

# For the Six Months ended 15 April 2014

# **Investment objective and policy**

Capital growth through worldwide investment in equities. Investment is in companies which, in the Manager's opinion, show above average profitability, management quality and growth.

## Results

| Unit<br>Class | Unit<br>Type | Price at<br>15.10.13 (p) | Price at<br>15.04.14 (p) | Unit Class<br>Performance | Comparative<br>Benchmark |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| R             | Acc*         | 855.5                    | 853.2                    | -0.27%                    | 1.80%^                   |
| Z             | Acc*         | 118.6                    | 118.7                    | 0.08%                     | 1.80%^                   |
| R             | Inc**        | 758.0                    | 754.0                    | -0.53%                    | 0.87%^^                  |

\* Acc units include net revenue reinvested, total return. \*\* Inc units do not include net revenue reinvested, capital return dividends excluded. ^ MSCI World (Net Return) Index. ^^ MSCI World (Capital Return) Index. Source of all performance data: AXA Investment Managers and Lipper, bid to bid, to 15 April 2014.

## **Review**

Global equity markets gyrated over the period, ending virtually unchanged in response to a series of mixed influences impacting markets. Indeed, the period was marked by some quite contradictory messages. For example, while many economic indicators showed signs of improvement, in contrast major sovereign bond yields painted a less positive growth outlook, with yields declining over the period. Geopolitical tensions centred on Ukraine served to raise risk aversion over the later part of the period, while investment styles also displayed quite wide-ranging variations. Within Europe, ongoing signs that the economy is finally pulling out of its two year stagnation, combined with ongoing falls in sovereign yields, supported more value-based strategies. In contrast, in the US, growth styles - in particular internet and biotech-related areas - continued to perform well until late February when they then experienced significant profit-taking and market rotation. Having suffered in the middle of 2013 due to fears over the impact of US tapering, emerging markets subsequently recovered somewhat as fears over the impact of tapering reduced and relative valuations improved.

The overall bias of the portfolio towards quality and structural growth was maintained during the period. Performance was impacted in the later part of the period as the severe de-rating of US growth stocks impacted several holdings in the portfolio. However, we maintained positions as the longer-term growth dynamics for these holdings remain attractive, as confirmed during a recent US research trip where meetings with holdings such as Tractor Supply Company highlighted the long-term growth potential for the business. Overall, the portfolio remains overweight the consumer discretionary, industrial and healthcare sectors, and underweight utilities and telecoms.

# **Outlook**

Having enjoyed a significant rerating over the last two years, especially among major developed markets, earnings upgrades are increasingly required to justify further sustained performance. With economic activity improving, helped by a lower fiscal drag in many developed economies, prospects for earnings upgrades look more promising. However, we anticipate the economic recovery to be gradual in nature as the global economy needs to work through a number of structural issues, such as ongoing

# AXA Framlington is a leading equity expertise within the AXA Investment Managers Group, with teams in London and Paris.

We are primarily a bottom-up, active equity manager. This fundamental approach to stock selection, combined with the experience of our team of fund managers, focuses on delivering long-term investment performance for our clients.

We offer competitive products backed up with excellent service. Our structure and

with excellent service. Our structure and size creates a dynamic environment for our fund managers. This encourages a high level of personal responsibility in which both individual flair and teamwork flourish.

AXA Framlington funds under management exceed £54.6 billion (as at 31 March 2014).



For the Six Months ended 15 April 2014

deleveraging and the rebalancing of the Chinese economy to a more consumptionbased economy. As such, we continue to favour companies able to deliver sustainable growth in a mixed economic backdrop. Regionally, we maintain our bias towards developed markets, as often we struggle to find the right combination of quality and growth in many emerging markets. However, given the de-rating many emerging markets have experienced over the last three years, we are looking at the region again to see if new opportunities have emerged. Similarly, Japan has performed poorly over the last six months as the initial investor euphoria over Abenomics has subsided, and we are using the current weakness as an opportunity to see if new opportunities are now available. Recent geopolitical events will likely continue to weigh on markets in the near term, however, a combination of the supportive interest rate environment and robust corporate cash flows continue to provide support for global equity markets.

# **Mark Hargraves**

# 13 May 2014

All performance data source: AXA Investment Managers and Lipper to 15 April 2014.

For the Six Months ended 15 April 2014

# Risk and reward profile

The Fund invests primarily in the shares of quoted companies on worldwide financial markets drawn from all economic sectors. As many of these investments will be made in non sterling denominated listed equities, the value of the fund will not only be impacted by the market risk associated with investing in equities but also by exchange rate movements between those currencies and sterling in which the fund is based. The Fund also invests in emerging and newer markets which may involve a higher risk than investing in established markets due to heightened geopolitical risk (see below) and potential large currency volatility. Investors should consider carefully whether this investment risk is suitable for them. The value of investments and the income from them is not guaranteed and can go down as well as up.

| Lower risk High          |   |   |   |            |                  | Higher risk |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|------------|------------------|-------------|
| Potentially lower reward |   |   |   | Potentiall | ly higher reward |             |
| 1                        | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5          | 6                | 7           |

The risk category is calculated using historical performance data and may not be a reliable indicator of the Fund's future risk profile. The risk category shown is not guaranteed and may shift over time. The lowest category does not mean risk free.

