Janus Henderson INVESTORS

HORIZON JAPANESE SMALLER COMPANIES FUND

At a glance

Performance*
The Fund returned −1.26%, the Index returned 1.40% and the Sector returned 0.64%.

Contributors/detractors
Harmonic Drive Systems and Kanto Denka Kogyo contributed to fund performance, while Menicon and Park24 detracted.

Outlook
We believe Japanese corporate governance reforms are entering the next phase. Therefore, we are focused on corporate governance improvements as a key potential value driver for the fund.

Portfolio management



Yunyoung Lee, CFA

Investment environment

- Japanese equities rose in US dollar terms in September. Sentiment shifted as investors balanced increases in bond yields, energy price rises and concerns about inflation with renewed optimism about artificial intelligence (AI) during the month.
- The Bank of Japan (BoJ) raised interest rates by 25 basis points (bps) to a 31-year high of 1.25% and indicated that further hikes may be needed.
- Economic data was generally supportive. Second-quarter GDP growth was revised up to an annualised 1.4% from an initial estimate of 1.1%, albeit down from the first quarter's 1.8% rise. Wages grew by the most in almost 30 years in July, while business sentiment in the manufacturing sector hit a five-year high in September, largely due to AI-related capital expenditure (capex).
- Meanwhile, the annual core inflation rate (which excludes volatile fresh food prices) slowed for the first time in four months to 1.7% in August, from 1.8% in July. This was mainly due to government support measures.
- The yen strengthened against the US dollar early in the month, reaching a seven-month high before giving up most of its gains, despite the BoJ's rate hike, which prompted renewed discussions about possible intervention.
- Japanese small-cap stocks underperformed their large-cap counterparts in September, which may be attributed to a softening in domestic demand.

Portfolio review

Key detractors were Menicon (contact lenses) and Park24 (car park operator). Shares in Menicon weakened due to a combination of profit-taking and its cautious full-year outlook, despite reporting robust first-quarter results that significantly exceeded market expectations in early August. The shares had advanced strongly following a number of earnings upgrades in response to the earnings release, before falling back as investors took some profits. Park24's share price fell after its subsidiary, Times Mobility, suffered a material cybersecurity breach at its car-sharing service, Times Car. The breach affected about 6.6 million customer accounts and exposed personal information, such as driving licences, phone numbers and email addresses. Concerns about reputational and litigation risks weighed on investor sentiment.

Conversely, our semiconductor-related holdings, such as Harmonic Drive Systems (HDS) (factory automation) and

Marketing communication
For professional investors only
Past performance does not predict future returns.
References made to individual securities do not constitute a recommendation to buy, sell or hold any security, investment strategy or market sector, and should not be assumed to be profitable. Janus Henderson Investors, its affiliated advisor, or its employees, may have a position in the securities mentioned. There is no guarantee that past trends will continue, or forecasts will be realised.
This product is based overseas and is not subject to UK sustainable investment labelling and disclosure requirements.
*For benchmark and sector, if applicable, refer to Fund details on page 3. For relevant descriptions, risks and the Fund's investment policy statement, refer to Additional fund information on page 4.

Kanto Denka Kogyo (chemicals), contributed to fund performance. HDS announced strong first-quarter results and robust order growth. We believe the company could benefit from mounting expectations of growing demand for AI and humanoid robots, as well as a recovery in demand for semiconductor manufacturing equipment. In a similar vein, Kanto Denka Kogyo reported better-than-expected first-quarter earnings and raised its full-year guidance due to expectations of growing demand for semiconductor specialty gas. We also believe it could see stronger growth in its battery materials division, as battery producers pursue supply chain diversification to reduce their dependency on China.

During the month, we closed the position in DKK (base station antennas) following the recent outperformance of its share price. We felt its operational turnaround and favourable shareholder return policy were largely priced in.

Manager outlook

We believe Japanese corporate governance reforms are transitioning into the next phase. At the same time, corporates hold record levels of cash (a two-fold increase over the past 10 years), despite delivering shareholder returns on an unprecedented scale. Currently, about half of the companies listed on the TOPIX Index have a net cash balance sheet.

We expect the Tokyo Stock Exchange and Japan's Financial Services Agency to seek to address the hoarding of cash by corporations, including by encouraging them to increase investment, research and development (R&D), mergers and acquisitions (M&A), and the restructuring of less profitable businesses, to enhance capital efficiency.

