



Emerging Markets
Equity Manager Performance

Analysis of 2016 and Performance Since 2000



Contributors to this publication include Andrew Pavloff, Daniel Day, Casey Heikes, Amanda Rohrer, and Annie Weichert.

Copyright © 2017 by Cambridge Associates LLC. All rights reserved.

This report may not be displayed, reproduced, distributed, transmitted, or used to create derivative works in any form, in whole or in portion, by any means, without written permission from Cambridge Associates LLC ("CA"). Copying of this publication is a violation of US and global copyright laws (e.g., 17 U.S.C. 101 et seq.). Violators of this copyright may be subject to liability for substantial monetary damages. The information and material published in this report is nontransferable. Therefore, recipients may not disclose any information or material derived from this report to third parties, or use information or material from this report, without prior written authorization. This report is provided for informational purposes only. The information presented is not intended to be investment advice. Any references to specific investments are for illustrative purposes only. The information herein does not constitute a personal recommendation or take into account the particular investment objectives, financial situations, or needs of individual clients. This research is not an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any security in any jurisdiction. Some of the data contained herein or on which the research is based is current public information that CA considers reliable, but CA does not represent it as accurate or complete, and it should not be relied on as such. Nothing contained in this report should be construed as the provision of tax or legal advice. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Broad-based securities indexes are unmanaged and are not subject to fees and expenses typically associated with managed accounts or investment funds. Investments cannot be made directly in an index. Any information or opinions provided in this report are as of the date of the report, and CA is under no obligation to update the information or communicate that any updates have been made. Information contained herein may have been provided by third parties, including investment firms providi

Cambridge Associates, LLC is a Massachusetts limited liability company with offices in Arlington, VA; Boston, MA; Dallas, TX; Menlo Park, CA; and San Francisco, CA. Cambridge Associates Fiduciary Trust, LLC is a New Hampshire limited liability company chartered to serve as a non-depository trust company, and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cambridge Associates, LLC. Cambridge Associates Limited is registered as a limited company in England and Wales No. 06135829 and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority in the conduct of Investment Business. Cambridge Associates Limited, LLC is a Massachusetts limited liability company with a branch office in Sydney, Australia (ARBN 109 366 654). Cambridge Associates Asia Pte Ltd is a Singapore corporation (Registration No. 200101063G). Cambridge Associates Investment Consultancy (Beijing) Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of Cambridge Associates, LLC and is registered with the Beijing Administration for Industry and Commerce (Registration No. 110000450174972).





- Over 60% of active emerging markets equity managers (excluding small cap) underperformed the MSCI Emerging Markets Index gross of fees in 2016, marking the first year the majority has underperformed since 2009. The median manager underperformed the index by 169 basis points (bps). After applying a fee proxy of 95 bps, over 65% of managers underperformed, and a majority of managers underperformed the fee-adjusted MSCI Emerging Markets Index by more than 250 bps.
- Active managers tend to make off-benchmark bets and hold some cash, so three factors can create a better environment for active management: outperformance of small-cap stocks, outperformance of stocks in frontier markets, and outperformance of cash over the index. In 2016, all three factors were arrayed against emerging markets equity managers: emerging markets small-cap stocks underperformed the emerging markets index by more than 900 bps, frontier markets equities underperformed emerging markets equities by more than 840 bps, and cash underperformed the emerging markets index by more than 1,100 bps.
- Five countries contributed more than 90% of the MSCI Emerging Markets Index 2016 return: Brazil, Taiwan, Russia, South Korea, and South Africa. On both an average and median basis, managers were underweight three of these: South Africa, South Korea, and Taiwan. Of the four most commonly held off-benchmark markets—Argentina, Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, and the United States—all four underperformed the MSCI Emerging Markets Index.



- Managers' sector allocations can differ substantially from the index. On both an average and median basis, managers were overweight four sectors versus the MSCI Emerging Markets Index: consumer discretionary, consumer staples, health care, and utilities. All four underperformed the overall index in 2016. The largest absolute sector weighting differences between the index and median manager were in materials and energy. The median manager was underweight relative to the index's sector weight by 134 bps for materials and 87 bps for energy. Energy and materials were the two best-performing sectors for the year.
- Movement between quintiles is fairly common. Of the bottom quintile managers for the five-year period 2007–11, two-thirds climbed to either the first or second quintile for the following five-year period (2012–16).

