

# Polar Capital Global Financials

Investment companies | Annual overview | 7 January 2026

## Cheap and cheerful

After several years of the global financials sector outperforming global equities, the managers of Polar Capital Global Financials Trust (PCFT) remain positive about the sector's prospects, as they were last May.

They note that many investors overlook or **underweight** financials. Despite recent strong performance, financials still have the lowest valuations compared to other sectors and are seeing better returns on equity. Many investors, either by choice or through index-tracking ETFs, have large exposures to technology and are becoming more concerned about high valuations there. This could encourage a shift in sentiment towards financials as a way to diversify.

## Growing income and capital from financials stocks

PCFT seeks to deliver income and capital growth by finding the best investment opportunities across the world of financials (which includes banks, life and non-life insurance companies, asset managers, stock exchanges, speciality lenders, and fintech companies, as well as property and other related sub-sectors). A new enhanced dividend policy aims to pay out a quarterly dividend equivalent to approximately 4% of NAV each year.

**Sector** **Financials and financial innovation**

<b>Ticker</b>	<b>PCFT LN</b>
<b>Base currency</b>	<b>GBP</b>
<b>Price</b>	<b>238.5p</b>
<b>NAV</b>	<b>243.6p</b>
<b>Premium/(discount)</b>	<b>(2.1%)</b>
<b>Yield<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2.0%</b>

Note 1) under the new policy, the yield will rise to c.4% from 1 December 2025 onwards



PCFT's managers remain positive about the sector's prospects, as they were last May



PCFT benefited from shifting investments from US to European banks



Financials are potentially amongst the biggest beneficiaries of AI





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Domicile	England & Wales
Inception date	1 July 2013
Manager	Nick Brind, George Barrow and Tom Dorner
Market cap	388.1m
Shares outstanding (exc. treasury shares)	162.705m
Daily vol. (1-yr. avg.)	1,025,473 shares
Net gearing	7.1%

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Click for PCFT's peer group analysis



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Click to provide feedback to the company



Click if you are interested in meeting PCFT's managers



Click for links to trading platforms



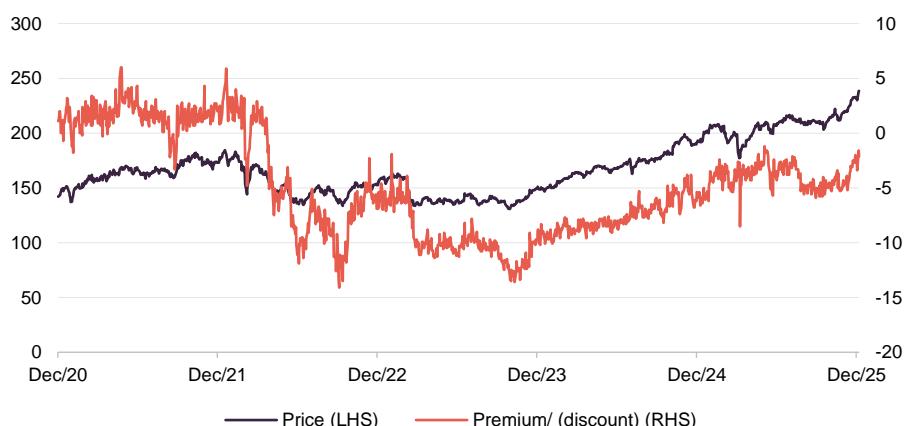
## At a glance

### Share price and discount

During the 12 months to 31 December 2025, PCFT's discount ranged from 1.2% to 8.5%, averaging 4.0%. As of 6 January 2026, the discount was 2.1%.

PCFT offers investors an exit opportunity every five years and has a policy to control its discount.

### Time period 31 December 2020 to 6 January 2026

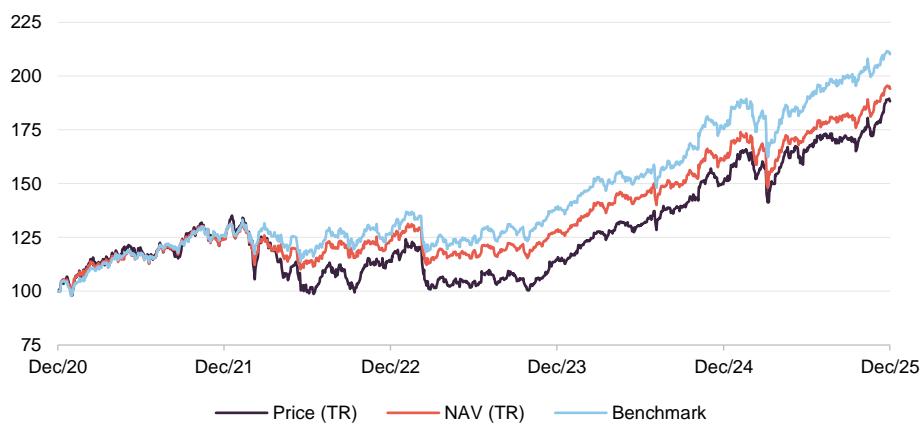


Source: Bloomberg, Marten & Co

### Performance over five years

PCFT has been climbing steadily since 2023. After recovering from the tariff announcements in April, both the NAV and share price have risen in recent months, broadly matching the benchmark.

### Time period 31 December 2020 to 31 December 2025



Source: Bloomberg, Marten & Co

Year ended	Share price total return (%)	NAV total return (%)	MSCI ACWI Financials total return (%)	MSCI ACWI total return (%)
31/12/2021	25.4	24.2	25.4	19.6
31/12/2022	(9.3)	(0.5)	0.9	(8.7)
31/12/2023	0.8	3.7	9.5	15.8
31/12/2024	31.8	25.5	26.7	19.8
31/12/2025	24.7	20.7	19.7	13.9

Source: Bloomberg, Marten & Co

## Fund profile

PCFT looks to grow investors' income and their capital

More information on the trust is available on its website [www.pcgft.com](http://www.pcgft.com)

Polar Capital Global Financials Trust (PCFT) aims to grow both investors' income and capital. Its global approach offers UK investors a way to broaden and diversify their exposure to financial companies.

