

# Allspring Precious Metals Fund

## **Contents**

The views expressed and any forward-looking statements are as of March 31, 2023, unless otherwise noted, and are those of the Fund's portfolio managers and/or Allspring Global Investments. Discussions of individual securities or the markets generally are not intended as individual recommendations. Future events or results may vary significantly from those expressed in any forward-looking statements. The views expressed are subject to change at any time in response to changing circumstances in the market. Allspring Global Investments disclaims any obligation to publicly update or revise any views expressed or forward-looking statements.



**Andrew Owen** President Allspring Funds

In April 2022, market headwinds created by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February continued, with broad and deep losses as both the S&P 500 Index and MSCI All Country World *Index fell 8% or more for the* month and commodity shortages added to global inflation.

## Dear Shareholder:

We are pleased to offer you this annual report for the Allspring Precious Metals Fund for the 12-month period that ended March 31, 2023. Globally, stocks and bonds experienced heightened volatility and poor performance through the challenging period. Earlier tailwinds provided by global stimulus programs, vaccination rollouts, and recovering consumer and corporate sentiment were wiped away by the highest rate of inflation in four decades as well as the impact of ongoing aggressive central bank rate hikes and the prospect of more rate hikes. Compounding these concerns were the global reverberations of the Russia-Ukraine war and the impact of China's strict COVID-19 lockdowns, which were removed in December.

For the 12-month period, stocks and bonds—both domestic U.S. and global—suffered broad losses. For the period, U.S. stocks, based on the S&P 500 Index, 1 returned -7.73%. International stocks, as measured by the MSCI ACWI ex USA Index (Net),<sup>2</sup> returned -5.07%, while the MSCI EM Index (Net) (USD)<sup>3</sup> had weaker performance, with a decline of 10.70%. Among bond indexes, the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index<sup>4</sup> returned -4.78%, the Bloomberg Global Aggregate ex-USD Index (unhedged)<sup>5</sup> fell 10.72%, the Bloomberg Municipal Bond Index<sup>6</sup> gained 0.26%, and the ICE BofA U.S. High Yield Index<sup>7</sup> fell 3.50%.

## High inflation and central bank rate hikes rocked markets.

In April 2022, market headwinds created by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February continued, with broad and deep losses as both the S&P 500 and MSCI ACWI (Net)8 fell 8% or more for the month and commodity shortages added to global inflation. The Chinese economy struggled through a strict lockdown as the government tried to contain a major COVID-19 outbreak. The ensuing global ripple effect compounded existing supply shortages. Meanwhile, U.S. annual inflation raged at 8.5%, its highest level since 1981, and investors braced themselves for aggressive Federal Reserve (Fed) monetary tightening moves.

Market volatility continued in May, although markets recovered ground late in the month. Value stocks continued to outperform growth stocks. The concerns that had dominated markets for months continued, including high inflation and geopolitical tensions that added to high crude oil, gasoline, and food prices. In response, the Fed raised the federal funds rate by 0.50%. Meanwhile, highly contagious COVID-19 variants persisted. However, labor markets in the U.S., the U.K., and Europe remained strong. U.S. retail sales increased for the fourth consecutive month in April—a sign of consumer resilience.

The S&P 500 Index consists of 500 stocks chosen for market size, liquidity, and industry group representation. It is a market-value-weighted index with each stock's weight in the index proportionate to its market value. You cannot invest directly in an index.

The Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) All Country World Index (ACWI) ex USA Index (Net) is a free-float-adjusted marketcapitalization-weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed and emerging markets, excluding the U.S. Source: MSCI. MSCI makes no express or implied warranties or representations and shall have no liability whatsoever with respect to any MSCI data contained herein. The MSCI data may not be further redistributed or used as a basis for other indexes or any securities or financial products. This report is not approved, reviewed, or produced by MSCI. You cannot invest directly in an index.

The MSCI Emerging Markets (EM) Index (Net) (USD) is a free-float-adjusted market-capitalization-weighted index that is designed to measure equity market performance of emerging markets. You cannot invest directly in an index.

The Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index is a broad-based benchmark that measures the investment-grade, U.S.-dollar-denominated, fixed-rate taxable bond market, including Treasuries, government-related and corporate securities, mortgage-backed securities (agency fixed-rate and hybrid adjustable-rate mortgage pass-throughs), asset-backed securities, and commercial mortgage-backed securities. You cannot invest directly in an index.

The Bloomberg Global Aggregate ex-USD Index (unhedged) is an unmanaged index that provides a broad-based measure of the global investment-grade fixed-income markets excluding the U.S.-dollar-denominated debt market. You cannot invest directly in an index.

The Bloomberg Municipal Bond Index is an unmanaged index composed of long-term tax-exempt bonds with a minimum credit rating of Baa. You cannot invest directly in an index.

The ICE BofA U.S. High Yield Index is a market-capitalization-weighted index of domestic and Yankee high-yield bonds. The index tracks the performance of high-yield securities traded in the U.S. bond market. You cannot invest directly in an index. Copyright 2023. ICE Data Indices, LLC. All rights reserved.

The MSCI ACWI (Net) is a free-float-adjusted market-capitalization-weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed and emerging markets. You cannot invest directly in an index.

In June, stocks posted further losses en route to their worst first half of a year in 50 years. Bonds didn't fare much better. Driving the losses were the familiar factors: rising global inflation and fears of recession as central banks increased rates to try to curb soaring inflation. The Fed raised its short-term rate by another 0.75% in June. Meanwhile, the U.S. unemployment rate held firm at 3.6% and the housing market remained only marginally affected by sharply higher mortgage rates.

Markets rebounded in July, led by U.S. stocks. While U.S. economic activity showed signs of waning, the country's labor market remained surprisingly strong: July nonfarm payrolls grew by more than 500,000 and U.S. unemployment dipped to 3.5%. Meanwhile, crude oil and retail gasoline prices, major contributors to recent overall inflation, fell substantially from earlier highs. And while U.S. home prices rose, home sales fell as houses became less affordable with mortgage rates at a 13-year high. The Fed raised the federal funds rate another 0.75% in July—to a range of 2.25% to 2.50%—and forecasts pointed to further rate hikes.

August was yet another broadly challenging month for financial markets, with more red ink flowing. High inflation persisted, cresting 9% in the eurozone on an annual basis and remaining above 8% in the U.S. despite the Fed's aggressive monetary policy and a major drop in global crude oil and gasoline prices from their June peak. One positive note was the resilient U.S. job market. However, the Fed's job was clearly not complete. One longer-term bright spot was the U.S. Congress's passage of the Inflation Reduction Act. Its primary stated goals include: to reduce inflation (though not immediately) by curbing the deficit, capping health care spending by seniors, and investing in domestic sources of clean energy.

The market misery continued in September as all asset classes suffered major losses. Central banks kept up their battle against rapidly rising prices with more rate hikes. The strength of the U.S. dollar weighed on results for investors holding non-U.S.-dollar assets. U.S. mortgage rates jumped to near 7% on 30-year fixed-rate mortgages; the decreased housing affordability began to cool demand somewhat. The U.K. experienced a sharp sell-off of government bonds and the British pound in September as investors panicked in response to a new government budget that was seen as financially unsound. The Bank of England (BoE) then stepped in and bought long-dated government bonds.

Equities had a reprieve in October. Value stocks and small caps fared best. Globally, developed markets outpaced emerging market equities, which were hurt by weakness among Chinese stocks. Central banks continued to try to curtail high inflation with aggressive interest rate hikes. Geopolitical risks persisted, including the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and economic, financial market, and political turmoil in the U.K. Concerns over Europe's energy crisis eased thanks to unseasonably warm weather and plentiful gas on hand. The U.S. labor market continued its resilience against rising prices as unemployment remained near a record low.

Stocks and bonds rallied in November. Economic news was encouraging, driven by U.S. labor market strength. Although central banks kept raising rates, hopes rose for an easing in the pace of rate hikes and a possible end to central bank monetary tightening in 2023. Although inflation remained at record highs in the eurozone, we began to see signs of a possible decline in inflationary pressures as U.S. inflation moderated, with a 7.1% annual price rise in November and a monthly price increase of just 0.1%. China's economic data remained weak, reflecting its zero-COVID-19 policy.

Financial markets cooled in December, with U.S. equities posting negative overall results in response to a weakening U.S. dollar. Fixed income securities ended one of their worst years ever with flat overall monthly returns as markets weighed the hopes for an end to the monetary tightening cycle with the reality that central banks had not completed their jobs yet. U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI)1 data showed a strong consistent trend downward, which brought down the 12-month CPI to 6.5% in December from 9.1% in June. Other countries and regions reported still-high but declining inflation rates as the year winded down.

In June, stocks posted further losses en route to their worst first half of a year in 50 years. Bonds didn't fare much better. Driving the losses were the familiar factors: rising global inflation and fears of recession as central banks increased rates to try to curb soaring inflation.

