Quarterly Commentary



Fund Manager: Richard Penny

TM CRUX UK Core Fund

CDuring Q2 2022 the TM CRUX UK Fund returned -0.5% versus -8.1% for its performance comparator the IA UK All Companies Sector.

Fund Performance

During Q2 2022 the TM CRUX UK Fund returned -0.5% versus -8.1% for its performance comparator the IA UK All Companies Sector.* Against an economic backdrop of rising interest rates an increasing anticipation of a global recession the fund's positioning proved resilient when compared to other UK funds.

*Source: FE 31.03.22-30.06.22 Bid-Bid in GBP, TR, net income re-invested.

The overweight position in banks and relatively low exposure to domestic cyclicals and smaller capitalisation companies meant the fund fulfilled its objective of protecting capital under more difficult conditions.

Rising interest rates, are generally good for bank profitability. We believe that current corporate balance sheets and regulatory conditions make banks less exposed to bad loans than has historically the case. Bank shares are lowly priced against their book value and with an improving outlook for profitability continue to look well placed in current market conditions. Standard Chartered was a standout performer as the shares rose over 20% in the quarter.

Attribution Stock Level Q2 2022

Top 5 Contributors (%)	Bottom 5 Contributors (%)
Euromoney +1.44	Breedon -0.78
Serco +1.07	JD Sports -0.71
Standard Chartered +0.95	Grafton Group -0.66
Schroders +0.86	Glencore -0.48
FD Technologies +0.47	Sage -0.57

Source: Stat Pro

We were also the beneficiary of some stock specific positives. Euromoney, which at one point was a subsidiary of the Daily Mail and General Trust, itself taken over in January by the Rothermere Continuation Limited, received a takeover approach from private equity firm Astorg and Epiris at 1461p. The shares rose 38%, but are

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still below the bid price, we retain the position as we believe there is a good likelihood of such a deal completing at the higher price.

There was also good news at Schroders where the non-voting shares were enfranchised, leading to a 28% increase in the shares. We sold the share for an aggregate price exceeding 2400p. Serco, a defensive name, was also a standout performer with an improvement of 21% after releasing strong results. The shares should continue to be resilient in difficult conditions and we continue to hold the shares, albeit we trimmed the position to below 5% following recent share price rises.

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Transactions

During the period we sold Intertek, Experian and Schroders. The fund sold out of Experian on the back of disappointing numbers, and we used the raised cash to initiate a position in Aviva where we felt there was a better investment case and also provided a higher yield of c.6/7%. We added Inchcape to the portfolio. Inchcape has transformed from a forecourt retailer to a distributer of cars for global OEMS. The business will enjoy higher returns on capital, and mid to high single digit organic revenue growth. Inchape has a strong balance sheet and modest valuation

Outlook

Global stock markets have started to discount a recession which will probably impact most fiercely when input inflation is at its most severe in Q4 2022. We think the Fund is currently well positioned for the uncertain conditions. As the year progresses we will look to add some quality cyclical growth companies to the portfolio as and when their prices reflect too much of the short term pressures and not enough of their long term prospects.

Important Information

Please note: Due to rounding the figures in the holdings breakdown may not add up to 100%. Unless otherwise indicated all figures are sourced from Financial Express, Datastream, State Street and CRUX Asset Management Ltd. Third party data is believed to be reliable, but its completeness and accuracy is not guaranteed.

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