



# TM STONEHAGE FLEMING INTERNATIONAL FUND

OUR FOUR FUNDAMENTAL QUALITY PILLARS - IDENTIFYING GLOBAL BEST IN CLASS BUSINESSES



#### INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

To achieve long-term growth in capital and income in a focused portfolio of high quality listed businesses from around the world.

#### INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY

We invest in best in class businesses for their quality, strategic competitive edge and value.

## FUND COMMENTARY

2023 turned out a better year for global equity investors than many expected a year ago. It rewarded shareholders of quality businesses well. The MSCI AC Index recovered all of its 2022 losses and closed the year at a new record level in December 2023 (£ terms).

This success is ascribed to three main factors – US inflation dropped quicker than expected, US interest rates peaked earlier than anticipated, and the US economy remained more resilient than feared. Headline inflation more than halved from 6.5% in December 2022 to 3.1% in November 2023. The ten-year Treasury yield remained stable at 3.9% over the year, following a sharp rise to its peak of 5.0% in October. The quarterly average GDP for the four quarters to September was  $\pm 3.0\%$ . Further to this, consensus twelve-month forward S&P 500 Index earnings increased by  $\pm 6.2\%$  over the year. This potent combination supported risk appetite.

We stated in our December 2022 commentary that the potential upcoming US recession was the most anticipated one we could recall. Now, a year later, this statement has even more merit, and, along with this, more probability given the high current GDP base. Because of a continuing resilient US consumer, we continue to see, as we did then, a soft rather than a hard economic landing.

The US capital markets are currently underpinned by an overall view that US inflation is under control and that this cycle's peak US interest rates are behind us. The debate has substantially moved on from rising rates in 2023 to the timing of the Federal Reserve's first cut of their target rate this year. As last year's stock market performance was largely driven by the strong recovery of Technology/AI related stocks, we currently see opportunities for other sectors to catch-up.

The best contributors to the fund's performance over December were Zoetis, Edwards Lifesciences and ASML, with AJ Gallagher, United Health and Microsoft the largest detractors.

#### Data sourced from Bloomberg

Opinions expressed represent the view of SFIM at the time of preparation. They are subject to change and should not be interpreted as investment advice.

## **RISK DISCLOSURE**

Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of investments can fall. Investors may not get back the amount invested. Income from investments may vary and is not guaranteed. The return may increase or decrease due to currency fluctuations. Performance figures are net of fees and charges. The Fund may hold a relatively small number of stocks as compared to many other funds. This may make the Fund's performance more volatile than would be the case if it had a more diversified investment portfolio. For a full list of risks applicable to this fund, please refer to the Prospectus.



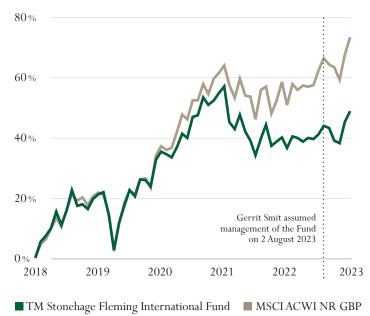




## INVESTMENT STRATEGY

- · Invest for sustainable growth
- Fundamental research driven
- Particular focus on quality of management, balance sheet strength, return on invested capital, free cash flow, ability to grow dividends each year
- Bottom-up approach to identify exceptional businesses
- Global orientation, with emerging market exposure
- High conviction concentrated portfolio
- Predominantly larger capitalisation businesses, also consider exceptional medium-sized ones
- Buy to hold and disciplined selling
- · No benchmark orientation, no active trading, no leverage, no hedging

## FIVE YEAR PERFORMANCE



## STANDARDISED PERFORMANCE %

	lm	YTD	lyr	3yr	5yr	
TM Stonehage Fleming International Fund	2.5	9.0	9.0	9.9	48.9	
Annualised	-	-	-	3.2	8.3	
MSCI ACWI NR GBP	3.6	15.1	15.1	26.6	73.6	
Annualised	-	-	-	8.2	11.7	

