

FACTS

Portfolio value	\$6.26 bn
Fund commenced	30 April 1995
Minimum investment	A\$10,000 or NZ\$10,000
Regular Investment Plan (min.)	A/NZ\$5,000 plus A/NZ\$200 mth/qrt
Income distribution date	Annual, 30 June
Unit valuation	Sydney Business Day
Unit prices C Class	App - 1.9169 Red - 1.9111
Unit prices P Class	App - 0.9045 Red - 0.9017

PERFORMANCE¹

	C Class %	P Class %	MSCI %
1 month	1.0	1.0	1.8
3 months	0.0	0.0	5.0
6 months	(0.3)	(0.1)	4.6
Calendar year to date	4.2	4.5	21.4
1 year	4.2	4.5	21.4
2 years (compound pa)	3.6	3.9	3.1
3 years (compound pa)	5.8	6.0	10.2
5 years (compound pa)	7.3	7.6	12.4
7 years (compound pa)	7.2		11.0
10 years (compound pa)	7.2		10.9
Since inception (compound pa)	11.2	6.3	7.5

INVESTED POSITIONS³

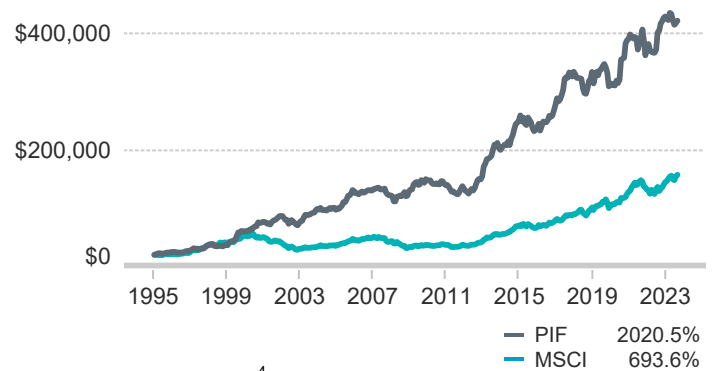
	LONG %	SHORT %	NET %	CCY %
Asia-Pacific	39.3	(0.9)	38.3	59.2
Australia	2.6	(0.1)	2.5	3.6
China	18.0		18.0	18.0
Hong Kong	0.1		0.1	1.2
Taiwan	1.8	(0.2)	1.6	1.6
India	2.1		2.1	2.1
Japan	8.9	(0.5)	8.4	26.9
South Korea	4.2	(0.1)	4.1	4.1
Other Asia-Pacific	1.6		1.6	1.6
Europe	26.0		26.0	27.1
Austria	1.4		1.4	
Finland	2.9		2.9	
France	4.8		4.8	
Germany	1.4		1.4	
Italy	1.4		1.4	
Netherlands	1.7		1.7	
Switzerland	3.3		3.3	3.2
United Kingdom	8.4		8.4	9.3
Euro				14.3
Other Europe	0.8		0.8	0.2
North America	18.2	(7.0)	11.2	10.9
Canada	2.4		2.4	2.8
United States of America	15.7	(7.0)	8.7	8.2
Other	2.8		2.8	2.8
Sub-Total	86.2	(8.0)	78.2	100.0
Cash	13.8	8.0	21.8	
Total	100.0		100.0	100.0

FEES

Entry fee	Nil
Buy/sell spread	0.15%/0.15%
C Class	Investment management 1.35% p.a. Investment performance N/A
P Class	Investment management 1.10% p.a. Investment performance 15.00% p.a.*

* of the amount by which the Fund's return exceeds its index return

PERFORMANCE GRAPH²



TOP TEN POSITIONS⁴

STOCK	COUNTRY	INDUSTRY	%
Allfunds Group Plc	UK	Financials	3.4
UBS Group AG	Switzerland	Financials	3.2
Samsung Electronics Co	South Korea	Info Technology	3.2
ZTO Express Cayman Inc	China	Industrials	3.0
UPM-Kymmene OYJ	Finland	Materials	2.9
Minebea Co Ltd	Japan	Industrials	2.5
Airbus SE	France	Industrials	2.2
Suzano SA	Brazil	Materials	2.1
Intercontinental Exchange	United States	Financials	2.1
InterGlobe Aviation Ltd	India	Industrials	2.1
Total			26.8

INDUSTRY BREAKDOWN³

SECTOR	LONG %	SHORT %	NET %
Financials	16.2	(0.1)	16.1
Industrials	18.5	(2.6)	15.9
Materials	10.4	(0.1)	10.3
Consumer Discretionary	11.2	(2.1)	9.1
Information Technology	10.6	(2.4)	8.2
Energy	6.4		6.4
Real Estate	3.2		3.2
Health Care	3.1		3.1
Communication Services	3.6	(0.6)	3.0
Consumer Staples	2.8		2.8
Utilities	0.3		0.3

Long - 125 stocks, 1 swap, 2 other Short - 25 swaps

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1. & 2. Source: Platinum for Fund returns and Factset Research Systems for MSCI returns. Investment returns are calculated using the Fund's NAV unit price (i.e. exclude a buy/sell spread) for C Class and P Class (as indicated), and represent the combined income and capital returns for each of these unit classes in the specified period. All returns are pre-tax, net of fees and costs and assume the reinvestment of distributions. Returns for P Class are net of any accrued investment performance fee. The returns are calculated relative to the MSCI All Country World Net Index in A\$ (the gross MSCI Index was used prior to 31/12/98). Since inception date for C Class is 30/04/95 and for P Class is 03/07/17. Since inception date of C Class has been used for the purposes of calculating since inception returns of the index. The investment returns depicted in the graph are cumulative on A\$20,000 invested in C Class units in the Fund since the C Class inception date. **Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future returns.** Platinum does not invest by reference to the weightings of the index. The index is provided as a reference only.

