

Fund description and summary of investment policy

The Fund invests in a focused portfolio of Frontier Market Equities. The Fund price is reported in US dollars, but the underlying holdings are denominated in various currencies. Returns are likely to be volatile.

Classification: Frontier Markets – Equity

Fund objective and benchmark

The Fund aims to outperform Frontier Markets over the long term without taking on greater risk of loss. The Fund's benchmark is the MSCI Frontier Emerging Markets (FEM) Index. The Fund does not seek to mirror the benchmark but instead may deviate meaningfully from this performance benchmark in pursuit of superior returns. To the extent that its investments differ from those in the benchmark, the Fund faces the risk of underperforming the benchmark.

Frontier Market Equities

There are numerous risks involved in investing in Frontier Market Equities. These risks may be significantly higher than in more developed markets and may include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Individual countries may impose capital controls preventing the repatriation of foreign currency
- Returns are expected to be more volatile, and the average drawdown may be higher, than in more developed markets
- Low liquidity whereby subscriptions into the Fund may have to be phased in, and redemptions from the Fund may be limited per dealing day
- Market prices may not accurately reflect the fair value of a Fund asset and fair value pricing may be used

There is no assurance that the investment approach of the Fund will be successful or that the Fund will achieve its investment objective.

See the "Important information for investors" section for more information.

How we aim to achieve the Fund's objective

We invest in equities that we believe offer superior fundamental value while taking into account risk and return. We research companies and assess their intrinsic value based on long-term fundamentals; we then invest in businesses where our assessment of intrinsic value exceeds the share price by a margin of safety. This approach allows us to identify shares that may be out of favour with the market because of poor near-term prospects, but offer good value over the long term. The Fund's holdings will deviate meaningfully from those in the index both in terms of individual holdings and sector exposure.

Suitable for those investors who

- Seek exposure to Frontier Market Equities
- Are comfortable with above-average stock market and currency fluctuations
- Are prepared to take on the risk of capital loss
- Have a minimum investment horizon of five years

Fund information on 31 December 2024

Fund currency	US\$
Fund size	US\$975m
Number of shares	4 803 685
Price (net asset value per share)	US\$176.47
Number of share holdings	37
Dealing day	Weekly (Thursday)
Class	C
Class inception date	21 January 2021

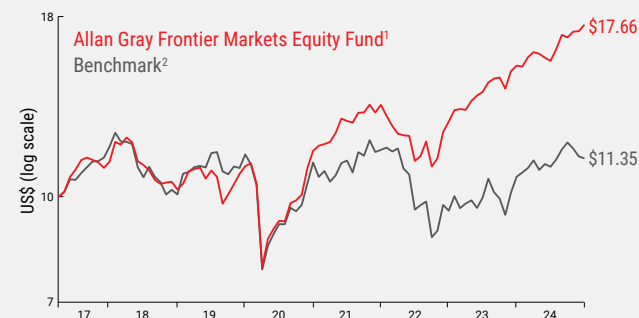
Minimum investment amounts

Minimum initial investment	US\$50 000
Minimum subsequent investment	US\$1 000

- Prior to the inception of this class of the Fund, the performance and risk measures are calculated using the A class performance of the Fund.
- MSCI Frontier Emerging Markets Index (source: MSCI), performance as calculated by Allan Gray. Calculation based on the latest available data as supplied by third parties.
- Maximum percentage decline over any period calculated from monthly returns. The maximum drawdown occurred from 31 March 2018 to 31 March 2020 and maximum benchmark drawdown occurred from 31 January 2018 to 31 March 2020. Drawdown is calculated on the total return of the Fund/benchmark (i.e. including income).
- The percentage of calendar months in which the Fund produced a positive monthly return since inception.
- The standard deviation of the Fund's monthly return. This is a measure of how much an investment's return varies from its average over time.
- This is the highest or lowest rolling 12-month return the Fund has experienced since inception. The Fund's highest annual return occurred during the 12 months ended 31 March 2021 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 31 March 2021. The Fund's lowest annual return occurred during the 12 months ended 31 March 2020 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 31 March 2020. All rolling 12-month figures for the Fund and the benchmark are available from the Allan Gray Service Team on request.

