

Contrarian Value Equity Fund



► Durability. Temperament. Alpha.

April 2026 Commentary | ISIN for Class D USD: IE00BF5FMG44

MARKETING COMMUNICATION

Our investment approach

- Contrarian investing is where quality and value meet.
- It starts with the best ideas not the index.
- It requires a patient temperament to generate long-term growth without taking investors off a cliff.

Portfolio Management Team



Brian A. Selmo

24 years in the industry



Mark Landecker

23 years in the industry

What do we mean by temperament and duration? Inside, we share the fund's return drivers, portfolio positioning and put the spotlight on a stock bought/sold.

Performance and markets

April saw renewed confidence across global equities, but index returns continued to be driven by a highly concentrated set of winners. The prospect of a ceasefire and a bumper earnings season refocused attention on all things AI. The MSCI ACWI returned 10.2% over the month, taking year-to-date performance to 6.6% in USD terms. Market leadership remained narrow; in April IT stocks delivered returns of 20%, while year to date, energy was the leading sector up 32%. A reminder that diversification can only be effective when portfolios are exposed to different winners.

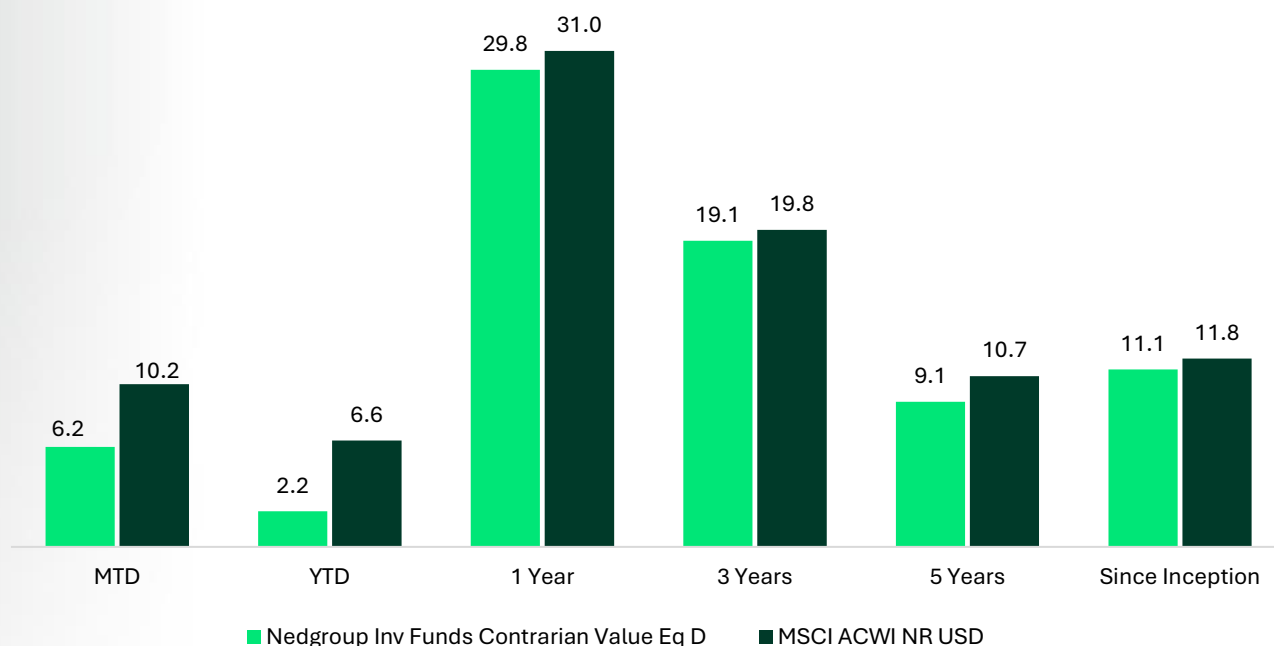
Against this backdrop, the fund lagged the index, returning 6.2% over April and 2.2% year to date. At a sector level, returns over the month were driven by stock selection across Communication Services, IT, Industrials and Consumer Discretionary. These stocks have significantly lower representation in the MSCI ACWI, a persistent feature of our contrarian approach.

At a stock level, a number of long-held positions contributed following strong earnings outcomes, including Alphabet, Meta and Citigroup – we continue to trim these to fund new opportunities. As the AI rally broadened beyond the hyperscalers and memory producers, semiconductor stocks Analog Devices and NXP Semiconductors delivered double-digit returns as inventory cycles showed signs of normalisation. Korean stocks Samsung C&T and LG Corp also benefitted from a re-rating.

Away from AI, recent additions Azelis and IMCD – speciality chemical value distributors with established competitive positions - benefitted from an improving industrial backdrop, Ferguson Enterprises continued to demonstrate resilience as demand for non-residential construction and infrastructure remained supportive. Meanwhile, the market's attention away from non-AI stocks allowed us to continue building positions in companies such as Magnum, Nippon Paint, Kerry Group, Arthur J Gallagher and Bureau Veritas – businesses we believe trade at undemanding multiples and are durable enough to deliver equity like returns over time.

