



Perpetual Geared Australian Fund

December 2011

Fund facts

Investment objective: Aims to enhance long-term capital growth through borrowing (gearing) to invest in quality shares.

Benchmark: S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index^
Mgmt cost: 1.95% pa (GAV)
Buy / Sell spread: 0.75% / 0.00%
Investment style: Active, fundamental, bottom-up, value
Suggested minimum investment period: Seven years or longer

Fund benefits

Offers investors broad market exposure with the potential for higher returns through the use of gearing (borrowing within the fund) and actively managed by one of Australia's most experienced investment management teams.

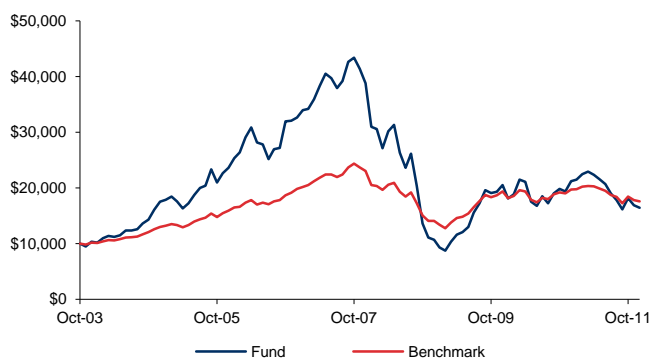
A geared fund has benefits over gearing into a fund because there are no margin calls, no credit checks, no need for collateral or assets as security.

Total returns % (after fees) as at 31 December 2011

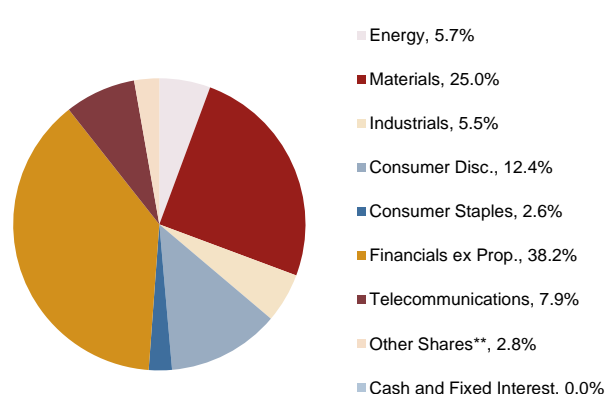
	APIR	1 mth	3 mths	6 mths	1 yr	3 yrs pa	5 yrs pa	7 yrs pa	10 yrs pa
Perp. WealthFocus Investments	PER0244AU	-2.8	1.7	-20.6	-22.6	15.3	-12.8	-0.9	-
Perp. WealthFocus Investment Advantage	PER0492AU	-2.7	1.8	-20.5	-22.6	15.7	-	-	-
Perp. WealthFocus Super	PER0223AU	-2.7	1.2	-18.0	-18.9	15.6	-8.9	2.1	-
Perp. WealthFocus Pensions	PER0147AU	-2.7	1.6	-18.4	-19.3	18.0	-8.8	2.5	-
Perp. WealthFocus Term Allocated Pension	PER0341AU	-2.7	1.6	-18.4	-19.3	18.0	-8.8	2.5	-
S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index^		-1.4	2.1	-9.8	-11.0	7.7	-2.4	4.4	-

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

Growth of \$10,000 since inception (WFI Fund)



Portfolio sectors¹



Top 10 stock holdings¹

Commonwealth Bank of Australia
BHP Billiton
Westpac Banking Corporation
Telstra Corporation Limited
ANZ Banking Group Limited
Rio Tinto
Orica Limited
ASX Limited
New Hope Corporation Limited
News Corporation

Portfolio fundamentals¹

	Portfolio	Benchmark
Price / Earnings	11.1	10.8
Dividend yield	5.3%	5.6%
Price / Book	1.7	1.5
Debt / Equity	27.0%	32.6%
Interest cover	14.6	12.9
Return on Equity	15.9%	14.9%

¹Source: Factset

Market commentary

The Australian market, as measured by the S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index fell by 1.4% over the month. Global macroeconomic themes continued to drive equity markets, with investor concerns regarding the ongoing European sovereign debt crisis partially offset by a series of resilient economic data releases from the US. In a move designed to ease liquidity pressures for sovereigns and the European banking system, the European Central Bank undertook an unprecedented Longer-Term Refinancing Operation (LTRO) in which European banks could borrow funds at an attractive rate for a three year period. The operation attracted strong demand, with a total of €490 billion borrowed from the central bank.

