

Welcome to the latest issue 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 uses information from our **Hedge Fund Online** service.

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Hedge Funds: 2016 in Review

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As 2016 draws to a close, we take a look at the key events impacting the hedge fund industry in 2016 and the leading topics that Preqin has covered in the past 12 months, using data from [Hedge Fund Online](#).

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Featured Publication



2017 Preqin Private Capital Compensation and Employment Review

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Hedge Funds: 2016 in Review

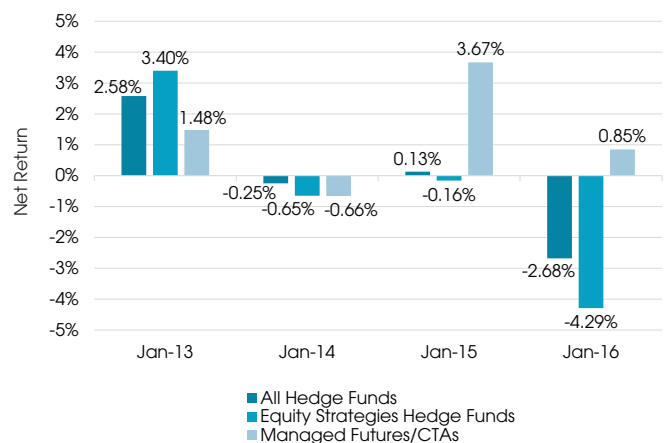
As 2016 draws to a close, we take a look at the key events impacting the hedge fund industry in 2016 and the leading topics that Preqin has covered in the past 12 months, using data from [Hedge Fund Online](#).

January: Concerns about China's Economy Leads to Shaky Start for Hedge Funds

2016 began with the S&P 500 Index experiencing its worst 10-day start to a year on record. Similarly, the FTSE 100 Index experienced its weakest first week since the turn of the century. Concerns about China's economy and the People's Bank of China's decision to lower the yuan's reference rate caused market turmoil across the globe, as Chinese markets were suspended twice in the first week of 2016, with this investor panic spreading to the US where major publicly traded firms saw significant value wiped off their market capitalization.

Unsurprisingly, equity strategies hedge funds were severely impacted, posting a January return 161 basis points lower than the Preqin All-Strategies Hedge Fund benchmark (Fig. 1). The Preqin All-Equity Strategies Hedge Fund benchmark's January return of -4.29% represents the benchmark's lowest monthly return since September 2011.

Fig. 1: January Performance: All Hedge Funds vs. Equity Strategies Hedge Funds and Managed Futures/CTAs, 2013 - 2016



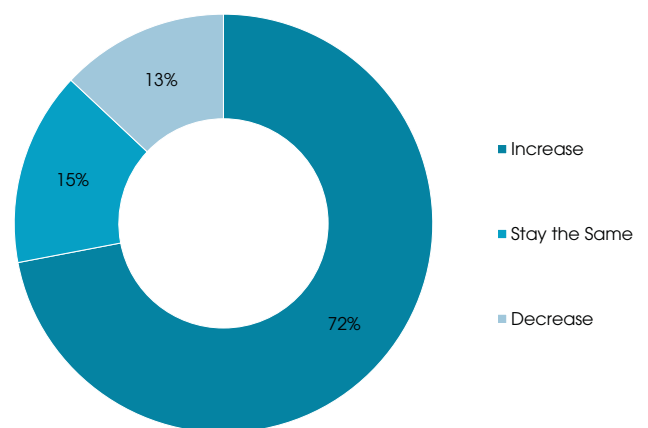
Source: Preqin Hedge Fund Online

February: Industry AUM Grows despite Challenges

In [February's issue of Hedge Fund Spotlight](#), we released the findings of our November 2015 fund manager survey, presenting their opinions on the industry and predictions for 2016. As seen in Fig. 2, nearly three-quarters (72%) of respondents predicted that the industry's assets would grow over the course of the year, despite investors voicing concern about factors such as disappointing performance and high fees.

Over the first three-quarters of 2016, the industry's assets have indeed grown, increasing 2.9% from December 2015 to \$3.2tn (as of September 2016); however, this increase in AUM has been driven by the performance of hedge funds, rather than investors allocating to the industry. The Preqin All-Strategies Hedge Fund benchmark posted seven consecutive months of positive returns from March to September, amid the industry recording \$67bn in net investor outflows as of Q3 2016, as institutions continued to evaluate their hedge fund holdings.

