# SPDR® Gold Shares Investing in Gold

### **087 / GSD**

SPDR® Gold Shares

SPDR Gold Shares offers investors a convenient, cost efficient and secured way to access the gold market without having to pay transportation, storage and insurance costs of owning physical gold. With ease of buying and selling SPDR Gold Shares on the stock exchange, investors can take advantage of gold's historically low or negative correlation to other traditional asset classes such as stocks and bonds.

SPDR Gold Shares is available to trade in United States dollars (USD), O87 and Singapore dollars (SGD), GSD.

#### Why Gold?

Gold has a dual nature as it is both an investment and a consumer good. Gold's diverse sources of demand, both cyclical and counter cyclical, have been the source of its low historical correlation to financial assets and its unique ability to provide key strategic portfolio functions:

**Returns** Gold has delivered a 7.7% compound annual growth rate in USD terms since 15 August 1971, the day U.S. President Richard Nixon removed USD from the gold standard. Gold has historically provided positive risk adjusted-returns over time<sup>1</sup>.

**Diversification** Gold has demonstrated a low and negative correlation to many financial asset indices over time and has a track record of providing a hedge during periods of large market drawdowns, systemic risk, and geopolitical volatility<sup>2</sup>.

**Liquidity** Global gold market liquidity is on par with major debt, currency, and equity markets. The average daily turnover of gold is over US\$145 billion<sup>3</sup>.

**Portfolio Impact** Adding an allocation to gold may potentially provide increased diversification, reduce portfolio drawdowns, and increase portfolio efficiency through higher risk-adjusted returns.

# Why SPDR Gold Shares?

SPDR Gold Shares has lowered a number of barriers traditionally preventing investors from using gold as an asset allocation and trading tool. These barriers have included the logistics of buying, storing and insuring gold. It has given investors exposure to the price of physical gold, minus the fund's expenses, eliminating the need to use derivatives which may carry additional credit risks.

With SPDR Gold Shares, investors now have easy access to the gold market. They can readily integrate and measure gold as a strategic presence in a portfolio that can potentially diversify risk due to low or negative correlations with other asset classes.

#### **How Does It Work?**

O87 and GSD provide investors an undivided beneficial ownership in the SPDR Gold Trust, which solely holds gold securely vaulted in London. The flexibility to access SPDR Gold Shares in both USD and SGD provides investors with an opportunity to seek further diversification benefits.

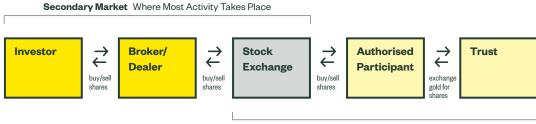
#### **Key Attributes**

**Transparent** SPDR Gold Shares seeks to track the price of gold minus the funds expenses. The price, holdings and net asset value, as well as market data for the overall gold bullion market, can be tracked at spdrgoldshares.com.

**Secured** HSBC Bank Plc is the custodian for the gold held by the SPDR Gold Trust. 4Gold is held in custody in an "allocated account," 5 which means that the Trust has full ownership of the gold bars, and the custodian may not trade, lease or lend the bars.

**Liquid** SPDR Gold Shares liquidity comes not only from secondary-market trading on exchange, but also from the primary market. Authorised participants in the primary market, responding to market demand, can create and redeem baskets of 100,000 shares. All this may help keep bid/ask spreads tight and allows investors to freely buy and sell shares in whatever amount they desire. There can be no assurance that a liquid market will be maintained for these shares.

Figure 1
SPDR Gold
Shares' Liquidity
in the Primary and
Secondary Markets



Primary Market Share Creation/Redemption, When Necessary

Information contained above is for illustrative purposes only.

**Easily Accessible** SPDR Gold Shares are cross-listed in Singapore and are available to trade in two currencies — USD and SGD. Investors can buy, sell and hold shares through standard brokerage accounts. SPDR Gold Shares is also included under the CPF Investment Scheme (CPFIS) — Ordinary Account and Supplementary Retirement Scheme (SRS).

