





January 2021

Monthly roundup | Investment companies

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Winners and losers in December

December's median total share price return from investment companies was 4.4% (the average was 5.1%), which compares with 9.2% last month. Over 2020, median returns increased by 2.7%, to complete a remarkable turnaround, having shed (23.5%) over the first quarter of 2020.

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 December by total price return

	Median share price total return (%)	Median NAV total return (%)	Median discount 31/12/20 (%)	Median sector market cap 31/12/20 (£m)	Number of companies in the sector
Global Smaller Companies	15.1	5.7	(1.8)	1,369.6	5
Commodities & Natural Resources	12.6	1.5	(2.2)	78.8	9
Growth Capital	12.2	0.0	(9.1)	386.7	4
Latin America	9.7	8.0	(7.4)	97.3	2
Country Special: Asia Pac. ex Jap.	9.4	5.6	(7.8)	293.9	14

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 December by total price return

	Median share price total return (%)	Median NAV total return (%)	Median discount 31/12/20 (%)	Median sector market cap 31/12/20 (£m)	Number of companies in the sector
Property - Rest of World	(1.2)	(1.2)	(48.7)	44.7	4
Property - Debt	(0.5)	0.8	(7.7)	104.9	4
Debt - Structured Finance	0.0	(0.1)	(18.7)	153.2	7
Insurance & Reinsurance Strategies	0.3	(2.3)	(15.2)	27.8	3
Renewable Energy Infrastructure	0.6	0.0	12.8	560.3	13

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 Dec **Geiger Counter** 50.5 **Miton UK Microcap** 19.4 **Henderson Opportunities** 15.5 **CQS Natural Resources Growth & Inc.** 15.3 **Weiss Korea Opportunity** 13.7 **Premier Miton Global Renewables** 12.5 **BlackRock Smaller Companies** 10.6 10.6 **BlackRock World Mining Edinburgh Worldwide** 10.4 10.0 JPMorgan China Growth & Income Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co. Note: excludes trusts with market caps below £15m at 31/12/20

	(%)
Geiger Counter	58.3
Chrysalis Investments*	22.9
Keystone	20.3
Schroder UK Public Private	19.7
CQS Natural Resources G&I	19.2
Henderson Opportunities	19.1
Electra Private Equity	18.6
Herald	18.0
JPMorgan Smaller Companies	17.9
River and Mercantile UK Micro Cap	17.5

Geiger Counter benefitted from a strong bounce in uranium prices over December while CQS Natural Resources Growth and Income and BlackRock World Mining's presence reflected the wider bounce in energy markets, where positive vaccine developments and a period of relative weakness in the dollar were catalysts. It was a good month for several UK smaller companies-focused trusts, particularly those focused on the smallest companies, led by Miton UK Microcap, JPMorgan Smaller Companies, BlackRock Smaller Companies, River and Mercantile UK Micro Cap.

NB Distress. Debt New Glb	(3.6)
BioPharma Credit	(2.3)
RTW Venture	(2.3)
Fair Oaks Income 2017	(2.3)
US Solar	(2.3)
Tufton Oceanic	(2.3)
Symphony International	(2.3)
Marble Point Loan Financing	(2.3)
JPEL Private Equity	(2.3)
Riverstone Credit Opps. Inc.	(2.3)

KKV Secured Loan	(13.8)
JPEL Private Equity	(10.3)
Alternative Income REIT	(7.0)
Marwyn Value	(6.1)
JZ Capital	(5.3)
Gulf Investment	(4.8)
Riverstone Credit Opport. Income	(4.4)
LMS Capital	(4.2)
NB Distressed Debt New Glb	(4.1)
Augmentum Fintech	(4.1)

Similarly, the growth capital sector proved popular, benefitting Chrysalis Investments (formerly Merian Chrysalis) and Schroder UK Public Private. Elsewhere, Herald, with its stable of small-cap largely tech-focused holdings based in the UK and US, also had a good month.

The decline in Augmentum Fintech's shares represented a minor blip in an otherwise exceptional year for the financial sector disrupter-investing fund. Its shares increased by 30.8% over the calendar year.



