Guinness Global Equity Income

2024 Annual Review and Outlook

RISK

This is a marketing communication. Please refer to the prospectus, supplement, KIDs and KIIDs for the Funds, which contain detailed information on their characteristics and objectives, before making any final investment decisions.

The Funds are equity funds. Investors should be willing and able to assume the risks of equity investing. The value of an investment and the income from it can fall as well as rise as a result of market and currency movement, and you may not get back the amount originally invested. Further details on the risk factors are included in the Fund's documentation, available on our website.

Past performance does not predict future returns.

ABOUT THE STRATEGY

Launch	31.12.2010
Index	MSCI World
Sector	IA Global Equity Income
Managers	Dr Ian Mortimer, CFA Matthew Page, CFA
EU Domiciled	Guinness Global Equity Income Fund
UK Domiciled	WS Guinness Global Equity Income Fund

OBJECTIVE

The Guinness Global Equity Income Funds are designed to provide investors with global exposure to dividend-paying companies. The Funds are managed for income and capital growth and invest in profitable companies that have generated persistently high return on capital over the last decade, and that are well placed to pay a sustainable dividend into the future. The Funds are actively managed and use the MSCI World Index as a comparator benchmark only.

CONTENTS

COMMENTARY

In 2024 the Guinness Global Equity Income Fund produced a total return of 14.6% (in GBP), compared to the MSCI World Index return of 20.8%. The Fund therefore underperformed the Index by 6.2 percentage points.

The IA Global Equity Income Sector returned 11.0%, therefore the Fund outperformed its peer average by 3.6 percentage points.

Since launch, 14 years ago, the Fund ranks 2nd out of 13 Funds in the IA Global Equity Income sector.

- It has produced a cumulative total return of 345.8% (GBP) compared to the sector average of 212.8% – an outperformance of 133 percentage points.
- The Fund has outperformed its sector peers in 12 of the 14 years the Fund has been in existence and has provided positive returns in each of the last 14 years.

2024 was marked by significant market turbulence amid a complex economic and geopolitical environment. Despite these challenges, global equities posted impressive gains. The macroeconomic landscape was defined by persistent inflationary pressures, escalating trade tensions, and a series of rate cuts after the aggressive rate-hiking cycle of previous years. In parallel, geopolitical developments, such as ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the Middle East added layers of complexity. That said, resilience emerged as the prevailing theme. The transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence continued to captivate investor sentiment, fuelling gains in technology stocks and associated areas including the so called 'AI-enablers' and other 'AI-integrators'. However, over the final parts of the year, sentiment turned cautious as a result of a hawkish tone set by Fed Chair Jerome Powell during the last FOMC meeting which signalled a slower pace of rate cuts in 2025. This led to a more reserved investor outlook, as market participants weighed the implications of slower monetary easing as well as the potential impacts of the incoming US administration.

Over the course of 2024, the Fund's underweight allocation to Communication Services and IT acted as a headwind as these were the top 2 performing sectors.

Additionally, the overweight to Consumer Staples was a drag as the sector returned just 4.2% over the year, well behind the index.

However, a zero allocation to Materials, Real Estate, Utilities and Energy was a positive as all four sectors underperformed the index.

Finally, strong stock selection in Industrials and IT was a tailwind, with notably good performance from names like Eaton, Emerson, TSMC, and Broadcom.

In the Fund, our focus on quality companies with strong balance sheets and long histories of high returns on capital meant that 34 out of our 35 holdings grew their dividend in 2024, with one company keeping its dividend flat.

In January 2025, the Fund declared its final dividend which represented the income we received in the second half of 2024. The total dividend distributed for the full year 2024 increased 17.9% compared to 2023 (GBP Y-class), and when looking over a 2-year period the fund registered a 10.4% increase vs the 2022 distribution. We provide a detailed analysis of the Fund dividend later in this report.

- The trailing 12-month dividend yield today is 2.1% (net) which compares to the benchmark MSCI World Index yield of 1.7% (gross).

The philosophy and process behind the Fund has been the same since we launched in late 2010:

- We look to invest in good quality businesses with persistently high returns on capital, solid balance sheets, that are highly cash generative, and that are trading at attractive valuations. We believe that such businesses are best placed to pay a sustainable and growing dividend in the future.

- We take a long-term view, holding companies for 3-5 years on average, and the Fund is a concentrated portfolio (35 stocks) of equally weighted positions, with an active share typically c.90% vs the benchmark.

- We believe the balanced approach of the Fund – seeking a return from a combination of cash flow growth, multiple expansion, and dividends – alongside a focus on quality characteristics mean the Fund remains well placed whatever the future market direction in 2025, and beyond.

PERFORMANCE

In 2024 the Guinness Global Equity Income Fund produced a total return of 14.6% (in GBP), compared to the MSCI World Index return of 20.8%. The Fund therefore underperformed the Index by 6.2%.

The Fund ranked 11/53 funds in the IA Global Equity Income Sector and outperformed the average peer fund by 3.6%.

Cumulative % total return in GBP to 31/12/2024	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years	Launch
Guinness Global Equity Income Fund Y Dis GBP	14.6	27.9	70.5	195.7	345.8
MSCI World	20.8	30.1	79.6	221.4	369.3
IA Global Equity Income (average)	11.0	19.8	46.9	126.5	212.8
IA Global Equity Income (ranking)	11/53	11/50	9/45	5/31	2/13
IA Global Equity Income (quartile)	1	1	1	1	1

We are pleased that since launch at the end of 2010, the Fund ranks 2nd out of 13 funds in the IA Global Equity Income sector.

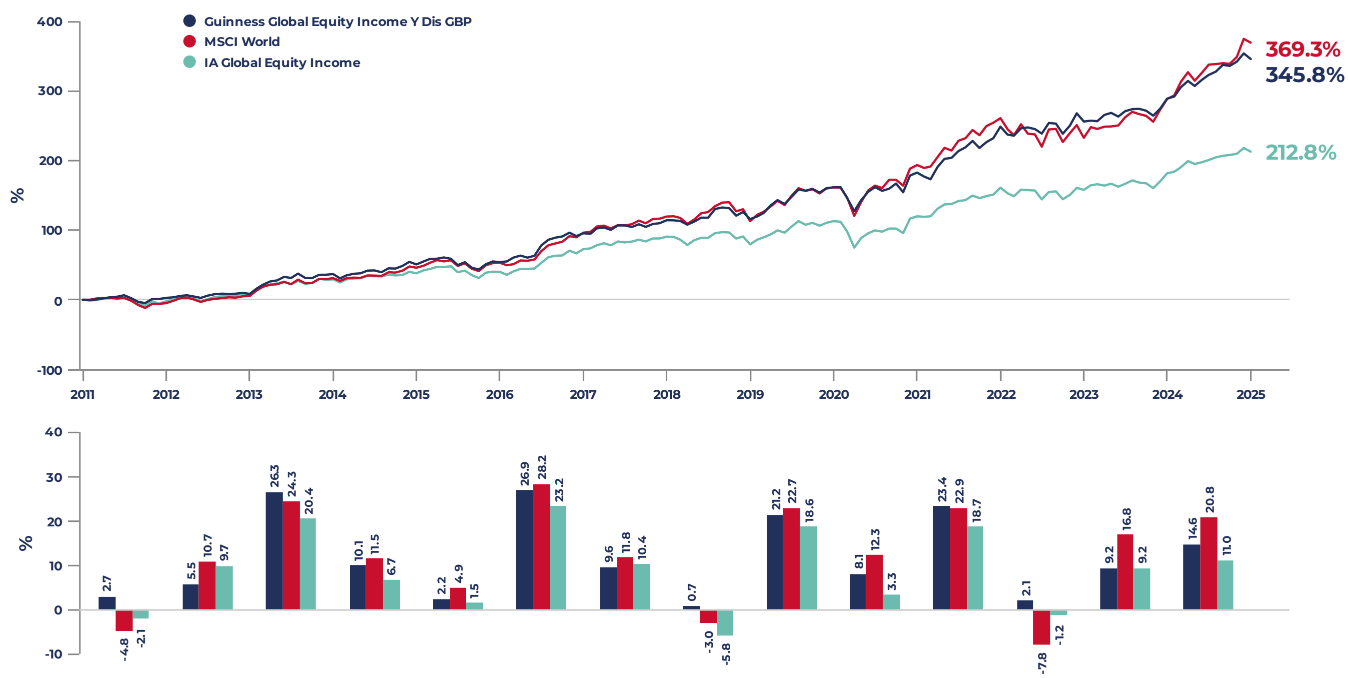
The Fund also ranks in the top quartile of the sector over 1, 3, 5, 10 years and 14 years (Launch 31.12.10)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Global Equity Income Fund	2.7	5.5	26.3	10.1	2.2	26.9	9.6	0.7	21.2	8.1	23.4	2.1	9.2	14.6
MSCI World Net TR Index	-4.8	10.7	24.3	11.5	4.9	28.2	11.8	-3.0	22.7	12.3	22.9	-7.8	16.8	20.8
IA Global Equity Income Sector	-2.1	9.7	20.4	6.7	1.5	23.2	10.4	-5.8	18.6	3.3	18.7	-1.2	9.2	11.0

Cumulative Total Return in GBP, as of 31st December 2024. Source: FE fundinfo.

The Fund has now outperformed its sector peers in 12 of the 14 years the Fund has been in existence, and provided positive returns in each of the last 14 years.

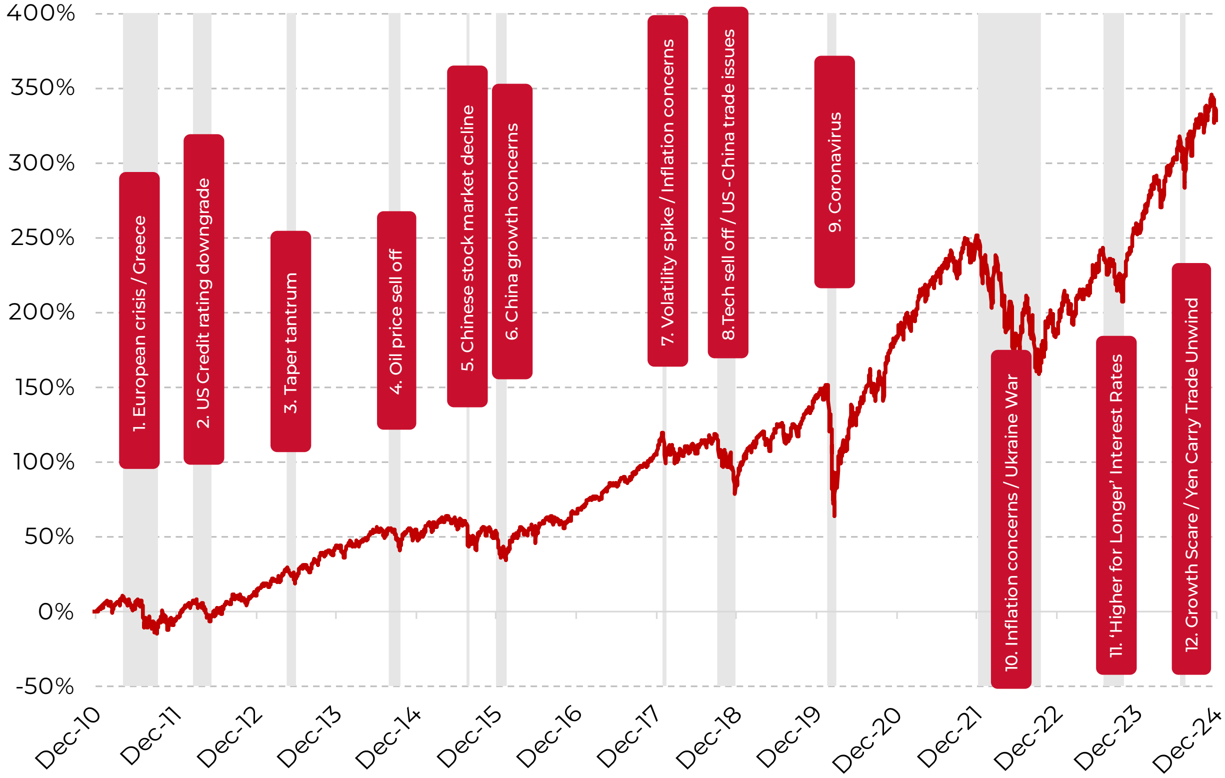
Since launch the Fund has produced a cumulative total return of 345.8%; it has outperformed the sector average by 133.0%.



Cumulative Total Return in GBP, Y-GBP share class, as of 31st December 2024. Source: FE fundinfo.

Every year – including the most recent – brings with it many uncertainties and surprises and we seek to position the Fund so that it is capable of weathering whichever direction the market takes. The Fund has historically outperformed in falling markets, but has kept up well with rising markets. Since the launch of the Fund, it has outperformed in each of the largest drawdowns seen in the last 14 years:

Guinness Global Equity Income



Largest drawdowns in global equity markets since fund launch (31st December 2010). Source: Bloomberg

Reason for sell off	Start date	End date	MSCI World Index	Guinness Global Equity Income	Fund relative performance
1. European crisis / Greece	02/05/2011	04/10/2011	-22.0%	-15.6%	6.4%
2. US credit rating downgrade	19/03/2012	04/06/2012	-12.5%	-8.9%	3.5%
3. "Taper tantrum"	21/05/2013	24/06/2013	-7.7%	-5.2%	2.5%
4. Oil price sell off	27/08/2014	16/10/2014	-8.8%	-8.3%	0.5%
5. Chinese stock market decline	17/08/2015	25/08/2015	-9.4%	-8.5%	0.9%
6. China growth concerns	31/12/2015	11/02/2016	-11.5%	-6.1%	5.4%
7. Volatility spike / inflation concerns	26/01/2018	08/02/2018	-9.0%	-7.1%	2.0%
8. Tech sell off / US-China trade issues	03/10/2018	25/12/2018	-17.5%	-12.0%	5.5%
9. Coronavirus	19/02/2020	23/03/2020	-34.0%	-32.5%	1.4%
10. Inflation concerns / Ukraine war	04/01/2022	12/10/2022	-26.1%	-20.8%	5.3%
11. 'Higher for Longer' Interest Rates	31/07/2023	27/10/2023	-10.5%	-9.0%	1.5%
12. Growth Scare / Yen Carry Trade Unwind	16/07/2024	05/08/2024	-8.2%	-1.6%	6.6%

Performance of fund vs benchmark in the largest drawdowns since fund launch, in USD. Source: Bloomberg

In August 2024, a rare interest rate hike from the Bank of Japan spurred an unwinding of the so-called 'Yen Carry Trade' early in the month, with the Nikkei 225 index recording its largest decline in history based on index points, surpassing the magnitude of the Black Monday crash in 1987. As a result, the MSCI World fell -8.2% (USD) however we are pleased that the Fund fell just -1.6%, therefore outperforming by 6.6% over this period. By seeking companies with persistently high profitability, strong balance sheets, robust competitive advantages, and attractive valuations, the Fund's holdings held up better than the more cyclical and growthier parts of the market, which led the sell-off.

