# STOXX

# MONTHLY INDEX NEWS

December 2018



# Benchmark Indices

# **Key points**

December's brutal sell-off took its toll on all benchmark indices. The STOXX® Global 1800 Index's 7.6% monthly tumble – in dollars – was the steepest since May 2012. The loss pushed the benchmark to its worst annual decline since the global financial crisis in 2008.

Selling was focused on the US market after the Federal Reserve raised interest rates in the month for the fourth time in 2018. The STOXX® North America 600 Index posted its worst monthly retreat since February 2009, the month when the last bear market ended.

The pan-European STOXX<sup>®</sup> Europe 600 Index and the Eurozone's EURO STOXX 50<sup>®</sup> Index lost more than 5% each when measured in euros. The STOXX Europe 600 Index posted its worst annual return since 2008, while for the EURO STOXX 50 Index it was the worst year since the Eurozone's sovereign debt crisis of 2011. Both indices ended 2018 at a two-year low.

The STOXX® Asia/Pacific 600 Index dropped 5.3% during the month, in dollars.

Volatility jumped across the regions, although it remained well below historical highs.

#### Risk and return characteristics

			Retu	rn (%)									
		EUR			USD			EUR			USD		
	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y	P/B
1. EURO STOXX 50	-5.3	-12.0	-12.0	-4.4	-16.2	-16.2	20.8	13.7	13.7	21.5	15.2	15.2	1.6
2. STOXX Europe 600	-5.5	-10.8	-10.8	-4.5	-15.1	-15.1	21.4	12.7	12.7	22.1	14.0	14.0	1.6
3. STOXX North America 600	-10.0	-1.1	-1.1	-9.1	-5.8	-5.8	32.2	17.5	17.5	31.7	16.8	16.8	2.7
4. STOXX Asia/Pacific 600	-6.2	-7.9	-7.9	-5.3	-12.3	-12.3	17.4	13.7	13.7	18.6	13.4	13.4	1.1
5. STOXX Global 1800	-8.4	-4.5	-4.5	-7.6	-9.1	-9.1	21.5	12.9	12.9	21.3	12.6	12.6	1.8

Risk and return performance figures for STOXX Benchmark Indices, Net Return. Data as of Dec. 31, 2018. Source: STOXX Ltd.





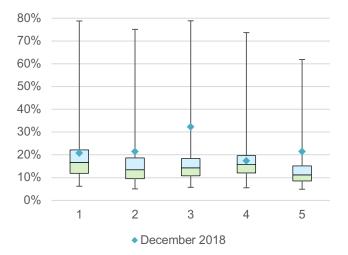


Figure 2: Monthly annualized volatility analysis, EUR Net Return. Jan. 2004 – Dec. 2018. Source: STOXX Ltd.

# Thematic Indices - Revenue-Based

# **Key points**

Six of the eight STOXX revenue-based thematic indices underperformed the STOXX Global 1800 Index during December.

The STOXX® Global Artificial Intelligence Index and the iSTOXX® FactSet Automation & Robotics Index posted the largest declines during the month, whereas the STOXX® Global Digital Security Index recorded the smallest retreat.

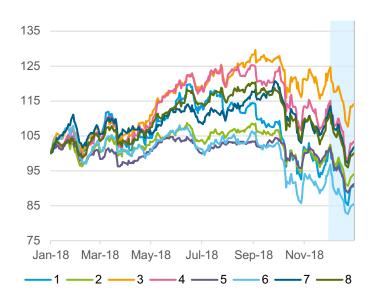
During the full year, the performance was evenly split: four of the family's indices outperformed, while the other four fared worse than the STOXX Global 1800 Index's 9.1% decline.

STOXX's revenue-based thematic indices are compiled by looking at companies' revenue exposure to sectors closely related to the specific global megatrend.