Over the next few years, Japanese small- and mid-cap firms may undergo significant business transformations because of stringent corporate governance requirements and growing pressure from shareholders. Therefore, we focus on improvements in corporate governance as a key value driver for the fund. To capture potential opportunities and help manage risk, we adjust our holding sizes in line with our convictions, following our quarterly management update interviews with the companies we hold in the fund.

Performance (%)

Returns	Cumulative				Annualised			
	1 Month	3 Month	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Since inception (30/08/85)
A2 USD (Net)	-1.26	-2.74	23.44	27.64	17.75	6.60	7.73	7.71
Index	1.40	6.53	19.36	21.53	20.30	8.62	8.03	7.10
Sector	0.64	4.74	22.43	23.99	19.35	5.88	7.87	7.75
A2 USD (Gross)	—	—	—	—	—	8.69	9.93	9.74
Target	—	—	—	—	—	11.34	10.73	9.78

12 month rolling	Sep 2025-Sep 2026	Sep 2024-Sep 2025	Sep 2023-Sep 2024	Sep 2022-Sep 2023	Sep 2021-Sep 2022
A2 USD (Net)	27.64	15.05	11.18	9.74	-23.16
Index	21.53	19.90	19.48	18.86	-26.93
Sector	23.99	18.16	16.04	13.65	-31.13

Performance is on a net of fees basis, with gross income reinvested. Source: at 30/09/26. © 2026 Morningstar, Inc. All rights reserved. The information contained herein: (1) is proprietary to Morningstar and/or its content providers; (2) may not be copied or distributed; and (3) is not warranted to be accurate, complete, or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information. **Past performance does not predict future returns.** Performance/performance target related data will display only where relevant to the share class inception date and annualised target time period. **The value of an investment and the income from it can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount originally invested.** Source for target returns (where applicable) - Janus Henderson Investors.

Fund charges will impact the value of your investment. In particular, the ongoing charges applicable to each fund will dilute investment performance, particularly over time. For further explanation of charges please visit our Fund Charges page at www.janushenderson.com.

Note that any differences among portfolio securities currencies, share class currencies and costs to be paid or represented in currencies other than your home currency will expose you to currency risk. Costs and returns may increase or decrease as a result of currency and exchange rate fluctuations.

Performance fees may be charged before the Fund's outperformance target is reached.

Performance fees are charged separately as a way of rewarding the investment manager for superior returns or for outperforming specified targets. A Performance Fee is accrued where the NAV outperforms the relevant Hurdle NAV (subject to a High Water Mark). For further explanation of the performance fee calculation methodology please see the relevant prospectus, available at www.janushenderson.com.

Investment objective

The Fund aims to provide capital growth over the long term. Performance target: To outperform the Russell/Nomura Small Cap Index by 2.5% per annum, before the deduction of charges, over any 5 year period.

For the fund's investment policy, refer to the Additional fund information on page 4.
Past performance does not predict future returns.

Fund details

Inception date	01 August 1985
Total net assets	48.40bn
Asset class	Equities
Domicile	Luxembourg
Structure	SICAV
Base currency	JPY
Index	Russell/Nomura Small Cap Index
Morningstar sector	Japan Small/Mid-Cap Equity

Additional fund information

Tax assumptions and reliefs depend upon an investor's particular circumstances and may be subject to change. Please note the performance target is to be achieved over a specific annualised time period. Refer to the performance target wording within the objective. Availability of share classes shown may be limited by law in certain jurisdictions. Performance records/scenarios are detailed within the fund's specific KIID/KID; fees and charges, and the respective risk rating may vary. Further information can be found in the fund's prospectus and KIID/KID, which must be reviewed before investing. Please consult your local sales representative and/or financial adviser if you have any queries. From 17 November 2014, the base currency of the fund changed from USD to JPY. From 1 November 2015, the Fund changed its benchmark from Tokyo SE Second Section Index to the Russell/Nomura Small Cap Index. The benchmark shown is a composite of the two. Past performance shown before 1 November 2015 was achieved under circumstances that no longer apply. This is a Luxembourg SICAV Fund, regulated by the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF). These are the views of the author at the time of publication and may differ from the views of other individuals/teams at Janus Henderson Investors. Any securities, funds, sectors or indices mentioned within this article do not constitute or form part of any offer or solicitation to buy or sell them. The information in this commentary does not qualify as an investment recommendation. Investment into the fund will acquire units/shares of the fund itself and not the underlying assets owned by the fund. Cash balances and exposures are based on settled and unsettled trades as at the reporting date.

