

## First Sentier Global Listed Infrastructure Fund

**Quarterly Investment Report** 

31 March 2025

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### **Portfolio Overview**

31 March 2025

#### Investment objective and strategy

The Fund aims to achieve total investment return consistent with income and long term capital growth, and invests all or substantially all of its assets in the First Sentier Global Listed Infrastructure Fund ("Underlying Sub-Fund"), a sub-fund of the England and Wales domiciled umbrella fund First Sentier Investors ICVC.

The Underlying Sub-Fund invests in a diversified portfolio of securities issued by companies in the infrastructure sector that are listed, traded or dealt in on regulated markets worldwide. The infrastructure sector includes, but is not limited to, utilities (e.g. water and electricity), highways and railways, airports, marine ports and oil and gas storage and transportation.

#### **Available Share Classes**

| Share<br>class    | Inception date | NAV price | Distribution<br>frequency <sup>#</sup> | ISIN code    |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------|--|--------------|
| Class A<br>(Dist) | 03 Mar 2008    | S\$1.1799 | Semi-annually                          | SG9999005300 |

#### **Fund Information**

| Fund Size (S\$m)   | 10.3   |
|--------------------|--|
| Benchmark          | FTSE Global Core Infrastructure 50/50 Index* |
| Number Of Holdings | 44   |

\*The benchmark displayed is UBS Global Infrastructure & Utilities 50-50 Index until 31 March 2015 and FTSE Global Core Infrastructure 50/50 Index from 1 April 2015 onwards.

# Performance

31 March 2025

#### Annualised performance in SGD (%)

|   | 1yr  | 3yrs | 5yrs | 10yrs | Since incept. |
|---|------|------|------|-------|---------------|
| Class A (SGD - H Dist) (Ex<br>initial charges)  | 11.5 | 0.9  | 6.0  | 4.6   | 4.2           |
| Class A (SGD - H Dist) (Inc<br>initial charges) | 5.9  | -0.8 | 4.9  | 4.0   | 3.9           |
| Benchmark*                                      | 13.5 | 3.1  | 9.0  | 6.7   | 5.4           |

#### Cumulative performance in SGD (%)

|   | 3mths | 1yr  | 3yrs | 5yrs | Since incept. |
|---|-------|------|------|------|---------------|
| Class A (SGD - H Dist) (Ex<br>initial charges)  | 4.6   | 11.5 | 2.9  | 33.9 | 102.5         |
| Class A (SGD - H Dist) (Inc<br>initial charges) | -0.6  | 5.9  | -2.3 | 27.2 | 92.4          |
| Benchmark*                                      | 3.5   | 13.5 | 9.6  | 53.7 | 143.6         |

#### Calendar Year Performance (% in SGD) to 31 March 2025



Source: Lipper, First Sentier Investors. Single pricing basis with net income reinvested. Except for the benchmark index, performance stated for relevant indices are quoted in the respective local currency unless otherwise specified. Investment involves risks, past performance is not a guide to future performance.

### Commentary

#### **Market Review**

Global listed infrastructure gained during the March quarter as mounting tariff concerns drove a rotation into defensive assets. The Fund returned +3.1% before fees, compared with a +1.7% return from its benchmark index. Global equities ended the quarter -4.7% lower.

#### **Performance Review**

Towers were buoyed by healthy December quarter earnings numbers and lower bond yields. Regulated utilities gained on the appeal of their lack of sensitivity to tariffs and the broader economic environment, and inelastic demand for their essential services. A positive demand outlook for natural gas, underpinned by proposed new power plants and growing US LNG exports, saw energy midstream stocks climb.

However, airports fell owing to the relative sensitivity of passenger volumes to the broader economic environment. Railroads declined as investors became concerned about the potential impact that US tariffs may have on North American freight haulage. Data centres also ended the quarter lower, on news that Microsoft had pulled back from new data centre projects in the US, Europe and Australia.

#### **Fund Activity**

The Fund initiated a position in French airport operator Groupe ADP, whose assets include the two main airports in Paris – Charles de Gaulle and Orly – as well as stakes in Turkish and Indian airports. ADP has materially underperformed peers in recent years owing to uncertainty surrounding the future terms of its regulatory framework and concerns about French political instability. However, we believe that these concerns have been overstated. The stock has potential to recover ground once the terms of the new regulatory framework are announced, allowing investors to focus on the company's well-positioned Parisian assets and valuable retail business.

