GUINNESS GLOBAL INVESTORS

MULTI-ASSET FUNDS

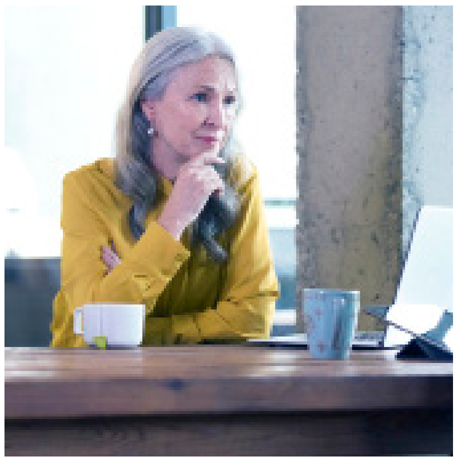
December 2023 Market Update & Investment Report

POWERED BY

RBC Brewin Dolphin

This is a marketing communication. Please refer to the prospectus and KID/KIIDs for the Funds before making any final investment decisions. This document is presented to you in your capacity as a Professional Client and is not for general distribution to Retail Clients. Should you receive this document as a Retail Client you should disregard its content and take no action based upon it.

Contents

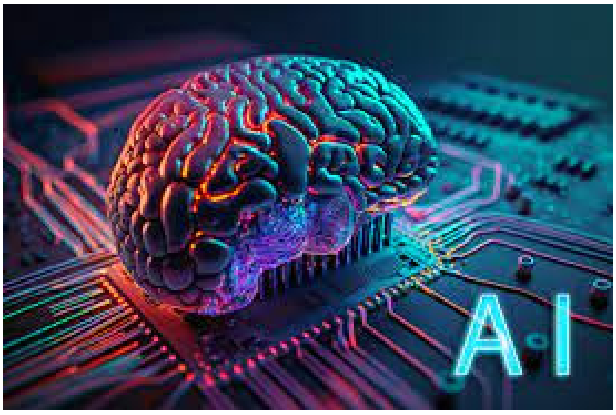


The Month in a Minute...

November Overview

After 3 months of falling equity and bond markets, November witnessed a welcome return to positive territory. Sentiment was boosted by falling CPI figures with the US down to 3.2%, Europe falling to 2.4% and the UK witnessing a notable drop to 4.6%. This prompted hope that rates had peaked and the anticipated cuts in 2024 would materialise. However, both the Federal Reserve (Fed) and European Central Bank were reticent on reducing rates, Powell said "not thinking of rate cuts right now" whilst Legarde added inflation would fall to the 2% target provided rates remained at the current levels "long enough". Even mixed economic data couldn't dampen the euphoria. US GDP was revised up to an annualised rate of 5.2% whilst PMIs (Purchasing Managers Index) for the developed countries saw manufacturing continue to contract.

Equity markets returned on average 9% over the month (dollar terms) with Europe leading the way at 11% whilst the UK at 7% the laggard. Unsurprisingly given the interest rate hopes, Growth outperformed both Small Cap and Value with 11% for Growth and 7% for Value. Technology stocks benefitted from both the anticipated fall in rates and another surge of enthusiasm for AI related companies. China continued to suffer from ongoing concerns about stimulus measure by the government being insufficient to promote growth and the real estate crisis.



Similarly to equities, the bond markets benefitted from the likelihood rates had peaked. Both conventional and index-linked government date returned circa 5.5%, whilst corporate debt produced 6%.

The Invesco Nasdaq 100 was the notable performer over the month driven by its tech and growth bias whilst the value tilt in the SPDR Aristocrats and the exposure to China of the Xtrackers CSI300 meant they were the laggards.

