John Hancock Hedged Equity & Income Fund
Form N-CSRS
July 05, 2012

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: October 31

Date of reporting period: April 30, 2012

ITEM 1. SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

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 1.8125% of the Fund's net asset value (NAV) as of each measuring date, based upon an annual rate of 7.25%. The amount of each quarterly distribution declared under the Plan will be based on the NAV of the Fund at the close of the New York Stock Exchange on the last business day of the month ending two months prior to each quarterly declaration date. The Fund may also make additional distributions (i) for purposes of avoiding 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 avoiding federal excise tax of ordinary income and capital gain net income, if any, not included in such regular distributions.

Although the Fund has adopted the Plan, it may discontinue the Plan. 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 will be 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.

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 being 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."

Portfolio summary

Top 10 Holdings (16.7% of Net Assets on 4-30-12)[1,2]

Apple, Inc.	2.7%	Oracle Corp.	1.6%
Lowe's Companies, Inc.	2.0%	Microsoft Corp.	1.6%
Wells Fargo & Company	1.8%	PepsiCo, Inc.	1.5%
Cisco Systems, Inc.	1.8%	PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.	1.1%

Occidental Petroleum Corp.	1.6%	The Western Union Company	1.0%

Sector Composition[1,3]

Information Technology	21.5%	Options Purchased	6.2%
Consumer Discretionary	16.8%	Materials	2.7%
Industrials	14.1%	Utilities	1.5%
Financials	11.9%	Telecommunication Services	0.7%
Health Care	10.0%	Short-Term Investments & Other Assets and Liabilities, Net	(0.9%)
Energy	8.3%		
Consumer Staples	7.2%		

Portfolio Composition[1]

Common Stocks	94.7%	Short-Term Investments & Other Assets and Liabilities, Net	(0.9%)
Options Purchased	6.2%		

[1] As a percentage of net assets on 4-30-12.

[2] Excludes cash and cash equivalents.

[3] Sector investing is subject to greater risks than the market as a whole. Because the Fund may focus on particular sectors of the economy, its performance may depend on the performance of those sectors.

Fund’s investments

As of 4-30-12 (unaudited)

	Shares	Value
Common Stocks 94.7%		**$250,232,720**
(Cost $236,944,480)		
Consumer Discretionary 16.8%		**44,508,379**
Auto Components 0.3%		
Allison Transmission Holdings, Inc. (I)	35,210	735,879
Automobiles 0.4%		
Great Wall Motor Company, Ltd., H Shares (I)	41,000	88,174
Harley-Davidson, Inc.	16,585	867,893
Tesla Motors, Inc. (I)	3,230	107,010
Distributors 0.1%		
LKQ Corp. (I)	9,800	327,810
Diversified Consumer Services 0.3%		
Allstar Co-Invest Block Feeder LLC (I)(R)	236,300	228,880
Apollo Group, Inc., Class A (I)	4,119	145,071
Matthews International Corp., Class A	12,380	371,400
Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure 1.0%		
Buffalo Wild Wings, Inc. (I)	2,220	186,147
CEC Entertainment, Inc.	9,080	347,038
Choice Hotels International, Inc.	8,380	315,256
Dunkin’ Brands Group, Inc.	2,900	93,873

Las Vegas Sands Corp.	2,500	138,725
Melco Crown Entertainment, Ltd., ADR (I)	10,189	158,133
Sands China, Ltd.	44,800	175,600
Sonic Corp. (I)	66,970	483,523
Starbucks Corp.	8,207	470,918
Yum! Brands, Inc.	4,451	323,721
Household Durables 0.9%		
D.R. Horton, Inc.	8,360	136,686
Jarden Corp.	6,740	282,608
Lennar Corp., Class A	5,250	145,635
NVR, Inc. (I)	2,005	1,571,800
Tempur-Pedic International, Inc. (I)	6,610	388,932
Internet & Catalog Retail 1.4%		
Amazon.com, Inc. (I)	7,707	1,787,253
Expedia, Inc.	10,400	443,352
priceline.com, Inc. (I)	1,730	1,316,219
Shutterfly, Inc. (I)	7,040	219,085

	Shares	**Value**
Leisure Equipment & Products 1.3%		

Brunswick Corp.	7,770	$204,273
Hasbro, Inc.	32,300	1,186,702
Mattel, Inc. (C)	54,406	1,828,042
Polaris Industries, Inc.	3,170	251,825
Media 3.9%		
Arbitron, Inc.	15,790	600,810
Comcast Corp., Class A	76,649	2,324,764
Discovery Communications, Inc., Series C (I)	6,700	332,923
News Corp., Class A	13,082	256,407
Omnicom Group, Inc.	53,575	2,748,933
Sirius XM Radio, Inc. (I)	263,699	595,960
The Walt Disney Company	56,923	2,453,951
Thomson Reuters Corp.	33,100	987,042
Multiline Retail 1.4%		
Dollar Tree, Inc. (I)	3,480	353,777
Family Dollar Stores, Inc.	2,300	155,365
Fred’s, Inc., Class A	29,000	415,280
Nordstrom, Inc.	4,300	240,198
Target Corp. (C)	43,980	2,548,201
Specialty Retail 4.4%		

Advance Auto Parts, Inc.	10,630	975,834
Ascena Retail Group, Inc. (I)	22,540	461,619
Bed Bath & Beyond, Inc. (I)	4,339	305,422
CarMax, Inc. (I)	4,300	132,741
DSW, Inc., Class A	4,800	270,048
Express, Inc. (I)	13,200	311,784
Fast Retailing Company, Ltd.	500	111,587
GNC Holdings, Inc., Class A	8,650	337,869
Lowe’s Companies, Inc. (C)	164,189	5,167,028
Monro Muffler Brake, Inc.	1,410	58,177
O’Reilly Automotive, Inc. (I)	2,863	301,932
PetSmart, Inc.	6,286	366,222
Ross Stores, Inc.	6,597	406,309
Stage Stores, Inc.	33,310	508,644
The Buckle, Inc.	4,746	219,170
The Cato Corp., Class A	22,580	628,401
TJX Companies, Inc.	9,206	383,982
Urban Outfitters, Inc. (I)	20,110	582,386
Textiles, Apparel & Luxury Goods 1.4%		
Burberry Group PLC	12,327	297,233

