

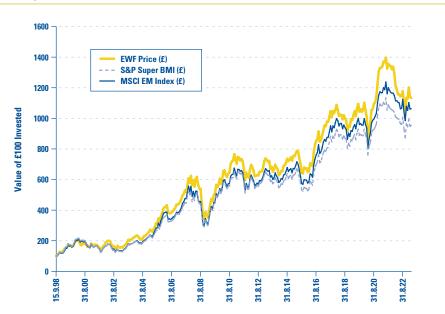
# The Emerging World Fund (Retail)

March 2023 Month-End Report

## **Summary**

During March, the share price of The Emerging World Fund (EWF) fell 0.84%, net of fees, compared to a 0.36% rise in its benchmark index, the sterling-adjusted S&P Emerging Frontier Super Composite Net Total Return Broad Market Index (S&P Super BMI). Additionally, and for comparative purposes only, the sterling-adjusted MSCI Emerging Markets Net Total Return Index (MSCI EM Index) rose 0.88% over the month. Since its inception in September 1998, the Fund has outperformed its benchmark index on an annualised basis by 0.28 of a percentage point and outperformed the MSCI EM Index on an annualised basis by 0.76 of a percentage point, net of fees.

# EWF Performance\* Compared to the S&P Super BMI\*\* and MSCI EM Index (£) Since Inception (Rebased from inception, where 15th September 1998 = 100)



- \* Historical net of fees performance is based on an investment management fee of 1.5% per annum; as of 7 February 2022, the investment management fee is 1.45%. Returns are quoted in GBP for the convenience of shareholders, however the base currency of the Fund is USD.
- \*\*The benchmark was changed from the S&P Emerging BMI Plus on January 1, 2009 to better reflect the investment strategy of the Fund. The S&P Emerging BMI Plus was the successor index to the S&P/IFC Global Composite Index, the benchmark for the Fund prior to September 1, 2008, which has been discontinued. Benchmark changes have not been applied retroactively and therefore historical benchmark performance is a blend of the BMI and IFC indices. The MSCI Emerging Markets Net Total Return Index (MSCI EM Index) is shown for comparative purposes. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Source: BNY Mellon, S&P, MSCI

## Portfolio Data

Fund Size	£112.60m
Number of Shares in Issue	1,511,969.357
Number of Portfolio Holdings	46
Size Weighted Portfolio Discount of closed-end funds	18.47%*
Size Weighted Average Life of Portfolio	1.86 years**
Excluding 49.23% of the portfolio with unlimited life.	

- \* Size Weighted Portfolio Discount represents the see-through discount of the underlying closed-end funds. It is calculated by multiplying the percentage position sizes of the underlying closed-end funds by their respective discounts. These calculations are then added together to determine the size weighted portfolio discount for the portfolio. The size weighted portfolio discount is a measure of value within the portfolio, with a higher value representing wider discounts, and accordingly more value within the portfolio.
- \*\*Some of the closed-end funds have either fixed maturities or continuation votes that allow shareholders to vote on a restructuring of the underlying closed-end fund. The size weighted portfolio life is calculated by taking the percentage position sizes of the relevant holdings on the portfolio and multiplying them by their respective time periods remaining to the corporate event. These calculations are then added together to determine the minimum size weighted portfolio life for the portfolio. A lower size weighted portfolio life is beneficial for the portfolio as it may equate to potentially more corporate activity in the near term.

Source: CLIM, BNY Mellon

#### Performance Figures (£)

	EWF*	S&P Super BMI	MSCI EM Index	
1 Month	-0.84%	+0.36%	+0.88%	
3 Months	+0.31%	+1.13%	+1.14%	
6 Months	+2.95%	+2.22%	+2.96%	
12 Months	-4.78%	-4.66%	-4.91%	
Since Inception	+1031.62%	+963.00%	+854.50%	
Inception (Annualised)	+10.39%	+10.11%	+9.63%	

\* Historical net of fees performance is based on an investment management fee of 1.5% per annum; as of 7 February 2022, the investment management fee is 1.45%. Returns are quoted in GBP for the convenience of shareholders, however the base currency of the Fund is USD.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

## Volatility\*

	EWF Price	S&P Super BMI	MSCI EM Index
12 Months	+18.20%	+16.91%	+18.59%
Inception	+18.65%	+18.94%	+19.81%

<sup>\*</sup>Annualised standard deviation of monthly returns over the period (£).

