

Jupiter Emerging & Frontier Income

Unjustified discount?

In recent months, Jupiter Emerging and Frontier Income (JEFI)'s discount has widened. This seems somewhat at odds with JEFI's good relative performance over this period and since launch (a 14.7% return on NAV for the period to 19 September 2019 versus 11.4% for the MSCI Emerging Markets Index, 10.4% for the MSCI Frontier Markets Index and 8.2% for the average of JEFI's peer group – see page 9). It also seems strange given JEFI's sector-leading dividend yield.

The world is an uncertain place at present, but emerging markets, which have been battling a headwind provided by a strong US dollar, now see a period where the US President is determined to weaken the currency and US interest rates are falling. JEFI's managers have confidence in their portfolio and the long-term structural trends that underpin growth in their markets. They say that the portfolio has very limited direct exposure that is sensitive to trade tensions, however trade concerns are a significant source of broader investor anxiety.

The managers would like to see the discount eliminated and the trust expanding. This should benefit all shareholders, as the shares should become more liquid and the ongoing charges ratio should fall, as fixed costs are spread over a wider base.

Long-term capital and income growth

JEFI aims to generate capital growth and income over the long term, through investment predominantly in companies exposed directly or indirectly to emerging markets and frontier markets worldwide.

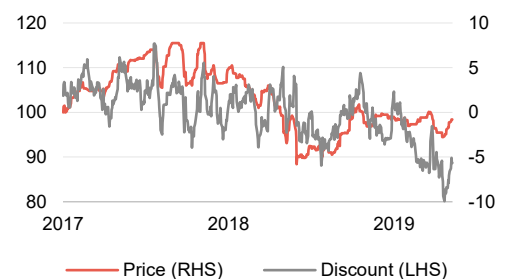
Year ended	Share price total return (%)	NAV total return (%)	MSCI Emerging Markets TR (%)	MSCI Frontier Markets TR (%)	MSCI World total return (%)
31/08/18	4.7	5.0	8.2	1.2	16.8
31/08/19	(2.0)	9.9	2.1	15.2	7.0

Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

Sector	Global emerging markets
Ticker	JEFI LN
Base currency	GBP
Price	98.4p
NAV	103.6p
Premium/(discount)	(5.1%)
Yield	4.5%

Share price and discount

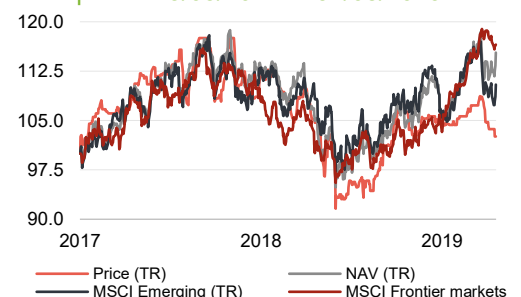
Time period 15/05/2017 to 19/09/2019



Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

Performance over five years

Time period 15/05/2017 to 31/08/2019



Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

Domicile	UK
Inception date	15 May 2017
Manager	Ross Teverson Charles Sunnucks
Market cap	88.6m
Shares outstanding	90.073m
Daily vol. (1-yr. avg.)	121,591 shares
Net gearing	(12%)

[Click here for our annual overview note](#)

Market roundup – frontier’s time to shine

Readers may wish to refer to QuotedData’s April 2019 annual overview note

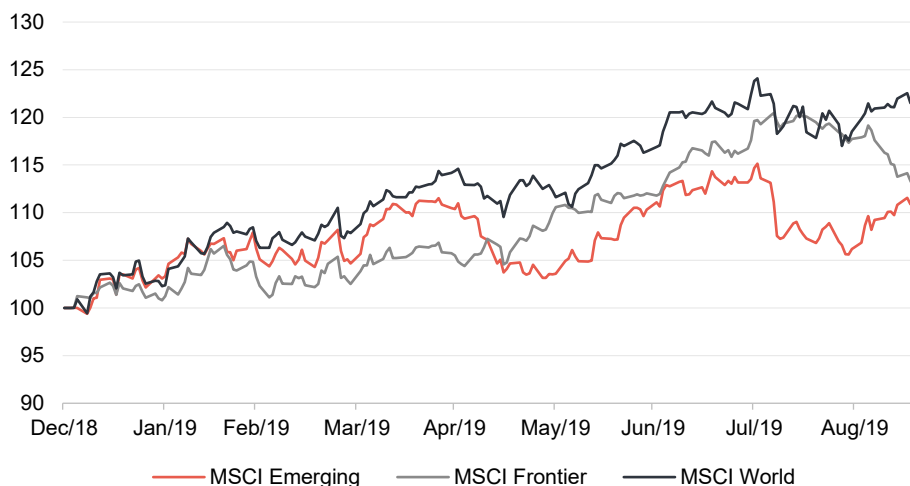
Whilst we have provided some background on the macroeconomic environment in this section, it is worth remembering that JEFI’s managers place much more emphasis on the fundamentals of the businesses in which they invest than in gyrations in currencies and politics. The managers’ investment approach is described in QuotedData’s annual overview note, which was published in April this year (see page 13 of this note).

While, over the three years to the end of August 2019, frontier markets have outperformed emerging markets (on average), much of frontier’s outperformance can be attributed to Kuwait (which made up 31.5% of the MSCI Frontier Markets Index at the end of August 2019) and Vietnam (18.5% of the index). Collectively these two geographies alone account for half the frontier universe, and rose by 112%/51% respectively, during a period that the broader frontier index was up about 38% (all in sterling terms).

