

Global Asset Trust

Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2024



GLOBAL ASSET TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2024

Global Asset Trust
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 (\$000)	2023 (\$000)
Revenue			
Dividends		9,477	10,905
Interest		31,480	27,932
Net gains/(losses) on financial instruments		168,801	(84,982)
Other revenue		8,535	6,038
Total revenue/(loss)	2	218,293	(40,107)
Expenses			
Audit fees		104	100
Depreciation		61	43
Management and custodial fees		12,135	10,162
Other fees and expenses		387	366
Total expenses		12,687	10,671
Operating surplus/(loss) before income tax		205,606	(50,778)
Income tax expense	3	-	-
Net surplus/(loss) allocated to unit holders		205,606	(50,778)
Unit holders' equity			
Purchase of units during the year		44,685	243,500
Redemption of units during the year		(158,728)	(353,127)
Taxation on portfolio investment entity income	3	(17,984)	16,167
Net increase/(decrease) in unit holders' equity		73,579	(144,238)
Unit holders' equity at the beginning of the year		1,694,744	1,838,982
Unit holders' equity at the end of the year		1,768,323	1,694,744

The notes to the financial statements on pages 4 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**Global Asset Trust
Statement of Net Assets
as at 31 March 2024**

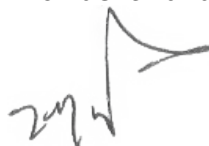
	Note	2024 (\$'000)	2023 (\$'000)
Unit holders' equity			
Unit holders' accounts		<u>1,768,323</u>	<u>1,694,744</u>
Represented by:			
Assets			
Financial assets held at fair value through profit or loss			
Derivative assets		30,158	32,609
Investment assets		<u>1,651,030</u>	<u>1,651,021</u>
Total financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	6.4	<u>1,681,188</u>	<u>1,683,630</u>
Financial assets at amortised cost			
Cash and cash equivalents		99,626	66,870
Interest and other receivables		1,496	1,306
Receivables for securities sold		227,168	115,421
Receivables from Schemes		36	36
Total financial assets at amortised cost		<u>328,326</u>	<u>183,633</u>
Other assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4	349	358
Income tax receivable		2,030	1,973
Deferred Tax Asset	3	-	16,931
		<u>2,379</u>	<u>19,262</u>
Total Assets		<u>2,011,893</u>	<u>1,886,525</u>
Less Liabilities			
Financial Liabilities at fair value through profit or loss			
Derivative liabilities	6.4	50,644	30,766
Financial Liabilities at amortised cost			
Payables		192,583	161,015
Payables to Schemes		343	-
Total financial liabilities at amortised cost		<u>192,926</u>	<u>161,015</u>
Total Liabilities	6.7	<u>243,570</u>	<u>191,781</u>
Net assets available to pay unit holders		<u>1,768,323</u>	<u>1,694,744</u>

Authorised for issue on 25 June 2024

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the National Provident Fund.



Edward Schuck
Board Chair



Louise Edwards
Chair
Audit and Risk Review Committee

Global Asset Trust
Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 (\$'000)	2023 (\$'000)
Cash flows from operating activities¹			
Cash was provided from:			
Dividends and unit trust distributions		9,466	10,679
Interest and other income		31,631	27,990
Purchase of units		44,685	243,500
		85,782	282,169
Cash was applied to:			
Income tax		1,074	1,644
Expenses		12,526	10,904
Redemption of units		158,728	353,127
		172,328	365,675
Net cash flows used in operating activities	5	(86,546)	(83,506)
Cash flows from investing activities²			
Cash was provided from:			
Maturities and sales of investment assets:			
Currency transactions		-	3,447
Equity and unit trust investments		456,381	741,766
Fixed interest securities		1,885,250	2,143,923
		2,341,631	2,889,136
Cash was applied to:			
Purchase of investment assets:			
Currency transactions		20,482	-
Equity and unit trust investments		365,120	659,313
Fixed interest securities		1,836,675	2,174,684
Property, plant and equipment		52	255
		2,222,329	2,834,252
Net cash flows from investing activities		119,302	54,884
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		32,756	(28,622)
Opening cash and cash equivalents brought forward		66,870	95,492
Closing cash and cash equivalents		99,626	66,870

1 Operating Activities: Includes any activities that are the result of normal business activities not classified as investing activities.

2 Investing Activities: Comprises acquisition and disposal of investments. Investments include financial instruments not falling within the definition of cash.

Global Asset Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 STRUCTURE OF THE GLOBAL ASSET TRUST

The financial statements presented here are for the reporting entity, The Global Asset Trust (the GAT).

