

## Monthly commentary

“ **Witan’s NAV total return was +1.9% over the month while the benchmark total return was +1.6%. The share price total return was +1.8%.\***

Equities continued their recovery from the late 2018 setback with the FTSE All-World index gaining 1.5% in February. This measure of global equity performance is now up 6.0% over the first two months of 2019 and 10.2% since the low-point in December. This is clearly a significant improvement in fortunes for equity investors and follows an improvement in sentiment largely as a result of a fall in inflation (and interest rate) expectations and an apparent thawing in US/China trade negotiations. In a reversal in short-term fortunes, developed markets outperformed emerging markets with the UK leading the way with a gain of 2.3%. It appears that UK politicians, who are still unable to agree on what they do want from Brussels are at least united in the agreeing that they do not want a ‘hard Brexit’ and this has allowed Sterling and domestic equities some respite from previous selling pressure. In the US, the S&P500 was up 2.1% higher, led by technology stocks while European markets appreciated by 1.9%. China has been the outstanding performer so far this year with the local ‘A’ Share index gaining 13% in February and c. 16% in two months.

Witan’s NAV total return was +1.9% over the month while the benchmark total return was +1.6%. The share price total return was +1.8%. Over the first two months of 2019, Witan’s NAV total return was +6.5% while the benchmark total return was +5.7%. The share price total return was +5.4%. The discount has widened from 1.3% to 2.2% over the course of 2019 and the Company has repurchased 0.6m shares at an average discount of just over 2% so far in 2019.

As the political and diplomatic manoeuvring referred to above has showed signs of approaching some sort of conclusion, investors have become more optimistic even though this optimism appears to be well below the level at the start of 2018. Clearly, growth has slowed a little and US tax-cuts are becoming a distant memory but inflation expectations have also receded. Against a backdrop of low interest rates, equity markets appear reasonably priced and, 10 years on from the market trough in 2009, appear well placed to continue to serve the interests of patient and selective investors.

Witan’s results for 2018 were released on 12<sup>th</sup> March. A link to the results announcement may be found [here](#). Aside from detailing performance for the year, the Company is proposing a share split, whereby shareholders will receive 5 new shares in place of each share currently held. Subject to shareholder approval at the AGM, this is a measure designed to improve liquidity for regular savers and those reinvesting their dividends. A video interview with Witan’s CEO, Andrew Bell, discussing the results may be viewed [here](#).

Further information about the Company is available on Witan’s website, [www.witan.com](http://www.witan.com)

28 February 2019

**\*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. Net Asset Value (“NAV”) performance is not the same as share price performance and investors may not realise returns the same as NAV performance.**

## Trust statistics

Gross assets	Share price	NAV per ordinary Share <sup>†</sup>	Premium (Discount)	Yield
£2.0bn	1016.00p	1039.28p	(2.2%)	2.31%

Source: BNP Paribas as at 28.02.19.

† NAV is cum income with debt at fair value.

## Investment objective

Long-term growth in income and capital through active investment in global equities, using a multi-manager approach.

## Trust information

Epic Code	WTAN
Sector	Global Growth
Trust Type	Conventional
Launch Date	1909
Financial Year End	31 December
Dividend Frequency	Quarterly
Last Ex Dividend Date	28 February 2019
AGM	May
Shares in Issue (excluding treasury)	177,598,040
Gearing	12%
Ongoing Charges <sup>‡</sup>	
Excluding performance fee	0.75%
Including performance fee	0.83%

Source: BNP Paribas as at 28.02.19. <sup>‡</sup>Ongoing charges as disclosed in the Annual Report for the year ended 31.12.18.

## Dividend history (pence per share)

44 years of consecutive dividend growth



Changed to quarterly dividend payments in 2013.



© Morningstar. All rights reserved. Morningstar is not responsible for any trading decisions, damages or other losses related to the information or its use. For more information go to [www.witan.com/support/legal-information](http://www.witan.com/support/legal-information)

## Five-year performance (%)†



## Total performance (%)†

Growth to 28.02.2019	3m	6m	1yr	3yrs	5yrs	10yrs
■ Share Price	-1.0	-8.3	-1.4	49.4	67.2	336.6
■ Net Asset Value‡	-0.3	-7.3	-1.1	45.6	60.8	281.5
■ Benchmark#	0.1	-4.8	0.6	43.4	52.3	229.6
NAV-Benchmark Relative	-0.4	-2.4	-1.7	2.3	8.6	52.0

## Discrete performance (%)†

Q4 2013 Q4 2014	Q4 2014 Q4 2015	Q4 2015 Q4 2016	Q4 2016 Q4 2017	Q4 2017 Q4 2018
15.1	5.7	18.4	22.1	-8.1
6.6	6.4	22.9	19.1	-8.4
5.5	3.5	23.0	15.1	-6.5
1.1	2.9	-0.1	4.0	-2.0

Relative numbers may not add up due to rounding.

