

# WEALTHFOCUS BARROW HANLEY GLOBAL SHARE

March 2024

## FUND FACTS

**Investment objective:** Aims to provide investors with long-term capital growth through investment in quality global shares.

## FUND BENEFITS

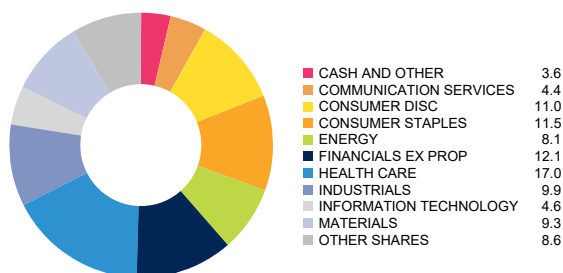
Provides investors with the potential for capital growth through a portfolio of global companies using Barrow Hanley's experienced investment team and disciplined investment process.

## FUND RISKS

All investments carry risk and different strategies may carry different levels of risk. The relevant product disclosure statement or offer document for a fund should be considered before deciding whether to acquire or hold units in that fund. Your financial adviser can assist you in determining whether a fund is suited to your financial needs.

- Benchmark:** MSCI World Net Total Return Index (\$A)
- Investment Manager:** Barrow, Hanley, Mewhinney & Strauss, LLC
- Inception Date:** May 1995
- Size of Portfolio:** \$70.82 million as at 31 Dec 2023
- APIR:** PER0038AU
- Management Fee:** 1.24%\*
- Investment style:** Active, fundamental, bottom-up, value
- Suggested minimum investment period:** Seven years or longer

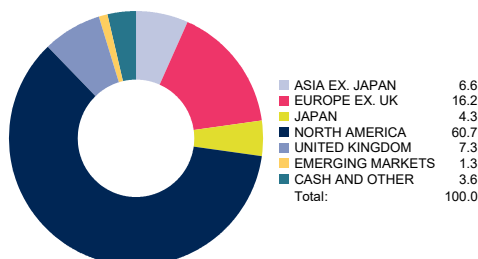
## PORTFOLIO SECTORS



## TOP 5 STOCK HOLDINGS

	% of Portfolio
Comcast Corporation Class A	3.3%
Merck & Co., Inc.	3.0%
Enbridge Inc.	3.0%
Aramark	2.7%
Qualcomm Incorporated	2.7%

## PORTFOLIO REGIONS

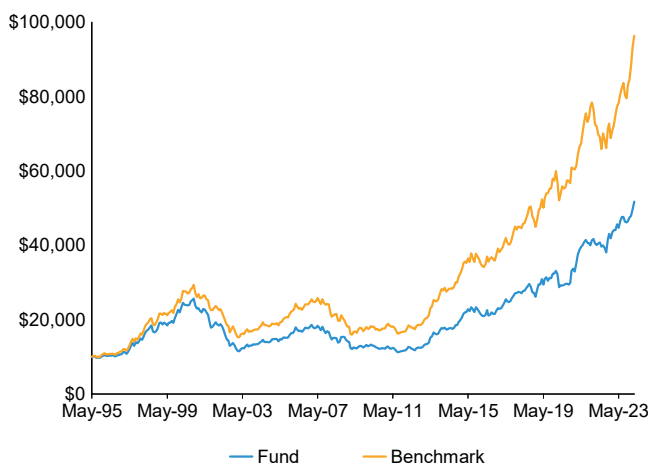


## NET PERFORMANCE - periods ending 31 March 2024

	Fund	Benchmark #	Excess
1 month	4.05	3.02	+1.03
3 months	9.17	13.88	-4.71
FYTD	11.25	19.49	-8.24
1 year	17.51	28.44	-10.93
2 year p.a.	13.64	15.71	-2.07
3 year p.a.	11.27	14.36	-3.09
4 year p.a.	15.87	16.64	-0.77
5 year p.a.	11.91	14.00	-2.09
7 year p.a.	11.76	13.61	-1.84
10 year p.a.	11.61	13.35	-1.74

Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Returns may differ due to different tax treatments.

## GROWTH OF \$10,000 SINCE INCEPTION



\*Information on Management Costs (including estimated indirect costs) and a full description of the Fund's performance fee is set out in the Fund's PDS.

## MARKET COMMENTARY

The first quarter of 2024 took off from the starting line quick, adding another consecutive quarter of strong equity returns for global indexes with the MSCI World Index up more than 8%. A combination of continued hope for central bank rate cuts and declining fears over a recession fueled the global equity rally. Markets made new all-time highs not just in the U.S., but across Europe and Japan as well. While the top-level index returns were strong, under the hood, much of those gains were driven by a narrow handful of high momentum and mega-tech companies. Although some modest broadening occurred, the concentrated nature of the markets continued to reach greater extremes as the weight of the highest momentum stocks in the MSCI World Index reached new highs. Buoyed in part by the euphoria for artificial intelligence (AI), this small cohort continued to drive the overall U.S. and global indices even as most stocks have not kept pace with the torrid move higher to start the year.

