



# saltydog

INVESTOR

Successful trend investing

February 2026

## Is history repeating itself?

**There is an old stock market adage: “As goes January, so goes the rest of the year.” It’s known as the January Barometer and, if there is any truth in it, there are reasons to be optimistic about 2026.**

This year, most of the stock market indices that we track made gains in January, and that was reflected in the overall performance of the funds that we monitor. Nearly all of the Investment Association sectors made positive progress over the month, and more than 80% of the funds that we analyse on a weekly basis ended January higher than where they were at the beginning of the year.

The January Barometer was popularised in the 1970s, with some historical support based on the S&P 500. There is a reasonably strong correlation between markets rising in January and then finishing the year higher. However, it is not unusual for markets to fall in January and still end the year ahead. The bottom line is probably just that markets tend to rise over time.

Even if January itself is not a robust forecasting tool, there is

strong academic and practical evidence that markets and funds that have performed well in the recent past tend, on average, to continue doing well for a period. This is known as the “momentum” effect, and it underpins many investment strategies.

Looking back to January 2025, there are many similarities to where we are now. On 30 January, the FTSE 100 closed above 8,600, finishing the month at an all-time high. It went on to deliver one of its best years in decades, rising by more than 20%. Banks, insurers, miners, and defence stocks led the advance, supported by buoyant

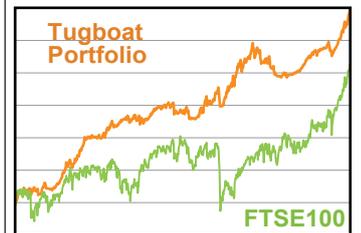
earnings, expectations of further Bank of England rate cuts, a weaker pound, and still relatively attractive valuations. Many of the forces that propelled the FTSE 100 higher in 2025 remain in place, which helps to explain the index’s strong start to this year. It does not guarantee another bumper year, but it does give cause for cautious optimism, at least in the short term.

Another parallel between January 2025 and January 2026 is President Trump’s renewed focus on drugs and illegal immigration from South America.

**continued on p2**

**FTSE 100 holds above 10,000**

*Our Tugboat portfolio has gone up by 2.1% in the last four weeks.* 😊



Average Annual Return 5.3%  
Tugboat Portfolio **4 - 5**

Ocean Liner **6 - 7**

*This portfolio has risen by 2.7% over the last four weeks.* 😊

Sector Performance 2025

**Our look at the latest IA Sector performance for the last few months.** **8**

Counting the cost (of HL fee restructuring)  
**Saltyblog** **8**

Sector and Fund Performance Tables and Graphs, showing IA sector trends, and highlighting the best performing funds. **9 - 19**

## Is history repeating itself?

### > Continued from p1

Last year it centred on Mexico and Colombia; this year it has escalated, with military action in Venezuela and the capture of President Maduro.

There is also his rhetoric around extending US territory and the continued use of tariffs as a negotiating tool – last January it was Canada as the 53rd state, and this year it is Greenland. This adds to a volatile backdrop that could favour safe haven assets, just as geopolitical tensions did in 2025.

At a fund level, the leading funds last January were the 'Gold' funds from the Specialist sector, which went on to become the best-performing funds over the year. BlackRock Gold & General, the leading

fund last January, rose by 16.6% in the month and ended the year up 147%. Some of the other 'Gold' funds did even better.

Several Latin American funds also featured in January's top ten, and the Latin America sector ended up being the best-performing sector in 2025, rising by 38.9%. Barings Korea also appeared in our top ten funds for January 2025 and finished the year as one of the strongest performers.

Fast forward 12 months, and the best-performing fund last month was again Barings Korea, with a one-month return of 25.4%. There were also several Gold and Specialist Metals funds among the leaders, along with a fund from the Latin America sector.

It is often said that history does not repeat itself, but it does rhyme, and the current trends certainly feel familiar.

That does not mean this year will be a carbon copy of last year. However, it has started on a similar trajectory, and if it continues in the same direction, we may already have some clues as to which sectors and funds will be the winners and losers.

### Stock Market Update

After a disappointing November, when only four of the twelve stock market indices made headway, eight posted gains in December. That momentum continued into January, with ten making positive progress.

The Ibovespa was the standout performer, up 12.6%.

The FTSE 100 ended the month up 2.9%, while the FTSE 250 did even better, gaining 3.5%.

On the Continent, the French CAC 40 slipped by 0.3%, while the German DAX made 0.2%.

Across the Atlantic, the Nasdaq rose by 0.9%, the S&P 500 gained 1.4%, and the Dow Jones climbed 1.7%.

Asian markets were more mixed. Japan's Nikkei 225 rose by 5.9%, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng and the Shanghai Composite gained 6.9% and 3.8% respectively. India's Sensex recorded the largest loss, falling by 3.5%.

So far this month, eight of these indices are showing gains, while four remain in negative territory.

Index	Country	1st Jan to 31st March	1st April to 30th June	1st July to 30th Sept	1st Oct to 31st Dec	January 2026	1st to 14th Feb 2026
FTSE 100	UK	5.0%	2.1%	6.7%	6.2%	2.9%	2.2%
FTSE 250	UK	-5.6%	11.0%	1.8%	2.1%	3.5%	0.7%
Dow Jones Ind Ave	US	-1.3%	5.0%	5.2%	3.6%	1.7%	1.2%
S&P 500	US	-4.6%	10.6%	7.8%	2.3%	1.4%	-1.5%
NASDAQ	US	-10.4%	17.7%	11.2%	2.6%	0.9%	-3.9%
DAX	Germany	11.3%	7.9%	-0.1%	2.6%	0.2%	1.5%
CAC40	France	5.6%	-1.6%	3.0%	3.2%	-0.3%	2.3%
Nikkei 225	Japan	-10.7%	13.7%	11.0%	12.0%	5.9%	6.8%
Hang Seng	Hong Kong	15.3%	4.1%	11.6%	-4.6%	6.9%	-3.0%
Shanghai Composite	China	-0.5%	3.3%	12.7%	2.2%	3.8%	-0.9%
Sensex	India	-0.9%	8.0%	-4.0%	6.2%	-3.5%	0.4%
Ibovespa	Brazil	8.3%	6.6%	5.3%	10.2%	12.6%	2.8%

Data source: Morningstar

## Membership Scheme

If you know someone else who would be interested in making the most of their investments, please go to the 'membership scheme' section of our website [www.saltydoginvestor.com](http://www.saltydoginvestor.com) and give us their details.

We will e-mail them, and encourage them to come on board. If they subscribe and pay membership for at least 3 months, then we will send you £50 as a thank you.

**Recommend  
a friend**  
and you could receive

**£50**

# Portfolio Update

**RICHARD WEBB**



**Each month I look at how the recent changes in sector performance affect our hypothetical portfolios.**

In previous newsletters, I have discussed the rationale behind our example portfolios. If you haven't seen these, subscribers have access to our previous newsletters on our website - saltydoginvestor.com.

There is also an explanation in our members guide.

Our theoretical Tugboat portfolio started 2024 with 80% in the 'Safe Haven' group. The Ocean Liner held 60%, and the Speedboat 40%. As market performance strengthened during the year, we began to reinvest.

Despite a disappointing end to the year, by the January 2025 newsletter the Tugboat allocation to the 'Safe Haven' group had fallen to 40%, the Ocean Liner to 15%, and the Speedboat to 10%

There were a couple of market pullbacks during the year, most notably in March, and we reacted by increasing our cash holding again.

However, by the end of the summer

markets had rallied strongly and the portfolios were, to all intents and purposes, fully invested.

There was another brief market wobble in November, but the portfolios weathered the storm and remained fully invested until just before Christmas.

Looking at our latest analysis, most sectors are showing gains over four, twelve, and twenty-six weeks, with the strongest returns coming from the more volatile groups.

Once again, we are aiming to be fully invested across all portfolios, although for practical reasons there may be times when this is not quite possible.

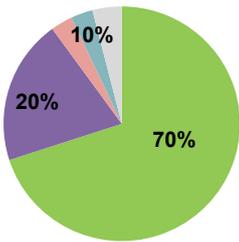
## Our example portfolios

Here are the three hypothetical portfolios that we review each month. They are shown at their most aggressive (under optimum market conditions) and as they stand now, based on this month's data.

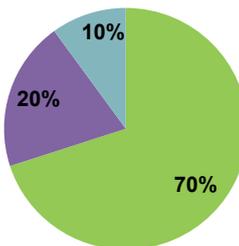
After a difficult February and March last year, markets began to stabilise in April before strengthening through May, June, and July. August brought a brief pause in the recovery, but September and October were more encouraging. November was more subdued, while December improved again, and that momentum has continued into January.

**Portfolio 1 - The Tug**

Optimum conditions

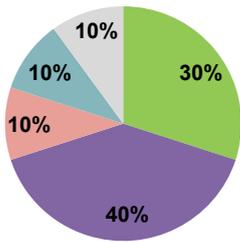


Market conditions  
11/02/2026

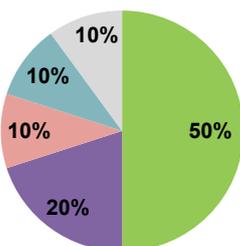


**Portfolio 2 - The Ocean Liner**

Optimum conditions

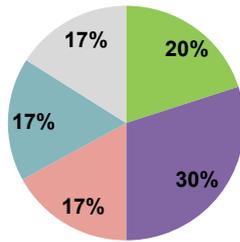


Market conditions  
11/02/2026

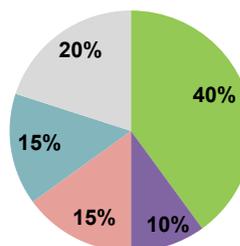


**Portfolio 3 - The Speedboat**

Optimum conditions



Market conditions  
11/02/2026



On the next few pages we give the details of the Saltydog Demonstration Portfolios that we use to show how the Saltydog information can be used - details of each trade are reported every week on the website.

# Tugboat Portfolio

## Objective

In November 2010 we put just over £40,000 into a fund super-market to demonstrate how the data that we produce can be used to run a simple portfolio.

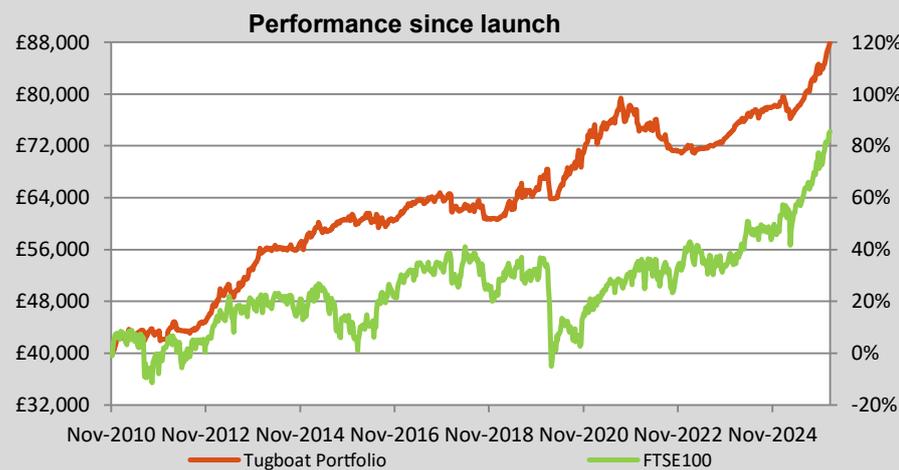
The aim is to run it in such a way that it avoids any major market falls, but also makes gains when they rise.

