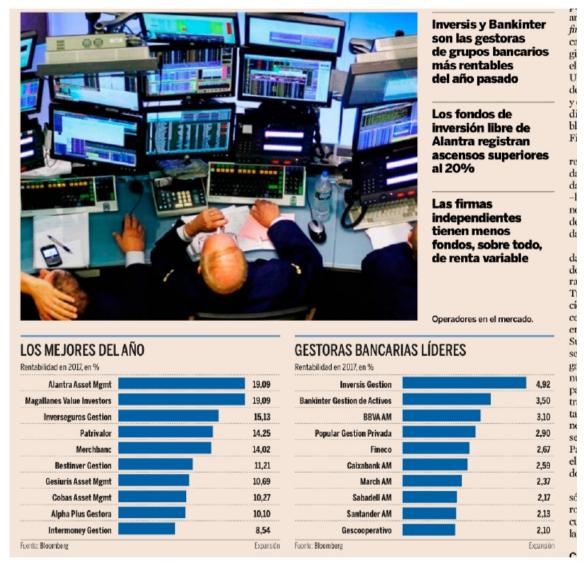
## FINANZAS & MERCADOS

## Alantra, Magallanes and Inverseguros, leaders in profitability of funds

Returns of up to 19%. The independent asset management companies specialized in stock exchange funds head the ranking of average increases in 2017. The return of the firms linked to banks didn't reach 5%.



The season of the cinema awards, which starts these days, shows every year that the quality of movies does not always respond to the box office figures. Something similar to this occurs in the investment funds sector, in which year after year the independent management companies of small assets head the ranking of average profitability of their funds, above firms that are property of banks, although these are the *blockbuster* of the sector. At the front of the classification sits Alantra AM, the boutique Spanish investment banking company with an average profitability of 19.09%, according to data from the consultant VDos. The firm, which has total assets of 339 million euros in funds in Spain, according to data from Inverco, has four funds of hedge funds, and some funds that are more flexible than traditional funds, similar to the hedge funds.

Their flagship is the EQMC, which invests in European equities and obtained until September a profitability of 22%. The fund QMCII, which invests in Spain and Portugal, increased 20.8%.

## Independent Firms

The second-best management company from last year, with the same profitability as Alantra AM, is Magallanes, founded in 2014 by the exmanager of Santander AM, Iván Martín. The firm, dedicated to the value investing, has three funds: one in the Spanish stock exchange, one in the European stock exchange, and a third in small businesses.

Inverseguros Gestión, bought by Dunas Capital in March of last year, obtained an average profitability of 15.1% of their funds. The firm manages nine products, according to the Comisión Nacional del Mercado de Valores (CNMV). Four of them have the stamp of Dunas in their name, and the rest of the previous owners of the company, such as Aegon.

Patrivalor manages two investment funds, Patribond, of fixed income, and Patrival, cataloged as an aggressive mix. The average profitability of the firm, which has assets of 111.6 million euros, was 14.25% last year.

Merchbanc achieved an average profitability of 14.02% with their new investment funds. The most successful was Merchfondo, the first in the category of the US stock exchange at a global level, including competitors from the biggest managers from the country. In 2017, they increased more than 32% and achieved an annual increase of 20% in the past 5 fiscal years.

The average profitability of the funds from Bestinver, the biggest independent manager in Spain, with 4,615 million euros, was 11.21%. Their fund of the European stock exchange, the Bestinver Internacional, increased 13.5% per fiscal year in the last five-year period, while the Bestinver Bolsa, of Spanish equities, increased 9.7%.

Also, there are another three independent managers who achieved an average increase of more than 10% in 2017, which share with the previous companies a specialization in equities and a smaller range of products. These companies are Gesiuris AM, which has the most profitable fund of the fiscal year (Japan Deep Value Fund); Cobas AM, the firm which was created at the beginning of 2017 by Francisco García Paramés, ex-director of investments at Bestinver; and Alpha Plus, whose products are revalued on average at 10.1%. Completing the *top 10* most profitable firms with more profitability in their funds in 2017 was Intermoney Gestión, with an average increase of 8.54%.

The average return of the managers connected to banks is much less than the leading independent managers. In part, this is because they have many more products in all types of categories, not just in the stock exchange, which is generally the most profitable. With this, funds from bank managers rarely appear among the most profitable products.

Among the firms which belong to financial groups, Inversis Gestión is situated at the head of profitability in 2017, with an increase of 4.92%. They have 11 investment funds, among those is Maverick Fund, which centers on European companies of small and medium capitalization, and increased 25.3% the past year.

Bankinter Gestión de Activos, which manages close to a hundred funds, achieved an average return of 4.9%. The third company in assets, BBVA AM, is also the third most profitable among banking firms, with an average increase of 3.1%. This good behavior contributed to how the company led the net catchments the past year, with deposits of 4,356 million euros, according to data from Inverco.

Popular Gestión Privada, the manager of the private bank Popular (acquired by Santander), registered an average return of 2.9%.