The GAT's principal business activity is to engage in investment activities on behalf of its unit holders. The unit holders are the National Provident Fund Superannuation Schemes (the Schemes) for which the Board of Trustees of the National Provident Fund (the Board) is the Trustee. The capital of the GAT consists of investment into the following unit funds, representing various asset classes, which have issued units according to the strategic asset allocation:

- A Unit Fund Investment in international alternative assets (last invested 2023).
- C Unit Fund Investment in New Zealand cash and short-term deposits.
- E Unit Fund Investment in New Zealand and Australian listed equities.
- F Unit Fund Investment in international fixed interest securities.
- F2 Unit Fund Investment in New Zealand fixed interest securities.
- O Unit Fund Investment in international listed and unlisted equities.

2 REVENUE

Revenue/(loss), specific to the unit funds for 2024, (and as shown in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets), was as follows:

	A Unit (\$000)	C Unit (\$000)	E Unit (\$000)	F Unit (\$000)	F2 Unit (\$000)	O Unit (\$000)	Total (\$000)
Dividend revenue							
Equities	-	-	3,458	-	-	5,616	9,074
Unit trusts' distributions	-	-	183	-	-	220	403
Interest revenue	-	760	84	22,039	8,293	304	31,480
Fair value through profit or loss							
Bonds and securities	-	-	-	27,523	(2,775)	-	24,748
Foreign currency hedges	-	-	(124)	(17,298)	-	(11,057)	(28,479)
Short term investments	-	-	59	770	-	1,023	1,852
Unit trusts and equities	-	-	1,659	-	-	169,021	170,680
Other revenue	-	6	232	79	-	8,218	8,535
Total Revenue	-	766	5,551	33,113	5,518	173,345	218,293

Global Asset Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

2 REVENUE (CONTINUED)

Revenue/(loss), specific to the unit funds for 2023, (and as shown in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets), was as follows:

	A Unit (\$000)	C Unit (\$000)	E Unit (\$000)	F Unit (\$000)	F2 Unit (\$000)	O Unit (\$000)	Total (\$000)
Dividend revenue							
Equities	-	-	3,952	-	-	6,301	10,253
Unit trusts' distributions	-	152	144	-	-	356	652
Interest revenue	-	40	33	20,459	7,183	217	27,932
Fair value through profit or loss							
Bonds and securities	-	93	-	11,098	(15,503)	-	(4,312)
Foreign currency hedges	(39)	-	132	(83,238)	-	(28,413)	(111,558)
Short term investments	39	-	(7)	9,260	-	4,905	14,197
Unit trusts and equities	-	-	(8,187)	-	-	24,878	16,691
Other revenue	-	12	114	157	-	5,755	6,038
Total Revenue/ (loss)	<u>-</u>	<u>297</u>	<u>(3,819)</u>	<u>(42,264)</u>	<u>(8,320)</u>	<u>13,999</u>	<u>(40,107)</u>

3 INCOME TAXATION

	2024 (\$000)	2023 (\$000)
Operating surplus/(loss) before income tax	205,606	(50,778)
Add imputation credits	<u>1,072</u>	<u>1,151</u>
	206,678	(49,627)
Tax expense/(benefit) at 28%	57,870	(13,896)
Tax credits received	(1,071)	(1,147)
Forfeit of withholding tax credits	16	817
Non-taxable (gains) from investments	(45,291)	(7,830)
Net non-taxable dividend/fair dividend rate income	6,466	6,024
PIE excluded income	-	(83)
Prior period adjustments	60	(124)
PIE tax payable	-	71
Other	(66)	1
Tax effect of (income)/loss taxed under the PIE regime (transferred to unit holders' equity)	(17,984)	16,167
Income tax expense/(benefit)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Global Asset Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

3 INCOME TAXATION (CONTINUED)

Movements in deferred taxation

	2024 (\$000)	2023 (\$000)
Opening balance	16,931	-
Prior period adjustment	(60)	-
Current year movement	(16,871)	16,931
Deferred tax asset*	<u>-</u>	<u>16,931</u>

*The 2023 deferred tax asset related to unused tax losses and tax credits.

4 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

The property, plant and equipment owned by the E unit fund of the GAT comprises office fittings, furniture and equipment. These assets are leased via an operating lease to Annuitas Management Limited (Annuitas), a joint venture company owned by the Board and the Government Superannuation Fund Authority (see note 7).

Property, plant and equipment is stated at cost less accumulated depreciation less any accumulated impairment (if applicable).

