# Finsbury Growth & Income Trust PLC



Fund Information as at 30 April 2017

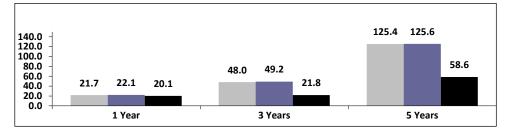
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#### **Investment Objective and Benchmark Index**

Finsbury Growth & Income Trust PLC invests principally in the securities of UK listed companies with the objective of achieving capital and income growth and providing a total return in excess of that of its benchmark, the FTSE All-Share Index (net dividends reinvested).

#### **Cumulative Performance (%)**

Trust: Finsbury Growth & Income Trust PLC - NAV (total return) Trust: Finsbury Growth & Income Trust PLC - Share Price (total return) Index: FTSE All-Share Index (net dividends reinvested) \*



## **Discrete Performance – Calendar Years (%)**

Percentage Growth	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	YTD
NAV	23.6	35.1	6.9	11.7	12.5	8.6
Share Price	25.4	35.1	5.9	12.4	12.6	8.8
Index *	12.3	20.8	1.2	1.0	16.8	3.6

Source: Morningstar. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. \* Index source: FTSE International Limited ("FTSE") © FTSE 2017

### Commentary

In April, the NAV was up 1.1% on a total return basis, the share price was up 2.2% while the index was down 0.4%.

The top three contributors last month were UK financials, or in our terminology - market proxies. LSE, Hargreaves Lansdown and Schroders - each up over 5%. Their gains year to date are now 16%, 13% and 6% respectively. Ostensibly this is a surprise – after all the FT All Share was down in April and up little more than 2% in 2017. I won't deny I'm grateful. This trio and our other related holding, Rathbone (which is the best performer of them all in 2017, up 18.5%) all underperformed more or less markedly during calendar 2016 - so contributing to our poor return that year. So the recent better showing is welcome.

What's behind it? Various factors. The recovery in Sterling has helped all domestic earners in our portfolio - Greene King was up 7% in April for instance and Hargreaves and Rathbone in particular fit this profile. Meanwhile, preliminary statistics from industry bodies suggest that flows into open-ended funds were very strong in the run-up to the ISA season. One estimate suggests over £4.0bn of net flows into funds in March, which would be the record ever month and more than quadrupled on last year's depressed outcome, in the nervy pre-Brexit period. If one assumes the platforms, including Hargreaves, at least maintained their share of these flows, then the prospect for further strong profit growth from the leaders looks assured. It's important to remember that the operational gearing of asset management is high and that strong fund flows will translate into even stronger cash flows for the winning aggregators. Nonetheless, it also seems certain that the growth of tracker products has accelerated and this brings challenges, possibly existential challenges, for some traditional "active" managers. Schroders' recent trading statement pleased investors, with its assets pushing past the £400bn mark, but Schroders as much as any other (including Lindsell Train) will have to consider what the consumer shift to passive strategies implies for its franchise. The LSE remains a very valuable strategic asset amongst global exchanges – which we know continue to look for opportunities to consolidate. Meanwhile, LSE has its own growth story. To us what the gains in LSE shares say is that sizeable secular UK growth companies are rare and increasingly valuable in a low inflation world.

**Biography** 

Portfolio Manager

Nick Train

@FinsburyGT

Nick Train began his career as an Investment Manager at GT Management in 1981, having graduated from Queen's College, Oxford with a second class honors in Modern History (1977-1980). He left GT in June 1998, after 17 years, on its acquisition by INVESCO. At his resignation he was a Director of GT Management (London), Investment Director of GT Unit Managers and Chief Investment Officer for Pan-Europe. He joined M&G in September 1998, as a Director of M&G Investment Management. In June 1999 he was appointed as Head of Global Equities at M&G. He left M&G in April 2000 to co-found Lindsell Train Limited. He is investment adviser to the Worshipful Company of Saddlers.

#### **Portfolio Manager Profile**

Portfolio management services are provided by Lindsell Train Limited (Lindsell Train). Lindsell Train was formed in December 2000. However the principals, Michael Lindsell and Nick Train had worked together at GT Management from 1992 through to GT's takeover by INVESCO in 1998. Both Michael Lindsell and Nick Train went on to fulfill senior roles at INVESCO and M&G PLC respectively, where they continued to develop an in depth knowledge of investment processes and the world's stock markets. Their shared investment philosophy is to invest in durable, cash generative businesses that are under-priced on their valuation analysis. Thev believe such businesses are rare and are under-valued by most other investors most of the time. They apply this approach by choosing a concentrated portfolio of approximately 30 stocks with the intention of holding them for the medium to long term. Lindsell Train is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

#### **Investment Policy**

The Company has a concentrated portfolio of approximately 30 stocks with a low turnover, and aims to provide shareholders with a total return in excess of that of the FTSE All-Share Index. The Portfolio Manager uses a bottom-up stock picking approach and looks to invest in a universe of excellent listed companies that appear mostly undervalued. Up to 20% of the portfolio, at the time of acquisition, can be invested in quoted companies worldwide. The Company's policy is to invest no more than 15% of its gross assets in other listed (including investment companies listed investment trusts).

#### **Discount Control Mechanism**

The Directors have adopted an active discount management policy to establish and support an improved rating in the Company's shares through the use of share buybacks, with a view to limiting the discount to NAV per share at which the shares trade to no more than 5%. Shares bought back may be held in treasury for reissue at later dates at no more than the discount at which they were purchased, and in any event at a discount no greater than 5% to the prevailing net asset value per share.

