

FSSA Asian Equity Plus Fund (Irish VCC)

Investment objective and policy

The Fund aims to grow your investment.

The Fund invests at least 70% of its assets in shares of companies based in, or closely associated with, the Asia Pacific region (excluding Japan). The Fund invests in companies offering the potential to pay a regular income as well as having the potential for long term growth. The Fund may invest in any emerging markets in the Asia Pacific region, in companies of any size or industry. Emerging markets are countries that are progressing toward becoming advanced, usually shown by some development in financial markets, the existence of some form of stock exchange and a regulatory body. The Fund will not invest more than 50% of its assets in China A Shares. The Fund may use derivatives with the aim of risk reduction or efficient management.

Fund information

Fund launch date	14 July 2003
Fund size (US\$m)	5558.2
Benchmark	MSCI AC Asia Pacific ex Japan Net Index*
Number of holdings	50
Fund manager(s)	Martin Lau
Research rating ^	Morningstar@:Silver

* The benchmark of the Fund changed from MSCI AC Asia Pacific ex Japan Gross to MSCI AC Asia Pacific ex Japan Net with effect from 1 July 2016. This change has been reflected in the calculation of the benchmark performance.

^ This does not constitute an investment recommendation and is not indicative of future results. Methodology available on rating provider's website.

Available share classes

Share class	Sedol	ISIN
FSSA Asian Equity Plus Fund USD Class I (Distributing)	3331882	IE0032834883
FSSA Asian Equity Plus Fund USD Class I (Accumulation)	B067MR5	IE00B067MR52
FSSA Asian Equity Plus Fund GBP Class III (Distributing)	B97LZ36	IE00B97LZ362
FSSA Asian Equity Plus Fund USD Class III (Accumulation)	B4WZJB4	IE00B4WZJB45
FSSA Asian Equity Plus Fund USD Class III (Distributing)	B97MK23	IE00B97MK230
FSSA Asian Equity Plus Fund EUR Class VI (Accumulation)	BYXW356	IE00BYXW3560
FSSA Asian Equity Plus Fund HKD Class I (Accumulation)	B97KM10	IE00B97KM107
FSSA Asian Equity Plus Fund GBP Class I (Accumulation)	B97HWB1	IE00B97HWB13
FSSA Asian Equity Plus Fund GBP Class III (Accumulation)	B97RD74	IE00B97RD747
FSSA Asian Equity Plus Fund AUD Class I Hedged N (Accumulation)	BJBYLS8	IE00BJBYLS83
FSSA Asian Equity Plus Fund SGD Class I Hedged N (Accumulation)	BJBYLT9	IE00BJBYLT90
FSSA Asian Equity Plus Fund SGD Class III (Accumulation)	BT061Q3	IE000Z58FMJ0
FSSA Asian Equity Plus Fund CNH Class I Hedged N (Distributing)	BLGYFF5	IE00G08UCB9

About FSSA Investment Managers

FSSA Investment Managers is an autonomous investment management team within First Sentier Investors, with dedicated investment professionals based in Hong Kong and Singapore. We are specialists in Asia Pacific and Global Emerging Markets equity strategies, managing assets on behalf of clients globally.

We are bottom-up investors, using fundamental research and analysis to construct high-conviction portfolios. We conduct more than a thousand direct company meetings a year, seeking to identify high quality companies to invest in. We look for founders and management teams that act with integrity and risk awareness; and dominant franchises that have the ability to deliver sustainable and predictable returns over the long term. As responsible, long-term shareholders, we have integrated ESG analysis into our investment process and engage extensively on environmental, labour and governance issues.

Risk factors

This document is a financial promotion for the FSSA Asian Equity Plus Fund in the EEA and elsewhere where lawful. Investing involves certain risks including:

- **The value of investments and any income from them may go down as well as up and are not guaranteed. Investors may get back substantially less than the original amount invested.**
- **Emerging market risk:** Emerging markets tend to be more sensitive to economic and political conditions than developed markets. Other factors include greater liquidity risk, restrictions on investment or transfer of assets, failed/delayed settlement and difficulties valuing securities.
- **Currency risk:** The Fund invests in assets which are denominated in other currencies; changes in exchange rates will affect the value of the Fund and could create losses. Currency control decisions made by governments could affect the value of the Fund's investments and could cause the Fund to defer or suspend redemptions of its shares.
- **Single country / specific region risk:** investing in a single country or specific region may be riskier than investing in a number of different countries or regions. Investing in a larger number of countries or regions helps spread risk.