DIVIDEND ACTIONS

In 2024, out of our 35 holdings:

- 34 companies **grew** their dividend. The average dividend growth of these companies was 8.4%.
- 1 companies kept their dividend **flat**
- 0 company **cut** their dividend
- 0 companies **cancelled** their dividend

In the Fund, the average dividend growth across all 35 companies was 8.2%, and 8.4% for the 34 companies that grew their dividend.

The Fund's dividend yield at the end of the quarter was 2.1% (net of withholding tax) vs the MSCI World Index's 1.7% (gross of withholding tax).

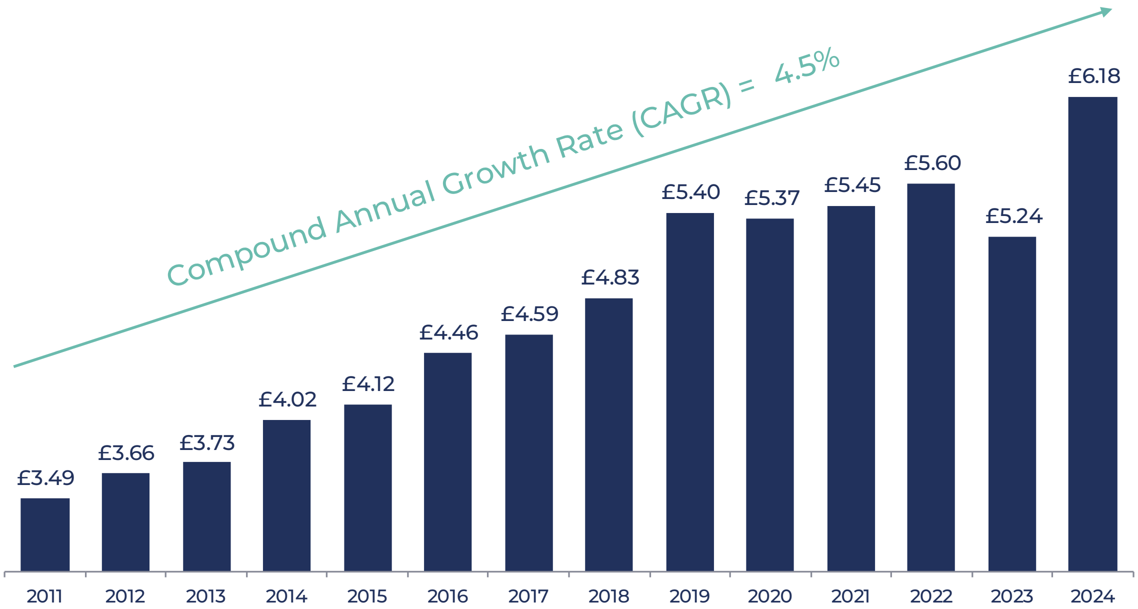
A moderate dividend yield is characteristic of the Fund because our focus is not on simply finding the highest-yielding companies, but instead on finding high-quality, cash-generative businesses which can consistently grow their dividend stream year-on-year.

Explicitly screening for persistently profitable companies also means that many industries – regulated sectors such as Utilities, Telecommunications & Banks, and commodity-led sectors such as Energy & Materials – tend not to appear in our investible universe. These excluded industries often contain companies that exhibit the highest dividend yields, though we believe these same companies have a greater risk of dividend cuts (as we saw in 2020) and are less likely to grow their dividend over time.

2024 saw the strongest average dividend growth rate in the portfolio for the last 5 years. The 2024 distribution was +17.9% higher than 2023. As a reminder, the dividend distributed in 2023 declined 6.4% given a small negative impact of the GBP exchange rate (which affects the non-£ income we receive from our globally-listed holdings) as well as the changes to companies held in the portfolio (namely the sale of high yielding Tobacco and Defence names for higher quality but lower yield Staples and Industrials). However, the dividend distributed in 2024 is +10.4% higher than 2022 reiterating that the Fund has still managed to maintain a solid long term growth rate. For reference, the Fund's dividend CAGR since launch stands at 4.5%.

We try to strike a balance between capital growth and income and, in the past few years after the pandemic, we have witnessed a very volatile and uncertain economic environment. Consequently, we have been pleased with how well the Fund has navigated this difficult period. In many cases recently, the opportunity for finding high yielding opportunities has been linked to companies that have one or a combination of factors of being cyclical, economically sensitive, or in distress of some kind. We have erred on the side of caution and preferred to invest 'up in quality' over this period, which in some cases has meant capturing a lower dividend income stream. We believe this has been a sensible approach and one that has served to provide a better overall total return.

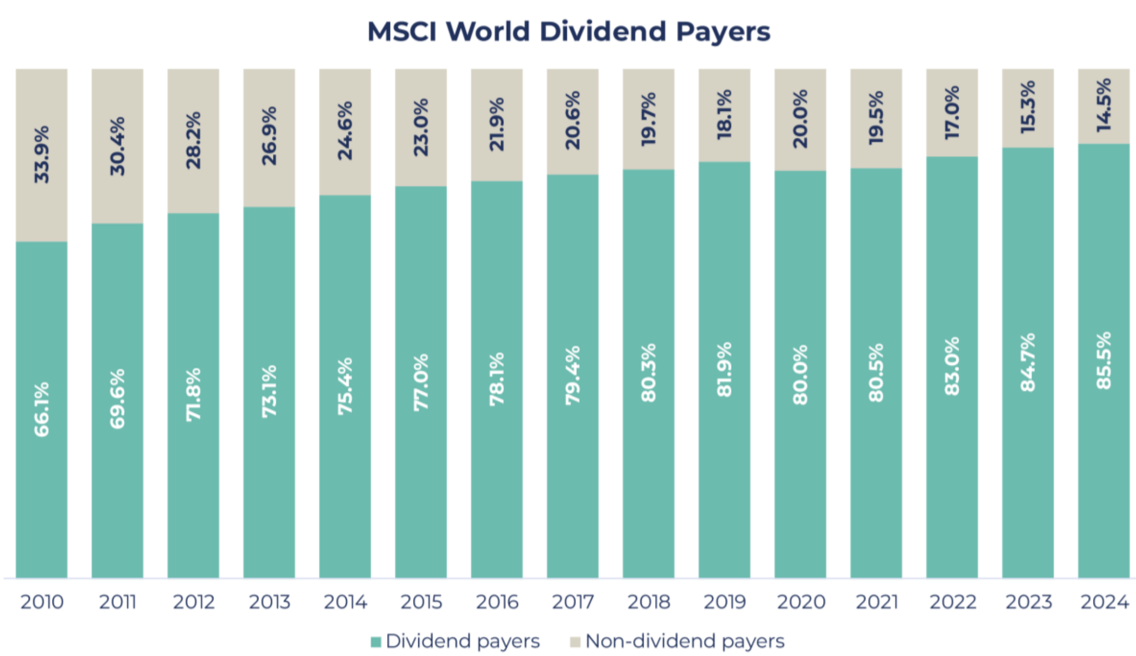
It is worth noting that, as of year end, the Fund is trading at a moderate premium to the broader MSCI World (2.1% net for the Fund vs 1.7% gross for the index). The index yield has declined year on year (down from 2.0% as of 2023 year end), primarily because large cap technology stocks have continued to outperform, therefore making up an even great percentage of the index. Whilst some of these technology stocks do pay a dividend (e.g. Apple, Microsoft and Nvidia) the yield is very low, in the case of Nvidia <0.05%. As a result, the yield on the Index has declined. However, thanks to strong dividend growth from the Fund's holdings, which averaged 8.4% for all those that grew, the Fund's yield now stands at a premium to the MSCI World. Additionally, the change made in Q2 helped boost the yield as Henkel (yielding ~2.2%) was replaced by the higher yielding Publicis (~3.4%) – this switch is discussed in greater detail below.



Y GBP dividend distribution. Source: Guinness Global Investors

Expanding Universe: The Number of Dividend Paying Stocks Continues to Grow

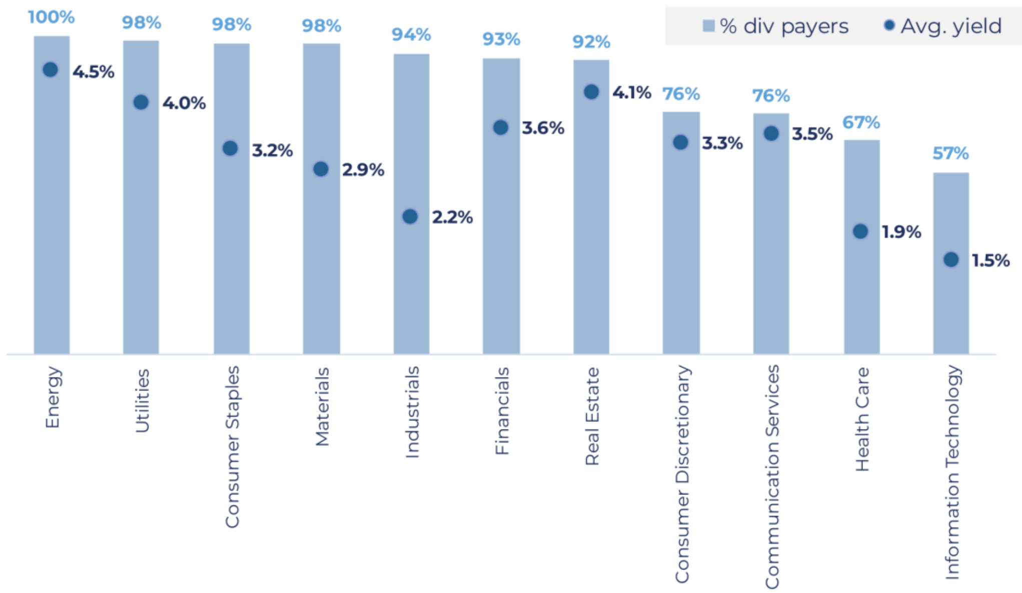
2024 saw a number of new firms, especially those in the IT sector, initiate dividend payments. Notable examples include Booking.Com, Alphabet, Salesforce, and Meta. These names join a host of other large cap technology firms that have initiated dividends over the past 12 months and are challenging the notion that large-cap tech prefers to reinvest excess cash into the business instead of paying distributions to shareholders. Perhaps this shows that the sector is maturing and is entering a new phase of capital allocation decision making. Namely that in a higher rate environment returning capital via dividends instead of via buybacks may be coming in to favour. Furthermore, the chart below shows that when we launched the Fund in 2010, only two thirds of companies in the MSCI World paid a dividend however this figure now stands at 85.5%. Encouragingly, many of these firms that now pay a dividend meet the criteria to be in the Fund's universe which therefore expands the number of high-quality stocks that the Fund can pick from.



Source: Bloomberg as of 31st December 2024

The chart below shows the percentage of dividend paying stocks within the MSCI World on a sector by sector basis. Whilst at present the percentage of IT stocks that pay a dividend is 57% (the lowest of all MSCI Sectors) this is up from ~50% just one decade ago and therefore shows a meaningful improvement in the direction of travel. The IT sector also has a relatively low average yield of 1.5% (below that of the index) but the vast free cash flow generation of many firms in the sector means that there is a real opportunity for IT firms to grow their dividend meaningfully over the coming years.

% of Dividend Payers within the MSCI World & Avg. Yield



Source Guinness Global Investors, Bloomberg as of 31st December 2024

Finally, with regards to the overall dividend yield of the Fund (2.1% net of withholding tax), it is worth reiterating that the Fund has a zero-weight allocation to the Energy, Utilities, Materials and Real Estate sectors. As the chart above shows, these are three of the four highest yielding sectors and therefore not owning them reduces the number of high yielding stocks the Fund can choose from. However, as noted above, we believe that the companies in these sectors tend to be lower quality, have lower returns on capital, and fit less well with the Fund's stylistic investment approach, hence our zero weight allocation.

2024 IN REVIEW

Source: MSCI, data as of 31st December 2024

Goldilocks Rally (Jan-March):

What Happened: Equity markets saw broad-based gains, defying a challenging macroeconomic and geopolitical backdrop. Despite global conflicts, recessions in the UK and Germany, and unexpected U.S. inflation data, investors remained optimistic. Markets rallied on expectations of accommodative monetary policy, driven by signs of a softening global economy and easing inflation pressures, which prompted hopes of central bank support.

Fund Performance: The rally was largely driven by speculative growth as well as some lower quality areas of the market. The Fund underperformed due to its underweight allocation to IT and zero allocation to Energy & Communication Services, three of the index's top-performing sectors.

Slowdown Concerns (1st April – 19th of April):

What Happened: Sentiment turned as weaker economic data and sticky inflation undermined the 'Goldilocks' narrative. Disappointing Q1 US GDP and manufacturing PMI data eroded confidence, shifting focus to 'stagflation' concerns. Hawkish remarks from Fed Chair Jerome Powell heightened fears of further rate hikes.

Fund Performance: The Fund outperformed, as we would have hoped. The high-quality nature of the portfolio resulted in a less severe sell-off compared to other more growth-oriented and speculative areas of the market.

Soft-Landing Reemerges (20th of April – 15th of July):

What Happened: Negative sentiment quickly reversed as strong corporate earnings and positive economic data restored confidence. May US CPI of 3.4% signalled price normalisation, boosting hopes for a soft landing. Market-implied rate cuts rose from 1.1 in April to 1.8 in June, driving a notable divergence between Growth and Value stocks, with the Mag7 leading the gains.

Fund Performance: The Fund underperformed during this period, with longer duration names benefiting from lower interest rate expectations. The more speculative part of the market, namely unprofitable technology companies, also rallied.

Volatility Resurfaces (16th of July – 6th of September)

What Happened: July's US economic data and signs of a struggling consumer reignited volatility. Additionally, the Bank of Japan's surprise rate hike which unwound the 'Yen Carry Trade' triggered a sharp sell-off. Markets subsequently rebounded on positive inflation and retail sales data, coupled with dovish remarks from Fed Chair Powell.

Fund Performance: Encouragingly, the Fund outperformed during the volatile period, which was led by the high-quality parts of the portfolio, particularly Consumer Staples, which held up well in the sharp August drawdown.

Fed Delivers Rate-Cut (7th of September – 4th of November)

What Happened: On the 18th September, the Fed finally decided to cut rates (by a bumper 50bps) after the fastest rate hiking cycle on record. Markets rallied on news of the cut, with the S&P 500 reaching record highs and large-cap technology stocks leading the move.