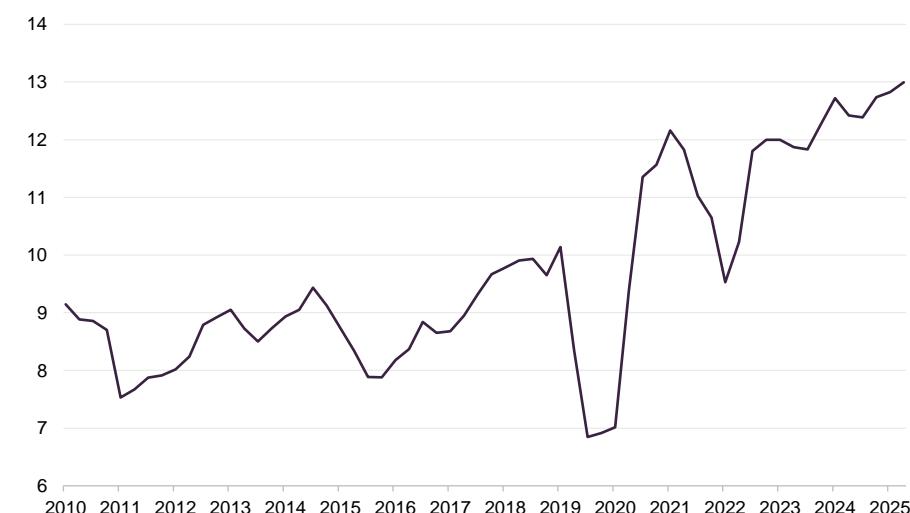
PCFT started on 1 July 2013 with a fixed lifespan. In April 2020, shareholders voted to extend the life of the trust beyond May 2020, with a cash exit option. Most chose to stay invested. In June 2025, a 100% **tender offer** saw 56.17% of shares remain. These offers take place every five years, with the next due in 2030.

The trust mainly invests in listed securities and measures performance against the MSCI All-Countries World Financials Net Total Return Index in sterling. Its manager, Polar Capital LLP, had £28.4bn in assets under management as of 7 November 2025, with 13 investment teams across Europe, the US, and Asia. PCFT is managed by Nick Brind, George Barrow, and Tom Dorner.

## Managers' view – strong returns yet low valuations

Since the global financial crisis, the sector has steadily improved its returns on equity (**ROE**), as shown in Figure 1. The drop during COVID was mainly due to provisions for bad debts that did not lead to actual losses. Low interest rates had previously limited returns, but as rates rose from 2022, banks' net interest margins increased.

**Figure 1: MSCI ACWI Financials ROE**



**Source:** Bloomberg

ROE on a rising trend for financials

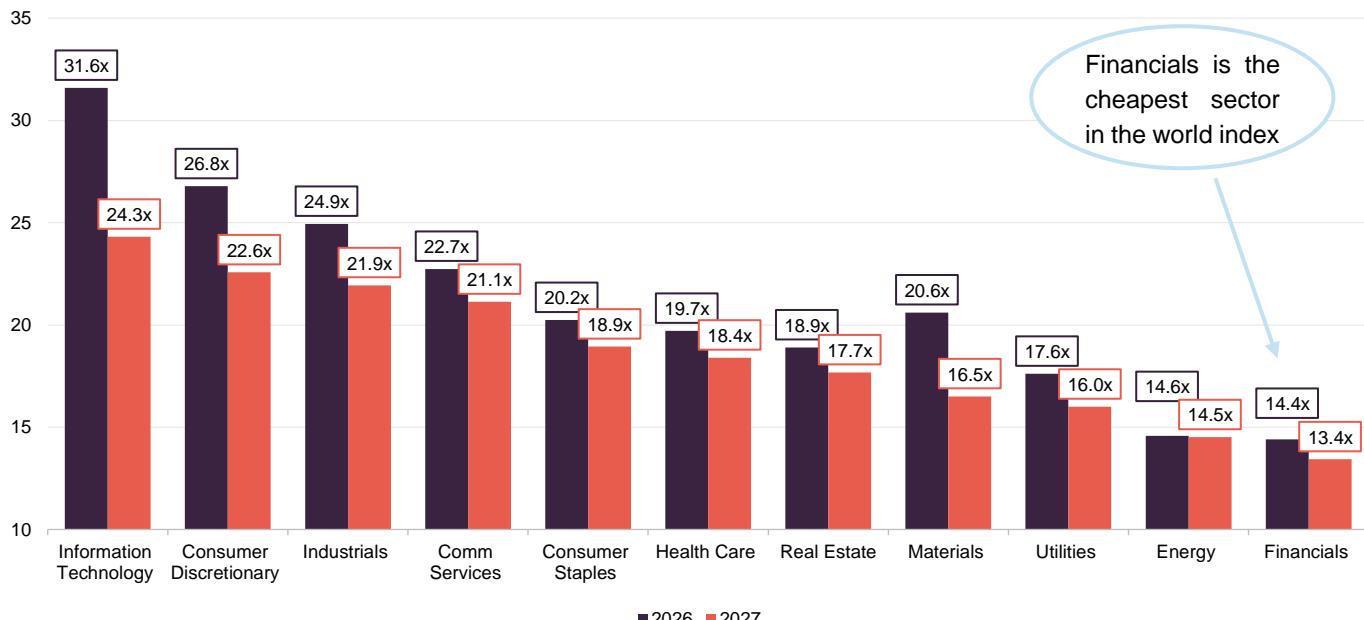
Strict capital discipline after the financial crisis had held back ROE in the sector. Now, with resistance to tighter regulation and a rise in share buybacks, ROE growth is being supported.

