

Perpetual Investment Funds

BARROW HANLEY GLOBAL SHARE FUND - CLASS A (HEDGED)

February 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 hedged to the AUD

Investment Manager: Barrow, Hanley, Mewhinney & Strauss, LLC

Inception Date: November 2023

APIR: PER3874AU

Management Fee: 1.02%*

Investment style: Active, fundamental, bottom-up, value

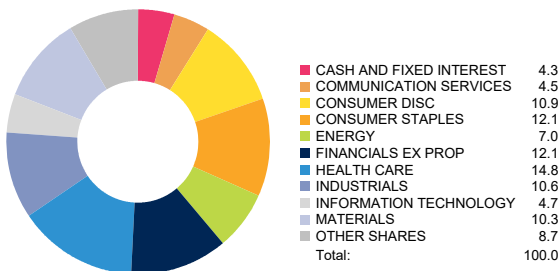
Suggested minimum investment period: Seven years or longer

NET PERFORMANCE - periods ending 29 February 2024

	Fund	Benchmark	Excess
1 month	2.72	4.61	-1.89
3 months	5.24	10.72	-5.48
FYTD	-	-	-
1 year	-	-	-
2 year p.a.	-	-	-
3 year p.a.	-	-	-
4 year p.a.	-	-	-
5 year p.a.	-	-	-
7 year p.a.	-	-	-
10 year p.a.	-	-	-
Since incep.	7.78	14.17	-6.39

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

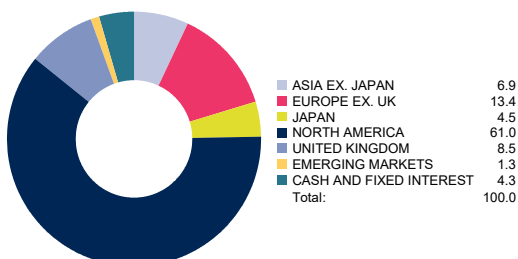
PORTFOLIO SECTORS



TOP 5 STOCK HOLDINGS

Stock Holding	% of Portfolio
Comcast Corporation Class A	3.4%
Merck & Co., Inc.	3.0%
Qualcomm Incorporated	2.7%
Aramark	2.7%
CRH public limited company	2.6%

PORTFOLIO REGIONS



MARKET COMMENTARY

The second month of 2024 marked a continuation of many themes observed over the past year. Global markets pushed higher, with the MSCI World index up 5.8. This built on the sharp reversal from December that continued through January. This continuation of strong performance in the month can be seen in the momentum factor: the stocks with the highest 12-month momentum (top quintile) are up nearly 20% year-to-date with no other quintile ahead of the MSCI World Index. Further, returns were not evenly distributed across the globe. Unlike last quarter, growth stocks generally led value stocks across markets, and sector performance remained mixed (albeit all sectors were positive during the month except Utilities). The top performing sectors in the MSCI World Index were the Consumer Discretionary, Information Technology, Industrials, and Communication Services sectors. The worst performing sectors – Utilities, Consumer Staples, Energy, and Real Estate – are more interest rate-sensitive sectors and were hurt by the continued market focus on the notion that interest rates may fall slower than previously expected.

PORTFOLIO COMMENTARY

During a month in which growth stocks led the market higher, the strategy underperformed the MSCI World Index. From a sector perspective, the underperformance was spread between stock selection and allocation impacts. Positive stock selection within the Industrials, Materials, and Consumer Staples sectors positively contributed to relative performance. Challenging stock selection in the Communication Services, Consumer Discretionary, and Energy sectors detracted from relative performance. The relative negative impacts from allocation were mostly due to the growth/value dispersion mentioned earlier in this commentary as the portfolio was hurt by the underweight to the Information Technology sector while being overweight the Utilities, Materials, and Consumer Staples sectors. Regionally, the majority of the underperformance was driven by stock selection in the U.S., overpowering positive stock selection in the UK. Regional allocation impacts were modest during the month.

Rheinmetall AG positively contributed to relative performance in February after the German automotive supplier and defense contractor saw strong news flow on contract awards throughout the month. 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.

Vertiv Holdings Co. Class A positively contributed to relative performance during the month due to continued bullish sentiment surrounding Artificial Intelligence stocks. As a leading supplier of cooling equipment and technology to data centers, the company stands to benefit from increased spending on digital infrastructure for expansion and upgrades. Company management continues to execute its strategy to improve margins, reversing the cost headwinds from the prior year, and delivering on operational improvements and greater free cash flow conversion. Backed by sustainable growth in its end markets, Vertiv continues to trade at an attractive valuation and remains well positioned for future earnings growth.

Humana Inc. underperformed in February on continued higher utilization rates for its health insurance products, extending a trend from January. In addition, the higher utilization trends in 2023 do not appear transitory, leading Humana to slash its earnings guidance to half of the level previously predicted for 2024. Another negative for the Managed Care Organization (MCO) industry was the Change cyberattack, which impacted the routing of provider claims for a two-week period. While MCOs continue to struggle, Humana remains an attractive asset that may be oversold on pessimism.

Industrial gases company Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. underperformed in February after an earnings report that missed expectations, even though it continued to show year-over-year growth. The main reason for the miss was weakness in China and electronics, for which the company supplies helium. The company guidance for the next two quarters was well below consensus. The company is cheaper than it has been in years, trading at roughly 15x distributable free cash flow.

OUTLOOK

The continuation of the market rally in February pushed some markets toward highs. The strong returns over the past year may have outpaced the fundamentals of companies, as inflation remains above the 2% targets favored by central banks. Markets remain hopefully positioned that 2024 will be the year in which inflation is under control and monetary policy is more accommodative. However, the current market optimism is still pricing in more accommodative monetary policy for 2024 in the form of rate cuts in the U.S. and Europe. This is reflected in elevated multiples and earnings growth estimates are still above 10%. A negative return environment could recur if there is any disappointment from the current forecast of multiple rate cuts in 2024, which could lead to multiple compression among more expensive stocks, or if earnings growth does not materialize. As macro issues tend to swing markets up and down, it is important to remember that the best time to find value is when markets are fearful or exuberant about a small opportunity set and are ultimately overlooking good companies with solid operating fundamentals.

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