2: Long/short equity hedge fund indices outperformed US equity indices during the COVID-19 shock



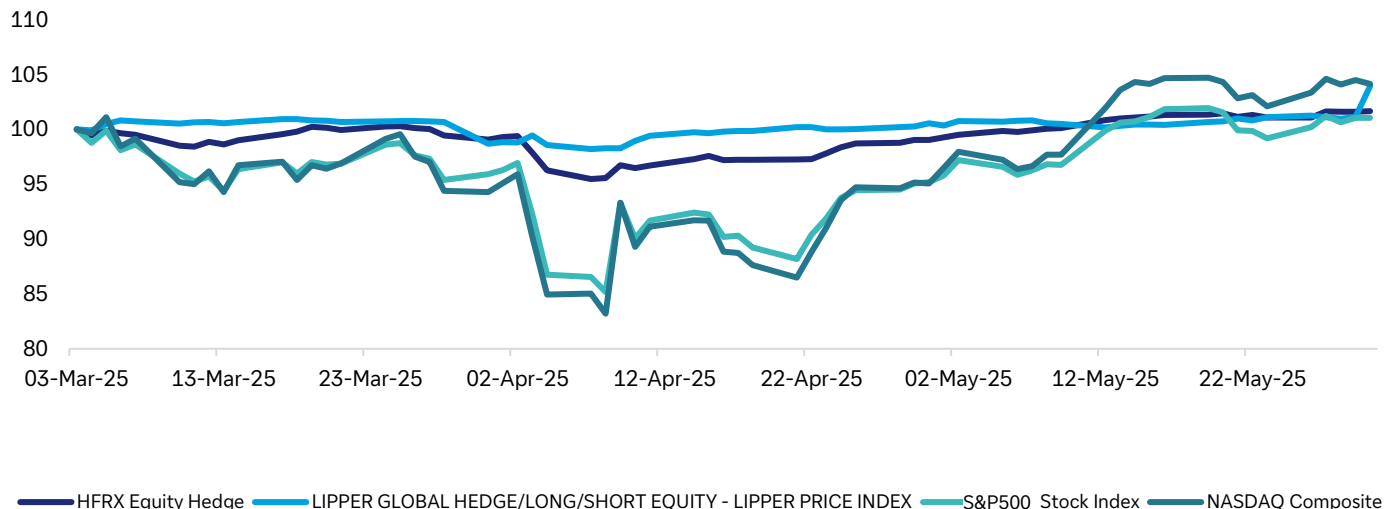
Source: LSEG Datastream, Deutsche Bank AG, as of February 27, 2026.

In Europe, Middle East and Africa as well as in Asia Pacific this material is considered marketing material, but this is not the case in the US. No assurance can be given that any forecast or target can be achieved. Forecasts are based on assumptions, estimates, opinions and hypothetical models which may prove to be incorrect. Past performance is not indicative of future returns. Performance refers to a nominal value based on price gains/losses and does not take into account inflation. Inflation will have a negative impact on the purchasing power of this nominal monetary value. Depending on the current level of inflation, this may lead to a real loss in value, even if the nominal performance of the investment is positive. Investments come with risk. The value of an investment can fall as well as rise and you might not get back the amount originally invested at any point in time. Your capital may be at risk. This document was produced in March 2026.



Figure 3: Long/short equity hedge fund indices outperformed US equity indices during the 2025 US “Liberation Day”