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Polar Capital Global Financials

Figure 2: MSCI ACWI sector price/earnings ratios



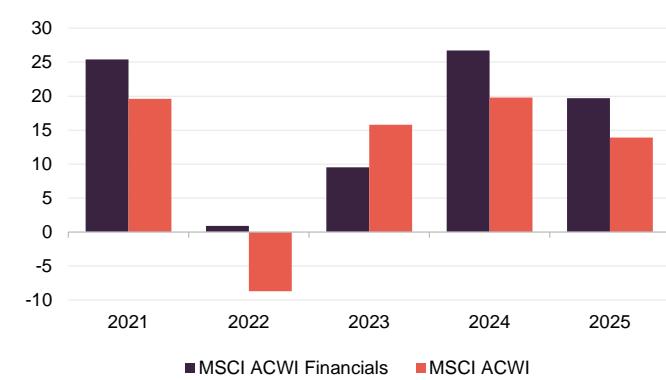
Financials is the cheapest sector in the world index

Figure 3: MSCI ACWI Financials



Financials should benefit from AI

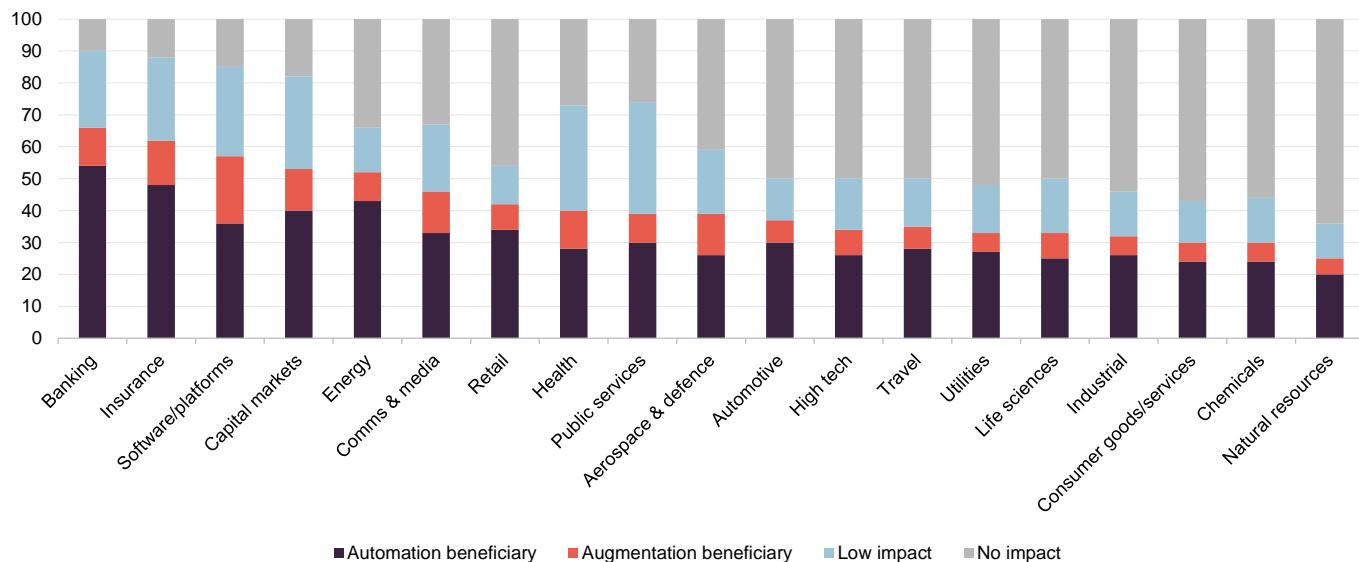
Figure 4: Financials versus global equities



Although tariffs target products rather than services and do not directly affect financial companies' profits, they have still hurt share prices in the sector, as seen in Figure 3. Financials recovered quickly after "Liberation Day", but have recently lagged behind a market led by large US AI-focused companies. The managers note this is surprising, as financials could benefit significantly from AI, which is already reducing costs and boosting profits in many firms. Figure 5 presents Accenture

Research findings on AI's impact across different industries – banking and insurance could be best-positioned.

**Figure 5: Estimated AI impact by industry**



**Source:** Accenture Research

Q3 results were generally strong, though some areas like property and casualty insurance showed weaker numbers. High profits in insurance are attracting more capital to the sector (the increased competition tends to dilute returns), but the managers see more potential in life assurance companies. They have increased holdings in AIA, Prudential, and Globe Life.

Earlier this year, PCFT benefited from shifting investments from US to European banks. Managers note that moves towards deregulation in both regions should boost profits and allow banks to increase lending, which has been limited recently. Despite recent share price gains, European banks still appear cheap, with a forward P/E of 9.5x and a [price to book ratio](#) of 1.3x at November 2025.

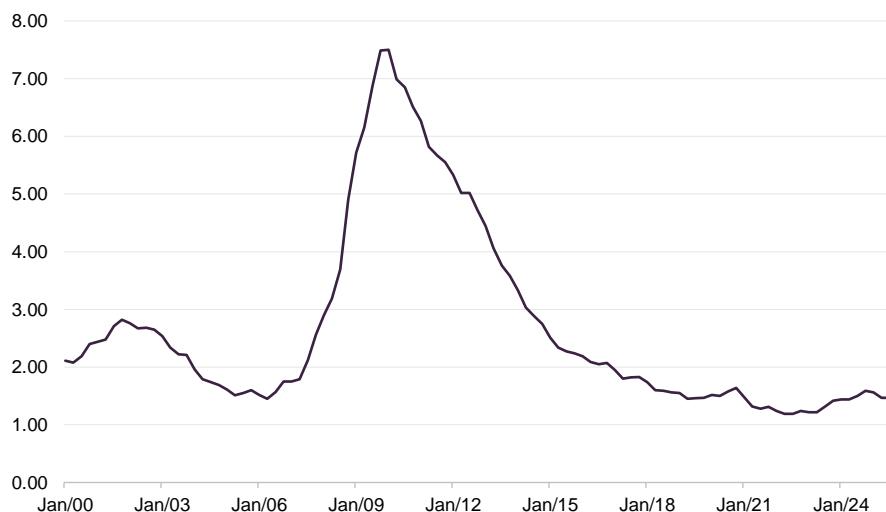
In the UK, the Bank of England confirmed banks passed stress tests and lowered the minimum tier 1 capital requirement from 14% to 13%. The latest budget also avoided new taxes on banks. In the US, consultants Alvarez and Marsal estimate that deregulation could release \$2.6 trillion for lending and capital markets activity.

[M&A](#) activity is increasing, and the managers believe most deals make sense, with few cross-border or large-cap transactions. They highlight recent US banking deals, such as Fifth Third Bank buying Comerica Bank for \$11bn and Huntington Bank acquiring Cadence Bank for \$7bn, both at 1.7 times [book value](#).

