



# Invesco UK Smaller Companies Equity Pension Fund

## As at 31 December 2018



**Fund Manager:** Jonathan Brown

### Key facts

Fund Manager	Jonathan Brown
Launch date	30 September 1990
Fund size	£60.96m <sup>1</sup>
Benchmark/Index	Numis Smaller Companies + AIM Index (including Investment companies)

### Market commentary

UK equity markets provided a negative return in the final quarter of 2018. The significant volatility witnessed during the period was driven by concerns around geopolitical factors such as the escalating trade war between the US and China, rising concerns of a global economic slowdown and declining oil prices. Persistent Brexit uncertainty also continued to weigh on sterling and sentiment toward domestic equities.

The UK and EU's negotiations reached critical stages in the final few months of the year. The strength of sterling versus the US dollar and euro continued to act as a barometer for the perceived success of negotiations. The UK Government succeeded in agreeing a withdrawal agreement with the European Union's negotiating team, which was later ratified as acceptable by all EU nation states. Corresponding gains in sterling were short lived however, as the Prime Minister suffered a wave of high profile resignations from her cabinet and public calls for her to step-down from office, due to the terms of the deal. In December the Prime Minister delayed Parliament's vote on the deal, fuelling fears of a no-deal Brexit scenario. The news saw the sterling fall to a twenty-month low versus the US dollar.

The portfolio benefited from a number of holdings over the period including AJ Bell. The investment platform listed on the London Stock Exchange for the first time in December, with shares rising more than 30% on the first day of trading. Elsewhere the share price of Hill & Smith rose following the release a trading update that was in line with market expectations. Conversely trading in Patisserie Holdings was suspended following the discovery of a likely fraud in the firm's accounts.

The outlook for the UK economy continues to be clouded by political uncertainty, particularly around Brexit. However, overall momentum in the UK economy is being sustained broadly in line with the Bank of England's (BoE) expectations. It is the manager's view that the BoE is unlikely to raise interest rates further until after the Brexit uncertainty has abated.

The fund manager continues to favour businesses with self-help potential, a successful roll-out strategy and businesses exposed to secular growth trends.

### Investment objective

The pension fund invests in the Invesco UK Smaller Companies Equity Fund (UK), a collective investment scheme managed by Invesco Fund Managers Limited. The fund aims to achieve capital growth by investing primarily in a portfolio of UK smaller companies.

### Annualised performance

	% growth	
	3 years	5 years
Fund	7.96	9.11
Benchmark/Index	6.27	4.86

### Standardised rolling 12-month performance

	% growth				
	31.12.13 31.12.14	31.12.14 31.12.15	31.12.15 31.12.16	31.12.16 31.12.17	31.12.17 31.12.18
Fund	3.04	19.25	12.14	26.84	-11.52
Benchmark/Index	-1.80	7.58	13.47	20.56	-12.28

### Past performance is not a guide to future returns.

The standardised past performance information is updated on a quarterly basis. Source: Invesco. Should you require up-to-date past performance information this is available by contacting our Pension Support Team on 0800 169 6282.

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Top 10 holdings	%
Future	3.55
Coats	2.91
4imprint	2.45
Clinigen	2.42
Rws Group	2.36
Consort Medical	2.36
Faroe Petroleum	2.27
Equiniti Group	2.24
Hill & Smith	2.09
Fisher (James) & Sons	2.05
<b>Total Top 10 Holdings (%)</b>	<b>24.71</b>
Total number of holdings	76

Industry breakdown	%
Industrials	33.73
Consumer Services	20.12
Financials	17.87
Technology	8.09
Health Care	7.02
Consumer Goods	5.66
Oil & Gas	4.48
Basic Materials	0.79
Telecommunications	0.61
Cash	1.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

### General Risk Factors

You should consider the following general risk factors before investing in the Plan.

#### Depository Risk

The assets owned by each fund are held on trust for the fund by a custodian that is also regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. The Financial Conduct Authority requires that the depository ensures that there is legal separation of non-cash assets held under custody and that records are maintained that clearly identify the nature and amount of all assets under custody, the ownership of each asset and where the documents of title to that asset are located. In case of a potential bankruptcy of the depository, cash positions in the fund are not protected and there may be a delay in regaining full control of the non-cash assets.

#### Market Risk

An investment in one or more of the funds will involve exposure to those risks normally associated with investment in stocks and shares such as general economic conditions, market events and the performance of the underlying investments. As such, the price of shares and the income from them can go down as well as up and an investor may not get back the full amount invested. There is no assurance that the investment objectives of any fund will actually be achieved.

#### Market Suspension Risk

A fund may invest in securities dealt on a market or exchange. Trading on a market or exchange may be halted or suspended due to market conditions, technical problems or other events and, during such circumstances, the fund will not be able to sell the securities traded on that market until trading resumes.

Further, trading of the securities of a specific issuer may be suspended by a market due to circumstances relating to the issuer. If trading of a particular security is halted or suspended, the relevant fund will not be able to sell that security until trading resumes.

