

Monthly roundup | Investment companies

December 2019

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Winners and losers in November

Best performing funds in NAV terms in November

	(%)
Biotech Growth	18.2
Hipgnosis Songs	13.3
JPMorgan Smaller Companies	11.7
Oryx International Growth	11.6
BB Healthcare	11.3
Trian Investors 1	10.1
Worldwide Healthcare	10.0
Edinburgh Worldwide	9.8
International Biotechnology	9.5
Smithson Investment	7.4

Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

Best performing funds in price terms in November

	(%)
Montanaro UK Smaller Companies	18.0
Biotech Growth	17.9
Standard Life UK Smaller Companies	14.6
Worldwide Healthcare	14.3
JPMorgan Smaller Companies	14.3
Edinburgh Worldwide	13.7
Oryx International Growth	13.4
Aberdeen Smaller Companies	12.6
SQN Asset Finance Income	12.2
BB Healthcare	12.0

Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

Following a lacklustre October, risk-appetite rose over November, reflected by both the level of the NAV and price returns as well as the prevalence of growth-focused funds in the tables. A relatively subdued median NAV return +0.8% likely reflects a degree of momentum returning, lifting 'winners' higher and pushing 'losers' lower. Sectorally, biotech strategies had a strong month, led by Biotech Growth and International Biotechnology. Broader healthcare strategies did well too, benefitting BB Healthcare and Worldwide Healthcare. Investors appear to be warming to the idea that irrespective of who triumphs in the 2020 US election, the impact on Medicare for all will be less pronounced than initially feared. It was a good month for UK equities with several UK smaller companies trusts, led by Montanaro UK Smaller Companies, JPMorgan Smaller Companies and Standard Life UK Smaller Companies, taking up positions in the outperformers table. Oryx International Growth had some good news as its holding in waste company, Augean soared on a positive trading update.

Worst performing funds in NAV terms in November

	(%)
Symphony International	(9.4)
Crystal Amber	(8.8)
Woodford Patient Capital	(8.3)
Carador Income USD	(7.4)
Marble Point Loan Financing	(7.0)
Aberdeen Latin American Income	(5.6)
BlackRock Latin American	(5.5)
Pantheon International	(5.4)
CATCo Reinsurance Opportunities	(5.2)
Standard Life Private Equity	(5.1)

Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

Worst performing funds in price terms in November

	(%)
Woodford Patient Capital	(20.0)
LMS Capital	(15.1)
Hadrian's Wall Secured	(10.8)
Crystal Amber	(10.2)
Marwyn Value	(10.0)
Ceiba	(9.8)
Fair Oaks Income 2017	(9.7)
CIP Merchant Capital	(7.6)
ScotGems	(7.3)
Carador Income USD	(7.2)

Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

After initially rallying in the aftermath of Schroders appointment as its new manager, Woodford Patient Capital, led price losses. It may be that the new manager is attempting to release as much of the 'bad news' it inherited as it can. Latin American strategies had poor months, led by Aberdeen Latin American Income and BlackRock Latin American, as regional political tensions and ongoing trade discontent affected sentiment. It was generally a poor month overall for emerging and frontier market funds, not helped by a strengthening in the dollar. Asia-focused Symphony International led NAV declines while shares in the Cubaspecialist, Ceiba, were pushed down. Carador Income USD, Marble Point Loan Financing and Fair Oaks Income were hit as investors became more nervous of credit ratings downgrades for low quality loans. Marwyn investors were disappointed when it ruled out any return of capital following the takeover of car auction site, BCA Marketplace.