Because it's designed to weather the storms and make slow, but steady, progress we called it the 'Tugboat'.

The rules that we use to operate it are simple.

- Keep the majority of the portfolio in the 'Slow Ahead' Group, or the 'Safe Haven' and cash if necessary; never invest too much in the riskier 'Full Steam Ahead' Groups, a maximum of 10%.
- Only invest in the more volatile groups when their recent performance justifies it.
- Having determined which groups to invest in, choose the leading sectors from each group.
- Finally, pick funds from these sectors based on their recent performance.

## Portfolio Performance



This portfolio was launched in November 2010 to demonstrate how the Saltydog data can be used to manage a low-volatility portfolio.

As you would expect, it invests mainly in funds from our least volatile groups. Since launch, the original £40,000 investment has more than doubled to over £88,000.

Over the last six months, the portfolio has risen by 9.5%.

## Returns

Portfolio Launch Date	23/11/2010	Return in the last 4 weeks	2.1%
Initial Investment	£40,042	Return in the last 3 months	4.0%
Current Value	£88,023	Return in the last 6 months	9.5%
Return since launch	119.8%	Average Annual Return since launch	5.3%

## Current Holdings

Initial Trade Date	Fund Name	Group	Current Price (p)	Current Value (£)	Original Cost (£)	Gain (£)	Gain (%)	Portfolio %
15/08/2024	L&G Strategic Bond	Slow	139	£4,707	£4,265	£442	10.4%	5.3%
05/06/2025	Artemis Monthly Distribution	Slow	175	£18,102	£15,000	£3,102	20.7%	20.6%
18/07/2025	VT Momentum Diversified Income	Slow	140	£10,456	£10,000	£456	4.6%	11.9%
07/08/2025	Premier Miton Cautious Monthly Inc	Slow	250	£11,377	£10,000	£1,377	13.8%	12.9%
16/10/2025	Liontrust Balanced	Slow	307	£10,026	£10,000	£26	0.3%	11.4%
19/01/2026	BNY Mellon UK Equity	Steady	149	£7,265	£7,000	£265	3.8%	8.3%
05/02/2026	IFSL Marlborough UK Micro Cap Grth	Steady	976	£7,552	£7,500	£52	0.7%	8.6%
10/07/2025	Polar Capital Global Technology	Emerging	15,063	£7,243	£5,075	£2,167	42.7%	8.2%
29/01/2026	BG Emerging Markets Growth	Emerging	1,412	£1,973	£2,000	−£27	−1.3%	2.2%
	Cash			£9,322				10.6%
Total Portfolio Value				£88,023				

Pending Transactions (these are orders that have been placed, but not yet reflected in the figures above)

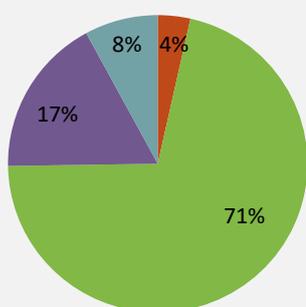
# Tugboat Portfolio

## Other transactions this month

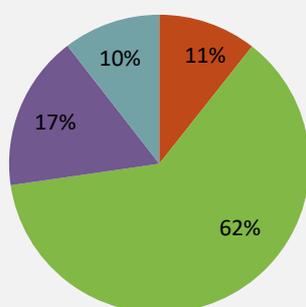
Fund	Group	Value (£)	Transaction	Date
MI TwentyFour AM Monument Bond	Steady	£7,016	Sell	15/01/2026
BNY Mellon UK Equity fund	Steady	£7,000	Buy	19/01/2026
Schroder High Yield Opportunities	Slow	£12,835	Sell	22/01/2026
Liontrust Balanced	Slow	£5,000	Increase current holding	29/01/2026
BG Emerging Markets Growth	Emerging	£2,000	Buy	29/01/2026
M&G Managed Growth	Steady	£7,974	Sell	05/02/2026
IFSL Marlborough UK Micro Cap Grth	Steady	£7,500	Buy	05/02/2026

## Group Allocation

14th January 2026



11th February 2026



- Cash or Safe Haven
- Slow Ahead
- Steady as She Goes
- Full Steam Ahead - Developed
- Full Steam Ahead - Emerging
- Specialist

After a steady start to 2025, sector performance weakened through February and March. In response, we raised the portfolio's cash and Safe Haven allocation from 20% to more than 40%.

Markets subsequently rebounded strongly, and our exposure to cash and Safe Haven funds was reduced to almost nothing.

In November, we saw another downturn and held our nerve, but since then we have slightly increased our cash holding.

## Why we've done what we've done

### Cash & Safe Haven – Up from 4% to 11% of the portfolio

There hasn't been a conscious decision to increase the amount of cash we are holding; it is more a result of our increased activity. In the December newsletter, we did not have any changes to report, and last month there was only one. In recent weeks, we have been more active, responding to the changing investment landscape.

### Slow Ahead – Down from 71% to 62% of the portfolio

We have sold the Schroder High Yield Opportunities fund, which we had held since 2023 and which had become one of our largest positions. It performed well for us, providing steady returns in a volatile market. However, other funds in the 'Slow Ahead' group were delivering stronger results. We are now in the process of reallocating the proceeds. We have already added to the Liontrust Balanced fund and are looking for further opportunities.

### Steady as She Goes – Unchanged at 17% of the portfolio

The overall amount invested in this group hasn't changed, but we have switched out of the steady and dependable MI Twenty-Four AM Monument Bond fund and into the more adventurous BNY Mellon UK Equity fund.

### Full Steam Ahead & Specialist – Up from 8% to 10% of the portfolio

We have added the Baillie Gifford Emerging Markets Growth fund from the Global Emerging Markets sector.

# Ocean Liner Portfolio

## Objective

In November 2013 we launched our 'Ocean Liner' Portfolio.

We had been running our cautious 'Tugboat' for three years and wanted to demonstrate how our fund performance data could be used to run a more adventurous portfolio.

Protecting our capital during down-turns is still important, but we accept that if markets drop quickly this portfolio is more likely to suffer losses than the Tugboat. When markets are doing well, we hope to be able to take advantage by having increased exposure to the 'Full Steam Ahead' Groups.

- The overall volatility is limited by keeping at least 30% of the portfolio invested in the 'Slow Ahead' group (or Safe Haven / cash if market conditions are unfavourable).
- We only invest in the more volatile groups when their recent performance justifies it.
- When conditions are favourable, up to 30% of the portfolio can be invested in the most volatile 'Full Steam Ahead' Groups and the 'specialist' sector.

## Portfolio Performance

Portfolio performance since launch in November 2013



Launched in November 2013, the Ocean Liner portfolio takes a slightly more adventurous approach than Tugboat, which was introduced three years earlier.

Since then, our original investment of just under £41,500 has grown to over £78,000.

Over the last six months, it has risen by more than 14%.

## Returns

Portfolio Launch Date	23/11/2013	Return in the last 4 weeks	2.7%
Initial Investment	£41,452	Return in the last 3 months	5.5%
Current Value	£78,095	Return in the last 6 months	14.1%
Return since launch	88.4%	Average Annual Return since launch	5.3%

## Current Holdings

Initial Trade Date	Fund Name	Group	Current Price (p)	Current Value (£)	Original Cost (£)	Gain (£)	Gain (%)	Portfolio %
15/05/2025	Artemis Monthly Distribution	Slow	175	£12,356	£10,000	£2,356	23.6%	15.8%
12/06/2025	Royal London Sustainable World	Slow	456	£10,954	£10,000	£954	9.5%	14.0%
18/09/2025	Liontrust Balanced	Slow	307	£10,567	£10,000	£567	5.7%	13.5%
15/01/2026	JOHCM UK Equity Income	Steady	289	£10,199	£10,000	£199	2.0%	13.1%
06/02/2026	Schroder UK Smaller Companies	Steady	199	£8,073	£8,000	£73	0.9%	10.3%
14/08/2025	Fidelity Japan	Developed	1039	£6,380	£5,000	£1,380	27.6%	8.2%
10/07/2025	Polar Capital Global Technology	Emerging	15063	£8,276	£5,894	£2,382	40.4%	10.6%
29/01/2026	BG Emerging Markets Growth	Emerging	1412	£2,467	£2,500	£-33	-1.3%	3.2%
11/12/2025	WS Amati Strategic Metals	Specialist	240	£6,354	£5,000	£1,354	27.1%	8.1%
	Cash			£2,469				3.2%
Total Portfolio Value				£78,095				

Pending Transactions (these are orders that have been placed, but not yet reflected in the figures above)

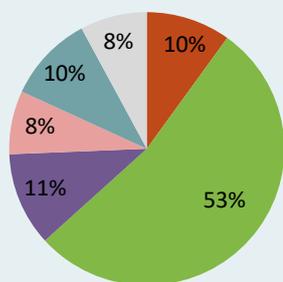
# Ocean Liner Portfolio

## Other transactions this month

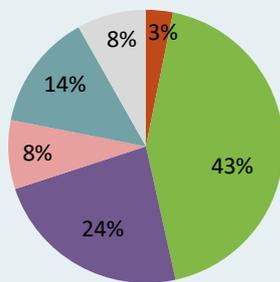
Fund	Group	Value (£)	Transaction	Date
JOHCM UK Equity Income	Steady	£5,000	Buy	15/01/2026
Invesco High Yield	Slow	£6,949	Sell	22/01/2026
JOHCM UK Equity Income	Steady	£5,000	Increase current holding	29/01/2026
BG Emerging Markets Growth	Emerging	£2,500	Buy	29/01/2026
M&G Managed Growth	Steady	£8,492	Sell	05/02/2026
Schroder UK Smaller Companies	Steady	£8,000	Buy	06/02/2026

## Group Allocation

### 14th January 2026



### 11th February 2026



- Cash or Safe Haven
- Slow Ahead
- Steady as She Goes
- Full Steam Ahead - Developed
- Full Steam Ahead - Emerging
- Specialist

Following the 'Liberation Day' market correction last March, the portfolio's cash and Safe Haven allocation rose from 5% to 30%.

As markets recovered, we gradually put money back to work, and the amount held in cash and Safe Haven fell sharply.

November brought another bout of volatility, but we held our nerve. We trimmed overall market exposure ahead of Christmas but are now almost fully invested again.

## Why we've done what we've done

### Cash & Safe Haven – Down from 10% to 3% of the portfolio

We briefly increased our cash allocation ahead of the Christmas break, but it has now been reinvested.

### Slow Ahead – Down from 53% to 43% of the portfolio

We have sold the Invesco High Yield Bond fund, which we had held since September 2023. We sold it partly because its performance has slowed in recent months, but mainly to take advantage of opportunities in the other groups.

