FSSA Investment Managers

FSSA Asia Opportunities Fund (Irish VCC)



Investment objective and policy

The Fund aims to grow your investment.
The Fund invests at least 70% of its assets in shares of companies based in, or closely associated with, the Asian Region (excluding Australia, New Zealand and Japan). The Fund may invest in any emerging markets in the Asia Pacific Region (excluding Australia, New Zealand and Japan), in companies of any size or industry.
Emerging markets are countries that are progressing toward becoming advanced, usually shown by some development in financial markets, the existence of some form of stock exchange and a regulatory body. The Fund will not invest more than 50% of its assets in China A Share.
The Fund may use derivatives with the aim of risk reduction or efficient management.

Fund information

Fund launch date	18 October 2002
Fund size (US$m)	37.0
Benchmark	MSCI AC Asia ex Japan Net Index*
Number of holdings	50
Fund manager(s)	Sree Agarwal/Martin Lau

* The benchmark changed from the MSCI AC Asia Information Technology to the above on 01/12/2008. The benchmark of the Fund changed from MSCI AC Asia ex Japan Gross to MSCI AC Asia ex Japan Net with effect from 1 July 2016. This change has been reflected in the calculation of the benchmark performance.

Available share classes

Share class	Sedol	ISIN
FSSA Asia Opportunities Fund USD Class I (Accumulation)	3218145	IE0009570106
FSSA Asia Opportunities Fund USD Class III (Accumulation)	B79MWG5	IE00B79MWG54

About FSSA Investment Managers

FSSA Investment Managers is an autonomous investment management team within First Sentier Group, with dedicated investment professionals based in Hong Kong and Singapore. We are specialists in Asia Pacific and Global Emerging Markets equity strategies, managing assets on behalf of clients globally.
We are bottom-up investors, using fundamental research and analysis to construct high-conviction portfolios. We conduct more than a thousand direct company meetings a year, seeking to identify high quality companies to invest in. We look for founders and management teams that act with integrity and risk awareness; and dominant franchises that have the ability to deliver sustainable and predictable returns over the long term. As responsible, long-term shareholders, we have integrated ESG analysis into our investment process and engage extensively on environmental, labour and governance issues.

Risk factors

This document is a financial promotion for the FSSA Asia Opportunities Fund in the EEA and elsewhere where lawful. Investing involves certain risks including:

- **The value of investments and any income from them may go down as well as up and are not guaranteed. Investors may get back substantially less than the original amount invested.**
- **Emerging market risk:** Emerging markets tend to be more sensitive to economic and political conditions than developed markets. Other factors include greater liquidity risk, restrictions on investment or transfer of assets, failed/delayed settlement and difficulties valuing securities.
- **Currency risk:** The Fund invests in assets which are denominated in other currencies; changes in exchange rates will affect the value of the Fund and could create losses. Currency control decisions made by governments could affect the value of the Fund's investments and could cause the Fund to defer or suspend redemptions of its shares.
- **Smaller companies risk:** investments in smaller companies may be riskier and more difficult to buy and sell than investments in larger companies.
- **Single country / specific region risk:** investing in a single country or specific region may be riskier than investing in a number of different countries or regions. Investing in a larger number of countries or regions helps spread risk.

Reference to specific securities (if any) is included for the purpose of illustration only and should not be construed as a recommendation to buy or sell. Reference to the names of any company is merely to explain the investment strategy and should not be construed as investment advice or a recommendation to invest in any of those companies.

For a full description of the terms of investment and the risks please see the Prospectus and Key Information Document.

If you are in any doubt as to the suitability of our funds for your investment needs, please seek investment advice.
If you are unsure of the terminology used in this report, please seek independent financial advice.

Annual performance in USD (%) to 30 September 2026

	12 mths to 30/09/26	12 mths to 30/09/25	12 mths to 30/09/24	12 mths to 30/09/23	12 mths to 30/09/22
FSSA Asia Opportunities Fund	9.5	5.3	20.1	6.9	-22.6
MSCI AC Asia ex Japan Net Index	31.1	17.2	28.9	10.9	-28.7

Cumulative performance in USD (%) to 30 September 2026

	Since Inception	10 yrs	5 yrs	3 yrs	1 yr	YTD	6 mths	3 mths
FSSA Asia Opportunities Fund	579.1	71.1	14.5	38.4	9.5	9.1	20.4	1.6
MSCI AC Asia ex Japan Net Index	604.4	153.7	56.6	98.2	31.1	25.8	27.3	-0.4