Performance in US\$ net of all fees and expenses

Value of US\$10 invested at inception with all distributions reinvested



% Returns	Fund ¹	Benchmark ²
Cumulative:		
Since inception (3 April 2017)	76.6	13.5
Annualised:		
Since inception (3 April 2017)	7.6	1.7
Latest 5 years	9.8	-0.3
Latest 3 years	9.2	-0.9
Latest 2 years	17.3	9.0
Latest 1 year	14.5	6.3
Year-to-date (not annualised)	14.5	6.3
Risk measures (since inception, based on month-end prices)		
Maximum drawdown ³	-34.9	-36.3
Percentage positive months ⁴	63.4	57.0
Annualised monthly volatility ⁵	14.9	16.3
Highest annual return ⁶	51.5	33.6
Lowest annual return ⁶	-27.8	-28.6

Relative to benchmark return required to reach high watermark: 0.0%.

Meeting the Fund objective

The Fund aims to outperform Frontier Markets over the long term without taking on greater risk of loss. The Fund may experience periods of underperformance in pursuit of this objective. Since inception, the Fund has outperformed its benchmark. The maximum drawdown and lowest annual return numbers in the "Performance in US\$ net of all fees and expenses" table show that the Fund has not experienced more downside than its benchmark in periods of negative market returns. We believe our philosophy of buying undervalued equities should generate positive absolute returns over time.

Subscription and redemption charge

Investors will be charged 0.5% when subscribing for Fund shares and 0.5% when redeeming Fund shares. These charges are paid into the Fund to offset the costs associated with the transactions that are borne by the Fund. Allan Gray Bermuda Limited (the "Investment Manager") may waive these charges at its discretion, for example in the case of significant offsetting between subscriptions and redemptions.

Annual management fee

The management fee consists of a base fee of 0.7% and a performance component. The fee rate is calculated weekly by comparing the Fund's total performance for the week, after the base fee is deducted, to that of the benchmark.

Fee for performance equal to the Fund's benchmark: 0.7% p.a.

For each percentage point above or below the benchmark we add or deduct 0.2%. This means that Allan Gray shares in approximately 20% of the performance relative to the benchmark. The fee can decrease to a minimum of 0%. If the fee would have been negative, the negative fee will be carried forward to reduce the next week's fee (and all subsequent weeks until the underperformance is recovered).

Total expense ratio (TER) and transaction costs

The annual management fee charged is included in the TER. The TER is a measure of the actual expenses incurred by the Fund over a one- and three-year period (annualised). Since Fund returns are quoted after deduction of these expenses, the TER should not be deducted from the published returns (refer to page 4 for further information). Transaction costs are disclosed separately. The TER and transaction costs cannot be determined accurately because of the short life span of the class. Calculations are based on actual data where possible and best estimates where actual data is not available.

Country of primary listing on 31 December 2024⁷

Country	% of equities	Benchmark ²
United kingdom	22.3	0.0
Philippines	19.3	20.4
Kazakhstan	15.8	5.0
Nigeria	7.2	0.0
Egypt	6.9	2.6
Bangladesh	6.8	1.3
Vietnam	5.2	15.7
Sri lanka	5.1	0.7
Argentina	2.9	0.0
Australia	2.1	0.0
Kuwait	1.7	0.0
United states	1.5	0.0
Pakistan	1.0	3.4
Slovenia	0.9	3.6
Kenya	0.9	2.0
Hong kong	0.5	0.0
Peru	0.0	11.2
Romania	0.0	7.4
Morocco	0.0	7.3
Iceland	0.0	4.1
Other	0.0	15.3
Total (%)⁸	100.0	100.0

7. The primary listing may not represent the geographical location of the company's operations. The fund invests based on the primary place of operation, not listing.

