

# MONTHLY FACTSHEET 30 APRIL 2019

## INVESTMENT STRATEGY

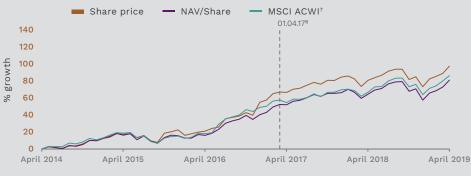
The equity portfolio brings together an alliance of best-in-class<sup>2</sup> equity managers and their best ideas - all at a competitive cost. It provides access to eight managers from around the world each investing only in their top stock selections. Most of these managers are not otherwise available to individual UK investors. The equity portfolio target is to outperform the MSCI All Country World Index by 2% per year after costs over rolling three year periods. Alliance Trust has a progressive dividend policy and has increased its dividend every year for 52 years.

## INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The Trust's objective is to be a core investment for investors that delivers a real return over the long term through a combination of capital growth and a rising dividend. The Trust invests primarily in global equities across a wide range of different sectors and industries to achieve its objective.

## INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

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



#### CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE (%)

To 30 April 2019	Month	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Since 01.04.17 <sup>8</sup>
Total shareholder return	4.6	14.0	9.3	63.3	97.6	18.3
NAV total return	4.7	14.9	10.0	55.7	81.0	18.7
Equity portfolio return <sup>9</sup>	4.4	14.2	10.6	56.9	84.7	20.1
MSCI ACWI total return	3.4	13.5	11.6	57.7	86.3	18.2

#### DISCRETE PERFORMANCE (%)

From To	30-Apr-18 30-Apr-19	30-Apr-17 30-Apr-18	30-Apr-16 30-Apr-17	30-Apr-15 30-Apr-16	30-Apr-14 30-Apr-15
Total shareholder return	9.3	8.5	37.7	3.1	17.4
NAV total return	10.0	8.2	31.0	-0.1	16.3
Equity portfolio return <sup>9</sup>	10.6	8.8	30.3	1.3	16.1
MSCI ACWI total return	11.6	7.8	31.1	-0.5	18.7

## KEY STATISTICS

Share Price	781.0p
Net Asset Value <sup>1</sup> (NAV) per Share	828.0p
Premium (Discount)	(5.7%)

## KEY FACTS

Market Capitalisation	£2,582.0M
Total Assets <sup>3</sup>	£2,951.6M
Net Assets <sup>3</sup>	£2,756.6M
Gross Gearing⁴	7.1%
Net Gearing⁵	4.1%
Net Yield <sup>6</sup>	1.7%
Year End	31 December
Incorporated	21 April 1888
Dividend Paid	Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec
Shares in Issue	330,601,841
Buybacks in April	1,922,042 shares at a cost of £14.8M (0.58% of the issued share capital)
TIDM	ATST
ISIN	GB00B11V7W98
AIC Sector	Global
Next AGM	April 2020



Alliance Trust has been awarded the AIC's Dividend Hero award and is proud to have 52 years of consecutive dividend growth.

## CHARGES

Targeted Ongoing	Less than
Charges Ratio (OCR)	0.65%
OCR Year to 31 Dec 2018	0.65%

Please remember, past performance is not a guide to future performance, and 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 the same as NAV performance.

Notes: All data is provided as at 30 April 2019 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. In order to report the long-term record of the equity portfolio, the returns of the portfolio prior to its restructure early in April 2017 have been combined with the returns to date of the current portfolio. 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 allow for any tax reclaims when they are achieved. The 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 allow for any tax reclaims when they are achieved. The NAV total return shown in the factsheets up to May 2018 was based on NAV excluding income with debt valued at par. The OCR target of 0.65% is based on NAV reported as at 31 December 2017. Movements in exchange rates can impact on both the level of income received and capital value of your investment.

NAV includes income with debt at fair value. 2.

- 4. Total borrowings at par divided by net assets. 5.
- All Country World Index
- As rated by Willis Towers Watson Total borrowings at par minus total cash and equivalents, divided by net assets. Since Willis Towers Watson assumed responsibility for management of the portfolio.
- Assets valued with debt at par
- 6. Annual dividend per share divided by share price.

9. Equity portfolio return is the return achieved by the eight equity managers and so includes the effect of any of their cash holdings. This return is shown gross of fees and does not include the positive impact of share buybacks or leverage. Returns are quoted net of withholding taxes (some of which are potentially recovered at a later date) and therefore potentially underestimate the managers' relative performance.

