

# THE VT PRICE VALUE PORTFOLIO

Factsheet as at 31 January 2025

## Investment Commentary

The GBP A class of the Fund recorded a gain of 10.79% for the month of January 2025. This brings the cumulative return of the Fund in GBP from inception in June 2015 to 92.97%. The latest net asset value of each of the Fund's share classes can be found [here](#).

Entities using the Bank of England as custodian for gold bars have, upon request, typically waited three days for physical delivery. Depositors are now waiting up to eight weeks. It appears the central bank is struggling to keep up with demand as gold availability diminishes. The Royal Canadian Mint is reporting similar delivery problems. For each ounce of gold and silver, there are multiple investors claiming ownership. Data from the National Minerals Information Center suggests there are on average 127 claims for every ounce of gold. For silver the number is even more remarkable, at 379 claims for each physical ounce. These delays are hugely supportive of the physical bullion market as well as other forms of exposure, namely commodity mining firms.

Canadian-listed Mag Silver (+16.9%) holds a working interest in the new Juanicipio mine. Located along the Fresnillo Silver Trend in Mexico, the region has generated 10% of historic global silver production. A 2024 study showed Juanicipio offers a post-tax net present value and internal rate of return of \$1.2bn and 24% respectively. We believe these figures will prove to be much higher, as calculations were made assuming a very conservative \$22 silver price; 42% below current levels. Juanicipio is now processing at nameplate capacity of 4,000 tonnes per day, at high grades 430 grams per tonne (g/t) silver and 1.4g/t gold. The mine holds at least 122m silver ounces and 780k gold ounces in mineral reserves, the highest classification of mineral certainty. This equates to a minimum 13-year mine life. We expect these figures to increase through exploratory drilling, as only 5% of the Juanicipio property has been explored to date. In addition to Juanicipio, the company owns the Deer Trail and Larder exploration projects. Strong recent drill results from Deer Trail include grades of 150 g/t silver and 6.2 g/t gold. We look forward to more updates following phase 4 drilling, set to continue into 2025. At 18.6m silver ounces, Juanicipio beat 2024 production guidance by 8%, and saw an 11% increase versus 2023. Management reported an all in sustaining cost per ounce of just \$10.83, representing a margin of c. 200% versus current silver prices.

## Focus

The VT Price Value Portfolio is an open-ended UCITS fund incorporated in the UK. The Fund's objective is to deliver attractive long term returns whilst minimising downside risk.

## Investment Philosophy

The Fund seeks to invest on an unconstrained, multi-asset basis into a diversified array of high quality yet inexpensive investments. This includes listed businesses which the Fund's managers believe offer exceptional quality trading at undemanding multiples.

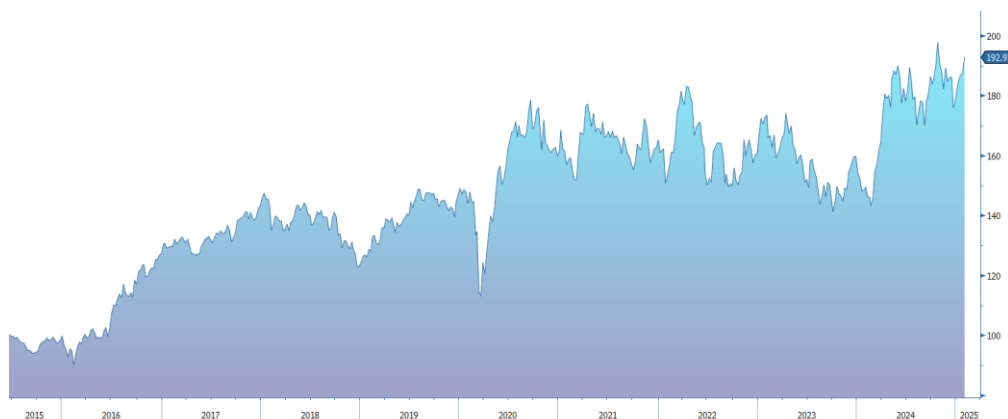
## Fund Facts

Investment Manager	Price Value Partners
Launch Date	16 June 2015
Share Classes	A, B
Currency Classes	GBP, USD, EUR
Dealing, Valuation	Daily 12:00p.m. GMT
Management Fees	A: 0.75% B: 0.50%
ISIN Codes	A £ Acc: GB00BWZMTX09 A £ Inc: GB00BD8PLW60 A \$ Acc: GB00BWZMTY16 A € Acc: GB00BWZMTZ23 B £ Acc: GB00BWZMV016 B £ Inc: GB00BD8PLY84 B \$ Acc: GB00BWZMV123 B € Acc: GB00BWZMV230
(Variations in historic performance shown by the different currency share classes of the Fund relate solely to foreign exchange translation effects, as the underlying holdings are identical.)	
Minimum Investment A	£1000 / \$1000 / €1000
Minimum Investment B	£1M; \$1M; €1M

## Performance History

Period	GBP A Share Class
1 Month	+10.79%
Year-to-date	+10.79%
Since inception (16.06.2015)	+92.97%

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future returns.  
The Fund is managed independently of any benchmarks.  
Chart source: Bloomberg LLP.



