

Why EM Small Caps Now: Diversifying China Tech

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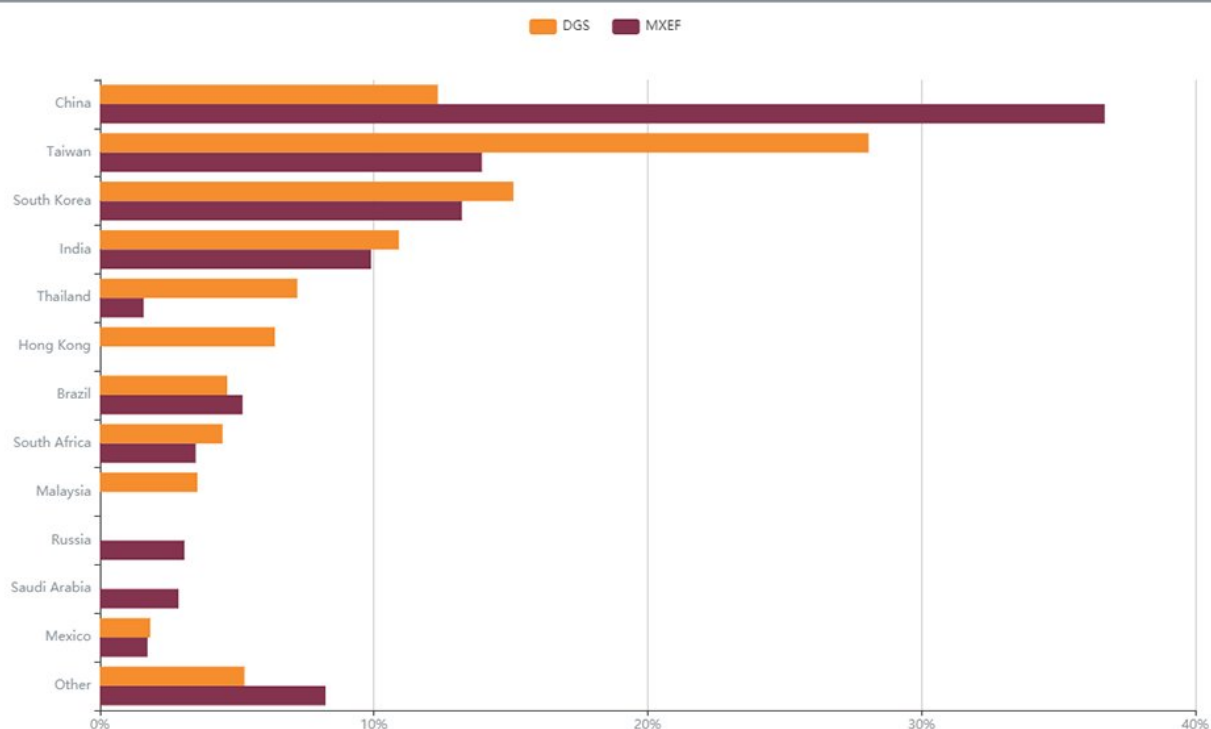
China's large-cap technology stocks have come under immense pressure in the last three months—from actions taken against Ant Financial to delay its initial public offering to the latest regulatory actions against the education companies that crippled their ability to earn a profit.

Thus, we believe it may be a good time to review why emerging market small-cap stocks can help diversify some of the risks in the region, as it may seem counterintuitive that small caps can be less risky than large caps.

DGS Has Less China Weight

First, let's take a look at country exposures in the [WisdomTree Emerging Markets SmallCap Dividend Fund \(DGS\)](#) and the broad MSCI Emerging Markets Index (MSCI EM).

China's weight in the MSCI EM Index has grown to more than one-third with the long-term gains in those large tech giants. DGS, by contrast, had less than a 20% exposure in China and Hong Kong stocks.