# Why is this Fund in this category?

The capital of the Fund is not guaranteed. The Fund is invested in financial markets and uses techniques and instruments which may be subject to sudden and significant variation, which may result in substantial gains or losses.

#### **Additional risks**

Impact of any techniques such as derivatives: certain management strategies involve specific risks, such as liquidity risk, credit risk, counterparty risk, legal risk, valuation risk, operational risk and risks related to the underlying assets. The use of such strategies may also involve leverage, which may increase the effect of market movements on the Fund and may result in significant risk of losses.

Geopolitical Risk: investments in securities issued or listed in different countries may imply the application of different standards and regulations. Investments may be affected by movements of foreign exchange rates, changes in laws or restrictions applicable to such investments, changes in exchange control regulations or price volatility.

#### **FUND FACTS**

| Lead Fund manager                         | Mark Hargraves               |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sector                                    | Global Growth                |
| Comparative Benchmark                     | MSCI World Capital<br>Return |
| Launch date                               | 29 Oct 1976                  |
| Fund size at 15 Apr 2014                  | £56m                         |
| Fund size at 15 Oct 2013                  | £93m                         |
| Lump sum                                  | R: £1,000<br>Z: £100,000     |
| Minimum subsequent investment             | R: £100 / Z: £5,000          |
| Net Yield                                 |                              |
| R Inc                                     | 0.25%                        |
| R Acc                                     | 0.25%                        |
| Z Acc                                     | 1.00%                        |
| Unit type                                 | Inc/Acc                      |
| Number of stocks                          | 80                           |
| Initial charge                            | R: 5.25% / Z: 0.00%          |
| Annual charge                             | R: 1.50% / Z: 0.75%          |
| Ongoing charges                           |                              |
| R Inc/Acc                                 | 1.60% / 1.60%                |
| Z Acc                                     | 0.85%                        |
| Accounting dates (interim)                | 15 Apr                       |
| Accounting dates (annual)                 | 15 Oct                       |
| Distribution dates (interim)              | 15 Jun                       |
| Distribution dates (annual)               | 15 Dec                       |
| All elete accounts AVA lessester and Adam |                              |

All data, source: AXA Investment Managers as at 15 April 2014.

# **Top five purchases**

# For the six months ended 15 April 2014 Wells Fargo WPP Toronto Dominion Bank Novo Nordisk American Express

# **Top five sales**

| For the six months ended 15 April 2014 |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Prudential                             |  |  |  |  |
| XLT                                    |  |  |  |  |
| Bank of Georgia                        |  |  |  |  |
| US Bancorp                             |  |  |  |  |
| Mastercard                             |  |  |  |  |

# Five year discrete annual performance %

| Apr 09 to Apr 10 | Apr 10 to Apr 11 | Apr 11 to Apr 12 | Apr 12 to Apr 13 | Apr 13 to Apr 14 |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 35.46%           | 7.03%            | 0.39%            | 11.10%           | 3.79%            |

Past performance is not a guide to future returns. Sources: AXA Investment Managers and Lipper as at 15 April 2014. Basis: Bid to bid, with no income reinvested, net of fees in GBP. Performance is representative of R Inc class.

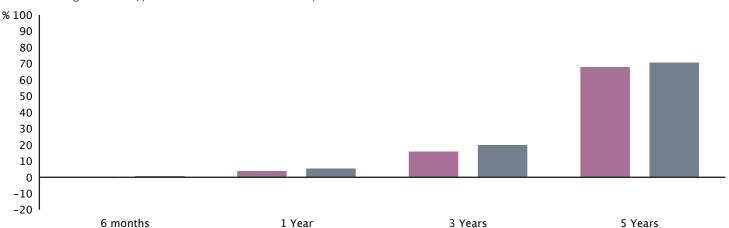
# **Cumulative fund performance versus comparative benchmark**



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For the Six Months ended 15 April 2014

