Guinness Global Equity Income

Investment Commentary – March 2024

RISK

This is a marketing communication. Please refer to the prospectuses, KIDs and KIIDs for the Funds, which contain detailed information on their characteristics and objectives, before making any final investment decisions.

The Funds are equity funds. Investors should be willing and able to assume the risks of equity investing. The value of an investment and the income from it can fall as well as rise as a result of market and currency movement, and you may not get back the amount originally invested. Further details on the risk factors are included in the Fund's documentation, available on our website.

Past performance does not predict future returns.

ABOUT THE STRATEGY

Launch	31.12.2010
Index	MSCI World
Sector	IA Global Equity Income
Managers	Dr Ian Mortimer, CFA Matthew Page, CFA
EU Domiciled	Guinness Global Equity Income Fund
UK Domiciled	WS Guinness Global Equity Income Fund

OBJECTIVE

The Guinness Global Equity Income Funds are designed to provide investors with global exposure to dividend-paying companies. The Funds are managed for income and capital growth and invest in profitable companies that have generated persistently high return on capital over the last decade, and that are well placed to pay a sustainable dividend into the future. The Funds are actively managed and use the MSCI World Index as a comparator benchmark only.

CONTENTS

COMMENTARY

In February, the Guinness Global Equity Income Fund returned 3.4% (in GBP), the MSCI World Index returned 4.9%, and the IA Global Equity Income sector average return was 2.3%. The Fund therefore underperformed the Index by 1.5% and outperformed its peer group by 1.1%.

February was another good month for global equity markets, as earnings results continued to feed through, largely indicating robust company health. At time of writing, over 90% of S&P 500 firms have reported and, notably, over 75% of these have beaten consensus. The market has also been buoyed by resilient economic data released over the month, including the US composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) showing expanding US activity and a strong US jobs report (+353k) in January, which further added to the positive sentiment. While the Magnificent 7 continued their march, the index has also broadened out, with 10 out of the 11 market sectors seeing positive performance over February. From a geographic perspective, Asia ex-Japan (+5.6% USD) and Emerging Markets (+4.8% USD) were the best performers whereas Europe (+2.0% USD) and UK (+0.0% USD) lagged.

With markets being driven by forces which have been discussed in many previous commentaries, this month we consider in detail our largest sector overweight, Consumer Staples, and discuss its current dynamics, key performance factors, and outlook.

Over the month of February, Fund underperformance versus the benchmark can be attributed to the following:

- The Fund's underweight allocation to the IT sector, and the zero weighting to the Consumer Discretionary sector were drags on performance, as these were the two best performing sectors over February.
- The overweight allocation towards Staples was an additional headwind, as the sector underperformed the index. However, the overweight allocation to Industrials was a positive, thanks to its good relative performance over the month.
- Additionally, the Fund benefited from strong stock selection in Industrials, with Eaton (+17.4% in USD), Emerson (17.1%), and Schneider Electric (+14.3%) all substantially outperforming the index in February.

It is pleasing to see that the Guinness Global Equity Income Fund has outperformed the IA Global Equity Income sector average over 1 year, 3 years, 5 years, 10 years and since launch.

Past performance does not predict future returns.

Cumulative % total return in GBP to 29.02.2024	YTD	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 Years*	Launch*
Guinness Global Equity Income	4.2	13.7	48.4	80.5	200.1	305.3
MSCI World Index	6.3	19.6	41.7	82.5	215.5	313.0
IA Global Equity Income sector average	3.1	9.2	32.0	53.1	124.5	190.4
IA Global Equity Income sector ranking	^	14/53	4/50	6/45	4/32	2/13
IA Global Equity Income sector quartile	^	1	1	1	1	1

**Simulated past performance. Performance prior to the launch date of the Class Y class (11.03.15) is a composite simulation for Class Y performance based on the actual performance of the Fund's E class (1.24% OCF), which has existed since the Fund's launch on 31.12.10. The Fund's E class is denominated in USD but the performance data above is calculated in GBP.*

Source: FE fundinfo. Class Y GBP. Fund launched on 31st December 2010. ^Ranking not shown in order to comply with European Securities and Markets Authority rules.

CONSUMER STAPLES IN REVIEW

The Guinness Global Equity Income Fund currently holds 10 high-quality US and European Consumer Staples stocks. They account for around 25% of the portfolio and make the sector the largest overweight compared to the benchmark.

It is worth stressing that this overweight position is a function of our bottom-up process (where we seek to identify good quality companies, with consistently high returns on capital, strong balance sheets and a growing dividend). As a reminder, our bottom-up approach has four key tenets:

1. **Quality**: We focus on companies with a long history of persistent high return on capital and avoid highly leveraged companies.

2. **Value**: We try to identify companies that are cheap vs market, peers, and their own history.

3. **Dividend**: We target a moderate dividend yield (we do not screen for high dividend yield companies) and aim to grow the dividend stream year-on-year.

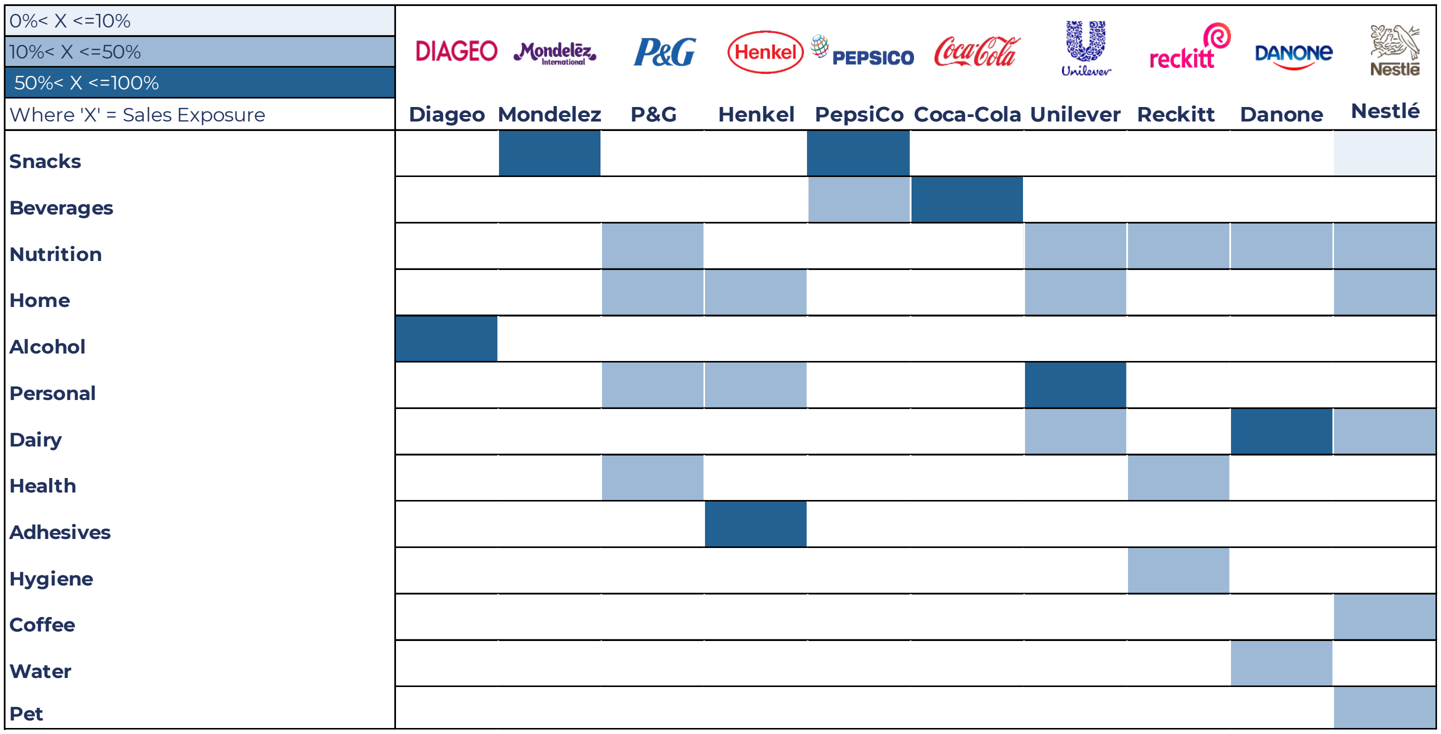
4. **Conviction**: The Fund typically has 35 approximately equally weighted positions. We target a low turnover with average investment horizon of 3-5 years.

However, while investing bottom-up, we have a favourable view of the sector due to its attractive characteristics. In this report, we will explore the underlying drivers of the sector, outline the current market conditions, and look into the Fund's Consumer Staples holdings. We also explain why we believe that the current environment may present a favourable opportunity for these businesses.

