

Disciplined Alpha U.S. Long Short UCITS Fund

Long Short US Securities

July 2022

Performance Returns

The Disciplined Alpha U.S. Long Short UCITS Fund returned +1.12% for the month of July (GBP Institutional Class B).

Investment Objective & Strategy

The MontLake Disciplined Alpha U.S. Long Short UCITS Fund is advised by a Boston based firm with extensive experience building Macroeconomic Regime based long short equity strategies.

Disciplined Alpha was founded in 2013 to manage Regime based strategies for institutional investors. Investors' willingness to take risk, is not constant, but time varying. These risk aversion preferences are tracked in a real time, forward looking, Macroeconomic Regime model and captured in a Long Short Equity strategy.

While the strategy has the objective of generating superior returns, it is also designed to minimize drawdowns, and have low correlations with the overall equity markets, particularly during Bear Markets

Monthly Commentary

The Disciplined Alpha U.S. Long Short UCITS Fund, which was launched at the end of February, 2019, trades pari passu with the Disciplined Alpha U.S. Long Short Offshore Fund. The UCITS Fund, generated a net return in July of **+1.12%**. This brings the year-to-date return to **+11.92%**, the 1-year return to **+24.90%**, and the 3-year annualized return to **+11.86%**. When the UCITS Fund returns are linked to the Offshore Fund returns prior to March, 2019, the 5-year linked annualized return is **+11.36%**, and the since inception 9-year linked annualized return is **+8.84%**.

On a since inception basis, the strategy has outperformed the respective HFRU Peer Groups by approximately +6.7% to +7.6% annually. From a Sector perspective, in July, Materials, Energy, and Consumer Discretionary contributed +2.22%, +0.63%, and +0.49% to performance respectively. Health Care and Industrials detracted -1.95% and -1.13% from performance respectively. All other Sectors contributed to performance.

One of topics related to the U.S. equity market, that is getting a lot of attention, is whether the decline in the market through June 16th fully incorporated the weakening economic conditions and the recent rally is justified based on improving data, or is the recent rally essentially a bear market rally, which will rollover and test new lows. We are in the later camp, though we believe our strategy will perform well in such an environment.

To put the market decline and recent rally in context, the Russell 1000 declined approximately -24% between December 31st, 2021, and June 16th, 2022. The Russell 1000 then rallied approximately +17% through August 12th, leaving it down only -11% on a year-to-date basis.

MontLake Disciplined Alpha U.S. Long Short UCITS Fund

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y-T-D
2022	0.22%	3.72%	4.71%	2.08%	4.07%	-4.28%	1.12%						11.92%
2021	-2.71%	5.59%	4.68%	2.14%	5.63%	-3.51%	5.73%	0.03%	-0.67%	1.75%	4.63%	5.51%	32.08%
2020	-0.57%	-7.27%	-1.55%	2.54%	-1.19%	-4.13%	3.17%	1.40%	-1.03%	-0.71%	5.88%	-0.28%	-4.25%
2019	-	-	1.39%	1.65%	0.96%	1.32%	1.62%	3.94%	-4.62%	-0.95%	0.89%	-0.21%	5.92%

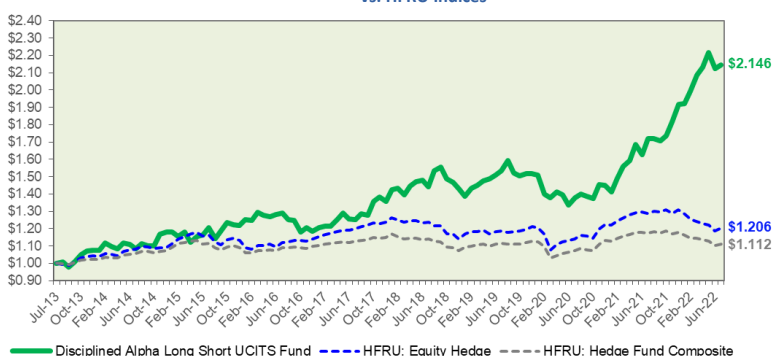
The performance figures quoted above represent the performance of the Disciplined Alpha U.S. Long Short UCITS Fund, USD Inst. Class B from launch on the 21-Feb-2019 through 31-Aug-2020, and the GBP Inst. Class B from 31-Aug-2021 to present. These performance figures refer to the past and past performance is not a reliable guide to future performance.