#### Risk and return characteristics

			Retu	rn (%)			Annualized volatility (%)						
		EUR			USD			EUR					
	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y	P/B
STOXX Global Artificial Intelligence	-9.4	-8.1	-8.1	-8.5	-12.5	-12.5	38.1	25.1	25.1	37.6	24.3	24.3	3.6
2. STOXX Global Digital Security	-6.8	-5.3	-5.3	-5.9	-9.8	-9.8	20.8	14.1	14.1	20.7	13.6	13.6	4.0
3. STOXX Global Fintech	-7.2	14.0	14.0	-6.3	8.5	8.5	30.0	18.9	18.9	29.8	18.1	18.1	4.7
4. iSTOXX Developed Markets B.R.Al.N	-9.0	5.1	5.1	-8.2	0.0	0.0	32.1	21.2	21.2	31.6	20.5	20.5	3.7
5. iSTOXX FactSet Ageing Population	-9.2	-8.3	-8.3	-8.4	-12.7	-12.7	17.4	11.2	11.2	17.6	11.3	11.3	1.7
6. iSTOXX FactSet Automation & Robotics	-9.4	-13.9	-13.9	-8.5	-18.0	-18.0	25.0	17.1	17.1	25.6	17.0	17.0	3.6
7. iSTOXX FactSet Breakthrough Healthcare	-8.5	2.8	2.8	-7.7	-2.1	-2.1	24.5	16.8	16.8	24.7	17.1	17.1	4.7
8. iSTOXX FactSet Digitalisation	-8.9	0.7	0.7	-8.0	-4.1	-4.1	24.7	15.7	15.7	24.9	15.3	15.3	5.4

Risk and return performance figures for STOXX Thematic Indices, Net Return. Data as of Dec. 31, 2018. Source: STOXX Ltd.





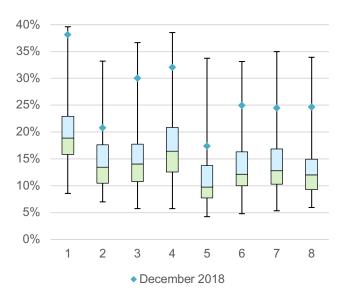


Figure 4: Monthly annualized volatility analysis, EUR Net Return. Jul. 2012 – Dec. 2018. Source: STOXX Ltd.

# Thematic Indices - Al-Driven

# **Key points**

STOXX's Al-driven thematic indices also suffered from the sell-off in December. The iSTOXX® Yewno Developed Markets Blockchain Index led the retreat with a 9% drop. The index, however, outperformed the STOXX Global 1800 Index during 2018.

The other two gauges in the Al-driven thematic index family, the STOXX® Al Global Artificial Intelligence Index and the STOXX® Al Global Artificial Intelligence ADTV5, also outperformed for the full year. The latter differs from the former in having a higher liquidity filter.

The indices employ artificial intelligence to detect businesses investing in the adoption of intellectual property underpinning the theme.

#### Risk and return characteristics

			Retu	rn (%)			Annualized volatility (%)						
		EUR			USD			EUR					
	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y	P/B
STOXX AI Global Artificial Intelligence	-8.4	-2.9	-2.9	-7.6	-7.5	-7.5	21.3	13.7	13.7	21.4	13.2	13.2	2.5
2. STOXX AI Global Artificial Intelligence ADTV5	-8.4	-2.5	-2.5	-7.5	-7.2	-7.2	21.8	13.9	13.9	21.9	13.4	13.4	2.4
3. iSTOXX Yewno Developed Markets Blockchain	-9.8	1.0	1.0	-9.0	-3.9	-3.9	26.2	16.2	16.2	25.5	15.8	15.8	2.6

Risk and return performance figures for STOXX Thematic Indices, Net Return. Data as of Dec. 31, 2018. Source: STOXX Ltd.



Figure 5: Annual price performance, EUR Net Return. Jan. 2018 – Dec. 2018. Shaded area Dec. 2018. Source: STOXX Ltd.

