

Spire Copper Rock Capital Global Smaller Companies Fund

A SPIRE GLOBAL INVESTMENT SERIES FUND

Monthly Fact Sheet - September 2017



Fund Objective

To outperform the MSCI World Small Cap Index \$A on an annual basis and to outperform the same index by 2% to 3% p.a. over a full market cycle (e.g 5 - 7 years).

Fund Manager

Copper Rock Capital Partners LLC ("Copper Rock"), based in Boston, MA, was founded in 2005 and provides specialised global equity investment management solutions for investors throughout the world with a strong focus on small cap investing globally. Copper Rock had approximately \$5.7 billion (USD) in assets under management as at June 30, 2017.

Investment Philosophy and Approach

Copper Rock believes that small and mid-cap markets are inefficient and uses a blend of quantitative and fundamental analyses to identify companies with superior growth rates relative to their peers. The Global Small Cap strategy typically looks for resilient and defensible business models that are characterized by underlying unit growth, longer term market share gains (an evidence of competitive strength), high profitability, and significant internal cash generation. Distinguishing elements of the process are also the application of a routinely practiced and proven Sell Discipline and Alert List that provide risk control and are crucial in preserving alpha earned in the portfolio.

Ratings

Zenith Investment Partners – Recommended
Lonsec – Recommended

Fund Summary as at 30 September 2017

APIR Code	ETL0410AU
Exit Price	1.0092
Fund Size	\$81.7 Million
Inception Date	1 July 2014
Companies in Portfolio	95
Total Management Fee	1.38%
Indirect Cost Ratio (ICR)	1.38%
Buy / Sell Spread	0.20% / 0.20%
Investment Manager	Copper Rock Capital Partners, LLC
Portfolio Management Team	
Stephen Dexter	CIO, Lead Portfolio Manager
Denise Selden, CFA	Portfolio Manager
H. David Shea, CFA	Portfolio Manager
Responsible Entity	Equity Trustees Limited
Custodian	State Street Australia Limited

The information provided in this report should not be considered a recommendation to purchase or sell any particular security. There is no assurance that any security discussed will remain in portfolio at any time you receive this report or that securities sold have not been repurchased. The securities mentioned may represent only a small percentage of a portfolio's holdings. It should not be assumed that any of the holdings were or will prove to be profitable, or that the investment recommendations made in the future will be profitable or will equal the performance of the securities presented in this material. All securities recommendations within the preceding 12 months are available upon request.

Monthly Performance (gross %)

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	-3.78	1.68	2.46	4.11	0.12	2.12	-1.98	1.03	4.45			
2016	-3.99	-1.90	-0.37	0.98	8.09	-5.85	2.49	0.22	-1.27	-3.76	8.84	4.21
2015	3.20	6.55	4.51	-3.95	4.87	-1.63	5.34	-2.70	-1.92	2.18	-2.09	-2.29

Performance (%)

Performance %	1 mth	3 mths	6 mths	1 year	3 years	Inception
Total (net)	4.32	3.06	9.30	18.74	12.59	11.30
Benchmark*	5.12	3.95	7.93	17.32	14.99	13.91
Active Return#	-0.80	-0.89	1.37	1.42	-2.40	-2.61
Distribution				8.71	10.44	9.58

*Benchmark – MSCI World Small Cap \$A

Inception Date: 1 July 2014 # Based on net performance. The performance data has not been audited. Performance figures are audited on an annual basis. Source: State Street.

Top 10 Common Stock Holdings#*

Companies	% of Portfolio	Country
NEXITY SA	1.8	FRANCE
ESSENT GROUP LTD.	1.8	USA
HILL-ROM HOLDINGS, INC.	1.7	USA
GENERAC HOLDINGS, INC.	1.6	USA
PHILIPS LIGHTING NV	1.5	NETHERLANDS
TOSHOK CORPORATION	1.4	JAPAN
RPC, INC.	1.4	USA
COLUMBIA BANKING SYSTEM, INC.	1.4	USA
MAEDA CORPORATION	1.4	JAPAN
PALTAC CORPORATION	1.4	JAPAN
TOTAL:	15.4%	

Portfolio Characteristics*

Characteristics	Fund	MSCI World Small Cap Index (USD)
Price / Cash Flow	12.9	10.7
P/E (Forward 1 Year)	17.0	18.9
LT EPS Growth	11.6	15.7
ROE	14.4	9.4
ROA	6.4	4.1
Operating Margin	13.6	14.0
Yield (%)	1.2	1.8
Price to Book	2.5	2.0
Weighted Average Market-Cap (US\$bil)	3.0	3.3
Number of Holdings	95	4,284
Active Share	97%	

* Data derived from a Copper Rock Global Small Cap representative account expressed in USD. Source: FactSet.

