

M&G Smaller Companies Fund Sterling Class A – Accumulation shares

Fund Factsheet as at 31 December 2020

Fund description

The fund aims to achieve a higher total return (the combination of capital growth and income), net of the Ongoing Charge Figure, over five years than the Numis Smaller Companies Index (excluding Investment Companies). The fund is a well-diversified but high-conviction portfolio of UK smaller company shares constructed via a bottom-up approach to stockpicking. A long-term perspective is adopted with particular focus placed on growth, competitive advantage, change, quality of management and valuation.

The main risks associated with this fund

For any past performance shown, please note that past performance is not a guide to future performance.

The value and income from the fund's assets will go down as well as up. This will cause the value of your investment to fall as well as rise. There is no guarantee that the fund will achieve its objective and you may get back less than you originally invested.

The fund invests in shares of smaller companies which may be less liquid and more volatile in price than shares of larger companies.

The fund can be exposed to different currencies. Movements in currency exchange rates may adversely affect the value of your investment.

Further risk factors that apply to the fund can be found in the fund's Key Investor Information Document (KIID).

Things you should know

The fund invests mainly in company shares and is therefore likely to experience larger price fluctuations than funds that invest in bonds and/or cash.

Largest holdings (%)

	Fund	Index	Relative weight
Tyman	2.7	0.5	2.2
RWS Holdings	2.6	0.0	2.6
ST Ives	2.6	0.2	2.4
Ultra Electronics	2.4	1.1	1.4
Computacenter	2.4	0.0	2.4
Emis Group	2.4	0.0	2.4
Synthomer	2.4	1.4	0.9
Hill & Smith Holdings	2.3	0.8	1.4
Polypipe Group	2.1	0.9	1.3
FDM Group (Holdings)	2.1	0.9	1.2

Industry breakdown (%)

	Fund	Index	Relative weight
Industrials	36.9	22.4	14.5
Financials	15.8	21.7	-5.9
Consumer goods	11.6	9.2	2.4
Technology	11.4	5.0	6.4
Consumer services	11.0	21.4	-10.4
Health care	4.2	3.6	0.6
Basic materials	3.2	7.4	-4.2
Oil & gas	2.6	4.2	-1.6
Telecommunications	1.3	2.8	-1.5
Utilities	0.0	2.2	-2.2
Other	0.0	0.2	-0.2
Cash and near cash	2.2	0.0	2.2

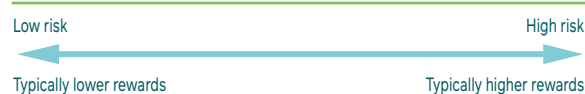
Key information

Fund manager(s)	Garfield Kiff
Fund manager tenure from	01 June 2015
Deputy fund manager(s)	Hilary Aldridge
ISIN	GB0031289431
Launch date of fund	27 September 1967
Launch of share class	27 September 1967
Fund size (millions)	£ 282.83
Benchmark(s)	Numis Smaller Companies Index (excluding Investment Companies)
Benchmark type	Target
Sector	IA UK Smaller Companies sector
Number of companies	71
Historic yield	0.42%
Product availability	ISA, Junior ISA, OEIC, Savings Plan
Payment dates	Feb, Aug
Ex-dividend dates	Jan, Jul

Charges

Maximum entry charge	0.00%
Ongoing charge	1.35%

Risk and reward profile



The above risk and reward indicator is based on historical data and may not be a reliable indication of the future risk profile of this share class. This Share Class is categorised in risk class 6 because its Net Asset Value has shown high rises and falls in value historically.

Fund ratings

Overall Morningstar rating	★★
Financial Express Crown Rating	

Source of Morningstar ratings: Morningstar, as at 31 December 2020
Source: Financial Express

Ratings should not be taken as a recommendation.

Contact M&G

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Fund codes and charges

Share class	ISIN	Bloomberg	Currency	Share class launch date	Ongoing charge	Historic yield	Minimum initial investment	Minimum top up investment
Sterling A Acc	GB0031289431	MGSSMLA LN	GBP	27/09/1967	1.35%*	0.42%	£500	£100
Sterling A Inc	GB0031289324	MGSSMLI LN	GBP	27/09/1967	1.35%*	1.55%	£500	£100
Sterling I Acc	GB00B75DFL82	MGSMCIA LN	GBP	03/08/2012	0.85%*	0.78%	£500,000	£10,000
Sterling I Inc	GB00B7N1NG56	MGSMCII LN	GBP	03/08/2012	0.85%*	1.54%	£500,000	£10,000
Sterling R Acc	GB00B6Z83898	MGSMCRA LN	GBP	03/08/2012	1.10%*	0.56%	£500	£100
Sterling R Inc	GB00B79BM732	MGSMCRI LN	GBP	03/08/2012	1.10%*	1.55%	£500	£100
Sterling X Acc	GB0031959926	MGSMCXA LN	GBP	01/10/2002	1.35%*	0.42%	£500	£100
Sterling X Inc	GB0031959819	MGSMCXI LN	GBP	01/10/2002	1.35%*	1.55%	£500	£100

Any ongoing charge figure with * indicates an estimate. The ongoing charge figure may vary from year to year and excludes portfolio transaction costs. The charges are mostly, if not exclusively, the Annual Charge which may be discounted depending on the size of the fund. For further details, please see the fund's Key Investor Information Document (KIID). The fund's annual report for each financial year will include details on the exact charges made.

