

## Fund Description

Lucerne Alternative Investments Fund is a multi-strategy fund-of-funds targeting a return above the RBA Cash Rate +6% through a diversified portfolio of direct investments and managed funds employing a variety of strategies. [Click here to invest.](#)

## Key Facts

Inception Date	1 Dec 2017	
Benchmark	RBA Cash Rate +6%	
Liquidity	Monthly	
Strategy	Multi-Strategy	
Min. Investment	\$25,000	
<b>Class 1</b>		
Unit Price	\$1.170	
Mgt. Fee	1.15%	
Perf. Fee	0%	
APIR Code	PIM7035AU	
<b>Class 2</b>		
Unit Price	\$1.170	
Mgt. Fee	0.40%	
Perf. Fee	12%	
High Water Mark	Yes	
APIR (Class 2)	PIM1923AU	
<b>Distributions<sup>1</sup></b>		
	Class 1	Class 2
30 June 2018	\$0.024	\$0.022
30 June 2020	\$0.009	\$0.012
30 June 2021	\$0.142	\$0.109
30 June 2022	\$0.165	\$0.158
30 June 2023	\$0.090	\$0.095

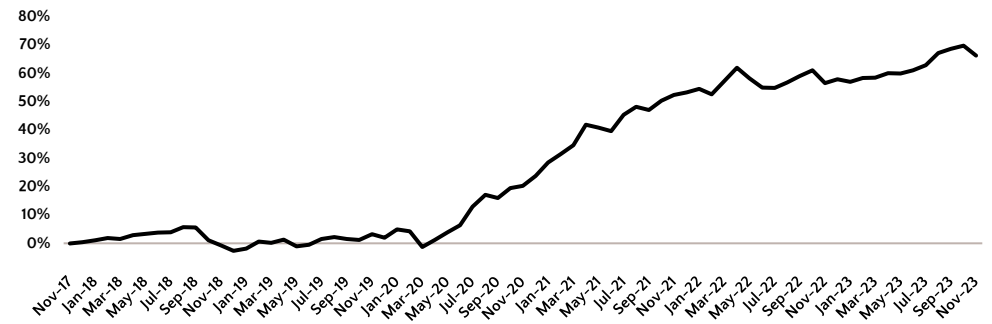
## Risk Statistics

Sharpe Ratio	1.07
Sortino Ratio	1.89
Standard Deviation	6.94%
Maximum Drawdown	-7.88%
% Positive Months	67%

## Service Providers

Responsible Entity	Perpetual
Fund Admin.	APEX
Legal Advisor	Launch Financial Services Lawyers
Fund Auditor	EY

## Cumulative Growth Since Inception

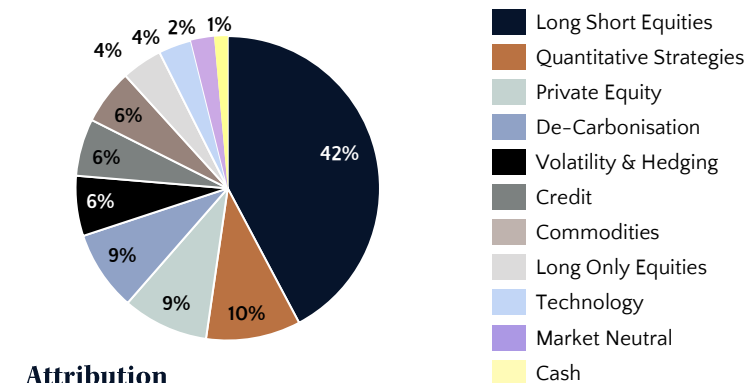


## Performance

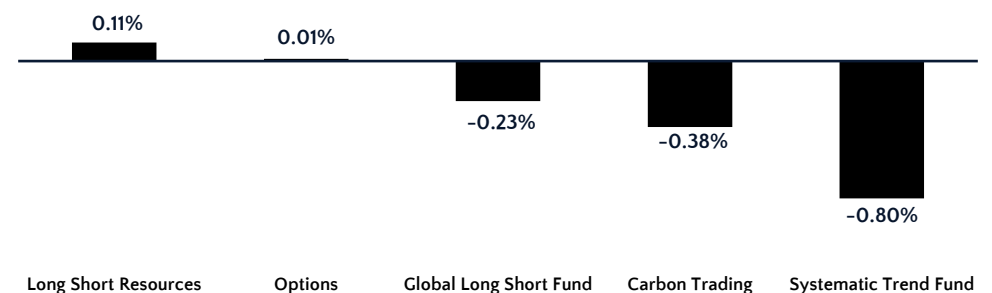
	Since Inception p.a.	5y p.a.	3y p.a.	1y	3m	1m								
<b>Class 1 (net)</b>	8.84%	10.86%	11.38%	6.24%	-0.51%	-2.09%								
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD	
<b>2017</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.40%	0.40%
<b>2018</b>	0.71%	0.80%	-0.37%	1.30%	0.53%	0.42%	0.04%	1.80%	-0.16%	-4.21%	-1.84%	-1.87%	-2.96%	
<b>2019</b>	0.78%	2.57%	-0.47%	1.13%	-2.43%	0.66%	2.07%	0.58%	-0.65%	-0.34%	2.06%	-1.19%	4.95%	
<b>2020</b>	2.91%	-0.75%	-5.25%	2.53%	2.66%	2.36%	6.23%	3.69%	-0.98%	3.02%	0.68%	2.90%	21.13%	
<b>2021</b>	3.78%	2.28%	2.45%	5.37%	-0.71%	-0.93%	4.18%	1.90%	-0.76%	2.26%	1.33%	0.59%	23.78%	
<b>2022</b>	0.80%	-1.25%	3.12%	2.99%	-2.33%	-2.06%	-0.08%	1.22%	1.45%	1.30%	-2.84%	0.90%	3.03%	
<b>2023</b>	-0.57%	0.88%	0.04%	0.99%	-0.07%	0.70%	1.17%	2.59%	0.86%	0.74%	-2.09%		5.30%	

