# SIG MASELECT

GLOBAL LEADERS FUND

31 December 2024

## **Fund Objective**

The investment objective of the Fund is to outperform the Benchmark, as reflected by the performance of the MSCI ACWI, over the long term.

## **Fund Strategy**

The Fund capital is allocated to a carefully considered blend of independently managed global and specialist equity strategies.

The Fund is constructed by optimally blending the various manager styles and strategies to achieve the return target over the long-term.

A rigorous investment process underpins the identification and selection of managers according to their key strengths and specialisation.

These managers include the best active stock-pickers that the fund manager has encountered globally and they all have long term trackrecords of successfully generating superior returns for their investors.

Each manager is constantly assessed relative to their appropriate benchmarks and must consistently comply with the fund manager's stringent due diligence criteria.

The Fund exposure is constantly monitored and reviewed, and may be adjusted from time to time, having regard to the prevailing market conditions.

## **Fund Information**

Fund Size	\$53.29 mil
Unit Price	\$131.94
Number of Units	417
Risk Profile	High
Benchmark	MSCI AC World Index
Minimum Investment	Lump Sum : \$100 000
ISIN	IE00BJDQ3M09
Fund Domicile	Ireland
Fund Currency	USD
Bloomberg	PGSSGLA:ID
Inception Date	2020/10/22
Portfolio Category	UCITS Fund
Distributions	None (accumulation fund)
Dealing Frequency	Weekly on Wednesday
Pricing Frequency <sup>1</sup>	Each Business Day

<sup>1</sup> Prices are available from sources like FT.com and Bloomberg.com, or directly from Prescient Fund Services (Ireland) Limited or Ginsburg & Selby Private Wealth (Pty) Ltd.

## Fund Depositary

Northern Trust Fiduciary Services (Ireland) Ltd Address: Georges Court, 54 - 62 Townsend Street, Dublin 2, Ireland Website: www.northerntrust.com

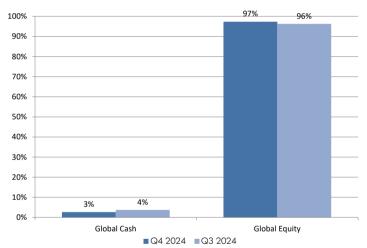
The Sigma Select Global Leaders Fund is approved by the FSCA for sale and marketing in South Africa in terms of section 65 of the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act 45 of 2002.

Management Company and Administration Prescient Fund Services (Ireland) Limited Address: 35 Merrion Square East, Dublin 2, D02 KH30, Ireland. Registration: 275468

% of Portfolio
18.77%
18.66%
16.09%
9.57%
9.54%
7.51%
7.40%
7.19%
4.88%
0.39%

Fees	A Class (%)
Fund Manager (GSPW)	0.50%
Admin (Manco) Fee %	0.21%
Other Expenses %	0.09%
Asset Managers %	0.94%
Total Expense Ratio (TER)	1.74%





Portfolio Management

The Fund manager is Ginsburg & Selby Private Wealth (Pty) Ltd, FSP Licence No. 42594, an Authorised Financial Services Provider under the South African Financial Sector Conduct Authority and approved by the Central Bank of Ireland as an manager of Irish Authorised Investment Funds.

Ginsburg & Selby Private Wealth (Pty) Ltd FSP License No: 42594 Physical Address: Belmont Square, Belmont Road, Cape Town, 7700

Tel: +27 (21) 685 6364 Email: sigma@ginsburg.co.za Website: www.ginsburg.co.za

**Representative Office Details:** 

 
 Name
 : Prescient Management Company (RF) (Pty) Ltd

 Registration number
 : 2002/022560/07

 Physical address
 : Prescient House, Westlake Business Park, Otto Close, Westlake, 7945