Coach, Inc.	11,888	869,726
Deckers Outdoor Corp. (I)	4,530	231,075
Hanesbrands, Inc. (I)	9,800	276,556
Lululemon Athletica, Inc. (I)	11,169	828,070
PVH Corp.	5,590	496,392
Ralph Lauren Corp.	2,175	374,687
Under Armour, Inc., Class A (I)	2,700	264,411

	Shares	**Value**
Consumer Staples 7.2%		**$19,014,742**
Beverages 2.4%		
Companhia de Bebidas das Americas, ADR	4,470	187,651
Molson Coors Brewing Company, Class B	25,060	1,041,995
PepsiCo, Inc. (C)	61,581	4,064,346
The Coca-Cola Company	12,856	981,170
Food & Staples Retailing 1.7%		
Casey’s General Stores, Inc.	8,240	464,324
Costco Wholesale Corp.	4,403	388,213
CVS Caremark Corp.	35,984	1,605,606
Sysco Corp. (C)	54,538	1,576,148

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	7,629	449,424
Whole Foods Market, Inc.	1,600	132,912
Food Products 2.0%		
General Mills, Inc.	31,310	1,217,646
Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Inc. (I)	2,637	128,554
Kraft Foods, Inc., Class A	53,830	2,146,202
Post Holdings, Inc. (I)	5,800	172,550
Ralcorp Holdings, Inc. (I)	5,200	378,612
Unilever NV — NY Shares	32,400	1,112,940
Tobacco 1.1%		
Lorillard, Inc.	1,000	135,290
Philip Morris International, Inc.	30,033	2,688,254
Reynolds American, Inc.	3,500	142,905
Energy 8.3%		**22,030,956**
Energy Equipment & Services 1.2%		
Bristow Group, Inc.	5,860	286,261
Core Laboratories NV	2,490	341,080
Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc.	6,325	433,579
McDermott International, Inc. (I)	37,585	424,711
National Oilwell Varco, Inc.	4,355	329,935

Oceaneering International, Inc.	6,546	337,970
Petrofac, Ltd.	6,067	170,737
Schlumberger, Ltd.	7,190	533,067
SEACOR Holdings, Inc. (I)	3,700	343,841
Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels 7.1%		
Anadarko Petroleum Corp.	23,766	1,739,909
Apache Corp.	6,160	590,990
BG Group PLC	93,241	2,195,959
Cabot Oil & Gas Corp.	9,370	329,262
Chevron Corp.	16,150	1,720,944
Cobalt International Energy, Inc. (I)	12,200	326,472
Concho Resources, Inc. (I)	2,500	267,950
Continental Resources, Inc. (I)	1,700	151,725
EOG Resources, Inc.	6,430	706,078
Exxon Mobil Corp. (C)	30,543	2,637,083
GeoResources, Inc. (I)	9,140	344,669
Newfield Exploration Company (I)	5,510	197,809

	Shares	**Value**

Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels (continued)		
Occidental Petroleum Corp.	47,000	$4,287,340
Peabody Energy Corp.	3,900	121,329
Penn Virginia Corp.	17,700	90,624
Pioneer Natural Resources Company	2,000	231,640
Plains Exploration & Production Company (I)	5,980	244,283
Royal Dutch Shell PLC, ADR, Class B	21,990	1,613,186
Southwestern Energy Company (I)	4,610	145,584
Valero Energy Corp.	13,839	341,823
Whiting Petroleum Corp. (I)	9,530	545,116
Financials 11.9%		**31,319,878**
Capital Markets 2.1%		
Ares Capital Corp.	27,070	434,203
BlackRock, Inc.	10,260	1,965,611
Greenhill & Company, Inc.	11,330	440,171
Invesco, Ltd.	16,035	398,309
SEI Investments Company	67,305	1,358,888
T. Rowe Price Group, Inc.	12,180	768,741
UBS AG (I)	9,670	119,618
Commercial Banks 5.1%		
Cullen/Frost Bankers, Inc.	15,185	895,308

First Midwest Bancorp, Inc.	36,090	384,359
First Niagara Financial Group, Inc.	57,120	510,653
First Republic Bank (I)	17,305	571,584
Hancock Holding Company	8,340	268,381
International Bancshares Corp.	26,800	528,764
M&T Bank Corp.	18,125	1,563,644
MB Financial, Inc.	15,400	318,318
PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.	45,440	3,013,581
Webster Financial Corp.	21,980	499,605
Wells Fargo & Company (C)	145,383	4,860,154
Westamerica Bancorp.	3,400	155,958
Consumer Finance 0.2%		
American Express Company	7,872	473,973
Discover Financial Services	4,800	162,720
Diversified Financial Services 1.1%		
JPMorgan Chase & Company (C)	60,900	2,617,482
Justice Holdings, Ltd. (I)	12,106	197,261
Insurance 2.7%		
ACE, Ltd.	20,640	1,568,021
Alleghany Corp. (I)	3,670	1,258,443

Assured Guaranty, Ltd.	14,700	208,446
Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.	63,230	2,115,044
Platinum Underwriters Holdings, Ltd.	10,300	377,186
Primerica, Inc.	16,950	444,599
Reinsurance Group of America, Inc.	10,180	591,865
W.R. Berkley Corp.	4,000	150,640
White Mountains Insurance Group, Ltd.	810	423,630

	Shares	**Value**
Real Estate Investment Trusts 0.4%		
DiamondRock Hospitality Company	30,450	$323,684
Digital Realty Trust, Inc.	2,700	202,743
Host Hotels & Resorts, Inc.	16,900	281,216
Mack-Cali Realty Corp.	8,820	253,310
Real Estate Management & Development 0.1%		
BR Malls Participacoes SA	11,800	146,591
Thrifts & Mortgage Finance 0.2%		
Northwest Bancshares, Inc.	37,920	467,174
Health Care 10.0%		**26,426,458**
Biotechnology 2.2%		

Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (I)	1,580	142,706
Amgen, Inc.	14,220	1,011,184
Amylin Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (I)	27,300	707,343
Biogen Idec, Inc. (I)	11,874	1,591,235
Celgene Corp. (I)	16,705	1,218,129
Gilead Sciences, Inc. (I)	16,357	850,728
Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (I)	10,590	407,503
Health Care Equipment & Supplies 2.2%		
DENTSPLY International, Inc.	7,300	299,738
Edwards Lifesciences Corp. (I)	7,237	600,454
Gen-Probe, Inc. (I)	6,400	521,920
Haemonetics Corp. (I)	2,890	206,837
Hologic, Inc. (I)	36,775	703,138
Intuitive Surgical, Inc. (I)	1,259	727,954
Medtronic, Inc. (C)	61,839	2,362,250
STERIS Corp.	8,200	257,562
The Cooper Companies, Inc.	3,100	273,327
Health Care Providers & Services 1.2%		
Aetna, Inc.	11,207	493,556
AmerisourceBergen Corp.	5,098	189,697

Amsurg Corp. (I)	16,820	483,743
Cardinal Health, Inc.	4,689	198,204
Omnicare, Inc.	5,600	195,104
PSS World Medical, Inc. (I)	10,500	251,265
Quest Diagnostics, Inc.	1,200	69,228
UnitedHealth Group, Inc.	21,587	1,212,110
Health Care Technology 0.2%		
SXC Health Solutions Corp. (I)	4,700	425,726
Life Sciences Tools & Services 1.3%		
Agilent Technologies, Inc.	17,100	721,278
Bruker Corp. (I)	10,808	162,444
Charles River Laboratories International, Inc. (I)	19,710	700,296
ICON PLC, ADR (I)	32,030	710,425
Life Technologies Corp. (I)	12,173	564,340
Waters Corp. (I)	5,448	458,231

	Shares	**Value**
Pharmaceuticals 2.9%		
Abbott Laboratories	7,743	$480,531
Auxilium Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (I)	6,800	121,856

Dr. Reddy’s Laboratories, Ltd., ADR	2,100	71,043
Elan Corp. PLC, ADR (I)	18,620	256,770
Johnson & Johnson	24,850	1,617,487
Merck & Company, Inc.	44,750	1,755,990
Perrigo Company	3,200	335,680
Pfizer, Inc.	73,730	1,690,629
Roche Holdings AG	4,027	735,774
Salix Pharmaceuticals, Ltd. (I)	8,400	414,960
Valeant Pharmaceuticals International, Inc. (Toronto Exchange) (I)	4,100	228,083
Industrials 14.1%		**37,377,850**
Aerospace & Defense 3.2%		
General Dynamics Corp. (C)	37,072	2,502,360
Honeywell International, Inc.	6,233	378,094
Lockheed Martin Corp.	23,843	2,158,745
Northrop Grumman Corp. (C)	37,885	2,397,363
The Boeing Company	13,287	1,020,442
Air Freight & Logistics 1.3%		
Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings, Inc. (I)	4,100	188,805
Expeditors International of Washington, Inc.	5,740	229,600
FedEx Corp.	5,130	452,671

United Parcel Service, Inc., Class B	32,138	2,511,263
Building Products 0.6%		
Lennox International, Inc.	33,655	1,460,627
Commercial Services & Supplies 0.6%		
ACCO Brands Corp. (I)	37,550	396,153
Corrections Corp. of America (I)	10,600	306,234
G&K Services, Inc., Class A	14,020	460,697
United Stationers, Inc.	18,760	532,034
Construction & Engineering 0.8%		
Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. (I)	17,050	747,302
Vinci SA	31,230	1,449,614
Electrical Equipment 0.5%		
Acuity Brands, Inc.	3,890	216,167
AMETEK, Inc.	5,100	256,683
Belden, Inc.	22,090	768,290
Industrial Conglomerates 2.2%		
3M Company	20,080	1,794,349
Carlisle Companies, Inc.	20,800	1,145,248
Danaher Corp.	11,280	611,602
General Electric Company	12,558	245,886
Tyco International, Ltd.	35,947	2,017,705

	Shares	Value
Machinery 3.5%		
Albany International Corp., Class A	21,150	$509,715
Caterpillar, Inc.	6,805	699,350
Cummins, Inc.	1,798	208,262
Dover Corp.	2,870	179,834
Eaton Corp.	24,300	1,170,774
ESCO Technologies, Inc.	13,430	461,992
Flowserve Corp.	5,840	671,191
IDEX Corp.	9,555	413,827
Joy Global, Inc.	2,283	161,568
Mueller Industries, Inc.	13,230	604,743
PACCAR, Inc.	25,880	1,111,805
Pall Corp.	16,195	965,384
Parker Hannifin Corp.	3,727	326,821
Stanley Black & Decker, Inc.	17,100	1,251,036
WABCO Holdings, Inc. (I)	5,000	315,150
Wabtec Corp.	2,990	232,562
Marine 0.2%		

Alexander & Baldwin, Inc.	1,900	97,204
Kirby Corp. (I)	6,860	455,298
Professional Services 0.2%		
Intertek Group PLC	2,727	111,251
Towers Watson & Company, Class A	6,030	394,362
Verisk Analytics, Inc., Class A (I)	2,000	97,900
Road & Rail 0.3%		
Canadian National Railway Company	1,200	102,336
Genesee & Wyoming, Inc., Class A (I)	9,120	491,659
Hertz Global Holdings, Inc. (I)	8,000	123,280
Localiza Rent a Car SA	10,000	170,763
Trading Companies & Distributors 0.7%		
GATX Corp.	13,910	596,322
MSC Industrial Direct Company, Inc., Class A	16,355	1,205,527
Information Technology 21.5%		**56,735,555**
Communications Equipment 2.9%		
Acme Packet, Inc. (I)	2,000	56,140
Aruba Networks, Inc. (I)	11,900	251,328
Cisco Systems, Inc. (C)	238,797	4,811,760
F5 Networks, Inc. (I)	4,525	606,033