The managers say that Kuwait has been a particular frustration for investors in frontier markets, as its inclusion in the frontier index is not really in the spirit of ‘frontier’ markets, (Kuwait’s GDP per capita for instance is over double the equivalent level in China).

In aggregate, frontier markets have been outperforming emerging and developed markets over 2019 year to date. A weak pound flatters returns across almost all markets.

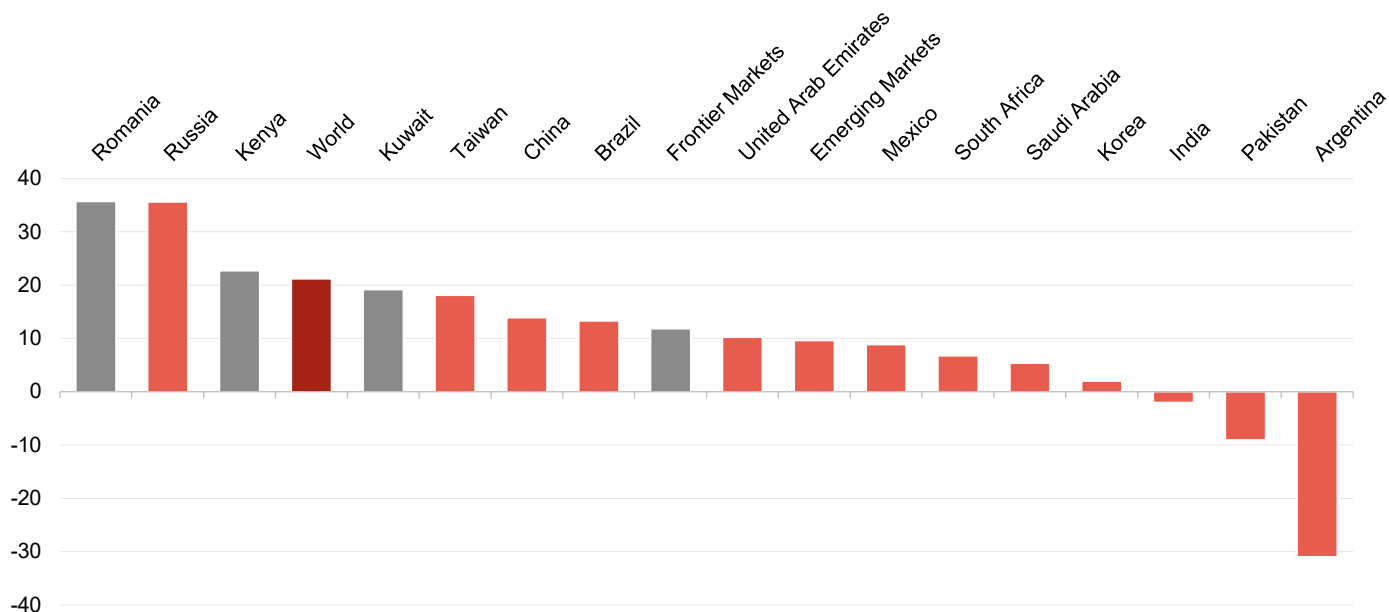
Figure 1: Year to date performance – Emerging, Frontier and World indices, rebased to 100



Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

There is a fairly wide dispersion of returns, however, as is evident in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Performance of selected MSCI Indices 2019 year to date (in sterling)



Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co. Note Frontier markets in grey.

Looking at some of these moves:

- At the positive end of the scale, Romania has been benefitting from a watering-down of proposed taxes on the financial assets of credit institutions (see our comment on Banca Transilvania on page 7).
- Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and China’s domestic market are all beneficiaries of changes to the composition of the MSCI Emerging Markets Index (EM Index). China’s A shares (those traded on mainland China’s domestic stock markets; as opposed to China H share, which are traded in Hong Kong) were included within the EM Index at a weighting of 5% of their total market capitalisation last year. That is being quadrupled to 20% over the course of 2019 (in May, August and November). The MSCI China A share index has outperformed the MSCI China Index by some margin, returning 27.8% in 2019 to end August. Saudi Arabian stocks are entering the EM Index in two equal tranches (in June and September) and Kuwaiti stocks will enter the EM Index in June next year. EM Index inclusion tends to trigger inflows of ‘hot money’ (investors engaged in short-term speculation who will most likely pull their investment out again once they judge the opportunity has passed), buying ahead of exchange-traded funds (ETFs) and other index-tracking funds, which will have to buy these stocks after their inclusion. In recent days, the Saudi market has fallen following the attacks on its oil installations.
- China’s economy has been held back by the tariff war with the US. Some manufacturers have been switching production to outside the country, to the benefit of countries such as Vietnam and Cambodia. The stand-off between the government and protestors in Hong Kong is also weighing on regional markets.
- Brazil had been one of the best performing markets this year, but has retrenched over the summer as controversy raged over the fires in the Amazon basin.
- The managers say that Mexico is still very competitive, with wages one-fifth of those in the US. Mexico is also still perceived as a less risky place from which to be exporting to the US than China. The supply chain is very integrated across the two countries, and they think it would be hard to unravel and damaging to US businesses. The managers are seeing more opportunities in Mexico than Brazil.
- Corruption allegations continue to dog South Africa’s government.