The U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services. You cannot invest directly in an index.

The year 2023 began with a rally across global equities and fixed income securities. Investor optimism rose in response to data indicating declining inflation rates and the reopening of China's economy with the abrupt end to its zero-COVID-19 policy. The U.S. reported surprisingly strong job gains—employers added more than 500,000 jobs—and unemployment fell to 3.4%, the lowest level since 1969. Meanwhile, wage growth, seen as a potential contributor to ongoing high inflation, continued to moderate. All eyes remained fixed on the Fed and on how many more rate hikes remain in this tightening cycle. The 0.25% federal funds rate hike announced in January was the Fed's smallest rate increase since March 2022.

Financial markets declined in February as investors responded unfavorably to resilient economic data. The takeaway: Central banks will likely continue their monetary tightening cycle for longer than markets had priced in. In this environment—where strong economic data is seen as bad news—the resilient U.S. labor market was seen as a negative while the inflation rate has not been falling quickly enough for the Fed, which raised interest rates by 0.25% in early February. Meanwhile, the BoE and the European Central Bank both raised rates by 0.50%.

The collapse of Silicon Valley Bank in March, the second-largest banking failure in U.S. history, led to a classic bank run that spread to Europe, where Switzerland's Credit Suisse was taken over by its rival, UBS. The sudden banking industry uncertainty led some clients of regional banks to transfer deposits to a handful of U.S. banking giants while bank shareholders sold stock. The banking industry turmoil could make the job of central banks more challenging as they weigh inflationary concerns against potential economic weakening. Meanwhile, recent data pointed to economic strength in the U.S., Europe, and China. The U.S. labor market remained resilient. The euro-area composite Purchasing Managers' Index1 rose to 53.70, indicating expansion, for March. And China's economy continued to rebound after the removal of its COVID-19 lockdown. Inflation rates in the U.S., the U.K., and Europe all remained higher than central bank targets, leading to additional rate hikes in March.

## Don't let short-term uncertainty derail long-term investment goals.

Periods of investment uncertainty can present challenges, but experience has taught us that maintaining long-term investment goals can be an effective way to plan for the future. To help you create a sound strategy based on your personal goals and risk tolerance, Allspring Funds offers more than 100 mutual funds spanning a wide range of asset classes and investment styles. Although diversification cannot guarantee an investment profit or prevent losses, we believe it can be an effective way to manage investment risk and potentially smooth out overall portfolio performance. We encourage investors to know their investments and to understand that appropriate levels of risk-taking may unlock opportunities.

Thank you for choosing to invest with Allspring Funds. We appreciate your confidence in us and remain committed to helping you meet your financial needs.

Sincerely,

Andrew Owen President Allspring Funds

For further information about your fund, contact your investment professional, visit our website at allspringglobal.com, or call us directly at 1-800-222-8222.

The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is an index of the prevailing direction of economic trends in the manufacturing and service sectors. You cannot invest directly in an index.



**Investment objective** The Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

Manager Allspring Funds Management, LLC

**Subadviser** Allspring Global Investments, LLC

**Portfolio managers** Michael Bradshaw, CFA, Oleg Makhorine

#### Average annual total returns (%) as of March 31, 2023

		Including sales charge		Excluding sales charge			Expense ratios <sup>1</sup> (%)		
	Inception date	1 year	5 year	10 year	1 year	5 year	10 year	Gross	Net <sup>2</sup>
Class A (EKWAX)	1-20-1998	-15.05	7.82	-0.82	-9.87	9.10	-0.23	1.18	1.09
Class C (EKWCX)	1-29-1998	-11.56	8.28	-0.83	-10.56	8.28	-0.83	1.93	1.84
Administrator Class (EKWDX)	7-30-2010	_	-	-	-9.75	9.25	-0.09	1.10	0.95
Institutional Class (EKWYX)	2-29-2000	_	-	-	-9.59	9.43	0.06	0.85	0.79
FTSE Gold Mines Index <sup>3</sup>	_	-	-	-	-17.24	8.39	-0.30	-	-
S&P 500 Index <sup>4</sup>	-	_	_	_	-7.73	11.19	12.24	-	_

**Figures quoted represent past performance, which is no guarantee of future results,** and do not reflect taxes that a shareholder may pay on an investment in a fund. Investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Performance shown without sales charges would be lower if sales charges were reflected. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted, which assumes the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Current month-end performance is available on the Fund's website, **allspringglobal.com.** 

While the S&P 500 Index is comprised of U.S. equity securities of companies diversified across ten sectors, the Fund's holdings are concentrated primarily in precious metals related stocks. Therefore, the performance of the S&P 500 Index is displayed only to show how the concentrated Fund performed compared with a diversified selection of U.S. equity securities.

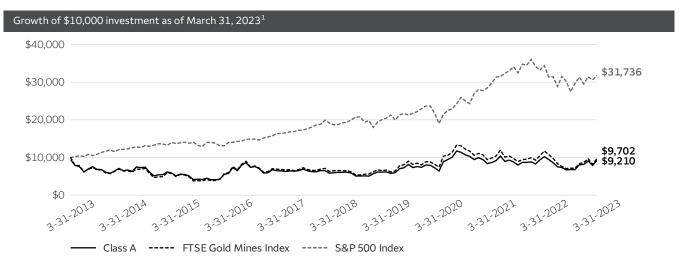
Index returns do not include transaction costs associated with buying and selling securities, any mutual fund fees or expenses, or any taxes. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

For Class A shares, the maximum front-end sales charge is 5.75%. For Class C shares, the maximum contingent deferred sales charge is 1.00%. Performance including a contingent deferred sales charge assumes the sales charge for the corresponding time period. Administrator Class and Institutional Class shares are sold without a front-end sales charge or contingent deferred sales charge.

- <sup>1</sup> Reflects the expense ratios as stated in the most recent prospectuses. The expense ratios shown are subject to change and may differ from the annualized expense ratios shown in the financial highlights of this report.
- <sup>2</sup> The manager has contractually committed through July 31, 2023, to waive fees and/or reimburse expenses to the extent necessary to cap total annual fund operating expenses after fee waivers at 1.09% for Class A, 1.84% for Class C, 0.95% for Administrator Class, and 0.79% for Institutional Class. Brokerage commissions, stamp duty fees, interest, taxes, acquired fund fees and expenses (if any), and extraordinary expenses are excluded from the expense caps. Prior to or after the commitment expiration date, the caps may be increased or the commitment to maintain the caps may be terminated only with the approval of the Board of Trustees. Without these caps, the Fund's returns would have been lower. The expense ratio paid by an investor is the net expense ratio (the total annual fund operating expenses after fee waivers) as stated in the prospectuses.
- FTSE Gold Mines Index is an unmanaged, open-ended index designed to reflect the performance of the worldwide market in the shares of companies whose principal activity is the mining of gold. You cannot invest directly in an index.
- <sup>4</sup> The S&P 500 Index consists of 500 stocks chosen for market size, liquidity, and industry group representation. It is a market-value weighted index with each stock's weight in the index proportionate to its market value. You cannot invest directly in an index.

Stock values fluctuate in response to the activities of individual companies and general market and economic conditions. Bond values fluctuate in response to the financial condition of individual issuers, general market and economic conditions, and changes in interest rates. Changes in market conditions and government policies may lead to periods of heightened volatility in the bond market and reduced liquidity for certain bonds held by the Fund. In general, when interest rates rise, bond values fall and investors may lose principal value. Interest rate changes and their impact on the Fund and its share price can be sudden and unpredictable. Funds that concentrate their investments in limited sectors, such as gold-related investments, are more vulnerable to adverse market, economic, regulatory, political, or other developments affecting those sectors. Certain investment strategies tend to increase the total risk of an investment (relative to the broader market). This fund is exposed to foreign investment risk, geographic, non-diversification risk, smaller-company securities risk, and subsidiary risk. Consult the Fund's prospectus for additional information on these and other risks.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The chart compares the performance of Class A shares for the most recent ten years with the FTSE Gold Mines Index and S&P 500 Index. The chart assumes a hypothetical investment of \$10,000 in Class A shares and reflects all operating expenses and assumes the maximum initial sales charge of 5.75%.

#### MANAGER'S DISCUSSION

## Fund highlights

- The Fund outperformed its benchmark, the FTSE Gold Mines Index, for the 12-month period that ended March 31, 2023.
- The Fund's overweights to Lundin Gold Inc., Torex Gold Resources Inc., and Alamos Gold Inc. enhanced results, along with underweights to Newmont Corp. and Barrick Gold Corp.
- The Fund's overweights to SSR Mining Inc. and Centerra Gold Inc. and underweights to AngloGold Ashanti Ltd. and Newcrest Mining Ltd. detracted from results during the period. The Fund's positions in Artemis Gold Inc. and Marathon Gold Corp. also detracted from results.
- The price of gold rose more than 1.5% during the 12-month period, and the share prices of precious metals stocks underperformed the gold price.