Total returns shown for the Lucerne Alternative Investments Fund have been calculated using unit prices after taking into account all of Perpetual's ongoing fees and assuming reinvestment of distributions. No allowance has been made for taxation. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Information on this document may not be reproduced or communicated, including files downloadable from this website, without the express permission of Lucerne Funds Pty Ltd. Source: APEX Fund Services

## Strategy Allocation



## Attribution



<sup>1</sup>Per unit

Note that distribution of factsheets occurs late in the following month as we need to receive final NAV reports from all underlying managers before finalising the NAV for LAIF. We appreciate your patience. A person should consider the PDS and TMD in deciding whether to acquire or continue to hold units in Lucerne Alternative Investments Fund. The PDS and TMD are available for download at [laif.com.au](http://laif.com.au)

## Market Commentary – November 2023

### The "Death of Inflation" narrative seems misplaced

Over the past year, the decline in inflation has primarily been attributed to improvements on the supply side, such as the mending of supply chains, increased labour force participation and falling energy prices. However, it's uncertain whether these factors can continue to improve and exert the same level of influence on curbing inflation in the future. Should the pace of supply-side recovery slow, and if consumer demand remains constant, we could see a more persistent inflationary environment.

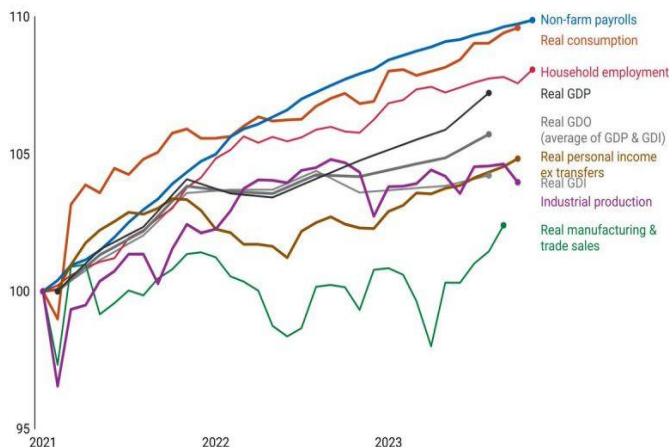
However, we note this assumption hinges on "constant demand levels," contrary to the reports from the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) and Durable Goods indicating a decline in demand. This is evidenced by plummeting backorders and a significant rise in continuing jobless claims, reaching a 26-month high. The backlog levels in the ISM Manufacturing and ISM Services indices are particularly concerning. The ISM Manufacturing backlog number has dropped to 39, the lowest over a decade, and the Services index could fall below 50 for November.

### What recession?

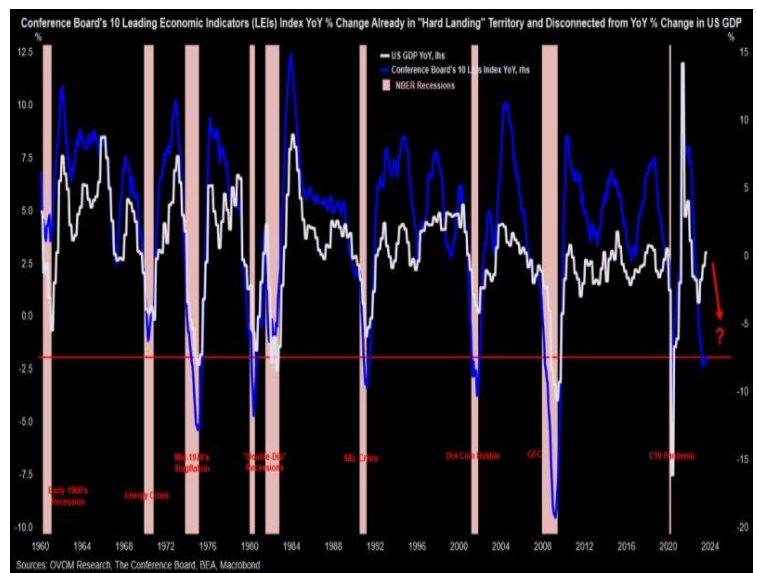
As of the end of November, most Leading Economic Indicators (LEIs) are trending upward, except for industrial production, as evidenced by the ISM data. Historically, whenever the year-over-year (YoY) change in the Leading Economic Indicators index has reached the current level, a severe recession or "hard landing" typically follows within 12 months.

