

# BARROW HANLEY GLOBAL EQUITY TRUST

February 2025



## FUND FACTS

**Investment return objective:** Aims to provide the trust with higher returns compared to the benchmark, while maintaining lower risk.

## FUND BENEFITS

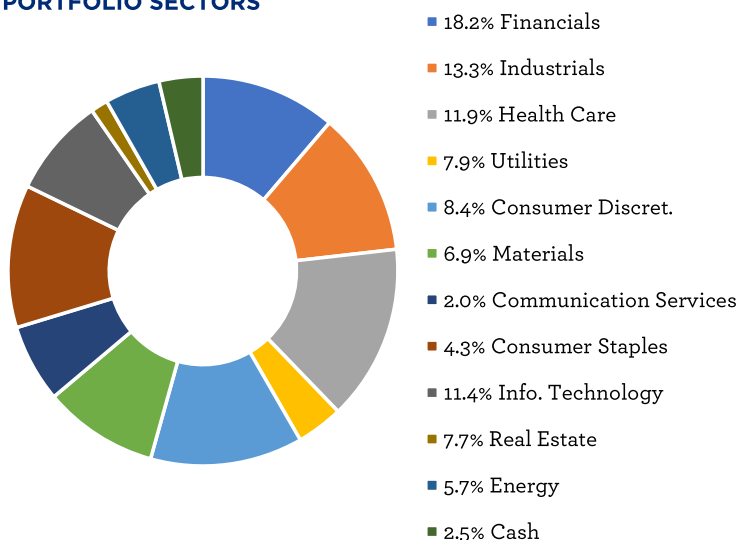
True traditional value portfolio concentrated in 50-70 stocks which focuses on undervalued companies with improving operating fundamentals identified by Barrow Hanley's screening process.

## FUND RISKS

All investments carry risk and different strategies may carry different levels of risk. The relevant product disclosure statement or offer document for a fund should be considered before deciding whether to acquire or hold units in that fund. Your financial adviser can assist you in determining whether a fund is suited to your financial needs.

<b>Benchmark:</b>	MSCI World Index (Measured in AUD)
<b>Inception date:</b>	6/05/2016
<b>Delegated Investment Manager:</b>	Barrow Hanley Mewhinney & Strauss
<b>APIR:</b>	ETL0434AU
<b>Management Fee:</b>	0.99% p.a
<b>Size of fund</b>	\$ 276.42 million as at 31/12/2024
<b>Suggested minimum investment period:</b>	Five years or longer

## PORTFOLIO SECTORS



## NET PERFORMANCE - Periods ending February 28, 2025

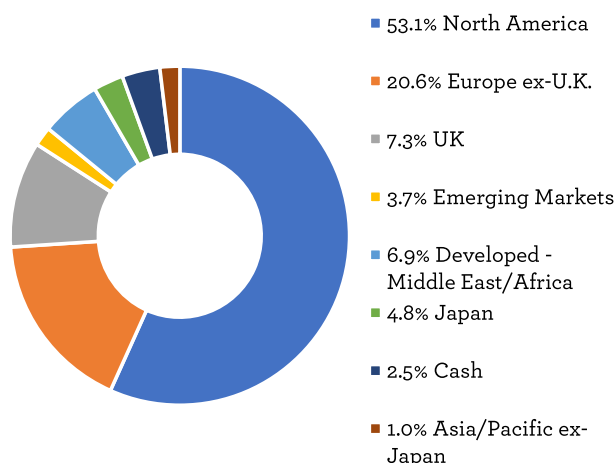
	Fund	Benchmark	Excess
1 month	2.0	-0.4	+2.38
3 months	5.6	5.0	+0.67
FYTD	19.6	17.5	+2.13
1 year	20.1	21.6	-1.50
2 years	16.7	25.8	-9.06
3 years	14.1	16.6	-2.53
4 years	14.4	17.1	-2.67
5 years	12.4	15.3	-2.89
Since Inception	12.2	14.6	-2.42

Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Returns may differ due to different tax treatments.