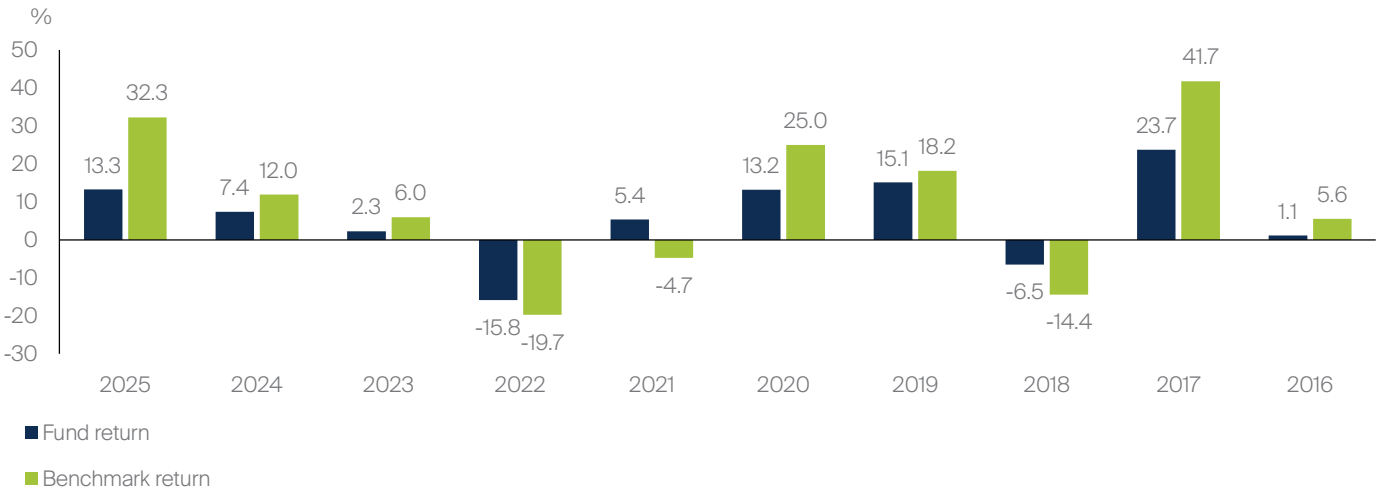
Performance review

Over the past 12 months, key contributors to performance included **MediaTek**, which rose amid growing optimism around its AI ASIC business and strong sales growth momentum. In addition, NVIDIA and MediaTek announced that they would deepen their relationship across AI datacentre infrastructure, with NVIDIA investing US$3.5bn in MediaTek's convertible bonds. **Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp (OCBC)** reported strong earnings results, mainly driven by wealth management. The new CEO aims to maintain the bank's growth ambitions, with a focus on strengthening its franchise in Hong Kong, Singapore and across ASEAN domestic markets.

On the negative side, **DPC Dash*** declined after reporting weaker-than-expected earnings results, mainly due to lower profits from its bricks-and-mortar stores. Despite the challenges in the near term, we think the growth opportunity remains attractive – pizza is the fastest growing restaurant category in China, with increasing popularity amongst the younger generations and families. **NetEase Cloud Music*** declined on concerns about greater competition, given Soda Music's rapid growth in users. However, we believe NetEase Cloud Music's young user base (more willing to pay for music subscriptions) and differentiated music community (high engagement on the platform) should benefit from network effects and help with user retention.

*No longer owned in the portfolio.

Calendar year performance (% in USD) to 30 September 2026



These figures refer to the past. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. For investors based in countries with currencies other than USD, the return may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations. Since inception performance figures have been calculated from 18 October 2002. All performance data for the FSSA Asia Opportunities Fund Class I (Accumulation) USD as at 30 September 2026. Source for fund - Lipper IM / First Sentier Group. Performance data is calculated on a net basis by deducting fees incurred at fund level (e.g. the management fee and other fund expenses), save that it does not take account of initial charges or switching fees (if any). Income reinvested is included on a net of tax basis. Source for benchmark - MSCI, income reinvested net of tax.

▲On 22 September 2020, First State Asia Opportunities Fund was rebranded as FSSA Asia Opportunities Fund.

Portfolio review

New purchases over the quarter included **Luxshare Precision**, an electronics contract manufacturer that counts Apple as its largest client. In recent years the company has been diversifying its business away from smartphone assembly towards automotive components and segments related to AI data centre infrastructure, such as connection components, optical components and cooling systems. Luxshare's disciplined management and track record of scaling new businesses give us confidence in its prospects.

