

## **Hereford Funds**

# **DSM US Large Cap Growth**

## January 2014

#### **Investment Review**

The Hereford/DSM Large Cap Fund depreciated (3.0)% for the month of January compared to a (2.9)% depreciation for the Russell 1000 Growth Index and a (3.5)% depreciation for the S&P 500 including dividends. At the end of January, the Fund was invested primarily in the consumer discretionary, technology and health care sectors, with smaller weights in the materials, financials, industrials and consumer staples sectors.

During the month the Fund trailed its benchmark by approximately 10 bps. This was primarily the result of the underperformance of our stock selections in the industrials and financials sectors, as well as our overweight in consumer discretionary. Our technology selections and overweight in health care benefitted performance. In January, the best performing positions in the portfolio were Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Wynn Resorts, Biogen Idec, Tencent Holdings and Google. The worst performers for the month were Celgene, Discovery Communications, Time Warner, Monsanto and Yum! Brands. During the month, appreciation led us to trim the Fund's positions in Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Las Vegas Sands and Wynn Resorts. We also trimmed Praxair as the company lowered earnings expectations for 2014 on negative currency translation. The proceeds of these sales were used to initiate a position in Starbucks, the global coffee chain, on improved valuation. We have owned Starbucks in the past and continue to believe that its global presence in coffee, teas and foods both on-line and in stores represent a solid growth opportunity. In the period, we also added to existing positions in Cognizant Technology Solutions, Invesco and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals.

The market had a big run last year, especially in the fourth quarter. Then in January the possibility of slower growth in the US and China, combined with political/economic issues in Ukraine, Turkey, Argentina and Thailand created an avalanche of reasons to take profits. In our view, the EM economies that are having problems are too small to impact the global economy in a meaningful fashion. In addition, recent US economic statistics including ISM, housing, jobs, autos and durable goods, have indicated a slowdown in growth, rather than the break out to the upside many have been anticipating. Given this recent weakness, we continue to feel quite comfortable with our slow growth US economic forecast of 2%+ GDP growth in 2013. Outside of the US, 6% to 8% growth in China and slight growth in Europe remain likely. Supporting our slow growth outlook, interest rates and commodity prices remain low, central banks are accommodative and global economic statistics continue their slow march upward.

We believe stocks globally are reasonably valued or perhaps even a touch cheap in a global slow-growth world with low interest rates and low inflation. Thus far, according to JPMorgan, earnings results for the S&P 500 are coming in a bit better than expected. JPMorgan's earnings expectations at the beginning of the year were \$28.08 for the S&P 500, and are now \$28.62. However, stocks are not cheap. The wild card remains the possibility of severe banking problems in Italy or Spain, or perhaps China, but at this point that appears unlikely. We feel the global economy is more likely to become stronger, rather than weaker in coming years. Bull markets normally come to an end due to high valuations, recession, inflation, deflation or some other economic shock that takes investors by surprise. In our view, this is a normal investment environment populated by investors who tend to overreact to normal events.

The portfolio continues to be focused on unique global businesses that have been identified, and are continuously subject to analysis, by our ten-member investment team. We believe that the valuation of the portfolio, at 21.1x next-four-quarter earnings through March of 2015 based on our calculations, continues to be attractive in the current slow growth economic environment and relative to the market. We also continue to project a mid-to-high "teens" earnings growth rate through 2016. Additionally, the portfolio holdings remain characterized by very strong balance sheets and significant free cash flow.

#### **Key Information**

NAV A Shares (31/01/14)