### Steady as She Goes – Up from 11% to 24% of the portfolio

Some of the proceeds from the sale in the 'Slow Ahead' group have been used to increase our holding in the JOHCM UK Equity Income fund. We have also switched out of the M&G Managed Growth fund and into the Schroder UK Smaller Companies fund.

### Full Steam Ahead & Specialist – Up from 26% to 30% of the portfolio

We have added the Baillie Gifford Emerging Markets Growth fund from the Global Emerging Markets sector, currently the leading sector in the 'Full Steam Ahead Emerging' group.

# Sector Analysis 2026

Every month we publish the Investment Association's average sector performance for the previous month, along with some recent history.

Nearly all sectors made gains in 2025, with only Direct Property and India/Indian Subcontinent failing to make headway.

The best-performing sector was

Latin America, which rose by 38.9%, followed by China/Greater China, which went up by 22.4%. Close behind were the European sectors and Global Emerging Markets,

along with the Asia Pacific and UK sectors.

This year has also started well, with most sectors making gains. Latin America continues to lead the way, up 14.2%, followed by Global Emerging Markets, up 6.7%.

The largest loss was recorded by the India/Indian Subcontinent sector, which is down a further 7.9%.

Investment Association Sector	Monthly Returns 2025 (%)						2026
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
<b>Safe Haven</b>							
Standard Money Market	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3
Short Term Money Market	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
<b>Slow Ahead</b>							
Mixed Investment 40-85% Shares	3.1	0.2	1.9	3.4	-0.5	0.5	1.6
Mixed Investment 20-60% Shares	2.0	0.3	1.6	2.5	-0.2	0.4	1.4
Mixed Investment 0-35% Shares	1.3	0.3	1.2	1.9	0.0	0.3	1.0
£ Strategic Bond	0.5	0.5	0.7	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.6
£ High Yield	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.5
£ Corporate Bond	0.3	-0.2	0.8	1.9	0.2	0.4	0.4
<b>Steady as She Goes</b>							
UK Smaller Companies	-0.2	-1.6	1.6	0.7	-1.9	0.8	5.4
UK Equity Income	1.5	0.3	1.0	3.3	0.3	1.8	2.7
UK All Companies	2.2	-0.3	1.2	3.2	-0.7	1.4	2.7
Flexible Investment	3.4	0.4	2.3	3.4	-0.6	0.4	1.7
UK Index Linked Gilts	-1.2	-2.7	1.9	3.7	0.1	0.0	0.6
UK Direct Property	-0.6	-0.4	-1.0	-0.2	0.6	-0.1	0.3
UK Gilts	-0.4	-0.8	0.6	2.5	0.3	0.2	-0.1
<b>Global &amp; GEM Bonds*</b>	2.0	0.0	1.2	1.9	-0.1	-0.6	-0.4
<b>Full Steam Ahead - Developed</b>							
Japan	2.7	4.0	2.5	4.3	-0.4	-0.8	3.4
North American Smaller Companies	5.5	2.7	1.1	3.3	1.0	-1.4	2.9
Europe Including UK	1.3	0.5	1.8	2.9	0.0	2.0	2.1
European Smaller Companies	2.3	-1.0	0.1	2.2	-0.6	1.7	2.1
Europe Excluding UK	1.1	0.0	1.9	3.2	-0.4	2.0	1.8
Global Equity Income	3.8	0.3	1.1	2.9	0.6	0.3	1.3
Global	4.5	0.2	2.4	4.0	-1.0	-0.3	1.0
North America	5.7	-0.2	2.6	4.0	-0.6	-1.1	-0.6
<b>Full Steam Ahead - Emerging</b>							
Global Emerging Markets	4.5	0.6	6.3	6.1	-2.6	1.2	6.7
Asia Pacific Excluding Japan	5.8	0.7	5.3	5.9	-3.2	1.2	5.9
Asia Pacific Including Japan	4.6	1.1	3.1	4.4	-1.9	-0.1	4.8
China/Greater China	7.6	6.1	8.5	-0.4	-3.1	-0.4	3.2
Tech & Tech Innovations	5.5	-0.7	6.4	8.3	-5.4	-1.0	0.0
<b>Specialist / Thematic</b>							
Latin America	-1.0	5.6	6.5	2.2	4.4	-0.9	14.2
Infrastructure	2.9	-1.2	1.2	2.4	1.0	-2.0	2.4
Healthcare	2.6	2.1	2.3	8.5	7.2	-2.8	-1.3
Financials and Financial Innovation	4.8	0.2	0.6	-0.3	0.0	2.5	-1.8
India/Indian Subcontinent	-0.6	-3.7	-0.1	5.7	-0.8	-2.7	-7.9

\* The Global & GEM bonds figure is calculated by taking an average of all the non-UK bond sectors

data source: Morningstar

saltyblog  
A PERSONAL VIEW



## Counting the cost

From 1 March 2026, Hargreaves Lansdown will be making changes to their charging structure. In recent correspondence, they explained that this was to provide 'even more clients with better value for money', but I suppose they would say that.

The impact of these changes very from person to person, depending on the what you invest in, the tax wrappers that you use, the size of your portfolio, and how often you trade. We thought it would be interesting to see how they would affect our Tugboat portfolio, which is held in a stocks and shares ISA.

The most significant change from our point of view is that they will start charging £1.95 every time someone buys or sells a fund – something that is currently free. Looking back, we made 44 trades in our Tugboat portfolio last year, which would have resulted in additional trading fees of £85.80.

However, as part of the restructuring they are reducing the account charge from 0.45% to 0.35% per year, a saving of 0.1%. Based on our current portfolio value of around £88,000, that works out at £88.

So, based on the number of trades we made last year and the size of our portfolio, we would be marginally better off – but only by a couple of pounds.

# Understanding the Saltydog System

## Our Objective

We aim to provide you with up-to-date information about readily available investment funds, so that you can see which are currently performing well. In other words, to provide you with the data that will make DIY Investing a worthwhile hobby.

## The Data

We cover Unit Trusts, OEICs, Investment Trusts, and ETFs.

At the beginning of each week we download the latest data, and select the funds that are easy to access in the UK. We then sort the data and highlight the best performing funds.

This sorted data is available to our subscribers on our website (saltydoginvestor.com) each week, and a summary of the data is included in our Newsletter.

To give an example of how our information can be used, we run our own real money portfolios based on the data, and publish details of what we buy and sell, and the overall performance.

We are very ready to help with any queries, but have to emphasise that we are not able to offer any financial advice.

## Sectors

All funds are allocated a Sector by the relevant Financial 'body' such as the IA - the Investment Association. That means that all funds within a Sector will be investing within the constraints of that Sector, and so worthwhile comparisons of performance can be made.

## Groups

We analysed the Sectors, and decided that it would be helpful to group sectors together according to their historical volatility, so we created Saltydog Groups.

These are:

**Safe Haven:**

Very low risk, but also very low returns.

**Slow Ahead:**

Normally a low risk level and often with adequate returns.

**Steady as She Goes:**

Generally low to medium risk, with potentially higher returns.

**Full Steam Ahead Developed:**

Higher risk, but potentially higher returns.

**Full Steam Ahead Emerging:**

Higher risk, but potentially higher returns.

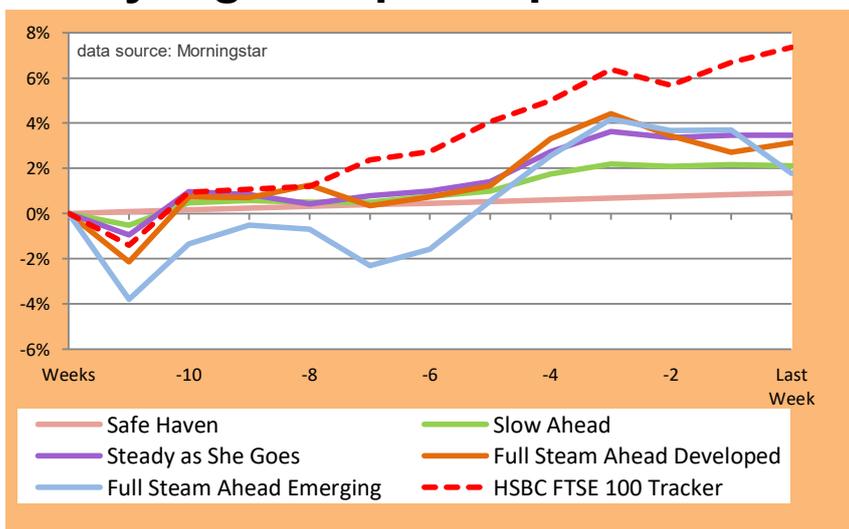
Need more information? Check out the 'How To' guides on our website - saltydoginvestor.com

## Let's Get Underway!

The chart below shows how the 5 Saltydog Groups have performed over the last 12 weeks, based on the average of the leading funds in each Sector within the Group, on a week-by-week basis.

In the following pages you can see how the Sectors have performed within the Groups, and the funds that have performed best in each of the Sectors.

## Saltydog Group Comparison



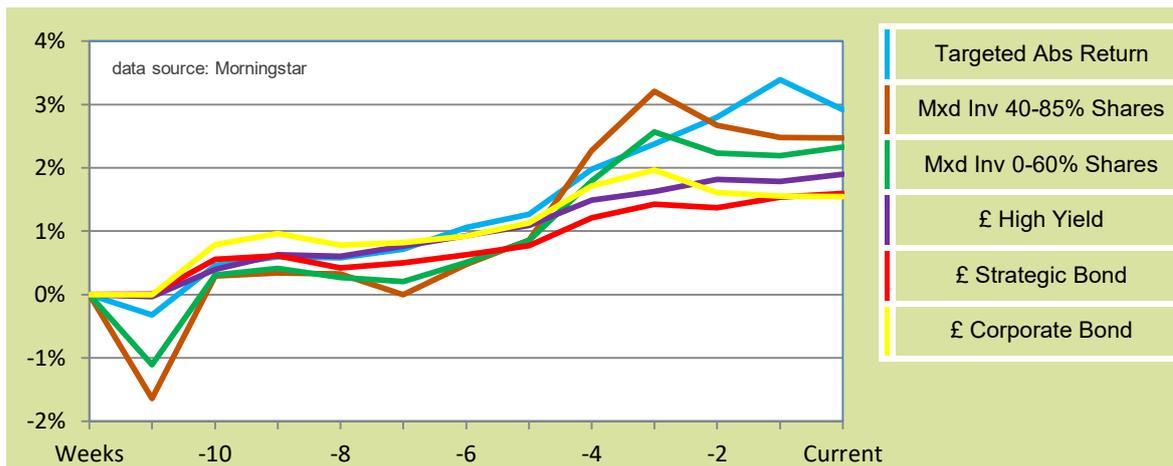
### Group Performance for Last Week

Safe Haven	0.07%
Slow Ahead	0.0%
Steady as She Goes	0.0%
Full Steam Ahead Developed	0.4%
Full Steam Ahead Emerging	-1.9%
HSBC FTSE 100 Tracker	0.7%

**A big 1.9% drop last week for the Emerging Group, and a very quiet week for the other 3 main Groups.**

**The HSBC FTSE 100 Tracker had another steady week with a 0.7% gain.**

## Performance by Saltydog Group - Slow Ahead



This chart shows the relative performance of the sectors in this Group, calculated by looking at the average % return of the leading funds in each sector every week. In the table below the sectors are ranked by their four-week % return. All the return data is shaded to highlight the higher figures in each column.

