For Professional Investors Only

VT De Lisle America Fund GBP(£) Units

Monthly Factsheet as at 31 December 2024

Fund Information

Portfolio Manager	Richard de Lisle
Launch Date	06/08/10
Fund Size	£538m
No. of Holdings	185
IA Sector	IA North America
Pricing	Daily, 12 noon
ACD	Valu-Trac Investment Management Ltd

Fund Objective

To provide an attractive long-term return by investing primarily in equities in North America.

Fund Performance

Since launch: 06/08/2010 to 31/12/2024

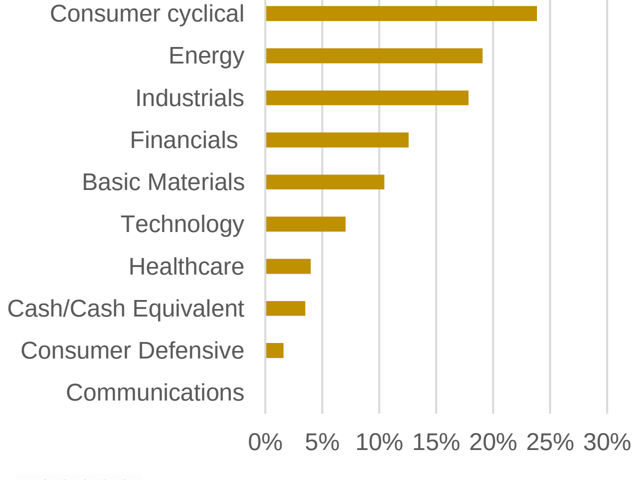
Performance

Cumulative	1 month	3 months	6 months	YTD	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 Years	Since Launch of Fund
VT De Lisle America GB(£)	-6.5%	5.1%	7.0%	9.9%	9.9%	26.7%	94.4%	240.0%	667.9%
IA North America TR in GB	-2.3%	8.5%	8.3%	22.0%	22.0%	28.0%	86.7%	245.3%	572.8%

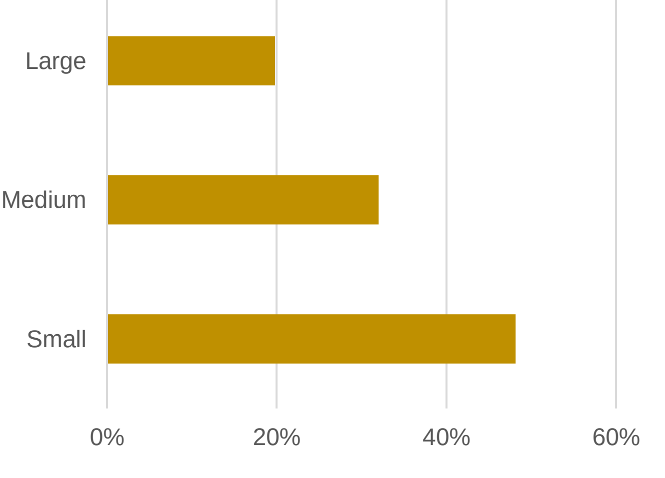
Annualised	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Since Launch of Fund
VT De Lisle America GB(£)	9.9%	8.2%	14.2%	13.0%	15.3%
IA North America TR in GB	22.0%	8.6%	13.3%	13.2%	14.2%

Source: Morningstar, 31/12/2024

Sector Allocation (%)



Market Cap Breakdown (%)



★★★★★ Morningstar Rating™

www.delislepartners.com | investor-relations@delislepartners.uk | 020 7074 3572

Manager Commentary

In December the Fund fell 6.5%, the IA North America sector fell 2.3% and the S&P 500 fell by 0.9%. On December 18th, the Fed set out a more cautious rate cutting plan for 2025 and the consequence was a sharp fall in everything that was not a resilient growth stock. Once again, that included everything smaller. The Russell 2000 was down 6.9% and the S&P600 (small cap) was down 6.6%.

