

# Lazard European Alpha Fund

(A sub-fund of Lazard Investment Funds, a UK-based OEIC)



#### Performance Data Annualised Return\* (in GBP % p.a.) Periods ended 31 March 2014 12 Months ended 31 March 3 months YTD 2014 2013 2012 2011 2010 1 year 3 years 5 years Lazard European Alpha Fund 2.3 2.3 16.0 8.4 13.5 16.0 20.4 -8.8 5.4 40.2 Quartile 3 3 З 2 З 3 2 2 4 4 IMA Europe ex UK Sector 3.1 3.1 17.3 8.1 14.8 17.3 19.5 -10.0 8.3 45.7 17.3 FTSE Europe ex UK Index 3.0 3.0 17.3 7.0 14.4 18.0 -11.4 7.5 48.8

Source: Morningstar Direct, Bid to Bid Price, Net Income Reinvested, Net of Fees. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. \*Performance data for periods less than 1 year is illustrated on a cumulative growth basis.

## Product Commentary

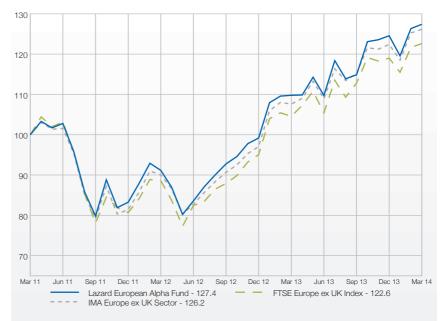
### £100 Invested Over Three Years

#### **Market Review**

European markets marginally appreciated during March, as positive economic data out of the euro zone was partially drowned out by continuing news flow on the annexation of Crimea from the Ukraine to Russia. Although a number of countries, including the US, have imposed sanctions on Russia, assurances that no further advance into Ukrainian territory would be made calmed markets towards the end of the month. The best performing indices in Europe were, for the most part, all in the southern markets of the euro zone, Spain, Greece and Italy, where economic activity is slowly, but steadily, gaining momentum.

#### Outlook

The steady recovery we are currently seeing in the euro zone is likely to continue and become increasingly self sustaining in the coming months, though this will also be reliant on global growth, particularly in the emerging markets, which have had a decidedly mixed start to the year. Although earnings outlooks have not lived up to expectations, we still believe there is room for share prices to rise, as the potential for further profit recovery in Europe still exceeds that globally and valuations are close to their historical average.



Source: Morningstar Direct, Cumulative Growth, Bid to Bid Price, Net of fees, Net Income Reinvested to 31/03/2014 in GBP.

### What Helped the Fund

- Overweight Turkiye Garanti Bankasi
- Overweight BMW
- Owning Petroleum Geo-Services

#### What Hurt the Fund

- Verweight BNP Paribas
- Owning Panalpina World Transport
- Owning Atresmedia

### Fund Information

**Objective†** To achieve capital growth at a rate greater than that of the FTSE World-Europe ex UK Index, measured in Sterling.

Benchmark FTSE Europe ex UK Index

Fund Managers Aaron Barnfather, Barnaby Wilson and team

Launch Date 27 August 1986

Fund Size £122.38m

Base Fund Currency £

#### Retail share class (£2,000 min)

NAV 576.50p Current Yield 1.26% Initial Charge 3.75% Annual Management Charge 1.50%

#### Institutional share class (£200,000 min) NAV 579.10p

Current Yield 1.70% Initial Charge 0.00% Annual Management Charge 1.00%

Sedol Codes

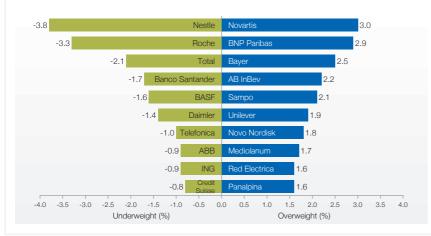
0846884 (Retail Income) 0846895 (Institutional Income) B6267W8 (Retail Accumulation) B7WP658 (Retail C [RDR] Accumulation) B6S1MZ5 (Retail C [RDR] Income)

Income Distribution Dates May, November

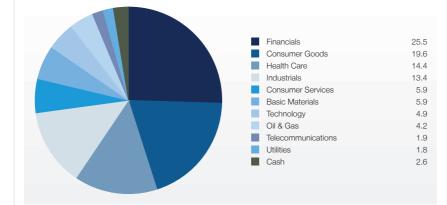
†There is no assurance that the Lazard European Alpha Fund's objectives or performance targets will be achieved. Current yield is the annual dividend divided by the current price.

### Top Ten Positive/Negative Positions

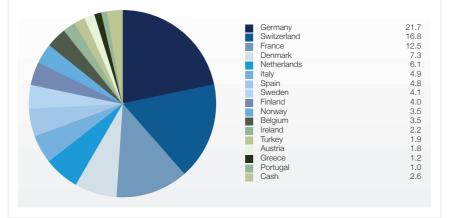
Relative to FTSE Europe ex UK Index



### Sector Breakdown



### Geographic Breakdown



### Top Ten Fund Holdings

	Fund (%)
Novartis	6.1
Bayer	4.3
BNP Paribas	4.1
AB InBev	3.5
Sanofi	3.3
Novo Nordisk	3.2
Unilever	2.9
Siemens	2.9
Sampo	2.5
Allianz	2.3
Total	35.1
Total Securities	60

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#### **Technical Statistics**<sup>‡</sup>

Alpha (% p.a.) 3.04 "Alpha" represents the return of a portfolio that is attributable to the manager's investment decisions.

Beta 0.99 "Beta" measures a fund's sensitivity to movements in the overall market.

 $\mbox{Tracking Error}$  (% p.a.) 2.48 "Tracking error" measures the volatility of the difference between a portfolio's performance and the benchmark.

Information Ratio 1.12 "Information ratio" represents the value added of the manager (excess return) divided by the tracking error.

Sharpe Ratio 0.57 "Sharpe ratio" measures return in excess of the risk free rate for every unit of risk taken.

‡Technical statistics calculated three years to 31/03/2014. Tracking error shown is calculated using NAV data priced at midday and Index data priced at the close of day.

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