

Prime Value Growth Fund

Fund Update – December 2018



- Global share markets sold off in December, led by the US market. The Australian share market performed extremely well in that context, falling by 0.2%. The mining and defensive sectors were significant contributors
- The Australian share market is trading below its long term average PE ratio of 14.5x and yielding 6% (gross). We believe the market is offering many opportunities for the long term investor
- The Fund fell 2.1% in December. Fund holdings in BHP and Evolution Mining offset declines in Collins Foods and Smartgroup

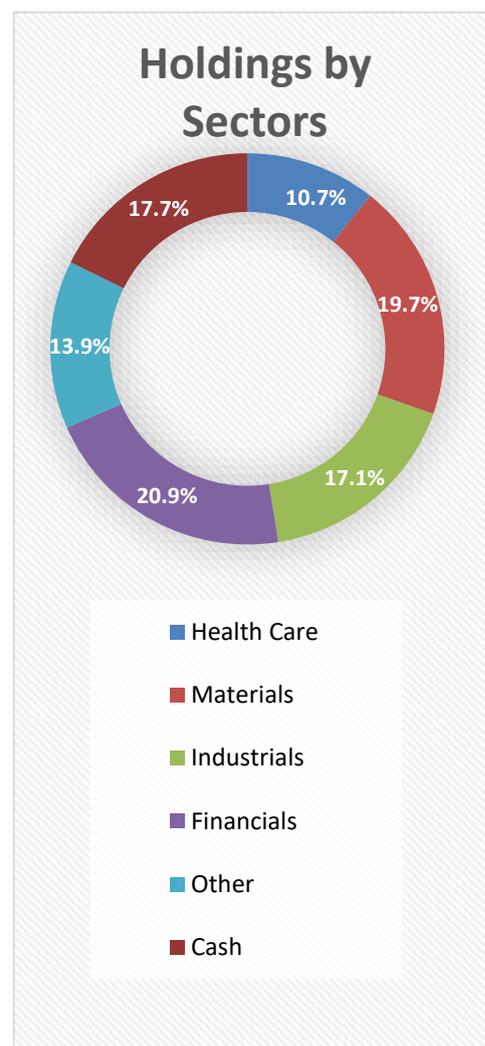
	Total Return*	S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index	Value Add
Since Inception (p.a.)	10.8%	7.8%	3.0%
5 Years (p.a.)	1.7%	5.6%	(3.9%)
3 Years (p.a.)	1.0%	6.7%	(5.7%)
1 Year	(5.9%)	(3.1%)	(2.8%)
3 Months	(12.9%)	(8.4%)	(4.5%)
1 Month	(2.1%)	(0.2%)	(1.9%)

*Fund returns are calculated net of management fees, assuming all distributions are re-invested. Performance figures have been calculated in accordance with the Financial Services Council (FSC) standards. The returns are calculated before performance fees which are charged against individual accounts. The returns exclude the benefits of imputation credits. Past performance is not necessarily an indicator of future performance.

Top five holdings	Sector
BHP	Materials
CSL	Health Care
Westpac	Financials
ANZ	Financials
Orora	Materials

The top five holdings make up approximately 31.6% of the portfolio

Feature	Fund facts
Portfolio Manager	ST Wong
Investment Objective	To provide superior medium to long term capital growth, with some income, by managing a portfolio of predominantly Australian equities listed on any recognised Australian Stock Exchange.
Benchmark	S&P/ ASX 300 Accumulation Index
Inception Date	10 April 1998
Cash	0 - 30%
Distributions	Half-yearly
Recommended Investment Period	3 + years



Market review

Global markets fell sharply in December, led by the US share market. Investors had to deal with a number of events during the month including the continued US China trade war and higher US Interest rates. For context, since the US market peaked in September, investors appeared to have priced in every conceivable macro risk. Australia was the best performing major market, falling by a relatively small 0.2%. Global bonds rose significantly, driven primarily by a fall in inflation expectations. The Australian Dollar fell to \$0.7040 against the US Dollar. Oil declined again, while gold continued to rise as investors sought safe havens.