Fig. 2: Fund Manager Outlook for Hedge Fund Industry Assets under Management in 2016



Source: Hedge Fund Spotlight, February 2016

Data Source:

Hedge Fund Online is the leading source of intelligence on the hedge fund industry. **Hedge Fund Online** is Preqin's flagship hedge fund information resource, incorporating all of our hedge fund data, intelligence and functionality, providing you with the most comprehensive coverage of the asset class available.

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March: Trend Reversals Lead to Struggles for CTAs

March saw significant trend reversals in the commodity and equity markets, with oil prices increasing and showing a significant recovery from the lows seen in February. However, CTAs, which had started the year strongly, returning 2.66% over the first two months of 2016, saw this positive performance streak end as the Preqin All-Strategies CTA benchmark posted -1.08% in March (Fig. 3).

In equity markets, the S&P 500, Hang Seng and DAX indices all posted strong monthly gains as commentary from central banks in Europe and the US seemed to encourage investors. These market conditions drove the Preqin All-Strategies Hedge Fund benchmark return to 2.40% in March, the highest single monthly performance since January 2013.

Fig. 3: Performance of Top-Level Strategies in Q1 2016

Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Q1 2016
CTAs 0.86%	CTAs 1.78%	Equity Strategies 3.27%	CTAs 1.56%
Macro Strategies 0.11%	Macro Strategies 0.87%	Event Driven 2.93%	Macro Strategies 1.31%
Relative Value -0.92%	Multi-Strategy -0.10%	Credit Strategies 1.95%	Credit Strategies 0.23%
Credit Strategies -0.97%	Event Driven -0.42%	Multi-Strategy 1.35%	Multi-Strategy -0.22%
Multi-Strategy -1.45%	Relative Value -0.60%	Relative Value 1.11%	Relative Value -0.43%
Event Driven -2.88%	Equity Strategies -0.66%	Macro Strategies 0.33%	Event Driven -0.47%
Equity Strategies -4.32%	Credit Strategies -0.73%	CTAs -1.08%	Equity Strategies -1.84%

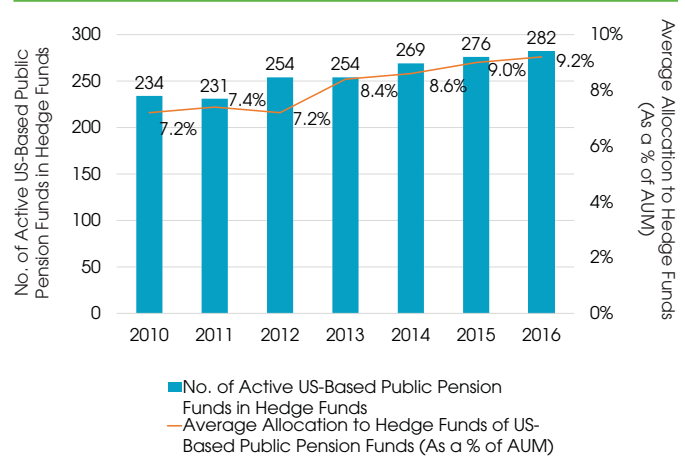
Source: Preqin Hedge Fund Online

April: NYCERS Exits Hedge Funds

In mid-April, the trustees of [New York City Employees' Retirement System \(NYCERS\)](#) voted to exit its \$1.5bn portfolio of hedge fund assets. The US-based institution, which began investing in hedge funds in 2010, cited performance objectives not being met by its hedge fund investments as one of the reasons for its disinvestment.

In April, we released our [US Public Pension Funds Update](#), which took a closer look at the universe of US-based public pension funds active in hedge funds and the role that these institutions play in the industry. Fig. 4, taken from this report, shows that since 2010 the average allocation to hedge funds of US-based public pension funds as a percentage of total AUM has increased annually, with the exception of 2012.

