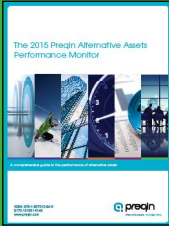


Welcome to the latest edition of Hedge Fund Spotlight, the monthly newsletter from Preqin providing insights into the hedge fund industry, including information on investors, funds, performance and more. Hedge Fund Spotlight combines information from our suite of **Hedge Fund Online** services.

December 2015
Volume 7 - Issue 9

FEATURED PUBLICATION:

2015 Preqin Alternative Assets
Performance Monitor



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Hedge Fund Spotlight

December 2015



Hedge Fund Spotlight: 2015 in Review

In Preqin's last Hedge Fund Spotlight of the year, we take a closer look at the key events of 2015 drawing on data from Preqin's **Hedge Fund Online** and **Research Center Premium**.

- January** – Central Bank Intervention Results in Winners and Losers
- February** – Hedge Funds Post Their Highest Return of 2015
- March** – Hedge Funds Post Best Quarter Since Q4 2013
- April** – Liquid Alternatives Continue to Grow
- May** – Fund Managers with \$1bn or More in Assets Control 92% of All Industry Capital
- June** – Trend Reversal in Oil Markets Dents CTA Performance
- July** – Greek Debt Crisis Hits European Hedge Funds
- August** – China's "Black Monday" Impacts Hedge Funds Globally
- September** – 50:1 – Investors Receive 50 Fund Proposals for Every One Investment Made
- October** – Hedge Funds End Four-Month Losing Streak with 1.90% Gain
- November** – Europe-Based Private Sector Pension Funds Cut Hedge Funds
- December** – BlueCrest Announces it Will Return All Capital Back to Investors

Performance Benchmarks

The latest hedge fund performance benchmarks. – [Page 8](#)

Conferences Spotlight

Details of upcoming hedge fund conferences around the world that Preqin will be attending in the near future. – [Page 10](#)



You can download all the data in this month's Spotlight in Excel.

Wherever you see this symbol, the data is available for free download on Excel. Just click on the symbol and your download will begin automatically. You are welcome to use the data in any presentations you are preparing; please cite Preqin as the source.

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Hedge Fund Spotlight: 2015 in Review

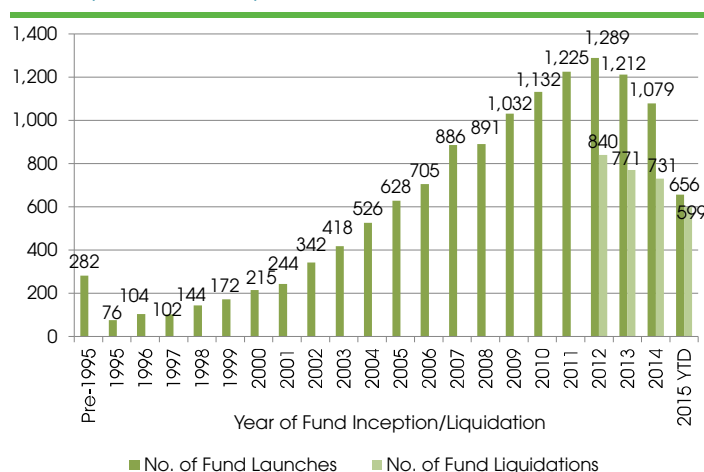
In Preqin's last Hedge Fund Spotlight of the year we take a closer look at the key events of 2015, drawing on data from Preqin's [Hedge Fund Online](#) and research from our [Research Center Premium](#).

January: Central Bank Intervention Results in Winners and Losers

Although hedge funds had a positive start to 2015 in terms of performance, with the Preqin All-Strategies Hedge Fund benchmark posting +0.07%, some funds struggled as a result of central bank intervention. In January, the European Central Bank (ECB) announced a €60bn per month quantitative easing strategy, lasting until at least September 2016. Europe's markets also reacted to the Swiss Central Bank removing its currency cap. These events resulted in Europe-focused funds gaining 1.33% for the month, in comparison with North America-focused funds which posted -0.73%. However, funds positioned on the wrong side of the de-peg found themselves underwater, leading to a number of notable closures, including Everest Capital Management, which liquidated six out of its seven funds, citing the Swiss Central Bank intervention as the leading reason behind this.

As shown in Fig. 1, Preqin has tracked 599 fund liquidations in 2015 compared with 656 fund launches. Although both numbers are expected to grow as more data becomes available, it is likely that 2015 will show the smallest net growth in terms of the number of funds since Preqin started tracking this data in 2012.

