



# Aberforth UK Small Companies Fund

## Monthly Factsheet

31 May 2023

### 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 six fund managers:

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

Further information on the investment team is available at [www.aberforth.co.uk](http://www.aberforth.co.uk).

### Benchmark: NSCI (XIC)

The Fund's primary investment universe is the Numis Smaller Companies Index (excluding Investment Companies). It is used as a target and comparator benchmark. The NSCI (XIC) index is rebalanced every January and its profile at the date of this Factsheet was:

Number of companies	340
Total market value	£135bn
Largest constituent	£2.3bn
Largest constituent if index rebalanced at Factsheet date	£1.7bn

### Key Fund information

Total investments	£139m
Number of investments	79
Active share	74.6%
Total net assets	£139m
Issue price (Acc)	£286.74
Cancellation price (Acc)	£281.59
Issue price (Inc)	£193.02
Cancellation price (Inc)	£189.55
Launch date	20 Mar 91
Next year-end	31 Dec 23

### Fees & charges

Ongoing charges (at 31 Dec 22 & includes Management fee)	0.83%
Management fee	0.75%
Performance fee	None
Initial/exit charges	0%
Dealing spread	1.81%

### Yield & distributions (Inc units)

Yield	3.7%
Interim distribution (paid 31 Aug 22)	362.3341p
Final distribution (paid 28 Feb 23)	337.1592p

### Objective

The investment objective of the Fund is to seek to achieve a total return, calculated on an income reinvested basis, greater than the Numis Smaller Companies Index (excluding Investment Companies) over the long term, with the focus on rolling five year periods.

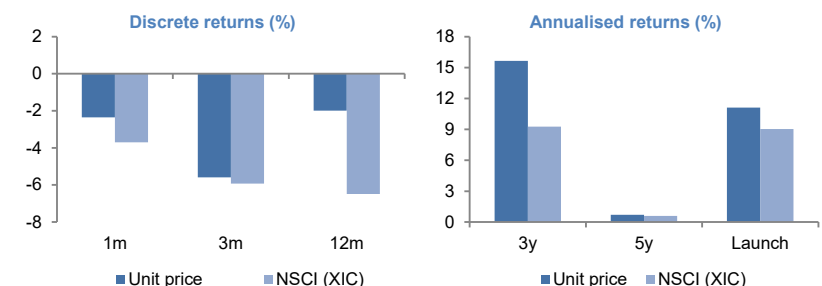
### Investment style: Value

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	-2.4	-5.6	-2.0	15.7	0.7	11.1
NSCI (XIC)	-3.7	-5.9	-6.5	9.3	0.6	9.0

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



### Monthly investment commentary: May

May was poor for the UK equity markets. The headline rate of inflation is declining but the core measure is proving stickier than expected. As the market digested the implications for interest rates, the FTSE All-Share fell by 4.6% in the month. Smaller companies, as measured by the NSCI (XIC), fared marginally better with a 3.7% decline. The Fund was down by 2.4%. Its value style was unhelpful but was mitigated by its high exposure to the index's "smaller small" companies, which performed relatively well.

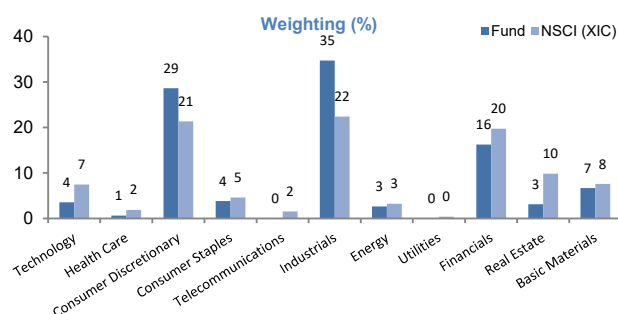
The Fund's returns were boosted by a nascent recovery from **Wincanton**. This logistics provider had fallen sharply in March following the loss of a contract with HMRC. **International Personal Finance**, the home credit provider, sustained its strong start to the year: trading continues to recover from the pandemic and the regulatory regime in Poland appears more settled. Share price declines among non-holdings also helped the Fund's relative performance. Notable were Future, Wood Group and THG, the latter two seeing bid talks with Apollo, the private equity group, falling away.

Detractors included **Card Factory**, the card retailer, which issued final results early in the month. These confirmed the on-going recovery in profits and the balance sheet, but the share price had risen very sharply in the preceding period. **Headlam**, the carpet and floor coverings distributor, warned that weaker residential demand would reduce profit margins this year. Non-holdings hindered the Fund's relative performance too. Aston Martin Lagonda continued its dramatic recent resurgence as Geely, the Chinese car manufacturer, increased its stake in the company, while Carnival, the cruise line business, rallied sharply on positive news from a competitor.

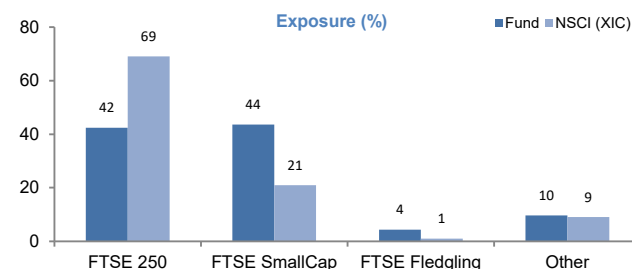
### Top 10 equity investments

Name	Activity	%
<b>FirstGroup</b>	Bus & rail operator	3.8
<b>Morgan Advanced Materials</b>	Manufacture of carbon & ceramic materials	2.8
<b>Redde Northgate</b>	Van rental	2.7
<b>Wilmington</b>	Business publishing & training	2.5
<b>Just Group</b>	Individually underwritten annuities	2.3
<b>Senior</b>	Aerospace & automotive engineering	2.3
<b>Vesuvius</b>	Metal flow engineering	2.3
<b>SIG</b>	Specialist building products distributor	2.2
<b>Wincanton</b>	Logistics	2.2
<b>Rathbones Group</b>	Private client fund manager	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).

## Standardised past performance

Discrete total return performance over 12 month periods to 31 March:

Growth (%)	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Unit price	-7.4	4.9	76.7	-32.4	-4.5
NSCI (XIC)	-7.9	-1.1	65.6	-25.9	-1.2

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 23
MEXID: HIUKSC	MEXID: HIUKSI	LEI: 2138000NHCS5DGL7RPF30

## Subscribe & contact

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(T) 0131 220 0733

(E) [investors@aberforth.co.uk](mailto: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.**

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