#### Indicators used to determine whether the economy is in recession

Index: Jan 2021=100



The NBER defines a recession as: "a significant decline in economic activity that is spread across the economy and that lasts more than a few months."



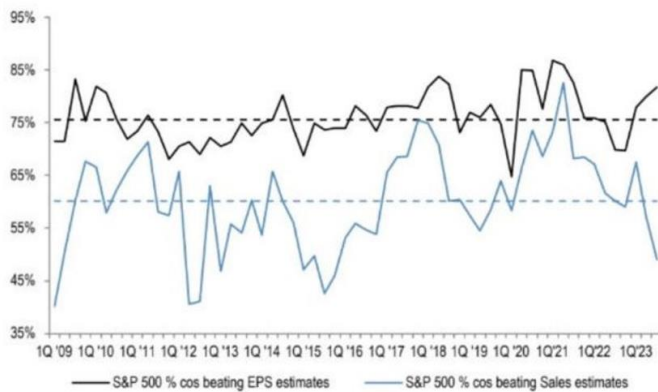
Source: (Source: Macrobond, NBER, OVOM Research)

Furthermore, there's a noticeable disconnect between the current LEIs and the YoY global GDP growth forecast. This relationship has generally shown a strong correlation since the index's inception in 1960. This discrepancy suggests further evidence of a potential hard landing in 2024, a scenario that market participants appear to have overlooked or underestimated.

## Greedflation

In the US, where over 90% of the S&P 500 companies have now reported their Q3 performance, 82% have surpassed their earnings per share (EPS) estimates, although 51% missed on topline revenue growth, which has been negative. The accompanying chart from JP Morgan illustrates this trend, highlighting a growing disparity between earnings and sales. This divergence suggests a downturn in the sales cycle in the last quarter, potentially signalling an impending recession on the back of slowing demand, as discussed above.

In response to this downturn, many companies have capitalised on decreasing raw material costs to boost their profit margins, known as 'Greedflation.' This term encapsulates companies' strategy to focus on profit maximisation by reducing input costs rather than passing these savings onto consumers, which contributes to persistent inflationary pressures.



Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P., J.P. Morgan, dotted lines denote median EPS and Sales beats

We observe a similar pattern in Australia, where major retailers such as Woolworths and Coles are under Senate scrutiny for employing mirroring practices.

This scrutiny reflects a growing concern over businesses prioritising increased profits at the expense of consumer price relief, especially during economic uncertainty and heightened cost of living expenses.

## Markets

In November, there was a notable upswing in global risk assets, primarily influenced by the increasing belief that the US Federal Reserve is close to ending its cycle of rate hikes. This change in market sentiment led to a dramatic fall in US 10-year bond yields, marking their most significant monthly decline since 1985, with a drop of 73 basis points. Additionally, the likelihood of a Federal Reserve rate cut in March 2024 was being priced at 45% by US interest rate futures markets.

This shift also resonated through the currency markets, evidenced by a 3% decrease in the US Dollar (DXY) over the month, hinting that the dollar might have peaked for this cycle. In tandem, the AUD/USD exchange rate rose by 4.2%, and USD-denominated gold prices increased by 2.5%.

Conversely, energy markets witnessed a downturn, with Brent oil prices falling by 5.2% during the month, aligning with the broader disinflationary trend in the market.

Equity markets globally enjoyed broad-based gains across various regions and sectors, accompanied by a significant rise in short-covering, especially among lower-quality and more speculative stocks. In the US, major indices saw substantial gains: the S&P 500 grew by 8.9%, the NASDAQ 100 by 10.7%, and the Russell 2000 Small Cap index by 8.8%. The Australian market followed suit, with the ASX 200 climbing by 4.5% and smaller companies outperforming larger ones, as shown by the 6.9% increase in the ASX Small Ordinaries index.

## Performance

The Lucerne Alternative Investments Fund returned -2.09% for November, primarily due to the precipitous drop in AUDUSD, contributing to 80% of the negative performance. However, it's encouraging to note that the underlying investments have successfully weathered the impact of increasing asset prices. The Fund is still in a favourable position, as we expect a near-term reset in asset prices.

## Lucerne Alternative Investments Fund December 2023

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