

Inside the NAPS Portfolio

*How a simple rules-based portfolio has delivered
long-term outperformance*

Simple rules behind 11 years of outperformance - “NAPS”

Stockopedia



- The “No Admin Portfolio System”
- 11 Years public history.
- 15.5% annualised (→ 395% returns).
- Beat every UK fund manager.
- Beat the S&P 500 (in UK stocks).
- Simple rules anyone can apply.
- *Less than 1 hour per year.*

1. The Foundations

- Why most investors struggle - and how rules fix the three common mistakes
- The 3D Framework: Drivers, Diversity, Discipline

2. The Principles

- How to select, construct, and maintain a high-performance portfolio
- The NAPS rules & variations you can adapt to your own style

3. Going Deeper

- 11 years of NAPS: Performance, lessons, and what the numbers show

4. The Reveal

- The 2026 NAPS Portfolio
- **The Big Questions** - *stop losses, total returns, running winners, holding losers?*

Where are you on your investing journey?

 Stockopedia

Quick Poll



Ed Page Croft

Founder & CEO, Stockopedia.com
ex Goldman Sachs Private Clients

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We would like to draw your attention to the following important investment warnings:

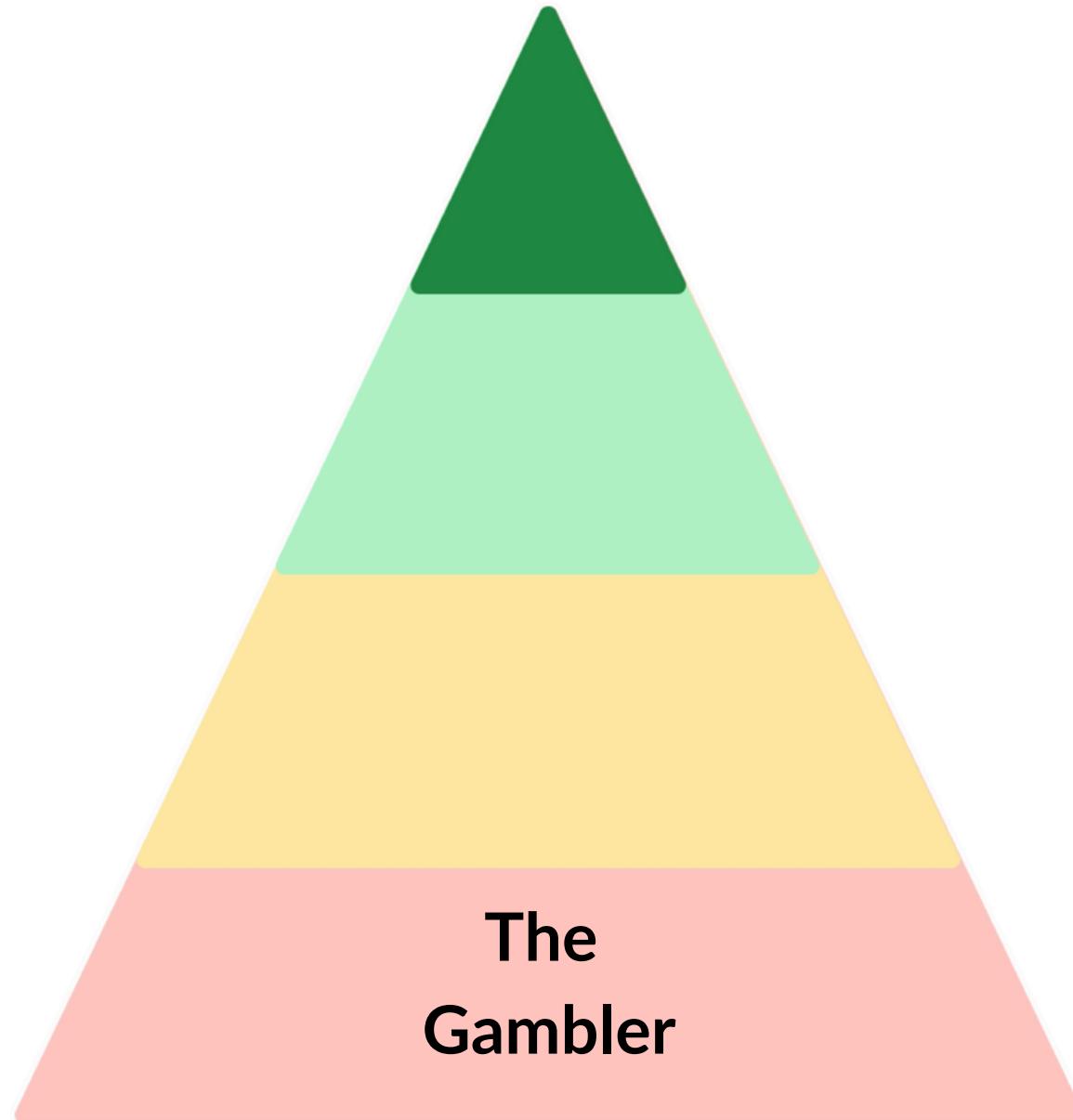
- The value of shares and investments and the income derived from them can go down as well as up.
- Investors may not get back the amount they invested.
- Past performance is not a guide to future performance.

Please note that all data in this document is historic and dated when this document went to print in January 2026.

Part 1: The Foundations

Why we all struggle, and the 3 Dimensions of Rules-Based Investing.

Four stages we build on as investors

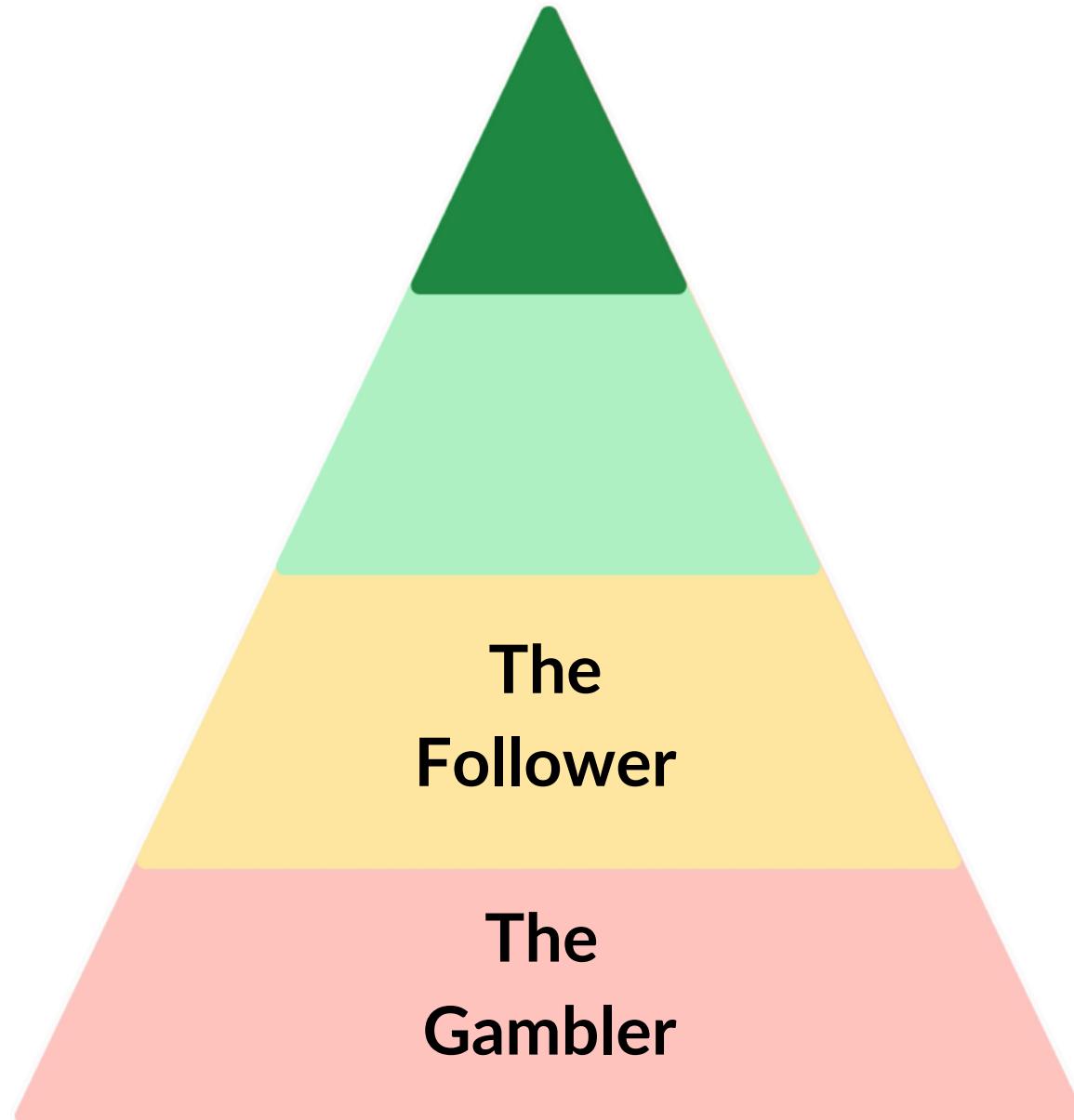


Social → Acts fast on rumour → Bandwagon, Blame

The problems with “story stocks”



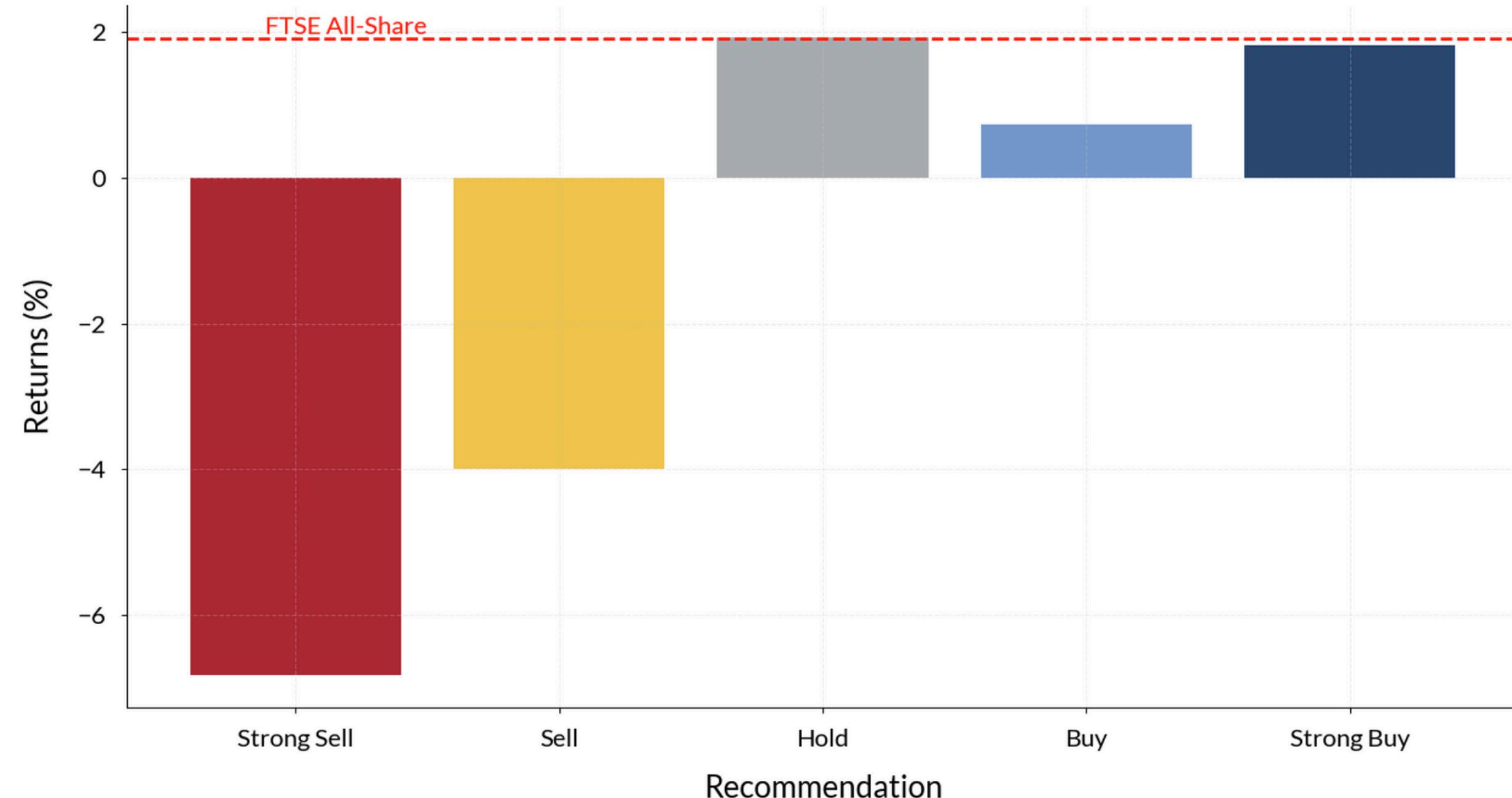
Four stages we build on as investors



Gurus → Trusts in “authority” → Erratic results, Regret

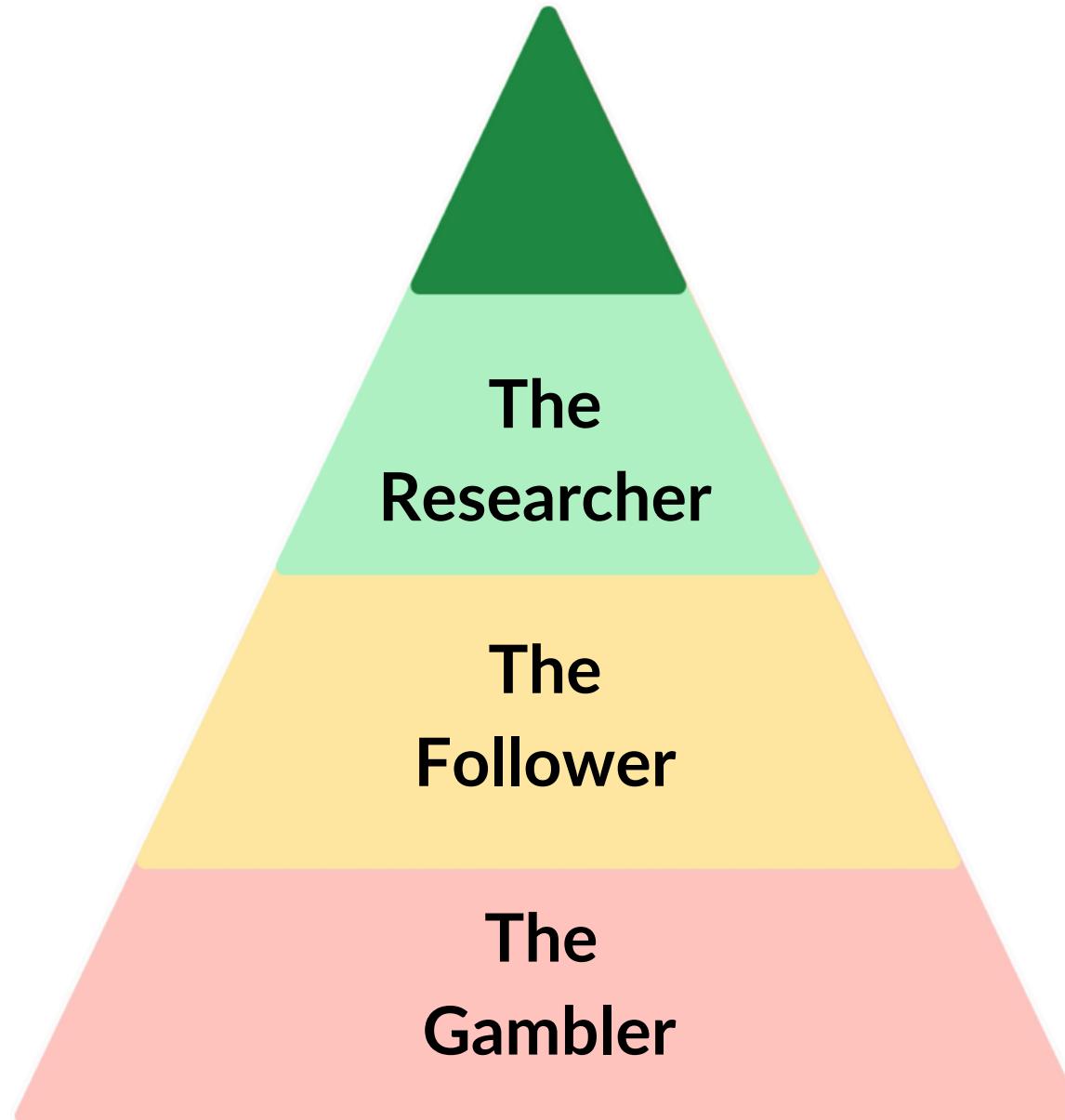
Social → Acts fast on rumour → Bandwagon, Blame

The problem with broker recommendations



* Average annualised return for broker recommendations between 2014 and 2024 - UK stocks. Holding period 1 year.

Four stages we build on as investors

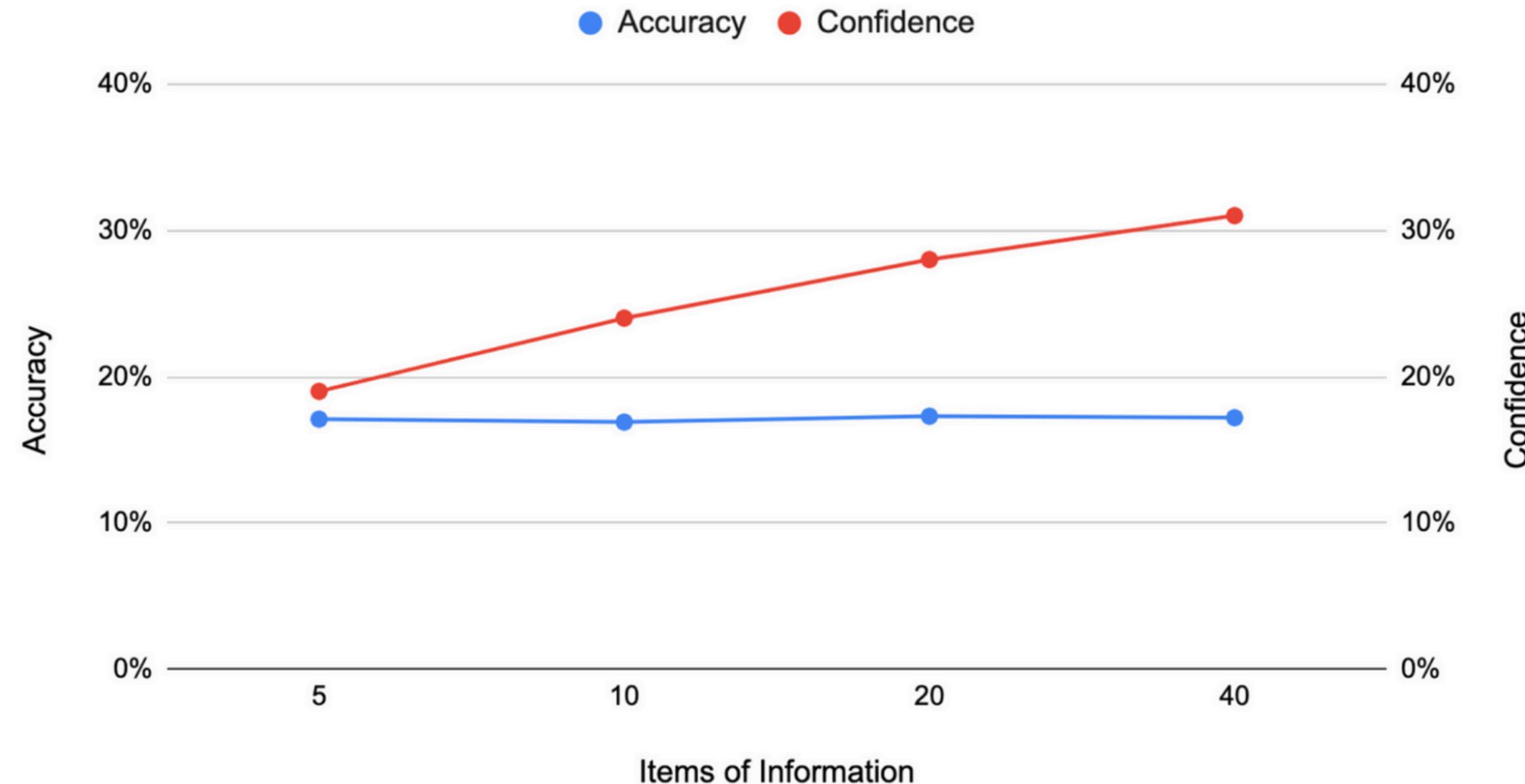


Deep research → Fundamentals → Overattachment

Gurus → Trusts in “authority” → Erratic results, Regret

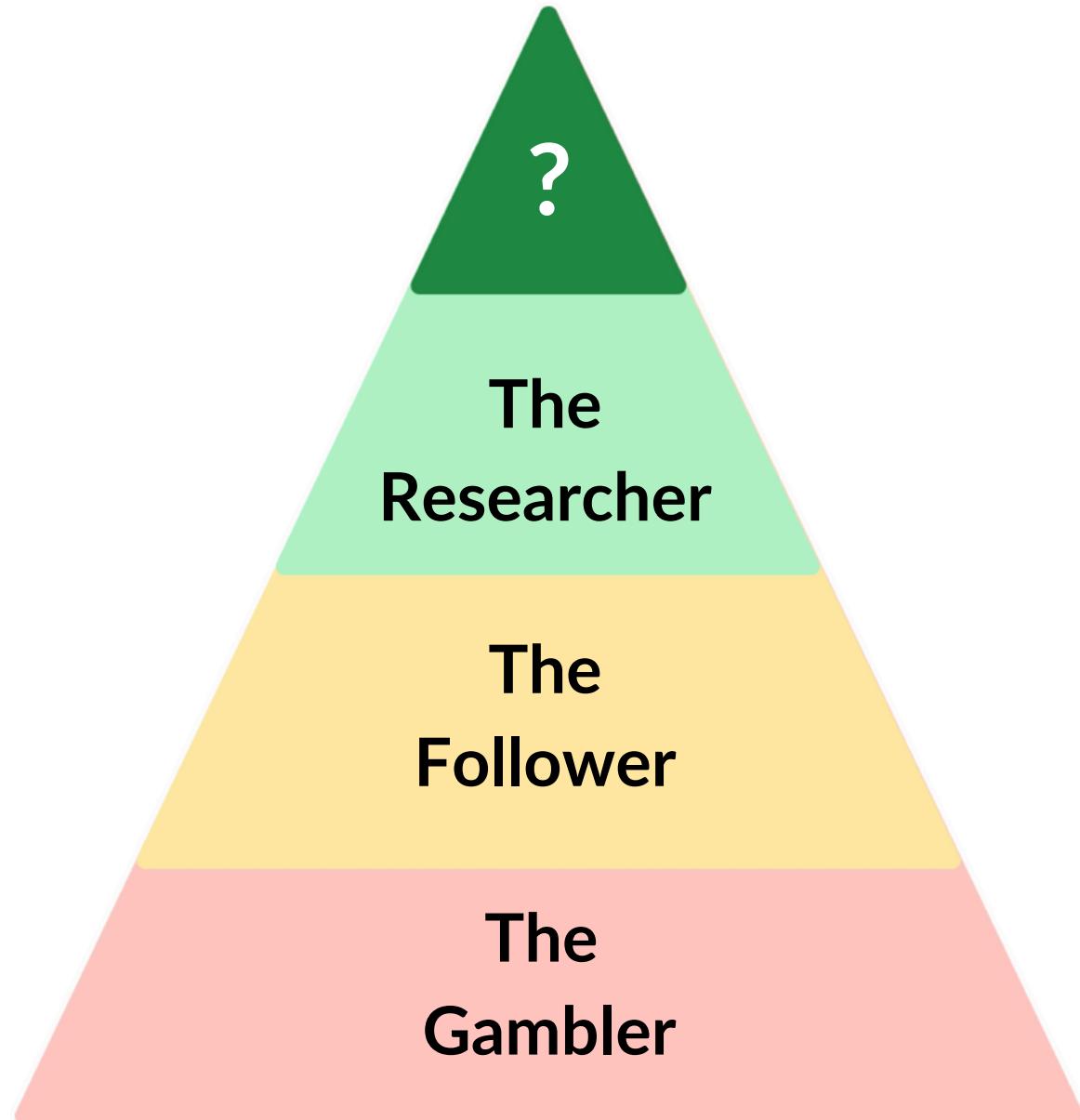
Social → Acts fast on rumour → Bandwagon, Blame

Are you researching too much?