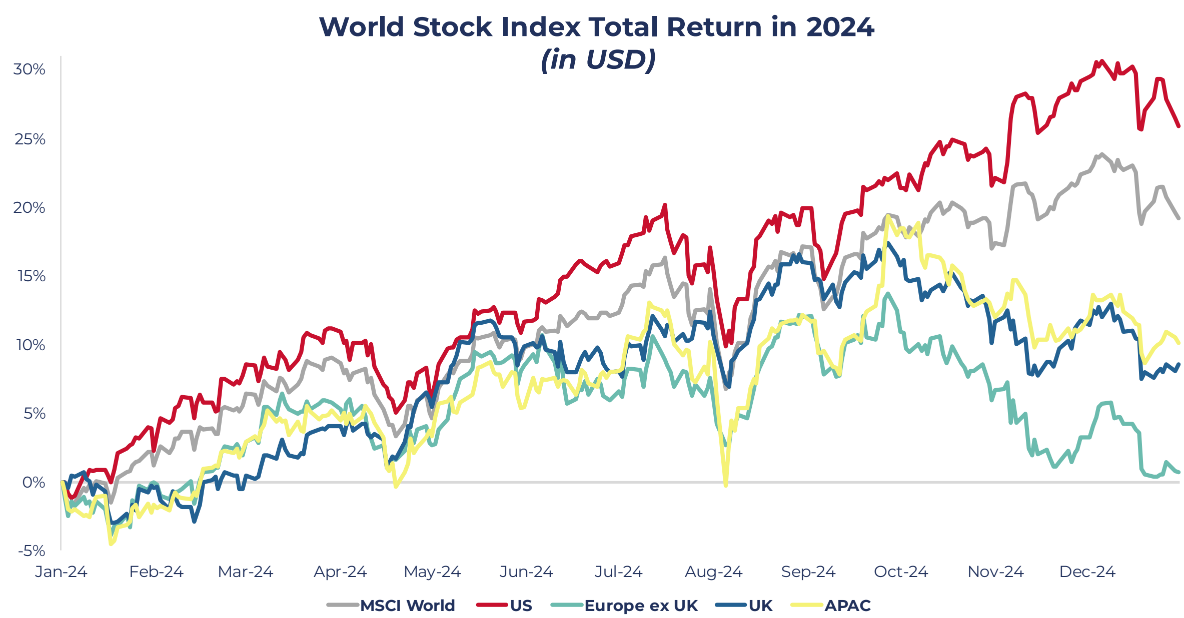
Fund Performance: The 50bp rate cut benefited long duration assets, leading to a market rally in which the more speculative part of the market significantly outperformed. As such, growth outperformed value, and the Fund underperformed.

Trump Trade (5th of November – 31st of December)

What Happened: Donald Trump's 2024 presidential victory sparked an initial market rally, driven by expectations of tax cuts and deregulation favouring Financials, Industrials, and Energy. However, hawkish remarks from Jerome Powell towards year end caused investor outlooks for 2025 to shift.

Fund Performance: The Trump Trade rally was driven by lower quality sectors as well as small cap stocks. US equities also performed particularly well. The Fund underperformance given its overweight allocation to non-US Equities (UK and EU) as well as its focus on high-quality parts of the market. The Fund's lack of exposure to Consumer Discretionary, the top-performing sector, acted as a drag to performance.

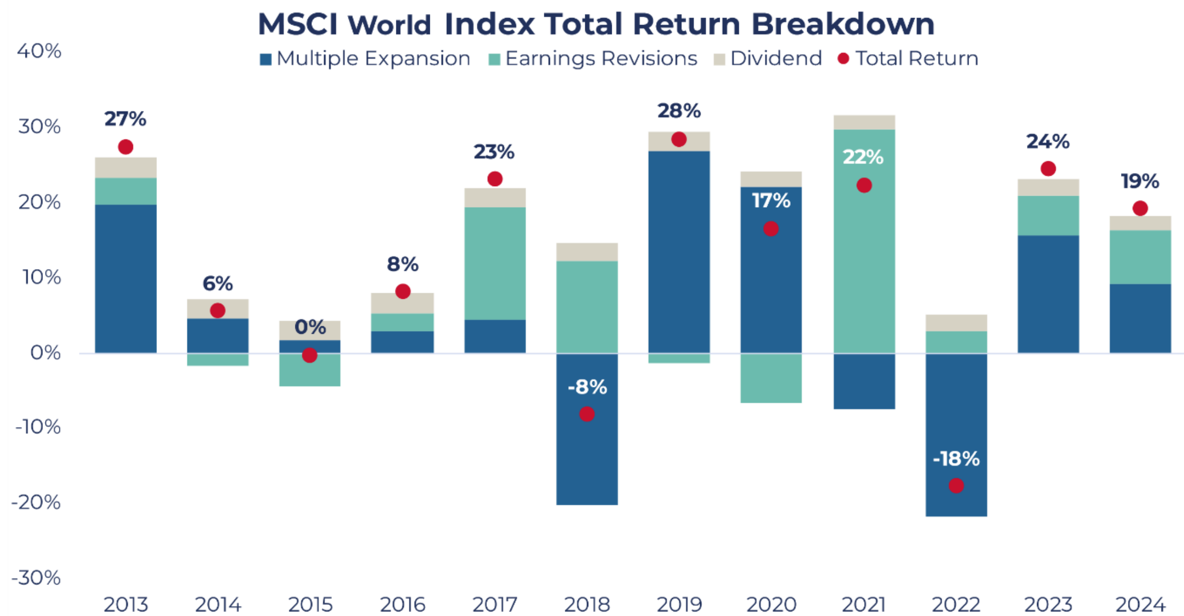
2024: The Events That Moved Markets



Source: MSCI, Bloomberg as of 31st December 2024

2024 was another bumper year for equities, with the MSCI World notching +19.2% in USD. Whilst all major regions saw positive gains, the US was for the second year running the top regional performer rising +25.1% (in USD). European and Asian markets performed well until September however the final quarter of the year saw a divergence in performance, with these indices falling over Q4 and ended the year substantially behind the index.

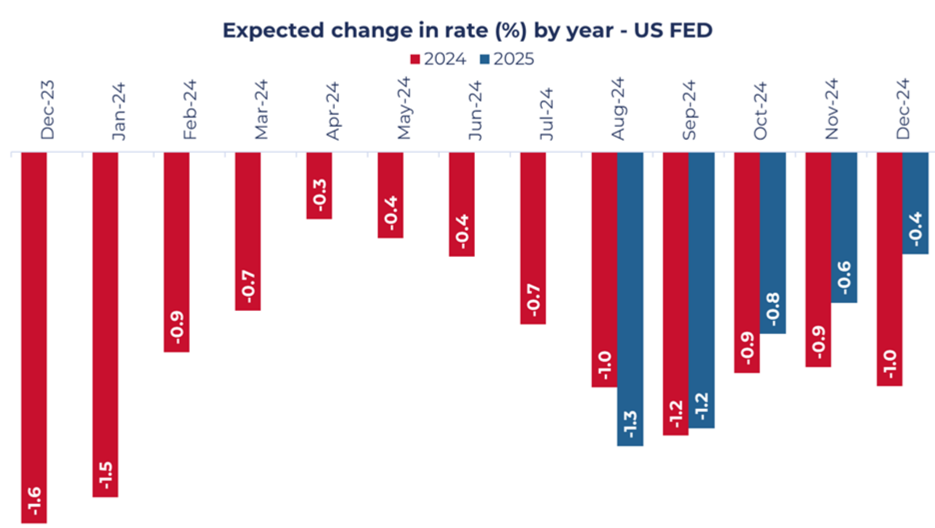
Multiple Reasons for Caution



Source: Bloomberg as of 31st December 2024

Looking back over the past two years, it is clear that multiple expansion has contributed substantially to the index gains. In 2023, the multiple accounted for 67% of the return and in 2024 this figure stood at over 50%. That said, in 2024 there was encouragingly a solid contribution from earnings revisions (~40%) with the dividend making up the remaining amount. Even though 2024 earnings revisions fed through, it is still noteworthy that an elevated multiple has driven much of the performance over the past 24 months, as bullish sentiment has caused ongoing equity re-ratings.

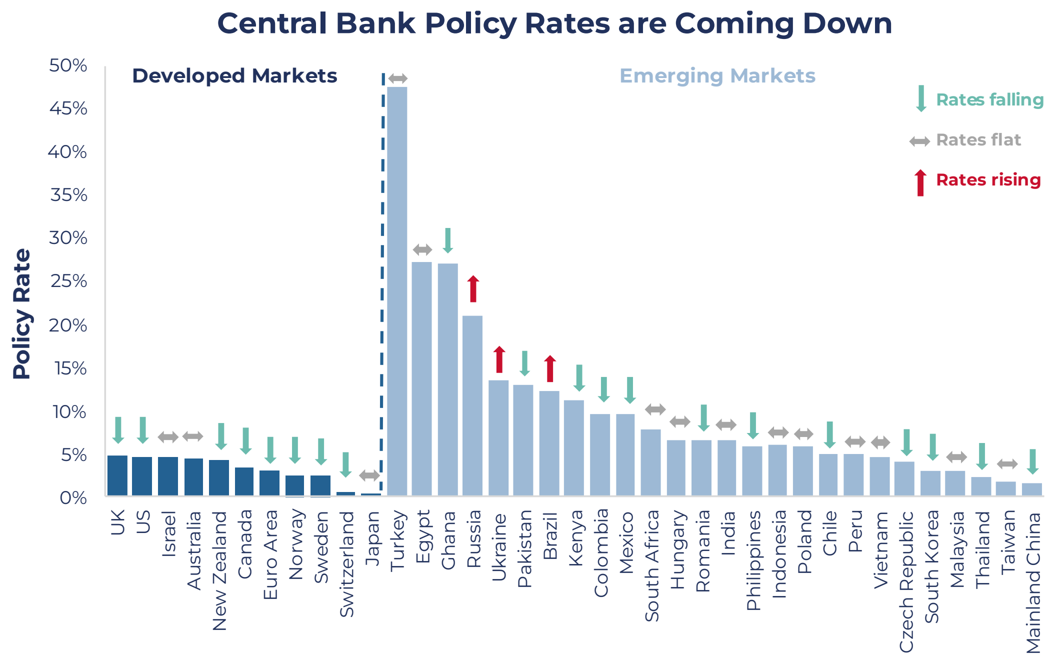
Yo-Yo Expectations



Source: Guinness Global Investors, Bloomberg as of 31st December 2024

One of the main driving forces behind markets was, as ever, interest rate expectations (a topic we have covered in many previous market commentaries). Nonetheless, the chart above gives a helpful overview of the change throughout the whole of 2024. Initially, the market was pricing in as many as 7 interest rate cuts for 2024, which saw a sharp contraction to just 30bps of easing by April. However, by August this soon bounced back to a more meaningful 4 cuts and the Fed did indeed end up cutting by 100bps over the year. Interestingly, expectations for 2025 have continued to decline and, as of year-end, they stand at just 40bps of easing for the upcoming year, considerably more hawkish than initially thought.

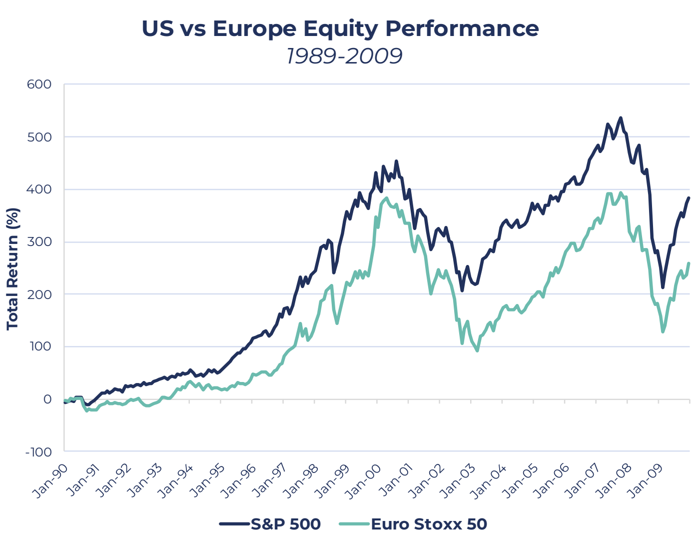
Global Rates Are Falling

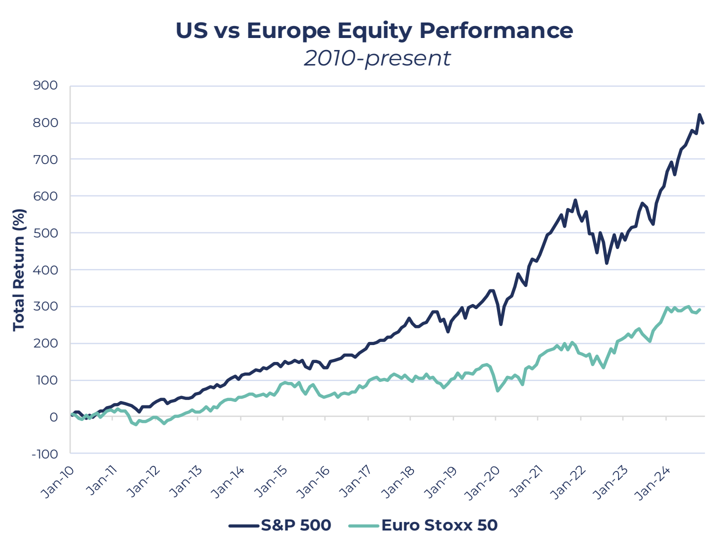


Source: Bloomberg as of 31st December 2024

Despite the changing expectations, rates are generally still falling across the board (with the exception of a few emerging market economies experiencing hyperinflation). In the chart above, the arrow shows the direction of rate policy vs the prior meeting and the bar size shows the current central bank policy rate. Clearly the broader picture points to a global set up of easing monetary policy which should be supportive for equities.

