



**April 2024** 

# Thematic Investments

**Quarterly Update** 



### Thematic Investments Quarterly update: Q1 2024

### Top Q1 stories from a thematic perspective











- Artificial Intelligence leaders continued with superior earnings, growth and momentum. Nvidia delivered 80% total return during the quarter and its revenue surged 265% YoY fostered by the quick adoption of Al across industries.
- Microsoft solidified its position in the Cloud and overtook Apple in January as the world's most valuable firm. On the negative regarding the Cloud, Adobe corrected sharply in March following a weak forecast. Aldriven semiconductor demand also helped ASML to thrive and to reach an all-time high in March.
- On Cybersecurity, the performance was mixed. The market reacted with disappointment to the announcement of new platform strategies (Palo Alto) but celebrated the optimistic outlook delivered by others (Crowdstrike).
- Concerning the *Industry 4.0* trade, some companies continued with positive momentum (ABB, Siemens) although some profit taking took place by March.
- · Overall, the AI trade solidified and gained further traction during Q1 2024.



- After a period of fierce competition for new subscribers, Netflix rose as clear winner of the "Streaming Wars". The company's services gained strong engagement from users reaching a record of 260m paid subscribers by the end of February. For the rest of competitors, a new period of consolidation started, with new business models being developed to maintain subscriber levels unchanged.
- Concerning e-Commerce, Amazon benefitted from its ability to monetize AI tools and therefore gained several partnerships with companies willing to leverage their offering and enhance their online customer experience (Eli Lilly among others). Visa, Booking Holdings and Mercado Libre on the other hand, all suffered in the quarter due to corporate results, which were below market expectations and analysts' downgrades.

Sources: Rothschild & Co, Bloomberg



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### Top Q1 stories from a thematic perspective







- On the Weight-loss theme, the increased market opportunity for anti-obesity medications continued. Novo
  Nordisk reached a new all-time high and the market celebrated its acquisition of companies to increase
  production capacity (Catalent for example). In the meantime, Eli Lillly, Novo's closest competitor, delivered a
  strong 34% total return in the quarter fueled by the demand of its anti obesity flagship drug "Zepbound".
- Regarding the Silver Economy trade, companies providing products used by seniors lost momentum
  despite positive expectations from analysts (Sonova, Straumann). On the positive tone, however, Al
  powered robots are expected to be used to provide elderly care were in focus during the quarter and started
  to be regarded as the next possible frontier to be reached in future years..









- Overall, investors were not particularly enthusiastic about the sustainability theme during Q1 2024.
   Performance was mixed and the difference between losers and winners was mostly due to their corporate fundamental value.
- Focusing on Blue Gold, Veralto showed a solid trend since the spin-off from Danaher and surprised with an 8% gain during the period.
- Hydrogen in general faced structural challenges related to uncertainty on the success of current projects.
   Linde, ABB, and Air Liquide, however, performed well due to their more diversified approach to different segments and products.
- Exposure to Environment Investing via pure players (RWE, Iberdrola) underperformed the MSCI World but performed well with a direct implementation on companies having more diversified portfolios as in the previous case (Shell).



### Thematic Investments in a Nutshell Long Term Investment Case & Catalysts

#### **Digital Frontiers**

### Artificial Intelligence

- We are still in the early stages of a considerable shift across industries to improve products and services through the multiple applications of AI.
- The AI market size is expected to reach USD 407Bn by 2027 (USD 86.9Bn in 2022) and expected to grow around 35% p.a. across industries until 2030. The generative AI market alone could reach USD 1.3Tn by 2032 with AI products being able to add USD 280Bn of new software revenue.

### Cybersecurity

- Traditional cybercrime has changed together with technological advancement. As society becomes more dependent on digitalization and AI advancements, we move from prioritizing the protection of systems to the protection of networks. Networks are heavily integrated across all of our activities when vulnerabilities are exploited by cyber criminals, the impact can be very costly
- Corporate spending in cybersecurity is expected to rise 14% in 2024 to USD 215Bn. Budget allocated to security is expected to grow three times faster than software and IT spending combined.

### **Industry 4.0**

- The US administration announced a plan to strengthen critical supply chains and invest in US manufacturing and infrastructure. This plan represents an opportunity for US industries including automation and robotics, among others. Similar policies are in place across the EU, Japan, Korea. Other countries are expected to follow
- In the US, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the CHIPS and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) collectively committed over USD 1.8Tn in capital spending in favor of automation and robotics.