Slovic, Paul. *Behavioral Problems of Adhering to a Decision Policy*. 1973.

Four stages we build on as investors



Evidence-based → Process driven → Consistency

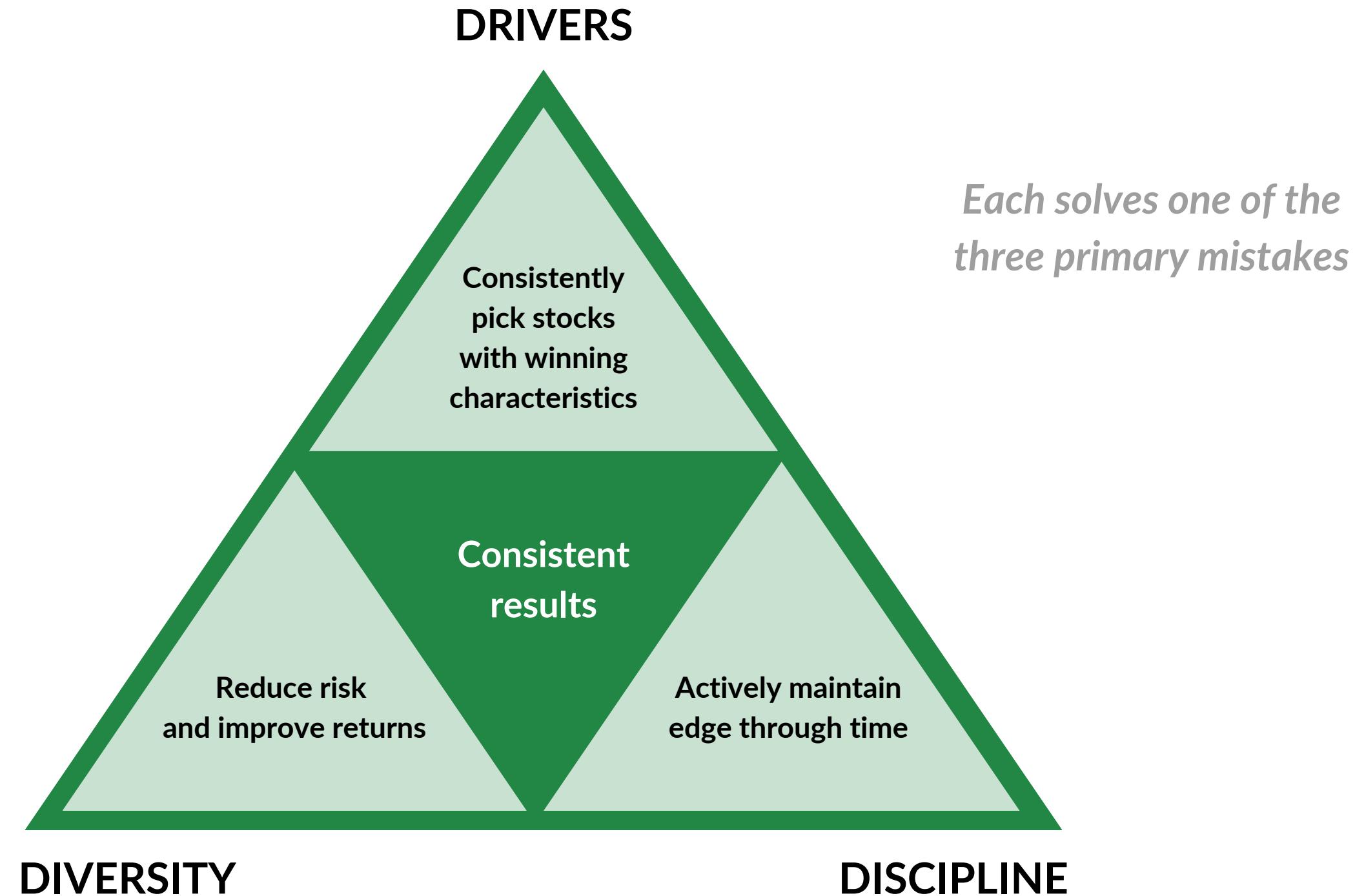
Deep research → Fundamentals → Overattachment

Gurus → Trusts in “authority” → Erratic results, Regret

Social → Acts fast on rumour → Bandwagon, Blame

Mistake	What it looks like	The Cost
“Perverse Stock Selection”	Chasing stories, buying the news, “this one is different”	Underperformers.
Over-concentration	Holding too few stocks, in too few sectors.	Single stock risk.
Reckless Trading	Holding losers, Overtrading, poor timing.	High costs.

- *Barber and Odean ("The Behaviour of Individual Investors")*



Drivers • Sort the market by StockRank descending (high QVM)

Diversity • Select the top 2 from each of the 10 economic sectors
• Buy an equal weight of each of the shares

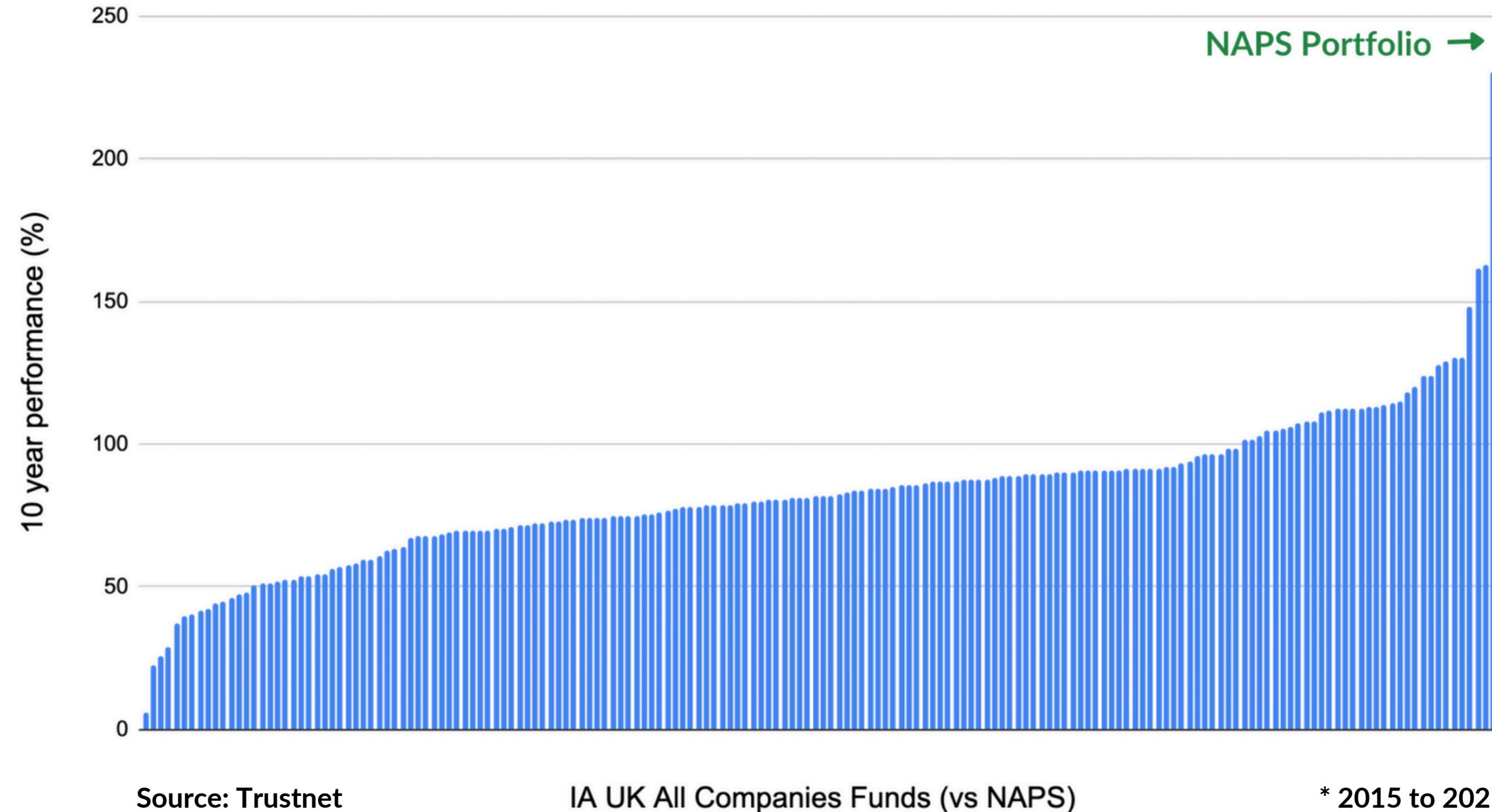
Discipline • Hold for 1 year
• Each year, repeat the process

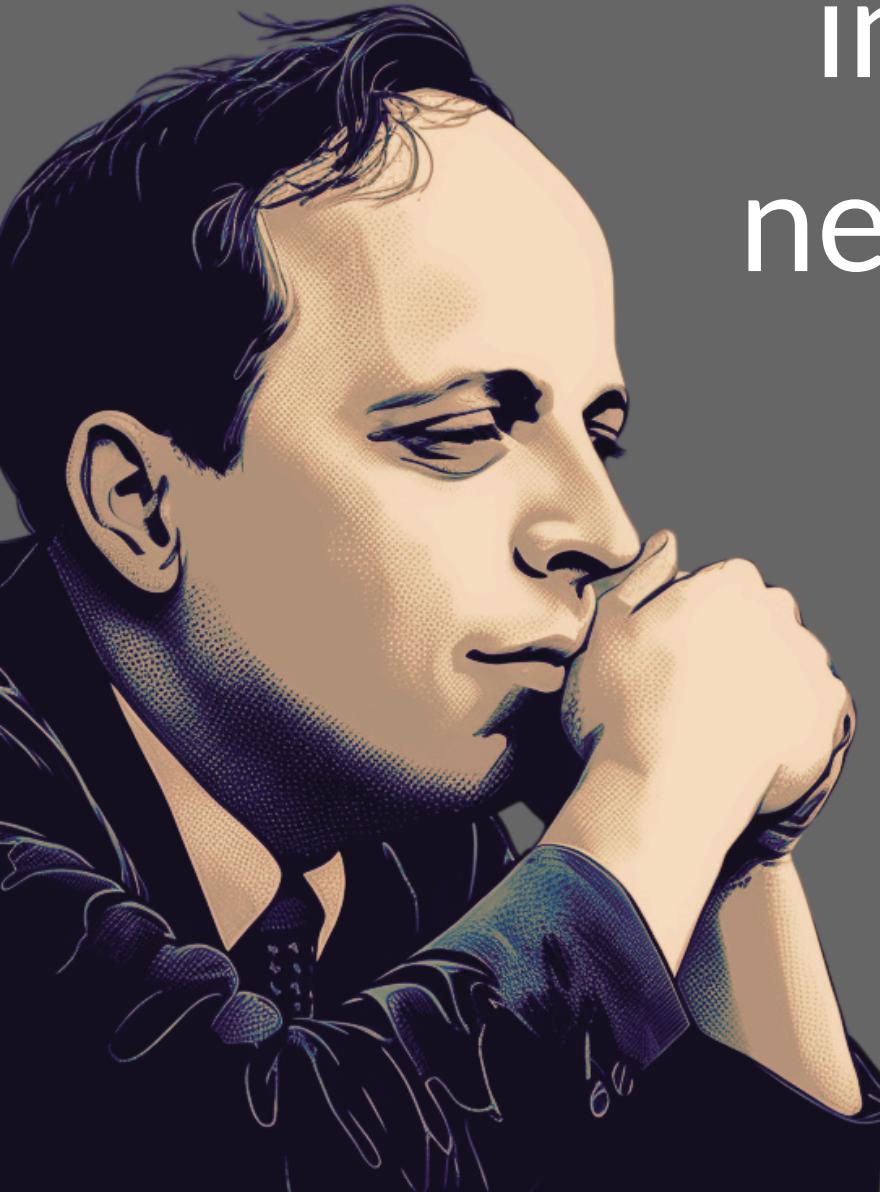
Simple rules behind 11 years of outperformance - “NAPS”

Stockopedia



The NAPS has beaten every UK fund manager



A stylized, high-contrast illustration of Benjamin Graham. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt. His right hand is resting against his chin, with his fingers partially hidden in his pocket, suggesting a thoughtful or contemplative pose. The background is a solid, dark grey.

People don't need extraordinary
insight or intelligence. What they
need most is the character to adopt
simple rules and stick to them.

Benjamin Graham

The Intelligent Investor

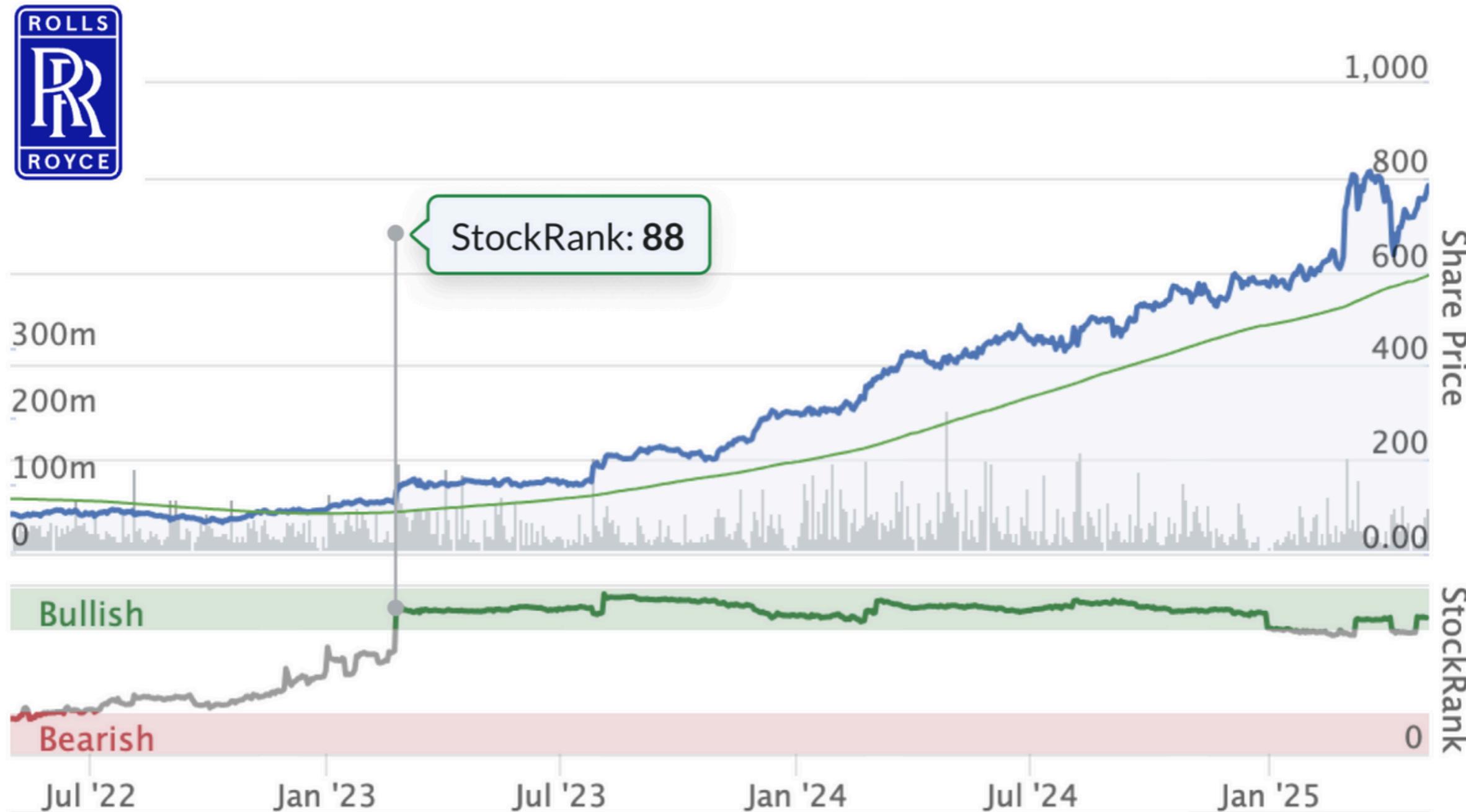
Part 2: The Principles

The key ideas we should all apply, no matter our style of investing

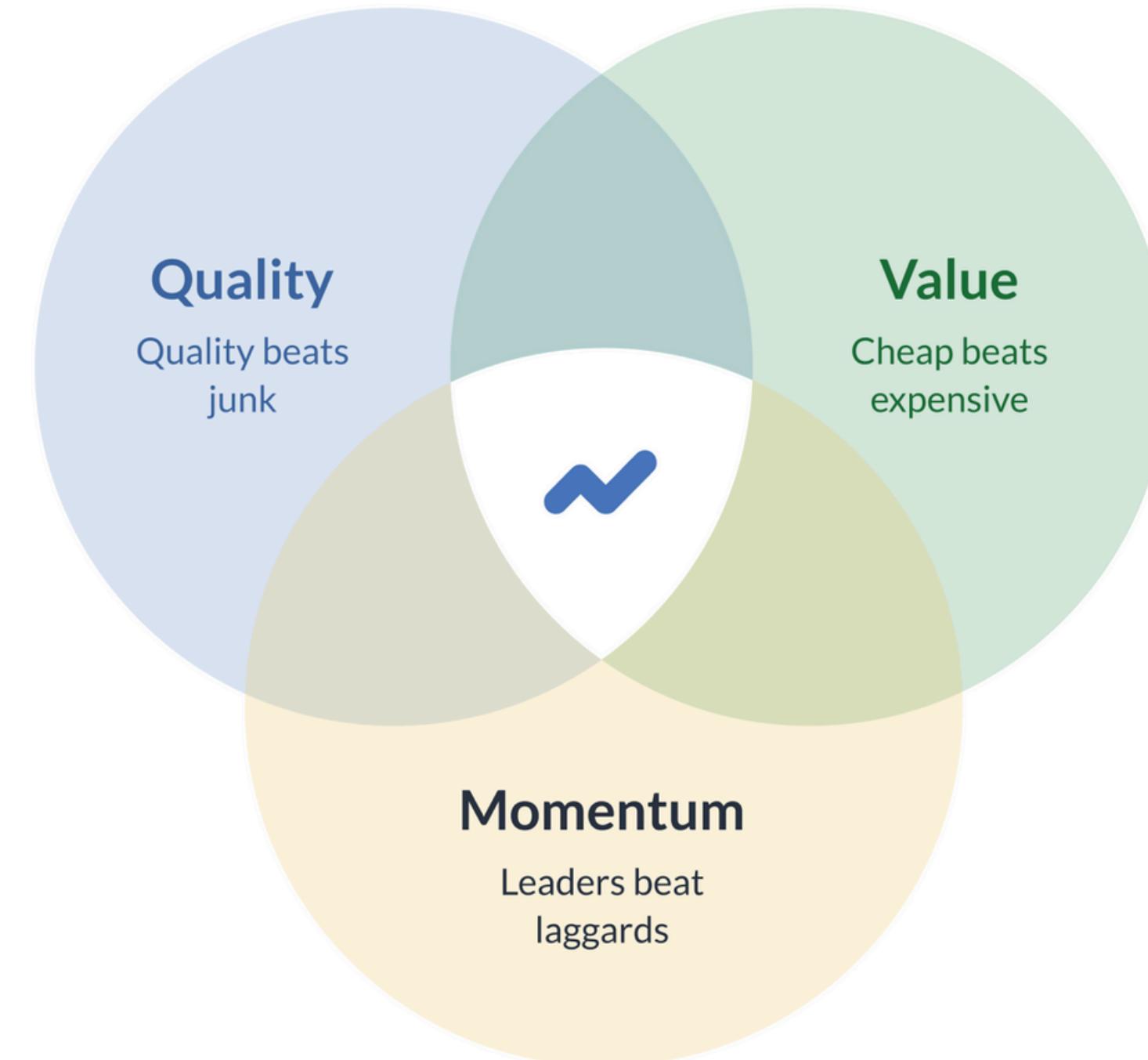
1. Drivers: Pick the highest potential shares

