# Global Flexible Fund

Contrarian. Flexible. Patient.



October 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



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**

October saw a continuation of strong earnings across global equities, buoyed further by renewed announcements of Al-related capital expenditure. Markets responded positively, with the MSCI World returning 2.0% in US\$ terms, laying the ground for selective profit-taking. However, stocks which delivered disappointing earnings were punished. The Nedgroup Investments Global Flexible Fund returned 0.7% over the month, while global bonds (Bloomberg Global Agg US\$ hedged) returned 0.8%. Stocks within Real estate, Financials and Communication Services detracted from performance, while Industrials, Materials contributed positively.

In Real Estate, ongoing headwinds in Douglas Emmett's office portfolio weighed on performance, despite continued strength in its multi-family assets. The company's strategic pivot toward residential is aimed at enhancing income resilience, but the capital intensity of this transition continues to pressure the stock. In Financials, the collapse of First Brands and Tricolor Holdings raised concerns around lending standards and counterparty exposure, contributing to a sharp decline in Jefferies' share price. However, through our ongoing research and engagement, we believe the actual exposure is materially lower than market perception and modest relative to Jefferies' total equity base. As a mid-market investment bank with diversified revenues across capital markets and asset management, Jefferies maintains a strong balance sheet and has consistently returned capital to shareholders through buybacks and dividends.

Within Communication Services, holdings in Charter Communications and Comcast were impacted by ongoing investor scepticism around their growth strategies. Both companies continue to face broadband and video subscriber attrition, alongside intensifying competition from fibre and fixed wireless providers. Our initial investment was made during a period of heightened market concern around cord-cutting and 5G disruption, which we viewed as an opportunity to acquire fundamentally mispriced businesses. While video continues to decline, broadband remains a resilient and essential utility. We maintain conviction in both names, supported by their strategic positioning and potential to deliver mid- to high-single digit revenue growth and stronger free cash flow per share. As always, we reassess downside risks relative to base and high-case scenarios, consistent with our philosophy of investing in undervalued businesses with resilient fundamentals and misunderstood long-term potential.





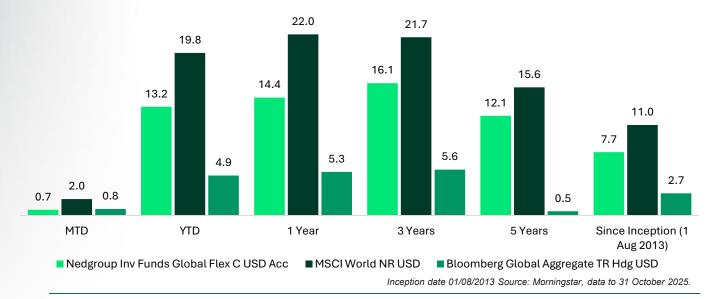
Elsewhere, the easing of US-China trade tensions provided a tailwind for Korea's export-oriented equity market. Our Korean industrial holdings, Samsung C&T and LG Corp, benefited from this environment, with both companies delivering earnings ahead of expectations.

In Materials, our recent addition Amrize Ltd, a spin-off from Holcim's North American operations, reported strong results across its core business segments and gained investor support for its M&A-led growth strategy.

We continued trimming several long-standing technology related holdings, including Alphabet, Meta, TE Connectivity, Analog Devices, and NXP Semiconductors, where valuations had become extended. Conversely, we increased our positions in IFF, Fortune Brands, and Becton Dickinson, reflecting our contrarian philosophy: seeking resilient businesses where market sentiment has yet to catch up with fundamentals.

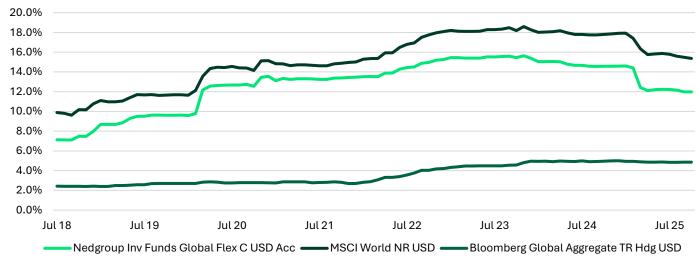
#### **Fund performance**

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



Source: Morningstar, data to 31 October 2025.

