

# Fund Guide: abrdn Future Raw Materials UCITS ETF

Ticker: ARAW/ARAX July 2025 For professional investors only (in Switzerland for qualified investors). Not for use by retail investors.

This is a marketing communication.
Please refer to the fund's prospectus and
Key Investor Information Document (KIID)
as applicable before making any final
investment decision.

French investors should note that, relative to the expectations of the Autorité des Marchés Financiers, this fund presents disproportionate communication on the consideration of non-financial criteria in its investment policy.

Fund listed on Deutsche Boerse (Xetra), SIX Exchange and London Stock Exchange



Quantitative Index Solutions (QIS) team

### What is the abrdn Future Raw Materials Fund?

Aberdeen Investments is pleased to bring to market a strategy that invests in the global raw materials theme. This UCITS-compliant\*, exchange-traded fund (ETF) aims to invest in companies that we expect to benefit from the future raw materials dynamics.

### What are raw materials?

Raw materials include critical minerals and other materials that are essential to the clean-energy transition. They are integral to many emerging technologies.

As we move away from fossil fuels, a handful of raw materials like copper and lithium are becoming essential for clean-energy technologies and renewable energy sources. These include electric vehicles (EVs), batteries, wind turbines and solar panels. These raw materials are crucial for powering data centres that support artificial intelligence (AI) and for upgrading infrastructure to manage the increased energy demand from both data centres and new energy supplies. This supports the global economy.

As the shift to renewable energy accelerates, our reliance on digital technology will continue to rapidly grow. Companies involved in extracting and processing the raw materials that eneable this technology are benefiting from this fundamental shift. We believe these raw materials represent one of the most compelling investment opportunities today.



"As clean energy drives innovation and new technologies evolve, a handful of critical raw materials will become indispensable - fuelling a surge in global demand."

David Clancy, Research Director, Quantitative Index Solutions

### Capturing the opportunity

Through fundamental research, we have identified five key materials that are central to this long-term trend.



#### Copper

Copper is a key component in EVs, electricity networks, solar power, wind power and hydropower systems. Its excellent conductivity makes it indispensable for efficient energy transmission and storage.



#### Lithium

Lithium is a fundamental material for batteries, especially in EVs, due to its high energy density. Additionally, it is used in glass and ceramics production, as well as in steel and aluminum metallurgy, supporting various industrial processes.



#### Nickel

Nickel is used to make batteries and enable electrification. It has significant applications in steel making, automotive industries, and geothermal energy systems, contributing to the development of sustainable technologies.







#### Rare-earth elements

These are crucial for producing semiconductors and powerful magnets used in motors and inverters for EVs, wind turbines, and hydroelectric systems. Their unique chemical properties enable the efficient functioning of advanced technologies.



#### Aluminium

Aluminum is critical for the automotive industry, particularly for EVs, due to its lightweight and durable properties. It is also used in high-tech engineering, packaging, and consumer durables, making it a versatile material across multiple sectors.



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# Why invest in raw materials now?

### Rising electricity grid demand

Electricity grids require copper, aluminum, and nickel for various functions. Demand is rising due to renewable infrastructure, EVs, increased data usage, and Al data centers. Integrating renewable energy also requires significant grid upgrades to manage the variability of energy supply.

### Accelerating renewable energy adoption

As the world transitions away from fossil fuels, demand for renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydropower, is rising sharply. This shift is a key driver of demand for our targeted raw materials, which are essential components in clean energy technologies.

#### Technological advancements

Minerals play a vital role in digital technologies, including batteries, EVs and semiconductors.

#### Insufficient new supply

The supply of several important materials is under significant pressure due to a lack of new mining projects and a decade of underinvestment in the sector. This is creating a supply bottleneck that could drive prices higher as demand grows.

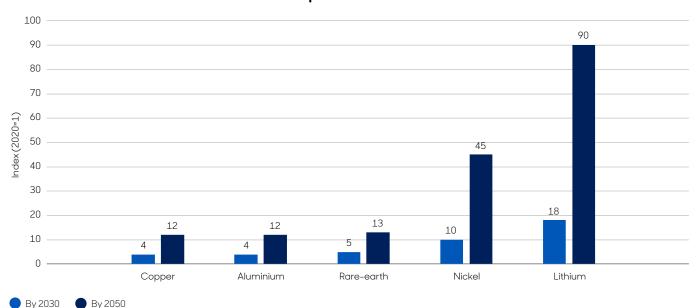
### Significant upside potential

This projected surge in demand - combined with potential supply constraints - presents a compelling long-term investment opportunity.