Reference to specific securities (if any) is included for the purpose of illustration only and should not be construed as a recommendation to buy or sell. Reference to the names of any company is merely to explain the investment strategy and should not be construed as investment advice or a recommendation to invest in any of those companies.

For a full description of the terms of investment and the risks please see the Prospectus and Key Information Document.

**If you are in any doubt as to the suitability of our funds for your investment needs, please seek investment advice.
If you are unsure of the terminology used in this report, please seek independent financial advice.**

Annual performance in USD (%) to 31 March 2025

	12 mths to 31/03/25	12 mths to 31/03/24	12 mths to 31/03/23	12 mths to 31/03/22	12 mths to 31/03/21
FSSA Asian Equity Plus Fund	11.4	-7.5	-5.2	-8.7	52.9
MSCI AC Asia Pacific ex Japan Net Index	9.1	5.3	-8.9	-10.8	58.6

Cumulative performance in USD (%) to 31 March 2025

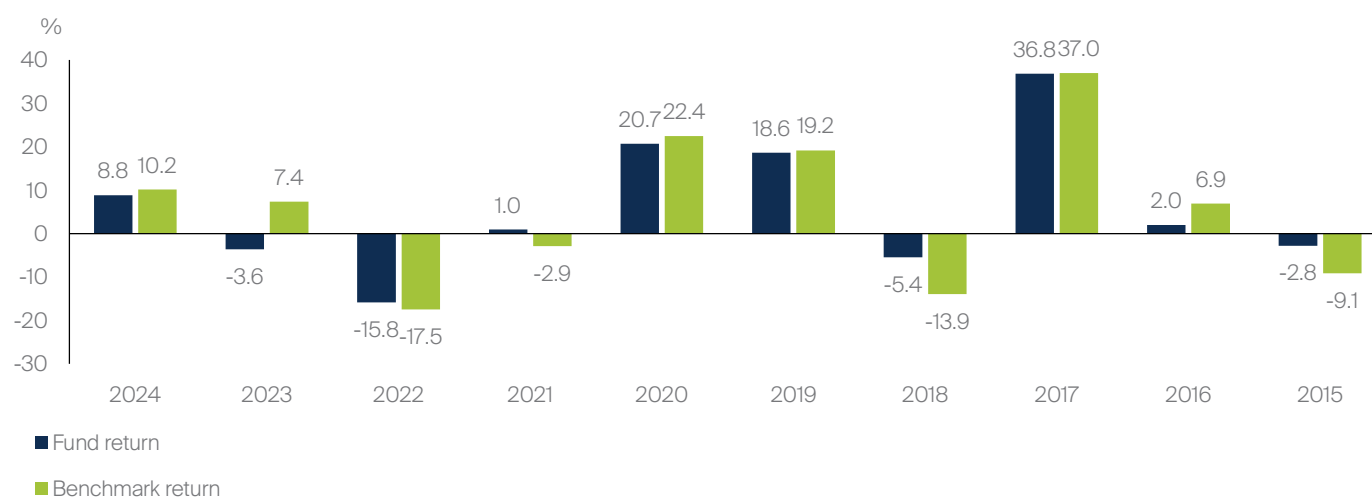
	Since Inception	10 yrs	5 yrs	3 yrs	1 yr	YTD	6 mths	3 mths
FSSA Asian Equity Plus Fund	426.4	55.1	36.4	-2.3	11.4	1.5	-4.3	1.5
MSCI AC Asia Pacific ex Japan Net Index	272.6	53.3	48.0	4.6	9.1	1.1	-7.1	1.1

Performance review

Over the past 12 months, key contributors to performance included **Tencent**, amid a rebound in its core gaming business and improved regulatory conditions in China. Meanwhile the company's profitability has improved, driven by the shift in its business mix with newer businesses (such as video account ads and e-commerce) contributing higher gross margins. **Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp (OCBC)** reported better-than-expected earnings growth, driven by non-interest income and increased activity in wealth management.

On the negative side, **Shenzhou** fell as Nike's cautious outlook hurt sentiment towards apparel makers. In the longer term, we believe Shenzhou could gain market share as brands become more conscious about their supply chain and consolidate in favour of the best quality operators. **Unilever Indonesia** also fell amid consumer down-trading and increased competition. Progress on the group's turnaround has been slower than expected, and underlying sales are still decidedly weak.

