

30 April 2020

The fund aims to provide long term growth by investing predominately in the shares of smaller companies listed on the global stock markets. The fund typically holds a concentrated portfolio of stocks and is actively managed by our investment team, who will select stocks to try to take advantage of opportunities they have identified. Due to the nature of the companies in which the fund invests, investors must be willing to accept a relatively high degree of stock specific risk.

The value of investments within the fund can fall as well as rise and is not guaranteed - you may get back less than you pay in. The fund may use derivatives for the purposes of efficient portfolio management, reduction of risk or to meet its investment objective if this is permitted and appropriate. The value of assets held within the fund may rise and fall as a result of exchange rate fluctuations.

SICAV Fund

Equity Fund

Monthly

Fund Manager	Alan Rowsell & Kirsty Desson
Launch Date	10 Jan 2018
Fund Currency	USD
Benchmark	MSCI AC World Small Cap
Current Fund Size	\$74.1m

This document is intended for use by individuals who are familiar with investment terminology. To help you understand this fund and for a full explanation of specific risks and the overall risk profile of this fund and the shareclasses within it, please refer to the Key Investor Information Documents and Prospectus which are available on our website – www.aberdeenstandard.com.

Aberdeen Standard Investments has not considered the suitability of investment against your individual needs and risk tolerance. If you are in any doubt as to whether this fund is suitable for you, you should seek advice. An adviser is likely to charge for advice. We are unable to provide investment advice.

Fund Information *

Composition by Country

	Fund %
USA	44.3
Japan	11.3
UK	9.1
Taiwan	7.8
Australia	6.6
Italy	4.4
France	2.8
Poland	2.5
China	1.8
Germany	1.2
Finland	1.0
Spain	1.0
Indonesia	0.5
Cash and Other	5.7

Composition by Sector

	Fund %
Information Technology	29.6
Industrials	27.4
Health Care	16.2
Consumer Discretionary	11.8
Cash and Other	5.7
Financials	4.1
Consumer Staples	3.5
Communication Services	1.7

Top Ten Holdings

Stocks	Fund %
Insulet	3.8
Chegg	3.5
Nihon M&A Center	3.4
Axon Enterprise	3.3
Appen	3.1
Kornit Digital	3.0
Pool	2.9
Sinbon Electronics	2.9
Teleperformance	2.8
Genus	2.8
Assets in top ten holdings	31.5

Fund Performance *

Price Indexed



Performance has been calculated over the stated period on the share price performance basis, based on the institutional shareclass and net of fees. For your relevant charges please contact your Aberdeen Standard Investments Sales Representative.

Source: Aberdeen Standard Investments (Fund) and Thomson Reuters DataStream (Benchmark)

Cumulative Performance

Source: Aberdeen Standard Investments (Fund) and Thomson Reuters DataStream (Benchmark)

	YTD (%)	1 month (%)	3 months (%)	6 months (%)	1 year (%)
Retail Fund Performance	-12.1	15.2	-11.2	-7.5	-13.6
Institutional Fund Performance	-11.9	15.3	-11.0	-7.1	-12.7
MSCI AC World Small Cap	-20.7	13.5	-18.3	-15.3	-14.7

	Since launch (%)
Retail Fund Performance	-8.2
Institutional Fund Performance	-6.2
MSCI AC World Small Cap	-16.3

Year on Year Performance

Source: Aberdeen Standard Investments (Fund) and Thomson Reuters DataStream (Benchmark)

	Year to 30/04/2020 (%)	Year to 30/04/2019 (%)	Year to 30/04/2018 (%)	Year to 30/04/2017 (%)	Year to 30/04/2016 (%)
Retail Fund Performance	-13.6	1.9	n/a	n/a	n/a
Institutional Fund Performance	-12.7	2.9	n/a	n/a	n/a
MSCI AC World Small Cap	-14.7	-0.3	n/a	n/a	n/a

Note: Performance has been calculated over the stated period on the share price performance basis, based on the given shareclass and net of fees.

Past Performance is not a guide to future performance. The price of shares and the income from them may go down as well as up and cannot be guaranteed; an investor may receive back less than their original investment.

For full details of the fund's objective, policy, investment and borrowing powers and details of the risks investors need to be aware of, please refer to the prospectus.

The fund does not have an index-tracking objective.

Definitions

Cash and Other - may include bank and building society deposits, other money market instruments such as Certificates of Deposits (CDs), Floating Rate Notes (FRNs) including Asset Backed Securities (ABSs), Money Market Funds and allowances for tax, dividends and interest due if appropriate.

Market Review

Relief rally

After crashing in March, markets managed to stage a recovery in April, thanks to financial support measures from governments, signs that lockdown restrictions are working and talk of easing some restrictions in May.

Governments and central banks around the world have been swift in their response, offering a range of support programmes for workers, businesses and markets to minimise the fallout from the economic shutdown. On the whole, markets have continued to function properly and a Lehman-style bankruptcy has been avoided. The one exception would be the collapse of the oil price with the WTI benchmark price turning negative for a short period - the first time ever! But overall, financial support measures have worked and put a floor under equity prices.

Improved data on the spread of the virus also helped stocks to rally. The growth rate of new cases globally has fallen from about 10% a day at the start of April to 2.5% a day by the end. That has shifted the debate from how we "flatten the curve" to when we can start lifting restrictions. Some countries will start lifting in early May, with a phased approach thereafter. However, a return to normality is likely to be some way off, given that a vaccine still looks several months away.

