United Gold & General Fund

Semi Annual Report

for the half year ended 31 December 2019



MANAGER

UOB Asset Management Ltd Registered Address: 80 Raffles Place UOB Plaza Singapore 048624 Company Registration No. : 198600120Z Tel: 1800 22 22 228

DIRECTORS OF UOB ASSET MANAGEMENT

Lee Wai Fai Eric Tham Kah Jin Peh Kian Heng Thio Boon Kiat

TRUSTEE

State Street Trust (SG) Limited 168 Robinson Road #33-01, Capital Tower Singapore 068912

CUSTODIAN / ADMINISTRATOR / REGISTRAR

State Street Bank and Trust Company, acting through its Singapore Branch 168 Robinson Road #33-01, Capital Tower Singapore 068912

AUDITOR

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP 7 Straits View, Marina One East Tower, Level 12 Singapore 018936

SUB-MANAGER

Investec Asset Management Singapore Pte Limited 25 Duxton Hill #03-01 Singapore 089608

A) Fund Performance

Fund Performance/ Benchmark Returns	3 mth % Growth	6 mth % Growth	1 yr % Growth	3 yr Ann Comp Ret	5 yr Ann Comp Ret	10 yr Ann Comp Ret	Since Inception 28 July 1995 Ann Comp Ret
United Gold & General Fund	6.95	10.88	32.63	10.11	11.97	-3.52	1.61
Benchmark	7.19	11.08	36.96	10.64	12.17	-2.51	3.12

Source: Morningstar.

Note: The performance returns of the Fund are in Singapore Dollar based on a NAV-to-NAV basis with dividends and distributions reinvested, if any.

The benchmark of the Fund: Since inception – Jan 97: 100% FT Gold Mines; Feb 97 – June 01: 75% MSCI Gold Mines, 25% MSCI Metals Non-Ferrors; July 01 – Dec 13: 70% FT Gold, 30% HSBC GM; Jan 14 – Present: 70% FT Gold, 30% Euromoney Global Mining (formerly known as HSBC GM).

For the six months ended 31 December 2019, the Fund's net asset value (NAV) **increased by 10.88%**, compared with an 11.08% gain in the composite benchmark index, in Singapore Dollar terms. The benchmark index comprises 70% FT Gold Mines Index and 30% Euromoney Global Mining Index.

The biggest contributor to relative returns over the second half of 2019 was an *overweight* in *SSR Mining Inc.*, which continues to perform well and deliver strong results. An *overweight* in *B2Gold Corp* was also among the top contributors as the company's shares gained partly on an encouraging production update from its Fekola mine in Mali. Other contributors included *Nickel Mines Ltd*, whose shares rose after Indonesia moved to ban exports of nickel ore to keep higher-value production processes within its borders.

Relative performance also benefited from an *underweight* in **SEMAFO Inc.**, which we sold earlier in the year due to rising political risk and terrorist activity in **Burkina Faso**, where the company's two producing mines are located. Finally, our *overweight* to **Pan American Silver Corp** contributed as its shares climbed on gains in the price of silver, which outperformed gold in the quarter and after the company lowered cost guidance for the second time in 2019.

The primary detractors from relative returns were two diversified mining companies: *Teck Resources Ltd* was weighed down by a broad sell-off in the industrial metals markets and by the decline in the price of **Coking Coal** in particular; and *BHP Group Plc* was impacted particularly by the sharp reversal in the price of **Iron Ore**. Our lack of position in *Coeur Mining Inc*. also detracted, given silver's relatively strong performance over the period.

Not holding a position in **Gold Fields Ltd**, a highly leveraged company whose share price rose in December along with those of other South African gold producers partly on a weakening Rand, also detracted. We hold an *overweight* to compatriot **AngloGold** to partly offset this position.

As at 31 December 2019, the Fund held 72.9% in **Gold** equities, 5.4% in **Silver** equities, 14.8% in **Diversified Metals & Mining** equities, 5.4% in others and 1.5% in cash.

A) Fund Performance (continued)

In terms of country allocation, the Fund was invested 49.2% in **Canada**, 13.8% in the **United Kingdom**, 12.9% in **Australia**, 6.7% in **South Africa**, 5.8% in **United States**, 10.1% in other countries and 1.5% in cash.