Please go to www.mandg.co.uk/literature to view the Costs and charges illustration which contains information on the costs and charges applicable to your chosen fund and share class.

Please see the Important Information for Investors document and the relevant Key Investor Information Document for more information on the risks associated with this fund and which share classes are available for which product and which investor type.

Single year performance (5 years)

From	01/01/20	01/01/19	01/01/18	01/01/17	01/01/16
To	31/12/20	31/12/19	31/12/18	31/12/17	31/12/16
■ Sterling A Accumulation	-3.7%	37.8%	-16.6%	27.5%	3.1%
■ Numis Smaller Companies Index (excluding Investment Companies)	-4.3%	25.2%	-15.3%	19.5%	11.1%

Annual performance 2020 : -3.7%

Performance over 5 years



Past performance is not a guide to future performance.

Performance comparison: The fund is actively managed. The Numis index is a target benchmark which the fund seeks to outperform. The Numis index has been chosen as the fund's target benchmark as it best reflects the scope of the fund's investment policy. The Numis index, together with the FTSE All-Share Index and Alternative Investment Market, act as constraints on the fund's portfolio construction as they define the investment universe of the fund.

Source: Morningstar, Inc and M&G, as at 31 December 2020. Returns are calculated on a price to price basis with income reinvested. Benchmark returns stated in GBP terms.

Performance charts © 2021 Morningstar Inc., All Rights Reserved. The information contained within: (1) is proprietary to Morningstar and/or its content providers; (2) may not be copied or distributed; and (3) is not warranted to be accurate, complete or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information.

ESG Integrated funds



Funds that integrate financially material ESG data into the risk management and decision-making process, as well as our company-wide exclusions (cluster munitions and anti-personnel mines). Some strategies may have some additional ESG exclusions.

Approach to responsible investment

	Yes	No	N/A
ESG integration	✓		
Additional ESG specifications		✓	
Exclusions	✓		
Cluster munitions & anti personnel landmines	✓		
Other exclusions or restrictions		✓	
Voting	✓		
Engagement	✓		

Please see glossary for further explanation of these terms.

ESG Standard Glossary

Additional ESG specifications: In the context of M&G, these are funds managed with an explicit ESG objective, outcome or in accordance with specific ESG criteria, and will have a number of minimum exclusions in place.

Engagement: Interaction with company management on various financial and non-financial, including ESG, issues. Engagement allows investors to better understand how a company is undertaking its operations and how it is interacting with its stakeholders, as well as advising on and influencing company behaviour and disclosures where appropriate.

ESG integration: Describes the explicit and systematic inclusion of Environmental, Social and Governance factors in investment analysis and investment decisions. It underpins a responsible investment approach, and allows investors to

better manage risk and generate sustainable, long-term returns.

Exclusions: The exclusion or restriction of investments based on the sector in which they operate, the products or services they provide or for other specific criteria, i.e. they are deemed to be in breach of the United Nations Global Compact principles on human rights, labour the environment and anti-corruption.

Voting: As the partial owners of a company, shareholders have the right to vote on resolutions put forward at a company's annual general meeting. These resolutions include the re-election of directors, executive remuneration and business strategy, among others, and may include resolutions put forward by shareholders.

Important information

The M&G Smaller Companies Fund is a sub-fund of M&G Investment Funds (3).

The Morningstar Overall Rating based on the fund's Sterling Class A shares. Copyright © 2021 Morningstar UK Limited. All Rights Reserved. Ratings should not be taken as recommendation.

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Glossary

This glossary provides an explanation of terms used in this factsheet and in our literature.

Accumulation shares: A type of share where distributions are automatically reinvested and reflected in the value of the shares.

Asset allocation: Allocating a portfolio's assets according to risk tolerance and investment goals.

Asset-backed securities: Bonds (fixed income securities) backed by assets that produce cashflows, such as mortgage loans, credit card receivables and auto loans.

Benchmark (Constraint): The portfolio must replicate the securities contained in the benchmark and their weights. The benchmark can be an index or a sector. Depending on the fund's mandate, the managers can replicate the positions directly or via derivatives, which are instruments whose value is derived from that of an underlying security or pool of securities.