## Gold prices rose modestly during the reporting period.

The price of gold fell 14.3% during the first half of the reporting period. Tight labor markets and stubbornly high inflation caused the Federal Reserve (Fed) to aggressively raise interest rates during the first half of the period. This caused the yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury bond to rise by 149 basis points (bps; 100 bps equal 1.00%) and the tradeweighted U.S. dollar to strengthen by 14%. During the second half of the period, gold prices rose 18.5%. Gold prices were propelled higher during the fall and winter months as the Fed began to moderate the pace of its interest rate increases as the inflation rate declined and the economy began to slow.

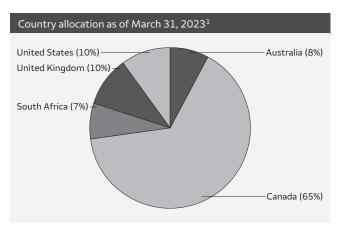
Ten largest holdings (%) as of March 31, 2023 <sup>1</sup>	
Wheaton Precious Metals Corporation-U.S. Exchange Traded Shares	5.62
Franco-Nevada Corporation-Legend Shares	5.56
Barrick Gold Corporation	5.36
Endeavour Mining plc	5.24
Royal Gold Incorporated	5.05
Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited	4.89
Gold Bullion	4.78
Gold Fields Limited ADR	4.62
Alamos Gold Incorporated Class A	4.25
Lundin Gold Incorporated	4.23

Figures represent the percentage of the Fund's net assets. Holdings are subject to change and may have changed since the date specified.

## Gold-mining stocks underperformed the price of gold.

The prices of gold-mining stocks typically rise or fall more sharply than the price of gold. This was not the case during the 12-month reporting period. Companies that delivered better-than-expected operating and financial results fared the best. Two of the Fund's most noteworthy contributors

were Lundin Gold Inc. and Torex Gold Resources Inc. Lundin outperformed on news of much better-than-expected operating results as well as an increase in its three-year production forecast. Torex outperformed on news of positive operating results at its El Limon Mine in Mexico as well as the announcement of a new discovery. The Fund's underweights to Newmont Corp. and Barrick Gold Corp. also enhanced results as both companies reported disappointing outlooks.



Figures represent the percentage of the Fund's long-term investments. Allocations are subject to change and may have changed since the date specified.

Four of the Fund's most noteworthy detractors were Artemis Gold Inc., Marathon Gold Corp., Centerra Gold Inc., and Pan American Silver Corp. Centerra underperformed on news that its Oksut Mine in Turkey was being temporarily closed. Both Artemis and Marathon underperformed on news of higher-than-expected capital costs at their development projects. The Fund's underweights to Newcrest Mining Ltd. and AngloGold Ashanti Ltd. also detracted from results.

## Our outlook for precious metals companies is positive.

We believe the short-term outlook for gold prices depends largely on economic data and the resulting impact on U.S. interest rates, inflation, and the U.S. dollar. With economic growth decelerating during the most recent quarter and inflation expectations falling, bond yields are expected to

continue to moderate over the short term. Given gold's historical inverse relationship to real yields, we would expect the current environment to remain a tailwind for gold prices.

Over the longer term, we believe the gold price will be supported by a slowing economy and a weaker dollar brought on by the eventual start of a Fed easing cycle. Given the current gold price environment and our longer-term outlook, we believe the outlook for the gold-mining industry is positive.

We believe gold-related stocks may have better appreciation potential than the metal itself. However, stock selection will remain important because, in our view, company fundamentals tend to drive stock prices. We believe higherquality companies with internal growth catalysts, such as effective execution of business plans and mining successes, are most likely to outperform their peers.

As a shareholder of the Fund, you incur two types of costs: (1) transaction costs, including sales charges (loads) on purchase payments and contingent deferred sales charges (if any) on redemptions and (2) ongoing costs, including management fees, distribution (12b-1) and/or shareholder servicing fees, and other Fund expenses. This example is intended to help you understand your ongoing costs (in dollars) of investing in the Fund and to compare these costs with the ongoing costs of investing in other mutual funds.

The example is based on an investment of \$1,000 invested at the beginning of the six-month period and held for the entire period from October 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023.

## Actual expenses

The "Actual" line of the table below provides information about actual account values and actual expenses. You may use the information in this line, together with the amount you invested, to estimate the expenses that you paid over the period. Simply divide your account value by \$1,000 (for example, an \$8,600 account value divided by \$1,000 = 8.6), then multiply the result by the number in the "Actual" line under the heading entitled "Expenses paid during period" for your applicable class of shares to estimate the expenses you paid on your account during this period.

## Hypothetical example for comparison purposes

The "Hypothetical" line of the table below provides information about hypothetical account values and hypothetical expenses based on the Fund's actual expense ratio and an assumed rate of return of 5% per year before expenses, which is not the Fund's actual return. The hypothetical account values and expenses may not be used to estimate the actual ending account balance or expenses you paid for the period. You may use this information to compare the ongoing costs of investing in the Fund and other funds. To do so, compare this 5% hypothetical example with the 5% hypothetical examples that appear in the shareholder reports of the other funds.

Please note that the expenses shown in the table are meant to highlight your ongoing costs only and do not reflect any transactional costs, such as sales charges (loads) and contingent deferred sales charges. Therefore, the "Hypothetical" line of the table is useful in comparing ongoing costs only, and will not help you determine the relative total costs of owning different funds. In addition, if these transactional costs were included, your costs would have been higher.

	Beginning account value 10-1-2022	Ending account value 3-31-2023	Consolidated expenses paid during the period <sup>1</sup>	Annualized net expense ratio
Class A Actual Hypothetical (5% return before expenses)	\$1,000.00	\$1,355.92	\$ 6.40	1.09%
	\$1,000.00	\$1,019.50	\$ 5.49	1.09%
Class C Actual Hypothetical (5% return before expenses)	\$1,000.00 \$1,000.00	\$1,350.40 \$1,015.76	\$10.78 \$ 9.25	1.84% 1.84%
Administrator Class Actual Hypothetical (5% return before expenses)	\$1,000.00	\$1,356.51	\$ 5.58	0.95%
	\$1,000.00	\$1,020.19	\$ 4.78	0.95%
Institutional Class Actual Hypothetical (5% return before expenses)	\$1,000.00	\$1,357.95	\$ 4.64	0.79%
	\$1,000.00	\$1,020.99	\$ 3.98	0.79%

 $<sup>^1</sup>$  Consolidated expenses paid is equal to the annualized net expense ratio of each class multiplied by the average account value over the period, multiplied by 182 divided by 365 (to reflect the one-half-year period).

	Shares	Value
Common stocks: 91.92%	Silaics	value
Australia: 8.06%		
Evolution Mining Limited (Materials, Metals & mining)	800,000	\$ 1,660,990
Newcrest Mining Limited (Materials, Metals & mining)	702,294	12,536,223
Northern Star Resources Limited (Materials, Metals &	- , -	,,
mining)	1,385,412	11,360,596
		25,557,809
Canada: 62.46%		
Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited (Materials, Metals & mining)	304,527	15,524,906
Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited (Materials, Metals & Hilling) Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited-Legend Shares (Materials,	304,327	13,324,300
Metals & mining)	35,000	1,783,950
Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited-U.S. Exchange Traded Shares	,	
(Materials, Metals & mining)	114,164	5,818,939
Alamos Gold Incorporated Class A (Materials, Metals &		
mining)	1,103,980	13,478,113
Artemis Gold Incorporated (Materials, Metals & mining) †	1,100,000	3,646,320
Ascot Resources Limited (Materials, Metals & mining) †	2,650,000	1,352,941
B2Gold Corporation (Materials, Metals & mining)	3,300,000	13,038,846
Barrick Gold Corporation (Materials, Metals & mining)	915,723	17,004,976
Centerra Gold Incorporated (Materials, Metals & mining)	200,000	1,291,898
Centerra Gold Incorporated-Legend Shares (Materials,		
Metals & mining) 144A	250,000	1,614,872
Dundee Precious Metals Incorporated (Materials, Metals &		
mining)	1,075,000	7,842,767
Franco-Nevada Corporation-Legend Shares (Materials,		
Metals & mining) 144A	120,948	17,641,494
Kinross Gold Corporation (Materials, Metals & mining)	2,732,483	12,858,744
Lundin Gold Incorporated (Materials, Metals & mining)	1,150,000	13,427,303
MAG Silver Corporation (Materials, Metals & mining) †	500,000	6,318,905
MAG Silver Corporation-Legend Shares (Materials, Metals &		
mining)	100,000	1,262,301
Marathon Gold Corporation (Materials, Metals & mining) †	700,000	414,354
Orla Mining Limited (Materials, Metals & mining) †	300,000	1,422,863
Osisko Mining Incorporated (Materials, Metals & mining) †	450,000	1,431,743
Pan American Silver Corporation (Materials, Metals &	265,000	4.022.000
mining)	265,000	4,823,000
SilverCrest Metals Incorporated (Materials, Metals &	1 105 000	0.420.002
mining) †	1,185,000 300,000	8,426,082
Skeena Resources Limited (Materials, Metals & mining) † SSR Mining Incorporated (Materials, Metals & mining)	195,000	1,837,958 2,948,400
SSR Mining Incorporated (Materials, Metals & Mining) SSR Mining Incorporated-U.S. Exchange Traded Shares	195,000	2,940,400
(Materials, Metals & mining)	403,552	6,103,295
Torex Gold Resources Incorporated (Materials, Metals &	103,332	0,100,200
mining)	360,000	5,990,677
Torex Gold Resources Incorporated-Legend Shares		-,,-
(Materials, Metals & mining) 144A	185,000	3,078,542
Torex Gold Resources Incorporated-Legend Shares		
(Materials, Metals & mining)	266,250	4,430,605
Triple Flag Precious Metals Corporation (Materials, Metals &		
mining)	210,000	3,127,858
Wheaton Precious Metals Corporation (Materials, Metals &		
mining)	12,950	623,689