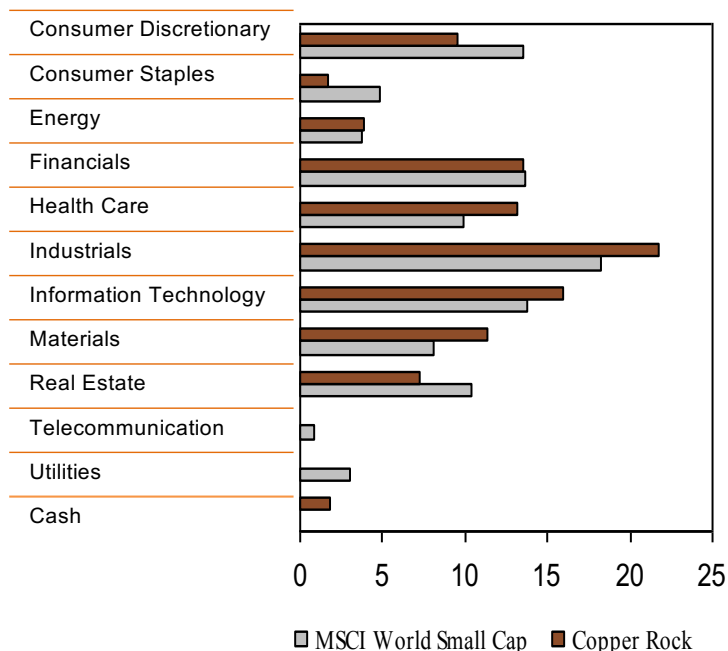
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Sector Exposure (%)*



Market Commentary

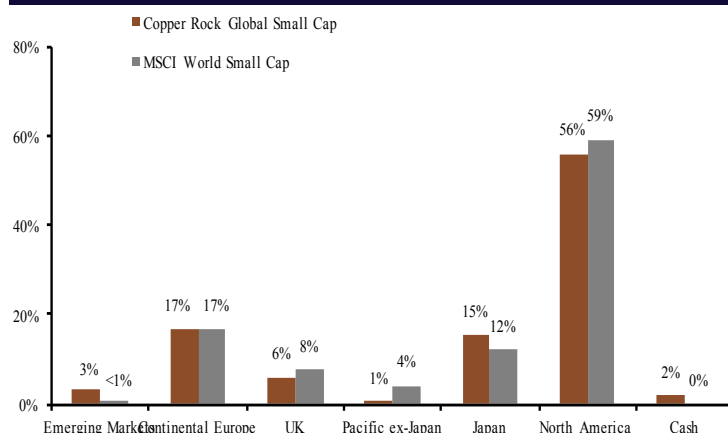
The Copper Rock Global Small Cap Composite returned +4.42% (AUD) and was behind the MSCI World Small Cap index for the month of September which returned +5.12% (AUD).

During the month, the portfolio benefited from positive stock selection within the Real Estate, Financials and Energy sectors with the strongest contribution to relative return on a regional basis in Continental Europe. Within the US, energy stocks, RPC, Inc. and Parex Resources, Inc., which were laggards in August, recovered in September and were among the leading individual contributors to relative return. Also within the US, the portfolio's position in Generac Holdings, a leading manufacturer of generators and other power machinery, rose during the month as the stock outperformed in response to the need for generators and pumps following the recent, severe hurricane season.

On the downside, the portfolio continued to see some underperformance from its positioning and overall selection in Healthcare, Industrials, and Consumer. Much of the reason for this were more sentiment related to the US and the continued inability for any of Trump's initiatives along the lines of healthcare, infrastructure or tax reform to be put into action despite a still climbing US economy. While Copper Rock does not own these stocks for these initiatives but rather for their fundamentals regardless, they have yet to see the market steadily appreciate what Copper Rock have identified. Copper Rock have recommitted to positions like Apogee, Inc. within the industrials sector.

As the portfolio enters the final quarter, it remains overweight relative to the index in the Materials, Healthcare, and Energy sectors. Regionally, the portfolio has started to take some profits in Continental Europe and have added to the exposure in Japan where corporate profitability is strong and the market is relatively inexpensive. Copper Rock also remains underweight in the US market as a whole but are selectively overweight within US Information Technology and the Industrials complex, but underweight in the Consumer sectors.

Regional Allocation (%)*



* Data derived from a Copper Rock Global Small Cap representative account expressed in USD. Source: FactSet. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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