#### TOP 20 HOLDINGS

Name	£m	%
Microsoft	57.0	2.0
Alphabet	55.4	1.9
Hdfc Bank	50.4	1.7
Unilever	46.8	1.6
Oracle	37.6	1.3
HCA Healthcare	35.6	1.2
Abbot		
Laboratories	35.2	1.2
Charter		
Communications	34.6	1.2
Philip Morris International	31.7	1.1
Broadcom	31.5	1.1
UnitedHealth		
Group	30.9	1.1
Microchip		
Technology	30.9	1.1
Ryanair	30.0	1.0
Facebook	27.0	0.9
AiA	26.7	0.9
Crown Holdings Inc	26.4	0.9
Comcast	25.8	0.9
Reckitt Benckiser	25.7	0.9
Celanese	25.7	0.9
United Rentals	25.1	0.9

Top 10 holdings 14.3%

Top 20 holdings 23.8%

The 20 largest stock positions across the eight (including their cash holdings).

A full breakdown of the Trust's portfolio can be viewed at: www.alliancetrust.co.uk

## CONTACT

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## SIGN UP

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

## INVESTMENT COMMENTARY

For the month of April, the Trust's total shareholder return, NAV total return and equity portfolio returned 4.6%, 4.7% and 4.4% respectively. The benchmark MSCI All Country World Index (ACWI) returned 3.4% over the same period.

Most developed equity markets continued to rise throughout April, sustaining their upward trend since the falls experienced in the fourth quarter of 2018. Further hope of a positive resolution of ongoing trade disputes between China and the US provided comfort to investors, as did the removal of the imminent threat of a "no deal" Brexit with the signing in to law of a new default exit date of 31 October 2019. A better-than-expected start to the first quarter US earning season also buoyed markets during the month, with US equity markets outperforming the rest of the world. Year to date equity markets have returned over 13% in GBP terms and are now mostly back above levels seen prior to Q4 last year.

The most significant single contributor to the Trust's return in April was its largest position, Microsoft, which posted double digit returns following a first quarter earnings announcement that beat analyst expectations. The company's strong earnings performance was in part driven by the impressive growth of its cloud computing business, Azure, with Microsoft reporting year-on-year revenue growth of over 70% for the division.

Over the course of the month, the Trust's stock pickers as ever continued to find interesting opportunities to add to the Trust's equity portfolio. A new position was established in Melrose Industries, a UK based firm focused on acquiring underperforming firms and improving their business performance and share price over the medium to long term. Melrose's investments include Nortek, a global business group headquartered in Italy with subsidiaries specialising in HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) and security systems. Other new names added to the Trust's portfolio in April included Morgan Stanley and Bank of America, both large US banks with operations spanning the broader financial services sector, with both exhibiting improving overall company fundamentals and trading at attractive valuations at the time of purchase.

#### EOUITY MANAGERS % OF EQUITY PORTFOLIO MANAGED

BLACK CREEK



Andrew Wellington

16%

**/vrical** 



Pierre Py, Greg Herr 13%

RIVER AND MERCANTILE

Hugh Sergeant 9%

Rajiv Jain<sup>10</sup> 15%

SGA

George Fraise,

Gordon Marchand.

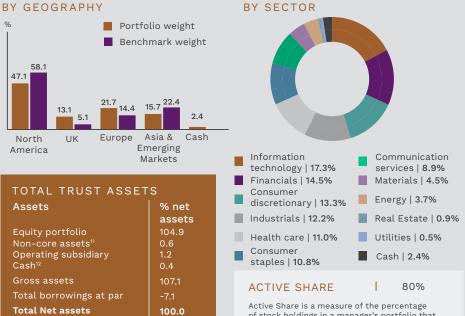


Ben Whitmore 10%

Veritas Asset Management Andy Headley 13%

Rob Rohn 13% Note: "JUPITER" and JUPITER are the trade marks of Jupiter Investment Management Group Ltd and registered in the UK and as Community

# EQUITY PORTFOLIO ALLOCATION



of stock holdings in a manager's portfolio that differs from the benchmark index.

Please remember past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. The value of your investment, and any income from it, may decrease as well as increase and you may not get back the amount you invest. Exchange rate changes may cause the value of overseas investments to go down as well as up. 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 a trust's assets will result in a magnified movement, in the same direction, of that NAV. This may mean that you could get back nothing at all. The mention of any specific shares should not be taken as a recommendation to deal.

Important information Alliance Trust is an investment company with investment trust status. 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. All data in this document is as at 30 April 2019 unless otherwise stated.

#### Share investment

Share investment Alliance Trust investment 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 Trust 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.

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.

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Manages both a global equity and an emerging markets equity portfolio.
Includes private equity, mineral rights, funds and other non-operating subsidiaries.
Cash quoted is centrally held cash and equivalents. The equity portfolio may also hold cash as a result of trading by the underlying managers as shown in the sector table above.