# Global Flexible Fund

Contrarian. Flexible. Patient.



August 2025 update | ISIN for Class C USD:IE00BKXGFM15

MARKETING COMMUNICATION

# Our investment approach

- We target equity-like returns with less risk than the market over a full market cycle.
- Portfolio construction is driven by bottom-up fundamental research and valuations, agnostic of market indices.
- We patiently seek undervalued, out-of-favour opportunities across asset class and capital structure.
- We hold cash when prudent to protect against downside risks.

# **Portfolio Management Team**



Brian A. Selmo 24 years in the industry



Steve Romick 39 years in the industry



Mark Landecker 23 years in the industry

In this monthly note, we share the Fund's return drivers over recent periods, current portfolio positioning and put the spotlight on a stock bought/sold.

#### Performance and markets

Q2 earnings continued to surprise to the upside, fuelling further gains across global equity markets. The Nedgroup Investments Global Flexible Fund returned 2.6%, versus 2.6% global equities (MSCI World) and 0.5% in global bond returns (Bloomberg Global Agg US\$ hedged).

Consumer Staples led performance, driven by JDE Peet's, which surged 120% year-to-date following its announced acquisition by Keurig Dr Pepper. We initiated our position shortly after its IPO in 2021. Despite facing headwinds from elevated coffee prices and leadership transitions, our conviction in the strength of its global coffee franchise remained intact—an illustration of our patient, contrarian temperament.

Communication Services and IT also contributed positively, with both sectors delivering some of the strongest earnings growth relative to the broader market. In line with our valuation discipline, we trimmed long-standing positions in Meta, Nintendo, Nexon, and TE Connectivity, reducing our exposure to 19% in Communication Services and 12% in IT. Notably, our IT weighting is now half that of the index, a direct outcome of our bottom-up stock selection process.

While valuations have increased on aggregate globally, we continue to uncover selective opportunities in healthcare, particularly among life sciences. We've added to existing holdings and initiated new positions in Becton Dickinson and Avantor—both mission-critical providers benefiting from secular tailwinds such as ageing demographics and rising demand for precision diagnostics and biologics manufacturing. Avantor, in particular, exemplifies our approach: a misunderstood quality business undergoing strategic transition, with strong free cash flow supporting long-term value creation.

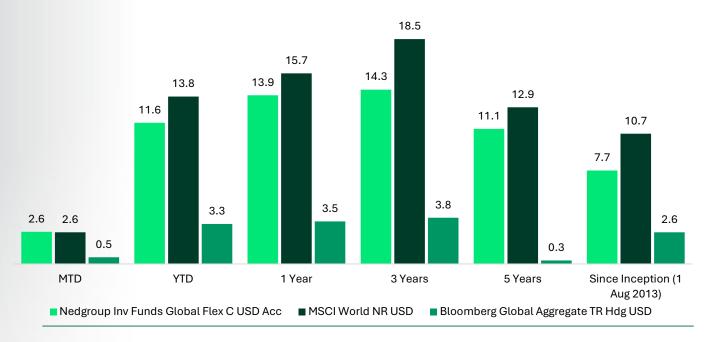
As always, our focus remains on identifying durable businesses trading below intrinsic value, guided by a contrarian mindset and a disciplined valuation framework.





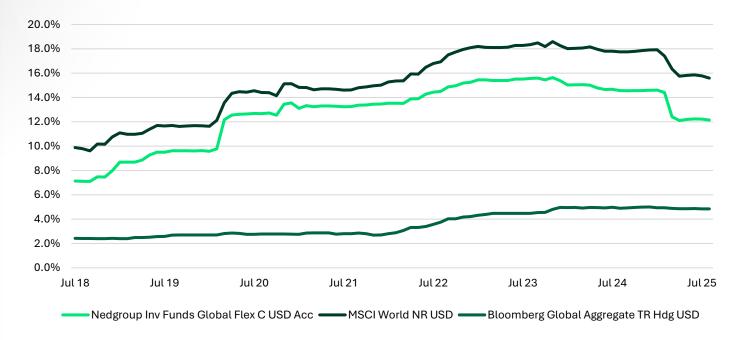
#### **Fund performance**

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



#### Rolling 5-year volatility (%, net in US\$)

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



Fund returns are in US\$ based on Class C since 1 August 2013. MSCI index returns are with net dividends reinvested. Rolling volatility based on rolling 5-year US\$ returns. Source: Morningstar, Nedgroup Investments.





