SFDR status as of March 2021: Article 8

DSM US Large Cap Growth Sub-Fund Class A - November 2023

Investment Review

The Hereford/DSM US Large Cap Growth Sub-Fund appreciated 10.5% for the month of November compared to a 10.90% return for the Russell 1000 Growth Index and a 9.13% return for the S&P 500 both including dividends. At the end of November, the Sub-Fund was invested in the technology, financials, consumer discretionary, communication services, health care, industrials, materials and consumer staples sectors.

For the month, the Sub-Fund trailed the benchmark by approximately 38bps. This was primarily the result of the Manager's selections in the industrials sector. The Manager's underweight versus the benchmark and selections in health care benefited performance. In November, the positions that contributed the most to the portfolio's return were NVIDIA, Microsoft, Amazon.com, Adobe and Intuit. The positions that detracted the most in the month were Paycom Software, Fortinet, Fleetcor Technologies, Aon and Neurocrine Biosciences.

Manager's Commentary

The Manager has consistently described the probability of a recession as a "race" between the constrictive economic impact of Federal Reserve and ECB monetary tightening versus the rate at which inflation falls. The faster inflation declines, the fewer additional rate hikes will be necessary on either side of the Atlantic. Recent inflation data has been quite positive, falling more rapidly than many observers expected in both the US and Europe. At this point in time, the likelihood of additional rate hikes by either central bank appears low, unless inflation surprises to the upside. In recent years both the Federal Reserve and ECB have tightened monetary policy considerably, so much so that year-over-year M2 (money supply) growth was negative, which has driven inflation downward.

Historically in the US economic slowdowns have lagged Federal Reserve rate increases by eighteen to perhaps twenty-four months. If the fourth quarter of 2022 is used as the "effective start date" for tightening, rather than March 2022, as this is when the yield curve "inverted," then the tightening process began just a year ago. Given that rates remain historically low, the negative impact of the inverted yield curve on the economy may not be felt until the first half or perhaps third quarter of 2024, which would be eighteen to twenty-four months from the start date of tightening in the fourth quarter 2022. In the interim, the Federal Reserve has had plenty of time to drive inflation lower thus the Manager continues to believe that the likelihood of a severe recession has been reduced, although a shallow recession remains a possibility.

After outperforming expectations in 2023 with global growth likely approximating 2.5%, DSM anticipates growth around 2-2.5% in 2024. In the US, economic growth might reach or exceed 2% with the EU a bit below, while emerging markets may grow a bit faster than the developed world. It appears that the decline in inflation has moderated interest rates in turn reducing the likelihood of a severe recession. A muddle through global growth outcome increasingly appears to be the most likely scenario, should a slowdown occur.

While the possibility of recession and general downside earnings risks exist in global markets, equities are priced on forward looking earnings. By the summer of 2024, equities will increasingly be priced on calendar year 2025 earnings. At this time S&P 500 2024 and 2025 EPS with slow economic growth, may approximate \$240 and \$260 respectively. At those levels, assuming inflation continues on its downward trajectory, the Manager would expect the S&P 500 to have the potential to reach or possibly exceed 5000 by December 2024. Given the economic resilience of the Sub-Fund portfolio, along with its reasonable valuation and a normalized mid-to-high teens earnings growth rate going forward, this portfolio of premier quality growth businesses should be well positioned for the intermediate and longer-term investor willing to look through potential near-term volatility.

