

JK Global Opportunities Fund

June 2022

USD Class -4.50%, GBP Class -4.55%, YEN Class -4.55%, EUR Class -4.63% in June.

The Fund fell -4.50% (USD Class, net of fees) in June, on account of stickier than expected inflation data and a worsening economic outlook. This came from broad-based losses in our equity book; however, our Chinese equities bucked the trend with strong gains alongside our long Dollar position.

The primary catalyst for the sell-off in June was the higher-than-expected US CPI data. The reading of 8.6% vs. expectations of 8.3% relinquished any hopes that inflation was peaking, thereby keeping pressure on central banks to tighten. Jerome Powell made it clear during the June FOMC meeting press conference that the Fed is now very concerned with long-term household inflation expectations becoming unanchored to the upside. He implicitly referred to the University of Michigan's 5–10-year median household inflation expectations survey, which is at the highest level in 40 years.

Another problem for inflation is the acceleration in wage growth against the backdrop of an unusually tight labour market. Currently, the number of unfilled vacancies is almost twice the number of unemployed, causing the Atlanta Fed's measure of annual wage inflation to rise above 6% - its highest reading since the data began in 1997. It seems the only way to avoid a classic wage-price spiral is for the unemployment rate to rise significantly. The Fed will, therefore, soon have to face a real choice of how much it is willing to crush growth, and incur the related collateral damage in order to meet its inflation target.

Europe is in the midst of a stagflation crisis even worse than America's. A supply shock driven by the Western world seeking to stop the consumption of Russian commodities is now exacerbated by retaliation from Moscow in the form of sharply curtailing flows of Russian gas to Europe.

Early signs of energy rationing are becoming apparent in Germany as a result. Vonovia, Germany's largest housing group, is turning off tenants' heating at night to save gas, and cities are dimming street lights, turning off traffic lights, and shutting down swimming pools. Uniper, Germany's largest gas trader, has also applied for state-aid to avoid bankruptcy.

There is no doubt that European industry looks vulnerable in all this, which is starting to get priced into credit markets. The spread on the iTraxx Crossover index has widened nearly 300bps in the last 3 months – almost back to levels seen during the Eurozone debt crisis. This is on top of a government bond market that continues to fragment, without the necessary tools to combat it. As always with Europe, the worry is that this spills over into its fragile banking sector. All in all, we feel comfortable avoiding European assets and expressing our bearishness on the region through a 10% short Euro position.

In addition to the short-term headwinds facing the Euro, the currency is also losing a more structural source of support: Europe's excess savings (primarily from Germany). Europe has committed to investing 210 billion euros over the next five years to achieve energy independence from Russia. Combined with increased defence expenditures, the IMF expects the structural primary budget balance to swing from a surplus of 1.2% of GDP in 2014-19 to a deficit of 1.2% of GDP in 2022-27.

Of course, the other side of the coin to Euro weakness, is the relentless strength of the Dollar. A combination of aggressive FED interest rate hikes, global recessionary fears, and diminishing global liquidity are behind this. Aggregates of global liquidity have collapsed recently, and this looks set to worsen as quantitative tightening (QT) gets into full swing. The FED is set to drain another US\$1-2 trillion from US financial markets over the next 12-18 months. This is on top of the US\$1 trillion drain so far, and if completed, would be equivalent to around 4-5% point hikes in the Fed Funds rate according to CrossBorder Capital.

If the Dollar remains on its current trajectory (as we expect), then US corporate earnings will come under pressure. At the moment, consensus expects S&P 500 earnings to grow 6% this year, which looks wildly optimistic given the current growth outlook.

Our best guess is that earnings will fall around 10% in the US this year. If we attach a conservative 17x earnings multiple to that, then our target on the S&P is around 2960 – 23% lower than current levels.

The best hope for those owning stocks, is that the focus in coming months will switch from rising prices to a weakening economy, which forces the FED to U-turn. On the inflation front, there are some signs that supply constraints might be easing. Shipping rates are trending lower. The supplier deliveries components in the regional Fed surveys have dropped sharply. Retail inventories have moved above their pre-pandemic trend, and there's anecdotal evidence of chip bottlenecks easing too. Many commodity prices have also retreated. Copper prices have dropped to a 16-month low. Wheat prices are down 36% from their high, and the price of lumber has fallen 45% since the start of the year.

