

# Glossary of Terms

The terms and abbreviations used by the investment management industry can be bewildering, here's a summary of those most commonly used and what they mean.

## **Absolute return:**

The return that an asset/fund achieves over a period of time looking at the appreciation or depreciation (expressed as a percentage) that the asset/fund achieves.

## **Acc/Accumulation class:**

A share class which accumulates and reinvests net investment income and net realised capital gains and does not pay dividends.

## **Active currency exposure:**

The percentage of a fund's assets which are invested in a particular currency.

## **Administrator:**

The specialist entity who maintains the register of shares, provides fund valuation and accounting services.

## **AIF:**

Alternative Investment Fund as regulated by the Alternative Fund Management Directive.

## **Alpha:**

A measure of performance on a risk-adjusted basis, often seen as the active return on an investment.

## **Annual management fee:**

The fee payable by the fund to the investment manager to cover expenses associated with running the fund.

## **Anti-dilution fee/levy:**

A fee levied by a fund on investors buying/selling shares to protect current shareholders from the dealing costs incurred when paying out or taking in clients.

## **Asset class:**

A group of securities that exhibits similar characteristics, behaves similarly in the marketplace and is subject to the same laws and regulations. The three main asset classes are equities (or stocks); fixed income, or bonds and cash equivalents, or money market instruments.

**AUM:**

The total assets of the funds managed by an Investment Manager.

**Base currency:**

Each fund has a base currency and this is the currency which the fund uses to calculate its net asset value.

**Beta:**

A measure of the fund's volatility in comparison to its benchmark.

**CAGR:**

Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) is the rate at which the fund/benchmark has grown on an annual basis to reach the current performance since inception.

**Capital growth/appreciation:**

Capital growth is measured on the basis of the current value of the asset or investment, in relation to the amount originally invested in it.

**Commodity:**

A physical substance (such as food, grain, metal) which investors buy and sell through futures contracts.

**Comparative/Index/Benchmark (e.g. MSCI):**

A comparator the fund has used to compare its performance to or for its performance fee calculation.

**Contribution:**

Used to explain the breakdown of a fund's absolute performance.

**Correlation:**

A statistic that measures the degree to which two securities move in relation to each other.

**Dealing:**

Arranging the sale and purchase of shares in a fund.

**Delta:**

A ratio comparing the change in the price of an asset to the corresponding change in the price of its derivative.

**Derivatives (futures, options, swaps and contracts for difference):**

A financial contract based on an underlying asset or financial index with its value determined by fluctuations in the underlying asset/index. Derivatives may be used to manage risk in portfolios, for greater flexibility to lower costs, to gain leverage and to enhance returns.

### **Dist/Distributing Class/Inc/Income:**

A share class which pays dividend distributions.

### **Dividends:**

A sum of money paid regularly (typically annually) by a company to its shareholders out of its profits (or reserves).

### **Equity/Security:**

The percentage of the fund that is currently invested in the equity market.

### **Exposure:**

The amount invested in a particular type of security, market sector or industry, usually expressed as a percentage of the total portfolio holding.

### **Fixed income security:**

A type of investment which pays out periodic income of a fixed amount on a fixed schedule e.g. a bond is a fixed-income security.

### **Forward currency contracts:**

A foreign exchange contract that locks in the exchange rate for the purchase or sale of a currency on a future date.

### **Front end fee:**

The initial fee/sales charge applied at the time of an initial purchase of an investment.

### **Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS):**

A standardized classification system for equities developed jointly by Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) and Standard & Poor's.

### **Government bond:**

A bond issued by a government to support government spending, often issued in the country's domestic currency.

### **Gross:**

The total rate of return on an investment before the deduction of any fees or expenses.

### **Hedged class:**

A share class giving exposure to assets denominated in foreign currencies without the currency risk of the fund's base currency. Techniques and instruments are used to limit the currency risk between the hedged class and the base currency.

### **Hedging:**

Hedging against investment risk means strategically using financial instruments in the market to reduce the risk of adverse price movements.

### **High water mark:**

The highest value that an investment fund or account has reached over a specified period of time.

### **Information ratio:**

A measure of the fund's returns above the returns of the benchmark to the volatility of those returns.

### **Investment Manager:**

A firm managing a collective investment fund in line with stated objectives.

### **ISIN:**

An ISIN (International Securities Identification Number) uniquely identifies a security.

### **KIID:**

A KIID (Key Investor Information Document) must be provided to anyone who invests in a UCITS.

### **Leverage:**

An investment strategy of using borrowed money and/or financial instruments to increase the potential return of an investment.

### **Long:**

The practice of buying securities with the expectation the asset will rise in value.

### **NAV:**

The NAV (net asset value) of a fund is the value of the fund's assets less its liabilities. NAV per share is the value per share and is calculated by dividing the total NAV of the fund by the total number of shares.

### **Net:**

The total rate of return on an investment after the deduction of any fees or expenses, including annual management fee and performance fee where applicable.

### **Notional Exposure:**

The total value of a fund's leveraged assets.

### **Ongoing Charges Figure (OCF):**

A figure showing all annual charges and other operational expenses payable by a fund. Performance attribution: A set of techniques that are used to explain why a fund's performance differs from a benchmark.

### **Performance fee:**

A fee payable to the investment manager on returns that, subject to a High Water Mark, the fund achieves either in absolute terms or relative to a performance fee benchmark.

### **Portfolio:**

A group of financial instruments such as shares, funds, bonds, cash and cash equivalents held by an investor and managed by a financial professional.

### **Proprietary currency positions:**

Foreign exchange contracts entered into by the fund for investment rather than hedging purposes.

### **Quoted securities:**

A quoted or listed security is a financial instrument that is traded through an exchange, such as the LSE, NYSE or Nasdaq.

### **Rebased method:**

Used to illustrate a fund's performance against comparative benchmark on a chart whereby they both start at the same point.

### **Rel/Relative:**

Calculates how much the fund has out/underperformed its comparative benchmark.

### **SEDOL:**

A SEDOL (Stock Exchange Daily Official List) is a unique number assigned by the London Stock Exchange and used in the UK and Ireland to identify securities.

### **Share class:**

A designation applied to a specified type of security such as shares in a fund. Each share class has its own rights.

### **Sharpe ratio:**

A measure for calculating risk-adjusted performance; the higher the ratio, the better risk-adjusted performance.

### **Short:**

The practice of selling borrowed securities with the expectation that the assets will decrease in value whereupon they will be repurchased and returned to the lender.

### **Sortino:**

A variation of the Sharpe ratio that differentiates harmful volatility from total overall volatility by using the asset's standard deviation of negative asset returns, called downside deviation. The Sortino ratio takes the asset's return and subtracts the risk-free rate, and then divides that amount by the asset's downside deviation.

### **Standard deviation/Sta. dev.:**

Measures the degree of variation of returns around the mean (average) return. When applied to the annual rate of return, it shows the historical volatility.

### **Statistics:**

Statistical measurements used to analyse historical fund data such as performance, volatility etc.

### **Ten-year adjusted basis:**

Shows any exposure to Fixed Income, Bond Futures or Interest Rate Futures on a 10-year duration basis.

### **Tracking error:**

A risk measure showing how closely a fund's performance follows a particular benchmark.

### **Treynor:**

Treynor ratio, also known as the reward-to-volatility ratio, is a metric for returns that exceed those that might have been gained on a risk-less investment, per each unit of market risk.

### **UCITS:**

Undertakings for the Collective Investment of Transferable Securities (UCITS) is an EU regulatory framework creating a harmonized regime throughout EU for the management and sale of funds.