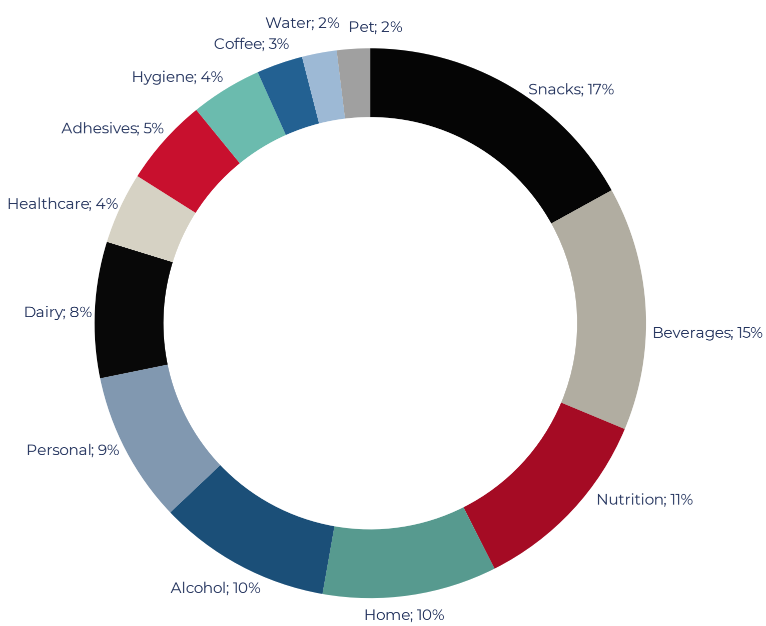
Industry Mix: It's Not Just Snacks

The Consumer Staples sector is often referred to in the absolute but is more diverse than one might think. There are 12 varied sub-industry groups, from Brewers to Agricultural Products and Tobacco, as well as the better-known parts of the market such as Household Products and Food Retail.

At time of writing, the Funds have a c.25% weighting to Consumer Staples. Among the 10 Staples names in aggregate, the largest single allocation on a revenue basis is to Snacks (17%), followed by Beverages (15%) and Nutrition (11%). The remaining 57% allocation is split across 10 further categories, which leaves the Staples exposure relatively well diversified.



Consumer Staples Category Exposures



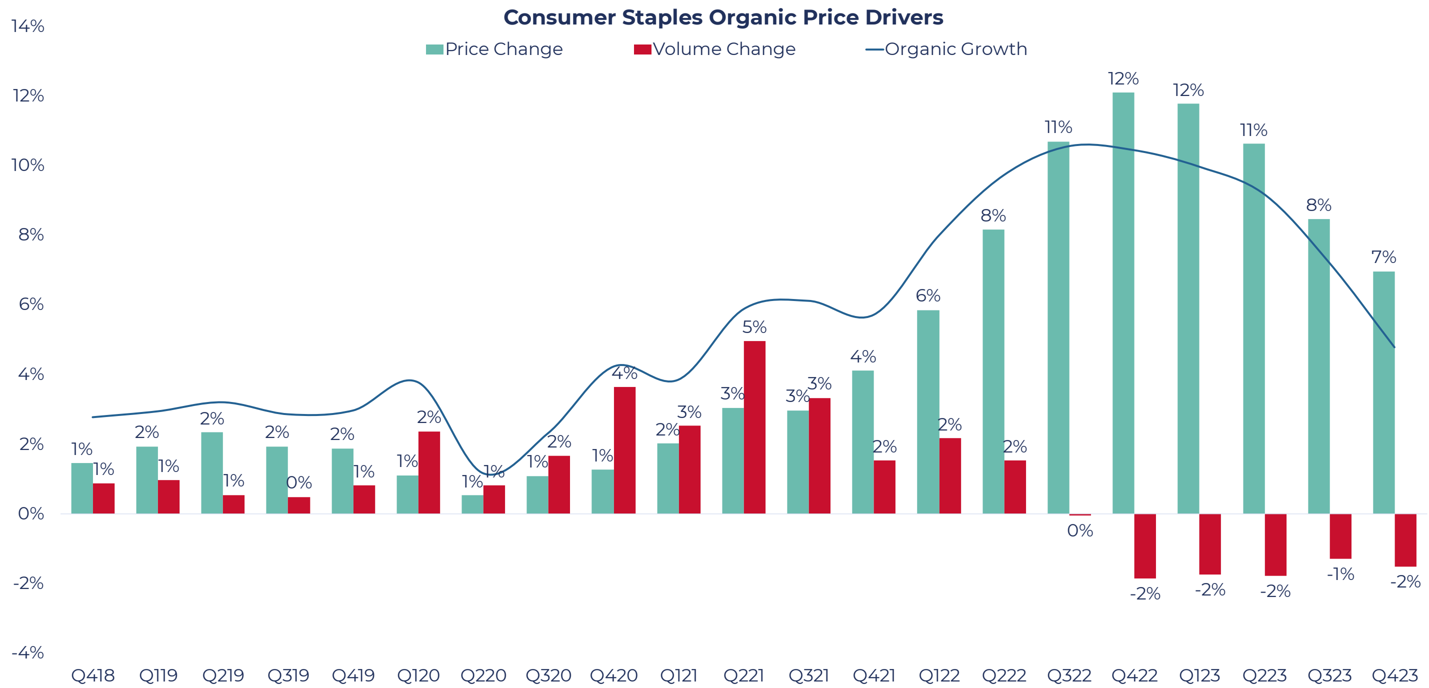
Source: Guinness Global Investors, Bloomberg, 29th February 2024

The Fundamentals: Prices + Volumes + Mix

There are three key drivers of organic growth for Consumer Staples companies: Pricing, Volumes, and Mix.

Pricing

Pricing strategy and pricing power is a key component of the organic growth picture and especially in the period since the end of 2021, when price increases have driven the majority of sector growth, since volumes for many sub-categories have faced substantial headwinds. It comes as no surprise that this has coincided with the large increase in global inflation rates. Many Staples businesses (owing to strong branding and customer loyalty, qualities discussed below) have managed to pass through price increases in excess of inflation rates and have therefore seen healthy organic growth figures. As inflation heads towards more normalised levels in many major economies, the ability to sustain these levels of price increases has diminished substantially, but we are still seeing mid to high single-digit price increases being passed through to the end consumer. The chart below shows how price increases have accelerated over the last five years before moderating over the past four or five quarters.



Source: Guinness Global Investors, Bloomberg, 29th February 2024. Price & Volume data is for a basket of Staples businesses

Volumes

In contrast to price increases, which have been strong across the board, volume trends been more varied. At the industry level, the chart above shows that volume growth peaked in mid-2021 and has declined since. This reflects the increased price sensitivity – and in some cases the financial stress – of the consumer, although the US market and parts of Europe are still holding up relatively well. Still, despite the more recent net volume declines, organic growth has remained strong. This is particularly noteworthy in that the 'down-trading' (switching from branded to cheaper alternatives) that many investors feared has been far less widespread than expected, as demonstrated by management commentary from a range of the Fund's holdings.

Mondelez CEO Dirk Van de Put (on pricing dynamics in the European market): "there is very little or low down-trading … because everybody will have to (raise) prices. So, it's a joint movement between all the brands… we don't expect that there will be huge shifting of consumers."

Coca-Cola CEO & Chairman James Quincey: "if you've got to save money, you don't trade down averagely across everything … our objective is to make sure [consumers] value our brands so that they make the choices in the shopping occasion… we preserve our brand strengths because we deliver value for them in the product, in the marketing and innovation."

