



IFSL Equilibrium Defensive Portfolio

Each month we provide factsheets for the IFSL Equilibrium funds which give details of the holdings as at the end of the month, together with market commentary.

In addition to this, each quarter we provide more detailed analysis of the holdings, focusing on what has been performing well and what has been underperforming.

Key

A = Alternatives

EQ = Equities

CPI = Consumer Price Index (inflation)

C = Cash

FI = Fixed Interest

DR = Defined Returns

RA = Assets

Asset allocation changes

The table below shows our current allocation compared to three months and 12 months ago, the changes are highlighted from dark green to dark red in terms of largest increase to largest decrease.

Asset	Current %	3 months ago %	3 month change %	12 months ago %	12 month change %
Cash	5.6	1.4	4.2	0.0	5.6
Fixed Interest	47.7	54.3	-6.6	0.0	47.7
Real Assets	14.6	13.5	1.1	0.0	14.6
Defined Returns	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Alternatives	24.2	22.6	1.6	0.0	24.2
Equity	7.9	8.2	-0.3	0.0	7.9

Recent fund changes

The tables below show any significant changes we have made to the holdings in the portfolio over the quarter.

Significant increased positions

Asset class	Fund	Current %	3 months ago %	3 month change %
C	U K Pound	4.44	1.40	3.04
FI	iShares US TIPs 0-5 year	5.06	3.30	1.76
C	BlackRock US Treasury Liquidity	1.14	-	1.14
A	Ruffer Diversified Return	4.01	3.15	0.86

Significant decreased positions

Asset class	Fund	Current %	3 months ago %	3 month change %
FI	Vanguard UK Investment Grade Bond Index	1.93	4.85	-2.92
FI	Aegon High Yield Bond	-	2.54	-2.54
FI	iShares \$ Treasury Bond 7-10yr ETF	2.50	3.48	-0.98
FI	Royal London Sterling Extra Yield Bond	3.03	4.00	-0.97
FI	TwentyFour Dynamic Bond	3.00	3.93	-0.93



Contribution to return by sector

The table below shows each of our asset classes and the equity regions we invest in. It breaks down the average exposure, the return for the asset class over the period we have been invested and the contribution to the overall portfolio return over three months and 12 months.

Asset	3 months			12 months		
	Average weight %	Asset class return %	Contribution to return %	Average weight %	Asset class return %	Contribution to return %
Cash	4.1	5.6	0.2	4.8	6.6	0.3
Fixed Interest	50.3	-5.0	-2.4	54.1	-13.0	-6.7
Real Assets	14.6	-9.9	-1.5	12.6	-9.2	-1.3
Defined Returns	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alternatives	22.9	0.9	0.2	20.7	2.3	0.1
Equity	8.1	-0.4	-0.0	7.8	-9.9	-0.8
Overall Portfolio			-3.5			-9.1

Asset class portfolio return and contribution to return calculations use daily positions and don't take into consideration charges, aggregated contribution to returns may not equal overall portfolio return.

Regional equity portfolio	3 months			12 months		
	Average weight %	Equity region return %	Contribution to return %	Average weight %	Equity region return %	Contribution to return %
UK Equity	2.5	-12.0	-0.3	2.4	-19.0	-0.5
Global Developed	5.6	5.2	0.3	5.4	-5.2	-0.3
Vol Trade	-	-	-	-	-	-



Top and bottom contributors to return

The tables below show the top and bottom five contributors to return over the past three and 12 months, it breaks down the average exposure, the return over the holding period and the contribution to the overall portfolio return.

Top five contributors over three months

Asset class	Asset	Average weight %	Current weight %	Holding return %	Contribution to return %
A	THEAM Dynamic Volatility Carry	4.1	4.0	6.7	0.3
C	BlackRock US Treasury Liquidity	1.5	1.1	8.4	0.2
EQ	L&G US Equity Responsible Exclusion ETF	2.5	2.5	6.3	0.2
EQ	Morgan Stanley Global Brands	2.0	1.9	3.6	0.1
EQ	Royal London Global Equity Select	1.0	1.0	5.8	0.1

Bottom five contributors over three months

Asset class	Asset	Average weight %	Current weight %	Holding return %	Contribution to return %
FI	iShares Core UK Gilts ETF	5.7	5.8	-12.2	-0.6
FI	Short Dated Fixed Interest	16.8	17.7	-2.2	-0.4
FI	Waverton Sterling Bond	5.5	5.5	-6.8	-0.4
EQ	Miton UK Multi Cap Income	2.5	2.5	-12.0	-0.3
RA	Tritax Big Box REIT Ord Shs	1.1	1.1	-27.1	-0.3

Top five contributors over 12 months

Asset class	Asset	Average weight %	Current weight %	Holding return %	Contribution to return %
C	BlackRock US Treasury Liquidity	1.1	1.1	10.1	0.3
A	THEAM Dynamic Volatility Carry	3.6	4.0	5.0	0.3
FI	iShares \$ Treasury Bond 7-10yr ETF	2.9	4.6	8.1	0.1
A	Crabel Gemini Fund	3.0	3.5	4.6	0.1
A	Foresight UK Infrastructure Income	3.9	4.1	-1.5	0.1

Bottom five contributors over 12 months

Asset class	Asset	Average weight %	Current weight %	Holding return %	Contribution to return %
FI	iShares Core UK Gilts ETF	2.9	5.8	-21.8	-1.1
FI	Short Dated Fixed Interest	20.5	17.7	-5.8	-1.1
FI	Vanguard UK Investment Grade Bond Index	3.7	1.9	-22.4	-0.9
FI	Waverton Sterling Bond	4.6	5.5	-17.6	-0.9
FI	Nomura Global Dynamic Bond	3.9	3.2	-19.1	-0.8



Portfolio commentary

The past quarter has seen a further pullback in various asset classes.

