

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

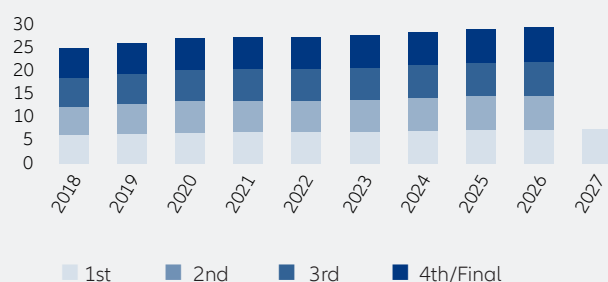
The Merchants Trust PLC was incorporated in February 1889, making it the oldest of the investment trusts in the Allianz Global Investors stable. Initially it invested in the fixed interest securities of railway companies in the USA, Canada and South America, but now concentrates primarily on major UK 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 44 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
11.07.2026	21.08.2026	7.50p	1st Interim
17.04.2026	27.05.2026	7.50p	Final
06.02.2026	19.03.2026	7.40p	3rd Interim
10.10.2025	20.11.2025	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	0.54%
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 (31.01.2026). 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.

Awards & Ratings



A ranking, a rating or an award provides no indicator of future performance and is not constant over time. The RSMR rating is designed for use by professional advisers and intermediaries as part of their advice process. This rating is not a recommendation to buy. If you need further information or are in doubt then you should consult a professional adviser.

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

Total Assets £1,087.8m **Shares in Issue** 147,632,870 (Ordinary 25p) **Market Cap** £938.9m

Share Price

636.0p

NAV per Share

668.4p

Premium/-Discount

-4.8%

Dividend Yield

4.6%

Gearing

13.1%

Fund Manager's Review

After 3 months of conflict, the US reached a tentative fourteen point agreement with Iran for a ceasefire in the region. It is hoped that this will allow shipping, in particular oil & gas, to flow freely through the Strait of Hormuz again. Oil prices fell sharply in response, and in turn inflation fears eased. This allowed government bond yields to fall as bond prices rose. UK 10-year gilt yields fell from 4.9% on 1st June to around 4.75% at the month end.

The prime minister Sir Keir Starmer announced he would resign, after the Mayor of Manchester, Andy Burnham, won a by-election to become an MP. Mr Burnham was widely expected to become the next prime minister, continuing a period of flux that will have now seen seven different prime ministers in just over a decade. There was little impact on financial markets initially from the political changes.

Merchants' Net Asset Value (NAV) total return was 0.67% compared to 0.69% from the benchmark, FTSE All-Share index. Equity markets were mixed, with the US indices falling modestly, led down by the technology rich Nasdaq Index. European markets, including the UK, were up modestly. Medium sized UK companies lagged larger stocks. Within the market, the best performing sectors included cyclical industries such as travel & leisure and real estate, which saw bid approaches for EasyJet and Segro respectively. The personal care and banks sectors were also strong. The weakest sectors included metals & mining and energy as commodity prices retreated, most notably oil and gas.

One of the most extreme recent themes, within a highly polarised stock market, has been the underperformance of companies thought to be at risk from disruption from generative Artificial Intelligence (AI). Many software and Fintech companies have gone from being seen as high quality growth companies with substantial recurring revenues, earning strong returns on capital, to being perceived as structurally challenged, or at least vulnerable to disruption. These stocks have seen a savage de-rating. The software & computer services sector in the UK produced a total return of -33% in the 12 months to the end of May, whilst the broader stock market was up over 20%. Whilst some of this de-rating may have been justified as the sector was highly rated a year or two ago, we believe there are now some interesting opportunities emerging from this wholesale sell-off.

For the first time in many years, some of these companies are trading on modest valuations and with dividend yields close to the market average

“ One of the most extreme recent themes, within a highly polarised stock market, has been the underperformance of companies thought to be at risk from disruption from generative Artificial Intelligence (AI).

or higher. We added a combined 4% of the portfolio to this part of the market, buying three new companies. Whilst we acknowledge that AI does create some new potential risks to these companies, it also creates opportunities to sell incremental services. By diversifying the exposure across three stocks, we are taking advantage of what seems like a mispricing of this area, without taking undue risk on any one company.

The companies we bought were Autotrader, Sage and Wolters Kluwer. Autotrader is the clear UK market leading portal for buyers and sellers of used and new cars, with 14,000 car dealers as customers. Sage is a multinational provider of accounting and related software for small businesses. Accounting software tends to be very “sticky” with low levels of customer churn and Sage's revenues typically grow each year from existing customers alone, before including the benefits of new customer additions. Wolters Kluwer is a Dutch listed and highly diversified global



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.

information services and solutions provider. It serves professionals in health, tax, finance, legal and other sectors, with products and services that are often highly integrated into workflows, business processes and regulatory reporting requirements.

