

John Hancock Hedged Equity & Income Fund  
Form N-CSR  
February 24, 2016

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM N-CSR**

**CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED**

**MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES**

Investment Company Act file number 811- 22441

John Hancock Hedged Equity & Income Fund  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

601 Congress Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02210  
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

Salvatore Schiavone

Treasurer

601 Congress Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02210  
(Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: 617-663-4497

Date of fiscal year end: December 31

Date of reporting period: December 31, 2015

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ITEM 1. REPORT TO SHAREHOLDERS.

John Hancock

Hedged Equity & Income Fund

Ticker: HEQ

Annual report 12/31/15

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#### Managed distribution plan

The fund has adopted a managed distribution plan (Plan). Under the Plan, the fund makes quarterly distributions of an amount equal to \$0.376 per share, which will be paid quarterly until further notice. The fund may make additional distributions: (i) for purposes of not incurring federal income tax on the fund of investment company taxable income and net capital gain, if any, not included in such regular distributions; and (ii) for purposes of not incurring federal excise tax on ordinary income and capital gain net income, if any, not included in such regular distributions.

The Plan provides that the Board of Trustees of the fund may amend the terms of the Plan or terminate the Plan at any time without prior notice to the fund's shareholders. The Plan is subject to periodic review by the fund's Board of Trustees.

You should not draw any conclusions about the fund's investment performance from the amount of the fund's distributions or from the terms of the fund's Plan. The fund's total return at NAV is presented in the Financial highlights section.

With each distribution that does not consist solely of net income, the fund will issue a notice to shareholders and an accompanying press release that will provide detailed information regarding the amount and composition of the distribution and other related information. The amounts and sources of distributions reported in the notice to shareholders are only estimates and are not provided for tax reporting purposes. The actual amounts and sources of the amounts for tax reporting purposes will depend upon the fund's investment experience during the remainder of its fiscal year and may be subject to changes based on tax regulations. The fund will send you a Form 1099-DIV for the calendar year that will tell you how to report these distributions for federal income tax purposes. The fund may, at times, distribute more than its net investment income and net realized capital gains; therefore, a portion of your distribution may result in a return of capital. A return of capital may occur, for example, when some or all of the money that you invested in the fund is paid back to you. A return of capital does not necessarily reflect the fund's investment performance and should not be confused with yield or income.

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#### A message to shareholders

Dear shareholder,

Global financial markets delivered lackluster performance in 2015, on balance, while volatility rose across asset classes. Among the factors driving investor concerns were persistently low oil prices, evidence of slowing growth in

China, and increasing terrorist activity in Europe and the Middle East. Economic growth continues to slowly gather steam in the United States, and central banks in Europe and Asia remain committed to further monetary stimulus. However, several headwinds remain, and our network of asset managers and research firms expects volatility to affect a range of global markets in 2016. Corporate bond market liquidity has added to concerns, since new regulations intended to limit risk taking by banks may subsequently limit the ability of those institutions to buy bonds from sellers.

At John Hancock Investments, portfolio risk management is a critical part of our role as an asset manager, and our dedicated risk team is focused on these issues every day. We continually strive for new ways to analyze potential risks and have liquidity tools in place, such as a credit facility and an interfund lending program. Given today's market dynamics, now may be a good time to ask your financial advisor whether your portfolio is sufficiently diversified to meet your long-term objectives and withstand the inevitable bumps along the way.

### **Introducing John Hancock Multifactor Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs)**

We believe investors benefit from a combination of active and passive strategies in their portfolios. That's why, for years, we've offered actively managed funds to our shareholders, alongside asset allocation portfolios that employ a mix of active and passive strategies. That same thinking is what led us to team up with Dimensional Fund Advisors LP a company regarded as one of the pioneers in strategic beta investing\* for the introduction of the passively managed John Hancock Multifactor ETFs. Each ETF seeks to track a custom index built upon decades of academic research into the factors that drive higher expected returns: smaller capitalizations, lower valuations, and higher profitability. For nearly 30 years, it's just the kind of time-tested approach we have looked for as a manager of managers. For more information, visit our website at [jhinvestments.com/etf](http://jhinvestments.com/etf).

On behalf of everyone at John Hancock Investments, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for the continued trust you've placed in us.

Sincerely,

Andrew G. Arnott  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
John Hancock Investments

This commentary reflects the CEO's views as of December 31, 2015. They are subject to change at any time. Diversification does not guarantee investment returns and does not eliminate risk of loss. All investments entail risks, including the possible loss of principal. There is no guarantee that the funds' investment strategies will be successful. Please see the funds' prospectuses for information about the specific risks involved. For more up-to-date information, you can visit our website at [jhinvestments.com](http://jhinvestments.com).

\* Strategic beta investing ETFs seek to improve upon cap-weighted strategies by tracking a custom index that combines active management insight with the discipline of a rules-based approach.

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John Hancock  
Hedged Equity & Income Fund

Table of contents

2 Your fund at a glance

4 Discussion of fund performance  
8 Fund's investments  
26 Financial statements  
29 Financial highlights  
30 Notes to financial statements  
38 Auditor's report  
39 Tax information  
40 Additional information  
43 Trustees and Officers  
47 More information

Your fund at a glance

## **INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE**

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The fund seeks to provide total return with a focus on current income and gains and also consisting of long-term capital appreciation.

## **AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURNS AS OF 12/31/15 (%)**

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The MSCI All Country World Index (gross of foreign withholding tax on dividends) is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed and emerging markets.

It is not possible to invest directly in an index. Index figures do not reflect expenses or sales charges, which would result in lower returns.

The fund's most recent performance and current annualized distribution rate can be found at [jhinvestments.com](http://jhinvestments.com).

The fund's performance at net asset value (NAV) is different from the fund's performance at closing market price because the closing market price is subject to the dynamics of secondary market trading, which could cause the fund to trade at a discount or premium to its NAV at any time.

The performance data contained within this material represents past performance, which does not guarantee future results.

## **PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS OVER THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS**

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### **Growth concerns weighed on global stocks**

Fears of a global growth slowdown centered in China led to losses for many global stocks, with the steepest declines in emerging-market stocks.

### **Dividend stocks paced relative results**

The fund outperformed its comparative index, the MSCI All Country World Index, at NAV, owing primarily to stock selection in the income-oriented financials and telecommunication services sectors.

**The fund's domestic exposure was a positive factor**

An overweight in U.S. stocks, which outperformed the fund's comparative index, contributed to relative performance during the period.

**PORTFOLIO COMPOSITION AS OF 12/31/15 (%)**

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**A note about risks**

As is the case with all closed-end funds, shares of this fund may trade at a discount to the fund's net asset value. An investment in the fund is subject to investment and market risks, including the possible loss of the entire principal invested. There is no guarantee prior distribution levels will be maintained, and distributions may include a substantial tax return of capital. Fixed-income investments are subject to interest-rate risk; their value will normally decline as interest rates rise. An issuer of securities held by the fund may default, have its credit rating downgraded, or otherwise perform poorly, which may affect fund performance. Investing in derivative instruments involves risks different from, and in some cases greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in securities and other traditional investments. Liquidity the extent to which a security may be sold or a derivative position closed without negatively affecting its market value, if at all may be impaired by reduced trading volume, heightened volatility, rising interest rates, and other market conditions. Foreign investing, especially in emerging markets, has additional risks, such as currency and market volatility and political and social instability. The primary risks associated with the use of futures contracts and options are imperfect correlation, unanticipated market movement, and counterparty risk. Investments in higher-yielding, lower-rated securities include a higher risk of default.

Discussion of fund performance

*An interview with Portfolio Manager Kent M. Stahl, CFA, Wellington Management Company LLP*

**Kent M. Stahl, CFA**

Portfolio Manager  
Wellington Management Company LLP

An interview with Portfolio Manager Kent M. Stahl, CFA, Wellington Management Company LLP

**What factors affected global markets over the past 12 months?**

Global equities, as measured by the fund's comparative index, the MSCI All Country World Index, fell over the reporting period as supportive monetary policy actions by major world banks were unable to overcome worries about a worldwide growth slowdown. China implemented rate cuts in the first half of the period to stabilize growth in its economy while the European Central Bank announced a €1.14 trillion open-ended sovereign quantitative easing (QE) program to combat record low inflation and spark growth, while the Bank of Japan expanded its QE policy.

China dominated market sentiment in the second half of the period as the world's second largest economy

unexpectedly devalued its currency, triggering concerns about global disinflationary trends and a weaker-than-anticipated global growth backdrop. Stocks tumbled in the third quarter of the year in the aftermath of China's move, while export-driven economies were especially hard hit by continued declines in crude oil and other commodities. U.S. equities outperformed non-U.S. equities and emerging-market equities underperformed their developed-market counterparts. The U.S. Federal Reserve capped off a turbulent year in December by delivering its first rate hike since 2006, but the move failed to ease volatility.

Within the comparative index, only four out of ten sectors posted positive returns. Healthcare, consumer staples, consumer discretionary, and information technology led the index, while energy and materials declined the most.

Looking ahead, we remain generally positive about the outlook for global markets. Our belief is based on the ongoing strength in developed economies where we believe buoyant consumption, recovering balance sheets, and accommodative monetary policy will drive growth.

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND 4

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*"China dominated market sentiment in the second half of the period as the world's second largest economy unexpectedly devalued its currency, triggering concerns about global disinflationary trends and a weaker-than-anticipated global growth backdrop."*

**How did the fund respond to these market conditions?**

The fund seeks to provide investors with a portfolio that will generate attractive long-term total returns with downside equity market protection through a portfolio that invests in global equities and high-yield bonds and employs options strategies. The fund performed well compared with its index for the reporting period at NAV, primarily due to strong stock selection in the equity strategy and the fund's beta hedge, a strategy that reduces the fund's equity exposure by selling futures on the S&P 500 Index and the MSCI EAFE Index and benefits when such indexes decline. The fund's allocation to high-yield bonds and call writing strategy detracted from relative performance.

Stock selection within the financials, telecommunication services, and consumer staples sectors contributed most to relative performance, but was partially offset by weak selection within the utilities, energy, and industrials sectors. Sector allocation detracted from relative results, most

**SECTOR COMPOSITION AS OF 12/31/15 (%)**

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ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND 5

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*"Sector allocation detracted from relative results, most notably due to an underweight in consumer discretionary and consumer staples, as well as an overweight in the energy and materials sectors."*

notably due to an underweight in consumer discretionary and consumer staples, as well as an overweight in the energy and materials sectors.

**In a difficult environment for equities, which stocks had the greatest positive impact on relative performance for the year?**

The top contributors to the fund's relative performance during the period were Japan-based telecommunications company Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corp., food and beverage company Kraft Foods Group Inc., and pharmaceutical companies Eisai Company, Ltd. from Japan and U.S.-based Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. Kraft Foods Group was purchased by Heinz during the period and we eliminated the position on strength.

**Which positions detracted the most from results?**

The primary detractors from relative performance included the fund's holdings in Netherlands-based insurer Delta Lloyd NV, oil and natural gas exploration and production company Marathon Oil Corp., International Paper Company, and industrial components maker Eaton Corp. PLC. Not

**TOP 10 HOLDINGS AS OF 12/31/15 (%)**

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British American Tobacco PLC	2.3
Microsoft Corp.	2.3
Merck & Company, Inc.	2.2
The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.	1.7
Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corp.	1.7
Intel Corp.	1.5
JPMorgan Chase & Co.	1.5
AstraZeneca PLC	1.5
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	1.3
Chevron Corp.	1.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17.3</b>

As a percentage of net assets.

Cash and cash equivalents are not included.

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND 6

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owning e-commerce and cloud computing company Amazon.com, Inc., which performed strongly during the period, also hurt relative results.

**How was the fund positioned at the end of the period?**

At the end of the period, the equity portfolio was most overweight in the financials and utilities sectors, while consumer discretionary and consumer staples were the largest underweights. The largest changes in positioning during the period included a shift to a greater underweight in information technology and increases in the underweight in consumer discretionary and the overweight in utilities. We maintained the fund's exposure to global high-yield fixed income to help aid its income-generating capabilities.

**MANAGED BY**

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**Kent M. Stahl, CFA**

On the fund since 2011

Investing since 1985

**Gregg R. Thomas, CFA**

On the fund since 2011

Investing since 1993

**COUNTRY COMPOSITION AS OF 12/31/15 (%)**

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United States	55.8
Japan	11.3
United Kingdom	9.4
Switzerland	4.0
France	3.8
Canada	2.7
Germany	2.7
Netherlands	2.0
Spain	1.8
China	1.5
Other Countries	5.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0</b>

As a percentage of net assets.

The views expressed in this report are exclusively those of Kent M. Stahl, CFA, Wellington Management Company LLP, and are subject to change. They are not meant as investment advice. Please note that the holdings discussed in this report may not have been held by the fund for the entire period. Portfolio composition is subject to review in accordance with the fund's investment strategy and may vary in the future. Current and future portfolio holdings are subject to risk.

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Fund's investments

**As of 12-31-15**

	Shares	Value
Common stocks		\$171,559,688
81.7%		
(Cost \$175,502,681)		
Consumer discretionary	4.4%	9,131,425
Auto components	0.9%	
Aisan Industry Company, Ltd.	11,600	119,102
Delphi Automotive PLC	3,905	334,776
Exedy Corp.	8,400	203,016
Keihin Corp.	14,700	257,755
	13,500	195,825



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Nissin Kogyo Company, Ltd. Sumitomo Riko Company, Ltd.	17,600	146,720
Takata Corp. (I)	10,900	72,589
Tokai Rika Company, Ltd.	8,100	199,363
Toyoda Gosei Company, Ltd.	11,600	263,516
Automobiles 0.3%		
Honda Motor Company, Ltd.	13,900	444,265
Peugeot SA (I)	4,089	71,676
Renault SA	2,233	223,513
Diversified consumer services 0.1%		
Allstar Co-Invest LLC (I)(R)	236,300	96,883
Benesse Holdings, Inc.	2,800	80,634
Household durables 0.9%		
Funai Electric Company, Ltd.	18,463	154,869
Newell Rubbermaid, Inc.	8,681	382,658
Nikon Corp.	20,500	274,566
Pioneer Corp. (I)	76,500	210,598
PulteGroup, Inc.	46,795	833,887
Internet and catalog retail 0.1%		
Home Retail	71,988	105,459

Group PLC Qliro Group	49,556	70,817
AB (I) Media 0.5% Avex Group Holdings, Inc. Gendai Agency, Inc. Metropole Television SA Proto Corp. SES SA Multiline retail 0.2% Dollar General Corp. New World Department Store China, Ltd. Specialty retail 1.2% Adastria Company, Ltd. Honeys Company, Ltd.	7,200 5,200 9,649 3,000 25,587 5,688 343,000 2,900 12,030	85,415 26,880 165,926 41,272 709,008 408,797 52,058 162,278 103,834

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND 8

	Shares	Value
Consumer discretionary (continued) Specialty retail (continued) Nishimatsuya Chain Company, Ltd.	17,800	\$154,066

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Pal Company, Ltd.	4,700	112,805
Ross Stores, Inc.	4,663	250,916
Shimamura Company, Ltd.	1,600	187,375
The Home Depot, Inc.	10,725	1,418,381
Xebio Company, Ltd.	9,500	179,407
Textiles, apparel and luxury goods 0.2%		
Daphne International Holdings, Ltd. (I)	524,000	87,494
Ralph Lauren Corp.	2,180	243,026
Consumer staples 5.4%		11,278,302
Beverages 1.2%		
The Coca-Cola Company	58,457	2,511,313
Food and staples retailing 0.3%		
Cawachi, Ltd.	7,100	138,448
J Sainsbury PLC	88,666	337,658
Metro AG Food products 1.1%	6,194	197,324
Ebro Foods SA	20,138	396,131
Ingredion, Inc.	11,273	1,080,404
Pinnacle Foods, Inc.	17,016	722,499
Suedzucker AG	9,645	191,168
Household products 0.3%		
The Procter & Gamble	7,825	621,383

Company		
Personal products 0.1%		
Oriflame		
Holding	10,701	171,492
AG (I)		
Tobacco 2.4%		
British		
American	88,423	4,910,482
Tobacco		
PLC		
Energy	6.3%	13,137,134
Energy equipment and		
services 0.3%		
Ensco		
PLC,	14,177	218,184
Class A		
Helmerich		
& Payne,	5,000	267,750
Inc.		
Oil, gas and consumable		
fuels 6.0%		
BP PLC	127,772	663,990
Canadian		
Natural		
Resources,	20,755	453,082
Ltd.		
Chevron		
Corp. (C)	30,777	2,768,699
Encana		
Corp.	9,900	50,298
Eni SpA	26,311	390,934
Gazprom		
OAO,	63,222	232,025
ADR		
Harum		
Energy	450,400	21,987
Tbk PT (I)		
Indo		
Tambangraya		
Megah	96,400	39,796
Tbk PT		