Depreciation is calculated on a diminishing value or straight-line basis so as to write-off the net cost of the asset over its expected useful life to its estimated residual value. The depreciation basis applied depends on the type and age of the asset. The following estimated useful lives, which are reviewed annually, are used in the calculation of depreciation:

- Office fittings 6-14 years
- Office furniture 5-12 years
- Office equipment 2-4 years

5 RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES TO STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	2024 (\$000)	2023 (\$000)
Increase/(decrease) in unit holders' equity	73,579	(144,238)
(Less)/add non-cash items:		
Movement in fair value through Statement of Changes in Net Assets	(168,801)	84,982
Depreciation	61	43
Movement in working capital items		
Movement in income tax	57	844
Add items classified as investing activities		
Amounts in working capital related to investment activity	8,558	(25,137)
Net cash flows from operating activities	<u>(86,546)</u>	<u>(83,506)</u>

**Global Asset Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

6 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

6.1 MANAGEMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The investments of the GAT are managed on behalf of the Board by specialist investment managers, which are required to invest the assets allocated for management in accordance with the terms of written investment management agreements. The Board has determined that the appointment of these managers is appropriate for the GAT and is in accordance with the Board's Statement of Investment Policies, Standards and Procedures (SIPSP).

JPMorgan Chase Bank acts as the global custodian on behalf of the Board. They provide services including safekeeping of assets, settlement of trades, collection of investment income, and accounting for investment transactions.

6.2 CAPITAL RISK MANAGEMENT

The capital structure of the GAT consists of unit funds as per note 1 of the financial statements.

The Schemes can only invest in the GAT, and their holdings of various unit funds are determined by their Strategic Asset Allocations, which are reviewed regularly taking account of expert, independent advice. Management reviews, on behalf of the Board, and generally on a monthly basis, the cash requirements and funding of the Schemes, and their asset allocations, and redeems or issues units in the Schemes as appropriate. The GAT has no restrictions or specific capital requirements on the application for, or redemption of, units. The GAT's investment strategy is reviewed regularly, considering the investment requirements of the Schemes.

6.3 CATEGORIES OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The GAT recognises all financial assets and liabilities at fair value through profit or loss or at amortised cost, as detailed in note 10 to the financial statements.

Global Asset Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

6 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

6.4 FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS RECOGNISED IN THE STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS

The following table provides an analysis of the financial instruments that are measured subsequent to initial recognition at fair value, grouped into 3 Levels based on the degree to which the fair value is observable.

- Level 1 fair value measurements are those derived from quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets to identical assets or liabilities.
- Level 2 fair value measurements are those derived from inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (i.e. as prices) or indirectly (i.e. derived from prices).
- Level 3 fair value measurements are those derived from valuation techniques that include inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

2024	Level 1 (\$000)	Level 2 (\$000)	Level 3 (\$000)	Total (\$000)
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss				
Derivative financial assets	-	30,158	-	30,158
Investments in cash funds, bonds and debentures				
- New Zealand & Australia	294,109	-	-	294,109
- North America	412,263	-	-	412,263
- Asia	31,444	-	-	31,444
- Europe	138,070	-	-	138,070
- Rest	31,911	-	-	31,911
Investments in Equities				
- New Zealand & Australia	145,899	-	-	145,899
- North America	218,558	281,818	-	500,376
- Asia	54,849	-	-	54,849
- Europe	42,109	-	-	42,109
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	1,369,212	311,976	-	1,681,188
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss				
Derivative financial liabilities	-	50,644	-	50,644
	-	50,644	-	50,644

Global Asset Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

6 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

6.4 FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS RECOGNISED IN THE STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS (CONTINUED)

2023	Level 1 (\$000)	Level 2 (\$000)	Level 3 (\$000)	Total (\$000)
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss				
Derivative financial assets	-	32,609	-	32,609
Investments in cash funds, bonds and debentures				
- New Zealand & Australia	304,290	-	-	304,290
- North America	375,645	-	-	375,645
- Asia	113,872	-	-	113,872
- Europe	120,115	-	-	120,115
- Rest	35,449	-	-	35,449
Investments in Equities				
- New Zealand & Australia	143,123	-	-	143,123
- North America	200,435	252,552	-	452,987
- Asia	61,205	-	-	61,205
- Europe	43,958	-	-	43,958
- Rest	377	-	-	377
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	1,398,469	285,161	-	1,683,630
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss				
Derivative financial liabilities	-	30,766	-	30,766
	-	30,766	-	30,766

6.4.1 MOVEMENT OF ASSETS

As there were no level 3 assets as at 31 March 2023, and there are no level 3 assets as at 31 March 2024, there have been no transfers of assets between level 2 and 3 during the current financial year.