Disciplined Alpha U.S. Long Short Fund (non-UCITS)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y-T-D
2019	-2.93%	3.09%											5.22%
2018	4.70%	0.77%	-2.80%	3.83%	1.72%	0.48%	-2.52%	6.47%	1.32%	-4.27%	-1.38%	-2.62%	14.60%
2017	1.59%	0.84%	-0.25%	3.17%	3.02%	-2.65%	-0.09%	2.67%	-0.65%	6.09%	2.11%	-1.83%	-2.71%
2016	2.86%	-0.38%	3.59%	-1.19%	-0.78%	0.89%	0.80%	-3.00%	-0.31%	-5.32%	1.93%	-1.50%	3.40%
2015	0.29%	-2.27%	2.16%	-5.09%	3.15%	0.87%	3.38%	-5.17%	3.89%	4.17%	-1.05%	-0.37%	9.48%
2014	-0.27%	3.85%	-1.53%	-1.17%	2.91%	-0.86%	-2.27%	2.93%	-1.36%	0.15%	6.14%	0.93%	7.71%
2013	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.60%	-2.61%	2.69%	4.45%	1.84%	0.64%	

The above performance pertains to the Cayman based Disciplined Alpha Offshore Fund, Ltd that is run pari passu with the Disciplined Alpha U.S. Long Short UCITS Fund. UCITS Funds have to abide by certain investment restrictions and consequently the performance of the MontLake Disciplined Alpha U.S. Long Short UCITS Fund may not be similar to that presented above.

Growth of \$1 of Disciplined Alpha Long Short Fund (non-UCITS to Inception to February 2019, UCITS March 2019 to present) vs. HFRU Indices



The Manager



Kevin W. Shea, CFA

Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Shea is CEO of Disciplined Alpha LLC. Previously he was the Director of Quantitative Research at Cadence Capital. Mr. Shea has also held the positions of Portfolio Manager at Batterymarch, and CIO and Founder of DA Capital. He has also been a Portfolio Manager at Invesco, and a Quantitative Analyst at John Hancock Funds. Mr. Shea holds a B.A. in Liberal Studies from the University of Notre Dame, an A.L.M. in Biology from Harvard University, an M.B.A. in Finance and International Studies from Boston College. Mr. Shea co-teaches a Proseminar in Finance at MIT's Sloan School of Management.

Todd S. Smith

Managing Director, Director of Research

Mr. Smith was previously a Senior Analyst at Cadence Capital and O33 Asset Management. He has also been part of Morgan Stanley's top ranked Information Technology equity research team according to *Institutional Investor Magazine*. Mr. Smith began his career in the corporate finance division at Cowen & Company working on IPOs and M&A transactions, before transitioning to the equity research team. Mr. Smith graduated from Dartmouth College with a degree in Engineering Sciences.

Fund Facts

Structure	UCITS Fund
Domicile	Ireland
Liquidity	Daily
Fund AUM	\$42.7m
Inception	21 st February 2019
Share Class	Institutional Class B
Currency	USD/GBP/EUR/CHF
Management Fee	1.25%
Performance Fee	15.00%
Min Initial Subscription	5,000,000

ISIN Codes	USD: IE00BLWDV338 GBP: IE00BLWDTV78 EUR: IE00BLWDTQ26 CHF: IE00BLWDTZ17
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Share Class	Retail Class Pooled
Currency	USD/GBP/EUR/CHF
Management Fee	2.00%
Performance Fee	20.00%
Min Initial Subscription	10,000

ISIN Codes	USD: IE00BLWDV551 GBP: IE00BLWDTX92 EUR: IE00BLWDTS40 CHF: IE00BLWDV114
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Monthly Commentary (Continued)