Unexceptional Exceptionalism

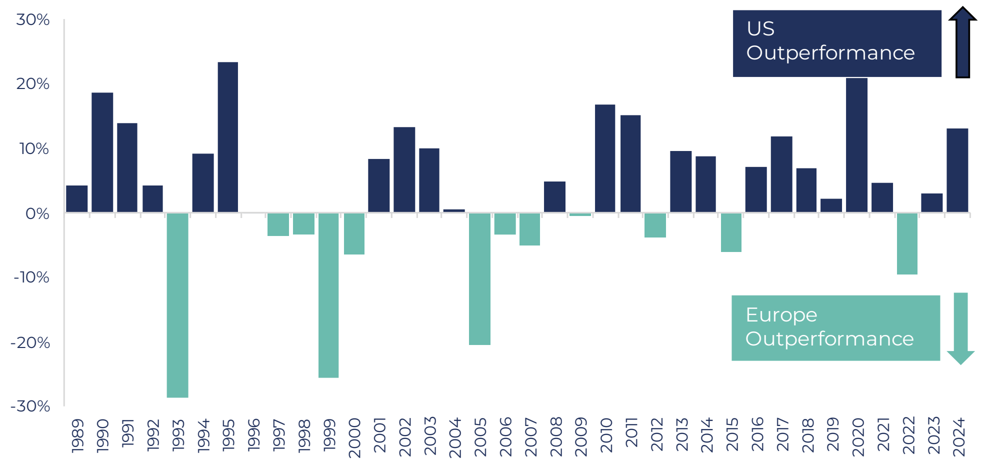




Source: S&P500 Index, Euro Stoxx 50 Index, Bloomberg, as of 31st December 2024

Over the ~20 year period from 1990 to 2009, whilst the flagship US index did outperform its European counterpart, performance clearly followed a similar trend. However, after the Financial Crisis, there was a far more pronounced divergence. In fact, since 2009 the US has outperformed Europe in 12 of the past 15 years which begs the questions whether American exceptionalism (led by strong economic growth, a generally healthy consumer and a heavy tech bias in the index) is starting to become unexceptional. Sceptics say that this is being driven by the supernormal profits of big tech as well as huge government spending by the latest US administration. Longer term (in six of the past eleven decades) the US has in fact underperformed the rest of the world, most recently in the 2000s when it delivered zero returns and emerging markets tripled in value. Whether American exceptionalism continues into 2025 or we see a reversal towards the mean remains to be seen, but continues to be an area of intense discussion.

Relative Difference in Stock Market Returns
US vs Europe Annual Performance (%)

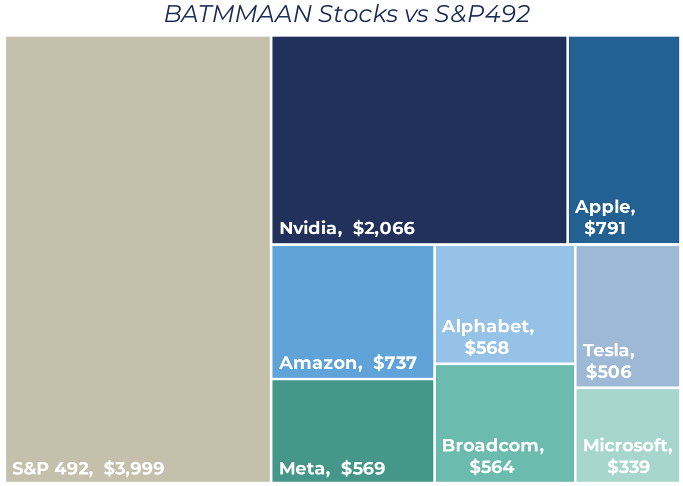


S&P 500 Index, Euro Stoxx 50 Index, Bloomberg as of 31st December 2024

Na Na Na Na BATMAN!

The market loves a moniker… first it was 'FAANG', then 'Mag7' and, now, for 2024 we have BATMMAAN. These were the 8 stocks that added the most market cap over 2024 and is essentially the Mag7 with the inclusion of Broadcom, the California-based semiconductor behemoth. These 8 names added a staggering $6.1tn of market cap over 2024 with all the remaining 492 S&P names adding 'only' $4.0tn between them. Such was the BATMMAAN dominance over 2024 that these 8 names now represent 12% of the S&P500's revenues, 26% of its profit and 34% of the total index weighting.

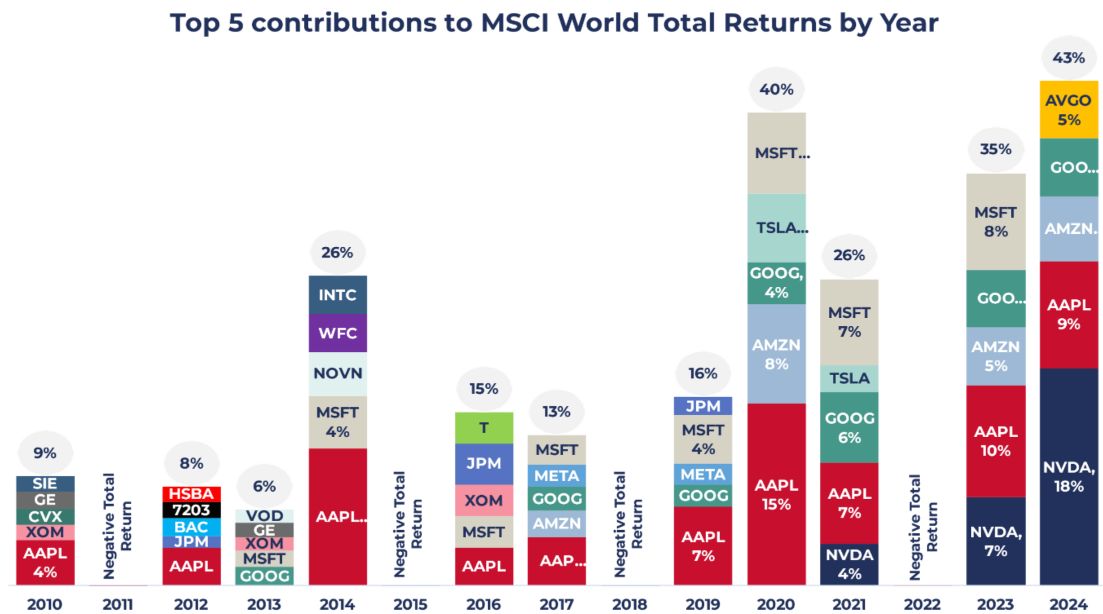
Market Cap Added in 2024 in $bn
BATMMAAN Stocks vs S&P492



Source: Bloomberg as of 31st December 2024

Concentrate Closely

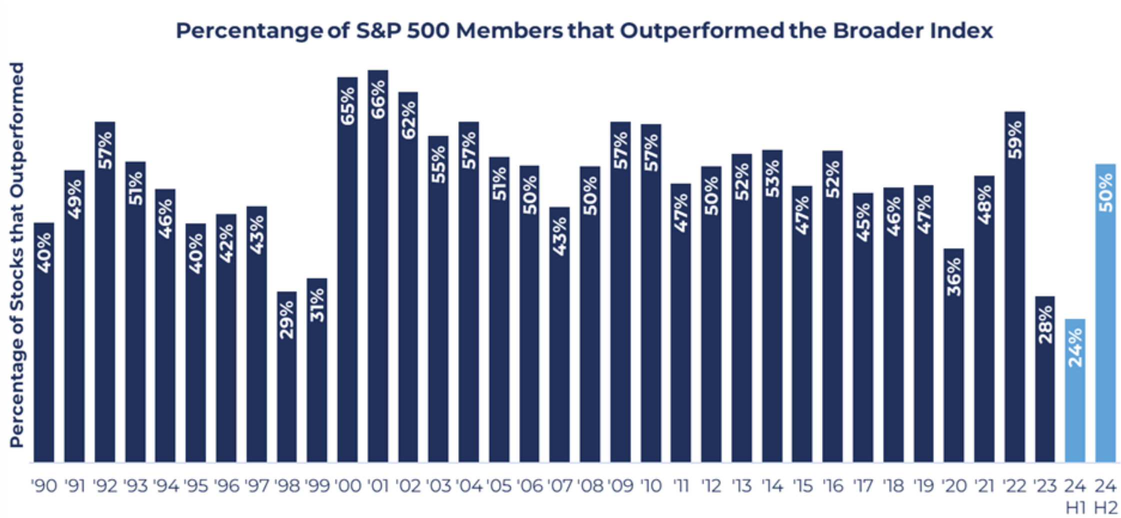
Is it usual for such a small number of stocks to make up such a large proportion of the index returns? Well, not really. Looking at the MSCI World breakdown, the largest 5 stock contributed more to the index returns in 2024 than in any of the last 15 years. As shown below, Nvidia contributed 18% to the index return and, alongside the other 4 names, drove 43% of the Index wide returns, a notably high proportion vs history.



Source: Bloomberg as of 31st December 2024

In Search of Leaders

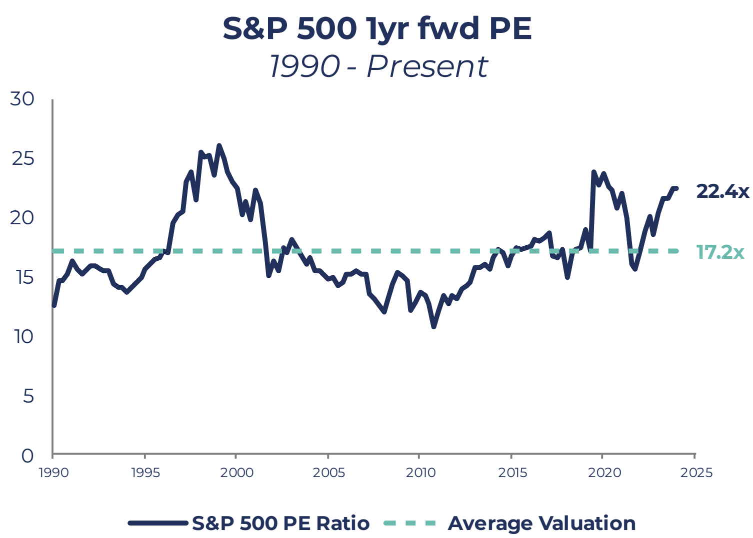
On this note, looking back at the history of market returns, we can see that since the turn of the millennium, roughly 50% of stocks have outperformed the S&P 500 and the other half have not. This points to a relatively broad and healthy index. However, in the past two years, the index gains have narrowed. In 2023 only 28% of stocks beat the index and this fell to 24% for H1 2024. Whilst the rally broadened out in the second half of the year, this still points to a relatively narrow market concentration, a topic that we have discussed in more detail in our 1st quarter 2024 market commentary. As a reminder, the 10 largest firms in the S&P 500 now make up 38% of the index, the highest level by some way over the past 40 years. This will likely remain a big focus going in to 2025.



Source: Bloomberg as of 31st December 2024

OUTLOOK FOR 2025

Lofty Valuations?



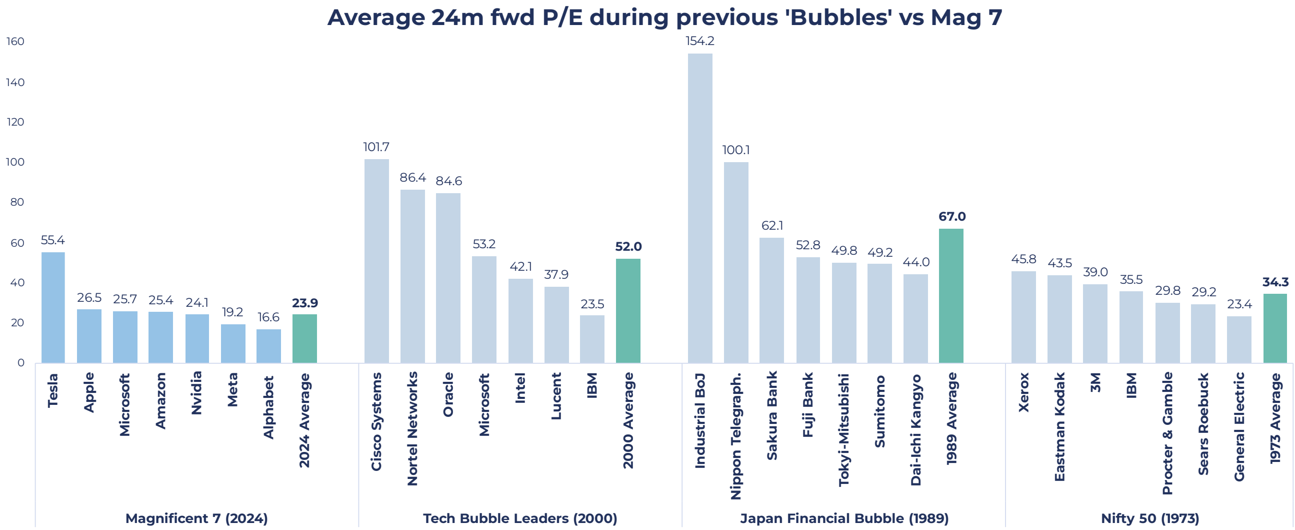
Source: S&P Indices, Bloomberg, as of 31st December 2024

In some ways, valuations are looking fairly elevated, particularly in the US. The chart above shows the S&P 500 on a 1yr fwd (forward) PE basis. A clear premium has now opened up with the year-end valuation of 22.4x standing at over 5 turns higher than the long-term average of 17.2x. When looking at the chart below, we can see that this valuation gap has been led by the largest 10 stocks in the index, which now trade at a ~30x fwd PE vs the rest of the index which trades more in line with historical levels.

Source: Compustat, Goldman Sachs GIR as of 31st December 2024

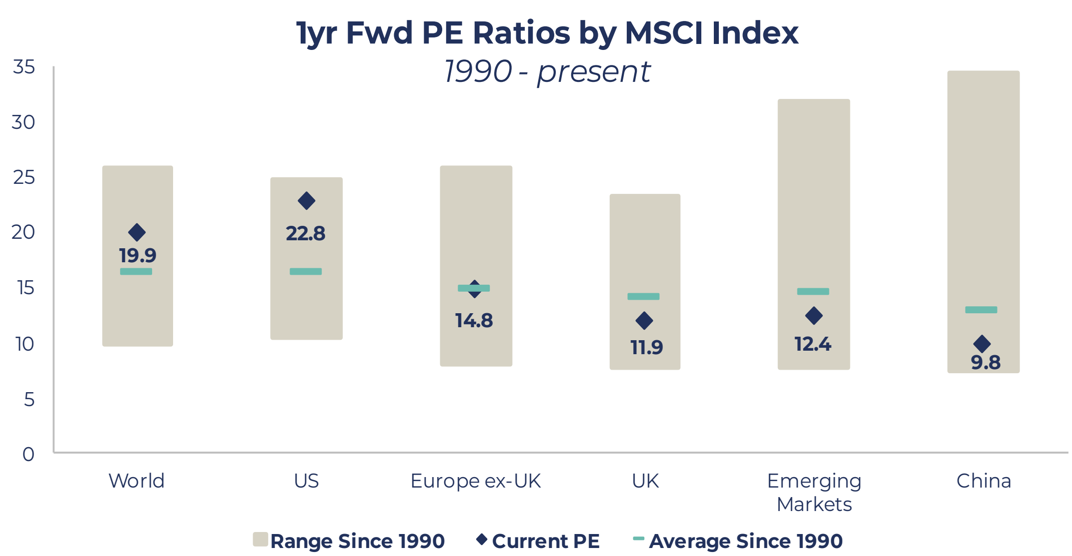
What Bubble?