Sector	Percentage Return Data										
	4wks	12wks	26wks	Wk -1	Wk -2	Wk -3	Wk -4	Wk -5	Wk -6	Wk -7	Wk -8
Targeted Abs Return	0.9%	3.0%	4.8%	-0.5%	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%	0.7%	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%
Mxd Inv 0-60% Shares	0.5%	2.3%	6.2%	0.1%	0.0%	-0.3%	0.8%	0.9%	0.3%	0.3%	-0.1%
£ High Yield	0.4%	1.9%	3.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
£ Strategic Bond	0.4%	1.6%	3.1%	0.1%	0.2%	-0.1%	0.2%	0.4%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Mxd Inv 40-85% Shares	0.2%	2.5%	7.8%	0.0%	-0.2%	-0.5%	0.9%	1.4%	0.4%	0.5%	-0.3%
£ Corporate Bond	-0.2%	1.6%	3.2%	0.0%	-0.1%	-0.4%	0.2%	0.6%	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%
Average:	0.4%	2.1%	4.7%	0.0%	0.1%	-0.1%	0.5%	0.7%	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%

### Targeted Absolute Return

This is one of the Investment Association sectors designated for 'funds principally targeting an outcome'.

Funds are managed with the aim of delivering positive returns in any market conditions, but returns are not guaranteed. Funds in this sector may aim to achieve a return that is more demanding than a "greater than zero after fees objective."

Funds must state the timeframe over which they aim to meet their objective, and it must not be longer than three years.

### Overall Group Performance

This group's average four-week return was a gain of 0.6% in the December newsletter, and last month it was up 1.3%. This month it has risen by 0.4%.

Last year, all of the sectors in this Group made gains. Annual returns started at 7.0% for the £ Corporate Bond sector and rose to 11.6% for the Mixed Investment 40–85% Shares sector.

2025 started slowly. Five out of the six sectors made gains in the first quarter, with three-month returns going from 0.1% to 1.5%. The Mixed Investment 40–85% Shares sector fell by 1.2%.

All sectors made gains in the second and third quarters, with the two Mixed Investment sectors leading the way.

It was a similar story in the final quarter, with the Mixed Investment sectors continuing to set the pace.

In last month's newsletter, all sectors were up over four, twelve and twenty-six weeks. Mixed Investment 40–85% Shares was at the top of the table, with a four-week return of 2.0%.

This month, overall returns are more modest, and one sector has fallen over the last four weeks. The Targeted Absolute Return sector is at the top of the table, with a four-week return of 0.9%.

### About the 'Slow Ahead' Group ...

Unit Trust and OEICs are already allocated IA sectors which determine what they can invest in. To bring together sectors of similar historic volatility, so that they can be analysed, we have created the Saltydog Groups.

The least volatile is the 'Safe Haven'. These are basically deposit accounts - performance data is only available on the website.

Next is the 'Slow Ahead' Group. Funds in this Group are normally relatively low risk, but can often deliver adequate returns.

Within the 'Slow Ahead' Group you will find sectors investing in bonds and gilts. Bond prices go up and down like share prices, but are usually less extreme.

There are also some of the mixed investment sectors which invest in a combination of bonds and shares.

The 'Targeted Absolute Returns' funds are also in this Group and they aim to deliver positive returns in any market conditions. Typically funds in this sector would normally expect to generate absolute returns on a 12 month basis.

## Back on top

The Targeted Absolute Return sector was at the bottom of the table in the November issue, with a 0.2% four-week return, but moved to the top spot the following month with a 0.8% gain. In last month's issue, it slipped to third place, despite rising 1.4% over the previous four weeks. This month, it has reclaimed the lead, up 0.9% over four weeks.

Similar listings are available for all sectors in the members area of the website.

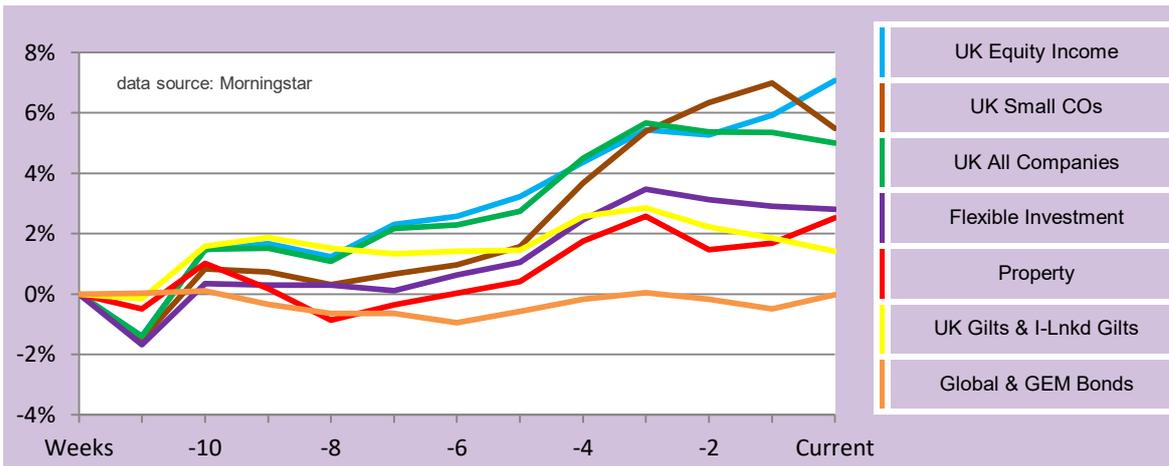


## Still in second place

In our analysis, we combine the Mixed Investment 0–35% Shares and Mixed Investment 20–60% Shares sectors under the heading Mixed Investment 0–60% Shares. The sector was second in the table in October, up 1.5%, and held that position in November, although its four-week return eased to 0.9%. It slipped to fifth in December, with a 0.5% gain, before climbing back to second in the rankings last month, when it again returned 1.5%. This month it remains second in the table, though its four-week return has fallen back to 0.5%.



# Performance by Saltydog Group - Steady as She Goes



This chart shows the relative performance of the sectors in this Group, calculated by looking at the average % return of the leading funds in each sector every week. In the table below the sectors are ranked by their four-week % return. All the return data is shaded to highlight the higher figures in each column.

Sector	Percentage Return Data										
	4wks	12wks	26wks	Wk -1	Wk -2	Wk -3	Wk -4	Wk -5	Wk -6	Wk -7	Wk -8
UK Equity Income	2.7%	7.3%	11.6%	1.1%	0.7%	-0.2%	1.1%	1.1%	0.6%	0.3%	1.1%
UK Small COs	1.8%	5.5%	3.9%	-1.5%	0.7%	0.9%	1.7%	2.1%	0.6%	0.3%	0.3%
Property	0.9%	2.4%	3.1%	0.9%	0.2%	-1.1%	0.8%	1.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%
UK All Companies	0.5%	5.2%	7.4%	-0.3%	0.0%	-0.3%	1.2%	1.7%	0.5%	0.1%	1.1%
Flexible Investment	0.3%	2.8%	8.7%	-0.1%	-0.2%	-0.4%	1.0%	1.4%	0.4%	0.5%	-0.2%
Global & GEM Bonds	0.2%	0.0%	3.1%	0.5%	-0.3%	-0.2%	0.2%	0.4%	0.4%	-0.3%	0.0%
UK Gilts & I-Lnkd Gilts	-1.1%	1.4%	2.8%	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.6%	0.3%	1.1%	0.0%	0.1%	-0.2%
Average:	0.8%	3.5%	5.8%	0.0%	0.1%	-0.3%	0.9%	1.3%	0.4%	0.2%	0.4%

## The UK Equity Sectors

The Investment Association differentiates between funds investing for income and ones investing for growth. They specify two different 'UK Equities' sectors for funds investing in UK equities and targeting growth. They are:

### UK All Companies:

"Funds which invest at least 80% of their assets in UK equities which have a primary objective of achieving capital growth."

### UK Smaller Companies:

"Funds which invest at least 80% of their assets in UK equities of companies which form the bottom 10% by market capitalisation."

## Overall Group Performance

The four-week average return for the sectors in this group was a gain of 0.5% in the December newsletter and 2.3% last month. This month it is up 0.8%.

In 2025, only one sector in this group went down – UK Direct Property, which fell by 0.18%. The best-performing sector was UK Equity Income, up 18.4%, followed by UK All Companies, up 15.2%.

The first quarter was the weakest. UK Smaller Companies fell by 7.5%, and Flexible Investment and UK Gilts & Index-Linked Gilts also went down. The leading sector, UK Equity Income, gained just 1.1%.

The UK Smaller Companies sector rebounded in the second quarter, up 13.1%, and the others

also made progress.

The third quarter was more mixed, with four of the seven sectors making gains. Flexible Investment set the pace, up 6.2%. UK Smaller Companies fell in the third quarter and was the only sector to go down in quarter four. UK Equity Income led over the final three months, up 5.6%.

In the last newsletter, all sectors were up, with the three UK equity sectors leading the way. This month, UK Equity Income is at the top of the table with a four-week return of 2.7%. Only UK Gilts has failed to make progress.

## A bit about the 'Steady as She Goes' Group ...

The sectors in this Group have historically been more volatile than those in the 'Slow Ahead' Group, but when conditions are favourable they can give better returns.

In this Group there are some bond sectors, as well as the Flexible Investment sector, which invests in both bonds and equities. It is one of the mixed asset sectors renamed at the end of 2011, previously known as the Cautious, Balanced, and Active Managed sectors. These are often the 'default' funds for many financial products.

There's also the UK Equity Income sector. The income funds invest in shares that pay good dividends, and are less focused on capital growth. These tend to be the large, well known businesses like the banks, supermarkets, oil, utilities, and pharmaceutical companies.

The UK All Companies and UK Smaller Companies sectors are in this Group. Although they invest in UK Companies it's worth remembering that those companies are often international.

A full list of the sector definitions is available on the Investment Association website.