				Shares	Value
Canada: (continued)					
Wheaton Precious Metals Corporation-U.S. Exchange Traded	I			270,000	¢ 17.010.200
Shares (Materials, Metals & mining) Yamana Gold Incorporated (Materials, Metals & mining)				370,000 300,000	\$ 17,819,200 1,749,168
ramana oota meerperacea (macentais, metalo a mining)				200,000	
					198,134,709
South Africa: 6.91%					
AngloGold Ashanti Limited ADR (Materials, Metals & mining)				300,591	7,271,296
Gold Fields Limited ADR (Materials, Metals & mining)				1,100,000	14,652,000
					21,923,296
United Kingdom: 5.24%					
Endeavour Mining plc (Materials, Metals & mining)				690,000	16,628,413
United States: 9.25%					
Newmont Corporation (Materials, Metals & mining)				140,802	6,902,114
Newmont Corporation-Toronto Exchange Traded Shares					
(Materials, Metals & mining) Royal Gold Incorporated (Materials, Metals & mining)				131,348 123,436	6,434,740 16,010,884
Noyal Gold Incorporated (Materials, Metals & Hilling)				123,430	
					29,347,738
Total Common stocks (Cost \$168,150,377)					291,591,965
			Expiration		
			date		
Rights: 0.00%					
Canada: 0.00%					
Kinross Gold Corporation Contingent Value Rights (Materials, Metals & mining) ♦†			3-1-2032	75,000	0
-				,	
Total Rights (Cost \$0)					0
Warrants: 0.00%					
Canada: 0.00%					
Marathon Gold Corporation (Materials, Metals & mining) ◆†			9-20-2024	250,000	0
Total Warrants (Cost \$0)					0
Total Warrants (Cost \$0)					
Commodities: 4.78%				Troy ounces	
Gold Bullion *				7,690	15,157,203
T. 16 (0.144522552)				•	
Total Commodities (Cost \$4,532,552)					15,157,203
		Yield		Shares	
Short-term investments: 3.08%					
Investment companies: 3.08%		4.600/		0.767.700	0.767.700
Allspring Government Money Market Fund Select Class ♠∞		4.69%		9,767,739	9,767,739
Total Short-term investments (Cost \$9,767,739)					9,767,739
Total investments in securities (Cost \$182,450,668)	99.78%				316,516,907
Other assets and liabilities, net	0.22				686,840
Total net assets	100.00%				\$317,203,747

- Non-income-earning security
- 144A The security may be resold in transactions exempt from registration, normally to qualified institutional buyers, pursuant to Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933.
- The security is fair valued in accordance with Allspring Funds Management's valuation procedures, as the Board-designated valuation
- Represents an investment held in Special Investments (Cayman) SPC, the consolidated entity.
- The issuer of the security is an affiliated person of the Fund as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940.
- The rate represents the 7-day annualized yield at period end.

#### Abbreviations:

ADR American depositary receipt

#### Investments in affiliates

An affiliated investment is an investment in which the Fund owns at least 5% of the outstanding voting shares of the issuer or as a result of other relationships, such as the Fund and the issuer having the same investment manager. Transactions with issuers that were affiliates of the Fund at the end of the period were as follows:

	Value, beginning of period	Purchases	Sales	Net realized gains (losses)	Net change in unrealized gains (losses)	Value, end of period	Shares, end of period	Income from affiliated securities
Short-term investments Allspring Government Money Market Fund Select Class	\$8,444.788		proceeds \$(67,914,271)	,,	\$0	\$9,767,739		

Assets	
Investments in unaffiliated securities, at value (cost \$168,150,377)	\$291,591,965
Investments in affiliated securities, at value (cost \$9,767,739).	9,767,739
Investments in commodities, at value (cost \$4,532,552)	15,157,203
Cash	72,374
Foreign currency, at value (cost \$101,702)	101,768
Receivable for dividends	499,742
Receivable for Fund shares sold	406,687
Prepaid expenses and other assets	87,219
Total assets	317,684,697
Liabilities	
Payable for Fund shares redeemed	178,188
Management fee payable	113,125
Administration fees payable	45,742
Shareholder servicing fees payable	41,776
Transfer agent fee payable	34,764
Distribution fee payable	5,762
Trustees' fees and expenses payable	1,520
Accrued expenses and other liabilities.	60,073
Total liabilities	480,950
Total net assets	\$317,203,747
Net assets consist of	
Paid-in capital	\$329,328,391
Total distributable loss	(12,124,644)
Total net assets	\$317,203,747
Computation of net asset value and offering price per share	
Net assets – Class A	\$167,510,721
Shares outstanding – Class A <sup>1</sup>	3,474,009
Net asset value per share – Class A	\$48.22
Maximum offering price per share – Class A <sup>2</sup>	\$51.16
Net assets – Class C	\$ 9,252,576
Shares outstanding – Class C <sup>1</sup>	218,035
Net asset value per share – Class C	\$42.44
Net assets – Administrator Class	\$ 25,300,444
Shares outstanding – Administrator Class <sup>1</sup>	519,982
Net asset value per share – Administrator Class	\$48.66
Net assets – Institutional Class.	\$115,140,006
Shares outstanding – Institutional Class <sup>1</sup>	2,344,574
Net asset value per share – Institutional Class	\$49.11

 $The \ accompanying \ notes \ are \ an \ integral \ part \ of \ these \ consolidated \ financial \ statements.$ 

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 1}$  The Fund has an unlimited number of authorized shares.

 $<sup>^2 \ \</sup>text{Maximum offering price is computed as } 100/94.25 \ \text{of net asset value}. \ \text{On investments of $50,000 or more, the offering price is reduced}.$ 

Investment income	¢ 5.651.700
Dividends (net of foreign withholdings taxes of \$664,372)	\$ 5,651,732
Income from affiliated securities	134,275
Total investment income.	5,786,007
Expenses	
Management fee.	1,902,930
Administration fees	1,902,930
Class A	330,913
Class C	18,492
Administrator Class.	27,010
Institutional Class	137,277
Shareholder servicing fees	137,277
Class A	393,944
Class C	22,014
Administrator Class.	,
Distribution fee	51,943
	CF 0C2
Class C	65,963
Custody and accounting fees	36,814
Professional fees	65,721
Registration fees	54,470
Shareholder report expenses	41,151
Trustees' fees and expenses	20,205
Transfer agent fees	4,385
Other fees and expenses	15,757
Total expenses.	3,188,989
Less: Fee waivers and/or expense reimbursements	
Fund-level	(204,371)
Class A	(55,652)
Class C	(2,530)
Administrator Class	(19,405)
Net expenses	2,907,031
Net investment income	2,878,976
Realized and unrealized gains (losses) on investments	
Net realized losses on investments	(119,568)
Net change in unrealized gains (losses) on	(40.626.210)
Unaffiliated securities	(49,636,318)
Commodities	263,264
Net change in unrealized gains (losses) on investments	(49,373,054)
Net realized and unrealized gains (losses) on investments	(49,492,622)
Net decrease in net assets resulting from operations.	\$(46,613,646)

