# **DWS Noor Precious Metals Securities Fund**



### Fund Data

# **Investment Policy**

The investment objective is to achieve capital appreciation in the medium to long term by investing in a portfolio of Sharia observant equity and equity related securities, of companies engaged in activities related to gold, silver, platinum or other precious metals or minerals. The Fund will invest globally.

# **Fund Information**

Bloomberg USD LC: DWPMSLU ID

USD IC: DWPMSIU ID SGD LC: DWPMSLS ID

ISIN Code USD LC : IE00BMF77083

USD IC: IE00BMF77190 SGD LC: IE00BMF77208

Management Fee 1.5% p.a.
Initial Charge Up to 5%
Minimum Initial Investment USD 1,000
Fund Denomination USD
Dealing Currency USD / SGD
Subscription Type Cash
Total Fund Size USD 43.05 m

(As at 30/12/2024)

Morningstar Rating Overall

Unit Trust Hotline (65) 6538 5550

 Launch Date
 14-Feb-2007

 USD LC
 14-Feb-2007

 USD IC
 22-Nov-2006

 SGD LC
 03-Dec-2007

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# Performance

# Fund Performance A (USD)



■ Fund

Cumulative Return						Annualised Return		Calendar Years Return				
LC (USD)	1 m	YTD	1 y	3 y	<b>5</b> y	S. Launch	3y	<b>5</b> y	S. Launch	2023	2022	2021
NAV to NAV*	-7.75	10.61	10.61	-2.22	0.00	-21.00	-0.74	0.00	-6.34	10.61	-1.61	-10.14
IC (USD)	1 m	YTD	1 y	3 y	<b>5</b> y	S. Launch	3y	5y	S. Launch	2023	2022	2021
NAV to NAV*	-7.70	11.69	11.69	0.52	0.00	-18.74	0.17	0.00	-5.61	11.69	-1.37	-8.75
LC (SGD)	1 m	YTD	1 y	3 y	<b>5</b> y	S. Launch	3y	5y	S. Launch	2023	2022	2021
NAV to NAV*	-6.98	12.33	12.33	-1.71	0.00	-19.15	-0.57	0.00	-5.74	12.33	-2.00	-10.71

\* Performance is based on NAV to NAV (taking into account the front end load). Past performance is not indicative of future returns.

Calculation of performance is based on the time-weighted return and excludes front-end fees. Individual costs such as fees, commissions and other charges have not been included in this presentation and would have an adverse impact on returns if they were included.

# Portfolio Analysis

Breakdown by Country (in % of fundvolume)		Principal Holdings (in % of fundvolume)	
Canada	45.09	Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.	8.32
United States	13.78	Franco-Nevada Corp.	8.10
Cash & Other Assets	11.35	Newmont Corp.	7.34
Australia	8.60	Barrick Gold Corp.	6.94
South Africa	6.72	Gold Fields Ltd.	4.13
United Kingdom	6.59	Royal Gold Inc.	3.80
Mexico	3.16	Wheaton Precious Metals Corp.	3.57
Ghana	2.80	Northern Star Resources Ltd.	3.51
Jersey	1.91	B2Gold Corp.	3.45
Russia	0.00	Endeavour Mining PLC	3.44
Total	100.00	Total	52.60

This information is intended for informational purposes only and does not constitute investment advice, a recommendation, an offer or solicitation.

Portfolio Analysis			
Classification of Stocks by Commodity (in % of fundvolume)		Investment Ratio (in % of fundvolume)	
Gold	79.03	Equities total	88.65
Cash & Other Assets	11.35	Cash & Other Assets	11.35
Silver	7.03	Total	100.00
Precious Metals & Minerals	2.59		
Total	100.00		

# Portfolio Management's Commentary

#### Market Review

- During the month of December, Palladium, Silver, Platinum, and Gold each had negative returns of -7.17%, -5.63%, -4.46%, and -0.71%, respectively.
- Gold and precious metals equities, as measured by the S&P BMI Gold and Precious Metals Index (non-Sharia compliant), lost -8.69% during the period.
- Gold ETFs had net outflows of -0.29mm oz, or about -0.3% of total known gold ETFs.

