



# Securities Trust of Scotland plc

All data as at 31 March 2023

www.stsplc.co.uk

The investment objective of the Securities Trust of Scotland plc is to achieve rising income and long-term capital growth through investment in a balanced portfolio constructed from global equities.

PRICE (EX INC)
214.00p 218.40p

PREMIUM/ DISCOUNT -2.91%

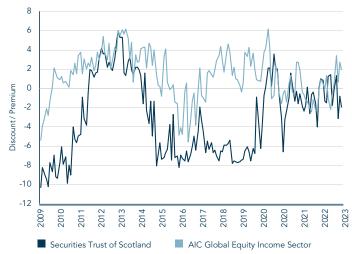
YIELD\* 2.8% TOTAL NET/ GROSS ASSETS £219m/£235m

\*historic dividend yield

#### PERCENTAGE GROWTH FROM 30/06/2005 TO 31/03/2023



SHARE PRICE DISCOUNT/PREMIUM TO NAV



Source: Morningstar

Total Return to 31 March 2023	Since Troy Appt*	31/03/18 5 years	31/03/20 3 years	31/03/22 1 year	30/09/22 6 months
Securities Trust of Scotland Share Price	+14.4%	+55.6%	+38.3%	-4.8%	-3.4%
Securities Trust of Scotland NAV	+15.3%	+50.6%	+47.4%	-1.9%	+0.9%
Lipper Global – Equity Global Income Index	+19.8%	+37.4%	+44.7%	+0.5%	+6.8%

Discrete Annual Total Returns	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 YTD
Securities Trust of Scotland Share Price	+0.8%	-5.4%	+35.8%	+6.8%	-7.9%	+39.3%	+3.1%	+15.4%	-0.4%	-4.2%
Securities Trust of Scotland NAV	+4.1%	+0.2%	+28.5%	+11.9%	-8.2%	+27.4%	+3.7%	+17.6%	-2.1%	0.0%

<sup>\*</sup>Troy appointed Investment Manager 12 November 2020

Past performance is not a guide to future performance.

Source: Lipper/Morningstar

# March Commentary

Source: Lipper

The Trust produced a Net Asset Value total return of 1.2% during the month and a price total return of -0.9%, compared to a return of -0.7% for the Lipper Global – Equity Global Income Index.

Recent events have been a reminder that investing in banks is a risky business. The demise of Silvergate, Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank in the US and the forced merger of Credit Suisse and UBS are a function of economic stress induced by rising interest rates and have destroyed huge amounts of capital. This has forced the US and Swiss authorities to step in and calm the immediate panic, but it is likely that there will be longer term implications for both the sector and the economy.

For the sector regulation is likely to ratchet up still further especially for the smaller, regional banks which have been the point of weakness on this occasion. This will structurally lower profitability. Since we do not invest in banks owing to the fragility of the business model, this does not unduly concern us.

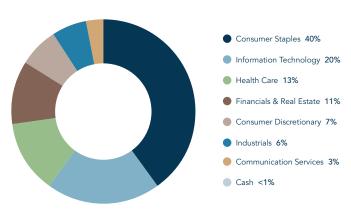
What is of greater concern is that banks play a crucial role in the economy through the provision of credit. The ructions we have seen will likely tighten lending standards as risk appetites diminish. To the repricing of interest rates, that has occurred to combat post-COVID inflationary pressures, must be added a reduction in credit availability. This is likely to have a knock-on effect for economic activity and ultimately earnings growth. It may well be therefore that the fireworks in the banking sector bring the potential upcoming recession one step closer.

We patiently wait to redeploy capital in the portfolio into favoured but currently expensive assets. We may not be waiting long.



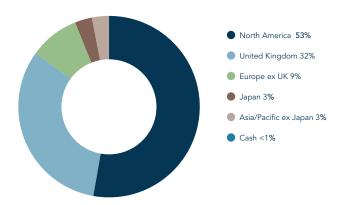


# ASSET ALLOCATION BY SECTOR



Source: Factset. Asset Allocation subject to change

#### **ASSET CLASS BY SPLIT**



Source: Factset. Asset Allocation subject to change

# **TOP 10 HOLDINGS**

British American Tobacco	5.6%
Paychex	5.2%
Unilever	5.1%
PepsiCo	5.1%
Reckitt Benckiser	5.0%
Philip Morris International	4.4%
CME Group	4.2%
Diageo	4.0%
ADP	3.9%
Novartis	3.9%
Total Top 10	46.6%
22 other holdings	53.1%
Cash	0.3%
TOTAL	100.0%
Source: Factset. Holdings subject to change.	

# TRUST INFORMATION

Board	
Chairman	John Evans
Non-Executive Director	Mark Little
Senior Independent Director	Sarah Harvey
Non-Executive Director	Angus Cockburn
Non-Executive Director	Alexandra Innes
Tel: 020 7499 4030 Fax: 020 7491 2445 email: info@taml.co.uk	
Manager	James Harries

Capital Structure Shares with voting rights Shares held in treasury	99,483,575 22,815,573
Net Assets	£219m
Gross Assets	£235m
Ongoing Charges Ordinary shares: (31.03.22)	0.93%
Management Fee	0.65%
Allocation of Expense and Interest	Capital 65% Revenue 35%
Mandate Established	2005
Year End	31 March
Premium (Discount)	-2.91%
Gearing	7%
Currency	£ Sterling

Historic Dividend Yie	
(trailing 12 months)	2.82%
Q4 2022	1.45p
Q3 2022 Q2 2022	1.45p
Q1 2022	1.75p 1.375p
Dividend Payments	January, April, July, October
Market Makers:	JPMORGAN, NUMIS,
	WINTERFLOOD, INVESTEC,
	PANMURE, PEEL HUNT
Bloomberg/Epic/	
Reuters Code	STS
Sedol	B09G3N2
AIFM	Juniper Partners Limited
Pricing	Share price is listed daily in the FT
Auditor	Ernst & Young LLP





#### Important Information

Please refer to Troy's Glossary of Investment terms here. The Trust can use gearing to purchase assets for the Trust; the use of this facility will have the effect of magnifying any gains or losses made. Asset allocation and holdings information is based on the gross assets. All performance data is calculated net of fees, unless otherwise stated. The Trust is registered for distribution to the public in the UK and to professional investors only in Ireland. All references to benchmarks are for comparative purposes only.

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The historic dividend yield reflects distributions declared over the past twelve months as a percentage of the Trust's price, as at the date shown. It does not include any preliminary charge and investors may be subject to tax on their distributions. The historic dividend yield is not guaranteed and will fluctuate. References to specific securities are included for the purposes of illustration only and should not be construed as a recommendation to buy or sell these securities.

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