Interest rates are falling, but managers do not expect this to significantly affect interest margins yet. Bad debts remain low, and recent issues in private credit have not had a major impact on banks' loan books. This is partly due to lending restrictions introduced since the financial crisis. Figure 6 charts the percentage of US loans that are delinquent – where the borrower has missed a payment.

Deregulation is becoming a reality

**Figure 6: Delinquency rate on all loans, US commercial banks**



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis

Despite recent price declines in the cryptocurrency market, the managers have taken a small position in Coinbase to gain exposure to the crypto and stablecoin market, using the share price weakness as an entry point.

There is a clear trend towards more equity investing, especially in the US, with similar efforts underway in other markets like the UK. Platform business flatexDEGIRO, discussed in our previous note, has doubled in price since PCFT invested.

## Investment process

PCFT's managers focus on picking individual stocks, with geographic and sector allocations reflecting these choices. Historically, the US has offered the best opportunities due to its mature industry and fragmented banking market. However, over the past year, the portfolio has shifted more towards Europe and emerging markets, where valuations are still attractive.

The managers conduct their own in-depth research, which is central to their investment process. While they acknowledge some value in external research, they find it often too focused on the short term and prefer their own analysis.

The managers take a medium- to long-term view and value direct access to company management. Their goal is to find stocks with strong risk-adjusted returns, with **balance sheet** strength as a key factor.

They caution that short-term profits and fast growth can hide asset quality issues, especially as most financial stocks are highly leveraged. Limiting downside risk is a priority.

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Emphasis on proprietary research

Focus on limiting the downside

The team meets about 400 companies a year

The investment universe is global, including emerging markets, and covers about 500 stocks. The smallest considered would have a market cap of around \$500m, but most of the portfolio is in companies valued above \$5bn. There are no set limits on exposure to smaller or mid-cap firms, but larger companies dominate.

The managers say 500 stocks is a manageable number. While firms like Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan are complex, most banks have straightforward business models. Pricing is often standardised, making research vital to identify quality companies.

A scoring system is used to assess risk, growth, and value by looking at factors like balance sheet strength, funding, loan book quality, and **margin** trends. This framework guides analysis rather than generating a buy list.

The team meets around 400 companies annually, mainly to verify research by speaking with customers and competitors.

For banks and similar firms, value is assessed using a version of **CAPM**, focusing on return on equity and price to book, as price/earnings (P/E) ratios and growth measures are less useful. The sector is evolving, so the managers use a more traditional, earnings-based approach for other types of companies.

## Restrictions

The investment manager can invest up to 10% of the portfolio in debt securities.

PCFT may have a small holding in unlisted and unquoted companies, but this should not exceed 10% of total assets at the time of investment.

No more than 10% of total assets will be invested in other listed closed-ended investment companies, and no single investment will usually make up more than 10% of the portfolio at the time of investment.

PCFT may use borrowing to boost returns, with a current maximum limit of 20%.

## ESG

**ESG** factors are built into the investment process, with managers viewing them as key to long-term returns. Governance and risk management are central, shaping how businesses are managed, especially under pressure. The managers use their own ESG process, combining internal research with third-party data, and prepare an ESG summary for each company. This covers governance issues like risk management and strategy, as well as environmental factors such as fossil fuel exposure and communication.

Companies with the lowest ESG ratings, or poor governance scores, are excluded from investment. The analysis also highlights issues for managers to discuss with companies, and ongoing monitoring and engagement are a core part of the approach.

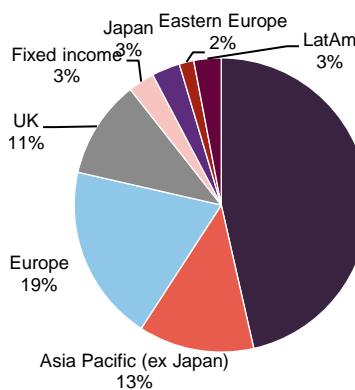
As of 30 November 2024, PCFT had an MSCI ESG rating of A and an average ESG score of 6.86, slightly below its **benchmark** of 6.96. The trust's holdings have low carbon intensity, reflecting the financial sector. The trust also has a strong voting record, voting against resolutions at over a third of company meetings.

PCFT has an A MSCI ESG rating

## Portfolio – asset allocation

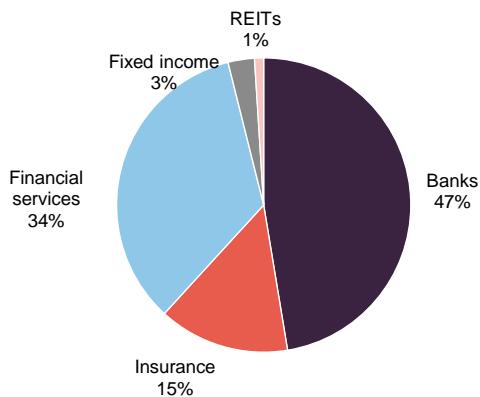
At the end of November 2025, PCFT held 68 positions, down from 77 at the end of April 2025. Its **active share** compared to the MSCI ACWI Financials Index was 72.9% at 30 November, higher than at the end of April.

**Figure 7: PCFT geographic exposure as at 30 November 2025**



Source: Polar Capital Global Financials Trust

**Figure 8: PCFT sector exposure as at 30 November 2025**



Source: Polar Capital Global Financials Trust

PCFT's geographic allocation has changed notably since our last update (end of April 2025). North American exposure dropped from 51.6% to 46.4%, with most of these assets moved to Europe, which increased from 12.3% to 19.4%. Asia also saw a rise from 10.6% to 12.7%. Sector-wise, there has been a move towards banks, reducing exposure to financial services.

## Top 10 holdings

Since our last update at the end of April 2025, Berkshire Hathaway, UniCredit, Barclays, SwissRe, Intercontinental Exchange, and Progressive have left the top 10. They have been replaced by Royal Bank of Canada, BPER Banca, AIA Group, Citigroup, Globe Life, and Erste Group Bank.

