New Capital Japan Equity Fund

Quarterly Commentary | As of 30 September 2024

Market overview

The third quarter of 2024 experienced a sustained rally in global equity markets, despite occasional volatility and economic uncertainties. The MSCI World Index and the MSCI All Countries Index showed consistent gains, with year-to-date returns of 19.1% by the end of September.

The quarter opened with a change in investor sentiment in July. Soft US consumer price index inflation numbers led to the anticipation of a Federal Reserve funds rate cut, prompting a move from mega-cap tech stocks to US small-cap stocks. Reflecting a weakening in the US economy, bond markets rallied, with yields on US Treasury bonds falling to the lowest in more than a year.

August witnessed a continuation of the equity rally, but volatility increased due to fears of a looming US recession and changes in Japanese monetary policy. These concerns added to geopolitical tensions and the prospect of monetary easing and contributed to extend the gold price rally.

September brought new all-time highs for global stock markets. The Federal Reserve started easing interest rates, shifting its focus from inflation control to supporting the labour market and economic growth. Chinese authorities announced measures to stimulate their economy, and declining oil prices provided further market support. Throughout the quarter, all major developed market currencies and the yuan renminbi recovered against the US dollar.

The outlook at the end of the quarter is supported by the expectation of a prolonged period of monetary policy easing and moderate bond yields.

The Japanese economy (real GDP) grew almost as fast as initially estimated in the April-June quarter thanks to a recovery in household and corporate spending at an annualized rate of +2.9%. Tourism is dominant for the domestic demand as exports have not necessarily been supported by a weak yen. Salary increases and inflation coming under better control both managed to turn real wages into positive territory, stopping the downtrend initiated in 2022. On 31 July the Bank of Japan (BoJ), by a majority of 7-2, raised its overnight interest rate to about 0.25% from a range of zero to 0.1%, the highest level since the global financial crisis in late 2008 and voted to cut Japanese Government Bond (JGB) purchases with a consequent yen spike. The central bank in the following scheduled meeting confirmed its stance based on its view that the economy remained on track for a moderate recovery.

The worldwide electric vehicle (EV) offensive is hurting Japanese automakers especially in China and Thailand. Japanese automakers are rethinking their strategies in these regions after double-digit sales declines there in the April-June period. The global market for artificial intelligence-related products is ballooning and could hit as much as $990bn in 2027, as the technology's quick adoption disrupts companies and economies, according to a recent study released by a well know consulting firm. Overseas venture capital funds are stepping up investment in Japan, spending nearly 70% more on the year in the January-June period as geopolitical tensions make China a less attractive target.

The number of corporate bankruptcies involving liabilities of at least ¥10m in Japan jumped in July by 25.7% from a year earlier, up for the 28th consecutive month, as they struggled to reflect higher costs in prices amid inflation.

Fund performance and positioning

During the quarter under review the market dropped by 5.99% while the fund did worse with -9.83%. The negative gap is mainly explained by both the stock selection particularly ineffective in the info tech, communication, and materials. On top of this, the overweight in info tech deteriorated the situation. We managed to do better among consumer discretionary, real estate and healthcare.

During the period under review the fund management activity was quite busy and mainly concentrated on selling to cope with cash outflows and to refocus the portfolio, especially for the smaller cap segment exposure. The historically high position concentration (based also on strong investment conviction approach) has been constantly monitored in terms of risk parameters and diversification which were clearly and fully respected. We reduced the smaller cap portion on growth factor contribution risk concern and top-sliced some of our biggest positions. The portfolio structure didn't materially change and we're fully aware about our tech exposure which is under scrutiny because of the worldwide developments for this sector and the very high earnings expectation. Concerning the cyclicality component of the portfolio, it's probably too early to be convincingly positioned for the real impetus following the recent monetary and bold fiscal measures decided recently in China. Moving into the final quarter we can reasonably expect that some trading activities could be performed as the news flow from the international events and from the corporates' side develops.

Structural trends will continue to exist and persist like the technological progress advance which obviously is one of the driving forces to stick with a very selective tech exposure as reasonable valuations. To listen more to the companies' management guidance will highly likely guide us in looking for better investment opportunities which will surely arise when the "dust will necessary settle down" after the very volatile third quarter.