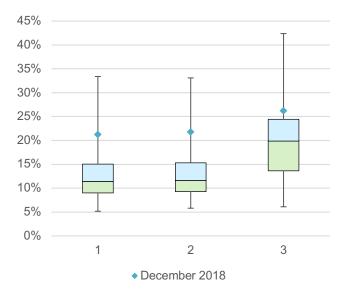


Figure 6: Monthly annualized volatility analysis, EUR Net Return. Apr. 2013 – Dec. 2018. Source: STOXX Ltd.

# **Europe Factor Market Neutral Indices**

# **Key points**

Four of the seven iSTOXX® Europe Factor Market Neutral Indices, which hold a short position in futures on the STOXX Europe 600, had positive returns over December. The indices are designed to help investors neutralize systematic risk and focus on pure factor investing. All indices avoided the extent of losses recorded by the STOXX Europe 600 during the month.

The iSTOXX® Europe Low Risk Factor Market Neutral Index had the best return during the month, consolidating its outperformance during the full year. The iSTOXX® Europe Momentum Factor Market Neutral Index, which tracks stocks that have outperformed in the recent past, came up last during December after falling 2%.

The iSTOXX® Europe Value Factor Market Neutral Index had the group's poorest results during 2018, as investors reportedly shunned the cheapest parts of the market. Overall, investing in factors in isolation of the market risk was a positive strategy relative to the benchmark last year given the broader losses in equity markets.

#### Risk and return characteristics

	(	EUR) Return (	<u>%)                                    </u>	(EUR) Annualized volatility (				
	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y		
iSTOXX Europe Carry Factor Market Neutral	0.9	3.2	3.2	5.0	3.7	3.7		
2. iSTOXX Europe Low Risk Factor Market Neutral	1.1	3.8	3.8	4.3	3.4	3.4		
3. iSTOXX Europe Momentum Factor Market Neutral	-2.0	-4.0	-4.0	5.6	3.5	3.5		
4. iSTOXX Europe Quality Factor Market Neutral	0.6	-3.2	-3.2	4.6	3.2	3.2		
5. iSTOXX Europe Size Factor Market Neutral	0.2	-3.0	-3.0	6.4	4.6	4.6		
6. iSTOXX Europe Value Factor Market Neutral	-1.8	-7.7	-7.7	6.7	4.5	4.5		
7. iSTOXX Europe Multi-Factor Market Neutral	-0.3	-4.4	-4.4	5.4	3.9	3.9		

Risk and return performance figures for iSTOXX Europe Factor Market Neutral Indices, Net Return. Data as of Dec. 31, 2018. Source: STOXX Ltd.



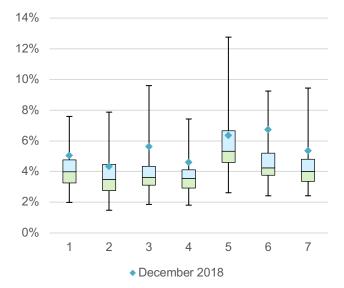


Figure 7: Annual price performance, EUR Net Return. Jan. 2018 – Dec. 2018. Shaded area: Dec. 2018. Source: STOXX Ltd.

Figure 8: Monthly annualized volatility analysis, EUR Net Return. Aug. 2010 – Dec. 2018. Source: STOXX Ltd.

# EURO STOXX® Multi Premia® Indices

# **Key points**

All but one of the eight EURO STOXX Multi Premia and Single Premium Indices outperformed the market during December.

The indices integrate the academic research-based methodology of STOXX's partner Finreon. They track seven distinctive sources of equity risk and returns on the broad and liquid universe of Eurozone equities that is the EURO STOXX® Index.

The EURO STOXX Index, which currently includes 306 companies, fell 5.8% during the month and lost 12.7% during 2018. Five of the eight factor premia indices outperformed during the full year.

