

Centuria Lifegoals

Centuria

AB Managed Volatility Equities Fund

The Fund aims to achieve returns that exceed the S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index after fees over the medium to long term.

Investment manager

AllianceBernstein Investment Management Australia Limited

Investment strategy

The Fund implements a managed volatility equities strategy that aims to reduce volatility by identifying, and investing in, high quality listed equity securities that have reasonable valuations, high-quality cash flows and relatively stable share prices. This Fund can invest up to 20% in international shares.

Target allocation

Australian equities	60-100%
Global equities	0-20%
Cash	0-20%

Performance returns

RETURNS TO 30/09/2023	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	1 YR	2YR ¹	3YR ¹
Net returns (%) ²	-1.97%	-2.87%	-1.79%	5.38%	-0.99%	3.21%

Performance graph



A \$10,000 investment in Centuria AB Managed Volatility Equities Fund made at inception is worth \$11,795 as of 30 September 2023 after all fees and taxes paid within the Investment Option.

Key features

APIR code	OVS3629AU
Minimum initial investment	\$500
Minimum additional investment plan	\$100
Minimum switching amount	\$500
Minimum balance	\$500
Contribution fee	Nil
Annual management fee ³	0.69%
Suggested timeframe	Minimum 5 years

- Periods greater than 1 year are expressed in annualised terms.
- Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.
- Refer to PDS for fee breakdown.

For more information contact Centuria on **1300 50 50 50** or visit lifegoals.centuria.com.au to download the PDS.
Simple Flexible Versatile.

Fund commentary

Fund performance and activity

The MVE Class declined for the quarter and underperformed its benchmark, before fees. The financials and consumer-staples sectors detracted the most from relative performance, while healthcare and materials contributed.

After a strong period of performance year to date, diagnostics company Sonic Healthcare detracted as it gave up some gains during the quarter. We continue to like Sonic for its strong balance sheet, stable cash flows and an attractive pipeline of bolt-on acquisitions.

Gas pipeline company APA Group detracted in a continuation of the trend that began with its capital raising and acquisition in August. We view the stock as oversold and see benefits in the company's inflation-linked revenues.

Retailer Coles Group reported FY:23 results that disappointed the market as it saw a reduction of gross margin, reversing the trend of gross margin expansion over the last few years. The majority of the reduction in gross margin was due to a sharp rise in theft. Over the next 12 months, Coles will be rolling out several new technologies to counter these activities that should then cause the margin to rise.

An underweight to biotech company CSL contributed during the quarter as investors became increasingly concerned about growing competition in CSL's core immunoglobulin franchise, and in its iron franchise, with a key product nearing loss of exclusivity in Europe.

Royalty asset manager Deterra Royalties contributed, outperforming the market as the price of iron ore strengthened. Deterra earns almost 100% of its revenue from a royalty on iron ore.

Pharmaceuticals company AbbVie outperformed as analysts grew more positive about sales strength in the third quarter.

Market outlook

During the quarter, we added to our position in Australian general insurer IAG as we continue to gain confidence in the robustness of its earnings outlook, which will benefit from inflation-plus rate growth and higher fixed-income investment returns.

We added shares of Deterra Royalties. Deterra's key revenue source is a price-linked royalty on a key BHP iron-ore mine. The mine is ramping up, giving Deterra volume growth not seen with other iron-ore exposures. Deterra is a defensive exposure to iron ore with no rising costs or capital expenditures.

We initiated a position in global exchange company Cboe Global Markets, attracted by its resilient business model and strong cash flows.

Among pharmaceutical companies, we sold our shares of Gilead Sciences and trimmed our holding in Merck as we saw more attractive and diversifying opportunities elsewhere.

We trimmed our holdings in gold producer Northern Star Resources as we looked to slightly moderate the Portfolio's exposure to gold.

More broadly, risks we have long been concerned about such as inflation, rising rates, asset bubbles, and major economic and geopolitical tension are all currently unfolding, with Australian markets seemingly unconcerned. It is not clear that this optimism will be rewarded. We maintain our focus on diversifying risks, and are particularly focused on the ability of companies to offset inflationary pressures with pricing power. We aim to use fundamental insight to reduce our exposure to stocks with cyclical pressure, balance-sheet stress or negative events.

Disclaimer: This commentary has been directly sourced from the AllianceBernstein's quarterly factsheet available on their website.

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