Fig. 1: Hedge Fund Launches and Fund Liquidations by Year of Inception/Fund Liquidation



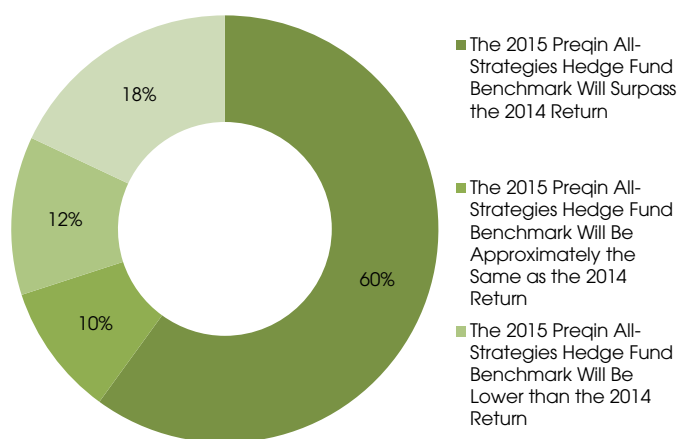
Source: Preqin Hedge Fund Online

February: Hedge Funds Post Their Highest Return of 2015

In February, the Preqin All-Strategies Hedge Fund benchmark posted its highest monthly return (+2.13%) since January 2013 and the highest monthly return of 2015 (as of 30 November 2015).

Following a second month of positive returns, the prediction made by 60% of hedge fund managers in [February's Hedge Fund Spotlight](#) – that hedge funds in 2015 would outperform the 2014 benchmark – appeared accurate (Fig. 2). However, as of 30 November 2015, the year-to-date return is +2.34%; therefore, hedge funds will need to post their highest return of 2015 in December to reach the 4.63% gain achieved in 2014, and for fund managers to be proved correct in their initial prediction.

Fig. 2: Fund Manager Outlook on Performance in 2015



Source: Preqin Hedge Fund Spotlight, February 2015

Research Center Premium

All of the **free** research reports, newsletters, statistics and tools Preqin offers can be found in one place: Preqin's **Research Center Premium**. This free service provides access to analysis of the latest trends in alternative assets, as well as benchmarking tools, useful presentation slide decks from recent conferences and much more.

For more information, please visit:

www.preqin.com/rcp

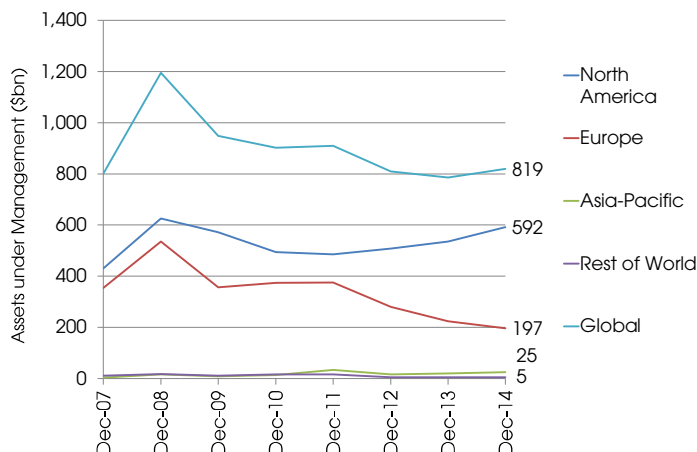


March: Hedge Funds Post Best Quarter Since Q4 2013

Q1 2015 ended positively; the Preqin All-Strategies Hedge Fund benchmark added +3.03% over the quarter. Nonetheless, these gains during the start of the year would almost be wiped out by September 2015, following the market turmoil of the third quarter.

In March, Preqin examined the increasing contrast between the fortunes of Europe- and North America-based funds of hedge funds. The assets under management (AUM) of funds of hedge funds globally grew by \$39bn in 2014. North America continued to grow in dominance as the centre for funds of hedge funds (Fig. 3). In contrast, the AUM of Europe-based funds of hedge funds declined further over 2014.

Fig. 3: Fund of Hedge Funds Managers' Assets under Management by Manager Location, December 2007 - December 2014



Source: Preqin Hedge Fund Online

Data Source:

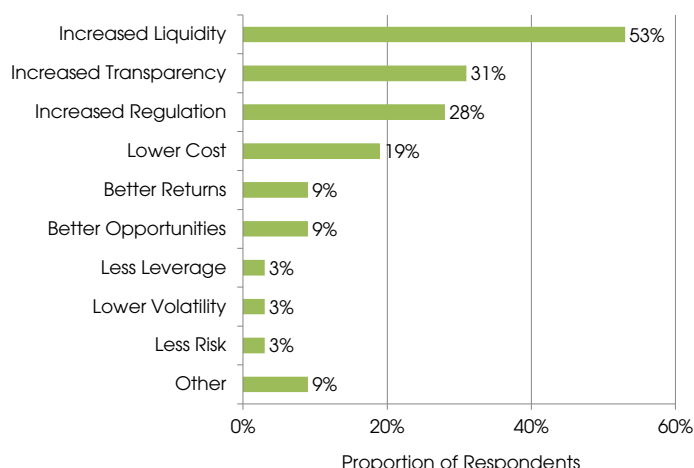
Preqin tracks over **720 funds of hedge funds** active in the hedge fund industry today.