- Tensions between Japan and South Korea related to WWII compensation have resulted in restrictions being imposed on exports to Korea. For Korean stocks, this was compounded by a renewed investigation into corruption charges against an heir to the Samsung Electronics business.
- India's economic growth rate has slumped, as liquidity pressure has weakened economic activity. Its government is, belatedly, taking action, but it has an uphill battle to restore sentiment.
- Argentina has defaulted on its debt and faces the realistic prospect of another Peronist President in October this year.

A weaker dollar would help markets

Might we see US dollar weakness?

One headwind that emerging and frontier markets have faced for some time is the strength of the US dollar and the prospect of rising US interest rates. The US central bank's policy change in January (when it switched from promising to toughen restrictions on growth to worrying about a slowing economy) reversed the position on US interest rates (which have now been cut twice this year), but to date, dollar strength has persisted. President Trump is adamant that he wants the dollar to weaken, and is likely to pursue policies that try to bring this about.

EM companies tend to be well-capitalised

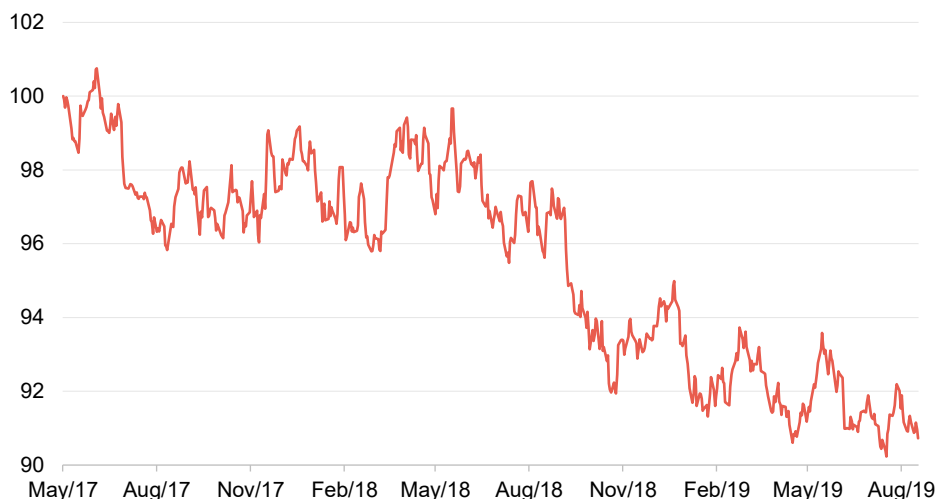
Emerging and frontier balance sheets are in reasonable shape

One other factor that the managers feel investors should bear in mind, when looking at emerging and frontier markets, is that the companies within the region have not been buying back shares and paying out dividends in the way that many US companies have. They note that many US companies have been borrowing to fund these returns of capital.

By contrast, EM/FM dividends tend to be covered by cash flow. The managers consider that emerging and frontier markets have a multi-year opportunity to deliver higher dividend and earnings growth relative to developed markets, aided by adding debt to balance sheets. Alternatively, they may attract more of a safe haven status, as debt-laden businesses in developed markets struggle.

Small caps continue to underperform

Figure 3: MSCI EM small cap versus large cap since JEFI's launch

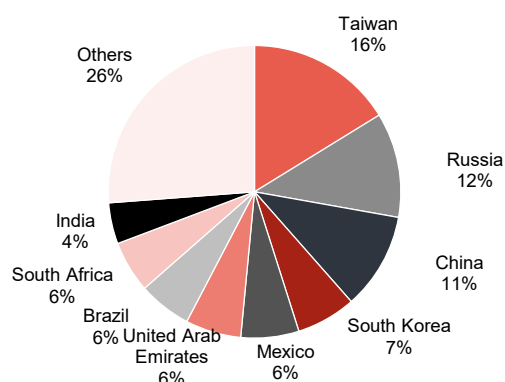


Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

As Figure 3 shows, smaller companies continue to underperform larger ones in emerging markets.

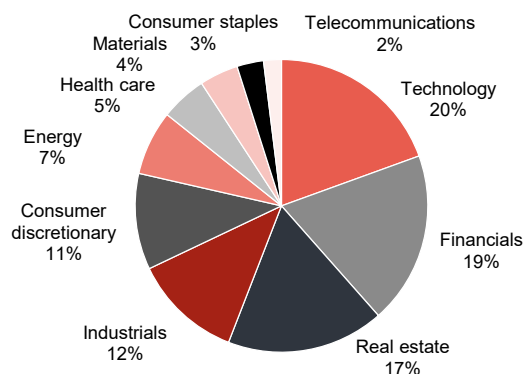
Asset allocation

Figure 4: Asset allocation by country as at 31 July 2019



Source: Jupiter Emerging & Frontier Income Trust

Figure 5: Asset allocation by sector as at 31 July 2019



Source: Jupiter Emerging & Frontier Income Trust

Significant underweight exposure to China

JEFI's geographic and industry weightings are the product of the managers' stock selection decisions, and the weightings within the MSCI Indices do not influence this. The result is that JEFI's portfolio is quite dissimilar to those indices and its peers. Notably, China accounted for 32% of the MSCI EM Index at the end of July 2019 while making up just 11% of JEFI's portfolio. The trust also has a significant overweight exposure to real estate relative to the MSCI EM Index.

The main changes since the end of February (the latest available data when QuotedData published its previous note on JEFI) are a reduction in the Chinese and consumer discretionary exposure and increases in the technology and real estate weightings.

