

## BlackRock Smaller Companies Trust plc

### April 2015 Factsheet

#### Performance (as at 30.04.2015)

Sterling:	1 M %	3 M %	1 Y %	3 Y %	5 Y %
Net Asset Value*	4.7	7.7	4.6	57.5	126.2
Share Price*	2.3	1.3	-3.4	59.8	133.6
Numis ex Inv Companies + AIM*	3.5	7.2	-1.4	31.6	47.7

\*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

	31/03/14	31/03/13	31/03/12	31/03/11	31/03/10
	31/03/15	31/03/14	31/03/13	31/03/12	31/03/11
	%	%	%	%	%
NAV Performance <sup>1</sup>	-1.2	34.1	19.7	3.1	48.0
Share Price Performance <sup>2</sup>	-4.5	40.6	22.2	-0.8	66.4

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 30.04.2015)

Company	% of Portfolio
4imprint	1.9
CVS Group	1.9
Workspace Group	1.7
Lookers	1.6
Savills	1.6
Hutchison China Meditech	1.6
Avon Rubber	1.6
Senior Engineering	1.6
Ted Baker	1.6
Headlam Group	1.5

A full disclosure of portfolio investments for the BlackRock Smaller Companies Trust plc as at 31 March 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 April the Company's NAV per share rose by 4.7% on a capital only basis whilst the benchmark index rose by 3.5%; the FTSE 100 Index rose by 2.8%. Outperformance was derived from stock selection and gearing.
- The major positive contributors to stock selection during the month were our holdings in Hutchison China Meditech and CVS Group. Shares in Hutchison China Meditech were strong performers following the announcement that the first trial of fruquintinib in patients achieved the primary endpoint, and also following directors' share buying. We had an excellent meeting with CVS Group management who continue to grow their veterinary business both organically and by small bolt on acquisitions. Interim results showed sales up 19%, with like for like sales growth of 10%, and eps growth of 34%. CVS Group still has only 11% of the UK veterinary surgery market.
- The largest detractor from relative outperformance during the month was Northbridge Industrial Services. Northbridge was impacted by the decline in the oil price. About 30% of its sales relate to the rental of oil tools, and demand for these has weakened significantly. The majority of revenues involve the sale and rental of loadbanks in power related applications; demand remains firm in these areas.
- We added a holding in JD Sports, a leading retailer and distributor of branded sportswear and fashionwear. The group now has over 800 stores across six countries. Growth has been strong with revenues up by 25% to £1.5 billion in the year to 31 January 2015, and earnings per share up by 26%. The business has also generated strong cashflow and had net cash of £84 million at 31 January 2015.

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 30.04.2015)

Net Asset Value Capital only (debt at par value†)	976.04p
Net Asset Value Capital only (debt at fair value‡)	968.62p
Net Asset Value incl. Income (debt at par value)*	991.41p
Net Asset Value incl. Income (debt at fair value)*	983.99p
*Includes net revenue of	15.37p
Share Price	834.00p
Discount to Cum Income NAV (debt at par value)	15.9%
Discount to Cum Income NAV (debt at fair value)	15.2%
Net gearing incl. Income (debt at par value)	8.4%
Gearing range as a % of net assets	0-15%
Net yield^^	1.7%
Total Assets (including current year revenue)	£514.6m
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.

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

#excludes 2,113,731 shares held in treasury.

## Sector Weightings (as at 30.04.2015)

	% of Portfolio
Industrials	25.9
Financials	18.3
Consumer Services	17.6
Consumer Goods	9.8
Basic Materials	9.3
Health Care	8.1
Technology	7.0
Oil & Gas	3.4
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 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.

**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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