

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

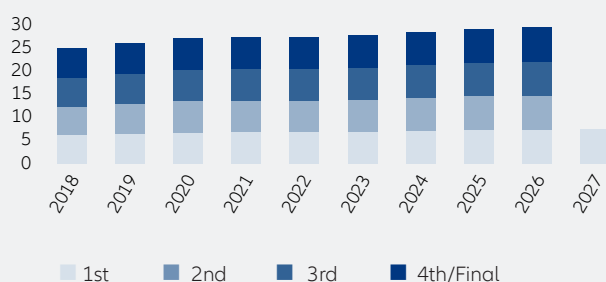
The Merchants Trust PLC was incorporated in February 1889, making it the oldest of the investment trusts in the Allianz Global Investors stable. Initially it invested in the fixed interest securities of railway companies in the USA, Canada and South America, but now concentrates primarily on major UK 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 £1,159.8m **Shares in Issue** 147,632,870 (Ordinary 25p) **Market Cap** £1,009.8m

Share Price

684.0p

NAV per Share

719.0p

Premium/-Discount

-4.9%

Dividend Yield

4.3%

Gearing

9.6%

Fund Manager's Review

After a temporary lull, the war in Iran escalated again towards the end of August as peace efforts failed. This weighed on global sentiment, with the oil price rising and bond yields also going up, as investors worried about inflationary pressures.

In a traditionally quiet summer month for equity markets, UK shares made modest progress, although medium sized companies outperformed the larger stocks. US and European shares also rallied, with technology shares outperforming in America.

Within the UK stock market, the best performing sectors included metals & mining, which benefitted from rising commodity prices, software and industrial services. The weakest sectors included tobacco, pharmaceuticals and banks.

Performance was ahead of the benchmark, with strong gains at copper miner Atalaya, building products supplier Grafton and Sage, the accounting software company. Relative performance was also helped by not owning AstraZeneca and HSBC, which underperformed and held back the benchmark return. The main detractors from performance were the banks Lloyds and OSB (OneSavingsBank), whilst not owning Glencore, Anglo American and Rolls Royce also constrained relative performance. Merchants' Net Asset Value (NAV) total return was 1.37% compared to 0.69% from the benchmark, FTSE All-Share index.

We sold three stocks out of the portfolio in August. Tate & Lyle, the speciality ingredients company, received a takeover bid from an industry peer at a significant premium to its prevailing price, so we sold the position. We exited the final position in the small recruitment firm SThree, where the shares have been strong recently. Although SThree specialises in supplying people for Science, IT, engineering and technical industries, which remain attractive areas, the industry is going through substantial changes and recruitment markets remain soft. We sold out to focus on higher conviction investments.

We also exited the position in the oil and gas company Energean. Whilst the company has attractive assets and long term contracts, particularly in the Eastern Mediterranean, the market and cashflow dynamics have deteriorated somewhat. We decided to concentrate the portfolio's energy exposure in companies where we have higher conviction, such as Shell and Harbour Energy, which we have been adding to.

“ Within the market, medium sized companies look particularly cheap, offering a rare discount to their larger peers and the portfolio has a large weighting to that part of the index.



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.

Proceeds of sales were invested in building up position in a broad range of companies where we see significant upside, such as OSB, Marshalls, Chesnara and Unite.

Looking forwards, although the UK stock market has performed well, it remains one of the cheaper equity markets in the world. This is despite the broad geographic exposure and the strong governance standards that UK listed companies offer. Within the market, medium sized companies look particularly cheap, offering a rare discount to their larger peers and the portfolio has a large weighting to that part of the index.

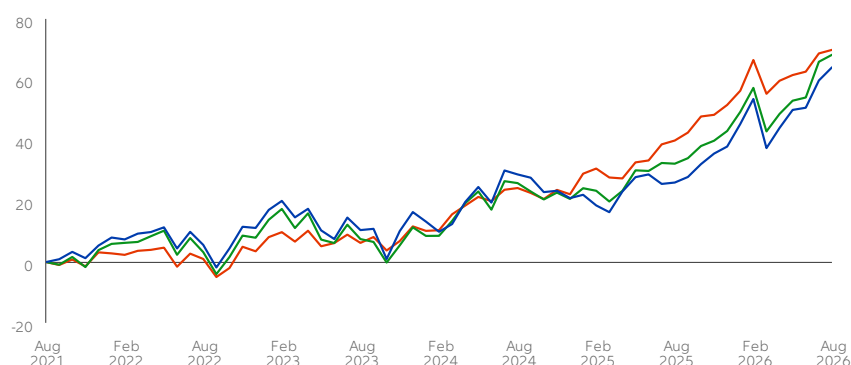
The high number of new investments and sales we made in recent months is indicative of the numerous attractive investment opportunities we have identified, in a market where we see large share price swings between and within different sectors. This has enabled us to concentrate exposure in shares where we have higher conviction, although this is a never-ending process. We are optimistic that the portfolio has the potential to deliver a growing dividend income stream and strong capital returns to meet Merchants' objectives.

Simon Gergel
10 September 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	9.3	6.8	30.0	48.4	64.1
NAV (debt at fair value)	9.9	6.9	26.8	56.0	67.7
Benchmark	5.1	2.0	21.3	59.7	69.8

Discrete 12 Month Returns to 31 August (%)

	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Share Price	30.0	-2.1	16.6	4.6	5.6
NAV (debt at fair value)	26.8	5.0	17.1	4.2	3.3
Benchmark	21.3	12.6	17.0	5.2	1.0

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 31.08.26. 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.

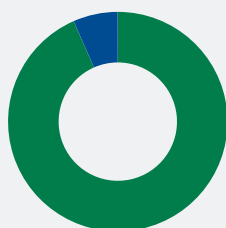
Portfolio Breakdown

Sector Breakdown (%)

Financials	21.0	
Consumer Discretionary	19.7	
Industrials	16.9	
Energy	9.6	
Health Care	8.4	
Real Estate	7.0	
Materials	5.6	
Information Technology	4.6	
Utilities	2.2	
Consumer Staples	1.2	
Cash	3.8	

Geographic Breakdown* (%)

UK	93.4	
Europe ex UK	6.6	



Top Ten Holdings (%)

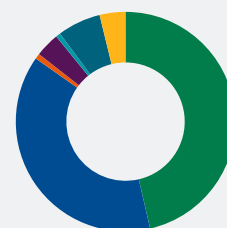
Lloyds Banking Group	5.4
Shell	4.8
Reckitt	4.3
GSK	4.1
Rio Tinto	3.9
Barclays	3.0
Grafton Group	2.9
Hikma Pharmaceuticals	2.7
BP	2.5
Harbour Energy	2.3

Total number of holdings** 53

**Excludes derivatives

Market Cap Breakdown (%)

FTSE 100	46.4	
FTSE 250	38.4	
FTSE AIM	0.8	
Small Cap	3.6	
All Share	0.7	
Other	6.4	
Cash	3.8	



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 31.08.26 unless otherwise stated.

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