#### The Cloud

- Together with the quick adoption of new technologies across industries, we see cloud computing as key infrastructure provider for the future, providing organizations with speed, scalability and flexibility from renting a space in the web, rather than investing in expensive physical infrastructure.
- The global cloud computing market is expected to reach USD1,554.94 Bn by 2030

Sources: Rothschild & Co,



### Thematic Investments in a Nutshell Long Term Investment Case & Catalysts

#### Entertainment & Lifestyle

#### Streaming

- Increasing Generative AI adoption, advancement of the 5G technology, or even the augmented reality or the metaverse, are elements of a possible complete innovative transformation of the Streaming business in the years ahead.
- The global video streaming market size is projected to grow from USD 671.89
   Billion in 2024 to USD 2,486.51
   Billion by 2023, with a CAGR of 17% during the forecast 2024 to 2032

#### e-Commerce

- The activity of "Buying and Selling" of good and services over electronic networks might be about to become a true AI powered experience in the future with better and more personalized relationships with and among customers.
- Revenue in the eCommerce Market is projected to reach USD 3,178 Bn in 2024. This revenue should show an annua growth rate of 9.47%, resulting in a projected market volume of USD 4,997Bn by 2029.

### The Future of Body & Mind

### Weight-Loss

- Obesity could become one of the possible future epidemics worldwide and it is spreading quickly. Novo Nordisk unintentionally untapped the industry of weight loss, with drugs such as Ozempic and Wegovy, which regulate appetite. These drugs imitating the GLP1 human hormone are a game changer as the demand largely surpasses the supply.
- Western Europe has already around 52.7% overweight adults. Similarly, in the US, this data correspond to two out of five adults. By 2030, 1Billion people worldwide could suffer from overweight conditions

#### Silver Economy

The 60-plus segment, is the fastest-growing consumer group worldwide, with higher spending power and a rising share of overall income. Demand for food and healthcare may certainly continue from this segment but increasing demand for leisure, communication and good and services might be supported as well.

Sources: Rothschild & Co, 5



### Thematic Investments in a Nutshell Long Term Investment Case & Catalysts

### Sustainability

#### Blue Gold

- Efficient management of water resources to overcome climate challenges will increase both demand and investments on new sustainability initiatives and production capacity. We therefore see catalysts for investments in the infrastructure of the utility sector and the process control for the improvement of the quality of the drinking water in general.
- In the US, within the Inflation Reduction Act \$370Bn are committed to support clean energy production and manufacturing.

## Environment Investing

- Green building for sustainable cities or waste reduction in the context of responsible consumption are just a few of attractive investment opportunities which can also have a positive impact in favor of the environment.
- As nearly seven in ten people will live in cities by 2050, new business models to combat climate change in cities could cross USD 9.5 Tn by 2030.

#### Hydrogen

 As climate change accelerates, policies around the world recognize the urgency of spending more for the transition towards a world using more clean energy

Sources: Rothschild & Co,



## Thematic Investments in a Nutshell Performance Update – Single Stocks

### Digital Frontiers

Thematic	Company	Recommendation	Rating	Currency	Price	FV	Upside	YTD (%)
rtificial Intelligence								
J	Advanced Micro Devices	HOLD	***	USD	154.02	145	-5.9%	4.48
	Alphabet	BUY	****	USD	155.47	175	12.6%	11.30
	ASML	HOLD	***	EUR	849.10	870	2.5%	24.77
	Microsoft	BUY	****	USD	411.84	480	16.6%	9.72
	NVIDIA	HOLD	***	USD	840.35	910	8.3%	69.70
Cybersecurity								•
	Check Point	HOLD	***	USD	158.09	150	-5.1%	3.47
	Fortinet	HOLD	***	USD	64.66	77	19.1%	10.47
	Palo Alto Networks	HOLD	***	USD	277.33	300	8.2%	-5.95
	Zscaler	BUY	****	USD	172.96	213	23.1%	-21.94
he cloud								
	Adobe	BUY	****	USD	474.45	640	34.9%	-20.47
	Alphabet	BUY	****	USD	155.47	175	12.6%	11.30
	Amazon	BUY	****	USD	181.28	180	-0.7%	19.31
	Microsoft	BUY	****	USD	411.84	480	16.6%	9.72
	Salesforce	HOLD	***	USD	276.32	310	12.2%	5.15
	SAP	BUY	****	EUR	168.58	185	9.7%	20.86
ndustry 4.0								
	ABB	SELL	**	CHF	43.99	36.5	-17.0%	20.39
	Analog Devices	HOLD	***	USD	189.43	196	3.5%	-4.15
	Comet	BUY	****	CHF	288.00	285	-1.0%	8.60
	Epiroc	BUY	****	SEK	211.60	222	4.9%	4.65
	General Electric	BUY	****	USD	155.67	180	15.6%	53.21
	Siemens	HOLD	***	EUR	175.12	166	-5.2%	5.97
	VAT Group	HOLD	***	CHF	466.90	435	-6.8%	10.77



