

# Ironbark Brown Advisory Global Share Fund

**BENCHMARK**

MSCI ACWI NR AUD

**OBJECTIVE**

Outperform the benchmark by 2-3% after fees, over rolling five year periods through investment in a focused selection of equities on a global basis.

**APIR**

MGL0004AU

**ARSN**

090 379 105

**INCEPTION DATE**

4 October 1996

**CLASS SIZE**

\$1,215.4m

**MANAGER APPOINTED**

23 September 2024

**EXIT PRICE**

\$4.2048

## Net performance (%)

	1 month	3 months	1 year	3 years p.a.	5 years p.a.	7 years p.a.	10 years p.a.	Since inception p.a.
<b>Fund<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>-1.26</b>	<b>1.63</b>	<b>7.38</b>	<b>22.86</b>	<b>19.15</b>	<b>18.28</b>	<b>15.45</b>	<b>9.73</b>
Benchmark <sup>2</sup>	-0.63	2.66	13.59	22.11	15.62	15.78	13.21	8.55
<i>Active</i>	-0.63	-1.03	-6.21	0.75	3.53	2.50	2.24	1.18

<sup>1</sup>Fund performance prior to 23 September 2024 is not attributable to the current investment manager. From 29 August 2024 to 20 September 2024, a transition manager was appointed to the Fund to coordinate an orderly transition of the portfolio from the prior investment manager over this period. Returns prior to 29 August 2024, reflect the previous investment manager(s) of the Fund. The Brown Advisory composite is presented below to provide a longer-term view of the Fund's current investment strategy.

<sup>2</sup>The MSCI ACWI NR AUD was adopted as the Fund's benchmark on 23 September 2024. Benchmark calculations from 1 September 2016 to 20 September 2024 are based on the MSCI World NR AUD and benchmark calculations prior to this date are based on the MSCI World ex Australia in AUD, as previously adopted benchmarks of the Fund.

<b>Brown Advisory Composite<sup>3</sup></b>	--	--	--	<b>18.94</b>	<b>12.33</b>	<b>14.72</b>	<b>13.18</b>	<b>13.22</b>
MSCI ACWI NR AUD	--	--	--	21.33	14.49	14.88	12.70	11.92
<i>Active</i>	--	--	--	-2.39	-2.15	-0.16	0.48	1.30

## Top 5 monthly contributors and detractors

Contributing stocks	Active weight	Detracting stocks	Active weight
Roche Holding	Overweight	AutoZone	Overweight
Charles Schwab	Overweight	Ferguson Enterprises.	Overweight
Rentokil Initial	Overweight	B3 SA - Brasil, Bolsa, Balcao	Overweight
Visa - Class A	Overweight	Deutsche Boerse AG	Overweight
Booking Holdings	Overweight	Alphabet - Class C	Overweight

Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Net performance figures are calculated using exit prices, net of fees and reflect the annual reinvestment of distribution. Returns are rounded to two decimal places. Slight variations to actual calculations may occur. Significant investor activity can impact performance returns in a fund or of a class of a fund.

<sup>3</sup>The inception date of the Brown Advisory Composite is 1 May 2015. Performance periods from 1 May 2015 to 30 September 2024 for the Brown Advisory Composite represent the Brown Advisory Global Leaders Strategy in AUD terms, net of fees. Performance periods from 1 October 2024 to month-to-date for the Brown Advisory Composite represent the net returns of the Ironbark Brown Advisory Global Share Fund. Source: Brown Advisory, State Street Australia Limited and Morningstar Direct.

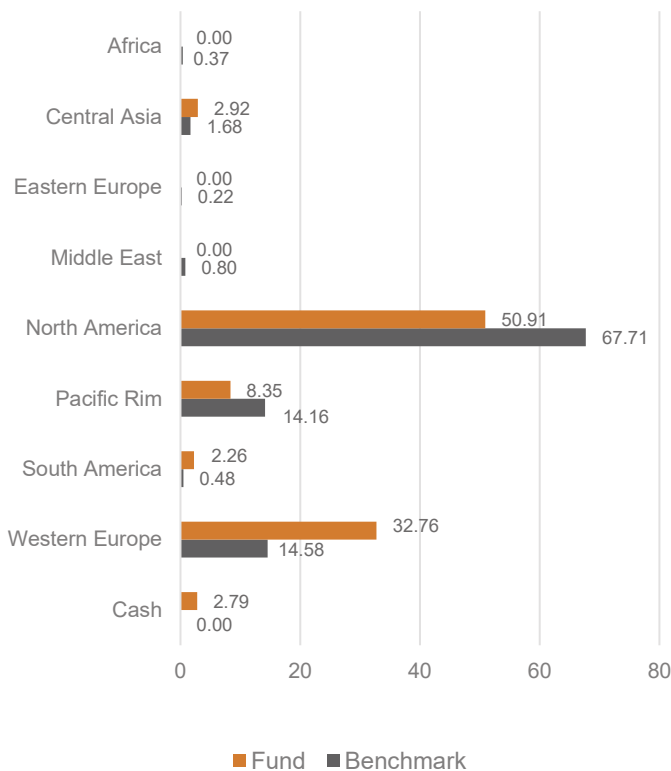
### Top 5 quarterly contributors and detractors

