Investment Commentary - August 2025



### **RISK**

This is a marketing communication. Please refer to the prospectus, supplement and KID/KIID for the Fund, which contain detailed information on its characteristics and objectives, before making any final investment decisions.

The Fund is an equity fund. Investors should be willing and able to assume the risks of equity investing. The value of an investment and the income from it can fall as well as rise as a result of market and currency movements, and you may not get back the amount originally invested. The Fund invests only in stocks of companies that are based in, or with significant business activities in, China; it is therefore susceptible to the performance of that region. In addition, at least 80% of the assets will be in China A shares, which have a greater participation by retail investors than other markets, so their performance may be more volatile. Further details on the risk factors are included in the Fund's documentation, available on our website.

Past performance does not predict future returns.

ABOL	JT THE STRATEGY
Launch	09.03.2023
Index	MSCI China A Onshore Index
Sector	IA China / Greater China
Managers	Sharukh Malik Edmund Harriss
EU Domiciled	Guinness China A Share Fund

### **OBJECTIVE**

The Fund invests in quality, profitable companies exposed to the structural growth themes we have identified in the China A share market. These themes are built upon changes we have seen in incomes, demographics, production advances and the application of technology in consumer, industrial and infrastructure settings. The Fund is actively managed and uses the MSCI China A Onshore Index as a comparator benchmark only.

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### **SUMMARY**

In July, the Guinness China A Share Fund (Y class, GBP) rose by 7.4%, while the benchmark, the MSCI China A Onshore Net Return Index rose by 8.0%. Therefore the Fund underperformed the benchmark by 0.6 percentage points.

Contributors to performance were stock selection in the Communication Services and Information Technology sectors. Detractors were stock selection in the Materials and Health Care sectors, along with the underweight to the Financials sector.

The US-China trade truce expires on 12<sup>th</sup> August and attention is on whether it will be extended, with Trump pushing China to boost soybean purchases to appeal to his farm-state voters. Reports say export licenses for Nvidia and AMD chips to China are being approved, but both firms must now pay the US government 15% of their China revenues. This move hints that budgetary needs may be taking precedence over national security concerns.

Analysis continued overleaf



### **MACRO REVIEW**

The Politburo met at the end of July. Overall, given that the economy has performed better than expected post-tariffs, the likelihood of significant stimulus has decreased. In the second quarter, GDP grew by 5.2% in real terms, broken down into 3.9% nominal growth and a GDP deflator of 1.2%.

In the Politburo's readout, time-sensitive statements on fiscal and monetary policy were omitted. Greater support for exporters exposed to the US may be on the way, with an increase in export tax rebates a possibility. The Politburo did not discuss the weak real estate market, which was a surprise and likely indicates, for now, no further support for the housing market is on the way.

For the macro data covering June, positive data points were:

- Industrial production grew by 6.8%.
- Exports grew by 5.8%, with a 22% month-on-month jump in exports to the US, following the reduction in US tariffs on Chinese goods.
- China's foreign exchange reserves grew by \$32bn to \$3.3trn. Gold reserves now account for 7% of China's total reserves, a jump from 4% in 2022.

Negative data points were:

- Only a 0.5% increase in fixed asset investment (FAI) in June, split into a slower 5% rise in manufacturing FAI, a 2% rise in infrastructure FAI and a 13% fall in real estate FAI.
- New home sales, as measured by floor space, fell by 8%; as measured by value, new home sales fell by 14%.
- Retail sales rose by 4.8%, lower than expectations. Products under the scope of the trade-in program continue to outperform.

### **MARKET COMMENTARY**

Performance data in the section in USD terms unless otherwise stated



Data from 30/06/25 to 31/07/25, returns in USD, source: Bloomberg, Guinness Global Investors calculations

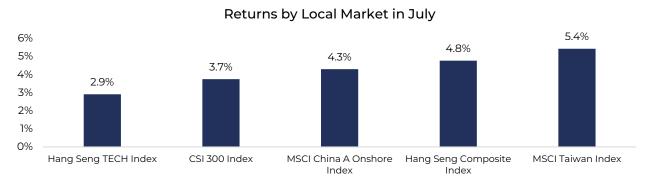
In July, the MSCI China A Onshore Index increased by 4.3% while the MSCI World Index rose by 1.3%.

The government initiated an "anti-involution" policy that primarily aims to cut overcapacity in sectors such as coal, steel, cement, solar and batteries. This should be seen in the context of producer prices falling consistently since Oct-22. So far,



there has been a combination of strong words from trade associations to implement this policy, as well as a few instances of concrete measures. In the coal industry, overproducing mines in eight provinces were told to stop production. In the cement industry, plants in two provinces shut production for up to 20 days. In the solar industry, the larger solar glass companies reduced production by 30%. There is talk about the government setting up buyout funds which would buy up and shutter capacity from smaller firms, as well as buying and closing older, less efficient capacity from larger firms. Therefore, cyclical companies in the lithium, solar, cement, steel, hog and coal industries were strong in July, on the expectation of less overcapacity and improved pricing power.