	New Capital Japan Equity Fund	MSCI Japan Net Total Return Local Index	Difference
1 Month	-2.26%	-2.33%	+0.07%
3 Months	-9.83%	-5.99%	-3.84%
6 Months	-8.25%	-3.90%	-4.35%
YTD	+5.64%	+13.99%	-8.35%
1 Year	+10.14%	+16.52%	-6.38%
3 Years	+19.58%	+38.73%	-19.15%
5 Years	+86.64%	+86.92%	-0.28%
10 Years	+127.19%	+141.95%	-14.76%
Since Inception Annualised	+5.30%	+4.11%	+1.19%
Since Inception (04/07/2007)	+143.58%	+100.39%	+43.19%

Past performance is not a guide to the future. The value of your investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise as a result of market as well as currency fluctuations and you may not get back the full amount invested. The Fund is actively managed and as such does not seek to replicate its benchmark index, but instead may differ from the performance benchmark in order to achieve its objective. Fund performance is net of fees and representative of the JPY I ACC Share Class, OCF 0.95%, and shows a maximum of five previous calendar years and current year to date (computed on a NAV to NAV basis). Where share class inception begins prior to the five previous years the chart has been re based to 100. Where the Fund has fewer than five full years of performance, returns are shown from the inception date. Source: EFG Asset Management, Bloomberg. As at 30 September 2024.

Outlook

Usually in Japan the premiership doesn't last too long, except for the Abe era. Ishiba has been appointed as new LDP head and therefore nominated as prime minister. He has now to call a snap Lower House election (highly likely in October) followed by the Upper House election (most likely by July 2025) to cement his and the party leadership. His political agenda centres domestically rather on fiscal discipline, but also favouring regional revitalization projects, while he is strongly advocating for an Asia-NATO and supports Japan's military defence capabilities. To some extent it seems that Ishiba isn't necessarily aligned with his predecessors and with Abenomics, which caused a sharp stock market drop on 30 September. Investors would have preferred a different outcome but practically nothing should change in terms of policy priorities until mid-2025 at least in our view. The short-term market reaction is quite emblematic with the financials' and yen relative strength which still implies a prospective monetary policy normalization.

The longer-term implications of the historical policy decisions in China are still to be assessed but President Xi's merit is the unprecedented attempt to end deflationary forces and the significant economic downtrend and to mitigate the negative mindset on the China situation. It's probably wise to give him and his latest attempt at least the benefit of the doubt before coming to any conclusion. The debate on valuations and on the level of the discounted future revenue streams is ongoing and even more so considered the impact of the technological progress supported by the artificial intelligence-related capex pipeline.

Provided the positive performance of overall world stock markets, three major factors will clearly influence the short term positioning: firstly politics in Japan (political agenda of the new premier Ishiba) and in USA (presidential election) then the Russia-Ukraine war and Hamas-Israel ceasefire/peace negotiations and finally, central banks willingness to continue to be less restrictive and actually ready to support economic growth going forward which isn't negative per se for equities. A more positive market seasonality could also overtake the present unfavourable one going forward.

New Capital Disclaimer

MARKETING COMMUNICATION

For professional clients, qualified investors and accredited investors only. The value of investments and the income derived from them can fall as well as rise, your capital is at risk. Note: Past performance is not a guide to the future. Returns may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations.

All sources: EFG Asset Management (UK) Limited ("EFGAM"), Factset, Bloomberg, Morningstar as at end of the month. Any other sources as applicable.

This document has been produced by EFG Asset Management (UK) Limited for use by the EFG International ("EFG Group" or "EFG") worldwide subsidiaries and affiliates within the EFG Group. EFG Asset Management (UK) Limited is authorised and regulated by the UK Financial Conduct Authority, registered no. 7389736. Registered address: EFG Asset Management (UK) Limited, Park House, 116 Park Street, London W1K 6AP, United Kingdom, telephone +44 (0)20 7491 9111.

This document has been prepared solely for information purposes. The information contained herein constitutes a marketing communication and should not be construed as financial research or analysis, an offer, a public offer, an investment advice, a recommendation or solicitation to buy, sell or subscribe to financial instruments and/or to the provision of a financial service. It is not intended to be a final representation of the terms and conditions of any investment, security, other financial instrument or other product or service. The content of this document is intended only for persons who understand and are capable of assuming all risks involved. Further, this document is not intended to provide any financial, legal, accounting or tax advice and should not be relied upon in this regard. The information in this document does not take into account the specific investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of the recipient. You should seek your own professional advice (including tax advice) suitable to your particular circumstances prior to making any investment or if you are in doubt as to the information in this document.