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 : info@prescient.co.za

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 : www.prescient.co.za



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## GLOBAL LEADERS FUND

Cumulative Return	Sigma Select Global Leaders	MSCI ACWI
1 Year Return	12.40%	18.02%
3 Year Return	8.25%	18.90%
Inception	31.94%	59.63%
Annualised Return	Sigma Select Global Leaders	MSCI ACWI
1 Year Return	12.40%	18.02%
3 Year Return	2.68%	5.94%
Inception	6.83%	11.79%
Highest & Lowest Returns	Sigma Select Global Leaders	MSCI ACWI
Highest 1-year Return	29.66%	37.86%
Lowest 1-year Return	-26.77%	-20.29%
Risk Statistics (3-Year Rolling)	Sigma Select Global Leaders	MSCI ACWI
Standard Deviation	15.72%	16.44%
Maximum Drawdown	-29.69%	-25.34%
Sharpe Ratio	-0.21	
Information Ratio	-0.17	



Illustration showing growth of \$ 1000 investment at date of inception <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The investment performance is for illustrative purposes only. The investment performance is calculated by taking the actual initial fees and all ongoing fees into account for the amount shown and income is reinvested on the reinvestment date.

Data Source : Reuters Datastream / Morningstar

Quarterly Commentary - Q4 2024

Global equity markets experienced a volatile fourth quarter, resulting in divergent performances across regions. The MSCI All Country World Index declined by -0.9% in US\$, taking the 2024 calendar year return to +18.0%.

The U.S. equity market was the standout performer, underpinned by growing confidence in an economic "soft landing" scenario and increased market stability following the presidential election. The S&P 500 Index increased by +2.4% in the fourth quarter, culminating in a robust calendar year return of +25.0% in US\$.

The robust performance of the U.S. equity market, which holds a significant weighting in global indices, masked pronounced weaknesses in other regions. Heightened political uncertainty and escalating trade concerns following the U.S. presidential outcome contributed to a -7.5 % decline in the MSCI AC World ex-USA Index during the quarter in US\$. Emerging markets faced similar pressures, with the MSCI Emerging Market Index falling -7.8%, reducing its year-to-date return to +8.1%

The Sigma Select Global Leaders Fund marginally underperformed the MSCI ACWI during the quarter, delivering a return of -1.7% and taking the 2024 calendar year return to +12.4%. Key contributors to performance included the Sands Capital Growth Fund and the Contrarius Global Equity Fund, which achieved returns of +5.3% and +5.2%, respectively. In contrast, the Prusik Asian Equity Income Fund and the Orbis Global Equity Fund underperformed, with returns of -8.6% and -6.2%, respectively, largely due to the limited exposure to the U.S. equity market.

Year-on-year inflation rates in the major developed markets ticked up slightly during the quarter but continue to hover near the targets set by the major central banks. In the United States, headline inflation concluded the year at 2.7%, while the Eurozone and United Kingdom recorded rates of 2.2% and 2.6%, respectively.

Labour market and manufacturing dynamics showed mixed signals, with notable volatility in the United States. October's non-farm payrolls added just 36,000 jobs, the lowest since 2020, but November rebounded with 227,000 jobs, exceeding expectations. The US unemployment rate ended at 4.2%, while wage growth remained strong at 5.8% year-over-year, supporting consumer confidence. Manufacturing faced ongoing challenges, with the US PMI falling to 49.3 in December, indicating contraction, and Eurozone PMI declining to 45.1, signalling deeper weakness. The UK showed relative resilience with a PMI of 50.5, pointing to modest expansion despite Brexit-related pressures and broader headwinds.

With inflation nearing Central Bank targets and economic data showing signs of softening, monetary policy remained a focal point during the quarter. The Federal Reserve (FED) implemented two 0.25% rate cuts, lowering the target federal funds rate range to 4.25%-4.50%. However, the December Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting signalled a more measured approach to monetary accommodation for 2025, tempering expectations for aggressive monetary easing in the year ahead.

In the Eurozone, the European Central Bank (ECB) maintained its gradual rate reduction strategy, aiming to bring the deposit rate down to 2.5% by the third quarter of 2025, from the current level of 3.5%. Similarly, the Bank of England reduced its benchmark rate by 0.25%, reinforcing efforts to stimulate economic activity amid a challenging macroeconomic environment.