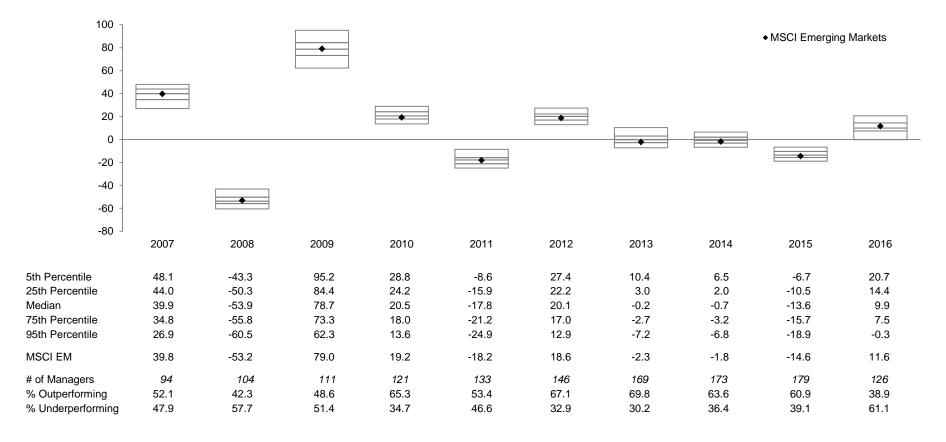


## Over 60% of managers underperformed the index in 2016

These results ended a six-year run of the majority of active managers beating the index

#### **Emerging Markets Equity Managers Annual Returns by Quartiles**

2007-16 • Percent (%)



Sources: Cambridge Associates LLC, MSCI Inc., and Thomson Reuters Datastream. MSCI data provided "as is" without any express or implied warranties.

Notes: Cambridge Associates LLC's (CA) manager universe statistics are derived from CA's proprietary Investment Manager Database. Managers that do not report in US dollars, exclude cash reserves from reported total returns, or have less than \$50 million in product assets are excluded. Performance is generally reported gross of investment management fees. To be included in analysis of any period longer than one quarter, managers must have had performance available for the full period.

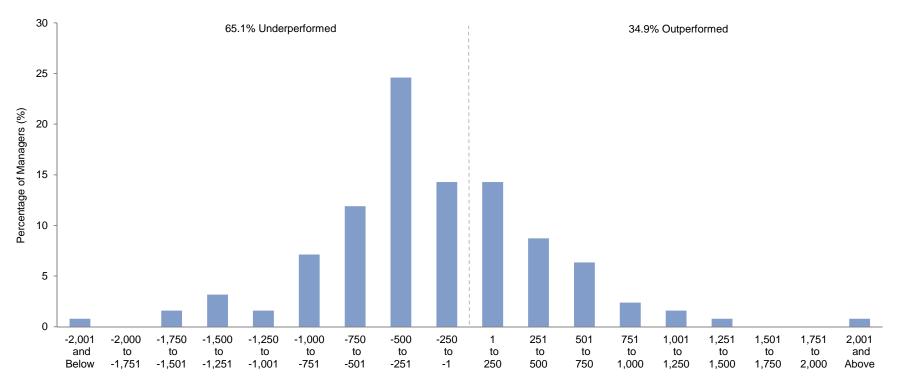


### Relative to the fee-adjusted index, 65% of managers underperformed

And a majority of managers underperformed the index by more than 250 bps

#### Manager Returns Relative to the Fee-Adjusted MSCI Emerging Markets Index

Calendar Year 2016 • *n* = 126



Manager Returns Less the Fee-Adjusted MSCI EM (bps)

Sources: Cambridge Associates LLC, MSCI Inc., and Thomson Reuters Datastream. MSCI data provided "as is" without any express or implied warranties.