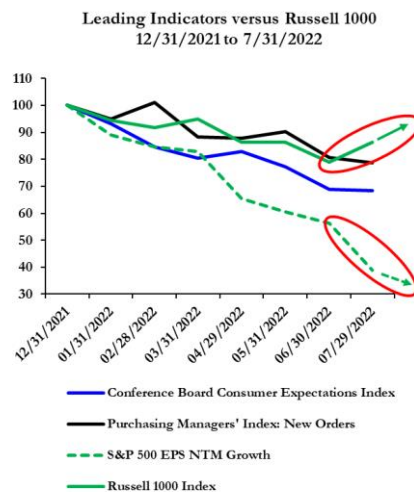
While there is a significant amount of economic data that is released from various sources on a daily, weekly, monthly, and quarterly basis, it is important to differentiate between lagging, coincident, and leading data. To expand on the quote often attributed to hockey legend Wayne Gretzky, lagging data refers to where the puck was, coincident data refers to where the puck is currently, leading data refers to where the puck is going to be. To win in hockey it is important to skate to where the puck is going to be. To develop a winning investment strategy that incorporates economic data, it is important to incorporate leading data that describes where the economy is headed, not where it was or where it is currently.

A leading indicator for the Manufacturing part of the economy is the Purchasing Managers' Index, or PMI. Piper Sandler has shown that the Manufacturing PMI, as opposed to the Services PMI, has the highest correlation with overall future corporate earnings trends, at 71%. The Manufacturing PMI has five components that are equally weighted. These five components are New Orders, Changes in Production Levels, Changes in Employment Levels, Changes in Inventory Levels, and Supplier Delivery Times. Of these five components, New Orders is the most leading component of the overall leading Manufacturing PMI. The New Orders component was 61.0 on December 31st, 2021 and has declined to 48.0 as of July 31st, 2022. A number below 50 indicates that New Orders are contracting, or getting smaller. The New Orders Index is shown in the **black** line in the chart below. As several time series are being presented in the same chart, in order to normalize the data, all-time series are recalibrated to 100 as of December 31st, 2021.

A leading indicator for the Non-Manufacturing or Consumer part of the economy is the Conference Board Consumer Expectations Index. This is based on Consumers' short-term outlook for income and labor market conditions. The Consumer Expectations Index was 95.4 on December 31st, 2021 and has declined to 65.3 as of July 31st, 2022. A number below 80 indicates that a recession risk persists. The Consumer Expectations Index is shown in the **blue** line in the chart below.

Ultimately the expectations of future Earnings Per Share, or EPS, from both the Manufacturing and Consumer parts of the economy should be captured in the EPS forecasts of sellside analysts. EPS for the entire S&P 500 were expected to increase on a Next Twelve Month, or NTM, basis by 33.5% on December 31st, 2021, and has declined to 13.0 as of July 31st, 2022. S&P 500 EPS NTM Growth is shown in the **green dashed** line in the chart below. Since the S&P 500 EPS NTM Growth leading indicator has declined the most since June, this has been highlighted with the **red** oval.

Finally, the return of the Russell 1000 is shown in the **green solid** line in the chart below. The Russell 1000 declined year-to-date through June, in sync with the decline in these three leading indicators. As referenced above, since June 16th, the Russell 1000 has rallied +17%, while these three leading indicators have continued to decline. As such, we do not believe this recent rally is warranted. The rally will likely consequently be referred to as a bear market rally with the market retesting the market lows from earlier in the year. As the second quarter earnings season is now mostly complete, investors will likely refocus their attention on these broad-based leading indicators which could lead to a market decline in the near term.



While the overall market may experience a market decline, the Disciplined Alpha U.S. Long Short Equity strategy could provide ballast to investors' portfolios. During market declines, Value and Quality stocks tend to outperform. This exposure contributed to positive returns for the strategy during a declining market earlier in the year. If a similar market environment occurs in the future, this exposure could once again contribute meaningfully to the strategy performance.

Thank you for your continued support.

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