It was a tough year for KKV Secured Loan, with its shares falling since late September after the board announced its intention to put forward proposals for a managed winddown. JPEL Private Equity was the second-worst

performer in price terms, though we note that it has started the year well. This has been led by its holding in the US financial guarantee insurance businesses company, MBIA

Moves in discounts and premium

	31 Dec (%)	30 Nov (%)
Chrysalis Investments	16.8	(5.0)
RTW Venture	16.8	2.5
Electra Private Equity	(20.5)	(32.9)
Keystone	(2.4)	(14.8)
Schroder UK Public Private	(29.3)	(40.9)

Chrysalis Investments was the best performer in the growth capital sector, with total NAV and market returns for the calendar of 41.9% and 52.8% more than twice that of Schiehallion. Electra Private Equity has had a proposed wind-down approved and is hoping to complete the sales of its TGI Fridays and Hotter Shoes assets by the year-end. The life sciences fund RTW Venture's rating change was price-led, with the speed at which COVID vaccines have been developed shining new light on how quickly medicine

	31 Dec (%)	30 Nov (%)
KKV Secured Loan	(51.5)	(43.8)
Impax Environmental	2.7	9.8
Miton UK Microcap	(13.2)	(6.2)
BlackRock Income and Growth	(9.9)	(3.5)
JPEL Private Equity	(30.1)	(23.9)

can be developed, as well as the myriad of opportunities in areas such as gene-based medicine.

KKV Secured Loan's discount widening was discussed above. Elsewhere, Impax Environmental's premium reduced after the price action did not keep up with the NAV increase over December. The fund is growing though and is amongst the best-placed to access the green energy theme.

Money raised and returned

	£m
Greencoat Renewables	€125
Smithson*	77.5
Edinburgh Worldwide*	32.2
Monks*	26.9
Worldwide Healthcare*	26.6

Greencoat Renewables raised €125m in an oversubscribed placing. Elsewhere, fundraising was led by Smithson, Edinburgh Worldwide, Monks, and Worldwide Healthcare.

	£m
Gulf Investment*	(39.8)
JPEL Private Equity*	(38.3)
Scottish Mortgage*	(28.0)
Oakley Capital*	(19.9)
Witan*	(17.0)

Gulf Investment tendered 44% of its issued share capital while JPEL Private Equity completed a mandatory redemption. Other notable returners of capital were Scottish Mortgage, Oakley Capital, and Witan.



Major news stories and QuotedData views over December

Portfolio developments

- US Solar announced it was set to acquire a 50% interest in 200MWDC operating solar plant
- Scottish Investment Trust notched up its 37th year of dividend increase
- River & Mercantile UK Microcap benefitted from UK small-cap outperformance
- Polar Cap Global Healthcare was caught out by COVID
- Hg invested in Benevity
- JPMorgan China had an exceptional year

Property news

- The impact of COVID on the West End was laid bare in Shaftesbury's results
- CEIBA is looking forward with confidence
- Irish Residential Properties REIT acquired 146 units at The Phoenix Park
- CLS Holdings acquired offices in Berlin and Watford for £55.9m
- Aberdeen Standard European Logistics was recognised for environmental improvements
- Land Securities buys bought development opportunity for £87m
- The IPSX listing was postponed
- Tritax EuroBox refines its acquisition strategy

Corporate news

- Marwyn launched three new investment vehicles
- Renewables Infrastructure secured ESG linked debt funding
- Gravis Capital tied up with Orix Corporation
- Shareholders in Gabelli Value rejected continuation resolutions (again)
- Aberdeen Standard Investments acquired a 60% stake in Tritax Management
- Golden Prospect's subscription shares were exercised
- Round Hill Music announced a placing to help close on the balance of its pipeline investments

Managers and fees

- Schroder AsiaPacific secured a fee cut
- Jupiter US Smaller Companies appointed Brown Advisory as its investment manager
- Boussard & Gauvadan's manager opposed a potential tender

QuotedData views

- Is a European logistics powerhouse on the cards? 11 December
- UK clear-out heralds better times 11 December

- Good governance might start with you 4 December
- What next for Debenhams, Arcadia landlords? 4 December

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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:

- Majedie Investments manager presentation 13 January 2021
- JPMorgan Japanese Investment Trust Investor Webinar 14 January 2021
- Aberdeen Standard Brexit Discussion Panel Webinar 13 January 2021
- BMO UK High Income Trust Webinar 19 January 2021
- Majedie Investment Trust AGM 2021, 20 January 2021
- Edinburgh Worldwide AGM 2021, 20 January 2021
- Baring Emerging EMEA Opportunities AGM 2021, 21 January 2021
- Polar Capital Global Healthcare AGM 2021, 26 January 2021
- Lowland AGM 2021, 27 January 2021
- JPMorgan China AGM 2021, 1 February 2021

- JPMorgan Indian AGM 2021 2 February 2021
- QuotedData's Round the World Webinar series 3 February 2021
- Aberdeen Standard Equity Income AGM 2021, 5 February 2021
- BMO Capital and Income AGM 2021, 16 February 2021
- Aberdeen Diversified Income & Growth AGM 2021, 23 February 2021
- Ecofin Global Utilities and Infrastructure AGM 2021, 9 March 2021
- The London Investor Show, 23 April 2021
- Sustainable & Social Investing Conference, 21 May 2021

QuotedData's Round the World Webinar series – 3 February 2021



Interviews

Have you been listening to our weekly news round-up shows? Every Friday at 11 am (but currently on a winter break), we run through the more interesting bits of the week's news and we usually have a special guest or two answering questions about a particular investment company.