We also purchased **Bajaj Auto**, a leading Indian two- and three-wheeler manufacturer with strong brands, a well-established export franchise and a long track record of generating high returns on capital. Management has been disciplined in shifting the business towards more profitable segments, strengthening margins and cash generation while maintaining a conservative balance sheet. We see significant growth potential in its premium motorcycle portfolio, through brands such as KTM and Triumph, as well as in its electric vehicle business, where Chetak has emerged as a leading player. In addition, its export operations provide exposure to rising mobility demand across emerging markets and are supported by strong distribution networks and local market expertise. We believe Bajaj Auto is well positioned to compound earnings, free cash flow and intrinsic value over the long term.

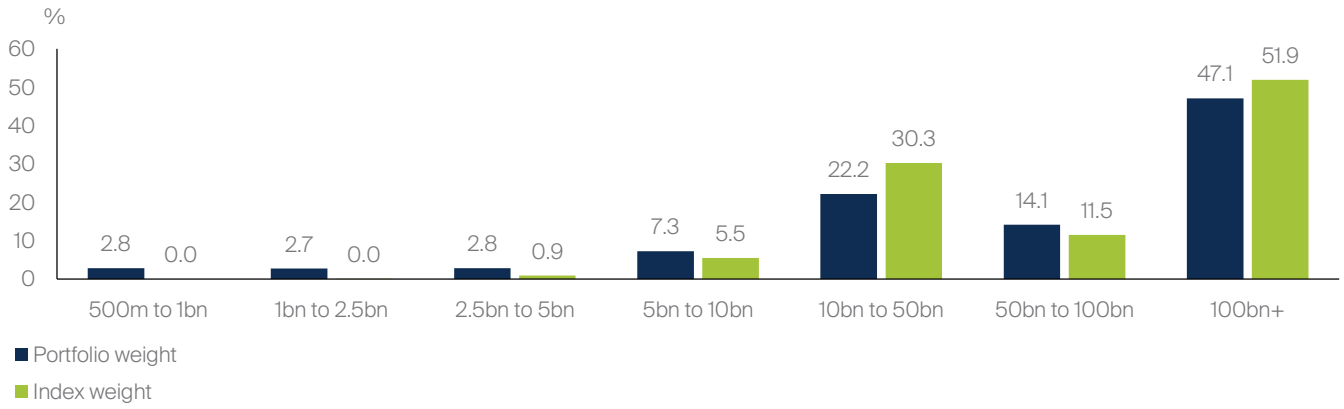
We sold **Godrej Industries** to raise cash for better ideas elsewhere. We also sold **KEI Industries** as it had reached our fair market valuation.

Stock spotlight

Mediatek is one of the largest chip design companies globally. We have been following Mediatek for many years and have witnessed its performance through the cycles. Throughout the ups and downs in its history, its talented engineers and well-aligned management team usually find a way through to the next "big thing". From optical drives for computers to scan CDs, it entered the smartphone supply chain with 2G modem chips and benefited from technology upgrades each year – until it collapsed in 2015-17 amid poor execution and competition from both low- and high-end competitors.

In 2018 Rick Tsai joined Mediatek from TSMC and focused on getting the basics right again. We believe Mediatek has been transformed under his leadership into a better-quality company. In recent years, the company has improved its competitiveness, and we believe its market share will likely remain stable. With the smartphone market now in the mature stages, the company is investing into new areas (ASIC, auto, augmented reality/virtual reality, Internet of Things, artificial intelligence) to diversify and internationalise its business.

Market capitalisation breakdown (USD)



Data source: For illustration purposes only. Portfolio weights may not add up to 100% as cash holdings are excluded and full coverage of stocks is not always available. This information is calculated by First Sentier Group. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Reference to specific securities (if any) is included for the purpose of illustration only and should not be construed as a recommendation to buy or sell the same. All securities mentioned herein may or may not form part of the holdings of First Sentier Group' portfolios at a certain point in time, and the holdings may change over time. These figures refer to the past. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. For investors based in countries with currencies other than USD, the return may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations.

Outlook

Asian equities continue to offer a compelling combination of structural growth and improving earnings prospects. We see attractive opportunities in India, supported by favourable demographics and rising incomes, while in China, the shift towards higher-value industries and globally competitive businesses continues to create a rich opportunity set for long-term investors. In the near term, markets are likely to be influenced by the path of US interest rates, global trade policy developments, Chinese policy support and the sustainability of AI-related capital expenditure. But we believe valuations across much of Asia remain reasonable relative to long-term earnings potential, particularly in parts of China and ASEAN where sentiment remains subdued. Meanwhile, though returns have been driven by a narrow group of AI beneficiaries over the past two years, there are encouraging signs that market leadership is beginning to broaden. We are confident that our portfolio holdings – high-quality businesses with strong governance, resilient balance sheets and durable competitive advantages – should continue to deliver attractive shareholder returns in the long run.

