





September 2020

Monthly roundup | Investment companies

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Winners and losers in August

August's median total share price return from investment companies was +2.4% (the average was +3.0%), which compares with 0% last month. Over the year-to-date, median returns are down by (9.7%). It was another excellent month for technology companies, led by the US 'FANGs', and ably supported by companies in Asia-Pacific, where tech-IPO activity has been hotting-up. Debt funds, with their exposure to sectors where performance has been far less robust, were once again amongst the worst performers.

Please refer to the 'appendix' section for a comprehensive list of sector-specific performance. Readers interested in the most recent briefings from the industry can click here to access our economic and political roundup.

Best performing sectors in August by total price return

	Median share price total return (%)	Median NAV total return (%)	Change in median discount (%)	Median discount 31/08/20	Median discount 31/07/20 (%)	Number of companies in the sector	Median sector market cap 31/08/20
Technology & Media	7.7	5.5	3.2	0.6	(2.7)	3	1,022
European Smaller Companies	7.2	6.6	1.8	(12.3)	(14.1)	4	426
UK Smaller Companies	6.7	6.0	(2.1)	(16.3)	(14.2)	24	86
North American Smaller Companies	6.4	3.4	2.6	(10.2)	(12.8)	2	151
Asia Pacific	5.9	5.9	3.2	0.6	(2.7)	8	136

Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co. Note: inclusive of sectors with at least two companies. *Note: many alternative asset sector funds release NAV performance on a quarterly basis

Worst performing sectors in August by total price return

	Median share price total return (%)	Median NAV total return (%)	Change in median discount (%)	Median discount 31/08/20	Median discount 31/07/20 (%)	Number of companies in the sector	Median sector market cap 31/08/20
Insurance & Reinsurance Strategies	(9.2)	(2.0)	1.9	(17.2)	(19.1)	3	42
Latin America	(3.8)	(6.8)	2.6	(11.7)	(14.3)	2	75
Leasing	(2.1)	0.0	0.0	(51.3)	(51.3)	7	72
Debt - Loans & Bonds	(1.4)	0.9	(2.2)	(6.9)	(4.7)	16	129
Japanese Smaller Companies	(0.9)	4.6	(2.6)	(4.7)	(2.1)	5	121

Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co. Note: inclusive of sectors with at least two companies. *Note: many alternative asset sector funds release NAV performance on a quarterly basis



Winners and losers continued...

Best performing funds in NAV terms in Aug **Scottish Mortgage** 15.3 Aurora 13.3 12.9 Artemis Alpha **India Capital Growth** 12.0 **Henderson Opportunities** 11.6 Vietnam Enterprise 10.5 **Henderson Smaller** 10.0 **Baillie Gifford US Growth** 9.8 **Geiger Counter** 9.8 **Baillie Gifford Shin Nippon** 94 Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co. Note: excludes trusts with

market caps below £15m at 31/08/20

	(%)
FastForward Innovations	32.8
Riverstone Energy	31.5
BMO Real Estate	24.1
Dunedin Enterprise	23.2
Alternative Income REIT	22.4
BMO Commercial Property	17.9
India Capital Growth	17.2
Princess Private Equity	15.4
Regional REIT	15.4
Chelverton UK Dividend	15.3

Scottish Mortgage's NAV received a major boost on the news that the Chinese payments company, Ant Group, was planning to IPO at a targeted valuation of up to \$300bn. FastForward Innovations's shares are up over 20% this year, with its investments in medical cannabis a particular bright spot. Shares in BMO Real Estate, Alternative Income REIT, BMO Commercial Property, and Regional REIT were up, as the market saw value in UK property after discounts climbed above (40%) in some cases. Value was also the driver behind Riverstone Energy's monthly market performance. Baillie Gifford US is having a stellar calendar

	(%)
Marwyn Value	(8.5)
JPMorgan Brazil	(7.7)
BlackRock Latin American	(7.1)
Aberdeen Latin American Inc.	(6.4)
Henderson Far East Income	(2.7)
Aberdeen New Thai	(2.1)
Ecofin Global Utilities & Infra	(2.0)
BH Global USD	(2.0)
Symphony International	(2.0)
Marble Point Loan Financing	(2.0)

	(%)
KKV Secured Loan	(25.7)
Schroder Real Estate	(12.7)
Life Settlement Assets A	(12.0)
Blackstone/GSO Loan Financ.	(9.3)
CVC Credit Partners Euro Opps.	(8.6)
BMO Private Equity	(8.2)
Golden Prospect Precious Mtls.	(8.0)
Globalworth Real Estate	(7.8)
Adamas Finance Asia	(7.3)
Schroder European Real Estate	(7.0)

year propelled by e-commerce and tech holdings such as Shopify and Zoom. India Capital Growth was the best performing India fund, as the country drew in monthly foreign fund inflows above \$6bn. This was largely value-driven - India has been severely impacted by the pandemic, with the economic fallout likely to last several years.