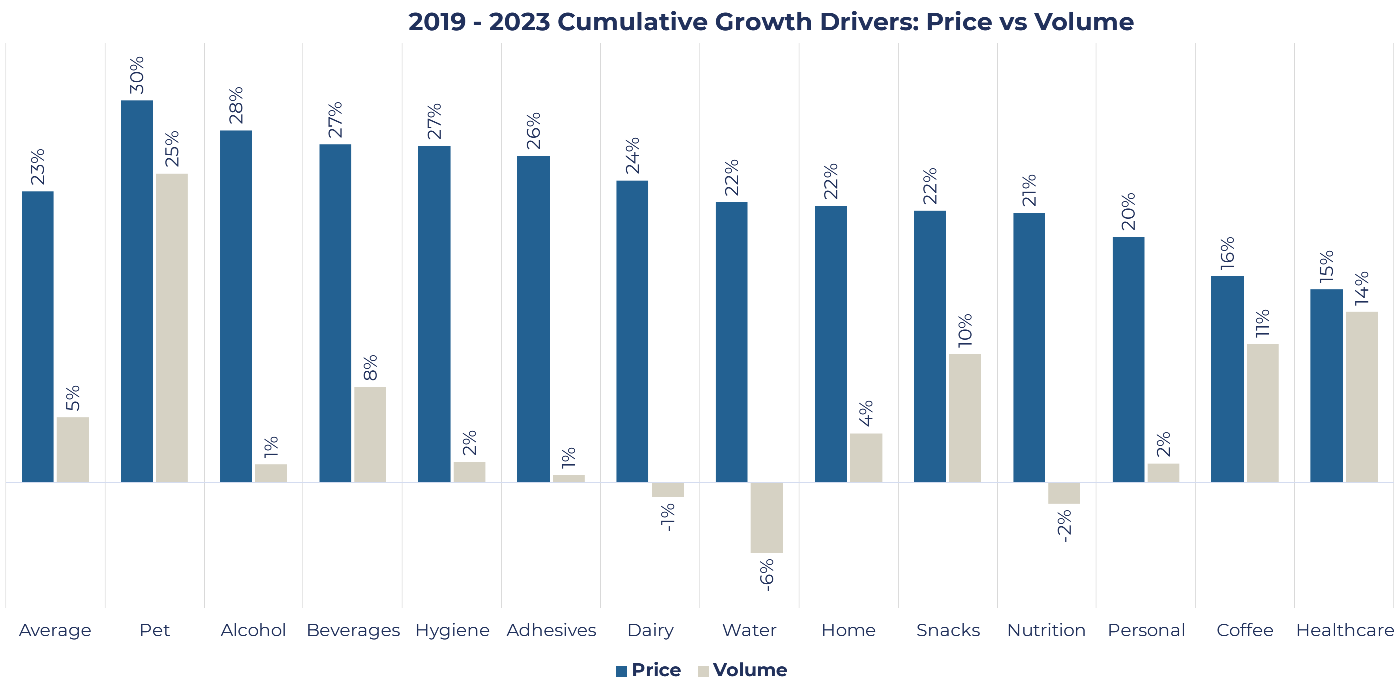
P&G CFO Andre Schulten: "the U.S. continues to be very solid and continues to impress. Consumers that are choosing P&G products continue to trade up within our portfolio… This speaks to the health of our proposition, but also the health of the consumer and their willingness to invest. Some consumers will look for value in private label, but an equal if not higher amount find better value in our propositions as we drive continued superiority via innovation."

Mix

Often overlooked, the product mix is also an important part of overall growth. This refers to the different product forms offered by a company, including the type of product sold, the quantity it is sold in (single buy / multibuy) and the size of the packet itself. Faced with rising costs and an increasingly price-sensitive consumer, Staples businesses have been reducing the size of certain product ranges. Even alongside flat pricing, this has the effect of increasing the average cost per quantity sold and contributes to organic growth.

At the Category Level

There is wide variation by category. Some (Pet, Beverage, and Healthcare) have had tailwinds and managed to grow both volumes and price. Others (notably Water, Dairy, and Alcohol) have seen greater challenges, particularly on the volumes side, as shown by the chart below.



Source: Guinness Global Investors, Bloomberg, 29th February 2024

And at the Fund Level

	LFY			Since COVID		
	Organic Growth	Price Chg	Volume Chg	Organic Growth	Price Chg	Volume Chg
Reckitt Benckiser Group PLC	7.6%	9.8%	-2.2%	24.5%	24.9%	3.4%
Procter & Gamble Co/The	7.0%	9.0%	-3.0%	28.6%	15.6%	6.0%
Unilever PLC	7.0%	6.8%	0.2%	24.2%	22.7%	1.3%
Diageo PLC	6.0%	7.0%	-7.0%	36.9%	28.1%	-1.0%
PepsiCo Inc	9.5%	13.0%	-3.0%	43.1%	38.0%	2.9%
Coca-Cola Co/The	12.0%	10.0%	2.0%	37.1%	26.8%	8.6%
Henkel AG & Co KGaA	8.8%	12.6%	-3.8%	16.5%	26.1%	-4.9%
Nestle SA	8.3%	8.2%	0.1%	20.6%	19.1%	9.1%
Danone SA	7.8%	8.7%	-	9.8%	16.2%	-1.1%
Mondelez International Inc	14.7%	13.4%	1.3%	40.5%	29.9%	8.7%

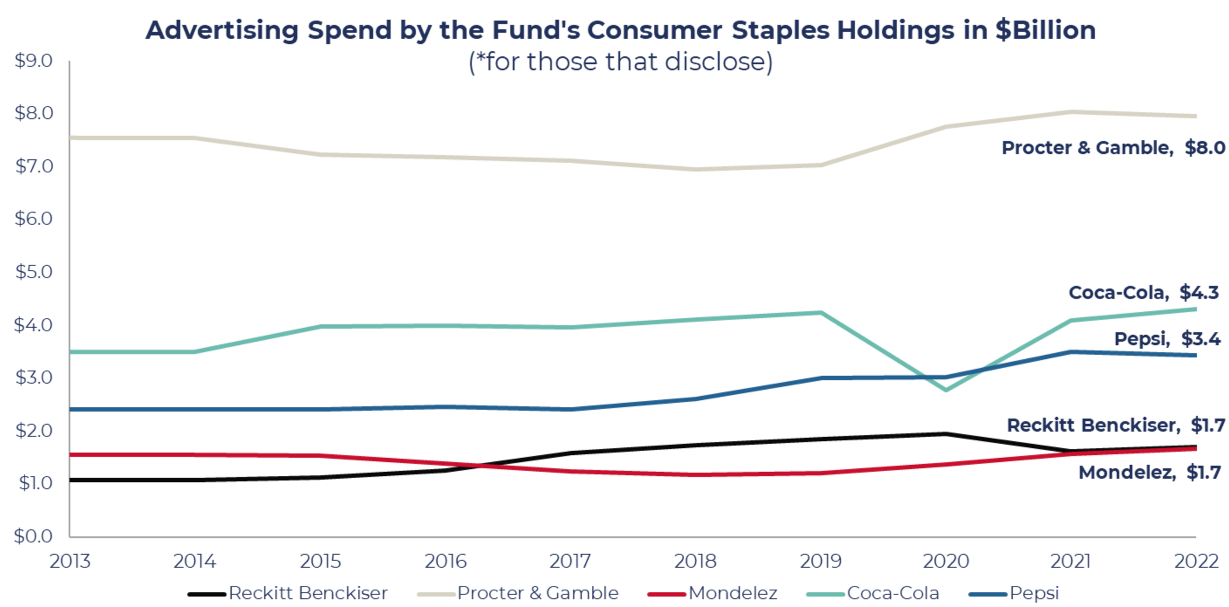
Source: Guinness Global Investors, Bloomberg, 29th February 2024

Pricing growth has been strong for the Fund's Consumer Staples holdings, both on a one-year basis and since COVID (Q1 2020). On a four-year basis, across all holdings, the average price increase has been 24.7%.

Even though volumes have lagged behind pricing, net volume growth still stands at 3.3% over the same time period, with all but three companies seeing positive growth.

Brands

Branding is a key differentiator for Consumer Staples, perhaps more than in other sectors due to the core industry dynamics. Products are often purchased regularly, and purchasing decisions take place with limited planning or thought, due to their generally low cost. Staying front of mind is therefore paramount. This is achieved via consistent advertising campaigns which highlight the value proposition as well as the latest product innovations, helping to reinforce strong brand messaging and personal attachment. Such is its importance, Advertising & Promotional spend (A&P) is seen as an essential cost of doing business as without it, sales would likely tail off quickly. The Fund's Consumer Staples holdings have, we believe, a superior brand portfolio which continues to grow sales organically, and this is partly explained by their sizeable A&P investments. Not all businesses disclose their A&P spend, but for those that do (shown below) the total figures are substantial.