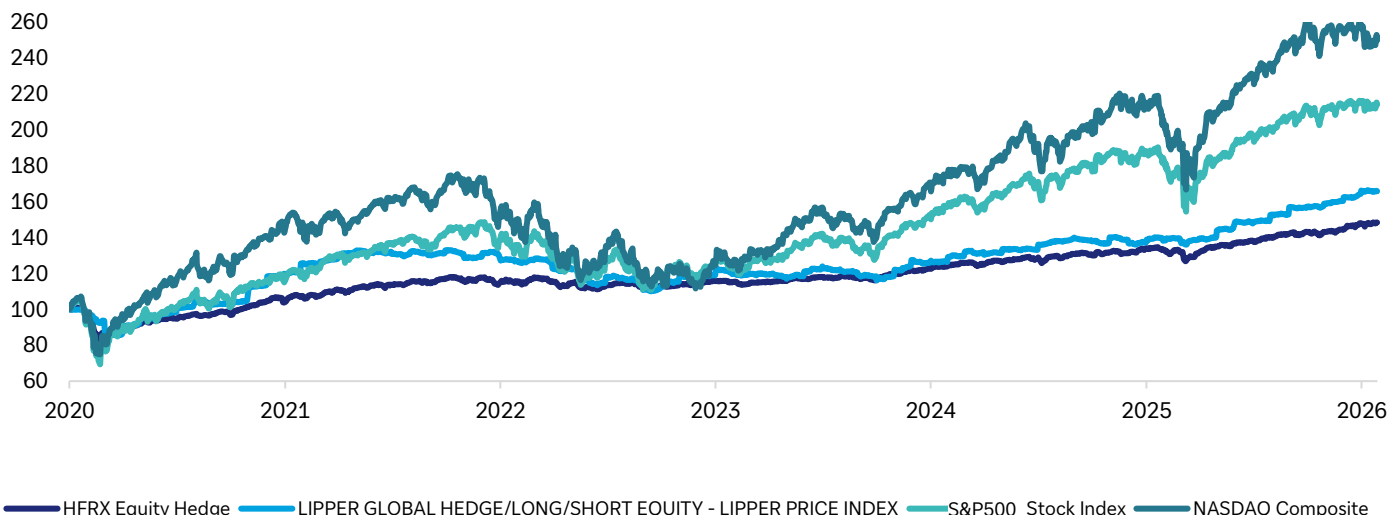
Price performance (indexed: 03.03.2020 = 100, in USD)



Source: LSEG Datastream, Deutsche Bank AG, as of February 27, 2026.

Figure 4: Long/short equity hedge funds indices underperformed US equity indices in periods of rising markets

Price performance (indexed: 01.01.2020 = 100, in USD)



Source: LSEG Datastream, Deutsche Bank AG, as of February 27, 2026.

In Europe, Middle East and Africa as well as in Asia Pacific this material is considered marketing material, but this is not the case in the US. No assurance can be given that any forecast or target can be achieved. Forecasts are based on assumptions, estimates, opinions and hypothetical models which may prove to be incorrect. Past performance is not indicative of future returns. Performance refers to a nominal value based on price gains/losses and does not take into account inflation. Inflation will have a negative impact on the purchasing power of this nominal monetary value. Depending on the current level of inflation, this may lead to a real loss in value, even if the nominal performance of the investment is positive. Investments come with risk. The value of an investment can fall as well as rise and you might not get back the amount originally invested at any point in time. Your capital may be at risk. This document was produced in March 2026.



Glossary

Alpha refers to the gain in the price of a security relative to moves in the relevant overall market index.

Beta measures the volatility of an individual security or sector versus the overall market. Lower beta implies lower volatility.

Dispersion, in a financial markets context, refers to the degree of variability of returns or other metrics in a particular market or sector.

Hedging refers, in this context, to the use of a strategy designed to reduce an investor's exposure to market moves.

Hedge Fund Research Equity Hedge Index (HFRI Equity Hedge) tracks the performance of hedge funds that predominantly maintain long and short positions in equity markets to capture stock-driven opportunities while managing market exposure.

Leverage refers to the use of borrowing or financial derivatives by hedge funds to increase exposure to particular assets.

Liberation Day (April 2, 2025) announcement of US import tariffs by President Trump.

Lipper Global Hedge Long/Short Equity Index is a benchmark provided by LSEG Lipper that tracks the average performance of the world's largest actively managed funds that generate returns by simultaneously buying undervalued and short-selling overvalued equities

Liquidity, in a financial market context, refers to the ease with which an asset can be sold.

The **NASDAQ Composite** index is a market-capitalization weighted index of around 3,000 equities listed on the NASDAQ exchange.

The **NASDAQ 100** Index is a collection of the 100 largest, most actively traded companies listed on the Nasdaq stock exchange.

The **S&P 500** Index includes 500 leading US companies capturing approximately 80% coverage of available U.S. market capitalization.

Short squeezes are when the price of a stock increases rapidly, but due to high short selling activity rather than improved fundamentals.

USD is the currency code for the US Dollar.

Bibliography

With Intelligence, S&P Global, Hedge Fund Outlook 2026, December 4, 2025

Hedge Fund Research, HFR Global Hedge Fund Industry Report, January 22, 2026.



