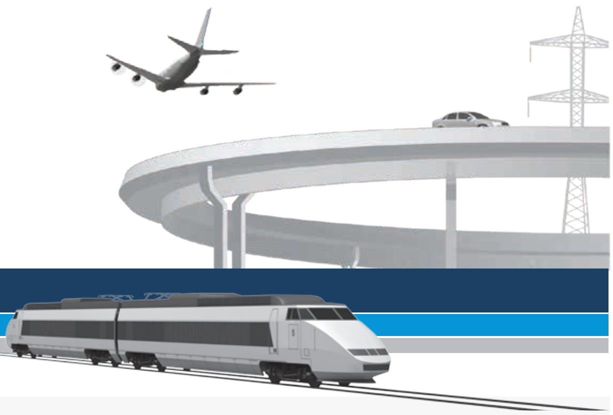


First State Global Infrastructure

Monthly Review and Outlook

January 2019

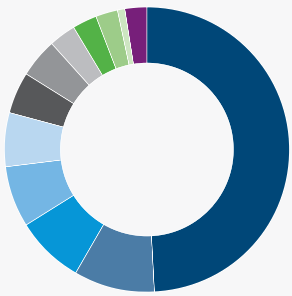
Market Review

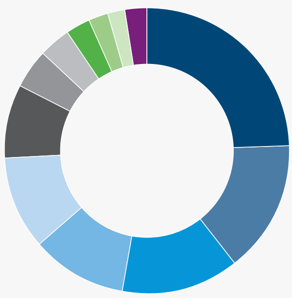
Global Listed Infrastructure rebounded in January, aided by well-received December quarter earnings. The FTSE Global Core Infrastructure 50/50 index climbed +7.8%, in line with global equities^.

The best performing infrastructure sector was Pipelines (+16%), which rallied from December lows as investors began to acknowledge the sector's improving fundamentals. Railroads (+10%) also climbed, as December quarter earnings results from North American freight rail firms highlighted consistently firm pricing and robust volume growth. The worst performing sector, Ports (+1%) delivered positive absolute returns but lagged in the absence of progress in ongoing tariff negotiations between the US and China.

The best performing region was Latin America (+16%). Brazil's stock market rallied on mounting enthusiasm for the right wing government's economic reform agenda. The worst performing region was Asia ex-Japan (+3%) as China's slowing economy weighed on the region's ports, airports and toll roads.

Asset Allocation (%) [1]





Fund Performance

Annualised Performance in SGD (%) [1]	1yr	3yrs	5yrs	10yrs	Since inception
Fund (Ex initial charges)	1.2	8.0	7.5	8.4	4.0
Fund (Inc initial charges)	-3.9	6.2	6.4	7.9	3.5
Benchmark*	7.1	9.7	9.5	9.2	4.6

Cumulative Performance in SGD (%) [1]	3 mths	1yr	3yrs	5yrs	Since inception
Fund (Ex initial charges)	1.7	1.2	26.1	43.7	53.3
Fund (Inc initial charges)	-3.4	-3.9	19.8	36.5	45.6
Benchmark*	4.1	7.1	32.1	57.8	62.5

Top 10 holdings (%) [1]

Stock name	Sector	%
Dominion Energy Inc COM	(Multi-Utilities)	6.3
Transurban Group Stapled Deferred	(Highways/Railtracks)	6.0
NextEra Energy, Inc.	(Electric Utilities)	5.2
TransCanada Corporation	(Oil/Gas Storage & Trans.)	5.2
Kinder Morgan Inc Class P	(Oil/Gas Storage & Trans.)	4.6
American Electric Power Company, Inc.	(Electric Utilities)	4.2
East Japan Railway Co	(Railroads)	3.9
Union Pacific Corporation	(Railroads)	3.3
Crown Castle International Corp	(Specialised REITs)	3.2
Atlantia S.p.A	(Highways/Railtracks)	3.2

All stock and sector performance data expressed in local currency terms. Source: Bloomberg. [1] Source: Lipper & First State Investments. Single pricing basis with net income reinvested. Data as at 31 January 2019. Fund since inception date: 3 March 2008. *Inception - 31 May 2008: S&P Global Infrastructure Index. 1 June 2008 – 31 March 2015: UBS Global Infrastructure and Utilities 50-50 Index. From 1 April 2015: FTSE Global Core Infrastructure 50/50 Index. ^ MSCI World Net Total Return Index, USD.

The Fund ended the month +6.4% higher[2], 3 basis points ahead of the FTSE Global Core Infrastructure 50/50 TR Index (SGD).

The best performing stock in the portfolio was Brazil toll road operator CCR (+33%). The stock surged after the São Paulo governor announced plans to extend a number of the state's toll road concessions – including some managed by CCR – rather than re-auctioning them as had been expected. Brazil's buoyant equity market provided additional support.