Contributing stocks	Active weight	Detracting stocks	Active weight
Alphabet - Class C	Overweight	AutoZone	Overweight
Roche Holding	Overweight	Microsoft	Overweight
Rentokil Initial	Overweight	Zoetis - Class A	Overweight
ASML Holding NV	Overweight	Experian	Overweight
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing	Overweight	Allegion Public	Overweight

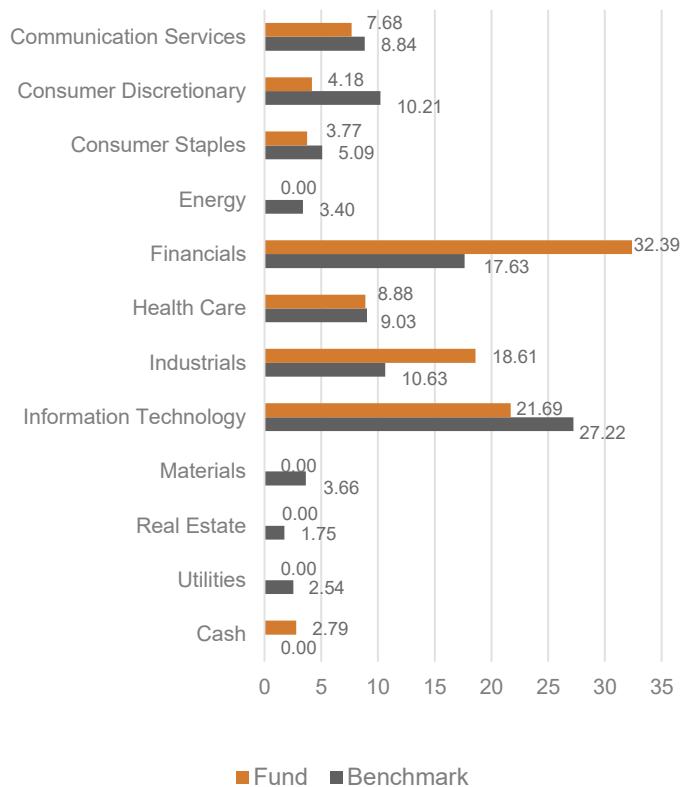
### Top 5 holdings

Stocks	Sector	Country (domicile)
Microsoft	Information Technology	United States
Alphabet - Class C	Communication Services	United States
London Stock Exchange Group	Financials	United Kingdom
Visa - Class A	Financials	United States
Deutsche Boerse AG	Financials	Germany

### Regional asset allocation (%)<sup>1</sup>



### Sector asset allocation (%)<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Totals may not equal due to rounding.

## Performance review

The Ironbark Brown Advisory Global Share Fund (the 'Fund') returned 1.63% (net) for the quarter, underperforming the MSCI ACWI NR AUD by -1.03% which returned 2.66% over the period.

During the fourth quarter of 2025 the Fund delivered absolute positive returns but lagged its benchmark. Performance across communication services, namely Alphabet, was particularly strong during the quarter. In the investment manager's point of view, Alphabet's strong performance reflects its exceptional position at the forefront of AI development and its fully vertically integrated approach across AI infrastructure (TPUs), cloud services, core technologies such as Gemini, and end-user applications. The investment manager trimmed their position in December due to a declining IRR for this investment. While the relative performance within Financials recovered, the investment manager saw the cumulative underweights from companies in Information Technology that the investment manager does not own as being the largest drag to relative performance. The investment manager has researched many of these "AI winners" and whilst they admire the franchise quality at several of them and a select few are even on their Ready-to-Buy list – the investment manager's reticence is what they perceive to be a hefty price required today to access those future cash flows driving down potential IRRs.

Alphabet's core search continues to grow, while Google Cloud's growth is accelerating. The company holds an exceptional position at the forefront of AI development and has a fully vertically integrated approach across AI infrastructure (TPUs), Cloud, core technologies like Gemini, and end-user applications. Also, the antitrust ruling in September was highly positive for Alphabet and supported the share price performance thereafter. Roche delivered solid contributions from its pipeline drugs, and the diagnostics segment is performing well. Positive updates regarding late-stage pipeline candidates in oncology suggest the potential for substantial new growth contributors in the near term, while Roche continues to optimise its R&D pipeline by focusing on fewer, but higher-impact, pipeline candidates. Rentokil's integration of Terminix has not proceeded smoothly so far. On conservative assumptions, the company offers an attractive return, with increasing signs of volume improvement in North America and early indications of success in turning around its satellite branch strategy. The business is also receiving support from pricing initiatives and underlying market growth. However, the investment manager remains cautious as the company continues to lose market share and the investment retains elements of a turnaround. In the long term, Rentokil's market share size and network density should position it well to deliver margin and ROIC improvements. ASML Holding's dominant market position in lithography, which is expected to increase its share of wafer spending, positions it well for long-term growth. Earlier concerns in the year regarding a weak order book have been alleviated by several announcements of funding and product collaborations. Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing benefits from its leadership in leading node manufacturing which allows it to take market share and benefit from the strong demand environment for high-performance computing and the AI infrastructure build-out.