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Polar Capital Global Financials

**Figure 9: Top 10 holdings as at 30 November 2025**

	Country/region	Subsector	30/11/2025 (%)	30/04/2025 (%)	Change (%)
JPMorgan	United States	Banks	6.9	6.2	0.7
Mastercard	United States	Financial services (payments)	4.1	4.8	(0.7)
Bank of America	United States	Banks	3.9	3.3	0.6
Visa	United States	Financial services (payments)	2.9	3.8	(0.9)
Royal Bank of Canada	Canada	Banks	2.8	1.8	1.0
BPER Banca	Italy	Banks	2.6	-	2.6
AIA Group	Hong Kong	Insurance	2.5	-	2.5
Erste Group Bank	Austria	Banks	2.3	-	2.3
Citigroup	United States	Banks	2.3	0.9	1.4
Globe Life	United States	Insurance	2.3	1.7	0.6
<b>Total</b>			<b>32.6</b>		

Source: Polar Capital Global Financials Trust. Note 1) Percentage of gross assets.

**Figure 10: Royal Bank of Canada (CAD)**



Source: Bloomberg

## Royal Bank of Canada

Royal Bank of Canada ([rbc.com](http://rbc.com)) is the top Canadian bank, with a strong capital position and expanding wealth management in the US and UK. For the year ending 31 October 2025, net income and [earnings per share](#) rose 25% from the previous year.

RBC's 2025 acquisition of HSBC Canada is expected to deliver significant cost savings and extra revenue. The bank spends C\$5bn a year on technology to cut costs, boost revenue, and improve its AI capabilities. RBC is aiming for a 16% return on equity by 2027 and annual earnings per share growth of 7%. It plans to keep its dividend payout ratio between 40% and 50%.

**Figure 11: BPER Banca (EUR)**



Source: Bloomberg

## BPER Banca

BPER Banca ([bper.it](http://bper.it)) formerly Banca Popolare dell'Emilia Romagna, has grown through both organic expansion and acquisitions, most recently buying Banca Popolare di Sondrio. It now has a market cap of €21bn. PCFT made a new investment in July 2025.

The bank's Q3 results beat expectations, with a return on equity of 19.8% and a common equity tier 1 ([CET1](#)) capital ratio of 15.1%. Helped by the recent acquisition, net profits for the year to Q3 reached €1.5bn, up nearly 20% year-on-year (or €1.3bn on a like-for-like basis). Despite this year's share price increase, the shares still trade at less than 10 times earnings.

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Figure 12: AIA (HKD)



Source: Bloomberg

Figure 13: Erste Group bank (EUR)



Source: Bloomberg

## AIA Group

AIA Group ([aia.com](http://aia.com)) joined the portfolio in June 2025. It is a major life insurer in Asia, with US\$328bn in assets as of June 2025, operating in 18 markets across Asia and Australasia. Its joint venture, Tata AIA Life, is the top retail life insurer in India.

In Q3, AIA reported 25% growth in new business, with double-digit growth in 11 out of 18 markets, and improved margins. The company is hiring more agents in China to support its expansion there.

AIA aims for annual operating profit growth per share of 9%–11% from 2023 to 2026 and believes it is on track to meet this target.

## Erste Group Bank

Erste Group Bank ([erstegroup.com](http://erstegroup.com)) is one of the largest financial services providers in Eastern Europe by clients and assets.

In 2025, both earnings per share (EPS) and return on tangible equity have grown each quarter. Net interest margins have stayed steady at about 2.4%, while the cost/income ratio has improved. The bank is seeing increases in both customer loans and deposits. Its long-term savings business is also expanding, supported by the George Invest digital platform, which had 11.2 million users at the end of Q3 2025. The bank maintains a strong balance sheet with a CET1 ratio of 17.5%.

Figure 14: Citigroup (USD)



Source: Bloomberg

## Citigroup

Citigroup ([citigroup.com](http://citigroup.com)) one of the world's largest banks with a market cap near \$220bn, is working to boost profitability by streamlining its business and management. This includes exiting certain markets, such as reducing its stake in Banamex.

In Q3, Citigroup reported a 9% rise in revenue, a 38% increase in adjusted income, and a 48% jump in EPS. Its CET1 ratio at the end of Q3 2025 was 13.2%, about 1.1% above its regulatory minimum. The bank has been returning surplus capital to investors through buybacks and dividends, with buybacks helping drive the EPS increase.

## Globe Life

Globe Life ([globelifeinsurance.com](http://globelifeinsurance.com)) is a major US life and health insurer, offering products through American Income, Liberty National, Family Heritage, United American, and direct sales. At the end of Q3 2025, life insurance made up 69% of total premiums and health insurance 31%. Life insurance contributed even more to underwriting profit, at 82% compared to 18% from health.

In Q3, Globe reported a 28% rise in net operating income, with net operating income per share up 38% due to share buybacks. Book value per share increased to \$93.63 from \$83.92 over the year.

Figure 15: Globe Life (USD)

