WealthFocus Investment Advantage

WEALTHFOCUS PERPETUAL GEARED AUSTRALIAN

November 2024

FUND FACTS

Investment objective: Aims to enhance long-term capital growth through borrowing (gearing) to invest predominantly in quality Australian industrial and resource shares.

FUND BENEFITS

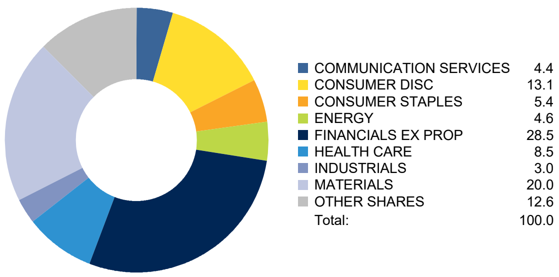
Provides investors with broad market exposure with the potential for higher returns through the use of gearing (borrowing within the fund) and actively managed by one of Australia's most experienced investment management teams.

FUND RISKS

All investments carry risk and different strategies may carry different levels of risk. The relevant product disclosure statement or offer document for a fund should be considered before deciding whether to acquire or hold units in that fund. Your financial adviser can assist you in determining whether a fund is suited to your financial needs.

Benchmark:	S&P/ASX 300 Accum. Index
Inception Date:	November 2008
Size of Portfolio:	$111.08 million as at 30 Sep 2024
APIR:	PER0492AU
Management Fee:	1.23%*
Investment style:	Active, fundamental, bottom-up, value
Suggested minimum investment period:	Seven years or longer

PORTFOLIO SECTORS



TOP 10 STOCK HOLDINGS

	% of Portfolio
BHP Group Ltd	9.3%
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	8.3%
Flutter Entertainment Plc	5.3%
ANZ Group Holdings Limited	5.1%
Westpac Banking Corporation	4.3%
Goodman Group	4.0%
Insurance Australia Group Ltd	4.0%
CSL Limited	3.8%
Premier Investments Limited	3.8%
Wesfarmers Limited	3.3%

NET PERFORMANCE - periods ending 30 November 2024

	Fund	Benchmark #	Excess
1 month	5.90	3.68	+2.22
3 months	5.77	5.48	+0.28
1 year	39.79	23.22	+16.57
2 year p.a.	9.22	11.63	-2.41
3 year p.a.	11.32	9.12	+2.19
4 year p.a.	17.83	10.81	+7.02
5 year p.a.	7.32	8.20	-0.88
7 year p.a.	8.46	9.19	-0.72
10 year p.a.	8.42	9.08	-0.65

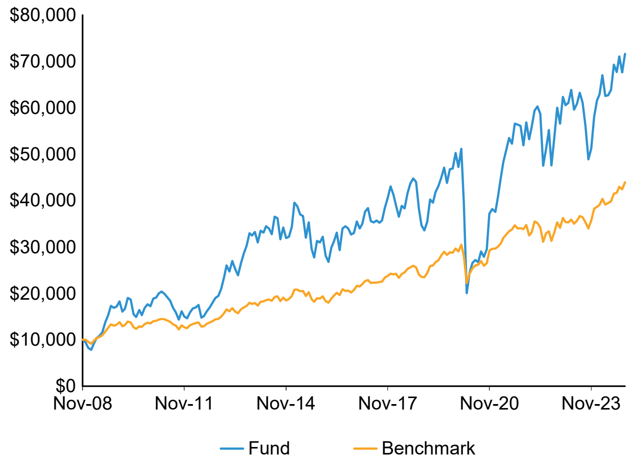
Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Returns may differ due to different tax treatments.

PORTFOLIO FUNDAMENTALS^

	Portfolio	Benchmark
Price / Earnings*	19.0	18.8
Dividend Yield*	3.0%	3.5%
Price / Book	2.2	2.3
Debt / Equity	24.7%	36.4%
Return on Equity*	11.0%	12.8%
Gearing Level	51.2%	

^ Portfolio Fundamentals are compiled using our methodology and provided only for the purpose of illustrating Perpetual's investment style in action. These figures are forecast estimates, calculated based on consensus broker estimates where available, and should not be relied upon. Dividend Yield is a dividend forecast of underlying securities for the portfolio and does not reflect the distributions to be determined for the Fund
*Forward looking 12-month estimate.

GROWTH OF $10,000 SINCE INCEPTION



*Information on Management Costs (including estimated indirect costs) is set out in the Fund's PDS.

