



Aberforth UK Small Companies Fund

Monthly Factsheet

28 February 2022

Fund structure

The Fund is an authorised unit trust scheme under the Financial Services & Markets Act 2000 and also a UCITS scheme as defined by the Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook. The Fund is open-ended and issues Accumulation (Acc) and Income (Inc) units.

Manager: Aberforth Partners

The Fund is managed by Aberforth's investment team of seven fund managers:

Sam Ford	Jeremy Hall
Sonya Kim	Euan Macdonald
Rob Scott Moncrieff	Peter Shaw
Christopher Watt	

Further information on the investment team is available at www.aberforth.co.uk.

Benchmark: NSCI (XIC)

The Fund's benchmark and primary investment universe is the Numis Smaller Companies Index (excluding Investment Companies). More information on the use of this benchmark can be found in the Investment Strategy section of the Fund's Prospectus. This index is rebalanced every January and its profile at the date of this Factsheet was:

Number of companies	333
Total market value	£140bn
Largest constituent	£1.8bn
Largest constituent if index rebalanced at Factsheet date	£1.6bn

Key Fund information

Total investments	£174m
Number of investments	75
Active share	76.3%
Total net assets	£174m
Issue price (Acc)	£290.83
Cancellation price (Acc)	£284.86
Issue price (Inc)	£203.13
Cancellation price (Inc)	£198.96
Launch date	20 Mar 91
Next year-end	31 Dec 22

Fees & charges

Ongoing charges (at 31 Dec 21 & includes Management fee)	0.77%
Management fee	0.75%
Performance fee	None
Initial/exit charges	0%
Dealing spread	2.07%

Yield & distributions (Inc units)

Yield	2.3%
Interim distribution (paid 31 Aug 21)	220.9820p
Final distribution (paid 28 Feb 22)	237.1483p

Objective

The Fund's objective is to achieve a total return greater than that of the NSCI (XIC) over the long term by investing in a diversified portfolio of small UK quoted companies.

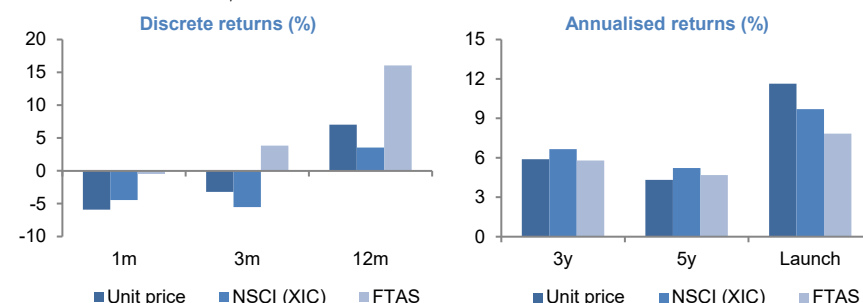
Investment style: Value

Aberforth are value investors who buy shares in companies that they calculate to be selling below their intrinsic value. This is determined through detailed financial and industrial analysis, combined with a valuation approach that focuses on both stockmarket and corporate worth.

Investment performance (annualised total returns)

Growth (%)	1m	3m	12m	3y	5y	Launch
Unit price	-5.9	-3.2	7.0	5.9	4.3	11.6
NSCI (XIC)	-4.5	-5.5	3.5	6.6	5.2	9.7
FTAS	-0.5	3.8	16.0	5.8	4.7	7.8

Notes: 1m & 3m returns not annualised; Launch date = 20 Mar 91; Unit price = Cancellation price of the Fund's Accumulation units; FTAS = FTSE All-Share Index.



Monthly investment commentary: February

Equities experienced a difficult month. The prior preoccupation with interest rate hikes was overshadowed by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The prospect of heavy sanctions on Russia, a significant exporter of commodities, exacerbated energy price inflation. The FTSE All-Share was down by 0.5%, supported by its relatively high weighting in commodity companies. Lower exposure to this cohort in the NSCI (XIC) and the Fund resulted in weaker returns of -4.5% and -5.9% respectively.

Turning to stocks, notable winners were **Centamin** (gold miner) and **Senior** (aerospace & automotive engineering). They were buoyed respectively by the rising price of gold and positive sentiment across the aerospace and defence sector. Not holding Petropavlovsk (a Russian gold miner) and Wood Group (an energy services company experiencing specific contract issues) helped relative performance, as did not holding RHI Magnesita. This refractory products manufacturer is contending with higher raw material prices and supply chain difficulties.

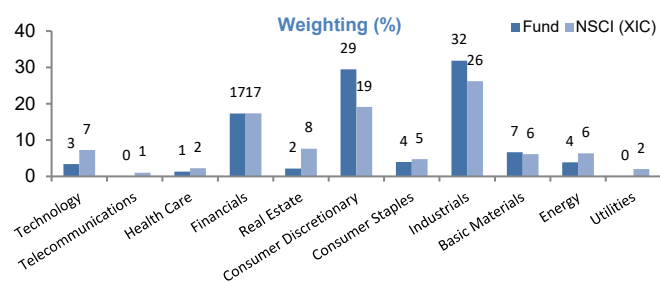
Detractors from relative performance included **Reach** (newspaper publisher), which, despite its healthy growth in digital revenues, is facing cost inflation in its newsprint business, and **Hyve** (exhibitions & conferences), which had been expected to generate revenues from Russian events. Elsewhere, **Medica** (tele-radiology services) and **Robert Walters** (recruitment) fell on no news, while a non-holding Oxford Instruments benefited from a takeover approach from Spectris.