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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	Shares	Value
Energy (continued)		
Oil, gas and consumable fuels		
(continued)		

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Inpex Corp.	20,000	\$194,978
Japan Petroleum Exploration Company, Ltd.	7,000	188,001
Lukoil PJSC, ADR	7,520	244,287
Marathon Oil Corp.	64,497	812,017
Occidental Petroleum Corp.	15,255	1,031,391
Painted Pony Petroleum, Ltd. (I)	12,700	31,940
Petro Rio SA (I)	2,930	1,802
Petroleo Brasileiro SA, ADR (I)	28,392	122,086
Royal Dutch Shell PLC, B Shares	69,625	1,586,818
Statoil ASA	6,144	85,689
Suncor Energy, Inc.	60,254	1,554,553
Total SA	37,579	1,684,718
TransCanada Corp.	15,100	492,109
Financials	22.2%	46,665,561
Banks	9.7%	
Allahabad Bank	61,017	63,788
Alpha Bank AE (I)	16,089	43,117
Banca Popolare dell'Emilia Romagna SC	19,413	147,250
Banco Popular	54,636	180,019

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Espanol SA BNP Paribas SA	7,559	427,668
CaixaBank SA	239,399	833,254
Canara Bank	28,136	98,734
China Construction Bank Corp., H Shares	1,538,218	1,049,292
Comerica, Inc. Corp. Bank	7,507	314,018
Dah Sing Financial Holdings, Ltd.	60,024	38,266
HSBC Holdings PLC	15,600	77,640
ING Groep NV	201,577	1,591,291
JPMorgan Chase & Co. (C)	29,199	395,063
KB Financial Group, Inc.	47,435	3,132,133
M&T Bank Corp.	5,733	161,520
Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc.	3,951	478,782
Mizuho Financial Group, Inc.	324,005	2,006,968
Nordea Bank AB	194,400	388,800
OTP Bank PLC	124,752	1,368,748
	8,181	168,212
	3,196	107,359

Shinhan Financial Group Company, Ltd. (I) Societe Generale SA Standard Chartered PLC Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, Inc. Svenska Handelsbanken AB, A Shares The Eighteenth Bank, Ltd. The Oita Bank, Ltd.	7,733    41,264   11,200   54,851  10,000  15,000	356,353    342,374   422,700   728,502  29,229  58,340
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SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY &amp; INCOME FUND 10

	Shares	Value
Financials (continued) Banks (continued) The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. (C) The Tochigi Bank, Ltd. The Yamanashi Chuo Bank, Ltd. UniCredit SpA Wells Fargo & Company (C)	37,042     16,000   12,000   38,724  26,267	\$3,530,473     91,255   61,331   214,093  1,427,874

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Capital markets 2.1%		
BlackRock, Inc. (C)	5,659	1,927,003
Henderson Group PLC	338,431	1,538,175
Julius Baer Group, Ltd. (I)	3,978	192,444
UBS Group AG	29,358	569,529
Uranium Participation Corp. (I)	30,800	114,189
Consumer finance 0.1%		
Manappuram Finance, Ltd.	221,288	97,441
Synchrony Financial (I)	7,926	241,030
Diversified financial services 0.9%		
Intercontinental Exchange, Inc. (C)	4,288	1,098,843
MSCI, Inc.	12,563	906,169
Insurance 6.8%		
ACE, Ltd.	11,720	1,369,482
Ageas	9,290	431,185
Assicurazioni Generali SpA CNO Financial Group, Inc.	69,232	1,264,639
Coface SA (I)	12,107	122,679
Delta Lloyd NV	74,054	436,543
FNF Group	25,327	878,087
Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.	16,040	889,418
MetLife, Inc.	35,929	1,732,137
	7,941	375,053



Primerica, Inc. Sony Financial Holdings, Inc. Storebrand ASA (I) T&D Holdings, Inc. The Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company, Ltd. Tongyang Life Insurance Torchmark Corp. Willis Towers Watson PLC Zurich Insurance Group AG (I) Real estate investment trusts 0.9% ICADE Weyerhaeuser Company Real estate management and development 1.7% Castellum AB The UNITE Group PLC	20,020 61,334 31,000 16,900 9,867 6,000 36,431 9,378 11,936 36,527 62,160 63,318	358,102 240,207 409,000 281,177 97,561 342,960 1,769,454 2,409,206 801,144 1,095,079 885,236 611,685
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SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY &amp; INCOME FUND 11

Shares Value

Financials

(continued)

Real estate management and  
development (continued)

Vonovia 65,133 \$2,012,159  
SE

Health care 9.4% 19,816,502

Biotechnology 0.1%

Sinovac

Biotech, 22,089 126,349

Ltd. (I)

Health care equipment and  
supplies 0.1%

Zimmer

Biomet 3,355 344,189

Holdings,  
Inc.

Health care providers and  
services 0.5%

AmerisourceBergen 2,221 230,340  
Corp.

Quest  
Diagnostics, 10,852 772,011

Inc.

Suzuken

Company, 990 37,622

Ltd.

Health care technology 0.1%

AGFA-Gevaert 32,928 187,374  
NV (I)

Life sciences tools and  
services 0.0%

CMIC

Holdings 6,400 81,510

Company,  
Ltd.

Pharmaceuticals 8.6%

Almirall 10,618 214,601

SA

AstraZeneca 45,481 3,072,119

PLC

Bristol-Myers

Squibb 40,767 2,804,362

Company

Daiichi

Sankyo 10,400 214,653

Company,  
Ltd.

Eisai

Company, 29,346 1,941,260

Ltd.

H.		
Lundbeck A/S (I)	8,985	306,795
Johnson & Johnson	12,714	1,305,982
Merck & Company, Inc. (C)	88,336	4,665,908
Ono Pharmaceutical Company, Ltd.	1,780	317,395
Roche Holding AG	9,763	2,705,409
Takeda Pharmaceutical Company, Ltd.	9,800	488,623
Industrials 8.9%		18,713,364
Aerospace and defense 0.7%		
Raytheon Company	3,140	391,024
Thales SA	2,943	220,283
United Technologies Corp.	9,279	891,434
Air freight and logistics 0.5%		
Deutsche Post AG	24,727	691,312
PostNL NV (I)	85,802	325,442
Airlines 0.4%		
American Airlines Group, Inc.	8,431	357,053
Deutsche Lufthansa AG (I)	23,450	369,362
Qantas Airways, Ltd. (I)	32,989	97,782
Building products 0.4%		
Cie de Saint-Gobain	10,909	472,744

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ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND 12

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	Shares	Value
Industrials (continued)		
Building products (continued)		
Fortune Brands		
Home & Security, Inc.	7,680	\$426,240
Commercial services and supplies 0.1%		
Aeon Delight Company, Ltd.	2,300	73,791
Moshi Hotline, Inc.	8,500	72,931
Construction and engineering 0.1%		
Raubex Group, Ltd.	58,523	63,505
Toyo Engineering Corp. (I)	65,000	167,005
Electrical equipment 2.1%		
Eaton Corp. PLC	46,545	2,422,202
Schneider Electric SE	29,216	1,659,584
Ushio, Inc.	14,600	201,332
Zumtobel Group AG	1,496	37,687
Industrial conglomerates 1.5%		
3M Company	6,703	1,009,740
General Electric Company	20,197	629,137
Koninklijke Philips NV	7,580	193,474
Rheinmetall AG	4,572	303,909
Siemens AG	9,564	925,277
Machinery 0.7%		

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Caterpillar, Inc.	13,164	894,625
Fuji Machine Manufacturing Company, Ltd.	2,300	24,178
Hisaka Works, Ltd.	9,200	73,287
Sumitomo Heavy Industries, Ltd.	33,000	147,934
The Japan Steel Works, Ltd.	53,000	186,052
Toshiba Machine Company, Ltd.	41,000	139,057
Marine 0.1% D/S Norden A/S (I) Pacific Basin Shipping, Ltd.	7,995	141,758
Professional services 0.4% Adecco SA (I) en-japan, Inc.	3,547	242,766
Hays PLC	4,800	176,749
USG People NV	85,030	182,615
Road and rail 0.6% Kansas City Southern Union Pacific Corp.	10,621	197,592
Trading companies and distributors 0.4% Fastenal Company	6,937	517,986
Kuroda Electric	10,455	817,581

Company,  
Ltd.  
Rexel SA 11,033 146,913  
SIG PLC 65,647 138,724

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY &amp; INCOME FUND 13

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	Shares	Value
Industrials (continued)		
Transportation infrastructure 0.9%		
Hamburger Hafen und Logistik AG	5,548	\$84,530
Jiangsu Expressway Company, Ltd., H Shares	1,428,519	1,917,230
Information technology 10.3%		21,728,157
Communications equipment 2.0%		
Cisco Systems, Inc. (C) QUALCOMM Inc.	101,647 30,429	2,760,224 1,520,994
Electronic equipment, instruments and components 0.5%		
Avnet, Inc.	11,822	506,454
Hosiden Corp. Kingboard Laminates Holdings, Ltd.	27,100 322,500	152,435 145,517
Mitsumi Electric Company, Ltd.	7,200	40,776
Nichicon Corp.	25,500	199,347
Internet software and services 0.2%		
DeNa Company, Ltd.	13,700	214,218

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Dropbox, Inc., Class B (I)(R)	7,248	115,098
Gree, Inc. IT services	31,400 0.9%	149,089
Alten SA Booz Allen Hamilton Holding Corp.	2,642	152,890
Devoteam SA	1,502	54,422
Fujitsu, Ltd. GFI Informatique SA	81,000 3,780	404,280 34,195
Itochu Techno-Solution Corp.	10,200	203,229
NET One Systems Company, Ltd. Sopra Steria Group	26,700 2,491	170,929 292,924
Semiconductors and semiconductor equipment	3.7%	
Intel Corp. Kontron AG (I) Lam Research Corp. Maxim Integrated Products, Inc. (C) Micronas Semiconductor Holding AG (I) Mimasu Semiconductor Industry Company, Ltd. Miraial Company,	93,906 14,745 6,049 72,067 15,030 7,500 6,500	3,235,062 48,341 480,412 2,738,546 111,997 71,413 57,124

Ltd. Rohm Company,	3,600	182,343
Ltd. SCREEN Holdings Company,	37,000	272,347
Ltd. Shinkawa, Ltd. (I)	15,400	79,355
Shinko Electric Industries Company,	32,600	208,994
Ltd. Tokyo Seimitsu Company,	10,400	230,575
Ltd. Software 2.4% Alpha Systems, Inc.	1,700	27,362
Microsoft Corp. (C)	88,160	4,891,117

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY &amp; INCOME FUND 14

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	Shares	Value
Information technology (continued) Software (continued)		
Nintendo Company,	1,600	\$220,016
Ltd. Technology hardware, storage and peripherals 0.6%		
Canon, Inc.	11,800	356,950
Compal Electronics, Inc.	334,000	186,907
Japan Digital Laboratory Company, Ltd.	6,400	87,082



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Melco Holdings, Inc.	8,300	152,586
Western Digital Corp.	6,096	366,065
Materials 5.3%		11,188,759
Chemicals 1.9%		
Agrium, Inc.	10,482	936,462
Agrium, Inc.	3,416	305,309
Akzo Nobel NV	12,056	805,566
E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company	11,305	752,913
Fujimi, Inc.	4,300	59,524
Hitachi Chemical Company, Ltd.	8,300	131,677
JSR Corp.	18,500	288,310
Methanex Corp.	8,497	280,486
Mitsui Chemicals, Inc.	37,000	164,095
Nitto Denko Corp.	2,600	189,815
Sumitomo Bakelite Company, Ltd.	47,000	195,615
Construction materials 0.4%		
Buzzi Unicem SpA	15,028	269,381
LafargeHolcim Ltd.	7,341	367,599
Vicat SA	2,722	163,668
Containers and packaging 1.4%		
AMVIG Holdings, Ltd.	230,000	95,302
Graphic Packaging	24,670	316,516

Holding Company International Paper	58,579	2,208,428
Company Packaging Corp. of America	4,022	253,587
Metals and mining 1.2% Aichi Steel Corp.	11,000	51,526
Anglo American Platinum, Ltd. (I)	6,840	82,379
Anglo American PLC	22,731	99,726
Aquarius Platinum, Ltd. (I)	240,444	39,623
Barrick Gold Corp.	14,100	104,346
Centerra Gold, Inc.	30,200	143,830
Chubu Steel Plate Company, Ltd.	8,500	37,191
CST Mining Group, Ltd. (I)	1,440,000	16,809
Eldorado Gold Corp.	36,404	108,120
G-Resources Group, Ltd.	4,227,000	100,360
Impala Platinum Holdings, Ltd. (I)	49,229	79,639

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND 15

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Shares Value

Materials  
(continued)

## Metals and mining (continued)

Ivanhoe

Mines, Ltd., Class	109,000	\$48,052
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A (I)

Kinross

Gold	75,897	138,133
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Corp. (I)

Kyoei Steel, Ltd.	9,900	177,202
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Lonmin

PLC (I)	15,069	18,443
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Maruichi

Steel	4,300	126,943
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Tube, Ltd.

Neturen

Company, Ltd.	11,800	92,305
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Northern

Dynasty

Minerals, Ltd. (I)	16,000	4,857
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NV

Bekaert	5,662	174,465
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SA

Pacific

Metals Company, Ltd. (I)	29,000	80,859
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Resolute

Mining, Ltd. (I)	361,784	65,923
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Salzgitter

AG	5,965	145,768
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Tokyo

Steel

Manufacturing Company, Ltd.	25,700	159,559
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Western

Areas,

Ltd.	46,516	75,362
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Yamato

Kogyo

Company, Ltd.	7,600	193,785
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Yodogawa

Steel Works,	5,400	108,291
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Ltd.		
Paper and forest products	0.4%	
KapStone		
Paper and Packaging Corp.	18,800	424,692
Norbord, Inc.	25,996	506,318
Telecommunication services	4.6%	9,708,523
Diversified telecommunication services	3.7%	
Hellenic Telecommunications Organization SA	21,297	213,141
KT Corp. (I)	12,791	306,514
Magyar Telekom Telecommunications PLC (I)	119,805	167,220
Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corp.	88,612	3,526,590
Orange SA	19,424	324,880
Telefonica SA	26,116	289,729
Telenor ASA	74,533	1,242,358
Verizon Communications Inc.	35,296	1,631,381
Wireless telecommunication services	0.9%	
Mobistar SA (I)	9,759	236,642
NTT DOCOMO, Inc.	86,296	1,770,068
Utilities	4.9%	10,191,961
Electric utilities	1.9%	
Edison International Power Assets Holdings, Ltd.	16,424	972,465
	222,168	2,036,736

Xcel  
 Energy, 29,457 1,057,801  
 Inc.  
 Gas utilities 0.6%  
 Gas  
 Natural 58,187 1,186,563  
 SDG SA  
 Independent power and  
 renewable electricity  
 producers 0.1%  
 NTPC,  
 Ltd. 81,336 178,065

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND 16

	Shares	Value
Utilities (continued)		
Multi-utilities 2.3%		
Centrica PLC	389,974	\$1,252,196
Dominion Resources, Inc.	19,757	1,336,363
E.ON SE	15,563	149,436
Engie	18,391	325,764
National Grid PLC	62,489	861,822
PG&E Corp.	13,789	733,437
RWE AG	8,036	101,313
Preferred securities 0.0%		\$102,907
(Cost \$108,103)		
Telecommunication services 0.0%		50,377
Telefonica Brasil SA	5,600	50,377
Utilities 0.0%		52,530
Cia Paranaense de Energia, B Shares	8,600	52,530
Rate (%) Maturity date Par value^		Value
Corporate bonds 13.9%		\$29,332,015
(Cost \$32,089,312)		
Consumer discretionary 2.9%		6,107,985
Auto components 0.1%		
ZF		
North		
Americas	150,000	146,625
Capital, Inc. (S)		
Automobiles 0.1%		
General		
Motors	85,000	86,925
Company		
General	65,000	68,584
Motors		

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Company			
Diversified consumer services 0.1%			
Service			
Corp.	7.625	10-01-18	125,000 139,531
International			
Hotels, restaurants and leisure 0.3%			
CEC			
Enter.	8.000	02-15-22	130,000 122,850
Inc.			
Cirs			
Funding	5.875	05-15-23	EUR 100,000 102,970
Luxembourg			
SA			
Cirs			
Funding	5.875	05-15-23	EUR 115,000 118,415
Luxembourg			
SA (S)			
NH			
Hotel	6.875	11-15-19	EUR 235,000 280,516
Group			
SA (S)			
Household durables 0.5%			
Argos			
Merger	7.125	03-15-23	205,000 203,258
Sub,			
Inc. (S)			
DR			
Hort	4.000	02-15-20	25,000 25,143
Inc.			
DR			
Hort	4.375	09-15-22	80,000 79,500
Inc.			
DR			
Hort	5.750	08-15-23	20,000 21,320
Inc.			
KB	7.000	12-15-21	375,000 369,844
Home			
Lennar	4.750	11-15-22	125,000 123,938
Corp.			
Lennar	4.875	12-15-23	40,000 39,800
Corp.			
M/I			
Home	6.750	01-15-21	195,000 192,075
Inc. (S)			
Toll			
Brothers	4.875	11-15-25	45,000 44,213
Finance			
Corp.			