Within Australian stock sectors, Materials (+5.3%), Health Care (+2.9%) and Utilities (+2.9%) outperformed the most, while Telcos (-5.0%), IT (-4.0%) and Financials (-3.1%) underperformed the most.

With the recent pull back, the Australian share market is trading below its long term average PE ratio of 14.5x and yielding 6% (gross). Better valuations and fundamentals that are still robust point toward investment opportunities opening up for longer term investors. Earnings and economies will still expand in 2019, just not at 2018's pace. Perhaps surprising to some, key fundamentals turned quite bullish for risk assets amid the fourth-quarter stock market volatility. In pricing slower growth, the yield on the 10-year US Treasury bond fell from 3.25% to 2.65% and the US Federal Reserve became more dovish, both of which are supportive of higher valuations.



This graph shows how \$100,000 invested at the Fund's inception has increased to \$846,200 (net of fees excluding performance fees). This compares very favourably with the return of the market, where a \$100,000 investment would have increased to \$473,000 over the same period. The returns exclude the benefits of imputation credits.

	Direct Investment (Class A)	Platform Investment (Class B)
APIR code	PVA0001AU	PVA0011AU
Minimum Investment	\$20,000	N/A
Issue price	\$ 1.7639	\$ 1.7556
Withdrawal price	\$ 1.7505	\$ 1.7424
Indirect Cost Ratio (ICR)*	1.435% p.a.	1.23% p.a.
Performance fee**	20.5%	20.5%

* Unless otherwise stated, all fees quoted are inclusive of GST and less the relevant RITC
 ** Of performance (net of management fees and administration costs) above the agreed benchmark, subject to positive performance and a high water mark

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Fund review and strategy

The Fund fell 2.1% in December, with fund performance improving from the second half of December and has continued into early January. For the year, the Fund fell 5.9% compared to the ASX300 Accumulation Index decline of 3.1% and the 8.7% fall in the Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index.

In a year where an estimated 80% of asset classes globally posted negative returns (in US Dollar estimates), the Fund performed relatively better than most. In particular, despite holding a reasonably high proportion of small and mid-cap companies, the Fund performed well compared to the Small Ordinaries Index due to good stock picks, whilst portfolio construction assisted in preserving capital. Through the year, the Fund benefited from having the flexibility to invest across all parts of the stock market. For example, in the last quarter of the year, we reduced the Fund's exposure to smaller companies whilst increasing our cash position. This helped to preserve capital. Just as importantly, the Fund's high cash position sets up significant investment opportunities for the longer term, as valuations have become more attractive following the market declines over the past few months.

Key contributors to fund performance in December were **BHP** (+11.5%), **Evolution Mining** (EVN +17.5%) and **CSL** (CSL +4.4%). Detractors during the month included **ANZ Bank** (ANZ -8.7%), **Collins Foods** (CKF -15.9%) and **Smartgroup** (SIQ -12.7%).

Stock specific news flow was limited and stock price movements were largely dictated by offshore events. Low liquidity further amplified short term price movements. During the month, the Fund benefited from its defensive and gold exposures. BHP continued to perform to our expectations that strong cash flow and balance sheet would enable it to reward shareholders through a return of capital.

We are viewing the current market negative sentiment positively, believing it has led to broadly more attractive valuations. With the Fund's cash position elevated, we are seeing many more opportunities to deploy capital into well-managed and well-priced investments. The Fund's strategy hasn't changed significantly in recent months – we continue to look to invest in well managed companies with strong business models that are able to compound earnings growth over time.

Top Contributors (Absolute)	Sector
BHP	Materials
Evolution Mining	Materials
CSL	Health Care
Top Detractors (Absolute)	Sector
ANZ	Financials
Smartgroup	Industrials
Collins Foods	Consumer Discretionary

Platforms
Asgard, Ausmaq, Beacon, BT Wrap, First Wrap, Hub24, IOOF, Global One, Macquarie Wrap, Netwealth, Powerwrap, Symetry, Wealthtrac

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