Source: Guinness Global Investors, Bloomberg, 29th February 2024

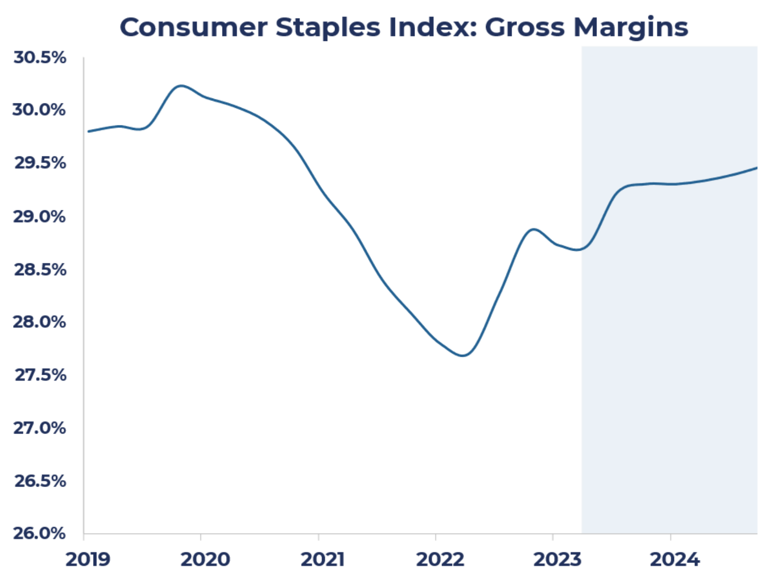
Innovation Case Study: Alcohol

Sectors that have struggled to grow volumes organically have often turned to innovation to improve the value proposition of their products and drive growth in other ways. This has sometimes meant focusing on product niches, as is the case for the Alcohol category, which is undergoing a change in consumption patterns. IWSR (a drinks market research company) has noted that alcohol consumption by US adults (18 to 34) has declined 14% over the past decade, and other major markets are seeing similar declines. However, ongoing innovation (alongside large marketing budgets) has seen new product categories emerge. For example, demand for zero-alcohol product lines has exploded, reaching a total addressable market (TAM) of $13bn in 2023. In addition, the category has pivoted towards premiumisation, both in terms of ingredient quality and brand advertising, which has proved popular with consumers, as they increasingly switch to higher-quality areas of the market, enabling greater pricing growth. Thanks to product development and continued investments into brand and quality, the Alcohol category has seen a 26% growth in price over the past four years, more than any other Staples category.

Margins

Gross Margins

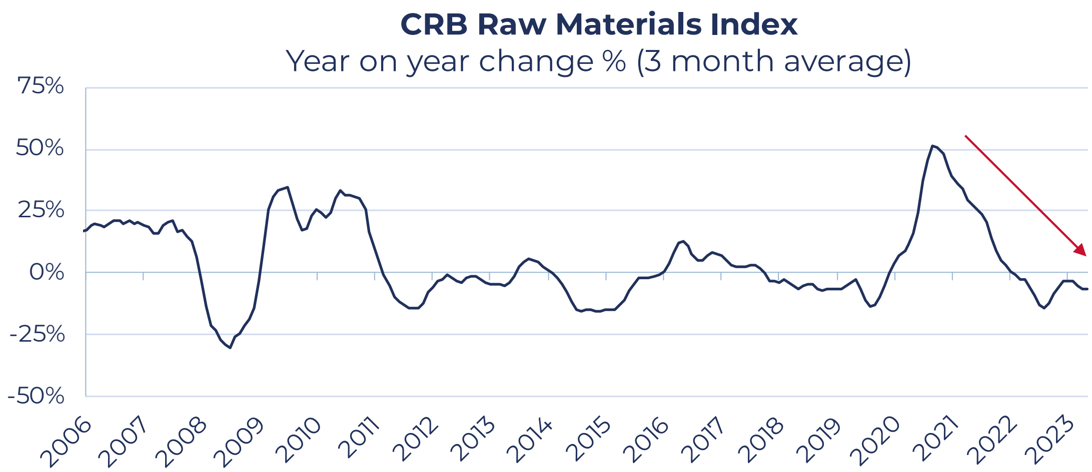
Like many other industries, Staples businesses have faced a difficult few years, with rising costs across the entire supply chain. Commodity, shipping, manufacturing, labour and storage costs have all seen large increases and, as a result, the margin profile in mid-2022 deteriorated to the lowest level in the past five years. More recently, margins have rebounded thanks to input prices moderating (and even falling in some cases). As a result, sector gross margins have started to recover, reaching c.29% at the end of 2023 and poised for even further expansion.



Source: Guinness Global Investors, Bloomberg, 29th February 2024

Inputs Trending Nicely

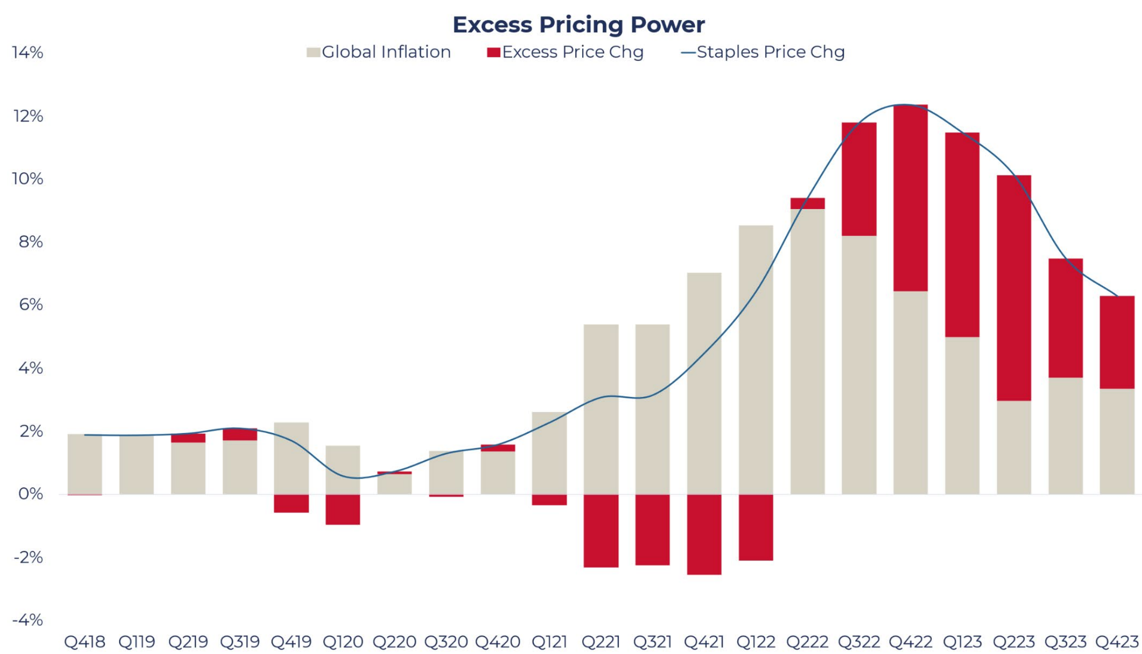
Much of the potential expansion is due to moderating input costs. The CRB Raw Materials Index, which tracks 19 global commodities, has seen substantial year-on-year declines from its 2021 peak and is now in negative territory on a 3-month rolling average basis. As input costs continue to fall and top-line growth continues, the potential for meaningful margin expansion grows.



Source: Guinness Global Investors, Bloomberg, 29th February 2024

As Long as Pricing Holds

We have already discussed the industry pricing dynamics, but another route to conceptual price increases is via excess pricing power. This is manifest in the spread between the price increases companies are passing through and the rate of global inflation. As inflation began to rise in early 2021, the Staples industry was slow to raise prices and therefore excess pricing was negative (demonstrated by the red bars in the chart below). However, as companies continued to pass through higher prices to the consumer alongside falling headline inflation figures, excess pricing power has re-emerged.



Source: Guinness Global Investors, Bloomberg, 29th February 2024. Price & Volume data is for a basket of Staples businesses

Attractive Dividends: Growth & Yield

The Consumer Staples sector is characterised by companies that have stable revenues and defensive business models and which often produce high levels of free cash flow. As such, these businesses are often able to pay healthy dividends. Not only are the dividend yields solid in absolute terms, but the strong underlying free cash flows allow for healthy dividend growth over time. The average dividend yield across the portfolio's 10 Staples names at end of February was 3.1%, well ahead of the Fund average, and the MSCI World Index gross yield of 1.88%.

