

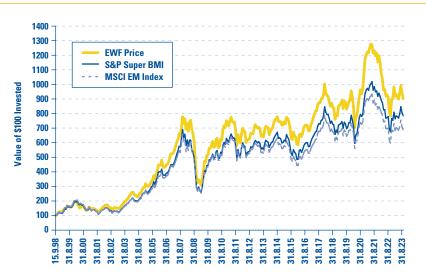
# The Emerging World Fund (Institutional)

September 2023 Month-End Report

# **Summary**

During September, the share price of The Emerging World Fund (EWF) fell 3.84%, net of fees, whilst its benchmark index, the dollar-adjusted S&P Emerging Frontier Super Composite Net Total Return Broad Market Index (S&P Super BMI), fell 2.4%. Additionally, and for comparative purposes only, the MSCI Emerging Markets Net Total Return Index (MSCI EM Index) fell 2.62% over the period. The discount movements and NAV performances of the Fund's underlying holdings, as well as country allocation versus the benchmark index, were all unfavourable. Since its inception in September 1998, the Fund has outperformed its benchmark index on an annualised basis by 0.61 of a percentage point and outperformed the MSCI EM Index on an annualised basis by 1.17 percentage points, net of fees. Please note attribution in the table below is shown gross of fees, whilst performance reported in the narrative above and chart below is net of fees.

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



<sup>\*</sup>Performance figures are net returns. Historical figures are based on an investment management fee of 1% per annum; as of 7 February 2022, the IM Fee is 0.95% per annum.

## EWF Performance & Attribution Analysis (Gross)

		, , ,			
Performance (%)	Jul	Aug	Sep	QTD	YTD
EWF	+5.51	-5.41	-3.77	-3.95	+0.73
S&P Super BMI*	+6.15	-5.09	-2.40	-1.67	+4.08
Relative to S&P	-0.64	-0.32	-1.37	-2.28	-3.35
MSCI EM Index*	+6.23	-6.16	-2.62	-2.93	+1.82
Relative to MSCI	-0.72	+0.75	-1.15	-1.02	-1.09
Attributed to (%)**					
Country Allocation	-0.09	+0.23	-0.17	-0.02	+0.27
Portfolio Holding NAV	-1.22	-0.02	-0.24	-1.39	-1.23
Discount Movements	+0.67	-0.53	-0.96	-0.87	-2.39
Relative to S&P	-0.64	-0.32	-1.37	-2.28	-3.35

<sup>\*</sup>Index returns subject to change due to restatements by index vendors in the historical index levels.

\*\*CLIM estimates.

The above returns have been rounded and are presented as gross of fees performance figures, which do not reflect the deduction of investment management fees. Please see Prospectus for information regarding fees and expenses. The actual return is reduced by the investment management fees and any other expenses the Fund may incur in the management of the account. Performances for the Quarter and Year to Date are compounded and therefore will not always equal the sum of the individual combonent months.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

#### Source: CLIM, S&P, MSCI

### Performance Figures

	ELLEY (LOD)	S&P Super	MSCI EM	
	EWF* (USD)	BMI (USD)	Index (USD)	
1 Month	-3.84%	-2.40%	-2.62%	
3 Months	-4.18%	-1.67%	-2.93%	
6 Months	-3.12%	+0.13%	-2.05%	
1 Year	+10.75%	+13.37%	+11.70%	
Since Inception	+801.44%	+684.03%	+588.68%	
Inception (Annualised)	+9.18%	+8.57%	+8.01%	
	EWF* (GBP)	S&P Super	MSCI EM	
	LIII (GDI)	BMI (GBP)	Index (GBP)	
1 Month	-0.17%	+1.32%	+1.10%	
3 Months	-0.19%	+2.42%	+1.12%	
6 Months	-1.86%	+1.43%	-0.78%	
1 Year	+1.29%	+3.68%	+2.16%	
Since Inception	+1139.66%	+978.19%	+847.07%	
Inception (Annualised)	+10.58%	+9.96%	+9.39%	
	EWE* (Euro)	S&P Super	MSCI EM	
	EWF* (Euro)	S&P Super BMI (Euro)	MSCI EM Index (Euro)	
1 Month	EWF* (Euro) -1.43%			
1 Month 3 Months		BMI (Euro)	Index (Euro)	
3 Months 6 Months	-1.43% -1.26% -0.58%	BMI (Euro) +0.05% +1.32% +2.75%	Index (Euro) -0.17% +0.03% +0.51%	
3 Months 6 Months 1 Year	-1.43% -1.26% -0.58% +2.47%	+0.05% +1.32% +2.75% +4.90%	-0.17% +0.03% +0.51% +3.35%	
3 Months 6 Months 1 Year Since Inception	-1.43% -1.26% -0.58% +2.47% +888.07%	BMI (Euro) +0.05% +1.32% +2.75% +4.90% +759.38%	-0.17% +0.03% +0.51% +3.35% +654.86%	
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<sup>\*</sup>Historical figures are based on an investment management fee of 1% per annum; as of 7 February 2022, the IM Fee is 0.95% per annum. Returns are quoted in GBP, EUR and S\$ 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 (USD)	S&P Super BMI	MSCI EM Index
12 Months	+21.77%	+19.34%	+21.73%
Inception	+20.43%	+20.44%	+21.37%