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Rate (%)	Maturity date	Par value^	Value
Consumer discretionary (continued)			
Internet and catalog retail 0.1%			
Liberty			
2.150	02-01-30	155,000	\$154,225
LLC			
Media 1.4%			
Altice			
6.700	01-15-22	EUR100,000	113,603
SA (S)			
CCO			
5.125	02-15-23	5,000	5,006
LLC			
CCO			
5.250	09-30-22	5,000	5,050
LLC			
CCO			
5.750	09-01-23	35,000	35,875
LLC			
CCO			
5.375	06-01-20	255,000	265,519
LLC			
CCO			
4.908	07-23-25	95,000	94,907
Safari II			
LLC (S)			
CCOH			
5.750	02-15-26	120,000	120,300
LLC (S)			
Cequel			
Communications			
5.125	12-15-21	285,000	256,500
Holdings I			
LLC (S)			
Cequel			
Communications			
5.125	12-15-21	55,000	49,500
Holdings I			
LLC (S)			
DISH			
6.750	06-01-21	170,000	171,275
Corp.			
DISH			
7.875	09-01-19	320,000	348,000
Corp.			
Gray			
7.500	10-01-20	75,000	77,063
Television Inc.			

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Lin Televisión Corp.	5.875	11-15-22	35,000	34,825
TEGNA Inc. (S)	4.875	09-15-21	115,000	115,288
TEGNA Inc.	5.125	10-15-19	310,000	320,850
TEGNA Inc. (S)	5.500	09-15-24	20,000	20,000
TEGNA Inc.	6.375	10-15-23	55,000	58,025
Tribune Media Company (S)	1.875	07-15-22	295,000	295,000
TVN Finance Corp.	7.375	12-15-20	EUR 104,000	121,781
III AB Unitymedia Hessen GmbH & Company KG	5.500	09-15-22	EUR 234,000	269,545
Unitymedia Hessen GmbH & Company KG	5.750	01-15-23	EUR 112,500	129,889
Multiline retail	0.0%			
Dollar Tree, Inc. (S)	5.250	03-01-20	20,000	20,650
Dollar Tree, Inc. (S)	5.750	03-01-23	75,000	78,188
Specialty retail	0.3%			
Chinos Intermediate Holdings A, Inc., PIK (S) L	7.750	05-01-19	130,000	32,500
Brands Inc. (S)	6.875	11-01-35	145,000	148,988
Michaels Stores Inc. (S)	5.875	12-15-20	195,000	201,581



New Look Securities	6.500	07-01-22	GBP 180,000	262,745
Issuer PLC (S) Party City Holdings, Inc. (S)	6.125	08-15-23	140,000	135,800
Consumer staples	0.6%			1,217,935
Food and staples retailing	0.2%			
Albertsons Holdings LLC (S)	7.750	10-15-22	64,000	67,960
Aramark Services Inc.	5.750	03-15-20	280,000	289,625
Food products	0.1%			
Post Holdings Inc. (S)	6.000	12-15-22	40,000	39,200
Post Holdings Inc.	7.375	02-15-22	80,000	83,400
TreeHouse Food Inc.	4.875	03-15-22	190,000	180,975

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND 18

Rate (%)	Maturity date	Par value^	Value	
Consumer staples (continued)				
Household products 0.1%				
The Sun Products Corp. (S)	7.750	03-15-21	280,000	\$242,900
Personal products 0.2%				
Hypermarches SA	6.500	04-20-21	310,000	313,875
Energy 1.2%				
Energy equipment and services 0.0%				
Paragon Offshore PLC (S)	6.750	07-15-22	230,000	32,200
Oil, gas and consumable fuels 1.2%				
Antero Resources	6.625	06-01-23	25,000	19,500

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Corp. (S)				
Antero				
Resources	12-01-20	185,000	154,475	
Corp.				
Blue				
Racer				
Midstream	11-15-22	190,000	131,100	
LLC (S)				
Bonanza				
Creek				
Energy,	04-15-21	100,000	60,500	
Inc.				
Borets				
Financial	09-26-18	200,000	162,000	
Ltd.				
Concho				
Resources	10-01-22	70,000	63,700	
Inc.				
Continental				
Resources	06-01-24	40,000	28,188	
Inc.				
Continental				
Resources	06-01-44	60,000	36,191	
Inc.				
Diamondback				
Energy	10-01-21	120,000	121,200	
Inc.				
Energen				
Corp.	09-01-21	25,000	22,250	
Energy				
Transfer				
Equity	06-01-27	350,000	266,000	
LP				
EP				
Energy	05-01-20	85,000	54,188	
LLC				
Gazprom				
OAO	07-19-22	200,000	187,073	
Kinder				
Morgan	06-01-18	60,000	62,301	
Inc.				
Laredo				
Petro	01-15-22	55,000	47,850	
Inc.				
Laredo				
Petro	03-15-23	85,000	73,950	
Inc.				
Laredo				
Petro	05-01-22	45,000	41,400	
Inc.				
	04-15-23	30,000	27,900	

Matador Resources Company MEG Energy Corp. (S)	6.375	01-30-23	20,000	13,700
MEG Energy Corp. (S)	7.000	03-31-24	140,000	99,400
Noble Energy Inc.	6.25	05-01-21	200,000	195,637
Noble Energy Inc.	5.875	06-01-22	70,000	66,591
Petroleos de Venezuela SA QEP Resources Inc.	6.000	11-15-26	330,000	121,275
QEP Resources Inc.	5.250	05-01-23	80,000	56,800
QEP Resources Inc.	5.375	10-01-22	15,000	10,800
QEP Resources Inc.	6.800	03-01-20	25,000	22,500
Range Resources Corp.	5.000	08-15-22	35,000	26,163
Rice Energy Inc. (S)	7.250	05-01-23	40,000	29,200
RSP Permian Inc.	6.25	10-01-22	10,000	9,200
Tullow Oil PLC (S)	6.250	04-15-22	350,000	234,500
WPX Energy Inc.	5.250	09-15-24	120,000	79,200
WPX Energy Inc.	6.000	01-15-22	80,000	56,000

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Rate (%)	Maturity date	Par value^	Value
Financials 1.7%			\$3,551,179
Banks 0.9%			
Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria SA			
(7.000%			
to 2-19-19, then 7.000%	02-19-19	EUR200,000	213,247
5 year Euro Swap Rate + 6.155% (Q)			
Bank of Ireland (7.375%			
to 06-18-2020, then 7.375%	06-18-20	EUR200,000	226,558
5 Year Euro Swap Rate + 6.956% (P)(Q)			
Barclays PLC (8.250%			
to 12-15-18, then 8.250%	12-15-18	200,000	212,940
5 year U.S. Swap Rate + 6.705% (Q)			
Intesa Sanpaolo SpA (8.375%	10-14-19	EUR50,000	62,758

to  
 10-14-19,  
 then  
 3  
 month  
 EURIBOR  
 +  
 6.871% (Q)  
 Lloyds  
 Banking  
 Group  
 PLC  
 (6.375%  
 to  
 6-27-20,  
 then 6.375      06-27-20              EUR 200,000    229,252  
 5  
 year  
 Euro  
 Swap  
 Rate  
 +  
 5.290% (Q)  
 Royal  
 Bank  
 of  
 Scotland  
 Group  
 PLC  
 (7.500%  
 to  
 8-10-20,  
 then 7.500      08-10-20              295,000    307,169  
 5  
 Year  
 U.S.  
 Swap  
 Rate  
 +  
 5.800% (Q)  
 Royal Bank  
 of  
 Scotland  
 Group  
 PLC  
 (7.640%  
 to  
 9-30-17,  
 then  
 3

month LIBOR + 2.320% (Q) Santander UK Group Holdings PLC (6.250% to 3-12-19, then 6.250	03-12-19	EUR 100,000	102,645
5 year Euro Swap Rate + 5.410% (Q) Sberbank of 5.125	10-29-22	200,000	182,760
Russia (S) VTB Bank 6.875	05-29-18	200,000	208,510
OJSC (S) Diversified financial services 0.5% Credit Suisse Group Funding 6.250	12-18-24	200,000	199,784
Guernsey, Ltd. (P)(Q) International Lease Finance 6.250	05-15-19	490,000	524,913
Corp. MSCI Inc. (S) 5.250	11-15-24	150,000	152,250
Nationstar Mortgage 6.500	08-01-18	235,000	228,538
LLC Insurance 0.1% CNO Financial Group, 4.500	05-30-20	30,000	30,600
Inc. CNO Financial Group, 5.250	05-30-25	75,000	76,313
Inc.			

Nationwide Building Society (6.875% to 6-20-19, then 5	6.875	06-20-19	GBP 120,000	177,346
year GBP Swap Rate + 4.880% (Q)				
Real estate investment trusts 0.1%				
Equinix Inc.	5.875	01-15-26	75,000	77,250
Specialty retail 0.1%				
Dufry Financial SCA (S)	6.500	08-01-23	EUR 205,000	233,846
Health care 2.1%				4,514,614
Health care equipment and supplies 0.2%				
Alere Inc. (S)	6.375	07-01-23	150,000	140,250
Alere Inc.	6.500	06-15-20	256,000	245,760
Alere Inc.	7.250	07-01-18	60,000	61,350
Hologic Inc. (S)	5.250	07-15-22	55,000	56,100
Health care providers and services 1.2%				
Amsurg Corp.	5.825	07-15-22	275,000	272,250
Community Health Systems, Inc.	6.875	02-01-22	345,000	327,319
Community Health Systems, Inc.	7.125	07-15-20	250,000	249,063
Envision Health Corp. (S)	5.125	07-01-22	85,000	83,300

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Rate (%)	Maturity date	Par value^	Value
Health care (continued)			
Health care providers and services (continued)			
HCA			
6.250	02-15-21	240,000	\$253,800
Holdings Inc.			
6.500	02-15-20	360,000	392,220
HCA Inc.			
7.500	11-15-95	125,000	118,750
HCA Inc.			
9.000	01-15-18	50,000	51,250
inVentiv Health Inc. (S)			
5.875	12-01-23	170,000	172,550
LifePoint Inc.			
5.250	12-01-23	90,000	90,450
MEDNAX Inc. (S)			
5.000	03-01-19	195,000	179,888
Tenet Health Corp.			
6.750	06-15-23	50,000	46,375
Tenet Health Corp.			
8.125	04-01-22	275,000	274,313
Tenet Health Corp.			
5.750	11-15-20	135,000	139,050
WellCare Health Plans, Inc.			
Health care technology 0.3%			
6.000	02-15-21	110,000	102,300
Emdeon Inc. (S)			
4.125	04-01-23	EUR 235,000	247,835
IMS Inc. (S)			
6.500	05-15-23	250,000	238,750
Sterigenics-Nordion Holdings LLC (S)			
Pharmaceuticals 0.4%			
6.000	07-15-23	265,000	263,675
Endo Financial LLC (S)			
6.500	10-01-23	150,000	163,125
PRA Holdings Inc. (S)			
4.875	05-15-23	195,000	195,975
Quintiles Transnational Corp. (S)			
4.500	05-15-23	EUR 130,000	122,516



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Valeant Pharmaceuticals International, Inc.				
Valeant Pharmaceuticals International, Inc. (S)	5.500	03-01-23	30,000	26,400
Industrials				0.9%
Aerospace and defense				0.2%
AerCap Ireland Capital, Ltd.	4.500	05-15-21	150,000	152,438
Huntington Ingalls Industries, Inc. (S)	5.000	11-15-25	35,000	35,525
TA Manufacturing Ltd. (S)	1.625	04-15-23	EUR 180,000	189,333
Building products				0.2%
Builders FirstSource Inc. (S)	10.750	08-15-23	185,000	183,613
Kerneos Corp (S)	6.750	03-01-21	EUR 145,000	159,463
SAS (S) Ply Gem Industries, Inc.	6.500	02-01-22	180,000	164,700
Commercial services and supplies				0.1%
Aramark Services Inc. (S)	1.125	01-15-24	25,000	25,469
Quad/Graphics, Inc.	7.000	05-01-22	190,000	119,225
Electrical equipment				0.1%
Sensata Technologies BV (S)	1.000	10-01-25	100,000	97,750
Sensata Technologies BV (S)	1.025	11-01-24	70,000	71,575
Industrial conglomerates				0.1%
Tenedora Nemak SA de CV	5.500	02-28-23	200,000	200,500

Machinery 0.2%				
Case				
New				
Hollander	12-01-17	240,000	253,800	
Industrial, Inc.				
CNH				
Industrial				
Capital	11-06-20	15,000	14,138	
LLC				
Crown				
European				
Holdings	05-15-25	EUR 170,000	172,508	
SA (S)				

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND 21

	Rate (%)	Maturity date	Par value^	Value
Industrials (continued)				
Trading companies and distributors 0.0%				
American				
Builders				
&				
Contractors	5.750	12-15-23	55,000	\$55,413
Supply				
Company,				
Inc. (S)				
Information technology 1.9%				3,956,286
Communications equipment 0.2%				
Alcatel-Lucent				
USA	6.450	03-15-29	271,000	274,388
Inc.				
Alcatel-Lucent				
USA	6.750	11-15-20	200,000	210,750
Inc. (S)				
Electronic equipment, instruments and components 0.2%				
CDW				
LLC	5.000	09-01-23	35,000	35,525
CDW				
LLC	5.500	12-01-24	105,000	109,988
CDW				
LLC	6.000	08-15-22	290,000	305,950
Internet software and services 0.2%				
Zayo				
Group	6.000	04-01-23	190,000	179,550
LLC				
Zayo	6.375	05-15-25	110,000	102,300
Group				

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LLC				
IT services 0.2%				
First				
Data 5.375	08-15-23	280,000	281,400	
Corp. (S)				
First				
Data 7.000	12-01-23	160,000	160,000	
Corp. (S)				
Semiconductors and semiconductor equipment 0.3%				
Entegris				
Inc. (S)	04-01-22	210,000	212,625	
Freescale				
Semiconductor, Inc. (S)	01-15-22	465,000	487,088	
Software 0.8%				
Activision				
Blizzard	09-15-21	355,000	371,863	
Inc. (S)				
Activision				
Blizzard	09-15-23	130,000	137,800	
Inc. (S)				
Audatex				
North America, Inc. (S)	06-15-21	276,000	278,070	
Emdeon				
Inc. (S)	12-31-19	180,000	187,650	
First				
Data 5.750	01-15-24	240,000	236,400	
Corp. (S)				
Infor				
Software				
Parent, LLC, PIK (S)	05-01-21	270,000	195,075	
Infor				
US, 5.750	08-15-20	25,000	25,188	
Inc. (S)				
Infor				
US, 5.750	05-15-22	EUR 100,000	96,613	
Inc. (S)				
Infor				
US, 6.500	05-15-22	50,000	42,250	
Inc. (S)				
SS&C				
Technologies				
Holdings, Inc. (S)	07-15-23	25,000	25,813	
Materials 1.3%			2,760,091	
Building materials 0.2%				
5.375	11-15-24	365,000	364,088	

Building Materials Corp. of America (S) Chemicals 0.1% INEOS Group Holdings SA Construction materials 0.3% Cemex SAB de CV HeidelbergCement Finance Luxembourg SA Containers and packaging 0.5% Ardagh Packaging Finance PLC (S) Ardagh Packaging Finance PLC	6.500 08-15-18  5.875 03-25-19  8.500 10-31-19  6.000 06-30-21  9.250 10-15-20	EUR210,000  550,000  EUR115,000  200,000  EUR200,000	230,441  523,875  155,419  186,500  227,144
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SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	Rate (%)	Maturity date	Par value^	Value
Materials (continued)				
Containers and packaging (continued)				
Berry Plastic Corp. (S) Owens-Brockway Glass Container, Inc. (S) Owens-Brockway Glass Container, Inc. (S)	6.000 5.875 6.375	10-15-22 08-15-23 08-15-25	180,000 165,000 215,000	\$183,150 167,475 220,913
Metals and mining 0.1%				
AK Steel	7.625	05-15-20	55,000	22,688

