

# -acts

#### SUMMARY OF APPROACH

Alliance Trust aims to be a core equity holding for investors that delivers a real return over the long term through a combination of capital growth and a rising dividend. The Company invests primarily in global equities across a wide range of industries and sectors to achieve its objective.

The Company's investment manager, Willis Towers Watson, has appointed a number of stock pickers with different styles, who each ignore the benchmark

and only buy a small number of stocks in which they have strong conviction. Therefore, we believe investors get the benefit of both highly focused stock picking to increase potential outperformance versus the benchmark and manager diversification which should reduce risk and volatility. We believe that the Company's diversified but highly active multi-manager portfolio is competitively priced.

## **KEY STATISTICS**

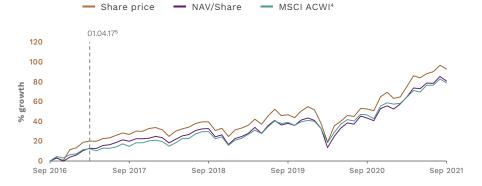
1,014.0p

Net Asset Value

1,072.5p

(5.5%)

## INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE ABSOLUTE PERFORMANCE (TOTAL RETURN IN STERLING)



### **CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE (%)**

To 30 September 2021	5 Years	Since 01.04.17 <sup>5</sup>	3 Years	1 Year	YTD	Month
Total shareholder return	93.0	60.4	38.2	26.5	13.8	-2.0
NAV total return	80.8	60.1	36.1	26.1	16.1	-2.5
MSCI ACWI total return <sup>4</sup>	79.0	59.3	38.0	22.2	12.7	-2.1

The NAV total return reflects the impact of owning investments other than global equities prior to 30 June 2019, which had a drag on the return. Between 1 April 2017 and 30 September 2021, the performance of the equity portfolio before fees (a good approximation of the NAV total return after costs had these legacy investments not been included), was 61.7% versus the return on the MSCI ACWI Index4 of 59.3%

#### **DISCRETE PERFORMANCE (%)**

From To	30-Sep-20 30-Sep-21			30-Sep-17 30-Sep-18	
Total shareholder return	26.5	3.9	5.1	10.0	27.0
NAV total return	26.1	3.8	4.0	10.8	19.9
MSCI ACWI total return <sup>4</sup>	22.2	5.3	7.3	12.9	14.9

For an explanation of how we measure performance, please refer to our website<sup>6</sup>.

#### **Risk warnings**

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future returns. The value of shares and the income from them can rise and fall, so investors may not get back the amount originally invested. Net Asset Value ("NAV") performance is not the same as share price performance and investors may not realise returns in line with NAV performance. Exchange rate changes may cause the value of overseas investments to go down as well as up and can impact on both the level of income received and capital value of your investment. Investment trusts may borrow to finance further investment (gearing). The use of gearing is likely to lead to volatility in the NAV, meaning that a relatively small movement, down or up, in the value of an investment trust's assets will result in a magnified movement, in the same direction, of that NAV. This may mean that you could get back less than you invested or nothing at all.

**KEY FACTS** 1,734,000 shares at a cost of £17.7M (0.56% of the issued share

Alliance Trust
has been awarded
the AIC's Dividend
Hero award<sup>7</sup> and
is proud to have DIVIDEND over 50 years of consecutive dividend growth. **HERO** 

# **CHARGES**

Targeted Ongoing

0.65% **OR Less** 

0.64%

Notes: All data is provided as at 30 September 2021 unless otherwise stated. All figures may be subject to rounding errors. Sources: Investment Performance data is provided by The Bank of New York Mellon Performance & Risk Analytics Europe Limited, Morningstar and MSCI Inc; Key Statistics, Key Facts and Charges data is provided by The Bank of New York Mellon (International) Ltd. NAV and NAV total return is based on NAV including income with debt at fair value, after all manager fees (including Willis Towers Watson's fees) and allows for any tax reclaims when they are achieved. The NAV total return shown in factsheets up to May 2018 was based on NAV excluding income with debt valued at par. ISIN stands for International Securities Identification Number; TIDM stands for Tradable Instrument Display Mnemonics; AIC stands for Association of Investment Companies; and ATST stands for Alliance Trust PLC.

- 1. Total borrowings at par value divided by net assets with debt at par.
- 2. Total borrowings at par value minus total cash and equivalents, divided by net assets with debt at par.
- 3. Annual dividend per share divided by share price.
- MSCI All Country World Index Net Dividends Reinvested.
   1 April 2017 was the date that Willis Towers Watson was appointed investment manager.
- 6. https://www.alliancetrust.co.uk/
- https://www.theaic.co.uk/income-finder/dividend-heroes
- 8. The OCR target of 0.65% is based on NAV reported as at 31 December 2017.
  9. The OCR for year to 31 December 2020 was calculated in line with the industry
- standard using the average of net asset values at each NAV calculation date

