

The Merchants Trust PLC

As focused on dividends as you are

Allianz 
Global Investors

Aim

The Trust's objective is to provide an above average level of income, income growth and long-term growth of capital through a policy of investing mainly in higher yielding large UK companies.

History

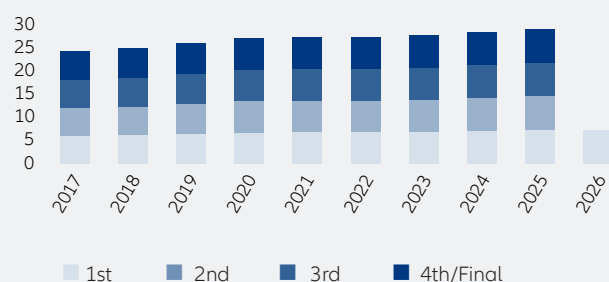
The Merchants Trust PLC was incorporated in February 1889, making it the oldest of the investment trusts in the Allianz Global Investors stable. Initially it invested in the fixed interest securities of railway companies in the USA, Canada and South America, but now concentrates primarily on major UK companies with an above average rate of dividend yield.

Trust Benefits

Merchants has for many years focused on a simple proposition to deliver a high and rising income together with capital growth for its shareholders. Simon Gergel has been managing the trust for over 15 years, investing in a diversified portfolio of large, well-established and well-known UK companies. Although past performance is no guide to the future, Merchants has paid increasingly higher dividends to its shareholders year on year for the last 43 years.

Ten Year Dividend History†

Dividend Record in Pence per Share
To Year End 31 January



Last Four Dividend Payments per Share

Record Date	Pay Date	Dividend	Type
11.07.2025	22.08.2025	7.30p	1st Interim
22.04.2025	29.05.2025	7.30p	Final
07.02.2025	19.03.2025	7.30p	3rd Interim
11.10.2024	15.11.2024	7.30p	2nd Interim

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results.

†Chart for indicative purposes only. Details of past dividends can be found on the website: <https://www.merchantstrust.co.uk/en-gb/performance-and-updates/dividends>

Key Information

Launch Date	16 February 1889
AIC Sector	UK Equity Income
Benchmark	FTSE All-Share
Annual Management Fee	0.35%
Performance Fee	No
Ongoing Charge ¹	0.52%
Year End	31 January
Annual Report	Annual published in April, Half-yearly published in September
AGM	May
NAV Frequency	Daily
Dividends	March, May, August, November
Price Information	Financial Times, The Daily Telegraph, www.merchantstrust.co.uk
Company Secretary	Nira Mistry Kirsten Salt
Investment Manager	Simon Gergel, CIO, UK Equities
Codes	RIC: MRCH.L SEDOL: 0580007

1. The Ongoing Charge does not represent an additional cost that shareholders of the Company must pay. The Company's share price already reflects the market's assessment of its value taking into consideration publicly disclosed information, including operating expenses and other costs which are disclosed in the Accounts. The investment platform or stockbroker used, or the company/person selling you or advising you about this product may charge you other costs. If so, they will provide you with the relevant information about these costs. Source: AIC, as at the Trust's Financial Year End (31.01.2025). Ongoing Charges (previously Total Expense Ratios) are published annually to show operational expenses, which include the annual management fee, incurred in the running of the company but excluding financing costs.

This is a marketing communication. Please refer to the Key Information Document (KID) before making any final investment decisions.



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Total Assets £985.0m

Shares in Issue 148,424,887 (Ordinary 25p)

Market Cap £847.5m

Share Price

571.0p

NAV per Share

594.4p

Premium/-Discount

-3.9%

Dividend Yield

5.1%

Gearing

13.7%

Fund Manager's Review

As temperatures soared towards the end of June, the financial markets also continued to heat up. The US S&P Index hit a new all-time high at the end of the month, having fully recovered from the sharp slump at the beginning of April when President Trump announced sweeping tariffs on US imports. In the last two months many of the most contentious tariff proposals have been pushed back, although most of these deferrals were temporary, with trade deals still under discussion. In the Middle East, Israel launched major raids on Iran's military complex and the US bombed Iran's underground nuclear facilities. Although Iran responded with strikes on Israel, these seemed to be relatively constrained and a fragile ceasefire came into force, which boosted investor sentiment towards the month end.

The UK stock market made a small positive return, led by medium and smaller sized companies. The UK returns lagged the stronger gains in the main US indices, although in the first half of calendar 2025, the UK market outperformed the S&P Index, even before accounting for the considerable weakness of the US dollar. Government bond prices were also strong in June as 10-year gilt yields came down.

Within the UK stock market the strongest performing large sectors included aerospace & defence and oil & gas, supported by Middle East tensions and rising defence spending, as well as tobacco and telecommunications, which are more economically defensive. The weakest sectors included pharmaceuticals, on concerns about potential US government intervention on drug pricing, and beverages, as trading conditions have remained challenging.