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

#### Price

Price	US\$90.14
	£73.86
	EURO 85.14
	S\$122.95
Exchange Rate	£1 = US\$1.22055
	EURO 1 = US\$1.05875
	S\$1 =US\$0.73265
Yield	NIL

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

<sup>\*\*</sup>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

# **Investment Commentary**

# Economic Overview\* (Macroeconomics)

Global equities fell in September as markets positioned for rates to stay higher for a longer period. This view was further fueled by the September FOMC meeting, where the Fed kept the policy rate on hold but projected less easing in 2024 and 2025 via updates to their dot plot. The dot plot still shows one more rate hike this year, while the market-implied probability is around 40%. The Fed's "hawkish pause" exacerbated the bond market rout, with the US 2-year and 10-year Treasury yields rising by 18 bps and 46 bps, respectively. Higher rates pushed up the DXY Index by 2.5%, while the MSCI EM Currency Index edged down by 0.5%. Gold prices also suffered from rising rates, falling by 4.7% in September. Emerging market (EM) equities (as measured by the MSCI EM Net TR Index) fell by 2.6% in US dollar terms, outperforming developed market (DM) equities (as measured by the MSCI World Net TR Index) by 1.7 percentage points.

A significant development in September was the 9.7% surge in the price of Brent crude oil as both Saudi Arabia and Russia announced an extension to their output cuts. In addition, global oil demand appeared to hold up as Chinese international travel picked up ahead of the Golden Week holiday. Nonetheless, the MSCI Saudi Arabia Index dropped by 4.3% in US dollar terms. The relationship between oil prices and Saudi equity returns has weakened as the Kingdom diversifies its economy away from hydrocarbons. In EMEA, the MSCI South Africa Index dropped by 3.5% in US dollar terms. Therefore, despite MSCI Egypt (+5.8%) and MSCI UAE (+4.5%) being the two best-performing EM indices, the EMEA region underperformed EM by 0.4 percentage points.

Chinese equities fared better than most of its EM Asian counterparts, with the MSCI China Index returning -2.8% in US dollar terms during September. There were tentative signs that China's downturn has reached a trough, as August's economic data (trade, retail sales, industrial production) beat consensus expectations. Moreover, the PBOC cut the reserve requirement ratio by 25 bps for the second

time this year, and some cities started to relax home purchase restrictions. Improving activity helped lift industrial metals (as measured by Bloomberg Industrial Metals Index) by 1.6%.

In Latin America, Colombia and Brazil were the only countries in the region with a positive return in September, with their MSCI indices up by 4.5% and 0.2% in US dollar terms, respectively. In contrast, the MSCI Mexico Index dropped by 6.4% in US dollar terms. Given Brazil's weight in the Latin America region (61.7%), Latin America outperformed EM by 0.3 percentage points.

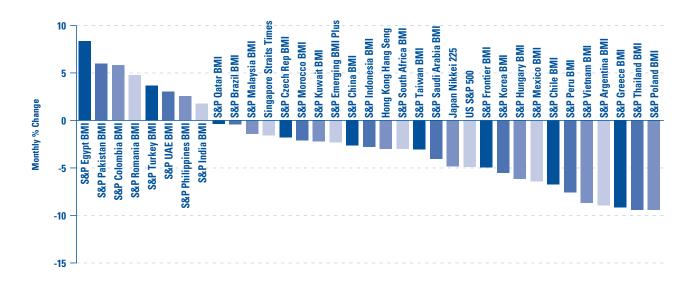
## Portfolio Commentary\* (Investment Management)

In September, emerging markets generalist exposure was reduced as we sold shares of Fidelity Emerging Markets, JPMorgan Global Emerging Markets Income Trust and Utilico Emerging Markets Trust at discounts of 14%, 10.5% and 14.5%, respectively.