Friday	The news show	Special Guest	Topic
6 November	RSE, LBOW, SONG, VIN	Michael Bonte-Friedheim	NextEnergy Solar
13 November	RHM, VGEO, SHED, RDI	Roger Clarke	IPSX Group
20 November	THRG, MTE, UKML	Fran Radano	North American Income Trust
27 November	SBO, NAVF, CCJI	Nicholas Weindling	JPMorgan Japanese
4 December	PCFT, IVI, GPM	Denis Jackson & James Henderson	Law Debenture
11 December	KIT, JUS and RTW	Steve Cook	Sequoia Economic Infrastructure



And here is what is coming up:

Friday	Special Guest	Topic
8 January	Andrew McHattie	Review of 2020
15 January	James Robson	RM Secured Lending
22 January	Ken Wotton	Strategic Equity Capital
29 January	Philip Kent	GCP Infrastructure



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Baillie Gifford's track record as long-term, supportive shareholders makes us attractive to a new breed of capital-light businesses. And our committed approach means we can enjoy a better quality of dalogue with management teams at transformational organisations such as Alibaba, Dropbox and Airbhb. So it is a case of who you know as well as what you know. Over the last five years the Scottish Mortgage Investment Trute has delivered a total return of 136.5% compared to 74.9% for the sector*.

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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Ongoing charges as at 31.03.18. "Source: Morningstar, share price, total return as at 31.12.18. Your call may be recorded for training or monitoring purposes. Issued and approved by Balilie Gifford & Co Limited, whose registered address is at Calton Square, 1 Greenside Row, Edinburgh, EH1 3AN, United Kingdom. Baillie Gifford & Co Limited is the authorised Alternative Investment Fund Manager and Company Secretary of the Company. Ballilie Gifford & Co Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). The investment trusts managed by Baillie Gifford & Co Limited are listed UK companies and are not authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

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Please remember, the value of shares and the income from them can go down as well as up and you may get back less than the amount invested. No recommendation is made, positive or otherwise, regarding the ISA and Share Plan.





Please quote 2296



Research notes published recently





Last year, as COVID-19-related panic took hold of markets, Henderson Diversified Income's (HDIV's) managers increased HDIV's exposure to the market by borrowing money to invest and increasing the trust's holdings of credit derivatives. HDIV's focus on high-quality companies with sustainable business models may have held it back relative to its peers in the very short term. However, as 2021 progresses, we anticipate that reality will set in, while HDIV will continue to build upon its long-term record of outperformance.



The COVID-19 pandemic has only served to reinforce the strong characteristics of the European logistics sector, where a surge in online retailing has resulted in huge demand for space from ecommerce operators. An acceleration in the online retailing trend, as well as a strengthening of supply chains following the shock at the start of the year caused by the closure of borders in Asia as government's tried to tackle the spread of the virus, is predicted to result in strong rental growth in 2021.







Falling power price forecasts (the product of a range of factors, including lower gas prices and reduced demand, as we explain on page 10) have weighed on GCP Infrastructure's (GCP) NAV in recent quarters. However, the good news on vaccines should provide some relief. We explained the rationale for GCP's rebased 7p annual dividend in our last note, which can be accessed by clicking the link on page 29. We would note that, even after the dividend cut, GCP trades on the highest yield in its sector (by some distance) and the investment adviser has a pipeline of opportunities lined up that it thinks will allow GCP to maintain and possibly grow the dividend in the future.



