



Key Metrics	Value
Total Fund AUM	\$401.6m
Strategy AUM <sup>12</sup>	
Equity Delta (%) <sup>5</sup>	39.5%
Weighted Average Credit Rating <sup>6</sup>	BBB
No. of Positions	89
SRRI Score	4
WACI Fund (t/\$m Sales) <sup>7</sup>	121
WACI Reference Index (t/\$m Sales) <sup>8</sup>	294
WA ESG Rating	A

## Commentary<sup>4</sup>

### ODUNHW

April saw a shift in tone for financial markets as macro data in the US remained robust, fuelling concerns that central banks will not ease monetary policy as quickly as previously hoped. This sentiment affected both equity and fixed income markets, with stocks retreating on the month and Treasuries coming under strain. Commodities outperformed as a resilient economic environment and the danger of escalation in the Middle East boosted commodity prices.

In cash credit indices, Europe outperformed the US during the month. US High Yield (HY) (H0A0) declined -1.0% while European HY (HP00) was flat. In Investment Grade (IG), US IG (C0A0) was down -2.30% while European IG (ER00) was down -0.82% on the month.

Equities posted generally weak performance across the US and Europe, with the UK being an exception. In the US, the NASDAQ was down -4.38%, while the S&P 500 declined -4.16%. In Europe, the Euro Stoxx was down -2.44% on the month. Meanwhile, the FTSE 100 gained +2.4%.

### Performance

In April, losses were led by the US, followed by Asia ex-Japan, with Europe flat. At a sector-level, Energy contributed positively to Fund performance, while Information Technology and Consumer Discretionary were the most significant detractors.

The top three single-name contributors were the Spanish cable manufacturer Prysmian Group, the French multinational company Schneider Electric, and the French Bank BNP Paribas.

The top three single-name detractors were the US cyber security group Akamai, and the Dutch and Korean semiconductor manufacturers BE Semiconductor and SK Hynix.

Primary issuance remained active with \$3.7bn of new issues, of which the majority came from Japan with \$2.0bn of new issues, followed by the US with \$900m, Europe with \$500 million, and Asia ex-Japan with \$300 million.

### Positioning

During the month, the Fund participated in the primary market with new issue Kakao 2.625% 2027-29. The Fund also purchased Iberdrola 0.8% 2027, LVMH (Citi) 1% 2029 and Seagate HDD 3.5% 2028 144a on the secondary market.

Additionally, the Fund reduced its position in Umicore 0% 2025, sold its position in LVMH (JPM) 0% 2024, and exited its position in SGL Carbon 5.75% 2028.

### Outlook

Prospects for the remainder of the year are clouded by geopolitical crosswinds, including elections and ongoing conflicts, combined with economic data that is equivocal and which lends uncertainty to central bank actions and the progress of economies. Rates appear to have established a range with demand and supply balanced. Credit spreads are tight but we note that spreads can be persistent. In equities we anticipate divergent outcomes with idiosyncratic risks, however we are conscious that equity markets may be aided by growth that either soft or no landing economic scenarios would deliver. The environment for convertibles is attractive, especially given the valuations available, in part helped by an active primary calendar. The key political-economic themes of Electrification & Power, AI, EV, reshoring, security and crypto are all expressed in the convertible market. We continue to focus on individual convertibles where we see the potential for strong performance and where we have confidence in the downside protection afforded by the structure. We are extending the duration of our optionality in the portfolio and continue to prize convexity at a reasonable price. We find this primarily in balanced instruments. We have a preference towards higher quality convertibles with good upside potential.

## Portfolio Analysis<sup>9</sup>

Asset Class	% NAV
Convertibles	92.3
Cash	7.7

Credit Rating <sup>6</sup>	External (% NAV)	CQS (% NAV)
AA	7.7	9.2
A	8.6	18.3
BBB	23.3	50.9
BB	2.2	15.1
B	0.0	6.5
NR	58.2	0.0

Country	% NAV
United States	35.3
France	7.9
Germany	7.2
Korea, Republic Of	6.0
Spain	5.7
Italy	5.1
United Kingdom	3.6
Japan	3.5
Switzerland	3.2
Other	22.5

