

### Fund Fact Sheet

31/12/2021

#### Asset Class

Equities US, Small & Mid Cap

#### Fund Characteristics

AUM	USD 841,1 mn
Launch date	13/11/2015
Oldest share class (B)	LU1305478775
Turnover (2021) <sup>1</sup>	18%
Reference currency	USD
Hedged share class available in	EUR
Legal structure	SICAV, UCITS
Domicile	Luxembourg
European Passport	Yes
Countries of registration	AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, IT, LU, NL, NO, SE, SG, PT

#### Representative Market Index

MSCI US Small & Mid Cap NR USD

#### Fund Manager

**Henrik Blohm** joined BLI - Banque de Luxembourg Investments in 2014. He is responsible for U.S. small and mid-cap investments and launched the BL American Smaller Companies Fund in November 2015. He has a business studies degree from the University of Innsbruck and the San Diego State University, with a specialization in Banking and Finance. Following a two-year bank internship at a German bank in Luxembourg, Henrik started his professional career as a fund manager at BCEE Asset Management in November 2010.

#### Management Company

BLI - Banque de Luxembourg Investments  
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#### Dealing & Administrator Details

European Fund Administration (EFA)  
Tel +352 48 48 80 582  
Fax +352 48 65 61 8002  
Dealing frequency daily<sup>2</sup>  
Cut-off time 12:00 CET  
Front-load fee max. 5%  
Redemption fee none  
NAV calculation daily<sup>2</sup>  
NAV publication www.fundinfo.com

#### Investment Objective

The objective of BL-American Small & Mid Caps is to achieve long-term capital gains by predominantly investing in high-quality US small- and mid-cap companies benefiting from a sustainable competitive advantage.

The fund manager implements an active investment strategy based on strong convictions. Since the portfolio structure is the outcome of individual bottom-up investment opportunities, it may deviate significantly from its relevant market index in terms of sector and market-cap allocations.

#### Key Facts

- Portfolio consisting of 40 to 60 companies quoted on US stock exchanges with a maximum market cap of USD 25 bn.
- Bottom-up portfolio construction process irrespective of the US equity market structure.
- North American small- and mid-cap equity portfolio of quality companies.
- Long only, fully invested.
- Low turnover.



Performance	2021	2020	2019	2016
Fund (B shares)	22,5%	26,9%	27,1%	0,9%
MSCI US Small + Mid NR USD	22,4%	19,0%	28,1%	-9,7%

Performance	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year	since launch <sup>3</sup>
Fund (B shares)	5,5%	10,3%	9,2%	22,5%	161,8%
MSCI US Small + Mid NR USD	3,7%	5,7%	4,0%	22,4%	125,9%

Annualised Volatility	3 months	6 months	1 year	since launch <sup>3</sup>
Fund (B shares)	13,1%	12,0%	13,0%	16,6%
MSCI US Small + Mid NR USD	15,3%	14,6%	16,1%	21,1%

The market index (MSCI US Small & Mid Cap Net Return) is shown in the performance chart as well as in the performance tables above for performance measurement purposes only and it should under no circumstances be considered as an indication of a specific investment style or strategy. Investors are also invited to consult the performance chart disclosed in the key investor information document of the sub-fund.

<sup>1</sup> min (purchases, sales) / average of net assets

<sup>2</sup> Luxembourg banking business day

<sup>3</sup> since 16/11/2015

### Current Portfolio

31/12/2021

#### Top Holdings

Verisk Analytics	4,2%
Jack Henry + Associates	3,1%
Lamb Weston Holdings	3,0%
Qualys	3,0%
Church + Dwight	2,9%
Siteone Landscape Supply	2,6%
Ulta	2,5%
Masimo Corp	2,5%
Check Point Software Technologie	2,5%
Chemed	2,4%
<b>Weight of Top 10</b>	<b>28,7%</b>
<b>Number of holdings</b>	<b>49</b>