Against this, rent inflation will remain elevated as a lagging indicator, and fiscal policy looks set to loosen. In particular, the "inflation relief" checks being rolled out across the world – which caused inflation in the first place – look ill judged. We won't be surprised if "magic money tree" solutions have the opposite of their intended effect.

In summary, the inflation outlook feels much more balanced for the first time in a while. However, our overwhelming sense is that more "demand destruction" is coming before anything else. The dire situation in Europe, the fall in global liquidity, and turndown in leading economic indicators, all paint a grim picture that isn't yet priced into markets in our view. Certainly not analyst earnings estimates. A recession is coming next, and this will drive the next leg down in markets before we get any shift in FED language.

Opportunities will present themselves at some point, but for now, given our view that things will get worse before they get better, Fund exposures have been reduced to very defensive levels. Net equity exposures are at 20% and our main position is long Dollar. In a global recession, the "flight to safety" will buttress the dollar, which is why the Fund is 50% long vs. GBP, EUR, THB, KRW, CNH, and INR.

JK Global Opportunities Fund is a weekly dealing UCITS fund. It can be held by ISA's, SIPP's, Pensions, Charities, Family Offices, Endowments, as a direct holding or through a Private Wealth Manager. All classes have UK Reporting Status.

USD Class (%) ISIN IE00BCCR2L08													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ytd
2022	-7.34	-2.04	-0.96	-3.36	-0.40	-4.50							-17.36
2021	+2.69	+1.99	-0.98	+1.91	-1.61	+1.11	-1.20	+0.36	-1.44	+0.51	-2.44	-0.35	+0.42
2020	-0.27	-1.87	-5.25	+6.27	+2.16	+5.24	+6.50	+2.75	-3.05	+1.43	+6.40	+7.77	+30.72
2019	+3.17	+2.05	+1.37	+2.21	-6.21	+2.59	-0.08	-1.19	-1.06	+2.89	+1.52	+4.79	+12.22
2018	+6.49	-1.25	-1.89	-0.89	+3.75	-3.06	+0.12	+1.25	-2.14	-6.91	+0.28	-4.47	-9.02
2017	+3.07	-1.06	+2.06	+3.56	+2.15	-0.31	+2.96	+2.35	+0.63	+5.47	+2.60	+1.71	+28.09
2016	-5.53	+0.16	+6.52	-0.81	+0.93	-1.32	+3.74	-0.81	+1.53	+1.86	+0.22	-1.82	+4.26
2015	+1.95	+3.92	+0.28	+2.17	+3.81	-4.75	-0.15	-8.28	-6.48	+6.34	+1.36	-0.74	-1.65
2014	-4.07	-1.88	-0.95	-4.73	+0.85	+1.92	+0.05	-1.59	+1.97	+0.18	+7.70	-2.84	-3.91
2013	+6.06	-1.22	+3.54	+8.83	-2.63	-3.09	+3.02	-0.86	+6.57	+1.00	+4.52	+3.38	+32.33
2012	+2.43	+4.80	-0.65	-2.03	-1.50	-0.87	+0.72	+1.52	-0.56	-1.22	+1.23	+4.79	+8.72
2011	-0.95	-0.20	-1.13	+0.82	-2.88	-1.55	-1.50	-1.17	-3.51	+0.94	-2.63	+0.34	-12.73
2010	+0.81	+0.84	+3.74	+1.92	-3.95	+1.76	+0.74	+0.87	+0.01	+1.39	-0.88	+1.72	+9.13
2009	-2.51	+0.03	+3.13	+2.13	+13.8	+3.42	+6.08	+1.06	+0.99	+1.58	-1.10	+3.14	+35.61
2008	-1.76	-0.01	-0.50	+1.22	-1.15	-4.74	-1.58	-1.00	-1.93	-0.05	-0.44	+2.83	-8.92
2007	+2.01	-1.34	-2.35	-0.81	+1.63	+4.04	+0.41	-6.10	+0.14	-1.38	-3.97	-3.74	-11.27
2006	+0.13	-3.78	+3.72	-2.27	-3.75	+1.57	-4.58	+3.13	-0.84	+2.73	-1.03	+1.61	-3.75
2005	-0.75	+1.04	+0.36	-0.65	-1.05	+0.90	+2.01	+1.99	+9.65	+4.55	+7.71	+9.41	+40.31
2004	+0.82	+2.03	+6.57	+0.16	-2.15	+1.61	-1.66	-0.96	-0.48	-0.78	-0.27	+2.18	+6.98
2003											+0.01	+0.39	+0.40