Significant moves in discounts and premiums

More expensive relative to NAV (notable changes)

% discount (-ve	e) or premi	um (+ve)
	29 Nov	31 Oct
	(%)	(%)
SQN Asset Finance Income	(12.3)	(22.4)
Montanaro UK Smaller Companies	(7.9)	(16.2)
UK Mortgages	(9.0)	(16.9)
Henderson Diversified Income	3.2	(4.4)
JPMorgan Smaller Companies	(8.8)	(15.0)

Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

The narrowing in the discounts of Montanaro UK Smaller Companies and JPMorgan Smaller Companies was price led, as the UK seemingly averted the threat of leaving the EU without a deal. UK Mortgages's shares recovered a little after a large block of shares was traded in October. Henderson Diversified Income has been the best performing fund in the debt sector over the past year, with its decision to keep the duration of its portfolio long paying off, given that the US central bank, the Federal Reserve, has been reducing rather than increasing interest rates this year.

Cheaper relative to NAV (notable changes)

	% discount (-ve) or premium (+ve)		
	29 No	ov 31 Oct	
	(°	%) (%)	
Hipgnosis Songs	1	.2 13.8	
Woodford Patient Capital	(47.	.9) (35.5)	
LMS Capital	(31.	.1) (19.5)	
Ceiba Investments	(36.	.3) (24.8)	
Crystal Amber	(20.	.1) (10.9)	

Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

There was leg-up in Hipgnosis Songs's NAV over November following an independent semi-annual valuation of its song portfolio. Growing pressure from investors for more information on the underlying return profile of the portfolio, for what is a relatively new asset class, is thought to be responsible for the lower share premium to NAV valuation. Cuban investment fund, Ceiba remains unloved. LMS Capital has been reviewing its management contract for several months – it recently voted to remove Gresham House as manager and become self-managed. This didn't go down well with all investors.

Money raised and returned in November

Money raised in November

	(£m)
HICL Infrastructure	100.0
Smithson	21.3
Finsbury Growth & Income	18.6
AVI Japan Opportunity	16.8
City of London	14.5

Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co. *Note: based on approximate value of shares at 29/11/19

After £1bn of new money entered the sector in October, November was likely to be much quieter. There were no new issues and net outflows totalled £171.m, skewed by Boussard & Gavaudan EUR. HICL Infrastructure hit its £100m target in a share placing aimed at addressing its net funding requirement, thought to stand at about £90m, and providing additional resources in respect to an existing offshore transmission owner investment. The rest of the 'top five' comprised Smithson, Finsbury Growth & Income, AVI Japan Opportunity and City of London.

Money returned in November

	(£m)
Boussard & Gavaudan EUR	(206.4)
Scottish Mortgage	(58.8)
Edinburgh Investment	(27.2)
CVC Credit Partners Euro Opportunities GBP	(25.0)
Pershing Square	(21.8)

Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co. *Note: based on approximate value of shares at 29/11/19

Boussard & Gavaudan shrank as it enacted its proposals to roll over investors who wanted to into an open-ended fund. Scottish Mortgage bought back nearly £60m worth of shares, following £70m of repurchases over October. Edinburgh Investment features for a fourth successive month – its discount has been narrowing. CVC Credit Partners Euro Opportunities GBP and Bill Ackman's Pershing Square complete the top-five.



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November's major news stories - from our website

Portfolio developments

European Trust reported annual results, which underscore why it recently appointed Baillie Gifford as manager

- JZ Capital reported delayed interim results, which included the warning that it might have to significantly write-down its property portfolio
- Growth capital company, Merian Chrysalis, said it was nearly 70% invested after follow-on investments
- Stock selection was the catalyst behind Aberdeen New India's outperformance over its interim results period
- Fidelity China Special Situations discussed the state-of-play in the country
- We had a portfolio update from NB Distressed Debt
- Montanaro European Smaller Companies continued to perform well despite a lacklustre economic backdrop
- BioPharma Credit announced it had entered into two separate loan agreements to invest US\$52.5m now and up to an additional US\$32.5m over the next twelve months
- Symphony International announced it was making an investment in Smarten Spaces, a Singapore based Softwareas-a-Service company
- Hg Capital's NAV surpassed £1bn over its third quarter
- Scottish Mortgage discussed competitive pressures faced by China's largest bellwether internet companies
- HICL Infrastructure is to sell two of its UK PPP projects for £52m
- Woodford Patient Capital slashed the value of its Industrial Heat holding

