

Popular Fund Reference Guide

Your complete guide to the most popular ETFs and index funds for UK investors.

All fees verified as of June 2026. Always check current fees before investing. This guide is for educational purposes only and is not personal financial advice.

Global ETFs (Best for Beginners)

These funds give you exposure to thousands of companies worldwide with a single purchase. Perfect for a simple, diversified portfolio.

Ticker	Fund Name	Holdings	Fee	Notes
VWRP	Vanguard FTSE All-World ETF (Acc)	3,700+ companies	0.19%	Most popular choice for beginners
VWRL	Vanguard FTSE All-World ETF (Dist)	3,700+ companies	0.19%	Same as VWRP but pays dividends
FWRG	Invesco FTSE All-World ETF (Acc)	3,700+ companies	0.15%	Cheapest all-world option
SWDA	iShares Core MSCI World ETF (Acc)	1,500+ companies	0.20%	Developed markets only (no EM)
ACWI	SPDR MSCI All Country World ETF	2,900+ companies	0.12%	Cheapest global with emerging markets
SSAC	iShares MSCI ACWI ETF (Acc)	2,900+ companies	0.20%	Developed + emerging markets
HMWO	HSBC MSCI World ETF	1,400+ companies	0.15%	Low cost developed world
LGGG	L&G Global Equity ETF	2,500+ companies	0.10%	Very low cost option

US Market ETFs

The US makes up about 60% of global markets. These funds focus specifically on American companies.

Ticker	Fund Name	Holdings	Fee	Notes
VUAG	Vanguard S&P 500 ETF (Acc)	500 US companies	0.07%	Most popular S&P 500 tracker
VUSA	Vanguard S&P 500 ETF (Dist)	500 US companies	0.07%	Same as VUAG, pays dividends
CSP1	iShares Core S&P 500 ETF (Acc)	500 US companies	0.07%	Alternative to VUAG
CSPX	iShares Core S&P 500 ETF (Acc)	500 US companies	0.07%	USD traded version
EQQQ	Invesco NASDAQ 100 ETF	100 tech-heavy US	0.30%	Tech focused, more volatile
IITU	iShares S&P 500 Info Tech ETF	US tech sector	0.15%	Pure US technology exposure

UK Market ETFs

Home market exposure. The FTSE 100 contains the UK's largest companies, many of which are global businesses.

Ticker	Fund Name	Holdings	Fee	Notes
ISF	iShares Core FTSE 100 ETF (Dist)	100 UK companies	0.07%	Most popular FTSE 100 tracker
VUKE	Vanguard FTSE 100 ETF	100 UK companies	0.09%	Vanguard alternative
MIDD	iShares FTSE 250 ETF	250 mid-cap UK	0.40%	UK mid-caps, more UK focused
VMID	Vanguard FTSE 250 ETF	250 mid-cap UK	0.10%	Lower cost FTSE 250
FTAL	SPDR FTSE UK All Share ETF	600+ UK companies	0.20%	Broad UK market exposure

Developed Markets (ex-US)

Diversify away from the US with exposure to Europe, Japan, Australia, and other developed economies.

Ticker	Fund Name	Holdings	Fee	Notes
VHVG	Vanguard FTSE Developed World ETF	1,100+ companies	0.12%	Developed markets ex-emerging
VEUR	Vanguard FTSE Developed Europe ETF	500+ European	0.10%	Europe focused
MEUD	iShares Core MSCI Europe ETF	430+ European	0.12%	Alternative Europe option
VJPN	Vanguard FTSE Japan ETF	500+ Japanese	0.15%	Japan focused
VAPX	Vanguard FTSE Dev Asia Pacific ex Japan	400+ companies	0.15%	Australia, Hong Kong, etc

Emerging Markets ETFs

Higher growth potential but also higher risk. Countries like China, India, Brazil, Taiwan.

Ticker	Fund Name	Holdings	Fee	Notes
VFEM	Vanguard FTSE Emerging Markets ETF	1,900+ companies	0.17%	Broad emerging markets
EIMI	iShares Core MSCI EM IMI ETF	3,100+ companies	0.18%	Includes small caps
IEEM	iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	1,400+ companies	0.18%	Alternative EM option

Small Cap ETFs

Smaller companies with higher growth potential but more volatility. Good for diversification.