Top 10 holdings

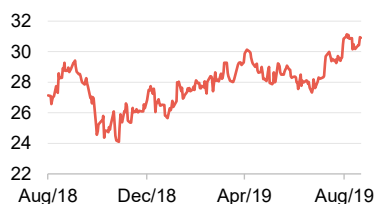
Figure 6: Top 10 holdings as at 31 July 2019

	Country/Region	Sector	% of gross assets 31/07/19	% of gross assets 28/02/19	% change
Corp Inmobiliaria Vesta	Mexico	Real estate	4.6	4.4	0.2
Samsung Electronics	Korea	IT	4.1	4.2	(0.1)
Emaar Malls	United Arab Emirates	Real estate	4.1	2.7	1.4
Wilson, Sons	Brazil	Industrials	3.9	4.3	(0.4)
KCB	Kenya	Financials	3.8	3.8	-
MMC Norilsk Nickel	Russia	Materials	3.7	4.1	(0.4)
Hindustan Petroleum	India	Energy	3.6	3.3	0.3
LSR	Russia	Real estate	3.5	2.2	1.3
Grit Real Estate	Africa ex South Africa	Real estate	3.4	3.4	-
Chroma Ate	Taiwan	IT	3.4	2.6	0.8
Total of top 10			38.1		

Source: Jupiter Emerging and Frontier Income, Bloomberg, Marten & Co

We have discussed many of these stocks in earlier notes, readers may wish to refer to these, see page 13 for a list.

Figure 7: Vesta share price



Source: Bloomberg, Marten & Co

■ Corp Inmobiliaria Vesta (www.vesta.com.mx)

The managers feel that there was a perception among some investors that, because Vesta invests in Mexican industrial property, it is sensitive to trade tensions between Mexico and the US. This appeared to be particularly acute while negotiations to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), now renamed the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), were underway. However, year-on-year, Vesta has been able to achieve rent increases across its portfolio, helped by a lack of suitable alternative property within Mexico. This may be giving investors the comfort that the excess demand makes the business more defensive. The managers say that it was notable that when President Trump threatened new tariffs against Mexico over the immigrant issue, Vesta's share price was not much affected.

Figure 8: LSR share price



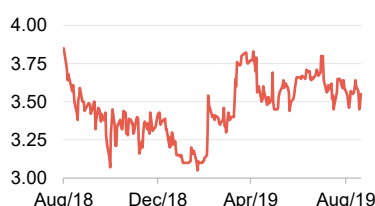
Source: Bloomberg, Marten & Co

■ LSR (www.lsrgroup.ru)

Russian construction company, LSR is a new entrant to the list of top 10 holdings, but is a stock that JEFI has held for a while. It is benefitting from changes to Russia's housebuilding market (in relation to the rules governing the use of deposits on new build properties), which are helping to regularise the market, and LSR is helping to consolidate the industry. There is still strong demand for housing in Moscow and St Petersburg. LSR's largest shareholder has reduced his stake, but the managers say that he is still very involved with the company.

LSR yields over 10% and this is well-covered by earnings. The very low rating may reflect the antipathy that investors have for the Russian market. The managers say that LSR and MMC Norilsk Nickel (which JEFI also holds) are good examples of stocks where there is a good alignment of interest between controlling and minority shareholders. Within JEFI's portfolio, LSR and Sberbank offer exposure to the domestic Russian economy, but MMC Norilsk Nickel (which is benefitting from rising nickel prices, helped in turn by an Indonesian export ban) and NLMK, which is one of the cheapest producers of steel globally, are more export-orientated.

Figure 9: Bestway share price

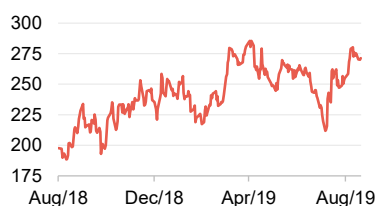


Source: Bloomberg, Marten & Co

■ Bestway (www.bestwaycorp.com)

In China, the managers have been looking to take advantage of low valuations. For example, they bought Bestway, a manufacturer of a range of inflatable products from kayaks to paddling pools to tents and including Lazy Spa (inflatable hot tubs). Almost all supply for these types of products comes from China. With nowhere else for consumers to turn, US tariffs are just a tax on the US's own consumers. The managers say that the company's sales and earnings are growing in double digits and Bestway is committed to increasing its dividend pay-out ratio.

Figure 10: Netease share price



Source: Bloomberg, Marten & Co

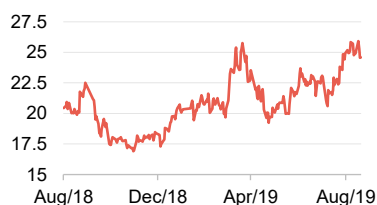
■ Netease (www.ir.netease.com)

Another stock JEFI has bought in China is Netease, the online gaming company. Whilst it has a strong position in China, it is increasingly globally competitive, with development studios in Europe and Canada. It has been working with Activision/Blizzard on its Diablo franchise (eu.diablo3.com), helping it to adapt the game for mobile phones. Netease also has an education side, building on its successful dictionary app, and is in second place behind Tencent Music in music streaming in China.

Recently, Netease sold its ecommerce business. The managers see this as evidence that it is focused on maximising shareholder value rather than empire-building. It was, for a time, affected by a freeze on game approvals, which was imposed by the Chinese government. Even now, getting new games past the censors takes longer than it used to, although it helps if the gameplay is seen as patriotic. Netease has been shifting its focus from multiplayer to more casual games, broadening their appeal.