#### Current Gold & Precious Metals Themes

Precious Metals declined in December with Palladium falling furthest, followed by Silver, Platinum, and Gold. USD strengthened and recent U.S. rhetoric regarding tariffs for Canadian and Mexican imports raised concerns over potential inflationary impacts. Strong U.S. economic data may also lead to slower than expected rate cuts for the Fed. Exchange data showed lower speculative positions heading into the year-end, reflecting some short-covering activities before year-end. Global equity markets declined in December on hawkish comments from the U.S. Federal Reserve and as investors realized that short-term interest rates may not decline as fast as previously expected. Longer-term rates, such as on U.S. 10-year Treasury bonds and 10-year German Bunds, move substantially higher in December, dragging down many risk assets. Equity volatility also picked up at least partially due to the uncertainties surrounding potential new policies from the incoming U.S. President.

## What does the future hold for gold?

We expect the future direction of the price of gold to be tied to the pace of the Fed easing along with the corresponding movement in the U.S. dollar. A weaker dollar, often a consequence of easing monetary policy, historically acts as a tailwind for gold, boosting its haven appeal and attracting capital away from the greenback. This dollar depreciation, coupled with anticipated Fed cuts later in the year, could propel gold prices to sustained levels above \$2,600, with silver also likely to benefit from its industrial applications.

Gold continues to be attractive and should see support due to geopolitical risks in Ukraine and the Middle East. We still see interest from central banks to hold gold as an alternative currency reserve, which should limit the downside for gold. Medium-term fundamentals for Silver remain constructive, with expected deficits in 2025. While we remain bullish on both gold and silver, strong U.S. economic data and potential increase in U.S. budget deficit may limit upside potential for gold.

The PGMs remain tight in the physical markets. We also expect to see some production curtailments due to low metal basket prices. Electric vehicle (EV) adoption has slowed globally, while PGM-using plug-in hybrids and extended-range vehicles have gained traction. We also see incentives for EVs being removed (or new tariffs added), which should lead to greater production of internal combustion engine vehicles or hybrid models, which has led to automakers slowly beginning to review their approach and return to the Palladium forward markets.

## Consolidation Fever: Why M&A Could Be Mid-Cap Gold

Despite historical concerns about high debt levels among gold miners, many now have improved balance sheets and exceptionally strong margins thanks to soaring metal prices. However, many haven't invested adequately in finding new gold deposits, potentially jeopardizing future production growth. This opens the door for potential consolidation. With valuations, particularly in mid- and small-cap equities, still lagging their larger counterparts, the stage is set for potential mergers and acquisitions, and we are already seeing the announcement of some deals. Larger miners, flush with eash and facing limited organic growth opportunities, may look to acquire exploration-focused mid-cap companies or consolidate existing assets, propelling a wave of deals across the sector. This presents savvy investors with the chance to unlock significant value, especially in undervalued mid-cap equities poised to be absorbed by bigger players. In a gold market poised for both growth and consolidation, we meticulously select established producers who, unlike many peers, have already invested in securing future production. They now enjoy falling capital expenditures as cash flow and production steadily climb, all while demonstrating exemplary cost control and consistent target-beating. These companies, boasting ample reserves and long mine lives, are prime targets in the predicted mid-cap M&A wave. As larger players seek established growth, these producers stand to be acquired at a premium, unlocking significant value for our investors. While the market might bask in the general upward trend, our focus on proven winners, operational efficiency, and future-proofed reserves positions us to deliver alpha as the gold story unfolds.

The outlook for gold miners has risen alongside gold spot price over the past year. While share prices have risen, they haven't maintained pace with gold price. Gold miners faced pressure from rapid cost expansion in the past 2 years, keeping margins subdued and valuations low. Cost inflation, however, has stabilized while gross margins and free cash flow yields have risen on account of rising gold and silver prices. Current spot prices imply high upside for gold miners at today's valuations, creating a very favorable outlook for the sector. The gold mining sector is still lacking in names that can boast a strong growth profile past the one- to two-year time horizon. A lack of recent investment in growth and discovery may cause companies to face shrinking production as large miners continue to seek growth through M&A of smaller names instead of discovery.

### **Fund Performance and Contributors**

- During the month of December, the fund lost -8.19% in USD.
- The top 3 individual contributors to the fund were Gold Road Resources Ltd, Wesdome Gold Mines Ltd., and Alamos Gold Inc.
- $\bullet \ \ \text{The top 3 detractors were Newmont Corporation, Barrick Gold Corporation, and Northern Star Resources \ Ltd.}$

Past performance is not indicative of future returns. Forecasts are based on assumptions, estimates, views and hypothetical models or analyses, which might prove inaccurate or incorrect.

