MAPLE-BROWN ABBOTT

INVESTMENT MANAGERS SINCE 1984

Maple-Brown Abbott Australian Geared Equity Fund (Retail) 30 September 2017

Investment objective

The Fund aims to outperform (before fees) the S&P 200 Index (Total Returns) over rolling four-year periods.

Performance*

Return	1 Month %	3 Months %	1 Year %	3 Years % p.a.	4 Years % p.a.	5 Years % p.a.	10 Years % p.a.	Inception % p.a.
Growth	-1.31	1.42	11.44	-2.43	-1.59	5.53	-12.86	-8.00
Distribution	0.00	0.00	5.44	6.85	6.29	6.41	5.77	11.61
Total	-1.31	1.42	16.88	4.42	4.70	11.94	-7.09	3.61
Benchmark[1]	-0.02	0.68	9.25	7.08	6.79	10.08	3.09	9.11

*The Fund performance relates to retail investors only. If you are a wholesale investor, you can obtain up to date returns at maple-brownabbott.com.au.
Inception date: 1 October 2002

[1]Benchmark: S&P/ASX 200 Index (Total Returns)

Market commentary

The Australian equity market had a steady quarter, with the S&P/ASX 200 Index (Total Returns) increasing 0.7%. Local economic data was mixed but broadly positive. Prices for most commodities were stronger, the Australian Government 10-Year Bond yield increased by 24 basis points and the Australian Dollar strengthened against the US Dollar. The quarter included the August company reporting season which delivered a volatile set of results that were a touch soft on average. The key themes were strength from resources and weaker performance from a small number of large stocks, most notably the insurers and Telstra Corporation. Looking at returns by sector, Energy (+7.3%) was strongest, followed by Materials (+6.5%), Consumer Staples (+4.4%) and REITs (+1.7%). Telecommunication Services (-15.4%) was weakest, followed by Utilities (-5.9%), Health Care (-5.2%), Consumer Discretionary (-2.4%) and Financials (+0.1%).

Fund commentary

The Fund had a positive return of 1.42% (after fees) for the quarter, outperforming the benchmark by 0.74%.

The gearing level of the Fund as at end of September was 43.6%.

Our overweight exposure to resources was a key positive contributor to performance. Overweight holdings in BHP Billiton (+12.9%), Alumina (+17.5%) and Rio Tinto (+7.4%) outperformed. All three delivered solid financial results, with strong cash flow a notable theme, and stock prices were further supported by higher prices for key commodities. Our overweight position in Origin Energy (+9.0%) also performed well, with the market responding favourably to the progress in debt reduction and solid earnings guidance detailed at its full-year result. The stock was further supported by stronger oil prices and the sale of its domestic upstream gas business to Beach Energy. Our significantly underweight exposure to the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (-6.5%) was another key positive. Despite delivering a reasonable full-year result and solid share price performance from the other major banks, Commonwealth Bank underperformed following the revelation that it is being investigated by AUSTRAC for anti-money laundering breaches and the subsequent announcement of an APRA inquiry into its governance and culture. Our overweight holding in Telstra Corporation (-15.3%) was a significant detractor from performance, with the market unimpressed by a greater than expected cut to the dividend and a sombre outlook statement delivered at its full-year result. Our overweight position in Coca-Cola Amatil (-14.1%) contributed negatively. The stock was impacted by a series of customer issues and this was further compounded by a weak half-year result revealing greater than expected deterioration in its Australian business. Our overweight exposure to the general insurers, through holdings in QBE Insurance Group (-13.5%) and Suncorp Group (-9.2%), also detracted. Financial results in the sector were universally disappointing, with weaker margins the key theme and in the case of QBE Insurance the added deterioration of its Emerging Markets business.

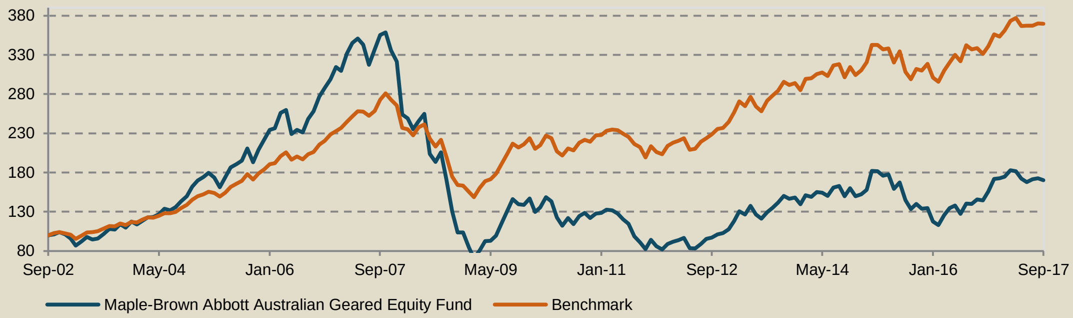
Actual asset allocation by sector

	Fund %	Benchmark %
Energy	8.3	4.4
Materials	21.8	16.9
Industrials	0.9	7.3
Consumer discretionary	3.7	4.8
Consumer staples	11.7	7.2
Healthcare	3.7	7.1
Financials	37.2	37.4
Information technology	1.1	1.4
Telecommunication services	4.0	3.1
Utilities	1.4	2.2
Real Estate	2.3	8.2
Cash	3.9	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0

Top 10 holdings

	Fund %	Benchmark %
BHP Billiton	9.4	5.5
Australia & New Zealand Banking Gp	8.1	5.8
Westpac Banking Corporation	7.9	7.2
National Australia Bank	7.2	5.6
Wesfarmers	5.3	3.1
Rio Tinto	4.7	1.9
Woodside Petroleum	4.3	1.4
Telstra Corporation	4.0	2.8
Origin Energy	3.9	0.9
Woolworths	3.8	2.2

Value of $100 invested at inception



Key features

Fund size	$21.7 million
APIR code	ADV0077AU
Date established	October 2002
Distribution frequency	June, December
Minimum investment	$1,500 ($1,000 with a regular savings plan)[1]
Minimum withdrawal	$500
Management costs[3]	2.05% pa[2]
Distribution reinvestment	Yes
Buy/Sell spread (%)	0.38/0.38
Exit Fee	Nil

[1] Conditions apply
[2] Fees quoted are on a GST inclusive basis and net of any applicable Reduced Input Tax Credits
[3] The Maple-Brown Abbott Australian Geared Equity Fund charges a management costs 2.05% pa of the 'total assets' of the Fund, that is, your investment
plus borrowings, instead of 'net assets', which is used for other Funds. If comparing on a net asset basis, assuming a gearing ratio of 50%, this would represent an ongoing fee of 4.10% pa.

Contact us

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