Economic and Market Review

Precious Metals gained strongly in the second half of 2019. Worries over the health of the world economy and political tensions in the Middle East supported **Gold** buying, with the price of the yellow metal climbing about 7.6 per cent over the period. The final three months of 2019 marked the fifth consecutive quarter that gold price increased. **Silver**, long considered a laggard to gold, substantially outperformed, its price rising by 17.5 per cent over the six months.

The **Platinum Group Metals** (PGMs; platinum, palladium and rhodium) continued their ascent, rising 21.5 per cent, 54 per cent and 146 per cent respectively, over the whole of 2019. Supply fears have combined with tighter vehicle emissions regulations to outweigh a decline in internal-combustion-engine car sales (catalytic converters are a key source of demand for PGMs).

Among other metals, **Iron Ore** fell almost 24 per cent in the second half of 2019, following a very strong run-up in the commodity price in the first six months of 2019 due to a supply squeeze and better-than-expected demand from Chinese steel mills, both of which moderated as the year progressed.

Outlook and Fund Strategy

With central banks committing again to support the world economy through loosening monetary policy, gold's attractiveness remains high. If the world economy slows, **Gold** should provide diversification to portfolios as equity markets would likely fall. If the monetary easing works, rising asset prices will likely also lift gold prices as investors and central banks look to deploy cash. In addition, we expect rising Middle East tension and political uncertainty with the US election later in 2020 to further support gold prices and potentially drive them higher. On the flip side, a strong economic recovery would most likely undermine gold prices, but with trade tensions ongoing, we believe this is a less likely scenario. We are optimistic on gold equities as sector consolidation and strong cash flows should be positive for them, even if gold prices merely hold at current levels.

Global metal inventories remain low, limiting any concern of oversupply in early 2020. The lack of investment in metal production continues, with global capital expenditure expected to be similar or lower than in 2019. This will limit supply growth. However, demand remains relatively weak. We believe demand would need to recover for metal prices to sustain at current levels for the rest of the year. Should there be a durable US-China trade agreement, we expect metal prices to lift. Within mining equities, we remain selective, holding high-quality companies with long-life assets and the ability to deliver sustainable returns and cash flows.

B) Investments at fair value and as a percentage of net asset value ("NAV") as at 31 December 2019 under review classified by

i) Country

	Fair Value (S\$)	% of NAV
Australia	22,708,309	12.87
Canada	86,868,571	49.23
Cote D'Ivoire	4,515,366	2.56
Egypt	2,323,126	1.32
Jersey Cl	3,002,280	1.70
Russia	8,127,453	4.60
South Africa	11,853,197	6.72
United Kingdom	24,289,037	13.76
United States	10,215,829	5.79
Portfolio of investments	173,903,168	98.55
Other net assets/(liabilities)	2,562,358 _	1.45
Total	176,465,526	100.00

ii) Industry

	Fair Value (S\$)	% of NAV
Materials	170,900,888	96.85
Unit Trusts	3,002,280	1.70
Portfolio of investments	173,903,168	98.55
Other net assets/(liabilities)	2,562,358 _	1.45
Total	176,465,526	100.00

iii) Asset Class

	Fair Value (S\$)	% of NAV
Quoted unit trusts	3,002,280	1.70
Quoted equities	170,900,888	96.85
Other net assets/(liabilities)	2,562,358	1.45
Total	176,465,526	100.00

- B) Investments at fair value and as a percentage of net asset value ("NAV") as at 31 December 2019 under review classified by (continued)
- iv) Credit rating of quoted bonds

N/A

C) Top Ten Holdings

10 largest holdings as at 31 December 2019

	Fair Value (S\$)	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders %
AGNICO EAGLE MINES LTD	16,274,869	9.22
BHP GROUP PLC	15,354,055	8.70
BARRICK GOLD CORP	12,379,386	7.02
ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI LTD	11,853,197	6.72
NEWMONT GOLDCORP CORP	8,313,767	4.71
ANGLO AMERICAN PLC	8,116,726	4.60
WHEATON PRECIOUS METALS CORP	8,097,156	4.59
B2GOLD CORP	8,062,016	4.57
FRANCO-NEVADA CORP	7,856,212	4.45
NORTHERN STAR RESOURCES LTD	7,509,663	4.26