8. There may be slight discrepancies in the totals due to rounding.

9. The TER and Transaction costs data is that of the A Class of the Fund, reduced by 0.3% p.a.

Note: There are ~32 countries in the benchmark, therefore countries not in the Fund may be shown as "Other" as the last balancing item for the benchmark.

Sector allocation on 31 December 2024

Sector	% of equities	Benchmark ²
Financials	43.4	41.0
Consumer staples	30.4	5.2
Basic materials	9.7	8.8
Healthcare	6.1	3.6
Consumer discretionary	5.8	5.0
Industrials	2.7	9.6
Energy	2.1	5.5
Telecommunications	0.0	5.0
Utilities	0.0	5.2
Technology	0.0	0.3
Real estate	0.0	10.9
Total (%)⁸	100.0	100.0

Asset allocation on 31 December 2024

Asset class	Total
Net equity	93.6
Bonds	5.8
Money market and bank deposits	0.5
Total (%)⁸	100.0

Total expense ratio (TER) and transaction costs⁹

TER and transaction costs breakdown for the 1- and 3-year period ending 30 September 2024	1yr %	3yr %
Total expense ratio	0.54	2.83
Fee for benchmark performance	0.70	0.70
Performance fees	-0.31	1.97
Custody fees	0.10	0.10
Other costs excluding transaction costs	0.05	0.06
Transaction costs	0.06	0.05
Total investment charge	0.60	2.88

In what continued to be a very difficult environment for frontier markets, the Fund had a pleasing 2024 from both an absolute and relative perspective, delivering a return of 14.5% net of fees, versus the benchmark at 6.3%.

What is perhaps most pleasing about the Fund's returns over the past few years is that a material portion has been driven by the underlying growth in the earnings of the companies, rather than a substantial improvement in sentiment and an associated rerating.

A quick review of some of our larger positions provides an apt example.

In Kazakhstan, we own the US dollar global depository receipts of Halyk Bank, the largest in-country bank, and Kazatomprom, the world's largest producer of uranium:

- At the end of December 2021, Halyk Bank traded at US\$16.50 per share. Three years later, at the end of December 2024, the share had appreciated by just 18% to US\$19.44. Over this same period earnings have, however, grown by more than 50% in US dollars. As such, the price-to-earnings (PE) multiple has fallen from 4.5 times to 3.5 times. This is a very low price to pay for a bank compounding earnings at more than 15% per annum in US dollars. Including the most recently declared December 2024 dividend, shareholders will also have received more than US\$6 per share in dividends over the past three years.
- Three years ago, Kazatomprom traded at US\$36.75 per share. At the end of December 2024, it was trading at US\$37.75. Over this same period, given a much higher uranium price, earnings have more than doubled in US dollar terms. In 2021, the market was anticipating a strong recovery in earnings, but the multiple has more than halved since then to approximately 12 times earnings. Kazatomprom has also paid healthy dividends throughout.

In Georgia, we own the two largest banks, TBC Bank (TBC) and Bank of Georgia (BGEO). We also own Georgia Capital, a holding company whose largest investment is BGEO. We spoke at length about our overweight position in Georgia and the ongoing political events in our [Q2 2024 quarterly commentary](#). National elections were held in October, with the incumbent party Georgian Dream winning by a small majority. Observers and minority parties have challenged the integrity of the election, with allegations of voter fraud, violence and intimidation. Post the election, the government suspended negotiations on joining the European Union, which has led to multiple nightly protests since the end of November. Independent polls suggest that more than 80% of the population supports EU membership. Perhaps somewhat surprising given this backdrop, the shares appreciated during the quarter. We anticipate that small changes in sentiment are likely to continue to materially impact the Georgian shares in the short term.

As previously mentioned, we cannot predict how the economic and political situation in Georgia will unfold over the longer term, but we believe investors are being adequately compensated for taking this risk by being able to buy high-quality companies at very low multiples.

