

Ausbil Australian Geared Equity Fund

Quarterly performance update

December 2025

Ausbil Investment Management Limited
ABN 26 076 316 473
AFSL 229722
Level 27
225 George Street
Sydney NSW 2000
GPO Box 2525
Sydney NSW 2001
Phone 61 2 9259 0200

'On the earnings outlook, this sees Ausbil positioned significantly ahead of consensus on earnings growth in FY26'

Performance Review

Fund performance for the quarter ending December 2025 was -5.77% (net of fees), versus the benchmark return of -0.89%, as measured by the S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index.

At a sector level, the overweight position in the Materials sector contributed to relative performance. The underweight positions in the Consumer Discretionary, Consumer Staples, Health Care and Financials sectors also added value. Conversely, the overweight positions in the Information Technology, Communication Services and Utilities sectors detracted from relative performance. The underweight positions in the Energy, Industrials and Real Estate sectors also detracted value.

At a stock level, the overweight positions in IGO, PLS Group, Sandfire Resources, Mineral Resources, Domino's Pizza, Evolution Mining, Rio Tinto, James Hardie and BHP contributed to relative performance. The nil position in Pro Medicus also added value. Conversely, the overweight positions in Life360, Xero, Lynas Rare Earths, Block, Treasury Wine Estates, WiseTech Global, NextDC and REA Group detracted from relative performance. The nil positions in Fortescue and Northern Star Resources also detracted value.

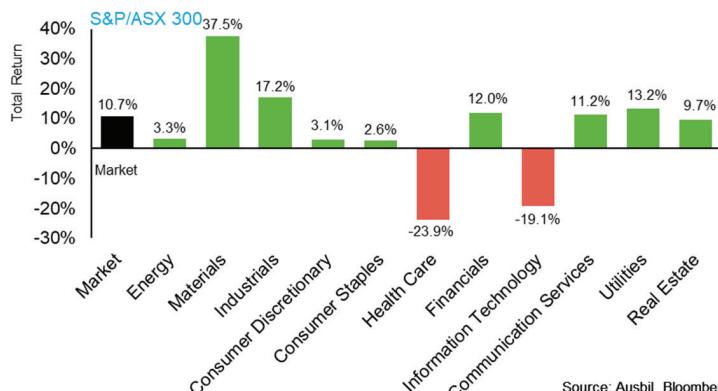
Market Review

The market (the S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index) closed December with a one month return of +1.4%, and a quarterly return of -0.9%. Despite a year that saw some of the most remarkable changes to trade relations since the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act of 1930, the ASX 300 still delivered a positive return for the calendar year, achieving a trailing market 1-year return to +10.7%. This is a remarkable achievement considering the panic that came with the April 2025 announcement by Donald Trump of global tariff increases though changes have largely come in well below expectations as the US has rewritten its global trade relations, country by country.

Developed Markets (MSCI World) delivered an amazing year, achieving returns of +21.1%, but were trumped by Emerging Markets (MSCI EM) which achieved +33.6%. Every major developed and emerging market returned positive results for calendar 2025, underscoring the benefits for those who patiently and carefully remained invested in equities in the face of the tariff crisis as Ausbil did.

The rebound in resources across 2025, coupled with surging copper and gold prices, drove the Materials sector to outperform all others, as shown in the Chart. On the flip side, Health Care significantly underperformed the market on a mix of company-specific issues in sector leaders and an overall higher cost of capital. Information Technology was also off this year, though following a significant period of strong performance in the previous years.

Sector returns – Year to December 2025



Source: Ausbil, Bloomberg

Fund Characteristics

Returns¹ as at 31 December 2025

Period	Fund Return %	Bench- mark ² %	Out/Under- performance %
1 month	3.03	1.37	1.66
3 months	-5.77	-0.89	-4.88
6 months	4.49	4.05	0.44
1 year	8.24	10.66	-2.43
2 years pa	9.91	11.03	-1.12
3 years pa	12.56	11.39	1.17
5 years pa	15.26	9.80	5.46
7 years pa	15.95	10.48	5.47
10 years pa	13.83	9.32	4.51
15 years pa	11.94	8.43	3.51
Since inception pa Date: May 2007	5.55	6.07	-0.52

Top 10 Stock Holdings

Name	Fund %	Index ² %	Tilt %
BHP	23.62	8.47	15.16
Commonwealth Bank	18.06	9.85	8.22
National Australia Bank	13.64	4.75	8.89
ANZ Bank	13.09	3.97	9.11
CSL	9.68	3.07	6.61
Macquarie Group	9.13	2.64	6.49
Goodman Group	9.08	2.32	6.76
Rio Tinto	8.93	2.00	6.94
Wesfarmers	6.90	3.37	3.53
Telstra	6.82	2.02	4.80