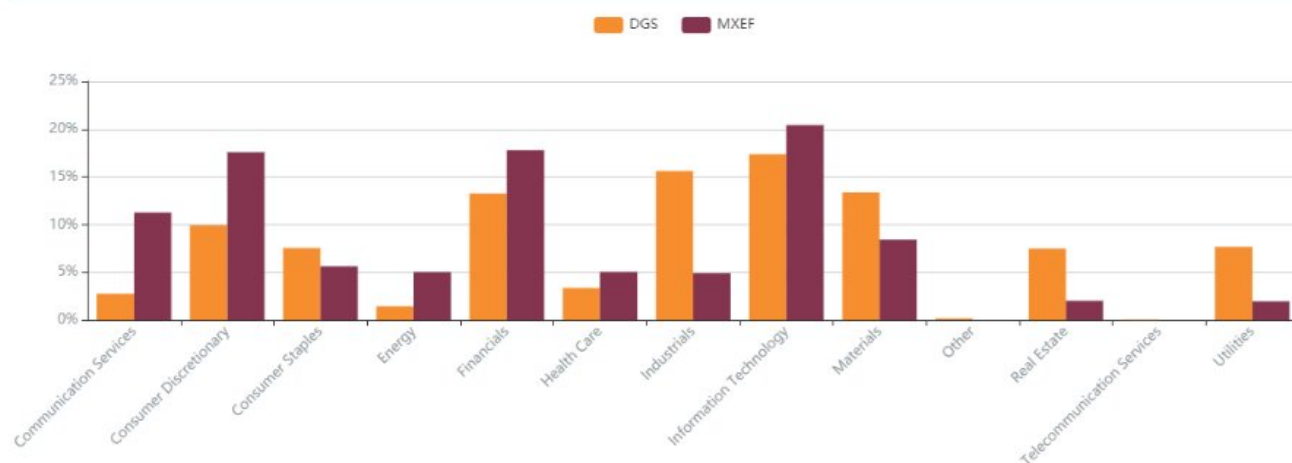
COUNTRY EXPOSURE (% WEIGHT) as of 6/30/2021 [select a country to view historical data](#)

Source: WisdomTree Fund Comparison, as of 6/30/21. Subject to change.

For definitions of terms in the table, please visit the [glossary](#).

More Cyclical Reopening Stocks

The sector exposures one gets in DGS are also more tilted to cyclical sectors like Industrials and Materials and away from technology and communication services—further helping diversify portfolios in EM.

SECTOR EXPOSURE (% WEIGHT) as of 6/30/2021 [select a sector to view historical data](#)

Source: WisdomTree Fund Comparison, as of 6/30/21. Subject to change.

China Tech Still the Big Winner Over Five Years

Despite recent regulation in the Chinese technology sector, China technology stocks still remain top performers over the last five years. In fact, our [WisdomTree China ex-State-Owned Enterprises Index](#) has still outperformed the S&P 500 over the last five years, even with the latest fall from grace.

DGS focuses on dividend-paying stocks—with a rigorous, valuation-based rebalance discipline. When we look at price-to-earnings ratios on estimated forward-looking earnings, we see P/E ratios in single digits at only 9.1x—whereas the broad MSCI EM Index is at 14.5x.

It is rare to find any market segment with this low of a market multiple—and this is not some narrow basket, as DGS has more than 750 constituents in its portfolio.

Why Dividend Payers in EM Small Cap

We often describe dividends as a level of corporate governance in emerging markets because companies must have cash to pay dividends, and you can only “fake” a dividend for so long. Dividends have thus served as a measure of quality for these companies, and the data shows this was critical.

Whereas the cap-weighted MSCI Emerging Markets Small Cap Index had less than 30% of its weight allocated to those top two quintiles, the [WisdomTree Emerging Market SmallCap Dividend Index](#) had almost two-thirds of its weight allocated to those top dividend quintiles.

This attribution analysis shows the long-term outperformance of the WisdomTree Index was driven both by the over-weights to the highest dividend bucket and the under-weights to the zero and lowest-yield segments.

WTEMSC - WisdomTree Emerging Markets SmallCap Dividend Index

VS.

