

FIRST TRUST/ABERDEEN EMERGING OPPORTUNITY FUND
Form N-CSRS
September 07, 2018

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM N-CSR

CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Investment Company Act file number 811-21905

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund
(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)
120 East Liberty Drive, Suite 400
Wheaton, IL 60187
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)
W. Scott Jardine, Esq.
First Trust Portfolios L.P.
120 East Liberty Drive, Suite 400
Wheaton, IL 60187
(Name and address of agent for service)

registrant's telephone number, including area code: (630) 765-8000

Date of fiscal year end: December 31

Date of reporting period: June 30, 2018

Form N-CSR is to be used by management investment companies to file reports with the Commission not later than 10 days after the transmission to stockholders of any report that is required to be transmitted to stockholders under Rule 30e-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (17 CFR 270.30e-1). The Commission may use the information provided on Form N-CSR in its regulatory, disclosure review, inspection, and policymaking roles.

A registrant is required to disclose the information specified by Form N-CSR, and the Commission will make this information public. A registrant is not required to respond to the collection of information contained in Form N-CSR unless the Form displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") control number. Please direct comments concerning the accuracy of the information collection burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549. The OMB has reviewed this collection of information under the clearance requirements of 44 U.S.C. § 3507.

Item 1. Reports to Stockholders.

The Report to Shareholders is attached herewith.

First Trust/Aberdeen
Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)
Semi-Annual Report
For the Six Months Ended
June 30, 2018

Table of Contents

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

Semi-Annual Report

June 30, 2018

<u>Shareholder Letter</u>	1
<u>At a Glance</u>	2
<u>Portfolio Commentary</u>	4
<u>Portfolio of Investments</u>	7
<u>Statement of Assets and Liabilities</u>	16
<u>Statement of Operations</u>	17
<u>Statements of Changes in Net Assets</u>	18
<u>Statement of Cash Flows</u>	19
<u>Financial Highlights</u>	20
<u>Notes to Financial Statements</u>	21
<u>Additional Information</u>	30

Caution Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This report contains certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Forward-looking statements include statements regarding the goals, beliefs, plans or current expectations of First Trust Advisors L.P. (“First Trust” or the “Advisor”) and/or Aberdeen Asset Management Inc. (“Aberdeen” or the “Sub-Advisor”) and their respective representatives, taking into account the information currently available to them. Forward-looking statements include all statements that do not relate solely to current or historical fact. For example, forward-looking statements include the use of words such as “anticipate,” “estimate,” “intend,” “expect,” “believe,” “plan,” “may,” “should,” “would” or other words that convey uncertainty of future outcomes.

Forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (the “Fund”) to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. When evaluating the information included in this report, you are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which reflect the judgment of the Advisor and/or Sub-Advisor and their respective representatives only as of the date hereof. We undertake no obligation to publicly revise or update these forward-looking statements to reflect events and circumstances that arise after the date hereof.

Performance and Risk Disclosure

There is no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objective. The Fund is subject to market risk, which is the possibility that the market values of securities owned by the Fund will decline and that the value of the Fund shares may therefore be less than what you paid for them. Accordingly, you can lose money by investing in the Fund. See “Risk Considerations” in the Additional Information section of this report for a discussion of certain other risks of investing in the Fund.

Performance data quoted represents past performance, which is no guarantee of future results, and current performance may be lower or higher than the figures shown. For the most recent month-end performance figures, please visit www.ftportfolios.com or speak with your financial advisor. Investment returns, net asset value and common share price will fluctuate and Fund shares, when sold, may be worth more or less than their original cost. The Advisor may also periodically provide additional information on Fund performance on the Fund's web page at www.ftportfolios.com.

How to Read This Report

This report contains information that may help you evaluate your investment in the Fund. It includes details about the Fund and presents data and analysis that provide insight into the Fund's performance and investment approach. By reading the portfolio commentary by the portfolio management team of the Fund, you may obtain an understanding of how the market environment affected the Fund's performance. The statistical information that follows may help you understand the Fund's performance compared to that of relevant market benchmarks. It is important to keep in mind that the opinions expressed by personnel of First Trust and Aberdeen are just that: informed opinions. They should not be considered to be promises or advice. The opinions, like the statistics, cover the period through the date on the cover of this report. The material risks of investing in the Fund are spelled out in the prospectus, the statement of additional information, this report and other Fund regulatory filings.

Table of Contents

Shareholder Letter

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

Semi-Annual Letter from the Chairman and CEO

June 30, 2018

Dear Shareholders,

First Trust is pleased to provide you with the semi-annual report for the First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund which contains detailed information about your investment for the six months ended June 30, 2018, including a market overview and a performance analysis for the period. We encourage you to read this report carefully and discuss it with your financial advisor.

As 2018 began, there was much enthusiasm for the “Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017” tax reform bill, which President Trump had signed into law on December 22, 2017, and the potential increase in take-home pay for many Americans, as well as the reduction in the federal corporate tax rate from 35% to 21% that the new tax package would bring. Early in the new year, many investors were watching the Federal Reserve (the “Fed”) and its signaled intent to continue raising interest rates at a gradual pace (it had raised rates three times in 2017). Based on strong job growth and the economic outlook in the U.S., the Fed did, in fact, raise interest rates this year, on March 21 and June 13.

Additionally, they indicated at their June 2018 meeting that two additional rate hikes are expected before year-end. For the entire first quarter of 2018, increased market volatility was the norm for U.S. markets. The Dow Jones Industrial Average (“DJIA”) was off to a strong start in January continuing its very strong performance displayed throughout 2017. However, February was a different story. Early in the month, the DJIA plunged 567 points and sank into “correction” territory (defined as a drop of 10% from the index’s high) and in just two weeks during February, was down more than 3,200 points. However, as February came to a close, the DJIA was back on track and up from the lows experienced earlier in the month.

For the second quarter of 2018, market volatility continued. Increasing trade tensions have had an impact on markets around the world and could continue to do so in the future. The talk from President Trump on tariffs and trade agreements gave many investors pause about the U.S. stock market and its long-standing economic growth and what the future might hold. The DJIA closed out both April and May slightly down but ended June slightly up. Despite this volatility, we continue to believe that the combination of low interest rates, low inflation and strong corporate earnings still point to a positive economic environment and further growth, though we understand that past performance can never guarantee future performance.

Globally, markets underperformed moderately in the first half of 2018, as the MSCI AC World Index, which captures 23 developed markets and 24 emerging markets, ended the six-month period down just slightly. Analysts believe European companies are set up for growing earnings and credit upswings, which seems to bode well for global market performance. In addition, we believe the longer-term drivers of positive demographics, lower debt levels and improving productivity may lead to a multi-year cyclical upswing in emerging market economic fundamentals.

We continue to believe that one should invest for the long term and be prepared for market movements, which can happen at any time. You can do this by keeping current on your portfolio and investing goals and by speaking regularly with your investment professional. As we’ve said before, markets go up and they also go down, but savvy investors are prepared for either through careful attention to investment goals.

Thank you for giving First Trust the opportunity to be a part of your financial plan. We value our relationship with you and will report on your investment again in six months.

Sincerely,

James A. Bowen

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Chief Executive Officer of First Trust Advisors L.P.

Page 1

Table of Contents

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

“AT A GLANCE”

As of June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

Fund Statistics

Symbol on New York Stock Exchange	FEO
Common Share Price	\$13.60
Common Share Net Asset Value (“NAV”)	\$15.44
Premium (Discount) to NAV	(11.92)%
Net Assets Applicable to Common Shares	\$79,793,409
Current Quarterly Distribution per Common Share ⁽¹⁾	\$0.3500
Current Annualized Distribution per Common Share	\$1.4000
Current Distribution Rate on Common Share Price ⁽²⁾	10.29%
Current Distribution Rate on NAV ⁽²⁾	9.07%
Common Share Price & NAV (weekly closing price)	

Performance

	Average Annual Total Return				
	6 Months	1 Year	5 Years	10 Years	Inception
	Ended 6/30/18	Ended 6/30/18	Ended 6/30/18	Ended 6/30/18	(8/28/06) to 6/30/18
Fund Performance⁽³⁾					
NAV	-9.55%	-4.02%	2.58%	5.72%	6.83%
Market Value	-12.62%	-7.40%	2.25%	6.08%	5.28%
Index Performance					
Blended Index ⁽⁴⁾	-6.41%	1.30%	3.34%	4.25%	6.04%
Bloomberg Barclays Global Emerging Markets Index	-3.89%	-0.44%	4.13%	6.06%	6.27%
FTSE All World Emerging Market Index	-6.77%	7.65%	5.08%	2.58%	5.67%

(1) Most recent distribution paid or declared through 6/30/2018. Subject to change in the future.

(2) Distribution rates are calculated by annualizing the most recent distribution paid or declared through the report date and then dividing by Common Share Price or NAV, as applicable, as of 6/30/2018. Subject to change in the future.

Total return is based on the combination of reinvested dividend, capital gain, and return of capital distributions, if any, at prices obtained by the Dividend Reinvestment Plan and changes in NAV per share for NAV returns and changes in Common Share Price for market value returns. Total returns do not reflect sales load and are not annualized for periods of less than one year. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

(3) Blended Index consists of the following: JPMorgan Emerging Markets Bond Index - Global Diversified (32.5%); (4) JPMorgan Government Bond Index - Emerging Markets Diversified (32.5%); MSCI Global Emerging Markets Index (35.0%).

Page 2

Table of Contents

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

“AT A GLANCE” (Continued)

As of June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

Credit Quality ⁽⁵⁾	% of Total Fixed-Income Investments
A	4.8%
A-	11.2
BBB	10.6
BBB-	18.7
BB+	5.0
BB	4.2
BB-	12.3
B+	10.7
B	11.2
B-	5.8
CCC+	0.2
Not Rated	5.3
Total	100.0%

Top 10 Countries ⁽⁶⁾	% of Total Investments
Brazil	10.6%
India	7.0
Russia	6.9
Mexico	6.2
South Africa	5.7
Turkey	5.6
Cayman Islands	5.2
Indonesia	4.5
China	4.2
South Korea	4.1
Total	60.0%

Top Ten Holdings	% of Total Investments
Brazil Notas do Tesouro Nacional, Series F, 10.00%, 1/01/29	3.6%
Russian Federal Bond - OFZ, 7.05%, 1/19/28	3.5
Tencent Holdings Ltd.	3.3
Turkey Government Bond, 8.80%, 9/27/23	2.9
Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. (Preference Shares)	2.6
Republic of South Africa Government Bond, 10.50%, 12/21/26	2.4
Peruvian Government International Bond, 6.90%, 8/12/37	2.4
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	2.1
Indonesia Treasury Bond, 8.38%, 3/15/34	1.9
Republic of Poland Government Bond, 4.00%, 10/25/23	1.5
Total	26.2%

Industry Classification	% of Total Investments
Sovereigns	39.7%

Edgar Filing: FIRST TRUST/ABERDEEN EMERGING OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSRS

Banks	9.1
Internet Software & Services	4.3
Real Estate Management & Development	3.2
Construction Materials	3.1
Metals & Mining	2.8
Wireless Telecommunication Services	2.6
Technology Hardware, Storage & Peripherals	2.6
Insurance	2.4
Utilities	2.4
Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment	2.1
Beverages	1.6
Exploration & Production	1.6
Thrifts & Mortgage Finance	1.5
Transportation Infrastructure	1.4
Food & Staples Retailing	1.3
Automobiles	1.3
Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels	1.2
Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure	1.2
Integrated Oils	1.1
Pipelines	1.1
Multiline Retail	1.0
Power Generation	0.9
IT Services	0.8
Capital Markets	0.8
Tobacco	0.7
Chemicals	0.7
Food & Beverage	0.7
Government Development Banks	0.7
Household Products	0.7
Oil & Gas Services & Equipment	0.6
Central Bank	0.6
Specialty Retail	0.4
Personal Products	0.4
Retail - Consumer Discretionary	0.4
Pharmaceuticals	0.3
Communications Equipment	0.3
Life Insurance	0.3
Real Estate	0.3
Software & Services	0.3
Wireline Telecommunication Services	0.3
Commercial Finance	0.3
Airlines	0.3
Food Products	0.2
Life Sciences Tools & Services	0.2
Diversified Financial Services	0.2
Industrial Other	0.0*
Electronic Equipment, Instruments & Components	0.0*
Total	100.0%

* Amount is less than 0.05%.

The credit quality and ratings information presented above reflects the ratings assigned by one or more nationally recognized statistical rating organizations (NRSROs), including Standard & Poor's Ratings Group, a division of the McGraw Hill Companies, Inc., Moody's Investors Service, Inc., Fitch Ratings or a comparably rated NRSRO. For (5) situations in which a security is rated by more than one NRSRO and the ratings are not equivalent, the highest ratings are used. Sub-investment grade ratings are those rated BB+/Ba1 or lower. Investment grade ratings are those rated BBB-/Baa3 or higher. The credit ratings shown relate to the creditworthiness of the issuers of the underlying securities in the Fund, and not to the Fund or its shares. Credit ratings are subject to change.

(6) Fixed-income portfolio securities are included in a country based upon their underlying credit exposure as determined by Aberdeen Asset Management Inc., the sub-advisor.

Page 3

Table of Contents

Portfolio Commentary

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

Semi-Annual Report

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

Advisor

First Trust Advisors L.P. (“First Trust” or the “Advisor”) is the investment advisor to the First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (the “Fund”). First Trust is responsible for the ongoing monitoring of the Fund’s investment portfolio, managing the Fund’s business affairs and providing certain administrative services necessary for the management of the Fund.

Sub-Advisor

Aberdeen Asset Management Inc. (“Aberdeen” or the “Sub-Advisor”), a Securities and Exchange Commission registered investment advisor, is an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Standard Life Aberdeen plc. Standard Life Aberdeen plc is a publicly-traded global provider of long-term savings and investments listed on the London Stock Exchange, managing assets for institutional and retail clients from offices around the world.

Portfolio Management Team

Investment decisions for the Fund are made by Aberdeen using a team approach and not by any one individual. By making team decisions, Aberdeen seeks to ensure that the investment process results in consistent returns across all portfolios with similar objectives. Aberdeen does not employ separate research analysts. Instead, Aberdeen’s investment managers combine analysis with portfolio management. Each member of the team has sector and portfolio responsibilities such as day-to-day monitoring of liquidity. The overall result of this matrix approach is a high degree of cross-coverage, leading to a deeper understanding of the securities in which Aberdeen invests. Below are the members of the team with significant responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Fund’s portfolio.

Equity Management Team

Devan Kaloo

Global Head of Equities

Joanne Irvine

Deputy Head, Global Emerging Markets Equity

Nick Robinson

Investment Director, Global Emerging Markets Equity

Catriona Macnair

Investment Manager, Global Emerging Market Equity

Fixed-Income Management Team

Brett Diment

Head of Global Emerging Market Debt

Kevin Daly

Senior Investment Manager, Emerging Market Debt

Edwin Gutierrez

Head of Emerging Market Sovereign Debt

Max Wolman

Senior Investment Manager, Emerging Market Debt

Commentary

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund

The Fund’s investment objective is to provide a high level of total return. The Fund pursues its investment objective by investing at least 80% of its Managed Assets in a diversified portfolio of equity and fixed-income securities of issuers in emerging market countries. “Managed Assets” means the total asset value of the Fund minus the sum of the Fund’s liabilities other than the principal amount of borrowings, if any. There can be no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objective. The Fund may not be appropriate for all investors.

