ALL DATA AS OF 31 MAY 2024

MONTHLY REPORT | FACTSHEET

## **Fund Objective & Policy**

To deliver capital and income growth and provide a total return in excess of the MSCI North America Index (GBP) by investing at least 80% of its assets directly in the shares of North American companies i.e. companies that are listed, traded, incorporated or domiciled in the United States of America, Canada and Mexico.

The MSCI North America Index (GBP) has been selected as the fund's target benchmark as it represents the broad scope of North American quoted companies that the fund will seek to invest in. The fund is not constrained by the target benchmark and can take positions in individual sectors, countries and geographic areas that differ significantly from the Index with the aim of achieving a return in excess of the benchmark.

There is no guarantee that a positive return will be delivered.

## Total Return Performance to 31st May 2024 (%) £

					Annualised	
	1m	3m	YTD	1yr	3yr	Since Inception
WS LT North American Equity Fund (Acc)	-0.1	-1.7	+3.0	+9.4	+5.3	+10.9
MSCI North America Index	+2.9	+2.9	+10.6	+24.0	+12.2	+17.4
Relative Return	-3.0	-4.6	-7.6	-14.6	-6.9	-6.5

**Source:** Morningstar Direct. Fund performance is based on Acc Class shares. Total return is provided net of fees with dividends reinvested. For periods greater than one year, returns are shown annualised.

Performance data is not available for a full 5 years. Past performance is not a guide to future performance.

## **Fund Information**

Type of Scheme	Non UCITS Retail
Launch Date	22 April 2020
Classes	Accumulation (Acc) / Income (Inc)
Base Currency	GBP (£)
Benchmark	MSCI North American Index (GBP)
Valuation Point	10.30pm each UK business day
Dealing	Requests must be received by 5.30pm on the dealing day
Year End	31 March
Dividend XD Dates	31 March, 30 September
Pay Dates	31 May, 30 November

Source: Lindsell Train Limited and Link Fund Administrators Limited.

## **Fund Assets**

£36.9m

Share Price

Acc 152.95p

97.57p

**Source:** Lindsell Train Limited and Link Fund Administrators Limited.

#### **Fund Profile**

Inc

The portfolio is concentrated, with the number of stocks ranging between 20 to 30.

## **Portfolio Manager**

James Bullock

#### **Investment Manager & Distributor**

Lindsell Train Ltd, 66 Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6AU

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7808 1210 info@lindselltrain.com

## **Top 10 Holdings (% NAV)**

## **FICO** 8.13 **Alphabet** 6.19 **American Express** 5.93 S&P Global 5.37 Equifax 5.07 Walt Disney 5.07 Oracle 4.79 Intuit 4.67 Visa 4.47 TKO 4.20

## **GICS Sector Allocation (% NAV)**



#### **Share Class Information**

	Minimum Investment	Management Fees	Ongoing Charges Figure (OCF)*	ISIN	Sedol
Acc	£500,000	0.60% p.a.	0.84% p.a.	GB00BJVLMG41	BJVLMG4
Inc	£500,000	0.60% p.a.	0.84% p.a.	GB00BLPK7J94	BLPK7J9

<sup>\*</sup> The OCF is a measure of the Fund's total operating expenses over 12 months, including management fee, as a percentage of the Fund's net assets averaged over the same period. The OCF is based on expenses and average assets for the 12 months to 30th September 2023. It is calculated by the Fund Administrator and published in the KIID, dated 7th February 2024. It is an indication of the likely level of costs and will fluctuate as the Fund's expenses and average net assets change. The OCF excludes any portfolio transaction costs. The OCF is capped at 0.90% until further notice. The ongoing charges are taken equally from the income and capital of the fund.

#### **Depositary**

The Northern Trust Investor Services Limited

#### Custodian

The Northern Trust Company

# Fund Administrator, Dealing & Registration

Link Fund Administrators Limited

Tel: +44 (0) 11 3224 6000

Email: investorservices@linkgroup.co.uk

Authorised Corporate Director (ACD)/Authorised Fund Manager Waystone Management (UK) Limited Please refer to Lindsell Train's Glossary of Investment terms here.

#### **Investment Team Commentary**

The Fund returned -0.1% in GBP terms in the month, compared to the 2.9% return of the MSCI North American Index. Estee Lauder was the main detractor which fell c.15% in USD terms off the back of their most recent earnings announcement where the company lowered its forecasts for the rest of the year due to the continued headwinds for prestige beauty in mainland China. Elsewhere Disney, Intuit and PayPal were also weak, all down over 6%, whilst Verisk (+14%) and FICO (+16%) provided welcome support.

Verisk's share price hit new all-time highs in the month following the release of its first quarter results. Leveraging its origins as an industry consortium, the company commands a formidable position in supplying data and analytics to the US property & casualty industry, and it is also growing its position in new verticals such as life insurance, as well as expanding its presence in international markets. Built over the decades from unique, contributory data sets, the information held by Verisk has proven indispensable in assisting insurers with underwriting risk and processing claims, granting it a unique and resilient competitive position. Its underwriting solution segment typifies its nature as a one of a kind business. Based off millions of property, premium and losses records, Verisk operates the marketleading statistical database. Leveraging these critical data assets enables this segment of the business to generate: reliable mid-single digit growth; a subscription revenue mix of 84%; and incredibly impressive ~99% customer retention rates. The unique strength of this position is clearly reflected in the headline fundamentals of the company; roughly 80% of revenue is subscription based, enabling it to generate steady and predictable high margin cash flows. Over the quarter, Verisk delivered 7% top-line growth, with the subscription component growing marginally higher at closer to 8%. Improved pricing and a strong renewal cycle were cited as contributing to the resilient subscription growth. The strength in subscription growth offset somewhat subdued transaction numbers that were marginally impacted by the classification of certain products converting from transaction to subscription revenue. The insurance endmarket appears to be healthier than investors had originally envisaged. This sentiment shift, along with the company reaffirming guidance for the year, has propelled the shares higher.

Estée Lauder's performance this month reflects investor disappointment at yet another cut in guidance, which signals that visibility on the timing and magnitude of a potential recovery is still nebulous. The cut in guidance marks the ninth consecutive occasion of such announcements. There were some bright spots in the recent earnings, notably that after a torrid couple of years, there are signs that Travel Retail in Asia has bottomed as the effects of destocking moderate. This would be welcome news, though China, which has been a critical growth driver for the company in recent years, continues to be a problem area, and there is also pressure on the business in Europe and the US. Management have put in place a profit recovery and turnaround plan to address the issues of the last few years, in an attempt to get the company back on the right track. Longer term, we are hopeful these initiatives will enable the company to execute on the significant global growth opportunities within the prestige beauty category.

#### Alexander Windsor-Clive, 11th June 2024

The top three absolute contributors to the Fund's performance in May were FICO, TKO and Verisk Analytics, and the top three absolute detractors were Estée Lauder, Intuit and Walt Disney.

Source: Lindsell Train, Morningstar & Bloomberg. All data as of 31st May 2024.

Note: All stock returns are total returns in local currency unless otherwise specified.

#### **Important Information**

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The WS Lindsell Train North American Equity Fund (the "Fund") is an open-ended investment company (OEIC) authorised and regulated in the UK by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) under Regulation 14 of the OEIC Regulations 2001.

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