

# Platinum International Brands Fund



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## Disposition of Assets

REGION	MAR 2013	DEC 2012
Europe	32%	35%
Asia and Other	27%	28%
Latin America	7%	7%
North America	7%	7%
Japan	3%	4%
Africa	2%	1%
Cash	22%	18%
Shorts	5%	6%

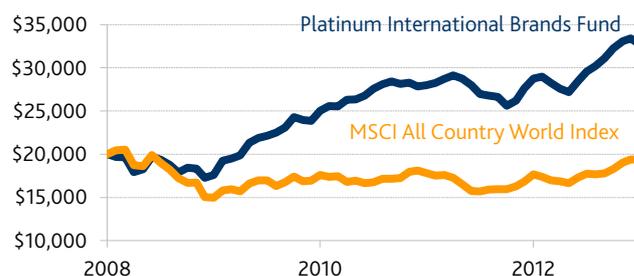
Source: Platinum

## Performance and Changes to the Portfolio (compound pa, to 31 March 2013)

	QUARTER	1 YR	3 YRS	5 YRS	SINCE INCEPTION
Platinum Int'l Brands Fund	1%	14%	9%	10%	12%
MSCI AC World Index	6%	10%	3%	-1%	-2%

Source: Platinum and MSCI. Refer to Note 1, page 3.

## Value of \$20,000 Invested Over Five Years 31 March 2008 to 31 March 2013



Source: Platinum and MSCI. Refer to Note 2, page 3.

The Fund's performance for the quarter masks a wide range of underlying stock price moves. Amongst the Fund's top holdings, Grendene appreciated over 30% whilst Debenhams declined by a similar amount. The Fund took the opportunity to adjust accordingly and in the case of the Fund's holding in Honda, sell completely as the Japanese market surged.

The Fund has a low exposure to Japan. If changes in the underlying economy occur with the perception of inflation, or the anticipation of tax driven price increases encourages consumers to spend, then the Fund will ultimately benefit indirectly. The Fund's Indian holdings were weak, retracing some of the prior gains. The Fund took advantage of price moves and added two new stocks; Titan Industries, the largest jewellery retailer in India and Tata Global Beverages.

The fall in Sterling also detracted from performance. Despite the short-term impact this should ultimately benefit our companies with their orientation towards tourist spending.

## Commentary

The Fund has an interest in a variety of themes: tourism; emerging Africa; the rise in consumerism and middle classes in large developing markets; and the lift in spending as millions across the globe start to earn and spend (!) above subsistence levels. The question, as always, is to determine how to invest and at what price? Whether through the predominantly western world multinationals; directly into their subsidiaries in emerging markets; via their local, if listed, joint venture partners; or alternatively without any multinational involvement and directly into regional companies and their brands. Each time it is a question of the facts and ultimately the price. We do, however, attach a degree of importance to the operational and governance benefits of having a multinational involved.

Tata Global Beverages Ltd (TGBL) is another slightly different example. This Indian multinational has transformed itself over the past decade from predominantly an Indian tea grower to an international branded consumer goods company and more recently added some involvement from iconic brand companies Pepsi and Starbucks.

Readers will likely be familiar with their lead brand Tetley Tea, a company they bought in 2000 and furthered by a series of acquisitions in both tea and coffee businesses including Eight

O'Clock Coffee in the US. The company's brands now have a presence in over 40 countries and a claim that 250 million servings of their products are consumed a day! That places Tata as second only to Unilever in the global tea market.

More recently there's a joint venture with Starbucks to roll out the all too familiar Starbucks coffee shops across India. After the usual unexpected delays they now appear to be on track to open 50 stores relatively quickly and with the initial feedback, from both Tata and Starbucks, seemingly very positive. Undoubtedly, we will hear more on the enormous potential for a ubiquitous presence across India!

Many of the European luxury brand companies confirmed during their recent results presentations the importance of spending by tourists, especially in key markets like France. The focus is very clearly on the Chinese and Russian tourists and even a cursory glance at the global statistics would confirm their dominance, however, resurgence in Japanese tourism in 2012 is also encouraging. The World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) highlighted that for the first time the number of international tourists passed one billion in a year. Europe was the recipient of just over half of them!

An analysis of the value added tax (VAT) refunds claimed by tourists reinforce that many of the Chinese visitors are well aware of the price differentials on luxury goods, some 20% to 40% lower between Europe and China. The trends are encouraging; even the latest International Airline passenger data show continued growth, especially in Asia. IATA also commented on improvements in China's economy supporting the outlook for increasing passenger numbers. The Fund has a number of investments that will benefit directly from these trends and is continuing to evaluate additional opportunities.

## Outlook

The increased volatility in the markets and a weaker quarterly performance from the Fund has not detracted from an underlying cautious optimism in the themes and investments being pursued by the Fund. Valuations are now much less attractive amongst the more well-known developed market consumer stocks with the Fund tending to find more interesting opportunities in the developing markets such as India and Latin America.

## Notes

1. The investment returns are calculated using the Fund's unit price and represent the combined income and capital return for the specific period. They are net of fees and costs (excluding the buy-sell spread and any investment performance fee payable), are pre-tax, and assume the reinvestment of distributions. The investment returns shown are historical and no warranty can be given for future performance. You should be aware that historical performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. Due to the volatility of underlying assets of the Funds and other risk factors associated with investing, investment returns can be negative (particularly in the short-term).

The inception dates for each Fund are as follows:

Platinum International Fund: 30 April 1995

Platinum Unhedged Fund: 31 January 2005

Platinum Asia Fund: 4 March 2003

Platinum European Fund: 30 June 1998

Platinum Japan Fund: 30 June 1998

Platinum International Brands Fund: 18 May 2000

Platinum International Health Care Fund: 10 November 2003

Platinum International Technology Fund: 18 May 2000

2. The investment returns depicted in this graph are cumulative on A\$20,000 invested in the relevant Fund over five years from 31 March 2008 to 31 March 2013 relative to their Index (in A\$) as per below:

Platinum International Fund - MSCI All Country World Net Index

Platinum Unhedged Fund - MSCI All Country World Net Index

Platinum Asia Fund - MSCI All Country Asia ex Japan Net Index

Platinum European Fund - MSCI All Country Europe Net Index

Platinum Japan Fund - MSCI Japan Net Index

Platinum International Brands Fund - MSCI All Country World Net Index

Platinum International Health Care Fund - MSCI All Country World Health Care Net Index

Platinum International Technology Fund - MSCI All Country World Information Technology Net Index

(nb. the gross MSCI Index was used prior to 31 December 1998 as the net MSCI Index did not exist).

The investment returns are calculated using the Fund's unit price. They are net of fees and costs (excluding the buy-sell spread and any investment performance fee payable), pre-tax and assume the reinvestment of distributions. It should be noted that Platinum does not invest by reference to the weightings of the Index. Underlying assets are chosen through Platinum's individual stock selection process and as a result holdings will vary considerably to the make-up of the Index. The Index is provided as a reference only.

3. Long invested position represents the exposure of physical holdings and long stock derivatives. The net invested position represents the exposure of physical holdings and both long and short derivatives.

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