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Corp. AK Steel	7.625	10-01-21	80,000	32,000
Corp. AK Steel	8.375	04-01-22	80,000	31,600
Corp. Steel Dynamis	5.125	10-01-21	85,000	78,625
Corp. Steel Dynamis	5.625	10-01-24	70,000	63,875
Corp. United States Steel	7.375	04-01-20	130,000	67,548
Corp. Paper and forest products	0.1%			
Tembec Industrial	9.000	12-15-19	315,000	204,750
Corp. (S) Telecommunication services	1.1%			2,248,179
Diversified telecommunication services	0.6%			
Frontier Communications	10.500	09-15-22	65,000	64,594
Corp. (S) Frontier Communications	10.000	09-15-25	165,000	163,350
Corp. (S) Intelsat Jackson Holdings	7.250	10-15-20	85,000	73,950
SA Level 3	5.125	05-01-23	15,000	14,888
Financing, Inc. (S) Level 3	5.375	08-15-22	205,000	208,075
Financing, Inc. Level 3	5.375	01-15-24	15,000	15,075
Financing, Inc. (S) Level 3	6.125	01-15-21	200,000	207,000
Inc. Wind Acquisition	4.000	07-15-20	EUR 310,000	335,136

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Finance				
SA (S)				
Windstream Corp.	7.750	10-15-20	80,000	67,400
Wireless telecommunication services				0.5%
Matterhorn Telecom SA (S)	3.875	05-01-22	EUR 116,000	114,626
Sprint Communications Inc. (S)	9.000	11-15-18	100,000	105,250
Sprint Corp.	7.250	09-15-21	215,000	160,175
Sprint Corp.	7.875	09-15-23	100,000	75,100
Syniverse Holdings Inc.	9.125	01-15-19	225,000	101,813
T-Mobile USA Inc.	6.464	04-28-19	135,000	139,026
T-Mobile USA Inc.	6.625	11-15-20	180,000	187,108
VimpelCom Holdings BV	5.000	02-13-19	220,000	215,613
Utilities				0.2%
Independent power and renewable electricity producers				0.2%
Dynergy Inc.	5.875	06-01-23	170,000	136,425
Dynergy Inc.	7.375	11-01-22	75,000	65,250
Dynergy Inc.	7.625	11-01-24	55,000	47,014
GenOn Americas Generation LLC	9.125	05-01-31	210,000	145,425
GenOn Americas Generation LLC	8.500	10-01-21	100,000	73,250

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND 23

Rate (%)	Maturity date	Par value^	Value
Convertible bonds	0.1%		\$111,981

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(Cost \$161,578)			
Consumer discretionary	0.0%		39,100
Household durables 0.0%			
M/I			
Home's	000	03-01-18	40,000 39,100
Inc.			
Energy	0.1%		72,881
Oil, gas and consumable fuels 0.1%			
Cobalt			
International		12-01-19	130,000 72,881
Energy,	2.625		
Inc.			
Term loans (M)	0.2%		\$384,997
(Cost \$690,307)			
Consumer discretionary	0.0%		91,864
Multiline retail 0.0%			
Lands'			
End, 4.250		04-04-21	108,075 91,864
Inc.			
Industrials	0.1%		141,414
Machinery 0.1%			
Crosby			
US		11-23-20	181,300 141,414
Acquisition	4.000		
Corp.			
Utilities	0.1%		151,719
Electric utilities 0.1%			
Texas			
Competitive			
Electric		10-10-17	500,000 151,719
Holdings	4.739		
Company			
LLC (H)			
		Par value^	Value
Short-term investments	8.3%		\$17,400,000
(Cost \$17,400,000)			
Repurchase agreement	8.3%		17,400,000
Goldman		17,400,000	17,400,000
Sachs			
Tri-Party			
Repurchase			
Agreement			
dated			
12-31-15 at			
0.320% to be			
repurchased at			
\$17,400,619			
on 1-4-16,			
collateralized			
by \$7,718,497			
Federal			

National Mortgage Association, 3.000% - 4.500% due 2-1-18 to 9-1-43 (valued at \$8,073,319, including interest) and \$8,999,499 Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp., 2.000% - 6.500% due 5-1-20 to 6-1-45 (valued at \$9,674,682, including interest)	
<b>Total investments (Cost \$225,951,981)</b>	<b>\$218,891,588</b>
<b>104.2%</b>	
<b>Other assets and liabilities, net (4.2%)</b>	<b>(\$8,860,771 )</b>
<b>Total net assets 100.0%</b>	<b>\$210,030,817</b>

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND 24

The percentage shown for each investment category is the total value of the category as a percentage of the net assets of the fund.

^All par values are denominated in U.S. dollars unless otherwise indicated.

**Key to Currency**

**Abbreviations**

EUR Euro  
GBP Pound Sterling

**Key to Security**

**Abbreviations and**

**Legend**



ADR	American Depository Receipts
EURIBOR	Euro Interbank Offered Rate
LIBOR	London Interbank Offered Rate
PIK	Payment-in-kind
(C)	A portion of this security is segregated as collateral for options. Total collateral value at 12-31-15 was \$25,916,765.
(H)	Non-income producing - Issuer is in default.
(I)	Non-income producing security.
(M)	Term loans are variable rate obligations. The coupon rate shown represents the rate at period end.
(P)	Variable rate obligation. The coupon rate shown represents the rate at period end.
(Q)	Perpetual bonds have no stated maturity date. Date shown as maturity date is next call date.
(R)	Direct placement securities are restricted as to resale, and the fund has limited

(S) rights to registration under the Securities Act of 1933. For more information on this security, refer to the Notes to financial statements. These securities are exempt from registration under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933. Such securities may be resold, normally to qualified institutional buyers, in transactions exempt from registration. At 12-31-15, the aggregate cost of investment securities for federal income tax purposes was \$226,982,373. Net unrealized depreciation aggregated \$8,090,785, of which \$14,440,727 related to appreciated investment securities and \$22,531,512 related to depreciated investment securities.

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Financial statements

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES** 12-31-15**Assets**

Investments, at value (Cost \$225,951,981)	\$218,891,588
Foreign currency, at value (Cost \$17,498)	17,506
Cash held at broker for futures contracts	472,228
Receivable for investments sold	4,994,224
Unrealized appreciation on forward foreign currency exchange contracts	22,298
Dividends and interest receivable	752,855
Receivable for futures variation margin	146,250
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>225,296,949</b>

**Liabilities**

Due to custodian	4,764,478
Payable for investments purchased	10,015,328
Unrealized depreciation on forward foreign currency exchange contracts	17,753
Written options, at value (premium received \$296,524)	355,100
Payable to affiliates	
Accounting and legal services fees	3,036
Trustees' fees	1,606
Other liabilities and accrued expenses	108,831
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>15,266,132</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>\$210,030,817</b>

**Net assets consist of**

Paid-in capital	\$218,124,769
Accumulated distributions in excess of net investment income	(191,523 )
Accumulated net realized gain (loss) on investments, futures contracts, written options and foreign currency transactions	(563,944 )
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments, futures contracts, written options and translation of assets and liabilities in foreign currencies	(7,338,485 )
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>\$210,030,817</b>

**Net asset value per share**

Based on 12,517,202 shares of beneficial interest outstanding unlimited number of shares authorized with \$0.01 par value	\$16.78
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SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS** For the year ended 12-31-15

**Investment  
income**

Dividends \$5,904,827

Interest 2,168,318

Less

foreign  
taxes (238,351 )

withheld

**Total**

**investment** 7,834,794

**income**

**Expenses**

Investment

management 57,519

fees

Accounting

and

legal 41,845

services

fees

Transfer

agent 18,994

fees

Trustees' 46,127

fees

Printing

and 63,042

postage

Professional 78,028

fees

Custodian 65,000

fees

Stock

exchange 23,751

listing

fees

Other 33,730

**Total**

**expenses** 2,728,036

Less

expense (18,076 )  
reductions

**Net**  
**expenses** 2,709,960

**Net**

**investment** 1,124,834

**income**

**Realized  
and  
unrealized  
gain  
(loss)  
Net  
realized  
gain  
(loss)  
on  
Investments  
and  
foreign 11,087,894 <sup>1</sup>  
currency  
transactions  
Futures  
contracts (10,219 )  
Written  
options (57,136 )  
**11,020,539****

**Change  
in  
net  
unrealized  
appreciation  
(depreciation)  
of  
Investments  
and  
translation  
of  
assets (17,700,612)<sup>2</sup>  
and  
liabilities  
in  
foreign  
currencies  
Futures  
contracts 528,754  
Written  
options (152,581 )  
**(17,324,439)****

**Net  
realized  
and (6,303,900 )  
unrealized  
loss  
Decrease (\$1,179,066)  
in  
net  
assets**

**from  
operations**

Includes  
1 foreign tax  
refund of  
\$2,129.  
Net of  
\$1,738  
decrease in  
2 deferred  
foreign  
withholding  
taxes.

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND 27

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	Year ended 12-31-15		Year ended 12-31-14	
<b>Increase (decrease) in net assets</b>				
<b>From operations</b>				
Net investment income	\$5,124,834		\$6,264,754	
Net realized gain	11,020,539		2,771,634	
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	(17,324,439)	)	(6,389,428)	)
<b>Increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations</b>	<b>(1,179,066)</b>	<b>)</b>	<b>2,646,960</b>	
<b>Distributions to shareholders</b>				
From net investment income	(5,710,487)	)	(6,125,164)	)
From net realized gain	(12,004,625)	)	(14,403,849)	)
From tax return of capital	(1,939,979)	)		
<b>Total distributions</b>	<b>(19,655,091)</b>	<b>)</b>	<b>(20,529,013)</b>	<b>)</b>
<b>From fund share transactions</b>				
Repurchased	(17,598,174)	)	(1,649,235)	)
<b>Total decrease</b>	<b>(38,432,331)</b>	<b>)</b>	<b>(19,531,288)</b>	<b>)</b>
<b>Net assets</b>				
Beginning of year	248,463,148		267,994,436	
<b>End of year</b>	<b>\$210,030,817</b>		<b>\$248,463,148</b>	
<b>Undistributed (accumulated distributions in excess of) net investment income</b>	<b>(\$191,523)</b>	<b>)</b>	<b>\$511,121</b>	
<b>Share activity</b>				
<b>Shares outstanding</b>				
Beginning of year	13,637,509		13,732,375	
Shares repurchased	(1,120,307)	)	(94,866)	)
<b>End of year</b>	<b>12,517,202</b>		<b>13,637,509</b>	

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Financial highlights

<b>Period Ended</b>	<b>12-31-15</b>	<b>12-31-14</b>	<b>12-31-13</b>	<b>12-31-12<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>10-31-12</b>	<b>10-31-11<sup>2</sup></b>
Per share operating performance						
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$18.22	\$19.52	\$17.54	\$17.60	\$16.99	\$19.10 <sup>3</sup>
Net investment income <sup>4</sup>	0.39	0.46	0.14	0.05	0.13	0.02
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(0.51 )	(0.27 )	3.19	0.18	1.68	(1.73 )
<b>Total from investment operations</b>	<b>(0.12 )</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>3.33</b>	<b>0.23</b>	<b>1.81</b>	<b>(1.71 )</b>
Less distributions to common shareholders						
From net investment income	(0.44 )	(0.45 )	(0.18 )	(0.05 )	(0.13 )	(0.02 )
From net realized gain	(0.91 )	(1.05 )	(1.17 )			
From tax return of capital	(0.15 )			(0.27 )	(1.16 )	(0.34 )
<b>Total distributions</b>	<b>(1.50 )</b>	<b>(1.50 )</b>	<b>(1.35 )</b>	<b>(0.32 )</b>	<b>(1.29 )</b>	<b>(0.36 )</b>
Anti-dilutive impact of repurchase	0.18	0.01	<sup>6</sup>	0.03	0.09	

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plan <sup>5</sup> Offering costs related to common shares									(0.04 )
Net asset value, end of period	\$16.78	\$18.22	\$19.52	\$17.54	\$17.60	\$16.99			
Per share market value, end of period	\$14.46	\$16.32	\$17.07	\$15.26	\$16.14	\$15.18			
<b>Total return at net asset value (%)<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>1.56</b> <sup>8</sup>	<b>1.66</b> <sup>8</sup>	<b>20.40</b>	<b>1.71</b> <sup>9</sup>	<b>12.17</b>	<b>(8.98 )</b> <sup>9</sup>			
<b>Total return at market value (%)<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>(2.29 )</b>	<b>4.13</b>	<b>21.02</b>	<b>(3.51 )</b> <sup>9</sup>	<b>15.14</b>	<b>(22.33)</b> <sup>9</sup>			
Ratios and supplemental data									
Net assets applicable to common shares, end of period (in millions)	\$210	\$248	\$268	\$241	\$245	\$248			
Ratios (as a percentage of average net assets):									
Expenses before reductions	1.16	1.17	1.14	0.22 <sup>9</sup>	1.14	1.15 <sup>10</sup>			
Expenses including reductions	1.15	1.17	1.14	0.22 <sup>9</sup>	1.14	1.15 <sup>10</sup>			
Net investment income	2.17	2.37 <sup>11</sup>	0.72	0.30 <sup>9</sup>	0.74	0.31 <sup>10</sup>			
Portfolio turnover (%)	43	42	142 <sup>12</sup>	11	76	38			



For the two-month period ended 12-31-12. The fund changed its fiscal year end from October 31 to December 31. Period from 5-26-11 (commencement of operations) to 10-31-11. Reflects the deduction of a \$0.90 per share sales load. Based on average daily shares outstanding. The repurchase plan was completed at an average repurchase price of \$15.71, \$17.38, \$17.06, \$15.43 and \$15.95 for 1,120,307 shares, 94,866 shares, 794 shares, 200,837 shares, and 686,230 shares for the years ended 12-31-15, 12-31-14 and 12-31-13, the two month period ended 12-31-12 and the year ended 10-31-12, respectively. Less than \$0.005 per share. Total return based on net asset value reflects changes in the fund's net asset value during each period. Total return based on market value reflects changes in market value. Each figure assumes that distributions from income, capital gains and tax return of capital, if any, were reinvested. These

figures will differ depending upon the level of any discount from or premium to net asset value at which the fund's shares traded during the period.

8 Total returns would have been lower had certain expenses not been reduced during the applicable periods.

9 Not annualized.

10 Annualized.

Increase in net investment income as a percentage of average net assets resulted from repositioning of the

11 portfolio in accordance with investment policy changes approved by the Board of Trustees during the year ended December 31, 2013.

Increase in portfolio turnover rate resulted from repositioning of the portfolio in

12 accordance with investment policy changes approved by the Board of Trustees during the year ended December 31, 2013.

SEE NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND 29

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Notes to financial statements

Note 1 Organization

John Hancock Hedged Equity & Income Fund (the fund) is a closed-end management investment company organized as a Massachusetts business trust and registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act).

Note 2 Significant accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (US GAAP), which require management to make certain estimates and assumptions as of the date of the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates and those differences could be significant. The fund qualifies as an investment company under Topic 946 of Accounting Standards Codification of US GAAP.

Events or transactions occurring after the end of the fiscal period through the date that the financial statements were issued have been evaluated in the preparation of the financial statements. The following summarizes the significant accounting policies of the fund:

**Security valuation.** Investments are stated at value as of the close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), normally at 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time. In order to value the securities, the fund uses the following valuation techniques: Equity securities held by the fund are valued at the last sale price or official closing price on the exchange or principal market where the security was acquired or most likely will be sold. In the event there were no sales during the day or closing prices are not available, the securities are valued using the last available bid price. Debt obligations are valued based on the evaluated prices provided by an independent pricing vendor or from broker-dealers. Independent pricing vendors utilize matrix pricing which takes into account factors such as institutional-size trading in similar groups of securities, yield, quality, coupon rate, maturity, type of issue, trading characteristics and other market data, as well as broker supplied prices. Options listed on an exchange are valued at the mean of the most recent bid and ask prices from the exchange where the option was acquired or most likely will be sold. Futures contracts are valued at settlement prices, which are the official closing prices published by the exchange on which they trade. Foreign securities and currencies, including forward foreign currency contracts, are valued in U.S. dollars, based on foreign currency exchange rates supplied by an independent pricing vendor. Securities that trade only in the over-the-counter (OTC) market are valued using bid prices.

Other portfolio securities and assets, for which reliable market quotations are not readily available, are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by the fund's Pricing Committee following procedures established by the Board of Trustees. The frequency with which these fair valuation procedures are used cannot be predicted and fair value of securities may differ significantly from the value that would have been used had a ready market for such securities existed. Trading in foreign securities may be completed before the daily close of trading on the NYSE. Significant events at the issuer or market level may affect the values of securities between the time when the valuation of the securities is generally determined and the close of the NYSE. If a significant event occurs, these securities may be fair valued, as determined in good faith by the fund's Pricing Committee, following procedures established by the Board of Trustees. The fund uses fair value adjustment factors provided by an independent pricing vendor to value certain foreign securities in order to adjust for events that may occur between the close of foreign exchanges or markets and the close of the NYSE.