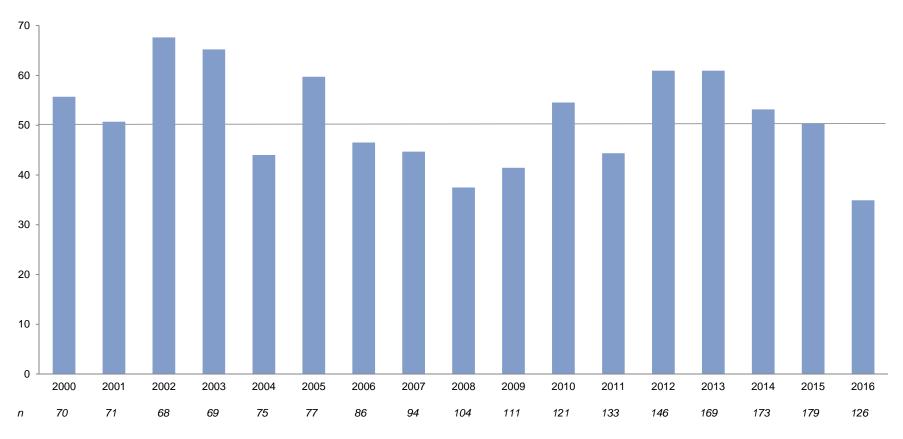
Notes: The dashed line represents the fee-adjusted MSCI Emerging Markets Index. Cambridge Associates LLC's (CA) manager universe statistics are derived from CA's proprietary Investment Manager Database. Managers that do not report in US dollars, exclude cash reserves from reported total returns, or have less than \$50 million in product assets are excluded. Performance is generally reported gross of investment management fees. We have added 95 bps to the MSCI Emerging Markets Index return as a proxy for manager fees. Only managers with performance available for the entire period measured are included.



## Active manager outperformance is cyclical

Versus the fee-adjusted index, 2016 saw the lowest level of outperformance in the years since 2000

# Percentage of Emerging Markets Equity Managers Outperforming the Fee-Adjusted MSCI Emerging Markets Index 2000–16



Sources: Cambridge Associates LLC, MSCI Inc., and Thomson Reuters Datastream. MSCI data provided "as is" without any express or implied warranties.

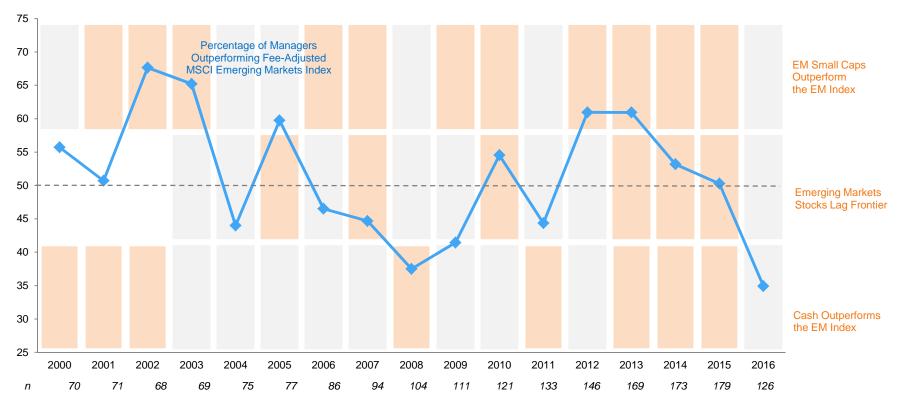
Notes: Cambridge Associates LLC's (CA) manager universe statistics are derived from CA's proprietary Investment Manager Database. Managers that do not report in US dollars, exclude cash reserves from reported total returns, or have less than \$50 million in product assets are excluded. Performance is generally reported gross of investment management fees. We have added 95 bps to the MSCI Emerging Markets Index return as a proxy for manager fees. To be included in analysis of any period longer than one quarter, managers must have had performance available for the full period.



#### In 2016, the environment was arrayed against active managers

Many factors contribute to active manager out- or underperformance, but the presence of these three can create a more favorable environment for active management in general

## Presence of Factors Contributing to a More Favorable Environment for Active Management 2000–16



Sources: BofA Merrill Lynch, Cambridge Associates LLC, Federal Reserve, MSCI Inc., and Thomson Reuters Datastream.