Latin America's ongoing struggle with COVID-19 was reflected in the performances of JPMorgan Brazil, BlackRock Latin American, and Aberdeen Latin America Income. Coming a few weeks after it passed a continuation



vote, the equipment leasing and asset finance fund, KKV Secured Loan, announced that it may have to make further write-downs to the portfolio. Close to half of Schroder European Real Estate's portfolio is in offices, where the recovery continues to be slow. US-focused Life Settlement Assets A, which invests in portfolios acquired from special

or distressed" situations, has generally held up well this year with population ageing and favourable public policies driving positive market returns this year. Elsewhere, Marwyn Value's performance is inextricably linked to the car auction company, BCA Marketplace, and Golden Prospect Precious Metals gave back some of its gains.

Moves in discounts and premium

	31 Aug (%)	31 Jul (%)
FastForward Innovations	33.2	0.3
Riverstone Energy	(29.2)	(46.2)
Dunedin Enterprise	(20.8)	(35.7)
BMO Real Estate	(29.6)	(43.3)
Alternative Income REIT	(31.2)	(43.8)

Other than the funds not discussed in the 'winners and losers section', the greatest discount narrowing came from Dunedin Enterprise. The private equity sector fund reported flat NAV growth over the three months to June 30. Like many of its sector peers, the company's discount had widened considerably.

	31 Aug (%)	31 Jul (%)
KKV Secured Loan ordinary	(68.7)	(57.9)
Life Settlement Assets A	(16.6)	(7.1)
CVC Credit Partners Euro Opps.	(11.3)	(2.0)
VietNam Holding	(20.2)	(11.0)
AVI Japan Opportunity	0.9	8.8

Investors may be concerned about credit quality within KKV Secured Loan's portfolio. The presence of VietNam Holding and AVI Japan Opportunity reflects an increase in COVID-19 cases in two countries that had hitherto largely insulated themselves.

Money raised and returned

	£m
Smithson	35
Worldwide Healthcare	25
Personal Assets	18
Allianz Technology	18
Edinburgh Worldwide	16

August is typically a very quiet month for fundraising with this year being no different. Funds are attempting to launch so we could see some successful IPOs over the coming months. In the meantime, fundraising was led by Smithson, Worldwide Healthcare, Personal Assets, Allianz Technology, and Edinburgh Worldwide.

	£m
Scottish Mortgage	(64)
Pershing Square	(26)
Witan	(19)
JPMorgan American	(8)
Templeton Emerging Markets	(7)

Scottish Mortgage and Pershing Square continued to demonstrate their commitment to buybacks. Elsewhere, we also had share repurchase activity from Witan, JPMorgan American, and Templeton Emerging Markets.



Major news stories over August

Portfolio developments

- Medical cannabis was a bright spot in FastForward Innovations's results
- International Public Partnerships updated on the COVID-19 impact on Tideway project
- Hipgnosis announced deals with Robert 'RZA' Diggs, No I.D, Blondie's co-founders, and Barry Manilow
- Bluefield Solar bought a portfolio of 15 ground-mounted solar PV plants for an initial £106.6m
- Axiom European Financial Debt expressed caution towards the banking sector
- BMO Private Equity said that its initial projections may prove pessimistic
- Hg added to its Visma investment, valuing it as the largest ever software buyout globally
- Aberdeen New India benefitted from the defensiveness of its portfolio
- Murray International's interim results reflected the challenges faced by global equity income funds
- VinaCapital Vietnam Opportunity announced an investment in the Thu Cuc International General Hospital
- SDCL Energy Efficiency bought an EV charging portfolio
- HgCapital Trust's manager became the majority shareholder in Evaluate
- Allianz Technology has benefitted profoundly from its remote working investments

Corporate news

- We discussed Triple Point Energy Efficiency, a potential new issue
- Witan Pacific released a circular ahead of a proposed change of name to Baillie Gifford China Growth Trust
- Pershing Square announced a \$200m bond issuance
- Secured Income published wind-down proposals