		ended 31, 2023		nr ended h 31, 2022	
Operations Net investment income		\$ 2,878,976		\$ 2,289,676	
Net realized gains (losses) on investments		(119,568)		11,771,865	
Net change in unrealized gains (losses) on investments		(49,373,054)		43,339,500	
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations		(46,613,646)		57,401,041	
Distributions to shareholders from					
Net investment income and net realized gains					
Class A		(2,956,684)		(2,465,823)	
Class C		(144,308)		(23,828)	
Administrator Class		(443,165) (2,106,907)		(285,008) (1,978,706)	
Total distributions to shareholders		(5,651,064)		(4,753,365)	
		(0,002,003,7		( 1,7 00,000	
Capital share transactions	Shares		Shares		
Proceeds from shares sold Class A	584,270	26,451,279	635,264	31,820,827	
Class C	23,913	948,346	34,189	1,491,358	
Administrator Class.	405,456	17,875,345	546,383	27,219,384	
Institutional Class	910,151	40,502,765	908,294	46,314,183	
		85,777,735		106,845,752	
Reinvestment of distributions					
Class A	66,225	2,743,689	50,693	2,290,305	
Class C	3,934	143,766	590	23,631	
Administrator Class	10,504	438,944	6,179	281,352	
Institutional Class	41,254	1,739,258	32,848	1,507,057	
		5,065,657		4,102,345	
Payment for shares redeemed					
Class A	(994,493)	(41,172,521)	(999,369)	(48,762,130)	
Class C	(63,233)	(2,396,577)	(72,521)	(3,120,098)	
Administrator Class	(350,294)	(15,010,210)	(393,345)	(19,388,309)	
Institutional Class	(1,135,668)	(48,911,874)	(1,081,288)	(53,579,450)	
		(107,491,182)		(124,849,987)	
Net decrease in net assets resulting from capital share transactions		(16,647,790)		(13,901,890)	
Total increase (decrease) in net assets		(68,912,500)		38,745,786	
Net assets					
Beginning of period		386,116,247		347,370,461	
End of period		\$ 317,203,747		\$ 386,116,247	

	Year ended March 31							
Class A	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019			
Net asset value, beginning of period.	\$54.61	\$46.95	\$35.30	\$33.94	\$32.80			
Net investment income (loss)	0.38 <sup>1</sup> (5.91)	0.27 <sup>1</sup> 8.03	0.08 12.35	(0.03) <sup>1</sup> 1.44	(0.03) <sup>1</sup> 1.17			
Total from investment operations.	(5.53)	8.30	12.43	1.41	1.14			
<b>Distributions to shareholders from</b> Net investment income	(0.86)	(0.64)	(0.78)	(0.05)	0.00			
Net asset value, end of period	\$48.22	\$54.61	\$46.95	\$35.30	\$33.94			
Total return <sup>2</sup>	(9.87)%	17.96%	34.95%	4.13%	3.48%			
Ratios to average net assets (annualized)								
Gross expenses	1.19%	1.18%	1.17%	1.20%	1.22%			
Net expenses	1.09%	1.09%	1.09%	1.09%	1.09%			
Net investment income (loss)	0.89%	0.55%	0.12%	(0.08)%	(0.11)%			
Supplemental data								
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>3</sup>	9%	15%	22%	25%	19%			
Net assets, end of period (000s omitted)	\$167,511	\$208,497	\$193,949	\$147,020	\$162,860			

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Calculated based upon average shares outstanding

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Total return calculations do not include any sales charges.

 $<sup>^{3}\,</sup>$  Portfolio turnover rate includes the purchases and sales transactions of its wholly-owned subsidiary.

	Year ended March 31				
Class C	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$48.30	\$41.35	\$30.87	\$29.88	\$29.09
Net investment income (loss)	0.05 <sup>1</sup> (5.25)	(0.09) <sup>1</sup> 7.13	(0.32) <sup>1</sup> 10.80	(0.29) <sup>1</sup> 1.28	(0.24) <sup>1</sup> 1.03
Total from investment operations	(5.20)	7.13	10.48	0.99	0.79
Distributions to shareholders from  Net investment income	(0.66)	(0.09)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net asset value, end of period	\$42.44	\$48.30	\$41.35	\$30.87	\$29.88
Total return <sup>2</sup>	(10.56)%	17.07%	33.95%	3.31%	2.72%
Ratios to average net assets (annualized)					
Gross expenses	1.94%	1.93%	1.92%	1.95%	1.97%
Net expenses	1.84%	1.84%	1.84%	1.84%	1.84%
Net investment income (loss)	0.13%	(0.21)%	(0.68)%	(0.83)%	(0.88)%
Supplemental data					
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>3</sup>	9%	15%	22%	25%	19%
Net assets, end of period (000s omitted)	\$9,253	\$12,241	\$12,039	\$11,834	\$14,908

 $<sup>^{\</sup>scriptsize 1}$  Calculated based upon average shares outstanding

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Total return calculations do not include any sales charges.

 $<sup>^{3}</sup>$  Portfolio turnover rate includes the purchases and sales transactions of its wholly-owned subsidiary.

	Year ended March 31				
Administrator Class	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$55.06	\$47.36	\$35.66	\$34.29	\$33.09
Net investment income	0.47 <sup>1</sup> (5.98)	0.38 <sup>1</sup> 8.05	0.17 <sup>1</sup> 12.47	0.02 <sup>1</sup> 1.45	0.01 <sup>1</sup> 1.19
Total from investment operations	(5.51)	8.43	12.64	1.47	1.20
<b>Distributions to shareholders from</b> Net investment income	(0.89)	(0.73)	(0.94)	(0.10)	0.00
Net asset value, end of period	\$48.66	\$55.06	\$47.36	\$35.66	\$34.29
Total return	(9.75)%	18.13%	35.13%	4.24%	3.63%
Ratios to average net assets (annualized)					
Gross expenses	1.11%	1.10%	1.09%	1.12%	1.14%
Net expenses	0.95%	0.95%	0.95%	0.95%	0.95%
Net investment income	1.07%	0.78%	0.31%	0.06%	0.04%
Supplemental data					
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>2</sup>	9%	15%	22%	25%	19%
Net assets, end of period (000s omitted)	\$25,300	\$25,016	\$13,976	\$7,994	\$8,086

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Calculated based upon average shares outstanding

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 2}$  Portfolio turnover rate includes the purchases and sales transactions of its wholly-owned subsidiary.

	Year ended March 31				
Institutional Class	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$55.50	\$47.74	\$35.96	\$34.57	\$33.30
Net investment income	0.64	0.50	0.24	0.09 <sup>1</sup>	0.04
Net realized and unrealized gains (losses) on investments	(6.11)	8.07	12.59	1.46	1.23
Total from investment operations	(5.47)	8.57	12.83	1.55	1.27
Distributions to shareholders from  Net investment income	(0.92)	(0.81)	(1.05)	(0.16)	0.00
			, ,		
Net asset value, end of period	\$49.11	\$55.50	\$47.74	\$35.96	\$34.57
Total return	(9.59)%	18.30%	35.34%	4.43%	3.81%
Ratios to average net assets (annualized)					
Gross expenses	0.86%	0.85%	0.84%	0.87%	0.89%
Net expenses	0.79%	0.79%	0.79%	0.79%	0.79%
Net investment income	1.18%	0.85%	0.37%	0.22%	0.21%
Supplemental data					
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>2</sup>	9%	15%	22%	25%	19%
Net assets, end of period (000s omitted)	\$115,140	\$140,363	\$127,406	\$107,907	\$95,431

 $The \ accompanying \ notes \ are \ an \ integral \ part \ of \ these \ consolidated \ financial \ statements.$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Calculated based upon average shares outstanding

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 2}$  Portfolio turnover rate includes the purchases and sales transactions of its wholly-owned subsidiary.

#### 1. ORGANIZATION

Allspring Funds Trust (the "Trust"), a Delaware statutory trust organized on March 10, 1999, is an open-end management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"). As an investment company, the Trust follows the accounting and reporting guidance in Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") Accounting Standards Codification Topic 946, Financial Services – Investment Companies. These consolidated financial statements report on the Allspring Precious Metals Fund (the "Fund") which is a non-diversified series of the Trust.

#### 2. INVESTMENT IN SUBSIDIARY

The Fund invests in precious metals and minerals through Special Investments (Cayman) SPC (the "Subsidiary"), a wholly owned subsidiary incorporated on May 3, 2005 under the laws of the Cayman Islands as an exempted segregated portfolio company with limited liability. As of March 31, 2023, the Subsidiary held \$15,157,203 in gold bullion representing 99.62% of its net assets. The Fund is the sole shareholder of the Subsidiary. As of March 31, 2023, the Fund held \$15,215,254, in the Subsidiary, representing 4.80% of the Fund's net assets prior to consolidation.

The consolidated financial statements of the Fund include the financial results of the Subsidiary. The Consolidated Portfolio of Investments includes positions of the Fund and the Subsidiary and the consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Fund and the Subsidiary. Accordingly, all interfund balances and transactions between the Fund and the Subsidiary have been eliminated in consolidation.

#### 3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistently followed in the preparation of the consolidated financial statements of the Fund, are in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles which require management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements, and the reported amounts of income and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### Securities valuation

All investments are valued each business day as of the close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange (generally 4 p.m. Eastern Time), although the Fund may deviate from this calculation time under unusual or unexpected circumstances.

Equity securities that are listed on a foreign or domestic exchange or market are valued at the official closing price or, if none, the last sales price.