Fig. 4: Total Number of Active US-Based Public Pension Funds in Hedge Funds and Average Allocation over Time, 2010 - 2016 (As at April 2016)



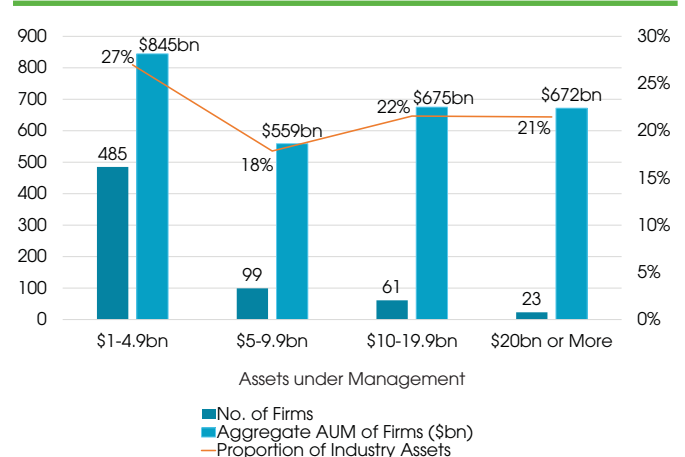
Source: Preqin Hedge Fund Online

May: Tudor Cuts Fees

May's [Hedge Fund Spotlight](#) covered the '\$1bn Club' – hedge fund managers with \$1bn or more in AUM. Since Preqin's [May 2015 \\$1bn Club review](#), 170 hedge fund managers have entered the \$1bn Club. The \$1bn Club accounts for 12% of all hedge fund managers, yet represents 88% of hedge fund industry assets (Fig. 5). However, despite the increasing number of managers in the \$1bn Club, the proportion of industry assets that these firms represent has declined from 92% in 2015.

The fees charged by hedge funds have been a hot topic throughout 2016 and May saw one \$1bn Club manager announce a reduction in the level of fees charged to investors in their flagship fund. In a letter to investors, Connecticut-based [Tudor Investment Corporation](#), which operates \$10.9bn in AUM (as of June 2016), announced that the management and performance fees charged to a share class in one of its biggest funds were being reduced by 50 basis points and 200 basis points to 2.25% and 25% respectively.

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



Source: Hedge Fund Spotlight, May 2016

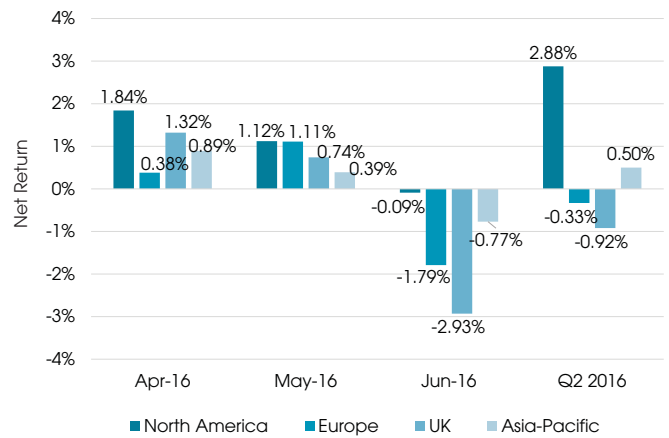


June: Visium among Large Funds Closing in 2016

On 23 June the UK voted to leave the EU, sparking significant market volatility the following day as the result was announced and the world reacted to this news. Within 24 hours, over \$2tn in global stock value was lost, the value of the pound against the US dollar dropped to a 31-year low and credit rating agencies downgraded the UK's rating. While Europe-focused hedge funds were the most affected by the market volatility caused by the Brexit vote (Fig. 6), hedge funds focused on other regions limited their downside, as the Preqin All-Strategies Hedge Fund benchmark ended June with neutral performance, returning 0.03%.

Visium Asset Management, a New York-based hedge fund manager that managed nearly \$8bn in assets at the beginning of 2016, announced to its investors in June that it was closing and several funds were to be liquidated. The announcement came as Visium was underperforming the market in 2016 and accused of mismarking securities and insider trading. Initially, it was announced that Visium's multi-sector hedge fund was to be sold to AllianceBernstein; however, this deal fell through in July.