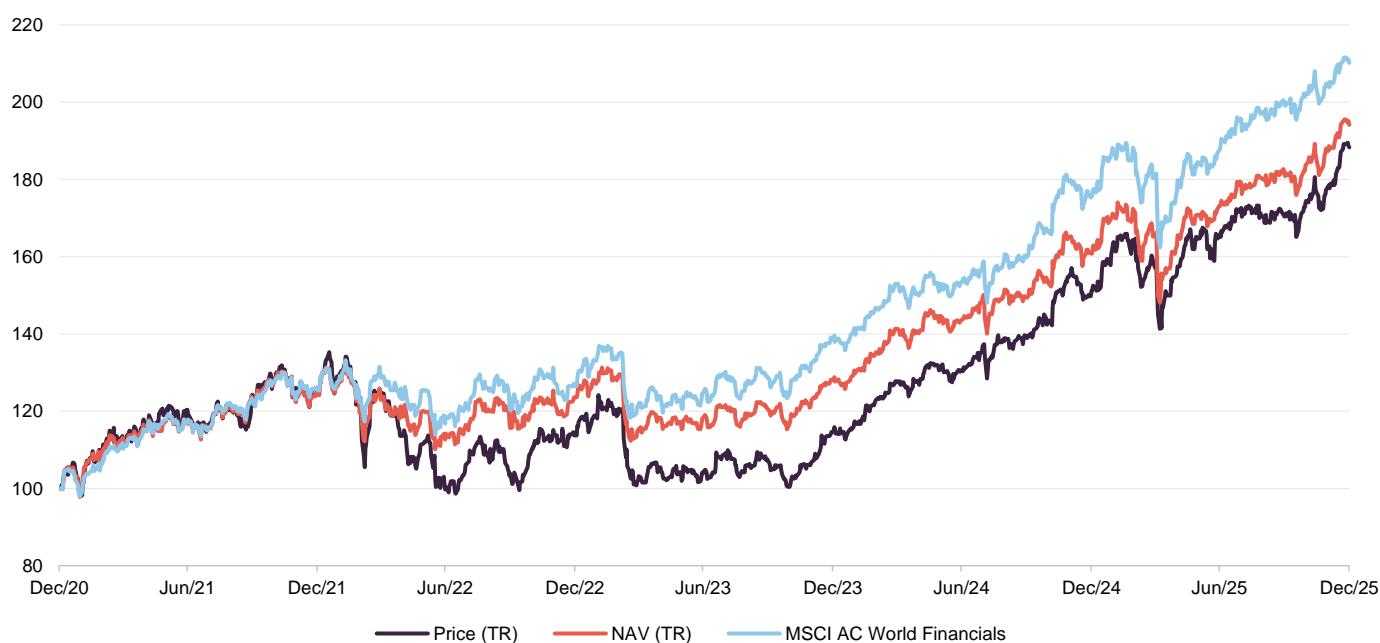


Source: Bloomberg

## Performance

Figure 16 compares the trust's NAV and share price total returns with the MSCI All Countries World Financial Index over the five years to December 2025. Key factors behind PCFT's past performance are detailed in earlier notes listed on page 19. After recovering from the tariff announcements in April, both the NAV and share price have risen in recent months, broadly matching the benchmark.

**Figure 16: PCFT NAV, share price, and MSCI ACWI Financials five years to 31 December 2025**



**Source:** Bloomberg, Marten & Co

**Figure 17: Cumulative total return performance over periods ending 31 December 2025**

	3 months	6 months	1 year	3 years	5 years
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
PCFT price	10.5	14.0	24.7	65.5	88.3
PCFT NAV	6.6	12.1	20.7	57.1	94.1
MSCI ACWI Financials	5.0	12.0	19.7	66.1	110.2
MSCI AC World Index	3.3	13.3	13.9	58.0	72.5

**Source:** Bloomberg, Marten & Co

## Recent performance attribution

The manager supplied us with some performance attribution data that covers the six-month period to the end of October 2025.

**Figure 18: Five largest positive contributions to relative returns six months to 31 October 2025**

	Average stock weight (%)	Active weight (%)	Stock return (%)	Total attribution (%)
Alpha Bank	1.98	1.96	67.1	0.76
Fiserv	Nil	(0.56)	(63.3)	0.58
Bank of Cyprus Holdings	1.29	1.29	60.2	0.47
Permanent TSB Group Holdings	0.68	0.68	93.2	0.43
Interactive Brokers	1.06	0.89	(58.3)	0.42

Source: Polar Capital Global Financials Trust

Strong returns from Alpha Bank, Bank of Cyprus, and Permanent TSB boosted performance against the benchmark. Avoiding or holding less of Fiserv and Interactive Brokers, which underperformed, also helped returns.

**Figure 19: Alpha Bank (EUR)**



Source: Bloomberg

### Alpha Bank

Alpha Bank ([alpha.gr](http://alpha.gr)) is a major Greek bank and a significant emerging market holding for PCFT. UniCredit, a large Italian banking group, recently increased its stake in Alpha Bank to 29.5% and has been the largest shareholder since 2023, following its purchase of the Hellenic Financial Stability Fund's stake and control of Alpha Bank's Romanian arm. UniCredit and Alpha Bank are working together to grow Alpha's business.

Alpha Bank is aiming for annual earnings per share growth of over 10% from 2024 to 2027, supported by share buybacks, and believes it is on track to meet this target.

**Figure 20: Five largest negative contributions to relative returns six months to 31 October 2025**

	Average stock weight (%)	Active weight (%)	Stock return (%)	Total attribution (%)
Fidelity National Information	1.54	1.28	(18.6)	(0.56)
Robinhood Markets	Nil	(0.47)	203.8	(0.48)
Intact Financial Corp	1.41	1.16	(13.6)	(0.37)
Axis Capital	1.72	1.72	(0.3)	(0.37)
Intercontinental Exchange	1.91	1.24	(11.0)	(0.34)

Source: Polar Capital Global Financials Trust

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Polar Capital Global Financials