Both TBC and BGEO have had stellar results coming out of COVID-19, buoyed by a strong and growing economy, and indirectly benefiting from regional trade being redirected through Georgia post the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war, as well as an influx of people from both affected countries. For the past three years, TBC has grown US dollar earnings at a compound rate of 20% per annum, while BGEO has been compounding US dollar earnings at greater than 30% per annum. Although the share prices have appreciated alongside this growth in earnings, one is paying the same multiple today that you did three years ago, roughly 4.5 times earnings for BGEO and 4.8 times earnings for TBC.

In the Philippines, we own spirits company Ginebra San Miguel (GSMI). A long-term winner in the Fund, GSMI provides an example of what can happen in the Fund when the earnings grow and the company experiences a rerating.

At the end of December 2021, GSMI traded on just under 8 times earnings. Since then, it has compounded earnings at 19% per annum in Philippine peso over the past three years, or roughly 68% cumulatively. In US dollar terms, earnings have grown by a cumulative 47% given local currency weakness. However, the share price is up by 112% in US dollars over this same period, as the market has come to appreciate the company more. It now trades at just over 11 times earnings. The company has also paid dividends, so the total US dollar return has been greater than 150% over the past three years (roughly 36% per annum).

At a Fund level, the weighted average forward PE multiple of companies in our portfolio is just 5.5 times. On average, by our estimates, we expect this group of companies to compound earnings in US dollars in excess of 10% per annum. To give you a sense of how out of favour frontier markets are, the MSCI World Index ended 2024 on 23 times historic earnings and 19.1 times forward earnings expectations. The popular S&P 500, which has compounded earnings by 6.6% per annum on average over the past decade, ended 2024 on an even higher 28.6 times historic earnings. As Benjamin Graham famously said, "In the short run, the market is a voting machine but in the long run, it is a weighing machine."

Commentary contributed by Rory Kutisker-Jacobson

**Fund manager quarterly
commentary as at
31 December 2024**

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Definitions

Frontier Markets means markets included in the MSCI Frontier Emerging Markets (FEM) Index and Beyond Frontier markets. Beyond Frontier markets are markets not included in developed, emerging or frontier indices. Frontier Market Equities means equity in companies domiciled, geographically located or with significant business interests in Frontier Markets, regardless of the location of the stock exchange listing.

Information and content

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Performance

Collective investment schemes (unit trusts or mutual funds) are generally medium- to long-term investments. Where annualised performance is mentioned, this refers to the average return per year over the period. The value of shares or the investment may go down as well as up and past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Movements in exchange rates may cause the value of underlying international investments to go up or down. Neither the Investment Manager, the Fund nor the Representative provides any guarantee regarding the capital or the performance of the Fund. Performance figures are provided by the Investment Manager and are for lump sum investments with income distributions reinvested. The performance graph is for illustrative purposes only. Actual investor performance may differ as a result of the investment date, the date of reinvestment and applicable taxes.

MSCI Index

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Share price

Share prices are calculated on a net asset value basis, which is the total market value of all assets in the Fund, including any income accruals and less any permissible deductions from the Fund divided by the number of shares in issue. Forward pricing is used. The weekly price of the Fund is normally calculated each Friday. Purchase requests must be received by the Registrar of the Fund by 17:00 South African time on that dealing day to receive that week's price. Redemption requests must be received by the Registrar of the Fund by 17:00 South African time on the particular dealing day on which shares are to be redeemed to receive that week's price. Share prices are available on www.allangray.co.za.

Fees and charges

Permissible deductions from the Fund may include management fees, brokerage, securities transfer tax, auditor's fees, bank charges and custody fees. A schedule of fees, charges and maximum commissions is available on request from the Representative.

Total expense ratio (TER) and transaction costs

The TER is the annualised percentage of the Fund's average assets under management that has been used to pay the Fund's actual expenses over the past one- and three-year periods. The TER includes the annual management fees that have been charged (both the fee at benchmark and any performance component charged) and other expenses like audit fees. Transaction costs (including brokerage, securities transfer tax and investor protection levies where applicable) are shown separately. Transaction costs are necessary costs in administering the Fund and impact Fund returns. They should not be considered in isolation as returns may be impacted by many other factors over time, including market returns, the type of fund, the investment decisions of the Investment Manager and the TER. Since Fund returns are quoted after the deduction of these expenses, the TER and transaction costs should not be deducted again from published returns. As collective investment scheme expenses vary, the current TER cannot be used as an indication of future TERs. A higher TER does not necessarily imply a poor return, nor does a low TER imply a good return. Instead, when investing, the investment objective of the Fund should be aligned with the investor's objective and compared against the performance of the Fund. The TER and other funds' TERs should then be used to evaluate whether the Fund performance offers value for money. The sum of the TER and transaction costs is shown as the total investment charge (TIC).