Quality, **Value** and **Momentum** are the most powerful return “drivers”

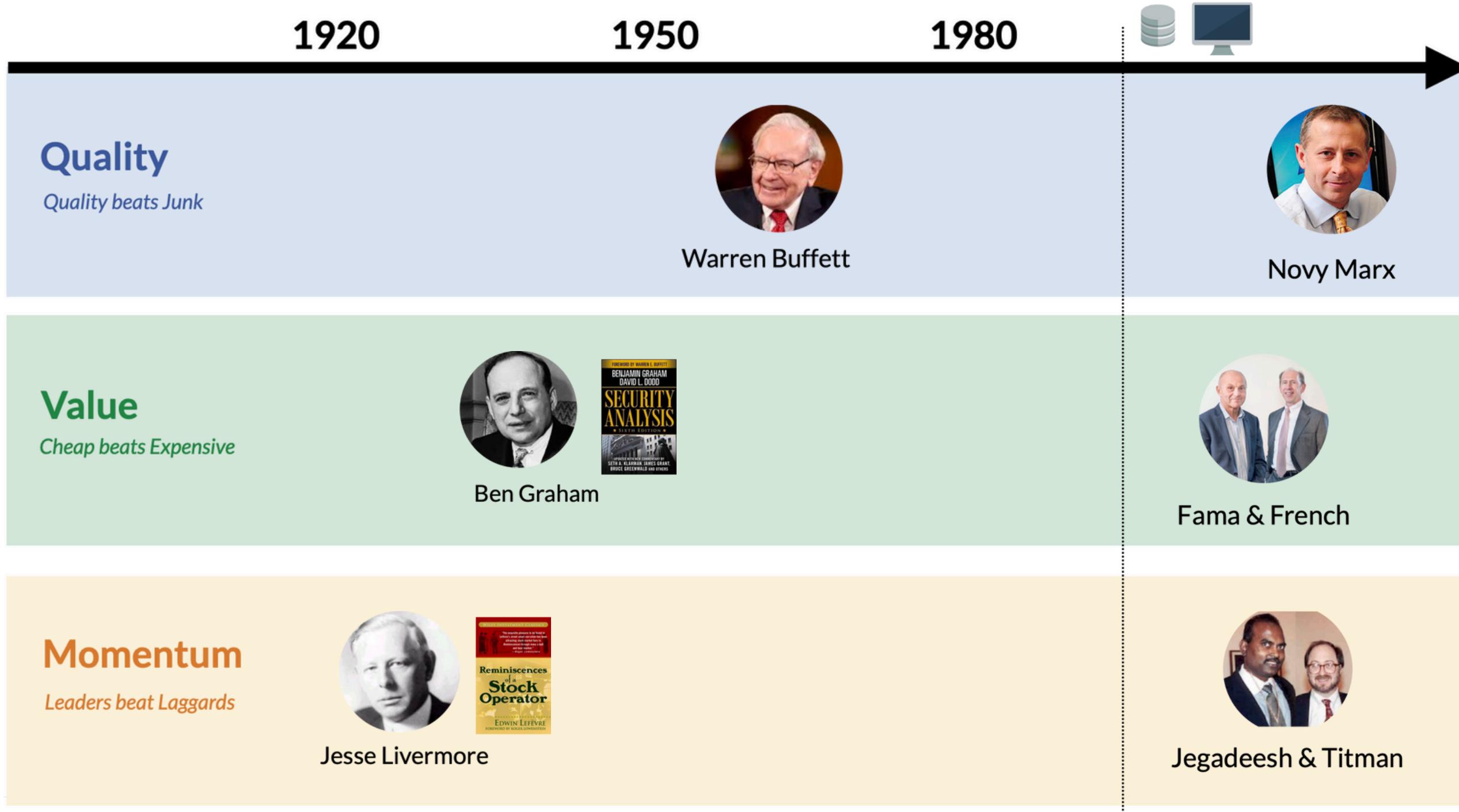
What was it about Rolls-Royce before it took off?



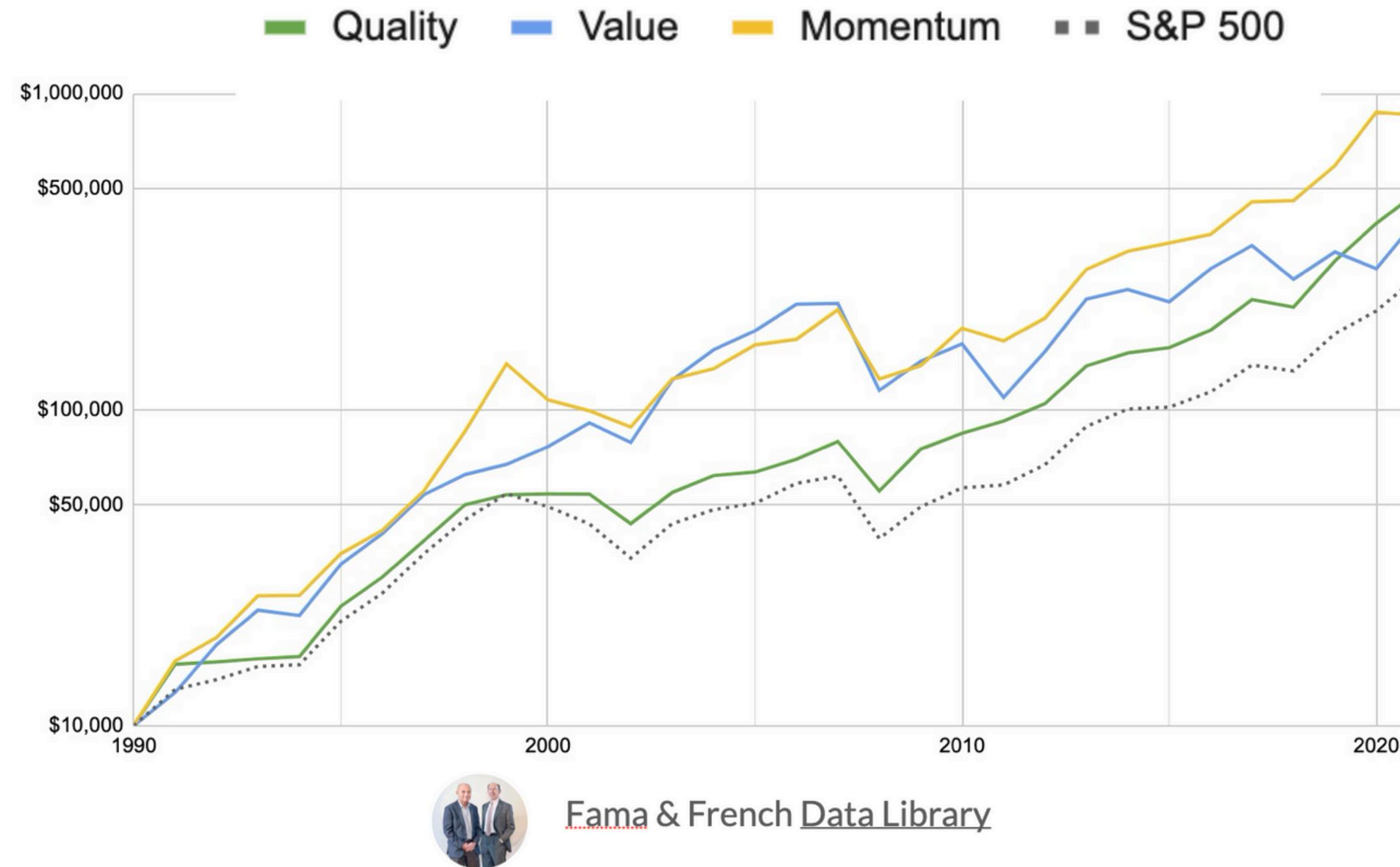
There are three primary drivers of stock market returns



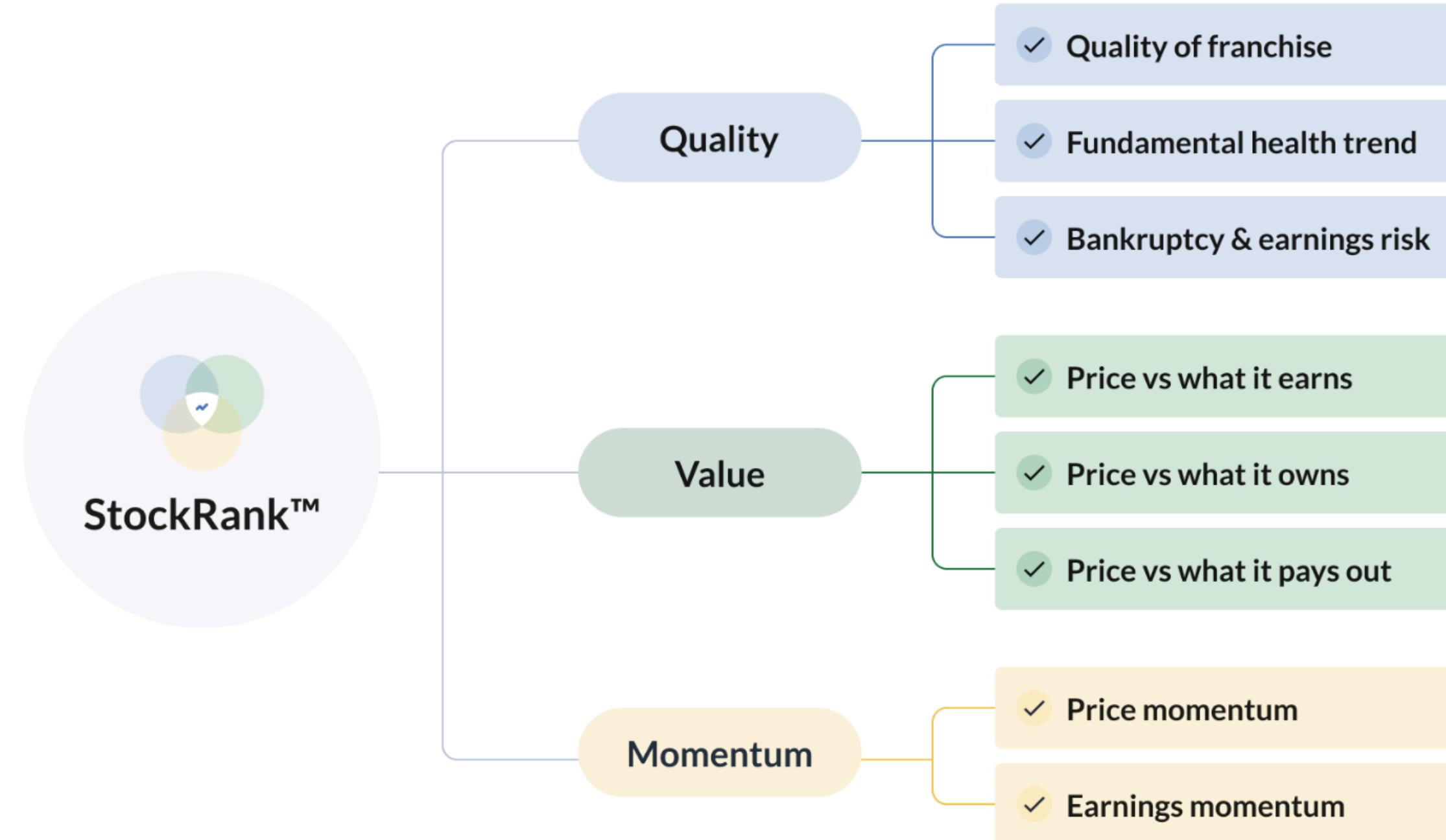
These return drivers have been proven for decades



The top 10% “ranked” shares outperform consistently

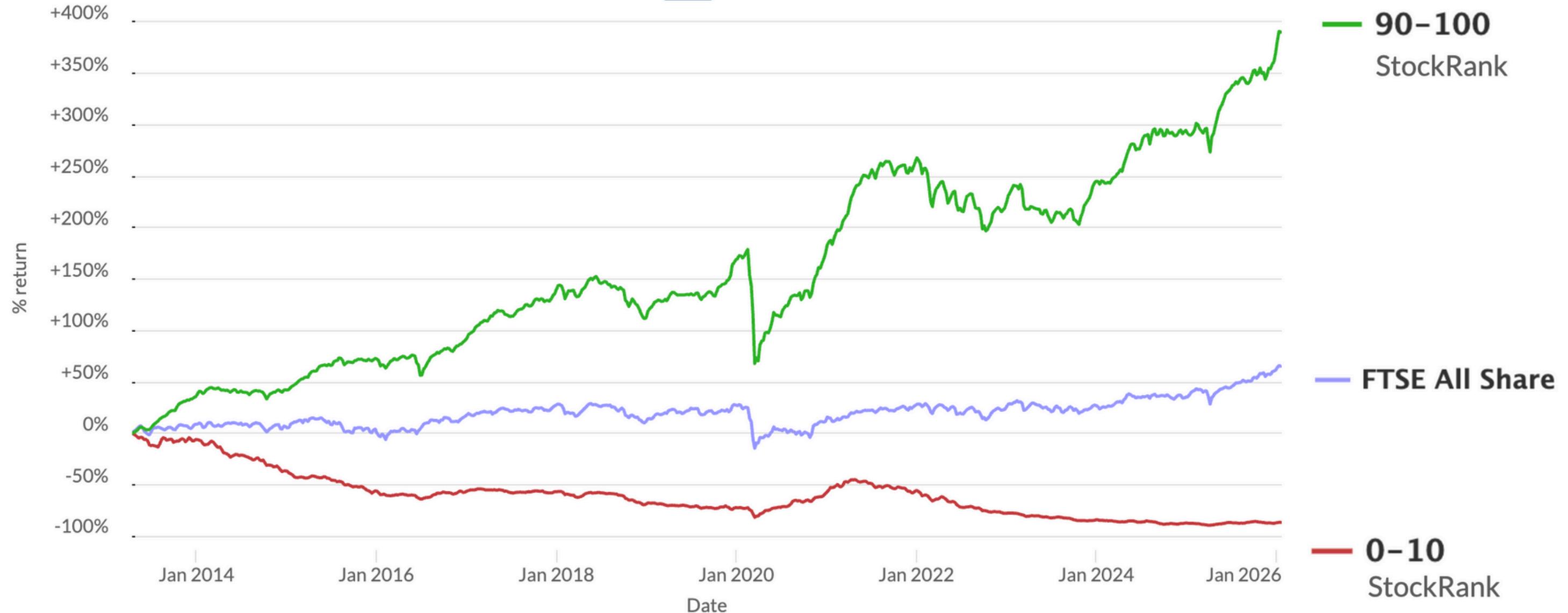


NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ stocks. Value portfolio selected the decile of stocks with the lowest P/B ratio, the Quality portfolio selected those with the highest operating profit, and the Momentum portfolio selected those with the strongest returns over the prior 12 months. The Value and Quality portfolios were rebalanced annually, while the Momentum portfolio was rebalanced each month.



The performance history of high and low “ranked” shares

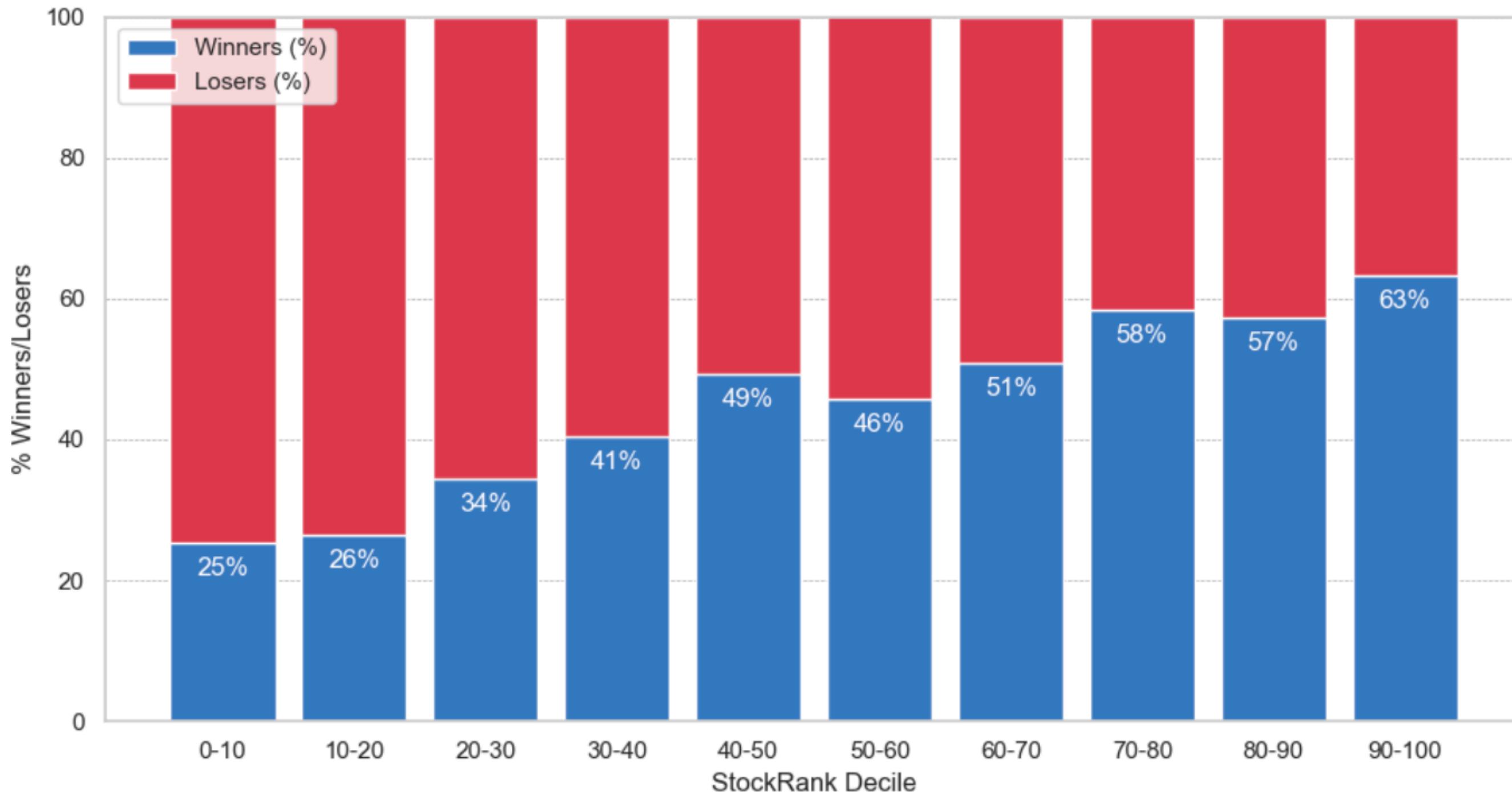
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* Based on equal weighted portfolios of UK stocks, > £10m market cap, segmented by StockRank, rebalanced quarterly

Likelihood of picking a “winner” or a “loser” by StockRank

↗ Stockopedia



Annualised returns of £10m+ LSE stocks, rebalanced bi-annually from 2013-2024.

Sort by StockRank QVM descending

Minimum £20m market cap

Maximum bid-ask spread 7.5%

No investment trusts, no dual-listed stocks.

If you want	Try this	The Trade-off
More Growth Exposure	QM Rank (Quality & Momentum)	Works better in strong years
More Turnaround Focus	VM Rank (Value and Momentum)	Emotionally challenging, but proven approach
Lower Risk Stocks	Filter out “Highly Speculative” Risk Ratings	Suffocates some upside.

2. Diversity - construct a robust portfolio

Diversify to reduce risk and improve the chance that you own enough winners

**The typical investor holds only 4 stocks
often in the same sector**

Barber & Odean. "The Common Stock Investment Performance of Individual Investors" 2000

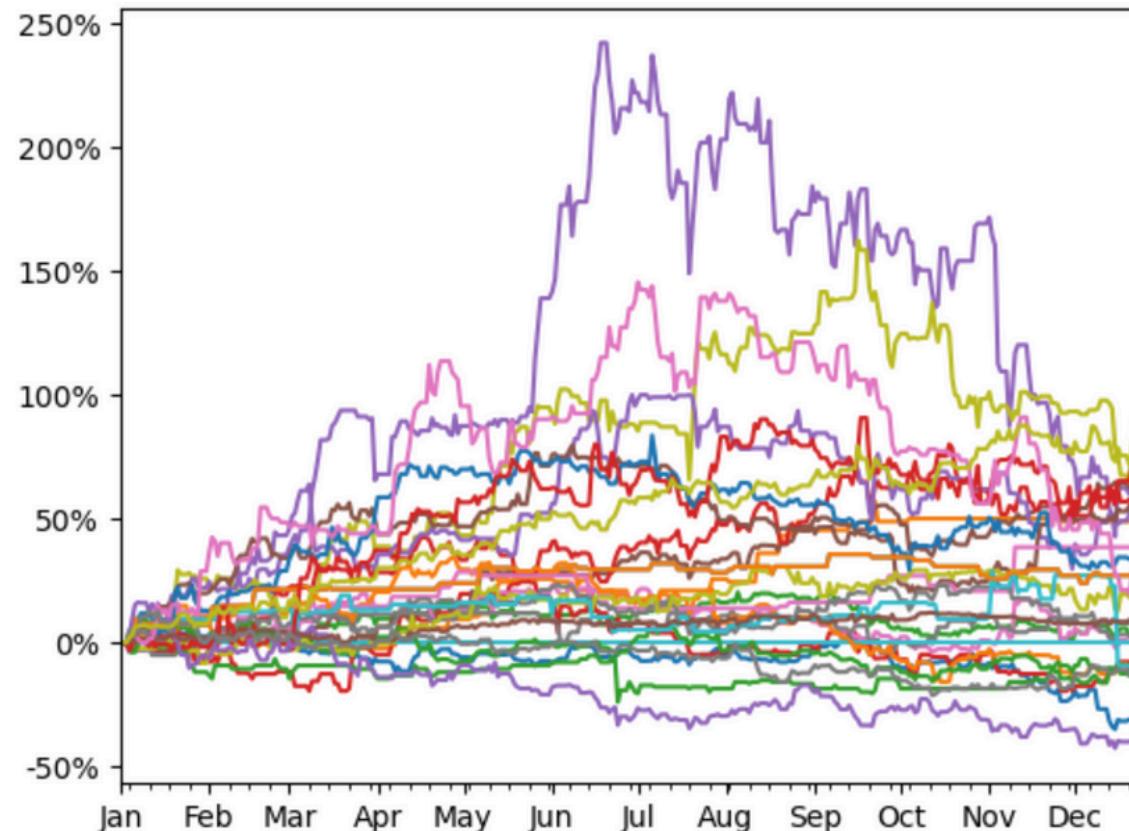
How many stocks should you own?