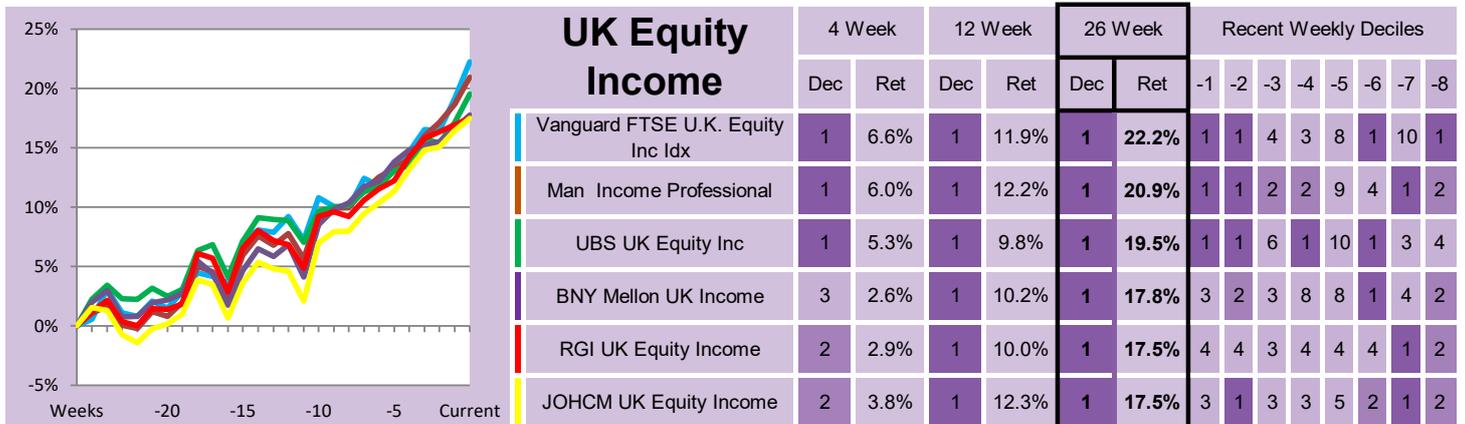
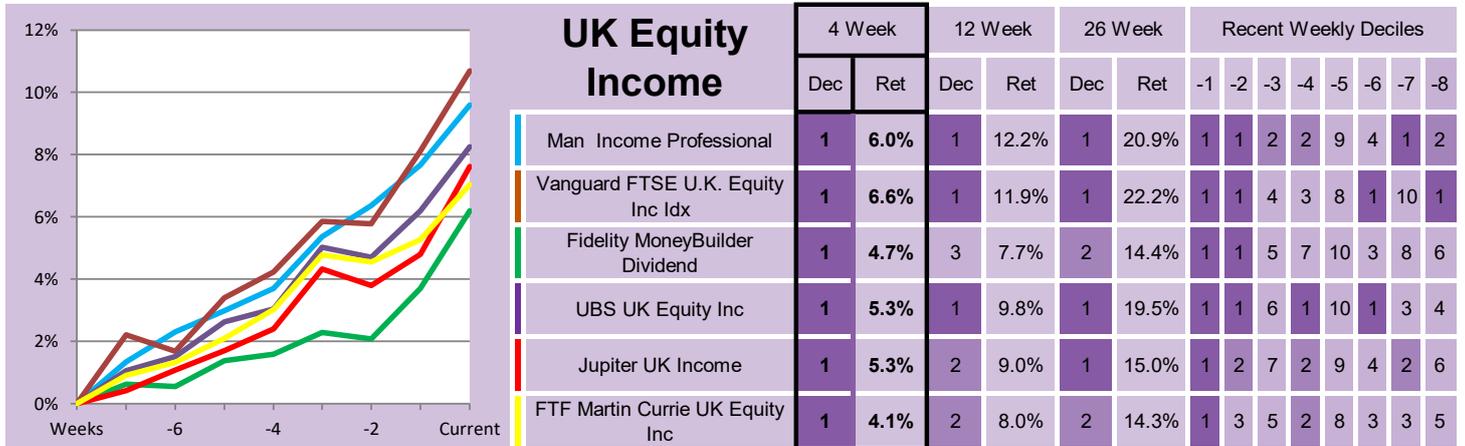
[www.theinvestmentassociation.org](http://www.theinvestmentassociation.org)

# Performance by Saltydog Group - Steady as She Goes

## Retaking the lead

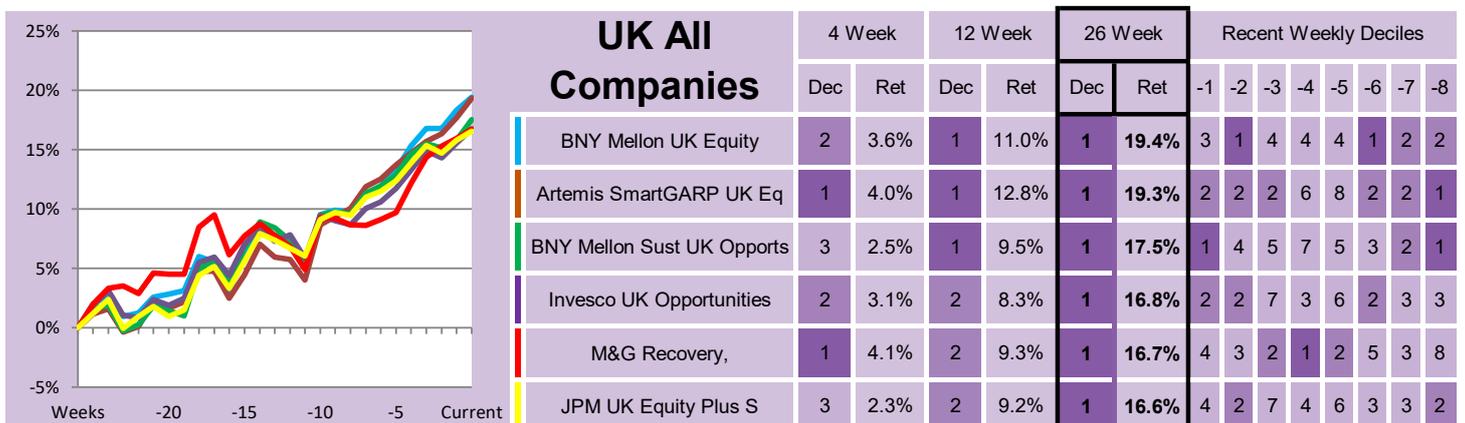
The UK Equity Income sector was in third place in November's issue, with a four-week return of 0.9%. By December it had climbed to the top of the table, up 1.3%. Last month it had slipped to third, despite adding a further 3.2% in the previous four weeks. This month it is back in pole position with a 2.7% gain.

Similar listings are available for all sectors in the members area of the website.

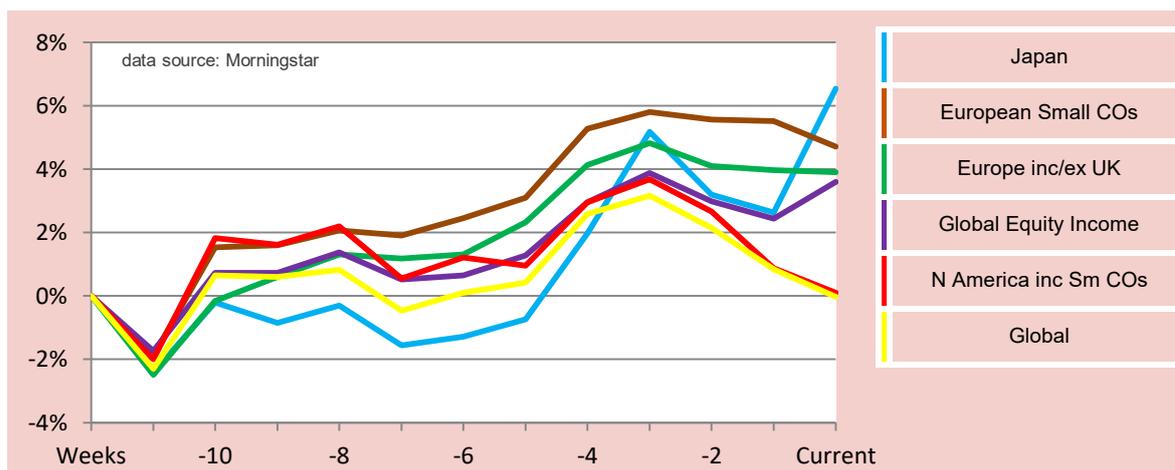


## From first to fourth

The UK All Companies sector held third place in both the September and October newsletters, posting four-week returns of 0.3% and 2.0%. It then slipped to sixth in November after a 0.3% decline, before recovering to third by December, when it recorded a 0.8% gain. Last month it sailed to the top of the table with a 3.5% four-week return, but since then has added just 0.5% and fallen back to fourth.



## Performance for the Full Steam Ahead Developed Group



This chart shows the relative performance of the sectors in this Group, calculated by looking at the average % return of the leading funds in each sector every week. In the table below, the sectors are ranked by their four-week % return. All the return data is shaded to highlight the higher figures in each column.

Sector	Percentage Return Data										
	4wks	12wks	26wks	Wk -1	Wk -2	Wk -3	Wk -4	Wk -5	Wk -6	Wk -7	Wk -8
Japan	4.5%	6.5%	15.0%	3.9%	-0.6%	-2.0%	3.2%	2.7%	0.5%	0.3%	-1.3%
Global Equity Income	0.7%	3.6%	8.4%	1.2%	-0.5%	-0.9%	0.9%	1.7%	0.6%	0.1%	-0.9%
Europe inc/ex UK	-0.2%	3.9%	8.0%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.7%	0.7%	1.8%	1.0%	0.1%	-0.1%
European Small COs	-0.6%	4.7%	2.6%	-0.8%	0.0%	-0.2%	0.5%	2.2%	0.7%	0.5%	-0.2%
Global	-2.6%	0.0%	6.1%	-0.9%	-1.3%	-1.0%	0.6%	2.2%	0.3%	0.6%	-1.3%
N America inc Sm COs	-2.9%	0.0%	7.1%	-0.8%	-1.8%	-1.0%	0.7%	2.0%	-0.3%	0.7%	-1.6%
<b>Average:</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>7.9%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>	<b>-1.0%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>

### The Japan Sector

Within its Overseas Equities category, the Investment Association used to have two sectors dedicated to Japanese funds. One was Japan and the other was Japanese Smaller Companies.

Because there weren't many funds in the Japanese Smaller Companies sector, we always grouped the two sectors together for our analysis.

In November 2023, the Investment Association dissolved the Japanese Smaller Companies sector because there weren't enough funds to make it viable.

All funds which invest predominantly in Japanese equities are now in the Japan sector.

### Overall Group Performance

**In November's newsletter, the group's average four-week return was a gain of 1.1%, and last month it added a further 2.1%. This month, however, it is showing a loss of 0.2%.**

Europe excluding UK was the best-performing sector in this group in 2025, with an annual return of 22.2%. The other sectors also made gains, although North American Smaller Companies rose by just 0.7%.

The year began positively, with all sectors making progress in January. However, by the end of the first quarter, Global, Japan, and North America had slipped into negative territory.

All sectors moved higher in the second quarter, though North America remained down over the

first six months of the year.

The third quarter brought gains of 3.0% to 9.5%, led by Japan and North America. The final quarter saw further advances, ranging from 2.1% in North America to almost 5.0% in the Europe including UK sector.

In January's newsletter, all sectors were showing four-week gains, with the European sectors topping the table. This month, Japan leads, up 4.5%, followed by Global Equity Income, up 0.7%. The remaining sectors are down over four weeks.

### The sectors in the 'Full Steam Ahead Developed' Group ...

The sectors in the 'Full Steam Ahead' Groups have historically been the most volatile.

They can give the best returns when conditions are favourable, but are also likely to suffer the most if market conditions take a turn for the worse.

There are a lot of sectors which we consider 'Full Steam Ahead' and so we have split them into two groups to make analysis easier.

The 'Developed' Group focuses on sectors which are usually considered 'Developed' Markets. These are the UK, Europe, North America, and Japan.

