Blue Chip Top 20 Model Portfolio
Monthly Performance Report
March 2025

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Model Portfolio description and investment return objective

The Antares Blue Chip Top 20 SMA Model Portfolio is a capital growth focused portfolio of high quality, large capitalisation Australian shares.

The Model's objective is to deliver similar returns to the S&P/ASX 20 Total Return Index before fees and expenses.

Investment returns[1]

Period	1 month	3 months	1 year	3 years pa	5 years pa	7 years pa	10 years pa	Since inception pa
Income return[4] %	0.6	1.1	3.9	--	--	--	--	--
Growth return %	-3.7	-4.6	-0.3	--	--	--	--	--
Gross return[2] %	-3.1	-3.5	3.6	6.2	13.0	9.3	6.3	7.3
Benchmark return %	-3.2	-3.5	3.6	6.4	13.4	9.5	6.5	7.5
Gross excess return %	0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-0.4	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2

[1] Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. The value of an investment may rise or fall with the changes in the market.

Investment commentary

Australia was not immune to the Trump tariff policy uncertainty with the S&P/ASX 200 down by 3.4% for the month. Growing geo-political risks and uncertainty increased the attraction of gold, which is typically seen as a safe-haven asset; the USD gold price surged by more than 10% and gold producers were among the few winners in March. While the more defensive sectors including Utilities, Insurance and Telcos fared relatively well, most Industrial sectors were well down, with Information Technology the worst performer given a general derating of stocks with the highest PERs and continued governance challenges at Wisetech.

The Antares Blue Chip portfolio finished March 2025 down 3.1% compared to the S&P/ASX20 which declined by 3.2%.

Rio Tinto (+5.0%), QBE Insurance (+4.8%) and Transurban (+1.8%) were the best performers. With more positive economic news from China and a valuation and dividend yield that was noted as attractive by some sell-side analysts, Rio Tinto shares were among the few large caps to rise in March. QBE shares have continued to enjoy positive momentum since releasing their FY24 results in February. Transurban eked out a small rise as the more defensive utilities sector enjoyed support in a relatively uncertain and volatile environment.

James Hardie (JHX; -24.0%), Macquarie Group (MQG; -13.2%) and Aristocrat Leisure (-11.0%) were the poorest performers. JHX announced it had entered into a definitive agreement under which it will acquire US-based outdoor building products maker AZEK Company for a total consideration of US$8.75b which is partly funded by the issue of 1.034 JHX shares per AZEK share. Financials were weaker in March with MQG down the most. With the uncertainty around Trump's tariffs and their possible impact on world economies, MQG's exposure to global markets increased the perception of associated risk. Aristocrat shares had enjoyed a very strong run over many months but pulled back in March on no particular news. Profit taking may be an explanation.

Share holdings

(ranked by market capitalisation)

- Commonwealth Bank of Australia
- BHP Group
- CSL
- Westpac Banking Corporation
- National Australia Bank
- ANZ Group
- Wesfarmers
- Macquarie Group
- Goodman Group
- Telstra Group
- Woodside Energy Group
- Rio Tinto
- Transurban Group
- Aristocrat Leisure
- Woolworths Group
- QBE Insurance
- Fortescue Metals
- Coles Group
- Santos
- James Hardie Industries

Australia's economic data remains modest. There was positive news with the monthly inflation indicator showing annual inflation declining to 2.4% in February. Consumer sentiment in March also posted an encouraging rise in response to milder inflation and the Reserve Bank cutting interest rates in February. However, the previous strength in the labour market appears to be fading with February recording a sharp decline in jobs. Notably the business surveys also suggest subdued confidence given the 'global tariff war' and caution over Australia's prospects with a Federal election on May 3rd. With widespread global tariff impositions by the US in early April, further volatility is likely, especially if these are used as bargaining tools and altered accordingly.

Sector allocation

GICS[3]	%
Financials	44.9
Metals & Mining	18.6
Consumer Discretionary	8.4
Health Care	8.4
Energy	4.5
Consumer Staples	4.3
Real Estate	3.8
Communication Services	3.3
Industrials	2.9
Materials Ex Metals & Mining	1.1
Information Technology	0.0
Utilities	0.0

Stock activity

Buys / Additions

Nil.

Sells / Reductions

Nil.

Investor profile

The model portfolio is suitable for investors with an investment horizon of five or more years who are seeking a concentrated portfolio of large capitalisation Australian shares.

Model Portfolio facts

Inception date	August 2009
Benchmark	S&P/ASX 20 Total Return Index
No. of shares	20

Investment guidelines and ranges

	Minimum	Benchmark Allocation	As at 31 March 2025
Australian shares	0%	100%	98.4%
Cash and cash equivalents	1%	0%	1.6%

Portfolio managers

BRUCE ROSE

Head of Trading

Years with the group: 24

Years of Industry Experience: 34

Key Responsibilities:

Bruce is the Portfolio Manager of the Blue Chip Top 20 Model Portfolio.

Platform availability

- Expand Extra

[2] Performance is based on the income and market value of the notional model portfolio. Investment returns for the Model Portfolio are based on a notional model portfolio constructed by Antares and are gross of administration (platform) and investment management fees, and assume all dividends remain in the Model Portfolio.

[3] GICS - Global Industry Classification Standard % are absolute ie sector proportion of portfolio. Source: Antares Equities.

[4] Income return reflects the dividends received in the month. Longer term history greater than 3 months not included.

About Antares Equities

Antares Equities (Antares) is a specialist Australian equities manager. Since 1994, Antares has managed portfolios for wholesale, advised and direct investors through a suite of products including segregated mandates, investment funds and managed account models. Antares has A$5.5 billion (at 31 December 2024) under advice across a range of strategies including large capitalisation, concentrated, income and long-short. Antares believes in bottom-up stock picking. A consistent process and detailed, quality research executed by a highly experienced, stable and diverse team underpin this approach. The investment philosophy is based on the belief that markets can misprice stocks and these opportunities can be identified using the proven, proprietary Antares research process. Antares Equities is part of Antares Capital Partners Limited (ABN 85 066 081 114, AFSL 234483).

For further information please contact our Client Services Team - 1300 738 355