Average performance of 90+ Stocks (2021)

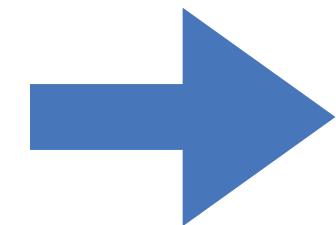
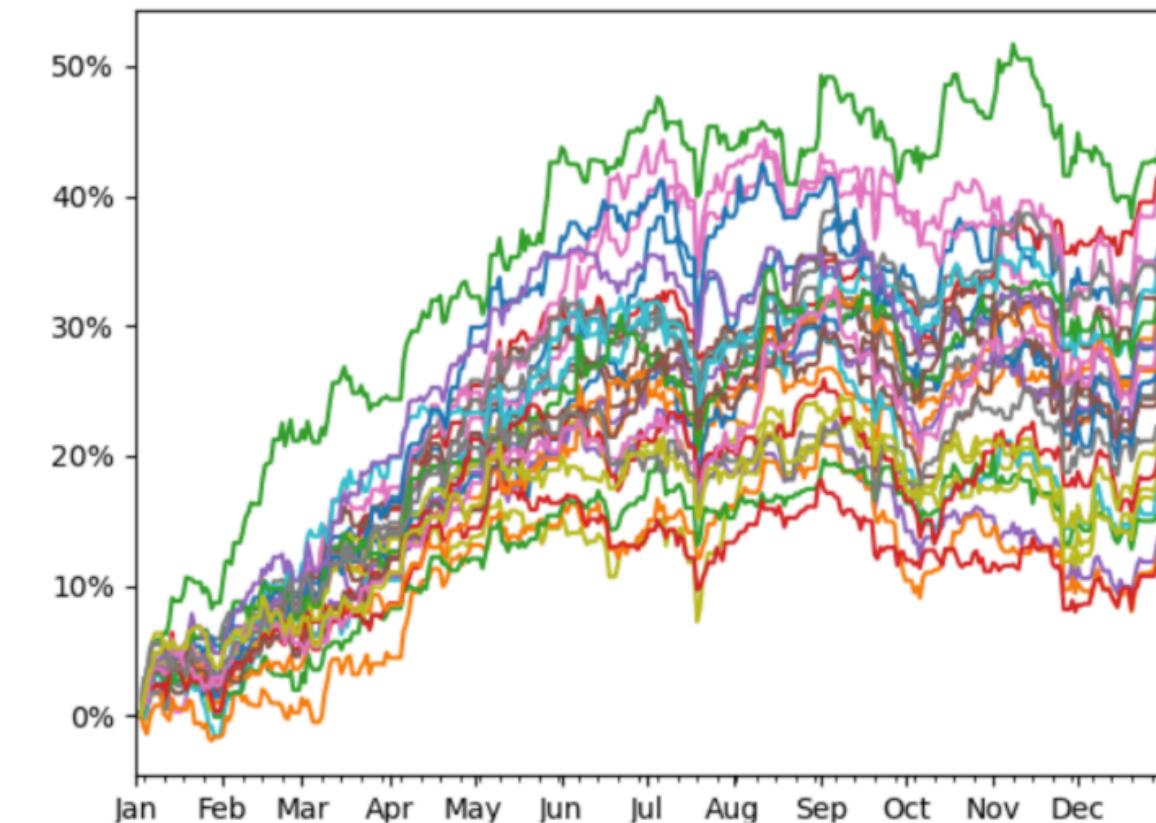


How many stocks should you own?

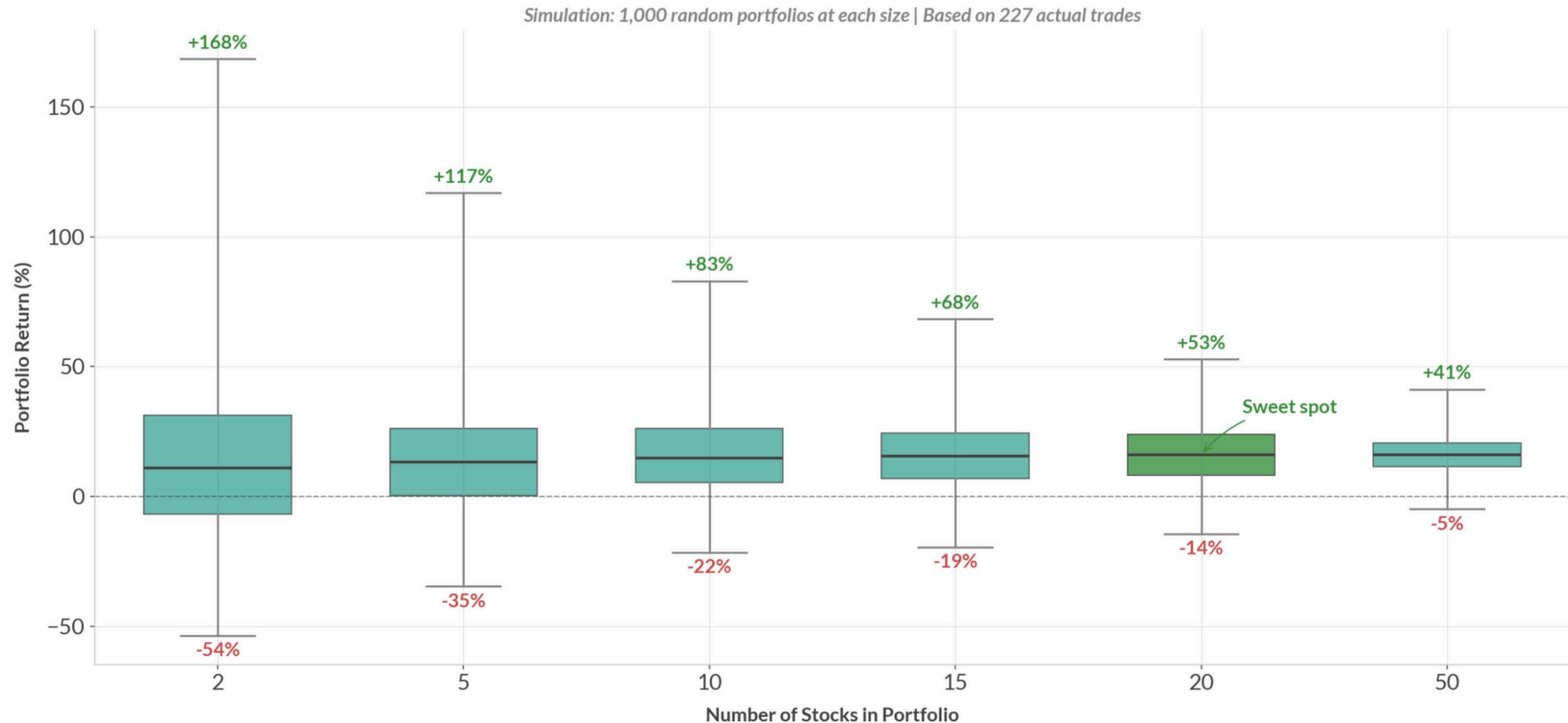
1 random 90+ share pick



20 share 90+ portfolio



How many stocks should you own?



Key insight: With 2 stocks, your worst case is -54%. With 20 stocks, it's only -14%.

Which sectors can you really predict will outperform?

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Basic Materi 83%	Healthcare 36%	Technology 152%	Financials 15%	Industrials 32%	Basic Materi 117%	Industrials 58%	Utilities 35%	Consumer Def 49%	Consumer Def 69%	Basic Materi 187%
Industrials 68%	Utilities 28%	Consumer Cyc 108%	Technology 6%	Healthcare 21%	Consumer Def 76%	Healthcare 51%	Energy 11%	Industrials 25%	Basic Materi 49%	Technology 47%
Consumer Cyc 62%	Energy 17%	Industrials 99%	Utilities -2%	Technology 18%	Healthcare 71%	Consumer Cyc 48%	Consumer Def 5%	Financials 21%	Industrials 30%	Telecoms 45%
Telecoms 57%	Basic Materi 8%	Healthcare 38%	Consumer Def -2%	Consumer Cyc 17%	Technology 34%	Utilities 31%	Healthcare -3%	Telecoms 15%	Energy 27%	Consumer Cyc 29%
Technology 46%	Consumer Def 6%	Financials 29%	Energy -5%	Energy 12%	Industrials 25%	Technology 28%	Financials -16%	Consumer Cyc 13%	Financials 25%	Energy 28%
Consumer Def 34%	Financials -0%	Basic Materi 25%	Consumer Cyc -10%	Consumer Def 1%	Telecoms 24%	Consumer Def 23%	Telecoms -16%	Energy -12%	Consumer Cyc 15%	Consumer Def 23%
Healthcare 27%	Technology -1%	Consumer Def 15%	Industrials -14%	Basic Materi -4%	Financials -15%	Basic Materi 3%	Basic Materi -27%	Healthcare -21%	Healthcare 2%	Financials 15%
Utilities 27%	Consumer Cyc -8%	Utilities -1%	Basic Materi -26%	Utilities -13%	Utilities -16%	Energy -1%	Industrials -31%	Technology -23%	Utilities 0%	Healthcare 10%
Energy 17%	Industrials -14%	Telecoms -4%	Telecoms -35%	Telecoms -19%	Energy -24%	Financials -3%	Technology -42%	Utilities -27%	Telecoms -13%	Industrials -7%
Financials 9%	Telecoms -18%	Energy -34%	Healthcare -72%	Financials -21%	Consumer Cyc -25%	Telecoms -7%	Consumer Cyc -43%	Basic Materi -27%	Technology -37%	Utilities -17%

Sector	Avg
Consumer Def	4.3
Industrials	4.5
Basic Materials	4.9
Healthcare	5.0
Technology	5.1
Consumer Cyc	5.5
Energy	6.0
Financials	6.2
Utilities	6.3
Telecoms	7.2

10 Economic Sectors

Defensives

- Healthcare
- Consumer Defensive
- Utilities

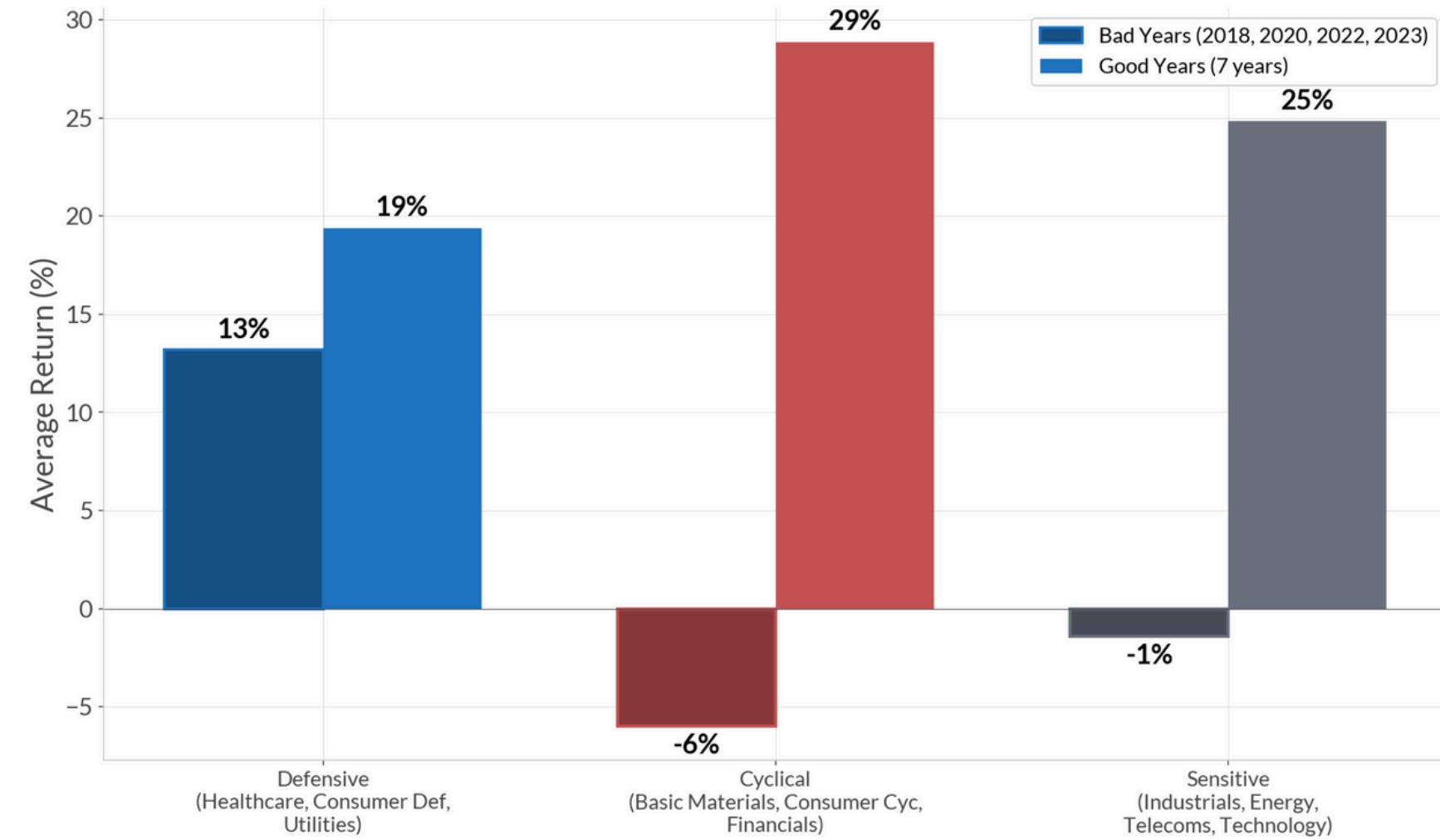
Sensitives

- Industrials
- Energy
- Telecoms
- Technology

Cyclicals

- Basic Materials
- Consumer Cyclical
- Financials

In “Bad Markets” - Defensives are key!



- 20 stocks total
- Start with 2 per sector (Noah's Ark), except:
 - 1 Telecom
 - 1 Utilities
- Fill remaining 2 slots with next highest ranked
- Max 3 per sector
- Equal weight at purchase

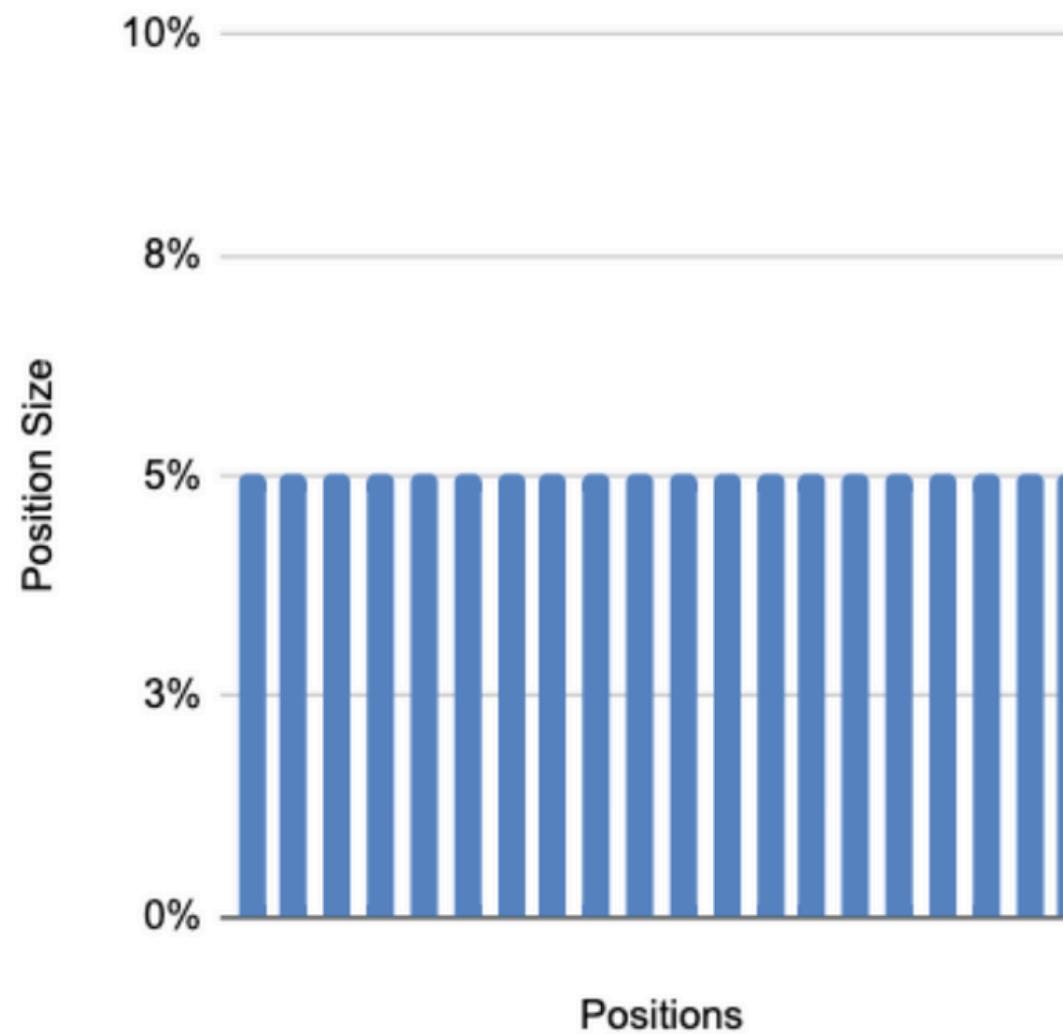
If you want	Try this	The Trade-off
Fewer stocks to manage	10-15 stocks (or even 5 in tiny portfolios)	More monitoring required. Stop losses?
More international exposure	Add some holdings from US, Europe, Australia etc	StockRanks work globally - different markets, different rhythms
Sector tilts	Remove underperforming sectors, add sectors you understand	Loses the “can’t predict winners” protection

3. Discipline - maintaining edge over time

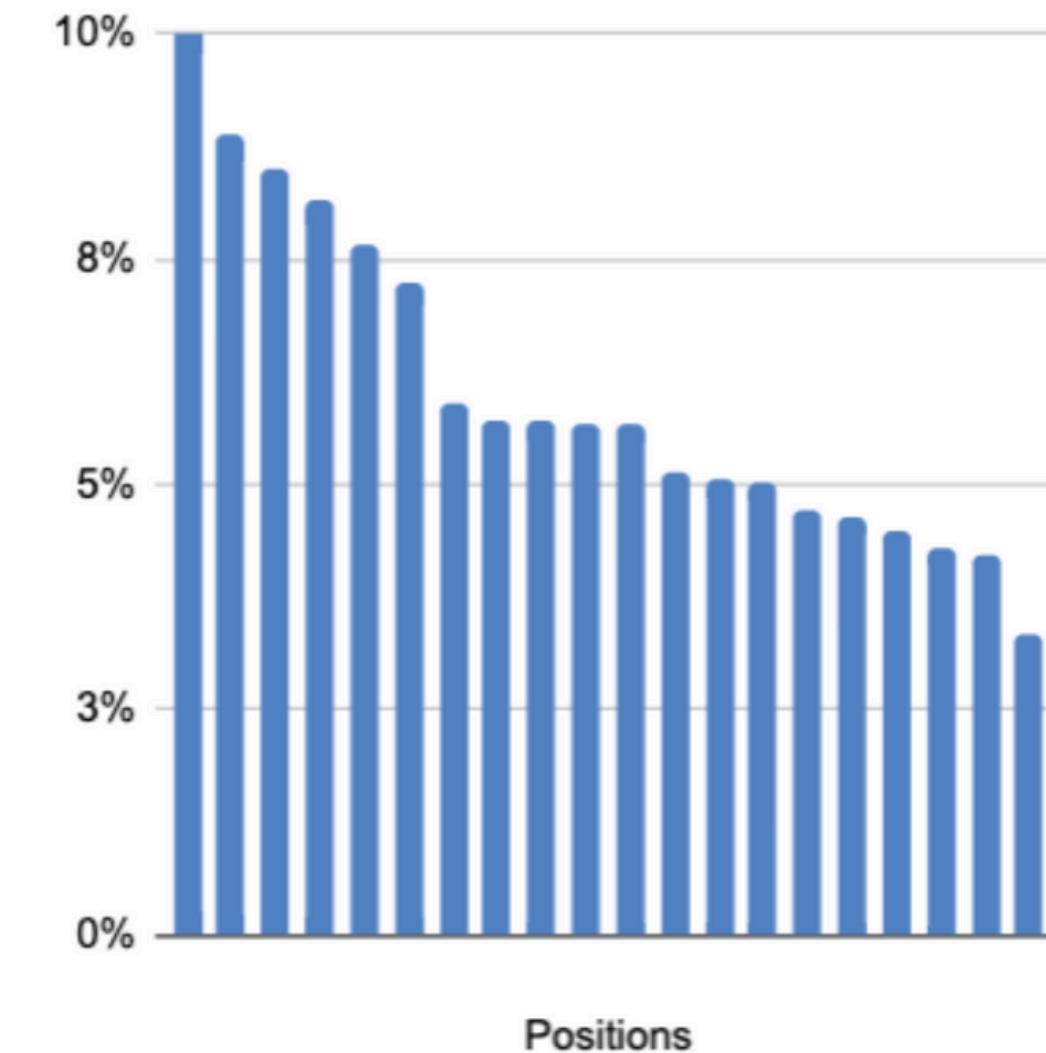
Ensuring your portfolio consistently owns the characteristics of “winning shares”

