

Aberdeen Ethical World Equity Fund A Acc

GB0006833718

Morningstar Analyst Rating

Bronze
25 Nov 2015
16:48, UTC-0600
Morningstar Category
Global Large-Cap Blend Equity

Category Index
MSCI World NR USD

Total Assets
149.49
Mil GBP

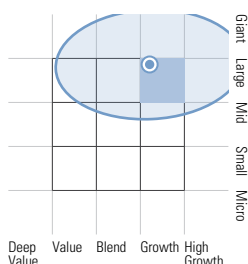
Current Yield %
0.69

Inception Date
01/05/99

Domicile/Currency
GBR/GBP

Morningstar Rating
★★

Equity Style Map



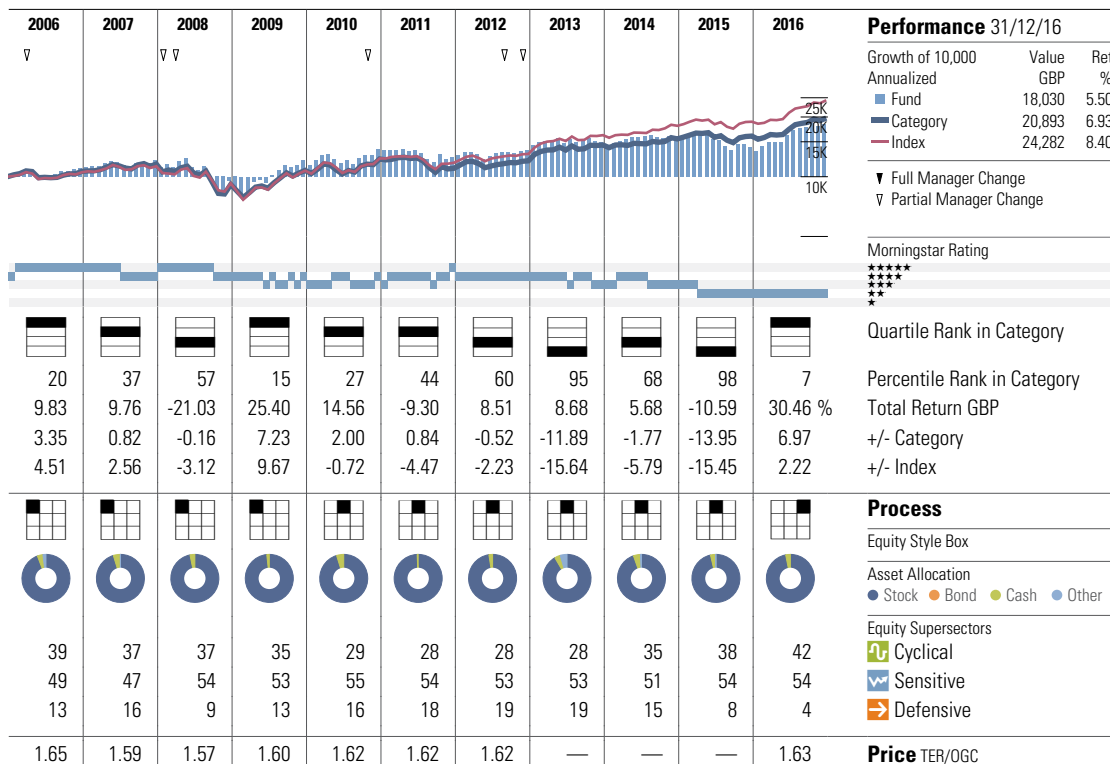
People

Stephen Docherty	01/99
Ann Charles	03/01
Bruce Stout	03/01

Total Named Managers 15

Morningstar Pillars

Process	Positive
Performance	Positive
People	Positive
Parent	Neutral
Price	Neutral



Analyst View

Muna Abu-Habsa, Director

Despite its recent woes, it remains a strong choice for investors seeking global equity exposure.

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Morningstar Analyst Rating

Morningstar evaluates mutual funds based on five key pillars, which its analysts believe lead to funds that are more likely to outperform over the long term on a risk-adjusted basis.

Analyst Rating Spectrum

Gold Silver Bronze Neutral Negative

The Morningstar Analyst Rating for Funds is a forward-looking analysis of a fund. Morningstar has identified five key areas crucial to predicting the future success of a fund: People, Parent, Process, Performance, and Price. The pillars are used in determining the Morningstar Analyst Rating for a fund. Morningstar Analyst Ratings are assigned on a five-tier scale running from Gold to Negative. The top three ratings, Gold, Silver, and Bronze, all indicate that our analysts think highly of a fund; the difference between them corresponds to differences in the level of analyst conviction in a fund's ability to outperform its benchmark and peers through time, within the context of the level of risk taken over the long term (defined as a full market cycle or at least five years). Neutral represents funds in which our analysts don't have a strong positive or negative conviction over the long term (defined as a full market cycle or at least five years) and Negative represents funds that possess at least one flaw that our analysts believe is likely to significantly hamper future performance over the long term (defined as a full market cycle or at least five years). Past performance of a security may or may not be sustained in future and is no indication of future performance. For detailed information about the Morningstar Analyst Rating for Funds, please visit <http://global.morningstar.com/managerdisclosures>

25 Nov, 2015 | Even if near-term performance is lacklustre, the strength of the team and the clarity of the investment process underpinning Aberdeen Ethical World Equity make it a strong choice for those seeking an ethical global equity fund.