#### New demand from data centres

The rapid growth of data usage is driving the need for more data centers. This expansion increases demand for critical minerals used in powering and cooling these facilities.

### Estimated increase in demand compared with 2020



 $Source: European\ Commission, "Supply\ chain\ analysis\ and\ material\ demand\ forecast\ in\ strategic\ technologies\ and\ sectors\ in\ the\ EU-A\ foresight\ study", 2023$ 

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### Investment objective

To generate growth over the long-term (5 years or more) by investing primarily in companies with alignment to the Future Raw Materials theme (as defined below).

#### Risks

All investment involves risk. This fund offers no guarantee against loss or that the fund's objective will be attained. The price of assets and the income from them may go down as well as up and cannot be guaranteed; an investor may receive back less than their original investment. Inflation reduces the buying power of your investment and income. The value of assets held in the fund may rise and fall as a result of exchange rate fluctuations.

#### **Equity Risk**

The Fund invests in equity and equity related securities. These are sensitive to variations in the stock markets which can be volatile and change substantially in short periods of time.

#### Concentration Risk

A concentrated portfolio may be more volatile and less liquid than a more broadly diversified one. The Fund's investments are concentrated in a particular country or sector, or closely related group of industries or sectors.

#### **Emerging Markets Risk**

Emerging markets are countries generally considered to be relatively less developed or industrialized, and investments in emerging markets countries are subject to a magnification of the risks that apply to foreign investments. These risks are greater for securities of companies in emerging market countries because the countries may have less stable governments, more volatile currencies and less established markets.

### Small and Mid-Cap Stock Risk

The shares of small and mid-cap companies may be less liquid and more volatile than those of larger companies.

### Variable Interest Entity Risk

The Fund may invest in companies with Variable Interest Entity (VIE) structures in order to gain exposure to industries with foreign ownership restrictions. There is a risk that investments in these structures may be adversely affected by changes in the legal and regulatory framework.

#### China A/Stock Connect Risk

Investing in China A shares involves special considerations and risks, including greater price volatility, a less developed regulatory and legal framework, exchange rate risk/controls, settlement, tax, quota, liquidity and regulatory risks.

#### **Derivatives Risk**

The use of derivatives carries the risk of reduced liquidity, substantial loss and increased volatility in adverse market conditions, such as a failure amongst market participants. The use of derivatives may result in the Fund being leveraged (where market exposure and thus the potential for loss by the Fund exceeds the amount it has invested) and in these market conditions the effect of leverage will be to magnify losses.

You can find out more information about the fund on page 7.

# Robust and repeatable rules-based investment process

We combine active and quantitative investment capabilities to uncover the most compelling opportunities within this theme.

Our Active Equities team identifies the key materials aligned with the theme through deep fundamental research. Meanwhile, our Quantitative Index Solutions team (QIS) focuses on portfolio optimisation, applying advanced data-driven techniques.

The result is a balanced, high-conviction portfolio with targeted exposure to the raw materials driving the clean-energy and digital transitions.

# Step 1



### Identify key materials

Our Active Equities team identifies the materials most closely aligned with the theme and for which we anticipate rising demand over the coming decades. They leverage fundamental insights from our Emerging and Developed Markets investment specialists, as well as metals and mining analysis, and research from our small- and mid-cap experts.

### Step 2



#### Quantitative overlay

Our Quantitative Investment Solutions team uses a revenue-based alignment approach to identify companies involved in the extraction and processing of raw materials. The strategy focuses on those with the highest exposure to those minerals, while screening out companies associated with controversies.

# Step 3



#### Portfolio optimisation

The Quantitative Investment Solutions team optimises the final portfolio based on Aberdeen Thematic Score tilt weights. This incorporates liquidity thresholds, mineral diversification, and regulatory investment constraints.



The abrdn Future Raw Materials UCITS ETF brings together our core capabilities to identify leading companies engaged in extraction and processing of the raw materials essential to the clean-energy transition."