Appendix

Historical performance

	2.3.2021 - 2.3.2022	2.3.2022 - 2.3.2023	2.3.2023 - 2.3.2024	2.3.2024 - 2.3.2025	2.3.2025 - 2.3.2026
HFRX EQUITY HEDGE	8.2%	-0.1%	8.2%	6.4%	11.7%
LIPPER GLOBAL HEDGE/LONG/SHORT EQUITY	0.8%	-5.4%	7.9%	7.1%	19.6%
S&P 500	15.9%	-5.7%	29.0%	15.4%	19.1%
NASDAQ 100	11.4%	-11.6%	50.1%	12.4%	23.2%

Source: Deutsche Bank AG, Bloomberg Finance L.P., LSEG Datastream. Data as of March 2, 2026.

In Europe, Middle East and Africa as well as in Asia Pacific this material is considered marketing material, but this is not the case in the US. No assurance can be given that any forecast or target can be achieved. Forecasts are based on assumptions, estimates, opinions and hypothetical models which may prove to be incorrect. Past performance is not indicative of future returns. Performance refers to a nominal value based on price gains/losses and does not take into account inflation. Inflation will have a negative impact on the purchasing power of this nominal monetary value. Depending on the current level of inflation, this may lead to a real loss in value, even if the nominal performance of the investment is positive. Investments come with risk. The value of an investment can fall as well as rise and you might not get back the amount originally invested at any point in time. Your capital may be at risk. This document was produced in March 2026.



Important note

General

This document may not be distributed in Canada or Japan. This document is being circulated in good faith by Deutsche Bank Aktiengesellschaft, its branches (as permitted in any relevant jurisdiction), affiliated companies and its officers and employees (collectively, "Deutsche Bank").

This document is for your information only and is not intended as an offer, or recommendation or solicitation of an offer to buy or sell any investment, security, financial instrument or other specific product, to conclude a transaction, or to provide any investment service or investment advice, or to provide any research, investment research or investment recommendation, in any jurisdiction. The information contained herein does not replace advice tailored to the individual circumstances of the investor.

All materials in this document are meant to be reviewed in their entirety.

If a court of competent jurisdiction deems any provision of this disclaimer unenforceable, the remaining provisions will remain in full force and effect. This document has been prepared as a general market commentary without consideration of the investment needs, objectives or financial circumstances of any particular investor. Investments are subject to market risks which derive from the instrument or are specific to the instrument or attached to the particular issuer. Should such risks materialise, investors may incur losses, including (without limitation) a total loss of the invested capital. The value of investments can fall as well as rise and an investor may not recover the amount originally invested at any point in time. This document does not identify all the risks (direct or indirect) or other considerations which may be material to an investor when making an investment decision.

This document and all information included herein are provided "as is", "as available" and no representation or warranty of any kind, express, implied or statutory, is made by Deutsche Bank regarding any statement or information contained herein or issued in conjunction with this document. To the extent permissible under applicable laws and regulations, Deutsche Bank makes no representation as to the profitability of any financial instrument or economic measure. All opinions, market prices, estimates, forward-looking statements, hypothetical statements, forecast returns or other opinions leading to financial conclusions contained herein reflect Deutsche Bank's subjective judgment as of the date of this document. Without limitation, Deutsche Bank does not warrant the accuracy, adequacy, completeness, reliability, timeliness or availability of this document or any information contained herein and expressly disclaims liability for errors or omissions herein (if any). Forward-looking statements involve significant elements of subjective judgments and analyses and changes thereto and/or consideration of different or additional factors could have a material impact on the results indicated. Therefore, actual results may vary, perhaps materially, from the results contained herein.

Unless otherwise indicated in this document, all statements of opinion reflect the current assessment of Deutsche Bank, which may change at any time. Deutsche Bank does not assume any obligation to either update the information contained in this document or inform investors about available updated information. The information contained in this document is subject to change without notice and based on a number of assumptions, estimates, opinions and hypothetical models or analyses which – although from the Bank's current point of view are based on adequate information – may not prove valid or turnout in the future to be accurate or correct and may be different from conclusions expressed by other departments within Deutsche Bank. Although the information contained in this document has been derived from sources that Deutsche Bank considers trustworthy and reliable, Deutsche Bank does not guarantee the completeness, fairness, or accuracy of the information and it should not be relied upon as such. This document may provide, for your convenience, references to websites and other external sources. Deutsche Bank takes no responsibility for their content and their content does not form any part of this document. Accessing such external sources is at your own risk.