Fund Recap

The Fund had a net asset value (“NAV”) total return of -9.55% and a market value total return of -12.62% for the six months ended June 30, 2018 compared to the Fund’s Blended Index total return of -6.41% over the same period. In addition to the Blended Index², the Fund currently uses other indexes for comparative purposes. The total returns for the six months ended June 30, 2018 for these indexes were as follows: the Bloomberg Barclays Global Emerging Markets Index was -3.89% and the FTSE All World Emerging Market Index was -6.77%.

Total return is based on the combination of reinvested dividend, capital gain and return of capital distributions, if any, at prices obtained by the Dividend Reinvestment Plan and changes in NAV per share for NAV returns and changes in Common Share Price for market value returns. Total returns do not reflect sales load and are not annualized for periods of less than one year. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

Blended Index consists of the following: JP Morgan Emerging Markets Bond Index - Global Diversified (32.5%); JP Morgan Government Bond Index - Emerging Markets Diversified (32.5%); MSCI Global Emerging Markets Index (35.0%).

Page 4

Table of Contents

Portfolio Commentary (Continued)

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

Semi-Annual Report

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

An important factor impacting the return of the Fund relative to its Blended Index was the Fund's use of financial leverage through the use of bank borrowings. The Fund uses leverage because its managers believe that, over time, leverage provides opportunities for additional income and total return for common shareholders. However, the use of leverage can also expose common shareholders to additional volatility. For example, as the prices of securities held by the Fund decline, the negative impact of the evaluation changes on Common Share NAV and Market Value total return is magnified by the use of leverage. Conversely, leverage may enhance Common Share returns during periods when the prices of securities held by the Fund generally are rising. Unlike the Fund, the Bloomberg Barclays Global Emerging Markets Index, the FTSE All World Emerging Market Index and the components of the Blended Index are not leveraged. Leverage had a negative impact on the performance of the Fund over this reporting period.

Fixed Income Commentary

Market Recap

The first half of 2018 witnessed a period of market volatility and weakness particularly in the emerging market economies. This was primarily seen in the second quarter coming from increased rhetoric around trade wars and the negative impact this would have on China's economy, which was already showing signs of cooling. The market was also concerned about the continued rate hikes expected from the Federal Reserve (the "Fed") for the remainder of the year. With weak economic data from Europe, during the period, the U.S. dollar strengthened against the Euro, which is usually a sign of emerging market exchange rate weakness.

Over the first half of the year there were a number of elections which took place in various large emerging market countries such as Mexico and Turkey. This caused further market weakness given the uncertainties following the outcomes of the elections. President Erdogan was re-elected to the Turkish presidency as expected, however his economic policies and meddling with monetary policies have been a concern for investors in Turkey. In Mexico, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, the left-wing candidate, won the presidential election as highly anticipated. However, leading up to the elections, the market became increasingly concerned around his campaign platform to unwind some of the reforms which had occurred under President Enrique Pena Nieto.

Performance Analysis

The Fund's emerging market bond portfolio slightly underperformed the emerging market debt portion of its Blended Index over the period in both hard currency and local currency bonds.

The Fund's overweight exposure and good stock selection in Honduras and Ukraine contributed positively to the Fund's performance, whereas the Fund's overweight exposure to Argentina, Ecuador, Indonesia and Brazil detracted from Fund performance. The Fund's underweight position in Turkey, Romania and Hungary and zero holdings in Lebanon positively impacted performance, whereas the Fund's underweight position in Malaysia detracted from performance.

Market and Fund Outlook

As we end the first half of the year, the start of the summer holiday period should provide a good opportunity for market participants to reflect on the return of volatility to the market. Sentiment turned negative in mid-April when the U.S. dollar started to appreciate against both developed and emerging market currencies. This event also coincided with the IMF/World Bank Spring meetings and helped provide an excuse for a decline in investors' risk tolerance. While portfolio flow data has turned negative in the last three months, year-to-date figures have shown a significant allocation to the asset class – JP Morgan estimates that local currency debt has seen nearly US\$14bn of inflows, while hard currency has been bolstered by nearly US\$7.5bn. The recent sell-off has probably been driven by non-dedicated investors rather than emerging market investors.

Liquidity in risk assets has fallen as the Fed continues its course of policy normalization, while geopolitical considerations (especially in regard to global trade) have also provided investors with another excuse to exercise caution. We believe that despite the external environment, emerging market countries remain in a far stronger position now to withstand these headwinds compared to the 2013 "taper tantrum" episode or the 2015 commodity price crash. This should allow good investment opportunities in favored credits where we deem valuations to have overshot long-term fundamentals, in our view.

Equity Commentary

Market Recap

Emerging market equities were volatile in the first half of 2018, rattled by fears of faster policy normalization in the U.S. and global trade conflicts. The Fed raised interest rates twice, which strengthened the U.S. dollar. This compelled several emerging-market central banks to hike rates. Almost all sectors fell, except Health Care, as well as Energy, which was supported by higher oil prices.

Page 5

Table of Contents

Portfolio Commentary (Continued)

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

Semi-Annual Report

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

Trade tensions escalated, and President Trump's steel and aluminum tariffs triggered retaliation from Mexico, India and the European Union. The U.S. and China also went ahead with 25% duties on US\$34 billion of each other's exports from July. While mainland markets were fairly resilient amid upbeat corporate earnings, signs of a moderating economy and renminbi weakness caused a pullback at the period's end. Separately, China's legislative body approved administrative overhauls that included merging its banking and insurance regulators. We view this positively, as it promotes sustainable development of the financial sector.

Sentiment in India was hurt by the re-introduction of a long-term capital gains tax on equities, as well as a US\$2 billion fraud at state-owned Punjab National Bank. We continue to prefer private-sector lenders for their better credit-control and risk-management standards. Elsewhere, Indonesia and the Philippines were among the hardest-hit markets due to various macroeconomic worries, while both nations' central banks hiked rates to defend their currencies. Malaysia was surprised by the Pakatan Harapan's shock election victory, which toppled the six-decade long Barisan Nasional regime.

Politics also drove markets in Latin America and Eastern Europe. Losses in Mexico were capped as investors became more receptive of Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador ahead of his presidential election victory, following his more moderate rhetoric. In contrast, Brazil slumped amid concerns over its political and fiscal prospects, after the government reinstated diesel subsidies to end a nationwide truckers strike against higher fuel prices that had weighed on economic activity.

In Turkey, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was re-elected and gained sweeping new executive powers. However, stocks and the lira declined amid continued jitters over fiscal and monetary policy, which was further compounded by a debt-rating downgrade by S&P. Russia shrugged off tightening U.S. sanctions and worsening relations with the West following Russia's alleged assassination attempt on an ex-spy, and was instead helped by recovering energy prices and the central bank's rate cuts.

Performance Analysis

Over the six-month period ended June 30, 2018, the emerging market equity portion of the Fund fell by 10.89%, lagging the benchmark by 4.39%.

The large exposure to Brazil was responsible for the bulk of the Fund's underperformance, as the prolonged truckers' strike hurt economic activity and weakened the real and heightened political risk perception. At the stock level, fuel distributor Ultrapar sold off on expectations of weaker quarterly profits amid intensifying competition. Lender Banco Bradesco and retailer Lojas Renner also tracked the market lower, despite solid operational performances and earnings. Meanwhile, food producer BRF was hampered by weak earnings, leadership uncertainty and ongoing investigations into the provision of substandard meat. However, we are heartened by the new CEO's appointment, which we believe should bring much-needed leadership to steer the company forward.

The Fund's exposure to the Consumer sector also hurt. Russian retailer Magnit was pressured by a weak retail environment, while its extended store-refurbishment program dented same-store sales. Investors were additionally caught off-guard by the resignation of CEO Sergey Galitsky and the subsequent sale of most of his stake. Indonesian conglomerate Astra International was also among the laggards due to tougher regulations and weak selling prices. Elsewhere, the underweight to China was negative, though this was mitigated by the non-benchmark exposure to Hong Kong. Hong Kong-listed developer China Resources Land was a top performer as investors were encouraged by its solid earnings and growth prospects, while cement maker Anhui Conch did well as cement prices rose amid falling inventories. Stock selection in India was the largest contributor to relative performance. IT company Tata Consultancy Services rallied amid positive sentiment towards the Technology sector. Lender Kotak Mahindra Bank and mortgage-provider HDFC also rose, driven by healthy loan growth and stable asset quality.

Market Outlook

We believe volatility is likely to persist in emerging markets, as expectations for faster-than-expected policy normalization and a strengthening U.S. dollar curb investors' risk appetite. Escalating global trade tensions are another concern, as supply chain disruptions could hurt corporate profits. Political ambiguity over electoral outcomes and

policy continuity across major markets further clouds the outlook. Fortunately, many emerging-market economies now have better fundamentals, with lower current account deficits and healthier currency reserves to buffer against shocks. Despite the trade-related fears, growth is still recovering in markets such as Brazil and India. While near-term capital flight and pressure on currencies may result in a degree of monetary tightening across the emerging world in the short term, the economic trajectory remains one of cyclical recovery, in our view. We believe this should also be reflected by a continued rebound in corporate earnings. We remain optimistic that our holdings' quality will help the portfolio weather the present storms and benefit from the asset class' long-term potential.

Page 6

Table of Contents

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

Portfolio of Investments

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

Principal

Value (Local Currency)	Description	Stated Coupon	Stated Maturity	Value (US Dollars)
FOREIGN SOVEREIGN BONDS AND NOTES (a) – 41.8%				
	Angola – 0.4%			
297,000	Angolan Government International Bond (USD) (b)	9.38%	05/08/48	\$300,682
	Argentina – 2.0%			
21,110,000	Argentina POM Politica Monetaria, Argentina Central Bank 7 day repurchase reference rate (ARS) (c)	40.00%	06/21/20	755,832
266,387	Argentine Republic Government International Bond (USD)	8.28%	12/31/33	240,415
350,000	Argentine Republic Government International Bond (USD)	7.13%	07/06/36	282,188
420,000	Argentine Republic Government International Bond (USD)	6.88%	01/11/48	316,474
				1,594,909
	Bahrain – 0.6%			
270,000	Bahrain Government International Bond (USD)	7.00%	01/26/26	253,592
278,000	Bahrain Government International Bond (USD) (b)	7.00%	10/12/28	249,919
				503,511
	Belarus – 0.4%			
307,000	Republic of Belarus International Bond (USD) (b)	6.20%	02/28/30	291,147
	Brazil – 3.8%			
13,050,000	Brazil Notas do Tesouro Nacional, Series F (BRL)	10.00%	01/01/29	3,042,838
	Ecuador – 0.3%			
230,000	Ecuador Government International Bond (USD) (b)	8.75%	06/02/23	216,303
	Egypt – 0.6%			
246,000	Egypt Government International Bond (USD) (b)	6.13%	01/31/22	242,543
280,000	Egypt Government International Bond (USD) (b)	7.90%	02/21/48	255,729
				498,272
	El Salvador – 0.4%			
300,000	El Salvador Government International Bond (USD)	7.65%	06/15/35	294,804
	Ethiopia – 0.7%			
540,000	Ethiopia International Bond (USD) (b)	6.63%	12/11/24	530,013

Edgar Filing: FIRST TRUST/ABERDEEN EMERGING OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSRS

	Ghana – 1.6%			
560,000	Ghana Government International Bond (USD)	8.13%	01/18/26	575,377
270,000	Ghana Government International Bond (USD) (b)	7.63%	05/16/29	264,179
2,150,000	Republic of Ghana Government Bond (GHS)	21.50%	03/09/20	473,603
				1,313,159
	Honduras – 0.5%			
410,000	Honduras Government International Bond (USD) (b)	7.50%	03/15/24	439,110
	Indonesia – 2.0%			
23,200,000,000	Indonesia Treasury Bond (IDR)	8.38%	03/15/34	1,623,029
	Iraq – 0.9%			
200,000	Iraq International Bond (USD) (b)	6.75%	03/09/23	192,674
610,000	Iraq International Bond (USD)	5.80%	01/15/28	549,071
				741,745
	Kenya – 0.2%			
200,000	Kenya Government International Bond (USD)	6.88%	06/24/24	197,984
	Malaysia – 1.4%			
4,700,000	Malaysia Government Bond (MYR)	3.89%	03/15/27	1,122,086

See Notes to Financial Statements

Page 7

Table of Contents

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

Portfolio of Investments (Continued)

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

Principal

Value (Local Currency)	Description	Stated Coupon	Stated Maturity	Value (US Dollars)
FOREIGN SOVEREIGN BONDS AND NOTES (a) (Continued)				
	Mexico – 2.6%			
4,000,000	Mexican Bonos (MXN)	6.50%	06/09/22	\$193,396
16,000,000	Mexican Bonos (MXN)	5.75%	03/05/26	720,160
23,200,000	Mexican Bonos (MXN)	7.75%	11/13/42	1,178,115
				2,091,671
	Nigeria – 1.8%			
414,000,000	Nigeria Government Bond (NGN)	12.50%	01/22/26	1,074,110
200,000	Nigeria Government International Bond (USD) (b)	7.88%	02/16/32	196,712
200,000	Nigeria Government International Bond (USD) (b)	7.63%	11/28/47	182,829
				1,453,651
	Oman – 0.3%			
270,000	Oman Government International Bond (USD) (b)	6.75%	01/17/48	245,349
	Pakistan – 0.3%			
280,000	Pakistan Government International Bond (USD) (b)	6.88%	12/05/27	243,968
	Peru – 2.5%			
6,010,000	Peruvian Government International Bond (PEN)	6.90%	08/12/37	1,975,407
	Poland – 2.9%			
4,450,000	Republic of Poland Government Bond (PLN)	4.00%	10/25/23	1,273,643
4,100,000	Republic of Poland Government Bond (PLN)	2.50%	07/25/27	1,036,469
				2,310,112
	Russia – 4.6%			
189,000,000	Russian Federal Bond - OFZ (RUB)	7.05%	01/19/28	2,911,535
33,000,000	Russian Federal Bond - OFZ (RUB)	7.70%	03/23/33	527,800
200,000	Russian Foreign Bond - Eurobond (USD)	5.88%	09/16/43	215,438
				3,654,773
	Rwanda – 0.6%			

Edgar Filing: FIRST TRUST/ABERDEEN EMERGING OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSRS

200,000	Rwanda International Government Bond (USD) (b)	6.63%	05/02/23	199,478
300,000	Rwanda International Government Bond (USD)	6.63%	05/02/23	299,216
				498,694
	South Africa – 3.5%			
24,800,000	Republic of South Africa Government Bond (ZAR)	10.50%	12/21/26	1,981,990
820,000	Republic of South Africa Government International Bond (USD)	4.88%	04/14/26	790,511
				2,772,501
	Sri Lanka – 0.7%			
550,000	Sri Lanka Government International Bond (USD) (b)	6.75%	04/18/28	520,383
	Suriname – 0.3%			
270,000	Republic of Suriname (USD) (b)	9.25%	10/26/26	260,550
	Tanzania – 0.2%			
133,335	Tanzania Government International Bond, 6 Mo. LIBOR + 6.00% (USD) (c)	8.24%	03/09/20	136,201
	Tunisia – 0.7%			
600,000	Banque Centrale de Tunisie International Bond (USD)	5.75%	01/30/25	530,427
	Turkey – 3.8%			
1,900,000	Turkey Government Bond (TRY)	10.40%	03/27/19	393,330
15,200,000	Turkey Government Bond (TRY)	8.80%	09/27/23	2,422,021