Total Fund Size

Strategy Assets

Fund Launch Date

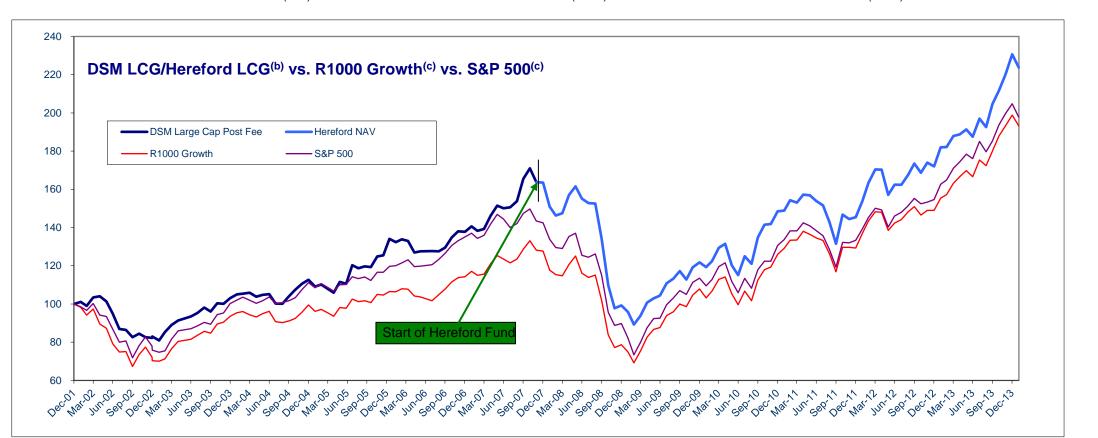
US\$ 136.58

US\$ 152.7 mil

US\$ 3,959.9 mil<sup>(a)</sup>

29-Nov-07

| Monthly Performance (%)                     |       |      |      |       |      |      |        |      |              |              |      |      |        |           |                   |
|---|-------|------|------|-------|------|------|--------|------|--------------|--------------|------|------|--------|-----------|-------------------|
|   | Jan   | Feb  | Mar  | Apr   | May  | Jun  | Jul    | Aug  | Sep          | Oct          | Nov  | Dec  |        | YTD       |                   |
| Hereford Funds NAV                          | (3.0) |      |      |       |      |      |        |      |              |              |      |      |        | (3.0)     |                   |
| Russell 1000 Growth <sup>(c)</sup>          | (2.9) |      |      |       |      |      |        |      |              |              |      |      | (2.9)  |           |                   |
| S&P 500 <sup>(c)</sup>                      | (3.5) |      |      |       |      |      |        |      |              |              |      |      |        | (3.5)     |                   |
| Period Performance (%)                      |       |      |      |       |      |      |        |      | Since Incept | ion 01/01/02 |      |      |        |           |                   |
|   | YTD   | 2013 | 2012 | 2011  | 2010 | 2009 | 2008   | 2007 | 2006         | 2005         | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 C | umulative | <b>Annualised</b> |
| DSM LCG/Hereford LCG Returns <sup>(b)</sup> | (3.0) | 34.1 | 18.2 | (2.0) | 21.9 | 22.8 | (39.3) | 18.7 | 9.8          | 11.4         | 9.4  | 25.2 | (17.7) | 123.8     | 6.9               |
| Russell 1000 Growth <sup>(c)</sup>          | (2.9) | 33.5 | 15.3 | 2.6   | 16.7 | 37.2 | (38.4) | 11.8 | 9.1          | 5.3          | 6.3  | 29.7 | (27.9) | 93.2      | 5.6               |
| S&P 500 <sup>(c)</sup>                      | (3.5) | 32.4 | 16.0 | 2.1   | 15.1 | 26.5 | (37.0) | 5.5  | 15.8         | 4.9          | 10.9 | 28.7 | (22.1) | 97.7      | 5.8               |





#### **Top Ten Holdings**

Airbus Group Monsanto
Alexion Pharmaceuticals Priceline.com
Celgene Tencent Holdings

Cognizant Technology Solutions Visa

Google Wynn Resorts

| Sectoral Breakdown     | % of Assets |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Consumer Discretionary | 30.7%       |
| Information Technology | 22.5%       |
| Health Care            | 20.0%       |
| Materials              | 6.9%        |
| Financials             | 6.4%        |
| Industrials            | 6.2%        |
| Consumer Staples       | 5.4%        |

#### **Investment Objective**

The investment objective of the LCG sub fund is to provide capital appreciation principally through investments in US-based growing corporations with market capitalizations generally above US\$ 5 billion. These companies are chosen for their growth prospects, attractive returns, solid business fundamentals and intelligent management. The sub fund may, on an ancillary basis, invest in US-based companies with lower market capitalizations as well as in non-US based companies. The Compartment may invest in American Depository Receipts and American Depository Shares. The reference benchmark for this strategy is the Russell 1000 Growth Index.

|                         |              | Since Inception   | Hereford          | DSM LCG<br>Composite | R1000<br>Growth |
|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Fund Codes (Share Class | ss A)        | Risk Profile      | <b>DSM US LCG</b> |                      |                 |
| Bloomberg               | DSMUSLA LX   | Volatility        | n/a               | 15.0                 | 15.5            |
| ISIN                    | LU0327604228 | Sharpe Ratio      | n/a               | 0.4                  | 0.3             |
| Reuters                 | LP65102015   | Information Ratio | n/a               | 0.2                  |                 |
| Sedol                   | B28TLX2      | Tracking Error    | n/a               | 6.8                  |                 |
|                         | 3504726      | Beta              | n/a               | 0.9                  |                 |
| WKN                     | A0M58T       | Alpha             | n/a               | 1.8                  |                 |

