

# The Emerging World Fund (Retail)

February 2024 Month-End Report

# **Summary**

During February, the share price of The Emerging World Fund (EWF) rose 3.30%, net of fees, compared to a 5.06% 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 5.46% over the month. Since its inception in September 1998, the Fund has outperformed its benchmark index on an annualised basis by 0.14 of a percentage point and outperformed the MSCI EM Index on an annualised basis by 0.72 of a percentage point, net of fees.

# EWF Performance\* Compared to the S&P Super BMI\*\* and MSCI EM Index (f) 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	<b>£79.6</b> m
Number of Shares in Issue	1,037,424.065
Number of Portfolio Holdings	40
Size Weighted Portfolio Discount of closed-end funds	18.98%*
Size Weighted Average Life of Portfolio	2.12 years**
Excluding 51.03% 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	+3.30%	+5.06%	+5.46%	
3 Months	+4.66%	+4.12%	+3.88%	
6 Months	+4.93%	+5.76%	+5.11%	
12 Months	+2.08%	+6.24%	+4.06%	
Since Inception	+1064.94%	+1025.35%	+884.64%	
Inception (Annualised)	+10.12%	+9.98%	+9.40%	

\* 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	+12.03%	+11.43%	+12.36%
Inception	+18.46%	+18.72%	+19.59%

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

### Price

Price	US\$87.79
	£69.40
	EURO 81.13
Exchange Rate	£1 = US\$1.26495
	EURO 1 = US\$1.08215
Yield	NIL

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

# **Investment Commentary**

### Economic Overview\* (Macroeconomics)

Global equities (as measured by the MSCI ACWI Net TR Index) climbed by 4.3% in February despite the repricing of Fed rate cuts. An above-consensus US CPI release led markets to reduce expectations for rate cuts, with pricing pushing out the cut from May to July. As a result, the US Treasury 2-year and 10-year yield rose by 41 bps and 34 bps, respectively. Correspondingly, the US dollar Index (DXY) increased by 0.9%, while the MSCI EM Currency Index was up by 0.2%. In commodities, the Bloomberg Commodity TR Index fell by 1.5%; however, the Brent crude oil price gained 2.3% due to strong demand from refiners. Gold prices were flat (+0.2%) as robust central bank purchases and safe-haven demand offset the impact of higher US rates.

Emerging market (EM) equities (as measured by the MSCI EM Net TR Index) returned 4.8% in US dollar terms in February, outperforming developed market (DM) equities (as measured by the MSCI World Net TR Index) by 0.5 of a percentage point. This ended four consecutive months of EM underperformance. All EM sectors gained in February, led by the consumer discretionary sector (+10.2%).

The key driver of EM performance was the rebound in Chinese equities in response to better-than-expected data from the Lunar New Year period, a 25 bps cut in the 5-year loan prime rate and support from state-backed stock buying. The MSCI China Index increased by 8.4% in US dollar terms, making it the best-performing EM index. Optimism in China partly helped lift South Korean equities, with the MSCI Korea Index rising by 7.4% in US dollar terms. The South Korean government's corporate value-up program initially led to an improvement in investor sentiment; however, the lack of details and enforcement meant that sentiment dampened by the end of February. The MSCI Taiwan Index gained 5.5% in US dollar terms from tech and China optimism. EM Asia outperformed the broader EM Index by 1.1 percentage points.

Another strong market was Saudi Arabia, where the MSCI Saudi Arabia Index increased by 6.6% as the stock market benefited from higher oil prices and strong small-cap earnings. Most other markets in EMEA were soft, with the largest EM declines recorded by the MSCI Indices of Egypt (-12.5%), South Africa (-5.6%) and the Czech Republic (-4.2%). As such, EMEA underperformed EM by 2.9 percentage points. Latin America was the worst region, underperforming EM by 4.9 percentage points due to weak performances by Mexico (-2.8%) and Brazil (+0.3%).

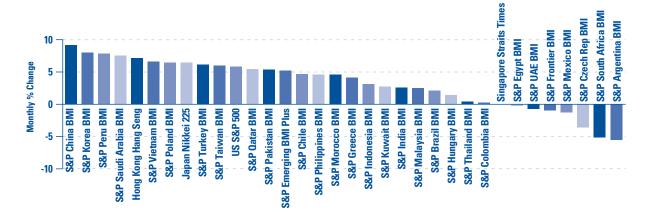
### Portfolio Commentary\* (Investment Management)

In February, emerging markets generalist exposure was increased as we purchased shares of abrdn Emerging Markets Equity Income Fund Inc, JPMorgan Global Emerging Markets Income Trust and Templeton Emerging Markets Investment Trust at discounts ranging from 13% to 16%.

In Asia, exposure to China was increased as shares of **Fidelity China Special Situations** were purchased at a 10.5% discount. Exposure to South Korea was reduced as shares of **LG Corp** were sold as its discount narrowed to 44.5%. Exposure to Taiwan was reduced as shares of **Taiwan Fund Inc** were sold at an 18% discount following strong NAV performance. Exposure to India was decreased as shares of **abrdn New India Investment Trust** were sold at a 17.5% discount.