Page 8

See Notes to Financial Statements

Table of Contents

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

Portfolio of Investments (Continued)

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

Principal

Value (Local Currency)	Description	Stated Coupon	Stated Maturity	Value (US Dollars)
FOREIGN SOVEREIGN BONDS AND NOTES (a) (Continued)				
Turkey (Continued)				
1,140,000	Turkey Government Bond (TRY)	10.40%	03/20/24	\$194,059
				3,009,410
865,000	Ukraine – 1.2% Ukraine Government International Bond (USD) (b)	7.75%	09/01/24	822,701
188,000	Ukraine Government International Bond (USD) (b) (d)	(e)	05/31/40	119,603
				942,304
	Total Foreign Sovereign Bonds and Notes			33,354,993
	(Cost \$34,776,358)			
FOREIGN CORPORATE BONDS AND NOTES (a) (f) – 18.7%				
200,000	Argentina – 0.2% Genneia S.A. (USD) (b)	8.75%	01/20/22	193,432
495,000	Azerbaijan – 0.7% Southern Gas Corridor CJSC (USD) (b)	6.88%	03/24/26	534,818
250,000	Barbados – 0.3% Sagicor Finance 2015 Ltd. (USD) (b)	8.88%	08/11/22	276,875
277,000	Brazil – 2.7% Azul Investments LLP (USD) (b)	5.88%	10/26/24	235,799
270,000	Braskem Netherlands Finance BV (USD)	4.50%	01/10/28	248,738
280,000	CSN Resources S.A. (USD) (b)	7.63%	02/13/23	253,053
330,000	GTL Trade Finance, Inc. (USD)	7.25%	04/16/44	335,775
350,000	OAS Finance Ltd. (USD) (d) (g) (h) (i)	8.88%	(j)	21,000
200,000	OAS Investments GmbH (USD) (g) (h) (i)	8.25%	10/19/19	12,000
262,800	Odebrecht Drilling Norbe VIII/IX Ltd. (USD)	6.35%	12/01/21	248,346
650,000	Petrobras Global Finance BV (USD)	8.75%	05/23/26	704,925

Edgar Filing: FIRST TRUST/ABERDEEN EMERGING OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSRS

102,052	QGOG Atlantic/Alaskan Rigs Ltd. (USD)	5.25%	07/30/18	98,735
				2,158,371
	China – 0.6%			
260,000	Shimao Property Holdings Ltd. (USD)	8.38%	02/10/22	273,962
200,000	Yingde Gases Investment Ltd. (USD) (b)	6.25%	01/19/23	189,238
				463,200
	Colombia – 0.3%			
207,000	Banco GNB Sudameris S.A. (USD) (b) (d)	6.50%	04/03/27	211,918
	Dominican Republic – 0.9%			
720,000	AES Andres BV / Dominican Power Partners / Empresa Generadora de Electricidad Itabo (USD) (b)	7.95%	05/11/26	745,200
	El Salvador – 0.4%			
310,000	Grupo Unicomer Co., Ltd. (USD) (b)	7.88%	04/01/24	327,050
	Georgia – 0.7%			
200,000	Bank of Georgia JSC (USD) (b)	6.00%	07/26/23	199,928
350,000	Georgian Oil and Gas Corp. JSC (USD) (b)	6.75%	04/26/21	353,442
				553,370
	Ghana – 0.3%			
278,000	Tullow Oil PLC (USD) (b)	7.00%	03/01/25	263,405

See Notes to Financial Statements

Page 9

Table of Contents

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

Portfolio of Investments (Continued)

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

Principal

Value (Local Currency)	Description	Stated Coupon	Stated Maturity	Value (US Dollars)
------------------------------	-------------	------------------	--------------------	-----------------------

FOREIGN CORPORATE BONDS AND NOTES (a) (f) (Continued)

	Guatemala – 0.5%			
400,000	Comunicaciones Celulares S.A. Via Comcel Trust (USD) (b)	6.88%	02/06/24	\$411,170
	Honduras – 0.4%			
280,000	Inversiones Atlantida S.A. (USD) (b)	8.25%	07/28/22	289,075
	India – 1.0%			
40,000,000	NTPC Ltd. (INR)	7.25%	05/03/22	568,916
275,000	Vedanta Resources PLC (USD) (b)	6.13%	08/09/24	242,391
				811,307
	Indonesia – 0.6%			
200,000	Medco Platinum Road Pte Ltd. (USD) (b)	6.75%	01/30/25	176,380
278,000	Perusahaan Listrik Negara PT (USD) (b)	5.45%	05/21/28	283,462
				459,842
	Kazakhstan – 0.4%			
308,000	Tengizchevroil Finance Co. International Ltd. (USD) (b)	4.00%	08/15/26	289,422
	Mexico – 1.2%			
270,000	Axtel SAB de CV (USD) (b)	6.38%	11/14/24	256,838
4,800,000	Petroleos Mexicanos (MXN)	7.19%	09/12/24	212,721
270,000	Sixsigma Networks Mexico SA de CV (USD) (b)	7.50%	05/02/25	260,415
279,000	Unifin Financiera SAB de CV SOFOM ENR (USD) (b) (d)	8.88%	(j)	250,545
				980,519
	Nigeria – 1.7%			
290,000	Access Bank PLC (USD) (b)	10.50%	10/19/21	303,317
290,000	IHS Netherlands Holdco BV (USD) (b)	9.50%	10/27/21	279,082
290,000	SEPLAT Petroleum Development Co., PLC (USD) (b)	9.25%	04/01/23	284,200
520,000	United Bank for Africa PLC (USD) (b)	7.75%	06/08/22	507,335

					1,373,934
	Oman – 0.4%				
325,000	Oztel Holdings SPC Ltd. (USD) (b)	6.63%	04/24/28	309,631	
	Russia – 1.4%				
290,000	Credit Bank of Moscow Via CBOM Finance PLC (USD) (d)	7.50%	10/05/27	237,002	
394,000	Evraz Group S.A. (USD) (b)	5.38%	03/20/23	387,696	
290,000	Gazprom OAO Via Gaz Capital S.A. (USD)	4.95%	03/23/27	280,307	
200,000	GTH Finance BV (USD) (b)	7.25%	04/26/23	207,521	
					1,112,526
	South Africa – 1.2%				
17,000,000	Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd. (ZAR)	7.50%	09/15/33	929,457	
	Turkey – 1.4%				
339,000	Hazine Mustesarligi Varlik Kiralama AS (USD) (b)	5.00%	04/06/23	321,016	
280,000	Turkiye Garanti Bankasi AS (USD)	5.88%	03/16/23	266,490	
288,000	Turkiye Vakiflar Bankasi TAO (USD)	6.00%	11/01/22	249,905	
300,000	Yasar Holdings AS (USD) (b)	8.88%	05/06/20	271,975	
					1,109,386
	Ukraine – 1.4%				
280,000	Metinvest BV (USD) (b)	8.50%	04/23/26	262,349	
322,000	MHP LUX S.A. (USD) (b)	6.95%	04/03/26	302,186	
7,250,000	Ukreximbank Via Biz Finance PLC (UAH)	16.50%	03/02/21	266,554	

Page 10

See Notes to Financial Statements

Table of Contents

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

Portfolio of Investments (Continued)

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

Principal

Value (Local Currency)	Description	Stated Coupon	Stated Maturity	Value (US Dollars)
------------------------------	-------------	------------------	--------------------	-----------------------

FOREIGN CORPORATE BONDS AND NOTES (a) (f) (Continued)

Ukraine (Continued)

280,000	Ukreximbank Via Biz Finance PLC (USD)	9.63%	04/27/22	\$281,428
				1,112,517
	Total Foreign Corporate Bonds and Notes			14,916,425

(Cost \$15,965,325)

Shares	Description	Value
	COMMON STOCKS (a) – 44.1%	
	Brazil – 4.5%	
103,750	Ambev S.A.	481,307
126,967	Banco Bradesco S.A., ADR	870,994
42,377	BRF S.A. (k)	196,701
66,401	Lojas Renner S.A.	495,812
21,354	Multiplan Empreendimentos Imobiliarios S.A., Preference Shares	311,901
33,831	Ultrapar Participacoes S.A.	400,656
68,053	Vale S.A., ADR	872,439
		3,629,810
	Cayman Islands – 5.4%	
2,602	Autohome, Inc., ADR	262,802
278,000	China Resources Land Ltd.	937,226
3,878	Huazhu Group Ltd., ADR	162,837
800	Sunny Optical Technology Group Co., Ltd.	14,887
55,200	Tencent Holdings Ltd.	2,770,695
17,000	Wuxi Biologics Cayman, Inc. (b) (k)	189,272

Edgar Filing: FIRST TRUST/ABERDEEN EMERGING OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-CSRS

		4,337,719
	Chile – 0.9%	
11,959	Banco Santander Chile S.A., ADR	375,871
40,482	SACI Falabella	370,995
		746,866
	China – 3.8%	
120,500	Anhui Conch Cement Co., Ltd., Class H	691,152
564,000	Beijing Capital International Airport Co., Ltd., Class H	594,509
103,000	Ping An Insurance Group Co. of China Ltd., Class H	947,869
20,879	YUM China Holdings, Inc.	803,006
		3,036,536
	Hong Kong – 4.0%	
116,400	AIA Group Ltd.	1,017,773
97,500	China Mobile Ltd.	866,186
226,000	Hang Lung Group Ltd.	633,731
21,135	Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd.	635,736
		3,153,426
	Hungary – 0.4%	
15,300	Richter Gedeon Nyrt	279,415
	India – 6.3%	
71,414	Aditya Birla Capital Ltd. (k)	138,836
42,998	Grasim Industries Ltd.	631,869
7,537	Hero MotoCorp Ltd.	382,103
22,600	Hindustan Unilever Ltd.	541,341

See Notes to Financial Statements

Page 11

Table of Contents

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

Portfolio of Investments (Continued)

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

Shares	Description	Value
COMMON STOCKS (a) (Continued)		
India (Continued)		
43,383	Housing Development Finance Corp., Ltd.	\$1,208,189
155,121	ITC Ltd.	602,689
29,889	Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.	585,849
23,904	Tata Consultancy Services Ltd.	644,656
5,428	UltraTech Cement Ltd.	302,523
		5,038,055
Indonesia – 2.1%		
1,517,700	Astra International Tbk PT	699,011
433,200	Bank Central Asia Tbk PT	649,195
317,600	Indocement Tunggal Prakarsa Tbk PT	302,529
		1,650,735
Malaysia – 0.6%		
86,200	Public Bank Bhd	498,485
Mexico – 2.6%		
9,500	Fomento Economico Mexicano, S.A.B. de C.V., ADR	834,005
14,000	Grupo Aeroportuario del Centro Norte, S.A.B. de C.V., ADR	583,100
113,838	Grupo Financiero Banorte, S.A.B. de C.V., O Shares	669,377
		2,086,482
Philippines – 1.7%		
1,134,100	Ayala Land, Inc.	805,404
316,130	Bank of the Philippine Islands	524,242
		1,329,646
Poland – 0.4%		
10,396	Bank Polska Kasa Opieki S.A.	313,630
Portugal – 0.0%		
1,473	Jeronimo Martins SGPS S.A.	21,279

	Russia – 1.3%	
8,093	Lukoil PJSC, ADR	557,850
820	Lukoil PJSC, ADR	56,072
5,496	Magnit PJSC	402,565
		1,016,487
	South Africa – 1.3%	
33,910	Massmart Holdings Ltd.	275,927
52,100	MTN Group Ltd.	409,812
65,263	Truworths International Ltd.	367,528
		1,053,267
	South Korea – 4.3%	
1,020	Amorepacific Corp.	141,857
1,941	Amorepacific Group	215,086
1,166	LG Chem Ltd.	348,911
833	NAVER Corp.	570,282
63,300	Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. (Preference Shares)	2,138,398
		3,414,534
	Taiwan – 2.2%	
243,954	Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	1,732,327
	Thailand – 1.3%	
51,300	Siam Cement (The) PCL	637,960

Page 12

See Notes to Financial Statements

Table of Contents

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

Portfolio of Investments (Continued)

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

Shares	Description	Value
COMMON STOCKS (a) (Continued)		
Thailand (Continued)		
112,200	Siam Commercial Bank Public Co., Ltd. (1)	\$401,319
		1,039,279
Turkey – 0.7%		
26,944	BIM Birlesik Magazalar A.S.	393,851
Turkiye Garanti Bankasi A.S.		
103,000		187,890
		581,741
United Kingdom – 0.3%		
27,439	Standard Chartered PLC	250,808
	Total Common Stocks	35,210,527
	(Cost \$30,267,005)	
	Total Investments – 104.6%	83,481,945
	(Cost \$81,008,688) (m)	
	Outstanding Loan – (7.3)%	(5,800,000)
	Net Other Assets and Liabilities – 2.7%	2,111,464
	Net Assets – 100.0%	\$79,793,409

Forward Foreign Currency Contracts

Settlement Date	Counterparty	Amount Purchased	Amount Sold	Purchase Value as of 6/30/2018	Sale Value as of 6/30/2018	Unrealized Appreciation/ (Depreciation)
07/10/18	UBS	ZAR 16,892,000	USD 1,336,412	\$ 1,229,643	\$ 1,336,412	\$ (106,769)
08/24/18	BAR	USD 505,850	BRL 1,989,000	505,850	510,019	(4,169)
08/24/18	BAR	USD 1,036,733	BRL 3,796,000	1,036,733	973,369	63,364
07/10/18	GS	USD 1,340,171	ZAR 16,892,000	1,340,171	1,229,643	110,528
07/10/18	BAR	USD 1,519,966	ZAR 20,552,000	1,519,966	1,496,071	23,895
Net Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)						\$86,849

Counterparty

Abbreviations

BAR Barclays Bank

GS Goldman Sachs

UBS UBS

See Note 2D – Forward Foreign Currency Contracts in the Notes to Financial Statements.

See Note 2I – Offsetting on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities in the Notes to Financial Statements for a table that presents the forward foreign currency contracts’ assets and liabilities on a gross basis.

(a) All of these securities are available to serve as collateral for the outstanding loans.

This security, sold within the terms of a private placement memorandum, is exempt from registration upon resale under Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “1933 Act”), and may be resold in transactions exempt from registration, normally to qualified institutional buyers. Pursuant to procedures adopted by the Fund’s

(b) Board of Trustees, this security has been determined to be liquid by Aberdeen Asset Management Inc. (the “Sub-Advisor”). Although market instability can result in periods of increased overall market illiquidity, liquidity for each security is determined based on security specific factors and assumptions, which require subjective judgment.

At June 30, 2018, securities noted as such amounted to \$15,643,308 or 19.6% of net assets.

(c) Floating rate security.

Fixed-to-floating or fixed-to-variable rate security. The interest rate shown reflects the fixed rate in effect at June

(d) 30, 2018. At a predetermined date, the fixed rate will change to a floating rate or a variable rate.

(e) Zero coupon bond.

(f) Portfolio securities are included in a country based upon their underlying credit exposure as determined by the Sub-Advisor.

This security, sold within the terms of a private placement memorandum, is exempt from registration upon resale (g) under Rule 144A under the 1933 Act, and may be resold in transactions exempt from registration, normally to qualified institutional buyers (see Note 2C - Restricted Securities in the Notes to Financial Statements).

(h) This issuer is in default and interest is not being accrued by the Fund, nor paid by the issuer.

(i) This issuer has filed for bankruptcy protection in a São Paulo state court.