The Month in Numbers

As at 30/11/2023	Guinness Multi-Asset Balanced Fund			Guinness Multi-Asset Growth Fund		
	Strategic Asset Allocation	Tactical Asset Allocation	Difference vs SAA	Strategic Asset Allocation	Tactical Asset Allocation	Difference vs SAA
Cash	2.5%	3.5%	1.0%	2.5%	3.5%	1.0%
Bonds	22.5%	23.0%	0.5%	12.0%	12.5%	0.5%
Government Bonds	8.5%	10.0%	1.5%	4.5%	6.0%	1.5%
Inflation Linked Bonds	3.0%	4.0%	1.0%	1.5%	2.5%	1.0%
Corporate Bonds	11.0%	9.0%	-2.0%	6.0%	4.0%	-2.0%
Equities	68.0%	68.0%	0.0%	83.5%	83.5%	0.0%
UK equities	2.6%	2.5%	-0.1%	3.17%	3.10%	-0.1%
International equities	65.4%	65.5%	0.1%	80.3%	80.4%	0.1%
US	43.3%	43.8%	0.5%	53.2%	53.7%	0.5%
Europe ex UK	8.5%	8.4%	-0.1%	10.5%	10.4%	-0.1%
Japan	4.2%	4.1%	-0.1%	5.2%	5.1%	-0.1%
Asia ex Japan	7.8%	7.7%	-0.1%	9.6%	9.5%	-0.1%
EM	1.6%	1.5%	-0.1%	1.9%	1.7%	-0.2%
Alternatives	7.0%	5.5%	-1.5%	2.0%	0.5%	-1.5%
Hedge funds/alternatives	4.0%	3.0%	-1.0%	1.0%	0.0%	-1.0%
Commercial property	1.5%	1.0%	-0.5%	0.5%	0.0%	-0.5%
Gold	1.5%	1.5%	0.0%	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%

As at 30/11/2023 in GBP	Euro STOXX	MSCI UK	MSCI AC Asia ex Japan	MSCI Emerging Markets	S&P 500	TSE TOPIX
1m	6.9%	2.3%	2.5%	3.5%	4.5%	3.5%
3m	1.9%	1.5%	0.2%	1.2%	1.7%	1.2%
6m	4.2%	2.4%	-0.1%	2.4%	7.6%	4.1%
1yr	11.3%	2.3%	-3.9%	-2.0%	6.6%	8.5%
3yr	23.8%	36.9%	-11.7%	-6.8%	37.5%	7.1%
5yr	47.9%	29.4%	13.5%	13.2%	77.1%	22.3%
10yr	106.4%	62.7%	80.5%	59.6%	273.5%	104.7%

Source: RBC Brewin Dolphin, Guinness Global Investors

POWERED BY

Brewin Dolphin

Asset Allocation Overview

Positive Asset Class View   Negative Asset Class View

Equities

Supportive of the global equity market is the resilience the economy has exhibited. Indeed, the probability of a US soft landing appears to have risen. Meanwhile, there is the potential for AI related themes to push equity prices higher. The main headwinds are the current stage of the economic cycle (late), monetary policy (tight), US valuation metrics (high), and the returns available on competing assets such as cash (high). Weighing everything up, holding a tactical equity exposure broadly in line with one's strategic benchmark appears sensible.

Bonds

With central banks likely finished their rate hike cycles and economic growth risks elevated, we maintain an overweight to government bonds. Among our three government bond categories, we favour Gilts, in large part due to the UK's interest sensitivity and relatively challenging growth outlook. We remain underweight to corporate bonds. Credit spreads are not sufficiently large to compensate for global economic growth risks, in our view.

Alternatives

The gold price has historically been inversely correlated with real (inflation adjusted) bond yields. Gold has held up surprisingly well given both the surge in real yields since early 2022 and the strength in the dollar. The reportedly strong buying from foreign official sector purchasers (China, Russia) looking to diversify their reserve holdings probably explains some of the divergence. More recently, the renewed drop in real bond yields has supported gold. We retain a neutral position. We remain underweight to property. It is often the case that one corner of the economy and/or markets "breaks" in response to central bank rate hikes, and commercial real estate seems like a prime candidate to experience pain this cycle. Fundamentals are particularly challenging in the office space, but those are offset by stronger fundamentals in other subsectors, such as datacentres.

Cash

We remain overweight. Cash currently offers a relatively attractive return and acts as dry powder which can be deployed when conditions for the riskier asset classes improve.

US Equities

There are several concerns regarding the US relative performance outlook, with the big risk relating to valuation (including the valuation of the dollar). Notwithstanding the risks, we have raised exposure, for two main reasons. The first relates to the secular outlook, which appears relatively bright for the tech stocks the US is heavily weighted in. The main upside risk for the global equity market over the next few years is if an "AI boom" scenario unfolds. With the Fed now on hold and likely to begin cutting rates next year, a weaker version of the cycle that played out during second half of the 1990s is a possibility this cycle. Back then, excitement linked to growth of the internet drove gains. This cycle, AI related investment could be the driver. The US has much greater exposure to the "pick and shovel" plays positioned to benefit from an AI spending boom than any other region. The second reason for raising the US relates to the cyclical outlook. Even though the odds of a soft landing have gone up, economic growth risks are still significantly higher than in any given year. The US is the most defensive of our six regions, which an attractive characteristic at a time when growth risks remain elevated.