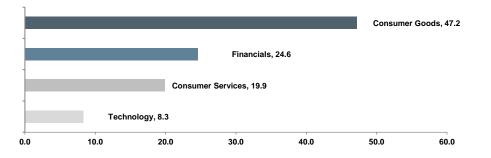


Finsbury Growth & Income Trust PLC conducts its affairs so that its shares can be recommended by independent financial advisers ("IFAs") to retail private investors. The shares are excluded from the Financial Conduct Authority's ("FCA's") restrictions which apply to non-mainstream investment products because they are shares in a UK-listed investment trust.

#### Ten Largest Holdings as at 30 April 2017 (% of total investments)

Name	Sector	Total
Unilever	Consumer Goods	10.2
RELX	Consumer Services	9.6
Diageo	Consumer Goods	9.4
London Stock Exchange	Financials	8.3
Burberry Group	Consumer Goods	6.7
Hargreaves Lansdown	Financials	6.5
Schroders	Financials	6.4
Heineken	Consumer Goods	6.3
Sage Group	Technology	5.6
Mondelez Int.	Consumer Goods	5.2
Total		74.2

## Sector Breakdown as at 30 April 2017 (%)



#### Share Price Total Return on £100 (£) as at 30 April 2017

1 year	122.1
3 years	149.2
5 years	225.6

Source: Morningstar. Past performance is not a guide to future performance.

## Standardised Discrete Performance (%)

Percentage Growth 12 Month Return	Apr 12- Apr 13	Apr 13- Apr 14	Apr 14- Apr 15	Apr 15- Apr 16	Apr 16- Apr 17
NAV	34.9	12.9	18.8	2.4	21.7
Share Price	34.4	12.6	19.6	2.2	22.1
Index	17.8	10.5	7.5	-5.7	20.1

Awards

Winner: What Investment Trust 2016, Best UK Investment Trust Winner: Moneywise, Investment Trust Of The Year Awards 2016, 2015 Category: UK Equity Income

Winner: FT & Investors' Chronical Awards 2015, Best Income Fund

Winner: Money Observer, Best UK Income Trust Awards 2017

Winner: Investment Week, Investment Company Of The Year Awards 2016, 2015 Category: UK Equity Income

#### **Important Information**

Finsbury Growth & Income Trust PLC (the "Company") is a UK investment trust listed on the London Stock Exchange and is a member of the Association of Investment Companies. As this Company may implement a gearing policy investors should be aware that the share price movement may be more volatile than movements in the price of underlying investments. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise and is not guaranteed. An investor may not get back the original amount invested. There can be no assurance that the Company's investment objective will be achieved and investment results may vary substantially over time. This document is for information purposes only and does not constitute an offer or invitation. Investment Trust share prices may not fully reflect underlying net asset values. There may be a difference between the prices at which you may purchase ("the offer price") or sell ("the bid price") a share on the stock market which is known as "bidoffer" or "dealing"spread. This is set by the market makers and varies from share to share. This spread typically averages 1-2% each way on the mid-market price (the price halfway between the bid and offer prices), and can fluctuate and at times be higher than average. Net Asset Value per share is calculated in accordance with the guidelines of the Association of Investment Companies. Net assets are stated inclusive of income received. Any opinions on individual stocks are those of the Company's Investment Manager and no reliance should be given on any such views. Any purposes. The results are being made available to you only incidentally. The views expressed herein do not constitute investment or any other advice and are subject to change. They do not necessarily reflect the views of Frostrow Capital LLP and no assurances are made as to their accuracy. Before investing in an investment company referred to in this document, you should satisfy yourself as to its suitability and the ri

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Fast Facts	As at 30 April 2017			
Launch Date	1926			
Annual Management Fee (payable by the company) †				
Ongoing charges*	0.7%			
Year / interim end	30 September/ 31 March			
Capital Structure	152,145,712 Ordinary shares of 25p			

# **Trust Characteristics**

Number of Holdings	25
Net Assets (£m)	£1,055.4m
Market Capitalisation	
(£m)	£1,066.5m
Dividend Per Share**	13.8p
Current Net Yield	2.0%
Gearing (AIC basis)	3%
Leverage***	
Gross & Commitment	103%
Share Price (p)	701.00
NAV (p) (cum income)	693.65
Premium / (Discount) to NAV (p)	1.1%

# Codes

Sedol	0781606
ISIN	GB0007816068
Legal Entity Identifier	213800NN4ZKX2LG1GQ40
Bloomberg	FGT LN
Epic	FGT

\*Calculated at the financial year end, includes management fees and all other operating expenses.

\*\*1st Interim paid 10 May 17 :(Year ended Sep 16) 6.8p 2nd Interim payable 11 Nov 16 :(Year ended Sep 16) 7.0

2nd Interim payable 11 Nov 16 :(Year ended Sep 16) 7.0p \*\*\*The Board has set the leverage limit for both the Gross and the Commitment basis at 125% of the Company's Net Asset Value.

 $\pm$  Lindsell Train – 0.45% of the market capitalisation of the company that is equal to or less than  $\pm$ 1billion, 0.405% in excess of  $\pm$ 1 billion.

Frostrow – 0.15% of the market capitalisation of the company that is equal to or less than £1billion, 0.135% in excess of £1 billion. Frostrow also receives a fixed fee of £70,000 per annum but this will cease to be payable with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> of October following the date at which the company's market capitalisation attains a level of £1 billion.

#### How to Contact Us

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