Fig. 6: Performance of Hedge Funds by Geographic Focus, Q2 2016



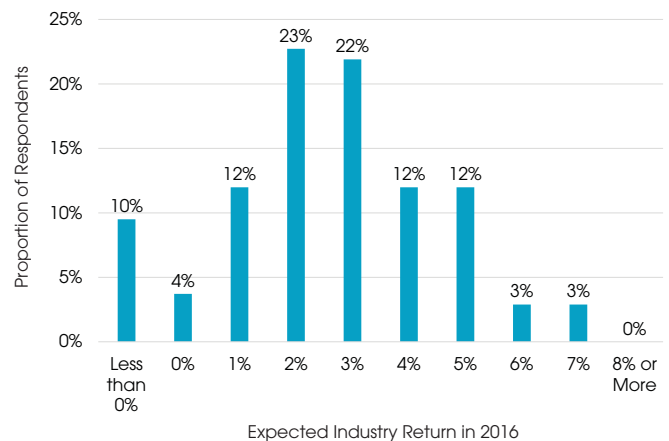
Source: Preqin Hedge Fund Online

July: Brexit Result Continues to Spark Market Volatility

In July's currency markets, the pound hit a new 31-year low as continued investor concerns about the UK's financial stability after Brexit weighed on major currency pairings. On the back of the Brexit-induced market conditions, investors appeared to flock to 'safe-haven' assets as yields on US treasury notes hit an all-time low and the price of gold was also driven to a two-year high. However, stock markets saw a recovery from the losses incurred in the immediate aftermath of the Brexit vote as the S&P 500 reached a record high.

July saw the release of Preqin Special Report: Hedge Fund Manager Outlook, which provided insight into the views and opinions of over 270 hedge fund professionals. As seen in Fig. 7, a significant 45% of fund managers predicted that by the end of 2016, the Preqin All-Strategies Hedge Fund benchmark would be approximately 2-3%. With one month of performance left in the year, the benchmark currently sits at 6.34% (page 8), with event driven strategies the highest performing sub-strategy in 2016 so far.

Fig. 7: Fund Manager Expectations for Full-Year 2016 Hedge Fund Industry Performance



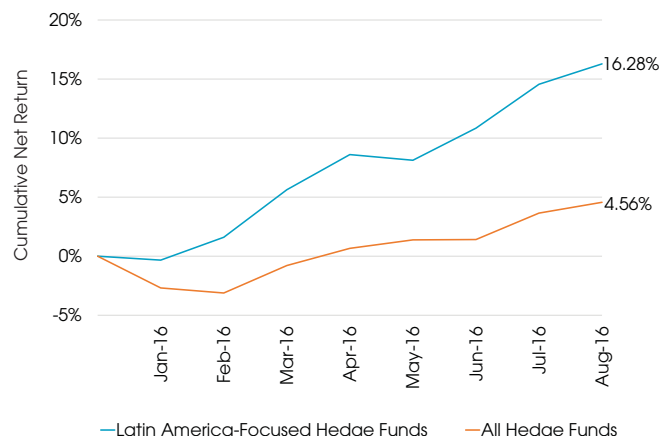
Source: Preqin Special Report: Hedge Fund Manager Outlook, July 2016

August: Latin America-Focused Hedge Funds Make Significant Gains

In the first week of August, another US-based public pension fund announced it intended to reduce its exposure to hedge funds. Following in the footsteps of NYCERS, New Jersey State Investment Council announced that it had lowered its target hedge fund allocation from 12.5% to 6%, citing the need to reduce the amount of fees charged on its investments and reduce the risk of its portfolio.

The final day of August saw the announcement that the then president of Brazil, Dilma Rousseff, had been impeached by the Brazilian Senate. As the announcement was largely expected, the market reaction was relatively steady, as Latin America-focused hedge funds gained 1.51% for the month, finishing August with a YTD return of 16.28%, nearly 12 percentage points higher than the Preqin All-Strategies Hedge Fund benchmark (Fig. 8).

