# The Brunner Investment Trust PLC

An 'all-weather' global equity portfolio



### **Aim**

The Trust aims to provide growth in capital value and dividends over the long term by investing in global and UK securities. The benchmark against which performance is measured is 70% FTSE World ex-UK Index and 30% FTSE All-Share Index.

### **History**

The Brunner Investment Trust PLC was formed from the Brunner family's interest in the sale of Brunner Mond & Co, the largest of the four companies which came to form Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) in 1926. Today, Brunner shares are available for everyone to buy and are widely held by both private and institutional investors.

### **Trust Benefits**

Brunner aims to provide its shareholders with growing dividends and capital growth by investing in a portfolio of global equities. It is an independent company listed on the London Stock Exchange and, although past performance is no guide to the future, has paid increasingly higher dividends to its shareholders year on year for the last 52 years. The Trust invests in companies all over the world, seeking out opportunities for growth and reliable dividends wherever they may be.

## **Ten Year Dividend History** Dividend Record in Pence per Share To Year End 30 November 25 15 10 5 0 1st 2nd 3rd ■ 4th/Final

### Last Four Dividend Payments per Share

Record Date	Pay Date	Dividend	Туре
01.03.2024	04.04.2024	6.05p	Final
27.10.2023	12.12.2023	5.55p	3rd Interim
04.08.2023	15.09.2023	5.55p	2nd Interim
16.06.2023	25.07.2023	5.55p	1st Interim

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results.

### **Key Information**

Launch Date December 1927 AIC Sector Global

Benchmark 70% FTSE World ex-UK Index;

30% FTSE All-Share Index

Annual Management Fee 0.45% Performance Fee No Ongoing Charges<sup>1</sup> 0.64% Year End 30 November

Annual Report

Annual published in February, Half-yearly published in July

AGM March **NAV Frequency** Daily

March/April, June/July, Dividends September, December

**Price Information** Financial Times, The Daily

Telegraph, www.brunner.co.uk

Company Secretary Kirsten Salt | Kelly Nice Julian Bishop and Christian **Investment Managers** 

Schneider

Codes RIC: BUT.L

SEDOL: 0149000

1 Source: AIC as at the Trust's Financial Year End (30.11.2023) 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.





A ranking, a rating or an award provides no indicator of future performance and is not constant over time.

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Total Assets £608.7m **Shares in Issue** 42,692,727 (Ordinary 25p) Market Cap £557.1m

Share Price 1305.0p

NAV per Share 1386.8p Premium/-Discount

Dividend Yield 1.7%

Gearing

### **Fund Manager's Review**

Dear Fellow Shareholder,

Global equity markets continued their ascent in March, with many indices such as the S&P500 in the USA and the Nikkei in Japan reaching new alltime highs, the latter for the first time in 34 years. Due to a preponderance of exporters, the Japanese index prefers a weaker yen. Key index constituents like Toyota Motor and Tokyo Electron (an important maker of capital equipment used to manufacture semiconductors) are both expected to report record profits this year, according to Bloomberg.

There were broad-based gains across sectors, but energy and materials outperformed due to rising commodity prices. In general, there was a pronounced outperformance of lower multiple value stocks in comparison to higher quality growth stocks. We have spoken in previous factsheets about how valuations in certain areas of the market are approaching uncomfortable levels for our portfolio and March's moves were consistent with that viewpoint.

In terms of the Trust's performance, the Net Asset Value (NAV) total return for March was 2.69%, lagging the 3.78% return from the benchmark index.

Bank of Ireland, which we added to the portfolio in February to introduce more value to the portfolio, was the biggest positive contributor to performance in the month. General Electric, which we also added in February, was another key contributor. It is pleasing to see our new holdings make an immediate impact like this. We believe Bank of Ireland's future cash returns have the potential to be very sizeable. This comes 15 years after the financial crisis decimated Ireland's banking sector; it has taken them that long to fully repair their balance sheet. General Electric is another business that only just survived the financial crisis. The company has subsequently been dismantled, leaving holders with an attractive kernel – the dominant global aerospace propulsion (aka jet engine) business. The immediate success of these two new holdings is testament to our open-mindedness, an important part of our process and a reflection



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of the deliberate design of the management team which seeks a diversity of viewpoints. We are determined to think differently. By definition, we cannot outperform if we are doing the same as everyone else.



Julian Bishop, Co-Lead Portfolio Manager

Julian Bishop joined Allianz Global Investors in November 2022. Julian has more than 25 years fund management experience. He joined AllianzGI from Tesco Pension Investment Ltd where he was an Equity Fund Manager managing a multi-billion pounds global equities portfolio. Julian graduated from Queens' College, Cambridge University in 1995 and has an MA (Hons) Cantab in Geography. He is an Associate of the CFA Society of the UK.



