

# ASI American Equity Fund

(From 7 August 2019 the fund name was amended from Aberdeen North American Equity Fund to ASI American Equity Fund)

## I Acc

## Performance Data and Analytics to 31 August 2019

### Objectives and investment policy

Objective: To generate growth over the long term (5 years or more) by investing in North American equities (company shares).

**Please note:** Our factsheets will be fully updated to reflect the 7 August 2019 changes to the Investment Objective and Policy, including benchmark use, shortly. In the interim, please see the KIID which can be found at <https://www.aberdeenstandard.com/en/uk/investor/fund-centre#literature> for full up to date information.

### Performance (%)

	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year	Annualised		
					3 years	5 years	Launch
Fund	-2.49	8.92	16.71	12.26	14.64	14.55	9.89
Benchmark	-2.13	9.16	15.64	9.87	15.38	17.23	11.37
Difference	-0.37	-0.24	1.07	2.39	-0.74	-2.69	-1.48
Sector average	-2.75	9.03	14.00	7.40	14.10	15.15	9.63
Sector ranking	42/101	53/101	26/101	16/100	35/87	53/77	21/39
Quartile	2	3	2	1	2	3	3

### Discrete annual returns (%) - year ended 31/08

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Fund	12.26	17.10	14.63	25.70	4.15

### Calendar year performance (%)

	Year to date	2018	2017	2016	2015
Fund	27.10	-0.91	10.81	30.75	-0.51
Benchmark	24.82	0.17	11.34	32.90	7.16
Difference	2.28	-1.09	-0.53	-2.15	-7.67
Sector average	23.62	-1.60	10.11	31.67	4.68
Sector ranking	23/101	48/97	39/93	56/90	85/89
Quartile	1	2	2	3	4

Performance Data: Share Class I Acc

Source: Lipper. Basis: Total return, NAV to NAV, net of annual charges, UK Net Income Reinvested.

These figures are gross of an initial charge: to the extent that this is paid, it will reduce performance from that shown.

The comparator shown may be used for risk monitoring and portfolio construction purposes, as well as to provide a performance comparator; it is not an integral part of the Objective and Investment Policy for the fund and should not be considered as such.

**Past performance is not a guide to future results.**

### Fund manager's report

US equities lost ground in August 2019, hampered by uncertainty surrounding escalating trade tensions with China, choppy economic data, an inverted US Treasury yield curve, and the impending Brexit in the UK. Large-cap stocks significantly outperformed their small-cap counterparts.

The minutes of the US Federal Reserve's (Fed) meeting at the end of July, which were released in August, revealed that most Fed members viewed its recent 25-basis point interest-rate cut as "part of a recalibration of the stance of policy, or mid-cycle adjustment, in response to the evolution of the economic outlook over recent months". In economic news, the US grew at an annualised rate of 2.0% for the second quarter of 2019. The year-over-year increase in GDP was mainly due to an upturn in consumer spending, offsetting declines in private inventory investment and exports.

Regarding Fund-related corporate news, luxury goods retailer Tiffany & Co reported year-over-year declines in revenue and earnings-per-share growth for the second quarter of its 2019 fiscal year, attributable in part to a disruption of business in Hong Kong amid widespread protests by pro-democracy groups. Tobacco company Philip Morris International announced that it is engaging in merger talks with Altria (which the Fund does not hold); however, both companies cautioned that the discussions may not lead to an agreement. If completed, the merger would enable Philip Morris to benefit from sales of e-cigarette maker Juul, in which Altria has a 35% stake.

During the month, we initiated positions in financial services technology company Fidelity National Information Services as well as information and analytics services provider IHS Markit. We also added to holdings in diversified software company Adobe, freight railroad operator Kansas City Southern, as well as oil and gas company EOG Resources. Elsewhere, we exited the Fund's positions in energy equipment manufacturer Schlumberger and coffee retailer Starbucks. Lastly, we trimmed holdings in speciality agricultural products maker Nutrien and diversified healthcare company Baxter International.

**Risk factors should be read in conjunction with all warnings and comments given in the prospectus for the fund.**



### Top ten holdings

	Sector	%
Microsoft Corp	Information Technology	5.7
Amazon.com Inc	Consumer Discretionary	4.8
Visa Inc	Information Technology	4.8
NextEra Energy Inc	Utilities	3.4
Intercontinental Exchange Inc	Financials	3.3
Alphabet Inc	Communication Services	3.1
Kansas City Southern	Industrials	3.1
Baxter International Inc	Healthcare	3.0
Costco Wholesale Corp	Consumer Staples	3.0
UnitedHealth Group Inc	Healthcare	2.9

**Total** 37.1

**Total number of holdings** 39

Sector breakdown	%
Information Technology	21.4
Financials	14.3
Healthcare	12.9
Consumer Discretionary	11.5
Consumer Staples	9.8
Industrials	9.0
Communication Services	7.2
Other	12.2
Cash	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Key information

Benchmark <sup>A</sup>	S&P 500
Sector	IA North America
Fund size	£ 134.2 m
Date of launch	7 April 2006
Investment team	North American Equity

<sup>A</sup>The fund returns to the reporting date are based on dealing NAVs using a 13:00 CET valuation point: for US Equity Funds this means the dealing NAV uses security prices at close of the previous working day. The benchmark index, if unadjusted, would use the closing prices of the reporting date: when a US Equity benchmark is compared against a US equity fund this valuation point difference may produce a significant distortion in benchmark-relative performance. In order to neutralise this distortion, the benchmark returns shown are to the day previous to the reporting date.

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