6.4.2 VALUATION TECHNIQUES AND INPUTS

For fair value measurements categorised within Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy, an entity is required to disclose a description of the valuation technique and the inputs used in the fair value measurement. As at 31 March 2024, the GAT had \$281.818 million invested in Level 2 investments, excluding derivatives (2023: \$252.552 million). These investments were valued taking into account net asset values, discounted cash flows and by using account comparable markets and advice from specialised advisors. As at 31 March 2024, the GAT had a net liability of \$20.486 million in derivatives (2023: net asset of \$1.843 million). All derivative assets and liabilities have observable market inputs with regular valuations performed under a standard methodology.

6 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

6.5 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The GAT is exposed to a variety of financial risks as a result of its activities. These risks include credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk (including currency risk, interest rate risk and price risk). The GAT's risk management and investment policies, approved by the Board, seek to minimise the potential adverse effects of these risks on the GAT's financial performance. These policies may include the use of certain financial derivative instruments to reduce risk to within the approved limits.

The Board, on behalf of the GAT, outsources investment management to specialist managers, which co-ordinate access to domestic and international investment markets, and manage the financial risks relating to the operations of the GAT in accordance with investment mandates set and monitored by the Board. The GAT's investment strategy is to invest in a diversified portfolio of equities and fixed interest securities. It may also invest in derivative instruments such as futures and options.

The use of financial derivatives is governed by the Board's SIPSP, which provides written policies on the use of financial derivatives. These policies permit the use of derivatives to change the GAT's exposure to particular assets. Compliance with policies and exposure limits is reviewed by the Board on a continuous basis.

6.6 CREDIT RISK

Credit risk refers to the risk that a counter party will default on its contractual obligations, resulting in financial loss to the GAT. The GAT has adopted the policy of only dealing with creditworthy counterparties and obtaining sufficient collateral, or other security where appropriate, as a means of mitigating the risk of financial loss from default. The GAT measures credit risk on a fair value basis. The GAT's exposure and the credit ratings of its counterparties are continuously monitored by the Board.

Credit risk, arising on investments, is mitigated by investment guidelines for the global bond investment managers having a limit of an average weighted credit rating of BBB+ or better, as determined by Standard and Poor's.

Credit risk associated with receivables is small. The main receivables balance is in relation to investments sold, of which approximately 88% (2023: 81%) were settled within the following month after balance date, and for which the counterparties are large financial institutions. Other receivables balances are largely immaterial.

At 31 March 2024, the value of investments with two organisations exceeded 5% of the net assets of the GAT (2023: two).

During the year the GAT continued securities lending as a means of earning additional income from its investments. As at 31 March 2024, the GAT had approximately \$104 million (2023: \$129 million) lent to counterparties. These assets have remained in the name of the GAT and were (generally) lent out against specific collateral, including cash, provided by the borrower, with loans collateralised to an average of 105% (2023: 106%) at the borrower level. The GAT has direct access to the collateral in the event of default.

Global Asset Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

6 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

6.6 CREDIT RISK (CONTINUED)

The GAT does not have any other material credit risk exposure to any single counterparty, or any group of counterparties having similar characteristics. The table below shows the maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date. It is the opinion of the Board that the carrying amounts of these financial assets represent the maximum credit risk exposure at balance date.

Credit Risk Exposure	2024 (\$000)	2023 (\$000)
Cash and cash equivalents	99,626	66,870
Equities and unit trust investments	743,233	701,650
Fixed interest securities	907,797	949,371
Derivative assets	30,158	32,609
Receivables	228,664	116,727
Total	<u>2,009,478</u>	<u>1,867,227</u>

6.7 LIQUIDITY RISK

The GAT's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure that it will always have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities. Unit holders are able to redeem their units at any time (normally monthly), which means the GAT is exposed to the liquidity risk of meeting unit holders' redemptions.

The GAT's listed equities and fixed interest securities are considered to be realisable at short notice, although with a market risk.

The GAT's liquidity risk is managed in accordance with the GAT's SIPSP. The GAT has a level of net inward cash flows (caused by the surplus allocated to unit holders). The GAT also manages liquidity risk by maintaining cash and short-term deposits, through the continuous monitoring of forecast and actual cash flows, and by matching the maturity profiles of financial assets and liabilities. The GAT's overall strategy to liquidity risk management remains unchanged from the previous year.

The following tables summarise the contractual maturity profiles of the GAT's financial liabilities. The tables have been drawn up based on the undiscounted cash flows of financial liabilities and based on the earliest date on which the GAT can be required to pay. The tables include both interest and principal cash flows (if applicable).