**Figure 21: Fidelity National Information (USD)**



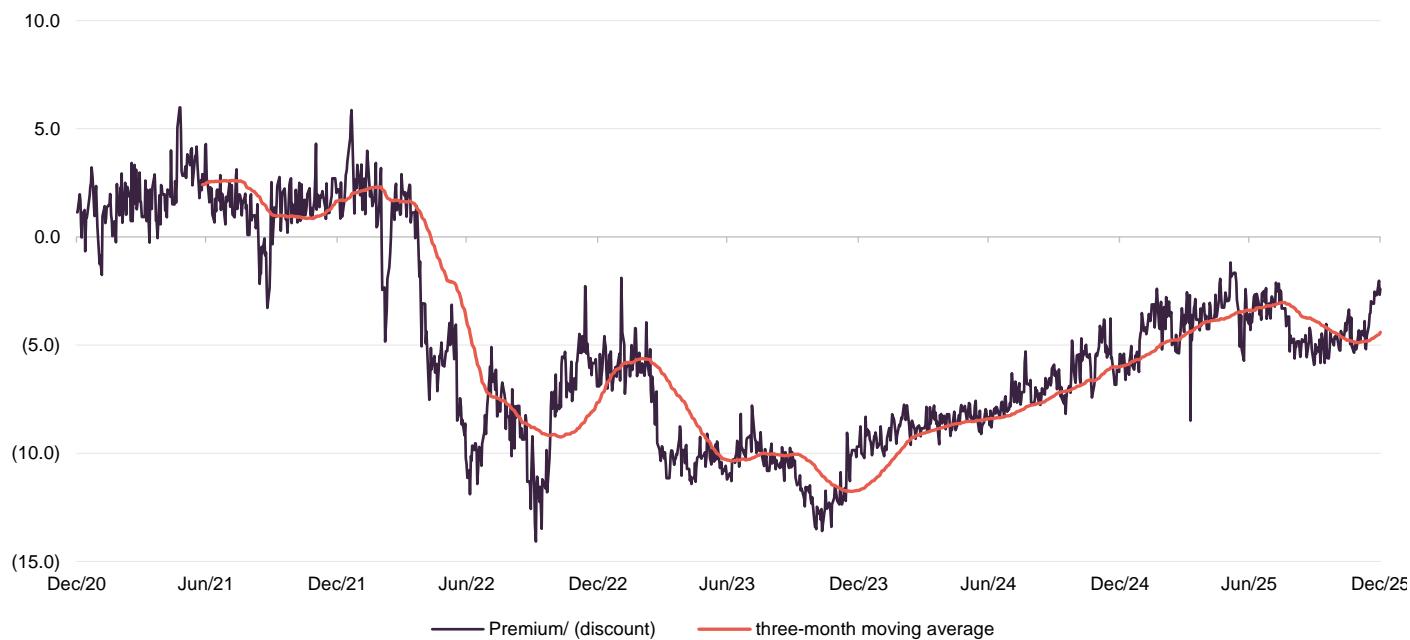
Source: Bloomberg

## Fidelity National Information Services

Fidelity National Information Services ([fisglobal.com](http://fisglobal.com)) saw its share price drop sharply after releasing its Q2 results. Investors were likely disappointed that recent revenue growth was mainly due to foreign exchange movements. The decline may also reflect weak results from competitor Fiserv, whose share price fell earlier in the year and dropped further after its Q3 results.

## Premium/discount

**Figure 22: PCFT's premium/(discount) over the five years to 31 December 2025**



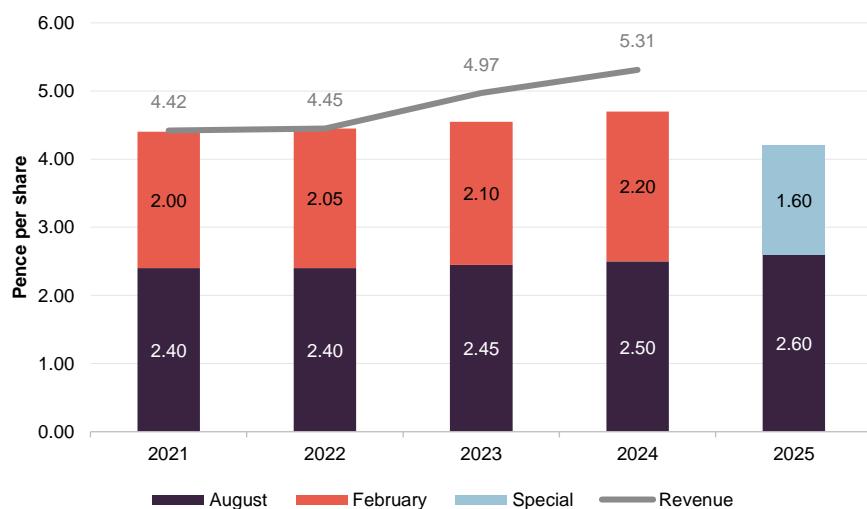
Source: Bloomberg, Marten & Co

During the 12 months to 31 December 2025, PCFT's discount ranged from 1.2% to 8.5%, averaging 4.0%. As of 6 January 2026, the discount was 2.1%.

PCFT offers investors an exit opportunity every five years and has a policy to control its discount. If the three-month average discount and the current discount both exceed 5% under normal conditions, PCFT will buy back shares to bring the discount below 5%. These measures should help keep the discount narrow.

## Dividend – new enhanced dividend policy

Figure 23: Dividend history – periods ending 30 November



Source: Polar Capital Global Financials Trust

Before its recent exit opportunity, PCFT paid two interim dividends each year, in August and February, following a progressive dividend policy.

From the new financial year starting 1 December 2025, PCFT has moved to an enhanced dividend policy. It now aims to pay a regular dividend of about 4% of NAV each year, unless there are unforeseen events. Dividends will be paid quarterly at 1% of NAV, based on the value at the end of each previous quarter. The first quarterly dividend will be announced in March 2026 and paid in April 2026.

## Structure

### Fees and costs

PCFT is managed by Polar Capital LLC. From 1 July 2025, management fees are calculated as 50% of NAV and 50% of the lower of market cap or NAV, both on a cum income basis. Polar receives a base fee of 0.70% per year on the first £500m and 0.65% on any amount above this. Either party can end the agreement with 12 months' notice. The fee is charged 80% to revenue and 20% to income. There is no **performance fee**. Historically, PCFT's ongoing costs are 0.85% of NAV.

### Capital structure and life

PCFT has a straightforward **capital structure** with one class of **ordinary shares** listed on the **Main Market** of the London Stock Exchange. As of 6 January 2026, there were 162,705,218 ordinary shares with voting rights and 169,044,748 shares held in treasury.

## Five-yearly tender offers

PCFT has no fixed end date. The board plans to offer shareholders the chance to sell their shares at a price close to NAV every five years, with the next offer expected in 2030. Shares bought back through these offers or for discount control can be held in treasury and reissued at a premium to asset value.

PCFT's financial year ends on 30 November, and its AGM is usually held in April.

## Gearing

PCFT can borrow up to 20% of its net assets. At the end of November 2025, its net **gearing** was 7.1% of NAV.

## Management

The five-strong global financials team at Polar Capital LLC was managing £404m, as of end October 2025.

### Nick Brind

Nick joined Polar Capital after it acquired HIM Capital in September 2010. He is co-manager of PCFT and the Polar Capital Financial Credit Fund. With 29 years' investment experience across various asset classes, he has specialised in global financials since 2003. Before HIM Capital, Nick worked at New Star Asset Management, where he managed the New Star Financial Opportunities Fund, which invested in both equity and fixed income within the financial sector. Nick has experience managing income securities for European financial companies. He previously worked at Exeter Asset Management and Capel-Cure Myers. He holds a Masters in Finance from London Business School.

### George Barrow

George has been co-fund manager of PCFT since December 2020. He joined Polar Capital in 2010 and also co-manages the Polar Capital Financial Opportunities Fund. With 15 years' industry experience, he has spent over 10 years analysing Europe, Asia, and emerging markets. Before Polar Capital, George was an analyst at HIM Capital from 2008 and completed his IMC. He holds a Master's in International Studies from SOAS, graduating with merit.

