

## The Merchants Trust PLC

### Key Information

<b>Total Assets*</b>	£643.2m
<b>Gearing<sup>††</sup> (net)</b>	22.0%
<b>No. of Shares<sup>†</sup> (Ordinary 25p)</b>	102,103,936
<b>Net asset value<sup>†</sup></b>	506.8p
<b>Net asset value (debt at Market Value)<sup>†</sup></b>	471.8p
<b>Premium/-discount to NAV<sup>†</sup></b>	-9.2%
<b>Premium/-discount to NAV (debt at Market Value)<sup>†</sup></b>	-2.5%
<b>Share price*</b>	460.0p
<b>AITC Sector</b>	UK Income Growth
<b>RIC</b>	MRCH
<b>Year end</b>	31st January
<b>Report and Accounts</b>	Final posted in April Interim posted in September
<b>AGM</b>	May
<b>Dividends</b>	February, May, August and November
<b>Price Information</b>	Financial Times The Daily Telegraph www.allianzglobalinvestors.co.uk
<b>Board of Directors</b>	Hugh Stevenson (Chairman), Sir John Banham, Dick Barfield, Sir Bob Reid, Joe Scott Plummer
<b>Investor services</b>	020 7065 1407
<b>Brochure request</b>	0800 317 573

\* Source: Datastream as at 28.02.06

† Source: Allianz Global Investors as at 28.02.06

Investment trusts are quoted companies listed on the London Stock Exchange. Their share price is determined by factors including demand, or lack of, which means that the shares may trade below (at a discount to) or above (at a premium to) the underlying net asset value.

A trust's net asset value (NAV) 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. In line with current industry best practice NAVs are now shown that take into account the 'fair value' of debt. This means NAVs are calculated after allowing for the valuation of debt at fair value or current market price, rather than at final repayment value. NAVs with debt at market value provide a more realistic impact of the cost of debt, and thus a more realistic discount.

†† Source: Datastream as at 28.02.06.

Please also refer to Trust Aim & Characteristics, above right.

### Trust aim & characteristics

The Trust's objective is to provide an above average level of income and income growth together with long term growth of capital through a policy of investing mainly in higher yielding UK FTSE 100 companies.

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

### Fund Manager's Review

Despite its recent strength, the FTSE 100 Index made further progress in February, rising by 0.5%. Company results produced good profit and dividend announcements and there was a continuation of take-over activity. In the latter case the Trust benefited through its holdings in BAA and Lonmin. The banks results season has sustained the recovery in the sector's share prices, whilst property and auto parts have also done well. In contrast, oil reversed January's strength whilst mobile telecoms, principally Vodafone, were weak: these trends led to a significant out-performance by the portfolio. We have taken profits from the holding in Lloyds TSB and the proceeds switched into Royal Bank and new holdings in Tesco and United Utilities. Profits have also been taken from the holding in Tate & Lyle.

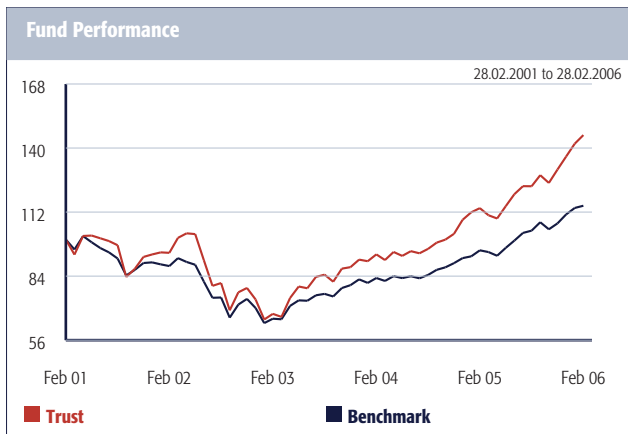


Nigel Lanning

### Top 10 holdings

Name	%
BP	7.9
HSBC	7.4
Royal Dutch Shell "B" Shares	6.7
Glaxosmithkline	5.3
Royal Bank of Scotland Group	4.6
HBOS	3.8
Lloyds TSB Group	3.5
Barclays	2.7
BT Group	2.7
Anglo American	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>46.9</b>

Source: Allianz Global Investors as at 28.02.06



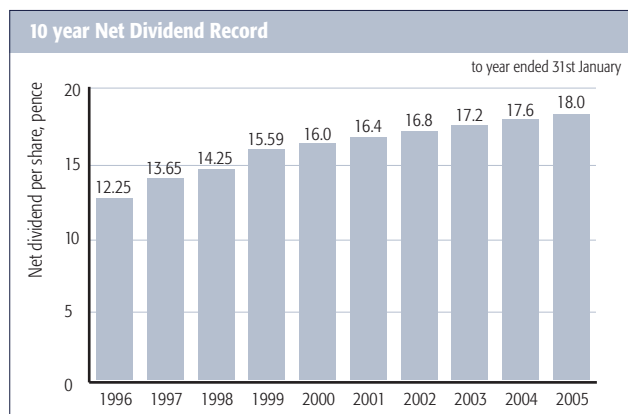
Source: Allianz Global Investors/ Russell/ Mellon. 28th February 2001 to 28th February 2006, Total Return, net income reinvested, calculation indexed. UK Sterling.

Please remember that past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of an investment and the income from it can fall as well as rise as a result of market fluctuations and you may not get back the amount originally 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 a lower capital return.

**Standardised Past Performance**

From to	29/12/2000 to 31/12/2001	31/12/2001 to 31/12/2002	31/12/2002 to 31/12/2003	31/12/2003 to 31/12/2004	31/12/2004 to 30/12/2005
<b>Share Price</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>-22.3%</b>	<b>18.9%</b>	<b>20.2%</b>	<b>22.1%</b>

Source: Allianz Global Investors/S&P Micropal. Discrete years, mid to mid, basic rate tax, based in UK sterling. Standardised past performance figures comply with the Financial Services Authority's regulations to enable investors to compare different products from different providers.



Source: Allianz Global Investors

## History

The Trust was incorporated in February 1889, making it the oldest of the investment trusts in the Allianz Global Investors stable. Initially it principally invested in the fixed interest securities of railway companies in the USA, Canada and South America, with the remainder held in Government securities and companies such as Castlemain Brewery in New South Wales. The Trust now concentrates primarily upon major UK companies with an above average rate of dividend yield.

**Launch Date:** 1889 **Wind-up Date:** None

## Share buybacks

230,000 shares have been repurchased for cancellation to date.