In Asia, regional exposure was reduced as shares of Invesco Asia Trust and Scottish Oriental Smaller Companies Trust were sold at average discounts of 10% and 12%, respectively. Chinese exposure was decreased as shares of China Fund Inc and Templeton Dragon Fund Inc were sold at discounts of 13.8% and 12.4%, respectively. Exposure to India was reduced following outperformance as shares of Morgan Stanley India Investment Fund Inc and JPMorgan India Investment Trust were sold at discounts of 18.5% and 19%, respectively. Exposure to Vietnam was decreased as shares of VinaCapital Vietnam Opportunity Fund were sold at a 20% discount.

In Latin America, Brazilian exposure was decreased as we sold shares of **Ocean Wilsons Holdings** at a 53% discount. Mexican exposure was reduced on strong market performance as shares of **Mexico Fund Inc** were sold at discounts as narrow as 19.5%.

## Index Performances During September 2023 (US\$)



<sup>\*</sup>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.

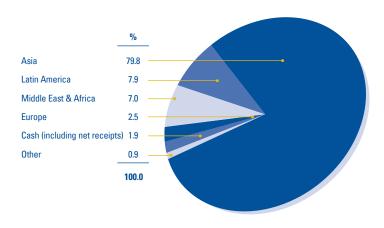
Source: Bloomberg, S&P

<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	8.9	14.1
2 Taiwan Fund Inc	5.5	21.8
3 iShares Core MSCI EM IMI UCITS ETF	5.0	0.3
4 JPMorgan Indian Investment Trust	4.6	19.3
5 Utilico Emerging Markets Trust	4.2	15.1
6 Schroder AsiaPacific Fund	4.1	11.5
7 JPMorgan Emerging Markets Investment Trust	4.0	9.5
8 Asia Dragon Trust	4.0	16.4
9 Fidelity Emerging Markets	3.7	14.3
10 abrdn Asia Focus	3.6	17.3
	47.6	

<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

## Portfolio Data

Fund Size	US\$128.2m
Number of Shares in Issue	1,437,442.359
Number of Portfolio Holdings	45
Size Weighted Portfolio Discount of closed-end funds	19.22%
Size Weighted Average Life of Portfolio	1.61 years**

Excluding 52.5% 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

Source: CLIM, BNY Mellon

# **EWF and EM Indices Country Weightings**

		August 2023		September 2023		
	Fund	S&P Super BMI*	MSCI EM Index*	Fund	S&P Super BMI*	MSCI EN Index*
Asia						
Australia	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0
Bangladesh	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
China	23.8	26.1	30.0	23.4	27.0	30.0
Hong Kong	2.9	0.0	0.0	2.7	0.0	0.0
India	16.4	17.0	15.0	16.4	17.6	15.7
Indonesia	2.4	2.1	2.0	2.3	2.0	2.0
Malaysia	1.5	1.7	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.4
Philippines	8.0	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6
Singapore	1.2	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0
South Korea	12.5	12.7	12.5	12.6	11.7	12.2
Sri Lanka	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Taiwan	12.1	14.1	14.9	12.4	14.7	14.7
Thailand	0.9	2.1	2.0	0.9	1.8	1.9
Vietnam	4.7	0.4	0.0	4.4	0.4	0.0
Other Asia	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0
	80.5	77.0	78.4	79.8	77.7	78.5
Europe Czech Republic	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2
Greece	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.4	0.4
	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.4
Hungary						
Iceland	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Kazakhstan	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0
Poland	0.2	0.8	0.8	0.2	0.7	0.8
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	0.1	1.1	0.8
Other Europe	1.6 <b>2.7</b>	0.2 <b>3.1</b>	0.0 <b>2.4</b>	1.5 <b>2.5</b>	0.2 <b>3.1</b>	0.0 <b>2.4</b>
Latin America & Caribbean						
Argentina	0.3	0.9	0.0	0.3	0.8	0.0
Brazil	4.2	5.2	5.3	4.2	5.1	5.4
Chile	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5
Colombia	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Mexico	2.7	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.2	2.5
Panama	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Peru	0.4	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
	8.1	9.6	8.8	7.9	9.1	8.8
Middle East & Africa		0.4	0.0		0.4	
Bahrain	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Egypt	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Jordan	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Kuwait	0.1	8.0	8.0	0.2	0.8	8.0
Morocco	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
Nigeria	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
0man	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Qatar	0.4	0.8	0.9	0.4	0.8	0.9
Saudi Arabia	3.6	3.6	4.2	3.6	3.5	4.1
South Africa	2.0	2.8	3.1	2.0	2.6	3.0
UAE	0.4	1.4	1.3	0.4	1.5	1.4
Other Middle East & Africa	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.0
	6.9	10.3	10.4	7.0	10.1	10.3
Other	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0
001	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0