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

‡ The Net Asset Value figures value debt at fair value and include the notional reinvestment of dividends.

# Witan's benchmark is a composite of 30% FTSE All-Share, 25% FTSE All-World North America, 20% FTSE All-World Asia Pacific, 20% FTSE All-World Europe (ex UK), 5% FTSE All-World Emerging Markets. From 01.10.2007 to 31.12.2016 the benchmark was 40% FTSE All-Share, 20% FTSE All-World North America, 20% FTSE All-World Europe (ex UK) and 20% FTSE All-World Asia Pacific. FTSE is a trade mark of the London Stock Exchange Group companies and is used by FTSE under license. For more information go to [www.witan.com/support/legal-information](http://www.witan.com/support/legal-information).

**\*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 (%)

Syncona	2.4
Apax Global Alpha	2.1
Vonovia	1.9
Unilever	1.8
BlackRock World Mining Trust	1.5
BP	1.5
Diageo	1.2
Delta Air Lines	1.1
Lloyds Banking	1.1
London Stock Exchange	1.0
Charter Communications	1.0
RELX	1.0
Taiwan Semiconductor	0.9
Royal Dutch Shell	0.9
Rio Tinto	0.9
Schroders	0.9
Deutsche Lufthansa	0.8
Citigroup	0.8
BT	0.8
Princess Private Equity	0.8

<b>Top 10 Holdings</b>	<b>15.6</b>
<b>Top 20 Holdings</b>	<b>24.4</b>

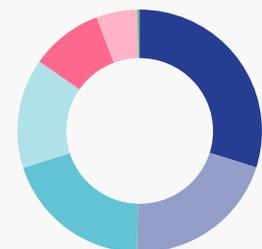
On a combined basis across managers.  
Source: BNP Paribas as at 28.02.19.

### Regional breakdown (%)

■ UK	29.9
■ North America	20.5
■ Europe	19.7
■ Far East	14.6
■ Investment Companies	9.6
■ Japan	5.4
■ Other	0.3

Regional breakdown excluding cash, rebased to 100.

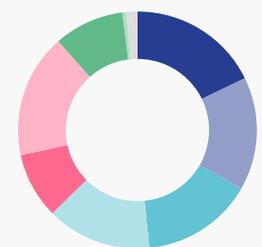
Source: BNP Paribas as at 28.02.19.



### Sector breakdown (%)

■ Financials	17.8
■ Industrials	15.4
■ Consumer Services	15.2
■ Consumer Goods	14.2
■ Technology	9.0
■ Other	16.9
■ Investment Companies	9.5
■ Equity Index Futures	0.5
■ Cash / Bonds	1.5

Source: BNP Paribas as at 28.02.19.



## Manager breakdown

Manager	Region	%
Lansdowne Partners	Global	15
Pzena	Global	14
Veritas	Global	14
Artemis	UK	8
Heronbridge	UK	6
Lindsell Train	UK	9
Crux	Europe ex-UK	4
SW Mitchell	Europe ex-UK	4
Matthews	Asia Pacific	11
GQG	Emerging	5
Direct holdings	-	10

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.  
Source: Witan, data as at 28.02.19.

## Board of Directors



**HARRY HENDERSON**  
Chairman



**ANDREW BELL**  
CEO



**SUZY NEUBERT**  
Director



**RICHARD OLDFIELD**  
Chairman of the  
Remuneration and  
Nomination Committee



**JACK PERRY**  
Chairman of the Audit  
Committee



**BEN ROGOFF**  
Director



**TONY WATSON**  
Senior Independent  
Director



**PAUL YATES**  
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 Alliance Trust Savings, Hargreaves Lansdown, Barclays Stockbrokers, Halifax Share Dealing Limited, Interactive Investors and AJ Bell.

### 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 Ascentric, Nucleus, Seven Investment Management and Transact.

**Please read the Important Information and Terms & Conditions documents or speak to an adviser before making a decision to invest. You must also read the most recent Witan Key Information Document (KID) and the relevant pre-sale (ex-ante) cost disclosure before placing an investment in Witan Investment Trust, which is available on the website [www.witan.com](http://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.

## Contact details

**0800 082 81 80**

**[www.witan.com](http://www.witan.com)**

This marketing communication is issued and approved by Witan Investment Services Limited. 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 products and services and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Calls may be recorded for our mutual protection and to improve customer service.