See Notes to Financial Statements

Page 13

Table of Contents

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

Portfolio of Investments (Continued)

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

(j) Perpetual maturity.

(k) Non-income producing security.

This security is fair valued by the Advisor's Pricing Committee in accordance with procedures adopted by the

(l) Fund's Board of Trustees, and in accordance with the provisions of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended. At June 30, 2018, securities noted as such are valued at \$401,319 or 0.5% of net assets.

Aggregate cost for financial reporting purposes approximates the aggregate cost for federal income tax purposes.

(m) As of June 30, 2018, the aggregate gross unrealized appreciation for all investments in which there was an excess of value over tax cost was \$9,928,748 and the aggregate gross unrealized depreciation for all investments in which there was an excess of tax cost over value was \$7,368,642. The net unrealized appreciation was \$2,560,106. The amounts presented are inclusive of derivative contracts.

ADR American Depositary Receipt

LIBOR London Interbank Offered Rate

Valuation Inputs

A summary of the inputs used to value the Fund's investments as of June 30, 2018 is as follows (see Note 2A - Portfolio Valuation in the Notes to Financial Statements):

ASSETS TABLE

	Total Value at 6/30/2018	Level 1 Quoted Prices	Level 2 Significant Observable Inputs	Level 3 Significant Unobservable Inputs
<u>Foreign Sovereign Bonds and Notes*</u>	\$ 33,354,993	\$ —	\$ 33,354,993	\$ —
<u>Foreign Corporate Bonds and Notes*</u>	14,916,425	—	14,916,425	—
Common Stocks:				
<u>Thailand</u>	1,039,279	637,960	401,319	—
<u>Other Country Categories*</u>	34,171,248	34,171,248	—	—
<u>Total Investments</u>	\$ 83,481,943	\$ 34,809,208	\$ 48,672,733	\$ —
<u>Forward Foreign Currency Contracts</u>	197,787	—	197,787	—
<u>Total</u>	\$ 83,679,730	\$ 34,809,208	\$ 48,870,520	\$ —

LIABILITIES TABLE

	Total Value at 6/30/2018	Level 1 Quoted Prices	Level 2 Significant Observable Inputs	Level 3 Significant Unobservable Inputs
<u>Forward Foreign Currency Contracts</u>	\$ (110,938)	\$ —	\$ (110,938)	\$ —

* See Portfolio of Investments for country breakout.

All transfers in and out of the Levels during the period are assumed to occur on the last day of the period at their current value. There were no transfers between Levels at June 30, 2018.

Page 14

See Notes to Financial Statements

Table of Contents

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

Portfolio of Investments (Continued)

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

Currency Exposure % of Total	
Diversification	Investments†
USD	38.1%
HKD	11.1
INR	6.7
RUB	4.6
TRY	4.3
BRL	4.1
KRW	4.1
IDR	3.9
MXN	3.6
PLN	3.1
ZAR	3.0
PEN	2.4
TWD	2.1
MYR	2.0
PHP	1.6
NGN	1.3
THB	1.2
ARS	0.9
GHS	0.6
CLP	0.4
HUF	0.3
UAH	0.3
GBP	0.3
EUR	0.0*
Total	100.0%

† The weightings include the impact of currency forwards.

* Amount is less than 0.05%.

Currency Abbreviations

ARS Argentine Peso
 BRL Brazilian Real
 CLP Chilean Peso
 EUR Euro
 GBP British Pound Sterling
 GHS Ghanaian Cedis
 HKD Hong Kong Dollar
 HUF Hungarian Forint
 IDR Indonesian Rupiah
 INR Indian Rupee
 KRW South Korean Won
 MXN Mexican Peso
 MYR Malaysian Ringgit
 NGN Nigerian Naira
 PEN Peruvian Nuevo Sol

PHP Philippine Peso

PLN Polish Zloty

RUB Russian Ruble

THB Thai Baht

TRY Turkish Lira

TWD New Taiwan Dollar

UAH Ukrainian Hryvnia

USD United States Dollar

ZAR South African Rand

See Notes to Financial Statements

Page 15

Table of Contents

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

ASSETS:

Investments, at value

(Cost \$81,008,688)	\$ 83,481,945
<hr/>	
Cash	364,553
<hr/>	
Foreign currency (Cost \$244,534)	244,248
<hr/>	
Unrealized appreciation on forward foreign currency contracts	197,787
<hr/>	
Receivables:	
Interest	1,194,064
<hr/>	
Investment securities sold	582,864
<hr/>	
Dividends	146,387
<hr/>	
Miscellaneous	40,381
<hr/>	
Dividend reclaims	14,083
<hr/>	
Prepaid expenses	14,505
<hr/>	
Total Assets	86,280,817
<hr/>	
LIABILITIES:	
Outstanding loan	5,800,000
<hr/>	
Unrealized depreciation on forward foreign currency contracts	110,938
<hr/>	
Payables:	
Investment securities purchased	333,374
<hr/>	
Investment advisory fees	72,986
<hr/>	
Deferred foreign capital gains tax	57,488
<hr/>	
Audit and tax fees	36,483
<hr/>	
Custodian fees	32,645
<hr/>	
Administrative fees	16,905
<hr/>	

Printing fees	12,729
Interest and fees on loan	4,401
Transfer agent fees	2,646
Financial reporting fees	771
Trustees' fees and expenses	41
Other liabilities	6,001
Total Liabilities	6,487,408
NET ASSETS	\$79,793,409
NET ASSETS consist of:	
Paid-in capital	\$ 77,299,086
Par value	51,670
Accumulated net investment income (loss)	(2,220,146)
Accumulated net realized gain (loss) on investments, forward foreign currency contracts and foreign currency transactions	2,184,400
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments, forward foreign currency contracts and foreign currency translation	2,478,399
NET ASSETS	\$79,793,409
NET ASSET VALUE, per Common Share (par value \$0.01 per Common Share)	\$15.44
Number of Common Shares outstanding (unlimited number of Common Shares has been authorized)	5,167,040

Page 16

See Notes to Financial Statements

Table of Contents

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

Statement of Operations

For the Six Months Ended June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

INVESTMENT

INCOME:

Interest (net of
foreign
withholding tax \$ 2,138,822
of \$7,160)

Dividends (net
of foreign
withholding tax 530,892
of \$67,457)

Total
investment
income 2,669,714

EXPENSES:

Investment
advisory fees 477,015

Custodian fees 108,878

Interest and fees
on loan 79,578

Administrative
fees 43,786

Audit and tax
fees 32,172

Printing fees 22,350

Transfer agent
fees 15,769

Trustees' fees
and expenses 8,065

Listing expense 7,103

Legal fees 4,904

Financial
reporting fees 4,625

Other	7,940
<u>Total expenses</u>	<u>812,185</u>
NET INVESTMENT INCOME (LOSS)	1,857,529
NET REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS):	
Net realized gain (loss) on:	
Investments	<u>2,516,839</u>
Forward foreign currency contracts	(107,453)
Foreign currency transactions	<u>(65,197)</u>
Foreign capital gains tax	<u>(49,366)</u>
Net realized gain (loss)	<u>2,294,823</u>
Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on:	
Investments	<u>(13,390,879)</u>
Forward foreign currency contracts	157,014
Foreign currency translation	<u>(24,776)</u>
	74,294

Deferred foreign
capital gains tax

Net change in
unrealized
appreciation (13,184,347)
(depreciation)

NET
REALIZED
AND
UNREALIZED (10,889,524)
GAIN (LOSS)

NET
INCREASE
(DECREASE)
IN NET
ASSETS \$(9,031,995)
RESULTING
FROM
OPERATIONS

See Notes to Financial Statements

Page 17

Table of ContentsFirst Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)
Statements of Changes in Net Assets

	Six Months Ended 6/30/2018 (Unaudited)	Year Ended 12/31/2017
OPERATIONS:		
Net investment income (loss)	\$ 1,857,529	\$ 3,914,578
Net realized gain (loss)	2,294,823	1,454,579
Net increase from payment by the sub-advisor	—	5,000
Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	(13,184,347)	10,800,690
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations	(9,031,995)	16,174,847
DISTRIBUTIONS TO SHAREHOLDERS FROM:		
Net investment income	(3,616,928)	(2,757,027)
Net realized gain	—	(2,593,843)
Return of capital	—	(1,882,986)
Total distributions to shareholders	(3,616,928)	(7,233,856)
CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS:		
Repurchase of Common Shares	—	(177,758)
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from capital transactions	—	(177,758)
Total increase (decrease) in net assets	(12,648,923)	8,763,233
NET ASSETS:		
Beginning of period	92,442,332	83,679,099
End of period	\$ 79,793,409	\$ 92,442,332
Accumulated net investment income (loss) at end of period	\$(2,220,146)	\$(460,747)
CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS were as follows:		
Common Shares at beginning of period	5,167,040	5,179,247
Common Shares repurchased (a)	—	(12,207)
Common Shares at end of period	5,167,040	5,167,040

On September 15, 2015, the Fund commenced a share repurchase program. The program originally expired on March 15, 2016, but the Board of Trustees of the Fund has subsequently authorized the continuation of the Fund's share repurchase program until March 15, 2019. For the six months ended June 30, 2018, the Fund did not (a) repurchase any of its shares. For the year ended December 31, 2017, the Fund repurchased 12,207 of its shares at a weighted-average discount of 13.52% from net asset value per share. The Fund expects to continue the share repurchase program until the earlier of (i) the repurchase of an additional 105,644 common shares (for an aggregate of 266,389), or (ii) March 15, 2019.

Page 18

See Notes to Financial Statements

Table of Contents

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Six Months Ended June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

Cash flows from operating activities:

Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations	\$(9,031,995)
Adjustments to reconcile net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Purchases of investments	(27,528,158)
Sales, maturities and paydown of investments	30,148,950
Net amortization/accretion of premiums/discounts on investments	(132,470)
Net realized gain/loss on investments	(2,516,839)
Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on investments	13,390,879
Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on forward foreign currency contracts	(157,014)
Net decrease from payment by the sub-advisor	5,000
Net decrease in restricted cash	20,000
Changes in assets and liabilities:	
Increase in interest receivable	(58,207)
Increase in dividend reclaims receivable	(3,140)
Increase in dividends receivable	(72,502)
Decrease in miscellaneous receivable	37
Increase in prepaid expenses	(13,620)
Decrease in interest and fees payable on loan	(49)
Decrease in due to broker	(17,975)
Decrease in investment advisory fees payable	(10,022)
Decrease in audit and tax fees payable	(22,506)
Decrease in legal fees payable	(1,633)
Decrease in printing fees payable	(5,635)

Decrease in administrative fees payable	(2,583)	
Decrease in custodian fees payable	(22,398)	
Decrease in transfer agent fees payable	(2,645)	
Increase in Trustees' fees and expenses payable	17	
Decrease in deferred foreign capital gains tax	(74,294)	
Increase in other liabilities payable	1,280	
Cash provided by operating activities		\$3,892,478
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Distributions to Common Shareholders from net investment income	(3,616,928)	
Cash used in financing activities		(3,616,928)
Increase in cash and foreign currency (a)		275,550
Cash and foreign currency at beginning of period		333,251
Cash and foreign currency at end of period		\$608,801
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:		
Cash paid during the period for interest and fees		\$79,627

(a) Includes net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on foreign currency of \$(24,776).

See Notes to Financial Statements

Page 19

Table of Contents

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

Financial Highlights

For a Common Share outstanding throughout each period

	Six Months Ended 6/30/2018 (Unaudited)	Year Ended December 31,				
	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$ 17.89	\$ 16.16	\$ 15.34	\$ 18.59	\$ 20.61	\$ 23.67
Income from investment operations:						
Net investment income (loss)	0.36	0.76	0.64	0.65	0.77	0.79
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	(2.11)	2.36 (a)	1.53	(2.52)	(1.39)	(2.45)
Total from investment operations	(1.75)	3.12	2.17	(1.87)	(0.62)	(1.66)
Distributions paid to shareholders from:						
Net investment income	(0.70)	(0.54)	(0.30)	—	(0.32)	(0.76)
Net realized gain	—	(0.50)	(0.35)	—	(0.44)	(0.64)
Return of capital	—	(0.36)	(0.75)	(1.40)	(0.64)	—
Total distributions paid to Common Shareholders	(0.70)	(1.40)	(1.40)	(1.40)	(1.40)	(1.40)
Common Share repurchases	—	0.01	0.05	0.02	—	—
Net asset value, end of period	\$15.44	\$17.89	\$16.16	\$15.34	\$18.59	\$20.61
Market value, end of period	\$13.60	\$16.32	\$13.90	\$13.06	\$16.45	\$18.05
Total return based on net asset value (b)	(9.55)%	20.65%	15.93%	(9.16)%	(2.49)%	(6.49)%
Total return based on market value (b)	(12.62)%	27.96%	17.12%	(12.61)%	(1.47)%	(12.13)%
Ratios to average net assets/supplemental data:						
Net assets, end of period (in 000's)	\$ 79,793	\$ 92,442	\$ 83,679	\$ 81,145	\$ 99,053	\$ 109,813
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	1.81% (c)	1.81%	1.76%	1.69%	1.71%	1.75%
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets excluding interest expense	1.63% (c)	1.67%	1.66%	1.62%	1.64%	1.68%
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets	4.14% (c)	4.30%	3.99%	3.66%	3.73%	3.57%
Portfolio turnover rate	27%	46%	53%	44%	48%	50%

Indebtedness:

Total loan outstanding (in 000's)	\$ 5,800	\$ 5,800	\$ 5,800	\$ 5,800	\$ 5,800	\$ 5,800
Asset coverage per \$1,000 of indebtedness (d)	\$ 14,757	\$ 16,938	\$ 15,427	\$ 14,990	\$ 18,078	\$ 19,933

The Fund received a reimbursement from the sub-advisor in the amount of \$5,000 in connection with a trade error, (a) which represents less than \$0.01 per share. Since the sub-advisor reimbursed the Fund, there was no effect on the total return.

Total return is based on the combination of reinvested dividend, capital gain and return of capital distributions, if any, at prices obtained by the Dividend Reinvestment Plan, and changes in net asset value per share for net asset value returns and changes in Common Share Price for market value returns. Total returns do not reflect sales load and are not annualized for periods of less than one year. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

(c) Annualized.

(d) Calculated by subtracting the Fund's total liabilities (not including the loan outstanding) from the Fund's total assets, and dividing by the outstanding loan balance in 000's.

Page 20

See Notes to Financial Statements

Table of Contents

Notes to Financial Statements

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

1. Organization

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (the “Fund”) is a diversified, closed-end management investment company organized as a Massachusetts business trust on May 16, 2006, and is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”). The Fund trades under the ticker symbol FEO on the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”).

The Fund’s investment objective is to provide a high level of total return. The Fund pursues its investment objective by investing at least 80% of its Managed Assets in a diversified portfolio of equity and fixed-income securities of issuers in emerging market countries. “Managed Assets” means the total asset value of the Fund minus the sum of the Fund’s liabilities other than the principal amount of borrowings, if any. There can be no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objective. The Fund may not be appropriate for all investors.