Benchmark (Target): A benchmark, such as an index or sector, which the fund managers aim to match or exceed. The managers have freedom in choosing the securities and strategy by which they do so.

Benchmark: Measure, such as an index or sector, against which a portfolio's performance is judged.

Benchmark (Comparator): The fund managers choose the benchmark, which may be an index or a sector, as a comparator for the fund's performance, but they do not have to replicate its composition. The benchmark is not used for any other purpose, such as, for example, to serve as a reference when setting performance fees.

Bond: A loan in the form of a security, usually issued by a government or company. It normally pays a fixed rate of interest (also known as a coupon) over a given time period, at the end of which the initial amount borrowed is repaid.

Cash equivalents: Deposits or investments with similar characteristics to cash.

Consumer prices index (CPI): An index used to measure inflation, or the rate at which prices for a basket of goods and services bought by households change.

The contents of the basket are meant to be representative of products and services consumers typically spend money on, and are updated regularly.

Convertible bonds: Fixed income securities (bonds) that can be exchanged for predetermined amounts of company shares at certain times during their life.

Corporate bonds: Fixed income securities issued by a company. They are also known as bonds and can offer higher interest payments than bonds issued by governments as they are often considered more risky. Also referred to by investors as "credit."

Coupon: The interest paid by the government or company that has raised a loan by selling bonds. It is usually a fixed amount, calculated as a percentage of the total loan and paid out at regular intervals.

Credit default swap (CDS): An insurance-like contract that allows an investor to transfer the default risk of a bond to another investor. The buyer of the CDS pays regular premiums to the seller, who has to reimburse the buyer in the event of the underlying bond defaulting. A CDS is a type of derivative – a financial instrument whose value and price is dependent on the underlying asset.

Credit rating agency: A company that analyses the financial strength of issuers of fixed income securities (bonds) and attaches a rating to their debt. Examples include Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch.

Derivatives: Financial instruments whose value and price depend on one or more underlying assets. Derivatives can be used to gain exposure to, or to help protect against, expected changes in the value of the underlying investments. Derivatives may be traded on a regulated exchange or directly between two parties (over the counter).

Distribution yield: The amount that is expected to be distributed by the fund over the next 12 months expressed as a percentage of the share price as at a certain date. It is based on the expected gross income less the ongoing charges.

Dividend yield: Annual income distributed by a company as a percentage of its share price as at a certain date.

Duration: A measure of the sensitivity of a fixed income security (bond) or bond fund to changes in interest rates. The longer a bond or bond fund's duration, the more sensitive it is to interest rate movements.

Emerging economy or market: Country in the process of catching up with developed economies, with rapid growth and increasing industrialisation. Investments in emerging markets are generally considered to be riskier than those in developed markets.

Equities: Shares of ownership in a company. They offer investors participation in the company's potential profits, but also the risk of losing all their investment if the company goes bankrupt.

Ex-dividend, ex-distribution or xd date: The date on which declared distributions officially belong to underlying investors. On the XD date, the stock's price usually falls by the amount of the dividend, reflecting the payout.

Exposure: The proportion of a fund invested in a particular share/fixed income security/index, sector/region, usually expressed as a percentage of the overall fund.

Fixed income security: A loan in the form of a security, usually issued by a government or company, which normally pays a fixed rate of interest over a given time period, at the end of which the initial amount borrowed is repaid. Also referred to as a bond.

Floating rate notes (FRNs): Securities whose interest (income) payments are periodically adjusted depending on the change in a reference interest rate.

Gilts: Fixed income securities issued by the UK government. They are called gilts because they used to be issued on gilt-edged paper.

Government bonds: Loans issued in the form of fixed income securities by governments. They normally pay a fixed rate of interest over a given time period, at the end of which the initial investment is repaid.

Hard currency (bonds): Fixed income securities (bonds) denominated in a highly

traded, relatively stable international currency, rather than in the bond issuer's local currency. Bonds issued in a more stable hard currency, such as the US dollar, can be more attractive to investors where there are concerns that the local currency could lose value over time, eroding the value of bonds and their income.

Hedging: A method of reducing unnecessary or unintended risk.

High yield bonds: Loans taken out in the form of fixed income securities issued by companies with a low credit rating from a recognised credit rating agency. They are considered to be at higher risk of default than better-quality, higher-rated fixed income securities, but they have the potential for higher rewards. Default means that a bond issuer is unable to meet interest payments or repay the initial amount borrowed at the end of a security's life.

Historic yield: The historic yield reflects distributions declared over the past 12 months as a percentage of the share price as at the date shown.

Income shares: A type of share where distributions (also called dividends) are paid out as cash on the payment date.

