

# FIRST METRO SAVE AND LEARN **EQUITY FUND**



FUND FACT SHEFT - AS OF JULY 31, 2025

## **FUND PROFILE**

Aggressive

Min. Holding Period

PHP 5.000

## **MARKET UPDATE**

The Philippine Stock Exchange Index, declined in July, falling 1.76% to close at 6,252.73, making it the region's worst performer for the month. This came despite a strong global backdrop led by a rally in U.S. equities and optimism around several U.S. trade agreements, including deals with Japan, Indonesia, Vietnam, and the Philippines. Under the new agreement, Philippine exports to the U.S. are now subject to a 19% tariff, while U.S. imports face zero duties—raising concerns about the country's trade balance and current account deficit. The local market was weighed down by several domestic headwinds. A large foreign investor offloaded shares of SM Investments and SM Prime at a discount, and the regulatory crackdown on online gaming led to a sharp sell-off in sector leader Digiplus (PLUS), which fell 51.5%. Broader investor sentiment was also impacted by the peso's depreciation to PHP58.39/USD—the weakest level since February—amid rate cut expectations from the BSP and a stronger U.S. dollar. Despite regulatory uncertainties, online gaming stocks like PLUS and BLOOM remained actively traded, accounting for 18.45% of July's average daily turnover, up from 15.14% in June. The absence of any mention of online gaming in President Marcos Jr.'s SONA was perceived positively by the market. On the currency front, the Philippine peso was the worst-performing ASEAN currency in July, driven by narrowing interest rate differentials and potential BSP policy easing. The weakening peso and tariff adjustments are expected to put additional pressure on the country's external balances in the near term. Foreign investors were net sellers for this month at \$29Mn, Year to date net foreign outflow stands at \$632Mn.

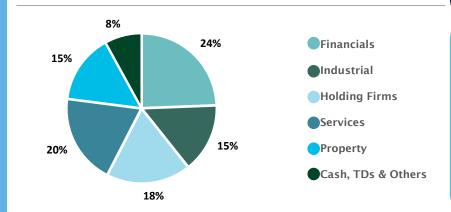
The Fund was down 2.21% MoM in July and underperformed its benchmark by 45 bps. Overweights in Converge ICT Solutions (CNVRG - 8.12% MoM) and BDO Unibank (BDO -6.6% MoM), and underweight in PLDT Inc (TEL+8.2% MoM) were the main sources of underperformance for the month. Meanwhile, underweight in AEV (CNVRG -9.2% MoM), and overweights in ICTSI (ICT +9% MoM) and non-index call Philippine Seven (SEVN, +16.5%), were the main sources of outperformance for the month.

August is a data heavy month for Philippine equities with the slew of corporate earnings results coming out and macro data on second quarter GDP and July inflation also being released. There is also the BSP monetary board meeting at the last week of August. So far, the second quarter GDP and July inflation print looks supportive of a potential policy rate cut by the BSP this August. Combined with the recent softness in the jobs data in the US and the increasing market-implied Fed rate cut expectations, the BSP certainly has increasing room to move. All this should be positive for the Philippine equities space which has been very sensitive to policy rate cut movements and expectations. Nonetheless, the on-going corporate earnings releases might put some cap on the optimism as so far, the results are not showing strong enough growth to provide additional boost to the sentiment. We expect the market to continue consolidating but with an upward bias for the month of August. We continue to favor the consumer and property sector, which will benefit from sustained recovery in the economy.

DISCLAIMER: This is not a deposit product. Earnings are not assured, and principal amount invested is exposed to risk of loss. An investment in the Fund is not insured or guaranteed by the Philippines Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency. This product cannot be sold to you unless its benefits and risks have been thoroughly explained. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The price of securities can and does fluctuate, and any individual security may experience upward or downward movement.

## **FUND BASICS**

The Fund is actively managed and seeks long-term capital appreciation by investing in listed equity securities carefully selected based on comprehensive research and analysis. This fund is suitable for aggressive investors with long-term investment horizons.

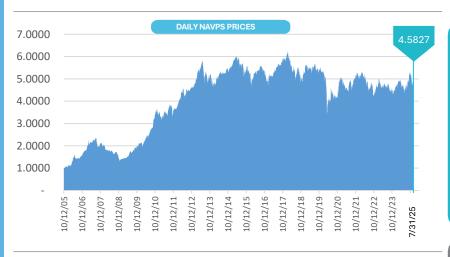


#### **CUMULATIVE RETURNS<sup>1</sup>**

	YTD	1-year	3-year	5-year	10-year	S.I. <sup>2</sup>
SALEF	-1.31%	-0.91%	0.23%	8.79%	-18.31%	357.58%
Benchmark <sup>3</sup>	-4.23%	-5.53%	-1.00%	5.47%	-17.18%	219.30%

#### CALENDAR YEAR RETURNS<sup>4</sup>

2024 2023 2022 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 **SALEF** 0.29% -0.43% -8.00% 2.48% -7.55% 1.22% -11.91% 22.57%



**TOP 5 EQUITY SECURITIES** (55% of Total Equity Securities Holdings)

BDO UNIBANK, INC. INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER TERMINAL SERVICES, INC. SM INVESTMENTS CORPORATION AYALA LAND, INC. SM PRIME HOLDINGS, INC.

Note: Year-to-date (YTD) return refers to the amount of profit made by an investment since the first day of the current











<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Cumulative returns as of July 31, 2025.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Since Inception as of 10/12/05.

<sup>3</sup>Benchmark - Philippine Stock Exchange Index (PSEi).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Calendar Year Return is computed by getting the change on NAVPS from the first business day of the calendar year to the last business day of same year (Jan 01 - Dec. 31 of a given year).