

Reichmuth Voralpin - P (BVG)

YTD +4.9%

Large regional differences

The past year was characterized by strong stock and real estate markets, as well as shining performances from precious metals. Regionally, US stocks performed very well, while Switzerland lagged slightly behind due to its defensive orientation. The strong US economy and central bank interest rate cuts provided support for the stock markets, which were driven by the technology sector and investment themes such as "artificial intelligence" and "electrification of the world".

Category	Allocation ø	Performance 2024	Contribution
Cash (incl Fees)	4%		-0.6%
Bonds	59%	4.5%	2.6%
Equities	13%	4.7%	0.6%
Alternative Investm.	18%	13.3%	2.4%
Real Estate	4%	7.6%	0.3%
Commodities	2%	25.6%	0.5%
Currencies			-1.0%
TOTAL	100%		4.9%

Stocks and Alternative Investments shine

The highest performance contribution came from the bond asset class, which benefited from the start of the interest rate reduction cycle in Switzerland mid-year. However, US bonds struggled to keep pace due to concerns over national debt and inflation risks. US stocks performed very well, particularly companies in the technology and technology-adjacent sectors. In contrast, Swiss stocks saw small- and mid-cap companies fall short of expectations, significantly lagging behind the broader market. Alternative investments, including precious metals like gold, also contributed positively to the strong results. Real estate further benefited from lower interest rates.

2025: The Year of CH Dividend Stocks?

The momentum continues to favor the US markets; however, given the high market concentration and valuation expansion over the past two years, return expectations have decreased. After two above-average years for investors, we expect overall positive markets in 2025, but with higher volatility and rotations in financial markets. In an inflationary environment with limited fiscal discipline in many countries, there is a risk that bond investors will demand higher interest rates, causing 10-year yields to rise. Depending on the extent of the increase, this could temporarily create headwinds for valuations, particularly for US equities. Swiss stocks are likely to perform better during this phase due to their defensive composition and low interest rate sensitivity. A strong CHF could prompt the Swiss National Bank (SNB) to revisit negative interest rates in its exchange rate policy, enhancing the attractiveness of dividend-paying stocks. For asset allocation, this means maintaining a high weighting in equities with a significant home market share. Fixed-income investments remain unattractive due to inflation risks in the US and already very low interest rates in Switzerland. We are optimistic about alternative investments in 2025. Higher volatility and divergent sector trends offer active managers opportunities to leverage their flexibility profitably. Given the ongoing rise in debt levels in many Western countries, we continue to view gold as an essential portfolio diversifier. We thank you for your trust over the past year and look forward to the new year with confidence.

Philipp Murer, Portfoliomanager



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