Rathbone Global Opportunities Fund Value assessment

Accounting year end at 31 January 2022

Rathbones
Look forward

Dear Investor,

We have had a turbulent start to the year, with hopes of returning to some sort of normality following the wind down of Covid-19 measures in the UK quickly dwarfed by the war in Ukraine. We are deeply saddened and horrified by the events to date, and our thoughts go out to all that are impacted by this conflict, some of whom are our employees, clients, their families and friends.

Throughout this period, the team have taken all the necessary practical measures to safeguard the long-term financial health and well-being of our clients. We continue to monitor the performance of our funds, and despite some short-term underperformance, I am satisfied that the funds across the range continue to perform as expected.

There is often temptation for a knee-jerk reaction when experiencing volatile markets. It's in challenging times like these where it can be enticing to shift a fund's mandate to chase returns. This is something we actively discourage. We continue to have confidence in our managers and believe long-term returns are built upon a consistent mandate and investment process.

The Rathbone Global Opportunities Fund, as covered in this report, has experienced some short-term underperformance but continues to meet its 5-year objective. The recent volatile markets, and hawkish shift in interest rates to tackle inflation, have caused a market rotation from 'growth' stocks, which this fund invests in, to 'value' stocks. In practice, this means investors have been selling their 'winners' – high-quality businesses with a long history of steady growth – to buy 'laggards' such as oil, gas, mining and financials – businesses which may well benefit from a sharp earnings recovery but do not reflect the mandate of this fund.

In spite of the near-term turbulence, we continue to invest in our business for the future. We recently announced a multi-year upgrade of our investment systems and data management capabilities to support our next stage of growth. We are excited to be partnering with Charles River to expand our capabilities to better serve you, our investors, and look forward to sharing our progress with you over the coming months.

Thank you for your continued support and I send you and your families my best wishes. If you have any questions about our value assessment or any suggestions on how we can improve, please get in touch.

Best wishes,

Mike Webb
CEO, Rathbone Unit Trust Management

Who are Rathbones?

We have been in business since 1742 and are listed on the FTSE 250. We provide individual investment and wealth management services for private clients, charities, trustees and professional partners. We see it as our responsibility to invest for everyone's tomorrow.

Rathbone Unit Trust Management Limited is the asset management arm of Rathbones Group Plc. and a leading UK fund manager. Through its subsidiaries, Rathbones Group Plc. manages £68.2 billion of clients' funds, of which £13 billion is managed by Rathbone Unit Trust Management (as at 31 December 2021).

What is a value assessment?

Our regulator, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), has asked us to assess the value of our funds.

Assessing value is much more than just looking at the fees which you, our investors, pay or the performance of the fund in isolation. Considering this, we have designed an assessment which looks at nine criteria. We have also appointed an independent research firm, Square Mile Investment Consulting & Research, to provide an impartial report on the value our funds offer compared with the market.

It is the responsibility of our board of directors to consider the outcomes of these assessments, ensure they are clear and fair, and then communicate to you, our investors, if we have delivered value. Or, if not, where we need to improve.

How are we doing?

It is important to us that our value assessments are informative, useful and easy to understand. There is little value in us bombarding you with technical jargon and analysis, so we have tried to explain things simply, in plain English.

We are always looking for ways to improve, so if you have any suggestions on how we can do better, please let us know by emailing rutm@rathbones.com.

Our assessment of the Rathbone Global Opportunities Fund

Our assessment criteria

In this section, our board of directors consider the nine areas we have assessed, both what we offer as a business, and the topics that are specific to each fund.

At the end, they conclude if our funds offer good value for money, offer value for money, or do not offer value for money.

If a fund does not offer value for money, we will detail the actions we will take.

Contents

Assessment criteria which cover our entire fund range:

Assessment criteria which are fund specific:

Key

- Fund offers good value for money
- Fund offers value for money but merits action or further monitoring
- Fund doesn't offer value for money
- The assessment criteria is not applicable

Assessment outcome

Our board of directors concluded the Rathbone Global Opportunities Fund offers good value for money.

1. Improvements to our business

What does this section cover?

We are always striving to improve the services we offer. In this section, our board of directors considered all the projects we are carrying out to improve our business. These projects can have a direct impact on you, our investors, such as a reduction in fund costs, or an indirect impact through our business operating more efficiently.