The anti-involution push has also expanded more broadly into other sectors. The State Administration for Market Regulation told the food delivery platforms (e.g. Meituan and JD.com) to "rectify" some promotional activities. Both companies have been aggressively subsidising purchases in a battle over market share. In healthcare, the procurement process for drugs and medical devices is now taking into account product quality in addition to prices, meaning the lowest-priced good is not quaranteed to win bids.



Data from 30/06/25 to 31/07/25, returns in USD, source: Bloomberg, Guinness Global Investors calculations

In July, offshore and onshore markets behaved similarly. Offshore markets, as measured by the Hang Seng Composite Index, rose by 4.8% while onshore markets, as measured by the MSCI China A Onshore Index, rose by 4.3%.

### **ATTRIBUTION**

In July, the Guinness China A Share Fund (Y class, USD) rose by 3.7%, while the benchmark, the Onshore MSCI China A Index, rose by 4.3%. Therefore, the Fund underperformed the benchmark by 0.6 percentage points.

In July, relative to the benchmark, areas which helped the Fund's performance were:

- Stock selection in the Communications Services sector, driven by G-bits Network Technology.
- Stock selection in the Information Technology sector, driven by Shengyi Technology and Hangzhou First Applied Material.

In July, areas which detracted from the Fund's relative performance were:

- Stock selection in the Materials sector, driven by Shanghai Putailai New Energy and companies not held, such as China Northern Rare Earth, Inner Mongolia Baotou Steel Union and Wanhua Chemical Group.
- Stock selection in the Health Care sector, driven by companies not held, such as Wuxi Apptec and Jiangsu Hengrui Pharmaceutical.
- The underweight to the Financials sector, where state-owned banks, insurance companies and brokers had strong performance.



### **OUTLOOK**

The key question for now is whether the US will extend its trade truce with China, as the current agreement expires on 12<sup>th</sup> August. Trump has urged China to increase soybean purchases, a priority for parts of his agricultural voter base. In the semiconductor sector, export licenses for Nvidia and AMD chips to China are reportedly being approved, but in a surprise move, both companies must pay 15% of their China revenues to the US government — suggesting budgetary concerns may now be taking precedence over national security.

Chinese companies will start reporting their next set of results in the middle of August. In the Fund, Hongfa Technology reported revenue and earnings per share (EPS) growth of 16% and 13% in the second quarter. It is a manufacturer of relays which are used to control circuits. Sales of its high voltage direct current relays (HVDCs), which are a critical component in EVs, surged by 54% in the second quarter as Hongfa benefited from rising demand for Xiaomi and Huawei cars. In response to tariff risk, the company's new German factory is now in operation, while a new plant in Indonesia should be running by the June 2026.

### **Portfolio Managers**

Sharukh Malik Edmund Harriss



## **Guinness China A Share Fund**

GUINNESS CHINA A SHARE FUND - FUND FACTS						
Fund size	\$0.7m					
Fund launch	09.03.2023					
OCF	0.89%					
Benchmark	MSCI China A Onshore TR					

GUINNESS CHINA A SHARE FUND - PORTFOLIO									
Top 10 holdings		Sector		Country					
G-bits Network Technology Xiam	4.6%	Industrials	26.6%	]					
Shenzhen H&T Intelligent	3.8%	- Consumer	21.7%						
Shenzhen Inovance Technology	3.8%	Discretionary - Information		China		97.4%			
Shandong Himile MS&T	3.8%	Technology	17.9%	Criiria		97.4%			
Sino Wealth Electronic Ltd	3.8%	Consumer Staples	11.6%						
Xiamen Faratronic Co Ltd	3.6%	-							
Shengyi Technology	3.5%	Health Care -	5.9%	-					
Ping An Insurance	3.4%	Materials	5.7%						
China Tourism Group Duty Free	3.4%	- Communication	4.6%						
Hongfa Technology	3.3%	Services -	4.070	Cash	2.6%				
		Financials	3.4%						
Top 10 holdings	36.9%	-							
Number of holdings	30	Cash	2.6%	J					



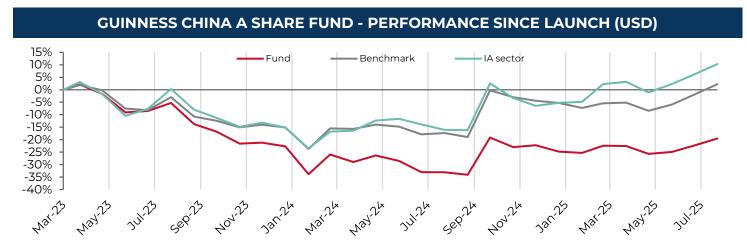


### **Guinness China A Share Fund**

Past performance does not predict future returns.

