

## Monthly commentary

“ **Witan’s NAV total return was 3.5% in June, outperforming the benchmark’s total return of 3.0%. The share price total return was 5.1%\*.** ”

Global equities, as represented by the FTSE All World Index, completed their third month of positive returns in June and are now 28% (in Sterling terms) above the low point reached in March. This recovery reflects a gradual opening of the global economy, the oversold state of markets at the end of March and the exceptional returns enjoyed by a small number of mega-cap technology stocks which have been beneficiaries of the work and shop from home environment. Recent concerns over a spike in coronavirus cases in the US and elsewhere have further increased the stock market’s polarisation, with technology and internet stocks making the greatest headway.

A look at the performance differential between so-called ‘Growth’ and ‘Value’ indices illustrates this. The MSCI World Growth Index (in sterling) has gained 14% in 2020 while the Value Index has declined by 11%. This represents an acceleration in the sustained outperformance that Growth stocks have enjoyed over Value stocks over the last five years. Value investors argue that this level of outperformance is unsustainable while dedicated Growth managers will say that Covid-19 has merely accentuated their already indomitable advantage. The truth, of course, lies somewhere in between and a normalising of the economic environment post-lockdown should allow a more widespread participation in equity returns than has been the case in recent months.

Witan’s diverse portfolio includes some investments in lowly-valued stocks in attractive businesses experiencing short-term headwinds, held via managers whose approach is selective and adaptable. In general the changes made to Witan’s manager line-up in 2020 have given us greater exposure to managers with a more global outlook who invest in companies which are characterised by long-term growth in sustainable cash flows, rather than by cheapness alone. During the month we continued to allocate money to such managers, including Lindsell Train and the GMO Climate Change fund, and further reduced exposure to regional managers. We have also made good progress in our search for a new global manager and will report on this in due course when the appointment has been finalised. We believe that these changes, in association with a recovery in performance by our incumbent managers will continue the encouraging trend in performance since May and erode the performance shortfall experienced during the volatile market conditions that followed the Covid-19 shock in February.

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

30 June 2020

**\*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
£1.9bn	184.00p	195.66p	(6.0%)	2.91%

Source: BNP Paribas as at 30.06.20.

<sup>†</sup> 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.

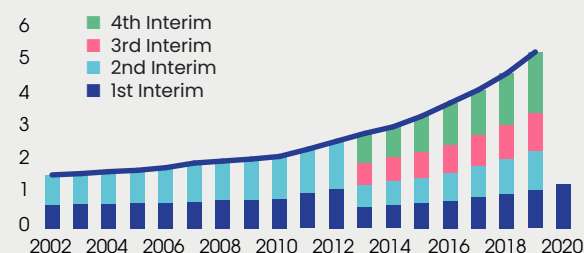
## Trust information

Epic Code	WTAN
Sector	Global Growth
Trust Type	Conventional
Launch Date	1909
Financial Year End	31 December
Dividend Frequency	Quarterly
Last Ex Dividend Date	21 May 2020
AGM	April
Shares in Issue (excluding treasury)	845,452,301
Gearing	8%
Ongoing Charges <sup>‡</sup>	
Excluding performance fee	0.79%
Including performance fee	0.87%

Source: BNP Paribas as at 30.06.20. <sup>‡</sup>Ongoing charges as disclosed in the Annual Report for the year ended 31.12.19. Information about other costs is also included in the Company’s Key Information Document (KID) and disclosed in the table on page 21 of the 2019 Annual Report, both of which may be found on the Company’s website.

## Dividend history (pence per share)

45 years of consecutive dividend growth

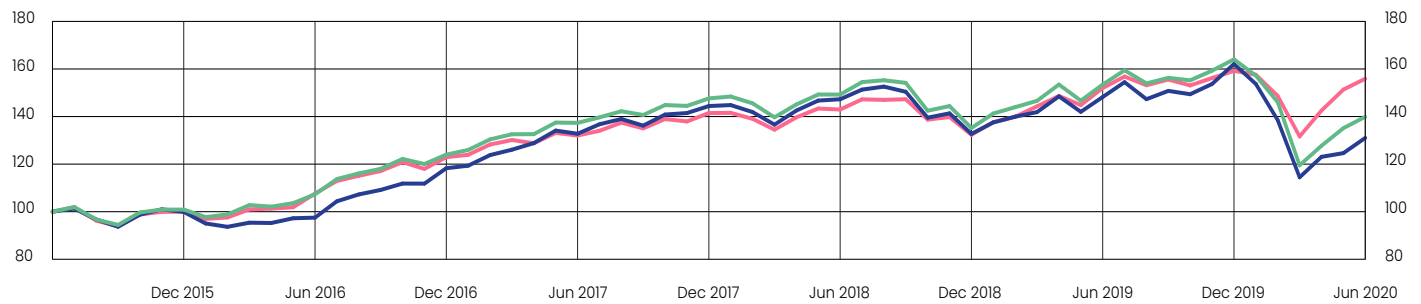


Changed to quarterly dividend payments in 2013.