The fund uses a three-tier hierarchy to prioritize the pricing assumptions, referred to as inputs, used in valuation techniques to measure fair value. Level 1 includes securities valued using quoted prices in active markets for identical securities. Level 2 includes securities valued using other significant observable inputs. Observable inputs may include quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speeds and credit risk. Prices for securities valued using these inputs are received from independent pricing vendors and brokers and are based on an evaluation of the inputs described. Level 3 includes securities valued using significant unobservable inputs when market prices are not readily available or reliable, including the fund's own assumptions in determining the fair value of investments. Factors used in determining value may include market or issuer specific events or trends, changes in interest rates and credit quality. The inputs or methodology used for valuing securities are not necessarily an indication of the risks associated with investing in those securities. Changes in valuation techniques and related inputs may result in transfers into or out of an assigned level within the disclosure hierarchy.

The following is a summary of the values by input classification of the fund's investments as of December 31, 2015, by major security category or type:

	<b>Total value at 12-31-15</b>	<b>Level 1 quoted price</b>	<b>Level 2 significant observable inputs</b>	<b>Level 3 significant unobservable inputs</b>
<b>Common stocks</b>				
Consumer discretionary	\$9,131,425	\$3,872,441	\$5,162,101	\$96,883
Consumer staples	11,278,302	4,935,599	6,342,703	
Energy	13,137,134	8,278,421	4,858,713	
Financials	46,665,561	22,456,283	24,209,278	
Health care	19,816,502	10,249,141	9,567,361	
Industrials	18,713,364	8,753,058	9,960,306	
Information technology	21,728,157	17,105,416	4,507,643	115,098
Materials	11,188,759	6,532,049	4,656,710	
Telecommunication services	9,708,523	1,631,381	8,077,142	
Utilities	10,191,961	4,100,066	6,091,895	
<b>Preferred securities</b>	102,907		102,907	
<b>Corporate bonds</b>	29,332,015		29,332,015	
<b>Convertible bonds</b>	111,981		111,981	
<b>Term loans</b>	384,997		384,997	
<b>Short-term investments</b>	17,400,000		17,400,000	
<b>Total investments in securities</b>	<b>\$218,891,588</b>	<b>\$87,913,855</b>	<b>\$130,765,752</b>	<b>\$211,981</b>
<b>Other financial instruments</b>				
Futures	(\$212,843 )	(\$212,843 )		
Forward foreign currency contracts	\$4,545		\$4,545	
Written options	(\$355,100 )	(\$355,100 )		

**Repurchase agreements.** The fund may enter into repurchase agreements. When the fund enters into a repurchase agreement, it receives collateral that is held in a segregated account by the fund's custodian, or for tri-party repurchase agreements, collateral is held at a third-party custodian bank in a segregated account for the benefit of the fund. The collateral amount is marked-to-market and monitored on a daily basis to ensure that the collateral held is in an amount not less than the principal amount of the repurchase agreement plus any accrued interest. Collateral received by the fund for repurchase agreements is disclosed in the Fund's investments as part of the caption related to the repurchase agreement.

Repurchase agreements are typically governed by the terms and conditions of the Master Repurchase Agreement and/or Global Master Repurchase Agreement (collectively, MRA). Upon an event of default, the non-defaulting party may close out all transactions traded under the MRA and net amounts owed. Absent an event of default, assets and liabilities resulting from repurchase agreements are not offset in the Statement of assets and liabilities. In the event of a default by the counterparty, realization of the collateral proceeds could be delayed, during which time the collateral value may decline or the counterparty may have insufficient assets to pay back claims resulting from close-out of the transactions.

**Security transactions and related investment income.** Investment security transactions are accounted for on a trade date plus one basis for daily net asset value calculations. However, for financial reporting purposes, investment transactions are reported on trade date. Interest income is accrued as earned. Interest income includes coupon interest

and amortization/accretion of premiums/discounts on debt securities. Debt obligations may be placed in a non-accrual status and related interest income may be reduced by stopping current accruals and writing off interest receivable when the collection of all or a portion of interest has become doubtful. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-date, except for dividends of foreign securities where the dividend may not be known until after the ex-date. In those cases, dividend income, net of withholding

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND 31

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taxes, is recorded when the fund becomes aware of the dividends. Foreign taxes are provided for based on the fund's understanding of the tax rules and rates that exist in the foreign markets in which it invests. Gains and losses on securities sold are determined on the basis of identified cost and may include proceeds from litigation.

**Foreign currency translation.** Assets, including investments and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies, are translated into U.S. dollar values each day at the prevailing exchange rate. Purchases and sales of securities, income and expenses are translated into U.S. dollars at the prevailing exchange rate on the date of the transaction. The effect of changes in foreign currency exchange rates on the value of securities is reflected as a component of the realized and unrealized gains (losses) on investments.

Funds that invest internationally generally carry more risk than funds that invest strictly in U.S. securities. Risks can result from differences in economic and political conditions, regulations, market practices (including higher transaction costs), accounting standards and other factors. Foreign investments are also subject to a decline in the value of a foreign currency versus the U.S. dollar, which reduces the dollar value of securities denominated in that currency.

**Foreign taxes.** The fund may be subject to withholding tax on income and/or capital gains or repatriation taxes imposed by certain countries in which the fund invests. Taxes are accrued based upon investment income, realized gains or unrealized appreciation.

**Overdrafts.** Pursuant to the custodian agreement, the fund's custodian may, in its discretion, advance funds to the fund to make properly authorized payments. When such payments result in an overdraft, the fund is obligated to repay the custodian for any overdraft, including any costs or expenses associated with the overdraft. The custodian may have a lien, security interest or security entitlement in any fund property that is not otherwise segregated or pledged, to the maximum extent permitted by law, to the extent of any overdraft.

**Expenses.** Within the John Hancock group of funds complex, expenses that are directly attributable to an individual fund are allocated to such fund. Expenses that are not readily attributable to a specific fund are allocated among all funds in an equitable manner, taking into consideration, among other things, the nature and type of expense and the fund's relative net assets. Expense estimates are accrued in the period to which they relate and adjustments are made when actual amounts are known.

**Federal income taxes.** The fund intends to continue to qualify as a regulated investment company by complying with the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and will not be subject to federal income tax on taxable income that is distributed to shareholders. Therefore, no federal income tax provision is required.

As of December 31, 2015, the fund had no uncertain tax positions that would require financial statement recognition, derecognition or disclosure. The fund's federal tax returns are subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service for a period of three years.

**Managed distribution plan.** The fund has adopted a managed distribution plan (Plan). Under the current Plan, the fund makes quarterly distributions of an amount equal to \$0.376 per share, which will be paid quarterly until further

notice.

Distributions under the Plan may consist of net investment income, net realized capital gains and, to the extent necessary, return of capital. Return of capital distributions may be necessary when the fund's net investment income and net capital gains are insufficient to meet the minimum percentage dividend. In addition, the fund may also make additional distributions for purposes of not incurring federal income and excise taxes.

The Board of Trustees may terminate or reduce the amount paid under the Plan at any time. The termination or reduction may have an adverse effect on the market price of the fund's shares.

**Distribution of income and gains.** Distributions to shareholders from net investment income and net realized gains, if any, are recorded on the ex-date. The fund declares and pays dividends quarterly pursuant to the Plan described above. The tax character of distributions for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 was as follows:

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND 32

	<b>December 31, 2015</b>	<b>December 31, 2014</b>
Ordinary income	\$5,737,984	\$6,882,308
Long-term capital gains	11,977,128	13,646,705
Tax return of capital	1,939,979	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,655,091</b>	<b>\$20,529,013</b>

Such distributions, and distributable earnings, on a tax basis, are determined in conformity with income tax regulations, which may differ from US GAAP. Distributions in excess of tax basis earnings and profits, if any, are reported in the fund's financial statements as a return of capital.

Capital accounts within the financial statements are adjusted for permanent book-tax differences. These adjustments have no impact on net assets or the results of operations. Temporary book-tax differences, if any, will reverse in a subsequent period. Book-tax differences are primarily attributable to foreign currency transactions, passive foreign investments companies, wash sale loss deferrals and amortization and accretion on debt securities.

### Note 3 Derivative Instruments

The fund may invest in derivatives in order to meet its investment objective. Derivatives include a variety of different instruments that may be traded in the OTC market, on a regulated exchange or through a clearing facility. The risks in using derivatives vary depending upon the structure of the instruments, including the use of leverage, optionality, the liquidity or lack of liquidity of the contract, the creditworthiness of the counterparty or clearing organization and the volatility of the position. Some derivatives involve risks that are potentially greater than the risks associated with investing directly in the referenced securities or other referenced underlying instrument. Specifically, the fund is exposed to the risk that the counterparty to an OTC derivatives contract will be unable or unwilling to make timely settlement payments or otherwise honor its obligations. OTC derivatives transactions typically can only be closed out with the other party to the transaction.

Forward foreign currency contracts and certain options are typically traded through the OTC market. Certain forwards and options are regulated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (the CFTC) as swaps. Derivative counterparty risk is managed through an ongoing evaluation of the creditworthiness of all potential counterparties and, if applicable, designated clearing organizations. The fund attempts to reduce its exposure to counterparty risk for derivatives traded in the OTC market, whenever possible, by entering into an International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA) Master Agreement with each of its OTC counterparties. The ISDA gives each party to the

agreement the right to terminate all transactions traded under the agreement if there is certain deterioration in the credit quality or contractual default of the other party, as defined in the ISDA. Upon an event of default or a termination of the ISDA, the non-defaulting party has the right to close out all transactions and to net amounts owed.

Futures and certain options are traded on an exchange. Exchange-traded transactions generally present less counterparty risk to a fund than OTC transactions. The exchange stands between the fund and the broker to the contract and therefore, credit risk is generally limited to the failure of the exchange or clearinghouse and the clearing member.

Margin requirements for exchange-traded derivatives are set by the broker. Margin for exchange-traded transactions is detailed in the Statement of assets and liabilities as Cash held at broker for futures contracts. Securities pledged by the fund for exchange-traded and cleared transactions, if any, are identified in the Fund's investments.

**Futures.** A futures contract is a contractual agreement to buy or sell a particular currency or financial instrument at a pre-determined price in the future. Risks related to the use of futures contracts include possible illiquidity of the futures markets, contract prices that can be highly volatile and imperfectly correlated to movements in the underlying financial instrument and potential losses in excess of the amounts recognized on the Statement of assets and liabilities. Use of long futures contracts subjects the fund to the risk of loss up to the notional value of the futures contracts. Use of short futures contracts subjects the fund to unlimited risk of loss.

Upon entering into a futures contract, the fund is required to deposit initial margin with the broker in the form of cash or securities. The amount of required margin is generally based on a percentage of the contract value; this amount is the initial

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND 33

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margin for the trade. The margin deposit must then be maintained at the established level over the life of the contract. Futures margin receivable / payable is included on the Statement of assets and liabilities. Futures contracts are marked-to-market daily and an appropriate payable or receivable for the change in value (variation margin) and unrealized gain or loss is recorded by the fund. When the contract is closed, the fund records a realized gain or loss equal to the difference between the value of the contract at the time it was opened and the value at the time it was closed.

During the year ended December 31, 2015, the fund used futures contracts to manage against anticipated changes in securities markets. The fund held futures contracts with notional values ranging from \$11.0 million to \$35.5 million, as measured at each quarter end. The following table summarizes the contracts held at December 31, 2015:

Open contracts	Number of contracts	Position	Expiration date	Notional basis	Notional value	Unrealized Depreciation
Mini MSCI EAFE Index Futures	130	Short	Mar 2016	(\$10,825,457)	(\$11,038,300)	(\$212,843 )

Notional basis refers to the contractual amount agreed upon at inception of open contracts; notional value represents the current value of the open contract.

**Forward foreign currency contracts.** A forward foreign currency contract is an agreement between two parties to buy and sell specific currencies at a price that is set on the date of the contract. The forward contract calls for delivery of the currencies on a future date that is specified in the contract. Risks related to the use of forwards include the possible failure of counterparties to meet the terms of the forward agreement, the failure of the counterparties to timely post collateral if applicable, the risk that currency movements will not favor the fund thereby reducing the

fund's total return, and the potential for losses in excess of the amounts recognized on the Statement of assets and liabilities.

The market value of a forward foreign currency contract fluctuates with changes in foreign currency exchange rates. Forward foreign currency contracts are marked-to-market daily and the change in value is recorded by the fund as an unrealized gain or loss. Realized gains or losses, equal to the difference between the value of the contract at the time it was opened and the value at the time it was closed, are recorded upon delivery or receipt of the currency or settlement with the counterparty.

During the year ended December 31, 2015, the fund used forward foreign currency contracts to manage against anticipated changes in currency exchange rates. The fund held forward foreign currency contracts with U.S. dollar notional values ranging from \$3.6 million to \$7.8 million, as measured at each quarter end. The following table summarizes the contracts held at December 31, 2015:

Contract to Buy	Contract to Sell	Counterparty	Contractual settlement date	Unrealized appreciation	Unrealized depreciation	Net unrealized appreciation/ (depreciation)
CAD 200,000	USD 143,465	Bank of Montreal	1/29/2016	\$1,082		\$1,082
EUR 945,000	USD 1,037,317	Bank of America, N.A.	1/29/2016		(\$9,728 )	(9,728 )
GBP 483,000	USD 720,112	JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A.	1/29/2016		(8,025 )	(8,025 )
USD 1,092,814	EUR 999,000	Bank of America, N.A.	3/16/2016	5,204		5,204
USD 1,719,825	EUR 1,565,000	Citibank N.A.	3/16/2016	16,012		16,012
				<b>\$22,298</b>	<b>(\$17,753 )</b>	<b>\$4,545</b>

#### Currency abbreviation

CAD Canadian Dollar GBP Pound Sterling

EUR Euro USD U.S. Dollar

**Options.** There are two types of options, put options and call options. Options are traded either OTC or on an exchange. A call option gives the purchaser of the option the right to buy (and the seller the obligation to sell) the underlying instrument at the exercise price. A put option gives the purchaser of the option the right to sell (and the writer the obligation to buy) the underlying instrument at the exercise price. Writing puts and buying calls may increase the fund's exposure to changes in the value of the underlying instrument. Buying puts and writing calls may decrease the fund's exposure to such changes. Risks related to the use of options include the loss of premiums, possible illiquidity of the options markets, trading restrictions imposed by an exchange and movements in underlying security values, and for written options, potential losses in excess of

the amounts recognized on the Statement of assets and liabilities. In addition, OTC options are subject to the risks of all OTC derivatives contracts.

When the fund writes an option, the premium received is included as a liability and subsequently "marked-to-market" to reflect the current market value of the option written. Premiums received from writing options that expire



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unexercised are recorded as realized gains. Premiums received from writing options which are exercised or are closed are added to or offset against the proceeds or amount paid on the transaction to determine the realized gain or loss. If a put option on a security is exercised, the premium received reduces the cost basis of the securities purchased by the fund.

During the year ended December 31, 2015, the fund wrote option contracts to manage against anticipated changes in securities markets and generate income. The following tables summarize the fund's written options activities during the year ended December 31, 2015, and the contracts held at December 31, 2015:

	Number of contracts	Premiums received (paid)
Outstanding, beginning of period	155	\$162,980
Options written	4,290	4,806,486
Options closed	(4,180	) (4,672,942
Options exercised		
Options expired		
<b>Outstanding, end of period</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>\$296,524</b>

Name of issuer	Exercise price	Expiration date	Number of contracts	Premium	Value
<b>Calls</b>					
S&P 500 Index	\$2,065	Jan 2016	265	\$296,524	(\$355,100)
			<b>265</b>	<b>\$296,524</b>	<b>(\$355,100)</b>

**Fair value of derivative instruments by risk category**

The table below summarizes the fair value of derivatives held by the fund at December 31, 2015 by risk category:

Risk	Statement of assets and liabilities location	Financial instruments location	Asset derivatives fair value	Liabilities derivatives fair value
Equity	Receivable/payable for futures	Futures		(\$212,843 )
Foreign currency	Receivable/payable for forward foreign currency exchange contracts	Forward foreign currency contracts	\$22,298	(17,753 )
Equity	Written options, at value	Written options		(355,100 )
			<b>\$22,298</b>	<b>(\$585,696 )</b>

Reflects cumulative appreciation/depreciation on futures as disclosed in Note 3. Only the period end variation margin is separately disclosed on the Statement of assets and liabilities.