Fig. 8: Cumulative Performance of Latin America-Focused Hedge Funds vs. All Hedge Funds, January 2016 - August 2016



Source: Preqin Hedge Fund Online

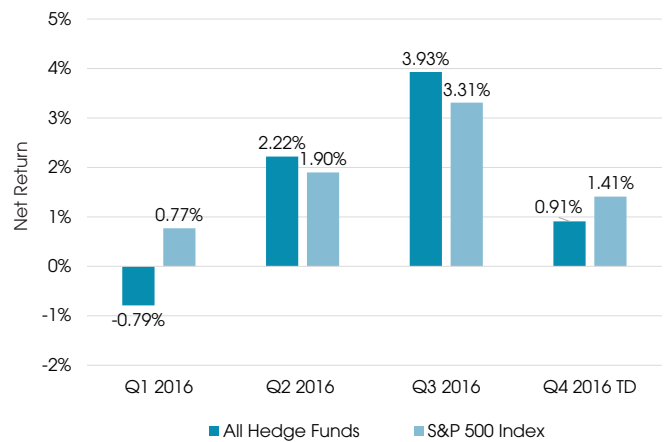


September: Hedge Funds Post Best Quarterly Return since Q1 2013

Hedge funds returned 3.93% in Q3 2016, representing the best quarterly return since Q1 2013 and outperforming the S&P 500 for the second consecutive quarter (Fig. 9). September marked the seventh consecutive month of positive hedge fund performance; however, this run ended in the following month, with hedge funds returning -0.09% in October.

After 28 years in the hedge fund industry, in September 2016 Richard Perry announced that his New York-based firm, [Perry Capital](#), will be liquidating its funds and returning capital to investors, stating that "industry and market headwinds against us have been strong". Founded in 1988, Perry Capital's assets peaked in 2007 at over \$15bn.

Fig. 9: Quarterly Performance of All Hedge Funds vs. S&P 500 Index, Q1 - Q4 2016 TD (As of November 2016)



Source: Preqin Hedge Fund Online

October: CTAs Lose Previous Gains

October was a challenging month for the hedge fund industry, with both the Preqin All-Strategies Hedge Fund and CTA benchmarks posting negative returns of -0.09% and -1.37% respectively. As of October 2016, CTAs had posted three consecutive months of negative returns, generating a loss of -3.85% and erasing the gains of 3.62% made in the first seven months of the year.

In October, Preqin launched its new [Investor Map on Hedge Fund Online](#). This map pinpoints the precise location of all the institutional investors tracked by Preqin and is an indispensable tool for anyone planning trips to visit investors or conducting analysis on the industry.

Fig. 10: Investor Map on Preqin's Hedge Fund Online



Source: Preqin Hedge Fund Online

November: CTAs Buck Trend for Outflows in 2016

In November, Preqin released its [Q3 2016 Hedge Fund Asset Flows update](#), which provided key insight into how investors had been altering their hedge fund holdings over the first three-quarters of 2016. The hedge fund industry had grown 2.9% since December 2015, despite investors recording net outflows of \$66.7bn up to the end of Q3 2016 (Fig. 11).

Investor sentiment towards CTAs seems strikingly different to that of hedge funds: CTAs have seen six consecutive quarters of net inflows since Q3 2015 and have attracted \$27.1bn of new capital since the start of 2016, as investors look for sources of uncorrelated returns.

Fig. 11: Hedge Fund Asset Flows by Strategy, Q1 - Q3 2016

Strategy	Q1 2016 (\$bn)	Q2 2016 (\$bn)	Q3 2016 (\$bn)	2016 YTD (\$bn)
CTAs	13.7	2.9	10.5	27.1
Event Driven Strategies	-2.8	3.4	-0.6	0.1
Niche Strategies	-1.5	-0.2	0.3	-1.4
Macro Strategies	-6.4	-4.9	-1.2	-12.5
Multi-Strategy	12.8	-1.6	-25.0	-13.8
Relative Value Strategies	-8.7	10.4	-16.4	-14.6
Credit Strategies	-11.9	-14.3	2.0	-24.2
Equity Strategies	-9.7	-15.6	-2.2	-27.4
Total Industry	-14.3	-19.9	-32.5	-66.7