#### Asset Allocation

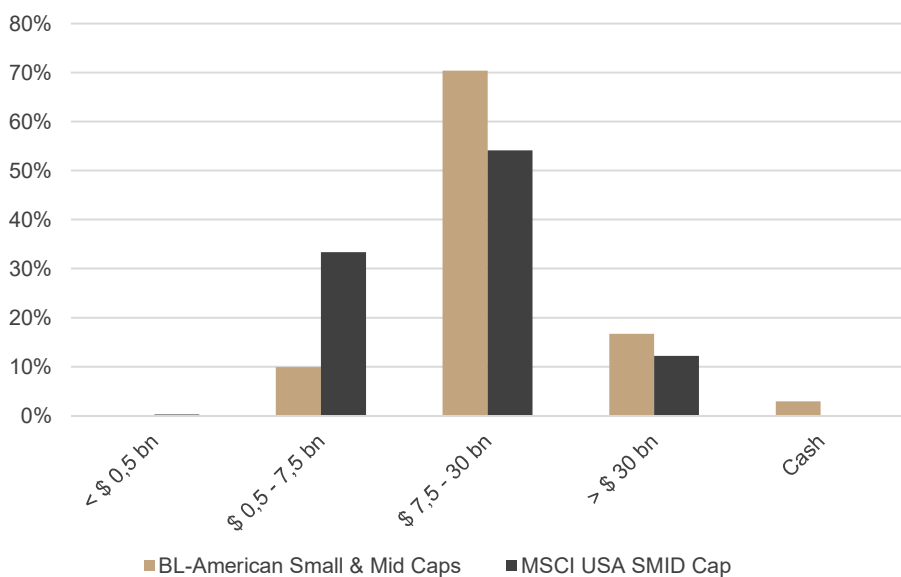
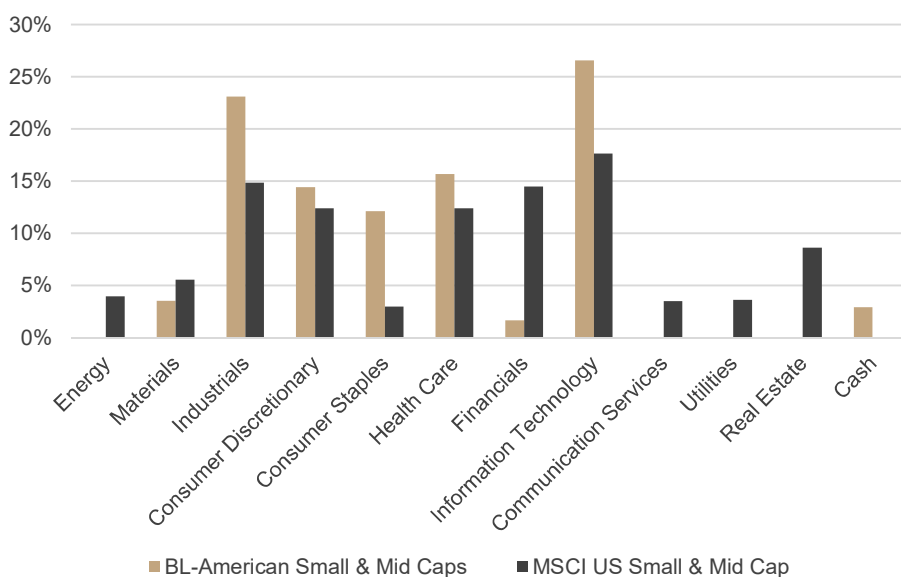
United States	97,1%
Canada	0,0%
Cash	2,9%

#### New Investments in December

no transactions

#### Investments sold in December

no transactions



Investor Type	Clean Share	Elegibility restrictions	Share class	Currency	Hedging	Income	Mgmt fees	On-going Charges	SRRI	ISIN	Bloomberg ticker
Retail	No	No	<b>A</b>	USD	No	Dis	1,25%	1,46%	6	LU1484763229	BLEFBAU LX
Retail	No	No	<b>B</b>	USD	No	Cap	1,25%	1,44%	6	LU1305478775	BLAMSCB LX
Retail	No	No	<b>B Eur Hedged</b>	EUR	Yes	Cap	1,25%	1,46%	6	LU1305478932	BLASBEH LX
Retail	Yes	Yes	<b>AM</b>	USD	No	Dis	0,85%	1,05%	6	LU1484763575	BLASCAM LX
Retail	Yes	Yes	<b>BM</b>	USD	No	Cap	0,85%	1,05%	6	LU1484763658	BLASCBM LX
Retail	Yes	Yes	<b>BM Eur Hedged</b>	EUR	Yes	Cap	0,85%	1,04%	6	LU1484763732	BLASBME LX
Inst.	No	Yes	<b>BI</b>	USD	No	Cap	0,60%	0,75%	6	LU1484763815	BLASCBI LX
Inst.	No	Yes	<b>BI Eur Hedged</b>	EUR	Yes	Cap	0,60%	0,78%	5	LU1867116706	BLASBIH LX

## Management Report

31/12/2021

The emergence of the highly infectious Omicron variant led to a spike in equity market volatility at the end of November, but markets quickly recovered in December as data from South Africa and the UK indicated a lower risk of severe disease.