Fund performance

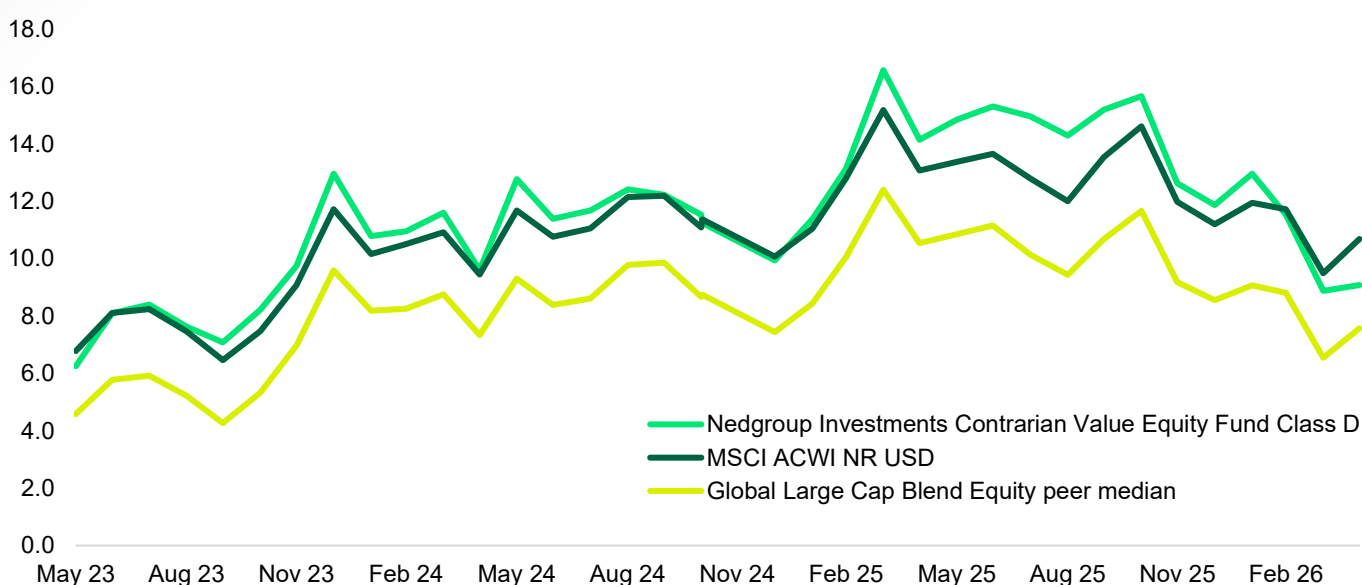
Past performance is not indicative of future performance and does not predict future returns



Inception date 01/06/2018 Source: Morningstar, data to 30 April 2026.

Rolling 5-year returns (% , US\$)

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Source: Morningstar, data to 30 April 2026.

The share classes being offered in Germany are newly launched and do not have their own historical performance data. The performance information presented in this marketing material relates to the nearest comparable share class and is provided solely for indicative purposes. Differences in fees, and other factors may affect future performance. Investors should not rely solely on this information when making investment decisions. Fund returns are in US\$ based on Class D Accumulation. MSCI index returns are with net dividends reinvested. Source: Morningstar, Nedgroup Investments.

Key return drivers

Stock contribution: Month to date

Winners	Contribution (%)	Losers	Contribution (%)
Alphabet	2.23%	Liberty Broadband	-0.26%
Analog Devices	1.05%	Comcast Corporation	-0.18%
Amazon.com	0.75%	Becton Dickinson & Co	-0.16%
NXP Semiconductors	0.64%	International Flavors & Fragrances	-0.12%
Citigroup	0.45%	Nintendo Co	-0.11%

Stock contribution: Year to date

Winners	Contribution (%)	Losers	Contribution (%)
Analog Devices	1.69%	ICON Plc	-0.55%
Alphabet	1.63%	Naspers & Prosus	-0.54%
Glencore	1.00%	Fortune Brands Innovations	-0.34%
NXP Semiconductors	0.52%	Aon Plc	-0.30%
Amazon.com	0.45%	Meta Platforms	-0.28%

Sector contribution	Month to date (%)	Year to date (%)
Communication Services	1.81%	0.71%
Consumer Discretionary	1.08%	-0.16%
Consumer Staples	0.23%	-0.23%
Energy	0.09%	0.58%
Financials	0.41%	0.04%
Health Care	0.01%	-1.20%
Industrials	1.51%	1.26%
Information Technology	1.81%	2.10%
Materials	0.14%	1.09%
Real Estate	0.00%	0.00%