Source: Preqin Hedge Fund Online

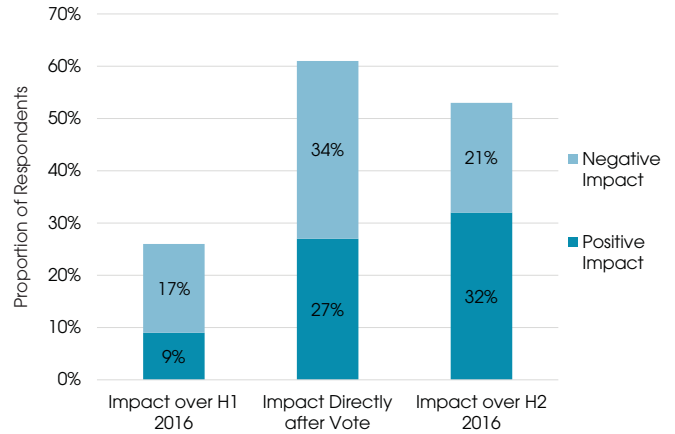


December: Fund Managers Report Positive Impact of Brexit

1 December saw significant increases in oil prices following a deal between the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and Russia to restrict output in an attempt to reduce the global supply glut; the deal represents Russia's first co-ordinated move with the oil cartel for 15 years. The news was also positively received in equity markets, with BP's shares jumping 2.4% as investors reacted to the deal.

The final month of 2016 saw the release of [Preqin Special Report: Impact of Brexit on Hedge Funds](#). Using surveys conducted by Preqin throughout the year, we provided insight into how fund managers were affected by the vote, as well as their future plans for investment in the UK and EU. In terms of performance, just 26% of fund managers noted that the vote had impacted the performance of their hedge funds in the run up to the referendum; however, in the immediate aftermath of the vote, as well as during H2 2016, fund managers saw their performance more affected by this event (Fig. 12). However, during H2 2016 a larger proportion of respondents reported a positive rather than a negative effect on performance (32% vs. 21% respectively).

Fig. 12: Hedge Fund Manager Views on the Impact of Brexit on Their Performance



Source: *Preqin Special Report: Impact of Brexit on Hedge Funds, December 2016*

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	 FUND COVERAGE	20,871 Private Equity Funds	23,148 Hedge Funds	6,064 PE Real Estate Funds	1,133 Infrastructure Funds	2,171 Private Debt Funds
 FIRM COVERAGE	10,648 Private Equity Firms	8,638 Hedge Fund Firms	3,721 PE Real Estate Firms	516 Infrastructure Firms	1,394 Private Debt Firms	872 Natural Resources Firms
 PERFORMANCE COVERAGE	6,595 Private Equity Funds	15,111 Hedge Funds	1,621 PE Real Estate Funds	228 Infrastructure Funds	783 Private Debt Funds	458 Natural Resources Funds
 FUNDRAISING COVERAGE	2,456 Private Equity Funds	15,739 Hedge Funds	1,035 PE Real Estate Funds	298 Infrastructure Funds	291 Private Debt Funds	255 Natural Resources Funds
 DEALS COVERAGE	BUYOUT 49,814 + 23,103 Buyout Deals** Exits	VENTURE CAPITAL 110,053 + 13,417 Venture Deals*** Exits	REAL ESTATE 26,326 Real Estate Deals	INFRASTRUCTURE 23,388 Infrastructure Deals		

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Performance Benchmarks

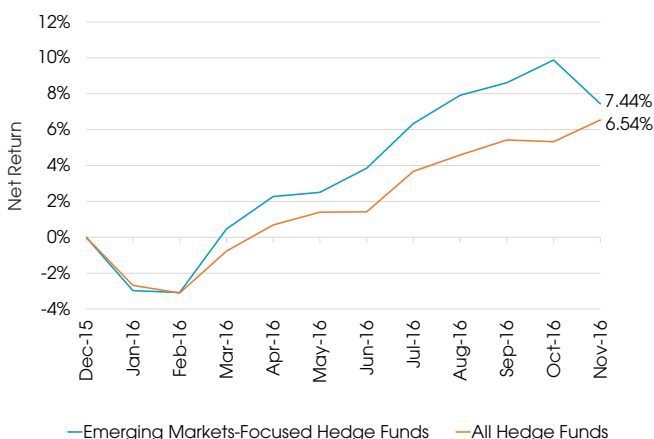
Fig. 1: Summary of Preliminary November 2016 Performance Benchmarks (Net Return, %)*