For more information, please visit: www.preqin.com/hedge

April: Liquid Alternatives Continue to Grow

In April 2015, Preqin released [Liquid Alternatives: Investor and Fund Manager Outlook](#), which took a closer look at UCITS and alternative mutual funds in the hedge fund sector. Over recent years, there has been a proliferation of these regulated funds as an alternative to commingled products for investors seeking a liquid and transparent method of gaining access to hedge fund strategies. Fig. 4, taken from this report, shows the leading reasons why institutional investors choose to allocate capital to liquid alternatives.

Fig. 4: Investors' Reasons for Investing in Liquid Alternatives



Source: Preqin Liquid Alternatives: Investor and Fund Manager Outlook

Data Source:

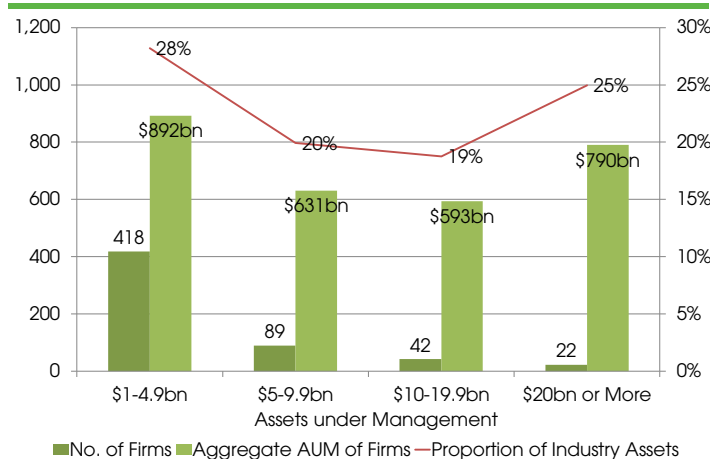
Preqin tracks over **1,700 liquid alternative funds** and nearly **400 investors** in these products.

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May: Fund Managers with \$1bn or More in Assets Control 92% of All Industry Capital

Preqin's May edition of [Hedge Fund Spotlight](#) covered the '\$1bn Club' of investors with \$1bn or more invested in hedge funds, as well as fund managers with \$1bn or more in AUM. The study revealed that 63 new fund managers had joined the club since the [study was conducted one year previously](#), and this group of over 570 fund managers account for 92% of all capital in the hedge fund space today. Fig. 5 shows the distribution of assets and fund managers within the \$1bn club.

Fig. 5: Assets under Management Distribution within the \$1bn Club



Source: Preqin Hedge Fund Spotlight, May 2015



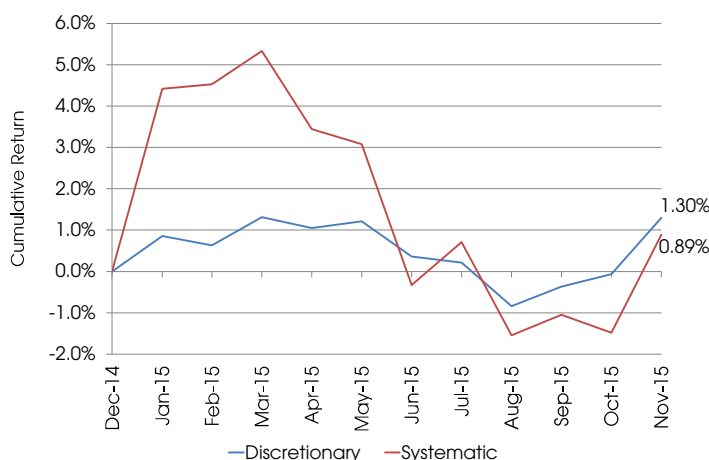
June: Trend Reversal in Oil Markets Dents CTA Performance

With many CTAs trading instruments derived from fossil fuel prices, a number of significant events in the oil and natural gas markets greatly impacted CTAs over Q2 2015. Reports of US oil and natural gas drilling activity falling to a six-year low, combined with supply concerns amid growing tensions in the Middle East and OPEC's announcement that they would not be cutting oil production, were among the catalysts for CTAs' downfall.

These events led to major trend reversals which many CTAs were unable to cope with. In June, CTAs posted a loss of 2.36%, and ended Q2 on -3.74%. The June return represented the worst monthly loss for CTAs since the height of the Global Financial Crisis in 2008.

As our November [Hedge Fund Spotlight](#) would go on to show, CTAs would continue to struggle over 2015, with both the discretionary and systematic CTAs also posting losses in Q3. However, a strong return in November for both trading styles brought both discretionary and systematic strategies back into the black, with each having a YTD return of +1.30% and +0.89%, respectively (as of 30 November 2015).

