

ISHARES GOLD TRUST
Form FWP
February 02, 2011

Free Writing Prospectus

Filed Pursuant to Rule 433

Registration No. 333-167807

February 2, 2011

Trust description

The iShares Gold Trust (Trust) seeks to correspond generally to the day-to-day movement of the price of gold bullion. The objective of the Trust is for the value to reflect, at any given time, the price of gold owned by the Trust at that time, less the expenses and liabilities of the Trust.

Backed by physical gold

The shares are backed by gold, identified on the custodian's books as property of the Trust and held by the custodian in vaults in the vicinity of New York, Toronto, London and other locations.

Accessible

Investors may purchase and sell shares through traditional brokerage accounts. The shares are listed and trade on NYSE Arca and are available to be bought or sold throughout the trading day.

Cost efficient

Shares of the Trust may represent a cost-efficient alternative to investments in gold for investors not otherwise in a position to participate directly in the market for physical gold.

Transparent

Price, NAV and holding amounts of gold are available daily on iShares.com. Vault inspections are conducted twice a year and inspection certificates are available on iShares.com.

Gold pricing description

PLEASE NOTE: On 12/9/2010, the Trust began using the London PM Fix price for valuing the Trust's assets. Benchmark performance and NAV values for dates prior to 12/9/2010 reflect COMEX gold pricing. The London PM Fix Price is the spot price of gold fixed by the London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) at 3 p.m. London time. Spot prices are for illustrative purposes only and do not represent actual Trust performance. Spot prices do not reflect any fees, transaction costs or expenses.

Performance history

as of 12/31/10

1 Year

3 Year

5 Year

10 Year

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| | | | | | Since Trust Inception |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------------------------|
| Fund | 27.94% | 18.52% | 21.68% | | 21.75% |
| Benchmark* | 28.33% | 18.96% | 22.14% | 17.85% | 22.21% |
| Market Price Returns | 29.42% | 19.04% | 21.87% | | 21.96% |

as of 12/31/10

| | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| Fund | 27.94% | 23.46% | 5.41% | 30.92% | 22.43% | |
| Benchmark* | 28.33% | 23.95% | 5.83% | 31.44% | 22.84% | 18.19% |
| Market Price Returns | 29.42% | 23.95% | | | | |

* London PM Fix Price

Trust details

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Ticker | IAU |
| Inception Date | 1/21/05 |
| Sponsor's Fee | 0.25% |
| IOPV Ticker | IAU.IV |
| CUSIP | 464285105 |
| Stock Exchange | NYSE Arca |
| Total Net Assets | \$5.17 Billion |
| Shares Outstanding | 385 Million |
| Total Ounces of Gold | 3.78 Million |
| Total Tonnes of Gold | 117.18 |
| Creation/Redemption Size | 50,000 Shares |

Sponsor

BlackRock Asset
Management International Inc.

Trustee

The Bank of New York Mellon

Custodian

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.,

London Branch

Vault Inspection

Two times annually

Fundamentals

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Beta vs. S&P 500 [®] | -0.13 |
| Standard Deviation 3 Year | 22.37% |

Definitions

IOPV, or Indicative Optimized Portfolio Value, is a calculation disseminated by the stock exchange that approximates the Trust's NAV every fifteen seconds throughout the trading day.

Beta is a measure of an investment's volatility relative to the market or an asset class. A beta above 1 is more volatile than the market, while a beta below 1 is less volatile. For stocks, the market is usually taken to be the S&P 500.[®] Beta is sometimes referred to as systemic risk.

Standard deviation is the statistical measure of the degree to which an individual value in a probability distribution tends to vary from the mean of the distribution. It is widely applied in modern portfolio theory, where the past performance of securities is used to determine the range of possible future performance, and a probability is attached to each performance.

The performance quoted represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. Investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when sold or redeemed, may be worth more or less than the original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance quoted. Performance data current to the most recent month end may be obtained by calling toll-free 1-800-iShares (1-800-474-2737) or by visiting www.iShares.com.

Market returns are based upon the midpoint of the bid/ask spread at 4:00 p.m. ET (when NAV is normally determined for most iShares® products) and do not represent the returns you would receive if you traded shares at other times.