To the extent permissible under applicable laws and regulations, this document is for discussion purposes only and is not intended to create any legally binding obligations on Deutsche Bank and Deutsche Bank is not acting as your financial advisor or in a fiduciary capacity, unless otherwise expressly agreed by Deutsche Bank in writing. Before making an investment decision, investors need to consider, with or without the assistance of a financial professional, whether any investments and strategies described or provided by Deutsche Bank are appropriate in light of the investor's particular investment needs, objectives, financial circumstances or the possible risks and benefits of such investment decision. When making an investment decision, potential investors should not rely on this document but only on what is contained in the final offering documentation relating to the investment. As a global financial services provider, Deutsche Bank from time to time faces actual and potential conflicts of interest. Deutsche Bank's policy is to take all appropriate steps to maintain and operate effective organizational and administrative arrangements to identify and manage such conflicts.

Deutsche Bank does not give tax or legal advice, including in this document, and nothing in this document should be interpreted as Deutsche Bank providing any person with any investment advice. Investors should seek advice from their own tax experts, lawyers, and investment advisers in considering investments and strategies described by Deutsche Bank. Unless notified to the contrary in a particular case, investment



Appendix

instruments are not insured by any governmental entity, not subject to deposit protection schemes and not guaranteed, including by Deutsche Bank. This document may not be reproduced or circulated without Deutsche Bank's express written authorization. Deutsche Bank expressly prohibits the distribution and transfer of this document to third parties. Deutsche Bank accepts no liability whatsoever arising from the use or distribution of this document or for any action taken or decision made in respect of investments mentioned in this document which the investor may have made or may make in the future.

The manner of circulation and distribution of this document may be restricted by law or regulation in certain countries, including, without limitation, the United States. This document is not directed to, or intended for distribution to or use by, any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any locality, state, country, or other jurisdiction where such distribution, publication use would be contrary to law or regulation or which would subject Deutsche Bank to any registration or licensing requirement within such jurisdiction which is not currently met. Persons into whose possession this document may come are required to inform themselves of, and to observe, such restrictions. Past performance is no guarantee of future results; nothing contained herein shall constitute any representation, warranty, or prediction as to future performance. Further information is available upon request.

Deutsche Bank AG is a stock corporation ("Aktiengesellschaft") incorporated under the laws of the Federal Republic of Germany with its head office in Frankfurt am Main. It is registered with the district court ("Amtsgericht") in Frankfurt am Main under number HRB 30 000 and licensed to carry out banking business and to provide financial services. Deutsche Bank AG is supervised by the European Central Bank ("ECB"), Sonnemannstrasse 22, 60314 Frankfurt am Main, Germany (www.ecb.europa.eu) and the German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority ("Bundesanstalt für Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht" or "BaFin"), Graueindorfer Strasse 108, 53117 Bonn and Marie-Curie-Strasse 24-28, 60439 Frankfurt am Main (www.bafin.de), and by the German Central Bank ("Deutsche Bundesbank"), Wilhelm-Epstein-Strasse 14, 60431 Frankfurt am Main (www.bundesbank.de).

This document has neither been submitted to nor reviewed or approved by any of the above or below mentioned supervisory authorities.

This document was generated or edited with the support of artificial intelligence (AI). It was reviewed by responsible employees of Deutsche Bank's Chief Investment Office.

For Residents of the United Arab Emirates

This document is strictly private and confidential and is being distributed to a limited number of investors and must not be provided to any person other than the original recipient and may not be reproduced or used for any other purpose. By receiving this document, the person or entity to whom it has been issued understands, acknowledges and agrees that this document has not been approved by the UAE Central Bank, the UAE Securities and Commodities Authority, the UAE Ministry of Economy or any other authorities in the UAE. No marketing of any financial products or services has been or will be made from within the United Arab Emirates and no subscription to any funds, securities, products or financial services may or will be consummated within the United Arab Emirates. This does not constitute a public offer of securities in the United Arab Emirates in accordance with the Commercial Companies Law, Federal Law No. 2 of 2015 (as amended from time to time) or otherwise. This document may only be distributed to "Professional Investors", as defined in the UAE Securities and Commodities Authority's Rulebook on Financial Activities and Reconciliation Mechanism (as amended from time to time).