Frontier markets

There are significant risks involved in investing in shares listed in the Fund's universe of emerging and developing countries, including liquidity risks, sometimes aggravated by rapid and large outflows of "hot money" and capital flight, concentration risk, currency risks, political and social instability, the possibility of expropriation, confiscatory taxation or nationalisation of assets and the establishment of foreign exchange controls which may include the suspension of the ability to transfer currency from a given country. Frontier market countries have varying laws and regulations and, in some, foreign investment is controlled or restricted in varying degrees.

Capacity

The Fund currently has limited capacity. The Investment Manager may, at its discretion, refuse a subscription or phase a subscription into the Fund over a number of dealing days. Total investor redemptions may be limited to US\$5m or 2.5% of the Fund (whichever is less) per dealing day. The Investment Manager retains the right to distribute all or part of any redemption proceeds in specie (in kind).

Fair value pricing

The board of directors of the Fund (the "Board") may fair value the Fund's assets in accordance with the Board's fair value pricing policies if: 1) the closing market quotations or official closing prices are not readily available or do not accurately reflect the fair value of a Fund asset; or 2) the value of a Fund asset has been materially affected by events occurring before the Fund's pricing time but after the close of the exchange or market on which the asset is principally traded. The Board delegates the responsibility for fair value pricing decisions to a valuation committee of the Investment Manager.

Contractual risk

The Fund can use derivatives to manage its exposure to stock markets, currencies and/or interest rates and this exposes the Fund to contractual risk. Contractual risk includes the risk that a counterparty will not settle a transaction according to its terms and conditions because of a dispute over the terms of the contract (whether or not bona fide) or because of a credit or liquidity problem, causing the Fund to suffer a loss. Such contract counterparty risk is accentuated for contracts with longer maturities where events may intervene to prevent settlement, or where the Fund has concentrated its transactions with a single or small group of counterparties.

Derivatives

Borrowing, leveraging and trading securities on margin will result in interest charges and, depending on the amount of trading activity, such charges could be substantial. The low margin deposits normally required in futures and forward trading used by the Fund permit a high degree of leverage; accordingly, a relatively small price movement in a futures or forward contract may result in immediate and substantial losses to the investor. Price movements of forward contracts and other derivative contracts in which the assets of the Fund may be invested are highly volatile and are influenced by, among other things, interest rates, changing supply and demand relationships, trade, fiscal, monetary and exchange control programmes and policies of governments, and national and international political and economic events and policies. Forward contracts are not traded on exchanges and are not standardised; rather, banks and dealers act as principals in these markets, negotiating each transaction on an individual basis. Trading in forward contracts is substantially unregulated and there is no limitation on daily price movements.

Operating expense cap

The Investment Manager has agreed with the Fund that, except for specified exclusions, operating expenses attributable to the Fund will be capped at a rate of 0.15% per annum during the Fund's financial year. The cap will be automatically extended for further successive one-year periods, unless the Investment Manager notifies the Fund that the cap will not continue at least three months prior to the expiry of the term, as extended. The Investment Manager will meet expenses incurred in excess of such cap and will not seek reimbursement from the Fund. The operating expenses that are capped are all expenses excluding the fees of the Investment Manager, the cost of buying and selling assets and custody fees.

Important information for investors

Need more information?

You can obtain additional information about the Fund, including copies of the prospectus, application forms and the annual report, free of charge, by contacting the Allan Gray service team, at **0860 000 654** or **+27 (0)21 415 2301** or by email at allangraybermuda@allangray.com.