Performance results shown are net of applicable fees and expenses. The value of investments and the income derived from them can fall as well as rise, and you may not get back the amount originally invested. Past performance is no indicator of future performance. Investment products may be subject to investment risks, involving but not limited to, currency exchange and market risks, fluctuations in value, liquidity risk and, where applicable, possible loss of principal invested. Some funds may have high volatility owing to portfolio composition or the portfolio management techniques utilised or be subject to various other risk factors. Such risks are set out in the Prospectus and KIID/KID.

A copy of the English version of the prospectus of the Fund and the key investor information document relating to the Fund is available on www.newcapital.com and may also be obtained from EFG Asset Management (UK) Limited. Where required under national rules, the key investor information document/the key information document will also be available in the local language of the relevant EEA Member State.

The information provided in this document is not the result of financial research conducted by EFGAM's research department. Therefore, it does not constitute investment or independent research as defined in EU regulation (such as "MIFID II" or "MIFIR") nor under the Swiss "Directive on the Independence of Financial Research" issued by the Swiss Banking Association or any other equivalent local rules. Investors should carefully read the Prospectus and the Key Investor Information Document (KIID) and review such documents prior to taking any investment decisions. This information can be obtained on request and free of charge from your client relationship officer.

Waystone Management Company (IE) Limited is the appointed Management Company and is regulated by the CBI. The Manager is a private limited company incorporated in Ireland under the company registration number C123529 with its registered office at 4th Floor, 35 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin, D04 A4E0, Ireland.

Although information in this document has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, no member of the EFG group represents or warrants its accuracy, and such information may be incomplete or condensed. Any opinions in this document are subject to change without notice. This document may contain personal opinions which do not necessarily reflect the position of any member of the EFG group. To the fullest extent permissible by law, no member of the EFG group shall be responsible for the consequences of any errors or omissions herein, or reliance upon any opinion or statement contained herein, and each member of the EFG group expressly disclaims any liability, including (without limitation) liability for incidental or consequential damages, arising from the same or resulting from any action or inaction on the part of the recipient in reliance on this document.

EFG and its employees may engage in securities transactions, on a proprietary basis or otherwise and hold long or short positions with regard to the instruments identified herein; such transactions or positions may be inconsistent with the views expressed in this document.

The availability of this document in any jurisdiction or country may be contrary to local law or regulation and persons who come into possession of this document should inform themselves of and observe any restrictions.

New Capital Disclaimer

This document may not be reproduced, disclosed or distributed (in whole or in part) to any other person without prior written permission from an authorised member of the EFG Group.

Financial intermediaries/independent asset managers who may be receiving this document confirm that they will need to make their own independent decisions and in addition shall ensure that, where provided to end clients/investors with the permission from the EFG Group, the content is in line with their own clients' circumstances with regard to any investment, legal, regulatory, tax or other considerations. No liability is accepted by the EFG Group for any damages, losses or costs (whether direct, indirect or consequential) that may arise from any use of this document by the financial intermediaries/independent asset managers, their clients or any third parties.

Comparisons to indexes or benchmarks in this material are being provided for illustrative purposes only and have limitations because indexes and benchmarks have material characteristics that may differ from the particular investment strategies that are being pursued by EFG and securities in which it invests.

The information and views expressed herein at the time of writing are subject to change at any time without notice and there is no obligation to update or remove outdated information.

Risks associated with debt instruments with loss-absorption features – the Fund/Note/Account may invest in debt instruments with loss-absorption features, for example, contingent convertible debt securities ("CoCos"), senior non-preferred debts and subordinated debts issued by financial institutions. These debt instruments are subject to greater risks when compared to traditional debt instruments as such instruments typically include terms and conditions which may result in them being partly or wholly written off, written down, or converted to ordinary shares of the issuer upon the occurrence of a pre-defined trigger event (e.g. when the issuer is near or at the point of non-viability or when the issuer's capital ratio falls to a specified level). Such trigger events are likely to be outside of the issuer's control and are complex and difficult to predict and can result in a significant or total reduction in the value of such instruments.

Country of origin of the collective investment scheme: Ireland. The information contained in this document is merely a brief summary of key aspects of the fund.

