

# Aberdeen Standard Emerging Opportunities

Quarterly Investment Option Update

30 June 2019

# **Aim and Strategy**

To provide investors with high capital growth over the medium to long term (3 to 5 years) by seeking exposure to emerging stock markets worldwide or companies with significant activities in emerging markets. The benchmark is the MSCI Emerging Markets Index. In seeking to achieve the objective, the investment manager may invest in securities which are not contained in the index used as the performance benchmark. This investment option primarily invests in a diversified portfolio of emerging market securities. The normal characteristics of this investment option are:

- low turnover the average holding period is around 4 years
- significant divergence from the benchmark
- · low cash allocations, and
- · a beta less than or equal to one.

On occasions (such as where the purchasing costs of the investment can be reduced), a portion of the investment may be directly invested in other investment vehicles managed by other Aberdeen Group companies. This investment option does not generally borrow to invest and is not hedged to the Australian dollar.

# **Investment Option Performance**

To view the latest investment performances for each product please visit <a href="mailto:amp.com.au">amp.com.au</a>

# **Investment Option Overview**

| Investment category            | Global Shares       |  |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Suggested investment timeframe | meframe 3 - 5 years |  |
| Relative risk rating           | 7 / High            |  |
| Investment style               | Specialist          |  |
| Manager style                  | Single Manager      |  |

| Asset Allocation                 | Benchmark | Actual (%) |
|----------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| <b>Emerging Markets Equities</b> | 100.0     | 98.0       |
| Cash                             | -         | 2.0        |

| Regional Allocation    | %    |
|------------------------|------|
| Asia                   | 71.7 |
| Africa and Middle East | 4.4  |
| Emerging Europe        | 4.1  |
| Latin America          | 17.8 |
| UK                     |      |
| Cash                   | 2.0  |

| Sector Allocation      | %    |
|------------------------|------|
| Energy                 | 4.1  |
| Materials              | 6.8  |
| Industrials            | 1.1  |
| Consumer Discretionary | 9.8  |
| Consumer Staples       | 5.5  |
| Health Care            | 0.7  |
| Financials             | 41.9 |
| Information Technology | 11.4 |
| Communication Services | 11.1 |
| Utilities              |      |
| Real Estate            | 5.7  |
| Cash                   | 2.0  |

| Top Holdings                                    | %    |
|---|------|
| Aberdeen Stand ard SICAV I - Indian Eq Fund     | 13.6 |
| Aberdeen Standard SICAV I - China A Equity Fund | 7.5  |
| Tencent Holdings                                | 6.2  |
| Samsung Electronics                             | 5.7  |
| TSMC  | 5.1  |
| Ping An Insurance                               | 4.1  |
| Banco Bradesco                                  | 3.6  |
| AIA Group                                       | 2.9  |
| Naspers N Shares                                | 2.8  |
| China Resources Land                            | 2.2  |

# **Investment Option Commentary**

The fund rose by 3.76%, outperforming the index by 173 basis points.

Stock selection in China was positive for performance, with some of their defensive holdings such as **Ping An Insurance** demonstrating their resilience. Not owning Alibaba and Baidu also aided performance. Alibaba's share price was impacted by the escalating trade tensions, while Baidu released weak results and forecast further weakness ahead, given the tougher macro backdrop, tightening regulations and intensifying competition. Some of their holdings were also caught by similar fears of a slowdown in growth and consumer spending, including **Autohome** and **Huazhu Group.** 

In Latin America, stock selection in Brazil and Mexico also boosted the fund. In particular, banks **Banorte** and **Banco Bradesco** both announced decent results, and were further helped by fiscal prudence pledges in Mexico and momentum for key reforms in Brazil.

Conversely, the investment manager's South African retail holding **Massmart** performed poorly. The stock continued to be pressured by subdued consumer sentiment, while the departure of its CEO also dragged on performance. Not holding Russian state-owned oil company, Gazprom, also hurt relative performance. The company's shares rallied after posting solid first-quarter results and proposing to raise its dividend by nearly 60%.

#### **Market Commentary**

Emerging markets ended the second quarter slightly higher, a period marked by the push and pull of US-China trade tensions on the one hand, and looser monetary policy on the other. Trade tensions caused a sharp selloff in May, but markets recovered in June as central banks signalled willingness to ease policy. Better-than-expected economic data from the US and China also lifted markets. However, sentiment was hampered by higher crude prices, as supply concerns intensified due to increased tensions in the Persian Gulf. The re-election of incumbents in both India and Indonesia were positive for investors, who saw these as supportive for further market-oriented reforms.

#### Outlook

Emerging markets appeared to regain their poise since the beginning of the year, as several risks that plagued investors last year moderated. The Federal Reserve's accommodative policy stance could improve monetary conditions in emerging markets, reviving economic expansion. Meanwhile, the political outlook in key markets such as India and Indonesia is encouraging, following their respective incumbent re-election victories that pave the way for market reforms to progress in these countries. Despite the current lack of political coordination in Brazil and the risk of deteriorating relations between the US and Mexico, Aberdeen Standard Investments (ASI) is positive on the longer-term economic outlook for Latin America as the political consensus to revitalise these economies is evident. In addition, China's shift from deleveraging to consumption-led stimulus should cushion global growth. Against this backdrop, corporate earnings should recover, albeit modestly. Following last year's sell-off, the asset class remains attractively-priced relative to both its historical average and developed peers.

That said, lingering concerns over US-China trade tensions, even with the latest truce, as well as market signals of an impending global economic recession could cause near-term volatility. Amid the uncertainty, ASI will continue to focus on quality companies with healthy fundamentals and experienced management.

# **Availability**

| Product name                            | APIR      |
|---|-----------|
| AMP Flexible Lifetime Super             | AMP1531AU |
| AMP Flexible Super - Retirement         | AMP1591AU |
| AMP Flexible Super - Super account      | AMP1579AU |
| CustomSuper                             | AMP1531AU |
| Flexible Lifetime - Allocated Pension   | AMP1543AU |
| Flexible Lifetime Investment (Series 2) | AMP2031AU |
| SignatureSuper                          | AMP1555AU |
| SignatureSuper Allocated Pension        | AMP1567AU |
| SignatureSuper Select                   | AMP1555AU |

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