Assessment summary

Over the last 12 months, Rathbone Unit Trust Management has completed, or is in the process of implementing, a diverse range of projects to improve the outcomes that we provide to our investors. The most notable have been:

- We are investing £6 million over the next three years to upgrade our portfolio management and data management systems using the Charles River investment management solution.
- In response to the impact of Covid-19, we have focused on several initiatives to increase client communication and awareness, ensuring everyone was kept up to date through the uncertainty, and the challenging months that we have all been through.
- We have implemented a state-of-the-art liquidity management system to fully automate our liquidity risk monitoring capabilities.
- We have continued to build and expand our approach to responsible investment – more information can be found on our website.
- Our sales and distribution teams have enhanced the systems they use to look after our investors throughout every stage of their investment journey.
- We have successfully launched our Rathbone Greenbank Multi-Asset Portfolios, which means we can now offer a full suite of sustainable investment funds, and we continue to integrate ESG into our investment processes.

Assessment outcome

Our board of directors concluded that we have invested significant resources this year to improve our business, and this has had a positive impact on our investors.

2. Corporate culture

What does this section cover?

We believe the right corporate culture encourages positive behaviour which ultimately benefits you, our investors. In this section, our board of directors reviewed several metrics to allow them to determine if our business has a positive corporate culture.

Assessment summary

Our board assessed metrics specific to Rathbone Unit Trust Management. The assessment of our corporate culture considers different aspects of our business. This includes how we demonstrate our values: to be responsible, to show courage, to work together and always be professional. Our board have reviewed results of our employee engagement survey, our employee retention rate and how we invest into our business and people to attract and retain talent.

Assessment outcome

Our board of directors concluded, based on the available metrics, that Rathbone Unit Trust Management has a positive corporate culture.

3. Quality of service you receive

What does this section cover?

Service is more than just how fast we reply to an enquiry. When we consider the services we provide, we look at the breadth of knowledge and expertise of our fund managers and the analysts that support them, the qualifications we offer our employees to ensure they continually grow, and how efficient we are when trading on your behalf. This section assesses the range and quality of services we provide you. We have considered both the quality of service that we provide you directly, as well as the quality of services that we procure on your behalf.

Assessment summary

In our assessment of quality of service, we considered a range of different areas. The most notable were:

- Covid-19 crisis. In light of the uncertainty that has surrounded so many of us during the course of the year, we have improved the different methods we use to keep you updated about what is happening with your investments, and have increased the different platforms we use to do this.
- Professional development. The average number of hours our staff undertake continuous professional development (CPD) greatly exceeds the regulatory requirement. Over the last year, 31 Rathbone Unit Trust Management certified individuals have completed over 1,700 hours of training and development. Rathbones also actively supports employees in undertaking additional professional qualifications, such as the Chartered Financial Analyst qualification.
- How we vote on your behalf. Where voting rights allow, we actively engage with companies we invest in on environmental, social and governance issues and publish a report annually about how we have voted. This is available on our website.
- Our research and investment processes. Both processes are unique to each fund management team, as we believe their knowledge and expertise add significant value to your investments. Their individual processes are scrutinised twice a year by our chief investment officer who ensures that each of our managers employ robust processes to select appropriate investments and fulfil the requirements of their fund's investment mandate.
- The services we receive on your behalf. These are managed by our operational oversight team and governed by our outsourcing governance committee.
- How we handled complaints. We reviewed how many complaints we received and how quickly we resolved them. We also conduct trend analysis on complaints as an early warning indicator within our product governance process.
- How well we traded. We reviewed the transaction costs associated with our funds, which is an indicator of how efficiently we trade on your behalf.

Assessment outcome

Our board of directors concluded that, based on the areas assessed, Rathbone Unit Trust Management offers a good quality of service.

4. Performance of your fund

What does this section cover?

We check how our funds have performed against their objectives, after all fees have been paid, to see if we have delivered what we aimed to achieve.

If a fund has underperformed its benchmark, we explain why and assess whether the fund has invested in line with its 'mandate'. A fund's mandate is the investment strategy which was designed by the fund manager and agreed by our chief investment officer; it dictates how a fund manager can invest.

We also measure each fund's performance against a 'cash' benchmark to give you an idea of how your money would have grown in a UK bank account versus investing in our fund. We use the Bank of England base rate to approximate the interest you may have received in a bank account.

Why is the investment objective of a fund important?

The objective of a fund is important because it shows how a fund aims to perform. When we assess a fund's performance, we do so relative to its objective.

You'll notice that our funds' objectives are measured over three, five or 10 years. This is the time period you should plan to invest for – a 'recommended holding period'. Each fund's recommended holding period was chosen based on the historic performance of the fund and how we expect the fund to perform in the future. This doesn't mean the objective of the fund is guaranteed and there is always a chance you will get back less than you had invested.

This also means that the fund may perform very differently to the objective in the short term. For example, returns or volatility could be much less, or much more, than the stated objective if measured over, for example, a six-month period.