Christian Schneider, Co-Lead Portfolio Manager

Christian Schneider joined the Global Equity Fund Management Team as a portfolio manager in April 2000 and managed a US Equity strategy until 2002. Christian graduated with a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Giessen and is a CFA charter holder.

Negative contributions outweighed the positive in the month. Despite some recent adjustments, the portfolio is still skewed to quality, which underperformed during the period. Several of our most recently successful positions, such as Visa, Intercontinental Hotels, Partners Group, Adobe and Atlas Copco retreated somewhat. Not holding Nvidia, the maker of graphics processing units used in artificial intelligence applications, continues to hurt. We have other holdings that provide similar exposure but nonetheless regularly review Nvidia to ensure we are content with its exclusion, Nvidia has become a large index weight and therefore not holding it is a large active decision in the portfolio.

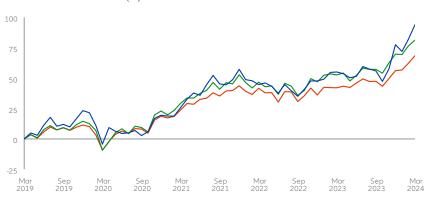
There were no trades during the month.

### Julian Bishop & Christian Schneider 18 April 2024

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 (%)



### **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.

The Trust 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.

Changes in rates of exchange may cause the value of investments and the income from them to go up an down.

■ Share Price ■ NAV (debt at fair value)

Benchmark: Effective 22 March 2017 the benchmark weightings changed to 70% FTSE World ex-UK Index; 30% FTSE All-Share Index

### Cumulative Returns (%)

	3M	6M	1Y	3Y	5Y
Share Price	9.3	24.4	25.1	54.3	93.9
NAV (debt at fair value)	6.8	15.3	18.8	40.3	81.2
Benchmark	7.9	14.3	18.6	36.0	68.4

### Discrete 12 Month Returns to 31 March (%)

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Share Price	25.1	7.2	15.0	31.4	-4.4
NAV (debt at fair value)	18.8	4.1	13.5	42.6	-9.4
Benchmark	18.6	0.3	14.4	36.5	-9.4

6.8

Source: Thomson Reuters Refinitiv DataStream, percentage growth, mid to mid, total return to 31.03.24. Copyright 2023 © DataStream, a Thomson Reuters 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 70% of its annual management fee to the capital account and 30% to revenue. This could lead to a higher level of income but capital growth will be constrained as a result.

### Portfolio Breakdown

### Sector Breakdown\* (%) Industrials 25.3 **Financials** 21.7 Information Technology 20.4 Health Care 13.7 Consumer Discretionary Energy 4.6 Consumer Staples 3.6 Utilities 22 8.0 Materials

# Geographic Breakdown\* (%) North America 43.2 Europe ex UK 27.5 UK 22.2 Pacific ex Japan 5.2 Japan 1.9

### Top Twenty Holdings (%)

Microsoft

1.110103011	0.0
Visa - A Shares	3.9
UnitedHealth Group	3.6
Taiwan Semiconductor	3.0
Microchip Technology	2.8
Thermo Fisher Scientific	2.7
Schwab (Charles)	2.7
Schneider Electric	2.7
InterContinental Hotels Group	2.7
ASML	2.6
Shell	2.5
Partners Group	2.5
General Electric	2.5
AMETEK	2.3
Bank of Ireland	2.3
Gallagher	2.2
Amphenol	2.1
TotalEnergies	2.1
Muenchener Rueckver	2.1
Aena	1.9

Total number of holdings

59

The data shown is not constant over time and the allocation may change in the future. Totals may not sum to 100.0% due to rounding. This is no recommendation or solicitation to buy or sell any particular security.

<sup>\*</sup>Excludes Cash

### **Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)**

AllianzGI has a dedicated ESG research team working with the portfolio managers to incorporate ESG factors into investment decisions. The board supports AllianzGI's view that there is value in working with companies in the portfolio on environmental, social, governance and business conduct issues.

AllianzGI uses third party research provided by MSCI to help identify ESG factors that can impact the businesses of the companies in the portfolio. The chart below shows that the Brunner portfolio's ESG ratings compare well against the benchmark's ESG ratings over a five year period.



The chart above shows the rating of the Brunner portfolio on ESG risks and combined ESG risk measurements compared to the rating of the Benchmark (70% FTSE World ex-UK Index; 30% FTSE All-Share Index) scored on a scale of 1-10 (where 10 is high) on a quarterly basis.

### **Board of Directors**

Carolan Dobson (Chair)

Amanda Aldridge (Chair of the Audit Committee)

Elizabeth Field

Andrew Hutton (Senior Independent Director)

Jim Sharp

### 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 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 fair 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.brunner.co.uk

E-mail: investment-trusts@allianzgi.com

You will find much more information about The Brunner Investment 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.



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### All data source Allianz Global Investors as at 31.03.24 unless otherwise stated.

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