2. Significant Accounting Policies

The Fund is considered an investment company and follows accounting and reporting guidance under Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification Topic 946, “Financial Services-Investment Companies.” The following is a summary of significant accounting policies consistently followed by the Fund in the preparation of the financial statements. The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“U.S. GAAP”) requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

A. Portfolio Valuation

The net asset value (“NAV”) of the Common Shares of the Fund is determined daily as of the close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”), normally 4:00 p.m. Eastern time, on each day the NYSE is open for trading. If the NYSE closes early on a valuation day, the NAV is determined as of that time. Domestic debt securities and foreign securities are priced using data reflecting the earlier closing of the principal markets for those securities. The Fund’s NAV is calculated by dividing the value of all assets of the Fund (including accrued interest and dividends), less all liabilities (including accrued expenses, dividends declared but unpaid and any borrowings of the Fund), by the total number of shares outstanding.

The Fund’s investments are valued daily at market value or, in the absence of market value with respect to any portfolio securities, at fair value. Market value prices represent last sale or official closing prices from a national or foreign exchange (i.e., a regulated market) and are primarily obtained from third-party pricing services. Fair value prices represent any prices not considered market value prices and are either obtained from a third-party pricing service or are determined by the Pricing Committee of the Fund’s investment advisor, First Trust Advisors L.P. (“First Trust” or the “Advisor”), in accordance with valuation procedures adopted by the Fund’s Board of Trustees, and in accordance with provisions of the 1940 Act. Investments valued by the Advisor’s Pricing Committee, if any, are footnoted as such in the footnotes to the Portfolio of Investments. The Fund’s investments are valued as follows: Bonds, notes, and other debt securities are fair valued on the basis of valuations provided by dealers who make markets in such securities or by a third-party pricing service approved by the Fund’s Board of Trustees, which may use the following valuation inputs when available:

- 1) benchmark yields;
- 2) reported trades;
- 3) broker/dealer quotes;
- 4) issuer spreads;
- 5) benchmark securities;
- 6) bids and offers; and
- 7) reference data including market research publications.

Fixed income and other debt securities having a remaining maturity of sixty days or less when purchased are fair valued at cost adjusted for amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts (amortized cost), provided the Advisor’s Pricing Committee has determined that the use of amortized cost is an appropriate reflection of fair value

given market and issuer-specific conditions existing at the time of the determination. Factors that may be considered in determining the appropriateness of the use of amortized cost include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1)the credit conditions in the relevant market and changes thereto;
- 2)the liquidity conditions in the relevant market and changes thereto;
- 3)the interest rate conditions in the relevant market and changes thereto (such as significant changes in interest rates);

Page 21

Table of Contents

Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

- 4) issuer-specific conditions (such as significant credit deterioration); and
any other market-based data the Advisor's Pricing Committee considers relevant. In this regard, the Advisor's Pricing Committee may use last-obtained market-based data to assist it when valuing portfolio securities using amortized cost.

Common stocks and other equity securities listed on any national or foreign exchange (excluding The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq") and the London Stock Exchange Alternative Investment Market ("AIM")) are valued at the last sale price on the exchange on which they are principally traded or, for Nasdaq and AIM securities, the official closing price. Securities traded on more than one securities exchange are valued at the last sale price or official closing price, as applicable, at the close of the securities exchange representing the principal market for such securities.

Securities traded in an over-the-counter market are fair valued at the mean of their most recent bid and asked price, if available, and otherwise at their closing bid price.

Forward foreign currency contracts are valued at the current day's interpolated foreign exchange rate, as calculated using the current day's spot rate, and the thirty, sixty, ninety, and one-hundred eighty day forward rates provided by a third-party pricing service.

Certain securities may not be able to be priced by pre-established pricing methods. Such securities may be valued by the Fund's Board of Trustees or its delegate, the Advisor's Pricing Committee, at fair value. These securities generally include, but are not limited to, restricted securities (securities which may not be publicly sold without registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "1933 Act")) for which a third-party pricing service is unable to provide a market price; securities whose trading has been formally suspended; a security whose market or fair value price is not available from a pre-established pricing source; a security with respect to which an event has occurred that is likely to materially affect the value of the security after the market has closed but before the calculation of the Fund's NAV or make it difficult or impossible to obtain a reliable market quotation; and a security whose price, as provided by the third-party pricing service, does not reflect the security's fair value. As a general principle, the current fair value of a security would appear to be the amount which the owner might reasonably expect to receive for the security upon its current sale. When fair value prices are used, generally they will differ from market quotations or official closing prices on the applicable exchanges. A variety of factors may be considered in determining the fair value of such securities, including, but not limited to, the following:

- 1) the fundamental business data relating to the issuer, or economic data relating to the country of issue;
- 2) an evaluation of the forces which influence the market in which these securities are purchased and sold;
- 3) the type, size and cost of security;
- 4) the financial statements of the issuer, or the financial condition of the country of issue;
- 5) the credit quality and cash flow of the issuer, or country of issue, based on Aberdeen Asset Management Inc.'s ("Aberdeen" or the "Sub-Advisor") or external analysis;
- 6) the information as to any transactions in or offers for the security;
- 7) the price and extent of public trading in similar securities (or equity securities) of the issuer/borrower, or comparable companies;
- 8) the coupon payments;
- 9) the quality, value and salability of collateral, if any, securing the security;
- 10) the business prospects of the issuer, including any ability to obtain money or resources from a parent or affiliate and an assessment of the issuer's management (for corporate debt only);
- 11) the economic, political and social prospects/developments of the country of issue and the assessment of the country's governmental leaders/officials (for sovereign debt only);
- 12) the prospects for the issuer's industry, and multiples (of earnings and/or cash flows) being paid for similar businesses in that industry (for corporate debt only); and

13) other relevant factors.

Fair valuation of an equity security will be based on the consideration of all available information, including, but not limited to the following:

- 1)the type of security;
- 2)the size of the holding;
- 3)the initial cost of the security;
- 4)transactions in comparable securities;
- 5)price quotes from dealers and/or third-party pricing services;

Page 22

Table of Contents

Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

- 6)relationships among various securities;
- 7)information obtained by contacting the issuer, analysts, or the appropriate stock exchange;
- 8)an analysis of the issuer's financial statements; and
- 9)the existence of merger proposals or tender offers that might affect the value of the security.

If the securities in question are foreign securities, the following additional information may be considered:

- 1)the value of similar foreign securities traded on other foreign markets;
- 2)ADR trading of similar securities;
- 3)closed-end fund trading of similar securities;
- 4)foreign currency exchange activity;
- 5)the trading prices of financial products that are tied to baskets of foreign securities;
- 6)factors relating to the event that precipitated the pricing problem;
- 7)whether the event is likely to recur; and
- 8)whether the effects of the event are isolated or whether they affect entire markets, countries or regions.

Because foreign markets may be open on different days than the days during which investors may transact in the shares of the Fund, the value of the Fund's securities may change on the days when investors are not able to transact in the shares of the Fund. The value of securities denominated in foreign currencies is converted into U.S. dollars using exchange rates determined daily as of the close of regular trading on the NYSE.

The Fund is subject to fair value accounting standards that define fair value, establish the framework for measuring fair value and provide a three-level hierarchy for fair valuation based upon the inputs to the valuation as of the measurement date. The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are as follows:

- Level 1 – Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical investments. An active market is a
 - market in which transactions for the investment occur with sufficient frequency and volume to provide pricing information on an ongoing basis.
- Level 2 – Level 2 inputs are observable inputs, either directly or indirectly, and include the following:

o Quoted prices for similar investments in active markets.

o Quoted prices for identical or similar investments in markets that are non-active. A non-active market is a market where there are few transactions for the investment, the prices are not current, or price quotations vary substantially either over time or among market makers, or in which little information is released publicly.

o Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the investment (for example, interest rates and yield curves observable at commonly quoted intervals, volatilities, prepayment speeds, loss severities, credit risks, and default rates).

o Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

- Level 3 – Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs. Unobservable inputs may reflect the reporting entity's own assumptions about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the investment.

The inputs or methodologies used for valuing investments are not necessarily an indication of the risk associated with investing in those investments. A summary of the inputs used to value the Fund's investments as of June 30, 2018, is included with the Fund's Portfolio of Investments.

B. Securities Transactions and Investment Income

Securities transactions are recorded as of the trade date. Realized gains and losses from securities transactions are recorded on the identified cost basis. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date. Interest income is recorded daily on the accrual basis. Amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts are recorded by using the effective interest method.

Withholding taxes and tax reclaims on foreign dividends have been provided for in accordance with each Fund's understanding of the applicable country's tax rules and rates.

Securities purchased or sold on a when-issued, delayed-delivery or forward purchase commitment basis may have extended settlement periods. The value of the security so purchased is subject to market fluctuations during this period. The Fund maintains liquid assets with a current value at least equal to the amount of its when-issued, delayed-delivery or forward purchase commitments until payment is made. At June 30, 2018, the Fund had no when-issued, delayed-delivery or forward purchase commitments.

Page 23

Table of Contents

Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

C. Restricted Securities

The Fund invests in restricted securities, which are securities that may not be offered for public sale without first being registered under the 1933 Act. Prior to registration, restricted securities may only be resold in transactions exempt from registration under Rule 144A under the 1933 Act, normally to qualified institutional buyers. As of June 30, 2018, the Fund held restricted securities as shown in the following table that the Sub-Advisor has deemed illiquid pursuant to procedures adopted by the Fund's Board of Trustees. Although market instability can result in periods of increased overall market illiquidity, liquidity for each security is determined based on security-specific factors and assumptions, which require subjective judgment. The Fund does not have the right to demand that such securities be registered. These securities are valued according to the valuation procedures as stated in the Portfolio Valuation note (Note 2A) and are not expressed as a discount to the carrying value of a comparable unrestricted security. There are no unrestricted securities with the same maturity dates and yields for these issuers.

Security	Acquisition Date	Principal Values/Shares	Current Price	Carrying Cost	Value	% of Net Assets
OAS Finance Ltd., 8.88%	4/18/2013	\$350,000	\$6.00	\$350,000	\$21,000	0.03%
OAS Investments GmbH, 8.25%, 10/19/19	10/15/2012	200,000	6.00	200,000	12,000	0.01
				\$550,000	\$33,000	0.04%

D. Forward Foreign Currency Contracts

The Fund is subject to foreign currency risk in the normal course of pursuing its investment objective. Forward foreign currency contracts are agreements between two parties ("Counterparties") to exchange one currency for another at a future date and at a specified price. The Fund uses forward foreign currency contracts to facilitate transactions in foreign securities and to manage the Fund's foreign currency exposure. These contracts are valued daily, and the Fund's net equity therein, representing unrealized gain or loss on the contracts as measured by the difference between the forward foreign exchange rates at the dates of entry into the contracts and the forward rates at the reporting date, is included in "Unrealized appreciation on forward foreign currency contracts" and "Unrealized depreciation on forward foreign currency contracts" on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. The change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) is included in "Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on forward foreign currency contracts" on the Statement of Operations. When the forward contract is closed, a Fund records a realized gain or loss equal to the difference between the proceeds from (or the cost of) the closing transaction and the Fund's basis in the contract. This realized gain or loss is included in "Net realized gain (loss) on forward foreign currency contracts" on the Statement of Operations. Risks arise from the possible inability of Counterparties to meet the terms of their contracts and from movement in currency, securities values and interest rates. Due to the risks, the Fund could incur losses in excess of the net unrealized value shown on the Forward Foreign Currency Contracts table in the Portfolio of Investments. In the event of default by the Counterparty, the Fund will provide notice to the Counterparty of the Fund's intent to convert the currency held by the Fund into the currency that the Counterparty agreed to exchange with the Fund. If a Counterparty becomes bankrupt or otherwise fails to perform its obligations due to financial difficulties, the Fund may experience significant delays in obtaining any recovery in a bankruptcy or other reorganization proceeding. The Fund may obtain only limited recovery or may obtain no recovery in such circumstances.

E. Foreign Currency

The books and records of the Fund are maintained in U.S. dollars. Foreign currencies, investments and other assets and liabilities are translated into U.S. dollars at the exchange rates prevailing at the end of the period. Purchases and sales of investments and items of income and expense are translated on the respective dates of such transactions. Unrealized gains and losses on assets and liabilities, other than investments in securities, which result from changes in foreign currency exchange rates have been included in "Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on foreign currency translation" on the Statement of Operations. Unrealized gains and losses on investments in securities which result from changes in foreign exchange rates are included with fluctuations arising from changes in market price and are shown in "Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments" on the Statement of Operations. Net

realized foreign currency gains and losses include the effect of changes in exchange rates between trade date and settlement date on investment security transactions, foreign currency transactions and interest and dividends received and are shown in “Net realized gain (loss) on foreign currency transactions” on the Statement of Operations. The portion of foreign currency gains and losses related to fluctuation in exchange rates between the initial purchase settlement date and subsequent sale trade date is included in “Net realized gain (loss) on investments” on the Statement of Operations.

F. Dividends and Distributions to Shareholders

Level dividend distributions are declared and paid quarterly to Common Shareholders after the payment of interest and/or dividends in connection with leverage. The level dividend rate may be modified by the Board of Trustees from time to time. If, for any quarterly

Page 24

Table of Contents

Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

distribution, net investment company taxable income, if any (which term includes net short-term capital gain), is less than the amount of the distribution, the difference will generally be a tax-free return of capital distributed from the Fund's assets. Distributions of any net long-term capital gains earned by the Fund are distributed at least annually. Distributions will automatically be reinvested into additional Common Shares pursuant to the Fund's Dividend Reinvestment Plan unless cash distributions are elected by the shareholder.

Distributions from income and capital gains are determined in accordance with federal income tax regulations, which may differ from U.S. GAAP. Certain capital accounts in the financial statements are periodically adjusted for permanent differences in order to reflect their tax character. These permanent differences are primarily due to the varying treatment of income and gain/loss on portfolio securities held by the Fund and have no impact on net assets or NAV per Common Share. Temporary differences, which arise from recognizing certain items of income, expense and gain/loss in different periods for financial statement and tax purposes, will reverse at some point in the future.

The tax character of distributions paid by the Fund during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, was as follows:

Distributions paid from:

Ordinary income	\$2,757,027
Capital gains	2,593,843
Return of capital	1,882,986

As of December 31, 2017, the components of distributable earnings and net assets on a tax basis were as follows:

Undistributed ordinary income	\$—
Undistributed capital gains	—
Total undistributed earnings	—
Accumulated capital and other losses	—
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	15,165,938
Total accumulated earnings (losses)	15,165,938
Other	(74,362)
Paid-in capital	77,350,756
Total net assets	\$92,442,332

G. Income and Other Taxes

The Fund intends to continue to qualify as a regulated investment company by complying with the requirements under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which includes distributing substantially all of its net investment income and net realized gains to shareholders. Accordingly, no provision has been made for federal and state income taxes. However, due to the timing and amount of distributions, the Fund may be subject to an excise tax of 4% of the amount by which approximately 98% of the Fund's taxable income exceeds the distributions from such taxable income for the calendar year.

Certain countries assess a capital gains tax on securities sold in their local markets. This tax is accrued as the securities in these foreign markets appreciate in value and is paid at the time of sale to the extent a capital gain is realized. Taxes accrued on securities in an unrealized appreciation position are included in “Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation)” on the Statement of Operations. The capital gains tax paid on securities sold is included in “Net realized gain (loss) on foreign capital gains tax” on the Statement of Operations.

