JK Japan Fund

JK Japan Fund July 2022

The Fund rose +4.18% in July, (Yen Class, Net of Fees, performance data below).

Overview

The Yen rose in the second half of July from 139 to 133 to the US Dollar, as the markets felt the Fed's future interest hikes were factored into the dollar price for the moment. There was no change to the outlook for Japanese interest rates, but the 10-year JGB did strengthen a little from 0.25% yield to 0.17% at month end.

Unlike the West, covid restrictions are still in force in many parts of Asia, most notably in China. Japan's COVID-19 death rate is the lowest among the world's wealthiest nations, but there are currently around 220,000 people a day testing positive in Japan's seventh wave of covid infections. Prime Minister Kishida said last Friday that the government still has no plans to impose COVID-19 restrictions on people's movements despite recent record infections caused by the highly transmissible BA.5 Omicron subvariant.

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During July, the Fund sold Nippon Yusen KK (9101), Tokyo Electron (8035), Mitsubishi Corp (8058), Mitsui Corp (8031), further reducing the Fund's exposure to commodities, SPEs and cyclicals. The Fund added to M3 Inc (2413).

Earnings season is now fully underway in Japan now for reporting numbers for Q1 ending 30th June. Around 80% of the Fund's holdings have reported and in aggregate, earnings are +8% ahead of the Bloomberg estimates, with sales about +4% ahead, showing surprising earnings resilience, despite the headwinds.

As regards earnings looking forward, most Japanese companies are making very cautious forecasts, due to the uncertain outlook on COVID-19, inflation, the Yen, political tensions between the US and China and commodity prices. Japanese companies quite often make very conservative forecasts.

We are conducting a series of "company visits" by Zoom in September, so should get a clearer idea from these interviews. However, valuations of the companies in the Fund remain attractive, backed up by strong balance sheets and solid business fundamentals.

Top 5 Winners in month	% Contribution	Top 5 Losers in month	% Contribution
MIURA CO LTD	0.44	AISIN CORP	-0.13
M3 INC	0.40	TOKYO ELECTRON LTD	-0.13
KEYENCE CORP	0.38	NIPPON TELEGR & TELEPH	-0.12
SYSMEX CORP	0.35	MAKITA CORP	-0.11
TERUMO CORP	0.27	MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP	-0.08

NAV	as at 31-Jul-22
YEN class	14,893.62
GBP class	148.79
USD class	150.74
Euro Class	118.01
GBP (Unhedged)	98.23

Source: Apex Fund Services (Ireland) Ltd.

JK Japan Fund is a daily dealing UCITS fund. It can be held by ISA's, SIPP's, Pensions, Charities, Family Offices, Endowments, as a direct holding or through a Private Wealth Manager. All classes have UK Reporting Status.

For more information on the Fund, please see www.jkim.co.uk

Administrator for JK Japan Fund (Orders by Noon, Dublin time Daily)

Apex Group Ltd, Dublin Tel: +353 1 411 2949, Fax: +353 1 411 2948 Email: <u>ApexTA@apexfunds.ie</u>

Historic performance is not a guide to future returns.

	Yen Class (%) ISIN IE00BJBY7C47														
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ytd		
2022	-8.82	+0.02	+6.20	-4.69	+1.22	-5.90	+4.18						-8.41		
2021	-0.84	+0.07	+4.41	-0.48	+1.99	+2.70	-2.02	+4.55	+3.58	-0.29	-1.93	+2.10	+14.40		
2020			-1.90*	+7.29	+7.23	+2.46	-0.05	+4.34	+2.58	-1.31	+14.42	+1.74	+42.13		

^{*}Yen Class started on 03-Mar-20 Source: Apex Fund Services (Ireland) Ltd

	GBP Class (%) ISIN IE00BJBY7B30													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ytd	
2022	-8.83	+0.08	+6.24	-4.58	+1.21	-5.92	+4.28						-8.15	
2021	-0.83	+0.07	+4.47	-0.42	+1.89	+2.74	-1.98	+4.49	+3.60	-0.35	-1.95	+2.02	+14.33	
2020			-2.16*	+7.28	+7.15	+2.58	-0.03	+4.31	+2.59	-1.32	+14.37	+1.74	+41.69*	

^{*}GBP Class started on 03-Mar-20 Source: Apex Fund Services (Ireland) Ltd

	USD Class (%) ISIN IE00BJBY7911													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ytd	
2022	-8.78	+0.06	+6.20	-4.64	+1.25	-5.90	+4.47						-8.00	
2021	-0.79	+0.09	+4.49	-0.39	+1.99	+2.70	-1.97	+4.55	+3.58	-0.26	-1.94	+2.21	+14.92	
2020			-2.02*	+7.44	+7.21	+2.56	-0.03	+4.35	+2.62	-1.29	+14.40	+1.84	+42.57*	

*USD Class started on 03-Mar-20 Source: Apex Fund Services (Ireland) Ltd

	EUR Class (%) ISIN IE00BJBY7D53													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ytd	
2022	-8.92	+0.00	+6.00	-4.74	+1.06	-6.01	+4.30						-8.90	
2021	-0.81	+0.01	+4.38	-0.51	+1.91	+2.69	-2.03	+4.50	+3.52	-0.34	-1.89	+2.05	+14.01	
2020										-2.26*	+14.29	+1.71	+13.62*	

^{*}EUR Class started on 28-Oct-20 Source: Apex Fund Services (Ireland) Ltd

			G	BP (Un	hedged)	Class (%) ISIN	IE00BM	Y4TW6	5			
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ytd
2022	-8.28	+0.34	+2.48	-6.58	+1.84	-7.67	+6.09						-12.11
2021	-2.47	-3.22	+1.53	+0.53	-1.08	+4.08	-1.26	+5.38	+4.50	-4.18	+1.68	-1.32	+3.70
2020										-3.69*	+11.72	+0.17	+7.78*

^{*}GBP (Unhedged) Class started on 14-Oct-20 Source: Apex Fund Services (Ireland) Ltd

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For further information please contact

Joe Armstrong 01483 401 525 JA@JKIM.CO.UK Francis Kirkpatrick 01483 401 521 FK@JKIM.CO.UK

JK Investment Management LLP Bury House, 3 Bury Street Guildford Surrey GU2 4AW Tel: +44 1483 301 142

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