

VT Downing Global Investors Fund



March 2021 Commentary

The price of the F share class accumulation units in the VT Downing Global Investors Fund went from 152.9267 pence to 150.6907 pence during the month.

We have had a rough old six weeks. The correction across swathes of the technology sector, that carried markets for the past year, has been enormous with 30% fallbacks since mid-February commonplace. In our experience, the period is comparable to the collapse in the commodity sector in 2008. The similarity between both periods is striking in that a single sector became so dominant across global markets for a prolonged period and was ultimately the forerunner of much more widespread activity. The lessons of 2008 have been well learned and we have reduced exposure throughout this year's version to a sector that, with hindsight, may well have been the canary heralding a broader economic expansion.

During the economic shutdown of 2020, markets focused on future potential, and capital has been attracted to businesses offering potentially huge profits at a future point. The peak valuation in our portfolio (in a stock still held) has been around 50 times sales. Since the start of this year, accumulating evidence has been pointing to a resurgent global economy. The 30-year US treasury rate has risen around 60% from the 1.5% levels that endured for most of last year, to nearer 2.4% now. Price behaviour in many commodity markets implies strengthening demand, and manufacturers are beginning to note rising costs and in some cases rising wages.

All very good signs for wider economic activity. Against that background the violent derating of far out (in time) profits looks entirely rational and attention is switching to greater visibility. A one-horse race is now becoming a much more dynamic and interesting marketplace for investors.

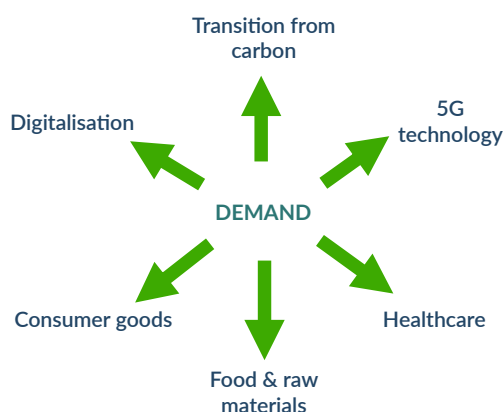
Opinions expressed represent the views of the fund manager at the time of publication, are subject to change, and should not be interpreted as investment advice.

About the fund

The VT Downing Global Investors Fund (DGI) is a thematically invested fund focused on the needs and wants of the growing middle-class population.

We believe this population is a homogeneous borderless group, showing a single set of demands and aspirations. Currently numbering around 3.3 billion, we believe the global middle-class will be closer to 5.3 billion at the end of this decade.

That is a needle-moving demographic to be engaged with that will drive our six key themes:



	Cumulative performance (%)					
	1m	3m	6m	YTD	1y	Since Launch*
VT DGI F Acc	-1.46	-1.09	14.42	-1.09	50.75	50.69
IA Global TR Index	2.94	3.25	13.14	3.25	40.65	46.35
Quartile Ranking	4	4	2	4	1	2

*24 March 2020

Discrete performance (%)	
	31/03/2020-31/03/2021
VT DGI F Acc	50.75
IA Global TR Index	40.65
Quartile Ranking	1



Fund Manager
Anthony Eaton

Anthony joined Greig Middleton in 1991 and was appointed a director in 1996. He moved to JM Finn & Co in 2001 and became lead manager on the CF JM Finn Global Opportunities Fund in 2005 where he returned a 10.4%* compound annual growth rate through to August 2019 when it was sold to Thornbridge.

He has consistently applied an evolutionary strategy over the past 15 years as the global middle-class phenomenon has gained momentum. His investment process focuses on producing compounding returns, with a view to generating growth over the long-term.

Please note that past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

* MI Thornbridge Global Opportunities Fund August 2019 factsheet.



Awarded on 18 March 2021

Investment strategy

We use pattern hunting strategies to identify areas of economic activity attracting capital. We buy equity stakes in businesses that supply the needs and wants of the expanding global middle class population. We seek to invest in the leading companies within any business grouping we identify.

Liquidity

Our top-down conviction primarily leads to larger capitalisation businesses and aims to avoid undue exposure to any single factor. We balance defensive and cyclical stocks and sectors depending on where we are in the business cycle.

