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SPATIUM SMALL COMPANIES FUND (SSCF)

DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

APIR CODE: VIL2854AU ISIN: AU60VIL28541



PERFORMANCE SUMMARY							
	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	1 YEAR	3 YEARS p.a.	4 YEARS p.a.	INCEPTION p.a.	
SSCF ¹	-3.1%	11.3%	-13.7%	8.7% ¹	12.2% ¹	8.9% ¹	
Benchmark ²	-4.0%	7.0%	-20.7%	-1.2%	3.3%	-0.5%	
Value Added	0.9%	4.3%	7.0%	9.8%	8.9%	9.4%	

MONTHLY CONTRIBUTORS & DETRACTORS

Viva Energy Group Ltd (VEA)	0.4%
Liontown Resources Ltd (LTR)	0.2%
South 32 Ltd (S32)	0.1%
Allkem Ltd (AKE)	(0.5%)
Core Lithium (CXO)	(0.5%)
Star Entertainment Group Ltd (SGR)	(0.8%)

¹The SSCF is a composite calculation of the SMA's inception (1 July 2018), through to the Fund's inception and is net of fees, before tax, and assumes reinvestment of distributions ²Benchmark is the S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Index.

PERFORMANCE GRAPH



'The more we know, the less we can predict.'3

Despite this newsletter being published for December 2022, there is a natural tendency to want to reflect and share on what 2023 may have instore. However as this newsletter will reach you approximately around the middle of January 2023, there seems little value in over-analysing our thoughts for the year ahead considering most of the major local and international finance institutions have already released their forecasts. That said, it is worthwhile highlighting that we do agree with the below headline issues that may continue to add volatility to the markets in 2023:

- Inflation seems to be tapering but may pose a persistent problem;
- Local and international cash rates may reach their peak soon, but could that signal a sharp return towards low-interest rates once again (?);
- The War in Ukraine and is a 'peaceful' conclusion within reach soon (?):
- Global energy input costs may keep rising as clean options continue to be politically and functionally impacted; and
- Low-migration over the last few years may continue to impact ongoing shortages in the domestic job market.

In addition to the above there is still the chance of a US and global recession. With what veracity that these economic contractions affect the Australian market is still too difficult to ascertain. Especially given Australia's economic dependence on China (namely through resource exports) and given the 'slack' that still remains in the job market (per dot-point 5 above) there's potential for Australia to once again avoid a 'real' recession. So with such significant macro factors continuing to cast a shadow over 2023, consensus expectations for the ASX are anywhere between +4 and +7%.

However, and we cannot emphasise this enough; the fact remains that aside from the above known-knowns, there will likely be many knownunknowns (the Ukrainian war resolution) and unknown-unknowns (such as what we saw with COVID) that the market cannot foresee and therefore, cannot price-in. Put another way, there will be events, decisions, outcomes, movements, challenges, threats and opportunities that the

market does not anticipate in 2023 that will have either positive or negative impacts on stock prices and the wider economy as a whole. For example, consider the forecasted return for the S&P500 in January 2022 by Wall Street goliath Goldman Sachs alongside Wells Fargo, Royal Bank of Canada and Credit Suisse. These firms predicted between +6 and +11% growth for the S&P500 over the 2022 calendar year. The S&P500 concluded 2022 down, -19.44%. Assuming that some of the smartest analysts and economists work at these institutions, even with their access to vast data and technology resources, their forecast was some ~25% off at the lower end and some ~31% off at the higher end. That's a significant miss.

In conclusion, it's worth repeating a sentiment we shared in January 2021: "through obscurity...one may strive to find reasons for explanation through hindsight. The risk with hindsight bias, especially in the investment landscape, is that it creates a false sense of certainty that past events were more predictable than they were. Conversely through foresight bias, one may overestimate or oversimplify future investment outcomes"

As far as December 2022 is concerned, whilst the Small Ordinaries shed -3.98%, the Fund was able to preserve capital and outperformed by +91 basis points, returning -3.07%. This result takes the Fund's calendar year performance to -13.7% against the Benchmark's return of -20.7%. An outperformance of +7.0%. Or put another way, our investors were +7.0% better off by being invested with us versus the Benchmark. For the Financial Year, the Fund is +18.9% versus the Benchmark's return of +5.4%. Or on many of the other timeline returns - the Fund is outperforming and most importantly, doing so by staying true to the investment thesis we continue to promote.

In other markets, the US Small Companies index returned -6.9% to closeout CY 2022 and the UK Small Companies segment eked out +0.22% for the month of December.

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FUND CHARACTERISTICS	
UNIT PRICE (AT 31 DECEMBER 2022)	\$1.02
FY2022 DISTRIBUTION YIELD	Nil
FY2021 DISTRIBUTION YIELD ⁴	12.9%
FY2020 DISTRIBUTION YIELD ⁵	16.5%
SUGGESTED TIMEFRAME	5 to 7+ years
STRUCTURE	Open-Ended Fund
SUBSCRIPTIONS/REDEMPTIONS	Monthly
DISTRIBUTIONS	Annually
STRATEGY INCEPTION ¹	1 July 2018
MANAGEMENT FEE ⁶	1.25% per annum

OTHER KEY METRICS OF INVESTMENT STRATEGY ³					
	SSCF ¹	MARKET			
Average monthly return	0.9%	0.2%			

Average montiny return	0.770	0.270
Beta	0.88	1.00
Portfolio variance	6.2%	6.3%
Up-Market capture ratio	102.9%	100.0%
Down-Market capture ratio	69.1%	100.0%

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FIND OUT MORE

The Fund currently remains open to new investors. To set up a time to discuss with one of our team, please email us at contact@spatiumcapital.com

³Harari, Y. N., 2017. Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tommorrow. 1st ed. Manhattan: Random House.

⁴On the 30 June 2021 pre-distribution unit price of \$1.28, the Fund distributed \$0.16 per issued unit; equivalent to a 12.9% distribution yield.

- ⁵On the 30 June 2020 pre-distribution unit price of \$1.27, the Fund distributed \$0.21 per issued unit; equivalent to a 16.5% distribution yield.
- ⁶Other fees and expenses apply. Please refer to the Information Memorandum for the SSCF for further details.

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