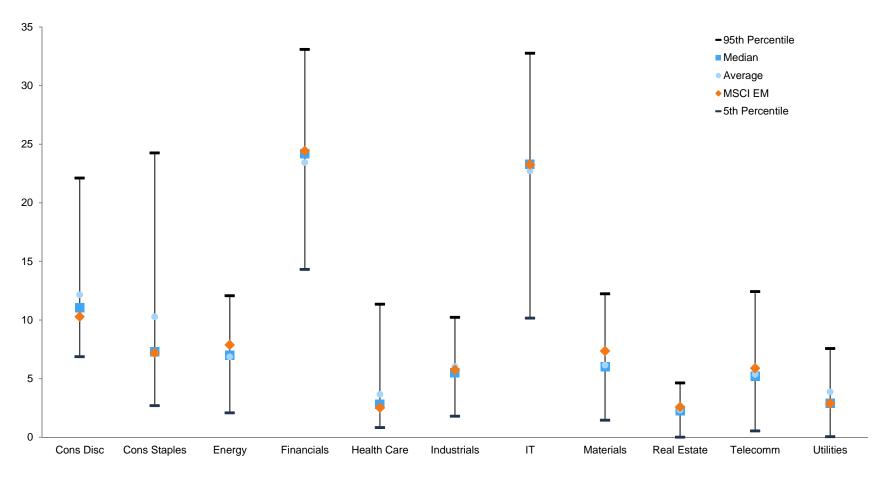
Notes: Factors are represented by: MSCI Emerging Markets Index ("EM Index"), MSCI EM Small-Cap Index ("EM small caps"), MSCI Emerging Markets Index ("emerging markets stocks"), MSCI Frontier Markets Index ("frontier markets stocks"), BofA Merrill Lynch 91-Day Treasury Bills ("cash"), and MSCI Emerging Markets Index ("EM Index"). Data for the MSCI Frontier Markets Index begin in 2003; this factor is only represented for 2003 to 2016. For more detail on the impact of these factors in each year, see the Appendix. Cambridge Associates LLC's (CA) manager universe statistics are derived from CA's proprietary Investment Manager Database. Managers that do not report in US dollars, exclude cash reserves from reported total returns, or have less than \$50 million in product assets are excluded. Performance is generally reported gross of investment management fees. We have added 95 bps to the MSCI Emerging Markets Index return as a proxy for manager fees. To be included in analysis of any period longer than one quarter, managers must have had performance available for the full period.



#### Managers' different sector allocations can affect relative performance

The four sectors that managers were overweight on both an average and median basis—consumer discretionary, consumer staples, health care, and utilities—underperformed the overall index in 2016

# Emerging Markets Equity Managers' Sector Allocations versus MSCI Emerging Markets Index Weight As of December 31, 2016 • n = 116



Sources: Cambridge Associates LLC, MSCI Inc., and Thomson Reuters Datastream. MSCI data provided "as is" without any express or implied warranties.

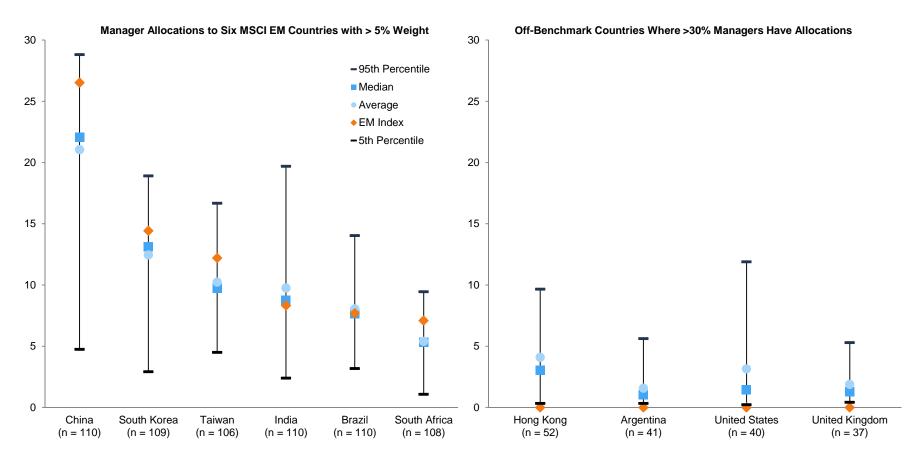
Notes: Only includes data for 116 managers that provided sector allocation as of year-end 2016. Index weights represent year-end sector allocations of the MSCI Emerging Markets Index. Cambridge Associates LLC's (CA) manager universe statistics are derived from CA's proprietary Investment Manager Database. Manager that do not report in US dollars, exclude cash reserves from reported total returns, or have less than \$50 million in product assets are excluded.