Investment objective

The fund aims to achieve capital growth and income over the long term (5+ years) across global markets.

It will invest at least 70% in equities globally with up to 20% invested in higher risk emerging markets.

The fund will invest in any geographic, industry or economic sector on merit and weightings in these will vary with circumstances.

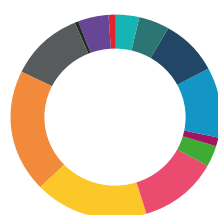
Portfolio summary

As at 31 March 2021

Top 5 holdings

	% of fund
SITC International Holdings Co Ltd	1.37
Itochu Corp	1.11
Anglo American plc	1.11
Bolloré SE	1.09
Ivanhoe Mines Ltd	1.05

Portfolio by sector



3.69% Cash	17.45% Industrials
4.82% Communication services	19.52% Information technology
8.98% Consumer discretionary	11.51% Materials
10.95% Consumer staples	0.48% Property
1.48% Energy	4.64% Real estate
3.41% Financials	1.02% Utilities
12.05% Healthcare	

Source: Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited.

Key facts As at 31 March 2021

Structure

London listed Open Ended Investment Company (OEIC), established as a "UCITS scheme".

Launch date

24 March 2020 at 100.0000p per unit

Fund size

£35.87m (A & F share classes combined)

Share price

Class A 101.9886p (Acc)

Class A 100.0000p (Inc)

Class F 150.6907p (Acc)

Class F 133.1819p (Inc)

Number of company holdings

200

Dividends

TBC

Liquidity

Daily pricing and daily dealing

Sector: IA Global

Minimum initial investment

Class A: £1,000 lump sum

Class F: £1,000,000 lump sum

ISIN & Sedol Codes:

Class A Accumulation: GB00BHNC2499 / BHNC249

Class A Income: GB00BHNC2507 / BHNC250

Class F Accumulation: GB00BHNC1N11 / BHNC1N1

Class F Income: GB00BMQ57900 / BMQ5790

ISA Eligible: Yes

Contact details

Downing LLP, St Magnus House,
3 Lower Thames Street,
London EC3R 6HD

Tel: + 44 (0) 20 7416 7780

Email: customer@downing.co.uk

Authorised Corporate Director

Valu-Trac Investment
Management Ltd

Orton, Moray

IV32 7QE

Tel: +44 (0) 1343 880 217

www.valu-trac.com

Fund charges

Initial charge: 0%

Annual management charge:

Class A: 0.75% per annum

Class F: 0.60% per annum

Ongoing charges*

Class A: 1.00%

Class F: 0.90%

How to apply:

Telephone +44 (0)1343 880 217 or
visit: www.valu-trac.com/administration-services/clients/downing/

Also on the following platforms:

Aegon

AJ Bell

Aviva

Canada Life International

Hargreaves Lansdown

Hubwise

Interactive Investor

James Brearley

Old Mutual

Transact

Zurich

We are currently working with other platforms so please let us know if yours is not listed above.

www.downingglobalinvestors.com

* **Please note:** As the fund only launched on 24 March 2020, the ongoing charges figure shown here is an estimate of the charges and may vary from year to year. It excludes portfolio transaction costs.

The Investment Manager of the fund has undertaken to absorb any costs that would otherwise cause the fund to have ongoing charges in excess of 1%.

Risk warning: Your capital is at risk. Investments into this fund should be held for the long term (+5 years). The value of your investment and income derived from it can fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the full amount invested. Values may be affected by fluctuations in currency exchange rates and may cause the value of your investment to go up and down. In addition, investments in emerging markets or less developed countries may face more political, economic or structural challenges than developed countries and your money is at greater risk. Past performance is not a guide to future returns. Please refer to the latest Full Prospectus and KIID before investing; your attention is drawn to the risk, fees and taxation factors contained therein.

This document is intended for retail investors and their advisers and has been approved and issued as a financial promotion under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 by Downing LLP ("Downing"). This document is for information only and does not form part of a direct offer or invitation to purchase, subscribe for or dispose of securities and no reliance should be placed on it. Downing does not offer investment or tax advice or make recommendations regarding investments. Downing is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (Firm Reference No. 545025). Registered in England No. OC341575. Registered Office: St Magnus House, 3 Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6HD.