

Investment Objective

The Unicorn UK Smaller Companies Fund aims to achieve long-term capital growth by investing primarily in UK companies included within the Numis Smaller Companies plus AIM Index. For this purpose, UK companies are defined as those which are incorporated or domiciled in the UK, or have a significant part of their operations in the UK. The Index covers the bottom tenth by value of the main UK equity market plus AIM stocks that meet the same size limit.

Investment Policy/Strategy

The investment approach is to identify individual companies for investment and therefore the portfolio may not be representative of the index. AIM is the London Stock Exchange's International Market for smaller growing companies. The fund may also invest, at its discretion, in other transferable securities and deposits and cash. The fund may also enter into certain derivative and forward transactions for hedging purposes. The fund invests for the long term and there is no guarantee that any particular return will be achieved over any period. Investors should note that their capital is always at risk.

Manager

Fund Manager - Simon Moon

Assistant Fund Manager - Alex Game

Fund Commentary

The UK Smaller Companies Fund recorded a total return of +2.9% in March, compared to the average total return of +4.3% for the IA UK Smaller Companies sector over the same period.

The primary contributor during the month was Mercia Asset Management, which added 0.6% to overall Fund performance. Mercia, a regionally focused specialist asset manager, released a strong trading update during the period, which reported that full year operating profit is expected to be "materially ahead of current consensus forecasts". These strong results were assisted by the profitable sale of Mercia's stake in Oxford Genetics Limited, realising a gain of £14.6 million, which is equivalent to a 5x return on the direct investment cost. Another notably strong contributor was Secure Trust Bank, which added 0.6% in Fund performance terms. Secure Trust released results for the year ended 31 December 2020, which were significantly impacted by the disruption caused by the COVID pandemic. Encouragingly, current trading was reported to be strong.

The primary detractor was IQE, which cost 0.4% in overall Fund performance. IQE's share price fell as the company noted that growth in the current financial year would be tempered by a foreign exchange headwinds. The medium to long term structural growth drivers for the business remain compelling and the fund manager acquired more shares on the back of the share price weakness.

Unicorn Asset Management Limited (Unicorn) is an independent, specialist fund management group, established in July 2000.

Unicorn focuses on long term, long only, investment in UK quoted companies and aims to achieve superior absolute returns through the application of traditional, fundamental principles of investment.



Cumulative Performance

	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
UK Smaller Companies (B -Shares)	7.9 %	66.2 %	26.2 %	68.0 %	203.9 %
Rank	29/51	23/50	36/48	33/46	27/43
NSCI plus AIM (ex IC)	9.9%	71.3%	26.2%	63.9%	131.1%
Sector Average	9.0 %	65.7 %	32.6 %	80.8 %	197.8 %

Source: Financial Express (Using bid to bid market value, total return)

Discrete Performance

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
UK Smaller Companies (B -Shares)	-0.8 %	32.4 %	-15.6 %	25.4 %	10.0 %
Rank	37/50	12/49	35/48	34/46	17/45
NSCI plus AIM (ex IC)	4.9 %	22.2 %	-15.8 %	21.9 %	12.0 %
Sector Average	6.5 %	25.3 %	-11.7 %	27.2 %	8.0 %

Source: Financial Express (Using bid to bid market value, total return)

Past Performance - 10 Years



Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and investors may not get back the full amount of their original investment.

Top 10 Holdings	
Somero Enterprises	5.6%
Frontier Developments	4.0%
Goodwin	4.0%
Severfield	3.9%
Alpha FX	3.9%
Breedon	3.2%
Numis	3.1%
The Fulham Shore	3.0%
Secure Trust Bank	2.8%
Braemar Shipping Services	2.7%
Total	36.2%

Fund Facts	
Fund Manager	Simon Moon
Assistant Fund Manager	Alex Game
Fund Size	£55m
Launch Date	15 July 2002
Fund Sector	UK Smaller Companies
Number of Holdings	47
Pricing	10:00 Daily
ISAs/JISAs	Available
Dividend Dates	Ex-Div: 30/9 Payment: 30/11

Risk Ratios	1yr	3yr
Volatility	16.15	19.79
Alpha	6.88	-0.98
Beta	0.86	0.98
Sharpe	4.03	0.23
Information Ratio	-0.13	-0.21

Top 10 Sectors	
Engineering	20.3%
Financial Services	15.6%
Building & Construction	8.2%
Consumer Retail	7.3%
Logistics & Transportation	6.6%
Travel & Leisure	5.0%
Computer Games	4.0%
Software & Computer Services	3.3%
Banks	2.8%
Cash	2.8%
Total	75.9%

Share Class Information	A - Income	B - Income	O - Income
	Initial Charge	5.50%	2.50%
On Going Charge	1.62%	0.87%	1.62%
ISIN Code	GB0031791238	GB0031785065	GB00BJTMCQ36
Sedol Code	3179123	3178506	BJTMCQ3
Bloomberg Code	UNUKSAI	UNUKSBI	UNUKSOI
MEX ID	U2UKSI	U2UKSB	U2AAAF
Initial Investment	£2,000	£20,000	£10,000

How to buy the Fund: The fund is available through a number of distributors including	
7IM	HL Vantage
Aegon	Hubwise
Alliance Trust	James Hay
Ascentric/Funds Direct	Novia
Aviva	Nucleus
Bestinvest	Pershing Nexus Funds
Charles Stanley Direct	Standard Life Fundzone
Cofunds	Transact
Fidelity Funds Network	Zurich
Standard Life Elevate	Old Mutual Wealth

All figures within this factsheet have been calculated with reference to 31 March 2021 with exception to the on going charge figure which is based on the annual accounts for the 12 months ended 30 September 2020

- Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and investors may not get back the full amount of their original investment
- Unicorn Asset Management do not give out investment advice, we recommend that you contact a financial advisor if you are unsure whether to invest
- Investors should also read the Prospectus and KIID document of the fund before making an investment
- Equities are subject to greater degrees of market risk than other types of investment, such as bonds or money market instruments. You should not invest unless you are prepared to accept a higher degree of risk
- Investing in smaller companies, including AIM companies, can carry greater risks than those usually associated with large capitalisation companies. Smaller companies are likely to be less established and may not have access to the financial resources available to their larger counterparts. The shares of smaller companies are relatively illiquid and under-researched.
- Taxation levels, benefits and reliefs may all vary depending on individual circumstances and are subject to change
- Opinions expressed in this factsheet are subject to change without notice.
- Unicorn Asset Management Limited are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

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