Equity Allocation by Region

Europe ex UK Equities

If we can predict where the relative performance of global tech and continental European FX are going, we stand a very good chance of successfully predicting whether Europe ex UK equities will outperform. We are cautiously optimistic on the secular outlook for global tech sector, which bodes poorly for Europe ex UK as it has low weightings in this sector. With regards to continental European FX, over the longer term there appears to be room for appreciation, which would support regional equity relative performance in common currency terms. The euro is cheaply valued, and existential risks have declined. However, over the medium-term, FX direction will likely be more influenced by risk appetite. The euro is a risk-on currency, and odds of markets moving into a risk-off phase remain elevated.

UK Equities

After strongly outperforming in 2022 (in common currency terms), UK equity relative performance has underperformed vs the global equity market this year. The main headwind has been the fact that globally, value style stocks have fallen out of favour relative to their growth style counterparts. This tends to weigh on UK equity relative performance given its high exposure to the former (via energy and financials mostly) and low exposure to growth-oriented tech. We would advise against looking at the underperformance this year as an opportunity to raise UK equity exposure vs the global benchmark. Although we expect the outlook for value vs growth equities to be more balanced going forward, the domestic growth backdrop remains challenging.

Japan Equities

Shareholder friendly reform momentum is building in Japan, which could help spark an expansion in relatively depressed price-to-book multiples. However, demographics amount to a major structural headwind to Japanese equity relative performance. Cyclically, Japan doesn't have much scope to put idle economic resources to work. Despite low price-to-book multiples, Japan does not stand out as obviously cheap vs the world ex US market, in our view.

Asia ex Japan Equities

Following a promising start to the year, incoming Chinese economic data has disappointed. Property remains a key area of weakness. House prices continue to contract, and residential floor space sold remains deep in negative territory on a y/y basis. Even with the growth stumble, it's still not a bad bet that GDP in China and the region more widely outpaces that of the rest of the world over the balance of this year and next. Meanwhile, more investors are throwing in the towel on China. Despite this attractive combination of decent relative growth prospects and poor investor sentiment, we are not optimistic with regards to Asia ex Japan relative performance. China is becoming steadily less shareholder friendly. Geopolitics is likely to remain a headwind. Bigger picture, China is saddled with debt, and its demographics are a headwind to growth.

Emerging Markets ex Asia

EM ex Asia is undisputedly cheap, but there doesn't appear to be a catalyst on the horizon to unlock that value. Brazil, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Mexico, and the UAE are the countries with the highest market cap weightings in the EM ex Asia equity index, making it very commodity exposed. We don't expect much upside to commodity prices in an environment where global growth is slowing and China refrains from large scale stimulus. That said, EM ex Asia remains very cheaply valued.

At a glance...

The Multi-Asset Balanced Fund

Medium Risk

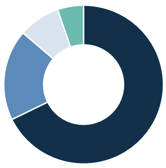
You are prepared to have more than half of your investment held in equities with the aim of achieving a higher investment return over the long term. The greater allocation to equities means your portfolio may experience heightened levels of volatility over the investment term.

The portfolio will typically include two thirds of the assets invested in equities whilst the remainder will be split between cash, fixed income and alternatives. You are prepared to accept fluctuations in the value of your portfolio to achieve your investment goals.

The Fund is actively managed without reference to a benchmark and invests in funds in a range of different asset classes. The investment objective is to provide capital appreciation over the long term. Returns will be generated through both capital growth and income, with a bias towards developed and liquid capital markets. The risk will be diversified by holding collective investments in a range of asset classes and geographies. The management of the portfolio aims to meet the objective conservatively by taking managed risk through fund selection and asset allocation. The portfolio is based on the Brewin Dolphin International MPS Passive Plus Balanced Strategy.

