



Aberforth UK Small Companies Fund

Monthly Factsheet

28 February 2025

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	Rowan Marron
Rob Scott Moncrieff	Peter Shaw

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

Benchmark: DNSCI (XIC)

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

Number of companies	348
Total market value	£150bn
Largest constituent	£2.4bn
Largest constituent if index rebalanced at Factsheet date	£2.1bn

Key Fund information

Total investments	£142m
Number of investments	80
Active share	78.9%
Total net assets	£141m
Issue price (Acc)	£324.13
Cancellation price (Acc)	£318.61
Issue price (Inc)	£203.25
Cancellation price (Inc)	£199.79
Launch date	20 Mar 91
Next year-end	31 Dec 25

Fees & charges

Ongoing charges (at 31 Dec 24 & includes Management fee)	0.81%
Management fee	0.75%
Performance fee	None
Initial/exit charges	0%
Dealing spread	1.72%

Yield & distributions (Inc units)

Yield	3.6%
Interim distribution (paid 30 Aug 24)	356.8716p
Final distribution (paid 28 Feb 25)	360.3761p

Objective

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

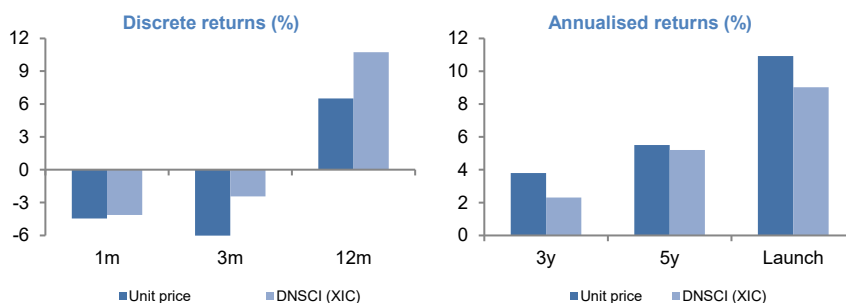
Investment style: Value

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	-4.5	-6.0	6.5	3.8	5.5	10.9
DNSCI (XIC)	-4.1	-2.4	10.7	2.3	5.2	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: February

As markets digested the Trump administration's plans, equities were mixed in February. The US and Japanese markets fell sharply into the month end, while European equities were stronger. Within the UK, size was a significant influence on performance. The large cap FTSE 100 index rose by 2%, while the mid cap FTSE 250 fell by 2.9% and the small cap DNSCI (XIC) fell 4.1%. Smaller companies tend to be more reliant on the domestic economy, where conditions and forecasts remain insipid in the wake of the Budget. The Fund fell by 4.5%. As was the case in January, it suffered from its relatively high exposure to the "smaller small" within the DNSCI (XIC).

The main detractor from the Fund's performance was **Morgan Advanced Materials**. The company warned about weaker trading for 2025 as industrial markets deteriorate. It also signalled a slowdown in capital expenditure on new capacity to serve the power semiconductor market, which has previously been signalled as an exciting growth area for the business. **Wilmington** was also weak following the release of its interim results. These were good overall but showed slowing growth in the US healthcare sector.

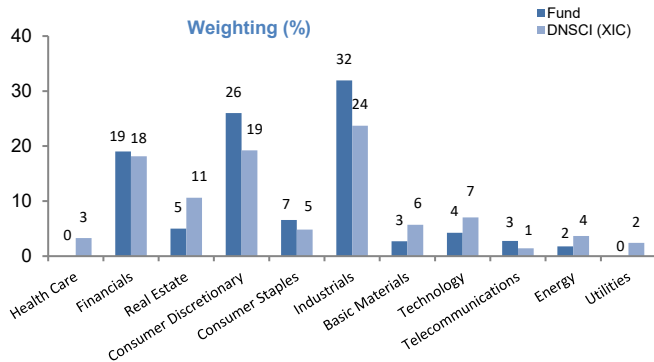
The Fund's top contributors were **Zegona Communications** and **Bakkavor**. **Zegona** rallied early in the month on no specific news, but disclosures to debt holders later in the month revealed good progress with the turnaround of Vodafone Spain. **Bakkavor** rallied through the month as the market digested a positive January trading update that had reiterated progress toward the company's operating margin target.

Among non-holdings, strong share price moves from TBC Bank, Wizz Air and Ithaca Energy detracted from relative performance. Conversely, weakness in Raspberry Pi, Indivior and Oxford Nanopore contributed to the Fund's relative standing.

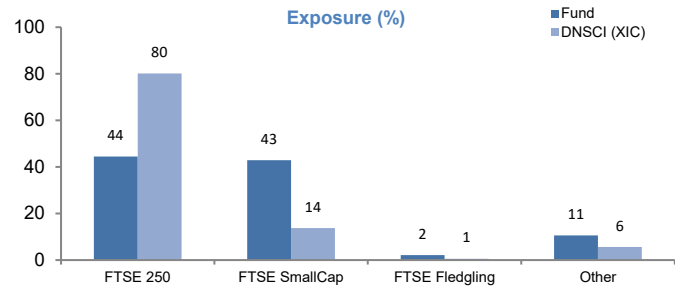
Top 10 equity investments

Name	Activity	%
Wilmington	Business information & training	3.0
Vesuvius	Metal flow engineering	2.8
Just Group	Annuity provider	2.8
Zegona Communications	Telecommunications	2.8
Bakkavor Group	Food manufacturer	2.6
Morgan Advanced Materials	Manufacture of carbon & ceramic materials	2.4
Galliford Try Holdings	Building & infrastructure contractor	2.3
ZIGUP	Van rental	2.2
Senior	Aerospace & automotive engineering	2.2
Rathbones Group	Wealth Management	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 DNSCI (XIC) data (from Deutsche 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 DNSCI (XIC). Small companies are represented by the DNSCI (XIC).

Standardised past performance

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

Growth (%)	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Unit price	11.8	8.3	-10.0	30.0	-15.1
DNSCI (XIC)	9.5	10.1	-17.9	21.9	-4.3

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 25
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.

Further information on the Fund, including the Key Investor Information Document, is available on request or via the Aberforth website www.aberforth.co.uk.

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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