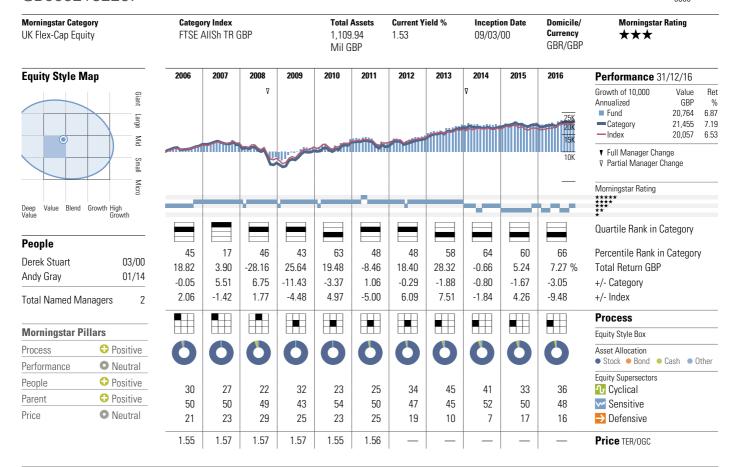
Artemis UK Special Situations Fund R Acc

GB0002192267

Morningstar Analyst Rating
Bronze
14 Dec 2016
17:45, UTC0600



Analyst View

Samuel Meakin, Analyst

Our conviction has lessened, but we still believe the fund has merit.

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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

Bronze Neutral Negative

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14 Dec, 2016 | We still hold this fund in good regard, but our conviction in its relative merits has lessened

The fund has been managed by Derek Stuart since its inception in early 2000. Stuart has around 25 years of industry experience and has managed various UK-equity mandates, from equity income to mid-caps and small caps, during his career. He is supported by comanager Andy Gray, who joined Stuart on this mandate in 2013 and also manages the Artemis VCT.

The managers seek out-of-favour stocks and companies undergoing internal change, the potential for which is unrecognised by the market. The focus on self-help and turnaround situations leads the fund to have a value bias relative to the index and peers in the UK Flex-Cap Equity Morningstar Category. The portfolio also features a mid- and small-cap bias.

Although Stuart has stuck to the self-help philosophy throughout his tenure, there have been some changes to the structure of the portfolio over time, such as the steady reduction of small-caps since the early years and the increase in the technology sector weighting since Gray became comanager.

Stuart has built a significant margin of

outperformance versus the FTSE All-Share Index and the category average over the entirety of his tenure. However, a large proportion of these active returns came in the first few years of the fund's life, when it had a larger small-cap allocation. Returns over more-recent time periods have been less impressive, especially when compared with a number of funds following a similar special situations strategy, an area of the market that has become more competitive.

Our attribution analysis indicates that, when accounting for the fund's style bias relative to the broader category average, the managers have continued to demonstrate some positive stock selection over the period of weaker relative performance. While this supports a positive view, we no longer believe the fund merits our highest rating relative to its competitors. The fund is therefore lowered to a Morningstar Analyst Rating of Bronze.



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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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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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).

Noutral

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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Under Review

This designation means that a change that occurred with the fund or at the fund company requires further review to determine the impact on the rating.

Not Ratable

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