



Aberforth UK Small Companies Fund

Monthly Factsheet

30 November 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 seven fund managers:

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Sam Ford | Jeremy Hall |
| Euan Macdonald | Rob Scott Moncrieff |
| Peter Shaw | Christopher Watt |
| Rowan Marron | |

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 | £131bn |
| Largest constituent | £2.4bn |
| Largest constituent if index rebalanced at Factsheet date | £1.6bn |

Key Fund information

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Total investments | £127m |
| Number of investments | 78 |
| Active share | 74.2% |
| Total net assets | £128m |
| Issue price (Acc) | £287.32 |
| Cancellation price (Acc) | £281.60 |
| Issue price (Inc) | £189.75 |
| Cancellation price (Inc) | £185.97 |
| 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 | 2.01% |

Yield & distributions (Inc units)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Yield | 3.7% |
| 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.

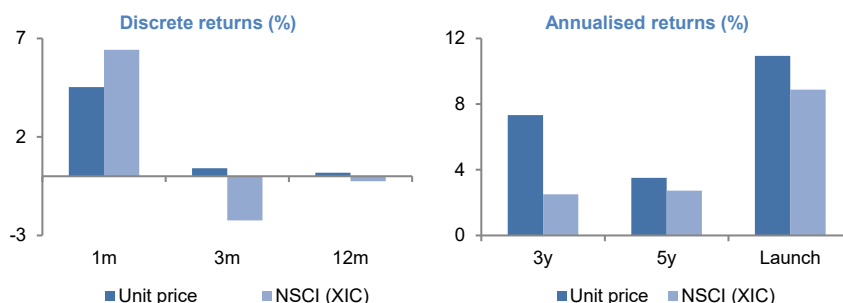
Investment style: Value

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 | 4.5 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 7.3 | 3.5 | 10.9 |
| NSCI (XIC) | 6.4 | -2.2 | -0.3 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 8.9 |

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



Monthly investment commentary: November

November brought a sharp recovery for equity markets, after a difficult period through early Autumn. Lower inflation data on both sides of the Atlantic allowed markets to contemplate an earlier and smoother end to restrictive monetary policy. The FTSE All-Share was up 3.0%, while the NSCI (XIC) rose by 6.4%. The latter benefited from its mid-cap exposure: the FTSE 250 (XIC) was the strongest part of the UK market with a 7.3% rise, well ahead of the FTSE SmallCap (XIC)'s 4.0% gain. The Fund was up by 4.7%, with its higher exposure "smaller small" companies the main influence on performance.

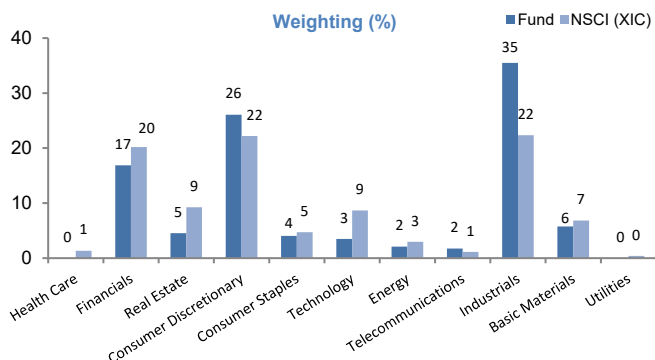
At the stock level, the main impact on performance came from **International Personal Finance**, the home credit provider. There was no news in the month, but its shares gave back some of the previous months' strong gains, which had reflected an improved trading performance. **Enquest**, the oil & gas explorer and producer, was weak too. While there were no company specific developments, the oil price fell by 5% in November and the Autumn statement brought no easing of the UK's "Energy Profits Levy". Meanwhile, **Xaar**, the digital printhead manufacturer, issued a profit warning, which cited the impact on customer demand of higher interest rates and uncertainty in Israel.

Amongst the Fund's better performers was **Wincanton**, the logistics provider. The company committed to a share buy-back, which is possible following September's announcement of an improved funding position for its defined benefit pension scheme. **McBride**, the private label household products manufacturer, saw its strong recent share price performance continue. November's AGM trading update confirmed further progress and followed the negotiation of improved terms with its lenders.

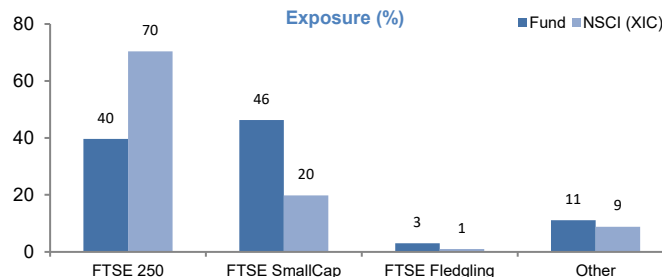
Top 10 equity investments

| Name | Activity | % |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----|
| Wilmington | Business publishing & training | 3.0 |
| Wincanton | Logistics | 2.7 |
| FirstGroup | Bus & rail operator | 2.6 |
| Redde Northgate | Van rental | 2.6 |
| Vesuvius | Metal flow engineering | 2.6 |
| Morgan Advanced Materials | Manufacture of carbon & ceramic materials | 2.5 |
| Just Group | Individually underwritten annuities | 2.2 |
| Centamin | Gold miner | 2.2 |
| International Personal Finance | Home credit provider | 2.2 |
| TI Fluid Systems | Automotive parts manufacturer | 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 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: 213800ONHCS5DGL7RPF30 |

Subscribe & contact

If you wish to subscribe to this Factsheet, or have any queries regarding its content, please contact Aberforth's Investor Support team:

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(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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