

Ash Park Global Consumer Franchise UCITS Fund

Global Consumer Franchise Equity

April 2021

Fund Overview

The Ash Park Global Consumer Franchise UCITS Fund is managed by a London-based team with extensive experience covering consumer companies. The Ash Park fund pursues a long-only, 'Buy-and-Hold' strategy focused solely on global Food, Beverage, Tobacco and Household & Personal Care companies (together, the 'Consumer Staples' sector). These companies have historically produced higher long-term returns than the market, and with lower volatility, and the sector tends to combine attractive income generation with inflation protection and growth, supported by brands and franchises which have often been built over decades, even centuries.

The Ash Park fund does not measure itself against any benchmark but has the objective of beating inflation consistently, with low risk and low volatility, through the ownership of high-quality Consumer Staples stocks that it believes are capable of growing their earnings and cash flows at attractive rates almost indefinitely. The Ash Park fund seeks to balance its desire to own the best quality stocks with a need to diversify its portfolio risk. However, its holdings will be concentrated (typically c.20 stocks) and it will be aiming for low turnover.

Monthly Portfolio Comment

Class A units in the Ash Park Global Consumer Franchise UCITS Fund in April were up 2.13% in Euros, up 4.61% in USD, and up 4.25% in GBP. For the year, Class A units are up 6.57% in Euros, up 4.85% in USD, and up 3.52% in GBP.

April's positive return for the fund came about from a mix of items. Maybe most noteworthy was the beginning of the Q1 reporting season, which in many cases lapped last year's initial negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Amorepacific of Korea saw its Q1 sales increase 11%, and for the first time in a year its travel-related business grew, at a high teens rate. Conversely, some of the portfolio companies which had benefited from lockdown measures enjoyed more muted results. For example, US household cleaner maker Clorox saw flat sales in Q1, but lapped a period last year in which sales had grown 17%, underscoring the strong cumulative growth being achieved. Finally, we were intrigued by an article published by the Financial Times on 29th April which highlighted how Spring Mountain Investments, controlled by US billionaire Kenneth Dart, had accumulated over \$6bn worth of holdings in BAT (c.7% stake) and Imperial Brands (c.3% stake). It is not often that such a significant purchase of shares goes largely unnoticed. Although we have no insights into Mr Dart's motives, we continue to believe that our tobacco holdings represent an exceptional value opportunity at current prices, and the prospect of them beginning to return significant amounts of cash through buybacks – on top of their substantial dividend streams – adds further support to their story. The top three contributors in April were Fever-Tree, Heineken, and Nomad Foods. The top 3 detractors in the month were BAT, Clorox, and Altria.

Fund Performance Since Inception (EUR)



Class A, net of fees / expenses. Fund launched on 14th Oct 2014 (=100)
Source: Ash Park

The monthly performance figures quoted above and overleaf represent the performance of the Ash Park Global Consumer Franchise UCITS Fund in the relevant currency class. Euro is the base currency of the fund and is the best indication of fund performance. These performance figures refer to the past and past performance is not a reliable guide to future performance.

The Manager



Geographic Split

At 30th April 2021, By Country of Listing

UK	29.5%
US	23.8%
Netherlands	8.5%
Switzerland	8.4%
Japan	8.4%
Hong Kong	6.4%
Italy	4.4%
Germany	4.0%
South Korea	3.5%
Mexico	1.1%
Net Cash	2.0%

Sector Split

At 30th April 2021, By Company Listing

Tobacco	26.2%
Personal Care	25.1%
Beverages	20.1%
Food Manufacturing	15.8%
Household Care	10.8%
Net Cash	2.0%

Fund Facts

Structure	UCITS Fund
Domicile	Ireland
Liquidity	Daily
Fund AUM	\$50 million
Strategy AUM	\$249 million
Number of Stocks	22
Inception	14 th October 2014

Share Class

Currency	EUR/CHF/USD/GBP
Mgt. Fee	1.00%
ISIN Codes	EUR: IE00BQQFW266 USD: IE00BQQFW480 CHF: IE00BQQFW597 GBP: IE00BQQFW373

A Class

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GBP Class A – launched 14th October 2014

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y-T-D
2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.78%	5.62%	-3.71%	4.53%
2015	6.21%	1.72%	-0.42%	-1.12%	1.56%	-5.59%	5.90%	-4.92%	2.87%	5.57%	1.05%	1.58%	14.48%
2016	3.04%	1.02%	3.14%	-1.16%	0.32%	11.44%	0.48%	0.23%	0.79%	1.68%	-9.04%	2.81%	14.48%
2017	0.43%	7.80%	1.97%	-1.63%	8.00%	-2.82%	-1.68%	1.89%	-4.69%	1.16%	0.43%	3.53%	14.45%
2018	-3.40%	-5.49%	-0.38%	-0.96%	0.79%	3.32%	4.32%	-1.03%	-0.72%	-1.99%	-1.35%	-6.63%	-13.19%
2019	0.62%	3.51%	7.09%	6.60%	-0.19%	1.90%	3.87%	0.31%	-1.84%	-5.06%	3.46%	0.58%	13.88%
2020	-0.69%	-7.11%	-3.48%	6.50%	4.50%	1.05%	-3.00%	0.29%	4.13%	-5.47%	5.44%	4.09%	5.24%
2021	-3.23%	-3.78%	6.65%	4.25%									3.52%

EUR Class A – launched 17th April 2015

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y-T-D
2015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-0.36%	-3.30%	-3.64%
2016	-0.44%	-1.16%	1.42%	0.22%	2.55%	2.56%	-0.86%	-0.73%	-0.93%	-2.22%	-3.63%	2.26%	-1.15%
2017	-0.20%	8.44%	1.80%	-0.04%	4.36%	-3.59%	-3.47%	-1.24%	-0.20%	1.61%	0.02%	2.73%	10.05%
2018	-2.11%	-6.47%	0.59%	-1.01%	0.79%	2.49%	3.43%	-1.39%	-0.22%	-1.56%	-1.43%	-7.69%	-14.14%
2019	3.53%	5.46%	6.39%	-0.43%	-2.95%	0.69%	2.22%	0.87%	0.33%	-2.58%	4.64%	1.19%	20.63%
2020	0.09%	-9.19%	-6.20%	8.53%	0.85%	0.03%	-2.14%	1.24%	2.46%	-4.82%	6.02%	4.19%	-0.38%
2021	-2.09%	-1.95%	8.69%	2.13%									6.57%

USD Class A – launched 19th February 2016

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y-T-D
2016	-	-1.21%	6.37%	0.73%	-0.32%	2.35%	-0.21%	-1.13%	-0.03%	-4.90%	-6.46%	1.68%	-3.66%
2017	2.26%	6.63%	2.47%	1.77%	7.76%	-2.22%	-0.21%	-0.41%	-0.76%	0.13%	2.37%	3.46%	25.30%
2018	1.55%	-8.42%	1.43%	-2.75%	-2.62%	2.52%	3.65%	-1.94%	-0.39%	-3.97%	-1.50%	-6.80%	-18.27%
2019	3.92%	4.66%	4.91%	-0.62%	-3.50%	2.90%	-0.06%	-0.23%	-0.68%	-0.30%	3.42%	3.01%	18.45%
2020	-1.19%	-9.99%	-6.30%	8.34%	2.42%	1.00%	3.03%	1.87%	0.98%	-5.45%	8.87%	6.57%	8.59%
2021	-2.79%	-2.04%	5.24%	4.61%									4.85%

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