



Downing Strategic Micro-Cap Investment Trust Factsheet

March 2020

Portfolio commentary

The Trust's NAV decreased by 10.64% over the period. As the markets sold off on Covid-19 production disruption fears, there were no positive contributions in the month. The main detractors were Volex and Ramsdens Holdings.

AdEPT announced that the group had raised c £4.25 million through a share placement which will be used in support of the company's strategy to reduce debt, finance potential acquisitions, and for ongoing working capital requirements. Alongside the delivery of long term, sustainable organic growth, the board believes that selective acquisitions will continue to provide an expedited route to growth.

Gama reported that the group had completed the purchase of three Airbus H145 helicopters, with preparations for their deployment from 1st June 2020 in support of a long-term contract proceeding to plan. The purchase marks another significant milestone in its plans to enter the rotary special mission market and the board remains positive about the opportunities that this will bring.

FireAngel issued a trading update and reported that sales for the year ended 31 December 2019 are expected to be up 20%. However exceptional charges have been incurred during the period and the board stated that the group's results continue to be negatively impacted by legacy issues. That said, the decision to invest heavily in future technology is proving to be correct, with the financial benefits expected to be realised in the short, medium and long term.

Pennant announced that it has won two new contracts and received a statement of intent for a potential major new contract for a suite of generic training aids. These will help to underpin the group's 2020 financial performance.

Ramsdens issued no news however its share price dropped sharply in the period. We believe that this was driven by fear over the potential impact of Covid-19 on Ramsdens FX business as people stop travelling overseas.

Volex was also significantly affected by Covid-19 fears. Currently, we have little reason to believe that there will be a material financial impact from the Chinese slowdown as Volex' sites had reopened by mid-February.

Fund discrete performance (%)	Rolling 12-month period -4.42% (28/02/2019-29/02/2020)												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
2020	1.26	-10.64											-9.51
2019	-1.81	-3.59	1.65	4.01	-3.93	-1.20	0.57	-3.75	-2.83	0.72	5.23	5.57	-0.02
2018	-0.98	-1.49	-1.76	-1.15	1.14	-2.24	-1.04	-0.19	-0.51	-7.23	1.07	-4.04	-17.18
2017 ¹					-0.02	-0.12	-0.64	-1.31	-0.16	-1.02	-0.55	0.86	-2.94 ¹

Please note that past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results.

Key facts as at 29 February 2020

The Trust targets positive returns over the long term from a focused portfolio of UK micro-cap companies believed to be undervalued and could benefit from strategic and operational initiatives.

Total market value
£34,542,901.26

Total net assets
£39,094,881.89

No of Ordinary Shares in issue
54,830,002

NAV incl. income (starting NAV 98.04p)
71.30p

Market price of Ordinary Shares
63.00p

Premium (Discount)
-11.64%

Source of performance, holding and sector data is Maitland Institutional Services Ltd.
Source of market cap data is Factset.

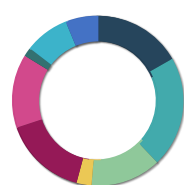
¹From inception 09/05/2017 to 31/12/2017.

²Includes loan notes.

Top five holdings

Holding	Sector	% of Trust
Real Good Food plc ²	Food producers	18.23
Volex Plc	Electrical equipment	15.29
Adept Technology Group plc	Telecommunications	8.94
Ramsdens Holdings Plc	Financial Services	7.57
Synectics Plc	Support services	7.13

Sector



18.81%	Cash	14.20%	Support services
17.64%	Electrical equipment	1.61%	Software and computer services
12.43%	Financial services	8.94%	Telecommunications
3.09%	Food producers	5.62%	Transportation
17.66%	Loans		

Market cap



53.75%	£0m - £50m
30.96%	£50m - £100m
0.00%	£100m - £150m
15.29%	£150m - £200m
0.00%	£200m+

Information correct as at 29 February 2020.

Judith MacKenzie, Lead Investment Manager

Judith founded Downing Public Equity in 2009 and was named Small-Cap Fund Manager of the Year at the Small-Cap Awards in 2013 and 2015 for the Downing UK Micro-Cap Growth Fund.



Trust objectives

- ▶ The Trust aims to generate a return of 15% p.a. compound over the long term. Please note that this is a target only and is not guaranteed.
- ▶ The Manager employs a value approach and seeks to be influential through taking strategic stakes.
- ▶ The Trust seeks to hold a concentrated portfolio between 12-18 holdings.
- ▶ The Trust will typically hold between 3 - 25% of the equity of investee companies, notwithstanding ability to use debt instruments alongside equity.
- ▶ Long-term investment horizon over three to seven years.
- ▶ Buyback mechanism for up to 14.99% of the equity of the Trust seeking to closely control discount (at the Board's ultimate discretion and subject to shareholders' annual approval).

Investment rationale

- ▶ Private-equity approach to research and engagement seeks to unlock greater shareholder value over the long term.
- ▶ We believe a strategic, proactive investment approach can help smaller companies realise their potential.
- ▶ UK micro caps offer a wider investment universe and can offer better value relative to larger caps (Factset).

Share price information, the latest investor letter which contains comprehensive information on the Trust's performance, strategy and holdings, plus historical factsheets, RNS announcements, and video interviews with the manager, are all available to download from the homepage of the Downing Strategic Micro-Cap Investment Trust website.

Dividends

The Company has no stated dividend target. A maiden dividend of 1.25p for the year ending 28 February 2019 was paid to shareholders on 5 July 2019.

Codes and fees

Ordinary Share ISIN GB00BF0SCX52

Ordinary Share SEDOL BF0SCX5

Ordinary Share Ticker DSM

AMC on market cap 1%

Ongoing charges

The ongoing charges represent the Company's management fee and all other operating expenses excluding any finance costs, expressed as a percentage of the average daily net assets during the year.

The ongoing charges for the year ending 28 February 2019 were 1.84%.

Financial calendar

The Company's annual financial statements will be prepared to 28 February in each year and will typically be sent to shareholders within four months of its financial year end.

The Company also publishes an unaudited interim report covering the six months to 31 August each year, typically within two months of that date.

Company information

Launch date 9 May 2017

Morningstar sector UK Smaller Companies

Managers

- ▶ Judith MacKenzie
- ▶ James Lynch
- ▶ Nick Hawthorn

Directors

- ▶ Hugh Aldous, Chairman
- ▶ Linda Bell, Non-Executive Director
- ▶ Robert Legget, Non-Executive Director
- ▶ William Dawkins, Non-Executive Director

Further information

Company's registered office

St Magnus House
3 Lower Thames Street
London
EC3R 6HD
Telephone: 0207 416 7780

Company Secretary

Maitland Administration Services Ltd
Hamilton Centre
Rodney Way
Chelmsford, Essex
CM1 3BY

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 are taken from daily valuations provided by Maitland Institutional Services Limited. Return is the total return (value of the investments plus cash including income after all expenses and charges), ignoring taxation. Because shares in an investment Trust are listed on the London Stock Exchange their price is affected by supply and demand. This means that the share price may be different from the NAV. The Company's investment strategy may involve the use of leverage, which exposes the Company to risks associated with borrowings. Please note that past performance is not a guide to future performance.

17 March 2020

Downing



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