Oliver Wood-Clark, Head of Equity Index Solutions, Quantitative Index Solutions

### Investment process

Our hybrid active approach combines the fundamental insights of our Active Equities team - who identify key materials and the most compelling stocks aligned with the them - with the advanced quantitative portfolio construction techniques of our QIS team.

The Active Equities team selects high-conviction opportunities, while the QIS team is responsible for portfolio optimisation. The result is a balanced, high-conviction portfolio with focused thematic exposure.



### **About this Fund**

- What is an ETF? An exchange-traded fund (ETF) is a pooled investment vehicle that offers diversified exposure to underlying securities, similar to a mutual fund. However, unlike mutual funds, ETF units are traded on an exchange throughout the day, like individual stocks.
- The abrdn Future Raw Materials UCITS ETF is an actively managed strategy designed to deliver a long-term total return by investing in global companies of all sizes that are aligned with the future raw materials theme.
- · The Fund is a balanced, high-conviction portfolio that aims to deliver a positive long-term total return.
- It targets investors seeking differentiated diversification opportunities, with a low correlation to traditional global equities.
- The Fund provides targeted exposure to a compelling thematic opportunity, focusing on an underappreciated segment of the market with significant upside potential.

# **Key facts**

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Investment objective	To generate growth over the long term (five years or more) by investing primarily in companies aligned with the future raw materials theme.
Performance comparator	MSCI ACWI Index Net Total Return (USD) (reference only)*
Fund structure	Exchange-traded fund
Ticker	ARAW (Xetra EUR), ARAX (Xetra USD), ARAW (SIX CHF), ARAW (LSE GBX)
Rebalancing	Quarterly
SFDR classification	Article 6
Base currency	USD
TER	0.45%
Registered for distribution in:	Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy**, Luxembourg, Netherlands

<sup>\*</sup>For comparison purposes, investors can compare the fund's long-term performance with the MSCI ACWI Index Net Total Return (USD) (the "Index"), as indicative of the performance of the future raw materials theme against global equities. The fund doesn't aim to outperform the index and it's not used for portfolio construction or risk management purposes.

\*\*For professional investors only



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#### Important Information

The fund is a sub fund of abrdn III ICAV, an open-ended umbrella fund which is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland and with segregated liability between sub-funds registered in the Republic of Ireland (no. C469164) at 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 55 Charlemont Place, Dublin 2.

This fund concerns the acquisition of units/shares in a fund, and not in a given underlying asset such as a building or shares of a company

Any decision to invest should take into account all objectives of the fund. To help you understand this fund and for a full explanation of risks and the overall risk profile of this fund and the share classes within it, please refer to the Key Investor Information Documents available, and Prospectus available in English, which are available on our website <a href="https://www.aberdeeninvestments.com">www.aberdeeninvestments.com</a>. The Prospectus also contains a glossary of key terms used in this document.

A summary of investor rights can be found in English under Group Policies on the Manager's website.

This information is intended to be of general interest only and should not be considered as an offer, investment recommendation or solicitation to deal in the shares of any securities or financial instruments. Subscriptions for shares in the fund may only be made on the basis of the latest prospectus, relevant Key Investor Information Document (KIID) and, in the case of UK investors, the Supplementary Information (SID) for the fund which provides additional information as well as the risks of investing. These may be obtained free of charge from Aberdeen. All documents are also available on www.aberdeeninvestments.com.

Further information about the abrdn Future Raw Materials UCITS ETF can be obtained from the prospectus, supplement to the prospectus and latest annual and semi-annual reports once available. These documents are available in English, are free of charge and can be obtained along with other information such as unit prices, from <a href="www.aberdeeninvestments.com">www.aberdeeninvestments.com</a>, the Manager, or the Paying agent: EU/EEA territories: <a href="europeanfacilitiesagent@carnegroup.com">europeanfacilitiesagent@carnegroup.com</a>. UK facilities agent: <a href="https://www.aberdeeninvestments.com">UK facilitiesagent@carnegroup.com</a>.

The Manager may terminate arrangements for marketing the fund under the Cross-border Distribution Directive denotification process.

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For more information visit www.aberdeeninvestments.com