

# Fiducian Australian Smaller Company Shares Fund



Monthly Report - December 2025

## Fund description

The Fiducian Australian Smaller Company Shares Fund invests in a diversified group of specialist Australian smaller company share managers. The Fund utilises the Fiducian “Manage the Manager” process, selecting best of breed managers with different styles with the aim of achieving superior returns with reduced risk.

Smaller companies typically offer better growth opportunities and perform differently at different stages of the business cycle compared to larger companies.

Smaller company shares tend to be more volatile over the short term, and the recommended holding period is at least 9 years.

## Fund facts

**Portfolio manager:** Conrad Burge

**ARSN:** 093 542 020

**APIR code:** FPS0008AU

**Benchmark:** ASX Small Ordinaries Acc Index

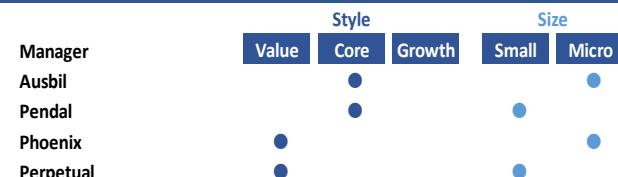
**Current fund size:** \$408 million (December 2025)

**Management cost:** 1.19%

**Total management costs:** 1.23%

**Application/Exit fee:** Nil

**Inception Date:** November 1997



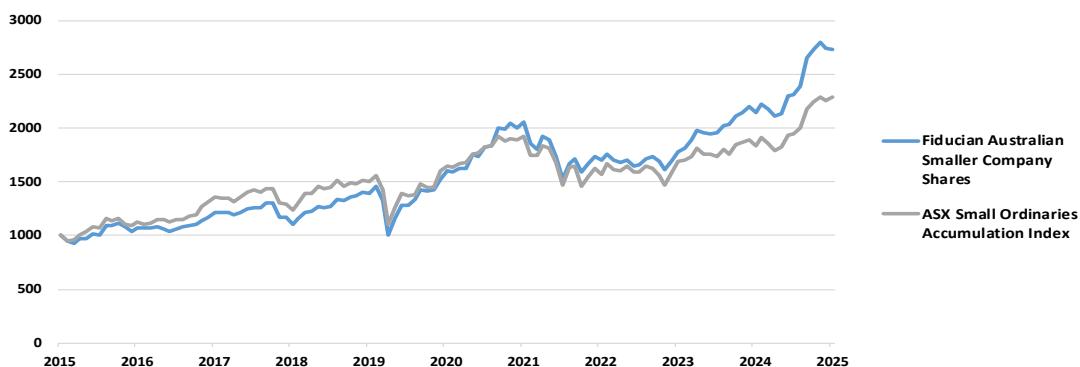
## Performance and Risk

After fee returns as at 31 December 2025

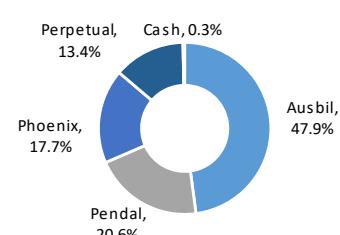
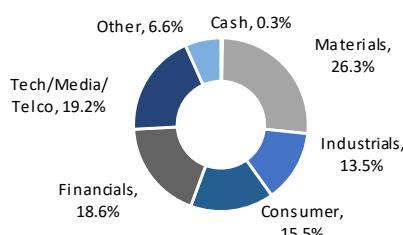
	1 Mth	3 Mth	6 Mth	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	7yrs	10 Yrs
Fund	-0.2%	-0.1%	18.0%	27.6%	17.4%	11.3%	13.8%	10.6%
Index	1.4%	1.8%	17.4%	25.0%	13.4%	6.9%	9.2%	8.6%
Excess	-1.6%	-1.9%	0.7%	2.7%	4.0%	4.4%	4.6%	1.9%

### Risk Exposure

	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs
Fund Volatility (Std Dev %)	13.7%	11.3%	15.1%	16.7%
Benchmark (Std Dev %)	11.5%	12.4%	15.6%	16.8%
Beta	1.04	0.82	0.89	0.93
Tracking Error (% pa)	4.1%	4.9%	5.6%	5.4%



## Sector exposures and current manager weights



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## Market Commentary and Outlook

The global economy is forecast to expand this year and the next, according to the latest estimates provided by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Global growth is forecast to have been 3.2% in 2025 and to be 3.1% in 2026 (both above the IMF's previous forecasts). As the IMF previously noted, this forecast of marginally lower growth is due to what it has termed 'the swift escalation of trade tensions and extremely high levels of policy uncertainty' following the announcement by the US in April of 'sizeable tariffs against most of its trading partners'. However, as the IMF now puts it, 'the good news is that the negative impact on the global economy (of US tariffs) is at the modest end of the range'. Growth in the advanced economies is forecast to be 1.6% in 2026, matching the forecast for 2025, but with 'risks tilted to the downside' in 2026.

The broad US stock market (S&P 500 Accumulation Index) has been on an uptrend since early April, gaining 0.1% in December. The Australian market (ASX 200 Accumulation Index) gained 1.3% over the month. The Australian dollar gained 1.9% relative to the US dollar over the month. Commodity prices were mixed with copper, gold, and iron ore posting gains, while coal and oil declined.

Key global share markets have been 'pricing-in' a shift by central banks towards less restrictive monetary policy, despite signs of inflation rising again in some economies. However, share markets are likely to remain volatile until a resolution of trade tensions is achieved.

## Fund Commentary

The Fiducian Australian Smaller Company Shares Fund declined by 0.2% in December, which was below the benchmark return of +1.4%. Phoenix (+7.9%) was the top performer for the month. Over the last 12 months, Phoenix was the top manager (+44.4%), followed by Ausbil (+30.1%). For the 12 months to the end of December, the Fund returned 27.6% compared to the index return of 25.0%.

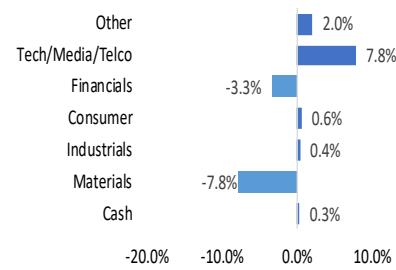
The Small Ordinaries Index gained 1.4% in December, outperforming the broader market (ASX 200 Accumulation index) return of +1.3%.

The Small Industrials Index declined by 2.0% while the Small Resources Index gained 8.8% over the same period. Microcap stocks returned 10.2% over the month.

At an aggregate level, the largest sectoral tilts in the Fund are overweight positions in the Information Technology, Media and Telecommunication sectors. The notable underweight positions are in the Materials and Financials sectors.

## Top stock holdings and sector tilts

Stock	Industry	Weight
Genesis Minerals Ltd	Diversified Minerals	3.2%
Tuas	Telecommunication Services	3.0%
Generation Development Group	Diversified Financial Services	2.4%
Life360	Software	2.4%
Zip Co	Commercial Services	2.2%
Codan	Information Technology	2.1%
Wagners Holdings	Building - Heavy Construction	1.9%
Superloop	Telecommunication Services	1.8%
Vault Minerals	Gold Mining	1.8%
Ora Banda	Gold Mining	1.8%



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