Property news

- NewRiver REIT announced improved rent collection figures
- Phoenix Spree has been bucking the COVID trend
- Starwood European Real Estate Finance announced a buyback programme
- Civitas confirmed that a cash raise was likely, with its portfolio ontrack

Managers and fees

 Pollen Street announced an interim advisory agreement with Waterfall Asset Management

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Income reporting

Investment companies announcing their full-year dividends in August

Fund	Year ended	Dividend (pence)*	Change over year (%)	Revenue/earnings (pence)*	Cover
BMO Managed Portfolio	31 May 2020	6.1	+1.7	6.6	1.08x
Henderson Alternative Strategies	31 March 2020	5.5	(26.7)	4.2	0.76x

[·] GBP pence per share unless otherwise specified

Upcoming events

Here is a selection of what is coming up. Please refer to the Events section of our website for updates between now and when they are scheduled:

- Dunedin Income Growth Investment Trust Conference call, 8
 September 2020
- What does the future hold for BMO Commercial Property Trust? 9
 September 2020
- Atlantis Japan AGM 2020, 10 September 2020
- Murray International Trust Conference call, 10 September 2020
- Hipgnosis Songs Fund online Capital Markets Day, 11 September 2020
- The big picture series Jupiter Asset Management, 15 September 2020

- Murray International Trust Conference call, 10 September 2020
- UK Investor Show, 26 September 2020
- Growth Strategies Conference, 14 October 2020
- The London Investor Show, 30 October 2020
- Sustainable & Social Investing Conference, 3 December 2020

Master Investor – the UK's largest private investor show – 5 December 2020





BY MARTEN & CO



SCOTTISH MORTGAGE INVESTMENT TRUST

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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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Research notes published over August



Following on from an exceptional year of performance for the ordinary shareholders of Premier Global Infrastructure Trust (PGIT) in 2019, the trust had a good start in 2020. Whilst it suffered heavily in the pandemic-related market crash, it has bounced back strongly (in both cases the moves were amplified by the gearing effect of PGIT's split capital structure).



In common with other Asian-focused trusts, Aberdeen New Dawn (ABD) has recovered the ground it lost in the early stages of the COVID-19-related market fall and moved into positive territory for 2020. Some of the strongest returns of the past few months have come from stocks within an open-ended fund managed by Aberdeen Standard invested in China A-shares (shares listed on China's domestic stock markets in Shanghai and Shenzhen).





The COVID-19 pandemic has heavily impacted global uranium production, taking around 20% of global capacity offline. The net effect has been a rising uranium price (up 32% so far in 2020) and the managers of Geiger Counter (GCL) believe there is still much to go, as we explore in our annual overview note.



Seneca Global Income & Growth Trust's (SIGT's) UK-biased value style and mid-cap exposure suffered heavily during the first quarter of 2020 as markets collapsed. However, the manager used the rout to take advantage of deep value opportunities and SIGT has benefitted as markets have rebounded.





Guide

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.