More complete information on the fund can be found in the relevant memorandum and articles of association, prospectus, key information document, the addenda, the supplements and the most recent audited annual report and the most recent semi-annual report. These documents constitute the sole binding basis for the purchase of fund units. Copies of these documents are available free of charge and may be obtained upon request from www.newcapital.com and also as follows:

Ireland: from the registered office of the Fund at 35 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin, Ireland

United Kingdom: from the UK facilities agent, EFG Asset Management (UK) Limited, Park House, 116 Park Street, London W1K 6AF, United Kingdom

Switzerland: from the Swiss representative, CACEIS (Switzerland) SA, Route de Signy 35, CH-1260 Nyon 2 and the paying agent, EFG Bank SA, 24 Quai du Seujet, CH-1211, Geneva 2, Switzerland.

Italy: from the Italian paying agent, All funds Bank S.A.U., Milan Branch, Via Santa Margherita, 7 – 20121, Milan, Italy

Germany: from the German Facility Agent, FE fundinfo (Luxembourg) S.a.r.l. 6 Boulevard des Lumières, Belvaux 4369 Luxembourg

Austria, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden: from the European Facility Service provider, FE fundinfo with registered address 6 Boulevard des Lumières, Belvaux, 4369 Luxembourg

Cyprus: from the Cypriot Paying Agent Eurobank Cyprus Ltd, 41 Makariou Avenue, 1065, Nicosia, Cyprus

Greece: from the Greek Paying Agent, Eurobank S.A., 8 Othonos Street, 10557 Athens, Greece

A summary of investor rights associated with an investment in the Fund shall be available in English from https://www.newcapital.com/summary-investor-rights.html

As part of the Sub-Fund's investment strategy, certain ESG considerations are taken into account. Investors should consider all the characteristics or objectives of the promoted fund as described in its prospectus or any other fund-related document before making an investment decision. Not considering sustainability risks may have a material negative impact on the value of an investment and may result in an entire loss of value of the relevant investment(s).

For Sustainability Related Disclosures, please visit https://www.newcapital.com/responsible-investing.html

Termination of marketing arrangements: Waystone Management Company (IE) Limited have the right to terminate the arrangements made for marketing the Fund in certain jurisdictions and to certain investors. In such circumstances, Shareholders in the affected EEA Member State will be notified of this decision and will be provided with the opportunity to redeem their shareholding in the

New Capital Disclaimer

Fund free of any charges or deductions for at least 30 working days from the date of such notification.

European Union: Waystone Investment Management (IE) Limited is the European investment distributor and is authorized in Ireland as an investment firm under the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive. Waystone Investment Management (IE) Limited acts as a distributor in the European Union under reference number C1011 and Ireland. Waystone Investment Management (IE) Limited does not provide investment advice on an independent basis.

Hong Kong: This document is issued by EFG Asset Management (Hong Kong) Limited and has not been reviewed by the Securities and Futures Commission ('SFC") in Hong Kong. The SFC takes no responsibility for the contents of this statement and makes no representation as to its accuracy or completeness. Registered address: 18th Floor, International Commerce Centre, 1 Austin Road West, Kowloon, Hong Kong. The above information does not constitute an offer, solicitation or invitation, publicity or any other advice or recommendation. Informational sources are believed to be reliable and accurate at the time of issue but no representation or warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the fairness, accuracy or completeness of the information. Investment involves risk. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Before making any investment decision to invest in the Fund, you should read the Hong Kong offering documents and especially the risk factors therein. An investment in the Fund may not be suitable for everyone. If you are in any doubt about the contents of this document, you should consult your stockbroker, bank manager, solicitor, accountant or other financial adviser for independent professional advice.