C) Top Ten Holdings (continued)

10 largest holdings as at 31 December 2018

	Fair Value	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders
	(S\$)	%
NEWMONT MINING CORP	9,728,958	6.01
EVOLUTION MINING LTD	7,473,098	4.61
OCEANAGOLD CORP	7,326,962	4.52
B2GOLD CORP	7,139,404	4.41
BARRICK GOLD CORP	6,730,546	4.15
REGIS RESOURCES LTD	6,639,114	4.10
PRETIUM RESOURCES INC	6,564,060	4.05
RIO TINTO PLC	6,183,595	3.82
NORTHERN STAR RESOURCES LTD	6,144,316	3.79
GOLDCORP INC	5,913,436	3.65

D) Exposure to derivatives

i) Fair value of derivative contracts and as a percentage of NAV as at 31 December 2019

	Contract or underlying principal amount \$	Positive fair value \$	% of NAV	Negative fair value \$	% of NAV
Foreign currency contracts	1,007,616	2,037	_*	1,449	_*

* denotes amount less than 0.01%

- ii) There was a net realised loss of SGD 62,923 on derivative contracts during the financial period from 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2019.
- iii) There was a net unrealised gain of SGD 588 on outstanding derivative contracts marked to market as at 31 December 2019.

E) Amount and percentage of NAV invested in other schemes as at 31 December 2019

Please refer to the Statement of Portfolio.

F) Amount and percentage of borrowings to NAV as at 31 December 2019

N/A

G) Amount of redemptions and subscriptions for the financial period from 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2019

Total amount of redemptions	SGD	38,374,993
Total amount of subscriptions	SGD	42,550,836

- H) The amount and terms of related-party transactions for the financial period from 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2019
- i) As at 31 December 2019, the Fund maintained current accounts with its related party as follows:

State Street Bank and Trust Company, Singapore Branch		
Cash and bank balances	SGD	4,042,590

ii) Investment in Initial Public Offerings managed by UOB Group

N/A

iii) As at 31 December 2019, there was no brokerage income earned by UOB Kay Hian Pte Ltd.

I) Expense ratios

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Total operating expenses Average daily net asset value Expense ratio	2,871,134 	2,752,490 <u>168,264,482</u> <u>1.64%</u>

Note: The expense ratio has been computed based on the guidelines laid down by the Investment Management Association of Singapore ("IMAS"). The calculation of the Fund's expense ratio at 31 December 2019 was based on total operating expenses divided by the average net asset value respectively for the financial period. The total operating expenses do not include (where applicable) brokerage and other transaction costs, performance fee, interest expense, distribution paid out to unitholders, foreign exchange gains/losses, front or back end loads arising from the purchase or sale of other funds and tax deducted at source or arising out of income received. The Fund does not pay any performance fee. The average net asset value is based on the daily balances.

J) Turnover ratios

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Lower of total value of purchases or sales	66,948,160	25,527,230
Average daily net assets value	159,992,989	162,219,605
Turnover ratio	41.84%	15.74%

Note: The portfolio turnover ratio is calculated in accordance with the formula stated in the Code on Collective Investment Schemes. The calculation of the portfolio turnover ratio was based on the lower of the total value of purchases or sales of the underlying investments divided by the average daily net asset value.

K) Any material information that will adversely impact the valuation of the scheme such as contingent liabilities of open contracts

N/A

- L) For schemes which invest more than 30% of their deposited property in another scheme, the following key information on the second-mentioned scheme ("the underlying scheme")¹ should be disclosed as well
- Top 10 holdings at fair value and as percentage of NAV as at 31 December 2019 and 31 December 2018

N/A

ii) Expense ratios for the financial period ended 31 December 2019 and 31 December 2018

N/A

iii) Turnover ratios for the financial period ended 31 December 2019 and 31 December 2018

N/A

¹ Where the underlying scheme is managed by a foreign manager which belongs to the same group of companies as, or has a formal arrangement or investment agreement with, the Singapore manager, the above information should be disclosed on the underlying scheme. In other cases, such information on the underlying scheme should be disclosed only if it is readily available to the Singapore manager.