Asset Allocation

Equities	66.7%
Fixed Income	22.5%
Alternatives	5.8%
Cash	5.1%



Equity Allocation

USA	42.4%
Other International (DM)	20.2%
UK	2.6%
Other International (EM)	1.6%
Cash	5.1%

Holding	% Weight
iShares Core S&P 500 UCITS ETF USD Dist	18.2%
iShares Global Corp Bond UCITS ETF	8.8%
Vanguard FTSE Developed Europe ex UK UCITS ETF	8.2%
iShares Global Government Bond Index	6.9%
Vanguard S&P 500 UCITS ETF	6.4%
SPDR S&P US Dividend Aristocrats UCITS ETF	6.4%
Invesco EQQQ Nasdaq-100 UCITS ETF	6.2%
Vanguard - Pacific Ex-Japan Stock Index Fund	5.6%
Fidelity MSCI Japan Index Fund	4.3%
iShares Global Inflation-Linked Bond Index Fund US	3.9%
iShares S&P 500 Health Care Sector UCITS ETF	3.0%
iShares Core UK Gilts UCITS ETF USD Hedged (Dist)	2.8%
iShares Core FTSE 100 UCITS ETF USD	2.6%
Xtrackers Russell 2000 UCITS ETF	2.2%
Xtrackers CSI300 Swap UCITS ETF	2.1%
Lyxor MSCI Emerging Markets Ex China UCITS ETF	1.6%
iShares Physical Gold ETC USD	1.5%
BlackRock ICS US Dollar Liquidity Fund	1.4%
JPM Global Macro Opportunities USD	1.2%
Winton Trend Fund (UCITS) I USD Acc	1.1%
BNY Mellon Global Funds plc - Global Dynamic	1.0%
Amundi Index FTSE EPRA NAREIT Global	1.0%

Risks

The Fund is a multi-asset fund investing primarily in other funds ("Underlying Funds") which may invest in equities, Government Bonds, fixed interest securities (which may include sub-investment grade securities), property and other investments. Investors should be willing and able to assume the risks of equity investing. The value of an investment can fall as well as rise as a result of market and currency movement, and you may not get back the amount originally invested. Further details on the risk factors are included in the Fund's documentation, available at www.guinnessgi.com/literature

At a glance...

The Multi-Asset Growth Fund

Medium / Higher Risk

You are seeking to generate higher investment returns through a high exposure to equities to help achieve your long-term investment goals.

The portfolio will typically have a very high proportion of your investment held in equities and very low levels of fixed income, cash and alternative asset classes.

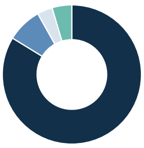
A larger proportion invested in equities is likely to lead to increased volatility in the overall value of the portfolio.

The Fund is actively managed without reference to a benchmark and invests in funds in a range of different asset classes. The investment objective is to provide capital appreciation over the long term. Returns will be generated through both capital growth and income, with a bias towards developed and liquid capital markets. The risk will be diversified by holding collective investments in a range of asset classes and geographies. The management of the portfolio aims to meet the objective conservatively by taking managed risk through fund selection and asset allocation. The portfolio is based on the Brewin Dolphin International MPS Passive Plus Growth Strategy

Holding	% Weight
iShares Core S&P 500 UCITS ETF USD Dist	18.6%
Vanguard S&P 500 UCITS ETF	12.2%
Vanguard FTSE Developed Europe ex UK UCITS ETF	10.3%
SPDR S&P US Dividend Aristocrats UCITS ETF	8.0%
Invesco EQQQ Nasdaq-100 UCITS ETF	7.9%
Vanguard - Pacific Ex-Japan Stock Index Fund	6.8%
Fidelity MSCI Japan Index Fund	5.3%
iShares Global Corp Bond UCITS ETF	4.0%
iShares S&P 500 Health Care Sector UCITS ETF	3.7%
iShares Global Government Bond Index	3.5%
iShares Core FTSE 100 UCITS ETF USD	3.2%
Xtrackers Russell 2000 UCITS ETF	2.7%
Xtrackers CSI300 Swap UCITS ETF	2.7%
iShares Global Inflation-Linked Bond Index Fund US	2.5%
iShares Core UK Gilts UCITS ETF USD Hedged (Dist)	2.4%
Lyxor MSCI Emerging Markets Ex China UCITS ETF	2.0%
BlackRock ICS US Dollar Liquidity Fund	1.4%
iShares Physical Gold ETC USD	0.5%
BNY Mellon Global Funds plc - Global Dynamic	0.3%
Winton Trend Fund (UCITS) I USD Acc	0.2%

