

Investment Strategy

We employ a thematic approach to identify attractive small cap stocks:

- Quantitative screening includes market cap and credit risk.
- Research and identify key structural and cyclical themes with the potential for superior long-term growth.
- Select small cap/micro cap companies best positioned to take advantage of these themes: companies that have pioneering business models, strength of position in industry value chain, strong management and attractive valuations.
- We apply a rigorous, ongoing sell discipline – when growth prospects weaken or stock price begins to reflect underlying value.

Strategy Facts

Composite Name: Japan Small Cap Equity Strategy–Small Focus Composite (Japan Small Cap Equity)

Advisor: Clearbrook Investment Consulting, LLC.

Sub-Advisor: Mitsubishi UFJ Trust and Banking Corporation

Composite Inception Date: October 1, 2005

Net Assets as of 10/31/2024: \$74.5M USD

Management Fee: 0.75%

Benchmark: Russell/Nomura Small Cap Index

Portfolio Characteristics

	Japan Small Cap Equity*	Russ/Nom Small Cap
Number of Holdings	126	1,085
Wtd. Avg. Mkt. Cap. (\$)	863.7M	1.75B
P/E	13.77	14.23
P/B	1.10	1.11
ROE %	11.29	10.95
Dividend Yield %	2.66	2.62

*Based on representative portfolio

All data as of 10/31/2024 unless noted

Contact Information

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Performance (%) USD as of 10/31/2024

Composite	1 Mon*	3 Mon*	6 Mon*	YTD*	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	7Yr	10Yr	Since Incept
Japan Small Cap Equity Gross	-5.62	-5.81	2.03	0.18	14.74	-3.47	5.30	4.24	10.57	9.08
Japan Small Cap Equity Net	-5.68	-5.99	1.65	-0.44	13.89	-4.19	4.52	3.46	9.75	8.27
Russell/Nomura Small Cap	-5.42	-2.46	4.77	3.78	17.64	0.41	2.20	1.47	5.78	4.09
Excess Ret (Gross-Russ/Nom)	-0.19	-3.35	-2.74	-3.60	-2.90	-3.88	3.10	2.77	4.79	4.99

*Returns for periods under one year are not annualized.

Performance data quoted represents past performance; past performance does not guarantee future results. Performance shown is for the Japan Small Cap Equity. Gross returns are presented before management and custodial fees, but after all trading expenses and reflect the reinvestment 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 Russell/Nomura Small Cap Index as a comparative 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 Russell/Nomura Small Cap Index is also converted from JPY to USD using the same exchange rate source.

Market and Strategy Commentary Q4: October 2024, USD Net

Japan Markets:

- Japanese small cap equities declined in October, with the Russell/Nomura Small Cap Index returning -5.42% USD. Although the market slightly advanced in the local currency base, the performance turned negative due to the depreciation of the Japanese yen.
- Early in the month, Japanese equities advanced due to the solid U.S. employment data and expectations for the FRB's gradual rate cuts. Japan's Prime Minister Ishiba's cautious statement against further rate hikes pushed the Japanese yen to weaken against the U.S. dollar, supporting the Japanese stock market.
- The market fell in the middle of the month as the Dutch SPE maker, ASML, announced sluggish earnings results, prompting the selling of semiconductor-related stocks. Investor risk tolerance also declined due to political uncertainty ahead of the upcoming lower house election. After the election, however, the market rallied as the LDP's failure to achieve a coalition majority increased expectations for economic stimulus through possible policy coordination with opposition parties.

MUFG Japan Small Cap Equity Strategy:

- The strategy returned -5.68% USD, underperforming the index by 0.25%.
- The largest contributor was Monex Group, Inc., a global financial services firm focused on online securities. In October, the firm released lower-than-expected Q2 FY3/25 earnings results due to valuation losses on dollar-denominated securities and ad-hoc fee payments relating to their subsidiary Coincheck Inc.'s preparation for their NASDAQ listing. However, the share price advanced as the firm announced a special dividend funded by the sales of two subsidiaries.
- Another notable contributor was CTS Co., Ltd., a leading one-stop service provider of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) solutions for construction. The share price rose on the back of the increasing DX demand in the construction industry, and the mounting expectations for its Q2 FY3/25 earnings results, which were released at the end of October.
- Conversely, the bottom contributor was TOWA Corp., a leading maker in the market for semiconductor molding equipment. The share price declined due to concerns over the business slowdown mainly caused by tension between the U.S. and China following the release of a weak demand outlook from ASML.
- Techmatrix Corp., a systems integration company with strength in IT security and medical systems, also contributed negatively. The firm's share price decreased as the share price had soared since August on the back of its solid Q1 FY3/25 earnings results, supported by strong demand for the subscription-based cloud security solutions.

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MUFG Japan Small Cap Equity Strategy

About the Strategy in USD as of 10/31/2024

Returns Based Statistics (vs Russell/Nomura Small Cap)

	One Yr	Three Yr	Five Yr	Ten Yr
Excess Return %	-2.90	-3.88	3.10	4.79
Beta	0.99	1.11	1.14	1.12
Information Ratio	-0.57	-0.53	0.43	0.69
Sharpe Ratio*	1.01	-0.20	0.29	0.63
Tracking Error %	5.11	7.31	7.14	6.95
Standard Deviation (Portfolio) %	14.55	17.78	18.53	16.82
Standard Deviation (BM) %	13.81	14.65	15.16	13.71

*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 Small Cap Equity*	Russ/Nom Small Cap
Industrials	25.64	26.50
Information Technology	22.64	14.56
Financials	13.73	8.78
Consumer Discretionary	12.49	15.58
Materials	9.85	10.63
Health Care	4.88	5.94
Communication Services	3.44	4.36
Consumer Staples	3.39	9.73
Real Estate	1.90	1.70
Utilities	0.41	1.71
Energy	0.00	0.52
Cash & Cash Equivalent	1.63	-

*Based on Representative Portfolio

Top Ten Holdings (%)*

Techmatrix	2.00
Towa Corp.	1.98
Monex Group	1.92
CTS	1.88
Tocalo	1.71
Vertex	1.70
MCJ	1.69
Terasaki Electric	1.68
Open House Group	1.67
Kusuri No Aoki Holdings	1.65
Total	17.88

*Based on Representative Portfolio ex-Cash. Portfolio holdings are subject to change and are not recommendations to buy or sell any security.

Our Small Cap Investment Team



Yoshiro Mizukami, CMA
Chief Portfolio Manager, Head of Japan Small Cap Equities Team
34 years experience



Yoshitaka Nagano, CMA
Small Cap Manager/Analyst
26 years experience



Kazunori Yanagimoto
Theme Analyst
6 years experience



Ryu Ota
Theme Analyst
6 years experience



Koichi Kano
Theme Analyst
4 years experience

*Clearbrook Investment Consulting is the investment advisor to the MUFG Japan Small Cap Equity 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@clrbk.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 Russell/Nomura Small Cap Index. The Russell/Nomura Small Cap Index contains those Russell/Nomura Small Cap securities with less-than-average growth characteristics. The index contains the bottom 15% of the Russell/Nomura Total Market Index in terms of float-adjusted market cap. **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 Small Cap Equity 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 Small Cap Equity 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 Small Cap Equity 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.