### Country bets can significantly affect relative performance

Of the index's largest country weights, managers were only overweight India on both an average and median basis; Indian equity returns were in the red in USD terms in 2016

## Emerging Markets Equity Managers' Country Allocations vs the MSCI Emerging Markets Index As of December 31, 2016 • n = 111



Sources: Cambridge Associates LLC, MSCI Inc., and Thomson Reuters Datastream. MSCI data provided "as is" without any express or implied warranties.

Notes: Only includes data for 111 managers that provided geographic allocation as of year-end 2016. Index weights represent year-end geographic allocations of the MSCI Emerging Markets Index. The *n* provided for each country represents the total number of products exposed to a given country as of year-end 2016, and percentile, median, and average figures are calculated only from products with exposure to the country shown. Cambridge Associates LLC's (CA) manager universe statistics are derived from CA's proprietary Investment Manager Database. Manager that do not report in US dollars, exclude cash reserves from reported total returns, or have less than \$50 million in product assets are excluded.



## Movement between top and bottom quintiles is fairly common

Two-thirds of bottom quintile performers over 2007–11 moved into the top two quintiles for the 2012–16 period

#### Analysis of Emerging Markets Equity Manager Returns by Quintile Over Five-Year Periods

2007–16 • *n* = 44

	Where Did They Go?		,	Where Did They Come From?	
Initial Five-Year	Subsequent Five-	Percent of Managers	Latest Five-Year	Previous Five-Year	Percent of Managers
Period	Year Period	From Initial Quintile	Period	Period	From Initial Quintile
(2007–11)	(2012–16)		(2012–16)	(2007–11)	
Quintile	Quintile		Quintile	Quintile	
1	1	11.1%		1	11.1%
	2	22.2%		2	22.2%
	3	33.3%	1	3	22.2%
	4	22.2%		4	11.1%
	5	11.1%		5	33.3%
	1	22.2%		1	22.2%
	2	11.1%		2	11.1%
2	3	22.2%	2	3	22.2%
	4	33.3%		4	11.1%
	5	11.1%		5	33.3%
3	1	25.0%		1	37.5%
	2	25.0%		2	25.0%
	3	12.5%	3	3	12.5%
	4	37.5%		4	12.5%
	5	0.0%		5	12.5%
5	1	11.1%		1	22.2%
	2	11.1%		2	33.3%
	3	11.1%	4	3	33.3%
	4	11.1%		4	11.1%
	5	55.6%		5	0.0%
	1	33.3%		1	11.1%
	2	33.3%		2	11.1%
	3	11.1%	5	3	0.0%
	4	0.0%		4	55.6%
	5	22.2%		5	22.2%

Source: Cambridge Associates LLC.

Notes: Cambridge Associates LLC's (CA) manager universe statistics are derived from CA's proprietary Investment Manager Database. Managers that do not report in US dollars, exclude cash reserves from reported total returns, or have less than \$50 million in product assets are excluded. Performance is generally reported gross of investment management fees. Only managers with performance available for the entire period measured are included.

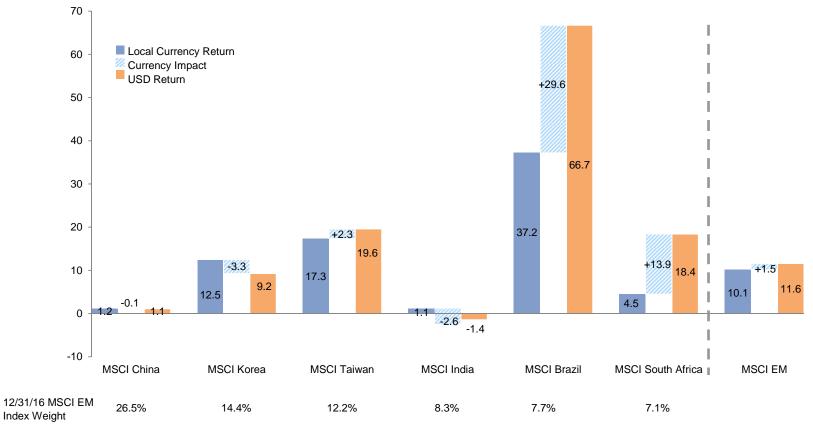


## US dollar based investors got a bump from currency fluctuations

Commodity-linked currencies in particular soared versus the US dollar

#### Impact of US Dollar Strength on Equity Market Returns

Calendar Year 2016 • Percent (%)



Sources: MSCI Inc. and Thomson Reuters Datastream. MSCI data provided "as is" without any express or implied warranties.