MXEFSC - MSCI Emerging Markets Small Cap Index

Dividend Yield Attribution

As of:

6/30/2021

MTD

QTD

YTD

1Y

3Y

5Y

10Y

Since Inception*

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Category	Attribution Component				Average Category Weight			Category Performance	
	Allocation	Stock Selection	Interaction	Total Attribution	Index Weight	Benchmark Weight	+/- Wgt	WT Index Return	Benchmark Return
1st Quintile (Highest Div. Yield)	2.24%	-0.35%	-0.52%	1.38%	40.67%	14.49%	26.19%	7.99%	9.57%
2nd Quintile	0.57%	-0.84%	-0.48%	-0.75%	25.50%	15.82%	9.69%	6.15%	9.14%
3rd Quintile	-0.02%	-0.22%	-0.16%	-0.40%	16.72%	16.05%	0.67%	6.12%	6.58%
4th Quintile	-0.00%	0.03%	-0.01%	0.02%	10.09%	15.73%	-5.64%	4.70%	4.78%
5th Quintile (Lowest Div. Yield)	0.73%	-0.59%	0.29%	0.43%	4.06%	17.08%	-13.02%	-1.17%	0.75%
Zero Div. Yield	1.39%	0.72%	-0.79%	1.31%	0.32%	18.37%	-18.05%	5.01%	-0.16%
N/A	0.05%	-0.12%	-0.18%	-0.25%	2.63%	2.48%	0.16%	-3.53%	-6.96%
Total	4.96%	-1.36%	-1.85%	1.74%	-	-	-	5.70%	3.96%

Source: WisdomTree Fund Comparison, as of 6/30/21. Subject to change. Past performance is not indicative of future results. You cannot invest directly in an index.

Cyclical Rotation

During this rotation away from growth, we have seen small caps with a value tilt perform particularly well in 2021 through July with outperformance by significant margins.

But equally interesting is that small caps have similar volatility as their large-cap brethren. We often think of the Russell 2000 as having significantly more volatility than the S&P 500—partly because there are so many more unprofitable companies in U.S. small caps.

But over the life of DGS, it has displayed volatility levels on par with the broader MSCI EM Index.

PERFORMANCE as of 7/30/2021		Cumulative Returns			Average Annual Total Returns					
Ticker	Fund	1-Month	3-Month	YTD	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Since Inception	Common Period 10/30/2007 - 7/30/2021
DGS	WisdomTree Emerging Markets SmallCap Dividend Fund (NAV)	-0.85%	1.14%	14.74%	34.38%	7.43%	9.53%	3.75%	3.86%	3.86%
MXEF	MSCI EM Index	-6.88%	-5.58%	0.22%	19.74%	7.75%	10.36%	3.60%	-	2.08%

VOLATILITY (STANDARD DEVIATION) as of 6/30/2021		Average Annual Volatility					
Ticker	Fund	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Since Inception	Common Period 10/31/2007 - 6/30/2021
DGS	WisdomTree Emerging Markets SmallCap Dividend Fund (NAV)	12.05%	20.91%	17.71%	17.65%	21.26%	21.26%
MXEF	MSCI EM Index	12.25%	18.52%	16.10%	17.59%	-	21.63%

Source: WisdomTree Fund Comparison, as of 6/30/21. Subject to change. Past performance is not indicative of future results. You cannot invest directly in an index. Volatility : A measure of the dispersion of actual returns around a particular average level. Past Performance does not guarantee future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than quoted. Investment returns and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Performance data for the most recent month-end is available above. WisdomTree shares are bought and sold at market price (not NAV) and are not individually redeemed from the Fund. Total Returns are calculated using the daily 4:00pm net asset value (NAV). Market price returns reflect the midpoint of the bid/ask spread as of the close of trading on the exchange where Fund shares are listed. Market price returns do not represent the returns you would receive if you traded shares at other times.

For standardized performance of DGS, please click [here](#).

Factor Diversification

Almost all of WisdomTree's own Model Portfolios have paired DGS with our [Emerging Markets ex-State-Owned Enterprises Fund \(XSOE\)](#) for some time to achieve factor diversification—pairing the growth-tilted core XSOE with small-cap value stocks in DGS. That pairing worked particularly well in 2021—and the current uncertainty surrounding China technology stocks suggests DGS and small caps could play an ever-larger role in diversifying portfolios from the latest risks to emerging markets.

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