Maturity (Years) <sup>10</sup>	% NAV
0-1Y	22.9
1-3Y	47.4
3-5Y	25.4
5-10Y	4.4

ESG Rating <sup>11</sup>	% Rated
AAA	14.3
AA	35.3
A	32.4
BBB	7.2
BB	6.3
B	4.4

Industry	% NAV
Financials	18.7
Industrials	18.5
Information Technology	18.0
Real Estate	9.3
Consumer Discretionary	9.2
Materials	6.6
Utilities	5.2
Consumer Staples	2.9
Energy	2.3
Health Care	0.9

Actual allocations at month end. There is no guarantee that the Fund will invest in this way at all or do so in the same manner as set forth in this factsheet. Figures may not sum to 100 due to rounding and the use of efficient portfolio management techniques.

The value of securities may go down as well as up, depending on the performance of companies and general market conditions. The value at which securities in certain companies can be liquidated may differ, sometimes significantly, from the interim valuations. Investment in securities of certain companies may be less liquid, more volatile and subject to greater risks than securities of other companies. Investment in emerging markets may increase the volatility of the Fund's Net Asset Value, and accordingly, an investment in the Fund's Shares may be worth more or less on redemption than their original purchase value. As the Fund may invest in derivatives, such as swaps, it may lose more than the amount invested in such derivatives. Investors in shares denominated in a currency other than the base currency of the Fund may be affected by changes in currency movements. For full details of the relevant risks reference should be made to the risk factors sections of the Prospectus and Supplement.

**Top 10 Holdings**

Name	Sector	% NAV
Schneider Elec/Renamed	Industrials	3.45
Prysmian Spa	Industrials	3.27
Hynix Semiconductor Inc/Renamed	Information Technology	2.97
Rheinmetall Ag	Industrials	2.81
On Semiconductor	Information Technology	2.72
Citigroup Global Markets Funding Luxemb	Financials	2.68
Stmicroelectronics NV	Information Technology	2.65
Akamai Technologies	Information Technology	2.50
Meituan Dianping	Consumer Discretionary	2.30
Amadeus Global	Consumer Discretionary	2.28

## CQS Global Convertible Fund Investment Summary

### Investment Approach

- Seeking upside participation in rising equity markets and downside protection (due to the bond floor) in weak equity markets
- Aiming to exploit opportunities in convertibles globally across diverse sectors, geographies and security profiles
- Disciplined investment process underpinned by deep fundamental research with integrated ESG analysis
- Active investment management and benchmark agnostic
- Committed to delivering a Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (WACI) and ESG rating that is better than the Refinitiv Global Focus Index, Net Zero by 2050 and related interim targets including engagement to drive long-term ESG improvement

### Security Selection Process

- The Portfolio Manager focuses on individual convertible securities seeking to maximise investment opportunity and expected return asymmetry
- Selected securities continually compete for a place in the portfolio
- Catalysts for portfolio change include: relative valuation shifts, corporate news, new issuance, rating actions, upgrades / downgrades, corporate events, and calls / puts / maturities
- In-house credit ratings are used to evaluate the significant unrated portion of the market to add value

### Portfolio Construction and Risk Management

- The Portfolio Manager seeks optimal portfolio risk / reward and diversification by issuer, geography and industry sector with appropriate position sizing
- Strict compliance with risk limits, monitored by an independent risk management team

### Risks Involved

- Investments in global convertibles are primarily subject to equity, credit, interest rate and foreign exchange risk
- The Fund seeks to hedge foreign exchange risk using financial derivatives

The value of securities may go down as well as up, depending on the performance of companies and general market conditions. The value at which securities in certain companies can be liquidated may differ, sometimes significantly, from the interim valuations. Investment in securities of certain companies may be less liquid, more volatile and subject to greater risks than securities of other companies. Investment in emerging markets may increase the volatility of the Fund's Net Asset Value, and accordingly, an investment in the Fund's Shares may be worth more or less on redemption than their original purchase value. As the Fund may invest in derivatives, such as swaps, it may lose more than the amount invested in such derivatives. Investors in shares denominated in a currency other than the base currency of the Fund may be affected by changes in currency movements. For full details of the relevant risks reference should be made to the risk factors sections of the Prospectus and Supplement.

## Important Information

Source: CQS as at 30 April 2024. All market data sourced is from Bloomberg, Bank of America Merrill Lynch and UBS. Past performance may not be a reliable guide to future performance. The value of investments can go down as well as up.