Sector Tilts

Sector	Fund %	Index ² %	Tilt %
Energy	2.84	3.83	-1.00
Materials	69.80	22.98	46.82
Industrials	5.13	6.97	-1.84
Consumer Discretionary	14.07	7.46	6.61
Consumer Staples	6.66	3.46	3.20
Health Care	14.14	7.24	6.90
Financials	59.14	33.42	25.72
Information Technology	20.71	3.86	16.85
Communication Services	8.37	2.61	5.77
Utilities	5.93	1.36	4.57
Real Estate	11.72	6.82	4.90
Cash	-118.51	0.00	-118.51
Total	100.00	100.00	0.00

1. Fund returns are net of fees but before taxes.

2. The benchmark S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index.



Subscribe to our monthly updates here

Outlook

Global and Australian markets ended a solid 2025 despite a complete rewriting of world trade relations. The December quarter witnessed upside inflation surprise that saw a reduction in the number of rate cuts expected in the US, and the Australian RBA switch to a holding pattern with warnings that rates could rise if inflation was persistently high. Ausbil's view has been that rates were to remain on hold heading into 2026, however we have adjusted our view towards the potential for one rise in Q4 2026 if higher than target band inflation remains a problem. Even with a rate rise that would likely be 25 basis points, rates would remain around their equilibrium level which is supportive of healthy business financing and positive capital allocation.

Looking ahead to 2026, with Australian, US and global economic growth expected to improve, and with a return to more steady trade relations, we see more opportunity in equities, and strong, more broad-based earnings growth ahead of consensus. On the earnings outlook, this sees Ausbil positioned significantly ahead of consensus on earnings growth in FY26. We think that this is largely due to our different and more positive view of the outcome for tariffs, and the path of the global, US and Australian

economies. Resources should enjoy significant upgrades compared with consensus. This, together with market negative positioning, supports our view of substantial rerate potential.

Ausbil is seeing opportunities in equities that are relatively shielded from, or are beneficiaries of, the new US tariff policy. While tariffs have caused a major shake-up in global trade, Ausbil expects Australian growth to be relatively unchanged and we expect Australian companies to generate earnings growth in excess of consensus expectations. Underpinning our outlook for equities are a number of structural drivers that are offering opportunities. These include an increased commitment to military spending globally (as the US withdrawal of support for Ukraine and others has sparked an upward shift in defence spending); increased investment in infrastructure to accommodate the growth in AI; ongoing investment to secure independent energy security; and the increase in demand for electricity over carbon-based energy.

Ausbil Investment
Management Limited
Level 27
225 George Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Australia
Toll Free 1800 287 245

This material is issued by Ausbil Investment Management Limited (Ausbil) ABN 26 076 316 473, AFSL 229722 as at 31 December 2025 and is subject to change. The material is not intended to provide you with financial product advice. It does not take into consideration the investment objectives, financial situation or needs of any person. For this reason, you should, before acting on this material, obtain professional advice from a licensed financial adviser and read the relevant Product Disclosure Statement which is available at www.ausbil.com.au and the target market determination which is available at <https://www.ausbil.com.au/invest-with-us/design-and-distribution-obligations>. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. Any reference to past performance is for illustrative purposes only and should not be relied upon. Ausbil, its officers, directors and affiliates do not guarantee the performance of, a particular rate of return for, the repayment of capital of, the payment of distribution or income of, or any particular taxation consequences for investing with or in any Ausbil product or strategy. The performance of any strategy or product depends on the performance of the underlying investment which may rise or fall and can result in both capital gains and loss. Any references to particular securities or sectors are for illustrative purposes only. It is not a recommendation in relation to any named securities or sectors. The material may contain forward looking statements which are not based solely on historical facts but are based on our view or expectations about future events and results. Where we use words such as but are not limited to 'anticipate', 'expect', 'project', 'estimate', 'likely', 'intend', 'could', 'target', 'plan', 'believe', 'think', 'might' we are making a forecast or denote a forward-looking statement. These statements are held at the date of the material and are subject to change. Forecast results may differ materially from results or returns ultimately achieved. The views expressed are the personal opinion of the author, subject to change (without notice) and do not necessarily reflect the views of Ausbil. This information should not be relied upon as a recommendation or investment advice and is not intended to predict the performance of any investment or market. The actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied in the material. Ausbil gives no representation or warranty (express or implied) as to the completeness or reliability of any forward looking statements. Such forward looking statements should not be considered as advice or a recommendation and has such should not be relied upon. To the extent permitted by law, no liability is accepted by Ausbil, its officers or directors or any affiliates of Ausbil for any loss or damage as a result of any reliance on this information. While efforts have been made to ensure the information is correct, no warranty of accuracy or reliability is given, and no responsibility is accepted for errors or omissions. Any opinions expressed are those of Ausbil as of the date noted on the material and are subject to change without notice.