



Aberforth UK Small Companies Fund

Monthly Factsheet

31 October 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.

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	332
Total market value	£122bn
Largest constituent	£2.0bn
Largest constituent if index rebalanced at Factsheet date	£1.6bn

Key Fund information

Total investments	£123m
Number of investments	78
Active share	73.9%
Total net assets	£124m
Issue price (Acc)	£274.23
Cancellation price (Acc)	£269.41
Issue price (Inc)	£181.10
Cancellation price (Inc)	£177.92
Launch date	20 Mar 91
Next year-end	31 Dec 23

Fees & charges

Ongoing charges (at 30 Jun 23 & includes Management fee)	0.81%
Management fee	0.75%
Performance fee	None
Initial/exit charges	0%
Dealing spread	1.77%

Yield & distributions (Inc units)

Yield	3.9%
Interim distribution (paid 31 Aug 23)	365.7168p
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.

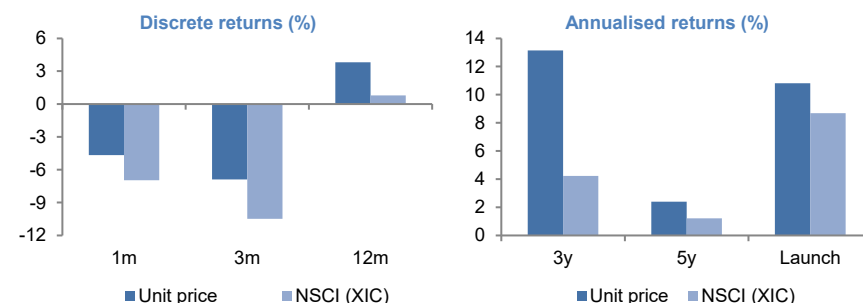
Investment style: Value

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	-4.7	-6.9	3.8	13.1	2.4	10.8
NSCI (XIC)	-7.0	-10.5	0.8	4.2	1.2	8.7

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



Monthly investment commentary: October

October was a weak month for equity markets, as records suggest it often is. Hamas's attack on Israel heightened the geopolitical risk premium. The oil price fluctuated, but investors received little protection in the bond market, where yields increased further. UK equities under-performed against global peers, with the FTSE All-Share down by 4.1%. Smaller companies were weaker still, as the NSCI (XIC) fell by 7.0%. The Fund's decline of 4.7% was less severe, thanks to a good month for the value style and to stock selection.

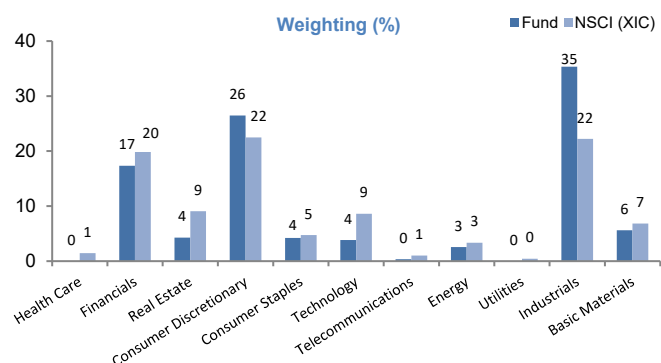
Avon Protection, the military protection product manufacturer, was a positive contributor to relative performance. October brought a reassuring trading update, along with some significant purchases of shares by directors. **International Personal Finance**, the home credit provider, continued its strong showing this year, helped by a resilient update on trading towards the end of the month. **FirstGroup**, the bus and rail operator, is another holding that has performed well through 2023. It too released a trading update that indicated profits for the full year would come in ahead of prior expectations.

The most significant negative contributor was **SIG**, the specialist building products distributor. A mid-month update signalled a profit warning for the full year result, amid challenging market conditions, particularly in the new build residential segment. **Rank Group**, the multi-channel gaming operator, was also weak. This was despite a trading update that indicated revenue and profit growth performance expectations were on track for the full year.

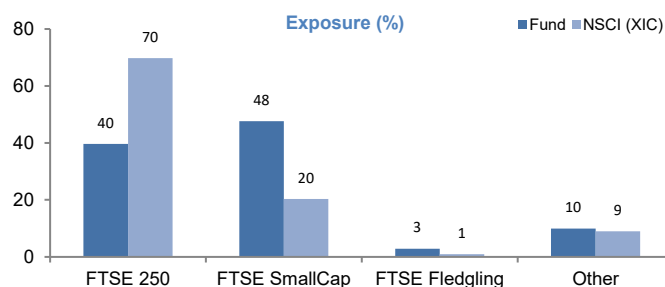
Top 10 equity investments

Name	Activity	%
Wilmington	Business publishing & training	3.1
FirstGroup	Bus & rail operator	3.1
International Personal Finance	Home credit provider	2.7
Redde Northgate	Van rental	2.5
Vesuvius	Metal flow engineering	2.5
Wincanton	Logistics	2.5
Morgan Advanced Materials	Manufacture of carbon & ceramic materials	2.3
Just Group	Individually underwritten annuities	2.2
Centamin	Gold miner	2.0
Card Factory	Retailing - greetings cards	2.0

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 30 September:

Growth (%)	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Unit price	13.7	-22.5	77.6	-28.1	-5.2
NSCI (XIC)	11.8	-25.1	45.9	-9.6	-4.1

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: 213800ONHC5DGL7RPF30

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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