MARKET COMMENTARY

The election of Donald Trump fuelled a strong rally in equities throughout November, with the S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index delivering a total return of 3.68%. The technology sector led the charge, posting a remarkable 10.18% gain. Financials were the largest contributor to the market's performance, rising 6.95% and accounting for 2.29% of the overall 3.68% return, driven primarily by a stellar 11.09% increase in Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) shares. In contrast, Materials (-2.81%) and Energy (-0.66%) were the only sectors to decline, as markets weighed the potential impact of tariffs and persistent deflationary pressures in China. Meanwhile, Westpac and NAB surveys indicated improving consumer and business confidence in Australia, despite weaker-than-expected employment data and the Reserve Bank of Australia's ongoing concern over elevated underlying inflation, which continued to rule out the possibility of a rate cut.

PORTFOLIO COMMENTARY

The portfolio's largest overweight positions include BHP Group Ltd, Flutter Entertainment PLC and Premier Investments Limited. Conversely, the portfolio's largest underweight positions include Macquarie Group Ltd, Woodside Energy Group Ltd (not held) and Telstra Group Limited (not held).

Insurance Australia Group contributed to performance after the market responded positively to the announcement that they were entering a 25 year strategic alliance with RACQ (+13.7%). Recently, IAG has become more resilient through introducing strategic protections against potential claims variability in its long-term commercial policies, which carry risks of unpredictable claims outcomes over extended periods. These policies can expose the company to risks like inflation-driven litigation costs and delayed claims. One aspect of IAG's strategy is an Adverse Development Cover (ADC), designed to shield its existing reserves from significant fluctuations. A second layer of protection comes from a reinsurance arrangement focused on natural perils, which provides a buffer against the unpredictable costs of weather-related events. This arrangement is structured to cover most expected scenarios, helping to stabilize the company's claims expenses. Although this layered protection introduces upfront costs, it reduces financial impact over time and is expected to moderate earnings volatility, protect target margins, and enhance long-term returns by lowering capital strain.

BlueScope Steel Limited contributed to performance in November (+8.9%) as the company reaffirmed guidance and the valuation disparity between itself and it's US peers became obvious following last month's weakness. While short-term steel spread dynamics remain challenging, we believe the share price movement aligns with the longer-term opportunity. Steel pricing has reached a level where there is an asymmetric upside potential, and we are observing positive competitive trends with hot-rolled coil steel prices increasing. BlueScope remains one of the highest quality steel producers globally, with a capable management team, a significant asset in Port Kembla, and the Colorbond brand, which not only boosts margins but also represents a substantial overseas opportunity.

Healius continued to be a challenging position detracting from relative performance over the month (-16.6%) with pathology margins being impacted by higher labour and other inflationary costs despite volume growth. The company is however showing signs of recovery under new management following a stretch of underperformance. Looking ahead, we see further upside after the rationalisation of Healius' portfolio, including the sale of Lumus Imaging at a favourable price, possible capital returns, and topline growing stronger in FY 2025.

The overweight position in Iluka Resources detracted to performance over November as the stock continued to de-rate as investors waited for news on the government negotiations for the rare earths refinery. This came after a substantial rise post PBOC announcing stimulus to revive the Chinese economy leading to broad based gains amongst resource companies. The stimulus measures, though substantial, have been deemed by the market to likely not be enough and hence much of this has reversed. Iluka is a major producer of rutile and synthetic rutile that is used to produce pigment (paint) and largest producer of zircon that is used to produce ceramics (tiles) and a recovery in these markets can be met by releasing excess inventory and reducing working capital before production is restarted. Iluka has a very strong balance sheet (net cash) and also owns a valuable stake in Deterra Royalties, which was spun-off in an IPO so is able to buffer these periods of demand distortion that is a feature of these markets. The next catalyst for the company is the update on the funding for the increased capex of the fully integrated rare earths refinery being built in WA to break China's stronghold on these markets. The project is largely funded from a non-recourse loan of more than $1 billion from the federal government that has a $200 million overrun facility.

OUTLOOK

Markets continue to respond positively to the economic policies anticipated under a Trump presidency, which center on tax cuts, deregulation, deficit reduction, and increased energy production. However, tariffs remain a key area of uncertainty. Early indications suggest that President-Elect Trump views tariffs more as a negotiating tactic than as a firm policy stance. The critical challenge will be how China reacts to U.S. pressure to stimulate its domestic economy more aggressively or to intervene in key industries to achieve a more balanced trade relationship with the United States—an issue with significant implications for the resources sector. Despite the historical undervaluation of resources, investors continue to Favor defensive assets, often irrespective of price. We continue to leverage our multi decade experience and remain true to label providing our investors with exposure to the highest quality companies trading at attractive valuations which we believe will drive outperformance as markets revert to fundamentals.

The Ordinaries benchmark prior to 1/4/2000 was the ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index. From 1/4/2000 to current the benchmark is S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index.

MORE INFORMATION

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