

**JK Global Opportunities Fund**

**May 2018**

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The Fund rose +3.67% in May, with gains across the board in equity, fixed interest and currency books. Major contributions were made from positions held in the Turkish Lira, Italian bonds, and the US Dollar.

The Fund remains long risk assets, principally equities, with a variety of hedges in place that we will discuss in more detail below. Within equities, we prefer Hong Kong/China and US counters, with an emphasis on the technology sector. We are neutral on Europe, although we are selectively buying in the U.K., as we see good value in this market. We are reluctant to raise exposures too far though given proximity to potential volatility in European markets (which we view as high risk once tapering starts by the ECB) and the exasperating Brexit process. We want to be short government bonds strategically, although for tactical reasons reduced shorts this month – we felt yields would fall as the Italian situation deteriorated. However, this will create an opportunity to re-enter positions at more favourable prices. We discuss Italy below, but would emphasise that this is now a major risk factor for markets that could re-emerge at any moment so we will be looking to reinstate our short Italian bond position opportunistically. We remain cautious on economies and markets such as Turkey and Brazil, and reflect this caution through short currency positions against the US Dollar. Essentially our view is that as long as EM currencies such as these depreciate against the greenback, EM FX debt stress will mount, and EM corporate and sovereign credit spreads will widen. This will occur irrespective of whether US rates rise or fall. The most vulnerable countries in addition to those mentioned above are South Africa, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Venezuela.

Political uncertainty re-emerged in Italy last month, and resulted in a significant sell-off in both the equity and bond markets. We had been surprised that the markets had largely ignored the result of the elections three months ago, despite delivering a clear victory for the two anti-establishment parties. Our concerns were reflected in the Fund by a short position in the Italian bond market. Needless to say, this position paid off meaningfully last month and we subsequently exited the position. However, we are looking for a favourable re-entry point, as we believe that even if an Italian exit from the euro remains unlikely, markets will continue to re-assess the Italian relationship with the EU. This will result in a further rise in the political risk premium, resulting in rising bond yields, which could get rather serious if yields rise above 3.5-4% (currently 2.9%). At such levels we believe the market reaches a tipping point where it starts questioning the sustainability of Italian debt (currently 130% GDP) – a real systemic risk.

Italy has proven a timely reminder of the risks still inherent in the euro-area, both political and financial. Anyone who believes the European financial system is in rude health need only look at a chart of Deutsche Bank. The ECB are supposedly going to start tapering later this year, which does rather beg the question of who is going to buy Italian government debt for starters. As we have maintained, the truth is that the euro crisis has never really gone away. It was just delayed by Draghi when he vowed to protect the single currency back in 2012.

We initiated a short position in the Brazilian real during the month as we expect political uncertainty to become the focus of investors' attention again as elections approach late in the year. We have been growing increasingly concerned about the macro economic outlook, in terms of slowing growth and waning confidence, as well as the build-up of government debt and postponement of any reform agenda. The result will likely be a temptation to resort to populist policies, as we saw last week with the lowering of diesel prices. The risk of another currency sell-off are growing.

More generally, we expect volatility across asset classes to start to pick-up again over the coming months.

***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.*

GBP Class (%)													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ytd
2018	+6.32	-1.45	-2.01	-1.05	+3.67								+5.32
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

USD Class (%)													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ytd
2018	+6.49	-1.25	-1.89	-0.89	+3.75								+6.10
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

EURO Class (%)													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ytd
2018	+6.36	-1.44	-2.09	-1.16	+3.59								+5.18
2017										+3.69*	+2.47	+1.43	+7.77*

\*Euro Class started on 04-Oct-17

YEN Class (%)													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ytd
2018	+6.38	-1.42	-2.06	-1.16	+3.59								+5.09
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

NAV as at 31-May-18	
GBP class	227.03
USD class	291.63
Yen class	26,572.73
Euro Class	113.26

Source: Apex Fund Services (Ireland) Ltd.

Asset Type as at above date (market exposure % of Total NAV)		
	Long	Short
Level 1	87	-27
Level 2	27	0
Level 3	0	0
Total	114	-27

Source: JK Investment Management LLP

For more information on the Fund, please see [www.jkim.co.uk](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> 2003. GBP Class launched 1st April 2009.

Mandate broadened to Asia Inc Japan and Name of Fund changed April 1<sup>st</sup> 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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