The managers like the corporate structure; 70% of the board is independent, it does not have multiple share classes, and it is committed to a dividend pay-out of 20%-30% and has a share buyback programme. The businesses are structured as separate entities, allowing them to bring in joint venture partners and outside funding without diluting the core company. This is not a stock with a high yield, but it is one that offers strong dividend growth potential, illustrating the flexibility offered by the investment approach.

Figure 11: Huayu share price

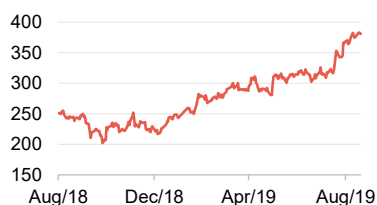


Source: Bloomberg, Marten & Co

■ Huayu (www.huayu-auto.com)

One Chinese stock that has been sold is Huayu, China's largest auto-components business and a subsidiary of China's largest auto OEM (SAIC). The stock was acquired in 2018 on the premise that it was diversifying its client base and developing new product lines, such as intelligent braking systems. The dividend pay-out ratio is around 50% and it has a strong net cash position. However, even though Huayu was making positive returns, against a backdrop of a weak sector, the managers thought there were better opportunities elsewhere. The sales proceeds have been recycled into higher-conviction positions.

Figure 12: MediaTek share price



Source: Bloomberg, Marten & Co

■ MediaTek (www.mediatek.com)

MediaTek is a Taiwanese-based IT designer, competing with firms such as Qualcomm. It manufactures chips for mobile handsets across 3G, 4G and 5G. It is also a major producer of chips for other consumer products, such as TVs and smart speakers, and an emerging player in the automotive-related chips that enable driver assistance. MediaTek's business is approximately half mobile and half non-mobile. The managers see the prospect of good growth and margin improvement in handset chips as they migrate to 5G. The managers believe that MediaTek has narrowed the gap with market-leader, Qualcomm.

MediaTek has been held in the trust since launch and the position has been added to. The managers highlight that this is a company based in Taiwan, but with a global customer base. They add that this is true of most of the Taiwanese companies held within JEFI's portfolio. MediaTek is trading on a dividend yield of about 2.6% (it has been as high as 4.2% while owned by JEFI). The managers say that MediaTek has a strong dividend-paying culture and growth opportunities. In addition, it has net cash on its balance sheet. In their view, the dividend could be higher still and there is the possibility for share buy backs.

Figure 13: Banca Transilvania



Source: Bloomberg, Marten & Co

■ Banca Transilvania (www.bancatransilvania.ro)

We discussed the opportunity to increase the penetration of financial products in emerging and frontier markets in our last note. One new addition to the portfolio is Banca Transilvania, which JEFI acquired in May. The managers like the company's pay structure (executive remuneration is deferred over five years and discretionary salary for employees is equivalent to about two months' wages). This is a stock that has been held at points by other funds managed by Jupiter Asset Management. When Romania

announced an asset-based tax on banks and other financial institutions, share prices fell steeply, providing an opportunity to buy stock at an attractive valuation. The banks argued successfully that the proposed tax was excessive, and the proposals were watered down. The managers foresee ongoing consolidation within the Romanian banking market. They also think the market is attractive in that the level of corporate debt to GDP has reduced and the structure of that debt has improved. Banca Transilvania's return on equity looks good versus its cost of equity. It has contributed to JEFI's positive performance since it was acquired.

Figure 14: Naga share price

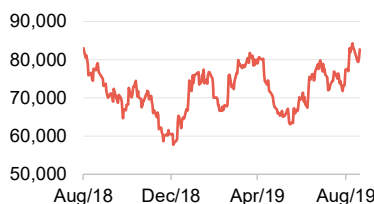


Source: Bloomberg, Marten & Co

Naga (www.nagacorp.com)

Cambodian gaming company, Naga has dropped out of the list of the 10 largest holdings, but is still held within the portfolio. It announced expansion plans (Naga 3) and this unnerved some investors. JEFI voted to approve the expansion plans, based on the managers' assessment of the long-term growth prospects for the business. Naga has been working with a leading gaming company in Macau. This has been generating more business for Naga. Increased Chinese tourism is also beneficial. The managers' environmental, social and governance (ESG) assessment noted that local Cambodians are not permitted to gamble and the business has tight money laundering controls.

Figure 15: SK Hynix share price



Source: Bloomberg, Marten & Co

SK Hynix (www.skhynix.com)

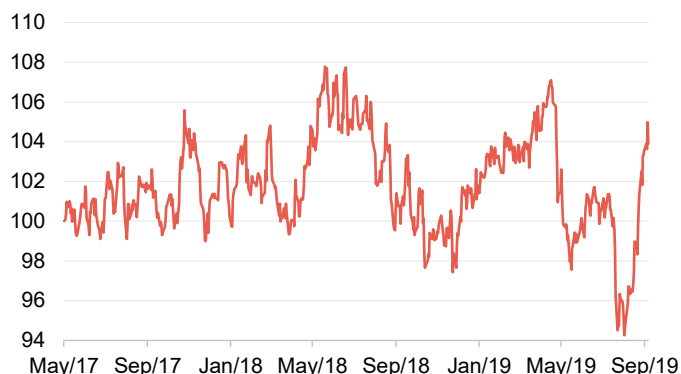
SK Hynix is one member of an oligopoly of high-speed DRAM chip producers. This market has exhibited good supply-side discipline, which is helping margins. The managers think that the market still values this company as a cyclical investment (one whose fortunes are closely linked to wider economic growth), yet believe this view is flawed, given the growing range of applications for these chips. The company has been paying a dividend for a number of years now, and there is scope for the pay out to rise further. The managers also note that SK Hynix is a tech-enabling business; it is not directly consumer-facing but its products are critical to the end product.