# **Summary of historic prices and distributions**

| Year   | Unit<br>class | Unit type | Highest offer price (pence) | Lowest bid<br>price (pence) | Total net<br>distribution per<br>unit (pence) |
|--------|---------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 2009   | R             | Inc       | 602.7                       | 395.2                       | 3.080                                         |
| 2009   | R             | Acc       | 673.6                       | 439.2                       | 3.425                                         |
| 2010   | R             | Inc       | 709.2                       | 526.0                       | Nil                                           |
| 2010   | R             | Acc       | 792.7                       | 587.9                       | Nil                                           |
| 2011   | R             | Inc       | 720.8                       | 522.1                       | Nil                                           |
| 2011   | R             | Acc       | 805.6                       | 583.6                       | Nil                                           |
| 2012   | R             | Inc       | 701.4                       | 588.1                       | 3.800                                         |
| 2012   | R             | Acc       | 784.1                       | 658.9                       | 4.314                                         |
| 2012 # | Z             | Acc       | 100.2                       | 90.42                       | 0.671                                         |
| 2013   | R             | Inc       | 780.6                       | 636.6                       | 4.626                                         |
| 2013   | R             | Acc       | 883.4                       | 715.9                       | 5.167                                         |
| 2013   | Z             | Acc       | 122.7                       | 98.63                       | 1.611                                         |
| 2014*+ | R             | Inc       | 792.9                       | 741.1                       | Nil                                           |
| 2014*+ | R             | Acc       | 897.2                       | 838.7                       | Nil                                           |
| 2014*+ | Z             | Acc       | 124.8                       | 116.6                       | 0.400                                         |

Highest offer and lowest bid price quoted at any time in the calendar year and \* to 15 April 2014.

# Net asset value record

| Unit class | Unit type | Net asset value<br>per unit as at<br>15 April 2014 (pence) | Net asset value<br>per unit as at<br>15 October 2013 (pence) |
|------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| R          | Inc       | 752.7                                                      | 755.9                                                        |
| R          | Acc       | 855.1                                                      | 857.9                                                        |
| Z          | Acc       | 118.6                                                      | 118.2                                                        |

Please note, that the NAV prices shown above are different from the Results prices as at 15 April 2014. The differences are due to the fund performance tables taking the quoted valuation prices on the last day of the period, whereas the NAV table above is showing prices including any accounting adjustments at the end of the period (for example, notional dealing charges are removed).

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

# **Report and accounts**

The purpose of sending this Short Report for the Fund is to give you a summary of how the Fund has performed during the accounting period in accordance with the Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook (COLL) Rules. If you would like any additional information about the Fund you can request a free of charge copy of the more detailed long form accounts for the Fund. For a copy of this, please contact our dedicated customer services team on 0845 777 5511.

<sup>+</sup> Distribution pays 15 June 2014. # Launched on 16 April 2012.

For the Six Months ended 15 April 2014

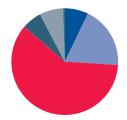
# Top ten holdings as at 15 April 2014

# Top ten holdings as at 15 October 2013

| Company              | Sector               | %    | Company         | Sector              | %    |
|----------------------|----------------------|------|-----------------|---------------------|------|
| Wells Fargo          | US Equities          | 2.50 | Prudential      | UK Equities         | 2.59 |
| Roche Holding        | Switzerland Equities | 2.20 | EOG Resources   | US Equities         | 2.30 |
| Apple                | US Equities          | 2.12 | Google          | US Equities         | 2.18 |
| Toronto Dominion     | Canada Equities      | 2.10 | ASML            | Netherland Equities | 2.11 |
| American Express     | US Equities          | 2.04 | Blackstone      | US Equities         | 2.11 |
| Phillip Morris       | US Equities          | 1.97 | TJX             | US Equities         | 2.06 |
| EOG Resources        | US Equities          | 1.87 | Bank Of Georgia | UK Equities         | 2.01 |
| Visa 'A' Shares      | US Equities          | 1.80 | US Bancorp      | US Equities         | 1.97 |
| Taiwan Semiconductor | Taiwan Equities      | 1.76 | Qualcomm        | US Equities         | 1.85 |
| Schlumberger         | US Equities          | 1.73 | Diageo          | UK Equities         | 1.83 |

# Portfolio breakdown

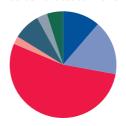
as at 15 April 2014



| Sector                           | %     |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| United Kingdom                   | 7.14  |
| Europe (ex. UK & Eastern Europe) | 18.88 |
| North America                    | 60.35 |
| South America                    | Nil   |
| Japan                            | 5.94  |
| Asia Pacific (ex. Japan)         | 7.26  |
| Net Current Assets               | 0.43  |

All data, source: AXA Investment Managers

as at 15 October 2013



| Sector                           | %     |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| United Kingdom                   | 11.32 |
| Europe (ex. UK & Eastern Europe) | 16.57 |
| North America                    | 53.49 |
| South America                    | 2.42  |
| Japan                            | 8.16  |
| Asia Pacific (ex. Japan)         | 3.16  |
| Net Current Assets               | 4.88  |

For the Six Months ended 15 April 2014

# **Important information**

## **Authorised Fund Manager and Investment Adviser**

AXA Investment Managers UK Ltd 7 Newgate Street

London, EC1A 7NX

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Member of the IMA.

#### **Trustee**

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# Independent auditor

Ernst & Young LLP Ten George Street Edinburgh, EH2 2DZ

# Registrar

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For more information on any AXA Framlington unit trust please contact us via our website or telephone number below.

Copies of the latest Manager's Report (long form) and Prospectus are available free of charge from the administration office: PO Box 10908, Chelmsford, CM99 2UT.

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