

## Santander US Equity 10/2025

## Fund commentary

The fund closed October with very positive returns in absolute terms, comfortably beating its benchmark index.

In October, equity markets showed remarkable resilience in the face of volatility stemming from the trade war, tariffs, and geopolitical tensions. These factors were offset by a strong start to the earnings season and a partial de-escalation of conflicts. The S&P 500 reached new record highs despite the US government shutdown.

In relative terms, the biggest contributors during the month were stocks in the Healthcare sector (thanks to the strong performance of companies such as Intuitive Surgical, with a solid Q3 report that dispelled doubts about future quarters, Thermo-Fisher, IQVIA, and Eli Lilly, with its obesity franchise continuing to show solid growth), Industrials (notably Caterpillar and Trane Technologies, after posting solid Q3 results, while was a positive to be short Fiserv, which fell sharply after cutting its guidance significantly), Technology (where the good results of IBM, Salesforce, Micron, and Lam Research translated into solid performance during the period) and Consumer Cyclicals (Amazon beat Q3 results and raised guidance for the next quarter). On the downside, Linde's weak performance in basic materials stands out, slightly reducing its 2025 guidance, citing a contraction in industrial activity that is having a major impact on its business.

As for portfolio changes carried out during the period, within the healthcare sector, we sold DexCom due to the possibility that software failures reported in its G7 product could lead to legal action in the United States. In its place, we added Gilead, a biotech company with significant exposure to virology, particularly HIV treatment, and an extensive portfolio of products in development that give it long-term visibility.

In technology, we reduced our weighting in Apple, underweighting it versus the benchmark, as we see no signs of strong demand for the new iPhone 17 and believe it is lagging behind its competitors in the artificial intelligence innovation cycle. Meanwhile, we increased our exposure to Netflix, which we continue to believe is a structural winner that benefits from its strong content offering, which encourages increased user engagement.

Finally, in consumer goods, we removed Colgate from the portfolio due to expectations of weak third-quarter results that could lead to a downward revision of the year's guidance. In its place, we added Hasbro, a leading toy and family entertainment company with brands such as Power Rangers, Monopoly, Peppa Pig, and Wizards of the Coast, among many others.

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Currently, the fund has an equity exposure of around 99%. In terms of sector positioning, the largest overweights are in the financial, technology and industrial sectors. Meanwhile, the largest underweights are the pharmaceutical, consumer cyclical and energy sectors.

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