Juniper Networks, Inc. (I)	10,490	224,801
QUALCOMM, Inc.	22,561	1,440,294
Riverbed Technology, Inc. (I)	13,612	268,565
Computers & Peripherals 4.4%		
Apple, Inc. (C)(I)	12,135	7,089,752
Dell, Inc. (I)	19,015	311,276
Diebold, Inc.	12,830	506,144
EMC Corp. (C)(I)	87,484	2,467,924
Gemalto NV	2,120	158,071
NetApp, Inc. (I)	10,157	394,396

	Shares	**Value**
Computers & Peripherals (continued)		
QLogic Corp. (I)	32,852	$566,697
SanDisk Corp. (I)	974	36,048
Electronic Equipment, Instruments & Components 0.6%		
Avnet, Inc. (I)	4,390	158,391
Coherent, Inc. (I)	4,980	261,948
Jabil Circuit, Inc.	10,340	242,473
MTS Systems Corp.	8,700	417,339

Trimble Navigation, Ltd. (I)	8,940	484,012
Universal Display Corp. (I)	2,890	129,963
Internet Software & Services 2.1%		
eBay, Inc. (I)	44,498	1,826,643
Equinix, Inc. (I)	3,530	579,626
Google, Inc., Class A (I)	1,812	1,096,677
IAC/InterActiveCorp	10,407	501,097
LinkedIn Corp., Class A (I)	6,630	719,024
MercadoLibre, Inc.	2,500	241,850
Netease.com, Inc., ADR (I)	5,500	331,760
Rackspace Hosting, Inc. (I)	2,700	156,843
IT Services 2.9%		
Automatic Data Processing, Inc.	20,752	1,154,226
Cielo SA	4,320	129,635
Cognizant Technology Solutions Corp., Class A (I)	6,672	489,191
Fiserv, Inc. (I)	11,810	830,125
International Business Machines Corp.	7,268	1,505,057
MAXIMUS, Inc.	13,740	607,995
Teradata Corp. (I)	3,700	258,186
The Western Union Company	150,092	2,758,691

Office Electronics 0.1%		
Zebra Technologies Corp., Class A (I)	8,760	339,800
Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment 3.1%		
Altera Corp.	16,304	579,933
Analog Devices, Inc.	51,392	2,003,260
Broadcom Corp., Class A (I)	19,880	727,608
Cypress Semiconductor Corp. (I)	16,250	251,875
Intel Corp.	56,840	1,614,256
Intersil Corp., Class A	413	4,242
KLA–Tencor Corp.	3,019	157,441
Maxim Integrated Products, Inc.	23,580	697,496
Skyworks Solutions, Inc. (I)	17,400	472,236
Xilinx, Inc.	43,673	1,588,824
Software 5.4%		
Activision Blizzard, Inc.	25,660	330,244
Adobe Systems, Inc. (I)	11,460	384,598
ANSYS, Inc. (I)	9,550	640,519
Autodesk, Inc. (I)	6,168	242,834
BMC Software, Inc. (I)	4,506	185,918
Cadence Design Systems, Inc. (I)	32,500	379,275

	Shares	Value
Software (continued)		
Check Point Software Technologies, Ltd. (I)	6,564	$381,565
Citrix Systems, Inc. (I)	1,973	168,909
Concur Technologies, Inc. (I)	5,700	322,392
FactSet Research Systems, Inc.	4,795	502,804
Fortinet, Inc. (I)	6,750	176,310
Microsoft Corp.	130,605	4,181,972
MicroStrategy, Inc., Class A (I)	1,640	229,239
Oracle Corp. (C)	144,704	4,252,851
Red Hat, Inc. (I)	8,379	499,472
Salesforce.com, Inc. (I)	3,320	517,024
Splunk, Inc. (I)	1,500	50,925
Symantec Corp. (I)	8,121	134,159
TIBCO Software, Inc. (I)	9,030	297,087
Websense, Inc. (I)	16,900	350,506
Materials 2.7%		**7,097,654**
Chemicals 1.5%		
CF Industries Holdings, Inc.	1,268	244,800

Innospec, Inc. (I)	10,200	308,346
Koppers Holdings, Inc.	7,300	283,824
LyondellBasell Industries NV, Class A	6,700	279,926
The Dow Chemical Company	37,100	1,256,948
The Sherwin-Williams Company	11,182	1,344,971
Westlake Chemical Corp.	2,400	153,480
Containers & Packaging 0.4%		
AptarGroup, Inc.	6,410	349,409
Graphic Packaging Holding Company (I)	28,260	151,191
Greif, Inc., Class A	4,230	226,897
Silgan Holdings, Inc.	10,380	455,371
Metals & Mining 0.3%		
Cliffs Natural Resources, Inc.	851	52,983
Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, Inc.	1,642	62,889
Glencore International PLC	63,871	441,451
Iluka Resources, Ltd.	6,454	113,909
Walter Energy, Inc.	790	52,385
Paper & Forest Products 0.5%		
Deltic Timber Corp.	6,470	395,188
International Paper Company	27,730	923,686

Telecommunication Services 0.7%		**1,785,335**
Diversified Telecommunication Services 0.7%		
American Tower Corp.	9,735	638,421
AT&T, Inc.	34,850	1,146,914
Utilities 1.5%		**3,935,913**
Electric Utilities 0.3%		
UniSource Energy Corp.	9,990	363,636
Westar Energy, Inc.	10,410	298,663

	Shares	**Value**
Gas Utilities 1.2%		
Atmos Energy Corp.	9,600	$312,768
New Jersey Resources Corp.	3,590	155,232
UGI Corp.	87,365	2,549,311
WGL Holdings, Inc.	6,390	256,303
	Number of Contracts	**Value**
Options Purchased 6.2%		**$16,378,000**
(Cost $17,295,747)		
Put Options 6.2%		**16,378,000**
S&P 500 Index (Expiration Date: 6-22-13; Strike Price: $1,275) (I)	1,900	16,378,000