The values of securities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into U.S. dollars at rates provided by an independent foreign currency pricing source at a time each business day specified by the Valuation Committee established by Allspring Funds Management, LLC ("Allspring Funds Management").

Many securities markets and exchanges outside the U.S. close prior to the close of the New York Stock Exchange and therefore may not fully reflect trading or events that occur after the close of the principal exchange in which the foreign securities are traded, but before the close of the New York Stock Exchange. If such trading or events are expected to materially affect the value of such securities, then fair value pricing procedures implemented by Allspring Funds Management are applied. These procedures take into account multiple factors including movements in U.S. securities markets after foreign exchanges close. Foreign securities that are fair valued under these procedures are categorized as Level 2 and the application of these procedures may result in transfers between Level 1 and Level 2. Depending on market activity, such fair valuations may be frequent. Such fair value pricing may result in net asset values that are higher or lower than net asset values based on the last reported sales price or latest quoted bid price. On March 31, 2023, such fair value pricing was used in pricing certain foreign

Investments in commodities are valued at their last traded price.

Investments in registered open-end investment companies (other than those listed on a foreign or domestic exchange or market) are valued at net asset value.

Investments which are not valued using the methods discussed above are valued at their fair value, as determined in good faith by Allspring Funds Management, which was named the valuation designee by the Board of Trustees. As the valuation designee, Allspring Funds Management is responsible for day-to-day valuation activities for the Allspring Funds. In connection with these responsibilities, Allspring Funds Management has established a Valuation Committee and has delegated to it the authority to take any actions regarding the valuation of portfolio securities that the Valuation Committee deems necessary or appropriate, including determining the fair value of portfolio securities. On a quarterly basis, the Board of Trustees receives reports of

valuation actions taken by the Valuation Committee. On at least an annual basis, the Board of Trustees receives an assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of Allspring Funds Management's process for determining the fair value of the portfolio of investments.

## Foreign currency translation

The accounting records of the Fund are maintained in U.S. dollars. The values of other assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into U.S. dollars at rates provided by an independent foreign currency pricing source at a time each business day specified by the Valuation Committee. Purchases and sales of securities, and income and expenses are converted at the rate of exchange on the respective dates of such transactions. Net realized foreign exchange gains or losses arise from sales of foreign currencies, currency gains or losses realized between the trade and settlement dates on securities transactions, and the difference between the amounts of dividends, interest and foreign withholding taxes recorded and the U.S. dollar equivalent of the amounts actually paid or received. Net unrealized foreign exchange gains and losses arise from changes in the fair value of assets and liabilities other than investments in securities resulting from changes in exchange rates. The changes in net assets arising from changes in exchange rates of securities and the changes in net assets resulting from changes in market prices of securities are not separately presented. Such changes are included in net realized and unrealized gains or losses from investments.

#### Security transactions and income recognition

Securities transactions are recorded on a trade date basis. Realized gains or losses are recorded on the basis of identified cost.

Dividend income is recognized on the ex-dividend date, except for certain dividends from foreign securities, which are recorded as soon as the custodian verifies the ex-dividend date. Dividend income is recorded net of foreign taxes withheld where recovery of such taxes is not assured.

#### Distributions to shareholders

Distributions to shareholders from net investment income and any net realized gains are recorded on the ex-dividend date and paid at least annually. Such distributions are determined in accordance with income tax regulations and may differ from U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Dividend sources are estimated at the time of declaration. The tax character of distributions is determined as of the Fund's fiscal year end. Therefore, a portion of the Fund's distributions made prior to the Fund's fiscal year end may be categorized as a tax return of capital at year end.

#### Federal and other taxes

The Fund intends to continue to qualify as a regulated investment company by distributing substantially all of its investment company taxable income and any net realized capital gains (after reduction for capital loss carryforwards) sufficient to relieve it from all, or substantially all, federal income taxes. Accordingly, no provision for federal income taxes was required.

The Subsidiary is classified as a controlled foreign corporation under Subchapter N of the Internal Revenue Code. Therefore, the Fund is required to increase its taxable income by its share of the Subsidiary's income. Net investment losses of the Subsidiary cannot be deducted by the Fund in the current period nor carried forward to offset taxable income in future periods.

The Fund's income and federal excise tax returns and all financial records supporting those returns for the prior three fiscal years are subject to examination by the federal and Delaware revenue authorities. Management has analyzed the Fund's tax positions taken on federal, state, and foreign tax returns, as applicable, for all open tax years and does not believe that there are any uncertain tax positions that require recognition of a tax liability.

As of March 31, 2023, the aggregate cost of all investments for federal income tax purposes was \$192,394,369 and the unrealized gains (losses) consisted of:

Gross unrealized gains	\$131,245,063
Gross unrealized losses	(7,122,525)
Net unrealized gains	\$124,122,538

Reclassifications are made to the Fund's capital accounts for permanent tax differences to reflect income and gains available for distribution (or available capital loss carryforwards) under federal income tax regulations. U.S. generally accepted accounting principles require that certain components of net assets be adjusted to reflect permanent differences between financial and tax reporting. The primary cause of these differences was net operating loss. These reclassifications have no effect on net assets or net asset values per share. At March 31, 2023, as a result of permanent book-to-tax differences, the following reclassification adjustments were made on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Paid-in capital	Total distributable loss
\$(1,087,639)	\$1,087,639

As of March 31, 2023, the Fund had capital loss carryforwards which consisted of \$38,384,096 in short-term capital losses and \$97,685,156 in long-term capital losses.

As of March 31, 2023, the Fund had a qualified late-year ordinary loss of \$169,332 which will be recognized on the first day of the following fiscal year.

#### Class allocations

The separate classes of shares offered by the Fund differ principally in applicable sales charges, distribution, shareholder servicing, and administration fees. Class specific expenses are charged directly to that share class. Investment income, common fund-level expenses, and realized and unrealized gains (losses) on investments are allocated daily to each class of shares based on the relative proportion of net assets of each class.

#### 4. FAIR VALUATION MEASUREMENTS

Fair value measurements of investments are determined within a framework that has established a fair value hierarchy based upon the various data inputs utilized in determining the value of the Fund's investments. The three-level hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). The Fund's investments are classified within the fair value hierarchy based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The inputs are summarized into three broad levels as follows:

- Level 1 quoted prices in active markets for identical securities
- Level 2 other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speeds, credit risk, etc.)
- Level 3 significant unobservable inputs (including the Fund's own assumptions in determining the fair value of investments)

The inputs or methodologies used for valuing investments in securities are not necessarily an indication of the risk associated with investing in those securities.

The following is a summary of the inputs used in valuing the Fund's assets and liabilities as of March 31, 2023:

	Quoted prices (Level 1)	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)	Total
Assets				
Investments in:				
Common stocks				
Australia	\$ 0	\$25,557,809	\$0	\$ 25,557,809
Canada	168,322,945	29,811,764	0	198,134,709
South Africa	21,923,296	0	0	21,923,296
United Kingdom	16,628,413	0	0	16,628,413
United States	29,347,738	0	0	29,347,738
Rights				
Canada	0	0	0	0
Warrants				
Canada	0	0	0	0
Commodities	15,157,203	0	0	15,157,203
Short-term investments				
Investment companies	9,767,739	0	0	9,767,739
Total assets	\$261,147,334	\$55,369,573	\$0	\$316,516,907

Additional sector, industry or geographic detail, if any, is included in the Consolidated Portfolio of Investments.

For the year ended March 31, 2023, the Fund did not have any transfers into/out of Level 3.

#### 5. TRANSACTIONS WITH AFFILIATES

## Management fee

Allspring Funds Management, a wholly owned subsidiary of Allspring Global Investments Holdings, LLC, a holding company indirectly owned by certain private funds of GTCR LLC and Reverence Capital Partners, L.P., is the manager of the Fund and provides advisory and fund-level administrative services under an investment management agreement. Under the investment management agreement, Allspring Funds Management is responsible for, among other services, implementing the investment objectives and strategies of the Fund, supervising the subadviser and providing fund-level administrative services in connection with the Fund's operations. As compensation for its services under the investment management agreement, Allspring Funds Management is entitled to receive a management fee at the following annual rate based on the Fund's average daily net assets:

Average daily net assets	Management fee
First \$500 million	0.650%
Next \$500 million	0.600
Next \$1 billion	0.550
Next \$2 billion	0.525
Next \$1 billion	0.500
Next \$5 billion	0.490
Over \$10 billion	0.480

For the year ended March 31, 2023, the management fee was equivalent to an annual rate of 0.65% of the Fund's average daily net assets.

The Subsidiary has entered into a separate advisory contract with Allspring Funds Management to manage the investment and reinvestment of its assets in conformity with its investment objectives and restrictions. Under this agreement, the Subsidiary does not pay Allspring Funds Management a fee for its services.