# **Key return drivers**

#### Month to date

Contributors		Detractors	
Alphabet	0.50%	Meta	-0.14%
JDE Peet's	0.35%	LPL Financial Holdings	-0.11%
Analog Devices	0.32%	Intl Flavors & Fragrances	-0.08%
EchoStar Corporation	0.31%	LG Corp	-0.05%
Echostar Corporation Convertible	0.22%	Amazon.com,	-0.05%

#### Year to date

Contributors		Detractors	
JDE Peet's	1.15%	Intl Flavors & Fragrances	-0.40%
TE Connectivity	1.08%	Jefferies Financial Group	-0.33%
Citigroup	0.98%	CarMax	-0.32%
Meta	0.85%	Charter Communications	-0.24%
Safran	0.79%	Comcast Corporation	-0.22%

Sector contribution	Month to date	Year to date
Equities	2.90%	10.57%
Communication Services	0.89%	2.13%
Consumer Discretionary	0.25%	0.44%
Consumer Staples	0.53%	1.67%
Energy	0.00%	0.05%
Financials	0.34%	1.19%
Health Care	0.29%	0.62%
Industrials	0.11%	2.16%
Information Technology	0.43%	1.75%
Materials	0.03%	0.71%
Real Estate	0.03%	-0.15%
Fixed Income	0.38%	1.70%

Contribution data as of reporting month end. Source: FPA, Factset.





# Portfolio positioning

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Portfolio structure	Portfolio weight	
Fixed income	2.13%	
Corporate Bonds	0.49%	
Convertible Bonds	1.54%	
Asset Backed Bonds	0.10%	
Equities	57.59%	
Communication Services	12.56%	
Consumer Discretionary	6.57%	
Consumer Staples	5.10%	
Energy	1.62%	
Financials	7.43%	
Health Care	4.11%	
Industrials	6.97%	
Information Technology	7.45%	
Materials	4.66%	
Real Estate	1.02%	
Utilities	0.09%	
Cash & equivalents*	40.29%	
Total	100.00%	

Regional breakdown	Equity weight	Fixed income weight
North America	35.16%	0.71%
Europe ex UK	18.54%	1.42%
Asia ex. Japan	0.19%	0.0%
Japan	1.70%	0.0%
Emerging Markets	2.00%	0.0%
Total	57.59%	2.13%

Top 5 equity holdings		Portfolio weight
Alphabet	Communication Services	4.93%
Meta	Communication Services	2.91%
Analog Devices	Information Technology	2.90%
TE Connectivity	Information Technology	2.59%
Citigroup	Financials	2.12%

# Stock spotlight: Thermo Fisher Scientific

Thermo Fisher Scientific is a global leader in life sciences tools and services, with a diversified portfolio spanning laboratory instruments, diagnostics, bioprocessing, contract research, and distribution. The company has been a long-standing holding in the Fund, with our initial investment dating back many years. We exited the position during the COVID period, when the stock became extremely expensive amid heightened enthusiasm for healthcare and life sciences. While our conviction in the quality of the business and its management remained unchanged, the valuation no longer supported equity-like returns.

- Exceptional business quality: Thermo Fisher operates across multiple segments of the life sciences value chain, effectively acting as a toll collector on industry activity. Its scale, diversification, and operational excellence have enabled it to consistently gain share and outperform industry growth.
- Durable industry tailwinds: Despite recent headwinds including post-COVID digestion and regulatory shifts in the U.S. - we continue to view the life sciences tools and services space as a structurally attractive, GDP+ growth industry.
- **Disciplined capital management:** Management has a strong track record of operational execution, supporting high margins, strong cash generation, and returns on capital.
- Attractive re-entry point: Following a meaningful de-rating, Thermo Fisher now trades at a valuation (~18x forward earnings) that we believe offers equity-like returns for a high-quality, long-duration compounder.

Thermo Fisher exemplifies the type of business we seek: competitively advantaged, well-managed, and exposed to long-term secular growth. Our long history with the company, combined with a more reasonable valuation, supports its reintroduction into the Fund.

This position was 0.6% of the portfolio as at month-end.

Positioning information as of reporting month end. Some differences may exist due to rounding. Source: FPA, Nedgroup Investments.



<sup>\*</sup> Includes money market securities.



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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 Fund is authorised and regulated in Ireland by the Central Bank of Ireland. The Fund is authorised as a UCITS pursuant to the European Communities (Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities) Regulations 2011 as amended and as may be amended, supplemented, or consolidated from time -to-time and any rules, guidance or notices made by the Central Bank which are applicable to the Fund. The Fund is domiciled in Ireland. Nedgroup Investment (IOM) Limited (reg no 57917C), the Investment Manager and Distributor of the Fund, is licensed by the Isle of Man Financial Services Authority. The Depositary of the Fund is Citi Depositary Services Ireland DAC, 1 North Wall Quay, Dublin 1, Ireland. The Administrator of the Fund is Citibank Europe plc, 1 North Wall Quay, Dublin 1, Ireland.

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 <a href="https://www.nedgroupinvestments.com">www.nedgroupinvestments.com</a>. 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.

**Switzerland**: The Representative is Acolin Fund Services AG, Maintower, Thurgauerstrasse 36/38, 8050 Zurich, Switzerland, whilst the Paying agent is Banque Heritage SA, Route de Chêne 61, CH-1211 Geneva 6. Nedgroup Investments (IOM) Limited is affiliated to the Swiss ombudsman: Verein Ombudsstelle Finanzdienstleister (OFD), Bleicherweg 10, CH-8002 Zurich.

**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 <a href="https://acolin.com/services/facilities-agency-services">https://acolin.com/services/facilities-agency-services</a>.

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