

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

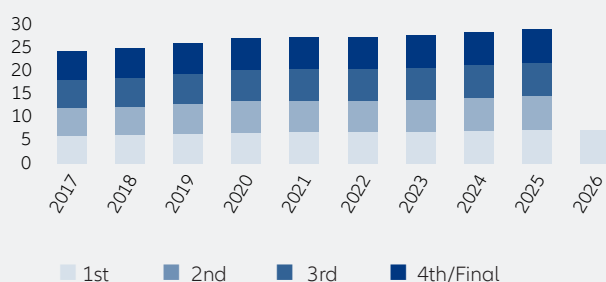
The Merchants Trust PLC was incorporated in February 1889, making it the oldest of the investment trusts in the Allianz Global Investors stable. Initially it invested in the fixed interest securities of railway companies in the USA, Canada and South America, but now concentrates primarily on major UK 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 £984.1m

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

Market Cap £819.3m

Share Price

552.0p

NAV per Share

595.5p

Premium/-Discount

-7.3%

Dividend Yield

5.3%

Gearing

14.2%

Fund Manager's Review

In August, President Trump announced the latest round of tariffs on US trading partners, including a 35% tariff on Canada and 50% on India. Signs of slowing growth and labour force weakness in the USA led Federal Reserve Chair Powell to signal a likely cut to US interest rates at the next meeting in September. However, he also warned that inflationary pressures, partly induced by tariff increases, created a challenging situation. 10-year US bond yields rose in the early part of the month, but then reversed this after the Powell speech, to end broadly unchanged on the month.

In the UK, the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee decided to cut interest rates by 0.25% to 4% in a 5-4 vote. However, the Committee raised its short-term inflation forecast, making further interest rate cuts this year less likely. Given the pressures on government finances, there was also considerable speculation about what tax increases the Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, will announce in the forthcoming budget. This combination of events weighed on the UK gilt market, with 10-year gilt yields rising to around 4.7%.

It wasn't only the UK that suffered from budget uncertainty. In France, prime minister Bayrou announced a surprise vote of confidence in his government for 8th September, as his attempts to control public spending and axe two public holidays met significant resistance.

Major stock markets were relatively calm, with the main US indices up around 2% and the UK market up nearly 1%. Large UK companies outperformed mid-caps, as investors seemed concerned about UK budget pressures, which tend to have more impact on domestic, medium and smaller sized firms.

Within the UK market, the best performing large sectors were defensive areas like telecoms, pharmaceuticals and tobacco, with natural resources – oil and mining – also outperforming. Weaker sectors were mostly cyclical and domestic industries like house builders, construction, real estate and retail.

The Net Asset Value (NAV) total return was -0.20% compared to 0.92% from the benchmark, FTSE All-Share index. There were two specific

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events that benefitted the portfolio. At the beginning of the month, the Supreme court ruled in the long-standing dispute about bank commission payments for motor finance. The ruling removed the worst-case scenarios for how much the banks might have to pay in compensation, and provided some clarity on liabilities. This will now be followed up by the Financial Conduct Authority. In the real estate sector, Primary Health Properties (PHP) won the contested bidding process for its peer Assura, bringing together the two leading listed providers of GP surgeries and other healthcare property. We supported the PHP bid and the Assura shares were exchanged for new PHP shares.

Investment performance was a little behind the index, largely due to the portfolio exposure to industries like housing and real estate, where we see considerable value, but investors are generally cautious, as explained above. Not owning AstraZeneca also held back the relative return. On the positive side, the oil & gas company Harbour Energy and the copper



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.

miner Atalaya, both rallied, in strong resources sectors. Close Brothers was supported by the motor finance ruling, extending a strong recovery in the share price. Also, not owning the information services company RELX helped relative performance, as it fell back, on concerns about potential disruption from artificial intelligence.

We added a new holding in MONY Group, the company which owns the MoneySuperMarket and MoneySavingExpert websites, amongst others. MONY is one of four major UK groups offering price comparisons on insurance, financial services, energy and other services. The business has faced several headwinds in recent years, such as energy price caps, which have impacted growth and led to the shares being heavily de-rated. We believe the company is attractive, given potential future growth and efficiency opportunities. This is backed by a strong balance sheet, healthy cash generation and a 6% dividend yield.