India’s Finance Bill, 2018 (“Finance Bill, 2018”) was enacted into law on March 29, 2018 and amongst other provisions, it introduces a long-term capital gains tax beginning April 1, 2018. Long-term capital gains on the sale of listed shares in excess of INR 0.1 million will be taxed at the rate of 10% (plus applicable surcharge and cess (which is a type of tax)) subject to satisfaction of certain conditions. Long-term capital gains accruing as of January 31, 2018 will be considered exempt due to a grandfather clause in the provision. In the case of the sale of listed shares held by the Fund for one year or less, the income would be classified as short-term capital gains and would be taxable at 15% (plus applicable surcharge and cess) provided the shares are sold on the stock exchange and subjected to securities transaction tax (“STT”). The Finance Bill, 2018 increases the cess imposed on the sum of tax and surcharge from 3% to 4%. The cess 4% rate is applied to the capital gains tax, resulting in a higher effective rate of capital gains tax. Where the sale of shares is outside the stock exchange and not subject to STT, the long-term capital gains would be taxed at 10% (plus applicable surcharge and cess) and short-term capital gains would be taxed at 30% (plus applicable surcharge and cess). The Finance Bill, 2018,

Page 25

Table of Contents

Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

approves the carry forward of long-term capital losses to be offset against long-term capital gains. Short-term losses and long-term losses can be netted against short-term gains and long-term gains, respectively.

The Fund intends to utilize provisions of the federal income tax laws which allow it to carry a realized capital loss forward indefinitely following the year of the loss and offset such loss against any future realized capital gains. The Fund is subject to certain limitations under U.S. tax rules on the use of capital loss carryforwards and net unrealized built-in losses. These limitations apply when there has been a 50% change in ownership. At December 31, 2017, the Fund had no non-expiring capital loss carryforwards for federal income tax purposes.

Certain losses realized during the current fiscal year may be deferred and treated as occurring on the first day of the following fiscal year for federal income tax purposes. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, the Fund elected not to defer its late year capital losses.

The Fund is subject to accounting standards that establish a minimum threshold for recognizing, and a system for measuring, the benefits of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. Taxable years ended 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 remain open to federal and state audit. As of June 30, 2018, management has evaluated the application of these standards to the Fund, and has determined that no provision for income tax is required in the Fund's financial statements for uncertain tax positions.

H. Expenses

The Fund will pay all expenses directly related to its operations.

I. Offsetting on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Offsetting assets and liabilities require entities to disclose both gross and net information about instruments and transactions eligible for offset on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities, and disclose instruments and transactions subject to master netting or similar agreements. These disclosure requirements are intended to help investors and other financial statement users better assess the effect or potential effect of offsetting arrangements on a fund's financial position. The transactions subject to offsetting disclosures are derivative instruments, repurchase agreements and reverse repurchase agreements, and securities borrowing and securities lending transactions.

For financial reporting purposes, the Fund does not offset financial assets and financial liabilities that are subject to master netting arrangements ("MNAs") or similar agreements on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. MNAs provide the right, in the event of default (including bankruptcy and insolvency), for the non-defaulting Counterparty to liquidate the collateral and calculate the net exposure to the defaulting party or request additional collateral.

At June 30, 2018, derivative assets and liabilities (by type) on a gross basis are as follows:

				Gross Amounts not Offset in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities		
	Gross Amounts of Recognized Assets	Gross Amounts Offset in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities	Net Amounts of Assets Presented in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities	Financial Instruments	Collateral Amounts Received	Net Amount
Forward Foreign Currency Contracts*	\$ 197,787	\$ —	\$ 197,787	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 197,787

Page 26

Table of Contents

Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

	Gross Amounts of Recognized Liabilities	Gross Amounts Offset in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities	Net Amounts of Liabilities Presented in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities	Financial Instruments	Gross Amounts not Offset in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities Collateral Amounts Pledged	Net Amount
Forward Foreign Currency Contracts*	\$ (110,938)	\$ —	\$ (110,938)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ (110,938)

* The respective Counterparties for each contract are disclosed in the Forward Foreign Currency Contracts table in the Portfolio of Investments.

J. New Accounting Pronouncement

On March 30, 2017, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2017-08 "Premium Amortization on Purchased Callable Debt Securities," which amends the amortization period for certain purchased callable debt securities held at a premium by shortening such period to the earliest call date. The new guidance requires an entity to amortize the premium on a callable debt security within its scope to the earliest call date, unless the guidance for considering estimated prepayments is applied. If the call option is not exercised at the earliest call date, the yield is reset to the effective yield using the payment terms of the security. If the security has more than one call date and the premium was amortized to a call price greater than the next call price, any excess of the amortized cost basis over the amount repayable at the next call date will be amortized to that date. If there are no other call dates, any excess of the amortized cost basis over the par amount will be amortized to maturity. Discounts on purchased callable debt securities will continue to be amortized to the security's maturity date. ASU 2017-08 is effective for public business entities for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2018. Earlier adoption is permitted for all entities, including adoption in an interim period. If an entity early adopts the ASU in an interim period, any adjustments must be reflected as of the beginning of the fiscal year that includes that interim period. Management is still assessing the impact of the adoption of ASU 2017-08 on the financial statements but does not expect it to have a material impact.

3. Investment Advisory Fee, Affiliated Transactions and Other Fee Arrangements

First Trust, the investment advisor to the Fund, is a limited partnership with one limited partner, Grace Partners of DuPage L.P., and one general partner, The Charger Corporation. The Charger Corporation is an Illinois corporation controlled by James A. Bowen, Chief Executive Officer of First Trust. First Trust is responsible for the ongoing monitoring of the Fund's investment portfolio, managing the Fund's business affairs and providing certain administrative services necessary for the management of the Fund. For these services, First Trust is entitled to a monthly fee calculated at an annual rate of 1.00% of the Fund's Managed Assets. First Trust also provides fund reporting services to the Fund for a flat annual fee in the amount of \$9,250.

Aberdeen serves as the Fund's sub-advisor and manages the Fund's portfolio subject to First Trust's supervision. The Sub-Advisor receives a monthly portfolio management fee calculated at an annual rate of 0.50% of the Fund's Managed Assets that is paid by First Trust out of its investment advisory fee.

During the year ended December 31, 2017, the Fund received a payment from the Sub-Advisor of \$5,000 in connection with a trade error.

Aberdeen, an SEC registered investment advisor, is an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Standard Life Aberdeen plc. Standard Life Aberdeen plc is a publicly-traded global provider of long-term savings and investments listed on the London Stock Exchange, managing assets for institutional and retail clients from offices around the world.

BNY Mellon Investment Servicing (US) Inc. (“BNYM IS”) serves as the Fund’s transfer agent in accordance with certain fee arrangements. As transfer agent, BNYM IS is responsible for maintaining shareholder records for the Fund. The Bank of New York Mellon (“BNYM”) serves as the Fund’s administrator, fund accountant, and custodian in accordance with certain fee arrangements. As administrator and fund accountant, BNYM is responsible for providing certain administrative and accounting services to the Fund, including maintaining the Fund’s books of account, records of the Fund’s securities transactions, and certain other books and records. As custodian, BNYM is responsible for custody of the Fund’s assets. BNYM IS and BNYM are subsidiaries of The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation, a financial holding company.

Page 27

Table of Contents

Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

Each Trustee who is not an officer or employee of First Trust, any sub-advisor or any of their affiliates (“Independent Trustees”) is paid a fixed annual retainer that is allocated equally among each fund in the First Trust Fund Complex. Each Independent Trustee is also paid an annual per fund fee that varies based on whether the fund is a closed-end or other actively managed fund, or is an index fund.

Additionally, the Lead Independent Trustee and the Chairmen of the Audit Committee, Nominating and Governance Committee and Valuation Committee are paid annual fees to serve in such capacities, with such compensation allocated pro rata among each fund in the First Trust Fund Complex based on net assets. Independent Trustees are reimbursed for travel and out-of-pocket expenses in connection with all meetings. The Lead Independent Trustee and Committee Chairmen rotate every three years. The officers and “Interested” Trustee receive no compensation from the Fund for acting in such capacities.

4. Purchases and Sales of Securities

The cost of purchases and proceeds from sales of securities, excluding short-term investments, for the six months ended June 30, 2018, were \$24,999,302 and \$27,005,552, respectively.

5. Derivative Transactions

The following table presents the type of derivatives held by the Fund at June 30, 2018, the primary underlying risk exposure and the location of these instruments as presented on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Derivative Instrument	Risk Exposure	Asset Derivatives		Liability Derivatives	
		Statement of Assets and Liabilities Location	Value	Statement of Assets and Liabilities Location	Value
Forward foreign currency contracts	Currency Risk	Unrealized appreciation on forward foreign currency contracts	\$ 197,787	Unrealized depreciation on forward foreign currency contracts	\$ 110,938

The following table presents the amount of net realized gain (loss) and change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) recognized for the six months ended June 30, 2018, on derivative instruments, as well as the primary underlying risk exposure associated with each instrument.

Statement of Operations Location**Currency Risk Exposure**

Net realized gain (loss) on forward foreign currency contracts	\$(107,453)
Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on forward foreign currency contracts	157,014

For the six months ended June 30, 2018, the notional values of forward foreign currency contracts opened and closed were \$30,011,847 and \$29,680,593, respectively.

6. Borrowings

The Fund has entered into a credit agreement with The Bank of Nova Scotia, which provides for a revolving credit facility to be used as leverage for the Fund. The revolving credit facility provides for a secured line of credit for the Fund where Fund assets are pledged against advances made to the Fund. Under the requirements of the 1940 Act, the Fund, immediately after any such borrowings, must have an “asset coverage” of at least 300% (33-1/3% of the Fund’s total assets after borrowings). Effective November 3, 2017, the credit facility was amended, whereby the expiration date was extended until November 2, 2018. The total commitment under the facility is up to \$10,000,000. The borrowing rate under the revolving credit facility is equal to the 1-month LIBOR plus 80 basis points. As of June 30, 2018, the Fund had one loan outstanding under the revolving credit facility totaling \$5,800,000, which approximates fair value. The borrowings are categorized as Level 2 within the fair value hierarchy. For the six months ended June 30, 2018, the average amount outstanding was \$5,800,000. The high and low annual interest rates during the six months ended June 30, 2018 were 2.89% and 2.30%, respectively, and the weighted average interest rate was 2.56%. The interest rate at June 30, 2018 was 2.89%. The Fund pays a commitment fee of 0.15% (or 0.25% if loan balance drops below 75% of total commitment) per year, which is included in “Interest and fees on loan” on the Statement of Operations.

Table of Contents

Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

7. Indemnification

The Fund has a variety of indemnification obligations under contracts with its service providers. The Fund's maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown. However, the Fund has not had prior claims or losses pursuant to these contracts and expects the risk of loss to be remote.

8. Subsequent Events

Management has evaluated the impact of all subsequent events to the Fund through the date the financial statements were issued, and has determined that there were no subsequent events requiring recognition or disclosure in the financial statements that have not already been disclosed.

Page 29

Table of Contents

Additional Information

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

Dividend Reinvestment Plan

If your Common Shares are registered directly with the Fund or if you hold your Common Shares with a brokerage firm that participates in the Fund's Dividend Reinvestment Plan (the "Plan"), unless you elect, by written notice to the Fund, to receive cash distributions, all dividends, including any capital gain distributions, on your Common Shares will be automatically reinvested by BNY Mellon Investment Servicing (US) Inc. (the "Plan Agent"), in additional Common Shares under the Plan. If you elect to receive cash distributions, you will receive all distributions in cash paid by check mailed directly to you by the Plan Agent, as the dividend paying agent.

If you decide to participate in the Plan, the number of Common Shares you will receive will be determined as follows:

- If Common Shares are trading at or above net asset value ("NAV") at the time of valuation, the Fund will issue
- (1) new shares at a price equal to the greater of (i) NAV per Common Share on that date or (ii) 95% of the market price on that date.

- If Common Shares are trading below NAV at the time of valuation, the Plan Agent will receive the dividend or distribution in cash and will purchase Common Shares in the open market, on the NYSE or elsewhere, for the participants' accounts. It is possible that the market price for the Common Shares may increase before the Plan Agent has completed its purchases. Therefore, the average purchase price per share paid by the Plan
- (2) Agent may exceed the market price at the time of valuation, resulting in the purchase of fewer shares than if the dividend or distribution had been paid in Common Shares issued by the Fund. The Plan Agent will use all dividends and distributions received in cash to purchase Common Shares in the open market within 30 days of the valuation date except where temporary curtailment or suspension of purchases is necessary to comply with federal securities laws. Interest will not be paid on any uninvested cash payments.

You may elect to opt-out of or withdraw from the Plan at any time by giving written notice to the Plan Agent, or by telephone at (866) 340-1104, in accordance with such reasonable requirements as the Plan Agent and the Fund may agree upon. If you withdraw or the Plan is terminated, you will receive a certificate for each whole share in your account under the Plan, and you will receive a cash payment for any fraction of a share in your account. If you wish, the Plan Agent will sell your shares and send you the proceeds, minus brokerage commissions.

The Plan Agent maintains all Common Shareholders' accounts in the Plan and gives written confirmation of all transactions in the accounts, including information you may need for tax records. Common Shares in your account will be held by the Plan Agent in non-certificated form. The Plan Agent will forward to each participant any proxy solicitation material and will vote any shares so held only in accordance with proxies returned to the Fund. Any proxy you receive will include all Common Shares you have received under the Plan.

There is no brokerage charge for reinvestment of your dividends or distributions in Common Shares. However, all participants will pay a pro rata share of brokerage commissions incurred by the Plan Agent when it makes open market purchases.

Automatically reinvesting dividends and distributions does not mean that you do not have to pay income taxes due upon receiving dividends and distributions. Capital gains and income are realized although cash is not received by you. Consult your financial advisor for more information.

If you hold your Common Shares with a brokerage firm that does not participate in the Plan, you will not be able to participate in the Plan and any dividend reinvestment may be effected on different terms than those described above. The Fund reserves the right to amend or terminate the Plan if in the judgment of the Board of Trustees the change is warranted. There is no direct service charge to participants in the Plan; however, the Fund reserves the right to amend the Plan to include a service charge payable by the participants. Additional information about the Plan may be obtained by writing BNY Mellon Investment Servicing (US) Inc., 301 Bellevue Parkway, Wilmington, Delaware 19809.

Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures

A description of the policies and procedures that the Fund uses to determine how to vote proxies and information on how the Fund voted proxies relating to portfolio investments during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 is available (1) without charge, upon request, by calling (800) 988-5891; (2) on the Fund's website at www.ftportfolios.com; and (3) on the Securities and Exchange Commission's ("SEC") website at www.sec.gov.

Portfolio Holdings

The Fund files its complete schedule of portfolio holdings with the SEC for the first and third quarters of each fiscal year on Form N-Q. The Fund's Form N-Qs are available (1) by calling (800) 988-5891; (2) on the Fund's website at www.ftportfolios.com;

Page 30

Table of Contents

Additional Information (Continued)

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

(3) on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov; and (4) for review and copying at the SEC's Public Reference Room ("PRR") in Washington, DC. Information regarding the operation of the PRR may be obtained by calling (800) SEC-0330.

Submission of Matters to a Vote of Shareholders

The Fund held its Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the "Annual Meeting") on April 23, 2018. At the Annual Meeting, Richard E. Erickson and Thomas R. Kadlec were elected by the Common Shareholders of the First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund as Class II Trustees for a three-year term expiring at the Fund's annual meeting of shareholders in 2021. The number of votes cast in favor of Mr. Erickson was 4,445,881, the number of votes withheld was 126,383 and the number of broker non-votes was 594,776. The number of votes cast in favor of Mr. Kadlec was 4,445,881, the number of votes withheld was 126,383 and the number of broker non-votes was 594,776. James A. Bowen, Robert F. Keith and Niel B. Nielson are the other current and continuing Trustees.