That said, the current market leaders are currently showing valuations that are far less stretched on a 2yr fwd PE basis than previous bubble periods over the past 50 years. The current Mag7 names remain very high quality and continue to show strong earnings growth which helps to justify their elevated premium and makes their valuations seem more reasonable on a midterm outlook. The 2024 average valuation of 23.9x is still far lower than the three previous peak 'bubble' valuations in 2000, 1989 and 1973.



Source: Goldman Sachs, Bloomberg as of 31st December 2024

Looking beyond the US, the 19.2x multiple for the MSCI World also seems reasonable, even if it is above its ~30yr average. The chart below shows current index valuation (blue dot), the long-term average (green bar) and the historical valuation range (beige bar). Whilst the US is clearly towards its historical upper bounds, Europe, the UK, Emerging Markets and China are all trading at or below their longer-term averages. The takeaway here is that a clear premium for US markets has opened up, but there still remain geographies with highly attractive valuations. To this point, the Fund maintains a solid albeit underweight allocation to the US (58%) and we remain overweight to both Europe and the UK which allows us to continue investing in high quality businesses but gives us confidence that we are not overpaying for them.

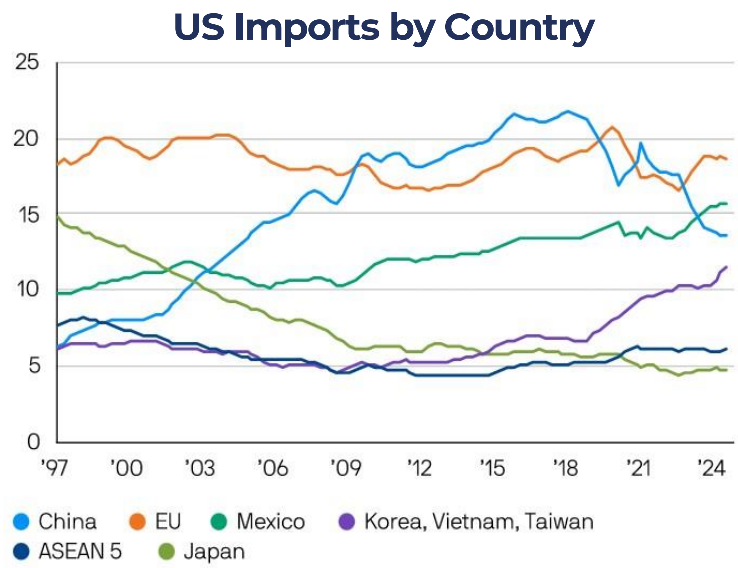


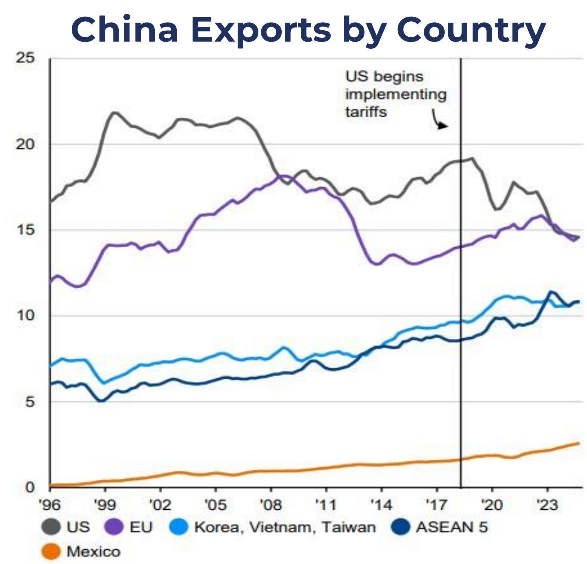
Source: MSCI Indices, JPM Asset Management as of 31st December 2024

Geopolitical Risks Ever Present

Whilst 2025 may be less politically disruptive than 2024 (which saw 70 elections and over half the world's population heading to the polls) the most notable outcome is of course the return of Donald Trump to the White House. Yet to be sworn in for the second time, Trump has already made headlines, including talk of overseas expansion (Greenland, Canada, the Panama Canal) as well as the implications of his unpredictable China policy and of course his stance on the Middle East and Ukraine. Perhaps the only certainty here is uncertainty. Whatever 2025 holds in store, there are likely to be several unforeseen events that take markets by surprise… stay tuned!

Trade Disruptions

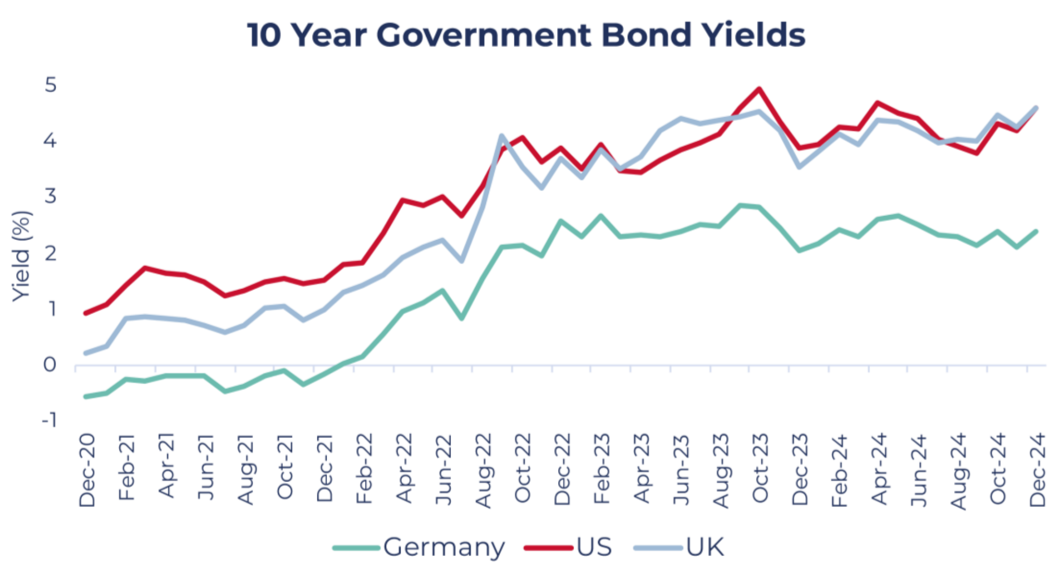




Source: MF, LSEG Datastream, US Census Bureau, J.P. Morgan Asset Management as of 31st December 2024

One thing that seems less uncertain however is the growing global protectionism impacting free trade routes. Trump has already mooted universal baseline tariffs on all US trading partners, with additional levies on Mexico, Canada and a bumper +60% on all imports from China. Regardless of whether this is a bargaining tool or will play out with some fairly disruptive consequences, there has been a clear trend over the past few decades of shifting trade flows. More specifically, the US has always reduced its trading dependency on any nation as soon as one country makes up ~20% of its total import spend. This happened with Japan in the 90s, China in the 2010s and is happening (to some extent) with Europe more recently. Similarly, China (a net exporter) is redirecting trade flows away from the West (Europe and the US are the two largest purchasers of Chinese exports) and instead is pivoting towards more local markets including Korea, Vietnam, Taiwan and other ASEAN nations, in a bid to insulate itself from the impact of tariffs.

The 10 Year Won't Yield: Long Term Rates Remain Stubbornly High



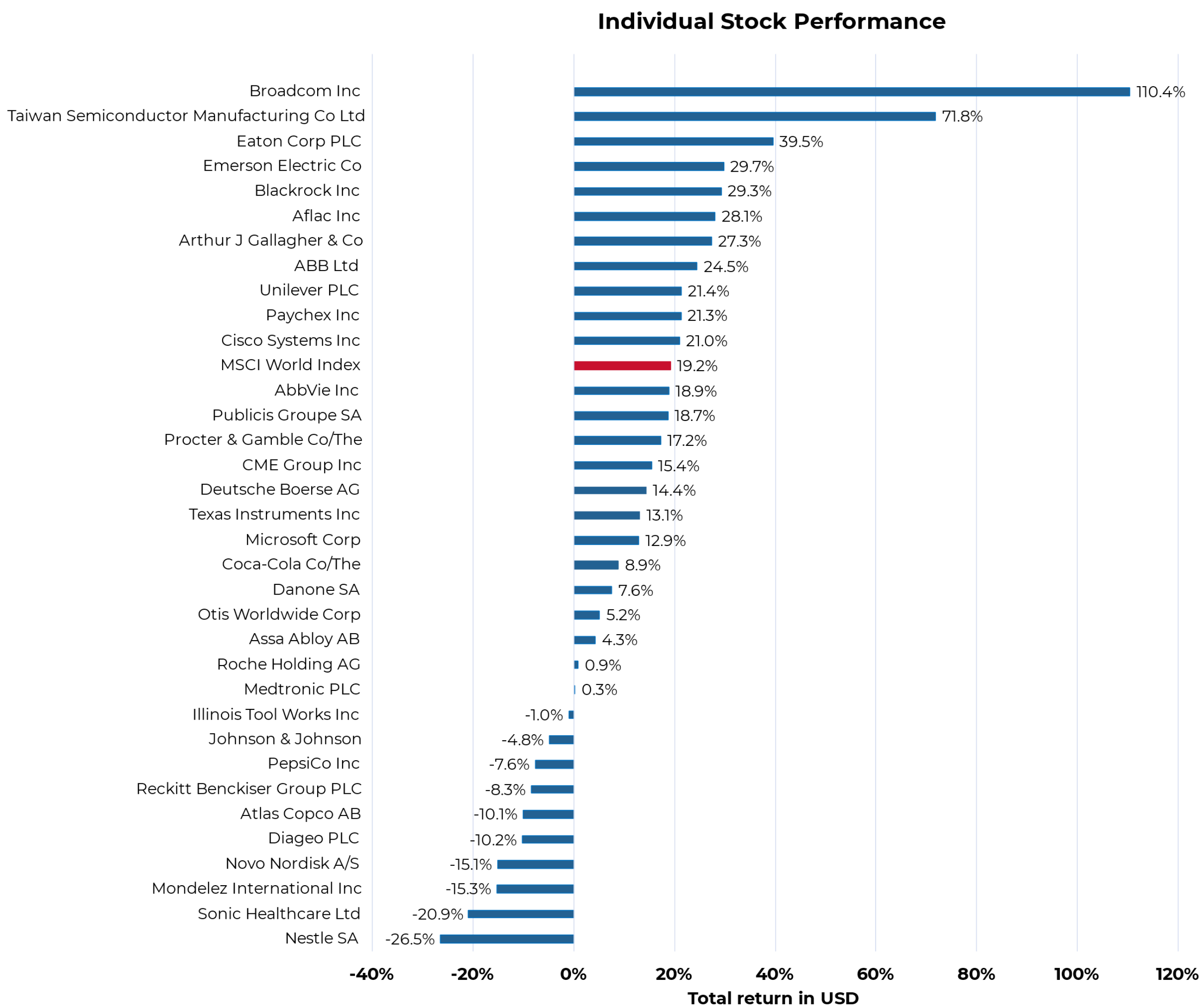
Source: Bloomberg as of 31st December 2024

2024 was the year that decades-high inflation returned to normalised levels, with the headline inflation figure ending the year with a '2' handle across the US, UK, and Eurozone. However, in some economies inflation still remains stubborn, driven by sticky services inflation which investors fear may persist. Interestingly, even as central banks cut policy rates from restrictive levels, the long end of the yield curve remains high (and in fact is starting to rise). The rise in the long end of the curve perhaps signals that investors are concerned about the re-emergence of higher inflation over the mid-term and therefore require a higher premium to hold long-dated bonds. This has had the unwanted impact of raising borrowing costs on government debt and will likely feed through to the rest of the economy via higher interest rates on mortgages repayments and consumer loans etc. The chart above shows the yields on 10-year government debt across a range of geographies, which have ticked up over the back half of 2024 and will remain in focus over 2025 as well.

STOCK PERFORMANCE

When we look at how individual companies within the portfolio performed in 2024, we see that out of the top ten, we have three Industrials, three IT, three Financials and one Consumer Staple. This highlights the benefit of our moderate dividend yield and sector-agnostic approach, which can identify opportunities outside of the traditional high-yield or 'defensive' areas typically associated with income funds.

Individual Stock performance over year (holding period total return in USD)



Individual stock performance over holding period during 2024 (TR in USD). As of 31st December 2024. Source: Bloomberg

Top and bottom performers

Broadcom was the best performing stock over 2024, gaining 110.4% (USD). 2024 was a positive year for the semiconductor market (the SOX Index performed roughly in line with MSCI World Index), however the intra-sector performance was marked by some clear winners on the back of AI sentiment and increased compute demand. Broadcom, one of these beneficiaries, are a leading developer, manufacturer, and supplier of semiconductor software products that is strategically positioned to capitalise on the growing demand for advanced chips. During the year, the company achieved record revenue of $51.6 billion, a 44% increase from the prior year, fuelled by significant contributions from its AI-related segment, which surged by 220%, reflecting the firm's leadership in providing custom AI accelerators and high-performance networking chips. Additionally, the successful integration of the VMware acquisition is expected to be a major driver for the firm, expanding its footprint in the infrastructure software market, diversifying revenue streams and strengthening its long-term growth outlook. We are encouraged by the strong performance over 2024 and remain confident about the firm's opportunity to achieve a leading market share as the AI opportunity continues to gather steam.

TSMC (+71.8% USD) also performed well over 2024. The world's largest fab saw strong performance given its ongoing strategic importance in the global semiconductor supply chain. As a leader in advanced-node manufacturing, TSMC continued to showcase its unmatched expertise in producing chips at cutting-edge process nodes, including 3nm and beyond. The firm significantly benefited from surging demand for AI and high-performance computing (HPC), both of which rely heavily on advanced microchips. Following a challenging 2023 marked by a cyclical industry downturn, TSMC returned to strong growth, with annual revenues up 34% YoY to its highest ever level. Furthermore, higher fab utilisation rates throughout the year and cost-cutting efforts contributed to rising operating margins, further reinforcing the company's solid financial position. TSMC also made aggressive investments in expanding its CoWoS (Chip-on-Wafer-on-Substrate) capacity in 2024, positioning itself to double capacity again in 2025 in response to the growing need for advanced packaging solutions. Alongside their dominance in advanced-node manufacturing, TSMC's CoWoS 2.5D and SoIC 3D packaging technologies have emerged as essential components for next-generation AI chip production in data centres. These cutting-edge packaging solutions highlight TSMC's promising outlook as a pivotal driver of innovation in data centre infrastructure and high-performance computing.