#### Risk and return characteristics

	Return (%)							Annualized volatility (%)						
	EUR				USD			EUR			USD			
	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y		
1. EURO STOXX Low Risk Premium	-5.0	-8.7	-8.7	-4.1	-13.0	-13.0	17.0	11.2	11.2	17.8	12.8	12.8		
2. EURO STOXX Momentum Premium	-4.6	-8.4	-8.4	-3.7	-12.8	-12.8	21.6	14.8	14.8	22.6	16.0	16.0		
3. EURO STOXX Quality Premium	-3.8	-6.3	-6.3	-2.8	-10.8	-10.8	18.5	12.8	12.8	19.4	14.3	14.3		
4. EURO STOXX Residual Momentum Premium	-4.1	-8.0	-8.0	-3.2	-12.4	-12.4	19.8	13.6	13.6	20.9	15.0	15.0		
5. EURO STOXX Reversal Premium	-5.7	-12.9	-12.9	-4.8	-17.0	-17.0	19.3	11.6	11.6	20.2	13.7	13.7		
6. EURO STOXX Size Premium	-5.4	-14.0	-14.0	-4.5	-18.2	-18.2	20.0	12.8	12.8	21.0	14.5	14.5		
7. EURO STOXX Value Premium	-6.5	-14.2	-14.2	-5.6	-18.3	-18.3	21.4	13.4	13.4	22.2	15.1	15.1		
8. EURO STOXX Multi Premia	-5.0	-10.6	-10.6	-4.1	-14.9	-14.9	19.5	12.5	12.5	20.4	14.1	14.1		

Risk and return performance figures for EURO STOXX Multi Premia Indices, Net Return. Data as of Dec. 31, 2018. Source: STOXX Ltd.





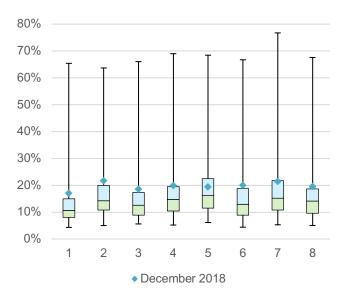


Figure 10: Monthly annualized volatility analysis, EUR Net Return. Jan. 2004 – Dec. 2018. Source: STOXX Ltd.

# ESG and Sustainability Indices

# **Key points**

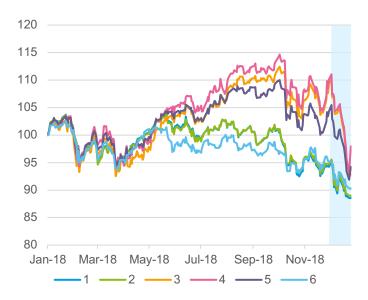
Environmental, social and governance (ESG) strategies performed broadly in line with benchmarks in most regions, during December and in 2018. One exception was the STOXX® Europe ESG Leaders Select 30 Index, which tracks the region's most responsible corporations that also show low volatility and have high dividends. The index outperformed the STOXX Europe 600 Index.

STOXX's ESG and sustainability indices select the best-in-class performers on ESG metrics. The family also includes the STOXX® Europe 600 ESG-X Index, a version of the popular European benchmark that incorporates ESG exclusion criteria.

#### Risk and return characteristics

			Retu	rn (%)			Annualized volatility (%)						
		EUR			USD			EUR					
	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y	P/B
1. STOXX Europe 600 ESG-X	-5.4	-11.0	-11.0	-4.5	-15.3	-15.3	20.9	12.7	12.7	21.6	14.0	14.0	1.6
2. STOXX Europe Industry Neutral ESG	-5.4	-10.6	-10.6	-4.5	-14.9	-14.9	20.7	12.5	12.5	21.3	13.8	13.8	1.6
3. STOXX North America Industry Neutral ESG	-9.7	-0.9	-0.9	-8.9	-5.6	-5.6	30.8	17.1	17.1	30.2	16.4	16.4	2.7
4. STOXX USA ESG Impact	-9.7	-0.1	-0.1	-8.9	-4.9	-4.9	30.5	18.0	18.0	30.0	17.4	17.4	2.8
5. STOXX Global ESG Impact	-8.2	-4.0	-4.0	-7.3	-8.6	-8.6	20.3	13.3	13.3	20.2	13.0	13.0	2.0
6. STOXX Europe ESG Leaders Select 30	-4.6	-9.2	-9.2				19.1	12.1	12.1				1.0

Risk and return performance figures for STOXX ESG and Sustainability Indices, Net Return. Data as of Dec. 31, 2018. Source: STOXX Ltd.