Our assessment is based on several factors. We assess the fund against its objective while considering the prevailing economic and market backdrop, how the fund manager's investment philosophy and process should have performed, and how we believe the fund may perform in the future.

It's important to understand that sometimes a fund could underperform its objective, even though the fund manager is investing in line with their investment policy (which financial instruments they are allowed to invest in) and their investment process (how they pick their investments). This can be because of a general market downturn that affects all the assets a fund manager might invest in. Underperformance could also happen because the type of assets a fund invests in, or its 'style' of investment, is 'out of favour'.

What is the objective of the Rathbone Global Opportunities Fund?

We aim to deliver a greater total return than the Investment Association (IA) Global sector, after fees, over any five-year period. Total return means the return we receive from the value of our investments increasing (capital growth) plus the income we receive from our investments (dividend payments). We use the IA Global sector as a target for our fund's return because we aim to achieve a better return than the average of funds that are similar to ours.

We compare our asset allocation to the FTSE World Index to give you an indication of how our fund is positioned against the global stock market.

Who looks after the Rathbone Global Opportunities Fund?

James Thomson
Lead Fund Manager

James has been at Rathbones for more than 20 years and has been the lead manager on the Rathbone Global Opportunities Fund since 2003. He is an executive director of Rathbones' fund management business. He was educated in the United States, originally hails from Bermuda and still rides a scooter to work.

Sammy Dow
Fund Manager

Sammy co-manages the fund along with James. He joined Rathbones in July 2014 from JP Morgan Cazenove, where he worked for 14 years in Pan-European Equity Sales providing both primary and secondary advice to Hedge Funds, Institutional and Private clients.

Assessment summary

The Rathbone Global Opportunities Fund aims to deliver a greater total return than the Investment Association (IA) Global sector, after fees, over any five-year period.

We also measure our fund's performance against a 'cash' benchmark to give you an idea of how your money would have grown in a UK bank account versus investing in our fund. We use the Bank of England base rate to approximate the interest you may have received in a bank account. In the five years ending 31 January 2022, if you had invested £1,000 in a UK bank account, you would have received approximately 1.99% or £20. If you had invested £1,000 in our fund, you would have received approximately 102.65% or £1,027 (based on the return of the accumulation of the I-class, as this is the largest class in this fund).

Assessment outcome

Our board of directors concluded that the Rathbone Global Opportunities Fund has consistently met its objective and outperformed its benchmark.

5. Costs charged to the fund

What does this section cover?

In this section we assess the costs charged to the fund, which are paid by you, our investors, to invest in our fund. We assess whether these costs are reasonable for the level of service we provide you (or the level of service we receive from third parties on your behalf).

Understanding fund costs

Before we set out how we assess our funds, it's essential to explain the costs you pay to invest in our funds.

The regulator requires us to calculate our costs using two different methods as we are bound by two different sets of rules: Undertaking for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities (UCITS) and Markets in Financial Instruments Directive II (MiFID II). To confuse things further, there are several different methodologies and underlying assumptions to choose from when calculating different portions of MiFID II costs. This makes it almost impossible to compare MiFID II fund costs on a like-for-like basis. You can, however, compare UCITS fund costs. The FCA is working to harmonise how our industry calculates and presents costs to make it easier for you to understand.

We pay a number of costs on behalf of our funds. For example, in 2021 we paid £1,042,698 for research the fund managers used to invest in stocks.

Differences between UCITS and MiFID II costs

UCITS costs are made up of several different types of charges. Foremost is the annual management charge (AMC) which is a set percentage of your investment that we charge for managing your money. Then there are other costs, including services used to run the fund (such as auditor and trustee fees) and the cost of our funds investing in other funds. When these costs are combined, they are known as a fund's ongoing charges figure (OCF).

MiFID II costs are made up of the AMC, other costs (calculated slightly differently to UCITS) and transaction costs (not included in UCITS costs at all). Transaction costs include tangible payments made (such as tax and broker commission) as well as opportunity costs that are intangible. The calculation of MiFID II other costs includes the transaction costs of the fund's underlying investment. As a result, MiFID II costs appear higher than UCITS costs.

Assessment summary

The charges of the Rathbone Global Opportunities Fund are as follows:

Cost	UCITS costs	MiFID II costs
AMC	0.75%	0.75%
Other costs	0.02%	0.02%
Transaction costs	n/a	0.10%
Total cost of investment	**0.77%**	**0.87%**

This means if you invested £1,000 for one year, you would be charged £7.70 (calculated using the UCITS total cost of investment).

