# BLACKROCK

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# BlackRock Greater Europe Investment Trust plc June 2015 Factsheet

#### Performance (as at 30.06.2015)

Sterling:	1 <b>M</b> %	3 M %	1 Y %	3 Y %	Launch %
Net Asset Value – undiluted	-4.8	-4.0	3.6	51.4	207.7
Net Asset Value – diluted	-4.0	-3.3	3.3	51.1	207.1
Share Price	-4.2	-5.6	4.4	55.7	200.2
FTSE World Europe ex UK	-5.7	-5.8	1.1	50.5	142.0

### Annual Performance to the Last Quarter End\*

	30/06/14	30/06/13	30/06/12	30/06/11	30/06/10
	30/06/15	30/06/14	30/06/13	30/06/12	30/06/11
NAV Performance	3.6%	11.5%	31.1%	-18.2%	37.0%
Share Price Performance	4.4%	15.4%	29.2%	-16.0%	37.9%

Performance statistics sources: BlackRock and Datastream. Performance figures are calculated on a mid market basis in sterling terms with income reinvested on the ex-dividend date.

- \* Performance is based on cum-income undiluted NAVs with income reinvested.
- Past performance is not a guide to future performance and should not be the sole factor of consideration when selecting a product.
- The latest performance data can be found on the BlackRock website at blackrock.co.uk/brge.

The performance of the Company's portfolio, or Net Asset Value ('NAV') performance, is not the same as share price performance and shareholders may not realise returns which are the same as NAV performance.

#### NAV ('Net Asset Value') Undiluted / Diluted

A company's undiluted NAV is its available shareholders' funds divided by the number of shares in issue (excluding treasury shares), before making any adjustment for any potentially dilutive securities which the Company may have in issue, such as subscription shares, convertible bonds or treasury shares. A diluted NAV is calculated on the assumption that holders of any convertibles have converted, subscription shares have been exercised and treasury shares are re-issued at the mid-market price, to the extent that the NAV per share is higher than the price of each of these shares or securities and that they are 'in the money'. The aim is to ensure that shareholders have a full understanding of the potential impact on the Company's NAV if these instruments had been exercised on a particular date.

# Gearing

- Investment companies can borrow to purchase additional investments. This is called 'gearing'. It allows investment companies to take advantage of a long-term view on a sector or to take advantage of a favourable situation or a particularly attractive stock without having to sell existing investments.
- Gearing works by magnifying the company's performance. If a company 'gears up' and then markets rise and the returns on the investments outstrip the costs of borrowing, the overall returns to investors will be even greater. But if markets fall and the performance of the assets in the portfolio is poor, then losses suffered by the investor will also be magnified.

# **Company Objective**

To achieve capital growth, through investment in a focused portfolio constructed from a combination of the securities of large, mid and small capitalisation European companies, together with some investment in the developing markets of Europe.

## **Key Risk Factors**

All financial investments involve an element of risk. Therefore, the value of your investment and the income from it will vary and your initial investment amount cannot be guaranteed.

Overseas investments will be affected by currency exchange rate fluctuations.

The Company's investments may be subject to liquidity constraints, which means that shares may trade less frequently and in small volumes, for instance smaller companies. As a result, changes in the value of investments may be more unpredictable. In certain cases, it may not be possible to sell the security at the last market price quoted or at a value considered to be fairest.

The Company invests in economies and markets which may be less developed. Compared to more established economies, the value of investments may be subject to greater volatility due to increased uncertainty as to how these markets operate.

The Company may from time to time utilise gearing (see opposite).

## **NMPI Status**

The Company currently conducts its affairs so that its securities can be recommended by IFAs to ordinary retail investors in accordance with the FCA's rules in relation to non-mainstream investment products and intends to continue to do so for the foreseeable future. The securities are excluded from the FCA's restrictions which apply to non-mainstream investment products because they are shares in an investment trust.

# **Comments from the Fund Managers**

- During the month, the Company's NAV fell by 4.8% and the share price decreased by 4.2%. For reference, the FTSE World Europe ex UK Index was down 5.7% during the period.
- ▶ European equity markets fell more than 4% in June (Stoxx 600, in EUR terms) as the Greek bail-out negotiations dominated the headlines. Short term market volatility increased as the possibility of a Greek exit from the Eurozone became imminent and investor confidence consequently waned. Greece's failure to agree a bail-out by the end of the month also led to a sharp fall in the market in the last few trading days of June. The political uncertainty weighed on business sentiment across the Eurozone, but only modestly so: in the Eurozone it fell slightly from 103.8 (May) to 103.5 (June), but remains well above 100. Indeed, despite the distraction of the protracted negotiations in Greece, the Eurozone economy continued to improve in the month, with France's latest reading for the Purchasing Manager's Index exceeding 50 for the first time since early 2014.
- Stock selection drove the Company's performance in June when compared with the reference index, with sector allocation detracting. The Company's higher exposure to industrials and technology saw negative returns on a sector basis; however, the higher exposure to financials realised a positive gain.
- Lundin petroleum was the Company's top contributor. The share price has improved following the receipt of government approval for development of a large oil field. This has been further emphasised by the confidence in the company to focus on execution with a new CEO. Kingspan, the Irish building materials company, had a strong positive return after releasing solid company results, with sales over 25% ahead of the same period last year and completing the Vicwest acquisition at the tail end of May. Avanza Bank was the largest detractor over the month as the share price fell in response to an increase in the number of company shares outstanding.
- At the end of the period, the Company had higher weightings when compared with the reference index to financials, consumer services, technology and industrials. The Company had lower exposures to basic materials, consumer goods, telecoms, oil & gas, health care and utilities.