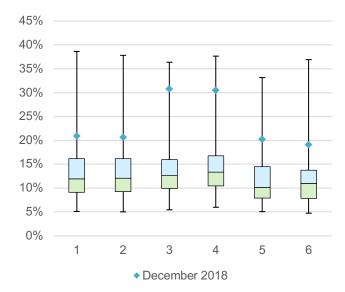


Figure 12: Monthly annualized volatility analysis, EUR Net Return. Oct. 2012 – Dec. 2018. Source: STOXX Ltd.

# Climate Indices

# **Key points**

STOXX's climate indices had a mixed performance during December, with some slightly outperforming while others trailing their benchmarks. The iSTOXX® Europe ESG Climate Awareness Select 50 Index, which adds low-volatility and high-dividend tilts, outperformed the STOXX Europe 600 Index.

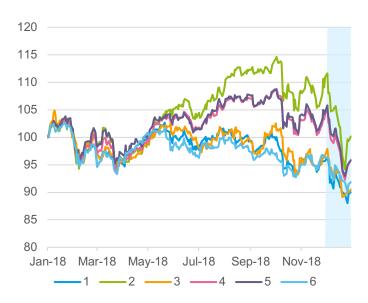
During the full year, STOXX's Climate Indices outperformed broader benchmarks.

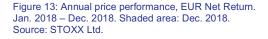
STOXX has partnered with CDP, a leading climate data provider, to track companies taking action on, managing and understanding the effects of climate change.

#### Risk and return characteristics

	Return (%)							Annualized volatility (%)						
		EUR			USD			EUR						
	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y	P/B	
STOXX Europe Climate Impact*	-5.9	-10.2	-10.2	-5.0	-14.5	-14.5	20.7	12.3	12.3	21.3	13.6	13.6	1.6	
2. STOXX North America Climate Impact*	-9.7	0.5	0.5	-8.8	-4.3	-4.3	31.8	17.9	17.9	31.2	17.2	17.2	2.7	
3. STOXX Asia/Pacific Climate Impact*	-6.4	-9.4	-9.4	-5.5	-13.7	-13.7	17.0	14.2	14.2	18.3	13.7	13.7	1.2	
4. STOXX Global Climate Impact*	-8.1	-4.0	-4.0	-7.2	-8.6	-8.6	19.5	12.4	12.4	19.4	12.2	12.2	1.9	
5. STOXX Global Climate Change Leaders	-8.4	-4.0	-4.0	-7.5	-8.6	-8.6	18.0	12.7	12.7	18.1	12.5	12.5	2.2	
6. iSTOXX Europe ESG Climate Awareness Select 50	-4.6	-8.3	-8.3	-3.7	-12.7	-12.7	18.8	11.6	11.6	19.4	13.0	13.0	1.5	

Risk and return performance figures for STOXX Climate Indices, Net Return. Data as of Dec. 31, 2018.





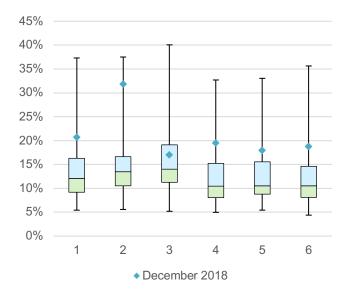


Figure 14: Monthly annualized volatility analysis, EUR Net Return. Jan. 2013 – Dec. 2018. Source: STOXX Ltd.

<sup>\*</sup> Indices are the Ex Global Compact Controversial Weapons & Tobacco versions.

# Low Carbon Indices

# **Key points**

The EURO STOXX 50<sup>®</sup> Low Carbon Index underperformed the EURO STOXX 50 Index during December. In the US and Japan, low carbon indices came in behind their respective benchmark indices, i.e. the STOXX<sup>®</sup> USA 900 Index and the STOXX<sup>®</sup> Japan 600 Index.

