

# The Emerging World Fund (Retail)

**August 2024 Month-End Report** 

# **Summary**

During August, the share price of The Emerging World Fund (EWF) fell 0.93%, net of fees, compared to a 0.57% fall 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) fell 0.69% 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 0.68 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 retroctively 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 quarantee of future results.

Source: BNY Mellon, S&P, MSCI

## Portfolio Data

Fund Size	£71.37m
Number of Shares in Issue	887,853.068
Number of Portfolio Holdings	42
Size Weighted Portfolio Discount of closed-end funds	17.19%*
Size Weighted Average Life of Portfolio	1.81 years**
Excluding 54.71% 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	-0.93%	-0.57%	-0.69%	
3 Months	+1.46%	+2.09%	+2.63%	
6 Months	+4.71%	+4.92%	+5.55%	
12 Months	+9.88%	+10.96%	+10.95%	
Since Inception	+1119.80%	+1080.73%	+939.29%	
Inception (Annualised)	+10.12%	+9.98%	+9.44%	

\* 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	+10.10%	+10.15%	+10.89%
Inception	+18.29%	+18.56%	+19.43%

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

### Price

Price	US\$95.51
	£72.67
	EURO 86.28
Exchange Rate	£1 = US\$1.31425
	EURO 1 = US\$1.10690
Yield	NIL

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

# **Investment Commentary**

# Economic Overview\* (Macroeconomics)

Markets experienced a bumpy start to August as investors grew concerned that the Fed was behind the curve following soft US labour market data. Elsewhere, the Japanese stock market sold off after the Bank of Japan's (BoJ) surprise rate hike led to yen appreciation and an unwinding of the yen carry trade. Market sentiment improved over the month following the release of better-than-expected US data and a more moderate tone from the BoJ. Fed Governor Powell all but confirmed that the Fed would be soon cutting rates during his annual Jackson Hole Symposium speech, noting that "the time has come for policy to adjust". Accordingly, the yield curve steepened, as the US Treasury 2-year and 10-year yields fell by 34 bps and 12 bps, respectively. The Bloomberg Commodity TR Index was flat (0.1%) as industrials (+3.4%) and precious metals (+1.9%) gained, while energy fell (-4.3%). Crude oil prices have been weighed down by recession fears, offsetting the impact of rising geopolitical tensions and a tight market balance.

Emerging market (EM) equities (MSCI EM Net TR Index) returned 1.6% in August, underperforming developed market (DM) equities (MSCI World Net TR Index) by 1 percentage point. The 2.3% fall in the US dollar (DXY Index) was not enough to buoy EM stocks.

The best performing markets were concentrated in EM Asia, as stock markets in the Philippines (+10.4%), Indonesia (+9.9%), Malaysia (+9.8%) and Thailand (+9.2%) were supported by local currency appreciation. However, weaker performances in South Korea (-2.2%) and China (+1.0%) meant that EM Asia performed in line with the EM average.

In contrast, Latin America outperformed EM by 1 percentage point in August, primarily due to Brazil (+6.7%) and Chile (+3.4%). The Brazilian real gained 0.8% after struggling for most of the year on the

back of concerns over President Lula's spending plans. The MSCI Mexico Index fell by 5.3% as the peso depreciated (-5.6%) in response to the ruling Morena party's judicial reforms.

At the other end of the spectrum, EMEA underperformed the EM benchmark by 0.6 of a percentage point. The 10% decline in the MSCI Turkey Index made it the weakest EM in August. Turkish equities were hit by a depreciating lira (-2.7%), soft second quarter earnings results and foreign equity outflows. Elsewhere in the region, South Africa (+3.6%) benefited from SARB rate cut expectations and the projected increase in consumption from the shift to a two-pot retirement system.

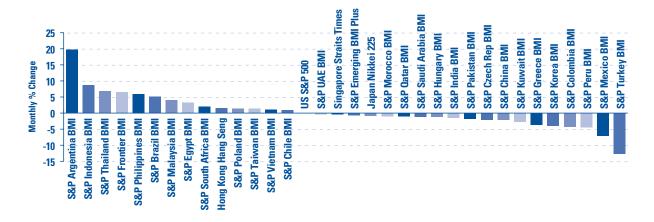
## Portfolio Commentary\* (Investment Management)

In August, emerging markets generalist exposure was increased as we purchased shares of JPMorgan Global Emerging Markets Income Trust and Mobius Investment Trust at discounts between 8% and 12.5%.

In Asia, exposure to China was increased as shares of JPMorgan China Growth & Income were purchased at a 14% discount. Exposure to South Korea was adjusted as shares of LG Chem were purchased at an average discount of 70% whilst shares of Korea Fund Inc were sold at discounts as narrow as 9.5%. Exposure to India was reduced as shares of JPMorgan Indian Investment Trust and Morgan Stanley India Investment Fund Inc were sold at a 17% discount.

In Latin America, Mexican exposure was increased as shares of **Grupo Mexico** were purchased at a 51% discount.