Pipelines also outperformed. Williams (+22%) rallied on the appeal of its strategically located pipeline networks connecting prolific natural gas fields in the Northeast US and Texas to LNG export facilities and eastern US population centres. Kinder Morgan (+19%) announced better than expected December quarter earnings, driven by robust performance from its natural gas pipeline business. Rumours that it would seek to divest its carbon dioxide business segment were also welcomed by the market. The company's corporate credit rating was upgraded during the month by S&P, who cited a "continued focus on strengthening its balance sheet". Plains All American Pipeline (+15%) gained on a recovery in crude oil prices and the prospect of additional growth projects such as the reversal of the Capline pipeline, which runs between Illinois and the US Gulf Coast.

North American freight rail stocks were led higher by Union Pacific (+15%), which appointed a new Chief Operating Officer with extensive experience in implementing Precision Scheduled Railroading (a series of operating procedures that can materially improve rail company efficiency and profitability). East coast peer Norfolk Southern (+12%) rallied on the view that it is well-placed to benefit from similar measures.

European transport infrastructure shrugged off soft economic data and ongoing Brexit uncertainty. Toll road company Atlantia (+14%) recovered as concerns eased that its concession may be revoked, following August's Morandi Bridge collapse. The CEO of its Italian motorway division (ASPI) has resigned, and Atlantia is paying for the bridge to be rebuilt. AENA (+11%) was supported by the prospect of continued passenger growth across its portfolio of Spanish airports. Ferrovial (+11%) saw robust 2018 passenger growth of +2.7% at Heathrow Airport, one of its flagship assets, driven by the adoption of larger (and fuller) aircraft. The company plans to sell its global support services business, in order to focus on transport infrastructure.

The worst performing stock in the portfolio was US utility Dominion (-2%), which lowered earnings growth guidance to "the lower half" of its 2017 – 2020 guidance range of between 6% and 8% pa, owing to delays in the construction of its Atlantic Coast Pipeline and higher than expected pension costs. Other defensive North American utility holdings including Evergy (+1%) and Hydro One (+2%) delivered positive absolute returns but also lagged the broader market.

US utilities remain well positioned to derive stable earnings growth over long time frames from the build-out of renewables. NextEra Energy (+3%) announced a plan to install 30 million solar panels at their Florida regulated utility business by 2030. Customers stand to benefit from the increasing cost effectiveness of solar technology, and the move will reduce the company's carbon footprint as older, inefficient plants are replaced. New York's governor set new renewable energy goals during January, including plans to quadruple the state's offshore wind generation target to 9,000 megawatts by 2035. This could provide investment opportunities for utilities with the ability to bid into these auctions, such as portfolio holding Eversource Energy (+7%).

Defensive Japanese stocks lagged as confidence returned to the market. West Japan Railway (+2%) announced solid December quarter operating profit growth of 4%. Healthy passenger volumes indicate that the company has now recovered from the floods and earthquakes that affected its service area in mid-2018. East Japan Railway (+4%) announced December quarter operating profit growth of 2%, in line with consensus expectations, and appears on track to beat full year guidance.

Fund activity

Having already reduced the Fund's weighting in Californian utility company PG&E in late 2018, as estimated liabilities approached the size of its rate base, the Fund's remaining position in the company was sold during January. The stock faces years of extreme volatility as it works through bankruptcy and litigation proceedings, presenting a risk / return profile inconsistent with our clients' expectations.

Market Outlook and Fund Positioning

The Fund invests in a range of global listed infrastructure assets including toll roads, airports, ports, railroads, utilities, pipelines, and wireless towers. These sectors share common characteristics, like barriers to entry and pricing power, which can provide investors with inflation-protected income and strong capital growth over the medium-term.

The Fund is positioned with toll roads as its largest sector overweight. We are attracted to their high operating margins, stable cash flows and effective barriers to entry. European operators are positioned to benefit from resilient traffic volumes over long time frames. Transurban's bid for WestConnex adds a substantial, high quality and long life asset to the listed infrastructure opportunity set. Peers in China and Latin America operate high growth toll roads with well-established concession agreements, providing an essential service to some of the most densely populated regions in the world.

The Fund is also overweight energy pipelines. The portfolio has built positions in several companies with unique and long life energy infrastructure networks at appealing valuation multiples. Sentiment towards the sector is improving, helped by simpler corporate structures and greater clarity for growth projects; while North American production growth is providing a favourable operating environment.

[2] Fund performance is based on the Singapore unit trust, net of fees, expressed in SGD terms.

The Fund's largest underweight position is the Airports sector. The sector has faced headwinds in recent months, as the outlook for passenger volumes, aeronautical charges and retail spend have deteriorated following years of exceptional growth. However, in our view, many airport stocks still appear overvalued and we are content to remain underweight. A number of high quality US utilities also continue to trade at valuations that we find difficult to justify based on company fundamentals.