Risk Considerations

The following discussion summarizes certain (but not all) of the principal risks associated with investing in the Fund. The Fund is subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940 and, in accordance therewith, files reports, proxy statements and other information that is available for review.

Asset-Backed Securities Risk. To the extent the Fund invests significantly in asset-backed securities, its exposure to prepayment and extension risks may be greater than other investments in fixed-income securities. Rising interest rates tend to extend the duration of such securities, making them more sensitive to losses in value resulting from increases in interest rates. Payment of interest and repayment of principal on asset-backed securities is largely dependent upon the cash flows generated by the assets backing the securities. Asset-backed security values may also be affected by the creditworthiness of the servicing agent for the pool, the originator of the loans or receivables and any entities providing credit enhancement.

Credit Agency Risk. Credit ratings are determined by credit rating agencies and are only the opinions of such entities. Ratings assigned by a rating agency are not absolute standards of credit quality and do not evaluate market risk or the liquidity of securities. Any shortcomings or inefficiencies in credit rating agencies' processes for determining credit ratings may adversely affect the credit ratings of securities held by the Fund and, as a result, may adversely affect those securities' perceived or actual credit risk.

Credit and Below-Investment Grade Securities Risk. Credit risk is the risk that one or more securities in the Fund's portfolio will decline in price, or the issuer thereof will fail to pay interest or repay principal when due.

Below-investment grade instruments are commonly referred to as high-yield securities or "junk" bonds and are considered speculative with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal and are susceptible to default or decline in market value due to adverse economic and business developments. High-yield securities are often unsecured and subordinated to other creditors of the issuer. The market values for high-yield securities tend to be very volatile, and these securities are generally less liquid than investment grade securities. For these reasons, an investment in the Fund is subject to the following specific risks: (i) increased price sensitivity to changing interest rates and to a deteriorating economic environment; (ii) greater risk of loss due to default or declining credit quality; (iii) adverse company specific events more likely to render the issuer unable to make interest and/or principal payments; (iv) negative perception of the high-yield market which may depress the price and liquidity of high-yield securities; (v) volatility; and (vi) liquidity.

Credit Default Swaps Risk. If the Fund is a buyer of a credit default swap and no event of default occurs on the underlying reference obligations, the Fund will have made a series of periodic payments and recover nothing of monetary value. However, if an event of default occurs, the Fund (if the buyer) will receive the full notional value of the reference obligation either through a cash payment in exchange for the asset or a cash payment in addition to owning the reference asset. As a seller, the Fund receives a fixed rate of income throughout the term of the contract, which typically is between six months and five years, provided that there is no event of default. If an event of default occurs, the seller must pay the buyer the full notional value of the reference obligation through either physical settlement or cash settlement. Credit default swap transactions involve greater risks than if the Fund had invested in

the reference obligation directly.

Credit Linked Notes Risk. Credit linked notes are securities that are collateralized by one or more credit default swaps on designated debt securities that are referred to as “reference securities.” Through the purchase of a credit linked note, the buyer assumes the risk of the default or, in some cases, other declines in credit quality of the referenced securities. The buyer also takes on exposure to the issuer of the credit linked note in the full amount of the purchase price of the note. The issuer of a credit linked note normally will have hedged its risk on the reference securities without acquiring any additional credit exposure. The Fund has the right to receive periodic interest payments from the issuer of the credit linked note at an agreed upon interest rate, and, if there has been no default or, if applicable, other declines in credit quality, a return of principal at the maturity date. If one of the underlying reference securities defaults or suffers certain other declines in credit quality, the Fund may, instead of receiving repayment of principal in whole or in part, receive the security that has defaulted. The market for credit linked notes may suddenly become illiquid. Changes in liquidity may

Page 31

Table of Contents

Additional Information (Continued)

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

result in significant, rapid and unpredictable changes in the prices for credit linked notes. In certain cases, a market price for a credit linked note may not be available.

Cyber Security Risk. As the use of Internet technology has become more prevalent in the course of business, the Fund has become more susceptible to potential operational risks through breaches in cyber security. A breach in cyber security refers to both intentional and unintentional events that may cause the Fund to lose proprietary information, suffer data corruption or lose operational capacity. Such events could cause the Fund to incur regulatory penalties, reputational damage, additional compliance costs associated with corrective measures and/or financial loss. Cyber security breaches may involve unauthorized access to the Fund's digital information systems through "hacking" or malicious software coding, but may also result from outside attacks such as denial-of-service attacks through efforts to make network services unavailable to intended users. In addition, cyber security breaches of the Fund's third-party service providers, such as its administrator, transfer agent, custodian, or sub-advisor, as applicable, or issuers in which the Fund invests, can also subject the Fund to many of the same risks associated with direct cyber security breaches. The Fund has established risk management systems designed to reduce the risks associated with cyber security.

However, there is no guarantee that such efforts will succeed, especially because the Fund does not directly control the cyber security systems of issuers or third party service providers.

Emerging Markets Risk. Investments in emerging market securities are considered speculative. In addition to the general risks of investing in non-U.S. securities, heightened risks of investing in emerging markets securities include: smaller market capitalization of securities markets, which may suffer periods of relative illiquidity; significant price volatility; restrictions on foreign investment; and possible restrictions on repatriation of investment income and capital. Furthermore, foreign investors may be required to register the proceeds of sales, and future economic or political crises could lead to price controls, forced mergers, expropriation or confiscatory taxation, seizure, nationalization or creation of government monopolies. The currencies of emerging market countries may experience significant declines against the U.S. dollar, and devaluation may occur subsequent to investments in these currencies by the Fund. Inflation and rapid fluctuations in inflation rates have had, and may continue to have, negative effects on the economies and securities markets of certain emerging market countries. The risks associated with investing in emerging market securities also include: greater political uncertainties, dependence on international trade or development assistance, overburdened infrastructures and environmental problems.

Equity Securities Risk. The value of the Fund's shares will fluctuate with changes in the value of the equity securities in which the Fund invests. Prices of equity securities fluctuate for several reasons, including changes in investors' perceptions of the financial condition of an issuer or the general condition of the relevant stock market, such as market volatility, or when political or economic events affecting the issuers occur. In addition, common stock prices may be particularly sensitive to rising interest rates, as the cost of capital rises and borrowing costs increase.

Fixed Income Securities Risk. An investment in fixed income securities is subject to certain risks, including:

- **Issuer Risk.** The value of fixed income securities may decline for a number of reasons which directly relate to the issuer, such as management performance, leverage and reduced demand for the issuer's goods and services.

Interest Rate Risk. Interest rate risk is the risk that fixed income securities will decline in value because of changes in market interest rates. When market interest rates rise, the market value of fixed rate securities generally will fall. Market value generally falls further for fixed rate securities with longer duration. During

- periods of rising interest rates, the average life of certain types of securities may be extended because of slower than expected prepayments. This may lock in a below-market yield, increase the security's duration and further reduce the value of the security. Investments in fixed rate securities with long-term maturities may experience significant price declines if long-term interest rates increase.
- **Prepayment Risk.** During periods of declining interest rates, the issuer of a security may exercise its option to prepay principal earlier than scheduled, forcing the Fund to reinvest the proceeds from such prepayment in

lower yielding securities, which may result in a decline in the Fund's income and distributions to common shareholders.

- Reinvestment Risk. Reinvestment risk is the risk that income from the Fund's portfolio will decline if the Fund invests the proceeds from matured, traded or called securities at market interest rates that are below the Fund portfolio's current earnings rate. Similarly, the yield-to-maturity of a security assumes that all coupons are reinvested at the prevailing rate. If rates fall, the actual yield realized on the security may be lower as the security's coupons are reinvested at lower yields.
-

Forward Foreign Currency Exchange Contracts Risk. Forward foreign currency exchange contracts involve certain risks, including the risk of failure of the counterparty to perform its obligations under the contract and the risk that the use of forward contracts may not serve as a complete hedge because of an imperfect correlation between movements in the prices of the contracts and the prices of the currencies hedged. While forward foreign currency exchange contracts may limit the risk of loss due to a decline in the value of the hedged currencies, they also may limit any potential gain that might result should the value of the currencies increase. In addition,

Page 32

Table of Contents

Additional Information (Continued)

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

because forward currency exchange contracts are privately negotiated transactions, there can be no assurance that the Fund will have flexibility to roll-over a forward currency exchange contract upon its expiration if it desires to do so. Hedging against a decline in the value of a currency does not eliminate fluctuations in the value of a portfolio security traded in that currency or prevent a loss if the value of the security declines. Moreover, it may not be possible for the Fund to hedge against a devaluation that is so generally anticipated that the Fund is not able to contract to sell the currency at a price above the devaluation level it anticipates. The cost to the Fund of engaging in currency exchange transactions varies with such factors as the currency involved, the length of the contract period and prevailing market conditions.

Geographic Concentration Risk. The Fund may invest from time to time a substantial amount of its assets in issuers located in a single country or region. Because the Fund may concentrate its investments in this manner, it assumes the risk that economic, political and social conditions in that country or region will have a significant impact on its investment performance, which may result in greater losses and volatility than if it had diversified its investments across a greater number of countries and regions.

Government Securities Risk. The ability of a government issuer, especially in an emerging market country, to make timely and complete payments on its debt obligations will be strongly influenced by the government issuer's balance of payments, including export performance, its access to international credits and investments, fluctuations of interest rates and the extent of its foreign reserves. A country whose exports are concentrated in a few commodities or whose economy depends on certain strategic imports could be vulnerable to fluctuations in international prices of these commodities or imports. To the extent that a country receives payment for its exports in currencies other than U.S. dollars, its ability to make debt payments denominated in U.S. dollars could be adversely affected. If a government issuer cannot generate sufficient earnings from foreign trade to service its external debt, it may need to depend on continuing loans and aid from foreign governments, commercial banks, and multinational organizations. There are no bankruptcy proceedings similar to those in the United States by which defaulted government debt may be collected. Additional factors that may influence a government issuer's ability or willingness to service debt include, but are not limited to, a country's cash flow situation, the availability of sufficient foreign exchange on the date a payment is due, the relative size of its debt service burden to the economy as a whole, and the issuer's policy towards the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and other international agencies to which a government debtor may be subject.

The Fund's investments in non-U.S. government securities have additional risks and considerations that may not typically be associated with investments in U.S. government securities. Economies and social and political climates in individual countries may differ unfavorably from the United States. Non-U.S. economies may have less favorable rates of growth of gross domestic product, rates of inflation, currency valuation, capital reinvestment, resource self-sufficiency and balance of payments positions. Many countries have experienced extremely high rates of inflation for many years. Unanticipated economic, political and social developments may also affect the values of the Fund's investments and limit the availability of additional investments in such countries. Furthermore, such developments may significantly disrupt the financial markets or interfere with the Fund's ability to enforce its rights against non-U.S. government issuers. Investments in debt instruments of issuers located in emerging market countries are considered speculative.

Illiquid and Restricted Securities Risk. Investments in restricted securities could have the effect of increasing the amount of the Fund's assets invested in illiquid securities if qualified institutional buyers are unwilling to purchase these securities. Illiquid and restricted securities may be difficult to dispose of at a fair price at the times when the Fund believes it is desirable to do so. The market price of illiquid and restricted securities generally is more volatile than that of more liquid securities, which may adversely affect the price that the Fund pays for or recovers upon the sale of such securities. Illiquid and restricted securities are also more difficult to value, especially in challenging markets.

Leverage Risk. The use of leverage by the Fund can magnify the effect of any losses. If the income and gains from the securities and investments purchased with leverage proceeds do not cover the cost of leverage, the return to the

common shares will be less than if leverage had not been used. Leverage involves risks and special considerations for common shareholders including: the likelihood of greater volatility of net asset value and market price of the common shares than a comparable portfolio without leverage; the risk that fluctuations in interest rates on borrowings will reduce the return to the common shareholders or will result in fluctuations in the dividends paid on the common shares; in a declining market, the use of leverage is likely to cause a greater decline in the net asset value of the common shares than if the Fund were not leveraged, which may result in a greater decline in the market price of the common shares; and when the Fund uses certain types of leverage, the investment advisory fee payable to the Advisor and by the Advisor to the Sub-Advisor will be higher than if the Fund did not use leverage.

Management Risk and Reliance on Key Personnel. The implementation of the Fund's investment strategy depends upon the continued contributions of certain key employees of the Advisor and Sub-Advisor, some of whom have unique talents and experience and would be difficult to replace. The loss or interruption of the services of a key member of the portfolio management team could have a negative impact on the Fund.

Page 33

Table of Contents

Additional Information (Continued)

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

Market Discount from Net Asset Value. Shares of closed-end investment companies such as the Fund frequently trade at a discount from their net asset value. The Fund cannot predict whether its common shares will trade at, below or above net asset value.

Non-U.S. Securities and Currency Risk. Investing in securities of non-U.S. issuers may involve certain risks not typically associated with investing in securities of U.S. issuers. These risks include: (i) there may be less publicly available information about non-U.S. issuers or markets due to less rigorous disclosure or accounting standards or regulatory practices; (ii) non-U.S. markets may be smaller, less liquid and more volatile than the U.S. market; (iii) potential adverse effects of fluctuations in currency exchange rates or controls on the value of the Fund's investments; (iv) the economies of non-U.S. countries may grow at slower rates than expected or may experience a downturn or recession; (v) the impact of economic, political, social or diplomatic events as well as of foreign governmental laws or restrictions; (vi) certain non-U.S. countries may impose restrictions on the ability of non-U.S. issuers to make payments of principal and interest to investors located in the United States due to blockage of non-U.S. currency exchanges or otherwise; and (vii) withholding and other non-U.S. taxes may decrease the Fund's return. Foreign companies are generally not subject to the same accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards as are U.S. companies. In addition, there may be difficulty in obtaining or enforcing a court judgment abroad. These risks may be more pronounced to the extent that the Fund invests a significant amount of its assets in companies located in one region or in emerging markets. Because the Fund may invest in securities denominated or quoted in non-U.S. currencies, changes in the non-U.S. currency/United States dollar exchange rate may affect the value of the Fund's securities and the unrealized appreciation or depreciation of investments. While certain of the Fund's non-U.S. dollar-denominated securities may be hedged into U.S. dollars, hedging may not alleviate all currency risks.

Potential Conflicts of Interest Risk. First Trust, Aberdeen and the portfolio managers have interests which may conflict with the interests of the Fund. In particular, First Trust and Aberdeen currently manage and may in the future manage and/or advise other investment funds or accounts with the same or substantially similar investment objectives and strategies as the Fund. In addition, while the Fund is using leverage, the amount of the fees paid to First Trust (and by First Trust to Aberdeen) for investment advisory and management services are higher than if the Fund did not use leverage because the fees paid are calculated based on managed assets. Therefore, First Trust and Aberdeen have a financial incentive to leverage the Fund.

Valuation Risk. Unlike publicly traded common stock which trades on national exchanges, there is no central place or exchange for certain debt securities trading. Debt securities generally trade on an "over-the-counter" market which may be anywhere in the world where the buyer and seller can settle on a price. Due to the lack of centralized information and trading, the valuation of certain debt securities and emerging markets securities may carry more risk than that of common stock and securities of U.S. issuers. Uncertainties in the conditions of the financial market, unreliable reference data, lack of transparency and inconsistency of valuation models and processes may lead to inaccurate asset pricing.