The Managers are monitoring the geopolitical situation carefully, though observe that the Fund in aggregate has limited exposure to Ukraine or Russia. The main challenge to businesses is likely to be the impact of higher energy costs and further supply chain complications. The Fund's holdings have coped well through a series of crises and most emerged from the pandemic with strong balance sheets. The current conflict may be another opportunity for small UK quoted companies to prove their resilience.

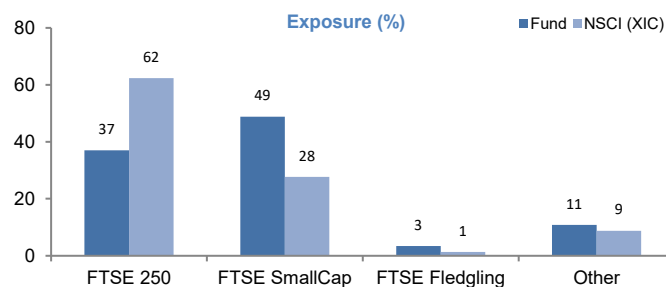
Top 10 equity investments

Name	Activity	%
FirstGroup	Bus & rail operator	3.1
Reach	UK newspaper publisher	3.0
Redde Northgate	Van rental	2.7
Robert Walters	Recruitment	2.6
Morgan Advanced Materials	Manufacture of carbon & ceramic materials	2.5
Wincanton	Logistics	2.4
Rathbones Group	Private client fund manager	2.3
Vitec Group	Photographic & broadcast accessories	2.3
Brewin Dolphin Holdings	Private client fund manager	2.2
Centamin	Gold miner	2.1

Sector exposure



Size exposure



Dealing & pricing information

Dealings in the Fund normally take place every business day between 9.00am and the Valuation Point that day - usually 4.30pm. Orders may be placed by calling the Fund's Dealing Line on 0345 608 0940 or contacting Aberforth using the details in the Subscribe & contact section.

The dealing spread shown in the Fees & charges section is the difference between the Issue and Cancellation prices and reflects the underlying spread on the Fund's portfolio.

Data sources & calculations

All data supplied by Aberforth, except NSCI (XIC) data (from Numis/Paul Marsh and Elroy Dimson – London Business School) and FTSE data (from FTSE International Limited).

Performance returns are total returns after all expenses and assume reinvestment of dividends. Yield is based on the Fund's trailing 12 months' dividends. Active share is a measure of how the Fund's portfolio differs from the NSCI (XIC). Small companies are represented by the NSCI (XIC). Large companies are represented by the FTAS.

Standardised past performance

Discrete total return performance over 12 month periods to 31 December 2021:

Growth (%)	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Unit price	30.0	-15.1	27.0	-15.3	21.6
NSCI (XIC)	21.9	-4.3	25.2	-15.3	19.5

Notes: the table above is updated on a calendar quarter basis in accordance with the Financial Conduct Authority's regulations; Unit price = Cancellation price of the Fund's Accumulation units.

Security codes & other information

Acc units	Inc units	Other information
SEDOL: 0007272	SEDOL: B2N9GS7	Launched: 20 Mar 91
ISIN: GB0000072727	ISIN: GB00B2N9GS70	Next year-end: 31 Dec 22
MEXID: HIUKSC	MEXID: HIUKSI	LEI: 2138000NHC5DGL7RPF30

Subscribe & contact

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(T) 0131 220 0733

(E) investors@aberforth.co.uk

Risk warnings

Capital may be at risk as the value of investments may go down as well as up and is not guaranteed; therefore investors may not get back the amount originally invested. Past performance is not a guide to future performance, nor a reliable indicator of future results or performance.

Investments in shares of smaller companies are generally considered to carry a higher degree of risk as the market for their shares may be less liquid than that for shares of larger companies, making shares of smaller companies more difficult to buy and sell.

The performance of shares of smaller companies may be more volatile than the shares of larger companies over short time periods; therefore investors should regard such investments as long term.

There can be no guarantee that the investment objective of the Fund will be achieved or provide the returns sought by the Fund.

An investment in the Fund is only suitable for investors who are capable of evaluating the merits and risks of such an investment and who have sufficient resources to be able to bear any losses which may arise from such an investment (which may be equal to the whole amount invested). Such an investment should be regarded as long term in nature and complementary to existing investments in a range of other financial assets and should not form a major part of an investment portfolio.

The dealing spread of the Fund, which represents the difference between the buying and selling prices, will have an impact on the realisable value of any investment made in the Fund, particularly in the short term. To mitigate the impact of capital erosion, investors should regard investments in the Fund as long term.

Neither Aberforth Partners LLP or Aberforth Unit Trust Managers Limited provide retail investors with investment advice.

This document has been issued for information purposes only. It does not contain any investment recommendations or an invitation to invest in the Fund. Investors should seek advice from an authorised financial adviser prior to making investment decisions.

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