Fig. 6: Cumulative Returns of Discretionary and Systematic CTAs in 2015 (As of 30 November 2015)



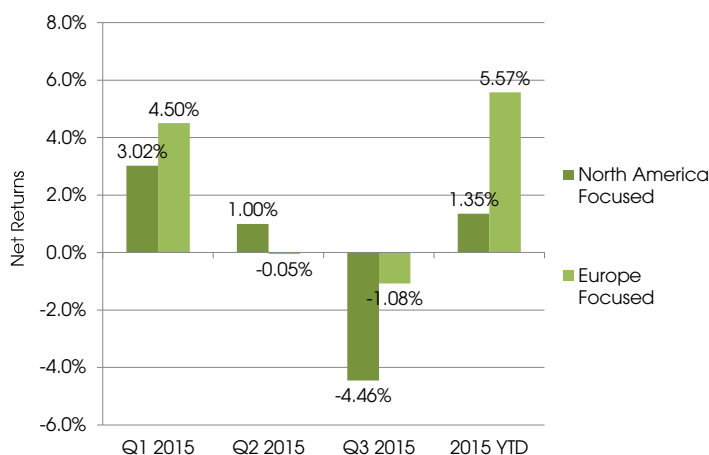
Source: Preqin Hedge Fund Online

July: Greek Debt Crisis Hits European Hedge Funds

The crisis in Greece reached its peak in July. On 13 July 2015, Greece and its European creditors agreed a deal for an €86bn bailout over three years. Hedge funds with a focus on Europe were hit by the uncertainty in the region and subsequent volatility in Europe's markets as the Greek debt crisis unfolded. Following the bailout deal, however, Europe-focused funds were able to post a positive return of 0.79% in July following the loss of 1.05% in June.

Although Europe-focused funds have faced many challenging events in 2015, these funds have largely been able to generate better performance than their North America-focused counterparts. As shown in Fig. 7, although Europe-focused funds fell behind North America-focused funds in Q2 2015, stronger performance in Q1, Q3 and the start of Q4 has resulted in the Preqin Europe Hedge Fund benchmark generating a return of +5.57% (YTD), compared with the Preqin North America Hedge Fund benchmark return of +1.29% over 2015 so far.

Fig. 7: Performance of North America- and Europe-Focused Hedge Funds in 2015 (As of 30 November 2015)



Source: Preqin Hedge Fund Online

August: China's "Black Monday" Impacts Hedge Funds Globally

The financial crisis in China, which had been unfolding over June and July, reached a head in August when China devalued the Yuan on 11 August in response to economic slowdown. Markets worldwide began to see losses, and on 24 August the Shanghai composite index fell by 8.50% – its biggest one-day loss in eight years. However, following renewed government market-rescue measures, the Shanghai composite index gained 4.80% on 28 August. The crisis in China had a wide-reaching impact on the hedge fund sector: all major hedge fund benchmarks made losses over the month and the Preqin All-Strategies Hedge Fund benchmark posted -2.21% over August. In turn, this also resulted in several major fund closures in 2015, such as Fortress Macro Fund, Absolute Return Capital's, Absolute Return Cayman and BlackRock Global Ascent Fund.

Fig. 8: Hedge Fund Launches and Hedge Fund Closures in 2015 by Strategy (As at 30 November 2015)



Source: 2016 Preqin Global Hedge Fund Report

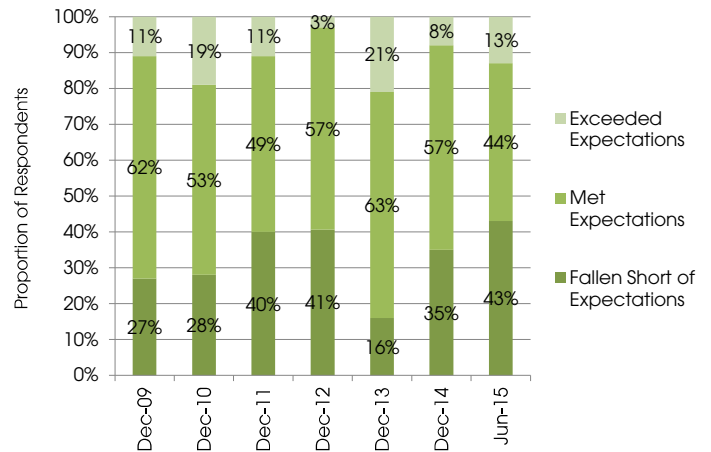
Fig. 8 offers an early look at our forthcoming 2016 Preqin Global Hedge Fund Report; the chart shows the number of fund closures and launches in each major strategy over 2015.



