

# MORANT WRIGHT

## MANAGEMENT LIMITED

43 St James's Place, London, SW1A 1NS  
Telephone: 020 7499 9980 Email: [enquiries@morantwright.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@morantwright.co.uk) Website: [www.morantwright.co.uk](http://www.morantwright.co.uk)

### WS Morant Wright Japan Fund July 2025 Newsletter

£ Returns	Month	Year to Date	Since Inception (23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2003)
B Accumulation	6.1%	13.4%	647.2%
TOPIX Net Total Return	2.7%	5.9%	404.6%

Sources: Bloomberg and Waystone Management (UK) Limited

TOPIX Net Total Return rose by 3.2% in local terms. The stock market has been dominated by two events: the result of the upper house election and the agreement between Japan and America over tariffs. The outcomes of both were better than feared, particularly on tariffs which led to TOPIX reaching an all-time high of 2,978 on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Foreign investors have been net purchasers each week since the middle of April.

As anticipated, the ruling coalition of the Liberal Democratic Party and Komeito lost control of the upper house but only failed to achieve a majority by three seats whereas a much greater loss of seats had been expected. The coalition had already lost control of the lower house so this result is unlikely to lead to any significant change in policy. The tax cuts proposed by opposition parties will probably be avoided which has led to bond yields retreating from recent highs. Prime Minister Ishiba has vowed to stay on despite the defeat although press comments suggest his days are numbered. There are many details to be determined in the agreement between Japan and the United States on tariffs but the headline figure of 15% was an improvement on the 25% previously suggested.

The Bank of Japan's (BOJ) monthly meeting, which occurred after these two events, left monetary policy unchanged. In its quarterly outlook, the BOJ raised its core inflation forecast for FY 2025 to 2.7%, up from its April forecast of 2.2%, reflecting the higher prices of rice and food products, expecting it to ease to around 1.8% in FY 2026 before edging up to 2.0% in FY 2027. Inflation is becoming increasingly entrenched with the Nikkei newspaper reporting that commercial landlord Mitsubishi Estate will introduce inflation-linked rents, while Tokyo rents rose 4.5% year on year in June. The BOJ also revised economic growth marginally upwards for this fiscal year from 0.5% to 0.6%. As uncertainty has diminished, there is speculation that it will raise rates before the end of the year. It is worth noting that the BOJ has unrealised losses on its bond holdings of ¥28.6trn but an unrealised gain on its equity ETF position of ¥32.9trn.

The AGM season has finished. Sumitomo Trust reported that a record number of 114 companies had received resolutions from investors up by 23 from last year. Nomura estimates that 91 companies have faced activist campaigns in the first half. Many of these relate to higher shareholder returns through buybacks and dividends but are increasingly focused on better utilisation of real estate and idle assets, as we have seen with Fuji Media, as well as optimising business portfolios. An activist in Fuji Media has raised its stake to 16% demanding the company achieve a PBR of 1 through sales of cross shareholdings and the spin-off of Sankei Building, its real estate subsidiary. The board is proposing to implement anti-takeover measures if this stake is increased further.

The Nikkei has reported that M&A has reached unprecedented levels in the first half with 2,509 deals, up 7% year on year, while value was up 2.1 times at ¥20.7trn. There have been more bids announced, notably a private equity company has bid for lift maker Fujitec. Although this was below the market price the bid is roughly 5 times the price it was in 2019 before activists started to get involved.

The trends of the last few years regarding the restructuring of Japanese companies remain firmly in place and if anything are accelerating. We believe that our portfolios are well placed to benefit from them.

**Stephen Morant, Ian Wright, Richard Phillips, Tom Mermagen, Andrew Millward,  
Denis Clough, Nick Sinclair and Karin Ri**

Fund	
Fund size	£740m
Number of holdings	63

Valuations	
Average PBR	0.99
Median EV/OP* (3/26e)	7.2
Weighted Average P/E (3/26e)	12.7
Net cash as % of market cap*	45%
*Net cash (including investment securities) and EV/OP figures exclude financials	

Top Ten Holdings	% Fund
Kinden	3.5
Tokyo Broadcasting System	3.4
Toyota Industries Corp	3.3
Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group	3.2
Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group	3.2
Sumitomo Mitsui Trust	3.2
Nippon Television Network	3.2
Sumitomo Electric Industries	3.1
Honda Motor Co. Ltd	3.1
Concordia Financial Group Ltd	3.0

Market Cap Breakdown	% Fund
Large cap (>\$5bn)	52.9
Mid cap (\$1-5bn)	40.8
Small cap (<\$1bn)	2.9
Cash	3.4

NAV at 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2025	
B Accumulation	747.15p
B Income	611.96p

Dealing
If you would like to deal in the fund, please contact Waystone Management (UK) Limited. Their telephone number is <b>0345 922 0044</b> or by email <a href="mailto:ordergroup@waystone.com">ordergroup@waystone.com</a>

Please refer to the further fund details and important regulatory information on the reverse of this document

Fund Information		Dealing Information	
Fund type	UK authorised OEIC	Minimum investment	£5,000
Fund currency	Sterling	Dealing frequency	Daily
Launch date	May 2003	Deal cut-off point	12pm
Geographic exposure	100% Japanese equities	Valuation point	12pm
AMF	1.0%	Settlement	T+4 (subscriptions/redemptions)
OCF	1.16%	ACD	Waystone Management (UK) Limited
Share types	Accumulation and Income	Fund administrator	Waystone Fund Administrators Limited Central Square 29 Wellington Square Leeds, LS1 4DL <a href="mailto:wtas-investorservices@waystone.com">wtas-investorservices@waystone.com</a> Tel: 0345 922 0044 Fax: 0113 224 6001

Share Identifiers	Bloomberg code	SEDOL	ISIN
B Accumulation	CFMWJBA LN	3301012	GB0033010124
B Income	CFMWJBI LN	3359806	GB0033598060

Performance	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	Since inception (May 2003)
B Accumulation Shares	+18.8%	+21.4%	+4.3%	+6.3%	-6.3%	+10.8%	+647.2%
TOPIX Net Total Return	+10.1%	+12.3%	-5.0%	+1.9%	+9.1%	+15.2%	+404.6%

TOPIX Net Total Return is used for the purpose of performance comparison only as it is a widely used benchmark which includes reinvestment of dividends (net of withholding tax) and which most closely reflects the type of companies in which the fund invests. All performance information is calculated by Morant Wright Management Limited using share price data provided by Waystone Management (UK) Limited. Index data are taken from Bloomberg. Performance is given in sterling terms based on the Fund NAV. Data are as at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025 and accurate as at that date.

*This document is issued and approved by Morant Wright Management Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.*

#### Disclaimer

Please remember that past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of the Fund and any income from it can fall as well as rise as a result of both market and currency fluctuations and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. Investors must be willing to accept some risk to their capital. Consequently, the fund may be suitable for investors who are looking to set aside their capital for the longer term (i.e. at least 5 years).

Before making an investment in the Fund you must read the KIID which can be obtained from Waystone Management (UK) Limited (<https://www.fundsolutions.net/uk/morant-wright-management-limited/ws-morant-wright-japan-fund/ws-morant-wright-japan-fund/>) or ourselves, along with the Fund Prospectus and the latest report and accounts.

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