Valuation disparities across sectors and regions within the MSCI ACWI remain significant. The U.S. equity market's extraordinary performance has resulted in potential valuation concerns, with the S&P 500's price-to-earnings ratio reaching 25 times earnings, a level observed only 7% of the time in the last 25 years. For meaningful valuation normalization, corporate earnings (at index level) would require sustained growth of approximately 6-11% annually for the next 5 years, a challenging trajectory given the economic uncertainties.

Importantly, the dominant weighting of U.S. equities in the MSCI ACWI obscures compelling opportunities in other regions. The MSCI ACWI ex-US trades at 14.6 times earnings, modestly below its 15.4 times historical average and at a significant 40% discount to the S&P 500. While these regions have many challenges, valuations in certain markets appear to have priced in much of this negativity, suggesting that a potential shift in sentiment could provide a tailwind for future outperformance.

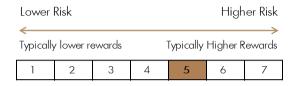
Looking ahead, we believe that the Fund's selective exposure to some of these markets outside of the US offers attractive return potential with a greater margin of safety. The Fund remains well diversified across regions, with an underweight to the U.S. equity market, particularly the large-cap technology companies.

The portfolio has adhered to its policy objective as stated in the supplement.



### Risk and Reward Profile of the Fund

The risk indicator is determined using historical data or, where historical data is not available, using simulated historical data. Historical data, such as is used in calculating the synthetic indicator, may not be a reliable indication of the future risk profile of the Fund. The risk category shown is not a target or a guarantee and may change over time. A category 1 fund is not risk free - the risk of loss is however small and the chance of making gains may also be limited. With a category 7 fund, the risk of losing money is high but so is the possibility of making gains. The risk indicator for the Fund is set at 5 as this reflects the market risk arising from proposed investments.



The Fund does not offer any capital guarantee or assurance that the investor will receive a fixed amount when redeeming.

#### Fund Specific Risks

In addition to the risk captured by the indicator above, the overall Fund value may be considerably affected by:

- Default risk: The risk that the issuers of fixed income instruments (e.g. bonds) may not be able to meet interest payments nor repay the money they have borrowed. The issuers credit quality is vital. The worse the credit quality, the greater the risk of default and therefore investment loss.
- Derivatives risk: The use of derivatives could increase overall risk by magnifying the effect of both gains and losses in a Fund. As such, large changes in value and potentially large financial losses could result.
- Developing Market (excluding SA) risk: Some of the countries invested in may have less developed legal, political, economic and/or other systems. These markets
  carry a higher risk of financial loss than those in countries generally regarded as being more developed.
- Foreign Investment risk: Foreign securities investments may be subject to risks pertaining to overseas jurisdictions and markets, including (but not limited to) local liquidity, macroeconomic, political, tax, settlement risks and currency fluctuations.
- Interest rate risk: The value of fixed income investments (e.g. bonds) tends to be inversely related to interest and inflation rates. Hence their value decreases when
  interest rates and/or inflation rises.
- Property risk: Investments in real estate securities can carry the same risks as investing directly in real estate itself. Real estate prices move in response to a variety of factors, including local, regional and national economic and political conditions, interest rates and tax considerations.
- Currency exchange risk: Changes in the relative values of individual currencies may adversely affect the value of investments and any related income.
- Geographic / Sector risk: For investments primarily concentrated in specific countries, geographical regions and/or industry sectors, their resulting value may
  decrease whilst portfolios more broadly invested might grow.
- · Derivative counterparty risk: A counterparty to a derivative transaction may experience a breakdown in meeting its obligations thereby leading to financial loss.
- Liquidity risk: If there are insufficient buyers or sellers of particular investments, the result may lead to delays in trading and being able to make settlements, and/or large fluctuations in value. This may lead to larger financial losses than expected.
- Equity investment risk: Value of equities (e.g. shares) and equity-related investments may vary according to company profits and future prospects as well as more general market factors. In the event of a company default (e.g. bankruptcy), the owners of their equity rank last in terms of any financial payment from that company.

Please refer to the "Risk Factors" sections of the Prospectus and the Supplement for further information - see under "Practical Information" for how to obtain a copy.