Over time - position sizes change

Start of the Year



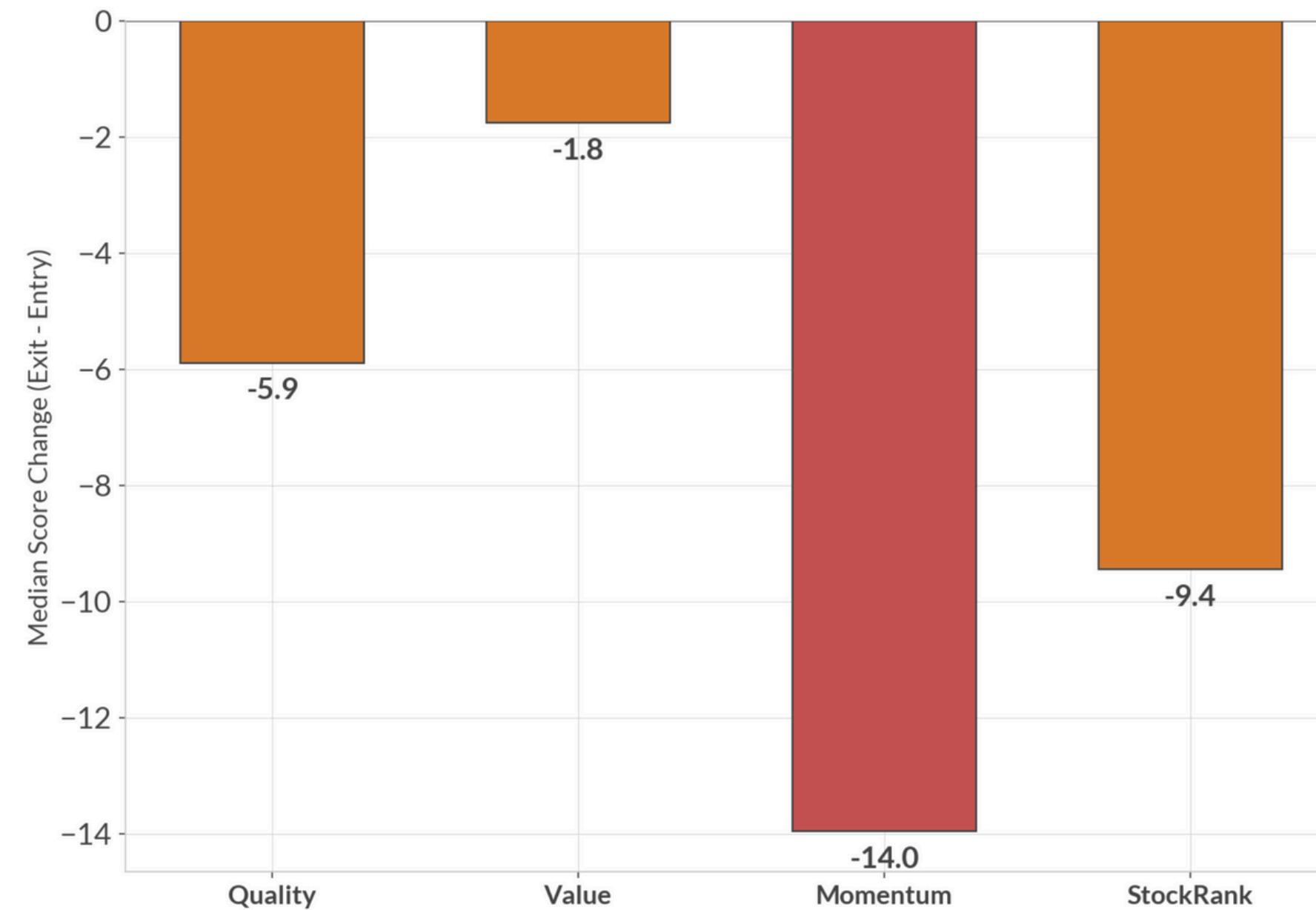
End of the Year



More importantly - the QVM return drivers decay

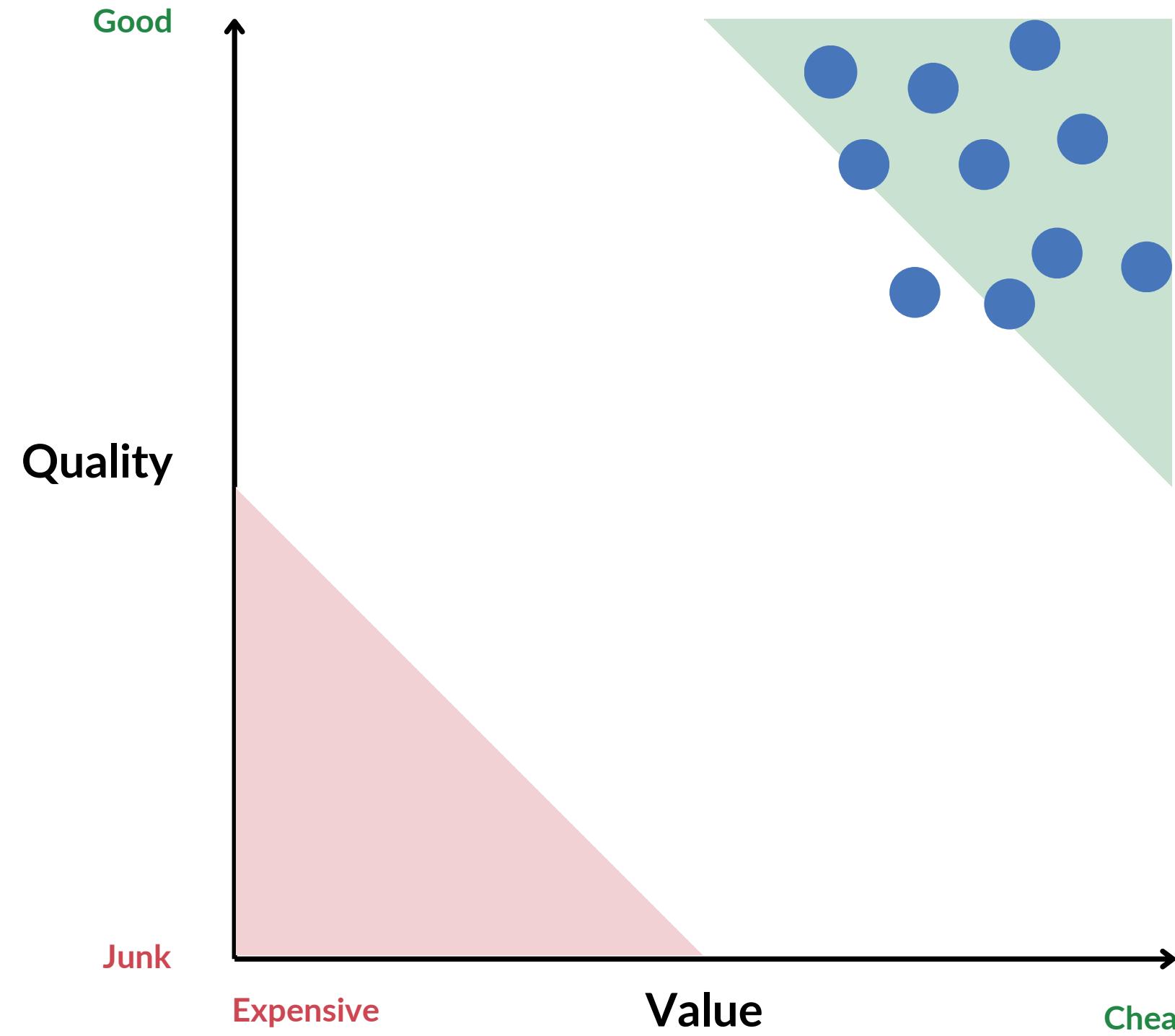


Average QVM rank falls by almost 10 points in 1 year

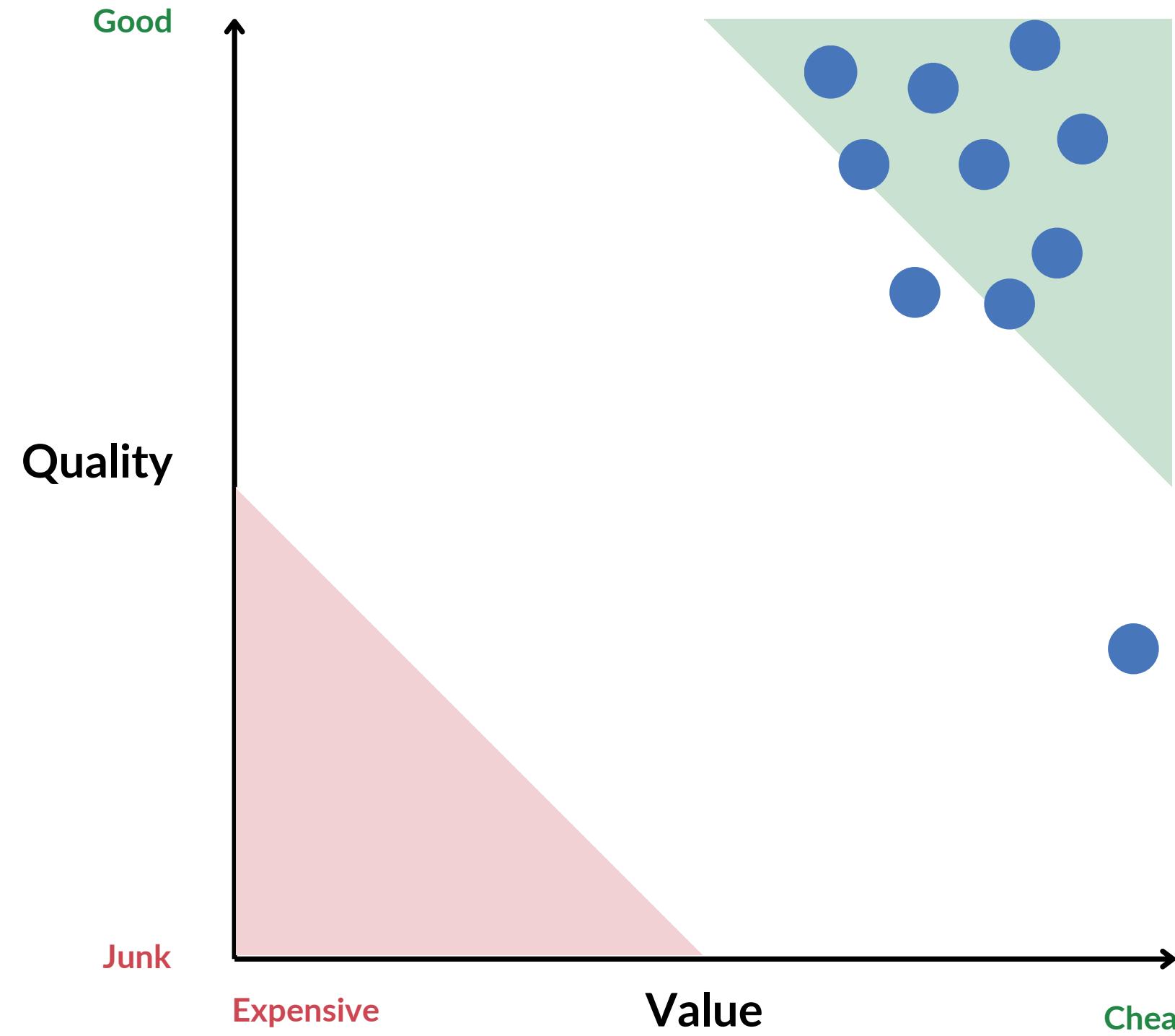


Key insight: StockRanks decay over time (-9.4 points median). 85% of trades saw their StockRank decline.

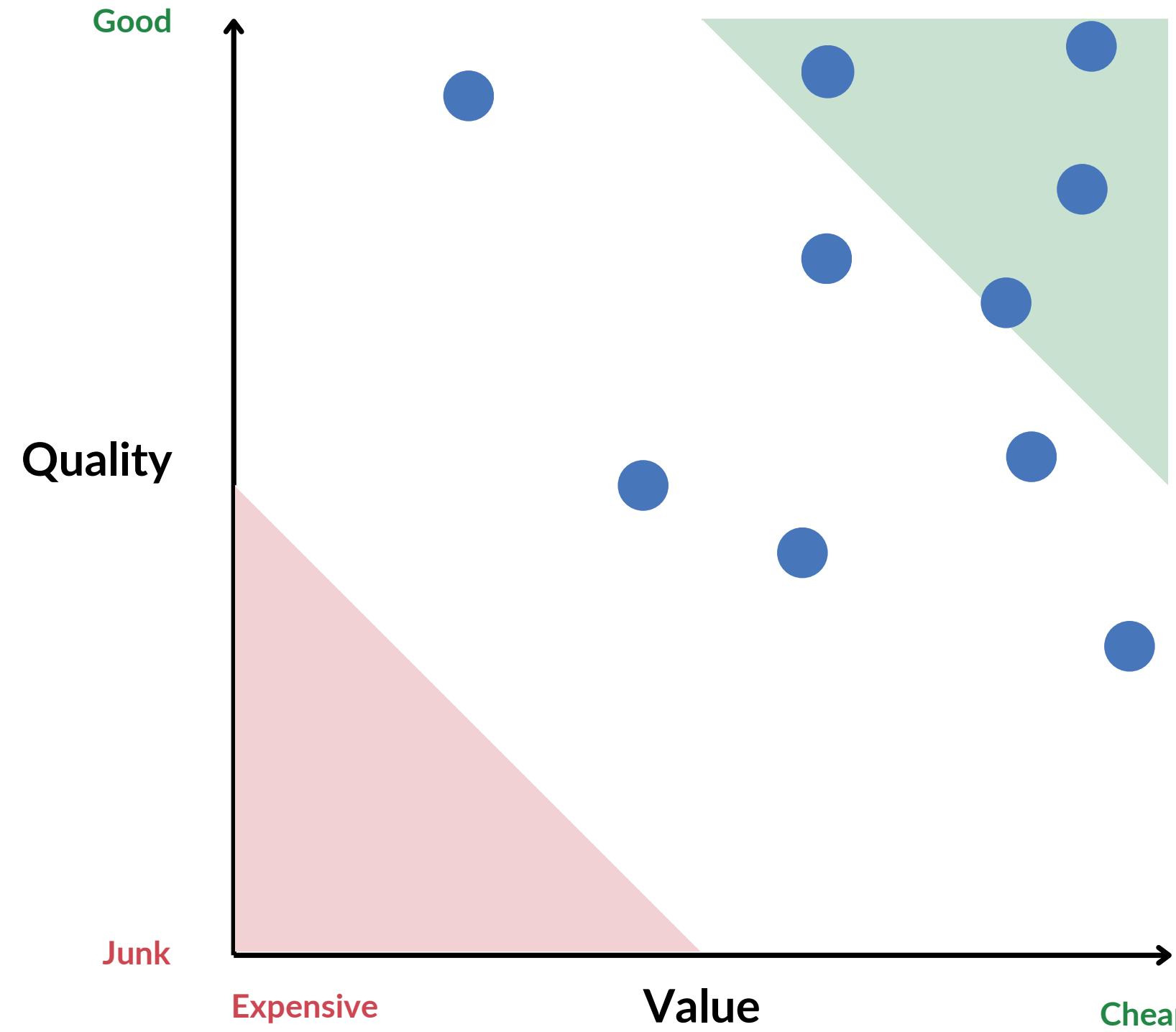
The quality and value of shares changes over time



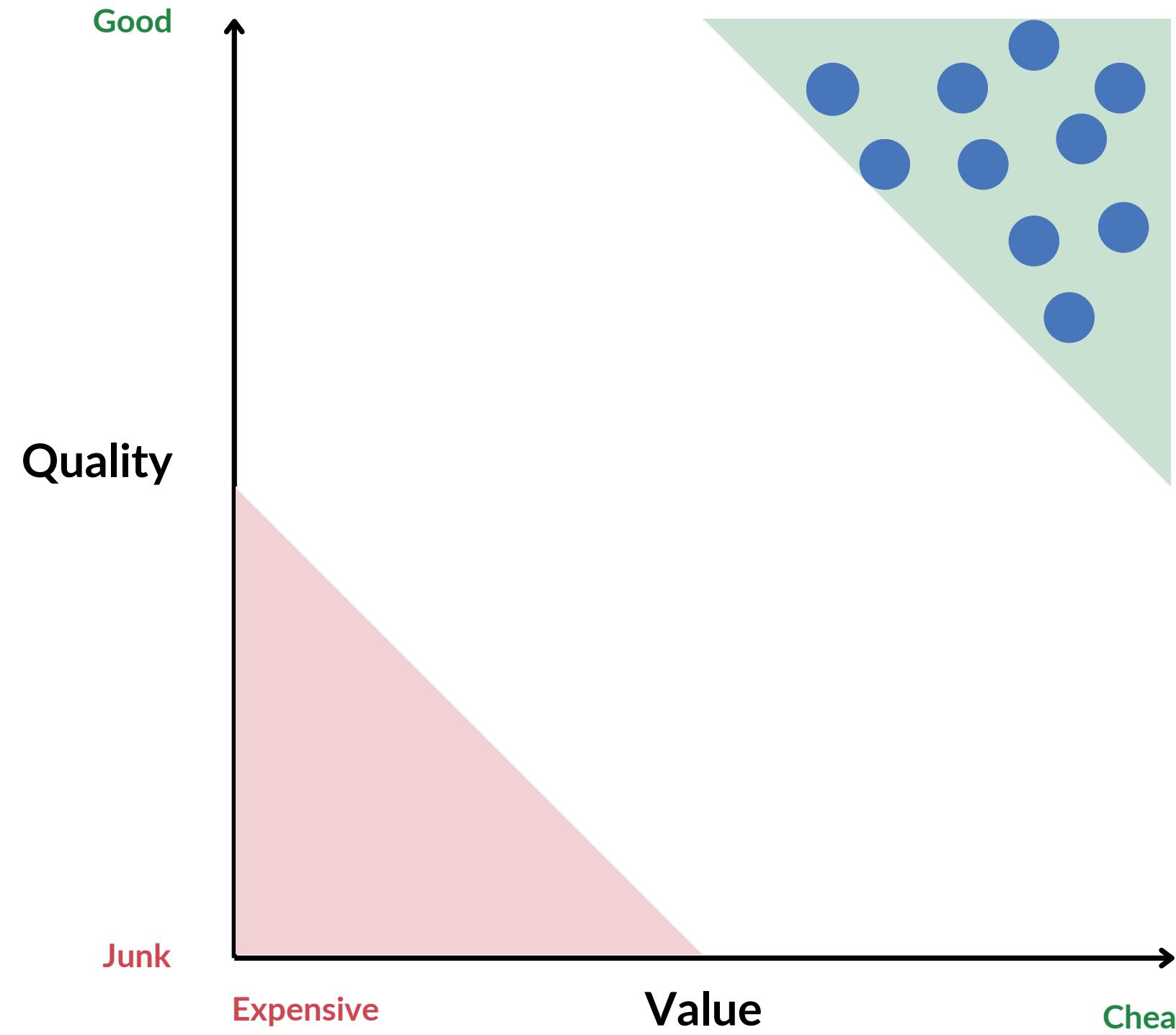
The quality and value of shares changes over time



The quality and value of shares changes over time



The quality and value of shares changes over time



1. Refreshes exposure to return drivers
2. Forces selling extreme winners
3. Managers position sizes back to 5%
4. Clears emotional baggage

- Hold for a **one-year period**
- **Sell everything (start fresh)***
- **No mid-year interventions**

** Unless the same holding still qualifies - in that case, bring back to equal weight!*

If you want	Try this	The Trade-off
More frequent refresh	Semi-annual rebalancing	Doubles trading costs (1.9%).
Active Management	Use the 90/70 rule. Sell on StockRank below 70. Sell on Profit Warnings.	Higher effort, but may reduce downside risk, and capture more upside.
Reduce drawdowns	Use stop losses at 20% (or variable based on RiskRatings)	Re-entry is essential. Can reduce upside.

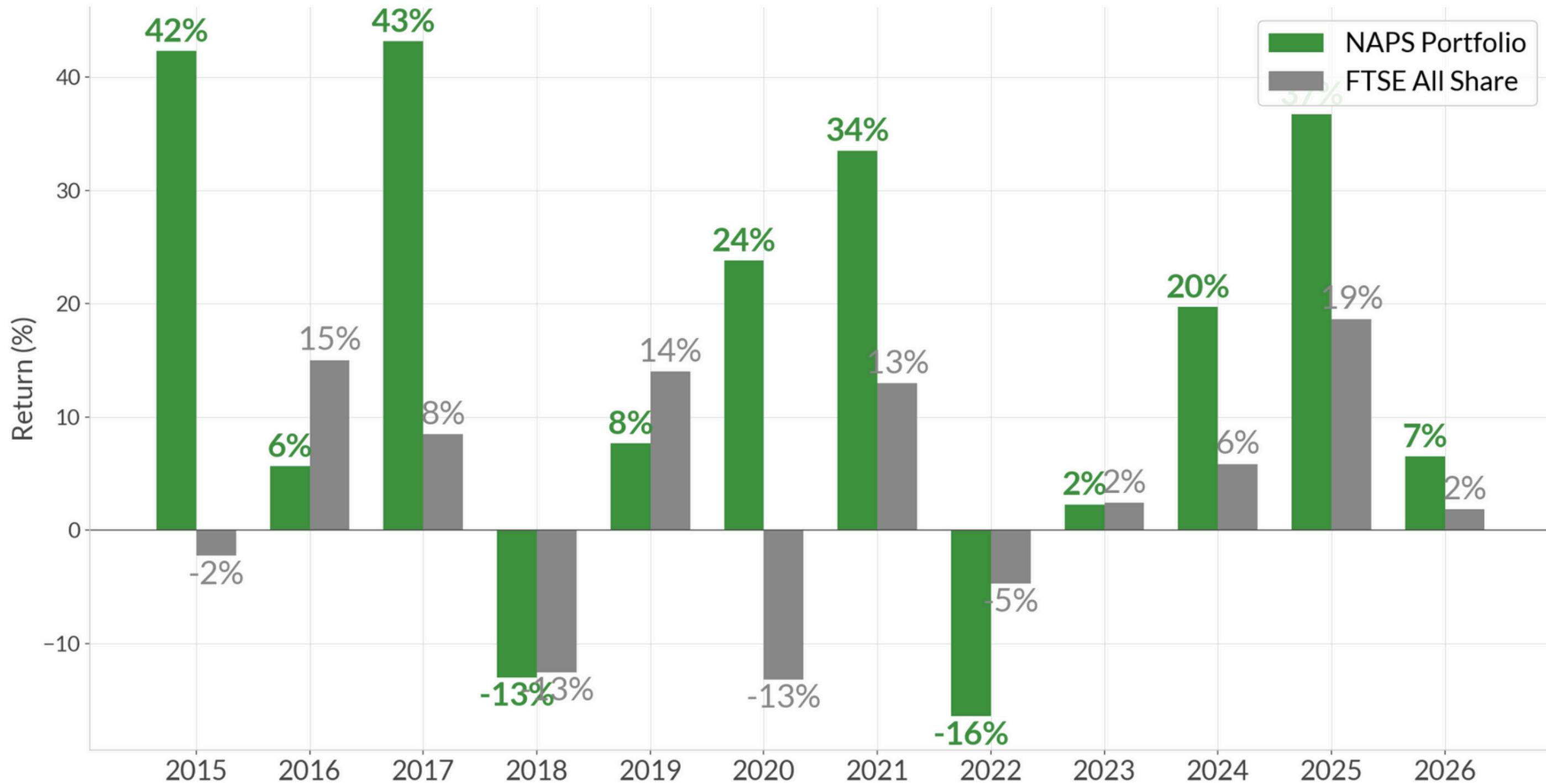
Part 3: Going Deeper

The performance, problems and emotional journey of running a NAPS

The performance masks an emotional journey



5 of 11 years the portfolio underperformed the market



Drawdowns are long and painful



2015–2017: Overconfidence

Early success bred confidence. I started adding complexity, thinking I could improve the system.

