# April 2025 United Global Durable Equities Fund

# Why Invest?

# April 2025 Portfolio Performance

The United Global Durable Equities Fund - SGD Acc	-0.23 per cent <sup>12</sup>		
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• Managed with an absolute return mindset: The strategy of the United Global Durable Equities Fund - SGD Acc (the "Fund") is to seek total return by investing in companies with stable and resilient earnings, irrespective of the broader economic environment.

• Company with excellent management skills: The Fund also looks into the universe of "unconventional" durable companies, where the investee company's management teams are able to enhance the probability of long-term success and ultimately shareholder value.

• Good Diversification: We believe our investment process is likely to generate a diversified portfolio of unconventional and stable companies, that have low overlap characteristics with growth, value, or traditional high-quality equities. Hence provides good diversification relative to more traditional global equity allocations.

• Long-term value creation: The largest sector exposures of the Fund were Financials and Industrials and we were least exposed to Materials and Utilities. From a regional perspective, our largest exposure is in North America, and least exposed to Developed Asia Pacific ex-Japan. Source: Morningstar, Performance from 31 March 2025 to 30 April 2025 in SGD terms

<sup>1</sup> Fund performance is on a Net Asset Value ("NAV") basis, with dividends and distributions reinvested (if any).

<sup>2</sup>Effective from 27 March 2025, no benchmark is used for the Fund. (https://www.uobam.com.sg/web-resources/uobam/pdf/uobam/common/united-globaldurable-equities-fund-removal-of-benchmark.pdf)

# Performance Review

The portfolio delivered negative returns in April 2025. Healthcare and Financials were the bottom contributing sectors, while Industrials and Utilities were the top contributing sectors.

At the issuer level, our top two absolute contributors were **Constellation Software Inc.** (Constellation Software) and Engie SA, while our top two absolute detractors were **Globe Life Inc**. (Globe Life) and ICON Plc.

Constellation Software, a Canadian diversified software company, acquires, manages, and builds industry-specific businesses offering specialised, mission-critical solutions. Despite tariff-related market volatility, its share price rose in April 2025. First-quarter earnings are set to be announced on 12 May 2025.

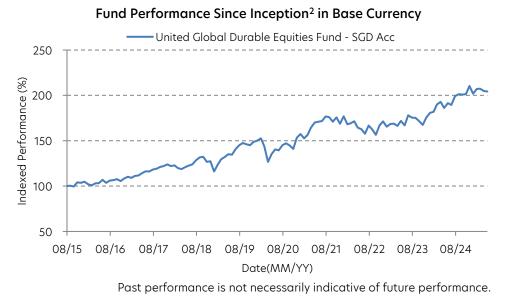
Shares of insurance company Globe Life fell in April 2025 amid broader market pressure from the imposition of reciprocal tariffs. The company also reported earnings for the first quarter below expectations, with higher expenses and lower investment income offsetting higher premiums and improved insurance underwriting income.

Asset Management

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#### Performance (Class SGD Acc)



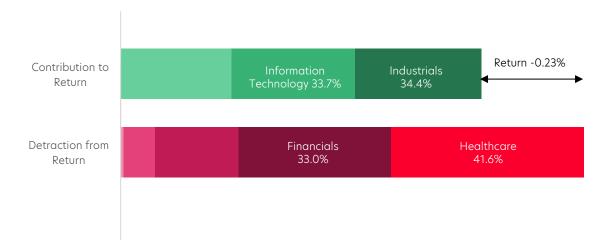
#### Fund performance is calculated on a NAV to NAV basis.

Source: Morningstar. Performance as at 30 April 2025, SGD basis, with dividends and distributions reinvested, if any.

Cumulative Annualised Performance (%) Performance (%) Since 1 month 1 Year 3 Years 5 Years Inception Fund NAV to NAV -0.23 9.76 7.49 8.62 7.62 Fund (Charges -5.22 4.27 5.67 7.51 7.05 applied^)

Source: Morningstar. Performance as at 30 April 2025, SGD basis, with dividends and distributions reinvested, if any. Performance figures for 1 month till 1 year show the per cent change, while performance figures above 1 year show the average annual compounded returns. Since inception performance under 1 year is not annualised. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future performance. Alncludes the effect of the current subscription fee that is charged, which an investor might or might not pay.