Portfolio performance was in line with the index return. The Net Asset Value (NAV) total return was -0.17% compared to 0.48% from the benchmark, FTSE All-Share index. Within the portfolio, the gambling company Entain rose 20%, as it reported strong growth from its US joint venture, and Burberry continued to rally as investors backed its turnaround. Merchants also benefitted from not owning AstraZeneca, which fell back in a weak sector. On the negative side, retailer B&M underperformed, as the absence of a trading update with the full year results was interpreted negatively whilst the market awaits the new CEO, and GSK underperformed in a weak sector. Not owning Rolls Royce, also

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held back relative returns as the share price continued its strong rally on improving sentiment.

We made several changes to the portfolio in June, including a new investment in Reckitt Plc. This is a consumer products company, specialising in health and hygiene, with a very strong brand portfolio. These include market leading products like Dettol, Finish, Nurofen and Durex. The strength of this portfolio and the company's prospects have been overshadowed by litigation over infant formula that they sell in the USA. In several cases, premature babies have been fed this product and subsequently become ill or died. In one case, a court in Illinois has issued a \$60m damages award. This and other cases have placed a cloud over the business, even though the scientific evidence on cause and effect is mixed, doctors continue to support the use of the product and there is



Simon Gergel, Portfolio Manager

The Merchants Trust PLC is managed by Simon Gergel who is Chief Investment Officer, UK Equities at AllianzGI and has 32 years investment experience. Simon joined AllianzGI in April 2006 from HSBC Halbis Partners where he managed over £900m in high income funds as well as core institutional and life UK equity portfolios. Prior to joining HSBC, Simon worked for 14 years at Phillips & Drew Fund Management / UBS Asset Management.

often no available alternative for these babies. Our assessment is that the likely eventual settlement cost of outstanding claims could prove to be much lower than that which is discounted in the share price. We initiated our position with Reckitt's shares trading well below our assessment of fair value, and paying a 4% dividend yield.

There were three complete sales from the portfolio, Tesco, Drax and Dowlais. We bought Tesco four years ago, during the Covid pandemic. Since then, the operational delivery of the business has been excellent as it has cemented its leading positions in both supermarket and online groceries. This has been appreciated by the stock market, which has revalued the shares materially. With the shares approaching our assessment of fair value, we decided to sell to fund other investments.

Drax has also been in the portfolio for about four years, and it has delivered a good total return, although with more volatility. The company is a critical UK supplier of energy, predominantly thorough burning waste biomass materials. Whilst Drax is a diversified business, with several growth opportunities, one of its aspirations was to become a leader in carbon capture through BECCS (Bio-energy carbon capture and storage). With recent pressure on government finances and changing priorities, this future opportunity seems to have been pushed out, at best. This reduced the potential upside we saw in Drax, so we decided to sell it.

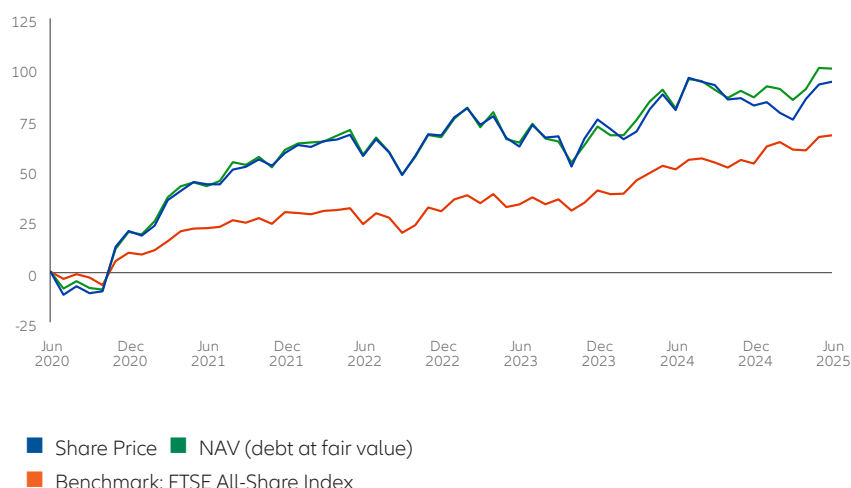
Dowlais is an automotive components manufacturer. This company received a mostly-cash takeover offer from a US peer, American Axle. Whilst we did not believe the bid represented full value for the shares, it seems likely to go through, so we sold the position at the end of the month, to fund other purchases.

Simon Gergel
10 July 2025

This is no recommendation or solicitation to buy or sell any particular security. Any security mentioned above will not necessarily be comprised in the portfolio by the time this document is disclosed or at any other subsequent date.

Performance Track Record

Five Year Performance (%)



Risk & Features

Investment trusts are quoted companies listed on the London Stock Exchange. Their share prices are determined by factors including the balance of supply and demand in the market.

Merchants seeks to enhance returns for its shareholders through gearing which can boost the Trust's returns when investments perform well, though losses can be magnified when investments lose value. You should be aware that this Trust may be subject to sudden and large falls in value and you could suffer substantial capital loss.

Derivatives may be used to manage the Trust efficiently.

