

THB US Micro Cap Fund

Monthly Report – August 2024

Market commentary

The Russell Microcap® Index returned -6.4% (AUD) in August 2024. Real Estate (+0.55%) was the best performing sector followed by Consumer Staples (+0.20%) and Financials (-0.57%). Energy (-6.78%) performed the worst, followed by Utilities (-5.66%) and Communication Services (-5.22%).

During the month, large and mid-cap stocks outperformed small and micro-cap stocks. For instance, the S&P 500® and Russell Midcap® indices rose while the Russell 2000® and the Russell Microcap® indices fell. An exception to this trend were FANG stocks, which declined.

Several positive economic developments occurred in August. A highlight was Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell's commentary that, "the time has come for policy to adjust," an explicit endorsement of expected rate cuts. This was a result of inflation falling within the central bank's policy target of 2%. Next, the service sector showed sequential improvement as data released in August revealed a rebound driven by new orders. For example, the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) Nonmanufacturing PMI Index increased to 51.4 in July from 48.8 in June, which had been at its lowest level since May 2020. The index level was also higher than economists' expectations of 51.0. Further, the Bureau of Economic Analysis revised real GDP growth for Q2 from 2.8% to 3% due to positive data on private inventory investments and accelerated consumer spending.

During the month, many large acquisitions were made for healthcare management technologies. R1 RCM, a leading revenue cycle management and patient experience company, was acquired in an all-cash transaction for \$8.9 billion by Tower Brooke Capital Partners and Clayton, Dubilier & Rice. Additionally, QGenda, a healthcare workforce management solution, was purchased by Francisco Partners and ICONIQ Growth at a valuation of \$1.05 billion. Lastly, Lumeon, a data intelligence firm used for automatic care was acquired by Health Catalyst for \$65 million.

Portfolio commentary

The THB US Micro Cap Fund returned -6.2% in AUD (net of fees) in August 2024. The portfolio saw positive contribution from stock selection in Health Care (+0.97%) and Materials (+0.50%) as well as overallocation to Materials (+0.29%). Negative contribution came mainly from underallocation to Health Care (-0.67%), overallocation to Energy (-0.28%), and underallocation to Finance (-0.17%).

THB's top five performing stocks (from a contribution standpoint) were Climb Global Solutions, Inc. (Information Technology, +0.53%); Hawkins, Inc. (Materials, +0.53%); Amphastar Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Health Care, +0.23%); Northwest Pipe Company (Industrials, +0.20%); and Transcat, Inc. (Industrials, +0.20%).

The bottom five performing stocks (from a contribution standpoint) were Immersion Corporation (Information Technology, -0.84%); Bowman Consulting Group, Ltd. (Industrials, -0.35%); Allient, Inc. (Industrials, -0.32%); MYR Group, Inc. (Industrials, -0.31%); and RPC, Inc., (Energy, -0.27%).

During the month, THB's portfolio companies announced 11 acquisitions and two share repurchase authorisations.

Fund details	
Benchmark	Russell Microcap® Index ³
Inception date	5 September 2014
Fund size	A\$87 million

Fund performance ¹			
	Fund ²	Russell Microcap®	Difference
1 month	(6.2%)	(6.4%)	0.2%
3 months	2.8%	4.2%	(1.4%)
1 year	6.8%	11.9%	(5.1%)
2 years p.a.	11.7%	6.2%	5.5%
3 years p.a.	0.5%	(2.1%)	2.6%
5 years p.a.	10.2%	8.9%	1.4%
Since inception p.a. ²	10.7%	10.2%	0.5%

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.

Composite performance ³			
	Composite (Net)	Russell Microcap ⁴	S&P500
1 month	(1.4%)	(2.8%)	2.4%
3 months	6.2%	6.4%	7.4%
1 year	13.2%	17.2%	27.1%
3 years p.a.	(1.1%)	(4.5%)	9.4%
5 years p.a.	11.4%	9.0%	15.9%
10 years p.a.	7.8%	6.7%	13.0%
Inception p.a.	11.8%	6.5%	8.4%

3. Returns in USD; the THB Micro Cap Composite contains fully discretionary micro cap equity accounts. THB claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS). The minimum account size for this composite is US\$1 million. Performance is shown net of 1.25% p.a. management fees and assumes the reinvestment of income.

4. Since inception return is the Russell 2000 Index from June 1998 to December 2006, and Russell Microcap Index thereafter. 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.

Portfolio statistics⁵

	Fund	Russell Microcap®
Weighted avg market cap	US\$1,449m	US\$679m
Price/sales	1.1x	1.3x
Price/book	1.9x	1.7x
Dividend yield	0.8%	1.5%
Number of securities	99	1,445
Standard deviation	21.9%	22.0%
Sharpe ratio	0.4	0.3
Beta	1.0	
Tracking error	6.4	
Information ratio	0.3	

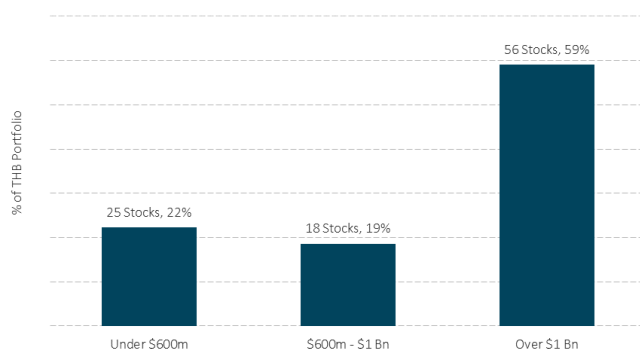
5. Portfolio statistics are reported in USD. Source: THB Asset Management

Top 10 holdings

Stock	Sector	Portfolio weight
Hawkins, Inc.	Materials	2.4%
Transcat, Inc.	Industrials	2.3%
ePlus inc.	Technology	2.1%
Latham Group Inc	Consumer Disc	2.1%
UFP Technologies, Inc.	Health Care	2.1%
BrightSphere Investment	Financials	2.0%
Immersion Corporation	Technology	1.9%
Climb Global Solutions, Inc.	Technology	1.9%
First Busey Corporation	Financials	1.8%
Century Communities, Inc.	Consumer Disc	1.7%

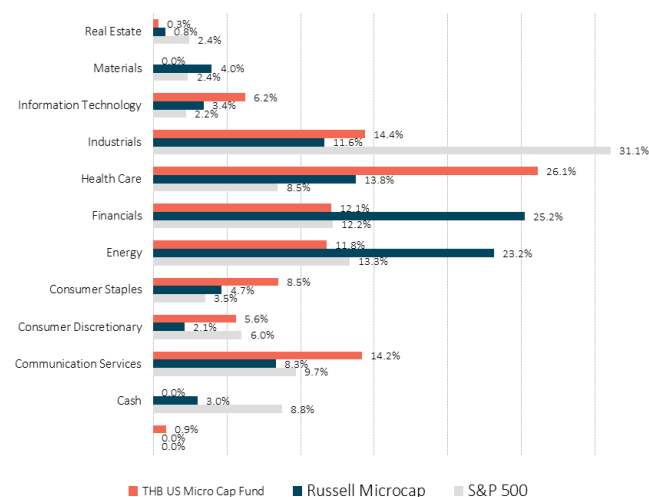
Source: THB Asset Management

Companies by market capitalisation



Source: THB Asset Management

Sector allocation⁶



6. 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. 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.

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 40 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® Index.

BROOKVINE



For more information, contact Brookvine Client Service on 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 22 607 797 615), 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.