LISD 668 / mn

NO, SE, SG, PT

# a sub-fund of SICAV BL



Fund Fact Sheet 28/02/2022

### **Asset Class**

ΔΙΙΝΛ

Equities US, Small & Mid Cap

## **Fund Characteristics**

| AUM                          | 030 000,4 11111         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Launch date                  | 13/11/2015              |
| Oldest share class (B)       | LU1305478775            |
| Turnover (2021) <sup>1</sup> | 18%                     |
| Reference currency           | USD                     |
| Hedged share class           | EUR                     |
| available in                 |                         |
| Legal structure              | SICAV, UCITS            |
| Domicile                     | Luxembourg              |
| European Passport            | Yes                     |
| Countries of registration    | AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, |
|                              | FI, FR, GB, IT, LU, NL, |

## **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 16, boulevard Royal L-2449 Luxembourg Tel: (+352) 26 26 99 - 1 www.bli.lu

## **Dealing & Administrator Details**

| 3                                  |                    |  |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| 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   |  |  |  |  |  |

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                | YTD     | 2021     | 2020     | 2019   | 2016                |  |
|----------------------------|---------|----------|----------|--------|---------------------|--|
| Fund (B shares)            | -12,5%  | 22,5%    | 26,9%    | 27,1%  | 0,9%                |  |
| MSCI US Small + Mid NR USD | -7,4%   | 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)            | -3,1%   | -7,7%    | -8,9%    | 6,8%   | 129,0%              |  |
| MSCI US Small + Mid NR USD | 0,2%    | -4,0%    | -5,7%    | 5,1%   | 109,1%              |  |
| Annualised                 |         | 3 months | 6 months | 1 year | since               |  |
| Volatility                 |         |          |          |        | launch <sup>3</sup> |  |
| Fund (B shares)            |         | 17,9%    | 15,9%    | 13,5%  | 16,6%               |  |
| MSCI US Small + Mid NR USD |         | 18,5%    | 16,8%    | 16,3%  | 20,6%               |  |

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.

**Investment Objective** 

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Luxembourg banking business day

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> since 16/11/2015

# a sub-fund of SICAV BL



# Current Portfolio 28/02/2022

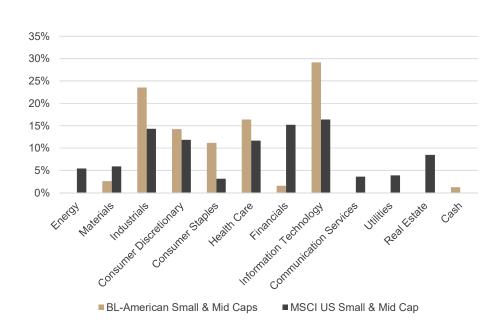
| Top Holdings                     |       |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| Verisk Analytics                 | 4,0%  |
| Jack Henry + Associates          | 3,8%  |
| Check Point Software Technologie | 3,5%  |
| Lamb Weston Holdings             | 3,3%  |
| Qualys                           | 2,9%  |
| Resmed                           | 2,9%  |
| Rollins                          | 2,8%  |
| Aptargroup                       | 2,6%  |
| Siteone Landscape Supply         | 2,5%  |
| Chemed                           | 2,5%  |
| Weight of Top 10                 | 30,9% |
| Number of holdings               | 49    |
| A (AII (                         |       |
| Asset Allocation                 |       |
| United States                    | 98,8% |
| Canada                           | 0,0%  |
| Cash                             | 1,2%  |
| New Investments in February      |       |

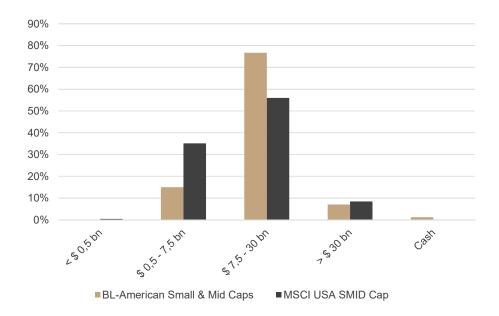
New Investments in February

no transactions

# Investments sold in February

Sensient Technologies





| Investor<br>Type | Clean<br>Share | Elegibility restrictions | Share class   | Currency | Hedging | Income | Mgmt<br>fees | On-going<br>Charges | SRRI | ISIN         | Bloomberg ticker |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------------|---------------|----------|---------|--------|--------------|---------------------|------|--------------|------------------|
| Retail           | No             | No                       | Α             | USD      | No      | Dis    | 1,25%        | 1,41%               | 6    | LU1484763229 | BLEFBAU LX       |
| Retail           | No             | No                       | В             | USD      | No      | Cap    | 1,25%        | 1,41%               | 6    | LU1305478775 | BLAMSCB LX       |
| Retail           | No             | No                       | B Eur Hedged  | EUR      | Yes     | Cap    | 1,25%        | 1,41%               | 6    | LU1305478932 | BLASBEH LX       |
| Retail           | Yes            | Yes                      | AM            | USD      | No      | Dis    | 0,85%        | 1,02%               | 6    | LU1484763575 | BLASCAM LX       |
| Retail           | Yes            | Yes                      | BM            | USD      | No      | Cap    | 0,85%        | 1,02%               | 6    | LU1484763658 | BLASCBM LX       |
| Retail           | Yes            | Yes                      | BM Eur Hedged | EUR      | Yes     | Cap    | 0,85%        | 1,02%               | 6    | LU1484763732 | BLASBME LX       |
| Inst.            | No             | Yes                      | BI            | USD      | No      | Cap    | 0,60%        | 0,73%               | 6    | LU1484763815 | BLASCBI LX       |
| Inst.            | No             | Yes                      | BI Eur Hedged | EUR      | Yes     | Cap    | 0.60%        | 0.78%               | 5    | LU1867116706 | BLASBIH LX       |

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# Management Report

28/02/2022

Equity markets experienced a difficult month in February as concerns surrounding the Russian invasion of Ukraine took hold. In the first half of the month, expectations for the number of interest rate hikes that would be delivered by the US Federal Reserve ramped up quickly. Investors were concerned that the central banks may dampen growth in their efforts to get inflation under control. In the second half of the month, investors' attention was absorbed by the conflict in Ukraine. This dampened expectations for rate hikes compared with the intra-month peak, and also delivered a further hit to growth expectations. For the month overall, growth stocks were hit hard again and value outperformed growth.

In this environment, the BL-American Small & Mid Caps Fund (retail share class capitalization net of fees in USD) underperformed its Benchmark, the MSCI US Small + Mid Cap NR USD Index, by 3,30%. In absolute terms, the fund showed a negative performance of 3,14%.

We continued buying a new position for the fund, the name of which will be revealed when we have accumulated our desired weighting. On the other side we sold Sensient Technologies as the company's valuation rerated as expected. We used the cash to increase higher quality names in our portfolio in this volatile market environment.

The top 5 contributors in the month were Checkpoint Software, Jack Henry, Resmed, Rollins and Insulet. The top 5 detractors were Masimo, Verisk, Blackline, Clorox and LKQ.

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# **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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