	Par value	Value
Short-Term Investments 3.5%		**$9,200,000**
(Cost $9,200,000)		
Repurchase Agreement 3.5%		**9,200,000**
Goldman Sachs Tri-Party Repurchase Agreement dated 4-30-12 at 0.200% to be repurchased at $9,200,051 on 5-1-12, collateralized by $1,329,000 Federal National Mortgage Association, 0.000% due 10-15-12 (valued at $1,328,322) and by $7,515,000 Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp., 2.880% due 2-9-15 (valued at $8,056,296, including interest)	$9,200,000	9,200,000
Total investments (Cost $263,440,227)†104.4%		**$275,810,720**
Other assets and liabilities, net (4.4%)		**($11,644,020)**
Total net assets 100.0%		**$264,166,700**

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

ADR American Depositary Receipts

(C) All or a portion of this security is pledged as collateral for options (see Note 3). Total collateral value at 4-30-12 was $42,361,850.

(I) Non-income producing security.

(R) Direct placement securities are restricted to resale and the Fund has limited rights to registration under the Securities Act of 1933.

Issuer, Description	Acquisition date	Acquisition cost	Beginning share amount	Ending share amount	Value as a percentage of Fund's net assets	Value as of 4-30-12
Allstar Co-Invest	8-1-11	$240,553	236,300	236,300	0.09%	$228,880

Block Feeder LLC

† At 4-30-12, the aggregate cost of investment securities for federal income tax purposes was $264,189,306. Net unrealized appreciation aggregated $11,621,414, of which $20,673,695 related to appreciated investment securities and $9,052,281 related to depreciated investment securities.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Financial statements

Statement of assets and liabilities 4-30-12 (unaudited)

This Statement of assets and liabilities is the Fund's balance sheet. It shows the value of what the Fund owns, is due and owes. You'll also find the net asset value for each common share.

Assets

Investments, at value (Cost $263,440,227)	$275,810,720
Cash	92,042
Foreign currency, at value (Cost $769)	766
Receivable for investments sold	1,649,317
Dividends and interest receivable	182,239
Other receivables and prepaid expenses	41,048
Total assets	**277,776,132**

Liabilities

Payable for investments purchased	1,201,431
Written options, at value (Premiums received $12,976,229)	12,329,500
Payable to affiliates	
Accounting and legal services fees	3,468
Trustees' fees	1,604
Other liabilities and accrued expenses	73,429
Total liabilities	**13,609,432**

Net assets

Paid-in capital	$269,360,025
Accumulated distributions in excess of net investment income	(8,192,165)
Accumulated net realized loss on investments, written options and foreign currency transactions	(10,018,571)
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments, written options and translation of assets and liabilities in foreign currencies	13,017,411
Net assets	**$264,166,700**

Net asset value per share

Based on 14,350,824 shares of beneficial interest outstanding — unlimited number of shares authorized with par value of $0.01 per share.	$18.41

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of operations For the six-month period ended 4-30-12 (unaudited)

This Statement of operations summarizes the Fund's investment income earned and expenses incurred in operating the Fund. It also shows net gains (losses) for the period stated.

Investment income

Dividends	$2,407,937
Interest	4,808
Less foreign taxes withheld	(10,468)
Total investment income	**2,402,277**

Expenses

Investment management fees	1,275,439
Accounting and legal services fees	23,352
Transfer agent fees	8,006
Trustees' fees	16,488
Printing and postage	10,981
Professional fees	50,721

Custodian fees	22,240
Stock exchange listing fees	22,801
Other	10,942
Total expenses	**1,440,970**
Net investment income	**961,307**
Realized and unrealized gain (loss)	
Net realized gain (loss) on	
Investments	(10,652,229)
Written options	9,348,611
Foreign currency transactions	(11,281)
	(1,314,899)
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of	
Investments	25,505,411
Written options	4,095,118
Translation of assets and liabilities in foreign currencies	235
	29,600,764
Net realized and unrealized gain	**28,285,865**
Increase in net assets from operations	**$29,247,172**

See notes to financial statements

F I N A N C I A L S T A T E M E N T S

Statements of changes in net assets

These Statements of changes in net assets show how the value of the Fund’s net assets has changed during the last two periods. The difference reflects earnings less expenses, any investment gains and losses, distributions, if any, paid to shareholders and the net of Fund share transactions.

	Six months ended 4-30-12	Period ended

	(unaudited)	10-31-11[1]
Increase (decrease) in net assets		
From operations		
Net investment income	$961,307	$337,387
Net realized loss	(1,314,899)	(8,723,640)
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	29,600,764	(16,583,353)
Increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations	**29,247,172**	**(24,969,606)**
Distributions to shareholders[2]		
From net investment income	(9,153,590)	(317,301)
From tax return of capital	—	(4,982,535)
Total distributions	**(9,153,590)**	**(5,299,836)**
From Fund share transactions		
Shares issued	—	279,246,500[3]
Shares repurchased	(4,319,131)	—
Offering costs	—	(584,809)
Total from Fund share transactions	**(4,319,131)**	**278,661,691**
Total increase	**15,774,451**	**248,392,249**
Net assets		
Beginning of period	248,392,249	[3]
End of period	**$264,166,700**	**$248,392,249**
Undistributed (Accumulated distributions in excess of) net investment income	**($8,192,165)**	**$118**
Share activity		
Shares outstanding		
Beginning of period	14,620,236	—
Shares issued	—	14,620,236
Shares repurchased	(269,412)	—

End of period	**14,350,824**	**14,620,236**

[1] Period from 5-26-11 (commencement of operations) to 10-31-11.

[2] A portion of the distributions for the six months ended 4-30-12 may be deemed a tax return of capital at year-end.

[3] Initial seed capital of $100,000 is included in Fund share transactions for the period ended 10-31-11.

Financial highlights

The Financial highlights show how the Fund's net asset value for a share has changed during the period.