Appendix 1 – median performance by sector

	Share price	NAV total	Share price	NAV total	Change in	Discount	Discount	Market cap
	total return YTD*	return YTD*	total return August (%)	return August	discount	31/08/20	31/07/20	31/08/20
	(%)	(%)		(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(£m)
Technology & Media	37.1	39.1	7.7	5.5	3.2	0.6	(2.7)	1,022
Global Smaller Companies	11.6	15.9	1.1	4.2	(1.9)	(9.0)	(7.1)	956
Growth Capital	11.3	4.4	3.2	0.0	8.0	(17.0)	(25.0)	367
Biotechnology & Healthcare	10.0	11.2	(0.2)	0.0	(1.1)	(0.4)	0.6	492
Hedge Funds	9.2	13.9	0.9	(0.3)	4.4	(22.7)	(27.0)	66
Infrastructure Securities	7.3	0.8	2.8	(1.5)	3.5	(1.4)	(4.9)	91
Commodities & Natural Resources	6.1	0.8	0.5	0.0	(2.5)	(12.2)	(9.7)	49
Asia Pacific	3.9	4.9	5.7	3.4	2.6	(9.4)	(12.0)	345
European Smaller Companies	3.1	7.3	7.2	6.6	1.8	(12.3)	(14.1)	426
Renewable Energy Infrastructure	1.6	0.7	0.4	0.0	(1.9)	15.8	17.7	489
Environmental	1.3	4.0	5.3	5.0	7.2	(4.8)	(12.0)	68
Infrastructure	1.0	1.9	2.0	0.0	2.1	13.1	11.0	1,799
Liquidity Funds	(0.1)	1.0	0.2	0.3	0.1	(2.2)	(2.3)	4
Japanese Smaller Companies	(0.3)	4.9	(0.9)	4.6	(2.6)	(4.7)	(2.1)	121
Europe	(0.4)	2.0	3.2	3.4	(0.8)	(10.2)	(9.4)	325
Insurance & Reinsurance Strategies	(1.1)	(4.4)	(9.2)	(2.0)	1.9	(17.2)	(19.1)	42
Japan	(1.7)	2.3	3.6	5.4	(1.5)	(10.1)	(8.6)	223
Property - UK Healthcare	(2.7)	4.8	(0.4)	1.5	(0.4)	(1.7)	(1.4)	408
Country Specialist: Asia Pacific ex Japan	(3.8)	(6.5)	5.2	6.2	(2.3)	(13.3)	(11.0)	247
Property - Europe	(4.9)	7.9	(0.5)	0.0	0.5	(19.0)	(19.5)	259
Global	(6.7)	1.4	3.3	4.3	(1.0)	(6.1)	(5.1)	439
Property - UK Residential	(7.1)	3.6	2.0	0.9	3.7	(14.2)	(17.9)	381
MEDIAN	(7.5)	(0.1)	2.0	1.0	0.0	(10.3)	(10.8)	195
Asia Pacific Income	(7.9)	(3.2)	4.2	2.2	2.8	(1.4)	(4.2)	415
Debt - Loans & Bonds	(9.4)	(0.7)	(1.4)	0.9	(2.2)	(6.9)	(4.7)	129
Debt - Structured Finance	(9.6)	(0.3)	(0.0)	0.5	(3.0)	(13.6)	(10.7)	168
Global Emerging Markets	(9.9)	(3.4)	2.7	1.2	0.6	(10.3)	(10.9)	242
Flexible Investment	(10.2)	(5.3)	0.9	0.8	(0.2)	(9.4)	(9.2)	109



	Share price total return YTD* (%)	NAV total return YTD* (%)	Share price total return August (%)	NAV total return August (%)	Change in discount (%)	Discount 31/08/20 (%)	Discount 31/07/20 (%)	Market cap 31/08/20 (£m)
Debt - Direct Lending	(11.0)	2.9	0.9	0.0	3.2	0.6	(2.7)	121
Global Equity Income	(11.4)	(5.3)	1.9	1.6	(1.4)	(2.3)	(0.9)	391
North America	(11.6)	(10.9)	2.7	3.6	(0.5)	(5.5)	(5.0)	222
Private Equity	(13.0)	(3.5)	5.6	0.0	4.8	(23.9)	(28.7)	167
North American Smaller Companies	(13.3)	(6.1)	6.4	3.4	2.6	(10.2)	(12.8)	151
Asia Pacific Smaller Companies	(13.9)	(8.1)	2.6	3.8	(1.9)	(13.3)	(11.4)	254
Property - Debt	(16.5)	0.0	0.0	0.0	(0.1)	(17.4)	(17.3)	93
UK Smaller Companies	(21.2)	(11.0)	6.7	6.0	(2.1)	(16.3)	(14.2)	86
UK Equity Income	(22.6)	(18.8)	2.9	2.9	(1.4)	(7.7)	(6.4)	246
Property - UK Commercial	(23.2)	(3.3)	1.0	0.0	5.1	(29.6)	(34.7)	330
Financials	(25.1)	(10.8)	0.5	0.8	(0.3)	(25.2)	(24.9)	102
UK All Companies	(25.1)	(19.3)	5.3	5.0	(1.7)	(11.1)	(9.4)	162
Property - Rest of World	(27.3)	(0.5)	0.8	0.0	0.3	(55.3)	(55.6)	44
Unclassified	(28.8)	(29.0)	5.9	5.9	3.2	0.6	(2.7)	136
Latin America	(31.2)	(31.8)	(3.8)	(6.8)	2.6	(11.7)	(14.3)	75
UK Equity & Bond Income	(31.5)	(24.7)	2.2	1.3	0.2	(13.7)	(14.0)	106
Leasing	(50.3)	(16.7)	(2.1)	0.0	0.0	(51.3)	(51.3)	72

Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co





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