#### Fund Suspension Risk

Investors should be aware that dealing in the shares can be suspended in fund(s) in exceptional circumstances. More information on this can be found in the Terms and Conditions.

#### Market Liquidity Risk

A fund may be affected by a decrease in market liquidity for the securities in which it invests which may mean that shares in those securities may not be sold at their true value.

#### Termination Risk

A fund may be terminated under certain conditions and in the manner specified in the Terms and Conditions. It is possible that at the time of such termination, certain investments may be worth less than their acquisition cost, resulting in investors having to realise an investment loss and/or being unable to recover an amount equal to their original capital invested.

#### Currency Exchange Risk

A fund's assets may be invested in securities denominated in currencies other than Pound Sterling. Changes in exchange rates may adversely affect the value of any investment, which will have a related effect on the price of shares.

#### Investing in Assets Traded on Non-Eligible Markets

The funds are permitted to invest up to 10% of assets traded on markets which may not meet the criteria in the FCA Rules to be considered eligible and therefore may not be regulated. Investors should be aware that these markets may not be regulated and there may be problems with liquidity, repatriation of assets or custody of assets. Where appropriate, the funds may also hold assets which are not traded on any market and the same risks apply, with additional risks linked to concentrated ownership and greater fluctuations in the value of the fund.

#### Counterparty Risk

The funds may enter into derivatives transactions or place cash in bank deposit accounts, which would expose the funds to the credit of its counterparties and their ability to satisfy the terms of such contracts. In the event of a bankruptcy or insolvency of a counterparty, the funds could experience delays in liquidating positions and significant losses, including declines in the value of investments during the period in which a fund seeks to enforce its rights, inability to realise any gains on its investments during such period and fees and expenses incurred in enforcing its rights.

#### Use of Warrants

The funds may invest in warrants. Warrants are instruments where the price, performance and liquidity are linked to that of an underlying security. However, the warrants market is generally more volatile and there may be more fluctuations in the price of the warrant than in the underlying security.

#### Use of Financial Derivative Instruments for Efficient Portfolio Management

All funds may make use of derivatives for efficient portfolio management ("EPM"). These techniques aim to reduce risk and/or costs in the funds, or produce additional capital or income in the funds. It is not intended that using derivatives for EPM will increase the volatility of the funds. In adverse situations, however, a fund's use of derivatives for EPM may become ineffective and a fund may suffer significant loss as a result. A fund's ability to use EPM strategies may be limited by market conditions, regulatory limits and tax considerations. It is not intended that the use of derivatives for EPM within a fund will materially alter the overall risk profile of the fund.

Any income or capital generated by EPM techniques will be paid to the relevant fund.

In addition to using derivatives for EPM, a fund may also use derivatives for investment purposes where stated in its investment objective.

<sup>1</sup> This pension fund is invested in the Invesco UK Smaller Companies Equity Fund (UK) ICVC (fund size £547.24m).

Performance and portfolio data as at 31 December 2018. Performance figures are total returns, denominated in sterling, net of fees. They are calculated on a single swinging price (no bid-offer spread) basis, net of the annual management charge payable in respect of the retail share class of 1.25% (source: Invesco).

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### Investment risks

The value of investments and any income will fluctuate (this may partly be the result of exchange rate fluctuations) and investors may not get back the full amount invested.

Where FTSE sector breakdown categories are provided, the Industry Classification Benchmark is a joint product of FTSE International Limited and Dow Jones & Company, Inc. and has been licensed for use.

Portfolio information for this pension fund is taken from the underlying fund.

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### Investing in Equity Securities

Investing in equity securities involves risks associated with the unpredictable drops in a stock's value or periods of below-average performance in a given stock or in the stock market as a whole. Share prices on equity markets may fluctuate. Such fluctuations, or volatility, have historically been much greater for equity markets than the volatility of fixed income markets.

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### Investing in Smaller Companies

Funds investing in smaller companies invest in transferable securities which may be less liquid than the securities of larger companies, as a result of inadequate trading volume or restrictions on trading. Securities in smaller companies may possess greater potential for capital appreciation, but also involve risks, such as limited product lines, markets and financial or managerial resources and trading in such securities may be subject to more abrupt price movements than trading in the securities of larger companies.

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### Investing in collective investment schemes and/or unit-linked funds

Where a fund invests across a range of funds with a view to diversifying risk and potential returns, each of these underlying funds may have specific risks. Examples include: emerging market funds, smaller company funds and concentrated funds.

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### Important information

Where individuals or the business have expressed opinions, they are based on current market conditions, they may differ from those of other investment professionals and are subject to change without notice.

For more information on this fund, please refer to the most up-to-date Invesco Trustee Investment Plan Brochure and Key Features Document, and to the fund's Key Information Document. These documents are available on the Invesco Pensions Website: [www.invesco.co.uk/pensions](http://www.invesco.co.uk/pensions)

Administration services provided by JLT Benefit Solutions Limited for and on behalf of Invesco Pensions Limited.

Telephone calls may be recorded.

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### Contact information

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#### Pensions team

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