The best performing sectors over the month were the defensives: telecommunications (+5.1%), utilities (+3.8%) and health care (+1.7%). The worst performing sectors were energy (-5.1%), materials (-4.1%) and consumer discretionary (-3.9%). As a group, industrial stocks (-0.1%) outperformed resource stocks (-4.7%) and large companies (-1.2%) outperformed smaller companies (-4.3%).

Portfolio commentary

The Fund's largest overweight positions before gearing include Australia's largest retail bank Commonwealth Bank, chemicals and explosives manufacturer Orica and coal miner New Hope Corporation. Commonwealth Bank generates a healthy margin on earnings and has grown these consistently over many years. Orica has a strong balance sheet, great pricing discipline and reduced input costs. The Fund's largest underweight positions before gearing include National Australia Bank, Wesfarmers (not held) and Newcrest Mining (not held).

Our overweight position to Australia's largest retail bank Commonwealth Bank (+3.8%) contributed to relative performance. The company's share price rose over the month, leading the banking sector, which also outperformed the broader market despite Standard & Poors downgrading all major banks by one notch. The downgrade is not anticipated to have any material impact on the bank's funding costs. We continue to like Commonwealth Bank as it generates a healthy margin on earnings and has grown these consistently over many years.

Our overweight position to Alumina (-17.7%) detracted from relative performance. The company's share price was impacted by falling aluminium prices during the month. Alumina owns 40% of AWAC, a joint venture between Alumina Limited and Alcoa Inc. AWAC is the world's largest bauxite miner with seven mines, and has eight refineries with 17.2 million tonnes per annum of capacity. The company recently held an investor update, where it highlighted the clear trend of alumina being priced based on its own underlying economics rather than being linked to aluminium prices. This has resulted in an increase in realised alumina prices and ought to assist earnings growth moving forward.

Outlook

The Australian sharemarket continues to be impacted by the ongoing sovereign debt issues in Europe and global economic uncertainty. Our investment process, favouring quality companies with strong balance sheets ensures that we are well placed to withstand any future shocks. We continue to research and invest in companies with sound management, conservative debt and recurring earnings which we believe are well placed to add value over the medium to long-term. On a separate note, the recent interest rate cuts by the RBA indicate that on a relative basis, many companies offering fully franked dividends represent good value. These are likely to gather investor attention as term deposit rates appear less attractive.

What are...?

Geared funds have an internal gearing mechanism, which means that instead of borrowing externally to invest, money is borrowed within the workings of the fund, to reinvest into the Fund, to enhance the returns. When markets are up, this magnifies returns. When markets are down, losses are magnified.

Why Perpetual

Perpetual is one of Australia's most experienced investment services groups, with an enduring passion for protecting and growing our clients' wealth.

Founded in Sydney in 1886 as Perpetual Trustees, we've helped generations of Australians invest and manage their wealth through all market conditions.

Perpetual process

Perpetual's investment philosophy is a fundamental, conservative bottom-up approach to stock picking and active management, focusing on identifying quality companies that represent good value.

The process is based on comprehensive internal company research using four filters - sound management, conservative debt, quality of business and recurring earnings. Portfolios are constructed by experienced portfolio managers within a pre-determined risk framework.

Did you know?

One of the Fund's largest overweight, Orica grew from a supplier of explosives to the Victorian gold fields during the 19th century to a global top 30 ASX listed company. Orica consists of Orica Mining Services, offering commercial explosives, initiating systems and blast-based services; Orica Chemicals, a manufacturer, trader and distributor of chemicals and services; and, Minova, a manufacturer and supplier of chemical-based consumables, steel bolts, application and drilling equipment and services.

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** Other Shares may include Healthcare, Property Trusts, Information Technology, Utilities and GICS unspecified/international stocks.

^ Benchmark prior to 1/4/2000 was the ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index. From 1/4/2000 to current the benchmark is S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index.

¹ Fund information in this document is relevant to the Wholesale option unless stated.



Further information

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