GBP Class (%) ISIN IE00BCCR2K90													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ytd
2022	-7.37	-2.00	-1.04	-3.51	-0.44	-4.55							-17.62
2021	+2.54	+1.97	-1.12	+1.86	-1.59	+1.11	-1.20	+0.34	-1.49	+0.49	-2.42	-0.43	-0.09
2020	-0.32	-2.00	-5.86	+6.18	+2.13	+5.73	+6.30	+2.64	-3.22	+1.35	+6.39	+7.67	+29.26
2019	+2.98	+1.93	+1.23	+2.13	-6.37	+2.45	-0.32	-1.37	-1.19	+2.72	+1.43	+4.62	+10.20
2018	+6.32	-1.45	-2.01	-1.05	+3.67	-3.30	-0.01	+1.14	-2.35	-7.11	+0.08	-4.64	-10.85
2017	+2.97	-1.11	+1.97	+3.52	+2.16	-0.43	+2.84	+2.19	+0.46	+5.38	+2.54	+1.55	+26.66
2016	-5.68	+0.15	+6.37	-0.85	+0.92	-1.35	+3.67	-0.87	+1.49	+1.80	+0.20	-1.92	+3.50
2015	+1.87	+3.87	+0.24	+2.11	+3.89	-4.65	-0.16	-8.20	-6.51	+6.29	+1.40	-0.77	-1.69
2014	-4.02	-1.96	-0.93	-4.69	+0.89	+1.90	+0.06	-1.61	+2.02	+0.09	+7.77	-2.86	-3.86
2013	+6.18	-1.23	+3.52	+8.65	-2.79	-2.93	+3.05	-0.77	+6.43	+0.96	+4.15	+3.23	+31.51
2012	+2.43	+4.74	-0.62	-1.98	-1.54	-0.84	+0.73	+1.49	-0.54	-1.21	+1.25	+4.75	+8.68
2011	-0.92	-0.19	-1.13	+0.80	-2.89	-1.55	-1.43	-1.14	-3.60	+0.94	-2.67	+0.37	-12.71
2010	+0.83	+0.90	+3.77	+1.93	-4.44	+1.69	+0.70	+0.87	+0.02	+1.38	-0.88	+1.74	+8.62
2009				+1.73	+10.1	+2.66	+5.01	+1.23	+1.25	+1.57	-1.14	+3.32	+28.40