#### **Fund Details**

Dealing Day Daily

Dividends None - income accumulated within the fund

Investment Manager DSM Capital Partners LLC, 116 Radio Circle Drive, Suite 200, Mount Kisco, NY 10549, USA

Promoter VP Bank (Luxembourg) S.A., 26 Avenue de la Liberté, L-1930 Luxembourg

Management Company VPB Finance S.A., 26 Avenue de la Liberté, L-1930 Luxembourg

Custodian VP Bank (Luxembourg) S.A., 26 Avenue de la Liberté, L-1930 Luxembourg Legal Advisers Elvinger, Hoss & Prussen, 2 Place Winston Churchill, L-1340 Luxembourg

Auditor Deloitte,560 Rue de Neudorf, L-2220 Luxembourg

**Annual Management Charge** 

Share Class A & U<sup>(e)</sup> 1.25% Share Class D<sup>(f)</sup> 1.75%

**Minimum Investment** 

Share Class A & U<sup>(e)</sup> \$100,000 initial / \$10,000 subsequent Share Class D \$10,000 initial / \$1,000 subsequent

# Order Transmission Information Original Applications To:

VPB Finance S.A. attn. Fund Operations / TA-HFF

P.O. Box 923

L-2019 Luxembourg

or, for transmissions via courier service,

26, avenue de la Liberté, L-1930 Luxembourg

### **Subsequent Applications Only Via Facsimile:**

VPB Finance S.A.

attn. Fund Operations / TA-HFF Fax: (+352) 404 770 283 Tel: (+352) 404 770 260

e-mail: luxfunds.info@vpbank.com

(a) This refers to the total assets invested in the reference strategy managed by the Investment Manager.

- (b) Data and graph depict DSM Composite through November 2007 and Hereford Funds DSM US Large Cap Growth Fund Class A thereafter. Historical gross performance of DSM Large Cap Composite returns (the Reference Strategy) is net of modeled fee and expense typical of Hereford Funds DSM US Large Cap Growth Fund Class A (1.25% fee + 0.25% expense). Fund follows same strategy. Performance presentation incomplete without accompanying footnotes as shown at www.dsmcapital.com.
- (c) Total return including dividends.
- (d) The fund is registered with the BaFin for public distribution in Germany from 17/10/12, registered with the AFM for public distribution in the Netherlands and registered with the AMF for public distribution in France.
- (e) Share Class U has been granted Reporting Status by HMRC as of October 1, 2010.
- (f) Share Class D is German tax registered from October 1, 2010.

France - Centralizing Correspondent as defined by French Regulation:

Société Générale - Order Desk, 32, avenue du Champ de Tir, BP 81236, F-44312 Nantes Cedex 3

Phone: +33/2.51.85.66.40, Fax: +33/2.51.85.58.71

Germany – Paying Agent as defined by German Regulation: Marcard, Stein & Co – Ballindamm 36, 20095 Hamburg Phone: +49/40.32.099.556, Fax: +49/40.32.099.206

Switzerland - Representative and Paying Agent as defined by Swiss Regulation: Société Générale, Zurich Branch, Talacker, 50, P.O. Box 1928, CH-8021 Zurich

Phone: +41/58.272.34.18 Fax: +41/58.272.35.49

This document is for information purposes only. It is neither an advice nor a recommendation to enter into any investment. Investment suitability must be determined for each investor, and this fund may not be suitable for all investors. This information does not provide any accounting, legal, regulatory or tax advice. Investors should consult professional advisers to evaluate this information. An investment should be made only on the basis of the Prospectus, the annual and any subsequent semi-annual-reports of HEREFORD FUNDS (the "Fund"), a société d'investissement à capital variable, established in Luxembourg and registered under Part I of Luxembourg law of 20 December, approved by the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF). These can be obtained from [the Fund, 26, avenue de la Liberté, L-1930 Luxembourg or from VPB Finance S.A., 26, avenue dela Liberté, L-1930 Luxembourg and any distributor or intermediary appointed by the Fund]. No warranty is given, in whole or in part, regarding performance of the Fund. There is no guarantee that its investment objectives will be achieved. Earnings projections are not guarantees of future results and there is no representation that the securities discussed were or will be profitable. Investors should be aware that the value of investments can fall as well as rise and that they may not recover the full amount invested. Past performance is no guide to future performance. The information provided in this document may be subject to change without any warning or prior notice and should be read in conjunction with the most recent publication of the Prospectus of the Fund. While great care is taken to ensure that this information is accurate, no responsibility can be accepted for any errors, mistakes or omission or for future returns. This document is intended for the use of the addressee only and may not be reproduced, redistributed, passed on or published, in whole or in part, for any purpose, without the prior written consent of HEREFORD FUNDS. Neither the CSS