#### Price

Price	US\$83.36
	£67.42
	EURO 76.73
Exchange Rate	£1 = US\$1.23645
	EURO 1 = US\$1.08645
Yield	NIL

Source: CLIM, BNY Mellon, S&P, MSCI

# **Investment Commentary**

#### Economic Overview\* (Macroeconomics)

Emerging market (EM) equities rebounded in March, partially offsetting the prior month's losses. The gain in equities came despite the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank and the acquisition of Credit Suisse by UBS in the first half of the month, which raised concerns about the health of the global financial system. Such fears were allayed by the end of March as policymakers provided support and assurances that the banking sector was safe. Despite a brief resurgence following policymaker support, bond yields ended the month lower. The US 2-year and 10-year Treasury yields fell by 80 bps and 45 bps, respectively. The US Dollar (DXY Index) fell by 2.3% in March, reversing the boost from safe-haven demand at the start of the month. EM equities (as measured by the MSCI EM Net TR Index) rose by 3% in US dollar terms in March, underperforming developed market (DM) equities (as measured by the MSCI World Net TR Index) by 0.1 percentage points.

The strongest EM in March was Saudi Arabia, with the MSCI Saudi Arabia Index gaining 5.7% in US dollar terms. The Saudi National Bank (SNB), which accounts for 10.4% of the MSCI Saudi Arabia Index, was embroiled in banking sector strains given its 9.9% stake in Credit Suisse. A market statement from SNB following the UBS acquisition stated that its investment in Credit Suisse made up less than 0.5% of its assets, providing some calm to Saudi stocks. On the geopolitical front, Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed to restore diplomatic ties. Elsewhere in the region, the MSCI indices for Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE fell by 0.9%, 3% and 5.2% in US dollar terms, respectively, as the price of Brent crude oil dropped by 4.9% over the same period.

The Turkish stock market continued to give back the past year's gains following a brief pause in February. The MSCI Turkey Index shed 6.7% in US dollar terms, making it the worst-performing EM in March, as the Turkish lira depreciated by 1.6%. The central bank kept rates on hold, citing the recent earthquake and the associated recovery as a reason to maintain its loose monetary stance. Opinion polls for the general election scheduled for the 14 of May point to a tight contest. Closely behind Turkey were Egypt and Greece, with their MSCI indices falling by 6% and 5.5% in US dollar terms, respectively.

The MSCI China Index rose by 4.5% in US dollar terms in March as sentiment towards internet platform companies improved following

the announcement that Alibaba would split into six entities. In addition, Tencent Holdings was upbeat when discussing fintech during its Q4 earnings report. These latest developments were perceived to be a sign that the country's regulatory crackdown could be coming to an end. Elsewhere, the MSCI indices for South Korea and Taiwan gained 4.8% and 3% in US dollar terms, respectively, which meant that EM Asia was the best performing region in March, outperforming the broad EM Index by 0.6 percentage points.

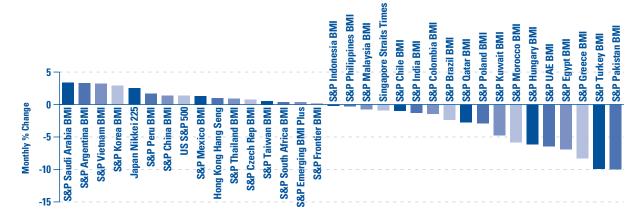
## Portfolio Commentary\* (Investment Management)

In March, emerging markets generalist exposure was increased as we purchased shares of Abrdn Emerging Markets Equity Income Fund Inc, Voya Emerging Markets High Income Dividend Equity Fund, JPMorgan Global Emerging Markets Income Trust, Templeton Emerging Markets Investment Trust, and Utilico Emerging Markets Trust at discounts between 10% and 15%.

In Asia, regional exposure was increased as shares of Abrdn Asia Focus, Aberdeen New Dawn Investment Trust, Voya Asia Pacific High Dividend Equity Income Fund, and Scottish Oriental Smaller Companies Trust were purchased at discounts between 13% and 15.5%, whilst shares of Abrdn Asia-Pacific Income Fund Inc were sold at discounts as narrow as 12.5%. Chinese exposure was adjusted as we purchased shares of Templeton Dragon Fund Inc at discounts as wide as 15%, whilst shares of Prosus were sold. Exposure to China A-Shares was increased as we purchased shares of Morgan Stanley China A-Share Fund Inc at a 17% discount. South Korean exposure was decreased as shares of LG Corp were sold into price strength on talk that the largest shareholders may further consolidate their control of the group. Exposure to Vietnam was also decreased as shares of Vietnam Enterprise Investments Limited were sold at a 15% discount.