Asset Allocation

Equities	83.7%
Fixed Income	12.4%
Alternatives	1.0%
Cash	3.0%



Equity Allocation

USA	53.2%
Other International (DM)	25.2%
UK	3.3%
Other International (EM)	2.0%
Cash	3.0%

Risks

The Fund is a multi-asset fund investing primarily in other funds ("Underlying Funds") which may invest in equities, Government Bonds, fixed interest securities (which may include sub-investment grade securities), property and other investments. Investors should be willing and able to assume the risks of equity investing. The value of an investment can fall as well as rise as a result of market and currency movement, and you may not get back the amount originally invested. Further details on the risk factors are included in the Fund's documentation, available at www.guinnessgi.com/literature

POWERED BY RBC Brewin Dolphin

Expert thinking

When you invest with Guinness Global Investors you have a team of experts working for you.

Strength and depth

They are part of our broader team who collaborate to interpret the wider market and economic environment and identify those funds that meet our standard for investment, adding up to the strength and depth of insight we need to deliver for you.

"The Guinness Multi-Asset fund range follows a tried and tested investment approach so our investors can be confident about what to expect from it."
- David Hood,
Head of Investment Solutions

Meet the Guinness team

Jonathan Waghorn
Co-Manager
Jonathan joined Guinness Global Investors in September 2013 and is co-manager on the Guinness Multi-Asset range

Will Riley
Co-Manager
Will joined Guinness Global Investors in May 2007 and is co-manager on the Guinness Multi-Asset range

Meet the RBC Brewin Dolphin team

David Hood
Head of Investment Solutions
David joined RBC Brewin Dolphin in March 2009 as a quantitative analyst. He heads up the investment solutions team which specialises in model portfolio, fund construction and risk analysis.

Guy Foster
Head of Research
Guy is our Chief Strategist and oversees our broader team, which uses its collective expertise to make both strategic and tactical recommendations for asset allocation by RBC Brewin Dolphin.

Janet Mui
Investment Director
Janet is investment director at RBC Brewin Dolphin. As part of the research team, Janet is responsible for the commentary and communication of RBC Brewin Dolphin's macro/investment views to clients and the media.

POWERED BY RBC Brewin Dolphin

Notes

POWERED BY

Important Information

Issued by Guinness Global Investors a trading name of Guinness Asset Management which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. This document is provided for information only. All the information contained in it is believed to be reliable but may be inaccurate or incomplete; it should not be relied upon. It is not an invitation to make an investment nor does it constitute an offer for sale. OCFs for all share classes are available on www.guinness.gi.com. Telephone calls will be recorded.

Documentation

The documentation needed to make an investment, including the Prospectus, the Key Information Document (KID), the Key Investor Information Document (KIID) and the Application Form, is available in English from the website www.guinnessgi.com , or free of charge from:-

The Manager: Waystone Management Company (IE) Limited (Waystone IE) 2nd Floor 35 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin DO4 A4E0, Ireland; or,
the Promoter and Investment Manager: Guinness Asset Management Ltd, 18 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ.

Waystone IE is a company incorporated under the laws of Ireland having its registered office at 35 Shelbourne Rd, Ballsbridge, Dublin, D04 A4E0 Ireland, which is authorised by the Central Bank of Ireland, has appointed Guinness Asset Management Ltd as Investment Manager to this fund, and as Manager has the right to terminate the arrangements made for the marketing of funds in accordance with the UCITS Directive.

Investor Rights

A summary of investor rights in English is available here: https://www.waystone.com/waystone-policies/

Residency

In countries where the Funds are not registered for sale or in any other circumstances where their distribution is not authorised or is unlawful, the Funds should not be distributed to resident Retail Clients. NOTE: THIS INVESTMENT IS NOT FOR SALE TO U.S. PERSONS.

NOTE: THIS INVESTMENT IS NOT FOR SALE TO U.S. PERSONS.

The Funds are sub-funds of Guinness Asset Management Funds PLC (the “Company”), an open-ended umbrella-type investment company, incorporated in Ireland and authorised and supervised by the Central Bank of Ireland, which operates under EU legislation. If you are in any doubt about the suitability of investing in these Funds, please consult your investment or other professional adviser.