Dividend Growth	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023 vs 2019
World	-4.1%	10.8%	7.0%	6.1%	20.6%
Staples	4.3%	4.0%	2.4%	9.1%	21.1%
Reckitt Benckiser Group P	0.0%	0.0%	5.0%	3.7%	8.9%
Procter & Gamble Co/The	4.5%	7.0%	8.7%	4.5%	27.0%
Unilever PLC	1.5%	3.0%	-0.2%	-13.3%	-9.6%
Diageo PLC	-0.7%	7.7%	3.7%	-5.0%	5.4%
PepsiCo Inc	6.1%	5.6%	6.5%	9.3%	30.4%
Coca-Cola Co/The	2.5%	2.4%	4.8%	4.5%	15.0%
Henkel AG & Co KGaA	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%	1.9%
Nestle SA	1.9%	1.8%	5.4%	4.4%	14.1%
Danone SA	-7.6%	0.0%	3.1%	3.0%	-1.9%
Mondelez International Inc	10.1%	10.8%	10.5%	10.2%	48.6%

Source: Guinness Global Investors, Bloomberg, 29th February 2024

When focusing on dividend growth, we can see that the Staples sector has grown dividends faster than the MSCI world by c.50bps over the last four years. Within the Fund's Consumer Staples, Mondelez, PepsiCo and P&G have performed particularly well, growing their dividend well above the market over this period. However, even as names like Reckitt Benckiser, Henkel and Danone have not grown their dividend as fast over this period, it is encouraging to see that dividend growth is starting to reaccelerate as these firms show positive momentum within their dividend growth over the last one or two years.

Defensiveness

Due to the nature of their businesses and predictable cash flows, Staples firms tend to outperform in a downturn, with a relative downside capture of just 78%. Looking back over the last 11 significant drawdowns (those characterised by a market pullback of 7% or more), the Consumer Staples sector has outperformed the MSCI World Index in all but the most recent example. Additionally, the average outperformance has been a substantial 5.9%. When compared to the Fund itself, the sector has outperformed in all but three cases. The chart below summarises the merits of the Staples sector, particularly in periods of greater volatility, as their more defensive and less cyclical characteristics have often led to outperformance.

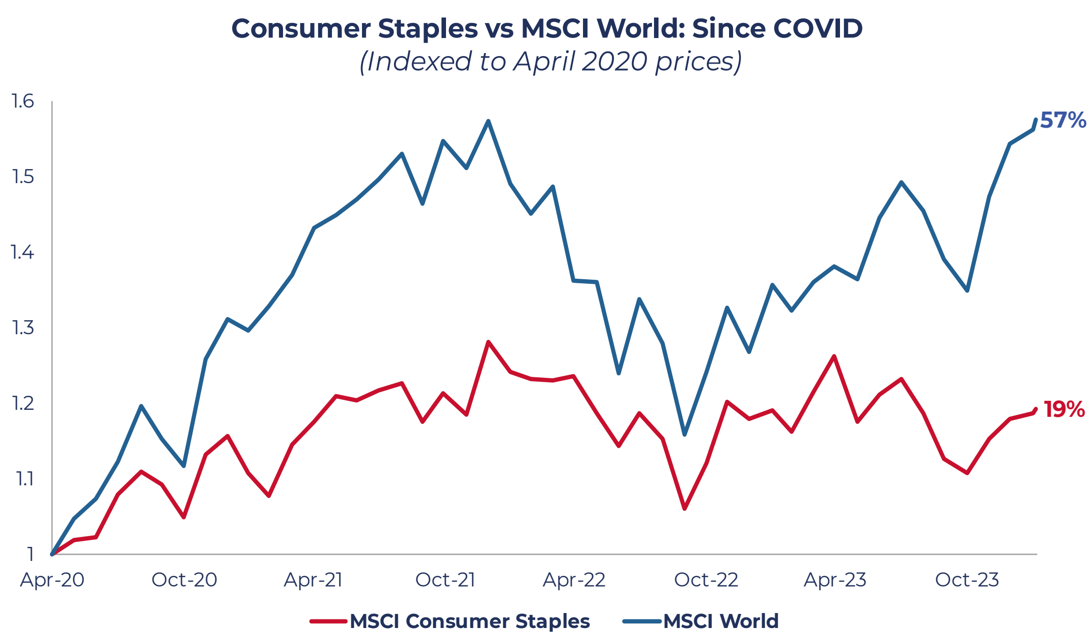
Reason for sell off	Start date	End date	MSCI World Index	Guinness Global Equity Income	MSCI Consumer Staples
1. European crisis / Greece	02/05/2011	04/10/2011	-22.0%	-15.6%	-8.7%
2. US credit rating downgrade	19/03/2012	04/06/2012	-12.5%	-8.9%	-4.1%
3. "Taper tantrum"	21/05/2013	24/06/2013	-7.7%	-5.2%	-6.8%
4. Oil price sell off	27/08/2014	16/10/2014	-8.8%	-8.3%	-5.6%
5. Chinese stock market decline	17/08/2015	25/08/2015	-9.4%	-8.5%	-7.6%
6. China growth concerns	31/12/2015	11/02/2016	-11.5%	-6.1%	-3.0%
7. Volatility spike / inflation concerns	26/01/2018	08/02/2018	-9.0%	-7.1%	-7.9%
8. Tech sell off / US-China trade issues	03/10/2018	25/12/2018	-17.5%	-12.0%	-8.8%
9. Coronavirus	19/02/2020	23/03/2020	-34.0%	-32.5%	-23.8%
10. Inflation concerns / Ukraine war	04/01/2022	12/10/2022	-26.1%	-20.8%	-16.5%
11. 'Higher for Longer' Interest Rates	31/07/2023	27/10/2023	-10.5%	-9.0%	**-11.0%**

Source: Guinness Global Investors, Bloomberg, 29th February 2024

Relatively Attractive Valuations

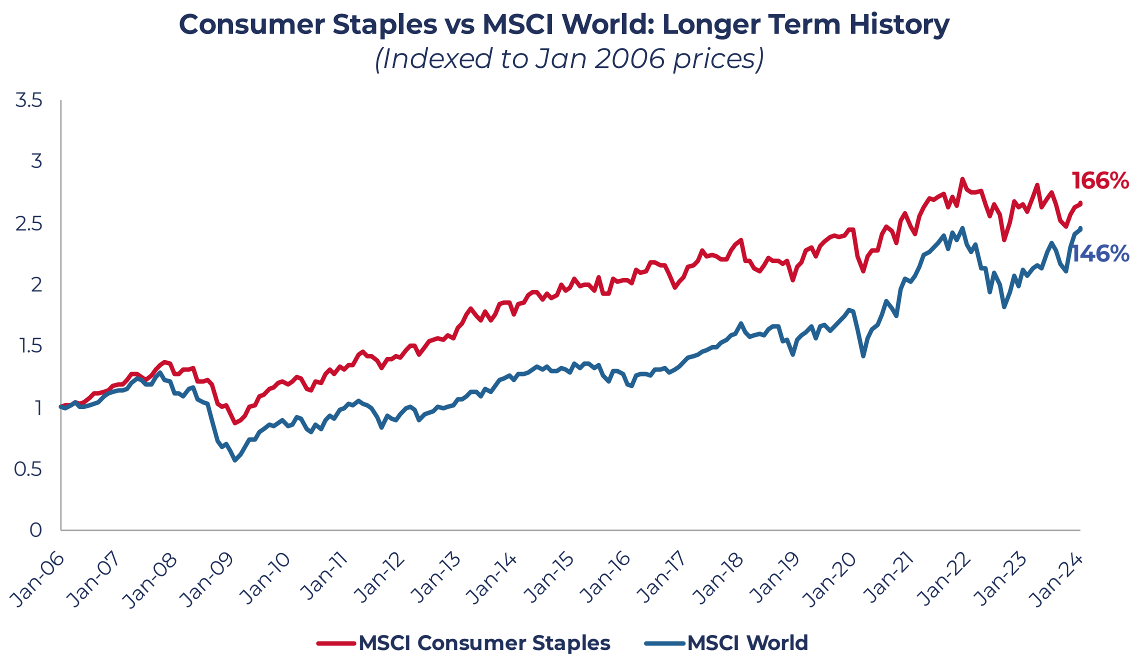
Performance

As a starting point, looking at relative performance over the past four years or so since the beginning of the COVID pandemic, it is clear that the Consumer Staples sector has underperformed the broader index:



Source: Guinness Global Investors, Bloomberg, 29th February 2024

However, over a longer period, we can see outperformance from the sector, with lower volatility:



Source: Guinness Global Investors, Bloomberg, 29th February 2024

Valuations

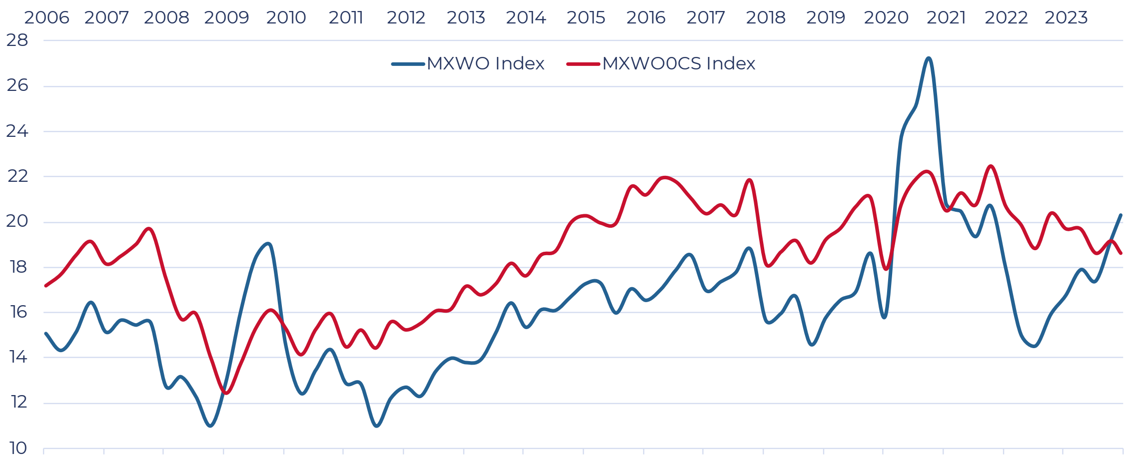
With this superior performance over much of the past two decades, the Staples sector has traded at an average premium of 15% to the MSCI World. Over the past 10 years, this premium has in fact stood closer to 20% as the high-quality characteristics of the sector and the compounded organic growth have commanded a higher market multiple. However, since COVID, the valuation picture has been more volatile.

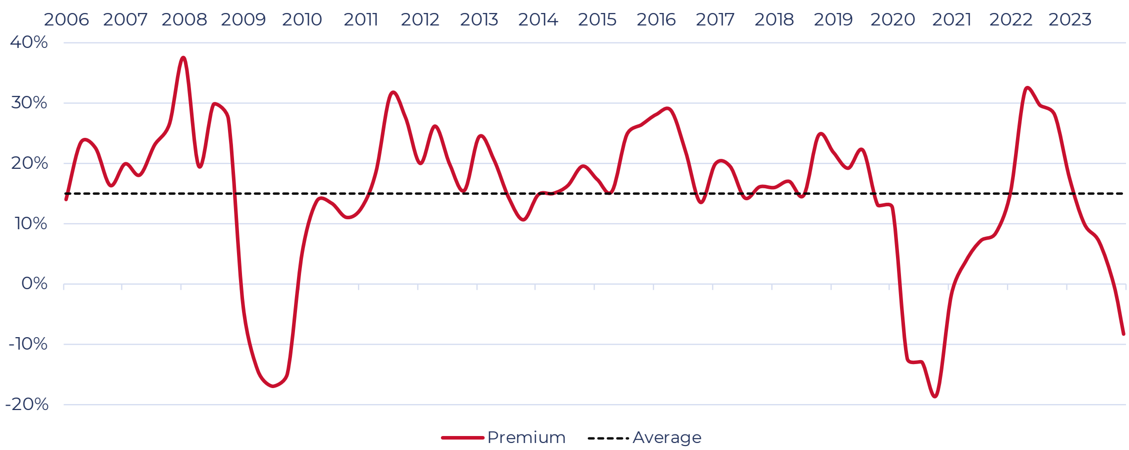
March 2020 to March 2021: markets rebounded sharply following the COVID crash as record-low interest rates benefited growth stocks in particular. Staples therefore underperformed and began trading at a discount to the wider market.

March 2021 to December 2022: As inflation began to feed through, Staples businesses managed to raise prices substantially, which, in many cases, reached double digits and spurred strong organic growth. Staples came back into favour and sector earnings multiples climbed above 22X, an all-time high. This was a 30% premium to the broader market.

2023 to present: As inflation began to moderate, the sector underperformed and earnings multiples fell to c.18x. This stands close to a 10% discount to the index at present.

Consumer Staples Valuation vs MSCI World





Source: Guinness Global Investors, Bloomberg, 29th February 2024

On a relative basis, vs history and vs the index, the Staples sector is looking attractive from a valuation standpoint. Even as the price increases they pass through are decelerating, Consumer Staples businesses are still capturing excess pricing, which is aided by falling input costs. The margin picture has improved substantially year-over-year, and this expansion looks set to continue. Despite their recent relative underperformance vs the index, there is a good case to be made for the Staples sector as a whole. The growth outlook looks solid and we remain confident in the long-term quality of the Sector. We therefore believe that these high-quality businesses with solid returns on capital and strong compounding characteristics can continue to perform well over the long term and represent a good source of dividend income, alongside steady compounded price returns.

PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS

Eaton was the Fund's top performer, gaining +17.4% (in USD) over the month. The industrial power management firm released a strong set of earnings at the beginning of the month and raised its full-year guidance for 2024 given continued momentum across its end markets. This is especially the case for its North American operations, which are going from strength to strength. The US Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) has pledged c.$370 billion for climate and energy proposals, which is driving substantial demand for the efficient power products that Eaton sells, with its US business posting double-digit organic growth for eight consecutive quarters. Looking across the broader business, the demand picture remains healthy as megaprojects (distinguished by costs of over $1 billion) have driven record order flow and a companywide backlog that stands at $12.7bn, an all-time high. Further good news came in the form of a positive dividend update, with management announcing a 9% increase in the dividend, stemming from the healthy free cash flow position. In sum, we remain optimistic about the firm's outlook and are encouraged by the strong performance over the month.

It was a difficult month for a couple of our Staples names including **Reckitt Benckiser** (-13.0%) and **Nestlé** (-9.3%). Rather than dwell further on Staples, we will discuss **Roche** (-8.6%) in greater detail. The Swiss-based Pharmaceutical and Diagnostics giant has faced recent growing pressures from biosimilar knock-off drugs as some of its core portfolio comes off patent. The latest set of quarterly earnings shows particularly strong competition for its cancer treatments (Avastin, Herceptin, and Rituxan) as well as its macular degeneration drug (Lucentis), which has seen intense pressure in the US market in particular. In addition, the firm faces some shorter-term headwinds including strength in the Swiss Franc and the continued fall-off in COVID diagnostic revenues. Management expects COVID headwinds and erosion from generics and biosimilars to amount to CHF 2.7 billion in top-line pressure in 2024, although this is down from the CHF 6.4 billion faced in 2023, and we believe that the negative reaction to Roche's earnings was overdone. On a more positive note, Roche is rightsizing its product pipeline, focusing on the highest-value programmes (while discontinuing those that aren't currently viable), in a bid to make the R&D spend more efficient. The core business (ex-COVID products) remains in good shape, with organic top-line growth of 8% and a margin profile meaningfully ahead of peer averages. The underlying business continues to perform well, and we therefore believe that Roche can rebound from the short-term headwinds that affected the stock in February.

We made no changes to the portfolio holdings in the month.

Thank you for your continued support.

Portfolio Managers

Matthew Page
Ian Mortimer

Investment Analysts

Sagar Thanki
Joseph Stephens
William van der Weyden
Jack Drew
Loshini Subendran

GUINNESS GLOBAL EQUITY INCOME FUND - FUND FACTS

Fund size	$5558.8m
Fund launch	31.12.2010
OCF	0.77%
Benchmark	MSCI World TR
Historic yield	1.9% (Y GBP Dist)

Historic yield reflects the distributions declared over the past 12 months expressed as a percentage of the mid-market price, as at the latest month end. It does not include any preliminary charges. Investors may be subject to tax on the distribution.

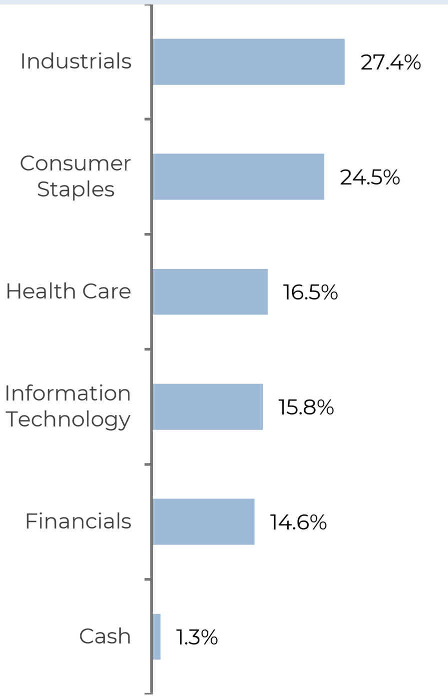
GUINNESS GLOBAL EQUITY INCOME FUND - PORTFOLIO

Top 10 holdings

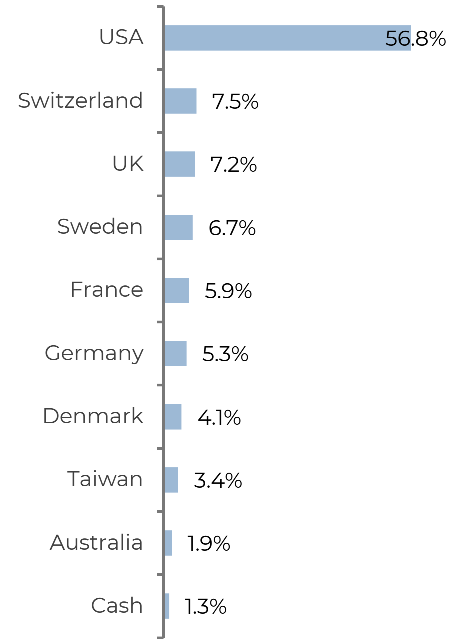
Novo Nordisk	4.2%
Abbvie	3.6%
Microsoft	3.5%
Eaton	3.5%
Atlas Copco	3.5%
Schneider Electric	3.4%
Taiwan Semiconductor	3.4%
Broadcom	3.4%
Assa Abloy AB	3.3%
Deutsche Boerse	3.2%

Top 10 holdings	34.9%
Number of holdings	35

Sector



Country



Past performance does not predict future returns.