In Latin America, Mexican exposure was increased as shares of **Mexico** Fund Inc were purchased at a discount of 19.5%.

### Index Performances During March 2023 (£)



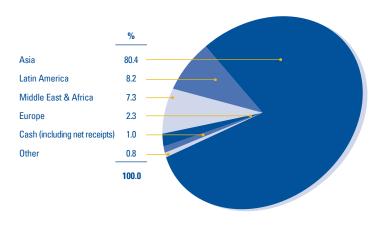
The countries and other indices included in this graph are not benchmarks for EWF, they are included to provide an indication as to how the underlying countries themselves have performed over the period.

<sup>\*</sup>The portfolio section includes major transactions undertaken over the period.

# **Fund Objective & Background**

The objective of The Emerging World Fund (EWF) is to invest for capital growth in a portfolio of closed-end funds whose investment policy is directed mainly towards emerging markets. This approach allows great flexibility in asset allocation, a wider diversification of investments, participation in the performances of high quality fund managers and potentially enhanced performance when the discounts to net asset value at which closed-end funds tend to trade narrows. EWF is a sub-fund of The World Markets Umbrella Fund plc. •

## Portfolio Breakdown



Source: CLIM

## **Fund Portfolio**

Top Holdings		Fund (%)	Discount* (%)
1	Templeton Emerging Markets Investment Trust	9.8	12.7
2	JPMorgan Indian Investment Trust	5.2	18.6
3	JPMorgan Emerging Markets Investment Trust	5.1	9.2
4	Asia Dragon Trust	4.2	14.2
5	Utilico Emerging Markets Trust	4.1	13.5
6	Schroder AsiaPacific Fund	4.0	10.4
7	Fidelity Emerging Markets	3.9	15.2
8	Taiwan Fund Inc	3.6	18.7
9	Templeton Dragon Fund Inc	3.5	14.3
10	iShares MSCI Taiwan UCITS ETF	3.4	0.4
		46.4	

 $<sup>*</sup>Based\ upon\ NAV\ estimate.$ 

This is provided for information purposes only and should not be construed as investment advice to buy or sell any securities.

Source: CLIM

# **EWF and EM Indices Country Weightings**

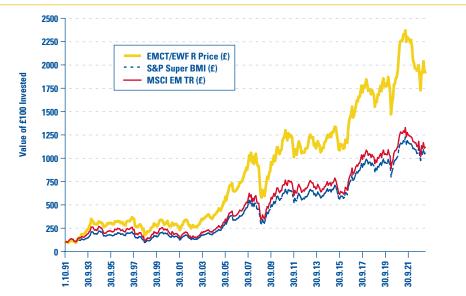
	Fund	February 20 S&P Super BMI*	23 MSCI EM Index*	Fund	March 202 S&P Supe BMI*	2 <mark>3</mark> r MSCI EM Index*
Asia	•		0.0	•	0.0	0.0
Australia	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0
Bangladesh	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
China	24.5	29.0	32.2	25.1	29.5	32.6
Hong Kong	3.2	0.0	0.0	3.3	0.0	0.0
India	15.8	15.2	13.2	15.8	15.1	13.0
Indonesia	1.8	2.1	1.9	1.8	2.1	1.9
Malaysia	1.3	1.8	1.5	1.3	1.8	1.5
Philippines	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
S Korea	12.1	12.0	11.7	11.7	12.4	11.9
Singapore	1.3	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0
Sri Lanka	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Taiwan	12.2	14.2	15.2	12.7	14.2	15.2
Thailand	1.0	2.2	2.1	0.9	2.2	2.1
Vietnam	4.5	0.4	0.0	4.5	0.3	0.0
Other Asia	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0
	79.6	77.8	78.5	80.4	78.4	78.9
Europe						
Czech Republic	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2
Greece	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.4
Hungary	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Iceland	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Kazakhstan	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0
Poland	0.2	0.7	0.7	0.2	0.7	0.7
Romania	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
Slovenia	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Turkey	0.1	0.9	0.7	0.0	0.8	0.6
Other Europe	1.6	0.1	0.0	1.5	0.1	0.0
	2.3	2.8	2.2	2.3	2.7	2.1
Latin America & Caribbean						
Argentina	0.2	0.8	0.0	0.3	0.8	0.0
Brazil	4.8	4.7	5.0	4.5	4.6	4.9
Chile	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.6
Colombia	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
Mexico	2.6	2.2	2.6	2.6	2.2	2.6
Panama	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Peru	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3
Other Lat Am	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Other Lat Aili	8.4	8.8	8.6	8.2	8.7	8.5
Middle Feet O Africa	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.7	0.5
Middle East & Africa Egypt	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Jordan	0.0					
Kenya	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1 0.1	0.0
Kuwait	0.1	0.9	0.9	0.1	0.9	0.9
Morocco	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
Nigeria	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
Oman Onto	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Qatar	0.3	0.9	1.0	0.3	0.8	0.9
Saudi Arabia	2.6	3.3	3.8	3.0	3.3	3.9
South Africa	3.2	3.1	3.5	3.0	3.1	3.5
UAE	0.4	1.4	1.4	0.5	1.3	1.2
Other Middle East & Africa	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0
	7.0	10.6	10.7	7.3	10.2	10.5
Other	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0
Cash (including net receipts)						0.0