It is managed by an experienced and well-resourced global equity team, headed by Stephen Docherty, whom we regard highly. A unique feature of their approach is that there are no quantitative filters; instead, they compile a global buy list of stocks recommended by their regional colleagues. Companies that fall out on environmental, social, or governance grounds are replaced, where a suitable alternative can be found.

The team constructs a diversified portfolio, but not according to the conventional classifications of the MSCI World Index. The ethical mandate also results in structural underweightings in certain sectors that screen poorly. The clearest example is healthcare, as firms involved with animal testing are completely excluded. The screens are more lenient towards other unethical practices, such as weapons manufacturing, provided that only a small proportion of firm revenue is derived from such activities.

Investors should note that the ethical approach can lead to periods of benchmark-relative

underperformance. 2011 exemplifies this well: During the market sell-off in the third quarter they struggled to find worthy replacements for more-resilient tobacco and pharma stocks. That being said, the structural biases have not inhibited the fund over the long term and it has outperformed peers since launch in 1999, which is particularly impressive for a fund with an ethical constraint.

Performance in 2015 may have shaken investors' confidence in the strategy, as the fund has delivered a negative return in a modestly rising market. But the managers stayed true to their style throughout: their willingness to go against the grain and buy stocks which investors hate is exactly the pattern we expect in these markets, and it reinforces our belief that investors are in capable hands. The fund retains its Morningstar Analyst Rating of Bronze.

Morningstar Global Fund Report

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Morningstar Analyst Rating

	2015	2016	2017
 Gold			
 Silver			
 Bronze			
 Neutral			
 Negative			
 Under Review			
 Not Ratable			

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The date shown next to the Morningstar Analyst Rating is the date on which Morningstar Manager Research Analyst assigned or reaffirmed the current rating for the fund based on the analyst's latest review and research report for the fund.

The Five (5) Pillars

Morningstar has identified five key areas that we believe are crucial to predicting the future success of funds: People, Parent, Process, Performance, and Price. Each pillar is evaluated when assessing a fund as well as the interaction between the pillars, which we believe is crucial to understanding a fund's overall merit.

People

The overall quality of a fund's investment team is a significant key to its ability to deliver superior performance relative to its benchmark and/or peers. Evaluating a fund's investment team requires that analysts assess several relevant items including how key decisions are made.

Parent

We believe the parent organization is of utmost importance in evaluating funds. The fund's management set the tone for key elements of our evaluation, including capacity management, risk management, recruitment and retention of talent, and incentive pay. Beyond these operational areas, we prefer firms that have a culture of stewardship and put investors first to those that are too heavily weighted to salesmanship.

Process

We look for funds with a performance objective and investment process (for both security selection and portfolio construction) that is sensible, clearly defined, and repeatable. In addition, the portfolio should be constructed in a manner that is consistent with the investment process and performance objective.

Performance

We do not believe past performance is necessarily predictive of future results, and this factor accordingly receives a relatively small weighting in our evaluation process. In particular, we strive not to anchor on short-term performance. However, we do believe that the evaluation of long-term return and risk patterns is vital to determining if a fund is delivering to our expectations.

Price

To reflect actual investor experience, price is evaluated within the context of the relevant market or cross-border region—for example, the United States, Australia, Canada, or Europe. In recognition of differences in scale and distribution costs in various markets, the level at which a fund is penalised for high fees or rewarded for low fees can vary with region. In Europe, for example, funds are penalised if they land in the most expensive quintile of their Morningstar category and are rewarded if they land in the cheapest quintile. The assessment is made using annual expense ratios, but in the case of funds with performance fees, expenses are evaluated excluding any performance fees and then the structure of the performance fee is evaluated separately.

Morningstar Analyst Ratings

Morningstar Analyst Ratings are assigned on a five-tier scale running from Gold to Negative. The top three ratings, Gold, Silver, and Bronze, all indicate that our analysts think highly of a fund; the difference between them corresponds to differences in the level of analyst conviction in a fund's ability to outperform its benchmark and peers through time, within the context of the level of risk taken.

Gold

Represents funds that our analyst has the highest-conviction in for that given investment mandate. By giving a fund a Gold rating, we are expressing an expectation that it will outperform its relevant performance benchmark and/or peer group within the context of the level of risk taken over the long term (defined as a full market cycle or at least five years). To earn a Gold rating, a fund must distinguish itself across the five pillars that are the basis for our analysis.

Silver

Represents funds our analyst has high-conviction in, but not in all of the five pillars. With those fundamental strengths, we expect these funds will outperform their relevant performance benchmark and/or peer group within the context of the level of risk taken over the long term (defined as a full market cycle or at least five years).

Bronze

Represents funds that have advantages that clearly outweigh any disadvantages across the pillars, giving analyst the conviction to award them a positive rating. We expect these funds to beat their relevant performance benchmark and/or peer group within the context of the level of risk taken over a full market cycle (or at least five years).

Neutral

Represents funds in which our analysts don't have a strong positive or negative conviction. In our judgment, these funds are not likely to deliver standout returns, but they aren't likely to seriously underperform their relevant performance benchmark and/or peer group either.

Negative

Represents funds that possess at least one flaw that our analysts believe is likely to significantly hamper future performance, such as high fees or an unstable management team. Because of these faults, we believe these funds are inferior to most competitors and will likely underperform their relevant performance benchmark and/or peer group, within the context of the level of risk taken, over a full market cycle.

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Not Ratable

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