# Index Performances During August 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.

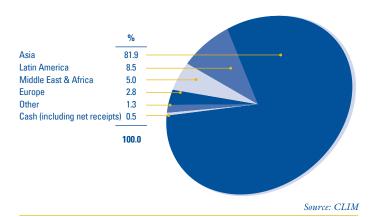
Source: Bloomberg, S&P

<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



# **Fund Portfolio**

Top Holdings		Fund (%)	Discount* (%)	
1	Templeton Emerging Markets Investment Trust	8.7	12.4	
2	Asia Dragon Trust	7.5	10.9	
3	Taiwan Fund Inc	7.0	16.8	
4	JPMorgan Emerging Markets Investment Trust	5.9	11.9	
5	abrdn Emerging Markets Equity Income Fund Inc	5.5	13.7	
6	JPMorgan Indian Investment Trust	4.8	17.2	
7	Fidelity China Special Situations	4.6	10.6	
8	Schroder AsiaPacific Fund	4.5	12.3	
9	abrdn Asia Focus	4.2	15.8	
10	Utilico Emerging Markets Trust	4.0	16.9	
		56.7		

<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**

	<b>July 2024</b>			August 2024			
	Fund	S&P Super BMI*	MSCI EM Index*	Fund	S&P Super BMI*	MSCI EM Index*	
Asia	· unu	D.III	muox	runu	5	шиол	
Australia	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	
Bangladesh	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	
China	17.8	22.3	24.6	20.1	22.1	24.0	
Hong Kong	2.3	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0	0.0	
India	14.2	21.3	20.0	16.2	21.1	20.4	
Indonesia	1.7	1.7	1.6	2.0	1.9	1.7	
Malaysia	1.7	1.8	1.4	2.0	1.9	1.6	
Philippines	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.6	0.6	
Singapore	0.9	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	
South Korea	11.3	11.5	12.1	12.8	11.1	11.5	
Sri Lanka	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	
Taiwan	15.7	17.7	18.5	17.3	18.0	18.5	
Thailand	0.7	1.5	1.4	0.8	1.6	1.4	
Vietnam	4.8	0.3	0.0	5.4	0.3	0.0	
Other Asia	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	
Other Asia	72.8	78.9	80.1	81.9	78.8	79.7	
Europe	72.0	70.0	00.1	01.0	70.0	70.7	
Czech Republic	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	
Greece	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.5	
Hungary	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	
Iceland	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	
Kazakhstan	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0	
Poland	0.3	0.1	0.9	0.3	0.1	0.0	
Romania	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.0	
Slovenia	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	
Turkey	0.2	1.1	0.8	0.3	0.9	0.7	
Other Europe	1.3	0.2	0.0	1.2	0.2	0.0	
Other Europe	2.6	3.5	2.6	2.8	3.3	2.4	
Latin America & Caribbean	2.0	3.3	2.0	2.0	5.5	2.7	
Argentina	0.3	0.9	0.0	0.3	1.1	0.0	
Brazil	3.7	4.2	4.3	4.5	4.5	5.2	
Chile	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	
Colombia	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	
Mexico	3.0	1.9	2.1	3.2	1.7	2.0	
	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	
Panama Peru	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	
Other Lat Am	0.0						
Other Lat Aili	7.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	
Middle East & Africa	7.4	7.9	7.2	8.5	8.2	8.0	
Bahrain	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Egypt Jordan							
	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	
Kuwait		0.7	0.8	0.2	0.7	0.7	
Morocco Oman	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	
Oman	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	
Qatar Soudi Arabia	0.3	0.7	0.8	0.3	0.7	0.8	
Saudi Arabia	2.3	3.5	4.1	2.7	3.5	4.0	
South Africa	0.8	2.6	3.1	1.0	2.7	3.1	
Other Middle Feet & Africa	0.4	1.4	1.2	0.5	1.4	1.2	
Other Middle East & Africa	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.0	
	4.4	9.7	10.1	5.0	9.7	9.9	
Other	1.1	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	
Cash (including net receipts)	11.7	0.0	0.0	0.5	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

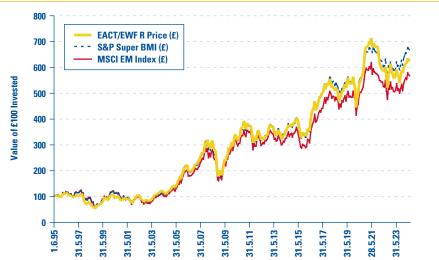


Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

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 31 August 2024 unless otherwise stated.

# **Fund Details**

Domicile	Dublin
	UCITS
Income	
Investment Management Charge	1.45%
Ongoing Charges including Investment Mana	gement Charge
Dealing	Daily (Excl. Bank Holidays in UK and Ireland)
Valuation	Daily at 4:00 p.m. EST
Sedol	
	IE0009039169



### Contacts

#### **Marketing Information**

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#### Dealing/Settlement/Administration Enquiries

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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 D02 F985, Ireland.

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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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