As you would expect in a recovery phase, small caps started to outperform large caps, especially in Asia, which is further along in its recovery process. Despite the record low for WTI oil, materials and energy sectors led the rebound in equity markets in April. Technology and healthcare stocks continued to demonstrate their resilience by continuing to outperform the broader market. Quality and growth companies also outperformed, as did developed markets.

Activity

Quality sound

We bought new positions in Dolby Laboratories, Kesko and Douzone Bizon.

UK-listed Dolby Laboratories is a pioneer and market leader of sound and picture quality technology. New formats, such as mobile and streaming, have forced the business to reorient itself. We believe the company is in the early stages of a new product cycle that will drive accelerating revenue growth and profit margin expansion. Kesko is a Finnish retailer that operates a chain of supermarkets and DIY stores. It has a defensive business model, with robust margins and good cash flow. Initiatives by management to improve growth and margins going forward should lead to continued outperformance. South Korean software solutions business Douzone Bizon will be one of strongest companies to emerge from the coronavirus outbreak, given relatively little impact in the country. We can see that smaller companies will be upgrading their IT systems to cloud computing products. Given Douzone's 80-90% market share, it stands to benefit, with growth being boosted by the launch of new products. To cover these purchases, we sold UK online rail-ticket seller Trainline. We are concerned that lower passenger traffic is placing downward pressure on revenues. Dart Group was sold for similar reasons. The outlook for its Jet2 airlines is uncertain, with a return to international travel likely to be one of the last areas to recover. Given all the other restrictions, a full recovery in Dart's business is at least a year away or possibly longer. Lastly, we sold our only US bank Wintrust Financial. Although it is a good operator in the Chicago region, its profit outlook has deteriorated from falling interest rates and rising loan losses.

Performance

Quality small caps performing well

The strategy performed well during April, continuing the outperformance seen during the sell-off in March. This again demonstrates that a quality bias is the right approach during periods of economic weakness.

Appen was the biggest contributor this month. The Australian data annotation company noted strong demand for its services from the likes of Facebook as people use social media even more in the current situation than before. Kornit Digital also made significant gains. The Israeli digital printer

manufacturer for the textile and apparel industries is expected to be in better shape after lockdown. The company's printers offer greater flexibility, and Kornit stands to benefit as customers realise they need both more local production and smaller batch sizes. GMO Payment Gateway added value thanks to its focus on e-commerce. As the market leader in online payments in Japan, the company's business has held up well from increased online spending. Mani was the main detractor from performance. The Japanese manufacturer of precision medical supplies sold off after it reduced 2020 earnings guidance, as the Covid-19 crisis had caused delays to surgical procedures. Elsewhere, Taser gun maker Axon Enterprises and Chemed, a care home provider, weighed on returns. Both US companies gave up some of their strong performance from March as the market rebound favoured riskier stocks. We still see good long-term potential in both stocks.

Outlook & Strategy

Will this be a normal economic recovery?

The equity market appears to have bottomed in March and started its recovery process. This is thanks to government action, containment of the virus and the prospect of an easing in lockdown restrictions. The questions now become, what is the trajectory of an economic recovery and whether life will ever fully return to normal? No-one knows the answers to these questions for now, and so investors will react to newsflow. Data supporting recovery will be received well, while any setback will lead to another leg down in the markets.

In a normal economic recovery, this is the time to be adding risk to a portfolio, with small caps usually outperforming large caps and value outperforming growth. However, this may not prove to be a typical recovery, so a degree of caution is probably warranted. As ever, we are sticking with our tried and tested approach of investing in higher quality stocks. This may lead to the strategy lagging on the upside if the recovery really starts to gather momentum, but it will protect us on the downside should there be more bad news.

Other Fund Information

	Retail Acc	Retail Dist	Institutional Acc	Institutional Dist	Currency
Bloomberg	SLGAUUAU LX	-	SLGDUUAU LX	-	USD
ISIN	LU1741498957	-	LU1741499419	-	USD
WKN	N/A	-	n/a	-	USD

Domicile Luxembourg

Custodian Name The Bank of New York Mellon SA/NV, Luxembourg Branch, 2-4 Rue Eugene Ruppert, L-2453 Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Auditor Name KPMG Luxembourg, 39, Avenue John F. Kennedy, L-1855 Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

	Interim	Annual
Reporting Dates	30 Jun	31 Dec

Settlement Time T+3

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Share Price Calculation Time 15:00 (Luxembourg time)

Dealing Cut Off Time 13:00 (Luxembourg time)

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Additional Information for Switzerland : The prospectus, the key investor information documents, the articles of incorporation, the annual and semi-annual report in German, and further information can be obtained free of charge from the representative in Switzerland: Carnegie Fund Services S.A., 11, rue du Général-Dufour, CH-1204 Geneva, Switzerland, web: www.carnegie-fund-services.ch. The Swiss paying agent is: Banque Cantonale de Genève, 17, quai de l'Île, CH-1204 Geneva. The last share prices can be found on www.fundinfo.com.

To find out more about our fund range, visit our website or alternatively speak to your usual contact at Aberdeen Standard Investments.

www.aberdeenstandard.com