Investment policy

The Fund invests at least two-thirds of its assets in a portfolio of shares (equities) and equity-related securities of smaller companies, in any industry, in Japan. The Fund may also invest in other assets including companies of any size, cash and money market instruments. The Investment Manager may use derivatives (complex financial instruments) to reduce risk or to manage the Fund more efficiently. The Fund is actively managed with reference to the Russell/Nomura Small Cap Index, which is broadly representative of the companies in which it may invest, as this forms the basis of the Fund's performance target and the level above which performance fees may be charged (if applicable). The Investment Manager has discretion to choose investments for the Fund with weightings different to the index or not in the index, but at times the Fund may hold investments similar to the index.

Investment strategy

The Investment Manager believes in-depth stock analysis, coupled with superior stock picking are the main drivers of superior long-term performance in Japanese smaller companies. The Fund is designed to capture the undervalued growth potential of Japanese smaller companies by typically investing in the smallest 25% of listed Japanese companies by market capitalisation using a disciplined, pragmatic and risk-aware investment process. The investment approach focuses on stock valuation, investment catalysts and long-term structural growth to drive earnings and returns.

Fund specific risks

Shares can lose value rapidly, and typically involve higher risks than bonds or money market instruments. The value of your investment may fall as a result. Shares of small and mid-size companies can be more volatile than shares of larger companies, and at times it may be difficult to value or to sell shares at desired times and prices, increasing the risk of losses. High exposure to a particular country or geographical region carries a higher level of risk than a more broadly diversified portfolio. Derivatives may be used with the aim of reducing risk or managing the portfolio more efficiently. However, this introduces other risks, in particular, that a derivative counterparty may not meet its contractual obligations. If the Fund holds assets in currencies other than the base currency of the Fund, or you invest in a share/unit class of a different currency to the Fund (unless hedged, i.e. seeks to mitigate exchange rate movements between the share/unit class currency and the base currency of the Fund), the value of your investment may be impacted by changes in exchange rates. When the Fund, or a share/unit class, seeks to mitigate exchange rate movements of a currency relative to the base currency (hedge), the hedging strategy itself may positively or negatively impact the value of the Fund due to differences in short-term interest rates between the currencies. Securities could become hard to value or to sell at a desired time and price, especially in extreme market conditions when asset prices may be falling, increasing the risk of investment losses. Losses could be incurred if a counterparty became unwilling or unable to meet its obligations, or as a result of failure or delay in operational processes or the failure of a third party provider.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT **JANUSHENDERSON.COM**

Janus Henderson
INVESTORS

Source: Janus Henderson Investors, as at 30 September 2026, unless otherwise noted.

This product integrates ESG but does not pursue a sustainable investment strategy or have a sustainable investment objective or otherwise take ESG factors into account in a binding manner. ESG integration is the practice of incorporating material environmental, social and governance (ESG) information or insights in a non-binding manner alongside traditional measures into the investment decision process to improve long-term financial outcomes of portfolios. ESG related research is one of many factors considered within the investment process and in this material we seek to show why it is financially relevant. UK investors please note: This product is not authorised in the United Kingdom but overseas; therefore the Financial Ombudsman Service is unlikely to consider complaints related to the scheme, its operator or its depositary. Any claims for losses relating to the operator and the depositary of the scheme are unlikely to be covered under the compensation scheme and prospective investors should consider getting financial advice before deciding to invest. Please read the prospectus of the scheme for more information. **This document is intended solely for the use of professionals and is not for general public distribution. This is a marketing communication. Please refer to the prospectus of the UCITS and to the KID before making any final investment decisions. Any investment application will be made solely on the basis of the information contained in the Fund's prospectus (including all relevant covering documents), which will contain investment restrictions. This document is intended as a summary only and potential investors must read the Fund's prospectus and key information document before investing. A copy of the Fund's prospectus and key information document can be obtained from Janus Henderson Investors UK Limited in its capacity as Investment Manager and Distributor. For sustainability related aspects please access Janushenderson.com. We may record telephone calls for our mutual protection, to improve customer service and for regulatory record keeping purposes. Past performance does not predict future returns. The performance data does not take into account the commissions and costs incurred on the issue and redemption of units. The value of an investment and the income from it can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount originally invested. Tax assumptions and reliefs depend upon an investor's particular circumstances and may change if those circumstances or the law change. If you invest through a third party provider you are advised to consult them directly as charges, performance and terms and conditions may differ materially. The securities included in this document are not registered in the Foreign Securities Registry of the Superintendencia de Valores y Seguros for public offering and, therefore, the use of this document is only for general information purposes. Nothing in this document is intended to or should be construed as advice. This document is not a recommendation to sell or purchase any investment. It does not form part of any contract for the sale or purchase of any investment. The Fund is a recognised collective investment scheme for the purpose of promotion into the United Kingdom. Potential investors in the United Kingdom are advised that all, or most, of the protections afforded by the United Kingdom regulatory system will not apply to an investment in the Fund and that compensation will not be**