#### Outlook

Despite the performance of European equities year-to-date, we remain positive on the prospects for the asset class. We would use the recent pullback in markets to add to weightings in a market which offers the best earnings momentum globally, coupled with attractive valuations. After five years in crisis, economic growth is now recovering across the European region and, with supportive monetary policy, should continue to improve over the next 12 months. Uncertainties around Greece mean the risk premium on European equities remains elevated and has the potential to fall once these uncertainties are removed. We do not believe there is any significant danger of contagion to the rest of the European area.

#### Sources: BlackRock, Factset and Datastream

Reference to the names of each company mentioned in this communication are merely for explaining the investment strategy, and should not be construed as investment advice or investment recommendation of those companies.

#### Fund Information (as at 30.06.2015)

Net Asset Value (capital only)	248.52p
Net Asset Value (including income)	252.02p
Net Asset Value (capital only)*	248.44p
Net Asset Value (including income)*	251.36p
Share price	244.25p
Subscription Share price	16.38p
Net gearing	7.4%
Net yield**	2.0%
Discount to NAV (including income)	3.1%
Discount to NAV (including income)*	2.8%
Total Assets (including income)	£280.1m
Issued capital – Ordinary Shares***	104,289,064
Subscription Shares	20,565,777

\*Diluted for subscription shares and treasury shares.

\*\*Based on a final dividend of 3.20p for the year ended 31 August 2014 and an interim dividend of 1.65p per share for the year ending 31 August 2015.

\*\*\*Excluding 5,488,898 shares held in treasury.

The Company's ongoing charges, calculated as a percentage of average net assets (for the year ended 31 August 2014) and using expenses, excluding performance fees and interest costs, after relief for any taxation were:

#### Country Analysis (as at 30.06.2015)

	% of Total Assets
France	18.4
Switzerland	15.7
Italy	11.4
Germany	10.3
Netherlands	8.1
Sweden	8.0
Ireland	7.6
Denmark	5.4
Spain	4.5
Belgium	3.6
Finland	2.8
Turkey	2.6
Russia	2.3
Net current liabilities	(0.7)
TOTAL	100.0



0.94%

#### Sector Analysis (as at 30.06.2015)

	% of Total Assets
Financials	37.1
Industrials	17.1
Consumer Goods	11.9
Consumer Services	8.8
Health Care	7.0
Technology	6.0
Basic Materials	4.8
Telecommunications	3.5
Utilities	2.3
Oil & Gas	2.2
Net current liabilities	(0.7)
TOTAL	100.0

#### Ten Largest Investments (as at 30.06.2015)

Company	Country of Risk	% of Total Assets
Novartis	Switzerland	5.0
Novo Nordisk	Denmark	4.5
Bayer	Germany	3.7
KBC Groep	Belgium	3.6
Banco Santander	Spain	3.0
AXA	France	2.7
LVMH Moët Hennessy	France	2.6
ASML	Netherlands	2.6
Ryanair	Ireland	2.3
Deutsche Telekom	Germany	2.3
Banco Santander AXA LVMH Moët Hennessy ASML Ryanair	Spain France France Netherlands Ireland	3.0 2.7 2.6 2.6 2.3

BlackRock has not considered the suitability of this investment against your individual needs and risk tolerance. To ensure you understand whether this product is suitable, please read the Key Features document and the current Annual and Half Yearly Financial Reports which provide more information about the risk profile of the investment.

If after reading this factsheet you have any questions or would like any additional information, please contact your financial adviser or speak to our Investor Services Team.

The purpose of this factsheet is to provide summary information concerning the Company and does not constitute a recommendation to buy or sell its shares. If you are in any doubt as to the suitability of any of our funds for your investment needs, please contact your Financial Adviser. Issued by BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited (authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority). Registered office: 12 Throgmorton Avenue, London, EC2N 2DL. Registered in England No. 2020394. Tel: 020 7743 3000. For your protection, telephone calls are usually recorded. BlackRock is a trading name of BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited.

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## Financial Calendar

Year end:	31 August
Results announced:	April (half yearly) October (final)
AGM:	December
Dividends paid:	December (final) May (interim)

## **Key Company Details**

Fund	Characteristics:
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Alternative Investment Fund Manager (with effect from 2 July 2014):	BlackRock Fund Managers Limited
Fund Managers	Vincent Devlin Sam Vecht
Launch Date	20 September 2004
Dealing Currencies	Sterling
AIC Sector	Europe
Reference Index	FTSE World Europe ex UK
Traded	London Stock Exchange
Savings plan and stocks and shares NISA:	Available via BlackRock. Please see the Investment Trust brochure and Key Features document for more information.

## **Fund Codes:**

#### **Ordinary Share Codes:**

ISIN	GB00B01RDH75
Sedol	B01RDH7
Bloomberg	BRGE:LN
Reuters	BRGE.L
Ticker	BRGE/LON

#### Subscription Share Codes:

ISIN	GB00B99HJ527
Sedol	B99HJ52
Bloomberg	BRGS:LN
Reuters	BRGS.L
Ticker	BRGS/LON

- BlackRock Greater Europe Investment Trust plc will not invest more than 15% of its gross assets in other listed investment trusts.
- BlackRock Greater Europe Investment Trust plc is traded on the London Stock Exchange and dealing may only be through a member of the Exchange.

#### Contact us

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