Nestle was the Fund's worst performing stock in 2024, falling -26.5% (USD). This comes amidst the context of both heightened competition from private labels as well as sluggish sales growth, which has dampened investor sentiment. In the third quarter, Nestle reported organic and pricing growth below consensus and management revised its organic sales growth guidance down from 4% to 3%, after having previously cut guidance in July. However, in September, CEO Mark Schneider was replaced by Laurent Freixe, who has initiated a comprehensive strategy to rejuvenate growth and enhance operational efficiency. We are encouraged by these plans which include a cost reduction programme to deliver CHF 2.5 billion of savings by 2027, increased marketing investments on its core brands to strengthen brand visibility and consumer engagement, and an organisational restructuring that will set its water and premium beverages businesses as a standalone global unit. While we are aware of the challenges that new management is currently facing, we remain positive on the long-term outlook for the company. Nestle remain a high-quality company with a diverse brand portfolio, strong pricing power, persistent high returns on capital and also offer a healthy dividend yield approaching 4%.

Sonic Healthcare was the second worst performer (-20.9% USD). The pathology provider experienced a challenging transitional period as it shifted from pandemic-driven operations back to its core business activities. In May, the company lowered its guidance, citing inflationary cost pressures and delays in adjusting labour costs to align with post-pandemic conditions. Following the COVID-19 boom, Sonic retained much of its labour force and diagnostics infrastructure, which increased its cost base and led to earnings falling below consensus expectations. Margin pressure was further compounded by Sonic's reinvestment of pandemic-era supernormal profits into strategic initiatives, the benefits of which are yet to materialise. However, management is actively addressing these challenges through a cost-cutting program aimed at restoring its margin profile. Despite these challenges, revenue in the core business has continued to grow steadily, and management reaffirmed operating profit guidance for fiscal year 2025, signalling a more positive outlook and potential recovery. The long-term investment thesis for Sonic remains on track. The company is well-positioned to bridge gaps in routine healthcare by offering effective diagnostic services, benefiting from clear industry tailwinds such as population growth and aging demographics.

These structural growth drivers, combined with easing cost inflation and the elimination of unnecessary expenses, are expected to support margin recovery. Additionally, synergies from recent acquisitions, operational efficiencies from scale, and average fee increases through stronger pricing are likely to contribute to improving profitability and drive long-term growth in the bottom line.

CHANGES TO THE PORTFOLIO

In 2024, we sold one position (Henkel) and replaced it with Publicis, leaving the portfolio with 35 positions at the end of the year.

Number of changes to the portfolio

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Buys	8	4	7	2	7	4	5	4	4	3	1	4	1	1
Sales	9	3	8	3	6	4	5	4	4	3	1	4	1	1
Total holdings	35	36	35	34	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35

Over the second quarter, we sold our positions in **Henkel** and, as part of our one-in-one-out process, we bought a new position in **Publicis**.

In terms of sector allocation, we sold one Consumer Staples stock and replaced it with a Communication Services stock. Both stocks are European listed therefore the broader geographical positioning of the Fund remains unchanged.

Henkel

Henkel, the chemical and consumer goods giant, has been struggling with slower growth in recent years. Half of the firm's sales come from their Consumer Staple Brands (across Beauty and Laundry & Homecare) with the remaining half derived from Adhesives & Sealants. The Staples side of the business has been struggling of late, given under-pressure brands and increased competition. Since time of purchase (August 2019), gross sales volumes have fallen 18% with broad based market share losses. The Adhesives part of the business has performed relatively better; it is the global leader and 3x the size of its closest competitor but the end markets are cyclical and the growth outlook uncertain. We were also concerned by the declining quality of the business. Over our ~5 year holding period, both operating margins (-400bps) and net margins (-370bps) have declined given SG&A costs growing substantially faster than revenues. This has also caused CFROI to decline from ~22% at time of purchase to 14% at present. The firm has turned to acquisitions to restart the growth story, but this gives us limited visibility on their outlook and raises the risk of poor capital allocation via either increased debt or overpriced M&A. Given these operational challenges, management have kept the dividend flat for 5 consecutive years. In the latest quarterly earnings (1Q24) Henkel alluded to progress on their turnaround efforts, and the stock has rallied almost 20% from recent March troughs. We felt that this presented a good selling opportunity, as ultimately Henkel has not done what we expected at purchase. With CFROI declining, margins down, a flat dividend and a modest growth outlook, we feel there are better ideas that fit more in line with the Fund's philosophy. We therefore decided to sell the full position.

Publicis

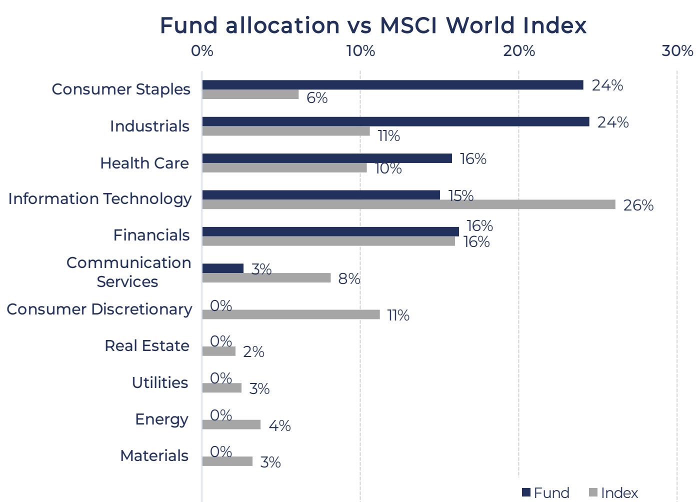
We replaced Henkel with a full position in Publicis. Publicis are a French advertising & media agency, comprised of over a hundred smaller brands that sit under the Publicis umbrella. They are the 3rd largest player behind WPP and Omnicom, providing a range of services incl. creative design, media buying, ad monitoring, data analytics, and consulting. Publicis have been very successful in transitioning their business away from traditional forms of media (print, billboards, cable tv) towards a complete solution provider by adding digital capabilities (online video, mobile, social media etc.). This has been enabled by the transformative acquisitions of Sapient (a business transformation consulting firm) and Epsilon (a unique data provider) which, between them, allow Publicis to offer their customers (~3000 mid to large sized corporates) a differentiated service across all parts of the media and advertising value chain. Publicis are now widely regarded as a complete 'one-stop-shop'. As a result, they have outgrown the other 'Big Four' Ad players over the previous eight consecutive quarters, enabling solid operating leverage and margin expansion. They have also invested heavily into their own business via an internal AI-run operating platform which connects all their agencies and brings together insights from their proprietary data sets. The business has strong free cash flow generation, which supports a ~3.5% yield and they are growing the dividend at a 10% 5-year CAGR. With 30% CFROI, peer leading margins, and a favourable growth outlook the stock looks attractively valued at 13.8X 1yr fwd PE.

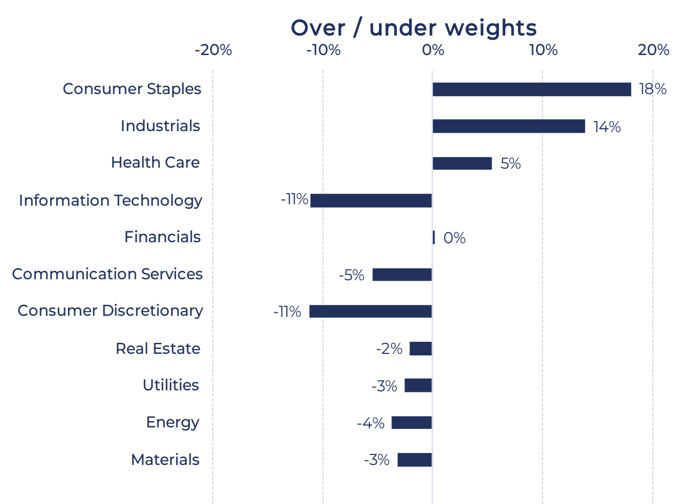
PORTFOLIO POSITIONING

We continue to maintain a fairly even balance between quality defensive and quality cyclical/growth companies. We have approximately 45% in quality defensive companies (e.g. Consumer Staples and Healthcare companies) and around 55% in quality cyclical or growth-oriented companies (e.g. Industrials, Financials, Consumer Discretionary, Information Technology).

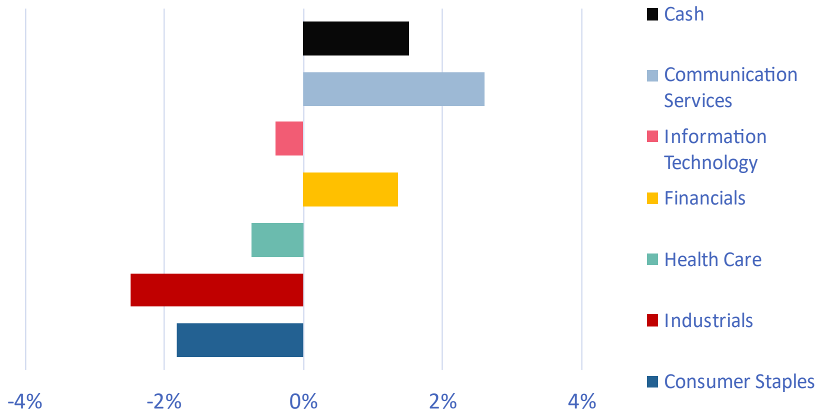
Whilst the defensive names tend to have lower beta and hold up better when markets are falling, the cyclical holdings allow the Fund to maintain performance when markets are rebounding and rising. We believe that within these more cyclical sectors we are owning the 'quality' businesses. All the companies we seek to invest in have strong balance sheets and a history of performing well in difficult market environments. Within Financials, for example, although we do not own any Banks, which helps to dampen the cyclicality of our Financials, we do own exchange groups such as CME and Deutsche Boerse (which tend to do better in periods of market volatility as volumes tend to increase at these times which results in higher revenues for the exchanges).

The Fund also has zero weighting to Energy, Utilities, Materials, Real Estate, and Consumer Discretionary. The largest overweight is to Consumer Staples.



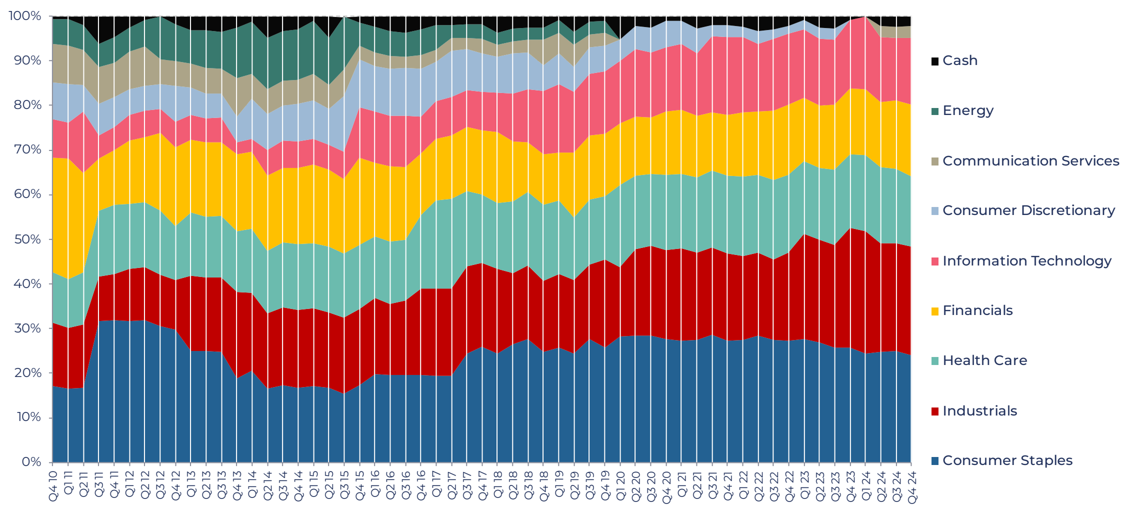


Sector breakdown of the Fund versus MSCI World Index. Source: Guinness Global Investors, Bloomberg. Data as of 31st December 2024



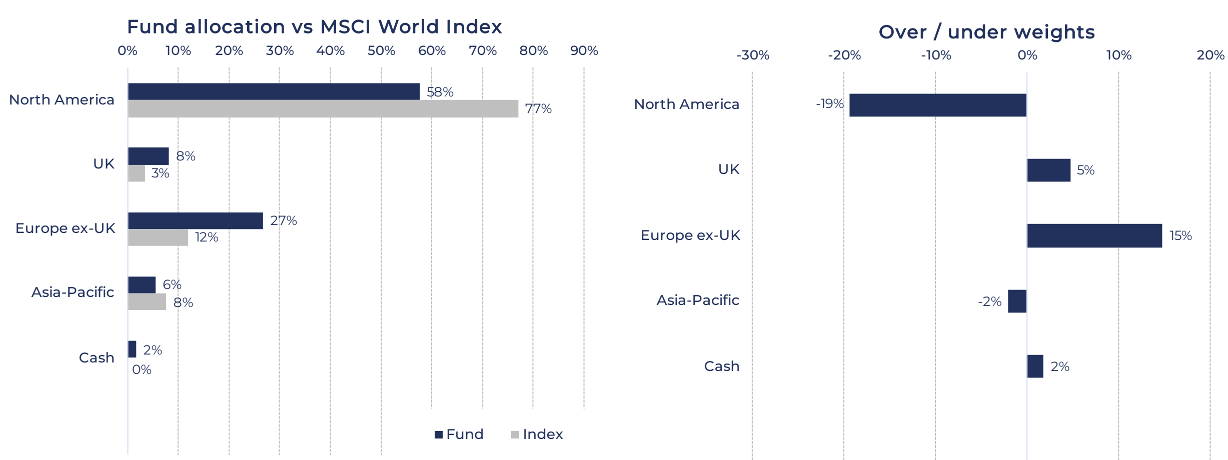
Year on year change in sector breakdown (31st December 2024 vs 31st December 2023). Source: Guinness Global Investors

The below chart shows how the exposure of the Fund has evolved since we launched the strategy back in 2010.

