

MI Downing UK Micro-Cap Growth Fund

August
2016



About the Fund

MI Downing UK Micro-Cap Growth Fund ("the Fund") invests 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 & qualified team headed by Judith MacKenzie - Citywire AA¹ and F.E. Five Crown² rated.
- ▶ Private equity approach to micro cap companies, drawing on Downing's private equity and venture capital heritage.
- ▶ Investment Committee oversight provides access to 100+ years of investment experience.
- ▶ Value strategy with rigorous bottom up approach.
- ▶ Exhaustive diligence process that can take up to 18 months.
- ▶ Concentrated portfolio of 25 to 30 investments which we believe provides optimal diversification.
- ▶ Access to strategic investments.
- ▶ Only invests in profitable businesses with strong management teams and a sustainable competitive advantage.

¹Source: Citywire (for the three year risk adjusted performance 31/07/2013 - 29/07/2016)

²Source: Trustnet/FE (for the three year period to 29/07/2016)

Market commentary

In July, the Fund outperformed the benchmark by 1.6% and generated an overall return of 8.8%. Despite the initial post-Brexit sell-off, UK equities have rebounded to around the levels seen in mid-June 2015. Wider fears of a slowdown seem to have ebbed, helped by a further rate cut. Our view is more pessimistic and we note that the Bank of England has fewer monetary tools left to battle a recession – we entered 2008 with base rates around 5%.

Key contributors to the portfolio in July were Pennant International PLC, Finsbury Food Group PLC and Science in Sport PLC. A new holding in the Fund, Pennant provides support solutions, products and services, principally to the defence, rail, aerospace and naval sectors and Government departments. This recent positive performance has largely been due to its record order book, which has driven the expansion of its business premises. Finsbury Food traded strongly in the second half; total company sales revenues grew to £319.7m, an increase of 24.8% on the prior year, following the successful integration of last year's acquisitions of Fletchers and Johnstone's.

The main detractors to the portfolio this month have been Lombard Risk Management and Fulcrum Utility services. Although Lombard reported a loss in May, the outlook for the business remains positive following their profile-raising tie-up with Oracle earlier this year. Despite a recent dip in share price, Fulcrum reported a strong pre-tax profit and continues to make good progress, recently securing a significant new gas pipeline contract in partnership with British Gas.

Cumulative performance under Downing management



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

Cumulative performance - Class B Shares (%)

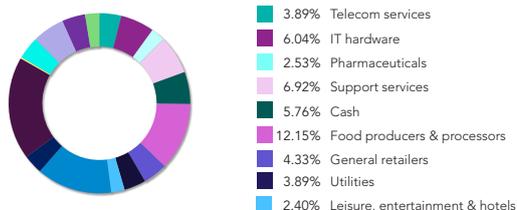
	1m	3m	6m	YTD	1y	3y	5y
Fund	8.78	2.22	2.32	-3.48	-3.15	52.20	90.90
Index	7.14	1.30	7.59	1.58	-0.63	18.33	44.26

Discrete performance - Class B Shares (%)

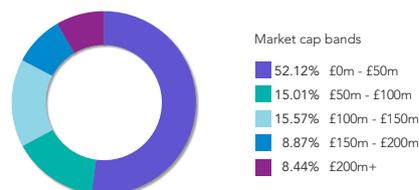
	29/07/2015 29/07/2016	29/07/2014 29/07/2015	29/07/2013 29/07/2014	29/07/2012 29/07/2013	29/07/2011 29/07/2012
Fund	-3.15	20.57	30.34	18.29	6.03
Index	-0.63	7.84	10.41	31.13	-7.03

Index: Numis Smaller Companies Index Plus AIM Excluding Investment Trusts. Source of all fund data is Maitland Institutional Services, source of all index data is Thomson Reuters. The Index does not reflect fees, brokerage commissions, taxes or other expenses of investing. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. **Downing is responsible for fund performance from 4 Feb 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*



Portfolio by company size*



Top 5 portfolio holdings*

	% of Fund
Amino Technologies PLC	6.04
Pennant International Group PLC	5.95
Redhall Group PLC	5.74
Universe Group PLC	5.17
Finsbury Food Group PLC	4.54

*Source: Maitland Institutional Services
As at 29 July 2016

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, and is a Fellow of the Securities Institute.

Key facts as at 29 July 2016

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)
£21.9m

Share price

Class B 173.22p
Class C 113.66p

Number of holdings

30

Dividends

Accumulation only

Liquidity

Daily pricing and daily dealing

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 charge: B & C Accumulation = 5%

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. For further information please refer to the Key Investor Information Document. The Fund may also pay fees and charges related to administration, custody and other reasonable expenses.

ISIN codes:

B Accumulation GB00B2403R79
C Accumulation GB00B7SB5C00

Contact details

Manager

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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 Financial
Ascentric	Nucleus Financial
Cofunds Institutional	SEI Investments
Cofunds Retail	Standard Life
Hargreaves Lansdown	Transact

Risk warning: your capital is at risk. Investments & 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. Inception is the date of the commencement of the investment management mandate – 4 Feb 2011. 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.

Important notice

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