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 30.06.2020	3m	6m	1yr	3yrs	5yrs	10yrs
■ Share Price	14.5	-19.2	-11.6	-1.3	31.0	178.0
■ Net Asset Value‡	17.1	-14.7	-8.8	1.9	39.9	154.4
■ Benchmark#	18.4	-2.1	2.6	18.1	55.9	159.3
NAV-Benchmark Relative	-1.4	-12.6	-11.4	-16.2	-16.0	-4.9

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 15% FTSE All Share and 85% FTSE All World. From 01.01.2017 to 31.12.2019 the benchmark was 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).

## Discrete performance (%)†

Q2 2015	Q2 2016	Q2 2017	Q2 2018	Q2 2019
Q2 2016	Q2 2017	Q2 2018	Q2 2019	Q2 2020
-2.5	36.2	10.9	0.6	-11.6
7.3	28.0	8.7	2.8	-8.8
7.6	22.7	8.3	6.3	2.6
-0.3	5.3	0.4	-3.5	-11.4

**\*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 (%)

Vanguard S&P 500 ETF	10.1
GMO Climate Change Fund	2.7
Syncona	2.7
Apax Global Alpha	2.3
Unilever	2.1
BlackRock World Mining Trust	1.8
Tesco	1.8
Princess Private Equity	1.7
Alphabet	1.5
Charter Communications	1.4
Heineken	1.1
Vonovia	1.1
Diageo	1.1
London Stock Exchange	1.0
Alibaba	1.0
PayPal	1.0
BT	1.0
Taiwan Semiconductor	0.9
Nintendo	0.9
BAE Systems	0.9

**Top 10 Holdings 28.1**  
**Top 20 Holdings 38.1**

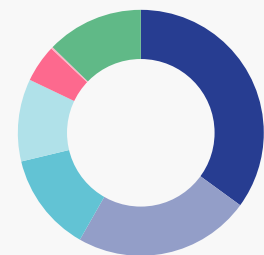
On a combined basis across managers.  
 Source: BNP Paribas as at 30.06.20.

### Regional breakdown (%)

■ North America	35
■ UK	23
■ Europe	13
■ Asia	11
■ Japan	5
■ Other	0
■ Investment Companies	13

Includes futures. Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

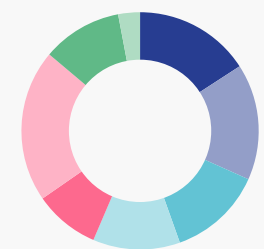
Source: BNP Paribas as at 30.06.20.



### Sector breakdown (%)

■ Consumer Goods	16
■ Consumer Services	15
■ Industrials	12
■ Financials	12
■ ETFs	10
■ Other	22
■ Investment Companies	13

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.  
 Source: BNP Paribas as at 30.06.20.



## Manager breakdown

Manager	Region	%
Lansdowne Partners	Global	18
Lindsell Train	Global	15
Veritas	Global	20
Artemis	UK	7
Heronbridge	UK	3
Matthews	Asia Pacific	6
GQG Partners	Emerging	6
Direct holdings	-	13
Vanguard S&P500 ETF	US	10
Latitude	Global	3

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.  
Source: Witan, data as at 30.06.20.

## Board of Directors



**ANDREW ROSS**  
Chairman



**ANDREW BELL**  
CEO



**GABRIELLE BOYLE**  
Non Executive Director



**RACHEL BEAGLES**  
Non Executive Director



**SUZY NEUBERT**  
Non Executive Director



**JACK PERRY**  
Non Executive Director



**BEN ROGOFF**  
Non Executive Director



**TONY WATSON**  
Senior Independent Director



**PAUL YATES**  
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, Interactive Investor and The Share Centre.

### 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.

**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](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.

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

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