# THE VT PRICE VALUE PORTFOLIO

## Geographic Exposure\*

Country	Allocation	Country	Allocation
US	54%	Canada	14%
UK	10%	Australia	9%
Europe	6%	South Africa	5%
Cash	2%		

## Sector Exposure\*

Sector	Allocation
Commodities - Mining	46%
Commodities - Soft	4%
Commodities - Energy	4%
Value Equity	10%
Systematic Trend Followers	21%
Bullion	13%
Cash	2%

## Major Holdings\*

Pan American Silver Corp	5.0%
Hecla Mining Co	4.4%
Tyson Foods Inc	4.0%
iShares Physical Silver ETC	3.7%
WisdomTree Physical Silver	3.7%
Genesis Minerals Ltd	3.7%
Artemis Gold Inc	3.6%
Endeavour Silver Corp	3.3%
TRM Physical Gold ETC	3.3%
Torex Gold Resources Inc	3.1%

## Fund Metrics\*

Price to earnings ratio	46.2x
Price to book ratio	1.6x

\*as at 31 January 2025.

## Important Information

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future returns. The value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and is not guaranteed. An investor may not get back the amount originally invested. Price Value Partners Ltd does not give you investment advice so you will need to decide if an investment is suitable for you. Before investing in the Fund please read the Key Information Document and Prospectus (and take particular note of the risk factors detailed therein). If you are unsure whether to invest you should contact a financial advisor. We have taken all reasonable steps to ensure that the above content is correct at the time of publication. However, markets are volatile and the portfolio may change at any time. If you no longer wish to receive these commentaries, please let us know and we will remove you from our distribution list, which is opt-in exclusively. The information above does not constitute investment advice or make any recommendation.

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## Investment Commentary

We're also finding value in the broader commodity space. Nutrien (+15.3%) produces potash, phosphate and nitrogen for agricultural customers globally. These fertilizers play a critical role in promoting crop health and improving crop yields. Current operating margins of 3.8% are the lowest for four years due in part to pricing pressures in Brazil. Group margins reached 28% in 2022, more than twice current levels. These margins have started to rebound since management accelerated a \$200m cost cutting scheme last year. The firm produced a year-to-date record of 11.1m tonnes of potash, an 11% increase versus 2023. However, potash prices remain at historic lows versus the Bloomberg Commodity Index, trading 60% below the ratio's 2022 highs. Global wheat stores are at the lowest for a decade, further supporting the probability of a sharp rebound in crop prices. As crop prices mean revert higher, we expect Nutrien's margins to expand considerably from their current lows as farmers have the ability to invest more into their land. The firm bought back \$75m of their own shares through Q3; additionally management bought \$1.3m of Nutrien shares during 2024 using their own cash. We admire this kind of alignment with shareholders. As shareholders, we also benefit from a 4.1% dividend yield.

Heartland Express (+1.9%) provides truckload services across the US and is gradually emerging from a prolonged downcycle. Indeed, there has been an increase in long distance trucking prices since June. Further, operating ratios of CFI and Smith, two acquisitions which the firm made in 2022, have expanded 7.1% over the last three quarters. As the integrations progress, we anticipate that continued operating ratio recoveries will contribute to group operating margins, currently at lows of just 0.4%. A return to just the long-term average margin of 16% would mean a 40x rebound from current levels. Last time Heartland emerged from a freight downcycle, its shares outperformed the Dow Jones Index by a factor of five. As with Nutrien, insiders have shown confidence in operations, purchasing 1.7m shares since 2022, with the CEO accounting for over 50% of these purchases.

## Fund Platforms

The Fund is available on the following platforms:

Aj Bell	Co-Funds	Old Mutual Wealth
Allfunds	Hargreaves Lansdown	Stocktrade
Alliance Trust	James Hay	Swissquote
Ascentric	Nexus	TD Direct
Aviva	Novia	Transact
Brewin Dolphin	Nucleus	