## TOP 5 STOCK HOLDINGS

	% of Portfolio
SANOFI SA	3.4%
MERCK & CO INC	3.1%
BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA	2.9%
STANDARD CHARTERED	2.6%
RHEINMETALL AG	2.5%

## PORTFOLIO REGIONS



February was an eventful month filled with impactful geopolitical headlines mixed with macroeconomic developments and more volatile markets. The freshly inaugurated President Trump and his administration hit the ground running with a flurry of activity addressing myriad issues which resulted in gyrating markets stemming from rising uncertainty, primarily regarding the implementation of tariffs and a resolution of the Ukrainian war. Despite all the headlines generating uncertainty, February proved to be a strong month for global equity markets, excepting the United States. Like last year, there was a notable difference in styles. Unlike last year, value continues leading the charge as the MSCI World Value Index outperformed its growth counterpart by more than 400 basis points (bps) in U.S. dollar terms for the month. Investors are all wondering what the impact of Trump 2.0 means for the globe, and the style shift and broader market in the first two months of the year may be indicators. The growth levels of high momentum and AI-related stocks became a source of controversy after the release of DeepSeek, a Chinese AI model reported to have been developed at a fraction of the cost of comparable American products. Even though blue chip AI companies are reporting high growth, the rates are decelerating, leading to volatility.

In this market environment, the Barrow Hanley Global Value strategy outperformed the MSCI World Index in February. The primary driver of outperformance was stock selection, although sector positioning was broadly positive. Stock selection within the Industrials, Consumer Discretionary, and Communication Services positively contributed to relative returns. Regionally, allocation impacts were positive due to an overallocation to continental Europe and Emerging Markets.

Standard Chartered PLC positively contributed to relative performance as it maintained its strategic direction, demonstrating strong execution in 2024, with 12% year-over-year revenue growth. The company is transforming into a more capital-light, wealth-focused, and simpler business. Its "Fit for Growth" strategy's cost savings are expected to become more significant in 2025. Additionally, the company continues to return excess capital to shareholders. These efforts are projected to drive double-digit EPS growth over the next two years, achieve positive operating leverage in 2025 and 2026, and reach a ROTCE target of nearly 13% by 2026. Despite recent share price increases, Standard Chartered remains undervalued, trading below 7x 2026 EPS and 0.9x TBV.

Alibaba Group positively contributed to relative performance during the month after the advent of DeepSeek kicked off AI hopes for some Chinese companies. Alibaba has been allocating capital towards AI and Cloud infrastructure, along with seeing early signs of improving e-commerce growth. A strong quarterly report exceeded market expectations and boosted confidence in broad-based improvement of fundamentals.

Avantor, Inc. detracted from relative performance during February after reports that the company turned down a takeover offer in 2023. Also, the NIH announced a reduction in indirect rates for grants to 15%, aiming to reduce reimbursements for administrative costs and encourage universities to use their own endowments for these expenses. The NIH emphasized the importance of steering funds toward direct scientific research costs rather than administrative overhead. While the long-term impact on lab spending may be minimal, this change is expected to cause short-term spending freezes and uncertainty as universities adjust.

Carnival Corporation detracted from relative performance in February in a giveback of strong performance over the past year. Cruise stocks declined during the month following comments by Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick about taxing cruise lines. A similar attempt in 2017 failed due to lobbying from Florida senators and threats from Royal Caribbean to relocate its headquarters to Europe. The argument in 2017 against taxation was that the U.S. would gain little tax revenue since most business is conducted in international waters. Even given a scenario in which taxation occurs, we expect the impact to be modest.

The persistent political changes across the globe continue to drive short-term tactical repricing, but the long-term impacts are far from certain, as ideology will ultimately clash with political reality. What does stand out is the juxtaposition of continued U.S. economic strength and tepid economic growth in Europe. However, this month showed some cracks in that trend, as U.S. data weakened. While the market expected more cuts, the interplay between economic strength and the labor market led the Fed to pause rate cuts. A few areas to watch in the U.S. going forward are policy initiatives, tariff threats, jobs, ambitions to project power abroad, and whether the labor market or economy take center stage as the Fed idles. We are also mindful that, given the

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## MORE INFORMATION

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