\*The portfolio section includes major transactions undertaken over the period.

### Index Performances During February 2024 (£)



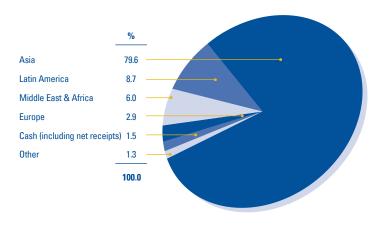
The countries and other indices included in this graph are not benchmarks for EWF, they are included to provide an indication as to how the underlying countries themselves have performed over the period.

Source: Bloomberg, S&P

# **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 H	Top Holdings		Discount* (%)
1	Templeton Emerging Markets Investment Trust	9.4	15.1
2	Taiwan Fund Inc	6.5	19.8
3	Asia Dragon Trust	6.1	16.0
4	JPMorgan Emerging Markets Investment Trust	5.9	12.7
5	JPMorgan Indian Investment Trust	5.1	18.7
6	Samsung C&T	4.7	56.1
7	Schroder AsiaPacific Fund	4.3	12.2
8	abrdn Emerging Markets Equity Income Fund Inc	4.3	15.0
9	Fidelity Emerging Markets	4.3	11.6
10	Utilico Emerging Markets Trust	4.0	17.0
		54.6	

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

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

Source: CLIM

# **EWF and EM Indices Country Weightings**

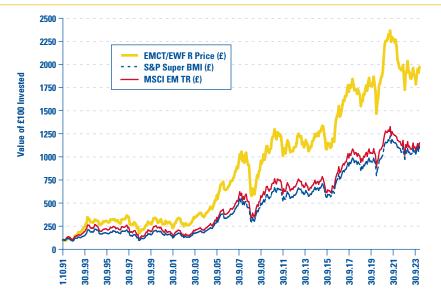
	Januaury 2024		February 2024			
	Fund	S&P Super BMI*	MSCI EM Index*	Fund	S&P Super BMI*	MSCI EM Index*
Asia						
Australia	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0
Bangladesh	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
China	20.2	22.4	24.9	18.9	23.2	25.5
Hong Kong	2.8	0.0	0.0	2.8	0.0	0.0
India	16.8	19.8	18.0	17.1	19.3	18.0
Indonesia	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.1	1.9	1.9
Malaysia	2.1	1.7	1.4	2.0	1.7	1.4
Philippines	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7
Singapore	1.1	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0
South Korea	12.5	11.6	12.3	12.6	11.9	12.5
Sri Lanka	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Taiwan	14.9	16.4	16.6	15.2	16.6	16.7
Thailand	0.8	1.7	1.7	0.7	1.6	1.6
Vietnam	5.3	0.3	0.0	5.2	0.4	0.0
Other Asia	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0
	80.5	76.6	77.5	79.6	77.4	78.3
Europe						
Czech Republic	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
Greece	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.5
Hungary	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3
Iceland	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Kazakhstan	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0
Poland	0.3	0.9	1.0	0.4	0.9	1.0
Romania	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
Slovenia	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Turkey	0.1	1.0	0.7	0.1	1.0	0.7
Other Europe	1.5 <b>2.7</b>	0.2 <b>3.4</b>	0.0 <b>2.6</b>	1.6 <b>2.9</b>	0.2 <b>3.3</b>	0.0 <b>2.6</b>
Latin America & Caribbean		•			0.0	
Argentina	0.3	1.0	0.0	0.3	0.9	0.0
Brazil	4.9	5.4	5.8	4.8	5.3	5.5
Chile	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5
Colombia	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
Mexico	2.7	2.4	2.8	2.7	2.2	2.6
Panama	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Peru	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.3
Other Lat Am	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
	8.8	9.8	9.5	8.7	9.4	9.0
Middle East & Africa	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Bahrain	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Egypt	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
Jordan	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Kuwait	0.1	0.8	0.8	0.1	0.8	0.8
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
Oman	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Qatar Soudi Arabia	0.4	0.8	0.9	0.4	0.7	0.9
Saudi Arabia	3.4	3.7	4.3	3.5	3.8	4.4
South Africa	1.3	2.6	3.0	1.2	2.3	2.7
Other Middle Foot & Africa	0.5	1.4	1.3	0.4	1.4	1.2
Other Middle East & Africa	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0
	6.1	10.2	10.4	6.0	9.9	10.1
Other	1.3	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0
Cash (including net receipts)	0.6	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.0

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

Source: CLIM, S&P, MSCI

# 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 results.

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 energing 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 29 February 2024 unless otherwise stated.

# **Fund Details**

Domicile	
Status	
nception	
ncome	Reporting state
nvestment Management Charge	
Ongoing Charges including Investment Management Cl	narge 1.81
Dealing Dail	y (Excl. Bank Holidays in UK and Irelan
/aluation	Daily at 4:00 p.m. ES
Sedol	
SIN	
Bloomberg Ticker	



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#### **Important Notice**

Before subscribing, investors should read the most recent Prospectus, financial reports and 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.

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: 55 Charlemont Place, Dublin DO2 F985, Ireland.

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UCITS/overview.php.

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