Source: DWS as at 30 December 2024

# **Key Risks**

The value of the Sub-Fund and the income from the Shares may rise or fall. You should consider the risks of investing in the Sub-Fund, including risks associated with equity markets, exchange rates, rates of return, credit and volatility, or political risks, and other risks. You may lose some or all of your investment.

# **Market and Credit Risks**

### You are exposed to the risks of investing in global markets.

- o The Sub-Fund is subject to market risks. Some of the exchanges on which the Sub-Fund invests may be illiquid or highly volatile. The Sub-Fund may have exposure to securities of small capitalisation companies. Where securities are listed or traded on exchanges on a global basis, there may be discrepancies between the trading frequencies of different markets. A decline in the performance of an individual issuer cannot be entirely eliminated.
- o The Sub-Fund may be affected by changes in economic and market conditions, political uncertainties, changes in government policies, legal, regulatory and tax requirements and restrictions on the transfer of capital. It may be at risk of expropriation, nationalisation and confiscation of assets and changes in law on foreign ownership.
- o The Sub-Fund may invest in unquoted securities or quoted securities for which there is no reliable price source available.
- o The trading, settlement and custodial systems in some markets may not be fully developed.
- o Disclosure and regulatory standards may be less stringent in certain markets which are less developed than OECD member countries and there may be less publicly available information or legal protection of investors. The valuation of assets, depreciation, exchange differences, deferred taxation, contingent liabilities and consolidation may be treated differently from international accounting standards.
- o The value of your Shares may fluctuate more strongly on a day-to-day basis compared to funds investing in fixed income securities.

### **Liquidity Risks**

# • The Sub-Fund is not listed and you can redeem only on Dealing Days.

- o There is no secondary market for the Sub-Fund. All redemption requests should be made to the Singapore authorised distributors.
- o Unlisted securities may involve a high degree of business and financial risks, and tend to be less liquid.

### **Product-Specific Risks**

### You are exposed to volatility risks.

o The Sub-Fund is subject to markedly increased volatility and the share prices may be subject to substantial fluctuation, even within short periods of time.

### • You are exposed to risks of investing in the precious metals sector.

- o The Sub-Fund does not hold physical gold or other commodities. Gold mining and precious metal-related shares tend to be volatile and are particularly suitable for diversification in a larger portfolio. There are special risks inherent in concentration of investments on particular sectors. In a particularly concentrated portfolio, if a particular investment declines or is otherwise adversely affected, it may have a more pronounced effect.
- o This industry could be affected by sharp price volatility caused by global economic, financial, and political factors. Resources availability, government regulation and economic cycles could also adversely affect the industries.

### You are exposed to currency risks.

- o The Sub-Fund is denominated in USD but may have non-USD investments and will be subject to exchange rate risks, and currencies and exchange control regulations. For share classes not denominated in USD, you will be subject to the exchange risks between the USD and the currency of those share classes.
- o The Main Investment Manager and Investment Manager does not intend to hedge the foreign currency exposure.

# • You are exposed to risks arising from Sharia Investment Guidelines.

- o The Sub-Fund may perform less well than other funds with comparable investment objectives that do not seek to adhere to Islamic investment criteria. This may include disadvantageous divestments at the instruction of the advising Sharia scholar.
- o It is intended that the Sharia Investment Guidelines will be complied with at all times, but no assurance can be given as there may be occasions when the Sub-Fund's investments do not fully comply with such criteria for factors outside the control of the Company.

# • You are exposed to other risks.

- o Actions of institutional investors substantially invested in the Sub-Fund may adversely affect the return of other investors.
- o The Sub-Fund may enter into transactions with counterparties and engage the services of brokers. There is a risk of default by such counterparties and/or brokers (due to financial or other reasons) which may result in financial loss to the Sub-Fund or the impairment of the Sub-Fund's operational capabilities.
- O You are liable to indemnify the Company and other parties if your acquisition or holding of Shares contravenes any restriction imposed by the Directors or causes the Company or its shareholders to suffer any tax liability or pecuniary disadvantage that it would otherwise not suffer.

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