The European funds are split into Europe including the UK, and Europe excluding UK, but we have joined them and called it Europe inc / ex UK - an oxymoron, but hopefully now it makes sense.

The North America and North American Smaller Companies sectors have also been combined.

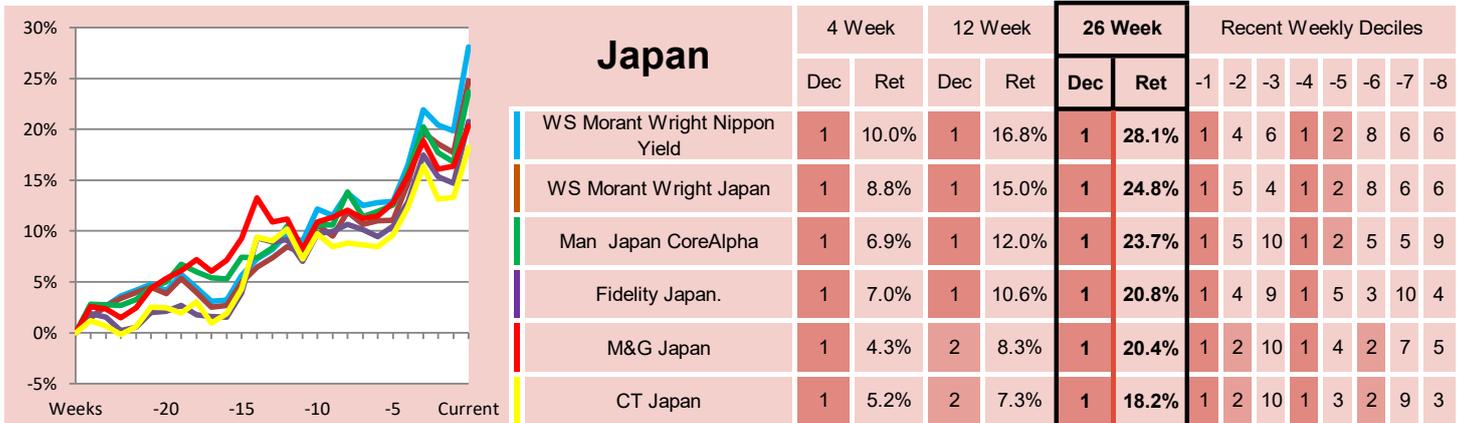
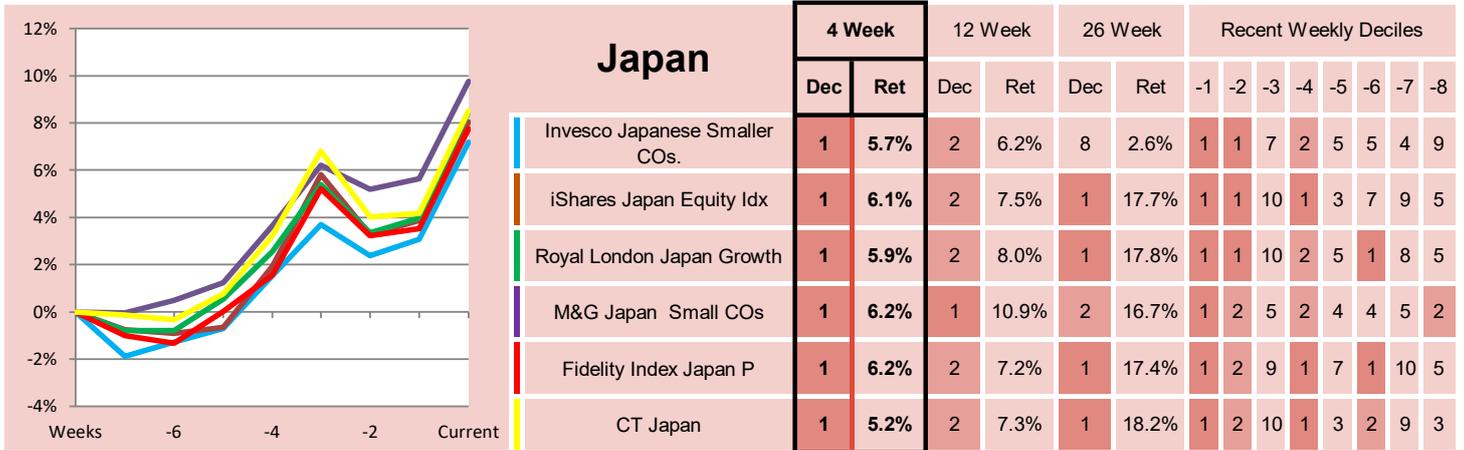
We also include the 'Property' sector in this Group.

# Performance of the Full Steam Ahead Developed Group

## From first to last and back again

Japan was in first place in the August newsletter with a 7.4% four-week gain. It then slipped to second in September, despite a further 1.6% rise. In the October issue, its four-week return slowed to 0.2%, dropping it to the bottom of the table. By November, it had reclaimed the top spot with a 3.6% four-week return. It then fell back to the bottom in December after a 0.1% loss. Last month it climbed to third place, up 2.2%, and this month it is back at the top of the table with a 4.5% four-week gain.

Similar listings are available for all sectors in the members area of the website



## Losing ground after two months at the top

The European Smaller Companies sector was at the bottom of the table in the September newsletter, with a 2.8% four-week loss. A month later, it had moved up one place with a 0.8% return, but in November's issue it was last again after a 2.3% loss. It then jumped to the top of the table in December with a 2.3% four-week return and remained there last month, having gained a further 3.2%. Over the last four weeks, it has fallen by 0.6% and slipped to fourth place.



# Performance for the Full Steam Ahead Emerging Group



This chart shows the relative performance of the sectors in this Group, calculated by looking at the average % return of the leading funds in each sector every week. In the table below the sectors are ranked by their 4 week % return. All the return data is shaded to highlight the higher figures in each column.

Sector	Percentage Return Data										
	4wks	12wks	26wks	Wk -1	Wk -2	Wk -3	Wk -4	Wk -5	Wk -6	Wk -7	Wk -8
Gbl Emerging Markets	2.8%	7.3%	21.6%	-0.8%	1.0%	0.3%	2.3%	2.3%	3.1%	0.7%	-1.4%
Asia Pacific inc/ex Japan	1.9%	5.3%	17.7%	-0.5%	0.6%	-0.3%	2.2%	1.8%	2.9%	0.9%	-1.4%
China/Greater China	-2.0%	-2.2%	11.3%	-1.5%	-0.9%	-0.8%	1.3%	2.4%	1.6%	0.0%	-1.2%
Tech & Tech Innovation	-5.8%	-3.9%	6.2%	-4.9%	-0.6%	-1.2%	0.8%	1.5%	1.0%	1.3%	-2.5%
<b>Average:</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>14.2%</b>	<b>-1.9%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>-1.6%</b>

## Global Emerging Markets

The Investment Association definition of the Global Emerging Markets sector is:

*“Funds which invest 80% or more of their assets in equities from emerging market countries as defined by the relevant FTSE or MSCI Emerging Markets and Frontier indices. The maximum frontier equity exposure is restricted to 20% of the total fund.”*

There are around 20 countries that are classified as emerging, and another 25 that are classified as frontier i.e with investable stock markets that are less established than those in the emerging markets e.g Vietnam, Kenya, Romania ...

## Overall Group Performance

**The group’s four-week average was a gain of 1.1% in the December newsletter and 3.2% last month. This month it has fallen by 0.8%.**

All four sectors made gains in 2025. China/Greater China led, up 22.4%, followed by Global Emerging Markets, up 22.1%. Technology and Technology Innovation, the top sector in 2024, had a quieter year but still rose 15.6%.

The opening quarter was mixed. China gained 5.7%, while the other sectors declined, with Technology falling 11.3%. Conditions shifted in the second quarter: China slipped 2.9%, but the remaining sectors moved higher, led by the Technology sector, up 15.1%.

The third quarter was the strongest period of the year. Even the weakest sector, Asia Pacific including Japan, gained 9.1%, while China/Greater China climbed 23.8%. Momentum eased in the final quarter, with Asia Pacific up 3.6% and China/Greater China down 3.7%.

All sectors were showing gains in the last newsletter, with Global Emerging Markets leading, up 4.7% in four weeks. This month, the order is unchanged, but returns are lower. Global Emerging Markets is up just 2.8%, while Technology has fallen 5.8%.

## The sectors in the ‘Full Steam Ahead Emerging’ Group ...

The sectors in the ‘Full Steam Ahead’ Groups have historically been the most volatile.

They can give the best returns when conditions are favourable, but are also likely to suffer the most if market conditions take a turn for the worse.

There are a lot of sectors which we consider to be ‘Full Steam Ahead’ and so we have split them into two groups to make analysis easier.

The ‘Emerging’ Group focuses on sectors which are usually considered ‘Emerging’ Markets. These are Asia Pacific, China & Greater China, and Global Emerging Markets.

The Asia Pacific funds are split into those including Japan and those not including Japan - we have joined the two sectors and called it Asia Pacific inc / ex Japan.

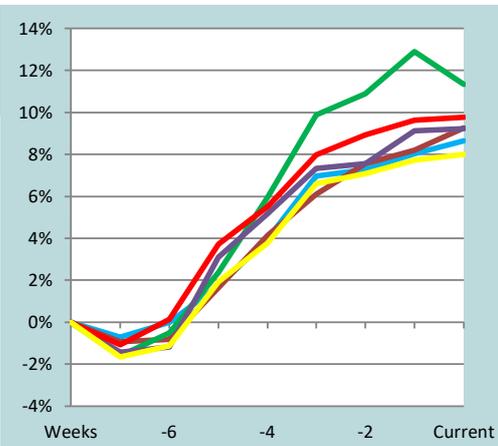
The ‘Technology & Technology Innovations’ sector is also in this Group. It may not fit exactly with our ‘Emerging Markets’ theme, but the funds have a similar level of volatility, and so we put it into the ‘Full Steam Ahead’ Group with the fewest other sectors.

# Performance of the Full Steam Ahead Emerging Group

## Holding the lead

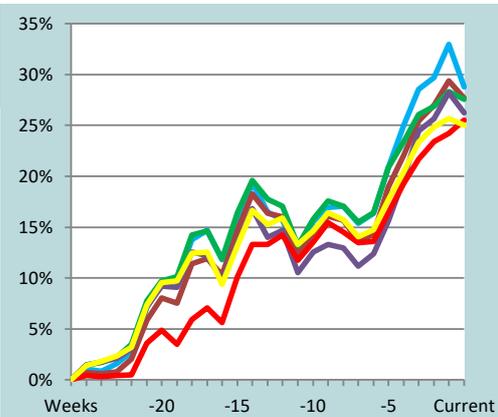
The Global Emerging Markets sector began climbing the table after the August newsletter, when it was in last place despite a 2.9% four-week gain. It rose to second place in September after adding a further 2.3%, and remained there in October with a 4.8% four-week return. By November, it had moved into first place with a 2.0% gain. It retained the top spot in December, despite a 0.3% four-week loss, and continued to lead last month with a 4.7% return. Over the last four weeks, it has continued to push ahead, up 2.8%, securing its position at the top of the table.