Corporate news

- Qannas will leave AIM as part of an agreement to acquire a substantial portfolio of assets
- Sequoia Economic Infrastructure increased its dividend target
- Polar Capital Global Financials is exploring a continuation vehicle as its fixed-life end-date nears
- HICL Infrastructure announced a proposal to raise additional equity capital through the issue of new ordinary shares, with a target size of £100m
- Greencoat Renewables announced it was looking to raise approximately EUR100m through an initial placing to continue to take advantage of an active secondary market for wind assets in Ireland
- JLEN Environmental discussed the scope for further diversification of the trust
- Schroder Income Growth's discount widened through a challenging year that saw the trust underperform its benchmark
- AVI Global's underlying discount widened from 30% to 33% over the year to 30 September 2019. Poor performance from Japanese investments, knock-on from the unrest in Hong Kong and oil and gas exposure was chiefly to blame
- There was a new name for Edinburgh Dragon, now to be known as Asia Dragon Trust

Property news

Managers and fees

Please refer to our dedicated monthly Real Estate Roundup for manager views, performance and news. You can access the latest edition here LMS Capital voted to remove Gresham House as its manager

Visit www.quoteddata.com or more on these and other stories plus in-depth analysis on some funds, the tools to compare similar funds and basic information, key documents and regulatory news announcements on every investment company quoted in London





SCOTTISH MORTGAGE INVESTMENT TRUST

SOME OPPORTUNITIES ARE MORE EXCLUSIVE THAN OTHERS.

A company's ability to exhibit exponential growth lies at the heart of the **Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust**, managed by Baillie Gifford.

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Standardised past performance to 31 December**:

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Scottish Mortgage	21.4%	13.3%	16.5%	41.1%	4.6%
AIC Global Sector Average	8.8%	10.9%	22.6%	24.1%	-4.9%

Past performance is not a guide to future returns. Please remember that changing stock market conditions and currency exchange rates will affect the value of the investment in the fund and any income from it. Investors may not get back the amount invested. The Trust's risk could be increased by its investment in unlisted investments. These assets may be more difficult to buy or sell, so changes in their prices may be greater.

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Long-term investment partners

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Income

Investment companies announcing their full year dividends in November

Fund	Year ended	Dividend (pence)*	Change over year (%)	Revenue / earnings (pence)*	Cover
Aberdeen Latin American Income	31/08/2019	3.5	-	4.3	1.22x
Aberdeen Standard Equity Income	31/09/2019	20.5	+6.8	21.7	1.06x
Asia Dragon	31/08/2019	4.8	+20.0	4.9	1.02x
AVI Global	31/09/2019	16.5	+26.9	19.1	1.16x
Baillie Gifford Japan	31/08/2019	3.5	+337.5	3.5	1.00x
Henderson Far East Income	31/08/2019	22.4	+3.7	23.4	1.04x
Schroder Income Growth	31/08/2019	12.4	+5.1	14.2	1.15
Schroder Oriental Income	31/08/2019	10.1	+4.1	10.6	1.05x
Troy Income & Growth	31/09/2019	2.8	+3.2	2.7	0.96x
Chelverton Growth	31/08/2019	N/Aª	N/Aª	(2.3)	N/Aª
Residential Secure Income	31/09/2019	5.0	+66.7	7.7 b	1.54 b

^{*} Unless otherwise specific

No dividends were declared over the year

b) Basic and diluted earnings per share



Upcoming events

Have you checked out the Events section of our website? Here is a selection of what's coming up.