GUINNESS CHINA A SHARE FUND - CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE									
(GBP)	1 Month	YTD	1 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr			
Fund	+7.4%	+1.3%	+16.7%	-	-	-			
MSCI China A Onshore TR	+8.0%	+2.1%	+20.1%	-	-	-			
IA China/Greater China TR	+7.6%	+10.1%	+27.6%	-	-	-			
(USD)	1 Month	YTD	1 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr			
Fund	+3.7%	+7.1%	+20.3%	-	-	-			
MSCI China A Onshore TR	+4.3%	+7.9%	+23.7%	-	-	-			
IA China/Greater China TR	+3.9%	+16.4%	+31.5%	-	-	-			
(EUR)	1 Month	YTD	1 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr			
Fund	+6.4%	-3.2%	+13.7%	-	-	-			
MSCI China A Onshore TR	+7.0%	-2.4%	+17.0%	-	-	-			
IA China/Greater China TR	+6.6%	+5.3%	+24.3%	-	-	-			

GUINNESS CHINA A SHARE FUND - ANNUAL PERFORMANCE										
(GBP)	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Fund	-1.0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MSCI China A Onshore TR	+13.6%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IA China/Greater China TR	+13.8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(USD)	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Fund	-2.7%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MSCI China A Onshore TR	+11.6%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IA China/Greater China TR	+11.8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(EUR)	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Fund	+3.8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MSCI China A Onshore TR	+19.0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_
IA China/Greater China TR	+19.2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_



Source: FE fundinfo net of fees to 31.07.25. Investors should note that fees and expenses are charged to the capital of the Fund. This reduces the return on your investment by an amount equivalent to the Ongoing Charges Figure (OCF). The OCF used for the Fund performance returns is 0.89%. which was the OCF over the calendar year 2024. Returns for share classes with a different OCF will vary accordingly. Transaction costs also apply and are incurred when a fund buys or sells holdings. The performance returns do not reflect any initial charge; any such charge will also reduce the return.

**GUINNESS**GLOBAL INVESTORS

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Issued by Guinness Global Investors**, a trading name of Guinness Asset Management Limited, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

This report is designed to inform you about Guinness China A Share Fund. It may provide information about the Fund's portfolio, including recent activity and performance. It contains facts relating to the equity markets and our own interpretation. Any investment decision should take account of the subjectivity of the comments contained in the report. OCFs for all share classes are available on www.guinnessgi.com .

This document is provided for information only and all the information contained in it is believed to be reliable but may be inaccurate or incomplete; any opinions stated are honestly held at the time of writing, but are not guaranteed. The contents of the document should not therefore be relied upon. It should not be taken as a recommendation to make an investment in the Fund or to buy or sell individual securities, nor does it constitute an offer for sale. If you decide to invest, you will be buying shares in the Fund and will not be investing directly in the underlying assets of the Fund.

#### **Documentation**

The documentation needed to make an investment, including the Prospectus, the Key Investor Document (KID) / Key Investor Information Document (KIID) and the Application Form, is available in English from www.guinnessgi.com or free of charge from:-

- the Manager: Waystone Management Company (IE) Limited (Waystone IE) 2nd Floor 35 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin D04 A4EO, Ireland; or,
- the Promoter and Investment Manager: Guinness Asset Management Ltd, 18 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ.

Waystone IE is a company incorporated under the laws of Ireland having its registered office at 35 Shelbourne Rd, Ballsbridge, Dublin, D04 A4E0 Ireland, which is authorised by the Central Bank of Ireland, has appointed Guinness Asset Management Ltd as Investment Manager to this fund, and as Manager has the right to terminate the arrangements made for the marketing of funds in accordance with the UCITS Directive.

### **Investor Rights**

A summary of investor rights in English, including collective redress mechanisms, is available here: https://www.waystone.com/waystone-policies/

#### Residency

In countries where the Fund is not registered for sale or in any other circumstances where its distribution is not authorised or is unlawful, the Fund should not be distributed to resident Retail Clients.

NOTE: THIS INVESTMENT IS NOT FOR SALE TO U.S. PERSONS.

### Structure & regulation

The Fund is a sub-fund of Guinness Asset Management Funds PLC (the "Company"), an open-ended umbrellatype investment company, incorporated in Ireland and authorised and supervised by the Central Bank of Ireland, which operates under EU legislation. If you are in any doubt about the suitability of investing in this Fund, please consult your investment or other professional adviser.

#### **Switzerland**

This is an advertising document. The prospectus and KID for Switzerland, the articles of association, and the annual and semi-annual reports can be obtained free of charge from the representative in Switzerland REYL & Cie S.A., Rue du Rhône 4, 1204 Geneva, Switzerland. The paying agent is Banque Cantonale de Genève, 17 Quai de l'Ile, 1204 Geneva. Switzerland.

#### Singapore

The Fund is not authorised or recognised by the Monetary Authority of Singapore ("MAS") and shares are not allowed to be offered to the retail public. The Fund is registered with the MAS as a Restricted Foreign Scheme. Shares of the Fund may only be offered to institutional and accredited investors (as defined in the Securities and Futures Act (Cap.289)) ('SFA') and this material is limited to the investors in those categories.

Telephone calls will be recorded and monitored.



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