

K2 Asian Fund

31 July 2024



The K2 Asian Fund is an Absolute Return equities fund. The fund is index-unaware, aiming to produce positive absolute returns over the long term with a capital preservation mindset. The Fund's mandate allows it to actively manage its net market exposure – utilising both cash and shorts to help protect clients' capital.

	1 Month	Unit Price	Inception (%pa)
Performance (Net of Fees)	3.40%	164.12	6.92%

Refer below detailed performance data matrix

Top 5 Stock Holdings	Current	Monthly Move
JPMorgan Chase & Co	9.3%	+0.4%
Seven Group Holdings Ltd	9.1%	+0.1%
Macquarie Group Ltd	9.1%	-0.1%
RIO Tinto Ltd	8.1%	-0.4%
BHP Group Ltd	7.5%	-0.3%

Market Capitalisation Coverage	Current	Monthly Move
Large Caps>=AUD\$7.5b	59.4%	+2.0%
Mid Caps>=AUD\$2b<AUD\$7.5b	19.9%	-1.3%
Small Caps<AUD\$2b	14.7%	+2.5%

Month End Exposures	Current	Monthly Move
Consumer	5.7%	+2.1%
Energy	5.3%	-0.2%
Financials/Real Estate	38.7%	+1.1%
Health Care	5.5%	+0.7%
Industrials	14.6%	+0.1%
Information Technology	8.5%	+0.0%
Materials	15.9%	-0.7%
SHORTS	-1.2%	-1.2%
Number of Positions	22	+1
Gross Equity Exposure	95.4%	+4.4%
Cash Weighting	7.0%	-2.0%
Net Equity Exposure	93.0%	+2.0%
Currency Exposure Hedged of AUD	79.8%	-1.2%

Fund Characteristics	
Portfolio Managers	Campbell Neal, David Poppenbeek and Bill Laister
Strategy	Asian (excluding Japan) Equities
Objectives	To deliver consistent absolute returns over the investment cycle with a focus on capital protection during periods of market declines
Return Target	+10% pa over the long term
Number of Stocks	Up to 80
Cash	Up to 100% of portfolio
Distributions	Annually
Management Fee	1.36%
Buy/Sell	Daily Application/Redemption
Performance Fee	15.38% pa of the amount by which the NAV per unit exceeds the High Water Mark once the fund achieves its hurdle

Commentary

The K2 Asian Fund returned +3.40% for the month ahead of the index by +2.2%, to be up +5.73% for the past year (net, after fees).

Global markets continue to digest the monthly economic data flow to better gauge the degree of the slowdown underway in key developed markets. The slower economic pulse is the natural outcome following two years of persistently tighter monetary policy, as the higher cash rates and some quantitative tightening that began in late 2022 slows down economic activity.

However, the key surprise for markets this year has been the resilience of the US economy, as markets become more comfortable with the non-recession scenario. A combination of robust fiscal spending, excess cash on company balance sheets and households (aggregate), sound credit conditions and expanding profits have helped drive markets.

There are some key risks as some stubborn core inflation measures remain. This will lead to a limited, measured and shallow interest rate cut cycle. Markets are anticipating the first US rate cut will be 25bps by The Fed at the upcoming FOMC meeting. Depending on the data going forward and assuming some resilience will persist, we anticipate US Fed Funds rate will reach a mid to high 3% level from the current 5.25%-5.5% target range by late 2025. Outside of a US recession outcome (lower probability compared to last year), stable measured US rate cuts will be supportive for markets.

The key concerns will be the degree of bond issuance required for key economies, including the US. Emerging economies, however, face more challenges with regard to their credit rating as government budgets become more challenging.

China continues to operate as a two-speed economy. Domestic demand remains weak as Beijing continues to deal with the consequences of the housing construction collapse. Consumer sentiment remains weak as government economic policy has focused on higher end export sector. The focus on subsidies for their export sector has consistently led to trade tensions with the US for a number of years. This is expected to continue under a Harris or Trump administration.

Domestically, the Governor of the RBA continues to navigate the tightrope of persistent core inflation data and the ongoing fiscal stimulus (at both federal and state government level), low unemployment rate and expanding earnings (aggregate). The RBA is at odds with other global central banks, given they started to tighten policy later, and in hindsight, the RBA rate hikes were not high enough to deal with the inflation challenges. We do not forecast another rate hike by the RBA, but a long period of steady rates well into 2025 are anticipated.

Within the region, investors continue to focus on south-east APAC markets. The K2 Asian Fund continues to be underweight China and maintains a focus on companies with earnings that export to China.

George Boubouras
Managing Director (MD)
Research, Investments & Advisory
research@k2am.com.au

Marcela Tirado
Head of Relationship Management
& Corporate Services
invest@k2am.com.au