3. The "Long %" is the exposure to long securities and long securities/index derivative positions, the "Short %" is the exposure to short securities and short securities/index derivative positions and the "Net %" is the exposure to long and short securities and long and short securities/index derivative positions, each as a percentage of the market value of the Fund's portfolio. The "Currency %" is the effective currency exposure as a percentage of the market value of the Fund's portfolio taking into account long and short securities, cash, forwards and long and short securities/index derivative positions. For the "Industry breakdown", index positions (whether through ETFs or derivatives) are only included under the relevant sector if they are sector specific, otherwise they are included under "Other".

3. and 4. Country classifications for securities reflect Bloomberg's "country of risk" designations, and currency classifications for securities reflect the relevant local currencies of our country classifications.

4. The "Top ten positions" show the Fund's top ten long securities positions as a percentage of the market value of the Fund's portfolio (including long securities and long securities derivative positions).

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MARKET UPDATE AND COMMENTARY

- The Fund returned +1.0% for the month of December 2023.
- As at 31 December 2023, the Fund was around 86% long and the short book had decreased to 8%.

Market Commentary

US equities were again higher in December fuelled by the soft landing momentum and Fed rate cut expectations. The gains were broad based and the equal-weight S&P outperformed the cap-weighted index. The small-cap Russell 2000 posted its best month since November 2020. These moves reflected investors rotating into cyclical stocks (source: Factset) and being less enthused with the “Magnificent Seven” stocks that rallied over 75% in 2023 (source: Bloomberg). M&A announcements also picked up in December with some of the biggest announcements including Nippon Steel’s acquisition of US Steel for ~US\$15bn, Occidental Petroleum’s acquisition of CrownRock for ~US\$12bn, Paramount and Warner Bros in merger talks and Adobe abandoning its plans to acquire Figma for ~US\$20bn given regulatory challenges.

European equity markets were higher in December, continuing the disinflation and peak rates narrative from November. The US Federal Reserve’s policy pivot only fuelled speculation over rate cuts. Markets are pricing in ~150bps worth of rate cuts for the European Central Bank and ~125bps for the Bank of England in 2024. These expectations for rate cuts have led to a more positive outlook on European equities from both sell and buy side institutions.

China’s stock market finished the month largely flat after the Hang Seng China Enterprises Index gained ~5% in the final week of the year. While economic data remains mixed, there are some bright spots in the Chinese economy. Most notably, China has overtaken Japan as the world’s largest car exporter. Our investments in China remain selective, focused on well-run companies with competitive moats.

2024 – a year of elections and uncertainty?

It would be fair to say that 2024 is shaping up to be a year of increasing uncertainty. In 2023 we saw the continuation of the Russia/Ukraine conflict, followed by the Hamas/Israel conflict and now increasing tensions between Iran and the US over Iran-backed Houthi rebels attacking ships in the Red Sea – which handles about 12% of the world’s commerce (source: The Australian Financial Review).

In 2024 we will see more than 70 elections in countries covering 4.2bn people, approximately 50% of the world’s population (source: The Economist). While many of these elections will be routine, we have seen the rise of fringe parties, particularly in Europe, causing election upsets i.e. the Dutch election in November 2023. The Taiwanese election in January 2024 could help shape US-China relations over the next few years. The US Presidential Election will be held in November 2024.

Risk management is important when it comes to these periods of heightened uncertainty. We know that many people’s natural reaction is to exit equity positions which does not help to build wealth over the long term. Platinum constructs a truly diversified portfolio of stocks that have good long-term growth prospects that we seek to buy at reasonable valuations. We’re also able to hold cash and short sell stocks that we think are overvalued or structurally challenged. It is these risk management levers that have produced strong long term returns and protected clients’ capital during downturns and other similar periods of heightened uncertainty.

Performance Analysis*

For the month our biggest contributors to performance were platform provider, Allfunds, Austrian bank, Raiffeisen Bank and US credit bureau, TransUnion. Detractors included Chinese technology company Tencent Holdings and Chinese parcel delivery service ZTO Express.

Valuation

The portfolio’s aggregate valuation metrics are attractive in both an absolute sense and relative to the market, with a ~37% higher starting earnings yield and a near 40% discount on the price-to-book ratio (see table below).

Metric	Platinum International Fund	MSCI AC World Net Index (A\$)
NTM Earnings Yield	8.2% (Price-to-Earnings ratio of 12.2x)	6.0% (Price-to-Earnings ratio of 16.6x)
NTM Dividend Yield	2.8%	2.6%
NTM Enterprise Value-to-Sales	1.5x	2.2x
LTM Price-to-Book Ratio	1.6x	2.6x

The valuations in the table have been calculated by Platinum and for the Fund refer to the long portion of the portfolio, exclude negative net earnings and use FactSet consensus earnings. MSCI data is sourced from Rimes, FactSet and Platinum. As at 31 December 2023. NTM = next twelve months. LTM = last twelve months.

*Source: Platinum. Contribution numbers are based on the total return of individual positions (in AUD) and are gross as they do not take into account the Fund’s fees and costs (other than brokerage). **Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future returns.**