Professional Growth

Quarterly Investment Option Update

30 September 2019

Aim and Strategy

To provide moderate to high investment returns over the long term, with the likelihood of significant fluctuations in the value of the investment from year to year. The portfolio will primarily invest in a diversified mix of defensive and growth assets managed by professional asset managers.

Investment Option Performance

To view the latest investment performances for each product, please visit www.amp.com.au

Investment Option Overview

Investment category	Multi-Sector
Suggested minimum investment timeframe	6 years
Relative risk rating	High
Investment style	Active
Manager style	Multi-manager

Asset Allocation	Benchmark (%)
International shares	40
Australian Shares	35
Listed and Unlisted Property and Infrastructure	7
Australian and International Fixed Interest	7
Cash	5
Defensive Alternatives	3
Growth Alternatives	3

Actual Allocation	%
International Shares	44.03
Australian Shares	35.63
Listed Property and Infrastructure	7.23
Growth Alternatives	3.04
International Fixed Interest	4.94
Defensive Alternatives	4.10
Cash	1.03

Fund Performance

International shares climbed higher in the September quarter, with the MSCI World ex Australia index rising by 1.50% over the period. Markets started the quarter positively amid generally good US corporate earnings and hopes of a favourable US-China outcome. A pull-back then occurred in August and some volatility emerged as speculation rose in regard to the sustainability of global (and particularly US) growth. Mixed messages on monetary policy from the Fed also didn't help. Global markets then recovered to higher levels in September amid continued volatility. Drivers included central bank interest rate reductions and commentary (as the US Federal Reserve reduced the Federal Funds Rate range by a further 25 basis points to 1.75-2.0%), the drone strike in Saudi Arabia by Iranian-backed Houthi rebels, as well as some small but positive US-China trade developments. With the aforementioned drivers, the US S&P 500 index finished the quarter up by 1.70%, the Japanese TOPIX 100 index finished up by 3.39% amid suggestions of further monetary stimulus and the European STOXX 50 index (+2.47%) rose in the wake of new stimulus measures being announced by the European Central Bank. Emerging markets however struggled during the quarter and underperformed their developed-market counterparts, with the MSCI Emerging Markets accumulation index finishing down by 2.07%. Geopolitical volatility, trade war fears and sovereign debt issues were all contributing factors. (All indices quoted in local currency terms and on a total-return basis, unless otherwise stated.)

Australian shares rose over the September quarter, the S&P/ASX200 total return index closing up by 2.37%, with more record-highs being hit during the period. A Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) rate cut buoyed Australian markets in July, as did solid rises from the US and other international exchanges. Australian shares subsequently pulled back in August amid a mostly lacklustre corporate reporting season. Unsurprisingly, retail earnings were generally weak, although this was not across the boardwith some major retailers surprising on the upside. Pockets of relative strength were also evident in some of the more niche medium and smaller cap stocks. The market then rose in September, as did broader international markets, as traders became slightly less pessimistic on the now-familiar concerns of US economic growth and China/US trade tensions. Some positive indications from the Melbourne and Sydney property markets, which have undergone a significant correction over the past two years, also helped domestic sentiment, given the Australian economy's very large exposure to the sector. The share market also appeared to largely price-in an early October official interest rate rise, which materialised one day after quarter-end.

In global bond markets, a significant fall in bond yields prompted yield curves to generally flatten amid ongoing concerns around the China/US trade relationship and potentially-slowing global growth.

Market Review

Increasing predispositions by global central banks to become ever more accommodative during the September quarter have kept the bias on interest rates downwards, making equities relatively attractive and increasing the correlation between equities and bonds. However, the International Monetary Fund revised down its projection for global growth further during the period.

For the US-China trade dispute, which saw further escalation during the period, trust will need to be re-established between both parties at face-to-face meetings before any serious progress can be made. Until then, there is the potential for volatility to ramp-up substantially.

As was widely factored into the market, the US Federal Reserve (Fed) cut the Federal Funds Rate range by 25 basis points to 2.0-2.25% on 31 July; the first cut since the Global Financial Crisis, followed by a further cut of 25 basis points on 18 September to take the rate range to 1.75-2.0%.

In the US economy, the trade deficit continued to widen. However, as a whole, US economic data was generally benign, and the US stock market reached a record high during the quarter. There has been strong consumer-related and business data; however, jobs growth has been somewhat sluggish, and the ISM manufacturing conditions index remains subdued. Recent retail sales have risen more than expected and small business confidence remains strong, although latest labour market indicators have been more mixed.

Availability

Product Name	APIR
AMP Flexible Lifetime Super	AMP1956AU
AMP Flexible Super - Retirement account	AMP1963AU
AMP Flexible Super - Super account	AMP1970AU
Flexible Lifetime - Allocated Pension	AMP1949AU
Flexible Lifetime - Investments (Series 2)	AMP1981AU
Flexible Lifetime - Term Pension	AMP1949AU
SignatureSuper	AMP1731AU

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