Key Information

NAV A Shares (30/11/23) US\$ 382.0 Strategy Assets US\$ 5,674.6^(a) Total Fund Size (all share classes) US\$ 69.7 m Fund Launch Date 29-Nov-07

| Monthly Performance (%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|-------|------|-----|------|
| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | YTD |
| HF-DSM US LCG | 6.3 | (3.3) | 4.6 | 0.5 | 2.3 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 2.1 | (6.0) | (1.9) | 10.5 | | 24.5 |
| Russell 1000 Growth ^(c) | 8.3 | (1.2) | 6.8 | 1.0 | 4.6 | 6.8 | 3.4 | (0.9) | (5.4) | (1.4) | 10.9 | | 36.6 |
| S&P 500 ^(c) | 6.3 | (2.4) | 3.7 | 1.6 | 0.4 | 6.6 | 3.2 | (1.6) | (4.8) | (2.1) | 9.1 | | 20.8 |

| Period Perf (%) | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | Cumulative | Annualised |
|--------------------------|--------|------|------|------|-------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|--------|------|------|------------|------------|
| HF-DSM US LCG Returns(b) | (27.8) | 20.5 | 26.4 | 35.0 | (6.2) | 36.8 | (3.3) | 7.0 | 9.7 | 34.1 | 18.2 | (2.0) | 21.9 | 22.8 | (39.3) | 18.7 | 9.8 | 282.0 | 8.7% |
| Russell 1000 Growth(c) | (29.5) | 27.5 | 38.5 | 36.4 | (1.5) | 30.2 | 7.1 | 5.7 | 13.1 | 33.5 | 15.3 | 2.6 | 16.7 | 37.2 | (38.4) | 11.8 | 9.1 | 472.4 | 11.5% |
| S&P 500 ^(c) | (18.1) | 28.6 | 18.4 | 31.3 | (4.4) | 21.8 | 12.0 | 1.4 | 13.7 | 32.4 | 16.0 | 2.1 | 15.1 | 26.5 | (37.0) | 5.5 | 15.8 | 306.8 | 9.1% |





| Top Ten Holdings | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Accenture | Autodesk |
| Adobe | Intuit |
| Alphabet (Cl. A) | Microsoft |
| Amazon.com | NVIDIA |
| Arista Networks | Visa |

| Sectoral Breakdown | % of Assets |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Information Technology | 47.8% |
| Financials | 14.0% |
| Consumer Discretionary | 11.6% |
| Communication Services | 9.0% |
| Health Care | 8.0% |
| Industrials | 3.6% |
| Materials | 2.6% |
| Consumer Staples | 2.5% |

Investment Objective

The investment objective of the HF-DSM US LCG 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.

| Fund Codes | |
|------------|--------------|
| Bloomberg | DSMUSLA LX |
| ISIN | LU0327604228 |
| Reuters | LP65102015 |
| Sedol | B28TLX2 |
| | 3504726 |
| WKN | A0M58T |

| Since inception | HF-DSM US LCG | HF-DSM US LCG Composite | R1000 Growth |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Volatility | n/a | 15.7 | 16.2 |
| Sharpe Ratio | n/a | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Information Ratio | n/a | -0.2 | |
| Tracking Error | n/a | 6.3 | |
| Beta | n/a | 0.9 | |
| Alpha | n/a | 0.0 | |

| Fund Details | |
|--------------------|--|
| Dealing Day | Daily |
| Dividends | None - income accumulated within the fund |
| Investment Manager | DSM Capital Partners LLC 7111 Fairway Drive, Suite 350, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418 |
| Management Company | FundPartner Solutions (Europe) S.A. 15, Avenue John F Kennedy, L-1855 Luxembourg |
| Custodian | Pictet & Cie (Europe) S.A. 15A, Avenue John F Kennedy, L-1855 Luxembourg |
| Legal Advisers | Elvinger, Hoss & Prussen 2 Place Winston Churchill, L-1340 Luxembourg |
| Auditor | Deloitte Audit S.à,r,l. 560 Rue de Neudorf, L-2220 Luxembourg |

Order Transmission Information

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- (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.

| Annual Management Charge | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|--|--|--|--|
| Share Class A & U ^(e) | 1.25% | | | | |
| Share Class D ^(f) | 1.75% | | | | |

| Minimum Investment | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| | \$100,000 initial / \$10,000 subsequent | | | | | |
| Share Class D | \$10,000 initial / \$1,000 subsequent | | | | | |

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