	Less than 3 months (\$000)	3 months to 1 year (\$000)	1-5 years (\$000)	5+ years (\$000)	Total (\$000)
2024					
Unsettled purchases	191,246	-	-	-	191,246
Derivative liabilities	37,209	508	3,424	9,503	50,644
Other financial liabilities	1,337	343	-	-	1,680
Total	<u>229,792</u>	<u>851</u>	<u>3,424</u>	<u>9,503</u>	<u>243,570</u>

Global Asset Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

6 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

6.7 LIQUIDITY RISK (CONTINUED)

	Less than 3 months (\$000)	3 months to 1 year (\$000)	1-5 years (\$000)	5+ years (\$000)	Total (\$000)
2023					
Unsettled purchases	159,777	-	-	-	159,777
Derivative liabilities	16,717	722	4,071	9,256	30,766
Other financial liabilities	1,238	-	-	-	1,238
Total	<u>177,732</u>	<u>722</u>	<u>4,071</u>	<u>9,256</u>	<u>191,781</u>

6.8 MARKET RISK

Market risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk comprises three types of risk: market interest rates (interest rate risk), foreign exchange (currency risk), and market prices (price risk).

The GAT manages market risk by outsourcing its investment management. The investment managers manage the market risk relating to the operations of the GAT in accordance with investment mandates. The GAT's investment strategy is to invest in a diversified portfolio of equities and fixed interest securities. It may also invest in derivative instruments such as futures and options. There have been no changes from the previous year to the GAT's exposure to market risk, or the manner in which it manages and measures the risk.

6.8.1 INTEREST RATE RISK MANAGEMENT

The GAT's activities expose it to the financial risk of changes in interest rates. Floating rate instruments expose the GAT to cash flow risk, whereas fixed interest rate instruments expose the GAT to fair value interest rate risk. The Board monitors the GAT's exposure to interest rate risk.

The table below details the GAT's exposure to interest rate risk at the financial statement date by the earlier of contractual maturities or re-pricing. Interest rate risk is managed by the investment managers.

	Weighted average interest rate %	Less than 12 months (\$000)	1 – 5 years (\$000)	5+ years (\$000)	Total (\$000)
2024					
Financial assets:					
Interest rate instruments					
Cash and cash equivalents	2.70	99,626	-	-	99,626
Receivables for securities sold	N/A	227,168	-	-	227,168
Cash funds, bonds and debentures	3.98	17,954	244,185	645,658	907,797
Total		<u>344,748</u>	<u>244,185</u>	<u>645,658</u>	<u>1,234,591</u>

Global Asset Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements
year ended 31 March 2024

6 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

6.8.1 INTEREST RATE RISK MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

	Weighted average interest rate %	Less than 12 months (\$000)	1 – 5 years (\$000)	5+ years (\$000)	Total (\$000)
2023					
Financial assets:					
Interest rate instruments					
Cash and cash equivalents	1.74	66,870	-	-	66,870
Receivables for securities sold	N/A	115,421	-	-	115,421
Cash funds, bonds and debentures	2.82	100,079	242,600	606,692	949,371
Total		<u>282,370</u>	<u>242,600</u>	<u>606,692</u>	<u>1,131,662</u>

6.8.1.1 INTEREST RATE SENSITIVITY

The sensitivity analysis below has been determined based on the GAT's exposure to interest rates at the reporting date. The table illustrates the post tax effect of a decrease in interest rates of 2%. 2% represents the average annual change (rounded to the nearest whole number) in the NZ Official Cash rate (OCR) over the last 24 months.

For an increase in interest rates there would be an equal and opposite impact on the net surplus allocated to unit holders, and the liabilities attributable to unit holders.

	Changes in variable +/-	Effect on			
		Operating surplus attributable to unit holders		Liabilities attributable to unit holders	
		2024 (\$000)	2023 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)	2023 (\$000)
Floating interest rate risk	2%	(2,046)	(2,332)	(2,046)	(2,332)
Fixed interest rate risk	2%	11,026	11,339	11,026	11,339
Total interest rate risk		<u>8,980</u>	<u>9,007</u>	<u>8,980</u>	<u>9,007</u>

The method used to prepare the sensitivity analysis has not changed.

Global Asset Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements
year ended 31 March 2024

6 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

6.8.2 FOREIGN CURRENCY RISK MANAGEMENT

Foreign currency risk is the risk that the market value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates.

The GAT undertakes transactions and holds investment assets denominated in foreign currencies, hence it is exposed to the effects of exchange rate fluctuations. The GAT enters into foreign currency contracts designed to hedge some or all of its exposure to foreign currencies. Exchange rate exposures are managed within approved policy limits and parameters as set in the Board's SIPSP. The SIPSP permits foreign currency exposures to be varied from the foreign currency benchmarks.

