

MUFG Japan Focus Growth Strategy

July 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, LLC. **Sub-Advisor:** Mitsubishi UFJ Trust and Banking

Corporation

Net Assets as of 07/31/2023: \$611.3M USD

Management Fee: 0.75%

Benchmark: TOPIX Total Return Index

Portfolio Characteristics

Foc	Japan us Growth*	TOPIX Total Return Index
Number of Holdings	30	2,158
Wtd. Avg. Mkt. Cap. (\$) 29.2B	43.2B
P/E	23.92	19.19
P/B	3.28	2.37
ROE %	12.14	10.77
Dividend Yield %	1.48	2.25

^{*}Based on representative portfolio

All data as of 07/31/2023 unless noted

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Performance (%) USD as of (07/31/2023)

Since 1 Mon* 3 Mon* 6 Mon* YTD* Composite 1 Үг 3 Үг 5 Yr 7 Yr 10 Yr Incept Focus Growth Gross 1.99 5.96 7.52 10.82 6.34 -0.83 1.75 3.94 8.36 7.82 Focus Growth Net 1.93 5.77 7.13 10.35 5.55 -1.57 0.99 3.17 7.56 7.02 3.25 TOPIX Total Return Index 8.39 9.15 15.64 15.69 7.48 3.34 5.89 5.91 6.66 Excess Return (Gross-TOPIX) -1.26 -2.43 -1.63 -4.82 -9.35 -8.31 -1.59-1.95 2.45 1.15

*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 Clearbrook. 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: July 2023, USD (Net) Japan Markets:

- Japanese equities rallied in July, with the TOPIX Total Return Index returning +3.25% USD.
- Early in the month, the market was dragged down by high P/E ratio growth stocks. This was due to increasing prospects of more interest rate hikes and higher longer-term interest rates in the U.S. and Europe on the back of robust economic indicators, including U.S. job data.
- In mid-July, the market rebounded as lower-than-expected CPI in the U.S. pushed back prospects for further interest rate hikes. In addition, solid earnings results from Japanese companies boosted the market with earnings season beginning in late July. Later in the month, the market was up amid expectations for holding interest rates at September's FOMC meeting, while the Fed increased rates at the July meeting.
- On July 28th, the Bank of Japan announced a YCC policy revision that it would tolerate yields on 10-year government bonds of up to 1.0% from a previous level of 0.5%. However, the market continued to rally on the back of increased investor risk tolerance anticipating that current negative interest rate policy would be maintained in the near term.

MUFG Japan Focus Growth Strategy:

- The strategy returned +1.93% USD, underperforming the index by 1.32%.
- The top contributor was Cosmos Pharmaceutical Corp., owners and operators of drug stores based in Kyushu. The share price rose in anticipation of more robust business in the coming months as profits in existing stores had been rapidly growing with an increased numbers of in-store customers. FY5/23 earnings results were in line with market expectations.
- Another positive contributor was TechnoPro Holdings, Inc., one of the largest technology-focused staffing and solution services providers in Japan. The share price rose with the robust demand for IT engineers against a forecasted background of structural shortages as well as an increase in the number of working registered engineers on a monthly basis.
- Conversely, the largest detractor was Fanuc Corp., a manufacturer of factory automation (FA) systems, equipment, and robots. The share price plunged due to worse-than-expected Q1 FY3/24 earnings results and a downward revision of its full-year guidance.
- Another detractor was Daiichi Sankyo Co., Ltd., a manufacturer of pharmaceuticals for human/ veterinary use, medical tools and equipment. The market reacted negatively to the lack of clinical development of potential anti-cancer agents in its reported data that did not meet market expectations.

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About the Portfolio (as of 07/31/2023)

Returns Based Statistics vs TOPIX Total Return Index

	One Yr	Three Yr	Five Yr	Ten Yr
Excess Return	-9.35	-8.31	-1.59	2.45
Beta	0.82	1.02	1.00	0.94
Information Ratio	-1.52	-0.96	-0.19	0.28
Sharpe Ratio*	0.44	-0.05	0.10	0.54
Tracking Error %	6.16	8.70	8.48	8.64
Std. Dev. (Portfolio) %	14.53	18.04	17.62	15.35
Std. Dev. (Benchmark) %	16.34	15.54	15.44	13.50

^{*} 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 (%)

(10)	Japan Focus Growth*	TOPIX Total Return
Industrials	20.68	24.62
Information Technology	18.74	13.37
Consumer Staples	18.63	6.86
Health Care	14.37	8.02
Consumer Discretionary	12.64	18.51
Financials	5.38	11.30
Materials	4.07	5.79
Real Estate	3.31	1.88
Communication Services	0.00	7.47
Utilities	0.00	1.34
Energy	0.00	0.84
Cash & Cash Equivalents	2.18	-

^{*}Based on Representative Portfolio

Our Japan Focus Growth Investment Team



Shinichiro Hyogo Lead Fund Manager 25 years experience



Kosuke TsuchidaSenior Fund Manager
21 years experience



Shinichi Okada Analyst 36 years experience



Yuichi Yokoyama Analyst 7 years experience



Yusuke Michiwaki Strategy Manager/ Analyst 11 years experience



Satoshi Tanaka Analyst 7 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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