**Flexible** Investors can buy as few or as many shares they want, giving them ownership to fractional ounces of gold. SPDR Gold Shares trades in the same way stocks do.

**Cost-Effective** Buying one-ounce of gold through SPDR Gold Shares may be relatively cheaper compared to buying and holding physical gold, as transaction costs are generally lower than costs associated with the purchase, storage and insurance of physical gold. The annual total expense ratio of SPDR Gold Shares is 0.40%.

Figure 2
The Cost-effective
Attributes of
SPDR Gold Shares

Attribute	Allocated Gold	Unallocated Gold
Gold asset can be leased to third party without consent	×	<b>✓</b>
Part of bankruptcy estate in event of a bankruptcy of the Custodian Bank	×	<b>✓</b>
Individually-identified bars	<b>✓</b>	×
Trust has right and title to the gold assets	<b>/</b>	×
Segregated from other gold	<b>✓</b>	×

#### **Endnotes**

- Bloomberg Finance, L.P., and State Street Global Advisors, as of 31 March, 2021. Gold returns are measured by the LBMA Gold Price PM (US\$/oz).
- 2 Bloomberg Finance, L.P., State Street Global Advisors, as of 31 March, 2021.
- 3 Source: World Gold Council, Bloomberg, Bank for International Settlements, UK Debt Management Office (DMO), Germany Finance Agency, Japan Securities Dealers Association, London Bullion Market Association. Data as of 31 December, 2020.
- 4 Gold bars may be held by one or more subcustodians appointed by the Custodian, or employed by the subcustodians appointed by the Custodian, until it is transported to the Custodian's London vault premises. Source: State Street Global Advisors, as of 31 March, 2021.
- 5 An allocated account is an account with a bullion dealer, which may also be a bank, to which individually-identified units of gold (such as bars) owned by the account holder are credited. The gold held in an allocated gold account is specific to that
- account and is identified by a list that shows, for each unit of gold, the refiner, assay or fineness, serial number and gross and fine weight.
- Although shares of SPDR
  Gold Shares have historically
  been readily tradable on
  exchange, there can be no
  assurance that an active trading
  market will be maintained.

#### ssga.com/etfs spdrgoldshares.com

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Information Classification: General

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#### **Important Risk Information**

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The prospectus in respect of the Singapore offer of the shares in the SPDR Gold Trust (the 'Trust') is available and may be obtained upon

request from State Street Global Advisors Singapore Limited ("SSGA") (Co. Reg. No: 200002719D). Investors should read the prospectus of the Trust before deciding whether to purchase SPDR Gold Shares (the 'Shares'). Shares in the Trust are not obligations of, deposits in, or guaranteed by, World Gold Trust Services, LLC, SSGA or any of their affiliates. You may wish to seek advice from a financial adviser before making a commitment to purchase Shares. In the event that you choose not to seek advice from a financial adviser, you should consider whether the Trust is suitable for you. Investors have no right to request the Sponsor to redeem their Shares while the Shares are listed. It is intended that holders of Shares may only deal in their Shares through trading on the SGX-ST. Listing of the Shares on the SGX-ST does not guarantee a liquid market for the Shares.

The value of Shares relates directly to the value of gold held by the Trust (less expenses) and fluctuations in the price of gold could materially and adversely affect an investment in the Shares. The Trust does not generate any income and as the Trust regularly sells gold to pay for its ongoing expenses, the amount of gold represented by each Share will decline over time to that extent. The price received upon the sale of the Shares, which trade at market price, may be more or less than the value of gold represented by them. The value of Shares may fall as well as rise. An investment in Shares is subject to investment risks, including the possible loss of the principal amount invested. Past performance of the Trust or of the gold market are not

necessarily indicative of the future performance of the Trust.

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There can be no assurance that a liquid market will be maintained for ETF shares.

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