Cumulative Returns (%)

	3M	6M	1Y	3Y	5Y
Share Price	10.7	6.4	7.8	23.3	93.7
NAV (debt at fair value)	8.4	7.6	10.8	26.9	100.2
Benchmark	4.4	9.1	11.2	35.5	67.3

Discrete 12 Month Returns to 30 June (%)

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Share Price	7.8	11.1	3.0	9.7	43.1
NAV (debt at fair value)	10.8	10.3	3.8	10.9	42.2
Benchmark	11.2	13.0	7.9	1.6	21.5

Source: LSEG Datastream, percentage growth, total return (refer to the Alternative Performance Measures section of the Annual Report for full details of performance measures) to 30.06.25. Copyright 2025 © Datastream, a London Stock Exchange Group company. All rights reserved. DataStream shall not be liable for any errors or delays in the content, or for any actions taken in reliance thereon.

Past performance does not predict future returns. Investing involves risk. The value of an investment and the income from it may fall as well as rise and investors might not get back the full amount invested. This investment trust charges 65% of its annual management fee to the capital account and 35% to revenue. This could lead to a higher level of income but capital growth will be constrained as a result.

Portfolio Breakdown

Sector Breakdown (%)

Financials	20.8	
Consumer Discretionary	18.2	
Industrials	14.6	
Consumer Staples	11.2	
Energy	10.4	
Real Estate	7.6	
Utilities	5.5	
Health Care	4.7	
Materials	4.3	
Cash	2.7	

Top Ten Holdings (%)

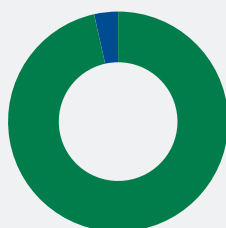
Lloyds Banking Group	4.7
GSK	4.7
British American Tobacco	4.4
Shell	3.7
Barclays	3.1
BP	3.0
Rio Tinto	2.9
Scottish & Southern Energy	2.9
DCC	2.8
National Grid	2.6

Total number of holdings** 52

**Excludes derivatives

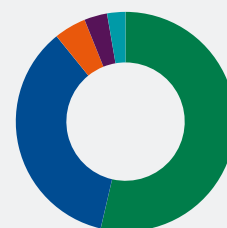
Geographic Breakdown* (%)

UK	96.5
Europe ex UK	3.5



Market Cap Breakdown (%)

FTSE 100	53.7
FTSE 250	35.6
Small Cap	4.7
Other	3.4
Cash	2.7



This is for guidance only and not indicative of future allocation. Totals may not sum to 100.0% due to rounding.

This is no recommendation or solicitation to buy or sell any particular security.

*Excludes Cash

Board of Directors

Colin Clark (Chairman)

Mal Patel (Chairman of the Audit Committee)

Lisa Edgar

Neil Galloway (appointed 1 July 2025)

Karen McKellar (Senior Independent Director)

Glossary

Share Price is the price of a single ordinary share, as determined by the stock market. The share price above is the mid-market price at market close.

Net Asset Value (NAV) per Share is calculated as available shareholders' funds divided by the number of shares in issue, with shareholders' funds taken to be the net value of all the company's assets after deducting liabilities.

The month-end NAV figure above is based on the fair/market value cum income of the company's long-term debt and preference shares (known as debt at market value). This allows for the valuation of long-term debt and preference shares at fair value or current market price, rather than at final repayment value (known as debt at par).

Premium/Discount. Since investment company shares are traded on a stock market, the share price that you get may be higher or lower than the NAV. The difference is known as a premium or discount.

Dividend Yield is calculated using the latest full year dividend divided by the current share price.

Gearing is a measure of a company's financial leverage and shows the extent to which its operations are funded by lenders versus shareholders.

How to invest

You can buy shares in the Trust through:

- A third party provider - see 'How to Invest' on our website, where you will find links to a range of these platforms, many of which allow you to hold the shares within an ISA, Junior ISA, SIPP and/or savings scheme.
- A stockbroker.
- A financial adviser.

Contact us

If you have any queries regarding our investment trusts our Investor Services team can be contacted on:

0800 389 4696

www.merchantstrust.co.uk

E-mail: investment-trusts@allianzgi.com

You will find much more information about The Merchants Trust on our website.

Please note that we can only offer information and are unable to provide investment advice. You should contact your financial adviser before making any investment decision.



Past performance does not predict future returns. Investing involves risk. The value of an investment and the income from it may fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the full amount invested. The statements contained herein may include statements of future expectations and other forward-looking statements that are based on management's current views and assumptions and involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results, performance or events to differ materially from those expressed or implied in such statements. We assume no obligation to update any forward-looking statement. The views and opinions expressed herein, which are subject to change without notice, are those of the issuer and/or its affiliated companies at the time of publication. The data used is derived from various sources, and assumed to be correct and reliable, but it has not been independently verified; its accuracy or completeness is not guaranteed and no liability is assumed for any direct or consequential losses arising from its use, unless caused by gross negligence or wilful misconduct. The conditions of any underlying offer or contract that may have been or will be made or concluded shall prevail. For further information contact the issuer at the address indicated below.

All data source LSEG Datastream and Allianz Global Investors as at 30.06.25 unless otherwise stated.

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