K2 Asian Fund Net Monthly Returns in AUD

Year	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Fin YTD	Fin YTD Index (1)	Average Cash	Average Short	
1999/00			-0.55	4.28	9.21	10.82	-4.26	-3.40	4.12	-1.07	0.21	-1.03	18.59	4.45	35.23%	-13.83%	
2000/01	19.41	8.29	-5.29	-0.99	-3.15	-2.32	16.53	-1.96	-16.41	5.38	5.37	-2.02	19.17	-8.44	16.17%	-18.46%	
2001/02	-9.11	-6.94	-4.93	2.26	10.31	1.07	8.68	4.40	2.42	1.76	1.68	-1.51	8.58	-1.93	35.54%	-11.97%	
2002/03	-7.19	0.47	-2.84	3.56	3.55	-0.49	2.38	-0.55	-1.77	0.08	3.74	4.43	4.86	-15.33	41.25%	-13.04%	
2003/04	4.43	6.54	4.42	5.22	-0.33	0.86	1.54	0.84	-1.81	-0.71	-0.20	-0.05	22.37	24.06	38.03%	-5.30%	
2004/05	-1.23	1.34	2.18	0.90	6.81	2.23	1.07	1.29	-3.05	-2.36	2.02	0.96	12.48	19.44	30.24%	-2.62%	
2005/06	3.43	0.21	1.87	-3.62	5.16	3.78	5.25	-0.95	5.04	2.33	-3.25	0.24	20.67	27.67	24.43%	-3.88%	
2006/07	0.19	2.00	2.41	2.92	3.39	2.73	1.16	0.33	0.59	2.99	5.47	3.98	31.93	28.88	31.06%	-1.35%	
2007/08	3.51	-0.19	2.71	3.98	-2.56	-1.16	-8.59	-0.36	-3.66	3.11	-0.07	-3.80	-7.58	-16.72	46.58%	-4.98%	
2008/09	-1.61	0.25	-10.76	-10.40	-0.67	5.17	-3.32	-1.41	4.80	8.03	10.26	0.85	-1.15	-6.23	49.48%	-3.99%	
2009/10	10.46	-2.58	4.70	0.90	-0.30	3.52	-4.67	-0.04	3.76	-0.46	-7.44	-0.49	6.37	17.31	12.03%	-1.70%	
2010/11	4.36	-2.11	7.61	2.52	-0.78	2.06	0.53	-1.01	1.72	1.20	-1.79	-2.36	12.13	2.75	12.14%	-2.43%	
2011/12	-1.98	-5.41	-8.97	3.67	-6.16	-1.81	4.86	5.08	-0.91	1.21	-6.90	-0.95	-17.85	-9.36	20.10%	-2.08%	
2012/13	1.21	0.73	4.90	3.90	2.00	6.00	4.30	2.11	-0.04	3.21	2.38	-3.61	30.23	22.88	6.86%	-0.14%	
2013/14	2.40	0.08	2.15	3.60	4.91	0.93	-1.63	0.89	-3.74	-0.21	0.36	-2.26	7.39	13.18	8.82%	0.00%	
2014/15	5.40	0.48	2.80	1.36	2.46	3.58	4.12	2.23	2.64	7.51	2.38	-4.23	34.88	22.15	12.90%	-0.08%	
2015/16	-4.46	-4.54	-1.35	3.40	-4.19	-2.86	-7.18	-1.56	4.04	2.48	0.24	-2.76	-17.78	-6.59	18.72%	0.00%	
2016/17	3.75	2.48	1.23	-3.34	1.59	0.17	2.65	-0.56	1.02	2.03	0.95	-2.30	9.86	19.17	20.63%	-0.44%	
2017/18	-0.07	2.20	0.54	4.48	1.44	-1.57	1.39	-0.18	-1.30	3.97	-0.22	-4.08	6.48	13.00	18.53%	-1.15%	
2018/19	-1.65	1.04	-0.07	-7.32	-1.07	1.61	1.84	5.64	1.25	1.31	-6.13	4.83	0.47	7.07	30.20%	-0.69%	
2019/20	0.02	-3.87	1.23	2.03	1.02	4.06	-2.74	-4.31	-13.58	6.44	1.86	4.05	-5.28	1.39	14.03%	-1.16%	
2020/21	4.87	6.19	-1.42	1.80	6.03	2.75	3.97	1.41	-1.37	1.73	0.55	-0.52	28.82	29.05	3.44%	-0.16%	
2021/22	-4.54	2.69	-4.09	-0.97	-5.20	-0.51	-3.52	-1.05	-2.69	0.12	-1.94	-9.54	-27.55	-13.82	8.53%	-0.14%	
2022/23	2.89	-0.04	-8.68	0.82	4.35	-4.17	5.96	-1.48	-3.09	0.26	-1.34	-0.68	-5.90	4.32	11.79%	-0.59%	
2023/24	4.63	-0.15	0.83	-2.88	3.67	7.00	-0.17	-1.70	2.75	-4.60	-1.72	-0.28	6.99	13.59	2.33%	-0.29%	
2024/25	3.40												3.40	1.23	6.40%	-0.56%	
													Incept.	429.39	411.26		
													Incept.	6.92%pa	6.77%pa	21.36%	-3.50%

(1) Morningstar Asia Pacific ex-Japan NR AUD

DISCLAIMER: The K2 Asia Absolute Return Fund is issued by K2 Asset Management Limited (K2) ABN 95 085 445 094, AFS Licence No 244393, a wholly owned subsidiary of K2 Asset Management Holdings Limited. The information contained in this document is produced in good faith and does not constitute any representation or offer by K2. It is subject to change without notice and is intended as general information only and is not complete or definitive. The information provided in this document is current at the time of the preparation and K2 is not obliged to update the information. K2 does not accept any responsibility and disclaims any liability whatsoever for loss caused to any party by reliance on the information in this document. Please note that past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. Any advice and information contained in this document is general only and has been prepared without taking into account any particular circumstances and needs of any party. Before acting on any advice or information in this document you should assess and seek advice on whether it is appropriate for your needs, financial situation, and investment objectives. Investment decisions should not be made upon the basis of its past performance or distribution rate, or any rating given by a ratings agency, since each of these can vary. In addition, ratings need to be understood in the context of the full report issued by the ratings agency themselves. A product disclosure statement or information memorandum for the funds referred to in this document can be obtained at www.k2am.com or by contacting K2. You should consider the product disclosure statement before making a decision to acquire an interest in the fund.

©2024 Morningstar, Inc. All Rights Reserved. The information contained herein: (1) is proprietary to Morningstar and/or its content providers; (2) may not be copied or distributed; and (3) is not warranted to be accurate, complete, or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.