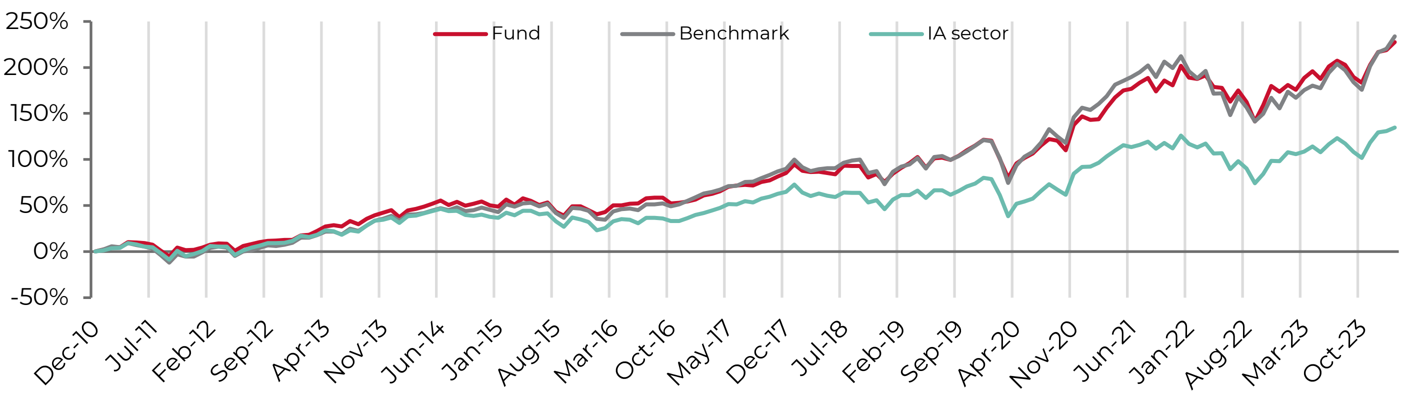
GUINNESS GLOBAL EQUITY INCOME FUND - CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE

(GBP)	1 Month	YTD	1 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr
Fund	+3.4%	+4.2%	+13.7%	+48.4%	+80.4%	+200.0%
MSCI World TR	+4.9%	+6.3%	+19.6%	+41.7%	+82.5%	+215.5%
IA Global Equity Income TR	+2.3%	+3.1%	+9.2%	+32.0%	+53.1%	+124.5%
(USD)	**1 Month**	**YTD**	**1 yr**	**3 yr**	**5 yr**	**10 yr**
Fund	+2.7%	+3.4%	+18.8%	+34.3%	+71.6%	+126.5%
MSCI World TR	+4.2%	+5.5%	+25.0%	+28.2%	+73.6%	+138.1%
IA Global Equity Income TR	+1.6%	+2.3%	+14.1%	+19.5%	+45.6%	+69.5%
(EUR)	**1 Month**	**YTD**	**1 yr**	**3 yr**	**5 yr**	**10 yr**
Fund	+3.1%	+5.6%	+16.4%	+50.6%	+80.5%	+189.4%
MSCI World TR	+4.6%	+7.7%	+22.5%	+43.8%	+82.6%	+203.9%
IA Global Equity Income TR	+2.0%	+4.4%	+11.8%	+34.0%	+53.2%	+116.3%

GUINNESS GLOBAL EQUITY INCOME FUND - ANNUAL PERFORMANCE

(GBP)	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Fund	+9.2%	+2.1%	+23.3%	+8.1%	+21.2%	+0.7%	+9.6%	+26.9%	+2.2%	+10.1%
MSCI World TR	+16.8%	-7.8%	+22.9%	+12.3%	+22.7%	-3.0%	+11.8%	+28.2%	+4.9%	+11.5%
IA Global Equity Income TR	+9.2%	-1.2%	+18.7%	+3.3%	+18.6%	-5.8%	+10.4%	+23.2%	+1.5%	+6.7%
(USD)	**2023**	**2022**	**2021**	**2020**	**2019**	**2018**	**2017**	**2016**	**2015**	**2014**
Fund	+15.8%	-9.3%	+22.2%	+11.5%	+26.0%	-5.2%	+20.0%	+6.4%	-3.4%	+3.7%
MSCI World TR	+23.8%	-18.1%	+21.8%	+15.9%	+27.7%	-8.7%	+22.4%	+7.5%	-0.9%	+4.9%
IA Global Equity Income TR	+15.8%	-12.3%	+17.6%	+6.5%	+23.4%	-11.3%	+20.8%	+3.3%	-4.0%	+0.4%
(EUR)	**2023**	**2022**	**2021**	**2020**	**2019**	**2018**	**2017**	**2016**	**2015**	**2014**
Fund	+11.9%	-3.4%	+31.5%	+2.3%	+28.3%	-0.4%	+5.4%	+9.6%	+7.7%	+18.0%
MSCI World TR	+19.6%	-12.8%	+31.1%	+6.3%	+30.0%	-4.1%	+7.5%	+10.7%	+10.4%	+19.5%
IA Global Equity Income TR	+11.8%	-6.5%	+26.6%	-2.3%	+25.7%	-6.9%	+6.1%	+6.4%	+6.9%	+14.4%

GUINNESS GLOBAL EQUITY INCOME FUND - PERFORMANCE SINCE LAUNCH (USD)



Simulated past performance in 10 year and since launch numbers. Performance prior to the launch date of the Y class (11.03.15) is a composite simulation for Y class performance being based on the actual performance of the Fund's E class (1.24% Ongoing Charges Figure - OCF). Source: FE fundinfo 29.02.24. Investors should note that fees and expenses are charged to the capital of the Fund. This reduces the return on your investment by an amount equivalent to the OCF. The current OCF for the share class used for the fund performance returns is 0.77%. Returns for share classes with a different OCF will vary accordingly. Transaction costs also apply and are incurred when a fund buys or sells holdings. The performance returns do not reflect any initial charge; any such charge will also reduce the return.

WS GUINNESS GLOBAL EQUITY INCOME FUND - FUND FACTS

Fund size	£163.6m
Fund launch	09.11.2020
OCF	0.79%
Benchmark	MSCI World TR
Historic yield	2.1% (Y GBP Inc)

Historic yield reflects the distributions declared over the past 12 months expressed as a percentage of the mid-market price, as at the latest month end. It does not include any preliminary charges. Investors may be subject to tax on the distribution.