<sup>1</sup>Class C EUR launched 17 July 2015, Class C GBP launched 4 November 2015, Class C USD launched 27 May 2015, Class S CHF launched 7 June 2018, Class S EUR launched on 7 June 2018, Class S GBP launched 21 June 2018 and Class S USD launched 7 June 2018, Class I EUR, USD and GBP launched 13 May 2019, Class T USD launched on 31 May 2022, Class T EUR launched on 9 August 2023, Class I CHF launched 02 March 2023, Class A EUR, USD and GBP launched 13 May 2019.

<sup>2</sup>Target returns are estimated and net of anticipated fees, expenses and income reinvested. They are based on long-term performance projections of the investment strategy and market conditions at the time of modelling and are therefore subject to change. There is no guarantee that any target return can be achieved. Investors should not place any reliance on such target return in deciding whether to invest in the Fund. Target returns are for illustrative purposes only.

<sup>3</sup>The CQS Global Convertible Fund (UCITS) a sub-fund of CQS Funds (Ireland) plc was approved by the Central Bank of Ireland on the 12 February 2015 and commenced investment activity 2 March 2015. Class returns are calculated net of all fees and expenses on the basis of a shareholding since inception of such class or, if such class has become dormant at any point following inception, since the first new investment into such class. Individual shareholders may have different returns depending upon the date of their investment. Investors should refer to each specific share class for the actual historical performance of the relevant class; please request full history of data from CQS. Reference Share Class is C USD.

<sup>4</sup>The Fund may have since exited some or all of the positions detailed in this commentary.

<sup>5</sup>Weighted Average Delta: The delta of each instrument is weighted according to its market value. Cash is included with a delta of zero.

<sup>6</sup>Average Credit Rating: Positions, including Cash, are weighted according to market value and internal credit ratings are used where externally sourced credit ratings are not available. Cash is rated as A+.

<sup>7</sup>Weighted Average Carbon Intensity ("WACI") is estimated using scope 1 & 2 available disclosures or proxy estimates based on comparative data from MSCI. For proxy estimates, we apply a waterfall approach which requires a minimum of 10 issuers within the proxy estimate group. If there are not 10 issuers in the proxy estimate group, it changes to a broader category group to increase the number of comparable issuers and continues moving to a broader group until a minimum group size of 10 issuers are obtained or 'sector' level is reached. The order is sub-industry first, then industry, then industry group, then finally sector. Please note that the WACI score does not include hedges for efficient portfolio management purposes

<sup>8</sup>Index is the Refinitiv Global Focus Convertible Index.

<sup>9</sup>Actual allocations at month-end. There is no guarantee that the Fund will invest in this way at all or do so in the same manner as set forth in this factsheet. Figures may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

<sup>10</sup>Maturity or first put.

<sup>11</sup>ESG ratings may not sum to 100% due to rounding. ESG ratings are attributed to issuers using either third party or internal ESG ratings assessed by CQS. The ratings range from AAA-CCC and are based on factors such as climate change, toxic emissions and waste, labour management, health and safety, privacy and data security, corporate governance and behaviour, and remuneration. A waterfall approach is used when assessing the ESG rating portfolio distribution and average rating of the portfolio, whereby (i) if a third party ESG rating is available that rating is used, failing which (ii) CQS' rating will be used. ESG ratings may reflect the subjective opinions of CQS or the relevant third party and may be based on qualitative as well as quantitative data. ESG ratings may be based on unverified third party sources or unaudited financial and non-financial data. ESG ratings are not an opinion of the creditworthiness of any issuer. ESG Rating Analysis: MSCI ESG Research LLC. Please see MSCI Disclaimer at the end of this report.

<sup>12</sup>Strategy AUM includes co-mingled and bespoke Convertible mandates, including allocations within multi-asset mandates, managed by the same CQS Convertibles team as the CQS Global Convertible Fund.

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**PRI Note:**

PRI is an investor initiative in partnership with UNEP Finance and the UN Global Compact. GMv11.

Investors should take into account all characteristics and objectives of the fund as set out in full in the fund's supplement and/or prospectus. Further information on the investment manager's ESG processes and commitments, including its Responsible Investment Policy, can be found on [www.cqs.com](http://www.cqs.com).

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