**Effect of derivative instruments on the Statement of operations**

The table below summarizes the net realized gain (loss) included in the net increase (decrease) in net assets from operations, classified by derivative instrument and risk category, for the year ended December 31, 2015:

Risk	Statement of operations location	Futures contracts	Investments and foreign currency transactions*	Written options	Total
Equity	Net realized gain (loss)	(\$10,219 )		(\$57,136)	(\$67,355)

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Foreign currency	Net realized gain (loss)	\$115,578	115,578
<b>Total</b>		<b>(\$10,219 ) \$115,578</b>	<b>(\$57,136) \$48,223</b>

\*Realized gain/loss associated with forward foreign currency contracts is included in this caption on the Statement of operations.

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND 35

The table below summarizes the net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) included in the net increase (decrease) in net assets from operations, classified by derivative instrument and risk category, for the year ended December 31, 2015:

Risk	Statement of operations location	Futures contracts	Investments and translation of assets and liabilities in foreign currencies*	Written options	Total
Equity	Change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	\$528,754		(\$152,581)	\$376,173
Foreign currency	Change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation)		\$18,646		18,646
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$528,754</b>	<b>\$18,646</b>	<b>(\$152,581)</b>	<b>\$394,819</b>

\*Change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation associated with forward foreign currency contracts is included in this caption of the Statement of operations.

Note 4 Guarantees and indemnifications

Under the fund's organizational documents, its Officers and Trustees are indemnified against certain liabilities arising out of the performance of their duties to the fund. Additionally, in the normal course of business, the fund enters into contracts with service providers that contain general indemnification clauses. The fund's maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown, as this would involve future claims that may be made against the fund that have not yet occurred. The risk of material loss from such claims is considered remote.

Note 5 Fees and transactions with affiliates

John Hancock Advisers, LLC (the Advisor) serves as investment advisor for the fund. The Advisor is an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Manulife Financial Corporation (MFC).

**Management fee.** The fund has an investment management agreement with the Advisor under which the fund pays a daily management fee to the Advisor equivalent on an annual basis to 1.00% of the fund's average daily gross assets. The Advisor has a subadvisory agreement with Wellington Management Company LLP. The fund is not responsible for payment of the subadvisory fees.

The Advisor has contractually agreed to waive a portion of its management fee and/or reimburse expenses for certain funds of the John Hancock group of funds complex, including the fund (the participating portfolios). This waiver is based upon aggregate net assets of all the participating portfolios. The amount of the reimbursement is calculated daily and allocated among all the participating portfolios in proportion to the daily net assets of each fund. During the year ended December 31, 2015, this waiver amounted to 0.01% of the fund's average daily gross assets. This arrangement may be amended or terminated at any time by the Advisor upon notice to the fund and with the approval of the Board of Trustees.

The expense reductions described above amounted to \$18,076 for the year ended December 31, 2015.

The investment management fees, including the impact of the waivers and reimbursements as described above, incurred for the year ended December 31, 2015, were equivalent to a net annual effective rate of 0.99% of the fund's average daily gross assets.

**Accounting and legal services.** Pursuant to a service agreement, the fund reimburses the Advisor for all expenses associated with providing the administrative, financial, legal, accounting and recordkeeping services to the fund, including the preparation of all tax returns, periodic reports to shareholders and regulatory reports, among other services. These accounting and legal services fees incurred for the year ended December 31, 2015, amounted to an annual rate of 0.02% of the fund's average daily net assets.

**Trustee expenses.** The fund compensates each Trustee who is not an employee of the Advisor or its affiliates. These Trustees receive from the fund and the other John Hancock closed-end funds an annual retainer. In addition, Trustee out-of-pocket expenses are allocated to each fund based on its net assets relative to other funds within the John Hancock group of funds complex.

Note 6 Fund share transactions

On December 6, 2011, the Board of Trustees approved a share repurchase plan, which has been subsequently renewed and approved by the Board of Trustees each year in December. Under the current share repurchase plan, the fund may purchase in the open market, between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016, up to an additional 10% of its outstanding common shares (based on common shares outstanding as of December 31, 2015). During the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, the fund repurchased 8.21% and 0.69% of shares outstanding, respectively. The weighted average discount per share on the repurchases amounted to 12.14% and 10.69% for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Shares repurchased and corresponding dollar amounts are included in the Statements of changes in net assets. The antidilutive impact of these share repurchases is included on the Financial highlights.

Note 7 Purchase and sale of securities

Purchases and sales of securities, other than short-term investments, amounted to \$98,183,804 and \$132,335,151, respectively, for the year ended December 31, 2015.

Note 8 Direct placement securities

The fund may hold private placement securities which are restricted as to resale and the fund has limited rights to registration under the Securities Act of 1933. The following table summarizes the direct placement securities held at December 31, 2015:

Issuer, description	Acquisition date	Acquisition cost	Beginning share amount	Ending share amount	Value as a percentage of fund's net assets	Value as of 12-31-15
Allstar Co-Invest LLC	8-1-11	\$240,553	236,300	236,300	0.05%	\$96,883
Dropbox, Inc., Class B	5-1-12	\$65,608	7,248	7,248	0.05%	\$115,098
		<b>\$306,161</b>				<b>\$211,981</b>

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## AUDITOR'S REPORT

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Trustees and Shareholders of John Hancock Hedged Equity & Income Fund:

In our opinion, the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities, including the fund's investments, and the related statements of operations and of changes in net assets and the financial highlights present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of John Hancock Hedged Equity & Income Fund (the "Fund") at December 31, 2015, the results of its operations for the year then ended, the changes in its net assets for each of the two years in the years then ended and the financial highlights for each of the periods presented, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. These financial statements and financial highlights (hereafter referred to as "financial statements") are the responsibility of the Fund's management; our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits of these financial statements in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits, which included confirmation of securities at December 31, 2015 by correspondence with the custodian and brokers, and the application of alternative auditing procedures where securities purchased confirmations had not been received, provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Boston, Massachusetts

February 16, 2016

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND 38

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## TAX INFORMATION

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Unaudited

For federal income tax purposes, the following information is furnished with respect to the distributions of the fund, if any, paid during its taxable year ended December 31, 2015.

The fund reports the maximum amount allowable of its net taxable income as eligible for the corporate dividends-received deduction.

The fund reports the maximum amount allowable of its net taxable income as qualified dividend income as provided in the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003.

The fund paid \$11,977,128 in capital gain dividends.

Eligible shareholders will be mailed a 2015 Form 1099-DIV in early 2016. This will reflect the tax character of all distributions paid in calendar year 2015.

**Please consult a tax advisor regarding the tax consequences of your investment in the fund.**

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND 39

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Unaudited

### Investment objective and policy

The fund is a closed-end, diversified management investment company, common shares of which were initially offered to the public on May 26, 2011 and are publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange (the NYSE). The fund's investment objective is to provide total return with a focus on current income and gains and also consisting of long-term capital appreciation. The fund uses an equity strategy, as well as futures and call writing, to pursue its investment objective.

Under normal circumstances, the fund will invest at least 80% of its net assets (assets plus borrowings for investment purposes) in equity and equity-related securities, including common stock, preferred stock, depositary receipts (including American Depositary Receipts and Global Depositary Receipts), index-related securities (including exchange-traded funds), options on equity securities and equity indexes, real estate investment structures (including real estate investment trusts), convertible securities, private placements, convertible preferred stock, rights, warrants, derivatives linked to equity securities or indexes and other similar equity equivalents. The fund may invest in listed and unlisted domestic and foreign equity and equity-related securities or instruments. These equity and equity-related instruments may include equity securities of, or derivatives linked to, foreign issuers and indexes (including emerging market issuers or indexes).

### Declaration of Trust

Effective January 22, 2016, the Board of Trustees of the fund amended and restated in its entirety the Agreement and Declaration of Trust of the fund (the "Declaration of Trust"). The amendments to the Declaration of Trust include, among other changes, provisions that: (i) clarify certain duties, responsibilities, and powers of the Trustees; (ii) clarify that, other than as provided under federal securities laws, the shareholders may only bring actions involving the Trust derivatively; (iii) provide that any action brought by a shareholder related to the Trust will be brought in Massachusetts state or federal court, and that, if a claim is brought in a different jurisdiction and subsequently changed to a Massachusetts venue, the shareholder will be required to reimburse the Trust for expenses related to changing venue; and (iv) clarify that shareholders are not intended to be third-party beneficiaries of fund contracts. The foregoing description of the Declaration of Trust is qualified in its entirety by the full text of the Declaration of Trust, effective as of January 22, 2016, which is available by writing to the Secretary of the fund at 601 Congress Street, 11th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02210.

### Dividends and distributions

During the year ended December 31, 2015, distributions from net investment income totaling \$0.4370 per share, from net realized gain totaling \$0.9186 per share and distributions from tax return of capital totaling \$0.1484 per share were paid to shareholders. The dates of payments and the amounts per share were as follows:

<b>Payment date</b>	<b>Distributions</b>
March 31, 2015	\$0.3760

June 30, 2015	0.3760
September 30, 2015	0.3760
December 31, 2015	0.3760
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1.5040</b>

**Dividend reinvestment plan**

The fund's Dividend Reinvestment Plan (the Plan) provides that distributions of dividends and capital gains are automatically reinvested in common shares of the fund by Computershare Trust Company, N.A. (the Plan Agent). Every shareholder holding at least one full share of the fund is entitled to participate in the Plan. In addition, every shareholder who became a shareholder of the fund after June 30, 2011, and holds at least one full share of the fund will be automatically enrolled in the Plan. Shareholders may withdraw from the Plan at any time and shareholders who do not participate in the Plan will receive all distributions in cash.

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND 40

If the fund declares a dividend or distribution payable either in cash or in common shares of the fund and the market price of shares on the payment date for the distribution or dividend equals or exceeds the fund's net asset value per share (NAV), the fund will issue common shares to participants at a value equal to the higher of NAV or 95% of the market price. The number of additional shares to be credited to each participant's account will be determined by dividing the dollar amount of the distribution or dividend by the higher of NAV or 95% of the market price. If the market price is lower than NAV, or if dividends or distributions are payable only in cash, then participants will receive shares purchased by the Plan Agent on participants' behalf on the NYSE or otherwise on the open market. If the market price exceeds NAV before the Plan Agent has completed its purchases, the average per share purchase price may exceed NAV, resulting in fewer shares being acquired than if the fund had issued new shares.

There are no brokerage charges with respect to common shares issued directly by the fund. However, whenever shares are purchased or sold on the NYSE or otherwise on the open market, each participant will pay a pro rata portion of brokerage trading fees, currently \$0.05 per share purchased or sold. Brokerage trading fees will be deducted from amounts to be invested.

The reinvestment of dividends and net capital gains distributions does not relieve participants of any income tax that may be payable on such dividends or distributions.

Shareholders participating in the Plan may buy additional shares of the fund through the Plan at any time in amounts of at least \$50 per investment, up to a maximum of \$10,000, with a total calendar year limit of \$100,000. Shareholders will be charged a \$5 transaction fee plus \$0.05 per share brokerage trading fee for each order. Purchases of additional shares of the fund will be made on the open market. Shareholders who elect to utilize monthly electronic fund transfers to buy additional shares of the fund will be charged a \$2 transaction fee plus \$0.05 per share brokerage trading fee for each automatic purchase. Shareholders can also sell fund shares held in the Plan account at any time by contacting the Plan Agent by telephone, in writing or by visiting the Plan Agent's website at [www.computershare.com/investor](http://www.computershare.com/investor). The Plan Agent will mail a check (less applicable brokerage trading fees) on settlement date, which is three business days after the shares have been sold. If shareholders choose to sell shares through their stockbroker, they will need to request that the Plan Agent electronically transfer those shares to their stockbroker through the Direct Registration System.

Shareholders participating in the Plan may withdraw from the Plan at any time by contacting the Plan Agent by telephone, in writing or by visiting the Plan Agent's website at [www.computershare.com/investor](http://www.computershare.com/investor). Such termination will be effective immediately if the notice is received by the Plan Agent prior to any dividend or distribution record date; otherwise, such termination will be effective on the first trading day after the payment date for such dividend or distribution, with respect to any subsequent dividend or distribution. If shareholders withdraw from the Plan, their

shares will be credited to their account; or, if they wish, the Plan Agent will sell their full and fractional shares and send the shareholders the proceeds, less a transaction fee of \$5 and less brokerage trading fees of \$0.05 per share. If a shareholder does not maintain at least one whole share of common stock in the Plan account, the Plan Agent may terminate such shareholder's participation in the Plan after written notice. Upon termination, shareholders will be sent a check for the cash value of any fractional share in the Plan account, less any applicable broker commissions and taxes.

Shareholders who hold at least one full share of the fund may join the Plan by notifying the Plan Agent by telephone, in writing or by visiting the Plan Agent's website at [www.computershare.com/investor](http://www.computershare.com/investor). If received in proper form by the Plan Agent before the record date of a dividend, the election will be effective with respect to all dividends paid after such record date. If shareholders wish to participate in the Plan and their shares are held in the name of a brokerage firm, bank or other nominee, shareholders should contact their nominee to see if it will participate in the Plan. If shareholders wish to participate in the Plan, but their brokerage firm, bank or other nominee is unable to participate on their behalf, they will need to request that their shares be re-registered in their own name, or they will not be able to participate. The Plan Agent will administer the Plan on the basis of the number of shares certified from time to time by shareholders as representing the total amount registered in their name and held for their account by their nominee.

Experience under the Plan may indicate that changes are desirable. Accordingly, the fund and the Plan Agent reserve the right to amend or terminate the Plan. Participants generally will receive written notice at least 90 days before the effective

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND 41

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date of any amendment. In the case of termination, participants will receive written notice at least 90 days before the record date for the payment of any dividend or distribution by the fund.

Effective November 1, 2013, the Plan was revised to provide that Computershare Trust Company, N.A. no longer provides mail loss insurance coverage when shareholders mail their certificates to the fund's administrator.

All correspondence or requests for additional information about the Plan should be directed to Computershare Trust Company, N.A., at the address stated below, or by calling 800-852-0218, 201-680-6578 (For International Telephone Inquiries) and 800-952-9245 (For the Hearing Impaired (TDD)).

#### **Shareholder communication and assistance**

If you have any questions concerning the fund, we will be pleased to assist you. If you hold shares in your own name and not with a brokerage firm, please address all notices, correspondence, questions or other communications regarding the fund to the transfer agent at:

**Computershare**  
**P.O. Box 30170**  
**College Station, TX 77842-3170**  
**Telephone: 800-852-0218**

If your shares are held with a brokerage firm, you should contact that firm, bank or other nominee for assistance.

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND 42

Trustees and Officers

This chart provides information about the Trustees and Officers who oversee your John Hancock fund. Officers elected by the Trustees manage the day-to-day operations of the fund and execute policies formulated by the Trustees.

**Independent Trustees**

<b>Name, year of birth</b>	<b>Trustee Number of John</b>
<b><i>Position(s) held with fund</i></b>	<b>of the Hancock funds</b>
<b>Principal occupation(s) and other</b>	<b>Trust overseen by</b>
<b>directorships during past 5 years</b>	<b>since<sup>1</sup> Trustee</b>

**James M. Oates**, Born: 1946 2012228

*Trustee and Chairperson of the Board*  
 Managing Director, Wydown Group  
 (financial consulting firm) (since 1994);  
 Chairman and Director, Emerson  
 Investment Management, Inc. (since  
 2000); Independent Chairman, Hudson  
 Castle Group, Inc. (formerly IBEX  
 Capital Markets, Inc.) (financial  
 services company) (1997-2011);  
 Director, Stifel Financial (since 1996);  
 Director, Investor Financial Services  
 Corporation (1995-2007); Director,  
 Connecticut River Bancorp  
 (1998-2014); Director, Virtus Funds  
 (formerly Phoenix Mutual Funds)  
 (since 1988). Trustee and Chairperson  
 of the Board, John Hancock Collateral  
 Trust and John Hancock  
 Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since  
 2015); Trustee and Chairperson of the  
 Board, John Hancock retail funds<sup>3</sup>  
 (since 2012); Trustee (2005-2006 and  
 since 2012) and Chairperson of the  
 Board (since 2012), John Hancock  
 Funds III; Trustee (since 2004) and  
 Chairperson of the Board (since 2005),  
 John Hancock Variable Insurance  
 Trust; Trustee and Chairperson of the  
 Board, John Hancock Funds II (since  
 2005).

**Charles L. Bardelis**,<sup>2</sup> Born: 1941 2012228

*Trustee*  
 Director, Island Commuter Corp. (marine



transport). Trustee, John Hancock Collateral Trust and John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2015); Trustee, John Hancock retail funds<sup>3</sup> (since 2012); Trustee, John Hancock Funds III (2005-2006 and since 2012); Trustee, John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust (since 1988); Trustee, John Hancock Funds II (since 2005).