Allspring Funds Management has retained the services of a subadviser to provide daily portfolio management to the Fund. The fee for subadvisory services is borne by Allspring Funds Management. Allspring Investments is the subadviser to the Fund and is entitled to receive a fee from Allspring Funds Management at an annual rate starting at 0.40% and declining to 0.30% as the average daily net assets of the Fund increase.

## Administration fees

Under a class-level administration agreement, Allspring Funds Management provides class-level administrative services to the Fund, which includes paying fees and expenses for services provided by the transfer agent, sub-transfer agents, omnibus account servicers and record-keepers. As compensation for its services under the class-level administration agreement, Allspring Funds Management receives an annual fee which is calculated based on the average daily net assets of each class as follows:

	Class-level administration fee
Class A	0.21%
Class C	0.21
Administrator Class	0.13
Institutional Class	0.13

## Waivers and/or expense reimbursements

Allspring Funds Management has contractually committed to waive and/or reimburse management and administration fees to the extent necessary to maintain certain net operating expense ratios for the Fund. When each class of the Fund has exceeded its expense cap, Allspring Funds Management will waive fees and/or reimburse expenses from fund-level expenses on a proportionate basis and then from class specific expenses. When only certain classes exceed their expense caps, waivers and/or reimbursements are applied against class specific expenses before fund-level expenses. Allspring Funds Management has contractually committed through July 31, 2023 to waive fees and/or reimburse expenses to the extent necessary to cap expenses. Prior to or after the commitment expiration date, the caps may be increased or the commitment to maintain the caps may be terminated only with the approval of the Board of Trustees. As of March 31, 2023, the contractual expense caps are as follows:

	Expense ratio caps
Class A	1.09%
Class C	1.84
Administrator Class	0.95
Institutional Class	0.79

#### Distribution fee

The Trust has adopted a distribution plan for Class C shares pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act. A distribution fee is charged to Class C shares and paid to Allspring Funds Distributor, LLC ("Allspring Funds Distributor"), the principal underwriter, an affiliate of Allspring Funds Management, at an annual rate up to 0.75% of the average daily net assets of Class C shares.

In addition, Allspring Funds Distributor is entitled to receive the front-end sales charge from the purchase of Class A shares and a contingent deferred sales charge on the redemption of certain Class A shares. Allspring Funds Distributor is also entitled to receive the contingent deferred sales charges from redemptions of Class C shares. For the year ended March 31, 2023, Allspring Funds Distributor received \$9,223 from the sale of Class A shares. No contingent deferred sales charges were incurred by Class A and Class C shares for the year ended March 31, 2023.

## Shareholder servicing fees

The Trust has entered into contracts with one or more shareholder servicing agents, whereby Class A, Class C, and Administrator Class are charged a fee at an annual rate up to 0.25% of the average daily net assets of each respective class. A portion of these total shareholder servicing fees were paid to affiliates of the Fund.

#### Interfund transactions

The Fund may purchase or sell portfolio investment securities to certain affiliates pursuant to Rule 17a-7 under the 1940 Act and under procedures adopted by the Board of Trustees. The procedures have been designed to ensure that these interfund transactions, which do not incur broker commissions, are effected at current market prices.

#### 6. INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS

Purchases and sales of investments, excluding U.S. government obligations (if any) and short-term securities, for the year ended March 31, 2023 were \$25,095,026 and \$43,798,498, respectively. These amounts include purchase and sales transactions of the Subsidiary.

#### 7. BANK BORROWINGS

The Trust (excluding the money market funds), Allspring Master Trust and Allspring Variable Trust are parties to a \$350,000,000 revolving credit agreement whereby the Fund is permitted to use bank borrowings for temporary or emergency purposes, such as to fund shareholder redemption requests. Interest under the credit agreement is charged to the Fund based on a borrowing rate equal to the higher of the Federal Funds rate or the overnight bank funding rate in effect on that day plus a spread. In addition, an annual commitment fee based on the unused balance is allocated to each participating fund.

For the year ended March 31, 2023, there were no borrowings by the Fund under the agreement.

#### 8. DISTRIBUTIONS TO SHAREHOLDERS

The tax character of distributions paid was \$5,651,064 and \$4,753,365 of ordinary income for the years ended March 31, 2023 and March 31, 2022, respectively.

As of March 31, 2023, the components of distributable earnings on a tax basis were as follows:

Unrealized gains	Late-year ordinary losses deferred	Capital loss carryforward
\$124,122,336	\$(169,332)	\$(136,069,252)

#### 9. CONCENTRATION RISKS

The Fund concentrated its portfolio of investments in precious metals and minerals with a geographic emphasis in Canada. A fund that invests a substantial portion of its assets in any sector or geographic region may be more affected by changes in that sector or geographic region than would be a fund whose investments are not heavily weighted in any sector or geographic region.

#### 10. INDEMNIFICATION

Under the Fund's organizational documents, the officers and Trustees have been granted certain indemnification rights against certain liabilities that may arise out of performance of their duties to the Fund. The Fund has entered into a separate agreement with each Trustee that converts indemnification rights currently existing under the Fund's organizational documents into contractual rights that cannot be changed in the future without the consent of the Trustee. Additionally, in the normal course of business, the Fund may enter into contracts with service providers that contain a variety of indemnification clauses. The Fund's maximum exposure under these arrangements is dependent on future claims that may be made against the Fund and, therefore, cannot be estimated.

## To the Shareholders of the Fund and Board of Trustees Allspring Funds Trust:

#### Opinion on the Consolidated Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying consolidated statement of assets and liabilities of Allspring Precious Metals Fund and subsidiary (the Fund), one of the funds constituting Allspring Funds Trust, including the consolidated portfolio of investments, as of March 31, 2023, the related consolidated statement of operations for the year then ended, the consolidated statements of changes in net assets for each of the years in the two-year period then ended, and the related notes (collectively, the consolidated financial statements) and the consolidated financial highlights for each of the years in the five-year period then ended. In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements and consolidated financial highlights present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund as of March 31, 2023, the results of its operations for the year then ended, the changes in its net assets for each of the years in the two-year period then ended, and the consolidated financial highlights for each of the years in the five-year period then ended, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

#### **Basis for Opinion**

These consolidated financial statements and consolidated financial highlights are the responsibility of the Fund's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements and consolidated financial highlights based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB) and are required to be independent with respect to the Fund in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements and consolidated financial highlights are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements and consolidated financial highlights, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements and consolidated financial highlights. Such procedures also included confirmation of securities owned as of March 31, 2023, by correspondence with the custodian and transfer agent. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements and consolidated financial highlights. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.



We have not been able to determine the specific year that we began serving as the auditor of one or more Allspring Funds investment companies; however, we are aware that we have served as the auditor of one or more Allspring Funds investment companies since at least 1955.

Boston, Massachusetts May 25, 2023

#### TAX INFORMATION

For corporate shareholders, pursuant to Section 854 of the Internal Revenue Code, 16% of ordinary income dividends qualify for the corporate dividends-received deduction for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2023.

Pursuant to Section 854 of the Internal Revenue Code, \$5,161,064 of income dividends paid during the fiscal year ended March 31, 2023 has been designated as qualified dividend income (QDI).

Pursuant to Section 853 of the Internal Revenue Code, the Fund expects to designate amounts as foreign taxes paid for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2023. Additional details will be available in the semiannual report.

Creditable foreign taxes paid	Per share amount	Foreign income as % of ordinary income distributions
\$654,386	\$0.0998	48%

#### PROXY VOTING INFORMATION

A description of the policies and procedures used to determine how to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities is available without charge, upon request, by calling 1-800-222-8222, visiting our website at allspringglobal.com, or visiting the SEC website at sec.gov. Information regarding how the proxies related to portfolio securities were voted during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 is available on the website at allspringglobal.com or by visiting the SEC website at sec.gov.

#### QUARTERLY PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS INFORMATION

The Fund files its complete schedule of portfolio holdings with the SEC for the first and third quarters of each fiscal year as an exhibit to its reports on Form N-PORT. Shareholders may view the filed Form N-PORT by visiting the SEC website at sec.gov.

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS**

Each of the Trustees and Officers listed in the table below acts in identical capacities for each fund in the Allspring family of funds, which consists of 127 mutual funds comprising the Allspring Funds Trust, Allspring Variable Trust, Allspring Master Trust and four closed-end funds (collectively the "Fund Complex"). This table should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus and the Statement of Additional Information<sup>1</sup>. The mailing address of each Trustee and Officer is 1415 Vantage Park Drive, 3rd Floor, Charlotte, NC 28203. Each Trustee and Officer serves an indefinite term, however, each Trustee serves such term until reaching the mandatory retirement age established by the Trustees.