The GAT's foreign currency benchmarks (without taking into account any tilt or short positions), at 31 March 2024 and 31 March 2023 are as follows:

Asset Class/Strategy	2024	2023
	Pre tax (post tax) Strategic hedge ratio	Pre tax (post tax) Strategic hedge ratio
International equities	55.6% (40%)	55.6% (40%)
International fixed interest	100% (100%)	100% (100%)

The GAT's total exposure to foreign currency exchange, at the reporting date, (after hedging) was \$341 million (2023: \$343 million). The GAT's foreign exchange exposure, before considering hedging was \$1,323 million (2023: \$1,239 million).

6.8.2.1 FOREIGN CURRENCY SENSITIVITY

The largest currency that the GAT is exposed is the USD (2023: USD).

The fixed interest managers are responsible for managing the exposure to other currencies back to the USD, within the terms of their individual investment mandates. For overseas equities the foreign currency exposure is hedged back to the NZD, by an overlay currency manager, within the limits approved by the Board.

The table below details the GAT's sensitivity to a 5% decrease in the NZD against the USD, assuming there is no hedging. The 5% represents the Board's annual estimate of a change in foreign exchange rates. The sensitivity analysis includes only outstanding foreign currency denominated items and adjusts their translation at the period end for a 5% change in foreign currency rates.

	NZD Net impact	
	2024 (\$000)	2023 (\$000)
Operating surplus before finance costs allocated to unit holders	47,616	44,605
Liabilities attributable to unit holders	47,616	44,605

Global Asset Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements
year ended 31 March 2024

6 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

6.8.2.1 FOREIGN CURRENCY SENSITIVITY (CONTINUED)

Where the NZD weakens against other currencies, a positive impact results in an increase in the net surplus allocated to unit holders, and the liabilities attributable to unit holders. For a strengthening of the NZD against other currencies there would be a negative impact on the net surplus allocated to unit holders, and the liabilities attributable to unit holders.

6.8.3 PRICE RISK MANAGEMENT

The GAT has investments in equity securities, fixed interest securities and financial derivative instruments, which exposes it to price risk. The investment managers manage price risk in accordance with the Board's SIPSP and their mandates.

As the GAT's financial instruments are carried at fair value, with changes in fair value recognised in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets, all changes in market conditions will directly affect investment income.

The following table shows the expected return and risk for each GAT unit as at 31 March 2024.

Unit Fund	Percentage of Net Assets	Expected Long Term Return after Tax and Expenses, pa	Volatility after Tax +/- pa
C Unit	2.4%	2.6%	0.9%
F2 Unit	16.6%	3.4%	3.1%
E Unit	8.1%	5.7%	12.8%
F Unit	37.2%	3.3%	2.8%
O Unit	35.7%	5.2%	12.7%

Approximately two thirds of the time, the annual return for each unit fund is expected to be within the long-term return +/- the volatility as per the table above. For example, two thirds of the time the O Unit annual returns are expected to be between -7.5% and 17.9%.

7 RELATED PARTIES

The GAT enters into transactions with the Schemes to purchase and redeem units during the year. These transactions are presented in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets.

The Board, as Trustee of the GAT, entered into reimbursement transactions with the GAT. These related to reimbursement of professional fees, Goods and Services Tax and the purchase of fixed assets which are initially incurred by the Board on behalf of the E unit fund. The total reimbursed during the year was \$229,069 (2023: \$388,938).

The Board, as Trustee of the GAT, incurs costs for managing and servicing the GAT. These costs are borne by the Schemes which are the unit holders in the GAT.

Annuitas, in which the Board has a 50% interest, provides management and secretarial services to the Board. The GAT has an operating lease with Annuitas. Annuitas was liable for lease costs (including depreciation and interest) of \$90,845 (2023: \$60,027) during the year for the use of those assets. This amount was accrued at 31 March 2024, and paid on 9 May 2024. The 2023 lease costs were paid on 8 May 2023.

8 COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There were no commitments outstanding, or contingent liabilities, as at 31 March 2024 (2023: Nil).

9 SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

There were no material events subsequent to balance date requiring amendments to these financial statements.

10 SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

10.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand and the requirements of the Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013 (FMCA). As required, comparative disclosure notes have been changed to reflect up to date assessments and consistency.

10.2 STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

These financial statements comply with the New Zealand Equivalents to IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards) Accounting Standards (NZ IFRS) and IFRS Accounting Standards (IFRS) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board, and other applicable financial reporting standards as appropriate for profit-oriented entities.

10.3 MEASUREMENT BASE

The measurement base adopted is that of historical cost, except for investment assets which are stated at fair value.

10.4 PRESENTATION AND FUNCTIONAL CURRENCY

The GAT's unit holders are located within New Zealand, with the applications and redemptions to and from unit holders denominated in New Zealand Dollars (NZD). The performance of the GAT is measured and reported in NZD, rounded to thousands (\$000). These financial statements are presented in NZD as that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the GAT operates. The GAT's presentational and functional currency is NZD.