During the full year, the STOXX® Global 1800 Low Carbon Index came ahead of the STOXX Global 1800 Index by around 25 basis points.

The STOXX Low Carbon index family enables investors to decarbonize their portfolios. The indices use data from CDP and ISS-Ethix Climate Solutions.

#### Risk and return characteristics

			Retu	rn (%)			Annualized volatility (%)						
		EUR			USD			EUR					
	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y	P/B
1. EURO STOXX 50 Low Carbon	-6.2	-13.2	-13.2	-5.3	-17.3	-17.3	21.1	13.9	13.9	21.8	15.3	15.3	1.6
2. STOXX Europe 600 Low Carbon	-5.5	-10.5	-10.5	-4.6	-14.8	-14.8	21.6	12.8	12.8	22.3	14.0	14.0	1.6
3. STOXX USA Low Carbon	-10.2	-0.2	-0.2	-9.4	-5.0	-5.0	33.2	18.2	18.2	32.7	17.5	17.5	2.7
4. STOXX Japan Low Carbon	-7.7	-8.7	-8.7	-6.8	-13.1	-13.1	17.8	15.8	15.8	19.0	15.3	15.3	1.2
5. STOXX Global 1800 Low Carbon	-8.5	-4.2	-4.2	-7.6	-8.8	-8.8	21.6	13.0	13.0	21.5	12.8	12.8	1.9
6. STOXX Global 1800 ex Europe Low Carbon	-9.4	-2.2	-2.2	-8.6	-6.9	-6.9	27.4	15.1	15.1	27.1	14.5	14.5	2.0

Risk and return performance figures for STOXX Low Carbon Indices, Net Return. Data as of Dec. 31, 2018. Source: STOXX Ltd.





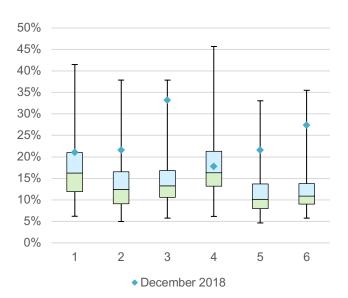


Figure 16: Monthly annualized volatility analysis, EUR Net Return. Jan. 2012 – Dec. 2018. Source: STOXX Ltd.

# Minimum Variance Indices

# **Key points**

Minimum variance strategies outperformed on a global basis during December, helping investors weather part of the sell-off. The STOXX<sup>®</sup> Global 1800 Minimum Variance Index fell 6.1% and its unconstrained version dropped 5.5%. That compares with the 7.6% retreat for the benchmark STOXX Global 1800 Index.

The STOXX<sup>®</sup> USA 900 Minimum Variance Index dropped 8.1% during December while its unconstrained version declined 6.7%. The benchmark STOXX USA 900 Index, by comparison, fell 9.3%.

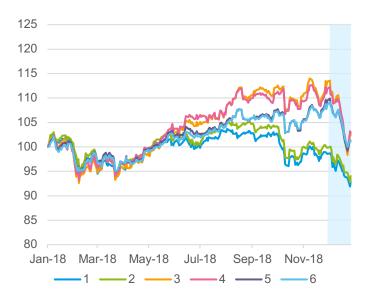
In Europe, minimum variance's edge was narrower during December. The STOXX<sup>®</sup> Europe 600 Minimum Variance Index and its unconstrained version beat the STOXX Europe 600 only by a small margin.

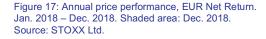
The STOXX Minimum Variance Indices come in two versions: constrained and unconstrained. The former has a similar exposure to a market-cap index but with lower risk. The unconstrained version, on the other hand, has more freedom to fulfill its minimum variance mandate within the same universe of stocks.