## PORTFOLIO COMMENTARY

The market built on last quarter's strong rally as it continued pushing higher during the first quarter of the year. The Magnificent 7 returned as a significant market driver, only eclipsed by high momentum stocks that skewed towards sectors positively exposed to traditional growth stocks. This led the MSCI World Growth Index to outperform the MSCI World Value Index. However, this paradigm began to shift on February 9th after Fed Chairman Jay Powell announced that rates may not fall as quickly as the market expected, leading to fewer predicted rate cuts. Within this environment, the portfolio underperformed the benchmark, the MSCI World Index. Allocation had a larger impact than stock selection as growth-oriented sectors drove returns. From a sector perspective, stock selection within the Industrials and Utilities sectors positively impacted relative returns. An overallocation to the Energy sector also boosted performance as oil prices rose towards the end of the quarter. Stock selection within the Communication Services, Energy and Consumer Discretionary sectors detracted from relative performance. An under allocation to the Information Technology sector also detracted from performance. On the following page is a discussion on key drivers of performance for the first quarter.

Rheinmetall AG positively contributed to relative performance during the quarter after the German automotive supplier and defense contractor saw strong news flow on contract awards throughout the quarter. Rheinmetall released solid quarterly results as profit and free cash flow were ahead of expectations and 2024 guidance ahead of consensus expectations. Management provided additional comments on order outlook and cash conversion that is even stronger than previously communicated with high visibility. The company has a strong balance sheet supported by the desire in Europe to build up domestic defense production through increased expenditure as NATO countries push spending toward 2% of GDP.

BAE Systems plc positively contributed to relative performance during the quarter as the UK defense contractor posted quality quarterly results. Revenue continues to grow and was higher than consensus expectations on strength across all segments. A strong order intake mixed with positive comments on the overall demand environment continue to push the stock higher, along with the broader European defense industry. The company trades at 18x forward earnings with a dividend yield of 2.1%.

Humana Inc. detracted from relative performance and was weak for the second quarter in a row. Humana came under pressure last quarter because a perfect suitor, Cigna, had just walked away from a bid. This quarter it emerged that Humana is suffering from unprecedented level of excess utilisation in their Medicare Advantage (MA) book. Humana is a rational actor and has already indicated that pricing actions are coming for 2025.

Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. detracted from relative performance in the quarter after missing earnings estimates and slowing down guidance as the demand growth rate for renewables starts to slow. There were some idiosyncratic end market issues that other specialty chemical companies faced, but the company still grew earnings during the quarter. Overall, the company remains a best-in-class operator, and the stock price began recovering at the end of the quarter on hopes of increased visibility on long-term contracts for underway projects. Overall, the company still has a large backlog of projects that should fuel future growth and is trading near a trough valuation multiple of 18x forward earnings while paying a dividend yield of 3%.

## OUTLOOK

As the year began, investor expectations were for roughly six rate cuts from the Fed. That now stands at just three for 2024 after Fed Chair Powell's remarks tempered expectations. The more things change, the more they stay the same—in this instance—after failing to call the ceiling for rates, now investors have overestimated the potential for rate cuts in short order. The path of interest rates remains incredibly challenging to forecast given the shifting dynamics at play. The majority of the last decade and a half since the '08-'09 Global Financial Crisis (GFC) has been dominated by the central banks and their ultra-low interest rate policies. Chairman Powell kicked off the normalisation with the fastest rate hiking cycle in history in 2022, however, as quickly as "higher for longer" entered the lexicon of investors, it was replaced by "soft landing" and debates over rate cuts. The newest wrinkle is that this most recent bit of uncertainty is being driven by the fiscal side of the ledger.

---

Management of this Fund: 09/09/2020 Barrow, Hanley, Mewhinney & Strauss, LLC, from 31/01/2015 to 08/09/2020 Perpetual Investment Management Limited, from 15/8/2011 to 30/01/2015 Wellington Management as sub-adviser, from 18/3/2005 to 14/8/2011 PI Investment Management Limited, from 21/4/1997 to 17/3/2005 Fidelity International Limited as sub-adviser.

# The benchmark for the Fund prior to 31/1/2015 was the MSCI World ex Australia Accumulation Index. Returns shown reflect the Fund's benchmark during the period. This publication has been prepared by Perpetual Investment Management Limited (PIML) ABN 18 000 866 535, AFSL No 234426. It is general information only and is not intended to provide you with financial advice or take into account your objectives, financial situation or needs. You should consider, with a financial adviser, whether the information is suitable for your circumstances. To the extent permitted by law, no liability is accepted for any loss or damage as a result of any reliance on this information.

The PDS for the relevant fund, issued by PIML, should be considered before deciding whether to acquire or hold units in that fund. The PDS and Target Market Determination can be obtained by calling 1800 022 033 or visiting our website [www.perpetual.com.au](http://www.perpetual.com.au). No company in the Perpetual Group (Perpetual Limited ABN 86 000 431 827 and its subsidiaries) guarantees the performance of any fund or the return of any investor's capital. Total return shown for the fund(s) have been calculated using exit prices after taking into account all of Perpetual's ongoing fees and assuming reinvestment of distributions. No allowance has been made for contribution or withdrawal fees or taxation (except in the case of superannuation funds, as applicable). Past performance is not indicative of future performance.

---

## MORE INFORMATION

Adviser Services 1800 062 725

Investor Services 1800 022 033

Email [investments@perpetual.com.au](mailto:investments@perpetual.com.au)

[www.perpetual.com.au](http://www.perpetual.com.au)