For Residents of Kuwait

This document has been sent to you at your own request. This presentation is not for general circulation to the public in Kuwait. The investments described herein have not been licensed for offering in Kuwait by the Kuwait Capital Markets Authority or any other relevant Kuwaiti government agency. The offering of any investments in Kuwait on the basis a private placement or public offering is, therefore, restricted in accordance with Decree Law No. 31 of 1990 and the implementing regulations thereto (as amended) and Law No. 7 of 2010 and the bylaws thereto (as amended). No private or public offering of any investments is being made in Kuwait, and no agreement relating to the sale of any investments will be concluded in Kuwait. No marketing or solicitation or inducement activities are being used to offer or market any investments in Kuwait.

For Residents of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

This document may not be distributed in the Kingdom except to such persons as are permitted under the Investment Fund Regulations issued by the Capital Market Authority. The Capital Market Authority does not take any responsibility for the contents of this document, does not make any representation as to its accuracy or completeness, and expressly disclaims any liability whatsoever for any loss arising from, or incurred in reliance upon, any part of this document. Prospective subscribers of the investments described herein should conduct their own due diligence on the accuracy of any information relating thereto. If you do not understand the contents of this document, you should consult an authorized financial adviser.



Appendix

For Residents of Qatar

This document has not been filed with, reviewed or approved by the Qatar Central Bank, the Qatar Financial Markets Authority, the Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority or any other relevant Qatari governmental body or securities exchange or under any laws of the State of Qatar. This document does not constitute a public offering and is addressed only to the party to whom it has been delivered. No transaction will be concluded in Qatar and any inquiries or applications should be received, and allotments made, outside Qatar.

For Residents of the Kingdom of Bahrain

This document does not constitute an offer for sale of, or participation in, securities, derivatives or funds marketed in Bahrain within the meaning of Bahrain Monetary Agency Regulations. All applications for any investment should be received and any allotments should be made, in each case from outside of Bahrain. This document has been prepared for private information purposes of intended investors only who will be institutions. No invitation shall be made to the public in the Kingdom of Bahrain and this document will not be issued, passed to, or made available to the public generally. The Central Bank (CBB) has not reviewed, nor has it approved, this document or the marketing of any such securities, derivatives or funds in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

For Residents of Lebanon

By accepting this documentation, Client hereby represents that (i) this documentation was sent to it by Deutsche Bank in response to an unsolicited request made by it, (ii) it has or will execute any documents associated with any transaction described in this document (a "Transaction") outside of the Lebanese Republic in a jurisdiction in which it is lawful to do the same, (iii) any Transaction entered into shall be deemed to be concluded and booked outside of the Lebanese Republic in a jurisdiction in which it is lawful to do the same and (iv) it has entered or will enter into any Transaction for a bona fide commercial purpose and as part of a sound investment or financial management policy, namely for the purposes of managing its borrowings or investments, hedging its underlying assets or liabilities or in connection with its line of business and not for speculative or illegal purposes.

Deutsche Bank has not obtained the authorization of the Central Council of the Central Bank of Lebanon to market, promote, offer or sell ("offered") any product pursuant to any Transaction in Lebanon and no such product is being offered into Lebanon hereby.

For Residents of South Africa

This document does not constitute or form a part of any offer, solicitation or promotion in South Africa. This document has not been filed with, reviewed or approved by the South African Reserve Bank, the Financial Sector Conduct Authority or any other relevant South African governmental body or securities exchange or under any laws of the Republic of South Africa.

For Residents of Belgium

This document has been distributed in Belgium by Deutsche Bank AG acting through its Brussels Branch. Deutsche Bank AG is a stock corporation ("Aktiengesellschaft") incorporated under the laws of the Federal Republic of Germany and licensed to carry on banking business and to provide financial services subject to the supervision and control of the European Central Bank ("ECB") and the German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority ("BaFin"). Deutsche Bank AG, Brussels Branch, is also supervised in Belgium by the Financial Services and Markets Authority ("FSMA", www.fsma.be). The branch has its registered address at Marnixlaan 13-15, B-1000 Brussels and is registered under number VAT BE 0418.371.094, RPM/RPR Brussels. Further details are available on request or can be found at www.deutschebank.be.

For Residents of the United Kingdom

This document is a financial promotion as defined in Section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and is approved by and communicated to you by DB UK Bank Limited. DB UK Bank Limited is a member of the Deutsche Bank AG group and is registered at Companies House in England & Wales with company number 315841 with its registered Office at 21 Moorfields, London, United Kingdom, EC2Y 9DB. DB UK Bank Limited is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. DB UK Bank Limited's Financial Services Registration Number is 140848.

