

The Merchants Trust PLC

Key Information

Total Assets*	£653.9m
Gearing^{††} (net)	21%
No. of Shares[†] (Ordinary 25p)	102,103,936
Net asset value[†]	523.2p
Net asset value (debt at Market Value)[†]	491.5p
Premium/-discount to NAV[†]	-8.1%
Premium/-discount to NAV (debt at Market Value)[†]	-2.2%
Share price*	480.8p
AITC Sector	UK Income Growth
RIC	MRCH
Year end	31st January
Report and Accounts	Final posted in April Interim posted in September
AGM	May
Dividends	February, May, August and November
Price Information	Financial Times The Daily Telegraph www.allianzglobalinvestors.co.uk
Board of Directors	Hugh Stevenson (Chairman), Sir John Banham, Dick Barfield, Sir Bob Reid, Joe Scott Plummer
Investor services	020 7065 1407
Brochure request	0800 317 573

* Source: Datastream as at 31.03.06

† Source: Allianz Global Investors as at 31.03.06

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 31.03.06.

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 six-monthly review

The UK equity market has had a good six months with the FTSE All Share Index returning over 13%. Whilst UK growth rates have decelerated, companies have continued to do well and profits and dividends have progressed further. Take-over activity has been particularly prevalent with the interest here moving from the Midcap area into the FTSE100 area. The Trust has benefited from the overall trend through AB Ports, BAA, BOC, Kesa and Lonmin. The Trust has also gained from the anticipation that property companies would be able to convert into tax-exempt 'REITs' (Real Estate Investment Trusts), along with the continued strength of the mining sector.

Looking ahead, although a correction is over-due, the fundamentals are expected to remain supportive of equity values and company dividends. There are likely to be useful opportunities amongst higher yielding shares in the months ahead.

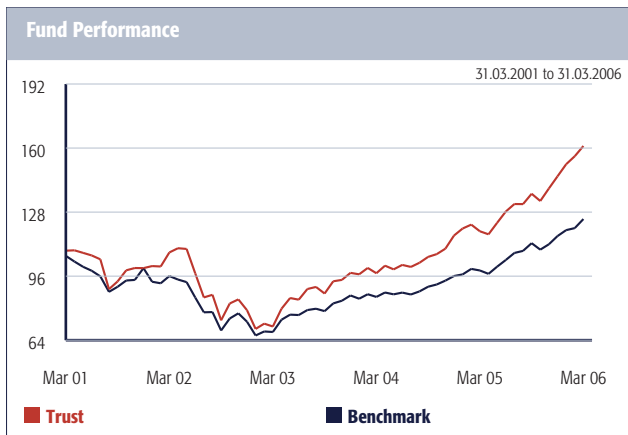


Nigel Lanning

Top 10 holdings

Name	%
BP	8.0
Royal Dutch Shell "B" Shares	7.9
HSBC	7.0
Glaxosmithkline	5.4
Royal Bank of Scotland Group	4.3
Vodafone	4.0
Lloyds TSB Group	3.4
HBOS	3.3
BT Group	2.8
Barclays	2.6
Total	48.6

Source: Allianz Global Investors as at 31.03.06



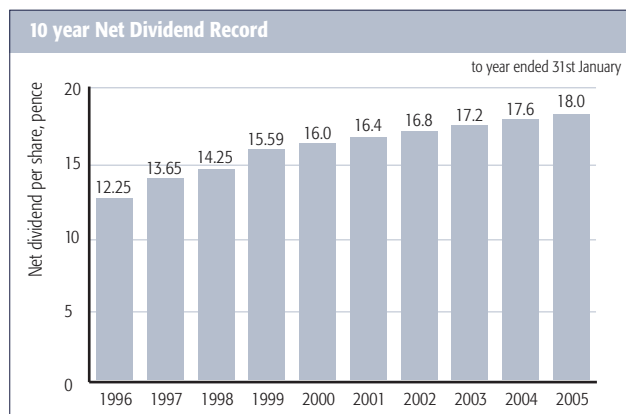
Source: Allianz Global Investors/ Russell Mellon. 31st March 2001 to 31st March 2006, Total Return, net income reinvested, calculation indexed. UK Sterling.

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	30/03/2001 to 29/03/2002	29/03/2002 to 31/03/2003	31/03/2003 to 31/03/2004	31/03/2004 to 31/03/2005	31/03/2005 to 31/03/2006
Share Price	20.0%	-40.7%	41.8%	17.1%	34.7%

Source: Allianz Global Investors/Lipper Hindsight. 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.