M) Soft dollar commissions/arrangements

UOB Asset Management has entered into soft dollars arrangements with selected brokers from whom products and services are received from third parties. The products and services relate essentially to computer hardware and software to the extent that they are used to support the investment decision making process, research and advisory services, economic and political analyses, portfolio analyses including performance measurements, market analyses, data and quotation services, all of which are believed to be helpful in the overall discharge of UOB Asset Management's duties to clients. As such services generally benefit all of UOB Asset Management's clients in terms of input into the investment decision making process, the soft credits utilised are not allocated on a specific client basis. The Manager confirms that trades were executed on a best execution basis and there was no churning of trades.

The Sub-Manager (Investec Asset Management Singapore Pte Limited) and the Sub-Investment Manager (Investec Asset Management Limited) do not receive or intend to receive soft dollars in respect of the sub-management of the Fund.

N) Where the scheme offers pre-determined payouts, an explanation on the calculation of the actual payouts received by participants and any significant deviation from the pre-determined payouts

N/A

STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN

For the half year ended 31 December 2019 (Un-audited)

	31 December 2019 \$	31 December 2018 \$
Income		
Dividends	1,535,684	1,093,147
Interest	4,307	2,950
Other income		219,622
Total	1,539,991	1,315,719
Less: Expenses		
Management fee	1,207,686	1,226,980
Trustee fee	27,631	28,393
Audit fee	8,251	8,103
Registrar fee	94,113	95,851
Custody fee	41,292	42,753
Transaction costs	127,152	109,751
Interest expenses	1,622	-
Other expenses	81,970	69,745
Total	1,589,717	1,581,576
Net income/(losses)	(49,726)	(265,857)
Net gains/(losses) on value of investments and financial derivatives		
Net gains/(losses) on investments	17,488,680	(13,626,538)
Net gains/(losses) on financial derivatives	(62,335)	(21,347)
Net foreign exchange gains/(losses)	2,193	(27,453)
	17,428,538	(13,675,338)
Total return/(deficit) for the period before income tax	17,378,812	(13,941,195)
Less: Income tax	(109,818)	(10,041,100)
Total return/(deficit) for the period	17,268,994	(14,039,388)
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	31 December 2019 \$	30 June 2019 \$
Assets		
Portfolio of investments	173,903,168	158,189,565
Sales awaiting settlement	381,986	4,041,882
Receivables	683,477	984,194
Cash and bank balances	4,042,590	3,575,469
Financial derivatives at fair value	2,037	1,298
Total assets	179,013,258	166,792,408
Liabilities		
Purchases awaiting settlement	712,032	1,996,474
Payables	1,834,251	9,766,458
Financial derivatives at fair value	1,449	8,787
Total liabilities	2,547,732	11,771,719
Equity		
Net assets attributable to unitholders	176,465,526	155,020,689

STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS OF UNITHOLDERS' FUNDS

For the half year ended 31 December 2019 (Un-audited)

	31 December 2019 \$	30 June 2019 \$
Net assets attributable to unitholders at the beginning of the financial period/year	155,020,689	177,147,181
Operations		
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders resulting from operations	17,268,994	14,979,454
Unitholders' contributions/(withdrawals)		
Creation of units	42,550,836	46,137,346
Cancellation of units	(38,374,993)	(83,243,292)
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders resulting from net creation and cancellation of units	4,175,843	(37,105,946)
Total increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unitholders	21,444,837	(22,126,492)
Net assets attributable to unitholders at the end of the financial period/year	176,465,526	155,020,689