Performance, contribution data and positioning information as of reporting month end. Source: FPA, Factset, Nedgroup Investments



**NEDGROUP
INVESTMENTS**

Portfolio positioning

Top 10 holdings	Portfolio weight	Sector breakdown	Portfolio weight
Alphabet	8.3%	Communication Services	16.4%
Analog Devices	4.9%	Consumer Discretionary	11.1%
Citigroup Inc	3.7%	Consumer Staples	8.2%
Heineken Holding	3.4%	Energy	1.3%
International Flavors & Fragrances	3.4%	Financials	8.9%
Amazon.com	3.3%	Health Care	11.6%
Meta Platforms	3.2%	Industrials	13.9%
Comcast Corporation	3.1%	Information Technology	9.1%
Glencore Plc	2.8%	Materials	11.9%
TE Connectivity	2.8%	Real Estate	0.0%
Total	38.9%	Total	92.4%

Stock spotlight: Arthur J. Gallagher

Arthur J. Gallagher is a leading global insurance broker with a strong position in the mid-market segment, where it primarily serves small- to medium-sized businesses and local subsidiaries of larger corporates. Unlike the largest brokers such as Aon and Marsh, which dominate Fortune 500 clients, Arthur J. Gallagher operates in a distinct segment of the market with limited direct competition from these global peers, enabling it to build a highly durable and asset-light business model characterised by strong client retention. The nature of insurance broking — providing advisory and placement services rather than underwriting risk — supports high returns on capital and benefits from long-standing client relationships.

- **Current Dynamics:** Gallagher's growth is driven by a combination of steady organic expansion and ongoing acquisition activity. Organically, the business has historically grown at mid-single-digit rates, broadly in line with underlying insurance premium growth, which tends to modestly outpace GDP. In addition, Gallagher has consistently supplemented this with bolt-on acquisitions, primarily small- to mid-sized deals, contributing to overall mid- to high-single-digit growth potential. However, earnings can exhibit some variability depending on the insurance pricing cycle, as commissions are linked to premium levels, which may soften in periods of declining pricing.
- **Strategic Positioning:** Gallagher's positioning reflects a focused and scalable model within the insurance brokerage ecosystem. By concentrating on the mid-market, it avoids direct competition with the largest global brokers in most cases. The relatively limited exposure to consulting activities further differentiates the business, reducing exposure to potential disruption or uncertainty in that segment. Operationally, the company has invested early in technology and shared services infrastructure, including a large offshore presence, enabling increasing automation and efficiency. Management has identified meaningful margin expansion opportunities over time through these initiatives, while maintaining an entrepreneurial culture under longstanding family involvement.
- **Investment Thesis:** Arthur J. Gallagher represents a high-quality, steady compounder with attractive structural characteristics, including recurring revenues, high retention, and capital-light economics. The investment case is supported by a combination of predictable organic growth, disciplined acquisition activity, and potential for margin expansion through operational efficiencies. The position was initiated at a valuation considered reasonable relative to its durability and growth profile, offering a combination of earnings growth and cash flow yield that supports equity-like returns over time.

This position was 1.54% of the portfolio as at month-end.

Performance, contribution data and positioning information as of reporting month end. Source: FPA, Factset, Nedgroup Investments

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Disclaimer

This is a marketing communication. Please refer to the prospectus, the key investor information documents (the **KIIDs/PRIIPS KIDs**) and the financial statements of Nedgroup Investments Funds plc (the **Fund**) before making any final investment decisions.

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The sub-funds of the Fund (the **Sub-Funds**) are generally medium to long-term investments and the Investment Manager does not guarantee the performance of an investor's investment and even if forecasts about the expected future performance are included the investor will carry the investment and market risk, which includes the possibility of losing capital.

The price of shares may go down or up depending on fluctuations in financial markets outside of the control of the Investment Manager meaning an investor may not get back the amount invested.

Past performance is not indicative of future performance and does not predict future returns.

Risks and fees are outlined in the relevant Sub-Fund supplement.

Prices are published on the Investment Manager's website.

Distribution: The prospectus, the supplements, the KIIDs/PRIIPS KIDS, constitution, country specific appendix as well as the annual and semi-annual reports may be obtained free of charge in English for the prospectus and in English together with the relevant local languages for the KIIDs/KIDs from the country representative, the Investment Manager, or at www.nedgroupinvestments.com. The Investment Manager may decide to terminate the arrangements made for the marketing of its collective investment undertakings in accordance with Art 93a of Directive 2009/65/EC and Art 32a of Directive 2011/61/EU.

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Germany: The Fund's Facilities agent in Germany is Acolin Europe AG, with the registered office at Line-Eid-Strasse 6, 78467 Konstanz. The Prospectus (in English) and the PRIIPS KID (in German), may be obtained free of charge at the registered office of the Facilities agent, or electronically by Email via facilityagent@acolin.com, or by using the contact form at <https://acolin.com/services/facilities-agency-services>.

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