

31 October 2008

Aim

The Trust's objective is to increase its total return above the benchmark index of 50% FTSE All-Share and 50% FTSE All-World Index (ex UK sterling adjusted) over the long term, by investing in UK and international securities. The strategy of the Trust is designed to meet the requirements of those seeking a single investment in a diversified and professionally managed portfolio.

Risks & Features

Investment trusts are quoted companies listed on the London Stock Exchange. Their share prices are determined by factors including demand, or lack of, which means that the shares may trade below (at a discount to) or above (at a premium to) the underlying net asset value.

The Trust seeks to enhance returns for its shareholders through gearing, in the form of long-term, fixed rate debentures. Gearing can boost the Trust's returns when investments perform well, though losses can be magnified when investments lose value. You should be aware that this Trust may be subject to sudden and large falls in value and you could suffer substantial capital loss.

History

The Trust was formed from the Brunner family's interest in the sale of Brunner, Mond & Co, the largest of the four companies which came to form ICI in 1926. The Trust has been managed by RCM (a subsidiary of Allianz Global Investors formerly Kleinwort Benson) since inception.

Fund Manager's Review



Mark Lovett



Lucy MacDonald

World Equity markets had another torrid month with markets down over 10% amid record levels of volatility. The month started with the approval of the amended \$700 billion Troubled Asset Rescue Plan by the US Congress and was quickly followed by the UK government announcing that it would purchase preference shares worth up to £50bn in troubled UK banks and building societies to help prop up the banking system. The world's major central banks also announced a co-ordinated emergency interest rate cut in an effort to revive the frozen credit markets. Despite this unprecedented government intervention, markets continued to fall as the fears of a deep global recession continued to weigh on investors. Economic data from the US continued to weaken significantly and UK GDP data showed that the UK economy had contracted in the third quarter for the first time since the early 1990s. There were signs towards the end of the month that the easing of monetary policy was helping credit markets to recover, although further action may be required to completely restore market stability.

The portfolio underperformed its benchmark in this environment with Prudential Financial and ING notable underperformers amid solvency concerns, with the Dutch government buying 10bn Eur of preference shares in ING. Xstrata also performed poorly as commodity prices fell sharply on concern that the deteriorating outlook would reduce demand. Unsurprisingly, the defensive stocks such as Abbott Laboratories, Gilead and East Japan were the best performing names in the portfolio.

Key Information

Total Assets:	£217.8m
Gearing (net):	14.9%
No. of Shares (Ordinary 1p):	47,136,515
Share Price¹:	297.00p
Net Asset Value²:	362.68p (343.04p – debt at market value)
Premium/-Discount to NAV²:	-18.1% (-13.4% – debt at market value)
Dividend Yield²:	3.74%
No. of Holdings:	130

All data source RCM (UK) Limited as at 31.10.08 unless otherwise stated.

Launch Date:	January 1927
AIC Sector:	Global Growth
Benchmark:	50% FTSE All-Share Index 50% FTSE All-World ex UK Index
Year end:	30 November
Reports & Accounts:	Final posted in February, Interim posted in July
AGM:	March
Dividends:	March, August
Price Information:	Financial Times, The Daily Telegraph, www.rcm.com/investmenttrusts
Board of Directors:	Keith Percy (Chairman), Vivian Bazalgette, Ben Siddons, William Worsley, Richard Wakeling
Investment Manager:	Mark Lovett, CIO, UK & European Equity Lucy MacDonald, CIO, Global Equity RCM A company of Allianz Global Investors
Investor Services:	020 7065 1407

¹Source: Lipper as at 31.10.08, market close mid price.

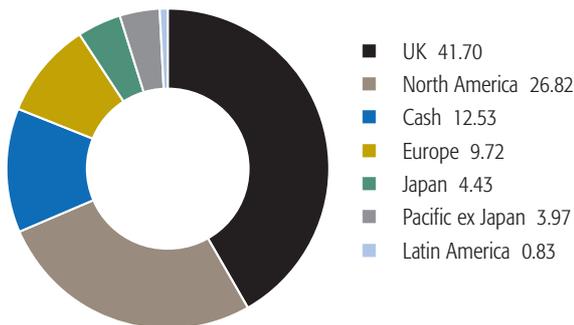
²Source: Datastream as at 31.10.08.