#### CALENDAR YEAR PERFORMANCE %

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
TM Stonehage Fleming International Fund	9.0	-13.1	16.1	11.8	21.2	-11.1
MSCI ACWI NR GBP	15.1	-8.7	19.6	13.0	21.7	-3.9



## TM STONEHAGE FLEMING **INTERNATIONAL FUND**

## TOP TEN HOLDINGS (% OF FUND)

Alphabet	7.4
Microsoft	7.4
Cadence	5.5
Accenture	5.2
Amazon	4.7
Zoetis	4.4
S&P Global	4.3
EssilorLuxottica	4.2
L'Oreal	4.0
Visa	4.0
TOTAL	50.9

## SECTOR BREAKDOWN (% OF FUND)

Technology	27.9
Health Care	22.3
Financials	13.3
Discretionary	12.7
Staples	8.6
Communication	7.4
Materials	3.5
Industrials	3.5
Cash	1.0
TOTAL	100.0

## PORTFOLIO MANAGER



## **GERRIT SMIT**

Gerrit Smit is Head of the Equity Management team. He has overall responsibility for its Portfolio Management and Equity Research functions. The team invests for sustainable growth with a particular focus on quality of management, balance sheet strength, cash flow generation and the ability to grow dividends each year.

## **REGIONAL BREAKDOWN (% OF FUND)**

United States	75.6
Continental Europe	20.2
Asia Pacific	3.3
Cash	1.0
TOTAL	100.0

## ESTIMATED REGIONAL REVENUES<sup>8</sup> (% OF FUND)

North America	49.5
Emerging Markets	22.8
Continental Europe	21.5
Japan	2.9
Other	3.4
TOTAL	100.0

## PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS

Average Market Cap (Billions GBP)	312.5
Number of Holdings	28
Operating Margin	30.1%
Return on Invested Capital	20.6%
Net Debt/EBITDA <sup>1</sup>	0.6
Expected 3 Year Revenue Growth $(p.a.)^*$	9.2%
Expected 3 Year EPS <sup>2</sup> Growth $(p.a.)^*$	13.5%
Expected 3 Year DPS <sup>3</sup> Growth (p.a.)*	9.0%
Dividend Yield (Gross) <sup>4,5</sup>	0.9%
Price/Earnings Ratio <sup>5</sup>	29.1
Free Cash Flow Yield <sup>5</sup>	3.5%
PEG Ratio <sup>6,7</sup>	2.9

SECTOR BREAKDOWN

Source: Northern Trust Global Services SE (UK branch); Stonehage Fleming Investment Management Limited.

PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS

 $^{\ast}$  Such forecasts are not a reliable indicator of future performance.

<sup>1</sup> Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortisation. <sup>2</sup> Earnings Per Share. <sup>3</sup> Dividend Per Share. <sup>4</sup> Of underlying holdings, and stated gross of withholding taxes and costs. <sup>5</sup> Estimated 12 months forward. <sup>6</sup> Price / Earnings to Growth Ratio. <sup>7</sup> Weighted portfolio Trailing P/E Ratio and EPS projections applied.

Source: Stonehage Fleming Investment Management Limited, Bloomberg.

ESTIMATED REGIONAL REVENUES

<sup>8</sup> Source: Based on where underlying companies in the TM Stonehage Fleming International Fund derive their revenue. Source: Bloomberg; Stonehage Fleming Investment Management Limited; Northern Trust Global Services SE (UK branch). Due to rounding, values may not add up to 100%.



## TM STONEHAGE FLEMING

#### OUTCOME OF FAIR VALUE ASSESSMENTS (2023)

- The fund meets the needs of the target market.
- The intended distribution strategy remains appropriate.
- Historically, the fund did not deliver value for money. In response, as of the 2nd August 2023, Stonehage Fleming Investment Management Limited changed the personnel managing the fund and the approach to investment selection. The fund will follow the strategy pursued by the Stonehage Fleming Global best ideas fund (GBI), and own the same quality growth business as this fund. The historic performance of GBI, together with more information on the manager, can be found at www.stonehagefleming.com/GBI

#### **INVESTOR PROFILE**

The fund is appropriate for all investor types, including those with only a basic knowledge of funds. It is compatible with investors who do not need a capital guarantee (investors must be prepared to accept fluctuations in the value of capital, including the ability to bear 100% capital loss) and are seeking capital growth. Due to the volatility of markets, investors should be willing to accept price fluctuations in exchange for the opportunity of potentially higher returns. This is a long term investment and investors should have an investment time horizon of at least 5 years. The recommended holding period does not provide any guarantee that the objective will be achieved. This product is eligible for all distribution channels (e.g. investment advice, portfolio management, non-advised sales and pure execution services).