Even before the 18th, the market was weak and the Dow Jones Index, traditionally known as a measure of large cyclicals, was down 10 consecutive days into the 18th, the longest losing streak since descending into the primary bear market low in September 1974. The small cap indices had their worst month since September 2022, which was also a collapse into a bear-market low. These falls, eradicating the Trump bump last month, left materials and oil services down on the year and reduced the S&P600 to up just 6.4% and its value component to just 5.4%. These indices have been our nearest comparables in past years.

The principal stock market idea relating to the incoming administration is deregulation. This has meant a favourable re-evaluation of the prospects for the big tech monopolies, typically known as the Mag7, and they have gone to higher ratings. The word 'monopoly', formerly pejorative, is now openly heard in recommendations. As one example, Apple has moved up to 37x trailing earnings. Since 2012 it has averaged earnings growth at 12% and revenue at 8%. Even at $3.8 trillion cap, no slowdown is envisioned as AI arrives for the apps. In 2024, the S&P500 gained 23% but 13% of that was the Mag7, 14% if we include Broadcom which is another trillion-dollar stock. Therefore 2/3 of the gain of the 500 stocks was attributable to just eight tech companies. This is confirmed by the rise in 2024 in the S&P500 equal weight of just 11%. The difference of 12.3% created by measuring the same 500 stocks in different ways is extraordinary. These polarised moves increased flows into passive investing to a new high in 2024 and this acceleration may well continue given these figures. Some data shows passives are now larger than active funds under management. As market cap becomes more dominant in the determination of fund flows this should inhibit dividends and buybacks as there would be less incentive to reward active investors.

Yields rose sharply and the 30-year bond closed at 4.8%, a rise of 0.4% on the month to the highest level since July 2007; before the deflation of the Great Financial Crash (GFC) started with Northern Rock a month later. The yield curve finally normalised, meaning that longer dates now have higher rates, and all maturities are back to pre-GFC levels. We don't think they continue higher as the strong dollar shows the market is unworried by deficit spending.

We haven't been doing that badly. Build-A-Bear, our largest holding, with more attractive revenue and growth rates than Apple since we bought it, doubled in 2024 yet is still on 12x trailing earnings. We have many other top 20 holdings that have been very strong. However, we have been dragged down by a hiatus year in energy and relentless declines in the leisure sector where companies predict turning points which get pushed out with rising interest rates.

Top 10 Holdings (%)

Build-A-Bear Workshop	4.5%
Cameco Corp	3.5%
Climb Global Solutions	3.4%
Murphy USA	2.8%
Celestica	2.7%
Everus Construction Group	2.6%
MasterBrand	2.4%
UFP Technologies	1.9%
Sterling Construction Company	1.9%
FS Bancorp	1.8%
Total	**26.8%**

Share class Information

Shareclass	B Shares Acc GBP (£)	B Shares Acc USD ($)	B Hedged GBP (£)
Minimum Investment	£1,000	$1,000	£1,000
Initial Charge	Nil	Nil	Nil
Management Fee	1%	1%	1%
OCF	1.04%	1.04%	1.04%
SEDOL	B3QF3G6	B4X7J42	BPLHRZ8
ISIN	GB00B3QF3G69	GB00B4X7J424	GB00BPLHRZ84

Platform Availability

7IM, AEGON, AJBell, allfunds, ascentric, AVIVA, Bestinvest by Evelyn Partners, Fidelity International, Fundment, FusionWealth, Hargreaves Lansdown, interactive investor, James Brearley, James Hay Partnership, novia, nucleus, Pershing, Quilter, Raymond James, Scottish Widows, Standard Life Elevate, transact, Tilney, true potential, utmost International, wealthtime

Ratios

	3yr	5yr	Since launch
Volatility	16.21	20.71	16.85
Alpha	0.33	1.46	1.28
Beta	0.84	1.06	1.03
Sharpe ratio	0.18	0.48	0.67
Information Ratio	-0.07	0.06	0.10

Important Information