## Thematic Investments in a Nutshell Performance Update – Single Stocks

### Lifestyle & Entertainment

Thematic	Company	Recommendation	Rating	Currency	Price	FV	Upside	YTD (%)
eCommerce								
	Amazon	BUY	****	USD	181.28	180	-0.7%	19.31
	Booking Holdings	BUY	****	USD	3'443.91	4100	19.1%	-2.67
	MercadoLibre	HOLD	***	USD	1'397.86	1400	0.2%	-11.05
	Visa	BUY	****	USD	272.69	315	15.5%	4.94
Streaming								
	Alphabet	BUY	****	USD	155.47	175	12.6%	11.30
	Comcast	BUY	****	USD	38.99	55	41.1%	-9.83
	The Walt Disney	BUY	****	USD	112.94	125	10.7%	25.09
	Netflix	HOLD	***	USD	613.69	620	1.0%	26.05

### The Future of Body & Mind

Thematic	Company	Recommendation	Rating	Currency	Price	FV	Upside	YTD (%)
Weight loss								
	Eli Lilly	SELL	**	USD	750.77	500	-33.4%	29.02
	Novo Nordisk	HOLD	***	DKK	861.40	730	-15.3%	24.28
	Thermo Fisher	BUY	****	USD	547.25	660	20.6%	3.17
Silver economy								
	Booking Holdings	BUY	***	USD	3'443.91	4100	19.1%	-2.67
	Sonova Holding	HOLD	***	CHF	247.70	270	9.0%	-9.73
	Straumann Holding	HOLD	***	CHF	132.90	130	-2.2%	-1.38
	UnitedHealth Group	HOLD	***	USD	478.99	530	10.6%	-8.66



## Thematic Investments in a Nutshell Performance Update – Single Stocks

### Sustainability

Thematic	Company	Recommendation	Rating	Currency	Price	FV	Upside	YTD (%)
Blue Gold								
	Ecolab	HOLD	***	USD	219.25	210	-4.2%	10.81
	Geberit	BUY	****	CHF	496.70	520	4.7%	-7.85
	Veolia Environnement	HOLD	***	EUR	28.35	31	9.3%	-0.74
	Veralto	BUY	****	USD	90.55	119	31.4%	10.19
Hydrogen								
	ABB	SELL	**	CHF	43.99	36.5	-17.0%	20.39
	Air Liquide	HOLD	***	EUR	186.34	185	-0.7%	5.80
	Linde	BUY	****	USD	446.79	445	-0.4%	9.10
Energy transition								
	Iberdrola	HOLD	***	EUR	11.33	12	5.9%	-2.89
	NextEra	BUY	****	USD	63.79	71	11.3%	6.00
	RWE	BUY	****	EUR	32.22	55	70.7%	-21.76
	Sika	BUY	****	CHF	259.60	260	0.2%	-3.99
	Shell	HOLD	***	EUR	33.36	35	4.9%	13.17



## Thematic Investments in a Nutshell Performance Update – ETFs & Funds

### Digital Frontiers

Thematic	ETF / Fund	ISIN	Currency	Price	YTD (%)	1Y return (%)	5Y return (%)
Artificial Intelligence							
	WisdomTree Artificial Intellig	IE00BDVPNG13	USD	59.85	-4.63	22.47	14.78
	Xtrackers Artificial Intellige	IE00BGV5VN51	EUR	111.88	11.59	51.44	17.34
	VanEck Semiconductor UCITS ETF	IE00BMC38736	USD	38.28	13.78	59.57	
Cybersecurity							
	L&G Cyber Security UCITS ETF	IE00BYPLS672	USD	23.06	-5.53	17.64	8.48
The Cloud							
	WisdomTree Cloud Computing UCI	IE00BJGWQN72	USD	31.41	-10.12	12.32	
	iShares Digitalisation UCITS E	IE00BYZK4883	USD	8.54	-0.52	17.83	4.51
Industry 4.0					_		
	iShares Automation & Robotics	IE00BYZK4552	USD	12.65	-3.84	15.84	9.81

### Future of Body & Mind / Sustainability

Thematic	ETF / Fund	ISIN	Currency	Price	YTD (%)	1Y return (%)	5Y return (%)
Silver economy							
	iShares Ageing Population UCIT	IE00BYZK4669	USD	6.76	-3.43	1.69	3.19
	R-co Thematic Silver Plus	FR0010906305	EUR	179'472.10	2.81	3.43	7.13
Blue Gold							
	iShares Global Water UCITS ETF	IE00B1TXK627	USD	62.65	0.72	7.22	9.55
	Robeco Capital Growth Funds -	LU2146191643	USD	164.22	0.75	11.87	9.64
Hydrogen							
	L&G Hydrogen Economy UCITS ETF	IE00BMYDM794	USD	4.48	-5.74	-11.56	
Energy transition							
	Rothschild & Co WM Fund - UNIT	LU2538715637	EUR	136.31	0.60		

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