Similar listings are available for all sectors in the members area of the website.



### Gbl Emerging Markets

	4 Week		12 Week		26 Week		Recent Weekly Deciles							
	Dec	Ret	Dec	Ret	Dec	Ret	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8
BNY Mellon Emerging Income	1	4.7%	2	8.6%	4	20.3%	1	4	3	2	4	8	5	2
Lazard Emerging Mkts	1	5.2%	2	9.9%	2	25.5%	1	5	1	6	4	6	8	3
Liontrust Emerging Mkts	1	5.4%	2	10.1%	2	26.2%	7	1	2	1	1	5	3	7
Artemis SmartGARP Gbl EM Eq	2	4.1%	2	9.0%	2	24.4%	2	2	3	5	5	1	8	6
Invesco Em Mkts ex China	2	4.3%	1	11.3%	2	24.3%	2	4	2	3	7	3	2	4
JPM Emerging Markets Income	2	4.3%	3	7.1%	3	22.2%	2	5	2	2	6	4	7	7

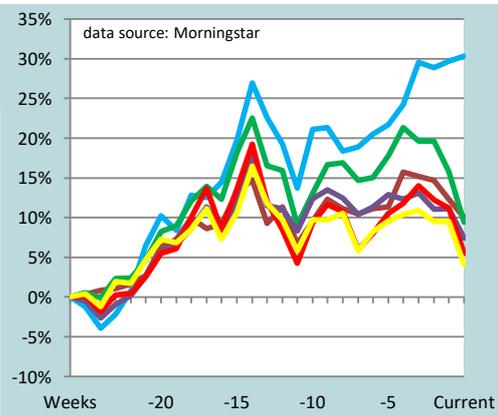


### Gbl Emerging Markets

	4 Week		12 Week		26 Week		Recent Weekly Deciles							
	Dec	Ret	Dec	Ret	Dec	Ret	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8
Baillie Gifford Em Mkts Growth	3	3.0%	1	11.2%	1	28.7%	9	1	2	2	2	2	4	6
FTF Templeton Gbl Emerg Markets	2	4.6%	1	10.1%	1	27.7%	7	1	1	2	3	1	6	8
Schroder Global Emerg Mkts,	3	3.4%	2	9.0%	1	27.6%	5	3	2	5	5	2	5	5
Liontrust Emerging Mkts	1	5.4%	2	10.1%	2	26.2%	7	1	2	1	1	5	3	7
Lazard Emerging Mkts	1	5.2%	2	9.9%	2	25.5%	1	5	1	6	4	6	8	3
M&G Global Emerging Mkts	2	3.8%	3	7.9%	2	25.0%	5	4	1	3	4	6	6	6

## Another month in last place

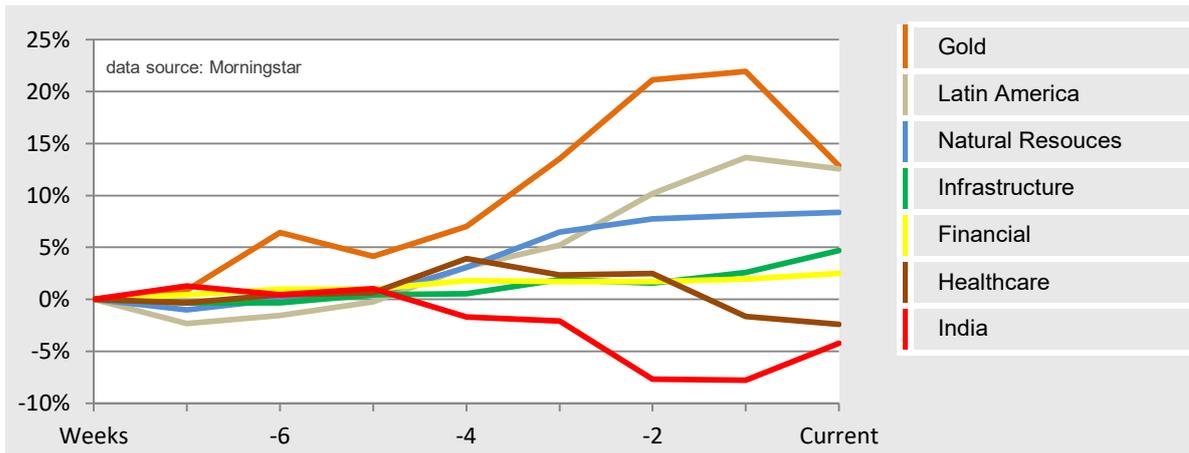
The Technology sector led the rankings through early summer, topping the May, June, and July newsletters. Momentum then began to fade. It slipped to second place in August before falling to the bottom of the table in September. A 7.5% rise in October briefly lifted it back to first place, but a 0.1% decline the following month sent it straight back to the foot of the table. Despite a further 0.3% loss, it recovered to second place in December's issue. Last month it returned to the bottom of the table, despite rising 1.2% over the previous four weeks. This month it remains there, following a much sharper 5.8% fall.



### Tech & Tech Innovations

	4 Week		12 Week		26 Week		Recent Weekly Deciles							
	Dec	Ret	Dec	Ret	Dec	Ret	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8
Polar Capital Global Technology	1	4.9%	2	9.3%	1	30.3%	2	5	7	1	5	9	2	1
Fidelity Global Technology	10	-4.9%	8	-1.2%	8	10.0%	8	10	6	10	1	10	7	1
Pictet Robotics	10	-9.8%	10	-5.6%	8	9.4%	10	10	4	10	2	6	7	9
L&G Global Tech Index	9	-4.3%	9	-3.3%	9	7.4%	10	7	10	9	10	9	4	8
T. Rowe Price Global Tech	10	-5.6%	8	-2.7%	10	5.5%	10	9	9	6	9	7	1	10
Janus H'son Gbl Technology	10	-5.7%	10	-5.1%	10	4.1%	10	7	9	10	9	9	1	10

# Performance of the Saltydog SubZones



This chart shows the relative performance of the different SubZones that we have created to help make sense of this sector. In the table below the SubZones are ranked by their 4 week % return. All the return data is shaded to highlight the higher figures in each column.

SubZone	Percentage Return Data											
	4wks	12wks	26wks	Wk -1	Wk -2	Wk -3	Wk -4	Wk -5	Wk -6	Wk -7	Wk -8	
Latin America	9.7%	15.0%	32.1%	-1.1%	3.5%	5.0%	2.1%	3.3%	1.3%	0.8%	-2.3%	
Natural Resources	5.3%	10.5%	23.6%	0.3%	0.3%	1.3%	3.4%	2.7%	0.4%	1.0%	-1.0%	
Gold	4.3%	23.3%	80.2%	-9.1%	0.8%	7.6%	6.5%	2.9%	-2.3%	5.5%	0.9%	
Infrastructure	4.2%	2.8%	6.3%	2.1%	1.0%	-0.4%	1.4%	0.1%	0.8%	0.0%	-0.3%	
Financial	0.7%	5.5%	8.9%	0.5%	0.2%	0.0%	-0.1%	0.9%	0.0%	0.6%	0.4%	
India	-2.7%	-9.0%	-4.2%	3.6%	-0.1%	-5.6%	-0.4%	-2.7%	0.6%	-0.8%	1.3%	
Healthcare	-6.2%	-1.2%	16.7%	-0.8%	-4.1%	0.2%	-1.6%	3.3%	0.2%	0.8%	-0.3%	
Average:	1.9%	5.9%	20.5%	-0.6%	0.2%	1.0%	1.4%	1.3%	0.1%	1.0%	-0.2%	

## Overall Performance

Last month, the SubZone four-week average was a gain of 2.5%, and in the last four weeks it has risen by a further 1.9%.

The leading funds in 2025 came from our Specialist SubZones, with the 'gold' funds generating annual returns of between 147% and 185%. Close behind was the WS Amati Strategic Metals fund, up 162%, while the Barings Korea fund also had an exceptional year, finishing 74% higher.

The Gold SubZone's performance was impressive, though investors had to endure significant swings along the way. It was at the bottom of the table in the November newsletter, with a 3.6% four-week loss, before returning to the top spot in

December's issue after rising 14.8% over the intervening four weeks. A month later it was still the top SubZone, with a four-week return of 7.0%.

Since then, it has gained a further 4.3%, although that included one week when it fell by 9.1%. This month it has slipped to third place, and Latin America has taken the lead.

While Latin America tops the SubZone table, the leading funds this month are WS Guinness Global Energy and BGF World Energy.

## WS Guinness Global Energy

The TB Guinness Global Energy fund (formerly the Artemis Global Energy Fund) was launch in April 2011.

Its Investment policy is to invest in the shares of companies engaged in the oil and gas sector, energy generation and transmission.

However, the Fund may also invest in companies seeking to develop and exploit new energy technologies, and companies that service the energy sector.

Its largest holdings are currently in Exxon Mobil, Shell, BP, Chevron, Total, and Valero Energy.

## What is special about the 'Specialist' sector?

The specialist sector is a bit of an odd ball!

This is where all the funds which don't naturally fit into another sector end up and so, not surprisingly, is something of a mixed bag.

We consider it 'high risk', because most of the funds have the same level of volatility that you would associate with the 'Full Steam Ahead' Groups, but this is not always the case.

We don't calculate a sector average because it wouldn't be a fair comparison with the other Groups. There are nearly always funds doing well in this sector, but they might not be the ones that were doing well last month.

To help with our analysis we have created a number of SubZones where we analyse the relative performance of various funds investing in similar things. These are Financial, Infrastructure Healthcare, India, Latin America, Russia & Eastern Europe, and Gold.