available under the United Kingdom Financial Services Compensation Scheme. With effect from 1 January 2023, the Key Investor Information document (KIID) changed to the Key Information Document (KID), except in the UK where investors should continue to refer to the KIID. The Janus Henderson Horizon Fund (the "Fund") is a Luxembourg SICAV incorporated on 30 May 1985, managed by Janus Henderson Investors Europe S.A. Issued by Janus Henderson Investors. Janus Henderson Investors is the name under which investment products and services are provided by Janus Henderson Investors International Limited (reg no. 3594615), Janus Henderson Investors UK Limited (reg. no. 906355), Janus Henderson Fund Management UK Limited (reg. no. 2678531), Tabula Investment Management Limited (reg. no. 11286661), (each registered in England and Wales at 201 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3AE and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority) and Janus Henderson Investors Europe S.A. (reg no. B22848 at 78, Avenue de la Liberté, L-1930 Luxembourg, Luxembourg and regulated by the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier). Copies of the Fund's Prospectus, Key Information Document, Articles of Incorporation, annual and semi-annual reports are available in English and other local languages as required from www.janushenderson.com. These documents can also be obtained free of charge from the Registered Office of the Company at 78, Avenue de la Liberté, L-1930 Luxembourg, Luxembourg. They can also be obtained free of charge from the local Facilities Agents and the Swiss representative and paying agent. Janus Henderson Investors Europe S.A. ("JHIESA"), 78, Avenue de la Liberté, L-1930 Luxembourg, Luxembourg, is the Facilities Agent in Austria, Belgium Germany, Ireland, Malta, Portugal, Sweden and Liechtenstein. JHIESA is also the Facilities Agent for France (Sub – TA is CACEIS). FE fundinfo (Luxembourg) S.à.r.l., 6 Boulevard des Lumières, Belvaux, 4369 Luxembourg, is the Facilities Agent in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Poland and Greece. State Street Bank International GmbH – Succursale Italia, Société Générale Securities Services S.p.A (SGSS S.p.A), Allfunds Bank S.A.U filiale di Milano, Caceis Bank Italy Branch, and Banca Sella Holding S.p.A. are the Sub Transfer Agents for Italy. Allfunds Bank S.A., Estafeta 6, La Moraleja, Complejo Plaza de la Fuente, Alcobendas 28109, Madrid, Spain is the Facilities Agent in Spain (Janus Henderson Horizon Fund is registered with the CNMV under number 353). The prospectus, the key information documents, the articles, the annual and semi-annual Reports as well as a list of all purchases and sales for the account may be obtained free of charge from the Swiss Representative. The Swiss Representative is FIRST INDEPENDENT FUND SERVICES LTD., Feldeggstrasse 12, CH-8008 Zurich. The Paying Agent in Switzerland is Banque Cantonale de Genève, 17, quai de l'Ile, CH-1204 Geneva. In respect of the units offered in Switzerland, the place of performance is the registered office of the representative. The place of jurisdiction is at the registered office of the representative or at the registered office or place of residence of the investor. The Hong Kong Representative is Janus Henderson Investors Hong Kong Limited of Units 701-702, 7/F, LHT Tower, 31 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong. Janus Henderson Investors (Singapore) Limited (Company Registration No. 199700782N), whose principal place of business is at 138, Market Street #34-03/04, CapitaGreen, Singapore 048946, Singapore (Tel: 65 6813 1000). The summary of Investors Rights is available in English from https://www.janushenderson.com/summary-of-investors-rights-english. Janus Henderson Investors Europe S.A. may decide to terminate the marketing arrangements of this Collective Investment Scheme in accordance with the appropriate regulation. Janus Henderson® and any other trademarks used herein are trademarks of Janus Henderson Group Ltd. or one of its subsidiaries. © Janus Henderson Group Ltd.