COMMON SHARES Period ended	**4-30-12**[1]	**10-31-11**[2]
Per share operating performance		
Net asset value, beginning of period	**$16.99**	**$19.10**[3]
Net investment income[4]	0.07	0.02
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	1.94	(1.73)
Total from investment operations	**2.01**	**(1.71)**
Less distributions to common shareholders		
From net investment income	(0.63)[5]	(0.02)
From tax return of capital	—	(0.34)
Total distributions	**(0.63)**	**(0.36)**
Anti-dilutive impact of repurchase plan	0.04[6]	—
Offering costs related to common shares	—	(0.04)
Net asset value, end of period	**$18.41**	**$16.99**
Per share market value, end of period	**$16.55**	**$15.18**
Total return at net asset value (%)[7]	**12.73**[8]	**(8.98)**[8]
Total return at market value (%)[7]	**13.42**[8]	**(22.33)**[8]
Ratios and supplemental data		
Net assets applicable to common shares, end of period (in millions)	$264	$248
Ratios (as a percentage of average net assets):		
Expenses	1.13[9]	1.15[9]
Net investment income	0.75[9]	0.31[9]
Portfolio turnover (%)	37	38

[1] Six months ended 4-30-12. Unaudited.
[2] Period from 5-26-11 (commencement of operations) to 10-31-11.
[3] Reflects the deduction of a $0.90 per share sales load.
[4] Based on the average daily shares outstanding.
[5] A portion of the distributions may be deemed a tax return of capital at year-end.
[6] The repurchase plan was completed at an average repurchase price of $16.10 for $269,412 shares. The repurchase for the period ended 4-30-12 was $4,319,131 and had an impact of $0.04.
[7] Total return based on net asset value reflects changes in the Fund's net asset value during each period. Totalreturn based on market value reflects changes in market value. Each figure assumes that dividend and capital gain distributions, 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] Not annualized.
[9] Annualized.

Notes to financial statements

(unaudited)

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, which require management to make certain estimates and assumptions at the date of the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates. 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. 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 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, 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.

The following is a summary of the values by input classification of the Fund's investments as of April 30, 2012, by major security category or type:

	TOTAL MARKET VALUE AT 4-30-12	LEVEL 1 QUOTED PRICE	LEVEL 2 SIGNIFICANT OBSERVABLE INPUTS	LEVEL 3 SIGNIFICANT UNOBSERVABLE INPUTS
Common Stocks				
Consumer Discretionary	**$44,508,379**	$43,606,905	$672,594	$228,880
Consumer Staples	**19,014,742**	19,014,742	—	—
Energy	**22,030,956**	19,664,260	2,366,696	—
Financials	**31,319,878**	31,122,617	197,261	—
Health Care	**26,426,458**	25,690,684	735,774	—
Industrials	**37,377,850**	35,816,985	1,560,865	—
Information Technology	**56,735,555**	56,577,484	158,071	—
Materials	**7,097,654**	6,542,294	555,360	—
Telecommunication Services	**1,785,335**	1,785,335	—	—
Utilities	**3,935,913**	3,935,913	—	—
Options Purchased	**16,378,000**	16,378,000	—	—
Short-Term Investments	**9,200,000**	—	9,200,000	—
Total Investments in Securities	**$275,810,720**	**$260,135,219**	**$15,446,621**	**$228,880**
Other Financial Instruments				
Written Options	**($12,329,500)**	($12,329,500)	—	—

Changes in valuation techniques may result in transfers into or out of an assigned level within the disclosure hierarchy. During the six months ended April 30, 2012, there were no significant transfers into or out of Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3.

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 principal securities exchange on which they trade. In the event there were no sales during the day or closing prices are not available, then securities are valued using the last quoted bid or evaluated price. Options listed on an exchange are valued at the mean between the last bid and ask prices from the exchange on which they are principally traded. For options not listed on an exchange, an independent pricing source is used to value the options at the mean between the last bid and ask prices. Foreign securities and currencies are valued in U.S. dollars, based on foreign currency exchange rates supplied by an independent pricing service. Certain securities traded only in the over-the-counter market are valued at the last bid price quoted by brokers making markets in the securities at the close of trading. Certain

short-term securities are valued at amortized cost. Other portfolio securities and assets, where 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.

Repurchase agreements. The Fund may enter into repurchase agreements. When the Fund enters into a repurchase agreement, it receives collateral which is held in a segregated account by the Fund's custodian. In the case of 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. 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.

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. 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 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 taxes. The Fund may be subject to withholding tax on income or capital gains or repatriation taxes as imposed by certain countries in which it invests. Taxes are accrued based upon net investment income, net realized gains or net 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 Funds complex, expenses that are directly attributable to an individual fund are allocated to the 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 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.

Under the Regulated Investment Company Modernization Act of 2010, the Fund is permitted to carry forward capital losses for an unlimited period. Capital losses that are carried forward will retain their character as either short-term or long-term capital losses. For federal income tax purposes, as of October 31, 2011, the Fund has $8,053,376 of short-term and $374,834 of long-term capital loss carryforward available to offset future net realized capital gains.

As of October 31, 2011, 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. On May 3, 2011, the Board of Trustees approved the adoption of a managed distribution plan (the Distribution Plan). Under the Distribution Plan, the Fund makes quarterly distributions of

an amount equal to 1.8125% of the Fund's net asset value as of each measuring date, based upon an annual rate of 7.25%. The amount of each quarterly distribution will be determined based on the net asset value of the Fund at the close of the NYSE on the last business day of the month ending two months prior to each quarterly declaration date.

Distributions under the Distribution 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 to avoid federal income and excise taxes. The final determinations of tax characteristics of the Fund's distributions will occur at the end of the year and will subsequently be reported to shareholders. A portion of the distributions paid may be deemed a tax return of capital for the year ended October 31, 2012.

The Board of Trustees may terminate or reduce the amount distributed under the Distribution 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 generally declares and pays distributions quarterly through its managed distribution plan described above.

Such distributions, on a tax basis, are determined in conformity with income tax regulations, which may differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Material 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 wash sale loss deferrals and derivative transactions.

