

Russia funds lead the way as EM equity soars

Emerging market equity funds followed April's strong performance with another round of punchy gains in May.

The buoyant Russian equity market fuelled big gains for Russia-focused funds – with UFG Russia Select up a hefty 15.52% and Renaissance Russia gaining 14.85%.

Several other Russian equities funds produced double-digit gains, including the Pharos Russia and Pharos Gas Investment Funds, which gained 11.11% and 11.30%

respectively – as well as the Russian Opportunities Fund, which was up by 10.74%, and the Kazimir Russia Growth Fund, which returned 10.73%.

More diversified EM strategies also posted gains. The ECP Emerging Europe Value Fund gained 8.22%, while the Resolution Hexam EMEA fund rose 7.22%.

Many other funds produced gains of between 4% and 6%, including Talentum Emerging Alpha, Pamplona, MT Thaler New Europe, Kairos Eurasian,

Baring EMEA and Adelphi Emerging Europe.

But some funds ended the month in the red, including Horseman Emerging Markets, which fell 0.96% for a year-to-date loss of -3.12%. George Case's Kudu fund fell 1% and is now down nearly 14% for the year, while BlackRock Eurasian Frontiers was narrowly down again and is down almost 12% for the year. North of South Emerging Markets declined 2.60% for a year-to-date loss of -5.06%.