## SIGMASELECT

#### Disclaimer

Collective Investment Schemes in Securities (CIS) should be considered as medium to long-term investments. The value may go up as well as down and past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. CIS's are traded at the ruling price and can engage in scrip lending and borrowing. The collective investment scheme may borrow up to 10% of the market value of the portfolio to bridge insufficient liquidity. A schedule of fees, charges and maximum commissions is available on request from the Manager. There is no guarantee in respect of capital or returns in a portfolio. A CIS may be closed to new investors in order for it to be managed more efficiently in accordance with its mandate. CIS prices are calculated on a net asset basis, which is the total value of all the assets in the portfolio including any income accruals and less any permissible deductions (brokerage, STT, VAT, auditor's fees, bank charges, trustee and custodian fees and the annual management fee) from the portfolio divided by the number of participatory interests (units) in issue. Forward pricing is used. The Fund's Total Expense Ratio (TER) reflects the percentage of the average Net Asset Value (NAV) of the portfolio that was incurred as charges, levies and fees related to the management of the portfolio. A higher TER does not necessarily imply a goor return, nor does a low TER imply a good return. The current TER cannot be regarded as an indication of future TER's. During the phase in period TER's do not include information gathered over a full year. Transaction Costs (TC) is the percentage of the value of the Fund incurred as costs relating to the buying and selling of the Fund's underlying assets. Transaction costs are a necessary cost in administering the Fund and impacts Fund returns. It should not be considered in isolation as returns may be impacted by many other factors over time including market returns, the type of Fund, investment decisions of the investment manager and the TER.

Where foreign securities are included in a portfolio there may be potential constraints on liquidity and the repatriation of funds, macroeconomic risks, political risks, foreign exchange risks, tax risks, settlement risks; and potential limitations on the availability of market information. The investor acknowledges the inherent risk associated with the selected investments and that there are no guarantees. Please note that all documents, notifications of deposit, investment, redemption and switch applications must be received by Prescient by or before 10:00 (Irish Time), to be transacted at the net asset value price for that day. Where all required documentation is not received before the stated cut off time Prescient shall not be obliged to transact at the net asset value price as agreed to. The Fund is priced at 17:00 (New York Time). Prices are published daily and are available on the Prescient website.

Performance has been calculated using net NAV to NAV numbers with income reinvested. The performance for each period shown reflects the return for investors who have been fully invested for that period. Individual investor performance may differ as a result of initial fees, the actual investment date, the date of reinvestments and dividend withholding tax. Full performance calculations are available from the manager on request.

### **Glossary Summary**

Annualised performance: Annualised performance shows longer term performance rescaled to a 1 year period. Annualised performance is the average return per year over the period. Actual annual figures are available to the investor on request.

Highest & Lowest return: The highest and lowest returns for any 1 year over the period since inception have been shown.

NAV: The net asset value represents the assets of a Fund less its liabilities.

Alpha: Denoted the outperformance of the fund over the benchmark.

Sharpe Ratio: The Sharpe ratio is used to indicate the excess return the portfolio delivers over the risk free rate per unit of risk adopted by the fund.

Standard Deviation: The deviation of the return stream relative to its own average.

Max Drawdown: The maximum peak to trough loss suffered by the Fund since inception.

Max Gain: Largest increase in any single month

% Positive Month: The percentage of months since inception where the Fund has delivered positive return.

Average Duration: The weighted average duration of all the underlying interest bearing instruments in the Fund.

Average Credit quality: The weighted average credit quality of all the underlying interest bearing instruments in the Fund (internally calculated).

Dividend Yield: The weighted average dividend yield of all the underlying equity in the Fund. The dividend yield of each company is the dividends per share divided by the price.

PE Ratio: The weighted average price earnings ratio of all the underlying equities in the Fund. The price earnings ratio of each company is the price divided by the earnings per share.

High Water Mark: The highest level of performance achieved over a specified period.

Information Ratio: The Information Ratio measures the market risk-adjusted performance of an investment or portfolio. The greater a portfolio's Information Ratio, the better its risk-adjusted performance has been compared to the market in general.