New accounting pronouncements. In May 2011, Accounting Standards Update 2011-04 (ASU 2011-04), *Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and IFRSs*, was issued and is effective during interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011. ASU 2011-04 may result in additional disclosure for transfers between levels as well as expanded disclosure for securities categorized as Level 3 under the fair value hierarchy.

In December 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2011-11 (ASU 2011-11), *Disclosures about Offsetting Assets and Liabilities*. The update creates new disclosure requirements requiring entities to disclose both gross and net information for derivatives and other financial instruments that are either offset in the Statement of assets and liabilities or subject to an enforceable master netting arrangement or similar agreement. The disclosure requirements are effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2013 and interim periods within those annual periods. ASU 2011-11 may result in additional disclosure relating to the presentation of derivatives.

Note 3 — Derivative instruments

The Fund invests in derivatives in order to meet its investment objective. The use of derivatives may involve risks different from, or potentially greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in securities. Specifically, the Fund is exposed to the risk that the counterparty to an over-the-counter (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. If the counterparty defaults, the Fund will have contractual remedies, but there is no assurance that the counterparty will meet its contractual obligations or that the Fund will succeed in enforcing them.

Options. There are two types of options, a put option and a call option. Options are traded either over-the-counter 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 the premium, 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.

When the Fund purchases an option, the premium paid by the Fund is included in the Portfolio of Investments and subsequently "marked-to-market" to reflect current market value. If the purchased option expires, the Fund realizes a loss equal to the cost of the option. If the Fund exercises a call option, the cost of the securities acquired by exercising the call is increased by the premium paid to buy the call. If the Fund exercises a put option, it realizes a gain or loss from the sale of the underlying security and the proceeds from such sale are decreased by the premium paid. If the Fund enters into a closing sale transaction, the Fund realizes a gain or loss, depending on whether proceeds from the closing sale are greater or less than the original cost. When the Fund writes an option, the premium received is included as a liability and subsequently "marked-to-market" to reflect current market value of the option written. Premiums received from writing options that expire 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 six months ended April 30, 2012, the Fund used purchased options to hedge against changes in securities markets. During the six months ended April 30, 2012, the Fund held purchased options with market values ranging from $6.7 million to $16.4 million, as measured at each quarter end.

During the six months ended April 30, 2012, the Fund wrote option contracts to generate earnings from option premiums and to attempt to reduce overall volatility. The following tables summarize the Fund's written options activities during the six months ended April 30, 2012 and the contracts held at April 30, 2012.

	NUMBER OF CONTRACTS	PREMIUMS RECEIVED (PAID)
Outstanding, beginning of period	3,050	$9,440,111
Options written	11,300	22,258,330
Options closed	(11,450)	(18,722,212)
Options exercised	—	—
Options expired	—	—
Outstanding, end of period	**2,900**	**$12,976,229**

NAME OF ISSUER	EXERCISE PRICE	EXPIRATION DATE	NUMBER OF CONTRACTS	PREMIUM	VALUE

CALLS					
S&P 500 Index	$1,400	May 2012	500	$898,488	($765,000)
S&P 500 Index	1,390	May 2012	500	873,488	(1,057,500)
Total			**1,000**	**$1,771,976**	**($1,822,500)**
PUTS					
S&P 500 Index	$1,150	Jun 2013	1,900	$11,204,253	($10,507,000)
Total			**1,900**	**$11,204,253**	**($10,507,000)**

Fair value of derivative instruments by risk category

The table below summarizes the fair value of derivatives held by the Fund at April 30, 2012 by risk category:

RISK	STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES LOCATION	FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS LOCATION	ASSET DERIVATIVES FAIR VALUE	LIABILITY DERIVATIVES FAIR VALUE
Equity contracts	Investments, at value*	Purchased Options*	$16,378,000	—
	Written Options, at value	Written Options	—	$12,329,500
			$16,378,000	**$12,329,500**

* Purchased options are included in the Fund’s investments.

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 six months ended April 30, 2012:

RISK	STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS LOCATION	INVESTMENTS (PURCHASED OPTIONS)	WRITTEN OPTIONS
Equity contracts	Net realized gain (loss)	($11,319,928)	$9,348,611

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 six months ended April 30, 2012:

RISK	STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS LOCATION	INVESTMENTS (PURCHASED OPTIONS)	WRITTEN OPTIONS
Equity contracts	Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	($3,892,519)	$4,095,118

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 Adviser) serves as investment adviser for the Fund. The Adviser is an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Manulife Financial Corporation (MFC).

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

Accounting and legal services. Pursuant to a service agreement, the Fund reimburses the Adviser 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 six months ended April 30, 2012 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 Adviser or its affiliates. These Trustees may, for tax purposes, elect to defer receipt of this compensation under the John Hancock Group of Funds Deferred Compensation Plan (the Plan). Deferred amounts are invested in various John Hancock funds and remain in the funds until distributed in accordance with the Plan. The investment of deferred amounts and the offsetting liability are included within Other receivables and prepaid expenses and Payable to affiliates — Trustees' fees, respectively, in the accompanying Statement of assets and liabilities.

Note 6 — Fund share transactions

On May 26, 2011, the Fund completed its initial public offering of 14,015,000 common shares, and on July 13, 2011, completed a supplemental offering of 600,000 common shares, each at an offering price of $20.00 per share. Underwriting commissions of $13,153,500 were paid to brokers in connection with these public offerings. Prior to the public offerings, the Fund was seeded with initial capital of $100,000 in return for 5,236 shares. Offering costs of approximately $1,103,000 were absorbed by the Adviser.

On December 6, 2011, the Board of Trustees approved a share repurchase plan (the Repurchase Plan). Under the Repurchase Plan, the Fund may purchase, in the open market, up to 10% of its outstanding common shares between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012 (based on common shares outstanding as of December 31, 2011). During the six months ended April 30, 2012, the Fund repurchased 1.84% of shares outstanding under the Repurchase Plan. The weighted average discount per share on these repurchases amounted to 10.8% for the six months ended April 30, 2012. Shares repurchased and corresponding dollar amounts are included in the Statement of changes in net assets.