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 total return YTD* (%)	NAV total return YTD* (%)	Share price total return December (%)	NAV total return December (%)	Discount 31/12/20 (%)	Discount 30/11/20 (%)	Change in discount (%)	Market cap 31/12/20 (£m)
Technology & Media	36.4	48.4	10.8	10.1	0.3	(0.3)	0.6	1,151.8
Japanese Smaller Companies	25.8	27.3	5.7	6.8	(4.1)	(4.3)	0.2	127.5
European Smaller Companies	23.7	22.3	15.6	14.4	(10.2)	(10.2)	(0.0)	494.1
Global Smaller Companies	22.7	24.3	11.4	7.2	(5.6)	(7.5)	1.9	1,162.1
Environmental	22.5	15.2	12.6	8.8	2.5	(2.7)	5.2	75.2
Hedge Funds	22.4	16.5	2.9	2.2	(17.5)	(22.3)	4.8	57.7
Asia Pacific	20.2	18.7	7.7	7.0	(7.9)	(9.3)	1.3	465.8
Japan	19.8	21.3	10.8	9.7	(5.8)	(9.6)	3.8	263.3
Biotechnology & Healthcare	19.5	16.4	4.7	4.8	0.4	0.2	0.3	595.0
Infrastructure Securities	18.8	14.4	13.4	10.7	(3.3)	(5.5)	2.1	99.6
Country Specialist: Asia Pacific ex Japan	14.4	15.4	8.3	6.7	(10.6)	(13.6)	2.9	267.9
Royalties	14.1	22.2	3.7	1.0	(3.3)	(6.7)	3.4	956.7
Commodities & Natural Resources	12.9	7.7	10.8	0.0	(7.9)	(11.5)	3.6	69.6
Growth Capital	9.2	9.8	0.7	0.0	(16.1)	(18.0)	1.9	358.5
Global	6.6	9.7	9.8	8.7	(3.6)	(3.8)	0.2	507.8
Europe	6.5	8.4	13.8	12.3	(7.5)	(9.0)	1.5	360.2
Infrastructure	5.3	4.7	1.4	0.0	14.3	13.7	0.5	1,760.0
Property - UK Healthcare	3.8	6.4	7.9	1.5	4.1	(3.6)	7.7	418.4
Global Emerging Markets	3.3	5.3	8.0	6.9	(8.6)	(10.0)	1.4	283.2
Financials	2.7	0.9	16.0	7.8	(8.1)	(14.6)	6.5	228.6
Renewable Energy Infrastructure	2.2	4.2	0.2	0.0	11.2	11.7	(0.5)	568.2
North American Smaller Companies	2.1	5.4	16.5	11.4	(5.8)	(10.0)	4.2	179.2
Asia Pacific Income	1.6	8.3	10.8	8.5	(0.8)	(3.6)	2.8	447.5
MEDIAN	0.1	5.0	8.3	6.9	(7.9)	(9.6)	1.7	252.8
Liquidity Funds	0.1	0.9	0.2	0.1	(2.1)	(2.3)	0.2	5.3
Asia Pacific Smaller Companies	(0.5)	5.4	9.9	10.3	(13.4)	(14.4)	1.0	290.9
North America	(1.8)	(1.4)	12.5	12.0	(5.6)	(6.8)	1.2	235.1
Flexible Investment	(2.8)	(2.8)	6.9	4.5	(10.5)	(8.8)	(1.7)	87.9



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	Share price total return YTD*	NAV total return YTD*	Share price total return December	NAV total return December	Discount 31/12/20	Discount 30/11/20	Change in discount	Market cap 31/12/20
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(£m
Global Equity Income	(3.3)	(0.7)	13.2	11.0	(1.0)	(2.4)	1.4	291.0
Property - Europe	(3.4)	10.7	2.6	0.0	(19.6)	(26.7)	7.1	260.4
Debt - Structured Finance	(4.0)	3.0	5.6	0.6	(16.3)	(22.2)	5.8	154.4
Insurance & Reinsurance Strategies	(5.1)	(4.3)	(3.1)	(3.1)	(17.4)	(17.4)	0.0	27.8
Debt - Direct Lending	(5.2)	5.4	0.8	0.0	(16.5)	(18.1)	1.6	149.9
Private Equity	(6.1)	1.9	9.9	0.0	(23.0)	(28.1)	5.1	221.8
Debt - Loans & Bonds	(6.8)	3.7	3.0	3.7	(5.7)	(4.0)	(1.7)	136.
UK Smaller Companies	(10.8)	(4.7)	12.0	9.5	(9.8)	(14.0)	4.1	109.
UK All Companies	(11.9)	(10.3)	15.6	13.8	(5.9)	(8.6)	2.7	189.
Property - UK Residential	(12.0)	5.0	1.3	1.1	(15.7)	(21.0)	5.3	398.
Country Specialist: Europe ex UK	(14.0)	(11.8)	10.1	11.8	(12.4)	(11.1)	(1.2)	259.
UK Equity Income	(14.6)	(13.5)	16.6	14.2	(2.2)	(5.9)	3.7	252.
Property - Debt	(14.8)	1.3	6.4	0.0	(6.6)	(16.5)	9.9	108.0
Latin America	(18.1)	(21.7)	18.8	17.4	(8.9)	(9.5)	0.6	87.9
Property Securities	(18.3)	(7.0)	11.5	12.3	(9.1)	(8.6)	(0.5)	1,233.
UK Equity & Bond Income	(19.0)	(16.0)	19.8	16.4	(7.9)	(10.9)	3.0	118.
Property - UK Commercial	(20.5)	(3.5)	5.6	0.0	(21.7)	(32.7)	11.0	328.
Property - Rest of World	(28.3)	(7.8)	(0.4)	0.0	(48.2)	(46.5)	(1.7)	45.8
Leasing	(31.5)	(29.7)	8.2	0.0	(43.8)	(51.4)	7.6	99.4
Global High Income	(33.7)	(26.5)	0.0	7.3	(28.4)	(23.2)	(5.2)	10.0

Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co





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