

# THB US Micro Cap Fund

## Monthly Report – January 2022

### Market commentary

The Russell Microcap® Index (Index) returned -6.9% (AUD) in January 2022.

Energy (+0.5%) was the best performing sector, followed by Financials (-1.1%) and Utilities (-4.3%). Health Care (-17.7%) was the worst performing sector followed by Consumer Staples (-16.1%) and Information Technology (-12.6%).

US equities posted losses in the first month of 2022 with notable declines in high growth and momentum equities. Rising interest rates weighed heavily on companies with the highest valuation multiples and pandemic winners suffered as consumers pivoted to reopening activities.

Energy stocks were a sizable outperformer as WTI crude was 17% higher during the month, hitting its highest levels since 2014. The IEA January report pointed to the muted demand impact from Omicron, noting global demand is on track to exceed pre-pandemic levels this year.

The US economy continued to plow through the pandemic worries. The initial read for US Q4 GDP was 6.9% SAAR and well ahead of consensus and Q3's 2.3%. Personal consumption expenditures also accelerated at a 3.3% SAAR, an upturn from Q3's 2.0% pace.

### Portfolio commentary

The THB US Micro Cap Fund returned -4.6% in AUD (net of fees) in January 2022.

The portfolio saw positive contribution from stock selection in Health Care (+1.3%), Industrials (+0.6%) and Energy (+0.6%). Negative contribution came mainly from underallocation to Financials (-1.1%), overallocation to Information Technology (-0.6%) as well as stock selection in Information Technology (-0.3%).

THB's top five performing stocks (from a contribution standpoint) were RPC, Inc. (Energy, +0.5%), Bassett Furniture Industries, Inc. (Consumer Discretionary +0.1%), Hyster-Yale Materials Handling, Inc. Class A (Industrials, +0.1%), Transcat, Inc. (Industrials +0.1%), and Geospace Technologies Corporation (Energy, +0.1%).

The bottom five performing stocks (from a contribution standpoint) were Grid Dynamics Holdings, Inc. Class A (Information Technology, -0.8%), PAR Technology Corporation (Information Technology, -0.5%), NAPCO Security Technologies, Inc. (Information Technology, -0.5%), ePlus, Inc. (Information Technology, -0.3%) and BioLife Solutions, Inc. (Health Care, -0.3%).

During the month, THB's portfolio companies announced eight acquisitions.

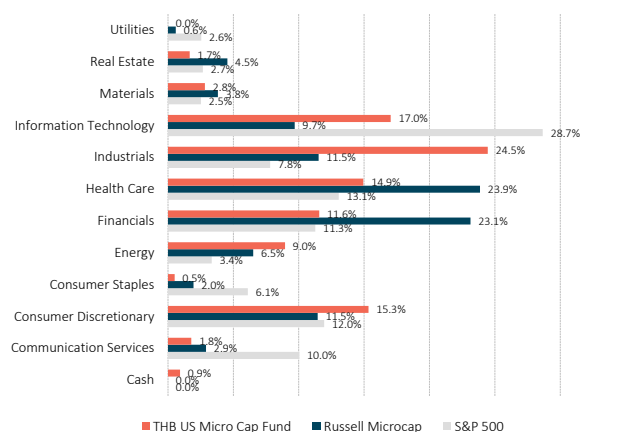
Fund details	
Benchmark	Russell Microcap® Index <sup>3</sup>
Inception date	5 September 2014
Fund size	A\$88.7 million

Performance <sup>1</sup> – 31 January 2022			
	Fund <sup>2</sup>	Russell Microcap®	Difference
1 month	(4.6%)	(6.9%)	2.3%
3 months	(4.2%)	(8.4%)	4.2%
1 year	6.8%	2.7%	4.1%
2 years p.a.	15.8%	13.9%	1.9%
3 years p.a.	13.7%	14.3%	(0.6%)
5 years p.a.	11.5%	11.4%	0.1%
Since inception p.a. <sup>2</sup>	13.0%	13.1%	(0.2%)

1. Performance figures are presented in AUD on a net, pre-tax basis and assume the reinvestment of distributions. Past performance is not an indicator of future performance. Figures in the table may not sum correctly due to rounding.

2. Fund inception date was 5 September 2014 however inception performance is calculated from 1 October 2014.

### Sector allocation<sup>4</sup>



3. The Russell Microcap Index is a capitalisation weighted index of 2,000 stocks that captures the smallest 1,000 companies in the Russell 2000 and 1,000 smaller US based listed stocks.

4. Portfolio holdings and allocations are subject to change and should not be considered as investment recommendations to trade individual securities. The securities identified and described do not represent all of the securities purchased, sold or recommended for client accounts. The reader should not assume that an investment in the securities identified were or will be profitable. There is no assurance that any securities discussed herein will remain in the portfolio at the time you receive this report, or that securities sold have not been repurchased. There can be no assurance that investment objectives will be achieved. A full list showing every holding's contribution to the overall account's performance during the measurement period and calculation methodology is available upon request.