September: 50:1 – Investors Receive 50 Fund Proposals for Every One Investment Made

In September 2015, Preqin released an [infographic](#) demonstrating how investors source and select funds. Based on interviews with over 450 institutional investors, the data revealed that investors receive, on average, 156 proposals each year; from this pool they typically make three new investments. The results were taken from our [H2 2015 Investor Outlook: Alternative Assets](#), which also revealed that 43% of investors felt that hedge fund performance had not met expectations over the past 12 months (as of June 2015), as shown in Fig. 9.

Fig. 9: Hedge Fund Portfolio Performance Relative to Expectations of Institutional Investors, December 2009 - June 2015



Source: H2 2015 Preqin Investor Outlook: Alternative Assets

Data Source:

Preqin's **Fund Searches and Mandates** feature tracks those institutional investors actively searching for new hedge funds now.

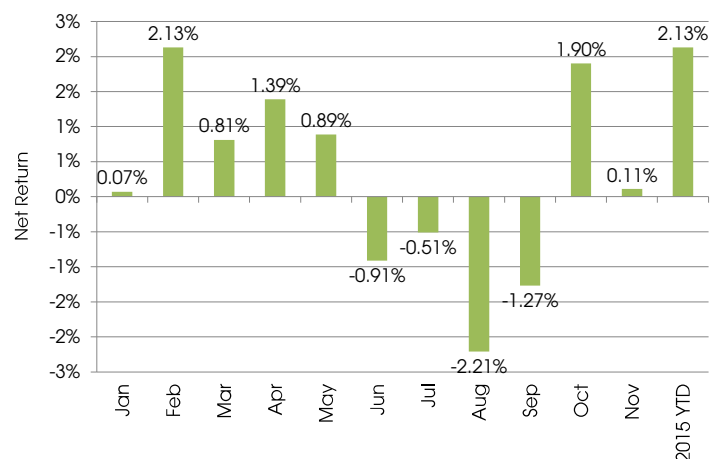
To find out more, please register for a demo at:

www.preqin.com/demo

October: Hedge Funds End Four-Month Losing Streak with 1.90% Gain

Following the performance difficulties experienced by much of the hedge fund sector over the summer, hedge funds were able to shake off a four-month streak of negative returns with a gain of 1.90% in October 2015.

Fig. 10: Preqin All-Strategies Hedge Fund Benchmark Return, January 2015 - November 2015



Source: Preqin Hedge Fund Online

Data Source:

Preqin's **Hedge Fund Online** service includes access to our **Market Benchmarks**. These market benchmarks, updated daily, track the performance of hedge funds, CTAs and liquid alternatives and can be drilled down by fund regional focus, strategy, trading style and size to create benchmarks customized for your fund.

For more information, please visit:

www.preqin.com/hedge



November: Europe-Based Private Sector Pension Funds Cut Hedge Funds

In November 2015, UK-based Railways Pension Trustee Company (Railpen) announced that it was cutting its exposure to hedge funds. In fact, the £20bn pension scheme had been unwinding its holdings throughout 2015 in an attempt to cut costs across its portfolio. Railpen had been investing in hedge funds since 2005, and at its peak invested 10% of its total assets in the space.

The exit of Railpen from hedge funds is part of a wider trend across Europe among private sector pension funds (Fig. 11). Since 2013, the number of Europe-based private sector pension funds

investing in hedge funds has declined from 205 to 189; in contrast, the number of private sector pension funds globally investing in hedge funds has increased to 715 from 666 in 2013.

Over this period, pension funds based both in Europe and across the globe have increased their allocations to hedge funds. However, Europe-based private sector pension funds dedicate, on average, smaller proportions of their portfolios to hedge funds than their counterparts on a global scale.

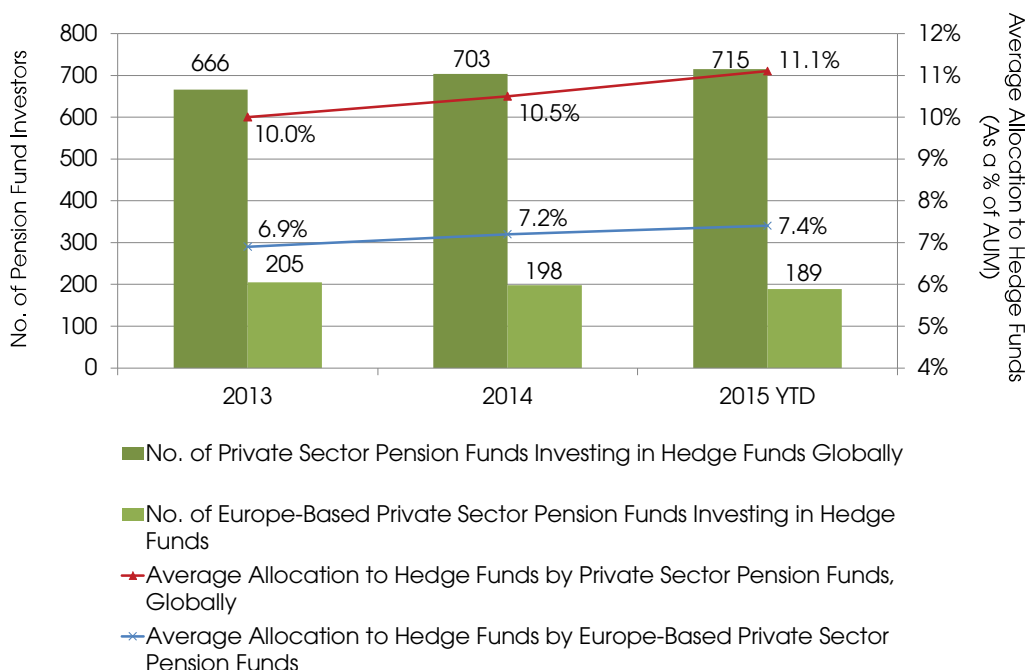
Data Source:

Preqin tracks **715 private sector pension schemes** that invest in hedge funds. With full profiles on each private sector pension fund, we can help identify more information about their investment preferences, such as strategy, structure and requirements from fund managers as well as direct key contact details for each institution.

For more information, please visit:

www.preqin.com/hedge

Fig. 11: Breakdown of European and Global Private Sector Pension Funds' Participation in Hedge Funds by Number and Allocation, 2013 - 2015 YTD (As at 30 November 2015)

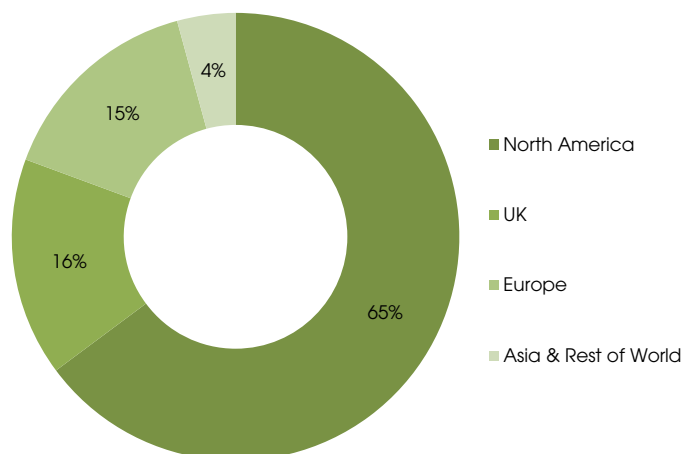


Source: Preqin Hedge Fund Online

December: BlueCrest Announces it Will Return All Capital Back to Investors

The \$8bn hedge fund manager announced on 1 December 2015 that it would be returning all investor capital and as a result would become a family office. Preqin's [Hedge Fund Online](#) service tracks over 150 institutional clients of BlueCrest, all of whom will soon be receiving their capital back and looking for new funds in 2016. Fig. 12 shows the breakdown of BlueCrest's institutional client base by the location of each investor.

Fig. 12: Breakdown by Location of BlueCrest's Institutional Client Base (As at 30 November 2015)



Source: Preqin Hedge Fund Online

Data Source:

Preqin's **Search by Firm and Fund** feature on our award winning [Hedge Fund Online](#) can help you pinpoint investors in specific hedge funds.

To find out more about how this tool can help you, please visit:

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Preqin Performance Benchmarks

November 2015

Fig. 1: Summary of Preliminary November 2015 Performance Benchmarks (Net Return, %)*

Benchmark Name	Nov-15	Oct-15	2015 YTD	12 Months
Hedge Funds	0.12	1.90	2.31	2.23
HF - Equity Strategies	-0.04	2.80	1.31	1.32
HF - Event Driven Strategies	0.04	1.33	0.23	-0.05
HF - Relative Value	0.35	0.99	5.27	5.22
HF - Macro Strategies	0.13	0.60	2.66	2.38
HF - Multi-Strategy	1.30	1.19	4.71	4.94
HF - Credit Strategies	-0.25	0.55	2.20	1.91
Activist	0.32	2.18	2.99	3.19
Volatility	0.38	2.05	5.29	5.00
Discretionary	0.16	1.99	2.78	2.93
Systematic	0.17	1.52	5.83	6.12
HF - North America	0.23	1.93	1.35	1.71
HF - Europe	0.82	1.34	5.57	5.73
HF - Asia-Pacific	0.35	2.97	7.11	7.80
HF - Developed Markets	0.41	0.72	3.59	4.14
HF - Emerging Markets	-0.40	2.11	1.16	0.03
HF - USD	0.06	1.94	1.33	1.25
HF - EUR	0.43	1.03	2.65	1.99
HF - GBP	-0.21	1.00	0.65	0.08
HF - JPY	0.75	1.49	5.52	5.99
HF - BRL	1.02	1.22	6.68	5.57
HF - Emerging (Less Than \$100mn)	0.15	2.22	1.89	1.59
HF - Small (\$100mn-\$999mn)	0.41	1.49	3.14	3.57
HF - Medium (\$500mn-\$999mn)	0.41	1.17	2.65	2.60
HF - Large (\$1bn plus)	0.09	0.90	2.65	3.23
Funds of Hedge Funds	0.34	0.85	1.61	2.04
FOHF - Equity Strategies	0.31	2.09	2.26	2.54
FOHF - Macro Strategies	0.10	0.09	-0.56	0.79
FOHF - Multi-Strategy	0.43	0.44	1.63	2.06
Funds of CTAs	3.64	-1.91	-3.07	-0.10
FOHF - USD	0.04	0.79	0.44	0.68
FOHF - EUR	1.07	0.75	1.86	1.94
Alternative Mutual Funds	-0.47	1.82	-2.22	-2.52
UCITS	0.25	1.75	1.17	0.76
UCITS - Equity Strategies	0.64	2.40	2.78	2.18
UCITS - Relative Value	0.12	0.82	1.11	0.90
UCITS - Macro Strategies	-0.22	1.20	-1.53	-1.93
UCITS - USD	-0.21	1.84	-1.25	-2.01
UCITS - EUR	0.51	1.85	2.68	2.47
CTAs	2.04	-1.17	1.43	2.33
Discretionary	1.59	0.12	1.30	0.60
Systematic	2.41	-1.10	0.89	1.98
CTA - USD	2.02	-1.24	1.14	1.86
CTA - EUR	2.46	-0.87	1.48	2.65