Calendar year performance (% in USD) to 31 March 2025



These figures refer to the past. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. For investors based in countries with currencies other than USD, the return may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations. Since inception performance figures have been calculated from 25 February 2005. All performance data for the FSSA Asian Equity Plus Fund Class I (Accumulation) USD as at 31 March 2025. Source for fund - Lipper IM / First Sentier Investors (UK) Funds Limited. Performance data is calculated on a net basis by deducting fees incurred at fund level (e.g. the management fee and other fund expenses), save that it does not take account of initial charges or switching fees (if any). Income reinvested is included on a net of tax basis. Source for benchmark - MSCI, income reinvested net of tax.

▲ On 22 September 2020, First State Asian Equity Plus Fund was rebranded as FSSA Asian Equity Plus Fund.

Portfolio review

New purchases included **H World** (formerly Huazhu), a multi-brand hotel group in China. The company has scale, strong brands, advanced IT systems and good cost control. As China's economy continues to shift towards domestic consumption, branded hotels should gain market share and benefit from the growing spend on travel and leisure activities.

We bought back **Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB)**, one of India's leading financial services companies, after the valuations became more attractive. The bank has consistently improved the strength of its deposit franchise and maintained better asset quality than its peers across the business cycle. We expect to see a growing trend of formalised financial savings, benefiting KMB's insurance, mutual funds and asset management businesses.

We sold **Mphasis** as its valuations appeared expensive.

Stock spotlight

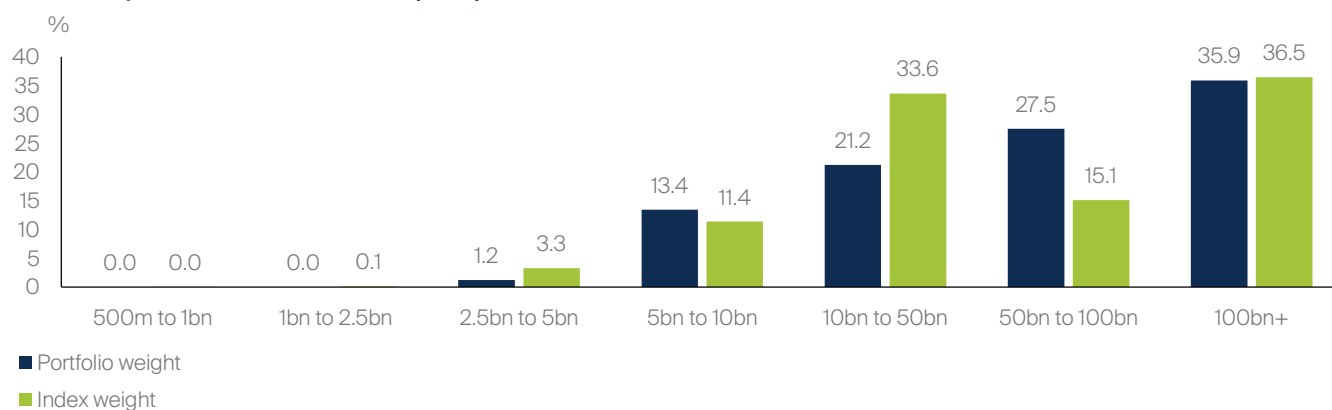
We believe **Taiwan Semiconductor (TSMC)** is one of the best ways to capture the rising trend of artificial intelligence (AI), smart devices and the Internet of Things (IoT). Established in 1987, TSMC was the pioneer of the foundry model, which separated semiconductor chip designs (produced by fabless companies) from the fabrication or manufacturing process (outsourced to a foundry).

TSMC has become the world's largest dedicated contract chip manufacturer, with more than 50% market share. Growth has remained strong due to its advanced technology and strategy of partnering with, instead of competing with, its customers. The benefits of this are twofold – its customers don't have to worry about intellectual property transfer, while TSMC gains exposure to the latest technology trends and doesn't have to worry about tech obsolescence. This strengthens TSMC's economic resilience and reinforces its leading position within the ecosystem. Although its growth will eventually taper off due to the law of large numbers (it is now among the 10 largest companies in the world), for now it should continue to gain market share and outpace the overall industry. It has demonstrated pricing power amid strong customer demand, which can in turn drive more investments in a virtuous cycle.

Despite its asset intensive nature, TSMC has maintained attractive returns on equity, while profitability is near record highs driven by operating leverage and higher utilisation rates. But while the management are still very confident, we worry that the industry is getting carried away with the AI-hype.

A recent risk is the added complexity from geopolitics and de-globalisation. As TSMC diversifies geographically and capital expenditure increases, there are grounds for expecting lower marginal returns on capital. For example, TSMC's expansion into the US is turning out to be harder than expected, due to issues around recruitment and training. Having plants outside Taiwan is likely going to dilute returns.