Source: Bloomberg, as of 12/31/10. The London PM Fix gold price is valued on the basis of each day's announced price for an ounce of gold set by five market making members of the London Bullion Market Association.

Portfolio Diversification

10-Year Correlations as of 12/31/10

| | Gold | US Large Cap | US Small Cap | Developed International | Emerging Markets | US Fixed Income | Commodities |
|------|------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Gold | 1.00 | -0.01 | -0.02 | 0.13 | 0.19 | 0.24 | 0.27 |

Sources: Bloomberg, S&P, MSCI, Barclays Capital and BlackRock. 10-year correlations based on monthly returns, as of 12/31/10. Gold: London PM Fix; US Large Cap: S&P 500[®] Index; US Small Cap: S&P 600 Index; Developed International: MSCI EAFE Index; Emerging Markets: MSCI Emerging Markets Index; US Fixed Income: Barclays Capital U.S. Aggregate Bond Index; Commodities: S&P GSCI[®] Total Return Index. Correlation is a statistical measure of the relationship between the returns on two assets. Correlation will always range between +1 and -1. A correlation of +1 indicates that returns have moved in a similar direction at the same time, -1 indicates that returns have moved in opposite directions and 0 indicates that there is no correlation.

iShares Gold Trust (Trust) has filed a registration statement (including a prospectus) with the SEC for the offering to which this communication relates. Before you invest, you should read the prospectus and other documents the Trust has filed with the SEC for more complete information about the issuer and this offering. You may get these documents for free by visiting www.iShares.com or EDGAR on the SEC website at www.sec.gov. Alternatively, the Trust will arrange to send you the prospectus if you request it by calling toll-free 1-800-474-2737.

The amount of gold represented by shares of the Trust will decrease over the life of the Trust due to sales necessary to pay the sponsor's fee and Trust expenses. Without increase in the price of gold sufficient to compensate for that decrease, the price of the shares will also decline, and investors will lose money on their investment. The Trust will have limited duration. The liquidation of the Trust may occur at a time when the disposition of the Trust's gold will result in losses to investors.

Investing involves risk, including possible loss of principal. The Trust is not an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 or a commodity pool for purposes of the Commodity Exchange Act. Shares of the Trust are not subject to the same regulatory requirements as mutual funds. Because shares of the Trust are created to reflect the price of the gold held by the Trust, the market price of the shares will be as unpredictable as the price of gold has historically been. Additionally, shares of the Trust are bought and sold at market price (not NAV). Brokerage commissions will reduce returns.

Although market makers will generally take advantage of differences between the NAV and the trading price of Trust shares through arbitrage opportunities, there is no guarantee that they will do so. There is no guarantee an active trading market will develop for the shares, which may result in losses on your investment at the time of disposition of your shares. The value of the shares of the Trust will be adversely affected if gold owned by the trust is lost or damaged in circumstances in which the Trust is not in a position to recover the corresponding loss. The Trust is a passive investment vehicle; the value of your shares may be adversely affected by trust losses that, if the trust had been actively managed, might have been possible to avoid.

The price received upon the sale of the shares, which trade at market price, may be more or less than the value of the gold represented by them. If an investor sells the shares at a time when no active market for them exists, such lack of an active market will most likely adversely affect the price received for the shares. **For a more complete discussion of the risk factors relative to the Trust, carefully read the prospectus.**

BlackRock Asset Management International Inc. (BAMI) is the sponsor of the Trust. BlackRock Fund Distribution Company (BFDC), a subsidiary of BAMI, assists in the promotion of the Trust. BAMI is an affiliate of BlackRock, Inc.

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Following an investment in shares of the Trust, several factors may have the effect of causing a decline in the prices of gold and a corresponding decline in the price of the shares. Among them: (i) Large sales by the official sector, including governments, central banks and related institutions, which own a significant portion of the aggregate world gold holdings. (ii) A significant increase in gold hedging activity by gold producers. Should there be an increase in the level of hedge activity of gold producing companies, it could cause a decline in world gold prices, adversely affecting the price of the shares. (iii) A significant change in the attitude of speculators and investors towards gold.

Although shares of the Trust may be bought or sold on the exchange through any brokerage account, shares of the Trust are not redeemable from the Trust except in large aggregated units called Baskets.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.ISHARES.COM OR CALL 1-800-474-2737