

MUFG Japan Focus Growth Strategy

January 2023

Investment Strategy

- Bottom up stock picking strategy, based on company interviews/fieldwork and fundamental research/analysis.
- We seek to identify exceptional companies able to sustain consistent earnings growth through economic cycles.
- The strategy seeks to outperform the market by selectively buying and holding stocks over the mid-to-long term, typically three to five years. Consequently, the turnover of our portfolio is low.
- We do not invest in stocks for purposes of managing risk against benchmarks.
- Stable earnings volatility of our holdings allows us to build a concentrated portfolio of 20-30 names.

Strategy Facts

Inception Date: October 1, 2011

Advisor: Clearbrook Investment Consulting **Sub-Advisor:** Mitsubishi UFJ Trust and Banking Corporation

Net Assets as of 01/31/2023: \$569.4M USD

Management Fee: 0.75%

Benchmark: TOPIX Total Return Index

Portfolio Characteristics

	Japan	TOPIX Total
F6	ocus Growth*	Return Index
Number of Holdings	32	2,165
Wtd. Avg. Mkt. Cap.	(\$) 26.8B	38.5B
P/E	22.32	17.32
P/B	3.13	2.20
ROE %	12.87	11.06
Dividend Yield %	1.62	2.57

^{*}Based on representative portfolio

All data as of 01/31/2023 unless noted

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Performance (%) USD as of (01/31/2023)

										Since
Composite	1 Mon* :	3 Mon* 6	Mon*	YTD*	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	7 Yr	10 Yr I	
Focus Growth Gross	3.07	9.12	-1.10	3.07	-16.68	-0.68	0.66	5.47	9.51	7.48
Focus Growth Net	3.01	8.92	-1.47	3.01	-17.31	-1.42	-0.09	4.68	8.70	6.69
TOPIX Total Return Index	5.95	17.27	5.99	5.95	-5.16	1.65	0.33	6.06	6.27	6.15
Excess Return (Gross-TOPI)	<) -2.88	-8.14	-7.09	-2.88	-11.52	-2.33	0.33	-0.59	3.24	1.34

*Returns for periods under one year are not annualized. Performance data quoted represents past performance; past performance does not guarantee future results. Gross returns are presented before management and custodial fees, but after all trading expenses and reflect the investment of dividends and other income. Net returns are net of investment management fees in effect for the respective time period and are derived using the maximum highest published rate. Fees charged are at the discretion of HighMark. The strategy does not invest to an index. The strategy uses the (TOPIX) Total Return Index as a benchmark only. Performance may be attributable to profits from IPO securities. IPO securities have no trading history and the prices may be volatile. There is no guarantee this level of performance will be repeated. Japanese issuers and underwriters prioritize allocations of IPO securities to domestic investors; therefore, overseas investors (not based in Japan) may have less access to small and mid-cap IPO securities allocations than a domestic investor. The investment return and principal value of an investment will change so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance of the strategy may be lower or higher than the performance quoted. Composite data is calculated in JPY and converted to USD using the WM/Reuters Closing Spot Rates 4pm London close. The TOPIX is also converted from JPY to USD using the same exchange rate source.

Market and Strategy Commentary: January 2023

Japan Markets:

- Japanese equities gained in January, with the TOPIX Total Return Index returning +5.95% USD.
- After a short plunge at the beginning of the month due to concerns over the economic slowdown with monetary tightening in the US, the Japanese stock market advanced, supported by the declining US long-term interest rates reflecting the easing of US wage growth.
- Later in the month, Japanese shares continued to rally on the back of the Bank of Japan's (BOJ)
 decision to maintain its ultra-easy monetary policy and growing expectations for an economic
 recovery in China due to the end of its zero-COVID policy.

