



# Aberforth UK Small Companies Fund

## Monthly Factsheet

30 April 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](http://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	346
Total market value	£148bn
Largest constituent	£2.7bn
Largest constituent if index rebalanced at Factsheet date	£2.0bn

### Key Fund information

Total investments	£133m
Number of investments	78
Active share	79.1%
Total net assets	£135m
Issue price (Acc)	£324.40
Cancellation price (Acc)	£319.20
Issue price (Inc)	£203.42
Cancellation price (Inc)	£200.16
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	1.62%

### 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.

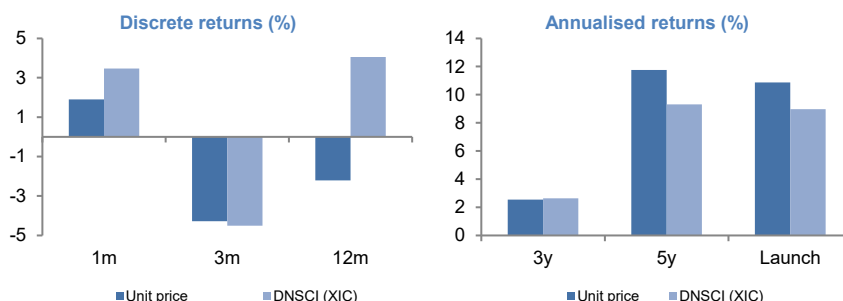
### Investment style: Value

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	1.9	-4.3	-2.2	2.5	11.8	10.9
DNSCI (XIC)	3.5	-4.5	4.0	2.6	9.3	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: April

April opened with the 'Liberation Day' tariff announcements. This prompted significant volatility across already nervy financial markets. US treasuries, oil and the dollar fell. Gold continued its ascent. Equity markets recovered some poise later in the month after initial sharp declines. Overall, UK stocks were broadly in line with other equity markets. The FTSE All-Share fell by 0.2% in the month, while small companies made up some of the under-performance earlier this year. The Fund rose by 1.9% and the benchmark DNSCI (XIC) by 3.5%. The size factor was a headwind for the Fund: "larger smalls" out-performed the "smaller smalls", to which the Fund has greater exposure.

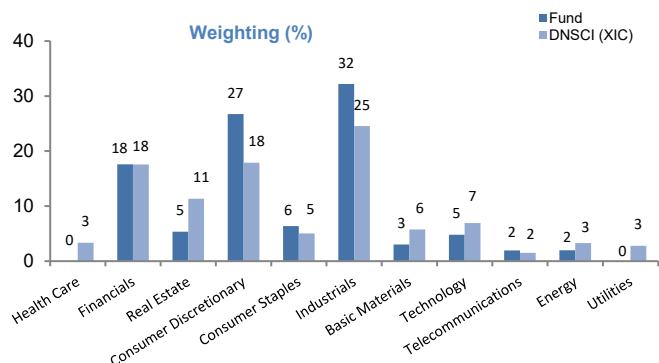
The largest detractor from relative performance was **Mobico**. It announced the disposal of its US school bus business on disappointing terms. The release of results the following day added to concerns about leverage even after the sale completes. It was disappointing that the board did not consult shareholders, particularly since the disposal is not subject to a vote. **Vesuvius**, one of the Funds larger holdings and an overseas earner, was driven lower by tariff concerns, which affected many industrial stocks. **EnQuest's** shares tracked the oil price lower through the month.

Among the largest relative positive contributors was **CMC Markets**, which is usually a beneficiary of heightened market volatility. Strength elsewhere from **Galliford Try**, **Halfords** and **Card Factory** pointed to the benefits of domestic earnings exposure and the market's reappraisal of this in light of uncertainty elsewhere. Of the three, only **Halfords** had company-specific news, which was a positive year end trading update.

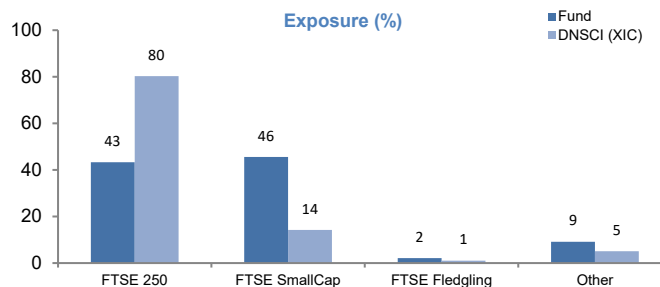
### Top 10 equity investments

Name	Activity	%
Wilmington	Business information & training	3.4
Galliford Try Holdings	Building & infrastructure contractor	2.7
Bakkavor Group	Food manufacturer	2.4
Just Group	Annuity provider	2.4
Vesuvius	Metal flow engineering	2.3
ZIGUP	Van rental	2.3
NCC Group	IT security	2.3
CMC Markets	Financial derivatives trading platform	2.2
Morgan Advanced Materials	Manufacture of carbon & ceramic materials	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 March 2025:

Growth (%)	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Unit price	0.3	11.9	-7.4	4.9	76.7
DNSCI (XIC)	2.3	9.0	-7.9	-1.1	65.6

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

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

(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.

Further information on the Fund, including the Key Investor Information Document, is available on request or via the Aberforth website [www.aberforth.co.uk](http://www.aberforth.co.uk).

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

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