10.5 CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS, ESTIMATES AND ASSUMPTIONS

The preparation of financial statements, in conformity with NZ IFRS, requires judgements, estimates and assumptions to be made that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses.

Judgement has been applied in the measurement of financial assets. This policy has a material impact on the amounts disclosed in the financial statements.

Estimates and associated assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods, if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Further detail on material assumptions or major sources of estimation uncertainty that have a material risk of causing material adjustments to the carrying amounts of Investment assets are discussed in note 6 (Financial Instruments). As with all investments, their value is subject to variation due to market fluctuations.

10 SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

10.6 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following are the material accounting policies, which have been adopted in the preparation of the financial statements.

10.6.1 REVENUE

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest rate of the instrument. The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and of allocating interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Realised and unrealised gains or losses on financial instruments are recognised in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets. Interest income on assets, designated at fair value through profit or loss, is accrued at balance date. Dividend income is recognised in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets on the ex-dividend date.

10.6.2 FOREIGN CURRENCIES

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rates of exchange prevailing on the dates of the transactions. At balance date, assets and liabilities, denominated in foreign currencies, are translated into NZD at the balance date rates. Gains and losses arising on translation are included in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets for the year.

10.6.3 TAXATION

For taxation purposes, the GAT is classified as a portfolio investment entity (PIE). The income tax expense or benefit (disclosed as taxation on PIE income within unit holders' equity) represents the sum of the tax liability for the year and includes deferred tax (if any). The taxation currently payable or receivable is based on the taxable profit or loss for the year. Taxable profit or loss also requires that the Fair Dividend Rate (FDR) calculation method be applied to investments in overseas equities, which deems taxable income to arise regardless of the increase or decline in value of the investments. The GAT's liability for current tax is calculated using tax rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance date.

Deferred tax is the tax expected to be payable or recoverable on differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities in the Financial Statements and the corresponding tax bases used in the computation of taxable profit or loss and is accounted for using the balance sheet liability method. Deferred tax liabilities are recognised for all taxable temporary differences, and deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that taxable profits will be available against which deductible temporary differences can be utilised. Deferred tax is calculated at the tax rates that are expected to apply in the period when the liability is settled or the asset is realised.

The GAT takes a responsible and transparent approach to tax which follows the spirit of the law in addition to the pure interpretation of the law.

10 SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

10.6.4 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised on the Statement of Net Assets when the GAT becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instruments. The GAT offsets financial assets and financial liabilities if the GAT has a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and interests, and intends to settle on a net basis.

The GAT derecognises a financial asset when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire. A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

10.6.5 INVESTMENTS

Investments are recognised and derecognised on the trade date where a purchase or sale is under a contract, whose terms require delivery within the timeframe established by the applicable market, and are initially measured at fair value. Investments are designated at fair value through profit or loss. Transaction costs are expensed immediately. The GAT's business is investing in financial assets with a view to profiting from their total return in the form of interest, dividends or increases in fair value. Fair values are determined after taking into account accrued interest on all applicable securities.

Financial assets, designated at fair value through profit or loss, are measured at subsequent reporting dates at fair value. This is the exit price on the exchange on which the investment is quoted without any deduction for future selling costs. If a quoted market price is not available on a recognised stock exchange, the fair value of the instrument is estimated taking into account comparable markets and specialist advice. Investments in units of pooled investment funds are valued at the closing price, or the value advised by the relevant investment manager.

10.6.6 SECURITIES LENDING

Securities lending transactions are to be collateralised by securities or cash. The transfer of the securities to counterparties is only reflected in the Statement of Net Assets if the risks and rewards of ownership are also transferred. Collateral advanced by the borrower in the form of readily marketable securities (non-cash) is held in escrow by a third-party agent.

Recourse of those securities is only available in the event of default by the borrower and, because of this, the non-cash collateral is not recognised in the Statement of Net Assets. Collateral advanced by the borrower in the form of cash is recognised in the Statement of Net Assets as an asset, along with a corresponding liability to repay the cash collateral to the borrower, once the securities have been returned.

10 SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

10.6.7 INTEREST AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

The GAT has adopted the simplified expected credit loss model for the current and prior year.

Other receivables are carried at amortised cost and include dividends and interest receivable.

10.6.8 PAYABLES

Payables are not interest-bearing and are stated at their amortised cost. Any outstanding trades are recorded on trade date. Approximately 62% (2023: 52%) were settled within the following month after balance date. Purchases of securities and investments, that are unsettled at balance date, are included in payables.