	Nov-16	Oct-16	2016 YTD	12 Months
Hedge Funds	1.00	-0.09	6.34	5.72
HF - Equity Strategies	1.10	-0.54	5.77	4.99
HF - Event Driven Strategies	2.34	0.13	10.74	9.76
HF - Relative Value Strategies	0.84	0.67	4.08	3.88
HF - Macro Strategies	0.35	-0.13	5.77	5.15
HF - Multi-Strategy	0.36	-0.03	5.41	5.04
HF - Credit Strategies	0.10	0.84	7.14	6.58
Activist	2.34	-0.32	8.67	8.19
Volatility	0.65	0.08	6.58	6.02
Discretionary	1.02	-0.01	5.82	5.16
Systematic	0.28	-0.39	3.57	3.49
HF - North America	2.89	-0.69	9.09	7.76
HF - Europe	0.09	0.02	1.07	1.01
HF - Asia-Pacific	-0.47	0.41	1.88	2.45
HF - Developed Markets	0.96	-0.49	5.20	4.33
HF - Emerging Markets	-1.73	1.15	7.91	7.74
HF - Emerging (Less than \$100mn)	0.89	-0.01	6.72	6.12
HF - Small (\$100-499mn)	0.97	-0.21	5.46	4.88
HF - Medium (\$500-999mn)	0.36	0.46	3.86	3.40
HF - Large (\$1bn or More)	1.10	0.37	4.11	3.69
Funds of Hedge Funds	0.36	-0.13	-0.97	-1.55
FOHF - Equity Strategies	0.37	-0.52	-1.02	-1.60
FOHF - Multi-Strategy	0.30	-0.08	-1.23	-1.80
Funds of CTAs	-1.44	-3.09	-4.63	-7.53
FOHF - USD	0.50	-0.24	-0.68	-1.16
FOHF - EUR	0.21	-0.38	-3.17	-3.86
Alternative Mutual Funds	0.90	-1.13	2.03	0.70
UCITS	-0.49	-0.11	-0.04	-0.84
UCITS - Equity Strategies	-0.60	-0.29	-0.95	-1.50
UCITS - Relative Value Strategies	-1.14	0.11	-0.69	-1.09
UCITS - Macro Strategies	-0.07	0.76	1.07	-0.44
UCITS - USD	-0.69	-0.27	0.18	-0.49
UCITS - EUR	-0.52	-0.10	-0.68	-1.54
CTAs	0.07	-1.37	-0.30	-1.69
Discretionary	0.75	1.39	4.90	5.06
Systematic	-0.07	-2.29	-1.79	-3.34
CTA - USD	-0.37	-1.42	-0.31	-1.78
CTA - EUR	0.87	-2.10	-6.16	-7.66

*Please note, all performance information includes preliminary data for November 2016 based on net returns reported to Preqin in early December 2016. Although stated trends and comparisons are not expected to alter significantly, final benchmark values are subject to change.

Source: Preqin Hedge Fund Online

Fig. 2: Emerging-Markets Focused Hedge Funds vs. All Hedge Funds, December 2015 - November 2016



Source: Preqin Hedge Fund Online

November was a positive month for the Preqin All-Strategies Hedge Fund benchmark, adding 1.00%. Funds employing an activist trading style returned 2.34% in November, while event driven strategies were the highest performing top-level strategy, returning 2.34%. North America-focused funds, which gained 2.89% in November, outperformed all other top-level regions, perhaps benefitting from the rally in equity markets in the wake of the US presidential election.

Conversely, fears of a possible greater level of protectionism in the US and a subsequent reduction in trade led to declines in emerging market equities during November. The impact of this was seen in the Preqin All-Emerging Markets Hedge Fund benchmark, down 1.73%, which is its first negative return since February 2016. CTAs remained largely flat for November (+0.07%), while UCITS funds struggled, losing 0.49%. With just one month left of 2016, hedge funds look set to outperform the 2015 Preqin All-Strategies Hedge Fund benchmark of 2.08%, with the current YTD return of 6.34% marking a significant improvement in the performance of the asset class.