- ScotGems EGM 2019, 9 December 2019
- Aberdeen Frontier Markets AGM 2019, 10 December 2019
- International Biotechnology AGM 2019, 11 December 2019
- Aberdeen Latin American AGM 2019, 11 December 2019
- AXA Property Trust AGM 2019, 11 December 2019
- Amedeo Air Four AGM 2019, 11 December 2019
- International Biotechnology AGM 2019, 11 December 2019
- Asia Dragon AGM 2019, 12 December 2019
- Chelverton Growth AGM 2019, 12 December 2019
- Schroder Oriental Income AGM 2019, 23 December 2019
- Schroder Income Growth AGM 2019, 17 December 2019
- Scottish Oriental Smaller Companies AGM 2019, 18
 December 2019

- AVI Global AGM 2019, 19 December 2019
- Henderson Far East Income AGM 2020, 23 January 2020
- European / Baillie Gifford European AGM 2020, 23 January 2020
- Aberdeen Standard Equity Income AGM 2020, 23 January 2020
- Keystone AGM 2020, 11 February 2020
- Fidelity Special Values AGM 2019, 12 December 2019
- CQS New City High Yield Fund AGM 2019, 13 December 2019
- Master Investor the UKs largest private investor show, 28 March 2020

Master Investor - the UKs largest private investor show - 28 March 2019



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Publications



The US market has been very highly driven by macroeconomic sentiment this year. Our annual overview note on The North American Income Trust (NAIT) includes commentary from manager Fran Radano, who says that increased market volatility creates opportunities for investors who are able to look through the noise. Over the last five years, NAIT's NAV total return performance has exceeded that of the MSCI USA Value Index and the average of its peer group.

We have initiated coverage on Henderson High Income (HHI). Since its launch in 1989, total returns have been well ahead of the wider UK market; over 14x since launch, compared to 9.4x from the MSCI UK Index. Despite its performance record and high yield, the trust continues to trade at a discount.



Annual overview | Investment companies December 2019 Henderson Diversified Income Trust Soft landing likely... ... but caution is required. The managers of Henderson Diversified Income (HDIV) stuck to their guns in the face of a consensus view of rising interest rates and infation. This stance, and their focus on high-quality credits, has been rewarded in 2019, as central banks around the world have cut interest rates to Lackde a slowing economy and investors fear a global recession. HDIV is the top-performing that in the debt - loans and bonds sector, but perversely, is trading at a smaller premium than some of its competitors. HDIV is the top-performing than has never hard exposure up. The allocation to investional representation of the standard profit was the standard profit wa

Henderson Diversified Income Trust (HDIV) is the top-performing fund in the debt – loans and bonds sector, but perversely, is trading at a smaller premium than some of its competitors. In our recently publish annual overview note, we explore the allocation decisions that have allowed HDIV to outperform its peers.

Our update note on Geiger Counter (GCL) explores the potential for a resurgence in the uranium price, as more nuclear reactors come online (particularly in China and India), while major producers hold off from returning mothballed mines to production.

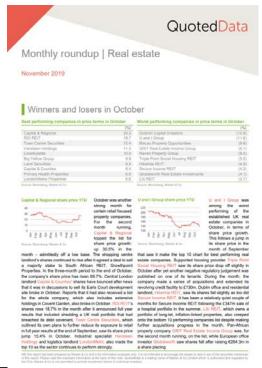






Aberdeen Frontier Markets (AFMC)'s manager has been re-positioning the portfolio by reducing exposure to Sub-Saharan Africa, adding companies in new markets and looking to capture more of the momentum in markets. The trust exhibits a exhibits a low correlation with its benchmark as well as to emerging markets. We explore the potential for performance to turn around.

Our monthly real estate roundup includes performance data, valuation moves, corporate activity and quotes from chairmen and managers.





Our independent guide to quoted investment companies is an invaluable tool for anyone who wants to brush up on their knowledge of the investment companies' sector. Please register on www.quoteddata.com/ if you would like it emailed to you directly.



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