Market capitalisation breakdown (USD)



Data source: For illustration purposes only. Portfolio weights may not add up to 100% as cash holdings are excluded and full coverage of stocks is not always available. This information is calculated by First Sentier Investors. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Reference to specific securities (if any) is included for the purpose of illustration only and should not be construed as a recommendation to buy or sell the same. All securities mentioned herein may or may not form part of the holdings of First Sentier Investors' portfolios at a certain point in time, and the holdings may change over time. These figures refer to the past. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. For investors based in countries with currencies other than USD, the return may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations.

Outlook

News about US reciprocal tariffs have rocked global markets, as President Trump announced sweeping import taxes that were far higher and affected a much broader swathe of countries than expected. The situation is still fluid, but our broad take is that the tariffs are being used primarily as a negotiation tool – an attempt to drive more manufacturing back into the US. If high tariffs do remain in place, it's clearly negative for the global economy.

From a portfolio perspective, even in a more adverse scenario, we remain confident in our holdings' ability to navigate the environment, as they have done in the past. Our companies are characterised by strong competitive advantages – whether in brand strength, distribution, or cost leadership – and have historically managed to preserve margins and profitability across cycles, despite headwinds. Most of our portfolio holdings have strong balance sheets (net-cash) which should allow them to weather a difficult period and invest counter-cyclically to gain market share.

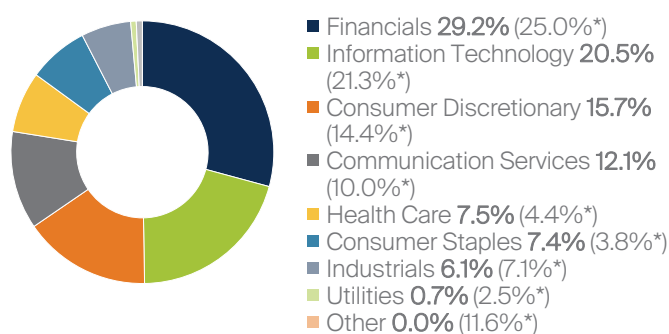
Our long-term investment themes:

- Dominant consumer franchises which have an edge in brand, distribution and innovation.
- High quality financials, supported by a strong deposit franchise or a specific loan niche.
- The rise in healthcare spending, due to increasing incomes and healthy consumer choices.
- Beneficiaries of a smarter, more connected world.
- An ageing population and the growing trend of automation.

Ten largest company holdings as at 31 March 2025

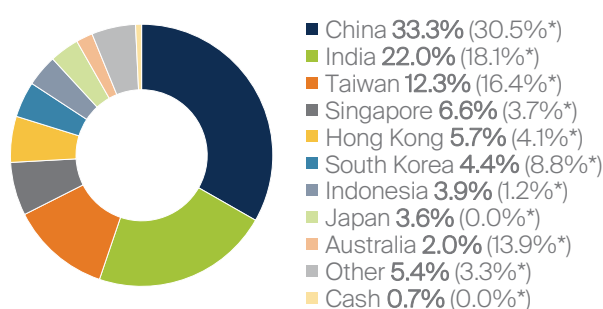
Stock name	Country	Sector	Portfolio weight (%)
Tencent Holdings Ltd.	China	Communication Services	9.0
HDFC Bank	India	Financials	6.5
Taiwan Semiconductor (TSMC)	Taiwan	Information Technology	6.2
ICICI Bank Limited	India	Financials	5.2
Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation	Singapore	Financials	4.6
Midea Group	China	Consumer Discretionary	3.9
China Mengniu Dairy Co., Ltd.	China	Consumer Staples	3.5
PT Bank Central Asia Tbk	Indonesia	Financials	3.4
Netease Inc	China	Communication Services	3.1
AIA Group Limited	Hong Kong	Financials	3.0

Sector breakdown



*Index weight

Country breakdown



*Index weight

Sector and Country classifications provided by Factset and First Sentier Investors. The Fund may hold multiple equity securities in the same company, which have been combined to provide the Fund's total position in that company. Index weights, if any, typically include only the main domestic-listed security. The above Fund weightings may or may not include reference to multiple securities. Allocation percentage is rounded to the nearest one decimal place and the total allocation percentage may not add up to 100%.