Index-linked bonds: Fixed income securities where both the value of the loan and the interest payments are adjusted in line with inflation over the life of the security. Also referred to as inflation-linked bonds.

Investment association (IA): The UK trade body that represents fund managers. It works with investment managers, liaising with government on matters of taxation and regulation, and also aims to help investors understand the industry and the investment options available to them.

Investment grade bonds: Fixed income securities issued by a government or company with a medium or high credit rating from a recognised credit rating agency. They are considered to be at lower risk of default than those issued by issuers with lower credit ratings. Default means that a borrower is unable to meet interest payments or repay the initial investment amount at the end of a security's life.

Leverage: When referring to a company, leverage is the level of a company's debt in relation to its assets. A company with significantly more debt than capital is considered to be leveraged. It can also refer to a fund that borrows money or uses derivatives to magnify an investment position.

Local currency bonds: Bonds denominated in the currency of the issuer's country, rather than in a highly traded international 'hard' currency, such as the US dollar. The value of local currency bonds tends to fluctuate more than that of bonds issued in a hard currency, as these currencies tend to be less stable.

Long position (exposure): Holding a security in the expectation that its value will rise.

Maturity: The length of time until the initial amount invested in a fixed income security is due to be repaid to the holder of the security.

Modified duration: A measure of the sensitivity of a bond, or bond fund, to changes in interest rates, expressed in years. The longer a bond or bond fund's duration, the more sensitive it is to interest rate movements.

Near cash: Deposits or investments with similar characteristics to cash.

Net asset value (NAV): The current value of the fund's assets minus its liabilities.

Ongoing charge figure: The ongoing charge figure represents the operating costs investors can reasonably expect to pay under normal circumstances.

Open-ended investment company (OEIC): A type of managed fund whose value is directly linked to the value of the fund's underlying investments. The fund creates or cancels shares depending on whether investors want to redeem or purchase them.

Options: Financial contracts that offer the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell an asset at a given price on or before a given date in the future.

Payment date: The date on which distributions will be paid by the fund to investors, usually the last business day of the month.

Physical assets: An item of value that has tangible existence; for example cash, equipment, inventory or real estate. Physical assets can also refer to securities, such as company shares or fixed income securities.

Property expense ratio: Property expenses are the operating expenses that relate to the management of the property assets in the portfolio. These include: insurance and rates, rent review and lease renewal costs and maintenance and repairs, but not improvements. They depend on the level of activity taking place within the fund. The Property Expense Ratio is the ratio of property expenses to the fund's net asset value.

Retail prices index (RPI): A UK inflation index that measures the rate of change of prices for a basket of goods and services in the UK, including mortgage payments and council tax.

Share class hedging: Activities undertaken in respect of hedged shares to mitigate the impact on performance of exchange rate movements between the fund's currency exposure and the investor's chosen currency.

Share class: Type of fund shares held by investors in a fund (share classes differ by levels of charge and/or by other features such as hedging against currency risk). Each M&G fund has different share classes, such as A, R and I. Each has a different level of charges and minimum investment. Details on charges and minimum investments can be found in the Key Investor Information Documents.

Share: An ownership stake in a company, usually in the form of a security. Also called equity. Shares offer investors participation in the company's potential profits, but also the risk of losing all their investment if the company goes bankrupt.

Short position (exposure): A way for an investor to express their view that the market might fall in value.

SICAV: In French, it stands for société d'investissement à capital variable. It is the western European version of an open-ended collective investment fund, much like an OEIC. Common in Luxembourg, Switzerland, Italy and France, and regulated by regulators in the European Union.

Swap: A swap is a derivative contract where two parties agree to exchange separate streams of cashflows. A common type of swap is an interest rate swap, where one party swaps cashflows based on variable interest rates for those based on a fixed interest rate, to hedge against interest rate risk.

UCITS: Stands for Undertakings for Collective Investments in Transferable Securities. This is the European regulatory framework for an investment vehicle that can be marketed across the European Union and is designed to enhance the single market in financial assets while maintaining high levels of investor protection.

Underlying yield: Refers to the income received by a managed fund, and is usually expressed annually as a percentage of the fund's current value.

Unit trust: A type of managed fund whose value is directly linked to the value of the fund's underlying investments and which is structured as a trust, rather than as a company.

United Nations Global Compact: A United Nations initiative to encourage businesses worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies and to report on their implementation.

Valuation: The worth of an asset or company, based on the present value of the cashflows it will generate.

Yield: This refers to either the interest received from a fixed income security or to the dividends received from a share. It is usually expressed as a percentage based on the investment's costs, its current market value or its face value. Dividends represent a share in the profits of a company and are paid out to the company's shareholders at set times of the year.