Other activity included profit taking on shares that had been very strong performers, such as British American Tobacco, Barclays and Burberry. We used the proceeds to buy MONY Group as well as funding bigger positions in shares we believed offered excellent value, including three building related companies: Marshalls, Barratt Redrow and Grafton.

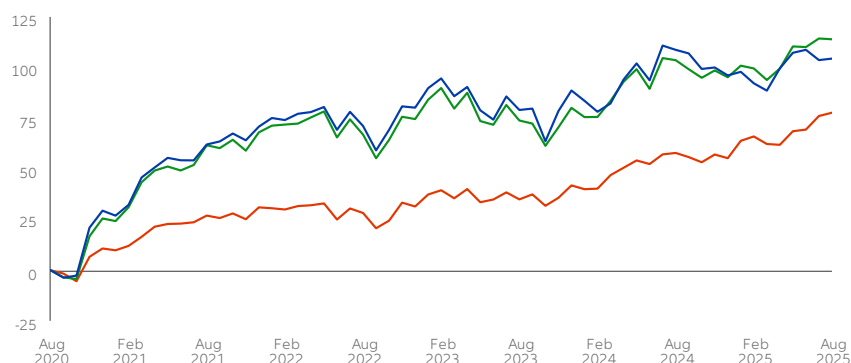
Looking forward, there is short-term uncertainty ahead of the budget. However the outlook for UK economic growth and the level of government debt are not out of line with other major economies. The government has a large majority, with no general election necessary for several years. Falling interest rates should gradually support the economy, for example by lowering mortgage costs. We are finding numerous cheap UK companies to invest in, especially among the medium sized businesses. These have been largely shunned by investors and many are offering compelling value, even allowing for subdued domestic growth in the short-term. We believe this portfolio has the potential to deliver a high dividend income stream and strong capital returns in line with Merchants objectives.

Simon Gergel
12 September 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 (%)



■ Share Price ■ NAV (debt at fair value)
■ Benchmark: FTSE All-Share Index

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	-1.4	6.3	-2.1	19.4	104.4
NAV (debt at fair value)	1.7	7.2	5.0	28.1	113.9
Benchmark	5.4	7.1	12.6	38.6	77.7

Discrete 12 Month Returns to 31 August (%)

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Share Price	-2.1	16.6	4.6	5.6	62.0
NAV (debt at fair value)	5.0	17.1	4.2	3.3	61.7
Benchmark	12.6	17.0	5.2	1.0	26.9

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 31.08.25. 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.

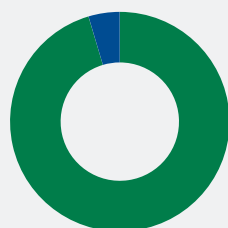
Portfolio Breakdown

Sector Breakdown (%)

Financials	21.4	
Industrials	15.9	
Consumer Discretionary	15.2	
Consumer Staples	11.4	
Energy	11.3	
Real Estate	7.1	
Utilities	5.3	
Health Care	4.9	
Materials	4.8	
Information Technology	0.7	
Cash	2.0	

Geographic Breakdown* (%)

UK	95.4
Europe ex UK	4.6



Top Ten Holdings (%)

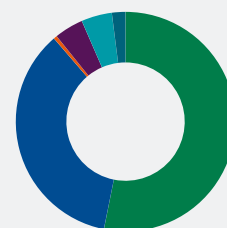
GSK	4.9
Lloyds Banking Group	4.9
Shell	3.9
British American Tobacco	3.9
BP	3.3
Rio Tinto	3.2
Barclays	2.8
DCC	2.8
Scottish & Southern Energy	2.7
Tate & Lyle	2.6

Total number of holdings** 53

**Excludes derivatives

Market Cap Breakdown (%)

FTSE 100	53.2
FTSE 250	35.5
FTSE AIM	0.5
Small Cap	4.3
Other	4.5
Cash	2.0



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 31.08.25 unless otherwise stated.

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