During the quarter, the market focused on the durability of the AI built out and associated risks to large US technology firms, like Microsoft. Microsoft continued to execute successfully across all business segments while expanding its strategic footprint in generative AI. Being cautious as it relates to the significant risk of disruption in AI the investment manager anticipates significant value creation from Microsoft's strategic investments in AI, over a multi-year period, driven by lower computing costs, the monetisation of AI, and strong cash flow growth from its non-AI businesses. AutoZone's share price has weakened due to concerns about margin compression, driven by expense growth from investments in technology, distribution, and store unit expansion necessary for international growth. The investment manager believes these investments support long-term growth. Underlying growth is also being driven by increases in both customer traffic and pricing, as AutoZone has been able to pass on tariff-induced inflation. Zoetis experienced share price pressure due to lowered growth expectations for its osteoarthritis pain drug, Librela, as well as increased competition from new drugs introduced by rivals in other categories. Despite these challenges, Zoetis remains a market leader in research and development, with an innovative pipeline of first-in-class drugs expected to launch over the next two years. Experian's share price reacted negatively to Fair Isaac Corporation's intention to introduce a new operating model for the inclusion of credit scores in US mortgage lending reports by the credit bureaus, effectively unbundling the FICO score from such reports. Credit bureau share prices declined on concerns about the potential impact. Experian has less than 3% exposure to the US mortgage market and a potential longer-term opportunity to sell its own credit score. Allegion continues to operate through a weak US residential market. The company showed continued resilience in their non-residential business whilst increasing optimism of a recovery in residential demand.

## Portfolio activity

The investment manager initiated a position in US listed Equifax, a leading global data and analytics business. At its core, Equifax owns and operates a credit bureau, providing consumer credit information to financial institutions, the US government, and other customer groups. Equifax is one of the three major US credit bureaus, alongside Experian and TransUnion. The US consumer credit bureau market is effectively an oligopoly, with these three companies dominating the sector. Due to the uniqueness and scale of their data, barriers to entry are extremely high replicating this data is nearly impossible in terms of scale, depth, and quality. Within this rational oligopoly, Equifax is the leading provider of data and solutions used in payroll-related services ("Workforce Solutions") and mortgage solutions in the US. In its Workforce Solutions segment, Equifax enables customers to verify income, employment, criminal justice data, and more. Its employee payroll database contains approx. 190 million active and, in total, over 700 million active and historical employment records, making it the largest database of its kind in the US. This segment drives over 40% of the company's revenues and contributes more than 60% of its profits and is expected to be Equifax's fastest-growing segment in the long term. Equifax is also the largest of the three credit bureaus in the US mortgage market, deriving 20% of its revenues from this business.

## Portfolio activity (continued)

Like its peers, it provides integrated credit reports from all three bureaus to underwriters. Additionally, Equifax offers a range of data and analytics services to customers across various sectors in the US and internationally, helping them lend effectively, manage customer credit risk, minimise fraud, market efficiently, and better understand their operating environments. Equifax has a low-teens ROIC with what the investment manager believes to be a clear path to 20% over their valuation horizon. The investment manager had the opportunity to invest in Equifax at a double-digit, five-year base case IRR, following the recent share price reaction to its relatively greater exposure to both workforce solutions and mortgages—both of which have been affected by a weaker macroeconomic environment in the US.

The investment manager exited both Sherwin-Williams and Moody's Corporation to fund the new investment in Equifax. The investment manager was reallocating capital to an opportunity with a higher internal rate of return, while still maintaining exposure to similar end markets. These end markets are financial market infrastructure—previously accessed through Moody's—and US residential real estate, previously accessed via Sherwin-Williams and now through Equifax's mortgage business.

As a result of a corporate action at Unilever during December, the investment manager became shareholders of "The Magnum Ice Cream Company". The investment manager will be underwriting the investment before deciding whether to add to or exit the position, in line with their investment process for corporate actions.

## Market outlook

Since the inception of the Fund, the investment manager has looked for high-quality companies with superior customer outcomes, that they believe are able to pass on prices and generate high levels of recurring revenue while requiring low financial leverage. This approach is helping us focus on the long-term and capital preservation. The investment manager process continues to guide them successfully to investing in those quality companies that have their economics compound over long periods of time to generate attractive returns for our investors. It is this time arbitrage paired with a thoughtful, repeatable process that they see as the core driver of value generation within the Fund.

The investment managers are of the opinion that there are only very few true sources of alpha in global equity investing and for them these are time-arbitrage and strong process management, enhanced with a deep understanding of human behaviour. In the first half of the year that meant recalibrating the investment manager's company estimates in an environment of fast changing geopolitical and macro risk and in the third quarter this meant maintaining strong valuation discipline while scouring the universe for new investment opportunities.

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