

Monthly commentary

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Equity markets retreated in August, as investors waited to dissect the ‘Jackson Hole Speech’ delivered by Jerome Powell (US Federal Reserve Chair) on the 25th of the month. This was an eagerly anticipated address, as various data points are starting to show that inflation (in the US) is converging, albeit slowly, with the 2% inflation target. The message he gave was clear, the 2% target would not be abandoned and therefore the Fed will remain vigilant and is prepared to push rates up further, should it be judged to be prudent to do so. However, reading between the lines, analysts concluded that the Fed’s approach would become increasingly measured, as committee members wait to see whether action already taken may be enough to achieve its aims.

US equities took heart from this interpretation and rallied into the month end, closing virtually unchanged over the period. Other markets were less buoyant with the UK, Europe and Asia declining –2.5%, –2.5% and –3.4% respectively. Emerging Markets fell nearly –5% with China declining over –7%. Sentiment towards the Chinese economy has deteriorated, despite early signs of government stimulus, with concern surrounding the property sector spreading more widely. This weakness has (serendipitously for developed markets) acted as a break on global inflation, perhaps allowing central bankers to be more patient. Aggressive policy support, as we have seen in previous cycles, may help China avoid further deterioration. This could mean that the much anticipated post-pandemic recovery, may actually arrive in 2024 rather than 2023. Witan’s NAV total return in August was –2.3% while the benchmark’s total return was –1.4%. The share price total return was –4.1%, as Witan’s (and the sector’s) discount widened. Over the year to date, Witan’s NAV total return of +8.3% is in line with the benchmark’s total return.

Last month’s investment activity is highlighted overleaf. Two of Witan’s managers purchased Amazon shares during the month. Amazon is now a 1.8% position for Witan (having been 1.4% at the end of July), making it the largest holding in our core equity portfolio. Elsewhere, managers added to Lloyds Banking Group at the expense of NatWest, although both UK banks remain on the list of our portfolio’s top 20 holdings. Other names in the list major holdings include the technology giants Microsoft, Alphabet and Nvidia (despite managers selling a small amount of Nvidia last month, following some stellar performance from the chipmaker over the year to date). The largest single trade during August was a part sale of **Princess Private Equity**. The sale price was nearly 30% higher than that at the end of 2022 and well above the level prevailing when we added to the holding just before the dividend debacle in November of last year. We retain a sizable position in Princess, as we expect the Board (which is in the process of being strengthened) to address the issues it faces as a result of recent missteps. A near 30% discount to NAV leaves plenty of upside for shareholders, should the Board adopt the right course of action. These funds were partially recycled into the **GMO Climate Change** strategy, which has had an uncharacteristically lacklustre year to date. We remain convinced of the long-term attractions of this specialist mandate and of the climate change theme in general.

Further information about the Company is available on Witan’s website, www.witan.com

31 August 2023



48 years of consecutive dividend growth

Share price 224.00p	NAV per Share† 249.21p	Premium (Discount) (10.1%)
Gross assets £1.7bn	Yield 2.59%	Gearing 15.7%

Source: BNP Paribas as at 31.08.23.

† NAV is cum income with debt at fair value.

Investment objective

Achieve an investment total return exceeding that of the Company’s benchmark over the long term, together with growth in the dividend ahead of inflation.

Our investment approach

A one-stop shop for global equity investment, offering growth in capital and income.

We search for the best managers around the world to create a portfolio diversified by region, investment sector and individual company level. Our multi-manager approach also reduces the potential risks arising from reliance on a single manager. Our highly experienced Board of directors and Executive have many years’ collective experience of both managing assets, selecting managers and of delivering sound, independent governance.