#### TOP 20 HOLDINGS

Name	£m	%
Alphabet	182.1	4.9
Microsoft	108.5	2.9
Facebook	96.9	2.6
Visa	92.3	2.5
Amazon	92.2	2.5
salesforce.com	63.4	1.7
Charter Communications	59.6	1.6
Nvidia	58.5	1.6
Mastercard	53.1	1.4
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing	50.0	1.3
UnitedHealth Group	48.2	1.3
Booking Holdings	41.2	1.1
GlaxoSmithKline	40.5	1.1
Petrol Brasileiros	40.3	1.1
Baidu	39.0	1.0
Walt Disney	38.4	1.0
Convatec Group	36.8	1.0
Booz Allen Hamilton	33.9	0.9
SEA	33.1	0.9
Transdigm	33.1	0.9

#### Top 10 holdings 23.0% Top 20 holdings 33.3%

The 20 largest stock positions, given as a

#### ACTIVE SHARE

74%

Active Share is a measure of how actively a portfolio is managed; is the percentage of the portfolio that differs from its comparative index.

#### CONTACT

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#### SIGN UP

If you wish to sign up to the Alliance Trust factsheet, please visit alliancetrust.co.uk/signup

# Investment Commentary

For the month of September, the Company's Total Shareholder Return and NAV Total Return were -2.0% and -2.5% respectively, while the MSCI All Country World Index (ACWI) returned -2.1%.

Over the month, Salesforce.com Inc was the biggest contributor, with an absolute return of 4.3%. The global leader in Consumer Relationship Management technology increased its revenue forecasts for the fiscal year 2022 and released an outlook for FY2023 which exceeded analyst expectations. This was mainly driven by the acquisition of Slack by Salesforce in July, which boosted revenues for the company. The biggest detractor from performance this month was Facebook, with an absolute return of -8.7%. Tech stocks fell sharply towards the end of the month due to concerns over rising Treasury yields, which also explains the other major detractors including Alphabet and Microsoft.

The Company's position in SunCor Energy (a Canadian integrated energy company) was eliminated due to the decision to exclude stocks with significant exposure to tar sands and thermal coal from the portfolio to reduce ESG risks. In addition, the positions in the kitchen supplier Howden Joinery, and information provider IHS Markit were exited as they approached their fair value estimates. Furthermore, the position in the biotechnology company Illumina was exited due to concerns around growing competition, and potential Federal Trade Commission interventions in future acquisitions. A position in Heineken was initiated, as it is expected to deliver attractive growth over our longer-term investment horizon. The company benefits from two key secular trends - the increasing demand for premium brands and the growth of middle-class consumers in emerging markets.

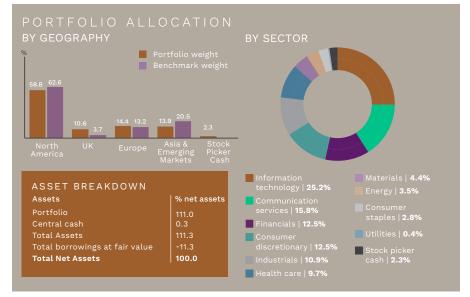
At the beginning of September, the portfolio was rebalanced to reallocate 2.5% of capital away from the value managers following the significant value rally in the market, and towards the quality style.

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future returns. The mention of any specific shares should not be taken as a recommendation to deal.

#### STOCK PICKERS % OF PORTFOLIO MANAGED



Note: "JUPITER" and JUPITER are the trade marks of Jupiter Investment Management Group Ltd and registered in the UK and as Community Trade Marks and elsewhere.



#### Important Information

Alliance Trust is an investment company with investment trust status. Alliance Trust invests primarily in equities and aims to generate capital growth and a progressively rising dividend from its portfolio of investments. Alliance Trust currently conducts its affairs so that its shares can be recommended by Independent Financial Advisers (IFAs) to ordinary retail investors in accordance with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) rules in relation to non-mainstream investment products and intends to continue to do so for the foreseeable future. The shares are excluded from the FCA's restrictions which apply to non-mainstream investment products because they are shares in an investment trust. The shares in the Company may also be suitable for institutional investors who seek a combination of capital and income return. Private investors should consider consulting an Independent Financial Adviser who specialises in advising on the acquisition of shares and other securities before acquiring shares. Investors should be capable of evaluating the risks and merits of such an investment and should have sufficient resources to bear any loss that may result. The views, information and data in this publication should not be deemed as a financial promotion or recommendation. Alliance Trust is not authorised to give financial advice.

For security and compliance monitoring purposes, telephone calls may be recorded.

The Alliance Trust Board has appointed Towers Watson Investment Management Limited (TWIM) as its Alternative Investment Fund Manager (AIFM). TWIM is part of Willis Towers Watson. Issued by Towers Watson Investment Management Limited. Towers Watson Investment Management Limited, registered office Watson House, London Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2 9PQ is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, firm reference number 446740.

Notes: All data is provided as at 30 September 2021 unless otherwise stated. All figures may be subject to rounding errors. Sources: Top 20 Holdings, % of Equity Portfolio Managed and Total Trust Assets data is provided by The Bank of New York Mellon (International) Ltd; Equity Portfolio Allocation and Active Share is provided by The Bank of New York Mellon (International) Ltd and MSCI Inc.