## Portfolio statistics<sup>5</sup>

As at 31 January 2022		
	Fund	Russell Microcap <sup>®</sup>
Weighted avg market cap	US\$866m	US\$717m
Price/sales	1.1x	1.5x
Price/book	1.9x	1.9x
Dividend yield	0.6%	1.1%
Number of securities	96	1,778
Standard deviation	21.0%	21.3%
Sharpe ratio	0.5	0.5
Beta	0.9	
Tracking error	6.3	
Information ratio	0.2	

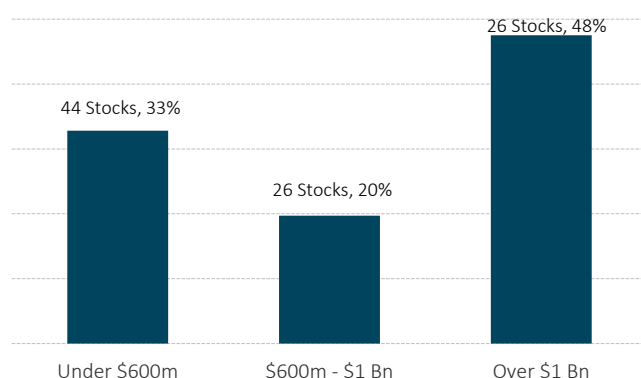
5. Portfolio statistics are reported in USD. Source: THB Asset Management

## Top 10 holdings

Stock	Sector	Portfolio weight
Transcat, Inc	Industrial	3.6%
First Busey Corporation	Financials	3.5%
RPC Inc	Consumer Disc	2.3%
Movado Group, Inc	Consumer Disc	2.3%
ePlus Inc	Technology	2.1%
Ultra Clean Holdings, Inc	Technology	2.0%
Greenbrier Companies Inc	Industrials	1.9%
Ichor Holdings, Ltd	Technology	1.8%
EverQuote Inc	Comm Services	1.8%
TETRA Technologies, Inc	Energy	1.8%

Source: THB Asset Management

## Companies by market capitalisation



Source: THB Asset Management

## Investment strategy

THB Asset Management (THB), an investment franchise of Victory Capital Management Inc., is a dedicated micro and small cap specialist investment franchise based in Connecticut, USA. Founded in 1982, THB Asset Management has 39 years' experience investing in micro and small cap companies. THB's US Micro Cap strategy is based on the belief that there are inefficiencies in the micro cap segment of the market due to lack of analyst coverage, difficulty in identifying value and the impact that management skill has on the direction of smaller companies. THB utilises a disciplined, fundamental bottom-up approach that blends both qualitative and quantitative methods to construct a well-diversified portfolio of companies that possess attractive operating metrics, yet with comparable valuation to the Russell Microcap<sup>®</sup> Index.

**BROOKVINE**

**THB**  
Asset Management  
VICTORY CAPITAL MANAGEMENT FRANCHISE

For more information, contact Brookvine Client Service on +61 2 9328 6445 or [clientservice@brookvine.com.au](mailto:clientservice@brookvine.com.au)

This document has been prepared and issued by Victory Capital Management Inc. (Victory) (AFSL 528472) and is intended for the general information of 'wholesale clients' (as defined in the Corporations Act 2001) only. Victory is not licensed to provide financial services to retail clients in Australia. Victory is regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the United States of America under US laws, which differ from Australian laws. Equity Trustees Limited (Equity Trustees) (ABN 46 004 031 298, AFSL 240975) is a subsidiary of EQT Holdings Limited (ABN 22607 797 615), a publicly listed company on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX:EQT). Equity Trustees is the Responsible Entity of the THB US Micro Cap Fund (ARSN 600 158 450). This document is neither an offer to sell or a solicitation of any offer to acquire interests in any investment. The information contained in this document is of a general nature only. Accordingly, reliance should not be placed on this information as the basis for making an investment, financial or other decision. In preparing this document, Victory has not taken into account the investment objectives, financial situation and needs of any particular person. Before making any investment decision, you should consider whether the investment is appropriate in light of those matters. Whilst every effort is taken to ensure the information in this document is accurate, Victory and Equity Trustees provides no warranty as to the accuracy, reliability and completeness of the information in this document and you rely on this information at your own risk. To the extent permitted by law, Victory and Equity Trustees disclaims all liability to any person relying on the information contained in this document in respect of any loss or damage (including consequential loss or damage) however caused, which may be suffered or arise directly or indirectly in respect of such information. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. The return of capital or any particular rate of return from the Fund is not guaranteed. You should obtain and consider the Fund's Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) before deciding whether to acquire, or continue to hold, an interest in the Fund. Applications can only be accepted on an application form attached to a current Product Disclosure Statement. Neither Victory, Equity Trustees nor any of its related parties, their employees or directors, provide and warranty of accuracy or reliability in relation to such information or accepts any liability to any person who relies on it. THB US Micro Cap Fund's Target Market Determination is [available here](#). A Target Market Determination is a document which is required to be made available from 5 October 2021. It describes who this financial product is likely to be appropriate for (i.e. the target market), and any conditions around how the product can be distributed to investors. It also describes the events or circumstances where the Target Market Determination for this financial product may need to be reviewed.