## **Independent Trustees**

Name and year of birth	Position held and length of service*	Principal occupations during past five years or longer	Current other public company or investment company directorships
William R. Ebsworth (Born 1957)	Trustee, since 2015	Retired. From 1984 to 2013, equities analyst, portfolio manager, research director and chief investment officer at Fidelity Management and Research Company in Boston, Tokyo, and Hong Kong, and retired in 2013 as Chief Investment Officer of Fidelity Strategic Advisers, Inc. where he led a team of investment professionals managing client assets. Prior thereto, Board member of Hong Kong Securities Clearing Co., Hong Kong Options Clearing Corp., the Thailand International Fund, Ltd., Fidelity Investments Life Insurance Company, and Empire Fidelity Investments Life Insurance Company. Audit Committee Chair and Investment Committee Chair of the Vincent Memorial Hospital Foundation (non-profit organization). Mr. Ebsworth is a CFA® charterholder.	N/A
Jane A. Freeman (Born 1953)	Trustee, since 2015; Chair Liaison, since 2018	Retired. From 2012 to 2014 and 1999 to 2008, Chief Financial Officer of Scientific Learning Corporation. From 2008 to 2012, Ms. Freeman provided consulting services related to strategic business projects. Prior to 1999, Portfolio Manager at Rockefeller & Co. and Scudder, Stevens & Clark. Board member of the Harding Loevner Funds from 1996 to 2014, serving as both Lead Independent Director and chair of the Audit Committee. Board member of the Russell Exchange Traded Funds Trust from 2011 to 2012 and the chair of the Audit Committee. Ms. Freeman is also an inactive Chartered Financial Analyst.	N/A
Isaiah Harris, Jr. (Born 1952)	Trustee, since 2009; Audit Committee Chair, since 2019	Retired. Member of the Advisory Board of CEF of East Central Florida. Chairman of the Board of CIGNA Corporation from 2009 to 2021, and Director from 2005 to 2008. From 2003 to 2011, Director of Deluxe Corporation. Prior thereto, President and CEO of BellSouth Advertising and Publishing Corp. from 2005 to 2007, President and CEO of BellSouth Enterprises from 2004 to 2005 and President of BellSouth Consumer Services from 2000 to 2003. Emeritus member of the Iowa State University Foundation Board of Governors. Emeritus Member of the Advisory Board of Iowa State University School of Business. Advisory Board Member, Palm Harbor Academy (private school). Advisory Board Member, Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Mr. Harris is a certified public accountant (inactive status).	N/A
David F. Larcker (Born 1950)	Trustee, since 2009	Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution since 2022. James Irvin Miller Professor of Accounting at the Graduate School of Business (Emeritus), Stanford University, Director of the Corporate Governance Research Initiative and Senior Faculty of The Rock Center for Corporate Governance since 2006. From 2005 to 2008, Professor of Accounting at the Graduate School of Business, Stanford University. Prior thereto, Ernst & Young Professor of Accounting at The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania from 1985 to 2005.	N/A

Name and year of birth	Position held and length of service*	Principal occupations during past five years or longer	Current other public company or investment company directorships
Olivia S. Mitchell (Born 1953)	Trustee, since 2006; Nominating and Governance Committee Chair, since 2018	International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans Professor since 1993, Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Director of Wharton's Pension Research Council and Boettner Center on Pensions & Retirement Research, and Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. Previously taught at Cornell University from 1978 to 1993.	N/A
Timothy J. Penny (Born 1951)	Trustee, since 1996; Chair, since 2018	President and Chief Executive Officer of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation, a non-profit organization, since 2007. Vice Chair of the Economic Club of Minnesota, since 2007. Co-Chair of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, since 1995. Member of the Board of Trustees of NorthStar Education Finance, Inc., a non-profit organization, from 2007-2022. Senior Fellow of the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute from 1995 to 2017.	N/A
James G. Polisson (Born 1959)	Trustee, since 2018	Retired. Chief Marketing Officer, Source (ETF) UK Services, Ltd, from 2015 to 2017. From 2012 to 2015, Principal of The Polisson Group, LLC, a management consulting, corporate advisory and principal investing company. Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director at Russell Investments, Global Exchange Traded Funds from 2010 to 2012. Managing Director of Barclays Global Investors from 1998 to 2010 and Global Chief Marketing Officer for iShares and Barclays Global Investors from 2000 to 2010. Trustee of the San Francisco Mechanics' Institute, a non-profit organization, from 2013 to 2015. Board member of the Russell Exchange Traded Fund Trust from 2011 to 2012. Director of Barclays Global Investors Holdings Deutschland GmbH from 2006 to 2009. Mr. Polisson is an attorney and has a retired status with the Massachusetts and District of Columbia Bar Associations.	N/A
Pamela Wheelock (Born 1959)	Trustee, since January 2020; previously Trustee from January 2018 to July 2019	Retired. Executive and Senior Financial leadership positions in the public, private and nonprofit sectors. Interim President and CEO, McKnight Foundation, 2020. Interim Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Human Services, 2019. Chief Operating Officer, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, 2017-2019. Vice President for University Services, University of Minnesota, 2012-2016. Interim President and CEO, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, 2011-2012. Executive Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer, Minnesota Wild, 2002-2008. Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Finance, 1999-2002. Chair of the Board of Directors of Destination Medical Center Corporation. Board member of the Minnesota Wild Foundation.	N/A

 $<sup>^{\</sup>star} \ \ Length \ of service \ dates \ reflect \ the \ Trustee's \ commencement \ of \ service \ with \ the \ Trust's \ predecessor \ entities, \ where \ applicable.$ 

## Officers<sup>2</sup>

Name and year of birth	Position held and length of service	Principal occupations during past five years or longer
Andrew Owen (Born 1960)	President, since 2017	President and Chief Executive Officer of Allspring Funds Management, LLC since 2017 and Head of Global Fund Governance of Allspring Global Investments since 2022. Prior thereto, co-president of Galliard Capital Management, LLC, an affiliate of Allspring Funds Management, LLC, from 2019 to 2022 and Head of Affiliated Managers, Allspring Global Investments, from 2014 to 2019 and Executive Vice President responsible for marketing, investments and product development for Allspring Funds Management, LLC, from 2009 to 2014.
Jeremy DePalma (Born 1974)	Treasurer, since 2012 (for certain funds in the Fund Complex); since 2021 (for the remaining funds in the Fund Complex)	Senior Vice President of Allspring Funds Management, LLC since 2009. Senior Vice President of Evergreen Investment Management Company, LLC from 2008 to 2010 and head of the Fund Reporting and Control Team within Fund Administration from 2005 to 2010.
Christopher Baker (Born 1976)	Chief Compliance Officer, since 2022	Global Chief Compliance Officer for Allspring Global Investments since 2022. Prior thereto, Chief Compliance Officer for State Street Global Advisors from 2018 to 2021. Senior Compliance Officer for the State Street divisions of Alternative Investment Solutions, Sector Solutions, and Global Marketing from 2015 to 2018. From 2010 to 2015 Vice President, Global Head of Investment and Marketing Compliance for State Street Global Advisors.
Matthew Prasse (Born 1983)	Chief Legal Officer, since 2022; Secretary, since 2021	Senior Counsel of the Allspring Legal Department since 2021. Senior Counsel of the Wells Fargo Legal Department from 2018 to 2021. Previously, Counsel for Barings LLC from 2015 to 2018. Prior to joining Barings, Associate at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP from 2008 to 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Statement of Additional Information includes additional information about the Trustees and is available, without charge, upon request, by calling 1-800-222-8222 or by visiting the website at allspringglobal.com.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For those Officers with tenures at Allspring Global Investments and/or Allspring Funds Management, LLC that began prior to 2021, such tenures include years of service during which these businesses/entities were known as Wells Fargo Asset Management and Wells Fargo Funds Management, LLC, respectively.





#### For more information

More information about Allspring Funds is available free upon request. To obtain literature, please write, visit the Fund's website, or call:

Allspring Funds P.O. Box 219967 Kansas City, MO 64121-9967

Website: allspringglobal.com Individual investors: 1-800-222-8222 Retail investment professionals: 1-888-877-9275 Institutional investment professionals: 1-800-260-5969



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This report and the financial statements contained herein are submitted for the general information of the shareholders of the Fund. If this report is used for promotional purposes, distribution of the report must be accompanied or preceded by a current prospectus. Before investing, please consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses of the investment. For a current prospectus and, if available, a summary prospectus, containing this information, call **1-800-222-8222** or visit the Fund's website at **allspringglobal.com**. Read the prospectus carefully before you invest or send money.

Allspring Global Investments<sup>TM</sup> is the trade name for the asset management firms of Allspring Global Investments Holdings, LLC, a holding company indirectly owned by certain private funds of GTCR LLC and Reverence Capital Partners, L.P. These firms include but are not limited to Allspring Global Investments, LLC, and Allspring Funds Management, LLC. Certain products managed by Allspring entities are distributed by Allspring Funds Distributor, LLC (a broker-dealer and Member FINRA/SIPC).

This material is for general informational and educational purposes only and is NOT intended to provide investment advice or a recommendation of any kind - including a recommendation for any specific investment, strategy, or plan.