Performance

JEFI has held its own against the MSCI Frontier Markets Index and outperformed the MSCI Emerging Markets Index since launch. The performance of the MSCI Frontier Markets Index is heavily skewed by countries being promoted or demoted to and from the MSCI Emerging Markets Index. In recent months, the decision to elevate the Kuwaiti and Saudi markets to emerging markets status has helped push the MSCI Frontier Market Index higher but the recent attacks on Saudi oil installations have led to falls in that market.

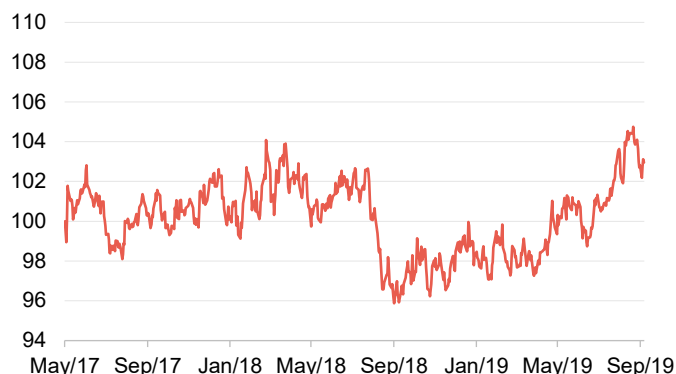
Figures 16 and 17, which cover the period from JEFI's launch up to 19 September 2019, show that JEFI has outperformed both the MSCI Frontiers Market and the MSCI Emerging Markets Index.

Figure 16: NAV TR relative to MSCI Frontier Markets



Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

Figure 17: NAV TR relative to MSCI Emerging Markets



Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

Figure 18 uses numbers to the end of August 2019. It shows, both emerging and frontier markets have lagged developed markets (as represented by the MSCI World Index) since JEFI's launch.

Figure 18: Total return performance over periods ending 31 August 2019

	1 month (%)	3 months (%)	6 months (%)	1 year (%)	Since JEFI's launch (%)*
JEFI Price	(5.3)	(1.7)	(3.6)	(2.0)	2.6
JEFI NAV	(1.7)	7.1	11.0	9.9	15.3
MSCI Frontier Markets Index	(1.1)	6.8	16.7	15.2	16.5
MSCI Emerging Markets Index	(4.4)	3.3	4.1	2.1	10.4
MSCI World Index	(1.5)	8.6	13.3	7.0	25.0

Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co *Note: JEFI was launched on 15 May 2017.

JEFI's performance has been achieved despite the trust's overweight exposure to small cap stocks (we noted the underperformance of smaller companies on page 4) and underweight exposure to China, relative to the benchmark. The manager's stock selection decisions have more than compensated for this.

Peer group

Up-to-date information on JEFI and its peer group is available on the [QuotedData website](#)

JEFI sits within the AIC's global emerging market sector. Only one other London-listed investment company has a policy of investing across both emerging and frontier markets (Mobius Investment Trust) and only one other company (JPMorgan Global Emerging Markets Income Trust) invests in a portfolio of predominantly above-average yielding equities. Other trusts in the sector that pay a high dividend yield manufacture a significant part of this by distributing capital.

For the purposes of this peer group comparison, we have excluded trusts that do not have a truly global remit, those that are being wound up and those with a split capital structure. A full list of the constituents is provided in Figure 19.

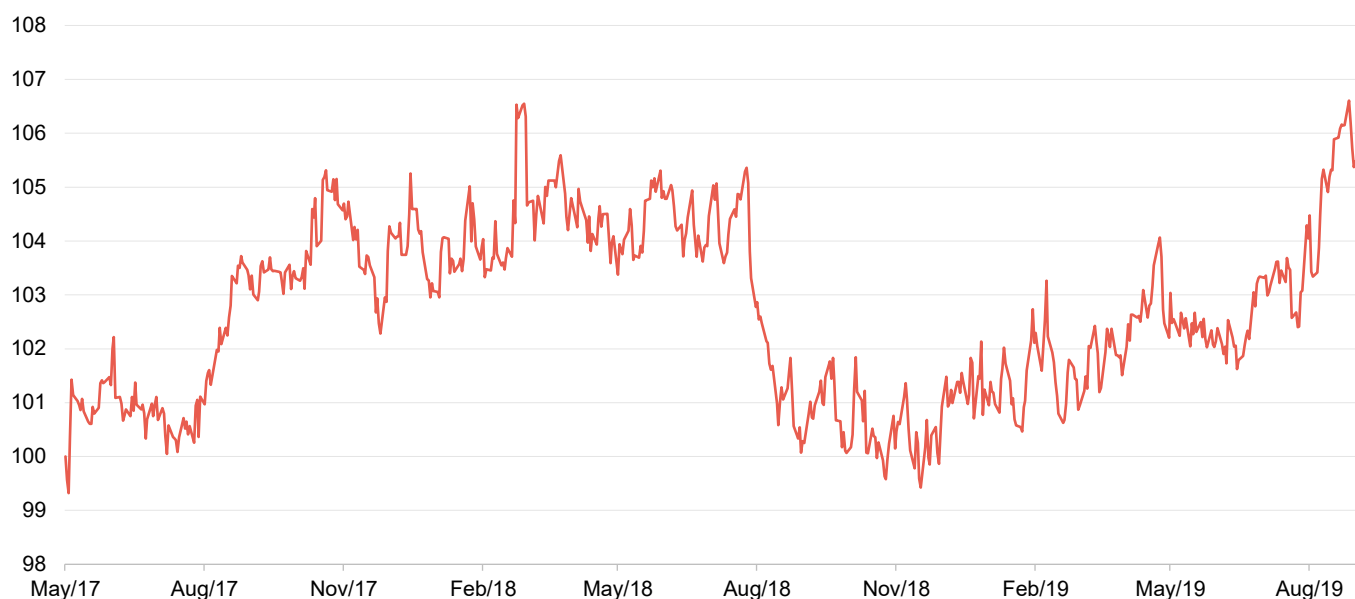
Figure 19: Peer group comparison as at 19 September 2019

