

Australian Ethical is one of Australia's leading ethical fund managers. By investing responsibly in well-managed ethical companies, we deliver competitive financial performance to our clients and positive change to society and the environment. Since our inception in 1986, our Ethical Charter has guided all investment decisions and underpinned our business practices. Every year 10 per cent of our profits* are distributed to charitable organisations and social impact initiatives through The Australian Ethical Foundation.

Investment objective

To provide long-term growth by investing in small capitalisation companies that meet the Australian Ethical Charter. The fund aims to significantly exceed the return of the S&P/ASX Small Industrials Total Return Index after taking into account management costs over a 7 year period.

Price information

Pricing frequency: Daily

Buy/Sell spread: 0.15%/0.15%

Fund facts

Fund size: \$15.39m

Benchmark: S&P ASX Small Industrials

Asset class: Equity

Inception date: 30/06/2015

Minimum investment timeframe: 7 Years

Risk level: Very high

Identifiers

ISIN code: AU60AUG00267

APIR code: AUG0026AU

Distributions

Frequency: 2

Dates: 30/06, 31/12

Fees

Management costs - PDS: 1.69%

Performance fee: 20.00%

Minimum initial investment: \$1,000

\$500 with a Regular investor plan

Additional transactional and operational costs: 0.00%

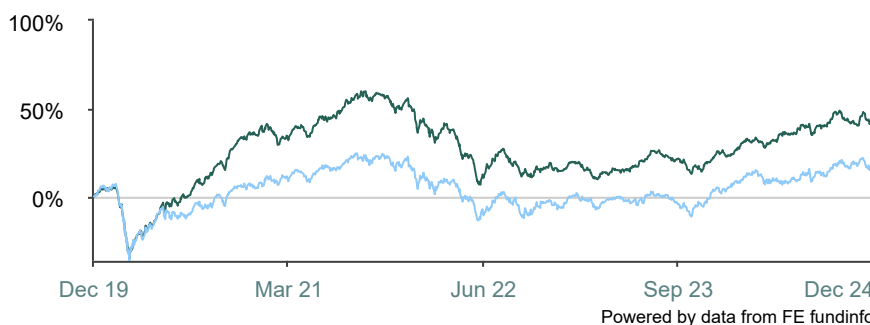
A full explanation of all the fees and costs that you may be charged for investing in the Fund is provided in the Fund's Product Disclosure Statements available from our website australianethical.com.au

*(after tax, before bonus expense)

Investment strategy

The opportunity to invest in a diversified portfolio of shares in small capitalisation companies on the basis of their social, environmental and financial credentials. The Fund utilises an active stock-picking management style with stocks selected for growth rather than income. All stocks are chosen on the basis of relative value where we deem the risks are being adequately priced.

Cumulative performance (as at 31/12/2024)



■ Australian Ethical Emerging Companies
■ S&P/ASX Small Indust.

Performance (as at 31/12/2024)

	1m	3m	6m	1y	3y	5y	10y	Since inception (ann.)
Fund	-0.4%	-2.0%	6.7%	15.4%	-2.1%	7.7%	-	12.0%
S&P/ASX Small Indust.	-3.1%	-0.4%	7.1%	12.1%	-0.8%	3.3%	-	6.9%

Calendar Performance (as at end 2024)

	CY2024	CY2023	CY2022	CY2021	CY2020
Fund	15.4%	9.7%	-25.8%	14.4%	35.1%
S&P/ASX Small Indust.	12.1%	11.4%	-21.8%	13.7%	5.9%

Source: FE fundinfo.

Total returns are calculated using the sell (exit) price, net of management fees and gross of tax as if distributions of income have been reinvested at the actual distribution reinvestment price. The actual returns received by an investor will depend on the timing, buy and exit prices of individual transactions. Return of capital and the performance of your investment in the fund are not guaranteed. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. Figures showing a period of less than one year have not been adjusted to show an annual total return. Figures for periods of greater than one year are on a per annum compound basis. The current benchmark may not have been the benchmark over all periods shown in the above chart and tables. The calculation of the benchmark performance links the performance of previous benchmarks and the current benchmark over the relevant time periods.

Top 10

CONTACT ENERGY LTD	4.2%
BRAVURA SOLUTIONS LTD	3.7%
GENTRACK GROUP LTD	3.4%
AROA BIOSURGERY LTD	3.3%
PEXA GROUP LTD	3.1%
DOMAIN HOLDINGS AUSTRALIA LIMITED	2.9%
MERIDIAN ENERGY LIMITED -PARTIAL PAID SHARE	2.8%
EROAD LTD	2.7%
AUSSIE BROADBAND PTY LTD	2.6%
NUIX LTD	2.4%

Ratings and awards

RIAA Certification:



Why invest ethically?

Portfolio diversification: Diversify your portfolio by investing in companies and sectors not well covered by other fund managers and brokers.

Help build a better world: Invest in the new, low-carbon economy, fund medical and technology breakthroughs, efficient transport and more.

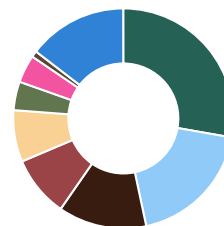
Promote human rights: We strive to avoid any investment in companies involved in the poor treatment of asylum seekers or the exploitation of workers through poor working conditions.

Need Help?

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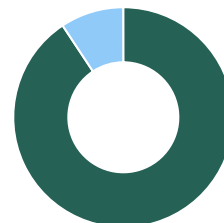
Sector allocation

Information Technology	27.8%
Health Care	18.9%
Financials	13.0%
Utilities	9.0%
Communication Services	7.6%
Industrials	4.2%
Consumer Discretionary	4.1%
Materials	0.9%
Other	14.6%



Asset allocation

Australian & NZ Small Cap	90.7%
Cash	9.3%



Commentary

The Emerging Companies Fund (Wholesale) (the "Fund") returned -1.7% net of fees for the quarter ending 31 December 2024, underperforming its benchmark, which declined -0.4%. The Emerging Companies Fund (Retail) returned -2.0% over the quarter.

The Fund employs a small-cap strategy, investing in small and microcap companies across Australia and New Zealand. Stock selection in information technology was a standout contributor to performance, while investments in financials and health care detracted from results.

Bravura Solutions (BVS) delivered strong performance during the quarter after upgrading its FY25 revenue and operating earnings guidance, exceeding consensus expectations. The positive outlook was largely driven by cost reductions and favourable currency movements. With a strong balance sheet, the company has initiated a capital return, resumed dividends, and undertaken an ongoing on-market share buyback, all of which have been well-received by investors.

Conversely, certain financial stocks underperformed, including OFX, which faced challenges from slower-than-expected revenue growth.

Overall, the quarter saw reduced enthusiasm for micro-cap stocks, following the initial uptick in risk appetite observed in the September quarter. The RBA had still not moved on lowering rates by the end of December, however; market expectations for the RBA to move in early 2025.

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