Investment team



ANDREW BELL
CEO



JAMES HART
Investment Director

Manager breakdown

Manager	Strategy	%
Core		
Lansdowne Partners	Global	18
Veritas	Global	18
Lindsell Train	Global	16
WCM	Global	11
Jennison	Global	7
Artemis	UK	4
Specialist		
Direct holdings	Specialist Funds	13
GMO	Climate Change	6
GQG Partners	Emerging	5
Unquoted funds	Specialist Funds	2

***Please remember, past performance is not a guide to future performance, and the value of shares and the income from them can rise and fall, so investors may not get back the amount originally invested.**

Portfolio overview

Top 20 holdings (%)

GMO Climate Change Fund	5.8
Apax Global Alpha	2.6
VH Global Sustainable Energy	2.4
Princess Private Equity	1.9
Amazon	1.8
Microsoft	1.6
Unilever	1.6
Diageo	1.6
BP	1.6
Alphabet	1.4
Mastercard	1.3
AIB	1.3
Canadian Pacific Kansas City	1.3
Natwest	1.3
RELX	1.2
London Stock Exchange	1.2
Nvidia	1.2
Nintendo	1.1
World Wrestling Entertainment	1.1
Lloyds Banking	1.1

Top 10 Holdings **22.3**

Top 20 Holdings **34.4**

Regional breakdown (%)

North America	40
Europe	20
UK	18
Asia	5
Japan	3
Other	2
Investment Companies	12

Sector breakdown (%)

Industrials	16
Financials	15
Information Technology	12
Consumer Staples	10
Health Care	10
Consumer Discretionary	8
Materials	6
Communication Services	6
Energy	3
Utilities	1
Investment Companies	12

Portfolio characteristics

Active share (%)	78
Number of holdings	249

Portfolio changes

Top Purchases	£'000
Amazon	4,106
Lloyds Banking	3,508
Equifax	2,287
Corteva	1,864
GMO Climate Change Fund	1,606
Palo Alto Networks	1,570

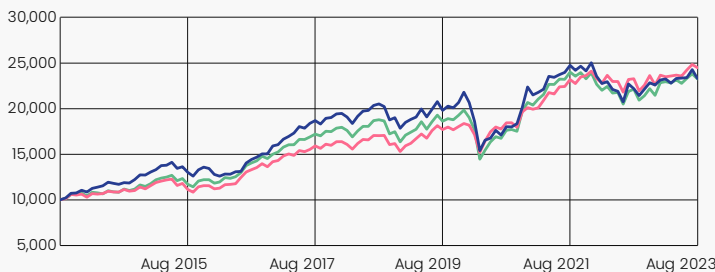
Top Sales

Princess Private Equity	5,368
NatWest	3,845
Pernod Ricard	3,355
CRH	2,929
Apple	2,455
Nvidia	2,007

Tables in this document may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
Source: BNP Paribas, data as at 31.08.23.

Performance and dividends*

Value of £10,000 invested over 10 years is £23,285[†]



Total performance (%)[†]

Growth to 31.08.2023	3m	6m	1yr	3yrs	5yrs	10yrs
■ Share Price	-0.2	0.2	5.0	29.3	13.5	132.9
■ Net Asset Value [‡]	2.1	1.3	5.1	31.9	23.8	132.5
■ Benchmark [#]	3.9	4.2	5.2	32.8	43.7	144.8
NAV-Benchmark Relative	-1.7	-2.9	-0.1	-0.8	-19.9	-12.3

Relative numbers may not add up due to rounding.

[†] Source: Morningstar / Witan, total return includes the notional reinvestment of dividends.

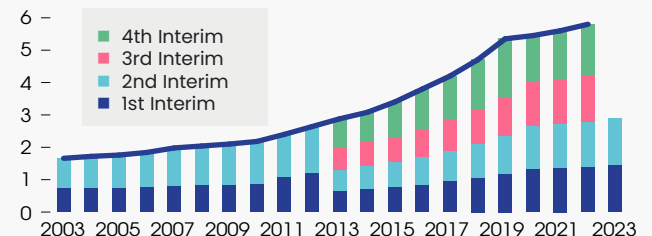
[‡] The Net Asset Value figures value debt at fair value.