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	0.86%	Meta Platforms	-0.33%
TE Connectivity	0.33%	Jefferies Financial Group	-0.25%
Amazon.com	0.19%	Comcast Corporation	-0.19%
Samsung C&T	0.15%	Charter Communications	-0.13%
LPL Financial Holdings	0.15%	Analog Devices	-0.13%

#### Year to date

Contributors		Detractors	
Alphabet	2.09%	Jefferies Financial Group	-0.57%
TE Connectivity	1.59%	CarMax	-0.57%
JDE Peet's	1.16%	Comcast Corporation	-0.56%
Citigroup	1.10%	Intl Flavors & Fragrances	-0.50%
Safran	0.90%	Charter Communications	-0.35%

Sector contribution	Month to date	Year to date
Equities	0.61%	11.91%
Communication Services	0.17%	3.04%
Consumer Discretionary	0.14%	0.51%
Consumer Staples	-0.06%	1.45%
Energy	0.02%	0.10%
Financials	-0.18%	1.01%
Health Care	0.07%	0.57%
Industrials	0.28%	2.56%
Information Technology	0.15%	2.00%
Materials	0.15%	0.93%
Real Estate	-0.12%	-0.26%
Fixed Income	0.08%	2.15%

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





### Portfolio positioning

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Portfolio structure	Portfolio weight		
Fixed income	2.45%		
Corporate Bonds	0.55%		
Convertible Bonds	1.89%		
Equities	58.35%		
Communication Services	11.86%		
Consumer Discretionary	6.45%		
Consumer Staples	4.85%		
Energy	1.71%		
Financials	6.94%		
Health Care	5.38%		
Industrials	7.21%		
Information Technology	7.36%		
Materials	5.62%		
Real Estate	0.88%		
Utilities	0.09%		
Cash & equivalents*	39.20%		
Total	100.00%		

Regional breakdown	Equity weight	Fixed income weight
North America	34.88%	0.98%
Europe ex UK	18.88%	1.47%
Asia ex. Japan	0.14%	0.0%
Japan	2.03%	0.0%
Emerging Markets	2.29%	0.0%
Total	58.35%	2.45%

Top 5 equity holdings		Portfolio weight
Alphabet	Communication Services	6.30%
TE Connectivity	Information Technology	2.91%
Analog Devices	Information Technology	2.63%
Meta	Communication Services	2.55%
Citigroup	Financials	2.01%

# Stock spotlight: International Flavors & Fragrances

International Flavors & Fragrances (IFF) is a global leader in specialty ingredients for food, beverage, personal care, health, and household products. Its reach is extraordinary - enzymes in half of cold-water laundry detergents, cultures in one-third of yogurts, and brewing solutions in one-fifth of the global beer market. This is a business embedded in everyday life, with a moat built on innovation and scale.

- Current Challenges: IFF's previous management pursued aggressive acquisitions and failed to integrate its diverse global operations effectively. This shifted the company from a high-margin, low-leverage business to one with compressed margins and elevated debt levels. Investor confidence has been shaken, leading to a cautious market stance.
- Strategic Turnaround: Under new leadership, IFF is refocusing on operational excellence and a streamlined product portfolio. The company has divested non-core assets and is expected to continue doing so, reducing leverage and improving profitability. This disciplined approach aims to restore margins and unlock shareholder value.
- Financial Outlook: IFF currently generates approximately \$4 per share in free cash flow, but management's turnaround plan could lift this to \$5 \$6 per share over the next few years. At the current price, the stock offers an attractive entry point with limited downside. If the company executes on margin recovery and deleveraging, we see a clear path for cash flow growth and P/E multiple expansion, which together could support a potential doubling of the share price over the medium term.
- Investment Thesis: With limited downside at current levels and a credible path to margin recovery and deleveraging, IFF
  offers an attractive turnaround story. Execution risk remains, but successful delivery could significantly re-rate the stock.
  Coupled with a clear turnaround plan and strong underlying demand for its products, the risk/reward skews attractively in
  favour of patient investors.

This position was 1.7% 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 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.

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

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