The Fund also added China Tower, a mobile tower company established in 2014 when the tower businesses of China's largest telecom companies – China Mobile, China Unicom and China Telecom – were merged to form a new stand-alone business. China Tower has a defensive balance sheet, pays a ~7% dividend yield and currently trades on modest valuation multiples. A dominant market position – China Tower has 97% of the country's mobile towers – gives the company very strong barriers to entry, making it well positioned to benefit from further investment into the country's mobile networks.

#### Outlook

The Fund invests in a range of listed infrastructure assets including toll roads, airports, railroads, utilities and renewables, energy midstream, wireless towers and data centres. These sectors share common characteristics, like barriers to entry and pricing power, which can provide investors with inflationprotected income and strong capital growth over the mediumterm.

Trump's early-April "Liberation Day" tariff announcement has caused turbulence in financial markets. Equity markets fell sharply on investor uncertainty and concerns about potential risks to the global economy. If the tariffs are implemented in their current form, the likeliest outcomes appear to be a period of slower economic growth and higher inflation. Typically, these conditions favour the global listed infrastructure asset class, at least in relative terms. Infrastructure growth is less dependent on the economic cycle, and many infrastructure assets have a proven ability to recover inflation. Recent falls in bond yields are also likely to prove supportive of infrastructure valuations.

At a sector level we anticipate that tariffs will have varied impacts. They are likely to be positive – at least on a relative basis – for the more defensive infrastructure sectors such as regulated utilities, mobile towers and toll roads, for the reasons noted above. Tariffs may prove challenging in the short term for some of the more economically sensitive sectors. For example, North American freight rail stocks would be sensitive to lower haulage volumes. We would note that tariff risks for Mexico and Canada – the most relevant countries to this sector outside the US – appear to have been largely priced in. Looking ahead, a key aim of the tariffs is to strengthen domestic manufacturing and the resulting onshoring drive is likely to be positive for freight rail stocks.

Energy midstream may also see a near-term slowdown as tariffs dampen energy prices, reflecting expectations of a weaker economy. However, balance sheets are in better shape than previous cycles and the sector should benefit over the medium term as domestic onshoring leads to a stronger energy demand outlook within the US, particularly for natural gas. Supply chain issues may also challenge the US renewables build-out, as the cost of imported solar panel and offshore wind farm equipment increases. Regulated US utilities should be shielded from these impacts, as their regulated business models enable rising costs to be passed through to customer bills.

Overall, we believe that the asset class remains well-positioned to perform defensively through this period of market disruption.

## **Portfolio Allocation and Stock Holdings**

31 March 2025

#### Ten Largest Holdings as at 31 March 2025

| Stock Name                        | Geography | Sector                                | Portfolio<br>Weight (%) | Index<br>Weight (%) |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| American Electric Power Co., Inc. | USA       | Electric Utilities                    | 5.1                     | 1.9                 |
| Duke Energy Corporation           | USA       | Electric Utilities                    | 4.4                     | 3.1                 |
| Xcel Energy Inc.                  | USA       | Electric Utilities                    | 4.3                     | 1.3                 |
| National Grid plc                 | UK        | Multi-Utilities                       | 4.2                     | 2.1                 |
| Transurban                        | Australia | Highways & Railtracks                 | 4.1                     | 3.1                 |
| Norfolk Southern Corporation      | USA       | Rail Transportation                   | 3.4                     | 1.4                 |
| ONEOK, Inc.                       | USA       | Oil & Gas Storage &<br>Transportation | 3.4                     | 1.8                 |
| Cheniere Energy, Inc.             | USA       | Oil & Gas Storage &<br>Transportation | 3.3                     | 1.5                 |
| CSX Corporation                   | USA       | Rail Transportation                   | 3.3                     | 1.5                 |
| Getlink SE                        | France    | Highways & Railtracks                 | 3.1                     | 0.2                 |

#### Sector Breakdown



#### Geographic Breakdown



\*Index Weight

Sector and Country classifications provided by Factset and First Sentier Investors. The Fund may hold multiple equity securities in the same company, which have been combined to provide the Fund's total position in that company. Index weights, if any, typically include only the main domestic-listed security. The above Fund weightings may or may not include reference to multiple securities.

