

## **Portfolio Managers**





Jonathan Windust

The Fund gained 4.3% in December. The strong rally in global share markets continued, buoyed by hopes of interest rate cuts in 2024.

The top contributor was semiconductor producer Micron Technology (+12.3%), driven by recovering chip prices which will support a strong earnings recovery in 2024. Ride-hailing giant Uber (+9.2%), delivered another strong month, on confirmation of S&P 500 index inclusion. Meta (+8.2%) capped off a stellar 2023, with shares rising over 190% in the year. Other strong performers included US hospital operator HCA (+8.1%), non-alcoholic beverage bottler Coca-Cola Europacific Partners (+10.1%), and building materials company CRH PLC (+12.0%).

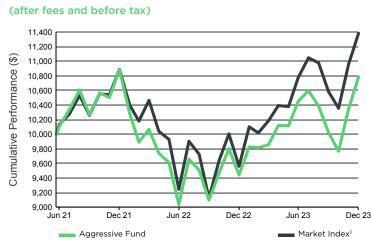
Negative contributors included insurance broker Arthur J Gallagher & Co (-9.7%) as investors rotated away from companies that are more defensive and that benefit from inflation. Bank of Ireland (-4.3%) also underperformed on concerns rising deposit costs will reduce its net interest income this year. Encouragingly the stock has made a strong start to 2024.

Australian shares soared in December with biopharma company Neuren Pharmaceuticals (+61.1%) a standout, making strong gains for a second consecutive month on positive phase two clinical trials results for a medicine in development. Other positive contributors included New Zealand accounting software provider Xero (+9.0%) and natural gas company Santos (+10.0%).

Looking ahead, share markets will be sensitive to the outlook for interest rates, particularly the prospect of cuts. Many economists now expect a soft-landing scenario in the US, where labour markets stay resilient and we avoid a significant rise in the unemployment rate. While this is possible, there are still risks and we remain well diversified, so the portfolio can perform in a variety of economic scenarios.

# To view Milford's December 2023 Market and Economic Review please see milfordasset.com/insights.

## For previous fund reports see milfordasset.com/fund-reports.



#### **Cumulative Fund Performance**

Assumes the growth of \$10,000 invested at the Fund's inception date.

## **Key Fund Facts**

Objective <sup>2</sup>	To maximise capital growth over the minimum recommended investment timeframe							
Description	Primarily invests in international equities, with a moderate allocation to Australasian equities							
Minimum recommended investment timeframe		10 years +						
Target Allocation		5% Income Assets / 95% Growth Assets						
Neutral FX Exposure		24.5%						
Net Asset Value (NAV)		\$1,438.5 M						
Buy-sell Spread	None - swing pricing applies (See PDS fo details)			S for				
Inception Date	21 June 2021							
Benchmark	(		Not applicable					
Base Fund Fee <sup>3</sup>		1.15%						
Performance Fee		Not applicable						
Total Fund Fees <sup>4</sup>		1.15%						
		Lower risk	¢				Hig	her risk
<b>Risk Indicator</b>		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Potentiall	y lower	returns		Potential	ly higher	returns



#### Investment Performance after fees as at 31 December 2023<sup>5</sup>

Unit Price: \$1.0745

	1 Month	3 Months	1 year	3 years (p.a.)	5 years (p.a.)	Since inception (p.a.)
Milford Aggressive Fund (Gross Of Tax)	4.33%	7.58%	14.23%	-	-	3.04%
After Tax 10.50%	4.24%	7.37%	13.77%	-	-	2.73%
After Tax 17.50%	4.18%	7.23%	13.47%	-	-	2.53%
After Tax 28.00%	4.10%	7.02%	13.01%	-	-	2.23%
Market Index <sup>1</sup>	3.96%	7.53%	19.04%	-	-	5.25%

## **Top Security Holdings**

Holdings	% of Fund
HCA Holdings	2.81%
Fiserv	2.79%
Meta Platforms	2.68%
Elevance Health	2.57%
Uber Technologies	2.35%
Microsoft	2.34%
Coca-Cola Europacific Partners	2.33%
Servicenow	2.29%
Avantor	2.29%
Sony	2.09%

## **Current Asset Allocation**

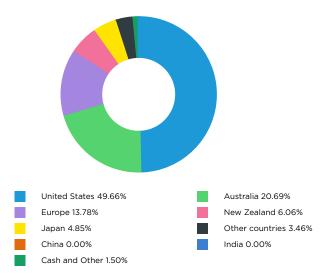
	Actual Investment Mix	Neutral Investment Mix
Effective Cash #	0.00%	0.0%
New Zealand Fixed Interest	0.10%	0.0%
International Fixed Interest	0.02%	0.0%
New Zealand Equities	4.75%	5%
Australian Equities	22.87%	20%
International Equities	70.75%	70%
Other	1.51%	0.0%

# The actual cash held by the Fund is 8.72%. Effective Cash reported above is adjusted to reflect the Fund's notional positions (e.g. derivatives used to increase or reduce market exposure).

#### **Sector Allocation**

Allocation	Weight %
Health Care	15.80%
Financials	14.11%
Information Technology	13.99%
Industrials	12.89%
Consumer Discretionary	11.38%
Materials	8.15%
Consumer Staples	6.29%
Energy	6.09%
Other Sectors	9.80%
Cash and Other	1.50%

#### **Region Exposure**



1. The Fund does not have a performance benchmark, hence a market index has been included for comparison purposes. See the Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives for more details on the market index. The market index is a blend of indices that represent the Fund's neutral asset allocation. Note the Fund's investment strategy is designed to achieve its objective, which may mean that at times, the returns of the market index may not be an appropriate measure. **2**. After the Base Fund Fee but before tax and before the performance fee. **3**. Where applicable, the Base Fund Fee includes an estimate of non-related underlying fund charges. **4**. The Total Fund Fees comprise the Base Fund Fee and any estimated Performance Fee. Please refer to the Product Disclosure Statement for more information as to how these are calculated. **5**. Please note past performance is not a guarantee of future returns.

Please refer to the 'Glossary for the Monthly Fact Sheet' at milfordasset.com/fact-sheet-ks for more information about the data published within this document. Disclaimer: The Milford Fund Fact Sheet has been prepared by Milford Funds Limited. It is based on information believed to be accurate and reliable although no guarantee can be given that this is the case. No reproduction of any material either in part or in full is permitted without prior permission. For more information about the Fund, please refer to the Production Disclosure Statement or the latest Quarterly Fund Update.