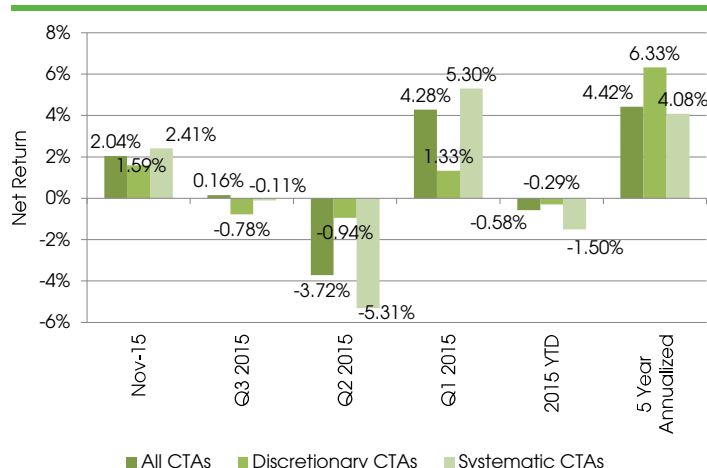
*Please note, all performance information includes preliminary data for November 2015 based upon net returns reported to Preqin in early December 2015. Although stated trends and comparisons are not expected to alter significantly, final benchmark values are subject to change.

Source: Preqin Hedge Fund Analyst

November proved to be a month of muted performance for hedge funds across all strategies and regions, generating +0.12% for the month. It was a particularly disappointing month for equity strategies which went from being the top performing strategy in October (+2.80%) to one of the worst, generating losses of 0.09% for the month. The top performing strategy was multi-strategy funds, generating +1.30%, outperforming all other strategies, with the next highest return posted by macro strategies of +0.13%. Over the longer term, relative value strategies continue to outperform all other strategies over the past 12 month period posting returns of +5.22%.

CTAs bounced back from a disappointing October (-1.17%), generating returns of +2.04%, their highest monthly return since January this year. Between the two trading styles there is a distinct contrast in returns with discretionary generating +0.60% over the past 12 months compared with systematic, which have generated +1.98% over the same period.

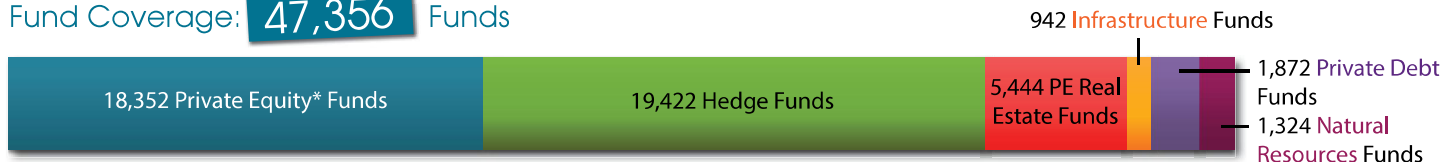
Fig. 2: Performance of CTAs (As at November 2015)



Source: Preqin Hedge Fund Analyst

alternative assets. intelligent data.

Fund Coverage: **47,356** Funds



Firm Coverage: **22,780** Firms



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*Private Equity includes buyout, venture capital, distressed, growth, natural resources and mezzanine funds.

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***Venture capital deals: Preqin tracks cash-for-equity investments by professional venture capital firms in companies globally across all venture capital stages, from seed to expansion phase. The deals figures provided by Preqin are based on announced venture capital rounds when the capital is committed to a company.

