



MI Downing UK Micro-Cap Growth Fund

August 2019

About the Fund

MI Downing UK Micro-Cap Growth Fund ("the Fund") aims to invest in a concentrated portfolio of between 25-30 UK companies within the Numis Smaller Companies Indices - typically those with market capitalisations between £20 million and £150 million.

The Fund seeks to generate capital growth, whilst retaining a strong focus on capital preservation. The Fund aims to outperform returns from other UK small-cap equity funds by selecting investments that the Manager believes are undervalued by the market.

Why Downing Micro-Cap?

- ▶ Experienced and qualified team headed by Judith MacKenzie.
- ▶ Private equity approach to micro-cap companies, drawing on Downing's private equity and venture capital heritage.
- ▶ Investment Committee oversight provides access to many years of investment experience.
- ▶ Value strategy with rigorous bottom up approach.
- ▶ Exhaustive diligence process that can take up to 18 months.
- ▶ Concentrated portfolio of typically 25 to 30 investments which we believe provides diversification.
- ▶ Access to strategic investments.
- ▶ Only invests in profitable businesses with strong management teams and a sustainable competitive advantage.

Portfolio commentary

In July, the Fund was down 1.89%, underperforming the benchmark, which was up 0.08%. Positive contributors included Hargreaves Services (up 11.06%) and Synectics (up 9.84%). Detractors included FireAngel Safety Technology (down 22.08%) and Norman Broadbent (down 13.16%).

Hargreaves announced its preliminary results for the year ended 31 May 2019 and stated that the underlying performance of the group has been satisfactory. The board reported that, while it has been a challenging year, its property business Hargreaves Land gained further momentum and it can accelerate growth by extracting capital from its UK mining activities. Value held in the balance sheet of Hargreaves' German associate business is being unlocked and will be distributed to shareholders in due course. Management anticipates that Hargreaves will progress further through the next financial year.

Synectics announced unaudited interim results for the six months ended 31 May 2019 and reported revenues of £33.6 million and profit before tax of £1.2 million. Management stated that full year results are expected to be in line with market expectations and that the group is in a strong position to capitalise on a number of high-profile projects and harness strategic growth opportunities.

FireAngel issued a trading update for the six months ended 30 June 2019 and stated that the company expects to report results in the period ahead of budget. With approximately 55% of the expected full -year revenue to be generated in the second half, full-year performance is dependent on FireAngel securing several pipeline opportunities that are at an advanced stage in negotiations and trials. The company continues to drive operational improvements through the ongoing review of business operations and margin enhancement.

Norman Broadbent issued an unaudited trading update relating to the six months ended 30 June 2019. It reported that the first six months of the year saw continued positive top-line growth resulting in the company recording a small profit before tax. The board stated that its diversification strategy has created a more agile and balanced group, and looking ahead it can see a diversified business pipeline going into the second half of the financial year.

Cumulative performance under Downing management



The graph shows the cumulative performance under Downing management (since Feb 2011)

Cumulative performance - Class B Shares (%)							
	1m	3m	6m	YTD	1y	3y	5y
Fund	-1.89	-5.96	-5.77	-7.02	-14.77	-0.56	16.12
Index	0.08	-1.43	4.23	9.88	-7.38	24.28	33.19

Discrete performance - Class B Shares (%)					
	31/07/2018 31/07/2019	31/07/2017 31/07/2018	31/07/2016 31/07/2017	31/07/2015 31/07/2016	31/07/2014 31/07/2015
Fund	-14.77	-7.52	26.17	-3.15	20.57
Index	-7.38	6.26	26.27	-0.63	7.84

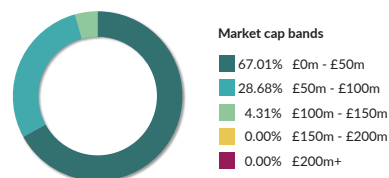
Index: Numis Smaller Companies Index Plus AIM Excluding Investment Trusts. Source of all Fund data is Maitland Institutional Services Limited (Maitland), source of all index data is Numis Securities Limited. The Index does not reflect fees, brokerage commissions, taxes or other expenses of investing. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. **Downing LLP is responsible for Fund performance from 4 February 2011, the effective date of the investment management mandate. Please note that past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results.**

Portfolio by sector



Source of sector data: Maitland as at 31 July 2019

Portfolio by company size



Source of market cap data: Factset as at 31 July 2019

Top 5 portfolio holdings

Company	% of Fund
Real Good Food	9.51*
Norman Broadbent	7.52**
DX Group	6.12
Petards Group	5.34
SysGroup	5.29

Source: Maitland as at 31 July 2019

*Holding includes a 1.15% equity and 8.36% debt split

**Holding includes a 6.82% equity and 0.70% debt split

Lead Fund Manager: Judith MacKenzie

Judith is a Partner at Downing, having joined in 2009. Previously, she was a Partner at Acuity Capital, managing AIM-quoted VCT & IHT investments and the CF Acuity RAM Fund.

Prior to this, Judith spent seven years as a senior investment manager with Aberdeen Asset Management Growth Capital, as co-Manager of the five Aberdeen VCTs, investing in both public and private companies.

She has held various non-executive and advisory roles in Scottish Government and private companies.



Trustnet/F.E. (for the three-year period to 31/07/2019)

Key facts as at 31 July 2019

Structure

London listed Open Ended Investment Company (OEIC), established as a "UCITS scheme".

Incorporation date & date of transfer to Downing and change of ACD
September 2008 / February 2011

Fund size

(B and C Share Class combined)
£13.7m

Share price

Class B 172.26p
Class C 110.08p

Number of company holdings

24
(Not including the three holdings which have been written down to zero.)

Dividends

Accumulation only

Liquidity

Daily pricing and daily dealing

ISIN codes:

B Accumulation GB00B2403R79
C Accumulation GB00B75B5C00

Contact details

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Minimum initial investment

B Accumulation - £1,000
C Accumulation - £1,000

B Share and C Share class monthly savings plan available. Monthly contributions of £100 can be made via standing order on the first business day of each month.

Fund charges

Initial charges

B & C Accumulation: 5.00%

Ongoing charges

B Accumulation: 1.42%
C Accumulation: 1.17%

Ongoing charges are based on the last year's expenses, including the annual management charge. Figures are as at 31 January 2019. These figures may vary. They exclude portfolio transaction costs.

Management charge

B Accumulation = 1.00% per annum
C Accumulation = 0.75% per annum

Performance charge

There are performance fees on the C Share class only. Full details can be found in the Key Investor Information Document.

How to apply

Tel: 020 7630 3319

Visit www.downing.co.uk to access the Application Form

Platforms hosting the Fund

A J Bell	James Hay
Aegon	Novia Global
Ascentric	Novia Financial
Aviva	Nucleus Financial
Cofunds Institutional	SEI Investments
Cofunds Retail	Standard Life
Hargreaves Lansdown	Transact

Risk warning: your capital is at risk. Investments and the income derived from them can fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the full amount invested. Investments in smaller companies will normally involve greater risk or volatility than investments in larger, more established companies. Performance figures above are taken from daily valuations provided by Maitland Institutional Services Limited. Downing LLP is responsible for Fund performance from 4 February 2011, the effective date of the investment mandate. Return is the total return (value of the investments plus cash including income after all expenses and charges), ignoring taxation. Please note that past performance is not a guide to future performance.

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9 August 2019

Downing

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