



# The distribution of MPF equity assets is becoming more international

Relative to overseas stock markets, the performance of the Hong Kong stock market has been relatively lackluster in recent years, sparking interest among many Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) members to consider investing in overseas markets. This has coincided with a number of articles and discussions about the importance of diversification generally. In fact, the regional distribution of MPF equity assets is now quite international, with the latest overseas market equity allocation exceeding two-thirds.

The Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority (MPFA) shows the regional distribution of MPF assets invested in equities in its quarterly reports. As of June 30, 2024, the allocation to Hong Kong was 31%, lower than the top-ranked North America (37%), followed closely by Asia at 20%, while Europe stood at 12%. Contrasting these statistics with the quarterly report from three years ago on June 30, 2021, the allocation to Hong Kong stocks was 54%, with Asia and North America at 18% each, and Europe at only 10%. There has been a significant shift in equity distribution over this three-year period.



## Varying performance in stock markets around the world

Changes in the regional distribution of MPF assets undoubtedly correlate with stock market performance. The stock markets in most of Europe, the Americas, and the Asia-Pacific region have all outperformed the Hong Kong stock market in recent years. At the same time, the internet provides members with faster and easier access to information on overseas markets, including investment performance. This has increased awareness of various overseas stock markets and has led to a greater focus on overseas investment opportunities offered by many MPF providers. As a result, some members have taken steps to adjust their investment portfolios, resulting in a change in asset allocation.

## Considerations for exchange rates and management fees

From a portfolio management perspective, investing in overseas equity funds can provide better diversification and helps to enhance long-term risk management. However, investing in overseas markets also requires consideration of additional factors, especially exchange rate risks. Overseas currencies and fiscal policies can affect exchange rates when compared against the Hong Kong dollar. Additionally, due to the complexity of fund management and the broader investment resources required, fund management fees for overseas funds are generally higher.

## Pay attention to the selection of overseas funds

When members consider how best to allocate their MPF funds including future MPF contributions, they should pay attention to whether their MPF provider offers any overseas equity funds. In general, most providers offer options such as global equities, North America/US equities, and Asian equities. For global equity funds, it's important to note that the allocation to different regions like North America/US, Europe, and Asia may vary from provider to provider. For Asian equity funds, check to see if they include Japan – some do and some do not. Also note that not all trustees offer European equity funds or Japanese equity funds.

Although investing in overseas markets has become an important topic in recent years, members must take into consideration their risk tolerance level and their ability to withstand volatility and performance variations over time.

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## 強積金股票資產分佈國際化

相對海外成熟的股票市場，香港股票市場近幾年的表現較為遜色，引起不少成員對投資海外市場的興趣，坊間也有不少對強積金投資於海外市場的討論。事實上，強積金股票資產的地域分佈也頗為國際化，最新的海外市場股票的佔比更超過三分之二。

積金局於季度報告中顯示強積金資產投資於股票的地域分佈。截至2024年6月30日，香港的佔比為31%，低於排名首位的北美洲（37%），緊隨其後的為佔比20%的亞洲，而歐洲的佔比則為12%。對比三年前2021年6月30日的季度報告，香港股票的佔比為54%，亞洲及北美洲的佔比均為18%，而歐洲的佔比僅為10%。三年之間的比重出現了明顯變化。





## 各地股票市場表現有異

強積金股票資產的地域分佈出現變化，無可否認與股票市場表現存在一定關係。大部分歐美，以及亞太地區近幾年的股票市場表現，都比香港股票市場為優勝。另一方面，互聯網成熟的發展，成員要接觸海外市場資訊愈來愈快捷和方便，某程度上增加對海外各地股票市場的認識，從而增加對強積金計劃中不同地區的股票基金的注視。部分成員更採取實際行動調配投資組合，佔比因此出現變化。

## 考慮匯率及管理費因素

從投資組合管理角度，擴大投資範疇能夠提供最佳的多元化效益，長線而言有助提升投資組合風險管理。不過，投資於海外市場也要考慮更多因素，特別是匯率風險，不同地區的貨幣及財政政策會對相關匯率市場造成影響。此外，由於基金管理較為複雜，投資分析覆蓋範疇一般較大，會導致基金管理費較高。

## 留意受託人海外市場基金選擇

成員要透過強積金投資於海外市場，需留意受託人是否有提供海外股票基金的選擇。一般而言，大部分受託人都提供環球股票、北美/美國以及亞洲股票等選項。環球股票基金要留意每一隻基金內北美/美國，歐洲，亞洲地區的佔比會有所不同。亞洲股票基金也要留意是否包括日本。而歐洲股票基金，或日本股票基金則並非所有受託人也會提供。

雖然投資海外市場成為熱話，但成員必須根據自身可承受風險水平，以及對海外市場波動性與表現變化的認知，判斷是否作出適當地投資海外市場的決定。

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