Deutsche Bank Aktiengesellschaft is incorporated in the Federal Republic of Germany and its members' liability is limited.

For Residents of Hong Kong

This document is intended for Professional Investors in Hong Kong. Furthermore, this document is provided to the addressee only, further distribution of this document is strictly prohibited. This document and its contents are provided for information only. Nothing in this document is intended to be an offer of any investment or a solicitation or recommendation to buy or to sell an investment and should not be interpreted or construed as such an offer, solicitation, or recommendation.

The contents of this document have not been reviewed by any regulatory authority in Hong Kong. You are advised to exercise caution in relation to the investments contained herein (if any). If you are in any doubt about any of the contents of this document, you should obtain independent professional advice.

In Europe, Middle East and Africa as well as in Asia Pacific this material is considered marketing material, but this is not the case in the US. No assurance can be given that any forecast or target can be achieved. Forecasts are based on assumptions, estimates, opinions and hypothetical models which may prove to be incorrect. Past performance is not indicative of future returns. Performance refers to a nominal value based on price gains/losses and does not take into account inflation. Inflation will have a negative impact on the purchasing power of this nominal monetary value. Depending on the current level of inflation, this may lead to a real loss in value, even if the nominal performance of the investment is positive. Investments come with risk. The value of an investment can fall as well as rise and you might not get back the amount originally invested at any point in time. Your capital may be at risk. This document was produced in March 2026.



Appendix

This document has not been approved by the Securities and Futures Commission in Hong Kong ("SFC"), nor has a copy of this document been registered by the Registrar of Companies in Hong Kong, unless specified otherwise. The investments described herein may or may not be authorised by the SFC. Any such investment may not be offered or sold in Hong Kong, by means of any document, other than (i) to "professional investors" as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571 of the Laws of Hong Kong) ("SFO") and any rules made under the SFO, or (ii) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a "prospectus" as defined in the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 32 of the Laws of Hong Kong) (the "C(WUMP)O") or which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the C(WUMP)O. No person shall issue or possess for the purposes of issue, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, any advertisement, invitation or document relating to the investments described herein, which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public of Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the securities laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to investments which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to "professional investors" as defined in the SFO and any rules made under the SFO.

For Residents of Singapore

This document is intended for Accredited Investors / Institutional Investors in Singapore. Furthermore, this document is provided to addressee only, further distribution of this material is strictly prohibited.

For Residents of the United States of America

In the United States, brokerage services are offered through Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., a broker-dealer and registered investment adviser, which conducts securities activities in the United States. Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. is a member of FINRA, NYSE and SIPC. Banking and lending services are offered through Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, member FDIC, and other members of the Deutsche Bank Group. In respect of the United States, see earlier statements made in this document. Deutsche Bank makes no representations or warranties that the information contained herein is appropriate or available for use in countries outside of the United States, or that services discussed in this document are available or appropriate for sale or use in all jurisdictions, or by all counterparties. Unless registered, licensed as otherwise may be permissible in accordance with applicable law, none of Deutsche Bank or its affiliates is offering any services in the United States or that are designed to attract US persons (as such term is defined under Regulation S of the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended). This United States-specific disclaimer will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Delaware, without regard to any conflicts of law provisions that would mandate the application of the law of another jurisdiction.

For Residents of Germany

This information in this document is advertising. The text does not meet all legal requirements to ensure the impartiality of investment and investment strategy recommendations or financial analyses. There is no prohibition for the compiler or for the company responsible for the compilation to trade with the respective financial instruments before or after the publication of these documents.

General information on financial instruments is contained in the brochures "Basic Information on Securities and Other Investments", "Basic Information on Financial Derivatives" and "Basic Information on Forward Transactions" which the customer can request from Deutsche Bank free of charge.

For Residents of India

The investments mentioned in this document are not being offered to the Indian public for sale or subscription. This document is not registered and/or approved by the Securities and Exchange Board of India, the Reserve Bank of India, or any other governmental/ regulatory authority in India. This document is not and should not be deemed to be a "prospectus" as defined under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013) and the same shall not be filed with any regulatory authority in India. Pursuant to the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 and the regulations issued thereunder, any investor resident in India may be required to obtain prior special permission of the Reserve Bank of India before making investments outside of India including any investments mentioned in this document.