### Tom Dorner

Tom joined the team in December 2023 from Aberdeen, where he was a senior investment director in the developed markets team and managed the abrdn Europe ex UK Income Equity Fund. He covered European financials and managed several other European funds over nine years. Before Aberdeen, Tom was an analyst focused on European insurance at Citi and Lehman Brothers in London. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Ernst & Young in insurance audit, and holds a BA in War Studies from Kings College London and an MA in Philosophy from the University of Nottingham.

## Nabeel Siddiqui

Nabeel joined the Polar Capital Financials team as an analyst in August 2013, working with John Yakas and Nick Brind, and focusing on the US, Latin America, and Australia.

Before this, he was an operations executive at Polar Capital. He started his career in August 2008 at Habib Bank, working in several roles. Nabeel holds a Master's in Money and Banking and has passed all three levels of the CFA.

## Jack Deegan

Jack joined the Polar Capital Financials team as an analyst in October 2017 and now co-manages the Financial Credit Fund with Nick Brind.

Previously, he was a lead analyst at DBRS Ratings, covering Swiss banks and also working on UK, Dutch, Japanese and Australian banks. Before that, Jack spent four years at the Bank of England's Markets Division, assessing financial institutions for access to the Bank's Sterling Monetary Framework and setting internal trading limits. He holds a BA in Classical Archaeology & Ancient History from Oxford University and a Master's in Islamic Politics from SOAS.

## Board

The board comprises four non-executive directors, all of whom are independent of the investment manager and who do not sit together on other boards.

**Figure 24: Board member – length of service and shareholdings**

Position	Date of appointment	Length of service (years)	Annual director's fee <sup>1</sup> (GBP)	Shareholding <sup>1</sup>
Simon Cordery	Chair	1 July 2019	6.5	46,000
Susie Arnott	Director	1 December 2022	3.1	32,500
Angela Henderson	Director	1 December 2022	3.1	32,500
Cecilia McAnulty	Chair of the audit committee	1 November 2021	4.2	38,250
				40,000

**Source:** Polar Capital Global Financials Trust. Note 1) last available information as at 30 November 2024.

## Simon Cordery (chair)

Simon has been a director since 2019 and became chair of PCFT in March 2023. He brings over 40 years' experience in financial services, with nearly 30 years in wealth management. He spent almost 25 years at BMO Global Asset Management, most recently as head of Investor Relations and Sales, and has also worked at Invesco Fund Managers, Jefferies & Co, Kleinwort Benson Securities, and Rea Bros Merchant Bank. Simon has strong knowledge of the investment trust sector and remains active with the AIC. He is a Chartered Fellow of the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment.

## **Susie Arnott (non-executive director)**

Susie has over 20 years' experience in fund management, mainly in the financial sector, with a focus on emerging markets and global financial portfolios. She has also worked in impact investing, combining her expertise with a passion for social investment and measuring impact. In her current role, Susie continues to focus on investments with global impact, making ESG a key part of her approach.

She is a director of Sableknight Limited and Lockfold Communications.

## **Angela Henderson (non-executive director)**

Angela began her career as a solicitor in corporate law before moving into financial services, working as an in-house lawyer and director of global equities. She has invested in and held non-executive board roles at small UK technology and asset management firms, and previously served on the governing body of a London hospital foundation trust. Angela is now a non-executive director and chair of risk at Macquarie Capital (Europe) Limited, and also chairs the Management and Service Provider Engagement Committee at Hargreave Hale AIM **VCT** Plc and Wells Fargo Securities Limited. She has other private interests as well.

## **Cecilia McAnulty (chair of the audit committee)**

Cecilia McAnulty is a Chartered Accountant and experienced non-executive director with nearly 30 years in investment and financial services. She held senior investment roles at Royal Bank of Scotland, Barclays Capital, and Centaurus Capital, working across public and private debt and equity.

Cecilia is currently audit chair at Northern 2 VCT Plc, and a non-executive director at RIT Capital Partners Plc and Eurobank Cyprus Limited.

## SWOT/bull versus bear analysis

Figure 25: SWOT analysis for PCFT

S	W
STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
Large, experienced team dedicated to the strategy	Five-year performance lags performance benchmark
One-stop-shop for diversified financials exposure	
Attractive structure with strong discount control measures	
O	T
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
Sector appears to be performing well but stocks are cheap relative to other sectors	Interest rates are falling, which could affect sentiment towards sector
Regulation is being eased, which should boost profitability	Risk of rising defaults after an extended period where these have been low
Opportunity to cut costs by using AI	

Source: Marten & Co

Figure 26: SWOT analysis for PCFT



Performance	Sector is cheap and backdrop supportive	A weaker economy/falling market could bring down the sector with it
Dividends	New 4% of NAV distribution policy for income-seeking investors	Dividends will fluctuate with NAV and eat into capital if the NAV falls
Outlook	The sector's prospects look bright	Sentiment still seems to be against the sector and investors nervous – muscle memory of the GFC is still there
Discount	Shares have been trading within discount target, loose shareholders exited earlier this year, and buying could drive it down to asset value	No real downside as long as board sticks to discount control policy, and no reason why it shouldn't

Source: Marten & Co

## Previous publications

QuotedData has published a number of notes on PCFT. You can read these by clicking the links in the table below or by visiting the [QuotedData.com](https://QuotedData.com) website.

**Figure 27: QuotedData's previously published notes on PCFT**

Don't fear a slowing economy	Initiation	30 April 2019
Banks too cheap to ignore	Update	29 October 2019
New lease of life	Update	22 February 2020
Too much pessimism?	Annual overview	22 October 2020
The tide has turned	Update	25 February 2021
More to go for	Annual overview	18 November 2021
Riding out the storm	Update	5 April 2022
Don't fear the dog that is yet to bark	Annual overview	30 November 2022
Avoiding mishap	Update	7 June 2023
Pessimism overdone, time to buy	Annual overview	12 December 2023
Handful of themes to drive performance	Update	13 June 2024
Taking advantage of a favourable landscape	Annual overview	12 December 2024
An entry as well as an exit opportunity	Update	22 May 2025

**Source:** Marten & Co



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