****Preqin contacts investors directly to ensure their alternatives programs are active. We emphasize active investors, but clients can also view profiles for investors no longer investing or with programs on hold.



Conferences Spotlight

Conference	Dates	Location	Organizer	Preqin Speaker
Public Funds Summit	13 - 15 January 2016	Scottsdale, AZ	Opal Finance Group	–
MFA Network	25 - 27 January 2016	Miami, FL	MFA	Amy Bensted
Alternative Finance Forum	27 January 2016	London	Informa	–
Cap Intro: L/S Equity Quant Investing	1 February 2016	New York	Catalyst Financial Partners	–
Cayman Alternative Investment Summit	4 - 5 February 2016	Grand Cayman	CAIS Ltd	–
European Family Office Winter Symposium	8 - 9 February 2016	London	Opal Finance Group	–
All Senior Delegates Roundtable	10 - 12 February 2016	Miami, FL	All	Amy Bensted
Alpha Hedge East	29 February - 1 March 2016	Palm Beach Gardens, FL	IMN	Amy Bensted
Investment Consultants Forum	8 March 2016	New York	Opal Finance Group	–
Family Office Winter Forum	8 March 2016	New York	Opal Finance Group	–
Women's Private Equity Summit	9 - 11 March 2016	California	Falk Marques Group	–
Cap Intro: Credit Fixed Income Alternative Investing	14 March 2016	New York	Catalyst Financial Partners	–
Family Office & Endowment Investment Forum	4 - 5 April 2016	Toronto	Opal Finance Group	–
Cap Intro West: Hedge Fund Investing	18 April 2016	San Francisco	Catalyst Financial Partners	–
Cap Intro: Macro, Merger Arb. & Activist Investing	16 May 2016	New York	Catalyst Financial Partners	–
Emerging Managers Summit	23 - 25 May 2016	Chicago, IL	Opal Finance Group	–
Family Office & Private Wealth Management Forum	18 - 20 July 2016	Newport, RI	Opal Finance Group	–
Cap Intro: L/S Equity Event Driven Investing	19 September 2016	New York	Catalyst Financial Partners	–

Cap Intro: L/S Equity | Quant Investing 2016

Date: 1 February 2016

Information: <http://catalystforum.com/node/360>

Location: New York City

Organizer: Catalyst Financial Partners

Catalyst Cap Intro Events are exclusive, sector focused, investor driven events that host hand-picked investors and investment managers that intend to become investment partners. This Catalyst Cap Intro Event focuses only on the L/S Equity | Quant investing sectors. Introductions are accomplished through private meetings which are arranged prior the events, where investors request meetings based on the merits of each investment manager. Investors are pre-screened and pre-qualified prior the events and constitute mainly single and multi-family offices, HNWs, endowment and foundations, and their advisors, located in the Eastern US, but also internationally.



The 22nd Annual Alpha Hedge East 2016

Date: 29 February - 1 March 2016

Information: <http://www.imn.org/alphaeast16>

Location: Palm Beach Gardens, FL

Organizer: IMN

IMN will host the 22nd Annual Alpha Hedge East conference, February 29-March 1, 2016, at the PGA National Resort & Spa, Palm Beach Gardens, FL. The Alpha Hedge event series is renowned for its long history of delivering value for investment professionals who understand the importance of in-person networking and thought-exchange. The 2016 program will feature fresh content, new speakers, and an incomparable asset allocator-to-fund manager ratio, providing you with the most value for your time. As a Preqin member, take advantage of a 10% discount. Reference code: PQ10

The 22nd Annual Alpha Hedge West 2016

Date: 25-26 September 2016

Information: <http://www.imn.org/alphawest16>

Location: San Francisco, CA

Organizer: IMN

IMN's 22nd Annual Alpha Hedge West conference will take place September 2016 in San Francisco, CA. The program will focus on the key innovative approaches taken by both established and emerging fund managers in the industry. Along with influential asset allocators and regulatory bodies, the event will serve as a necessary meeting place for all members of the hedge fund community to explore new allocation strategies and look towards the future of hedge fund investing. As a Preqin member, take advantage of a 10% discount. Reference code: PQ10

With Investor Driven Meetings

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Catalyst is a leading, independent, cap intro events producer

Catalyst Cap Intro Events are sector focused, investor driven events that host hand-picked investment managers and investors that are introduced to each other with a view to become investment partners.

This Catalyst Cap Intro Event focuses only on the **L/S Equity and Quant** investing sectors.

Introductions are accomplished through private meetings which are arranged prior the events, in an investor driven fashion based on the merits of each investment manager and the requests made by the investors.



Catalyst Financial Partners has established itself as one of the leading, independent cap intro providers, with an investor events model showing a track record of resulting allocations.



New York City, February 1, 2016



We welcome you to contact us to discuss joining our cap intro event

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