In this environment, the BL-American Small & Mid Caps Fund (retail share class capitalization net of fees in USD) outperformed its Benchmark, the MSCI US Small + Mid Cap NR USD Index, by 1,83%. In absolute terms, the fund showed a positive performance of 5,54%.

There were no outright sales or purchases of holdings made in the month.

The top 5 contributors in the month were Lamb Weston, Church & Dwight, Jack Henry, Chemed and Waters. The top 5 detractors were Insulet, Blackline, MSCI, Burlington Stores and Manhattan Associates.

Overall equity markets delivered very strong returns in 2021. The BL-American Small & Mid Caps Fund (retail share class capitalization net of fees in USD) closed the year with a total return of 22,45%. After a very strong relative performance in 2020, the Fund outperformed its Benchmark, the MSCI US Small + Mid Cap NR USD Index, by 0,01% in 2021.

## Investment Approach

### Investment Principles

#### **Avoid Losses**

Avoiding a big loss on an investment is more important than realising extraordinary gain.

#### **Focus on Quality**

We seek companies enjoying a sustainable competitive advantage.

#### **Valuation: the concept of margin of safety**

The price paid for an investment determines its potential return.

#### **Master Investment Risks**

Risks arise when the parameters of an investment are not properly understood.

#### **Active Management**

The market reference is solely used for the principle of performance measurement. The portfolio structure may deviate from that of its reference index.

### Equity Investment Approach: Business-Like Investing

#### **Rationale**

We consider an equity investment as a long-term participation in a quality business. As a consequence, we need to make sure that the companies we invest in are able to compete successfully in their line of business, ensuring high levels of profitability and strong free cash-flow generation.

#### **Quality**

In the first step of our investment process, we perform an in-depth review of the targeted company's business model in order to identify its sustainable competitive advantage. A competitive advantage makes it stand out and creates entry barriers for competitors.

In the second step we analyse whether the competitive advantage translates into recurrent free cash flow. We put a special emphasis on the analysis of the maintenance capex requirements of the targeted companies to make sure that the cash flow generated is not absorbed by investment needs to sustain the company's current business operations.

In the third step, we focus on the strength of the management team and analyse how the targeted company uses its capital and manages its balance sheet. Company management has to consider investment in current business activities, development of new activities, takeovers, dividend payments, stock buybacks or debt repayments.

Only companies that meet our investment criteria are considered for inclusion in our portfolios. This may lead to significant deviations from the relevant market index.

#### **Valuation**

Even investments in quality companies may result in significant capital losses if the price paid for the investment is too high. To avoid this pitfall, we determine a fair value for each targeted company prior to investing. This fair value is based on the company's normalised free cash flow and serves as reference point for our buy and sell discipline.

#### **Portfolio characteristics**

BL-American Smaller Companies portfolio consists of 40 to 70 small- and mid-sized companies (maximum market cap USD 20bn) that have been selected on the basis of the quality of their fundamentals and their valuation.

The structure of the fund's market reference index does not play any role in the portfolio's construction: the portfolio structure is the outcome of the addition of individual bottom-up investment opportunities. The weight given to each security in the portfolio is a function of its valuation level, stock liquidity and our degree of conviction in the investment thesis.

Owing to our quality investment style, the fund's sector allocation is geared towards consumer discretionary, consumer staples, health care, industrials, technology and materials sectors. Conversely, in sectors like financials, utilities or telecoms, we find few - if any - companies that meet our investment criteria.

BL-American Smaller Companies is a pure equity fund: the fund manager does not time the market and the cash level within the portfolio is maintained at a minimum.

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Legal documentation of the fund may be obtained, free of charge, at the offices of the Swiss representative, CACEIS (Switzerland) S.A., 7-9, Chemin de Précossy, CH-1260 Nyon, Switzerland, in accordance with the provisions of the Swiss Collective Investment Schemes Act of 23 June 2006 ("CISA"). The SICAV has appointed Banque CIC (Suisse) SA, Marktplatz 13, CH-4001 Bâle, Switzerland to act as paying agent for Switzerland. The present document may be distributed to Swiss qualified investors.

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