# **VT HALO GLOBAL ASIAN CONSUMER FUND**

January 2021 Monthly Fund Fact Sheet

### **Portfolio Description**

The VT Halo Global Asian Consumer Fund aims to achieve an annualised total return before fees of 8-12% over the long term. This will be achieved from investing in companies globally which are exposed to the growth of the Asian middle class and the corresponding rise in their consumption.

#### **Fund Manager's Comments**

The Fund fell 0.3% in January as markets initially rallied and then corrected sharply over concerns of a worsening global pandemic and high valuations led investors to take some profits.

Earnings season began with a solid set of numbers from the Indian private lender HDFC Bank. Profit after tax was up 18% yoy and asset quality came in better than expected. This is especially important given the end of the government moratorium on recognising Covid related bad debts. Management indicated that corporate asset quality was impeccable and additionally the growth outlook is also improving with the bank seeing good momentum in retail lending after a muted 6-7 quarters.

We have been very positive on the outlook for India over the past few quarters as the economy has staged an impressive recovery post pandemic lockdown and all with minimal government support. The news on the pandemic continues to be positive and there are now indications that large cities like Delhi are approaching herd immunity with more than 50% of the population estimated to have Covid antibodies. We are particularly positive on the residential property market, which is finally showing signs of life. Sales last peaked in 2013 and remained a third below this peak in 2019. Supported by good affordability and interest rates close to the lowest levels ever seen, the listed developers have begun to show clear evidence of a recovery. Registrations in Mumbai were up +94% last quarter. We initiated a position in the residential and commercial developer Prestige Estate Projects in October last year. Prestige recently sold the substantial part of its lease portfolio to Blackstone and the resulting cash will be used to pay down almost all its debt, as well as investing in new projects for growth. We continue to monitor the farmer protests closely, whilst we believe that reforms are crucial to unlocking India's potential, the rushed nature of these particular laws and the subsequent government heavy handedness risks turning into a political hot potato for Modi. Thus far his popularity seems to be holding.

PNJ the Vietnamese branded jewellery maker and retailer reported results that beat sellside expectations. Jewellery sales staged a strong recovery in Q4 with same store sales growth of +15%. Branded jewellery is a high growth market in Vietnam where 77% of the market is unorganised and we believe PNJ with its trusted brand and aggressive store roll out strategy will continue to gain market share. The medium to long term demand picture is also strong as Vietnam has some of the lowest jewellery demand in Asia, as well as a fast growing middle and affluent class. The company's valuation of 13.3x 2021 P/E also looks highly attractive especially when you compare it to Indian peer Titan which trades at an eye watering 69x FY22 P/E with comparable growth rates.

We initiated a position in the Chinese healthcare platform Ping An Healthcare during the month. Ping An Health provides comprehensive healthcare related products and services and is the largest provider of online consultations globally delivering over 900,000 daily consultations. China is increasingly encouraging internet-based healthcare services and has accelerated major reforms in the area, particularly since the outbreak of Covid which has imposed great pressure on its already stretched hospitals. Ping An Health is our preferred way to gain exposure to this structural theme.

All Data at 12.00 GMT 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## NAV 176.4p

NAV	170.4p
Investment Manager:	Halo Global Asset Management
Fund Manager:	Andrew Williamson-
	Jones
ACD:	Valu-Trac Investment Management Ltd.
Fund Type:	UK UCITS IV OEIC
Launch Date:	3 Nov 2014
Classes:	А, В, С
Base Currency:	Sterling
Dealing & Valuation:	Daily 12.00pm
Year End:	30 June
Management Fees:	A: 1.15% p.a.
	B: 0.85% p.a.
	C: 0.65% p.a.
ISIN:	
A \$ Acc	GB00BRJTG644
A £ Acc	GB00BRGCDR64
A € Acc	GB00BK9W9C11
B \$ Acc	GB00BRWQWY25
B \$ Inc B £ Acc	GB00BRJTG867 GB00BRWQWX18
B É Inc	GB00BRGCDS71
B € Acc	GB00BK9WNR45
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C \$ Acc	GB00BRWQX051
C \$ Inc	GB00BRJTG974
C £ Acc	GB00BRWQWZ32
C £ Inc	GB00BRGCDT88
C € Acc	
C € Inc	GB00BK9WNS51
Asset Under Mgt	\$90.1m
Depository:	National
	Westminster
	Bank PLC
Dealing Frequency:	Daily
Daily NAV available:	Bloomberg,
	Morningstar &
	Valu-Trac

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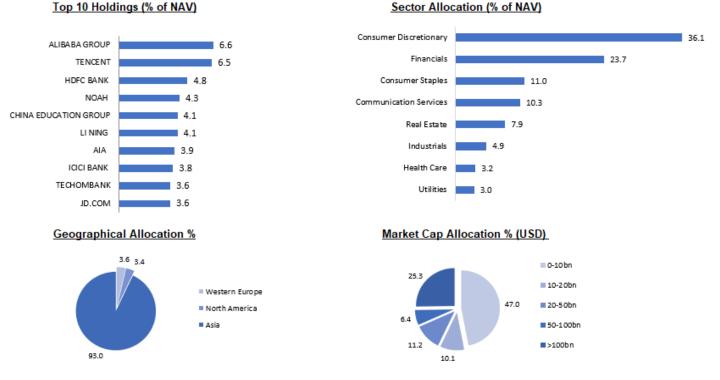
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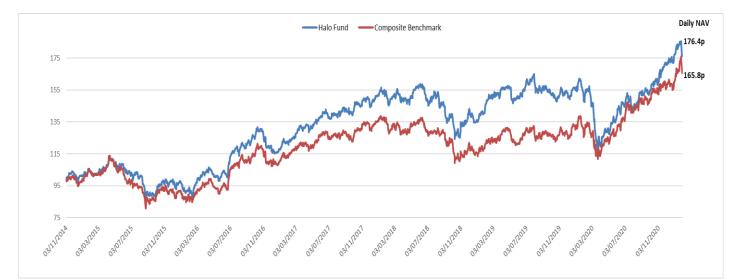
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#### **Fund Performance since Inception**

Performance data shown is of the B £ Net Acc. share class. Custom Benchmark, 30% MSCI AC Asia ex Jap Consumer Staples, 40% MSCI AC Asia ex Jap Consumer Discretionary and 30% MSCI AC Asia ex Japan Index. From 01/12/18 Custom Benchmark reduced Consumer Discretionary to 30% and added 10% Communication Services, due to reclassification by MSCI. Past performance is not a guarantee of future returns. Data from Valu-Trac Administration Services and Reuters. This is for illustrative purposes only and in accordance with our Prospectus Halo does not benchmark against any index.



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