

OC Premium Small Companies Fund Monthly Fund Update

31 July 2015

OC Premium Small Companies Fund

The Fund had a solid start to the new financial year, finishing July up 2.8%. This was ahead of the S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index which was up 1.6%, but behind the S&P/ASX Small Industrials Accumulation Index which was up 3.7% for the month. The Fund has returned 19.0% p.a. for the past three years, significantly ahead of both indices which were up 3.1% p.a. and 13.0% p.a., respectively, over the same time period.

As is typical for July, listed companies were in 'black-out' ahead of the August reporting season, which limited small-cap equities news.

Almond grower and food processor, **Select Harvests (SHV)**, continued to re-rate in July, finishing up 19.9%. During the month, the company released a global market and local crop update which upgraded both the volume expectation for the FY15 crop (8% higher) and the price estimate (A\$11.45/kg up from A\$11.00/kg). The improved pricing estimate was driven by improvements in the mix and quality of the harvest and a favourable currency. Managing Director, Paul Thompson, reiterated that world almond prices remain firm and the release of the US June Almond Industry Position Report during the month reinforced the continued strong demand for almonds in the face of restricted global supply. Although we recently reduced the Fund's holding due to share price appreciation, SHV remains core to the portfolio.

Recent portfolio addition, **BT Investment Management Limited (BTT)**, was up 15.0% for the month following the release of a positive update on funds under management (FUM) for the June quarter and an update on performance fees generated for the year ended 30 June 2015. Total group FUM now stands at A\$78.9b (at 30 June 2015) and performance fee revenue for the 12 months ended 30 June 2015 was A\$14.4m. We remain upbeat on the medium-term prospects of BTT as the group continues to evolve into a world class asset manager.

During the month, the Fund added **Aconex Limited (ACX)** (+14.1) to the portfolio, a market-leading cloud collaboration platform for the global construction industry. The Aconex platform streamlines and standardises documentation, process management and communications across all project participants, tracking and capturing critical information on a single integrated platform for the life of a construction project. ACX operates a subscription-based revenue model with the price based on project size and complexity, which is charged as a percentage of total construction value. Customers subscribe to ACX for the duration of a project. With average construction project length of around three years and high renewal rates, revenue visibility is high. ACX has established a dominant and highly profitable position in the Australian and New Zealand market and is now replicating this success in larger international markets. We expect ACX to grow earnings rapidly in the coming years and believe the company has high calibre management with a strong strategic vision.

The key detractor from the portfolio during the month was **Treasury Group (TRG)** (-14.8%) who announced the proposed divestment of 75% of one of its fund managers, RARE Infrastructure. Although the divestment realises significant value on TRG's initial investment in RARE, the deal valued the stake at less than the markets (and our own) perceived value of the investment and the stock was consequently sold off. In addition, TRG announced its FUM at 30 June 2015 was A\$49.0b, a decline of 5.2% over the quarter due to outflows from US-based Trilogy and WHV funds management businesses and negative market movements during the quarter. Despite this negative news flow, the company now has a considerable 'war chest' to fund future acquisitions or capital management. We've retained our holding as we believe the company is well managed and remains attractively valued.

OC Performance* (Net of Fees)	1 Mth	3 Mths	6 Mths	1 Yr	3 Yrs (p.a)	5 Yrs (p.a)	Since Incep (p.a)+
OC Premium Small Companies Fund	2.8%	1.3%	8.5%	12.0%	19.0%	15.3%	11.3%
S&P/ASX Small Ords Accum	1.6%	-4.1%	3.6%	-2.8%	3.1%	0.6%	4.8%
Added Value	1.2%	5.4%	4.9%	14.8%	15.9%	14.7%	6.5%
S&P/ASX Small Industrials	3.7%	-1.1%	5.9%	6.7%	13.0%	9.5%	5.6%
Added Value	-0.9%	2.4%	2.6%	5.3%	6.0%	5.8%	5.7%

+Fund Inception: OC Premium Small Companies Fund 08/12/2000.

Outlook

From an economic perspective, little changed during the month to temper our bearish stance on the domestic economy. There appears to be little evidence that the east coast economy is picking up the slack as the mining boom tapers off, despite the RBA cash rate sitting at a record low of 2.00%.

On a positive note, the ongoing depreciation of the Australian dollar, which is continuing to adjust to significant falls in commodity prices, will improve the profitability of domestic export sectors such as mining and manufacturing. This is likely to result in consumer shifts to non-trade exposed goods and services which ought to be a longer-term positive for the domestic economy. We expect further falls in the Australian dollar as the economy rebalances which should stimulate domestic economic growth, although we don't expect to see a broad-based economic recovery until mid-2016 calendar year at the earliest.

