

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 10/31/2023: \$501.5M USD

Management Fee: 0.75%

Benchmark: TOPIX Total Return Index

Portfolio Characteristics

	Japan Focus Growth*	TOPIX Total Return Index
Number of Holdings	31	2,156
Wtd. Avg. Mkt. Cap. (\$)	27.1B	41.7B
P/E	19.75	19.48
P/B	2.80	2.04
ROE %	12.29	10.67
Dividend Yield %	1.73	2.40

*Based on representative portfolio

All data as of 10/31/2023 unless noted

Contact Information

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Performance (%) USD as of (10/31/2023)

Composite	1 Mon*	3 Mon*	6 Mon*	YTD*	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	7 Yr	10 Yr	Since Incept
Focus Growth Gross	-5.43	-12.89	-7.69	-3.46	2.21	-8.44	1.33	2.02	6.17	6.43
Focus Growth Net	-5.49	-13.05	-8.04	-4.06	1.45	-9.12	-0.57	1.26	5.38	5.64
TOPIX Total Return Index	-4.41	-8.13	-0.42	6.24	17.58	1.94	2.89	4.08	4.36	5.78
Excess Return (Gross-TOPIX)	-1.01	-4.75	-7.27	-9.70	-15.37	-10.38	-1.56	-2.06	1.81	0.65

*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 in 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: Q4: Oct 2023, USD Net

Japan Markets:

- Japanese equities declined in October, with the TOPIX Total Return Index returning -4.41% USD.
- The market started the month on a negative note, affected by rising U.S. interest rates and growing prospects of prolonged monetary tightening by the Fed. Thereafter, the market rebounded, mainly led by oil-related stocks due to the crude oil price rally reflecting heightened tensions in the Middle East.
- In mid-October, a steep rise in the U.S. interest rates weighed down the market, especially high-tech stocks, with the U.S. 10-year bond yield reaching its highest level in 16 years. The yield on the 10-year Japanese bond also rose in the latter half of the month, supported by expectations for the YCC policy revision by the Bank of Japan (BOJ), and the BOJ further relaxing its control at the Monetary Policy Meeting on October 31st.
- In late October, investor risk tolerance remained low amid concerns over higher interest rates and the situation in the Middle East. In addition, as earnings announcement season began in earnest, market volatility increased as some companies released lower-than-expected results and downward revisions of their full-year targets.

MUFG Japan Focus Growth Strategy:

- The strategy returned -5.49% USD, under performing the index by 1.08%.
- The top contributor was Kikkoman Corp., the world's leading manufacturer and distributor of soy sauce and other Japanese food products. The share price gained amid expectations for the upward revision of FY3/24 guidance with revenue growth in the overseas soy sauce business supported by yen depreciation, price hikes, and the pause in rising material costs.
- Nissin Foods Holdings Co., Ltd., one of the world's largest manufacturers of instant noodles and processed food products, also contributed positively in anticipation of its earnings growth due to stable commodity prices as well as robust sales revenue reflecting price hikes and strong demand.
- Conversely, the largest detractor was Ibiden Co., Ltd., a manufacturer of ceramic, housing materials, printed circuit boards, graphic specialties, and integrated circuit (IC) packages. The share price reacted negatively to the downward revisions of FY3/24 target and mid-to-long term earnings forecasts due to concerns over major client's market share pull back and a delay in the semiconductor inventory adjustment.
- Another detractor was Fuji Electric Co., Ltd., an innovator of electric and thermal energy technologies, including sensing technologies, control technologies, power electronics technologies, and optimizing electricity. Although Q2 FY3/24 (Apr-Sep) earnings results exceeded the consensus, the share price declined as the expected upward revision for its full-year guidance was not announced, in addition to the downward revision for Power Electronics Energy segment earnings related to capital investments.

MUFG Japan Focus Growth Strategy

About the Portfolio (as of 10/31/2023)

Returns Based Statistics vs TOPIX Total Return Index

	One Yr	Three Yr	Five Yr	Ten Yr
Excess Return	-15.37	-10.38	-1.56	1.81
Beta	0.94	1.05	0.97	0.95
Information Ratio	-2.23	-1.21	-0.19	0.21
Sharpe Ratio*	0.15	-0.46	0.08	0.40
Tracking Error %	6.88	8.58	8.41	8.70
Std. Dev. (Portfolio) %	14.69	18.17	16.82	15.34
Std. Dev. (Benchmark) %	13.76	15.26	15.05	13.37

* 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 (%)

	Japan Focus Growth*	TOPIX Total Return
Industrials	24.58	23.89
Information Technology	17.81	12.49
Consumer Staples	17.17	7.07
Health Care	11.32	7.49
Financials	10.55	12.76
Consumer Discretionary	9.15	18.56
Real Estate	4.58	2.06
Materials	4.01	5.93
Communication Services	0.00	7.34
Utilities	0.00	1.47
Energy	0.00	0.94
Cash & Cash Equivalents	0.83	-

*Based on Representative Portfolio

Our Japan Focus Growth Investment Team



Shinichiro Hyogo
Lead Fund Manager
25 years experience



Kosuke Tsuchida
Senior 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

*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@clbrk.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.

*Clearbrook Investment Consulting, LLC ("CIC") is an SEC-registered investment adviser. CIC primarily provides pensions consulting and family office advisory services for a wide variety of for-profit and nonprofit organizations. All strategy, assets under management and performance data described above refer to professional advisory services which CIC has engaged MUTB to act as subadvisor for the MUFG Japan Focus Growth Strategy. Fees charged are at the discretion of CIC; investment advisory fees are described in CIC's Form ADV Part 2, which is available upon request. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Individual account management and construction will vary depending on each client's investment needs and objectives. A complete list of all recommendations in the MUFG Japan Focus Growth Strategy, within the past year are available free of charge by contacting CIC. Actual securities held in any individual account will vary and are subject to change. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Individual account management and construction will vary depending on each client's investment needs and objectives. A complete list of all recommendations in the MUFG Japan Focus Growth Strategy, within the past year are available free of charge by contacting Clearbrook. Actual securities held in any individual account will vary and are subject to change.