2018–2019: Doubt

Underperformance created doubt. The added constraints weren't working. I questioned everything.

2020: Humility

Simplification. Accepting that less is more. Removing my “improvements.”

2021–2022: Temptation

Good returns brought temptation to be clever again. Overloaded into “Big Mo”. Getting burned.

2023–2024: Discipline

Hardest period. Intuition screaming to change. Choosing to trust the system anyway.

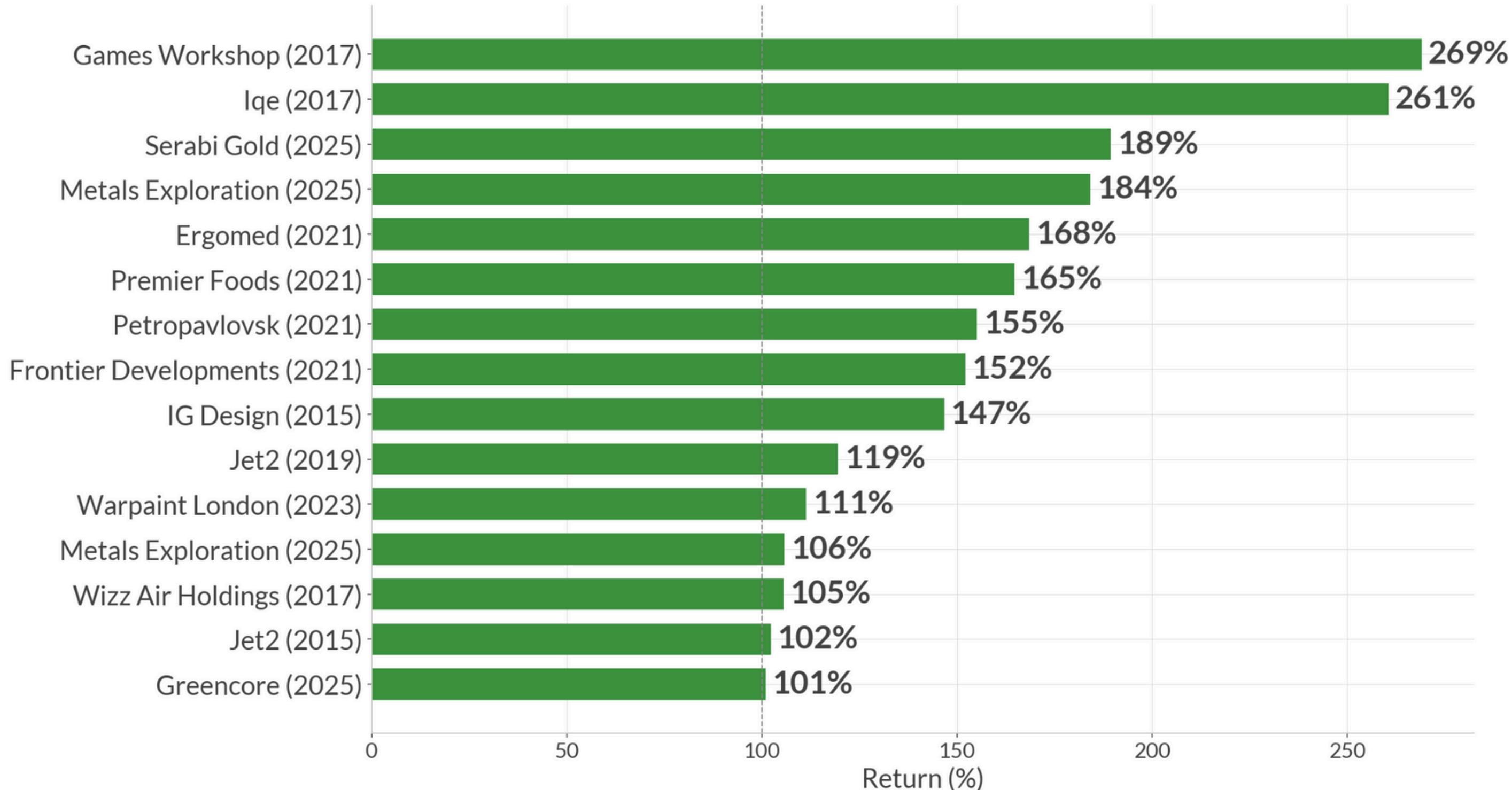
2025–2026: Acceptance

Finally accepting that I can't predict. The system works better than I do. My job is to not interfere.

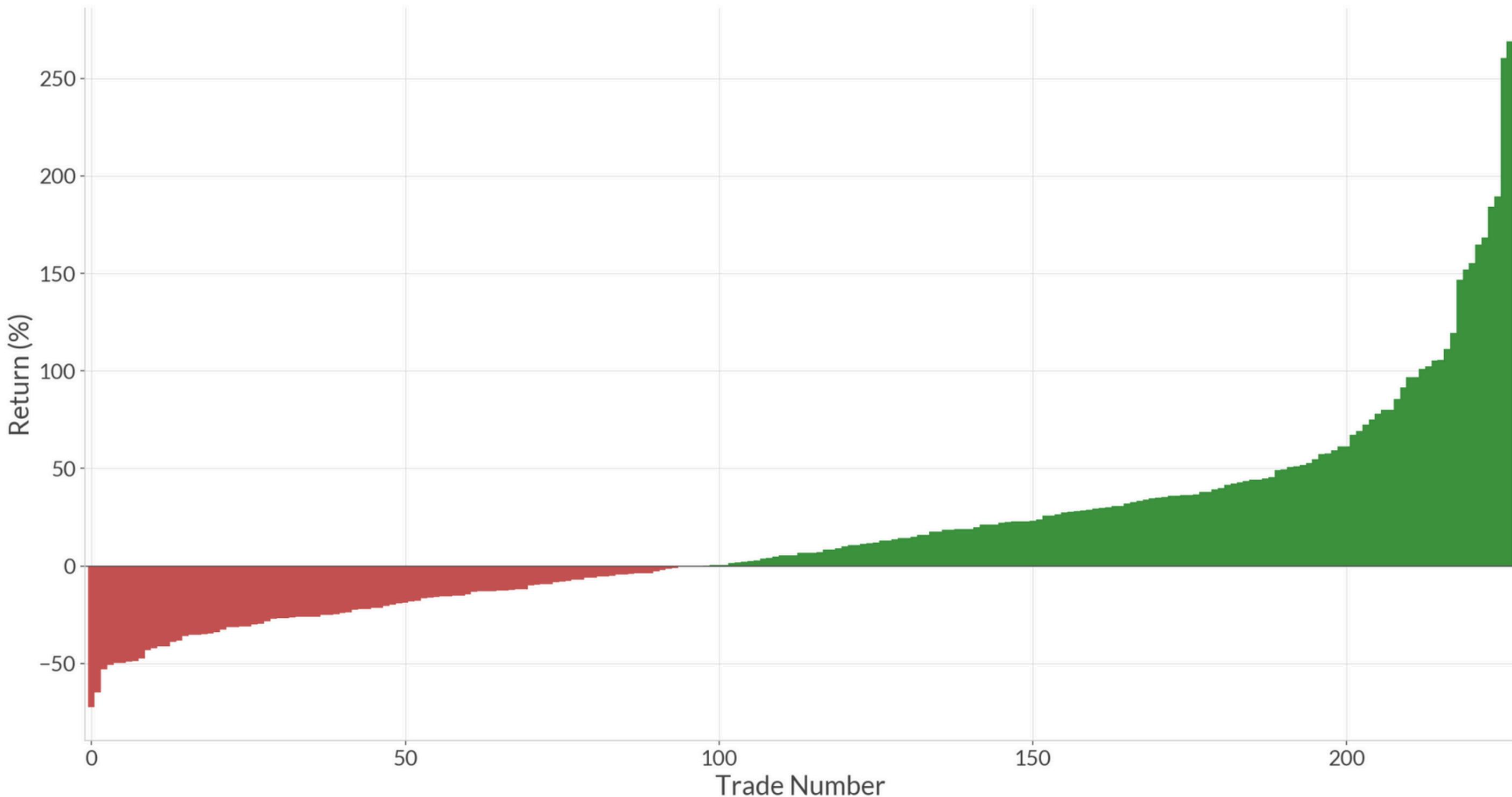
The system picks great shares

The great winners keep you going

15 Multibaggers selected along the way



The big **winners** dominate the **losers**



129 **98** → **57%**

Winners Losers Win Rate

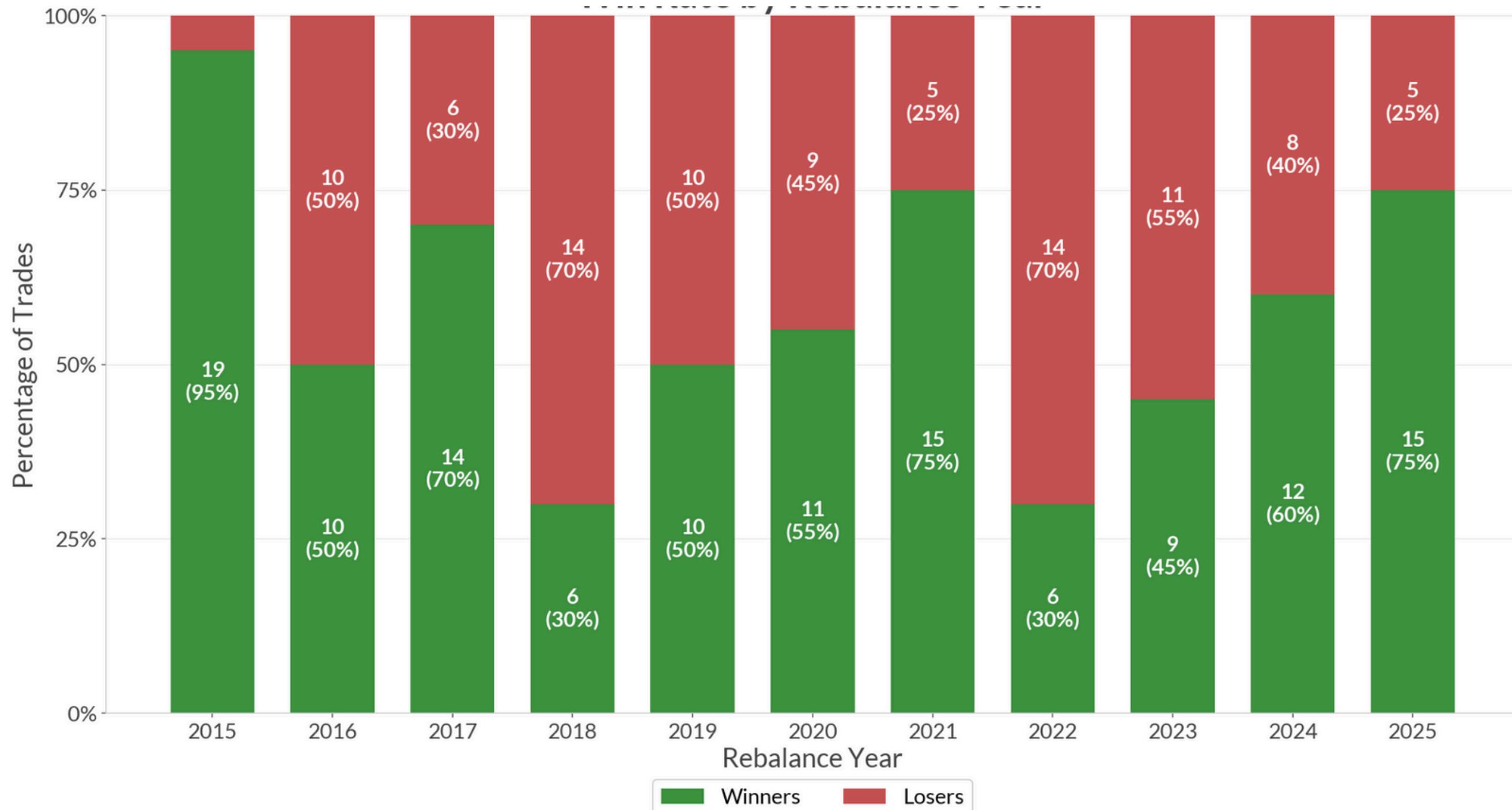
*The % of trades
that were profitable*

45% **-22%** → **2.08**

Avg. Win % Avg. Loss % Payoff Ratio

*Average win divided
by average loss*

Believe in the edge, as at times it doesn't feel like it!



Part 4: The Reveal

The current NAPS Portfolio for 2026

Drivers

- Sort the market by StockRank descending (high QVM)
- Minimum £20m market cap. Maximum 7.5% spread.
- No investment trusts. No dual-listed stocks.

Diversity

- 20 stocks
- 1 utility, 1 telecom. Max 3 in each of the 8 other sectors.
- Buy an equal weight of each of the shares

Discipline

- Hold for 1 year
- Each year, repeat the process

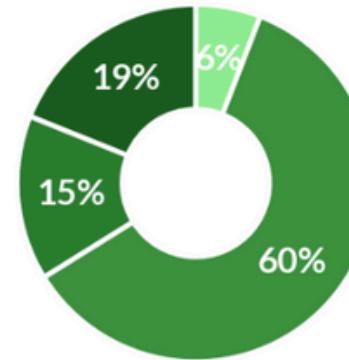
Table 1: Energy, Basic Materials, Consumer Cyclical, Financials

Company	Ticker	StockRank	Market Cap	Comment
Seplat Energy	SEPL	95.8	£1,703m	Nigeria-focused oil & gas producer. Transformed by offshore acquisition; trebled revenues, strong cash flow, 5% yield.
BP	BP.	94.6	£67,636m	Global oil major refocusing on core hydrocarbons. New leadership, steady buybacks, near 6% yield.
Serabi Gold	SRB	99.6	£236m	Brazilian gold miner with high-grade assets. Tenbagged since 2023, still cheap at 4x earnings with strong production growth.
Central Asia Metals	CAML	98.5	£337m	Low-cost copper and zinc miner in Kazakhstan. Strong cash reserves, 6% yield, new buyback programme underway.
Kingfisher	KGF	100.0	£5,356m	B&Q and Screwfix owner rebuilding momentum. UK outperformance, upgraded guidance, moderate valuation despite 25% gain.
Springfield Properties	SPR	99.5	£153m	Scottish housebuilder pivoting to infrastructure-led demand. Landmark 293-home deal with SSEN for grid workers.
Smiths News	SNWS	99.4	£187m	Resilient print distributor serving 22,000 UK retailers. Net cash, 8% yield, beating expectations despite market decline.
CMC Markets	CMCX	99.1	£836m	Global spread betting and CFD platform. New partnerships supporting growth, 5% yield, healthy balance sheet.
Ramsdens Holdings	RFX	98.3	£121m	Pawnbroker benefiting from strong gold prices. Profits beating upgrades, pledge book growing, store expansion accelerating.
S&U	SUS	98.1	£252m	Non-prime motor finance and bridging loans specialist. Collections improving, profits up 22%, dividends rising again.

Table 2: Industrials, Consumer Defensive, Healthcare, Technology, Telecoms, Utilities

Company	Ticker	StockRank	Market Cap	Comment
Gattaca	GATC	98.9	£28m	STEM recruitment specialist outperforming a tough market. Strong net cash, cost control working, dividend growing.
Kromek	KMK	97.7	£58m	Radiation detection tech firm turning profitable. New Siemens deal driving 70% revenue growth, material turnaround underway.
M P Evans	MPE	98.4	£640m	Indonesian palm oil producer with low-cost, integrated model. 50% profit jump, net cash, long dividend record.
Wynnstay	WYN	97.5	£78m	Farm supplies business regaining momentum. Margins improving across all divisions, 5% yield, 45% discount to NAV.
GSK	GSK	91.8	£74,356m	FTSE 100 pharma with strong vaccine and HIV pipeline. New asthma drug approved, upgraded guidance, leadership transition ahead.
Tristel	TSTL	77.8	£199m	Infection prevention specialist with high-margin consumables. FDA clearance secured, global expansion potential building.
Frontier Developments	FDEV	97.5	£163m	Video game studio refocused on Creative Management Simulation. JWE3 success prompting upgrades, strong balance sheet.
Focusrite	TUNE	92.3	£134m	Audio equipment maker returning to growth. Scarlett interfaces and studio hardware driving recovery, margins rebounding.
Vodafone	VOD	92.8	£23,262m	Telecoms giant rebuilding after restructuring. Shares up 45% in 2025, disposals trimming debt, 4% yield.
Yu Group	YU.	93.8	£253m	Fast-growing B2B utility supplier to UK SMEs. Net cash above £100m, strong hedging with Shell, cheap at 7x earnings.

Size Allocation

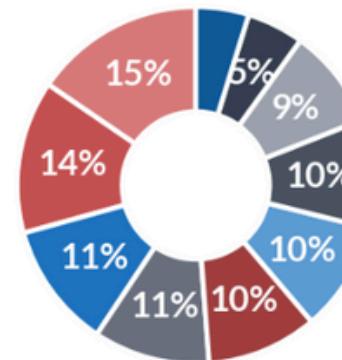


- Large Cap (19%)
- Mid Cap (15%)
- Small Cap (60%)
- Micro Cap (6%)

Portfolio Summary

Portfolio Value: £493,241
 Total Cost: £463,095
 Gain/Loss: £30,145 (+6.5%)
 Holdings: 20 positions
 Avg P/E: 16.5x
 Avg Yield: 3.7%
 Avg StockRank: 96

Sector Allocation



- Financials (15%)
- Consumer Cyclical (14%)
- Industrials (11%)
- Basic Materials (11%)
- Energy (10%)
- Consumer Defensives (10%)
- Technology (10%)
- Healthcare (9%)
- Utilities (5%)
- Telecoms (5%)

Top 10 Holdings

Ticker	Name	Weight	Return
GATC	Gattaca	5.9%	+25%
KMK	Kromek	5.5%	+17%
RFX	Ramsdens Holdings	5.4%	+15%
SEPL	Seplat Energy	5.3%	+13%
SRB	Serabi Gold	5.3%	+12%
CAML	Central Asia Metals	5.3%	+12%
WYN	Wynnstay	5.2%	+11%
YU.	Yu	5.2%	+10%
SUS	S&U	5.1%	+9%
FDEV	Frontier Developme..	5.1%	+8%

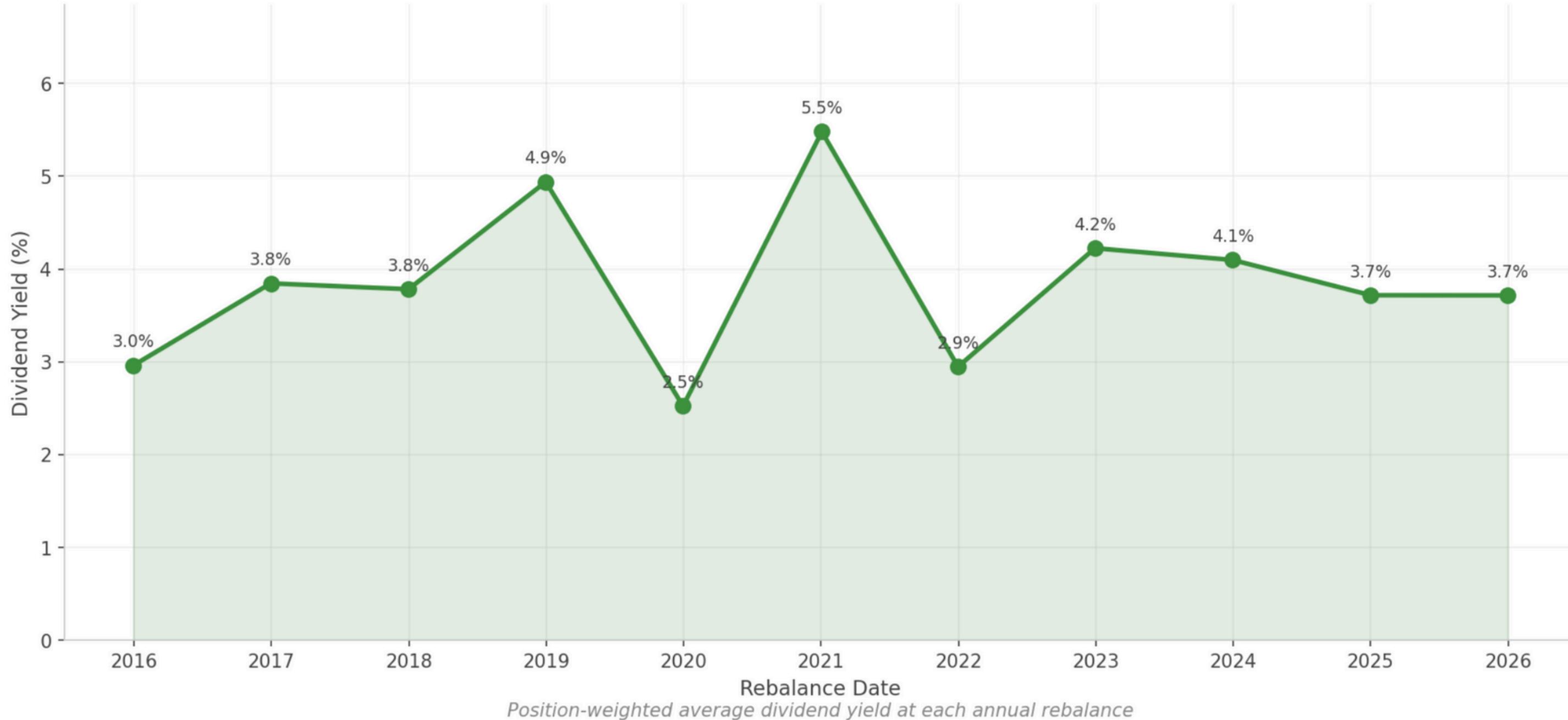
* Starting capital - nominal £100k.