Assessment outcome

Our board of directors concluded that, when reviewed against the Rathbone Global Opportunities Fund's performance, all charges are reasonable, with several initiatives in the business being established to actively reduce other costs and transaction costs.

6. Economies of scale

What does this section cover?

When funds get bigger, you pay proportionally less for the fixed costs of running the fund. For example, when a fund grows considerably, the management company should be able to negotiate lower costs on your behalf. This is called economies of scale – a proportionate saving in cost gained by an increase in scale or size. In this section, we assess if all economies of scale have been passed onto you, the investor.

Some asset managers charge a fixed percentage admin fee, so regardless of how large the fund grows, investors don't benefit from the saving in cost. We only charge for services used to run the fund and never charge a fixed percentage admin fee, so as our funds grow, you benefit from lower fixed costs.

Some asset managers tier their annual management charges based on the size of their funds. We think this is an unsustainable method to pass on economies of scale. In the event of a market correction where a fund is significantly reduced in size, we wouldn't want to ask you to pay more for the management of your investment. For this reason, we have chosen not to tier the annual management charges of our funds.

We will continue to monitor the annual management charges of our funds to ensure they are appropriate.

Assessment summary

All costs charged to the Rathbone Global Opportunities Fund have been assessed to determine if all available benefits from economies of scale were passed on to you, our investors.

Assessment outcome

Our board of directors concluded all available economies of scale have been passed on to you, the Rathbone Global Opportunities Fund's investors.

7. Costs compared to the fund's peers and sector

What does this section cover?

It's important that the costs of our funds reflect the service you receive. We believe that cost cannot be assessed in isolation alone and must be considered alongside a fund's performance, the type of assets in a portfolio and the quality of services that we offer. We do not believe that value means selling our services at the cheapest price.

We assess our funds based on their performance, taking into account the cost you paid to invest, against an independently selected peer group and the wider market sector. In other words, how much you got for the fees you paid us, against what you would've got if you'd invested with any of our peers. We consider the results of this analysis keeping in mind the service Rathbones provides and the prevailing economic and market backdrop.

Assessment summary

The Rathbone Global Opportunities Fund has three share classes:.

Share class	Total UCITS costs	Total MiFID II costs
R-class	1.52%	1.62%
I-class	0.77%	0.87%
S-class	0.51%	0.61%

The Rathbone Global Opportunities Fund has a lower cost than the sector median and compares favourably with its peers and wider sector when cost is considered against the performance of the fund.

Assessment outcome

Our board of directors concluded that all investors are in the appropriate share class.

8. The difference between share classes

What does this section cover?

Investment funds can offer different share classes. Share classes usually have different investment minimums (the minimum amount you need to invest) and different costs (how much you pay annually for your investment). Although share classes have different investment terms, they all invest in the same fund.

The larger the investment minimum, the lower the charge for managing your investment. This is similar to getting a cheaper price for buying product in bulk rather than buying one at a time. For this reason, when you invest through a third-party like an investment platform or a financial adviser, your money is pooled with other people's money and you may have access to a cheaper share class than if you were to invest directly with us. In this section of the assessment we have determined if unitholders are invested in appropriate share classes.

Assessment summary

The Rathbone Global Opportunities Fund has three share classes:

Share class	Minimum investment	Annual management charge
R-class	£100,000,000	1.50%
I-class	£1,000	0.75%
S-class	£100,000,000	0.49%

Assessment outcome

Our board of directors concluded that all investors are in the appropriate share class.

9. Your fund compared to similar investment services we offer

What does this section cover?

It's important to us that all our investors receive fair investment terms when they choose to invest their money in Rathbone funds. In this section, the board considers the investment terms that we offer you compared with those we offer our institutional and international investors. Comparable services include the international range of Rathbone funds which are registered in Luxembourg and regulated by the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier and 'segregated mandates', which are pots of money managed by our fund managers separately from our UK fund range for large institutional investors.

Assessment summary

The Rathbone Global Opportunities Fund has one comparable mandate which invests following the same strategy, and this is managed by the same team.

Assessment outcome

Our board of directors concluded that investors receive fair investment terms when compared to those invested in comparable services.

Glossary of terms

AMC	Annual Management Charge
FCA	Financial Conduct Authority
MiFID II	Markets in Financial Instruments Directive II
OCF	Ongoing Charges Figure
UCITS	Undertakings for the Collective Investments in Transferable Securities

Rathbone Unit Trust Management Limited
8 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7AZ
Tel 020 7399 0000

Information line
020 7399 0399
rutm@rathbones.com
rathbonefunds.com

Rathbones
Look forward

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