Singapore: This document shall be construed as part of the information memorandum (the "Information Memorandum") for the Fund, which shall be deemed to include and incorporate this document and any other document, correspondence, communication or material sent or provided to eligible participants in relation to the Fund from time to time. Accordingly, this document must not be relied upon or construed on its own without reference to and as part of the Information Memorandum. The Fund has not been authorised or recognised by the Monetary Authority of Singapore ("MAS"), and the units in the Fund (the "Units") are not allowed to be offered to the retail public. Moreover, the Information Memorandum is not a prospectus as defined in the Securities and Futures Act 2001 of Singapore, as amended or modified from time to time ("SFA"), and statutory liability under the SFA in relation to the content of prospectuses would not apply. The Information Memorandum has not been and will not be registered as a prospectus with the MAS. Accordingly, the Information Memorandum, this document and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the Units may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the Units be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to the public, any member of the public or any person in Singapore, other than under an exemption provided in the SFA for offers made (a) to an institutional investor (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA) pursuant to Section 304 of the SFA, (b) to a relevant person (as defined in Section 305(5) of the SFA), or any person pursuant to an offer referred to in Section 305(2) of the SFA, and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 305 of the SFA, or (c) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with, the conditions of any other applicable provision of the SFA. The Units are classified as "capital markets products other than prescribed capital markets products" (as defined in the Securities and Futures (Capital Markets Products) Regulations 2018 and Specified Investment Products (as defined in MAS Notice SFA 04-N12: Notice on the Sale of Investment Products and MAS Notice FAA-N16: Notice on Recommendations on Investment Products).

Information for investors in Australia:
For Professional, Institutional and Wholesale Investors Only. This document has been prepared and issued by EFG Asset Management (UK) Limited, a private limited company with registered number 7389736 and with its registered office address at Park House, Park Street, London W1K 6AP (telephone number +44 (0)20 7491 9111). EFG Asset Management (UK) Limited is regulated and authorized by the Financial Conduct Authority No. 536771.
EFG Asset Management (UK) Limited is exempt from the requirement to hold an Australian financial services licence in respect of the financial services it provides to wholesale clients in Australia and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority of the United Kingdom (FCA Registration No. 536771) under the laws of the United Kingdom which differ from Australian laws.
This document is personnal and intended solely for the use of the person to whom it is given or sent and may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, to any other person.
ASIC Class Order CO 03/1099 EFG Asset Management (UK) Limited notifies you that it is relying on the Australian Securities & Investments Commission (ASIC) Class Order CO 03/1099 (Class Order) exemption (as extended in operation by ASIC Corporations (Repeal and Transitional Instrument 2016/396) for UK Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) regulated firms which exempts it from the requirement to hold an Australian financial services licence (AFSL) under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) (Corporations Act) in respect of the financial services we provide to you.

UK Regulatory Requirements
The financial services that we provide to you are regulated by the FCA under the laws and regulatory requirements of the United Kingdom which are different to Australia. Consequently any offer or other documentation that you receive from us in the course of us providing financial services to you will be prepared in accordance with those

laws and regulatory requirements. The UK regulatory requirements refer to legislation, rules enacted pursuant to the legislation and any other relevant policies or documents issued by the FCA. Your Status as a Wholesale Client. In order that we may provide financial services to you, and for us to comply with the Class Order, you must be a 'wholesale client' within the meaning given by section 761G of the Corporations Act. Accordingly,
by accepting any documentation from us prior to the commencement of or in the course of us providing financial services to you, you warrant to us that you are a 'wholesale client'; agree to provide such information or evidence that we may request from time to time to confirm your status as a wholesale client;
agree that we may cease providing financial services to you if you are no longer a wholesale client or do not provide us with information or evidence satisfactory to us to confirm your status as a wholesale client;
and agree to notify us in writing within 5 business days if you cease to be a 'wholesale client' for the purposes of the financial services that we provide to you.

IMPORTANT NOTE: FOR PUBLICATIONS WITH CONTENT RELATED TO FUNDS

Offering Documents

Neither this document nor any document under which Interests in the New Capital UCITS Fund plc (the "Fund") are offered is a prospectus, product disclosure statement or other formal disclosure document under the Corporations Act. Interests in the Fund may not be offered, issued, sold or distributed in Australia other than by way of or pursuant to an offer or invitation that does not need disclosure to investors either under Part 7.9 or Part 6D.2 of the Corporations Act, whether by reason of the investor being a wholesale client (as defined in section 761G of the Corporations Act and applicable regulations) or otherwise. Nothing in this document nor any document under which interests in the Fund are offered constitutes an offer of interests in a financial product or financial product advice to a 'retail client' (as defined in section 761G of the Corporations Act and applicable regulations).

The issuer of the interests in the Fund relies on exemptions available under Australian law from the need to hold an AFSL for the provision of financial services to Australian wholesale clients. Note that as all investors must be wholesale clients, no cooling off rights are available in relation to an investment in the Fund.

Contact us:
Park House
116 Park Street
London
W1K 6AP
UK
+44 (0)20 7491 9111
enquiries@newcapital.com