	Market cap (£m)	Premium/ (Discount) (%)	Yield (%)	Ongoing charge (%)
Jupiter Emerging & Frontier Markets Income	89	(5.1)	4.5	1.3
Aberdeen Emerging Markets	269	(12.2)	3.6	1.0
Aberdeen Frontier Markets	33	(13.1)	3.3	2.7
BlackRock Frontiers	318	(1.9)	4.4	1.9
Fundsmith Emerging Equities	302	(9.4)	0.2	1.5
Genesis Emerging Markets	1035	(11.0)	1.9	1.5
JPMorgan Emerging Markets	1202	(7.6)	1.3	1.0
JPMorgan Global Emerging Markets Income	407	0.8	3.7	1.3
Mobius Investment Trust	90	(5.9)	-	-
Templeton Emerging Markets	1942	(10.3)	2.0	1.0
Peer group average	622	(7.8)	2.6	1.5

Source: Morningstar

JEFI offers the highest dividend yield in the sector and an [ongoing charges ratio](#) below the average of the peer group. The managers are keen to expand the trust, which might help improve [liquidity](#) and lower the ongoing charges ratio further. The discount is narrower than the average, but this arguably reflects the trust's performance record and yield.

Figure 20: JEFI relative to peer group average - NAV total returns since JEFI's launch, rebased to 100*



Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co*Note: JEFI was launched on 15 May 2017.

JEFI has outperformed the average of the peer group since launch and, as Figure 21 shows, is well ahead of close competitor Mobius Investment Trust.

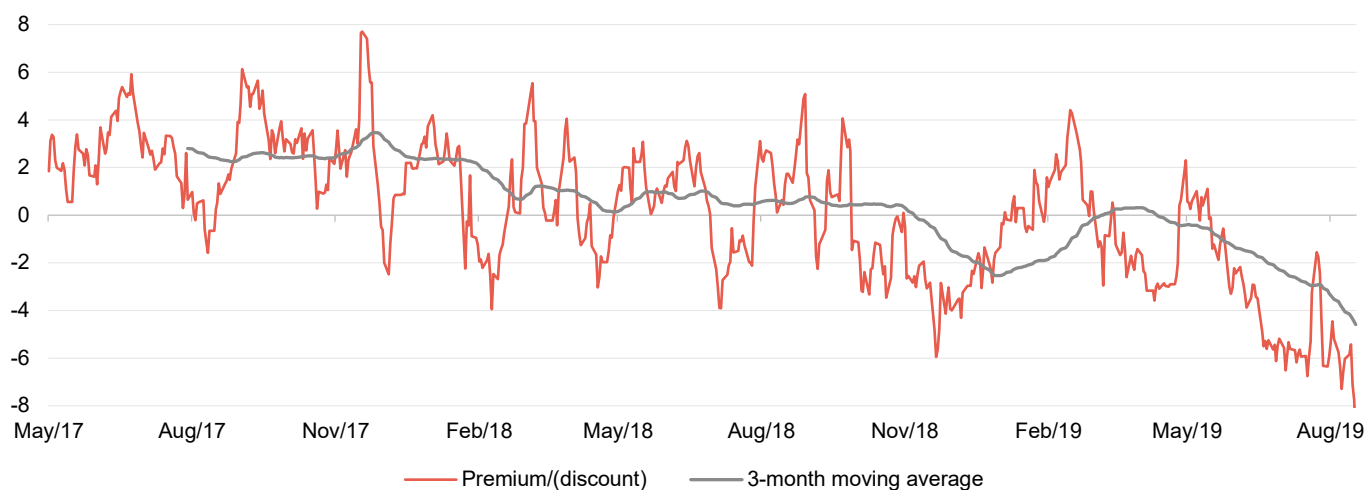
Figure 21: NAV total returns over periods ending 31 August 2019

Heading	1 month (%)	3 months (%)	6 months (%)	1 year (%)	Since JEFI's launch (%)*
Jupiter Emerging & Frontier Markets Income	(1.7)	7.1	11.0	9.9	15.3
Aberdeen Emerging Markets	(5.4)	5.2	7.3	7.1	10.4
Aberdeen Frontier Markets	(2.3)	1.2	0.4	(6.8)	(18.9)
BlackRock Frontiers	(7.3)	0.9	3.1	1.3	2.8
Fundsmith Emerging Equities	(0.5)	1.1	8.9	4.2	14.0
Genesis Emerging Markets	(1.8)	8.1	11.4	13.8	20.1
JPMorgan Emerging Markets	(3.6)	5.9	12.8	11.8	25.0
JPMorgan Global Emerging Markets Income	(4.6)	6.0	7.9	7.8	15.7
Mobius Investment Trust	(4.9)	(3.3)	(7.7)	n/a	n/a
Templeton Emerging Markets	(4.6)	4.4	7.3	10.3	16.2

Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co *Note: JEFI was launched on 15 May 2017.