Note 7 — Purchase and sale of securities

Purchases and sales of securities, other than short-term securities, aggregated $88,841,979 and $98,587,414, respectively, for the six months ended April 30, 2012.

Additional information

Unaudited

Investment objective and policy

The Fund is a diversified, closed-end management investment company, common shares of which were initially offered to the public on May 26, 2011 and are publicly traded on 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 (the "equity strategy") and an actively managed option overlay strategy (the "option overlay strategy") to pursue its investment objective. The equity strategy seeks to provide broad-based exposure to equity markets, while emphasizing downside equity market protection. The goal of the equity strategy is to participate in and capture the broader equity market returns in rising market conditions, while seeking to limit losses relative to the broader equity markets in declining market circumstances through an effective combination of equity investment strategies. The option overlay strategy pursues two goals: (i) to generate earnings for current distribution from option premiums; and (ii) downside equity market protection (through the use of U.S. equity index puts).

Dividends and distributions

During the six months ended April 30, 2012, distributions totaling $0.6316 per share were paid to shareholders. The dates of payments and the amounts per share are as follows:

PAYMENT DATE	DISTRIBUTIONS[1]
December 30, 2011	$0.3079
March 30, 2012	$0.3237
Total	$0.6316

[1] A portion of the distributions may be deemed a tax return of capital at year end.

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. (formerly known as The Bank of New York Mellon) (the Plan Agent). Every shareholder holding 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.

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 New York Stock Exchange (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 Web site at www.computershare.com and clicking on EquityAccess & More. The Plan Agent will mail a check to you (less applicable brokerage trading fees) on settlement date, which is three business days after your shares have been sold. If you choose to sell your shares through your stockbroker, you will need to request that the Plan Agent electronically transfer your shares to your 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 Web site at www.computershare.com and clicking on EquityAccess & More. 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 you withdraw, your shares will be credited to your account; or, if you wish, the Plan Agent will sell your full and fractional shares and send you the proceeds, less a transaction fee of $5.00 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 Web site at www.computershare.com and clicking on EquityAccess & More. 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 you wish to participate in the Plan and your shares are held in the name of a brokerage firm, bank or other nominee, please contact your nominee to see if it will participate in the Plan for you. If you wish to participate in the Plan, but your brokerage firm, bank or other nominee is unable to participate on your behalf, you will need to request that your shares be re-registered in your own name, or you 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 you as representing the total amount registered

in your name and held for your account by your 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 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.

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 1-800-852-0218, 1-201-680-6578 (For International Telephone Inquiries), and 1-201-680-6610 (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 Trust Company, N.A.
Newport Office Center VII
480 Washington Boulevard
Jersey City, NJ 07310–1900
Telephone: 1-800-852-0218

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

More information

Trustees
Steven R. Pruchansky
Chairman
William H. Cunningham
Deborah C. Jackson
Stanley Martin*
Hugh McHaffie†
Dr. John A. Moore*
Vice Chairman
Patti McGill Peterson*
Gregory A. Russo
John G. Vrysen†

Officers
Keith F. Hartstein
President and
Chief Executive Officer

Andrew G. Arnott
Senior Vice President and
Chief Operating Officer

Thomas M. Kinzler
Secretary and Chief Legal Officer

Francis V. Knox, Jr.

Investment adviser
John Hancock Advisers, LLC

Subadviser
Wellington Management
Company, LLP

Custodian
State Street Bank and
Trust Company

Transfer agent
Computershare Shareowner

*Member of the Audit Committee

†Non-Independent Trustee

Chief Compliance Officer

Charles A. Rizzo
Chief Financial Officer

Salvatore Schiavone
Treasurer

Services, LLC

Legal counsel
K&L Gates LLP

Stock symbol
Listed New York Stock Exchange: HEQ

For shareholder assistance refer to page 31

You can also contact us:

1-800-852-0218

jhfunds.com

Regular mail:
Computershare Shareowner Services, LLC
Newport Office Center VII
480 Washington Boulevard
Jersey City, NJ 07310-1900

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) Web site at www.sec.gov or on our Web site.

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 Web site and the SEC's Web site, www.sec.gov, and can be reviewed and copied (for a fee) at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. Call 1-202-551-8090 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 Web site at www.jhfunds.com or by calling 1-800-852-0218.

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.

1-800-852-0218
1-800-231-5469 TDD
1-800-843-0090 EASI-Line
www.jhfunds.com

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ITEM 2. CODE OF ETHICS.

Not applicable at this time.

ITEM 3. AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT.

Not applicable at this time.

ITEM 4. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES.

Not applicable at this time.

ITEM 5. AUDIT COMMITTEE OF LISTED REGISTRANTS.

Not applicable at this time.

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.

Not applicable.

ITEM 8. PORTFOLIO MANAGERS OF CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

Not applicable.

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

Period	Total number of shares purchased	Average price per share	Total number of shares purchased as part of publicly announced plans*	Maximum number of shares that may yet be purchased under the plans
Dec-11	-	-	-	1,462,024*
Jan-12	145,349	$15.665	145,349	1,316,675
Feb-12	67,084	$16.506	212,433	1,249,591
Mar-12	56,979	$16.409	269,412	1,192,612
Apr-12	-	-	-	1,192,612
Total	269,412	$16.032		

*In December 2011, the Board of Trustees approved a share repurchase plan. Under the share repurchase plan, the Fund may purchase in the open market up to 10% of its outstanding common shares between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012 (based on common shares outstanding as of December 31, 2011).

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

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, Governance and Administration 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) 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) 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) Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders is attached. See attached "John Hancock Funds " Nominating, Governance and Administration Committee Charter. "

(c)(2) Contact person at the registrant.

(c)(3) Registrant"s notices 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.

SIGNATURES

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/ Keith F. Hartstein

Keith F. Hartstein

President and

Chief Executive Officer

Date: June 26, 2012

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/ Keith F. Hartstein

Keith F. Hartstein
President and
Chief Executive Officer

Date: June 26, 2012

By: /s/ Charles A. Rizzo

Charles A. Rizzo
Chief Financial Officer

Date: June 26, 2012