	Holdings at 31 December 2019	Fair value at 31 December 2019 \$	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 31 December 2019 %
By Geography - Primary Quoted unit trusts			
JERSEY CI WISDOMTREE PHYSICAL PLATINUM	24,521	3,002,280	1.70
Quoted equities			
AUSTRALIA EVOLUTION MINING LTD NORTHERN STAR RESOURCES LTD RESOLUTE MINING LTD SARACEN MINERAL HOLDINGS LTD WESTGOLD RESOURCES LTD	1,135,928 702,464 1,409,376 2,341,486 976,764	4,080,075 7,509,663 1,678,538 7,325,771 2,114,262	2.31 4.26 0.95 4.15 1.20
TOTAL AUSTRALIA		22,708,309	12.87
CANADA			
AGNICO EAGLE MINES LTD ALACER GOLD CORP	196,238	16,274,869	9.22
B2GOLD CORP	185,413 1,492,289	1,326,607 8,062,016	0.75 4.57
BARRICK GOLD CORP	495,234	12,379,386	7.02
CENTERRA GOLD INC	171,778	1,840,013	1.04
DETOUR GOLD CORP	187,647	4,891,701	2.77
FRANCO-NEVADA CORP	56,502	7,856,212	4.45
KIRKLAND LAKE GOLD LTD	97,082	5,762,240	3.27
LUNDIN MINING CORP	437,829	3,523,054	2.00
OCEANAGOLD CORP	512,212	1,354,387	0.77
OSISKO MINING INC	325,377	1,366,454	0.77
PAN AMERICAN SILVER CORP	46,397	1,477,965	0.84
PRETIUM RESOURCES INC	301,986	4,524,886	2.56

	Holdings at 31 December 2019	Fair value at 31 December 2019 \$	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 31 December 2019 %
By Geography - Primary (continued) Quoted equities			
CANADA (continued)			
SSR MINING INC	253,950	6,576,787	3.73
TERANGA GOLD CORP	213,597	1,554,838	0.88
WHEATON PRECIOUS METALS CORP	202,412	8,097,156	4.59
TOTAL CANADA		86,868,571	49.23
COTE D'IVOIRE			
ENDEAVOUR MINING CORP	177,518	4,515,366	2.56
EGYPT			
CENTAMIN PLC	1,026,894	2,323,126	1.32
RUSSIA			
MMC NORILSK NICKEL PJSC	60,635	2,485,937	1.41
MMC NORILSK NICKEL PJSC ADR	1,388	57,018	0.03
POLYMETAL INTERNATIONAL PLC	262,345	5,584,498	3.16
TOTAL RUSSIA		8,127,453	4.60
SOUTH AFRICA ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI LTD	389,465	11,853,197	6.72
UNITED KINGDOM			
ANGLO AMERICAN PLC	209,690	8,116,726	4.60
BHP GROUP PLC	485,111	15,354,055	8.70

	Holdings at 31 December 2019		Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 31 December 2019 %
By Geography - Primary (continued) Quoted equities			
UNITED KINGDOM (continued)			
SOLGOLD PLC	2,296,762	818,256	0.46
TOTAL UNITED KINGDOM		24,289,037	13.76
UNITED STATES			
ALCOA CORP	65,762	1,902,062	1.08
NEWMONT GOLDCORP CORP	142,298	8,313,767	4.71
TOTAL UNITED STATES		10,215,829	5.79
Total Equities		170,900,888	96.85
Portfolio of investments Other net assets/(liabilities)		173,903,168 <u>2,562,358</u>	1.45
Net assets attributable to unitholders		176,465,526	100.00

	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 31 December 2019 %	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 30 June 2019 %
By Geography - Primary (Summary)		
Quoted equities and unit trusts		
Australia	12.87	21.67
Canada	49.23	41.75
Cote D'Ivoire	2.56	2.59
Egypt	1.32	1.36
Jersey Cl	1.70	1.86
Russia	4.60	2.09
South Africa	6.72	4.55
United Kingdom	13.76	18.71
United States	5.79	7.46
Portfolio of investments	98.55	102.04
Other net assets/(liabilities)	1.45	(2.04)
Net assets attributable to unitholders	100.00	100.00

	Fair value at 31 December 2019 \$	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 31 December 2019 %	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 30 June 2019 %
By Industry - Secondary			
Quoted equities and unit trusts			
Materials	170,900,888	96.85	100.18
Unit Trusts	3,002,280	1.70	1.86
Portfolio of investments	173,903,168	98.55	102.04
Other net assets/(liabilities)	2,562,358	1.45	(2.04)
Net assets attributable to unitholders	176,465,526	100.00	100.00

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