

## MONTHLY FACTSHEET 31 JULY 2019

#### KEY STATISTICS

Share Price Net Asset Value (NAV) per Share Premium

(Discount)

833.0p

868.5p

(4.1%)

### SUMMARY OF APPROACH

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

Share price — NAV/Share

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 Trust invests primarily in global equities across a wide range of industries and sectors to achieve its objective.

The Trust'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. Investors therefore get the benefit of both highly focused stock picking to increase potential outperformance versus the benchmark and manager diversification to reduce risk and volatility. The Trust's diversified but highly active multi-manager portfolio is competitively priced.

ABSOLUTE PERFORMANCE (TOTAL RETURN IN STERLING)

— MSCI ACWI<sup>4</sup>

July 2017

01.04.175

## KEY FACTS

Market Total Assets Net Assets Gross Gearing<sup>1</sup> Net Gearing<sup>2</sup> Net Yield<sup>3</sup> Year End

3.5% 1.6% 31 December

£2,749.0M

£3.108.6M

£2,863.1M

7.2%

Dec

Incorporated Dividend Paid

21 April 1888 Mar, Jun, Sep,

Shares in Issue Buybacks

330 009 733

There were no shares bought back in July.

AIC Sector Next AGM

ATST

GB00B11V7W98 Global April 2020

## CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE (%)

July 2015

To 31 July 2019	5 Years	3 Years	Since 01.04.17 <sup>5</sup>	1 Year	YTD	Month
Total shareholder return	109.6	56.1	26.7	10.5	22.2	4.6
NAV total return	89.9	46.3	25.0	7.8	21.1	3.8
MSCI ACWI total return <sup>4</sup>	88.8	45.0	25.0	10.3	21.2	4.2

July 2016

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 June 2019, the performance of the equity portfolio gross of fees, and excluding leverage, (a good approximation of the NAV total return after costs had these legacy investments not been included), was 22.2% versus the return on the MSCI ACWI Index<sup>4</sup> of 20.0%.

# DIVIDEND

Alliance Trust has been awarded the AIC's Dividend Hero award and is proud to have over 50 years of consecutive dividend growth.

## DISCRETE PERFORMANCE (%)

From To	31-Jul-18 31-Jul-19	31-Jul-17 31-Jul-18	31-Jul-16 31-Jul-17	31-Jul-15 31-Jul-16	31-Jul-14 31-Jul-15
Total shareholder return	10.5	9.4	29.1	17.0	14.7
NAV total return	7.8	10.2	23.1	12.9	14.9
MSCI ACWI total return <sup>4</sup>	10.3	11.5	17.9	17.0	11.3

For an explanation of how we measure performance, please refer to our website

## CHARGES

2018

Targeted Ongoing 0.65% OR Charges Ratio (OCR) LESS OCR Year to 31 Dec

0.65%

#### Risk warnings

140

120 100 80

60

40

20

July 2014

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 the same as 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 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 less than you invested or nothing at all.

July 2018

July 2019

Notes: All data is provided as at 31 July 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. 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 the factsheets up to May 2018 was based on NAV excluding income with debt valued at par.

- Total borrowings at par value divided by net assets.
- 2. Total borrowings at par value minus total cash and equivalents, divided by net assets.
- 4. MSCI All Country World Index Net Dividends Reinvested.
- 3. Annual dividend per share divided by share price.
   4. MSCI Al
   5. 1 April 2017 was the date that Willis Towers Watson was appointed investment manager.

## TOP 20 HOLDINGS

Name	£m	%
Alphabet	103.8	3.4
Microsoft	65.2	2.1
HDFC Bank	51.5	1.7
Unilever	46.9	1.5
Oracle	40.8	1.3
HCA Healthcare	40.6	1.3
Abbott Laboratories	40.0	1.3
salesforce.com	38.5	1.2
Ryanair	36.5	1.2
UnitedHealth		
Group	36.2	1.2
Philip Morris International	32.6	1.1
Facebook	32.5	1.1
Microchip		
Technology	32.0	1.0
Crown Holdings	31.7	1.0
Broadcom	31.3	1.0
Intercontinental		
Exchange	30.3	1.0
Charter Communications	30.0	1.0
Celanese	29.2	0.9
Aercap	28.9	0.9
AIA	28.2	0.9

## **Top 10 holdings 16.2% Top 20 holdings 26.1%**

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 July, the Trust's total shareholder return and NAV total return were 4.6% and 3.8% respectively, with the benchmark MSCI All Country World Index (ACWI)<sup>4</sup> returning 4.2%.

In July, global equity markets experienced a slowdown in the growth seen through the first half of 2019 and returned 0.9% in local currency. The better total return of 4.6% for UK-based shareholders was due to the fall in sterling, which boosts overseas profits when converted back into pounds. US corporate earnings suggested a slowing economy, with most corporates reporting low single digit earnings growth for the second quarter.

However, Alphabet, the largest position in the Trust, contributed strongly this month following a strong Q2 earnings report with revenues re-accelerating to 22% growth following last quarter's dip. The key contributors to Alphabet's growth were mobile search, YouTube, and Google Cloud. Google Cloud achieved an annualized run-rate revenue of \$88, which compares to \$4B disclosed back in Q4 2017, implying a roughly 60% annualized growth rate.

Weakness in Indian markets during the month negatively impacted HDFC Bank, one of our major holdings. Investors also reacted cautiously to its quarterly results, which despite delivering solid growth, were impacted by higher-than-expected provisioning. Despite increased provisioning, asset quality remains high and HDFC's growth opportunities are attractive over a longer term investment horizon.

Amongst the new entrants to the Trust's portfolio in July was Ubisoft Entertainment, an interactive entertainment and services developer that offers a broad portfolio of entertainment franchises. A position in IMCD, a UK based chemical and food ingredients distributor, was sold following share price appreciation.

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.

## **EOUITY MANAGERS** % OF EQUITY PORTFOLIO MANAGED









**Hugh Sergeant 10%** 



Ben Whitmore 10% Veritas Management



Pierre Py, Greg Herr 12%

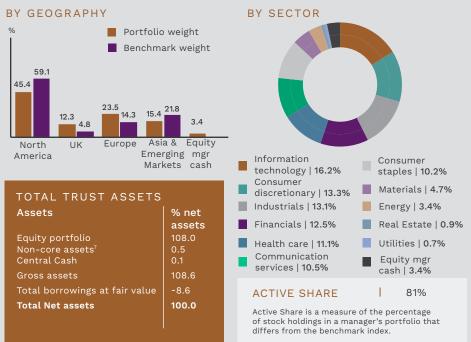
George Fraise, Gordon Marchand, Rob Rohn 13%

**Andy Headley 14%** 

ROD RONN 13%

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

# EQUITY PORTFOLIO ALLOCATION



## 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 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. 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 (Ireland) Limited (TWIMI) as its Alternative Investment Fund Manager (AIFM). TWIMI has delegated the investment management of the Alliance Trust portfolio to Towers Watson Investment Management Limited (TWIM). TWIMI and TWIM are both part of Willis Towers Watson. Issued by Towers Watson Investment Management Limited. Towers Watson Investment 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 31 July 2019 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.

- 6. Manages both a global equity and an emerging markets equity portfolio.
- 7. Small legacy positions in private equity and mineral rights that are in the process of being sold.