\*Index Weight



#### Market Capitalisation Breakdown (SGD)

Source: First Sentier Investors as at 31 March 2025. The Fund may hold multiple equity securities in the same company, which have been combined to provide the Fund's total position in that company. Index weights, if any, typically include only the main domestic-listed security. The above Fund weightings may or may not include reference to multiple securities. Allocation percentage is rounded to the nearest one decimal place and the total allocation percentage may not add up to 100%. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Reference to specific securities (if any) is included for the purpose of illustration only and should not be construed as a recommendation to buy or sell the same. All securities mentioned herein may or may not form part of the holdings of First Sentier Investors' portfolios at a certain point in time, and the holdings may change over time.

Portfolio Weight Index Weight

### **Stock Contribution**

31 March 2025

#### Top 5 contributors to absolute performance

#### 3 months to 31 March 2025

| Stock Name                            | Country | Sector                | Value added<br>(bps*) |
|---------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| American Electric Power Company, Inc. | USA     | Electric Utilities    | 78                    |
| American Tower Corporation            | USA     | Telecom Tower REITs   | 52                    |
| CCR SA                                | Brazil  | Highways & Railtracks | 45                    |
| Exelon Corporation                    | USA     | Electric Utilities    | 44                    |
| Duke Energy Corporation               | USA     | Electric Utilities    | 44                    |

#### 12 months to 31 March 2025

| Stock Name                            | Country | Sector                                | Value added<br>(bps*) |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cheniere Energy, Inc.                 | USA     | Oil & Gas Storage &<br>Transportation | 175                   |
| Targa Resources Corp.                 | USA     | Oil & Gas Storage &<br>Transportation | 145                   |
| Duke Energy Corporation               | USA     | Electric Utilities                    | 116                   |
| American Electric Power Company, Inc. | USA     | Electric Utilities                    | 111                   |
| Dt Midstream Inc Com USD0.01 WI       | USA     | Oil & Gas Storage &<br>Transportation | 110                   |

#### Bottom 5 contributors to absolute performance

#### 3 months to 31 March 2025

| Stock Name                           | Country | Sector                                   | Value added<br>(bps*) |
|--------------------------------------|---------|--|-----------------------|
| CSX Corporation                      | USA     | Rail Transportation                      | -43                   |
| Canadian Pacific Kansas City Limited | Canada  | Rail Transportation                      | -38                   |
| PG&E Corporation                     | USA     | Electric Utilities                       | -37                   |
| Japan Airport Terminal Co., Ltd.     | Japan   | Airport Services                         | -20                   |
| China Tower Corp. Ltd. Class H       | China   | Integrated Telecommunication<br>Services | -18                   |

#### 12 months to 31 March 2025

| Stock Name                           | Country | Sector  | Value added<br>(bps*) |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---|-----------------------|
| CCR SA                               | Brazil  | Highways & Railtracks                           | -73                   |
| CSX Corporation                      | USA     | Rail Transportation                             | -45                   |
| AES Corporation                      | USA     | Independent Power Producers &<br>Energy Traders | -44                   |
| Canadian Pacific Kansas City Limited | Canada  | Rail Transportation                             | -39                   |
| ONEOK, Inc.                          | USA     | Oil & Gas Storage &<br>Transportation           | -36                   |

Stock Contributions show the impact of the individual stock's performance to the total fund performance. These stock contributions show the top 5 and bottom 5 contributors to the fund and are not representative of the performance of the fund as a whole. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Reference to specific securities (if any) is included for the purpose of illustration only and should not be construed as a recommendation to buy or sell the same. All securities mentioned herein may or may not form part of the holdings of First Sentier Investors' portfolios at a certain point in time, and the holdings may change over time.

This stock information does not constitute any offer or inducement to enter into investment activity. Contributions are calculated at the investee company level before the deduction of any fees incurred at fund level (e.g. the management fee and other fund expenses) but after the deduction of transactional costs. Stocks held/listed in non-index countries have economic activity > 50% from developing economies. \* A basis point is a unit of measure used in finance to describe the percentage change in value or rate of a financial instrument. One basis point is equivalent to 0.01% (1/100th of a percent) or 0.0001 in decimal form.

Data source: This information is calculated by First Sentier Investors.