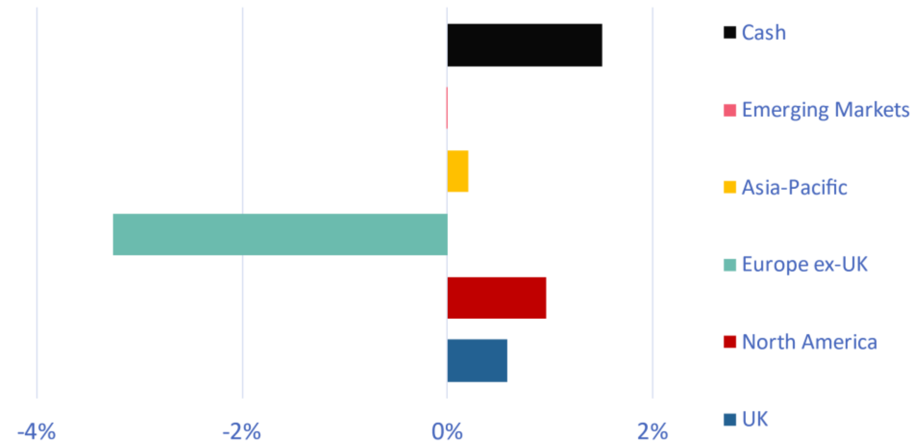


Sector breakdown of the Fund since launch. Source: Guinness Global Investors. Data as of 31st December 2024

In terms of geographic exposure (chart below), the largest overweight remains Europe ex-UK, though we are diversified around the world with 58% in the US, 35% in Europe & UK and 6% in Asia-Pacific. Within the Asia-Pacific region we have one company listed in Taiwan (Taiwan Semiconductor) and one company listed in Australia (Sonic Healthcare).

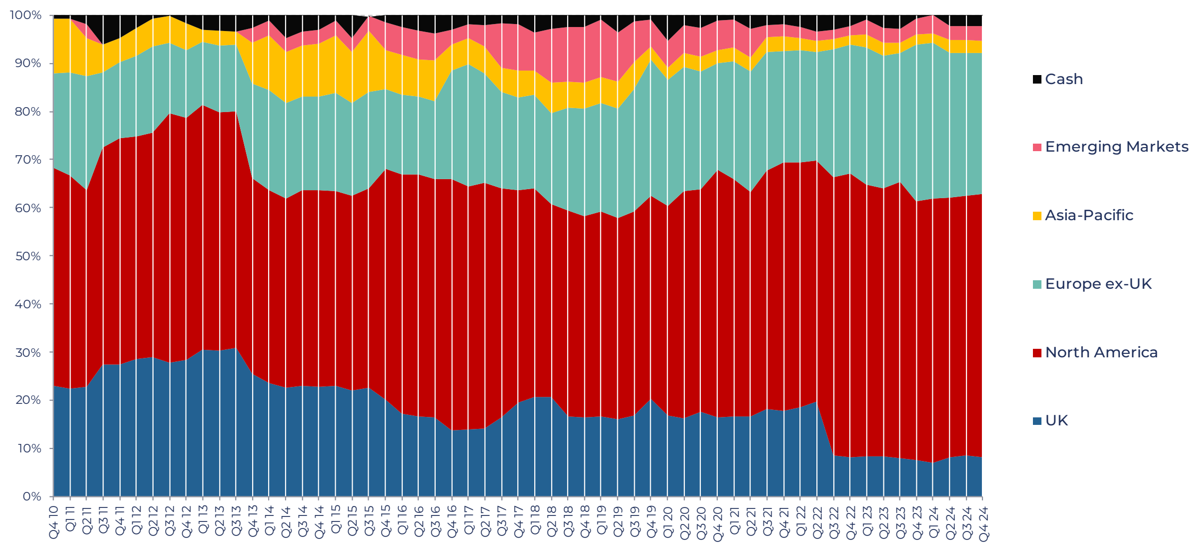


Regional breakdown of the Fund versus MSCI World Index. Source: Guinness Global Investors, Bloomberg. Data as of 31st December 2024



Year on year change in geographic breakdown (31st December 2024 vs 31st December 2023). Source: Guinness Global Investors

The below chart shows how the exposure of the Fund has evolved since we launched the strategy back in 2010.



Geographic breakdown of the Fund since launch. Source: Guinness Global Investors. Data as of 31st December 2024

ENGAGEMENT

At Guinness Global Investors, we believe that both individual and collaborative action around ESG issues is an important part of the investment process.

In 2024 we continued our participation in the CDP non-disclosure campaign, which offers investors the opportunity to engage with companies that have received the CDP disclosure request but have not yet provided a response. The objective of the annual campaign is to drive further corporate transparency around climate change, deforestation, and water security, by encouraging companies to respond to CDP's disclosure requests. Our participation includes the opportunity to lead engagements with investee companies where relevant. As a 'lead Signatory', we would be responsible for managing the correspondence between ourselves and the subject company, on behalf of both Guinness and other investors who had opted to be part of the campaign. If unsuccessful in our application as a 'lead', we could opt to be a 'co-signatory', where we would have our signature included at the bottom of the letter, and have the correspondence sent on our behalf by another 'lead signatory'.

As a reminder, over 2023, we were the ‘lead signatory’ for a letter to Sonic Healthcare & Arthur J Gallagher, managing the correspondence on behalf of both Guinness Global Investors and a range of other investors, requesting that they disclose to the Carbon Disclosure Project. This follows on from us co-signing letters to Sonic Healthcare & Arthur J Gallagher in 2022 given that they did not submit to the CDP. We were very encouraged that, as of 2024, both Sonic Healthcare and Arthur J Gallager now disclose to the CDP, and we view this favourable outcome as a sign of our strong and ongoing commitment to effective engagement. Within the Fund, 33/35 holdings now submit to the CDP with respect to Climate Change. In 2024, we wrote to the two Fund holdings that do not currently submit (CME Group & Roche) and will continue to engage with them on this issue and push for them to disclose going forward.

Whilst CDP disclosure is a significant first step, we view setting strong, achievable climate targets as critical in aligning companies globally to the goals set within the Paris Agreement, to limit global temperature rise to below 1.5°C by 2050. We also believe it focusses companies on their exposure to broader business risk associated with emissions and the costs that can be incurred. Following from the success that the CDP campaign has had in encouraging our Fund holdings to disclose, we then felt it was important to encourage our holdings within the Fund to set science-based emissions reduction targets (SBTs) through the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi). The SBTi is a partnership between the CDP, UN Global Compact, WRI and WWF, and is a globally recognised standard in setting audited emission reduction targets. Its main purpose is to provide companies with resources and assistance to future-proof business growth by setting science-based emissions reduction targets that are aligned to the Paris Agreement.

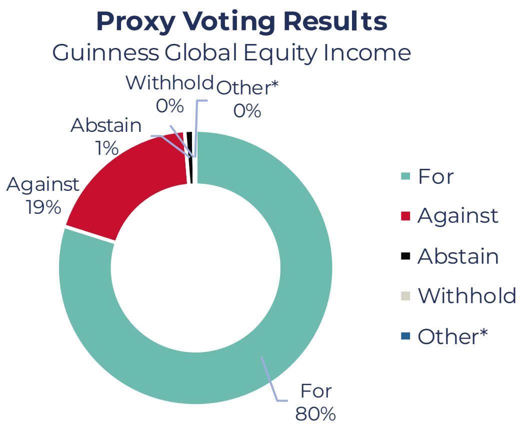
Within the Global Equity Income Fund, and as part of a campaign led by the SBTi, we were co-signatories to 8 companies in 2023 who had yet to submit Science Based Targets, audited by the SBTi. We followed up this co-signed letter with our own letter, not only encouraging SBTi-audited targets, but encouraging them to pledge continued commitment to the CDP going forward (given that they have previously participated in the CDP campaign). As a result of our engagement, as well as the engagement of other shareholders, we are very pleased that Otis now set SBTi targets, another positive outcome from our ongoing work on the matter. In 2024, there were 9 companies in the Fund that did not set Science Based Targets. We wrote to all 9 of these companies encouraging them to do so, and will continue to monitor the success of this campaign into 2025.

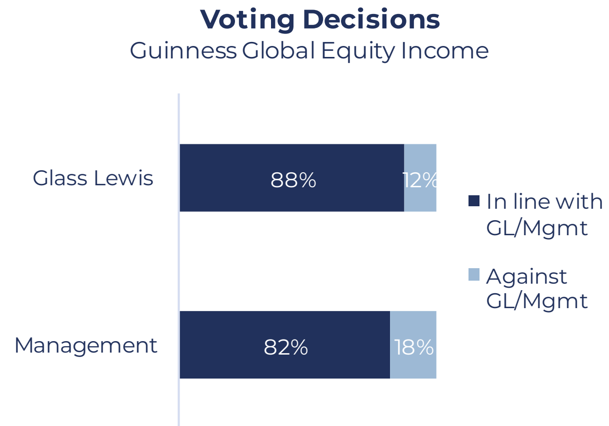
Finally, we continued on from our 2022 and 2023 executive remuneration engagement with our portfolio companies. After reviewing each of our holdings’ remuneration policies, we believe that there is strong evidence to suggest that management incentive packages do indeed influence decision making, company strategy and overall company performance. We have undertaken analysis of the remuneration structures of all 35 of the Fund’s holdings and, since 2022, have engaged with 33 of these 35 names regarding best practices. We have continued to maintain a dialogue and have placed additional focus on holdings which received meaningful shareholder proxy voting dissent (~10%+) regarding their latest remuneration plans. In 2024, we re-engaged with these 13 holdings (both investor relations and, in some cases, the management teams) to discuss what changes they are planning to make to the structure, in light of the latest investor feedback. We are encouraged to see that, in the majority of cases so far, these holdings are taking on board a range of investor feedback and are discussing changes to the executive compensation structure to align it more closely with the interest of shareholders going forward. We will continue to monitor and engage on these issues during 2025.

Proxy Voting

At Guinness Global Investors, we manage the voting rights of the shares entrusted to us. Our voting philosophy reflects our corporate values, our long-term perspective, and our focus on sustainable returns. Over 2024, we voted on proxies for 31 out of our 35 companies. Whilst we intend to exercise all voting rights where we retain voting authority, there may be exceptions in some circumstances; administrative arrangements may prevent votes being cast or it may not be in the best interests of clients to vote (due to restrictions on liquidity or ‘share blocking’). This was the case for our Swiss holdings (Nestle & ABB) and our Swedish holdings (Assa Abloy & Atlas Copco).

The charts below left shows that we voted in favour of 80% of all resolutions in 2024, ‘Against’ on 19% of them and Abstained on 1%. The chart below right shows that we voted ‘Against’ management 18% of the time, ‘Against’ the recommendations of Glass Lewis (our proxy voting provider) 12% of the time, and then in line with their recommendations the rest of the time.





Source: Guinness Global investors 01.01.24 to 31.12.24

OUTLOOK

The four key tenets to our approach are: quality, value, dividend, and conviction:

		Fund	MSCI World Index
Quality	Median return on capital	23.7%	8.6%
	Median net debt / equity	44.1%	39.1%
Value	P/E (2025e)	19.2	19.2
	FCF Yield (LTM)	4.2%	3.5%
Dividend	Dividend Yield (LTM)	2.1% (net)	1.7% (gross)
	Weighted average payout ratio	61%	46%
Conviction	Number of stocks	35	1650
	Active share	90%	-

Portfolio metrics versus index. As of 31st December 2024 Source: Guinness Global Investors, Bloomberg

At present, the Fund is currently trading in line with the broader market from a price/earnings perspective (19.2x 2025 expected earnings). However, the Fund does trade at a valuation discount when looking at FCF yield with the fund on a FCF yield of 4.2%, which is ahead of the MSCI World Index figure of 3.5%. We are encouraged to see that, despite the in-line valuation, the Fund still shows superior characteristics from both a Quality and a Dividend perspective. The Fund continues to invest in high quality companies and this is exhibited by a median return on capital of 23.7%, far ahead of the 8.6% for the index and these companies have strong balance sheets albeit with marginally higher leverage than the index (44.1% vs 39.1%). As discussed above, the Fund also offers a superior dividend yield to the index, which is encouraging.

As we look ahead to 2025, we are confident that the companies we own in the Fund will continue to navigate the changing macroeconomic environment, as has been the case in previous years as well. In last year's annual outlook we noted that *"it is reasonable to expect a number of rate cuts over 2024. However, there is of course the risk that the market is overly optimistic with regards to both timing and magnitude."* Whilst this has seemingly played out over the latter half of 2024, there still remains many risks on the horizon, from stubborn inflation reads, rising cost of government debt, a consumer that is showing signs of weakness, elevated geopolitical tensions, a return of volatility to financial markets and a whole host of uncertainties from a new US administration. Clearly these issues will play out in unexpected ways that few can foresee therefore we do not try to predict what will happen from a macro perspective, instead we try to create a portfolio that can weather different economic environments and provide the return outcomes we seek to provide on a consistent basis.

As such, we believe that focusing on the high-quality businesses that have shown the ability to perform over numerous economic cycles provides the Fund with a good balance and helps to mitigate against some of these downside risks. We also note that the defensive nature of the portfolio – which has outperformed in all market corrections since launch in 2010 – gives us confidence heading into 2025. Additionally, we believe the holdings we have selected in the Fund remain robust and our perpetual approach of focusing on quality compounders and dividend-growers should continue to stand us in good stead in our search for rising income streams and long-term capital growth.

As ever, we would like to thank you for your continued support, and we wish you all a prosperous 2025.

Portfolio Managers

Matthew Page
Ian Mortimer

Investment Analysts

Sagar Thanki
Joseph Stephens
William van der Weyden
Jack Drew
Loshini Subendran
Eric Santa Menargues

GUINNESS GLOBAL EQUITY INCOME FUND - FUND FACTS

Fund size	$6651.0m
Fund launch	31.12.2010
OCF	0.77%
Benchmark	MSCI World TR
Historic yield	2.1% (Y GBP Dist)

Historic yield reflects the distributions declared over the past 12 months expressed as a percentage of the mid-market price, as at the latest month end. It does not include any preliminary charges. Investors may be subject to tax on the distribution.