³A trust's net asset value (NAV) is calculated as available shareholders' funds divided by the number of shares in issue, with shareholders' funds taken to be the net value of all the company's assets after deducting liabilities. In line with current industry best practice NAVs are now shown that take into account the 'fair value' of debt. This means NAVs are calculated after allowing for the valuation of debt at fair value or current market price, rather than at final repayment value. NAVs with debt at market value provide a more realistic impact of the cost of debt, and thus a more realistic discount. It is the capital NAV that is shown, which excludes any income.

Top Ten Holdings (%)

Name	%
4% Treasury Stock 2009	8.8
BP	3.2
Royal Dutch Shell "B" Shares	3.1
GlaxoSmithKline	2.9
Vodafone Group	2.5
HSBC	2.1
BG Group	1.8
Rio Tinto	1.6
Nestle	1.5
Cobham	1.4
Total	28.9

Geographic Breakdown (%)



Changes in rates of exchange may cause the value of investments and the income from them to go down or up.

How to Invest?

The Trust is a UK public limited company traded openly on the stock market. You can purchase shares through a stock broker.

RIC: BUT **SEDOL:** 0149000 **ISIN:** GB0001490001

Shares in the Trust can be held within an ISA and/or savings scheme and a number of providers offer this facility. A list of suppliers is available from the AIC at www.theaic.co.uk

Please note: Our Investment Trust Savings Plan was closed and transferred to Alliance Trust Savings on 29 February 2008. Alliance Trust can be contacted on 01382 573 737 or contact@alliancetrust.co.uk

RCM Advantage

RCM and its predecessors have been managing investment trusts since 1889, providing investors with access to investment markets around the world through professionally managed portfolios. Each trust benefits from the expertise of the RCM fund managers yet, as a company listed on the London Stock Exchange, it is independent and is overseen by its own Board of Directors.

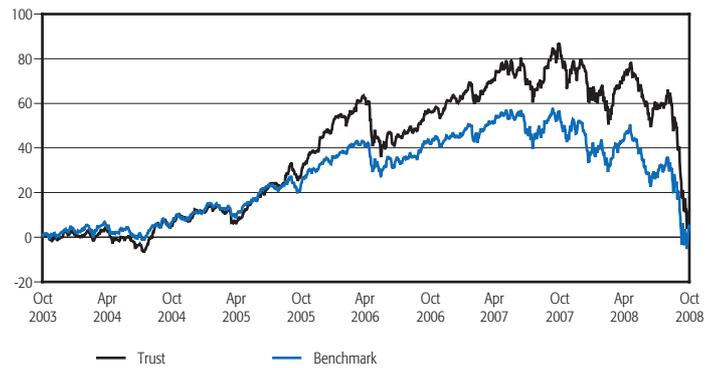
RCM is the global equity specialist within Allianz Global Investors. With offices strategically located in the US, Europe and Asia, RCM uses its global research platform to search out investment opportunities.

All data source RCM (UK) Limited as at 31.10.08 unless otherwise stated.

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Performance

Five Year Trust Performance (%)



Cumulative Performance (%)

	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years
Share Price	-29.79	-34.80	-39.94	-12.13	12.29
Benchmark	-17.78	-26.35	-32.51	-14.24	5.76

Standardised Past Performance (%)

From	28.09.07	29.09.06	30.09.05	30.09.04	30.09.03
To	30.09.08	28.09.07	29.09.06	30.09.05	30.09.04
Share Price	-21.14	16.57	13.73	26.90	8.84

Source: Lipper, percentage growth, mid to mid, capital return, to 31.10.08
Benchmark: 50% FTSE All-Share Index/50% FTSE All-World ex UK Index. Note the benchmark was 60% FTSE All-Share and 40% FT/S&P World Index (ex UK sterling adjusted) up to 26th March 2008.

Standardised past performance figures comply with the Financial Services Authority's regulations to enable investors to compare different products from different providers.

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. You should not make any assumptions on the future on the basis of performance information. The value of an investment and the income from it can fall as well as rise as a result of market fluctuations and you may not get back the amount originally invested. This investment trust charges 70% of its annual management fee to the capital account and 30% to revenue. This could lead to a higher level of income but capital growth will be constrained as a result. Your capital could also decrease if income paid out of capital exceeds the growth rate of the trust.