MUFG Japan Focus Growth Strategy:

- The Japan Focus Growth Strategy returned +3.01% USD, underperforming the Index by 2.95%.
- The top contributor was Tokyo Electron Ltd., a leading global manufacturer of semiconductor production equipment (SPE). The share price rose sharply as expectations heightened for a turnaround in the semiconductor's downward cycle. Another contributor was Keyence Corp., a leading maker of sensors and measuring instruments used for factory automation (FA). The share price advanced on the back of market sentiment that the FA industry is nearing the bottom of its cycle.
- The largest detractor was Shionogi & Co., Ltd., a leading pharmaceutical manufacturer with a special focus on proprietary new drugs, as the broad reopening after COVID-19 did not help the market sentiment toward its COVID-19 oral treatment Xocova. Tokio Marine Holdings, Inc., one of the world's largest and globally diversified insurance groups, was also down for the month. The BOJ monetary policy meeting did not announce further yield curve control measures in January, in addition to concerns over the negative impact of a severe cold wave in North America.
- We initiated a position in Ibiden Co., Ltd., one of the major manufacturers of electronics, ceramics, housing materials and resin products. We also invested in FANCL Corp., a cosmetics and dietary supplements company, and TechnoPro Holdings, Inc., which manages technician dispatch and contracting business related to IT/software and other fields. Conversely, we completed selling off Air Water Inc. as our confidence in sustainable earnings growth decreased due to its weak tolerance to the external environment.

MUFG Japan Focus Growth Strategy

About the Portfolio (as of 01/31/2023)

Returns Based Statistics vs TOPIX Total Return Index

	One Yr	Three Yr	Five Yr	Ten Yr
Excess Return	-11.52	-2.33	0.33	3.24
Beta	0.91	0.97	0.99	0.95
Information Ratio	-1.89	-0.24	0.04	0.37
Sharpe Ratio*	-0.89	-0.04	0.04	0.61
Tracking Error %	6.10	9.58	8.73	8.67
Std. Dev. (Portfolio) %	18.84	19.18	17.35	15.66
Std. Dev. (Benchmark) %	19.72	17.18	15.20	13.81

^{*} Sharpe Ratio: the risk free rate is not used in the calculation. The calculation shown here represents Portfolio Return divided by Portfolio Standard Deviation.

Sector Diversification (%)

Sector Biversineation (18)	Japan Focus Growth*	TOPIX Total Return
Health Care	23.23	8.61
Industrials	20.05	23.54
Information Technology	18.27	13.12
Consumer Staples	16.50	7.47
Consumer Discretionary	10.34	17.79
Financials	5.97	11.51
Real Estate	2.50	1.91
Materials	1.13	5.74
Communication Services	0.00	8.16
Utilities	0.00	1.28
Energy	0.00	0.86
Cash & Cash Equivalents	2.02	-
*0 1 0 11 0 16 1		

^{*}Based on Representative Portfolio

Our Japan Focus Growth Investment Team



Shinichiro Hyogo Lead Fund Manager 25 years experience



Yoko Yamada Analyst 17 years experience



Shinichi Okada Analyst 35 years experience



Yuichi Yokoyama Analyst 7 years experience



Yusuke Michiwaki Strategy Manager/ Analyst 11 years experience



Kosuke Tsuchida Senior Fund Manager 21 years experience

*Clearbrook Investment Consulting is the investment advisor to the MUFG Japan Focus Growth Strategy.

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Mitsubishi UFJ Trust and Banking Corporation (MUTB) claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®). A complete list of firm composites and performance can be requested from Natasha Koprivica at nkoprivica@clrbrk.com or 857.919.1048. Performance numbers have been provided by MUTB and have not been verified by Clearbrook Investment Consulting.

Please see the GIPS® Compliant Performance Report for further explanation. The comparative benchmark is the TOPIX Total Return Index. TOPIX is a free-float adjusted market capitalization-weighted index that is calculated based on all the domestic common stocks listed on the TSE First Section. TOPIX shows the measure of current market capitalization assuming that market capitalization as of the base date (January 4 ,1968) is 100 points. One cannot invest directly in an index. Beta: systematic risk of a composite; represents sensitivity to the benchmark. Excess Return (Gross): amount that gross returns exceed relative benchmark return. Information Ratio: ratio of expected return to risk, as measured by standard deviation. Price to Book (P/B): ratio of stock price to book value. Price to Earnings (P/E): ratio of stock price to earnings. Return on Equity (ROE): net income divided by equity. Standard Deviation: measures dispersion of a set of data from its mean. Tracking Error: measures the active risk of the composite and the annualized standard deviation of the excess returns between the composite and its benchmark. Weighted Average Market Cap: total value of all outstanding shares weighted by market capitalization.

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