For Residents of Italy

This report is distributed in Italy by Deutsche Bank S.p.A., a bank incorporated and registered under Italian law subject to the supervision and control of Banca d'Italia and CONSOB. Its registered office is located at Piazza del Calendario 3 – 20126 Milan (Italy) and it is registered with the Chamber of Commerce of Milan, VAT and fiscal code number 001340740156, part of the interbank fund of deposits protection, enrolled in the Bank Register and the head of Deutsche Bank Banking Group, enrolled in the register of the Banking Groups pursuant to Legislative Decree September 1st, 1993 n. 385 and subject to the direction and coordination activity of Deutsche Bank AG, Frankfurt am Main (Germany).

For Residents of Luxembourg

This report is distributed in Luxembourg by Deutsche Bank Luxembourg S.A., a bank incorporated under the laws of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in the form of a public limited company (Société Anonyme), subject to the supervision and control of the European Central Bank ("ECB") and Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier ("CSSF"). Its registered office is located at 2, boulevard Konrad Adenauer, 1115 Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and is registered with Luxembourg Registre de Commerce et des Sociétés ("RCS") under number B 9.164.

In Europe, Middle East and Africa as well as in Asia Pacific this material is considered marketing material, but this is not the case in the US. No assurance can be given that any forecast or target can be achieved. Forecasts are based on assumptions, estimates, opinions and hypothetical models which may prove to be incorrect. Past performance is not indicative of future returns. Performance refers to a nominal value based on price gains/losses and does not take into account inflation. Inflation will have a negative impact on the purchasing power of this nominal monetary value. Depending on the current level of inflation, this may lead to a real loss in value, even if the nominal performance of the investment is positive. Investments come with risk. The value of an investment can fall as well as rise and you might not get back the amount originally invested at any point in time. Your capital may be at risk. This document was produced in March 2026.



Appendix

For Residents of Spain

This document has been distributed by Deutsche Bank, Sociedad Anónima Española Unipersonal is a credit institution regulated by the Bank of Spain (registered in its Official Registry under the Code 019) and the CNMV. Deutsche Bank, Sociedad Anónima Española Unipersonal may only undertake the financial services and banking activities that fall within the scope of its existing license. Its registered office in Spain is located in Paseo de la Castellana number 18, 28046 - Madrid. Registered in the Mercantile Registry of Madrid, Volume 28100, Book 0, Folio 1, Section 8, Sheet M506294, Registration 2. NIF: A08000614.

For Residents of Portugal

Deutsche Bank AG, Portugal Branch is a credit institution regulated by the Bank of Portugal and the Portuguese Securities Commission ("CMVM"), registered with numbers 43 and 349, respectively and with commercial registry number 980459079. Deutsche Bank AG, Portugal Branch may only undertake the financial services and banking activities that fall within the scope of its existing license. Its registered address is Rua Castilho, 20, 1250-069 Lisbon, Portugal.

For Residents of Austria

This document is distributed by Deutsche Bank AG, Vienna Branch, registered in the commercial register of the Vienna Commercial Court under number FN 140266z. Deutsche Bank AG's Vienna branch is also supervised by the Austrian Financial Market Authority (FMA), Otto-Wagner-Platz 5, 1090 Vienna. This document has neither been submitted to nor approved by the aforementioned supervisory authorities.

For Residents of the Netherlands

This document is distributed by Deutsche Bank AG, Amsterdam Branch, with registered address at De entree 195 (1101 HE) in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and registered in the Netherlands trade register under number 33304583 and in the register within the meaning of Section 1:107 of the Netherlands Financial Supervision Act (Wet op het financieel toezicht). This register can be consulted through www.dnb.nl.

For Residents of France

Deutsche Bank AG is an authorized credit institution, subject to the overall supervision of the European Central Bank and BaFin, the German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority. Its various branches are locally supervised, for certain activities, by the competent banking authorities, such as the Prudential Control and Resolution Authority (Autorité de Contrôle Prudentiel de Résolution, "ACPR") and the Financial Markets Authority (Autorité des Marchés Financiers, "AMF") in France.

Any reproduction, representation, distribution or redistribution, in whole or in part, of the contents of this document in any medium or by any process whatsoever, as well as any sale, resale, retransmission or making available to third parties in any manner whatsoever, is prohibited. This document may not be reproduced or distributed without our written permission.

© 2026 Deutsche Bank AG. All rights reserved.

057680 030326

RR/JL