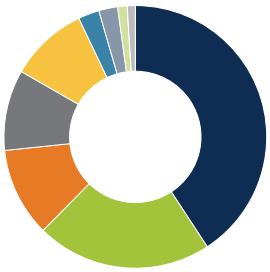
Our long-term investment themes:

- Dominant consumer franchises which have an edge in brand, distribution and innovation.
- High quality financials, supported by a strong deposit franchise or a specific loan niche.
- The rise in healthcare spending, due to increasing incomes and healthy consumer choices.
- Beneficiaries of a smarter, more connected world.
- An ageing population and the growing trend of automation.

Ten largest company holdings as at 30 September 2026

Stock name	Country	Sector	Portfolio weight (%)
Taiwan Semiconductor (TSMC)	Taiwan	Information Technology	10.0
Samsung Electronics Co Ltd Pfd NV	South Korea	Information Technology	9.1
Tencent Holdings Ltd	China	Communication Services	7.9
MediaTek Inc	Taiwan	Information Technology	6.3
ICICI Bank Limited	India	Financials	4.9
SK hynix Inc.	South Korea	Information Technology	4.1
AIA Group Limited	Hong Kong	Financials	3.4
Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation	Singapore	Financials	2.7
Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited	India	Financials	2.6
Midea Group	China	Consumer Discretionary	2.4

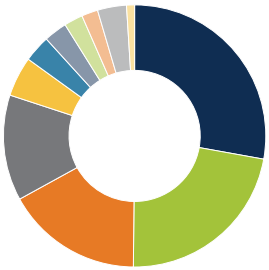
Sector breakdown



- Information Technology **40.8%** (48.7%*)
- Financials **21.6%** (17.6%*)
- Consumer Discretionary **11.0%** (7.8%*)
- Communication Services **9.9%** (5.7%*)
- Industrials **9.6%** (7.2%*)
- Health Care **2.6%** (2.9%*)
- Consumer Staples **2.3%** (1.9%*)
- Materials **1.2%** (3.2%*)
- Other **0.0%** (4.9%*)
- Cash **1.0%** (0.0%*)

*Index weight

Country breakdown



- Taiwan **27.8%** (32.3%*)
- China **22.3%** (22.1%*)
- South Korea **16.8%** (23.8%*)
- India **13.0%** (11.9%*)
- Hong Kong **4.9%** (3.5%*)
- Singapore **3.3%** (3.6%*)
- Indonesia **2.9%** (0.5%*)
- Philippines **2.3%** (0.3%*)
- USA **2.0%** (0.0%*)
- Other **3.6%** (2.0%*)
- Cash **1.0%** (0.0%*)

*Index weight

Sector and Country classifications provided by Factset and First Sentier Group. The Fund may hold multiple equity securities in the same company, which have been combined to provide the Fund's total position in that company. Index weights, if any, typically include only the main domestic-listed security. The above Fund weightings may or may not include reference to multiple securities. Allocation percentage is rounded to the nearest one decimal place and the total allocation percentage may not add up to 100%.

Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Reference to specific securities (if any) is included for the purpose of illustration only and should not be construed as a recommendation to buy or sell the same. All securities mentioned herein may or may not form part of the holdings of First Sentier Investors' portfolios at a certain point in time, and the holdings may change over time. These figures refer to the past. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. For investors based in countries with currencies other than USD, the return may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations.

Top 5 contributors to absolute performance

3 months to 30 September 2026

Stock name	Country	Sector	Value added (bps*)
Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited	Singapore	Financials	80
MediaTek Inc	Taiwan	Information Technology	79
Lite-On Technology Corp.	Taiwan	Information Technology	56
Samsung Electronics Co Ltd Pfd Non-Voting	South Korea	Information Technology	45
LG Corp	South Korea	Industrials	39

12 months to 30 September 2026

Stock name	Country	Sector	Value added (bps*)
Samsung Electronics Co Ltd Pfd Non-Voting	South Korea	Information Technology	757
MediaTek Inc	Taiwan	Information Technology	735
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	Taiwan	Information Technology	575
Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited	Singapore	Financials	184
Lite-On Technology Corp.	Taiwan	Information Technology	118

Bottom 5 contributors to absolute performance

3 months to 30 September 2026

Stock name	Country	Sector	Value added (bps*)
SK hynix Inc.	South Korea	Information Technology	-71
Silergy Corp.	Taiwan	Information Technology	-55
HDFC Bank Limited	India	Financials	-34
Contemporary Amperex Technology Co., Limited Class A	China	Industrials	-30
ICICI Bank Limited	India	Financials	-26

