

### For More Information

Broker Services Team: 08457 405405 Investor Services Team: 0800 445522 Website: www.blackrock.co.uk/brsc

# BlackRock Smaller Companies Trust plc

# November 2014 Factsheet

#### Performance (as at 30.11.2014)

Sterling:	1 M %	3 M %	1 Y %	3 Y %	5 Y %
Net Asset Value*	2.1	-3.9	-1.1	66.6	146.6
Share Price*	-2.1	-4.4	-8.7	80.4	169.4
Numis ex Inv Companies + AIM*	0.4	-5.2	-4.9	38.8	58.3

\*performance calculations based on a capital only NAV with debt at par^, 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.

^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

	30/09/13		30/09/12	30/09/11	30/09/10	30/09/09
	30/09	9/14 %	30/09/13 %	30/09/12 %	30/09/11 %	30/09/10 %
NAV Performance <sup>1</sup>		9.1	36.8	19.9	5.4	40.4
Share Price Performance <sup>2</sup>		3.7	51.1	18.8	11.0	44.3
Performance		sources:	BlackRock,	Datastream	and BNY	

- NAV performance figures are calculated on a cum income basis with income reinvested.
  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: <a href="https://www.blackrock.co.uk/brsc">www.blackrock.co.uk/brsc</a>.

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 (in alphabetical order as at 30.11.2014)

Company	% of Portfolio
Polar Capital Holdings	1.8
Workspace Group	1.8
Avon Rubber	1.8
Senior Engineering	1.7
Tyman	1.6
Bodycote	1.6
Lookers	1.5
Headlam Group	1.5
Hutchison China Meditech	1.5
Elementis	1.5

A full disclosure of portfolio investments for the BlackRock Smaller Companies Trust plc as at 30 September 2014 has been made available on the Company's website at the link given below: <a href="http://www.blackrock.co.uk/intermediaries/literature/fund-update/brsct-portfolio-disclosure.pdf">http://www.blackrock.co.uk/intermediaries/literature/fund-update/brsct-portfolio-disclosure.pdf</a>

# **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 November the Company's NAV per share rose by 2.1% on a capital only basis whilst the benchmark index rose by 0.4%; the FTSE 100 Index rose by 2.7%.
- ▶ Portfolio outperformance was helped by a number of stocks including Hutchison China Meditech, on further consideration of good interims and director's share buying; Topps Tiles, on final results showing earnings per share growth of 21.9%; and Fevertree Drinks, on a successful IPO. Our holdings in Quintain Estates and Avon Rubber also performed well and we had good meetings with the management of both companies following results.
- ▶ Detracting from this was the continuing drag from bid approaches to companies in our benchmark but not in our portfolio: in November not owning Songbird Estates was our largest detractor from relative contribution.
- ▶ We decided to take some profit in a few of our AIM holdings, including some of our holdings in oil producers as the oil price fell sharply. We took part in a few IPOs including Fevertree Drinks, which develops and sells high quality soft drinks including tonic water; and Virgin Money. We added a few other small holdings in companies that have recently impressed us on meeting.

Sources: BlackRock, Datastream, Bloomberg and BNY Mellon

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.

# 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 30.11.2014)

Net Asset Value Capital only (debt at par value†)	880.10p
Net Asset Value Capital only (debt at fair value‡)	872.66p
Net Asset Value incl. Income (debt at par value)*	888.27p
Net Asset Value incl. Income (debt at fair value)*	880.83p
*Includes net revenue of	8.17p
Share Price	765.00p
Discount to Cum Income NAV (debt at par value)	13.9%
Discount to Cum Income NAV (debt at fair value)	13.2%
Net gearing incl. Income (debt at fair value)	9.5%
Gearing range as a % of net assets	0-15%
Net yield^^^	1.7%
Total Assets (including current year revenue)	£465.2m
2014 Ongoing charges ratio^	0.7%
2014 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 2014, the ongoing charges ratio is calculated as a percentage of net assets and using operating expenses, excluding performance fees, finance costs and taxation.

^MYield calculations are based on dividends announced in the last 12 months as at the date of release of this announcement, and comprise the final dividend of 7.40 pence per share (announced on 25 April 2014 and gone ex-dividend on 14 May 2014) and the interim dividend of 5.50 pence per share, (announced on 24 October 2014, gone ex-dividend on 6 November 2014).

### Sector Weightings (as at 30.11.2014)

	% of Portfolio
Industrials	26.7
Consumer Services	18.8
Financials	17.6
Technology	9.5
Basic Materials	8.6
Health Care	7.8
Consumer Goods	7.3
Oil & Gas	2.1
Telecommunications	1.6
TOTAL	100.0



### **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 BlackRock Fund Managers Limited Manager (with effect from

**Fund Codes** 

2 July 2014):

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

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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#### **Financial Calendar**

Year end:

Results announced:

October (half yearly)
April (final)

AGM:

June

Dividends paid:

December (interim)/June (final)

28 February

Investment Manager: BlackRock Investment Management (UK)

Savings plan and stocks and shares ISA:

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.

# Contact us

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