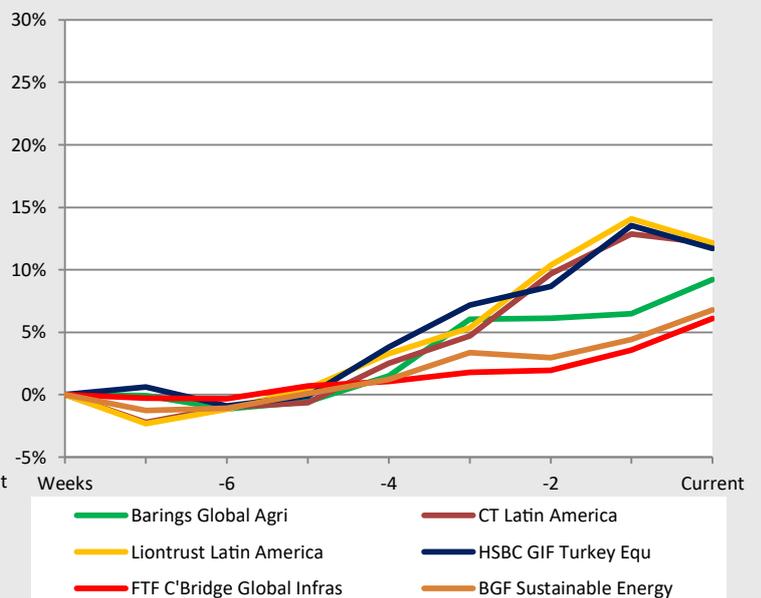
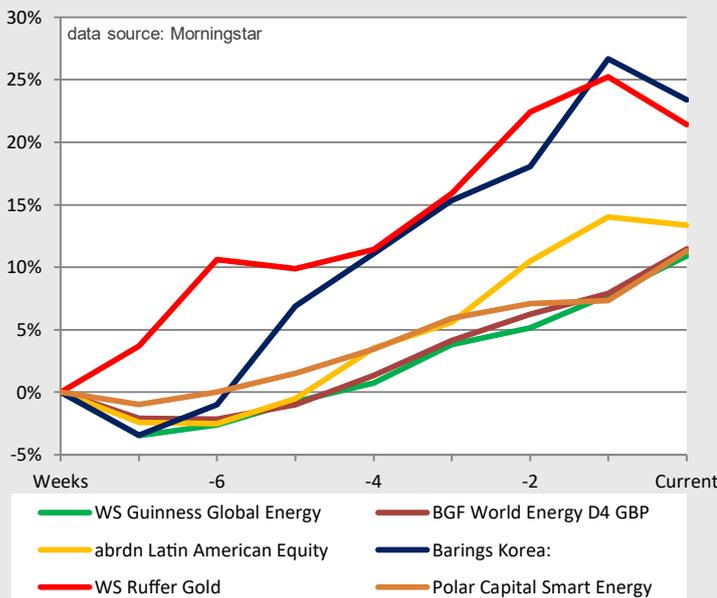
In total we analyse around 65 funds in this sector, most of which do not fall within one of the SubZones.

# Specialist Sector - 4 Week Data

The Specialist Sector contains funds that do not fit into the constraints of the mainstream sectors, so they are something of a mixed bag. We have created our own SubZones for the funds that have a broadly similar focus - Healthcare, Financial, Gold, India, Latin America, Natural Resources, Infrastructure, Russia & Eastern Europe. All the funds are measured by their 4 Week Decile Ranking and then their Recent Weekly Deciles.

Fund	SubZone (If Applicable)	4 Week		12 Week		26 Week		Recent Weekly Deciles							
		Decile	Return	Decile	Return	Decile	Return	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8
WS Guinness Global Energy	Nat Res	1	10.5%	4	9.3%	4	22.1%	2	2	4	3	6	1	4	10
BGF World Energy	Nat Res	1	10.5%	3	10.2%	4	18.7%	2	3	3	3	4	2	7	9
abrdn Latin American Equity	Latin Am	1	10.1%	2	16.2%	2	34.1%	7	1	2	4	1	1	8	10
Barings Korea:		1	12.5%	1	26.5%	2	56.1%	9	1	2	2	1	1	2	10
WS Ruffer Gold	Gold	1	10.6%	1	29.7%	1	104.0%	10	2	1	2	5	9	1	1
Polar Capital Smart Energy		2	8.1%	2	16.7%	2	35.2%	1	6	4	3	5	2	3	8
Barings Global Agriculture.	Nat Res	2	7.9%	4	8.0%	7	8.3%	3	5	5	2	5	5	10	5
CT Latin America	Latin Am	2	9.9%	3	15.1%	3	32.0%	8	1	2	4	3	7	3	10
Liontrust Latin America	Latin Am	2	9.0%	3	13.7%	3	30.4%	9	1	2	4	3	1	3	10
HSBC GIF Turkey Equ		2	8.0%	2	17.9%	8	5.4%	9	1	3	2	2	4	10	3
FTF ClearBridge Global Infrac	Infrastructure	3	5.1%	5	4.4%	6	11.0%	3	3	4	7	9	3	7	6
BGF Sustainable Energy		3	5.7%	4	9.3%	3	24.8%	3	3	7	4	7	2	6	9
Premier Miton Global Infrac Inc	Infrastructure	3	5.0%	7	3.0%	7	5.9%	4	2	8	4	10	5	6	7
BlackRock Ntrl Resources	Nat Res	3	7.0%	2	16.8%	3	29.4%	8	2	3	2	3	4	2	7
JPM Natural Resources.	Nat Res	3	6.5%	3	15.0%	2	38.7%	10	2	3	1	1	8	2	9
Guinness Sustainable Energy	Nat Res	4	3.6%	5	5.1%	4	16.5%	2	8	9	3	5	3	7	5
First Sentier Glb Lstd Infra	Infrastructure	4	4.5%	8	1.3%	7	6.4%	3	4	5	5	9	5	9	7
WS Macquarie Global Infrac,	Infrastructure	4	3.7%	7	2.6%	6	8.4%	4	4	6	6	8	4	7	6
M&G Global Listed Infrastructure	Infrastructure	4	4.6%	6	4.3%	7	6.7%	5	3	7	4	9	5	5	7
Pictet Clean Energy	Nat Res	4	3.3%	4	8.2%	4	19.8%	6	4	9	3	4	2	8	9
Ninety One Global Gold	Gold	4	3.3%	1	21.8%	1	75.7%	10	7	1	1	4	10	1	6
Polar Capital Global Insurance	Financial	5	3.0%	8	1.6%	7	6.5%	1	6	4	10	9	10	8	1
CT Monthly Extra Inc		5	2.8%	5	6.8%	6	9.8%	4	6	6	7	7	6	6	2
Royal London UK Income + Grth		5	2.3%	5	5.9%	6	11.4%	5	5	7	5	8	6	6	3
VT Gravis Clean Energy Income	Infrastructure	5	2.2%	8	1.3%	9	-0.7%	5	7	8	5	8	4	5	4
WS Canlife UK Equity and Bond Inc		5	2.1%	4	7.1%	5	13.0%	6	5	6	7	7	4	5	3
HSBC Monthly Inc		6	2.1%	5	6.7%	5	13.7%	6	4	6	6	7	5	5	2
Jupiter Global Financial Inovation	Financial	6	1.7%	3	11.4%	5	15.0%	8	3	6	5	6	2	3	4
BlackRock Gold & General	Gold	6	1.4%	1	22.4%	1	67.8%	10	4	1	1	2	10	1	5

The charts below shows the 8 week performance of the leading funds in the Specialist sector table above.



# 6 x 6 Report - three month update

Every three months, we generate our 6 x 6 report, looking for funds that have consistently achieved gains of 5% over six months. We are hoping to identify funds that have managed to do this for six consecutive six-month periods. It's not unusual for us not to find any, and when we ran the report in November, we found only one – Ranmore Global Equity. This month, there are nine.

A more comprehensive list is available on our website.

<b>Saltydog Investor 6x6 Report - Feb 2026</b>	<b>Feb 23 to July 23</b>	<b>Aug 23 to Jan 24</b>	<b>Feb 24 to July 24</b>	<b>Aug 24 to Jan 25</b>	<b>Feb 25 to July 25</b>	<b>Aug 25 to Jan 26</b>
<b>Funds that have risen by 5% or more in 6 out of 6 periods</b>						
Polar Capital Global Technology	21.8%	14.4%	11.2%	19.7%	13.2%	30.8%
Polar Capital Artificial Intelligence	13.0%	10.4%	13.2%	14.2%	5.7%	25.0%
Ninety One UK Special Situations	5.3%	11.9%	19.1%	5.9%	14.8%	9.6%
Ranmore Global Equity	5.7%	6.9%	9.2%	10.7%	14.0%	9.7%
GS Japan Equity Partners	24.6%	7.5%	12.8%	7.8%	5.9%	10.6%
New Capital US Growth	23.5%	13.1%	15.0%	16.9%	8.4%	8.0%
Fidelity MSCI World Index	11.0%	5.6%	12.8%	9.0%	5.3%	10.8%
L&G Global Technology Index	30.1%	13.9%	16.6%	16.2%	6.2%	9.5%
T. Rowe Price Global Tech Equity	26.0%	15.3%	9.8%	17.0%	6.4%	8.4%
<b>Funds that have risen by 5% or more in 5 out of 6 periods</b>						
Artemis SmartGARP European Equity	9.2%	3.3%	15.0%	5.8%	29.3%	17.7%
Artemis Global Income	0.0%	9.7%	19.0%	12.2%	20.8%	22.5%
Jupiter Global Financial Innovation	-0.8%	14.1%	9.3%	26.0%	15.4%	16.2%
Fidelity Japan	6.5%	6.6%	8.2%	-0.2%	11.7%	18.4%
Jupiter Financial Opportunities	0.7%	7.7%	12.8%	15.4%	13.4%	13.5%
Mirabaud-Discovery Europe ex UK	-2.9%	5.3%	11.4%	9.0%	19.2%	7.6%
Janus Henderson European Focus	6.4%	6.7%	8.8%	3.1%	12.5%	11.0%
Artemis Monthly Distribution	-0.2%	6.9%	11.3%	7.0%	10.4%	12.9%
Liontrust European Dynamic	6.4%	4.9%	5.5%	5.2%	8.5%	14.7%
Nomura Japan Strategic Value	6.4%	11.6%	9.2%	0.8%	8.6%	13.8%
CT Japan	5.1%	10.2%	7.3%	6.5%	3.3%	15.8%
AXA Framlington Japan	0.1%	5.4%	5.6%	6.2%	5.5%	11.6%
Ninety One Global Special Situations	5.6%	7.7%	10.0%	1.5%	8.2%	8.7%
JPM Japan	1.4%	5.9%	9.4%	8.9%	6.5%	9.3%
Ninety One Global Strategic Equity	8.2%	3.3%	13.6%	8.0%	7.0%	8.3%
CT Pan European Focus	4.0%	7.4%	8.2%	7.4%	6.4%	8.5%

If you are managing your own investments, but need fixed tariff financial planning, then Saltydog have negotiated special rates for subscribers with IFA firm JPM Asset Management Ltd. For more information give them a call on 01184 181818, or visit their website [www.jpmmasset.co.uk](http://www.jpmmasset.co.uk)

## WHAT'S HOT AND WHAT'S NOT

### GOING UP

FTSE 100 closes above 10,400

Copper sets a new all-time high

UK inflation rises to 3.4% in December

Kevin Warsh nominated as Fed Chair

Matt Weston wins gold at Winter Olympics

### GOING DOWN

US dollar sinks to four-year low

Silver pulls back from record highs

US inflation falls to 2.4% in January

Bitcoin drops back below \$65,000

John Virgo – RIP

© 2026 Saltydog Investor All Rights Reserved. The information contained herein is proprietary to Saltydog Investor Ltd. It is not warranted to be accurate, complete or timely. It may not be copied, distributed or combined with other 3rd party data without prior written consent. Neither Saltydog nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Funds invest in shares, bonds, and other financial instruments and are by their nature speculative and can be volatile. You should never invest more than you can safely afford to lose. Information in the Saltydog Investor Newsletter is for general information only and not intended to be relied upon by readers in making (or not making) specific investment decisions. Appropriate independent advice should be obtained before making any such decisions. Saltydog Investor Ltd and its staff do not accept liability for any loss suffered by readers as a result of any such decisions. The tables and graphs are derived from data supplied by Morningstar, Inc. All rights Reserved.

Saltydog Investor Ltd is not authorised or regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, and does not provide financial advice. Any information you use, or guidance you follow, is entirely at your own risk.