Source: CLIM, S&P, MSCI

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

## **Country Allocation (-0.17%)**

(Relative performance is in US dollar terms and references the country's S&P Super BMI component or an appropriate market index versus the S&P Super BMI composite index)

Country allocation was negative, with underperformance resulting from the Fund's overweight position to Vietnam (which detracted 26 basis points from performance) as its index underperformed the composite index. Exposure to Hong Kong (-6 bps) also detracted from performance as its index underperformed.

However, the Fund's underweight position to Thailand (+8 bps) contributed outperformance as its index underperformed.

## Portfolio Holding NAV (-0.24%)

(Performances are quoted in US dollar terms against their respective S&P Super BMI component, or for out-of-benchmark exposure, against a comparable country or regional index)

NAV performances were negative as the NAVs of **Asia Dragon Trust** (-9 bps), **JPMorgan Indian Investment Trust** (-8 bps), and **Prosus** (-8 bps) underperformed their indices by 2.2, 1.7, and 3.5 percentage points, respectively. **Asia Dragon Trust's** NAV underperformed due to stock selection within China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. The NAV of **JPMorgan Indian Investment Trust** underperformed due to stock selection in the financials and communication services sectors; stock detractors included overweight positions to HDFC Bank and Info Edge. The NAV of **Prosus** underperformed as its main listed holdings, Tencent Holdings, Delivery Hero and Meituan, all underperformed over the month.

Some outperformance stemmed from VinaCapital Vietnam Opportunity Fund (+11 bps) as its NAV outperformed its index by 5 percentage points due to overweight positions in PetroVietnam Technical Services, OCB Bank and Airports Corporation of Vietnam as well as exposure to private equity against a backdrop of falling public equity markets.

## Discount Movements (-0.96%)

(Performances are quoted in US dollar terms unless specified otherwise)

Discount movements were negative as the discounts of Remgro (-11 bps), Ocean Wilsons Holdings (-11 bps), and JPMorgan Emerging Markets Investment Trust (-10 bps) widened by 5.3, 4.4, and 2.2 percentage points, respectively. The discount of Remgro widened following a stronger than expected NAV release in September for the end of the first half of 2023. The discount of Ocean Wilsons Holdings widened as the price failed to keep up with a strong rally in underlying holding Wilson Sons on speculation it would be acquired. The discount JPMorgan Emerging Markets Investment Trust widened from relatively narrow levels due to increased selling pressure with investors reducing emerging markets exposure.

Conversely, **LG Corp** (+15 bps) contributed outperformance as its discount narrowed by 3.5 percentage points as the share buyback helped support the share price despite weakness in key underlying holdings over the month.

Source: Bloomberg, S&P, CLIM

#### 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 information expressed in USD. All data: Bloomberg, BNY Mellon, CLIM, S rightarrow, MSCI.

All values and calculations in this report are as at 30 September 2023 unless otherwise stated

# **Fund Details**

The Emerging World Fund is a sub-fund of The Wo	rld Markets Umbrella Fund plc
Domicile	Dublin
Status	UCITS
Inception	15th September 1998
Income	Reporting status
Investment Management Charge	
Ongoing Charges including Investment Management	Charge 1.31%
Minimum Investment	US\$10,000, additions US\$750
Dealing Da	ily (Excl. Bank Holidays in UK and Ireland)
Shares are allocated only on receipt of clear	ed funds and completed application form.
Valuation	Daily at 4:00 p.m. EST
Sedol	
ISIN	IE0002930596
Bloomberg Ticker	



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www.citlon.com www.citlon.co.uk

#### **Important Notice**

Before subscribing, investors should read the most recent Prospectus, financial reports and the Key Investor Information Document (KIID) for each fund in which they want to invest. Before making any investment (new or continuous), please consult a professional and/or investment adviser as to its suitability.

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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.pho.

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