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New York City, January 30, 2017

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Conferences

Conference	Dates	Location	Organizer	Preqin Speaker
LSE Alternative Investments Conference	16 - 17 January 2017	London	LSE	–
Cap Intro: L/S Equity Quant Alternative Investing	30 January 2017	New York	Catalyst Financial Partners	–
MFA Network	30 January - 1 February 2017	Miami, FL	MFA	Amy Bensted
Fund Marketing & Distribution 2017	30 January - 1 February 2017	London	KNect365	–
European Family Office Winter Symposium 2017	1 - 2 February 2017	London	Opal Financial Group	–
Cayman Alternative Investment Summit (CAIS)	15 - 17 February 2017	Grand Cayman	CAIS Ltd.	–
UCITS & AIFMD for US Managers 2017	28 February - 1 March 2017	New York	KNect365	–
Family Office Winter Forum 2017	1 March 2017	New York	Opal Financial Group	–
6th Amsterdam Investor Forum	7 - 8 March 2017	Amsterdam	ABN AMRO	–
North American Pensions Summit	20 - 21 March 2017	Chicago, IL	marcus evans Summits	–
Global Sovereign Wealth Forum	29 - 30 March 2017	London	IRN	–
Cap Intro: Credit Fixed Income Alternative Investing	3 April 2017	New York	Catalyst Financial Partners	–
Impact Investing Forum 2017	23 - 25 April 2017	Boca Raton, FL	Opal Financial Group	–

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7th Specialty Finance Summit

Date: 11 - 12 January 2017

Information: <https://goo.gl/IgGT1V>

Location: New York

Organizer: iGlobal Forum

At iGlobal Forum's upcoming 7th Specialty Finance Summit taking place on January 11th and 12th in New York, we will cover all of the strategies in navigating new compliance requirements while continuing to find returns.



Catalyst Cap Intro: L/S Equity | Quant Investing

Date: 30 January 2017

Information: <http://catalystforum.com/events/l-s-equity-quant-investing-2/>

Location: New York City

Organizer: Catalyst Financial Partners

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 | Quant Investing sectors. Strategies covered include, among others: fundamental research, global equity, merger arbitrage, small/micro caps, regional/international, industry specific, trend/signals, as well as options, volatility/statistical arbitrage, high-frequency, and model/systematic funds.

Cayman Alternative Investment Summit (CAIS)

Date: 15 - 17 February 2017

Information: <https://www.caymansummit.com/>

Location: Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands

Organizer: CAIS Ltd.

Now in its fourth year, the Cayman Alternative Investment Summit brings together leading thinkers and decision makers from different segments of the global alternatives industry. The Summit has quickly grown to become one of the most influential discussion forums within the alternative investment space.

UCITS & AIFMD for US Managers

Date: 28 February - 1 March 2017

Information: https://finance.knect365.com/ucits-aifmd-for-us-managers/?utm_source=preqin&utm_campaign=FKW53465PQIN&utm_medium=email&id=FKW53465PQIN

Location: New York

Organizer: KNect365

Highlights for 2017 include:

- The Compliance and Regulatory Landscape in Europe
- UCITS & AIFMD updates
- MiFID II: Impact on US managers and European clients
- KID Regulation for PRIIPs
- Changing Requirements for Cross-border Governance

Learn more, view the latest agenda and register today [HERE](#)

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Amsterdam Investor Forum

Date: 7 - 8 March 2017

Information: <https://insights.abnamroclearing.com>

Location: Amsterdam, ABN AMRO Clearing Headquarters

Organizer: ABN AMRO Clearing

The Amsterdam Investor Forum, now in its 6th year, welcomes over 250+ institutional investors, fund managers and industry participants to debate and discuss the most challenges and opportunities facing our industry in 2017.

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KEY TOPICS TO BE COVERED INCLUDE:

- A macroeconomic look at **the shift in opportunities for 2017**
- Understanding the **long-term impacts of the presidential election** on the specialty finance sector
- Investor appetite across **specialty finance sub-classes and expected risk tolerance** for the year
- Strategies from top lenders and originators in **raising capital and reaching borrowers**
- **New strategies and niche asset classes** for continued returns in an increasingly risky market
- **The future of securitization** with new compliance requirements impacting investment opportunities and the ability to lend
- Riding the trend in **whole loans and mortgage notes** in the residential mortgage space
- **Evolution of marketplace lending** and the future of fintech in the specialty finance industry
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