

## BlackRock Smaller Companies Trust plc

### July 2015 Factsheet

#### Performance (as at 31.07.2015)

Sterling:	1 M %	3 M %	1 Y %	3 Y %	5 Y %
Net Asset Value*	3.0	7.5	17.6	84.2	147.4
Share Price*	0.2	11.6	18.3	92.7	167.6
Numis ex Inv Companies + AIM	0.8	2.5	4.8	44.4	60.0

\*performance calculations based on a capital only NAV with debt at par<sup>^</sup>, without income reinvested. Share price performance calculations exclude income reinvestment. The debenture stock issued by the Company is valued at par which represents the value due to be paid to holders of the debt at maturity.

<sup>^</sup>Debt at Par Value - The par value of a debt security represents the price that will be paid to the holders of that debt at maturity.

#### 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 <sup>1</sup>	14.8	25.7	29.8	-7.6	60.8
Share Price Performance <sup>2</sup>	19.2	25.9	35.9	-8.0	65.0

Performance statistics sources: BlackRock and Datastream.

<sup>1</sup> NAV performance figures are calculated on a cum income basis with income reinvested.

<sup>2</sup> Share price performance figures are calculated on a mid market basis in sterling terms 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 Investment Management (UK) Limited website at: [www.blackrock.co.uk/brsc](http://www.blackrock.co.uk/brsc).

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.

#### Ten Largest Investments (as at 31.07.2015)

Company	% of Portfolio
4imprint Group	2.0
CVS Group	2.0
Savills	1.8
Workspace Group	1.8
Lookers	1.7
Ted Baker	1.6
Topps Tiles	1.6
Polar Capital Holdings	1.6
Rathbone Brothers	1.5
Headlam Group	1.5

A full disclosure of portfolio investments for the BlackRock Smaller Companies Trust plc as at 30 June 2015 has been made available on the Company's website at the link given below:

<http://www.blackrock.co.uk/intermediaries/literature/fund-update/brsct-portfolio-disclosure.pdf>

### Company Objective

To achieve long term capital growth for shareholders through investment mainly in smaller UK quoted companies.

### Important Information

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.

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.

Overseas investments will be affected by currency exchange rate fluctuations.

The Company may from time to time utilise gearing. 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.

### 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 Manager

- During July the Company's NAV per share rose by 3.0% on a capital only basis whilst the benchmark index rose by 0.8%; the FTSE 100 Index rose by 2.7%. Outperformance was derived mainly from stock selection with some benefit from sector allocation and gearing.
- The largest positive contributors to stock selection during the month were our holdings in Fever-tree Drinks, 4imprint and Quintain Estates. Fever-tree announced interim results with revenues up by 62% and EBITDA up by 68%; all territories are performing strongly. 4imprint also announced interims, with revenues up by 20%, all organic, and profit before tax up by 25%. Management remain confident for the full year. Quintain announced a bid for the company by an investment vehicle of the US private equity group Lone Star; the bid was at a 22.4% premium to the Quintain share price prior to the bid.
- There were no major detractors from relative outperformance during the month.
- We did not make any significant changes to the portfolio during the month.

Sources: BlackRock, Datastream, Bloomberg and BNY Mellon

## 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.

## Fund Information (as at 31.07.2015)

Net Asset Value Capital only (debt at par value†)	1049.21p
Net Asset Value Capital only (debt at fair value‡)	1038.66p
Net Asset Value incl. Income (debt at par value)*	1061.89p
Net Asset Value incl. Income (debt at fair value)*	1051.34p
*Includes net revenue of	12.68p
Share Price	930.50p
Discount to Cum Income NAV (debt at par value)	12.4%
Discount to Cum Income NAV (debt at fair value)	11.5%
Net gearing incl. Income (debt at par value)	5.6%
Gearing range as a % of net assets	0-15%
Net yield^^	1.6%
Total Assets (including current year revenue)	£548.3m
2015 Ongoing charges ratio^^	0.7%
2015 Ongoing charges ratio (including performance fees)	1.0%
Issued capital – Ordinary Shares^	47,879,792
^excluding shares in treasury	2,113,731

†Debt at Par Value - The par value of a debt security represents the price that will be paid to the holders of that debt at maturity.

‡Debt at Fair Value – The fair value of a debt security for the purpose of calculating this NAV has been based on last available quoted offer prices on the London Stock Exchange.

^As reported in the Annual Financial Report for the year ended 28 February 2015, the ongoing charges ratio is calculated as a percentage of net assets and using operating expenses, excluding performance fees, finance costs and taxation.

^^Yield calculations are based on dividends announced in the last 12 months as at the date of release of this announcement, and comprise the interim dividend of 5.50 pence per share, (announced on 24 October 2014, ex-dividend date 6 November 2014) and the final dividend of 9.00 pence per share (announced on 27 April 2015, ex-dividend date 21 May 2015).

## Sector Weightings (as at 31.07.2015)

	% of Portfolio
Industrials	25.8
Consumer Services	20.0
Financials	19.5
Consumer Goods	9.8
Health Care	8.0
Technology	6.9
Basic Materials	6.6
Oil & Gas	2.8
Telecommunications	0.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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.

## Key Company Details

### Fund Characteristics:

Fund Manager	Mike Prentis
Launch Date	May 1906
Dealing Currencies	Sterling
AIC Sector	UK Smaller Companies
Benchmark	Numis Smaller Companies plus AIM (ex Investment Companies)
Traded	London Stock Exchange
Alternative Investment Fund Manager (with effect from 2 July 2014):	BlackRock Fund Managers Limited

### Fund Codes

ISIN	GB0006436108
Sedol	0643610
Bloomberg	BRSC:LN
Reuters	BRSC.L
Ticker	BRSC/LON

## Financial Calendar

Year end:	28 February
Results announced:	October (half yearly) April (final)
AGM:	June
Dividends paid:	December (interim)/June (final)
Investment Manager:	BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited
Savings plan and stocks and shares NISA :	Available via BlackRock. Please see the Investment Trust brochure and Key Features document for more information.

►BlackRock Smaller Companies Trust plc will not invest more than 15% of its gross assets in other listed investment trusts.

►BlackRock Smaller Companies Trust plc is traded on the London Stock Exchange and dealing may only be through a member of the Exchange.

**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.

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## Contact us

Broker Services Team:	08457 405405
Investor Services Team:	0800 445522
Website:	<a href="http://www.blackrock.co.uk/brsc">www.blackrock.co.uk/brsc</a>

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