Ahead of the August reporting season, we thought it would be helpful to provide investors a snapshot of the themes we're watching and avoiding.

Preferred

- Given the near-term challenges faced by the domestic economy, we retain material exposure to quality companies that can grow earnings outside of the economic cycle (eg. **iSentia, Healthscope, Veda Group, Hansen**).
- The Fund has significant exposure to stocks with structural tail-winds underpinning their earnings growth (eg. **APN Outdoor, Ozforex, REA Group**).
- The US economy remains on track and the Fund has solid exposure to a robust US economy (eg. **Fisher & Paykel Healthcare, Ardent Leisure, Aconex**).
- The portfolio is a net beneficiary of a weaker Australian dollar, largely through the translational impact of companies' offshore earnings (eg. **Servcorp, BT Investment Management Limited, Henderson Group**).

Cautious

- We remain cautious on the domestic economy near term, and therefore remain reluctant to pay for mid-cycle stocks that may still have near-term earnings risk (eg. **GWA Group, United Group, Qube Logistics**).

- Despite record low interest rates, the retail sector remains challenging. We have selective exposure to consumer discretionary stocks (eg. **Lovisa, Burson Group**), although we remain cautious, as recent feedback suggests trading remains patchy with margins remaining under pressure (eg. **Kathmandu, Specialty Fashion Group**).
- We are cautious on 'fallen angels' with company-specific issues, which are unlikely to be remedied any time soon, and remain vulnerable to further profit warnings (eg. **Cardno, The Reject Shop, Transfield Services**).

Avoid

- Companies with elevated debt levels and deteriorating earnings profiles (eg. **Ausdrill, Mermaid Marine**).
- Structurally challenged industries where business models are under threat including 'old-world' media stocks (eg. **Seven West Media, APN News & Media**) and traditional 'bricks-and-mortar' apparel retailers (eg. **Myer, Orotan Group**).
- Mining services companies dependent on either exploration or project-based work (eg. **NRW Holdings, Ausenco, Lycopodium**), as mining capex spend continues to run off.
- Unprofitable or cash-flow negative companies and concept stocks that don't have earnings.

We look forward to reporting back to our investors in early September on our thoughts and observations following financial-year-end reporting in August. During this time, we will be meeting with most of our core portfolio holdings, as well as many other competitors and potential investment opportunities. We believe the Fund is well positioned going into the results period and we remain confident in our ability to generate strong long-term investment outcomes for investors.

Investment Team

Rob Frost
Rob Calnon
Stephen Evans

Marketing & Client Services

Sam Baillieu
Sam Cole
Deborah Amphlett
Christine Baud
Katrina Smith
Natasha Langdon

Distribution

John Clothier
Adam Tweedale
Sean Paul McGoldrick
Iain Mason

Contact us

P 1800 442 129
E mail@ocfunds.com.au
W www.ocfunds.com.au

* Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. The Total Returns of the OC Premium Small Companies Fund over specified periods are shown in the above table. This table contains information regarding Total Returns to 31 July 2015. Total Returns are calculated after taking into account performance fees. A performance fee of 20.5% is payable annually on any excess performance (after deducting the Management fee) above the benchmark S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index to 30 June. A performance fee is only payable where the Fund has returned 5% or more since the last performance fee was paid.

The Total Return performance figures quoted are historical, calculated using end of month mid prices and do not allow the effects of income tax or inflation. Total Returns assume the reinvestment of all distributions. The performance is quoted net of all fees and expenses. The Indices do not incur these costs. This information is provided for general comparative purposes. Positive returns, which the Funds are designed to provide, are different regarding risk and investment profile to index returns. This document is for general information purposes only and does not take into account the specific investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of any specific recipient. As such, before acting on any information contained in this document, recipients should consider the appropriateness of the information to their needs. This may involve seeking advice from a qualified financial adviser. OC Funds (ACN 092 872 056) is the issuer of the OC Premium Small Companies Fund (ARSN 098 644 976) ('Premium Small Companies Fund'). A current PDS is available from OC Funds, located at Level 25, 360 Collins Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000, (03) 9602 3199. A person should consider the PDS before deciding whether to acquire or continue to hold an interest in the the OC Premium Small Companies Fund. Any opinions or recommendation contained in this document are subject to change without notice and OC Funds is under no obligation to update or keep any information contained in this document current. OC Funds holds AFSL no.229316.