Monthly report — September 2024



Marketing Communication — IFS Swiss Small & Mid Cap Equity Fund -S-

Investment policy

The IFS Swiss Small & Mid Cap Equity Fund combines our best investment ideas in the area of Swiss Small & Midcaps. We take an active approach with the aim of achieving a sustainable outperformance to the benchmark (SPI Extra). The sub-fund is actively managed with a reference to a benchmark mentioned in this document. The sub-fund seeks to outperform it over the recommended holding period. The sub-fund does not exactly replicate its reference index (benchmark) and may therefore deviate significantly from it. Therefore, the performance of the sub-fund may differ from that of the benchmark index.

Performance (in %)

The share class was launched on February 06, 2024. There is therefore no sufficient basis for calculating the performance.

General information

Date of issue	06.02.24
Managed by IFS since	06.02.24
Reference currency	CHF
Registration	CH, DE, LI
Custodian	Bank J. Safra Sarasin AG, Basel
Management company	LLB Swiss Investment AG, Zürich
Investment manager	IFS Independent Financial Services AG, Luzern
Management fee p.a.	0.55%
Dealing frequency	Daily, 12:00 o'clock
Minimum investment	CHF 5,000,000
Distribution	Reinvesting
ISIN	CH1319018599
Valor (Switzerland)	131901859

Current figures as of 30.09.2024

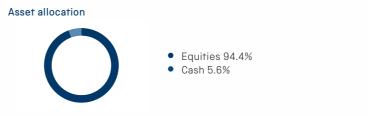
NAV per unit	CHF	110.59
Total assets	CHF	95.60 Mio.

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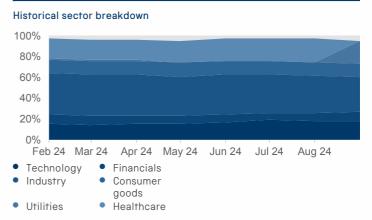
Largest positions	
Sandoz	5.2%
Straumann	5.2%
Schindler N	4.9%
SIG Combibloc	4.8%
Roche	3.9%



Asset class breakdown



- Technology 17.4%
- Financials 8.6%
- Industry 34.0%
- Consumer goods 12.2%
- Utilities 22.2%
- Healthcare 0.0%



Manager Update

In September, the equity markets experienced a mixture of volatility and positive momentum. At the beginning of the month, weak labour market data from the US led to fears of recession and correspondingly poor market sentiment. US consumer confidence, as measured by the Conference Board Index, also deteriorated noticeably. Boosted by a 50 basis point interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve, the markets recovered significantly in the second half of the month. In addition, the Chinese government announced extensive support measures which provided an additional tailwind for global stock markets. Overall, most indices continued to rise, including the SPI Extra, which gained +0.58%. The fund also performed well, achieving a return of +1.15%.

The positions Also Holding, Straumann and SIG Combibloc made particularly positive contributions to performance. Straumann benefited from the news on the Chinese economic stimulus packages, as China is now the fastest-growing market for the Basel-based company. There was no news worth mentioning at SIG, but the market seems to be slowly recognizing that the share is significantly undervalued at the current level.

Positions in Aryzta, Roche and Sandoz developed negatively. Roche published further data on the acquired GLP-1 pipeline candidates. The high number of side effects in particular caused concern in the market, which put a damper on the GLP-1 euphoria at Roche. However, it must be remembered that these were very small studies with no focus on dosing optimization. It is to be expected that Roche will better understand and reduce the side effect profile over time. We continue to believe that Roche's pipeline is undervalued overall.

Sandoz held an investor day at the beginning of the month at which it outlined its growth and efficiency plans for the coming years. Investors had hoped for more, particularly with regard to the entry into the generic GLP-1 market. The announcement to enter the market step by step and to gain experience first led to the share price falling by -5.4% over the course of the month. However, we see sufficient growth and margin potential for Sandoz even without GLP-1 and are holding on to the position.

We increased our stake in SGS in September. We are impressed by the new management team under CEO Geraldine Picaud and have confidence that she will significantly improve SGS's growth profile. On the other hand, we have slightly reduced cyclical industrial companies such as Georg Fischer, SFS and Bossard and increased the fund's cash ratio.

The widespread expectation of an economic recovery at the beginning of the year has not yet been fulfilled. The European automotive industry in particular is suffering, as illustrated by the profit warnings from Forvia, VW and Stellantis. There are also hardly any signs of a sustainable recovery in the construction sector. With regard to China, we are skeptical as to whether the measures announced will be sufficient to solve the country's structural problems. In recent quarters, the US consumer in particular has proved to be a strong pillar of growth. However, there are increasing signs that high interest rates are leaving their mark and the labor market is becoming more fragile. In combination with the geopolitical uncertainties, we therefore believe it makes sense to take a more defensive approach to the fund's risk profile in the coming months in order to benefit from possible corrections.

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