We also bought a new position in SSP Group, a global operator of food and beverage outlets in travel locations, with nearly 50,000 employees across c.3,000 units in around 40 countries. SSP operates its own brands, such as Upper Crust and Camden Food Co, but it mostly franchises brands like M&S Simply Food and Burger King. Around 70% of the business is in airports, which benefit from structural growth in passenger numbers and more limited competition, with four operators controlling half the market. Disruption to international travel and some operational issues have led to earnings disappointments, and the shares had fallen to a modest valuation. We believed this undervalued SSP's good growth prospects and did not include any benefit from its highly valuable Indian subsidiary.

These purchases were funded by selling the reinsurance company SCOR, which had performed well, and thus offered less upside. We also sold the remaining holding in Unilever, where we had lower conviction, especially after considering the proposed sale of its food division. We significantly reduced the Tate & Lyle and DCC positions after the bid approaches and also sold a large part of the British American Tobacco holding, where the shares were more fully valued after producing a total return of around 120% in three years. Elsewhere we trimmed several stocks that had performed well and a few where we have lower conviction.

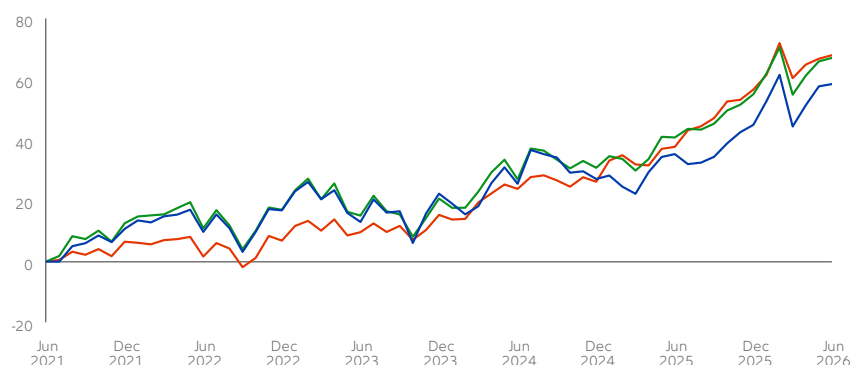
It is highly unusual for us to add four new investments to the portfolio in one month, but it reflects the polarisation within the UK market and the exceptional value we are finding in numerous different sectors. These opportunities support our confidence in the potential for the portfolio to deliver an attractive combination of income and capital growth, in line with Merchants' objectives.

Simon Gergel
10 July 2026

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	9.7	9.2	17.0	40.2	58.4
NAV (debt at fair value)	7.8	7.5	18.3	44.7	66.5
Benchmark	4.7	7.2	21.9	53.1	67.9

Discrete 12 Month Returns to 30 June (%)

	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Share Price	17.0	7.8	11.1	3.0	9.7
NAV (debt at fair value)	18.3	10.8	10.3	3.8	10.9
Benchmark	21.9	11.2	13.0	7.9	1.6

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 30.06.26. 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.

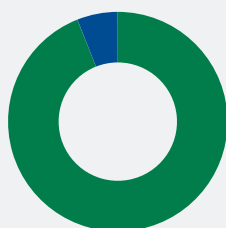
Portfolio Breakdown

Sector Breakdown (%)

Sector	Percentage (%)
Financials	22.0
Consumer Discretionary	19.3
Industrials	17.3
Energy	9.0
Health Care	8.8
Real Estate	7.1
Materials	5.2
Information Technology	4.0
Consumer Staples	3.3
Utilities	2.3
Cash	1.7

Geographic Breakdown* (%)

UK	94.0
Europe ex UK	6.0



Top Ten Holdings (%)

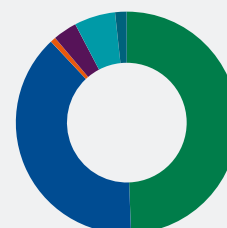
Lloyds Banking Group	5.9
GSK	4.7
Reckitt	4.4
Shell	3.9
Rio Tinto	3.8
Barclays	3.3
Hikma Pharmaceuticals	2.7
Grafton Group	2.7
Whitbread	2.4
BP	2.4

Total number of holdings** 58

**Excludes derivatives

Market Cap Breakdown (%)

FTSE 100	49.4
FTSE 250	38.6
FTSE AIM	0.8
Small Cap	3.5
Other	6.0
Cash	1.7



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
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 30.06.26 unless otherwise stated.

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