Notes: Total returns for emerging markets are gross of dividend taxes. The MSCI China Index includes equities of PRC-incorporated companies listed either as Shanghai or Shenzhen B, H, or N shares in New York. These shares are denominated in Hong Kong dollars, which is pegged to the US dollar.

Appendix: Year-by-Year Analysis of Key Factors Contributing to a More or Less Favorable Environment for Active Management





-5.0

Mean

-10.3

-4.6

5.4

#### Managers outperform the broad index more often when small-cap equities outperform

In 2016, small-cap underperformance was likely a headwind

# Assessing the Impact of Capitalization Bias in Active Manager Portfolios 2000–16

#### Active Managers Have Outperformed the MSCI EM Index 50% ... and Outperformed the MSCI EM Index in All But One Year When the Index Lagged the MSCI EM Small Cap Index of the Time When the Index Has Beaten the MSCI EM Small Cap Index ... Total Return (%) Manager Total Return (%) Manager MSCI Median EM **EM Minus** Value Added MSCI MSCI **MSCI** Median EM **EM Minus** Value Added Year ΕM EM SC **Equity Mgr** EM SC (ppts) vs EM (ppts) Year ΕM EM SC **Equity Mgr** EM SC (ppts) vs EM (ppts) n n 2016 11.6 2.6 9.9 126 9.0 -1.7 2006 86 -0.5 0.7 32.6 33.1 33.3 2011 -18.2 -27.0 -17.8 133 8.8 0.3 2007 39.8 42.3 39.9 94 -2.5 0.2 -53.2 104 -0.7 2001 2008 -58.1 -53.9 4.9 -2.4 0.4 -1.3 71 -2.8 1.1 2000 -30.6 -35.1 -28.5 70 4.5 2.1 2014 -1.8 1.3 -0.7 173 -3.2 1.2 2005 34.5 31.0 36.7 77 3.6 2.1 2013 -2.3 1.4 -0.2 169 -3.6 2.0 2003 2004 26.0 24.7 25.8 75 1.3 -0.1 56.3 60.2 59.2 69 -3.9 2.9 2002 -2.1 2.7 -6.0 -3.3 68 -3.9 2012 18.6 22.6 20.1 146 -4.0 1.5 2015 -13.6 -14.6 -6.6 179 -8.0 1.0 2010 19.2 27.5 20.5 121 -8.3 1.3 111 2009 79.0 114.3 78.7 -35.3 -0.3

Sources: Cambridge Associates LLC, MSCI Inc., and Thomson Reuters Datastream. MSCI data provided "as is" without any express or implied warranties.

Notes: The most recent year is bolded. Cambridge Associates LLC's (CA) manager universe statistics are derived from CA's proprietary Investment Manager Database. Managers that do not report in US dollars, exclude cash reserves from reported total returns, or have less than \$50 million in product assets are excluded. Performance is generally reported gross of investment management fees. To be included in analysis of any period longer than one quarter, managers must have had performance available for the full period.