The Big Questions

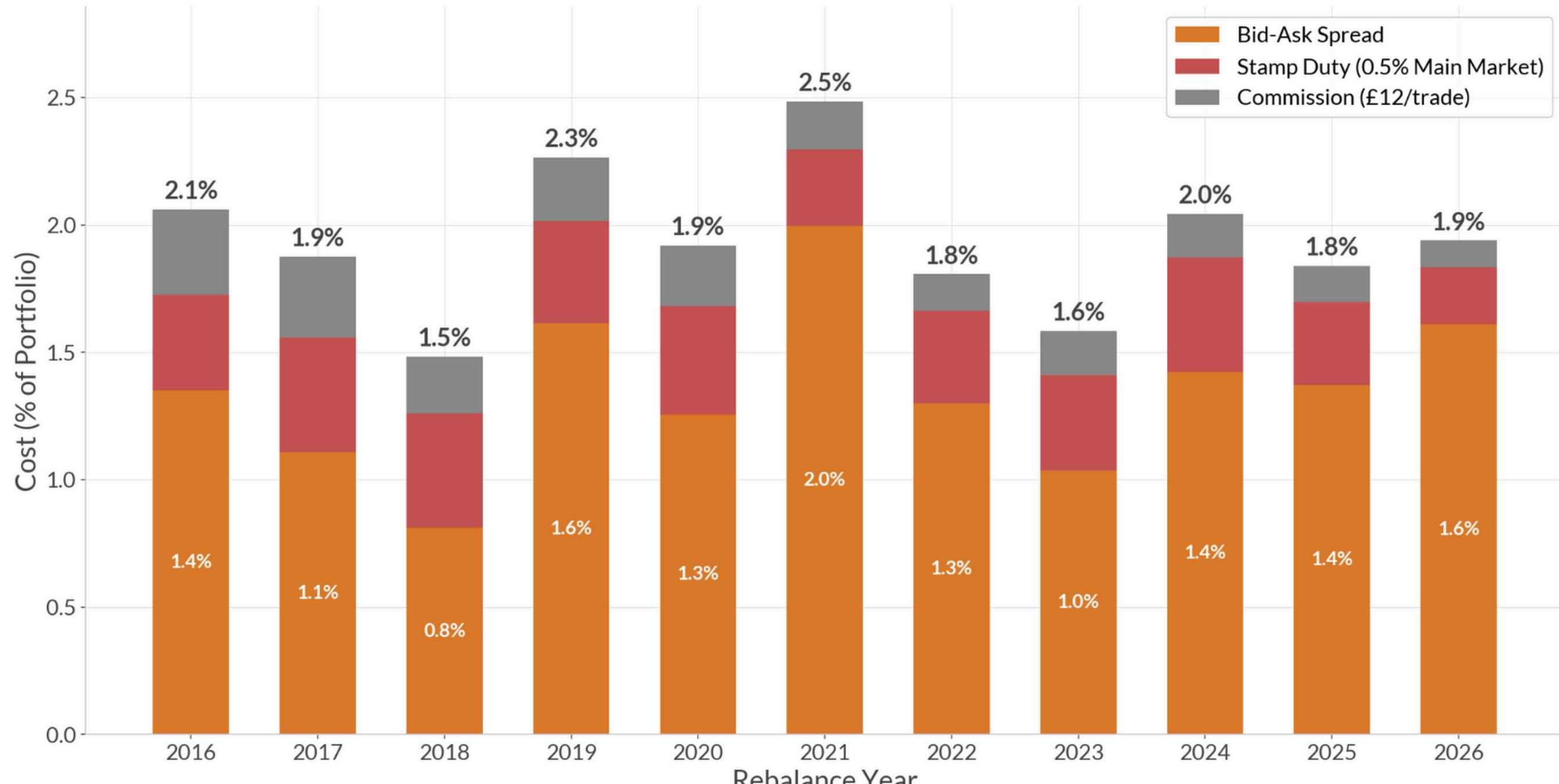
- *Why don't we track the Total Returns?*
- *Are Trading Costs too much?*
- *Should I use Stop Losses?*
- *Should I Run Winners?*
- *Should I Hold Losers?*

*“What about dividends?
What about trading costs?”*

Dividends are a significant bonus on top

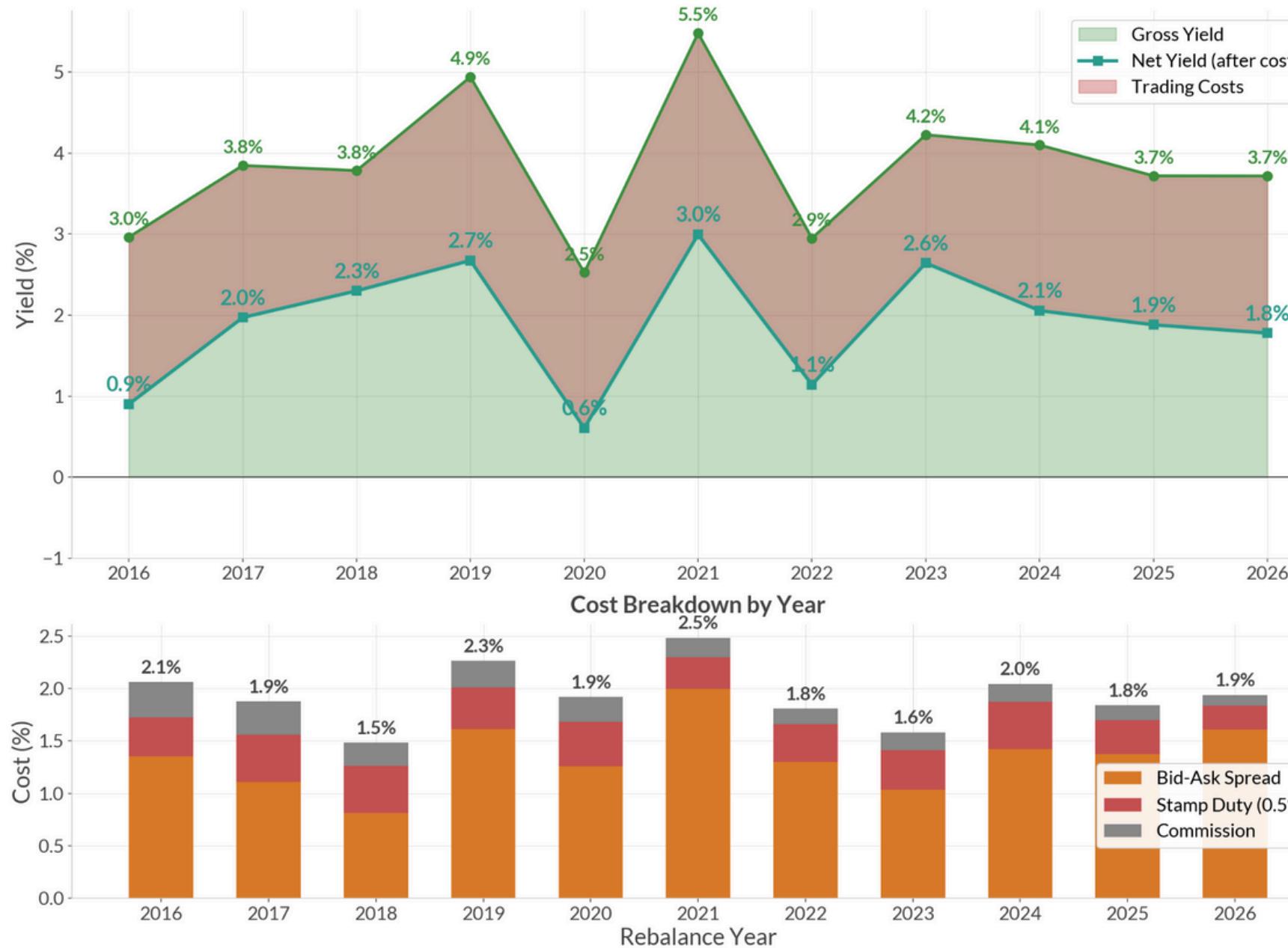


But there are real trading costs



Annual cost of rebalancing: bid-ask spread + stamp duty + commission

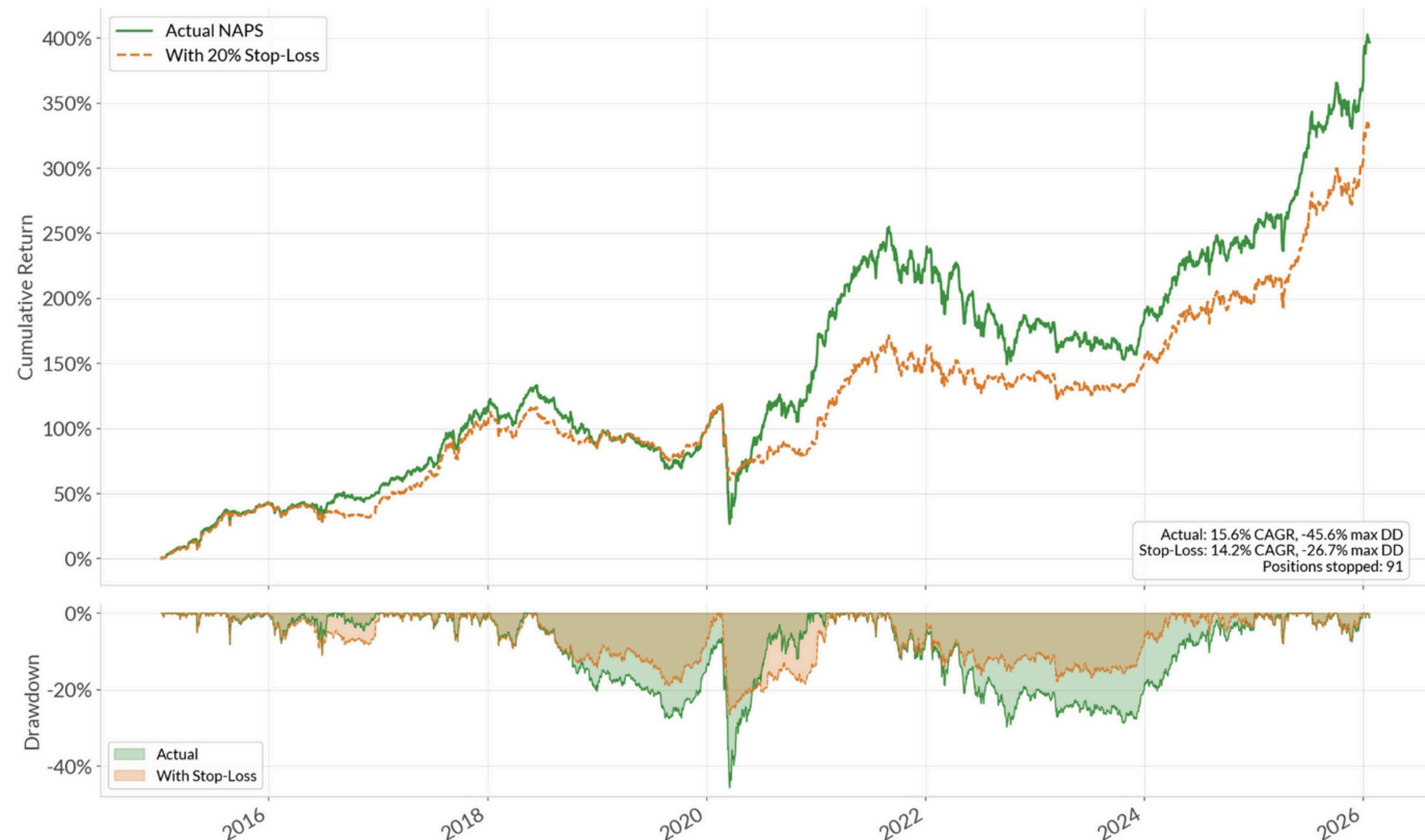
There is a net dividend yield of 1.9% after trading costs



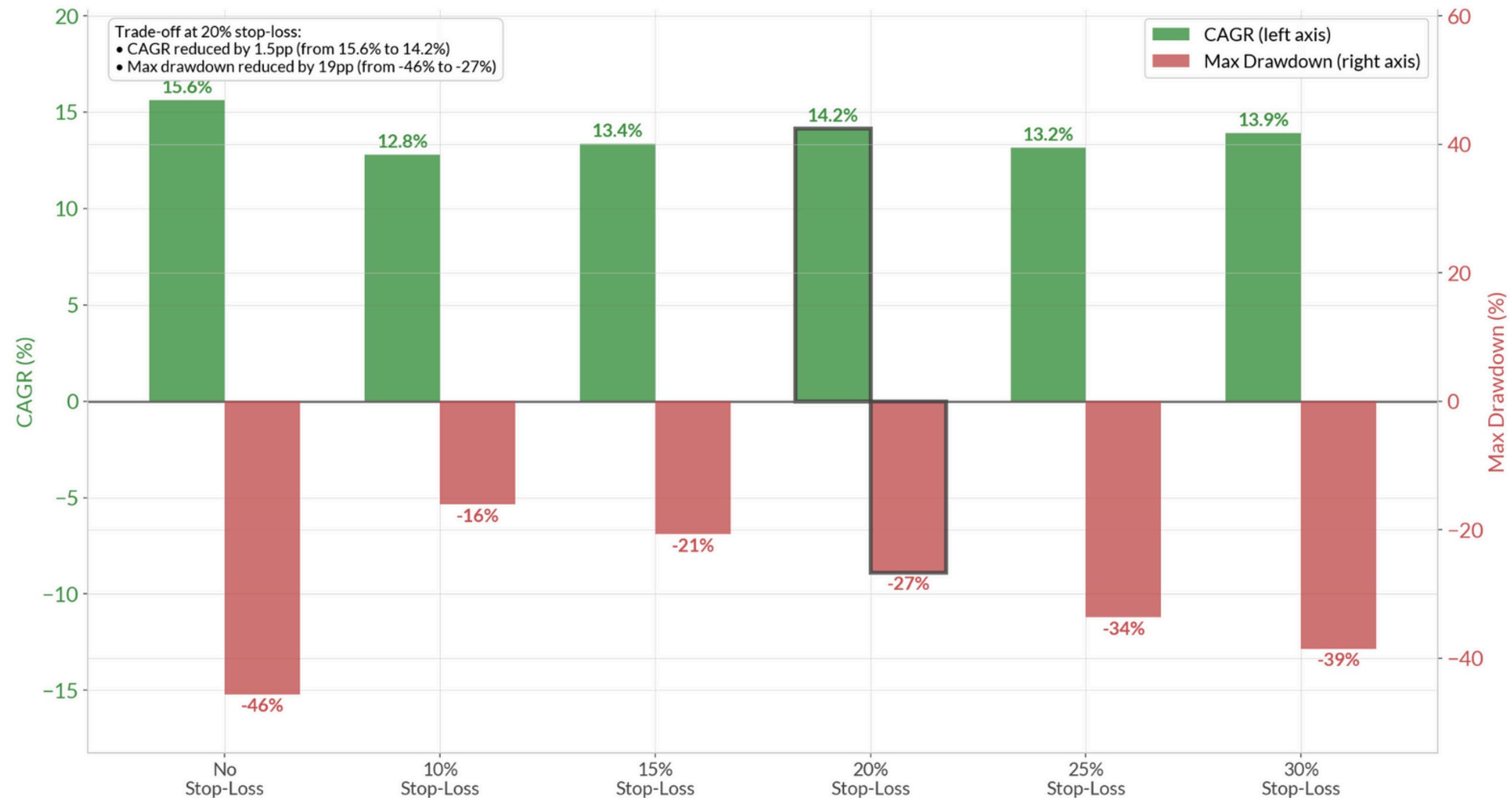
Metric	Value
Gross Yield	3.84%
Net Yield	1.90%
Total Costs	1.94%
- Bid-Ask Spread	1.35%
- Stamp Duty	0.38%
- Commission	0.21%

"What would results have been if you'd used a 20% stop loss for all positions?"

NAPS Portfolio, with a 20% stop loss (cash held till rebal)

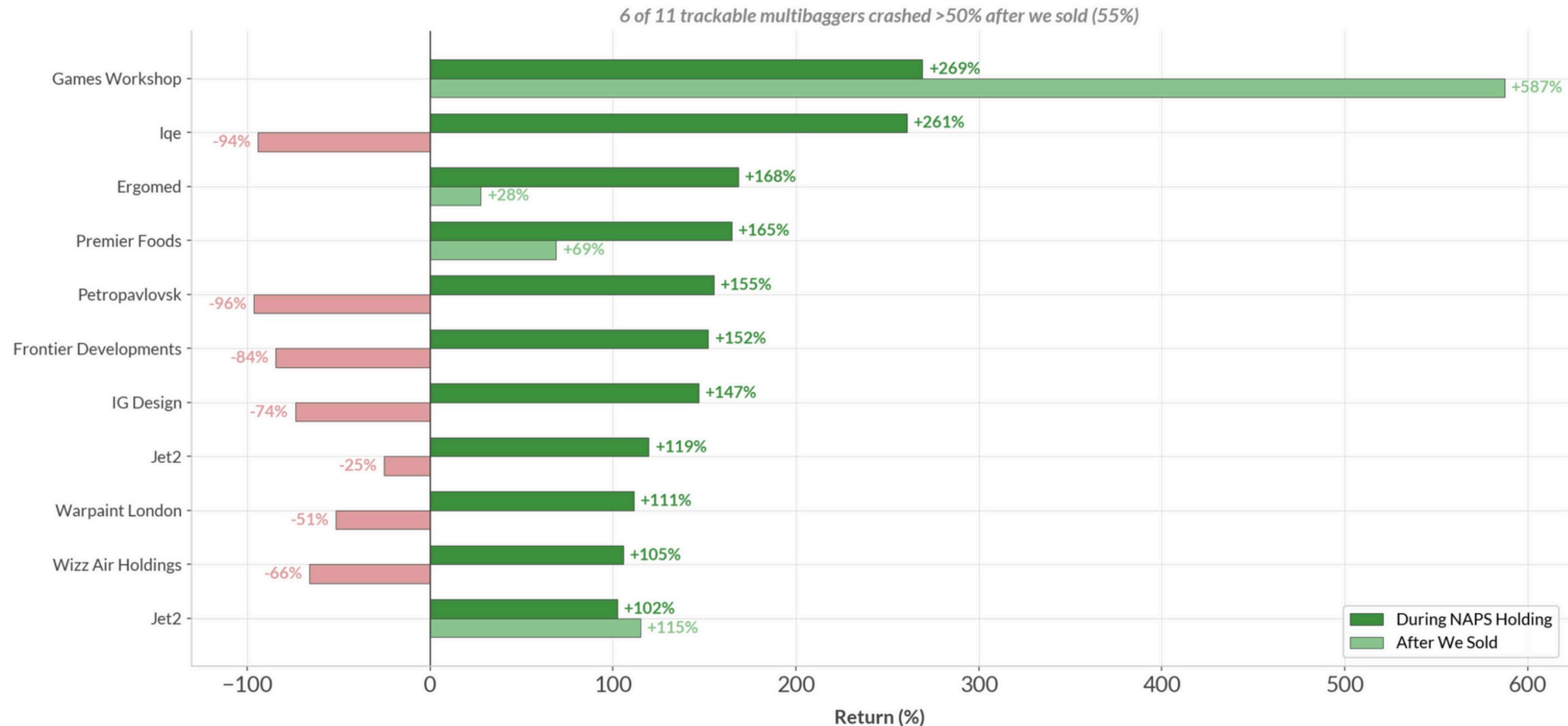


NAPS at different stop-loss levels (cash held till rebal)



*"Shouldn't I hang onto the multibaggers?
I'm told I should run my winners"*

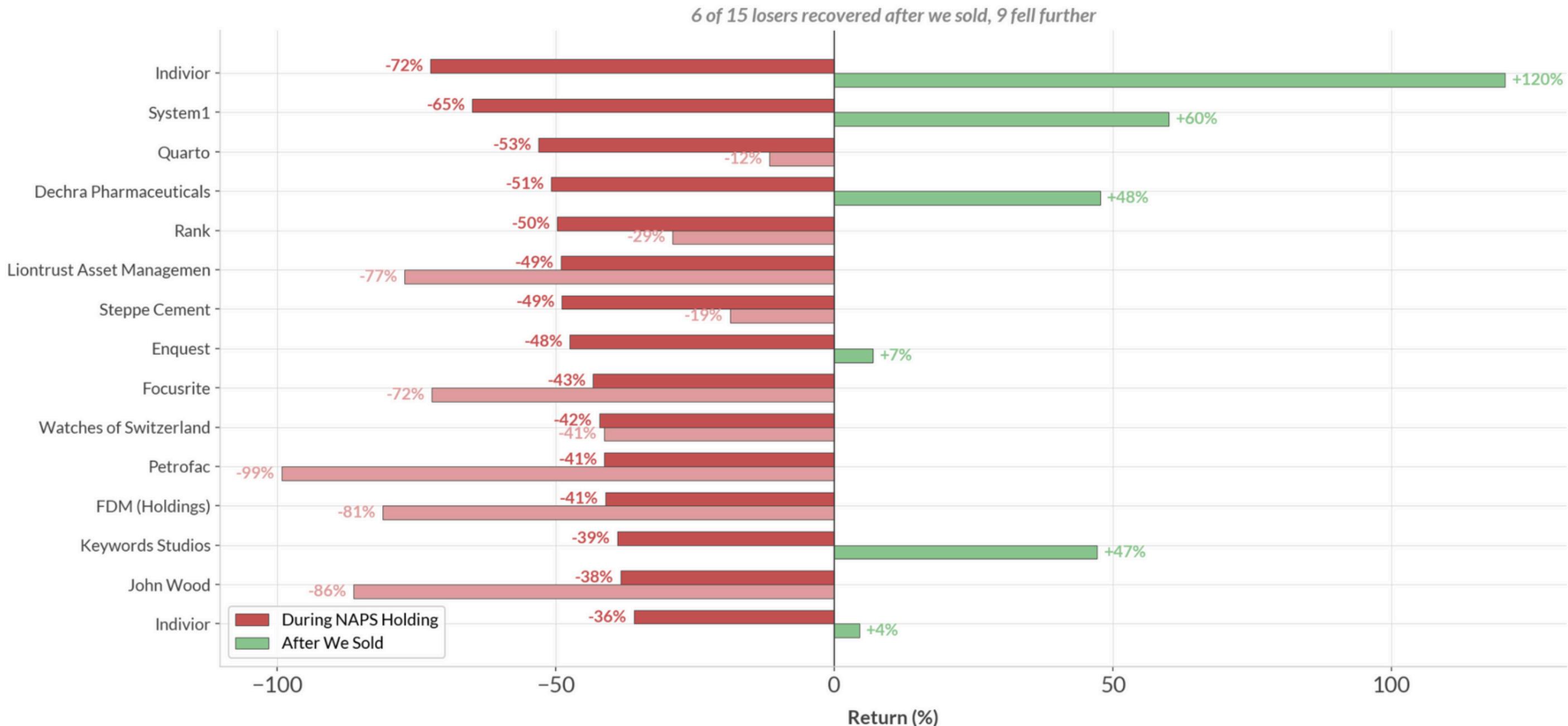
Most Multibaggers end up falling afterwards!