Advisory and Sub-Advisory Agreements

Board Considerations Regarding Approval of Continuation of Investment Management and Investment Sub-Advisory Agreements

The Board of Trustees of First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (the "Fund"), including the Independent Trustees, unanimously approved the continuation of the Investment Management Agreement (the "Advisory Agreement") between the Fund and First Trust Advisors L.P. (the "Advisor") and the Investment Sub Advisory Agreement (the "Sub Advisory Agreement" and together with the Advisory Agreement, the "Agreements") among the Fund, the Advisor and Aberdeen Asset Management Inc. (the "Sub-Advisor") for a one-year period ending June 30, 2019 at a meeting held on June 11, 2018. The Board determined that the continuation of the Agreements is in the best interests of the Fund in light of the nature, extent and quality of the services provided and such other matters as the Board considered to be relevant in the exercise of its reasonable business judgment.

To reach this determination, the Board considered its duties under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), as well as under the general principles of state law, in reviewing and approving advisory contracts; the

requirements of the 1940 Act in such matters; the fiduciary duty of investment advisors with respect to advisory agreements and compensation; the standards used by courts in determining whether investment company boards have fulfilled their duties; and the factors to be considered by the Board in voting on such agreements. At meetings held on April 23, 2018 and June 11, 2018, the Board, including the Independent Trustees, reviewed materials provided by the Advisor and the Sub-Advisor responding to requests for information from counsel to the Independent Trustees that, among other things, outlined the services provided by the Advisor and the Sub-Advisor to the Fund (including the relevant personnel responsible for these services and their experience); the advisory fee rate payable by the Fund and the sub-advisory fee rate as compared to fees charged to a peer group of funds compiled by Management Practice, Inc. (“MPI”), an independent source (the “Peer Group”), and as compared to fees charged to other clients of the Advisor and the Sub-Advisor; expenses of the Fund as compared to expense ratios of the funds in the Peer Group; performance information for the Fund; the nature of expenses incurred in providing services to the Fund and the potential for economies of scale, if any; financial data on the Advisor and the Sub-Advisor; any fall out benefits to the Advisor and the Sub-Advisor; and information on the Advisor’s and the Sub-Advisor’s compliance programs. The Board reviewed initial materials with the Advisor at the meeting held on April 23, 2018, prior to which the

Page 34

Table of Contents

Additional Information (Continued)

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

Independent Trustees and their counsel met separately to discuss the information provided by the Advisor and the Sub-Advisor. Following the April meeting, independent legal counsel on behalf of the Independent Trustees requested certain clarifications and supplements to the materials provided, and the information provided in response to those requests was considered at an executive session of the Independent Trustees and independent legal counsel held prior to the June 11, 2018 meeting, as well as at the meeting held that day. The Board applied its business judgment to determine whether the arrangements between the Fund and the Advisor and among the Fund, the Advisor and the Sub-Advisor continue to be reasonable business arrangements from the Fund's perspective. The Board determined that, given the totality of the information provided with respect to the Agreements, the Board had received sufficient information to renew the Agreements. The Board considered that shareholders chose to invest or remain invested in the Fund knowing that the Advisor and the Sub-Advisor manage the Fund.

In reviewing the Agreements, the Board considered the nature, extent and quality of the services provided by the Advisor and the Sub-Advisor under the Agreements. With respect to the Advisory Agreement, the Board considered that the Advisor is responsible for the overall management and administration of the Fund and reviewed all of the services provided by the Advisor to the Fund, including the oversight of the Sub-Advisor, as well as the background and experience of the persons responsible for such services. The Board noted that the Advisor oversees the Sub-Advisor's day-to-day management of the Fund's investments, including portfolio risk monitoring and performance review. In reviewing the services provided, the Board noted the compliance program that had been developed by the Advisor and considered that it includes a robust program for monitoring the Advisor's, the Sub-Advisor's and the Fund's compliance with the 1940 Act, as well as the Fund's compliance with its investment objective, policies and restrictions. The Board also considered a report from the Advisor with respect to its risk management functions related to the operation of the Fund. Finally, as part of the Board's consideration of the Advisor's services, the Advisor, in its written materials and at the April 23, 2018 meeting, described to the Board the scope of its ongoing investment in additional infrastructure and personnel to maintain and improve the quality of services provided to the Fund and the other funds in the First Trust Fund Complex. With respect to the Sub-Advisory Agreement, the Board reviewed the materials provided by the Sub-Advisor and considered the services that the Sub-Advisor provides to the Fund, including the Sub-Advisor's day-to-day management of the Fund's investments. In considering the Sub-Advisor's management of the Fund, the Board noted the background and experience of the Sub-Advisor's portfolio management team and the Board's prior meetings with members of the portfolio management team. The Board also considered information provided by the Sub-Advisor on the transaction between the Sub-Advisor's parent company, Aberdeen Asset Management plc ("Aberdeen PLC"), and Standard Life plc that closed in August 2017. The Board noted the Sub-Advisor's statements that Aberdeen PLC became a direct subsidiary of Standard Life plc as a result of the transaction but did not otherwise change and that the portfolio management team for the Fund has remained the same following the transaction. In light of the information presented and the considerations made, the Board concluded that the nature, extent and quality of the services provided to the Fund by the Advisor and the Sub-Advisor under the Agreements have been and are expected to remain satisfactory and that the Sub-Advisor, under the oversight of the Advisor, has managed the Fund consistent with its investment objective, policies and restrictions.

The Board considered the advisory and sub-advisory fee rates payable under the Agreements for the services provided. The Board noted that the sub-advisory fee is paid by the Advisor from its advisory fee. The Board received and reviewed information showing the advisory fee rates and expense ratios of the peer funds in the Peer Group, as well as advisory and unitary fee rates charged by the Advisor and the Sub-Advisor to other fund and non-fund clients, as applicable. With respect to the Peer Group, the Board noted its prior discussions with the Advisor and MPI regarding the assembly of the Peer Group and, at the April 23, 2018 meeting, discussed with the Advisor limitations in creating a relevant peer group for the Fund, including that (i) the Fund is unique in its composition, which makes assembling peers with similar strategies and asset mix difficult; (ii) peer funds may use different amounts and types of leverage with different costs associated with them or may use no leverage; (iii) none of the peer funds employs an advisor/sub-advisor management structure with an unaffiliated sub-advisor; (iv) all of the peer funds are larger than the Fund, which causes the Fund's fixed expenses to be higher on a percentage basis as compared to the larger peer

funds; and (v) some of the peer funds are part of a larger fund complex that may allow for additional economies of scale. The Board took these limitations into account in considering the peer data, and noted that the advisory fee rate payable by the Fund, based on average managed assets, was at the median of the Peer Group. With respect to fees charged to other clients, the Board considered differences between the Fund and other clients that limited their comparability. In considering the advisory fee rate overall, the Board also considered the Advisor's statement that it seeks to meet investor needs through innovative and value-added investment solutions and the Advisor's description of its long-term commitment to the Fund.

The Board considered performance information for the Fund. The Board noted the process it has established for monitoring the Fund's performance and portfolio risk on an ongoing basis, which includes quarterly performance reporting from the Advisor and Sub-Advisor for the Fund. The Board determined that this process continues to be effective for reviewing the Fund's performance. The Board received and reviewed information comparing the Fund's performance for periods ended December 31, 2017 to the performance of the peer funds in the Peer Group and to a blended benchmark index. In reviewing the Fund's performance as compared to the performance of the Peer Group, the Board took into account the limitations described above with respect to creating a relevant peer group for the Fund. Based on the information provided on net asset value performance, the Board noted that the Fund outperformed

Page 35

Table of Contents

Additional Information (Continued)

First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund (FEO)

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

the Peer Group average for the three-year period ended December 31, 2017 but underperformed the Peer Group average for the one- and five-year periods ended December 31, 2017. The Board also noted that the Fund outperformed its blended benchmark for the three- and five-year periods ended December 31, 2017 but underperformed its blended benchmark for the one-year period ended December 31, 2017. In addition, the Board considered information provided by the Advisor on the impact of leverage on the Fund's returns. The Board also received information on the Fund's annual distribution rate as of December 31, 2017 and the Fund's average trading discount for various periods and comparable information for a peer group.

On the basis of all the information provided on the fees, expenses and performance of the Fund and the ongoing oversight by the Board, the Board concluded that the advisory and sub-advisory fees continue to be reasonable and appropriate in light of the nature, extent and quality of the services provided by the Advisor and the Sub-Advisor to the Fund under the Agreements.

The Board considered information and discussed with the Advisor whether there were any economies of scale in connection with providing advisory services to the Fund and noted the Advisor's statement that it believes its expenses will likely increase over the next twelve months as the Advisor continues to make investments in infrastructure and personnel. The Board determined that due to the Fund's closed-end structure, the potential for realization of economies of scale as Fund assets grow was not a material factor to be considered. The Board considered the revenues and allocated costs (including the allocation methodology) of the Advisor in serving as investment advisor to the Fund for the twelve months ended December 31, 2017 and the estimated profitability level for the Fund calculated by the Advisor based on such data, as well as complex-wide and product-line profitability data for the same period. The Board noted the inherent limitations in the profitability analysis and concluded that, based on the information provided, the Advisor's profitability level for the Fund was not unreasonable. In addition, the Board considered fall-out benefits described by the Advisor that may be realized from its relationship with the Fund, including the Advisor's compensation for fund reporting services pursuant to a separate Fund Reporting Services Agreement. The Board concluded that the character and amount of potential fall-out benefits to the Advisor were not unreasonable.

The Board considered the Sub-Advisor's representation that because it manages the Fund in a similar fashion to other accounts it works to achieve economies of scale through relationships with brokers, administrative systems and other operational efficiencies and that although it expects operating costs in general to continue to rise, it expects shareholders of the Fund to continue to experience indirect benefits from economies of scale efficiencies. The Board did not review the profitability of the Sub-Advisor with respect to the Fund. The Board noted that the Advisor pays the Sub-Advisor from its advisory fee, and its understanding that the Fund's sub-advisory fee rate was the product of an arm's length negotiation. The Board concluded that the profitability analysis for the Advisor was more relevant. The Board considered fall-out benefits that may be realized by the Sub-Advisor from its relationship with the Fund and noted that with the implementation of the revised Markets in Financial Instruments Directive in the European Union in January 2018, the Sub-Advisor will generally no longer use soft-dollars and is not initiating new research avenues through commission sharing arrangement balances. The Board concluded that the character and amount of potential fall-out benefits to the Sub-Advisor were not unreasonable.

Based on all of the information considered and the conclusions reached, the Board, including the Independent Trustees, unanimously determined that the terms of the Agreements continue to be fair and reasonable and that the continuation of the Agreements is in the best interests of the Fund. No single factor was determinative in the Board's analysis.

Page 36

Table of Contents

INVESTMENT ADVISOR

First Trust Advisors L.P.
120 E. Liberty Drive, Suite 400
Wheaton, IL 60187

TRANSFER AGENT

BNY Mellon Investment Servicing (US) Inc.
301 Bellevue Parkway
Wilmington, DE 19809

ADMINISTRATOR,
FUND ACCOUNTANT, AND
CUSTODIAN

The Bank of New York Mellon
240 Greenwich Street, 20th Floor
New York, NY 10286

INDEPENDENT REGISTERED
PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Deloitte & Touche LLP
111 S. Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606

LEGAL COUNSEL

Chapman and Cutler LLP
111 W. Monroe Street
Chicago, IL 60603

Table of Contents**Item 2. Code of Ethics.**

Not applicable.

Item 3. Audit Committee Financial Expert.

Not applicable.

Item 4. Principal Accountant Fees and Services.

Not applicable.

Item 5. Audit Committee of Listed registrants.

Not applicable.

Item 6. Investments.

(a) Schedule of Investments in securities of unaffiliated issuers as of the close of the reporting period is included as part of the report to shareholders filed under Item 1 of this form.

(b) Not applicable.

Item 7. Disclosure of Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures for Closed-End Management Investment Companies.

Not applicable.

Item 8. Portfolio Managers of Closed-End Management Investment Companies.

(a) Not applicable.

(b) There have been no changes, as of the date of this filing, in any of the portfolio managers identified in response to paragraph (a)(1) of this Item in the Registrant's most recent annual report on Form N-CSR.

Item 9. Purchases of Equity Securities by Closed-End Management Investment Company and Affiliated Purchasers.

Period	(a) Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased	(b) Average Price Paid per Share (or Unit)	(c) Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	(d) Maximum Number (or Approximate Dollar Value) of Shares (or Units) that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs
Month #1 (01/01/2018 – 01/31/2018)	0	0	160,745	105,644
Month #2 (02/01/2018 – 02/28/2018)	0	0	160,745	105,644

Month #3 (03/01/2018 – 03/31/2018)	0	160,745	105,644
Month #4 (04/01/2018 – 04/30/2018)	0	160,745	105,644
Month #5 (05/01/2018 – 05/31/2018)	0	160,745	105,644
Month #6 (06/01/2018 – 06/30/2018)	0	160,745	105,644
Total	0	160,745	105,644

On September 15, 2015, the Fund commenced a share repurchase program. The program originally expired on March 15, 2016, but the Board of Trustees of the Fund has subsequently authorized the continuation of the Fund's share repurchase program until March 15, 2019. For the six months ended June 30, 2018, the Fund did not repurchase any of its shares. For the year ended December 31, 2017, the Fund repurchased 12,207 of its shares at a weighted-average discount of 13.52% from net asset value per share. The Fund expects to continue the share repurchase program until the earlier of (i) the repurchase of an additional 105,644 common shares (for an aggregate of 266,389), or (ii) March 15, 2019.

Item 10. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders.

There have been no material changes to the procedures by which the shareholders may recommend nominees to the registrant's board of directors, where those changes were implemented after the registrant last provided disclosure in response to the requirements of Item 407(c)(2)(iv) of Regulation S-K (17 CFR 229.407) (as required by Item 22(b)(15) of Schedule 14A (17 CFR 240.14a-101)), or this Item.

Item 11. Controls and Procedures.

The registrant's principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, have concluded that the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 30a-3(c) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act") (17 CFR 270.30a-3(c))) are effective, as of a date within 90 (a) days of the filing date of the report that includes the disclosure required by this paragraph, based on their evaluation of these controls and procedures required by Rule 30a-3(b) under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.30a-3(b)) and Rules 13a-15(b) or 15d-15(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (17 CFR 240.13a-15(b) or 240.15d-15(b)).

(b) There were no changes in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 30a-3(d) under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.30a-3(d))) that occurred during the registrant's second fiscal quarter of the period covered by this report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Item 12. Exhibits.

(a)(1) Not applicable.

(a)(2) Certifications pursuant to Rule 30a-2(a) under the 1940 Act and Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 are attached hereto.

(a)(3) Not applicable.

(b) Certifications pursuant to Rule 30a-2(b) under the 1940 Act and Section 906 of the Sarbanes- Oxley Act of 2002 are attached hereto.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

(registrant) First Trust/Aberdeen Emerging Opportunity Fund

By (Signature and Title)* /s/ James M. Dykas
James M. Dykas, President and Chief Executive Officer
(principal executive officer)

Date: September 7, 2018

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By (Signature and Title)* /s/ James M. Dykas
James M. Dykas, President and Chief Executive Officer
(principal executive officer)

Date: September 7, 2018

By (Signature and Title)* /s/ Donald P. Swade
Donald P. Swade, Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer
and Chief Accounting Officer
(principal financial officer)

Date: September 7, 2018

* Print the name and title of each signing officer under his or her signature.