



SFDR status as of March 2021: Article 8

# DSM US Large Cap Growth Sub-Fund Class A - January 2023

## **Investment Review**

The Hereford/DSM US Large Cap Growth Sub-Fund appreciated 6.3% for the month of January compared to a 8.33% return for the Russell 1000 Growth Index and a 6.28% return for the S&P 500 both including dividends. At the end of January, the Sub-Fund was invested in the technology, health care, consumer discretionary, communication services, financials, consumer staples and materials sectors.

For the month, the Sub-Fund trailed the benchmark by approximately 202bps. This was primarily the result of the Manager's selections in financials. The Manager's selections and underweight in consumer discretionary versus the benchmark also detracted from performance. The Manager's underweight in industrials versus the benchmark benefited performance. In January, the positions that contributed the most to the portfolio's return were Amazon.com, Alphabet, NVIDIA, Visa and PayPal Holdings. The positions that contributed the least in the month Charles Schwab, Neurocrine Biosciences, UnitedHealth Group, Automatic Data Processing and O'Reilly Automotive.

#### **Manager's Commentary**

A few months ago, with both the ECB and Federal Reserve rapidly raising interest rates and China persisting with its zero-Covid policies, a global recession in 2023 appeared quite plausible. Now however, the Manager believes a muddle-through scenario appears increasingly possible. Recent US economic data indicates economic growth is stubbornly persisting, driven by record employment levels, rising wages and over the past six months, falling inflation. Decelerating inflation combined with steady employment conditions may lead to improving real incomes and the solid consumer spending necessary to drive the economy forward. For the most part, December's reports continue to support the decelerating inflation scenario, although services inflation remains higher than it ideally should be. In any case, inflation has been decelerating since June of 2022 and therefore the size and pace of interest rates implemented by the Federal Reserve should slow and eventually top out. Importantly, at this time additional rate increases from the Fed appear increasingly unlikely to cause a recession, although a slowing economy is certainly a potential outcome.

In Europe the odds of a soft landing seem to be increasing as economic data has also been better than feared as the economy has proven to be resilient to war and energy shocks. While Europe may have a tough winter, their situation is not nearly as difficult as expected and the second half of 2023 may feature economic expansion. Natural gas prices have substantially declined, storage is full and perhaps can remain so even in the case of a very cold winter period. Europe's unemployment rate remains low by historic standards and wages are solid creating ongoing fears of inflation. ECB members appear to be split as to when rates should peak and at what level in order to return inflation to their 2% target. At this point, the ECB is expected to raise rates three more times by their May meeting.

In the Manager's view the future rate of inflation is critical to the direction of the global equity markets. Historically, when money supply increases significantly it has been a consistent predictor of rising inflation. Conversely, when money supply is falling, it has been a leading indicator of falling inflation. The growth rate of money supply has been falling for almost one year and inflation is now following in a downward path. DSM believes that due to this dramatic decline in money supply growth equity markets have possibly bottomed and may show some appreciation going forward. With inflation decelerating, Fed rate increases close to an end, economic data coming in better than feared, the job market remaining resilient, China reopening, and reasonable market valuations, the Manager believes optimism is very much warranted later in 2023 and beyond.

# **Key Information**

NAV A Shares (31/1/23) US\$ 326.13 Strategy Assets US\$ 5,599.5(a)
Total Fund Size (all share classes) US\$ 63.48m 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												6.3
Russell 1000 Growth <sup>(c)</sup>	8.3												8.3
S&P 500 <sup>(c)</sup>	6.3												6.3

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	226.1	7.76%
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	258.0	10.43%
S&P 500 <sup>(c)</sup>	(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	353.8	8.72%

### HF-DSM US LCG vs. R1000 Growth vs. S&P500





Top Ten Holdings	
Accenture	EPAM Systems
Adobe	Intuit
Alphabet (Cl. A)	Microsoft
Amazon.com	Charles Schwab
Boston Scientific	Visa

Sectoral Breakdown	% of Assets
Information Technology	57.6%
Health Care	10.9%
Consumer Discretionary	9.8%
Communication Services	8.2%
Financials	6.8%
Consumer Staples	3.1%
Materials	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	16.1
Sharpe Ratio	n/a	0.5	0.5
Information Ratio	n/a	-0.1	
Tracking Error	n/a	6.3	
Beta	n/a	0.9	
Alpha	n/a	0.2	

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**

FundPartner Solutions (Europe) S.A. 15, avenue J. F. Kennedy L-1855 Luxembourg Via Fax +352 46 71 71 7667 or SWIFT PICTLULXTAS

- (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 <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						

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