Ticker	Fund Name	Holdings	Fee	Notes
WSML	iShares MSCI World Small Cap ETF	3,400+ small caps	0.35%	Global small cap exposure
WLDS	SPDR MSCI World Small Cap ETF	3,500+ small caps	0.45%	Alternative global small cap
CUKS	iShares MSCI UK Small Cap ETF	250+ UK small caps	0.58%	UK small companies

Dividend / Income ETFs

For investors seeking regular income. These focus on companies with higher dividend yields.

Ticker	Fund Name	Holdings	Fee	Notes
VHYL	Vanguard FTSE All-World High Div Yield	1,900+ high yield	0.29%	Global dividend focus, ~3% yield
IUKD	iShares UK Dividend ETF	50 UK high yield	0.40%	UK dividend focus, ~5% yield
GLDV	SPDR Global Dividend Aristocrats ETF	100 dividend growers	0.45%	Companies with 10yr+ dividend growth
VUKE	Vanguard FTSE 100 ETF (Dist)	100 UK companies	0.09%	UK large caps, ~3.5% yield

Bond ETFs

Lower risk than stocks. Good for reducing portfolio volatility and providing stability.

Ticker	Fund Name	Holdings	Fee	Notes
VGOV	Vanguard UK Gilt ETF	UK government bonds	0.05%	Very safe, UK government backed
IGLT	iShares Core UK Gilts ETF	UK government bonds	0.07%	Alternative to VGOV
VAGP	Vanguard Global Aggregate Bond ETF	Global bonds	0.10%	Diversified global bonds, GBP hedged
AGBP	iShares Core Global Aggregate Bond	Global bonds	0.10%	Alternative global bond, GBP hedged
SLXX	iShares Core GBP Corporate Bond ETF	UK corporate bonds	0.20%	Higher yield, more risk than gilts
IGLS	iShares Gilts 0-5yr ETF	Short-term UK gilts	0.07%	Lower interest rate risk

Gold ETCs (Exchange Traded Commodities)

Safe haven asset. Does not move with stocks, good for portfolio diversification during market stress.

Ticker	Fund Name	Holdings	Fee	Notes
SGLN	iShares Physical Gold ETC	Physical gold	0.12%	Backed by real gold in vaults
PHGP	WisdomTree Physical Gold (GBP)	Physical gold	0.39%	GBP hedged version
PHAU	WisdomTree Physical Gold ETC	Physical gold	0.39%	USD traded, popular choice
GBSS	Gold Bullion Securities	Physical gold	0.40%	One of the oldest gold ETCs

Note: Gold ETCs are technically not ETFs but trade the same way. They are backed by physical gold held in secure vaults.

Silver ETCs

Ticker	Fund Name	Holdings	Fee	Notes
PHSP	WisdomTree Physical Silver (GBP)	Physical silver	0.49%	GBP hedged
PHAG	WisdomTree Physical Silver ETC	Physical silver	0.49%	USD traded
SSLN	iShares Physical Silver ETC	Physical silver	0.20%	Lower cost option

Property / REIT ETFs

Invest in property without buying a house. REITs own commercial property and pay regular dividends.

Ticker	Fund Name	Holdings	Fee	Notes
IUKP	iShares UK Property ETF	UK property companies	0.40%	UK focused, ~4% yield
IWDP	iShares Developed Markets Property	Global property	0.59%	Diversified global REITs
GBRE	SPDR Dow Jones Global Real Estate	Global REITs	0.40%	Alternative global property

Quick Guide

Complete beginner?

Pick ONE global fund: VWRP (Vanguard), FWRG (Invesco) or ACWI (SPDR), and you instantly own thousands of companies worldwide.

Want the lowest fees?

- LGGG (0.10%) for global developed
- ACWI (0.12%) for global with emerging markets
- FWRG (0.15%) for cheapest broad all-world
- VUAG (0.07%) but US-only

Want UK exposure?

- ISF (FTSE 100) for the UK's largest companies
- VMID (FTSE 250) for UK mid-caps

Want to add stability?

- VGOV (UK Gilts) for low-risk government bonds
- SGLN (Gold) for a hedge during market stress
- Often 10 to 20% combined if you're a moderate-risk investor

Want income?

- VHYL (global dividend payers)
- IUKD (UK high-dividend companies)

REMEMBER: The best fund is the one you actually invest in. Don't let choice paralysis stop you from starting. You can always adjust as your knowledge grows.

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Created by Chidera Peters · The Money Method · Personal Finance Educator