The current high level of inflation has proven more persistent than many had thought. As a result, central banks are putting up interest rates more quickly and more steeply than markets had expected.

The assets most sensitive to interest rates have been hit the hardest. This means that fixed interest – normally seen as a relatively low-risk asset class - has performed particularly poorly, in many cases worse than equity markets.

Also hit hard have been assets like real estate, where the increased cost of borrowing looks set to hit property prices, in commercial as well as residential.

Even infrastructure, previously one of the best-performing areas in portfolios, has been hit by increased borrowing costs. Here in the UK, it has also been affected by proposed changes to cap the price at which renewable energy providers can sell their electricity.

After the government's mini-budget there has been an additional hit to most UK-based asset classes. This has been well covered elsewhere, but the upshot was an even bigger increase in borrowing costs in the UK compared to elsewhere, a fall in the pound, and concerns that the UK will fall into recession.

This has led to UK equities losing more than many other parts of the world, and UK bonds underperforming their developed market counterparts. Overseas assets have also had a boost

for sterling-based investors, with most currencies gaining against the pound.

The table below shows the returns of some selected asset classes over the past three months both in nominal and currency adjusted terms:

Asset class	Return (local currency)	Return in sterling
FTSE 100 (UK large companies)	-2.72	-2.72
S&P 500 (US equities)	-5.00	3.35
FTSE 250 (UK mid caps)	-7.30	-7.30
MSCI Emerging Markets	-8.18	-3.80
UT Sterling Corporate Bonds	-9.40	-9.40
FTSE Gilts All Stocks Index	-12.85	-12.85

Source: FE Analytics 30 June 2022 to 30 September 2022

Whilst many asset classes have fallen in value, this has left a number of them looking relatively cheap relative to history. Whilst we expect further volatility in the short term, driven by government and central bank actions, we are very optimistic about future returns with yields on various assets now being much higher than they have been for some time.

Please see the latest edition of the Pulse for details on some of the recent actions taken in the portfolio www.equilibrium.co.uk/library/the-pulse-october-2022.



Defensive commentary

The portfolio was down 3.5% over the past three months.

On the plus side, alternatives made a positive contribution to returns, as did cash where our holding in US dollars gained strongly due to the fall in the pound.

The biggest detractor was fixed interest, which is the largest asset class in the portfolio. This is despite our fixed-interest funds falling significantly less than a typical corporate bond fund or gilts.

Also detracting were real assets, with real estate and to a lesser extent infrastructure both being hit hard.

The portfolio holds a small amount in equities, and the overall contribution over three months was flat. The losses in UK equities were offset by gains in our overseas equities. These added to returns over this period despite falling markets, helped by the fall in the pound relative to other currencies.

At a fund level, the biggest contributor was the THEAM Dynamic Volatility Carry fund – this is an alternative fund designed to produce positive returns when equity markets are volatile.

The other positive performers are all largely US based, including our dollar cash fund and our overseas equity funds. These benefited from the strong dollar relative to the pound.

The biggest fund detractors were our holding in UK Gilts, usually seen as one of the safest assets you can buy. Our UK equity fund and two fixed-interest funds, as well as the Tritax real estate investment trust, were amongst the worst performers.

Performance

Rolling total returns

	10 years %	5 years %	3 years %	1 year %	6 months %
Fund	28.83	6.38	-0.49	-9.15	-7.31
BOE base rate +3%	40.74	18.82	10.63	3.78	2.12

Further reading

For holdings and market commentary as at the end of the month, please see our [latest monthly factsheets](#). Attribution analysis is for indication only.

Risk information

All data is from 30 September 2022 and provided by Equilibrium Investment Management LLP unless otherwise stated. The views expressed herein should not be taken as statements of fact or relied upon when making investment decisions.

Past performance is never a guide to future performance. Investments may (will) fall as well as rise and you may not get back your original investment. Changes in currency exchange rates or interest rates may have an adverse effect on the value of your investments.

Investment Fund Services Limited (IFSL) is the Authorised Corporate Director (ACD) of the IFSL Equilibrium OEIC. IFSL is registered in England No. 06110770 and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Registered office: Marlborough House, 59 Chorley New Road, Bolton, BL1 4QP. Copies of the Prospectus and Key Investor Information Document are available in English from www.ifslfunds.com or can be requested as a paper copy by calling 0808 178 9321 or writing to IFSL at the above address. Investors should refer to these for further details on the fund's investment objectives, policy and associated risks.

Equilibrium Investment Management LLP

Ascot House, Epsom Avenue, Handforth, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 3DF
t : +44 (0) 161 486 2250 t : 0808 168 0748 e : askus@equilibrium.co.uk w : www.equilibrium.co.uk