#### Risk and return characteristics

			Retu	rn (%)			Annualized volatility (%)						
		EUR			USD			EUR					
	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y	P/B
1. STOXX Europe 600 MV	-5.2	-7.0	-7.0	-4.2	-11.5	-11.5	16.5	10.6	10.6	17.2	11.9	11.9	1.9
2. STOXX Europe 600 MV Unconstrained	-5.4	-5.9	-5.9	-4.5	-10.4	-10.4	16.7	10.6	10.6	17.4	11.9	11.9	2.0
3. STOXX USA 900 MV	-8.9	3.0	3.0	-8.1	-2.0	-2.0	26.0	14.1	14.1	25.2	13.0	13.0	2.9
4. STOXX USA 900 MV Unconstrained	-7.6	3.0	3.0	-6.7	-2.0	-2.0	23.9	12.9	12.9	22.9	11.7	11.7	2.7
5. STOXX Global 1800 MV	-7.0	1.6	1.6	-6.1	-3.3	-3.3	15.1	9.9	9.9	14.5	8.9	8.9	2.0
6. STOXX Global 1800 MV Unconstrained	-6.4	1.4	1.4	-5.5	-3.4	-3.4	13.0	9.4	9.4	12.3	8.2	8.2	1.5

Risk and return performance figures for STOXX Minimum Variance Indices, Net Return. Data as of Dec. 31, 2018. Source: STOXX Ltd





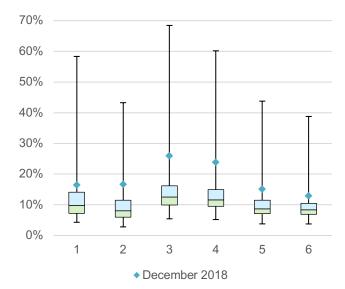


Figure 18: Monthly annualized volatility analysis, EUR Net Return Jan. 2004 – Dec. 2018. Source: STOXX Ltd.

# **Dividend Indices**

#### **Key points**

Dividend-based strategies also outperformed during December, possibly helped by a decline in bond yields that increased the appeal of dividends relative to bond payments. Yields on 10-year US Treasuries dropped from 2.99% at the end of November to 2.68% on Dec. 31.

The STOXX® Global Maximum Dividend 40 Index, STOXX® Global Select Dividend 100 Index and STOXX® Global Select 100 EUR Index are all derived from the Global 1800 Index and track different income approaches.

The STOXX Global Maximum Dividend 40 Index focuses on high dividend-yielding stocks. The STOXX Global Select Dividend 100 Index tracks companies with sizeable dividends but also applies a quality filter such as a history of stable payments. Finally, the STOXX Global Select 100 EUR Index blends increasing dividend yields with low stock price volatility.

Income strategies struggled in 2018 as the US Federal Reserve raised interest rates, lifting yields. During December, however, yields slipped as the Fed lowered the number of hikes it forecast for 2019.

#### Risk and return characteristics

			Retu	rn (%)			Annualized volatility (%)							
		EUR			USD			EUR						
	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y	1M	YTD	1Y	P/B	
1. STOXX Global Maximum Dividend 40	-7.2	-12.2	-12.2	-6.3	-16.4	-16.4	16.3	10.9	10.9	16.9	11.9	11.9	1.9	
2. STOXX Global Select Dividend 100	-5.7	-5.9	-5.9	-4.8	-10.4	-10.4	11.6	8.5	8.5	11.9	8.9	8.9	1.6	
3. STOXX Global Select 100 EUR	-4.0	-4.9	-4.9				13.2	8.7	8.7				1.1	

Risk and return performance figures for STOXX Dividend Indices, Net Return. Data as of Dec. 31, 2018. Source: STOXX Ltd.





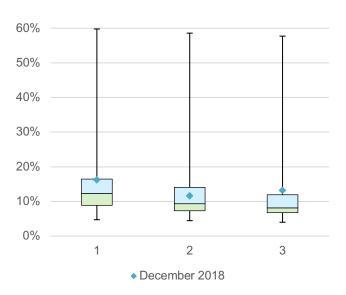


Figure 20: Monthly annualized volatility analysis, EUR Net Return. Jul. 2004 – Dec. 2018. Source: STOXX Ltd.

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