**Peter S. Burgess,**<sup>2</sup> Born: 1942 2012228

*Trustee*

Consultant (financial, accounting, and auditing matters) (since 1999); Certified Public Accountant; Partner, Arthur Andersen (independent public accounting firm) (prior to 1999); Director, Lincoln Educational Services Corporation (since 2004); Director, Symetra Financial Corporation (2010-2016); Director, PMA Capital Corporation (2004-2010). Trustee, John Hancock Collateral Trust and John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2015); Trustee, John Hancock retail funds<sup>3</sup> (since 2012); Trustee, John Hancock Funds III (2005-2006 and since 2012); Trustee, John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust and John Hancock Funds II (since 2005).

**William H. Cunningham,** Born: 1944 2011228

*Trustee*

Professor, University of Texas, Austin, Texas (since 1971); former Chancellor, University of Texas System and former President of the University of Texas, Austin, Texas; Chairman (since 2009) and Director (since 2006), Lincoln National Corporation (insurance); Director, Southwest Airlines (since 2000); former Director, LIN Television (2009-2014). Trustee, John Hancock retail funds<sup>3</sup> (since 1986); Trustee, John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust (since 2012); Trustee, John Hancock Funds II (2005-2006 and since 2012); Trustee, John Hancock Collateral Trust and John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2015).

**Grace K. Fey**, Born: 1946 2012228

*Trustee*

Chief Executive Officer, Grace Fey Advisors (since 2007); Director and Executive Vice President, Frontier Capital Management Company (1988-2007); Director, Fiduciary Trust (since 2009). Trustee, John Hancock Collateral Trust and John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2015); Trustee, John Hancock retail funds<sup>3</sup> (since 2012); Trustee, John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust and John Hancock Funds II (since 2008).

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND 43

**Independent Trustees** (continued)

<b>Name, year of birth Position(s) held with fund Principal occupation(s) and other directorships during past 5 years</b>	<b>Trustee of the Trust since<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Number of John Hancock funds overseen by Trustee</b>
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**Theron S. Hoffman**,<sup>2</sup> Born: 1947 2012228

*Trustee*

Chief Executive Officer, T. Hoffman Associates, LLC (consulting firm) (since 2003); Director, The Todd Organization (consulting firm) (2003-2010); President, Westport Resources Management (investment management consulting firm) (2006-2008); Senior Managing Director, Partner, and Operating Head, Putnam Investments (2000-2003); Executive Vice President, The Thomson Corp. (financial and legal information publishing) (1997-2000). Trustee, John Hancock Collateral Trust and John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2015); Trustee, John Hancock retail funds<sup>3</sup> (since 2012); Trustee, John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust and John Hancock Funds II (since 2008).

**Deborah C. Jackson**, Born: 1952 2011228

*Trustee*

President, Cambridge College, Cambridge, Massachusetts (since 2011); Chief Executive Officer, American Red Cross of Massachusetts Bay (2002-2011); Board of Directors of Eastern Bank Corporation (since 2001); Board of Directors of Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation (since 2001); Board of Directors of American Student Assistance Corporation (1996-2009); Board of Directors of Boston Stock Exchange (2002-2008); Board of Directors of Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare (health benefits company) (2007-2011). Trustee, John Hancock retail funds<sup>3</sup> (since 2008); Trustee, John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust and John Hancock Funds II (since 2012); Trustee, John Hancock Collateral Trust and John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2015).

**Hassell H. McClellan**, Born: 1945 2012228

*Trustee*

Trustee, Virtus Variable Insurance Trust (formerly Phoenix Edge Series Funds) (since 2008); Director, The Barnes Group (since 2010); Associate Professor, The Wallace E. Carroll School of Management, Boston College (retired 2013). Trustee, John Hancock Collateral Trust and John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2015); Trustee, John Hancock retail funds<sup>3</sup> (since 2012); Trustee, John Hancock Funds III (2005-2006 and since 2012); Trustee, John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust and John Hancock Funds II (since 2005).

**Steven R. Pruchansky**, Born: 1944 2011228

*Trustee and Vice Chairperson of the Board*

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Greenscapes of Southwest Florida, Inc. (since 2000); Director and President, Greenscapes of Southwest Florida, Inc. (until 2000); Member, Board of Advisors, First American Bank (until 2010); Managing Director, Jon James, LLC (real estate) (since 2000); Partner, Right Funding, LLC (since 2014); Director, First Signature Bank & Trust Company (until 1991); Director, Mast Realty Trust (until

1994); President, Maxwell Building Corp. (until 1991). Trustee (since 1992) and Chairperson of the Board (2011-2012), John Hancock retail funds<sup>3</sup>; Trustee and Vice Chairperson of the Board, John Hancock retail funds<sup>3</sup> John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust, and John Hancock Funds II (since 2012); Trustee, and Vice Chairperson of the Board, John Hancock Collateral Trust and John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2015).

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND 44

**Independent Trustees** (continued)

<b>Name, year of birth Position(s) held with fund Principal occupation(s) and other directorships during past 5 years</b>	<b>Trustee of the Trust since<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Number of John Hancock funds overseen by Trustee</b>
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<p><b>Gregory A. Russo</b>, Born: 1949</p> <p><i>Trustee</i></p> <p>Director and Audit Committee Chairman (since 2012), and Member, Audit Committee and Finance Committee (since 2011), NCH Healthcare System, Inc. (holding company for multi-entity healthcare system); Director and Member (since 2012) and Finance Committee Chairman (since 2014), The Moorings, Inc. (nonprofit continuing care community); Vice Chairman, Risk &amp; Regulatory Matters, KPMG LLP (KPMG) (2002-2006); Vice Chairman, Industrial Markets, KPMG (1998-2002); Chairman and Treasurer, Westchester County, New York, Chamber of Commerce (1986-1992); Director, Treasurer, and Chairman of Audit and Finance Committees, Putnam Hospital Center (1989-1995); Director and Chairman of Fundraising Campaign, United Way of Westchester and Putnam Counties, New York (1990-1995). Trustee, John Hancock retail funds<sup>3</sup> (since 2008); Trustee, John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust and John Hancock Funds II (since 2012); Trustee,</p>	<p>2011</p> <p>228</p>	<p>2</p>
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John Hancock Collateral Trust and John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2015).

**Non-Independent Trustees<sup>4</sup>**

<b>Name, year of birth Position(s) held with fund Principal occupation(s) and other directorships during past 5 years</b>	<b>Trustee of the Trust since<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Number of John Hancock funds overseen by Trustee</b>
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**James R. Boyle**, Born: 1959 2015228

*Non-Independent Trustee\**

Chairman, and Chief Executive Officer, Zillion Group, Inc. (formerly HealthFleet, Inc.) (healthcare) (since 2014); Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, U.S. Life Insurance Division of Genworth Financial, Inc. (insurance) (January 2014-July 2014); Senior Executive Vice President, Manulife Financial Corporation, President and Chief Executive Officer, John Hancock (1999-2012); Chairman and Director, John Hancock Advisers, LLC, John Hancock Funds, LLC, and John Hancock Investment Management Services, LLC (2005-2010). Trustee, John Hancock Collateral Trust and John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2015); Trustee, John Hancock retail funds<sup>3</sup> (2005-2010; 2012-2014 and since 2015); Trustee, John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust and John Hancock Funds II (2005-2014 and since 2015).

\*Effective 3-10-15.

**Craig Bromley**, Born: 1966 2012228

*Non-Independent Trustee*

President, John Hancock Financial Service (since 2012); Senior Executive Vice President and General Manager, U.S. Division, Manulife Financial Corporation (since 2012); President and Chief Executive Officer, Manulife Insurance Company (Manulife Japan) (2005-2012,

including prior positions). Trustee, John Hancock retail funds,<sup>3</sup> John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust, and John Hancock Funds II (since 2012); Trustee, John Hancock Collateral Trust and John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2015).

**Warren A. Thomson**, Born: 1955 2012228

*Non-Independent Trustee*

Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer, Manulife Financial Corporation and The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company (since 2009); Chairman, Manulife Asset Management (since 2001, including prior positions); Director and Chairman, Manulife Asset Management Limited (since 2006); Director and Chairman, Hancock Natural Resources Group, Inc. (since 2013). Trustee, John Hancock retail funds,<sup>3</sup> John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust, and John Hancock Funds II (since 2012); Trustee, John Hancock Collateral Trust and John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2015).

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND 45

**Principal officers who are not Trustees**

<b>Name, year of birth</b>	<b>Officer</b>
<b><i>Position(s) held with fund</i></b>	<b>of the</b>
<b>Principal occupation(s) and other</b>	<b>Trust</b>
<b>directorships during past 5 years</b>	<b>since</b>

**Andrew G. Arnott**, Born: 1971 2011

*President*

Senior Vice President, John Hancock Financial Services (since 2009); Director and Executive Vice President, John Hancock Advisers, LLC (since 2005, including prior positions); Director and Executive Vice President, John Hancock Investment Management Services, LLC (since 2006, including prior positions); President, John Hancock

Funds, LLC (since 2004, including prior positions); President, John Hancock retail funds,<sup>3</sup> John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust, and John Hancock Funds II (since 2007, including prior positions); President, John Hancock Collateral Trust (since 2015); President, John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2014).

**John J. Danello**, Born: 1955 2014  
*Senior Vice President, Secretary, and Chief Legal Officer*  
Vice President and Chief Counsel, John Hancock Wealth Management (since 2005); Senior Vice President (since 2007) and Chief Legal Counsel (2007-2010), John Hancock Funds, LLC and The Berkeley Financial Group, LLC; Senior Vice President (since 2006, including prior positions) and Chief Legal Officer and Secretary (since 2014), John Hancock retail funds<sup>3</sup>, John Hancock Funds II and John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust; Senior Vice President, Chief Legal Officer and Secretary, John Hancock Collateral Trust and John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2015); Vice President, John Hancock Life & Health Insurance Company (since 2009); Vice President, John Hancock Life Insurance Company (USA) and John Hancock Life Insurance Company of New York (since 2010); and Senior Vice President, Secretary, and Chief Legal Counsel (2007-2014, including prior positions) of John Hancock Advisers, LLC and John Hancock Investment Management Services, LLC.

**Francis V. Knox, Jr.**, Born: 1947 2011

*Chief Compliance Officer*

Vice President, John Hancock Financial Services (since 2005); Chief Compliance Officer, John Hancock retail funds,<sup>3</sup> John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust, John Hancock Funds II, John Hancock Advisers, LLC, and John Hancock Investment Management Services, LLC (since 2005); Chief Compliance Officer, John Hancock Collateral Trust and John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2015).

**Charles A. Rizzo**, Born: 1957 2011

*Chief Financial Officer*

Vice President, John Hancock Financial Services (since 2008); Senior Vice President, John Hancock Advisers, LLC and John Hancock Investment Management Services, LLC (since 2008); Chief Financial Officer, John Hancock retail funds,<sup>3</sup> John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust and John Hancock Funds II (since 2007); Chief Financial Officer, John Hancock Collateral Trust and John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2015).

**Salvatore Schiavone**, Born: 1965 2011

*Treasurer*

Assistant Vice President, John Hancock Financial Services (since 2007); Vice President, John Hancock Advisers, LLC and John Hancock Investment Management Services, LLC (since 2007); Treasurer, John Hancock retail funds<sup>3</sup> (since 2007, including prior positions); Treasurer, John Hancock Variable Insurance Trust and John Hancock Funds II (2007-2009 and since 2010, including prior positions); Treasurer, John Hancock Collateral Trust and John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust (since 2015).

The business address for all Trustees and Officers is 601 Congress Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2805.



1 Mr. Boyle, Mr. Bromley, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Oates, and Mr. Pruchansky serve as Trustees for a term expiring in 2016; Mr. Cunningham, Ms. Fey, Mr. McClellan, and Mr. Russo serve as Trustees for a term expiring in 2017; and  
 2 Mr. Bardelis, Mr. Burgess, Mr. Hoffman, and Mr. Thomson serve as Trustees for a term expiring in 2018. Mr. Boyle has served as Trustee at various times prior to date listed in the table.

3 Member of the Audit Committee.

4 "John Hancock retail funds" comprises John Hancock Funds III and 36 other John Hancock funds consisting of 26 series of other John Hancock trusts and 10 closed-end funds.

The Trustee is a Non-Independent Trustee due to current or former positions with the Advisor and certain of its affiliates.

More information

### Trustees

James M. Oates, *Chairperson*

Steven R. Pruchansky, *Vice Chairperson* **Investment advisor**

Charles L. Bardelis\*

James R. Boyle

John Hancock Advisers, LLC

Craig Bromley

Peter S. Burgess\*

**Subadvisor**

William H. Cunningham

Grace K. Fey

Wellington Management Company LLP

Theron S. Hoffman\*

Deborah C. Jackson

**Custodian**

Hassell H. McClellan

Gregory A. Russo

State Street Bank and Trust Company

Warren A. Thomson

**Transfer agent**

### Officers

Computershare Shareowner Services, LLC

Andrew G. Arnott

*President*

**Legal counsel**

John J. Danello

K&L Gates LLP

*Senior Vice President, Secretary,  
and Chief Legal Officer*

**Independent registered public accounting firm**

Francis V. Knox, Jr.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

*Chief Compliance Officer*

**Stock symbol**

Charles A. Rizzo

Listed New York Stock Exchange: HEQ

*Chief Financial Officer*

Salvatore Schiavone

*Treasurer*

\*Member of the Audit Committee

Non-Independent Trustee

For shareholder assistance refer to page **42**

You can also contact us:

**Regular mail:**

**800-852-0218**

**jhinvestments.com**

Computershare

P.O. Box 30170

College Station, TX 77842-3170

The fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, as well as the fund's proxy voting record for the most recent twelve-month period ended June 30, are available free of charge on the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) website at sec.gov or on our website.

The fund's complete list of portfolio holdings, for the first and third fiscal quarters, is filed with the SEC on Form N-Q. The fund's Form N-Q is available on our website and the SEC's website, sec.gov, and can be reviewed and copied (for a fee) at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. Call 800-SEC-0330 to receive information on the operation of the SEC's Public Reference Room.

We make this information on your fund, as well as **monthly portfolio holdings**, and other fund details available on our website at jhinvestments.com or by calling 800-852-0218.

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*The report is certified under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, which requires closed-end funds and other public companies to affirm that, to the best of their knowledge, the information in their financial reports is fairly and accurately stated in all material respects.*

ANNUAL REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK HEDGED EQUITY & INCOME FUND 47

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John Hancock family of funds

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**DOMESTIC EQUITY FUNDS**

**INCOME FUNDS**

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Balanced

Bond

Blue Chip Growth

California Tax-Free Income

Classic Value

Core High Yield

Disciplined Value

Emerging Markets Debt

Disciplined Value Mid Cap

Floating Rate Income

Equity Income

Focused High Yield

Fundamental All Cap Core

Global Income

Fundamental Large Cap Value

Government Income

Large Cap Equity	High Yield Municipal Bond
New Opportunities	Income
Select Growth	Investment Grade Bond
Small Cap Equity	Money Market
Small Cap Value	Short Duration Credit Opportunities
Small Company	Spectrum Income
Strategic Growth	Strategic Income Opportunities
U.S. Equity	Tax-Free Bond

U.S. Global Leaders Growth

**ALTERNATIVE AND SPECIALTY FUNDS**

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Value Equity

**GLOBAL AND INTERNATIONAL EQUITY FUNDS**

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	Absolute Return Currency
	Alternative Asset Allocation
Disciplined Value International	Enduring Assets
Emerging Markets	Financial Industries
Emerging Markets Equity	Global Absolute Return Strategies
Global Equity	Global Conservative Absolute Return
Global Shareholder Yield	Global Real Estate
Greater China Opportunities	Natural Resources
International Core	Redwood
International Growth	Regional Bank
International Small Company	Seaport
International Value Equity	Technical Opportunities

**The fund's investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses are included in the prospectus and should be considered carefully before investing. For a prospectus, contact your financial professional, call John Hancock Investments at 800-852-0218, or visit the fund's website at [jhinvestments.com](http://jhinvestments.com). Please read the prospectus carefully before investing or sending money.**

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**ASSET ALLOCATION**

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Income Allocation Fund

Lifestyle Aggressive Portfolio

Lifestyle Balanced Portfolio

Lifestyle Conservative Portfolio

Lifestyle Growth Portfolio

Lifestyle Moderate Portfolio

Retirement Choices Portfolios (2010-2055)

Retirement Living Portfolios (2010-2055)

Retirement Living II Portfolios (2010-2055)

**EXCHANGE-TRADED FUNDS**

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John Hancock Multifactor Consumer Discretionary ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Financials ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Healthcare ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Large Cap ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Mid Cap ETF

John Hancock Multifactor Technology ETF

**CLOSED-END FUNDS**

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Financial Opportunities

Hedged Equity & Income

Income Securities Trust

Investors Trust

Preferred Income

Preferred Income II

Preferred Income III

Premium Dividend

Tax-Advantaged Dividend Income

Tax-Advantaged Global Shareholder Yield

*"As an investment firm,  
upholding the proud  
tradition of John Hancock  
comes down to one thing:  
putting shareholders  
first. We believe that if  
our shareholders are  
successful, then we will  
be successful."*

**Andrew G. Arnott**

President and Chief Executive Officer  
John Hancock Investments

*John Hancock Multifactor ETF shares are bought and sold at market price (not NAV), and are not individually redeemed from the fund. Brokerage commissions will reduce returns.*

*John Hancock ETFs are distributed by Foreside Fund Services, LLC, and are subadvised by Dimensional Fund Advisors LP. Foreside is not affiliated with John Hancock Funds, LLC or Dimensional Fund Advisors LP.*

*Dimensional Fund Advisors LP receives compensation from John Hancock in connection with licensing rights to the John Hancock Dimensional indexes. Dimensional Fund Advisors LP does not sponsor, endorse, or sell, and makes no representation as to the advisability of investing in, John Hancock Multifactor ETFs.*

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John Hancock Investments

A trusted brand

John Hancock Investments is a premier asset manager representing one of America's most trusted brands, with a heritage of financial stewardship dating back to 1862. Helping our shareholders pursue their financial goals is at the core of everything we do. It's why we support the role of professional financial advice and operate with the highest standards of conduct and integrity.