Key insight: Forced selling (discipline) prevents holding onto stocks that eventually crash. The system works.

"I have some big losers - should I keep them hoping they'll recover, or sell at a loss?"

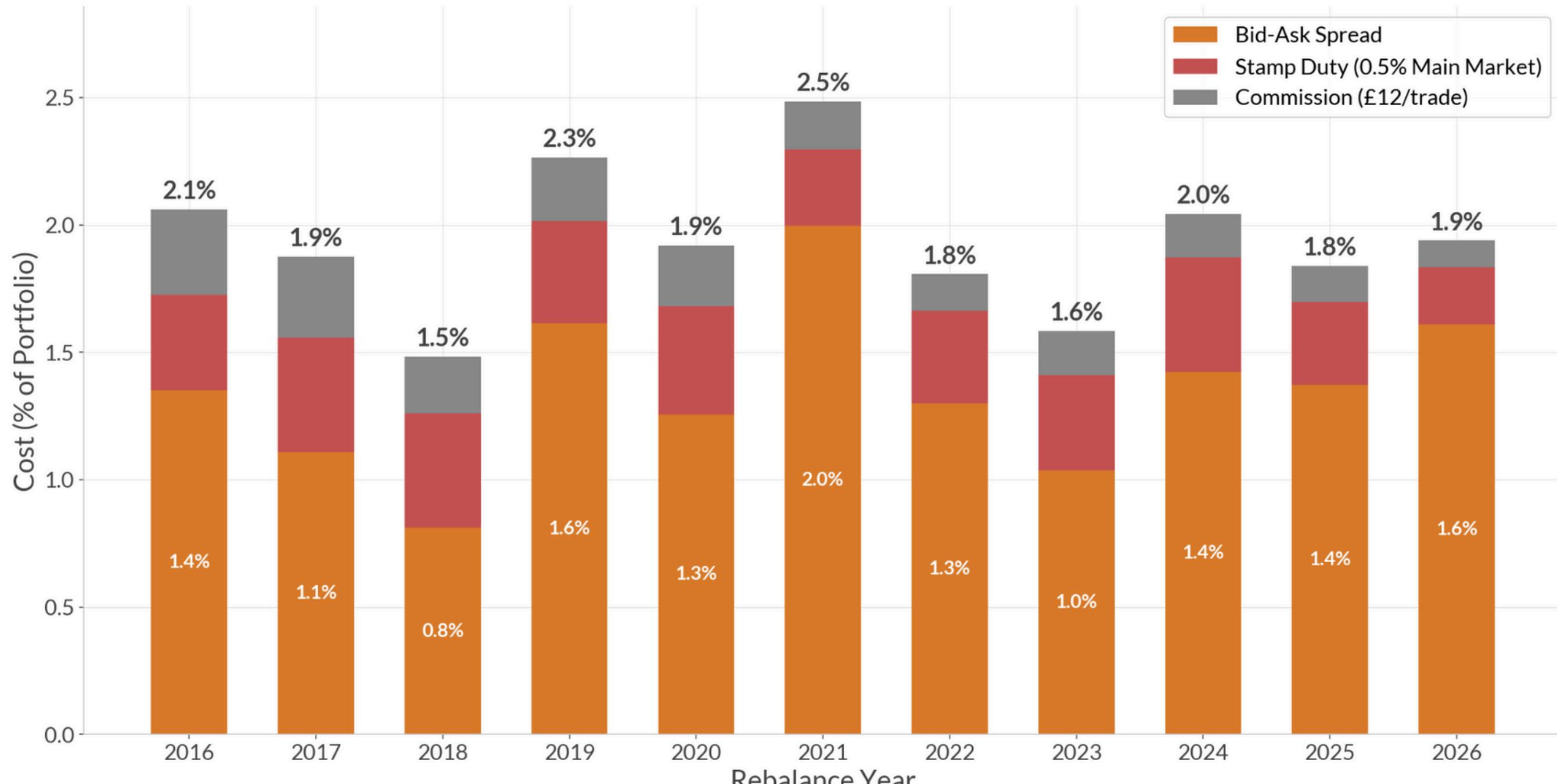
The biggest losers don't tend to recover!



Vindication: 60% of losers continued to fall. The system correctly cut losses.

"Why shouldn't I rebalance quarterly or semi-annually?"

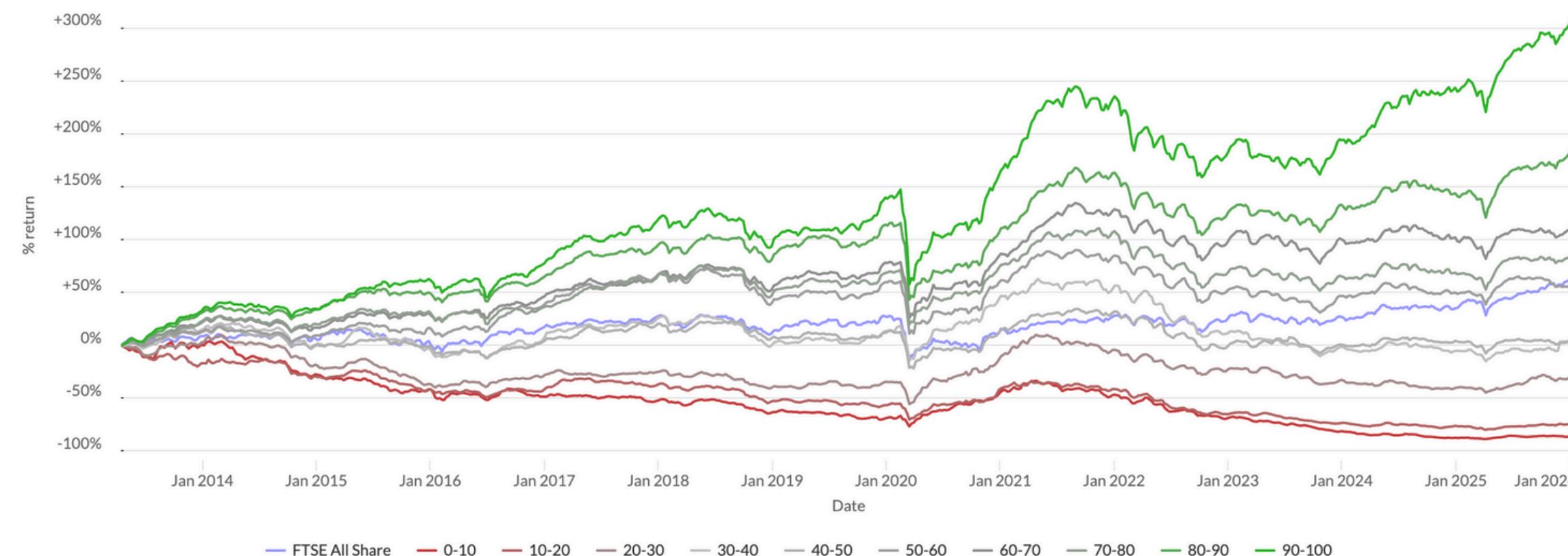
Remember - every rebalance costs you -1.9%



Annual cost of rebalancing: bid-ask spread + stamp duty + commission

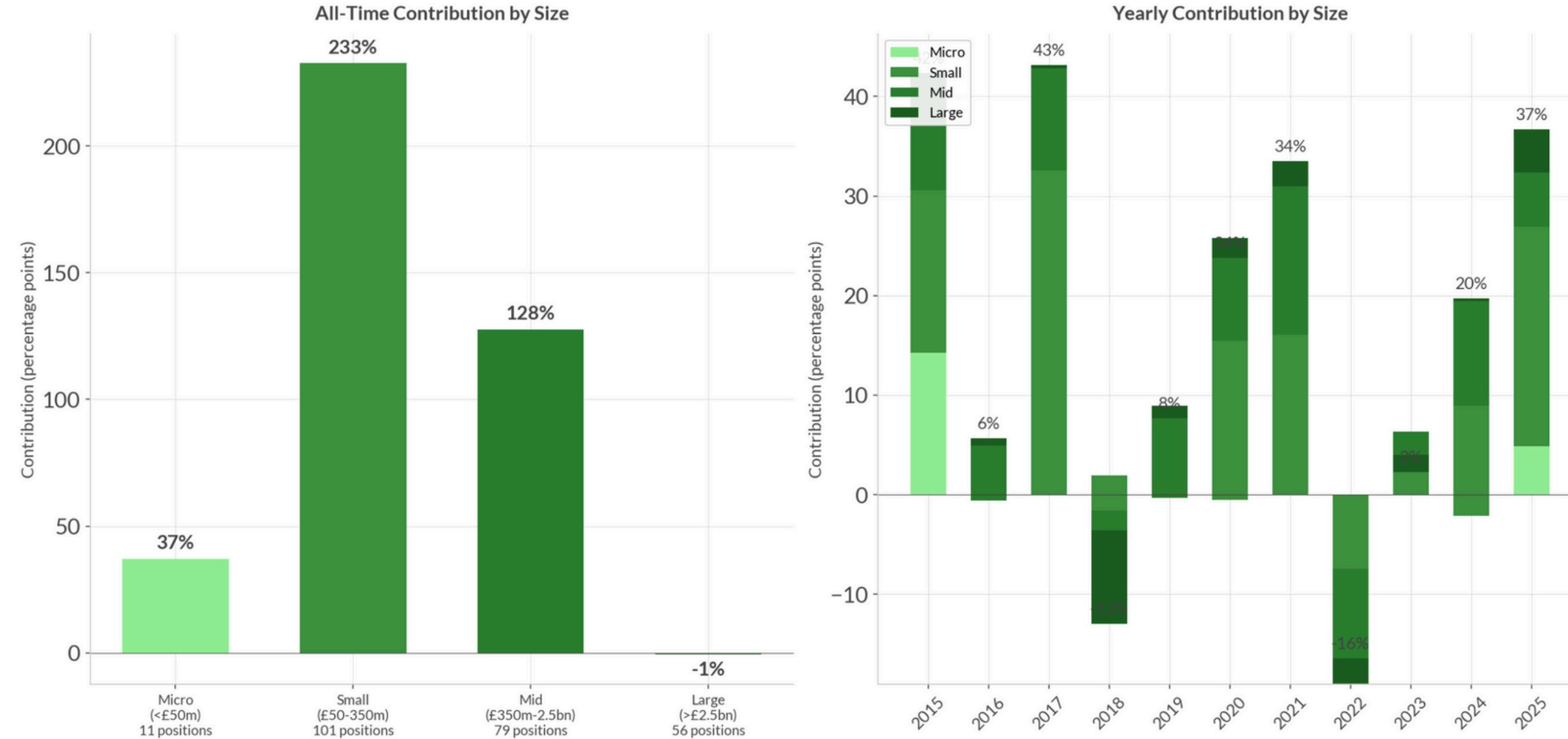
90+ Quarterly:
90+ Annually:

13.2% Annualised
11.8% Annualised



“Are the big winners just microcaps?”

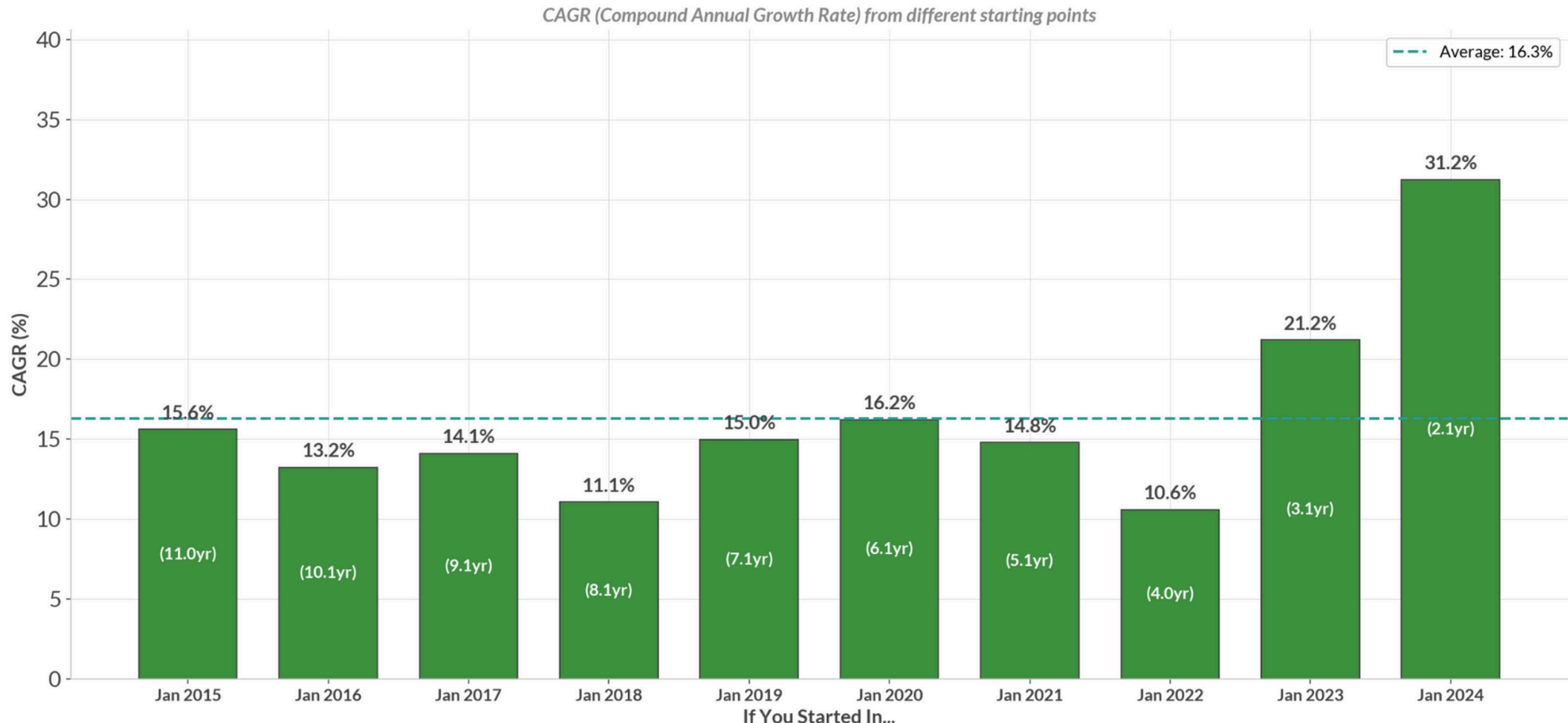
Are the returns from micro-caps? No, but do lean smallcap ↗ Stockopedia



Note: Attribution is approximate due to compounding effects and rebalancing. Shows relative contribution by size bucket.

"Have I missed the boat?"

What if you had started investing in the NAPS later?



Key insight: Even starting at the worst time (2022), CAGR was 11%. Best entry (2024) achieved 31%. It's never too late.

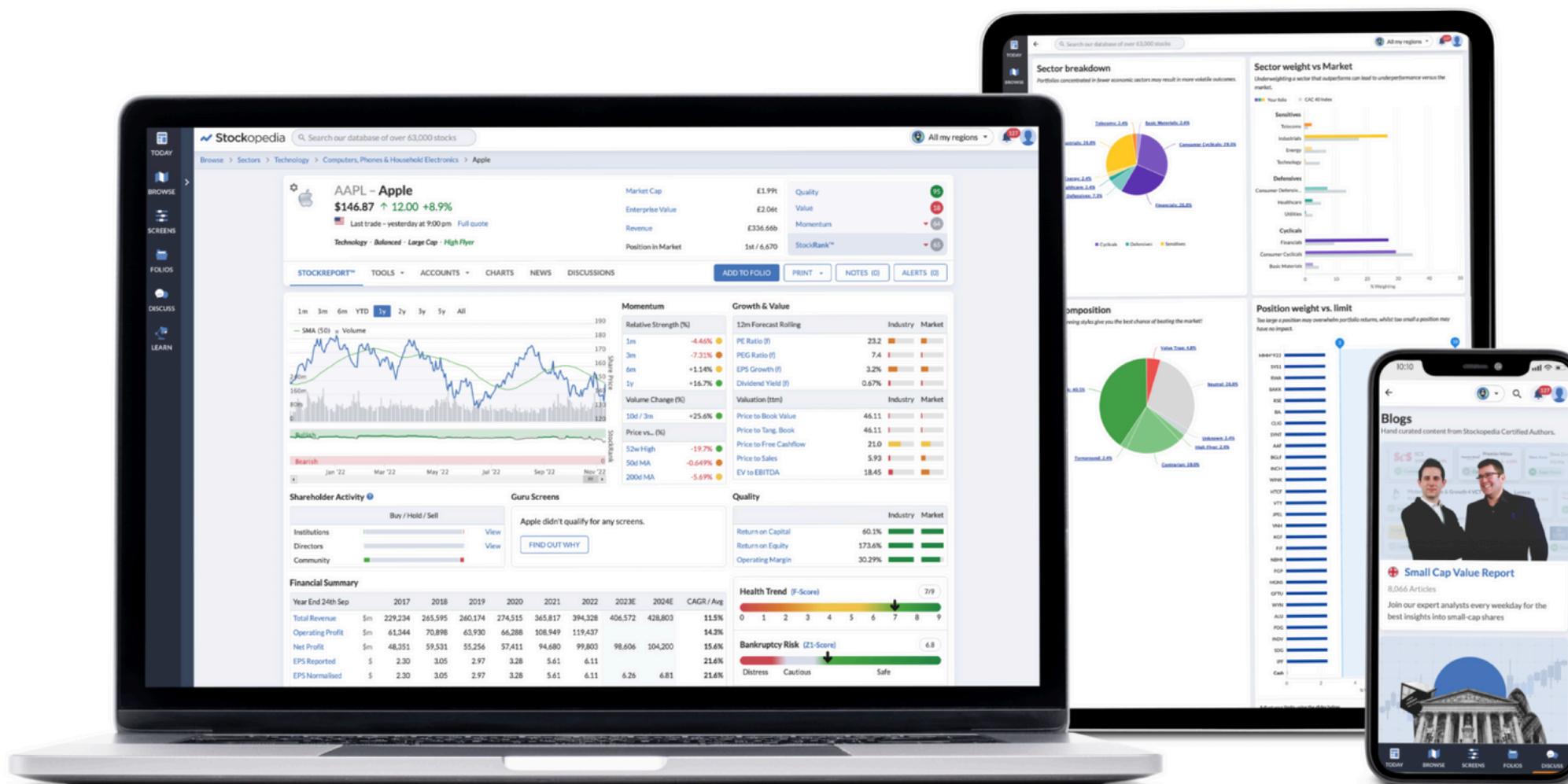
*"Have you thought of launching
a NAPS ETF?"*

-  3D investing solves the three common investor mistakes
-  Quality, Value, and Momentum are proven return drivers
-  20 stocks across sectors provides optimal diversification
-  Annual rebalancing maintains edge while minimising costs
-  Simplicity beats complexity - “improvements” hurt
-  The system works better than discretion - don’t interfere
-  Dividends (3.8%) offset trading costs (1.9%) → net ~1.9%
-  A small edge (57% win rate, 2x payoff) compounds

Further information

There are far more resources on the website

Everything you need to improve your investing



www.stockopedia.com

Our data process

1. Our primary data sources (including LSEG), employ **thousands of analysts** who scan, audit & standardise financial data entry into their databases before uploading to their financial cloud.



2. Throughout the day and night we download **financial statements, analyst estimate data, price quotes & histories and other company information** to our databases.



3. Our analyst & developer team organise it and clean it all up, and our servers **crunch over 60 million computations daily** to build up a **library of more than 2000 essential, accurate statistics** on every stock. From simple PE Ratios to Piotroski F-Scores.



4. We then rank and screen the market to filter the wheat from the chaff and publish the data on our **StockReports** and in our **Screening Database**.