Premium/(Discount)

Figure 22: Premium/(discount) since launch

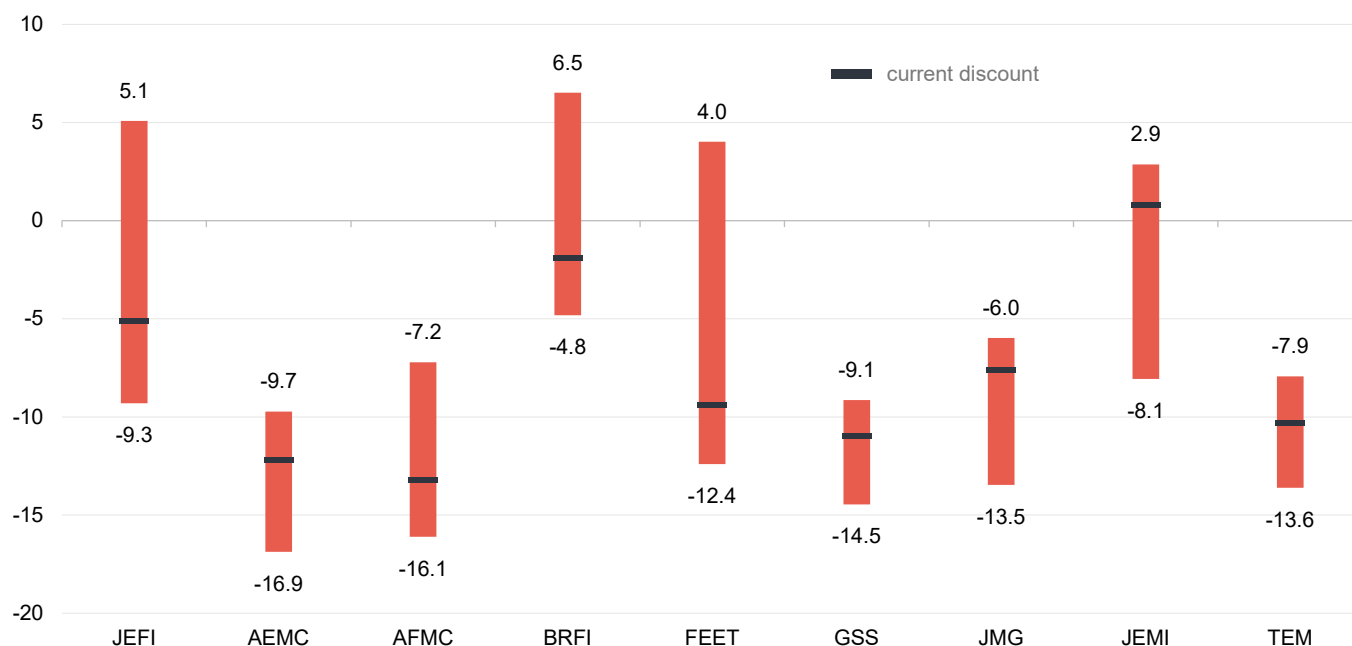


Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co.

Over the year to the end of August 2019, JEFI traded within a range of -9.3% to +5.1% and an average of -1.7%. At 19 September 2019, JEFI was trading on a discount of 5.1%.

JEFI's discount has been widening in recent months and at the end of August was at its widest level since launch. In recent weeks the discount has narrowed again, however. As Figure 23 shows, most global emerging trusts are trading wider than their average over the past year. However, JEFI's rating seems at odds with its decent relative performance and, in an environment where income is hard to come by, JEFI also boasts the highest yield in its sector. It seems reasonable to think that its discount could narrow.

Figure 23: Global emerging peer group discount ranges over one year at 19 September 2019



Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

Fund profile

Benefitting from positive change

Jupiter Emerging & Frontier Income Trust (JEFI) launched in May 2017. It invests globally in stocks that provide exposure to emerging and frontier markets (any country that is not classified as developed or emerging). The aim is to generate both capital growth and income over the long term, using an investment approach that is benchmark agnostic, unconstrained and focused on identifying positive change.

Investment managers

You can access the fund's website at www.jupiteram.com/jefi

JEFI's portfolio is managed by Ross Teverson and Charles Sunnucks (together, the managers), both of Jupiter Asset Management (Jupiter), who subcontract the job of managing the portfolio from the AIFM, Jupiter Unit Trust Managers Limited. The emerging markets team had £1.8bn under management at the end of August 2019. The managers can also draw on the expertise of Jupiter's wider pool of asset managers and analysts.

Previous publications

Readers interested in further information about JEFI may wish to read our previous notes, which are summarised in Figure 24 overleaf. You can read them by clicking on the links in Figure 24 or by visiting our website.

Figure 24: QuotedData's previously published notes on JEFI

Title	Note type	Date
A very successful fundraise	Initiation	28 November 2017
Off to a great start	Update	29 August 2018
Income objective exceeded	Annual overview	15 April 2019

Source: Marten & Co.

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