[#] Witan's benchmark is a composite of 85% Global (MSCI All Country World Index) and 15% UK (MSCI UK IMI Index). From 01.01.2017 to 31.12.2019 the benchmark was 30% UK, 25% North America, 20% Asia Pacific, 20% Europe (ex UK), 5% Emerging Markets. From 01.10.2007 to 31.12.2016 the benchmark was 40% UK, 20% North America, 20% Europe (ex UK) and 20% Asia Pacific. The benchmark changes since 2007 reflect a shift from the UK in favour of a more international strategic asset allocation, together with an index simplification from 2020.

For more information go to www.witan.com/support/legal-information.

Dividend history (pence per share)

48 years of consecutive dividend growth



Changed to quarterly dividend payments in 2013.

Discrete performance (%)[†]

Q2 2018	Q2 2019	Q2 2020	Q2 2021	Q2 2022
Q2 2019	Q2 2020	Q2 2021	Q2 2022	Q2 2023
0.6	-11.6	34.7	-12.6	12.8
2.8	-8.9	37.4	-11.8	13.9
6.1	2.3	24.5	-2.6	11.2
-3.3	-11.1	12.9	-9.2	2.7

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Trust information

Epic Code	WTAN
AIC Sector	Global
Launch Date	1909
Financial Year End	31 December
Dividend Frequency	Quarterly
Last Ex Dividend Date	24 August 2023
AGM	4 May 2023
Shares in Issue (ex treasury)	641,854,414
Ongoing Charges [‡]	
Excluding performance fee	0.77%
Including performance fee	0.77%

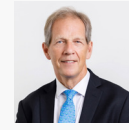
Source: BNP Paribas as at 31.08.23.

[‡]Ongoing charges as disclosed in the Annual Report for the year ended 31.12.22. Information about other costs is also included in the Company's Key Information Document (KID) and disclosed in the table on page 43 of the 2022 Annual Report, both of which may be found on the Company's website.

Board of Directors



ANDREW ROSS
Chairman



ANDREW BELL
CEO



RACHEL BEAGLES
Senior Independent Director



SHAUNA BEVAN
Non-Executive Director



GABRIELLE BOYLE
Non-Executive Director



JACK PERRY
Non-Executive Director



BEN ROGOFF
Non-Executive Director



PAUL YATES
Non-Executive Director



SHEFALY YOGENDRA
Non-Executive Director

How to invest

Witan's shares can be traded through any UK stockbroker and most share dealing services, including online platforms that offer investment trusts.

Online platforms

A growing number of platforms offer investment trusts directly to investors including AJ Bell Youinvest, Barclays Smart Investor, Fidelity, Hargreaves Lansdown, Halifax Share Dealing Limited and Interactive Investor.

Advisers

Advisers who wish to purchase Witan shares for their clients can do so via a stockbroker or via a growing number of dedicated platforms. These include AJ Bell Investcentre, FundsNetwork, Nucleus, Novio, Transact and Standard Life Wrap.

For more information on the online platforms and how you can invest, click [here](#).

Please read the most recent Witan Key Information Document (KID) before placing an investment in Witan Investment Trust, which is available on the website www.witan.com.

Important information

This marketing communication is provided for informational purposes only and should not be construed as constituting an offer or a solicitation to buy or sell interests or investments in Witan Investment Trust plc. Any reference to individual securities does not constitute a recommendation to purchase, sell or hold the investment.

Please remember that past performance is not a guide to future performance. Witan Investment Trust is an equity investment. The value of an investment and the income from it can fall as well as rise as a result of currency and market fluctuations and you may not get back the amount originally invested. Investment trusts can borrow money to make additional investments on top of shareholders' funds (gearing). If the value of these investments falls gearing will magnify the negative impact on performance. If an investment trust incorporates a large amount of gearing the value of its shares may be subject to sudden and large falls in value and you could get back nothing at all. The share price may trade above and below the NAV per share representing either a premium or discount to the share price respectively.

www.witan.com

This marketing communication is issued and approved by Witan Investment Services Limited FRN: 446227 on 11th September 2023. Witan Investment Services Limited is registered in England no. 5272533 of 14 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9AA. Witan Investment Services Limited provides investment services and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Calls may be recorded for our mutual protection and to improve customer service.