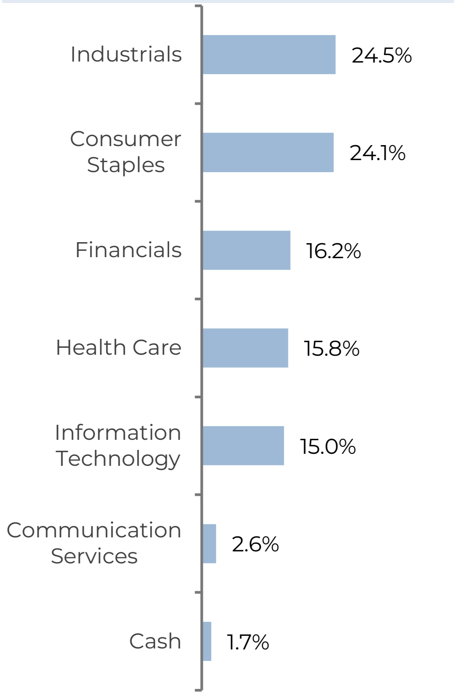
GUINNESS GLOBAL EQUITY INCOME FUND - PORTFOLIO

Top 10 holdings

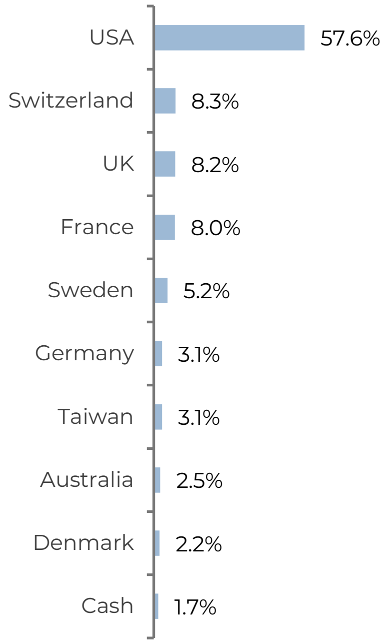
BlackRock	3.6%
Cisco Systems	3.5%
Broadcom	3.4%
Aflac	3.2%
CME Group	3.2%
Gallagher, Arthur J	3.2%
Emerson Electric Co	3.2%
Deutsche Boerse	3.1%
Taiwan Semiconductor	3.1%
Paychex Inc	3.1%

Top 10 holdings	32.4%
Number of holdings	35

Sector



Country



Past performance does not predict future returns.

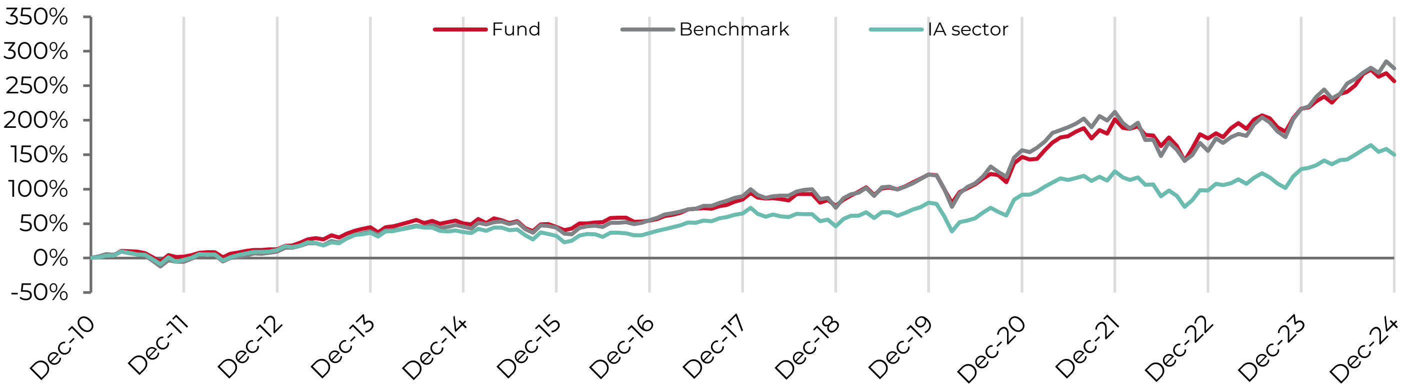
GUINNESS GLOBAL EQUITY INCOME FUND - CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE

(GBP)	1 Month	YTD	1 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr
Fund	-1.8%	+14.6%	+14.6%	+27.9%	+70.4%	+195.6%
MSCI World TR	-1.2%	+20.8%	+20.8%	+30.1%	+79.6%	+221.4%
IA Global Equity Income TR	-1.7%	+11.0%	+11.0%	+19.8%	+46.9%	+126.5%
(USD)	**1 Month**	**YTD**	**1 yr**	**3 yr**	**5 yr**	**10 yr**
Fund	-3.2%	+12.6%	+12.6%	+18.2%	+61.1%	+137.5%
MSCI World TR	-2.6%	+18.7%	+18.7%	+20.3%	+69.8%	+158.1%
IA Global Equity Income TR	-3.1%	+9.1%	+9.1%	+10.8%	+38.8%	+81.9%
(EUR)	**1 Month**	**YTD**	**1 yr**	**3 yr**	**5 yr**	**10 yr**
Fund	-1.3%	+20.1%	+20.1%	+29.8%	+74.6%	+177.9%
MSCI World TR	-0.7%	+26.6%	+26.6%	+32.1%	+84.0%	+201.6%
IA Global Equity Income TR	-1.2%	+16.4%	+16.4%	+21.7%	+50.5%	+112.6%

GUINNESS GLOBAL EQUITY INCOME FUND - ANNUAL PERFORMANCE

(GBP)	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Fund	+14.6%	+9.2%	+2.1%	+23.3%	+8.1%	+21.2%	+0.7%	+9.6%	+26.9%	+2.2%
MSCI World TR	+20.8%	+16.8%	-7.8%	+22.9%	+12.3%	+22.7%	-3.0%	+11.8%	+28.2%	+4.9%
IA Global Equity Income TR	+11.0%	+9.2%	-1.2%	+18.7%	+3.3%	+18.6%	-5.8%	+10.4%	+23.2%	+1.5%
(USD)	**2024**	**2023**	**2022**	**2021**	**2020**	**2019**	**2018**	**2017**	**2016**	**2015**
Fund	+12.6%	+15.8%	-9.3%	+22.2%	+11.5%	+26.0%	-5.2%	+20.0%	+6.4%	-3.4%
MSCI World TR	+18.7%	+23.8%	-18.1%	+21.8%	+15.9%	+27.7%	-8.7%	+22.4%	+7.5%	-0.9%
IA Global Equity Income TR	+9.1%	+15.8%	-12.3%	+17.6%	+6.5%	+23.4%	-11.3%	+20.8%	+3.3%	-4.0%
(EUR)	**2024**	**2023**	**2022**	**2021**	**2020**	**2019**	**2018**	**2017**	**2016**	**2015**
Fund	+20.1%	+11.9%	-3.4%	+31.5%	+2.3%	+28.3%	-0.4%	+5.4%	+9.6%	+7.7%
MSCI World TR	+26.6%	+19.6%	-12.8%	+31.1%	+6.3%	+30.0%	-4.1%	+7.5%	+10.7%	+10.4%
IA Global Equity Income TR	+16.4%	+11.8%	-6.5%	+26.6%	-2.3%	+25.7%	-6.9%	+6.1%	+6.4%	+6.9%

GUINNESS GLOBAL EQUITY INCOME FUND - PERFORMANCE SINCE LAUNCH (USD)



Simulated past performance in 10 year and since launch numbers. Performance prior to the launch date of the Y class (11.03.15) is a composite simulation for Y class performance being based on the actual performance of the Fund's E class (1.24% Ongoing Charges Figure - OCF). Source: FE fundinfo 31.12.24. Investors should note that fees and expenses are charged to the capital of the Fund. This reduces the return on your investment by an amount equivalent to the OCF. The current OCF for the share class used for the fund performance returns is 0.77%. Returns for share classes with a different OCF will vary accordingly. Transaction costs also apply and are incurred when a fund buys or sells holdings. The performance returns do not reflect any initial charge; any such charge will also reduce the return.

WS GUINNESS GLOBAL EQUITY INCOME FUND - FUND FACTS

Fund size	£242.2m
Fund launch	09.11.2020
OCF	0.79%
Benchmark	MSCI World TR
Historic yield	2.2% (Y GBP Inc)

Historic yield reflects the distributions declared over the past 12 months expressed as a percentage of the mid-market price, as at the latest month end. It does not include any preliminary charges. Investors may be subject to tax on the distribution.

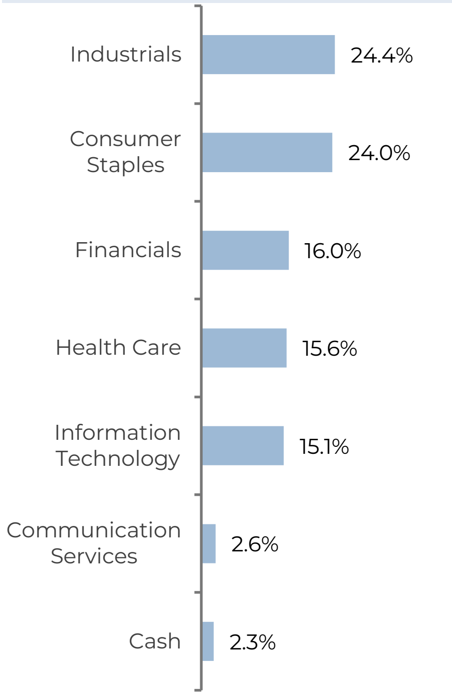
WS GUINNESS GLOBAL EQUITY INCOME FUND - PORTFOLIO

Top 10 holdings

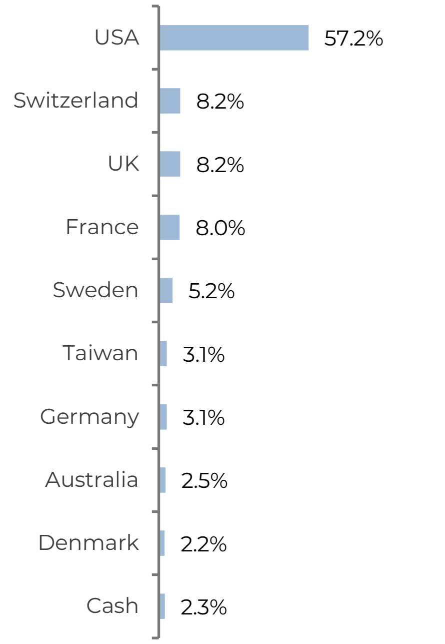
BlackRock	3.6%
Cisco Systems	3.5%
Broadcom	3.4%
CME Group	3.2%
Aflac	3.1%
Taiwan Semiconductor	3.1%
Gallagher, Arthur J	3.1%
Emerson Electric Co	3.1%
Deutsche Boerse	3.1%
Paychex Inc	3.0%

Top 10 holdings	32.1%
Number of holdings	35

Sector



Country



Past performance does not predict future returns.

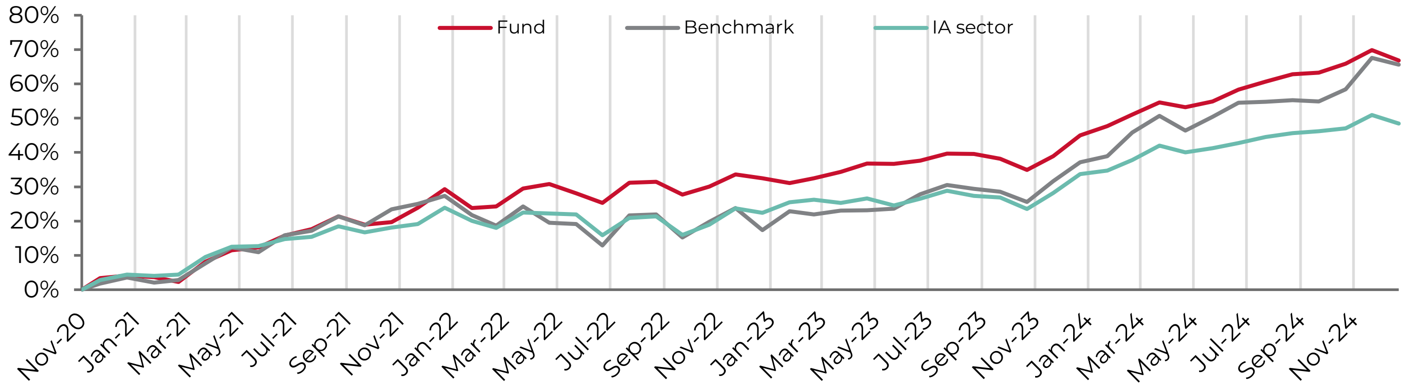
WS GUINNESS GLOBAL EQUITY INCOME FUND - CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE

(GBP)	1 Month	YTD	1 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr
Fund	-1.8%	+15.1%	+15.1%	+29.0%	-	-
MSCI World TR	-1.2%	+20.8%	+20.8%	+30.1%	-	-
IA Global Equity Income TR	-1.7%	+11.0%	+11.0%	+19.8%	-	-

WS GUINNESS GLOBAL EQUITY INCOME FUND - ANNUAL PERFORMANCE

(GBP)	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Fund	+15.1%	+9.5%	+2.4%	+24.3%	-	-	-	-	-	-
MSCI World TR	+20.8%	+16.8%	-7.8%	+22.9%	-	-	-	-	-	-
IA Global Equity Income TR	+11.0%	+9.2%	-1.2%	+18.7%	-	-	-	-	-	-

WS GUINNESS GLOBAL EQUITY INCOME FUND - PERFORMANCE SINCE LAUNCH (GBP)



Source: FE fundinfo to 31.12.24. Investors should note that fees and expenses are charged to the capital of the Fund. This reduces the return on your investment by an amount equivalent to the Ongoing Charges Figure (OCF). The current OCF for the share class used for the fund performance returns is 0.79%. Returns for share classes with a different OCF will vary accordingly. Transaction costs also apply and are incurred when a fund buys or sells holdings. The performance returns do not reflect any initial charge; any such charge will also reduce the return.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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

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

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

GUINNESS GLOBAL EQUITY INCOME FUND

Documentation

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

- the Manager: Waystone Management Company (IE) Limited (Waystone IE) 2nd Floor 35 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin D04 A4E0, Ireland or
- the Promoter and Investment Manager: Guinness Asset Management Ltd, 18 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ.

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

Investor Rights

A summary of investor rights in English is available here: https://www.waystone.com/waystone-policies/

Residency

In countries where the Fund is not registered for sale or in any other circumstances where its distribution is not authorised or is unlawful, the Fund should not be distributed to resident Retail Clients. **NOTE: THIS INVESTMENT IS NOT FOR SALE TO U.S. PERSONS.**

Structure & regulation

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

Switzerland

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

Singapore

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

WS GUINNESS GLOBAL EQUITY INCOME FUND

Documentation

The documentation needed to make an investment, including the Prospectus, the Key Investor Information Document (KIID) and the Application Form, is available in English from www.fundsolutions.net/uk/guinness-global-investors/ or free of charge from:-

Waystone Management (UK) Limited
PO Box 389
Darlington
DL1 9UF
General Enquiries: 0345 922 0044
E-Mail: wtas-investorservices@waystone.com
Dealing: ordergroup@waystone.com

Waystone Management (UK) Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Residency

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

Structure & regulation

The Fund is a sub-fund of WS Guinness Investment Funds, an investment company with variable capital incorporated with limited liability and registered by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Telephone calls will be recorded and monitored.