10.6.9 DERIVATIVE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The GAT's activities expose it to the financial risks of changes in foreign currency rates and interest rates. The GAT may use foreign exchange forward contracts and interest rate swap contracts to hedge these exposures. The GAT does not use derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes. These derivative financial instruments are classified at fair value through profit or loss and any gains or losses are taken to the Statement of Changes in Net Assets in the period in which they occur. The use of financial derivatives is governed by the SIPSP approved by the Board which includes written policies on the use of financial derivatives.

10.6.10 STANDARDS ISSUED BUT NOT EFFECTIVE

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been issued that are not mandatory for 31 March 2024 reporting periods and have not been adopted early by the GAT. None of these standards are likely to have a material impact on the GAT when they are adopted. All standards will be adopted in the period in which they become mandatory.

11 CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND DISCLOSURES

There have been no changes in accounting policies or disclosures. New standards and interpretations that are mandatory for 31 March 2024 reporting periods have been adopted with no material impact on the financial statements.

**Global Asset Trust
Trustee's Report
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

In addition to the attached financial statements, the Board of Trustees of the National Provident Fund, as Trustee of the GAT, provides members with the following information:

1. The Board believes all contributions required to be made to the GAT, in accordance with the GAT trust deed, have been made.
2. Directory

Trustee **Board of Trustees of the National Provident Fund (the Board)**

Members of the Board are:
Edward Schuck (Board Chair)
Graham Ansell
Tracey Berry
Louise Edwards
Lloyd Kavanagh
Sarah Park (Deputy Chair)

Investment managers (appointed by the Board as trustee of the GAT)
Arrowstreet Capital, Limited Partnership
Bank of New Zealand Limited
Brandywine Global Investment Management, LLC
Devon Funds Management Limited
Harbour Asset Management Limited
Lazard Asset Management, LLC
Macquarie Asset Management (NZ) Limited (Terminated 20 April 2023)
Pacific Investment Management Company, LLC
PGIM, Inc.
T. Rowe Price Australia Limited

Custodian JP Morgan Chase Bank

Auditor Pam Thompson, Deloitte Limited (on behalf of the Auditor-General)

Solicitor DLA Piper New Zealand

Bank Bank of New Zealand

3. All correspondence relating to the GAT should be addressed to:

The Secretary
Board of Trustees of the National Provident Fund
Level 12
95 Customhouse Quay
PO Box 3390
WELLINGTON 6140

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF GLOBAL ASSET TRUST

The Auditor-General is the auditor of Global Asset Trust (the Trust). The Auditor-General has appointed me, Pam Thompson, using the staff and resources of Deloitte Limited, to carry out the audit of the financial statements of the Trust on his behalf.

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Trust on pages 1 to 19, that comprise the Statement of Net Assets as at 31 March 2024, the Statement of Changes in Net Assets and Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended on that date and the notes to the financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion:

- the financial statements of the Trust on pages 1 to 19:
 - present fairly, in all material respects:
 - its net assets as at 31 March 2024 and
 - its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand in accordance with New Zealand Equivalents to IFRS Accounting Standards ('NZ IFRS') and IFRS Accounting Standards ('IFRS').

Our audit was completed on 25 June 2024. This is the date at which our opinion is expressed.

The basis for our opinion is explained below. In addition, we outline the responsibilities of the Board of Trustees and our responsibilities relating to the financial statements, we comment on other information, and we explain our independence.

Basis for our opinion

We carried out our audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Responsibilities of the auditor section of our report.

We have fulfilled our responsibilities in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Key Audit Matters

We have determined that there are no key audit matters to communicate in our report.

Responsibilities of the Board of Trustees for the financial statements

The Board of Trustees is responsible on behalf of the Trust for preparing financial statements that are fairly presented and that comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable it to prepare financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Board of Trustees is responsible on behalf of the Trust for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. The Board of Trustees are also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting, unless the Board of Trustees intend to wind-up the Trust or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Board of Trustees' responsibilities arise from the Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013 and section 7.2 of the Trust's Trust Deed.

Responsibilities of the auditor for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole, are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts or disclosures, and can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of members taken on the basis of these financial statements.

We did not evaluate the security and controls over the electronic publication of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. Also:

- We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- We obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust's internal control.
- We evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board of Trustees.
- We conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting by the Board of Trustees and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Trust to cease to continue as a going concern.
- We evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Board of Trustees regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Our responsibilities arise from the Public Audit Act 2001.

Other information

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included on page 20 but does not include the financial statements, and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of audit opinion or assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information. In doing so, we consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on our work, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Independence

We are independent of the Trust in accordance with the independence requirements of the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the independence requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 1: *International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners* issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

Other than the audit, we have no relationship with, or interests in, the Trust.



Pam Thompson, Partner
for Deloitte Limited
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Wellington, New Zealand