12 months to 30 September 2026

Stock name	Country	Sector	Value added (bps*)
Tencent Holdings Ltd	China	Communication Services	-386
DPC Dash Limited	China	Consumer Discretionary	-202
NetEase Cloud Music Inc.	China	Communication Services	-147
HDFC Bank Limited	India	Financials	-119
MAKEMYTRIP LTD USD0.0005	India	Consumer Discretionary	-73

Stock contributions show the impact of the individual stock's performance to the total fund performance. These stock contributions show the top 5 and bottom 5 contributors to the fund and are not representative of the performance of the fund as a whole.
These figures refer to the past. Past Performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. For investors based in countries with currencies other than USD, the return may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuation.
This stock information does not constitute any offer or inducement to enter into investment activity.
Contributions are calculated at the investee company level before the deduction of any fees incurred at fund level (e.g. the management fee and other fund expenses) but after deduction of transactional costs. Stocks held/listed in non-index countries have economic activity > 50% from developing economies.
* A basis point is a unit of measure used in finance to describe the percentage change in value or rate of a financial instrument. One basis point is equivalent to 0.01% (1/100th of a percent) or 0.0001 in decimal form.
Data source: This information is calculated by First Sentier Group.

Portfolio risk analysis - ex-post 3 years annualised to 30 September 2026

Risk measure	Value	Risk description
Beta	0.74	Beta is a measure of volatility relative to the market. A beta of 1 would indicate that the fund tended to move in line with the market; a beta greater than 1 would indicate that the fund has been more volatile than the market; whereas a beta less than 1 would indicate that the fund has been less volatile than the market.
Information Ratio	-1.65	The fund's excess return divided by its tracking error. It is designed to assess a portfolio's performance relative to its level of benchmark risk. The higher the fund's information ratio, the more excess return it generates for each unit of tracking error.
Portfolio Standard Deviation	14.58%	A measure of how much the returns of the fund vary relative to the arithmetical average. The higher the fund's standard deviation, the more its returns tend to deviate from the mean.
Benchmark Standard Deviation	18.09%	A measure of how much the returns of the index vary relative to the arithmetical average. The higher the index's standard deviation, the more its returns tend to deviate from the mean.
Tracking Error	7.53%	The standard deviation of the difference between the fund's returns and those of the index. The higher the fund's tracking error, the more its performance relative to the benchmark may vary.

Portfolio risk analysis - ex-ante at 30 September 2026

Risk measure	Value	Risk description
Dividend Yield (Fund)	1.88%	The annual dividend yield paid per share divided by the share price. This factor measures the value of company shares according to the stream of dividend income resulting from share ownership.
Dividend Yield (Index)	1.67%	The annual dividend yield paid per share divided by the share price. This factor measures the value of company shares according to the stream of dividend income resulting from share ownership.
Price to Book (Fund)	2.91	The ratio of the company's book value (the sum of shareholders' equity plus accumulated retained earnings from the P & L account) to its share price. This factor has been one of the most successful measures of the intrinsic value of company shares.
Price to Book (Index)	2.69	The ratio of the company's book value (the sum of shareholders' equity plus accumulated retained earnings from the P & L account) to its share price. This factor has been one of the most successful measures of the intrinsic value of company shares.
Price to Earnings (Fund)	15.99	Annual earnings (adjusted for amortizations of intangibles, extraordinary charges and credits) per share divided by the share price. This factor measures the worth of a company's ability to support each share with after tax earnings.
Price to Earnings (Index)	15.09	Annual earnings (adjusted for amortizations of intangibles, extraordinary charges and credits) per share divided by the share price. This factor measures the worth of a company's ability to support each share with after tax earnings.

Data source: Ex-post information is calculated by First Sentier Group, ex-ante information is provided by FactSet.

Important information

This document has been prepared for informational purposes only and is only intended to provide a summary of the subject matter covered and does not purport to be comprehensive. The views expressed are the views of the writer at the time of issue and may change over time. It does not constitute investment advice and/or a recommendation and should not be used as the basis of any investment decision.

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Further information is contained in the Prospectus and the relevant key information documents which are available free of charge by writing to: 2nd Floor, Block A, City East Plaza, Towlerton, Ballysimon, Limerick, V94 X2N9, Ireland or by telephoning +353 1 434 5018 between 9am and 5pm (Dublin time) Monday to Friday or by visiting www.firstsentierinvestors.com Telephone calls may be recorded.

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