

# Asset Manager Ranking Q1 2018

## German asset managers increase top-10 presence



**Scope rates around 5,900 investment funds (UCITS) authorised for distribution in the German market, managed by 313 asset managers (KVGs). The KVG ranking sorts the asset managers according to their proportion of funds with a top-rating.**

One third of funds evaluated by Scope currently has a top rating. Specifically, 8.5% hold A-ratings and 25.4% B-ratings. Asset managers are considered above average when more than a third of their funds possess top ratings.

### Large asset managers – four German companies in the top 10

Among large asset managers (i.e. more than 25 rated funds) Austrian fund manager KEPLER-FONDS holds the top position. More than 62% of its funds currently have a top rating. This puts it significantly above Investec and Metzler, which share second place with 56% of their funds holding top ratings.

There have been significant changes to the rest of the top 10 in comparison with Q1 2017. Five companies are no longer among the best-rated managers: Goldman Sachs AM, State Street, Legg Mason, JPMorgan and Invesco. Among these, Legg Mason suffered the largest decline with 34.5% of funds holding a top rating in Q1 2018, compared with 54.5% the year before.

Replacing them in the top 10 are Investec, Metzler, Union Investment, Vontobel and Allianz Global Investors. Metzler had the most significant improvement, rising from 32nd to second place. (Note: Q1 2018 is the first time Investec and Vontobel have been listed as “large asset managers”. Last year, both managers had less than 25 rated funds.)

German managers significantly increased their presence among the top 10. In Q1 2017, Deka was the only German manager in the list and ranked 10th. However, as of 31 March, Metzler, Union Investment and Allianz Global Investors also entered the top 10, bringing the German representation up to four managers.

An increased German presence is significant because the purely quantitative KVG-ranking tends to favour foreign managers. This is because these managers generally only allow a fraction of their funds to be distributed in Germany – which are also their most successful. German managers, on the other hand, are represented by their entire product offering in the KVG ranking.

### Small asset managers – Comgest loses its top ranking

Comgest lost its top position among small asset managers (i.e. less than 25 but more than eight evaluated funds). From first place in Q1 2017 with an outstanding top-rating ratio of over 90%, Comgest fell to third with a ratio of 70.6% in Q1 2018 – nevertheless, still a good result.

Occupying the top positions are DNCA Finance and Sparinvest, which are both represented by the minimum amount of funds required (eight). All DNCA Finance funds currently hold a top rating from Scope. The subsidiary of Natixis Investment Managers is primarily active in the multi-asset sector.

Prominent investment manager Flossbach von Storch is no longer in the top 10. Its top rating ratio fell from 70% to 50%, corresponding to a fall from fifth to 11<sup>th</sup> place.

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Figure 1: Ranking – Top-10 “large” managers

		Overall			Equity			Fixed-income			Other		
		Top Ratings	No. of funds rated	%	Top Ratings	No. of funds rated	%	Top Ratings	Number of funds rated	%	Top Ratings	No. of funds rated	%
1	KEPLER-FONDS	23	37	62.2	6	10	60.0	6	12	50.0	11	15	73.3
2	Investec	14	25	56.0	10	16	62.5	1	5	20.0	3	4	75.0
3	Metzler	14	25	56.0	8	13	61.5	1	2	50.0	5	10	50.0
4	Robeco	19	35	54.3	15	24	62.5	4	10	40.0	0	1	0.0
5	Alliance Bernstein	19	37	51.4	14	22	63.6	3	10	30.0	2	5	40.0
6	Deka	83	168	49.4	17	60	28.3	24	39	61.5	42	69	60.9
7	Union Investment	53	109	48.6	17	40	42.5	8	28	28.6	28	41	68.3
8	Fidelity International	34	70	48.6	24	50	48.0	7	13	53.8	3	7	42.9
9	Vontobel AM	14	29	48.3	9	16	56.3	2	6	33.3	3	7	42.9
10	Allianz GI	48	108	44.4	20	50	40.0	3	18	16.7	25	40	62.5

Source: Scope Analysis. As of: 31.03.2018

Figure 2: Ranking – Top-10 “small” managers

		Overall			Equity			Fixed-income			Other		
		Top Ratings	No. of funds rated	%	Top Ratings	No. of funds rated	%	Top Ratings	No. of funds rated	%	Top Ratings	No. of funds rated	%
1	DNCA Finance	8	8	100	3	3	100	1	1	100	4	4	100
2	Sparinvest	6	8	75.0	4	5	80.0	0	1	0.0	2	2	100
3	Comgest	12	17	70.6	12	17	70.6						
4	Wellington Management	16	23	69.6	11	12	91.7	4	8	50.0	1	3	33.3%
5	Degroef Petercam AM	9	14	64.3	7	12	58.3	2	2	100			
5	T Rowe Price	14	22	63.6	11	16	68.8	3	6	50.0			
5	SKAG	5	8	62.5	3	4	75.0	0	2	0.0	2	2	100
8	MEAG	8	14	57.1	2	4	50.0	0	3	0.0	6	7	85.7
9	J O Hambro IM	8	15	53.3	7	14	50.0	1	1	100			
10	Vanguard Investments	11	21	52.4	8	14	57.1	3	7	42.9			

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### Background – The KVG ranking

Scope fund ratings evaluate the quality of a fund within its peer group. The rating reflects, among other things, the long-term earning power and stability of fund performance as well as the risk of loss and timing risk. For further details: [See methodology](#).

The fund rating covers five rating levels - from A to E. Top ratings are A and B ratings. The ratio of a manager's top ratings to the overall number of fund ratings gives the proportion of top-rated funds. Funds with a performance history of minimum five years receive a quantitative rating from Scope.

In order to represent managers' different strategic approaches fairly, Scope compiles two separate ranking lists – one list for “small” managers that have between eight and 24 funds and one for “large managers” that have a minimum of 25 rated funds. Asset managers with fewer than eight rated funds are not considered for these rankings.

For further analysis and all fund ratings, please see our funds portal: <https://funds.scopeanalysis.com/portal>



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