A better way to invest

We build funds based on investor needs, then search the world to find proven portfolio teams with specialized expertise in those strategies. As a manager of managers, we apply vigorous oversight to ensure that they continue to meet our uncompromising standards and serve the best interests of our shareholders.

#### Results for investors

Our unique approach to asset management enables us to provide a diverse set of investments backed by some of the world's best managers, along with strong risk-adjusted returns across asset classes.

John Hancock  
Advisers, LLC  
601 Congress Street n  
Boston, MA  
02210-2805  
800-852-0218 n  
jhinvestments.com  
MF269284<sup>P15A 12/15</sup><sub>2/16</sub>

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#### ITEM 2. CODE OF ETHICS.

As of the end of the period, December 31, 2015, the registrant has adopted a code of ethics, as defined in Item 2 of Form N-CSR, that applies to its Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer (respectively, the principal executive officer, the principal financial officer and the principal accounting officer, the “Senior Financial Officers”). A copy of the code of ethics is filed as an exhibit to this Form N-CSR.

#### ITEM 3. AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT.

Peter S. Burgess is the audit committee financial expert and is “independent”, pursuant to general instructions on Form N-CSR Item 3.

#### ITEM 4. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES.

(a) Audit Fees

The aggregate fees billed for professional services rendered by the principal accountant(s) for the audit of the registrant's annual financial statements or services that are normally provided by the accountant(s) in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements amounted to \$42,560 for the year ended December 31, 2015 and \$41,487 for the year ended December 31, 2014.

(b) Audit-Related Services

The audit-related fees were \$0 for the year ended December 31, 2015 and \$0 for the fiscal period ended December 31, 2014, billed to the registrant or to the registrant's investment adviser (not including any sub-adviser whose role is primarily portfolio management and is subcontracted with or overseen by another investment adviser), and any entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the adviser that provides ongoing services to the registrant ("control affiliates"). In addition, amounts billed to control affiliates for service provider internal controls reviews were \$103,474 and \$103,940 for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

(c) Tax Fees

The aggregate fees billed for professional services rendered by the principal accountant(s) for the tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning ("tax fees") amounted to \$3,500 for the year ended December 31, 2015 and \$3,450 for the year ended December 31, 2014. The nature of the services comprising the tax fees was the review of the registrant's tax returns and tax distribution requirements. These fees were billed to the registrant and were approved by the registrant's audit committee.

(d) All Other Fees

The all other fees billed to the registrant for products and services provided by the principal accountant were \$210 for the year ended December 31, 2015 \$156 and for the year ended December 31, 2014, billed to control affiliates for products and services provided by the principal accountant. The nature of the services comprising the all other fees consisted mainly of performance of agreed upon procedures required for the initial and secondary public offerings of shares and review of foreign tax withholding rates. These fees were approved by the registrant's audit committee.

(e)(1) Audit Committee Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures:

The trust's Audit Committee must pre-approve all audit and non-audit services provided by the independent registered public accounting firm (the "Auditor") relating to the operations or financial reporting of the funds. Prior to the commencement of any audit or non-audit services to a fund,

the Audit Committee reviews the services to determine whether they are appropriate and permissible under applicable law.

The trust's Audit Committee has adopted policies and procedures to, among other purposes, provide a framework for the Committee's consideration of audit-related and non-audit services by the Auditor. The policies and procedures require that any audit-related and non-audit service provided by the Auditor and any non-audit service provided by the Auditor to a fund service provider that relates directly to the operations and financial reporting of a fund are subject to approval by the Audit Committee before such service is provided. Audit-related services provided by the Auditor that are expected to exceed \$25,000 per instance/per fund are subject to specific pre-approval by the Audit Committee. Tax services provided by the Auditor that are expected to exceed \$30,000 per instance/per fund are subject to specific pre-approval by the Audit Committee.

All audit services, as well as the audit-related and non-audit services that are expected to exceed the amounts stated above, must be approved in advance of provision of the service by formal resolution of the Audit Committee. At the regularly scheduled Audit Committee meetings, the Committee reviews a report summarizing the services, including fees, provided by the Auditor.

(e)(2) Services approved pursuant to paragraph (c)(7)(i)(C) of Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X:

Audit-Related Fees, Tax Fees and All Other Fees:

There were no amounts that were approved by the Audit Committee pursuant to the de minimis exception under Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X.

(f) According to the registrant's principal accountant, for the fiscal period ended December 31, 2015, the percentage of hours spent on the audit of the registrant's financial statements for the most recent fiscal year that were attributed to work performed by persons who were not full-time, permanent employees of principal accountant was less than 50%.

(g) The aggregate non-audit fees billed by the registrant's accountant(s) for services rendered to the registrant and rendered to the registrant's control affiliates of the registrant were \$7,126,906 for the year ended December 31, 2015 and \$5,316,575 for the year ended December 31, 2014.

(h) The audit committee of the registrant has considered the non-audit services provided by the registrant's principal accountant(s) to the control affiliates and has determined that the services that were not pre-approved are compatible with maintaining the principal accountant(s)' independence.

ITEM 5. AUDIT COMMITTEE OF LISTED REGISTRANTS.



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The registrant has a separately-designated standing audit committee comprised of independent trustees. The members of the audit committee are as follows:

Peter S. Burgess - Chairman

Charles L. Bardelis

Theron S. Hoffman

ITEM 6. SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS.

(a)	Not applicable.
(b)	Not applicable.

ITEM 7. DISCLOSURE OF PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

See attached exhibit "Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures".

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ITEM 8.

**PORTFOLIO MANAGERS OF CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES.**

**Information about the Wellington Management Company LLP ("Wellington Management") portfolio managers  
Management Biographies**

Below is a list of the portfolio managers who share joint responsibility for the day-to-day investment management of the Fund. It provides a brief summary of their business careers over the past five years. Information is provided as of February 1, 2016.

**Kent M. Stahl, CFA**

Senior Managing Director and Director of Investment Strategy and Risk,

Wellington Management Company LLP since 1998

Joined Fund team since its inception (2011)

**Gregg R. Thomas, CFA**

Senior Managing Director and Associate Director of Investment Strategy and Risk,

Wellington Management Company LLP since 2002

Joined Fund team since its inception (2011)

**Other Accounts the Portfolio Managers are Managing**

The table below indicates for each portfolio manager information about the accounts over which the portfolio manager has day-to-day investment responsibility. All information on the number of accounts and total assets in the table is as of December 31, 2015. For purposes of the table, "Other Pooled Investment Vehicles" may include investment partnerships and group trusts, and "Other Accounts" may include separate accounts for institutions or individuals, insurance company general or separate accounts, pension funds and other similar institutional accounts.

<b>Portfolio Manager Name</b>	<b>Other Accounts Managed by the Portfolio Manager</b>
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	Other Registered Investment Companies: 11
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	accounts with total net assets of approximately \$25,351
--	--

	million
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Kent M. Stahl, CFA	
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	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles: 4 accounts with total net assets of approximately \$326 million
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	Other Accounts: 2 accounts with total assets of approximately \$225 million
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Other Registered Investment Companies: 11 accounts with total net assets of approximately \$25,351 million

Gregg R.  
Thomas, CFA

Other Pooled Investment Vehicles: 4 accounts with total net assets of approximately \$333 million, of which one account, with assets of approximately \$7 million, has performance based fees

Other Accounts: 1 account with total net assets of approximately \$225 million

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**Conflicts of Interest.** Individual investment professionals at Wellington Management manage multiple accounts for multiple clients. These accounts may include mutual funds, separate accounts (assets managed on behalf of institutions, such as pension funds, insurance companies, foundations, or separately managed account programs sponsored by financial intermediaries), bank common trust accounts, and hedge funds. The Fund's managers listed in the prospectus who are primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund ("Investment Professionals") generally manage accounts in several different investment styles. These accounts may have investment objectives, strategies, time horizons, tax considerations and risk profiles that differ from those of the Fund. The Investment Professionals make investment decisions for each account, including the Fund, based on the investment objectives, policies, practices, benchmarks, cash flows, tax and other relevant investment considerations applicable to that account. Consequently, Investment Professionals may purchase or sell securities, including IPOs, for one account and not another account, and the performance of securities purchased for one account may vary from the performance of securities purchased for other accounts. Alternatively, these accounts may be managed in a similar fashion to the Fund and thus the accounts may have similar, and in some cases nearly identical, objectives, strategies and/or holdings to that of the Fund.

An Investment Professional or other investment professionals at Wellington Management may place transactions on behalf of other accounts that are directly or indirectly contrary to investment decisions made on behalf of the Fund, or make investment decisions that are similar to those made for the Fund, both of which have the potential to adversely impact the Fund depending on market conditions. For example, an investment professional may purchase a security in one account while appropriately selling that same security in another account. Similarly, an Investment Professional may purchase the same security for the Fund and one or more other accounts at or about the same time. In those instances the other accounts will have access to their respective holdings prior to the public disclosure of the Fund's holdings. In addition, some of these accounts have fee structures, including performance fees, which are or have the potential to be higher, in some cases significantly higher, than the fees Wellington Management receives for managing the Fund. Mr. Thomas also manages an account which pays performance allocations to Wellington Management or its affiliates. Because incentive payments paid by Wellington Management to the Investment Professionals are tied to revenues earned by Wellington Management and, where noted, to the performance achieved by the manager in each

account, the incentives associated with any given account may be significantly higher or lower than those associated with other accounts managed by an Investment Professional. Finally, the Investment Professionals may hold shares or investments in the other pooled investment vehicles and/or other accounts identified above.

Wellington Management's goal is to meet its fiduciary obligation to treat all clients fairly and provide high quality investment services to all of its clients. Wellington Management has adopted and implemented policies and procedures, including brokerage and trade allocation policies and procedures, which it believes address the conflicts associated with managing multiple accounts for multiple clients. In addition, Wellington Management monitors a variety of areas, including compliance with primary account guidelines, the

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allocation of IPOs, and compliance with the firm's Code of Ethics, and places additional investment restrictions on investment professionals who manage hedge funds and certain other accounts. Furthermore, senior investment and business personnel at Wellington Management periodically review the performance of Wellington Management's investment professionals. Although Wellington Management does not track the time an investment professional spends on a single account, Wellington Management does periodically assess whether an investment professional has adequate time and resources to effectively manage the investment professional's various client mandates.

**Compensation** Wellington Management receives a fee based on the assets under management of the Fund as set forth in the Subadvisory Agreement between Wellington Management and the Adviser on behalf of the Fund. Wellington Management pays its investment professionals out of its total revenues, including the advisory fees earned with respect to the Fund. The following information relates to the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015. Wellington Management's compensation structure is designed to attract and retain high-caliber investment professionals necessary to deliver high quality investment management services to its clients. Wellington Management's compensation of the Fund's managers listed in the Prospectus who are primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund (the "Investment Professionals") includes a base salary. The Investment Professionals are not eligible for an incentive payment based on Fund performance. The base salary for each Investment Professional who is a partner (a "Partner") of Wellington Management Group LLP, the ultimate holding company of Wellington Management, is generally a fixed amount that is determined by the managing partners of Wellington Management Group LLP. The Investment Professionals may also be eligible for bonus payments based on their overall contribution to Wellington Management's business operations. Senior management at Wellington Management may reward individuals as it deems appropriate based on other factors. Each Partner is eligible to participate in a partner-funded tax qualified retirement plan, the contributions to which are made pursuant to an actuarial formula. Messrs. Stahl and Thomas are Partners.

**Share Ownership by Portfolio Managers.** The following table indicates as of December 31, 2015 the value, within the indicated range, of shares beneficially owned by the portfolio managers in the Fund. For purposes of the table, the letters represent the range indicated below:

A - None

B - \$1 - \$10,000

C - \$10,001 - \$50,000

D - \$50,001 - \$100,000

E - \$100,001 - \$500,000

F - \$500,001 - \$1,000,000

G - More than \$1 million

**Portfolio Manager      Range of Beneficial Ownership**

Kent M. Stahl, CFA      None

Gregg R. Thomas, CFA      None

**ITEM 9. PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES BY CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANY AND AFFILIATED PURCHASERS.**

(a) Not applicable.

**(b)      REGISTRANT PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Total Number of Shares Purchased</b>	<b>Average Price per Share</b>	<b>Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans*</b>	<b>Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans</b>
15-Jan	-	-	-	1,363,751*
15-Feb	92,245	16.667	92,245	1,271,506
15-Mar	-	-	92,245	1,271,506
15-Apr	-	-	92,245	1,271,506
15-May	80,700	16.789	172,945	1,190,806

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15-Jun	181,719	16.425	354,664	1,009,087
15-Jul	219,597	15.882	574,261	789,490
15-Aug	196,600	15.539	770,861	592,890
15-Sep	212,600	14.805	983,461	380,290
15-Oct	126,246	14.823	1,109,707	254,044
15-Nov	10,600	15.052	1,120,307	243,444
15-Dec	-	-	1,120,307	1,251,720
Total	1,120,307	15.708	-	-

\*On December 6, 2011, the Board of Trustees approved a share repurchase plan which was subsequently renewed and approved by the Board of Trustees each year in December. Under the current share repurchase plan the fund may purchase in the open market, between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016, up to an additional 10% of its outstanding common shares (based on common shares outstanding as of December 31, 2015).

ITEM 10. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS.

(a) The registrant has adopted procedures by which shareholders may recommend nominees to the registrant's Board of Trustees. A copy of the procedures is filed as an exhibit to this Form N-CSR. See attached "John Hancock Funds – Nominating and Governance Committee Charter".

ITEM 11. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

(a) Based upon their evaluation of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures as conducted within 90 days of the filing date of this Form N-CSR, the registrant's principal executive officer and principal financial officer have concluded that those disclosure controls and procedures provide reasonable assurance that the material information required to be disclosed by the registrant on this report is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms.

(b) There were no changes in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal half-year (the registrant's second fiscal half-year in the case of an annual report) that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

ITEM 12. EXHIBITS.

(a)(1) Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers is attached.

(a)(2) Separate certifications for the registrant's principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as required by Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and Rule 30a-2(a) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, are attached.

(b)(1) Separate certifications for the registrant's principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as required by 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and Rule 30a-2(b) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, are attached. The certifications furnished pursuant to this paragraph are not deemed to be "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or otherwise subject to the liability of that section. Such certifications are not deemed to be incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, except to the extent that the Registrant specifically incorporates them by reference.

(c)(1) Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures are attached.

(c)(2) Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders is attached. See attached "John Hancock Funds - Governance Committee Charter".

(c)(3) Contact person at the registrant.

(C)(4) Registrant's notice to shareholders pursuant to Registrant's exemptive order granting an exemption from Section 19(b) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended and Rule 19b-1 thereunder regarding distributions made pursuant to the Registrant's Managed Distribution Plan.

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SIGNATURES

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Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

John Hancock Hedged Equity & Income Fund

By: /s/ Andrew Arnott  
Andrew Arnott  
President

Date: February 18, 2016

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By: /s/ Andrew Arnott  
Andrew Arnott  
President

Date: February 18, 2016

By: /s/ Charles A. Rizzo  
Charles A. Rizzo  
Chief Financial Officer

Date: February 18, 2016