The fund is unlikely to be appropriate for those who:

- Are looking for full capital protection or full repayment
- of the amount invested, and those who want a guaranteed return • Have no risk tolerance
- Who are unwilling to accept price fluctuations (volatility) in the value of the fund
- · Do not intend to invest for the long term

#### FUND INFORMATION

Total Net Assets	£335.9m
Comparative Index	MSCI ACWI NR GBP
Fund Type	UCITS
Fund Domicile	United Kingdom
Base Currency	GBP
Currencies Available	GBP
Inception Date	6 July 1994
Range of Holdings	20-30 stocks
Income Paid	£0.028364
Type of Payment	Dividend
Ex Dividend	16 May 2023
Payment Date	14 July 2023
Pricing	Daily, by 12pm (UK)
Dealing	Daily, by 12pm (UK)

## FUND CHARACTERISTICS

Active Share <sup>1</sup>	86.4%
Ex Post Tracking Error	5.0%
12 Month Turnover	68.9%
Beta	0.86

#### GBP B (DISTRIBUTING) SHARE CLASS DETAILS

Price	£5.17
ISIN	GB0032211095
Synthetic Risk & Reward Indicator (SRRI) rating	5
Annual Management Fee	0.60%
Total Ongoing Charge (OCF <sup>2</sup> )	0.66%
Min Initial Investment (GBP)	£50,000
Registered for Sale	UK

<sup>1</sup> Active Share measures how much the portfolio holdings differ from the benchmark index (MSCI World) ie. a portfolio that is identical to the benchmark would have 0% active share. <sup>2</sup>The OCF is the Annual Management Fee plus additional fund expenses as a percentage of the assets of the fund. This gives an indication of annual expenses. This figure may vary over time. It excludes portfolio transaction costs.

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This is a marketing communication issued by Stonehage Fleming Investment Management Limited (SFIM). SFIM is the investment manager of the Fund. All investments risk the loss of capital. No guarantee or representation is made that the funds will achieve their investment objective. The value of investments may go down as well as up. For products designed to return income, the distributions can also go down or up and you may not receive back the full value of your initial investment. Derivatives have not been used but are allowed if appropriate for efficient asset management. Past performance is not a guide to future returns. If the information is not displayed in your base currency, then the return may increase or decrease due to currency fluctuations. The distribution or possession of this document in jurisdictions outside the United Kingdom may be restricted by law or other regulatory requirements. For details of the Funds investment Dplicy, please see the Investment Objective and Policy section of the Fund Prospectus Document. Whilst every effort is made to ensure that the information provided to clients is accurate and up to date,

some of the information may be rendered inaccurate by changes in applicable laws and regulations that may be subject to change in the future. The information in this document does not constitute legal, tax, or a personal recommendation. The Fund is authorised in the United Kingdom and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. The Authorised Fund Manager is Thesis Unit Trust Management Limited, Exchange Building, St John's Street, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1UP. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Before you invest you should read the Key Investor Information Document (KIID) and the Prospectus which contain detailed information. These documents are available in English, free of charge, upon request by writing to Thesis Unit Trust Management Limited at Exchange Building, St John's Street, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1UP; or by phoning 01483 783 900 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday; or on the website at www.tutman.co.uk/literature/

© Stonehage Fleming Investment Management Limited 2023.

## CONTACT FOR DEALING OR APPLICATION FORM

ACD: Thesis Unit Trust Management Limited t: 0333 300 0375

Investment Manager: Stonehage Fleming Investment Management Limited e: enquiries@stonehagefleming.com www.stonehagefleming.com/gbi