YEN Class (%) ISIN IE00BBCR2M15													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ytd
2022	-7.35	-2.03	-1.13	-3.53	-0.53	-4.55							-17.79
2021	+2.61	+2.12	-1.02	+1.87	-1.65	+1.09	-1.21	+0.33%	-1.48	+0.49	-2.41	-0.45	+0.15
2020	-0.46	-1.91	-5.67	+6.00	+2.17	+5.97	+6.45	+1.93	-3.11	+1.38	+6.34	+7.67	+29.02
2019	+2.95	+1.87	+1.16	+1.97	-6.37	+2.35	-0.27	-1.42	-1.29	+2.63	+1.38	+4.47	+9.36
2018	+6.38	-1.42	-2.06	-1.14	+3.59	-3.26	-0.11	+1.15	-2.45	-7.06	+0.07	-4.74	-11.15
2017	+2.87	-1.14	+1.88	+3.57	+2.21	-0.63	+2.83	+2.20	+0.54	+5.33	+2.42	+1.49	+26.07
2016	-5.47	+0.00	+6.50	-0.83	+0.89	-1.40	+3.87	-0.93	+1.38	+1.74	+0.07	-2.01	+3.36
2015	+1.96	+3.85	+0.29	+2.08	+3.93	-4.77	-0.19	-8.07	-6.54	+6.33	+1.42	-0.85	-1.63
2014	-4.10	-1.86	-0.96	-4.74	+0.82	+1.90	+0.03	-1.61	+2.03	+0.51	+7.92	-2.93	-3.53
2013	+6.31	-1.17	+3.49	+9.16	-2.78	-3.02	+2.98	-0.88	+6.62	+0.99	+4.61	+3.52	+33.21
2012	+2.35	+5.36	-0.68	-2.00	-1.50	-0.92	+0.66	+1.49	-0.58	-1.26	+1.24	+4.98	+9.18
2011	-0.99	-0.21	-1.17	+0.78	-2.91	-1.54	-1.47	-1.21	-3.52	+0.90	-2.67	+0.25	-13.02
2010	+0.76	+0.82	+3.93	+1.90	-3.62	+1.67	+0.68	+0.83	-0.02	+1.32	-0.92	+1.62	+9.17
2009	-0.44	+2.14	+2.41	+3.29	+17.6	+5.35	+2.75	+1.22	+1.17	+1.98	-1.32	+3.85	+46.57
2008	-1.92	-0.22	-0.69	+1.09	-1.31	-4.88	-1.77	-1.32	-1.87	-1.00	-0.86	+2.31	-11.89
2007	+1.64	-1.67	-2.71	-1.19	+1.26	+3.72	-0.03	-6.09	-0.28	-1.75	-4.16	-4.10	-14.68
2006	-0.31	-4.10	+3.40	-2.55	-4.13	+1.21	-5.00	+2.76	-1.23	+2.29	-1.43	+1.25	-7.99
2005	-0.94	+0.93	+0.20	-0.96	-1.36	+0.67	+2.08	+1.71	+9.66	+4.45	+7.66	+8.98	+37.47
2004	+0.74	+2.04	+6.20	+0.45	-2.20	+1.52	-1.82	-1.04	-0.61	-0.88	-0.40	+2.01	+5.88
2003											-0.06	+0.31	+0.25

EURO Class (%) ISIN IE00BBCR2N22													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ytd
2022	-7.47	-2.08	-1.14	-3.55	-0.56	-4.63							-18.08
2021	+2.64	+1.99	-2.45	+1.67	-1.64	+1.06	-1.23	+0.30	-1.48	+0.46	-2.41	-0.48	-1.72
2020	-0.44	-1.95	-5.69	+6.11	+2.05	+5.98	+6.39	+2.60	-3.15	+1.33	+6.36	+7.11	+28.92
2019	+2.90	+1.82	+1.11	+1.96	-6.46	+2.34	-0.22	-1.44	-1.31	+2.63	+1.38	+4.49	+9.07
2018	+6.36	-1.44	-2.09	-1.16	+3.59	-3.39	-0.10	+1.12	-2.53	-7.19	+0.03	-4.75	-11.61
2017										+3.69*	+2.47	+1.43	+7.77*

*Euro Class started on 04-Oct-17

NAV as at 30-Jun-22	
GBP class	225.31
USD class	304.45
Yen class	26,078.58
Euro Class	107.85

Source: Apex Fund Services (Ireland) Ltd.

Asset Type as at above date (market exposure % of Total NAV)		
	Long	Short
Level 1	77	-55
Level 2	22	0
Level 3	0	0
Total	99	-55

Source: JK Investment Management LLP

For more information on the Fund, please see www.jkim.co.uk

Administrator for JK Global Opportunities Fund (Orders by 3pm on a Tuesday)

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All data is Net of management and performance fees. Fund was launched on November 3rd 2003. GBP Class launched 1st April 2009.

Mandate broadened to Asia Inc Japan and Name of Fund changed April 1st 2009. Please note that performance from 1st April 2009 to 30th August 2013 is for the JK Absolute Return Fund. This Fund re-domiciled from Cayman to Ireland becoming an Irish UCITS on 30th August 2013 and changed its name to The JK Global Opportunities Fund. Management and performance fees have also been reduced from this date (see Prospectus in for details). Historic performance is not a guide to future returns.

Source: JKIM LLP, Apex Fund Services (Ireland) Ltd.

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Performance Fee: Please note that all investors should read the Prospectus, Supplement and KIID for this fund before investing but this is a short summary of how the Performance Fee is calculated. The method used is a high-on-high watermark method, accrued weekly and crystallised annually on the last valuation day of the calendar year at a rate of 15% without a benchmark or hurdle and without equalisation. Please see documents mentioned above for further details available at www.jkim.co.uk

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