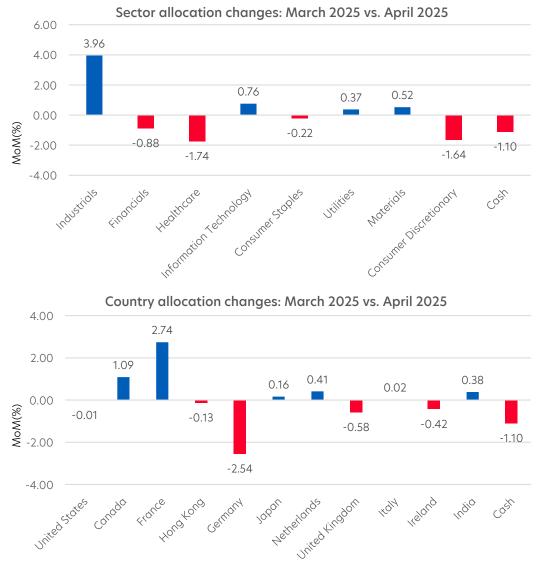


<sup>2</sup> The United Global Durable Equities Fund- SGD Acc (ISIN Code: SG9999014005) was incepted on 5 August 2015.

All statistics quoted in the write-up are sourced from Bloomberg as at 30 April 2025 unless otherwise stated.



#### Portfolio Changes



# **Portfolio Review**

### **Analyst Insights**

**Purchases** - Our purchase criteria include, amongst others, considerations such as 1) the potential for stable cash flows that are likely to demonstrate resiliency across the business cycle, 2) the potential for value creation primarily through the sensible use of free cash flow, and 3) moderate valuation that may allow for attractive risk-adjusted returns over time. We had two portfolio additions in April 2025. Elis SA (Elis) is an international multi-service provider of textile, hygiene, and facility service solutions. Elis generally ranks as the number 1 or 2 players across most markets in an industry where scale drives differentiation. The business has historically exhibited low cyclicality due to long-term contractual customer relationships and diversity across geographies. Management has a data-driven orientation with a focus on customer satisfaction, productivity improvement, and resource consumption. Hyatt Hotels Corporation (Hyatt) is an international operator of hotels, resorts, and vacation properties. 70 per cent of profits come from an asset-light model where the company licenses brands to third-party developers, with the remainder from owned hotels. Management is committed to a 90 per cent asset-light mix by 2027. We believe this portion of the business should drive low teens EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation) growth, driven by a combination of unit growth, pricing, and operating leverage.

**Sales** - Our considerations for selling stocks, amongst others, are when 1) cash flows are less stable than we predicted, 2) stock valuation rises such that risk-adjusted returns no longer fall within our target range, or 3) some combination of lower stability and higher valuation. We sold one portfolio position in April 2025. Brenntag SE (Brenntag) is a German chemicals distributor. After an extended period of below peer performance, we downgraded our view of company management and ultimately decided to move on from our position.

At the end of April 2025, our largest exposures were Financials and Industrials, and we were least exposed to Materials and Consumer Discretionary. We had no exposure to Communication Services, Real Estate and Energy. From a regional perspective, our largest exposures were North America and the Developed Europe Union & Middle East, excluding the UK, and we were least exposed to Developed Asia Pacific ex-Japan.

Source: UOBAM



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#### **Market Review**

Global equities declined in April 2025. Soaring trade tensions heightened economic and monetary policy uncertainty, causing volatility to surge across global financial markets. The US implemented extensive tariffs on nearly all imports and significantly increased levies on Chinese goods by up to 125 per cent, which ignited a global trade war, cast doubt on the US dollar's reserve status, and stoked fears of recession. The US Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracted 0.3 per cent in the first guarter of 2025, marking the first guarter of negative economic growth since 2022. In contrast, the eurozone's economy accelerated 0.4 per cent in the same period, although preliminary data for April 2025 showed a faltering European economic recovery; the Hamburg Commercial Bank (HCOB) Flash Eurozone Composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell to 50.1, signaling near-stagnant growth, and business confidence plummeted to its lowest level since November 2022. In response to the worsening outlook, the European Central Bank (ECB) reduced its benchmark interest rate to 2.25 per cent. In Canada, Mark Carney was elected Prime Minister in a historic resurgence of the Liberal Party, but the party narrowly failed to secure a majority in the House of Commons. The Russia/Ukraine conflict intensified amid escalating attacks, while diplomatic efforts for a ceasefire continued to face significant challenges. Concurrently, the US and Iran engaged in a third round of nuclear talks where both sides expressed cautious optimism for an agreement. Oil prices ended April 2025 sharply lower amid accelerated oil production hikes by the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries Plus (OPEC+) and fears that the trade war will hinder global economic growth.

## **Investment Objective**

The investment objective of the United Global Durable Equities Fund is to seek total return consisting of capital appreciation and income over the long term by investing primarily in equity and equity related securities of companies listed and traded on stock exchanges globally.

## **Fund Information**

Morningstar Rating	Base Currency	Fund Size	Sub-Manager
***	SGD	SGD 223.34 mil	Wellington



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