Mean

19.9

26.8

21.1

0.3

1.3

-6.9



Mean

19.1

1.1

19.4

## The median manager has consistently outperformed when frontier equities beat emerging

Frontier markets' underperformance in 2016 was likely a headwind

#### Assessing the Impact of Frontier Markets Equities on Active Manager Performance 2003-16

#### Active Managers Have Outperformed the MSCI EM Index Just Half the Time ... and Outperformed the MSCI EM Index 100% of the Time When the Index Lagged the MSCI Frontier Index When the Index Has Beaten the MSCI Frontier Index ... Total Return (%) Manager Total Return (%) Manager MSCI Value Added MSCI MSCI MSCI Median EM **EM Minus** Median EM **EM Minus** Value Added ΕM Frontier **Equity Mgr** Frontier (ppts) vs EM (ppts) Year ΕM Frontier **Equity Mgr** Frontier (ppts) vs EM (ppts) Year n n 11.7 111 67.3 -0.3 2015 -13.6 179 -0.5 1.0 2009 79.0 78.7 -14.6 -14.1 2006 32.6 -8.9 33.3 86 41.4 0.7 2007 39.8 42.1 39.9 94 -2.3 0.2 69 12.7 2.9 2010 121 1.3 2003 56.3 43.6 59.2 19.2 24.2 20.5 -5.0 173 2012 18.6 9.2 20.1 146 9.4 1.5 2014 -1.8 7.2 -0.7 -9.0 1.2 2016 3.2 9.9 126 8.4 -1.7 2013 -2.3 26.3 -0.2 169 -28.6 2.0 11.6 77 75 2004 26.0 22.7 25.8 3.3 -0.1 2005 34.5 72.7 36.7 -38.2 2.1 -54.1 104 0.9 -0.7 2008 -53.2 -53.9 2011 -18.2 -18.4 -17.8 133 0.2 0.3 18.0 0.3

Sources: Cambridge Associates LLC, MSCI Inc., and Thomson Reuters Datastream. MSCI data provided "as is" without any express or implied warranties. Notes: The most recent year is bolded. Cambridge Associates LLC's (CA) manager universe statistics are derived from CA's proprietary Investment Manager Database. Managers that do not report in US dollars, exclude cash reserves from reported total returns, or have less than \$50 million in product assets are excluded. Performance is generally reported gross of investment management fees. To be included in analysis of any period longer than one quarter, managers must have had performance available for the full period.

Mean

12.5

26.4

13.8

-13.9

1.3



#### Years of cash outperformance have been generally been good for active managers

In 2016, cash holdings likely detracted from performance

# Assessing the Impact of Cash Drag on Active Manager Performance 2000–16

#### Active Managers Have Beaten the MSCI Emerging Markets Index 67% of ... And Beaten the MSCI Emerging Markets Index in All But One Year the Time When the Index Has Beaten the 91-Day T-Bill . . . When the Index Has Lagged the 91-Day T-Bill Total Return (%) **EM Index** Mgr Value Total Return (%) **EM Index** Mgr Value MSCI 91-Day Median EM Minus T-Bill Added vs **MSCI** 91-Day Median EM Minus T-Bill Added vs EM Index (ppts) EM T-Bill Equity Mgr EM Index (ppts) Year ΕM T-Bill Equity Mgr Year n (ppts) n (ppts) 78.7 111 -0.3 173 -1.9 2009 79.0 0.2 78.8 2014 -1.8 0.0 -0.7 1.2 2003 56.3 1.1 59.2 69 55.1 2.9 2013 -2.3 0.1 -0.2 169 -2.3 2.0 39.9 94 0.2 71 2007 39.8 5.0 34.8 2001 -2.4 4.4 -1.3 -6.8 1.1 77 68 2005 34.5 3.1 36.7 31.5 2.1 2002 -6.0 1.8 -3.3 -7.8 2.7 33.3 86 27.7 0.7 179 -14.7 2006 32.6 4.8 2015 -14.60.1 -13.6 1.0 75 2004 26.0 1.3 25.8 24.6 -0.1 2011 -18.2 0.1 -17.8 133 -18.3 0.3 20.5 121 19.1 1.3 6.2 -28.5 70 -36.8 2010 19.2 0.1 2000 -30.62.1 2012 18.6 0.1 20.1 146 18.5 1.5 2008 -53.2 2.1 -53.9 104 -55.2 -0.7 126 9.9 11.3 -1.7 2016 11.6 0.3 35.3 1.8 36.0 33.5 0.7 -16.1 -14.9 -18.0 1.2 Mean Mean 1.8

Sources: BofA Merrill Lynch, Cambridge Associates LLC, Federal Reserve, Frank Russell Company, and Thomson Reuters Datastream.

Notes: The most recent year is bolded. Cambridge Associates LLC's (CA) manager universe statistics are derived from CA's proprietary Investment Manager Database. Managers that do not report in US dollars, exclude cash reserves from reported total returns, or have less than \$50 million in product assets are excluded. Performance is generally reported gross of investment management fees. To be included in analysis of any period longer than one quarter, managers must have had performance available for the full period.