Source: CLIM, S&P, MSCI

Values as at month-end \*Index allocation may not add to 100% due to rounding.

## EWF Performance (EMCT Transfer) Compared to the S&P Super BMI and MSCI EM Index (£)

Rebased from where 1 October 1991 = 100

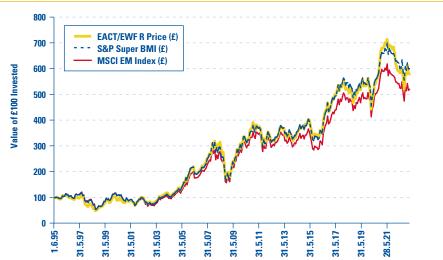


Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Source: CLIM, BNY Mellon, S&P, MSCI

## EWF Performance (EACT Transfer) Compared to the S&P Super BMI and MSCI EM Index (£)

Rebased from where 1 June 1995 = 100



Past performance is no guarantee of future

Source: CLIM, BNY Mellon, S&P, MSCI

#### Risk Profile

- There is no capital guarantee or protection on the value of the Fund. Investors can lose all capital invested in the Fund.
- Some emerging markets in which the Fund invests may have less developed political, economic and legal systems. Such markets may carry a higher than average risk to investment and may lead to large fluctuations in the value of the Fund.
- The Investment Manager does not engage in currency hedging. Changes in currency exchange rates may therefore adversely affect the value of your investment.
- During difficult market conditions, some of the Fund's assets may become difficult to accurately value or to sell at a desired price.
- The Fund may invest in warrants. Warrants carry a degree of risk significantly higher than the underlying company shares due to their leveraged nature and therefore have higher volatility.

Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of investments and any income is not guaranteed and can go down as well as up and may be affected by exchange rate fluctuations. This means that an investor may not get back the amount invested. Index returns assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains and unlike fund returns do not reflect fees or expenses.

The indices are unmanaged and cannot be invested directly.

All data: Bloomberg, BNY Mellon, CLIM, S&P, MSCI

All values and calculations in this report are as at 31 March 2023 unless otherwise stated.



Domicile	Dublin
	UCITS
Income	Reporting status
Investment Management Charge	
Ongoing Charges including Investment N	Management Charge
Dealing	Daily (Excl. Bank Holidays in UK and Ireland)
Valuation	Daily at 4:00 p.m. EST
Sedol	
	IE0009039169



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## Dealing/Settlement/Administration

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The Emerging World Fund is a sub-fund of The World Markets Umbrella Fund plc, an open-ended investment company with variable capital (ICVC), with segregated liability between sub-funds. Incorporated with limited liability under the laws of Ireland and authorised by the Central Bank of Ireland as a UCITS fund. Registered address: 2nd Floor, Block E, Iveagh Court, Harcourt Road, D02 YT22, Dublin 2, Ireland.

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Past performance is no guarantee of future results. The value of investments can fall as well as rise and investors might not get back the sum originally invested. Please refer to the 'Risk Factors' section of the Prospectus for all risks applicable to investing in any fund and specifically this Fund.

Subscriptions to the Fund may only be made on the basis of the current Prospectus and the KIID, as well as the latest annual or interim reports, all of which are prepared for the Company as a whole and which are available in English free of charge from the Company's administrator, BNY Mellon Fund Services (Ireland) Designated Activity Company (the "Administrator"), whose offices are located at Guild House, Guild Street, IFSC, Dublin 1, Ireland and from the Investment Manager's website at http://www.citlon.com/ UCITS/overview.php.

UCITS/overview.php.

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