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Top 5 contributors to absolute performance

3 months to 31 March 2025

Stock name	Country	Sector	Value added (bps*)
Tencent Holdings Ltd.	China	Communication Services	180
Sony Group Corporation	Japan	Consumer Discretionary	49
Netease Inc	China	Communication Services	38
China Mengniu Dairy Co., Ltd.	China	Consumer Staples	30
ICICI Bank Limited	India	Financials	26

12 months to 31 March 2025

Stock name	Country	Sector	Value added (bps*)
Tencent Holdings Ltd.	China	Communication Services	420
HDFC Bank INR1	India	Financials	185
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	Taiwan	Information Technology	150
Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited	Singapore	Financials	128
Sony Group Corporation	Japan	Consumer Discretionary	115

Bottom 5 contributors to absolute performance

3 months to 31 March 2025

Stock name	Country	Sector	Value added (bps*)
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	Taiwan	Information Technology	-124
PT Bank Central Asia Tbk	Indonesia	Financials	-41
FPT Corp.	Vietnam	Information Technology	-36
Tata Consultancy Services Limited	India	Information Technology	-33
CSL	Australia	Health Care	-22

12 months to 31 March 2025

Stock name	Country	Sector	Value added (bps*)
Samsung Electronics Co Ltd Pfd Non-Voting	South Korea	Information Technology	-156
PT Bank Central Asia Tbk	Indonesia	Financials	-61
Shenzhou International Group Holdings Limited	China	Consumer Discretionary	-43
PT Unilever Indonesia Tbk	Indonesia	Consumer Staples	-43
CSL	Australia	Health Care	-38

Stock contributions show the impact of the individual stock's performance to the total fund performance. These stock contributions show the top 5 and bottom 5 contributors to the fund and are not representative of the performance of the fund as a whole.

These figures refer to the past. Past Performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. For investors based in countries with currencies other than USD, the return may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuation.

This stock information does not constitute any offer or inducement to enter into investment activity.

Contributions are calculated at the investee company level before the deduction of any fees incurred at fund level (e.g. the management fee and other fund expenses) but after deduction of transactional costs. Stocks held/listed in non-index countries have economic activity > 50% from developing economies.

* A basis point is a unit of measure used in finance to describe the percentage change in value or rate of a financial instrument. One basis point is equivalent to 0.01% (1/100th of a percent) or 0.0001 in decimal form.

Data source: This information is calculated by First Sentier Investors.

Portfolio risk analysis - ex-post 3 years annualised to 31 March 2025

Risk measure	Value	Risk description
Beta	0.93	Beta is a measure of volatility relative to the market. A beta of 1 would indicate that the fund tended to move in line with the market; a beta greater than 1 would indicate that the fund has been more volatile than the market; whereas a beta less than 1 would indicate that the fund has been less volatile than the market.
Information Ratio	-0.27	The fund's excess return divided by its tracking error. It is designed to assess a portfolio's performance relative to its level of benchmark risk. The higher the fund's information ratio, the more excess return it generates for each unit of tracking error.
Portfolio Standard Deviation	17.65%	A measure of how much the returns of the fund vary relative to the arithmetical average. The higher the fund's standard deviation, the more its returns tend to deviate from the mean.
Benchmark Standard Deviation	18.54%	A measure of how much the returns of the index vary relative to the arithmetical average. The higher the index's standard deviation, the more its returns tend to deviate from the mean.
Tracking Error	4.38%	The standard deviation of the difference between the fund's returns and those of the index. The higher the fund's tracking error, the more its performance relative to the benchmark may vary.

Portfolio risk analysis - ex-ante at 31 March 2025

Risk measure	Value	Risk description
Dividend Yield (Fund)	2.38%	The annual dividend yield paid per share divided by the share price. This factor measures the value of company shares according to the stream of dividend income resulting from share ownership.
Dividend Yield (Index)	2.64%	The annual dividend yield paid per share divided by the share price. This factor measures the value of company shares according to the stream of dividend income resulting from share ownership.
Price to Book (Fund)	2.43	The ratio of the company's book value (the sum of shareholders' equity plus accumulated retained earnings from the P & L account) to its share price. This factor has been one of the most successful measures of the intrinsic value of company shares.
Price to Book (Index)	2.05	The ratio of the company's book value (the sum of shareholders' equity plus accumulated retained earnings from the P & L account) to its share price. This factor has been one of the most successful measures of the intrinsic value of company shares.
Price to Earnings (Fund)	17.35	Annual earnings (adjusted for amortizations of intangibles, extraordinary charges and credits) per share divided by the share price. This factor measures the worth of a company's ability to support each share with after tax earnings.
Price to Earnings (Index)	14.86	Annual earnings (adjusted for amortizations of intangibles, extraordinary charges and credits) per share divided by the share price. This factor measures the worth of a company's ability to support each share with after tax earnings.

Data source: Ex-post information is calculated by First Sentier Investors, ex-ante information is provided by FactSet.

Important information

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