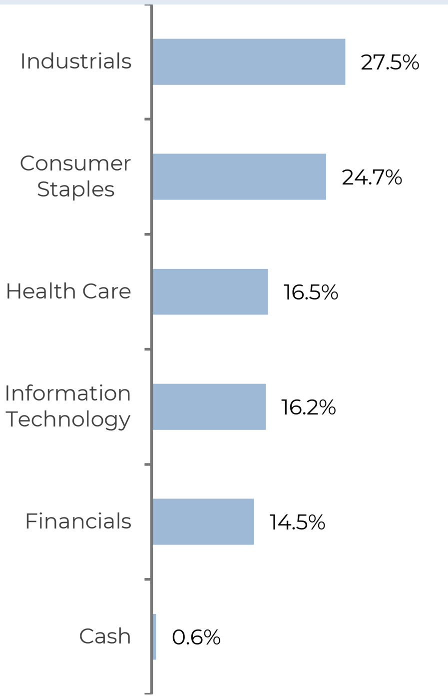
WS GUINNESS GLOBAL EQUITY INCOME FUND - PORTFOLIO

Top 10 holdings

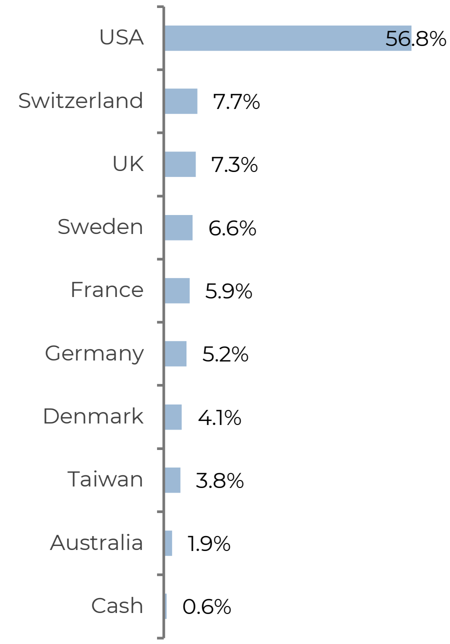
Novo Nordisk	4.2%
Taiwan Semiconductor	3.9%
Eaton	3.5%
Abbvie	3.5%
Microsoft	3.5%
Schneider Electric	3.4%
Broadcom	3.4%
Atlas Copco	3.4%
Assa Abloy AB	3.2%
ABB	3.2%

Top 10 holdings	35.2%
Number of holdings	35

Sector



Country



Past performance does not predict future returns.

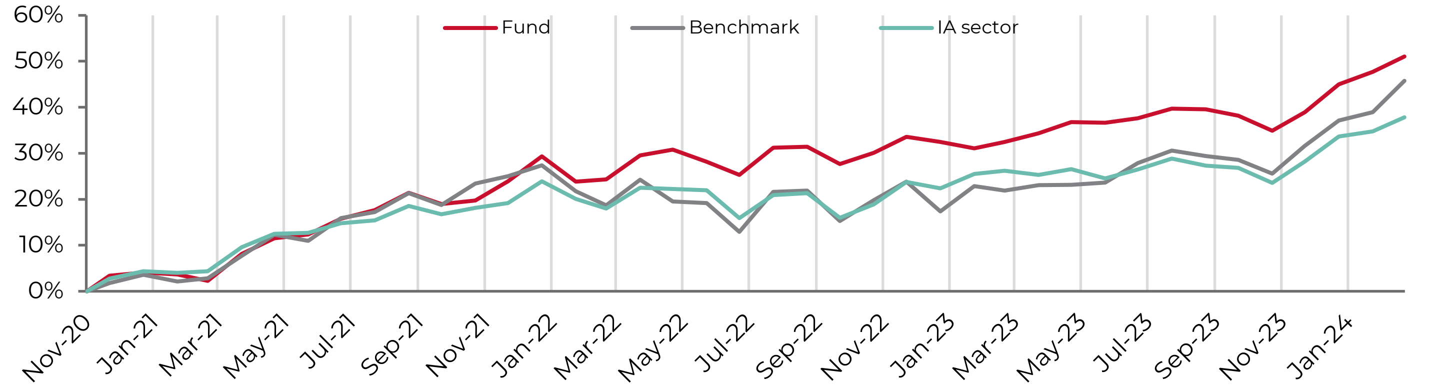
WS GUINNESS GLOBAL EQUITY INCOME FUND - CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE

(GBP)	1 Month	YTD	1 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr
Fund	+2.3%	+4.2%	+14.1%	+47.7%	-	-
MSCI World TR	+4.9%	+6.3%	+19.6%	+41.7%	-	-
IA Global Equity Income TR	+2.3%	+3.1%	+9.2%	+32.0%	-	-

WS GUINNESS GLOBAL EQUITY INCOME FUND - ANNUAL PERFORMANCE

(GBP)	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Fund	+9.5%	+2.4%	+24.3%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MSCI World TR	+16.8%	-7.8%	+22.9%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IA Global Equity Income TR	+9.2%	-1.2%	+18.7%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

WS GUINNESS GLOBAL EQUITY INCOME FUND - PERFORMANCE SINCE LAUNCH (GBP)



Source: FE fundinfo to 29.02.24. Investors should note that fees and expenses are charged to the capital of the Fund. This reduces the return on your investment by an amount equivalent to the Ongoing Charges Figure (OCF). The current OCF for the share class used for the fund performance returns is 0.79%. Returns for share classes with a different OCF will vary accordingly. Transaction costs also apply and are incurred when a fund buys or sells holdings. The performance returns do not reflect any initial charge; any such charge will also reduce the return.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Issued by Guinness Global Investors which is a trading name of Guinness Asset Management Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

This report is primarily designed to inform you about the Guinness Global Equity Income Fund and the WS Guinness Global Equity Income Fund. It may provide information about the Funds' portfolio, including recent activity and performance. It contains facts relating to the equity markets and our own interpretation. Any investment decision should take account of the subjectivity of the comments contained in the report. OCFs for all share classes are available on www.guinnessgi.com.

This document is provided for information only and all the information contained in it is believed to be reliable but may be inaccurate or incomplete; any opinions stated are honestly held at the time of writing,but are not guaranteed. The contents of the document should not therefore be relied upon. It should not be taken as a recommendation to make an investment in the Funds or to buy or sell individual securities, nor does it constitute an offer for sale.

GUINNESS GLOBAL EQUITY INCOME FUND

Documentation

The documentation needed to make an investment, including the Prospectus, the Key Information Document (KID), Key Investor Information Document (KIID) and the Application Form, is available in English from www.guinnessgi.com or free of charge from:-

- the Manager: Waystone Management Company (IE) Limited (Waystone IE) 2nd Floor 35 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin D04 A4E0, Ireland or
- the Promoter and Investment Manager: Guinness Asset Management Ltd, 18 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ.

Waystone IE is a company incorporated under the laws of Ireland having its registered office at 35 Shelbourne Rd, Ballsbridge, Dublin, D04 A4E0 Ireland, which is authorised by the Central Bank of Ireland, has appointed Guinness Asset Management Ltd as Investment Manager to this fund, and as Manager has the right to terminate the arrangements made for the marketing of funds in accordance with the UCITS Directive.

Investor Rights

A summary of investor rights in English is available here: https://www.waystone.com/waystone-policies/

Residency

In countries where the Fund is not registered for sale or in any other circumstances where its distribution is not authorised or is unlawful, the Fund should not be distributed to resident Retail Clients. NOTE: THIS INVESTMENT IS NOT FOR SALE TO U.S. PERSONS.

Structure & regulation

The Fund is a sub-fund of Guinness Asset Management Funds PLC (the “Company”), an open-ended umbrella-type investment company, incorporated in Ireland and authorised and supervised by the Central Bank of Ireland, which operates under EU legislation. If you are in any doubt about the suitability of investing in this Fund, please consult your investment or other professional adviser.

Switzerland

This is an advertising document. The prospectus and KID for Switzerland, the articles of association, and the annual and semi-annual reports can be obtained free of charge from the representative in Switzerland, Carnegie Fund Services S.A., 11, rue du Général-Dufour, 1204 Geneva, Switzerland, Tel. +41 22 705 11 77, www.carnegie-fund-services.ch. The paying agent is Banque Cantonale de Genève, 17 Quai de l'Ile, 1204 Geneva, Switzerland.

Singapore

The Fund is not authorised or recognised by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (“MAS”) and shares are not allowed to be offered to the retail public. The Fund is registered with the MAS as a Restricted Foreign Scheme. Shares of the Fund may only be offered to institutional and accredited investors (as defined in the Securities and Futures Act (Cap.289)) (‘SFA’) and this material is limited to the investors in those categories.

WS GUINNESS GLOBAL EQUITY INCOME FUND

Documentation

The documentation needed to make an investment, including the Prospectus, the Key Investor Information Document (KIID) and the Application Form, is available in English from https://www.waystone.com/our-funds/waystone-fund-services-uk-limited/ or free of charge from:-

Waystone Fund Services (UK) Limited
64 St James’s Street
Nottingham
NG1 6FJ
General enquiries: 0115 988 8200
Dealing Line: 0115 988 8285
E-Mail: clientservices@waystonefs.co.uk

Waystone Fund Services (UK) Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Residency

In countries where the Fund is not registered for sale or in any other circumstances where its distribution is not authorised or is unlawful, the Fund should not be distributed to resident Retail Clients.

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Structure & regulation

The Fund is a sub-fund of WS Guinness Investment Funds, an investment company with variable capital incorporated with limited liability and registered by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Telephone calls will be recorded and monitored.